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Former Narcotics Chief Henderson trial set for April 26

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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Former Knox County Sheriff Narcotics Unit Chief David Henderson will face a jury trial on a federal charge of misuse of funds on Tuesday, April 26. The Knoxville Federal Court Clerk confirmed the date recently.

Henderson is charged with illegally using narcotic department cash and credit cards for purchases and repairs to his and other properties including that of a "former sheriff."

"David Henderson, together with other undicted co-conspirators, did knowingly, intentionally and unlawfully combine, conspire, confederate and agree with each other to

commit an offense against the United States, that is theft of federal program funds," the federal indictment states.

Among the charges are renovation, remodeling and construction projects of a personal nature on his and other properties. The indictment says that Henderson illegally used funds for the benefit of fellow officers,

their family members and associates and the personal use of "the former Knox County Sheriff."

The offenses took place while Henderson served as Narcotics Chief under former Sheriff J. J. Jones. Henderson is also accused of illegally buying new computers and giving used computers, the property of the sheriff's department,

to friends and family and using on-duty officers to make repairs and purchase supplies and machinery.

Henderson is also charged with purchasing security cameras and giving them to friends and purchasing fencing for the "former sheriff." That "former sheriff" also received unlawful repairs to his duck hunting boat.

Other charges include purchasing coolers and La-Z-Boy chairs for his and others' personal use, funding renovations at the "Blue Building" operated by the Narcotics Unit for the storage of his and his friend's classic cars and using a sheriff's box truck to move furniture.

Dooley, Sheriffs Testify In Two-Day Hearing



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

The Knox County Sheriff's Office attorney, Gary Prince, quizzes KSCO employee Martha Dooley about her complaint regarding her use of a sheriff's department car and gas credit card.

Dooley Merit Council hearing, Day One

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The Knox County Merit System Council's hearing on a complaint filed by Sheriff's Office employee Martha Dooley went as expected last week. The Dooley complaint, which was first formed in November 2020, was given a two-day public hearing last week at the City-County Building.

On the first day of the hearing Gary Prince, the attorney for the sheriff's office, cross-examined witnesses called by John Valliant, attorney for Dooley. Tuesday's witnesses included Martha Dooley, former Sheriffs John Hutchison and J.J. Jones and current Sheriff Tom Spangler. Former Judge Sharon Bell presided as the hearing officer.

Only a handful of people not involved with the complaint attended the hearing.

Prince introduced the first motions to have the merit council members recuse themselves and they refused to do so. So the hearing proceeded. The law department and Attorney Prince contend that the sheriff may transfer any employee and that Dooley suffered no loss to her \$106,000 salary. Dooley's complaint said she was replaced by a person with no media experience and moved about the department for political reasons, resulting in the loss of a work vehicle and gas card.

Dooley and the two former sheriffs who employed her as communications director testified that her salary agreement included the use of a sheriff's vehicle and a credit card for gas. She was then living within the 25-mile allowable radius of the department but now lives in Townsend. Department car users must live within that radius.

Sheriff Spangler told the hearing there were no

politics involved with the transfers or taking the car and gas card from Dooley. He said her position does not qualify her for a car and card and she suffered no loss in salary.

Attorney Prince attempted to have several motions admitted but Judge Bell said they were not filed on time. He managed, however, to have most of his points admitted for informational purposes during his cross-questions with the witnesses. Prior to their testimonies, the witnesses were sent into the hallway until they were called.

Dooley's employment records and her agreements for employment with both prior sheriffs do not mention a car or credit card. Those supposed verbal agreements, which Hutchison said were made to compensate for her former salary with WATE-TV, passed along to J.J. Jones and then to Spangler.

Spangler answered "no" when Prince asked if a

sheriff is obligated to keep administrative employees in their positions upon taking office.

Prince accused the merit council of meeting outside the "open meeting" state rules and with having political ties to the former sheriffs. He also said that Dooley did not include the charge that the transfers and loss of a car and credit card were political until merit council member Jim Jennings mentioned it in a meeting. He cited various letters from Dooley to three sheriff officials and to Spangler prior to filing the complaint, none of which mentioned a political motive.

Dooley's initial complaint was to have a newer car with less than 30,000 miles on it and a new gas card given to her but her final complaint asked for the return of the vehicle she had been driving.

She also said the other sheriffs had given her the

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BOE Ethics Committee found no violations by three members

By Ken Lay

The Knox County Board of Education ethics committee met briefly Tuesday afternoon to discuss complaints against board members.

The committee, comprised of board members Mike McMillan, Jennifer Owen and Evetty Satterfield, determined that there were no ethical violations committed by board members Susan Horn, Kristi Kristy and Betsy Henderson after a parent group filed a complaint against the three members. The parent group filed an ethics complaint after the members appeared at a recent Knox County Commission meeting to attempt to obtain outside counsel in a federal lawsuit.

The committee voted

unanimously that Horn, Henderson and Kristy did not commit ethic violations since neither they nor members of their families received any personal or financial gain.

The three, however, may be in violation of board policy.

"There may have been board policy violations," said Gary Dupler, who represents the board and works for the Knox County Law Department. "But there were no ethical violations because the board members did not receive any personal or financial gain."

By a 3-0 vote, the committee determined to have the full board deliberate and vote on potential policy violations.

The complaint against

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Environmentalists, Neo-Cons Help Putin's War

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr. duncanj@knoxfocus.com

I wish Vladimir Putin could have seen the video and heard the heartbreaking cries of anguish from the mother in Ukraine as she followed her six-year-old daughter into the emergency room where she died, killed by Putin's war.

Apparently, Putin is such an evil man that it doesn't matter to him that he's now responsible for the deaths of countless numbers of small children.

Not only is the blood on

Putin's hands, but it is also on the hands of radical environmentalists in our country.

As many have already pointed out, Putin could not have financed this war if oil prices had stayed down around \$30 a barrel as they were under President Trump.

I know that millions of people in this country had an obsessive, irrational hatred for President Trump. But he had led this nation into energy independence to the dismay of U.S. environmentalists, and they control President Biden and the Democratic Party today.

I have known for years that almost all our environmental radicals have come from wealthy or at least very upper-income families.

For years, one of their main goals has been to get people to drive less. They

are people who can afford gas at five or six dollars a gallon.

Their policies really hurt not only all who drive but also the millions who heat their homes with oil.

Higher oil prices have driven up the cost of everything, and environmental rules and regulations have caused the loss of millions of jobs to other countries.

When people urge more exploration and drilling for oil, those on the left would always say that it would not help today.

But when we started doing more drilling and production under President Trump, it brought oil prices down very quickly, and when he left office, gas was around \$1.80 a gallon.

All the excessive, drunken sailor spending Congress has done over the last couple of years has required

the printing of about three times more money than is usually done.

This has led to inflation on everything, now the highest in 47 years and possibly heading even higher.

When President Biden says as he did again in his State of the Union speech that anyone making under \$400,000 is not going to pay more in taxes, he is ignoring what they are already paying and the fact that inflation has for years been called the cruelest tax of all.

And when you add in the big jump in gas prices, it means that lower and middle-income people are being hit hardest of all.

It is one thing when wealthy environmentalists are forcing everyone to pay higher gas prices that only upper-income people can afford.

But it becomes much worse when it helps an evil man like Putin become much richer and enables him to finance a war where many thousands are being killed.

Some Democrats who possibly feel a little guilty about this have been loudly demanding that we immediately stop buying oil from Russia.

But this would drive our gas prices even higher unless we also reopen the Keystone XL Pipeline Biden closed and stop over-regulating gas and oil production.

The environmental lobby and the Democrats they control in Congress simply will not allow these steps to be taken.

One other group that helped cause this war has been the Neo-Cons who have demanded the

expansion of NATO to very near Russian borders.

Many of our leading foreign policy experts have warned for years that all this NATO expansion could lead to a war with Russia.

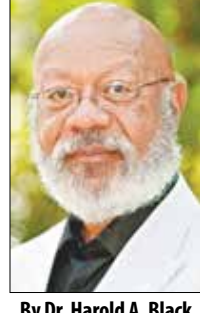
You can see on YouTube Professor Stephen Cohen speaking about this in 2010 and Professor John Mearsheimer in 2015, and many others since then.

The first President Bush promised many years ago that we would not do this, and some believe even the present war could have been stopped if we had once again promised Putin, we would not add Ukraine and any other countries to NATO.

As power-mad and evil as Putin is, the world will be very lucky if this war does not lead to even more death and destruction than it already has.

Fauci is a Font of Misinformation

That Anthony Fauci is truth-challenged should come as no surprise since he is a life-long unelected politician. The old adage now applies: how can you tell if Fauci is lying? His lips are moving. If you disagree I am open



By Dr. Harold A. Black blackh@knoxfocus.com haroldblackphd.com

to arguments to the contrary. If you are convincing, I will issue a retraction. There was the denial of gain-of-function research at the Wuhan lab. Fauci denied it. He lied. There are hundreds of pages of information from the NIH that showed that federal grant money was used to fund bat coronavirus research in the Chinese lab. One leading scientist has said that Fauci is a "serial liar."

Consider his recommendations. He said coronavirus is not a major threat and it's not something the

citizens should be worried about." He once said that healthy people should not be wearing masks. He defends his recommendations arguing that science changes over time. Speaking of science, recall when he said that to criticize him was to criticize science? Yet despite all evidence to the contrary, he is recommending that vaccines and boosters be given to babies as young as six months old. This is sheer lunacy.

He is the grinch that tried to steal Christmas, urging at first that Americans not to get together for the holidays and later saying that it is OK if everyone is fully vaccinated and masked. Get serious. He advocated lockdowns, shutting down schools and masking of children. There are also over 60

studies showing that lockdowns had no impact on Covid death rates. It makes me think that he is in the pocket of Big Pharma.

The media protects Fauci. Those that challenged him were attacked and deplatformed. YouTube permanently deplatformed Dan Bongino for stating that masks were "useless." You were supposed to wear masks indoors. People were being harassed for not wearing masks outdoors even though the science indicated that it was not effective to do so. First the mask wearing was tied to the unvaccinated and lately they are saying that mask wearing should occur amongst the vaccinated. Go figure. That indicates that the vaccines are not actually vaccines. They do not prevent folks from contracting the disease. Rather, if they just lessen the severity of Covid, then they should be classified as therapeutics.

There is the

recommendation that people should use a self-test if they are going out in public. I found it somewhat amusing when I saw pictures of long lines waiting to be tested. Why? If you self-test positive and are non-symptomatic, what should you do? Surely you should not run to the hospital. If you test negative, just remember you have been standing in a line with hundreds of people and could be positive the next day.

What happened to natural immunity? Remember when Fauci said that we would reach herd immunity with vaccines coupled with natural immunity? He is now ignoring natural immunity and is going full bore with vaccinations - even for those who have already had Covid. This is despite the evidence that those with natural immunity who get vaccinated may have serious aftereffects. In fact, everyone I know who has had an adverse and sometimes life threatening reaction to the vaccines has previously had Covid. There is also evidence from Israeli studies that natural immunity is 27 times stronger and lasts longer than the vaccines.

There is considerable evidence that Fauci's advice will actually prolong the disease and may strengthen it. Some scientists are now recommending abandoning social distancing and masking - like they have done in Sweden. They also suggest that only the vulnerable consider being vaccinated - mainly the elderly with co-conditions. Since the dominant variant is omicron which is a mild Covid often likened to having a cold, the scientists say that the spreading of omicron will lead to a super immunity and we prevent it at our peril. To date I have not heard Fauci endorse this position but stay tuned.

KUB, Codes, and bonds on city agenda

By Mike Steely Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com

The First Creek Greenway-Broadway Streetscape Project may see an amended agreement with the state when the Knoxville City Council meets Tuesday. The city council may also approve various bond issues for the Electric, Wastewater Treatment and the Water Systems.

The Knoxville Utility Board will probably get an in lieu of tax break from the council and the council will probably vote to accept the Willow Cottage property at Lakeshore Drive from the state for the development of new recreational facilities at the largest city-owned park. The sale of KUB bonds may also be approved.

The city's operating budget may be amended and the city code

amended to prohibit any tobacco use or vaping on all city-owned parks, playgrounds, greenways and other property.

Updates to city codes involving buildings, plumbing, mechanical, fuel gas, electric and green construction may also be approved.

A zoning change is being requested for a property at 3802 Knox Lane.

Metro Knoxville HMA LLC is asking to lease temporary office space at 1515 St. Mary's Street at the former Tennova/St. Mary's Hospital site and a tax break will be considered for 210 East Jackson Avenue.

The late Royden "Roy" Kruse will be honored at the meeting.

Youth Violence Prevention Week may get a \$23,000 grant to be

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What is the Willow Cottage?

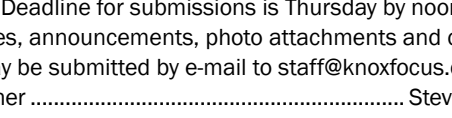
By Mike Steely Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com

"I have been working with the state on most of the property transfers at Lakeshore. The state has transferred sections of Lakeshore over several years. Willow Cottage is the last parcel at Lakeshore to be transferred," Chip Berry, Deputy Chief of Operations for the City of Knoxville, told The Focus Wednesday.

"Until July 2021, Helen Ross McNabb managed a residential program at Willow Cottage for a handful of patients under a contract with the state. McNabb opened a new building in North

Knoxville to move the residential program," he said adding, "Once the building was vacant, the State could transfer Willow Cottage to the City. The deed to transfer the property is just waiting for Governor Lee's signature.

"It is our plan, once the building has been assessed and remediated as necessary for hazardous material (e.g. Lead based paint and asbestos), to demolish the building. Lakeshore Park Conservancy will then proceed with the next phase of park development to include ball fields and pavilions in this area of the park," Berry said.



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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More Merit Council Politics

The Merry-Go-Round that has become the former Sheriff's Merit (Political) Council has finally held its hearing on the Martha Dooley case. Two former sheriffs were cross-examined; Tim Hutchison and Jimmy "JJ" Jones. Hutchison admitted he had given Dooley a car and gas card as part of her compensation package. Hutchison explained he could not offer Dooley the same salary she had received at WATE-TV; what did come out at the hearing was Dooley's salary at the time was nothing, as she had been let go from the tv station. Dooley, who is still earning \$106,000 annually as a counter clerk, wants her county car back, along with its maintenance done at the taxpayers' expense and her gas card. Sheriff Tom Spangler took the perk away from Dooley because of the job that she has now doesn't require her to be on-call.

According to WBIR-TV, Dooley was "reprimanded twice in the span of months for backing into other vehicles while driving her department-issued car. . ." That was apparently under the administration of "JJ" Jones. As the car is county property, no sheriff has the right to give it to an employee in perpetuity.

Despite a pointed legal brief from Knox County Law Director David Buuck stating the merit council had no standing to hear the Dooley case, two merit council members who are close political cronies of former Sheriff "JJ" Jones, Gina Oster and Jim Jennings,

insisted upon hearing it in spite of the law director's opinion. Jones is ignoring the will of county voters on term limits and is running against incumbent Sheriff Tom Spangler in the upcoming May 3 primary election.

Spangler has been seriously hampered in his attempts to clean out the sheriff's office at virtually every step by the merit council as well as to recruit the proper number of officers to keep response times quick and effective across the county. The Knox County Commission had to give Spangler the right to recruit his own officers at a time when law enforcement recruitment has been at a low ebb. Prior to that, the merit council had been hampering Spangler's recruitment efforts resulting in a shortage of much-needed new employees.

Surprise, Surprise!

Just a few short months ago several incumbents on the Knoxville City Council bragged about how superbly the city government was managed. That insistence was in spite of how the city government's budget revealed it was spending more than it was taking in, which doesn't seem like good business practice at all. And the council continued to spend money all the while on new programs.

The last property tax increase inside the City of Knoxville was a few short years ago and largely occurred to continue paying the defined benefits packages of retired employees. The city government also has cost of living raises, which Knox County employees do not enjoy.

Raising taxes during an election year is usually considered a mortal sin in politics, but having largely spent its "rainy day" fund, the city government has little choice but to cut back programs and spending, which likely will never happen. The alternative is, of course, to dip into the taxpayers' pockets yet again.

There are elections in Knoxville next year when the Great Incompetent,

Mayor Indya Kincannon, will once again face the voters. Raising taxes at a time when inflation is rampant and costing families an average of almost \$300 more monthly seems politically charged. Folks are paying more than 40% more for gas and energy products since the advent of the Biden administration, which made America and Americans energy-dependent once again. Inflation is only going to get worse and may be even higher by next year. Indya boasts doing the "right thing" will get her reelected. The "right thing" isn't taking more money out of the pockets of working people to pay for a city government that has been overspending for too long. The "right thing" to do isn't calling for working people to pay more to live --- and let's face it, rents in Knoxville will go up, too, as property owners aren't likely to eat the cost of the tax increases. That's in addition to the addiction of Indya Kincannon, the Knoxville City Council and the Left to taxpayer-subsidized housing projects, which cost tens of millions of dollars and continue to be expensive. Not to mention those same subsidized projects are paid for by the very same working folks.

Compare the number of services taxpayers derive from the county government versus that of the City of Knoxville. Basically, the city taxpayers get garbage collection (which is contracted to a private business), as well as fire and police protection. Well, of a sort. It was Kincannon who initially withdrew police officers from schools.

The City of Knoxville doesn't operate any schools, by the way. Knox County government is responsible for virtually everything one can think of from schools and libraries to the health department. Nor is the city government as well run as the county government from the standpoint of tax increases. The property tax has been raised four or five times, if not more, since the last similar tax increase in Knox

County. That's in addition to the City of Knoxville having annexed virtually every big sales-tax revenue producing areas outside the city limits. That took even more money away from schools.

Way To Go, Frank

State Senator Frank Niceley's bill to establish a residency requirement for candidates running for the United States Senate and the U. S. House of Representatives has passed the Tennessee State Senate. What controversy there is surrounding the bill centers around the herd of candidates vying for the new Fifth District Congressional seat. The state legislature dismembered the district long occupied by Democrat Jim Cooper and created a district designed to elect a Republican. The bill was quite nearly unanimously approved by the State Senate, drawing overwhelmingly bipartisan support. Only one member of the Tennessee State Senate did not vote for the bill.

Niceley's bill holds congressional candidates, as well as those running for the United States Senate to the same residency requirements, state lawmakers must meet. Those requirements require one to have been a resident of the State of Tennessee for three years "immediately preceding the election." A few of the candidates seeking the 5th District House seat either don't meet or just barely scrape by the residency requirement. Morgan Ortagus, who has been endorsed by former President Donald Trump, only moved to Nashville last year. Nor does Ortagus live in the district she aspires to represent in Congress, although present law doesn't require one to live in the district.

Robby Starbuck, a former music video producer and fellow carpetbagger, moved to Tennessee in 2019 and may just scrape by the requirement. Although Starbuck, whose legal name is Newsome, says his family closed on a home in June 2019, public

records indicate a Franklin home was purchased in August 2019.

Knox County has seen its share of folks roll in and ready to run the government. Christine Cruz was selected to chair the Knox County Republican Party's Credentials Committee despite never having voted in a Knox County GOP primary. If the Republican State Executive Committee would enforce its own bona fides, the legislation, which is sponsored by Representative Dave Wright in the House, wouldn't be needed.

Sad State of the Union

Joe Biden gave his first State of the Union speech last week and it is about what one would expect. Biden referred to the Ukrainian people as the "Iranian people" causing Kamala Harris to apparently mouth "Ukrainian" behind him." As West Virginia U. S. Senator Joe Manchin sat with Republican colleagues, Joe Biden merely doubled down on progressive policies. Never once during his speech, with a war raging in Ukraine, did Biden mention defense. Biden's progressive energy policies are actually helping to fund Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine as the United States is spending \$1 billion per day in purchasing oil and gas from Russia.

The Left in this country long ago divorced reason and have since lived happily with delusion. Biden repeatedly referred to his hugely expensive "Build Back Better" program, which is dead in the U. S. Senate. "My plan will not only lower costs to give families a fair shot; it will lower the deficit," Biden insisted. There isn't a sane person in the country who believes that statement. The Congressional Budget Office has already determined Biden's scheme would increase the deficit by \$3 trillion from 2022 to 2031 while the Infrastructure Plan will add another \$256 billion to the deficit.

Biden never seriously addressed the kitchen table issues facing most

Americans presently. Biden can babble about his firm stance against Russia while the United States continues to buy 595,000 barrels a day from the Russians. Using our country's oil reserves is like raiding one's savings account because one decided to quit one's job to save money. Never forget, before Joe Biden came into office, America was not energy-dependent upon any country; we were actually exporting energy. Joe Biden stopped that on the very first day in office. Joe Manchin, perhaps the last Democrat in the United States Senate who is not insane, said he wanted to ban Russian oil and see our country energy-independent once again. As he probably suspected, Joe Biden said not a word about that.

Nor was there any mention of the thirteen heroes who gave their lives to help evacuate folks during the Afghanistan fiasco engineered by Biden. One of those was from my own community of Gibbs, Ryan Knauss. Biden barely mentioned "flag-draped coffins" of American soldiers and Congresswoman Lauren Boebert shouted, "13 of them." Not surprisingly, Biden avoided the topic of Afghanistan altogether.

Biden had the audacity to say, "We need to secure the border and fix the immigration system." That produced some chants of "Build the wall!" It is Joe Biden who bears the responsibility for the flood of illegals pouring across our border, which he opened during a pandemic. At the end of his speech, Biden reached the climax of his speech while mindless Democrats jumped to their feet, hollering and hooting, and ended it with "Go get him!" Nobody knew just what that meant then or now.

Joe Biden's claim our country is stronger now than we were a year ago is, at best, wishful thinking; at worst, it is a diabolical lie. The legacy of Joe Biden's first year in office is out of control inflation and rising costs for working families, open borders and a rising

BOE Ethics Committee found no violations by three members

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Horn, Kristy and Henderson is one of many ethical complaints filed against board members and the full board of education will likely vote on policy violations at its regular-session meeting scheduled for Wednesday.

"We still have complaints rolling in," said McMillan, who was named committee chairman last week. "(The county commission meeting) is on tape and the board will get the opportunity to view the tape, or whatever it is."

McMillan noted that of the numerous complaints, the one filed against board members, who attended the recent county commission meeting will be reviewed and discussed first.

"We'll do some others if we have time," he said. The question of whether board members involved

in the complaint should recuse themselves arose and it was Owen, who responded.

"If every board member who has a complaint against them had to recuse themselves, then we wouldn't have a forum," she said.

Several supporters of

Kristy, Horn and Henderson rallied outside the Andrew Johnson building prior to Tuesday's meeting.

They also attended the meeting. Satterfield called for the board's code of ethics to be published on the KCS website.

KUB, Codes, and bonds on agenda

Cont. from page 2

divided among eight community-based organizations. The annual budget for the Downtown Knoxville Alliance may be approved and an agreement between

the city and county for parking space along North Central Street is on the agenda.

The Woodland Avenue Complete Street Project may get an additional \$38,000 in a contract with

Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc. and Scott Schimmel may be approved on an appointment by Mayor Indya Kincannon to the Civil Service Merit Board.

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Dooley, Sheriffs Testify In Two-Day Hearing

Dooley Merit Council hearing, Day One

Continued from page 1

car for her own personal use and Hutchison and Spangler said that department cars were loaned to employees to only come and go from the sheriff's department. Jones said Dooley, in her role as the communications director, also used the car to go to incident scenes and to hold media briefings.

Prince indicated that Dooley may have claimed the car as her personal property on her tax returns. She replied that the car may have been on a return prepared by her tax preparer.

Each time Prince asked Dooley about her salary increases over the years within the department and stated she suffered no loss in salary she replied, "No, that's not correct," citing the use of the department car and gas card as part of her salary and therefore a loss.

While Prince attempted unsuccessfully to show the many times Dooley wrecked a department vehicle the statement was not permitted in the hearing. He noted repairs to the cars at taxpayer expense, as well as the insurance and maintenance that were covered by the sheriff's

department.

Spangler said Dooley lost the use of a car when Chief Deputy Bernie Lyon came to him and noted she had moved from Seymour to Townsend, which is outside the 25-mile radius requirement, and was no longer an "on-call" employee.

Dooley said her transfer to other departments in the sheriff's office, such as "support services," gave her duties any fresh-hire could perform. Her latest transfer was to the Sheriff's West Precinct where she was assigned minor duties.

Under questioning by Valliant, Sheriff Spangler said he is not bound by policies of former sheriffs and some employees thought a department car "goes with them" when reassigned. He said that if that were true "every employee would ask for one."

As the day ended Valliant said he intended to call Communications Director Kimberly Glenn and others to the hearing the following day. He asked Spangler how many non-certified employees are allowed to take cars home and Judge Bell asked the sheriff to return the next morning with a list of those employees.

Dooley Merit Council hearing, Day Two

By Ken Lay

The Martha Dooley grievance hearing concluded Wednesday after two days of testimony.

On Day Two, the Knox County Merit System Council for the Sheriff's Office heard testimony from KCSO Communications Director Kimberly Glenn; Captain Aaron Yarnell; Chief Deputy Bernie Lyon and Chief Financial Officer Allison Rogers.

The council also heard closing arguments from John P. Valliant Jr, Dooley's attorney, and Gary Prince, who is representing the sheriff's office.

Glenn worked on Spangler's election campaign and was hired by the sheriff on Sept. 4, 2018.

Since leaving as communications director, Dooley was demoted and transferred in the department three times during a one-year period.

Dooley's grievance alleges that her demotion and subsequent transfers were politically motivated.

"(Glenn) worked on his campaign, so you have the political motivation," Valliant said in his closing argument. "(Spangler) wanted to get rid of her. Everybody said that she had done a stellar job.

"They probably wanted to get rid of her because of the money she was making."

At the time of her demotion to deputy communications director, Dooley was making in excess of \$100,000 per year. Glenn's salary is \$75,000 annually.

Glenn said she did not know Spangler prior to working on his campaign.

"He was a friend of my husband's," Glenn said in her testimony before the merit council. "I knew of him, but I didn't know him.

"I went to work on his campaign and I handled his dealings with the media."

A central issue in Dooley's complaint is a county car that she had to relinquish once Spangler took office.

Dooley claims the car and a fuel card was part of her initial compensation package when she was hired by Sheriff Tim Hutchinson in 1998.

She continued to drive the county car during J.J. Jones' tenure as Knox County Sheriff.

Valliant said that Hutchison added the fuel card and the car after his initial salary offer wasn't enough.

"It was an inducement to get

her to come to work for the sheriff's office because the salary wasn't enough," Valliant said of the car in question.

Prince countered that no sheriff is bound by a previous sheriff.

"I'm not saying that anybody broke any laws," Prince said. "What we have is a misinterpretation of the rules.

"No sheriff is bound by a previous sheriff."

As part of his duties as chief deputy, Lyon said he picked up Dooley's car as well as three others that were being used by employees that weren't on call and also noted that he would have taken the car regardless of whether it was part of Dooley's compensation package.

He told the merit council that "county property is county property."

"County property is not private property and it doesn't belong to you, or me or anybody," Lyon said. "It wouldn't have changed my decision about picking up the car."

The merit council will render its decision on April 28 after it reviews the transcripts.

Knoxville wrestling legend Terry Bundren, aka Terry Landell, dies at 59

By Ken Lay

The local wrestling community lost one of its legendary figures on Saturday as Terry Bundren, aka Terry Landell passed away Saturday, Feb. 26.

He was 59.

Bundren was a longtime fixture in East Tennessee's wrestling community and a founder of Tennessee Mountain Wrestling. He also had a community access television wrestling show for years and had a long association with K-Town Bonding Company.

The Terry Landell character was often a bad guy in wrestling, but his stage persona couldn't have been more different.

"He could flip your emotions," said friend and longtime associate Ron Garrett. "One minute, he could make you hate him, and in the next minute, he could turn around and make you love him.

"That was his persona. That was the Terry Landell character. He was one of a

kind. He was just a great person and I'm going to miss him."

In addition to his work with Tennessee Mountain Wrestling, Bundren did free shows, and contributed to the Shriners and his other charity work included Christmas for the Kids.

He was also a fixture at area parades and had a portable wrestling ring constructed.

"Terry had a portable ring made and he was the first person to (promote) a match at a Christmas parade, or parade anywhere," said Garrett, who worked with Tennessee Mountain Wrestling for several years. "I was a fan of Terry from his TV show and he gave me an opportunity to be a part of Tennessee Mountain Wrestling.

"My son was interested in wrestling and I handled the media and started a Tennessee Mountain Wrestling fan club on Facebook.

Family obligations would cause Garrett to leave

Bundren's organization. Garrett, however remained friends with him and had great respect for Bundren's charity work.

"My son started playing baseball and so I started spending time at ball fields and was coaching three different teams," Garrett said. "Wrestling season has no off-season. It's 24-7-365."

Garrett said that Bundren had an impact on everyone in Knoxville.

"Terry's show on CTV was must-see television and I think most people who knew about him knew about him because of his TV show," Garrett said. "If you passed his show, you had to stop.

"I think he had an impact on everybody who lives in Knoxville."

A polarizing personality on the wrestling scene, Bundren had a heart for kids, according to Garrett.

"Terry wanted everybody to be entertained," Garrett said. "He did free shows and he did benefit

shows. He did a lot for a lot of people. He worked with the police to help underprivileged kids get clothes

and school stuff."

A regular at the Shriners Circus, Bundren once constructed a ring that was

accessible for children with special needs.



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Representatives from Rotary Club of Knoxville and Knoxville's Community Development Corporation officially open a new Little Free Library at KCDC's The Vista at Summit Hill community on Feb. 15. Ceremony participants include, from left: KCDC Executive Director and CEO Ben Bentley and Senior Asset Manager Linda Jeter; Ginny Weatherstone, literacy committee chair, and Ginny Morrow, president, of Rotary Club of Knoxville; and literacy committee members Eric Lutton, Chemain Kellogg and Kim Isenberg.

Rotary Club of Knoxville opens Little Free Library at KCDC's The Vista at Summit Hill

Members of the Rotary Club of Knoxville have officially opened a Little Free Library for residents of The Vista at Summit Hill to expand access to books, inspire readers of all ages and build community.

Rotary Club members and representatives of Knoxville's Community Development Corporation celebrated with a ribbon cutting on Feb. 15.

"Our literacy committee is very aware of the importance of books in homes," said Ginny Weatherstone, leader of the project for Rotary Club of Knoxville. "We also know that books are expensive and might not be in the budget. The

Little Free Library is a way to get books into the hands of children and families and encourage them to foster a love for reading."

The free library is the Rotary Club of Knoxville's second in the city with the first located at KCDC's Western Heights housing site. The Vista's library will provide books to children and adults as requested by residents in the area. In 2021, the club hosted a book drive and fundraiser that helped the service organization expand the program and be able to restock the shelves regularly.

"We are glad to partner again with Rotary Club of

Knoxville to bring a Little Free Library to the families at The Vista," KCDC Executive Director and CEO Ben Bentley said. "We hope that one day each community has the opportunity to enjoy a sponsored library onsite. Increased access to books for children and adults makes our communities stronger."

Members of the public can provide books for The Vista's library by dropping off donations at the Crowne Plaza Knoxville hotel, located at 401 W. Summit Hill Drive or calling Ginny Weatherstone at 865-661-1004.

In addition to The Vista at Summit Hill, KCDC

properties with Little Free Library access include Five Points, Western Heights and Lonsdale Homes. KCDC is seeking individual, corporate or organization donors to add the libraries at Autumn Landing, Montgomery Village, Nature's Cove and North Ridge Crossing. Several KCDC properties focused on the elderly and disabled, Cagle Terrace and Northgate Terrace, maintain indoor libraries and also are in need of donations and assistance in maintaining those larger collections. To inquire about donating books, contact info@kcdc.org.

Who will be the Good Neighbor of the Year?

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville Neighborhood Conference is scheduled for Saturday, April 2, and six local citizens have been nominated for the Diana Conn Neighbor of the Year Award. The in-person gathering is the first since 2019 because of the pandemic.

The conference is free but everyone is being asked to register for the conference. The deadline for registration is noon, March 28. Each year the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment sponsors the event at the Knoxville Convention Center. Dozens of local organizations and city departments man booths at the event. If you register you may attend the Awards and Networking Luncheon.

Local citizens are honored each year for being outstanding leaders in their neighborhoods. Beth Booker, who passed away on January 23, will be honored for her hard work for the Old North Knoxville Neighborhood Association. Also being honored are nominees Arturo Cano of the Colonial Village Neighborhood Association, Chris Hall of the Kingston Pike-Sequoyah Hills Association, Eric Johnson of the Vestal Community Organization, Nancy

Shackelford of Sherrill Hills and Debbie Smith of the West Hills Community Association.

The conference will also honor the Knoxville Police Liaison Officer of the year and neighborhood achievements, and feature addresses from Mayor Indya Kincannon and other city officials. Candidates for Knox County offices will also be at the event.

Each year, the conference hosts workshops, more than 80 information booths, award ceremonies and provides lots of opportunities to meet others who are working to make their neighborhoods safer, more livable, more beautiful, and more friendly.

You can get more information from Neighborhood Coordinator Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov or (865) 215-3232.

CALL FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PHOTOS

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment needs photos of your neighborhood's activities over the past year. ONE is assembling a slideshow of these photos to show at the 2022 Neighborhood Conference. Email your photos to our Conference Coordinator Courtney Durrett at cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov.

Pancake Breakfast coming from Northside Kiwanis



Bill Larsen serves up pancakes during a Northside Kiwanis Club Pancake Jamboree. Photo courtesy of Bill Larson.

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Who doesn't like pancakes?

The annual Northside Kiwanis Pancake Jamboree and Bake Sale is coming up on Saturday, April 23, and people are looking forward to their pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice prepared and served by the very active club. The event, at St. John's Lutheran Church at

544 North Broadway from 7:30 a.m. until noon, is only \$5 per person.

Family admission to the tasty breakfast is only \$12. All proceeds will benefit the club's service fund for community projects that primarily focus on children. Some of those organizations include the Key Clubs of Bearden, Central, Fulton and Halls high schools and the L&N Stem Academy, Key Club

Service Awards, Camp Eagle's Nest, Knox County 4-H Club, East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Flying Anvil Theater, WordPlayers and other local causes.

Northside Kiwanis also supports the Kiwanis International service project "EliMiNaTe", to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus worldwide.

Admission will be available at the door or

reserved online from the Eventbrite listing. You may also order tickets from Northside Kiwanis at P. O. Box 3041, Knoxville, TN 37927.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the club is announcing its "third try" to hold the normally annual Pancake Jamboree.

More information is available by calling Secretary Bill Larson at (865) 693-8845.



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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Realpolitik

The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.

Frederick Douglass

Did you watch it? I didn't. I never liked watching the annual Presidential SOTU addresses, but I always felt it was my duty as a citizen. That changed after "The Wicked Witch of the West," in front of the nation, dramatically tore up her copy of President Trump's 2020 SOTU speech. I've always thought the hobnobbing of Washington politicians, with dramatic standing, scowling and clapping or moaning was just poor Kabuki theater. I don't pretend to understand traditional Japanese theater, but I do know farcical hoopla when I see it. And for me it would have been torture listening to PINO and having to watch the unmasked harpies sitting behind him. Isn't it curious that Pelosi no longer

required masks, ostensibly because the CDC reversed their "science" four days before SOTU. It sounds more like "political science" to me.

Years ago, I heard a TV ad stating that retirement is when you pay yourself to do what you really want to do. This makes sense to me, so I did not suffer through the State of the Union message. I read multiple reports from newspapers and news sites whose reporters were required to watch and listen to PINO. Aside from the predictable sycophants, the consensus was Ol' Joe did nothing to bind the wounds of our country or change direction for the benefit of We the People. Even mild-mannered Dana Perino panned Biden's speech.

Amid instances of PINO's mistruths and misspeak, he inappropriately spent considerable time on the Russian-Ukrainian war. However, he did not address the threat

of nuclear war.

Putin, the Russian dictator, is a ruthless ex-KGB colonel and has repeatedly threatened the use of nuclear weapons.

The Ukrainian war is a tragedy, but hopefully has awakened Americans to the necessity of energy security. Even the Germans have figured out that Putin is an unpredictable dictator, and buying natural gas from him is a national security issue. You would think that Ol' Joe would understand that our energy independence is also a national security issue. However, rigid ideology has corrupted our leaders' minds. We were energy independent at the end of 2020, but Biden cut our domestic oil production by over a million barrels a day and we now import over 600,000 barrels of oil a day from Russia. We are funding Putin's war. Buy American, Mr. Biden, not "weaponized Russian" oil.

The issue is that solar, wind, hydro and geothermal energy sources are insufficient to meet the needs of our country or the world. China is one of the world's leading polluters and has just signed a contract to purchase 100 million metric tons of coal from Russia. Xi Jinping does not worry about pollution as he continues to build coal fired power plants. Even nuclear fission reactors are not

enough. So, for the short-term, fossil fuels are necessary if we want to have electrical power for lights, charge our cars and smartphones, heat/cool our homes or run factories. Progress is being made to create an electromagnetic field capable of containing nuclear fusion of hydrogen, the process that powers the sun and the stars. Someday we will have oceans (H2O) of energy, but in the meantime, I do not want to sit in the dark or be cold, nor do I want to be dependent upon or support brutal dictators by buying their fossil fuels.

America is "woke and broke," said one pundit describing the state of our union. I realize the four Horsemen of The Knoxville Focus (Hunley, Black, Duncan and Ferguson) repeatedly decry the mismanagement of our country. But speaking the truth will hopefully awaken people.

The left's destructive woke philosophy is built on victimization and abject racism. And our deficit spending has fueled rampant inflation which will be felt for years to come. These days, I find it astounding that anyone can support Democrat policies or vote for a Democrat, given that party's policies and ideology. Actually, I fear the Democrat's destructive ideology and policies more than Putin's missiles.

My wife Becky is well-informed and for the last 6 to 9 months she has sensed a change in the mood of our country. I'm more pessimistic, but I hope she's right and it's not too late. Biden, Democrats, and the progressive-socialist cabal are responsible for the southern border crisis and invasion, promotion of racist class warfare and threatening our national security with energy mismanagement. Perhaps, IF we avoid nuclear war with Russia, the Ukrainian tragedy may finally awaken the American people to reality. iPOTUS should reverse his energy policy and allow drilling and exploration and remove crippling regulations. We must quit listening to the climate crisis loons like John Kerry, Biden's climate czar. We must tighten our belts and stop buying anything from Russia. And we must become energy independent again. It is a national security issue beyond rising gasoline prices.

Last week in his column, Congressman Duncan referred to a book we are reading in our "egghead" book club which focuses on Henry Kissinger and realpolitik. I always thought the term derived from Russian. Mr. Webster defines realpolitik as, "politics based on practical and material factors (issues) rather than on theoretical

or ethical objectives." The word derives from the German real (actual) and politik (politics). Mr. Biden, our country should be exercising realpolitik rather than the Democrat party ideology of wokeness, exemplified by CRT and the discredited and anti-American 1619 project.

As I watched the Ukrainian news, I thought of Charles Dickens' famous book, A Tale of Two [Presidents]. From his Delaware bunker, PINO offered Ukrainian Pres. Zelenskyy evacuation from Kyiv. The former comedian and TV star declined saying, "I need ammunition, not a ride." Well said, Mr. President! We should have such patriotic citizens, businessmen and leaders, rather than career politicians like iPOTUS or Canada's Trudeau, who ran away from Ottawa and hid from Canadian truckers.

Several years ago, when asking my grandson, Oakley, about events of the previous day he became flustered regarding details. He told my wife, "BeBe, I can only handle right now." I feel the same way. I would rather be writing about medicine, science, history, philosophy, travel, the arts or spirituality. I'm sorry, but because of the crisis, "I can only handle right now."

You may email Dr. Ferguson at fergusonj@knoxfocus.com

Appeals from Small Claims Court

Most people have heard of small claims court. In Tennessee, the court most people would consider "small claims" court is called general sessions court. In civil cases in Tennessee, you can sue for up



By Jedidiah McKeenan
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to \$25,000.00 in the general sessions court. Even though people may call the general sessions court the small claims court, \$25,000.00 is a whole lot of money!

General sessions court is set up as a court where you can get in front of a judge quickly and have your case resolved in a matter of weeks. In the legal system, having a case resolved in a matter of weeks is a quick turnaround. In general sessions, there is no jury. Some people have attorneys, some do not. The

judge may have over 100 cases set for one day in general sessions.

Most of these cases are resolved without a trial. However, some do end up in trial. The judge will hear from both sides and make a ruling. When I am representing people in general sessions civil cases, I tell them to take these rulings in stride if they do not go their way. Why is that?

Tennessee Code Annotated section 27-5-108 allows either party the automatic right to appeal the ruling of the general sessions court within 10 days of the ruling. If either party appeals then the case is heard by the circuit court on a de novo basis. "De novo" means that the case will start, "a new," or "from the beginning." The prior ruling by the judge in

general sessions court is supposed to have no bearing on the case now that it is in a new court.

The circuit court case process typically takes much longer. Cases can drag on for months, if not years. Additionally, at the circuit court level, you can request that a jury be present to reach a verdict on your case.

So if you have a case in "small claims" court and you do not like the ruling you were given by the judge, you may appeal that decision to the circuit court within 10 days of the ruling being given.

Jedidiah McKeenan is an attorney practicing in Knox County and surrounding counties. He works in many areas, including divorce, custody, criminal, and personal injury. Visit attorney-knoxville.com for more information about this legal issue and other legal issues.

Easter Egg Hunt returns to Fountain City

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Central Baptist Church of Fountain City and the Fountain City Church have teamed up with the Fountain City Business and Professional Association to bring the annual Easter Egg Hunt back to Fountain

City Park.

The pandemic caused a disruption of the event for the past two years.

The event is set for Saturday, April 9, from 8:30 a.m. until noon with different hunt times for children of different ages. Children 6 to 8 years old hunt at 9 a.m. An egg hunt for children 2 and younger starts at 9:45 and 3-to 5-year-old children hunt at 10:15. Older children, 9 to 12, hunt for eggs at 11 a.m.

You can get more information at www.fountaincitybusiness.com.

Shipe to kick off her at-large campaign

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Community organizer Vivian Underwood Shipe, a Democrat, is kicking off her campaign on Saturday, March 19 at 4 p.m. at the Public Works Building on 3131 Morris Avenue. She's the sole Democrat in the upcoming race for Knox County Commission At-Large Seat 11.

Incumbent and Knox County Commission Vice Chairman Justin Biggs is leaving that body and running for Knox County Trustee in the Republican primary. His departure from the commission, after one term as the At-Large Seat 11,

creates an open vacancy on the commission and a battle between four candidates is developing. Republicans Kim Frazier and Devin Driscoll face each other in that primary. Independent Donald Bridges will be on the general election ballot in August. The primary is May 3 and the general election is August 4.

Devin is the owner of D1 Sports Training Hardin Valley and a former professional WWE wrestler. Frazier has been a member of many community boards and resigned her position on the Knox County Ethics Committee to seek the at-large position.

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Tennessee and the 1960 Presidential Election

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Tennessee had gone Republican in both the 1952 and 1956 presidential elections. Volunteer State Democrats had been especially shocked when Adlai Stevenson had lost Tennessee in 1956 as home-state U. S. senator Estes Kefauver had been the vice presidential candidate. Tennessee Democrats had been especially shaken by the loss of Shelby County to the Republicans in 1956. Ed Crump, once the undisputed master of Memphis and Shelby County, had died in October of 1954 and his machine had begun to rapidly deteriorate and fall apart. Yet, even with the enormous appeal and personal popularity of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, old habits die hard and Tennesseans had supported the GOP presidential ticket only narrowly.

Democrats approached 1960 with hope and great expectations. Tennessee's Estes Kefauver thought of waging a third battle for the Democratic presidential nomination but gave up the idea to run for reelection to his seat in the United States Senate. Some Tennessee Democrats were fearful John F. Kennedy's Catholicism would become an unspoken issue in the Volunteer State. Some were old enough to remember when Herbert Hoover had won even the Democratic stronghold of Davidson County (Nashville) over New York governor Alfred E. Smith. Smith was a "wringing wet" (meaning he favored repealing/ending prohibition) and a Catholic. Lyndon Johnson, the powerful Majority Leader of the United States, had declared his own presidential candidacy at the last minute and enjoyed support from some highly influential Tennesseans, not the least of which was Governor Buford Ellington. The Tennessee delegation arrived at the Democratic National Convention and voted to support Johnson on the first ballot under the unit rule, meaning the entire delegation would cast their ballots for the Texan.

Governor Ellington candidly admitted he had done "all we can" for the Majority Leader. "I've told both the Senator and Sam Rayburn that we little people have shot the works," Ellington told a reporter, "and that from now on it is up to them to carry on at the top level." Edward B. Smith, associate editor of the Knoxville News-Sentinel, wrote a regular column and noted some members of the Tennessee delegation grumbled it appeared Senator John F. Kennedy would win on the first ballot and advised the Volunteer State should hop on the bandwagon before it rolled off in the distance. Another last-minute candidacy was declared by

former Illinois governor Adlai Stevenson, who had been the Democratic Party standard-bearer in both 1952 and 1956. There were some Democrats who argued Stevenson deserved another chance without the enormously popular Eisenhower running for the Republicans. Senator Albert Gore disagreed and made no secret he thought it would be a serious mistake to give Stevenson a third presidential nomination. In a short speech before his fellow Tennesseans, Gore said all of the leading candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination were personal friends and believed any one of them could win the general election. Some considered Gore's speech to be opening the door for Tennessee to support Kennedy. One Tennessee delegate wore an "All the Way With LBJ" button on his lapel with another saying, "Switch Today to JFK."

Republicans had coalesced behind Vice President Richard Nixon. The Republican National Convention was more of a coronation than a contest. Nixon selected former U.S. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. as his running-mate which seemed a curious choice. Lodge had lost his Senate seat in 1952 to a young congressman named John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

While Democrats were excited about Kennedy's candidacy, they worried privately the candidate's religion would be a big liability in Protestant Tennessee. Kennedy's campaign committee in Tennessee was composed of a Methodist, a Presbyterian and three Baptists. Democrats pointed to the closeness of Eisenhower's victories in Tennessee; despite the former general's appeal and personal popularity, he had only carried the state by a total of 8,218 votes combined in the elections of 1952 and 1956. Tennessee Democrats grew increasingly worried when they received letters like that of O. D. Johns, pastor of the Main Street Church of Christ in Milan, who wrote Senator Gore, "A very powerful force has influenced you to turn on your church leaders and many of your fateful [sic] supporters."

Richard Nixon was too shrewd a politician not to know Tennessee was once again in play. Congressman Carroll Reece was introduced that day by State Representative James H. Quillen, who would be the congressman's successor in Tennessee's First Congressional District. Congressman Reece declared the Nixon-Lodge ticket "the most able and experienced men to seek high office in the 20th Century, not including reelection campaigns." That same day, September 27,



COURTESY OF THE REECE MUSEUM, ETSU, CENTER FOR APPALACHIAN STUDIES & SERVICES.

GOP presidential nominee Richard Nixon (far right) and Tennessee's two Republican congressmen in 1960. From left to right: Carroll Reece, Howard Baker and Richard Nixon.

Carroll Reece hurried from his upper East Tennessee district to Memphis, to greet Vice President and Mrs. Nixon. It was raining in Memphis when the Nixons arrived and according to the Nashville Banner some 25,000 people cheered the couple. Reece introduced Nixon to the vast audience and Nixon acknowledged Republicans were the minority party in Tennessee when he said, "Judge us not on the basis of the label we wear, but on what's behind the label."

Tennessee's weather was not as kind to Richard Nixon as it had been to John F. Kennedy, when the Massachusetts senator had come to the Volunteer State six days earlier. Kennedy had been greeted by sunshine and mild temperatures while Nixon faced a chilly wind with rain. Richard Nixon was also aggressively seeking the votes of Black citizens. Nixon told Memphians he fully supported the civil rights plank in the Republican platform. "In this area," Nixon said, "all Americans must move forward. We must leave none behind." Richard Nixon noted Kennedy had not mentioned civil rights while campaigning in Tennessee. The Vice President said a candidate had "a responsibility to talk the same, North, East, South or West." "I regret my opponent, since his nomination, has not done that," Nixon added. Vice President Nixon also praised the Tennessee Valley Authority (in sharp contrast to what Senator Barry Goldwater would do four years later), saying, "I think that not only should TVA be kept as it is but it should be expanded as need to serve the present area."

John F. Kennedy's visit to Tennessee was a foray into the heart of Republican East Tennessee. Kennedy's plane landed at Tri-Cities Airport thirty minutes late. According to state troopers, the crowd was estimated to number 11,000 people. Kennedy was accompanied to East Tennessee by his sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver.

John Kennedy's appeal to female voters was no less true in Tennessee than elsewhere. After one woman shook hands with the senator, she cried, "Oh, I got to touch him!" Some of the younger ladies had arrived at the airport as early as 6:00 a.m. to get a better view of the Democratic nominee.

Newspaper publisher Carl Jones introduced Governor Buford Ellington who in turn introduced Senator Kennedy. Kennedy hit precisely the right note, saying it was appropriate for his campaign swing to begin in the area. "Virginia was the home of Thomas Jefferson, the founder of the Democratic Party. Tennessee and North Carolina produced Andrew Jackson who built the party up to our country's most progressive political body," Kennedy told his listeners. "We are coming into dangerous and difficult times," Kennedy warned. "The Democratic Party is not promising a life of ease, but one full of responsibilities and hazards." Kennedy subtly reminded his audience of Tennessee's Democratic past. "The reason Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman and Woodrow Wilson were so successful overseas is because they were successful at home," Kennedy said. "The hand of friendship extended by Roosevelt to other countries was the same that brought you the TVA."

"The Marshall Plan was just an extension of the Fair Deal," Kennedy said, asking Tennesseans to compare the records of the country's two political parties.

Richard Nixon was working hard to replicate Dwight D. Eisenhower's success in carrying Southern states which had formerly served as a firewall for the national Democratic Party. The Eisenhower-Nixon ticket had carried Virginia, Tennessee, Texas and Florida in 1952. Eisenhower had come within less than 5,000 votes of carrying South Carolina. In 1956, Eisenhower won Tennessee, Virginia,

Kentucky, Florida, Texas, and Louisiana. By early October, Richard Nixon had made more than twice as many visits to Southern states as had John F. Kennedy. Pat and Richard Nixon returned to Nashville to campaign on October 6, 1960. Once again, James Stahlman, publisher of the Nashville Banner, introduced Nixon to the 17,000 people gathered to hear the GOP presidential candidate. Among those greeting the Nixons at Nashville's airport were Congressmen Carroll Reece and Howard Baker, Nashville Banner publisher James Stahlman, and Zephaniah Alexander Looby, head of the Nixon-Lodge Minority Committee for Tennessee. Looby had been born in the British West Indies and had immigrated to the United States when he was a fifteen-year-old orphan in 1914. Looby earned degrees from Howard University, Columbia University's School of Law and New York University. Looby was also a Republican member of Nashville's City Council for twenty years, from 1951 to 1971. Z. Alexander Looby's house had been bombed by arch segregationists on April 19, 1960.

"Four years ago a small but vocal cult adopted as its snide slogan, 'I don't like Nixon, but I don't know why.' When Dick Nixon spoke in Nashville, I told you I DID like Nixon and I DID know why," Stahlman thundered.

Vice President Nixon noted John F. Kennedy had quoted Andrew Jackson when he had visited Tennessee earlier. "Here is what Andrew Jackson really said," Nixon began. "My countrymen will never find me arresting measures which encroach on the rights of the states or lend to the centralization of our federal government."

Both of Tennessee's GOP congressmen were on hand when Vice President and Mrs. Richard Nixon arrived in Nashville. Carroll Reece and Howard Baker (father of the future U. S. senator) were seated on the platform while Nixon spoke. Both congressmen were

interviewed by members of the news media.

Carroll Reece predicted Richard Nixon would carry Tennessee by 50,000 in the general election. The congressman told a reporter he believed Shelby County would once again go Republican and speculated the vice president's majority in East Tennessee would top 125,000 votes.

Republicans in Knoxville celebrated "Pat Week", honoring the vice president's wife. Mrs. Rubye Biddle, co-chair of the Nixon-Lodge campaign in Knox County urged women to participate in a parade for "Pat Week." Among those riding in the parade were Mrs. Roy Lotspeich, publisher of the Knoxville Journal; Mrs. Lois Duncan, wife of Knoxville's mayor (and future congressman); and Mrs. Irene Baker, Tennessee's Republican National Committeewoman and wife of the congressman (and also a future congresswoman). Congressman Howard Baker was in Nashville to speak to the Republican Women of Davidson County who were preparing for "coffees" in precincts across the county's 106 polling places. Looking over the impressive number of women gathered, Congressman Baker marveled, "I can see why elections are won by women."

Carroll Reece's predictions proved to be conservative. Richard Nixon carried Tennessee by more than 75,000 votes. Once again, the GOP presidential ticket carried Shelby County and Nixon's visit (along with Kennedy's religion) helped the Republicans in Davidson County where JFK only outdistanced Nixon by about 7,000 votes. Richard Nixon easily carried Knox and Hamilton Counties. To illustrate how many Democrats likely voted for Nixon over Kennedy, consider Senator Kefauver won 594,460 votes to 481,453 for JFK. Kefauver won more votes in Tennessee than Nixon while there were 1,051,792 votes cast in the presidential race in Tennessee, only 828,516 citizens voted in the senatorial race. Some 223,000 Tennesseans opted not to vote in the U. S. Senate race even though both parties fielded candidates, granted GOP nominee Bradley Frazier was not as serious or as good a candidate as Dan Kuykendall and Howard Baker would prove to be in 1964.

Yet the change in Tennessee's voting pattern had begun. Richard Nixon carried Tennessee again in 1968 and 1972. So, too, would the Volunteer State play a pivotal role in the 2000 election between George W. Bush and native son Albert Gore, Jr.

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Heirlooms

Around our family, we treasure our heirloom. Well, at least Amy and I do. The children aren't so sure about those things. Pieces of furniture that our parents used during our childhood are special to us, but many of those things just don't suit the taste of Lacey or Dallas. Still, they will at some point have the task of going through those items in our home and deciding their fates. Many items will find new homes and possibly become heirlooms for new families. The two adult children do have some special things in our home that aren't of value to anyone else in the world. Dallas' car needs some work, so I followed him to Charlie Muncey's house. Charlie has worked on our



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

cars since 1981 and can fix most any problem. My son was carless, so I loaned him my 1987 Pathfinder. He left our house with a big smile, and he's forever bragging about that car. I don't blame him though; that car is the one he grew up in. We traveled to all his ball games and a vacation in the old Pathfinder. I've tried to give the car to him, but he's not sure that he can pay the general upkeep on a second car. Still, that car is an heirloom that will be left to him. When my mother passed, our family assembled, and we three boys and their wives decided who would take things from the house. The three women looked at her jewelry and picked a few

items. Pieces of furniture and iron skillets were chosen. During the entire process, no one ever argued, and I don't think anyone left with hurt feelings.

A big, round kitchen table sat in Mother's kitchen for years. All meals and thousands of people have sat at that table and enjoyed good food and fellowship. That table was left to me, but because we didn't have enough room for it, I let my older brother Dal and his wife Brenda use it. Over the years, they brought four children into their home, and now a passel of grandchildren has eaten meals at that table. Lacey has asked for the table when the time comes, and I have indicated to Brenda of that. She said one of her children wanted it, but I told her Lacey has first claim. She will be the third or fourth generation to use the table. I'm thrilled that she wants it and

that Madden will be the next generation to eat at it.

I'm not one for tattoos, especially knowing what they'd look like on me at this late stage. My daughter Lacey and niece Mindy found some samples of Mother's writing. They copied the capital letter "R" that she'd penned and had it tattooed on the inside of their wrists. Her hand-written notes and cards were heirlooms to them, so they had those permanent "Rs" to remind them of their grandmother.

Amy's Aunt Mildred took a ceramics class years ago. She must have made several items, but the one she liked best was a white cat. The animal is lying on its stomach and stretches maybe 30 inches. My two children love that ceramic cat, and they've argued in a kidding manner for several years about which one would inherit the thing.

We've told them to put pieces of tape on the bottoms of any items that they want, and both have covered the other's name with theirs. Lacey also placed a post-a-note on the cat's ear. Amy has several pieces of cut glass from her mother, and I suppose some of the stuff is worth at least of little money. Neither child is interested in the stuff, but they battle for sole possession of a ceramic cat. Go figure!

The lesson in all of this is that the most precious things to us aren't the ones that cost the most. Instead, an old car that probably isn't worth \$1000 is loved by my son. Some pieces of jewelry that Amy's mother owned are meaningful to Lacey. The value of most favorite things is determined by the memories that they bring to us as older adults.

Rodney Woods A Vol for Life, Part 2

He was the point guard from Kentucky that the late Coach Ray Mears seemed determined to sign to the Tennessee roster.

When I learned that Tennessee's coaches went to watch him play in 17 consecutive games, I wondered if they wore those popular Tennessee orange blazers on all of those recruiting trips!

By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

When Rodney Woods finished his outstanding basketball career at The University of Tennessee (UT), he entered the field of coaching. Woods has had an amazing career spanning 45 years, and he has coached his teams to over 900 wins! "My coaching style was influenced the most by Coach Mears," Woods shared. At Wayne County High School, the Rodney C. Woods Gymnasium and Coach Woods Court have been named in his honor. As a coach, Woods has been inducted into the Kentucky High School Hall of Fame and the National Coaches Association Hall of Fame and was a Kentucky Inaugural Recipient of the 2021 John Wooden Legacy Award. Woods was also inducted into the Kentucky High School Hall of Fame as a player.

I remember the exciting days of UT basketball during the time Woods played, but I did not remember his statistics on the hardwood. Woods provided a look back



Picture of Coach Rodney Woods by Wade Upchurch, courtesy of Rodney Woods.

at those awesome statistics during his sterling career at Tennessee. He led the Southeastern Conference (SEC) in assists three times---1973, 1974, and 1975. He still holds the single season assists record at UT---227 in 1975. He still holds the single game record for assists in Stegman Coliseum

(Georgia) with 16 assists (February 1, 1975). He still holds the UT record for double-double games (points-assists). No wonder Mears was determined to sign the point guard!

Rodney Woods---Kentucky native, Tennessee player, high school coach, Vol for Life. It is fascinating that Coach Woods has a room in his basement full of orange and white! That alone should qualify the Tennessee player who wore No. 10 as a Vol for Life!

Thanks, Rodney, for some great memories in Tennessee basketball!

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then games. Please RSVP by March 11 by calling or texting Teresa Williams at (865)705-0581 OR Yvonne Fielden at (865)806-8188. Emory Valley Baptist is located at 6124 E. Emory Road Knoxville. Pastor Doug Fielden.

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Knox County Player of the Year



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

Bearden's Jenn Sullivan works on defense in a Region 2-4A quarterfinal win over Heritage. Sullivan has been selected the Knox County Player of the Year for 2021-22.

THE KNOXVILLE FOCUS / COACHES' ALL-KNOX COUNTY TEAM GIRLS BASKETBALL

FIRST TEAM

Name, School, Position, Height, Class

Mackenzie Babb, Central F-C 6-3 Sr.
Keira Leffew, CAK SF 5-11 Jr.
Sydney Mains, Catholic G-F 5-10 So.
Gracie Palmer, Berean PG 5-8 Sr.
Keeleigh Rogers, Farragut G 5-10 Sr.
Ace Strickland, Farragut SG 6-1 Sr.
Jenn Sullivan, Bearden G 5-8 Sr.
Sammy Taylor, Fulton SG 5-9 So.
Avery Treadwell, Bearden PF 6-3 Jr.
Reagan Trumm, Powell G 5-9 Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Maddie Brillhart, Bearden G-F 6-0 Sr.
Bailey Burgess, Bearden G 5-5 Sr.
Emily Gonzalez, Bearden G 5-7 Sr.
Cassidy Hill, Powell G 5-10 Sr.
Aaniyah Johnson, FBA G-F 5-4 Sr.
Madison Jones, CAK G 5-6 Jr.
Madelyn Ladd, Webb F 5-10 Jr.
Ashlyn Sheridan, Farragut G-F 5-11 Sr.
Jazmin Williams, Catholic G 5-9 Jr.
Emily Wilson, CAK G 5-7 Jr.

HONORABLE MENTION

Catholic: Ella Renfree. **Central:** Cadence Horner. **Concord Christian:** Kylie Phillips. **Fulton:** Jamia Simmons. **GCA:** Lindsey McDaniels, Carlee Adkins. **Hardin Valley:** Gracie Waite. **Karns:** Madison Perren, Reese Roberts, Rylee Roberts, Abby Harris. **Powell:** Alaina Schroeder. **Webb:** Shae Berry, Meeyah Green.

Sullivan pleases fans with all-out play

By Steve Williams

Playing on one of the state's best basketball teams that includes five college signees, Jenn Sullivan of Bearden High still stands out.

Maybe it's the extra things she does during a game that don't show up as statistics in the paper or maybe it's her strength the fans notice when she's on the court.

Whatever it is, it's working for her and she's been selected as The Knoxville Focus

/ Coaches' 2021-22 Knox County Player of the Year.

The 5-foot-8 combo guard edged junior teammate Avery Treadwell in the balloting for the award. Another teammate, Emily Gonzalez, tied for third with Fulton sophomore Sammy Taylor and Powell senior Reagan Trumm.

Sullivan, who also is a Class 4A Miss Basketball finalist, averages 15 points per game along with five assists and four rebounds.

Jenn's stats that don't usually make the paper and

aren't the prettiest include the times when "she gets on the floor" for loose balls or "takes charges," said Coach Underwood.

"She does so many things in being a complete player and I think that's what helps her be a great leader for us."

As for her strength, Underwood said: "She's very strong. We joke that she probably could be a middle linebacker."

Her strength gives her good body control and allows her to finish at the rim or stop

on a dime and shoot a mid-range shot or 3.

"She's so strong, sometimes when she takes contact, she still stays balanced when most kids wouldn't," added Underwood.

Sullivan signed with Tennessee Tech.

"She's a gym rat, whether it's shooting the ball or working on the physical side of herself," said Underwood. "She's taking it serious, is in good shape and works really hard on her diet as well as

Continued on page 3

Catholic battles, but can't stop CBHS in title game

By Steve Williams

Knoxville Catholic faced the ultimate challenge in the Final Four of the TSSAA's Division II-AA BlueCross Basketball Championships this season.

If the Irishmen were going to send longtime head coach Mike Hutchens out a winner in his final game, they would have to beat not one, but two undefeated opponents.

They opened with a 63-55 semifinal win over 30-0 Brentwood Academy Thursday, but couldn't complete a storybook ending Saturday afternoon, falling



to Christian Brothers High School of Memphis 79-72 at Tennessee Tech's Eblen Center in Cookeville.

For a few moments though – when senior standout BJ Edwards swished in a 3-pointer from the left wing to pull Catholic within one (63-62) with 3:10 remaining and the Irish faithful chanting "BJ, BJ, BJ ..." – carrying Hutchens off into the sunset was

more than just a hope.

Despite two baskets by CBHS, junior Blue Cain's longest 3-pointer of the day still had Catholic in it (67-65) with two minutes to go.

But Blue, a 6-4 guard who led the Irishmen with a 31-point effort, fouled out on a reach at 1:21 and as his heart sank so did the hearts of many others wearing Green and Gold.

Two free throws by Hunter Pratt capped a 6-0 run

that gave Christian Brothers a 73-65 advantage with under a minute to play.

In the post-game interview room, BJ talked about how the team wanted to win for their coach in his final game and he apologized that they didn't.

Hutchens, just a few feet away, said he couldn't have been more proud of his boys and their effort.

Only once did Hutchens have to fight back tears.

'I gave all I had, but I guess it wasn't enough.'

-- Blue Cain of Catholic, after scoring a game-high 31 points in the Irishmen's 79-72 loss to undefeated Christian Brothers High School in the TSSAA Division II-AA state finals.

"Well, I wish we could have won, but I couldn't get upset with these guys the way they played (today and) the way they played the last four years. It's been phenomenal. They're a class act, all of them.

"These last three years are three of the best teams in the history of Catholic. We won the state (2020 season) playing in one of the toughest divisions in Tennessee."

Catholic finished 29-4 this year.

Christian Brothers (28-0) gave Bubba Luckett his first state title as a head coach.

CBHS had five players to score in double digits, with Florida State signee and tourney MVP Chandler Jackson, a smooth 6-5 guard, and Michael Pepper tallying 20 points each.

Coach Luckett pointed to

Continue on page 4

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'Powerful' Ella Murphey repeats in state wrestling

By Steve Williams

A highlight of being Hardin Valley Academy's head wrestling coach this past season for Ronald Sobel was working with Ella Murphey.

The Hawks' standout sophomore won her second straight TSSAA state championship and kept her win-loss record spotless in her prep career on the mat.

Murphey, competing in the 185-pound division, pinned Gibbs' Trinity Lynn at 2:34 of the second period in the finals at the Williamson County Expo Center in Franklin on Feb. 26.

Ella equaled the 15-0 record she posted as a freshman and is now 30-0 overall. Last season, she said her goal was to do what former Hardin Valley wrestler Kenya Sloan had accomplished several years ago and that was win four state titles in a row and go undefeated throughout her high school career.

Sloan finished at HVA with an 87-0 career record.

"Ella would love to have more matches and I've never seen someone have more patience," said Coach Sobel.

With many schools not having a wrestler in her weight class, a lot of times during the regular season she had to wrestle in a



PHOTOS BY JESSICA TINDALL

Ella Murphey's arm is raised by the referee to signify her TSSAA state wrestling championship in the tournament at Franklin this season. The Hardin Valley sophomore now has two state titles and is 30-0.

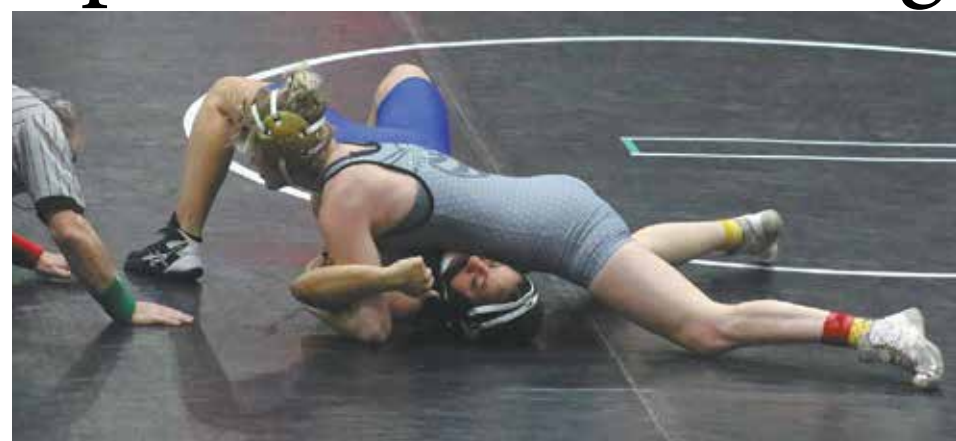
lower or higher class and those matches were "exhibitions" and do not count on her official record.

"Ella supports her teammates and is always geared up to wrestle," said Sobel. "She's a great part of the

team and the guys really appreciate her.

"Sometimes I think she improves more in the room (practice) than in matches."

Murphey has been "just dominant" as a high school wrestler, said Coach Sobel.



Carter senior Jailynn Tindall works on a pin in her first match in this season's TSSAA girls' state wrestling tournament. The defending state champion took second place in the 145-pound class this year.

And if he had to pick one word to describe her, he said it would be "powerful."

Sobel has been very impressed with Ella's balance in the sport.

"She's gifted in terms of having that balance and an awareness of her body moving through space," he said. "I always say wrestling is really more of a dance and we try to use it as flow. We try to loosen up and not be tight and stiff."

Sobel really believes Ella's natural flow is "a gift."

Murphey faced some strong and talented competitors at the state, but it took her just a little over a minute of "wrestling time" to get through her first three matches and into the finals.

Sobel was very impressed with how quickly she got past her opponents and

zipped through the tournament. He said she basically wrestled less than one full match to get through four matches at the state.

"While there were a lot of outstanding wrestlers, she certainly got my vote as Outstanding Wrestler for the tournament," said Coach Sobel.

The 63-year-old Sobel said he had been a "lifetime wrestler," but Hardin Valley was his first head coaching job. He resigned from that position on March 1 and said he plans to go back to coaching as an assistant at another school. He's from Cleveland, Ohio and wrestled in college at Michigan State.

In just talking to him, one realizes he knows his stuff. But he just wants to coach and not have the many other responsibilities

the head coaching post requires.

STATE RUNNER-UPS: While Murphey was Knox County's lone state champion, there were four others who placed second at the state. They were Gibbs' Elijah Hubbs (195 weight class) and Fulton's Seth Vaughn (285) in Class A; and Carter's defending champion Jailynn Tindall (145) and Scout Holguin (120).

TAKING THIRD: Halls had three who placed third in Class A: Sam Hutchison (132 weight class), Harlen Hunley (145) and Brian Whaley (160).

Gibbs' Hayley Redmond (132) and Farragut's Elaina Thibeault (165) took third place in girls' action.

Bearden boys win Region 2-4A Championship against short-handed Farragut

By Ken Lay

Despite seeing his team win the Region 2-4A Championship, Bearden High School boys basketball coach Jeremy Parrott was anything but jubilant.

For starters, Parrott didn't know that the Bulldogs would play a region title game until Thursday night after the other region championships were already in progress.

They played and routed longtime rival Farragut, 74-40, at Farragut's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium Friday.

But on Tuesday the Admirals and William Blount had their semifinal game called after a late altercation between Farragut and the Governors forced the game to be suspended with less than two minutes to play with the Admirals holding a double-digit lead.

The game was declared no contest after the bench-clearing incident left both teams without the services of most of their players.

Subsequent ejections and suspensions meant that the Admirals wouldn't have had enough players to continue their post-season run.

The TSSAA declared in its original decision that the Bulldogs would be crowned region champions and they would host a state sectional contest. Region 1 Champion Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett would receive a bye in the sectional round and advance to the Class 4A State Tournament, which opens in Murfreesboro the week of March 14. But after multiple appeals, the TSSAA ruled that the no-contest status was incorrectly applied.

The region championship game between the two long-time Kingston Pike rivals, which was scheduled for Thursday, was moved to the

following day.

First, however, the Governors and Admirals had to complete their suspended game. They did so with each team having three eligible players.

Farragut advanced and played Bearden with varsity players Dallas Carbaugh, Carter Mayfield and Garrick Hrivnak competing alongside junior varsity and freshman players.

"I think the kids handled everything okay, but I'm not sure I did," Parrott said. "I'm proud of my kids because they did what they had to do to win the game and win the region championship."

"But this wasn't an ideal situation for anybody. We didn't have anything to do with what happened Tuesday and you have to prepare for a game that you're going to play. Then, you're not going to play and then, you're going to play. Then, you're preparing for a game and you don't know who's going to play."

Elijah Bredwood led a balanced Bearden attack as he finished with 31 points and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Jake Poole added 10 points. Walker Kyle scored nine and Nelson Karnowski finished with eight.

But Parrott noted that are at an extreme disadvantage moving forward.

"The thing that everybody's losing sight of, including our opponent, is that we lost a day of preparation for the sectionals, because our region championship was moved from Thursday to Friday," Parrott said. "We've missed a day of prep for the most important game of the season."

Bearden will host the Hilltoppers today (March 7) and the Admirals will play the Indians in Kingsport. Tipoff for both games is slated for 7 p.m.



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

The Bearden Lady Bulldogs celebrate their Region 2-4A Championship Wednesday night. Bearden won the title with a 56-27 victory over rival Farragut.

Lady Bulldogs rout Farragut to win Region 2-4A Title

By Ken Lay

Bearden High School girls basketball coach Justin Underwood couldn't hide his happiness Wednesday night.

And who could blame him?

Underwood saw his team cruise to the Region 2-4A Championship with a 56-27 victory over Kingston Pike rival Farragut before a spirited crowd at home.

It was the Lady Bulldogs' fourth win over the Lady Admirals this season. Bearden swept the regular-season series and defeated Farragut on Feb. 28 to win the District 4-4A Championship.

The latest meeting between the Lady Bulldogs (32-3) and the Lady Admirals was close early as Farragut guard Avery Strickland buried three long-range jumpers in the first quarter to keep Farragut

within striking distance.

But Bearden, which held a 16-11 advantage after the opening frame, silenced Strickland for the remainder of the contest. The Lady Admirals' only other points in the inaugural stanza came on a basket from McCall Willis on the final play of the quarter.

The Lady Bulldogs, who surrendered just six field goals over the first 16 minutes of the game, turned up the defensive heat but six of Farragut's baskets came from beyond the 3-point arc as Bearden extended its lead to 26-17 by halftime.

"Every time Farragut made a run, we made shots," Underwood said. "Our kids play well together and they share the ball. That's why we have kids that have college scholarships."

The Lady Admirals didn't make any runs after

halftime after Bearden used a 15-3 run in the third stanza to open a 41-20 lead and salt things away.

Farragut's only offense in the frame came from guard Keeleigh Rogers, who made a bucket and a free throw.

The Lady Bulldogs, however, had no trouble making shots as they made nine shots from beyond the 3-point arc and had three players post double figures in the scoring column.

Jennifer Sullivan led the way with 15 points and made three long-range jumpers. She scored 13 points after halftime.

Region tournament Most Valuable Player Bailey Burgess finished with 14 points and converted four 3-pointers and Emily Gonzalez finished with 12 points. Maddie Brillhart scored seven points.

"Emily, Jen and Bailey

made some big 3's and Maddie made some big shots for us," Underwood said.

Strickland's nine points paced Farragut, which scored just 10 points after halftime.

The Lady Admirals, who made just three field goals after halftime, made a combined six 3-pointers as Annalise Bishop and Rogers had long-range jumpers to go with Strickland's three.

Both Farragut and Bearden advanced to Saturday's state sectionals. The Lady Bulldogs hosted Science Hill while the Lady Admirals traveled to Sevier County but results were not available at press time.

All-Tournament team: The all-region tournament team was comprised of Bearden and Farragut players. Strickland, Rogers and Ashlyn Sheridan made the team for the Lady Admirals.

Answers to a significant question

The phone rang, and the caller posed the question succinctly.



By Tom Mattingly

Who might be among the most fascinating persons you dealt with in all of Tennessee athletics?

It only took a few minutes to come up with the answer.

Lindsey Nelson was always a delight, recounting all kinds of stories not only about the University of Tennessee, but the whole world of sports as well.

One day after lunch at Long's Drug Store, Lindsey excused himself, mentioning a meeting that afternoon with the IRS. He said that the discussions would involve "six figures." The question in response was too good to pass up. "Income?" came the query. "No," he said, "taxes."

Tom Elam was a "one question interview" in June 1988 when we talked about his days as a student and his lifetime of involvement with the University of Tennessee. That interview went on for several hours and could have lasted much longer.

He settled two legal cases over the telephone while we were talking. We also took time to make an appearance at the Union City Rotary Club, where the wily and

crafty colonel was a respected member.

Walking down the streets of Union City with the Colonel was definitely an experience. Local residents always seemed to have had a friendly greeting or a request for help with some local issue.

I enjoyed talking with former basketball player Mike Edwards about his time as a star player in Greenfield, Indiana. Mike was one of Ray Mears' more highly touted recruits in the days before Bernard King and Ernie Grunfeld.

As he talked about growing up in Indiana, images from the early moments of the movie "Hoosiers" were in the background of a fascinating conversation. Growing up in Indiana as one of the state's top players had to have been a memorable experience.

Marvin West is a treasure trove of information, a good friend and significant mentor. He has an unlimited supply of stories at the ready from years of Vol sports coverage.

Here's a case in point, drawn from his coverage of Vol hoops at Stokely Center. When there was a problem at the scorer's table and the officials were summoned, Marvin was also present, standing behind the confab, notebook in hand, listening intently.

Marvin worked for the News Sentinel, and the official scorer

was Russ Bebb of the Knoxville Journal. The News Sentinel and the Journal competed fiercely on the U. T. sports beat, and Marvin wasn't going to go gently into that good night and let Russ get an edge.

Marvin also introduced Tennessee media to sophomore tailback John Majors in the Crump Stadium press box at the 1954 Mississippi State game.

Majors, set for a redshirt season and not listed on the depth chart, lined up at tailback. Various media types asked who No. 45 was. West, sports editor of the student newspaper, had a quick response: "Majors from Huntland." He and Majors were classmates, getting acquainted in a lower level geography class. That day set two legendary careers into motion, Majors on the gridiron and West in the newspaper business.

John Ward was equally delightful. That famed voice was always in full flower, recounting the historic moments in Vol athletic history. In Ward's case, a long ago nickname "stuck," where someone saw talent and ability long before anyone else.

A story from the Sept. 20, 1953, Journal made reference to the Fulton vs. LaFollette football game that night at Knoxville's Evans-Collins Field, noting that John "The Voice" Ward would be doing the



Lindsey Nelson enjoys the ambience of a Tennessee basketball game at Stokely Athletics Center.

broadcast.

He was a mere youngster then, but was on his way up as a sports communicator. Somebody at the Journal probably thought he was taking a shot at a colleague, but the unknown writer ended up defining a career.

In 1966-67, the unquestioned highlight was a triple overtime win at Mississippi State, when sophomore guard Bill Justus canned two free throws to earn the Vols a 78-76 victory and bring home the SEC title.

When the game ended, Ward said something like this: "Wrap it up, tie it in orange and white and send it to Bill Justus, care of Gibbs

Hall, Knoxville, Tennessee."

In June 1998, when Ward announced he was stepping down from football and basketball broadcasts, John's statement was to the point.

"I have a prepared statement, and I'm going to read it. Verbatim. 'It's time.'" With that, he sat down, although he did answer questions a moment or so later.

Ward was truly a legend, although he never thought of himself that way. When he spoke, Tennessee fans listened.

Good guys all.

These were the initial answers to one phone call.



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Justin Underwood, again selected the Knox County girls' Coach of the Year, signals to his team in the Lady Bulldogs' win over Farragut in last week's Region 2-4A tournament.

So... How Far Can Tennessee Go?

By Mark Nagi

The Tennessee men's basketball team is good. Really good.

They entered the final game of the regular season only one win out of first place in the Southeastern Conference. They have beaten sixth ranked Arizona, fourth ranked Kentucky and third ranked Auburn. The Vols have been nationally ranked all season. In all, Tennessee has 7 "Quad 1" wins, which is one of those metrics that the NCAA selection committee will look at when deciding what seed the Vols get in the upcoming NCAA tournament.

They have future pro basketball talent in guards Kennedy Chandler and Josiah Jordan-James. They have a sharp shooting guard in Santiago Vescovi, a fan favorite in point guard Zakai Zeigler, and an East Tennessee native playing his 67th year of college basketball, John Fulkerson. (Kidding, this is only his 6th season in Knoxville).

Despite losing Olivier Nkamhoua to a season ending injury, Uros Plavzic and Jonas Aidoo have picked up the slack down low.

This is a team that plays terrific defense as well. So, we must ask... is this finally

the year that the Vols get to a Final Four?

Despite Tennessee's proud tradition in men's basketball, they've never made it to the final weekend of the season. The closest they came was in 2010 when Bruce Pearl led UT to the Elite Eight.

TV cameras were rolling a couple of weeks ago in the Tennessee locker room when head coach Rick Barnes told his players that the Vols are a national championship contender.

Strong words from a future Hall of Fame coach.

"We've been talking about that since we got together this summer," said Jordan-James. "We knew our goals and our aspirations, and they have been that since the summer, and we are trying to put that together. All 16 guys in the locker room, coaches included, we fully believe that, and we just have to prove that every day."

One of the maddening realities of this team is its inexplicable ability to go ice cold from the field for long stretches of a game. Case in point, the Georgia contest back on March 1st. Tennessee has been considerably better than the Bulldogs this season. The

Vols entered that game with a 21-7 record while UGA was a woeful 6-23.

The Vols hadn't won in Stegman Coliseum in 11 years, but there was no reason for this meeting to be close. Instead, Tennessee couldn't create any space between themselves and the Bulldogs. The game was tied at 35 at intermission. In the second half, the Vols went over 5 minutes without scoring before a Fulkerson bucket with 4:10 to go righted the ship.

The Vols got the win 75-68, but that did little to address the main issue. Cold spells like that one will get you beat against better teams. At this time of year, all the teams you play are going to be of high quality. A chilly snap of that nature will send Tennessee home from the NCAA tournament early.

Basketball is a tournament sport. Sixty-seven of the 68 teams will finish their season with a loss. Sometimes it's an injury, a blown whistle or a draw that doesn't benefit your style which keeps a team from achieving its dream.

Is this finally Tennessee's time?

We'll find out together over the next few weeks.

Sullivan pleases fans with all-out play

Cont. from page 1

her game. She knows she's getting a scholarship for a reason and she's worked hard at it."

Sullivan also is fun to watch.

"She plays very intense and gets after it and that's an exciting thing for a fan to come in and see," said the Bearden coach. "Jenn gives her heart and soul and she's got bumps and bruises by the time it's done. She's a little bit of a throwback player, giving everything she has every second."

Sullivan's biggest improvement this season has been getting stronger with her left hand, said Underwood.

"She was really good as far as her mid-range jumper, her 3 and getting to the rim. But now she's gotten even better in being able to get to the rim with her left hand and finishing."

Each of Bearden's five senior starters are captains and Underwood says Sullivan is probably one of the best in leading by

enthusiasm. "She gets more excited when she passes for an assist and somebody hits a shot than hitting her own shot. That's always a special thing to see."

Underwood repeats as Coach of the Year

Bearden's Justin Underwood is The Focus / Coaches' Knox County girls' Coach of the Year for the second straight season.

Much like last year, his Lady Bulldogs have been ranked among the state's top teams throughout the season and were No. 3 in The Associated Press' final Class 4A poll.

Bearden swept the District 4 and Region 2 tournament titles and went into this past Saturday's Sectional game against Science Hill with a 32-3 record.

Abby Williams, who guided Christian Academy of Knoxville to the Final Four of the Division II-A state tournament after a slow start this season, was

the runner-up for Coach of the Year.

Powell's John Fisher, Karns' Kylie Heyward and Fulton's Tyler Howell also were in the running.

Bearden and Farragut have two on first team

Bearden and Farragut each have two players on The Knoxville Focus / Coaches' 2021-22 All-Knox County girls basketball team.

The 10-player first team also includes one player each from Berean Christian, CAK, Catholic, Central, Fulton and Powell.

Head coaches at each of the 20 Division I and Division II high schools in Knox County that play basketball were contacted by The Focus to nominate players from their team for All-Knox County consideration based on regular season play.

Ten players earned second-team recognition and several more received honorable mention.

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Knox County girls' teams fall in Division II semis



But future looks bright for CAK, Webb and Irish

By Steve Williams

While Knox County's three Division II Final Four girls' teams had quick exits from last week's BlueCross State Basketball Championships in Cookeville, there are some positives ahead.

Christian Academy of Knoxville went ice cold in the fourth period of its 65-47 loss to Middle Tennessee Christian School Friday in Division II-A action at Eblen Center on the

Tennessee Tech campus, but will have all of its players returning in 2022-23, including nine seniors and one junior.

Webb School was tied with Lipcomb Academy at halftime before falling 47-37 in Division II-AA play Thursday. Meeyah Green had 18 points and seven rebounds in a losing cause, but the really good news is that the 8th grader has four more seasons to play for Coach Shelley Collier's Lady Spartans.

Knoxville Catholic bowed 65-43 to Ensworth in the other Division II-AA semifinal game, but Lady Irish

fans have to believe the Green and Gold will shoot better from 3-point range if it gets back to the Final Four next season.

While Catholic connected on 16 of 18 from the free throw line, Coach Travis Mains' team was 1 for 17 from 3-point range.

CAK (26-8) offensively played in spurts, scoring only seven points in the second period to fall behind 36-19 at intermission, but rallying with a 24-point effort in the third quarter to get back in the game and trail by only five going into the final eight minutes.

But Coach Abby Williams'

Lady Warriors again couldn't get it going in the fourth and made only 1 of 13 field goal attempts. CAK had sizzled in the third period (8-11 FGs, 4-5 from 3-point range and 4-5 FTs).

MTCS (26-9), making its first trip to the state, got 27 points and 17 rebounds from Jaily Banks.

Keira Leffew led CAK with 12 points and 10 rebounds. Teammate Madison Jones also scored 12.

Another factor in the game was MTSU outscoring CAK 18-7 in points off turnovers.

Ella Grace Thompson and Mallye Merritt led Lipscomb

(22-11) with 12 and 11 points, respectively, with Merritt going 5 for 5 in FGs.

Webb junior standout Madelyn Ladd had an off day, making only 1 of 13 from the field, but she did battle for 10 rebounds.

The Lady Spartans (19-13) shot 29 percent from the field and only attempted four foul shots in the game, with Ladd shooting all four of them and making three.

Lipscomb connected on 21 of 27 free throws, with almost half of them coming in the final period.

Catholic (22-10), last season's state runner-up, hung close with Ensworth (25-4)

for the first eight minutes, but was outscored 20-8 and 17-7 in the middle periods.

Jaloni Cambridge (26 points) and Kamil Collier (18 points and 12 boards) were best for Ensworth.

Sydney Mains scored 20 points to lead the Lady Irish, but her shooting line looked odd. The sophomore standout was 0 for 7 from 3-point land, but 10 for 10 at the line. Jazmine Williams chipped in 10 points.

Catholic battles, but can't stop CBHS in title game

Cont. from page 1

Pepper's performance as one of the keys to the victory. The 6-1 junior guard may have had the game of his life. He only missed one shot, connecting on 8 of 8 from the field and 4 of 5 at the line.

But the Purple Wave also was red-hot as a team, shooting a blistering 66 percent from the field (31 of 47) and sinking 16 of 21 free throws. They attempted only three 3-pointers.

Pratt, a 6-6 forward, contributed 13 points to the CBHS total, a fast and athletic Zion Owens 12 and sixth man Ashton Strother 10.

In addition to Cain's 31 points, which included making four of nine

3-pointers, Catholic got 21 points from Edwards, although it wasn't one of BJ's best shooting nights. The UT signee was 6 of 22 from the field and 2 of 7 on his 3-point attempts.

Deondra Lindsey, a 6-7 freshman forward, contributed 13 points and sophomore guard Yesan Warren seven. Senior guard Pressley Patterson failed to score in his 31 minutes and missed five times from 3-point land.

As a team, Catholic was 25 of 65 from the field (38.5 percent), 7 of 27 on 3s and 15 of 22 at the line.

When asked what he felt was the difference in the game, Hutchens said: "We got hurt by offensive rebounds. And when

we tried to turn our pressure up, they were able to sweep us to the goal and get some easy shots. They did a good job of handling our pressure and probably

about as good as anyone has all year."

SEMIFINAL WIN: Edwards had a super all-round game against Brentwood

Academy, scoring 23 points and grabbing 13 rebounds. He also had five assists, three blocks and three steals. Cain added 16 points and Patterson 11.

STATE HONORS: Edwards, Cain and Lindsey made the All-Tournament team.

Catholic's cheerleader squad received the Spirit Award.

Farragut girls headed to state for first time in basketball



By Steve Williams

For the first time in school history, Farragut has earned a berth in the TSSAA girls' state basketball tournament.

Coach Jason Mayfield's Lady Admirals punched their ticket Saturday night with a 54-46 win at Sevier County in the Class 4A Sectional round.

Farragut (26-8) will play Rossview (27-3) Wednesday night at 6 (CST) at MTSU's Murphy Center in Murfreesboro.

The Lady Admirals had previously been 0-7 in sub-state or sectional games.

Bearden, the Region 2-4A champion, also qualified for the state with its 65-52 win over Science Hill and will play Blackman (26-1) in the state tourney Wednesday afternoon at 2:45 (CST). The Lady Bulldogs upped their record to 33-3 with their win over SH.

In Class 3A sectionals, Greenville stopped Seymour 64-44 and Page eliminated Fulton 72-32.

Boys' sectional games will be tonight at 7.

In Class 3A, Fulton Coach Jody Wright will also be going for career win No. 800 as his Falcons host Page.

Austin-East will play at Stone Memorial, Halls goes to Greenville and Clinton entertains Volunteer in other 3A contests.

In Class 4A, Bearden entertains Science Hill and Farragut plays at

Dobyns-Bennett.

McMillan named head coach at Fulton

Fulton High Co-Defensive Coordinator Jeff McMillan was promoted to head football coach Friday, replacing Rob Black, who stepped down Feb. 9, ending an 11-season run that included three state championships.

McMillan has 38 years of coaching experience and is regarded as one of the top defensive coaches in Tennessee. His defenses were key to Fulton's Class 4A state championships in 2012 and 2013.

This will be McMillan's second head coaching position. After leaving Fulton in 2013, he was head coach at Carter High, his alma mater. He led the Hornets to three Class 4A playoff appearances and a 14-19 record in his tenure from 2014-2016.

Chipper Jones to be featured speaker at GKHOFF

Former Atlanta Braves baseball star Chipper Jones will be the featured speaker at this year's Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction ceremony on Aug. 25 at the Knoxville Convention Center.

Jones was an eight-time All-Star, the 1999 National League MVP and 2008 National League Batting Champion. In 2018 he was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.



Knoxville Catholic President Dickie Sompayrac presents Coach Mike Hutchens a basketball in recognition of his 600th career win last fall. Hutchens, who is retiring, guided the Irishmen to the Division II-AA state finals this past weekend. Photo by Kelly Kearse.

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