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A CLASS ACT



Central High was one of the three schools to hold commencement ceremonies last Thursday, the first day of Knox County Schools graduations. Above, Valedictorian Catie Padilla addresses the audience of graduates and well-wishers Thursday. The scoreboard at Joel Helton Field reflects the Class of 2024. Above, new graduates flip their tassels to mark the landmark occasion.

Photos and story by Ken Leinart.

Knoxville Central High School Valedictorian Catie Padilla and Salutatorian Braeden Kercher commended their fellow graduates Thursday night during the commencement ceremony held at the school's football field. The Central Class of 2024 "persevered." They began their high school journey in the fall of 2020, about five months after a pandemic made "remote learning" a household term. The Class of 2024 began high school with social distancing, aspects of remote learning still in place, and the threat and reality of quarantines a matter of routine. An estimated crowd between 1,000 - 1,300 (The bleachers and a portion

of the track surrounding the field were full and family friends lined the fences surrounding the venue) watched some 230 seniors from Knoxville Central High School walk across the stage to receive "more than just a piece of paper," Central High School Principal Danielle Rutig said. She told the graduates they were now, and always will be, members of the Bobcat family. She said the Bobcat family began in 1906 when the first graduating class from Knoxville Central High School was recognized. Rutig said Knoxville Central High School is the oldest high school in Knoxville and the Class of 2024 is part the school's "proud history."

Commission reviews EMS provider, budget, policy revisions

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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A four-hour work session of the Knox County Commission last week covered several issues including possibly reorganizing their meeting schedule, revamping the beer board, discussing the upcoming budget vote, and hearing the American Medical Response report.

Emergency Medical Services update

The first four months of EMS service last week were detailed by American Medical Response Regional Director Josh Spencer. He reported that AMR is working with new tools to provide more direct medical care and listed those tools as improving communications with phone calls and visits by nurses, new employees, higher salaries and public education. Spencer said response time is better and improving and a sub-contractor ambulance service is helping.

Brad Anders, director of Knox County Emergency Communications, said bringing Emergency Medical Services into the 911 system is ongoing. Almost one million dollars is going to updates at the Baxter Street headquarters and at the backup facility at the Public Safety Center. He said 911 is adding and training 20 new employees and the updates should

be completed in 12 to 18 months.

The AMR response time may be further improved with the future opening of a new emergency room at UT Hospital.

During public forum, Mitchell Bennett, father of a son who suffered a major health crisis, said that repeated calls for help saw no ambulance arrive. He said that three ambulances were available to respond but did not. Bennett said he had to deliver his son to the hospital by himself.

Commissioner Carson Dailey said the need was never relayed to the Seymour Fire Department, who would have responded.

In a related business, Commissioner Kim Frazier was chosen to become the first at-large county commission member of the Knox County Fire and Technical Rescue Committee.

New budget with no money for parks?

A discussion on the proposed county budget, which must be passed before the end of June, is on tonight's commission agenda. The public hearing on what Finance Director Chris Caldwell called "a billion-dollar budget" is scheduled for today at 4 p.m.

At-large Commissioner Kim Frazier asked why the proposed county budget has no funding for county parks. Parks and **Continue on page 3**

City council denies zoning appeals

By Mike Steely
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The Knoxville City Council is learning to solve long meetings by combining several zoning requests into a bundle and discussing and voting on the package.

Despite some Palestine supporters still taking the podium to initially speak to the zonings and other items, the council Tuesday found its footing and the meeting moved quicker than it could have.

The council voted to rezone the property at 1117 Beaman Lake Road

from single-family residential (RN-1) to general residential (RN-5). The request came from Rev. Harold Middlebrook and involved 18 acres adjoining Canaan Baptist Church of Christ with plans for 85 housing units for low-income citizens and the elderly.

Local residents opposed to the change told the council the road was too narrow and asked the vote be postponed. The project is requesting a tax break and that request was pending on the zoning request to pass. Mayor Indya Kincaid reminded the council the request passed

the Knoxville-Knox County Planning meeting with a 10-0 vote and promised the city will look at the road for possible improvements. The zoning request passed on the First Reading.

The request by several residents to overturn a planning commission decision to permit a new driveway on Topside Road and a turn lane on West John Sevier Highway, serving the Calvary Chapel Church, was heard. After being advised the council cannot impose restrictions during an appeal, Councilman Tommy Smith, who represents the area, moved

successfully to deny the appeal.

An appeal by the West Hills Community Association to reverse a planning decision permitting a two-family dwelling in their neighborhood was also denied. Opinions on the council differed widely with Councilman Charles Thomas warning that the decision could "undermine our zoning codes."

The appeal was denied in a 5-4 vote.

In other action, the city council approved a \$1.2 million contract with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. for engineering and

consulting services for the construction of an electric bus overhead charging project.

A \$70,000 annual contract for two years was approved for attorney service by Frantz McConnell and Seymour, LLP, for the Knoxville Transit Authority.

Residential care facilities were approved to be added to the office park zonings in a code change.

Several zoning change requests were withdrawn or postponed for later meetings. Vice Mayor Andrew Roberto withdrew a request from Dream House Construction LLC

for a housing development on Middlebrook Pike.

Roberto also postponed a request from Homestead Land Holdings LLC for another Middlebrook Pike development for two weeks.

Councilman Thomas moved to postpone a Western Avenue industrial zone change for two weeks and an Inskip residential change at 606 Heins Court was delayed for four weeks.

Three properties on Joe Lewis Road were approved to move from general industrial zoning to single-family residential.

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UT Needs To Put Students First, Make Professors Teach More Classes

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.
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Regular readers of my column may remember that my mother moved here from Iowa after she finished at Iowa Wesleyan College.

She had come here to visit an older sister who had married an engineering graduate from the University of Iowa who had gotten a job at TVA. Her sister talked her into staying, and she met my Dad, who was a student at UT. I have always said I am glad we let people move here or I wouldn't be here myself.

However, because so many people are fleeing the high taxes and high crime of Democrat-run states and cities, I have recently been hearing many people saying that they wish not so many were moving here.

My grandfather from Iowa, Dr. Jacob Swisher, spent the last 28 years of his career on the faculty and working for the University of Iowa. My mother was born in Iowa City, where the university is located.

It is amazing that Papa Swisher, who visited Tennessee but never lived here, ended up with nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren going through some part of the University of Tennessee system.

I am grateful to UT for giving me my undergraduate education that enabled me to go to law school at George Washington University. I went to GWU in

part because I had been to school all my life in Knoxville and thought it would be a good experience to go to school someplace else.

Over the years, I was able to get many millions of dollars for various UT programs. Three examples of the many programs I helped with include \$7,000,000 for the Institute of Agriculture; \$4,000,000 for a robotics program; and \$3,000,000 for the neo-natal clinic at UT Hospital.

Joe DePietro, a former UT president, once sent me a photo of him and me, and at the bottom, he wrote, "No one has helped us more than you."

I root for the Vols as hard as most, but I also think it is terrible to pay the coaches so much, and now even a few of the players.

But no individual and no university are perfect. I have met with and have

known so many UT students, and recently I have heard the same complaints from them I have been hearing over the years.

As great and powerful and important as UT is, I hope the university, its administrators and its professors have not lost the desire to improve and/or feel they should be immune from criticism.

The university has too many foreign professors who are difficult for the students to understand.

There are too many professors who seemingly have lost the desire to teach, so too many classes are too big and are taught by graduate students.

I always felt very lucky to have my job, but I can assure you, I could not have stayed in Congress for 30 years if I had not worked nights, weekends and holidays.

Too many professors

seem to think six hours a week is a heavy load. It is not. If every professor taught at least 12 hours a week, classes could be smaller, and more students could graduate within four years. Now many students can't get the classes they need, and it takes many of them five or six years to graduate.

Too many professors seem to want to simply do research and writing. That is a racket. Most of the writing seems to be done for obscure academic journals that have very little circulation.

When professors mainly do research and writing, they are putting themselves first. When they teach classes, they are putting students first.

To sum up: 1) Foreign professors should be required to be fluent in easily understandable English. 2) Graduate students

are students, they are not professors. 3) If every professor taught in the classroom twice as much as most do now, there would be more and smaller classes, and more students could graduate within four years.

Also, if professors taught more, the university would not have to keep adding to the number of faculty members, and student tuition and fees would not go up nearly as fast as it has over the last 50 years (about four times the rate of inflation).

I have good memories of my time at UT where I did all of my undergraduate work. But UT should not rest on its laurels. It does not need more buildings. It does need more teachers who are willing to teach.

County's budget faces drastic repayment of bonds in near future

By Mike Steely
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Over the next five years Knox County's finances might change drastically as the finance department and school administration look for ways to pay upcoming bonded debt. While no one is talking about a property tax increase yet, Knox County Finance Director Chris Caldwell warned the county commission's finance committee that the county may start paying for things in cash and using its fund balance instead of issuing more bonds.

Caldwell also said that refinancing some debt might be considered if

the interest rate is low enough.

The coming debt payments, going back twenty years for money borrowed to build things like schools and libraries and fund retirement programs, have due dates stretching from 2027 through 2034. He said the bonded debt in 2024 is \$38.1 million for the county and \$31.9 for the school system. That goes to \$50.9 million by 2029 with \$51 million for school debt.

"Debt and pensions must be paid before operating expenses," Caldwell said. He said the county currently has a \$20.3 million balance in the Debt Service Fund, but that

could be used up and run out in 2028 or 2029.

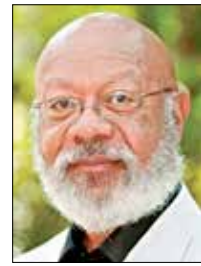
"When we request or fund capital items, we often don't consider how we pay for those items," the finance director said.

Asked if the booming debt and slower revenue will affect the county's bond rating, Caldwell said, "We've got a road map to keep that from happening." He said that he and Ron McPherson, finance director of the school system, will meet on the issue.

"We'll bring you back some options," Caldwell said. "We'll find a solution and we'll get through it."

Bye to Kellie Harper— Is UT sexist?

I am not a women's basketball fan and thus have not paid much attention to all the adoration for Caitlin Clark. When I was on the faculty at the University of Tennessee, I went to very few



By Dr. Harold A. Black
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of the Lady Vols games. I never could get over how many layups were missed in the women's game, just like I have always been puzzled by how poor the free throw shooting is in the men's game. Yet I was surprised and disappointed when UT fired its women's coach, Kellie Harper. I served on UT's athletic board and remembered her as a guard on three of Pat Summitt's national championship teams. Harper became a very good coach and I was delighted when she came back to Knoxville to replace Holly Warlick who had followed Summitt. I thought Harper was doing an excellent job despite not being able to recruit 5-star caliber players. By the time she came to Knoxville, South Carolina was the dominant SEC team followed by LSU. Star players were more inclined to go to those newer powers than to UT. Likewise, one always had to compete with Gene Auriemma's UConn teams. UConn had eclipsed Summitt's UT teams when Summitt was still coaching. The women's game had evolved where even UConn was no longer dominating the national scene. UConn was still unbeatable in the Big East but was only a number three seed in this year's NCAA tournament.

At UT, Harper was a more than respectable 108-52 (.675). This season UT went 20-13, 10-6 in the SEC and lost to an undefeated South Carolina team on a last second lucky three-point

shot by a player who had never before made a three-pointer. UT lost in the tournament to a North Carolina State team that made the Final 4. Harper had never gotten past the Sweet 16 and I guess that may have been her downfall. By firing her, Tennessee lost its best incoming recruits.

Harper's firing is reminiscent of Texas' firing of current Tennessee men's coach Rick Barnes. Barnes has always been a very good coach. His Texas teams were always good and even great when they had unbelievable talent such as T J Ford and Kevin Durant. Barnes was 402-180 (.691) in Austin. He went to the Sweet 16 five times, to the Elite 8 three times and to the Final Four once. Ultimately he was fired despite that record. He could never win the big one.

At Tennessee, Barnes is 202-101 (.667). Tennessee has gone to 6 NCAA tournaments under Barnes. But similar to his tenure at Texas, Tennessee has been a disappointment in the tournament. They have been to the Elite 8 only twice and never played in the Final 4.

Harper's record at Tennessee was similar to that of Barnes. She even has a higher winning percentage.

Yet there is virtually no chance that Barnes will face the same fate as Harper. One wonders why. Vol great Kara Lawson (one of my former students) is the head coach at Duke. She was one of those rumored to be the next Tennessee coach but never interviewed for the job. Lawson has only been at Duke since 2020, is 69-33 overall and only 32-23 in the ACC - a conference not as strong as the SEC. Her team this year made it to their first Sweet Sixteen. Lawson is building a strong program at Duke and can make that her legacy. She cannot have that at Tennessee where Summitt looms larger than life. At Duke, she can become the women's Mike Krzyzewski. She cannot do that at Tennessee.

Meanwhile, UT has hired Marshall's Kim Caldwell as its next women's coach. Perhaps Danny White, UT's athletic director, wanted to leave behind the shadow of Pat Summitt over the program. Caldwell has only been a head coach at the Division I level for one year. She was 26-7 and 17-1 in the Sun Belt conference at Marshall. But Marshall lost in the first round of the NAAs. Perhaps White did not like Harper's style of play. Caldwell favors a high-paced offense and a pressure defense. Of course, it really doesn't matter if White is right. Whatever fate befalls Caldwell, the success or failure of women's basketball is not going to impact Danny White's job status at UT.



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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Protestors Need To Obey The Law

The Knoxville News-Sentinel and Gannett newspapers are giving a lot of sympathetic coverage to the arrest of what they refer to as "pro-Palestinian" protesters. The protesters were ordered to move from the lawn outside the UT College of Law, after being told they could continue their demonstration by moving to the lawn of the Student Union. Given 10 minutes to leave, the protesters ignored the warning and were arrested. None of us know how many of the 11 individuals arrested are

students, although one of the protesters was identified as being from Texas. Nationally, it has been noted that paid protesters have been employed to stir up trouble and demonstrations on campuses. Some of the funding apparently comes from Leftist groups tied to money from people like George Soros.

The News-Sentinel was especially flattering to Yassin Terou, a local business-owner and Syrian refugee. Terou has/had a sign in his restaurant stating everyone, regardless of color, every religion was welcome. The News-Sentinel quoted one of the people arrested as saying, "It felt like officers were taunting us with their behaviors and whatever we had done meant nothing to them. Who we were meant nothing to them because they didn't view us as people inside."

Unfortunately, the narrative of the mainstream media and the Gannett newspapers are very much left of center and is not at all sympathetic to the people of Israel. What is happening in Gaza right now is in

response to a brutal massacre of more than 1,100 children, women and men, all innocent civilians, were deliberately murdered by Hamas terrorists. Another 253 civilians, women and children, old people, were taken hostage and disappeared into the tunnels built by Hamas under schools and hospitals where they use the people of Gaza as literal human shields. When was the last demonstration protesting Hamas using innocent Palestinian civilians as human shields to protect terrorists from just retribution for their crimes against humanity?

The parents of Shani Louk, a 23-year-old tattoo artist was killed by Hamas terrorists at the rave. Shani's dead, half naked body was paraded in the bed of a truck like some kind of trophy, but no, we are supposed to be appalled someone's hand turned blue. Left wing congressmen, senators and governors could barely bring themselves to condemn the violence against Israelis. Rashida Tlaib could barely bring herself to say it

was wrong to rape and brutalize Israeli women and girls. Professors saying it is "awesome" to kill Jews and yet the News-Sentinel concerns itself with reporting the hurt feelings of people who never would have been arrested had they simply done as asked and moved.

It is horrendous to think too many people have not been moved by the suffering of the Israeli people. The mainstream media barely gives a nod to the rising tide of antisemitism in this country.

It is and has been clear all along just exactly whom people in the mainstream media and too many of the protesters don't see as being people.

Truth About Covid Continues To Come Out

Francis Collins, the former head of the National Institutes of Health, was deposed for the Select Committee on the Coronavirus Pandemic. Collins was asked about the "science" of the six-foot apart rule imposed by the NIH. The

teachers' unions latched onto that particular edict to keep schools closed while children suffered. "I did not see evidence, but I'm not sure I would have been shown evidence at that point," Collins said. The next question was especially interesting. Collins was asked if there was any scientific evidence to support the theory of remaining six feet apart. "No," Collins stated.

No evidence to support their contention. Imagine that. Remember when. Anyone who had the brass to suggest anything to the contrary was cancelled, cursed, and otherwise ejected from society, polite and otherwise?

Now Lawrence Tabak, Deputy Director of the National Institutes of Health, has admitted to Congress that taxpayers did indeed pay for gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The taxpayers had been paying the tab for years and months before the outbreak of the Coronavirus. When asked if the NIH had funded gain-of-function

research in Wuhan through the EcoHealth Alliance, Tabak said, "It depends on your definition of gain-of-function research. If you're speaking about the generic term, yes we did."

Anthony Fauci and a host of other NIH officials have stoutly denied, evaded, and obfuscated for four years funding of gain-of-function in Wuhan. Those same officials slice the bread pretty thin in parsing out words as they all wish to deny having any part in conducting potentially lethal research.

Yet again, any suggestion by anybody that did not strictly adhere to the narrative pushed by the NIH was demonized by the Left and the mainstream media. In testimony before the Senate Anthony Fauci told senators, "The NIH has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function research in the Wuhan Institute of Virology."

They stack up lies like most people stack up a cord of wood.

KCSO Merit Board updates grievance regulations

By Mike Steely
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In a brief meeting Thursday, four members of the seven-member Knox County Sheriff's Office Employees' Merit System Board of Directors voted to approve Nova Medical Center as a backup physical examiner. Occasionally the Knox County Sheriff's Medical Staff is not available to do the required physicals for new hires and the merit board was told that the back-up examiners will abide by existing

policies.

The merit board also voted to remove "reclassification" as a grievance. The former merit council accepted it as a grievance but it was not removed when the board was revamped.

Rachel Harrison, who sat in for Myers Morton as deputy law director, confirmed the reclassification ruling. Vice Chair John Valiant chaired the meeting and walked the members through the agenda and removing the category from the grievance list.

Knox County Regional Forensic Center IDs Cold Case Death

The Knox County Regional Forensic Center has again helped solve another cold case, this time with the help of advanced genetic testing.

"No one is forgotten or neglected at the Knox County Regional Forensic Center," said Chris Thomas, the Center's Chief Administrative Officer. "We work diligently every day to try to identify every decedent and connect them with their next of kin, regardless of how long they've been here."

The Knoxville Police Department notified the forensic center in early

September 2022 that human remains were located in a wooded area behind a house on Knott Ave. An autopsy report revealed that no foul play was involved with the death, but no one could identify the decedent.

Thomas' crews used radiographs and dental x-rays from missing individuals in the area but yielded no results. Working with Texas-based Othram Inc., a leader in what is called "forensic genetic genealogical (FGG)," research officials this past March were able to identify the person - 34-year-old Tony

A. Brown Jr. FGG research uses a variety of techniques including tapping into ancestry registries and using investigators to look into genealogical backgrounds.

The Knox County Regional Forensic Center, in conjunction with local law enforcement, has helped identify dozens of cold case victims - including one murder case stretching back three decades - during the past couple of years through advanced identification methods, such as dental, radiograph, and DNA.

In addition, officials each

year identify hundreds of decedents from mostly non-crime related deaths.

"Everyone starts moving from the moment of arrival and most of them don't stop even after they go home," Thomas said. "This is an amazing team that is dedicated to their work and identifying decedents is just as important as finding out why they died."

"It's no secret that our Regional Forensic Center is an incredible county asset," said Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. "The staff is skilled and I'm grateful for the care they put into the job they do."

Commission reviews EMS provider, budget, policy revisions

Cont. from page 1
Recreation Director Joseph Mack responded that the funding has been moved to specific line items within that budget.

Beer Board may re-organize

There are currently two members of the Knox County Commission who are opposed to the sale of beer and the licensing of beer retailers, and their opposition to those transactions came up last week during the commission work session.

Commissioner Gina Oster, chair of the beer board, had a couple of ideas for reforming the procedure when someone applies for a license or is called before the commission beer board after a reported violation of beer sold to minors.

Oster and the Rules Committee are suggesting that the beer board be composed of seven members, not the entire commission membership. That way anyone opposed to the drinking or selling of beer could abstain from membership.

She is also suggesting that all beer board member votes be by "roll call" so each decision could be known to the public. Commissioners Rhonda

Lee and Richie Beeler have abstained or not spoken on applications or hearings, with Lee saying that her district would be penalized if she could not vote on penalties for violators. Beeler, a minister, said that his silence on beer board actions is often recorded as a "Yes" vote.

"I am constrained by my covenant," Beeler said.

In the case of a beer board realignment, Commissioner Kyle Ward suggested that at least one at-large commissioner serve on that body so all of Knox County is represented.

Deputy Law Director Mike Moyers said if the board is made up of seven

members, then four votes would be considered a majority in any vote.

"Why fix something that isn't broken?" said Commissioner Dailey.

Commission may move meetings

Several changes regarding commission meetings proposed by Commissioner Courtney Durrett were discussed last week and that discussion may be taken up again today. She amended her motion to begin the changes in June rather than September.

The proposed changes include moving the Zoning session to a separate

day, holding an informal agenda review in Room 640 instead of the Main Assembly Room, holding the public forum session at 3 p.m., and handling all of the other business in the monthly regular meeting.

Durrett said the changes would "eliminate redundancy."

The proposals met with several comments and Commissioner Dailey wondered how the changes

may affect newly elected members. Dailey suggested delaying a decision for six months after the upcoming election so new members can "get their feet wet."

Richie Beeler said, "I support these, it makes too much sense not to do it." John Schoonmaker noted that none of the upcoming candidates were present in last week's meeting and have little idea how the

commission works.

Commissioners Schoonmaker, Dailey, Beeler, Kyle Ward and Dasha Lundy are either term-limited or not seeking re-election. Chairman Terry Hill and Durrett are seeking re-election so at least five new members and possibly seven will be seated in September.


The discussion resumes today at the regular commission meeting.

The Knoxville Focus would like to applaud the top of area schools' Class of 2024.

SOUTH-DOYLE



Emily Child
Valedictorian



Viracboth "Charlie" Sullivan, Salutatorian

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Congratulations to the 2024 Seymour High School Seniors!



Charles Temple
Sevier County School Board



Emily Baldwin,
Valedictorian



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Jenna Geringer,
Valedictorian



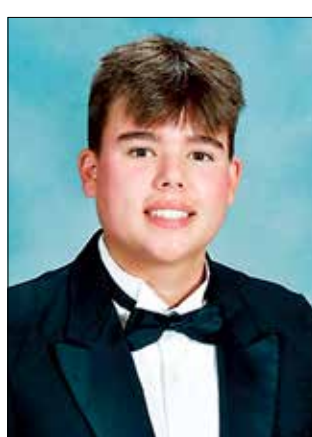
Meghan Grayson,
Valedictorian



Ethan Harvey,
Valedictorian



Elaina Hembree,
Valedictorian



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Victoria Lamkey,
Valedictorian



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Keely McGuire,
Valedictorian



Brady McMurray,
Valedictorian



Brooke McNally,
Valedictorian



Kendall Ownby,
Valedictorian



Dhruv Patel,
Valedictorian



Kaylen Schultz,
Valedictorian



Eden Smead,
Valedictorian



Kendyl Smith,
Valedictorian



Elizabeth Thomas,
Valedictorian



Sophia Winauski,
Valedictorian



Mason Yeager,
Valedictorian



Xavier Gregg,
Salutatorian



Kendall Grosser,
Salutatorian



Timothy Morris,
Salutatorian



The Doctor is in
a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Apps

Rush Limbaugh once said, "Liberals are always liberals first." What I think he meant was that certain principles are preeminent in each of us. I'll use myself as an example. I am a Christian first and Becky's husband. And because I do not have gender dysphoria, I identify as a man.

Continuing my hierarchy, I next envision myself as a Conservative. My persona once claimed Doctor of Internal Medicine and Geriatrics quite high on my list of defining characteristics, but I'm retired from medicine. Occasionally, people still ask my medical opinion, but less these days, and rightly so because I now identify more as a writer than as a doctor.

Lately, I've been thinking about identity and computer operating systems, as well as their applications we call apps. The operating system of a computer is

just that; it is the program system on a computer that controls the mechanisms of the device and the downloaded (added) software applications. Examples of operating systems are Microsoft Windows, Apple's macOS, or Apple's smartphone iOS or Google's Android. By comparison, the human brain/mind is an infinitely more sophisticated operating system for thought processes and experiential "applications."

The 17th-century English philosopher John Locke postulated that at birth the human mind is a blank slate (tabula rasa) because we have yet to receive "impressions gained from experience." Philosophically, I understand what Locke is saying, but modern neuroscience has revealed that the human brain and nervous system are evident in the first trimester of pregnancy. And by two months there is sufficient neural

integration in the brain to send signals out through the developing nervous system to produce muscular movement. It's unclear to me when the developing child begins to have "experiences" as described by Locke. However, it is logical to conclude and demonstrable that some order of experiences occurs during pregnancy. Therefore, I don't believe a child is born with Locke's tabula rasa.

When I open my iPhone, numerous apps are displayed which I have added to my device to help me with various functions. I especially find my dictionary, thesaurus and Bible apps helpful, as well as news and weather apps. But I would lead an isolated life without email, text, phone and camera applications, all of which run on my iPhone's operating system that is far more powerful than the computer on Apollo 13's Lunar Lander. Without my iPhone and apps, I would certainly have fewer life experiences.

I am now 73 years old and have acquired a lifetime of experiences and educational downloads. Many of these experiences have come through mentors (teachers). My parents were my first mentors, nurturers and protectors. Then I had traditional teachers, sports coaches and those whom I will label as

teachers of life's important lessons. My wife Becky is representative of this latter group. I once wrote about my influential high school chemistry and physics teacher whom, years later, I sought out and thanked for making a difference in my life. I wish I had done better to thank all the mentors who experientially shaped my life.

My older daughter is a middle school English teacher who was the Teacher of the Year in Oregon several years ago. My hat is off to her because middle school is a tough age, and she probably would not have wanted me in her class when I was an underachieving 14-year-old. But I grew up and as a doctor, I became a teacher myself. The word doctor derives from the Latin word docere which means to teach. I have taught patients, medical students, interns, residents and doctor colleagues. And now I teach readers of this column.

I didn't pay much attention to the broader world for the first 30 years of my life because I was growing up, getting an education, marrying Becky, starting a medical practice and then a family. I'm embarrassed to admit that I used to listen to NPR before it became so woke that their own journalist slams their

leftist ideology. However, I've paid attention in the last 40 years, and I have never experienced such denigration of America values, damage to the economy with mismanagement and ruinous spending, damage to the military with trans issues and DEI, as well as corruption in the FBI, intelligence government agencies and virtually the entire legal system.

You may be surprised to learn that Donald Trump was not my first or second choice as a presidential candidate in 2016. I never watched an episode of "The Apprentice," nor did I have any awareness of this New Yorker. However, I voted for him in 2016, not because he was the Republican presidential candidate, but because he was infinitely preferable to Hilary Clinton.

We often hear that "this election is the most important one." And then life goes on. As a result, we've become jaded and consider such political electioneering as hyperbole. However, as we approach November 2024, I am convinced this IS the most important election in my/our lifetime. If Biden is reelected and Democrats control the Congress, the country is finished.

Last week we learned that President Trump and Biden have agreed to two

debates. I hate these political jousts. We already know of President Trump's policies, his presidential track record and vigor. And we know of Biden's dementia, his terrible presidential record (crime, border, inflation) and his baggage - repeated lying and association with his son's corrupt business dealings and drug abuse. The contrast between strength and weakness is striking. In fact, the only way Biden stands a chance of winning is to use his corrupt department of justice and the legal system to lock up President Trump. Whether you like President Trump or not, sane Americans can see the injustice of lawfare.

This week, instead of opening with a quote, I'll close with one from Ernest Hemingway's first novel, "The Sun Also Rises," regarding bankruptcy, which applies to our American crisis. When asked how he went bankrupt, the character Mike explained, "Two ways. Gradually, then suddenly."

In November we must act before our gradual decline reaches Malcolm Gladwell's Tipping Point, and we awaken November 6th to learn that America is suddenly gone.

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

Honor Fountain City Day set for Memorial Day

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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"Honor Fountain City Day in the Park" is set for Memorial Day, Monday, May 27. The popular event began in 1975 but the pandemic paused it for a spell. The theme this year is "Honoring All of Our Essential Workers" and will feature Ashley Adams of B97.5's "B Morning Show," who will speak during the community awards ceremony at 3:15 p.m.

The free event is held at Fountain City Park and begins at 10 a.m. with live entertainment, free

children's games, exhibits by the Red Cross and Shriners, craft vendors and a "Plant Trolley." There will be a silent auction, food vendors and souvenir Fountain City t-shirts for sale.

WBIR's John Becker will present "Service and Sacrifice" during Memorial Day Ceremonies at 4 p.m. The community awards ceremony at 3:15 celebrates the essential workers and Jamie Rowe, chair of the Fountain City Town Hall, will present awards recognizing outstanding Fountain City citizens and supporters.

2024 Hall Cousins Reunion

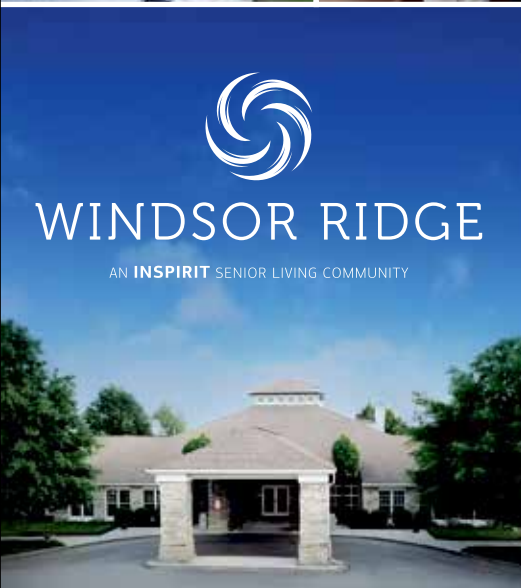


On Saturday, April 13, the 'Hall Cousins' gathered for a day-long 2024 Reunion.

The event began with a 10:00 a.m. wreath laying ceremony honoring their Revolutionary War Patriot ancestor, Thomas Hall (1758-1833), at the Thomas Hall Cemetery in Halls Crossroads on Rifle Range Road, Knoxville, Tennessee. The Hall Cousins enjoyed history presentations on their heritage, food and fellowship throughout the day.

Hall Cousins pictured at the Thomas Hall Cemetery

are (front row, left to right): Mary Evelyn Hall Bright, Wilma Elma-rie Hall Carter, Julie Higgins, Kathy McCloud Bright, (second row) Carolyn Lane Stewart, Dianne Gresham Rairdon, Joyce Hall/Mynatt Herter, Karen Gresham, Samantha Bright Rutherford, Cathy Bright-Robinson, Danny Higgins, Jackson Higgins, Tiffany Kimbro, (third row) John Finbarr Saunders III, Donald Rairdon, Robert Finbarr Saunders, Michael Herter, Tom Hall, Fred Stewart, Jerry Lynn Gresham, and John Ross Gresham Jr.



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District 9 candidates answer Focus Questions

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

For two terms Carson Dailey has served South Knox County's 9th District but is term-limited. Three people are seeking to replace him but there's a catch to that race.

Stacey Smith has a record of voting only in Republican races. Earlier this year he had picked up petitions as a Republican and as an Independent for the District 9 commission seat. He chose to run as an Independent.

Republican Andy Fox and Democrat Matthew Park have their party's nominations for the August general election and Smith will appear on the ballot.

Or will he?

Martin Ammons is a Knox County Republican Party board member who has filed a complaint against Smith's petition. A hearing has been set by the election commission in June on the complaint.

"Former presidential candidate Stacey B. Smith barely met the minimum threshold of signatures to qualify as a candidate," Ammons told The Focus.

"After reviewing the signatures, many are lacking the required information and there is a question as to whether they are all legitimate. Also, I've heard rumors that the former presidential candidate has

also failed to file complete financial disclosures as required by law," Ammons said.

The Election Commission will hear the challenge on June 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the small assembly room of the City-County Building.

The Focus asked each of the three candidates several questions. For the complete Q&A, please find "District 9 candidates answer Focus Questions" online at www.knoxfocus.com.

District 9 Commissioner Carson Dailey is term-limited. After two terms, how do you rate his leadership there?

Andy Fox - During the previous 4-5 years, two situations happened that were part of the reason I decided to run. In the 2020-2022 era, I believe the Knox County Commission did not do enough to stand up for workers, business owners, and children during the government response to COVID. We saw a severe, fear-based reaction that infringed on everyone's freedom and Constitutional rights. When a public official takes the oath of office, he or she swears to uphold the Constitutions of Tennessee and the United States. Government action is bounded by the United

States Constitution's Bill of Rights and the Tennessee Constitution's Declaration of Rights, and the county commission during this era was very slow in observing the proper boundaries.

The commission's slow decision making and failure to take a stand against mandatory mask-wearing led to the Knox County School school-mask lawsuit. One of the main points made by the federal judge and the Plaintiffs was to question why Knox County opposed the requested mask mandate in 2021-22, when the county and the school system had implemented masking the prior academic year as a matter of Knox County policy. If Knox County Commission had been a leader in opposing unconstitutional masking and never allowed the school board to require masks - by threatening non-required funding - then the plaintiffs would not have had this key point and the judge's decision may have been different.

The other change was a radical divergence from the tradition of Knox County being a single-family home living area. We are now seeing multifamily apartments and high density being built adjacent to single-family homes, out of character with the local neighborhoods.

My primary concern is the next four years, and my Democrat opponent has a history of public statements that would have made those two situations worse.

Matthew Park - Commissioner Dailey and

I have not always agreed on some individual policies, but I have trusted that he is a man of integrity and does what he believes to be the best choice for our district. I have supported his efforts to reduce litter, support green space, and invest in better play areas for children.

Stacey Smith - I would rate Carson Dailey as lacking in every aspect of the commissioner office. He did not listen to the people who elected him on most occasions. I have had many people, myself included, explain that Mr. Dailey had a condescending attitude and comes off as forgetting who voted him in and he has forgotten who he represented.

Did you or do you support Mayor Jacobs' effort toward a county-wide growth plan? Please explain.

Andy Fox - I support the tradition of Knox County which has been low-density single family homes, and I oppose all reckless development that is ignoring our infrastructure needs. My concern is that current plans are not being followed, which allows for more reckless development. I suspect the revised growth plan will be ignored for more high-density development unless we elect good county commissioners who will put the needs of our current community first. To the extent that the new land use designation of Rural Conservation would limit an owner's ability to use his or her rural land for

agriculture, I oppose this designation.

I'm running to prioritize the needs of our community. It's not the job of current Knox County citizens to give up what they love about Knox County to solve problems created by external forces driving up the cost of housing on a temporary basis. The cost of housing relative to income will eventually work itself out. Once the camel's nose of high-density development gets under the tent in a rural community, however, you can never go back.

Matthew Park - Going decades without an updated plan was unsustainable for our county. I supported Advance Knox in our district. As commissioner, I will work to remain steadfast to the plan that was developed with public input. As with all plans, it could have been better in some areas, and I will continue to work with the public and other commissioners to ensure the plan works for Knox County. The new commission will be tasked with the Unified Development Ordinance and I plan to use my role not only to take public input on the UDO but also to help my constituents understand the aspects of the UDO and what it means for them.

Stacey Smith - I do not support Mayor Jacobs' county growth plan. Each part of Knox County has its own identity. District 9 does not have the infrastructure to accommodate all the new housing that former Commissioner Dailey has approved in line with the mayor's persistence. Also, the people of District 9 want the ability

to approve or disapprove of what is being built in our area. Currently, this is not the case; everything appears to be profit-based and not environmental decisions.

What is the largest problem facing South Knox County?

Andy Fox - The largest problem is lack of essential infrastructure for our current needs and reckless development that is making the problem worse. Bonnie Kate Elementary, for example, is already at capacity and needs expansion. New Hopewell needs a brand-new building. The County Commission needs to prioritize our budget to focus more on infrastructure needs. We are spending millions of dollars on nonessentials.

Matthew Park - Our lack of housing is the greatest issue we face locally. We need more housing and also cannot continue urban sprawl which will increase infrastructure costs for the county to unsustainable levels. I look forward to working on ways to spur development of more housing along our corridors where the county has already made considerable infrastructure investments.


Stacey Smith - The largest problem facing South Knoxville is overzealous policies from politicians forcing their own beliefs on a community that believes in growth; we do not believe in super subdivision. We believe in having enough land per acre to be self-sufficient and community-based.

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George Holden Tinkham of Massachusetts

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

One of the most interesting aspects of the U.S. House of Representatives is the fact that it really is the People's House. The framers of the Constitution intended it to be the People's House and they succeeded. Some districts send colorless, albeit hard-working, burgermeisters to Congress who have done a solid job in some local jobs. The various personalities form a body of the whole and there are always those more colorful representatives, some of which are truly prized by their own constituency, perhaps as much for their respective quirks and eccentricities as not. During his time, there was hardly any congressman more colorful than George Holden Tinkham of Massachusetts.

Bald with a thick beard, Tinkham was described toward the end of his congressional career by writer Will Lang for one of the most popular magazines of the day, Life. "The startling character of the Congressman is not diminished by his appearance," Lang wrote. "He is round, low and squat. He clings to the belief that clothes too well-pressed or brushed denote the effete modern, at best the hot spot. The baldness of his shiny pate finds ample compensation in a full spade beard."

A Republican, the personally wealthy Tinkham was, according to Will Lang, "above all an individualist and non-conformist." Lang thought the Massachusetts congressman was "a living remembrance of John Quincy Adams" and "Brahmin Boston and the uncompromising past of New England."

Will Lang acknowledged the point made about the People's House, noting states and districts had sent to Congress "such oddities as a sideshow barker, a dentist, an All-American football player and a dude rancher. . ." Amongst those "oddities," Will Lang thought, "Tink' is a joyous museum piece."

George Holden Tinkham was certainly an oddity. Like John Quincy Adams, who consented to sit in the House of Representatives following his having been president on the condition he would never be expected to campaign for the office, so, too, did Tinkham. Instead of campaigning, Tinkham would pack his bags and go off to Africa for one of his favorite pastimes: big game hunting and safaris. In his 27 safaris and two circles of the globe, George Holden Tinkham had "bagged elephant, rhinoceros, water buffalo, zebra, hartebeest, cheetah, ibex and oryx." Various artifacts from Tinkham's adventures littered the congressman's Washington apartment;

elephant tusks, leopard skins, pelts and heads, as well as a very large stuffed cobra and its nemesis, a stuffed mongoose.

The furnishings of Congressman Tinkham's apartment matched the décor of his collection of deceased animals. Upon visiting Tinkham, Will Lang marveled at the "Tibetan textiles, Java silver, a Burmese lacquered table, brassware from Ceylon, a Cashmere table made of wood pulp and 'light as a feather.'" A figurine of a nude woman, an example of German Neuart, was a particular favorite of the Massachusetts congressman. Nor was Tinkham's bedroom any less spectacular than his sitting room. Tinkham slept in a "beautifully carved Indian bed" with a Cashmere bedspread. Heavy tapestries from China, India and Japan covered the walls of the congressman's apartment.

"One inch inside my door," Tinkham observed to Will Lang, "and you're inside Africa and Asia." Not surprisingly, when George Holden Tinkham first went to Washington, D.C., in 1915, he had difficulty finding an apartment to accommodate himself and his collection. Finally, the manager of the Arlington Hotel agreed to rent the congressman an apartment with but one condition: he leave when his time in the House was over. By 1940, George Holden Tinkham had outlived the management with whom he made the agreement. Not even the federal government could budge Tinkham from his apartment. In 1935 the U.S. Resettlement Administration, one of the New Deal's many "alphabet agencies," had taken over the Arlington Hotel and tried to put Tinkham out. The wealthy bachelor pointed to his unusual lease agreement and the fact he remained in Congress. "They can't resettle me," Tinkham exulted.

Indeed, not even the government had a key to the Massachusetts congressman's apartment; Tinkham kept possession of the sole key to his abode. Tinkham swept past the two uniformed guards of the former hotel and chortled, "I have almost as good protection as the president."

Tinkham's wealth and unusual appearance were not ignored by political opponents seeking to replace him in Congress. One opponent referred to Tinkham as "Nimrod," which did nothing to forestall the congressman's usual big majority at the ballot box.

George Holden Tinkham, first elected to Congress in 1914, served through the decade of the 1920s when the Republicans occupied the White House



ACME PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Congressman George Holden Tinkham of Massachusetts, 1941.

and enjoyed majorities in both the House and the Senate. As time marched on, Tinkham did not. George Holden Tinkham's favorite role seemed to be that of the loyal opposition. As Will Lang wrote in his profile of the Massachusetts congressman, Tinkham was "against internationalism, pacifism, feminism and the New Deal" of Franklin Roosevelt. As to the question of reform, Congressman Tinkham thought it an abomination. The Bay State lawmaker bitterly fought suffrage for women and prohibition. Tinkham tangled with those church denominations that most stoutly pressed for prohibition laws. For particular opponents, Tinkham gave the names of those opponents to various stuffed heads on his walls. One was christened "Andrew Volstead," the author of the prohibition law, while another was named for Methodist Bishop James Cannon.

A man of unshakable and strong opinions, Congressman Tinkham conjured strong adjectives for those with whom he disagreed at a time when the public discourse was usually far more polite than today's exaggerated jabs. The League of Nations was, at least to George Holden Tinkham, "thin-blooded" rather than "red-blooded." The World Court was simply "wishy-washy." Colonel Edward M. House, the great friend of President Woodrow Wilson, was "un-American." Ambassador Walter Hines Page was "traitorous."

George Henry Tinkham, the congressman's father, was a wealthy Bostonian, who tried to nudge his son into becoming a professor of history and saw to it that the younger Tinkham was superbly well-educated. After graduating from Harvard University's School of Law, Tinkham ran for and won a seat on the Boston Common Council, representing the city's wealthy Back Bay area. Tinkham was elected as a member of Boston's Board of Alderman where he gained notoriety for exposing corruption. Tinkham tired of politics and took a sabbatical for eight years before being urged to run for the Massachusetts legislature. That led to Tinkham running for Congress as the GOP nominee while Democrats were split. George Holden

Tinkham squeaked into office by 1,600. Tinkham, for all his eccentricities, concentrated upon constituent services, rendering every courtesy and assistance to those who lived in his district. The congressman maintained a district office on Pemberton Square in Boston where twenty to forty people daily waited to see Tinkham's secretary to seek help "in getting jobs, wooden legs, spectacles, second-hand clothes or just plain hand-outs." The congressman's annual \$10,000 salary (more than \$217,000 today) was usually dispensed inside Tinkham's district. As Will Lang wrote, "few go away disappointed" from Tinkham's congressional office.

Congressman Tinkham's personal popularity was also due to his diligence in representing the folks back home. Tinkham had sent more than a million pieces of information and literature in a single year. The congressman's personal mailing list, confined solely to the women of his congressional district, numbered 77,000. For those baffled as to why Tinkham would send Christmas cards only to the women of his district, he explained he had found only women paid any attention to such gestures. Every election year, Congressman Tinkham sent a letter to everyone he had assisted with something as a reminder. No letter ever mentioned any particular aid or assistance; it was merely a reminder he was up for reelection and he would continue to do his best for the people of his district.

As is always the case with every successful officeholder, staffing makes all the difference. Miss Gertrude Ryan worked as Congressman Tinkham's secretary in his Boston office for thirty years. When Miss Ryan first joined his office staff, Tinkham told her, "If you want to succeed in life, two things are necessary - - - intelligence and patience." Miss Ryan only left Tinkham's staff to get married after thirty years. Tinkham's secretary in his Washington office, Miss Grace Hamlin, had only been with the congressman for eighteen years, but he valued her service. "If she ever left me," Tinkham said, "I guess I'd have to resign from Congress."

By 1936, one of the best years for Democrats in the

nation's history, FDR carried Tinkham's district by 21,000 votes, which was quite a feat. Congressman George Holden Tinkham won by a majority of 35,000, running well ahead of Franklin Roosevelt without campaigning personally. Tinkham had only just returned from another foreign sojourn days before the election. As he descended the gangplank of the Europa, the congressman told waiting newsmen, "Dear me! It's true, there is an election on Tuesday."

Nor was George Holden Tinkham's district merely an affluent concave. Quite to the contrary, Tinkham represented a polyglot of a constituency, including half the Blacks living in Boston. The Back Bay Brahmins were mixed with Germans and Irish, all of whom appreciated Tinkham's resolute stance against internationalism. Indeed, Massachusetts U.S. Senator David Walsh, the first Irish Catholic and Democrat ever to be elected governor and/or to the Senate from the Bay State, was the chairman of the Senate's Naval Affairs Committee and a strong isolationist. Being suspicious of the British amongst the Irish in Boston and Massachusetts was not considered a failing by tens of thousands of voters. Tinkham was as popular with Blacks, Germans and the Irish in his district as he was with the aristocrats and the wealthy.

The legislation sponsored by Congressman George Holden Tinkham was almost invariably for projects back home in Massachusetts.

As to his leaving the country prior to every election, George Holden Tinkham told reporters he thought it would be more "humane" if all candidates were required to leave the country during the election season. "It would spare everyone a great deal of pain," the congressman thought, "those who are running and those who are listening." That notion might be even more popular today than it was then.

Congressman Tinkham's one concession to personal electioneering was to send out a postcard, thanking individually the people of his district for having returned him to the House of Representatives. Will Lang wrote such a "puny gesture" hardly explained Tinkham's political success

and longevity in Congress. "My district continues to support me because I support the principles upon which this country was founded," Tinkham insisted.

An implacable foe of internationalism, it was only to be expected George Holden Tinkham would have been a political foe of both President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull. The wily Hull, a master of the rough and tumble politics of his native Tennessee, revealed himself to be a tough verbal opponent. Unlike most of his peers in the Cabinet, Hull would usually appear before the committees of Congress unaccompanied by aides. A veteran of Congress, Hull easily managed even the most hostile congressmen, like George Tinkham. "You say all international law should be dispensed with?" Tinkham bellowed. "My door has been open for eight years and you've never darkened it in quest of information," Hull replied serenely. "We're supposed to be neutral," Tinkham reminded the secretary. "We aren't going to let [neutrality] chloroform us into inactivity." Tinkham roared at Hull, "But they were little countries and we have 3,000 miles of sea between us, and a fine Navy." Cordell Hull replied, "I disapprove of your complacency."

George Holden Tinkham retired from Congress in 1943 after 28 years in the House of Representatives. The former congressman was still traveling at 83. While in London, Tinkham acknowledged, "If I had married, I could not have done all that I have done." A confirmed individualist, George Holden Tinkham had lived his life as he wished. The former congressman died at age 86 in North Carolina at the home of his sister.

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They don't know the facts

I've watched the protests on college campuses until I'm just about to be nauseated with them and the individuals who are participating. That doesn't mean that Israel receives a free



By Joe Rector
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pass from me on this whole situation. Plenty of blame is available for spreading. I was alive when college students protested the Vietnam War. Never did I belittle or blame veterans for their part in the conflict. Too many of them were plucked from their youth and trained to kill and destroy the Vietcong. That war dragged on much too long because the leaders of our country chose politics and cash over young lives.

Back then, police weren't as restrained or forgiving as today's officers. Those battles in the 60s and 70s looked more like scenes from the June 6 insurrection. Officers dispersed protesters with a combination of gases, rubber bullets and nightsticks. On the Kent State campus, national guardsmen went a step too far and left the bodies

of slain students and protesters on the ground.

Yes, I'm sure that some outsiders infiltrated the groups to push more extreme activities. For the most part, students ran the protests and had a

major stake in the Vietnam War. Their age group was being sent to the war front to fight. Cries to "get out" were meant to save the lives of Americans. Most of the protesters were informed about the entire situation.

Presently, college campuses are overrun with protesters. Many of them don't attend school but are there to support (or stir up trouble). These folks are less than peaceful; film clips show them throwing things at police and destroying property. Tent cities have popped up on campuses, and the inhabitants include outsiders and students. They swear not to leave until their demands are met.

Those demands deal with the situation in Israel and Gaza. They insist that Israel stop its aggression against Hamas and the Palestinian people. More radical voices

call for the destruction of Israel as they display the slogan, "From the river to the sea," a reference to wiping out all Jews and the state of Israel.

I don't defend all that Israel has done in this situation. At some point much earlier, they should have stopped the fighting and sat at the peace table. With that said, I know that the sudden brutality of Hamas and its wanton disregard for the lives of babies, children and women is reason enough for Israel to want to destroy the terrorist group. When the enemy hides its soldiers and weapons in tunnels underneath neighborhoods and hospitals, difficult decisions must be made.

What is most disturbing about protesters is their inability to verbalize what they are protesting. The fact is that they have no idea, and they hide that ignorance behind the fact that their leaders have told them not to answer any questions about the situation. Students also fail to admit that Israel's opponents, Hamas and Hezbollah, both identified as terrorist organizations.

The country will continue

to support Israel while trying to convince its leaders to meet at the peace table. Young protestors are always free to express their beliefs, but their stances would be much stronger if those things were backed up with research and facts. Knowing the truth is the first duty of anyone who wants to protest against colleges, groups, or our country. That research might begin with the most infamous attacks on Jews during World War II. Understanding that country's position might be clearer after doing so.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF VIRGINIA C. ZEE
DOCKET NUMBER 89423-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 15 day of MAY, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of VIRGINIA C. ZEE who died March 1, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or
(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 15 day of May, 2024.

ESTATE OF VIRGINIA C. ZEE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)

JAN P. ZEE
10 PERIMETER SUMMIT
BLVD. NE, UNIT 3407
BROOKHAVEN, GA 30319

BRADLEY S. LEWIS, ATTORNEY
10413 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 200
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE

It is your right to appeal the value of your property yearly. If you wish to appeal the value of your property, instructions are as follows:

Pursuant to Section 67-5-508, Tennessee Code Annotated, the property assessment records of Knox County will be available for public inspection at Room 204 of the City/County Building during normal business hours, Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Any person desiring to inspect these records may do so at the appointed time and place.

The Knox County Board of Equalization will begin its annual session to examine and equalize the county assessments on June 3, 2024. THE BOARD WILL ACCEPT APPEALS FOR TAX YEAR 2024 ONLY UNTIL THE LAST DAY OF ITS 2024 REGULAR SESSION, WHICH WILL BE JUNE 28, 2024. The Board will meet each weekday by appointment from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the City/County Building, 400 Main Street, 6th Floor Conference Room. Any owner of property who wishes to make a complaint or appeal to the County Board of Equalization must appear before said Board at this time personally or by personal appearance of an agent for the owner bearing the owner's written authorization. To schedule an appointment to appear before the Board, call (865) 215-2006 beginning May 28th through June 28th between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please note the office will be closed on Monday, May 27th and Wednesday, June 19th to observe the Memorial Day and National Independence Holidays. Failure to appear and appeal an assessment will result in the assessment becoming final without further right of appeal.

John R. Whitehead
Knox County Property Assessor

For additional information call 865-215-5777, stop by the Procurement Division, 1000 North Central St., Suite 100, Knoxville, TN 37917, or visit our website: www.knoxcounty.org/procurement. To bid on Knox County surplus items, go to www.govdeals.com.

(c) the amount of the claim; (d) the date it arose; and (e) any documentation substantiating it. A claim against the Company will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is commenced within two years after the publication of this notice.

Power Source Technologies, Inc.

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

The following vehicle will be sold at auction at 9:00 a.m. on June 4, 2024, at Eurotech Knoxville, 7223 Oak Ridge Highway, Knoxville, Tennessee 37931. Phone 865-693-8911.

2012 Volkswagen Tiguan white VIN WVGBV7AX6CW579815
Owner Name: Julie Hernandez
Lienholder: Credit Acceptance Corporation

The following information must be included in each claim: (a) the name and address of the claimant; (b) the description and basis of the claim;

MISC. NOTICES

LEGAL SECTION 94

Knox County will receive bids for the following items & services:

RFP 3563, Design-Build Services-Mill Run Stream and Wetland Improvement Project, due 6/12/24;

RFP 3565, Consultant Services for Unified Development Ordinance, due 7/11/24;

Bid 3566, Right-Of-Way Acquisition Services, due 6/20/24

classifieds

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HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Lady Hornets sting Crockett 5-4 for first trip to state

By Steve Williams

Winning its first region title in school history wasn't enough. Carter High's determined softball team took an early lead, watched it slip away, then got it back and held on in the top of the seventh inning for a 5-4 victory over David Crockett Friday and its first-ever sectional win and trip to the TSSAA state tournament.

"We could have easily rolled over and died when they came back, but we didn't," said first-year Head Coach Nicole Light. "We fought to the very end. Everybody did their job, everybody had a role and they executed."

After knocking off perennial state power Gibbs 5-1 in the region finals Wednesday, the Lady Hornets stung the Lady Pioneers, who were seeking their first trip to the state in almost 30 years.

"I can't believe it," said Coach Light after some celebrating. "I'm still in shock. I don't think it's really hit me yet. But this community and this program mean so much to me. They shaped who I am as a person because this is where I came from, so it makes it even more special."

Carter (19-9) will play in the state tournament at the Spring Fling in Murfreesboro this week, with games scheduled to begin Tuesday.

Gibbs' sectional game against Tennessee High was scheduled

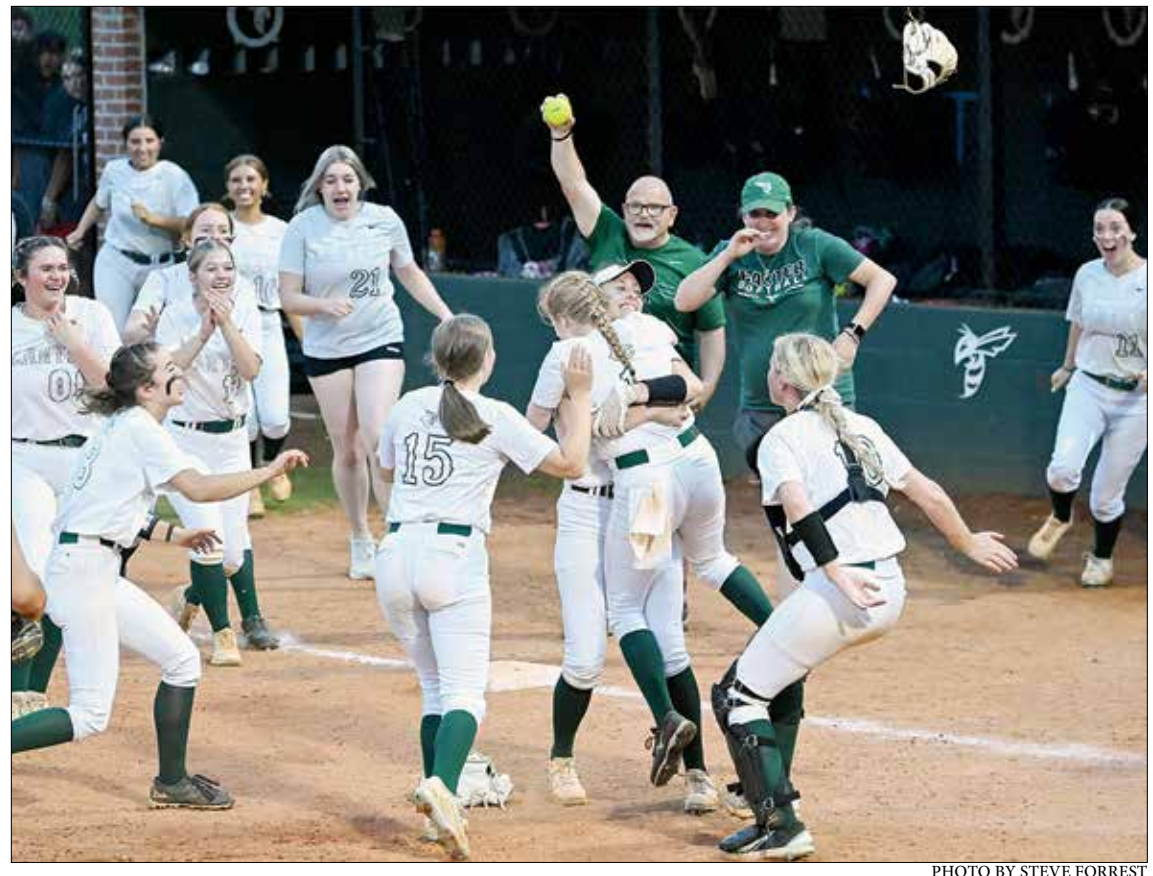


PHOTO BY STEVE FORREST

The thrill of being state-bound! Carter pitcher Malaney Etherton jumps into the arms of first baseman McKinley Grubb after striking out the last batter of the game and setting off an unforgettable celebration Friday night. Head Coach Nicole Light (right) also is on her way to join in as are others. The Lady Hornets held off David Crockett High School of Jonesborough 5-4 to secure their first-ever TSSAA state tournament berth.

to be played Sunday due to graduation ceremonies and weather conditions Friday and Saturday.

Carter got off to a good start against Crockett. A two-out double into the left field gap by McKinley Grubb brought home Kayla Rucker, who had been hit

by a pitch, for the game's first run in the bottom of the first inning.

The Lady Hornets added another run in the second when Jenna Wilson singled and scored on a half-swing double down the left field line by Chloe Hicks.

Quick reaction on a catch by

Carter third baseman Gracie Miller helped keep Crockett (22-16) scoreless in the third inning.

Grubb doubled again in the bottom of the third and Wilson beat out an infield single, but the two Lady Hornets were left

Continue on page 4

Harper Lynn was 'active' in Carter win

By Steve Williams

Her name is not on the roster, but she's been close to Carter High's softball team all season.

"My due day (May 26) for my first child (Harper Lynn) is nine days away, the day after the state tournament," said first-year Carter Coach Nicole Light after her Lady Hornets' 5-4 sectional win over David Crockett Friday.

Harper Lynn was active during the exciting game.

"Oh yes, she was moving," said Coach Light. "Every time I was jumping up and down, she was moving. She's been doing that all season. She's just as excited as everybody else is I think."

Nicole was asked if Harper Lynn will play softball in the future.

"I hope so," she said. "I think she will. That would be fun. But she can do whatever she wants to do, but if she ends up playing softball that would be awesome."

"As of right now she'll probably go to Carter."

PROUD OF HER TEAM: "We came through a lot of adversity at the beginning of the year; a

Continue on page 3

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD

Gorfido has one more chance to be state champ

Farragut senior in Top 5 in pole vault at Spring Fling 31

By Steve Williams

When Julian Gorfido was looking where he might fit in on the Farragut High School track and field team his freshman year, he was told where not to try.

"My coach told me I wasn't fast enough to be a sprinter and I didn't have the endurance to be a distance runner," recalled Gorfido, who is now a senior and one of the best pole vaulters in the state. "I'm glad that he did, because I don't think I could be this good in any other event. I thank him

immensely, because of that comment right there. I mean it brought me to where I'm at today."

Pole vaulting since March of his freshman season, Julian has a PR of 15 feet, 1.9 inches. He set a KIL meet record of 14-7 this season on April 29 and turned in a 14-6 performance in the Sectionals to qualify for this week's TSSAA Division 1 Class AAA state meet at MTSU in Murfreesboro.

The 31st annual Spring Fling, which also includes boys' and girls' tennis, boys' soccer, baseball and softball, begins Tuesday.

Gorfido finished a little disappointed in the KIL meet.

"I know I got the meet record - that's great, but I

felt like I could have done a lot better. I think I got in my own head too much."

But breaking the KIL meet record was what he wanted to do. "Absolutely," he said. "It (the former record) was 14-6 previously. I just wanted to get it out of the way until I got it."

Julian said he had a technical issue in the KIL meet.

"The biggest problem was my run was inconsistent. I was either too close and getting hit by the pole or I was too far away and I didn't hit it hard enough. I think I (hyped) myself up a little bit too much and I got either too fast or too slow."

"That one (the record jump) was good," he added. "It felt great. My coach said I

could have easily cleared 15 feet with that jump.

"Most of this sport is mental. It's like your brain power is more important than your physical power."

Gorfido said he would like to pole vault in college. "Currently I'm undecided. But that's in my plans."

He has received plenty of D2 interest and "a little bit of low D1" interest. "Just nothing that I'm super interested in. I would like to go to a bigger school."

Gorfido's goal is to clear a height at state that would attract interest from major colleges.

He placed seventh his sophomore and junior years at state, crossing over the

Continue on page 2



Farragut senior Julian Gorfido at the top of the runway where he prepares to take off in the pole vault event in the KIL meet at Hardin Valley Academy on April 29. Gorfido set a new KIL meet record of 14-7. He will be going after state honors Thursday at MTSU. Photo by Steve Williams.

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No. 6 in a series on TODD HELTON, Hall of Famer

Searcy's message to today's youngsters: 'Dream big'

You could be the next Todd Helton

(Steve Searcy, a 1982 Central High grad who pitched for the Bobcats and UT and played in the major leagues a decade before Todd Helton, shares some of his memories and thoughts about Helton, who will be inducted into the MLB Hall of Fame on July 21.

Searcy often came back to CHS in the winter months to prepare for the next baseball season and in 1990 connected with Helton and the Bobcats in a special way.

A left-handed pitcher, Searcy played at UT in 1983, 1984 and 1985 and was drafted his junior year by the Detroit Tigers as the first pick of the third round. His major league career included three seasons with Detroit (1988-90) and two with the Philadelphia Phillies (1991-92).

"When I was playing ball in the majors, Central's Coach (Bud) Bales would let me come back and get me a catcher (in the winter months) and I would work out and work with the team and the pitchers. The 1990 season was the year we got 'locked out' (by Major League Baseball) and it also was Todd Helton's sophomore season and the year the Bobcats won their second state baseball championship.

"The year we were locked out, I would throw batting

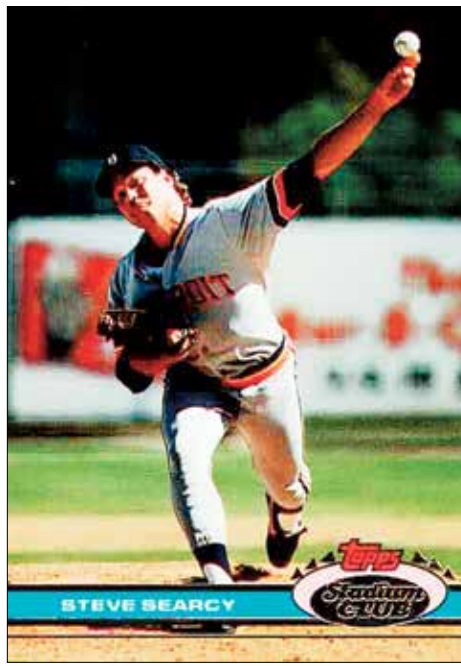
practice to the team. And that team won the state with eight of the nine starters being All-KIL players. They had Chris Freeman, Bubba Trammell and some guys that went a long way in ball, but you could just tell the difference in the swing that Todd would take and the way the ball left the bat even in batting practice. You could just tell there was something special about the way he could swing a bat.

"That year he hit between .600 and .700. It was something ridiculous. It showed how well his hand-eye coordination really was. You don't even see Single-A pro players doing that. It was just amazing the way he could hit the ball.

"During the time when he was still pitching, you could tell he had the ability and wanted to win. He had a will to win. You could just tell that at an early age.

"Of course, I can still say (chuckling) I'm the best pitcher that's ever come out of Central High School, because Todd didn't pitch in the major leagues. He only hit. There's no telling what he would have done if he had gone in as a pitcher. After 17 years in the majors, I think they made a pretty good decision on which way he went and what he was going to be.

"I was in charge of doing the running in the pre-season ... When we ran, we didn't just get out on the track and run, we would get out on the roads so it wasn't monotonous. You could talk about life that way and what was going on in their world. I had fun with it, but it was also hard work. I don't know if they would tell you it was a lot of fun or not, but I think it did make us all better.



Fountain City's Steve Searcy, pictured on a Topps baseball card, was drafted by Detroit and pitched in three seasons for the Tigers.

"It was pushing me to get better too because I was still playing. I was pushing as hard as I could and they would see me working. I guess they figured if I was working like that and a major league player, they certainly better work as high school players. Hopefully, that helped. I

don't know if it did or not. But a lot of those players seemed to go a pretty good ways in ball and life itself.

"I stayed in touch with Todd (after my playing days). We visited Colorado and Todd got us tickets to his game and we'd have dinner together.

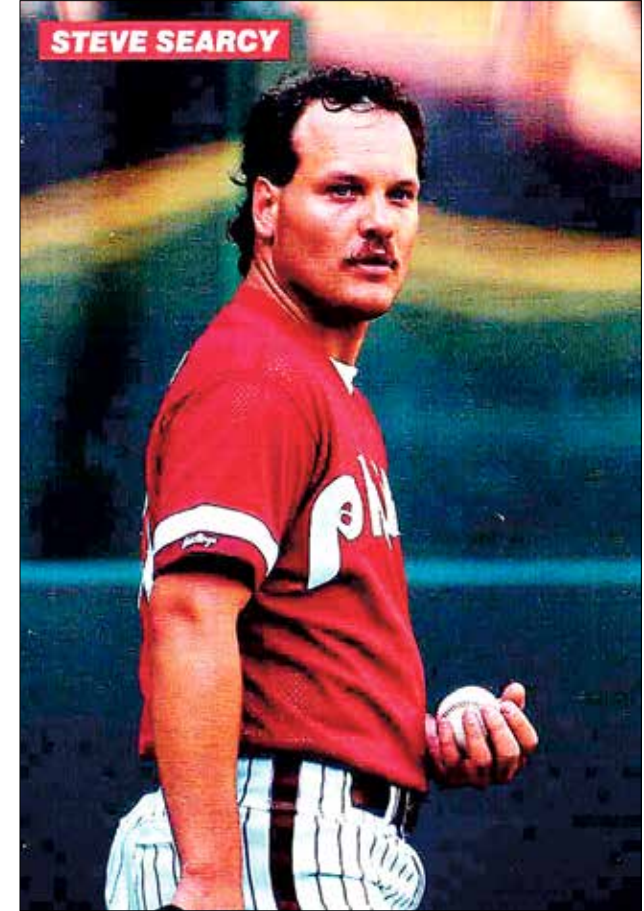
"I would also see Todd around UT, coming to football games. Our paths crossed here and there, but not a lot. I definitely

respect him for what he did. His career was amazing with the numbers that he put up. But you know he hit at Coors Field (with its high altitude and thin air) in home games and put up numbers that may not be quite the same on the road, but other than that it's just amazing what he did over 17 years with the bat.

"You think about the number of all the major league players over some 120 years and there are only 273 of them in the Hall of Fame. That's pretty remarkable.

"As for the kids around here in Knoxville today, here's the way I look at it – dream, dream big. If Todd Helton could be in the Hall of Fame, who's to say that Johnny Smith or whomever could not. Dream, you can make it. Sure, it will take hard work.

"I tell everybody that as a young child I got cut from



Steve Searcy, Central High Class of 1982, finished his major league baseball career with the Philadelphia Phillies in 1992.

the middle school team; of course back then Gresham was a junior high when I played. I said I would never get cut again in baseball ...

"So my sophomore year was the next time I was going to be trying out and it was for the high school team at Central. We would have 80 or 90 players try out and only 16 players made it.

"To be able to tell the kids that I got cut in junior high, but made the team by the skin of my teeth as a sophomore, I backed up my goal to not get cut again. I worked and worked to get better. For me to be able to do that and then later get to know Todd ... Todd had a lot more ability, just pure God-given ability, but also the work ethic and all that it took.

"I mean you can get there. For the kids around here, look at what Todd did. Look at his numbers and the career that he had. Dream big, you could be

next.

"I've got a neighbor across the street and he's actually doing what you don't see kids do anymore. They get out and play backyard wiffle ball or softball or whatever outside. And I would just love to see him be the next Todd Helton.

"You've seen that it's happened here in Fountain City. Dream big. You can get where you want to go."

(Six Central High grads have played Major League Baseball. The late Pat McGlothin, a pitcher, was the first in 1949 and 1950 and outfielder Buddy Gilbert, who is 88, was next in 1959.

Then came pitcher Chris Zachary, who died in 2003, in the 1960s and Steve Searcy in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Slugger Bubba Trammell and Todd Helton were teammates on the Bobcats' 1990 state title team and later at UT before reaching the MLB.)

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

South-Doyle, Hardin Valley win region titles

By Ken Lay

The third time was the charm for the South-Doyle High School soccer team Thursday night.

Alcoa has been the Cherokees' chief nemesis in 2024, defeating them twice this season. The Tornadoes won the regular-season match between the two sides and captured the District 5-2A Tournament Championship by beating the Cherokees in the most recent matchup.

Well, South-Doyle turned the tables on the Tornadoes as it notched a 4-0 victory in the Region 3-2A Championship match in Blount County.

Roger Oseguera Cruz had a hand in all four of the Cherokees' goals as he came up with a hat trick. He also dished out an assist to help his team win a region championship and exorcise its demons against the Tornadoes (9-11-1).

South-Doyle (16-3-2) took control of the region title match early as Cruz gave the Cherokees a 1-0 lead in the 11th minute. Approximately four minutes later, Cruz extended the Kees' advantage to 2-0, the lead they enjoyed

at halftime.

South-Doyle wasted little time picking up where it left off after halftime. Cruz assisted a marker by Jude Straussfogel in the 45th minute.

Cruz, who had all three of his goals on breakaways, closed on the scoring in the match with a late tally. Levi Ridge was credited with an assist on the final marker of the match.

The Cherokees advanced to the region title match with a 1-0 victory at Signal Mountain.

They were scheduled to host Murfreesboro Central Magnet High School in the state sectionals Saturday. Results were not available at press time. A win there would cinch South-Doyle's second-ever state tournament berth.

Hawks win first region title since 2015

Hardin Valley Academy edged Bearden, 1-0, in Thursday night's Region 2-3A Championship match at Turner-Allender Field.

Brady Hammer scored the lone goal of the match as he found the back of the Bearden net in the first half. Ben Brophy earned an

SOCCER REGIONAL TOURNAMENT SCOREBOARD

Tuesday, May 14

Region 2-2A
Austin-East 1, Gibbs 0
Region 3-2A
South-Doyle 1, Signal Mountain 0
Region 2-3A
Bearden 2, Halls 0
Hardin Valley Academy 5, Oak Ridge 2

Thursday, May 16

Region 2-2A
Cocke County 5, Austin-East 1
Region 3-2A
South-Doyle 4, Alcoa 0
Region 2-3A
Hardin Valley Academy 1, Bearden 0

State Sectionals

Saturday, May 18
(Results were not available at press time)
Class 2A
Austin-East at Greeneville
Murfreesboro Central Magnet at South-Doyle
Class 3A
Bearden 1, Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett 0
Science Hill at Hardin Valley Academy
Division II-A
(State Quarterfinal)
Grace Christian Academy at University School of Nashville

assist for HVA, which won its first region championship since 2015.

HVA, which beat the Bulldogs in a penalty kick shootout during the regular season, avenged its recent loss to Bearden in the District 4-3A Championship game on May 10.

Hardin Valley hosted a sectional match Saturday, while Bearden had to travel for its sectional game. The Bulldogs defeated Dobyns-Bennett 1-0 Saturday.

On Tuesday, Bearden

outlasted Halls, 2-0, in the regional semifinals, while the Hawks toppled Oak Ridge, 5-2, Tuesday night.

In Region 2-2A: Cocke County routed Austin-East, 5-1, in Newport to win its first-ever region title after the Roadrunners blanked Gibbs, 1-0 in Corryton in Tuesday's region finals.

Both the Fighting Cocks and Roadrunners played in Saturday's sectionals. Results were not available at press time.

Gorfido has one more chance to be state champ

Cont. from page 1 — said Gorfido. "His PR was bar a foot higher each year.

"In the indoor state this winter I placed third (14-9.25), so hopefully this year I feel like I have a decent shot at getting state champ," said Julian. "I just got to show up and show out."

The top sectional mark coming into the Class AAA state meet is 15-0. Gavin Bailey, Bearden junior, is one of the vaulters that cleared that height at the sectional.

Others in the Top 5 coming into the state meet are Brentwood junior Canon Kinder (15-0), Science Hill senior William Hagemeyer (15-0), Gorfido (14-6) and Morristown West senior Philip Lotivio (14-6).

Size-wise, Julian is 5-foot-9 and weighs 145. "It's better to be taller," he said. "But I can somewhat make up for that with my speed and strength."

Gorfido has been training the past two years under Mark Hollis at the Full Vertical Vault Club in Powell.

"He was close to being an Olympian pole vaulter,"

19-2 back in the day. He was a national champ a few times.

"He's retired now from competing, but he's an amazing coach; never had a better coach in my life. I wouldn't be here without him."

Gorfido also complimented Chelsea Osborne, Farragut's head coach in track and field.

"She's very encouraging," he said. "She's 100 percent supportive. She's just constantly encouraging and helping me get better."

"This sport, like I said, is 90 percent mental, 10 percent physical and she helps a lot with that mental part because she is so supportive."

"Julian is a good kid," said Coach Osborne. "He's worked hard the past four years to get to this point. We know it's going to happen. He's going to get that 15-3. He's a good leader for the rest of the vaulters and the rest of the field event kids. He's definitely a blessing to have on the team."

Why, Tell me, Why?

This is the stuff of which orange-colored memories are made.

Late in the first half in the 1991 Notre Dame game, the Fighting Irish led 31-7 and were trying a field goal to extend the lead. Things looked bleak for the Vols.

Remember what Gen. Neyland said in his game maxims, especially No. 6: "Press the kicking game. Here is where the breaks are made."

When Daryl Hardy blocked the Fighting Irish field goal attempt, Floyd Miley ended up in front of the pack, pigskin under arm, as Vols cut the lead to 31-14.

The Vols eventually won, 35-34, when Jeremy Lincoln made another key play in the kicking game, blocking a potential game-winning field goal.

At that point, no one in Notre Dame Stadium, within the sound of John Ward's voice, or within reach of the NBC telecast cared what color jerseys the Vols were wearing. For the record, it was white jerseys and orange pants, a staple of John Majors' tenure at Tennessee.

Why was it that Tennessee fans initially made such a

big deal about the Vol football team wearing white jerseys for games away from Neyland Stadium? The most frequent word they used was "jinx." It was a big deal in those uncertain times in 1971 when the whole white jersey issue raised its head.

The Vols wearing orange jerseys on the road ended with an SEC "Gentlemen's Agreement" that season, giving the home team the choice of taking the school-colored shirts and the visiting team having to wear the white shirts, except at LSU and, for a year or so, at Vanderbilt.

To his credit, Tennessee head coach Bill Battle voted against that agreement ("You're darn right I did," he said when quizzed about it years later), thus defending the honor and majesty of the orange jersey.

The Vols had worn orange jerseys on the road up until that time, with three exceptions, all losses.

Many Tennessee opponents had worn their home jerseys when they played in Knoxville, Alabama in crimson, Kentucky and Ole Miss in blue, UCLA in powder blue, and so forth.

There are some vintage photos of Tennessee in orange and Alabama in crimson in long-ago copies of Sports Illustrated, the classic ones being a cover shot of Mike Jones and

Dennis Homan going for the ball in the 1967 game and a two-page shot of Hal Wantland diving over the Tide line in the 1965 game, both games played in Birmingham.

When Tennessee and Alabama squared off in those days, wearing orange and crimson jerseys, everyone there knew it was football played the way the gods had ordained it.

The genesis of the white jersey rule may have come from the 1969 Tennessee-Vanderbilt game at Neyland Stadium. It was a sunny November day, Tennessee wearing orange shirts, Vanderbilt wearing gold. Only the helmets distinguished one team from the other.

Media accounts after the game noted that Tennessee would likely wear white jerseys in Nashville in 1970, but as things turned out, the Vols didn't. It was a cloudy day, and the differences between the two sets of jerseys were more pronounced.

The Vols did wear orange against Mississippi blue jerseys in Knoxville in 1972 and 1976.

The Vols also wore orange shirts against Mississippi State in 1978 in Memphis, when the Vols were the designated home team. The Vols also wore orange in the 1978 Notre Dame game at



At Notre Dame in 1991, Floyd Miley grabbed a blocked field goal and took it all the way for a score that closed the margin to 31-14. Glenn Thackston photo.

South Bend.

When Tennessee wanted to wear its "throwback" jerseys, the white shirts with the orange collar, in 2004 against UNLV, all kinds of machinations with the NCAA were required to pull that off.

One more comment about wearing white jerseys.

Perhaps the most radical change in game jerseys came in the Jim McDonald year in 1963, with a get-up called the "Halloween Uniforms." These were so named because the shirts were light orange with black

and white stripes on the shoulders.

"We had new orange jerseys that season, and new white ones had just come in," Vol tailback Mallon Faircloth recalled. "They were the jerseys with stripes across the shoulder. I guess Coach McDonald wanted to change our luck. He didn't discuss it with any of us. I think he told us that week we were wearing them."

Tennessee has won a number of big games in white shirts since that time, the same way they have in orange. There was another

win at Notre Dame in 2001, the Vols wearing white pants instead of orange, as well a 10-6 win at Miami in 2003. The Vols won at Alabama in 1995, and Antonio Wardlaw made the cover of Sports Illustrated with his blocked punt and recovery for a touchdown at Georgia in 2006, wearing a white No. 38.

Despite some initial trepidation, Vol fans have accepted the white shirts with open arms. Just as they have over the years with the orange shirts.

Sports indifference is the healthier choice

By Mark Nagi

I wasn't going to write an article this week. I've been busy with work and family, and frankly, I didn't know if I had the mental bandwidth to type out a few hundred words.

But then I got back to the palatial Nagi estates in the Mean Streets of Farragut and had an idea. An epiphany if you will. Maybe it's a new way to live my life.

The answer... might be to be indifferent towards our sports teams.

Follow me here. Many years ago, I remember Phillip Fulmer saying, and I'm paraphrasing here, that the losing feels worse than the winning feels good. And he could not have been more correct.

My Dallas Cowboys haven't won anything of

note since the mid-1990s. I go into every season knowing that come playoff time they will underachieve. I'm satisfied knowing that they've won Super Bowls in my lifetime, but I don't expect to ever see another one. It doesn't mean that I don't watch them and root for them, but I don't expect good things to happen. Jerry Jones has destroyed that franchise when it comes to winning big games.

In English Premier League soccer, Tottenham Hotspur hasn't won a trophy of any kind since 2008. I've been a fan since seeing a game in person in London back in 1999. I'm hopeful that someday they'll win the league, or the Carabao Cup or the FA Cup, or a European competition... but I don't expect it.

The New York Yankees have 27 World Series, but nothing in 15 years. Tennessee hasn't won a national title or an SEC title in football since 1998. Tennessee's men's basketball team has never been to a Final Four. Do you get what I'm saying here? All my teams (and yours too) have had way more down times than good memories.

Which leads me to the New York Rangers. They are my favorite team in any sport and have been for decades. I have seen them play in Ottawa, Philadelphia, Nashville, Carolina, Columbus, Detroit, Washington DC, Toronto... and of course at Madison Square Garden in midtown Manhattan.

They are an "Original 6" franchise and have won

four Stanley Cups, but only one of those has come in the last 84 years. The 1994 New York Rangers are my favorite team of all time in any sport because they broke a 54 year curse.

Since then, the Rangers have been to the Stanley Cup Final only once, coming back in 2014. To this day I won't watch highlights from their loss to the Los Angeles Kings. It hurts too much.

OK I've gone over 425 words to get to this point, bearing my soul for you, the reader. Last Thursday night the Rangers played Carolina in the second round of the Stanley Cup playoffs. It was Game 6, and the Rangers were in danger of blowing a 3-0 series lead.

They trailed 3-1 in the third period and looked

awful. At that moment, I had a sense of peace. This is only a game. If the Rangers lost, life would go on.

But then Chris Kreider scored 3 straight goals in that third period for New York, a natural hat trick. I let out a scream after the tying goal that made Bailey (my energetic double doodle) go into the other room. The Rangers added an empty netter, won the

game 5-3, and advanced to the Eastern Conference Finals for the second time in three years.

If the Rangers win two more series, and hoist Lord Stanley's Cup, I will be ecstatic. But if they lose, I will be devastated. And the pain of losing will feel worse than the joy of winning.

But I'm all in now. This is the life I chose.

Keep good thoughts for me.

Harper Lynn was 'active' in Carter win

Cont. from page 1

lot of sickness, a lot of injuries and they could have easily just rolled over and quit and they didn't," said Coach Light. "They came back and fought and this game proves that and how resilient each one of those 19 girls are and I am very proud to be their coach."

Nicole graduated from Carter in 2015 and was on the Lady Hornets' first team to make it to the Sub-State.

"I've had great support from the assistant coaches and parents," added Coach Light. "I couldn't have done it without them. They helped me out a lot for sure."

A GREAT GAME: With his players crying and hugging nearby after the heartbreaking loss, David Crockett first-year Head Coach Alex Dulaney said: "That was a great ball game. For it to go back and forth and the two teams compete the way they did, it was a testament to both teams.

"There are a lot of great

athletes on both of those squads. Both had a little adversity at times and things not going their way and they responded. Their athletes ended up doing a little bit better job in the end than ours did. They are a very fast team and their

short game there at the end really helped them secure that victory."

Dulaney said he was most impressed by Carter's "aggressiveness at the plate and on the bases. They utilized their speed very, very well. That made

it very difficult for us and in the end that was the difference."

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