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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Ed Shouse with son, Joe, and wife, Lisa, opens another year of the Tennessee Valley Fair. For ticket information and daily listings of events, please visit www.tnvalleyfair.org.

City council declares dwelling abandoned

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The Knoxville City Council turned down one appeal of a planning ruling and decreased the size of zoning for future townhouses for another property on Tuesday.

R. Bentley Marlow filed an appeal to overturn a zoning administrator's decision that declared a house abandoned.

Homeowner Rachel Wolf said she disconnected the house at 2448 Jefferson Avenue from electricity during the pandemic when she feared it might be used by homeless people and burned down.

Wolf said when she asked for the electricity to be restored it was not because it had been off the grid for 24 months. It

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104th Tennessee Valley Fair kicks off

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The Tennessee Valley Fair has officially kicked off its 104th season and "Pointe of Ewe" will run through Sunday, September 15. First Bank sponsored the ceremonies beneath the Pepsi Tent near the Jacobs Building on Friday and a large crowd attended the annual government and

business luncheon.

Several speakers mentioned Tennessee Valley Fair board member Ed Shouse, who was present in the crowd. Shouse, who was a city councilman as well as Knox County Trustee, has been active with promoting the fair and the kick-off for many years.

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs said the fair is "bigger and better each

year" and Knoxville Mayor Indya Kinnannon noted Shouse's service on city council and said that the fair represents the best in local produce that is "better for your health and tastes good too."

Congressman Tim Burchett recalled visits to the fair as a young man and told a story of a greased pig getting loose as no one could hold on to it.

BOE discusses AED logistics

By Ken Leinart

The Knox County Board of Education approved three policies to keep in compliance with new state laws during its monthly meeting Thursday, September 5.

All three involved emergency contingencies should they arise at Knox County schools: a cardiac emergency response plan, an athletics emergency action plan, and an amendment to the existing automated external defibrillator (AED) policy.

All three passed unanimously, but there were some questions about amendments to the AED policy amendment during Monday night's, Sept. 3, board workshop session.

Knox County School System Attorney Gary Dupler said the two new policies came "straight

out of the language" of the new state legislation.

On the amended policy, Dupler said in the past it was required to have one AED on campus, but with the new law, "You're more than likely looking at more than one AED on campus because you'll have to have one for sports, maybe multiple ones for sports, depending on the situation."

Knox County School Athletics Specialist Bryan Brown told the board that every high school in the system with athletics received a new AED machine last week.

The policy requires AED be available within three minutes. Brown said individual athletic directors will formulate plans to comply, but there are certain situations that are

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School board accepts grant for girls flag football program

By Ken Leinart

In what was a routine Knox County Board of Education meeting Thursday night where policies were passed and amended, and grants were approved, a couple of notable measures passed.

One measure passed that is not so routine concerning the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund. The board approved the

state-required ESSER 3.0 Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Overview and Final Spend Plan of \$40,301,360.81.

Something new for the board was a grant for a new sport. The board approved a donation of \$97,400 from the Titans Foundation for the establishment of Knox County School girls flag football programs.

The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) has recognized girls flag football as

an accredited sport and lists all Knox County high schools in District 2. One other school is included in District 2: Anderson County High School.

The TSSAA has created 16 districts for girls flag football.

Other grants approved by the board include.

- A memorandum of understanding with Knox County Health Department and receipt of funding up to \$540,800 for the In School

Health Program.

- A memorandum of agreement with Boys and Girls Club of Tennessee Valley and receipt of up to \$105,207.17 for 2024-2025 21st Century Learning Center grant.

- A memorandum of understanding with United Way of Greater Knoxville Inc. regarding tutoring services.

- Approved Elementary School Dental Program

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Commission chooses Oster as chair

By Mike Steely
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District 3 Commissioner Gina Oster, who has served as vice chair of the Knox County Commission, was selected to be the new commission chair on Tuesday during the special called reorganization meeting. Oster then nominated At-Large Commissioner Kim Frazier for vice chair. Both were elected by acclamation by the six sitting and five new county commission members.

Oster replaces Commissioner Terry Hill in the post after Hill had expressed in a previous meeting that she was not interested in serving again.

The process of choosing members of the various committees received some criticism from newly

seated 9th District Commissioner Andrew Fox. He said the procedure "does not make sense." Deputy Law Director Mike Moyers replied that the way the committees are chosen is "strictly according to our rules" but added the commission could change the rules.

While the various committees have a finite number of members, more commissioners were nominated than open committee seats and issues arose when all the commissioners voted for all the nominees. It took some time to fill the committees and then choose chairs and vice chairs for each group.

"We got started a little bumpy," Oster commented later in the meeting.

Frazier was chosen as chair of the Beer Board with

At-Large Commissioner Larsen Jay chosen as vice chair. Hill was selected to chair the Insolvency Board with new commissioner Angela Russell of District 5 seated as vice chair.

Courtney Durrett of District 2 was elected in a split vote over Fox to chair the Legislative Affairs committee with Jay picked as vice chair.

Frazier will head the Rules Committee with Fox chosen as vice chair over District 1's Damon Rawls.

Jay was selected as chair of the Finance Committee over Russell who was then chosen as vice chair.

Newly seated 8th District Commissioner Adam Thompson was chosen as chair of the Telecom Committee with Fox selected as vice chair.

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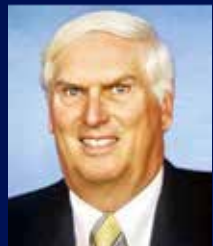


PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

The 8th District's new Knox County Commissioner Adam Thompson with father, Edward, takes the oath of office Tuesday at a ceremony at the Tennessee Theatre. Five new commissioners were sworn to office last week.

Reason Cecil's Grocery, Part 1

From a distance



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

Editor's Note: This is part one of a two-part series that was originally published in the September 26, 2016, issue of Chronicles: A Magazine of American Culture.

Almost two years ago my wife and I were driving home after having dinner in a Knoxville restaurant with former Tennessee Gov. Don Sundquist and his wife. It was the Monday night before Thanksgiving, and I decided to call my then 90-year-old Uncle Joe, a retired judge, to see if he and my aunt wanted to

have turkey and all the trimmings with us that coming Thursday.

My uncle and I often trade stories in these occasional conversations, and that night he told me about walking with my father to Reason Cecil's Grocery in Helenwood to pick up some things for my grandmother.

My father and my uncle were 2 of 12 children (the first two, twins, died at birth) of Flem and Cassie Duncan. They grew up in what would be considered bitter poverty today. My grandfather was a subsistence farmer, carpenter, and Presbyterian lay preacher. My grandmother taught school in years when teachers made \$60 or \$75 a month.

Their home was between Huntsville and Helenwood in Scott County, Tennessee, on the Kentucky line below Somerset. Pure Appalachia, this was one of the poorest counties in the United States. My dad used to say

that they lived out past the "Resume Speed" sign.

Uncle Joe said their visit to Mr. Cecil's grocery store took place when he was 9 and my father was 14. After the boys made their purchases, Mr. Cecil came out and sat on the front porch to talk to them.

While they were talking, a train came through, and Mr. Cecil said, "That engineer is going too fast; he'll never be able to make the curve at New River." Moments later, they heard a terrible screeching at the river about one mile away. They ran to the scene just in time to see men pull a cover over the engineer who had been killed when the train derailed.

Because of the death and the massive train wreck, my uncle never forgot that day. My reaction, though, was to a different part of the story. I thought about the owner of a country grocery taking time out from his business

to sit on the porch to visit with two boys. What a kinder, more humane time that was.

Today millions buy their groceries at Walmart, where they probably don't even know the name of the manager, or at some other large chain grocery store, where they don't have a front porch, much less a manager who would have time to sit and visit with two boys.

My father, who preceded me in Congress, used to say (I suppose half-jokingly) that the problems of the country grew worse when they stopped putting front porches on houses. People stopped visiting with each other as much as they had.

He also once told me that the best places to campaign were the small country grocery stores, usually run by a husband and wife. The owners knew everyone in their community and were usually well respected, in

part because they often helped people who were going through hard times. Today, most of the rural country grocery stores are gone, as are many other small businesses.

When I was growing up in East Knoxville, the city population was about 185,000 - around what it is today. But outside the city limits there were farms in every direction, with probably only about 50,000 people.

Now, Knox County has almost doubled in population, to about 460,000, as most of the farms have been turned into subdivisions. The population of the state is booming, as people move from the high-tax states to low-tax ones like Tennessee.

In East Knoxville where I grew up, in the 50's and 60's, the main business section was called Burlington. All the stores were named after owners who worked there.

There was Henderlight Feed and Seed, Farmer's Hardware, Cox and Wright Grocery, Pass's Five and Ten, Greenlee's Drug Store, Keeton's Jewelers, McCarty Mortuary, Ruby's Restaurant, Ward's electric-appliance shop, a sole-practice doctor, a shoe-repair shop, a neighborhood movie theater, a bank, and Barnes Barber Shop.

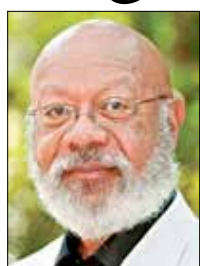
I am now 69 and have gone to Barnes since my first haircut. My two sons and one of my grandsons got their first haircuts there, too. I have always said the problems of the country could be solved better in Barnes Barber Shop than in Congress.

Not far from Burlington were other businesses owned and operated by locals, such as Parker Esso (later Exxon), Sherrod Amoco, Troutman's Grocery, and Sonners Drug Store.

To be continued in next week's Focus.

The Dangers of Wokespeak

I am a bit dismayed that so-called conservative media has adopted the language of the left. I once wrote an essay for a solidly conservative organization that proceeded to capitalize "black"



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

but not "white." I asked why did they change my style. They replied that they used the AP Stylebook. A bit later I wrote a letter to the editors of the Wall Street Journal complaining that they also capitalized "black" and not "white". Their response was that they too followed the AP style guide. I then wondered if they were then going to refer to pregnant women as "birthing people" as the AP style guide recommends. Here the so-called conservative press veers away from the style guide and continues

to use the term "women" (and not womyn) to refer to "women." Yet the conservative press often uses feminine terms to refer to men who claim to be women and male terms for women who profess to be men. It also now calls illegal aliens "migrants."

Other examples of wokespeak are creeping into everyday usage. Abortion is now "reproductive health care." We now have "cisgender," "transgender," "binary," "cultural appropriation," "marginalization," "microaggression," "privileged," "safe space," "systemic racism," "social justice," "anti-racism," "unconscious bias," "gender fluid," "gender-affirming care," "Latinx," "preferred pronouns" and "woke" itself.

And then there are the personal pronouns that broadcast one's sexuality and border on silliness. All have intruded into our everyday language.

When Stanford University devoted thousands of dollars and manhours (woke alert!) to write and publish a glossary to eliminate "harmful language" it was mocked to the point that it withdrew the glossary. Stanford said, "The goal of the Elimination of Harmful Language Initiative is to eliminate many forms of harmful language, including racist, violent, and biased (e.g., disability bias, ethnic bias, ethnic slurs, gender bias, implicit bias, sexual bias) language in Stanford websites and code." The glossary was extensive with the preferred translation of hundreds of words. Its website cautions that the website contains language that is offensive or

harmful.

I did not find the content harmful or offensive. I guess only those whiners who suffer microaggressions, feel hurtful and need the shelter of a safe space would be offended. Nonetheless, the left is relentless in seeking to alter how we speak and how we speak does affect the public's perception of things. Note that we have substituted "handicapped" for "crippled." We seldom hear the word "retarded." We now use Native American instead of Indian. I am awaiting the press to use alternatives for black box, blackball, white paper, white hat, black sheep, black mark, brown bag, yellow fever, white paper and "go off the reservation." It's a wonder I haven't been pressured to change my last name although I once reviewed a paper that listed me in the references

as "Harold African-American" - I kid you not.

One must understand the power of language. The left seeks to change our language. It insists that in its current form injustice will continue until the language itself - which they insist represents privilege - is dismantled. The left attacks what it calls "imperialist and patriarchal" systems and charges that "capitalism is racist and racism is capitalism." We are now in the world of the "oppressor versus the oppressed" and universities now feel obligated to acknowledge that they occupy "stolen" lands. As I have written before, if they feel so guilty then why not give the tribes back the land that they likely stole from some other tribe and pay them rent?

All of this wokeness has migrated into the classroom. The teachers' unions

are led by unhinged leftists. Our school children lack proficiency in reading and math but are proficient in wokeness. School systems have dumbed down their curricula and eliminated standards. Some states are proposing to eliminate entrance exams to law and medical schools and then eliminate proficiency exams to be admitted to practice. Schools have ethnic studies curricula that are anti-capitalist, pro-transgender and woke to the extreme. Years of indoctrination in our schools will not lead to a more just and equitable society. Rather it will be a society of that will foster resentment and racial strife. It will also produce generations of illiterates who cannot perform basic skills. This is woke America until we all awaken.



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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Citizens Should Be Represented By Districts

City Councilwoman Amelia Parker is having a community meeting on September 14, 2024, at the Clinton Chapel AME Zion in Mechanicsville at 546 College Street in Knoxville. Parker will speak on questions coming to Knoxville voters in referendum and just what they mean. After educating voters, Councilwoman Parker will tell voters precisely why they should vote NO on ballot

Question #1. That particular question would change the voting system of the Knoxville City Council where every seat on the council would be elected at-large.

Amelia Parker is certainly right that insisting the two top voting getting candidates in a district run city-wide was a mechanism used to keep Blacks off the council. It was also a mechanism used by city mayors to try to influence elections and elect more candidates who would rubber stamp their policies. In fact, that was exactly what Indya Kincaannon attempted to do by backing Matthew Good and then Tim Hill against Amelia Parker in the last election. Neither Indya nor some of Parker's colleagues much liked her asking questions or dissenting.

The majority of city council, all of whom claim to love representative government, are doing their best to dilute district representation with their bogus referendum question. We have at least one member of the

city council who was not the choice of the voters inside the district she supposedly represents.

The present majority on council has no real argument for wanting to eliminate the districts. The equivalent of the same idea would be to elect every congressman and U.S. senator nationwide. It would mean every state legislator should be elected statewide.

The Knoxville City Council has THREE members who are all elected at-large by every voter in the city. Nobody has proposed getting rid of them, but three out of nine, a third of all the council people, is more than enough. The other six council members should be elected by the districts they are supposed to represent. There is no reason in the world why voters citywide should be able to veto the choice of the people of the district. I believe in district representation because people elected by district are closer to the people that they represent. Also, it

does not give any section of the city disproportionate influence.

Congratulations To All The New Officeholders

The winners of the 2024 local elections were officially sworn into office last Tuesday. New members of the Knox County Commission are Andy Fox, Adam Thompson, Angela Russell, Shane Jackson and Damon Rawls. Rawls replaces Commissioner Dasha Lundy in the 1st District; Shane Jackson takes Commissioner Kyle Ward's place in the 4th District; Angela Russell was elected to succeed Commissioner John Schoonmaker in the 5th District; Adam Thompson was elected to succeed Commissioner Richie Beeler; and Andy Fox has replaced Commissioner Carson Dailey in the 9th District.

The Knox County Board of Education also saw four new members take the

oath of office: Travis Wright, Lauren Morgan, Patricia Fontenot-Ridley and Anne Templeton.

Law Director David Buuck was out of town and sworn in last week for a second term. Phil Ballard is once again Knox County's Assessor of Property. John Whitehead and Phil Ballard have now been elected leap-frog style for the past 24 years.

Both the county commission and the board of education elected their leadership. Gina Oster, county commissioner from the 3rd District, was elected chair. The new vice chair of the county commission is Kim Frazier, who holds one of the two at-large commission seats elected by all Knox County voters.

Betsy Henderson, who represents the 6th District on the Knox County Board of Education, was reelected to a second term as chair by her colleagues. Steve Triplett, who represents the 6th District, was also reelected as vice chair of the board.

Oster has been deeply involved in her own community and has taken a "hands-on" approach to helping constituents inside her district. Chairwoman Oster has predicted zoning and development issues will be front and center during the next year and that seems spot on.

Betsy Henderson has been a very able and articulate spokesperson for parental rights and issues. Congratulations to all the new officeholders!

Election Turnout Matters

There are more armchair political strategists in the country than even football coaches in waiting. The fact is, the outcome of the 2024 election is going to come down to one thing: turnout. All talk about the presidential race, as well as those below the presidential ballot, mean little or nothing with fewer and fewer people participating. You get what you vote for.

BOE discusses AED logistics

Continued from page 1

presenting challenges, specifically events that are held in large, open areas like golf and cross country.

He said a formula will have to be worked out for those scenarios.

Training school staff to use AED was also questioned during the workshop. Fourth District's Katherine Bike asked about the training.

"Will all of our staff and teachers be trained on how to use an AED? I know that some or most have verbal instruction, but I think though, those aren't always straightforward," Bike said.

Dupler said training to use AEDs is a "component" of the state law, but he said the law does not specify "everyone" has to be trained to use AED.

"Certainly if you're going to use it, there has to be some training," Dupler said.

Andrew Brown, assistant superintendent of Student Success with Knox County Schools, clarified the situation by noting all AED users must be certified in CPR and trained on how to use AED.

"We do not train everyone. We do make training in CPR and first aid available," he said. CPR training and first aid training are requirements to be on a school's



Travis Wright with son, Colby, takes the oath of office for his seat on the school board last week.

cardiac emergency response team and to use AED.

Brown said any staff member or teacher wanting to be trained for AED will have that training provided for them free of charge.

"We've never turned anyone away," he said.

He also said each school has an AED team.

Brown said there is not a set number on how many people must be on a school's AED team and the number of members will vary depending on the size of the school.

9/11 stair climb postponed

By Mike Steely
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The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Memorial Stair Climb honoring the 343 New York firefighters who lost their lives in the September 11, 2021, terrorist attack on the World Trade Center isn't taking place at Knoxville's Sunsphere this year.

The event will take place on October 6 at the First Horizon Plaza downtown. The memorial event honors all fallen firefighters and is open to first responders

including fire, police, EMS, military, ROTC and Rescue Squad members.

The city's 9/11 wreath-laying ceremony will take place on September 11 beginning at 8:40 a.m. in front of the City-County Building at the 9/11 Memorial. At 8:46 a.m., there will be a moment of silence, and then First Baptist Church will ring its bells to mark the time hijackers crashed American Airlines Flight 11 into the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

The stair climb was moved due to construction going on at the Sunsphere.

Commission chooses Oster as chair

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Russell and Jackson joined the Audit Committee. Jay was chosen to represent the commission on the Fire and Technical Rescue Committee and Thompson was selected to serve on the Employee

Insurance Committee.

Fox, Russell and Shane Jackson were added to the Joint Education Committee. Rawls and Lee went to the Metro Drug Board and Lee, Durrett, Russell and Hill became Personnel Committee members.

Fox became a member of the Public Records Committee and Jackson and Rawls joined Hill on the Retirement and Pension Board.

Thompson was named to the Agricultural Committee as well as the Codes Committee.

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Closing of Lobetti Road on commission agenda

By Mike Steely
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The second and final reading of two proposed closings of Lobetti Road at Ball Camp Pike and the new extension of Schaad Road is on the Knox County Commission agenda. The agenda review meeting is set for 3 p.m. Monday, September 16, when items will be chosen for discussion the following Monday during the commission's regular session. The chair and commissioners may provide input to firm up the regular meeting's agenda at the review.

Some neighbors on and around Lobetti have voiced an objection to the closings.

The commission also plans to honor the five former members and discuss various appointments of citizens to boards.

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs may make appointments to the Northeast Knox Utility Board and the Knox County

Sheriff's Office Employees' Merit System Board.

The Engineering and Public Works Department has several items on the agenda including resurfacing contracts for Mascot Road, Maloneyville Road and East Beaver Creek Drive and the widening of East Emory Road from Belltown Development to Clinton Highway. The department is also requesting funding for improvements at Sam Lee Road and a railroad agreement for resurfacing the crossing on Maryville Pike from the Blount County line to State Route 71.

Engineering is also asking for a contract with Waste Management Inc. for waste collection at Knox County agencies, schools and Public Building Authority facilities. Several other Engineering projects are on the agenda including reimbursement to the I-40/75 Business Park with grant funds of \$795,892.

The Knox County Health

Department is asking for approval of several agenda items including a needs assessment and environmental scan of mental health resources and \$2,000 from the Parents as Teachers National Center, Inc.

An agreement for group life insurance for government and school employees is on the agenda and the Forensic Department is asking for approval of grant funds to use in genetic genealogy testing to help identify persons and cold cases.

A second and final reading of changing the Knox County Code to comply with new guidelines from Homeland Security may also be discussed.

Those agenda items selected by the agenda review meeting next Monday will pass on to the regular meeting on September 23 and those chosen as "consent" items can be approved in one vote.

School board accepts grant for girls flag football program

Continued from page 1
agreement with Elgin Children's Foundation and grant for up to \$8,000 for student transportation costs.

- A memorandum of understanding with Knox County Education Foundation or grant funding of \$20,000 for the Elevate Program for the 2024-2025 school year.

- Approve \$10,000 donation agreement with Big History Project LLC for the Knox County School social studies department.

One of the policies passed Thursday also raised a few questions, though just about training for the policy.

The board passed a policy on "instructional use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools.

Knox County Schools Assistant Superintendent Keith Wilson said some teachers had training last summer in advance of the new policy.

"There were multiple sessions on best practices and

things like that," Wilson said. "A smaller group has been working with the technology department to create a teacher's guidance document around appropriate use on different levels and how students might engage in using those tools.

"It (training) will be ongoing as we get more practice with it (AI)," he said.

The board approved amendments to another 17 policies Thursday night ranging from "alternative school programs" to "professional growth opportunities."

The board will also be releasing a survey later for help formulating a new five year plan.

Superintendent Jon Rysewyk said four parts of the survey will focus on priorities for the system and a fifth part will focus on the student and parent experience in the system.

The board hopes to collate the survey information in October and have a plan ready to be voted on in the spring of 2025.

City council declares dwelling abandoned

Cont. from page 1

is one of three houses on the street she owns and she said she either wanted to rent it again as a home or create a workshop there.

Several council members asked the Planning Review and Inspections Director Peter Ahrens questions about the structure. He said his department tracks down any place when power is reinstalled.

He also detailed information about when a property is considered abandoned.

Councilwoman Seema

Singh cited state regulations that require electricity to be disconnected for three years before it is considered abandoned. Councilman Tommy Smith said the situation is "very complex."

Ahrens said the dwelling is zoned RN-2 and is "non-conforming," so an occupancy permit is automatically removed under the city's new standards.

Councilwoman Lauren Rider questioned the difference between abandoned and unoccupied.

"Let's be realistic," said

Councilwoman Lynne Fugate. She said she was very sympathetic to the homeowner and added, "You don't expect anyone to look at the zoning code before turning it off."

Smith said that if the owner planned to abandon the house, they would have done more than just shut the electricity off and added there appeared to be no intent to abandon the structure.

"Unfortunately, it is what it is," said Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie of the situation.

Singh moved to approve the appeal with Smith's second but it failed on a voice vote. The vote to deny the appeal was 7-2.

The council also heard from Homestead Land Holdings LLC, who requested a zoning change for 962 North Gallaher View Road. The request was for changing the zoning from RN-1 to RN-5 with the idea of building 24 townhomes on the property. The lot is on the corner of Mars Hill Road and has an abandoned house there.

Several residents said

the lot is surrounded by neighborhood homes that are zoned R-1 and the request did not qualify. Several council members spoke on the request, one noting that Knoxville needs more diversity in housing.

Approval of the RN-5 request failed 4-5. The developer said he would accept an RN-4, which is more restrictive, and that request was approved in a 5-4 vote.

In other business the council approved a code change regarding towing rates and storage fees

for vehicles; designated Knoxville as a Broadband Ready Community; hired National Building Services Inc. for janitorial services at various community centers; and reimbursed Lakeshore Park Conservancy \$133,502 for Central Services Courtyard paving work.

A zoning change from RN-1 to RN-2 was approved for 3225 Essary Drive; 1214 and 1224 Callaway Street went from RN-2 to RN-4; and 6505 Deane Hill Drive changed from General Industrial to Office.

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Positive Law

Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. John Adams

Americans take things for granted; it's human nature. I'll switch to the personal pronoun and say I expect to wake up every morning and everything will still work. Unfortunately, my 73-year-old body no longer awakens pain free as it did when I was young. In fact, a good day is when I have less than two nagging infirmities to deal with. Becky and I understand this price of life and consequently never throw away various braces, splints, wraps and microwavable hot packs which we've acquired and store in our "orthopedic" foot locker.

In a somewhat similar vein, inculcated in Americans is the concept of free speech. This does not exist elsewhere in the world where there is no foundational First Amendment. In fact, when The Constitution was

written, James Madison and other Founders refused to sign the document without the assurance that The Constitution would be immediately amended with what we call The Bill of Rights.

There have been 27 Constitutional Amendments, but these first ten are integral to Americanism, especially The First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

We hear a lot about the prohibition of a state religion, but seem to disregard the free exercise clause. In fact, Obama complained that The Constitution was a "set of negative liberties." Absolutely! The Constitution was designed to limit the government, not We The People.

The Founders were a diverse bunch of various Protestant groups, Catholics, Quakers, Jews, Deists, even atheists. Nonetheless, the Declaration of Independence and The Constitution reveal the foundational principles of America.

You might think The Constitution says there should be a "wall of separation" between church and state. Actually, it does not. Shortly after Thomas Jefferson was elected president in 1800, he wrote a letter to Baptists in Danbury, Connecticut, reassuring them that their legislature was not going to establish a state religion as existed in England, because there existed "a wall of separation between Church and State."

However, in 1947 Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black used Jefferson's obscure metaphor in the Everson v. Board of Education decision thereby "constitutionalizing" the private writings of Jefferson which were never intended for the Constitution.

The First Amendment also guarantees freedom of the press and the right of citizens to petition the government. However, my focus of this essay is freedom and speech, which is under attack worldwide and in America.

Recently, Macron's French government

arrested Telegram CEO Pavel Duron claiming he doesn't police content on his chat messenger. Britain just passed an "extremism" law warning people - including Americans - of arrest for posting what they deem as objectionable "hate speech." Elon Musk's X was just banned in Brazil when Musk refused to accept the government's censorship. The EU has similarly threatened X. Zelensky shut down the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Venezuela's Maduro arrested his opposition leader after a tainted election, just like the Democrats are trying to lock up President Trump. Leftist journalists in America are calling for the arrest of Elon Musk because they don't like his politics. And in 2019 Kamala Harris said Trump should be removed from Twitter (now called X).

This June the Supremes decided in *Murphy v. Missouri* that social media platforms can censor speech. The case was brought against the Biden/Harris administration for coercing platforms to suppress speech with which they disagreed. Of course, this was before Zuckerberg admitted during congressional testimony under oath that the Biden/Harris administration did pressure platforms to suppress free speech.

I'm a free speech advocate because suppressing speech and information

is far worse. Furthermore, who gets to determine what is objectionable or wrong, what is hateful or evil? I believe the consensus of Americans would agree that slavery is wrong, pedophilia is sick and Nazis were evil. But what do you do with radicals at Columbia who promote antisemitism? What about Muslims slaughtering Christians in Nigeria?

The reason I'm an absolutist is because without an absolute standard of right, everything is relative. I believe there is an absolute good which I see as God. I measure myself against that standard. Actually, all our laws derive from this foundational truth. President Trump said, "Without religion there are no guardrails," and we've begun to see what happens when there is a "wall of separation between church and state."

In the 13th century Thomas Aquinas and the Scholastics devised a series of hierarchical laws which I envision as concentric spheres. The Scholastics imagined everything as existing within God's Universal Law. Within that sphere were God's laws, like The Ten Commandments. And within that are the laws of nature. Finally, the lowest level of function and the smallest sphere is the so-called positive law of man.

Some years ago, the phrase "What would Jesus

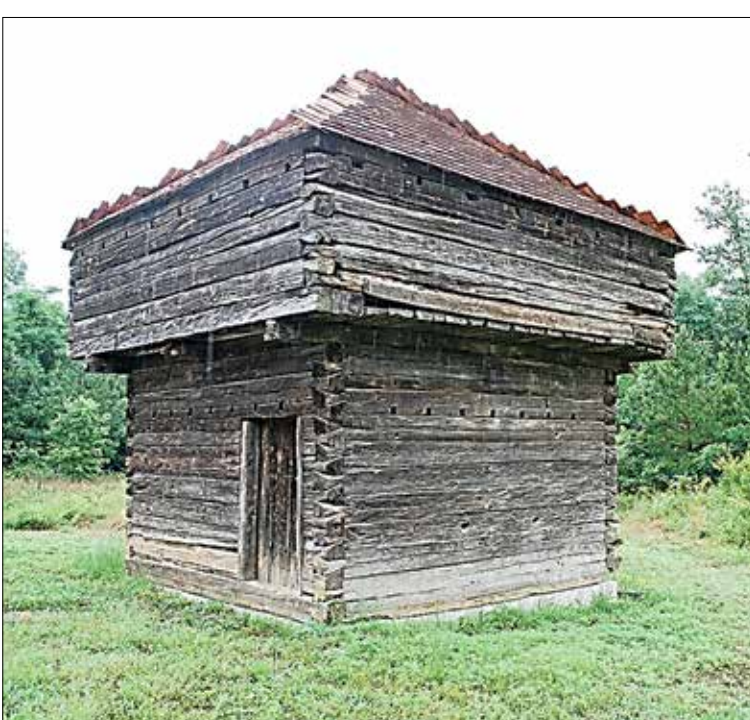
do?" was popular. I still use this metaphorical yardstick. I don't steal or lie and mostly obey the speed limit. I certainly don't murder or use the Lord's name in vain. I obey Man's laws of speed limits and the Constitution because there are consequences for disobedience. But more important than man's laws, I answer to God for my actions. Jesus is my guardrail.

The ancients thought a civilization could be constructed on what we now refer to as the Cardinal virtues. These are: common sense, courage, justice and moderation. Then Paul in 1 Corinthians 13, wrote what we refer to as the Theological virtues of faith, hope and love (charity). I see these as the metaphorical rudder for my ship, afloat on the celestial sea of Creation.

And so we come full circle. We have laws which were designed to promote "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." We exist in God's Creation (nature), sustained by His love and grace. And we were given virtues to navigate through life and be prosperous. C. S. Lewis described what we "ought" to do or ignore at our peril.

Pay attention, folks. God is watching and nudging your conscience. Don't ignore Him.

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



The original Fort Marr in Benton, Tn., was relocated from Old Fort, south of the Polk County town. The community also has the noted grave of Cherokee's Beloved Woman Nancy Ward.

Visiting Old Fort Marr in Benton

Many of our region's historical structures are not where they originally stood. Many, like Fort South West Point in Kingston, were reconstructed where the fort once stood and others, like Fort White in Knoxville, used much of the original material in rebuilding the fort in a different location.

Fort Loudoun in Vonore was rebuilt above the flood waters of the Little Tennessee River and its former location and the Tellico Blockhouse there was unearthed but not rebuilt.

In Knoxville, the site of Fort Sanders, a Civil War stronghold,

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

now holds a neighborhood. Many years ago Dr. James Faulkner found a small fort along the Third Creek Greenway north of the railroad tracks and preserved the breastworks there.

There is one other fort in our area that, like the James White Fort, has been relocated but is intact and is always available to visit without a charge. It's located in the town of Benton just off Highway 411 south of Etowah.

Benton is where the Ocoee and Hiwassee rivers join north of the state line with Georgia. The town has a couple of historic places

including the actual remains of Fort Marr, or Fort Morrow, and the famous grave of the Cherokee's Beloved Woman Nancy Ward.

Originally Fort Marr was built in 1814 as a supply depot for Tennessee troops during the Creek War but was used again in 1838 to house removal forces who rounded up Cherokee and force marched them west during the Trail of Tears. Soldiers there served under the command of Captain John Morrow.

Several blockhouses were built for the Cherokee Removal and one survived.

Fort Marr was not originally located in Benton, but in Old Town, Tennessee, south of Benton just north of the Georgia line. It was physically removed

Continue on page 2

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Banned but not forgotten

Banned but not forgotten

The other night, Amy and I sat down to watch a movie. We chose an old, black-and-white version of "To Kill a Mockingbird." It was the one where Gregory



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

longer allowed in schools. Someone threw a hissy fit and demanded that it be banned. From what I understand, one of the greatest books of our times is no longer available to students

that time. Just because a word was used at one time period is no reason to blank it out from pages or deny children access to such a wonderful book.

For years, I had my students read "To Kill a Mockingbird." They grumbled for a while, but most of them were captivated by the narration and the characters. We discussed those things and compared them to present times. Arguments sometimes arose, but my friends, some of the best education students ever received came from those disagreements and the sharing of ideas. Many never changed their viewpoints, but at least they learned to express and defend them during those

discussions. Is that a bad thing for a book to do?

Other great works of literature are among the most often-banned list. "Of Mice and Men" is gone. The story in many ways reminds me of "Rain Man," where a man watches over a slower individual. It has been banned because of "vulgarity, racism, and treatment of women." Those two migrant workers teach important lessons through their actions in the book.

"The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" is also blacklisted. I am sure one reason for its ouster is the racism. Another reason is the book's use of coarse language, such as "sweat" instead of "perspiration." Some even cite the book's

sarcasm and satire as reasons to keep the pages from children. I know that "Catcher in the Rye" is a rough book and understand, to a degree, why it is off the shelves of school libraries. However, this book brilliantly captures the character of a disturbed young person. Not much on those pages will shock most older teens; they've seen such things in their favorite movies many times.

I could go on with more examples of banned great literature, but most folks get the point. The facts remain, however, that racism still exists, that people do wrong things, and that curse words are sometimes the best words

to create a powerful sentence. If a parent chooses to not have a child read a book, teachers are more than capable of finding alternatives that will teach skills and literary appreciation to students. Our society is growing less tolerant each year. We have devolved to look more like our forefathers who made decisions for people instead of allowing the freedom of choice. I hope that someday children will be able to read books for their overall point of view. An educated population is much more able to solve the problems about which they might read.

Visiting Old Fort Marr

Cont. from page 1

land relocated to Benton. The town was founded in 1840 as the Polk County seat and had been known as McCamy's Stock Stand. The new town was named for Missouri U. S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton.

Nearby attractions include Big Frog Mountain, the Conasauga Snorkel Hole with a diverse aquatic population, the Ocoee River's whitewater sites, and hiking trails along the Old Copper Road leading to the mining communities of

Ducktown and Turkeytown. A hiking trail at Lake McCamy leads to Benton Falls.

Visiting Fort Marr and the historic Nancy Ward grave could make a good day outing for the family and you could loop back to Knoxville by way of Cleveland or Athens.

More information about Benton and Polk County can be found on the internet at ocoeecountry.com or you could call the Polk County Chamber of Commerce at (423)338-5040.

Knox GOP Leadership Establishes Victory Committee

Elected Republican leaders in Knox County have committed over \$70,000 to ensure Republican victories up and down the ballot this November. It is to be the first well funded and organized victory campaign by county republicans in many years.

These funds will be used to develop and place ads across a variety of platforms with a focus on stopping Knox County's gradual trend toward a democrat majority.

The donors include: US

Sen. Marsha Blackburn, Congressman Tim Burchett, Lt. Governor Randy McNally, Mayor Glenn Jacobs, Sen. Becky Massey, Sen. Richard Briggs, Rep. Jason Zachary, Rep. Justin Lafferty, Rep. Dave Wright, Rep. Michele Carringer and Rep. Elaine Davis.

Political consultant Andrew Davis, former aide to Rep. Burchett and Mayor Jacobs, has been retained to manage the victory campaign. Knox County GOP Chairman Buddy Burkhardt

has agreed to allow the county GOP to act as a fundraising vehicle for the campaign.

"As a military veteran, I know what it means to work as a team," said Senator Briggs. "I will not be on the ballot this fall, but my colleagues in the delegation will. I'm happy to support the cause and ensure we

protect our majority." "Under Republican leadership, Knox County has become the best place to live, work and raise a family," said Rep. Zachary. "In November, we need to make clear that we will not allow a big government, progressive philosophy to change the landscape of our community."

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James P. Pope of Idaho & Tennessee

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

I doubt very much if any readers recall James Pinckney Pope, but there was a time when his name was quite well known here. Indeed, for 24 years of his life, Jim Pope lived in Knoxville with his wife, Pauline; Jim Pope was one of the more prominent citizens of Knoxville.

Tall, bald on top, and bespectacled, Pope looked more like an affluent accountant than a politician, but he had enjoyed a varied and colorful career. Born in Jonesborough, Louisiana, Jim Pope graduated from what was later Louisiana Tech University in 1906. Degree in hand, Pope left for Chicago where he attended the Chicago School of Law. Taking heed of Horace Greeley's famous advice, "Go West, young man, and grow up with the country," Pope took his law degree and moved to Idaho, settling in Boise. Eventually, Pope became the assistant to Boise's city attorney, and then an assistant attorney general for the State of Idaho. Jim Pope also served as a member of Idaho's Board of Education. In 1928, Jim Pope was elected mayor of Boise as a Democrat.

In 1932, James P. Pope was the Democratic nominee for the United States Senate to face Republican incumbent John Thomas. Thomas, a wealthy rancher and businessman, was swallowed up in the tidal wave that installed Franklin D. Roosevelt as president of the United States and washed out GOP incumbents in both houses of Congress. Jim Pope won better than 55% of the ballots cast in the general election.

Once inside the Senate, James P. Pope became a stalwart supporter of President Roosevelt and the New Deal. Pope's loyalty to Roosevelt and the New Deal would become a major issue in his 1938 reelection campaign when he faced a strong challenge inside his own Democratic primary.

Profoundly angry with those Democrats inside the United States Senate who dared to defy him, President Franklin Roosevelt set out to purge those apostates who had refused to back his plan to pack the U.S. Supreme Court. Roosevelt, unquestionably one of the most popular and powerful presidents in American history, experienced his first singular political failure in being unable to dislodge a single senatorial incumbent inside the Democratic primaries.

Senator James P. Pope had the support of the Roosevelt Administration in his primary contest with Congressman D. Worth Clark, who was more conservative. Clark, a staunch opponent of American intervention in foreign wars, beat Senator Pope

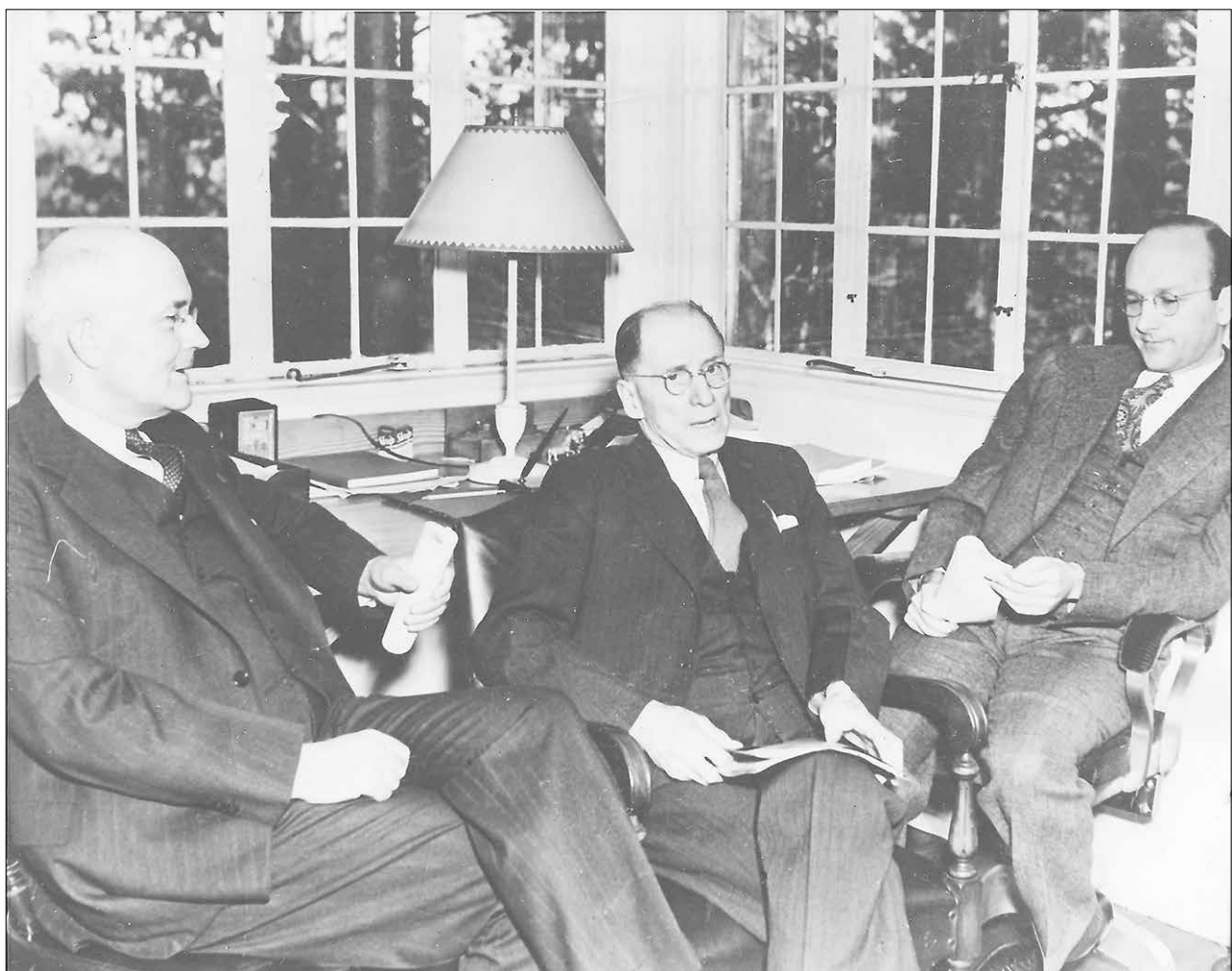
by just over 3,000 votes, winning the Democratic nomination with almost 52% of the vote. President Roosevelt was both aghast and incensed. Roosevelt, pointing to the supposedly 20,000 Republicans who had voted inside the Democratic primary to support D. Worth Clark, snapped it was "immoral." The piqued FDR ignored his own support for Independent George W. Norris against a Democratic candidate in Nebraska, as well as other instances of having wandered off the reservation.

Senator James Pope was one of the first fallen incumbents to be taken care of by President Roosevelt. FDR offered Pope a seat on the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors, which the former Idaho senator accepted. That appointment meant Pope would have to move to Knoxville where the TVA was headquartered. On January 12, 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed James P. Pope to the TVA Board. Republican Styles Bridges of New Hampshire huffed Roosevelt's appointment of Pope to the TVA Board of Directors was illegal. Bridges' logic was somewhat twisted as he contended Roosevelt's removal of Board Chairman Arthur E. Morgan had been "unwarranted and illegal." Morgan had made something of a spectacle of himself by making accusations against his colleagues; the conflict had escalated between Morgan and David Lilienthal.

President Roosevelt, who disliked personal confrontations, finally demanded Arthur Morgan substantiate his charges against his fellow board members in general and David Lilienthal in particular. Arthur Morgan either couldn't or wouldn't provide proof of his accusations. When Morgan finally refused, FDR fired him.

The objections of Senator Styles Bridges notwithstanding, James P. Pope was easily confirmed by the Senate for a six-year term on TVA's Board of Directors. Even Bridges was careful to say he had no quarrel with Pope's nomination personally, but he thought the former Idaho senator's nomination was "establishing a vicious principle." Bridges contended the courts would uphold Arthur Morgan's lawsuit that the board chairman's removal had been illegal. Bridges, in his tortured logic, said if so, Pope's appointment would prove to be invalid.

Under the watchful eye of Tennessee's senior United States Senator Kenneth D. McKellar, the Senate collectively ignored Bridges' objections and confirmed Pope's nomination. In fact, the courts did not uphold Arthur Morgan's contention he had been fired



ACME NEWS PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

The board of directors for the Tennessee Valley Authority in February 1939 are (left to right) James P. Pope, Harcourt A. Morgan and David Lilienthal.

wrongfully. FDR's "utopian" faded into obscurity. Roosevelt had fired Arthur Morgan for "contumacy," which is a failure to obey authority.

Besieged by newsmen following his confirmation by his former colleagues in the United States Senate, Pope politely said he didn't wish to discuss TVA policy or the like until he had traveled to Knoxville to better familiarize himself with the agency's operations. The former Idaho senator casually mentioned he expected to leave for Knoxville "in a few days."

The two incumbents on the Tennessee Valley Board of Directors following Arthur Morgan's ouster were Harcourt A. Morgan and David Lilienthal. Harcourt Morgan said he was pleased the president intended to fill the vacancy caused by Arthur Morgan's removal and had kind words for Jim Pope. "Senator Pope, a native of the southeast, has had considerable contact with the problems of our program."

On January 17, 1939, James P. Pope arrived in Knoxville, Tennessee, by train. Dr. Harcourt A. Morgan and a band of TVA officials awaited the arrival of the former senator at the railway station. Dr. Morgan, the newly installed chairman of the TVA Board, welcomed Pope and escorted the former senator to his office on the fourth floor of the New Sprinkle Building. Jim Pope occupied the offices that had formerly belonged to Arthur Morgan. Pope had visited many TVA projects when he had been a member of a special committee investigating phosphate sources while in the United States Senate. Pope had come to Knoxville as a member of that same special committee.

"I expect to look over some of the new TVA projects and meet the TVA personnel," Pope told gathered reporters. The new TVA Director told reporters he had not decided if he would live in Knoxville or Norris. The former senator said he was expecting Mrs. Pope to arrive on Sunday, a few days away. Their two sons, Ross and George, were living their own lives. Ross, 24 years

old, was the chief clerk at the Hotel Boise in Idaho, while 19-year-old George was a student at George Washington University.

Not everyone greeted James Pope warmly. Just two days after Senator Pope's arrival in Knoxville, Elizabeth Dilling followed him into town. Mrs. Dilling was the author of "The Red Network," a book about Communist infiltration, and made a public appearance at Knoxville's Lyric Theatre where she spoke "in a staccato, machine-gun fashion" and proceeded to attack the American Civil Liberties Union, the American League for Peace & Democracy, the National Youth Congress, and the American Committee for Aid to the Spanish Government. Mrs. Dilling charged those same organizations were "front organizations" for the Soviet Union. Nor did it bother Mrs. Dilling to name names. The author proceeded to tell her audience Albert Einstein, Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, and James P. Pope, along with several others, were "willing or unintentional agents of Soviet Russia." Mrs. Dilling insisted a "small group of radicals" controlled the New Deal and made the accusation Republicans were aiding the Communists. Naturally, after having charged just about everyone, save for herself, with aiding or abetting the Reds, few paid any attention to her accusations.

A few days after his arrival, the first delegation of Knoxville citizens marched to James Pope's offices to "adopt" him as an official citizen of Knoxville. Among those gathered in Pope's office were Guy Smith, editor of the Knoxville Journal, along with the vice mayor and Knox County judge, who was the equivalent of the county mayor at the time.

Harcourt Morgan, introducing the delegation of eleven men, told Pope, "Here you have a good cross-section of Knoxville. You have here Democrats, Republicans, businessmen, professional men, public officials, good men, and demagogues. . . maybe." That brought a

chorus of laughter from those present.

Vice Mayor Fred Allen stepped forward and told the new TVA Director, "We want to adopt you right now as a citizen of Knoxville. We want you to become a real naturalized East Tennessean. We want to cordially welcome you into our midst."

The delegation good-naturedly joked with Pope about his family tree, his police record, whether he went to church, his cattleboat trip to Europe and his Southern home. "While I was in the Senate, a lot of people wrote me about my family tree to see if they were kin to me," Pope said before pausing to add, "I never did want to find out all about it."

"That is very nice of you," Jim Pope replied sincerely. "I appreciate very much your taking time to come up here to welcome me. I want you to feel free at any time to come back to see me about any matter, about anything of a civic nature or in any way I can be of service to you or this community."

Quite likely, Pope's ability as a skillful politician enabled him to weave himself gently into the fabric of Knoxville's business and social life. Pope cheerfully executed those duties that normally befell prominent public men and women. Pope spoke at commencements, dedications and any other occasion where there was a need for a little speech and the shaking of hands.

In 1951, James Pope surprised many of his friends and neighbors when the TVA Director wrote President Harry Truman. Pope wrote that he had served on the TVA Board since January of 1939 "during a period of great activity and development in the Tennessee Valley." Pope stated, "It is a matter of great satisfaction to me to have had some part in one of the most significant and constructive undertakings in American history." For anyone familiar with history, especially in East Tennessee, it was not an overstatement by any means.

Pope told President Truman he was not an applicant for reappointment as a member of the

TVA Board of Directors. "Since I would reach the statutory age of retirement when only a minor part of the term could be served, I deem it to be in the interest of TVA to make way for the appointment of a younger man who could legally serve the full term of nine years as provided by law."

Pope had kept a ranch in Idaho and following his retirement from TVA, said he would likely visit the state he had represented in the U.S. Senate. "I shall take it easy for a while," Pope told a reporter. "I am considerably behind in my fishing."

Pope continued to live in Knoxville and practiced a little law. Pauline Pope died in 1957, leaving her husband alone in Knoxville. The two Pope sons lived elsewhere. Ross Pope lived in Alexandria, Virginia, while George Pope lived in Washington, D.C. Pope's health began to deteriorate, and he moved from Knoxville to Alexandria, Virginia, in 1963, where he resided at the Hermitage Nursing Home to receive proper care and be closer to his family. Jim Pope lived for three more years, dying on January 23, 1966.

When it came time to bury the former senator in his final resting place, the Pope family did not return James P. Pope's mortal remains to Idaho for burial. The earthly remains of James Pope were taken back to Knoxville where the former senator was laid to rest in Lynnhurst Cemetery beside his late wife. Apparently, at least for Jim Pope, Knoxville was home.

Jim Pope sleeps there to this day.

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Fourteen Knox teams to play Girls Flag Football

TSSAA version is not 'Powder Puff'

By Steve Williams

Girls touch or flag football in high school has been around for decades, with girls within the school dividing up for one game in the school year and usually during the homecoming festivities. It was called "Powder Puff football."

Times are a changin'.

Girls Flag Football is now an "emerging sanctioned sport" in TSSAA, with the possibility of soon being a full-fledged sport

with regular season play and state playoffs.

Fourteen Knox County Schools said to count them in.

They are: Austin East, Bearden, Career Magnet, Carter, Central, Farragut, Fulton, Gibbs, Halls, Hardin Valley, Karns, Powell, South Doyle and West.

These 14 teams will make up District 2 and also include Anderson County High.

"There are 16 districts across the state right now," said Karns Athletic Director Ben Collins. "Districts 2 and 4 (Chattanooga area) are playing in the Fall/Winter season.

"There are 160 schools that are going to participate this year across the state during different seasons. Since Girls Flag Football is an emerging sport, the sport is allowed to be played in different seasons. Once it is fully sanctioned, the TSSAA will place it in the season it chooses."

Collins added that the TSSAA has talked about the possibility of a post-season tournament in early May of 2025, which would include the top team in each district.

All emerging sports must go through a one-year trial period before a state championship

tournament will be added.

The local teams will have two weeks of practice, starting Oct. 28. District games will be played on Mondays starting Nov. 11 and ending Dec. 9. Each week five schools will host district play. Three teams will play at each site in a round robin. Game times will be at 5, 6 and 7 p.m.

Each school will play 10 district games and can schedule up to six more for a total of 16 for the season.

"We have around 30 girls that are going to try out for the inaugural team at Karns," said Collins. "The girls are very excited to

start a new tradition and leave a legacy for the girls that will follow in this sport in the years to come."

Luke DeFur is the Head Coach at Karns and also serves as an assistant coach for the boys' football team.

DIVISION II: In a survey of local private schools, CAK, Knoxville Catholic and Webb indicated they will not have GFF this school year. Grace Christian Athletic Director Marcus Dilligard recently said he was going to check the "interest" again at GCA.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



PHOTO BY MARIAH CLAY

South-Doyle junior Demorris McKenzie eyes running room against Austin-East Friday night. The Cherokees overcame an early deficit and pulled away for a 20-12 win over the Roadrunners.

South-Doyle and Headrick notch first win

By Steve Williams

Austin-East and South-Doyle went into Week 3 looking not only for a win, but points.

It took almost the entire first half, but the Cherokees hit the jackpot in the final two minutes and went on to defeat the host Roadrunners 20-12 at Sam Anderson Field and George "Dusty" Lennon Stadium

Friday night.

Isaiah Mitchell kicked a 32-yard field goal and freshman wide receiver Rondell North pulled down a 32-yard pass from Cade Carr for South-Doyle's first touchdown of the season with 7.8 seconds to spare.

Carr was making his first start at quarterback due to fellow sophomore Benson Brang suffering a broken leg at Heritage in Game 2.

The Cherokees had scored only two points on a safety in their first two games. The Roadrunners had done a little better with 12 points in their season opener.

Not only was it a night for finally reaching payday, but it was Larry (L.A.) Headrick's first victory in his prep coaching career.

A big smile ran across the coach's face when asked

about it.

"It feels great. It's kind of surreal right now," he said. "It's been a journey really since January and just trying to figure things out. Are you doing things the right way, right? There are things that happen and you think 'I've got this thing figured out,' but then as it kind of develops, you say, 'Hey, there's more to it than

Cont. on page 2

West beats Farragut, 38-3

By Mark Nagi

The West Rebels have had the upper hand in their rivalry with the Farragut Admirals in recent years, and last Friday's matchup was no different. Make it six straight wins for the Rebels, following a convincing 38-3 victory at Eddie Courtney Stadium.

"This game historically is a dogfight to the end," said West head coach Lamar Brown. "I was really proud of our kids. They came out ready to play and played a great 48 minutes."

"They are just a really good football team," said Farragut head coach Geoff Courtney. "We are still growing and trying to develop."

The game could not have gotten off to a much better start than it did for the visiting Rebels. Following an opening drive 3 and out by the Farragut offense, the Admirals were forced to punt. Antwain Burdine caught the punt at midfield, split the Ads defense and was finally knocked out of bounds at the 2-yard line.

"He (Burdine) starts at safety, he plays every position on offense, he's the guy that offensively we want to move him around," said Brown. "The more times he touches the football the better we are."

"This game historically is a dogfight to the end. I was really proud of our kids. They came out ready to play and played a great 48 minutes."

-West Coach Lamar Brown

Two plays later, Anterius McAlister muscled the football into the end zone from a yard out. The game wasn't even two minutes old, and West was on top 7-0.

Farragut (0-3) was able to move the football effectively for the first time on their third drive of the game. It started with a beautiful 29-yard pass play from Noah Haag to Landon Collins. That put the Admirals into West territory at the 36-yard line. The Ads would get as far as the West 15 but had to settle for a 37-yard FG from Ryan McCue. That made it a 7-3 game.

After these teams exchanged punts, West (2-1) began to take control of the game. First came a 9-play, 46-yard drive which ended when quarterback Parker Dubon called his own number and scored on a 7-yard TD run, making it 14-3.

Following a Farragut turnover, the Rebels

Cont. on page 4

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Ayres Hall, old scoreboard dominated north end of Shields-Watkins Field

Stories about Tennessee football come in all shapes and sizes and from a number of perspectives. This one came from a son wanting to honor his family's influence on Tennessee football history.

The old scoreboard, termed a Postcraft Athletic Timer and located at the north end of Shields-Watkins Field, has been a source of fascination for many Vol fans over the years. The edifice was actually located outside the confines of the stadium near one corner of Alumni Gym.

Before the arrival of the east upper deck auxiliary scoreboard in 1968, this was the only location where Tennessee fans could keep track of the game's progress, by quarter, score, down and distance, and/or yard line.

A long-ago phone call and subsequent interview introduced me to the people who actually operated the scoreboard from 1940-65.

"My dad, Carl Coleman, worked for many years for Post Sign Company and was involved in erecting the black scoreboard on 'The

Hill' behind the bleachers at the north end," said his son, Richard Coleman.

There were two workers inside the structure and two on the east sideline, he said. They communicated by phone, the cord being hooked into a box near the 50-yard line on the east side.

"He was one of those 'self-educated' engineers," said Richard. "He didn't graduate from Central High School, maybe lacking half a credit, but he's one of the smartest men I ever knew. Dad became involved in its operation almost from the start and took over after a couple of years. From that time until its demolition, it was more-or-less a family operation.

In 1944, Richard started going to the games with his dad, sitting on the tarpaulin on the east side. "At about age 14, I was with Dad on the field during the first half, helping set up the phone and managing the wire for him.

"He and I would operate the board in the second half, while my brother, Bob, and brother-in-law, Tom Burkhart, took care of the field operation. This continued until the old scoreboard was demolished, and operation was done from the press box."



Running the scoreboard was a "family affair" for Richard Coleman. John Hollingsworth photo.

Richard also said his dad designed, built, and installed scoreboards for the old Sugar Bowl (Tulane Stadium in New Orleans), Ladd Stadium in Mobile, Ala., and at the University of North Carolina. He didn't have a business card that said, "We do scoreboards," but he really didn't need one.

The new scoreboard was erected in 1940, the season before Bob Neyland and many Vol players headed off to World War II. Neyland, who thought "outside the box" before that term became popular, gave the Colemans very specific

instructions about running the board. Note that there was no advertising on the board, but there would be in later years when a new scoreboard was built. Coca-Cola ended up on the new board that arrived in 1966.

"Dad's directions from Gen. Neyland were to get the information on the board in the shortest time possible," said Robert. "He even said that speed was more important that absolute accuracy. I defy anyone, even in this day of computers and press box operation, to get data from the field to the scoreboard as fast as we did, with the

same degree of accuracy."

Then came an insight into Neyland's thought processes. "He told Dad he used the scoreboard. He wanted to know down and distance. He said 'as soon as you know when the ball's down, put it up there. If you make a mistake, you can always change it.'"

He said his dad was "uncanny" in being able to "figure out what was going to happen. He could spot the ball and call out the down, distance, and yard line before the official marked the ball for play.

"He would go downfield just prior to a punt and

usually the play would end right in front of him."

It was an all-day proposition for the Colemans. "We'd have an early breakfast and then head for the stadium before noon. Dad hated traffic. We'd park downtown and walk to the stadium. Sometimes he'd work a half day, and I'd ride the bus to meet him."

Richard recalled doing some scoreboard watching when he was at Neyland Stadium. "I got frustrated when I went over there, and thought, 'What yard line is it? I can't see from here.' The guy sitting in the press box should be able to do that quickly. Some people are a bit hesitant, maybe afraid of making a mistake."

The family had a remarkable dedication to the football games played at the historic stadium on 15th Street, then Stadium Drive, now Phillip Fulmer Way.

Whenever there was a Tennessee game, a freshman game, the annual Thanksgiving battle between Knoxville High School and Central High, or even an Orange and White game, the Colemans were present, ready to add to the ambience of the storied stadium and field.

It was a matter of family honor.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Lady Bobcats down Powell in four sets

By Ken Lay

When Central High School's lady volleyball team opened a commanding 2-0 lead in its District 3-3A volleyball match against Powell Thursday night, it looked as though the Lady Bobcats were poised to end things in short order.

But the Lady Panthers had other ideas.

Powell would force a fourth game before the Lady Bobcats finally notched a 25-17, 25-13, 23-25 28-26 victory to protect their home court in Fountain City.

It took Central just under a half hour to win the first two sets. Furthermore, the Lady Bobcats had a 15-9 in the third set before the Lady Panthers rallied and pulled to within 15-13. Powell would hang around before it finally took a 22-21 lead. The Lady Panthers, who led early in each of the first two sets, would never trail again in the third set.

Powell again had the upper hand early and would go on to open an 18-14 advantage in the fourth game before Central coach Susan Davidson called a timeout. After the break, Powell's Taylor Williams served up two more points, including an ace to make the score 20-14.

After the two teams traded points, the Lady Bobcats enjoyed a surge and used a service run by Hannah Monholland, the top server in their rotation. After a side-out, Monholland scored three straight points to pull the Lady Bobcats within a closer margin at 22-19.

The roller coaster ride continued and Central, which trailed, 23-20, at one point, got three points (including a service ace) from Kyra Holton to take a



PHOTO BY JOHN VALENTINE.

Central High's Ally Bryant serves the ball in the Lady Bobcats' four-set district victory over Powell Thursday night. Bryant 12 kills and five aces in the match.

24-23 lead after a side-out.

With the score knotted 24-24, an errant serve by the Lady Panthers enabled Central to retake the lead.

Powell would eventually regain the upper hand. It led 26-25 and served for the set before the Lady Bobcats pulled even and later closed things out as Kiya Wiley served up the final two points of the match.

Although she endured some anxious moments, Central coach Susan Davidson said she was proud of her team.

"This was a huge win for us and I'm so proud of this team," Davidson said. "The other night, we played Oak Ridge over there and we

didn't play well.

"Tonight, we had freshmen step up. In this game, you had two programs that have come a long way and they were battling hard. Powell has done great job. They made it to the district (tournament) finals last year, and this year, the tournament is going to be at their place."

Piper Clevenger had 23 kills and 25 assists for the Lady Bobcats.

"She did a great job for us, all the way around," Davidson said of Clevenger.

Ally Bryant finished with 12 kills and five aces. Wiley had eight kills and 17 digs, while freshman Malia Moore came up with one kill and six blocks.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Webb stays hot, Lady Admirals hand Heritage first loss

By Ken Lay

The 2024 high school girls soccer season rolled on after area high school teams observed Labor Day last week. Many returned to the pitch for some compelling matchups beginning Tuesday night.

Webb School of Knoxville kept its express rolling Tuesday by shutting out Providence Academy, 5-0, on the road Tuesday.

Pearce Groer, a senior for the Lady Spartans (9-0-1), tallied two goals and dished out a pair of assists. McKalie Ball also added two markers and a helper and assist for Webb, which has surrendered just two goals all season. Simone Romain also came up with an unassisted goal for the Lady Spartans, who played Science Hill to a 1-1 draw at the Bearden Invitational on Sunday, Sept. 1.

Lady Admirals knock Heritage from the ranks of the unbeaten: Farragot notched a 4-1 victory over the Lady Mountaineers in the District 4-3A opener for both schools in West Knox County.

Courtney George, Ava Upshaw, Ella Huang and Christie George found the back of the net against Heritage, which has wins over Oak Ridge, Karns and Alcoa this season.

With the win, the Lady Admirals improved to 4-2 overall.

Lady Bulldogs finding their groove: Bearden, the three-time defending Class 3A state champion, notched a pair of victories against two solid teams on back-to-back nights last week, routing Powell, 6-1, on Wednesday and 9-0 over Greeneville in a game called just after halftime due to the TSSAA mercy rule.

West High wins league opener: The Lady Rebels (3-4-1) notched a 2-1 victory over Maryville Tuesday night in a District 4-3A match. Molly Kelso and Charleigh Freeman both scored goals for West in a battle of Lady Rebels.

Macey Walsh leads Lady Rams past Gibbs: Walsh scored four goals for Grace Christian Academy in its 5-1 victory over the Lady Eagles Tuesday night at Ernest Whited Stadium in Corryton.

Sarah Butler also scored for the Lady Rams, who scored five unanswered markers after trailing, 1-0, at halftime thanks to a goal from Kylie Musto.

Lady Cherokees nab league opener: South-Doyle opened District 5-2A play with a 5-0 victory over Sequoyah Thursday night at home.

Gabby Hernandez and Brenley Snyder scored two goals each, while Kenley Payne added another for the Lady Cherokees, who came up on the short end of a 4-0 decision against Sevier County earlier in the week.

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Smokies eye last home stand and another SL title

By Steve Williams

The Tennessee Smokies still have work to do and another Southern League championship trophy to possibly hoist before closing up shop for good at its current home in Kodak.

Now wouldn't that be a great way to say good-bye!

The Smokies, who moved to Smokies Stadium in Kodak from Bill Meyer Stadium in Knoxville in 2000, will be playing their last home stand in Sevier County this week in a six-game series against the Birmingham Barons.

It just so happens that the Smokies and Barons have clinched their playoff berths in the Northern Division and will begin their Best-of-3 series Sept. 17 in Kodak.

As of Friday, the Tennessee Smokies (80-47) had the best overall record in the Southern League.

The Montgomery Biscuits (75-54) have clinched the No. 1 playoff spot in the Southern Division and the Pensacola Wahoos are currently in second place.

Tennessee Smokies President Chris Allen said there is a lot

to look forward to in the final week at Smokies Stadium. The games on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will start at 6 p.m., while Friday and Saturday games will begin at 7 and the first pitch for Sunday's regular season finale is set for 2 p.m.

"We've got a lot planned this week," said Allen. "We're giving away Stadium Replicas on Saturday night and we've got a Last Pitch Baseball we're giving away Sunday."

"We're also televising our Sunday game on Channel 6. It's going to basically be televising

the final game and the first game ... the last pitch here to the first pitch at the new stadium (in downtown Knoxville next spring), which is kind of cool. Mark Packer is coming in and he's partnering up with Mick Gillispie and our radio crew to broadcast that game, so that should be a lot of fun."

Allen said a lot of videos also will be taken throughout the final home stand to recognize the people and let them say a few words of what this ball park meant to them.

"I'll do a presentation or two for some city officials, giving them

some gifts and things like that," added Allen.

"It's going to be a special week and all in the same process we're also looking to win a pennant and go to the playoffs and win this thing again. So we'll see what happens. It should be some exciting baseball."

The Tennessee Smokies won the Southern League pennant last year – the first championship for pro baseball in the Knoxville area since the Knox Sox won the SL title in 1978.

Three Knox teams remain unbeaten after three weeks

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Kick-Off for the 2024 high school football season.

A senior, Caroline is a varsity cheerleader for the Warriors and a UCA All-American. She also plays lacrosse and is a member of the National Honor Society and Young Life plus is a Teen Ambassador for Cystic Fibrosis.

FIRST STOP: The Austin-East High Class of 1972 ladies are in their fifth season having their pre-game food and drinks available in a grassy area close to the stadium for fans to enjoy before Roadrunner home football games. Donations are welcomed.

PREPS OF THE PAST: Ten years ago on Sept. 6, 2014: Austin-East stayed close for awhile to a powerhouse Fulton team

that had won its first two games by a 167-3 margin. The Falcons led A-E 20-6 with 5:31 left in the first half at Bob Black Field, but went on to win 56-6. Adam Diggs threw a touchdown pass to Kentel Williams, JaDarius Satterfield returned an interception for a TD and Damon Lawson kicked two field goals. Diggs threw another TD pass to Dominique Williams and Zach Winston ran for a touchdown to end the first half with a 35-6 lead.

Fifty years ago on Sept. 6, 1974: Frank Foxx carried the ball 11 times for 184 yards in Rule's 21-7 win over the host South Rockets. Foxx, who went on to play for UT, had an 82-yard touchdown run and set up the Golden Bears' third TD with a 47-yard dash.

West beats Farragut, 38-3

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marched 54 yards on 11 plays. A Dubon TD pass gave West a 21-3 advantage at intermission.

"I thought it was by far the best game that Parker has played," said Brown. "Especially in the first half. He made great strides this week, getting more comfortable in the offense. Just an unbelievable job."

In the third quarter, Farragut senior safety Kent Carbaugh picked off two passes, but it was a 97-yard pick 6 by West's Jack Keith that put the game out of reach.

"I think that's his third interception in three games," said Brown. "He's got a knack of always being around the football in the run game or the pass game. I was so happy for that kid. He finally got that touchdown he's been dreaming about."

"They are great on defense, creating



PHOTO BY CARLOS REVEIZ

West inside linebacker Sam Lavelle works to dislodge the ball as he stops Farragut's Ethan Farhat Friday night. The visiting Rebels handed the Admirals a 38-3 loss.

turnovers," said Courtney. "They were really capitalizing on some things that we were trying to do. They make it so tough for you in the red zone just because they are so good in stopping the run. They present a

lot of challenges so... guys were in there trying to make plays, trying to scrap and claw get back in the game... just a couple of big plays broke our back."

On Friday night the West Rebels will try to continue

their winning ways when they host Maryville. The Farragut Admirals will look for their first victory of the season when they play at Cleveland. It will be the Ads' first District game of the season.

Gibbs cashes in on opportunites

Cont. from page 1

edged sword, however, as it ended the big back's night with a knee injury.

Allison ended the Karns threat with a circus-like interception in the end zone, but the Beavers showed they weren't quite ready to quit.

"We had a couple of big stops on defense," Karns Head Football Coach Lee Warren said. "We hurt ourselves tonight. Whether it was penalties ... getting in the red zone and missed blocks ... we couldn't finish drives. Stupid penalties."

As much as Karns moved the ball and played some harsh defense, it was Gibbs making the best of opportunities.

The Eagles converted a roughing the kicker flag into a score midway through the third quarter with a rugby scrum at the goal line and a 28-14 lead.

Then twice turned back the Beavers on fourth downs to – one with a huge

sack from Eagle Preston McClain on a fourth and goal from the six.

But Karns kept coming back. Without Turner, the Beavers turned to senior Carson Paul to carry the running load.

"A lot of props to (Paul) ... he was our starting quarterback last year. He's not been playing running back long. He does whatever he can do to help us out and he's helped us out a lot to this point, but tonight he shined out of the backfield," Warren said.

Paul was a workhorse eating up huge chunks of yardage. Still, the red zone jinx hurt the Beavers. Yet there was that feeling some crazy unheard of nine-point conversion after a touchdown might could possibly save the game for a team working that hard.

Maddox Brackfield ended that notion.

"We had to fight to come back down by 14 (26-21 win over William Blount), we

had a dogfight with Hardin Valley (a 29-14 win), and we had a fight tonight and a chance to come back," Warren said. "I'm proud of this team. I'm not sure we would have done this before, if we could have played a four quarter game."

The Beavers travel to winless Oak Ridge this Friday to start region play.

Gibbs will host winless Seymour Friday to in region play.

"You know, we gotta be better in practice, we have to take care of the little things and not do the penalties," Turner said. "The only thing that's going to beat Gibbs is Gibbs right now. We've got to clean it up."

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