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## 26th Annual Holiday Festival of Lights at the Cove opens tonight

Knox County will cut the ribbon on the 26th annual Holiday Festival of Lights at The Cove at Concord Park (11808 S. Northshore Drive) during a family-friendly event at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 2. Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs will be flipping the switch to kick-off this spectacular community lighting display.

The festival is free and

open to the public although visitors are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to donate to The Love Kitchen, which provides meals, clothing, and emergency food packages for the homebound, homeless, and unemployed. In addition, there is a purchase-for-purpose opportunity, where festival-goers can buy a Christmas mug and receive a free hot

chocolate, with all proceeds going to The Love Kitchen.

The event will run each night from 6 to 9 p.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 31, excluding Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

"The Festival of Lights is one of our most popular and well-loved events countywide," Mayor Jacobs said. "Traditions like this are what makes this time of

year special. Folks have the chance to drop by, enjoy the festive atmosphere, give back to the community, or just spend time taking in the lights and activities."

Santa's Workshop will be open every day to collect letters to Santa, tell North Pole tales, and host Christmas crafts. Patrons also will have the opportunity to purchase cookie-making items and decorate

ornaments each night of the week. Additionally, the event will feature train rides on Mondays.

During the festival, The Cove's three-quarter-mile greenway trail is illuminated by a sparkling light display coordinated to music. The Knox County Parks and Recreation Department staff does all the decorating, which includes placing displays and thousands of

lights.

Hot drinks and light refreshments will be available for purchase, and The Cove has fire pits for guests to stay warm or roast s'mores. Pets on leashes also are welcome.

Stay up to date on the Holiday Festival of Lights and other Knox County Parks & Recreation events on the Knox County Parks Facebook page.

## GOOD GAME, INDEED



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Another youth football season has ended, but memories of victories and championships last a long time. The Knoxville Focus' annual recognition of the local youth football champions can be seen in this week's Section C.

## Merit board may change recruitment regulation

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
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When the Knox County Sheriff's Office Employees' Merit System Board meets next Monday there are three major items on the agenda. One is the election of a vice chairman. The board will also set its quarterly meetings for the coming year.

The other important item on the agenda deals with background checks for future employees. The board will consider a request from the sheriff's office to amend the Rule and Regulation 6.1.3 (f) dealing with acceptable military discharges.

The current rule is for recruits to "have not been  
**Cont. on page 3**

## City may up fines for parking meter violations

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
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The fines for parking violations in downtown Knoxville will be going up from \$10 to \$25 starting next year if the resolution passes its second reading. The Knoxville City Council voted 6-2 on the first reading on Tuesday to up the fines and authorize the Public Building Authority officers to tow violators.

Councilman Charles Thomas and Amelia Parker opposed the increase which Thomas said would create a public relations problem. Parker said she's heard lots of concerns and the issue needs more discussion. Mayor Indya Kincannon said auto drivers can park in the city

garages for \$7 per day and reminded the meeting that night and weekend parking in garages is free.

There are two free public parking lots but Parker said the lots are too far from the main downtown district and some people are fearful of walking that distance at night.

Councilman Andrew Roberto said there are about 200,000 parking violations that remain unpaid and 200 of those are for more than \$100.

He said that some people are abusing the current system.

If passed on a second reading, PBA offices will be permitted to call for towing without calling a city police officer.

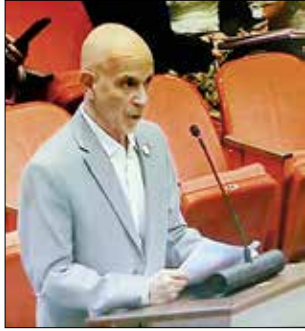
## Tall apartment project approved for downtown

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

A tall apartment complex was approved for a 10-year tax break by the Knoxville City Council Tuesday evening. The \$135 million Origin Development Partners LLC project was recommended for approval by a third-party evaluation and will bring 297 units including 30 "workforce" units.

Mayor Indya Kincannon said the project would not be possible without the PILOT tax break and the project meets all the criteria for approval.

The proposed 17- to 19-floor vertical building will occupy a plot on the hillside below West Hill Avenue and Locust Street that has not been used for many years. While some council members had some misgivings, the project was approved.



**Bill Lyons, former deputy mayor and chief policy officer, spoke against a tax break for the West Hill and Locust Street high-rise apartments. He said the multi-story building project is not qualified for the PILOT tax break and only underwrites luxury housing. He called it a \$15 million gamble.**

The council also approved a request of the Cherokee Country Club to rezone 5331 Lyons View Pike from general residential neighborhood to park

and open space.

A request of Jim Odle for a change from office to neighborhood commercial for a property just off Washington Pike on Lifespring Lane was rejected by the council. Neighboring homeowners objected to the change, which would eliminate the current buffer at the homes, decrease property values and add traffic. The request saw a petition signed by 294 neighborhood homeowners.

The request from Habitat for Humanity to develop a former church property at 4325 Pinehurst Drive was postponed until January by the applicant and a request to rezone 4720 West Martin Mill Pike as a residential neighborhood was withdrawn.

A change from RN-1 to RN-2 zoning was approved for 1524 Riverside Road.

Also approved was the

transfer of over \$5.9 million to the Knoxville Community Development Corporation for use in the streetscapes projects at Willow Avenue and the Old City and the new Stadium Public Space project.

Knoxville-Knox County Planning was contracted to collect pavement condition data and update the city's pavement management system. Over \$1.7 million was approved to support transitional, housing, and supportive services to support a Youth Action Board to fund eight projects.

In other action, the council voted to increase the hotel-motel tax and use the additional funds for maintenance on city properties such as the coliseum. The council also discussed losing some city parking to the future baseball stadium.

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# Netanyahu Indicted For Crimes Against Humanity

From a distance



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

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was indicted by the International Criminal Court on November 21 for war crimes and crimes against humanity. The U.S. is not a member of this court, and I don't think it should be because it would not allow jury trials for some crimes committed by U.S. citizens on U.S. soil. But the U.S. played a central role in the establishment of the court, and the fact that we are not a member certainly does not make the indictment less true. The indictment charges Netanyahu and his defense

minister with "intentionally limiting or preventing medical supplies and medicine from getting into Gaza, in particular anesthetics" and "doctors were forced to operate on wounded persons and carry out amputations, including on children, without anesthetics ... causing extreme pain and suffering." It said the two were guilty of the crime against humanity of murder by starvation due to "the lack of food, water, and fuel and specific medical supplies ... which resulted in the death of civilians, including children, due to malnutrition and dehydration." On Nov. 20, the U.N. Security Council voted for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza with only the U.S. voting "no." One "no" vote kills a resolution in this council. Even allies like Britain and France voted yes, and the French ambassador said, "The humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip

is disastrous and it continues to worsen day by day." Now, Netanyahu has expanded his war to Lebanon. One television news-cast I saw reported that Hezbollah had fired a heavy rocket barrage at Israel on Nov. 24, fortunately killing no one, while the day before, Israel killed 29 Lebanese with U.S. bombs. The death toll in Lebanon is now approaching 4,000 and over 43,000 in Gaza. Jeffrey Sachs, a Jew who was honored as being the top professor at Columbia and is a world-renowned foreign policy expert, has been one of Netanyahu's harshest critics. On a podcast on Nov. 21, he called Netanyahu "one of the most violent and dangerous people in the world." He also described him as "the lead cheerleader for the Iraq War." On Judge Napolitano's podcast that day, he said the Israel Lobby controls "the U.S. military, the U.S. State Department, the U.S.

Treasury, and the U.S. Congress. Sachs added: "Israel runs the whole show. It's stark, it's remarkable what a few hundred millions of campaign contributions can do." Dave Smith, a popular Jewish comedian and podcaster, has also been very critical of Netanyahu. He said when he grew up, the pro-Israel side "was the only side that was presented to me." Then, he said: "I think Israel's treatment of the Palestinians is horrific and inexcusable, and the fact that I am forced through my tax dollars to prop that up doesn't sit very well with me." Smith added that he sees "what the wars over the last 20 years have done to this country" and that "to watch us flirt with another war in the Middle East is just insane to me." He also said he is "somewhat resentful to the way the pro-Israel side kind

of wraps up Jewish identity with the government of Israel" and that he is "appalled by that." While probably still a minority, millions of Jews around the world are opposed to all this killing and starvation of little children. In a 2019 book, Sheldon Richman wrote about the "sheer cruelty ... of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians." He wrote: "As many American political and military leaders have acknowledged since 9/11, rather than being an asset, Israel has been a liability. A big reason for the Muslim terrorism directed at Americans is precisely the unconditional U.S. military assistance to, not to mention the diplomatic support of, Israel." Richman, also a Jew, said, "What goes a long way toward explaining the huge sums given to Israel each year - over \$10 billion a day - is the influential Israel Lobby, which brags about its power over U.S.

politicians. The AIPAC and other organizations have created an environment in which criticism of Israel or Zionism is smeared as anti-Semitism, although this baseless association has finally begun to wear thin." William F. Buckley once said the so-called Neo-Cons are not conservative and George Will once wrote they are really "the most radical people in this city" (meaning Washington, D.C.). Now, Netanyahu and his neo-con allies want the U.S. to support a war against Iran. They want the war in Ukraine to continue so Iran's ally, Russia, will not be able to support it in a war against Israel. We should not allow Israel-first neo-cons to lead us into a war against Iran. And, because we are over \$35 trillion in debt, we cannot afford to keep spending mega-billions in any wars in the Middle East.

## Department of Government Efficiency?

To the list of well-known oxymorons add "government efficiency." Like "military intelligence" or "civil war" the term "government efficiency" defies logic. By definition, government cannot be efficient because it does not have a profit motive. Government makes no effort to minimize costs in order to maximize profits. It is inherently wasteful and inefficient. Its objective is often to maximize costs in order to not endanger future appropriations. There is no profit to be maximized either because there are no profits. The government workforce does not have to worry about being terminated if their company fails.



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

Management is rarely fired. The Pentagon has failed seven consecutive audits and yet its CFO still has a job. Don't you think that there is a wee bit of waste, theft and fraud in that agency? Yet no one in the administration seems to care. I presume what Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy are going to try to do is to minimize the number of government agencies/employees needed to perform certain tasks. We all know that there are redundant functions running through government agencies. We also know that government employees are often idle at work. There are parts of the government

that are outdated and no longer serve any purpose, yet they are still funded. However, Trump's DOGE is itself redundant. If I were a Cabinet member, I would resent the DOGE telling me how to become more efficient. Isn't that my job? Why didn't Trump just tell his Cabinet that their budgets were going to be cut by a certain percent each year and it was their job to determine where to cut? So Department of Government Efficiency? Not hardly. Government cannot ever be efficient. Consider how it is funded. What determines how much money is appropriated to what function? Surely it is not the market but a political determination. What determines the number of federal agencies? Again the answer is political and

not the market. Since there are no market constraints, the federal government has grown unchecked as new agencies and offices are added with a federal workforce growing to around three million employees. In fact the federal government is so large that there is not even a comprehensive list of how many federal agencies exist. I kid you not. Yet the market is not the solution either. Consider what economists call a public good. That is a good that cannot be priced effectively by the market. One such good is national defense. Suppose you were asked how much you are willing to pay for national defense. Some would say a lot while others would say very little.

I would say "nothing," not because I am opposed to national defense. In fact I may be a hawk. It is just that I will get defended equally regardless of how much I pay. If Oak Ridge is attacked, the military is not going to say, "Don't defend that house with the red roof because he didn't pay anything." Therefore, I won't be denied the good (defense) because I didn't pay for it. Consequently, when people realize this, no one would be willing to pay for defense. Thus, we have part of our tax dollars allocated for national defense whether we like it or not. Thus, any function that is a public good should be in the province of the government. All other functions, not so much.

However, Musk and Ramaswamy can provide a service by recommending the consolidation of redundant government functions across agencies. To this end, all they need to do is look at GAO's excellent annual report on duplication and cost savings, www.gao.gov/duplication-cost-savings. That will save them a lot of time and effort. They can also read Rand Paul's annual report targeting government waste. The Heritage Foundation also publishes an annual report. Ironically, the DOGE is itself an example of government waste if all it does is waste money duplicating the efforts already made to target the lack of efficiency in the federal government.



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**Upcoming area parades**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6**  
**WIVK Christmas Parade**  
The 51st annual WIVK Christmas Parade will start up Gay Street at 7 p.m. and proceed through downtown to Magnolia Avenue.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**  
**Corryton Christmas Parade**  
The 2024 Corryton Christmas Parade steps off from the Corryton Branch Library at 11 a.m.

**Karns Christmas Parade**  
The parade leaves from Ingles Market at 9 a.m. and travels down Oak Ridge Highway to the Karns red light.

**Powell Lion's Club Christmas Parade**  
Parade will begin at 5 p.m. at Powell Middle School as it makes its way through beautiful Downtown Powell to Powell High School.


**10th Annual Rocky Hill Christmas Parade & Festival**  
The festivities kick off at 3:30 p.m. at Rocky Hill Center, featuring children's activities, a holiday market with local artisans and a variety of food trucks. Live music will start at 4 p.m. with performances by Tinca Tinca and Josiah and the Greater Good. The parade steps off at 6 p.m. from the Rocky Hill Ballpark, past Rocky Hill Elementary, down Morrell, onto Northshore, and concludes at Rocky Hill Baptist Church.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**  
**Farragut Christmas Parade & Santa's Village**  
This year Santa's Village will be held behind Farragut Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza beside the Farragut Skating Rink in Village Green Shopping Center. The parade will begin on Jamestowne Blvd. at the Farragut Community Center and will continue up Jamestowne in front of Faith Lutheran Church and behind the Village Green Shopping Center, turning into the west entrance of the shopping center, and ending at Santa's Village.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14**  
**Fountain City Christmas Parade**  
The parade will step off at 9 a.m. from the Gresham Middle School parking lot to Essary and end at Central High School.

**Halls Christmas Parade**  
The parade will begin at 6 p.m. at Halls High and travel south down Maynardville Pike.

**31st Annual Seymour Community Christmas Parade**  
This year's "Light The Way" - A Season of Service themed parade begins at 3 p.m. and route will be from Valley Grove Church to Kroger.



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# Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher  
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## Governor Hochul Needs To Go

New York Governor Kathy Hochul is either tone deaf or just plain stupid. Congressman Richie Torres, a Democrat who says he might challenge her in the primary, slammed the reimagined criminal justice laws in New York that enabled what Torres called a "homicidal rampage" to occur. Torres is referring to the tragic incident where a knife-wielding criminal killed three innocent people with a knife in broad daylight the week before last. The man was mentally ill and violent but was released from custody early thanks to the reimagining of what passed for criminal justice reform in New York state.

Congressman Torres sent a stern joint letter to Governor Hochul and New York City Mayor Eric Adams, which stated whoever was responsible for letting the killer out early ought to be fired. "Those who cannot be entrusted with public safety should no longer be employed by the people of New York," Torres wrote.

The assailant, Ramon Rivera, was incarcerated and moved to the psych ward at Bellevue Hospital where he had attacked a corrections officer. Congressman Torres told Hochul and Adams that "layers upon layers of government failure" saw the release of the violent Rivera. Torres did not waste niceties in his letter, informing Hochul she was "the new Joe Biden" and urged her to move aside if the Democrats wished to remain in power in New York. Torres warned Hochul could lose to a Republican in 2026 and informed both the governor and Mayor Adams that criminals in New York had not faced the consequences of their crimes.

"We live in a city and state where the only people who seem to suffer consequences are the victims of crime and their loved ones. Enough is

enough," Torres wrote.

The young Democrat congressman sounds almost like a Republican. Smarter than his seniors, Torres grasps the reimagining of no justice for victims and the coddling of criminals is not popular with Americans.

Ramon Rivera was released on "good behavior" even after his violent assault on a corrections officer. That is the very definition of reimagining criminal justice reform. The tragic and horrific result is that three families are burying loved ones.

## The View Needs To Go

Piers Morgan has suggested in a column what I think is a very useful idea. Put "The View" out of its misery. If ABC wants to keep it on the air, it is so utterly biased that it should violate the equal-time premise. The original concept was to have women representing a wide spectrum of views and its far from that now. As Morgan points out in his column, it's little more than a hate-Donald-Trump meeting. And it's not like the panel is some respected, informed, and august body of intellectuals. Lord, no, quite the opposite. Joy

Behar is a failed comedian who has had so many facelifts she looks like a mummified sock puppet. What are her credentials to serve as a political commentator? The same as our little Jack Russell terrier, Sophie. Our Sophie is a great deal smarter, not to mention much more appealing, than Joy Behar. Morgan pointed out that Behar once wore blackface to a Halloween party and when called out on it, lied.

Whoopee Goldberg has about the same credentials as a political commentator as Behar, none at all. Piers Morgan also reminded his readers that Goldberg said on the air once the Holocaust had nothing whatsoever to do with race, then simply stated the fact she is an imbecile. Goldberg later had to give an on-air apology.

"Sunny" Hostin once derided Nikki Haley for using a nickname, which Hostin does as well. Hostin always boils everything down to race and sexism to those who do not agree with her. She and her fellow panel members are witless hypocrites.

The show is yet another of the many good reasons why people stream instead of watching the dying old

three big networks of NBC, ABC, and CBS. None of the three know how the average American lives or thinks. Nor do they care. They have fully embraced woke ideology.

These are the same geniuses who thought it was smart as all get out to put a drag queen on Budweiser cans. They were the only people who were surprised when it killed the brand.

They are the same people who put a bunch of weird androgynous people wearing multicolored latex-looking outfits to promote what was once a great car company, Jaguar. The commercial never once showed the car.

There's Michael Moore running around loose, sharing his opinion about most everything - and as far as I know, nobody asked him to. First he was certain that Kamala would win the election, and now he is asking Joe Biden what he's doing in Ukraine. Michael Moore could be the poster child for the saying, "He has a face made for radio." The only time he should be allowed on TV is if it's a commercial for Jenny Craig.

Yet we are the deplorables, we are the unwashed, uneducated, the weird. Right. If all of us

disappeared tomorrow and these smug, self-satisfied elitists were left to fend for themselves, they would be extinct within hours. Civilization in this country has thrived, not because of them, but rather in spite of them.

## Qualifications Matter

To those who talk about the qualifications of those nominated by President-elect Trump to serve in high office, I wonder if they remember a guy named Pete Buttigieg. "Mayor Pete" had qualifications so slender to serve as transportation secretary one still couldn't see them under a microscope. Anyone who could keep a straight face when hearing him talk about having proposed to his husband in an airport as part of his love for transportation, as well as having driven a car and ridden on a train, had to be the most committed of Democrats.

Leon Panetta had fewer real qualifications to serve as secretary of defense than Pete Hegseth has no matter what Senator Tammy Duckworth says.

# School resource officer program may get \$3.15M

By Mike Steely  
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When the Knox County Commission meets in its agenda review session next Monday, it will consider the approval of \$3.15 million in a grant from the state's Department of Safety and Homeland Security for the employment and training of school resource officers. The Knox County Sheriff is sponsoring the resolution.

The sheriff is also asking for approval of overtime reimbursement of up to \$25,000 from the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force and approval of a \$14,264 grant from the Tennessee Corrections Institute for training equipment. Monday's meeting will set the agenda for the commission's regular meeting on December 18. The following are some of the proposed agenda items that are up for review.

The Coward Mill Dam Removal Project may see a \$683,500 agreement for design-build services with KCI Environmental Technologies & Construction Inc. and S&E Properties LLC may be approved for road improvements at the intersection of Kingston Pike and Ebenezer Road.

Four units of affordable rental housing may be approved in a \$1 million Housing and Urban Development program at Scenic View in Hardin Valley.

The health department has several initiatives on the agenda including rape prevention, tuberculosis control, dental service for uninsured adults and tobacco use prevention. Parks and Recreation

is asking for approval to accept two properties, one on Dry Hollow Road and one on Brickyard Road, for use as parkland.

The commission may also discuss a resolution to ask the state to allocate one-half of the real estate transfer tax back to the county. The commission may vote on a resolution approving veteran and elderly assistance.

The clerks of court offices are asking the commission to permit a \$5 fee for records filing when beginning a legal procedure. Twenty-three new subdivision roads are on the agenda for acceptance and county maintenance.

Commission honors this month, at either the agenda review meeting or in the regular session, are to go to the Hardin Valley Academy Special Olympics Flag Football team and that school's boys cross country

team for winning the 2024 state championships.

Mayor Glenn Jacobs is appointing Nathaniel Shelso to the E-911 board.

## Zoning requests may see some debate

When the Knox County Commission meets in its monthly Zoning Session next Monday at 5 p.m., there's a long agenda of requested zoning changes but some of those requests may see some extended discussion.

Sandra Kopacz/Sandra LLC is asking for a change from agricultural to general business for 8710 Chapman Highway in South Knox County's Ninth District. Another request for a Comprehensive Plan amendment from Traditional Neighborhood to Corridor Mixed-Use is for the

same property. The Knoxville-Knox County Planning is recommending against the changes because it would be incompatible with the surrounding land use and inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The property owner is appealing the planning commission's previous denials of the two requests.

Mesana Investment LLC will be at the meeting asking for a zoning change from agricultural to planned residential and up to nine dwelling units per acre at 2921 Bradley Lake Road. The planning commission approved the change but recommends six per acre.

Other requests from Mesana include building  
**Continue on page 4**

# Merit board

**Cont. from page 1**  
released or discharged from the Armed Services with less than a General Under Honorable Conditions Discharge."

KCSO recruitment has been tough and sporadic. Sheriff Tom Spangler has said as such. A couple of years ago, he dropped the recruitment age from 21 to 19 and began hiring corrections employees as they graduate from high school at age 18. Successful applicants must have a high school degree or GED, be able to carry a firearm, be of good moral character, have no criminal record and have a valid driver's license. Each applicant must pass a background and psychological evaluation.

The Department of Defense discharge categories include: Honorable, Under Honorable Conditions, Under Other than

Honorable Conditions, Bad Conduct, Dishonorable and Uncharacterized. The requested amendment would allow "Uncharacterized Discharges as an acceptable discharge pending a waiver through POST Commission and/or TN Corrections Institute."

Following the resignation of John Valliant as vice chairman, the board will select someone for that office. Current members include Chairman Christopher Manning, Kenny Boatman, Clarence Vaughn, Lindsey Willis, Brock Goetz, Michael Crichton and Dan Johnson. Non-voting members include Detective Jeremy McCord of the Law Enforcement Division, Captain Debbie Cox of the Corrections Division and Mitzi Evans of the Civilian Division.

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# What has surprised the new commissioners so far?

By Mike Steely  
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The Knox County Commission is made up of eleven members. Nine are elected by district and two are elected at large by all the voters. The commission has five new members: Damon Rawls, Shane Jackson, Angela Russell, Adam Thompson and Andy Fox. The Focus asked each new member a question. Adam Thompson did not reply by the deadline.

What was the most surprising thing about being a new commission member?

## Damon Rawls, Commission District 1

What has been the most surprising to me as a new commission member is the ability of the body to work together. We are 11

members with different points of view but what we have in common is the ability to do what's best for our constituents. We don't agree on everything that is put before us but we can get to work on an issue in a civil tone. I appreciate that and it demonstrates the maturity and thoughtfulness of the commission.

## Shane Jackson, Commission District 4

As a new commissioner the most surprising aspect for me was the sheer dedication and passion of our civil servants. Their commitment to enhancing the beauty of Knox County is truly inspiring. From maintaining our parks and natural landscapes to ensuring our infrastructure is maintained, their hard work is evident in every corner of our community.

Additionally, witnessing the collaborative spirit among various departments to tackle challenges and implement innovative solutions has been eye-opening. It's clear that their tireless efforts not only contribute to the county's aesthetic charm but also foster a strong sense of community pride. This synergy is what makes Knox County not just beautiful but also a wonderful place to live and work.

## Angela Russell, Commission District 5

I have been amazed at the amount of time that this "part-time" position requires. However, the most surprising thing is the level of personal burden that I feel about each vote. From the outside looking in, it looked easy to make decisions. But when you are in

the seat making the decisions, it is a heavy scary burden to realize that your vote will influence other people's lives.

## Andy Fox, Commission District 9

The most surprising thing to me is the budget situation. Knox County is on the precipice of significant budgetary challenges because of no-interest bonds used to fund the building of schools two decades ago. This move allowed those in office at the time to get the accolades for building schools and attend ground breaking and ribbon cuttings, while kicking the can far down the road for the payment. The bell is now getting ready to toll and these bonds will have to be renewed at higher interest rates. They should have been paid off by now.

# 'We Live in a Wonderland'

## Virtual Program on December 12 sponsored by the UT Arboretum Society

Look around you. We live in a wonderland and much of it is ephemeral. It comes and goes, passing through our lives in an instant. Join UT Arboretum education coordinator, Michelle Campanis, and naturalist/author, Stephen Lyn Bales, via Zoom for "We Live in a Wonderland" on Thursday, December 12 at 7 p.m.

From butterflies to hummingbirds to freshwater jellyfish to ghost plants, their appearance is short-lived and part of our wonderland. Stephen Lynn will explore many of these topics he has highlighted in his book "Ephemeral by Nature," published by the University of Tennessee Press.

Hosted by the UT Arboretum Society, the program is free, but registration is

required to receive your Zoom link and the recording. The program will be recorded and sent to all who register. Register at [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org) under Programs. Closed captions are available. Please contact Michelle at [mcampani@utk.edu](mailto:mcampani@utk.edu) for any questions or registration issues.

To contact Stephen Lyn Bales or buy one of his UT Press books, email him at [hellostephenlyn@gmail.com](mailto:hellostephenlyn@gmail.com).

The Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2024. It is one of the ten University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture AgResearch and Education Centers located throughout Tennessee.

To learn more about the Arboretum Society, go to [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org).

# School resource officer program may get \$3.15M

Continued from page 3

five units per acre at 6120 Babely Road and five units per acre at 6209 Hammer Road. The planning commission approves both requests but with conditions. The request from Mesana for a change of the zoning for property on East Governor John Sevier Highway to planned residential has been pulled from the agenda.

Benjamin C. Mullins is asking for a change from agricultural to

planned residential to build up to 24 units per acre along West Beaver Creek Drive. The planners recommend 12 per acre. The request was deferred from October and November.

Mullins is also requesting a change from one category of Planned Residential to another for 4.3 units per acre at 2713 Byington Beaver Ridge Road. He also has a request for six dwelling units per acre at 8920 Karns Valley Road. Both requests were approved by the planning

commission with conditions.

Also on the zoning agenda is a request from Terry and Wilma Gaylor to change the zoning at 1915 Andes Road from agricultural to low-density residential; Teresa Holley to change 7960 Ball Camp Pike from industrial to low-density residential; Humberto Rodriguez to change a property on Cureton Road from low density to planned residential for up to five units per acre.

Solway Park Enterprises LLC is asking for up to 3.75 units

per acre at 3208 Solway Road and Firas Mishu is asking for a change along three lots on Oak Ridge Highway to change from open space to general commercial.

William Todd Daniel is requesting to change from low-density commercial to neighborhood commercial for property at 8303 Heiskell Road.

Taylor Forrester is requesting that a previous condition be removed to permit up to 3.25 dwellings per acre at 7816

Ball Camp Pike. Charles Daniel Padgett is asking to change property at 8015 Andersonville Pike to planned residential from agriculture with 1.5 dwellings per acre.

Knox County Engineering Director Jim Snowden is asking for a street name change from Ball Camp Pike to Ball Road. A similar request from Snowden may change the name of Andes Road to Ball Road along Schaad Road.



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

## The Movement

The culture of fear is lifting. Dan Bongino. When I told editor Becky the title of this week's column, she quipped, "You better inform people the title has no reference to bowel function." Even jokes are again possible! Have you sensed it? I have and so have others. Things just seem brighter and more hopeful since the election, despite the approach of winter. I love Thanksgiving and Christmas, but winter snow, I'm one and done. The mood of the country has shifted. Christmas lights are already going up. People are no longer afraid to say that a man is a man and a woman is a woman. Cars with color are reappearing to replace bland black, white and gray tones. And I get smiles from wearing my MAGA cap. People can do the Trump Twist and not be gaslighted (shamed) or blacklisted. The darkness is lifting. Recently, I wrote about

revolutions that are underway across the country. I believe we are in the midst of an American cultural revolution. Americans have had enough of drag queens in schools, open borders with crime and drugs, a damaged economy and inflation. Americans no longer trust the legacy media. These Democrat propagandists have become largely irrelevant and are dying as their audience/readers leave and their ad revenues dry up. And by the time you read this, Comcast/NBC may have shed MSNBC. Reportedly, Rachael (maddog) Maddow's salary of twenty-something million was reduced by 5 million. But MSNBC may soon be bankrupt and Maddow, Morning Joe and Mika, and the racist Joy-less Reid may all be getting pink slips. I won't miss their rants. The left wants an ever-bigger government with bureaucrats in control of education and government healthcare, as well as more taxes. They have to hide

their motives with homophobic, racist, class warfare rants protected by the legacy media. But no more. The movement composed of MAGA Constitutionalists, Libertarians and Republicans inspired by President Trump is sweeping the country. But don't expect Democrat reflection or a course correction. There may be temporary wailing after their election shelling, but they'll be back with a vengeance. They've already resumed their ad hominem (personal) attacks. Congressman Matt Gaetz removed himself from cabinet consideration due to allegations that Biden's DOJ investigated and found no cause for indictment. Do you doubt Biden's corrupt DOJ would have passed on an indictment if there was substance to the allegations? The Democrats have now shifted to Pete Hegseth, Tulsi Gabbard and RFK Jr. There is an adage that if you're catching flack, you're over the target. Meaning, if Democrats are screaming and scheming, you should persevere in your cabinet nominations and appointments. Ignore the Democrat media and the Washington Blob's disapproval. Democrat delusions continue as sanctuary Blue city mayors and Democrat governors posture in opposition to removing criminal illegals. The principal

function of government is to protect citizens. Those Democrat leaders favor protecting illegals over citizens like Laken Riley. President Donald Trump was historically elected president with a sweeping victory in the Electoral College along with the popular vote, all the swing states and 2,500 out of 3,000 counties. Furthermore, down-ballot triumphs allowed Republicans to control both the House of Representatives and the Senate. (Sidebar - there is a lesson for Senators and Representatives: We The People want President Trump's appointments and his MAGA agenda. Get with the program or get out of the way. Get with the Trump movement, a historic coalition of ordinary Americans of diverse races, backgrounds, religions, work status and ages.) President Trump persevered and triumphed against vilification, lawfare, big money, Tech Lords, academia, the deep state/blob, celebrities, Democrats and their legacy media. You may think it odd, but Trump's perseverance made me think of Romans 5:3-5 where Paul notes that difficulty produces perseverance which builds character and leads to hope that does not fail. Trump's perseverance is now legendary. President Trump loves America. Trump is genuine... and it shows. He cares

for the American people and has risked everything, even assassination, to end the insanity and reign in the corrupt institutions of our government. Washington elites and swampies can side with Democrats or the MAGA movement. And we are watching for the next election cycle where obstructionists can be primaried. People are also asking, "Is woke over?" I believe that Obama's "transformation of America" and the Marxist "long march through the institutions" (education) have been exposed for what they are. Our modern-day Gettysburg was fought on November 5th, 2024. After Gettysburg, it took two more years to defeat the Confederacy. It will take years for Trump, his Cabinet and Congress to turn the country around. An aircraft carrier takes many miles of ocean to change course. Turning America's ship of state will take some time, especially with Brandon still screwing things up at the border and around the world. Is DEI done? Apparently not at Jaguar whose CEO bragged about teams of company DEI operatives. Is the British car company intent on destruction? After watching Jaguar's Bud Light ad, Forest Gump might say, "And just like that," it will die. I'll mention one more aspect of our cultural

revolution. On a recent visit with my Oregon daughter's family, we went to see the Pixar movie "Inside Out" dealing with childhood emotions. It was a clever and wonderful movie. It's amazing that this subsidiary of Disney can produce such artful child fair, including Toy Story. While Disney keeps trying to die by producing their woke, DEI "Snow White." Contrast this with Angel Studios which is thriving with movies and shows like "Sound of Freedom," "The Chosen" and most recently "Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin." America is hungry for movies that aren't afraid to counter the left's cultural Marxism. If you doubt my support of "Bonhoeffer," just read Wikipedia's leftist screed. "Oh, The Times They Are a-Changin'," sang Bob Dylan, and he's right. Take heart because we are in the midst of a revolution driven by the movement led by Donald Trump. Actually, that's only partially true. The real movement was orchestrated by the Miracle Worker in Butler, Pennsylvania. Our general was saved by The King of the Universe, God's monarch in "The Chosen." Onward Christian soldiers... we have much work to do.

You may email Dr. Ferguson at [fergusonj@knoxfocus.com](mailto:fergusonj@knoxfocus.com)

## Our state's Granville has Mayberry, Lucy and Christmas



Granville is a "Mayberry-I Love Lucy" town and has many events year-round including a dinner theater in December. Just northwest of Cookeville, the little town is worth a day's trip.

### A Day Away



By Mike Steely

The little town of Granville, Tennessee, can be found on the Cumberland River northwest of Cookeville and might be a great place to visit, especially during the Christmas season. You probably know that Mt. Airy, N.C., was the home of Andy Griffith and is known as the "Mayberry" town but there

are other places across the nation that celebrate iconic television shows. Granville is proud to call itself "Tennessee's Mayberry Town" and it also salutes the "I Love Lucy" show. The little town has several events during the year and, from December 5, 6, 11, 12 and 13, it hosts a "Mayberry-Lucy Christmas Dinner Theater." The tickets are \$35 a person for two plays and a delicious meal. More ticketing information can be found online at [www.granvilletn.com/mayberry-christmas-dinner](http://www.granvilletn.com/mayberry-christmas-dinner). There are lots of other events in December as well. The town is lit for the

holidays and has venues like Aunt Bee's Quilt and Bake Shop, a wedding chapel, museums, an RV park, a gift shop, a bed and breakfast, a historic old school, a resort and marina, and the annual Mayberry-Lucy festival is held in April. There's also a Farm Table Museum, the South Shops of Granville, and the Mayberry-Lucy Museum. "We are always excited to provide information about Historic Granville. Because of our central location in Tennessee, we host numerous day trip tours during the year and are happy to help plan and coordinate our tour guests, as well as

**Cont. on page 4**

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# East Tennessee sculptor's masterpiece preserved

"Where is Gen. John Sevier's head and hand?" That was the type of question that was asked on August 14, 2002, when it was discovered that East Tennessee sculptor Edgar W. Bowlin's masterpiece had been vandalized.

On Sunday, November 17, 2024, the family of sculptor and other individuals who played a role in preserving this unique East Tennessee work of art unveiled what remains of Gen. John Sevier, 1745-1815, at the East Tennessee History Center. The first governor of Tennessee, one of only three life-size sculptures by Bowlin, can be seen at 601 South Gay Street, directly across from the Tennessee Theatre.

Bowlin was born in Hancock County in 1919. After service in World War II, he conducted a successful career as an artist and art instructor in Upper East Tennessee. His other life-size works include Andrew Johnson, the seventeenth president of the United States, unveiled on October 12, 1956, in the lobby of the Greeneville

branch of Home Federal Loan and Savings of Upper East Tennessee (now the lobby of the Greene County Partnership), and Kenneth D. McKellar, United States senator and advocate of commercial aviation, unveiled on June 22, 1958, at the Tri-Cities Airport. Bowlin passed away in Sullivan County in 2001.

Gen. John Sevier, 1745-1815, was unveiled in the lobby of Home Federal's Kingsport branch on January 2, 1960. After the bank was sold in 1996, the sculpture was gifted to Donald Ault, founder of the Governor John Sevier Bicentennial Association, who planned to display it in a replica of Tennessee's first state capitol in downtown Knoxville. The construction of James White Parkway derailed Ault's project, and he was ultimately forced to store Gen. John Sevier, 1745-1815, near The Foundry on the 1982 World's Fair site. There, the sculpture was tipped over, beheaded, and beheaded.

**Continue on page 4**



East Tennessee Historical Society's Dr. Warren Dockter and Rebecca P'Simer with Knoxville County Public Library's Adam Alfrey.

FROM THE MOUNTAINS BY JADON GIBSON

## Sam Houston wins governorship

By Jadon Gibson

Sam Houston was born in Lexington, Virginia, in 1793. His father died when young Sam was 14 and he, along with his mother and eight siblings, moved onto 420 acres of land his father had purchased in Blount County, Tennessee.

Sam was an avid reader. He read and reread the classics and other books from his father's library. It was written that Sam memorized many segments of these great books.

His brothers often found him absent from farm chores and reading and eventually secured a job for him in a trading post in Maryville, just south of Knoxville. The 16-year-old grew tired of that as well. He packed the books he inherited from his father and other belongings, then ran away from home.

Young Sam joined a band of Cherokee Indians on an island in the middle of the Tennessee River. Chief Oolooteka, whose name meant "he-puts-the-drum-away," liked Houston and adopted him. He gave him the name Kalanu, meaning "Raven." He learned the customs and language of the Cherokee.

Returning to his home after three years, the Indian life continued to be part of his persona. He wore his hair long and in the Cherokee fashion. This led to his nickname of

"Injun Sam."

Sam opened the first school in Tennessee. Although the school was successful it only remained open for six months at which time he had accumulated enough money to pay his debts.

He wrote about his joys of teaching. "As a young man in Tennessee I kept a country school, being then about eighteen years of age, and a tall, strapping fellow. At noon after the luncheon, which I and my pupils ate together out of our baskets, I would go into the woods and cut me a sour wood stick, trim it carefully in circular spirals and thrust one half of it into the fire, which would turn it blue, leaving the other half white. With this emblem of ornament and authority in my hand, dressed in a hunting shirt of flowered calico, a long pigtail down my back, and the sense of authority over my pupils, I experienced a higher feeling of dignity and self-satisfaction than from any office or honor which I have held since."

Yet there was continual talk of war and Andrew Jackson was assembling a militia when he attended a recruitment meeting in Maryville in March of 1813. Potential enlistees were urged to join following several inspirational speeches. They demonstrated their desire to enlist by taking a silver dollar from

several that were placed on a drumhead. Sam was caught up in the events and took one. Though his mother was concerned with the inherent dangers of war she was proud of his fortitude.

"While the door of my cabin is open to brave men, it is eternally shut to cowards," his mother told him.

Sam fought with valor in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend against the Red Stick Creek Indians who were allies of the British. Remembering his mother's words, he fought with great courage. He was struck by an arrow in the upper thigh, piercing his groin. A lieutenant attempted to remove it but soon stopped his efforts. He knew it required someone with the skills of an army doctor. None were available.

"Try again," Houston said, pointing his sword at him.

He was able to remove it with great effort but the continuous bleeding caused Sam to call on the doctor who tended to him but also removed him from battle. The wound never healed, causing him discomfort for the remainder of his life.

His efforts in the war impressed General Andrew Jackson and he promoted him to ensign. After the war, he was appointed a subagent for the Cherokee people.

Injun Sam Houston

always maintained a penchant for fighting adversity. His next stop was in Nashville where he took up the study of law. Still, several months later he was admitted to the bar and he began a law practice in Lebanon, TN.

He was recognized as a leading statesman after winning a seat in Congress in 1823 and reelection in 1825. Though disabled he was on a fast track to success.

His next aspiration was the governorship of the great state of Tennessee. He won!!! At the age of 34, Injun Sam became Governor Sam Houston. It wasn't to be a bed of roses.

He married Eliza Allen in 1829. She was just 18 years of age, less than half his age. After just eleven weeks, Eliza returned to her parent's home. Some said it was due to a difference in age while others attributed the break-up to the wound he suffered in the Creek Indian War. There were also whispers of infidelity and of alcoholism. Sam felt it was simply because she didn't love him.

In either event, Houston arose one morning and, out of the blue, resigned the governorship of Tennessee.

*Editor's note: Sam Houston bolts from Tennessee and makes his mark on Texas in the next From the Mountains.*

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## Violins of Hope comes to Knoxville

**A moving exhibit and symphony series celebrating unity, resilience, and the power of music**

A moving story of Holocaust survival will be told in Knoxville this spring when the world-renowned Violins of Hope exhibit returns to offer visitors a deeply moving and profound display of violins that were once played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust. Violins of Hope will be on exhibit in Downtown Knoxville from March 3 through April 9, 2024 at Digital Motif, 108 S. Gay Street.

The month-long exhibit will not only feature the Violins of Hope, but will also include two moving performances by the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, as well as educational outreach to area schools, synagogues and churches.

"The Violins of Hope represent the unity and resilience of Jews during the Holocaust, and they are a testament to the power of music in our lives," said Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School Head of School Miriam Esther Wilhelm. "We are fortunate to have Holocaust survivors and

World War II veterans still with us to tell the stories of that terrible time, but soon only artifacts like the Violins of Hope will remain to tell the first-hand accounts of Jewish persecution during the Holocaust."

Amid the evil perpetrated against millions of Jews during the Holocaust, countless stories of survival emerged. Many of those stories centered around the Violins of Hope that presented an opportunity for survival for dozens of Jews cruelly forced to play these instruments for the entertainment of their Nazi captors.

The Violins of Hope exhibit and performances present a rare and powerful opportunity to explore the intersection of history, music, and education. "Each violin carries its own story of courage, echoing the indomitable spirit of those who played it," said Wilhelm. "These events will unite the Knoxville community to honor the past while building a future grounded in unity and understanding, and the Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School is honored to organize the exhibition."

Violins of Hope would not be possible in Knoxville without the generous support of the Stanford

**Continue on page 4**

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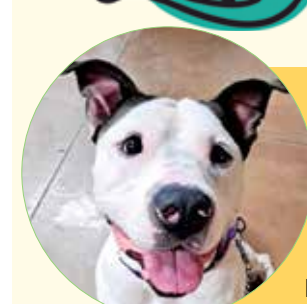
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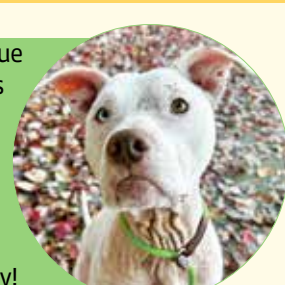


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Closed 1-2 p.m. for animal quiet time



# The Gentleman From Florida

## Charles O. Andrews

### Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

Few, if any, regular readers of this column will ever have heard of Charles Oscar Andrews, but for a decade he represented Florida in the United States Senate. Thin to the point of being gaunt, Andrews looked older than he was. Andrews was bespectacled, with a thatch of white hair atop his head. Charles O. Andrews looked like exactly what he was, a mildly prosperous lawyer. Andrews was an unlikely member of the world's most exclusive club and his original arrival in the Senate surprised just about everybody but himself.

A native of Florida, the son of a Confederate veteran and a veteran of the Spanish-American War while he had been a member of the Florida National Guard, Andrews became the secretary to the Florida State Senate while studying to earn his law degree. Andrews began the practice of law in DeFuniak Springs, but apparently things didn't go as he anticipated, and he returned to his post as secretary for the Florida State Senate in 1909 and remained there for two more years. At the same time, Andrews was appointed a judge of the criminal court for Walton County, a position he held for a year. It was the beginning of a number of similar legal posts the young attorney held. Andrews was appointed as an assistant state attorney general and then served as a judge of the 17th District Circuit Court. Andrews was briefly a member of the Florida House of Representatives before becoming the city attorney for Orlando and then commissioner of the Florida State Supreme Court.

In 1936, both of Florida's United States senators died. Duncan Upshaw Fletcher was Florida's longest-serving senator, having first gone to the U.S. Senate in 1909. The 77-year-old Fletcher died of a heart attack in Washington, D.C., on June 17, 1936. Park Trammell had been governor of Florida before winning election to the U.S. Senate in the 1916 election. Trammell had only narrowly won the Democratic primary, barely edging out newcomer Claude Pepper. Sixty years old, Senator Trammell died in Washington, D.C., on May 8, 1936. Charles Andrews announced his candidacy to fill the seat of Park Trammell in the 1936 special election. The winner of the election would serve out the remaining four years of Senator Trammell's term.

Few political prognosticators gave Andrews much chance of winning the

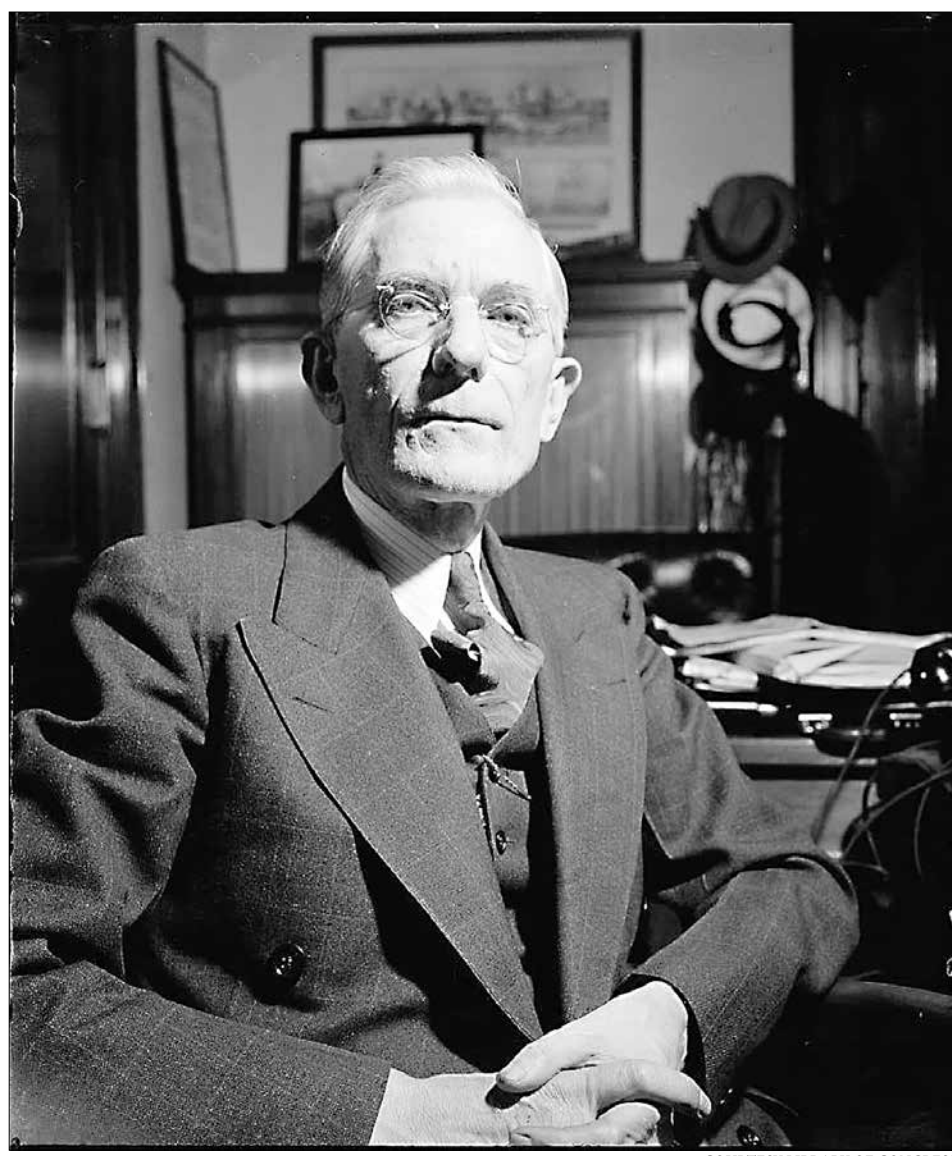
Democratic nomination, which at the time was tantamount to election. Most observers believed the favorite for the Democratic nomination was Doyle Elam Carlton, who had been elected governor in 1928. Carlton served at a time when Florida governors could not seek a second consecutive term. Yet Governor Carlton's term had brought several difficulties and challenges, including a hurricane that wreaked severe damage in the Sunshine State. Carlton also occupied the chief executive's office when Florida's real estate boom crashed and the Great Depression began, which caused profound financial hardships for Floridians.

The former governor was endorsed by the Democratic State Executive Committee when the race to fill Park Trammell's seat began. The primary source of news was newspapers and Carlton managed to win the endorsement of most of the newspapers in the Sunshine State. Both of Miami's daily newspapers endorsed Carlton's candidacy as did one of the Jacksonville newspapers. Other dailies in Tampa and Pensacola added endorsements to the former governor's bid for the Democratic senatorial nomination.

Andrews was making his first statewide race and had managed to cobble together a coalition of organizations and voters opposed to Doyle Carlton. Andrews also appealed to the supporters of Dr. Francis Townsend, the originator of a scheme to provide every senior citizen with \$200 per month, the entirety of which had to be spent the same month it was received. As the election returns began being tabulated, Andrews moved into the lead and never relinquished it. The strong support given to the former governor in many of the newspapers were largely ignored by those voters who trudged to the polls to cast their ballots. Andrews carried Duval County (Jacksonville), as well as Dade (Miami) and won his home county or Orange (Orlando) by a three-to-one margin.

Andrews had pressed his platform of pensions for the elderly, as well as restitution by the federal government for Florida's citrus growers, who had been devastated by an onslaught of Mediterranean fruit flies, losing most of their crop. Andrews also called for help for the farmers, improving Florida's waterways, and bringing more Army and Navy bases to the Sunshine State.

When the campaign first began, Andrews had been practicing law with his



U.S. Senator Charles O. Andrews of Florida, circa 1939.

new partner; his 25-year-old son, Charles Jr., who also did double duty as his father's campaign manager.

Both Charles O. Andrews and Claude Pepper were sworn in as soon as their election in the November general election was certified by the Florida Secretary of State. Pepper would garner much notice in Washington, D.C., for his oratory and his drift toward the Left, while Andrews wasted little time on speeches and quietly went about the business of representing his state in the United States Senate. Florida's two senators were a contrast of opposites; Pepper, tended to be more portly and hearty, while Andrews was thin and frail. Likewise, the two men approached their duties in the Senate differently. Andrews was quiet and assigned to more committees than seemingly any other member. Charles Andrews tended to his committee work and assiduously looked after the various industries and the agricultural interests of the Sunshine State. Pepper gave loud and vociferous support to President Roosevelt's New Deal and foreign policy while Senator Andrews took a more cautious approach.

There was considerable speculation in 1940 that Andrews would accept a federal judgeship rather than seek reelection to the U.S. Senate. The appointment never materialized as Andrews was sixty-two and the Roosevelt Administration was reasonably strict in refusing to nominate any prospective judge who was past sixty. Andrews sought a full six-year term in 1940 and the Democratic primary was a free-for-all. Governor Fred Cone entered the contest, as did magazine magnate Bernarr Macfadden, veteran politician and frequent candidate Jerry W. Carter, and two others. Andrews' approach to his job in the Senate was appreciated by Floridians who liked his clear devotion to duty and

his hard work.

Andrews ran first in the primary, but he was forced into a run-off election with Jerry W. Carter. Much of the campaign was handled by surrogates in the second primary by staff members as Andrews was preoccupied with hearings in Washington as a member of the Naval Affairs Committee. It was a vital assignment for a senator from Florida and critical at a time when war clouds hovered on the United States with bloody warfare spreading across much of the globe. As a member of the U.S. Senate, Andrews had quietly but resolutely pushed the development and expansion of federal facilities for the Sunshine State. While Jerry Carter toured the state, Senator Andrews' office released a steady flow of press releases detailing federal spending in Florida. Andrews spoke over the radio, broadcasting to Floridians from Washington, D.C., noting his interest in national defense did not begin with recent developments "or the second primary," a not so oblique criticism of his opponent. Andrews pointed out the current military projects in Florida would amount to more than \$100 million in spending when completed. Senator Andrews readily acknowledged his campaign would almost certainly be better off were he in Florida to press the flesh personally, but said he was remaining at his post of duty for the welfare of the country. Andrews ticked off all of his efforts for the primary agricultural and business interests important to the Sunshine State and its residents. Floridians agreed and Senator Andrews thrashed Carter in the second primary, winning quite nearly 70% of the ballots cast.

While many candidates for public office likely invoked and asked for votes with their devotion to their duty, in the instance of Charles O. Andrews, it was true. The Florida senator was a workaholic.

Andrews also repeatedly made unsuccessful efforts to change the rules of the U.S. Senate. Andrews introduced legislation that would require all laws adopted by Congress to encompass only one subject. "Many worthy bills are defeated under the present system because someone attaches a highly controversial amendment to the original measure," Andrews explained to a reporter. Such amendments were oftentimes called "ripper amendments" because if adopted, they usually made the bill under consideration objectionable to even its sponsors.

The senator lamented some of the more archaic vestiges of the Senate. "You know in the Senate we still keep the old snuff-box right up there where it's been for more than 80 years, with a fresh supply of snuff, though nobody ever dips into it. And there's a little silver box on each desk. What do you think is in that? Burnt sand that we're supposed to use when we sign our names in ink. Well, our legislative system is about as anachronistic." That was the comment made by United States Senator Charles O. Andrews of Florida when he described the Congress in October of 1944.

As the Second World War raged across the globe, Charles Andrews never let up his constant work and it began to take a toll on his health. Never robust, Andrews began to ail seriously, suffering from a heart condition. Politically, as it always the case with an older, more experienced officeholder, a younger, more energetic challenger begins to emerge on the horizon. Spessard Holland, elected governor in 1940 as Andrews won reelection to the U.S. Senate, had proven to be a highly popular chief executive and left office the same way. Some reporters believed Spessard Holland was the most popular former governor in the Sunshine State's history. Holland was anxious to move up to

the Senate, but he opted not to challenge Claude Pepper for reelection in 1944. By 1945, Spessard Holland was looking at the Senate seat held by Charles Andrews with longing eyes. Holland had made no announcement as he considered himself a good friend of the senator's and was reluctant to run if Andrews wanted to seek reelection. Senator Andrews was candid and said another campaign "would no doubt impair my ability to carry on" with his responsibilities in Washington, D.C.

On October 30, 1945, Senator Charles O. Andrews ended the speculation, saying he would not be a candidate in the 1946 election. When told of the statement issued by Senator Andrews, Holland was gracious enough to realize the day didn't belong to him and praised his friend's service and refused to comment upon his own plans. Holland did eventually announce and ran to succeed Charles Andrews.

As it happened, Senator Andrews was more seriously ill than perhaps anyone outside his immediate family realized. Finally, Andrews became so ill he was absent from the Senate floor for much of the last session of Congress in 1946. One Florida newspaper gently suggested Andrew resign his Senate seat and allow the governor to appoint a successor in order to spare his health. Andrews batted away the notion, saying he intended to finish out his term.

The senator seemed much improved but in September Andrews was admitted to Bethesda Naval Hospital. A week later the 69-year-old Senator Andrews died.

Governor Millard Caldwell was in New York on state business when informed about the senator's passing. Caldwell remembered Charles Andrews as "a splendid gentleman, a good Senator, level headed, who had common sense and was courageous." When queried about appointing a successor, the governor angrily snapped he would have no comment as to a possible successor for several days.

Governor Caldwell offered the appointment to serve out the remaining months of the late senator's term to his widow. Mrs. Andrews stated her gratitude for the governor's gesture but said quietly, "I feel that I should begin the retirement to private life now, rather than on January third as Charlie and I had planned."

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Edgar W. Bowlin with his masterpiece Gen. John Sevier, 1745-1815, in the lobby of Home Federal Savings and Loan, Kingsport, Tennessee, January 2, 1960.

# East Tennessee sculptor's masterpiece preserved

**Cont. from page 2**

Was the vandalism a Rush Week dare carried out by fraternity pledges, as some believe, or was it simply a random act? Is John Sevier's head sitting on a shelf in a fraternity house, or has it been discarded, perhaps at the bottom of the Tennessee River?

If you are in possession of—or have any information about—the sculpture's missing parts, the team at the East Tennessee History Center would love to speak with you. Please call 865-215-8830 or email curator@knoxlib.org. No questions asked. No charges filed.

In a 2010 interview with the Metro Pulse, William James "Jim" Cortese, a local arborist who helped protect the sculpture, reflected: "It doesn't bother me that it doesn't have a head. I've been to Europe

many times, and in Europe there are thousands of headless, legless, and armless statues. It's about time America had a few headless statues."

The East Tennessee History Center, a facility of Knox County Public Library, is honored to be the new home of Gen. John Sevier, 1745-1815, whether in part or, perhaps, in whole, if his head and hand are located. The preservation of Gen. John Sevier, 1745-1815, was made possible by Mayor Glenn Jacobs and Knox County Government. Installation and interpretive signage were made possible by the East Tennessee Historical Society, Maryville Monument Company, T and T Signs, Inc., and Tennessee Marble Company. Special gratitude is also extended to the family of Edgar W. Bowlin, Sr., Donald and Wanda Ault, and Jim Cortese.

# Granville

**Cont. from page 1**  
individual visitors," said Nancy Spears, assistant to President Randall Clemons of the Granville Museum, Inc.

Taking Interstate 40 to Cookeville and then Highway 70 west to Highway 96 or 53 North to Granville is about a two-hour trip from Knoxville. There are plenty of places to stay in Cookeville and a couple of bed and breakfast places in Granville. Or you could make it a day trip if you get started early and spend only an hour or two there. You'll find Granville online at [www.granvilletn.com](http://www.granvilletn.com).

On your way to or from there you might like to stop in Monterey and view Standing Stone, the remains of an early Native American monument that may have served as a boundary marker between tribes. Originally it was a statue of a dog or wolf. In Cookeville you might like to visit the Pink Elephant off I-40 exit 286 on Willow Street. You can't miss it.

A day or two away from home can be fun, educational and relaxing for your family.

## Violins of Hope

**Cont. from page 2**

Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School, Digital Motif, the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, WVLT Channel 8, The Tennessee Holocaust Commission, the City of Knoxville, Knox County, Visit Knoxville, Lilienthal Gallery, Junction 35, the University of Tennessee Judaic Studies Department, and many other public and private community partners and volunteers.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for

individuals and organizations wishing to support this historic event, including the opportunity to sponsor individual violins during the exhibit. By becoming a sponsor, you will not only contribute to a culturally significant initiative but also help sustain the vital educational programs at the Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School. For more information on sponsorship of Violins of Hope and how to get involved, please visit [ViolinsOfHopeKnox.com](http://ViolinsOfHopeKnox.com).

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## HS GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL

# Crowley scores four touchdowns in Powell win

### Morgan's late TD wins the nightcap

By Steve Williams

Shataya Crowley went all out on Senior Night as she scored all four of Powell's touchdowns in a 28-6 win over Gibbs in last week's Girls Flag Football action at PHS.

After leading 20-0 at halftime, the fast and quick Crowley raced 60 yards for her last touchdown.

Chi Chi Rutherford scored late in the game to prevent Gibbs from being shut out.

"Good practicing, good conditioning and girls that want to win," said Powell Coach Cameron Talmage when asked the key to the win.

The Lady Panthers will be taking a 5-1 record into Week 4 of TSSAA's newest sport.

Talmage said he learned a lot about the 7 on 7 game as an adult player in the Knoxville Flag Football League (KFFL). He is a Resource Officer at Powell High.

In other action, Farragut and Gibbs battled to a



Left: Powell's Shataya Crowley was a scoring machine (four touchdowns) in a 28-6 win over Gibbs in Girls Flag Football last week. Photo by eks.photography\_

Above: Farragut Head Coach Cam York talks to his team during a break in the Girls Flag Football action at Powell High on Nov. 25. The Lady Admirals pulled out a 12-7 win over Gibbs. Photo by Steve Williams.

scoreless tie in the second game of the night.

Farragut quarterback Harper Holmes got the Lady Admirals on the scoreboard with a pass to Eleena Ralston. The point after conversion failed.

A 7-yard pass from Gibbs quarterback Malyiah Smith to Rutherford and a PAT pass to Callie Rice put Gibbs on top 7-6 with under five minutes left.

Farragut pulled out the win, however, as Holmes hit Ralston from 18 yards out with only 25 seconds to go.

After his team's below average start in the game, Farragut coach Cam York said "Consistency and just staying with it" got his team the win.

In the nightcap, Erika Benfield's TD pass to Kinley Frear gave Farragut

a 7-0 lead over the host Lady Panthers with less than three minutes to go in the first half. Holmes passed to Ralston for the PAT.

Powell got its first score on Madison Crowley's touchdown pass to Leilani Doucet but the extra point run failed, leaving the Lady Panthers still down by one with 13 minutes to go.

Farragut's defense twice pulled the flag in the Powell backfield and the Lady Panthers turned the ball over on downs.

Just when it looked like Farragut would get away with the victory, Powell's Yeye Morgan scored on a 50-yard run to give her team a 12-7 lead. Yeye also slammed the door with an interception at midfield and only 41 seconds remaining.

**TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE:** West, Karns, Central, Bearden and Hardin Valley will host three games each in Girls Flag Football, starting at 5 p.m.

'He was as good to me as anybody in my lifetime'

Over the years, it hasn't mattered how players



By Tom Mattingly

ended up at Tennessee to play football. It didn't matter who you were, or what your "credentials" were. Once players arrived in Knoxville, they had to prove themselves.

For those who did, there were great rewards.

Col. Thomas French Elam of Union City, the long-time trustee and athletics board member, always loved telling this story about local player Stockton Adkins.

In June 1988, Doug Dickey had "suggested," that I go to Union City to assemble a VOLUNTEERS Magazine story about Elam titled "King of the Hill."

There are three ways to get from Knoxville to Union City, none of which is easy, one going through portions of Central and Western Kentucky. It's an all day trip, regardless of the route.

There was a Friday morning interview, lunch at the Rotary Club, and a couple of hours back at his office before finishing the interview and heading home.

During his undergraduate days at Tennessee, the Colonel had been involved in a number of campus activities, capping his career as the editor of the 1931 Volunteer yearbook.

"I was the associate editor of the annual in 1929-30," Elam remembered. "The group that put the annual together wanted to dedicate it to Maj. Neyland. I said that would be putting too much emphasis on athletics, and I sold them on that idea."

But that was not the end of the story, said Elam.

"Guess who the annual was dedicated to in 1931, the year I was editor? I was determined that my annual

**Continue on page 5**

## HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

# Powell's Fisher reaches career milestone in loss to Halls



By Ken Lay

Powell High School may not have won its in-school wrestling meet against rival and state power Halls Tuesday afternoon but one of its athletes reached a career milestone at the Jeff Hunter Gymnasium.

Clint Fisher, a junior for the Panthers, won his 50th career match as he pinned the Red Devils' Cayden Robinson in the second period of the bout in the 150-pound match.

Fisher, the son of Powell High School girls

basketball coach John Fisher, began wrestling as a freshman for the Panthers. He played basketball through sixth and seventh grade.

As a freshman, he approached Powell coach Caleb Leonard about joining the wrestling team.

Leonard, then in his second year as the Panthers' wrestling coach, was delighted to have another athlete as he was in the process of rebooting the program.

"This is my fourth year here and when I got here,

we had three kids," said Leonard, who was a state champion at Halls during his high school career. "I had to get kids out of the hallways."

Fisher was one of those guys. But he said that he went looking for Leonard.

"I kind of approached him and I think we had about six kids," Fisher said. "It's crazy how this thing has grown."

The junior said what inspired him to wrestle was the individual work ethic that the sport requires.

"The thing that appeals

to me is that you get out of it what you put in," Fisher said. "It's just you against the other guy, and you're not really depending on the team."

The Red Devils won the dual 51-24, but Fisher got the loudest cheers from the Powell crowd during pre-match introductions. He was also the recipient of congratulatory greetings after the match.

His dad was on hand for his bout against Robinson, after which, Clint received an honorary singlet

**Cont. on page 4**

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# YOUTH ATHLETIC CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

## Powell second grade team is impressive in title run

By Steve Williams

Powell's second grade football team caught Brian Cole's eye this season.

The commissioner of Powell Youth Football appreciated what he was seeing from Coach Charlie Fox's team.

"As I watched his team practice and play this season, I noticed that they were doing more advanced techniques and complex play designs than what are normally being taught at that level," said Cole.

"They were pulling guards on offense and switching to the strong side / weak side on defense. They had complex pre-snap movements.

"But above all, the players seemed to know and understand the game of football better than any other second grade team I have seen at Powell in the past. That is a true credit to Charlie and his coaching staff."

Fox's team went on to win the Youth Athletic Conference championship with a 32-6 victory over Bearden at West High School.

Including two regular season games and the title game, the young Panthers posted a perfect record of 10-0, scoring an impressive 255 points and only allowing 47 points.

"As a coach, I could not be more proud of a group of young players," said Fox. "This team was very coachable and had a team first mentality. The buy-in from the players and parents was a large part of our success.

"I was assisted by three wonderful men (Zach, Kyle and Allen), who helped coach and mentor these young boys. I'm excited to see what this team can accomplish in the years to come!"

Fox has been part of the Powell Youth Football organization for seven years.

"I enjoy coaching these young boys and hope to not only teach them the skills of football, but to also help mold them into great young men one day," said Charlie. "My hope is to make a small impression in their lives now that will lead them to greatness as they grow and become contributing members of our community."

Fox was awarded the Kelly Robertson Coach of the Year award this

season. "It was an honor to be voted as the Powell youth coach of the year by a group of my peers whom I truly respect," he said. "I plan to coach and be a part of this program for years to come, as I have at least 12 more years of coaching before my youngest son will start high school.

## Alcoa third grade champions outscored opponents 406-6

Alcoa was a steamroller in the YAC Third Grade Division.

Head Coach Kent Johnson's team defeated the Baby Roadrunners 19-0 in the championship game.

Alcoa was 12-0, including games in the Kickoff Classic, regular season and playoffs and outscored its opponents 406 to 6.

Johnson said his team used multiple formations on offense and a flexible 4-4 defense.

"We had 14 different kids reach the end zone this year and only gave up two first downs in the entire regular season," added the coach. "We had some very talented, unselfish kids that blocked for each other, did their job on defense and put the team's success as their top priority."

Johnson was most proud of the "important maxims" that were instilled in his players. "We gave them a great foundation for future success not only on the football field but in life as well," he said.

"One of these maxims was '4 Rings and 4.0s,' which is how we want the kids to graduate high school - with four state championship rings and a 4.0 GPA."

**Continue on page 3**



**YAC Champs from top**  
**6U Flag Baby Roadrunners**  
**Second grade Powell**  
**Third grade Alcoa**  
**Fourth grade South-Doyle**  
**Fifth grade Alcoa**



# MIDDLE SCHOOL AGE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

## Speed powers Bearden to MAC championship

By Steve Williams

Head Coach Joe Curington guided the Bearden eighth grade team to the Middle School Age Conference title this season.

The Bulldogs defeated Gibbs 40-12 in the championship game and posted a 9-1 record.

"I think overall our strength this year was speed," said Curington. "We had numerous guys step up each game and made plays to help us be successful."

No. 5 Markise Witt and No. 9 Kannon Sipe were a 1-2 punch for Bearden, which has been a perennial power in the MAC. Both were a running back and outside linebacker and Witt also saw action as a wide receiver.

Then opponents had "the whole offensive line" to deal with, exclaimed Curington.

"This team grew closer together as the year went on," added the veteran coach. "We had numerous kids step up in different



**Eighth grade Varsity Bearden**

games and situations. This team will always be one I remember and I look forward to watching these kids grow in the future."

### Andrews leads two A-E teams to titles

Mark Andrews coached two MAC teams this season,

leading Austin-East's sixth grade team and the MAC JV team to championships.

Both teams went undefeated.

A-E's sixth graders went 9-0 and 25 players on that team also played on the MAC JV team along with seven other players.

The Roadrunners roared past Farragut 29-0 in the sixth grade finals.

Jashaun Stansberry led the offensive charge with a standout performance. DaQuan Casby and DJ Andrews also contributed significantly to the team's success.

Defensively, added Coach Andrews, Mason Chesney's performance at defensive tackle was exceptional. The entire defensive line played

strongly, with Kam McFalls providing a solid anchor at middle linebacker. The secondary effectively countered Farragut's passing attack.

Capturing the MAC JV crown was more difficult, but Austin-East came from behind to notch a 21-16 victory over Farragut and post a 10-0 record.

On offense, Stansberry

continued his impressive performance, leading the rushing attack alongside Darian Anderson. The team demonstrated resilience, overcoming a 16-6 halftime deficit. Key scoring drives in the second half, primarily fueled by Stansberry and Anderson, secured the victory.

The defense played a crucial role in the comeback too, forcing a safety and multiple three-and-outs. A late-game fumble recovery and return further solidified the win.

In addition to his 18th season as a youth football coach, Andrews also is the commissioner of the Baby Roadrunners program.

This fall Andrews reunited with his former high school coach, Stanton Stevens who had returned to take the reins again at Austin-East, and was his defensive backs coach.

Coach Stevens led Austin-East to a TSSAA state championship in 2001 and Andrews was a senior on that team.



**Sixth grade Austin-East**



**Seventh grade JV Austin-East**

## YAC Champions

Cont. from page 2

### Core of Alcoa fifth grade team is on a 52-1 run

Alcoa's fifth grade team continued its winning ways with a 30-16 win over Oak Ridge in the YAC championship game.

"This core group of players is 52-1 over the last four seasons," said Coach Matt Cunningham.

"This year we were 10-0 in the YAC and 19-0 overall," added Cunningham. "We averaged 35 points a game on offense and our starting defense only gave up four touchdowns all season."

### 'Southside' team takes fourth grade YAC crown

"Aye-yoooooo!" is what you hear before going into battle with South-Doyle, a fourth grade football team known as Southside, said Coach Brandon Strickland.

The Southside squad achieved a remarkable championship win, defeating back-to-back defending champion Halls with a resounding 20-0 victory in the YAC championship game.

Throughout the year, this team dominated the competition, going undefeated and only conceding one score, added Coach Strickland. The defense was nothing short of ferocious, characterized by discipline, speed and

unmatched physicality, he said.

South-Doyle ended the season with a perfect record of 11-0.

Southside was a team known for its commitment and dedication, said Coach Strickland. He also said Braydon Strickland and Brycen Mathis joined Crispin Bozeman, Sean Davis Jr., and Lawrence Howell Jr. as leading players on the team.

Under the guidance of Coach Kam, the team responded well to hard coaching, leading to improved leadership both on and off the field, said Strickland.

Week by week, Southside grew as a team, creating unforgettable memories and forming strong bonds among its players. Coaches instilled core fundamentals, but the most significant goal was to mold a foundation for young men to develop both in sports and in life.

### Baby Roadrunners are 6U Flag champions

The Baby Roadrunners defeated Halls Red 27-26 in an awesome YAC championship game. Their only loss was 7-6 to South-Doyle as they were 7-1 in the regular season.

Ranked No. 2, the Baby Roadrunners defeated Gibbs Blue and Powell in the playoffs before getting past Halls in the finals.

## Bearden and Farragut win TSSAA dance titles

### Farragut and West Valley middle schools also prevail

By Steve Williams

Bearden and Farragut high schools each produced two state champions in dance in the recent TSSAA Cheer and Dance State Championships that were held at the Knoxville Convention Center on Nov. 15-16.

In the Middle School competition, Farragut had two state champions and West Valley had one.

Over 3700 student-athletes competed.

As part of the 2024 championships, TSSAA held the first "Spirit Program" championship in the entire nation where the cheer team, dance team, and mascot from each participating school competed in a routine together.

Hendersonville High School and Ellis Middle School made history by winning the first Spirit Program State Championships at the high school and middle school levels.

Local winners included:

#### High School Dance Champions

- Game Day (Large Varsity) - Bearden
- Jazz (Small Varsity) - Farragut



Pom (Large Varsity) - Bearden  
 Pom (Small Varsity) - Farragut  
**Middle School Dance Champions**  
 Game Day - West Valley  
 Jazz - Farragut  
 Pom - Farragut

### Farragut cheerleaders earn National bid

In early November at the Regional Competition in Charlotte, the Farragut High cheerleaders took first place in the Super Varsity Game Day Division and earned a bid to the Nationals.

### Smith wins Southeast Cross Country title

Knoxville Catholic's Keegan Smith won the Southeast Regional Cross Country title in Cary, N.C., on Nov. 23.

Smith, this year's TSSAA state champion, ran a PR time of 14:23.26 in the 5,000-meter event, earned the No. 1 ranking in the nation and also set a new course record.

Carolina Areheart of Webb School finished

second to also qualify for the Nationals.

### 1978 state basketball champions to be honored

An "All Holston Get Together" will be held Monday, Dec. 9, at Holston Middle School to honor Holston High School's 1978 TSSAA Class AA state basketball championship team, which defeated Rule High of Knoxville 71-51 at MTSU in Murfreesboro.

Coach Howard Rash's Warriors finished 34-1 that season.

Festivities will start at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria and move into the gym at 7.

### TSSAA announces Mr. Football finalists

The Tennessee Titans Mr. Football Awards will be presented to the top football players in nine classifications of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at Nissan Stadium in Nashville. The top kicker in the state will be recognized with a Mr. Football Award, regardless of classification.

This is the 40th year that the Mr. Football Awards have been presented to Tennessee's best high school football players.

Knox County had three semifinalists for the Mr. Football awards this year, but they did not advance to the final selection.

Neighboring counties Anderson and Blount did advance two semifinalists to the final round - Eli Graf of Class 3A Alcoa and Waylon LaRue of Class 4A Anderson County.

UT commit George MacIntyre, Brentwood Academy quarterback, is a finalist in Division II-AAA.

Page High, which advanced to last week's Class 5A semifinals, has two Mr. Football finalists - Brenden Anes and Eric Hazzard.



**Knoxville Catholic senior Keegan Smith crosses the finish line as the 2024 winner of the NIKE Southeast Regional on Nov. 23 at Cary, N.C.**



## HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Halls wrestler Mason Robinson (top) grapples with Powell's Cameron Barnett in a dual meet Tuesday. Barnett won the bout by fall in 1:19.

## Intertwined roots prevalent in local HS wrestling rivalry

By Ken Lay

The Thanksgiving season is a time for families and friends to reunite. And the wrestling mat served as a reunion spot early last week.

Halls and Powell renewed acquaintances Tuesday afternoon and rekindled the Emory Road rivalry in an in-school wrestling dual meet at the Jeff Hunter Gymnasium.

Although the rivalry is sometimes heated and divides part of North Knox County, the Halls and Powell wrestling programs are intertwined and they have been for years. Powell coach Caleb Leonard was a state champion for the Red Devils during his high school days.

His coach was Shannon Sayne, who was also a state champion at Halls as a grappler. He's also a won a dual meet state championship and a traditional state champion as a coach in 2023.

When called upon, Sayne was more than happy to schedule an in-school dual with his former athlete.

"I think Caleb has done a great job over here building his program," Sayne said after the Red Devils defeated the Panthers, 51-24, before a crowd

comprised largely of Powell High Students, faculty and staff. "This was an opportunity for Caleb to help his program and it also was a chance to expose people to the sport who haven't been exposed to it.

"This was a great recruiting tool for Caleb and we were happy that we were able to come over here and be a part of it."

Powell and Halls have seen their programs go down different roads over the years. By the time Sayne was named head coach, the Red Devils already had a well-established tradition. And one man, Chris Vandergriff was the central figure in the Halls High wrestling narrative.

Vandergriff was a heavyweight state champion for the Red Devils, and after wrestling for the University of Tennessee, he returned to coach. Together, he and one-time assistant Tim Pittman (who has built Gibbs into a powerhouse program after building the program from scratch in the early 2000s), mentored Sayne at Halls.

Vandergriff coached his son, John, another heavyweight champion, at Halls before retiring after John's senior season.

Chris Vandergriff

remains one of the state's best ambassadors for the sport of wrestling. If not for him, several schools in Knox County, including Powell, may not field teams. Since his retirement, he's continued to help the area's programs and is always just a phone call away for coaches looking for help.

"As strange as it sounds, Shannon and Coach V, they've both been a big help for Powell wrestling," said Leonard, who was named Powell head coach four years ago. "I was an assistant there for four years.

"Shannon was my coach there and Coach V, anytime I need anything from him, all I have to do is pick up the phone."

John Vandergriff was also once an assistant under Sayne and his primary responsibility was coaching Leonard late in his high school career.

The Vandergriffs, Sayne and Leonard are state champions from Halls. Powell's wrestling history is more erratic. The Panthers have had periods of success under former head coaches Larry Neely, Jimmy Parton and Rusty Partin.

But those days were in the rear-view mirror when

Leonard inherited a program upon arriving.

"When I got here, we had three kids," Leonard said. "I had to get kids out of the hallways.

"They've built a program. Shannon won the dual state championship a couple of years ago and they finished second last year. They're the program that we want to be and now, we both have some younger wrestlers, and now, we pretty much have a full team."

One Panther wrestler reached a personal milestone Tuesday afternoon as junior Clint Fisher won his 50<sup>th</sup> career high school match. Fisher, who competes in the 150-pound division, pinned Halls' Cayden Robinson.

Fisher, the son of Powell girls basketball coach John Fisher, began wrestling as a freshman after playing basketball well into middle school and he remembers the days when there was little interest in wrestling in Powell.

"I kind of approached (Leonard) and told him that I wanted to wrestle," Fisher said. "When I started, I think we had six kids, and it's crazy how this has all grown."

## Powell's Fisher reaches career milestone in loss to Halls

Cont. from page 1

commemorating his milestone victory.

But being in a basketball household isn't always easy for a wrestler.

"Sometimes, my dad gives me a hard time but it's not that bad," Clint said. "Sometimes, I can tell that he wishes that I still played basketball."

In other matches

Tuesday afternoon, the Panthers won in the 120-pound division as Cameron Barnett pinned Mason Robinson in 1 minute, 19 seconds.

At 126, Powell's Rodrigo Sanchez won by fall over Cayden Russell in 47 seconds. Powell also won the heavyweight match as Conner Clearman won via the pin in 56 seconds.

The Red Devils opened the match with a win at 113 as Noah Lance pinned Jameson Vaughan in 1:05.

Halls wrestlers Mason Crane (132), Trey Griffin (138), Lex Stratham (145), Kizer Meek (165), Barrett Whaley (175), Gavin Self (190) and Campbell Hunley (215) all won via the pin.

The Red Devils picked up a decision victory in the 157-pound weight class as Tristan Farris defeated Caden Carroll, 7-3.

Halls coach Shannon Sayne was pleased after watching his team win the bout between the two long-time Emory Road rivals.

"With the crew we brought today, I think we did a pretty good job and we did some good things," Sayne said. "But I think we

had some learning experiences out there today."

For his part, Leonard was upbeat after the loss.

"I know the team score doesn't look good, but the matches were pretty much all competitive," he said.

**Lady Devils and Lady Panthers wrestle three matches:** Halls High's girls team picked up two wins to open action Tuesday.

Libby Lee pinned Powell's Amanda Felipe and Natalie Beaumont won by fall over Anny Santamaria.

The Lady Panthers' Jacey Pemberton scored a pin victory over Blair Dumas in the final girls match of the day.

## HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

## Lady Cherokees overcome slow start, poor shooting to win at Halls

By Ken Lay

South-Doyle High School's young girls basketball team found itself in an early hole early last week in its game against Halls in a contest that featured two of the areas youngest teams.

The Lady Cherokees fell behind the Lady Devils, 7-0, out of the gate. But South-Doyle would find its way, at least defensively. It would close the opening frame by scoring 12 unanswered points on its way to a 42-19 victory at Halls on Monday, Nov. 25.

The Lady Devils, thanks to freshman Bella Wires, who made a pair of field goals, including a three-pointer, and a bucket by sophomore Brinley Wilson, darted in front.

But the Lady Cherokees turned things around and once they took the lead, they never trailed again.

South-Doyle went on a tear and opened a 23-7 advantage midway through second stanza, and from there, the game was never in doubt. Wires helped the Lady Devils go on a modest 5-2 run as she accounted for all of Halls' points in the quarter.

Wires, however, played sparingly after halftime due to injury and the Lady Cherokees, who led 25-12

after the break, immediately put the game out of reach by outscoring the home team, 14-2, in the third quarter as Paige Welch had the only two third-quarter points.

South-Doyle won the game with its defense as it had its share of offensive struggles throughout the contest.

"We couldn't finish tonight. We had 42 points, but we shot like 19 percent (from the field)," Lady Cherokees' coach David Scott said. "Every game is a new experience for our girls.

"We have a young team. We played six freshmen tonight. We played one junior, and everybody else was freshmen or sophomores."

Scott said he was baffled a bit by his team's slow start.

"We got down, 7-0, and I think Halls came in and they were ready to play and we weren't," he said. "As for the slow start, there's really no excuse for it."

Payton Rollins scored 14 points for the Lady Cherokees (1-2), while McKenzie Goddard added nine and Sara Brunson finished with eight.

Wires had 10 points (all in the first half for the Lady Devils.

## Elijah Elliott emerges as inside presence for Halls in win over Cherokees

By Ken Lay

New Halls High School boys basketball coach Brian Stewart thinks he might have one of the most underrated big men in the area.

And Elijah Elliott went a long way towards proving his coach's point on Monday, Nov. 25.

Elliott wasn't the Red Devils' leading scorer but he scored 17 clutch points in the Red Devils' 63-59 victory over South-Doyle.

"I think we have a great player. I really think so, but of course, I'm biased" said Stewart, who was previously head coach at Cosby and for the Cherokees. "Some (colleges) are talking to him.

"I think he's flying a little under the radar right now, but I think that's going to change as the season goes on."

If he has more games like he had early last week, Elliott isn't going to go unnoticed for long. He scored 10 points in the first half of a close game and kept the Red Devils (2-1) within striking distance as the Cherokees had a slim 26-25 advantage at halftime.

Elliott scored six points in the third quarter and made a shot as time expired to give the Red Devils a 43-37 lead heading into

the final eight minutes of a contest that was a roller-coaster ride throughout its duration.

Elliott also converted a free throw with 19.6 seconds left in the game to make the score 61-56.

Defensively, he spent part of the night guarding another solid post player in Knox County, the Cherokees' Nate Thompson.

It's a matchup he's been in before.

"He's quick and he's big and he's a killer," Elliott said of Thompson, a senior, who scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half. "He's fast and we came in at the same time, so I've gone up against him a lot.

"He's a great player."

Stewart echoed Elliott's sentiments.

"Nate is really a great player," Stewart. "He's a great high school basketball player and he's everything a high school basketball player should be."

Halls guard Colby Comparato had a game high 25 points.

South-Doyle got 11 points from Carlos Niyamgabo. Holden Lowe added 10 points for the Cherokees, which led by as many as four points midway through the fourth quarter.

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