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New K-8 school approved for Western Heights area

By Ken Leinart

The Knox County Board of Education approved a proposed new kindergarten through eighth grade (K-8) school to serve the Mechanicsville, Lonsdale and Beaumont (MLB) communities.

The board was given a presentation on a new school project during its Monday, Feb. 3.,

workshop session and approval for the project passed by a 7-0-1 vote during the board's Thursday, Feb. 6, regular meeting.

Third District's Patricia Fontenot-Ridley passed on the vote and Seventh District's Steve Triplett was absent from Thursday's meeting.

The new school is the result of

a \$40 million HUD grant awarded in 2022 to "revamp" Western Heights. That project is estimated to bring an additional 400 school-age children to the MLB school zones (West View, Maynard, Lonsdale Elementary Schools, and Beaumont Magnet Academy).

Earlier this year Knox County Schools earmarked \$66 million

in Capital Improvements funds to address the growth in that area.

Expanding current schools, however, is problematic, Assistant Superintendent of Operations for Knox County Schools Garfield Adams told the board during Monday's presentation.

"The MLB campuses are landlocked," Adams told the board.

A new school would also address other concerns in the community. Currently, there are no pre-K schools serving the community.

Also, students leaving the MLB elementary campuses are sent to middle schools outside of their communities.

Continue on page 4



Students and alumni of Shannondale Elementary School gather before the Covenant Health Kids Run Kickoff Race at Zoo Knoxville on the morning of Saturday, Feb. 1. Led by fourth-grade teacher Kathy Smith, the kids participate in an after-school fitness program and are earning points in the Fittest School Challenge to try to win a cash prize for their school.

Knox Co. Trustee launches C-PACER program

Goal to make county a 'leader in sustainable development'

Knox County Trustee Justin Biggs is proud to announce the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resilience (C-PACER) program launch, positioning Knox County as the second county in Tennessee to offer this innovative financing solution. This milestone marks a significant step forward in the county's commitment to promoting sustainable development and energy efficiency.

The C-PACER program enables commercial property owners to

Continue on page 4

Hundreds of children race to finish line at Covenant Kids Run kickoff

Annual marathon challenge underway after initial event at Zoo Knoxville on Feb. 1

The Covenant Kids Run officially started with a kickoff marked by a 1-mile run at Zoo Knoxville on Saturday, Feb. 1, that was attended by more than 300 East Tennessee students and their families, racing to both improve their fitness and raise money for their schools.

The children's run is part of the 2025 Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon and encourages kids to complete the exercise equivalent of a marathon in about two months. The schools with the

highest percentage of participation will win prize money in the Fittest School Challenge.

"The Covenant Kids Run introduces children to the sport, and most importantly, encourages them to have fun while being active," said Jason Altman, Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon race director. "We love our East Tennessee community and seeing everyone come together to support youth fitness and area schools. If you missed the kickoff event, you can still register

your child and participate in the Covenant Kids Run - and the Fittest School Challenge!"

Registration is open at knoxvillemarathon.com. Children will finish the final mile of their marathon together on Saturday, April 5, at World's Fair Park in downtown Knoxville.

Children in the eighth grade and younger can participate in the Covenant Kids Run. The free mileage log is available online to track 26.2 miles of walking, running or the exercise equivalent, such as 30 minutes of active playtime.

Each child who participates in the Covenant Kids Run will earn one point for his or her school in the Fittest School Challenge,

a competition among area schools. Schools register for the Covenant Kids Run and provide a total student enrollment count. The top five schools in the categories of small school (fewer than 300 students) and large school (301+ students) with the highest percentage of student participation in the race win prize money and a plaque.

As a 2025 Community Partner, Girls on the Run Greater Knoxville also is incentivizing participation in the Covenant Kids Run. Visit gotrknoxville.org to get involved in a nearby club.

Learn more and register at runsignup.com/Race/TN/Knoxville/KnoxvilleMarathon for the Covenant Kids Run and all races.

Emergency drill report discussed by E-911 Board

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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An emergency drill held in January produced some vital information for the Knox County Emergency Communications District Board. The board met last week and learned that the active shooter drill involved more than 20 organizations at two locations.

The local groups involved, such as the Knoxville Police and Fire

Continue on page 3

Commission may approve \$4.35 million purchase of property for a new maintenance facility

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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When the Knox County Commission meets in Wednesday, February 19, and regular session on Monday, February 24, it faces an agenda that is 43 items long and some important expenditures. The review meeting is moved

to Wednesday because of President's Day next Monday. While the commission chair and commissioners may suggest items to discuss there are some interesting agenda items.

One of the items up for debate and approval is a \$4.35 million agreement with Fort Loudon Waste & Recycling, Inc., Jason Bales

and Edstock LLC for a county-wide maintenance facility. The new project is being recommended by Mayor Glenn Jacobs. It is listed as a "Commercial Purchase and Sale Agreement."

Finance Director Chris Caldwell told The Focus the county plans to buy the 15.5-acre property at 2742 Hancock Street and

302 North Avenue in North Knoxville to build a county-wide maintenance facility. He said the site was once a mulch facility and it is hoped the Knox County School System will join in relocating their maintenance functions there.

The Knox County Property Assessor, Mayor and Commission are looking

into reducing the four-year reappraisal cycle of real estate property to a two-year plan. The idea is to update and equalize the value of property for tax purposes.

The rules committee has several changes to the way the commission operates including changing the Road and Right of

Way Closure procedure, updating how board and committee appointments are made, changing the presentations of honorary resolutions, proclamations and discussed items in meetings, and defining the responsibilities of the chair and vice chair regarding the development corporation

Cont. on page 3

Biden Finally Did Something Right

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.
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Many years ago, during a hearing on a request for some new federal court-houses, Rep. (later Senator) Jim Inhofe whispered to me: "You could shoot a gun down the hall of almost any federal courthouse at 3:00 on any weekday and never hit anyone."

I don't know why he said that, but it is even more true today. Jury trials have almost become a thing of the past in both federal and state courts.

I thought of this when President Biden, in one of his last days in office, finally did something with which I agreed. He vetoed a bill adding 66 new federal judges.

He vetoed it for the wrong reason, however. He did it just because he didn't want President Trump to be able to appoint all these new judges.

He should have vetoed the bill because - 1) we do not need more judges, and 2) it will save hundreds of millions of dollars over the life of these judges, their staffs, and their replacements if they are not added.

I was a criminal court judge in Tennessee for almost 7½ years before being elected to Congress. During that time, I tried felony criminal cases, including the attempted murder of James Earl Ray.

I, like almost every judge I have ever known, and I know that members of Congress like to get their friends appointed to open or new judgeships in their states or districts.

I also know, however, that court statistics can be very misleading. Those who want more judges can say caseloads have gone up 25-30 percent.

But the simple fact is that when very few cases are going to trial, you don't need more judges.

It shocks judges and lawyers today when I tell them I tried 68 jury trials and five non-jury trials during my first year as a judge back in 1981.

Then, in my second year on the bench, Knox County got a new district attorney general who settled more cases. But I still had 40 to 50 jury trials each year.

The only statistic that will tell the true story about whether a new judge is needed is one they will never tell you: the number of days spent in trial.

I once had a young woman in front of me who had forged 24 checks. She pled guilty to all charges. It did not take very long to take her guilty pleas. The district attorney had 24 different very thin files with different case numbers so he could say they had disposed of 24 cases.

A judge who takes guilty pleas all week has worked far less than a judge who has spent all week in one jury trial that has gone on from morning 'til night.

There are still a few jury trials in criminal cases. We now need even fewer judges in courts handling civil cases. For many years now, federal and state

courts have gone to a formal process called mediation.

Many judges and lawyers will say they wish they had more jury trials, but most really do not. The judges know they will have it much easier if they encourage or pressure lawyers to go to mediation, and they know they can never be reversed on a case that is mediated.

And most lawyers under 50 years old have either never tried a case in front of a jury, or they do it so infrequently I believe most are now scared to do it.

The secretary to one of the civil court judges in Knoxville told me almost five years ago that her judge had tried only three jury trials that year.

A lawyer friend of mine told me last year that a judge in a small town about 60 miles from Knoxville had

had only one jury trial the year before, and it ended in a hung jury.

Federal judges are very expensive. Not only do they draw very high salaries, but they have secretaries, law books, court reporters, office clerks, court officers and security personnel who also draw very good salaries.

And federal judges have the best retirement plans in this (or probably any) country. At age 65 they can go on what is called "senior status" and continue to draw their full salary if they handle a one-fourth caseload or do "other duties" (hmmm, I wonder what those are).

Unless and until we start having more cases that actually go to trial in front of juries, we really do not need more judges.

You Know You're Old When ...

You know you are old if:

Your hair is growing in your ears and not on your head.

Every artist you listen to is dead.

The last movie you saw was "African Queen."

Old ladies open the door for you.

Your socks don't always match.

You have a record collection.

Your first new car cost \$1,750 and your new 13" color TV cost \$550.

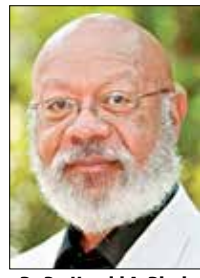
You have to think about how to get up from the couch.

You keep saying that the dog farted.

You can recognize the songs being played in department stores.

Your other half keeps introducing you as "the older black guy."

You were going on a Walk for Alzheimer's but forgot



By Dr. Harold A. Black
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where it was.

You start calling your dog "dog."

You think Catfish Hunter is someone who lived in the Okefenokee swamp.

You start liking Brussels sprouts.

You keep asking your other

half to call you so you can find your phone.

You put ranch dressing in your salad and couldn't tell the difference.

You went to buy new corduroy trousers this winter and the clerks had no clue what you were talking about.

Your eyebrows have wandered.

You have to tie a belt to the end of the bed to pull you up in the morning.

You have started driving faster so you won't forget where you were going.

Your son is a grandfather.

All your living heroes are dead.

The president is younger than you.

Your doctor hadn't heard of the Supremes.

Naps are now called senility snoozes.

You thought Taylor Swift was a fast seamstress.

Your car keys keep hiding from you.

You need to add on to the bathroom sink to hold your prescriptions.

You need to set off the alarm to find your car at the mall.

The twinkle in her eye is from the reflection of the sun.

They start putting one candle on your birthday cake because of the fire hazard.

You think "atrophy" is what you won playing tennis.

When they say "smoking hot body," you think of cremation.

Farting is a walking aid.

All of your favorite TV

shows are reruns.

People come to visit and admire your antique furniture.

I stopped my other half from cooking. She must have thought I was a god when she kept placing burnt offerings before me.

Your love tattoo looks like a turnip.

The smoke alarm battery needs changing and you go around your house spraying for crickets.

You have been there and done that but can't remember what that was.

You enjoy Mondays.

People say you are aging gracefully and they mean you are slowly looking worse.

When Mao said that the longest journey begins with a single step, I don't think he meant going to the bathroom.

Milk used to be delivered to your front door.

Your mother used to buy her chickens at live kill shops.

Someone told me, "Have

a good weekend." I thought it was Tuesday.

Your grandparents had an outhouse (with Sears Roebuck catalogs and corn cobs).

You remember when Joe Biden had hair plugs.

When asked "How are you" you have to think before answering.

One great thing about having a partner your age is that she thinks you still look good.

You remember when 17" was a big-screen TV.

You always take a nap after lunch.

You remember when a refrigerator was called an ice box.

You think a photographic memory means you can remember every photograph you have ever seen.

The commercials on the TV shows you watch are mostly for ED or hair loss.

You remember when girls' basketball was half-court.

When you get lost you can be found by a trail of

used Kleenex.

You gave up golf because you could never remember where you hit the ball.

Holes in the knees of your jeans used to mean you were poor.

A night out means sitting on the front porch.

You need to remember things like "76 Trombones" or else you will forget your age.

You remember when a gallon of gasoline cost 99 cents.

You go looking for something and halfway there forget what you were looking for.

You can remember the name of your first-grade teacher but not that of your next-door neighbor.

One of your favorite singers last released a song 20 years ago.

You have outlived your life expectancy.

You suffer from CRS but can't remember what that stands for.

Your parents' grandparents were all slaves.



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Commission may approve \$4.35 million purchase

Cont. from page 1

Commissioner Angela Russell wants a discussion on grants and contract procedures for the hotel-motel tax funds.

The sheriff is asking for acceptance of K9 bullet and stab vests donated by

the non-profit Vested Interest in K9s Inc., a donation valued at \$14,000. He also wants a \$139,650 contract with Dr. Donald Keeble to be the medical services director for the Knox County Corrections Division.

After four months of

delay, the commission may vote to approve or disapprove county road improvements for the D. R. Horton Inc. development on Tipton Station Road at the Martin Mill Pike and Maryville Pike intersections.

The routine approval of Dr. Jon Rysewyk as director of Knox County Schools is among the school consent items.

County engineering is requesting several widening or road improvements for Bakertown Road, Westland Drive, the Marietta Church Road and Hardin Valley Road intersection, Schaad Road, Thorngrove Pike and Midway Road.



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,
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I Hope Senators Blackburn And Hagerty Will Stay In Senate And Continue To Help President Trump

First I want to say that I supported and continue to support both U.S. Senators Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty. I think both are doing an excellent job for the people of Tennessee and our country.

Recently, we were told that Senator Blackburn was "seriously" considering a run for governor after just having been reelected to the United States Senate three months ago. Last week we heard that Bill Hagerty, Tennessee's junior U.S. senator, might want to occupy the governor's mansion as well. Both Blackburn and Hagerty would have the people of Tennessee believe they are

both giving the idea a lot of thought. It seems a mighty strange thing when both of Tennessee's U.S. senators would rather be governor than serve in the United States Senate. If Marsha Blackburn wants to run for governor in 2026, why didn't she forego a reelection campaign and allow Tennesseans to select someone who wants to serve in the Senate? That would give someone a chance to gather some seniority in the Senate while Blackburn toured Tennessee for the next two years to see whether she really wanted to be governor or not. Evidently, both Hagerty and Blackburn would prefer being governor than a member of the Senate. Unless I am much mistaken, I have read numerous governors have tried to get to the U.S. Senate from Tennessee and only one, Lamar Alexander, made it through election by the people.

There are nine people I know of who would very much like to serve in the United States Senate and that would be every Republican congressman representing Tennessee in the House of Representatives.

Both of our U.S. senators told us how much they wanted to help Donald Trump and work to pass his agenda. The second Trump administration is historic

and engaged in returning the government to the people by disempowering the unelected bureaucracy that has filled the swamp like leeches for decades. One would think both Blackburn and Hagerty would find plenty to do by helping to restore common sense in the running of our government and making it accountable to the people instead of its fellow members of the swamp. The first 100 days of the Trump administration is the most critical period of Donald Trump's second administration and as much as Blackburn and Hagerty have held on to the president's coattails it seems as if they would be awfully happy to help out in Washington.

Tennessee is in pretty good shape and presently Washington, D.C., is where the action is now and likely will be for some time to come. Tennesseans deserve senators who want to serve in the Senate and will work hard for the people of Tennessee. I can certainly see why someone would want to come back home, but you hired on for the job and Tennesseans gave it to you.

USAID ... The Tip Of The Iceberg?

The wailing, gnashing of teeth and wearing of

sackcloth and ashes by the leftists who are agonizing over the scrutiny being given to the USAID program is hilarious. It is supposed to be a foreign aid program to help allies and governments friendly to the United States of America. Not surprisingly, under the Biden administration the USAID was busy spending our tax dollars less on foreign aid than global DEI programs. \$1.5 million was sent to Serbia where the people probably rejoiced over the American tax dollars being sent to "advance diversity, equity and inclusion in Serbia's workplaces and business communities." Taxpayers here can delight in the fact our government spent \$47,000 to provide the people of Colombia with a "transgender opera" and sent a much needed \$32,000 for a "transgender comic book" in Peru, and \$2 million for gender changes and "LGBT activism" in Guatemala. We sent \$70,000 to produce a "DEI musical" in Ireland as the world urgently needed a DEI version of Riverdance where most of the cast can't dance but they are diverse. You can bet it won't be at a theater near you anytime soon.

We sent \$6 million to promote tourism in Egypt and I don't mean Egypt, Arkansas or Egypt, Pennsylvania. Hundreds of thousands of

dollars went to a nonprofit that has been linked to terrorist organizations. Millions of taxpayer dollars went to the EcoHealth Alliance which was involved in the research done in Wuhan, China. Hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to provide "irrigation canals, farming equipment and even fertilizer used to support the unprecedented poppy cultivation and heroin production in Afghanistan," and the profits likely go into the hands of the Taliban. We also gave the money to produce hundreds of thousands of meals for Al-Qaeda-affiliated fighters in Syria.

Misuse of American tax dollars in the form of foreign aid is nothing new, but America is now \$20 trillion in debt with Medicare and Social Security fast approaching insolvency. The pie-eyed Left think by taking everything from anyone with any money they can continue to spend whatever they like on whatever they want. They can't. If something is free to you, someone else is paying for it. Housing, pharmaceuticals, food, and a number of other things are subsidized by working people for other people in this country. The United States cannot afford to take in everyone and provide for them, nor can we afford to pay the way of the

rest of the world. The debt WILL come due and sooner than you think. We have no more money to throw away.

Democrats Continue To Double Down On Woke

David Hogg, the young man who has made a career out of being a survivor of the Parkland shooting, has just been elected as a vice chair of the national Democratic Party. David is for defunding ICE and the police, although he has never explained just who would have come to the school in Parkland if there was no law enforcement in existence. Nikolas Cruz had been reported twice to different FBI offices and those reports were ignored. Local law enforcement officers were discouraged from arresting Cruz before his murderous and tragic shooting spree because he had been placed in a restorative practices program designed to protect minorities. In the end, there was no restorative justice for the victims of Nikolas Cruz, but David Hogg doesn't talk about that. Hogg's own belief in diversity inside his party can be summed up by his bidding Congresswoman Mary Peltola of Alaska "good riddance" after her defeat as he said she was "awful on gun control."

Emergency drill report discussed by E-911 Board

Cont. from page 1

Departments, the Knox County Sheriff's Office, Rural Metro Fire, AMR ambulance, and local fire and rescue squads, coordinated pretty well. The problem was that outside agencies, such as Homeland Security, don't use the same radios or frequencies.

Another problem was the standard use of terms, with some of the involved groups using codes, such as 1096 while others used other terms for the same thing or "Plain Talk."

The drill's objective was to see how the various agencies and organizations communicate with each other, according to Knox 911 Executive Director Brad Anders.

"That's the purpose of such exercises,"

commented Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs who chaired the quarterly board meeting.

In other business, the board heard that the communications district is in good financial shape and briefly discussed a higher rate for 911 in telephone bills, from \$1.50 to \$1.86 per month, and possibly moving \$18.5 million in reserve funds to a special account for future use.

The board voted to replace retired Financial Chairman John Fugate with Janette Burgin and welcomed Nathaniel Shelso of First Bank to the board. The board meets again on April 16, possibly at the new backup 911 facility in the Knoxville Public Safety Complex.

City council approves \$1.75 million grant request

By Mike Steely
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It took most of the four-hour meeting but the Knoxville City Council approved, in a split vote, an application for \$1.75 million from the Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council. Several local citizens spoke against the application and confusion arose over a missed deadline and an application submitted by the police department.

While the actual deadline for the application has passed Chief Paul Noel responded that the application has already been submitted prior to approval of the action.

Part of the \$1.75M grant would help fund the city's co-responder program, upping the number of officer-mental health worker teams. Critics noted the absence of a proposed alternative response effort in the funding and charged that the police are not mental health workers.

Mayor Indya Kincannon noted the co-response teams made more than 4,000 calls last year with 97% of the

visits not resulting in arrests. The opioid grant, if approved, would also include purchasing four unmarked cars for the teams.

Councilwoman Debbie Helsley echoed some other members by stating that both co-response teams and alternate response teams can exist to help in responding to noncriminal calls to 911. The alternative team idea is being studied by a task force and a recommendation will be presented in about six months.

Chief Financial Officer Boyce Evans noted the application had already been filed by the KPD and, if granted, the city cannot accept the funds unless the council approves. Councilman Andrew Roberto said the council should be notified when grants are requested and Chief Noel replied he will "absolutely do so in the future."

Councilman Tommy Smith said the co-responder teams are extending suicide prevention but Councilwoman Amelia Parker charged that the police members on the teams gather information on drug dealers and added, "We're bringing the criminal justice

system to the doorsteps."

Chief Noel said he is proud of the teams and the program is becoming a "mentor" for other jurisdictions.

Councilwoman Lauren Rider noted some co-responder calls involve domestic violence, children and outside people, adding, "Different people play different roles." Councilwoman Lynne Fugate noted the difference between the former police-only response and the results of the co-responder teams.

The police department apparently filed the grant application without notifying the council because of the deadline. The meeting was interrupted briefly by shouting from the audience regarding this agenda item and a couple of citizens were removed. Another agenda item involving funding of community organizations caused a disturbance in the audience as well. Many of the speakers were critical of Mayor Indya Kincannon and the council.

The final vote was 7-1-1 with Parker voting "No" and Seema Singh abstaining.

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A Tea Party At Windsor Ridge

Residents of the Windsor Ridge Senior Living recently had a tea party where residents were encouraged to decorate their hats with colorful flowers and stickers. Sepideh Abdoli, activity director, captured these creative residents enjoying the moment.



Mounted police, violence prevention and zoning OK'd by council

By Mike Steely
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While the discussion of a \$1.75M grant requested by the Knoxville Police Department took up most of the city council meeting Tuesday evening the council did vote on several other agenda items.

The Downtown Knoxville Alliance budget was approved for the year and the council voted to approve a request for two mounted police for the downtown area and special events. Mayor Indya Kincannon said the horse-mounted police will add to visibility and safety.

Chief Paul Noel noted such patrols in other cities and said the mounted patrols will not replace the city police bike patrols. The vote was 8-1 for approval.

The African American Equity Restoration Task Force asked for and received approval of \$150,000 to go to 10 community organizations. Four other community groups will also receive \$11,375 in Youth Violence Prevention grants. Thirteen other groups will split \$234,841 in funding to support youth and young adult programs.

The city's Bicycle Facilities Plan was approved for

\$187,500 in updates and Cannon & Cannon Inc. was approved for \$130,000 to provide design services for the First Creek Greenway Project.

A property at 2004 Highland Drive may be purchased by the city for \$165,000 as recommended by the Abandoned, Blighted and Vacant Properties Committee.

Two properties adjoining the old St. Mary's Hospital, now the Public Safety Complex, were approved for rezoning to permit housing and four properties on Milton Street at the base of Sharp's Ridge were denied a zoning change to permit more housing. Councilman Charles Thomas said the properties showed no change in area use, are in an isolated area, have narrow streets and a railroad crossing, and don't meet the qualification for a rezoning.

Zoning changes were approved for 1316 Grand Avenue, from residential to general commercial; 6721 and 6727 Campbell Lane, from residential to general commercial; Zero Kingston Pike changed to RN-2 single-family residential and Zero Wallwood Road also was approved for RN-2.

Knox Co. Trustee launches C-PACER

Cont. from page 1

secure long-term, low-cost financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, and resilience projects. By leveraging this program, property owners can improve their buildings' performance, reduce energy costs, and enhance their resilience against environmental challenges.

"We are thrilled to bring the C-PACER program to Knox County, providing our community with a powerful tool to drive sustainable economic growth," said Knox County Trustee Justin Biggs. "With almost two dozen deals already

in the pipeline, we are witnessing an enthusiastic response from local businesses eager to embrace energy-efficient solutions."

The introduction of C-PACER in Knox County is expected to stimulate job creation, reduce energy consumption, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to a healthier, more sustainable environment for all residents. The program supports the county's broader goals of fostering economic development and environmental stewardship by facilitating access to financing for these critical upgrades.

Key benefits of the C-PACER program include:

- Up to 90% Financing: Property owners can finance up to 90% of their project's costs, covering equipment, labor, and soft costs.

- Long Repayment Terms: With repayment terms extending up to 25 years, businesses can undertake significant upgrades without immediate financial strain.

- Transferable Financing: The C-PACER assessment remains with the property, not the owner, ensuring flexibility for property transactions.

"We are excited to see

this program's positive impact on our local economy and environment," added Biggs. "By reducing energy costs and promoting renewable energy adoption, Knox County is paving the way for a more sustainable future."

Knox County encourages all eligible commercial property owners to explore the opportunities offered by the C-PACER program. Interested parties can learn more about the application process and program details by visiting the Knox County Trustee's office website or contacting the office directly.

New K-8 school approved for Western Heights area

Cont. from page 1

Adams said that practice leaves a void in peers from the students' communities when they reach middle school.

"We want to get away from that," Adams said of busing students out of their communities.

The new K-8 school would be larger than elementary schools in the county, with a planned 247,000 square feet to accommodate 1,000 elementary school students and 600 middle school students, but Adams said a larger school would allow for more "programming," or choice in types of classes offered, and would offer more teachers, as well as better tutor and after school opportunities for students.

He said smaller schools often have to share resources, especially support staff such as counselors.

In the proposal, Maynard Elementary School and Beaumont Magnet

Academy will be closed. West View Elementary School will be converted to a dedicated pre-K campus. Those students, plus a portion of Lonsdale students who live in Region 5, of which the schools are zoned, as well as expected new students and transfers from outside the zone, would make up the elementary school body.

Elementary school students would no longer be sent to Northwest, Vine, Whittle Springs, and Bearden Middle Schools.

Adams pointed out The Rev. Dr. John Butler (Dist. 1 Board Representative) has been working on a solution since HUD first announced the \$40 million grant in 2022.

"He's talked to a lot of people, attended a lot of meetings," Adams said.

Adams added that in the past few weeks there have been eight community meetings with parents and staff of the schools in question to get input from them as well.

With the passage of the proposed project Thursday night the Knox County Board of Education's next step will be a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Knox County for a land swap, expected to come before the board during its March 2025 meeting.

Knox County Schools will receive the old Rule High School site at 1919 Vermont Avenue. Knox County will receive Maynard Elementary School and Beaumont Magnet Academy.

Adams said the old Rule High site is ideal for the new school. Not just because of its proximity, but also because of its historical importance.

The next phase will be design and taking bids for the project, which would go through 2025-2026.

"It does take a year for this step," Adams told the board.

Construction of the project would run from 2026 through 2028 with tentative plans for the school to

open for the 2028-2029 school year.

Knox County School System Superintendent Dr. Jon Rysewyk said typically

a principal for a new school is named before completion to allow for planning. He said that is also the time frame when a name for the

new facility would be decided with heavy input coming from the community and other stakeholders.

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

Second Guessing

Even God rested on the seventh day, but not Trump
Liz Peek

The meme with a picture of Trump dressed in a state trooper-like outfit read, "There's a new Tariff in town." The days of other countries taking advantage of America are over, and government corruption and waste are under investigation. We are getting what we voted for and more.

Patriots watched in horror as Obama's third term stooge enacted progressive, leftist, anti-American policies that almost destroyed our country. We were horrified by illegal invasion, a feckless and dangerous foreign policy, corruption in the intelligence agencies and lawfare in the DOJ and legal system. We elected a disruptor and now President Trump and his crew are disrupting the Washington status quo. A government requiring 2.2 million federal employees to work is too big. And the big question is, working at what? Trump, Elon Musk and Americans

want to know. Government workers are not making widgets.

President Trump is actually working to repatriate illegal aliens to Colombia and Venezuela. Canada and Mexico have been convinced that it is best to help us with border issues, human trafficking and drug smuggling. Trump challenged Panama by explaining the language in the canal treaty. He's gotten the attention of Denmark regarding Greenland. Trump has challenged India with the threat of tariffs because, like South Africa, these countries are part of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa), a movement to replace the dollar as the international currency of exchange and trade. Trump is also canceling 300-400 million dollars of aid for South Africa because that country recently passed "expropriation" legislation which threatens confiscation of white-owned property. But wait! There's more.

Washington second

guessers are again at work. They abhor any accountability by Trump or his appointees. The latest big controversy is the investigation of USAID (US Agency for International Development). This aid agency has been shut down, at least temporarily, because of problems. Arguably, some USAID support has been worthy; but funding of Corona viral research at the Wuhan lab or the Academy of Military Research in China is scandalous. Furthermore, aid for "trans" comic books and transgender opera in Peru, drag shows in Ecuador and transgender hairdressers in Nepal are among the ridiculous and inappropriate largess of this benighted agency. And now there are questions that USAID-funded media propaganda in Ukraine started the Russian collusion hoaxes.

USAID was founded by John F. Kennedy's executive order in 1961 and was continued, like so many government programs, apparently without reevaluation. President Trump is the new sheriff in town and he will have none of that.

Meanwhile, mass deportations of illegals continue under the direction of Tom Homan who may be the Eliot Ness of 2025. The Democrat leaders of sanctuary cities and states better beware. Violation of Federal law will get them arrested by Homan and prosecuted by the Justice Department under Pam Bondi. Gender ideology and

DEI have been banned in the government. Hostages are coming home. The FBI and DOJ are being purged of ideological operatives. The corrupt 51 intelligence agents' security clearances have been revoked. Border crossings are down by more than 90%. DOGE is saving billions of taxpayer dollars. And Americans are again positive. Meanwhile, Democrat heads are figuratively continuing to explode.

Progress is occurring, but we have a long way to go because the country was so damaged by Dark Brandon and the Democrats. The problems we face are evident in the recent plane crash at Washington's Reagan National Airport which claimed 67 souls. President Trump was criticized by the usual naysayers for voicing what many have been thinking. Could DEI criteria at the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) have contributed to the problematic hiring of air traffic controllers and a factor in the crash? It is disturbing to recall that since the Obama administration began "targeting disabilities" for air traffic controllers, persons with "intellectual, psychiatric and physical disabilities including hearing, vision, paralysis, epilepsy and missing extremities" have been sought. Furthermore, the FAA is embroiled in a lawsuit alleging it turned away 1000 applicants based on race quotas rather than merits. What could go wrong?

During my medical training and practice, I have cared for patients in crisis. Rarely, does a single mistake cause calamity. However, when sequential errors occur, tragedy is more likely the result. Apparently, such was the case in the recent airline disaster in Washington, D.C. We are told that multiple redundancies are built into the FAA system, but apparently these were overridden in the Washington crash.

It will be some time before we know all the factors involved with the deadly crash, but it has already been reported that there was inadequate control tower staffing which may have slowed the response to the collision warning signal. And we are told that the military helicopter was far above its 200-foot ceiling when it struck the landing commercial jet. Systems can't override human error, but they can help. Last week, the new Transportation secretary raised the issue of antiquated air control systems needing replacement. Perhaps we should have been funding American infrastructure upgrades rather than fighting the third European war (Ukraine) in the last 100 years.

I'm told that Reagan Airport continues to operate in the sensitive area of Washington, D.C., for the convenience of congressmen and government officials who don't like the long commute to Dulles.

My pilot friend is retired Air Force and rated on large jet aircraft as well as the Lear Jet, which crashed in Philadelphia. He has landed at Reagan many times and says it is a tough airport in which to land. Additionally, the area is known as "helicopter alley" because of military training exercises. And remembering 9/11, Washington has multiple targets rife for a kamikaze attack.

The usual characters are involved with the anti-Trump, anti-American rhetoric which second-guesses everything he says or does. They don't get it because they don't want to understand that Trump is a "transactional" president. In other words, Trump is negotiating a contract as he deals with problems like Gaza, the Panama Canal or the border. He is not going to invade Gaza. He recognizes that Sunni Muslims of Egypt, Jordan, the Emirates and Saudi Arabia need to step up and help solve the Gaza mess. And this will frustrate their 1,400-year Shia Muslim arch-enemies who support Iran and the Hamas and Hezbollah terrorists.

We live in challenging times and sometimes we need to think outside the box as Trump does because the status quo isn't working. I don't trust the "geniuses" who got us into this mess. I trust the outsider, the disruptor. I trust Trump.

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

Berean students enjoy STEAM Night

Berean Christian School's annual STEAM night was held on Friday, January 31, 2025. This is the 5th year for the free event highlighting the importance and fun that STEAM — which stands for science, technology, engineering, art and math — can be for everyone. The support for this program continues to grow and this year KUB and Soaky Mountain Waterpark came out to participate and interact with guests. Next year's STEAM night will be in March.

Berean Christian STEAM department not only supports higher education and the pursuit of degree-driven careers but also wants to help support students that choose the technical career path. In order for students to gain experience and confidence in their critical thinking and hands-on skills, the school encourages many project-based learning opportunities. STEAM night is a night of fun and activities for the whole family.

Berean aims to encourage students' curiosity and thinking outside the box in order to be ready for a world where STEM/STEAM careers are



expected to grow faster than non-STEM/STEAM careers. Not only are they learning about 3D printed organs, they can also use VR sets to perform surgeries. What else does the future hold?



Left: STEAM encourages more girls to become interest in science fields and careers
Far left: Students testing kayak abilities in a river using circuits and problem-solving, finding the best method to get around rocks to avoid damage.

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Lonely

The human soul goes through a flood of emotions during this time on earth. They lead an individual to unmeasurable joy or insufferable sadness. Of all these emotions,



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

was a pro at dealing with little ones. Yet, when we pulled out of the driveway, our last sight of Lacey was her face plastered to the living room window. She cried as if we'd abandoned

of misery, and as soon as school ended on Fridays, I was speeding down Interstate 40 to see her. We both lived with our parents, but loneliness filled our hearts and minds, even though we were with family.

Our son Dallas passed suddenly in September 2024. We were with him until the end, and we know that he is in a place where his suffering is finished and we know that we will see him again one day. Still, the loneliness that hits without him being here is both emotionally and physically painful. His absence leads to tears, anger and questions. The answers will come after this time on earth.

What I feel is loneliness. I miss his nightly phone calls. We discussed UT sports, politics, television shows and other topics. Sometimes our entire conversations were nothing more than swapping jokes. Since he'd moved back from Chattanooga, our relationship had developed to the point that we were best friends. Our best times were spent sitting on the porch or cooling ourselves in the pool. We alternated days on which we played each other's music.

We're not the first nor the last parents to lose a child. It's not normal, not the way things are supposed to be. I'm especially lonely today, February 4. It's his birthday.

her. She was fine, but her parents were crushed. We felt miserable the entire evening. Over our meal, we talked about Lacey, and the "date night" was cut short so that we could rush home to check on our child. Little did we know that our daughter would be a free spirit who couldn't wait to separate from us and begin her college life.

During high school, couples who break up can be subject to loneliness. I had enough experience with it as girlfriend after girlfriend called for an end to our dating. After spending so much time with a female, I found difficulty in filling my time. I wanted to make amends for my shortcomings with those girls so that we could once again become couples. Of course, no reunion ever occurred. For the longest time, I was lonely. Something in my being required the company of a girlfriend.

Amy and I were separated for a few months. I moved back to Knoxville to begin my teaching career at Doyle High School, and she remained in Cookeville to attend classes at Tennessee Tech. Those weeks were times

Decisions, Direction and Knowing God's Will

Life at times can be confusing. The twists, the turns, and the expectancies often leave us feeling lost and uncertain. One moment we seem to be sailing smoothly, and the next, we're tossed



By Justin Pratt,
Clear Springs Baptist Church Senior Pastor

delusion on the part of those who might think it. Pastors, like everyone else, must learn to navigate the perplexities of life. This is an area that we all have in common. We all have personal,

I don't always have to have clarity on God's will if I am confident in God's Word.

If that raises objections, trust me, I understand. When the thought made its way to the prefrontal cortex of my brain, I protested the idea. The original contemplation was contrary to how I have always thought and conflicted as to how I had been trained. I've been told most of my life to 'FIND' the will of God, to 'KNOW' the will of God, and then just do it! To even think that it would be ok to not have complete clarity on the will of God sent sensors off in my mind, red lights in my brain, and antennas up over my head. Recently, God has established something that I wished I had connected with earlier. Truth is, I have spent most of my adult life more concerned about the direction I was going than the dialogue with God I was having. Most of my energy and effort has been expended on trying to figure out a specific direction rather than just knowing and trusting His specific promises. Contained in His Word: The Bible.

So, I'm ok with accepting that I may not always have clarity on His will, but I must always be confident in His Word. You probably want a verse for this, I did too, and God gave it to me. In the great chapter of faith, Hebrews 11, says, "Abraham when we was called to go out ... obeyed; **Continue on page 4**

al, parental, emotional, and financial quandaries. When deciding the direction for our families, we don't always know in the immediate what is best. Should a decision regarding aging parents and their care need to be made, it can be concerning and confusing. If we are facing a health crisis and having to deliberate through conflicting opinions it can be terrifying. From making choices that involve our families, finances, and health to decisions made regarding our jobs, where we live, or what we do with our kids it can sometimes feel incomprehensible. Some of these massively important decisions will breed fear and anxiety when clarity is an issue.

Something I am learning is that in the preparation to do God's will, I must ensure that I have clarity from God's Word. How can we claim to know God, if we don't know His Word? It is how He most clearly reveals Himself. How can we be obedient to the will of God, if we don't start with obedience to the Word of God? I have come to this conclusion:

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The Fall of Congressman John Jennings, I

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

For the decade from 1940-1951, the congressman from Tennessee's reliably Republican Second Congressional District was John Jennings. Bald on top, bespectacled, a very good speaker and an equally good lawyer who had once served as a chancellor, Jennings was commonly known as "Judge." When J. Will Taylor died suddenly on November 14, 1939, Republicans in the Second District hastily called a convention to nominate a candidate to run in the special election being held in December. Jennings fought a hard contest with Erby Jenkins, also a lawyer practicing in Knoxville, to win the GOP nomination for Congress. The Democrats nominated perhaps the best candidate available to them, state Senator Hammond Fowler, who was young, vigorous and also a good orator at a time when being able to express a cogent thought mattered. Indeed, Jennings was considered one of the best platform speakers of his time and was known for his salty language.

Democrats took the race seriously and Senator Kenneth McKellar raised money for Fowler's campaign. As the election returns came in on December 30, 1939, it was apparent John Jennings had won. The final tally showed Jennings with 60.16% and Fowler with 39.84% of the votes cast. Jennings sought a full two-year term in 1940 and beat Democrat Clay James by less than 10,000 votes, a percentage of roughly 56%. Two years later, Democrats nominated John T. O'Connor, the highly popular former mayor of Knoxville who had very nearly beaten J. Will Taylor in 1936. Unfortunately for O'Connor, 1942 was a good year for Republicans nationally, unlike 1936. Whereas Clay James had carried only one county in 1940, John T. O'Connor carried three, including Knox. Even then, the vote tally inside Knox County was very close. O'Connor won 8,171 votes as compared to 7,999 for Congressman Jennings.

John Jennings never managed to truly entrench himself inside the Second District, nor were his winning margins, with a couple of exceptions, outstanding. Jennings initially got along well with the only other congressional Republican from Tennessee, Congressman Carroll Reece from the First District, but eventually a rivalry developed between the two. Jennings was a vocal and strong supporter of Thomas E. Dewey, the governor of New York, for the 1944 GOP presidential nomination. Reece was more friendly to the candidacy of Ohio Governor John W. Bricker, who was considered more conservative than Dewey.

Reece voluntarily gave up his seat in the House of Representatives in 1946 to assume the chairmanship of the Republican National Committee. Reece was by far the most prominent Tennessee Republican on the national stage, which likely caused additional friction between him and Judge Jennings. The successor to Reece in Tennessee's First District was Dayton Phillips, who was not affiliated with the powerful Reece organization and was philosophically distant from his predecessor. Phillips was one of the very few Republicans in the House of Representatives who had voted against the Taft-Hartley Bill, as well as voting to uphold President Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley legislation. Carroll Reece was deeply appalled by Phillips' apostasy. While Jennings was a supporter of Taft-Hartley, the congressman aligned himself with Phillips in a bid to supplant the Reece organization. Reece had been Tennessee's Republican National Committeeman since 1939 when he had picked up the title following the death of J. Will Taylor. Reece was also closely allied with Guy Smith, editor of the Knoxville Journal, which was a proud and vociferous Republican newspaper. If the Republican Party had an official press organ in the Volunteer State, it was the Journal under Guy Smith. Indeed, Guy Smith was the chairman of Tennessee's Republican Party during the 1948 campaign. Once again, Congressman John Jennings was strongly backing Tom Dewey, while Carroll Reece was thought to be friendly to the candidacy of U.S. Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio. Reece had tried very hard to remain neutral as he was still chairman of the RNC, but once Dewey was nominated, the New York governor replaced Reece with Pennsylvania Congressman Hugh Scott.

Almost nobody thought President Harry Truman had a snowball's chance in hell of beating Tom Dewey in the general election. The Republicans had won large majorities in both the House and Senate under Carroll Reece's leadership with the slogan "Had Enough?" which summarized the American people's frustrations with the deprivations during the Second World War. GOP candidates campaigned confidently, and John Jennings appeared to be in the catbird seat as it would be he, rather than Carroll Reece, who would control federal patronage under a Dewey Administration.

Like most everyone else, Carroll Reece thought 1948 would be an even bigger Republican year than 1946. Tennessee's Democratic Party was shattered by brutal primary



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Congressman John Jennings Jr.

battles for both the gubernatorial and senatorial nominations. Governor Jim Nance McCord, who had instituted the sales tax, found that not even the teachers, who had benefited the most from the tax (it had largely been dedicated to education), were grateful. While Tennesseans liked the free textbooks, they didn't care for the tax and ousted McCord in favor of former Governor Gordon Browning, who had left office in 1938 as one of the most badly beaten chief executives in Tennessee's history.

The contest for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate was a three-way contest between Chattanooga Congressman Estes Kefauver, incumbent Senator Tom Stewart and John Mitchell. E. H. Crump, master of the Shelby County political organization, had informed Senator Stewart his political machine would no longer support him. Apparently, the Memphis Boss had believed Stewart would meekly retire. Instead, the senator fired off an incandescent blast in Crump's direction and announced he was running again. Crump had settled his support on John Mitchell, who was an unknown circuit court judge from Cookeville. Crump had never even met Mitchell. Senator McKellar did not think well of Crump dumping his junior colleague and doubted the wisdom of supporting Mitchell even more. It soon became readily apparent Kefauver was fast gaining ground and Crump quite nearly pulled his support from Mitchell, thinking to back Stewart once again. The Kefauver campaign announced that was precisely what the Memphis Boss proposed to do, which caused Crump to jerk back his hand and huff that he had never withdrawn his support from a candidate once given. Kefauver won with only a plurality of the votes cast, followed by Senator Stewart. Judge Mitchell carried only his home county of Putnam and Crump's Shelby County. Years later, Kefauver's campaign manager Judge

Charles Neese told me with a snort that had Crump simply stuck with Stewart, Kefauver would have been unable to win.

For the first time in more than a decade, the McKellar-Crump alliance had been rebuffed in a statewide election. Carroll Reece saw an opportunity and became a candidate for the United States Senate. The truth of the matter is the GOP only fielded one truly serious GOP candidate for the U.S. Senate since Tennesseans first began popularly electing senators in 1916. That year former Governor Ben W. Hooper faced then-Congressman Kenneth D. McKellar and won 45% of the vote. Guy Smith and Tennessee Republicans, with the Democrats being blown into pieces both nationally and in Tennessee, put together what they believed was an excellent ticket: Carroll Reece for U.S. senator and Roy Acuff for governor. Even then Roy Acuff was a massively popular entertainer in every venue of the time: radio, motion pictures and the stage.

Nationally, Democrats had splintered; Truman was the regular Democratic nominee, while South Carolina Governor Strom Thurmond was the nominee of the States' Rights Democrats ("Dixiecrats"), and former Vice President Henry A. Wallace was the Progressive Party candidate. Many Tennessee Democrats were nervous by the ominous silence emanating from Memphis, where E. H. Crump had uttered not a peep about the Browning-Kefauver ticket. Crump made his fellow Democrats even more nervous when he issued a statement endorsing Strom Thurmond over Harry Truman. Senator McKellar, saying pointedly he was a Democrat and remained a Democrat, endorsed President Truman and the Democratic ticket.

Carroll Reece genuinely believed there was good reason to believe Crump would bolt the state ticket as well as the national. Reece thought with the support of Crump and Shelby County he and Roy Acuff

stood a good chance of winning the election, especially with the expected triumph of Governor Dewey. There were more than a few prognosticators of the day who thought Dewey had a better-than-fair chance of carrying Tennessee as well. The Reece-Acuff ticket began a tour of Tennessee, which featured Acuff and his Smoky Mountain Boys performing, followed by a speech from Reece. Democrats were jolted by the fact Reece and Acuff were attracting audiences well into the thousands wherever they campaigned.

Election Day popped the bubble of the pollsters who, almost to a man, had predicted the election of Thomas E. Dewey. So, too, did Republicans take a beating in the congressional contests, losing nine seats in the U.S. Senate and 75 seats in the House of Representatives. Carroll Reece and Roy Acuff won roughly a third of the votes in their races for the U.S. Senate and the governorship. Worse still, the returns inside Tennessee's Second Congressional District showed Reece and Acuff running behind Tom Dewey's showing. Nobody was more stunned by the returns from Tennessee's Second Congressional District than Guy Smith. Where Tom Dewey had carried Knox County with more than 21,000 votes, Gordon Browning had tallied better than 23,000 over Roy Acuff. Estes Kefauver won Knox County with 20,000 votes while both Carroll Reece and Roy Acuff totaled under 16,000. The ordinary Republican vote was down in both the First and Second Districts and Guy Smith cast a

gimlet eye in the direction of Congressmen Dayton Phillips and John Jennings. Smith insisted it was plain as day the two had undercut Reece and Acuff.

Jennings had been challenged inside the GOP primary in 1948 by Hobart Atkins, a local attorney. Atkins had pressed Jennings hard, losing by only 2,407 votes. The failure of Thomas E. Dewey to win the presidency was a major blow to John Jennings, who was perhaps the New York governor's most prominent supporter south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

The seeds had been planted and they began to grow following the 1948 election. Guy Smith was absolutely determined to remove both John Jennings and Dayton Phillips from the House of Representatives.

Phillips, a bachelor at the time, had few or no hobbies aside from his job and had been quite popular with working people throughout the First Congressional District. Twice before Dayton Phillips had beaten candidates supported by the powerful Reece organization inside the Republican primaries. It quickly became readily apparent only one candidate could beat Dayton Phillips, if he could be beaten at all. Having been defeated for the Senate and there no possibility of any kind of Cabinet position inside a GOP administration, the only option available to Carroll Reece for continued government service was to try and reclaim his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Guy Smith had several effective weapons at his disposal in his quest to remove Congressman John Jennings from public office. Smith was still chairman of Tennessee's Republican Party and had ready access to donors to fund a campaign. Guy Smith was closely allied with the Reece organization and most importantly, he had the Knoxville Journal at his fingertips. John Jennings never got any good publicity from the Journal following the 1948 election; oftentimes, the publicity he received surpassed the negative to the downright savage. Editor Smith didn't give a fig who knew he was after the political scalps of John Jennings and Dayton Phillips. The Journal would lavish praise upon Carroll Reece and conversely ladle out acid in print on the writhing bodies of Congressmen Jennings and Phillips.

It became abundantly clear to both Dayton Phillips and John Jennings they were in a fight for their political lives. It was a contest where no quarter would be asked, and none given.

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Catching up with

Bud Armstrong

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

If you've lived in Knox County over the years you are probably familiar with or have voted for Bud Armstrong. Did you know he was a high school track star and is an avid baseball fan? How did he get the nickname "Bud"?

The Knoxville Focus caught up with Armstrong recently and asked some questions, he replied and you might find the answers interesting.

Tell us about your days at Carter High School.

It was a wonderful time in my life. I was involved in many activities and clubs. It was a time when young people could live life without fear. I was on the track and football teams and held many individual and relay track and field records. Academically I was sports editor on the Dial newspaper staff. I was a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Quill and Scroll Club and Spanish Club and was elected Most Dependable and vice president of my senior class.

How did you pick up the nickname "Bud"?

My father was named Richard Bernard Armstrong after my Great-uncle Richard Armstrong and my Great-uncle Bernard Amis. I was a Junior and I was called Buddy until I entered college because my mother did not like the name Richard or Bernard.

As I got older, she started referring to me as "Bud" and it stuck. My father was Richard, my great-uncle was Richard, my father-in-law was Richard and my brother-in-law is Richard. As you can see, "Bud" is a safe place for me. When I entered elementary school, they called "Richard" on the roll and I didn't answer. I had never been called Richard before.

What did you want to be as a child and how did you become interested in law?

This will sound corny but my favorite show was Perry Mason with Raymond Burr. I never knew a time that I didn't dream of being a lawyer. However, life often gets in the way of dreams. I was emancipated at 17

and life became a struggle. It took a while to achieve mine.

You've had many positions including Knox County Law Director. What was or is your favorite office and why?

Probably as county commissioner. I was young and energetic in political office at the time. I worked directly with the people of my district. And I dearly loved them. While serving as county commissioner for the Eighth District of Knox County, I was fortunate to work with some great people. Among them were Representative Tim Burchett, then the county mayor; state Representative Dave Wright, then a commissioner; and Mike McMillian, late commissioner and school board member. Collectively, we were able to help the citizens of the Eighth District get two long-awaited schools, Carter Elementary and Gibbs Middle schools. Those were hard but rewarding times.

As law director, we were able to save the citizens of Knox County over \$20,000,000 dollars in tax revenue through litigation and management of Workers Compensation programs (County and Board of Education).

As chancellor of Chancery Court Part II of the 6th District of the State of Tennessee, I have many opportunities to assist citizens with their problems and hopefully deliver fair and equitable solutions to them according to the law.

What are your duties as chancellor?

The chancellor is a judge over the chancery court. This court is a court of law and is the traditional notion of fair play and substantial justice. Chancery court deals with more than liquidated damages. In Knox County, we preside over such issues as probate, contract disputes, adoptions, divorces, conservatorships, real estate, land use and zoning, administrative hearings, appeals, and much more. Chancery court issues are often addressed with remedies beyond money.

What are your hobbies or interests?

To many people, my interest would be boring. I like baseball as a sport. Patti Jo and I used to go to St. Louis during the summer season and catch weekend games



Chancellor Bud Armstrong

and be back for work on Monday. I have met many ball players and have had many as personal friends like Bill Murphy of the White Sox and Steve Searcy of Detroit. I had an afternoon with Stan Musial and an evening with Joe Garagiola and Yogi Berra. Joe's granddaughter Meigan Garagiola and I met in St. Louis when the Cardinals named a street in the Italian District "Hall of Fame Way" in honor of Joe and Yogi. Yogi gave me a signed ball and a card as a gift.

I enjoy reading. Louis Lamour was my favorite author growing up. I was fortunate to become friends with him later in life through my Uncle Bill. He used to send me advance copies of his book signed.

I also enjoy studying the Bible and attending my church, Clear Springs Baptist in Corryton. Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and my Blessing in Life. We spend a lot of time together.

How would you like to be remembered?

As a Christian, a good husband and a fair and truthful man who loved his God, his wife, his community and his country.

What is a Bench Trial?

We have all seen a TV show a movie where the main characters are passionately arguing their case to the jury of 12 people who will decide what occurs. What many people do not realize is that many trials are decided only by a judge, and no jury is present.

This means that the judge is responsible for hearing the evidence, making determinations of the law, and ultimately rendering a verdict. Bench trials are common in both civil and criminal cases, especially in situations where legal issues are complex or where there is a desire to expedite the proceedings. For example, divorce and custody cases are never heard by a jury, but only by a judge.

One of the key advantages of a bench trial is its efficiency. Without the need for jury selection and the various accommodations required for jurors, the process can be significantly quicker. Bench trials are less formal and can proceed in a more streamlined manner and there is often less need for theatrics and big showy performances from the lawyers because they are only talking to the judge who is familiar with the attorneys and the issues that are being presented.

This can be particularly



By Jedidiah McKeehan
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beneficial in cases where the evidence is highly technical or specialized, as the judge, who is often experienced in such matters, can better understand and weigh the evidence without needing to explain it to a

lay jury. Crazy enough, on some cases, the people involved in the case, such as a car wreck case, get to decide whether they want to ask for a jury trial or not. Choosing a bench trial also means that the fate of the case rests solely in the hands of the judge. This can be advantageous if the legal issues are in favor of the party choosing the bench trial, but it can also be risky if the judge's interpretation of the law is not favorable.

In making the decision between a bench trial and a jury trial, parties often consider factors such as the complexity of the case, the nature of the evidence, and the potential biases of a jury. Definitely consult with your lawyer before deciding whether a jury trial or a bench trial is an option and which one they believe will most benefit your case.

Jedidiah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knox County and surrounding counties. Visit attorney-knoxville.com for more information about this and other legal issues.

Decisions, Direction and Knowing God's Will

Cont. from page 2

and went out, not knowing where he went." No map, no direction, no exact word on exactly where he was headed. Just go. The patriarch didn't exactly know the direction, but he knew God's Word. Abraham learned a valuable lesson as should we: That following God is more about resting in His Sovereignty than wrestling with our ambiguity. I am learning that for

me to embrace God's will for my life, I must transfer confidence from my minuscule capacity to understand what's going on, to God's omniscient and clear directives from His Word. God's purpose may not always be explained and God's path may not always seem clear, but we can rest assured that His promises are unblemished and well-defined. C.H. Spurgeon said, "When you cannot

trace His hand, you can always trust His heart." His heart is on the pages of your Bible and He has a promise for you. So, if you have a big or scary decision in your life and you're not certain what to do, let me leave you with this: Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6).



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HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady Spartans 'steal' a win from Catholic

By Steve Williams

Although the Webb School girls won at Knoxville Catholic 57-50 on Jan. 24, Coach Greg Hernandez knew the rematch at Webb wouldn't be an easy one Friday night.

"That's a two-time defending state champion," said Hernandez after his Lady Spartans pulled out a 50-43 win in overtime. "We're trying to accomplish something that they've already done. They understand what it takes to win."

"That's why once they went down, they were able to come back and tie it and go into overtime," added Hernandez. "We literally had to steal that (win) from them."

"And that's why I'm so proud of our girls. There were multiple times that they could have quit and they didn't."

After the Catholic girls took a one-point lead (41-40) at the beginning of the four-minute overtime period, Webb's Cailyn Taylor hit a 3-pointer from the right wing for a two-point lead (43-41). Two free throws by Catholic's Maggie Frana tied the score at 43-all with 2:45 on the clock, but that would be the last points Coach Travis Mains' Lady Irish would score.

Webb standout Meeyah Green took over and scored the game's final seven points for the victory.

Green, a Clemson commit, totaled 22 points in her

Continue on page 4



Webb's Meeyah Green (24) and Ivy Napier (12) celebrate during a timeout after a big 3-point shot against Knoxville Catholic Friday. The top-ranked Lady Spartans won in overtime, 50-43. Photo by Jayden Davis / Instagram Jd.Prod.

TMSAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TIME



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Bearden's Brian Tate Jr. is surrounded by taller Tennessee Middle School players during a stop in play last week. Tate, a talented point guard, scored 10 points and helped lead the Bruins to a 51-32 quarterfinal win in the AAA Sectional.

Bruins reach 'Sweet Sixteen' and look for more

By Steve Williams

Bearden Coach Ben Zorio said his team's 51-32 victory over Tennessee Middle Wednesday night put the Bruins in the "Sweet Sixteen" of the TMSAA state tournament for just the second time and left them only one victory shy of tying the school record of 22 wins.

"I thought the way we just came out at the start and imposed our will on them defensively (was the key to the win)," said Zorio after the Bruins' one-sided win at Clinton Middle.

The Bearden coach felt his team showed a "little bit of rust" on offense after having almost a two-week break, but created some offense with its defense.

The Bruins (21-1) increased their 11-5 first period lead to 30-13 by halftime.

Isaac Kannah scored 14 points to lead Bearden, while Jamerson Moore tallied 11 and Brian Tate Jr. 10. Nine of Kannah's points came in the second period. The Bruins also got eight points each from

Paxton Tedford and Dontae Campbell.

The Bristol team was led by Caden Lambert's seven points.

Bearden's Thursday night showdown with East Hamilton was postponed due to tornado warnings and rescheduled for Saturday. The winner of that contest would play in tonight's (Feb. 10) Sectional finals, with a trip to the TMSAA's Final Four on the line.

"It's exciting anytime you get to this point," said Zorio. "Any team you're playing is going to be capable of winning."

The Bruins made it to the Sweet Sixteen the first season (2020-21) the current TMSAA state tournament format started.

Zorio said the win over Tennessee Middle was a "team effort," and he added that Campbell was like a coach on the floor.

"You always like to have somebody that can be an extension of the coach on the floor and I think Dontae does that as far as just being a positive leader and being a good encourager."

Golden Bears outlast East Lake to advance to sectional championship

By Ken Lay

Vine Middle School boys basketball coach Jadarius Suber knew that his team would be in for a battle Thursday night.

It was one that the Golden Bears ultimately won. But it was anything but easy.

"We knew this was going to be a tough game," Suber said after his veteran and battled-tested squad captured a 56-52 victory over Chattanooga's East Lake Academy of Fine Arts in the Section 1-AA semifinals at Anderson County High School. "We knew this game would go down to the last minute or last five minutes."

"I told them before the fourth quarter that you need to get it in your head that we're going to win the game."

The Golden Bears didn't seal their victory and their berth in the section championship game until Marcus Webb knocked down a pair of free throws with 9.4 seconds remaining in the contest.

Vine (21-1) appeared to be in control of the contest early in the fourth quarter as it took a 50-40

lead when William Dixon buried a 3-point shot with 4 minutes, 25 seconds left to play in the contest. The Wildcats, however, didn't go quietly.

Facing a 10-point deficit, East Lake went on a 12-2 run and tied the game, 52-52, when Sincere King made a basket with 1:35 to go.

The Golden Bears regained the lead for good when Julius Young scored to make it 54-52 a short time later. Young, one of the top middle school post players in Knox County, however, wasn't in the game over the final minute as he fouled out with 59.3 seconds left.

His fifth foul sent Kice Thornton to the free throw line with a chance to pull the Wildcats even. King, however, missed both foul shots enabling the Golden Bears to cling to their slim 54-52 advantage.

After a few tense moments, Webb was able to salt the game away for the Golden Bears, who are still in search of Knoxville's first middle school state championship despite winning three consecutive Knox County Tournament

championships.

It was a total team effort for Vine against the Wildcats. The Golden Bears had four players post double figures in the scoring column.

Jahmir Kimbrough, Webb and Dixon scored 12 points for Vine. Young finished with 10 points despite being saddled with foul trouble throughout much of the contest. Keyvon Booker and Donte' Torrens had two points

"We got scoring from all over the place," Suber said. "Keyvon Booker came in and the first thing he did was score and we really needed that."

East Lake served notice early that it came to play Thursday night as it darted out to an early 4-0 lead before the Golden Bears finished the opening frame with a 20-11 surge to open a five-point lead.

Continue on page 2

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Elite Frye wins first-ever career wrestling match at Halls tournament

By Ken Lay

Elite Frye had a big day on the wrestling mat recently. For a few brief moments, he was a star.

It was a day of firsts for Frye, an 8-year-old athlete who hails from an athletic family. On Saturday, Feb. 1, Frye wrestled his first match as he grappled against his cousin, Boone Humphrey.

Frye and Humphrey battled to open an AAU meet at Halls High School with Frye scoring a pin in the waning moments of the match.

Frye, who has Down syndrome, began wrestling to follow in the footsteps of his older brothers.

"All his brothers and cousins wrestle," his mother Elisha Humphrey Frye said. "He wants to do everything his older brothers do."

"He always goes to practice with me when I take his brothers. Some days, he goes through the drills and on some days, he plays."

Elite has two brothers, Eason and Cael, and a younger sister Envyee. He began following in his



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Elite Frye has his hand raised to signify his victory over his opponent and cousin Boone Humphrey after a recent exhibition match at Halls High School.

brothers' footsteps in 2020 when he played tee ball.

Athletics, particularly wrestling, is big in his family. Elite's uncle, Cody

Humphrey, wrestled at Halls and now coaches the community's youth team. His other uncle, Shannon Sayne, had a stellar high

school career with the Red Devils and was a state champion. He's now Halls High's head coach.

Elisha and her sister,

Stephanie Humphrey Sayne, were softball stars at Halls and went on to play at the University of Tennessee. Elisha also had

a tenure as the Lady Devils' head coach after serving as an assistant under legendary Gibbs coach Carol Mitchell. Stephanie is also a former director of softball operations for the Lady Vols.

Elite's match was intended to raise awareness for Down syndrome but it was also a big moment for Halls wrestling and for the Humphrey Family.

"It was a special moment for us," Cody Humphrey said. "He's grown up in the (wrestling) room."

"We'll work with him just like we will any wrestler and I'm excited to watch him wrestle more."

Elite pinned his younger cousin after taking a 17-4 lead in the exhibition bout and had his hand traditionally raised by the referee in front of the packed gym at Halls. He also received a medal commemorating the first of what his family hopes is many more victories on the mats wearing the Red Devils' colors.

TMSAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TIME

Strong Seymour team is playing the waiting game

By Steve Williams

March Madness hasn't arrived yet, but February Fever has, particularly on the middle school basketball scene.

Seymour got off to a winning start in AAA Sectional play last Wednesday, eliminating Hardin Valley 50-37 in a physical battle at Clinton Middle.

Now the Eagles are playing the waiting game. They got their semifinal game in Thursday with a win over Greeneville before tornado warnings postponed the Bearden versus East Hamilton semifinal match later that night.

Bearden was rescheduled to play East Hamilton Saturday afternoon, with the winner advancing to the AAA Sectional finals tonight (Feb. 10) at 7 at Clinton Middle.

It's been worth the wait for Seymour, knowing it is one win away from the AAA state tourney's Final Four.

The Eagles showed what type of team they had in their quarterfinal win over Hardin Valley last week



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Seymour Coach Dave Leist intently watches the action on the court from the end of his bench as his Eagles squared off with Hardin Valley in a AAA Sectional quarterfinal game at Clinton Middle School last Wednesday night.

– tough and strong.

"Just being strong, playing strong through it," said Coach Dave Leist, pointing

out the key to the win over the Hawks. "It was a battle out there. Anybody that watched that game man

knows it was a fight and two teams fighting. You have to give Hardin Valley a lot of credit. They battled

and fought tooth and nail. "It kind of went back and forth," added Leist. "But so many times things happen

where maybe it didn't go our way or we didn't get a foul called or we kind of got hammered and no call, which happened on both ends.

"But our guys didn't quit. They kept going in. They kept attacking and kept doing the things we talked about."

"I know our guard (KiKi Bohanan) was looking a little injured, but he didn't stop though. He kept attacking."

Ethan Roper led Seymour with 18 points, including 12 in the second half. Luke Carr contributed 10 points, firing in two 3-pointers and sinking 2 of 2 free throws. Bohanan chipped in six, Bryson Comer five and Peyton Davis four.

Abe Derenski and Ayden Perry each scored nine points to lead Hardin Valley. Tyson Butcher added eight and Winston Barnes six.

The Hawks were whittled for 15 team fouls and the Eagles 10. HV made 5 of 11 free throws and Seymour 4 of 10.

TMSAA Tournament Scores and Schedule

Saturday, Feb. 8

BOYS

AAA Sectional Semifinals
Bearden 71, East Hamilton 43

GIRLS

AAA Sectional Finals
West Valley 40, Sevier Co. 29
(WV advances to Final Four)

Monday, Feb. 10

BOYS

AA Sectional Finals
At Anderson County High
6 – Vine vs. Norris

AAA Sectional Finals
At Clinton Middle School
7 – Seymour vs. Bearden

Hardin Valley team gives Tay a special good-bye

Tay Thomas played his last game on the Hardin Valley Middle School basketball team on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Tay and his teammates defeated the Hunter-Ooltewah Hawks that day to advance in the TMSAA tournament.

Tate wouldn't be able to continue playing on the Hardin Valley team because his family was moving to Nebraska, said HV Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Scott Stooksbury.

In addition to celebrating the victory, the Hardin Valley players, parents and fans gave Tay his own special going-away celebration after the game.

Tay was touched by it all.

"It's hard," he said. "But you got to keep going ... and push."

STEVE WILLIAMS

Golden Bears outlast East Lake to advance to sectional championship

Cont. from page 1

four Wildcats to score in the contest. Thornton scored 17 points, including 14 in the second half. Mike Woodley added nine and Grady Escobar finished with one.

With Thursday's win, Vine advanced to the sectional championship game, which will be played tonight (Feb. 10) at Anderson County High School. Thursday's other semifinal between Norris and Maury was postponed due to a tornado

warning. Tipoff for the championship game is slated for 6 p.m.

The Golden Bears also had sectional tournament wins over Madisonville (47-13) on Saturday, Feb. 1 and Pigeon Forge (58-42) on Wednesday.

In other tournament games involving Knoxville Area teams, the Cedar Bluff boys, the Gibbs girls and the Carter girls were all eliminated in first-round games on Feb. 1.

Something special right in front of you

Sitting in the press box or in some radio or television booth for many years was fun, and the view of the field was always spectacular. There was food and great camaraderie, highlighted, in most cases, by being seated at the right hand of John Ward or Bob Bell and interviewing the visiting coach post-game. There are all kinds of other experiences you miss, as well.

Visiting Shields-Watkins Field/Neyland Stadium, first opened in 1921 and in the shadow of Ayres Hall on Mary Fleming Meek's "Hallowed Hill," is an existential experience and the scene of many special moments.

My wife, Susan, has reminded me about one specific happening after the 2006 Georgia game. We hadn't sat together at too many games, probably no more than 10 or so, and that was in the mid-1980s, so this moment was exceptional.

The Vols won 51-33 that October night in Sanford Stadium in Athens, a result produced by taking advantage of a number of Georgia turnovers and other miscues.

Then came her pronouncement after the game from the stratosphere high above the playing field. "There's nothing like winning in somebody else's stadium and hearing the band play the 'Tennessee Waltz,'" she said.

That thought came home after the Kentucky game at Commonwealth Stadium a year later and has been on my mind ever since. It was a moment in a late November evening as the band struck up that wonderful song, just after the Vols had edged the Wildcats 52-50 in four overtimes. There were players in white and orange celebrating on the field and fans doing likewise in the stands.

We had seats next to the band and really couldn't have missed it. Nor would we have wanted to.

She was right. Consider the "T" on the helmets. Consider the "T" formed by the "Pride of the Southland Marching Band" before the game and again at half-time. As Mrs. Meek's "Alma Mater" (complete with solo trumpet(s)) wafts its way across Neyland Stadium, there's no place a Vol fan would rather be.

There's another "T" to consider, however. The "T" for Tennessee, as in the "Tennessee Waltz."

You'd have to be comatose not to swell up a bit when the band plays that classic ode to lost love in the Volunteer State. Some people consider it just another country song, but there's much more to it than that. It's a little hard to sing, but there are people who can sing it, and sing it well.

Inspired by Bill Monroe's "Kentucky Waltz," Pee Wee King and Redd Stewart penned lyrics to an instrumental tune they'd been playing. Stewart is alleged to have emptied a matchbox and torn it open to write down the lyrics.

It was recorded in December 1947, becoming a No. 3 hit the following year. Patti Page cut her version in 1950, and it was also an enormous hit, topping the pop charts and selling several million copies. It ranked as one of the biggest country cross-overs ever.

In 1965, the "Tennessee Waltz" became the fourth official song of the state of Tennessee, as adopted by Senate Joint Resolution No. 9 of the 84th General Assembly.

It's right up there with, and maybe well beyond, "My Homeland, Tennessee" by Nell Grayson Taylor and Roy Lamont Smith (1925); "When It's Iris Time In Tennessee" by Willa Mae Waid (1935); "My Tennessee" by Francis Hannah Tranum (1955); and, no surprise, "Rocky Top" by Boudleaux and Felice Bryant (1982).

When Pee Wee King died March 7, 2000, Bill Lehrer's News Hour provided a memorable tribute, with Page being shown singing those wonderful words.

There's more. In May 1970, the University of Tennessee paid tribute to retiring president Andy Holt at a dinner at the Faculty Club on Neyland Drive, now something called a "Visitors Center." Who knows what it's called now. Careful observers will remember that the Faculty Club was later kiboshed by a presidential administration.

That was the night Richard Nixon appeared at Neyland Stadium, speaking at the Billy Graham Crusade. Those who were present with Dr. Holt probably got



Ayres Hall is a special part of the ambience surrounding the history of the University of Tennessee.

the better deal. The University of Tennessee Singers performed at the gathering in Dr. Holt's honor, as they had many times at programs across the south that featured his homespun wit and wisdom. It was a time to express the university's appreciation for his tenure. There were soft tears on the cheeks of many in the audience.

Just before they were to

sing the "Tennessee Waltz," director Guy Bockmon announced that, in Dr. Holt's honor, the song would be retired from the Singers' repertoire, sung for the last time that night. It was a breathtaking moment. As a result, it's hard for those of us who were there not to think of Dr. Holt when the song is played or sung.

As state songs go, this one is right at the top. It has survived the test of time

and made all of us, regardless of where we might be on game day, proud of the heritage of our state and our university.

One conclusion is obvious. There are times in a lifetime of being part of U.T. sports when there's something special right in front of you, way beyond the wins and losses. If you're not careful, you could miss it. That would really be unfortunate.

Double Duty for Lauren Hurst in the future at UT

By Mark Nagi

A quarter century ago, Cleveland High School's Vincent Yarbrough chose to play basketball at Tennessee. It worked out pretty well for Yarbrough, who went on to play in the NBA. Come this summer, another Blue Raider has chosen to make the University of Tennessee her home.

But Lauren Hurst is taking it to a new level. She will not only play basketball for the Lady Vols, but volleyball as well.

Hurst, a 3-time Gatorade Tennessee Volleyball Player of the Year, is also a 4-star basketball recruit, the top girls prospect in the state, and a top 50 player nationally in hoops for the Class of 2025. She chose Tennessee over Clemson and North Carolina State.

"Between all the schools, Tennessee has a tradition like no other," said Hurst. "Tennessee was one of the schools telling me I could do both. Their head coaches (Kim Caldwell for basketball and Eve Rackham Watt for volleyball) are both very amazing people and I look forward to getting to know them more. And being from Tennessee, knowing I could play for my state was a big deal that I couldn't pass up. My grandparents live in Knoxville. That's where my Dad grew up. It's nice that they will be able to watch me play."

Picking one sport over the other wasn't something Hurst preferred.

"A lot of people ask which sport I like better," said Hurst. "That's been the hardest thing when some wanted me to choose one over the other. I love them equally.

I joke with my Mom and say I wish I was terrible at one sport and could just focus on the other, but I love both sports so much and that's why I have stuck with them both."

Hurst is a throwback in that regard. Today there is a tremendous amount of pressure on young people to concentrate on only one sport from an early age. But Hurst has had a lot of support in her choices.

"I have really good coaches who understand playing two sports takes a lot because they also did it," said Hurst. "I've kind of always done it. Most people think it is too much, but it's what I've always done. In the summer, playing club volleyball and AAU basketball, I've had really good coaches."

"I've been coaching for 12 years, and she makes my job a

lot easier," said Cleveland girls basketball coach Bianca Hensley. "She makes her teammates' job a lot easier. Anytime you have a kid that is 6'3" and very versatile and can go inside and go outside, she opens the floor for so many kids on our team. Just having her be a part of Cleveland High School is so big. We are thankful that we have her at our school. She is a tremendous athlete and a better person."

Hurst believes that playing volleyball and basketball can be beneficial for each other.

"For volleyball, it is reading the setter and where the ball is going to go," said Hurst. "You need quick feet to go block, and that has helped with defensive slide in basketball and blocking shots. They go hand in hand."

Lauren is part of a very athletic

family. Her Mom and Dad each played basketball at Mars Hill. Lauren's siblings are playing sports at the Division 1 level. Her brother, Grant, started his college basketball career at UT-Martin and is now a walk-on at Tennessee. Her sister, Addison, is playing volleyball at South Alabama.

"We are a very competitive family for sure," said Hurst. "I've always looked up to both my brother and my sister. They really made me more competitive and made me fall in love with both sports. My brother played football, baseball and basketball but ultimately liked basketball the best. My sister has played volleyball and basketball with me. We've just always been together and played and had that same love for the sport."



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NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

For many, National Signing Day is the culmination of a long recruiting journey!

LOCAL COLLEGE SIGNEES

According to local high school athletic directors in The Knoxville Focus' coverage area, here's a list of student-athletes who signed Letters of Intent last week and later will be enrolling in college for the 2025-26 school year.

BEARDEN

Evan Cope, Cleveland State, baseball
Isaiah Whited, Alabama-Huntsville, baseball
Olivia Hailey, Cumberland University, bowling
Millie Lovett, Georgia Southern University, CC/track
Ethan Couvertiere, Dartmouth College, football
Isaiah Harvey, Wilmington College, football
William Pendergrass, Furman University, football
Reid Rowland, Emory & Henry College, football
Boston Yeager, Southern Virginia University, football
Bryce Harmon, UT Martin, golf
Noah Price, Tennessee Wesleyan, soccer
Cole Stopka, Carson-Newman, soccer
Chloe Brown, Pellissippi State, volleyball
Makiyah Greenlee, Johnson University, volleyball

CARTER

Hayden Warwick, Maryville College, football
Gabe Dennis, Maryville College, football
Chris Cowan, Tennessee Wesleyan, basketball

CAK

Lincoln Rich, Maryville College, football
Amelia Wedemeyer, Lee University, track & field
Graham Lloyd, Roane State, cross country

CENTRAL

Seth Patty, Brevard College, football
Daniel Sackie, University of Charleston, football

FARRAGUT

Kaitlyn Redwine, Maryville College, tennis
Caris Landis, Jacksonville University, rowing
Landon Collins, MTSU, football
Robbie Jacobs, Tennessee Tech, football

FIRST BAPTIST ACADEMY

Quinn Wilkerson, Johnson University, tennis

FULTON

Derek Smith, Tusculum University, football

HALLS

Breanna Sanderson, Roane State, soccer
Landon Wells, Kent State Tuscarawas, baseball

KARNS

Carson Paul, Maryville College, football
Brady Kittle, Maryville College, football
Austin Kirk, Mount St. Joseph University, football
Hunter Owens, Carson-Newman, fishing
Lauren Martin, Bryan College, softball
Austin Jenkins, Bryan College, soccer

KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC

TJ Tipton, Carson-Newman, football

POWELL

Abu Keefer, Carson-Newman, football

SOUTH-DOYLE

Monte Venable, Carson-Newman, football

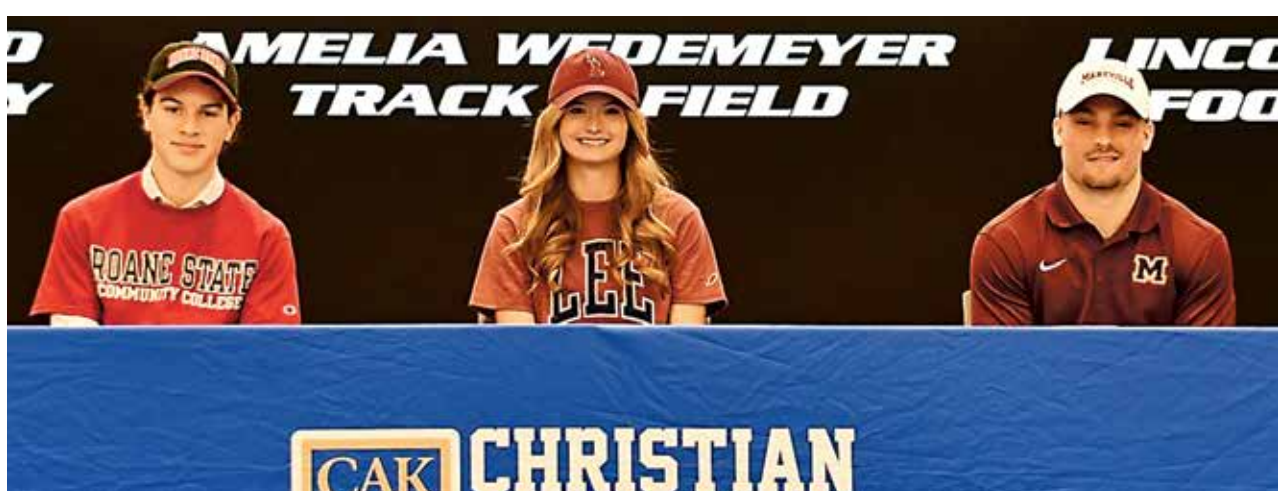
WEBB

Lennox Langham, Florida State, beach volleyball
Jeneva Mitchell, Miami University, softball
Ella Morton, Carson-Newman, cheerleading

WEST

Antwain Burdine, University of Charleston, football
Emma Capps, Transylvania University, lacrosse
Anna Claire Gibson, University of the South, golf
Callie Holbert, Lincoln Memorial University, golf
Aliza Mannon, Georgetown University, soccer

- Compiled by Steve Williams



FROM TOP: Farragut signees are (left to right) Kaitlyn Redwine, Landon Collins, Robbie Jacobs and Caris Landis. West signees are Calley Holbert, Anna Claire Gibson, Antwain Burdine Jr., Aliza Mannon and Emma Capps. CAK signees are Graham Lloyd, Amelia Wedemeyer and Lincoln Rich.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Spartans play like a champ in second half against Irish

By Steve Williams

After Webb's 81-62 win over rival Knoxville Catholic at the Lee Athletic Center Friday night, Webb boys basketball coach Ricky Norris was asked if the No. 1 ranking was laying heavily on his team as the post-season nears.

The Spartans are 27-2 and have been the state's top ranked team most of the season.

"I don't think so," said Norris, who has been Webb's head coach for 16 years. "I think we've got a mature bunch and I think that we understand the value of trying to get better every day.

"We don't do awards. We don't look at rankings. We're just trying to get better, but there's one thing that we are chasing, which I think all teams are, and I think our guys are doing a really good job of just staying focused on the improvement that needs to happen each day.

"And then given ourselves a chance at the end. There's a lot of good teams."

Norris guided Webb to a state championship in 2019 and a



PHOTO BY JAYDEN DAVIS / INSTAGRAM JD.PROD.

Webb junior guard Owen Lentz is greeted by teammates and fans as starters are announced prior to the Spartans' home game against Knoxville Catholic Friday night.

runner-up finish in 2018.

"A lot of Final Fours but not enough state championships," he said.

The Spartans looked like a state

title team against Catholic in the second half as they outscored the Fighting Irish 47-26 in the final two

Continue on page 6

Lady Spartans 'steal' a win from Catholic

Cont. from page 1

impressive showing. "I'm one lucky guy," said Hernandez. "When we needed Meeyah to step up, she did."

The Lady Spartans also got nine points from Kyndall Mays, eight from Zahnyah Rochett and six from Ivy Napier.

The game was tied 10-all after the first eight minutes.

Amaya Redd, a Tennessee Tech signee, scored 16 of her 19 points in the first half to lead

Catholic to a 25-16 half-time advantage. The Lady Irish also got 12 points from Ensley Perry, who tossed in four clutch free throws in the fourth period to help send the game into OT.

With the win, Webb, the No. 1 ranked team in the state in Division II-AA, is 23-3 overall and 7-0 in the East Region. Catholic slips to 14-13 overall and 3-2 in region play.

Hernandez felt the key to the win was "just our

pressure defensively in the second half. We were able to create turnovers that led us into easy baskets."

Redd said at some points in the game she felt her team had "the momentum and the intensity, but I feel like at some points we also gave in a little bit. But I feel like we showed and proved to ourselves that we can stay in the game with them."

Redd added it should help the team's confidence going forward.

It builds "a fire in us to get back into practice and work on what we need to work on," she said.

Webb will play its regular season home finale Tuesday against the Chattanooga Girls Preparatory School.

Catholic has four games this week. The Lady Irish will host Baylor tonight and wrap up the regular season with road games at Chattanooga Christian Tuesday, GPS Thursday and Bradley Central Friday.

2021 Ford Mustang Mach-E Premium \$31,790
'19 Honda Odyssey EX Good miles, Clean \$23,970
2023 Ford Expedition Max LTD 4X4 \$49,990
'24 Ford Bronco Raptor! Only 2,000 miles! \$79,990
2023 Ford Transit 250 Cargo van \$39,990
2020 Landrover Discovery SE 4X4 \$19,980
2020 Ram 1500 Rebel 4X4, 5.7 Hemi \$41,770

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

COURT NOTICES

ORDER OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: DAVID W. RICHWINE, ANGELA RICHWINE, and AMERIHOM MORTGAGE COMPANY, LLC, Defendants

IN RE: CASCADE VILLAS CONDOMINIUMS ASSOCIATION, INC., PLAINTIFF V. DAVID W. RICHWINE, ANGELA RICHWINE, and AMERIHOM MORTGAGE COMPANY, LLC, Defendants

NO. 209345-1
IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this cause, it appearing by sworn Affidavit, that the residence and whereabouts of DAVID W. RICHWINE and ANGELA RICHWINE, Defendants herein, cannot be ascertained upon diligent inquiry, and that personal service of process cannot be had upon said Defendants; service of process by publication is hereby ORDERED, and said Defendant(s) are hereby required to appear and Answer or otherwise defend against the Complaint filed herein by Plaintiff, Cascade Villas Condominiums Association, Inc., whose attorney is Kevin C. Stevens, Fourth Floor, Bank of America Center, 550 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902, within 30 days after the date of the last publication of this notice, exclusive of said last date of publication; otherwise, default judgment may be entered against said Defendants for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

It is further ORDERED that this notice shall be published in the Knoxville Focus, a newspaper of general circulation in Knox County, Tennessee, once weekly for four consecutive weeks.

This 9th day of January, 2025.

J. SCOTT GRISWOLD
Clerk and Master

ORDER OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF MARILYN VON MANN

IN RE: 5900 GROVE DRIVE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37918
ESTATE OF MARILYN VON MANN, DECEASED
DOCKET NO. 89549-1
FELICIA COALSON, ADMINISTRATOR

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

From the sworn Petition for Sale of Real Property and for Order requesting service of process by publication and the entire record, the Court finds that any Heirs are unknown and the residence(s) of the respondent(s) is/are unknown and cannot be ascertained upon diligent inquiry, or respondent(s) is/are a non-resident(s) of this state.

It is therefore ORDERED that any Unknown Heirs shall be served by publication of the following notice in The Knoxville Focus, a newspaper located in Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee, as provided by law.

TO: Unknown Heirs of the Estate of Marilyn Von Mann

It is ordered that said Unknown Heirs, file an answer with the Clerk of the Probate Court at Knox County, Tennessee and with Felicia Coalson, an Attorney whose address is Owings, Wilson, & Coleman 900 S. Gay Street, Suite 800, Knoxville, Tennessee within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or the real property of Marilyn Von Mann located at 5900 Grove Drive, Knoxville, TN 37918 will be sold.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 20 day of DECEMBER, 2024.
JOHN F. WEAVER
Chancellor

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: PAUL ROBERT DANIELS, MELODIE DANIELS, SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC., AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AND CREDITORS OF PAUL ROBERT DANIELS, AND MELODIE DANIELS

IN RE: DCS REALTY, LLC vs. PAUL ROBERT DANIELS, MELODIE DANIELS, SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC., AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AND CREDITORS OF PAUL ROBERT DANIELS AND MELODIE DANIELS

NO. 209527-3

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendants PAUL ROBERT DANIELS, MELODIE DANIELS, SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC., AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AND CREDITORS OF PAUL ROBERT DANIELS, AND MELODIE DANIELS, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon PAUL ROBERT DANIELS, MELODIE DANIELS, SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC., AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AND CREDITORS OF PAUL ROBERT DANIELS, AND MELODIE DANIELS, is ordered that said defendants, PAUL ROBERT DANIELS, MELODIE DANIELS, SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC., AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AND CREDITORS OF PAUL ROBERT DANIELS, AND MELODIE DANIELS, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with RYAN S. WORTLEY, an Attorney whose address is 3715 Powers Street Knoxville, Tennessee 37917 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex Parte as to you before Chancellor Christopher D. Heagerty at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division III, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.
This 22nd day of January, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: DIANE J. HOLLINGSWORTH, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF: P. L. DAVIS, JR., MINNIE D. WILMOTH, THOMAS RUFUS DAVIS, MATTIE DAVIS WEBB, KYLE DAVIS WEBB, WILMA TUCKER WEBB, KYLE T. WEBB, MARTHA ALICE DAVIS BOWEN, JAMES OLIVER BOWEN, JR.

IN RE: ATOMIC CITY PARTNERS, LLC, A TENNESSEE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, VS. DIANE J. HOLLINGSWORTH, ET AL

NO. 209452-3

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant DIANE J. HOLLINGSWORTH, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF: P. L. DAVIS, JR., MINNIE D. WILMOTH, THOMAS RUFUS DAVIS, MATTIE DAVIS WEBB, KYLE DAVIS WEBB, WILMA TUCKER WEBB, KYLE T. WEBB, MARTHA ALICE DAVIS BOWEN, JAMES OLIVER BOWEN, JR., a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon DIANE J. HOLLINGSWORTH, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF: P. L. DAVIS, JR., MINNIE D. WILMOTH, THOMAS RUFUS DAVIS, MATTIE DAVIS WEBB, KYLE DAVIS WEBB, WILMA TUCKER WEBB, KYLE T. WEBB, MARTHA ALICE DAVIS BOWEN, JAMES OLIVER BOWEN, JR., described in THE COMPLAINT, it is ordered that said defendant, DIANE J. HOLLINGSWORTH, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF: P. L. DAVIS, JR., MINNIE D. WILMOTH, THOMAS RUFUS DAVIS, MATTIE DAVIS WEBB, KYLE DAVIS WEBB, WILMA TUCKER WEBB, KYLE T. WEBB, MARTHA ALICE DAVIS BOWEN, JAMES OLIVER BOWEN, JR., file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Stanley F. Roden, an Attorney whose address is 10269 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37922 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Christopher D. Heagerty at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division III, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.
This 23rd day of January, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

IN RE: ATOMIC CITY PARTNERS, LLC, A TENNESSEE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, VS. DIANE J. HOLLINGSWORTH, ET AL
NO. 209452-3
IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant DIANE J. HOLLINGSWORTH, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF: P. L. DAVIS, JR., MINNIE D. WILMOTH, THOMAS RUFUS DAVIS, MATTIE DAVIS WEBB, KYLE DAVIS WEBB, WILMA TUCKER WEBB, KYLE T. WEBB, MARTHA ALICE DAVIS BOWEN, JAMES OLIVER BOWEN, JR., described in THE COMPLAINT, it is ordered that said defendant, DIANE J. HOLLINGSWORTH, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF: P. L. DAVIS, JR., MINNIE D. WILMOTH, THOMAS RUFUS DAVIS, MATTIE DAVIS WEBB, KYLE DAVIS WEBB, WILMA TUCKER WEBB, KYLE T. WEBB, MARTHA ALICE DAVIS BOWEN, JAMES OLIVER BOWEN, JR., file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Stanley F. Roden, an Attorney whose address is 10269 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37922 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Christopher D. Heagerty at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division III, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.
This 23rd day of January, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NOTICE TO NON-RESIDENT HEIR

TO: BREANNA STAR WALKER

ALTREBA FERNANDEZ, PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER/ADMINISTRATRIX, VS. BREANNA STAR WALKER, HEIR OF JOHNNIE MAE HARDIN, DEFENDANT

IN RE: ESTATE OF JOHNNIE MAE HARDIN, DECEASED; ALTREBA FERNANDEZ, ADMINISTRATRIX

DOCKET NUMBER: 89411-1

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE PROBATE DIVISION

It appearing from the Petition to Probate Will filed herein, that BREANNA STAR WALKER, an heir of Johnnie Mae Hardin, is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or her whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon her, it is ordered that said Defendant, BREANNA STAR WALKER, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court (Probate Division) at Knoxville, Tennessee and with L. Eric Ebbert, Petitioner's attorney, whose address is The Ebbert Law Firm, 9145 Cross Park Dr., Ste. 103, Knoxville, TN 37923, Telephone (865) 800-3051, within thirty (30) of the last date of publication or a judgment of default will be taken against you and a hearing and the cause set for a hearing Ex Parte regarding Defendant's failure to respond.

This Notice shall be published in the Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 21 day of JANUARY, 2025.

J. SCOTT GRISWOLD
Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: JERMAN SHABAZZ FOUNTAIN

IN RE: YASHIANN HINES v. JERMAN SHABAZZ FOUNTAIN

NO. 208974-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant JERMAN SHABAZZ FOUNTAIN, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon JERMAN SHABAZZ FOUNTAIN, it is ordered that said defendant, JERMAN SHABAZZ FOUNTAIN, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with JENNIFER R. EGELSTON, an Attorney whose address is 607 W. SUMMIT HILL DRIVE SW, Knoxville, Tennessee 37917 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing ExParte as to you before Chancellor RICHARD B. ARMSTRONG, JR. at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division II, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 5th day of FEBERARY, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARY KATHLEEN ACTON DOCKET NUMBER 90412-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 30 day of JANUARY, 2025, Letters of Administration in respect to the Estate of MARY KATHLEEN ACTON, who died on the 19th DAY OF JULY 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, residents, and non-residents, having claims, matured or unmatured against her Estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claim will be forever barred:

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

This 22 day of JANUARY, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

This the 30 day of January, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARY KATHLEEN ACTON
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
LISA LAYNE
718 BACK VALLEY RD.
OLIVER SPRINGS, TN 37840

TRACEY VOUGHT WILLIAMS, ATTORNEY
CHELSIE L. SPURLING, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 866
WARTBURG, TN 37887

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF KAREN MARIE BISHOP DOCKET NUMBER 90455-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 30 day of JANUARY, 2025, Letters of Administration in respect of the Estate of KAREN MARIE BISHOP, who died December 12, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 30 day of JANUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF KAREN MARIE BISHOP

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
HEATHER M. PHILIPPS, ADMINISTRATRIX
1050 LAVNVILLE ROAD
KINGSTON, TN 37763

VICTORIA B. TILLMAN, ATTORNEY
1019 ORCHID DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF KAREN MARIE BISHOP

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
HEATHER M. PHILIPPS, ADMINISTRATRIX
1050 LAVNVILLE ROAD
KINGSTON, TN 37763

VICTORIA B. TILLMAN, ATTORNEY
1019 ORCHID DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JAMIE M. BLANKENSHIP DOCKET NUMBER 90462-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 30 day of JANUARY, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of JAMIE M. BLANKENSHIP, who died November 28, 2024, were issued to MARIA T. SCHESSLER by the Probate Division of the Chancery Court of Knox County, TN. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 30 day of JANUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF JAMIE M. BLANKENSHIP

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARIA T. SCHESSLER
9209 SLADE DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

DUSTIN S. CROUSE, ATTORNEY
9111 CROSS PARK DR., SUITE D-200
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ROSSIE M. BONTADELLI DOCKET NUMBER 90456-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day of JANUARY, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of ROSSIE M. BONTADELLI, who died December 3, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 22 day of JANUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF ROSSIE M. BONTADELLI

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
LINDSEY M. KENNEDY, CO-EXECUTOR
2678 TURKEY CREEK DRIVE
OLIVE BRANCH, MS 38654

JONATHAN TAYLOR DIEGL, CO-EXECUTOR
1436 QUEENSBURG DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

VICTORIA B. TILLMAN, ATTORNEY
1019 ORCHID DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARY EVELYN HILL DOCKET NUMBER 90428-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 30 day of JANUARY, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of MARY EVELYN HILL, who died December 14, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 22 day of JANUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARY EVELYN HILL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
NATHAN MOTOYAMA
2030 BIG CHIEFS SKYVIEW DR.
SEVIERVILLE, TN 37876

KELSEY R. REILLY, ATTORNEY
1518 N. BROADWAY
KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 30 day of JANUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARY EVELYN HILL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TERESA J. HILL
P. O. BOX 1011
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

GLEN A. KYLE, ATTORNEY
4931 HOMBERG DR.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JANICE M. JACKSON DOCKET NUMBER 90448-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 30 day of JANUARY, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of JANICE M. JACKSON, who died December 13, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 30 day of JANUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF JANICE M. JACKSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
STEPHEN H. RICHARDS
7422 WINDROCK VIEW WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

STEVEN K. BOWLING, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 11125
KNOXVILLE, TN 37939-1125

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARY E. MANEY DOCKET NUMBER 90459-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day of JANUARY, 2025 letters testamentary in respect of the estate of MARY E. MANEY, who died May 19, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2); otherwise, their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 22 day of JANUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARY E. MANEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
WILLIAM R. EADES, ADMINISTRATOR
542 LOST TREE LN.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

BILL FIX, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 31632
KNOXVILLE, TN 37930

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF TAK MOTOYAMA DOCKET NUMBER 90430-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day of JANUARY, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of TAK MOTOYAMA, who died October 22, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 22 day of JANUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF TAK MOTOYAMA

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
NATHAN MOTOYAMA
2030 BIG CHIEFS SKYVIEW DR.
SEVIERVILLE, TN 37876

KELSEY R. REILLY, ATTORNEY
1518 N. BROADWAY
KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DONALD GENE RABY, II DOCKET NUMBER 90388-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of JANUARY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of DONALD GENE RABY, II, who died Nov. 5, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his/her Estate are required to file the same in triplicate with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claim will be forever barred:

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

This the 6 day of JANUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF MILDRED H. THOMAS DOCKET NUMBER 90442-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 14 day of JANUARY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of BARBARA P. WALKER, who died Nov. 23, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmature

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Red Devils, Lady Devils each defeat Bradley Central at state duals

By Ken Lay

Both the Halls High School wrestling teams competed at the Class AA State Dual Meet Championships recently.

The Red Devils and Lady Devils both went 1-2 in their matches at the Williamson County Exhibition Center on Saturday, Feb. 1.

The Halls boys, who were Class AA runners-up in 2024 after winning the Class A title in 2023,

won their first match over Bradley Central, 41-35.

Harlen Hunley, who competes in the 150-pound weight class, won by recording a pin. He was one of five Red Devils' grapplers to win by fall.

Gavin Self (190 pounds), Tanner Kitts (113), Mason Crane (120), Ty Davis (126) and David Cook (132) also won by fall. Jordan Sexton (144) won by technical fall, defeating his opponent,

17-1. Halls came up on the short end of its semifinal match as it fell to Summit High School, 45-27.

Barrett Whaley (190), and Davis both won by fall, Cayden Robinson won by medical forfeit. Self wrestled in the 215-pound division and won a technical fall, routing Eli Spinell, 17-2. Noah Lance (106 pounds) won a major decision (21-10) over Jin Saito.

In their final dual match of the season, the Red Devils lost to Ravenwood, 43-23.

Against the Raptors, Robinson won the 138-pound bout in overtime. Jordan Sexton won by forfeit at 144. Hunley (175), Trevor Sexton (157) and Kitts each scored three team points by winning decisions. Jordan Sexton recorded a technical fall.

Like the Halls boys, the Lady Devils opened the

meet with a victory over Bradley Central as they defeated the Bearettes, 48-18.

Halls scored six points in all of its wins in the bout. Sophia Satterfield (132), Addison Wallace (138), Briley Lively (152), Cheyenne Smith (235), Libby Lee (100), Natalie Beaumont (107) and Reilly McGaha (114) all won by fall. Saydey Self (165) won by forfeit.

In a 51-18 loss to Clarksville, Halls got pins from Lively (165), Smith (235) and Satterfield (126).

In their final dual match of the season, the Lady Devils lost to Maryville, 37-36, in a match that was awarded to the Lady Rebels via a tie-breaker.

Self (165) won by forfeit, while Lively (152), Smith, Beaumont, McGaha (120) and Satterfield all won by fall.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

The owner and/or lien holders of the following vehicle is hereby notified of their rights to pay all charges and reclaim said vehicle being held at 701 Cooper St., Knoxville, TN 37917. Failure to reclaim this vehicle will be deemed a waiver of all rights, title, and consent to dispose of said vehicle at public auction on February 14, 2025 at 701 Cooper St., Knoxville, TN 37917.

- '17 NISSAN MAXIMA 1N4AAGAP1HC392180 (ABBY BYRD)
- '07 LEXUS ES350 JTHBJ46G872125407 (FRED BLEVINS JR.)
- '16 TOYOTA AVALON 4T1BK1EB3G225143 (DEMARCUS MCKAMEY)
- '24 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE ML32AUHJ2RH003686 (SAVANNAH GILLEY, SHAWN ODELL, SANTANDER BANK)
- '05 TOYOTA COROLLA 2T1BY32E05C320377 (CHRISTIANNA BULLINGTON, KNOX DRIVES)
- '08 VW JETTA 3VWRZ71K18M025470 (CHRIS WYRICK)
- '17 VW JETTA 3WV5T7AJ6HM329983 (STEPHANIE MERIDIETH)
- '11 FORD FLEX 2FMHK6DCXBB00548 (STEPHANIE REED, LENDMARK FINANCIAL)
- '12 CHEVY CRUZE 1G1PCS5H4C7398758 (GARY THOMAS)

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

The following described vehicles impounded/ repaired/towed will be sold at public and/or private auction in compliance with the Tennessee Public Acts 1967, Chapter 240, House Bill 379. The sale will be held at Jim's Garage & Wrecker Service Vehicle Impoundment Lot located at 5906 Walden Street, Knoxville, TN 37919.

These vehicles have been checked through the files of the Commissioner of Revenue, Title Section, Division of Motor Vehicles, Department of Revenue, State of Tennessee. In appropriate cases, the vehicles have been checked in other states, and the owners and/or lienholders have been notified by certified mail. In those instances where no vehicle identification/serial number or license number was available, this Public Notice in the newspaper will comply with the law.

The failure of the owner/lienholder to exercise their rights to reclaim any vehicle listed below not bearing a VIN/serial number shall be deemed a waiver of all rights and title and authorization to sell said vehicle.

- ? CHRYSLER 1B4HS28Z3WF224555
- 14 DODGE VAN 2C4RDGB8ER327600
- 10 TOYOTA TUNDRRA 5TFRY5F10AX084794

Spartans play like a champ

Cont. from page 4

quarters. Four Webb players scored in double figures, with Cam Swearngen leading the way with 20 points, followed by Owen Lentz (15), Alex Leeth (13) and Jaylen Pompey (12). Huston Torres chipped in eight points, Wilson Luton seven and Shavar Young six.

Cade Murphy led the Irishmen (17-6) with 21

points, including 13 in the first half. Carson Asbaty added 17, including three 3-pointers and one that gave Catholic the halftime lead (36-34) just before buzzer. Juice Eleam contributed 12 points.

Coach Norris said he thought his team's defense in the second half was the key to the win.

"We were locked in much more than we were in the

first half just with the scout and who we were guarding," he pointed out. "I just thought we did a much better job defending their guys and finishing plays on the glass.

"And when you do that and get stops, you're able to get out offensively and things just come easier. If they're not scoring, we're going against a defense that's not set and it's just

much easier to get clean looks at the rim."

Webb will host McCallie Tuesday and Hamilton Heights Christian Academy Thursday to wrap up regular season play.

Catholic has four games this week, hosting Baylor tonight and playing road games at Chattanooga Christian Tuesday, McCallie Thursday and Bradley Central Friday.

service directory

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