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Two-year real estate appraisal approved by commission

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The Knox County Commission voted last week to change the routine four-year appraisal of real estate properties to a two-year cycle. On the recommendation of the Knox County Mayor and Property Assessor and the full

endorsement of the commission, the re-assessment change was spurred by a presentation at the meeting by Tennessee Comptroller Jason Mumpower.

Mumpower said that Knox County is the 6th fastest growing area in the state and, according to U-Haul, Tennessee is the

fifth most popular state for incoming residents. He added that the change to a two-year appraisal of real property is "happening across the state."

The change doesn't mean that the county property tax rate will be increasing, but the estimated value of a home or property will

increase. Finance Director Chris Caldwell explained it to The Focus: "The two-year cycle has the same requirements as the four-year cycle, including equalization. For example, in that two-year cycle, if home values go up 20% on the aggregate, the tax rate will come down 20%.

Thus, your taxes would be unchanged if your home increased by 20%. Some homes and businesses will see increases greater than this amount, and their taxes will go up, while others will see a lesser increase, and their taxes will go down."

The commission also voted to authorize the

purchase of the Fort Loudon Waste & Recycling Inc. site at 2742 Hancock Street and 302 North Avenue in Knoxville. The facility suffered two fires in recent years. The \$4.3 million commercial purchase and sales agreement was sponsored by Knox County
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EYES ON THE PRIZE!



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

Bearden High junior Natalya Hodge looks for two more points on this play against rival Farragut. Hodge has been voted the Knox County Player of the Year and heads up the All-Knox County team with a 25.7 scoring average. Please check out the other players on the All-Knox County team as well as post-season tournament action in this week's Sports and Recreation, Section C.

Merit Board upholds firing of Officer Loya

By Mike Steely
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Former Officer Gabriel Loya appeared before a special-called meeting of the Knox County Sheriff's Office Employees' Merit System Board last week to appeal his dismissal by Sheriff Tom Spangler. He did not have an attorney and briefly apologized for the actions that led to his firing.

Loya didn't deny the charges against him but asked to be reinstated in spite of his poor judgment and confusion due to lack of sleep. After taking a few questions from the board members, he said most of the charges against him were factual but sought the sympathy of the board. He said he was "in a state of panic" during his initial interview following the incident.

Knox County Sheriff's Special Counsel Houston Havasy told the board there was lots of evidence and

video of the incident and the statements Loya made to his superiors. He said that Loya failed "to carry out his burden of proof" and called for a summary judgment against the appeal.

While Loya raised some sympathy and concern from the board members, they voted unanimously to dismiss his appeal.

On December 5 last year, Loya was driving a vehicle with an arrestee in the rear of the vehicle. He was seen, on his body camera, playing a video game on his cell phone while driving. Loya stopped the vehicle abruptly and the arrestee in the rear slid forward and struck the front compartment wall.

He continued on the way to pick up another arrestee but then diverted to the hospital so the arrestee could get care. He said that someone had cut him off, causing him to stop abruptly.

Council may approve funding for 35 affordable housing units

By Mike Steely
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The Knoxville City Council meets Tuesday and may vote to allot \$1,059,400 for the creation of 36 affordable rental housing units at 1834 Beech Street. The Housing and Neighborhood Development Department is requesting the funds for a contract with Historic Griffin, LP.

The old house at 217 E. Scott Avenue may receive \$200,000 in Historic Preservation Program funds. The funding would go to Jennifer Hattar and Khalid

Hattar to support improvements to the historic property on a request from the same department.

Lakeshore Park Conservancy may get \$266,395 in budgetary support for administration, janitorial and mowing expenses in a request from the Parks and Recreation Department.

The City Engineering Department is asking the council to approve an agreement with Miovision Technologies Incorporated to purchase "vehicle detection system" hardware and services at signalized
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Fire department recruiting draws crowd

By Mike Steely
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Wednesday's Knoxville Fire Department Spring Recruitment event drew lots of attendees to the EXPO Center where people could learn about the department and the duties and benefits of firefighters, and actually fill out an application.

Applicants and their families talked with firefighters, viewed equipment and vehicles, and learned about the benefits and the daily life of being part of the department.

Chief Stan Sharp said the fire department is looking for more than a couple dozen new members to



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Knoxville Fire Chief Stan Sharp joins Captain Matthew Cataline at the water rescue display during the Spring Recruitment event at the Knoxville EXPO Center last week.

help fill out the department's roster. He said the upcoming graduating class of about 40 new members

and the results from the recruiting event could bring the organization to near full strength.

The current men and women of the department demonstrated the equipment and spoke on the training involved in becoming a firefighter and EMT. Firefighters get a health plan, pension, and the pride of serving the community.

If you missed the event, you still have until March 27 to apply. No experience is required, but applicants must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma or equivalent, and pass drug and alcohol testing, background investigation, and post-offer physical examination. The application form can be found online at KnoxvilleTN.gov/ Jobs.

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Left-Wing Lawyers Are Trying To Stop Trump On Everything

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.
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I spent 16 years as a lawyer and a judge before going to Congress and have maintained my law license and have done a very small amount of legal work since leaving Washington. Thus, I was shocked when over 6,000 law professors and law students signed a petition demanding that Senators Ted Cruz and Josh Hawley be disbarred simply for questioning the results of the 2020 election.

Professor Alan Dershowitz said that Cruz was the best student he ever had at Harvard Law School, and Hawley graduated from both Stanford and Yale Law

School. I graduated from the George Washington University Law School and was taught back then that even the worst criminals had the right to be defended in our courts.

The petition mentioned above showed me that too many of our law schools had become very political, very partisan, and really little more than leftist think tanks.

Now, there are apparently thousands of left-wing lawyers chomping at the bit to sue President Trump, trying to stop everything he is trying to do.

As I write this column, there are three federal judges who are at least temporarily stopping Trump's executive order to do away with birthright citizenship.

I have been interested in this issue for a long time, and was asked by The Tennessean newspaper to write a column which was published on August 15, 2010 under the title "U.S.

Citizenship Is A Privilege." That column follows here: I spent 7½ years before coming to Congress as a Criminal Court Judge in Knoxville. Because of this and other experiences, I believe there is a right way to do things and a wrong way.

Thus, I am strongly opposed to illegal immigration and do not believe those who are here illegally should be given the same status and rights as those who are here legally.

This, in part, is why I believe children born to those who are here illegally should be treated as citizens of the countries from which their parents came and not as citizens of the United States.

When I was a judge, I was probably toughest on crimes against children, and I believe children of illegal immigrants should be treated with the greatest of kindness.

But, citizenship in the United States should be regarded as a very great

privilege, and it should not be granted lightly to anyone.

I am supporting an effort that is just beginning in Congress to change the birthright citizenship provisions in the 14th Amendment. The 14th Amendment has been changed before. It refers only to voting by men, and this was changed by the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.

One of the original purposes of the 14th Amendment was to grant citizenship and count as a whole (instead of just 3/5 as in the original Constitution) those persons who had been slaves. This was right and proper and should have been done long before it was.

Those who imply or say that being tough on illegal immigration is somehow racist are resorting to the sort of scurrilous personal attacks and childish sarcasms that people often use when their case is weak.

It is very difficult to change the Constitution, and it should be. And the odds are very much against changing the birthright citizenship provision.

But the 14th Amendment was not written to deal with anything related to illegal immigration. Our leaders in 1868 could never have envisioned the numbers we have coming here illegally today.

I have heard and read that half the people of the world have to get by on \$2.00 or less a day [now it is \$4.00]. Some three billion people are hoping for one good meal today and probably will not get it.

We are blessed beyond our comprehension to live in this country, and Americans are by far the most generous people in the world. No other country has even come close to the many millions we have allowed in legally over the course of just the last few years.

But our entire infrastructure – hospitals, schools,

jails, roads, sewers, etc. – just could not support the rapid influx of the mega millions who would come here if we simply opened our borders.

While we all sympathize with those billions who are living in terrible poverty around the world, we have to have a legal, orderly system of immigration and it must be enforced.

I saw a television program several years ago which showed pregnant women who had come from Mexico to San Diego just before delivering so they could get free medical care, and so that their children would be U.S. citizens.

Some adults have later used the citizenship of their children as a basis to gain immigration for their families.

The birthright citizenship provision should be changed as a part of the overall reform of our immigration laws."

This column written in 2010 is even more timely today.

Reciprocal Tariffs, Now I Get It ... I Think

I have called Trump's tariffs "stupid," and they are – maybe. I still don't understand the across-the-board tariffs on Canada and Mexico, which punish U.S. car companies and reward the Japanese and the Koreans.



By Dr. Harold A. Black
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If Biden did this, I would speculate that Hunter probably had a hand in it. But Trump? Of course, Trump has threatened 100% on Chinese EVs but only put an additional 10% on Chinese goods. Why only 10%?

Now Trump's trade representative, Peter Navarro, is pushing for "reciprocal" tariffs. Although there is a bill in the House to give Trump the authority to impose these tariffs,

Trump is likely to rush ahead and do it by executive order. What is a reciprocal tariff? Trump's tariffs will be imposed on every country that trades with the United States. It will match any tariff levied on American goods exported to those countries.

The plan equalizes duties with virtually all U.S. trading partners. The action would mean that if a country charges a certain tariff on the U.S., it will receive the same treatment for its exports to America. Actually, the U.S. now only trails Brazil in the average tariff applied to all goods. Brazil's is 8.5% and the U.S. is now 7.5%. Does this mean that

the U.S. will lower rather than raise tariffs? No. For example, the tariffs will be applied country by country. India imposes higher tariffs on American goods than America imposes on Indian goods. So, look for import tariffs on Indian goods to go up until they are equalized with American tariffs on Indian goods.

You may recall that I had a conversation with Reagan's most influential economic advisor, who said that he had spoken to Trump about the tariffs. He insisted that the author of the "Art of the Deal" was using tariffs as a bargaining tool. He pointed out that at a G7 meeting, Trump offered to lower all U.S. tariffs to zero if the other countries reciprocated. None did. Now Trump is forcing their hands and using reciprocal tariffs as a

negotiating tool. It is revealing that this threat was floated to coincide with the visit of Indian Prime Minister Modi. India imposes among the highest tariffs on selected American goods. Faced with reciprocal tariffs, Modi is expected to agree to cut import tariffs on at least 30 products, including a 100% tariff on Harley-Davidson motorcycles and a 25% tariff on U.S. automobiles. Top U.S. exports to India in 2023 included crude oil and petroleum products, LNG, coal, medical devices, scientific instruments, scrap metals, turbojets, computers and almonds. Trump wants them to buy more U.S. arms and agricultural products to reduce the trade deficit currently at \$45.7 billion

Trump is obsessed with

the U.S. trade deficit, which is \$91.8 billion. Of course, even with reciprocal tariffs, Trump will not be able to eliminate the trade deficit with every partner. For example, Vietnam has very low tariffs of 1.1%. We have a trade deficit of \$110 billion. Can this deficit be eliminated? It is doubtful, given Vietnam's per capita income and small population. However, the country's currency, the dong, has fallen to very low levels against the dollar, making U.S. goods more expensive and Vietnam imports cheaper. Look out for the Vietnamese to be accused of currency manipulation. Maybe Melania will ask Trump not to target Slovenia with its \$5 billion trade deficit.

So I think I get it. Reciprocal tariffs are being

used to equalize the tariffs between the United States and every country in the world. It is a bargaining tool if it impacts foreign countries more than it does the United States. What is overlooked is that the U.S. has a trade surplus with at least 25 countries. Afghanistan, Columbia, Lebanon, Morocco, Costa Rica, Peru, Paraguay, the Netherlands, Jamaica, Egypt, Qatar, the United Kingdom and Panama are some of the countries. Hong Kong is number one. Then, do we lower our tariffs on these countries even if they have higher tariffs on American goods? No. If they have a tariff on American goods then they will have a tariff put on theirs.



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,
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Ballard Asks For Property Reappraisals Every Two Instead Of Four Years

Property Assessor Phil Ballard, who has been in office for six months while only winning his race by 12 votes, has gotten the county commission to approve reassessing real estate every two years instead of every four. As the daily newspaper indicated, it means your property taxes will be raised more often than before. The daily newspaper referred to the last property tax hike in the City of Knoxville as modest when it was 40%. Since when did anyone rationally refer to a 40% increase in anything as "modest"?

With the huge influx of newcomers fleeing "Blue" states and high taxes, they have descended on Tennessee like the locusts who devoured all of Egypt. The

City of Knoxville in particular seems to think we have a responsibility to house anybody who shows up, hence the increasing traffic congestion and new apartment complexes are springing up on every scrap of pavement and scrub grass in sight. The more people who come here, the greater the strain on our local resources, schools, hospitals, health care, parking, roads and housing. The people fleeing from California, Illinois, Minnesota and the Northeast have come with their pockets full from selling their homes in what are inflated markets and paying cash here, and the demand for housing, as well as Bidenomics, has caused prices here to skyrocket.

That is the crux of why Phil Ballard wants to reassess property every two years, so as to assess your home at the much higher prices, meaning that you are going to pay more and probably much more in property taxes. I know folks who have had to write hefty checks for their mortgage escrows due to the property tax hike in the City of Knoxville; either that or they pay more per month on their mortgage. Even homes that sold four or five years ago are bringing substantially more than what they sold for then. So, too, will the property tax bill be higher.

The good news is it will bring in a large amount of

revenue for Knox County and the City of Knoxville to spend on our overburdened infrastructure. The bad news is the City government can't be trusted with spending taxpayer money as it is; the Gay Street Bridge is closed to automobiles because the City supposedly doesn't have the money currently to fix it properly. Bridges and roads should be taken care of before bike trails and greenways and art.

Hundreds, if not thousands of apartment units are being built along the river in South Knoxville, where traffic is already clogged from the pace of rapid development inside the city. To get anywhere in Knoxville, South Knoxvilleans have to come across the Henley Street Bridge, the James White Parkway, or down Alcoa Highway. Of course, most of the people doing the planning probably live in Fourth & Gill or West Knoxville and don't have to cross the river, so they may not care.

When the daily newspaper, which has a long history of being for any and every tax increase since humans invented the wheel, including an income tax for Tennessee, is doing a jig to tell us how wonderful it will be to have our property taxes raised every two years, folks better start paying attention. But then again, bills always come due. The huge migration to Knoxville and Knox County has

caused an unprecedented wave of development that has strained our resources. So - now the piper must be paid.

Drug Cartels Should Be Destroyed

Since 2022, 200 Americans have died daily from fentanyl overdoses. More than a quarter of a million Americans have died from fentanyl overdoses since 2018. Consider that 36,000 Americans lost their lives during the Korean War; 58,220 Americans lost their lives during the Vietnam War. The number of Americans lost to fentanyl is astonishing. Yet, during the Biden administration, our borders were deliberately thrown wide open just so the Democrats could give the finger to Donald Trump. For quite nearly four years, the legacy and corporate media lied to our faces, along with the Biden administration and the Democrats in Congress, that there was no crisis at the border. The 250,000 Americans, many of them young people, dead from fentanyl overdoses doesn't even take into account those dead from criminal violence like Laken Riley, whose name virtually no Democrat or Joe Biden himself could or would utter. Our congressman, Tim Burchett, is sponsoring the No Tax Dollars for Terrorists

Act. President Trump has designated drug cartels as terrorist organizations. Weekly bank shipments of American cash were being sent to the Central Bank of Afghanistan. As Tim rightly points out, those people and countries who hate us will still hate us just as much for free.

The time has come to deal with the cartels and their gangs the way we would with pirates or marauders. There isn't a government on earth that doesn't secure its own borders and that's one big reason why. The virtue signaling and the lying of the corporate news media were very costly, both in terms of American blood and treasure.

Bye, Bye Joy

Speaking of lying in the media, Joy Reid has been cancelled over at MSNBC. Naturally, Rachel Maddow and those on the Left have to point fingers at MSNBC, which is evidently racist. Maddow and her cohorts fail to mention that Reid's time slot is being filled by another Black woman, a Black man, and a Latina, not a White male. Yet only racism could be the cause for cancelling the shrill stupidity of Reid, who is no more a journalist than a caterpillar is a bull. Rachel Maddow, to whom MSNBC was paying millions to work one night a week, just called her own network

"racist." MSNBC, believe it or not, is a business and as Comcast doesn't intend to carry a lifeless body around forever and pretend it's merely on life support, it can't keep a show on the air that nobody watches. MSNBC has seen its viewership drop by 53% since Donald Trump's election last November. The network has been paring back, including Reid's salary. MSNBC barely managed to attract an audience of 734,000 viewers while CNN's viewership was even less at 522,000. The most highly sought-after demographic is that between the ages of 25 - 54 and MSNBC has just had its lowest January with that demographic in its entire history. There were times when the viewership for MSNBC was just 45,000 viewers for the day, with 63,000 viewers during the supposed peak hours of the evening.

Reid was all too often condescending and intensely critical of White people, had difficulty explaining homophobic posts to social media, and often mouthed some-time truly bizarre opinions. Reid's favorite topics were usually Black Lives Matter and immigration, and in her last show, she claimed fascism is here already. President Trump simply dismissed Reid as a "mentally obnoxious racist."

Two-year real estate appraisal approved by commission

Cont. from page 1
Mayor Glenn Jacobs and Commissioners Courtney Durrett, Rhonda Lee, Kim Frazier and Angela Russell.

Durrett, who represents District 2 where the abandoned waste recycling facility is located, noted the concerns of the Oakwood-Lincoln Park neighborhood and said the change to a county distribution center there will "bring life" back to the area.

American Medical Response Director of Operations Jerry Carnish reported on his company's first year's assessment of service under the new contract with the county. He noted success in reducing response time and attributed this to increased staffing. He told the commission that increasing the nurse navigation system has been freeing up available ambulances and agreements with local allied agencies for some nonemergency calls have also helped. He said AMR still has challenges with hospital wait times but said those have been declining thanks to monthly meetings with hospitals. He also noted that Knox County 911 will be taking over dispatching AMR ambulances sometime this summer.

In other business, the commission voted to approve a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant of \$2

million for a program dealing with "aging in place" home modifications for low-income senior residents. Commissioner Andy Fox wanted a discussion on the funding, noting his disapproval of using federal funds for any project and calling the funds "borrowed money." Fox was the only "No" vote on the resolution.

The commission voted to approve creating two turning lanes on Westland Drive. Knox Developers LLC signed an MOU agreeing to take care of the planning, design and construction of the project, which will place a turn lane on Westland at Ridge Climber Way. Robert G. Campbell & Associates will be contracted for \$48,000 for the design of a left turn lane onto Ridge Climber Road.

The commission also approved several changes to their meeting rules, including opening up the application process to the public for appointments to boards and committees and specifying the responsibilities of the chair and vice chair on the Development Corporation Board.

Several commission agenda items were moved to their March meeting, including the installation of a signal at Bakertown Road and Schaad Road, improvements at the intersection of Kingston Pike and Ebenezer Road, and updating recording fees at the Knox County Register's Office.

Big Pharma Should Be Held Accountable

Last week, Governor Bill Lee released his budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year. It includes continued investments in public education, rural communities, long-term care and services for the elderly and people with disabilities, conservation efforts, nuclear energy and public safety.



GUEST COLUMN
By Brian Hornback
Republican State Executive Committeeman, District 6

One item that hasn't received much attention is the over \$118 million to address skyrocketing pharmaceutical costs for TennCare, our state's Medicaid program. The increased price tag is largely driven by the increased cost and utilization of GLP-1 drugs.

These so-called "miracle drugs" certainly show promising results in addressing conditions like diabetes and heart disease - the most popular benefit of these drugs being weight management.

Of course, we know that healthcare costs in general are rising, but it's alarming that despite those longstanding, upward trends in other areas of healthcare, the precipitous rise in drug prices is beginning to rear its ugly head with no shame.

For example, TennCare did not need any additional funds to cover the cost increase of prescription drugs in this current fiscal year. Therefore, the \$118 million year-over-year cost increase should stick out like a sore thumb.

TennCare indicated that the price tag for these GLP-1 drugs comes out to about \$11,000 per year

for an individual. Surely, that cost is justified, right? Surely, they are expensive drugs to manufacture, right? Well, researchers have found that these drugs actually cost less than \$5 a month per individual to manufacture. That's a \$10,940 difference. That's a gap that is generating a massive profit for Big Pharma while hardworking Americans struggle.

And the American people know this - including 89% of Republicans - that Big Pharma's greed is a "major factor" contributing to today's high drug costs.

In a recent interview on Fox News,

President Trump zeroed in on how Big Pharma is ripping off Americans on an episode of "Special Report" with Bret Baier.

President Trump stated, "In London, you get it for \$88. In New York, you get it for \$1,200 - you can't even buy it. It's very unfair. The identical package, made in the same factory. Shipped to different places, but made literally in the same factory ... You go to Canada and all of the drugs are much less expensive."

And it's not just GLP-1 drugs. Big Pharma raises prices on other essential medications year after year - and at times, by more than 5,000%. That's right, 5,000%.

Here are a few other examples:

- Americans pay more than three times what

individuals in other countries pay for the exact same drugs.

- One company charges Americans 30x more for an inhaler that sells for just \$9 in Germany.

- Another company charges Americans \$7,100 per year for a common drug used to treat blood clots and other heart conditions, compared to just \$650 in France.

We are blessed to live in a state that believes in fiscal conservatism and to have a strong leader in President Trump, but we are also left at the mercy of excessive profiteering by Big Pharma. Big Pharma needs to be held accountable for boosting their profits at the expense of American consumers.

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Where: O'Connor Senior Center, 611 Winona Street, Knoxville
Cost: \$40 per semester, \$65 for two people. Additional cost for field trips.
Info: <https://tinyurl.com/SCLinformation>
Register by calling: 865-974-0150

SCL is a nonprofit volunteer organization supported by membership dues, the UT Center for Professional Education & Lifelong Learning, and the John T. O'Connor Senior Center. All members must be 50 years of age or older.

Commission splits on Bell Road subdivision vote

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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It took a split 6-5 vote by the Knox County Commission to approve a zoning change at 7217 Bell Road last week. The change from agricultural to a low-density residential zoning was requested by Thomas Burdette and Kevin Dean spoke for the applicant. The request was to permit the building of seven homes per acre, but nearby resident Randy Cunningham objected.

Cunningham told the commission about the narrow and busy road being used heavily by "cut-through" traffic and noted that

246 homes already exist along the route. Commissioner Shane Jackson moved to permit three homes per acre.

Voting against the zoning change were Commissioners Angela Russell, Terry Hill, Rhonda Lee, Adam Thompson and Andy Fox.

The commission voted to postpone until March any decision on a request from Terry Romans for a zoning change at 1907 East Governor John Sevier Highway. Romans wanted to build storage buildings near a planned subdivision. Commissioner Kim Frazier noted a denial recommendation by the planning staff and said the

request was a "really odd place" to be inside a subdivision. Andy Fox, who represents the district, noted the plans are also beside an industrial site.

Thompson was informed that the 5,000 square feet permitted in a neighborhood commercial zone he had requested are limited to one building, not several. Commission Chair Gina Oster recommended a thirty-day postponement and that was passed.

A planned residential zone was approved at 8007 Millertown Pike for two units per acre. Stefan Claar requested 43 residential units on 9.5 acres of the property's total 21.67 acres, with the

back portion of the property to be preserved. The agricultural land that has belonged to the same family for more than 110 years can only be purchased for development with final zoning approval.

Commissioner Adam Thompson initially moved to postpone the request but after hearing from Claar and other council members and learning that Claar had a site plan, Thompson said the plans "sound pretty attractive."

Some of the commissioners asked for details of the plans.

Commissioner Larsen Jay asked the other members not to get too involved in the details and Frazier noted that a more

comprehensive plan should be included in any zoning request.

The zoning change passed unanimously.

Molly Hughes requested and was approved to change 2425 Mine Road from industrial to agricultural so a home could be built for a mother-in-law.

Paul Blake's request for the rezoning of property at 125 Highland View Drive from agricultural to low-density residential was approved.

Benchmark Associates Inc. also received approval for 2007 Robinson Road to change from agricultural to low-density residential.

Council may approve funding for 35 affordable housing units

Continued from page 1

intersections around the city. In a related item the council will consider a contract with Integrated Response Systems LLC for on-call maintenance and repair of the city's inductive vehicle detection loops for traffic signals, upping the annual amount by \$25,000 to \$70,000.

U. S. Bank may see an agreement for banking services for four years at an annual cost of \$40,000. Purple Horse Hospitality may get an agreement to manage Whittle Springs and Knoxville Municipal golf courses.

Parks and Recreation is asking for \$21,394 from its grants and benevolence fund to be used to help fund some local qualified organizations.

The council may consider removing a previous zoning designation for Zero Millard Beets Road on a request from the planning commission. Knoxville-Knox Planning is also recommending a zoning change at 6200 Papermill Drive from general commercial to highway commercial.

When does two turn into four or more?

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Anyone new to zonings, rezonings, or zoning appeals might be confused by what a developer is actually requesting. Two houses or apartments per acre doesn't sound like a huge request, does it?

But what is approved could be many more residential units than requested.

A developer may come before the planners or commission with a request to rezone 100 acres of agricultural land to residential with two dwellings per acre and walk away with approval for four, six or eight units an acre on 50 acres instead.

Kevin Murphy of the Knox Community Planning Alliance speaks often on requests for zoning or land use plans at the Knoxville City Council and the Knox County Commission, Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals meetings. The Focus asked Murphy to



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY VIA KCM TV

Community Planning Alliance's Kevin Murphy spoke at a Board of Zoning Appeals meeting recently and explains to The Focus why two houses per acre could turn into four or more.

comment.

"If it's approved, they get 100 acres at two units per acre for 200 total units. That's the number they play with as

they lay out the units on the parcel. For the county, that's the number of units that drives increased need for schools, traffic, parks, etc.

"If they are required to conserve 50% (50 acres) then they can put up to 200 units on the 50 remaining acres, which is four units per acre for that 50, plus we get to keep 50 acres as natural space, farm, etc.," Murphy said.

"And yes, if they only used 25 acres (let's say the other 75 is severely sloped), they could put 200 units on those 25 acres, which probably means townhomes or apartments at that density," he explained.

"In our planned residential zone, this type of allocation is always allowed. They often have ridges, creeks, etc. Or maybe they want to do apartment units instead of single-family houses. It happens fairly often. The 'visual density' of what actually built on a portion of the property may not, often does not, match the approved density. It gets approved at two per acre," he said.

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

The Three Rs

This is our one & only chance to restore democracy from the dictatorship of the bureaucracy. It is now or never. It must be now.
Elon Musk

Education is a priority in our post-modern world. Unfortunately, some may have learned the proverbial three Rs of grade school but not the lesson of common sense, which is the focus of President Trump's reformation of Washington and the government.

Listening to the legacy media and the Democrat leadership's chatter about the DOGE team headed by Elon Musk, you might think they have no common sense regarding the deficit, the economy or the necessity of governmental reform. Since these people are not fools, one can only surmise that they are so driven by their ideology that they have collectively lost

their minds.

They should listen to the genius Elon Musk, who logically explained to a room full of media and America the necessity of his audit and correcting the fraud, waste and abuses in a government that has become "bloated, fat and disgusting" (President Trump). Businessman Kevin O'Leary of Shark Tank explained that Musk has a mandate to audit rather than to act on his findings.

DOGE is but one of many avenues of reform underway by the Trump Administration, his advisors and Cabinet. I watched some of the televised first Cabinet meeting and was impressed by the assembled presidential entourage. I have to admit that I have a jaded attitude regarding Washington and rarely think the leadership represents the country's best and brightest. But

for the first time in a long time, I have hope. I understand that the feckless Washington Democrats and the legacy media refuse to get it and will resist any reforms that curb their gravy train. However, We The People get it. DOGE has shown us the corruption in Washington and the necessity of government reform.

The bloated and unelected bureaucracy that has served the Washington ruling class for decades must be changed. We must win this war or be forever enslaved.

Reform goes far beyond the discoveries of DOGE. Even the leftist Axios admits tax cuts are not the problem. Washington does not have a revenue problem. Washington has a spending problem. I won't go wonky on you, but if you're interested, I recommend you Google the Laffer curve, which shows that confiscatory taxation produces declining government revenue. And since the government can't go out of business, it just prints more dollars, which produces inflation, devaluing the dollars in your pocket.

Have you ever been fired from a job? I have. Years ago, I had a summer job at McDonalds and the Boss's

motto was, "If you have time to lean, you have time to clean." I didn't have to answer an email or list five tasks I had recently accomplished because the Boss observed that my counter work was substandard. As a result, he put me on the garbage detail and when that didn't work out, he said, "You're done."

The lesson I learned was there are Chiefs and Indians. The boss is the boss and if you don't like taking orders, you should find a way to be your own boss. I did so fifty years ago. However, the MD after my name just revealed my new boss: my responsibility to my patients and the pursuit of excellence.

Also, about the time I was graduating from medical school, I rediscovered the Big Boss and the leadership of Christ. Things rapidly fell into place for me as Becky and I soon rediscovered each other and we became co-equal bosses in our marriage. Bob Dylan once sang that everyone's "Gotta Serve Somebody." Apparently, some federal workers have missed this important aspect of their education and employment prerequisites.

Becky and I are fans of Victor Davis Hanson, who is a brilliant scholar of classics, an emeritus professor

and a conservative writer. My wife Becky is the editor of this column. She is also the CEO of our home and "the boss." Complementing one of my essays, she once paid me a memorable compliment by jokingly referring to me as "Little Vic." Yes, I was honored, but "Big Vic's" recent essay, "Revolution, Resistance and Restoration," (available at americanwirenews.com) is a testament of the real professor.

Hanson recognizes that we are in the midst of a counter-revolution led by President Trump against the bloated government and the Democrats' resistance. But I believe the resistance also includes the globalist elites of Europe as Vice President JD Vance recently pointed out. Claus Van Schwab's World Economic Forum and the legacy media are also part of the resistance cabal to Trumpism. However, the legacy media has largely destroyed itself because of their delusional hatred of Trump and their unprincipled dishonesty. I offer the example of MSNBC circling the drain, but all of them (AP, POLITICO, etc.) have dwindling readers and viewers and are in financial trouble as ad revenue declines and their USAID subsidies are cancelled.

I especially like Hanson's use of the term restoration as the purpose of Trump's MAGA movement and reforms. The restoration of government accountability and credibility of agencies like the IRS, FBI and DOJ must occur if our representative republic is to continue. Just recently it was reported that the IRS criminally leaked and made public more than 400,000 tax forms of citizens and businesses. The IRS has been corrupt since Lois Lerner, so whining about Elon Musk's current audits is ridiculous and telling.

President Trump and his cabinet leaders are countering the lunacies of the Democrats' open border policy, men in women's sports and sexual reassignment surgery of children. It is astonishing that Democrats are siding with entitlement-minded government workers rather than We The People.

The oh-so-trustworthy Democrats screaming bloody murder about DOGE auditing the government because Musk isn't an elected official is the height of hypocrisy. Perhaps the screams are more about fear of personal exposure than righteous indignation. Food for thought.

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

How to Make Tough Decisions for Your Aging Loved One

On March 11, the Morning Pointe Foundation will present "How to Make Tough Decisions for Your Aging Loved One," its annual Caregiver Café panel discussion for seniors and their families, at Morning Pointe of Hardin Valley in Knoxville.

The free event, which runs from 6-7:30 p.m., will allow participants to ask questions from a panel of three experts in areas of financial planning, Medicaid and Medicare, and veterans benefits.

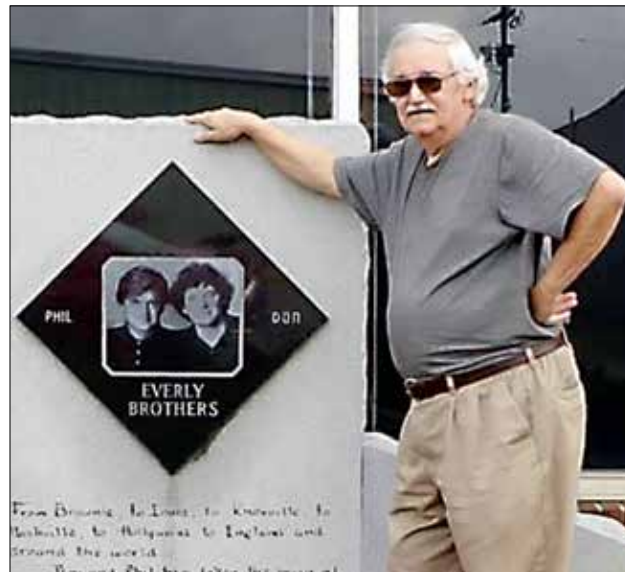
This is the second year the Caregiver Café has met in person with a panel discussion.

Panelists this year will be:

- Glenn Kyle, CELA, attorney with Franklin & Kyle Elder Law, LLC
- Greg Boling, business development manager with Senior Financial Group
- Charles McGhee, veteran service officer with the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services

Continue on page 4

Central City and the Everly Brothers



The memorial marker in Central City, Ky., notes Knoxville as one of the Everly family's hometowns. Both Don and Phil Everly are buried in the Kentucky city, Don's birthplace.

A Day Away By Mike Steely

Knoxville's Everly Brothers Park is but one of many places across the country that claim the famous musicians, who attended West High School briefly and appeared on the Cas Walker Television Show as teenagers.

Central City, Kentucky, is about 35 miles from Owensboro and claims the Everly Brothers as well. Phil Everly was born in Chicago but Don was born in Brownie, which is now Central City. A marker there notes that both brothers attended high school in Knoxville.

But Central City has another claim to the brothers: both Don and Phil are buried there in Rose Hill Cemetery. Other accounts have Phil buried in Nashville and Don buried in Central City.

The Everly Brothers were the sons of a musical family that moved around, entertaining for a living.

On Labor Day in 1988, Central City hosted an Everly Brothers Homecoming and the annual event spanned 14 years before becoming an annual cruise-in and car show on that holiday to honor the brothers.

Continue on page 2

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Vaccinations

This year has already kicked the behinds of folks. The weather has been ... wintry, complete with snow and endless rain. Around here, winter hasn't been this rough in several years.



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

crying and even squalling, I am thankful that I wasn't old enough to know what was going on.

Before we were school age, the mumps hit us. This time, Mother also fell

We've also had to deal with some downright nasty viruses. One, in particular, leaves its victims struggling for as long as a month. A stomach bug has locked a few friends in their bathrooms, or at least they have been close enough to the water closet to avoid a terrible accident when the next cramp hits.

We're a sickly nation this year. I can't imagine what our predicaments would be if many of us hadn't been vaccinated. The thoughts of anything like the covid pandemic hitting spikes our anxieties. For some reason, debates are swirling about vaccinations, but I don't understand the problem.

At six months old, Jim and I came down with cases of chicken pox. Although our parents suffered through our outbreaks and itching and

ill, and I remember the concern for her since adults don't handle such illnesses as well as children.

The measles came along during our elementary school years. I remember looking in the mirror at the rash that covered my entire body. What the differences are between German measles and the more serious red measles is a mystery to me. All I remember is suffering from a fever and not being able to watch television for fear that our eyesight might be affected.

The reason that we contracted these diseases had nothing to do with parent neglect. It seemed that as a child, we were

on the way to the doctor's office for another vaccination every couple of weeks. On the first day of school, other first graders were rounded up and

taken to the gym. They'd not completed all the vaccinations necessary for attending public school. Some cried and others cursed their parents, but in the end, every child was protected from the spread of diseases due to those shots.

Back then, we also had to have a TB test. We'd stand in line in the gym as health department nurses injected something into the backs of our forearms. Most of us feared the shot, but the ones who freaked out tested positive when the shot sites reddened and/or swelled.

Polio vaccines were the most important back in the day. We all knew children who had been stricken with that disease, and it scared the hell out of us. Of course, we were overjoyed when the shots were replaced with sugar cubes.

I don't understand the hesitancy of folks to vaccinate their children. Parents would never allow little ones to play on a busy street, nor would they allow those youngsters to play with guns. However, too many people are now questioning the effectiveness of vaccination. Some declare they

do more harm than good. The new Secretary of HHS has called into question the effectiveness and safety of vaccinations, but he did make sure his children received those protections. I'm not a scientist, nor have I spent time diving into the pool of information about vaccinations. However, I know that for years, these shots have protected generations against diseases that kill.

Yes, Americans have freedom of choice. At the same time, that freedom ends when it upends the freedoms of others from being exposed to dangerous diseases. Sometimes, the public welfare dictates the adherence to health guidelines set by folks who have spent their careers combatting harmful things.

Let's hope the measles outbreak makes a quick exit and that no more lives are negatively affected or lost. At the same time, let's all think of what is best for the entire country in all disagreements. That includes immunizing children from life-threatening diseases.

Central City and the Everly Brothers

Cont. from page 1

Central City also is home to the Green River Correctional Complex, an underground mine, and the Kentucky Women's Hall of Fame. The Muhlenberg County Rail Trail is there along with a rebuilt rail car from the Paducah and Louisville Railroad.

Another famous musician, flutist Jim Walker, hails from Central City. The population is only about 6,000 people and the Western Kentucky Parkway skirts the south edge of

the city. Originally called Morehead's Horse Mill, the city was also known as Stroud City.

In our many travels over the years, my wife and I stopped at Central City and paused at the Everly Brothers monument there. Anyone in the area of Bowling Green should head north and visit Central City. On the way, you might want to take a brief side trip to Paradise and remember another noted late musician, John Prine.

Delta Sigma Theta presents free Empowerment Forum

The Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women Greater Knoxville Chapter will host a free Economic Development Empowerment Forum: "Empower Today, Transform Tomorrow." Key topics are Wills and Trusts, Life Insurance and Long-Term Care, Retirement Planning and Credit and Money Management. Come out to gain valuable insights to help secure your financial future while networking and engaging with expert presenters. Enjoy prizes, delicious food, and a morning dedicated to growth and learning.

Event Details

- Date: Saturday, March 8, 2025

- Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- Location: American Museum of Science and Energy (AMSE)

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FROM THE MOUNTAINS BY
JADON GIBSON

Religious Injustice in Early America

By Jadon Gibson

"Faith without works is dead," Brother William Webber said earnestly before a gathering on August 12, 1771, as he spoke from the epistle of James. "A dead faith is worse than no faith at all. Faith must be put to work. You must use faith. It must produce. It must be visible. Verbal faith is not enough. Mental faith is not sufficient. Faith is essential but you must also use it to inspire action."

Magistrate James Montague of Middlesex County, Virginia, moved swiftly through the crowd to the front of the meeting house where he grabbed hold of Webber's arm and started pulling him from the building. Montague was followed by a parson of the local parish and several others upset that Webber was preaching without a license. Some other area preachers were upset, too, because they were losing some of their parishioners.

The magistrate and the others whisked Brother Webber outside along with Brethren John Waller, Robert Ware, Richard Faulkner, James Greenwood and Brother Wafford. They were arrested and held for trial. Others had already been arrested.

Prior to their arrest the meetings were well received by some of the most influential residents of the area.

"They behaved as well as anyone has at any of our meetings," John Waller wrote. "They were most respectful as they listened to the new birth and free grace."

The preachers were taken into a room following their arrest. Their pockets were searched for knives and firearms, but the magistrate found nothing of interest.

Brother Wafford was flogged severely and Brother Henry Street received one lash and was forbidden from accompanying his brethren to additional meetings, open or closed.

"We were charged with carrying on a meeting against the authority of the land," John Waller wrote. "I asked if we had license to preach in the county and learned that we did not. We were required to give bond and security not to preach anymore in Middlesex County. We refused to agree."

Brother Wafford was ordered to leave Middlesex County by noon the following day or be imprisoned. Charges against Brother Faulkner were dismissed, but the others were turned over to the sheriff and taken to jail.

"Lock them in jail and don't give them the light of day until court day," the judge ordered.

Yet the men were well treated while imprisoned. "Blessed be to God that the sheriff and jailer have treated us with as much kindness as could be expected from strangers," John Waller wrote. "God bless them, may they be rewarded."

"We find the Lord so gracious and kind to us. Our needs are well attended to while we are prisoners."

Meanwhile, six others — Lewis Craig, John Burrus, John Young, Edward Herndon, James Goolrick and Bartholomew Choning were imprisoned in Carolina.

"Dreadful threats are being raised throughout neighboring counties against the Lord's faithful and humble followers," Waller closed.

A very few years later, when George Washington became the first president of the United States, the United Baptist Churches of Virginia assembled in Richmond and drafted a letter to the president.

"We wish to express our satisfaction in your appointment to the nation's highest office. Following the gain of independence, you, our Hero on earth laid down your sword at the feet of those who gave it to you. A great example for the world to see."

A concern for religious freedom in the New World was broached in the letter, prompting President George Washington to reply.

"If I had entertained the slightest apprehension that the Constitution might possibly endanger the religious rights of any ecclesiastical society, I would never have affixed my signature to it. And if the government might ever endeavor to render the liberty of conscience insecure no one will be more zealous than myself in establishing the effectual barriers against spiritual tyranny and every species of religious persecution."

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The Fall of Congressman John Jennings, IV

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Congressman John Jennings, the incumbent from Tennessee's Second Congressional District, was fighting an increasingly bitter reelection battle inside the Republican primary. The contest was more personal than it would have been otherwise because it was fueled by the intense dislike between Judge Jennings and his challenger, Howard Baker (not to be confused with his son who was the U.S. senator from Tennessee). A disagreement at the 1948 GOP National Convention had made the two men enemies and to this day, a difference in politics can make one-time friends the bitterest of adversaries. Throughout his decade in Congress, John Jennings had been the most influential supporter of the presidential ambitions of New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey in Tennessee. Howard Baker, a veteran campaigner, was the chair of Tennessee's delegation to the Republican National Convention and had voted for Senator Robert Taft of Ohio. Jennings was stunned, believing Baker was pledged to Dewey. The congressman and Baker exchanged hard words and left the convention as political enemies.

Judge Jennings had been hard pressed to win renomination inside the 1948 GOP primary, facing attorney Hobart Atkins. Howard Baker loudly supported Atkins in the primary contest and made speeches in several counties supporting Atkins and denouncing Jennings.

Baker's campaign was managed by the candidate's 24-year-old son, known as "Howard Henry," a recent law school graduate who was also his father's law partner. Baker opened the campaign by pointing to the salary of Miss Helen Jennings, the daughter of the congressman and the highest paid employee in the congressman's office. Howard Baker also pointed to the absences of Jennings from Washington when Congress was in session.

As is oftentimes the case, there was more to the campaign than met the eye. There was a determined effort to oust both Tennessee GOP congressmen. Guy Lincoln Smith was the editor of the Knoxville Journal, a daily newspaper that made no bones about being the voice of Republicanism in East Tennessee and the entire Volunteer State. Smith was also the chairman of Tennessee's State Republican Party and closely allied to the most influential Republican in Tennessee, former Congressman Carroll Reece. Reece was a rarity in politics, a successful Republican below the Mason-Dixon Line and a national figure. Reece had

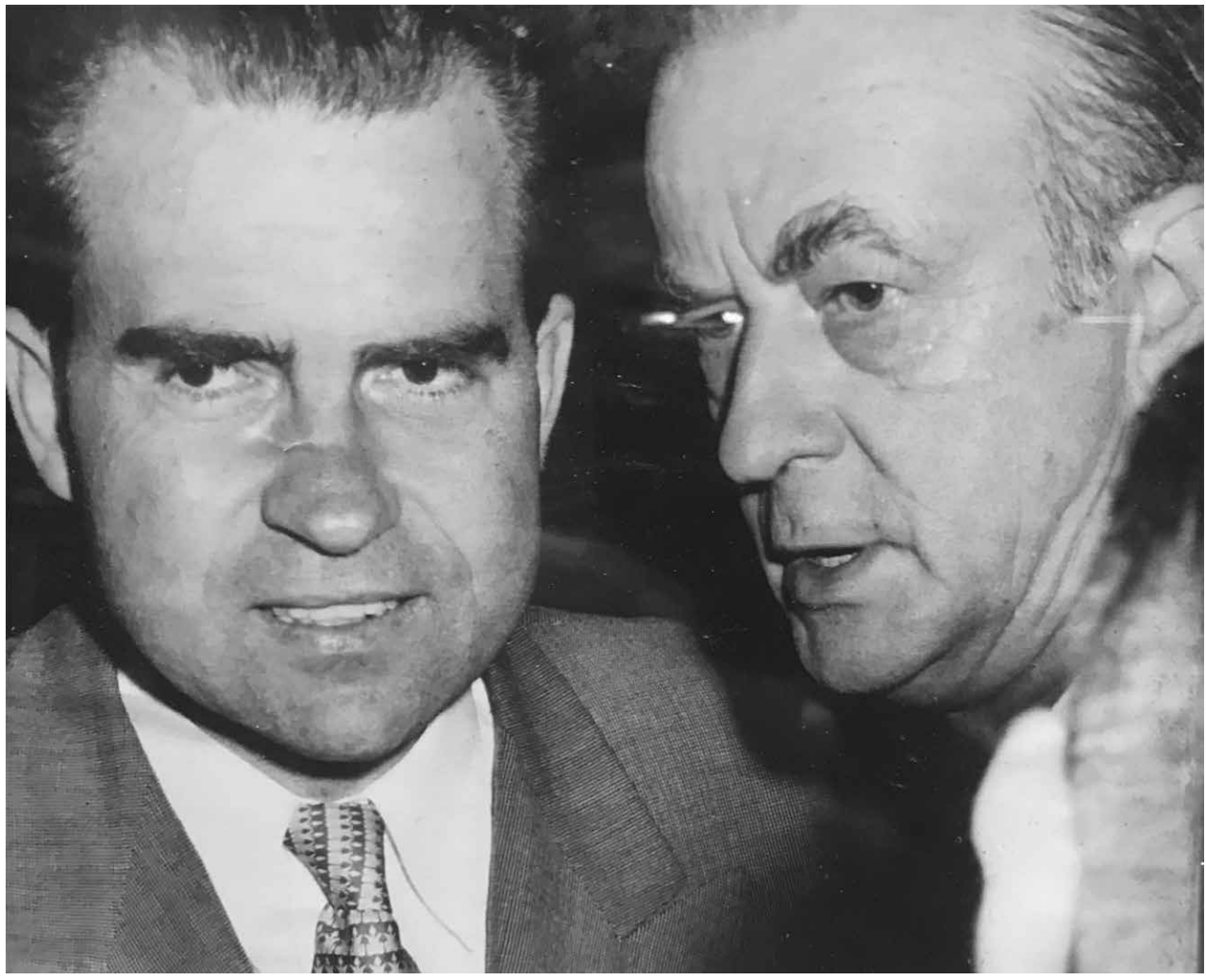
served as the chairman of the Republican National Committee and had presided over the 1946 elections, which had been a banner year for the GOP. Republicans, campaigning on the slogan "Had Enough?" captured control of both Houses of Congress, which ended the age of Roosevelt. Reece, although he tried to remain impartial in the 1948 presidential contest, was thought to be favorable to the presidential candidacy of Robert Taft and following the convention, which nominated Tom Dewey, the New Yorker replaced the Tennessean as chairman of the national party. Reece came home to run for the United States Senate in what was believed to be the best year Republicans had seen since 1920.

Tennessee Republicans nominated a serious statewide ticket in Reece for the Senate and country music legend Roy Acuff for governor. Republicans grew excited and Democrats highly nervous when the Reece-Acuff ticket drew tens of thousands to their campaign appearances even in the most rabidly Democratic areas. The result was a disaster, with Reece and Acuff winning only a third of the vote statewide. Worse still, the Reece-Acuff ticket had run well behind Governor Dewey in the First and Second Districts, which were reliably Republican. Reece and Acuff had lost the Second District. Guy Smith believed the reason why was because the ticket had been undercut by Congressmen John Jennings and Dayton Phillips. Smith determined both men must be removed from the House of Representatives.

Reece was running hard to reclaim his seat in the House from Dayton Phillips and Howard Baker was challenging John Jennings. The Knoxville Journal lavished praise upon Carroll Reece and Howard Baker while missing no opportunity to bad mouth Jennings and Dayton Phillips.

Both Roy Acuff and Hobart Atkins campaigned for Howard Baker at a rally in Maynardville. All three - Acuff, Atkins and Baker - fired off verbal salvos in the direction of Congressman Jennings. Roy Acuff accused the congressman of having worked against the Reece-Acuff ticket in the 1948 election, while Howard Baker hammered home his theme of Jennings' absenteeism.

Fred Travis once wrote that John Jennings "takes to a political fight or a lawsuit like a child headed to an ice cream parlor." Once having a full head of red hair, it had turned gray and fallen out, but the congressman could still make a fiery speech with the best of them and was renowned for using neither notes nor



Richard Nixon (left) and Guy Smith (right), editor of the 'belligerent' Knoxville Journal.

written speeches, preferring to speak off the cuff.

Congressman Jennings hurled back the accusation of absenteeism at Baker. The congressman, always well able to take his own part in any dispute, said "if Mr. Baker wants to go after a congressman who holds an all-time record for absenteeism, I hand him his boss, Mr. B. Carroll Reece." Jennings insisted Reece had never resigned his seat in the House in 1946 when he had been elected chairman of the Republican National Committee, but according to Jennings, Reece had done little or nothing as a congressman, although Reece had "clung to his salary." "For nine long months, Mr. Reece drew \$9000 in salary and never answered a roll call nor voted on a single measure," Jennings cried. "I have frequently seen Mr. Reece, after he was elected chairman of the Republican National Committee on April 1, 1946, slip out of the House to avoid answering a roll call on a measure that was being voted on at a time when his vote was needed by the Republican Party."

Nor did Jennings ignore Howard Baker, who had served as district attorney general for a collection of counties surrounding his native Scott County. Jennings said "the all-time record among district attorney generals in the state ... for absenteeism from his post" belonged to Howard Baker. Jennings reminded voters that while serving as attorney general, Baker was "in the active practice of civil law." "In the Chancery Court of Scott County alone, Mr. Baker had 94 cases, not to mention suits in which he was employed in the courts of other counties," Jennings said. Baker had 108 cases in the circuit court of Scott County and the congressman noted the Tennessee General Assembly had made it illegal for a district attorney general to practice law during the 1949 session after Baker's "failure."

Jennings continued to pound home his belief that Baker was "the candidate of B. Carroll Reece, who seeks to make the great Second Congressional District the tail of his political kite."

Baker continued his attack on Jennings' employing his daughter and tending to his own thriving law practice. Baker promised to be a "full-time" congressman if elected and said he would open an office in the post office building in Knoxville, staffed by a field secretary who would help constituents with problems. Baker noted that congressmen were allowed office space in a local post office building. "My opponent never took time to open it. He was too busy in his law office," Baker said.

Jennings responded by producing a letter written to him by Howard Baker asking the congressman to help his son get a nomination to West Point.

In the middle of July, the Knoxville News-Sentinel endorsed Frank Wilson for the Democratic nomination for the House and John Jennings for the GOP nomination. The News-Sentinel, then as now, was a Democratic newspaper and such a dual endorsement likely did Judge Jennings more harm than good inside a Republican primary contest. The News-Sentinel opined that the absenteeism charge against Jennings was likely true during some of his earlier terms in office, but less so since the Second World War, when the congressman "has been on the job most of the time." The newspaper attributed much of Jennings' absences due to his perennial fight to clean up political corruption inside the Second Congressional District. Guy Smith's Knoxville Journal gleefully trumpeted the endorsement of Jennings by the News-Sentinel, which it called a "Browning organ" (for Governor Gordon Browning, a Democrat). The Journal stated the endorsement by the News-Sentinel was "expected" due to the alliance between Jennings and Governor Browning.

The Chattanooga Daily Times was one of the best newspapers in the State of Tennessee in its coverage of politics, state and local. The Chattanooga newspaper described the Jennings-Baker contest as being fought "hammer and tongs" by the two candidates. Howard Baker was one of the first congressional candidates in Tennessee's

Second District to use the radio extensively to reach voters. The race was so hot that the Chattanooga Daily Times stated some of the charges tossed about by both candidates were "unprintable." Among those charges that could be printed were "election thief" and "liar." Fred Travis, the veteran political reporter for the Daily Times, wrote both Jennings and Baker used "the bluntest possible terms that his opponent has sold out to vested interests." Travis also noted, "Jennings appears to be in real trouble this time." Travis noted Hobart Atkins had quite nearly beat Jennings two years earlier, not being a particularly strong candidate and without the full backing of Guy Smith and the "belligerent" Knoxville Journal.

As Election Day approached, Congressman Jennings ramped up his charge that Carroll Reece and Guy Smith were engaged in a "conspiracy" to defeat him. A three-man congressional team of Frank Fellows, Frank Chelf and Charles B. Deane arrived in Knoxville to investigate charges made by Congressman Jennings about election fraud. While the Knoxville Journal promoted Howard Baker and bashed John Jennings, the Knoxville News-Sentinel did just the opposite as the primary election was being fought across the Second Congressional District.

Roy Acuff took to the airwaves, not to warble a country song, but rather to reiterate his charges that John Jennings had not supported him during the 1948 campaign. "I have always operated on the principles that when a man tells you something you can believe it and I believed him (Jennings)," Acuff told his listeners. Judge Jennings had been a friend of Acuff's father and the entertainer sighed, "If ever a country boy and a believer in mankind was ever disillusioned, that man was Roy Acuff on election day in November, 1948." Acuff said he was "not mad," but acknowledged he was "hurt." "I still cannot understand why I was treated the way I was and by a man I thought was my friend," Acuff said over the radio. Roy Acuff pointed to the

Knoxville News-Sentinel as proof of having been betrayed by John Jennings, noting the editorial published by the daily newspaper had stated "they could not support Howard Baker because he had supported me for governor." "Of course, they knew Mr. Jennings did not support me," Acuff added. The country music superstar went on to endorse Howard Baker once again, whom he believed would make a "great congressman."

For his part, Congressman John Jennings said he remained "confident" of victory. It was not to be. Howard Baker won the Republican primary in a landslide, carrying all nine counties comprising Tennessee's Second Congressional District. So, too, did Dayton Phillips lose to Carroll Reece in the First District. Guy Smith was elated by the rout of those he held responsible for having undercut the 1948 Republican state ticket.

Howard Baker had to mollify the supporters of Judge Jennings and won the general election by a reduced majority, giving hope to the Democrats yet again, but he soon entrenched himself in office and remained there until he died of a heart attack on January 7, 1964, while shaving. John Jennings returned to his law practice and enjoyed his large home on Kingston Pike, which still stands today. The former congressman still played a part in the legal and political life of Knox County and remained welcome as a speaker to various clubs and organizations. John Jennings died on February 27, 1956, at age seventy-five.

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I Could Get Sued!

In Season 3 of the TV show "Breaking Bad," there is a plot point where a law enforcement officer beats up a drug dealer over a perceived threat to his wife. While the drug dealer is in the hospital you hear the drug dealer talk about how he is going to sue the law enforcement officer for every penny he has ever had, and the law enforcement officer is terrified of



By Jedidiah McKeehan
jed@attorney-knoxville.com

that possibility. I have heard people express similar fears to me about being scared of being sued when they have not done anything so terrible. Those people, and the law enforcement officer in the show, are probably worrying a little too much because quite a few things have to happen for you to get to the point of paying money to someone

who sues you. The person suing has to find and hire a lawyer who is actually willing to take on their case. Lawyers are typically only interested in taking on cases with a high chance of success. That means that they want the person they are suing to have insurance, and therefore insurance policy money. If there is no insurance, often lawyers are uninterested in suing someone because they do not get paid unless they recover money for the client. If you have insurance in

place, like a police department would for a law enforcement officer, then they will also have lawyers to defend them and those lawyers are paid for by the insurance company. Those insurance lawyers are very good at their jobs. They will do everything they can to make sure that the person suing gets no money, or as little money as possible. If there is no insurance, you can still hire a lawyer on your own to defend you.

You may be someone who is not worth suing. If you do not own much, or everything you own is in the name of your spouse, you may be someone who is considered, "judgment proof," meaning that even if there is a judgment against you for money, there is a very low possibility of any money ever being collected from you. Before you start stressing out about being sued, talk to a lawyer who can explain

to you your possible exposure and what your options are. It is possible you are worrying when you should not be. Jedidiah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knoxville County and surrounding counties. He works in many areas, including family law, criminal, and personal injury. Visit attorney-knoxville.com for more information about this legal issue and other legal issues.

How to Make Tough Decisions for Your Aging Loved One

Cont. from page 1

"Caregiver Café is really about meeting people where they are and addressing some of the most commonly asked questions about caring for older loved ones," said Miranda Perez, executive director of the Morning Pointe Foundation. "A lot of family members find themselves in unfamiliar territory when an older loved one has

a health event. We'd love to help answer some of those questions, to empower area seniors and their loved ones so they will have good plans in place that they can all be happy with." Tickets are not required for the event. Light refreshments will be provided. Morning Pointe of Hardin Valley is located at 2449 Reagan Road, Knoxville, TN 37931. For more

information about the event, visit morningpointe.com/caregiver-cafe/.

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HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL



PHOTO BY TAMMY DAVIS KREGEL

Bearden point guard Natalya Hodge holds the basketball she was presented for the 1,500th point she scored on December 14th during halftime of a home game on January 28. The 1,500 points were scored in 80 games, making Hodge the "fastest" in school history to get to that level.

Hodge averages 25.7 points as Knox County Player of the Year

Webb's Hernandez repeats as top coach

By Steve Williams

Natalya Hodge has proven to be the best of the best in Knox County girls' high school basketball in 2024-25.

Based on regular season play, Bearden's junior point guard received the most votes for Player of the Year and heads up The Knoxville Focus / Coaches' All-Knox County team.

Nya Burns of Grace Christian Academy and Christian Academy of

Knoxville's Maddie Braden each got one vote.

Greg Hernandez of top-ranked Division II-AA Webb School was tabbed the girls' Coach of the Year for the second season in a row, while Bearden's Justin Underwood earned runner-up honors. Gwen Jackson of Austin-East, Abby Williams of CAK and the Wrights, co-head coaches at GCA, each picked up one vote.

Hodge, a TSSAA Miss **Continue on page 3**

The Knoxville Focus

ALL-KNOX COUNTY GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM 2024-25

FIRST TEAM

Maddie Braden, CAK 5-11 SG soph.
Nya Burns, Grace Christian 5-8 PG jr.
Meeyah Green, Webb 5-9 G/F jr.
Natalya Hodge, Bearden 5-7 PG jr.
KJ McNealy, Farragut 5-10 G jr.
Kendall Anne Murphy, Bearden 5-8 SF sr.
Jaci Neubert, Farragut 5-4 PG sr.
Amaya Redd, Knox. Catholic 5-11 PF sr.
Payton Rollins, South-Doyle 5-9 G soph.
Colie Thompson, CAK 5-10 SF jr.
Kyndra West, Hardin Valley 5-6 PG sr.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TIME

Strong defense boosts Lady Ads in playoff win

By Ken Leinart

Farragut High School's Lady Admirals struggled offensively Friday night in the first round of the Region 2-4A playoffs against Powell.

The Lady Admirals didn't struggle defensively however, taking a 43-23 win to advance to a Monday, March 3, semi-final tilt against District 3-4A champion Oak Ridge, played in the Secret City.

"We struggled a little bit early," Farragut Head Coach Jason Mayfield said. "Our defense played good. You can struggle on offense if you play good defense and our defense can be really good."

The Lady Admirals held a 7-5 advantage after one

quarter. That changed dramatically after the second quarter as the Lady Admirals held the Lady Panthers to two points to take an 18-7 lead into the locker room at the break.

"They're a young team, and they'll be a good team, but they are a young team," Mayfield said of the Lady Panthers.

The Lady Admirals' offense sputtered at times but still had its trademark spread of scorers, seven Farragut players notched points in the game, Kaelani McNealy taking high honors with 10.

"Sometimes they take that extra pass," Mayfield said of his team. He noted he doesn't mind that just

Cont. on page 6

Lady Bulldogs run past Karns in Region 2-4A Tournament opener

By Ken Lay

A stifling defense and some hot shooting from guards Natalya Hodge and Kendall Anne Murphy spelled victory for the Bearden High School girls basketball team in the opening round of the Region 2-4A Tournament.

The District 4-4A regular-season and tournament champion Lady Bulldogs had little trouble cruising to a win as they routed Karns, 74-28, Friday night at Bearden High School.

The game was a bit tight early as the Lady Beavers (14-15) had little trouble handling Bearden's full-court pressure defense early. Coach Justin Underwood took the Lady Bulldogs midway through the first quarter and Bearden holding a 12-7

lead. "We hadn't really pressed in our last four games, and we wanted to press but they didn't have much trouble with our press," Underwood said. "So we went away from it."

"They scored seven points in the first three minutes, but we held them to just 13 points by the end of the half."

After Underwood changed tactics, the Lady Bulldogs closed out the opening frame with an 11-2 run to take a 23-9 lead by the end of the frame.

After taking off the press, Bearden (30-4) appeared to pick up the defensive intensity and the Lady Beavers committed multiple turnovers in the second quarter, many of those **Continue on page 2**

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TIME

Carter comeback nets a district title to remember

By Steve Williams

For Carter High, it had to be one of the greatest wins in the school's basketball history.

Down by 16 points midway into the third period against perennial powerhouse Fulton, the Hornets battled back to sting the Falcons 79-72 in overtime and win the District 3-3A tournament championship at Coker County High in Newport last Tuesday night.

"The boys were ecstatic," said Carter Coach Tyler Cate, recalling the thrill of victory. "It was really good for them, really fun. I mean just simply because they are a hard-working group of kids. So the post-game was filled with celebration. They were happy. We all were happy. It was a really fun time."

The celebration took place in the locker room after the game, said Cate. "We probably spent longer in there than a lot of people would. We celebrated as long as they wanted to."

It was indeed a special win for Carter.

"It's maybe a little over 10 years to the day since Carter

"I told them not to look at the scoreboard. I told them I will worry about the scoreboard, you guys just keep playing."

- Carter Coach Tyler Cate, recalling a 44-28 deficit midway into the third period.

has beaten Fulton," noted Coach Cate, who is in his fourth season at Carter.

Chris Cowan led the Hornets with 23 points. Tourney MVP Zion Oliver contributed 18 points but fouled out and didn't play in the four-minute overtime period.

Carter also got 12 points from point guard Dave Stokes and 11 from Naviyon Shipe, including nine in the second half and OT period. Lincoln Tummel chipped in 10 points "and was great on the boards," said Cate.

Nick Steen (23 points), Rajon Womble (13) and Derrick Smith (12) led Fulton.

With the victory, Carter upped its overall record to 24-9, while Fulton, which has played a tough schedule, slipped to 14-16.

After winning back-to-back state titles, Fulton Coach Jody Wright returned only one starter (Steen) this season.

The 'new' Falcons defeated Carter in their two regular season

matchups, but getting the district tourney victory was huge for the Hornets.

"They're always going to be difficult to handle," said Coach Cate.

Fulton went on a 12-0 run in the third period to go up 44-28.

At that juncture in the game, Cate recalled: "I told them not to look at the scoreboard. I told them I will worry about the scoreboard, you guys just keep playing."

"They were just able to stay resilient and battled through the ups and downs of the game. But at the end of it we were fortunate to be on top."

"We were able to get it back to four at the end of the third period. We were just able to battle from there."

Steen hit a big shot to pull Fulton even (63-63) with eight seconds left in regulation play. The Falcons led only once (67-66) in the overtime.

Carter outscored the Falcons 11-5 in the final 1:10.



After its District 3-3A tournament championship win over Fulton on Feb. 25, four Carter players were presented All-Tournament awards. From left to right: Naviyon Shipe, Dave Stokes, Zion Oliver (MVP) and Chris Cowan.

Lady Bulldogs conclude district sweep

By Ken Leinart

Bearden High School's Lady Bulldogs finished its sweep of District 4-4A opponents Monday night (10-0 in season, 2-0 in tournament play) with a 56-43 tournament championship win over Farragut High School.

The Lady Bulldogs used all of their tools in the championship with explosive scoring from tournament Most Valuable Player Natalya Hodge, a clutch performance from senior Kendall Anne Murphy, and a defensive masterpiece from junior post Theola Mills.

"Farragut has a good team. They have some really talented players," Bearden Head Coach Justin Underwood said. "Hats off to my assistant Coach (Josh) Suttles. He worked with the girls on our defense and they really responded to him."

"We held them (Farragut) to 43 points and that's good."

Bearden opened the game offensively running an isolation play with Hodge, who scored eight of her 12 first quarter points that way.

Between her 12 and Murphy's 10 - including a



The Bearden High School Lady Bulldogs won the District 4-4A Tournament championship with a 56-43 win over Farragut High School. The Lady Bulldogs completed a season sweep of district opponents with the win.

buzzer beater from near mid-court - the Lady Bulldogs built a 22-13 cushion.

They needed it. Kaelani McNealy found her stride and seniors Annie Priest and Jaci Neubert created some turnovers in the second stanza.

But it was the play on the boards of Farragut's Trinity Curry that was starting to make a difference.

In the third quarter Curry was a rebounding terror and at the four minute mark she hit a put-back to bring the Lady Admirals to within four at 36-40.

Hodge responded by hitting two three pointers and Mills stepped forward and Farragut's momentum dissipated.

Mills contested every pass inside, came up big defending every drive

inside, blocked two shots, and she and Curry put on a classic battle in the paint.

"She's (Mills) is one of the strongest players you'll deal with and I think sometimes she's afraid to let it go," Underwood said. "(Trinity) Curry does a lot inside and I challenged her (Mills) during practice. And she responded ... She was huge. Absolutely huge."

District Consolation:

Hardin Valley Academy 53, Maryville 44

Host Hardin Valley Academy built a 37-18 halftime lead and held off a furious Maryville rally to take third place in the District 4-4A consolation game with a 53-44 win Monday night, Feb. 24.

Senior Kyndra West was "en fuego" for Hardin Valley in the first half Monday

night scoring 18 points. The Lady Rebels couldn't focus solely on her either as Hardin Valley had six players score in the first half.

West was impressive with 25 points on the night, Buccola and Kamiyah Love each scored eight, Kamryn Butcher scored five, Ava Claire Wrather notched four, and Holly Lindsey scored one.

Lady Bulldogs run past Karns in Region 2-4A Tournament opener

Cont. from page 1 _____ first half and Murphy had 20 of her 22 points before halftime, helping the Lady Bulldogs open a 43-13 advantage, the lead they enjoyed at the break.

"I was really pleased with our defense and I thought Nat and Kendall Anne did a good job shooting the ball," Underwood said. "I thought they shot it really well."

Rylee Roberts and Reese Roberts scored seven points each in the final high school game of their career. The two twins will move on to play collegiately at Bryan College. Martin, another senior who had six points at Bearden, will also play at Bryan.

With the win, Bearden advances to tonight's Region 2-4A Semifinals,

which will be contested at Wildcat Arena in Oak Ridge. The Lady Bulldogs will face a familiar foe in the semifinals as they'll play Hardin Valley Academy at 7:30 p.m.

Bearden defeated the Lady Hawks (12-16) in their previous three meetings in 2024-25.

Hardin Valley upset Campbell County, 50-44, in Jacksboro Friday night.

In tonight's other semifinal, Farragut will take on the host Lady Wildcats at 6 p.m.

Semifinal winners advance to Wednesday night's region championship game and also secure a berth in the state sectional on Saturday.

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'Likely to be in the record books forever'

How do fans react when their team loses a game and doesn't make a first down? That's the story for today, harking back to Sept. 28,

1958, on Legion Field in Birmingham, Alabama. An announced crowd of 46,000 gathered for the season opener for both teams.

Over the recorded years of Tennessee football, there have been those games that have caught the attention of Vol fans... and not in a good way. Take, for example, the 2024 Ohio State game (a 42-17 loss), the 2022 South Carolina game (a 63-38 loss), and the 1969 Ole Miss game (a 38-0 loss), all games that put a damper on otherwise successful seasons.

That day will long live in infamy in the recorded history of Tennessee football. No Vol fan woke up in a good humor the next morning. Looking back 67 years, there are all kinds of angles present for history-minded Vol fans.

"Auburn's late push trips Vols, 13-0," read the Knoxville News-Sentinel's headline. Red Bailes had the byline. Ed Harris's byline in his Knoxville Journal game story was, "Wyatt Seeks Offense To Support Gritty Vol Defense."

One glaring statistic tells the whole story. First downs: Auburn 11, Tennessee 0.

You read that one right. It was a full 60 minutes of football, without the Vols moving the chains even once - not by rushing, not by passing, not even by penalty. It hasn't happened since in the annals of major college football. Even in games that turn out to be complete and total mismatches, the losing team still manages to convert more than a few first downs.

That day, Red Grange and UT's own Lindsey Nelson were on the broadcast for NBC. Nelson knew this drill well. He had been on the air for NBC in 1953 with Mel Allen, the legendary "Voice of the New York Yankees."

Bowden Wyatt, captain of the 11-0 1938 Vol squad and twice a member of the College Football Hall of Fame, had compiled a 24-7-1 record in his first three years back in Knoxville, with the SEC title and No. 2 national ranking being the big prize two years earlier.

As always, Tennessee fans were looking for big things from their team. As it turned out, the Vols were definitely playing with a short stick.

Russ Bebb ("The Big Orange," 1973) wrote that "there was a glaring weakness, and it was at the worst possible position - the sensitive tailback post." There was no shortage of candidates. Carroll Young had seen little action a year earlier. George Wright and three sophomores, Bill Majors, Gene Etter, and Bobby Finley, added to the list.

Those names did not, however, seem to strike fear in the hearts of Vol opponents.

Russ called it an "all-time low" for the Vols and the single wing. The Vols had minus-49 yards rushing and 19 passing.

"The only thing we can do now is start from scratch and try to get an offense going," said Wyatt, described by Bebb as "dejected." The ball carriers didn't have a chance. The blocking wasn't there. As everybody could see, we simply couldn't move the ball. So, we had to kick and scratch, and that's what we did."

This was in the early days of television timeouts, something that was so new that it occasionally got in the way of the ebbs and flows of the game, much the way it happens today.

Tiger loyalist David Houzel reported one comment made by Auburn center Jackie Burkett, stopped from snapping the ball because the game was in a commercial break.

"Listen here, mister," said Burkett said to the SEC referee on duty. "We came here to beat Tennessee, and ain't no dad-blamed TV commercial going to stop us."

The Auburn game led to an up-and-down season. The Vols defeated Mississippi State at Crump Stadium in Memphis 13-8. End Murray Armstrong scored both Vol touchdowns, one on an interception return, the other on a 15-yard TD pass from Majors with only 61



Bowden Wyatt in happier days, accepting a bid to the 1957 Gator Bowl.

seconds to go. The Vols lost to Georgia Tech and defeated Alabama in Bear Bryant's debut on Shields-Watkins Field. Then came losses to Florida State, North Carolina, and, of all people, Chattanooga. That led to a major fracas on the field after the game.

That put the Vols at 2-5, with a powerful Ole Miss squad coming into town for Homecoming. An announced crowd of

27,100 showed up and saw a major upset. Tennessee was a 14-point underdog, yet somehow won 18-16.

There were two major occurrences in the fourth quarter. Etter had a classic 76-yard run for the go-ahead score, despite leaving his shoe at midfield after escaping the grasp of a tackler. In the final minutes, Bob Khayat, a future University of Mississippi Chancellor, missed a gimme field goal at the

South end. The season ended at 4-6, with a loss to Kentucky and a win over Vanderbilt.

In the bright light of recollection, however, the Auburn game that season will probably be the grist for bar bets and other reasoned discussions of Vol football.

When was the last time Tennessee didn't make a first down in any game, home or away? Now you know.





ALL-KNOX COUNTY GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM 2024-25

<p>SECOND TEAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avery Brewer, Central G jr. Ree Ree Brown, A-E G soph. Trinity Curry, Farragut C soph. Maggie Frana, Catholic F sr. Daisy Gentry, Powell SG soph. Kyndall Mays, Webb C fr. Jadyn Parker, Gibbs Post sr. Aisha Patel, Bearden W sr. Annie Priest, Farragut G sr. Abby Roberts, GCA G soph. Reese Roberts, Karns PG sr. Rylie Roberts, Karns SG sr. Emory Thomas, CCS G fr. Cloey Wade, South-Doyle SF sr. Tinsley Walker, Catholic SG sr. Dee Williams, Fulton SF sr. Marah Yeo, Carter G sr. 	<p>HONORABLE MENTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addalee Adams, West soph. Jaidyn Baird, BCS fr. Brooklyn Brown, CCS fr. Sha'Nary Cobb, Fulton fr. Charleigh Freeman, West fr. Kiran Keeton, CCS soph. Emma Millington, Carter fr. Raley Qualls, Gibbs sr. Emma Rainey, Bearden jr. Zahnyah Rockett, Webb fr. Jyree Shepard, Fulton fr. Ashlyn Stewart, West sr. Shiloh Taylor, Fulton fr. Lexi Tipton, Carter soph. Maddi Whaley, Gibbs sr. Ja'Onna Witt, A-E soph.
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Webb School girls coach Greg Hernandez communicates with one of his Lady Spartans before play resumes. Hernandez has been voted the Knox County Coach of the Year for the second season in a row. Before coming to Webb, Hernandez coached at Seymour High School. Photo by Luther Simmons.

Hodge averages 25.7 points as Knox County Player of the Year

Cont. from page 1
Basketball finalist for the second consecutive season, had the top scoring average (25.7 points per game) in Knox County this season and also averaged 3.3 rebounds, 3.9 steals and 2.7 assists.

Natalya has scored over 2,000 points in her career and has over 20 Division 1 offers at this time, according to Coach Underwood. She also was the District 4-4A MVP.

Two other Miss Basketball candidates - Webb junior Meeyah Green and CAK sophomore Maddie Braden - make this first team shine even more. Green is a 5-9 G/F who averages 13.6 points, 7.1

rebounds and 4.2 assists. Braden, a 5-11 shooting guard, is scoring at a 19.3 clip with a 54 percent field goal percentage.

Bearden's Kendall Anne Murphy, a 5-8 senior shooting forward, also has a spot on the first team. The Lenoir-Rhyne University signee averages 12.9 points and 6 rebounds.

The 11-man first team also includes CAK junior teammate Colie Thompson, a 5-10 shooting forward who averages 18.3 points and 3.5 assists.

Farragut is represented by two players on the first unit - 5-10 junior guard KJ McNealy and 5-4 senior point guard Jaci Neubert. McNealy averages 12.5

points, 10.1 rebounds and 3.9 assists. Neubert is good for 12.9 points and 3.1 steals.

Knoxville Catholic's 5-11 power forward Amaya Redd can contribute inside and out. The Tennessee Tech signee's stats include 16 points per game, eight rebounds and one block.

Hardin Valley provides talented 5-6 senior point guard Kyndra West, who has signed with UVA-Wise. Lady Hawks Coach Jennifer Galloway noted West had been the team's statistical leader in all categories - 13.5 points, 6.2 rebounds, 5 assists and 1.3 steals plus has a 4.1 GPA.

Junior point guard Nya Burns, a 3-time first team All-District honoree, helped Grace Christian to a 20-win season, averaging 16 points, 4.2 assists and 3.1 steals. She has 10 offers from D1 schools, including Tennessee Tech.

South-Doyle's Payton Rollins was a Miss

Basketball candidate and the 5-9 standout still has two more seasons to go. Her stats included 17.8 points, 4.8 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 steals. She also had 15 blocks during the season. At last report, she also was less than a 100 away from 1,000 career points.

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ETBCA BASEBALL MEDIA DAY

A little history on the ETBCA

By Steve Williams

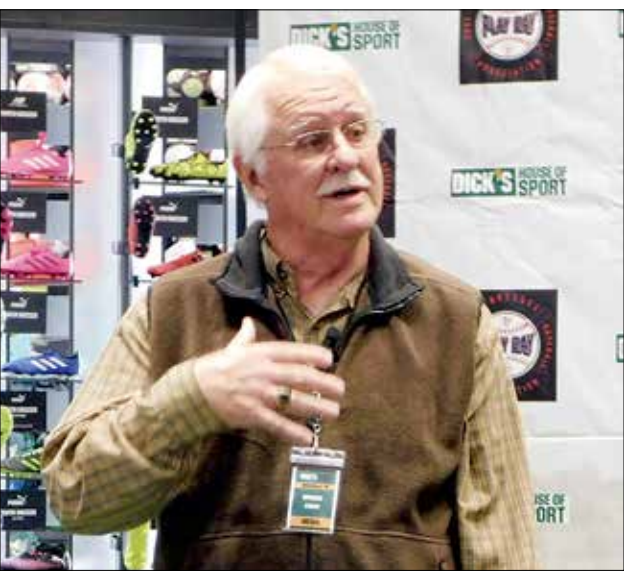


PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Alvin Taylor, former longtime Clinton High coach, was a guest speaker at the East Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association's second annual Media Day. Taylor said the association has been around "well over 40 years. And this Media Day grows the sport."

Alvin Taylor took a step back in time last week to shed light on the beginning of what is now the East Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association.

Now in his mid-70s, the former Clinton High School coach was a guest speaker at the second annual ETBCA Baseball Media Day, which was held Feb. 26 at Dick's House of Sport in West Town Mall.

The ETBCA was founded in 1981 by Coach John Whited, who had arrived in Knoxville to become the head baseball coach at the University of Tennessee.

Whited, who passed away in 2013 at the age of 74, had been a highly successful high school coach at Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett before coaching the Vols for three seasons.

Taylor said he was one of "six or eight coaches" who wanted the Knoxville and surrounding areas to promote high school baseball.

They began with monthly meetings and when they started inviting college coaches, that "opened up doors," said Taylor.

"Facilities started to improve and I think that was an offshoot of this association. Junior varsity

teams also were added and play-days."

Taylor said there was an Upper East Tennessee area, an Athens-Cleveland area and the Knoxville area and "they picked senior teams."

In 1997, a Hall of Fame was started, pointed out Alvin.

"The East Tennessee and Knoxville Area Association has been around well over 40 years," he added. "And this Media Day grows the sport. I'm really proud of this association still growing."

Today the ETBCA aims to create positive communication with college, high school, summer and middle

school coaches as well as the TSSAA.

ANOTHER TAYLOR: Alvin's son, Casey, has followed in his dad's footsteps, having coached high school baseball at Cocke County and Clinton, his alma mater, and this spring will begin his 13th season at Sevier County. Casey and the Smoky Bears were also at the Media Day.

BIGGER TURNOUT: The ETBCA had 10 more schools represented at this year's Media Day, which increased the turnout of coaches and players to 38 teams.

Youth movement in full force for Grace Christian baseball

By Ken Lay

As Brent Walsh begins his third season as Grace Christian Academy's baseball coach, the Rams will be one of East Tennessee's youngest teams.

But Walsh isn't using his squad's youth movement as an excuse.

"We have a young team. We'll have a lot of freshmen and even some eighth graders playing," Walsh said. "Even though we will have a lot of eighth and ninth graders on the field, I'm still excited about getting the chance to play."

"We're not going to make any excuses. You just go out there and do the best you can."

All area high school baseball teams have had to deal with inclement weather, including rain and

snow, during preseason workouts.

But again there will be no excuses for the Rams.

"We've got turf and we've been able to get into the weight room and we have an indoor facility," Walsh said.

Grace Christian has just one senior on its 2025 roster. Makai Derry will play his final year of baseball and he can play shortstop, second base and in the outfield. He's also a pitcher that will anchor the pitching staff.

He's ready to begin the season.

"As a senior, it's up to me to set the standards for the young guys on the team," Derry said. "We have a tough schedule but I'm looking forward to a good season."

Other key players for the Rams include; Mason Pike (junior, pitcher/center fielder) and sophomore Treyson Derry, a left-handed pitcher who will also play in the outfield and at first base.

Grace opens the 2025 campaign on the road against Sweetwater on Thursday.

From there, it won't get any easier as Grace travels to Catholic Saturday. The Irish made the Division II-AA State quarterfinals in 2024 after winning the state championship in 2023.

On March 10, the Rams will play their home opener against Hardin Valley Academy before heading to face three-time defending Class 4A state champion Farragut at John Heatherly Field on Match 11.

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Spirits high as Austin-East continues to build baseball program

By Ken Lay

The 2025 high school baseball season is scheduled to begin today (March 3) for most area teams and athletes at Knox County's Austin-East High School are just grateful to take the field for a fourth consecutive season.

Austin-East rebooted its baseball season in 2022 after a seven-year hiatus, and Michael Gladney will return for his senior season, which officially begins Tuesday night when the Roadrunners head to Karns to take on the Beavers at "Chief" Dwight Smith Field.

Gladney, who also had a football career at Austin-East, has been with the baseball program since the first day that coach Kaylin Chesney decided to reboot the program, which hadn't played a full season since 2015.

"Michael is our center fielder and he's a four-year starter. He's come back and he's continued to get better," Chesney said at the second annual East Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association Media Day, which was held Wednesday at Dick's House of Sport at West Town Mall.

Gladney is one of two veteran players to attend last week's event. Junior shortstop Tyler Scott was also there and he's back for his third baseball season with the Roadrunners

Like Gladney, Scott is also a football player. But he's also no stranger to baseball or Chesney.

"Tyler's a junior and he's our shortstop and he'll pitch some for us," Chesney said. "I actually coached him in tee ball."

Since its return to baseball, Austin-East has struggled. The team, however, continues to hit the field and battle.

Wins have been few but that doesn't mean the game hasn't had a positive impact on those who don the Blue and Red.

"I've seen a lot of growth," Gladney said. "I'm really excited for the new season and I'm looking forward to going out there and playing with my friends.

"It's tough sometimes, but it's fun." Baseball has long been a summer pastime in Knoxville and it sometimes all begins in city parks for younger players. It's a fun game.

It can also, however, be a cruel mistress as players can go through some prolonged



PHOTO BY KEN LEINART.

Austin-East baseball coach Kaylin Chesney (above), senior Michael Gladney and junior Tyler Scott at last week's ETBC Media Day. Chesney rebooted the Roadrunners' baseball program in 2022, after a seven-year hiatus. Gladney begins his fourth year as a starter and Scott is in his third year of baseball at the school.

slumps at the plate and sometimes have problems finding the strike zone from the mound.

But the challenges are what kept Gladney coming back to the ballpark every day.

"What appeals to me is the challenge. It's not an easy game but I will accept this challenge," he said. "That's how life is. "Life is hard. Life is not easy."

Scott has also seen the program grow and he loves that his teammates are back at practice every day.

"It's just great to see people keep coming back," he said. "The more you keep practicing and the more you play, the better you keep getting and the more chances you have to win.

Scott's desire to continue to play the game is driven by one simple factor. He wants to win.

"The thing that really appeals to me is the motivation to win," he said.

Gladney, Scott and others on the 2025 Austin-East squad are relishing the opportunity that they wouldn't have had if Chesney hadn't taken the bold chance and rebooted a program that had been dormant since 2015.

But the coach said that he's had the East Knoxville Community's support as people have rallied behind the program.

"We've had the support from the community," Chesney said. "The community has really rallied behind these guys, this team."

When Chesney decided to bring baseball back to Austin-East, he had to recruit players in the hallways.

He hasn't had to do as much of that lately.

"I'm excited that these guys keep coming back, and now we've reached the point where people are coming to Austin-East to play baseball, so I don't have to go out and find players," Chesney said.

A NEW HOME FOR THE ROADRUNNERS: Excitement is palpable around the Austin-East program and now, after three full seasons, the Roadrunners will have a home field that will belong exclusively to them.

"This year, we will have games at home at our field on campus," said Chesney, a 2000 Austin-East graduate.

After opening the season away from home for its first five games, Austin-East will play its first home game on March 15 as it hosts Tyner at 2 p.m.

Powell prepares for rigors of District 3-4A schedule

By Ken Lay

As Powell High School baseball coach Josh Warner prepares for the 2025 season, he knows one thing is for certain.

"If you don't show up on every Monday and Tuesday in (in a District 3-4A series), you're going to be in trouble," Warner said. "Our league is getting so much better and that's a testament to our players and our coaches. It's a good district."

The Panthers compete in District 3-4A, a league that is top-heavy. The teams in the district include the Panthers, Oak Ridge (which won the district tournament and made it to the state tournament last season for the first time in more than five decades), Central (which reached the Region 2-4A Tournament in each of the last two seasons), Halls, Karns and Campbell County.

"I would like to say that we have the best team, but right now, Oak Ridge is the best team in our district, Oak Ridge has set the standard," Warner said. "Central will be good."

"I look for Halls to be really good. Karns is young, but they have talent and those young guys played together last year. I could see two teams from our district making it to the state tournament."

Top returners for the Panthers include: Caleb Emert (senior, second baseman); Lucas Mayes (senior, first baseman); Kwade Carver (senior, third baseman/pitcher); Tyler Early (senior, pitcher); Austin Grant (senior, pitcher) and Brainston Soppet (senior, shortstop).

Key newcomers are Brody Hollowell (sophomore, catcher/pitcher) and Nathan Early (sophomore, pitcher/first baseman).

The Panthers open their 2025 campaign Friday against Catholic at Christian Academy of Knoxville at Catholic High School. First pitch between the Panthers and Irish is slated for 5:30 p.m.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

FORECLOSURE NOTICES

Subject to any and all governmental zoning and/or subdivision ordinances, regulations and requirements in effect thereon.

Property address: 3926 Meredith Road, Knoxville, TN 37921

This sale will be made subject to all unpaid taxes, and subject to any applicable easements and restrictions or prior liens or mortgages, if any.

In the event the high bidder at the foreclosure sale should fail to comply with the submitted bid, the Trustee shall have the option to accept the next highest bid in which the bidder is able to comply or to re-advertise and sell at a later sale.

The right is reserved to adjourn the day of sale to another date certain without further publication upon announcement on the day of the sale at the time set forth above.

Proceeds of the sale shall be applied as provided for by the terms of the Deed of Trust, and this notice will be published in the Knoxville Focus, a newspaper published in Knox County, Tennessee, three times on the following dates: March 3, 2025, March 10, 2025, and March 17, 2025.

Other interested parties: Discover Bank Judgment Liens of record as Instrument No. 202310260021714 and 202502030040377

This the 20th day of February, 2025.

Timothy E. Scott, Substitute Trustee 135 W. Main Street, Suite 200 Kingsport, TN 37660 (423)247-9376

Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. This 5th day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: JOHN SHAVER, AMY SHAVER, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A., and BAPTIST HOSPITAL WEST

IN RE: CLEAR RECON, LLC, v. JOHN SHAVER, AMY SHAVER, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A., and BAPTIST HOSPITAL WEST

NO. 209818-3

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendants JOHN SHAVER, AMY SHAVER, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A., and BAPTIST HOSPITAL WEST, 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 JOHN SHAVER, AMY SHAVER, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A., and BAPTIST HOSPITAL WEST, it is ordered that said defendants, JOHN SHAVER, AMY SHAVER, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A., and BAPTIST HOSPITAL WEST, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with M. Craig Smith, an Attorney whose address is 651 East 4th Street, Suite 200 Chattanooga, TN 37403 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 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: VERONICA RENEE STINSON, ROGER LYNCH, CHARLES JONES, JAMES LEE STINNETT, KAZRYNE ROBINSON, PHYLLIS BUIS

PEARL ROBINSON, VERONICA RENEE STINSON, ARTHUR DEWAYNE ROBINSON, ROGER LYNCH, CHARLES JONES, JAMES LEE STINNETT, KAZRYNE ROBINSON, PHYLLIS BUIS, 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 VERONICA RENEE STINSON, ROGER LYNCH, CHARLES JONES, JAMES LEE STINNETT, KAZRYNE ROBINSON, PHYLLIS BUIS, it is ordered that said defendants, VERONICA RENEE STINSON, ROGER LYNCH, CHARLES JONES, JAMES LEE STINNETT, KAZRYNE ROBINSON, PHYLLIS BUIS, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Ann Mostoller, an Attorney whose address is 136 S. Illinois Avenue, Suite 104, Oak Ridge, TN 37830 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.

NO. 209809-3

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendants VERONICA RENEE STINSON, ROGER LYNCH, CHARLES JONES, JAMES LEE STINNETT, KAZRYNE ROBINSON, PHYLLIS BUIS, 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 VERONICA RENEE STINSON, ROGER LYNCH, CHARLES JONES, JAMES LEE STINNETT, KAZRYNE ROBINSON, PHYLLIS BUIS, it is ordered that said defendants, VERONICA RENEE STINSON, ROGER LYNCH, CHARLES JONES, JAMES LEE STINNETT, KAZRYNE ROBINSON, PHYLLIS BUIS, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Ann Mostoller, an Attorney whose address is 136 S. Illinois Avenue, Suite 104, Oak Ridge, TN 37830 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 18th day of FEBERARY, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: TIMOTHY R. HAMMERSMITH

IN RE: JANET S. HAMMERSMITH -vs- TIMOTHY R. HAMMERSMITH

Docket # 160903

IN THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, TIMOTHY R. HAMMERSMITH, is 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 TIMOTHY R. HAMMERSMITH.

answer or otherwise respond, a Default Judgment may be entered against you on the thirtieth (30th) day after the fourth (4th) publication. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This the 7th day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

Mike Hammond Clerk

Michelle Henry Deputy Clerk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARK ALAN BURNETTE DOCKET NUMBER 90468-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 12 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARK ALAN BURNETTE, who died Jan. 10, 2025, 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 12 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARK ALAN BURNETTE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) KAREN BURNETTE 1121 CONCORD WOODS DR. KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

MICHAEL R. CROWDER, ATTORNEY 4TH FLOOR, BANK OF AMERICA BLDG. P. O. BOX 442 KNOXVILLE, TN 37901-0442

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DOUGLAS W. CLARK DOCKET NUMBER 90468-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 14 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of DOUGLAS W. CLARK, who died December 10, 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 14 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF DOUGLAS W. CLARK

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) MALEAH N. CLARK 7851 HEATON WAY NASHVILLE, TN 37211

BRADLEY H. HODGE, ATTORNEY 900 SOUTH GAY STREET, SUITE 2100 KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DONALD EVERETT FINLEY DOCKET NUMBER 90395-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 18 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of DONALD EVERETT FINLEY, who died on November 26, 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 18 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF DONALD EVERETT FINLEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) MIKE FINLEY 10032 S. NORTHSHORE DR. KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

MATT E. MILLER, ATTORNEY 859 EAST BROADWAY BLVD. JEFFERSON CITY, TN 37604

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TSSAA RESULTS

Area wrestlers shine at state championships

By Ken Lay

The 2024-25 high school wrestling season came to an end recently at the TSSAA traditional Division I boys and Girls State Championships at the Williamson County Expo Center in Franklin.

The two-day event culminated Saturday, Feb. 22.

Eight area girls earned spots on the podium by replacing Gibbs finished fifth in the team standings, while Seymour came in 10th.

Two area grapplers earned state championships as Halls High's Sophia Satterfield won the 126-pound weight class and Seymour's Ellie Underwood (107) earned a state title.

Knox County's Lady Eagles had four athletes

post podium finishes.

In the 107-pound class, Cora Finstad posted a runner-up finish. Delaney Nichols was fifth in the 126-pound division.

At 138, Laine Kidd came in fifth, while Shelby Williams came in third in the 145-pound weight class.

Seymour's Cresson Postlewaite came in fourth in the 114-pound weight class.

In the 100-pound weight class, Libby Lee (Halls) came in sixth.

In the Class A boys tournament, Gibbs posted a fifth-place finish in the team standings. The Eagles had five medalists in the Midstate.

Eagles' 120-pounder Blake Allen was runner-up

in his weight class.

Gibbs had four athletes post third-place finishes in their respective brackets. Noah Eller (126 pounds), Brody Ford (132), Ezra Finstad (144) and Jalen Wright (285) all earned third-place medals.

Seymour's Skyler Campbell took third in the 175-pound weight class.

Carter also had a state medalist, its first in many years, as Hayden Simmons finished third in the 175-pound division.

In the Class AA boys tournament, Halls had two athletes post second-place finishes as Harlen Hunley, who competes in the 150-pound weight class, and Barrett Whaley (175 pounds) were each

runners-up in their weight classes.

Bearden High School boasted one medalist as its 165-pounder Deameion Leavell took third. Leavell, a junior for the Bulldogs, won a Class A State Championship as a sophomore last season while competing for Clinton. As a freshman, Leavell qualified for the state championships in Kentucky.

Dylan Rohn, another newcomer in Knox County, finished sixth for Farragut in the 144-pound weight class.

West High also had an athlete place at the state championships as Ahmed Shahin (215 pounds) came in sixth.

Strong defense

Cont. from page 1

as long as an extra pass doesn't lead to a turnover.

"When 22 (McNealy) and 20 (Trinity Curry) are doing well inside I think we try to feed them instead of just shooting the ball," Mayfield said.

McNealy and Curry both had strong defensive games in the paint for the Lady Admirals with McNealy crashing the boards for 19 rebounds on the night.

Sophomore Gabbie Vanaker had a nice game off the bench for Farragut, knocking down nine points.

Powell was led by three players with five points each.

Next up for the Lady Admirals is Oak Ridge. The Lady Wildcats ran the

table in District 3-4A, winning the regular season and tournament crown without a district loss.

The Lady Wildcats defeated Maryville Friday night 68-52.

Monday's region semi-final is a rematch of last year's region semi-final.

"They have a good team, an experienced team, and they have a bunch of seniors who are really good," Mayfield said.

"We beat them in the region semi-finals last year and we hold on to that. It's a new year though and we're a little better this year, but they are more healthy.

"It's at their place and we'll be prepared."

Tip-off is scheduled for 6 p.m.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DARLENE ANN FRENCH
DOCKET NUMBER 90536-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 19 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of DARLENE ANN FRENCH, who died December 28, 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 19 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF DARLENE ANN FRENCH

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TAMMIE BECKNER
7412 MAVERICK LANE
CORRYTON, TN 37721

P. ANDREW SNEED, ATTORNEY
217 EAST BROADWAY AVENUE
MARYVILLE, TN 37804

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RAWLEY KAPPESSER,
A/K/A RAWLEY DEAN KAPPESSER
DOCKET NUMBER 90523-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 12 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of RAWLEY KAPPESSER, A/K/A RAWLEY DEAN KAPPESSER, 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 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 12 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF RAWLEY KAPPESSER,
A/K/A RAWLEY DEAN KAPPESSER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
RICHARD E. KAPPESSER
1506 DELLOWAY DRIVE
LOUISVILLE, KY 40216

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF NATHAN LEON KARNES
DOCKET NUMBER 90550-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 12 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of NATHAN LEON KARNES, who died June 5, 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 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 12 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF NATHAN LEON KARNES

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
LINDA REED KARNES, ADMINISTRATOR

WILSON S. RITCHIE, ATTORNEY
4800 OLD KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 100
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BENNIE MAE LETT
DOCKET NUMBER 90512-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 18 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect to the Estate of BENNIE MAE LETT, who died on January 3, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of 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 and Master of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in paragraphs numbered one (1) or two (2) below, 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 that is four (4) months from 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 18 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF BENNIE MAE LETT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TAMMY MAE ADAMS
8525 GRAYCROFT DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

STEPHEN K. GARRETT, ATTORNEY
7838 BARKER ROAD
CORRYTON, TN 37721

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF GARY ALLEN MASTERSON
DOCKET NUMBER 90567-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 19 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of GARY ALLEN MASTERSON, who died June 9, 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 19 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF GARY ALLEN MASTERSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ADAM K. MASTERSON
5421 PAULA ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

M. CATHERINE WARMBROD, ATTORNEY
10805 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 200
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF HUBERT WAYNE MILLER
DOCKET NUMBER 90488-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 7 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of HUBERT WAYNE MILLER, who died Dec. 6, 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 or her 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 this 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 7 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF HUBERT WAYNE MILLER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
DONNIE RAY MILLER, EXECUTOR
4624 COBBLESTONE CIRCLE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37938

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF HUGH WHISMAN NICELEY
DOCKET NUMBER 90587-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 12 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of HUGH WHISMAN NICELEY, who died February 9, 2025, 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 12 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF HUGH WHISMAN NICELEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
STUART L. CASSELL, ATTORNEY
707 MARKET STREET, SUITE 1
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RONNY DEE PENNINGTON
DOCKET NUMBER 90552-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 19 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of RONNY DEE PENNINGTON, who died on the 14th day of December, 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 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 19 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF RONNY DEE PENNINGTON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
AMBER LYNN BABCOCK
12404 VILLAGE GATE WAY
RALEIGH, NC 27614

MATTHEW B. FRERE, ATTORNEY
1001 E. BROADWAY
LENOIR CITY, TN 37771

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF PAUL ELLIS PERKINS
DOCKET NUMBER 90530-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 19 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters administration (or letters of testamentary as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of PAUL ELLIS PERKINS, who died October 25, 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 first publication; or
- (B) Sixty (60) days after 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 19 day of February, 2025.

ESTATE OF PAUL ELLIS PERKINS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
DAVID SCOTT PERKINS
735 VALLEYVIEW DRIVE
MARYVILLE, TN 37803

NICHOLAS A. BLACK, ATTORNEY
609 SMITHVIEW DRIVE
MARYVILLE, TN 37803

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF GLENN ROY PRESSLEY
DOCKET NUMBER 90533-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 19 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, Letters of Administration in respect to the Estate of GLENN ROY PRESSLEY, who died in Knox County on July 12, 2024, were issued to the undersigned, Marcus Pressley, 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 described in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1)A) Four months from the date of the first publication of 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 the first publication as described in (1)A); or
 - (2) Twelve months from the decedent's date of death.
- This the 19 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF GLENN ROY PRESSLEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARCUS PRESSLEY
4401 WOODALE DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

WILLIAM R. RAY, ATTORNEY
1356 PAPERMILL POINTE WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN 37909

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WARREN LINDELL ROBERTS
DOCKET NUMBER 90538-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 12 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of WARREN LINDELL ROBERTS, who died on May 19, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division for 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 12 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF WARREN LINDELL ROBERTS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ROSE MARIE ROBERTS
2309 CHUKAR ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

L. ERIC EBBERT, ATTORNEY
PAUL F. HANNAN, ATTORNEY
9145 CROSS PARK DRIVE, STE. 103
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF GERALD L. SHARPE, JR.
DOCKET NUMBER 90499-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 10 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of GERALD L. SHARPE, JR., who died Dec. 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 his or her 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 this 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 10 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF GERALD L. SHARPE, JR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
AMANDA SHARPE, EXECUTRIX
8327 HIGH LARK LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DOROTHY STANTON
DOCKET NUMBER 90524-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 18 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of DOROTHY STANTON, who died December 26, 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 18 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF DOROTHY STANTON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ROBERT DANIEL STANTON, JR.
7009 PINE GROVE ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37914

KEITH H. BURROUGHS, ATTORNEY
900 S. GAY STREET, 14TH FLOOR
P. O. BOX 2047
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF HAROLD GLENN WHITAKER, JR.
DOCKET NUMBER 90526-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 12 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect to the Estate of HAROLD GLENN WHITAKER, JR., who died on December 16, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Probate Court for 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) below, 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 12 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF HAROLD GLENN WHITAKER, JR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARTIN D. WHITAKER
1315 BRANTON BOULEVARD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

GREGORY C. LOGUE, ATTORNEY
900 SOUTH GAY STREET, 9TH FLOOR
P. O. BOX 900
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901-0900

MISC. NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Knox County Commission shall receive resumes from candidates seeking an appointment

to one (1) vacancy on the Community Health Council, with a term expiring March 31, 2028. Resumes should be submitted by mail, fax, e-mail, or hand delivered no later than Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. to:

Office of the Knox County Commission
Suite 603, City County Building
400 Main Street
Knoxville, TN 37902
Phone: 215-2534
FAX: 215-2038
E-mail: