

The Knoxville FOCUS

www.knoxfocus.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE - \$88.88/YEAR

ONLINE AUCTION
Friday, March 14
See photos at
fountaincityauction.com
Fountain City Auction
(865)474-9931

FREE
Take One!
March 10, 2025

Phone: 865-686-9970 | PO Box 18377, Knoxville, TN 37928 | Located at 4109 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912

Con Hunley set to return to UC Opry March 29



The Union County Opry welcomes country music star Con Hunley for an encore performance, Saturday, March 29th at 7:00 p.m.

One of East Tennessee's most beloved performers is coming back for an encore performance at the Union County Opry. Performing there in 2023 and 2024, Con Hunley is looking forward to bringing his family and band back for another show at the end of this month.

Fans in East Tennessee see these shows as a homecoming for Hunley. His parents, their parents and countless dozens of aunts, uncles and cousins

were raised in the area. "Though we lived in Knoxville, I have a lot of sweet memories of spending time in Luttrell, Sharp's Chapel, Maynardville, Big Ridge, Powder Springs ... We had so many family and friends there, and all those people and places hold a very special place in my heart."

Hunley has performed on country music's biggest stages throughout his career, touring with and sharing the stage with some of country music's

biggest names. He has seen 25 of his songs hit the Billboard Country Hot 100, and 11 of those hit the Top Twenty. And make no mistake about it, Hunley is still going strong.

Hunley will be performing his show this year on Saturday, March 29 at the Union County Opry held in the auditorium of Union County High School. Tickets are reserved this year and range in price from \$23.18 to \$39.19.

"We have performed at

the Union County Opry for the last couple of years, and it's been just great! I'm looking forward to another fun time this year.

"My whole band will be there, and of course my brother Kenny and sister Ruthie will be there singing harmonies. Plus we've got Justin Terry opening for us. Justin's got a huge following in the area and I look forward to hearing him sing. We're all just going to get out there and have a lot of

Continue on page 2



From the time of their oath taking in January, the Knox County Junior Commissioners have sat in on meetings, visited different county departments, worked with their sponsoring district commissioners, and become immersed in most aspects of the county government. Pictured above, left to right, are: District 6 - Pierce Broussard (Junior, Catholic High School); District 7 - Olivia Price (Junior, Halls High School); District 2 - Audrey Zanders (Junior, West High School); At-Large, Seat 11 - Matthew Greenwood (Junior, Hardin Valley Academy); District 8 - Jackson Kingsford (Senior, Gibbs High School); District 9 Charity Davis (Junior, South Doyle High School); District 4 - Keya Patel (Senior, West High School); District 5 - Shylyn Whitcomb (Junior, Farragut High School); District 3 - Estella Tarbox (Senior, Christian Academy of Knoxville); and At-Large, Seat 10 - Olivia Graves (Senior, Powell High School). Not Pictured: District 1 - Jakhi Powell (Junior, Career Magnet Academy)

'With poise and purpose'

Junior Commissioners Sail Through Mock Meeting 'Like Pros'

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The 2025 Class of Knox County Junior Commissioners held a mock commission meeting on Wednesday, March 5. After learning how the local government works, the members of the group were seated at the newly-renovated main assembly room in the City-County Building and got down to business.

"Our Junior Commissioners took command control over their mock meeting with poise and purpose. From the first gavel through every motion and resolution, the students took it seriously, debated laws, worked through parliamentary procedures and handled it like pros," Commissioner Larsen Jay told The Focus. "I'm very proud of their hard work to operate like elected officials. I fully expect we will see one of our Junior Commissioners in office one day."

Chaired by Keya Patel with Vice Chairman Matthew Greenwood, the high school students launched into a unique agenda of their own creation.

Like the regular commission, the high school juniors and seniors debated agenda resolutions with motions and discussions. The meeting saw several audience members take part in addressing the meeting in the Public Forum setting on a variety of topics.

Each junior commissioner took part in the various discussions.

The topics tended to be a bit more progressive, such as requiring paper bags versus plastic in grocery stores on motion by Shylyn Whitcomb. Jason Kingsford suggested a traffic study at high-risk accident-prone areas and establishing a county-wide waste reduction program.

Charity Davis saw her resolution to recognize the South-Doyle 2024 boys soccer state champion team pass.

A motion by Olivia Price suggested that judicial candidates seeking office should run in a non-partisan race and that discussion passed in a 6-4 split vote.

Other resolutions included Junior Commissioner Estella Tarbox's tax incentive for businesses offering

employee daycare; Olivia Graves offered a declaration making March "Clean Up Knox County" month and another to require interior sidewalks in new housing developments.

Greenwood suggested an extension of the Pellissippi Greenway to Hardin Valley Road and Jakhi Powell wanted to amend the county code to provide changes to its personnel plan.

One consent item pulled for discussion was a resolution sponsored by Powell and Tarbox to repurpose unused inclement weather days for an additional school break.

The junior commission will attend a Media and Politics Night this week to meet the local press corps, followed by a dinner at WBIR-TV, an address by John North and a taping of "Inside Tennessee."

The 11 high school students in the 2025 Junior Commission Civic Education Program will be honored by the Knox County Commission as their education and training ends with a graduation at the March 31 meeting of the "regular" commission.

The Focus will miss Ken Leinart

The Focus is devastated to share the loss of one of its own, Ken Leinart.

Ken came to The Focus in Autumn 2023 and has shared his writing talents in his local sports coverage, features on community members and businesses, and the school board beat — all with an air of ease, enthusiasm, warmth and positivity. He will be missed incredibly.



Ken Leinart

Kenneth Leinart

October 17, 1961 –
March 3, 2025

Kenneth Leinart, age 63, passed away on Monday, March 3, 2025, in Knoxville, Tennessee. He was born on October 17, 1961, in Covington, Kentucky. Ken pursued his education at Illinois Central University. He built a distinguished career as the editor of the Clinton Courier, where his dedication to journalism

earned him numerous Tennessee Press Association awards. Even after retirement, his passion for storytelling continued as a freelance writer for The Knoxville Focus.

Ken had a deep love for history, particularly the Civil War and World War II. A devoted baseball fan, he cheered enthusiastically for the Chicago White Sox. His appreciation for music was another defining aspect of his life.

Ken will be deeply missed.
Cont. on page 2

Old Giffin School to become low-rent apartments

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

About \$1.06 million in city funding was approved by the Knoxville City Council on Tuesday for the transformation of the old Giffin Elementary School. The funding comes from the Affordable Rental Development Fund in a request from the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department.

The historic 98-year-old brick school, located at

1834 Beech Street, has been mostly abandoned for many years. Historic Giffin LP has been working with the South Haven Community on transforming the old school into 36 affordable rental units.

Several neighbors spoke highly of the project, which will not only renovate the building but add two more buildings there. South Knoxville Councilman Tommy Smith called

Cont. on page 4

From Concept to Completion: Water Damage • Drywall • Additions • Wall Moving • Flooring • Kitchens • Bathrooms

Call the remodeling professionals! From handyman projects to major renovations, we can do it!

ARMSTRONG REMODELING

865-315-0630
Licensed, Bonded & Insured
FREE ESTIMATES



Masonry • Carpentry • Decks • Fences • Plumbing • And Much More! NO MONEY DOWN. FINANCING AVAILABLE.

Great Words From Trump And Other Presidents

From a distance



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

I think one of the greatest statements ever made by a President of the United States was by President Donald Trump in his inaugural address on January 20, 2025: "We will measure our success not only by little battles we win, but also by the wars that end, and perhaps most importantly, the wars we never get into."

Since the end of World War II, we have had too many presidents, presidential advisors and members of Congress who have wanted to be modern-day Winston Churchills and

prove how tough they were by getting us into wars we never should have gotten into.

We have been governed at times by chickenhawks and neo-cons like Dick Cheney and Paul Wolfowitz, who never served in the military but led us into Iraq, or those like Senators Lindsey Graham and Tom Cotton, who never served in combat in real battles, but who want us to go to war in Iran.

Trump's statement quoted above made me think of other great statements by presidents that I wish would be framed and placed on the walls of offices at the White House and on Capitol Hill.

President John F. Kennedy, in a speech at the University of Washington in Seattle on November 16, 1961, said these great words: "We must face the fact that the United States is neither omnipotent nor omniscient - that

we are only six percent of the world's population and that we cannot impose our will upon the other 94 percent of mankind - that we cannot right every wrong, or reverse each adversity, and that, therefore there cannot be an American solution to every world problem."

The only slight alteration to these words would be that now we are less than four percent of the world's population, so this statement is even more true today.

President John Quincy Adams, in a speech to the U.S. House of Representatives on July 4, 1821, said: "Wherever the standard of freedom and independence, has been or shall be unfurled, there will her heart, her benedictions and her prayers be. But she goes not abroad, in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator

only of her own."

The "she" Adams is referencing is the U.S.

It is fascinating that Gen. George Washington, a great military leader, warned against "overgrown military establishments, which under any form of government are inauspicious to liberty."

He added: "A passionate attachment of one nation for another produces a variety of evils. Sympathy for the favorite nation, facilitating the illusion of an imaginary common interest in cases where no real common interest exists and infusing into one the enmities of the other, betrays the former into a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter, without adequate inducement or justification."

This address has been read in the U.S. Senate every year around George Washington's birthday since 1862. Our leaders should consider these

words in relation to our relationship with Israel.

Another great military leader, President Eisenhower, in his farewell address on Jan. 17, 1961, warned against "an immense military establishment and a large arms industry."

Then, he added these famous words: "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."

On August 31, 1959, Eisenhower said on a radio/TV broadcast from London: "I think the people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it."

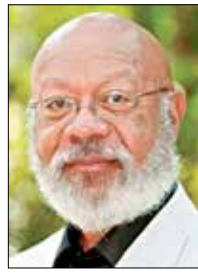
Finally, perhaps the greatest presidential words of all came in the

Gettysburg Address and are especially needed now more than ever since Big Government continues to grow and take away even more of our freedom.

President Abraham Lincoln said: "It is for us the living to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Fortress America

It looks like Trump will abandon Ukraine in his pivot toward Russia. That should come as no surprise to the Ukrainians, who are accustomed to being abandoned by the United States



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

and left on their own. From Woodrow Wilson to Yalta, to Bush, Clinton and Obama, the U.S. has lied to Ukraine and/or left it to fend for itself against the Russians, who are brutal masters. Stalin was responsible for 4 million Ukrainian deaths. In this conflict Russians have tortured Ukrainians, killed prisoners, abducted their children and conducted sexual violence against men as well as women and

children. It would be irrational for Zelenskyy to accept a peace without security. Is Ukraine simply going to abandon Luhansk and Donetsk like they abandoned Crimea? Remember, those areas contain 40% of Ukraine's mineral wealth.

I would be shocked if Ukraine isn't developing its own nuclear weapons after foolishly abandoning them at Clinton's urging. There is no way Ukraine will accept Russian dominance. Ukraine is not going to join NATO but look to it joining the EU. If Trump doesn't compel Ukraine to continue pivoting toward Europe, then nothing will. But a nuclear Ukraine is

necessary to keep the Russian bear away from their throats.

Why can't Europe broker a deal? Brussels was left out of the negotiating table in the talks between Russia and the U.S. But it is clear that Ukraine would never accept a deal hammered out with those two, given that it doesn't trust either. It would be fitting if the U.S. were left out of these negotiations. Ukraine should offer to pay the U.S. for replacement parts and upkeep on the material it has and pay for anything in the future.

Some observers have posited that if the U.S. abandons Ukraine, then Russia will be emboldened to invade other countries. I think the chance of this is virtually zero. Russia invaded Ukraine three

years ago, thinking that it would take only a week or so to subdue the country. Surprise! Russia is a weak, big, bad bully with only its nukes to try to scare its opponents into submission. If Russia did decide to invade the Baltic states, it would probably get its butt kicked again. Since Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia are members of NATO, then NATO would come to their defense. Don't look for the U.S. to join them. Trump's America is not going to be drawn into any foreign wars.

The bigger threat is that the Chinese may be emboldened to attack Taiwan. We should make sure that such an invasion will be even more costly to the Chinese than Ukraine is to the Russians. I would arm the Taiwanese to the teeth with air and sea defenses. I would sell them all the missiles and

jets they need for their defense and for offense against the Chinese mainland. If all this were put in place, the Chinese would have second thoughts about an invasion. I would threaten to put a 1000% tariff on all Chinese goods and services worldwide if they did not stop their aggression in the South China Sea and towards Taiwan.

Trump is an isolationist. He could start winding down the U.S. military around the world. He is building a fortress America. To wit: "We will leave you alone so long as you leave us alone. But mess with us and all hell will rain down on you." We no longer have any allies and precious few friends. If the politicians home and abroad say otherwise, they are lying.

Trump is upending trade agreements and military

alliances and pulling the country back within our own borders. It is not just America First. It is America Only. If Trump and his minions stay in power going into the future - which I doubt - I can see an America with zero alliances. The rest of the world can have its territorial disputes, fight its wars and have their own alliances. Just leave us out of it. The percent of U.S. trade to GDP is around 25%. I think Trump would be happy to cut that to zero. Tell companies that they can only sell in America what they make in America. No more iPhones from China. No more avocados from Mexico. No more imported cars and trucks from Canada. No more imported anything. It would make us poorer. It would be a different America. But theoretically, it could be done.



Matlock
1953
TIRE SERVICE
AUTO REPAIR

Celebrating 70 years of Service, Dependability, Smooth Rides and Our Price Match Guarantee!

WWW.MATLOCKTIRESERVICE.COM

FARRAGUT
10730 Kingston Pike
865-966-0425

MARYVILLE
723 S Foothills Plaza
865-983-0741

HARDIN VALLEY
10838 Hardin Valley Rd
865-248-2340

LENOIR CITY
1301 Hwy 321 N
865-986-6533

ATHENS
201 S Congress Pkwy
423-744-9828

The Focus will miss Ken Leinart

Cont. from page 1

missed by his wife, Elizabeth Leinart; son, Drew Leinart; and daughter, Avery Leinart. He is also survived by his father, William Leinart; brothers, Ron (Becky) Leinart, John (Leslie), and Joe (Missy) Leinart; aunts, Jeri Wells and June Wells; as well as numerous beloved nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by mother, Joyce Wells Leinart.

Ken will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, and sense of humor. His willingness to help others left a lasting impact on those who knew him. May his memory bring comfort to all who mourn his passing.

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date and time. Condolences may be offered at www.weaverfuneralhome.com.

Con Hunley

Cont. from page 1

fun! I hope to see a lot of family and friends in the crowd!"

The show at the Union County Opry will start at 7 p.m. with doors opening at 6:00. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at unioncountyoпрy.com and at the Kitchen Design Center in Maynardville, or by calling (865)556-4255. Tickets will also be available at the door.

KPD Hosts Community Forum for West District Tuesday

The Knoxville Police Department will host a West District Community Forum on Tuesday, March 11, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Public Works Building, 3131 Morris Ave.



The Knoxville Focus

Serving Knox and Surrounding Counties.
Proudly independently owned and operated.

Published by Fountain Printing and Publishing, Inc.
Deadline for ad design is Monday at 5 p.m.
Deadline for Classified ads is Thursday at noon.
Deadline for submissions is Thursday by noon.
Articles, announcements, photo attachments and outlines may be submitted by e-mail to staff@knoxfocus.com.
Publisher Steve Hunley
Editor, Art Director Marianne Dedmon
editor@knoxfocus.com, design@knoxfocus.com

Mike Steely, Senior Writersteelym@knoxfocus.com
 Jamie Schnellschnellj@knoxfocus.com
 Sales sales@knoxfocus.com
 Pam Poephpoe2000@yahoo.com
 Ruthie AkersRuthie@knoxfocus.com
 Legal, Public Notice ads legals@knoxfocus.com

Articles designated as written by Focus Staff are the collaborative efforts of several staff members and are reviewed and approved by the editor and the publisher.

The Focus would like to thank all contributing writers. Submissions from our writers are gratis and are greatly appreciated. While articles are not guaranteed placement, we do strive to place as much as possible. Submissions for the paper are on a space available basis and are subject to publisher and editor approval. We want your news: that is what makes this paper truly a community newspaper.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE - \$88.88/YEAR
OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS EDITION ARE THOSE OF THE
AUTHORS AND NEITHER THESE NOR ANY MATERIAL PUBLISHED
HEREIN REPRESENT ENDORSEMENT BY THE FOCUS.

Advertising: The Focus is not responsible for errors in an advertisement if not corrected by the first week after the ad appears. This newspaper is not responsible or liable whatsoever for any claim made by an ad or for any of the services, products or opportunities offered by our advertisers. We do not endorse or promote the purchase or sale of any product, service, company or individual that chooses to advertise in this newspaper and we reserve the right to refuse any or all advertising we deem inappropriate or unacceptable by our company standards. Political advertising must be pre-paid. The Focus does not accept ads that defame any candidate. All political ad content must be pre-approved prior to its run in the paper.

865-686-9970 www.knoxfocus.com

Publisher's Position Terry Hill Is Just Plain Wrong



By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

the Knoxville News Sentinel, and the most widely watched local TV station at the time, WBIR. That trifecta held together to support McIntyre in anything and everything he wanted to do.

It went to McIntyre's head and his superintendency quickly became imperial in nature and act. When then-Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett proposed to give county employees a raise, McIntyre appeared in his office to demand to know why Burchett had not consulted him.

McIntyre dominated the Knox County Board of Education, which is technically his employer. Only one board member ever dared to oppose McIntyre or question him: the late Mike McMillan.

When Knox County Commissioner Terry Hill appeared before the board of education last week, she recommended the revival of one of McIntyre's cherished goals. That goal being that once the board (completely dominated by McIntyre) had taken a position on a matter, then every member had to publicly support it and could not criticize it. Clearly, it was a violation of the cherished right to free speech as well as a blatant attempt at enforcing censorship and eliminating the voices of

the minority. It was equally clear it was patently unconstitutional.

That, in essence, is what Commissioner Terry Hill was proposing once again when she appeared before the board. Hill's target was BOE Chair Betsy Henderson, who had gone to Nashville to speak up on behalf of Governor Lee's voucher bill. The Left and teachers' unions oppose vouchers to the last ditch. Unfortunately, the Left in this country has become opponents of free speech and ferociously advocated censorship for those who dare question or challenge their narrative. Any dissent or questioning of their leftist orthodoxy is to be stifled and condemned at once. Anyone who has the temerity to voice such beliefs or ask such questions has to be cancelled or driven out.

Betsy Henderson has the perfect right to say anything she wishes, here, or in Nashville or Timbuktu, about any topic under the sun. Henderson was as clear as could be that she was speaking as an individual and mother and not in her capacity as the chair of the Knox County Board of Education. In fact, Henderson was so clear that almost every imbecile

could understand her, but not all imbeciles.

The daily newspaper does not support free speech unless it is the narrative pushed by the Left. The News Sentinel backed McIntyre's attempt to choke off free speech and any dissent from his policies. The attempt to bury views with which we do not agree is a true and genuine threat to our democracy and is un-American. **Terry Hill never represented the people of the Sixth District on the school board as much as she represented the school system and the teachers' unions. Apparently, she still does.** The notion that Hill, a member of the Knox County Commission, and especially one claiming to be a Republican, who is opposed to free speech and insisting that all the members adhere to and support policies adopted by a body belong on a politburo, not a freely elected legislative body.

Does anyone imagine for a moment that the Democrats in the U.S. House or Senate should remain silent once the majority has spoken and support whatever action might have passed by a single vote? Of course not.

Hill, who currently serves on the Knox County Commission,

ran as a Republican in a Republican primary and the first thing she did was to vote to elect a Democrat to chair the county commission when the GOP held a big majority. It would be like Congressman Tim Burchett voting for Nancy Pelosi to be speaker of the House or Senators Bill Hagerty and Marsha Blackburn voting to make Chuck Schumer the majority leader. Hill seems to claim to be a Republican during election years and not so much otherwise.

Yet here is Terry Hill, a member of one legislative body, appearing before another to complain about Betsy Henderson speaking before still another legislative body and trying to clothe herself and her complaint as an ethical matter. What Hill proposes as an ethical improvement is as unethical as it is unconstitutional and un-American.

Hill was granted two additional minutes to speak simply because she was a former member of the board of education and quite possibly because she is a sitting commissioner. The sheer hypocrisy involved boggles the mind. Would any utterance of Terry Hill merit the slightest attention by the

daily newspaper if it did not hate the idea of vouchers, school choice and parental rights? Probably not.

As to reading the voice of one's constituents, Betsy Henderson got it right, although Terry Hill says otherwise. The fact is that Donald Trump supports school vouchers and carried the Sixth District; so did Governor Bill Lee. The legislators representing the precincts comprising the sixth commission and school board districts won supporting vouchers and so did Betsy Henderson. Terry Hill is the only supposed District 6 representative who does not.

There is nothing unethical about anything Betsy Henderson has said or done and it is an outrage that any rational human being would try to stifle freedom of speech or enforce censorship. There is no legislative body in the world that demands as a matter of ethics, that the minority remain silent and publicly support the views of the majority, except in a totalitarian government. What Totalitarian Terry is proposing is un-American and unethical and deserves the scorn and condemnation of all thinking people. Terry Hill does have the right to say what she wishes, but what she is saying is just plain wrong.

Nothing Ever Changes Without Change

Nothing ever changes without change. If you always do what you've always done, then you'll always get what you've always gotten.



GUEST COLUMN
By Dr. Rocky Ramsey
Senior Pastor of
Coryton Church

Our country is \$36 TRIL-LION+ in debt (and counting).

For a shock, look up the "National Debt Clock." Between 2000 and 2024, our debt owed to China grew from \$105.6 BILLION to \$749 BILLION. We owe over \$749 BILLION to our greatest national threat. If our debt continues to grow, it's only a matter of time until the value of the dollar collapses and isn't worth the paper it's printed on (see Venezuela or Zimbabwe). The only thing we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history.

Fixing the problem requires change and change often involves pain. If a family is in a financial mess, there is no fixing it without a lot of sacrifice and pain. They either make and feel the pain of difficult spending changes, or they one day face the far greater problems and pain of financial ruin.

It's no different for a country. Fixing the national financial mess requires change and pain ... probably a lot of both. We can either pay now (make the difficult decisions) and

play later (continue to prosper as a nation with debt under control) or play now (keep spending and sending billions all around the world) and pay later (when it all collapses). The later you pay, the more it

costs. In a family, when you're broke, you're broke. In government, you just borrow, print more money, raise taxes, pass the debt problem to the next guy, and hope you can keep the plates spinning. But eventually, nobody can.

People in Washington are unwilling to serve the country's best interests because they're too busy serving their own, i.e., staying in power and enjoying the perks they've voted themselves that no other Americans have access to.

They may hide behind their "constituencies," but most of them are just protecting their own turf. Doing what's best for the country might cost them the next election, so don't count on them doing it. What's best for the country as a whole will likely not be what's popular in states and cities with hosts of voters and especially with Democrats who want to increase taxes, grow government and "attain hero" status for their generous spending of taxpayer money that isn't theirs.

The national debt has

been around since the Civil War, but it began to accelerate in 2009 and then took off like a rocket in 2020. In America, presidents, congressmen and senators don't fix problems, they just kick them down the road. Maybe better people than them will one day love the country more than they do and have the political courage to do something about it. Immigration should have been fixed 30 years ago; nobody did. Social Security should have been fixed 40 years ago; nobody has.

For the first time in my lifetime, the current White House occupants are daring to take a serious shot at fixing America's financial "pink elephant in the room," and the left is losing their minds. Rather than rejoicing that fraud is being exposed and will be fixed, all they seem to be able to do is to criticize, condemn, and keep up the now 10-year fixation with "get Trump." They can't seem to bring themselves to care more about their country than they do about hating Donald Trump and

now Elon Musk.

Do I give a carte blanche approval to everything Trump or Musk says, who they are, or to all they have done in the past? Absolutely not. But I am grateful for two men who seem to love and actually want to serve America. Nearly everyone who goes to Washington enjoys the privileged perks and ends up rich. Trump and Musk are two financially successful businessmen who serve our country without taking a salary. Who else has offered to do that? Some think Musk is only seeking to enrich himself further. He's the richest man on the planet; he doesn't need more money. Musk is clearly a genius; who better to do what he's doing?

Hate Donald Trump and Elon Musk all you want. But if they can turn the country's financial problem around, they likely will be two of the most significant figures in America's entire history. I hope they get it done for America's sake and for my grandchildren's sake.

Mental Health Court Advisory Board selects officers, sets budget

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Mental Health Court Advisory Board met recently and re-elected Judge Chuck Cerny as chairman and Judge Hector Sanchez as vice chairman. The board oversees the operation of the Mental Health Court.

Opal Bryant was introduced as a new case manager and she spoke briefly about her work with the homeless and as a geriatric worker at Park West Hospital.

The board heard a report that since the creation of the Mental Health Court in 2023, 78 people have been referred to the court, 27 applications are pending, 19 cases are active and two individuals have graduated from the program. Also mentioned was the savings in cost of

diversion versus the court costs and jail time of the mental health clients.

The board also discussed the two active case workers with a current client capacity of 19 people and the possibility of bringing in additional case workers for a possible 30 active cases.

The brief meeting also discussed a proposed budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year of \$164,187, up \$13,822 from the current year. The group may move their meetings to a quarterly schedule and the next meeting of the board is scheduled for April 11.

The Knox County Mental Health Court, Recovery Court, and Veterans Treatment Court are funded under grant contracts with the State of Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

ALL METAL RECYCLING LLC CALL 865.577.1611

RECYCLING SOLUTIONS for business, home or individual. Ensuring environmentally-friendly recycling of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal. Promote sustainability with our efficient & reliable service.

ALL METAL RECYCLING 1616 Maryville Pike / Knoxville, TN 37920 Email: AllMetalRecyc@gmail.com

Turning 65 or new to Medicare?

Local support to help you navigate your Medicare options

Call a licensed sales agent
REBECCA WATTS
865-228-5605 (TTY: 711)

Humana

A more human way to healthcare™

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Knoxville

FOCUS

686-9970

ruthie@knoxfocus.com

Honors, charter changes, appointments on commission agenda

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When the Knox County Commission meets in its agenda review and its regular session this month, it will review or discuss more than 30 items, several of which may see discussion. The Department of Engineering

and Public Works is presenting 20 new subdivision streets to be accepted into the county road system.

The commission plans to honor the Junior Commission Civics Education Program graduates, recognize the Farm Bureau Women of Knox County, honor the first responders in the

propane truck fire on East Emory Road, and honor Eddie Mannis and HonorAir Knoxville.

Appointments and reappointments include seating two directors on the Sports Authority, a member to the Golf Board and a new member of the Knox County Community Health Council.

The construction of the Tipton

Road Intersections and Roundabout, including the fee proposal, is also on the agenda as is a signal for Bakertown Road at Schaad Road and improvements at the Kingston Pike and Ebenezzer Road intersection.

The approval of a \$373,050 Homeland Security Grant - to help provide equipment and training

for first responders in Knox and 15 surrounding counties - is before the commission as well.

The Knox County Charter may be amended to place one new non-voting member on the Audit Committee. A resolution to set recording fees for the Knox County Register's Office also may see discussion.



The historic Giffin Elementary School got new life Tuesday when the Knoxville City Council approved \$ 1.06 million for 36 affordable apartments and two new buildings on the school grounds.

Old Giffin School to become low-rent apartments

Cont. from page 1

the project "unique" for a building in the middle of a neighborhood. Councilwoman Debbie Helsley noted that Giffin was where she attended school and called the effort a "great project, I'm excited."

When asked by Councilwoman Lauren Rider when the renovation and other buildings would be completed, Historic Giffin representative Benjamin Cates said it should be started in June, with an 18-month build time.

Smith said the empty school has sat empty for 20 years and Councilwoman Lynne Fugate said it is "becoming fashionable to live in an old building."

Another house, abandoned for 20 years, received a "conditional loan" from the council. The house at 217 East Scott Avenue will receive a \$200,000 loan for one year to prepare the property with improvements so traditional funding can be obtained. The 8-0-1 vote approved the loan to Jennifer and Khalid Hattar.

Kevin DeBose, director of Housing and Neighborhood Development, explained the loan would help bring the house up to code.

County to transfer Rule High property to Knox County Schools

Historic Rule High School is being demolished to make way for a \$66 million K-8 school.

The transfer of the old school property at 1919 Vermont Avenue is before the Knox County Commission in its March 24 agenda review and March 31 regular meeting.

All resolutions submitted by the Knox County School Board must be approved by the commission so the memorandum of understanding will pass. It includes moving the Knox County property to the school system.

When completed, the new facility will house about 1,600 students and will mean the closing of West View, Maynard and Lonsdale elementary



Rule High in its heyday.

schools, and Beaumont Magnet Academy. The West View school is destined to become a "stand-alone" preschool. Rule High School served the community from 1927 until 1991

and, except for some county storage, has been empty for several years.

The new school should be ready for students in 2028.

STEPHENSON
Land & Real Estate Auction Services

Over 30 years experience in East Tennessee!

Call Broker and Auctioneer
William "Bear" Stephenson
to get the most for your investment!

Office located at: 210 Seivers Blvd. Clinton, TN 37716	Office: (865) 457-2327 Home: (865) 457-6782 Cell: (865) 567-8292
--	--

Website: www.theauctionbear.com
Email: info@theauctionbear.com

Additional \$10.6 million approved for city budget

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville City Council approved, on an emergency motion, the addition of \$10.6 million to the current budget. The new funding includes \$2 million to secure the Gay Street Bridge for pedestrian and bike traffic and possibly for city buses and emergency vehicles.

The vote came Tuesday evening, with several council members applauding the additional budget amendments.

The resolution includes funds to the Montgomery Village Playground, \$4.5 million for a new Burlington Fire Station, \$2 million to the Burlington Streetscape Project, \$263,000 to the Inskip Park, \$400,000 to the police department, \$75,000 to Visit Knoxville, \$25,000 to the Old Sevier Merchants organization and several other city projects and organizations.

Councilwoman Amelia Parker objected to passing the additional funds on an emergency basis, stating that it gave citizens little chance to comment. She added that the Burlington projects are "long overdue" and said the city "overinvests in law enforcement."

When asked by Councilwoman Seema

Singh what the \$400,000 to the police department would fund, Police Chief Paul Noel replied it would fund a new van for drug enforcement, pole cameras, training, better DUI detection technology, partner communications, and decontaminating police vehicles after drug arrests.

The additional funding passed in an 8-1 vote.

In other actions, the council voted to approve a contract with U.S. Bank for services, to hire Purple Horse Hospitality to manage both Knoxville golf courses, and to grant \$216,395 to Lakeshore Park for janitorial and mowing services.

On first reading, the council approved a zoning change reversal for a property on Millard Beets Road and the rezoning of 6200 Papermill Drive to Highway Commercial.

In other motions, the Magnolia Avenue Intersections Improvements Project received \$359,785, Miovision Technologies received a \$100,000 contract for a vehicle detection system, and various local organizations for completed projects were approved for \$21,394 from the Parks and Recreation Department's Grants and Benevolence Fund.

Fountain City Auction

4109 Central Ave Pike | Knoxville, TN 37912
604-3468

For all your
Auction
Needs

TAL #2204 TFL #5223

WE BUY ESTATES

KNOXVILLE
FLEA MARKET

KNOXVILLE EXPO CENTER

Knoxville Expo Center

5441 CLINTON HIGHWAY · KNOXVILLE TN · 37912

MARCH 14 - 15 - 16

FRI 2-6 · SAT 10-6 · SUN 10-4

FREE ADMISSION · FREE PARKING · OVER 250 BOOTHS!

KNOXVILLEFLEAMARKET.COM

SENIORS FOR CREATIVE LEARNING

Seniors, are you looking for new educational and social opportunities in 2025?

Join SENIORS FOR CREATIVE LEARNING!

We have expert speakers on varied topics and low-cost field trips. Come learn about Knoxville's rich music history, saving heirloom seeds, river management, theatre costumes, the UT Marching Band, & more!
PLUS ~ tour the new Knoxville baseball stadium!

Spring 2025 Semester

When: March 25 – May 8: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-3:30
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.



The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Dust-Up

The war is going to go on for a long time. President Zelensky

I really didn't want to go there. But when an issue keeps popping up, perhaps it's a message and you just have to deal with it.

Last week, I wrote about the three Rs. And since I'm Trinitarian in my soul and philosophically, I couldn't ignore the repeated question, "Are you going to write about the Zelensky/Oval Office affair?"

Saturday morning after the Friday White House meeting, a friend in Bible study was the first to ask. Then, I received an email from a former medical student who is a pediatrician in Australia. He wanted the opinion of an average American. And then at Sunday morning worship service, another friend asked me what I thought about the Zelensky dust-up.

To cut to the chase, it is a mess. Negotiations for a ceasefire and an end to the war between Ukraine

and Russia had been ongoing for months. It is undeniable that Russia invaded Ukraine to start the war. Furthermore, Putin is an ex-KGB officer, a ruthless tyrant and extremely dangerous with an arsenal of nuclear weapons. No one has the illusion that Putin is trustworthy or that any agreement could guarantee Ukraine's security. But we are dealing with reality and no one has an alternative to President Trump's plan to end the war.

When the Soviet Union broke apart in 1991, President Bill Clinton gave Ukraine a guarantee of protection if they would give up the nuclear weapons that had been stationed there by the Soviets. Unfortunately, Obama did little to support Ukraine when Putin annexed Crimea in 2014, infamously sending them blankets instead of armaments. Arguably, Putin was emboldened by Biden's Afghanistan debacle in 2021 and began aiding ethnic Russians in the

Donbass region of Eastern Ukraine, finally invading Ukraine in 2022.

Hundreds of thousands of civilians and soldiers (on both sides) have been wounded or killed on the killing fields of Ukraine. The illusion that Ukraine could defeat superpower Russia, even with American and European support, ended with the collapse of the Ukrainian offensive last year. Now, the best outcome would be a peace settlement where Russia keeps the eastern Donbas region and Ukraine is not completely destroyed.

Obviously, the Ukrainians hate the Russians and I suspect Russians feel similarly for Ukrainians. At this point, it would be impossible to put the combatants in the same room. As a result, President Trump and his team have been negotiating with the separate sides. Reportedly, a deal had been struck with Russia, and a mineral deal had been approved with Ukraine, but apparently not with Zelensky, who continues to demand "reparations of \$300 billion, return of conquered territory and armed security" rather than economic security, which the Trump team has proposed.

Oval Office presentations with the press are largely ceremonial after negotiations have been concluded. The world was shocked by the confrontation between Zelensky,

Vice President Vance and President Trump. And the geopolitical ramifications of this dust-up extend beyond Ukraine and include questions about whether NATO is still relevant.

For years, we've heard that Europeans consider Americans in less than flattering terms. And apparently European leaders have different attitudes towards freedom than Americans, as recently pointed out by Vice President Vance. It has been alleged that Zelensky was encouraged to prosecute his demands in the Oval Office by European leaders. But more disturbing is the meeting of Zelensky with several senators led by Democrat Chris Murphy just before the Oval Office gathering. Could politics and TDS (Trump Derangement Syndrome) have led senators, Euros and the press to encourage Zelensky to blow up the deal and allow the killing to continue? It was telling that Zelensky gave a thumbs-up to the press corps as he left, while the Ukrainian ambassador buried her face in her hands.

Ukraine is the third European war in which America has been embroiled in the last 100 years. I feel sorry for the Ukrainian people who have been screwed by their politicians and oligarchs. Ukrainian politicians have made their country a corrupt money-laundering

venue for decades. Obama knew of the rampant corruption in Ukraine and put VP Joe Biden in charge of dealing with U.S. aid and monitoring Ukrainian corruption reforms. That was a mistake. Hunter Biden traveled with his father to Ukraine and Hunter was ultimately put on the Burisma energy company board despite having no experience. Hunter brought his father's name to the table and leveraged millions for the Biden family and the "Big Guy."

Paul Manafort aided Trump in his 2016 campaign and knew of the money laundering and USAID funding of Ukrainian media organizations, one of which made up the "black ledger" hoax to discredit Manafort and hurt Trump. Then a Ukrainian politician proffered the Russian collusion hoax, paid for by the Hillary Clinton campaign. The Mueller investigation cleared Trump of the allegations. However, later, when President Trump called Zelensky about corruption and money laundering in his country, Ukrainian-born activist Colonel Vindman alleged that the president's discussions with Zelensky were inappropriate. This led to the second bogus Trump impeachment. And Zelensky said nothing.

It may be irrelevant to pile on, but Zelensky has declared martial law and suspended elections

and rival political parties. Zelensky has closed churches and taken over Ukrainian media. During the American Civil War, a presidential election was held in 1864. Lincoln thought he might lose to his fired General George McClellan, but fortunately, he did not.

The lessons of unwinnable wars like Vietnam resonate with me. Through blood and treasure, we won the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, but then Biden gave Afghanistan away. And a dangerous, resurgent Iran was the result of our defeat of Iraq, the mullah's arch enemy.

Personally, I'm not willing to risk a third world war with a nuclear Russia over a corrupt Ukraine, which is more of Europe's problem than ours. If there is a positive from this mess, the European Union is being forced to beef up their military and NATO contributions rather than spending money on social programs. Europeans need to step up to defend themselves and their region rather than depend on the United States to be the policeman of the world.

Quite honestly, America is out of money, dangerously low on munitions/weapons and out of patience with Zelensky and haughty Europeans.

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

My encounters with the homeless

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

A homeless man lay on the sidewalk recently one block from the City-County Building right next to the busy Main Street and Walnut Street intersection. I noticed him when I left the parking garage and walked down the steps in front of the First Baptist Church.

A car pulled up and temporarily parked next to the homeless man, who was apparently asleep, exposed to the cold weather except for the clothes on his back and a makeshift blanket. An older woman and a teenage boy got out of the car and the woman turned back and got something from the car.

The pair approached the homeless man and covered him with



A homeless camp with sleeping bags and other items under the Gay Street Bridge.

a warm blanket and helped him raise his head to put a pillow underneath. He looked up at them and mouthed, "Thank You."

The woman and teenage boy then turned, got in the car, and rode away. The man reclined again and apparently went back

to sleep.

I paused to watch the act of kindness, surprised at the humanity. As I walked to the City-County

Building I passed another homeless man on a bench facing the building. I know him from our past chats and he always asked for a copy of The Focus, which I always gave to him if I had one.

Near the entrance to the building there was a woman in a wheelchair, playing music and seeking donations. I'd chatted with her before and left a few dollars. She was bundled up against the cold but always in a good mood and appreciated any donation.

I've encountered homeless people across the city and county. Most are going from their camps or shelters to seek donations, use their food stamps, or in some cases, looking for something to steal to sell for funds. Not all homeless are thieves but

Continue on page 2

REPLACE YOUR EXISTING HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM WITH A HIGH EFFICIENCY ONE!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

COMPASS

HEATING AND AIR

WE DO DUCT
CLEANING!



Serving you since 1979.

(865)524-7237 (865)688-1124

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
COOLING & HEATING



Energy Star Certified

Doing Right Even When It Hurts

To some distressed individuals enduring significant opposition to their new way of living, Peter offered these words of comfort: "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous"



By Justin Pratt,
Clear Springs Baptist
Church Senior Pastor

(I Peter 3:12). This conveys a reassuring message that God is always watching over those who strive to do what is right.

This is the core message of Peter's first letter to Christians trying to live out their faith in a merciless Roman Empire. His letter was meant to encourage them in the face of suffering and to challenge them to continue doing what is right, even when it is difficult.

Doing what is right reflects a posture of integrity. The challenge of integrity lies in making a conscious and intentional decision to do right even when others may be mistreating or maligning us. The Apostle Peter encourages the first-century church to understand their identity in Christ and to remember that their suffering connects them to a deeper relationship with Jesus. The message is clear: as believers in Christ, we are not like the unbelieving world; we are a chosen people, unique and distinct. As God's possession, we have the capacity to live righteously and act justly, even in the most challenging

circumstances.

As a result, we can reflect God's goodness, even to our enemies and those who slander us, for He has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Peter states in 1 Peter 2:15 that it is God's will for people of faith to lead such honorable lives that it silences critics who seek to make false and misguided accusations against us. God has called us to do good and to act justly, even if it means we must suffer for doing so.

The Bible and history are filled with stories of individuals who did the right thing yet faced hardship as a result. Joseph did the right thing by fleeing from Potiphar's wife, who was grasping his coat, only to be betrayed and imprisoned. Job did what was right and lost everything he had except for his wife and his life. Stephen, a man of good works, ended up being stoned. John the Baptist stood for righteousness and lost his head. Jesus, who did nothing but good, ultimately lost His life.

My interest in history brings to mind the countless martyrs throughout the centuries who suffered for their commitment to doing good. Polycarp, the bishop of Smyrna, was bound and burned before being stabbed. Justin, a

Continue on page 4

I have had the opportunity to practice law in a number of different counties and courtrooms. Because of that, I have probably been in front of more judges than most lawyers and in my opinion, almost all are trying to do a good job.

Sometimes judges are presented with a case that is a close call. I do not envy the judges in those instances. What they decide may determine the rest of someone's life. In those instances, the judges may



By Jedidiah McKeehan
jed@attorney-knoxville.com

try to come down somewhere in the middle. In those instances, the judge may say something to lighten the mood like, "Let's split the baby on this one," before issuing their ruling that comes down somewhere in the middle between what both parties are requesting happen.

When the judge says, "Let's split the baby," what are they meaning? What are they referencing? Are they about to cut a child in half?

This phrase comes from the Bible and the story of when two mothers came before King Solomon claiming that a child belonged to each them. King Solomon, in his wisdom, said that they would decide the matter by cutting the baby in two and giving one-half to each mother. The woman who was the actual mother cried out asking the King to give the child to the other woman instead of killing the baby this way, while the pretend mother did nothing to stop King Solomon's decision. After watching their reactions, King Solomon gave the child to the actual mother.

Now that you know where

this phrase comes from, you will understand what a judge is referencing if they say something like this. However, whenever I hear a judge say this, I inwardly smile, because thankfully, in the Bible, the baby did not actually get split in two.

Jedidiah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knox 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.

Cured

A few weeks ago, I discussed my severe case of car fever. Well, I am healed! Yes, I took the dive and bought a new "used" car. It's my brother's fault. He asked me on a Saturday to ride with him as he completed some errands. When I told him I hadn't decided to buy a car yet, he replied that there was no harm in looking.

That drive to Rusty Wallace Nissan did me in. Upon arriving at the dealership, I immediately saw the vehicle in which I was most interested. Jim led me to the salesman with whom he'd dealt, and before long I was sitting in a cubicle talking about that car and the deal it would be. To be honest, the vehicle was spot on. It was the color I wanted, and it had plenty of bells and whistles,



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

something my other cars never had.

I drove the car home, but I called Amy to prepare her for what I was doing. She looked at the car and liked it. However, she wanted to know how we would pay for it. We had agreed to wait until April before shopping, but I told her that this car was a 2024 with only 2,914 miles on it. That meant it was virtually new. Additionally, the dealership was running a sale, and the first payment wasn't due until May.

The salesman, David Bonah, made the experience the best one I've ever had. Usually, I leave car buying to Amy. She's a tough negotiator and has no qualms about walking out if things don't work right. David was forthcoming and helpful, and I felt

that he was honest in his work with me. A few days later, he even helped me to sell my 2011 Pathfinder on the day it was listed for sale. David has also made himself available to answer questions that I have had.

This new car scares me. I don't like for things to be smarter than I am. However, this Pathfinder has heated seats and steering wheel, all sorts of driving aids, a wonderful sound system, and charging portals. Best of all, the car has Apple Play, which allows me to listen to my own music. Understanding how to set the door locks took some time, but I am a fan of how they work without fumbling with the key fob all the time.

I've had a trailer hitch added and have hauled mulch for landscaping at the house. The muck from the mulch place dirtied up my new ride, so I cleaned it. The passage of time will

be necessary before the "I can't stand for my car to be dirty" feelings to subside. Of course, I dread the first ding from another's car door hitting mine or a gravel chipping the paint, but once that happens, I'll settle down.

I bought my first Pathfinder in 1987. It was brand new, but the car had no back seat, radio or air conditioning. Adding them afterward was more economical. The 2011 model that I was driving had some features that were nice. Now I have a car that's smarter than I am, I don't understand all the features that are offered, and I'm nervous about the first ding. Isn't it grand to live in this age? Maybe the best thing of all is that I bought this new Pathfinder before tariffs raise prices by several thousands of dollars.

2013 Lincoln MKX Clean, Save \$\$\$ \$12,990
2017 Infiniti QX60 AWD, Super clean \$18,880
2021 Ford Mustang Mach-E AWD \$29,985
2019 Honda Odyssey EX Good miles \$23,970
2020 Toyota Tacoma TRD Sport v6 \$33,915
2022 Ford Transit Cargo Van, Medium Roof \$38,970
2017 Ford Explorer Sport 4X4, Local \$16,590

Also take advantage of our Quicklane Tire and Auto Center - No Appointment Needed!
 Price includes \$399 dock fee. Plus tax, tag and title. WAC. Dealer retains all rebates. Restrictions may apply. See Dealer for details. Prices good through next week.

RAY VARNIER
 Call Dan or Ray for all your New or Used Car & Truck needs.
 2026 N Charles G Sevierville Blvd · Clinton, TN
865.457.0704
 www.rayvarnerford.com

My encounters with the homeless

Cont. from page 1

effort to befriend me with his story. I've been confronted by homeless for help and I've encountered other people who are not homeless but moving among them to con funds.

I had one well-groomed man chat with me and follow me to my car in the parking garage with meaningless chatter and then hit me up for \$20 after his story of his family trying to survive. I didn't fall for that one but he made a good

occasional homeless tent or sleeping bags between the neighborhood and railroad tracks.

I'm so proud to have a family, a home, a vehicle and a job. I'm so hurt by the feeling of the need of the homeless population and, at the same time, frustrated by the small percentage of the people who are homeless by choice or causing problems. I remember being almost homeless with my wife and kids many years ago and I

understand how scary it is. My family helped out and we survived that period, thankfully, but many are not so lucky.

The homeless numbers continue to grow in Knoxville and Knox County. Apparently, some federal funding might be disappearing. What else the city and county can do is being discussed but where the additional funding might come from is the question.



WINDSOR RIDGE
 (fmr. Windsor Gardens)

We serve senior residents of Knoxville, Powell, Fountain City and the surrounding areas—*fostering our resident's sense of independence while ensuring a loving home-like environment.*

5611 CENTRAL AVENUE PIKE | KNOXVILLE, TN 37912 | 865-688-4840
INSPIRITSENIORLIVING.COM/WINDSORRIDGE

NEXT LEVEL DME Durable Medical Equipment
 MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, SERVICE, INSTALLATION
 www.NextLevelDME.com

Spring SPECIAL
20-40% OFF Select Lift Chairs and Scooters
 We have EVERYTHING to meet your mobility needs:
 RAMPS, STAIR LIFTS, WALK-IN BATHS, MEDICAL BEDS, ELEVATORS, & MORE!

Call Now!
 Sevierville (865) 935-7493
 Morristown (423) 839-0923

Our Certified Experts will provide FREE In-Home Estimates and In-Home Safety Evaluations.
 ~ Stop by one of our area locations TODAY ~
1358 Dolly Parton Pkwy, Sevierville TN 37862
208 Montvue Avenue, Morristown TN 37813

The Gentleman From Ohio

John Martin Vorys

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

From 1932 through 1937, American voters consistently voted to approve the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. If Roosevelt did not resolve every problem, he gave people hope that the worst days were behind them. The profound suffering and deprivations wrought by the Great Depression seemed to be dissipating, albeit very slowly. The 1938 election saw the Republicans make significant gains in both the House and the Senate. The 1936 election had been a debacle for the GOP and only 16 (including one Progressive who caucused with them) Republicans remained in the United States Senate. Republicans won eight Senate seats in 1938; Republicans won 81 House seats in the 1938 midterm elections. In the freshman Class of 1938 was a young Republican representing the Columbus, Ohio, area named John Martin Vorys.

The rise of John Vorys in the House was rapid, and eventually, he became perhaps the most influential Republican in foreign policy matters in the U.S. House of Representatives. A large man, Vorys was unusual inasmuch as when speaking with small groups or in one-on-one conversations, he was frequently difficult to follow because he had a habit of beginning a new sentence before finishing the old. When making a speech, colleagues could not ever recall his speaking from notes and the words flowed freely, according to his biographer, Professor Jeffrey Livingston.

Like many of those who had served in the First World War, John M. Vorys abhorred the very idea that the United States would become entangled in another foreign war. World War I became the first large-scale war fought with all too many means of efficiently killing enemies. Tanks, airplanes, and deadly gas were all used for the first time during the Great War. Navies were armed with battleships whose guns could bombard and kill the enemy twenty miles inland. The methods of conducting modern warfare were highly effective and as a result, the bloodletting was on a vast and unprecedented scale. Those who lived through it never forgot it and many of those who were elected to Congress were profound noninterventionists. John Vorys became one of those who became adept at using one of the new machines of dealing death, as he served with an air unit during the war.

Few, if any of those veterans of the First World War could be truthfully called pacifists; they merely hated the idea of subjecting their own sons and relatives to what they suspected would

be an even greater expenditure by the American government of blood and treasure. John M. Vorys was one of those during his first years in the House of Representatives.

TIME magazine, read by millions each week, was, like its publisher, deeply internationalist in its outlook and it spared no congressional isolationist in its condemnation, both personal and political. Eventually, even TIME magazine acknowledged the honesty of Congressman John Vorys in his representation of his people, as well as his own convictions.

John M. Vorys accepted one challenge after another throughout his life. After his service in the First World War, Vorys accepted an assignment teaching at the College of Yale in China for a year. Vorys was working to earn a law degree when he was interrupted by the call to serve as an assistant secretary to the American delegation at the Washington Arms Conference from 1921-1922. His stint done with the Washington Arms Conference, Vorys returned to Ohio State University in 1922 to complete his degree. That same year, John M. Vorys won election to Ohio's State House of Representatives at age 26. In 1924, Vorys moved up after winning election to the state Senate. John Vorys was the author of Ohio's budget law, as well as the legislation that created the Ohio State Office Building.

Vorys was named as the first Ohio Director of Aeronautics in 1929 and practiced law until he was elected to Congress in 1938. John Vorys had been elected president of the Columbus Bar Association in 1938 when he launched his first campaign for the House to oppose Congressman Arthur P. Lamneck, who had first run for Congress in 1920. Lamneck had lost his first congressional race but had better luck when he tried again ten years later. Lamneck beat the incumbent Republican and was reelected in 1934 and 1936, each time winning bigger majorities. Lamneck was an oddity inasmuch as he was an anti-New Deal Democrat. Vorys printed literature proclaiming himself "A Real Republican." The inference was clear; Vorys was advertising himself as a genuine Republican while Lamneck was merely pretending to have some Republican inclinations. One unusual feature of the 1938 congressional campaign between Arthur Lamneck and John Vorys was the candidates met for a debate. The Jackson Center News sniffed it was less a debate between candidates than a name-calling



(From left right) Congressman Robert G. Allen of Pennsylvania, Congressman Sol Bloom of New York, and Congressman John Vorys of Ohio after an intense foreign policy debate in 1939.

contest.

After six years of Democrat rule, Republicans swept Ohio in the 1938 elections. John W. Bricker was elected governor, while Robert A. Taft, son of the late president, beat incumbent Robert Bulkley for the U.S. Senate. Congressman Lamneck had done a respectable job at entrenching himself, but Vorys managed to eke out a 2,383-vote victory, giving him just over 50% of the votes cast.

Twice more John M. Vorys and Arthur Lamneck contested for Ohio's Twelfth District; Congressman Vorys turned back Lamneck's determined bid to reclaim his seat in the House by an increased, albeit very narrow, margin of 4,652 votes. By 1942, John Vorys had effectively entrenched himself inside the Twelfth District and with the Second World War raging, the congressman received a big vote of confidence, beating Arthur Lamneck with better than 58% of the votes. Thereafter, Congressman John M. Vorys always won a comfortable victory, even in the best Democratic years. Vorys had made Ohio's Twelfth District safe for himself.

Isaiah Berlin wrote a confidential memorandum for the British Foreign Office, which was, naturally, deeply interested in those congressmen occupying seats on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. "The real leader of the Opposition Bloc on the committee," Berlin wrote. "He voted against all foreign policy measures and was the author of the amendment in June 1939 which provided for a mandatory embargo on the export of arms to belligerent nations. A shrewd and active member likely to prove the most stubborn member of the committee. He constantly presses (and for obvious reasons) for some sort of dollar and cent estimate of the current balance as between Lend-Lease and Reciprocal Aid and proposed the amendments, which were later defeated, whereby Congress alone could authorize the final settlement. A Methodist; age 47; a formidable nationalist."

Isaiah Berlin's assessment was accurate and so was John Vorys in his own interpretation of the views of the people who sent him to Congress. The United States had loaned or given billions of dollars (amounting to trillions today) to governments, including that of Great Britain, during the First World War. Britain had never repaid American loans from that war and many congressmen like John Vorys worried they would not yet again. Britain made its final payment for American loans for the Second World War in 2007.

Vorys was part of a visiting group of American congressmen and senators who saw Buchenwald Concentration Camp immediately following the collapse of Hitler's Germany in April 1945. General Dwight D. Eisenhower left the decaying corpses where they lay so the congressional group, along with some powerful press lords, could see for themselves the horrors wrought by Adolf Hitler's gruesome Final Solution. None of them ever forgot it.

Congressman Vorys was one of those Republican members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee who fought to protect the \$1.35 billion price tag of the United States' share of aid to the victims of the Second World War through the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. Hamilton Fish, a leading noninterventionist, grumbled it resembled a "gigantic international WPA" (one of the New Deal welfare agencies), while Congresswoman Jessie Sumner believed the entire effort was a plan to "make Stalin dictator of Europe." Vorys told his colleagues he would be the first to acknowledge the situation was not perfect but thought "it is our responsibility to give it a chance." Congressman Charles Eaton of New Jersey said, "The object of this legislation—and do not forget it—is to help those people help themselves ... It is impossible for us to continue to be an island of prosperity in an ocean of adversity ... We cannot be a healthy nation surrounded by a sick world."

John M. Vorys was one

of those few congressmen who, when he had a notion, something was bound to happen. That was certainly the case when Vorys became annoyed because of the failure of the United Nations to declare China (which had fallen to the Communists in 1949) the aggressor in Korea in 1951. Congressman Vorys met with John McCormack, the majority leader in the House and a Democrat, and Minority Leader Joe Martin. Vorys was determined to cobble together appropriate language that would be acceptable to both Republicans and Democrats. The trio hammered out the necessary details and it was John McCormack who rose on the floor of the House just hours before the UN was to discuss the issue of China. McCormack offered a resolution that was both succinct and blunt: "The United Nations should immediately act and declare the Chinese Communist authorities an aggressor in Korea." The bells rang, notifying members to come to the House floor to vote. When the Speaker asked all in favor to say "aye," there was a roar of approval. The "nays" were feeble and barely audible.

It was also John M. Vorys who sponsored two amendments that sharply reduced America's commitment to foreign aid. Paul Hoffman, the administrator of the Marshall Plan, which laded billions of American tax dollars to the rebuilding and feeding of war-torn Europe, had frequently warned that Congress would be reluctant to vote more funding at the plan's expiration in 1952. Hoffman proved to be a prophet and Vorys' effort came as a big surprise to the Democrat majority, who had allowed too many supporters of the Truman Administration get out of the building. Vorys and the Republicans saw their chance and took it. For a brief time, the House Chamber contained a majority of Republicans and like a snapping turtle, they bit down and refused to let go. Minority Leader Joe Martin's long experience helped him to fend off the efforts by Democrats to regain control. The two Vorys amendments cut

a total of \$726.5 million, which was on top of the \$1 billion reduction recommended by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Even powerful Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn was washed away by the clever timing of John Vorys and the GOP leadership. "I am not happy about our situation in the world, nor in the U.S., nor in this House," the speaker barked. "I notice this House, in glee, and ... without a great deal of reason" had cut the appropriations bill "below what those in charge, and who are supposed to know the most about world affairs, said was necessary." The Vorys amendment passed, the most important of the two fueled by the votes of 160 Republicans along with 61 mostly Southern Democrats. Only ten Republicans voted against that particular amendment.

In 1958, after serving 20 years in the House of Representatives, John M. Vorys announced he would not be a candidate to succeed himself. The 62-year-old congressman said it was time for him to return to Ohio and the practice of law. Vorys and his wife departed Washington, D.C., and didn't seem to much miss it. The former congressman began experiencing health problems associated with his heart disease. John Vorys died on August 25, 1968; he was 72 years old.

From the very beginning of his congressional service, John M. Vorys made his presence felt and over time became one of the most influential members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

© 2025 Ray Hill

Come worship with us
New Beverly Baptist Church
3320 New Beverly Church Rd.
Knoxville, TN 37918
Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Pastor
www.newbeverly.org
856-546-0001

Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship
11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Prayer
7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Youth
7:00 p.m.
Bus Ministry -
For transportation call 546-0001

Doing Right Even When It Hurts

Cont. from page 2

philosopher later known as Justin Martyr, was executed in Rome in AD 165. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor and Nazi dissident, refused to conform to Hitler's regime and was executed in 1945 at Flossenbürg concentration camp. He lost his life for doing what was right. On January 8, 1956, an American missionary named Jim Elliot was killed along with four of his friends during Operation Auca, an attempt to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the Huaorani Tribe in Ecuador. Just three years ago, a personal friend of mine named Stephen Troell was ambushed and killed

in Baghdad in front of his wife. He went to Iraq for one reason: to do good.

Both the Bible and history teach us that doing good and doing what is right can sometimes lead to suffering and pain.

These reflections are not intended to discourage or dissuade you from doing what is right. I hope that these truths help you when you face hurt, as hurt is an inevitable part of life. Jesus forewarned His disciples in Matthew 5 that it will rain on both "the just and the unjust." This serves as a biblical reminder that everyone, regardless of their actions, will experience hurt equally.

Peter's letter offers us

some important truths. First, pain is an inherent part of the human experience. It's essential to remember that character is not forged in times of crisis; it is displayed during calamity. If we suffer while doing what is right (and we will), then it becomes an opportunity to show who we belong to. In every example of suffering mentioned above, those who endured well became reflections of God's image.

Second, we need to be aware of the work that God is doing in and through us. Often, it is in the depths of our pain that God does His most profound work and is glorified. While doing the right thing may lead

to suffering, that pain is a clear sign that we are being conformed to the image of God's Son. The late A.W. Tozer once said, "When I understand that everything happening to me is to make me more Christlike, it resolves a great deal of anxiety." This includes everything—joy and pain, peace and turmoil, suffering and

ease. According to the Apostle Paul in Romans 8:28, all of it works for the good of those who love God.

Life can be complicated, and we may experience pain or suffering for doing good. The Apostle Peter warns us about this but also encourages us in 1 Peter to continue doing

good anyway. Even if we suffer for doing what is right, 1 Peter 3:14 tells us, "happy are ye." It's a promise that God will reward us for our righteousness.

So, no matter what you are going through, remember this: With God, it is always better to suffer for doing what is right than to suffer for doing wrong!

service directory


ALTERATIONS

JOANNE'S ALTERATIONS,
PANTS HEMMING \$5,
SPECIALIZING IN JEANS.
CALL 865-805-9170

CHILD CARE

MARCIA'S
LEARNING CENTER
1411 Exeter Ave, Knoxville
(865) 673-8223
Day Shift 7:30 am - 5:00 pm

DECKS

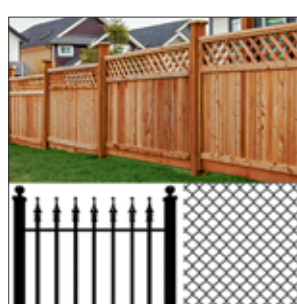


DECKS New Builds or Repairs
Quality, Honesty, Integrity are our PRIORITY!
Bonded & Insured
Offering FREE estimates!
Call / Text 865-888-1241

ELDER CARE

WILL SIT WITH ELDERLY YOUR LOVED ONE. WEEKENDS ONLY.
CALL 865-334-8645

FENCING



FENCE SERVICE
New Builds Or Repairs
Quality, Honesty, Integrity
"Our Priority"
Insured & Bonded, FREE ESTIMATES
Call or Text 865-888-1241

FENCING



BROWN'S
CUSTOM FENCING & CONSTRUCTION
TN State Contractor Lic #00049769
~ ALL TYPES OF FENCING ~
Residential, Commercial, Farm and Ranch, Pole Barns & Hoop Structures
Professional, Dependable Service!
Call 423-235-7400
or 1-800-249-6274
brownscustomfencing.com

HANDYMAN



Your Local HANDYMAN
Complete Remodeling
INTERIOR / EXTERIOR
~ Insured and Bonded ~
Call or text for your FREE ESTIMATE
865-888-1241

HOME IMPROVEMENT




HomeFit SERVICES
Honest, Professional & Fair Pricing
Brian Clark
865-415-8419
Licensed & Insured
Web: Homefitservices.com
Email: Homefit04@gmail.com
◆ Home Repairs ◆ Deck Staining
◆ Painting ◆ Roof, Siding & Foundation Stain Removal
◆ Wood Rot
We accept Visa & MasterCard

HOUSE CLEANING

HOUSECLEANING BY STEPHANIE. HONEST & DEPENDABLE.
CALL 865-334-8645

LAWN SERVICES



Magic Mowers
LAWN & LEAF SERVICES
• Mowing • Edging • Weed Eating
• Trimming • Blowing • Mulching
• Shrub Trimming • Leaf Cleanup
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED, DEPENDABLE SERVICE, REASONABLE RATES & INSURED
FREE ESTIMATES
CALL OR TEXT JIMBO
865-368-8279

METAL WORKS



GHOST RIDERS METAL WORKS
865-705-0742
Mobile Welding
Fabrication & Repair
State Licensed
Pipe Bollards Installed
Welding (Stick Welding, Mig Welding & Gas Welding)

PAINTING

PAINTING- INTERIOR- EXTERIOR
* Licenced & Insured *
- FREE ESTIMATES -
865-202-9425
REASONABLE PRICES!

30% Off All Exterior Painting with this ad!



Randy the Painter
Interior & Exterior Painting
Celebrating 45 years of business in 2025
Licensed and Insured
FREE ESTIMATES
CALL 865-522-3222 or TEXT 865-455-5022
CHECK OUT OUR 5-STAR GOOGLE REVIEWS!!!
randythepainterandcrew.com

PAINTING



Pilgrim Painting
Repaint Specialist
Commercial & Residential
Serving Knoxville since 1994
SPRING SPECIAL
30% OFF all jobs scheduled by April 1, 2025
• Interior/Exterior Painting
• Pressure Washing
• Staining
• Drywall & Carpentry
GOOGLE 5 STAR RATING
WWW.PILGRIMPAININGKNOXVILLE.COM
Major Credit Cards Now Accepted
FREE ESTIMATES
865-291-8434
Licensed • Bonded & Insured

REPAIR MAN



CJ Fixit
APPLIANCE SERVICE
Are you having a problem with an appliance not working properly? Replacing an appliance is not always the best answer, and is NEVER the cheapest answer.
Give CJ a call FIRST!
A part or adjustment may be all you need to save HUNDREDS or even THOUSANDS.
CALL US TODAY!
Serving Knoxville and surrounding areas.
Major credit cards accepted.
865-895-7805

ROOFING

ROOF REPAIRS,
METAL: SHINGLE: RUBBER,
ROOF COATING: FREE
ESTIMATES, 865-705-7069

STEAM CLEANING




NICHOLS
Carpet Cleaning
Offering budget-friendly STEAM CLEANING!
Residential & Commercial services available!
CARPET UPHOLSTERY
AREA RUGS TILE & GROUT
Call and schedule TODAY!
865-253-9409

TREE SERVICES



ROLEN
TREE SERVICE
TREE TRIMMING OR REMOVAL
COMMERCIAL and RESIDENTIAL services available.
Over 50 years experience!
Locally owned! Insured!
FREE ESTIMATES!
423-259-0295



TREE HERO
Professional Tree Service
• UTILITY LINE CLEARING
• STORM WORK
• REMOVAL SERVICE
• EXPERT PRUNING
• LAND CLEARING
Locally Owned
Licensed & Insured
FREE Estimates! Call TODAY!
865-385-9994
865-888-3580



THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN VETERANS, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF
AMERICAN LEGION POST 2
AS WE BREAK GROUND FOR THE NEW AMERICAN LEGION VETERANS COMMUNITY BUILDING
Saturday, March 15
11am
5700 Old Rutledge Pike, Knoxville TN
Please RSVP to pcollins@knoxvillechamber.com
Donate to the American Legion Building Fund

classifieds

COIN SHOP



BLAKE and JAXON'S COIN SHOP
We Buy and Sell Gold & Silver
• GOLD
• SILVER EAGLES
• SILVER ROUNDS & BARS
• MORGAN DOLLARS
• PEACE DOLLARS
• SCRAP GOLD (Jewelry)
Call or come by and see us!
8626 Asheville Hwy - Knoxville
865-444-5176

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED
Engineer II, Molding sought by an auto parts mfg co. in Clinton, TN. Min. bachelor's deg in mechanical engg, electrical engg, physics or a rtd field, AND 2 yrs of exp in injection molding are reqd. Send resume to SL Tennessee LLC (Attn: Gun Jun Yoon) @ 312 Frank L Diggs Dr., Clinton, TN 37716.

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

SOUTH KNOXVILLE / UT / DOWNTOWN
2 BR, 700 SQ FT APARTMENTS
\$900/ MONTH
865-573-1000



GOD'S PLACE TREASURES THRIFT STORE
6119 Chapman Highway
Furniture, glassware, clothing & more
Mondays: All \$1 items 50¢
Come in for prayer.
Manager - Vickie Johnson
Proceeds help feed the homeless.
M-F 10am-5:30pm 865-604-8077

WANTED

*****WANTED*****
BROKEN PUSH & RIDING MOWERS
\$10-20 PUSH OR \$40-100 RIDING
MUST BE COMPLETE
865-416-7546
LEAVE PHONE # IF NO ANSWER



*** WANTED ***
MILITARY ANTIQUES and SOUVENIRS, ALL ERAS
ESPECIALLY WWII - VIETNAM
UNIFORMS, MEDALS, HELMETS, SWORDS, ETC.
CALL 865-368-0682



APPALACHIAN HARDWOOD
FULL SERVICE FLOORING SPECIALISTS
Located at 1315 Pembroke Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917
We supply and install
HARDWOOD, LVT, & LAMINATE FLOORING
Plus We offer professional sanding, finishing & repair on OLD or NEW floors!
Materials furnished at WHOLESALE prices! FREE ESTIMATES!
865-219-9803



NOW HIRING DRIVERS
Make a difference in your community!
Drive a SCHOOL BUS!
We follow Knox County School Schedule. Average work day: 2 hrs. morning + 3 hrs. afternoon. Average pay \$22 per hour.
Perfect job for retirees, or stay at home parents. Must be at least 25 years old with clean criminal background record, and clean driving record. Call Tony TODAY!
865-209-6082
T & J Bus Lines LLC
7100 West Chermont Circle
Knoxville, TN 37918

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

West's Martin and Eggleston: Player and Coach of the Year

By Steve Williams

West High's Devyn Martin and Coach Tommy Eggleston were almost unanimous selections for Knox County's Player and Coach of the Year in boys basketball in 2024-25, with the awards being based on regular season play.

Martin, a 6-8 senior power forward, and Eggleston, in his first season as a head coach after 12 years of being an assistant, led the Rebels' charge up the standings in District 4-4A, which is regarded as one of the toughest districts in the state.

"The thing that impressed me the most was Devyn's consistency," said Eggleston. "He was consistently a 20 and 10

Cont. on page 2



ALL-KNOX COUNTY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM 2024-25

FIRST TEAM

- Chris Cowan, Carter 6-0 SG sr.**
- Jailon Hill, West 5-10 PG sr.**
- King Hubbard, Bearden 6-4 G sr.**
- Kevin Jack, West 6-3 C sr.**
- Owen Lentz, Webb 6-0 G jr.**
- Devyn Martin, West 6-8 PF sr.**
- Cam Mercer, GCA 6-2 G sr.**
- Cade Murphy, Catholic 6-5 SF jr.**
- Justin Nordin, Bearden 6-2 G jr.**
- Zion Oliver, Carter 6-4 PF sr.**
- Caden Owens, CAK 6-5 G-F sr.**
- Jaylen Pompey, Webb 5-9 PG sr.**
- Derrick Smith, Fulton 5-10 SG sr.**
- Nick Steen, Fulton 6-3 SF soph.**
- Cam Swearengen, Webb 6-4 F jr.**
- Nate Thompson, S-D 6-3 SF sr.**
- Zack Turner, Gibbs 5-10 G sr.**
- Dom VanAcker, Farragut 6-3 SF sr.**

Martin on Coach Eggleston: "He helped us through all the ups and downs."



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

A good season in Dubsville! West High's Devyn Martin and Coach Tommy Eggleston, The Knoxville Focus / Coaches' Knox County Player and Coach of the Year, pose for a picture last week. The Rebels' regular season record in 2024-25 was 21 wins and 7 losses. They finished second in District 4-4A with a record of 8 wins and 2 losses.

Coach Eggleston on Martin: "He was such a physical presence."

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TIME

Smith carries Falcons to Region 2-3A title

By Steve Williams

For the second game in a row, Derrick Smith put the Fulton Falcons on his back and led them to the Region 2-3A tournament title and a berth in the TSSAA's state sectionals.

In Thursday night's finals at Jody Wright Arena, the 5-10, 145-pound shooting guard returned to action at the start of the second half after sitting on the bench most of the first half in foul trouble.

It didn't take Smith long to erase Carter's eight-point halftime lead. He scored on a layup in the first possession. Soon afterward, he hit a 3-point shot from the right wing and turned it into a four-point play as he was knocked down after his release. That gave Fulton a 38-36 lead and the Falcons never trailed again in the 58-53 victory.

Two nights before, Smith's talented sophomore teammate, Nick

Steen, got into early foul trouble against Anderson County and had to sit the remainder of the first half in Fulton's do-or-die semi-final game. Smith made up for his absence by scoring a season-high 30 points, including 22 in the first half as the Falcons eliminated the Mavericks 71-50.

Fulton (16-16) will host Unicoi County (21-13) in tonight's 7 o'clock Class 3A Sectional contest with a state tournament berth on the line. The Blue Devils (21-13) from Erwin lost to Greeneville 64-46 in the Region 1-3A title game.

Carter (26-10) will play at Greeneville (23-11) tonight for a berth in next week's boys state tournament at MTSU in Murfreesboro.

The Hornets will be going against Trey Thompson, a standout player for Greeneville.

The 6-8 power forward has received interest

Continue on page 2



PHOTO BY JOSHUA WILLIAMS

Fulton senior Derrick Smith fires a shot over Carter's Chris Cowan in Thursday night's Region 2-3A finals. Scoreless in the first half and sidelined with foul trouble, Smith connected on three 3-point shots and scored 19 points in the second half to rally the Falcons past the Hornets 58-53.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PREVIEW

Fulton opens 2025 season on winning note

By Ken Lay

The 2025 baseball season is underway and Fulton opened the new campaign with an impressive victory over Campbell County Tuesday night, ushering in the third year of the Buzz McNish era on a winning note.

McNish, who previously coached at Lenoir City and West, is looking for the Falcons to do some good things in 2025.

"When you're in the third year and you basically began building from the ground up, I think we have the chance to do some things that we haven't done before," McNish said. "I'm looking to make a big jump in our district."

One thing that has

McNish excited about the season is the team's depth on the mound.

"We have more pitching depth and that's been the big problem here over the last couple of years," he said. "You had to start a guy and just had to go and roll with him."

"I also think that we'll be good defensively."

Top returners for the Falcons include; Maddox Myers (a senior and Carson-Newman signee, who will pitch and be a utility infielder); Jake Hicks (junior, pitcher/catcher) and Travis Ballenger (a senior outfielder, who will join the team upon the conclusion of basketball season).

Key newcomers include:

Continue on page 4



It's never too early to plan.

Ask about Home Loans with:

- Lower down payment
- No-PMI options
- Competitive rates



Meet our Loan Officers!

(865) 544-5400 tvacreditunion.com



NMLS 167911. Federally Insured by NCUA. Restrictions apply. Not a government-affiliated agency. All applications subject to underwriting guidelines and approval. Rates based on creditworthiness. Ask for details.



Webb sweeps Division II-AA state titles

By Steve Williams

Knoxville Webb won two TSSAA gold basketball trophies Saturday at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville.

The Spartans knocked off Briarcrest 54-45 and the Lady Spartans toppled CPA 61-47 in Division II-AA.

The Catholic girls lost to CPA 50-47 in the semifinals.

In Division II-A, The King's Academy girls rolled past Providence Christian 57-36 in the semifinals, but lost to Webb Bell Buckle 66-59 in the finals.

100-year logo approved to be TSSAA's official logo

The color scheme of the new TSSAA logo mimics the Tennessee flag.

The three stars in the "SS" mimic the exact shape of the Tennessee flag and the slants in the "T" and "AA" represent the shape of Tennessee.

The version of the logo that will be used during 2025 will commemorate the association's centennial celebration.

The TSSAA staff



recommended that the fundamental design for the 100-year logo also become the official logo for the organization and that was approved by the Board of Control on Feb. 27.

Road to Fame applications available now

Applications for the 2025 Halls High School Road to Fame began on March 1 and will continue until April 30. You can sign up online at Halls High School Road to Fame.

Shortage of TSSAA umpires

TSSAA Umpire Assignor Eddie Turpin said last week the Knoxville Umpires Association needs more umpires for baseball and softball.

"Again this season we are short staffed," said Turpin.

If interested, you can register at www.tssaa.org.



PHOTOS BY ROB TAYLOR

West's Devyn Martin races up court against William Blount this season. The 6-foot-8 Martin is seen with the ball more often above the goal.



Tommy Eggleston seems to always be standing when he coaches his team from the sideline.



ALL-KNOX COUNTY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM 2024-25

SECOND TEAM

Carson Asbaty, Catholic PG jr.
Sean Capshaw, Bearden G jr.
Colby Comparato, Halls PG jr.
Conner Copeland, Berean SG sr.
Javan Curry, Karns SF sr.
Neyland Dugger, Powell SG sr.
Elijah Elliott, Halls G sr.
Gabe Holmes, Halls G jr.
Parker Lane, Farragut PG jr.
Alex Leeth, Webb F jr.
John Martin, GCA PG jr.
Justin Pruitt, A-E PG jr.
T.J. Tipton, Catholic PF sr.

HONORABLE MENTION

Chris Belew, Berean sr.
Jamichael Blair, Bearden jr.
Kaden Duncan, Berean fr.
D'Andre Hundley, A-E jr.
Wilson Luton, Webb jr.
Noah Lakin, Powell sr.
Josh Myers, Berean sr.
Matthew Palmer, Berean sr.
Deuce Rodgers, Powell jr.
Hayden Scarbrough, Berean fr.
Larrison Winton, A-E jr.

West's Martin and Eggleston: Player and Coach of the Year

Cont. from page 1

Two teams – West and Webb School – put three players each on the Knoxville Focus / Coaches' All-Knox County team, which also was based on regular season play. Three other teams are represented by two players each and six teams have one player each who earned the All-Knox County distinction.

The Spartans, who took a 32-2 record and the No. 1 ranking in the state into the Division II-AA's Final Four last week at Tennessee Tech, have Jaylen Pompey,

Owen Lentz and Cam Swearngen on the All-Knox County team. Gibbs' Zack Turner, who scored a school record 48 points early in the season, finished with the top scoring average (24.2) in regular season play, followed by Cade Murphy of Catholic 22.6, Caden Owens of CAK 21.0, Dom VanAcker of Farragut 21.0, Chris Cowan of Carter 18.9, Nate Thompson of South-Doyle 18.9, Cam Mercer of Grace Christian 18.0 and Derrick Smith of Fulton 18.0.

They came out and busted tail. They did a really good job in the third quarter."

The Carter coach called Fulton's Smith "100 percent the difference maker in the second half. And No. 10 (Steen) did a really good job in the second half, too. It was a great duo."

As for playing at Greeneville, Cate said: "They are really good. You're not going to find anybody that's not at this point. But they're really good. We'll have our hands full in the next couple days trying to get ready to go play them."

Smith carries Falcons to Region 2-3A title

Cont. from page 1

Derrick Smith. So a better all-around performance the second half and more like Fulton."

Steen finished with 22 points, tourney MVP Smith 19 (all in the second half) and Rejuan Womble nine (all in the first half) to lead the Falcons. Carter got 22 points from Chris Cowan, 13 from Lincoln Tummel and eight from Zion Oliver.

"They came out in the third quarter and were lights out," said Carter Coach Tyler Cate. "They were ready to go and knew getting that home sub-state game was on the line.

They came out and busted tail. They did a really good job in the third quarter."

The Carter coach called Fulton's Smith "100 percent the difference maker in the second half. And No. 10 (Steen) did a really good job in the second half, too. It was a great duo."

As for playing at Greeneville, Cate said: "They are really good. You're not going to find anybody that's not at this point. But they're really good. We'll have our hands full in the next couple days trying to get ready to go play them."

TALK RADIO FM 92.3 AM 760



NEW WEEKEND SHOW

SATURDAYS 1 pm to 4 pm

THE TODD STARNES SHOW



A miserably cold and rainy day at Dudley Field in Nashville

Here's a moment in Tennessee football history that deserves another look. It was a tie game that helped the Vols escape a loss to their mid-

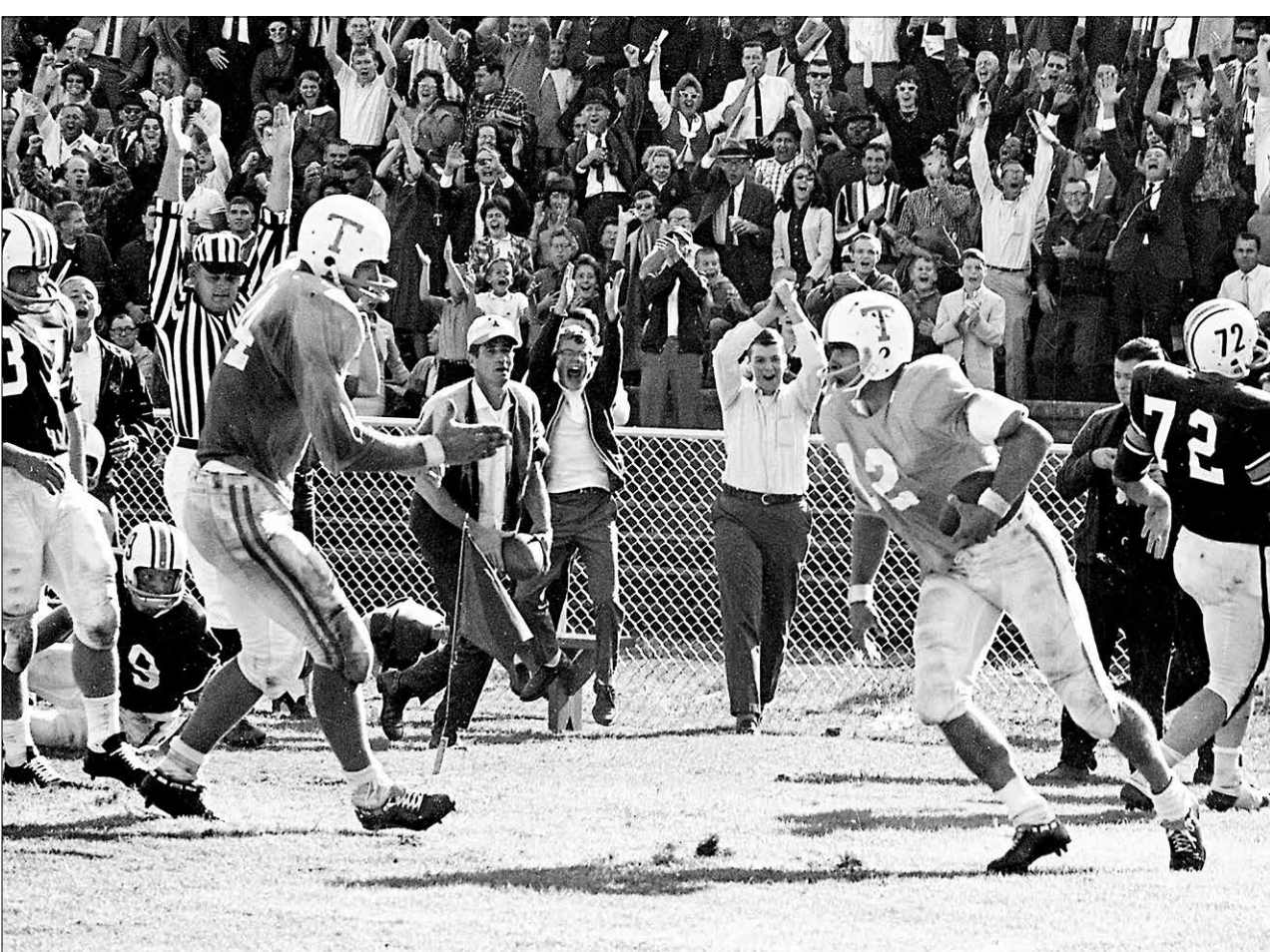
By Tom Mattingly

state rivals. The "experts" say tie games are not memorable, to the point that the powers-that-be at the NCAA abolished the tie as a legitimate ending to a game in 1996. As was the case with the NFL, the game is awarded to the last man standing. The pros have overtime, so someone, we know not who, decreed that the college game would also be better off having it. That is a matter for serious debate.

Vol fans remember overtime from a 6-extra period affair against Arkansas in 2002 (Tennessee winning 41-38), a 5-overtime deal at Alabama in 2003 (the Vols winning 51-43), and a 4-extra period tussle at Kentucky in 2007 (the Vols winning 52-50).

In many cases throughout collegiate football history, ties often seemed a better alternative. In Tennessee's case, for example, consider the 1964 LSU game (3-3), the 1965 Auburn (13-13) and Alabama (7-7) games, and the 1968 Georgia game (17-17). Or, conversely, fans could reflect on the 1985 UCLA game (26-26) or the 1990 Auburn game (also 26-26). What ties give, they also take away.

The Vanderbilt-Tennessee game, played in Nashville on Nov. 30, 1974,



In the 1965 Auburn game, a 13-13 deadlock, Austin Denney (84) and Charley Fulton (12) helped lead the way as Tennessee football fortunes began looking better.

was one such occurrence, depending on your team loyalties. Neither side has forgotten this one.

Tennessee and Vanderbilt fought their way to a 21-21 tie on a miserably cold and rainy day at Dudley Field in Nashville, much as you'd expect from a late November contest. These were the days when the Vols actually played games in the early part of the afternoon.

With the stadium's artificial turf covered with precipitation and the stadium lights beaming at full power, the two teams went at it hot and heavy.

Early in the game, Vol quarterback Condredge Holloway hit an 81-yard

pass to tight end Tommy West. This play is still the longest non-scoring pass in Tennessee history. The ensuing touchdown gave the Vols an early 6-0 lead.

Vandy, however, recovered from the early deficit, dominated the game, and led well into the final minutes. Just when you thought the Commodores, leading 21-13, had the game in hand, punter Barry Burton dropped a punt snap, and, in the scramble for the elusive pigskin, the Vols got it at the Vandy 12. Stanley Morgan scored seconds later, and the Vols were faced with a do-or-die two-point conversion to tie the game.

The two-pointer came

on a pass under the goal post at the north end from Holloway to All-American end Larry Seivers, the wide receiver from Clinton who could catch anything he could touch. You have to see the game videotape to make an informed judgment. The question remains: Did he catch it? After all, he touched it.

Here's what Marvin West wrote in "Legends of the Tennessee Vols:" "Holloway threw the two-pointer, and Seivers went high for the ball in the back of the end zone. Maybe he caught it. Maybe he didn't. The back judge threw up his hands to signal success. Tie game! Vanderbilts threw up

their arms, too. In protest. In amazement. In a plea, as in Heaven help us."

This was a classic Tennessee and Vanderbilt contest, a "rivalry" game in which all kinds of weird things have happened over the years. Many defy rational explanation. More often than not, the tide of events has turned Tennessee's way.

Here's Seivers' take once things had calmed down.

"The ball hit me right in the hands. It was raining and freezing cold. I couldn't feel my hands. And the ball rolled down my body that it probably looked like I was tucking it in. But I didn't catch it. After the play was over, I was on the sidelines

with my head down."

Seivers continued. "I saw the controversy on the field and said to myself, 'Well, I didn't catch it, and they caught me.' The Vanderbilt people were really fussing about it. Meanwhile, Tommy West had started a fight out there, and there's a lot of commotion. I just figured they were conferring about the catch, but the referee said, 'It's good.' I guess all's well that ends well."

During those long-ago days ties seemed plentiful and an intriguing part of the game, sportswriters often wrote about teams "stealing a tie," coming from behind to knot the count in the waning seconds, helped occasionally (and often immeasurably) by a "bad call," maybe even a "non-call" here and there.

You might also remember the 1966 Notre Dame-Michigan State game, when the Fighting Irish consciously and much to the chagrin of Alabama and Michigan State fans and much of the sporting public chose to accept a tie. The Fighting Irish was accused in some quarters of not trying to win yet somehow ending up winning a share of the national title.

It's been nearly 60 years since that rainy day in Nashville, but anyone who was there or within the sound of John Ward's voice remembers it well. It's part and parcel of what makes college football so vitally important to those who follow it week-in and week-out.

March Madness is Almost Here!

By Mark Nagi

Pound for pound, the best sporting event in the country is almost underway.

I'm talking about March Madness. And except for The Masters, I don't think there is very much competition in this category.

The college football playoff system has so much potential. But not surprisingly, the powers that be expanded to too many teams, don't have enough playoff games on campuses, and the seeding breakdown is a mess. And it gets lost a bit in the NFL playoff stratosphere too.

Major League Baseball is the haves and have nots when it comes to the postseason, with

the LA Dodgers' payroll worth more than the Gross National Product of Peru.

The NBA and NHL playoffs are too long. The Daytona 500 is significantly delayed by rain 99.9% of the time (or it feels that way). The Super Bowl typically gives us good games and is the most-watched television show of the year, but that's become more of an excuse to party than a sporting event.

But the NCAA tournament ... man, that's still special.

That doesn't mean the powers that be aren't trying to screw it up.

Southeastern Conference commissioner Greg Sankey continues to press to expand the NCAA's

men's and women's basketball tournaments from its present state of 68 teams.

This is ... well ... madness. Why do you want to water down a regular season that is already watered down? Why do you want to tinker with a tournament that is already wildly popular? The reason is simple. He's trying to see more representation for major conferences. If the tournament expands, you'll see the 13th best SEC teams and the 11th best Big Ten teams and the 12th best ACC teams get in.

There's no way expansion will give us what we would want most to see ... and that's more underdogs. The 2nd best teams from the Ohio Valley or Big South aren't

finding their way into the brackets if they expand to 72 or 76 or (baby Jesus forbid) 80 teams.

The magic of the NCAA tournament is that first week, when UMBC upsets top-seed Virginia, or Siena beats Stanford, or Oakland over Kentucky. You never know when the little guy is going to have their moment, but it happens a few times every year.

Yet Sankey wants to give us Oklahoma versus Minnesota. Hard pass.

This year we will have the Tennessee Vols and Lady Vols each in the postseason, which obviously make things even more fun. The Vols have had a terrific regular season, with eight wins over nationally ranked

opponents. They are in the mix to earn their first top-seed in program history, as they continue to try to make their first Final Four in program history.

Last season, the Vols got to the Elite 8 for the second time ever before falling to Purdue. And even though Zach Edey is now in the NBA and not taking 66 free throws against UT, let's hope the Boilermakers are far away from Tennessee's side of the bracket.

The Lady Vols did not play their best basketball late in the regular season, but Kim Caldwell has turned things around in this, her first season in charge of the program. Can they make a deep run? It's almost tournament time ... get your brackets ready.



NEW SIGNATURE ALCOVE

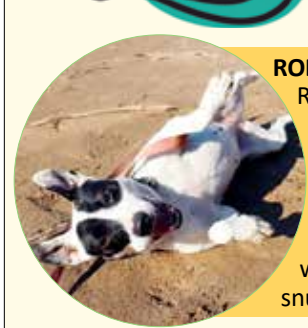
HARDIN VALLEY Morning Pointe Assisted Living

Limited Signature Alcove Apartments Available Call (865) 343-0081 TODAY to Reserve Yours!



Ad space donated by The Knoxville Focus.

Young-Williams Animal Center



ROBIN - 3 years old, 31.5 lbs.
Robin is an amazing little dog. She gets along great with my lab as well as the outdoor barn cat. Robin also does great with kids and has never met a stranger! She is quiet in her crate and has not had any accidents in my apartment. I have also only heard a handful of barks ... she is not a very vocal dog. Robin seems to be a very trainable dog who aims to please. If you're looking for a stay-by-your-side snuggler, this girl is your best bet!

Meet Ed! Ed is a total sweetheart. He loves head rubs, belly rubs, and butt scratches. He is very gentle when taking treats. With other dogs, he is pushy, playful, and social. Ed knows "sit" and comes when called. He likes to play tug of war and is pretty quiet when hanging out with people. He has the biggest smile and is always the happiest guy. Adopt Ed today!

ED - 2 years old, 66.5 lbs.



Young-Williams Animal Center 3201 Division Street, Knoxville, TN 37919 www.young-williams.org

865.215.6599 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily Closed 1-2 p.m. for animal quiet time

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PREVIEWS

Bearden coach says outlook is 'really good'

By Steve Williams

Coming into the 2025 high school baseball season, Bearden Coach Dave Prichard said the outlook for his team was "really good."

The tone in which the Bulldogs' skipper said it translated to a better season record (21-14 in 2024).

"We should be competing at the top," said Prichard, who will be in his fourth season at BHS and has five or six returning starters. Last year his Bulldogs placed fourth in the District 4-4A tournament after finishing second

in the regular season.

He added that the team strength is defense and expects to be more consistent offensively.

Seniors Logan Benko (third baseman and designated hitter) and Evan Cope accompanied Coach Prichard at the East Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association's Media Day on Feb. 26.

Phil Garner Ball Park has a reputation for baseballs to "fly out of there." So Benko, who hit .336 last season, looked strong enough to belt one out of there sometime this spring.

On the other hand, Cope, Bearden's No. 1 pitcher and also an outfielder, will be trying his hardest to keep the ball in the park when he's on the hill. Last season, he had a 3.30 earned run average with 38 strikeouts in 41 innings and a 5-4 won-loss record. His strengths are good control and a good slider.

Cope was asked what's it like to be on the mound in a big game?

"It excites me in big moments," he answered.

Other starters back this season include CF Cameron Cooper, 1B/P



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Bearden seniors Logan Benko and Evan Cope accompanied Coach Dave Prichard at the East Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association's Media Day on Feb. 26.

Matt Schroeffel, 1B/P Isaiah Whited, SS/2B Grayson Wright and SS/2B Gavin Bergeron.

This week Bearden is scheduled to be playing

everyday, with home games on Monday (Loudon), Tuesday (The King's Academy), Wednesday (Lenoir City) and Saturday (Murfreesboro Central

Magnet and Hixson). The Bulldogs will play Elizabethton at Jefferson County High Thursday and at Morristown West Friday.



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Cole Wessel, a senior P/1B and Milligan University signee, and senior David Grimes, a middle infielder and pitcher, accompanied Central High Coach Brandon Roberts at this year's Media Day.

Central hopes to build on last year's success

By Steve Williams

Central is coming off a first place regular season finish in District 3-4A last year under Brandon Roberts.

The Bobcats (24-11) placed second in the district tournament behind Oak Ridge and lost to Farragut and Maryville in the Region 2-4A tournament.

Cole Wessel, a senior P/1B and Milligan University signee, and senior David Grimes, a middle infielder and pitcher, accompanied Coach Roberts at this year's

Media Day.

Central returns six starters and Roberts said the strength of the team is a "solid lineup with six to eight players who will be good offensively."

Roberts lost two good pitchers who are now playing on the college level - Andrew Hill at ETSU and Miles Johnson at Chattanooga State.

"We need new guys to step up on the mound who need to gain experience," said the CHS skipper. They came in "more of an unknown."

Roberts added: "We are

on the younger side, but we have a lot of trust in those coming up. I expect us to be a contender in the district."

Other than Wessel and Grimes, returning starters include junior 3b/MIF Nick Riordan, junior CF Kaylin Chesney, sophomore RHP Andrew Bivens, junior RF Drew Shaver and sophomore 3B/2B Alex Grossman.

Central is scheduled to play at Karns today at 6 p.m. and host the Beavers at Schumpert Park Tuesday at 6.

Webb, Catholic look for success despite early questions

By Ken Lay

The 2025 high school baseball season has now begun and two local teams are looking to make a mark in the East Region of Division II-AA.

Webb School of Knoxville is looking to bounce back from a disappointing season, while Knoxville Catholic is looking to make another trip to the State Tournament.

Both squads will have to answer some looming questions as the new campaign unfolds.

At Webb, head coach Jordan Wormsley, who begins his 14th season at the helm, said that he's looking forward to finding those answers. He's also anticipating some pleasant surprises from his club, which began its new season against Lakeway Christian on Monday, March 3, and dropped a 5-4 decision on the road against the Lions.

"We have a lot to figure out, but we're going to go out there and give it a go," Wormsley said. "I love coaching these guys."

"We have a lot to determine but we also have a lot of potential and we have the potential to surprise some people."

The Spartans went through their share of struggles last season as they went 8-17 and were eliminated in the regional tournament.

Top returners for Webb include: Asher Harness (senior, pitcher/first baseman/third baseman); Colten Collier (junior, outfielder/pitcher); Wilson Luton (junior, pitcher/second baseman/shortstop) and Hunter Rayson (a junior left-handed pitcher who threw a number of innings in relief last season).

The veterans will be joined by a talented crop of newcomers looking to

make a key early impact in the program including: Ethan Walls (pitcher/infielder); Grayson Gregory (junior, catcher/infielder/outfielder); Liam Justice (junior, catcher/infielder); Brady Morgan (a junior utility player who looks to be one of the Spartans' top left-handed hitters); Braden Rivers (a sophomore outfielder who transferred from Kingston); Beckett Rivers (freshman, outfielder); Hamilton Martin (a junior outfielder who looks to take an expanded role in the program after being with the team for some time); Parks Lederer (freshman, first baseman/outfielder/designated hitter); Blake Shelor (pitcher); Jackson White (senior, outfielder) and Emmett Melton (senior, first baseman).

"I really enjoy coaching these guys," Wormsley said. "They haven't played much high school varsity baseball together, but they've played together a lot in the summer and they have a high baseball IQ."

"They have a good work ethic."

Meanwhile at Catholic, Caleb Moore returns for another season with the Irish, who will also have questions to answer.

"We have a lot of question marks out there right now, and we're probably going to take some lumps, but we think that we have guys with a lot of potential and we think we'll get better as the year goes along," Moore said.

The Irish will have a young team this season and like every other team in the area they've been unable to get crucial pre-season practice time on the field. Weather just didn't cooperate at times.

"We've had to deal with (inclement) weather and that's a big area of concern for us," Moore said. "I'm not so worried about reps in

practice. I (was) more concerned about getting all of our scrimmages in that we're allowed to play."

"The scrimmages (were) the most important because it's good to play against other people and you get to see some different arms and different speeds. You also get the chance to work on in-game situations. There are some in-game situations that you just can't simulate in practice. You can also take some lumps in scrimmages and you can struggle and see the things that you need to work on."

Catholic has some returning players from last season's roster. But they may not be playing the same positions that they played in 2024.

"We'll have some players who will be asked to fill different roles this season than they did last season," Moore said. "We have some very talented young players."

Key returners for the Irish include: Cooper Williamson (a senior outfielder and left-handed pitcher); Alex Ditmore (senior, infielder); Hutson Oakes (senior, first baseman and left-handed pitcher); D.J. Lowry (sophomore, shortstop/center fielder), Nick Turner (senior, second baseman/shortstop) and Lex Lucier (a junior, who will play first base and pitch, having been a top arm out of the bullpen last season). Moore said that Lucier will have an expanded role in 2025.

Top newcomers at Catholic include freshman Connor York, a pitcher and infielder, and J.B. Moore, a sophomore utility player.

A key team strength for the Irish, according to Moore, is experience, despite having players at different spots on the diamond.

"Even though we'll have question marks early on, we'll have some guys who have been on the field for us," he said. "I think another strength for us is going to be our starting pitching."

"We have a lot of returners back who have experience. We have some clutch arms that gave us some big innings on the mound last year."

Catholic opened the 2025 campaign with an 8-3 victory over Farragut, the three-time defending Class 4A State Champion.

Fulton opens 2025 season on winning note

Cont. from page 1

Brock Burton (junior, pitcher/outfielder); Noah Lyons (junior, pitcher/outfielder); Joseph Garcia (junior, pitcher/shortstop) and Robert Ethington (junior, pitcher).

Varsity in experience will be a concern early.

"We have some guys who are going to have to prove themselves," McNish said. "And I think the things that we learn and the beginning of the year will help us later in the year."

MOLD TOX™

"Breathe Healthy"

BASEMENT OR CRAWLSPACE LEAKING??

Don't overpay the nationwide companies by the thousands when MOLD TOX, LLC can install a dry-up system for a fraction of the cost!

BBB Accredited Business with A+ Rating

TN Charter #4410

(865) 524-1227 (865) 453-1880

www.moldtox.com

New coaches enter state's top high school league

By Ken Lay

The 2025 high school baseball season promises to be ultra-competitive in District 4-4A. But that's nothing new for the league, which features three-time defending state champion Farragut.

Four new coaches are now in the district. Three of Knox County's four teams, the Admirals, Hardin Valley Academy and West High, all have new men in charge. Maryville also has a new coach as Jason Lambert takes the reins from the recently retired Adam Sullivan, who also coached at Catholic and will soon be inducted into the East Tennessee Baseball Association Hall of Fame this summer.

At Farragut, longtime assistant coach Garrett Copeland replaces hall-of-famer Matt Buckner, who retired following the 2024 season. The Hawks welcomed in Aaron Simmons, who comes to HVA after a tenure as Lenoir City High School's head coach. He is the Hawks' third head coach in as many seasons. At West, Rob Stacy faces a rebuilding campaign on Sutherland Avenue. But Stacy, the Rebels' third coach in four years, is no stranger to reformation projects, as he reversed the fortunes at Clinton High School at his last coaching stop and his first job as a head coach.

But the more things change, the more they stay the same. Expectations remain high



PHOTO BY JACK TATE

New Farragut baseball coach Garrett Copeland appeared at the recent ETCBA Media Day. Pictured with Copeland are Cole Draper (30) and Jackson Zeller (13).

in Farragut as the Admirals are off to a 1-1 start. They opened the new season by splitting a pair of home games. Farragut dropped an 8-3 decision to Catholic in its season opener last week. On Thursday, the Admirals outlasted Stacy's Rebels, 5-3, in Stacy's debut with the Rebels.

Farragut is also in the midst of a rebuild as it lost multiple seniors, many of whom are now playing NCAA Division I baseball.

Copeland knows that his district opponents will be eager to knock off his team.

"Nobody is going to feel sorry for us and I wouldn't feel sorry for us either," he said. "And at the end of the day, our expectations never change."

"We always expect to compete for championships. Our district is tough, probably the toughest in the state, and we've scheduled a tough non-district schedule to get us prepared for that and for the postseason."

Key players for the Admirals include: Cole Draper (senior, pitcher); Aidan Flagg (junior, right fielder); Jake Harris (junior,

catcher/first baseman); Cole Creasman (freshman, third baseman); Braxton Tye (sophomore, shortstop) and Jackson Zeller (senior, catcher).

Hardin Valley has also had success in recent seasons. The Hawks were Class 4A State runners-up in 2023 and had a winning record in 2024.

"We expect to compete for a championship," Simmons said. "You know that you're going to make mistakes but we have to strive to get better every day."

"These kids have come

in and worked their tails off. We're going to work hard and we're going to compete for championships. If you're not doing that, you don't need to be doing this."

Key players for the Hawks are: Colton Denton (a senior catcher and University of Tennessee signee); Jaxon Jones (a senior second baseman and Tennessee Tech signee); Isaac Worley (senior, outfielder); Cameron Dillon (junior, shortstop); Mason Shelton (sophomore, catcher/first baseman); Jax Sparks (junior, pitcher/first baseman/

has committed to pitch for Tennessee Tech); Andrew Lewis (senior, outfielder); Camden Huckaby (junior, pitcher) and Kenny Lane (junior, pitcher).

The Hawks defeated Boyd Buchanan, 10-0, early last week to open their 2025 campaign.

At West High, Stacy is looking to change the culture and his players have bought in.

"This is the district where you want to be if you want to play against the best players and coach against the best coaches," Stacy said. "I've coached against Geff (Davis) at Gibbs and I've coached against Josh (Boynton) at Anderson County, and those guys play the game the right way. These guys here all play the game the right way."

The Rebels will have a young team in 2025. Key players include: Mason Dugan (a junior second baseman and all-district performer last season); Xan Schidecker (senior, first baseman/third baseman); James Killeffer (senior, pitcher/outfielder); Morgan Ferrell (sophomore, catcher/first baseman); Isaac Hunter (senior, center fielder/pitcher); Griffin Smith (junior, pitcher); Dylan Stenstrom (junior, outfielder); Jack Moffett (sophomore, outfielder); Will Lenczynski (sophomore, shortstop) and James Huffman (sophomore, pitcher/third baseman/outfielder).

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

FORECLOSURE NOTICES

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

By virtue of the authority vested in the Trustee under that certain Deed of Trust ("Deed of Trust") dated September 17, 2012 of record in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Knox County, Tennessee as Instrument No. 201209250019622, Freddy E. Smith and wife, Barbara Smith conveyed to C. David Allen or Todd Bolinger, as Trustee, for First National Bank, predecessor in interest to United Community Bank, certain described property located in 6th Civil District of Knox County, Tennessee, to secure an indebtedness owing to United Community Bank, in the original principal sum of \$106,066.71 reference to said Deed of Trust being expressly made for further description of said property and indebtedness as modified in Instrument No. 201606170073845 and the undersigned having been appointed by instrument of record in Instrument No. 202502180042718 in said register's office and default having been made under the terms of said Note and Deed of Trust and all provisions of same having been complied with so as to authorize the Trustee to advertise and sell the property described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

Therefore on March 25, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. at the front door of the Knox County, Tennessee Courthouse, 400 Main St SW, Knoxville, TN 37902 the undersigned will sell the property described in said Deed of Trust, and hereinafter described, at public auction to the highest and best bidder, for cash, in bar of all equities of redemption, homestead, dower, and all other rights or exemptions of every kind, all of which were expressly divested in said Deed of Trust, said property described as follows, to-wit:

SITUATED in the Sixth (6th) Civil District of Knox County, Tennessee, and identified on Tax Map 0670B as Parcel 001 in the Property Assessor's Office for Knox County, Tennessee, and without the corporate limits of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, and being known and shown as Lot 1, Property of Ross D. Morris, as designated on the plat of the same of record in Plat Cabinet O, Slide 340-A, Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee, to which plat specific reference is hereby made for a more particular description and according to the survey of Kenneth D. Church, Surveyor, dated May 27, 1998, bearing Work Order No. 98-05-55, containing 1.0382 acres, more or less, BEING the same property conveyed to Barbara Smith also known as Barbara Elaine Smith by Quitclaim Deed of record as Instrument No. 201510090022827 in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee.

The above described property is conveyed together with and subject to a Boundary Line Agreement of record in Deed Book 1802, Page 10, corrected in Deed Book 2056, Page 898, in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee. 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

COURT NOTICES

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.

IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file an answer to an action of COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE filed by JANET S. HAMMERSMITH, Plaintiff herein,

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

IN RE: TWILLA ROBINSON-BOOKER vs. PEARL ROBINSON, VERONICA RENEE STINSON, ARTHUR DEWAYNE ROBINSON, ROGER LYNCH, CHARLES JONES, JAMES LEE STINNETT, KAZRYNE ROBINSON, and PHYLLIS BUIS

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, 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. IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file an answer to an action of COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE filed by JANET S. HAMMERSMITH, Plaintiff herein,

with the Fourth Circuit Court in Knoxville, Tennessee, and with ADAM PRIEST, Plaintiff's Attorney whose address is PO BOX 870, KNOXVILLE, TN 37901, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication, and if you do not 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 ANN M. BALLOU DOCKET NUMBER 90593-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of ESTATE OF ANN M. BALLOU, who died December 24, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or

(2) 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 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF ANN M. BALLOU

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) ANNE KATHRYN BALLOU FOWLER 1210 PEAKE LANE KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

LESLIE BALLOU CALANDRO 14030 NEW BEDFORD CT. CHESTERFIELD, MD 63017

P. NEWMAN BANKSTON, ATTORNEY P. O. BOX 2047 KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARTHA SCARBRO BOULTON, a.k.a. MARTHA ORELL BOULTON DOCKET NUMBER 90569-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARTHA SCARBRO BOULTON, a.k.a. MARTHA ORELL BOULTON, who died January 8, 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 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARTHA SCARBRO BOULTON, a.k.a. MARTHA ORELL BOULTON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) NIGEL PAUL BOULTON P. O. BOX 129 POWELL, TN 37849

REBECCA BELL JENKINS, ATTORNEY 9724 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 202 KNOXVILLE, TN 37822

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF TONY LYNN CROWE DOCKET NUMBER 90607-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 24 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of TONY LYNN CROWE, who died Jan. 11, 2025, 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 24 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF TONY LYNN CROWE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) BILL ROSE, EXECUTOR 7804 SAGEFIELD DRIVE KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

T. SCOTT JONES, ATTORNEY 2125 MIDDLEBROOK PIKE KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF GARRY LYNN DANIEL DOCKET NUMBER 90563-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters

of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of GARRY LYNN DANIEL, deceased, who died January 13, 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 in triplicate with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in paragraphs (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 this 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 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF GARRY LYNN DANIEL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) JOSHUA LYNN DANIEL 1514 WASHINGTON PIKE KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

PHILIP R. CRYE, JR., ATTORNEY 125 N. MAIN STREET CLINTON, TN 37716

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF SHIRLEY A. DAVIS a.k.a. SHIRLEY ANNE DAVIS DOCKET NUMBER 90527-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of SHIRLEY A. DAVIS, a.k.a. SHIRLEY ANNE DAVIS, who died December 8, 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 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF SHIRLEY A. DAVIS a.k.a. SHIRLEY ANNE DAVIS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) ARLEY L. HARRIS, JR. 103 W. AVENUE E VALLEY MILLS, TX 76689

REBECCA BELL JENKINS, ATTORNEY 9724 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 202 KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARY KATHERINE DUPES DOCKET NUMBER 90608-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 3 day of MARCH, 2025, Letters of Testamentary/ Administration in respect to the Estate of MARY KATHERINE DUPES, deceased, who died on December 9, 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 his/her Estate are required to file the same in triplicate with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claim will be forever barred:

- (1) 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 the first publication as described in (1)(A); or
 - (2) Twelve (12) months from the Decedent's date of death.
- This the 3 day of MARCH, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARY KATHERINE DUPES

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
GEOFFREY S. DUPES
204 WALLACE TRAIL
MAYNARDVILLE, TN 37807

SCOTT B. HAHN, ATTORNEY
5344 N. BROADWAY, SUITE 101
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOSEPH DANIEL ELDER DOCKET NUMBER 90369-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 5 day of MARCH, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of JOSEPH DANIEL ELDER, who died March 24, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or
 - (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or
 - (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
- This the 5 day of MARCH, 2025.

ESTATE OF JOSEPH DANIEL ELDER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
NANCY ADDERHOLDT ELDER
1717 WATERVIEW TRAIL
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

JULIE D. EISENHOWER, ATTORNEY
217 S. PETERS ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MILDRED FARMER DOCKET NUMBER 90596-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 14 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of MILDRED FARMER, who died May 7, 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) 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 MILDRED FARMER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JANICE C. EVERETT, ADMINISTRATRIX
7905 WIEBELO DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JULES MALCOLM FONTENOT DOCKET NUMBER 90517-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 18 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JULES MALCOLM FONTENOT, who died Dec. 24, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1) 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 JULES MALCOLM FONTENOT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ANNE CELESTE MAY, EXECUTRIX
2829 MAPLE HOLLOW LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

TERRILL L. ADKINS, ATTORNEY
1900 N. WINSTON ROAD, SUITE 600
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JAMES EDWARD KAYS DOCKET NUMBER 90566-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 3 day of MARCH, 2025, Letters of Testamentary (or Administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of JAMES EDWARD KAYS, who died on August 10, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and nonresident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (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 3 day of MARCH, 2025.

ESTATE OF JAMES EDWARD KAYS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
RICHARD L. PATTON
837 TANNER LN,
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

DOMINIC A. GARDUNO, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 2348
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LORENE FOUSE LONG DOCKET NUMBER 90560-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 14 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of LORENE FOUSE LONG, who died Jan. 6, 2025, 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) 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 14 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF LORENE FOUSE LONG

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JESSIE FOUSE, ADMINISTRATOR
825 WEST OUTER DRIVE
OAK RIDGE, TN 37830

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MOHAMED NAGY MAKRAM DOCKET NUMBER 90500-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 14 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of MOHAMED NAGY MAKRAM, who died Sept. 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) 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 14 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF MOHAMED NAGY MAKRAM

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
NORA BUCHNAG, ADMINISTRATRIX
404 CROSS CREEK, APT. B
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JIMMIE WYATT MCELROY, SR. DOCKET NUMBER 90540-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 3 day of MARCH, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of JIMMIE WYATT MCELROY, SR., who died on December 22, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1) 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 3 day of MARCH, 2025.

ESTATE OF JIMMIE WYATT MCELROY, SR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHAD EVERETTE JENKINS

CHARLES H. CHILD, ATTORNEY
116 AGNES ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOHN M. PARKER DOCKET NUMBER 90514-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 5 day of MARCH, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOHN M. PARKER, who died April 27, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and nonresident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or
 - (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or
 - (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
- This the 5 day of MARCH, 2025.

ESTATE OF JOHN M. PARKER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ANN B. PARKER, EXECUTOR
6601 LILLIAN DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

BRENDEN S. MORIARTY, ATTORNEY
1111 N. NORTHSHORE DRIVE, SUITE S-700
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ELEANOR H. PELOW DOCKET NUMBER 90521-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of ELEANOR H. PELOW, who died December 20, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or
 - (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or
 - (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
- This the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF ELEANOR H. PELOW

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KATELYN MCCALL
2935 NILES FERRY ROAD
VONORE, TN 37885

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CRAIG B. ROBERSON DOCKET NUMBER 90588-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of CRAIG B. ROBERSON, who died on December 11, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or
 - (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or
 - (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
- This the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF CRAIG B. ROBERSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MELISSA B. ROBERSON, EXECUTRIX
907 FOREST HEIGHTS RD.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

KEVIN A. DEAN, ATTORNEY
550 WEST MAIN STREET, SUITE 500
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF HERMAN ROBERT RODRIGUEZ DOCKET NUMBER 90542-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 28 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters of testamentary in respect of the Estate of HERMAN ROBERT RODRIGUEZ, who died on the 6th day of January, 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) 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 28 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF HERMAN ROBERT RODRIGUEZ

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JOHN R. FOUST, EXECUTOR

JOHN R. FOUST, ATTORNEY
4641 CHAMBLISS AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37929

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF STEVEN M. ROGERS DOCKET NUMBER 90506-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 24 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of STEVEN M. ROGERS, who died Nov. 5, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his 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) 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 24 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF STEVEN M. ROGERS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TERRY JOSEPH ROGERS, ADMINISTRATOR
7230 HARVEY HENRY ROAD
CORRYTON, TN 37721

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WILLIAM EDWARD SHEPHERD DOCKET NUMBER 90590-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 14 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of WILLIAM EDWARD SHEPHERD, who died Dec. 17, 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) 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 14 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM EDWARD SHEPHERD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CATHERINE SHEPHERD, ADMINISTRATRIX
1912 SAINT GREGORYS CT.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF KATHRYN GRIFFIN TIDWELL DOCKET NUMBER 90603-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 3 day of MARCH, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of KATHRYN GRIFFIN TIDWELL, who died January 12, 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) 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 3 day of MARCH, 2025.

ESTATE OF KATHRYN GRIFFIN TIDWELL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KAREN TIDWELL FORD
906 SHADETREE LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

CAROLYN LEVY GILLIAM, ATTORNEY
10805 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 200
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JAMES LOUIS VAN DEUSEN, SR. DOCKET NUMBER 90554-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters of testamentary in respect of the Estate of JAMES LOUIS VAN DEUSEN, SR., who died December 25, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Knox Chancery Court, Probate Division. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of 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 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF JAMES LOUIS VAN DEUSEN, SR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KATHLEEN M. KULPA
7005 WATERBURY POINT
NASHVILLE, TN 37221

REGAN CARUTHERS, ATTORNEY
110 COGDILL ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ELIAS G. VARGAS DOCKET NUMBER 90490-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 28 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of ELIAS G. VARGAS, who died on the 27th day of September, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of 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 28 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF ELIAS G. VARGAS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARIEL F. DE MOYA
737 BALDWIN STATION LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NEVA M. FOUST, ATTORNEY
4641 CHAMBLISS AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ROSE M. WALKER DOCKET NUMBER 90575-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 3 day of MARCH, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of ROSE M. WALKER, who died on January 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) 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)