‘THERE’S JOY IN OUR WORK’

Varner’s service reaches far beyond classroom

By David Laprad

The late American journalist Christopher Morley notably said, “There is only one success – to be able to spend your life in your own way.”

Dr. Edna Varner was only 15 when Morley died in 1957, but if they had crossed paths and Morley had surmised how she’d someday live her life, she might have inspired that quote.

Known locally as a skilled educator and a tireless volunteer, Varner, 72, has been able to live her life her way. As her peers married and raised families, she remained single and instead fostered thousands of children, first as a teacher, then as a principal and finally as an educator of teachers.

“I loved school and had always wanted to be a teacher,” she says. “In Jeremiah 33:3, God says, ‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’ That’s what I loved about school. I loved the wonder of it. I loved learning things.”

In 2001, Varner’s love of literacy led her to become the director of leadership development for Cornerstone National Literacy Initiative. For 12 years, she traveled across the U.S. developing other educators.

Although Varner could craft a grand and stately motive for pursuing the job, she instead laughs and takes a reductive approach.

“I grew up in Chattanooga. I went to UTC. I hadn’t been anywhere. So I said, ‘I need to run away from home for a while.’”

Those who know Varner will laugh, too, knowing she has a tendency to downplay her contributions to her community and the multitude of people she’s encountered.

Dr. Edna Varner is a lifelong educator and community volunteer and a senior adviser for leading and learning at the Public Education Foundation in Chattanooga, where she coaches new Project Inspire teachers.
Chattanooga Bar Association Executive Director Lynda Hood, far left, presents Legal Aid’s Pro Bono Firm of the Year award to Lawrence & Lawrence. Accepting for the firm are Tim Ballard, David Lawrence and Jennifer Lawrence.

Legal Aid Executive Director Debra House presents the firm’s Bruce C. Baily Volunteer Lawyer of the Year award to Jim Exum of Chambliss, Bahner & Stophel.

Drew Clark, vice president and general counsel for McKee Foods, accepts the Alexander Hamilton Award on behalf of the company from Mary Francis DeVoe, pro bono attorney for Legal Aid of East Tennessee.

Chancellor Jeff Atherton, left, receives Legal Aid’s Chief Justice William M. Barker Equal Access to Justice Award from Russell Fowler, director of litigation advocacy at Legal Aid.

Lynda Minks Hood
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lee Ann Adams
PRESIDENT

Hon. Rob Philyaw
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Steve Smith
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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Chattanooga Bar Association
News and notes from the Chattanooga Bar Association

After a pause, pro bono awards back on track

By David Laprad

When Legal Aid of East Tennessee named Debra House its interim director in the chaotic midst of the pandemic, House forecast good things for the firm and its clients.

“As we embark on a new year, I’m confident we’ll grow and prosper while providing outstanding service to our clients and community,” House said via news release in January 2021 after stepping into the shoes former Legal Aid Executive Director Sheri Fox left behind.

By October, the staff at Legal Aid was eager to honor the attorneys and other community volunteers who had helped the firm to realize House’s vision.

However, concerns about the coronavirus led Legal Aid to postpone its annual Pro Bono Night, during which it presents awards to its most zealous supporters.

The moment of celebration finally arrived March 30 — five months later than planned but infused with no less enthusiasm.

Long-delayed event finally celebrates those who give so much of their time

Chattanooga Bar Association
Established in 1897

Melody Shekari
YLD REPRESENTATIVE

Ex-Officio Member
Chancellor Jeffrey M. Atherton
JUDICIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Chattanooga Bar Association | The Pioneer Building | Suite 420 | 801 Broad Street | Chattanooga, TN 37402 | 423-756-3222 | Fax: 423-265-6602 | www.chattanoogabar.org
Each year, the Chattanooga Bar Association honors an outstanding local citizen with the Liberty Bell Award for public service.

The CBA is seeking nominations for the 2022 award, which it will present during its annual Law Day Luncheon Wednesday, May 4.

The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, April 20. Send nominations to: Chattanooga Bar Association The Pioneer Building, Ste. 420
801 Broad Street
Chattanooga 37402

The Liberty Bell Award recognizes community service that has strengthened the America system of freedom under law.

In selecting the recipient of this award, the CBA considers activities that promote a better understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, encourage respect for the law and the courts, stimulate a deeper sense of individual responsibility and foster a better understanding and appreciation of the rule of law.

Award judges will select a recipient from the nominations. Lawyers and judges are not eligible for the award.

Source: CBA

Tuesday, May 3, 2022
1:00 - 4:15 p.m.
Miller & Martin 12th Floor Conference Room

3 Hours CLE Credit

CBA Members $125 / Non-CBA Members $165 / Office Staff $45

All lawyers take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States. In addition, the preamble to the Code of Professional Conduct for lawyers provides that “a lawyer should further the public’s understanding of and confidence in the rule of law and the justice system because legal institutions in a constitutional democracy depend on popular participation and support to maintain their authority.”

The extreme partisan divides in our polity, however, have called into question the viability of the democratic form of government. They have also raised questions regarding how far lawyers may go in the zealous advocacy for their clients and the limits of the First Amendment in representing clients.

Because lawyers are on the front lines of defending the rule of law in a democracy, it’s important to look at the way lawyers must act in response to attacks on democracy.

Before becoming White House Counsellor in 1970 at age 31, John Dean was chief minority counsel to the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. He is a partner at the Ohio-based law firm of Thompson Hine. He is also the author of four nonfiction books, including “Ballots and Bullets, Black Power Politics and Urban Guerrilla Warfare in 1968 Cleveland” (2008) and “January 1973, Watergate, Roe v Wade, Vietnam and the Month that Changed America Forever” (2015). Robenalt lectures nationally with Dean on legal ethics and the legacy of Watergate. Together, they have spoken to tens of thousands of lawyers across the country in one of the most acclaimed continuing legal education programs. Robenalt writes regularly for The Washington Post and other publications on the presidency, Article II, impeachment, Watergate, abortion and the Progressive Era. He advocates for an Ohio Presidential Center.

Jim Robenalt is a partner at the Ohio-based law firm of Thompson Hine. He is the author of four nonfiction books, including “Ballots and Bullets, Black Power Politics and Urban Guerrilla Warfare in 1968 Cleveland” (2008) and “January 1973, Watergate, Roe v Wade, Vietnam and the Month that Changed America Forever” (2015). Robenalt lectures nationally with Dean on legal ethics and the legacy of Watergate. Together, they have spoken to tens of thousands of lawyers across the country in one of the most acclaimed continuing legal education programs. Robenalt writes regularly for The Washington Post and other publications on the presidency, Article II, impeachment, Watergate, abortion and the Progressive Era. He advocates for an Ohio Presidential Center.

Bar Association seeks 2022 Liberty Bell
Award nominations

Taking place within the glass walls of Chattanooga Whiskey Event Hall, emcees and presenters stepped into the blinding radiance of a setting sun to commend those who had placed a high value on access to civil justice in 2021.

Legal Aid staff attorney Mary Francis DeVoe gushed to the gathering of about 85 before announcing the recipient of the Alexander Hamilton Award.

"Serving this community and working with the local bar is an honor," DeVoe said. "The support Legal Aid receives from all of you is astounding. Your passion and respect for what we do makes a hard job an absolute joy."

Legal Aid presents the Alexander Hamilton Award to a community partner outside the legal profession that has helped to foster access to justice in Hamilton County.

The firm chose McKee Foods Corporation as the 2021 recipient. "Alexander Hamilton said the first duty of society is justice," DeVoe declared. "McKee Foods...has supported Legal Aid for well over 20 years and served as a pioneering example for many of our corporate sponsors. More importantly, the company recognizes the importance of access to justice for all Tennesseans."

"As a longtime supporter of Legal Aid of East Tennessee, McKee Foods is very appreciative of the award. We also thank Legal Aid for its work on behalf of East Tennesse families and communities," Drew Clark, vice president and general counsel of the company, wrote in an email to the Hamilton County Herald after the event.

Headquartered in Collegedale, McKee Foods is the family-owned maker of the Little Debbie snacks and Sunbelt Bakery granola and cereal.

After DeVoe paid tribute to a Legal Aid partner outside the legal field, Chattanooga Bar Association Executive Director Lynda Hood stepped up to present the Pro Bono Firm of the Year award.

She then announced Lawrence & Lawrence as the recipient for 2021. "Their pro bono efforts go beyond taking cases; they actually ask for them," Hood noted. "They always have one or more active cases throughout the year and are the biggest participant in Legal Aid’s annual pro bono Christmas tree project."

Jennifer Lawrence, David Lawrence and Tim Ballard accepted the award on behalf of the firm, which consists of four civil law attorneys with more than 100 years of combined legal experience.

House provided historical context as she returned to the podium to announce the recipient of the Bruce C. Baily Volunteer Lawyer of the Year, which goes to a private attorney who has gone "above and beyond" in their support of Legal Aid’s clients.

"In 1994, civil legal aid was facing a potential catastrophe nationwide as Congress attempted to defund Legal Services Corporation," she began. "Bruce stepped up with other leaders across the state and nation to advocate for legal services for low-income people. Although 25% of our federal funding was cut, we’re still here and stronger than ever."

"The 2021 recipient is attorney Jim Exum of Chambless, Bahner & Stophel." "Jim assisted more than 50 clients through monthly phone clinics and individual representation," House enthused. "He’s also one to always take a case, even if the case is outside his wheelhouse."

Russell Fowler, director of litigation advocacy at Legal Aid, strolled even further back in history while announcing the recipient of the Chief Justice William M. Barker Equal Access to Justice Award.

"Justice Barker was the first recipient of this award. We named it after him because of everything he’d done for access to justice statewide, including making access to justice the top priority of the Tennessee Supreme Court," Fowler explained.

"Chancellor Atherton has been a
EPB activates free electric vehicle charging stations downtown

EPB has activated free electric vehicle charging stations on the first floor of its downtown parking garage.

The new parking deck chargers are part of EPB’s effort to raise awareness about the benefits of EVs while also providing resources to make the charge easier for people in the Chattanooga area. EPB is offering 13 charging spaces with clear signage on the first floor of its parking garage, which has an entrance at the back of its 10th Street building. While the public pays to park in the garage, the charging stations are free. Parking starts at $1 and has a daily maximum of $8.

EPB has also launched three new company policies designed to support local companies in deploying additional EV charging options: a Commercial EV Rate, a New Construction EV Growth Credit and an Incentive for Public EV Chargers for Commercial Customers.

In addition, EPB is partnering with TVA, the State of Tennessee and others to add electric charging stations every 50 miles on major highways across Tennessee.

Source: EPB
inspired her to serve as it establishes a legacy about all of us,’” she says. A “sea of hands” rose in response. Volunteer capacity to lift their hands. She those who had served with her in any event held in her honor at The Westin. received in February during a sold-out Distinguished Service Award, which she and The Kiwanis Club of Chattanooga’s Award from Girls Inc. of Chattanooga the Delta Woman of the Year Service American Lung Association christened her a her family to attend college. In 2006, the of its annual Dinner of Firsts with a toast starters, while UTC honored her during one of Fame named her a Living Legend, for contributions. The African American Hall of Fame named her a Living Legend, for starten, while UTC honored her during one of its annual Dinner of Firsts with a toast (and a roast) for being the first member of her family to attend college. In 2006, the American Lung Association christened her a Chattanooga Woman of Distinction. A short list of Varner’s accolades includes the Delta Woman of the Year Service Award, The Unshocked & Unhoused Award from Girls Inc. of Chattanooga and The Kiwanis Club of Chattanooga’s Distinguished Service Award, which she received in February during a sold-out event held in her honor at The Westin. While accepting the award, Varner asked those who had served with her in any volunteer capacity to lift their hands. She says a “sea of hands” rose in response. “I said, ‘So, this is not about me, it’s about all of us,’” she says. Varner is fond of naming those who inspired her to serve as it establishes a legacy of influence and redirects credit to others. “My youngest sibling was a special education teacher at Siskin Children’s Institute. She loved the work she did,” Varner recalls. “After she died of cancer at the age of 47, I began volunteering for Siskin. I felt as though I’m doing it for her.” Varner also says her years living in public housing as a child motivated her to serve on the board of the Chattanooga Housing Authority. “We lived in public housing so my father could save enough money to buy our first home. So I serve on their board because I can offer the perspective of someone who’s actually experienced public housing.” Having mentioned her father, Varner smiles and says she wouldn’t be able to measure the extent to which her parents nurtured a heart for service in her and her brothers and sisters. Varner says her mother, Peggie Bullard, volunteered with various charitable organizations and received many awards for her work, while her father, Rev. Andrew Bullard was a Baptist preacher who made himself available to his parishioners around the clock. “My siblings and I grew up with parents who were engaged in service. We thought that’s what people did.” Varner now keeps her eyes and ears open for opportunities to continue the legacy of influence her parents began. Her time at the podium during the Kiwanis event was one such occasion. While she had the attention of the gathering, she encouraged them to say yes to service at a time when society at large is discouraging people to say no simply as a way of demonstrating control over their life. “You can say no to some things, but don’t say no to the things you care about or that bring you joy,” she advises. Varner also encouraged her listeners to do things that scare them as a way of boosting their confidence. “When [former Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga President] Pete Cooper asked me to be board chair, I was scared to say yes because I had never chaired anything. I feared failure. But he said everyone who’s been a board chair had at one time never been a board chair. “So, I did it, and I realized I wouldn’t be alone when I took on something like that. The next time someone asked me to chair a board, I felt confident enough to say yes. I’d become fearless.” Varner says people often express hesitation when she suggests they volunteer their time to an organization because they have so little of it to give. She usually insists the person merely has to schedule his or her time well and refers to the scheduling miracles she pulled off during her four-year stint as principal of The Howard School in Chattanooga. “Each summer, I had to figure out what my teachers needed and then schedule it. It was like a giant puzzle. It would take me all summer but I was good at it. I figured I could apply the same skill to my life so I could serve on boards.” Varner also urges people to find the element of service in their job or profession – no matter how menial it might seem. “I pulled up to the drive-thru at a fast-food restaurant one time and the young man who took my order said, ‘How can I make your day?’ That cheered me up. He found a way to serve others at his job.” Varner says her mother demonstrated this principle in her work, first as a crossing guard and later as chief of school patrol. As an educator, Varner spent 30 years serving her community in various Hamilton County schools. From her first day of teaching English at Lookout Junior High in 1971 to the day she resigned as the head of Howard High to accept the position with Cornerstone, her job involved elevating and enhancing the lives of her students and teachers. Varner left Cornerstone in 2013 (a difficult year in which her father, mother and one brother died) and later returned to her chosen profession when she became a senior advisor for leading and learning at the Public Education Foundation in Chattanooga. Varner had represented PEF in 2007 and 2009 before the U.S. Senate Education Committee made a recommendation to the House Education and Workforce Committee that it consider the Child Left Behind Act and improving transitions from high school to college. So she offered to volunteer with the organization until PEF President Dr. Dan Challener found her a job. Challener already had the work Varner is now doing in mind for her. In her current role, Varner coaches new Project Inspire teachers, encouraging them to become leaders who change the ecosystems of their schools. “I love it. Some of the participants are former students of mine, so I have no trouble sitting down and talking with them.” While Varner is technically retired, she works part-time for PEF because she wants to continue to serve the profession to which she devoted her life. “Teaching is hard and you’ll be miserable if all you do is prepare kids for a test. The work we do at PEF is helping teachers to be fulfilled. That’s a service; we get paid, but there’s joy in our work. “Everybody has things they do well. And I figure if I do something well, then I’m meant to do it for others.”
NOTICE OF SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE’S SALE
WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, conditions and terms of a Deed of Trust dated May 18, 2004, and the Deed of Trust of even date so secured, recorded as Document No. 200405060025, in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Hamilton County, Tennessee, executed by Betty S. Pittard, conveying certain property therein described to Edward P. St Smarty, Jr., and his successors in interest, as Trustee, will on April 25, 2022 at 12:00 PM at the Hamilton County Courthouse, Chattanooga, Tennessee, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash, free from the equity of redemption, homestead, dower, and all other exemptions which are expressly waived, any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements, or setback lines that may be applicable; any statutory rights of redemption of any governmental agency, state or federal; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any and all that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. In addition, the following parties may claim an interest in the above referenced property:

1. Betty S. Pittard
2. Melissa Pittard

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST AS TRUSTEE FOR PMMS TRUST III, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS

The sale held pursuant to this Notice may be rescheduled at the Successor Trustee’s option at any time. The time is reserved to adjourn the sale from time to time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above. In the event of inclement weather, the trustee hereby announces that the sale will be postponed for a period of two weeks. In such situations, notices will be mailed to interested parties of record.

WBA No. 351739
DATED April 1, 2022
WILSON & ASSOCIATES, P.L.L.C., Successor Trustee

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE’S NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
Default having been made in the terms, conditions and stipulations of a Deed of Trust dated January 26, 2011, executed by JAMES E. LITTLE AKA JAMES EDWARD LITTLE and MARY A. LITTLE, AKA MARY J. HUSBAND AND WIFE, in favor of THE HERALD in the amount of record in Book 948, Page 355, for the benefit of REGIONS BANK, in the Register’s Office for Hamilton County, Tennessee, to warrant the title.

The trustee hereby announces that the sale will be postponed for a period of two weeks. In such situations, notices will be mailed to interested parties of record.

WBA No. 351670
DATED April 4, 2022
WILSON & ASSOCIATES, P.L.L.C., Successor Trustee

CHAFFEE, HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Business Center, saying in a Signal Mountain’s new M.M. Hedges Manufactur-

rading as an agent representing the firm. Mr. Holbrook has been practicing as a general counsel of the firm. Mr. Holbrook has been practicing as a general counsel of the firm.

At the conclusion of the sale, or credit bid from the highest bidder for cash, free from the equity of redemption, homestead, dower, and all other exemptions which are expressly waived, the sale will be subject to any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements, or setback lines that may be applicable; any statutory rights of redemption of any governmental agency, state or federal; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any and all that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. In addition, the following parties may claim an interest in the above referenced property:

1. Betty S. Pittard
2. Melissa Pittard

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST AS TRUSTEE FOR PMMS TRUST III, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS

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Foreclosure's Trustee's Sales Scheduled in the Next 6 Weeks

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<th>Property Address</th>
<th>Publication Dates</th>
<th>Borrower</th>
<th>Attorney</th>
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<td>Wilson &amp; Associates, PLLC</td>
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<td>Northwest Georgia Bank</td>
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**Notice of Trustee’s Sale**

WHEREAS, there has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms, and conditions of a Deed of Trust dated October 31, 2016, Document No. 2016103100355, in Book No. GJ 8846, Page 605, by lenders and the undersigned, Wilson & Associates, PLLC, having been appointed Successor Trustee by Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the above-mentioned premises have been sold at public auction, for credit bid from a bank or other lending entity pre-approved by the successor trustee. The sale will be free from all executions, which are expressly waived in the Deed of Trust, said property being real estate situated in Hamilton County, Tennessee, and being more particularly described as follows:

In the Second Civil District of Hamilton County, Tennessee:

Lot One Hundred Seventeen (117), Holly Hills Subdivision, Fourth Addition, as shown by plat of record in Plat Book 26, Page 1, in the Register’s Office of Hamilton County, Tennessee.
As a business owner, you’re always busy. So it’s understandable if you’ve put off thinking about events that won’t occur until far in the future – such as your retirement, the sale or transfer of your business and the settling of your estate. Nonetheless, it’s a good idea to start planning now, while also recognizing the special challenges that women business owners face in these areas.

Essentially, you’ll have four key issues to consider:

- Building assets: While you’re working, you’ll want to build as many financial assets as possible. This is especially important in case your career is interrupted by the need to provide care for children or parents. And there’s also the matter of longevity: On average, a 65-year-old woman can anticipate living about 20 more years – almost three years longer than a 65-year-old man, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports.

- Furthermore, the average age of widowhood is just 59, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Given these concerns, you’ll want to contribute as much as you can to a retirement account, such as an “owner-only” 401(k), a SEP-IRA or a SIMPLE IRA. A financial professional can help you choose an appropriate plan.

- Planning an exit strategy: How you transition from your business can affect your estate plans, in terms of the assets you leave behind and which family members are connected to your exit strategy.

To illustrate: You could choose to pass your business to an adult child or other close relative, but if you have no family members willing to take on this responsibility, you could transfer ownership through a trust and oversee the eventual transfer of these assets. You’ll want to work with a legal professional to create estate-planning arrangements such as a will and a living trust, relevant business-planning documents, powers of attorney and health care directives. If your situation is complex enough, you also may need to bring in a trust company to manage the assets placed in a trust and oversee the eventual transfer of these assets to beneficiaries.

A lot goes into preparing for retirement, developing estate plans and keeping them current. So, start early and get the help you need from experienced professionals. The more thorough your planning, the more control you’ll have over your future.

News of the Week April 15

The Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce has endorsed the proposed naming of a charter study commission to recommend a reorganization of Chattanooga city government. Mayor Robert Kirk Walker had already proposed such a study earlier through an act of the legislature or by city ordinance.

The Chattanooga Board of Education has expelled two Chattanooga High School students who were among a group attacking other students near the campus after school March 23.

Dr. Smith Jr., an attorney and a former Red Bank city judge, has been appointed city judge again for a two-year term succeeding Judge Ralph Vineyard whose term expires April 15. Present city judge, Gus Hatfield, submitted his resignation last week. He has served the post since 1955 when the town became a municipality.

James B. Irvine Jr., was elected president of the Metropolitan YMCA’s board of director at the annual meeting. Tom Lupton was named first vice president; James B. Robinson, second vice president; T. Carter Frierson, secretary and W. Max Finley, treasurer.

The Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga made grants of $138,120 to various agencies or organizations during 1971. John Guerry, president, was reelected at the recent meeting along with Sam I. Yarnell, treasurer and J. Guy Beatty, secretary. New officers elected were Robert S. Kilebrew, first vice president; Harry R. White, second vice president, and E.Y. Chapin III, a director.

The Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department began Monday charging $2 for each chest X-ray taken by the department except those of known tuberculosis patients and known contacts of such patients. The withdrawal of federal funds for the tuberculosis control program here made the fee necessary. Dr. M. M. Young, health Department director, said.

Dr. Nat H. Swann, a specialist in internal medicine at Newell Hospital, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, England. He is a member of several national medical organizations and has published articles in medical journals.

Mrs. Mona W. Manning, former organist at Sts. Peter and Paul’s Catholic Church, died April 9, in a Chattanooga hospital. She was a resident of Chattanooga for 59 years. She served 57 years as organist at Sts. Peter and Paul’s before retiring several years ago. She was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church and was a member of the Ladies of Charity and Ava Maria Circle. She was also a member of the Women’s Auxiliary of Memorial Hospital.

Mayor Robert Kirk Walker has declared the city’s anti-litter laws will be better enforced after “Sparkle Day” April 15. The special day has been set aside for the city’s residents to take an active part in cleaning up the city and inspire everyone to keep up the good work of making the city clean and attractive. The city public works department groups, Scouts, and other civic organizations in the “Sparkle Day” will clean up by providing trucks and other trash removal equipment.

Southern Missionary College held open house this week, Monday through Thursday, for the new $250,000 home economics center at the Collegegade campus. The new center will allow every detail with scientifically designed laboratories, classrooms and modern homemaking equipment.

Mrs. Harrier Carson Weese, 7421 Twin Brook Drive, widow of Thomas J. Weese, and secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Wheelbarrow Co., died Tuesday in a local hospital. She was a member of First Baptist Church.

From page 5

The Chattanooga-born Varner halls from about Smith. In addition to her seven siblings (five of whom are still alive), she counts her mother, three successive fathers and a slew of nephews and nieces among her relatives.

As the first member of her family to attend college, Varner earned her undergraduate and master’s degrees at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and her doctorate degree at Carson-Newman University.

Varner’s only disappointment regarding her education is her never earning a degree at an historically Black college or university. (She cut short her bid to earn a doctorate at Tennessee State University to take the position at Howard.)

Varner has lived a life without many of the things most people pursue. When her friends and siblings married, purchased homes and had children, she chose to stay staunchly single.

She’s been in love, she says, but she cared more about her work and didn’t want anyone to stand in the way of her doing it.

As a result of being able to live her life her way, Varner has enjoyed a rich existence filled with unforgettable moments.

Many of these stemmed from her travels around the world, which she did not do for work or service but for her own enrichment.

“When I took geography, I learned about all the countries of the world. And I thought, ‘When I grow up, I’m going to do that. And I did. I stayed behind the Iron Curtain before the wall came down. I visited Italy, England, France, Norway and other places. I’ve been to places in Africa, Asia and Australia. I’ve been to Cambodia and China.”

Even though Varner enjoys leafing through the many memories her travels abroad afforded her, she says serving others – professionally and as a volunteer – has been her greatest adventure.

“Even the life I was meant to have.”
Walking along the beach, it can be all too easy for the multitude of plastic straws, eating utensils, flip flops, discarded toys and other plastic waste to all but disappear into the background.

But a 6-foot seahorse sculpture made of this litter? That's harder to ignore.

Through Oct. 30, more than one dozen artistic installations of jellyfish, seahorses, otters, sharks and other aquatic animals made out of recovered plastic debris will be exhibited throughout the campus of the Tennessee Aquarium and IMAX 3D Theater.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation’s Nobody Trashes Tennessee litter prevention campaign is presenting the exhibit, which features works by artists with Oregon-based nonprofit Washed Ashore.

The group hopes to raise awareness of the threat water-borne plastic pollution poses to aquatic life.

“We want to reduce our impact on the planet by eliminating single-use plastics, recycling and repurposing other plastic items and properly disposing of anything else,” says Brad Parks, Washed Ashore’s conservation education director.

Every year, mankind produces about 300 million pounds of plastic, less than 10% of which is recycled, according to a news release from the Tennessee Aquarium. Much of that material languishes in landfills or is blown or washed into waterways, where it makes its way to an ocean.

“According to the TDOT, there are more than 100 million pieces of litter on Tennessee’s roadways at any given time, which poses a threat to both land and aquatic animals.

“The connections between roadside litter, water quality and aquatic systems cannot be overstated,” says Denise Baker, TDOT’s transportation program supervisor. “Since viable litter studies began in Tennessee, TDOT and its community partners have been effective at decreasing the amount of roadside litter, but there’s still a lot of work to be done.

“By continuing our work with the Tennessee Aquarium and other organizations, we can get more people of all ages excited about cleaning up the litter that already exists and preventing more litter from piling up across the state.”

TDOT initiated the Nobody Trashes Tennessee campaign and is partnering with organizations like the Tennessee Aquarium to encourage people to join in an anti-littering push.

This repurposed plastic sculpture of a brook trout is on display at the Tennessee Aquarium as part of an exhibit of works made from public waste, way to an ocean.

The Washed Ashore sculptures Aquarium guests can see during their visit or while exploring the plaza and city park surrounding the Aquarium include:

- Seemore the Sea Lion Pup (plaza)
- Sylvia the Silvertip Shark (plaza)
- Lemon Zest Jelly (Ocean Journey)
- Giacometti the River Otter (River Journey)
- Flip Flop Fish (River Journey)
- Fish Bite Fish (IMAX)
- Stella the Seahorse (Ocean Journey)
- Jelly Bloom (Ocean Journey)
- Sea of Debris Collage (Ocean Journey)
- Plastic Tribe (River Journey, IMAX)
- Pinky Wallfish (Ocean Journey)
- Noah Wallfish (Ocean Journey)
- Shoefish Wallfish (Ocean Journey)
- Annie the Anemone (Ocean Journey)

In addition to the works Washed Ashore created, guests exploring the Discovery Hall gallery on the third floor of the River Journey building will encounter a sculpture of a Southern Appalachian Brook Trout. Aquarium employees made this large work out of plastic items collected internally last summer and fall.

Access to view Washed Ashore artwork installed in the Aquarium is included with admission. Works installed outside the Aquarium may be enjoyed for free.

Learn more at washedashore.org and NobodyTrashesTennessee.com

Source: Tennessee Aquarium
Quick fixes for better life

Small home fixes can have a huge impact on safety

Home hazards — fires, flooding, injuries and death, for example — can have costly consequences. But preventing accidents or disasters or minimizing the damage when they happen isn’t as expensive as you might think. Small fixes that typically cost $200 or less can have a big impact on home safety. For example:

• Reduce your fire risks by adding mesh over vents to deflect embers and clearing vegetation close to your house.
• Lessee falls by securing objects.
• Decrease water damage by installing sensors.
• And avoid getting food poisoning from eating spoiled foods by placing thermometers in your refrigerator and freezer to detect the correct temperature.

The following fixes typically cost $200 or less:

Reduce fire risks

Fires cause thousands of deaths and billions of dollars of property damage in the U.S. each year, reports the National Fire Protection Association, a nonprofit dedicated to eliminating fire-related loss. Climate change also has increased the risk of wildfires in many places. Especially in wildfire-prone areas, you can reduce the chances of a stray ember igniting your home by installing screen mesh over vents and other openings, says Amy Bach, executive director of insurance consumer advocacy group United Policyholders.

Clear gutters and the area under decks of dead leaves and other combustible material and create a “defensible space” by moving landscaping and other flammable objects at least 5 feet away from your foundation. If you have a fence that attaches to your home, the last 5 feet should be metal rather than wood, Bach recommends.

“Should you not have wood fencing attached to your house at any point because it can act like a Wick,” Bach says.

A roll of 1/8-inch galvanized mesh costs about $30 at home improvement stores, while metal fencing panels cost around $100 to $200 each.

Inside your home, install and regularly test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Prices vary based on features, but a three-pack of combination alarms often costs $50 to $100.

You should have a fire extinguisher in the kitchen (expect to spend around $50), but don’t store it under the sink where it could be damaged by water leaks, says Ashita Kapoor, associate director of product safety for Consumer Reports, a nonprofit product-testing organization. Instead, place the extinguisher near the stove but not so close that you couldn’t reach it in the event of a fire there.

Also, clean your dryer filter and vents; lint buildup can cause fires. Vent cleaning kits cost around $30.

Watch for fall threats

Falls are a leading cause of injuries treated in emergency rooms, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality reports. To reduce your odds of falling, put nonslip mats in showers and tubs. Elsewhere, secure or eliminate loose rugs and other tripping hazards.

Practice good safety habits such as wiping up spills immediately, closing the dishwasher door (it’s a tripping hazard) and using a sturdy step stool rather than a chair to reach anything that’s stored high. Also dangerous: Snuff that falls on us. “Tip-over incidents — in which heavy furniture, TVs or appliances fall on people — resulted in an estimated annual average of 22,500 injuries treated in emergency rooms from 2018 to 2020, the Consumer Product Safety Commission reports. From 2000 to 2020, 581 people were reported killed, 81% of younger than 18.

Anchors to prevent tip-overs typically cost just a few dollars and connect the heavy piece to a stud in the wall with a strap or tether. If you’re renting and not supposed to put holes in the wall, talk to your property manager about your safety concerns, especially if you have young children.

Other home hazards

Kapoor also recommends thermometers for your refrigerator and freezer. Food that isn’t kept at the proper temperature — 37 degrees Fahrenheit for the fridge, 9 degrees for the freezer — can spoil faster and cause food poisoning. Thermometers don’t need to be expensive. A two-pack can cost less than $6.

Consider placing water sensors, around $50 each, near washing machines, water heaters and other sites of potential leaks. Some sensors can detect falling temperatures and alert you to freezing pipes. The savings could be significant: Insurance claims from water damage and freezing average about $11,000, the Insurance Information Institute reports.

Finally, make it a habit to address small problems before they become big ones. For example, a glass shower door that no longer slams properly or that’s been nicked or scratched can suddenly shatter and injure someone, Kapoor notes. In fact, a Consumer Reports analysis of SafefireProducts.gov, the Consumer Product Safety Commission’s public database, found hundreds of injuries linked to shower and tub doors. Many stated the doors “exploded” with no warning.

Replacing a glass door typically costs around $200, Kapoor says.

“Be a little bit more proactive rather than reactive,” Kapoor says. “We shouldn’t wait until something blows up on us.”

Liz Weston is a columnist at NerdWallet, a certified financial planner and the author of “Your Credit Score.” Email: liw2001@msn.com. Twitter: @lizweston.

Common panderung

‘Marriage light’ bill another waste of lawmaker time

Among the appropriate responses to legislative snake oil: When a lawmaker begins the presentation of a bill by assuring colleagues that it doesn’t change current law on the very topic it addresses, cock an eyebrow.

When that lawmaker then goes on to describe what the bill would do — and it sounds fundamentally unconstitutional — roll your eyes.

And if, after that, someone invokes the Bible and the teachings of our Lord Jesus as proof that the bill is needed, shake your head deeply and sigh.

All those cues were present recently when a Senate committee took up the innocent-sounding Marital Contract at Common Law Recording Act, which is anything but innocent.

Basically, it sets up a procedure whereby a couple can file a document with a county clerk declaring themselves married, “at common law.” Provided, that is, the couple consists of “one (1) man and one (1) woman.”

You will recall that in 2015 the Supreme Court ruled, in Obergefell v. Hodges, that marriage can’t be limited to a man and a woman. In response, the General Assembly in 2016 passed a resolution expressing disagreement with “the judicial imposition of a marriage license law that is contrary to the express will of this body and the vote of the people of Tennessee.”

That impotent chest-churning accomplished nothing. Hence the current effort to pass a bill that would create a marriage path that expressly forbids same-sex couples.

Sen. Janice Bowling, the sponsor making the presentation, said her bill “declares that a marriage between a man and a woman is not a creation of the state government or its statutes, it is a common law right.”

In further support, Rep. Paul Becker, a Lutheran pastor from Kingsport, told lawmakers that it grieves him to sign a state-issued marriage license these days.

“I cannot teach and preach a biblical view of marriage as a lifelong union of one man and one woman, which our Tennessee Constitution also recognizes, and then endorse with my signature a policy or law that redefines love contrary to the laws of nature and nature’s god,” he said.

He supports the legislation, Becker went on, because it endorses a view of marriage held “by all nations, people and languages since the beginning of creation, as our Lord Jesus teaches in Matthew, Chapter 19.

Have you ever noticed how Jesus sometimes gets invoked in ways that would probably make him squirm if he were present?
Fair housing is a yearlong commitment

Every April, Realtors across the country commemorate Fair Housing Month to signify our recommitment to expanding equal access to housing. Fair Housing Month celebrates the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 with events and education that shines a light on housing discrimination and segregation.

When studying the history of housing in this country, it’s easy to think discrimination in the real estate industry is an unsightly blemish buried in our distant past. Unfortunately, this kind of discrimination is still possible today.

Residential segregation in America doesn’t happen by accident. Americans of different races live apart because of deliberate actions by public and private actors. There can even be ties to governing bodies perpetrating programs and incentives to keep different races and classes of people apart.

But as community leaders, Realtors have the opportunity to be a part of the transformative solution, providing equal service to all.

The National Association of Realtors’ Fair Housing Action Plan emphasizes accountability, culture change and training to ensure America’s 1.5 million Realtors are doing everything possible to protect housing rights in America.

To help in this effort, NAR launched Fairhaven, a simulation in which agents work against the clock to sell homes in the fictional town of Fairhaven while confronting discrimination in the homebuying process.

City to allow accessory dwelling units to help curb housing costs

Average cost of home in area up $131K since 2015

Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly is working to increase housing options and affordability for Chattanooga residents through a proposal that will permit accessory dwelling units on single-family lots under certain conditions.

ADUs, also known as in-law suites, carriage houses or granny flats, are often found above garages, in a detached structure or either above or below the principal dwelling.

And at a time when Chattanooga is suffering from a deficit of more than 5,000 units as housing costs skyrocket, allowing ADUs by right on single-family lots couldn’t come at a better time, Kelly says.

“Chattanooga is on the brink of becoming a city in which our children cannot afford to live. That’s unacceptable,” Kelly says. “This ordinance will allow our seniors to age in place, support multi-generational households and create energy-efficient housing while also maintaining the character of our neighborhoods.”

The ADU ordinance is the latest piece of Kelly’s One Chattanooga strategy to expand access to homes Chattanoogans can afford.

The average cost of a home has climbed to $290,000 today, up from $159,000 in 2015, while median household income during the same period rose only slightly to $47,165 from $40,177 in 2015.

The 80% increase in housing costs has left 43% of renters defined as “housing burdened,” or spending more than 30% of their income on housing. And 22% of renters are “housing insecure,” which is defined as spending more than half of their income on housing costs.

Greater Chattanooga Realtors President Derek English says he believes ADUs will be a “positive” for the local market.

Greater Chattanooga Realtors 2022 Board of Directors

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The Voice for Real Estate in Greater Chattanooga | www.gcar.net
Burnout at work is real, and it’s happening more now than ever, perhaps due to the high stress and change we have faced over the last two years. I heard from a reader this week who is experiencing burnout in the workplace, as you might be, too. The most important part of the burnout experience is how you manage it.

For many people, the urge is to quit their current job. The thought of one more painful day at the office is the last thing you want to think about.

Quitting sounds gratifying. You can take time off to relax before walking in to a better, higher-paying job. The job market is hot now, right? This sounds easy.

But, if you’re like most people, your job helps to pay your bills. You might be OK without income for a period of time, but eventually you’ll need that steady paycheck again.

Those who quit working might think it will be relaxing. For most people, however, it’s just the opposite. You’re often on edge until you have a new job, wondering when the job search will be over. This experience is compounded by loved ones who will ask how the search is going.

The most relaxing time off is between jobs. When you find a new job, set your start date far enough out that you might have time in between. This will be the most relaxing time you’ll have. You’ll be free from work and free from worry.

Most people don’t quit jobs before they’ve found another. Quitting is difficult to explain to your future hiring manager. They might well assume that you were fired from your last job or, best case scenario, you’re a poor decision-maker.

In addition, you feel more pressure to accept a job offer when you have no job and are interviewing. For example, if it has been three months since you left your last job, you might feel panicked. You’re running out of money and wonder how another three months with no job might look. This can push you to take the next job offer, even if it pays less or seems to be a bad work situation.

Worst case: You feel pressured to take something and might end up in a worse situation than your previous job.

Take control of how you want to handle your burnout. It’s time to find a new job! If you feel that you are too busy or too stressed to look for another job, consider your options. If you have vacation saved, this can be a great time to use it.

Take time off to apply for jobs and recharge. Focus on your search so you can create a positive path out as quickly as possible.

Angela Copeland, a leadership and career expert, can be reached at copelandcoaching.com.
Choosing the right floor plan for your new home

Building your dream home can be an exciting prospect. A key step in the process is selecting a floor plan that fits your needs.

Selecting a floor plan will also give you a sense of the flow of the home from room to room. A builder can recommend floor plans with flexibility and functionality that maximizes the space available on the lot.

If you’re not sure which floor plan to select for your new home, consider the following steps.

**List your must-haves**

Making a list of must-have features will help you stay focused. The best place to start is by thinking about the features you’re missing in your current home and what would be ideal in your new home.

Would you prefer a bigger bedroom or kitchen? A larger master bath? Your builder can make recommendations based on the structural and design elements you prefer.

**Assess daily needs, lifestyle**

Beyond bedrooms and bathrooms, think about the other spaces you’d like to have in your new home.

For example, a home office, media room or laundry room might fit your lifestyle needs.

There are also spaces and features you might not be considering but would actually use such as a mushroom, storage closet or large kitchen island.

You also want to think about your preferences with the level of noise and privacy, as your home layout will impact both.

**Consider your future needs**

It’s important to also consider how your lifestyle and needs can change. For example, you might someday need space for children, pets or aging parents.

If you want to have different ages of individuals living comfortably under one roof, it might be a good option to select a floor plan that accommodates multigenerational living.

**ADUs**

From page 11

Derek English, a real estate agent with Scout Realtor Group in Chattanooga, says he believes ADUs will be a “positive” for the local market.

“ADUs can certainly increase the overall value of a property. And I believe many homeowners will consider adding the extra living space given current market conditions and rising property values.”

“The city of Chattanooga considered a similar proposal a few years ago, and I believe it’s spent the necessary time reviewing the proposed conditions and has a solid plan that will allow property owners to take advantage of increasing their living space and adding what most would consider a beneficial amenity.”

English says his only reservation with regard to ADUs is the definition of affordable.

“With rising property values and material costs at historical highs, I believe we should temper the term ‘affordable.’ I think we must look at the end result of the price point that’s been defined as ‘affordable.’”

“The process of securing the land and then building an affordable home is already a difficult task, and the added cost of an ADU would compound this challenge.”

“Strict budgets and fixed costs would need to be in place to meet the increasing challenges facing builders and developers. Both will be difficult considering the current economy and increasing inflation.”

Last month, Kelly launched a $100 million affordable housing initiative seeded by $33 million in city money that will leverage public and private funds to create thousands of units ranging from supportive housing up to missing-middle homes.

The city is working on the initiative in conjunction with the philanthropic, nonprofit and private sectors, creating a capital stack that offers a return on investment for those who help create homes that residents can afford.

The Kelly administration has also rolled out a number of initiatives to bolster low-income housing providers directly, including offering $100,000 in backing for security deposits, as well as undertaking comprehensive zoning reform to unblock the pipeline of new home construction.

Under the proposed ordinance, ADUs must be permanent structures limited to 700 square feet in size, and only one ADU will be permitted per single-family dwelling. ADUs must be located in the rear or side yard and will not be permitted in front yards. They will also be height-limited to two stories and cannot exceed the height of the principal home.

Existing parking must be maintained or replaced if parking is lost in the course of creating the ADU, and ADUs are required to adhere to the architectural design of the principal home, including the facade, building materials, roof and windows.

The ordinance does not supersede homeowner association rules or historic district guidelines as they relate to ADUs.

**GCR President**

From page 11

During the training, learners also walk in the shoes of a homeowner facing discrimination. The training provides customized feedback learners can apply to daily business interactions.

What do these fair housing efforts look like locally? Greater Chattanooga Realtors is holding a number of classes this month to make sure our members are up-to-date on the latest ways to maintain their vigilance and commitment to fair housing.

Since NAR introduced Fairhaven in 2020, over 150 Greater Chattanooga Realtors have completed or are in the process of completing the simulator.

Simply put, Realtors understand the local markets and their impact on the real estate industry. Our members know best how to work with potential buyers and sellers, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin.

Fair housing is more than a list of do’s, don’ts, rights, penalties and mandatory continuing education. As stewards of the right to own, use and transfer private property, fair housing protects our livelihood and depends on a free and open market that embraces equal opportunity.

Realtors work for our clients and community every day. That’s Who We R.

Founded in 1912, Greater Chattanooga Realtors is a regional organization with more than 2,500 members servicing Hamilton and Sequatchie counties in southeast Tennessee and Catawba, Dade and Walker counties in northwest Georgia. The association is one of approximately 1,100 local associations and board of Realtors nationwide that comprise the National Association of Realtors. Greater Chattanooga Realtors owners and operates a multiple listing service that is one of approximately 600 MLSs in the country and services more than 2,700 users.
BRIAN DE ZUTTER

This sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat; any liens or encumbrances as well as any priority statutory rights of redemption of any governmental, state or federal; any prior mental agency, state or federal; any prior taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements, or restriction based on race, color, religion, national origin, or handicap; and to any matter which an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. In addition, the parties may claim an interest in the above referenced property.

BRAN DE ZUTTER

The sale held pursuant to this Notice may be rescinded at the discretion of the court at any time. The right is reserved to adjourn the sale to another day, time, and place, and, if made, the purchaser may be required to file a bond to protect the estate, the trustee hereby announces that the sale will be postponed for a period of two weeks, in such situation the property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash or certified funds ONLY, proceeding to sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash or certified funds ONLY, to be held at the front steps of the west side of the Hamilton County Courthouse, 186, in the Register's Office of Hamilton County, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, agreements, conditions, or limitations contained in the recorded instrument of 1924, in the Register's Office of Hamilton County, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the undersigned, Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, as Substitute Trustee or his duly appointed agent, by virtue of the power, authority, and duty appertaining to the Successor Trustee, by instrument to be filed for record in the Register's Office of Hamilton County, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the beneficial interest of said Deed of Trust was last transferred and assigned to Preferred Windows and Siding Koskie, and

WHEREAS, the undersigned, Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, as Substitute Trustee or his duly appointed agent, by virtue of the power, authority, and duty appertaining to the Successor Trustee, by instrument to be filed for record in the Register's Office of Hamilton County, Tennessee.

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WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, agreements, conditions, or limitations contained in the recorded instrument of 1924, in the Register's Office of Hamilton County, Tennessee.
Any right of equity of redemption, statutory and otherwise, in the said Deed of Trust, is waived in accord with the terms of said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substituted Trustee. The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale of the premises, and the undersigned will sell the premises at a public sale, without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place of such sale, at the Hamilton County Courthouse, 625 Georgia Avenue, Chattanooga, Tennessee.
THERE IS NO RIGHT TO APPEAL FROM THE JUDGMENT OF THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

No. 314

IN RE: ALEXIS LOVE HOWMAN
D.O.B. April 21, 2019
SOC: SAMUEL CONN
JESSICA ELISE CONN
PARENTS
VS.
JENNIFER ELISE NEILMANN, BRIAN HOUWINK AND/OR ANY UNKNOWN FATHER
DEFENDANTS

It appearing from the Petition of Plaintiff which is sworn to, that, BRIAN HOUWINK AND OR UNKNOWN FATHER are non-residents of the State of Tennessee, and/or whose whereabouts are unknown, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon them, this action is required to be issued and severen warrant is required to serve upon Petitioner Attorney, Trustee, or other process to serve

At 11:00 a.m.

Date of this Order: 03/11/2022

IT IS ORDERED that publication be made of this Notice to BRIAN HOUWINK AND OR UNKNOWN FATHER to appear at the time and place stated above and defend this suit, or a judgment by default may be entered against him.

One or more civil warrants have been issued and was levied upon certain property as required by law.

If BRIAN HOUWINK or Ashley Loucks seek to contest the adoption of a child, they must file a motion to contest the adoption in accordance with the above named court no later than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the hearing.

A hearing is currently set for June 27th 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

If you do not file a motion to contest the adoption within thirty (30) days after service of this notice, the above named court will hear and determine the petition for adoption.

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White, though small in stature, could be a large part of Tennessee’s fall plans.

School in Pinson, Alabama, White chose the Vols over scholarship offers from more than 20 other schools, including national champion Georgia.

He’s expected to provide a weapon for fifth-year senior quarterback Hendon Hooker in UT’s fast-paced offensive attack.

“I love the way Squirrel White plays,” UT fifth-year senior right end Jacob Warren adds. “Obviously, he’s not a very big guy, right? Super fast, super explosive, and so the way he plays is super interesting to me, because obviously I’m the complete opposite, right?”

Like all young players, White will mature and gain more size and muscle under the guidance of UT’s strength and conditioning staff.

Even if he can’t always match up physically with some bigger defenders, Pope says White has an intangible component to compensate.

“He’s got the biggest heart,” Pope points out. “He’s the smallest stature, but got the biggest heart in the room, probably. Love that kid.”

There have been times during spring practice when Warren catches himself as more of a fan in observing White darting across the middle of the field catching balls out of the slot.

“But I love watching him because he, for his age and for how young he is, he’s super (heady) just about situational football,” Warren says. “Whether it’s understanding he’s got to get down when we’re in a four-minute situation, understanding he has to push his route that’s maybe supposed to be 10 yards. He needs to really push it to 12 to get the first down.”

Heupel has been happy with the performance of all the young wide receivers as they adjust to their first taste of college.

“I think those guys have shown a great ability. Even leading into spring ball, I thought they grasped what we were doing,” Heupel says. “They spent a ton of extra time inside of the building trying to understand, you know, see and recognizing signals and being able to function as a group. As a whole, as a young group coming in, they’ve handled and transitioned into college football and the tempo and style of how we play about as well as a group I’ve ever been around.”

Pope echoes Heupel’s assessment of White, Cameron Miller, Chas Nimrod and Kaleb Webb.

“We’re at that point in spring where slowing down is not moving as fast for them and you’re able to see those guys make plays and really who they are,” Pope explains. “They’ve embraced the culture and really come in here and done the work. You see that, and the older guys see it. They know the competition is real. If I’m not on my p’s and q’s, if I’m not paying attention to detail. We’ve got four young guys in here that are hungry. That just elevates the play in the room. Those young guys have been great, each one of them.”

Although the UT coaching staff is focused on building the cohesion of entire positional groups, this time of year lends more to assessing how each piece fits within the group dynamic.

“It’s about individuals for sure, in spring football, the growth that they show,” Heupel says. “That could be in the way they compete and play when coaches are truly off the field.

“It’s their ability to see and recognize signals, get their alignment right and get their eyes in the right place. Can they go make plays when they’re in those situations? How do they handle success and adversity?”

White has shown the early propensity to become a major weapon for the Vols in the future. Junior wide receiver Jalin Hyatt understands the ups and downs that come in college and is trying to help pave the way for White and the other UT newcomers to excel.

“I’m very proud of the freshmen,” Hyatt says. “Squirrel -- I try to stay hard on him because he reminds me of myself when he came in weight-wise, and just a lot of physicality things he still needs to work on.

“But he’s going to be a great player. He’s getting used to the offense, fast, quick. He’s going to be a very good player.”
Or, avoid the pump entirely

Five SUVs to help you save money at the pump

By Miles Branman | Edmunds

With gas prices reaching record highs, many car shoppers may be asking which SUVs are the most fuel-efficient? Edmunds brings you five options to consider so you can spend less time and money at the pump.

We take a look at the 2022 Ford Escape Hybrid, Toyota RAV4 Hybrid, Hyundai Tucson Hybrid, Toyota Highlander Hybrid, plus the all-electric Tesla Model Y.

As of this writing, the national average fuel price is $4.24 per gallon, AAA reports. That’s an increase of 20% from a month ago, and gas prices aren’t likely to taper or deflate unless crude oil supply improves or consumer demand softens.

Until that happens, costly fill-ups are hinting Americans who are already grappling with inflation.

Understandably, drivers are keen to keep their fuel bills in check. Purchasing a new vehicle solely for better fuel economy isn’t usually a wise decision, and that’s especially true in today’s shortage-plagued car-buying market. But if you were already shopping for a new SUV, now’s a great time to consider a more fuel-efficient model.

To refine your research, Edmunds highlights five SUVs based on a combination of EPA-estimated fuel economy and our test team’s full evaluations of performance, utility and more. All prices below include the destination charge.

2022 Ford Escape Hybrid

Offered in both conventional and plug-in hybrid variations, the 2022 Ford Escape is one of the most fuel-efficient small SUVs you can buy. The standard hybrid earns an EPA-estimated 41 mpg combined (44 city/37 highway), giving it a total potential maximum range of 582 miles. The plug-in hybrid returns 40 combined mpg and supplements its efficiency with 37 miles of electric-only operation. That means those with shorter commutes and convenient charging options may rarely need to use gas.

Regardless of configuration, the Ford Escape Hybrid boasts a comfortable cabin, a compliant ride and sufficient power. A couple of drawbacks are its smaller-than-average cargo capacity and air conditioner that doesn’t quite get super cold on hot days.

Starting price: $30,595.

2022 Toyota RAV4 Hybrid

Like the Escape, Toyota’s RAV4 is offered in both hybrid and plug-in flavors. The conventional hybrid nets 40 combined mpg (41 city/38 highway) for a total max range of 580 miles. The RAV4 Prime PHEV scores 38 combined mpg and a class-leading 42-mile all-electric range. Better still, the Prime is downright quick with 302 horsepower and a 0 to 60 mph sprint of just 5.6 seconds.

Other highlights of the 2022 RAV4 Hybrid include a roomy cabin, plenty of cargo space and standard all-wheel drive. Drivers will be less enthused with a somewhat awkward brake feel and the infotainment system’s dated-looking graphics.

Starting price: $30,415.

2022 Toyota Highlander Hybrid

Thankfully, those requiring a third row of seating aren’t doomed to bad gas mileage. The 2022 Toyota Highlander Hybrid touts class-leading fuel economy of 36 mpg combined (36 city/35 highway), for a total range of 616 miles. Toyota’s modest upcharge over the base Highlander and lower starting price than rivals keep the Hybrid attainable.

The Highlander Hybrid is easy to maneuver and smooth-riding, and it includes a full suite of driver aids as standard. Taller riders will have a tight squeeze in the third row and cargo space behind that row is constrained, though the total cabin volume is competitive.

Starting price: $40,270.

2022 Tesla Model Y

A burgeoning electric vehicle market and compelling hybrid options give consumers a variety of ways to beat the prices at the pump. But keep in mind that amid a vehicle shortage and rising fuel costs, these cars may be even harder to find or may carry premiums at dealers.

We’ve found the Model Y underperforms its EPA estimate a little, but it’s still one of the best SUVs available for going the distance.

With overnight top-ups via a Level 2 charger, or stops at a Tesla Supercharger station, most drivers will never experience range anxiety and can happily ignore lofty fuel prices.

The Model Y is quick, cavernous and offers cutting-edge technology. Its inconsistent build quality and uninspiring design have opened the door for new challengers, however.

Starting price: $64,440.

Edmunds says

A burgeoning electric vehicle market and compelling hybrid options give consumers a variety of ways to beat the prices at the pump. But keep in mind that amid a vehicle shortage and rising fuel costs, these cars may be even harder to find or may carry premiums at dealers.

Miles Branman is a contributor at Edmunds. Follow Miles on Twitter.