Davidson County Election Commission says thousands of absentee ballots haven’t been returned

Almost 30,000 absentee ballots have been mailed to Davidson County voters for the August 6 election, but only half of them have been voted and sent back.

Election officials urge immediate return, as ballots must be received by mail in the Davidson County Election Commission office by the time the polls close on Election Day. “One first-class ($.55) stamp is all that is needed,” says Jeff Roberts, administrator of elections. “We need our absentee voters to mark their ballots, seal them in their signed, absentee ballot envelope, and get those ballots in the mail to us now. The Post Office said to allow 7 days for return, and Davidson County Election Commission says thousands of absentee ballots haven’t been returned

Officials celebrate 30th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act

When President George H.W. Bush signed the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) 30 years ago, it was considered one of the United States’ most significant pieces of civil rights legislation prohibiting discrimination and ensuring people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as all other Americans.

The ADA gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications.

In marking its anniversary, Mayor John Cooper, the Mayor’s Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities Coalition came together to honor and celebrate the June 27, 1990 signing. “The Americans with Disabilities Act was a monumental win for the civil rights of people with disabilities across the nation,” said Mayor Cooper. “We are excited to celebrate and commemorate the

Mayor signs Climate Mayors Letter urging Congressional action on sustainable economic recovery

Mayor John Cooper has signed on to a Climate Mayors letter sent to U.S. Congressional leaders urging bold action on environmental sustainability while also building a more just economy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A network of 461 mayors committed to upholding the Paris Climate Agreement, the Climate Mayors are calling on Congress to invest in economic recovery strategies that embed resilience, equity, and sustainability in America’s cities.

“As mayor, I see firsthand the urgent issues facing our communities today: the ever-present threat of climate change, the challenges to public health and prosperity caused by COVID-19, and racial and economic disparities,” said Cooper. “Cities across America are demonstrating that growth and environmental stewardship go hand in hand – and now, our federal government can show the world that investment in a zero-carbon economy has multiple co-benefits for healthcare, housing, jobs, the economy, and the resilience of our infrastructure.”

With a focus on recovery from the economic impacts of the pandemic, Climate Mayors are advocating a nationwide transition to a zero-carbon economy – a step many American cities are already pursuing as a means to create good-paying green jobs, clean the air and...
Mayor John Cooper announces Interim Director at Public Works and next steps to create a Department of Transportation

Interim Public Works director announced; department of Transportation will be created

Mayor John Cooper has announced that Shanna Metro Water Services to act as interim Director of Metro Public Works, where she will lead the department through a review process to determine the best ways to realign the transportation and solid waste functions of Public Works.

Mark Sturtevant, Director of Metro Public Works, will move to Metro’s Planning Department as a Director of Development.

We are fortunate to have incredibly talented, motivated people in our Public Works department,” said Mayor Cooper. “I have asked Ms. Whitelaw to lead an effort to bring greater customer focus to the mission of the department and determine how to best organize for stronger, fundamental service delivery – getting people where they need to go, safely and efficiently; and becoming more sustainable and cost-effective in our approach to solid waste and recycling. Her experience and expertise create the opportunity to better leverage interdepartmental efficiencies and prepare Public Works for a Department of Transportation.”

Whitelaw, a professionally licensed civil engineer with 14 years of experience in the private sector and another 14 years of experience in government service, has extensive experience in design and construction management of major projects and long-range capital planning and asset management.

She has demonstrated expertise in administering competitively bid projects, cost-effective project management and project implementation. Her last five years have been spent in strategic planning and process improvement in Metro Water Services, where she has been a significant contributor to Metro Water Services’ status as a utility that provides exceptional services at one of the lowest costs compared to local and regional peer cities.

The Mayor’s Office of Transportation & Infrastructure was formed to set a new course to meet the challenges and opportunities presented by the growth in Nashville and the region. This fall, the office will release recommendations on a new transportation plan, which will be the result of public listening sessions, best practice / expert

Continues to next page
reviews, and learning from past community-based planning exercises, including the Nashville Community Transportation Platform.

A Department of Transportation would become the execution path for this transportation plan and bring focus to day-to-day transportation management across Metro Nashville-Davidson County.

As interim director, Whitelaw will lead the Public Works Department through a review and planning process to realign the department toward a Department of Transportation. She will work closely with Faye DiMassimo, Mayor Cooper’s Senior Advisor for Transportation and Infrastructure; Jorge Riveros, Public Works Chief Engineer; Sharon Wahlstrom, Public Works Deputy Director; Sharon Smith, Public Works Assistant Director; and Phillip Jones, Public Works Assistant Director.

Whitelaw will also call on colleagues from Metro Water Services to bring strong operational process, financial and engineering capability. Before the end of 2020, the group will produce recommendations for the Department of Transportation as well as furthering operational excellence for Nashville’s other critical Public Works functions, including solid waste management, through exploring greater coordination and leveraging of Metro Water Services operational and sustainability competencies.

“I’m grateful to Shanna Whitelaw, and everyone at Public Works and Metro Water Services for their ongoing dedication to serving our community,” said Cooper. “I look forward to this next step in marshalling our city’s talent and resources around Nashville’s transportation infrastructure and solid waste needs and opportunities.

Have a great community news story?
Let us know!
Send to: news@gcanews.com or call us at 615-298-1500

Enjoy every moment living worry-free

At The Manor at Steeplechase, we offer an affordable, all-inclusive lifestyle with chef-prepared meals. Let us handle life’s day-to-day chores, allowing you to focus on the moments in life to be cherished and celebrated.

From Page One

Ballots...
we’re getting very close to Election Day.

“New requests for absentee ballots continue to pour in ahead of the July 30 deadline,” continued Roberts. “These voters need to take immediate action, once they receive their ballots from us. Please, do not delay in returning them to our office.”

Additional staff has been added to process last-minute requests and returned ballots. “We’re staying on top of the mountains of mail, but could use some help from our voters,” Roberts explained. “They can track their absentee ballots online at Voter Registration Information Lookup. The site is updated daily with the date their ballot was issued and the date their ballot was received in our office. We encourage them to check on the status of their ballot.”

For voters who prefer to vote in person, 11 Early Voting sites are open through Saturday, August 1. In addition to social distancing, COVID-19 safety protocols include Poll Officials wearing PPE and hand sanitizer available upon entry and exit of each polling place. Voters are encouraged to wear face coverings. One-use pens and recyclable ballot marking devices will enable safe, touchless voting.

The Davidson County Election Commission is responsible for providing free and fair elections to every eligible citizen. The Election Commission is regulated by State of Tennessee law and funded by Metropolitan Nashville government.

The main office is located at 1417 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37217.
And the winner is ...!

Right now, it’s hard to imagine the most pressing issue facing people today. The early March Tornado, the mid-March Covid-19 worldwide pandemic, the tragic death of George Floyd, the proposed 34% property tax increase, an upcoming surgical procedure, or perhaps another personal problem faced by all?

Granted, there is no way to solve the proverbial problems of the world, so as I’ve often heard said, “Think Globally ... Act locally.” Since there is an election now upcoming locally, should this article focus on something over which there is no control? Or should it focus on matters at hand?

All Nashvillians need to decide how you feel about the proposed 34% property tax increase since it does affect each of us living in Metro Nashville Davidson County. The financial aspects of this proposed property tax increase relates directly to the title of this periodic column, “Bookkeeping the Business of Life!”

Whether you are young and just recently graduated from college and bravely heading out into this world, aka life, on your own, in your first apartment, whether you are middle aged with a few small children at home, whether perhaps in your 50’s with kids in college, or whether even older, say late sixties with grandchildren to late seventies on a fixed or limited income, the property tax increase will hit everyone in Nashville across the board - unlike Covid-19 which can be “foiled” by shutting down businesses and everybody wearing a mask in public.

By everyone, the suggestion includes those who rent apartments in the form of a rent increase, those who lease commercial real estate to conduct business, those with families or not, who own a home with or without a mortgage, and those who are hoping to retire and disappear peacefully into the night as the universe unfolds.

Assuming there had been a public forum on such matters, and there may well have been, which I failed to attend, due to work, family obligations, and Covid-19, it may have gone something like this?

“Nashville Citizen (NC): Hello, Mayor Cooper and Members of Our Nashville City Council.

Why is it necessary to have a 34% property tax increase given these uncertain economic times due to the tornado and the coronavirus?

Mayor Cooper (MC): Thank You for your insightful question.

The tornado cost Nashvillians over $200 Million Dollars and the Coronavirus will cost Nashvillians another estimated $300 Million Dollars due to business and school shut downs and other such related economic hardships.

That’s over $500 million dollars! Almost half a billion dollars, since we can’t print money like the Federal Government, we must balance our budget, so a property tax increase is the most efficient and effective way to cover this unexpected economic shortfall.

NC: For a city the size of Nashville, our rainy day fund should be 30% of our $2.4 Billion Dollar annual budget. Right? Which is $720 Million Dollars, correct?

That’s only four months of cash flow, and even Dave Ramsey recommends six month of emergency funds for the average citizen.

As an elected official, are you not charged with the responsibility to protect our collective financial wellbeing as tax paying citizens for at least four months?

MC: Why yes, you are correct.

In fact, recently, the State of Tennessee was actually considering the need to take over our city’s finances due to the fact that Nashville ranked last in the top 20 largest metropolitan cities in America for lack of an adequate rainy day fund.

Did you know, we closed our books last fiscal year with only $12 million dollars in the bank? And, as your newly elected Mayor, our city’s economic shortfalls are NOT my fault, can finally be together again.”

This year’s Christmas Village canceled due to COVID-19

Last week organizers for Christmas Village made the announcement that due to the COVID-19 situation this year, the event has been canceled. This year’s event would have been the 60th year anniversary.

“As difficult as it is to share, we have made the heart-wrenching decision to cancel Nashville’s Christmas Village 2020. This is especially painful considering this year would have been our 60th anniversary of the event. This decision was not made lightly. The Christmas Village board has spent months exhaustively exploring possible solutions even as the ominous odds stacked higher and higher against us. Our top priority is to protect the integrity of this beloved event and that means keeping our volunteers, merchants and shoppers safe. Our efforts will be tireless as we explore new ways to support our philanthropies in 2020 and we will incorporate the evolving trends as we prepare for Christmas Village 2021. Our hope is that our 60th, although delayed, will be unforgettable. Mark your calendars for November 12-14, 2021 when we
WOW! GOLD IS AT AN ALL TIME HIGH!

THIS WEEK ONLY!

Yes, that’s right, GOLD is BREAKING RECORDS trading at approx. $1,950 an oz! And that’s why we are having a special buying event this week! We are flying in special out-of-town buyers just for this event. Even if you don’t know if you want to sell, we can educate you on what it would be worth in the market today. But, gold will not stay this way! Take advantage of our buying event this week.

We are buying diamond rings, gold, fine jewelry, coins, engagement rings, loose diamonds, Rolex watches, Swiss watches, estate jewelry, and broken jewelry. Only--have one earring? Bring it! Receive instant payment and walk out with extra cash in your pocket!

This also gives you an opportunity to take inventory of your jewelry and get rid of the things you never wear or just don’t like anymore. You can cash out or trade it in for something that suits your style. It can be an emotional process, especially if you have jewelry that is sentimental to you, but it can also be fun knowing there’s something exciting ahead when you get rid of the old.

Our clients sort through their jewelry boxes and safes, and there they are again! They see the old yellow gold diamond cluster rings that they haven’t worn in ages, the diamond watches with dials too small to read, the big old engagement rings they have clung onto for years. It’s a beautiful diamond, you get it out and play with it on occasion but let’s face it, you moved on years ago. How about a new start?

What about new gifts that just don’t suit you? There really is a fabulous use right around the corner for the jewelry gifts you will never wear. You are fortunate you are close enough to visit me at Green Hills Diamond Brokers, where selling to us, trading or buying is a one-on-one, in-person, safe experience. “I got this for my birthday, and I’m honestly never going to wear it,” is something we hear often. “Jenny, I got this Rolex from the company I work for, and I just don’t wear watches. I value it but I’ll never wear it” or “this big diamond pendant from my mother-in-law is just something I would never ever wear.” This is what I hear over and over again. I can help you turn that unloved, unworn jewelry into cash or new jewelry, something just for you.

A local, Nashville gemologist/appraiser always suggests her clients come to me and my colleagues at Green Hills Diamond Brokers when contemplating selling. She has found our prices actually are consistently the highest in Tennessee or anywhere near and also likes the personal service. She says, “my clients can sit down with a Green Hills Diamond Brokers buyer; all of whom are highly educated in diamonds and fine jewelry and get information on color, clarity, cut, weight and review any paperwork such as a certification. The buyer and seller together have a transparent relationship and if he chooses to sell, my client knows what he is getting, and why, and he is paid then and there!”

Together, we go over the fine points of the jewelry and how we value it. You decide: is selling appropriate? Do you want to trade up? Do you want us to redesign something for you that you will actually wear? It doesn’t matter where you got the jewelry originally, because we accept trade-ins from any other jewelry source. Take advantage of our special buying event this week and come meet our special buyers only at Green Hills Diamond Brokers.

greenhillsdiamondbrokers.com

615-386-3400

Diamond engagement rings

Pre-owned Rolex

Diamond earrings

Jennifer Michaeli, Nashville native with Green Hills Diamond Brokers, Gemologist and Jewelry Enthusiast.

Being in the fine jewelry and precious metals world, I always know when gold and silver are going up. Is it because I’m psychic? Nope! Do I enthusiastically watch the stock market everyday and hyperventilate from the continuous scrolling numbers? Nope! But I do keep up with the metals market. I know it’s going up, because I get flooded with phone calls by people who want to sell sell sell! And you can expect gold prices to keep breaking records until the economy is on a predictable path. What are you paying today? What are your hours? I see you close at 5 but can be there at 7. Is that ok? Nope! And That’s why we are hosting a special BUYING EVENT
**BUSINESS BRIEFS**

**Comfort Supply**
Leading Tennessee HVAC wholesale distributor Comfort Supply has announced that **Steve Foutch** has joined the company as executive vice president. Foutch has more than 25 years of experience in the HVAC industry, both residential and commercial.

As EVP, Foutch will oversee all of Comfort Supply’s locations in Middle Tennessee as well as the company’s commercial department within the corporate office. His other responsibilities include developing plans and strategies for business development, managing customer and vendor relationships, coordinating sales training programs and overseeing branch managers.

Foutch previously worked at Lennox Industries, a HVAC manufacturer and distributor in Nashville. He joined Lennox in 2004 as a regional business manager and was promoted to district manager in 2006. He was named zone manager in 2009 and served in that position for 11 years, overseeing 12 of the company’s distribution locations. During his time at Lennox, he received several awards, including Zone Manager of the Year in 2010 and 2019 and the Lennox Top Gun Award in 2010 through 2014 and 2017.

Prior to his time at Lennox, Foutch worked in Texas for a number of HVAC manufacturers and suppliers. He served as an area sales manager for Comfort Supply Incorporated (a division of Wattsco), a regional sales manager for Lindab Incorporated and Krueger, and a district sales manager for Research Products Corporation.

Foutch earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration, marketing from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

**Decode Health**
Decode Health, a predictive analytics company focused on early identification of health-care risk from both chronic diseases and COVID-19, has announced the launch of its strategic advisory board, a group of eight professional leaders with technical, clinical and business experience in healthcare and related industries. Chaired by Dr. Alan Spiro, the board also includes Lauren Bell, Amy Gleason, Don Hardison, Anika Heavner, Jeff Pate, Jean Rush and John Singer.

Decode Health applies data science to the science of health by combining the expertise of immunologists and data scientists with multiple data sources, including public health information, healthcare claims databases and social determinants of health data. The company selected advisory board members because of their significant experience across many aspects of healthcare delivery and technology. The board will provide expert advice and support the growth of consumer-driven, retail healthcare.

The advisory board members are:
- **Alan Spiro**, MD, MBA, whose company Air Uro Solutions, helps healthcare companies become more effective, efficient and caring organizations — is a leader in health strategy, analytics, data science, health care delivery, managed care and medical policy and practice. Among his many professional accomplishments, Spiro was chief medical officer and co-founder of Accolade, Inc. He also served as senior vice president of strategy and growth and chief medical officer at Blue Health Intelligence (BHI), an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.
- **Lauren Bell**, the founder and managing director of LaCire, which provides operations consulting and strategy development for companies experiencing growth. She has worked with companies across both the U.S. and internationally, providing subject matter expertise in public health planning and capabilities analyses and has created meta-analyses for distribution and pandemic preparedness studies. She has served as a subject matter expert to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Navy Bureau of Medicine on strategic issues such as exercise planning, pandemic preparedness and disaster relief.

**Zeilin Sotheby’s International Realty**
Zeilin Sotheby’s International Realty is pleased to announce the addition of **Phil Rouse**. Rouse is a sales executive with more than 20 years of successful experience. He served his country in the United States Air Force and the Air Force reserve. Rouse is a valued and trusted business partner who comes to work doing something he loves. He comes to Nashville having a successful career in real estate in South Georgia.

**Have a promotion you wish to submit to Business Briefs?**
**Send news items to:** news@gcanews.com
but I do hope to make things better in the near future by shutting down even more businesses due to Covid-19 and raising property taxes even higher!

Next question please.

NC: Over here, Mr. Mayor!
MC: OK, over there, yes.
NC: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

So if we as Nashville taxpayers, had our $720 million dollar rainy day fund, then we would be able to cover the $300 million dollar unexpected economic short fall caused by the tornado and the coronavirus, with $220 million dollars left to spare, still remaining in our rainy day fund?

And therefore no need for a 34% property tax increase. Is that also correct?

MC: Yes! Correct again. Why do you ask?

NC: Umm, because my property taxes are about to go up by 34% and I wonder why we do not have an adequate rainy day fund to cover this unexpected economic short fall?

MC: Because prior elected city officials did not adequately prepare financially for this unexpected economic calamity.

NC: But isn’t that what a rainy day fund is for - an unexpected economic calamity?

It seems like the funds should have already been set aside to cover just such unexpected events. As a citizen of Nashville yourself, would you agree?

MC: Yes, I see your point.

Ever since Nashville and Davidson County became a cutting edge, major Metropolitan City, leadership has always been Democratic, including the mayor’s office. In fact, did you realize that since Metro Nashville was formed in 1963, there has never been a Republican mayor in our little, now big town?

So now, as your duly elected Mayor, it’s up to me … I think it’s time I changed that!!!

In fact, let’s start by peacefully removing any statues of Metro Nashville’s first mayor, Beverly Briley. We’ve certainly come a long way, I’m sure you agree?

Next question, please, over there, yes please …...

OK, all kidding aside, the currently proposed 34% property tax increase is a big decision for our fine city. And what concerns me most is that we are simply sweeping the economic sins of the past 57 years under the “rug of taxation” while simultaneously sounding the alarm of a current economic crisis. What if there had been no tornado, an unpredictable act of nature, or the coronavirus pandemic, perhaps another unpredictable act of nature? Would the city be addressing the more critical issue of poor financial leadership and lack of adequate economic planning to properly protect the taxpaying citizens of Nashville?

Every single person reading this week’s column has to “bookkeep and balance” your own personal budgets and checkbooks or you would eventually be incarcerated, sooner or later, for passing bad checks. Should we not hold our city leadership to the same high standards of fiduciary responsibility? Yes, we should, because it’s our darn money being spent.

If you agree, may I recommend the following website to sign a petition to temporarily put the brakes on the currently proposed 34% property tax increase and reconsider other options available BEFORE we let this increase become law and everyone financially suffers for generations to come? Please remember, a property tax increase is not a one time, one year, event. It will continue for ever, and ever, and may even out live the coronavirus … and it will definitely devalue the very property being taxed.

Here is the website: www.NashvilleTaxpayerProtectionAct.com

On a lighter note, the winner of last week’s bookkeeping question is Alex Schofield! My sincere thanks to all readers who responded, and everyone who did respond got the right answer: congratulations, $200,000 dollars! If the fair market value of your home is $500,000, and the mortgage on the home is $300,000, then the equity in the home is $200,000. Why? Because if you sold the home for its fair market value, you would receive $500,000 (assuming net of commissions, etc., let’s not over complicate things) and then you pay off the mortgage of $300,000, and you would still have $200,000 left in your piggy bank! No trick question here, and it’s truly that simple!

In fact, all bookkeeping is that simple. Please continue to read, and I will attempt to explain further in the next column, coming out in two weeks, how it all works. Gosh, I wish property taxes were that simple.

Free milk giveaway in Nashville on July 30

Borden Dairy, The Dairy Alliance and UT Extension Davidson Co. are hosting a milk giveaway this Thursday, July 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Woodmont Hills Church of Christ located at 3710 Franklin Pike Nashville. There will be 4,000 gallons of milk handed out to the community as part of a USDA food assistance program. There are no restrictions or limitations as to how many gallons each family may receive.

For more information, visit thedairyalliance.com

Free Milk:
Get your free gallon(s) of milk! Drive through the contactless site and remain in your vehicle. This will allow volunteers to put your free milk for your family into your trunk.

Thursday, July 30th
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (or whenever supply is depleted)
Woodmont Hills Church of Christ
3710 Franklin Pike
Nashville, TN
Letter...
lower carbon emissions, improve public health and resilience to climate change, and lift up the nation’s most vulnerable communities.

The coronavirus pandemic has hit communities of color particularly hard, the same individuals and families in neighborhoods that suffer more as a result of the impacts of a changing climate: toxic pollution, skyrocketing temperatures, drought and wildfires, and extreme weather events like floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes. Climate Mayors state that they are determined to build a strong, green economy that ensures all Americans are prepared for future health, economic, and environmental shocks.

Recognizing the need to work together at every level of government to move beyond this devastating pandemic, Mayor Cooper and other Climate Mayors are urging Congress to work with state and city leadership to build new policies and amplify existing programs that have already proven effective. They want to make an above average investment in resilience to climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Lead with Equity:** Federal investment should include some level of priority for communities that have historically been underserved, including those disproportionately impacted by climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Prioritize Multiple Beneﬁts:** The best investments will also have benefits for job creation, neighborhood resilience, and better public health outcomes in cities.

Locally, Mayor Cooper’s Sustainability Advisory Committee is working with his administration to produce recommended strategies for climate mitigation and adaptation that similarly infuse resilience, equity, and other benefits such as public health and neighborhood livability into Metro Nashville’s sustainability-related policies and programs.

Representing 74 million Americans from 48 states, Climate Mayors is a peer-to-peer network of 461 U.S. city mayors who have committed to fighting climate change. Originally founded in 2014, the network’s ranks swelled to almost 400 mayors in response to the Trump administration’s withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. Climate Mayors commit to taking ambitious action to meet each of their cities’ current climate goals, while working together towards achieving our national Paris targets.

**Future: Returning to the status quo is insufficient to meet the challenges of climate change and economic disparities in our communities. We must increase resolve and ambition to reinvest in municipalities.**

**From Page One**

Anniversary...

ADA as we work to expand opportunities for people with disabilities throughout Davidson County.” To commemorate this anniversary, Mayor Cooper, the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities, and the Tennessee Disability Coalition are encouraging residents to use the hashtags #ThanksToTheADA and #InThisTogetherTN on social media to help raise awareness of the anniversary. Moreover, the campaign aims to spotlight the tens of hundreds of thousands of Metro residents with disabilities, and their contributions to the community.

The Mayor, the Advisory Committee, and the TDC encourage residents, organizations, government entities, and faith communities to join in the celebration by sharing your #ThanksToTheADA and #InThisTogetherTN moments. In a social media post, use any media (video, pictures, written word, or other) to share how you are celebrating the anniversary and celebrating Tennesseans with disabilities. Then post it on social media using #InThisTogether TN and #ThanksToTheADA.

“Across the state, over 1.6 million Tennesseans have some form of disability, most of which we just can’t see. The campaign helps bring awareness of which we just can’t see. The campaign helps bring awareness of those who use assistive devices like as a wheelchair, or cane; the law protects individuals with many other diagnoses such as breast cancer, diabetes, and heart disease,” said Carol Westlake, Executive Director of the Tennessee Disability Coalition. “After 30 years, we recognize the important progress we’ve made, and look forward to working with leaders like Mayor Cooper to ensure the full and equal participation of all.”

**From Page One**

Taxing Matters

**Taxing Problems: Ownership of a business and subsequent legacy**

Craig W. Smalley, MST, EA, has been admitted to practice before the Internal Revenue Service as an Enrolled Agent, has a Certificate in Taxation from UCLA, and is a Certified Tax Resolution Specialist. He has been published in New York Times, Chicago Tribune, NASDAQ, Yahoo Finance, Christian Science Monitor; and is a columnist for accounting trade publications, including AICPA Tax Insider along with various scholarly publications used in his classes. He specializes in taxation, and is well versed on U.S. Tax Court rulings. He has appeared as a guest on countless radio shows and podcasts. He recognizes that most business owners want the same thing; they want to make an above average income from their business and then, in their retirement, they want to pass on their business to their kids. However, many times the children are sick and tired of hearing about the various ups and downs of the business that they rebel against continuing the business, even though they may inherit it with relative ease. Knowing that their children may be more than tired of hearing about the variations in the flow of income and expense, the owner may choose to sell the business, and some just want to give it away. However, all these options have unique tax concerns that must be considered. In his recent article and assuming that the owner has recognized that the S-Corporation is a superior vehicle for personal control and protection of business assets, we will focus mainly on the removal of an S-Corporation from an estate.

There really is not a right way, versus a wrong way to pass along an S-Corporation to your family. There are many ways to divest your financial interest in such businesses. It’s helpful to review some S-Corporation rules before venturing down the wrong trail.

First, S-Corporations can only have one class of stock, which can make it challenging for passing the business along while still alive and wanting to maintain control and protection of the business after the transfer. The most common way to pass along the family business is through either a Grantor Retained Annuity Trust (GRAT), or a Grantor Retained Unitrust (GRUT). Now we will analyze the nature of that transfer. First, how does a GRAT work? Assuming the company is worth $1 million today, the owner of the S-Corporation sells his/her stock to the GRAT for $1 million. During the life of the GRAT, the shareholder retains control over the S-Corporation and the value of the company freezes at $1 million. A GRAT is good for ten years and the current income of the S-Corporation is used to pay the grantor $100,000 a year for ten years. The trust is irrevocable and is the owner of the shares of stock. The beneficiaries of the GRAT are the owner’s children. After the GRAT is completed, the thought is the value of the S-Corporation will go up. When the trust terminates after its ten-year term, then the owner passes control and protection of the business to the children.

The grantor of a GRUT has unique tax concerns that must be considered. In his recent article and assuming that the owner has recognized that the S-Corporation is a superior vehicle for personal control and protection of business assets, we will focus mainly on the removal of an S-Corporation from an estate.

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Craig W. Smalley, MST, EA, has been admitted to practice before the Internal Revenue Service as an Enrolled Agent, has a Certificate in Taxation from UCLA, and is a Certified Tax Resolution Specialist. He has been published in New York Times, Chicago Tribune, NASDAQ, Yahoo Finance, Christian Science Monitor; and is a columnist for accounting trade publications, including AICPA Tax Insider along with various scholarly publications used in his classes. He specializes in taxation, and is well versed on U.S. Tax Court rulings. He has appeared as a guest on countless radio shows and podcasts. He recognizes that most business owners want the same thing; they want to make an above average income from their business and then, in their retirement, they want to pass on their business to their kids. However, many times the children are sick and tired of hearing about the various ups and downs of the business that they rebel against continuing the business, even though they may inherit it with relative ease. Knowing that their children may be more than tired of hearing about the variations in the flow of income and expense, the owner may choose to sell the business, and some just want to give it away. However, all these options have unique tax concerns that must be considered. In his recent article and assuming that the owner has recognized that the S-Corporation is a superior vehicle for personal control and protection of business assets, we will focus mainly on the removal of an S-Corporation from an estate.

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An old house named “Renraw”

There is an old house off of Gallatin Road between Stouse and McClurken Streets which was built in 1855. At one time, the old house was owned by James C. Warner and used as a summer home since it was truly “out in the country” at the time. The home was named Renraw.

Mr. Warner’s son, Percy Warner, who later became the Director of Parks for the city, developed the extensive grounds with lavish gardens. He also had an interesting collection of birds, featuring pheasants from Africa which he later donated to the Glendale Park.

The Warners sold Renraw (the name of the home was Warner spelled backward) about 1912 and moved to Royal Oakes on Harding Road. The old house today has been adapted and serving as the central building of the Nashville Auto-Diesel College in East Nashville.

E. D. Thompson can be contacted at thompsonia2017@gmail.com

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I THINK SAMMIE DID IT!
SAMMIE SEZZZ... I DIDN’T DO IT!
I WOULDN’T EVEN THINK OF IT

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Why do some businesses fail when others succeeded? It’s simple! If you’re out of sight and not visible to the consumer, that’s the first step toward failure. The second step is being out of mind, in other words the consumer very seldom or maybe never thinks of you when they need your product or service. In a large number of cases, these two steps lead to the third step...out of business.

A good way to be visible and in the mind of the consumer is to have an advertising program that gets results and fits your budget.

Most businesses carry insurance in case of a fire, a burglary, or if someone slips and falls in your store. Why not build your business and insure it against a future loss of business by starting an advertising program that gets results. If you have the product or service the consumer wants, we can help you build your business.

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Stop giving away the town and raising taxes

Nashville wake up! Nashville is in debt and the former democratic mayors have bankrupt this city. I’m a democrat and if there are republicans that can help us out why not?

Replace the ones who keep giving away our town and raising taxes so high that people are losing their homes. Where is the love we once had? Thank you.

These things are possible if all of us do the right thing now

So, I just saw the Governors press conference that he held Thursday, July 23rd at 3pm about masks. Once again, he sided with Trump in basically saying wear a mask if you want to but I will not mandate it! Just saying wear a mask if you want to.

These are Tennessee states that you can not go to if you are not going to quarantining for fourteen days. Then maybe you can spend the $3 off and not go on and on.

Not the right price at check out

Recently I was shopping at Kroger in Green Hills and there was a section of summer merchandise marked down 50%. When looking at what was available they had a lower shelf with various games like Connect Four, Clue and Jenga. Though I did not really want Jenga for myself, a friend had said about getting the game and so I thought I would pick one up for her. Well, after finishing up the rest of my shopping I made it up to the self-checkout lane and when I scanned the Jenga game, it came up just $3 off and not $7! I asked the young clerk about the price not coming up right and he said the original price was correct with $3 coming off the original price. Well I mentioned it was in the 50% off section and there was no shelf price marking that it was a different price. He still would not honor the 50% discount.

This just irritates me that Kroger intended on not having that game 50% off, why have several as well as other games in that same marked down section. It almost makes me think they do it on purpose thinking when you’re up at the checkout line shoppers are not going to always paying attention to how the prices are being run up.

I still think he should have honored the price that it was supposed to be and that was not good customer service.

Attention Readers:

Note from the Publisher:

The Ticked Off column has been an avenue for more than 20 years where readers can offer a range of opinions on many different topics each week. There are times when we feel some comments are inappropriate and offensive; therefore, when that arises the decision is made not to run them. Recently, though, due to human error, a comment was mistakenly included in this column and The News truly apologizes for any offense or hurt that occurred to what was said. We sincerely appreciate our readers and the mean spirited, racial comment does not represent the views of our publications. That truly is not what we are about! One of the goals of our weekly newspapers is to continually strive to make our community a better place and for all of us to be kind and caring towards one another. As we go forward, let’s all strive to be more caring for our fellow person and choose love over hate, it comes back tenfold when you do.

Scare tactics

Cooper is now using scare tactics to get our minds off the huge property tax increase. That is all I have to say.

Too long narratives

I’m ticked off at these long narratives in this column. The comments need to be shorter and not go on and on.

Bar owners vs Mayor Cooper

It has been interesting to watch the battle forth between the Mayor and the bar owners. The city puts out a mandate and the bar owners try to weasel their way around it. I have been amazed by watching the Mayor have a relationship with Mayor Cooper. First, back in early July, many bars did not close as mandated since they claimed they were restaurants (over 50% revenue from food). Some of these bar/restaurants were a joke. Second, the recent order for bar/restaurants to close at 10 pm is not being followed by some of the bar owners or managers. There was one bar in Green Hills that had customers still in the bar at 11:00 pm on Friday night.

We have added an e-mail address for Ticked Off! Send your comments to tickedoff@gcanews.com

CALL OUR HOTLINE: 615-298-5597

Where Freedom of Speech is Alive & Well

We are Tennessee A faith-based, family-owned, daily newspaper that takes pride in our editorial support of Governor Bill Lee, Mayor John Cooper, and the State of Tennessee. Our Mission is to promote a positive voice, provide local news, promote community events, and support our local businesses.

Nashville, Tennessee now has five States as far as number of cases in Tennessee grew by 1,400 State wide today and that includes another 425 in Nashville. Tennessee now has close to 90,000 cases of Covid-19 State wide out of the State population of 6.8 million. That now brings Tennessee into the top five States as far as number of cases based on population, way to go Governor Lee and Mayor Cooper! Neither the Governor or the Mayor have the guts to do what is right and that is require masks and shut down Broadway period! Every news outlet in Nashville showed all the bars open last weekend, crowed, people packed on the sidewalks, partying and no one in a mask. Where did all those people go when they left Broadway? They went back to Donelson, Antioch, Brentwood, Columbia, Clarksville, Smyrna and Murfreesboro. They went home to expose all the people in their house, the people they work with, they got on a plane and went back to wherever they were from. They went back to the hotel they were staying at and infected people in the elevator, the restaurant, the person working the front desk. Then all those people went home or where they go after work and exposed more people as well.

People do you see how this works? By the way, real good enforcement on the mask mandate on Broadway and Metro, wave to step up in the time of need! There are now fifteen States that you can not go to if you are not from Tennessee without quarantining for fourteen days at your own expense once you get there. The Governor and Mayor are not the only ones putting the rest of Tennesseans in danger; it is all the people who refuse to wear a mask with the claim “my body”. Hey, it is your body, get sick and die, I don’t care! But, don’t take me or someone from my family down with you because of your selfish ego. Stores need to do a better job of enforcing it as well, post a sign on your door “No Shirt, No Shoes, No Mask, No Service” and stick to it! Who cares if the customer leaves, did you want him in your business infecting your staff and other customers anyway? This is going to get worse before it is better due to the slow response and lack of response by our elected officials. Not just in the stores but in schools, churches, sports, businesses and our everyday way of life. You may not want to wear a mask, yes that is your right! However, it is also my right to ban you from my business, so please just remember that as well. If everyone could put their ego and political party aside for fourteen days, two weeks, and just try to help each other out then maybe, just maybe we can see a light at the end of this tunnel. Then maybe you can spend the upcoming Holidays together, you will get to see your kids play sports again, get to see your parent who is in assisted living face to face and not through a window, go to a movie, go to a Titans game, a Predators game, a Sounds game, go to your favorite restaurant (if it can stay open), travel with the family and stay in a hotel, get on a plane or just walk through the mall like normal. These things are all possible again if all of us can do the right thing now!
to return. Help us out Mayor Cooper.

Crying wolf when forecasting the weather

With all the fancy weather forecasting technology that the news stations brag about using, why do the weather forecast still continue to be wrong sometimes and it’s hard to plan your day when they say there’s a 50-60% of rain in the forecast for that given day and then it never rains one drop.

That happened two weeks ago when I was so sure it was going to rain with it being 80% chance. I put off gardening and doing some other work outside, then it never rained. But then the next week they said 50% so I went ahead and ignored the forecast and I got rained out when working outside.

It’s like the weather forecasters cry wolf too many times to the point where you don’t know when to believe them. Looks like with the decades of experience studying storm patterns, they would be sharper and more accurate with their forecasts whenever there’s a chance for rain.

So I guess in 20 years it will be the same mess with predicting rain since they have not come any further from 20 years ago saying it was going to rain.

Be considerate not to park so close

I’m ticked off that the other day I was parking my SUV in a parking garage and after parking away from everyone else this stupid person parked their SUV close right beside me and they even crossed the parking line coming over into my space. It would be nice if you see a vehicle parked at the end of a parking lot, maybe they do not want another vehicle being right up on them like this person’s SUV was with my vehicle.

People need to be a little more considerate and give other cars space when there are all these other parking spots to use.

A really cute way to get my attention

I really wish some radio stations would not use the honking of the horn during their commercial breaks. It’s aggravating to be driving and then look suddenly to see if someone is blowing their horn for some reason only to realize it was the radio being cute to get your attention.

Banks, reopen the lobby

When is the lobby ever going to be available again to go in at the bank so you can directly talk with someone and conduct some banking business in person. I still have never got use to the drive-thru method when there’s more to do than a single transaction. Let’s say it’s very inconvenient, and yes you can set up an appointment for another day, regardless there is not a single customer in the bank. When I’ve been at the drive-thru and notice no cars were even up front in the parking lot, they still would not let me come in and the teller said I would have to make an appointment for the next day, which means I would have to make a second trip which doesn’t make sense.

I would just like to say we would really be in trouble if the grocery stores were acting sily like the banks.

Enforce the use of masks

I am disappointed at the Green Hills Kroger for not enforcing the use of masks in their store, starting with the employee. Every time I visit this store I see a young man walking around with his mask on his chin or covering his mouth only, at one point, I called this to his attention he actually pulled his mask all the way to his neck and started talking to me. I guess he wanted to show me that a customer was not tell him to wear his mask properly. Under the present pandemic of Covid 19 this behavior poses danger to the customers and other employees. Maybe this young man does not understand he is putting himself in danger, not to mention putting customers and co-workers in danger too.

I also walked by the fresh meat/seafood department and the employee behind the counter was singing! Kroger should enforce the use of masks to protect their customers and employees.

See an unusual photo perfect for What’s Wrong with This Picture? email: news@gcanews.com

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Serious inquiries only please.
5 tips for bringing a new pet home

Bringing a pet home for the first time - even if you already have other pets - can be an exciting moment. However, it's important to involve the whole family in discussing whether your family will foster or adopt, and what each family member's responsibilities with the new pet will be. It also takes preparation and patience to ensure a smooth transition.

Regardless of the type of companion you’re welcoming into your home, adjusting to a new environment can be overwhelming and could lead to anxiety. Because dogs and cats do not communicate like humans, they often express anxiety by misbehaving, which makes it important to be willing to spend the first several days bonding with your pet and forming good habits.

Visit your local shelter or animal welfare organization to complete necessary forms and background check, and consider this advice from the experts at PetSmart to help set you and your new furry friend up for a smooth transition.

**Introduce Your Pets**

When bringing a new pet into the family, set up a proper introduction with any current pets to help make the transition easier. For dogs, schedule the initial meeting at a neutral environment outside of your home. Cats typically need a more gradual introduction to get comfortable. Start by keeping your felines in separate rooms with their own litter boxes, but let them see each other periodically through a glass window to get used to sharing the space. Allowing your pets to play with each other’s toys can also create familiarity with their new housemate’s scent.

**Pet-Proof Your Home**

Because new pets can be especially curious and jump onto high surfaces or squeeze into small spaces, ensure clothes, cleaning supplies, electrical wires or cords and other potential hazards are out of reach. Other measures you can take to pet-proof your home include keeping toilet lids closed, covering vents and installing window guards. Also create a pet-friendly space with a bed or another way to divert attention, such as a scratching post for cats.

**Prepare the Necessities**

Decrease stress before bringing your new companion home by getting as many of the necessities ahead of time as possible. Ensuring your pet comes home to his or her own crate or bed, food and water bowls, a collar with identification, leash, food, necessary pest treatments and a variety of toys can make the adjustment to new surroundings easier.

**Create a Schedule**

Creating a routine for your companion’s mealtimes, bathroom breaks and playtime can help make the transition easier on both you and your pet. When building out the schedule, keep in mind that younger pets typically need to relieve themselves more often, and puppies and kittens also often require more exercise than older pets. Plan time for daily walks, solo playtime and trips to the park or backyard to play fetch.

**Keep Your Pet Happy and Healthy**

While a proper diet and plenty of exercise can go a long way toward keeping your pet feeling his or her best, ensure your furry friend looks the part by regularly bathing him or her and maintaining a healthy coat by brushing often with at-home grooming tools. It is also important to find a veterinarian who’s equipped to handle breed-specific needs and schedule routine checkups to stay on top of vaccines and any potential health concerns. Speak with your foster coordinator to find out about foster-specific requirements.

Find more tips for welcoming a new pet into your household at petsmart.com.
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The featured speaker was Bill Battle, well-known athletic director and coach at several top-football colleges including Alabama, Oklahoma and Tennessee. A sold-out crowd of mostly men enjoyed a full breakfast, entertaining stories from Battle, and networking.

ARCH Academy will open in early 2020 to provide 60 days to six months of residential care for adolescent boys, ages 14 to 18, suffering from alcohol and drug addiction.

The new recovery program will have a private high school licensed by the state to allow the teens to keep up current studies and graduate high school.

Guests included: Fleming Wilt, Bill Bainbridge, Jason Meyer, David Dunn, Jono Huddleston, Jeff Gaw, Andy May, Kent Cleaver, Cindy Patterson, Sam Cook, John Howard, Peggy Kinnard, and Jim Seabury.
Breakfast: Doug McDowell, Bill DeCamp, Clay Hart, and Greg Hagood.

Breakfast: Cole Szabo, Jay Crosson, Nick Hayes, and Peggy Craig.

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19 Washington Park  37205

Not often does a Master on the main come on the market in gated Sugartree in the Belle Meade section of town. Close to Green Hills as well, this 2996 sq ft house has the majority of its square footage on the main level of the home—right where you want it. There is not only a formal living room, but there is also a formal dining room, sunroom/office, den, and breakfast room on the first floor. The garage off of the kitchen is only two steps down as is the walled patio is right off of the sunroom. Conveniently located in the front section of Sugartree, this house has been meticulously maintained and move in ready! $750,000

200 Holmes Creek Road  Near Center Hill Lake  37166

8 acres of flat acreage and rolling hills wind you down to the stocked pond and gentle creek that borders this in town 6 bedroom home with bunk house, entertaining pavilion, two barns, and gazebo. Built in 2011, this Smithville, TN main house has two master suites on the main level and 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, and a playroom on the second level of the home. The pavilion is 34x74 with 2 fireplaces and his and her half baths. There are two garages and a 2 car carport on this property. Walk to the square or hop in your car for a short drive to the docks of Center Hill Lake. This gorgeous home and land is available for purchase at $995,000. The property may also be sold in parcels. Parcel 1 is the main house, its second garage, and .45 acres. It can be purchased for $750,000. The 7.59 acres with pavilion and one bedroom apartment or bunk house, three log barns, the stocked pond, and the creek border is the 2nd Parcel and may be purchased for $245,000. Smithville is 74 minutes from Green Hills in Nashville. Perfect get away spot! I need one day’s advanced notice to show!

Two Rentals Available on August 1, 2020

1715 Temple Ave.
Green Hills

3/2 all brick house with master up. Slow Green Hills street just off of Lone Oak. Small fenced back yard with water feature. One car garage. Hardwood floors, fantastic kitchen with fireplace and breakfast nook. 14x14 screened porch off of the living room.

Fifth and Main in East Nashville

Two Rentals Available on August 1, 2020

1715 Temple Ave.
Green Hills

3/2 all brick house with master up. Slow Green Hills street just off of Lone Oak. Small fenced back yard with water feature. One car garage. Hardwood floors, fantastic kitchen with fireplace and breakfast nook. 14x14 screened porch off of the living room.

Fifth and Main in East Nashville

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