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Knoxville NEWS SENTINEL

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026 | KNOXNEWS.COM

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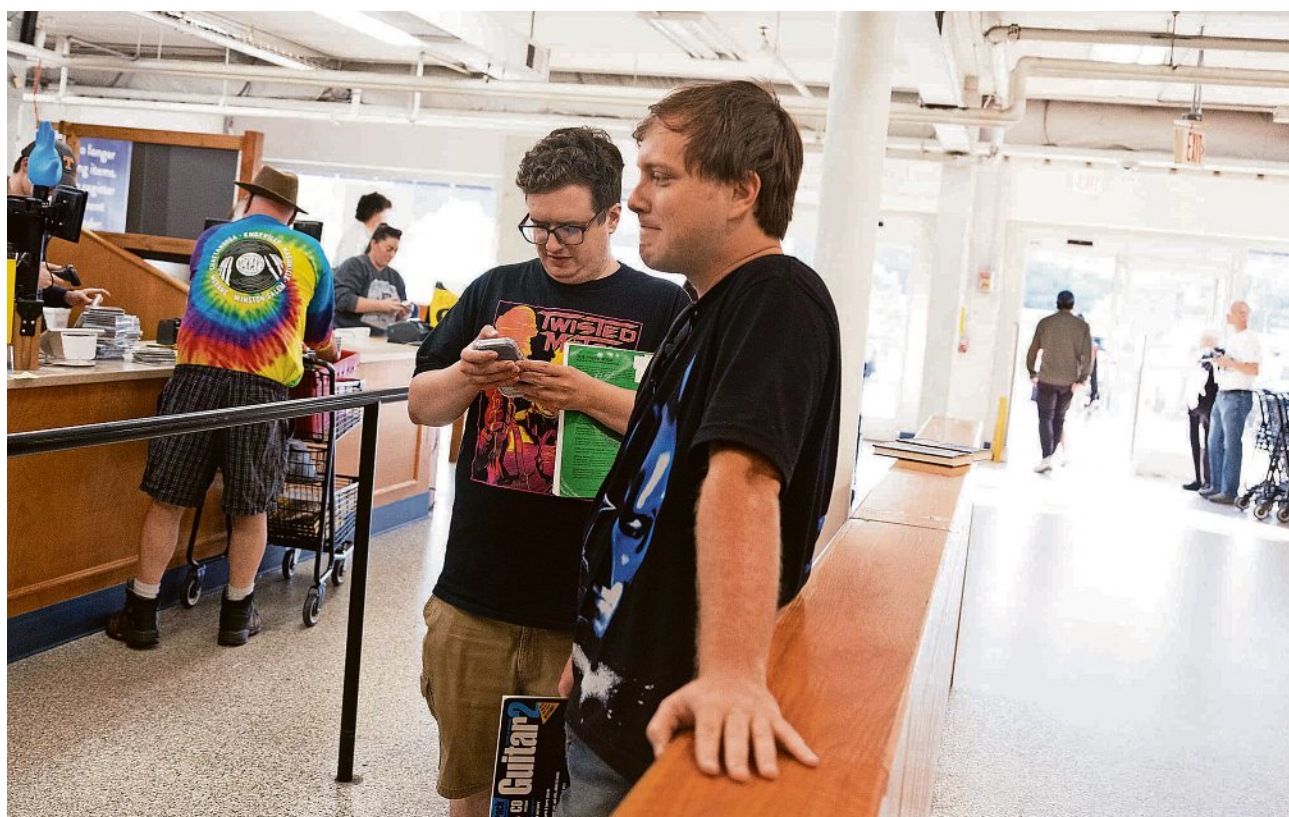
ELECTION DAY IS HERE

Polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. today in the local primary elections. Check your voter registration status and voting location at sos.tn.gov/elections.



Before you cast your ballot, scan the QR code to hear from the dozens of candidates we interviewed for the **Knox News Voter's Guide**. In races with several candidates, it will help you understand whose stances match yours! Then check back after the polls close for results and analysis at knoxnews.com.

Final chapter closes on beloved bookstore



2 regulars were last shoppers at McKay's in Knoxville

Mariah Franklin and Saul Young
Knoxville News Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Daniel Smith, left, and Nathan Webster are the final customers at McKay's on the Knoxville store's last day of business May 3. McKay's still has shops in Chattanooga, Nashville and North Carolina. SAUL YOUNG/NEWS SENTINEL

A pair of used music manuals helped close the book on McKay's, a Knoxville institution off Papermill Drive and one of the biggest brick-and-mortar bookstores in Tennessee. • The last customers to check out of McKay's before it closed for good as of May 3, were Nathan Webster and Daniel Smith, who purchased books about piano (a buyer's guide by Larry Fine) and guitar (playing instructions by Jeff Schroedl and Blake Neely). **See MCKAY'S, Page 7A**

Distress, fear in school breach

Teacher cries during courtroom testimony

Tyler Whetstone
Knoxville News Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Chelsea Gillis was cutting slices of pie in her Hardin Valley Elementary fifth-grade math classroom March 16, belatedly celebrating Pi Day with her students, when Zain Madadali walked in unannounced and uninvited.

Madadali had bypassed the front office and was roaming the school's halls. Gillis noticed he wore no visitor's badge. He complimented her on an AI-generated photo of her posted in the hallway and said she was beautiful.

Gillis testified May 4 in Knox County General Court that the interaction was unnerving, and she was scared for her 22 students, some of whom were outside the classroom using the restroom. The door had been unlocked to

See BREACH, Page 7A



Plowman pushing for entertainment district

Adam Sparks
Knoxville News Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

University of Tennessee Chancellor Donde Plowman called Neyland Entertainment District a "very bold and dramatic opportunity" in a full-throated endorsement of the \$280 million pro-

Inside

UT's new \$227M building officially named Randy Boyd Hall. **6A**

ject.

Her pitch came minutes before the UT System Board of Trustees approved the construction of the Neyland Ent-

tainment District and new G10 parking garage on May 4. Work will begin in July with the demolition of the parking garage.

"This is an asset for 365 days a year and not just 39 days (for football and basketball home games)," Plowman

See DISTRICT, Page 7A

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