

A 26% jump in Town housing sales prices from '20 to '21

Average house time on market drops from 48 days in '20 to 15 days in '21

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

Though hardly surprising that Town of Farragut's housing market is indeed a seller's market, Town administrator David Smoak fleshed out "remarkable" statistical data when comparing the last two years.

In 2020 "there were 630 sales, housing cost sales, in Farragut. Total volume was \$284,000,000; that's a

\$451,000 average sales price. In 2021 there was actually less volume, 566, but a total (volume) of \$327,000,000 — the average sale price was over \$569,000 last year, which is about a 26 percent increase over 2020," Smoak announced during his address concerning Town affairs at the monthly Shop Farragut-Farragut Business Alliance meeting Wednesday morning, Jan. 12, in Town Hall Community Room.

"But here's the remarkable thing: in 2020 the average days on the market (for a home) was 48 days; last year it was 15," he added. "... It definitely shows how hot the market's been here locally during the past year."

Aldi first in Town Center? McFee Park update

"Aldi is currently under way as part of the Town Center development at Biddle Farms," Smoak said about the popular high-end grocery store chain. "... Their contractor has that under way.

"They're looking at probably early summer for an open date," he added. "... They have to get the roads and parking connected, make sure it's safe. The whole development will be connected at this point."

When asked about the progress of McFee Park's Phase 3 completion by Farragut Mayor Ron Williams, Smoak said, "... We should have parts of it open, I would think, in the next, hopefully, month or two."

Town salutes Black History Month Feb. 6

'Black History Heroes, Soldiers, Spies' to be presented by Bright Star Touring

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

While Town of Farragut had to forego its program for Black History Month last year because of COVID, this year the program returns featuring "Black History Heroes, Soldiers & Spies," a production presented by Bright Star Touring Theatre.

The program, which is free and open to the public, is scheduled to take place beginning at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 6, in Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive.

In addition, a reception in Town Hall Rotunda starts at 1 p.m. Also free of charge, the reception is open to the public.

"History is filled with Black American heroes, and in this production audiences learn the stories of some of the most amazing figures like Col. Charles Young of the Buffalo Soldiers, the Tuskegee Airmen as they take flight to help achieve victory in World War II, and Mary Elizabeth Bowser, whose work as a spy helped the Union during the Civil War," said Julia Barham, Farragut's Historic Resources coordinator. "It is an exciting and interactive production that is sure to intrigue young and old alike."

In addition to adults and teenagers, she noted the program is recommended for children third grade and above.

The Black History Month program has been taking place at Town Hall for more than 10 years. Bright Star Touring Theatre held productions from 2017 through 2019, stated Wendy Smith, Town public relations and marketing coordinator.

"Bright Star Touring Theatre performances are very popular," Barham said. "The Black History Month event is one of my favorite programs, and there's great community involvement, too.

"It's important for us to recognize the contributions of our local black community, as well as remember the people who changed history of our country, like those who will be the focus of this year's program," she added.

Farragut Museum will be closed after the performance, so attendees wishing to tour the museum will want to do so before the performance.



(Left) An unnamed actor from Bright Star Touring Theatre salutes in his role as a soldier in "Black History Heroes, Soldiers & Spies" program, which will be held as part of Town of Farragut's Black History Month celebration starting at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 6, in Town Hall. **(Below)** A recent year's reception in Town Hall Rotunda.

Photos submitted



Povlin reacts as County shares 20-year 'land, trans' plans

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD

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Farragut's Board of Mayor and Aldermen was introduced to key players of "Advance Knox," Knoxville-Knox County Planning's comprehensive update of its Land Use Plan during a called workshop Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 11.

When completed over the next 18 months, Advance

Knox will offer a guide for the County's land use and transportation decisions for the next two decades, according to a Knox County press release.

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, who spoke at the workshop, launched the process last year.

"It's been 20 years since Knox County updated its land use plan," Jacobs said at the start of the workshop. "The plan will include not only land use, but transportation and a master parks plan. Of course,

Farragut is an important partner, an important community stakeholder and we look forward to working with you all.

"We will also be reconvening the growth policy committee to discuss and amend that document," he added.

"We are looking to do a few things with this com-

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business

"Jame, Adam and Jesse all grew up in Village Green and went to Farragut High School together. After college and some moves, we are all back in Farragut,"

-Sam Houghton, officer for a company seeking to "make it simple." (Read story starting on page 5A)

community

"Family is the first geography. ... It shapes our hearts where we first take root. ... I hope kids see dreams do come true and reconciliation can be possible,"

-Caitlin Hamilton Summie, who hopes to inspire in story form. (Read story on page 4B)

sports

"I've been in some rivalries, but this is something else. We had to win this one. You have to defend your home turf. ... They're getting better every game."

-Travis Mains, coach of a team looking to be special once again. (Read story starting on page 1B)



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Pair of Town fire scares

KCSOreports



Cotton Eyed Joe photos courtesy of Jeff Bagwell/Rural Metro Fire

Thanks to sprinkler systems activating properly, two Farragut businesses were spared severe damage when fires started. **(No photo)** At 2:08 a.m., Monday, Jan. 17, “a commercial fire occurred at 12740 Kingston Pike Suite 106 in Farragut,” Town fire marshal Daniel Johnson stated in a press release. “This property is occupied by Parrilla’s Cantina, an approximately 2,500-square-foot restaurant. No injuries were reported.” Upon its arrival, “Rural Metro Fire discovered a fire had occurred in the tortilla chip warmer in a service corridor of the business,” Johnson’s report further stated. “The fire was controlled and extinguished by a single fire sprinkler head. The cause of the fire appears to be accidental in nature and the ignition source appeared to be the unsupervised food-warming device. The property sustained minor water damage. However, fire and smoke damage were limited due to the activation of the fire sprinkler system minimizing further fire development. The facility (was) expected to be open for business again” no later than Thursday, Jan. 20.

(Photo above) Discovering a fire had occurred along the ceiling level of Cotton Eyed Joe’s, 11220 Outlet Drive in Farragut, Rural Metro Fire responded around 4:50 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 11. No injuries were reported. Damage to the roughly 25,000-square-foot entertainment venue “was limited due to the activation of the fire sprinkler system minimizing further fire development,” stated a report from Jeff Bagwell, public information officer with Rural Metro Fire. “... The cause of the fire appears to be accidental and the ignition source appeared to be electrical in nature. ... The Fire Department facilitated in removing the smoke from the structure and completing the fire extinguishment that was not done by the sprinkler system. ... Knox County Fire Investigation Unit will be overseeing any further investigation.”

• At 5:51 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 8, a complainant called Knox County Sheriff’s Office Teleserve Unit to report a vehicular burglary at a Turkey Creek Road address. Complainant advised an unknown suspect broke a window on his 2021 Subaru Outback, causing an estimated \$1,500 worth of damage, and stole a number of items, the report stated. A Coach purse valued at \$300 was among items taken, with all items valued at \$395.

• At 6:18 p.m., Jan. 8, a complainant called KCSO Teleserve Unit to report a vehicular burglary at a Turkey Creek Road address. Complainant advised an unknown suspect broke a window on his 2017 BMW X3 and stole \$1,929 worth of items, including an Apple smartphone valued at \$799, eyeglasses valued at \$750 and a purse, which including contents was valued at \$300. Damage to the vehicle was estimated at \$3,000.

• At 5:10 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 2, officers responded to an Inglecrest Lane address regarding a domestic disturbance. During the investigation, the victim said her son, the suspect, “had assaulted her with a dog toy during a verbal altercation,” the report stated. “Victim had a bruise on her right forearm.”

A witness said the victim and suspect were arguing over the amount of pizza sauce on the pizza when the suspect started hitting the victim with a dog toy. “Officers interviewed the suspect and observed he was highly agitated,” the report further stated. “Suspect said he did not remember what had taken place during the argument. The suspect told officers he felt like harming himself due to the situation. He was taken into custody and transported to Roger D. Wilson Detention Facility. The

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ADVERTORIAL

Balance & Fall Prevention: Can You Pass This Balance Test?

By - Leading Physical Therapist, Dr. John-Mark Chesney

Farragut- This week, we are building off the information we discussed last week about your 3 balance systems, and I’m going to tell you some simple ways you can test each of these systems at home. Recall from last week that maintaining your balance depends on 2 things: your ability to sense your balance, and your ability to make corrections. Your 3 balance systems (vision, sensation, and inner ear) help you with that first task by providing your brain with a constant stream of input. When one or more of these systems start to decrease in speed or quality, this can have a very detrimental effect on your balance.

So how do you know if your 3 balance systems are working properly? You test them! And while some people might require some sophisticated testing, especially if the inner ear is involved, there are some really simple tests we use in the clinic to test each of the systems.

I’m going to tell you how to test your balance systems below, **but first I want to give you a word of caution:** make sure you’re in a safe environment when trying these balance tests. If your balance isn’t quite as good as it used to be, these tests will probably make you feel unsteady, and the last thing we want is for you to have a fall. So again, be safe with these tests. Have your spouse or a friend help you if needed, and make sure you’re in a spot where you can easily correct your balance if needed (by grabbing onto a high countertop or with a chair behind you).

Follow Instructions Below for your “At-Home” Balance Test

In the clinic, we call these 4 positions the “Romberg” test. Do your best to maintain your balance for up to 30 seconds during each test, with your arms crossed over your chest. The first 2 positions are performed on a hard, level surface:

Position 1: feet together, eyes open.

Position 2: feet together, eyes closed.

The next 2 positions are performed on a squishy surface. We use a dense piece of foam in the clinic,

but at home you can use a thick pillow or a couch cushion.

Position 3: feet together, eyes open- on a squishy/ soft surface

Position 4: feet together, eyes closed- on a squishy/ soft surface

A “normal” performance on each test would be an ability to maintain each position for 30 seconds with only minimal amounts of sway or wobbling. If you have to uncross your arms or touch your hand down, stop the test. And if you have to open your eyes on position 2 or 4, that also stops the test.

How To Interpret the Tests

Most people will be able to complete the full 30 seconds on the first position with only minimal sway/wobbling. If you have difficulty with the first position, which is the easiest, you likely have more than one balance system involved. If you do fine with the first position but have difficulty with the second position, it’s likely that you’re visually dominant and have issues with both your sensation and inner ear. If you do just fine with the first 2 positions but then have difficulty with the third, you likely have issues with your sensation/proprioception, and possibly your inner ear as well. And finally, if you have difficulty with the fourth position alone, you likely have some level of difficulty with your inner ear only.

The majority of people that try the Romberg test in the clinic will have difficulty with at least one of the positions, especially when we ask them to close their eyes. **If the test interpretation seems confusing, let me give you the most common scenario we see:** many people are overly reliant on their vision and have inner ear “weakness”. In addition, there are several other factors that might be negatively affecting their overall balance. Next week, I’ll introduce you to Janet and how she overcame some additional barriers to correct her balance. Talk to you then!

The author, John-Mark Chesney, is a Doctor of Physical Therapy and Owner of Simply Physio. He’s happy to answer any questions about balance and fall prevention by phone or text at (865) 351-0615 or by email at john-mark@simplypt.co

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County-Town
From page 1A

prehensive planning process, since it's been a while since this has been undertaken for the county area," said Allison Fluitt of Kimley-Horne & Associates, who is working with Cathy Olson, project engineer with Advance Knox, to lead the project.

"We see this as a chance to look at a blueprint, establishing that blueprint for the county, in terms of setting some goals and understanding what those goals should be, as well as also understanding action items — how can we make this into an actionable plan for the county?" she added. "And to do that, really functioning as a compass for local decision making.

"We want this to be a tool. Something that is data driven, but informed by members of the public, as we come into things, such as capital improvements, decisions on rezoning and things like that. What is first and foremost in this process, is to see this as a communication tool."

"This is a big project and I want it to be successful," Jacobs stated in the release. "I encourage people to apply to ensure broad community representation and lots of diverse ideas."

Povlin on transportation

As transportation was a key topic,

"We've been paying attention to our transportation plan," Farragut Vice Mayor Louise Povlin said during a time of commentary, as she showed some prepared slides of Farragut and surrounding areas.

"I sat down a couple of weeks ago and looked through the history of what we have done and where we are today," she added. "This is basically our Farragut area transportation network — Farragut, Choto and the Woody Drive area. Those are the folks attending our Farragut schools, that is our community.

"We've built a pretty good transportation network. and strategically, have widened many of our roads. We have two state highways that meet each other in the heart of our Town."

In looking at Canton Hollow, Choto and the Woody Road area, "Canton Hollow, is funded to be improved, but once that is done, the missing key piece will be a sidewalk and trail section for Loop Road and Woody Drive," Povlin said.

"... What what we value, what we really invest in our community, is our sidewalks, our parks and our trails. In 30 years, we've connected quite a bit,



Jacobs

and are always looking for ways to connect more, where can we connect, that Knox County can connect into," she added.

"Choto has two ways out — through McFee/Boyd Station and Virtue, and Northshore; Northshore is minor arterial. In my estimation, there are some safety and efficiency issues that need to be addressed in the Choto section, coming out to Concord circle; and the loop Road/Woody drive, key east west connector for us."

The Vice Mayor also pointed out "a nice opportunity to finish that out, and possibly [add] a light at Canton Hollow and Loop Road/Woody Drive. That would offer us the opportunity to have another, better way to travel instead of having it all come to the heart of our town and try to give [residents] different opportunities to just get to the highway.

"I will say this; we are running out of opportunities to connect," she added. "The idea we would start widening some our arterials, makes me very nervous.

"I pulled up TPO 2045. One project,



Povlin

Kingston Pike widening — proposes widening from four lanes and a continuous center lane, to six lanes and a continuous center lane, from Smith Road to Campbell Station Road. That's scheduled out for 2040, so that might be off in the distance, maybe it won't happen. I can only hope that it won't."

Also considering those near Farragut Town limits, "I believe a lot of people in Choto, Woody Drive believe they are in Farragut, but they really do need to be part of this conversation," Povlin said.

About school overcrowding, the Vice Mayor asked, "At what point are you looking at new high schools, new middle schools? The parents would like to have that information."

Useful citizen information

Three phases of workshops and on-line input are planned, beginning in March. Subsequent rounds will take place later this fall and during early 2023, according to information shared during the workshop.

"Advanceknox.org will house all project information, including news updates, a timeline, upcoming meeting information, opportunities to get involved and contact information for the project team," the County release also stated.

For more information, contact the project team at advanceknox@knox-planning.org.

towncalendar

• Farragut Museum, 11408 Municipal Center Drive in Town Hall, is taking a hiatus as it prepares for its newest exhibit, "The Craftsmen of Yesterday," featuring antique farm tools and other implements.

The museum, which closed Jan. 10, will remain closed through Monday, Jan. 31, and will re-open at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 1, with the exhibit "Visitors will travel back in time to see the fascinating tools used by farmers in this area during the early to mid-1900s," the Town's website stated. "In conjunction with the exhibit, the Museum will unveil a country store scene on the vignette."

A special "Friends of the Museum" preview is scheduled for Jan. 31. Those who are not already a Friend of the Farragut Museum and would like to attend the event may sign up during the preview. Admission is free and open to the public.

Typical hours are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call 865-966-7057.

• While Town of Farragut had to forego its Black History Month program last year because of COVID, this year the program returns featuring "Black History Heroes, Soldiers &

See TOWN CALENDAR on Page 4A



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lettertotheeditor

Ordinance overrules CLUP on property rights

Much has been made this last year about how the Town limited apartments to 25 percent of the Mixed-Use Town Center area. It has been stated that this limitation is the reason that at least one Town official voted in favor of the changes. However, a closer look at the changes show that apartments can still be built in other areas of the MUTC.

Last January, changes were made to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the MUTC portion of the General Commercial (C-1) Zoning Ordinance. The two CLUP changes say, “High-density residential should only be permitted as part of a town-center development plan” and “A town center development plan, which includes high density residential, is intended to be located only in the area bound by S. Campbell Station Road, Concord Road and Kingston Pike.”

Then last fall, the CLUP High-Density Land Use Description location was changed, stating, “Limited to areas where it exists or has been approved as part of a Planned Commercial Development.” While these changes would seem to indicate “no more apartments,” it is not that clear.

The governing Zoning Ordinance is the C-1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. It codifies the MUTC area requirements. The Uses section allows for “Residential, provided it is located in the upper floors of a building that has been designed and constructed for a mix of uses, or on any floors if it is part of an approved horizontally configured mixed-use town center development plan that is within the Planned Commercial Development Zoning District.”

The ordinance is clear that residential development, including apartments, can still be built on C-1 parcels in the MUTC area.

The next question becomes, “What density is allowed?” Table 3-1 in the CLUP states that four-to-seven units per acre are allowed in a com-

mercial area. However, it allows for eight-to-15 units per acre in the MUTC area. While high-density residential would require use of the PCD Zoning District, it is clear the ordinance still allows for it.

Do the CLUP statements stop additional apartments? This portion of the CLUP is not codified in the zoning ordinance. Thus, land-owners of the current MUTC C-1 parcels have a property right to develop their property per the MUTC portion of the C-1 ordinance. Not allowing such a development would be an illegal taking. If asked for their interpretation, the Board of Zoning Appeals or a court of law would rely on the language in the ordinance over that of the CLUP. The CLUP is a guiding document, where the ordinance is the law.

Based on recent citizen feedback, the Town needs to halt the potential for any additional apartments in the MUTC area, regardless of their density.

There is an easy solution: remove the MUTC designation from all the current C-1 parcels in the MUTC area except the Biddle Farm development. This change would ensure any future development/redevelopment of these C-1 properties could not include apartments. The C-1 district outside of the MUTC does not allow for apartments.

Is it likely that we would see a request for additional apartments in the next few years? Probably not. But five or six years ago, residents would not have fathomed a 285-unit free-standing apartment complex in the middle of Town. I encourage all residents to contact your Alderman and Mayor (Ron) Williams and insist on this change.

Michael Wilson,
Farragut

throughthelens

When it comes to challenges not only facing Farragut, Knox County and East Tennessee, but the Southeastern United States and, for that matter, the entire country as a whole in 2022, the economy — inflation and the possible raising of interest rates — and the even more contagious Omicron COVID variant — though supposedly less deadly despite hospital rooms in short supply locally — stand out. Do you anticipate things getting better by the end of winter, in mid-March, on the economic front and/or the COVID front? How closely are the two linked? Tell us what you think by calling Presstalk at 865-671-TALK (8255) or by e-mailing editor@farragutpress.com



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• Will the Town of Farragut ever consider incorporating the Northshore/Choto corridor from Knox County? Many residents that reside in this area shop, attend schools, worship, dine, see their doctor or dentist in Farragut. The housing market is booming in this part of Knox County, and a lot of residents commute through the Town for work and school. There are only two options in and out of this area, Concord Road and Boyd Station Road (one-lane underpass). I think the input from these residents is vital to the growth of the community, especially with traffic concerns.

• On the Phase 3 of McFee Park, my question is: what now is the total cost of the park (construction)? It's been months and it hasn't been open, Phase 3. Is there a problem with (the) construction (company)? Is the Town having a construction management problem with (the company)? What is the total cost the Town has spent on McFee Park, Phase 3? It's a great idea, but I think the cost is in millions of dollars now.

(Editor's Note: Cost for Phase 3 alone is around \$7.7 million, according to December figures passed along by Wendy Smith, Public relations and marketing coordinator with Town of Farragut)

Presstalk rules

We respectfully ask our readers to follow the following Presstalk rules when submitting their opinions:

- No names of any public figures or other persons will be allowed in a Presstalk submission.
- All Presstalk submission must have identification (for farragutpress purposes only; no names will be published with any Presstalk submission).
- Please keep calls to a 90-second maximum (call 865-671-8255 24 hours a day, seven days a week);
- Please keep e-mailed Presstalks to 250 words maximum (editor@farragutpress.com);
- Libelous and malicious comments will not be published;
- Profanity will be edited out

KCSO Reports

From page 2A

victim was advised and given a copy of her rights.

• On Jan. 1, officers responded to a Snyder Road hotel room concerning a domestic assault. “A large group pointed out” the suspect involved in the altercation,” the report stated. Suspect was detained and secured in the back seat of a patrol vehicle. Suspect “was uncooperative and would only yell at officers.” Victim said he called suspect and her husband to the room to play cards and drink. Victim and suspect had been in a relationship and have a child.

Town calendar

From page 3A

Spies,” a production presented by Bright Star Touring Theatre.

The program, which is free and open to the public, begins at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 6, in Farragut Town Hall, 11408

The child was not present.

While in the room a verbal altercation began between the suspect and her husband. Victim told them both to leave and opened the door to get them out of the room. Victim said the altercation had become physical, and while trying to get them to leave the suspect struck him in the throat three times. Her husband fled the area with his two children before the arrival of officers. Suspect was arrested and transported to Roger D. Wilson Detention Facility. Her husband was later found, but would not tell officers what happened at the hotel. Victim was given a domestic violence card and advised of his rights.

Municipal Center Drive. There will be a reception starting at 1 p.m. in Town Hall's Rotunda. Also free of charge, the reception is open to the public.

Farragut Museum will be closed after the performance, so attendees wishing to tour the museum must do so before the performance.

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‘Blessed, ready to crush,’ My SimpleLife opens

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

The goal of Farragut resident Jame Houghton and his team is to make the connection to healthcare simpler with their company, My SimpleLife, Inc., 11410 Kingston Pike, Suite 100, adjacent to Bark Place.

It’s grand opening is scheduled from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 26.

About their opening, Sam Houghton, vice president of marketing and Jame’s wife, replied, “Blessed and ready to crush.”

My SimpleLife, also called SimpleLife, is a HIPAA-complaint software company with a primary focus on healthcare, seeking to make work and life simpler for patients, practices, law firms and insurance companies.

“With customized automation, we eliminate the need for e-mails, calls, faxes and other archaic communication methods used today,” the company’s website stated.

Along with Houghton, founder and CEO, the team also consists of Adam Chan, chief technology officer; Sam Houghton; and Jesse Lindsey, developer.

“Jame, Adam and Jesse all grew up in Village Green and went to Farragut High School together,” Sam said. “After college and some moves, we are all back in Farragut.”

“Each time we have a child, Jame tends to start a new business – this is kind of a joke, but also totally true,” Sam added. “Jame’s medical finance companies were inundated with



Photo submitted

My Simple Life team members, including from left, Adam Chan, chief technology officer; Jame Houghton, founder and CEO; and Samantha Houghton, vice president of marketing; along with Jesse Lindsey (not pictured), developer, are preparing for the software company’s grand opening, scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 11410 Kingston Pike Suite 100, adjacent to Bark Place.

faxing. While solving his processes, SimpleLife was born.

“No company wants to use faxing as their preferred method, so we help companies by completely eliminating the need and use of a fax machine; and at the same time, we increase efficiency and profitability for our customers.”

By using SimpleLife, Sam said businesses can do a variety of things that make work simple.

“They can request, send and receive medical records with the click of a button, taking a

once lengthy process down to six minutes,” she said. “This includes sending/receiving dicom imaging files like X-Rays, CT Scans, MRIs, etc.

“Medical practices can also send and receive referrals to/from other practices swiftly,” Sam added. “No more phone calls, no more e-mails.”

As a bonus, “there are referral analytics, letting practices know where referrals are being sent, who is accepting them and if these referrals are

See MY SIMPLELIFE on Page 6A

businessbriefs

• **Knoxville Catholic High School** recently hired **Adarius Bowman** as associate director of Admission Outreach and International Enrollment.

Additionally, he will assist Fighting Irish football as a wide receivers coach.

Bowman recently completed his career in the Canadian Football League and recently was honored as a member of the CFL’s All-Decade Team (2010-2020) as a wide receiver.

Bowman led the CFL in receiving yards three seasons and helped lead the Edmonton Eskimos to a Grey Cup Championship in 2015.

• **FirstBank**, which has a branch in Farragut, has committed to a \$10 million investment in The Housing Fund for the organization’s Shared Equity Program of affordable housing.

The Shared Equity Program allows for sustainable, continuous affordable housing solutions through renewable single-family homes.

FirstBank’s commitment will fund home loans made to low- to moderate-income individuals in majority minority census tracts for families in Tennessee.

Homebuyers in the program are only required to provide 1 percent of the purchase price, with 25 percent contributed by The Housing Fund and the other 74 percent coming from a FirstBank loan.

Once the homeowner is ready to move on, they can sell it only to another qualified low- to moderate-income buyer affiliated with The Housing Fund. At closing, The Housing Fund gets

back its 25 percent contribution at 0 percent interest.

• **Lesa Baker** has joined **Weichert, Realtors – Advantage Plus’ Knoxville office**, 10160 Parkside Drive.

• **BarberMcMurry Architects** recently won an **AIA Tennessee and two AIA East Tennessee awards** for their work at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, East Tennessee Children’s Hospital and the University of Tennessee.

For the restoration of St. George Greek Orthodox Church, BMA won an AIA Tennessee Merit Award. The restoration followed a 2015 fire and included the church’s traditional Byzantine architecture and hand-crafted glass mosaics. BMA won an AIA East Tennessee Merit Award for renovating ETCH’s chapel and for its design of UT’s Student Union in conjunction with McCarty Holsaple McCarty.

• **Knox County and Knoxville-Knox County Planning** are embarking upon a comprehensive planning process, dubbed **Advance Knox**, to guide community land use and transportation decisions for the next two decades.

The process was launched last year by **Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs** when the search process for a consultant to lead the project began. A consultant team led by **Kimley Horn and Planning** was selected near the end of the year.

Advance Knox will analyze population growth projections, land availability and infrastructure conditions in Knox County. It also will incorporate an in-depth and fiscal impact analysis of the county’s transportation network, including safety, capacity and multi-modal access.

• **Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee** recently announced appointees

See BRIEFS on Page 6A

Sage Kohler State Farm opens doors to renovated office

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD
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State Farm agent Sage Kohler has a newly renovated Hardin Valley office she is sharing not only with customers, but also the community.

She hosted an open house Friday, Jan. 7, to showcase the former historic residence-turned-business located just west of Food City at 11519 Hardin Valley Road.

The event also celebrated the 100-year anniversary of State Farm, and featured a cake, appetizers and live music from Jackson Frazier of the band Solstice.

“While we were hoping for more attendance, with COVID, the bad weather (28-degree high that day) and school being closed, we enjoyed the company of about 50 different folks during the course of the afternoon,” she said. “And, everyone enjoyed getting a tour.

Especially Jay Kohlbusch, who owned the building from 2008 to 2017 and ran his law office from it. He even inadvertently dressed like Jake (from State Farm, the print and TV advertisement character).”

Kohler, who also is a founding member and president of the Hardin Valley Business and Community Alliance, said the front portion of the home was built in early 1800s, the back in 1990s, and down through the years underwent many additions and renovations before she purchased it last year.

“The home was built originally by the Gallaher family and owned by them until the mid 1980s,” she said. “The last Gallaher family member to live here was Macy Mack Gallaher, a fifth-generation Tennessean born in 1889.

“I spoke with Rev. Donald Hubbard, and he told me of sitting by the fireplace in the front room in the ‘80’s, talk-

ing with Macy and hearing stories of his life including being a soldier in France in WWI, rebuilding the Upper Gallaher Ferry that connected Oak Ridge and Hardin Valley, as well as stories about working his family farm and dairy,” Kohler added.

How invested in Kohler?

“I have put my heart, soul and money into this house and tried to maintain its integrity and history over six months of renovations,” she said during a walk-through of the two-story showplace, which features a welcoming foyer, her own office, fashioned from what once was the master bedroom, meeting rooms, an oversized kitchen, a screened-in porch and a small gym upstairs to help motivate her agents, all situated on more than an acre of land.

Additionally, she is adding

See SAGE KOHLER on Page 7A



Photo submitted

Hardin Valley State Farm agent Sage Kohler cuts the cake during her Friday, Jan. 7, open house, celebrating 100 years of State Farm and her new office space at 11519 Hardin Valley Road.

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Minimal Optimist cuts ribbon for opening



Photo submitted

Minimal Optimist, specializing in sustainable, eco-friendly and nature-inspired goods and unique gifts, is open for business. A grand opening was held Monday, Dec. 13, at its boutique, 9230 Kingston Pike in Cedar Springs shopping center. Tabitha Palmer (with scissors), owner of Minimal Optimist, was alongside Knoxville Mayor Glenn Jacobs. Others on hand for the event, from left, were D. Aaron Odell; Ashleigh Christian, director of investor development with Knoxville Chamber of Commerce; Jonathan Palmer, Tabitha Palmer’s husband; Corie Stabile; and Hayden Oakley.

Texas company acquires Premier Martial Arts; no changes expected

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Premier Martial Arts, 135 Brooklawn St., has new ownership — but no functional changes. Unleashed Brands of Dallas acquired PMA, a prominent franchised company specializing in teaching karate, krav maga and kickboxing to children and adults, Tuesday, Jan. 4. “The Premier Martial Arts location in Farragut will remain open and continue to operate as it has in the past,” UB vice president Michelle Portillo said. “You should expect the same stellar customer service you have always experienced. “The Premier Martial Arts brand is poised to revolutionize the \$4 billion martial arts industry and aligns with Unleashed Brands’ culture of wanting to help prepare kids socially, emotionally and physically for life ahead,” she added. Barry Van Over, PMA’s CEO, founded the company, which

grew to more than 70 locations in the United States, Canada and Great Britain. Upon franchising PMA in 2018, “the franchise has quickly grown to 564 franchises sold to 228 owners, with 468 remaining to be open in the next few years, making Premier Martial Arts one of the fastest-growing franchises in the world,” Portillo said. “Premier Martial Arts has seen enormous growth, and I knew I was going to need help to continue that growth and do it right,” Van Over said. “We found a great partner and resource in Unleashed Brands as our missions and visions align perfectly.” “I’m excited to remain in my role as CEO and continue leading the overall vision for the brand,” he added.



Van Over



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Hardin Valley State Farm agent Sage Kohler, right, is pictured with attorney Jay Kohlbusch, who attended her Friday, Jan. 7, open house and previously owned her "new" office building, "even inadvertently (dressing) like Jake from State Farm (photo cutout)," she said.

Sage Kohler

From page 5A

touches of regional history, including doors and a bookshelf from well-known Knoxville businesses.

"The couple who owned this house in the 1990s and did the most reconstructive work were friends with the owners of Knoxville Salvage, so they really paid attention to details," Kohler said.

Outside are Adirondack chairs, a fire pit and picnic tables, along with an outbuilding complete with sound studio she is sharing with under-construction Valley Church.

"Eventually, I see the Studio as more of a community cen-



Photo submitted

Sage Kohler held an open house to show her newly renovated State Farm office in Hardin Valley.

ter," she said of the property.

Previously, Kohler's offices were located in Hardin Val-

ley's Pure Luxe building. She has been with State Farm in various capacities for 37 years.



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Dominant hoops week

Strong 2nd-half defense pads FHS boys district lead

(Above) Driving baseline is Ryan Neal, Farragut senior guard, as the Admirals hosted District 4-4A rival Maryville Tuesday, Jan. 11, in Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium. Following a comfortable victory against the Red Rebels, FHS used a strong second half to roar past district rival Hardin Valley at HVA 62-40 Thursday, Jan. 13. Starting the week as 4-4A leader at 3-0 (13-5 overall), Farragut recovered from a 15-5 deficit after one quarter versus the Hawks, and were trailing 22-20 at halftime before defense — and a 25-point third period — told the story. “It was defensive intensity,” said Neal, who led the Ads in scoring with a game-high 24, followed closely by junior wing/post Dallas Carbaugh’s 20. “I think the reason we’re winning is we’ve really bought in to offensive rebounding, creating for others and all-around effort,” Carbaugh said. Nick Lakonis led the Hawks in scoring with 11. “We didn’t handle their physicality. They did a wonderful job defensively,” HVA head coach Shane Wells said.

FHS photos courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com



Easy 4-4A wins vs. MHS, at HVA had Lady Ads rolling to start week

(Above) Avery “Ace” Strickland, Farragut standout senior wing who passed the 1,500-point career mark as a Lady Admiral last week, looks to drive against District 4-4A rival Maryville Tuesday, Jan. 11, in FHS’s Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium. The Lady Ads (14-5 overall, 2-1 in 4-4A entering the week) enjoyed a dominant victory against the Lady Red Rebels, then won decisively at rival Hardin Valley Academy, 74-41, Thursday, Jan. 13. Strickland pumped in a game-high 22 points versus the Lady Hawks and was one of three Farragut girls scoring in double figures. Keeleigh Rogers, senior guard, scored 19 while Ashlyn Sheridan, senior wing, added 15. “I feel like we’ve gone through so much adversity, but we’ve held together,” Strickland said. “We’re playing well, and we’re playing quick like we normally play,” Rogers said. While Hardin Valley was without starter Gracie Waite, a sophomore guard who is a team leader in numerous statistical categories, Kamiyah Love’s 13 points led the Lady Hawks (9-3, 0-2).

Best freshman mile time in nation: KCHS’s Smith

A Knoxville Catholic High School freshman has made his mark nationally. Keegan Smith, a Fighting Irish distance runner, posted the fastest freshman time for the mile in the United States this year, 4 minutes-20 seconds, during the Millrose Games Time Trials in New York City earlier this month. The previous record this year was 4:38. Smith has qualified for the New Balance Indoor National Championships in early March.



Smith

Rivalry returns after 7 years

Behind its star guards, Irish boys slip past Webb at KCHS

BILL HOWARD
Correspondent

KNOXVILLE — It was a game that lived up to its hype: rival teams, now in the same region, hardly a mile apart, resuming play after a seven-year layoff. A packed-house, raucous crowd. Pride and an important first win in the region at stake. In a gritty, tough, hard-fought game that wasn’t decided until the last minute, Knoxville Catholic High School’s boys’ basketball team outlasted Webb School of Knoxville at home, 62-56. The Irish improved to 15-3 (1-0 in Division-II Class 2A, East Region). “This is exactly what I expected it to be,” Irish head coach Mike Hutchens said. “Catholic and Webb, both teams have

See WEBB-KCHS BOYS on Page 9B

Building early lead, Catholic girls hold off Lady Spartans’ charge

BILL HOWARD
Correspondent

KNOXVILLE — After a seven-year layoff, a fierce rivalry resumed Friday night, Jan. 14, at Knoxville Catholic High School, as the Lady Irish girls’ basketball team squared off against Webb School of Knoxville. Numerous times it appeared Catholic was going to pull away for an easy win, but Webb continued to hang around. In the end, poor shooting and turnovers doomed the Lady Spartans as Catholic won 46-38. “Total team effort; proud of our girls,” Lady Irish head coach Travis Mains said. “I’ve been in some rivalries, but this is something else. We had to win this one. You have to defend your home turf.” Webb head coach Shelley Collier thought the crowd played a role in the outcome. “Obviously disappointed,” she said. “I felt like going in we were prepared. This is the first time we’ve been in front of a big crowd, and I’m not sure we handled that very well.” Sydney Mains, Catholic guard/forward, scored a game-high 25. Junior guard Jaz Williams added 12 for KCHS. “She played hard, I’m proud of her,” Travis Mains said of his sophomore daughter. “Ella Renfree was unbelievable in the second half. We’re coming on, they’re getting better every game.” “It’s a great win,” Sydney Mains said. “It helped a lot having a crowd. They were really excited, so that was cool.” Junior forward Madelyn Ladd scored 14 for Webb. A 3-point basket by Ladd with 4:43 left in the first quarter tied the score 6-6, but Catholic (12-6, 1-0 in Division II Class 2A East Region) then ran off seven points to lead 13-6. The first period ended 15-10. Webb’s offensive woes were starkly apparent in the second

See LADIES RENEW on Page 9B

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Julia Puterbaugh, daughter of Teresa and Chris Puterbaugh, and siblings



Audrey Rust, daughter of Adam and Cheyenne Rust, and sister, Nora



Team manager Ella Schlomer, daughter of Andrea and Brad Schlomer, and sibling



Annie Steele, daughter of Greg and Lynn Steele

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Isabelle McCaleb, daughter of Matt and Nicki McCaleb, and sister, Audrey



Drew Patterson, daughter of Michael and Laura Patterson, with siblings, McLain and Grant



Marlee Pyle, daughter of Eric Pyle and Stephanie Giles, and brother



Mary Aspin Scott, daughter of Benson and Toni Scott, with brothers, Stratton and William



Cassidy Stickley, daughter of Bryan and Keri Stickley, with siblings Caitlyn and Rob.



Julia Daurity, daughter of parents, Joel and Jennifer Daurity and brother Jacob



Emma Descamps, daughter of Brian and Tracy Descamps



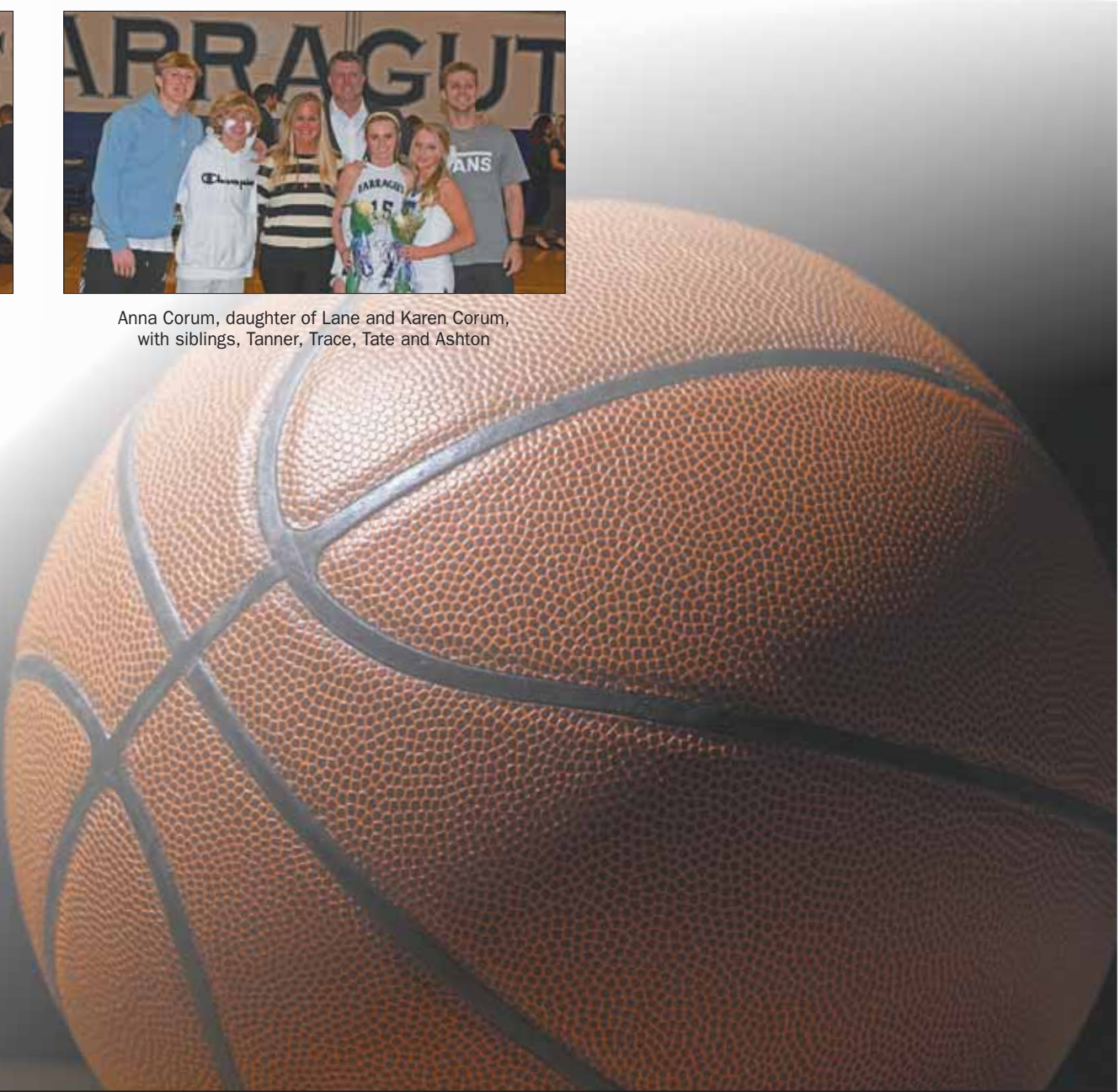
Graison Halouma, daughter of Chris and Stephanie Halouma, and brother



Ella Shuster, daughter of Andrew and Rhonda Shuster, and brother, Owen



Anna Corum, daughter of Lane and Karen Corum, with siblings, Tanner, Trace, Tate and Ashton



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Cool Sports 6 get skating ‘chance of a lifetime’

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD
mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

Six members of Knoxville Figure Skating Club had the chance of a lifetime earlier this month when they served as “sweepers” during 2022 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championship in Nashville Thursday through Sunday, Jan. 6-9.

Madison McCameron, Kate Johnson, Maddie Darby, Ameliya Godo, Isaac Godo and Tait Light — all of whom skate at Cool Sports, Home of the Icearium in Farragut — skated between competitions Jan. 6-9 at

Bridgestone Arena, picking up flowers, stuffed animals and other gifts tossed on the ice in honor of competitors vying for Olympic consideration.

“The U.S. Championships, which serve as the final qualifying competition prior to U.S. Figure Skating nominating athletes to the U.S. Olympic Figure Skating Team, attract more than 750 athletes, coaches, officials and media to the host community, in addition to thousands of spectators,” noted the U.S. figureskating.org website.

“It was awesome,” said Ameliya, who attends Farragut Middle School. “We got to see everyone who are

our future Olympians.”

“It was really fun, getting to see everyone compete,” said her brother, Isaac, who is a Farragut Intermediate School student.

“We picked up a lot of stuffed animals, too.”

Ameliya said while many of the athletes donate the toys thrown their way, “One of the skaters told me he needed to keep the ones he got from this competition and bring them home.”

“We were on the ice maybe 10 to 15 times (during

See SIX FIGURE SKATERS on Page 5B

‘Geographies of the Heart’ Summie’s first ‘sisters’ novel

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

“Geographies of the Heart,” a novel about family and reconciliation, is the latest publication from Farragut author Caitlin Hamilton Summie. Summie said the novel, which took three years to complete, was inspired by three of the stories in her first publication, “To Lay to Rest Our Ghosts,” an award-winning collection of short stories published in 2017. Since she already had enough for another book, “I decided I would finish the story,” Summie added.

“Geographies of the Heart,” published by Fomite and released Tuesday, Jan. 18, is a tender fictional story centering around two sisters, Sarah and Glennie McMillan, who grew up in a multi-generational family. While Sarah’s devotion is to her family, younger sister Glennie is devoted to her career. However, as they age, their different priorities force them to renavigate their family geography. Both women had different expectations of their roles within their family, creating a tumultuous relationship between the sisters, she noted. “Family is the first geography,” Summie said. “It shapes our hearts where we first take root.”

“Sarah shoulders both caregiving and loss largely alone and grows bitter about Glennie’s absences, until one decision forces them all to decide what family means – and who is family,” a press release stated, adding the book “examines the pull of tradition, the power of legacies, the importance of forgiveness and the fertile but fragile ground that is family.”

The novel’s plot, while not about Summie’s family specifically, was inspired by her own love of family.

“I grew up in a multi-generational family,” Summie said.

By reading the book, she said, “I hope kids see dreams do come true and reconciliation can be possible.

“I’m proud of it,” Summie added. “I stuck with it.”

The book can be purchased at Amazon and any local bookstore. For more information, e-mail rick@caitlinhamiltonmarketing.com

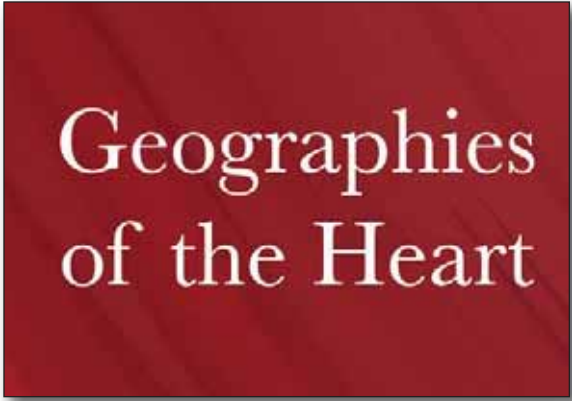


Photo submitted
Caitlin Hamilton Summie presents her second literary work, and first novel, “Geographies of the Heart,” which was published Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Background

Summie, who attends Concord United Methodist Church, and her husband, Rick Summie, run a marketing firm, Caitlin Hamilton Marketing and Publicity, LLC., which publicizes new authors.

She earned a Master of Fine Arts degree with distinction from Colorado State University and her short stories have been published in Beloit Fiction Journal, Wisconsin Review, Puerto del Sol, JMWW, Mud Season Review, Belmont Story Review, Hypertext Magazine and other publications. “To Lay to Rest Our Ghosts” won the 4th Annual Phillip H. McMath Book Award, Silver in the Forward INDIES Book of the Year Award for Short Stories and was Pulpwood Queen Book Club Bonus Book.

With Chamber support, state’s 13th-ranked FHS kicks off Admiral FUNd

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut High School Education Foundation kicked off its Admiral FUNd campaign as it hosted Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce’s networking in the school library Thursday, Jan. 13.

While FHS principal Dr. John Bartlett referred to student diversity and many academically gifted students at his school, FWKCC president/CEO Julie Blaylock said FHS was ranked by U.S. News & World Report as the 13th-ranked high school in Tennessee.

“But it keeps support to keep

the high school performing at that level,” she added.

“If you talk about comprehensive high schools — not magnet high schools — we’re in the top five,” Bartlett added. “We have 19 National Merit semifinalists this year.”

He explained the Admiral FUNd is FHS’s annual fundraiser, reaching out into the community to express its needs.

Last year the fund benefited the school’s electives.

“We kicked off three different (Career and Technical Education) programs last year,” he said. “They were construction, agriculture — ag science

with a focus on small animal care and vet tech — and also engineering.

“I’m proud to say that we have enough demand for those three CTE programs that, if I had the funding for additional teachers, I could hire an additional teacher in each one of those three areas because we have enough kids who say they want those programs,” Bartlett added.

To help jump-start this year’s

fundraising effort, The Knox Fox Group presented FHS with a \$5,000 check toward the campaign.

“This is my third year being involved with the Education Foundation,” said Eric Whitener, co-owner of The Knox Fox Real Estate Group with wife, Teri Jo Fox. “I’ve got to say, I’m really impressed with what the Education Foundation does for the high school.

“First of all, they look at

every want and need that’s presented to them,” he added. “They determine if it’s the best use of the funds and if it’s going to impact the children, so they’re very good stewards of the money that’s presented to them, which makes me feel really good.

“And, Dr. Bartlett is amazing. He knows everything going on in the school — and he

See ADMIRAL FUND on Page 8B

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• **A blood drive seeking all blood types, which will be administered by MEDIC,** will be held in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 11837 Grigsby Chapel Road in Farragut, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 12. Donors will be directed to the church's gymnasium.

Donors must be at least age 16. For donor requirements of non-adult teenagers, and requirements and examination protocols for all donors, visit www.medicblood.org.

• **Knoxville Bar Association announces a Faith and Justice Legal Advice Clinic** will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Feb. 12, in Cokesbury United Methodist Church North Campus, 9919 Kingston Pike. The church is located between Harper Auto and The Gem Store. Enter under the blue welcome sign.

This is a general advice and referral clinic, with volunteers prepared to advise on a wide variety of legal issues. Masks will be required for all volunteers and attendees.

• **MEDIC Regional Blood Center is urging East Tennesseans to donate** with their local blood bank. "We have critically low inventory levels for O Negative and O Positive and severely low inventory for a Negative and B Negative blood types ...," said Kristy Altman, MEDIC director of communications.

Appointments are preferred, but walk-in donors are welcome. Donors can call 865-521-2682 or 865-524-3074 to schedule their appointment. Donors also can visit medicblood.org/donate to search for a drive closest to them and schedule their appointment.

MEDIC is the primary blood product provider for major area hospitals including Blount Memorial Hospital, Covenant Healthcare System, East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Tennova and the University of Tennessee Medical Center along with other regional centers. For more information on MEDIC Regional Blood Center, visit its website at www.medicblood.org or contact Altman at Kaltman@medicblood.org or by phone at 865-805-2008.

• **"Humpty Dumpty is Missing!"** is first show of the 2022 season for Knoxville Children's Theatre (109 E. Churchwell Ave. in Knoxville). In partnership with the Clayton Foundation, KCT is pre-

sending this live production through Sunday, Jan. 30: starting at 7 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays; at 1 and 5 p.m., Saturdays; and 3 p.m., Sundays. Tickets are available online at knoxvillechildrenstheater.com or by calling 865-208-3677.

• **Knox County Health Department temporarily is expanding testing** at its main location, 140 Dameron Ave., to include all individuals seeking a test regardless of insurance coverage, symptoms or exposure.

Tests will be performed from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, on a walk-in basis only. A high demand for tests is anticipated, so be aware that wait times may be long and lines could form outside the building.

For other providers' testing locations across Knox County, including those that take appointments, visit KCHD's testing page. For more information, called KCHD's Public Information Line at 865-215-5555, which is available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

• **Authors Guild of Tennessee will hold its monthly meeting** beginning at 11 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 3, at Faith Lutheran Church, Jamestowne Boulevard, in Farragut. Social time and book exchange begins at 10:30 a.m..

Published authors are invited to attend. AGT is now accepting applications for associate membership from among "serious authors only" who have written a book but are not yet published. In the event of inclement weather, check the AGT Website for updates and information: authorsguildoftn.org.

• **Hosting the former Atlanta Braves perennial All-star centerfielder, Hardin Valley Academy baseball presents "An Evening with Dale Murphy"** beginning at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 2, at HVA, 11345 Hardin Valley Road. At press deadline, a few "Meet and Greet" tickets remained.

Cost is \$125, and also includes dinner from Stefano's in the cafeteria, which begins the evening, and a silent auction with more than 100 items. All interaction with Murphy, featuring his speech, will take place in the auditorium. Purchase tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-dale-murphy-tickets-172867379987?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

President's List, Dean's List honorees from Town, fall '21 semester, at various colleges, universities

• **Todd Thomson of Farragut** has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2021 President's List. Full-time undergraduate students (minimum 12 credits) who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above are named to the President's List.

• **Dean's List** honors at Wheaton College (Illinois) for Fall 2021 were **Kyle Carter and Caleb Kuhn of Farragut**. Undergraduate students qualify who carry 12 or more credit hours and achieve a 3.5 grade-point average or higher on the 4.0 scale.

• Southern New Hampshire University congratulates **Cameron Santos-Silva and Jacob**

Babjac of Farragut on being named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List. Full-time undergraduate students (minimum 12 credits) who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 are named to the Dean's List.

• **Coastal Carolina University** (South Carolina) named **Cole DeLorme**, a Marine Science major from Farragut, to the Dean's List for the Fall 2021 semester.

• **Kathrine Klenske of Farragut**, a digital animation major, was named to Fall 2021 Dean's List at Kennesaw State University (Georgia). To qualify, students must earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher and complete a minimum of nine credit hours.



Photo courtesy of Julia Johnson

Knoxville Figure Skating Club members, from left, Madison McCameron, Kate Johnson, Maddie Darby, Ameliya Godo, Isaac Godo and Tait Light played a part in the U.S. National Figure Skating qualifying event during 2022 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Nashville earlier this month. They are pictured alongside a Toyota outside of Bridgestone Arena.

Six figure skaters

From page 4B

Nationals)," said McCameron, 16, who is a Lenoir City High School student. "It felt amazing, because we were only a few yards away from (competitors including) Starr Andrews and Nathan Chen," who won his sixth men's title.

"The sweepers also got 'comps' for each session they worked, so they could watch the competitions," Madison's mother, Carin McCameron, said.

"We not only got to see (those

competing), but we also were on the same ice as the national skaters," Kate said. "It was kind of crazy."

"It was amazing just seeing our kids on the ice, and wondering if one day they might be competing, too," her mother, Julia Johnson, said.

The Farragut and Knoxville skaters had to compete individually for available sweeper slots, said Julia, who also served as one of the group's chaperones.

"U.S. Figure Skating sent an e-mail to parents seeking sweepers," she said. "Athletes

had to be between certain ages and certain (experience) levels, and we had to submit a video.

"They were then selected by a committee."

Criteria included being between the ages of 7 and 15 as of Dec. 1, 2021; had, at minimum, passed test-level preliminary moves in the field and/or completed no-test-free, skate well-balanced or excel in a pre-preliminary event by Dec. 1, 2021; and the video submission.

Once selected, the sweepers had a dress rehearsal practice session in Nashville prior to Nationals.



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1.

Concord United Methodist Church's annual
MISSION BLITZ

Concord United Methodist Church's annual Mission Blitz impacted thousands, both locally and abroad, through the efforts of 480 volunteers who worked on more than a dozen projects, both at the church (11020 Roane Drive) and throughout the community Friday through Monday, Jan. 14-17. Efforts ranged from two sweet potato crop drops (bagging a total of 42,000 pounds of the vegetables), to prepping a new church-sponsored Thrift Store, preparing activity kits for East Tennessee Children's Hospital and United Methodist Committee on Relief health kits for later distribution, as well as packing soup, visiting Senior adults and honoring area first responders. Pictured are just a few of the activities taking place during the Martin Luther King holiday weekend, which the church graciously shared with farragutpress.



2.



4.



5.



3.



6.



7.

- 1. This group assembled soup mix on Sunday, Jan. 16.
- 2. Madison Newman, left, and Jena Colwell were among the dozens of Crop Drop volunteers.
- 3. Church volunteers Frances Bogen, left, and Carolyn Edwards, right, helped clean and organize closets at the Wesley House on Jan. 15. Also pictured is Wesley House Church liaison Sharon Earl.
- 4. The Russell family, at right, along with Laura Gac, back, worked together as "Team Sausage" to separate frozen sausage for the Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry.
- 5. Packing Senior Snacks were, from left, Nicole Morris, Ryleigh Morris, Ruthie Guinn, Martha Yoakum, Jackson Wallace, William Morris and Wayne Morris.
- 6. Wendy Schneider, left, and Kiran Brown were among many helping with the church's new Thrift Store's preparations.
- 7. From left, Ginny Thurston-Bridges, Lis Powers, Debbie Pea, Jim Bailes and Nedra Cook prayed over beds at Knox Area Rescue Ministries in Downtown Knoxville.

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Admiral FUNd

From page 4B

knows what his teachers need, he knows what his kids need — and he’s very involved with the Education Foundation as well.”

Bartlett said this year’s fund will benefit FHS’ science department.

“A lot of times, it’s those big purchases, the microscopes and the other stuff—I couldn’t even tell you what they do — but they say ‘this is what we need’ ... my job is to provide their needs, and they’re expensive,” he said.

“It’s something the school system doesn’t have money to replace, and what we do here at Farragut and for our kids is top-level stuff,” the principal added.

Previously, “this library renovation was made possible by our Foundation,” Bartlett said. “We can’t operate and do what we do without our business community.

“Our business community is really, really important to the health of our school and our school system,” he added.

On that note, “you’re probably hearing some things going on in the community,” he said. “Here’s some changes at the high school level at seven high schools in Knox County. We’re talking about Small Learning Communities.”

In a recent letter to parents, Bartlett explained, “In an effort to make large schools more student centered and create a more stable structure where students are known by their teachers for their entire high school experience, Knox County Schools is partnering with Ford Next Generation Learning to create small learning communities within our schools.

“The concept of small learning communities is not new and has proven very successful in all types (sizes/achievement level/demographics) of schools,” he stated. “The purpose of the communities is to create a framework of educa-



Eric Whitener, far left, co-owner of The Knox Fox Real Estate Group, co-owner Teri Jo Fox, third from right, and Kim Holman with Knox Fox, far right, present a \$5,000 donation on behalf of the Admiral FUNd to FHS principal Dr. John Bartlett, second from left; FHS Education Foundation treasurer Mary Cook, third from left; Kristy Bruce, EF Admiral’s FUNd coordinator, fourth from left; and EF president Beth Duncan.

Tammy Cheek

tors that get to know their students and better serve them throughout their high school career, enabling the community of teachers to have conversations about student support from year to year.

“It also enables the community of teachers to have conversations across related content areas focused on student needs,” Bartlett added.

Besides FHS, he said Hardin Valley Academy, Knoxville Central, Fulton, Austin-East, Bearden and Karns high schools are involved with Small Learning Communities.

“The remainder of the schools will start in a year or two,” Bartlett added.

During the networking, he said there are some academy approaches in SLC, but “it’s really also one of the key components — engaging our business communities, our industries, our retail communities — in helping support our students in this reciprocal relationship because we want to make sure we’re producing.

“Our graduates have to be ready to either enroll in college, enlist in the military or be employable,” Bartlett added.

“Being ready for employment in a key industry is important for us.”



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TN Gatorade Player of Year



Photo submitted

Devyn Dunn, a star setter for the Division II-AA state champion Knoxville Catholic High School volleyball team, has been named the 2021-22 Gatorade Tennessee Volleyball Player of the Year. The award recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the court. In the classroom, Dunn has maintained a 3.36 grade-point average. Now a finalist for the Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award — which will be announced later this month — the 5-foot-8 Lady Irish junior helped lead Catholic with 737 assists, 253 digs, 73 kills and 61 service aces in 44 games (34-10 record). Named Most Valuable Player of the 2021 state tournament, Dunn also was 5 Star Preps Player of the Year. “I think Devyn Dunn was the main reason for that team’s success,” said Ann Mullins, head coach of Middle Tennessee rival Father Ryan High. “She’s a great leader and her court recognition is excellent. ...”

Ladies renew

From page 1B

quarter. The Lady Spartans repeatedly missed shots from beyond the arc, scoring a mere five points in the period compared to Catholic’s 11 — six on lay-ups by Mains. The half ended with KCHS up 26-15.

Twice in the third, Webb (9-8, 0-1) pulled within seven, the second time with 1:29 left, at 31-24. But Mains promptly drained a three-point basket,

as the Lady Irish finished the quarter leading by 10.

Seven would be the closest the Lady Spartans would get in the fourth, the final time on Meeyah Green’s lay-up with 4:44 left. Five straight by the Irish made the lead 12.

“We got outrebounded,” Collier said. “We were supposed to limit Sydney’s touches and we weren’t able to defend her at all.”

The teams meet again Friday, Jan. 28, at Webb.

Webb-KCHS boys

From page 1B

great records, great teams and it’s gonna go down to the last 30 seconds. I’m so happy that kids on both sides got to do that tonight.”

“We weren’t our best, but they had a lot to do with it,” Spartans head coach Ricky Norris said. “We gave up way too many easy baskets for them in transition, and you just can’t do that against a really good team. I’m really proud of how they fought.”

Webb (15-2, 0-1) built an 18-12 lead late in the first period, but Catholic ran off six straight to tie the game at 18 after one.

Five straight points by junior guard Blue Cain — a three-point play and lay-up with a second left — gave the Irish a three-point lead at half, 30-27.

In the third, Catholic senior guard B.J. Edwards — a UT Vols signee — scored eight, but the Irish lead was only 48-43.

The fourth quarter would decide it.

Down five, 50-45, Webb got lay-ups from Luke Lentz and Devin Mixon to cut the deficit to one with 6:07 left.

But Catholic came right back with consecutive three-point plays by Cain and Edwards. The closest Webb would get after that would be four, with only eight seconds left.

Edwards led all scorers with 23 while Cain added 18. Lentz scored 16 for the Spartans, while Jaylon Green got 13. Markeis Barrett chipped in 11.

“Very big win,” Edwards said. “They gave us a good game. Big crowd. We were ready. When the game was getting crunch-time, I felt like I had to take over.”

“We’re trying to get the ball in his hands there at the end,” Huchens said of Edwards. “He’s gonna come through nine times out of 10. Against their press, I think we had one turnover. We handled that part real well.”

Stay tuned for the rematch: Friday, Jan. 28, at Webb.

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FARRAGUT VISUAL RESOURCES REVIEW BOARD AGENDA

FARRAGUT TOWN HALL BOARD ROOM • TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022 7:00 P.M.

1. Approval of minutes for the October 26, 2021, meeting.

2. Review of an individual tenant panel sign for IVX Health, Located at 11609 Parkside Drive.

3. Review of a primary ground sign (monument type reface) for Casey's, located at 701 North Campbell Station Road.

4. Review of a primary ground sign (monument type reface) for Casey's, located at 13061 Kingston Pike.

5. Review of a permanent ground mounted subdivision sign for Meadows on McFee

subdivision, North Entrance Road (Scarlet Sage Dr.), located off McFee Road.

6. Discussion and feedback for the proposed TopGolf primary ground sign design (monument type), located off Outlet Drive.

7. Review of a landscape plan for SKORE Hotel, located at 11320 Outlet Drive.

8. Review of a landscape plan for the Meadows on McFee subdivision located off McFee Road.

9. Discussion of ordinance provisions for "peripheral accessory freestanding signs" and requests for directional enter/exit signs.

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Financial Planning

A supplement to farragutpress | January 20, 2022

- **Social Security**

What to know before claiming benefits

- Turning a **hobby** into a **career**

- **Accounting** for a rising cost of living



Accounting for a rising Cost of Living

Cost of living is a significant component of financial planning. The cost of living may dictate where people live and work, and a high cost of living can influence how individuals spend their free time.

Data from Statistics Canada indicates that consumer prices rose 4.1 percent and 5.3 percent in August 2021 in Canada and the United States, respectively. A 2020 survey from TD Ameritrade found that 47 percent of Americans feel that cost of living is the biggest threat to their financial security and long-term investments. It's worth noting that the survey was conducted prior to the pandemic. Since the onset of the pandemic, cost of living has increased considerably.

Though the fight against a rising cost of living can feel like an uphill battle, individuals can take steps to prepare for such increases.

- **Apply lessons learned during the pandemic.**

A recent Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. government and Eurostat data found that roughly 9.6 million workers in the United States lost their jobs in the first three quarters of 2020. That period coincides with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. When forced to confront sudden and unexpected job losses, millions of individuals learned how to get by on less

Though the fight against a rising cost of living can feel like an uphill battle, individuals can take steps to prepare for such increases.



income. Cost-saving measures adopted during the pandemic can be continued or reimplemented, helping individuals to combat higher energy costs and other rising expenses.

- **Look for a new job or fresh income streams.**

A rising cost of living is a concern for people from all walks of life, but it may be especially concerning for retirees or individuals with costs like childcare that can be hard to pare back. In such instances, individuals can look for new a job or fresh income streams. According to the Q3 2021 CNBC | Momentive Small Business Survey, 50 percent of small business owners say it's gotten harder to find qualified people to hire compared to a year ago. And nearly one-third of survey respondents indicate they have open roles they have not been able to fill for at least three months. Individuals can explore local employment opportunities in an effort to find a new, more lucrative job that can help them combat a rising cost of living. Others who want to remain in their jobs can look for part-time work to supplement their existing income.

- **Consider relocating.**

The pandemic forced many companies to transition from in office working to remote working overnight. That trial by fire could have lasting results. A 2020 survey of 317 Chief Financial Officers and leaders in the finance industry found that 74 percent will move at least 5 percent of their previously on-site workforce to permanently remote positions after the pandemic ends. The survey, conducted by Gartner, Inc., also found that nearly one-quarter of respondents will move at least 20 percent of their on-site workers to permanently remote positions. That could make it possible for millions of working professionals to relocate to regions with a lower cost of living than their current towns or cities.



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How to build and maintain a **Strong Credit Rating**



A strong financial history benefits consumers in myriad ways. Individuals with a history of paying their bills on time and avoiding significant consumer debt may be eligible for lower interest rates on big ticket items like homes and automobiles, potentially saving them tens of thousands of dollars over their lifetimes.

Though there are many ways to build a strong financial history, avoiding debt is always part of that equation. Credit scores are used to determine consumers' creditworthiness in the eyes of lenders and can affect eligibility for loans and the terms of those loans. Understanding credit scores and how to build and maintain a good credit rating can be vital to individuals' financial futures.

WHAT IS A CREDIT SCORE?

A credit score is a three-digit number between 300 and 850. The higher the number, the better an individual's credit rating is. The lower the number, the less credit-worthy consumers become in the eyes of lenders.

See **CREDIT** on Page 5

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Social Security

What to know before claiming benefits

Men and women nearing retirement age may be thinking about when they should begin collecting their Social Security retirement benefits. Social Security is a social insurance program instituted by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1935. The program consists of retirement, disability and survivor benefits, and workers in the United States contribute to Social Security each week.

The decision about when to claim Social Security retirement benefits is one all those who have contributed to the program must eventually make. In recognition of the difficulty of that decision, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau offers the following tips to people wondering when they should begin collecting their Social Security benefits.

Confirm your full retirement age. Full retirement age refers to the age at which people can begin collecting their full benefits. Depending on the year you were born, you can begin collecting your full benefit at age 66 or 67. Claiming your benefit before you reach full retirement age will lead to a permanent decrease in your monthly benefits. Conversely, claiming after you reach full retirement age will lead to a permanent increase in your monthly benefits. Since the stakes are so considerable, it's vital for adults to confirm their full retirement age before they claim their benefits.

Delay claiming if you can. The CFPB notes that you can expect to get an additional 5 to 8 percent in monthly benefits for every year you wait to claim your Social Security benefits after age 62, maxing out at age 70. If you can afford to do so, wait to claim your full benefit until age 70, as doing so can translate to a benefit that's 32 percent higher than it would have been had you claimed your benefit at age 62.

Budget for retirement. Short- and long-term budgeting for retirement can help you assess how much money you will need to cover your expenses when you stop working. This step can help you understand how much a reduced or increased Social Security benefit will affect your bottom line in retirement.

Continue working. Remaining in the workforce full-time or even part-time can have a considerable impact on the size of your Social Security benefit. The CFPB notes that continuing to work for one or two additional years can replace low- or no-income earnings from your earnings record, thereby increasing your benefit.

Consider the long-term needs of your spouse. Surviving spouses receive the higher of the two spouses' benefits. So it makes sense for the higher earning spouse to wait to collect his or her benefit until he or she reaches full retirement age.





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WHAT IS THE AVERAGE CREDIT SCORE?

According to Equifax, which along with Experian and TransUnion is one of three credit reporting agencies, the average credit score in the United States in February 2021 was 698.

IS 698 OR 650 GOOD?

There's good news and bad news for consumers. The average rating falls into the "Good" range. However, consumers should aspire for scores that are higher than the average. A credit score above 720 is considered "Excellent," and the online financial resource Nerd Wallet reports that individuals with scores above 750 are in even better shape. Such individuals may have access to financial products or be eligible for loan terms that people with lower scores are not privy to. Making the most of those advantages can save consumers considerable sums of money over the course of their lifetimes and may help them build the type of generational wealth millions of people aspire to.

HOW CAN INDIVIDUALS ACHIEVE HIGH CREDIT SCORES?

The best way to build and maintain a high credit score is to understand the factors that influence that score. FICO is a data analytics firm that provides credit scoring services. Equifax notes that FICO scores consider five

categories from individuals' credit histories:

- *Payment history*
- *Amounts owed*
- *Length of credit history*
- *New credit accounts*
- *Mix of credit used*

Each of these categories are weighted, and none bears more significance than payment history. Consumers who have demonstrated an ability to pay their bills on time and limit the amounts of debt they carry at any given moment are doing themselves a favor as they look to achieve and maintain a high credit rating.

IS ALL DEBT THE SAME?

It's important that consumers distinguish consumer debt from student loan debt. Though each type of debt will be reported to the three major credit bureaus, student loan debts that are paid on time each month are generally considered "good debt" because they demonstrate an individual's ability to make installment payments on time over a significant length of time. That's what consumers will need to do if they hope to purchase a home in the future and finance it with a mortgage loan.

Unlike student loans being repaid in installments, consumer debts like credit card balances must be paid in full each month for consumers to avoid potentially hefty interest charges. Consumers who can't pay those balances in full each month are not demonstrating creditworthiness in the eyes of lenders, and that will have an adverse effect on their credit ratings.

Understanding credit and how to build and maintain a strong rating is vital to individuals' financial futures.

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Turning a hobby into a career

Hobbies are enjoyable and often educational ways to spend free time. Over the last year-plus, hobbies have become even more important as people were forced to stay home due to the pandemic.

As hobbies became a bigger part of millions of people's lives, many might have wondered about transforming these activities from pastimes into full-fledged careers. Hobbies can be side hustles or even primary jobs, but a successful transition from hobby to income-generating profession requires some research and planning.

CONDUCT MARKET RESEARCH

A hobby may be fun to you and provide value, but is it a marketable venture? Determine if the hobby has potential as a business. Factors to look for include whether the hobby helps solve a problem, educates the public or produces a product someone would want to purchase, advises the career-building site Indeed. Research competitors in the area and study industry trends to analyze how well this business may perform. Look to an unbiased advisor to provide feedback on your idea.

MAKE A BUSINESS PLAN

A business plan is essential for businesses big and small. A plan puts your ideas on paper and dictates how you will achieve goals and run the business. A business plan will include how you will finance start-up costs, whether you will be taking on investors, how many employees you will hire, costs like membership fees for enrollment in professional associations, advertising outlets, and much more.

GET SOCIAL

Look to social media as an easy way to make connections with people who operate similar businesses or can help you with your venture. The business site The Balance: Careers notes that platforms like LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest can be great places to meet others in the industry and pick their proverbial brains.

START SMALL

Test the waters by holding on to a current job while simultaneously seeing if your new venture can gain momentum and earn you money. A test run will help you understand if you have the finances to keep a business afloat and what kind of time commitment will go into the venture.

If the hobby-turned-business appears solid, speak with a financial planner or business consultant to firm up the details of getting this new business off the ground.



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Did you KNOW?

Indebtedness is often discussed in terms related to debtors' short- and long-term financial health, but debt also can have an adverse effect on individuals' mental health. A 2014 study published in the journal BMC Public Health examined the effects of debt in the aftermath of the global financial crisis that began in 2007 and extended into 2008. The authors of the study found that individuals with unmet loan payments had suicidal ideation and suffered from depression more often than those without such financial problems. The 33 peer-reviewed studies examined by the authors of the 2014 study covered various types of debts, including medical debts, mortgages and credit card debt. Each type of debt produced negative health consequences, though individuals who failed to pay their mortgage or had their homes repossessed reported an especially high prevalence of mental and physical health impairments.



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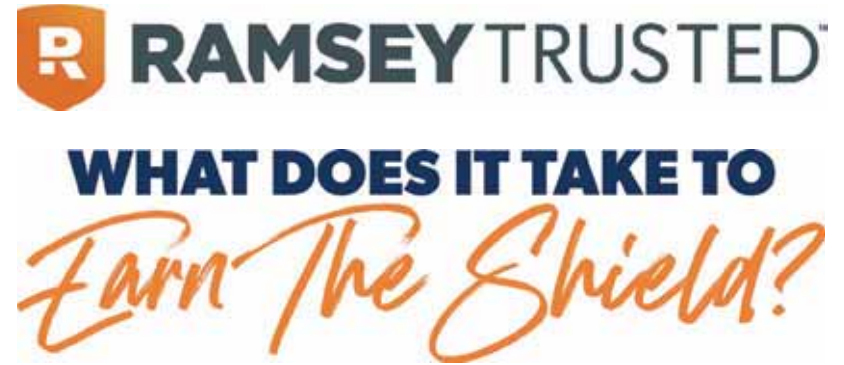
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