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Program’s 12th, TSSAA record



Photos courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/Jeremy Wiggs Photography

Farragut High School baseball players dive into a celebration dogpile moments after winning the program’s 12th state championship, and back-to-back crowns for most of these Admirals, with a 6-0 blanking of rival Hardin Valley Academy in the Division I-4A title game at Middle Tennessee State University Friday night, May 26. (See story, photo, on page 5A)

Back-to-Back

FHS baseball state champs

(Top left) Jake Merrick, Admirals junior second baseman, completes the game-ending double play as HVA baserunner Austin Bolding tries to disrupt the attempt. **(Top right)** Winning pitcher Cole Draper, FHS sophomore, fires plateward. **(Bottom left)** Mark Underwood, senior left fielder, connects for a sixth-inning double, eventually scoring. **(Bottom right)** Matt Buckner, Ads skipper, recently was ranked No. 6 among the nation’s top 10 high school baseball coaches by highly respected MaxPreps writer Kevin Askeland.



Contract ‘wise,’ yet ‘a waste’ of 103k

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Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen, in a 4-1 vote, approved a professional services agreement with a consulting firm to come up with a “visioning plan” for the Mixed Use Town Center and updates to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan during its meeting Thursday, May 25.

While Mayor Ron Williams, Vice Mayor Louise Povin and Aldermen Scott Meyer and Drew Burnette voted to approve the contract, Alderman David White voiced a strong opinion in voting against entering into the contract with Tunnell-Spangler & Associates for \$103,000.

“I think this is a colossal waste of \$100,000,” White said. “I’ve seen a lot of contracts. It’s probably the worst contract I’ve ever seen.

“It’s all toward the provider, not much for the Town,” he added. “If you look at the scope of services and you read down the list, about everything in there is already covered by somebody else doing it ... what do we do? What’s our job?”

In short, “It doesn’t make any sense to spend \$100,000 to get somebody to

See 103K DECISION on Page 2A

McFee residents sound off about ‘bleeding’ lights

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With residents’ sounding off about ill effects, McFee Park’s lights on its tennis/pickleball/basketball courts will continue to go off at its regular time unless there are reservations.

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen, at its Thursday, May 25, meeting, voted against a request to leave on lights from sunset to 9:45 p.m. with or without reservations after hearing from nearby residents opposing the request.

“My lot lies directly behind the pickleball court. Those lights, when they’re on at night, (in) my second story, those lights bleed into my house,” neighboring resident David Zena said.

“They light the backyard,” he added. “It’s one thing to have people utilize

See MCFEE LIGHTS on Page 2A

Greenway acceleration considered; FY ’24 budget passes 1st read

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Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen unanimously approved, on first reading, its Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget during its meeting Thursday, May 25, but not without some concerns about Turkey Creek Greenway expansion and funding for Shop Farragut-Farragut Business Alliance.

The budget for fiscal year 2024, which

begins July 1, 2023, and ends June 30, 2024, shows revenues estimated at \$15.5 million and expenditures at \$9.425 million.

“This year-end estimate accounts for a 9.2 percent increase in sales tax revenue from the FY 2023 budget, as well as additional revenue increases in the state sales tax, wholesale liquor taxes, building permits and interest earnings,” Town administrator David Smoak said. “The proposed FY 2024

General Fund revenues are \$15,502,240, which is a slight increase from estimated FY 2023.

“Sales tax revenue is estimated to increase 6.25 percent from FY 2023, estimated at \$9,350,000,” he added. “This revenue source accounts for 60.3 percent of the Town’s total General Fund revenue.”

Greenway funding move-up asked
Alderman Drew Burnette asked the Board to consider moving up the fund-

ing for the greenway project one year, from fiscal years 2025, 2026 and 2027 to 2024, 2025 and 2026.

“It’s the most important missing link in our entire Town,” he said. “The gap that it leaves interrupts the connectivity so much that it forces you to go all the way to Kingston Pike and around and, basically, blocks you off from one side of the Town to the other.”

See GREENWAY, BUDGET on Page 2A



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towncalendar

• **Farragut Museum will temporarily close after regular museum hours (from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) Wednesday, May 31,** to prepare for interior renovations in Farragut Town Hall. “The current estimate is that construction will begin in early fall and require a closure of 12-18 months,” a Town press release stated. “Beginning in June, all museum artifacts will be placed in climate-controlled storage until the museum reopens,” the report further stated. “When renovations are complete, the museum will have several improvements, including an exterior public entrance that will allow for evening and weekend hours. “While Town Hall is closed, museum staff and volunteers will continue to provide educational opportunities to the community.” Anyone who is interested in assisting with off-site history presentations can e-mail staff at museum@townoffarragut.org. For information about museum events offered while Town Hall is closed, see VisitFarragut.org and follow Visit Farragut on social media. To stay informed on Town Hall renovations, visit TownoffFarragut.org and follow Town of Farragut on social media.

Greenway, budget

From page 1A

“From a fiscal standpoint, we would be OK to move it up one year,” Smoak said. “The biggest challenge we have is we have a number of projects that are going to be starting up next year. ... It would just be a matter of when we can get to it.” While Vice Mayor Louise Povlin agreed the greenway connection is important, she added, “we’re still doing projects from this fiscal year.” “We have projects from six years ago we’re still trying to finish up,” Smoak said. “Does the staff have time to do this extra project?” Alderman Scott Meyer asked. “If you don’t, I’m not for the timing. I think the budget needs to reflect the actual projects that are in place. “Right now, I’m comfortable with the timing the way it is,” he added. “I would need to sit down with our staff and look through all the projects,” Smoak answered. Mayor Ron Williams reminded Board members they had discussed a hybrid of two options they received. “I don’t know how quick we could speed up (right-of-way) acquisition,” he said. “That’s the quicksand we normally run into.” Regarding FBA, Povlin said she wants to delineate funding for FBA. In the economic development professional services budget, the Town allotted \$35,000 for

Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce and \$55,000 for FBA. “At the very least (concerning) the Farragut Business Alliance, have it delineated out (as follows): Shop Farragut \$35,000 and community events \$20,000,” she said. “The FBA is kind of evolving, and they are proposing a change to their bylaws that allows for participation from Knox County businesses,” Povlin added. “I believe, ultimately, that undermines the reason FBA was founded. “I believe it also undermines the Shop Farragut program; Shop Farragut program was instituted to help support businesses in the Town of Farragut.” **Budget summary: Smoak** “This 2024 budget really sets our goals and priorities for the fiscal year,” Smoak said. One of the goals is setting the Town’s vision: “where we want to go in the future,” he said. “Farragut is setting the standard for quality of life with the beautiful, close-knit, connected, engaged community, where individuals, families and businesses thrive.” Smoak said the budget includes adding a staff accountant for the Finance Department “to assist in coordinating the Town’s financial records and perform budget analysis,” costing \$98,337. It also notes a proposed organizational change in Public Works Department, allowing “highly skilled and experienced maintenance technicians to move one grade higher,” costing \$17,000.

KCSOreports

• **At 12:45 p.m., Friday, May 19, a Knox County Sheriff’s Office deputy observed a black (2011) Audi (A4) traveling west on Kingston Pike** near Lovell Road clocked at 73 mph by radar. “I initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle at Kingston Pike and Concord Road while stopped at a red light. The vehicle immediately proceeded through the redlight turning onto Concord Road,” the report stated. “The vehicle also proceeded through a red light at the Concord Road and Campbell Station Road intersection, where he turned left, continuing on Concord Road. “The driver exceeded 100 mph while fleeing (and) lost control of the vehicle and wrecked in the 900 block of Concord Road,” the report further stated.

McFee lights

From page 1A

that court — that’s fine. I’m not against fun but to have those lights on is a tremendous waste of money when no one’s there. “... They are intrusive. It’s light pollution. It affects our quality of living. I don’t think it’s fair to us” Reminding the Board of its new “vision,” Marc Patti, who represented his McFee area homeowners’ association, said extending the use of lights “goes against that vision. “When the lights are on and nobody’s there, you’re not getting any quality of life improvement by anybody playing, but you’re definitely hurting the

quality of life of people who have to watch those lights,” he said. Alderman Drew Burnette said the lights only would stay on in the summer, not other times of the year. However, while Burnette empathizes with the neighbors, he said people are not making reservations to use the courts, but “there are tons of people using it when the lights are out, so it is a drop-in area. “... This (lighting change) helps the usage during the high-traffic months of summer,” he added. “The stories I’ve heard from neighbors are disturbing to me,” Alderman Scott Meyer said. “I don’t like the light pole

height. I wish they could be redone,” he added. “I can’t support this and I won’t support this because I wouldn’t want it for myself,” he added. “I don’t think the lights should be there in the first place,” Alderman David White said. “They were not in accordance with code when they were put up. They were too tall. I thought they should come down and be lowered.” Vice Mayor Louise Povlin said she also is against extending the time to leave on lights. Park manager Lauren Cox said all other lights are on only with reservations with no issues. She also said there has been no pushback from residents having to rent the courts to get the lights.

103k decision

From page 1A

look at things we’re already looking at and have looked at for years,” White said. “But we felt like, given the historical importance of the downtown concept, that when we started to work on this particular portion of Town, it might be useful to have an outside group come in and assist the Town in developing this community documentation,” Community Development di-

rector Mark Shipley said. “I’m actually excited about this (contract),” Meyer said. “This is a very important part of Town for us,” Burnette said. “I think we can use all the help we can get, including extensive public outreach and feedback. ... I think is a wise move. “ Povlin agreed with Burnette. “I know the Kingston Pike sub area we just went through, for Mark to put that together ... (but) now we’re talking about a Mixed Use Town Center,” she

said. “This is complicated. “.... I think this would be too big a task for our Community Development department to take on,” Povlin added. “It is a lot of money, there’s no doubt,” Williams said, noting the Town government has gone through numerous corridor studies. “We learned we were burning a lot of staff time to do these things,” he added. “When you look at the Town Center area ... we have a lot of residential in parts of it.”



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Tammy Cheek
Honors Real Estate Services co-owners Glen Glafenhein, left, and his son, Farragut resident Wil Glafenhein, both University of Tennessee alumni, recently were honored with UT’s Rocky Top Business Award, ranking seventh among 40 fastest growing businesses owned by university alumni.

Fastest growing

Glafenheins’ Honors Real Estate ranked seventh out of 40 UT alumni-owned local companies

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Farragut resident Wil Glafenhein and his father, Glen Glafenhein, co-owners of Honors Real Estate Services, 2099 Thunderhead Road near South Northshore Drive, were honored Friday, May 5, by their alma mater, University of Tennessee, for their achievements in business.

The father and son, Farragut natives, received the Rocky Top Business Award during UT’s inaugural Rocky Top Business Award Ceremony on the UT-Knoxville campus.

“UT started the Rocky Top Business Awards to recognize graduates from across the country who started their own businesses,” said John Glafenhein, office manager with HRES. “Applicants were vetted by PYA and ranked with the most growth over the last three years.

“They were ranking the top fastest-growing businesses per growth rate owned by UT alumni,” said Wil, a Farragut High School Class of 2007 graduate. “It was pretty cool. They had (Pershing Yoakley & Associates, a Knoxville accounting firm) look at everyone’s books.

“We had to send all our books, and they analyzed hundreds of businesses and nailed it down to the top 40,” he added. “We got ranked seventh out of all UT alumni-owned businesses in growth rate.”

Wil attributed the company’s success to its agents’ “ability to help and serve, and our culture,” he said, noting HRES currently has more

than 60 agents ... with “quality advice, quality guidance.”

The company has its foothold in Farragut. “I think part of it is a lot of our agents live in that area. It’s a good area, and we’re very familiar with it,” Wil said.

The Glafenheins opened their real estate business in 2013.

“We’re a family-owned and operated real estate firm, which is fairly rare to have one our size,” Wil said. “Most of the time, they’re little bitty.

“Our 10-year anniversary is in October,” he added. “Our growth has exploded — over \$272 million in closings last year. We’re continuing to grow and expand. I think we got 13 new agents this year. It’s cool to be part of a family firm.”

The company will celebrate its anniversary by moving to a new location in the Bearden area in October. They have been in their current location near Northshore Drive since Jan. 1, 2014.

Wil noted the new Bearden location will be twice the size of its current office.

The junior co-owner graduated from UT with a business degree in supply chain and marketing in 2011, while Glen graduated from UT in 1978 with a degree in real estate.

Honors Real Estate Services is open from 8:30 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by appointment after hours. Contact them online at honorsrealestate.com, by e-mailing wil.g@honorsproperties.com or by texting Wil at 865-919-7747.

Walker ministers through online Slated for Grace

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Danielle Walker of Farragut recently launched an online ministry, Slated for Grace, a website to provide spiritual assistance.

The website slatedforgrace.com “shares YouTube videos, blog posts, and I run a 40-day devotional to the Gospel of Matthew that’s on there for purchase now,” Walker said.

“And we offer Biblical coaching on (the site) for marriages and for women.”

She has been a full-time pastor for 15 years, most recently at Grace Church of Knoxville, where she served for eight years as assistant pastor.

“I really felt that I needed to work on my Slated for Grace ministry,” Walker said about devoting more time to the online presence.

“Really, there’s so many people that aren’t in church. They don’t go to church,” she added.

“They don’t understand what the Bible says and how comforting and good God is. I just wanted to branch out.”

The impetus to start Slated for Grace began during the pandemic.

“During COVID, when our church closed for a bit, I really wanted a way to continue teaching scripture to people, so I started a Facebook page called Slated for Grace,” Walker said.

“I just started making videos and putting posts out there to read,” she added.

“We would do Bible studies each week and all kinds of things. But then, when church reopened, I was so busy that I couldn’t really commit to any of that (on the Facebook page).”

However, when she resigned from the church in November, “I decided I really wanted to put a lot of effort toward building (Slated for Grace) up and making it more of a solid business,” Walker said.

“It feels weird to call it a business because it’s a ministry,” she added.

While nervous about starting the online business, Walk-



Photo submitted
Danielle Walker has found an outlet to reach out in ministry. Her website, Slated for Grace, allows people to find scriptures and Biblical coaching.

er is excited about going full time with the website.

As a business, she sells her devotionals and offers coaching as products.

“I’m hoping to expand into some other printed materials eventually,” Walker said.

“My goal is to have an actual space in the Farragut area, where people could come if they needed to talk, if they needed to read Bible studies there — kind of like a church but without a worship service — just a space for people to gather, a safe space,” she added.

“I always said I wanted Slated for Grace to be a very safe space for people to ask really hard questions about who God is. Everyone has their own story of how things are really yucky or broken.

A key was “to sit with those people and help walk them through how ... God is still very good,” Walker said.

She noted her family is “super-supportive,” including her husband, Thomas Walker, who owns Clean Slate Property Inspections.

businessbriefs

• **Kylie Hall, grill master from LongHorn Steakhouse in Farragut**, was named national Steak Master Series Champion.

She is only the second woman to win since the inception of the program, which invites thousands of contestants to participate in the rigorous series of rounds to showcase their grilling expertise leading up to the championship.

Hall won a \$15,000 grand prize and the title of Steak Master Series Champion. She bested six oth-

er finalists in the championship round held during a one-day grill-off in Orlando, Florida, to become the sixth-ever winner of the competition.

• **Tennova Healthcare’s Turkey Creek Medical Center** recently was awarded its sixth consecutive ‘A’ in the Spring 2023 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, a national distinction recognizing the Tennova hospital’s achievements in protecting patients from harm and providing safer health-

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Nucleus: nation’s No. 1

In terms of overall accomplishments, three Knoxville Catholic tennis stars have led the Lady Irish to a No. 1 national ranking in 2023, according to Universal Tennis rankings, and a threepeat (all unbeaten) as Division II-AA team state champs. Finishing unbeaten in her singles tennis career at KCHS, senior Maeve Thornton, center, captured her third straight singles state crown Friday, May 26, at Adams Tennis Complex in Murfreesboro. The doubles tandem of junior Eleni Liakonis, left, and sophomore Lillie Murphy, earned back-to-back Division II-AA doubles state titles (unbeaten both seasons) Friday at ATC. Head coach Rusty Morris also praised senior Gigi Sompayrac, a key team contributor during the three-year team state title run in doubles and at No. 4 singles. “She’s such a great leader. She never lost a doubles match (paired with Thornton) in her career,” he said. Also contributing were junior Peyton Carroll, “a great No. 5 who didn’t lose a match all year in singles,” along with sophomores Karenn Thurman and Pauline Schneiter.

Thornton, Faulkner, Irish girls team 3-peat at state; Cassity, KCHS Liakonis-Murphy doubles repeat

STAFF REPORTS
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MURFREESBORO — Following the enormous success of Knoxville Catholic’s girls tennis team, ranked No. 1 nationally by Universal Tennis for much of the season and now a three-peat Division II-AA state champ (unbeaten all three years), and its singles/doubles success (noted above in the cutline), the following are quotes from the team’s top player and one doubles star,

along with quotes reflecting the repeat success of an FHS junior and three-peating CAK sophomore (see cutlines).

KCHS senior Maeve Thornton, undefeated in singles her entire career and a three-time Division II-AA champ after her match Friday, May 26, at Adams Tennis Complex: “Of course, this year there was a little more pressure and expectation on our team, especially with the (national) ranking.

See TENNIS CHAMPS on Page 9A



Allie Faulkner, CAK junior (wearing gold medal), won her third straight Division II-A singles state title at Adams Tennis Complex in Murfreesboro, the latest one Friday morning, May 26. Joining her are father, Eric Faulkner; mother (far right), Sharon Faulkner; and sister, Kate Faulkner.



Tennis photos by Alan Sloan

Riley Cassity, FHS junior, serves versus junior Ensley Collins of Walker Valley in the Division I-AAA singles state title match Friday morning, May 26, at Adams Tennis Complex in Murfreesboro. Cassity has won back-to-back at state after this 6-2, 6-4 triumph.

Fighting, coming back, Lady Ads end up 1-2 at state

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

MURFREESBORO — Rebounding from a 6-3 opening round loss to Arlington in the Division I-4A Softball State Tournament, two-time defending state champ Farragut proved a tough nut to crack in its next two games — despite eventually falling short.

After its first loss Tuesday, May 23, the Lady Admirals (final 33-7 record) edged Coffee County 4-3 Wednesday, May 24, after trailing 2-1 going into the top of the sixth inning.

Home runs by juniors Laney Shrader and Hailey Nichols in the sixth put the Lady Ads up 3-2. Farragut’s eventual game-winning hit, with two outs in the seventh, came from sophomore catcher

Elsa Morrison, who ended 2023 just one homer short of state single-season record (at 23, the record being 24).

Morrison, Shrader (also a double), leadoff hitter Addison Pressley, a junior, and senior Avery Mattina each contributed two hits.

Winning pitcher Emma MacTavish, a junior, went the distance, allowing three earned runs, eight hits and one

walk along with three strikeouts.

Trailing Henry County 5-2 in the bottom of the sixth later Wednesday, Rilee Kate Ragan’s home run, an Audrey Ginel walk, Pressley’s single and a two-RBI double by Morrison pulled Farragut even 5-5. Behind 6-5 and down to its last strike in the seventh, Nichols slammed a game-tying home run. But the Lady Ads lost 8-6 in eight innings.

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FHS shot put state #1 among 11 top finishes; Catholic pair grab five

Farragut, CAK boys 3rd; KCHS girls 4th

ALAN SLOAN
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MURFREESBORO — Sophomore Bryce Thompson had his situation sized up pretty well entering the Division I-AAA State Track & Field Meet in shot put.

Thompson’s success — reaching the top — helped the FHS boys team finish third.

“I just knew that there was, like, really one guy to beat, just Mason (Green of Ravenwood, finishing fourth after four foul tosses),” said Thompson, state champ with a best toss of 57-feet-11.75 at Middle Tennessee State University Thursday, May 25.

Finishing fifth in state as a freshman last season, “I’ve put on a lot of weight since last year — probably 20 or 30 pounds — and I just throw farther and farther,” he said, adding more than 8 feet versus his best 2022 state toss.

“... Going to workouts in the morning, you’re not really that motivated,” he added. “But in the end, it all matters.”

Also a linebacker with the FHS football team, “My strength coach (assistant football coach Tom Doucette) has helped me out a lot,” he said. “He always motivates me, pushes me to the limits.”

Adding “a lot of extra motivation” was Thompson’s sixth-place finish in discus, with senior teammate Tyson Jackson claiming second place.

After “not throwing as great as I wanted” in discus, “I came over to shot and was just super relaxed, just getting after it.”

Other state champs

Ten other state championships were earned by Farragut-area talent, led by Knoxville Catholic freshman Chloe Truss grabbing all three sprint state titles in Division II-AA (100-meters at 12 seconds, 200 at 24.90 and 400 at 56.95). She led the way in helping the Lady Irish finish fourth as a team.

As for going the distance, Irish sophomore Keegan Smith was Division II-AA boys state champ in both the 1600 (4:17.18) and the 3200 (9:12.35).

Webb School of Knoxville Division II-AA state champions were sophomore Lennox Langham in girls triple jump (39-feet-01.00), freshman Carolina Areheart in the 1600 (5:06.45) and the Lady Spartans’ 4 X 800 relay team (9:23.37). Langham also finished second in long jump.

These efforts helped Webb finish sixth as a team.

Among the Division II-A boys field, sophomore Silas



Track and field photos by Alan Sloan

(Above) Bryce Thompson, FHS sophomore, is crowned Division I-AAA state champ in shot put at MTSU in Murfreesboro Thursday, May 25. (Below) Ads junior Matteo Tonnos, left, finished second in the AAA state meet 3200. Brentwood’s Robert Pautienus was third.



Fulford of CAK was tops in pole vault (13-feet-00.00), leading the way in the Warriors’ third-place team finish.

Meanwhile, CAK’s girls took sixth as a team led by its 4 X 200 relay state champs (1:43.73).

1st Diamond KCHS state crown



Alan Sloan

Senior Daniel Parris, center, Knox Catholic star third baseman/pitcher and UT Vols signee, gives a big hug to teammate Ian Hubbard, senior center fielder, moments after Hubbard's walk-off two-out state title-winning RBI single to center, which scored the winning run to beat Christ Presbyterian Academy 4-3. Junior Mason Fields, left, is the team's designated hitter.

Clutch Irish pave title path at state

ALAN SLOAN
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MURFREESBORO — Ian Hubbard's shirtless but joy-filled sprint around the deepest portions of MTSU's Reese Smith Jr. Field, chased by all of his Knoxville Catholic teammates, started in right field. Actually, it started at first base after Hubbard, a senior standout center fielder and the team's clean-up hitter, crushed a hard line drive to center field with two outs and the bases loaded to give the Irish (31-9 final record) a walkoff 4-3 Division II-AA victory versus Christ Presbyterian Academy Thursday evening, May 25, that earned the program its first baseball state crown. "It's a great feeling; I was able to carry (over) some success I've had this year," said Hubbard, who had two hits and two RBI total, as Catholic began state tourney play with a 2-0 win against CPA (29-13) Tuesday, May 24, before edging Lipscomb Academy (25-11) 6-4 Wednesday, May 24. "He deserved it, he's put in so many hours behind the scenes trying to get better," KCHS head coach Caleb Moore said.

Winning pitcher Daniel Parris, a Tennessee Vols signee and the team's regular third baseman, went the first six innings, allowing two earned runs, six hits and five walks with five strikeouts. "I didn't have my best stuff, but I gave it all I could — and I am so thankful for the defense I've had all year," the senior said. Jacob Camfield relived Parris in the seventh, allowing two hits but inducing a flyout to end the threat. In the KCHS seventh, third baseman Ben Sompayrac was hit by a pitch with one out before shortstop Hudson Lutterman's two-out single put runners at first and second base. Following a wild pitch, Parris was intentionally walked setting the stage for Hubbard. Other Irish hits came from Sompayrac, second baseman Ryan Theobald, left fielder Frank Spence and catcher Joey Lamattina, with Spence's single and Lamattina's RBI single part of Catholic's three-run first inning, which answered a CPA run in the top of the first. Sweeping powerful East

See CLUTCH IRISH on Page 9A

Sophomore pitching gem, defense, timely hits: FHS #1

Though falling 6-0, Hawks win 4 at state, end as 4A runner-up

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

MURFREESBORO — A sophomore pitcher with just 20 innings of work in 2023 — and no starts — took the mound for Farragut to begin its Division 1-4A state title game against rival Hardin Valley Academy. Though admitting his "whole body was shaking just because of nerves," Cole Draper pitched a shutout gem against a potent Hawks offense, allowing just three hits — only one through six innings — one hit batter and one walk while striking out four. Big defensive plays and timely hitting — including a three-run first inning — allowed the Ads (36-8) to repeat as state champs, winning a state record 12th in program history with a 6-0 victory at MTSU's Reese Smith Jr. Field Friday night, May 26. "But you get out there and realize it's just another game. You take a deep breath and pray to God, ask Him for help, just put it in His hands," said Draper, who finished 2023 with a record of 3-1 with four saves and a 1.04 earned-run average. "Obviously he was fantastic, a sophomore with a bright future," said Admirals skipper Matt Buckner, who wins his sixth state title in 13 full seasons as FHS head coach. "He's been great all year. He's been one of our best relievers. I just felt he was the man for the moment today." Defensively, "our outfield played fantastic, our infield played fantastic," as junior right fielder Landis Davila



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/Jeremy Wiggs Photography

Junior Lukas Buckner, FHS star shortstop, lays down a bunt single in the bottom of the fourth inning versus Hardin Valley Academy, as these rivals played in the Division I-4A state title game at MTSU's Reese Smith Jr. Field Friday, May 26. FHS won 6-0 to capture back-to-back state titles. (See related photos, page 1A)

made two sliding catches to end possible HVA rallies, while junior second baseman Jake Merrick's diving stop of a grounder for an out also helped prevent a possible Hawks rally. Farragut struck quickly in the bottom of the first. A one-out Davila double, followed by an infield error and a walk, loaded the bases for senior third/first baseman Jett Johnston, whose two-RBI single made it 2-0. "There's nothing like it — all the glory to God," Johnston said. Junior Brennon Seigler's sac fly upped the lead to 3-0. An RBI double in the second inning by Davila, off the first base bag, scored pinch-runner Ellis Gleed making it 4-0.

Pinch runner Aidan Flag scored in the fifth on Seigler's two-out double. Senior Mark Underwood, who led off the sixth with a double, scored on Davila's sacrifice fly. "This is pretty unreal," Underwood said about the title. "I'm excited for my team — I think they'll do it again next year, hopefully," said senior Ashton Sulack, staff ace who ended '23 with a 6-1 record and a 1.25 ERA in 33 2/3 innings (opponents hit just .099 against him) before having his season ended with a UCL elbow tear early in the playoff run, requiring Tommy John surgery. "Everything went their way," said HVA head coach Tyler Roach, whose team ends 34-7.



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Casey 1 of 16 in US: 9/11 Promise

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

Daniel Casey, a member of the recently graduated Farragut High School Class of 2023, was one of 16 students nationwide selected as a 9/11 Promise Scholarship recipient.

The competitive scholarship is awarded to qualified children of first responders and military service members who have been killed or injured and unable to hold employment.

To qualify, students must demonstrate past and future potential for academic and leadership success, provide two letters of recommendation, answer two essay



Casey



Photo submitted

During his 88th hike to Mount LeConte in August 2022, Bob Turney stops along Alum Trail to the Clifftops Overlook for a photo opportunity and to admire the overlook’s beauty.

100th LeConte climb, at 75, this fall

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Bob Turney, 75, is “not slowing down soon.”

The retired local optometrist is planning his 100th climb up Mount LeConte in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in October, taking the Alum Trail, “when the colors are in and it’s beautiful, if everything goes well.”

“I’m at 95 (climbs) now, and I try to do one a month,” Turney added.

Mount LeConte is the third highest mountain in the Smokies at 6,593-foot elevation, while Clingman’s Dome is the highest at 6,643 feet and Mount Guyot is the second highest at 6,621.

“I’ve always loved the mountains,” Turney said. “I just love the beauty ... fresh air. I love the people that I meet along the trail from all over the world.”

“I’ve been a nature lover for years,” he added. “I grew up a

Boy Scout, so it’s been an outdoor adventure for me.

“We couldn’t live in a better part of the country and have a more beautiful national park than what Smoky Mountains National Park is.”

As such, he likes to take the trail slowly. There are six trails to Mount LeConte — and he has hiked them all — but he chose the Alum Trail because it’s the easiest, the shortest “and probably has some of the best views of the trails.”

Still, “it’s always a hard climb,” Turney said. “I don’t make it as fast as I did years ago.”

“Every time you stop on the trail, you see something beautiful,” the 75-year old added. “You see flowers and plants and animals you wouldn’t see if you just keep going.”

However, “... you’re having to watch your feet and watch where you walk because it’s a rough trail,” he said. “You’ll take a spill if you don’t.”

The trek usually takes Tur-

ney three-and-a-half hours to get to the top of the mountain, depending on how many people he meets for conversation.

“I’ve taken people with me that were very slow going,” he said. “I guess the most time — it took me six hours one time.”

“But that’s OK,” Turney added. “They made it, they loved it and they will be proud the rest of their life that they did it.”

His first climbing venture on Mount LeConte started in 1979. Turney recalled he initially was inspired by a former classmate from Newport while he was attending optometry school in Memphis.

“He and his family grew up in the mountains, the Smokies, so the farthest hike I did was with him and his dad, and a number of other young men that were in optometry school with us,” Turney said. “It wasn’t something I planned all my life to do, but after doing it one time ... that just kind of gave me the fever.”

There are two overlooks on

Mount Le Conte. He said one is called Clifftops for the sunsets, and the other is Myrtle Point for the sunrise views.

However, the highest point on the mountain is called High Top, where climbers have stacked up boulders and rocks, making a big pile and “trying to get up to the 50-foot level to be as high or higher than Clingman’s Dome,” Turney said. “I don’t think they’ll ever make it 50 feet.”

Background

Along with being a retired optometrist, he also is a retired officer in Crossville, where he served for 39 years, and worked as an eye doctor in the state prison for seven years. Turney also volunteers with Mission of Hope as a driver, delivering donated goods to Kentucky.

His wife, Helen Turney, has accompanied him on his climb once in the past, and his two children and four grandchildren have joined him at times.

To stay in shape, he walks a couple miles a day.

See 1 OF 16 IN US on Page 7A

Coffman to T-Creek set

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD
mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

Area summer music kicks off in June when The Pinnacle at Turkey Creek hosts country music singer-songwriter Hayden Coffman for its Summer Night concert event Thursday, June 8.

Hailing from Nashville, Coffman is known for his powerful vocals and heartfelt lyrics, according to a press release. His music has been praised for its authentic country sound, blending classic and contem-

See COFFMAN, MORE, Page 7A

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- **The Koinonia Foundation presents “Custom Made,” a charity fashion show featuring models with disabilities,** from 6 to 9 p.m., Thursday, June 1, in Broadway Event Center, 4683 Old Broadway, Knoxville. All funds raised at Custom Made will benefit individuals with disabilities throughout Knoxville and surrounding areas. To learn more, visit kftn.org
- **A free picnic for veterans and guests, hosted by Captain Bill Robinson Chapter 1078, Vietnam Veterans of America,** in Chilhowee Park, 3301 East Magnolia Ave. in Knoxville, begins with opening ceremonies at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, June 3, with chow line open from noon to 2 p.m. Lawn chairs are welcome. Veterans, active duty military personnel and guests are invited. To RSVP: VVA1078@gmail.com
- **A blood donation competition between MEDIC, represented by the Tennessee Smokies Class AA Minor League Baseball organization,** is challenging Blood Assurance, representing Smokies rival Chattanooga Lookouts, is under way and runs through Sunday, June 4, at any MEDIC location site, including 11000 Kingston Pike in Farragut, or mobile sites. All donors receive a free admission ticket to any 2023 Smokies home game (while supplies last). For more information, visit www.medicblood.org
- **Tennessee Valley Machine Knitters Club’s next monthly meeting starts at 10 a.m., Tuesday, June 6,** in Alcoa First United Methodist Church. Visitors are welcome. Each person will knit about 8 inches of a scarf, then pass it on to the next person, who will knit another 8 inches until the scarf is completed. For more information, call Marie Hickson 865-457-0960.
- **The community is invited to a free concert and cookout beginning at 5 p.m., Saturday, June 17,** featuring the teen-led xPerience band — 15 youth and five adults — performing at Faith Lutheran Church, 225 Jamestowne Blvd. This youth-led touring concert group is from Christ Lutheran Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.



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From page 6A

questions and provide proof of parent’s first responder and/or military service and death or disability.

Casey is the son of Donald and Kristi Casey of Farragut, both of whom were 9/11 responders. Donald was a firefighter with the Fire Depart-

Coffman, more

From page 6A

porary styles to create a sound that is uniquely his own.

“We are thrilled to have Hayden Coffman perform at Summer Nights this year,” said Gabi Walsh, marketing associate for The Pinnacle at Turkey Creek. “He is an incredibly talented musician, and we know that he will put an unforgettable show for our guests.”

Summer Nights at Pinnacle Turkey Creek is a popular outdoor concert series held every summer featuring various music stylings. The event offers “an exciting mix of live performances, food, drinks and local vendors that has become

ment of New York City and retired on disability in 2007. Kristi, formerly a firefighter-EMT and disaster response team leader, currently is on medical leave from Knox County Schools, where she had been teaching since the family relocated to Tennessee in 2014.

This new FHS graduate has a twin brother, Patrick, and two sisters, Emma and Abigail.

a beloved tradition for the Knoxville area,” the release stated.

It will only be held in June this year, Walsh said.

Tickets for the June 8 concert are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children, and are available through Eventbrite or by visiting visit Pinnacleat-turkeycreek.com for more information. Guests are encouraged to arrive early and enjoy pre-show festivities, including vendors and giveaways.

Coffman

Daniel Casey graduated with honors, received NIC Industry Certification and earned a 3.8 grade-point average during his four years at FHS.

He will be attending Maryville College in the fall, where he received the Dean’s Scholarship and Educator Award.

Daniel Casey plans to study psychology and business.

More music events

Three Town events later in the summer are set for Founder’s Park at Campbell Station.

Visit Farragut will host Bluegrass Summer Solstice from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, June 21, featuring Brand New Box of Matches and Outta the Blue.

Farragut Parks and Recreation will host “Party in the Park,” from 6 to 8 p.m., July 20, featuring lawn games, food trucks and a kids sing-a-long, with Sean McCullough performing.

The Lawnchair Concert series also returns this summer, but has only one date: starting at 5 p.m., Aug. 19, with food trucks, games and a line up to be announced at a later date.

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The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, at its meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2023, adopted the following ordinance on second and final reading:

Ordinance 23-06, an ordinance to amend the Farragut Municipal Code, Chapter 105, Article 2. - International Building Code, Section 105-20 (i), to extend the expiration time frame for certain permits, and Section 105-20 (s), to correct a clerical error by referencing the appropriate section and to amend Chapter 105, Article 3. - International Residential Code, Section 105-53 (c), to extend the expiration time frame for certain permits, and Section 105—53 (h) to remove this section and renumber accordingly

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Hawks clip Collierville, go 1-1; BHS falls 1-0 to #1 Brentwood

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

MURFREESBORO — The local boys soccer state tourney highlight was Hardin Valley Academy getting a goal from DJ Powers, assisted by Brady Hammer, in the 75th minute to edge Collierville (15-4-2 record) 3-2 in the opening round of the Division I-AAA quarterfinals at Richard Siegel Soccer Complex Tuesday, May 23.

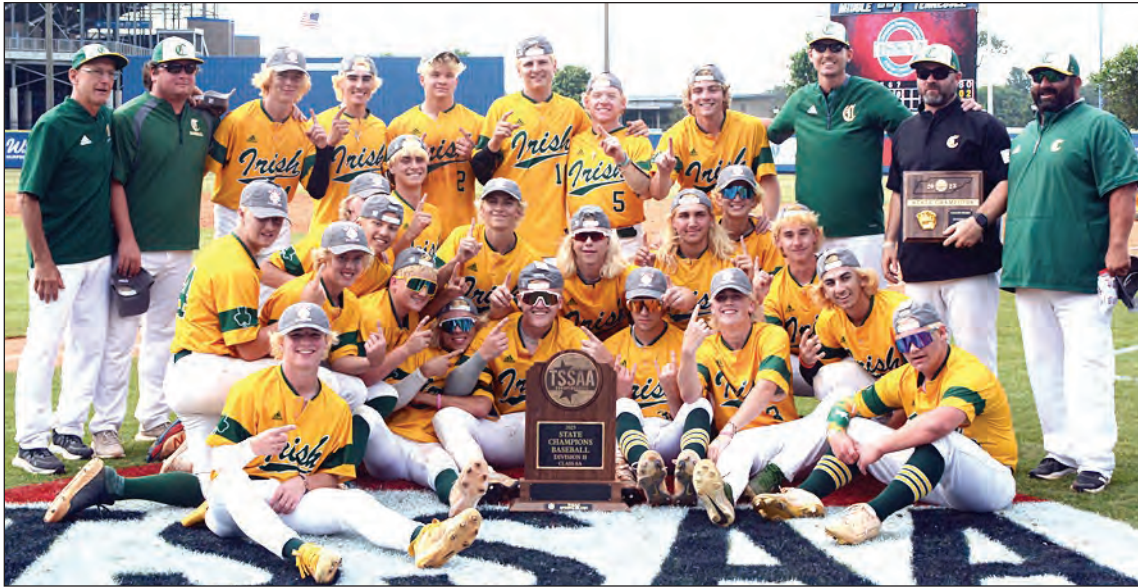
Other HVA goals came from Ish Palacios (21st minute/Ben Brophy assist) and Nathan Hol-

brook (29th minute/Hammer assist).

The Hawks finished the season 13-4-6 after being blanked by Station Camp, eventual runner-up, 4-0 in the semifinals Wednesday, May 24.

Meanwhile, undefeated power Bearden (18-0-3) faced off against powerful Brentwood, undefeated defending state champ (22-0), in the opening round May 23. The Bruins got a goal in the 20th minute and held the Dawgs scoreless — despite being out-shot 18-7 — in a 1-0 win.

Brentwood, beating BHS in last year’s AAA title game, went on to repeat as No. 1 (25-0).



Alan Sloan

Knoxville Catholic baseball players and coaches celebrate the program’s first state title.

Clutch Irish

From page 5A

Region rival Baylor in Chattanooga to earn the state trip, having lost all regular season games versus the Red Raiders, “we got hot at the right time,” Moore said. “That’s what play-off baseball is all about.”

Tennis champs

From page 4A

“... But we kind of just kept our perspective of playing one match, one point at a time.”

The Lady Irish doubles duo of junior Eleni Liakonis and sophomore Lillie Murphy won their second straight Division II-AA state crown: “We pulled it out last year, so we focused and we played well together,” Liakonis said.

CAK sophomore Allie Faulkner, a three-time Division II-A state singles champ: “I was very nervous going in thinking I had to win, but once I got here the nerves settled (down) and I was able to enjoy playing in this tournament.”

Farragut junior Riley Casity, a back-to-back Division I-AA singles state champ: “Way more pressure” versus 2022. “Even though I am older, more mature and more confident, it’s still like a ‘you’re expected to win’ type of deal.”



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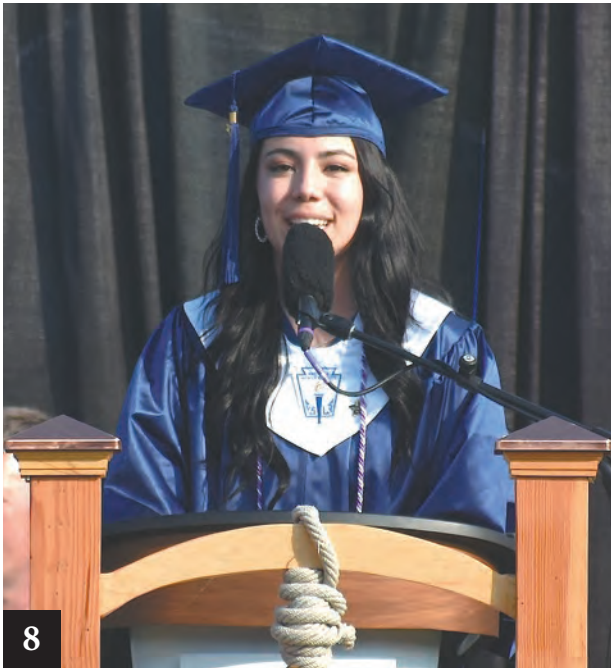
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2023Graduation

10A • FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023



Farragut High School graduated 506 seniors under blue skies Sunday, May 21, on the school’s Bill Clabo Field in Eddie Courtney Stadium. Principal Dr. John Bartlett went off script a few times to personalize the event, telling graduates to hug favorite teachers one more time, and encouraging them to take pictures of fellow students and the crowd to help remember the day and those who assisted and supported their high school journey.



1. Senior Mark Underwood enters the field with his classmates. **2.** Farragut High School seniors and FHS Advanced Mixed Choir members Mason Cross, center, and Abby Vaughn, right, performed “Irish Blessing” and the National Anthem during graduation ceremonies. **3.** Proud mom Tina Gormley and her son, Quinn Gormley, are pictured following graduation. **4.** Class of 2023 soon-to be graduates Madison Wright, left, and Nancy Wiese, are pictured before the ceremony. **5.** Douglas Sumrall, left, and Evelyn Snelling following graduation. **6.** Graduate Anna Mahar, left, is congratulated by her sister, FHS junior Julia Mahar. **7.** Natalie Wood enters the field with her classmates. **8.** Melanie Dalili delivered one of two commencement addresses, as did senior Ella Pinchok, not pictured. **9.** Graduate Andrew Celeste gets a pat on the back from 12th grade principal Steve Killian after walking across the stage. **10.** A folding chair was set aside in memory of classmate Arianna Parker, who died in 2021.

Photos by Michelle Hollenhead



With this Ring

← **BRIDAL 2023** →

RICK TERRY JEWELRY DESIGNS

“We want to be your Jeweler”

A supplement to farragutpress • May 31, 2023

Love survives

Local woman helps keep her husband's memory alive with unique keepsake

After losing her husband to Alzheimer's, Carol Ann Casey sought to keep his memory alive by having a custom necklace made with their wedding bands.

The unique piece of jewelry features Carol Ann's ring inside her husband Dan's, as well as the diamond from her mother's own engagement ring.

"We just had wedding bands, and I had kind of made up my mind that I wasn't going to keep the wedding band on," explained Carol Ann, noting that her initial vision was to simply have her ring inside her husband Dan's.

However, it was local jeweler Rick Terry's suggestion to place a diamond in the middle of the two rings, resulting in the one-of-a-kind creation.

"I remembered I had my mother's ring down in the safe, so he took the diamond out of her engagement ring and put it inside, and put my

See LOVE on Page 4



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Love

From page 1

ring inside Dan's ring," she added.

Carol Ann says the necklace has become the most valuable piece of jewelry she owns, as it's a symbol of the couple's unity that's always near her heart.

"I wear it around my neck, but it's better for me because it's closer to my heart than it was on my hand," she said. "To me, it represents a great marriage – it's representative of the love that we had for each other."

Married for 61 years, Dan and Carol Ann moved to the Farragut area from Missouri in 1984, when Dan founded the air cleaning equipment company Caprice Construction. Carol Ann said the couple, who raised three daughters together, especially enjoyed traveling with one another, visiting nearly 60 countries before Dan's passing in 2019.

"He liked to drive, so when he had to drive to a job, we would go together and that's when we did our talking. After he retired, we took an overseas trip every year instead of buying a second house or something," she said. "We were very lucky in that it was always an easy marriage."

~ Story by Rachel Totten



Engagement

Getting engaged is an exciting moment in the lives of a couple. One might think that excitement would lead to couples hurrying their way down the aisle to tie the knot, but studies have shown that couples spend a significant amount of time between getting engaged and saying, "I do."

According to The Knot 2021 Real Weddings Study, the average engagement length among couples in the United States is 16 months. Though those figures are likely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which undoubtedly contributed to longer engagements as couples waited to get married until large gatherings were deemed safe, it's worth noting that lengthy engagements are not specifically a COVID-related phenomenon.

In fact, The Knot reports that the average length of engagement in 2019 was 14 months. Taking more time to get to know one another also seems to be a popular approach among modern couples, as The Knot Jewelry and Engagement Study found that three-quarters of all couples who wed in 2021 had dated for two or more years prior to getting engaged.



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Choosing your wedding day menu

French queen Marie Antoinette is credited with a phrase that loosely translates to “Let them eat cake.” Guests at a wedding certainly will have their chance to enjoy cake, but it’s likely that wedding planners will need to offer a bit more sustenance to guests than this confectionary creation to keep them happy.

Many things stand out as memorable on a wedding day: the dress, the music, the adorable children who trip up or do some sort of zany antics down the aisle, and the food. Guests often look forward to a wedding to

wish a couple well in their new lives together, but also to enjoy a great meal. Couples should give careful consideration to their wedding reception menu so everyone ends the night with great memories and full bellies.

Decide on the type of service

Buffet, plated dinner, server-passed foods, or food stations are the options at couples’ disposal when planning reception dinners. The type of service often dictates the formality of the event. For example, a cocktail party where guests mingle and sample small bites throughout the night may be a more casual affair, while a plated multi-course meal is much



more formal. Couples can decide which type of service fits their budgets and ideas of for the reception.

Expand your options

Largely gone are the days when guests select dishes on the R.S.V.P. months in advance and then are locked into their choices. Now guests have more options and flexibility, particularly because couples and catering venues offer greater variety. A buffet-style meal gives guests chances to sample various foods in one sitting. However, even if couples choose a plated meal, they can select packages that offer guests the greatest number of options. Be sure to include a vegetarian or vegan option, a fish option, and a standard beef or chicken option to appeal to most.

Confirm food allergies or sensitivities

It's likely someone on the guest list will have a food allergy or sensitivity. Making sure there is no cross-contamination is a serious consideration for such guests. The person or persons should be consulted about what the person can and cannot eat, and then those requirements should be conveyed to the catering manager.

Certain people with food allergies are so leery about eating out that they may prefer to bring their own food to ensure it is safe. In this instance, ensure that the kitchen staff will be able to safely heat up or plate the food.

Food will likely be on the minds of wedding guests. Couples can ensure that their guests are satiated by making food a priority at their events.

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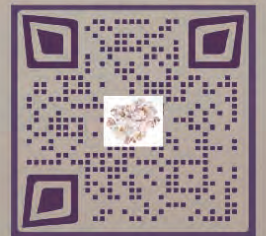
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Finding the right venue

Wedding planning requires couples to make many decisions, including where the wedding will take place.

A couple's wedding day is typically broken into two parts: the ceremony comes first, and the reception follows soon after. Depending on couples' preferences and religious beliefs, ceremonies may take place at a house of worship or another location that is separate from the reception venue. In some instances, couples may choose one location for both the ceremony and the party to follow.

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Wedding venues are where the bulk of the day will unfold, and couples can consider these four tips to find a venue that suits their needs.

1. Consider your theme and wedding style. Most couples know which sentiments they want to convey during their weddings. The venue should match the theme so the entire wedding will feel connected to the space. A modern wedding, for example, will be at home in an art gallery or warehouse. A wedding with natural elements may work better on a ranch or in a botanical garden. Zeroing in on the wedding style helps narrow down potential venue options.

2. Assess the budget. A couple may find what seems to be the perfect venue, only to realize that the cost of the space doesn't fit their budget. Ampersand Travel says the venue accounts for the most significant wedding expense, at an average cost of \$9,000. Finding a venue that will maximize dollars spent involves looking at what is included. Rentals for chairs, linens, lighting, a dance floor, and other extras can quickly add up. Couples should have a set limit they're willing to spend on the venue and let that dictate the location.

3. Availability of the location. When a couple wants to get married may determine their venue options, especially if they're planning on a budget. September and October are now the most popular months to get married, so venues will book up quickly during that time of year. Those who have their hearts set on specific days will have to begin the search earlier than couples with no attachment to a particular date. Concessions may need to be made if a certain date is a must.

4. Estimate the size of your guest list. Price, date and style will factor into wedding venues, but the number of guests also is a major consideration. A trendy restaurant may seem like the perfect locale, but it must be able to accommodate everyone on the guest list. Couples should sit down with their families and come up with a list of potential guests and look for a venue that can accommodate everyone.

Couples also should visit potential venues in person to see which, if any, details might be missing from online or magazine advertisements. A host of factors, including accessibility, should be considered when looking for a venue.

Finding the right venue requires careful consideration of various factors that are unique to each couple.



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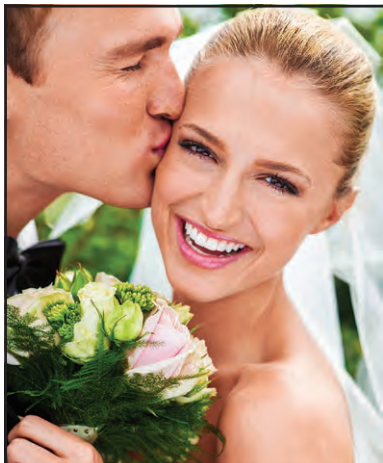
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A bride is shown from the back, wearing a white lace wedding dress with a high collar and long sleeves. Her hair is styled in an updo with a pearl hair accessory. The background is a light, textured wall.

Choosing the dress

Planning a wedding requires making many different decisions. The choice of wedding attire is among the most crucial decisions that couples must make. Whether the wedding is traditional or customized to suit couples' personalities, brides and grooms want to look their best when they say, "I do."

Many brides-to-be spend a significant amount of time looking for their ideal wedding dresses. What defines the right gown depends on personal preference and is unique to the person doing the search. For example, a dress that sets a fairy tale scene for one bride may not necessarily align with the tastes of another. According to Bridal Atelier, the average bride-to-be tries on try three to seven dresses before finding the right one. The following tips can help those shopping for dresses find a look that makes their big day even more special.

1. Don't get hung up on perfection

Many brides get caught up as they search for the one dress they consider perfect. No dress is likely to check every box. Getting hung up on a desire to find a dress that has it all may make it hard to see the beauty in other dresses. Remember, with the talents of an experienced tailor or seamstress, most dresses can be tweaked to suit your vision of the ideal gown.

2. Consider the season

Getting married during the hazy and humid days of summer is an entirely different experience than tying the knot during the heart of winter. The fabric of the wedding dress should complement the season, whether it's lightweight and breezy for a warm day, or more substantial and cozy when darting to the ceremony in snowfall.

3. Flatter your figure

Chances are brides-to-be know which cuts and styles are most flattering. Mimic those style choices in the wedding dress. If you want to take focus off of full hips, choose a basque or asymmetrical waistline. Gowns with substantial straps or higher necklines may be better if you have a larger chest. Sheath and mermaid style gowns are options if you are confident with your figure and want to show off your curves.

4. Try a bit of this and that

Don't go into a wedding dress appointment with firm parameters. Although you may have a ball gown style in mind, after trying on other options something with a less voluminous silhouette may actually catch your eye. Many brides also automatically defer to strapless gowns, when various straps and sleeves can be very appealing.

5. Arrive with a firm budget

Weddings can be costly. It's important to set a budget for the wedding dress just as you will with other expenses. There are plenty of dress designers across a wide spectrum of price points. A willingness to consider and ultimately purchase a less costly dress can help you stay on budget.

Browsing through magazines and looking online can provide wedding dress inspiration as well. Also, when in doubt, defer to the experts at bridal shops who have experience choosing dresses that brides are inclined to love.