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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025 • 1A

Town No. 5 Best Place to Live in TN: two sites

TAMMY CHEEK

ISSUE 42 VOLUME 37

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Town administrator David Smoak announced Thursday, June 12, that Farragut has received recognition from national ranking websites.

"There are decades of hard work that have gone into making Farragut the great community it is today," he said during a Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting. "Recently, the Town was recognized by Niche (website, which ranks governments and schools nationally) as the No. 5 Best Place to Live in Tennessee, among other accolades that Niche posted out there for the Town."

Among those other accolades were: No. 3 of 101 best suburbs to live in Tennessee, No. 4 of 233 best places to raise a family in Tennessee,

7 of 202 best places to retire in Tennessee and No. 9 of 101 best suburbs to buy a house in Tennessee.

Smoak Additionally, "another ranking that came out recently was from Consumer Affairs," Smoak said. "It also ranked Farragut No. 5 as the Best Place to Live based on affordability, safety, economy, healthcare, education and quality of life.

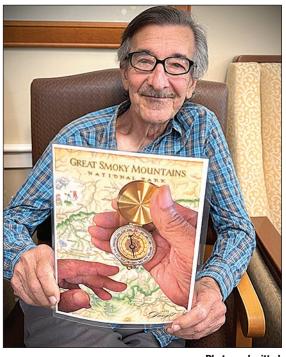
FARRAGUT, TENNESSEE

"These rankings just go to show how important policies, vision and planning priorities go into making and keeping Farragut a place that people want to call home," he added.

With that, Smoak said the budget process

See NO. 5 IN STATE X 2 on Page 2A See COLUMN starting on Page 4A

Concord Place's 'essence of dad'





golfer and tennis player. When moving to Concord Place, he picked up a passion for ping pong.



Two 'no' votes to FY Budget 1st read; greenway issue

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen passed its 2025-2026 budget on first reading at its Thursday, June 12, meeting but not without disagreement and confrontation.

After a lengthy discussion, ending in an argument over the Turkey Creek road improvement/greenway project, the Board voted 3-2 to pass the budget as presented.

Mayor Ron Williams, Vice Mayor Scott Meyer and Alderman Drew Burnett voted for the approval while Aldermen Alex Cain and David White voted against.

In the budget Town administrator David Smoak presented, \$500,000 was allotted for the "Turkey Creek Road Multi-Modal Improvements" for 2026.

However, Cain made a motion to delete the funding for that project, which was seconded by White.

"Several months ago, residents of Brixworth subdivision, who were going to have some property negatively impacted by the Turkey Creek greenway (project) by removal of trees along Turkey Creek Road, asked me to come down and take a look at their property," Cain said. "I walked in the backyard of some of these homes, behind the tree line, and what I saw, first of all,

was a rocky 8.3-degree slope that's currently hidden by the road by the trees.

"I've wondered how the design had gotten so poor that we were at that point," Cain added, noting the resident provided the aldermen with some engineering drawings "that resembled ski jumps from the Olympics. "The project has five different steps that have to go down

that 8.3-degree incline," he continued. "At this point, I kind of wonder why it was included when in the 2022 budget; there was an alternative titled Brixworth Greenway Connection that went off the end of the Turkey Creek greenway connection and then eventually worked its way through the neighborhood back to Virtue Road.

"When I was a candidate for this seat, back in 2024, I asked this Board and the (Farragut Municipal) Planning Commission to remove this project from the (Capital Investment Plan)," Cain added. "As a Town, we're now sitting in pending litigation with this project.

'So, over the last few weeks, I received a transcript from the Chancery Court involving the summary judgment motion put forth by the Town of Farragut, which is all public record. Within that transcript, the attorneys and the Chancellor referred to a court case in Bristol, Tennessee, that established

See 3-2 FIRST READ on Page 2A

Champion, 'Hall' grand marshals highlight 37th Independence Day Parade

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

as thousands are once again expected to enjoy Town of Farragut's 37th Annual Independence Day Parade. FHS athletics director Donald Dodgen — 2025

Farragut High School athletics will be spotlighted

TSSAA Hall of Fame inductee — will join retired track and field head coach Chelsea Osborne and Admirals baseball skipper Garrett Copeland, both having led teams to TSSAA state championship in the spring, and football head coach Geoff Courtney as Parade grand marshals. Starting at 9:30 a.m., Friday, July 4, the Parade will

following the same route as last year along Kingston

"The Parade lines up at Farragut High School and proceeds down Lendon Welch Way to Kingston Pike," a Town press release stated. "It continues west to Boring Road, just east of Farragut Town Square shopping center.'

This year there are 92 entries, according to Town Recreation and Event manager Rachel Malone. Deadline for entering the parade was Monday, June 23 — however, "it is full," Malone said.

"The parade is always a mix of long-standing entries and new businesses, which is part of what makes it such a fun community event," she added. "...



Dodgen

It was not held during 2020 (during the worst of COVID-19) or during Operation Desert Storm (1991)."

For spectators, "We always want to remind people to stay out of the Parade route, to obey staff/blockades regarding road closures and stay hydrated," she added.

Due to the Independence Day Parade, Malone said Kingston Pike from Lendon Welch Way to Federal Boulevard will be closed from 8:30 a.m. to around noon Friday.



Osborne

Town officials released the following detours:

See PARADE on Page 4A

Bluegrass Summer Solstice set for Friday

• Town of Farragut's Bluegrass Summer Solstice Concert will welcome in Summer from 6 to 8 p.m., Friday, June 20, at Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza, 101 N Campbell Station Road.

"Save the date and help us celebrate the longest day of the year with one of Tennessee's oldest musical genres," a Town press release stated. "No need to worry about dinner plans - we'll have a variety of food trucks on-site, serving up delicious bites so you

Kid Try-Athlon Saturday; register by June 18

can focus on the music and fun."

• Farragut's Kid Try-Athlon is from 8 to 10 a.m., Saturday, June 21, at McFee Park for ages 3-through-6 and 7-through-10; \$15 per participant.

"Bike, run and splash your way to the finish line. This non-competitive event will allow young athletes to experience aspects of a triathlon. No swimming will take place, but participants will encounter water obstacles as they head toward the finish line. Partici-

pants will complete the following distances according to their age group: bike ride: one-half mile (ages 3-6), 1 mile (ages 7-10); run/walk: one-quarter mile (ages 3-6), half mile (ages 7-10).

A parent/guardian must accompany participants in the 3-through-6 age group on the course. Participants will receive a T-shirt and medal. Registration is required; the deadline to register is Wednesday, June 18. Call 865-218-3376 for more details.



Life doesn't stop after retirement, why should your lifestyle?

Your next chapter is just beginning at The Villages of Farragut.

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No. 5 in state X 2

From page 1A

starts in January of each year, when the Town's staff submits its base budgets.

That is followed by a Board retreat and a series of workshops before the budget is presented for adoption, which is required before the new fiscal year starts (July 1).

"All that goes around really talking through what our stra-

From page 1A

3-2 first read

precedent that greenways are linear parks.

"I feel that the homeowners, who are all Farragut residents, have been forced unnecessarily to spend money on a lawsuit. I believe that the Town is in a predicament that they shouldn't have been.

As a result, "I call for an amendment to the motion (made by Meyer and seconded by Burnette) to remove the Turkey Creek greenway (project) from the Capital Investment Plan) due to the safety issues that have been discussed, and I ask that the Town enter into discussions to settle this case with the plaintiffs," Cain said. "I also believe that in the future, we should not have to put any other homeowners through something like this."

His motion was seconded by White; however, Meyer said, "I'm not amending my motion for that."

"Then we have no choice but to move on," the mayor said.

However, Town administrator David Smoak said the Board "can take that motion itself and just vote on that."

"I'd like to hear everybody

tegic plan is, and our strategic plan starts with a vision that's very aspirational — it's what we want to be, what our longrange vision is for the community," he added.

"... Some of our strategic priorities this year are posted on our website so everyone can see what our goals are for the next year as we are working toward accomplishing them."

Smoak added five "critical success factors:'

else before we have any vote," Williams said.

"I'm OK to listen to everybody," Cain said.

"It seems unwise to really talk about a project that we're in litigation over," Burnette said. "I can't really ask Tom (Hale, Town attorney) stuff right now.'

However, "If you look back in the meetings, you will see the Brixworth greenway project and why it was passed over unanimously, from costs to (Americans with Disabilities Act)," he added. "All those are detailed out. The price is way more expensive. The land does not allow for it.

'We didn't do things to people," Burnette continued. "We brought a plan, just like the road we're working on at Virtue right now. We've got a plan that's years out. We're meeting with neighbors; we're talking; we're seeing what neighbors want to do.

"I think we're going to have a meeting in July for the whole community over Virtue Road, and that's how we do things. We can't do that for this greenway project because we're in a lawsuit and we've got to let it play out, so it's unfortunate that we don't get to communi-

 Connecting our community with excellent parks, greenways, trails, sidewalks and rec programs;

- · Enhancing the Town's financial position;
- Collaborating at a local, state and federal level;
- Supporting and caring for our team; and ...
- · Advancing a high-quality;

and well-maintained community.

cate with everybody."

He asked Town engineer Darryl Smith about the "ski jumps" on the plan.

"That's a 3 percent grade," Smith said. "You have to have a landing. That's what's proposed on the Turkey Creek (greenway plan)."

"There are no ski jumps," Burnette said. "It's an ADA thing. You can't jump it."

"There's a 3-to-1 slope at Brixworth that's a lot steeper," Smith said.

Meyer said he was one of the aldermen who walked the resident's yard and looked at the scope of the project.

"To me, it doesn't make sense, with the project as it is currently, that we would be able to deal with the slope of the hill," he said. "I'm also very concerned about taking folks' property.

"I want to see the project be aligned with the right-of-way that we have with the Town property but not go outside of that," Meyer added. "But I don't want to take the money out of the budget. I want to keep the money in the budget so we can work together and come up with a solution that everybody can live with."

Burnette noted the first thing people see is the architect's initial plans, which are "crazy bigger than we ever want.

"That's not what we want, but it's the first thing that comes out," he added. "It scares the snot out of people ... we get reactions and lawsuits ... We need a way for our initial design not to do that. That would cause less headaches for the community and us."

The Board voted 3-2 against the motion to amend the original motion

Regarding the Turkey Creek project, Smoak said the Town staff "never had a chance to have communications (with the residents) because they filed litigation against us. Because of that, everything stopped."

"There's a whole lot of smoke and mirrors," White said. "That trail is 25 feet up in her front yard. Strangers are

walking close to her house, so let's mention the whole thing, guys."

KCSOreports

At 10:31 a.m., Friday, June 6, a Knox County Sheriff's

Office unit was dispatched to the area of 12400 Boyd Station

Road in reference to an abandoned vehicle. Officer "arrived on

scene and found a silver Jeep Wrangler bearing Tennessee regis-

tration ... off the roadway in a ditch near train tracks," the report

"It appeared that the vehicle was being driven off-road near

the tracks before becoming stuck," the report further stated.

"The registered owner's information was added due to no driver

being on scene with the vehicle." It was towed away.

When Burnette started to make another comment, White interrupted and then said. "I'm sick of hearing it. Let's move on."

At that point, Williams struck the gavel, telling White, "You're out of order."

"I don't think I am," White

"Anybody that asks to talk on this Board, let him speak," Williams said.

"He's repeating the same thing over and over, just in a different way," White said.

"So are you," Williams replied. "Let's move on."

"No one is going into the front of anyone's yard on Turkey Creek. Nobody," Burnette said. "Like David (Smoak) said, we've not gotten to discuss the plans at all. We know they don't work out there ... There is no greenway, no sidewalk."

"Mayor ... we're talking about the greenway that we planning on building for (goodness) sake," White said.



Estate Planning

Wills, Trusts, Special Needs Trusts & Probate, Personal Injury, Social Security Disability

Whitson **Smith**

Attorney McDonald, Levy & Taylor



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June Enrichment Theme: Luau Island Adventure This month, we're turning up the tropical vibes with Luau-Themed Enrichments designed to keep our daycare dogs cool, calm, and joyfully engaged all June long! From playful water activities like pineapple bobbing and tiki splash zones to relaxing sensory stations filled with island scents, calming music, and frozen coconut treats, our Chill Island-inspired programming brings a refreshing mix of fun and enrichment to every dog's day.

Whether your pup loves to splash, sniff, or simply lounge in

the shade, there's something for everyone on our tropical enrichment journey. So pack your (imaginary) leis—we're heading to paradise!

Mahalo for letting us care for your furry family!

Aloha from Embassy Veterinary Center!



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FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025 • 3A



Orrs launch Kinetic Wealth in Farragut

TAMMY CHEEK tcheek@farragutpress.com

Skee Orr and wife, Amanda Orr, just launched a new business, Kinetic Wealth, Tuesday, June 3, at 10805 Kingston Pike Suite 130 in Farragut to help clients reach their full potential financially.

"It's been a beautiful thing so far, and the outreach we've had from the community is very humbling and encouraging," said Skee, financial planner/advisor, while Amanda provides the customer experience with scheduling and networking.

"We are truly comprehensive financial planning, so that involves investments, insurance, taxes, estate planning and charitable planning," he added. "We actually also prepare tax returns for our clients, so that's an added service.

"Who we feel we do that best for are people who are in pursuit of independence. We also do that well for family stewards — those who highly through Friday, "but we are

value legacy and taking care of others, taking care of their families. They want to leave a legacy behind, maybe not necessarily financially ... but leave the world a better place."

Financial planning "is more than just 'I want to make the most I can," Skee said. "It's 'I want to impact the world the most I can.'

Another category of people he serves includes small business owners with retirement plans or "employee-centric" organizations.

"That could be a small business or charitable organization managing 401-K plans and 403-B plans," he said.

"Our mission is to empower family stewards, people pursuing independence and emplovee-centric organizations to achieve their full potential, financially and personally, positively impacting their own circumstances and the lives of those around them," Skee added.

The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday



Skee and Amanda Orr have launched a new financial planning office, Kinetic Wealth, in Farragut at 10805 Kingston Pike Suite 130 in Farragut.

open at any time. If someone needs to meet outside of those hours, we can accommodate any schedule," he said.

To book an appointment, visit online at www.kineticwelathplanning.com or call 865-288-8904.

Skee started his career in finance in January 2012.

"I'm one of the few people who actually studied financial planning in college," he said. "I actually work in my degree field."

Skee recalled while attending Nantahala High School in Topton, North Carolina, he became close friends with his business teacher.

"I ended up taking all of his courses, which led me to a deep passion for economics and finance." he said. "Then whenever I went to college (at Western Carolina University, from where he graduated) they did not have an economics major, so I was speaking with my advisor, and she recommended that I take some personal finance courses because I loved the math and financial concepts — but I also loved people"

"So being able to merge those two passions together is what got me into personal fi-

nance," Skee added.

The Orrs moved to East Tennessee in September 2016 through his job, for which Skee was working for a local credit union. He then moved on to another financial planning business before Kinetic Wealth.

"We felt lucky we stumbled upon this (location)," Skee

"It's a great location, close to the road, but also there's an attorney and a CPA upstairs that are both great companies," he added.

"Hopefully, we can have a good professional partnership

Riverview Decks to expand at Station West Drive

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

After being located at 11309 Station West Drive Suite 32 for almost two years, owner Nate Burket of Farragut is expanding his business, Riverview

"We are taking over the office behind us, and they are going to renew our two-year lease in November," he said. "Sixteen-hundred square feet is what we have currently, and we've got nine employees who all operate out of this office, but we're packed in here."

The expansion would give Riverview Decks another 1,800 square feet of space to finish in the next 30 days.

"That will predominately be just production-management, so I will be putting more cubes back there," Burket said. "It's got a conference room, main office and a huge open floor plan where we will be able to put in probably six or seven other staff members to support construction, drafts, permitting, planning, coordinating, project management and purchase management.

"We're hoping to establish



Riverside Decks owner Nate Burket is preparing to expand his production location, formerly Elliott's Boots Shoes Sandals, at 11309 Station West Drive Suite 32 to accommodate growth.

that for 2026 as we grow," he added. "There're so many decks in Tennessee. Even with the competition we have, there are about five or six other guys who build decks like we do. There's so much work to go around."

Burket and his Riverview Decks building team focus primarily on porch, patio and deck construction.

"That includes anything from an elevated structure, with or without a roof covering, to structures not elevated or low elevation and are fairly rotted or decayed," he said. "We like to come in and recommend solid surfaces like

"We do concrete decks and covered porches," Burket added. "And then, in and around

those areas, there are all kinds of features people have a desire for. We've found ourselves putting fireplaces in ... extra lighting, propane and electric ceiling heaters, screened rooms and grilling stations."

Additionally, the company builds pool decks, sauna decks, shade structures or pergolas, custom stair gates, built-in hot tubs and more.

To book an appointment or for more information, visit online at www.riverviewdecks. com or call 865-801-4545. It also is on Facebook and Instagram.

"We've been in business since 2019," Burket said.

Before moving into the Station West location, Burket said he and his staff were homebased, working remotely.

"We didn't have the office structure," he noted. "The address was at my residence, and we worked out of our trucks a lot. Our office was rolling in the truck."

Educated in business management and supply chain logistics, Burket previously worked in transportation and logistics as a corporate career.

However, "I just wanted to do my own thing," he recalled. "I got into it as a general contractor, doing bathrooms, kitchens, home additions and came to the realization that there are very few licensed general contractors that focus on decks. "It seemed to be apparent

there are a lot of unsafe decks that were not getting thorough inspections, annual evaluations of their structural integrity — and it's really tough to get a contractor that will show up and will promptly, professionally give you a thorough inspection and for free," Burket added. "So, we really started looking into the jobs we've done in the past with deck work and realized there's a great opportunity for us to really start to niche in and create a differentiation brand.

"We branded it in '22 and started doing most of our work in '23. We've quickly become a household name."

Local SEO and advertising branding data "have shown we are ranking very highly," Burket said. "We are getting a lot of positive Google reviews from clients who value our thorough communication, our professionalism, integrity.

business briefs

· Martin & Company, a Knoxville investment advisory firm, recently announced Darren Williams has been promoted to president and CEO.

Michael Holt, who has led the firm for the past six years, will remain involved in client re-

lationships but is stepping back from day-today management of the firm.

Williams is a 25-year veteran of Martin Company and success-



fully led the firm's small-cap equity strategy development. The firm attributes its success to its team of highly experienced investment professionals.



Detailed reasons why Town of Farragut is state's No. 5 'Best Place to Live'

from theTown

byWendySmith

From page 1A

North side - Campbell Station Road to Grigsby Chapel Road to Smith Road to Kingston Pike (going west) or Campbell Station Road to Parkside Drive to Lovell Road (going east)

Road to Turkey Creek Road to Virtue Road to Kingston Pike.

Pike from Concord Road/West End Avenue to Campbell Station Road will be reopened approximately 15 minutes after the final parade participant has passed through the Campbell Station Road/Kingston Pike intersection," the press release stated.

We all know the saying "You are the company you keep." That's why the Town of Farragut is proud to be named No. 5 in ConsumerAffairs' Best Places to Live in Tennessee list.

Farragut follows Franklin, Collierville, Hendersonville and Brentwood in the ranking, and that's some pretty good company. The only other East Tennessee

No. 10.

ConsumerAffairs is a customer review platform that provides information for purchasing decisions around major life changes. To determine the best places to live in Tennessee, the research team analyzed the state's 35 largest cities based on affordability, safety, economic strength,

municipality in the top ten is Maryville at health care and education and quality of

According to ConsumerAffairs, here's where Farragut stood out:

• Great safety: Farragut has the lowest property crime rate on our list (4.57 crimes per 1,000 people) and the second-lowest

See RANKING REASONS on Page 5A

Parade

South side – Concord

"The portion of Kingston

"Kingston Pike will be fully re-opened once all participants are safely off the road," the release further stated.

A special treat — a new Parade entry who has an interesting story — will be highlighted in our June 25 issue.

For more information about

the parade, call Farragut Parks & Recreation Department at 865-218-3376.

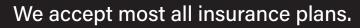
"This is one of our most well-known events and definitely one of our favorites," Malone said. "We love seeing the community come together every year to participate in and watch this annual tradition."

Farragut Freedom Run

Before the parade, spectators and participants can enjoy the the annual Farragut Freedom Run 1-Mile and 2-Mile, hosted by Fleet Feet Sports, that starts at 9 a.m. Friday, July 4, also along Kingston Pike, and also ends in Farragut Towne

'This flat and fast course is USATF certified and perfect for all levels," the press release

Register at runsignup.com/ farragutfreedomrun.





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Ranking reasons

From page 4A

violent crime rate (0.82 crimes per 1,000 people). These numbers put Farragut in the No. 1 spot in the state for safety.

· Well-educated population: 65 percent of residents 25 and over have a bachelor's degree or higher.

· Healthy economy: The city has a low unemployment rate (2.5 percent) and a low share of residents living below the poverty level (2.9 percent).

The data for the rankings came from a variety of sources. Crime data is from NeighborhoodScout.com, comprehensive database of hyper-local real estate data.

Economic figures came from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the U.S. Census Bureau. Data about health care and education also come from the U.S. Census Bureau.

While Farragut isn't commonly thought of as affordable, it's ranked near the middle (No. 22) among the 35 cities ranked. The ranking is based

on two figures: median rent for April 2025 and a ratio of median home price to median income.

According to Lauren Jobe from ConsumerAffairs, the median rent in Farragut is \$2,578. "The shortage of rental units is affecting many communities," she said.

ConsumerAffairs lead researcher Rebecca Sowell notes that Farragut is the topranked city in the Knoxville metro area.

"Its outstanding safety record sets it apart, with the lowest property crime rate and the second-lowest violent crime rate among the state's largest cities. Combined with a highly educated population and a low unemployment rate, Farragut stands out as an ideal destination for families and professionals seeking a vibrant. well-rounded community to call home," she said.

"The Best Places to Live in Tennessee" rankings also note that Tennessee has the thirdhighest net migration interest in 2025. A temperate climate, low cost of living and absence of a state income tax make the state appealing.

It's no surprise that Farragut is a desirable place to live,



Photo submitted by Town of Farragut

Community events, such New Years at Noon, demonstrate why Farragut is one of the state's best places to live.

but it's nice to see data that confirms it. We live in a safe. beautiful Town where residents thrive.

To see the rankings in ConsumerAffairs, visit consumeraffairs.com/movers/ tennessee/#best-cities.



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6A • FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025



A look back at Spring fundraisers



Janet Pfeifer signs up for a silent auction item

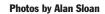
STAR's 2025 Bridles & Blue Jeans 'Leave Your Legacy'

Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding held its annual Bridles & Blue Jeans 2025 "Leave Your Legacy" fundraiser earlier this spring at its 11800 U.S. Highway 11 location between Farragut and Lenoir City.

In addition to lots of interaction among those who support STAR and its mission came both a silent and live auction.

Lots of tasty food awaited after a handful of attendees made friends with some of STAR's horses.

The evening's highlight was paying tribute to STAR founder Lynn Klimas Petr.



Cassie Zanolli pets "Spirit"



From left are Kerri Daniel, Todd Daniel, Rick Terry, Debbie Nichols and Paul Nichols



From left, Doni Sulfridge, Jimi Flynt and Charlie Holbrook



Matthew and Keiya Clark with "Blue"



Patty Terry, left, and Kodi Rogers

Family Friendzy 2025

Family Friendzy 2025, held at Cool Sports Home of the Icearium in Farragut earlier this Spring, featured various sports-related event competitions to crown Knoxville Village Champs and a silent auction to benefit Widowed Parent Relief Project.

The mission of WPRP "is to help build an enduring support system and alleviate everyday stressors for widowed parents so they can spend more time on their family's mental health and healing," an event press release stated.

The event began with an Opening Ceremony and featured a special Kids Zone, a designated hour of ice skating and plenty of refreshments.



Right: Jamie Lange takes aim in ball toss

Photos by Alan Sloan



Action figures entertaining the children. including Allison Jordan, 4, featured, from left, "Moana" (Storm Agosto); "Anna" (Kady Brazil); "Kristoff" Daniel Rickman; and "Wonder Woman" (Morgan Voyles)

sports

FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025 • 1B



Vital cog in London

2025 FHS graduate Roderiques a gymnastics overseas star

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

LONDON, ENGLAND — This collage of photos on the right feature 2025 Farragut High School graduate Ty Roderiques during and after his competition in London last week while representing Team USA Gymnastics at the London Open Invitational.

Roderiques earned a firstplace finish in the All-Around competition and took home gold on the vault event while grabbing silver on both the parallel bars and rings.

A Team USA Gymnastics member for more a year, Roderiques will continue his education and gymnastics career this fall at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, competing in the rugged Big Ten Conference.

Collage photo submission courtesy of Jack Tate, FHS Sports Information director













Buckner transfers from Miss St. to threat in College World Series, Coastal Carolina







Collage photo submission courtesy of Jack Tate, FHS Sports Information director

Lukas Buckner, a multi-All-State honoree and Tennessee Player of the Year as a shortstop/lead-off hitter for Farragut High School baseball's 2022 through 2024 state title teams, announced last week he is transferring from Mississippi State, where he was a freshman back-up infielder, to Costal Carolina, with a 2-0 record (at deadline) in the 2025 College World Series in Omaha.



Morrison

Off to UT for Morrison after MVP season ends 3-year ride

Green is Coach of Year; Johnson Co-Pitcher of Year; 8 FHS honorees

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

After a three-season run of unprecedented individual success, helping to provide lots of FHS Lady Admirals victories on the District 4-4A and Region 2-4A level — and two state tournament appearance — Elsa Morrison is heading just a bit north of Town to be-

gin her college career.

The next stop is a roster spot with a powerhouse Tennessee Lady Vols team, tying for third-place nationally in 2025 after yet another trip to the College World Series in

Oklahoma City.

One of the top Lady Ads softball stars in program history — if not at the top as a three-time All-State honoree — Morrison did about everything short of helping lead Nick Green's program to a Division I-4A state title (having won back-to-back state crowns just before she arrived on campus in the 2022-23 school year as a sophomore).

Morrison, once again earning District MVP honors as a star shortstop who is equally talented defensively as a catcher, hit .519 during her senior campaign in 2025 with 16 home runs and 52 RBI —

with teams regularly walking the superstar (36 times).

Add to that a .629 on-base percentage with 53 runs scored, 14 doubles and 15 stolen bases. Morrison also finished her three-year career with the Lady Ads by belting 55 home runs — coming within one homer, as a sophomore catcher in 2023, of tying the TSSAA state record for home runs in a single season.

Green, Johnson, other Lady Ads While

While Green was named District Coach of the Year, FHS sophomore pitching staff ace Hallie

Grace



Green

Johnson earned Co-Pitcher of the Year honors. Also All-District were senior Ava Barnes (first baseman/pitcher), sophomore Rylee Raby (catcher) and freshman Logan Jameson (center fielder).

Taylor Albright, sophomore infielder, and Callie Brown, sophomore catcher/infielder, were Honorable Mention All-4-4A.



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community

2B • FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025



FWKCC: 'You have to have healthy conflict'

Blaylock, Chamber president/CEO, recalls Mayor Leonard interaction during her address to RCF; sponsored Japan trip

44 He cared a lot about

- Julie Blaylock

FWKCC president/CEO

about late Town Mayor Bob Lenoard

Farragut,"

having a Chamber of

Commerce based in

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

Saying she's "been privileged to serve our Chamber for now almost 14 years" and upon becoming Farragut

West Knox Chamber of Commerce's president/CEO in 2017 discovered "it is the best job I never knew I wanted," Julie Blaylock addressed Rotary Club of Farragut.

Among FWKCC's "five pillars" of integrity, excellence, stewardship and enterprising also is "inclusion."

"We welcome dissent," said Blaylock, herself an RCF member for several years who addressed the club during its regular noon, Wednesday meeting in Fox Den Country Club June 11. "Now, who here likes to argue? ... I don't really like to argue; conflict is not my favorite thing, but you have to have healthy conflict, differences of opinions, voiced in a professional way to make forward progress, and we welcome that. That's inclusion for us.

"And then, of course, enterprising: sometimes we have to be creative,' she said. "Sometimes we have to be resourceful. Small businesses have to be resourceful and very creative a lot of the time."

History

About seven years after Town of Farragut was founded (1980), "there were several local business owners and

there were municipal officials" interested in forming a Chamber, "including Mayor Bob Leonard, who I did have the pleasure of meeting in 2012 before he passed away," Blaylock said about Farragut's first mayor.

"And my favorite thing about meeting Mayor Bob was I was very new in the Chamber, and I was told to call him to invite him to the grand opening of Costco," she added. "And it started at 7 in the morning. And my one interaction with Mayor Bob was. I said, 'Mayor, I'm Julie and I work at your

Chamber and I want to invite you to Costco's grand opening. "He said, What time does that start?" And I said, 'It starts at 7 a.m., sir.' He

said, 'Young lady, I thank you kindly but I don't have to get up that early anymore.'

"So he came to the opening event the night before."

About what became RCF, "He cared a lot about having a Chamber of Commerce based in Farragut," Blaylock said about Mayor Leonard. "So we started out with about 130 members. The first two years, the members who joined between '87 and '89. we still call them our Charter Members. We've still got several of them around, which to me is amazing.'

Growth, or lack thereof

"Because if you don't know, the lifespan of a small business now as





(Above left) Julie Blaylock, Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce president/ CEO, was featured speaker at Rotary Club of Farragut's Wednesday, June 11, meeting, where she is a member, in Fox Den Country Club. (Above right) Garrett Kinson, alongside his RCF member dad, Tory Kinson, thanked the RCF membership for sponsoring his 2025-26 high school year Exchange trip to Fukuoka, Japan. "I've been practicing a lot of Japanese, and the language is very hard ... but I'm working on it and I'm very passionate about this whole trip," he announced.

compared to the 1960s, any ideas how many years the average small business exists now? Eight, 10. It used to be over 30 years. So, the fact that we still have these businesses — and of course, some of them are much larger in these corporations — to me is incredible."

As of the end of May, "We have 749 businesses" as FWKCC members, Blaylock said. "Now, some myths and misconceptions: People know us as the 'Farragut Chamber;' people know us as the 'West Knox Chamber;' the 'Farragut West Knox Chamber' and every combination of that you can think of putting together.

"We have a varied membership with lots of different industries, so you can get access to a lot of different people in a lot of different industries," she added. "It's a friendly climate."

Political, charitable

About business legislation in Tennessee General Assembly in Nashville, "Now, that's not to say that every legislation out there makes sense in the big picture, but in general, we're going to look at legislation and policies and we're going to hopefully promote what is right to support businesses," Blavlock said.

"And we do, much like the Rotary Club, we support and partner with local non-profits because they're the people on the ground doing a lot of that quality of life work," the FWKCC presi-

See RCF, BLAYLOCK on Page 4B



Three new **RCF** members are presented

Rotary Club of Farragut welcomed three new members into its fold during its meeting in Fox Den Country Club Wednesday, June 4. T.J. Smith (second from left), sponsored by Greg Tilly (far left); Travis Hartzell (fourth from left), sponsored by Karen Schaffer; and Roy Nicaud (second from right), sponsored by president Scott Bertini.



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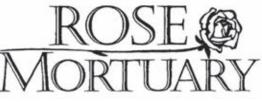
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 MEDIC Regional Blood Center has an urgent message. "We are critically low in O Negative blood," stated Kristy Altman, MEDIC vice president of communications and public relations, Monday, June 16. "We'll be offering a egift card to O negative donors ... through Friday (June 20). "All donors will receive the e-gift cards this Wednesday (June 18) through Friday. ... As usual, the donor flow has slowed with summer weather while the demand has remained steady."

For those three days, each donor will receive a \$20 e-gift card for whole blood of any type; \$25 e-gift card for ALYX donors and a \$45 e-gift card for platelet donors. "Donors must have a valid e-mail address on file to receive the e-gift card," Altman stated. "Donors will also receive a MEDIC beach towel and a Texas Roadhouse coupon."

Appointments can be made online at www.medicblood. org, via the MEDIC app or by calling 865-524-3074. Walk-ins are welcome at all locations, including the 11000 Kingston Pike location in Farragut.

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· Farragut High School's Class of 1985 will hold its 40th Reunion in Avalon Country Club from 6 to 10 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 2. Spouses are welcome; cost is \$65 per person/\$120 per couple. "Casual dress — school colors would be great," a Class of 1985 representative's press release stated. "No band but good Ole' '80s music will be played. Hors d'oeuvres, tea and water included; cash bar available."

· Farragut High School dance team will host a Junior Admiral Dance Camp through rising fifth-graders -

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Friday, June 20, and Saturday, June 21, in Knoxville **Expo Center**, 5441 Clinton Highway (at Merchant Drive). It will take place more than 44 years after the Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee held its first quilt show, and the tradition continues this year. The show will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is \$10 daily; a two-day pass is \$15; and free for children under age 12. The Expo Center has

free parking and is accessible to the disabled.

For more info, visit www. smokymtnquilters.com, mail info@smokymtnquilters. com or visit them on Facebook and Instagram: Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee.

 Summer Movie Magic Series presented by FirstBank is back at the Tennessee Theatre in downtown Knoxville with a lineup of movies that include popular classics, blockbuster hits and family entertainment.

Friday evening showings will begin at 8 p.m., and Sunday matinee showings begin at 2 p.m. Doors open one hour prior to movie's start time.

The full schedule: Bohemian Rhapsody, 8 p.m., Friday, July 18; Singin' in the Rain, 2 p.m., Sunday, July 20; Grease, 8 p.m., Friday, Aug. 15; School of Rock, 2 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 17; Gimme Shelter, 8 p.m., Friday, Aug. 29; and Mama Mia! 2 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 31.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$13 for children under 12, as well as seniors 65 and older. The Theatre also is offering a Summer Movie Magic pass for entry to all six film showings. Series passes and individual tickets can be purchased online at tennesseetheatre.com.



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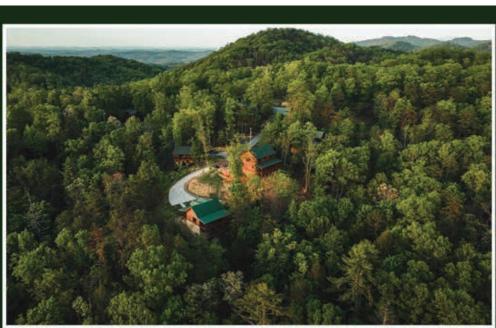
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Michael Francis Cain, 78, of Farragut, Tennessee, passed away peacefully June 11, 2025. He was a beloved husband, father, son, brother, grandfather and great-grandfather whose passion, warmth and dedication left an indelible mark on all who knew him.

Born on Nov. 3, 1946, in Detroit, Michigan, Michael grew up in Dearborn, Michigan, where he developed a love for sports, playing hockey, baseball and high school football. He graduated from Fordson High School in 1964 and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in automotive technology from Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan.

It was in his high school homeroom where he met the love of his life, Martha, whom he married 61 years ago and shared a remarkable 65 years of companionship.

Michael and Martha raised two children, Karen and Alex, instilling in resilience. The family cherished summer va-

cations, traveling to beaches and historical sites across the country. Michael

especially treasured time spent with his extensive family of aunts, uncles, cousgrandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Michael dedicated 32 years to the Pontiac Division of General Motors, serving

in roles such as District manager, Regional Fleet manager, Dealer Development manager and director of Motorsports. Michael and Martha were able to travel to many exciting locations around the world, compliments of Gen-



larly his devotion to IndyCar and NASCAR.

A lifelong racing enthusiast, Michael attended 68 Indianapolis 500 races starting in 1952, a passion he passed on to his son, Alex, with whom he shared 48 of those races. During his career, he forged friendships with racing legends Richard Petty, Kyle Petty, Rusty Wallace and Roger Penske. Michael was a long-time supporter of the Farragut Admirals football program.

Michael is survived by his beloved wife, Martha; their children, Karen Harmon (Jeff) and Alex Cain; grandchildren, Cherylann, Isabella, April and Anthony (Ashley); great-grandchildren, Oliver, Winston, Theodore, Felyx and Zoey; "great" uncles, Phillip Shashko and Ray "Teet" Stinnett; and

eral Motors. His love many cousins. He was predeceased by his parents, Floyd and Eva Chaushoff Cain; his brother, Thomas Cain; and many cherished aunts, uncles and cousins.

Receiving of Family and Friends will be held at First Baptist Concord in Farragut beginning at 5 p.m., Wednesday, June 18, 2025, with a service to follow at 7 p.m. Burial service will be at Benton Memorial Gardens in Benton, Tennessee, at 12 p.m., Friday June 20.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to your local animal shelter or to Alzheimer's-Dementia Research Program. A future celebration of life will be held in his hometown of Dearborn, Michigan, with the date still to be determined.

Michael's legacy of love, enthusiasm for life and devotion to family and friends will forever live on in the hearts of his family, friends and community.

Lillian Ruth Hughes, age 90, of Knoxville, Tennessee, went to be with the Lord on June 7, 2025.

She was a member of Parkway Baptist Church. Lillian worked for Morton and Sweetser, Architects, for 24 years and then went on to work for TVA Public Safety Services for

10 years before retiring.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Ralph E. Headrick; husband, James M. Hughes; parents, Carl Olin and Etta Elrod; brothers, James T. Elrod, Olin D. Elrod, Richard Elrod and Robert G. Elrod; and sisters, Edna Johnson and Lola Broyles.

She is survived by her stepchildren, Jimmy and Sandi Hughes of Maryville and Lisa and Todd Lawson of Lenoir City; step-grandchildren, Matthew Hughes of Maryville and Adam Hughes of Louisville; step-great-grandchild, Mason Hughes; brother, Jack W. Elrod of Knoxville; and special

friends, Lisa, Bob and Robby Stinson, all of Knoxville.

Family and friends paid their respects



Mrs. Hughes

from 9 am to 4 p.m., Thursday, June 12, at Rose Funeral & Cremation - Mann.

Family and friends gathered at Woodhaven Memorial Gardens at 11 a.m., Friday, June 13, for a graveside service.

Online condolences may be expressed by visiting www. rosefuneraltn.com

RCF, Blaylock

From page 2B

dent/CEO added about the functional comparisons.

Budget

"So our budget currently is around \$435,000 total," Blaylock said. "That supports three full-time staff and currently one part-time staff, for which I am so grateful.

"Most of our finances, about 68 percent, comes from membership dues," she added.

Japan Exchange trip

Garrett Kinson, son of RCF member Tory Kinson, will spend the entire 2025-26 high school year in Fukuoka, Japan, thanks to RCF sponsorship (See photo, cutline, 2B).

Make a splash this summer! Enjoy fun-filled days on the water and cozy nights by the campfire with family, all while ensuring peace of mind with the right insurance. Whether you're boating or RV camping, protect your adventures and dive into savings today!







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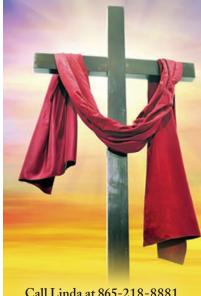


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FARRAGUT VISUAL RESOURCES REVIEW BOARD AGENDA

Farragut Town Hall I Board Room Tuesday, June 24, 2025 • 6:00 p.m.

- 1. Approval of minutes for the May 27, 2025, meeting. 2. Staff report - wall signs approved in the past month.
- 3. Selection and appointment of a Youth Representative for the upcoming 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.
- 4. Review of an individual tenant panel sign for Drybar, located
- at 11681 Parkside Drive. 5. Review of a primary ground sign for Snooty Patootie, Located at 11134 Kingston Pike.
- 6. Review of a proposed sign ordinance amendment to clarify when signs may be removed by property owners, including on Town owned properties and rights-of-way.
- 7. Citizen Forum.

It is the policy of the Town of Farragut not to discriminate on the basis of race, color. natural origin, gender, gender identify, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability or veteran status pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 93-112 and 101-336 in its hiring, employment practices and programs. To request accommodations due to disabilities, please call 865-966-7057 in advance of the meeting

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, at its meeting on Thursday, June 12, 2025, adopted the following ordinances on second and final reading:

I. Ordinance 25-08, ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 General Fund, Capital Investment Program & Tourism Funds

It is the policy of the Town of Farragut not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, natural origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability or veteran status pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 93-112 and 101-336 in its hiring, employment practices and programs. To request accommodations due to disabilities, please call 865-966-7057 in advance of the meeting

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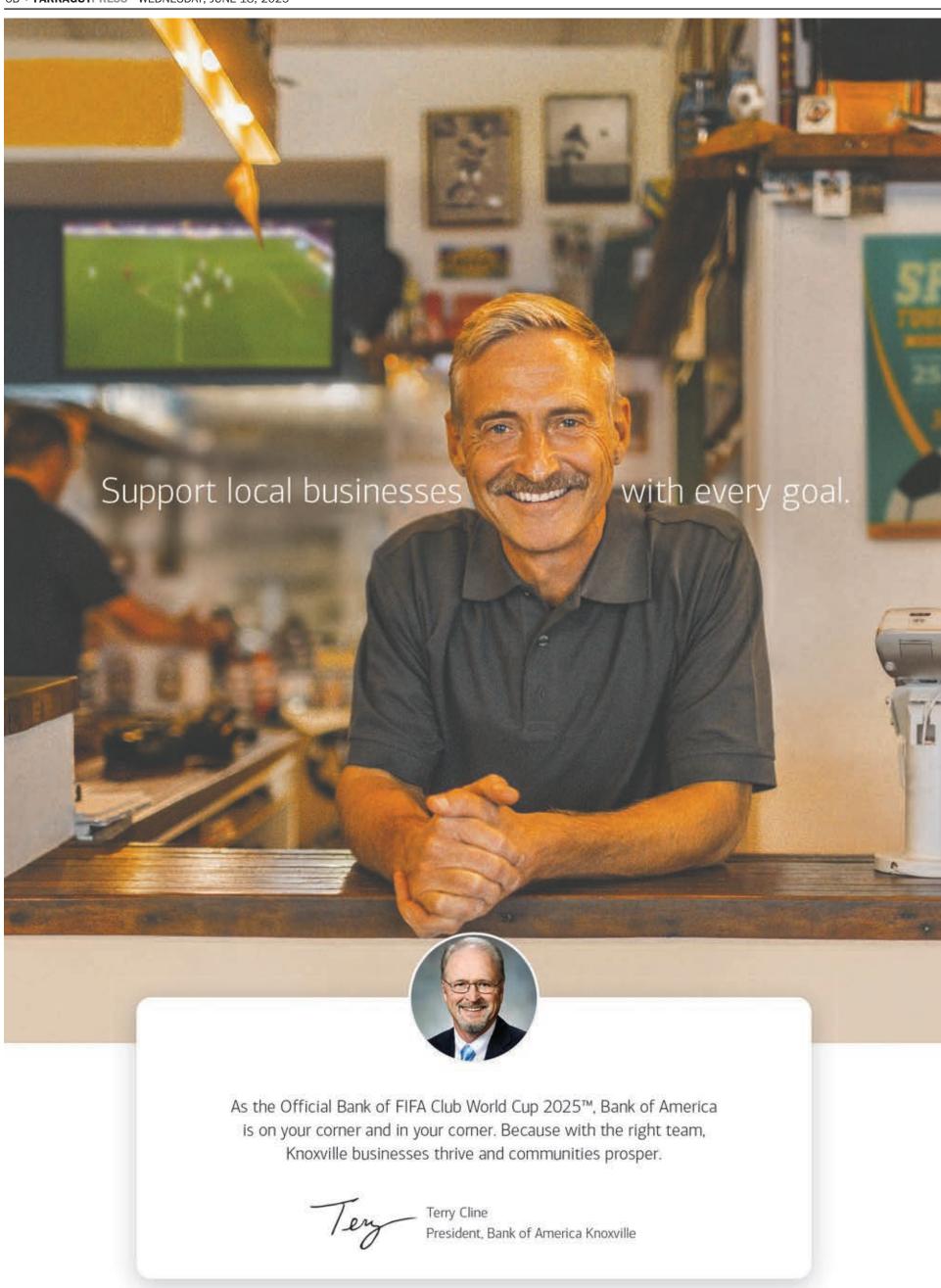
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