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Open letter by Alderman Cain about ‘rebranding’ T-Creek Greenway Project

Despite a request by Town of Farragut Alderman Alex Cain to have the following letter read into the record during the Thursday, July 17, Farragut Municipal Planning Commission meeting, this did not happen.

I am writing to express my concerns regarding Resolution PC-25-05, “Update of Major Road Plan,” on the agenda for the July 17, 2025 meeting, which I regretfully cannot attend in person.

As discussed in my recent phone conversation with Mr. Mark Shipley, the stated intent of this resolution is to establish design parameters for a designated list of collector and arterial streets within the Town of Farragut. According to Mr. Shipley, this guidance is necessary due to conflicts between our current subdivision street regulations and the rural character of these specific roads. I appreciate the clarification that this resolution is intended to serve solely as a future planning guide.

However, after reviewing the agenda materials thoroughly, I remain concerned that some members of the Commission may perceive this resolution as a mechanism to circumvent current state law prohibiting the use of eminent domain for greenway development. This concern echoes the 2024 rebranding of the “Turkey Creek Greenway Project” to the “Turkey Creek Multi-Modal Road Improvement Project”— a shift that coincided with ongoing litigation initiated by affected residents and after state law had changed.

A project’s name change does not alter its true intent. When we repurpose terms like “greenways” into “multi-modal improvements” or “complete streets,” and then embed them into schematic cross-section diagrams, we risk misleading residents and obscuring the legal boundaries we are sworn to uphold. I witnessed how budget documents labeled the Turkey Creek project as a greenway with a \$500,000 right-of-way acquisition line item — until litigation led to a sudden rebranding.

I urge the Planning Commission to operate with full transparency and prioritize the protection of private property rights. Any attempt to quietly embed sweeping changes through vaguely worded resolutions erodes public trust and forces undue hardship on affected property owners.

If Resolution PC-25-05 is genuinely meant to delineate rural road standards separate from subdivision regulations, then that purpose must be explicitly stated within the resolution’s text. If it serves purely as a conceptual guide for future improvements, that too must be clearly defined. Residents interpret cross-section diagrams as indicators of impending property loss.

I was recently contacted by a Herron Road resident alarmed by a proposed design showing a 23-foot extension from the centerline into his front yard. That is simply unacceptable. The constant over engineering/design of projects needs to stop. We need to focus on keeping our projects as streamlined as possible, and within the Town’s right-of-way moving forward.

Should the FMPC choose to adopt this resolution, I respectfully request the inclusion of the following disclaimers:

- A clear statement that the resolution replaces subdivision street requirements only for the roads explicitly mentioned.
- A mandate ensuring resident involvement throughout all stages of future design and development related to these roads.
- An affirmation that elements depicted in the cross sections are not mandatory in final project execution.
- A provision requiring resident approval — through a vote — for any finalized design, modeled after current speed hump implementation protocols.

This resolution, as currently drafted, raises serious concerns



Cain

KCSOreports

• At 4:41 a.m., Saturday, July 19, a Knox County Sheriff’s Office unit responded to a domestic disturbance along Snyder Road at Super 8 Motel. Officers made contact with victim and eventual arrestee inside suspect’s vehicle, a blue Kia Optima. “Officers separated both parties, and initially, both parties (said) there was only an argument and that nothing became physical,” the report stated.

“However, upon obtaining additional information, both parties were confronted with that information (indicating) they had been involved in a physical altercation,” the report further stated.

“(Eventual arrestee) was observed to have a red mark on her left cheek and scratch marks on her left neck/upper chest area. (Victim) was observed with a swollen left eye and an abrasion just above his left eye,” plus “a welted scratch mark on the left side of his neck.”

Victim said “he had accidentally called (eventual arrestee’s) ex-best friend, and she found out, becoming upset,” the report stated. “They engaged in an argument when she pushed him. (Victim) admitted that he pushed (eventual arrestee) back in an attempt to get her to vacate his hotel room,” adding she “began to swing at him, and she made contact with his left eye, causing the injuries.

“(Victim) said he put his arms out and tried to hold her back, with his hands being placed near her upper chest area. (Eventual arrestee said) she could not remember exactly how the physical altercation started, but that she remembered (victim) approaching her closely, to which she pushed him to get away from her.”

“... After further investigation, (eventual arrestee) admitted that she had passed out on the bed and awoke to (victim) on the phone with her ex-best friend ..., then admitted that she became extremely upset with (victim) over the situation. (She) also admitted that after getting out of bed she “began the altercation by shoving (victim). Due to (eventual arrestee) being the

primary aggressor of the physical altercation by shoving (victim), she was taken into custody and transported to the Roger D. Wilson Detention Facility.” Her vehicle “was left in the parking lot, secured, at her request and with the permission of the hotel staff. The victim was read his rights and given a copy of those rights.”

• At 10:05 p.m., Thursday, July 17, officers were dispatched to a Campbell Lakes Drive hotel to investigate a suspicious vehicle. “Officers made contact with (complainant), who (said) the tenants of the hotel were worried about an individual asleep in his car and that the individual did not have a room at the Sleep Inn,” the report stated. “Officers then made contact with (suspect), who was passed out in his vehicle. Once the officers approached him, he immediately awoke and attempted to start his vehicle.

“(Suspect) began to move items and reach into his pants,” the report further stated. “Officers observed a hammer inside (suspect’s) pants, and he admitted to officers that he had a knife between the driver’s seat and center console.

“Officers then had (suspect) step out of his vehicle and detained (him). Officers located a baggie in plain view that had a substance consistent with methamphetamine (.68 grams) that (suspect) later admitted to being meth and using the day before.”

Officers searched the vehicle “and located 5.16 grams of marijuana in the passenger seat,” the report stated. “Officers also located a bottle of urine in the vehicle near the center console on the passenger side of the vehicle. Upon being questioned by officers, (suspect said) he had the urine to pass a drug test the prior week.

“Officers located a straw with residue under the passenger seat,” the report further stated. “(Suspect) also was found to have a warrant for Failure to Appear for Cost Docket out of

See KCSO REPORTS on Page 3A

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Hybrid, N Campbell

From page 1A

Segment 1 configuration)
Boring Road Segment 2 proposed: (basically same as Segment 1)
Boring Road Segment 3 currently: Same as Segment 1 and 2 except with an 8-foot shared-use path to the north.
Boring Road Segment 3 proposed: lanes to increase to 11-feet each with 2.5 feet of curb-gutter on each side, a 6-foot minimum landscape strip to include trees to the south with an 8-foot shared-use pass adjacent. The north side also would include a 6-foot landscape strip, a 5-foot walking path and another landscape strip.
“Boring Road is undergoing a lot of change right now with the school and with the new subdivision out there,” Shipley said.
Boyd Station Road currently: two 10-foot lanes with landscaping stripes and swale with some trees to the south side.
Boyd Station proposal: two 11-foot lanes with north-only curb-gutter (2.5 feet), then a 6-foot landscaping strip, then an 8-foot shared-used path. Nothing would change to the south.
Herron Road currently: two 9-foot lanes with landscaping stripes on each side.
Herron Road proposed: no change in lanes; keep a minimum 6-foot landscaping strip to the east before an 8-foot-minimum shared-use path.
“Herron Road is about 1,700 feet that’s unimproved,” Shipley said. “And the reason this road was identified is we’re not proposing any changes to the width of the road.
“... You’ve got Founders Park on one end of Herron Road, crossing over (North

Campbell Station),” he added. “Then you’ve got the Turkey Creek development and a walking trail that comes in at the very north end of Heron Road.
North Campbell Station Road currently (from just beyond Overlook Apartments north to Town limits): two 10-foot lanes with landscaping stripes on either side.
North Campbell Station Road proposed: two 11-foot lanes with 2.5-foot curb and gutter on each side followed by a 6-foot landscaping strip and an 8-foot shared-use path to the south and a 5-foot walking strip to the north.
Red Mill Lane currently: two 12-foot lanes with landscaping stripes on each side and a swale on the south side.
Red Mill Lane proposed: no change in lanes, but a 6-foot minimum stripe to include trees to the north beside an 8-foot shared-use path. Trees would be added on the south side.
Red Mill Lane, labeled “a local collector, has a fairly high traffic count, about 1,250 (daily) from the latest count I have,” Shipley said. “It’s about 2,600 linear feet.”
Allen Kirby Road now: two 7-foot lanes with landscaping stripes and swale (both sides)
Allen Kirby Road proposed: two 11-foot lanes with an 8-foot shared use path to the north.
“There’s about a mile of Alan Kirby Road that’s ... really substandard,” Shipley said of the roughly 3,900 linear feet proposal. “If anybody has ever been on it, it’s barely wider than a walking trail, frankly.
“There’s a big difference between what we’re trying to do for Alan Kirby and what current subdivision regulations require,” he added.

said. “Unless the property has been developed or subdivided in recent years, we have no idea what the right-of-way is.
“This way it’s clear, it’s consistent,” he added. “Everybody knows what the standard is. It’s been adopted. It’s in writing. Normally, 12 feet is the right-of-way edge on a local street that’s internal to a subdivision. So that’s really where we got that language.
“... So we’re applying that standard more broadly to these arterial collector streets so that everything’s consistent.”

KCSO Reports

From page 2A

White County. (Victim said)
Open letter
From page 2A
about potential evasion of state law. Our oaths as elected public officials require compliance with legal statutes, and any attempt to bypass these responsibilities is unacceptable.
Therefore, I must inform the

Trio respond

From page 1A

“I would definitely watch for future agendas because at some point that we’ll be voting on this — it may be August, September — probably in the next couple of months,” Shipley said.
Another Evans Road resident said he wanted to “thank all of you for the service you’re doing to the city.”
However, “I, too, just found out about this last night,” he added. “... I think as we grow as Farragut, we also going to lose the character of some of these streets. Evans Road, if you’ve driven up there, has a lot of character.
“It’s got a lot of old trees. I’ve been told some of the trees are over 100 years old,” he added. “We start cutting those trees down and we start planting new trees, we’ll lose a lot of history. It’s a great road. You’ve got the Confederate Cemetery there. I don’t think every road in the city needs to be widened.
“But let’s keep some char-

acter in Farragut. Farragut needs to have some history. And if we just start demolishing everything and modernizing everything, we’re going to lose some of the character that Farragut has had. Please drive up Evans Road and you’ll see there’s a lot of character there at Evans Road.
“... There’s a lot of bikers on Evans Road. If they’re coming up that hill and the road is wider, you’re going to see young people trying to pass them going up the hill. I just don’t want to see an accident one day. ... Not every road, I think, in Farragut needs to be wider.”
• A representative of the Evans Road Pryse family spoke.
“We’ve been there for 60 years; I was 9 years old when we first got offered the property. ... I just wanted you all to be aware that we’ve been there,” the representative said. “Our house is over 100 years old, and it is an icon. We sold part of our property and built all that stuff down there.
“I have horses, and I have a cow, and I have five goats —

she would like (suspect’s) vehicle removed from the property and (him) to be trespassed from the property. “
Suspect was placed in custody and taken to Roger D. Wilson Detention Facility.
of the Planning Commission prior to the meeting. Additionally, I respectfully request that Chairman Ron Pinchok or Vice Mayor Scott Meyer read this message into the public record during the meeting.
Sincerely, Alderman Alexander Cain, North Ward Town of Farragut

a walking trail would not be good. It would be detrimental to my horses,” she added.
“... I’m not opposed to a sidewalk on the other side of the road, but I don’t want people walking next to my horses. ... And I don’t plan on them going anywhere, and we’re not going anywhere either. And a walking trail in my front yard, walking out my front door and there be a walking trail because that’s the way I measured it. It’s going to be awful. That’s ridiculous.
“... And there’s a big tree that’s been there for over 100 years. All the trees in our front yard, they’re very old. And it’s just heart-breaking. And I’ve watched this Town grow since I was a little girl.
“And I used to ride my pony all the way around the block and never see a car. I used to ride my car up and down and never see a car. So it was hard for me to see this happening.
“And to have my front yard destroyed, it’s going to hurt as well. Thank you for listening.”

Right-of-way

From page 1A

“Initially, the language was drafted by the town attorney (Tom Hale),” he added. “He sent it to me and Bart (Hose, assistant Community Development director), and we had some adjustments to it, and Tom agreed that those were good changes.”
Overall, “That’s something that I think we probably have needed for a while because the right-of-way varies throughout Town, and especially on these major roads,” Shipley



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Left: Farragut Library Story Time in ChildWatch, where imagination comes alive through books, songs, and fun for little ones!
Below: Congratulations to the Ramey family, our Scavenger Hunt winners, who scored a **free ticket to the Zoo** for their amazing adventure skills!

YMCA of East Tennessee Serves Over 92,000 Meals to Rural Kids This Summer

This summer, the YMCA of East Tennessee, in partnership with No Kid Hungry, delivered a powerful impact through its Summer Food Program—providing a lifeline to children in rural communities.

From May through July, the Y served an incredible 92,540 meals, including 46,270 breakfasts and 46,270 lunches, to 1,074 children across three rural sites:

- Luttrell Elementary – 480 children
- Washburn School – 165 children
- Rutledge Elementary – 430 children

Each meal followed USDA guidelines, offering balanced nutrition including milk, whole grains, proteins, and fresh fruits and vegetables—ensuring kids stayed healthy, fueled, and ready to grow, even when school was out.

This effort was made possible by 57 dedicated volunteers, who contributed over 365 hours of service to prepare and distribute meals. Their commitment helped turn this initiative into a true success story—proving the power of community and the YMCA’s mission in action.

With the support of volunteers, families, and community partners, the YMCA continues to fight food insecurity and bring health and hope to children across East Tennessee.

To learn more or get involved, visit ymcaknoxville.org/food.



Congratulations to the **Ellison family**, our Scavenger Hunt winners, who earned a **free ticket to the Zoo** for their sharp eyes and adventurous spirit!



Come have a splash with **Water Aerobics at the Pilot Outdoor Pool**, every Tuesday and Thursday in August from **6:00–6:45 PM**—fun, fitness, and fresh air all in one!



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businessbriefs

• Choice Health Network recently announced **Haley Emitt** has been promoted in its client services division for Knoxville.

Previously regional client services manager for CHN's Knoxville market, Emitt will continue to lead the Knoxville case management team and will assume additional administrative duties. She began her career with CHN as Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS coordinator in 2018.



Emitt

Emitt, a Knoxville native, is a licensed master social worker in Tennessee who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in social work and a Master of Science degree in social work, both from the University of Tennessee. She currently serves as membership chair for East Tennessee Community HIV/AIDS Partnership, is a Governing Council member for Tennessee Valley Continuum of Care and has been a field instructor for UT College of Social Work.

• **Jennifer Harrell** recently was appointed executive director of Cancer Support Community East Tennessee.

Harrell brings more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, education programming, community engagement and service in arts and cultural organizations. She most recently served as the Library Fund development and engagement manager for Knox County Public Library, where she led fundraising initiatives and strengthened community outreach efforts.



Harrell

• **Weichert, Realtors - Advantage Plus** announced **Kayla "Irene" Hoang** recently has joined its Knoxville office at 10160 Parkside Drive, Suite 100.

• **Citizens Bank** has announced the recent promotions of **Andrew Ford** to senior vice president and commercial loan officer and **David Mowell** to senior vice president and commercial loan officer.

Ford will continue to serve clients from the Knoxville market while Mowell will serve clients

from the bank's Tri-Cities market.

• **Nick McBride**, Knox County Register of Deeds since 2018, recently successfully completed the **Certified County Finance Officer program**, administered by Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury and University of Tennessee's County Technical Assistance Service.

The program is designed to enhance the financial management skills of county officials, focusing on accounting principals, financial reporting and understanding the structure of county governments in the state.

• **EXIT TLC Realty** has announced **Dina Ababii** recently has joined its growing team of dedicated real estate sales professionals at 149 Kelsey Lane, Suite 102, in Lenoir City.

• **Knox County** has announced the recent launch of a new webpage for the **Skilled Trades Academy Regional Training Center**, a major initiative championed by Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs to promote economic opportunity through trade-based education and workforce training.

The new webpage serves as a centralized resource bringing together information from key partners and highlighting the center's mission, program offerings and upcoming opportunities. Visitors also can sign up to receive updates and learn how to get involved. The START Center webpage can be accessed at: <https://starttn.com/>

• **Women's Basketball Hall of Fame** recently announced long-time staff member **Ashley Meeks**, director of sales and marketing, was named to International Sports Heritage Association Board, a collective of sports halls of fame from around the world. Meeks has been with Women's Basketball Hall of Fame for 13 years.

• **Nick Diegel**, a shareholder at **Baker Donelson**, recently was selected as a member of a senior executive peer advisory board in Knoxville by Vistage Worldwide Inc. He joins more than 375 senior executives, business owners and CEOs across the state who are Vistage members. Diegel is an attorney who represents business clients across a variety of industries in high-stakes litigation in both trial and appellate courts.



McBride

Under construction along the Pike



Tammy Cheek

An Express Oil site currently is under construction at 11157 Kingston Pike, which is across from the new Snooty Patootie site just east of West End Avenue and Concord Road. Patrick Drymala, superintendent with Devier Enterprises of Louisiana, the construction company, said he expects the building will be completed in November.

ET regional Chambers gather for networking



Tammy Cheek

Jillinn Wilson, Edward Jones financial advisor, and Dave Prescher, owner/managing partner of LendingWISE, help register Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members attending the Tennessee Valley Regional Networking Event, which took place at The Venue in Lenoir City Tuesday, June 24.

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Event Schedule:

Fri Aug 15, 2025 Onsite Registration/Practice 4:00 pm Qualifying Duel # 1 4:30 pm Qualifying Duel # 2 5:00 pm Qualifying Duel # 3 5:30 pm Dueling Dogs Finals 7:00 pm	Sun Aug 17, 2025 Onsite Registration/Practice 10:00 am Extreme Vertical Competition 11:00 am Big Air WAVE # 4 1:00 pm Big Air Finals start at 3:00 pm (Pro, Semi-Pro, Contender & Amateur Finals) Event Format: Outdoor Big Air®, Extreme Vertical®, Speed Retrieve™, and Iron Dog Rankings <i>The final rounds of competition and award presentations will take place late Sunday afternoon.</i>
Sat Aug 16, 2025 Onsite Registration/Practice 9:00 am Big Air WAVE # 1 10:00 am Big Air WAVE # 2 12:00 pm Big Air WAVE # 3 2:00 pm Speed Retrieve Competition 4:00 pm	

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A ‘Pur’fect UT Vols ending for ex-FHS football star Purcell

Brought Third-Team All-Southern Conference honors from Wofford

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — The security of a three-year football scholarship paid off, in a most notable way, with Third-Team All-Southern Conference honors earned by junior linebacker Eli Purcell at Wofford College in 2023.

However, by 2024 — and only one year of college eligibility left — it was time to chase his dream in Big Orange Country.

This former Farragut star linebacker/tight-end, perhaps best remembered for playing despite a hairline fracture in his leg as an Admirals senior (Class of 2021), found himself playing “Between the Hedges” in Georgia’s famed Sanford Stadium and in Ohio State’s even more famous “Horseshoe,” in the Division I-A college football playoffs, as a Tennessee Volunteer.

After leaving Wofford with 33 games as a starter in three seasons (linebacker and special teams), his taste of Rocky Top “was a great experience I wouldn’t trade for anything,” said Purcell, a starting special teams player and back-up linebacker at UT who played in all 13 Vols games, including seven in Neyland Stadium. “And I ended up earning my way to start on all the four special teams units” as a non-scholarship walk-on.

“I knew I was good enough to play at that level, and that was always a dream of mine,” he added. “It just meant a lot to me to get to play on that level and compete.

“Also, the relationships I built while I was there were special.”

In the 2024 season opener in Neyland versus UT-Chattanooga, “I was only (starting) on kickoff returns,” Purcell said. “And then the second game of the year, in North Carolina (at Charlotte versus North Carolina State), I was (starting) on kickoff return and kickoffs. And then after that, I got put on the punt return (unit) as well.”

An especially memorable Vols moment? “Probably the most fun play I had was when we were playing Kent State: I was in at linebacker, and there was this run play ... and I basically obliterated this offensive lineman — basically, like, pancaked him on the ground — and made the tackle,” Purcell said about his role as a reserve linebacker. “That was pretty cool.”

Also expanding beyond special teams duties, “I played linebacker against Chattanooga and N.C. State,” he said. “And, technically, (at linebacker) the last two plays at Ohio State.”

A two-time Region 1-6A Defensive Player of the Year and All-State honoree (2020) at Farragut, Purcell “took football seriously in high school, worked hard and did real well,” said Eddie Courtney, his high school head coach who led Farragut from the 1996 through the 2023 seasons. “He wanted a chance to be recruited and play college football.

“He dedicated his life to it and did all the extra things to succeed,” the coach added.

Courtney, in fact, helped Purcell get his foot in the door at UT. “He contacted me, and we talked three times about what he wanted to do, what he was looking for,” Courtney said. “In that third conversation, he said, ‘could you contact anybody at Tennessee and see if they have any interest?’

“So I did, and we went through the proper way to do it after he went into the portal,” the coach added. “They sat down and talked to him and worked something out.

“I’m so proud of him for all he’s accomplished.”

Entire Vols experience
About his entire UT Football experience, “I don’t know if surprise is the right word, but seeing how college football is supposed to be played, how you’re supposed to be treated, the food you’re supposed to eat, the nutritionists, all the support staff that’s there for you — Tennessee has everything you could ever imagine to be the best football player possible,” Purcell said. “The best coaches, the best facilities, the best of everything that goes into it, to where there’s no excuse for you not to get better and become the best player you can be.”

About Vols head coach Josh Heupel, “I would say that coach Heupel is definitely a players’ coach who wants to do things the right way, and he does,” Purcell said. “He is the same person in every single room. He’s somebody I trust and I enjoyed being coached by the year I was there.

“And I’m very grateful to him for the opportunity,” he added.

“He dedicated his life to it and did all the extra things to succeed,”

- **Eddie Courtney**
Eli Purcell’s FHS head coach on why he succeeded in college



Purcell



Photos submitted

(Top) Eli Purcell, Tennessee senior linebacker, right, fights off a block from a Texas El Paso offensive lineman in 2024. A former Farragut High star (Class of 2021), Purcell contributed regularly for the Vols as a special teams starter last season. Before UT, Purcell was a Third-Team All-Southern Conference linebacker at Wofford College **(above left)**, making a huge hit on a Samford quarterback, while also taking time to celebrate a successful play **(above)**.

“College football is awesome, but high school football is probably the most fun you’ll ever have because it’s not a business at that point,”

- **Eli Purcell**
former FHS football star who played at UT, Wofford

“And there’s a lot of great things to come with Tennessee football with him at the helm.”

Top academics, job, new business
Sporting a 3.63 grade-point average at UT while earning a degree in communication studies, Purcell, 23, was named to the 2024 Fall SEC Academic Honor Roll after earning two-time membership on the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll. He now lives in Farragut and works as a Knoxville-area salesmen with Stryker, “a med device sales company,” he said. “I’ve been working there for about a month now.”

However, “I’m starting a business ... Dryvebox Knoxville: it’s a mobile golf simulator. It can be taken anywhere ...,” Purcell said.

Courtney, FHS roots
Not forgetting his Blue and Gray roots at FHS, “coach Courtney was a great mentor for all of us players and taught us how to do things the right way,” the ex-Admiral said. “I think that’s something that can get misconstrued nowadays, is how you’re supposed to act, whether it be on the field or off the field. “He always made it clear how we’re supposed to act on and off the field,” Purcell added. “And we were pretty successful because of it. I really enjoyed high school.”

Making a comparison, “college football is awesome, but high school football is probably the most fun you’ll ever have because it’s not a business at that point,” he said. “College football is a business. And high school football, you’re out there with the people you’ve grown up with your whole life. And ‘Friday Night Lights’ are just different; that’s just the truth of it.”

More about Wofford
About his first three college seasons, “I loved my time at Wofford,” he said about the Spartanburg, South Carolina, college. “God’s got a plan for my life, and I was meant to be there. It was fun. I started in every game there.

“My freshman year, I started on all the special teams. And then as a sophomore and junior, I started as an inside linebacker,” Purcell added. “So it gave me a lot of chances to grow in a lot of different areas, whether it be in athletics or just growing as a leader and a person.

“So I’m glad with exactly how my career has turned out. I think everything happens for a reason.”



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Most recently, Farragut equestrian standout Audrina McCall, 10, performed a demonstration at the internationally celebrated 2025 BreyerFest from Friday, July 11, through Sunday, July 13, at Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington. Audrina and her 8-year-old Welsh/Holsteiner/Thoroughbred pony, Greymeadows Colby, showcased their talents before thousands from around the world.

National equestrian awards, honors piling up for Town girl, 10

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Most recently among her awards and special invitations, Farragut equestrian standout Audrina McCall, 10, performed a demonstration at the internationally celebrated 2025 BreyerFest from Friday, July 11, through Sunday, July 13, at Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington.

Audrina took the spotlight on her 8-year-old Welsh/Holsteiner/Thoroughbred pony, Greymeadows Colby, showcasing their talents before thousands of horse lovers from around the world in Lexington.

BreyerFest draws more than 50,000 equine enthusiasts of all ages and disciplines worldwide. The three-day festival included horse demonstrations, celebrity rider appearances, hands-on crafts, model horse shows — celebrating the magic of the horse in both miniature and full-size form.

Top events ahead

“Audrina and Colby have qualified for the 2025 USEF Pony Finals National Championships, where they will compete in the Pony Jumper division against the best young riders in the country,” stated her mother and trainer, Lindsay McCall.

Adding to her accomplishments, Audrina has been named a United States Pony Clubs Ambassador for the 2025 Pony Finals, a prestigious honor recognizing young riders for their horsemanship, leadership and sportsmanship. Pony Finals is held from Monday, Aug 4, through Saturday, Aug. 9, in Lexington. She competes in the Medium Pony Jumpers category.

“Audrina has quickly risen through the ranks of competitive show jumping, hunters and eventing, earning accolades for her determination, skill and passion for the sport,” Lindsay stated. “Her partnership with Greymeadows Colby is a testament to hard work and a deep bond between pony and rider.

“Audrina currently holds a C1 rating in Horse Management through Pony Club. She also has her D3 rating in eventing, hunt

See AUDRINA on Page 5B

New to Marching Ads, Smith brings ‘Heart of Glass’

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

With a new director at the helm, Farragut High School Marching Admirals band members have been learning new moves and music during its annual band camp, which continues through Friday, July 25.

To round out the camp, a public performance is slated for 7 p.m., July 25, on FHS’s Bill Clabo Field inside Eddie Courtney Stadium.

Since Monday, July 14, 152 band members have been on the field and in classrooms being instructed on this year’s show, “Heart of Glass,” based on the 1980s’ song performed by Blondie.

“I think the audience and the people are going to love it,” said Andrew Smith, who takes over this school year as the band’s new director, replacing Kenneth L. Carrico III. “It’s a song almost everyone will be familiar with.

“This show is going to have



Tammy Cheek

Farragut High School Marching Admirals members learn the steps for this year’s show, “Heart of Glass,” at their annual band camp, which is taking place through Friday, July 25, with a concert to begin at 7 p.m., Friday, in Eddie Courtney Stadium.

some music by Blondie; a little bit of music by Nirvana, the ‘90s rock band that people will

See ‘HEART OF GLASS,’ Page 4B

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- **A Cars for a Cause Car Show is happening at Morning Pointe of Hardin Valley Assisted Living**, 2449 Reagan Road, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, July 25. “Expect vintage cars, food trucks, vendors ... all for a great cause,” a company press release stated. “We’re hosting a family-friendly event supporting the Morning Pointe Foundation.”
- **Faith Promise Church, 144 West End Ave. in Farragut, invites the public to take part as it hosts a “Serve Day”** from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, July 26. “Join us as we serve our community through a variety of opportunities,” an FPC press release stated. “Campuses will have both onsite and offsite options for a variety of skill levels. Participants of all ages are encouraged to participate.”
- **Knox County Mayor Glen Jacobs “School Mania Supply Slam,”** a local school supply distribution, runs from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, July 26, at Faith Promise Church Farragut, 144 West End Ave.
- **St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church, 110 Sugarwood Drive in Farragut, has announced its July Gift of the Month** again going to Vine Middle Magnet School in Knoxville. “Vine Middle is an inner-city, low-income school with a diverse population,” an SEEC press release further stated. It’s drop-off time is between 1 and 2 p.m., Sunday, July 27, at the church.
What’s requested? Crayola Color Markers, 2-pocket folders, small binders (1 inch and 1.5 inch), pencils and Clorox wipes.
- **MEDIC Regional Blood Center’s Annual Dollywood Promotion runs through Friday, July 25.** MEDIC blood donors who make appointments will receive a Dollywood ticket.
Appointments are required for all donors. Due to the high demand, MEDIC will not be able to take walk-in donors during this promotion. There may be wait times due to the high volume of donors.
Appointments can be made online at www.medicblood.org, via the MEDIC app or by calling 865-521-2656. Donors will not receive any additional incentives during the event week. Deferred donors will receive a coupon for Papa John’s.
- **Mission of Hope’s Mission Pack the Bus event** returns for its 12th year at Turkey Creek shopping center,

See PLANNER on Page 5B

Mr. Luttrell celebrates 100 years of life



Celebrating his 100th birthday Saturday, July 5, in Ossoli Circle Clubhouse, Bob Luttrell is all smiles alongside cousins, from left, Debbie Smiddy, Susie Kelley and Grace Felker. Several other family members were among 70 on hand for the celebration. Also included was memorabilia from his years in the U.S. Navy. Bob told of his experiences in World War II.

Photo submitted

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Heart of Glass

From page 2B

be very familiar with,” the new director said. “The theme is a play on words, too.”

He explained the show also will feature American classical music composer Philip Glass and described the story as “imagine a heart on the field ... is going to literally break and then it will come back together at the end of the show.

“We’ll have this really cool telling of the story through music of someone going through heartbreak and loss and recovering from that,” Smith added.

This year, seniors Maggie Doyle and Carleigh Tilson and junior Ari Kim were chosen as drum majors.

The band will take part in four competitions: Clinch River Classic Saturday, Sept. 20, at Clinton High School; Karns Marching Invitational Saturday, Sept. 27, at Karns High School; Contest of Champions Saturday, Oct. 25, at Middle Tennessee State University; and another contest still to be determined.

“I’m beyond excited,” Smith said. “I can’t wait (to get started).”

Regarding the band, “They are doing wonderful,” he said. “These kids, in this community, are eager to learn, they are willing to learn, but they also have the fundamental skills and the drive that’s necessary to be great as a performer.

“These kids are very committed and driven, and they practice like crazy,” Smith added. “They have a wonderful foundational step for them at Farragut Middle School ... (the FMS band directors) have really done an exceptional job of preparing the kids, so when they get to high school they’re ready to go.

“(The band) has done some amazing things over the years, and I just hope they continue to attain that (by) just pushing them a little further.”

About his new role at FHS, Smith said, “I’ve met some wonderful people here: Dr. (John) Bartlett (principal), the community — the students, especially, more than anything, “I’m excited to work with great students, get to be a teacher and get to be someone who can positively impact their lives in more ways than just music,” he added.

Smith is going into his eighth year as an educator. He

taught at Powell High School, where he was head band director from 2022 through the 2024-25 school year. Prior to that, he was an assistant band director from 2018 to 2021.

In preparation, Smith completed his bachelor’s degree in music education at Middle Tennessee State, his master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from Tusculum College and his Educational Foundations degree in educational leadership from Morgan State University in Maryland.

A b o u t j o i n i n g FHS, the band directorship “was a position that opened up and definitely is a position at a place that people want to be,” he said.



Smith

While thinking Farragut would be a wonderful place to be, Smith still loves his students and position at Powell High School. But several of his family members live in Farragut.

“It was something where it would be nice to be closer to family,” Smith said about why he applied for the position.

“I want (the band) to be great in everything we do,” he added.

“I don’t want us to wait to be great. I don’t want kids to kind of just mosey through and feel like they’re kind of just going through the motions.

Specifically, “I want them to constantly approach every day with a love for music and a love for performing,” Smith said. “We have big goals, big

dreams — performing more concerts, performing at a high level in marching band competitions. We want to do very well.

“We’re going to push ourselves to do the very best we can do,” he added. “But, at the end of the day ... I want our kids to be in a place where they are seen, loved and heard, and they feel valued and they feel (they are in) a place where they can continue to grow as a person, then a musician.

“A band director, just like a coach, gets to see these kids grow over a course of four years, as opposed to maybe one semester. I get to spend time with them. That time is invaluable ...

Outside of music, “I want to help positively influence and be a role model for young people. ... I want them to leave the program as a better human and a better musician when they’re done,” Smith said.



Tammy Cheek

Farragut High School Marching Admirals members Jackson Smith, left, and Aiden Johnson demonstrate the emotions of anger and revenge as they learn the steps for this year’s show, “Heart of Glass,” at the annual FHS band camp, which is taking place through Friday, July 25, with a concert to begin at 7 p.m., Friday, in Eddie Courtney Stadium.

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Planner

From page 3B

once again hosting its annual school supply drive benefiting Mission of Hope. This year’s drive will coincide with Tax-Free Weekend, from Friday, July 25, through Sunday, July 27, at OfficeMax in Turkey Creek, 11012 Parkside Drive.

Families are encouraged to drop off school supply donations from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the school bus parked in front of OfficeMax. “Over the past decade, generous shoppers have filled buses with pencils, paper, notebooks, backpacks, crayons ... for students in rural Appalachia,” a MofH press release stated. Supplies support more than 10,000 children in 29 rural Appalachian schools. ...”

- Pellissippi State Community College will host a “Navigating Difficult Conversations” workshop from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 29, at the Hardin Valley Campus, Alexander Building, Room 103. Course fee is \$89. Go to itbeginswithindl.com/pstcc-workshops to register. For more info, call 865-694-6400 or visit www.pstcc.edu
- 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; cash bar available.”

Audrina

From page 2B

seat and western. She's an active member of the Tennessee Valley Pony Club in Knoxville.

She's been deeply involved with her club — “most recently helping them earn the USPC Brookfield Conservation Award,” Lindsay stated. “She also rides with the Tennessee Valley Hunt Club, where

she earned the MFHA Fairly Hunted Award and recognition through the USPC Foxhunting Recognition Program. Her club has worked hard toward the Live Oak Hounds-USPC Foxhunting Challenge Award.”

Audrina also is a member of United States Eventing Association, competing in starter-level eventing since age 8 — “though she's been jumping cross-country since she was just 4½,” her mother said.

“She hopes to move up to Beginner Novice this year. She also competes on the hunter/jumper circuit and has earned numerous championships over the years.

“She made her Pony Finals debut in 2023 at just 8 years old,” Lindsay added. “That same year, she was honored with the Emerson Burr Horsemanship Grant, receiving a \$500 grant and a set of Charles Owen helmets.”

Audrina also competes in vaulting at the International 1-Star level, “having moved up to canter this year,” her mom said. “She's a dedicated member of the Two Step Revolution Vaulting Team in Farragut, which earned Reserve Champion titles at Nationals in both 2022 and 2024. She loves being part of a team.

“One of her proudest Pony Club moments was her team earning perfect scores in stable

management at the MidSouth USPC Regional Rally, where she competes in show jumping and eventing,” Lindsay added.

“She's already dreaming of the USPC Championships in 2026.”

Pony details

Her beloved pony is from the renowned Greymeadows Farm, which Audrina has bonded with as a key element in her success since February 2023.



Photo submitted

Audrina McCall, 10, of Farragut, and her pony, Grey Meadows Colby, an 8-year-old Welsh/Holsteiner/Thoroughbred cross from the renowned Greymeadows Farm, at a recent performance.

Other individual awards earned by Audrina recently

- 2024 Reserve Champion Pony Hunter for the East Tennessee Hunter Jumper Association
- Qualified for 2025 USEF National Pony Finals Championships in the Medium Pony Jumpers
- Selected as United States Pony Club Ambassador for 2025 USEF Pony Finals
- Qualified individually for the 2026 USPC Championships in Quiz
- Qualified for the 2026 USPC Championships in Show Jumping
- Third place and sixth place at the USEF/USEA National Horse Trials at Riverglenn
- Selected for the 2025 Breyerfest as part of the Welsh Pony Breed Demonstration in Lexington.

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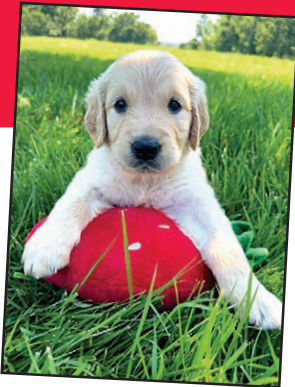
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July 31, 2025

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H3 - Jaclyn Ellis
J47- Jaclyn Ellis

Visit www.storagetreasures.com with the information below to place your bid.
Auction will end on July 31, 2025- at 10:00am

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000 LEGALS

000 LEGALS

PUBLIC AUCTION

July 31, 2025

Pursuant to TN Code 66-31-104, a Lien Sale due to default on the following Storage Units will be sold to the highest bidder here to settle a debt.

A9 - Virginia Schwamm
A19 - Crystal Stephens
E3 - Rebecca Gambrell
F1 - Julia Avila
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G21 - Diana Smith Perhogan

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Auction will end on July 31, 2025- at 10:00am

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FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN AGENDA

Farragut Town Hall • 11408 Municipal Center Drive • Thursday, July 24, 2025

BMA MEETING 6:00 PM

I. Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Mayor's Report

A. Committee Reports

1. Arts & Beautification Committee Report

2. Board of Zoning Appeals Committee Report

3. Tree Board Committee Report

4. Stormwater Advisory Committee Report

5. Visual Resources Review Board Report

B. Proclamation

1. Parks & Recreation Proclamation

2. Communications & Public Relations Proclamation

V. Ordinances & Resolutions

A. Ordinances

1. Second Reading & Public Notice

a. Ordinance 25-12, an Ordinance on Second Reading and Public Hearing, of the Town of

Farragut, Tennessee amending the Fiscal Year

2025-2026 ARPA Fund Budget, Passed By

Ordinance 25-10

B. Resolutions

1. Approval of Resolution R-2025-17, a resolution to update the Occupational Safety and Health Program Plan for the Town of Farragut

VI. Business Items

A. Approval of purchase of Ventrac Compact Tractor 4520P with accessories from Sourcewell

Co-op Contract number 112624-TTC

B. Approval of purchase of three mowing units from Athens Lawn & Tractor through BuyBoard

Contract 703-23

C. Approval of Contracts with GovSense for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software

VII. Citizens Forum

VIII. Town Administrator's Report

IX. Town Attorney's Report

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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FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2025 • 1C

“ALL-DAY AWAY”

Knox County Schools adopts new policy for personal wireless devices

Knox County School families will experience a number of changes during the 2025-25 school year, from calendar adjustments to academic appointments. But perhaps the most notable change that students and parents should be aware of is a stricter cell phone policy for all grade levels.

The policy, which was approved by the Board of Education last month, prohibits the use of all wireless communication devices during the school day’s entirety.

“Starting this academic year, Knox County Schools will restrict student access from bell-to-bell to personal wireless devices—like smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, and smart glasses,” explained Betsy Henderson, Knox County Board of Education Representative for District 6.

Although the school district’s previous policy allowed students to use their devices between classes and during lunch, Henderson said that is no longer the case. They can, however, be used in the event of “a true emergency.”

“Students can bring their devices, but they must be powered off and stored in a backpack or purse,” she said, noting other important exceptions, such as if a student has a medical condition or if the device’s use is part of an IEP, 504 plan or an Individual Learning Plan.

The “all-day away” policy was mainly enacted to bring the school district into alignment with a new state law that went into effect July 1, prohibiting the use of wireless communication devices during instructional time.

Lauren Morgan, Board of Education Representative for District 5, which includes Farragut schools, said the policy essentially helps ensure consistency across Knox County by “providing administrators with a more structured and straightforward framework to use as they enforce it.”

“While I did not vote for this policy, I do feel that this policy will give consistency across the district,” she said, adding that she proposed a policy option that would allow high school students to have access to their devices during lunch and class breaks. “Most elementary and middle school students won’t notice a difference with cell phones, but high school students will certainly feel the impact, as they are accustomed to having phone access throughout the day.”

Though it will take some getting used to for these older students, Morgan said the policy will likely foster a learning environment with fewer distractions.

“It will also encourage students to engage with their peers and hopefully help minimize cyberbullying,” she said.

See ALL-DAY AWAY on Page 3C



Evelyn Unthank

Purchase certain items tax free July 25-27

Tennessee’s traditional sales tax holiday on clothing, school supplies and computers begins at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 25, 2025, and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, July 27, 2025.

See TAX FREE on Page 2C

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Matthew McGrath





Far left:
Lydia Enger, left,
and Emmaline
Unthank

Left:
Bentley
Qualkenbush

Below left:
Connor Austin



Tax Free

From page 1C

During this time clothing, school supplies and computers may be purchased tax-free. Certain restrictions apply. Items sold online are also eligible. Items must be purchased for personal use, not for business or trade.

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- Exempt:**
- General apparel that costs \$100 or less per item, such as shirts, pants, socks, shoes, dresses, etc.
- Not exempt:**
- Apparel items priced at more than \$100
 - Items sold together, such as shoes, cannot be split up to stay beneath the \$100 maximum
 - Items such as jewelry, handbags, or sports and recreational equipment

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Exempt:**
- School and art supplies with a purchase price of \$100 or less per item, such as binders, backpacks,

crayons, paper, pens, pencils, and rulers, and art supplies such as glazes, clay, paints, drawing pads, and artist paintbrushes

- Not exempt:**
- School and art supplies individually priced at more than \$100
 - Items that are normally sold together cannot be split up to stay beneath the \$100 maximum

COMPUTERS

- Exempt:**
- Computers for personal use with a purchase price of \$1,500 or less
 - Laptop computers, if priced at \$1,500 or less, also qualify as well as tablet computers
- Not exempt:**
- Storage media, like flash drives and compact discs
 - Individually purchased software
 - Printer supplies
 - Household appliances

For more information on the Tennessee sales tax holiday, visit www.tn.gov/revenue/taxes/sales-and-use-tax/sales-tax-holiday/sth-traditional.html



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Knox County Board of Education

All-Day Away
From page 1C

Henderson, a strong supporter of the policy change, agrees.

“This change was driven by both local needs in our community and a new Tennessee state law, but the heart of the matter is what we were already hearing from teachers, principals and parents: cellphones were becoming a huge distraction from learning,” she said. “Research backs this up—smart-phones are linked to lower academic performance, reduced attention spans, increased anxiety and social isolation.”

In fact, according to Henderson, a recent Pew Research Center study found that 72% of high school teachers view cell phones as a major disruption.

“As a mom, I’ve watched how digital distraction chips away at real learning and connection, and this policy puts learning and student well-being first,” she said. “We took needed action because we believe students deserve a learning environment that’s focused, respectful and safe.”

Henderson also emphasized that the policy isn’t about being “anti-technology.”

“Knox County is investing in tech that supports learning, like Chrome-books and classroom tools, but smart-phones, especially social media apps,

pull our kids’ attention in a hundred different directions,” she said. “This is about breaking the cycle.”

Students who violate the policy will be subject to disciplinary action. While enforcement will be school-based, Morgan said that violations may result in device confiscations.

“The enforcement of the policy will ultimately be up to the teachers and administrators in each school,” she said. “Per the policy, when violations occur, wireless communication devices will be taken up by the school and returned to the student and/or guardian at the end of the day.”

In addition to the new cellphone policy, Henderson said that the Knox County Board of Education is always exploring ways to better “support healthy, engaged and successful students.”

“As a district, one of our main priorities is being laser-focused on raising academic achievement—especially in literacy and math—and expanding career pathways in high school,” she said. “Parents will see continued efforts to support school safety and student mental health. We’re also working to ensure every classroom has the tools and support needed for excellent teaching.”

~ Rachel Totten

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HOW STUDENT-ATHLETES CAN PERFECT THE SPORTS AND STUDIES BALANCING ACT

Sports remain a popular extracurricular activity among modern students. Nearly six million students in the United States participated in high school sports during the 2021-2022 school year, according to an analysis of National Federation of State High School Associations data. In 2024, approximately 540,000 student-athletes participated in National Collegiate Athletic Association sports across the United States.

Balancing the demands of academics and athletics is a challenge for student-athletes. Student-athletes must juggle attending practices, traveling to games, spending time in the classroom, homework and other assignments. Being a successful student-athlete requires discipline, and the following tips can help student-athletes balance studies and sports.

Embrace organization

Being organized requires knowing what is required of you and when. It's important to set up a way to keep track of your schedule and your obligations in sports and in the classroom. Invest in a planner that works for you, wheth-

er it's digital on a phone or computer or a notebook paper planner. Consider color-coding items so they stand out and you'll be able to scan easily.

Establish a schedule

A routine will keep you on track. Identify your responsibilities and when you will be handling them. Some are non-negotiable. Classes, for example, are in session at certain times every day. Practices may be consistent times, but games may vary. When patterns of free time become known, they can be filled in with study and homework sessions and downtime.

Be flexible

There are times when peak season for sports may coincide with exam and assignment deadlines. This time will not last forever, and being flexible and changing things on the fly may be necessary.

Establish your priorities

Many studies show just how important sports and physical activity can be for students. However, if sports ultimately and consistently are impeding students' ability to do well in the



Top left: Leeaira Seiber, left, and Lynlee Seiber
Above: Nolan Seiber, left, and Bennett Matthews

classroom, a reassessment of priorities may be necessary. Sports may have to take a backseat to academics until grades are back on track. Remember, you are a student first and then an athlete. In fact, most schools have some sort of minimum grade requirement for athletes, so a pause in sports may be mandated by school administrators.

Keep lines of communication open

It's important to speak with professors and coaches so you have the best chances of success. Communicate if

there are any scheduling conflicts and discuss with teachers if there are opportunities to make up any missed work or keep up with studies, if necessary.

Study with others

Many student-athletes will be in the same boat. Pool your resources to study together and support one another, both in athletics and academics.

Student-athletes will have to embrace time management and other skills to juggle the responsibilities of their sports and studies.

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From left: Ivy Grace Edwards, Adalyn Sellars and Beau Scott

CALM FIRST-DAY-OF-SCHOOL JITTERS

Starting school for the first time or simply returning to campus after another summer break can lead to mixed feelings. Kids may be excited to see their friends every day, but that comes at the price of the end of lazy summer days.

The first day of school is on the horizon, and parents may discover their children seem a bit despondent that vacation is coming to a close. Such feelings may stem from more than the end of summer vacation. Some students may be nervous about going to school. New faces, new experiences and new teachers can lead to a little anxiety. Here are some ways to tame the nerves.

- **Do a trial run.** Before school starts, do a test run to the drop-off location, bus stop or pick up whomever will be carpooling together. Getting into that routine can help reduce nervousness.
- **Participate in meet-and-greets.** Some schools offer certain events designed to introduce students even before classes begin. Schools may host ice cream socials or picnic lunches on school grounds, particularly for younger grades. These events give children an opportunity to get to know their classmates before the first school bell rings.
- **Take a school tour.** If a student is about to start in a new school or will be attending school for the first time,

families will want to see if they can get tours of the school and facilities. Just one glance inside can be enough to familiarize students with the lay of the land, which might make things less scary on the first day.

- **Check the class list.** Some schools do not provide a list of all students in particular classes, but increasingly those that rely on programs like Google Classroom or Canvas may enable students to see who will be in their class. Children also can use social apps like Instagram and Snapchat to locate school-associated groups to find other students. Parents and their children can brainstorm how to deal with other students who may have been difficult in the past, while also perusing lists for friendly faces.
- **Practice conversation skills.** Many modern kids have their eyes locked on devices. They may be a little rusty with ice breakers and initiating conversation. Role playing at home can give kids some ideas of how to forge new relationships in the classroom.
- **Recognize and take concerns seriously.** Parents and other caregivers can be receptive to conversation with children regarding their concerns about starting school. Talking about feelings can help kids tame their nervousness, especially when adults take them seriously.



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Knox County Schools Calendar 2025-2026

BACK TO SCHOOL CALENDAR

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August

Thursday, July 31
First Day for Teachers
(School Based In-Service Day)
Friday, August 1
Systemwide In-Service Day (PreK-12)
Monday, August 4
Administrative Day (Teacher Work Day)
Tuesday, August 5
Systemwide In-Service Day (½ Day School-based); Administrative Day (½ Day Teacher Work Day); 6th and 9th Grade Orientation
Wednesday, August 6
Administrative Day (Teacher Work Day)
Thursday, August 7
First Day for Students (½ Day)

September

Monday, September 1
Labor Day Holiday (Knox County Schools Closed)
Friday, September 5
End 4½-weeks Grading Period
Wednesday, September 17
Constitution Day (Knox County Schools Open), Half-Day for Students

October

Monday, October 6 -
Fall Break
Friday, October 10
End First 9-weeks Grading Period
Tuesday, October 14

November

Tuesday, November 4
Systemwide In-Service Day (PreK-12) (Student Holiday)
Thursday, November 13
End 4½-weeks Grading Period
Wednesday, November 19
Half-Day for Students
Wednesday, November 26 -
Thanksgiving Holidays (Knox County Schools Closed)
Friday, November 28

December

Friday, December 19
Half-Day for Students; End Second 9-weeks Grading Period; End First Semester Winter Break
Monday, December 22 -
Friday, January 2

January

Friday, January 2
Systemwide In-service Day (½ Day School-based; Administrative Day (½ Day Teacher Work Day)
Monday, January 5
First Day for Students after Winter Break (Full Day)
Monday, January 19
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Knox County Schools Closed)
Wednesday, January 28
Half-Day for Students

February

Thursday, February 5
End 4½-weeks Grading Period
Monday, February 16
Systemwide In-Service Day (PreK-12) (Student Holiday)

March

Monday, March 9 -
Friday, March 13
Spring Break
Tuesday, March 17
End Third 9-weeks Grading Period
Wednesday, March 25
Half-Day for Students

April

Friday, April 3
Holiday (Knox County Schools Closed)
Monday, April 20
End 4½-weeks Grading Period

May

Tuesday, May 5
Systemwide In-Service Day (School-based)
Thursday, May 21
Last Day for Students (½ Day);
End Fourth 9-weeks Grading Period;
End Second Semester
Friday, May 22
Administrative Day (Teacher Work Day) -
Last Day for Teachers

- 180 Instructional Days*
- 4 Administrative Days
- 2 Unscheduled In-Service Days
- 1 Unscheduled Parent-Teacher Contact Hours Day
- 6 Scheduled In-Service Days
- 10 Vacation Days

*In accordance with T.C.A. § 49-6-3004 - 177 student instructional days plus 3 days accumulated under daily 7-hour schedule.
Note: This calendar allows cancellation of up to 8 instructional days due to inclement weather or serious outbreaks of illness before any make up days will be required.

knoxschools.org

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Check the Knox County Schools site for the earliest news on school closings due to weather.



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