



File photo

Current Farragut Alderman and mayoral candidate Alex Cain maintains that he committed no wrongdoing.

Cain rejects political attacks

Says claims intended to mislead voters

Tammy Cheek

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Information regarding Farragut Alderman Alex Cain's departure from his employment with Gibbs High School five years ago surfaced last weekend in news reports.

"This was a big surprise to me," Cain said

about the recent reports. Cain has retained Knoxville attorney Daniel Herrera to handle all public comments and inquiries regarding his mayoral campaign.

"Any allegations made against Mr. Cain are untrue," Herrera said, adding that Cain's "separation from Gibbs was amicable."

"It has come to Mr. Cain's attention that his political opponents are attempting to use a vague, irrelevant and immaterial employment dispute to shamefully mislead and misdirect the voters of Farragut,"

Herrera said in a press release. "These shameful political attacks, and 'fake news' rumors serve no purpose other than a weak attempt to poison an election."

"Mr. Cain maintains that he has committed no wrongdoing," Herrera added. "In fact, this issue never became anything other than what it truly is — an employment dispute."

"We had a difference of opinion," Cain said. "I was looking out for the welfare of a student. Administrators believed it was a violation of school board policy."

Cain said the issue involved a student who was missing class and that he was checking on the student before making a truancy report.

He said any actions he took were for the benefit of students and the school, just as his actions now are for the Town.

"So when we had our final meeting, we decided we'd part amicably. They didn't renew my contract but said I was eligible to be rehired," Cain said.

"You will not find a single criminal charge related to his time with

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July 4 honors veterans

Tammy Cheek

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With America 250 as its theme this year, the Town of Farragut Parks & Recreation is celebrating the country's independence by honoring its veterans for its 2026 Independence Day parade.

"Each year, we get to select the grand marshal," said Dian Hall, a member of Farragut Parks & Athletics Council. "This year, we decided on military veterans because it's the 250th anniversary."

Since Hall is a veteran herself, having served 27 years in the U.S. Air

Force, Parks and Recreation director Ron Oestreich suggested Hall head up the search.

"We have gotten to the point we have 15 veterans," said Hall, who earned a Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship, graduated from Indiana University and enlisted in 1985. After serving four years, she realized she loved the Air Force and continued serving. While in the Air Force, she met her husband, who also was in the military. They retired in 2012.

Those veterans are:

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Photo courtesy of Tennessee Athletics

Tennessee freshman and Farragut native Elsa Morrison (22) celebrates after hitting a home run against the Texas Longhorns on Thursday, May 28, in the Women's College World Series.

Farragut plans patriotic tribute for America 250

Staff reports

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As America celebrates 250 years in existence, the Town of Farragut is celebrating that milestone in its Independence Day Parade.

"This year's parade will recognize the nation's 250th birthday with an Americana theme," Town communications manager Wendy Smith stated in a press release.

The parade starts at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, July 4, lining up at Farragut High School and proceeding down Lendon Welch Way to Kingston Pike, according to Smith.

It continues west to Boring Road, just east of Farragut Towne Square Shopping Center (the former Ingles store site).

Additionally, Fleet Feet Sports hosts the annual Farragut Freedom

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The making of Elsa Morrison

Jake Nichols

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On Thursday, March 28, Scott Smith made a prediction inside Devan Park.

He had no idea Elsa Morrison would transform it into a prophecy.

Standing in the mezzanine at the Women's College World Series, Smith — Morrison's travel coach — had been talking with officials from USA Softball during Tennessee's opener against the Longhorns.

At the time, they had been discussing Texas standout Reese Atwood. But Morrison waited in the on-deck circle below, and Smith wanted people to recognize the talent from Farragut, too.

"He kind of turned his body and started chatting with someone else, and as (Elsa) is walking up to the plate, I tapped him and said, 'She's about to hit a

home run,'" Smith said.

Seconds later, Morrison smacked a three-run shot in her Women's College World Series debut.

"Obviously I didn't know that would happen," Smith said days later. "I said it to him more jokingly, but it did not shock me at all. She rises to the moment and always has."

That drive has pushed Morrison throughout her life, guiding her to a three-year stint with the Lady Admirals before landing at Tennessee.

Well before that, though, Morrison and her parents put in the kind of sacrifice that ensured success, time and travel be darned. So when she sent the ball soaring, then her parents received that home run ball, it brought a welcomed sense of validation for the whole family.

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'Devastating': Owners, community mourn loss of Cheers at Choto

Jake Nichols

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From the patio at Cheers at Choto, one still can find serenity on the waters of Fort Loudon Lake.

Turn your eyes back toward the restaurant, though, and therein lies the nightmare: charred wood, a collapsed roof and debris with a stench

that hangs in the air.

Owners Nick and Amy Batson saw the wreckage for themselves late last week, having already viewed the damage through videos and photos sent by neighbors, friends and employees.

The couple had been away in Hilton Head, South Carolina, looking to relax before a big weekend kicking off an-

other summer at the restaurant they have owned since 2019.

Instead, they found out through a phone call at 6:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 10, that their beloved hangout — known as Willy's Bar and Grill under previous ownership — was engulfed in flames.

"I felt like I was waking up to a nightmare,

like I was still asleep," Nick Batson said of that morning. "It took a few minutes to process the call I had just received, saying the building was on fire, and I started receiving videos of it. It was just hard to believe. That's not something you want to wake up to when you're trying to



Jake Nichols

Extensive damage can still be seen on the patio at Cheers at Choto.

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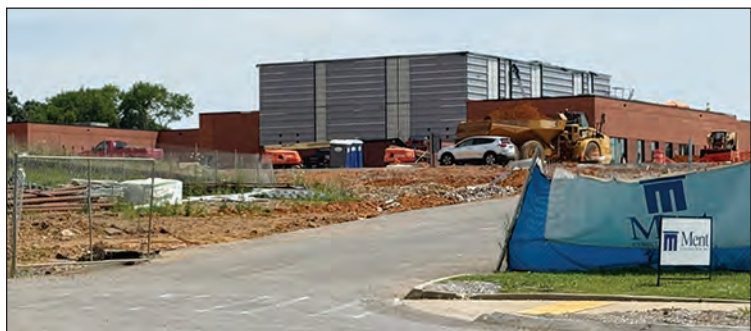


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Town of Farragut

Transportation projects in the Town's Capital Investment Program include three that address traffic flow and pedestrian safety around the new elementary school at Kingston Pike and Boring Road.

from the Town by Wendy Smith

New transportation projects on CIP

The Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA) approved the Town's FY2027 (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027) budget on May 28, which included funding for the Capital Investment Program (CIP). The CIP lays out how big projects, like road construction and park improvements, will be funded and managed over the next six years. While Town staff recommend projects, BOMA prioritizes them.

The current Board places a heavy emphasis on transportation projects. That's why 73 percent of FY2027 CIP budget will go toward transportation and infrastructure projects. They want to keep traffic flowing as efficiently as possible in Farragut.

The Board and Town staff recognize how important it is to address traffic flow at the future elementary school now. The school is scheduled to open in fall 2027, and these projects are expected to be completed by then:

• **New Sugarwood Drive access to Kingston Pike** —

A new access road will connect Sugarwood Drive to the intersection at Kingston Pike and Smith Road to allow easier access to and from Sugarwood subdivision during peak traffic.

• **Pedestrian crossing on Boring Road** — A mid-block crosswalk from the existing greenway on the south side of Country Manor subdivision to a proposed sidewalk on Boring Road will improve pedestrian access to the new elementary school (A Knox County project to widen Boring Road is currently underway).

• **Intersection improvements at Boring Road/Smith Road** — A multi-way stop and reconstruction of Dominick Point will provide easier access for school buses.

Here are other noteworthy transportation projects in the FY2027 CIP:

• **The second phase of Virtue Road improvements** —

This project will extend phase one improvements south to Boyd Station Road and tie into recent improvements there. The project will widen the roadway to two 11-foot lanes with curb and gutter. A 10-foot boardwalk will extend along the east side of Virtue Road from Turkey Creek Road to approximately 1,300 feet south, where pedestrians will be able to cross Virtue Road to a

10-foot shared-use path that ties into the greenway at the Grove at Boyd Station subdivision. This project is partially funded through the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization using Surface Transportation Block Grant and local funds. Construction is expected to begin summer of 2027.

• **Adaptive traffic signal upgrades** — Adaptive technology has been added to signals at the Town's major intersections to allow the signals to adjust timing based on traffic demands. These improvements will be ongoing over the next two to three years.

• **Campbell Station Road/Jamestowne Boulevard intersection improvements** —

This new traffic signal will make it easier to turn left from Jamestowne Boulevard onto northbound Campbell Station Road and provide a signalized pedestrian crossing near the school entrance. Construction is expected to be completed by spring of 2027.

• **Watt Road roundabout** —

A roundabout on Watt Road at the southern entrance to Mayor Bob Leonard Park will provide traffic calming and improved pedestrian safety. Construction is expected to start in spring of 2027.

• **Campbell Station Road/Interstate Interchange** —

This project is planned to take place in conjunction with Tennessee Department of Transportation improvements to the I-40/I-75 corridor from the merging of the two interstates to I-640. The improved interchange will have a diverging diamond configuration. The expected cost to the Town is \$8.75M, broken into five payments that begin in FY2027.

While the Campbell Station Road interchange improvement is a larger project than the Town of Farragut has undertaken before, it illustrates something to keep in mind with transportation projects: they take a long time and cost a lot of money. There are many steps in building or improving roads, and delays can happen at each of these. In spite of these challenges, the Town is committed to planning ahead to provide high-quality infrastructure.

Take a look at the Town's CIP projects, as well as the rest of the approved budget. townoffarragut.org/budget.

Large-lot zoning moves forward

Tammy Cheek

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Property owners in Farragut soon could have a new option if they wish to subdivide land into large estate lots.

The Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted unanimously on first reading during its Thursday, June 11, meeting to approve a zoning amendment replacing the Rural Single-Family Acre Residential District (R-1-S-A) with a new Rural Large-Lot Estate District.

The amendment requires a second and final reading before it takes effect.

"There are no properties in the Town currently zoned R-1-S-A, and it is a district that has outdated provisions and has not been used for many years," Community Development director Mark Shipley said.

Shipley said the amendment stemmed from a homeowner's request several months ago for a zoning district allowing estate-sized lots.

Staff initially recommended modifying the Agriculture zoning district, but that proposal drew opposition from South Ward alderman candidate Greg Wiberley, whose attorney argued against eliminating the Agriculture district during an earlier meeting.

At the June 11 meeting,

Shipley said the amendment is intended "to provide a low-density development option that would help retain rural character consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Land Use Plan."

"After obtaining feedback during a workshop session at the April 16 Planning Commission meeting, the staff prepared Ordinance 26-10," he said.

Among the proposal's key provisions are a minimum lot size of 2 acres and the ability for the Planning Commission to waive or reduce certain subdivision requirements when an applicant demonstrates that a proposed layout preserves the property's natural characteristics and rural character.

The amendment also would reduce the need for some development variances.

Shipley noted the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of Ordinance 26-10 during its May 21 meeting.

Wiberley disagreed with the proposal's approach to variances.

"Variances are a vital part of the planning process because they require an applicant to provide plans for public scrutiny while also requiring the government to provide proper notice of such a request," he said.

"As a consequence, affected

residents or other interested parties can participate in the decision-making process. A variance should be able to pass a hardship test, in essence, proving that unique physical features prevent conformance to the code rather than a personal inconvenience or profit motive to the developer."

Planning Commissioner Louise Povlin, a candidate for mayor, responded that a resident previously sought to develop eight large estate-sized lots but instead had to rezone the property to R-1. She said the owner ultimately was allowed greater density than originally proposed.

In other business, the Board unanimously approved amendments to the town's flood damage prevention regulations to incorporate updated floodplain maps provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

During public comments, resident Brian Walker urged the Board to reconsider funding an economic development coordinator and instead direct those funds toward additional police protection.

Walker noted the Town had previously employed someone in that role but said circumstances have changed.

"The Town has changed now, and now is not the time to continue with something you've done before," he said.

Veterans

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Fred Adomat, Coast Guard; Jim Bolon, Navy; Nancy Bolon, Navy; Marilyn Childress, Navy; Bill Craddick, Army; Dave Fahidy, Marine Corps; Gerry Godolphin, Air Force; Stewart Greenfield, Marine Corps.; Jessica Hodge, Marine Corps, Dennis Laneman, Army; Kristi Luttrell, Coast Guard; Jim O'Brien, Air Force; Scott Rastovic, Air Force; No-

ell Simmons, Air Force; and Jason Simon, Navy.

"We went out in lots of different ways to search for veterans," she said.

For example, after talking to one of the veterans, she learned about another veteran.

"So we have this whole list that came together from all sorts of different places," Hall said. "It's fascinating all the different people who are here."

Parade-goers will find it easy to spot them in the parade as

they will be riding in Corvettes.

"The Lions Club stepped up and said, 'We have these Corvettes,'" Hall related. "We have seven Corvettes and have to get one more because we have 15 people, but two in each Corvette."

"Our focus was primarily Farragut," she said "We ended up with a few people in Farragut area, like Jessica Hodge, who set up a women's veterans organization for East Tennessee."

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Unanimous vote keeps Gibson on ballot

Tammy Cheek

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Brent Gibson, who won the Republican nomination for Knox County sheriff in the May 5 primary election, will remain the party's nominee after the Tennessee Republican State Executive Committee unanimously voted to uphold the election results.

The committee voted to allow the Knox County sheriff's primary results to stand at its Wednesday, June 10 meeting.

With no Democratic nominee currently on the ballot for the August General Election, Gibson is now the Republican nominee and sheriff-elect. Tennessee Republican Party Chairman Scott Golden said the committee's decision is final.

"I'm just real excited that the committee upheld exactly what Knox County voters came out to do," Gibson told TV reporters after the meeting.

"Confidence in our election depends on citizens knowing that their votes matter, their voices are heard and their decisions are respected," Gibson told the committee during the hearing.

Mike Davis, who challenged the May 5 Republican primary results, thanked the committee for considering his appeal.

"I appreciate Tennessee State Republican Party Chairman Scott Golden and the Republican Party Executive Committee for their time and consideration," Davis said.

"After my more than 30-year career in law enforcement, I was compelled to enter the race for sheriff to continue to serve and protect the people of Knox County," he said. "With the unprecedented indictment of two sheriff candidates days after the election, I received overwhelming feedback from voters who stated that the outcome of the election would have been drastically altered had these indictments sur-

faced before the election.

"This is why I contested the election on behalf of the Knox County voters who felt disenfranchised," Davis said.

"I respect the committee's decision and wish the new sheriff, Brent Gibson, and the Knox County Sheriff's Office the best going forward," he said.

Golden said the committee's decision largely came down to Gibson's margin of victory.

"The margins were there," he said. "The victory was such that overturning it just really wasn't an option."

Election results showed Gibson received 19,672 votes, or 44.14%, of the more than 44,000 ballots cast. Amburn finished second with 30.16%, followed by Davis with 14.2% and Jones with 11.5%.

The committee considered three possible actions: allow the election results to stand with Gibson as the nominee, award the nomination to another candidate or vacate the election, leaving no Republican nominee on the August ballot.

During deliberations, committee member Tim Hutchison, a former Knox County sheriff, argued against overturning the election.

"Being from Knox County, I've been through a lot of sheriff's elections since the early 1970s," Hutchison said.

"We had four candidates who were well-known," he said. "All of them worked for me at one time. This was one of the smoothest elections I ever saw."

Hutchison said the campaign remained civil and the voting process was orderly.

"Knox County picked someone to be the sheriff, and it was Brent Gibson," he said.

He also noted the indictments were handled by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and were not known publicly before the election.

"Amburn and J.J. were as floored as anybody when that came out," Hutchison said.

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From page 1A

Run 1 Mile & 2 Mile prior to the start of the parade.

"This flat and fast course is USATF-certified and perfect for all levels," Smith stated. Register at runsignup.com/farragutfreedomrun.

Because of the parade, Kingston Pike, from Lendon Welch Way to Federal Boulevard, will be closed from 8:30

a.m. to about noon.

Here are the parade detours:

■ 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).

■ South side - Concord Road to Turkey Creek Road to Virtue Road to Kingston Pike.

The portion of Kingston Pike from Concord Road/

West End Avenue to Campbell Station Road will be reopened about 15 minutes after the final parade participant has passed through the Campbell Station Road/Kingston Pike intersection. Kingston Pike will be fully reopened once all participants are safely off the road, according to Smith.

For more information about the parade, call the Farragut Parks and Recreation Department, 865-218-3376.

www.farragutpress.com



The Difference Between Information and Advice

There are plenty of articles out there that state: make sure you're working with a 'fill in the blank' advisor. They'll say the advisor should be a CFP® professional, a fiduciary, a financial advisor who is not incentivized to sell you products, or an advisor who has the support of a team of advisors. I agree with those recommendations. But one trait that isn't talked about is an advisor who will both outline your options and share their informed opinion.

I feel strongly about this after the frequent doctor appointments that come with having a baby.

Anything medical is highly personal, as is anything related to personal finance. People don't like uncertainty, so pundits who make black-and-white claims in either of these fields often rise to popularity, leaving those who outline the inevitable nuance in the shadows. I've always known the harm that comes from this side of the equation. A lack of personalization and explanation of options can lead to uninformed choices.

However, what I now find equally frustrating is a professional with deep expertise who will not state an opinion. If I have selected you as my doctor or advisor, I want to know your opinion based on your professional expertise. You know my situation and my values, so the final step I expect is your recommendation

based on all these inputs, not an "it's up to you!"

I found that the medical professionals I appreciated the most were those who struck this balance beautifully. Conversely, I left feeling frustrated whenever I spoke with a medical professional who wouldn't take the final step of making a recommendation.

We all need professionals who will take the time to outline the options and take a stance.

I am happy to be working at RK where I can strike this balance between outlining nuance and offering an opinion. I don't want anyone to leave a meeting feeling frustrated that I am the equivalent of a search browser - "here's data, it's up to you!" I want my clients to have my professional opinion. And after my experience with the medical field, I see a value in RK's advisors' ability and willingness to offer this guidance that I previously took for granted



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farragutpress is now accepting political profile submissions for the 2026 election cycle.

As the 2026 election season approaches, farragutpress is providing political candidates with an opportunity to share their message directly with readers through candidate profiles published in the newspaper.

- Each candidate may submit one profile, and the written content should be 400 words or fewer.
- One photograph may accompany the profile.
- While the newspaper will not alter the substance or message of submitted profiles, it reserves the right to make spelling and grammar corrections as needed / AP style.
- All submissions will be reviewed by the Publisher prior to print deadlines to ensure they meet established standards.
- Candidates need to provide contact information with their submission in case clarification or follow-up is necessary.

Candidates may email their political profiles to editor@farragutpress.com

The deadline for political profiles prior to the August 6th election is 12 p.m. on Friday, July 10th.

Deadline for profiles is Friday by 12 p.m. prior to the following week's publication.

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Elsa
From page 1A

“It was surreal,” Morrison said. “Putting on that orange and white uniform I love and hitting a home run the first pitch of the World Series, it’s something you could only dream about. But as big of a moment as it was for me, it was just as big for my parents. My mom was crying when she got the ball, and later that night at dinner, she went crazy when I walked in. It was cool for us as a family.”

“This whole week has been normal in a lot of ways,” Beth Morrison said earlier that week, as she and her husband Dan drove to Oklahoma City. “Then we’ll look at each other like, ‘Can you believe this is happening?’ All the time and sacrifice for the family and for her. Everybody wants this, and nobody can really appreciate all the bumps along the way and the travel and everything. It’s time like this that it’ll just get us like, ‘This was the goal.’”

It didn’t start out that way for the Morrises — not at first, at least. A young Elsa followed in her brother Ben’s footsteps, playing wiffle ball in their Carmel, Indiana, yard before moving on to 4-year-old baseball and 6U softball.

“When you’re young, everything your older sibling does, you want to do it better than them,” Morrison said. “I would always go to the field with him and my mom and dad, and I would learn a lot.”

Yet even during that family time, her talent popped.

“The cousins were all out playing wiffle ball,” recalled her dad, Dan Morrison, “and my brother said, ‘One of these things is not like the others.’ He played a little college baseball, so we started thinking she might be able to do something in high school.”

Little did they know just what would unfold.

Coaches soon recognized her talent, advising she play up a couple levels.

Morrison continued on that path through elementary and middle school, growing better and more confident by the year.

At one point, she even attended the Women’s College World Series, staying at the same hotel as the LSU team in Oklahoma City in 2017.

“To meet the team and take pictures at the World Series, it was a little girl’s dream,” Morrison said. “We had a tournament, too, but I don’t even remember how it went. That’s when I started to aspire to be like them and play in college.”

Eventually, she would — but it would require a few different steps first.

In her biggest shift yet, Morrison landed with the Indiana Mustangs’ travel squad as a pitcher.

The team had a few arms, and Morrison’s future Tennessee teammate, Maddi Rutan, provided another.

So coaches moved Morrison to catcher, spotting the arm talent that led to a career-altering change.

“Her moving to catcher,” recalled Beth Morrison, “was one of the reasons she made that team.”

Morrison stuck around, eventually joining the Indiana Bombers’ high school travel squad as a middle-schooler. But when older teammates became preoccupied with other obligations, Morrison needed another team.



Photo submitted

Before taking the field for the Tennessee Lady Volunteers, Elsa Morrison donned the navy and white for Farragut.

Enter Smith’s Texas Bombers. For Morrison and her family, that meant weekends filled with homework in airports and rushing to and from cross-country flights for school.

“When we moved to Knoxville, I actually had to tell my work I couldn’t work some Saturdays so we could travel,” Beth Morrison said with a laugh. “They were like, ‘That’s insane.’”

One trip was particularly memorable. Once, Elsa and her father drove through the dark Wyoming night after a flight had been diverted to make a game with SEC staffers in attendance.

But the chaos was worth it in the end. Switching between catcher and shortstop, Morrison shared travel ball fields with several of the same players she encountered in Oklahoma City this year.

“She played against and alongside the best in America, and it has shaped who she is and confirmed how good she was,” Smith said. “The tournaments we played in, it’s like being in a regional every weekend against the best in the country.”

That kind of preparation put Morrison ahead of her counterparts, and head coach Nick Green saw it firsthand when she arrived at Farragut in the summer of 2022.

“I had watched a little bit of her film, but when she got here and got out on the field, you could just tell there was something different about her,” Green said.

The Lady Admirals welcomed the family in their first few days, taking Dan and Beth Morrison to dinner with other Admiral parents after they arrived.

That set the tone, as Morrison enjoyed a breakout year in her first season in Farragut. As a sophomore in 2023, Morrison scored 52 runs and drove in 71 while also banging out 16 doubles. She earned District 4-AAAA Player of the Year, walking 51 times and struck out only twice while posting a .757 on-base percentage and a 1.543 slugging percentage.

She became the 2023 Gatorade Player of the Year, Farragut’s first, and was given a poster that still sits in the FHS softball locker room.

Her statistics remained high the following season, drawing visits from Tennessee softball coach Karen Weekly

and her staff.

By her senior year, Morrison was receiving looks from all over the country as she became No. 11 player in the country, per On3’s high school softball composite.

But in the locker room, Morrison remained the same steady presence her teammates had come to know.

“I had a lot of joy playing for Farragut,” she said. “Once you get to high school, especially your senior year, it’s easy to go through the motions. But I loved going to practice every day with my best friends, girls I still talk to today. I loved every moment, no matter how big or small it was.”

When those bigger sequences did arrive, Green tried to shield her from the media side as best he could — leaving interview opportunities to Morrison’s discretion.

She took a similarly rigorous approach with her school choice, wanting to follow in her father’s engineering footsteps.

Ultimately, UT’s academic options and its emphasis on women’s sports sold Morrison when she signed with the Lady Vols in November of 2024.

She wrapped up her senior year at FHS with another switch, moving back to shortstop in the spring since the Lady Admirals had graduated several middle infielders the year prior.

But once Morrison started at Tennessee, she moved behind the plate again — where she fit in perfectly throughout her freshman season.

She batted .260 for the year, tallying 44 hits with seven homers and 37 RBI. Behind the plate, she made a number of sweeping tags, including one in Oklahoma City off a laser throw from Sophia Knight.

In those moments, Morrison has looked every bit the SEC talent that she has become.

But while it is thrilling to watch, no one close to her is surprised.

Not after the commitment she and her family have put in and the time they have dedicated to nurture this dream.

“She could have taken an easier route,” Smith summarized. “She was that gifted, but that’s not the path she wanted to walk. That’s not how she and her family are built. To see the fruits of that all come together, knowing the work they’ve all put in, it’s really cool.”

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

I am one of those that occasionally uses Boring Road to cut between Kingston Pike and Smith Road. It is not necessarily faster, just more pastoral and relaxing. I am concerned with the proposed permanent closure of Boring Road for several reasons.

One, if Boring is closed at KP, then presumably traffic will exit at Smith Road only. Are any Smith Road improvements being proposed? While KP is a 4 lane divided state highway, Smith is a two lane divided road feeding residential areas. This does not sound prudent especially if school-generated traffic immediately turns south and heads to KP anyway after turning off Boring at Smith.

Two, in the TOF CLUP are eight key strategies. Strategy #4 is Increase Connectivity. states in part, "It also improves the efficiency of school buses and emergency services and provides access when one entry may be blocked." So, not only does the approved CLUP show BORING connecting to KP, but the TOF proposal directly contradicts one of the eight strategies. Ironically, TOF is likely using this same strategy to justify encouraging traffic down Jamestowne from Campbell Station to KP.

I hope the proposal to permanently close Boring Road at KP will be reconsidered.

Adam Atherton,
Farragut

Dear Editor,

Why are we voting for Louise Povlin for Mayor?

Many residents, of which I was one, had lost faith in the Town of Farragut due to the actions of a previous administration who ignored our concerns, belittled our feelings, stomped all over us, and then sat back and forgot about us.

I am so grateful for the day Vice Mayor Louise Povlin showed up on my doorstep with much needed information and a sincere offer of assistance. That information made a huge difference.

As Vice Mayor, Louise Povlin encouraged us to reach out to her, the mayor and the other members of the Board and Mayor (Ron Williams) and Aldermen. I am glad that I and others listened to her.

Louise Povlin truly loves our community, which is evident by all the hard work she did as a North Ward Alderman and Vice Mayor, refusing to give up especially when she was being disparaged by those who felt they had the right to condemn her, both on a professional and personal basis, just because they did not agree with her.

And because Louise truly cares about Farragut, our community, and people who live here, she is running for Mayor.

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Doing the work matters!
Caring about and Standing Up for our ENTIRE community matters!

Bry and I are proud to support and VOTE FOR Louise Povlin for MAYOR!

Bry and Jeanne
Brykalski,
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KCSO policereports

■ Theft from building: On June 3, 2026, a Farragut woman reported several pieces of jewelry and two rolls of pennies missing from her Laurel Valley Road home. She said she first noticed the items missing in January but believed they had been misplaced until deciding to report them stolen. The woman told deputies she suspects someone employed as a home health aide through a Veterans Association provider may have taken the items because different caregivers regularly visited the home. The reported loss was valued at about \$14,074.

■ Theft from building: June 6, 2026, a Farragut woman reported an electric bicycle was stolen from a detached garage at a home on Harrow Road. She told deputies the garage's side door has a lock that does not work properly and believes the suspect entered through that door. No surveillance cameras were on the property. The bi-

cycle was valued at \$1,074.

■ Stolen iPhone: June 7, 2026, a woman reported her iPhone was stolen from CVS at 11946 Kingston Pike. She said she last saw the phone in an aisle of the store and discovered it missing minutes later. The woman said her Apple Watch disconnected from the phone shortly afterward and the device's last known location appeared to be at Walmart on Clinton Highway. Surveillance video may be available. The phone was valued at \$1,500.

■ Engagement ring taken at restaurant: On June 8, 2026, a woman reported her engagement ring was stolen while she was at a restaurant on the Campbell Lakes Drive block. She told deputies the ring had been inside her purse and that the ring guard was later found at the restaurant, but the engagement ring was missing. The ring was valued at \$7,900.

The final opportunity to submit candidate endorsements in Letters to the Editor or PressTalks for publication before the August 6 election is **10 a.m. Monday, July 13** for inclusion in the July 15 edition of farragutpress. No candidate endorsements will be published after the July 15 edition.

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Deadline for Letters to the Editor and Presstalks is Monday at 10 a.m. for that Wednesday's edition.

Presstalk rules: Keep calls to a 90-second maximum · e-mails to 250 words maximum · Libelous & malicious comments will not be published; profanity will be edited out · Comments will remain anonymous but must come from verifiable phone/email · Names of individuals (including public figures) will not be published

Letter to the Editor rules: Must not exceed 400 words · Include name, address & telephone number to be verified · All Letters to the Editor from any citizen must have a minimum four-week period between publication · Must not have inaccurate information, such as wrong statistics, from which to form an opinion · We reserve the right to reject publication based on factors including threats, name-calling and foul language

Full rules can be viewed at farragutpress.com under Opinion and Presstalk.

Obituary Information and Deadlines: Send obituary & photo, if applicable, to editor@farragutpress.com. The cost is \$25 for the first 200 words and 25 cents for each additional word thereafter. The cost to submit a photo is \$10. We only use thumbnail "head and upper chest" portrait photos. The submission deadline for obituaries is 10 a.m. on Monday for that Wednesday edition. Payment must be received by 10 a.m. on Tuesday for that Wednesday edition.

Call 865-675-6397 or email editor@farragutpress.com with questions.

Find our 2026 policy for submission of political profiles at farragutpress.com.



Cheers
From page 1A

relax and decompress. That's why we went on vacation."
 "We were planning on being gone a couple of days to just regroup and get ready for the busy weekend," Amy Batson added. "That is not what happened."
 Shortly after the Batsons were informed, Rural Metro firefighters arrived to find the two-story building consumed by flames. No one was in the building at the time, so there were no injuries. Moreover, the fire did not reach boat slips or fuel pumps, which could have made matters even worse.
 But the building itself was deemed a total loss, according to multiple reports.
 "The whole community saw the smoke, and everybody rushed down there," Nick Batson said. "There was nothing they could do to put it out."
 The verdict brought an end to a place that had opened each year from April through November, welcoming regulars and new patrons with live music and a sense of community.

Boaters off the lake found their way there each summer, then college football fandom took hold in the fall.
 "We were changing up our menu, ramping up for a good season," added Cheers kitchen manager Jordan Baugh, who had worked at the restaurant since its opening in 2019. "Then all this happened."
 "The previous owners were absolutely devastated, too," said Amy Batson, referring to Willy's owners Chris and Tracy Malone. "We both had an emotional connection to the place. It's just devastating for all involved."
 As firefighters moved around to assess the damage that morning, Baugh and colleague Alissa Winkler — a longtime server and bartender — looked on from the parking lot.

Baugh said the restaurant had been open until around 9 p.m. the previous night, as regulars dined on favorites like Baja tacos and peel-n-eat shrimp.
 The next day, he threw on some clothes and rushed back to a restaurant that had become his second home.
 "We've had a few local businesses reach out about opportunities to place some of our staff if they need it," Baugh said. "Nick and Amy have been like second parents to me since I've been here. I've had health problems, a lot of things happen that they have helped me through. Everyone is generally in a good mood when they're here. It's just a happy place for everyone. We've all meshed in this place and grown it into a family. It's definitely heartbreaking to see this place the way it is right now."
 "They haven't just been employees; they've been family, and they would come back every year because they love it," Nick Batson added. "It's just like extended family, and even with the regulars, Cheers really did have a following of, 'Everybody knows your name.' Everyone came in to see each other, and it was just a nice place to be."

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Cain
From page 1A

Knox County Schools nor any civil litigation that was ever brought against him," Herrera said. "In reality, any insinuation of wrongdoing is simply wrong."
 "While his opponents choose to focus on misleading voters, Mr. Cain will continue to focus on his campaign promises of real leadership, fiscal responsibility and responsible growth," Herrera said. "The only opinion that matters is that of the voters of Farragut, and Mr. Cain is confident they will see through this."
 Cain said that after learning people were requesting his employment records, a friend helped him obtain a copy of his personnel file. Although he had submitted statements explaining his actions at the time of the reprimands, Cain said those statements were not included in the file.

According to news reports, Cain, a candidate for Farragut mayor in the Aug. 6 General Election, was released from his teaching contract in 2021 after receiving five reprimands concerning his conduct with teachers and students.
 Cain recalled that the first reprimand occurred while he was on light duty working in the administration building.
 "I went to a cubicle to ask a woman I was working for if there was more work for me to do," he said. "I guess I surprised her, and then she said I had touched her elbow, I think is what it said in the file, and that I had gotten in her space while working in a cubicle."
 Despite the reprimands, a June 22, 2021, personnel action document from Cain's employment file listed the reason for his separation as "non-renewal" of his contract.

In addition, a separation notice submitted by Knox County Schools to the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development listed the reason for separation as "lack of work."
 A final report regarding a teacher or administrator with a flagged license stated that the final local education agency employment action was "a written reprimand, non-renewed contract for 2021-22." The report also stated that the Tennessee Department of Children's Services and law enforcement were not involved.

Cain began working at Farragut High School in 2007 as a school resource officer before transitioning to teach criminal justice and forensic science at Gibbs High School in 2012. When he left Knox County Schools in 2021, his annual salary was \$51,530.
 A Farragut resident for 25 years, Cain is seeking the mayor's office currently held by term-limited Mayor Ron Williams. He faces Louise Povlin,

a former vice mayor and current Farragut Municipal Planning Commissioner, in the Aug. 6 election. Cain was elected to represent North Ward 1 in 2024.
 Cain is the managing partner with an executive services company specializing in security and concierge transportation and also volunteers as a video coordinator/drone operator for Farragut High School football.



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Farragut board fills advisory committee seats

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

The Town of Farragut will welcome a mix of new and returning volunteers to its advisory committees following appointments approved by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

The Board voted unanimously during its Thursday, June 11, meeting to fill committee vacancies as several members' terms expired.

The appointments were dis-

cussed during a workshop before the regular meeting. According to Town administrator David Smoak, those selected will begin serving Wednesday, July 1, with terms ending June 30, 2027.

The appointments include:
■ Arts and Beautification: Cynthia Gallentine, Dot LaMarche, Cynthia Smith, William Craddick, Jamie Roark, Susan Brooks and Lynda McConnell.

■ Board of Zoning Appeals: Michael Bellamy.

■ Museum Advisory Board: Beverly Hammond, Bill Battle, Joyce Moran, Christopher Carnes, Roger Kittleson and Melody Wagstaff.

■ Farragut Tourism/Visitor Committee: Aaron Dicking, attraction representative; Candace Viox, dining representative; and at-large members Ron Pinchok and Reed Honken.

■ Parks and Athletics Council: Jerry Pullen, Deborah Pinchok, Bill McAdams,

Benson Scott, Antonia Zimmer and Reed Honken.

■ Stormwater Advisory Board: Jim Bolen and Julie Childers. The landscape representative position remains vacant.

■ Visual Resources Review Board: Brittany Moore, Don Mann and Jordan McGrew.

■ Tree Board: Gerald Thornton, at-large representative; Farragut Planning Commission representative Louise Povlin; utility representative

Adam Duncan; Town staff representative Mark Shipley; Town engineering representative Cliff Mann; Town Parks and Recreation representative Ron Oestreich; and Town Public Works representative William Simpkins.

■ Education Relations Committee: Nicole Nester, Farragut Middle School representative; Meredith Reda, St. John Neumann Catholic School representative; and Board representative Alderman Drew Burnette.

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Biddle Farms townhomes draw early buyers



Rendering submitted

An architect's rendering for Biddle Farm townhomes shows what the final product is expected to look like when completed.

Tammy Cheek
 tcheek@farragutpress.com

Biddle Farms Townhomes are under construction with several units already sold in Farragut's Town Center, according to Brian Mohnney, president of Saddlebrook Properties.

The first closing of a townhome is expected in October.

The 47-townhome community, steps away from the new Biddle Farms at Farragut Town Center, offers two designer floor plans starting at 2,200 square feet, according to Saddlebrook's website.

"As a resident of Biddle Farms Townhomes, you will enjoy stylish interiors with

full brick exteriors, upscale finishes and the convenience of rear-entry, two-car garages," the website stated. "Two spacious designer floor plans provide ample room to relax, entertain and personalize your space."

The Porter floor plan, at 2,488 square feet, includes three to four bedrooms and 3.5 baths, and the Hartford plan has three to five bedrooms and 2.5 to 3.5 baths. There are 9-foot ceilings on every level, large windows with light-filled rooms, walk-in closets, extensive hardwood flooring and covered porches per plan, according to the website.

The townhomes also feature

multiple-level front porches, granite or select quartz kitchen countertops, maple flat panel, 36-inch wall cabinets and other high-end finishes, the website added.

Also, there are some units being built to accommodate elevators, a pavilion grill area, underground utilities and a secure, centralized mail center with keyed boxes.

Saddlebrook Properties has more than 35 years of homebuilding experience with a "team approach designed to deliver a unique home," its website stated.

For more information on purchasing a Biddle Farms townhome, call Kevin Wade, 865-202-2640.



Tammy Cheek

Biddle Farm townhomes still are under construction but are expected to be completed this fall with the first closing expected in October.

Food City donation



Photo submitted

Food City recently continued its partnership with University of Tennessee Medical Center with a donation totaling \$50,000 to help address the nursing shortage. On hand for the presentation were, from left, nursing students Mallory, Layni and Reagan; Betsi James, Food City Special Events manager; Laura Harper, director of Nursing Education for UT Medical Center; and Misty Deskins, Food City senior director of marketing.

Networking



Tammy Cheek

Skee Orr, financial advisor/owner of Kinetic Wealth, and his University of Tennessee shadow Michael Cool chat with Dr. Joel Ash, a chiropractor/owner of Ash Chiropractic & Wellness during a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce networking at Fifth Third Bank, 10916 Parkside Drive, Thursday, June 11.

business briefs

• Weichert, Realtors - Advantage Plus real estate brokerage has announced the addition of Andrew Sullivan to its team of talented agents. Sullivan provides dedicated service to clients in Knoxville and surrounding areas.

Sullivan is a seasoned professional with many years of experience across a variety of industries, including business management, entrepreneurship and small business ownership. Throughout his career,

See BRIEFS on Page 8A

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Briefs

From page 7A

he has demonstrated a strong ability to identify opportunities, develop innovative solutions and successfully manage operations in both independent ventures and team environments.

• University of Tennessee Medical Center recently announced it has become a Verified Comprehensive Inpatient Vascular Center by the Vascular Verification Program, a quality program developed by the American College of Surgeons with the Society for Vascular Surgery.

• UT Medical Center recently achieved Magnet recognition

for the fourth consecutive time from the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Recognition Program, reinforcing its position among the nation's top hospitals for nursing excellence.

Magnet recognition is the highest national honor for professional nursing practice and is awarded to organizations demonstrating exceptional patient care, nursing leadership and innovation. Fewer than 10.5 percent of hospitals nationwide have earned Magnet recognition, and of these approximately 1.8 percent currently hold four consecutive designations.

• Priority Ambulance recently announced the appointment

of Reginald James as regional president. With more than four decades of EMS leadership spanning frontline clinical care through executive operations, James will focus on leading Priority's continued growth and standardization of behavioral health trans-

port, expanding access to safe, timely and appropriate care for patients and communities nationwide.

James brings more than 40 years of emergency medical services experience, having served as an EMT, cardiac technician, paramedic, field

training officer, supervisor, manager, director and executive. Most recently, he served as a senior executive with one of the country's most innovative EMS providers with a focus on mobile integrated healthcare and community paramedicine.



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Jake Nichols

Farragut's Aidan Foshie (20) goes in for a basket against Bearden on Feb. 6 at FHS. Starting next season, the Admirals, Bulldogs and every other team across the state will see a 35-second shot clock for certain tournaments, leading up to a shot clock for every game each season beginning in the 2029-30 school year.

Shot clock, RPI coming to HS hoops

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

Last week, the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) marked a new era in high school basketball with a couple of notable decisions: approving a phased implementation of a 35-second shot clock and a move toward new seeding based on the Rating Percentage Index (RPI) for the Division I state tournament.

The shot clock usage will involve a multi-year rollout, as it will first be permitted for use in Hall of Champions games, holiday tournaments and summer competitions. Full implementation for the regular season and postseason is slated for the 2029-30 school year.

The move has drawn mixed reactions from coaches across the state, including local ones across the Farragut and west Knoxville area.

"I'm kind of indifferent on it," Farragut boys coach J.P. Burris said. "I think there's some positives, where you can't just hold the ball, but

I would be the first to admit we used the fact that there wasn't a shot clock to keep us competitive in that Bearden region championship. We didn't play stall ball, but we were adamant about running our offense to limit the possessions for a really great Bearden team."

"I think it's a good thing ultimately, but the full implementation has its challenges," Farragut girls basketball coach Jason Mayfield said.

He and Burris noted it won't change much for either team's offense considering their current pacing, and Mayfield added the Lady Ads have played in out-of-state tournaments with shot clocks. So there are a few current players and coaches who would be accustomed to it if any adjustments are needed on defense especially.

"I've had some teams in the postseason that have basically held the ball, and I've even done it one time when we were in severe foul trouble,"

See RPI on Page 2B

HVA eyes next step

Ken Lay

Correspondent

The 2026 high school football season is still more than two months away, but Hardin Valley Academy is already in preparations for the upcoming campaign.

Things kicked into high gear midway through last week on a sultry Wednesday morning, June 10, in North Knoxville as the Hawks tangled with host Knox Central and Austin-East at Dan Y. Boring Stadium in Fountain City in 7-on-7 competition, which features quarterbacks, running backs, tight ends, wide receivers, linebackers, corner-

backs and safeties.

Hardin Valley had its first non-losing season since 2018 last year on the gridiron, making offseason preparations important as the Hawks attempt to build upon last season's success.

HVA went 5-5 last season and won a pair of Region 2-6A games in 2025 and closed out the season with a 42-7 victory over Ooltewah.

The Hawks finished 2025 on a high note and will look to make their first postseason appearance since their last winning season in 2018 when they went 6-5. Hardin Valley opens the 2026

See HVA on Page 2B

Ads' passing pops in 7-on-7

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

Elijah Sadler sprinted toward Brenton Haag, and the two Admirals met in a high-flying chest bump.

It marked a sizzling start to summer for the Farragut football team, as FHS traveled to William Blount and hosted Lakeway Christian Academy in 7-on-7 action Wednesday and Thursday, June 10-11.

"It was a good day for those two," head coach Geoff Courtney said. "Elijah has made a couple big plays for us, making some interceptions for us then some on offense, too. I thought we had a good day at William Blount then took a step in the right direction with Lakeway."

Last week's action preceded this week's routine of weights, conditioning and practice.

With the TSSAA-mandated Dead Period ahead, Courtney noted he wanted his players to have a certain approach once they stepped onto the field against other teams.

The skeleton format provides a different look than game situations since only skill players are involved.

There are no running plays — only short, middle and long throws from a quarterback to his receivers.

Carter Collier and Max Hilton reaped the benefit of that Wednesday, hauling in touchdown catches during the Admirals' trip to Blount County.

Sharp sliced a couple dimes to his teammates the next morning, too, zipping the ball into tight windows before airing it out later in the day.

His pocket presence followed the approach Courtney saw from his team through-



Jake Nichols

Farragut's Elijah Sadler (left) and Brenton Haag celebrate following Sadler's touchdown reception against Lakeway Christian Academy during a 7-on-7 matchup on Thursday, June 11, at Eddie Courtney Stadium.

out the afternoon.

"Sense of urgency from a competitive standpoint, and I thought our guys were having fun competing," he said. "You're working on your passing game, so it gives you a chance to work your timing, rhythm and running on offense. Then on defense, coverage checks and body po-

sitioning."

That side of the ball saw an emphatic finish Thursday, as Shawn Raines made a red-zone interception to cap the morning.

As noted, linemen did not participate, but Courtney did say guys in the trenches seem to have a good schematic understanding lately.

"They have mainly been working stance and starts, strikes, pass rush pursuit and block recognition," he said. "You teach and learn so they can play fast and physical when they get the pads on."

Overall, Courtney left the two-day period feel-

See POP on Page 2B



Jake Nichols

Harper Lockhart slides into a base during drills at Farragut softball camp Wednesday, June 3, at Bellarmy Field on the campus of Farragut High School.

Kids slide into Lady Admiral softball camp

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

Harper Lockhart slid into a base, sending dust flying at Bellarmy Field.

She was one of several children in attendance at Farragut's annual summer softball camp, where the Lady Admiral players and coaches instructed players ages 7 to 14 Monday through Thursday, June 1-4.

The camp has been running for quite some time, but Lady Ads coach Nick Green has been a part of it in some capacity since 2007.

"It was more of a full day camp then, and we'd

break for lunch before the older ones would come back for more advanced topics," Green said. "I reformatted the camp, changing some things and keeping others the same."

"We try to keep them pretty active, teaching skills we think they'll be able to do," he added. "Most are basic skills because if you can do those right and really well, you'll be pretty darn good. But we do introduce advanced topics to some of them and try to get them in a position where they can play."

See KIDS on Page 2B

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Kids

From page 1B

The camp welcomed children from West Valley Middle, Concord Christian and Farragut Middle School, among other schools, all in the name of growing the sport and making kids better.

And while the younger players certainly learn plenty of skills, current Farragut players take just as much from each camp — if not more.

“It’s fun,” Green said. “I try to tell them that no matter how good or bad you think you are or how your day was, when these kids come out to watch you, they want to be you. They want to be you then they get older, so it’s a big deal.”

“I know a lot of them remember some details from their camp, maybe who their leader was or some of the events we did that were fun,” he added. “And a lot of them, the players, end up making friends with the kids. In the past, they

end up babysitting them and things like that. So it’s nice.

“And now I’ve seen a lot of them when they were 7 years old to coming through high school, so I might know them for more than half their lives by the time they graduate.”

The camp ran from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each weekday, as the campers did what Green called, “a little bit of everything.”

Day one included plenty on throwing and catching “because, in my opinion, those are the two most important skills you can learn,” Green said. “Then we have some kind of defensive section with a new skill, and this year, that was ground ball work for different age groups.”

From there, the players went into specific position work, base running and batting practice with a snack sandwiched in-between.

Day two featured a fly ball focus on defense with more base running and an emphasis on bunting and slapping dur-

ing batting practice.

The third day began with a relay race, then players went into throwing, sliding, position groups and more base running specifics, such as how to come out of the box on a fly ball or grounder.

They wrapped with batting practice, focusing on contact points, then started the final day of action with competitions.

Those included a home run derby for each age group, a long toss competition and base running by time, among others.

A defensive station with targets and a point system for ground balls and throws followed, then it was on to an egg toss before Green broke out the tarp for a slip ‘n slide.

“All of a sudden, they become amazing sliders,” he joked. “And we have to cut it off at some point because they’ll do that all day, but we get out a huge tarp and just let them go at it and have fun.”

Pop

From page 1B

ing good about where things are headed.

“It’s really just phase two jumping off what we did in spring practice,” he added. “Now we’ve got some freshmen that are with us so we went

HVA

From page 1B

campaign on Friday, Aug. 21, at Karns in a geographical rivalry game.

The Hawks defeated the Beavers in last season, notching a 45-25 victory at home and followed that with a 34-0 win over Morristown East. Hardin Valley’s league wins came over Bearden and Cleveland.

Hawks’ coach Tyler Wynn said that his team’s offseason program is going well.

“We’ve spent much of the month of June getting faster and stronger,” Wynn said. “The

back through some installation processes, then we’ll repeat that again going into fall camp. It’s good working with teams that will give us a good look like Lakeway and William Blount, so it was competitive and let our guys learn too. We’re doing a good job taking steps in the right direction.”

biggest thing that we try to take away from 7-on-7 is that we want to see how well we compete and how well we communicate.

“The summer is going well so far and we just came back from an FCA camp and things have been going well in June.”

The 7-on-7 competition is non-contact. It, however, allows players to compete and pick up crucial repetitions on both offense and defense.

“The biggest thing you’re looking for is how hard you work and how well you compete and how well you communicate,” Wynn said.

RPI

From page 1B

Mayfield said. “It will stop that strategy for the most part, but it won’t change the fact that some teams will still want to play fast and some will want to work clock and slow things down.”

Burris, meanwhile, said the shot clock should only help his defense, since the Ads already stymied one team in a minute-long possession during a recent summer scrimmage.

“So you stop a team for 35 seconds, and it’s a turnover,” he said.

The biggest argument against the shot-clock implementation has been the expense for schools and someone experienced to run it correctly.

“It shouldn’t be complicated running it, but I could see some scenarios where it gives officials one more thing to have to juggle, especially at the end of games,” Mayfield said. “We put a lot on those guys already. The experienced ones won’t have a problem but it could be an adjustment

with some others.”

Hardin Valley boys coach Andy Arendt agreed on the positive nature of the move, as did Bearden boys coach Jeremy Parrott.

“Basketball is meant to be played with pace and space, and it will help athletes prep for college and make the game better,” Arendt said. “I know there are concerns about staffing and money, but I think all that will get figured out. We played with it at a tournament in California, and with our pace, I don’t think it’ll affect us too much. Now on defense, we could see a lot of teams press full-court.”

Parrott noted his team likes the shot clock because of its effect on the pacing, too, adding that it will force “both players and coaches to be better at situational basketball.”

“I never minded guys utilizing the clock for ball control late in games based on time and score,” he said. “It’s the teams that start holding the ball early in games to deliberately shorten them that wasn’t good. That is one big thing that

will be right about its implementation. Programs and schools will adapt. It will have some hiccups at first and then level out I believe.”

Bearden girls coach Justin Underwood called the shot clock an “adjustment for everyone,” adding that most offenses already play within 35 seconds but that it will change late-game situations.

He called the financial aspect “a bigger unknown” because of the cost of another official or game worker but called the overall implementation “progress as far as the game goes.”

Notably, both Bearden programs are happy about the RPI implementation. The statistical formula ranks teams based on their win-loss record and strength of schedule, so it will bring a new format for the Division I state tourney starting in the 2027-28 season. Under this model, the Bulldogs would likely have faced Bartlett in the state championship rather than the semifinals last year.

“Don’t mind seeing the seeding process for the final eight

come to fruition,” Parrott said. “My only concern is what system they use to do it. It has to come from a third party, like MaxPreps or a fair metrics system. Media cannot be allowed to rank teams for this purpose. We’ve seen too much local bias with that in the past.”

Parrott went on to reference one media outlet in Knoxville that had his team ranked in a

final poll below two teams the Dawgs had beaten that season, reinforcing the importance of where these RPI metrics and rankings are sourced once the system is in place.

“Yes, if rankings were a thing, we would have likely played Bartlett in the state title game,” he said. “Would have been cool for our kids.”

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FHS students' legacy project honors custodians



Photo submitted

Farragut High School National Honor Society members Jack Egner, left, and Sreevatha Malluri removed the old wood shelving and units from the custodian's closets.

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut High School National Honor Society seniors left a legacy a future class can continue.

Before the school year ended, they cleaned and updated the school's custodian closets and provided much needed chairs and a lunch table as part of their Custodian Appreciation Project.

"Every year, the National Honor Society board and students create what we call a legacy project, something they can leave to the school in their name," said Allison Maldonado, faculty advisor for the society. "Last year, we built picnic

tables for students to use outside."

This year, "we had one Sunday we spent five hours demolishing and cleaning out the closets," she said.

"But we didn't get the shelving units in time, so we couldn't take out the old shelving units on that day," she said. "So, we had another day where I divided people up into teams. We had four teams.

"While one team was demolishing, taking down all the wooden shelving units, other teams were putting together the new shelving units," Maldonado said. "Everyone was sweating. It was really hard work."

The school has four custo-

dian closets in the main building and a custodian workroom. The CTE building has its own closet and the gymnasium and auditorium building have their own closets as well.

"The first day we had 30, and the second day we had 45 kids there," Maldonado said. "It was just everybody pitching in. It was just a very cool project."

Besides the closet cleanups, students continued to the workroom, replaced the chairs for the custodians.

Students ended their work in May, but there is still work to be done, she said.

"A portion of next year will also be the custodian project work."

See CUSTODIANS on Page 7B

Score World Cup deals at local restaurants, franchises

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

The 2026 FIFA World Cup kicked off with opening ceremonies across the globe on Thursday, June 11.

The tournament runs through Sunday, July 19, and there are plenty of restaurants and bars getting in on the action.

At Reef Coffee in Farragut, watch parties are being hosted with live music on the patio throughout the tournament.

At the Casual Pint on Northshore, fans can take advantage of the casual cup card, where one stamp is earned with a qualifying purchase during any live tournament match.

Earn five stamps, and you get free pretzel sticks and beer cheese. Ten stamps means a free beer, 15 means \$10 off your order and 20 unlocks a grand prize reward.

There also are deals to be had at the Double Dogs locations in Hardin Valley and on Kingston Pike in Cedar Bluff.

They will be offering \$5 22-ounce Michelob Ultras all day, along with a World Cup punch for \$7.75, a Hat Trick Meal for \$9.75 and a Knockout Margarita for \$10.50.

Note: All drink prices are before tax.

Don't let the word "meal" fool you, either, as that is actually a drink made with Crown Royal apple beer, fresh lemon juice and fresh ginger beer in mule mug.

At Just 1 More Bar & Grille in Cedar Bluff, they will be offering a themed food special for matches with meals geared

toward one of the countries that's playing.

Local restaurants are not the only ones taking part in the soccer fever, as several chains have gotten in on the action, too.

At Buffalo Wild Wings, which features one location in Turkey Creek at 11431 Parkside Drive, there is an Around the World sampler for \$19.99.

With that, customers can choose four options out of these choices: boneless wings, bone-in wings (\$1.50 extra), cheeseburger sliders, cauliflower wings, chicken tenders, mozzarella sticks, cheese curds, fried pickles, onion rings and pretzel knots.

There also is a chips-and-dip trio for \$12.49, a tater trio for \$11.49 and six new Heinz dipping sauces, two new cocktails and Michelob Ultra beer towers.

The sauces feature flavors from around the world and are available for a limited time. The lineup includes: Peri Peri (South Africa): a fiery pepper blend with bold heat and rich garlic flavor; Yuzu Wasabi (Asia): a citrus base with a lively pop of wasabi heat; Maple Sweet Chili (Canada): warm, sweet maple with a chili kick; Smoky Elote (Mexico): chipotle, lime and roasted corn in a creamy sauce; Sweet Curry (Europe): notes of molasses, mustard and aromatic curry; and Creamy Chimichurri (South America).

Cocktails include the Red Card Punch — which features coconut rum, strawberry,

See WORLD CUP on Page 6B



Jake Nichols

A group of 6-year-olds takes off on bikes to begin their portion of the Try-Athlon on Saturday, June 13, at McFee Park.

Kids bike, run, slide in second Try-Athlon

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

On Saturday, June 13, children and parents gathered at McFee Park in Farragut for the second annual Kids' Try-Athlon, put on by the Town of Farragut's Parks and Recreation Department.

The event was non-competitive with every child taking home a T-shirt and medal. During the event, local kids experienced a few aspects of a triathlon: running, biking and a water feature — in this case, a water slide — to clamber over and slide down to reach the finish line.

Before that, each child biked a certain distance — a half-mile for children ages 4 through 6 and a full mile for children ages 7 through 10.

Then the first age group (4-6) ran or walked one quarter-mile, and the 7- to 10-year-olds ran or walked a half-mile.

"We really enjoyed it last year, and it seemed like a great way to get kids to try the sport," said Rachel Malone, Farragut Parks and Rec's recreation and event manager. "Even though it's not a true triathlon, it gives kids the chance to try the different disciplines. And everyone had

See TRY-ATHLON on Page 7B

Notice of Informational Public Meeting

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) will host three public informational meetings on June 29, June 30 and July 1, 2026, to gather public input on the proposed I-40/I-75 West Knoxville Corridor Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study. The PEL Study will evaluate solutions for congestion along the Interstate 40 and Interstate 75 (I-40/I-75) corridors within the study area, including portions of Anderson, Knox and Loudon Counties. A PEL Study is a collaborative approach that integrates transportation planning with environmental review. By connecting these phases, duplication of effort is reduced, leading to more efficient decision-making, improved public involvement and agency outreach, and better overall outcomes. At the conclusion of the I-40/I-75 West Knoxville Corridor PEL Study, projects will be identified and prioritized for subsequent development phases. The I-40/I-75 West Knoxville Corridor PEL Study considers improvements to approximately 17 miles of the I-40/I-75 corridor west of Knoxville, from the I-40/I-75 Interchange in Loudon County to the I-640 Interchange just west of downtown Knoxville. As part of this process, TDOT is also evaluating a possible new corridor within the study area. TDOT intends to adopt planning products and recommendations made as part of the PEL Study into future National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies, per Title 23 of the U.S. Code (U.S.C.), Part 168. The meetings will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time at the following locations:

Monday, June 29	Tuesday, June 30	Wednesday, July 1
Pellissippi State Community College J.L. Goins Administration Building Student Center 10915 Hardin Valley Road Knoxville, TN 37932	City of Knoxville Public Works Service Center-Community Room 3131 Morris Avenue Knoxville, TN 37909	Farragut Community Center Assembly Hall 239 Jamestowne Boulevard Farragut, TN 37934

These meetings will be held to offer the public an opportunity to review the I-40/I-75 West Knoxville Corridor PEL Study planning products developed to date and provide comments. The same information will be presented at each meeting. Information shared at these meetings will be published and made available online as part of a virtual public meeting on the study website: <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/projects-region-1/west-knoxville-corridor.html>. The virtual public meeting will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from June 29 through July 22, 2026, and will offer the same information and opportunities to participate and provide feedback as the in-person public meetings. The in-person meetings will follow an open-house format with no formal presentations. The public is welcome to visit anytime during the scheduled hours to view exhibits, ask questions, and offer comments. TDOT representatives will be available to provide information on various aspects of the PEL Study. Anyone with questions regarding the meeting should contact: Jason Sholtz, P.E., Region 1 Alternative Delivery Manager, (865) 594-3639, Jason.Sholtz@tn.gov. Persons who require disability-related accommodations (e.g., a sign language interpreter or accessible materials) to participate in this meeting should contact Ms. Shanna Chevalier, ADA Coordinator, at (615) 741-0465 or via TTY 7-1-1 no less than ten (10) days prior to the meeting, or by email at TDOT_ADACompliance@tn.gov. Comment forms will be available to make written statements at the public meetings. Written statements and other exhibits to be included in the public meeting documentation may be submitted by July 22, 2026, which is twenty-one (21) days after the last public meeting listed above, to the following address: TDOT West Knoxville Corridor Planning and Environmental Linkages Study Comments, Tennessee Department of Transportation, 312 Rosa L Parks Ave., 24th Floor, Nashville, TN 37243. TDOT is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, sex, religion, color, disability, or national origin.

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Once the paint had dried, it was time for the main event. Residents proudly showcased their finished cars before gathering around the track for the races. Excitement filled the room as everyone eagerly waited to see which car would prove to be the fastest.

One by one, the cars raced down the derby track while residents, staff, and spectators cheered from the sidelines. Some cars zoomed to the finish line, while others took a slower path, creating plenty of laughter and friendly competition. Residents enjoyed comparing race results, celebrating victories, and encouraging one another throughout the event.

The NHC Car Derby was more than just a race—it was an opportunity for residents to socialize, enjoy hands-on creativity, and participate in a fun and engaging competition. Whether their car finished first or simply made it down the track, every participant had something to be proud of. The afternoon was filled with smiles, laughter, and plenty of racing excitement, making it a memorable event for all who attended.

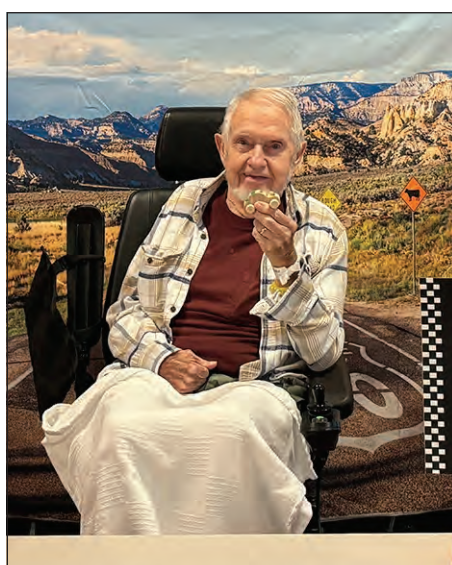
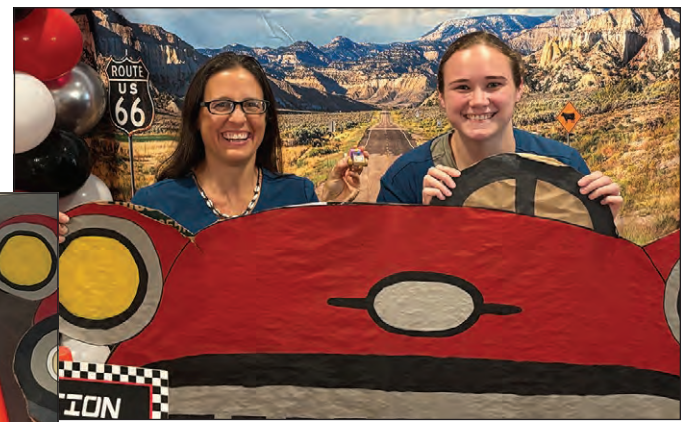


Residents and patients proudly put the finishing touches on their cars, showing off their creativity and hard work just before race time began.



Off to the races we go! Let the fun begin and may the best and fastest car win, with plenty of smiles, cheers, and friendly competition along the way!

Photos submitted



Residents displayed great sportsmanship by cheering each other on throughout the races, and after a fun-filled competition, the fastest car earned its driver the coveted NHC Car Derby Balloon Trophy!

After the races, residents and patients proudly posed with their derby cars to showcase their creativity and hard work.

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Photos submitted

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Press Planner

Salsarita's is holding a 'Give \$15, Get \$15' campaign from now through Friday, July 31, benefitting Dolly Parton Children's Hospital. Every \$15 donation will receive a free Salsarita's gift card for \$15 in return. All donations during the Adopt-A-Family campaign will help fill the pantries and clothing closets for patient families at the hospital.

The American Red Cross has an urgent need for donors and is counting on people to act now and book a time to give blood or platelets. Donors of all blood types and those giving platelets

are needed to keep a strong supply of lifesaving blood products on hospital shelves into the summer. To schedule a blood or platelet donation appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App. As a thank-you for those who step up to give, all who come to give from now through Sunday, June 28, will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of their choice, plus be automatically entered for a chance to win one of two \$7,500 gift cards. See RedCrossBlood.org/June for details.

World Cup

From page 3B

pineapple juice and lime — and the Yellow Card Margarita with Casamigos Reposado, Cointreau, mango, vanilla, lime sour, fresh lime and a Grand Marnier float.

On the dates of the U.S. stage games, Subway is offering its Sub Club members a 40 percent discount on any foot-long if the United States wins.

McDonald's is offering a FIFA World Cup meal, which comes with one of nine collectible cups featuring stars, such as U.S. men's national team player Christian Pulisic, soccer legend David Beckham

and others. Customers can choose between a Big Mac or a 10-piece chicken McNugget meal or breakfast customers can decide between a Sausage McMuffin with egg and hash browns or a sausage biscuit with hash browns.

The restaurant also is offering a FIFA World Cup 26 Happy Meal, which comes with one of 23 Squishmallow plushies.

Chipotle, meanwhile, offered a buy-one-get-one entree deal on the first day of the World Cup and launched its own limited-edition soccer jersey with 53 available exclusively through the Chipotle Rewards Exchange.

obituary

Stephen Frederick Price, age 72, of Farragut, Tennessee, passed away peacefully on June 8, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Steve was born on February 18, 1954, in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He graduated from Bearden High School and later earned a degree in Marketing from the University of Tennessee. It was at the University of Tennessee where Steve met the love of his life, Mary. They were married in 1977 and recently celebrated 49 wonderful years of marriage. There was never any question that Steve's love for Mary exceeded everything else in his life.

Steve was a lifelong member of St. John Neumann Catholic Church and a member of the Knights of Columbus. Steve and Mary made their home in Farragut in 1986, where they built a life centered around faith, family, and community. Steve had many lifelong friendships that he treasured, bringing him many laughs and cherished memories throughout his life.

Exceptionally intelligent and detail-oriented, Steve enjoyed a successful lifelong career in sales, earning numerous awards throughout his career. He was a devoted husband, father, and friend who always put the needs of others before his own. He loved cars, hunting, and all sports, especially when it involved his children growing up. Steve was an avid reader who could fix just about anything and was always on a quest to learn more. In his later years, Steve and Mary found their greatest joy in spending time with their grandchildren, whose laughter and love brought immense happiness to their lives. Over the last 30 years, he faced tremendous health battles with remarkable courage and determination. What Steve endured was truly unbelievable, and he persevered through it all because of his unwavering faith in God and deep love for his wife and family. His resilience and determination to remain with those he loved for as

long as possible were an inspiration to everyone who knew him. Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Emily Price; his son, Clinton Himmelberg Price; and his granddaughter, Addison Grace Price. He is survived by his loving wife, Mary Price of Knoxville; his brother and sister-in-law, Stuart and Suzi Price of Nashville; his son and daughter-in-law, Jason and Crissy Price; his daughter and son-in-law, Amanda and Ryan Donovan; his beloved grandchildren, Elijah and Asher Price, and Declan and Liam Donovan; as well as nieces, nephews, brothers and sisters-in-laws. The family received friends from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Friday June 12th at Click Funeral Home Farragut Chapel. A Funeral Mass followed at 11:30 a.m. at St. John Neumann Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Dandridge. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Luke's Ministry at St. John Neumann Catholic Church.



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Contact Information
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Fax: (865) 966-2072
Email: newcovenant@newcovenantbc.com
Website: www.newcovenantbc.com

Weekly In-Person Services
Sun: Family Bible Hour (9:30 AM)
Sun: Worship Service (11:00 AM)

Recorded Services
On ZOOM
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Wed: Cultivate (7:00 PM)

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Jake Nichols

Bo Dunehew, 10, slides down an inflatable water slide near the finish line at the Farragut Parks and Recreation Department's second annual Try-Athlon on Saturday, June 13, at McFee Park.

Try-Athlon
From page 3B

a great time last year, so we knew we had to bring it back." The 4-6-year-olds were accompanied by parents and guardians on the course, which stretched around the lawn at McFee Park.

"We really wanted to make sure it was an introductory type of thing because that's what we do best at Parks and Rec," Malone said. "But with the way the course is laid out, we didn't have a true swimming component either and

knew we couldn't make it truly competitive. So we wanted to offer a way for kids to try it with no pressure."

Most importantly, she noted the day offered a chance for children to get outside with their families and enjoy quality time with some summertime fun and exercise.

"It's huge," Malone said. "We see all the time kids who would rather be inside looking at screens, so any fun opportunity we can give them to get outside — especially with friends and family — that's what we like to do."

Custodians
From page 3B

to get it all done," Maldonado said. "Our president, Albert Liu, actually came up with the idea.

Liu served on Farragut Municipal Planning Commission and as a Knox County School Board youth representative.

"Every year, [the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society] buy gift cards for the custodian and cafeteria staff for Christmas, and Albert said, 'Hey, what if we do something for the custodians?' We said, 'Yeah, let's do that.'

"We're working on getting them a new lunch table," Maldonado said. "The chairs came in ... they're massage chairs, not super fancy, but they're comfortable.

"We just wanted to show appreciation to the people who are behind the workings of the school," she added.

Groups of Farragut High National Honor Society members worked in groups to assemble shelving units, for the custodian closets at the school.



Photo submitted

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, at its meeting on June 11, 2026, adopted the following ordinance on second and final reading:

1. Ordinance 26-09, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FARRAGUT CODE OF ORDINANCES, APPENDIX A – ZONING, CHAPTER 4. GENERAL PROVISIONS AND EXCEPTIONS, SECTION VIII. – FARRAGUT MUNICIPAL FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION REGULATIONS, SECTION C. GENERAL PROVISIONS., 2. BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING THE AREAS OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD, TO UPDATE THE REFERENCED COMMUNITY PANEL NUMBERS FOR 0243G AAND 0244G, TO REFERENCE THE LOMR EFFECTING THESE PANEL NUMBERS AND THAT BECAME EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 10, 2026

farragut
Farragut Town Hall | 11408 Municipal Center Drive

VISUAL RESOURCES REVIEW BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

AGENDA

I) Call to Order
II) Approval of Minutes
A) Approval of the April 28, 2026, meeting minutes.
III) Staff Report
A) Wall signs approved since the last meeting.
IV) Business Items
A) Review of a sign face update with a tenant panel for Peak Wellness, located at 11726 Kingston Pike.

B) Review of a subdivision entrance sign for The Grove Subdivision, located off BoydStation Road at the roundabout (O Iron Plow Dr.).
C) Review of a subdivision entrance sign for West Mill Subdivision, located at 12501 Kingston Pike.
D) Review of a landscape plan for the West Mill Subdivision, located at 12501 KingstonPike.
V) Citizens Forum

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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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ON PROPOSED CODE OF ORDINANCES

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing on the adoption of municipal code of ordinances will be held by the Board of Mayor & Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, Tennessee, at 6:00 p.m. on the 9th day of July 2026, at the Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive, Farragut, TN 37934, to hear citizen comments on the following ordinances:

1. Ordinance 26-10, an ordinance on the second reading to amend the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Appendix A – Zoning, Chapter 3. – Specific District Regulation, to replace Section V. O Rural Single-Family Acre Residential District (R-1-S-A), with Rural Large-Lot Estate District (RLE)

A copy of the proposed code of ordinances is available online at www.townoffarragut.org or the recorder's office for anyone who desires to examine it in advance of the hearing.

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 accommodation due to disabilities, please call 865-966-7057 in advance of the meeting.

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Town of Farragut's Chalk the Plaza



Photos by Tammy Cheek



Area artists, from youngsters to adults, had an opportunity to let their talents shine with chalk during Town of Farragut's Chalk the Plaza at Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza along Kingston Pike Saturday, May 16.

The artists were tasked with the theme America 250; however, some chose their own designs. And, the winners are: Adult and Judge's Choice award: first place went to Sonia Summers for "1776 250 years;" first place for Teen, Regina Ruiz for "Astronaut;" and first place for group was Bailey Akers, Jane Toth and Evelyn Toth for "God's Creation."

Top left: Evie Tote, 14, left, and Jane Toth, 11

Left: Jennifer Pettyjohn shows her daughter Peyton's works in a booth.

Above: From left, Sydney Arnold, Lexi Foley, Ashlyn Sheridan and Avery Strickland

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