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Facebook post fuels criticism of Williams



Tammy Cheek

Kingsgate resident Matthew Parsons speaks out about Mayor Williams' initial Facebook post.

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut Mayor Ron Williams faced criticism during the citizens comments portion of the Thursday, June 25, Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting.

The criticism from six residents centered on the mayor's dispute with the Knox County Sheriff's Office and his Wednesday, June 24, Facebook post about a recent newspaper report involving Alderman Alex Cain.

Additionally, Cain announced he had received a death threat.

"You may not be aware..." Cain said. "I want to thank Mr. David Smoak, Town administrator, and Mr. Tom Hale, Town attorney, and the staff here at the Town of Farragut. I received a threat against my life in an email yesterday (Wednesday, June 24), and they addressed it immediately.

"They responded and got everything to the sheriff's office immediately, and that is being

addressed," he said. "Threats on our lives as elected officials happen, unfortunately," Williams said. "I hate that it happened to you. We have people who think that's funny. It's not funny. It's a serious deal."

While Andover subdivision resident Adam Atherton praised Williams and the Board for accomplishing much and said Williams has been "generally responsive despite being very busy," he criticized the mayor's recent public actions.

"Your argument with the Knox County sheriff was an embarrassment and ended in being called a liar," Atherton said.

The criticism followed a public dispute between Williams and Knox County Sheriff's Office after Williams said during a TV interview, "We pay our property tax, and out of that property tax, we're supposed to have police protection, and we have none."

The Sheriff's Office responded in a public state-

See CAIN on Page 8A

America's 250 ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION

America 250 Special Edition is commemorating our nation's semiquincentennial with historical features, community stories, local perspectives and reflections on America's past, present, and future.

Grand Marshals share legacy of service

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

As a tribute to America, the Town of Farragut is recognizing 15 veterans as grand marshals in its Independence Day Parade.

They include Fred Adomat, Jim Bolon, Nancy Bolon, Marilyn Childress, Bill Craddick, Dave Fahidy, Gerry Godolphin, Stewart Greenfield, Jessica Hodge, Dennis Laneman, Kristi Luttrell, Jim O'Brien, Scott Rastovic, Noell Simmons and Jason Simon.

All will ride in Corvettes donated by the Farragut Lions Club.

Jim Bolon

Inspired by his parents' service, Bolon worked in the U.S. Navy from 1976 through 1996 as a surface warfare officer and an engineering duty officer and retired as a commander.

Nancy Bolon

Bolon served in the U.S. Navy from 1979 to 2006, rising from seaman recruit to commander before working as a Blue Angels executive officer.

Marilyn Childress

Childress served in the U.S. Navy from 1972 to 1975 as a hospital corpsman and operating room technician, rising to petty officer second class.

Dave Fahidy

Fahidy served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1988 to 1992, rising to sergeant through deployments for Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Desert Sabre.

Jessica Hodge

Hodge served two tours in the U.S. Marine Corps (1989-1999, 2003-2005), retiring as a staff sergeant after working in Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom.

Dennis Laneman

Laneman served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1969. He deployed to Vietnam and was awarded a Purple Heart after being injured in combat.

Kristi Luttrell

Luttrell served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1993 to 2025, a career that saw notable impact during the 1994 Haiti and Cuba migrant crises.

See MARSHALS on Page 8A



Andover couple presses Town over drainage concerns

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Andover residents accused the Town of Farragut of failing to protect their property from flooding caused by neighboring construction during Thursday night's Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting, prompting Mayor Ron Williams to promise the Town would revisit the issue.

Herbert and Gillian Lindsey said changes to the grading and drainage of a neighboring property have increased runoff onto their land, leaving them facing thousands of dollars in engineering costs and concerns their home is more vulnerable to flooding.

Speaking during the citizen comments portion of the June 25 meet-

ing, Herbert Lindsey said Town representatives, the neighboring property owner and the Lindseys met Jan. 6 to discuss drainage concerns. He said several commitments made during that meeting were never fulfilled.

According to Lindsey, the builder agreed roof gutter runoff would be directed away from the Lindseys' property and toward a nearby creek, but instead it discharged water into a driveway that slopes toward their property.

He also said the builder agreed not to continue backfilling the rear of the lot, but additional fill was added, raising the property's grade and redirecting groundwater toward the Lindseys' home.

"In addition, we were told that his engineers would evaluate and

address drainage concerns," Lindsey said. "Yet no drainage system was installed between the two properties. No drainage swales or other stormwater controls were provided."

He said the issue extends beyond the builder's actions.

"My concern is not simply what the builder did," he said.

"My concern is why the Town of Farragut allowed it."

Lindsey said the Town knew the property was located in a Federal Emergency Management Agency flood zone and allowed grading changes without requiring a drainage plan, hydrologic or hydraulic studies or additional stormwater protections.

See ANDOVER on Page 8A



Tammy Cheek

Past his fence, Herbert Lindsey relayed how the neighboring driveway slope and backyard, which he said was backfilled, were drawing water from the neighbor's property onto his instead of to the creek.



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Admiral Glasgow Farragut

Photo submitted

Revolutionary War veterans helped build Farragut

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

A quick look at the history of Farragut appears to begin in 1980, when the Town was founded by a group of frustrated area residents, but its roots run much deeper.

Anyone driving along Concord Road will see Pleasant Forest Cemetery, which was established in 1796, and has interred there three American Revolutionary War soldiers: Thomas Boyd; David Campbell, who started the first settlement in what now is known as Farragut; and Archibald Roane, the state's second governor. Malcolm Shell, a Farragut historian and Farragut Museum supporter, has shared some of the Town's past, its other prominent people, such as Adm. David Glasgow Farragut, and sites.

One of the earliest people known was David Campbell, who arrived around noon, March 7, 1787, according

to Shell.

"He was from Augusta, County, Virginia," Shell said of Campbell. "He first went to Strawberry Plains and a later date moved to Knoxville and from Knoxville to here.

In the Revolutionary War, "[Campbell] served with George Washington at the Battle of Long Island Flats," the historian said. "He held the rank of captain.

"He arrived here with a man named Archibald McCaleb, just their two families," Shell recounted. "When they got here, the first thing they did was build lean-tos [makeshift shelters] for their families.

"In a few weeks, they were able to build cabins for the two families," he said.

Then as families would arrive, "they would stop their work and build cabins for them," Shell said. "They were located at the intersection of Campbell Station Road and

See VETERANS on Page 8A

'Only in America could this happen'

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

Tucked into a hallway within Knoxville's City County building, there are signs of Glenn Jacobs' alter ego.

A Lego portrait shows Jacobs with long hair, a scowl and a mask. A replica of that mask casts a shadow nearby, and gold championship belts showcase the grandeur within a world he once dominated. But the most fitting item is a smaller piece, a blue Tennessee license plate with two words in all caps: "MAYOR KANE."

The nickname showcases the two lives Jacobs has lived as a professional wrestler and as the mayor of Knox County.

For more than two decades, Jacobs was one of the most beloved figures in World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE). Having been inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2021, he moved from the wrestling ring to the political arena, becoming the Knox County mayor in 2018 before being reelected in 2022.

Nearing his final two months in office, Jacobs shared how these roles have shaped his view of America — and why he feels privileged to have lived on very different ends of a public-facing spectrum.

"I'm probably one of the more unique elected officials in the country in that aspect, but the greatest blessing from WWE was realizing the impact it had on people," he said. "I didn't fully understand that until I retired, but it's a big deal. It's cool I can use a platform to reach people in different ways. On the political side, I think I can bring people into the world of politics that otherwise wouldn't be because they know me from wrestling."

From the field to the ring

Growing up, Jacobs held the same dream as every other



Jake Nichols

Knox County mayor Glenn Jacobs has lived several different lives in his time on Earth. Before taking office in 2018, Jacobs became one of the most popular characters in World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) through his role as "Kane" in the ring.

child: he wanted to be a professional athlete.

Unlike most children, he almost had that chance. But a knee injury in practice ended Jacobs' standout collegiate career at Truman State University, thus putting a stop to any professional football dreams. So Jacobs pivoted to wrestling on the independent circuit in 1992, then joined the World Wrestling Federation (now WWE) in 1995. He played various characters until 1997, when he was repackaged as masked wrestler Kane, the younger brother of the Undertaker.

"Initially, WWE had the idea of calling the character Inferno, which I thought was kind of cartoonish," Jacobs said. "Bruce Prichard, an executive with WWE, he loved the name

Kane. And you have the Biblical reference of Cain and Abel, so Kane was just a lot cooler. We pitched that to WWE, and they loved it."

Jacobs toured with WWE across the nation, taking one overarching conclusion from his travels.

"People are good," he said. "I got to travel around the country, wrestling in all 50 states. Obviously, we have our differences, but I feel that we concentrate so much on those that we forget how alike we all are."

Pursuing politics

As he grew older, Jacobs wanted to give his own children and grandchildren a chance to accomplish their own dreams.

In 2014, he began a more ac-

See AMERICA on Page 8A

Town ready for big Fourth of July crowd

Staff reports

editor@farragutpress.com

The Town of Farragut is gearing up for its Independence Day Parade this Saturday, July 4, along Kingston Pike, starting at 9:30 a.m.

"We've got a huge Fourth of July parade coming up," Town administrator David Smoak announced at the Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting Thursday, June 25.

The parade will begin at Farragut High School at Lendon Welch Way to Boring Road

next to Ingle's Market.

As such, Kingston Pike will be closed from 8:30 a.m. to about noon from Lendon Welch Way to Federal Boulevard.

"The portion of Kingston Pike from Concord Road/West End Avenue to Campbell Station Road will be reopened approximately 15 minutes after the final parade participant has passed through the Campbell Station Road/Kingston Pike intersection," the Town's website stated. "Kingston Pike will be fully reopened once all participants are safely off

the road."

Additionally, there will be road closures from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. for the Farragut Freedom Run, which are South Campbell Station Road (from Kingston Pike to Brooklawn Boulevard) and Municipal Center Drive.

Detours include:

- North side: Use Campbell Station Road to Grigsby Chapel Road/Smith Road (west) or Parkside Drive/Lovell Road (east).

- South side: Use Concord, Turkey Creek and Virtue roads to access Kingston Pike.

Corrections

Patricia Gilbert Goodman celebrated her 100th birthday at NHC Farragut June 17 with her family and NHC staff. A photo caption in the Community section of the Wednesday, June 24, farragutpress issue listed her name incorrectly. We regret the error.

In the Places of Worship section inserted in the June 17 issue, the entry for Shoreline Church was incorrect. The pastor is Jason Hayes and it should be under the Baptist denomination. We regret the error.

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Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

Just to clear up some misconceptions about the development throughout our town in recent years...not everyone has the same vision or dream, nor should they. At 46 years old, we are still going through some growing pains. First of all, the Town Center/Mixed Use is not a new concept. Several years ago when my husband was Mayor, we traveled to several states throughout the Southeast. There are some who dislike the apartment sand development along Kingston Pike. But recently I had the opportunity to question visitors about where they live So many said the apartments and how convenient it was to just walk across the highway.

They like the walkable area. As things develop, the Town Center will eventually include events that will draw crowds. But nothing happens overnight. In conversations with them I found that many of them are seniors, couples awaiting their home to be built, and singles who cannot afford a home right now, and there is nothing wrong with that. We have a nice start with that and I believe it will develop nicely.

Being a part of the founding of the town in 1980, I believe that Louise Povlin is trying to carry out what the vision was then. She has served the town in various positions. My husband saw this in her many years ago when he appointed her to the planning commission. Unlike some of the board members who do not study materials and do their homework on issues, she works tirelessly trying to keep the dream alive. The future is ours for the taking, and she is what we need.

And, by the way if you get a chance to read the book about the founding of Farragut, You may learn where I am coming from.

In the meantime...Full Speed Ahead for Louise Povlin MAYOR OF FARRAGUT!!!!

Farms, Farragut Junction, & overdevelopment are recent examples. This administration falsely claims there can never be additional developments such as these. Yet all it takes is just three votes on BOMA. The Ford property and others are still awaiting development. Developers & special interests will continue to massively fund their campaigns as necessary in order to maintain the status quo.

Transparency no longer exists with our officials. In 2024 developers & special interests donated almost \$10,000 to my opponent's campaign just days before the election, but that information was hidden from voters until October. The same will occur during this election but in much larger amounts. Despite claiming to value transparency one appointed Alderman candidate deleted all his social media accounts. Our Mayor secretly approached numerous officials in his efforts to have Gov. Lee's legislation on Eminent Domain overturned. Can we really risk continuing to put our trust in this Administration or the candidates they are backing... Povlin, LaCroix, & Hall?

In response to a Nextdoor post about unethical conduct by my opponent's campaign & supporters during the 2024 election, a campaign heavily obligated to the Mayor & Vice-Mayor, the Mayor himself posted, "All That Matters Is That We WON!" That response is troubling as it indicates victory and remaining in power matters far more to them than ethics, principles, or public trust. Just recently we observed an unprecedented attack against one independent candidate.

No town's future should be manipulated by a Mayor, supporters, planning commission, or developers & special interests.

Randal Roberts
Farragut, TN

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to express my disappointment with your coverage of the recent problems that have been disclosed regarding Alex Cain.

Your article in the June 17 issue of the Farragut Press reads as an op-ed defense from Mr. Cain and his attorney. It all begins with the headline "Cain rejects political attacks". There is never any substantiation that his political opponents are responsible for the Knoxville News Sentinel article regarding his employment issues at Knox County Schools. If there's evidence, report it.

Furthermore, you let Mr. Cain's defense go completely unquestioned. The News Sentinel reporting is very explicit regarding his official reprimands. Your article allows him to make light of the original offense. He lumped the other 4 issues together, even though they involved two students and a teacher and extended over multiple years. You provided his explanations of his behavior without raising any questions, even though they are inconsistent with the News Sentinel's reporting of the facts. If there's evidence to challenge the News Sentinel's reporting your readers deserve to hear it.

As editor it is your responsibility to ensure that articles are presented in a thorough, trustable, and unbiased way. This piece reads as an exoneration of Mr. Cain and an indictment of everyone else except Mr. Cain. Surely you can do better than this.

John Hoffman,
Farragut, TN

Dear Editor,

Reading all the cries for more police presence in Farragut from Mayor Williams and others, you'd think we must have a burglary or vandalism epidemic on our hands. But no, the police blotter in last week's paper was par for the course in Farragut: an incident of alleged mail fraud, a drunk guy in a parking lot, and someone confused by an internet scam. I'm sure it is similar in the edition in which this op-ed appears this week.

We live in one of the safest areas in Knox County. I always see a police presence at public events, as well as Farragut HS sporting events and many local churches. I'm sure soon-to-be Sheriff Gibson, whom I voted for, will have bigger concerns in Knox County than whatever has Mayor Williams concerned -- which probably boils down to people trying to get home through the congested traffic that has resulted from all of BOMA's development. I doubt handing those people speeding tickets will win them over, and I certainly don't see a need or justification for a new precinct. That inevitably will cost money that either has to be raised through new taxes or redirected from somewhere it is actually needed.

Mike Turner,
Farragut, TN

Dear Editor,

Louise Povlin is a Mayoral candidate that advocates for all Farragut residents. While president of the Andover Place Homeowners Association, I worked closely with, then Alderman, Louise to find the most advantageous way to connect the greenway through our neighborhood. This was a lengthy, and at times, contentious and difficult process. There were many strong opinions both for and against the addition and its location. Louise worked diligently to find the least intrusive and most beneficial pathway that didn't intrude on the residents' property and privacy as well as provide a beautiful way to connect our town's path safely. She could have used eminent domain, but she took the time to find the solution that was beneficial to all parties. Louise had many meetings with the home owners and collaborated with several experts to come to the safe, beautiful, and widely used solution we have in place today. I feel certain she will continue that care and interest in each citizen as mayor of Farragut. I confidently endorse Louise Povlin as the next Mayor of Farragut.

Sincerely,
Tyler Ogle,
Farragut, TN



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Journey through the American Revolution

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

The Samuel Frazier Chapter of the National Daughters of the American Revolution Samuel Frazier Chapter, with members in Farragut and Knoxville, has partnered with the American Battlefield Trust and DAR to host a free traveling exhibit at the East Tennessee History Center in Knoxville.

The exhibit, American Revolution Experience, is open to the public and will be available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., from Tuesday, June 30, to Tuesday, July 7, in the center, 601 S. Gay St., Knoxville. The center is closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

"It's on loan from the American Battlefield Trust," DAR chapter member Eve Thomas said. "It is a nine-panel display of the battles of the Revolutionary War. It will show all the relevant battles.

The chapter is named after the American Revolutionary War patriot Samuel Frazier.

"This is all in celebration of the America 250," she said. "It's also important to us chapters in Tennessee because were it not for Tennessee sending the most volunteers in the War of 1812, there would be no America 250.

"It's not just an orange T-shirt," Thomas added. "It's a one-of-a-kind exhibit. There's nothing else like it."

The exhibit came about after DAR regent, Ann Haston, received an email about it and "asked us if we were willing to volunteer to go pick it up outside of Nashville and get volunteers to put it together.

About the chapter being asked, "We do a lot of volunteer hours as a chapter," Thomas said. The DAR is expected to volunteer for veterans, for any kind of commu-

nity cleanup, like at the lakes, so when it came to the history involved in this, I think they picked this as a natural choice because we are about history.

"We are the preservation of history," she said. "All of us [members] do descend lineally from the first patriots in America.

"Do you realize this is documented to the first patriots of America?" Thomas asked. "Not necessarily soldiers, like Kings Mountain — that's a big battle in Tennessee — but many people are eligible lineally into this organization because their ancestors paid the war tax or their ancestor was a slave and was with the white soldier. [DAR membership eligibility] is way more inclusive than it used to be.

"We no longer vote on whether somebody can join," she said. "if they can prove lineal descent, they're eligible to join."

For example, "It may not be a soldier," Thomas said. "I have a seventh great-grandfather who started the very first Baptist church in Virginia in 1770. "He had a mill," she said. "He gave grain to the troops."

Still, in setting up the exhibit, "Most of our husbands, we don't like to task them," Thomas said. "They're all late-60s, late-70s, [but] I have two grandsons, so I'm popular.

"So, everyone who has a granddaughter or grandson who's strong is going to help set this up," she added. "It does require a lot of volunteers — hint, volunteer state.

The event is free, but "the only thing people will be involved with is parking," Thomas said.

She observed involvement in projects "is getting more difficult here because of traffic. The volunteer things we do, we have to get there an hour early."

Marianne McGill
Former Alderman
and Vice Mayor
Farragut, TN

Dear Editor,

Local elections are supposed to be the mechanism that ensures our government remains accountable to the people it serves. Unfortunately, that is no longer the case in Farragut.

Over the past decade, a small contingent of officials (past & present), deeply aligned with developers and special interests has maintained unprecedented influence over the direction of our town. Elections are still held and votes are counted, but campaign money and political alliances have allowed certain officials to remain in control by occupying key positions. The result is "leadership" that now focuses on maintaining their power and the status quo by controlling a majority vote on the BOMA rather than representing residents.

With only five members on the BOMA, control of as few as three of those seats determines the future of Farragut. That majority has enabled controversial decisions involving development and zoning to proceed despite overwhelming public opposition. Biddle

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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 Presstalks.

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.

KEEP IT FARRAGUT

LOUISE POVLIN *for* MAYOR TOWN OF FARRAGUT

I believe in listening, respecting differences, and solving problems that affect all of us - traffic, infrastructure, and development. At the heart of every decision is the question:

“Does this protect our community character?”

These aren't partisan issues. They're Farragut issues.



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Committed to Preserving Farragut's Founding Principle to Thrive Without a Municipal Property Tax

Louise has lived in East Tennessee for 26 years and in Farragut for the last 18 years with her husband Jay, where they raised their 3 sons, Jack, Jared, and Joshua. She's been honored to serve the Town of Farragut since 2013.

CANDIDATE COMPARISON

	Louise Povlin	Alex Cain
More than 13 years of service to the Town of Farragut	✓	✗
Held Key Leadership Roles for More Than 13 Years	✓	✗
More than a Decade of Planning & Zoning Expertise	✓	✗
Managed 8 or more Town Budgets and Maintained Farragut's No-Property Tax Model	✓	✗
Active Representation for Farragut with Knox County for More Than A Decade	✓	✗
Municipal Leader for Multiple Community Awards for Quality of Life & Safety	✓	✗
Degreed Engineer (Problem Solver & Analytical Mind) and Local Small Business Owner	✓	✗

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT:

LOUISE POVLIN

- Led the effort to remove apartments from the land use plan
- Led the effort to reduce the density across the land use plan
- Led the effort to address the Town's aging stormwater infrastructure
- Led the effort to preserve corridor character while improving substandard roads (*No more roads like McFee Road and Everett Road*)
- Proactively meets with residents to discuss future development and advocate for their concerns
- Worked with residents and businesses to amend and update policies and regulations

ALEX CAIN

- Voted for eminent domain
- Censured for violating state law
- Lacks municipal planning and zoning experience
- Lacks leadership experience



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250 years ago, Patriot press played a pivotal part in the American Revolution

Editor's note: This article was first published on The First Amendment Encyclopedia website, a project of the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies at Middle Tennessee University, as part of the U.S. Semiquincentennial. It is republished here with permission of the author.

The American Revolution had a major impact on newspapers. Newspapers had been around for a long time in the colonies, but the Revolution gave them new functions to fulfill.

As the 13 colonies slowly dissolved their ties with Great Britain, newspapers played an increasingly important role in the growing dispute. Both Patriot and Loyalist writers used the weekly newspapers to attempt to convince their neutral countrymen to support their side. The Patriots were more successful, so much so that by the time the Revolution had begun, pro-British newspapers had disappeared from most colonies.

It was in the conflict over the Stamp Act that newspapers discovered a new role to play. The Stamp Act, to become effective November 1, 1765, was aimed at raising revenue to help Britain pay off its war debts. The act required that all legal documents, official papers, books, and newspapers be printed on stamped paper that carried a special tax. It placed an additional tax on advertisements.

It portended immediate disaster to printers, requiring that taxes be paid at the rate of a halfpenny per halfsheet, and two shillings for each advertisement. The income that printers received from subscribers and advertisers was only slightly greater than the taxes. Striking as hard as it did at printers, the tax gave them a special reason to use their newspapers to oppose the Stamp Act. The press war against the Stamp Act began in Boston.

Awakened to the dangers building against them, printers there took to their job cases to argue against the act as a frontal attack on the liberty of the people in general and the freedom of the press in particular.

As the deadline approached, printers debated what to do. Some temporarily suspended publication while others came out defiantly as usual, appearing without the detestable stamp and declaring that the Stamp Act was a direct attack on liberty itself. Some printers also claimed that they continued publishing because of threats from Americans who wanted them to continue to protest the Stamp Act.

In late October, several newspapers published with black borders and a skull at the top to protest the impact of the Stamp Act. The most garish design was in the PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL AND WEEKLY ADVERTISER which published in the funeral black columns of a tombstone, topped with skull and crossbones, mourning over the death of press liberty. It is notable that not a single newspaper published on stamped paper. In March 1766, Parliament, recognizing that the Stamp Act was unenforceable, repealed it.

Press regarded as a strong arm of Patriot movement

The Patriot press of the Revolutionary period is best understood as an organ for promoting ideology. Before the war, printers intensified their propaganda efforts against Britain but escaped prosecution because of popular opposition

to British authority. The government grew increasingly lax in restricting printers. Having set the precedent during the Stamp Act crisis, authorities discovered they had more and more difficulty reining in insolent printers afterward. They faced the dilemma of wanting to punish offenders while fearing the result if they attempted to do so.

Concerted opposition to the British had begun with the Stamp Act. The newspapers' success in helping to get the act repealed emboldened printers to defy British authorities and showed that the press could be used as an effective propaganda tool. The press therefore came to be regarded as a strong arm of the Patriot movement.

Influence of Boston newspapers

Boston Patriots were the most industrious in the colonies in promoting independence, and to that end they produced a widely circulated "Journal of Occurrences." Published from late 1768 through the first half of 1769, it detailed Boston's suffering under British military rule. Newspapers throughout the colonies picked up items from it, resulting in the publication of Boston Patriots' views throughout the land.

The most aggressive writer was Samuel Adams. It was said that America's course was determined by Massachusetts, that Massachusetts' course was determined by Boston, and that Boston's was determined by Adams. It was Adams who, because of his GAZETTE writing and his talent for propaganda, did more than anyone else to promote colonial independence from Britain as a practical, realistic action.

The GAZETTE was the chief radical newspaper in the colonies; and its owners, Benjamin Edes and John Gill, were the most strident critics of the British prior to the Revolution. When the Tea Act of 1773 brought the issue of British trade monopoly to a boil, Edes was one of a number of Bostonians who guarded the wharves to prevent the opposition from landing the now hated tea. On December 16, 1773, a group of radicals joined Edes at his home. There they discussed the tea issue and at dark went to the GAZETTE office nearby. Others who had attended another meeting at Old South Church met them, and all donned Indian disguises. They then proceeded to Boston Harbor, where they boarded three ships and dumped 342 chests of tea overboard.

Whereas Edes and Gill's BOSTON GAZETTE was the leading radical newspaper before the American Revolution, Isaiah Thomas' MASSACHUSETTS SPY was the most incendiary publication during the Revolution. Prior to the war, Thomas had been outspoken in his support for independence. He revived the "Join or Die" divided-snake device that Benjamin Franklin had created in 1754, and he never softened his attacks on British trampling of colonial rights and liberties. Accounts such as his reporting of the battle of Lexington in 1775 were designed to stir up the anger of colonials. That account began with this call for action:

"Americans! Forever bear in mind the BATTLE OF LEXINGTON - where British troops, unmolested and unprovoked, wantonly and in a most inhuman manner, fired upon and killed a number of our countrymen, then robbed, ransacked, and burned their houses! Nor could the tears of defenseless women, some

of whom were in the pains of childbirth, the cries of helpless babies, nor the prayers of age, confined to beds of sickness, appease their thirst for blood! - or divert them from their DESIGN OF MURDER and ROBBERY!"

'Committees of Correspondence' distributed information

More important than any single writer, however, were the Patriots' committees of correspondence. They were created to distribute information and ideas among towns and colonies and to newspapers.

The impetus for the establishment of standing committees devoted to the Patriot cause came in 1772. In the wake of the attempts by Massachusetts' Governor Thomas Hutchinson to insulate the courts from colonial influence, Samuel Adams issued a call for standing committees to be set up to resist the action. A Boston town meeting in November appointed a standing committee, and Patriots in other towns and colonies soon followed. They eventually established more than 80 committees. Each circulated letters to other committees and provided propaganda to newspapers. In that way, through informal organization, they succeeded in their goals of keeping the colonies informed of events, issues, and opinions and stirring up antagonism to British efforts to suppress colonial opponents.

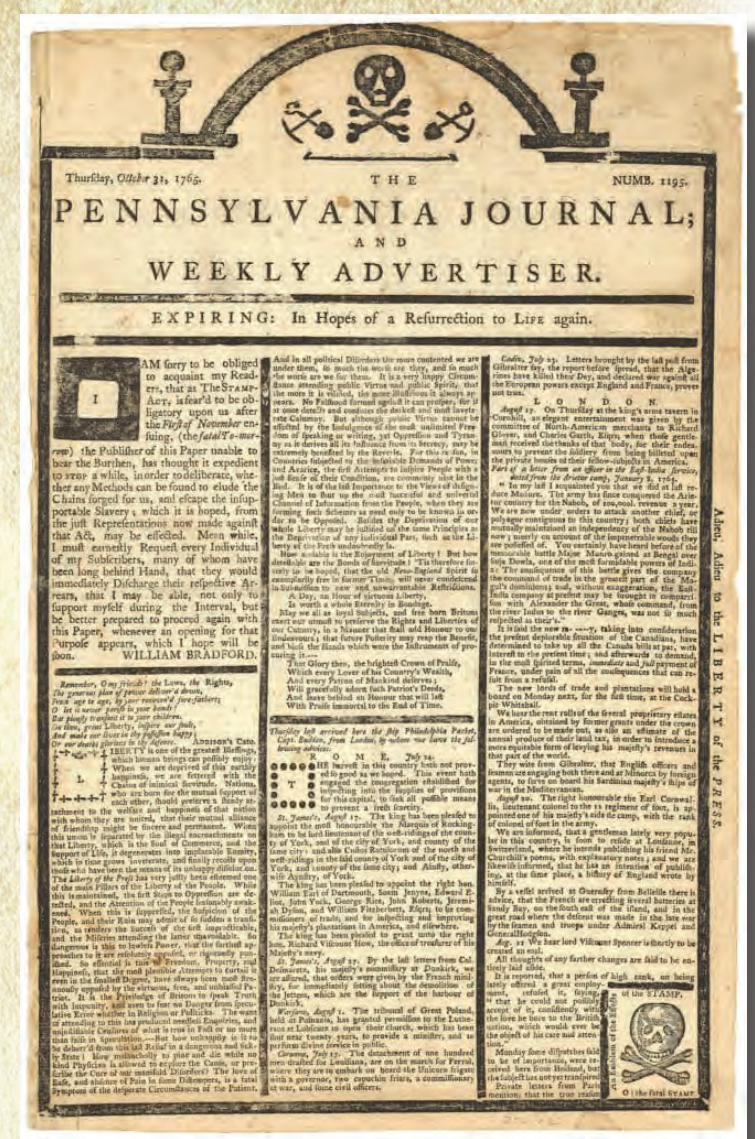
Press became primary morale boosters during war

During the years of actual fighting, the press played a vital role as it provided information about the war. More than any other institution, it encouraged the people to support the war effort. Newspapers became the primary morale boosters throughout the Revolution. Printers used a variety of means to lift public confidence in the drive for independence. Throughout the war, essays and news stories emphasized the tyranny and corruption of the British and the glory and justness of the American cause.

Patriot newspapers sought to destroy any remaining colonial ties to Great Britain. Describing George III as the "whining King of Great Britain," the press urged Americans to discard all loyalty to the mother country. Accusations of cruelty and barbarity by the British and their Tory supporters filled newspapers.

Even more important for morale than attacks on the British were discussions of American successes and future prospects. Printers filled their pages with material on the success of the Continental Army in battle. There was no doubt that the United States would be victorious, for, as one newspaper writer averred, "it is allowed on all hands that the American Army is now equal at least to any in the world for discipline, activity and bravery. There are no soldiers in Europe more exemplary for subordination, regularity of conduct, patience in fatigues and hardships, perseverance in service, and intrepidity in danger."

Newspapers worked to increase public resolve by urging all readers to put the war above all other concerns. In 1776, Isaiah Thomas proposed: "Let us not busy ourselves now about our private internal affairs, but with the utmost care and caution, attend to the grand American controversy, and assist her in her earnest struggle in support of her natural rights and freedom." Similar sentiments appeared throughout the war. Accord-



Submitted

The PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL AND WEEKLY ADVERTISER published in the funeral black columns of a tombstone, topped with skull and crossbones, mourning over the death of press liberty.

ing to Revolutionary printers, such efforts would produce final victory. Through such discussions, the press sought to help achieve victory by assuring that American morale remained high throughout the armed conflict.

During the war, printers filled their newspapers with stories and essays about the fighting. While obviously seeking to keep readers informed, they also hoped to keep them concerned as well. Newspaper efforts to encourage support and involvement and to boost morale went on for years. For the war proved to be a long one. As it came to a close, Benjamin Franklin praised newspapers for their usefulness, for, he explained, "by the press we can speak to nations.... And we now find, that it is not only right to strike while the iron is hot, but that it may be very practicable to heat it by continually striking." This the Patriot newspapers had clearly done, through both defeat and victory, by their nonstop discussion of the war.

What influence did press have on success of Revolutionary War?

One of the most intriguing questions about the Revolutionary period is what influence it may have had. What role did newspapers, pamphlets, broadsides, and other printed forms have on the initiation and execution of the Revolution?

Most people at the time believed that the press exercised a major influence. Printers, Patriot spokesmen, and government authorities clearly thought the press was important. Otherwise, they would not have placed so much emphasis on it. Washington and other Patriot leaders went to great lengths to aid it, writers and printers used it to express their views to sway public opinion, and British authorities tried to suppress it. As early as the mid-1760s, the view was widespread that newspapers were playing a central role in affecting public opinion. A writer in the PROVIDENCE GAZETTE in 1766, commenting on newspapers' success in opposing the Stamp Act, expressed that

view. "The Press," he declared, 'hath never done greater Service since its first Invention."

Thus it is clear that newspapers filled an important role during the war. They constituted the primary sources of information about the conflict. Although reports were not always accurate, printers hoped they would boost morale by helping to maintain interest in, and support for, the war effort. By publishing accounts from throughout the colonies, the newspapers helped foster a sense of unity and solidarity of purpose that was essential for a successful revolt.

Although not telling the whole story, the figures on newspaper mortality reveal something of the effect of the Revolution. At the beginning of the war, 37 newspapers were publishing in the colonies. Seventeen of those died during the war, leaving 20 publishing at its end. Thirty-three new papers were started. Of those, 18 died and 15 survived. Thus, at the end of the war, 35 newspapers were publishing, two fewer than at the beginning. While a difference of two may seem of little importance, it does not indicate the magnitude of the war's effect. At one time or another, 70 papers were being published during the Revolution; only half survived. Such a high death rate during a period of seven years illustrates the hazards war posed for publishing.

The most important impact of the Revolution on the press, however, lay in the change the War of Independence brought to America. Freedom had been gained from the mother country, a new political philosophy took firm root, and the foundation was laid on which would be built a wholly new governmental system.

Carol Sue Humphrey is the author of "The American Revolution and the Press" and professor emerita of history at Oklahoma Baptist University where she taught for several years.

Dodgen shares history with American sports icons

Jake Nichols

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Before Michael Jordan took basketball by storm, Donald Dodgen saw what the rest of the world would soon learn.

In the summer of 1981, Dodgen arrived in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, to serve as a coach at the legendary Dean Smith's summer basketball camp.

Since the "Dean Dome" had not yet been built, Dodgen and other coaches ambled out of the Carolina heat into Carmichael Arena.

There, during pickup games at the end of each camp, Dodgen saw in an 18-year-old Jordan the traits that would form the most famous basketball player to ever live.

The easygoing grin he cracked during jokes. The high-arching jumper swishing through the net. The tongue sticking out as he levitated from the free-throw line to the basket. The competitive spark that lit once he stepped on the floor.

Before six NBA titles with the Chicago Bulls, 14 NBA All-Star appearances and even before his game-winning shot against Georgetown in the 1982 national title game, Jordan was an incoming freshman out of Laney High School in Wilmington.

"He was just a normal col-

lege freshman," Dodgen recalled in his office at Farragut High School. "Fun to be around, treating you like his best friend. But boy, when he played, it was a work of art."

Those summertime masterpieces were not a rare sight for Dodgen, who returned for camp years later and took a picture with Jordan after his rookie season in Chicago.

Today, that photo is one of several on his office wall, where Dodgen's run-ins with American sports icons are shown alongside 53 years of work in high school athletics.

So with America's 250th anniversary around the corner, the longtime Admiral athletic director was happy to recall some of his more notable encounters.

"I've always been at the right place at the right time," he said. "I've been blessed. My wife was good enough to take care of the kids, allowing me to go and work and do all this and meet people. And I've picked up something from everyone."

A few of the people on that wall: Jerry West, Magic Johnson, Mike Krzyzewski, Bob Knight and Roy Williams.

Those are just a few of the photos, which showcase the encyclopedia of knowledge Dodgen has gathered through his career as a coach and an administrator.



Jake Nichols

Farragut High School athletic director Donald Dodgen smiles in front of his wall of American sports icon photos. He has encountered plenty of memorable people throughout his career, including Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Roy Williams and Mike Krzyzewski.

"Roy Williams and I started together as high school coaches, him at Asheville and me at McMinn County," Dodgen said.

"Now he went just a little different direction than I did, but he and I stay in touch quite a bit."

He recalled Williams' penchant for organization at North Carolina, citing the same of Krzyzewski at Duke.

From Knight, of course, Dodgen learned one thing above all else: discipline.

"You work a long day at his camps," Dodgen said. "You really do, and it's tough. So one of the instructors propped his foot up on the wall, and he fired him right on the spot."

"But for all of them, at the bottom line, it was about relationships with the players. If you don't have those, you don't have anything. If kids respect

you, they will play for you. And I've taken that with me everywhere I've ever coached."

He also appreciated the jovial nature of Magic Johnson — whom he worked with at a camp in Atlanta — and the humorous hunger of Shaquille O'Neal, who offered an extra Big Mac to Dodgen's son, Michael, after LSU's visit

to Tennessee.

Altogether, these encounters and more have formed Dodgen's own version of the American dream.

It's one that began in the mountains of Gatlinburg in the 1960s, only to lead him across the country and the world as he found his way to Farragut.

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Concerned Farragut Citizens

Veterans

From page 2A

Kingston Pike, right there with Rick Terry [Jewelry Designs is now] on one side and Starbucks on the other — just right in the middle of the intersection."

"That was in 1787," he noted. However, shortly after living there, "they built a stockade fence around it to protect themselves from Native Americans.

"McCaleb was one of the first volunteers," Shell said. "He served with Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans [in the War of 1812]. After the battle, he came back to Campbell's Station. He was killed a short time later on Sinking Creek by a roving Native American band. His body was found later.

"There are some who believe he's buried in Virtue Cemetery," the historian said. "We don't know."

America

From page 2A

tive role in local politics, having settled in East Tennessee with his wife in the 1990s. In 2017, he launched his campaign for mayor of Knox County, winning the Republican primary before claiming office the next year.

"This is just such a great place, especially East Tennessee," Jacobs said. "I think one reason is because we have good local government; and in the mayor's role, you have tremendous influence over the direction your community takes. So those really appealed to me."

As he took office and learned about his new role, Jacobs soon realized there was a lot more than meets the eye.

"The things we do are very diverse," he said. "This is a massive organization with a billion-dollar budget and 3,000 employees. Until you get in office, you don't realize how much there is. Even after almost eight years, stuff comes up that I'm still learning."

For the sheer volume of items crossing his desk, as well as the things he wanted to accomplish in office, Jacobs used the same skills he developed

David Campbell donated the property for [Pleasant Forest] Cemetery," cemetery director David Stinton said.

"[Campbell] started a meeting house there," Shell said. "It was OK until the Civil War. It was originally a wood structure then it became a brick structure.

"It was disassembled during the [Civil War] to provide bricks for the chimneys, where the Union Army cooked," he added. "The army wintered there in the winter of 1863."

Another soldier, Boyd was a captain under Washington, Shell said. "The Boyd community is now named after him. He's buried in Pleasant Forest Cemetery.

"He was, likewise, a community leader at that time," the historian said.

Roane, who became the state's second governor and resided at what is now Admiral Road, had his own place in

on the football field and in the ring.

"The most important skill anyone can nurture is their interpersonal relationship skills," he said. "It sounds weird because, in WWE, we're fighting in front of the camera. But behind the scenes, we're all trying to put on the best show possible, which can only happen if we're all working toward a common goal.

"And leaders aren't just like the boss, either," he added. "People choose who to follow. In wrestling, eventually I was someone people would come talk to. So being in a successful business, I've tried to apply that in the mayor's role."

In the process, Jacobs accomplished a few key items: not raising property taxes, bringing the Greenheck Group to Knoxville for a manufacturing and economic boost, and the wrapping up of Operation Hero's Hill — which will create up to 20 tiny homes for homeless veterans across Knox County.

"Overall, the goal of any mayor is that you left it better than you found it," he said. "Knox County is a great place, and hopefully, we've been able to make the best of it better."

Going forward, Jacobs noted

iff. I was communicating with his PR person," he said, referring to Knox County Sheriff's Office director of Communications Kimberly Glenn.

"She called me a liar because what I said was, 'They closed the precinct in September (2025).' Mr. Smoak and I spoke with the late chief deputy Bernie Lyons and procurement director Hugh Holt in October 2025 about the precinct closing, and we asked very politely to add two police officers in our town 24/7.

"With the budget that they have, which is \$117.4 million, I don't think two police officers is really too much to ask," Williams said. "We were supposed to see the sheriff, but the sheriff's sick. He's not talking to people.

"But what they did do, once they closed the precinct, was take our lone police officer, Brad Hall, and move him to the jail, where he's still assigned today," he said. "Neither one of those are lies. That's what she called me a liar on. I'm not apologizing for anything I said."

"The police officers we have here are great," Williams added. "We pay them separately for four hours to work these meetings, even though they may only be here about an hour."

Williams' explanation differed from language in an April 5 post on his Ron Williams Nextdoor account, in which he wrote: "All; I have commented on this site concerning the factual issue with the current lack of the Knox County Sheriff's Department presence in the Town of Farragut. I will try to make this as brief as possible by saying what we have for the four minimum on the 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Thursday night of each month is one officer for an extra \$200 regardless of how long the meeting last. Other than that, we have no police



Governor Archibald Roane

history.

According to Wikipedia, Roane, who served from 1801 to 1803, won the office after constitutional restrictions prevented John Sevier, the first governor, from seeking a fourth term. He was tangled up in the rivalry between Sevier and Andrew Jackson.

he and his team will not be starting any new projects, as he does not want to commit the next mayor to something he was not able to finish.

"Just want to turn everything over in the best shape we can and have a good starting point for the next one," he said. "From there, it's helping whoever the next mayor is to acclimate and transition into this role. I would tell them to have a great team around them because as mayor, you can only do so much. So the credit goes to them. But I have met people in this job that I never would have met otherwise, and I'll keep those relationships the rest of my life."

What's next?

As the rest of that life starts, it will mark yet another new phase for a man who has seen quite a bit in his 59 years.

But given how wide his net has been cast in the first five decades, Jacobs' life could be summarized in Brooks and Dunn's 2001 hit, "Only in America."

"Only in this country could someone like me have the opportunities I've had," he said. "At its core, that's what our country is all about — pursuing the life you want and having the freedom to do that."

presence unless there is a accident that is not on Kingston Pike. Folks this not a opinion but a sad fact."

At the June 25 meeting, Greg Wiberley, a candidate for the South Ward alderman seat, said the Mayor's Facebook post "fits the classic description of cyberbullying" because it encouraged citizens to "make their feelings known directly to Mr. Cain" about his continued service.

"I find it reprehensible that one Town official would single out another elected official to challenge the legitimacy of that elected official," Wiberley said.

"When placed in the context of this election, however, the reason becomes clear. This was simply not a disagreement between members of the BOMA; it appears to be a partisan action during an election season intended to damage a mayoral candidate who is running against someone supported by the mayor."

Wiberley said Williams used his Facebook account and official title "to call for public pressure against the opponent of the candidate he supports."

He also said the Board's meeting rule prohibiting personal attacks was not enforced.

Wiberley further accused mayoral candidate Louise Povlin of placing campaign signs in violation of the town's sign ordinance.

"I've not said anything against Alderman Cain," Williams replied. "I've had many calls — as a matter of fact, I've had 52 calls and meetings with people — asking me to do something about what was written. OK, I can't do that.

"There's no recall. Alderman Cain is a duly elected alderman, and I've told everybody we can't do anything about what was printed. There's nothing I can do or want to do.

Andover

From page 1A

"My family has owned the property for 23 years," Lindsey said. "The lot now being developed remained undeveloped for 33 years because it was in a flood zone.

"We relied on the existing drainage pattern to maintain our property accordingly," he added. "Now, after these changes, we are dealing with increased runoff, redirected groundwater and blocked drainage easements, all without any apparent protection from the Town."

Lindsey asked Town officials for "accountability and transparency" and requested an explanation as to why commitments made during the Jan. 6 meeting were not enforced and why additional drainage protections were not required.

Williams said he was not familiar with the specifics of the dispute but promised the Town would investigate.

"I will have to get back with you on that and get some people involved because I'm not sure exactly what you're talking about," Williams said. "But, we will get back with you on that."

Marshals

From page 1A

James R. "Jim" O'Brien
O'Brien served in the U.S. Air Force from 1967 to 1994, retiring as a colonel. His career included multiple tours, and he supported Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Jason Simon
Simon served in the U.S. Navy from 2003 to 2023, retiring as a commander after a 20-year career that culminated as executive officer and chief of staff at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake.

Fred Adomat
Adomat enlisted in the U.S. Army after an initial medical disqualification due to a heart murmur. He completed training but was honorably discharged for the murmur before serving veterans as an honor guard member.

"Nothing happened under Alderman Cain's watch while he was an alderman. That needs to be left separate from his official duties, so I told everybody, if you want to talk to a candidate, whoever it is, call them."

Addressing the allegation about campaign signs, Williams said he personally measured signs.

"If you read the ordinance, it says 12 feet from the curb," he said. "I measured Mrs. Povlin's signs, and I measured some of the others, too, and everybody followed the rules."

Resident Kimberlie Parks said she did not expect perfection from elected officials.

"But I do expect humility," Parks said. "I expect integrity. I expect courage when your friends are wrong. And I expect those entrusted with public office to understand the weight of their words."

Parks said Cain had become a target.

"He was elected by the people of Farragut," she said. "He continues to show up, serve this town and stand by his convictions despite relentless personal attacks. His votes and his record are fair subjects for debate. His personal humiliation should never become a political strategy."

She questioned why Williams had written that it was "vital" for residents to direct their concerns to Cain.

"You're here, you're standing up strong and you have every right to," resident Pat Lee told Cain.

Turning to Williams, Lee said, "I use the words 'character assassination by inuendo.' You took the weight of the mayor's office and you put this out. ... We know you can't remove him, but you put your thumb on the election, sir, and that's a problem.

"I'm asking the Board to censure you for this behavior."

Williams also asked the couple to provide their contact information so Town staff could follow up.

Gillian Lindsey said she previously contacted Alderman Alex Cain but never received a response.

She said the dispute has continued for a year and has forced the couple to hire engineers at their own expense.

"The engineer that developed the subdivision did a report for us that cost \$7,000," she said. "We're about to spend another \$6,000 to \$12,000 for an H&H calculation, which should have been requested by the Town of Farragut."

Gillian Lindsey said she has repeatedly asked the Town to intervene but believes no action has been taken.

After speaking with FEMA officials in Nashville, she said she was told the amount of backfill placed on the neighboring property should have required a hydrologic and hydraulic analysis.

"The developer took his property out of the flood zone and put our property in the flood zone," she said. "Our crawl space is on that side of the property where the significant flooding happens."

William Craddick

Craddick served as an Army armor officer from 1971 to 1975, supporting America's commitment to NATO and the defense of Western Europe.

Jerry Godolphin

Godolphin served in the US. Air Force from 1961 to 1965, supporting one of America's first operational nuclear cruise missiles.

Stuart Greenfield

Originally from Nevada, Greenfield graduated boot camp just days before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. He deployed to Iraq three times and served in Fallujah.

Noell "Melon" Simmons

Simmons served in the U.S. Air Force from 1987 to 1991, deploying to the Persian Gulf and supporting Cold War air defense missions before retraining as an aerial gunner.

Rastovic was reached out to but there was no response.

"The 52 calls I had, I told them the exact same thing, that they needed to contact Mr. Cain and any other candidate they had questions about," Williams said. "That was something that had gone on for a few days. I had 52 of them, and then all of a sudden they stopped.

"Most of them were women. They had questions. It really wasn't my place to talk for Mr. Cain. It was his place, and that's what I recommended."

Lawrence Segrest also criticized the Facebook post.

"You can weave and dodge, but there were a lot of things you were implying, a lot of innuendo," Segrest said. "Take it easy and let the voters decide."

Kingsgate resident Matthew Parsons said he had once considered running for South Ward alderman and for Knox County Commission but decided against it because of the negativity associated with local politics.

"I feel like that is what has happened," Parsons said. "We have gone from having a conversation about the issues to, for lack of a better term, gossip.

"How long has Alex Cain been an alderman here in Farragut? Two years. And what are we talking about? We're talking about accusations. We're talking about something that happened a long time before that, and it comes out now.

"Doesn't it seem odd that this has come out now? Was there new evidence that came to light? In a country where someone is innocent until proven guilty, what was he guilty of?"

"From what I can tell, the only mistake Alex Cain made was running against the heir apparent of the current mayor.

"Part of the reason I didn't want to run for alderman is because I didn't want to deal with the drama," Parsons added. "... juvenile little games."



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An American dream, one meal at a time

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

On a sunny summer Tuesday, Najwan Natour stood proudly in front of his restaurant, Nick and J's Cafe in Farragut.

An American flag hung on the pole outside the front door and another waved in the window of the restaurant he has owned for almost 20 years.

It was every bit the American dream so many immigrants imagine when they come to the United States.

But for Natour, that dream started as a nightmare.

Fleeing to freedom

Natour still can remember the house shaking.

In 1960's, Palestine, the 5-year-old Natour would run around as gleefully as any other child.

But at a moment's notice, he would have to stop in his tracks and duck under the kitchen table as bombs dropped nearby.

"There was always bombing around there," he said. "You kind of get used to it, you know? They don't give you a warning. So when I was running around, my mom would tell me to go under the table."

Eventually, the constant threats became too much to bear, and the family moved to the United States after the 1967 Palestine War.

They settled in the Washington, D.C., area, then moved to Knoxville.

When Natour's parents and uncle bought the Copper Kettle restaurant, his young culinary career began.

He worked from the time he was 11 years old, learning the English language through school, friends and tutors.

"I had a rough time with it," he recalled. "Very hard time."

Things came easier in the

kitchen, as he adopted the same style as his father, Naji Natour.

He graduated from West High School then moved to Florida to co-own and operate a deli. He soon returned to Knoxville, though, working first with Ruby Tuesday's in its franchise operation, then opened Froggy's and Time-Out Deli with a relative.

By that point, Natour was ready to strike out on his own, which led him to the Nick and J's location on Lovell Road.

Living the dream

Nick and J's is named for Nick and Jordan Natour, the sons the owner shares with his wife and restaurant co-pilot, Linda.

Natour noted his children have found careers in dietetics and coaching, respectively, while he hustles to deliver food Knoxville loves.

Each day's blue plate special is a popular choice, as are the Reuben and pastrami sandwiches and the half-pound bacon cheeseburger.

The restaurant has drawn national acclaim on CNN, Fox News, Fox & Friends and Food Network.

There even have been several films and documentaries made there, as Natour noted producers and directors "love the diner look."

So do local customers, which range from everyday diners to A-list Knoxville celebrities.

Natour maintains friendships with former Tennessee coaches Butch Jones and Jeremy Pruitt while Josh Heupel, Rick Barnes and Tony Vitello also have stopped to visit.

Even the late "Voice of the Vols," John Ward, stopped in to find the same welcoming atmosphere as anyone else.

"I treat everybody like you're coming to my house: with respect and like family," Na-



Jake Nichols

Najwan Natour stands proudly in front of Nick and J's Café, the Farragut eatery he has owned for almost two decades. Originally from Palestine, Natour and his wife, Linda, have crafted their own version of the American dream at their popular restaurant on Lovell Road.

tour said. "You have to build a relationship, and you have to give them good food, too. You don't give them that, it doesn't matter if they're your best friends — they're not going to come."

While relaying this information, Natour hustled back and

forth between the cash register to handle happy customers.

It was another busy day at the restaurant, which featured a noticeable line even at 2:30 p.m.

But even through the packed game days and lunch hour rushes, Natour remembers

the principles and people that brought him here so long ago.

"I'd love to go see where I was born, but it's not that easy for us. There's too much going on," he said. "I'm very grateful. Land of the free, home of the brave — and of the Tennessee Vols."

★ ★ ★ businessbriefs ★ ★ ★

• Four Covenant Health hospitals — Fort Loudon, Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center, Cumberland Medical Center and Methodist Medical Center — recently were named to the 2026 Lown Hospitals Index Honor Roll for delivering health equity, high-value care and outstanding clinical outcomes.

• Grayson Subaru recently presented a check for \$45,550 to Ijams Nature Center to continue its work to expand the Ijams Nature Playscape at Grayson Subaru Preserve and improve the Mead's Quarry Lake swim area.

The local retailer chose the nonprofit nature center as its

hometown charity for Subaru of America Inc.'s 2025 Subaru Share the Love event. From Nov. 15, 2025, to Jan. 2, 2026, Subaru and its retailers donated a minimum of \$300 for every new Subaru vehicle purchased or leased at participating retailers nationwide to several national charities and a hometown charity chosen by each retailer.

This is the third consecutive year Grayson Subaru has selected Ijams as its partner for this event and the sixth year overall. The funding Ijams has received through the program since 2023 is helping to create Phase 2 of Playscape and will add other features to the swim area.

• 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.

**Elect
Richie
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Paid for by Elect Richie Beeler - Chris Julian, Treasurer.

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THE STATUS OF OUR TOWN OF FARRAGUT



Louise Povlin has served ten straight years on the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, the same ten years that have seen the decline of Farragut.

How well do you know where you live?

This is Farragut's rating from the 2025 National Community Survey:

<https://www.townoffarragut.org/DocumentCenter/View/8610/The-NCS-Report---Farragut-TN-2025>

If your child brought home these grades from school would you be happy?

COMMUNITY DESIGN

60%

Believe Land Use, Planning, and Zoning is "FAIR or POOR"

56%

Believe Well-Planned Commercial Growth is "FAIR or POOR"

64%

Believe Well-Planned Residential Growth is "FAIR or POOR"

MOBILITY

80%

Believe Traffic Flow on Major Streets is "FAIR or POOR"

These are failing grades that reflect entirely on how the town has been administered since former Farragut Vice Mayor Louise Povlin has been able to push her agenda.

Would you consider new management for our town?

Alderman **Alex Cain** is running for Mayor of Farragut versus Louise Povlin.

Louise Povlin's vision for Farragut does not agree with what most residents want. During her tenure she has managed to corrupt what the Town Founders had envisioned by supporting multiple high rise apartments.

These 781 apartments are the Biddle Farm Town Center and apartments, the Overlook apartments at North Campbell Station Drive and Outlets Drive, and the Farragut Junction apartments at Watt Road.

To prevent scrutiny of her poor planning record, Louise Povlin's supporters are now desperately trying to hide that record by spreading ugly malicious slander against her opponent, Alex Cain.

The result of this slander was the revelation Thursday, June 25th in the Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting when Alderman Cain revealed a threat had been made against his life. See QR code #1, at right.

An investigation is ongoing with the Knox County Sheriff's Department.

This horrible slander was furthered by the innuendo clearly found in Farragut Mayor Ron Williams' Facebook post. See screenshot of post, at right.

Farragut residents have had enough of this dangerous dirty politics of false innuendo and said so at the Thursday, June 25th, Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting in Citizens Forum. See QR code #2, at right.

As you go to the polls to vote for Farragut Mayor you should consider which candidate represents your values and how those values will translate into public policy. Do you want a government of the people, by the people, and for the people? If so, **Alex Cain is your man.**



QR Code #1

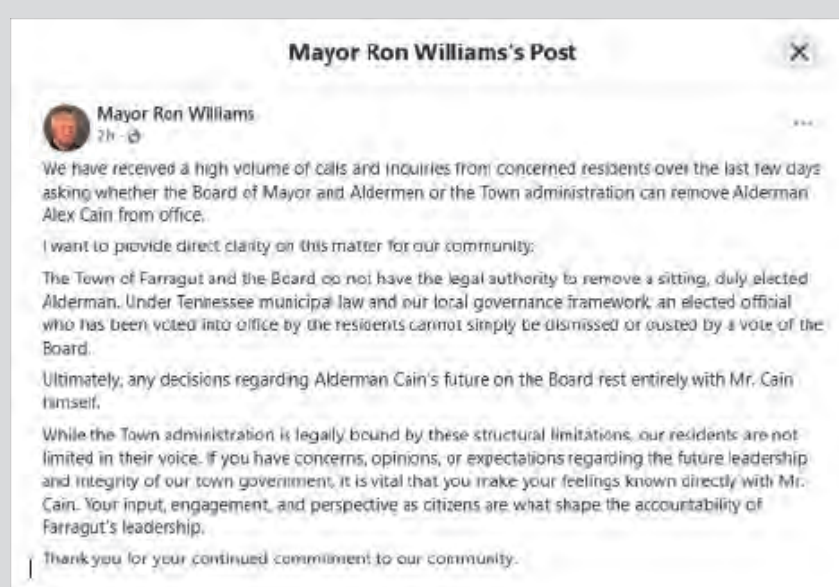
Alderman Cain revealed a threat had been made against his life

<https://www.youtube.com/live/zKDTT2860aY?si=wh4MJJ9ig-TRBgDT1&t=3465>



QR Code #2

Farragut residents have had enough of this dangerous dirty politics of false innuendo and said so Thursday, June 25th, in the Citizens Forum <https://www.youtube.com/live/zKDTT2860aY?si=v6bobYRU-wODrQ3L6&t=1346>



Farragut desperately needs new management in the office of Mayor. Alex Cain can and will bring that new management and leadership.



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FOR FARRAGUT MAYOR

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Anthem to adrenaline



Photo courtesy of Ty Roderiques

Farragut alumnus Ty Roderiques was a two-time member of the U.S. Men's Junior National Gymnastics Team, bringing home three gold medals after competing in England and Canada.

The dream is worth the climb

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

For most people, the chance to compete for one's country is nothing more than a dream.

But for Farragut High School graduate Ty Roderiques, that dream became reality before he turned 18 — and he has the gold medals to show for it.

Competing out of GymTek Academy, Roderiques became a two-time member of the U.S. Men's Junior National Gymnastics Team. He won the 2023 U.S. vault championship and finished second on vault, fourth on pommel and third in the all-around at the 2024 U.S. Championships and recently competed at the 2025 London Open, placing first in the all-around.

Now a rising sophomore on the Nebraska gymnastics team, Roderiques revisited his rise in the sport, noting what it has meant to represent his country.

"It's a dream come true," he said. "You hear all these stories of people who did it and look back at the memo-

ries and hours you put in. It makes the hill you climbed look so small, just such a sense of everything you worked for paying off."

He started climbing that hill at 4 years old, jumping on the trampolines at Tataru's Gymnastics in Farragut during his sister's practices.

But once Roderiques started competing, he kept winning.

"I thought it was normal, like honestly," he said with a chuckle. "I was a little numb to how good my teammates and I were."

"Honestly, my love for the sport has grown and changed every single year I've been doing this," Roderiques added. "When I was a kid, it wasn't too much of an important thing for me. But the older I became, the more I realized, 'This is what I was put on this Earth to do. This is what I feel like I was destined to become.'"

That appreciation extended to Farragut High School. Most athletes walked around wearing football jerseys or

See DREAM on Page 2B



Jake Nichols

Before founding Triple F Elite Sports Training in his hometown of Knoxville, Lee Smith spent 11 seasons in the National Football League. That gave him a unique perspective on the passion within sports and how that merges with an appreciation for America on its 250th anniversary.

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

Lee Smith can still remember his first national anthem as an NFL player.

Sunday, Oct. 2, 2011, he stood on the visitors' sideline at Paycor Stadium in Cincinnati, Ohio. After initially being drafted by the New England Patriots out of Marshall University, the Powell High School product had been picked up by the Buffalo Bills to start his rookie year.

Now, with his NFL debut seconds away, he prayed, reflected and soaked in the moment as Danny Kaleini's voice carried over the crowd.

*Oh say, can you see
 By the dawn's early light...*

But as that voice wafted in the autumn Ohio air, another whispered two words in Smith's soul: it's time.

"It's like the Pavlov effect," Smith explained, channeling the feeling from his office chair 15 years later. "You ring the bell, dog starts salivating. And they're not salivating because of the bell. They're salivating because of the food. So for me, the national anthem means somebody is about to get their butt whipped. That song means it's coming, the violence I loved. That means it's close."

By the end of his 11-year career in the National Football League, Smith experienced exactly 149 of those moments as a member of the Bills, Oakland Raiders and Atlanta Falcons.

"And the first one," he said with a smile, "was just as good as the last one."

So, with America 250 approaching, he delved into

a cultural viewpoint few Americans actually can experience: the nostalgia and patriotism one enjoys as a professional athlete in the United States.

Jet-fueled flyovers, flags whipping in the brisk pregame breeze — Smith has been part of both in stadiums booming with noise each and every weekend.

"Folks in Europe would argue with me from a soccer perspective, and there's some awesome soccer environments across the globe," he said. "But when you're talking about the United States, there is nothing like them stretching that flag across the entire field and singing the national anthem while you get to go play a kid's game and make millions of dollars."

"I got to live the American dream and be a part of it. And I will be eternally grateful, mostly because my wife and kids got to see their dad run out of a tunnel with fighter jets flying over. There's no other arena I can think of that I would've been more proud to be a part of."

On the personal side, Smith noted he is not a political person and believes humans should use the Bible as their compass in life.

Smith said he does stand for the anthem when it is played but emphasized the statement was not a shot at any former teammates who chose otherwise.

"They had a different story, a different life and different experiences than I had," Smith said. "Me personally, I will always be a proud American who is so grateful to have been born in a country like this with athletic ability to play what is arguably

See ANTHEM on Page 2B

Larry Simcox passes the torch on America's pastime

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

To understand baseball's effect on the United States of America, one simply needs to experience James Earl Jones' quote in the 1989 classic, "Field of Dreams."

"America has rolled by like an army of steamrollers," Jones said in the movie, his voice as gravelly as the rocks he stood on during the speech. "It's been erased like a blackboard, rebuilt and erased again. But baseball has marked the time."

Baseball's emergence as

America's pastime feels even more special this year, as the country's 250th anniversary is just three days away.

And in the Knoxville area, no one has seen more in the sport than Larry Simcox.

As a player, Simcox rose from Cleveland State Community College to an All-SEC career at Ole Miss, ultimately spending two years as a minor league shortstop.

As an assistant coach at Ole Miss and Tennessee, Simcox oversaw the development of 10 first-round MLB Draft picks, 42 All-SEC players and more than 150 professional players,

including Hall of Famer and Knoxville native Todd Helton, his son A.J. Simcox and Farragut standout Nicky Delmonico.

Now, after a quarter-century coaching college baseball, Simcox has worked with athletes across the area for almost two more decades at his Diamond Baseball facility in west Knoxville.

Beyond the signatures and memorabilia in the lobby, Simcox and the Diamond team have produced approximately 350 college baseball players, all of whom are showcased along a wall near the batting cages.

So, yes, it's safe to say Simcox knows a thing or two.

As a kid in 1960s Chattanooga, Simcox tuned into the game of the week every Saturday, then ventured into the backyard, dreaming of Mickey Mantle.

Once the Braves relocated to Atlanta, he caught on to Hank Aaron, too.

"Everything he did, I tried to emulate, from the on-deck circle to the way he swung the bat," Simcox recalled with a chuckle. "I wasn't a power hitter, but he was still my favorite player. I played basketball and football like a lot of

kids, but baseball was always my true love."

Over time, that love took him from the fields of Chattanooga — where Simcox watched his father play pickup games as a child — to SEC fields as a player and coach.

As a part of the Tennessee staff under Rod Delmonico, he stood on the chalk line in Omaha, Nebraska, at the College World Series.

Through every circumstance, Simcox's affair with the game and its hold on America only blossomed.

See SIMCOX on Page 2B

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Simcox

From page 1B

"I've been very blessed to coach a lot of players who have gone on to have great careers, and hopefully I've played a part in that," he said. "Then anytime you hear the national anthem at a game, it means something, but when you're in a uniform in a big moment, it's even better."

"I remember being 18 in the Dizzy Dean World Series, lining up and it gave me chill bumps," Simcox continued. "In a regional here at Tennessee or in Omaha for the College World Series, it gives you goosebumps. When you think of the history of this country, baseball has been the sport. They call it the national pastime for a reason. It's been a part of the foundation of this

country from a sporting standpoint."

Even after Simcox thought about stepping away from coaching in 2007, that foundation and love drew him back in.

He put on a few hitting clinics at Farragut High School, borrowing the Admirals' cages with the blessing of former skipper Tommy Pharr.

Eventually, more kids started showing up, and Simcox founded Diamond Baseball with Jeff Senzel in 2009.

He returned to UT to coach under Dave Serrano from 2015 to 2017, then retired for good and has been with Diamond ever since.

Through it all, he has cherished the ability to pass on his favorite pastime to the next generation.

"It's been a real blessing to

awareness to launch himself into the air.

"I've always been good at it, and it's something a lot of people don't understand really well," he said. "But I feel like I've gotten a good grasp of it. All the events are different, and with certain body types, you tend to be better at other ones. Part of the challenge is getting better at the ones you're not the best at."

Standing inside the SAP Center in San Jose, California, he celebrated the culmination of that craft at age 16 when he was named the national champion in vault with a third-place finish in all-around to qualify

**Simcox**

be around the game and teach it," he said. "Our teams have had a lot of success over the years, but I always say our scoreboard is the guys on that wall of college signees. That's what this place was set up for, and it brings me a lot of pride."

for the U.S. Men's Junior National Team.

He clapped and smiled afterward, sending chalk into the air.

Years later, he took a deeper look at his mental approach that day.

"It's hard," Roderiques said. "When you're about to compete, you tend to get anxious and scared. But you have to remember you're here for a reason, and it's better to be uncomfortable in that situation than to not be competing at all."

As a member of the national team, Roderiques traveled to Canada — where he helped win a team title — and London,

Anthem

From page 1B

the most amazing game ever created from a fan perspective."

As that appreciation grew through his career, Smith became known as one of the most fearsome, physical tight ends in the league.

In the process, he used the lessons and leadership he developed in locker rooms throughout his career.

Now, he tries to pass along those principles as the owner and CEO of Triple F Elite Sports Training.

Smith returned to Knoxville and opened the venue in 2022, teaching kids how to "train like a pro" while reinforcing the business backbone: faith, family and fitness.

Aside from his work at Triple F, he enjoys watching his children compete in athletic events around town.

When the anthem is played for those games, Smith may not experience the same level of drama he did before.

But somewhere, deep down, there stirs the same passion he felt that afternoon in Cincinnati.

"I hate to make it about anything but America because that was a cool experience," he said. "You're on the bus, and you go through warmups. Then when that song starts playing, your livelihood, everything is on the line, and you have to produce. Then the crowd goes wild, the ball gets kicked off and there you go."

Roderiques holds plenty of appreciation for his journey so far, too.

"It meant a lot to represent the country you're from," he said. "It meant a lot to know I was the one they had chosen. But it was also a lot of pressure because you have to do well for your country. It was more excitement than fear, honestly. You have to remind yourself pressure is a privilege, and you're not there on an accident. You earned it, and the competition is your place to show it. It didn't matter if it went good or bad because the success was already completed."

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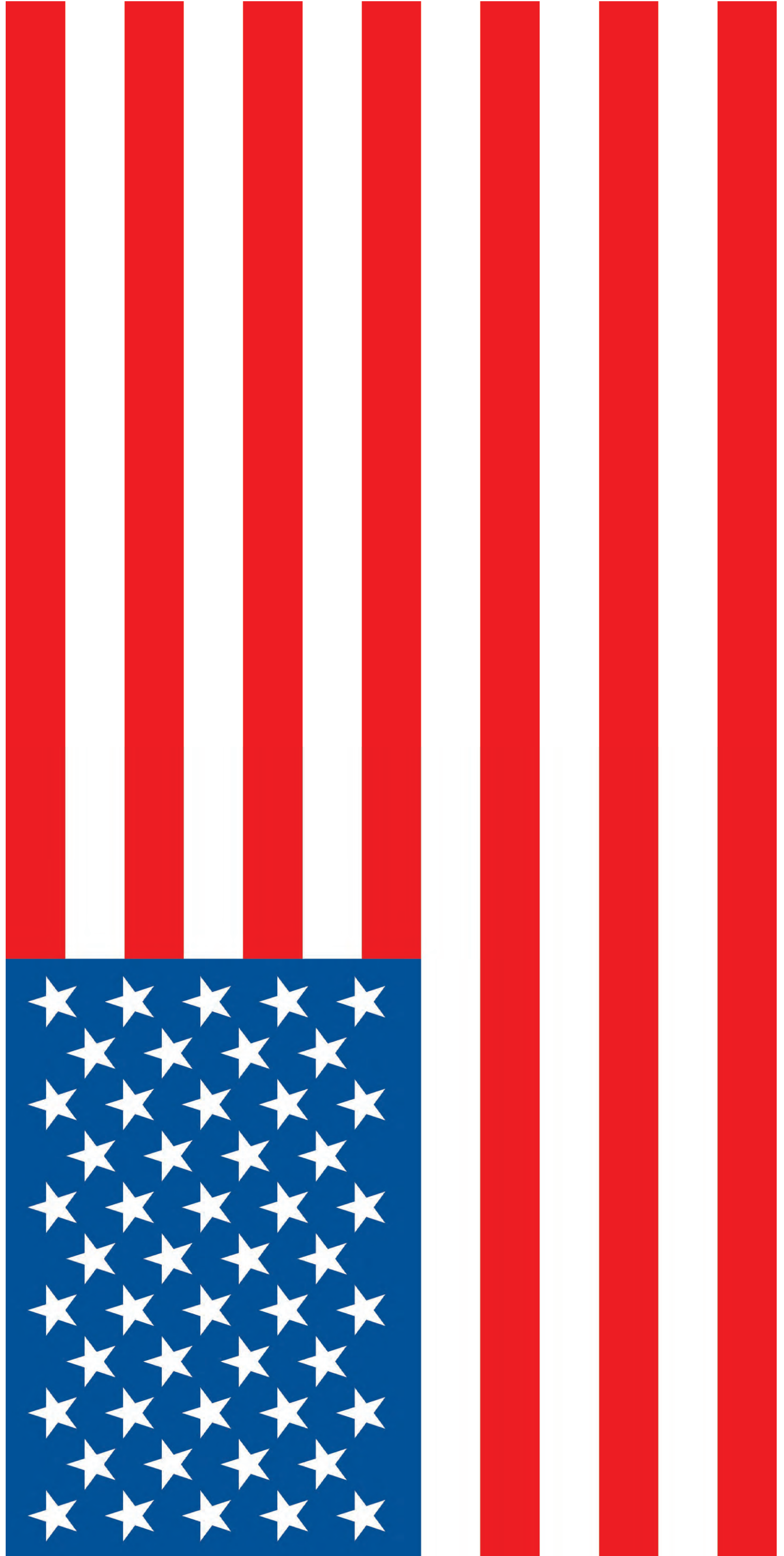
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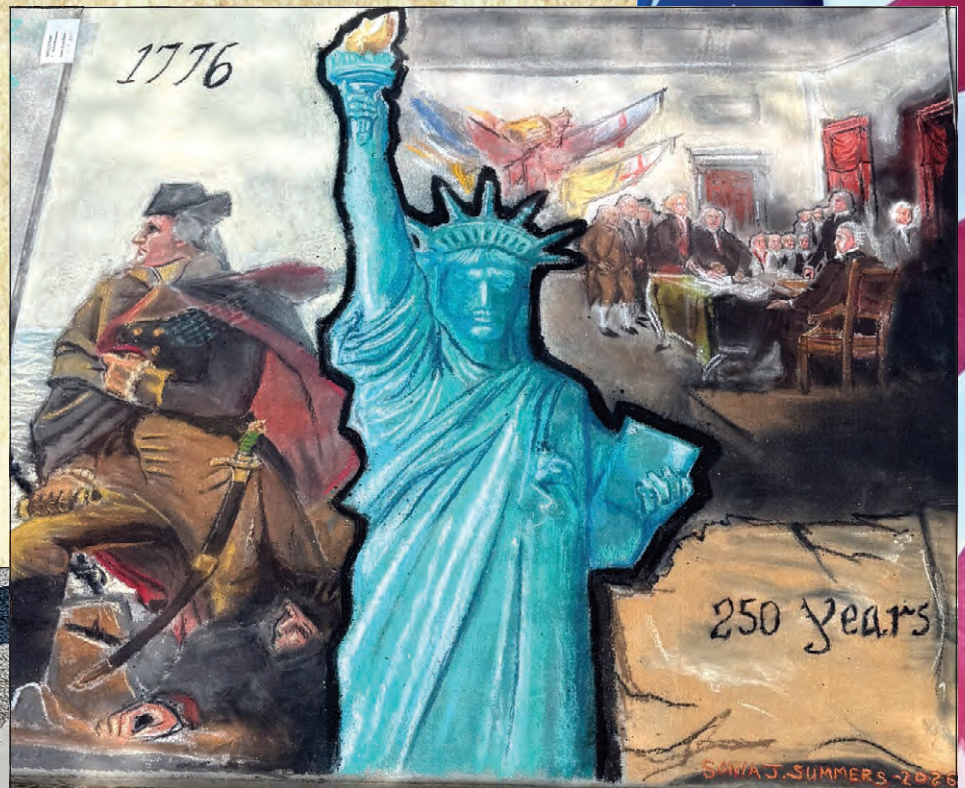


America's 250th serves as theme for Chalk the Plaza

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 (pictured, top right);" 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."



1776 photo submitted / All other photos by Tammy Cheek

Right: Sonia Summers draws George Washington

Below: Annie Bowers, 11, and Caroline Bowers, 9

Below: Sarah Humphrey's booth



Stephanie Hacker draws jellyfish



Mary Ward draws Statue of Liberty featuring her niece



Liam McCormick joins in the fun

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As we look ahead to America's next great chapter, the Hagerty family wishes you and your family a happy Independence Day.

GOD BLESS AMERICA



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Knoxville prepares to celebrate in style

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

The greater Knoxville area is celebrating America's 250th anniversary in style with plenty of events throughout the city this summer.

The biggest draw will be Festival on the 4th, the annual In-

dependence Day celebration in World's Fair Park on Saturday, July 4.

That will feature live music, family activities and fireworks downtown.

A week later, July 11, Celebration at the Cove will take place at The Cove at Concord Park. There, Knox County will

host a large-scale expo, which will be a "living history" experience, blending a classic summer park outing with a showcase of local history, community organizations and family-friendly activities right on the water.

While the July 11 celebration provides a second opportunity

to celebrate, there are plenty of other activities throughout the summer.

At the East Tennessee History Center, there is the feature exhibition "Lines Were Drawn: the Treaty of Holston and its Legacy." That exhibit

See **KNOX EVENTS** on Page 5C



Knoxville Symphony Orchestra bringing patriotic notes



Photo submitted

The Knoxville Symphony Orchestra will welcome attendees for its Independence Day concert in July, and there will be another set of patriotic-themed concerts Sept. 17-18, as the official symphony season begins with the MoxCar Marketing + Communications Masterworks Series kickoff, George Gershwin's "American in Paris."

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

Organizations across the area are finding unique ways to celebrate America 250, and the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra is no exception.

Saturday, July 4, the symphony will welcome patrons for the 42nd annual Lawson Family Foundation Independence Day concert to wrap up Knoxville's Festival on the Fourth at World's Fair Park. The KSO's free performance

begins at 8 p.m. and will be followed by fireworks launching from the Henley Street Bridge at approximately 9:45 p.m.

"The city sponsors a whole bunch of activities that go on during the day, then this performance is a concluding event of that day-long schedule of activities," said Matthew Seaman, KSO's director of communications. "With the Fourth of July, we typically perform patriotic marches,

See **SYMPHONY** on Page 3C



Photo submitted

The 1975-1976 American Freedom Train made a cross-country journey to Washington, D.C., celebrating our nation's Bicentennial.

Ordinary people doing extraordinary things

Submitted by *Tim Eichhorn, partner and senior advisor with Rather & Kittrell*

Fifty years ago exactly, during the week leading up to July 4, 1976, the American Freedom Train stopped in Cumberland, Maryland, on June 29 and 30 as its 93rd stop on a cross-country journey to Washington, D.C., celebrating our nation's Bicentennial.

Dad came home at lunch-

time on that June 29 and took 10-year-old me to see the train.

Spread across 26 railcars was a representation of the most remarkable two centuries in human history.

At no other time had so much happened so quickly. A nation founded through revolution and upon entirely new principles had spanned a continent-sized frontier. Its people became individuals of almost

mythic proportion—answering to no king who claimed authority by birthright. Instead, Americans claimed their own birthright as free people. They set forth as trailblazers in canoes on unknown waters, then as woodsmen, settlers, gold seekers, buffalo hunters, cattlemen, farmers, inventors, and industrialists.

The display cars contained

See **FREEDOM TRAIN** on Page 3C

East Tennessee gears up to celebrate America's milestone with area events

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

As America celebrates its 250th birthday, communities around East Tennessee are gearing up to celebrate the milestone.

From parades to library storytelling to fun at the park,

Lenoir City has lined up a schedule of events. The events started with America 250 Storytime at Lenoir City Public Library Friday, June 16, in the library located along Broadway.

"The General William Lenoir branch of Daughters of the American Revolution read patriotic books and helped library

users paint rocks.

The celebration continues with the city's annual Lenoir City Independence Day Parade starting at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 4, along Broadway, from C Street to South Grand Street.

According to its site, the parade begins with a free children's Firecracker Run, half-

mile fun run for youngsters ages 5 to 12. All runners receive a participation award, and other prizes are presented.

The excitement continues when Lenoir City Parks and Recreation hosts its free annual Rockin' the Dock 1 p.m., Saturday, July 4, in Lenoir City Park. See our story for more details

on that event.

Kicking off July 4 events, the City of Loudon will host an America's 250th Celebration 8 p.m., Friday, July 3, in at Tate & Lyle Amphitheater in Loudon Municipal Park, 1470 Roberson Springs Road, Loudon.

See **EAST TN EVENTS** on Page 4C



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Veteran honored as part of last Knoxville Honor Air 38th cohort

Submitted by Edmund Terry and the James White Society Chapter of the Children of American Revolution

A fini-flight is a US Air Force ceremonial send off tradition marking the end of a career, assignment or era. April marked the final flight for Knoxville's Honor Air. The Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) was privileged to experience the close of this chapter with one of its veteran honorees.

Vietnam veteran, Major James "Jay" Wyrosdic, has lived a memorable life. A native Knoxville, "Mr. Jay" attended Central High before graduating from the University of Tennessee. He joined the Army in 1964 where he flew helicopters before becoming a flight instructor. One of his most memorable assignments was his three years at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, where he supported NASA in the development of the Space Shuttle. The Farragut resident made a new memory with fellow combat veterans on April 8, 2026, as part of the last Knoxville Honor Air 38th cohort. Major Wyrosdic, 85, had been to D.C. with Sam, his wife of 64 years. But, this would be a different type of trip. "The Honor Air trip will be an exciting opportunity to see all of the monuments in a different environment than I have in the past. I am looking forward to seeing the monuments in Washington, D.C. I have never witnessed the Changing of the Guard Ceremony, so that is the thing I am most excited about."

I met Mr. Jay through the James White Chapter of the Children of the American Revolution. He was honored at a Daughters of the American Revolution service event in January. CAR is a strong supporter of veterans, past and present. We attend a number of service events, wreath layings and, of course, Honor Air flights. CAR members make signs, pass out balloons and welcome service members home. Our chapter made special signs for this last flight.

Honor Air Knoxville was founded in 2007 by Eddie Mannis and a few friends who wanted to honor veterans with "boots-on-the-ground" experience. Their focus was veterans from the World Wars to Korea. Honor Air Flights take vets to Washington, D.C. to see monuments. They have escorts, and each vet receives a packet of



Photo submitted

letters thanking them for their service. Mr. Jay said he was amazed by the amount of mail he received on the return flight. Some were generically addressed to veterans, however, many addressed him by name. It was those small touches that made Honor Air such a gift to the vets they honored.

Nineteen years after its founding, Honor Air Knoxville had a full board of people dedicated to giving veterans the recognition many never received when they returned from service. It took 36 volunteers to run the last flight, plus escorts and many other hands on the ground. Mr. Mannis was committed to honoring every veteran who wanted to take the trip. April was the last flight because his waiting list was finally exhausted. Mr. Jay almost didn't sign up. The major felt older vets had a priority. He is glad he was one of 134 who did.

Dawn brought a baggage claim area filled with boy scouts, well-wishers, snacks and politicians wishing the opponents a great trip. One of

CAR's own senior members served in the send-off nurses' corps in crisp white uniforms and a hero's cape. U.S. Rep Tim Burchett was a welcome face on both departure and return. Many families stood in line to take pictures with him. When Major Wyrosdic arrived in D.C. with the other honorees, he was impressed by the greeting. "I didn't think the people would notice us, but as we entered the terminal, they stopped and began cheering and clapping." Imagine how happy this made him and the other Vietnam vets on the flight. Mrs. Wyrosdic said they didn't receive anything like that during the war.

The major did get to see the Changing of the Guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The wreath-laying ceremony was moving and solemn. However, it was the teens he met on the outing that gave him hope for the future. At the WWII memorial, he encountered a "pleasant and polite" group from Rome, NY. A large con-

See HONOR AIR on Page 4C

obituary

Robert E. Bowman
April 6, 1939 - June 24, 2026

It is with both heavy hearts and fond memories that we announce the passing of Robert E. Bowman, a cherished father, grandfather, and friend, who passed on June 24, 2026, at the age of 87. Born on April 6, 1939, in Philadelphia, PA, Robert lived with the joy of family and friendship, hard work and adventure.



Robert, affectionately known as Bob, was the son of Horace Merrill Bowman and Dorothy Violet Sturtz. He grew up alongside his sister Nancy, who predeceased him. Bob shared an enduring love story with his wife, Mary Jane Willis, whom he married in 1960. Together, they built a life rich with friendships and travel until Mary Jane's passing in 2019. Their union blessed them with two loving children, Robert Bowman Jr., married to Kristi Bowman, and Deborah Cornett, married to Gary Cornett. His legacy continues through his three grandchildren Madison, Mollie and Nate, who brought immense joy to his life.

Bob's educational journey began at Valley Forge Military Academy, where he graduated high school in 1957. He went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Tri-State University in 1964. His commitment to service was reflected in his time with the U.S. Army, where he served from 1960 to 1962, stationed in Asmara, Ethiopia.

For many years, Bob applied his talents in engineering sales, specializing in commer-

cial HVAC. In his later years, he found great fulfillment as a driver for Enterprise, a position he held with pride for 15 years until his final days. His congenial nature and friendly demeanor earned him many friends at Enterprise, as well as at the YMCA and the Villages of Farragut, where he was known for always having a kind word and an infectious smile.

Bob and Mary Jane were both active members of the Farragut Presbyterian Church for many decades. There they found a community that enriched their lives. Bob was also devoted to visiting his children and grandchildren in the Nashville area, where family gatherings were filled with warmth and laughter. He was a man of deep faith and a true patriot.

Bob's life will be celebrated on August 1, 2026, at 10 AM at Farragut Presbyterian Church, located at 209 Jamestown Blvd, Farragut, TN 37934. Visitation is at 10 AM and the service is at 11 AM. A reception will follow in the church narthex. Family, friends, and all who knew him are invited to gather in remembrance of a life well-lived and a man well-loved.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Amedisys Hospice Knoxville, Arosa Care Management Knoxville, and The Villages of Farragut for the compassionate care provided to Bob during his final days. Your kindness and support meant more than words can express.

As we say goodbye to Bob, we remember an outgoing and fun gentleman whose life was a testament to kindness, encouragement and enduring friendship. His memory lives on in the hearts of all who knew him.



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Young-Williams aims for 250 pet adoptions for USA 250th

Staff Reports

editor@farragutpress.com

Young-Williams Animal Center currently is caring for more than 800 dogs and cats and asking the community to consider opening their hearts and homes to a new pet this week.

In celebration of the U.S.'s 250th birthday this Independence Day, the goal is for 250 animals to find forever homes with a "name your own price" adoption fee offered Wednesday through Friday, July 1-3.

"As of today, we have 399 animals in our shelter locations and an additional 423 placed in foster homes, totaling 822 pets in our care," Young-Williams Animal Center CEO Janet Testerman said. "We are asking for help and support. Our goal is to complete 250 adoptions in three days.

"If you've been considering pet adoption, now is the time. Name your own adoption fee to bring home a loving dog or cat in need of a home. This applies to any animal in the shelter or currently placed with a foster. And the holiday weekend, which is extended for many people, serves as a great opportunity to

introduce a new pet to your home."

All pet adoption fees are waived with a donation of any amount to Young-Williams Animal Center. Potential adopters can view available animals on the Young-Williams Animal Center website at young-williams.org, as well as visit the shelter locations at 3201 Division St. and 6400 Kingston Pike. More information about the adoption process is available on the website, and Young-Williams Animal Center staff and volunteers will assist with same-day adoption.

Every pet adopted during the three-day event will receive the same services covered by the regular adoption fees, which include a veterinary exam, spay/neuter surgery, standard vaccinations, a microchip with registration and more.

Both locations are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily; however, they close from 1 to 2 p.m. for animal quiet time. Young-Williams Animal Center is closed on Saturday, July 4, in honor of the Independence Day holiday.

"If you've been thinking about adopting, now is an incredible time to make a difference. And if adopting isn't possible right now, please consider making a gift instead," Testerman said.



Freedom Train

From page 1C

more than 500 treasures of Americana. Among them were George Washington's copy of the Constitution, the original Louisiana Purchase document, Judy Garland's dress from *The Wizard of Oz*, Joe Frazier's boxing trunks, Martin Luther King Jr.'s pulpit and robes and even a rock from humanity's recent journey to the moon.

I remember that my father had concerns about the direction of the country, even as the Bicentennial celebration was building toward a fever pitch. Perhaps he and many other adults of that era had momentarily lost sight of the moral and material strength of a nation that had helped win two World Wars, resisted those bent on global domination, and expanded the cause of freedom around the world.

Perhaps all they could see was what appeared daily in newspapers and on the evening news. The lingering wounds of Vietnam and the fallout from Watergate created a sense of uncertainty that threatened to overshadow America's enduring promise.

Maybe we feel something similar today as we approach the 250th anniversary of this great American experiment.

Yet I believe there is good reason to look beyond the frustrations of the moment and focus instead on the character, principles and aspirations that have carried this nation forward for two and a half centuries. America is not perfect. It never has been. It is a nation built and sustained by imperfect people. Yet it continues to

serve as a beacon of hope for those around the world who long for freedom, opportunity and a better future. Even today, much of the world still looks to the United States for leadership.

Ten-year-old me stood in awe of what I saw on that train. Sixty-year-old me still believes.

But belief alone is not enough. Every generation is called to preserve, strengthen and pass forward what it has inherited. The freedoms, opportunities and institutions we enjoy today did not appear by accident; they were built through sacrifice, responsibility and service.

As we celebrate 250 years of America, perhaps the best way to honor those who came before us is not merely to reflect on their achievements but to contribute our own. We can invest in our families, serve our neighbors, strengthen our communities, support worthy causes and leave our corner of the world better than we found it.

The American story has always been written by ordinary people who chose to do extraordinary things in their own homes, businesses, churches, schools and towns. The next chapter is ours to write.

Tim Eichhorn manages corporate and personal assets for clients of Rather & Kittrell. Tim joined Rather & Kittrell in 2004 after spending the first eight years of his career serving our country as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and then nine years in consulting and non-profit work. He spent nine months back on active duty in 2005 as an advisor for the US Marine Corps to Iraqi forces in the city of Fallujah.

Symphony

From page 1C

John Phillips Sousa, a lot of crowd favorites. But with the 250, there will be special guests. We expect Knoxville mayor Indya Kincannon and the Knox County Mayor, Glenn Jacobs, and radio host Halloran Hilton Hill and Knoxville poet laureate Rhea Carmon, who will read poetry as part of the program, during the Battle Hymn of the Republic. So there's a narration that's part of that and poetry as well."

Mandolin player Wyatt Ellis will be featured as the symphony pairs with his own talents while WBIR's John Becker will serve as emcee for the event.

There are no tickets required, as anyone can bring a picnic blanket and food and drinks to sit and enjoy the concert on the lawn of World's Fair Park.

"I think the KSO has been privileged and honored to be part of this tradition," Seaman said. "The fact that it's a special anniversary in our coun-

try's history makes everyone — our performers, staff, leadership — that much more thankful to be part of our community and our country."

While the Independence Day concert will be a special feature for the holiday, it also is one part of a three-part kickoff series as anticipation builds for the performance season's kickoff in September.

Another free concert will take place Thursday, Sept. 3, at

the Knoxville Botanical Gardens while the final preseason concert will take place the following Thursday, Sept. 10, at Market Square downtown.

Those will lead into another set of patriotic-themed concerts Sept. 17-18, as the official symphony season begins with the MoxCar Marketing + Communications Masterworks Series kickoff, George Gershwin's "American in Paris."

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Honor Air

From page 2C

tingent from Maryville High and Decatur High were among those in the causeway at TYS. “(It was) not a short drive for them. They were all wearing identical shirts for the occasion. Seeing these kids renews my belief that this country may not be in as bad shape as I had imagined.”

The cadets of Civil Air Patrol, the ladies of DAR and representatives of James White Children of the American Revolution greet each of the returning Honor Air missions. Flight 38 was no exception. Signs, American flags and banners were ready. The whole Wyrosdick clan turned out to welcome their hero “Pops” home. Mrs. Wyrosdick was interviewed by WBIR. She said it was wonderful to see the number of young people thanking those who served.

Incoming CAR President Sawyer Widner and a number of our younger CAR members came to welcome our vet home. The nearest future Honor Air flight will be in Nash-

ville. So, we will not be welcoming any new flights home. However, CAR serves local veterans in a number of ways with our parent DAR and SAR chapters. Future activities include field trips, serving veteran breakfasts, helping with America 250 events and participating in memorials. However, seeing the grateful smiles of returning veterans will be missed.

Major Wyrosdick summarized the experience the best. “I was very proud to be a part of the last flight. I always knew I would like to go but put it off because I didn’t want to take up a spot that I felt should go to a WWII or Korean War veteran, but when they said it was the last one, I knew I had to do it.” We, the James White Chapter, were glad to come along for the ride.

Founded in 1895, the Children of the American is considered the oldest patriotic organization for training youth. You can find more information at <https://www.tndar.org/tscar/> to learn more or join.

CCS performed Becoming America

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Concord Christian School honored the nation’s founding in May, when its marching band performed in a concert, Becoming America — A Journey Through Sound — at First Baptist Concord along Kingston Pike, Farragut.

“It was an incredibly fun night,” said Natalie Renfroe, who director of bands along with assistant director Hannah Smith. Renfroe also serves as CCS’s fine arts chair.

“The goal of this [band] program is not just learn an instrument, but to be His instrument,” Renfroe said. “The CCS Band prepares students to be independent, life-long musicians who understand how creating music brings them closer to their creator... We want to be God’s instruments.”



Photo submitted

Concord Christian School’s The Pride of Den Marching Band members, Joseph Martin on the mellophone and Molly Gilreath on the clarinet, performed during its spring concert.

East TN events

From page 1C

The free concert is part of the Levitt Family Foundation series of free concerts, said Tammy Roberts, program director for Loudon Alive, which is facilitating the concerts for the city.

The concert features the headliner, Wild Blue Yonder and its opening act, Knox Boombox. The gates are scheduled to close to traffic at 8 p.m. with fireworks at dark. For more information on the event, email to loudonalive3774@gmail.com or call 865-458-7525.

The city will hold its Independence Day Parade starting at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 4, along Mulberry Street.

According to its website, lineup is scheduled for 9 a.m., on Carter Street near Loudon High School.

Greenback also will celebrate with its annual 4th of July Parade starting at 5 p.m., Saturday, July 4, in downtown Greenback. Festivities, such as live music, vendors, food trucks, face painting, will take place in Greenback Community Center,

and fireworks are scheduled to start after dark.

Also, Blount County will be celebrating with Independence 250 Concert on the Fourth starting at 9 p.m., Saturday, July 4, at Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center’s large covered amphitheater.

The event is expected to feature a 35-piece American brass band and live portrayals of historic figures, followed by a fireworks display in downtown Townsend. A \$10 donation is suggested for admission.

Also, Blount Partnership Chamber of Commerce has an activity in which people can visit sites and win a prize.

“We have passports here for people to come and stamp,” said Rachel Souder with Blount Partnership. “The passports have different events in Blount County people can go to; and if they go to them, they come here [at the Blount Partnership office, 201 S. Washington St.] and we give them a stamp,” she said.

“One of them is our Townsend Fall Heritage Festival or if you go to a national park, we can stamp it or for history and tradition if you go to

the Jack Green Park,” she said, adding the Chamber has a book filled with different places and activities to see.

“They will go to these events, and if they don’t have a passport, we can give them one and they fill it out their information and where they went,” Souder said. “If you get up to five stamps, you get a collectible Tennessee 250 poster. If you collect the most stamps, you’ll be entered in a grand prize drawing.”

She said the deadline to enter is Oct. 1.

Other location events include:

Monroe County:

- Sweetwater’s Independence Day Celebration from 6 to 10

p.m., Saturday, July 4, in Downtown Sweetwater with a parade, live music, dancing, shopping and fireworks.

- Madisonville’s Independence Day Festival 5 p.m., Saturday, July 4, in Houston Park., featuring a kid’s zone and splash pad, live music, fireworks and food trucks.

Anderson County:

- Tyler Hilton and Kate Voegele are scheduled to headline the Concert in downtown Clinton from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m., Friday, July 3, on Market Street.

- Oak Ridge Community Band’s 4th of July 250th Celebration 6 p.m., Saturday, July 4, in A.K. Bissel Park.

- Norris Day Celebration 8 a.m., Saturday, July 4, at The

Commons in downtown Norris.

Sevier County

- Gatlinburg’s annual 4th of July Midnight Parade starts at 11:59 p.m., Friday, July 3, in downtown Gatlinburg.

- Pigeon Force Patriot Festival is Friday and Saturday, July 3-4, in Patriot Park, which features fireworks, food and live country music from Craig Morgan on July 3 and Carly Pearce on July 4.

- Gatlinburg’s 4th of July Drone Show & Fireworks Finale is 9 p.m., Saturday, July 4, at 120 Airport Road, Gatlinburg.

- Gatlinburg River Raft Regatta is 2 p.m., Saturday, July 4, at Edgewater Hotel & Conference Center along Little Pigeon River.

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- 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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Knox events

From page 1C

runs through Feb. 14, 2027, and explores the importance of a treaty signed by American and Cherokee negotiators in June 1791.

Museum admission is free in commemoration of the 250th celebration.

The Tennessee 250 Museum Trail at Clinton's Museum of Appalachia offers a daily glimpse into history through Dec. 31, 2026.

There, visitors go through "a curated, self-guided experience woven throughout the Museum," an excerpt from Visit Knoxville read. "It highlights a selection of artifacts across the grounds and exhibit buildings that reflect Tennessee's role in shaping the coun-

try — through innovation, conflict, craftsmanship, and everyday life."

Today, July 1, there is an American Revolution Experience Exhibit at the East Tennessee History Center, which will be closed Friday and Saturday, July 3-4. Otherwise, until July 7, people can go visit the "innovative pop-up exhibition," according to Visit Knoxville. According to the website, the exhibit includes "display panels and interactive digital kiosks that use storytelling, illustration, technology and unique artifacts and primary accounts to connect modern audiences with the people and places that shaped the birth of our nation."

On Friday and Saturday, July 3-4, there will be an America250 Independence Day

Anvil Shoot Celebration at the Museum of Appalachia in Clinton.

For \$20 per adult (18-64), \$18 for seniors, military and first responders and \$10 per child or even \$50 for families, people can enjoy a wide-ranging exhibit from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Presentations will highlight Tennessee's role in the founding and development of the United States through living history, historical interpretation and traditional Appalachian demonstrations.

"At the center of the celebration is the Museum's signature anvil shoot, a rare frontier tradition in which a 200-pound anvil is launched hundreds of feet into the air using gunpowder," a Visit Knoxville description read. "Several anvil shoots will take place throughout

both days (times TBA). Once used by pioneers to mark holidays, elections and other special occasions, anvil shooting has become a nearly 30-year Independence Day tradition at the Museum of Appalachia."

"The two-day event also will feature a Revolutionary War encampment, militia drills, talks from historical figures, including John Sevier, Henry Knox, David Hall and Archibald Roane, and a wide range of demonstrations, such as blacksmithing, basket making, broom making, quilting, spinning, weaving, candle dipping, coopering, wood carving, and more," it continued. "Guests also can enjoy shape note singing, live music, southern food, a flag procession and a national bell-ringing ceremony."

The same day, July 3, there

will be an America's 250th ice cream party at West Town Mall, followed by a Fourth of July celebration at James White's Fort on Independence Day to join the other festivities across the city.

A free, patriotic Mighty Musical Monday will take place Monday, July 6, at noon at the Tennessee Theatre that day.

The East Tennessee History Fair will take place Saturday, Aug. 15, at the East Tennessee History Center.

This free event will include living history demonstrations, live music, crafts, film screenings, children's activities and more.

For more information on this event and plenty of others honoring America's 250th celebration, go to VisitKnoxville.com.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, at its meeting on June 25, 2026, adopted the following ordinance on second and final reading:

1. Ordinance 26-12, an Ordinance on the second reading of the Town of Farragut, Tennessee, Amending the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Capital Investment Program Fund Budget, Passed by Ordinance 25-10.

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The Lake. The Music. The Tradition.

Rockin' the Docks returns for America's 250th birthday

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

When describing something that's culturally linked to the United States of America, there is a seven-word phrase that comes to mind: "as American as baseball and apple pie."

Residents of Loudon County likely feel similarly about "Rockin' the Docks," an annual July 4 celebration, which will write its 26th chapter in just a few short days.

Set on the shore of Fort Loudoun Lake, this free community tradition brings together locals and visitors alike to celebrate Independence Day.

As years' past, this year's event will feature different food trucks with bands throughout the afternoon.

Food vendors will open at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 4, and The Deep Fakes, Mike McGill and the Refills and Full Service all will hit the stage starting at 5 p.m., per the website.

A full fireworks show will cap off the night at 9:45 p.m. with the festivities set to end at 10:30.

"We are excited to have another year for Rockin' the Docks," Lenoir City Parks and Recreation director Zack Cusick said. "This will be our 26th year, and similar to last year, it will be one big show on July 4 that ties in with the 250th birthday of our country. We are excited to bring out the great bands, food trucks, vendors and to enjoy the day and end it with a big fireworks show."

Cusick noted the remarkable continuity of the event, which has seen a considerable turnout each summer.

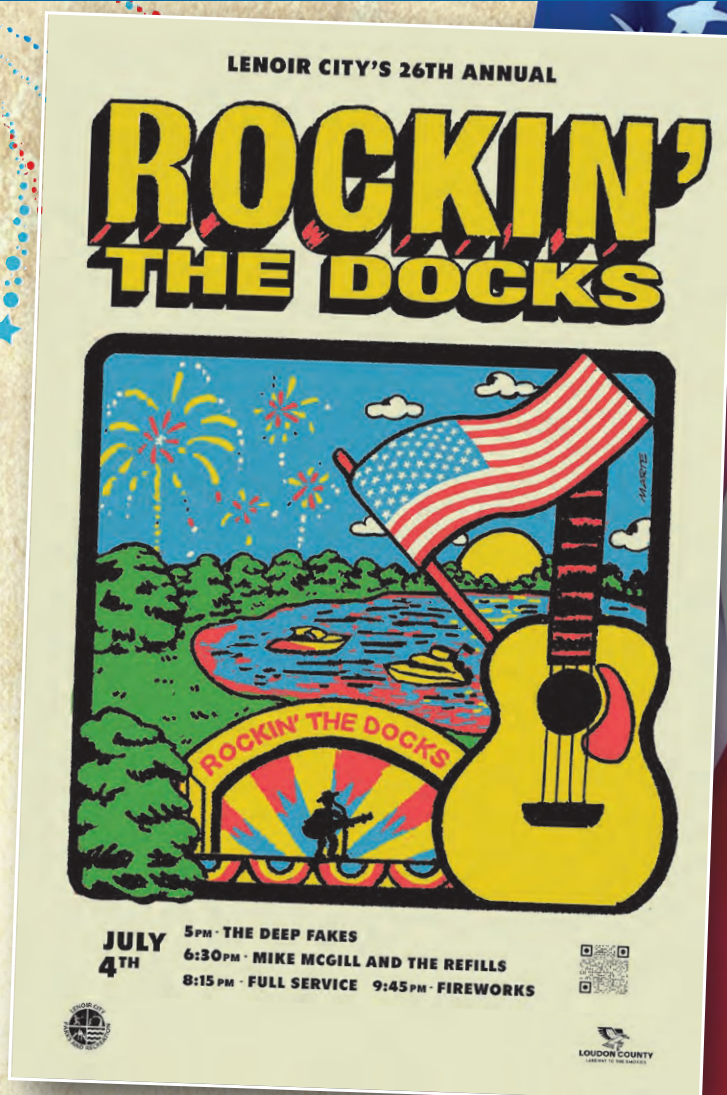
This year, with the added theme of America's 250th anniversary, the event should be even bigger.

"It speaks to the volume of the community that loves having this event, and our sponsors," Cusick said. "Five of our biggest sponsors have been with us since the very beginning, so they have seen a great impact from it. For them to come out and support the event, it makes all the difference."

Staffers will help with parking for those who drive to the event, but Cusick also noted boats should be mindful to stay out of the main channel of the Tennessee River when arriving for the celebration.

"From there, just enjoy the afternoon," he said. "We'll have a good variety of food, so there will be something for anyone in the family to enjoy."

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