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Planning Commission backs Goddard School expansion



Tammy Cheek

Goddard School, 125 Loudon Road, can move forward with plans to expand from a 2,800-square-foot addition to its existing 8,200-square-foot.

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

The Goddard School, 125 Loudon Road, can move forward with plans to expand its building.

Farragut Municipal Planning Commission voted Thursday, July 16, to approve the school's site plan for a 2,800-square-foot addition to its existing 8,200-square-foot building. The approval is contingent on meeting several requirements.

"The proposed addition would provide space for 26 additional children and four additional employees," Town Community Development director Mark Shipley said. However, he noted the expansion would create a parking short-

age of two spaces.

Shipley said the shortage could affect the adjacent dental office, which owns part of the parcel but occupies a separate building north of The Goddard School.

"The Planning Commission may consider a reduction provided the applicant can show that the lower amount can accommodate the parking demands that are typical for the uses throughout a majority of the year," Shipley said. "The parking provisions will need to be coordinated with the dental office owner, as well, to ensure that they are OK with the two-space deficit being created by this addition."

"There needs to be something

in writing from the dental office owner that they understand this addition will create a two-parking-space shortage, and they're OK with that because they could be impacted if there's overflow parking," he added.

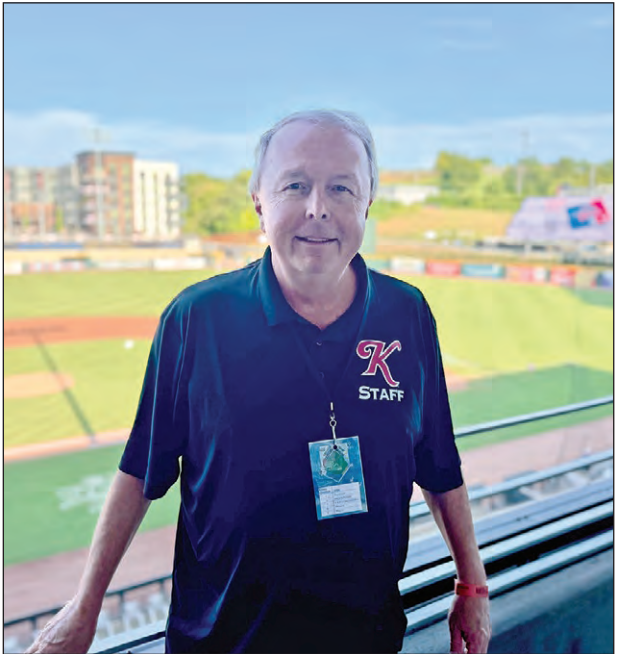
Another concern involved the amount of fenced outdoor play space required under the Town's zoning ordinance.

Shipley said the Town requires at least 100 square feet of fenced play area per child, while Tennessee regulations and the city of Knoxville require only 50 square feet.

"It appears that there could be

See GODDARD on Page 4A

Tate still living his baseball dream



Jake Nichols

Farragut Sports Information director Jack Tate enjoys Admirals games, but he also works as a press box employee for the Knoxville Smokies as part of a life fueled by sports.

Jake Nichols

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Jack Tate settled into the Farragut baseball dugout at Siegel High School on Friday, May 22.

That night, Tate used his iPad to chart the final moments of Farragut's state championship win over Houston High School.

Forty-three days later, he carried the same iPad into Covenant Health Park.

The pattern is a relatively new one for Tate, who returned to the

Knoxville Smokies last year after more than a decade away.

"I was incredibly happy they came back to Knoxville," Tate said from his perch on Saturday, July 4. "When the construction started, I would drive down here and park at the Shell station every other Sunday, looking down to see what progress they made."

His sports career began at 13 when he served as a batboy for the Knoxville Sox — then an affiliate of the Chicago White

See TATE on Page 4A



Top left, Declain Nother, son of Designsensory founder, takes a snapshot of the Tennessee exhibit, which was part of Great American State Fair in Washington, D.C. Above and right, the Tennessee exhibit features different aspects of the state.

Firms win national honor

Tammy Cheek

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Two Knoxville businesses collaborated on a recent national exhibit, Great American State Fair, in Washington, D.C., to showcase Tennessee and won Best of Show.

Designsensory of 1740 Commons Point Drive, and Graphic Creations, 213 E. 4th Ave., joined together to create an exhibit representing all three sections of the state for the free exposition taking place from June 25 to July 10 at the National Mall to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the country's beginnings.

"All 50 states were represented plus six territo-

ries," Graphic Creations president Jim Caughorn said, adding every state had a pavilion.

The Great American State Fair and a 2012 Medal of Honor Convention are "probably the two most proud projects for our company to be a part of," Caughorn said. "... to put our footprint on that is quite remarkable."

"I don't think there are too many projects that you could put a stamp on that would be bigger than that in terms of a moment of pride and excitement," he added.

"The project simply wouldn't have happened without incredible local partners," said Brad Car-

See HONOR on Page 2A

University of Tennessee announces new credit-hour pathway

Jake Nichols

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University of Tennessee will soon offer a new credit-hour pathway for students, as the UT Board of Trustees has endorsed a 90-credit-hour degree option as opposed to the tradi-

tional 120-credit-hour format.

The UT endorsement follows the pathway's establishment by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), which opened an avenue for schools to offer reduced-credit undergraduate degrees — al-

lowing for programs with fewer than the traditional 120 hours while maintaining academic quality and rigor.

"The 120-credit-hour standard has become the default, but that does not mean it is the right answer for every student, every employer or every work-

force need," a Tennessee Press Service release read on the shift. "As costs rise, workforce shortages grow and students ask if there is a faster, more affordable path to an in-demand career, we have a responsibility to lead with new solutions."

"And, if students can grad-

uate with 25 percent fewer credit hours, by definition that means they can graduate with 25 percent less debt, enter the workforce sooner and begin earning income earlier."

Faculty will lead the work at

See CREDIT on Page 2A



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Mayor, aldermen races highlight early voting

Tammy Cheek
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Early voting has arrived and Farragut residents can cast their votes at Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd.

The early voting, which started Friday, July 17, will continue through Aug. 1. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday;

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday for two Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 1; and closed Sundays.

Town residents will vote for mayor — Alex Cain or Louise Povlin; North Ward 1 —Dian Hall or Joey Ruffalo and South Ward 2 — Joe LaCroix or Greg Wiberley.

Also, there are seats open for Knox County seats: Republican nominee Betsy Henderson or Democrat nominee Beau Hawk; Republican Nick

McBride and Democrat Stephen Hood for county trustee; Republican nominee Brent Gibson is running unopposed; and several County Commission and judge seats, among others.

In the federal Republican Primary race, Bill Haggerty is running for U.S. Senate, and Tim Burchett is running for U.S. representative in District 2.

In the federal Democratic Primary race, Marquita Brad-

shaw, Maria Brewer, Kevin McCants, Civil Miller-Watkins and Diana Oneyejiaka are running for senator while Michaela Barnett is running for House representative in District 2.

In the state Republican Primary race, Marsha Blackburn, Monty Fritts and John Rose are running for governor; Jimmy Matlock is running for state senate in District 5; Dr. Richard Briggs is running for state senate in District 7; and Jason Zachary is running

for House representative in District 14.

In the Democratic Primary, Carnita Atwater, Tim Cyr, Jerri Green, Adam “Ditch” Kurtz and Kevin Lee McCants are running for governor; David Miller is running for the District 5 state senate seat; Bryan Langan is running for the District 7 senate seat; and Lindsay Yourig Honaker and Shivam R. Zaveri are running for the District 14 House of Representatives seat.

Honor

From page 1A

penter, Designsensory vice president of engagement marketing. “Graphic Creations was instrumental in fabricating the exhibit walls and helping engineer the structure, TV placements and neon installation.

“Their expertise allowed us to move quickly without sacrificing quality,” he said.

“What this project really demonstrated is what Knoxville does best. When there’s a challenge, local businesses step up, collaborate and find creative solutions together,” Carpenter said. “This wasn’t the work of one company, it was the result of talented people across our community coming together with a shared goal.

“To see Tennessee recognized with ‘Best in Show’ was incredibly rewarding,” he said. “It’s a testament not only to the creativity and determination of our team at Designsensory, but also to the strength of Knoxville’s creative community.

“We proved that great ideas, strong partnerships and relentless execution could compete with anyone, regardless of budget or timeline.”

The project began for the two companies when “a coalition of teams from the Governor’s Office, the Tennessee

Department of Agriculture, and the Tennessee State Museum reached out to us directly about leading this project,” Carpenter said.

Caughorn said Designsensory was commissioned to “design something that represented the culture and history of all three sections of our state visually.”

“Designsensory has partnered with the State of Tennessee on a variety of projects over the years ... so, we have a reputation for taking on ambitious projects with incredibly tight timelines,” Carpenter added.

“We worked in the past with Designsensory on other projects,” Caughorn said.

“They had the concept, then it was getting the concept to print and to display,” he added. That’s where Graphic Creations came in, executing on the implementation: the printing, video displays and hardware.

“It was a very elaborate production,” Caughorn added.

“It was a fast-paced six weeks of planning, design, fabrication, logistics and installation before heading to Washington, D.C.,” Carpenter said.

“What makes this project so special isn’t just the final result,” he added. “It’s what it took to get there. I run events for a living, doing massive red carpet premieres in L.A. and NYC ... this event was hard!”

Credit

From page 1A

UT, partnering with employers to make sure students gain the knowledge and skills they need for the careers Tennessee needs most, per the release.

These 90-hour degrees will be offered over three years as opposed to four, and they will be available across the system’s five campuses, presenting an alternative route for students to earn a diploma in Tennessee.

“By focusing on what matters most and building high-quality degree programs that match what employers need, we can help students reach those careers with fewer barriers,” UTK alumnus Alisa Subhakul said in the release. “The potential impact is substantial.

“The traditional 120-credit-hour degree will continue to

play an important role at UT, but it should not be the only option,” she added. “Just because a standard, the Carnegie unit, has been around for more than 100 years, it doesn’t mean it is the right fit for every workforce need today. This is about being more innovative, removing unnecessary barriers and giving students more choices.

“We’re not replacing existing degrees. That is a meaningful shift for students, for employers and for the future of our state. That’s the kind of progress that will power the greatest decade in UT history.”

That decade continues this fall, as UT will welcome students for classes starting Monday, Aug. 17.

For more Back to School information, check the Wednesday, July 29, edition of the farragutpress.

KCSO policereports

July 8 - Theft: A woman reported a Michaela For Congress political yard sign and an Apple AirTag hidden inside it were stolen from the backyard of her home on Pryse Farm Boulevard on June 16. The complainant told deputies the tracker showed the items briefly stopped at an address before ending up at a landfill. She believed the theft

was connected to another report involving stolen political signs.

July 8 - Theft: A man reported his wallet was stolen or lost at a business on Kingston Pike between July 3 and July 4. The wallet contained cash, identification cards, gift cards and bank cards. Surveillance video may be available, and a related fraud report was filed

after unauthorized use of the bank cards.

July 9 - Theft of services: The manager of a hotel on Campbell Lakes Drive reported a guest left without paying an outstanding balance of \$790.89 after a credit card used for the stay was declined for additional charges. The suspect left the property on foot after being confronted.



For safety’s sake

Town of Farragut Engineering technician Kevin Manis, left, and Jonathan Headrick, traffic signal technician, take measurements before non-reflective domes are installed at the roundabout on Boyd Station Road at the intersection with the Grove at Boyd Station subdivision on Monday morning, June 22. The domes alert and pedestrians to hazardous areas of the road and drivers they are drifting out of their designated lane.

Tammy Cheek

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Just The Facts

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, brings them into the discussion and advocates 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 knowledge and experience
- ✓ Lacks leadership experience
- ✓ Does not proactively meet with constituents
- ✓ Lacks institutional knowledge and threatens to undo what generations of Farragut leaders and families worked to build
- ✓ Puts the concerns of a self-interest group over interests of his constituents

Early voting July 17th - August 1st| Election Day August 6th

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EARLY VOTING
JULY 17 – AUGUST 1



ELECTION DAY
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6



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presstalk

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• There is some confusion about the Farragut contribution to the schools. We have four schools in Farragut — the Primary, Intermediate, Middle and High School — and the Town of Farragut only contributes directly \$151,000 to the four schools. The Knox County property taxes, of the houses that are in Farragut that pay Knox County property taxes, goes into the general budget of Knox County. And, Knox County contributes to the Knox County schools. And this year, the Knox County School Board has cut their budget by over \$7 million, which means that the Farragut schools did get a reduction in contribution from the Knox County School Board. Actually, some of the employees, the maintenance, the janitors of the Farragut schools, are going to have to have a five-day cut in pay. Their pay will be cut five days this year because of the cuts from the Knox County School Board. Again, the property taxes in Farragut go to the Knox County budget and they contribute to the Knox County schools, all the schools. Far-

ragut’s one of the schools. But the Town of Farragut only contributes directly to the Farragut schools, \$151,000, where they buy land for \$5 million on McFee Road. They do the McFee Park, it was \$9 million. They do the Campbell Station Inn, it was a few million dollars. So they’re contributing to things, but not the Farragut schools. Let’s keep this straight for the public to know. The new mayor hopefully will contribute a lot more to the four Farragut schools. Thank you.

• The Town of Farragut has \$32 million of cash surplus, and they have no debt, which is good. Each year, they collect about \$17 million in sales tax revenue from the state. The budget is only \$11 million so they have \$5 to \$6 million of extra money every year. They’ve been spending it on parks and land and strange things given the fact they contribute nothing to the schools. They contribute almost nothing to the four Farragut schools. They contributed \$151,000 to the Farra-

gut schools. That’s what they contribute. The Knox County taxes from the houses in Farragut go to the Knox County budget and they contribute to the Knox County School Board, which contributes some to the Farragut schools. But this year, the budgets have been cut by the Knox County School Board, and Farragut’s budget will be cut. So the Town of Farragut needs to contribute money directly to their four schools, the primary, the intermediate, the middle and high school. They need to contribute direct money to that. The ad in the farragutpress last week said they should contribute a million per year, which is right. They should contribute a lot more than they do. A million a year would be no problem. They have about \$5 million surplus every year added to their cash surplus reserve of \$32 million and no debt. The Town of Farragut has their priorities wrong. The schools, the children should come first over roads, over parks, over buying land. The children should come first.

Grigsby Park phase 2 advances

Tammy Cheek
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The next phase of the Grigsby Park townhome development can move forward, but only after meeting a series of conditions imposed by the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission.

The Commission unanimously approved the preliminary plat for Phase 2 during its Thursday, July 16, meeting. The project is being built off Grigsby Chapel Road.

Town Community Development director Mark Shipley said Phase 1 originally included 14 platted home lots with a temporary turnaround that was contingent on construction of the next phase. One building containing eight townhome units has been completed.

Since then, "the remainder of Phase 1, as well as Phases II and III, have been purchased by a different developer/build-er," Shipley said.

Phase 2 includes 18 dwelling

units and a community amenity area with a small parking lot.

"The amenity area will ultimately require a separate site plan review and approval," Shipley said. "The preliminary plat presented at this time would provide for the new infrastructure — street, drainage, utilities and pedestrian facilities — needed to serve the proposed dwelling units in Phase II."

Planning Commissioners questioned grading work near the development entrance. The property owner said the work is intended to improve the appearance of the entrance. Shipley said the changes will require separate approval from the Visual Resources Review Board.

Shipley said Phase 2 also includes a crossing over a tributary of the North Fork of Turkey Creek and a section of the Grigsby Chapel Greenway.

Because Phase 2 does not

See GRIGSBY on Page 6A

Tate

From page 1A

Sox — at Bill Meyer Stadium in 1974.

“The years I was the bat boy were the best years of my life,” Tate added. “I was there for every home game and would sometimes go on the road.”

Tate witnessed several historic moments through 1980, observing Harold Baines’ first steps toward a Hall of Fame career and Tony La Russa’s managerial debut in the minor leagues.

A 1978 Bearden graduate, Tate kept statistics for the baseball and basketball teams in high school. He took an unpaid assistant job in the Bulldogs’ dugout in 1982, beginning a career that would lead to a longtime assistant role and even a state tournament appearance as Bearden’s head coach in 2012.

The Smokies had transitioned through two more big-league clubs by then, moving from the Chicago White Sox to the Toronto Blue Jays before settling in with the Chicago Cubs in 2007.

Tate was still in the thick of his Bearden career, keeping statistics while coaching baseball and teaching social studies.

But in 2020, after years wearing maroon, he made the move to Farragut.

“Dr. (John) Bartlett had been my principal at Bearden for 10

years, and we had a great relationship,” Tate said. “When I came over from Bearden seven years ago, I had no clue how they’d accept a former Bearden baseball coach in the dugout. But they were nice from game one.”

So were the Smokies, as Tate experienced several different eras with the team.

He served as official scorer and scoreboard operator from 1991 through 2010, remaining through the team’s transition to Kodak.

“The nice thing in Kodak was the air-conditioned press box,” Tate said. “There was no air conditioning at Bill Meyer. When it got into these months, it would be anywhere from 95 to 105 degrees in the press box.”

Back at BHS, Tate worked under Matt Buckner and witnessed the rise of a young Garrett Copeland — the same one who stands opposite Tate as Farragut head coach today.

When Tate was given the Bearden head-coaching nod the next year, he gave up the Smokies gig except for a couple fill-in games.

But in 2025, he returned to the Smokies for a job in the Bush’s Beans section near left field.

Before the start of the 2026 season, Tate went to the same job fair and learned he would be in his preferred spot in the press box — just not on the nights when Farragut played.

This summer, he is tasked with one of four roles each night: official scorer, data entry, scoreboard operator and pitch clock operator.

Each job brings a challenge of its own.

“With official scoring, you have some tough decisions to make,” Tate said. “One night, I had three consecutive batters that were hard scoring plays, so you want to get it right and be fair to both teams.

“I usually have my iPad, and it’ll be 45 seconds behind, so I can watch a replay. When I do the computer data entry, you have to have every pitch and every play entered before the next pitch is thrown, or you get behind.”

The data entry position required him to watch eight different Major League games, a process he started during Farragut’s state tournament run, and turn in the results for certification.

The same combination of appreciation and focus comes with pitch clock operation.

“It’s never cut-and-dry on when you’re supposed to start it, so you’ve got to watch the umpire and sort of be in his head,” he said.

Tate also is mindful when operating the scoreboard, remembering the frustration of Farragut players when the balls and strikes at their high school games are not correct.

“So I want it to be perfect,” Tate said. “But I enjoy being



Jake Nichols

From his perch in the Farragut baseball dugout, Jack Tate has seen plenty of victories since moving to FHS from Bearden High School in 2020.

in the middle of it all. This is a fun team to watch.”

And it’s a fun set of jobs for Tate, who has seen his career grow from the moment he stepped into a professional dugout as a teenager.

“I think 13-year-old me would have been really happy,” Tate said. “I never dreamed I’d be able to stay involved in baseball and didn’t know I’d ever coach, either.”

Goddard

From page 1A

up to 158 children, which would result in a fenced outdoor play area of at least 15,800 square feet," Shipley said. "They don't meet that requirement. They don't have space to meet that requirement."

However, he noted the Town could amend its ordinance to match the state's requirement.

Regarding the parking issue, Commissioner Derek Wright asked whether the school al-

ready has a positive relationship with the neighboring dental office.

"Do we know ahead of time that's going to be an ask that is accepted?" Wright asked.

Commissioner Noah Myers said he was concerned about approving a site plan before those issues were resolved.

"I'm struggling to see how we can approve a site plan knowing good and well we're going to put the applicant in a non-conforming situation without having some of these issues resolved," Myers said. "The

parking, I think, you've offered a fair solution with cooperation from the dentist. The playground, to me, is kind of black and white.

"We're going to approve a site plan that is not going to meet the minimum requirements; and quite frankly, I'm probably comfortable matching up with the state requirements," he said.

Shipley said the approval would be contingent on both the Town adopting the proposed text amendment and receiving written approval from

the adjacent property owner regarding the parking reduction.

Other staff conditions for approval include:

■ Sprinkler coverage is required for the addition.

■ A design professional must prepare plans that conform to the minimum requirements of Chapter 11 of the 2018 International Existing Building Code.

■ Three healthy sycamore trees near the south end of the addition must be evaluated by an arborist, with recommenda-

tions implemented to preserve them.

■ Because the building setback from the west property line is 20 feet instead of the required 30 feet, staff recommends shortening the building and increasing its width. Shipley said doing so could help preserve the trees and provide additional space for the fenced outdoor play area.

■ A landscape plan is required.

■ The applicant must provide details for the rooftop HVAC screen.

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farragutpress is published weekly at 11863 Kingston Pike Farragut, TN 37934

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FARRAGUT'S 4 SCHOOLS

Elementary, Intermediate, Middle and High School

The Town of Farragut needs to invest more money directly into our 4 schools.



We only give \$151,000 per year. We need to give at least \$1,000,000 per year. With the Knox County school board cutting funding this coming year because of Knox county cuts, we need to step up.

The Town of Farragut has a surplus of \$32,000,000 and no debt. The surplus grows about \$6,000,000 per year. We must invest more than a small amount \$151,000 in the schools to help teachers, parents and students. \$1,000,000 per year is something we can afford. What do the Mayor candidates say about this. Our 4 schools need more support.



**Citizens for better funded Farragut schools
when the county is cutting money.**

Lot split clears final hurdle

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

After a year of working with the Town of Farragut, the owner of a 0.63-acre parcel off Turkey Creek Road will be able to build a house on the property.

Dave Hall, representing the property owner, received unanimous approval to divide the 0.63-acre parcel into two lots, along with a variance exempting the owner from installing a sidewalk. However, the Town may require a sidewalk in the future at the Town's expense.

Farragut Municipal Planning Commission granted the approvals during its Thursday, July 16, meeting.

"I appreciate the way you all have worked with us on this long project," Hall said. "It's been a year."

Town Community Development director Mark Shipley explained the property's unique configuration.

"As you may recall, the parcel in question is bisected by Turkey Creek Road, with one portion along Fox Loudoun Lake and the other portion on the opposite side of Turkey Creek Road," Shipley said. "This arrangement of parcels is common along Turkey Creek Road and, in most cases, the portion that fronts on the lake includes a boat dock.

In the case of the parcel in question, the portion abutting the lake has an existing home and the non-lake portion is vacant."

Although the Planning Commission never approved a division of the property, it was sold in an online auction to two different owners.

"The Town's Zoning Ordinance only permits one dwelling unit on a parcel," Shipley said. "Since the lake portion of the parcel recognized by the Town already has a dwelling unit, the larger portion of the parcel on the opposite side of Turkey Creek Road was not permitted to have a dwelling unit."

By subdividing the property, the owner of the non-lake portion can now build a house.

Regarding the sidewalk variance, Shipley said Turkey Creek Road is classified as a collector street on the Town's Major Road Plan, and staff recommended that a sidewalk be required. The Commission, however, granted the variance, with the understanding that the Town may require and construct a sidewalk at its own expense in the future.

In other business, the Commission voted to retain Ron Pinchok as chairman, Jeff Devlin as vice chairman and Shannon Preston as secretary.

Grigsby
From page 4A

include the required secondary access, all units must have code-compliant sprinkler systems. Shipley said Urban Engineering requested and received variances for the secondary access requirement and the cul-de-sac length.

Conditions attached to the preliminary plat approval include:

- Correcting the street name to match the final recorded plat as October Glory Lane.
- Installing signage and crosswalk markings where the road crosses both the sidewalk at the amenity area and the Grigsby Chapel Greenway. Shipley said the markings also can serve as required traffic-calming measures.
- Modifying Unit 28 so it is not within the 50-foot peripheral building setback.
- Submitting an irrevoca-

ble \$41,000 letter of credit for erosion control.

- Reviewing the storm sewer section behind Unit 18 to provide additional space between the drainage easement and the unit.
- Documenting that the culvert beneath the North Fork of Turkey Creek tributary is designed to accommodate a 100-year flood.
- Showing the storm sewer system and associated structures on the plat. Farragut Utility District must approve the water and sewer plans.
- Ensuring all utility sheets in the final stamped plan set are designated "for construction."
- Submitting a separate landscape plan to the Visual Resources Review Board before final plat approval.
- Identifying whether telephone and fiber lines will share the same trench as electric service.

How Farragut changed under Williams

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Rotary Club of Farragut took a trip to the past as Farragut Mayor Ron Williams, an RCF member, shared the Town's accomplishments and changes over the past 10 years during the club's meeting Wednesday, July 8.

As Williams plans to leave office in August, he recounted how the Town looked in 2016, when he entered the Town's political arena, first as alderman and then as mayor.

"Years ago, when the Town was first founded, all of Kingston Pike had been zoned commercial ... all the way to the Loudon County line," the mayor recalled. "Even though you may have had a church or something ... it was still zoned the way the group [of founders] did this."

"We are fixing to go through another phase of [Future Land Use Plan updates]," Williams noted.



Tammy Cheek

Mayor Ron Williams reflects on his time as mayor.

Louise Povlin, who is seeking election as mayor.

"As two retired engineers, we rolled up our sleeves and worked with David Smoak," setting to make changes. Also, he said a group went to Las Vegas and recruited Costco and other businesses into the Town.

"That's what built out Parkside Drive in Turkey Creek," Williams said.

Since then, the old Ingle's building was renovated, the burnt-out buildings were replaced; the Pilot gas station made way for 35 North; Kroger's made way for Biddle Farms at Town Center; and the Avery Russell House was restored as Campbell Station Inn and Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza.

While Williams said he focused on the developments, Povlin worked on ordinances.

"One that we were really involved with was Biddle Farms," the mayor said. "That was something where they actually, for years, had tried to get a vertical town center, but we could never get a developer buy on that. They said, 'No, that don't work in suburbia.'

"Finally, we did have one [developer] who was a Farragut graduate," Williams said, adding he developed Biddle Farms.

He also referred to safer roads, smarter infrastructure, parks and recreation enhancements, "balanced growth and housing and investments" made for the future.

Before coming to Farragut. Williams was born and raised in Powell, Knox County, a "farm kid," he said. After graduating from University of Tennessee, he went on to be an engineer, working with three different companies before he retired in 2015. In the meantime, he moved to Farragut and ran for office in 2016.

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GREG WIBERLEY

FOR FARRAGUT SOUTH WARD ALDERMAN

A PRACTICAL PLAN FOR FARRAGUT

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1 TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE

- ★ Study every option before any permanent road closure.
- ★ Address school traffic, parent access, and emergency vehicle routes. Reduce cut-through traffic and improve flow on congested roads.
- ★ Safer Town Center, parks, and key roads.
- ★ Real-world infrastructure planning and project coordination.



2 PUBLIC SAFETY

- ★ Pursue more law enforcement visibility through coordination with the Knox County Sheriff's Office.
- ★ Research best practices and interlocal options.
- ★ Gather citizen input on policing and public safety priorities.
- ★ Prepare for interlocal public safety partnerships.



3 GOVERNANCE & CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

- ★ Rebuild trust through citizen engagement and real communication. Encourage meetings with constituents outside formal public meetings.
- ★ Meet with HOA and neighborhood groups.
- ★ Restore meaningful public input and open communication.
- ★ Leadership should be accessible to residents.



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Questions Raised About New Statements on the Farragut Event Center by Former Vice Mayor Louise Povlin

Many Farragut residents have expressed concern about what they describe as significant reversals in long-held positions by former Vice Mayor and current mayoral candidate Louise Povlin.

In political terminology, such reversals are often referred to as “flip-flops,” and they can leave voters uncertain about a candidate’s direction, consistency, and reliability.

In the July 18, 2024 Farragut Planning Commission Meeting then Vice Mayor Louise Povlin strongly supported adopting the Farragut Mixed-Use Town Center Vision Plan to be a town ordinance. An ordinance is a law, not a suggestion.

The Vision Plan’s map identified an Event Center and boutique hotel on property owned by Eddy Ford, next to Town Hall along Kingston Pike. It also had a \$4.5 million dollar parking garage for Biddle Farm and trees in the middle of Kingston Pike, North Campbell Station Road, and Concord Road.

Source: <https://www.townoffarragut.org/DocumentCenter/View/8263/Mixed-Use-Town-Center-Vision-Plan>

(Page 59 shows the Event Center and boutique hotel on Ford’s land.)

Town Attorney Tom Hale advised that the Vision Plan should instead be adopted as a resolution, not an ordinance. This effectively halted the effort to codify the Event Center’s existence and location into law.

At the July 13, 2026 Farragut Candidate Forum, Povlin suggested she wanted a Trader Joe’s, Aubrey’s, and Panera located at the front of the Eddy Ford property — at the spot the Event Center was supposed to be. When asked by moderator Mike Ragsdale about an Event Center on Ford’s property, Povlin responded: *“Personally, I don’t think that is a good idea. First of all, we have an event center [referring to the Farragut Community Center]... I am not interested in that. That is something the private sector can take on.”* This position differs sharply from her earlier support for the Event Center concept as an ordinance in the Vision Plan.



The conclusion is clear. Louise Povlin will say whatever it takes to win. Residents need to know that three votes on the Board of Mayor and Aldermen can force a property tax on town residents and businesses. No voter referendum is required. Three votes can put apartments on Eddy Ford’s land. Three votes can issue town bonds. Buying Eddy Ford’s land would cost at least \$16 million dollars, the last asking price from the Ford family. An Event Center would cost \$8 to \$10 million dollars more. Bonds are a prelude to a property tax.

Do you want Farragut town bonds used to buy Eddy Ford’s land to build an Event Center and boutique hotel?



Golf Envy eyes early August

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Golfers soon will have a unique indoor experience when Golf Envy opens its doors this summer at 12756 Kingston Pike in Renaissance | Farragut.

“Right now, we’re targeting the first week of August,” franchise owner Christian Miller of Knoxville said. “That will be for the grand opening. We might be doing a membership-only week first.”

Golf Envy is a premier indoor golf simulation experience in Suite 102, on the hill to the right, in Renaissance.

Jared Archer, clubhouse manager, will be the face of the business.

“He is the one who will be helping on a day-to-day operations, doing sales for memberships, doing tournaments and leagues,” Miller said of Archer.

“I’ve been trying to do my own thing for quite a while,” Miller said. “I love the game of golf. I love what it does for not only me to get out and have some time but also for my family and my kids.

And, “golf’s been a big thing, really since the pandemic hit,” he said.

Miller explained Golf Envy is a franchise based out of California that is membership-based, providing 24/7 access to it members. While looking for a venture in June 2025, he came across the business and saw it as an opportunity for him as a new venture.

“... Especially for Farragut being a golf-heavy community, being able to provide a service to people who can’t get out on the course as much because of the heat, because of the weather, they want to play during the winter or they just want to practice their game and would really prefer not to go out to the course to learn the game,” he said. “They can learn it on their own time.

Once an avid golfer, he now is a dad who “can’t take five hours out of the day a few times a week, so being able to get my golf fix in in a short amount of time in a controlled

See GOLF on Page 9A



Photo submitted

Hardin Insurance and Financial Group team, front row, from left, April Velazquez and Amanda Chandler and standing, owner/agent Steve Hardin, Phillip Barnwell, Alex Barnwell and Bryan Phillips are ready to serve the community with both insurance and financial needs.

Expansion of services, Hardin rebrands to reflect growth

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

With Hardin Insurance Services’ expansion of services, it recently rebranded the company as Hardin Insurance and Financial Group.

“I’ve actually been in the insurance business since 1982, agent/owner Steve Hardin said. “We went through, obviously, a lot of different changes. I worked for a company for quite a few years and then in 2002, I started a property casualty agency, carrying car and business insurance and so forth. “As time grew, we added the financial side to it, so we are re-branding,” he said. “As of July 1, we’re considered a totally independent broker. That’s the biggest thing that we’re re-branding.

“That gives us access to at least 30 different personal line companies, and it’s probably close to twice that many commercial lines,” Hardin said. “And then, I think we have somewhere close to 200 life insurance companies and retirement companies.

“So, we protect assets and grow wealth,” he said. “I call it personal retirement review.

“We sit down with people and not only help them with their car insurance; if they own a business, we help them with their business insurance, Worker’s Comp and all the things involved in that, we can do life insurance ... and we help them

plan for retirement and Social Security.

“I’ve hired some additional people and we expanded it to entire financial side,” Hardin said.

Originally, he said the agency worked for one company, American National, along with a few others, but “American National decided they were not going to offer homeowner’s insurance any more,” he recalled. “So, that kind of opened the door for me to find another company.

“We decided we’re not going to deal with one company, we’re going to deal with as many companies as we can,” Hardin said.

“We were going to be independent for homes and auto anyway, so we just went ahead and went the entire business and retirement and contracted with a lot of different companies,” he said.

Regarding the financial side of the business, Hardin said he always liked teaching, whether that be children’s church or in front of groups.

“I decided what we would do with the financial side is do seminars,” he said. “We go through all the things about Social Security, what it pays and doesn’t pay, the shortfalls.

“We just look at retirement as a whole ... with education seminars,” Hardin said.

Located at 9722A Kingston Pike, the office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed Saturday and Sunday.

businessbriefs

• Caleb Wanca and Amanda Cambron recently joined the firm of Rather & Kittrell. Wanca is coming on board as an associate advisor while Cambron serves as client service specialist.

Wanca joined RK in June 2026 after earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in finance from the University of Alabama, where he served as a graduate teaching assistant

and tutor for various investing and economics courses. He attended Farragut High School and was active in marching band throughout high school and college.

Cambron joined Rather & Kittrell in 2026 and has more than 10 years of experience in the financial industry, with a focus on operations and client

See BRIEFS on Page 9A



Slick City opens in West Knoxville

Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce marked the opening of Slick City Action Park in West Knoxville with a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, July 7th. The event brought together chamber members and staff as well as the owners, managers and enthusiastic staff of Slick City. The indoor action park opened to the public in May, offering Knoxvilleans a place to enjoy giant dry slides, air courts, family attractions, birthday parties as well as adults-only themed events. You can find Slick City at 9305 Kingston Pike, Suite 110 and learn more by visiting their website at slickcity.com



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Golf

From page 8A

environment is a nice thing to have,” Miller said.

“We’ll be store No. 11 opening across the country,” he added. “They have about 45 to 50 in development across the United States.

“We’ll be kind of like a gym; so if you’re traveling, you’re a member at every Golf Envy, not just one,” Miller said.

To find a location, “I looked all over Knoxville,” with a territory in mind, he said. “Farragut really stood out because of the golfing community and I love the Farragut community. We live right on the edge in West Knoxville.

“I wanted to be in a place that wasn’t heavily trafficked because of our model being membership only,” Miller added. “I was driving back here one day, hung a right, saw the place and called [Myers Brothers Holdings].



Tammy Cheek

Golf Envy franchise owner Chris Miller, left, joined Jared Archer, clubhouse manager.

To have Golf Envy at Renaissance, Miller had to request an amendment to the Town’s zoning ordinance to allow the business in an office-zoned space.

Briefs

From page 8A

service. Passionate about helping others, she enjoys guiding clients toward a better understanding of their finances and the importance of planning for the future.

• Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee recently announced it received a \$32,000 grant from the Morgan Stanley Foundation to help expand efforts to reach children and families facing hunger across the East Tennessee region.

Support from this grant will go toward the School Pantry program, where Second Harvest partners with local schools to provide groceries through on-site school food distributions. Through the School Pantry program, students and their families can select food to bring home once a month, year-round, helping ensure consistent access to nutritious groceries.

• Jessup & Associates Inc. recently welcomed Chad Graham, executive director of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and Medal of Honor Foundation, as a guest at a special visit celebrating a longstanding relationship of honoring America’s most distinguished military heroes. The visit highlighted years of collaboration between Jessup & Associates Inc and the Congressional Medal of Honor community.

• Todd Ailes took over as Consolidated Nuclear Security’s new president and chief executive officer on July 1, replacing Rich Tighe, who left CNS after nearly four years of leading the company to serve as the project director for Bechtel’s Sentinel project in Utah. CNS manages and operates the Y-12 National Security Complex for the National Nuclear Security Administration.

FARRAGUT SCHOOLS face a BUDGET CUT

The Knox County School Board had a \$7.8 million cut from the Knox County Commission budget and so Knox County schools including Farragut schools have a funding cut. All the Farragut homes pay a property tax to the Knox County budget that pays for all county expenses including all county schools- Farragut is one of the many county schools.

The Town of Farragut has a \$32 million cash surplus and no debt and the Town only contributes \$151,000 per year to our 4 Farragut schools. Now is the time to invest more in our children in the Farragut primary, intermediate, middle and high schools rather than spending money on buying land, more parks and giving money to developers. Each year the Town receives over \$17,000,000 sales tax revenue from the state and their budget is only \$11,000,000 so each year the Town has a surplus of about \$6,000,000. It’s time to invest \$1,000,000 or more per year in our children’s Farragut schools and not buying more land, building expensive parks and helping developers with road improvements.

The big question is which Mayor candidate will commit to this- Alex Cain or Louise Povlin, it’s obvious it’s time for a change in town leadership.

Let’s get our priorities straight.

ALEX CAIN

FOR FARRAGUT MAYOR

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BORING ROAD & SCHOOL TRAFFIC

Study every option before any permanent closure. Review school traffic, parent access, and emergency vehicle routes first.



SAFER TOWN CENTER & PARKS

Evaluate lower speeds, raised crosswalks, and safer pedestrian connections around Town Center, parks, and key roads.



CUT-THROUGH TRAFFIC & CONGESTED STREETS

Work with TDOT and local partners to reduce cut-through traffic on congested roads and improve flow in our neighborhoods.



MORE LAW ENFORCEMENT VISIBILITY

Fast-track an agreement with KCSO that includes more law enforcement visibility around town.

"We should never settle for 'Fair or Poor' – we should always strive for Excellence!"



A CONTINUING PLAN FOR FARRAGUT



PUBLIC SAFETY & POLICING

Residents want a stronger law-enforcement presence to address traffic violations and public safety.

We will prepare a plan to present to Sheriff Gibson when he officially takes office.



Research how other Tennessee towns structure sheriff interlocal agreements, including costs, contents, best practices, and lessons learned.



Hold citizen workshops to gather input on the types of police actions and public safety support residents want.



Prepare a presentation package for discussions with the Knox County Sheriff's Office.



Meet with Sheriff Gibson to pursue increased KCSO support and possibly dedicated officers through an interlocal agreement.

TOWN GOVERNANCE & CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

We must rebuild trust by focusing on citizen engagement and real communication. Leadership is a relationship!



Move the Community Forum back to the front of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen agenda and restore a reasonable speaking time.



Ask aldermen to meet with constituents at least monthly outside regular public meetings.



Ask the alderman to work as a team and meet with the HOA representatives in their ward at least once annually.



Establish a monthly "Meet the Mayor" gathering for residents across the whole town. It should be a very informal, social gathering attended by the Mayor.



Residents should not have to come to a public meeting just to have an opportunity to speak with their representative.

GOAL:

Quickly gather the information needed to negotiate with KCSO based on community priorities, best practices, and citizen input.

GOAL:

Build trust and communication between the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and Farragut residents through consistent community outreach.

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Jake Nichols
Former Hardin Valley Academy baseball assistant Ronnie Dove has been promoted to head coach, bringing his coaching journey full-circle at HVA.

Dove flies ‘home’ to lead Hawks

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Ronnie Dove can remember the moment like it was yesterday. One night in the spring of 2022, he was working an assistant coach for the Oak Ridge Wildcats. Suddenly, his son — Hardin Valley Academy fifth-grader Asher Dove — ran up to the dugout. He had just hit a home run for the Hawks to eliminate Oak Ridge’s middle school team, and he was ready to celebrate. “So I’m sitting there decked out in Oak Ridge gear in a district game, trying to be excited for him,” Dove recalled with a laugh. “I knew then that it was time, and I needed to try to get back to Hardin Valley.” Dove since has done even better, having been named the Hawks’ newest head coach earlier this summer. He replaces Aaron Simmons, who resigned after two years as head coach. Dove worked under Simmons and previous coach David Dillon, as a chance meeting with Dillon at a regional tournament led him back to the school in the first place. “Excited would be the right word. I’ve been around Hardin Valley since the school opened,” Dove said. “I was on staff with Dr. (Kirk) Renegar, who’s the principal now, from 2008 to 2013. Then just stepped away when my kids were younger. “Always wanted an op-

portunity to run my own program, do my own thing. I love Coach Simmons and hate that he left, but he’s at a stage of life that it was best for him and his family to step away.” Dove’s previous stint with HVA saw three straight district championships for the Hawks, then he got out of the sport from 2013 to 2016. In early 2017, he returned to the travel ball circuit. But it wasn’t until he played golf with Oak Ridge head coach Travis Free, a longtime friend, that he rejoined the high school ranks in 2022. Dove helped a 2023 Wildcat team, which featured a young Mikee Teasley, then returned to HVA just in time for the dismissal of former coach Tyler Roach. Dillon filled the role, and Dove stayed on staff through Simmons’ time to earn his new title. It is his first time as a head coach at the high school level, and it comes with plenty of fresh faces. “We’re going to be young, and it’s a different time and vibe, so we’ll have to do some work,” Dove said. “We return one starter in Tristan Sparks. We’re replacing 23 seniors we’ve graduated in the last two years. Six Division I guys, just lost an enormous amount of talent. So we will have a lot of young guys.” Given his work as

See DOVE on Page 3B

‘Hearts of Lions’ Ward, Moulden leading CCS

Jake Nichols
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A local 9-year-old scowled toward the camera, his tiny biceps draped in medals. It was August 2019, and that child — Farragut native Kohbe Ward — already had accomplished quite a bit in his young track career. He had just finished no. 7 in the nation for the 800-meter event at the AAA Junior Olympics the previous month. Before that, he notched a top spot in the state for the 800-meter and 400-meter events the previous year, having achieved All-American status in the process. Fast forward 2,468 days, and that same expression is visible on Ward, now 16 years old. He is once again draped in medals, one earned through a state championship finish in the same 400-meter event he dominated as a child. Except now, there are shoulder pads at his feet, too, as the track star-turned-quarterback has turned heads on the field for Concord Christian. And he hasn’t done it alone, either. Dasani Moulden stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Ward, a representation of his similar impact at CCS. He ranked second in the 200-meter for the Division II-A state meet this past season while Ward finished eighth. His 10.70-second speed counts as the best time in the state for 100-meter competitors in the 2029 class, and he is ranked 33rd in the country for that event among his class with Ward 18th in the 400 nationwide. Moreover, the pair made up half of the 4x200 relay at the state meet, helping CCS to a historic finish that saw nine state champions and 22 All-State outings. On the field, each member of the speedy duo earned All-State nods for Concord last year. Ward completed 61 percent of his passes for 1,848 yards and 19 scores with just four in-



Jake Nichols
Concord Christian School has found a lethal combo in wide receiver Dasani Moulden (left) and quarterback Kohbe Ward. After standout freshman seasons in football and track, the pair is poised to lead the Lions once again this year.

terceptions. Moulden, meanwhile, used his physicality as a receiver and defensive back. He totaled 53 tackles and four interceptions in the latter, one of which went for a 108-yard pick-six. Together, they led the Lions to their first-ever playoff appearance in the team’s first varsity campaign in more than a decade. But to know why they are dreaming even bigger now, from Junior Olympic aspirations to deeper playoff runs, one must understand the trust they have developed — and the terror they can inflict because of it. **Salt and pepper** They started playing football together at 10 years old, Dasani becoming teammates with Kohbe on a team coached by James Ward Jr. From that point on, the two became inseparable. Sleepovers, road trips, even running AAU track together for Ward’s father’s team out of Chattanooga — all of it deepened the friends’ bond as their athleticism developed. “We call them salt and pepper,” said Ward Jr., Kohbe’s father, “because you don’t get one without the other. Dasani, I feel like he’s my child, too. I can talk to him, train him, have the same expectations of him that I do Kohbe because they’re made up of the same things. He’s a tough dude.” Through those long weekends on the track,

they developed speed that fit another Ward phrase: “You can’t tackle what you can’t catch.” The friends put that phrase to the test for a young middle school team at Knoxville Catholic, as Ward Jr. had taken a liking to their offensive approach. So when Irish head coach Steve Matthews landed at Concord Christian, Ward and Moulden went, too. Mainly, the point was for the friends to be together. They visit one another four to five times per week at home, swinging by Smoothie King before they throw together and watch TikToks. They pair off in prac-

See LIONS on Page 2B

Local gymnasts bound for Junior Olympics

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Through the years, Heidi De La Rocha has seen several top athletes come through her gym in Farragut. This year has been no exception, as several athletes — Saniya Gaikwad, Abbi

Jackson, Tailia Smith, Ariyah Smith, Autumn Mahoney, Ayslyn McCreight, Laney Robi- nette and Lexi Adoue — will be representing Heidi’s Gymnastics -Philippians 4:13 at the AAU Junior Olympics in Des Moines, Iowa, Monday through Thursday, Aug. 4-6. The competition includes an

event finals format, where the top four athletes on each event, within each level and session, advance to the championship finals on Friday, Aug. 7. To reach this point, the team put together several exceptional performances at the AAU national championships in Knoxville in June. Saniya Gaikwad and Abbi Jackson both were honored with the prestigious AAU All-American Award, one of the highest recognitions awarded at the AAU National Championships while Gaikwad was the highest-scoring gymnast at the competition. “While many accom-

plishments were celebrated throughout the week, this honor is especially significant, as Abbi and Saniya achieved the highest all-around scores in their entire competition session,” De La Rocha said. “Their dedication, persever-

See JUNIOR on Page 3B

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Catholic football to see penalties from recruiting violation

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Starting this season, the Knoxville Catholic High School football season will see a few different penalties following a recruiting violation involving a non-faculty assistant football coach.

Per a release from Knoxville Catholic, the violation involved impermissible communication from a coach to a prospective student-athlete via text, encouraging him to consider transferring to the school.

“This violation represents a clear departure from TSSAA regulations and from the standards of accountability and integrity we hold ourselves to as an institution,” the release read.

“As a result of this violation, Knoxville Catholic High School is self-imposing a two-year probationary period for the football program.

“This probation will include a one-year postseason ban for the 2026 football season. While the violation did not involve a member of the school’s faculty or administration, we are not here to assign individual blame. We recognize our responsibility to ensure that every aspect of our athletic program operates fully within both the spirit and letter of TSSAA regulations and in alignment with the values of Knoxville Catholic High School.”

“Our role as Catholic educators calls us to uphold the

highest standards of honesty, responsibility, and integrity,” said Dickie Sompayrac, president of Knoxville Catholic High School. “We believe these self-imposed measures are the appropriate steps forward as we work to strengthen oversight, reinforce compliance and ensure that our athletic programs fully reflect the values and mission of our school and the TSSAA.”

Along with the self-imposed postseason ban, Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) penalized Catholic with two years of probation covering the 2026 and 2027 seasons, a fine of \$2,000, a reduction of offseason football practice opportunities to five days during each year of the probationary period and a suspension of the offending coach for the first five games of the 2026 season.

“During this probationary period, the school will continue working closely with the TSSAA and will implement additional compliance procedures and oversight measures within the football program,” the release stated. “Our focus remains on providing an outstanding educational and athletic experience that emphasizes faith, leadership, discipline and personal growth.

We are grateful for the continued support of our students, parents, alumni and community as we move forward together with transparency, humility and a renewed commitment to excellence.”

Lions
From page 1B

tice whenever they have a chance, improving each other’s skills while growing in confidence.

And in games, they communicate at every juncture — a result of the long-held trust that becomes crucial when plays break down.

“Usually, I see it before the play,” Dasani Moulden said, “and I’ll say, ‘Kohbe, just throw me the ball right here.’ And he’ll get it to me.”

“It’s been tremendous. Both of them just feed off each other, and they push each other on and off the field,” said Jervis Moulden, Dasani’s father. “Whatever you put in front of them, just know they’re going to get the job done.”

That tenacity has remained in spite of their size — Ward is

5-foot-8, 155 pounds. Moulden, meanwhile, stands an inch shorter and 7 pounds lighter.

But when they put their gifts together, the effect has been magical.

And it should pay off again for Concord this fall.

“Football-wise, both were freshmen last year, and they did a really good job even being thrown in there,” Matthews said. “During track season, they grew up a little bit, and you got to see how fast they are. I always tell them to trust their speed, and I think we saw that. Both of them have extremely bright futures.”

“They both have the same personality where they’re undersized, so it puts them on edge and gives them a chip,” James Ward Jr. added. “They’re small, but they have the hearts of lions.”

‘Cashing’ in



Bearden graduate Cash Coggin won the 2-mile event during the annual Farragut Freedom Run on Saturday, July 4.

Jake Nichols



Submitted

The “Smoky Mountain Papas” won gold at the Tennessee Senior Olympics last month, claiming victory in the 70+ division for their fourth consecutive gold medal. From left in the photo: Turner Jackson, Phil Sebes, Jeff Rakes, Joe Carson, Bill Bayless (captain) and Terry Longworth.

Smoky Mountain Papas go gold for four straight

Jake Nichols
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Over the past few years, Joe Carson has seen his fair share of hoops success.

But so have his Senior Olympic teammates. Last month, on Monday, June 22, the “Smoky Mountain Papas” 3-on-3 team won gold for the fourth consecutive year at the Tennessee Senior Olympics.

Carson, a Concord resident, was joined by coach/captain Bill Bayless and Terry Longworth, both of Lenoir City, Jeff Rakes and Phil Sebes out of Chattanooga and Turner Jackson from Cleveland on the team in the 70+ division. The group would also have featured Keith Bowers from Elizabethton, but he was unable to

make the trip.

Since the tournament is 3-on-3 halfcourt format, each lineup typically consists of two guards and a post player. Carson filled the post role for the team, and Bowers would have done the same, though the other guys are guards.

“We had the option to play at nationals since this was a qualifying year, and we haven’t even talked about whether we’re going to proceed on or not,” Bayless said.

The team started its run in 2023, practicing out of the same First Baptist Concord gym where workouts took place this year.

Then in 2024, everyone except Bayless aged up, so he was on a different team.

“We were separate, but we

both won gold in our separate divisions,” Bayless said.

The success continued in 2025 and 2026, though the number of teams has thinned each year.

“As we’ve gotten older, there are fewer competitors, so we only had three teams in our division this year,” Bayless said. “COVID-19 devastated participation at the Senior Olympics, too, and it really hasn’t recovered.

“But God has given us the desire and the ability to still try to play, and the leadership of First Baptist Concord has been gracious in allowing us to practice and play pickup ball there,” he said. “We’ve united forces a bit to have enough to play. We are all blessed to be able to try to do it.”

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Jake Nichols

Jack Duby, 8, swims during the Concord Hills-Sugarwood meet on Tuesday, July 7, at the Concord Hills pool in Farragut. Duby broke his own record in the 8U boys' 26-yard freestyle event, notching a time of 15.22 seconds as part of a win for the Piranhas.

Piranhas outpace in local meet

Jake Nichols
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Last Tuesday, July 7, Concord Hills welcomed Sugarwood for a swim meet at their pool in Farragut.

The Piranhas emerged with a 446-296 win that afternoon, as Jack Duby brought one highlight for Concord with a record-breaking time.

The 8-year-old speedster broke his own Concord Hills 8U boys' 25-yard freestyle team record, notching a time of 15.22 seconds.

For Sugarwood, 12-year-old Delaney Baker edged 12-year-old Concord swimmer Brooklyn Chaney for the Stingrays' first win of the meet.

Dove
From page 1B

an assistant, though, Dove is quite familiar with the roster — two names in particular.

His oldest son Reece will be a junior this coming season while Asher will suit up for the Hawks in the class of 2031.

Altogether, their presence

Overall, though, it was Concord Hills that came away with the win, posting a 41 percent improvement in personal best times “despite training hard throughout last week and continuing hard practices leading into the meet,” according to head coach Annie Abraham. “The swimmers’ dedication and effort continue to show each week as they make remarkable progress throughout the season.”

This weekend, several area swimmers will take part in the Greater Knoxville Area Interclub Swimming Association’s final meet at Allan Jones Aquatic Center Thursday through Saturday, July 23-25.

brings the journey full circle in Dove’s return — and promotion — at HVA.

“It’s home,” he said. “Leaving Oak Ridge was a tough thing to do, but the journey has been a blessing. I’m humbled by it because it’s all fallen into place in God’s time. I didn’t plan on coaching again, then, bam, here it is.”



Photo submitted

Abbi Jackson performs during the AAU national championship gymnastics meet at the Civic Coliseum in Knoxville. Jackson was one of multiple gymnasts on the Heidi’s Gymnastics – Philippians 4:13 team to earn highest-scoring honors in her competition session.

Junior
From page 1B

ance, and outstanding performances earned them one of the highest honors available in AAU gymnastics.”

The team also earned seven perfect 10.0 scores at nationals, “a remarkable accomplishment reflecting countless hours of hard work, dedication and perseverance throughout the season,” De La Rocha said.

Robinette earned two perfect 10’s, one on vault and one on floor exercise.

Mahoney received a 10.00 on balance beam while Smith received two 10.00 scores, as well, one on beam and one on vault.

Jackson earned a 10.00 on balance beam, as well as her All-American award, and Riley Philippi received a 10.00 on balance beam.

“I could not be more proud of every gymnast who represented our gym,” De La Rocha said. “These athletes demon-

strated courage, determination, sportsmanship and heart throughout the competition.

“Whether they earned a medal, achieved a personal best, qualified for the next level or simply gave everything they had, each gymnast made our gym proud. We are incredibly proud of these athletes, and we wish them the very best as they represent Heidi’s Gymnastics – Philippians 4:13 on the national stage.”

Even deeper than the awards, though, De La Rocha noted what she saw in her gymnasts’ behavior on and off the mat.

“While the awards and accomplishments are exciting, what makes me most proud is the character these young ladies displayed,” she said. “They encouraged one another, celebrated each other’s successes, persevered through challenges and represented our gym with grace, integrity and faith.”

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Photos submitted





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Unapologetically Adams: Part 1

Knoxville lawyer, musician does it all

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

If there existed a “Most Interesting Man” contest for East Tennessee, Terry Adams would certainly be in consideration.

A well-known lawyer and businessman in west Knoxville, Adams has overseen Adams Law and Adams Title for the past 25 years. He also has written for CityView Magazine, developed a novel, served in the U.S. Navy Reserves and, in 2014, even ran for U.S. Senate.

For most people, those obligations would leave too little time to do anything else — but not Adams.

Instead, the 50-year-old retreats to his studio, props up his boots and strums his guitar as an independent country artist whose work has generated international acclaim.

“It’s insane,” Adams said with a chuckle. “But it’s the way I’ve lived my whole life. You just do all you can, every single day — and then you

wake up and do it again.”

Born into music

Growing up in Nashville, Adams did not go a day without listening to some form of music.

It was in his blood from the day he was born. His mother, Shirley Adams (Wood), penned Connie Smith’s 1967 hit song, “Cry, Cry, Cry,” and his paternal uncle owned the joint where Charlie Daniels made his country music debut.

“So in my mind, from the moment I can remember being alive, I thought I was a songwriter,” he said. “Because my mom was, and I thought that’s what you do. I didn’t know you had an option not to be a songwriter.”

A young Adams latched onto the idea, practicing with the red Harmony guitar he received at 12 years old.

He fancied Waylon Jennings like his parents, but he also followed their appreciation for The Beatles and Elvis Presley.

See ADAMS on Page 8B



Jake Nichols

Terry Adams, a lawyer and businessman in west Knoxville, has lived a double life as an independence country artist. These are just two parts of a career that also has included a U.S. Senate run, as Adams has fulfilled a pledge to “do everything he can every single day and then get up and do it again.”



Photo submitted

A cancer support group meeting takes place.

Good Vibrations concert is a hit for CSCET

Rachel Totten
Correspondent

This year’s Good Vibrations Benefit Concert proved to be another massive hit, with more than \$50,000 raised in support of Cancer Support Community East Tennessee’s (CSCET) local efforts. Held June 4 at Yee-Haw Brewing’s North Broadway taproom, the event featured live music

from Knoxville-based yacht rock band Smooth Sailor, giving guests the chance to dance and drink together for a good cause.

All ticket proceeds, along with one dollar from each pint and signature “Good Libations” frozen cocktail sold, directly benefited CSCET. Jennifer Harrell, executive direc-

See CSCET on Page 7B

Reveizes chronicle ‘journey of a lifetime’

Part 2: Across the Meseta (days 8–14, 107 miles)

Carlos Reveiz
Correspondent

“The Camino doesn’t just test your legs — it tests your mind and, eventually, your spirit.”

Veteran pilgrims often say the Camino de Santiago unfolds in three stages: physical, mental and spiritual. During our second week on the French Way, we continued through the physical stage while getting our first real taste of the mental challenge. Over seven days, Nancy and I covered another 107 miles, bringing our total to approximately 211 miles in just 14 days.

By now, our bodies were beginning to accept a new normal: waking up every morning around 4 a.m. and walking at least 15 miles before the day was over. Walking 15 miles once is an accomplishment. Walking 15 miles every day is an entirely different experi-



Photo submitted

Carlos and Nancy Reveiz took time to admire the Meseta, a 136-mile plateau, during their journey along the Camino de Santiago.

ence. Every morning our feet ached, our legs were tired and yet somehow they carried us onward.

See JOURNEY on Page 8B

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• St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church, 110 Sugarwood Drive, offers an opportunity for the community to assist a different local organization each month in its Gift of the Month Program. This month, they are collecting school supplies for Vine Middle Magnet School. Vine sits in one the lowest income neighborhoods in Knox County and the school struggles each year to maintain state educational standards. Supplies needed include: pre-sharpened pencils, pencil top erasers, colored pencils, Crayola markers, 2-Pocket plastic folders, Clorox wipes, tissues and backpacks. Drive by the church on Sunday, July 26, between 1 and 2 p.m., to drop off school supplies to be delivered to Vine before school starts in August.

• Pellissippi State Community College and Tennessee Small Business Development Center invite veterans, active-duty members of the military and their families to apply for the STRIVE program, which helps veteran entrepreneurs transform business ideas into successful ventures through hands-on training, mentorship and community support. STRIVE’s 2026 cohort

See PRESS PLANNER on Page 8B

Shell shares wealth of life’s stories in new book

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Anyone who has lived in Old Concord, or simply has driven past the former community, can get a closer look at its past through the eyes of Concord native and area historian Malcolm Shell in his new book, “Big Foot, The Pelican, and Other Stories: Memories of Rural Life in Old Concord, Tennessee.”

The book, which was released Thursday, July 2, is available at Farragut Museum and from Amazon, and people can meet the author at a book signing and party in Shell’s honor from 2 to 3 p.m., Tuesday, July 28, in the Museum, located in Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive.

A loyal supporter of the museum, Shell, 87, donated books to the museum that patrons can purchase.

For years, he has been writing articles for newspapers about Farragut and Old Concord.

“They were just stories that ran,” Shell said about the book’s contents. “I collected them.”

Kate Brewster, a Farragut Museum Committee member — as well as writer, researcher, speaker and retired librarian — compiled the stories into book form for Shell.

“She’s the one who really de-

serves the credit,” he added. “I owe it all to Kate.

“It was always something I wanted to do but didn’t think I could do it,” Shell said.

Brewster also is collaborating on another of Shell’s upcoming books, “Frontier Fort to Town Hall,” a brief history of the Town of Farragut starting in 1787.

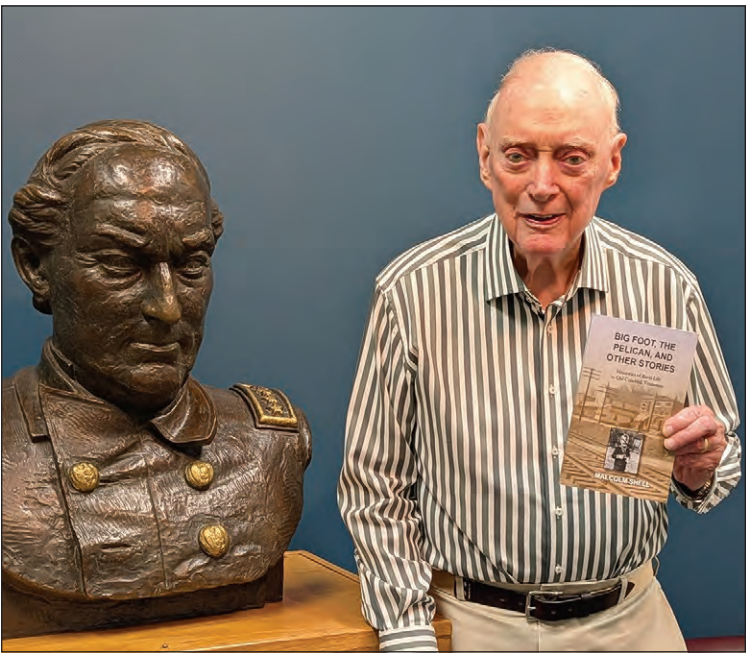
“It’s stories about growing up in Old Concord and Farragut and some of the characters that were there,” Shell said about “Big Foot, the Pelican and Other Stories.”

In the introduction, Shell described Concord as a “small riverside town, which was founded in 1854 on land owned by James M. Rodgers.

“It was platted around and got its name from the existing Concord Cumberland Presbyterian Church located there,” he stated in the introduction.

“The early years of the town saw rapid growth thanks to the construction of the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad,” Shell stated. “At its peak, the little town had several general stores, a drug store, bank and even an ice cream parlor.

“Concord was famous for its marble quarries,” he continued. “The highly sought-after ‘pink’ marble was used in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and the New York Public Library’s famous ‘Patience and Fortitude’ lions.”



Tammy Cheek

Longtime Farragut historian Malcolm Shell presented some copies of his new book, “Big Foot, The Pelican, and Other Stories: Memories of Rural Life in Old Concord, Tennessee,” to Farragut Museum on Thursday, July 2.

But the town changed when TVA built Fort Loudon dam a few miles upstream, and more than a third of the town was flooded.

One of Shell’s stories revolved around Concord Theater, which was located in the Masonic Hall on Second Drive and operated in the mid-century. Shell related the hall also served as a school for several years at the beginning of the 20th century. It also was

the home of Concord United Methodist Church from 1870 to 1877.

However, “for the children growing up in the village, it was simply ‘the theater,’” Shell related in the book.

He also told stories about Concord’s telephone company, its African-American community, constable W.O. “Pat” Patterson and when television came to the village, among many others.

CSCET From page 6B

tor of CSCET, said these funds will go toward the organization’s mission of offering free programs and services to those impacted by cancer throughout the area.

“The mission of CSCET is to uplift and strengthen people impacted by cancer by providing support, fostering compassionate communities and breaking down barriers to care,” she said. “CSCET is very fortunate to have wonderful sponsors, participants, board members and supporters who believe in our mission to support both the physical and emotional needs of those impacted by cancer in East Tennessee.”

Now in its sixth year, Harrell said Good Vibrations began at the Tennessee Amphitheater in World’s Fair Park and relocated to Yee-Haw after the brewing company opened its outdoor bar and stage space known as The Grove.

“This allowed for a more relaxed, summer vibe for guests to dance, mingle and support our mission,” she said.

In addition to Good Vibrations, CSCET also hosts a fall luncheon and silent auction fundraising event — Celebrating the Art of Survivorship. This year’s event will be held Wednesday, Oct. 21, at Bridge-water Place.

“We are thrilled to have Karen Mills, a comedian and cancer survivor, as our spe-

cial guest,” said Harrell, noting sponsor packages are currently available, and tickets and tables will go on sale soon.

“We look forward to over 250 guests enjoying a silent auction, lunch and laughs all in support of those in our region impacted by cancer.”

Located at 6204 Baum Drive, CSCET, which serves 26 counties in East Tennessee, is the only non-profit cancer support organization with a physical location in Knoxville. The organization served almost 600 people in 2025 alone, recording the highest participation rate in CSCET’s 36-year history, with about 7,000 attending both in-person and online programs.

All programs and services, including support groups, art classes and wigs, are provided at no charge to anyone with cancer, as well as their caregivers and loved ones.

“A cancer diagnosis brings stress and uncertainty, which can affect the patient’s physical, emotional and social well-being,” Harrell said. “Supporters understand the importance of complimentary care programs like support groups, gentle exercise, education, nutrition, stress reduction and social activities that connect those with the similar experience of cancer. These compliment and support the excellent medical care by our local providers.”

For more information about Cancer Support Community East Tennessee, call 865-546-4661 or visit cancersupportet.org.

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Map submitted

This map of Spain shows the Camino French way (in green) and the progress the Reveizes made along their journey (first 14 days highlighted in red).

Journey
From page 6B

Along the trail, we met countless pilgrims struggling with blisters. Having learned a few lessons ourselves, we always stopped to help whenever we could. We shared blister tape, offered advice and stressed one important rule: the moment you feel a “hot spot” on your foot, stop immediately and tape it before it becomes a blister. That small decision can save days of pain.

One of the greatest surprises of the Camino has been the friendships.

Nancy and I continued walking with what had become our Camino family. Just one week earlier we had been complete strangers. Now it felt as though we had known each other for years. We often joked that one day on the Camino was equal to a year of friendship back home. Sharing the same challenges, conversations, meals and miles creates bonds that are difficult to explain unless you’ve experienced them yourself.

Since we began walking before dawn each day, the cafés were still closed when we set out. Every evening we would take inventory of whatever food we had left and share it together the following morning before heading down the trail. No one worried about who brought what — everyone simply shared.

There is something magical about walking through forests and centuries-old villages with only the glow of a headlamp or the light of a full moon to guide your way. The world is quiet.

The only sounds are footsteps, birds beginning to wake and occasional conversations drifting through the darkness. It feels peaceful, mysterious and timeless.

Many people in the United States assume walking the Camino is similar to hiking the Appalachian Trail — carrying all of your food, camping gear and supplies while sleeping in a tent each night. In reality, the Camino is a completely different experience.

Pilgrims walk from town to town, staying in albergues (pilgrim hostels), guesthouses or small hotels, enjoying hot meals and a bed each evening. For those who prefer to travel lighter, luggage transport services move backpacks from one village to the next for about five to seven euros per bag each day.

That is one of the beautiful things about the Camino: it truly is your Camino. There is no right or wrong way to complete it.

Nancy chose to have her backpack transported each day while I carried mine. Neither choice was better — they were simply the choices that worked best for each of us.

This week also brought us to one of the Camino’s most famous and intimidating stretches — the Meseta.

The Meseta is the vast, high-altitude plateau that stretches across central Spain for roughly 136 miles. Known for its endless wheat fields, expansive skies and long, flat trails, it offers little shade from the relentless Spanish sun. Because of its repetitive scenery and challenging conditions, many pilgrims choose to skip this

section altogether.

We couldn’t wait to experience it.

The Meseta proved to be everything we had imagined — beautiful, demanding, peaceful and somehow magical all at once.

While it certainly challenged us physically, it also became our first real mental test. Long stretches of trail disappeared into the horizon with little change in scenery, forcing us to focus less on the destination and more on simply taking the next step.

As a Camino family, we looked after one another. Every 15 minutes, a timer reminded us to drink water before we became thirsty. Every two hours, we stopped for a 15-minute break, taking off our shoes and socks to allow our feet and legs to recover before continuing. Those small routines made an enormous difference.

Our goal was never to finish that day’s walk.

Our goal was to arrive safely in Santiago de Compostela — more than 500 miles from where we had begun.

After approximately 211 miles over the first two weeks, every member of our Camino family remained injury-free. There were no major blisters, no serious setbacks — only sore muscles, tired feet and grateful hearts.

The Camino was slowly changing us.

The physical challenge was becoming routine. The mental challenge had arrived. And somewhere down the road, we knew the spiritual journey was still waiting.

Until next time... Buen Camino, my friends!

Adams
From page 6B

“Music was so ubiquitous in our family and household,” Adams recalled. “Blaring from the radio in our living room. It’s in your face, and there’s no escaping it. I liked all the stuff my parents liked.”

Adams would make up songs in class at school — but only years later did he consider performing his own material onstage.

Tall Paul

After enlisting in the Navy Reserves right out of high school, Adams went to boot camp to begin a career that remained with him through 1997.

His affair with performing began eight years earlier, though, during his freshman year at University of Tennessee.

One night, Adams found himself in “The Library” — a venue that, like many others along Cumberland Avenue, is now extinct.

Yet the spark that lit within Adams that night still burns today, as he watched a man known as “Tall Paul” entertain the audience.

“It was so crowded, and I’m just watching this dude,” Adams recalled. “He’s so charismatic, holding a room that should have been out of control in the palm of his hand. So I just went home, and I was like, ‘That’s what I want to do because there was nothing like that in Nashville. I had never seen a solo acoustic guy just blow you away.’”

He returned home and called his mother, who was reluctant to lend Adams one of her prized guitars.

Once she relented, he

learned to play by listening to Dwight Yoakim songs through the stereo — finding time when he wasn’t going to class or bartending at Chesapeake’s.

“I knew, when I saw Tall Paul, that I could do it,” Adams said. “Because to me, a band was a lot. And my whole life, I’ve had a lot going on and haven’t had much time.”

‘No epiphany’

That stuck with Adams through UT, where he starred in stage productions as a theater major.

After graduation, he ran political campaigns and kept his music going, making money performing gigs along Cumberland.

He transitioned from traditional covers, putting his own spin on hits in an effort to find his own sound.

“And I loved it,” Adams said. “But with the campaign side, I saw 50-year-old men doing the same job, praying another campaign would pop up, and I didn’t want to do that and hated where politics was heading. I didn’t want to live a life around that stuff.”

As Adams neared 30, he faced a choice of whether to return to Nashville and go all in on his musical career.

But he had also just applied to law school — one of 100 things on his bucket list — and the admission all but secured his next steps.

“There was no epiphany,” he said. “I had talked to a couple songwriters I was friends with, and they reminded me I wasn’t giving up anything by going.”

See Part II in next week’s farragutpress for more on Terry Adams’ journey as a businessman and musician.

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Press planner
From page 7B

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FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN MEETING AGENDA THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>I. Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance
II. Approval of Agenda
III. Approval of Minutes
A. July 9, 2026, Minutes
IV. Mayor's Report
V. Ordinances & Resolutions
A. Ordinances
1. First Reading
a. Approval of Ordinance 26-16, an Ordinance of the Town of Farragut, Tennessee on First Reading, Amending the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Capital Investment Program Fund Budget, Passed by Ordinance 25-10.
2. Second Reading & Public Hearing</p> | <p>a. Ordinance 26-14, an ordinance on second reading to amend the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2-Administration, Article 6-Finance, Division 2-Purchasing Regulations.
VI. Business Items
A. Appointment of Steering Committee for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update
B. Approval of Purchase for Microsoft 365 Licenses using NASPO Contract Number: CTR060028
VII. Citizens Forum
VIII. Town Administrator's Report
IX. Town Attorney's Report
X. Adjournment</p> |
|--|--|

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

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VISUAL RESOURCES REVIEW BOARD MEETING AGENDA TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>I) Call to Order
II) Approval of Minutes
A) Approval of the June 23, 2026, meeting minutes.
III) Staff Report
A) Wall signs approved since the last meeting.
IV) Business Items</p> | <p>A) Review of a multi-tenant monument ground sign for the Kingston Pike Village Phase II development, located at 13110 Kingston Pike.
B) Review of a landscape plan for a new dental office building to be located at 11232 Outlet Drive.
V) Citizens Forum</p> |
|--|---|

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