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East Tennessee loses a humanitarian, icon



Parton

Jake Nichols
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Dolly Parton, a country music icon, renowned philanthropist and beloved East Tennessean, died Tuesday, Aug. 25, at the age of 80.

Her nephew and head of security, Bryan Seaver, announced the news for the family on Parton's social media accounts.

"I have imagined the heaviness of this moment," Seaver said in the clip, "but haven't truly felt

it until now. It is an honor that is mixed with pride and absolute sadness.

"But sadness lies with us, not with Dolly. Dolly has lived in the light and is in the arms of Jesus, surely met by Carl, her parents and countless others who have watched her and longed for her to meet them in the heavens."

A native of Sevierville, Parton grew up in poverty as a child yet skyrocketed to international fame. She wrote timeless musical hits such as

"Jolene" and "9 to 5" and appeared in films like 9 to 5 and Steel Magnolias.

Parton's debut album was released in 1967, commencing a career spanning 60 years and 50 studio albums. Referred to as the "Queen of Country," Parton became one of the most honored female performers in history, selling more than 100 million records in her career.

In the process, she racked up 11 Grammy Awards and three Emmy

Awards, as well as two Academy Awards and a humanitarian Oscar win, six Golden Globe Awards and a Tony Award.

Parton gave back through the establishment of the Dollywood theme park — bringing jobs for people across the region. Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Parton also founded the Imagination Library, gifting free books to millions of children around the world. Most recently, she

partnered with East Tennessee Children's Hospital, as the name was changed to Dolly Parton Children's Hospital.

Parton will be remembered for her generous spirit and kind heart as much as she will for the melodious voice that transported her from a one-room cabin to the height of stardom.

And for that, anyone who mourns her passing will recall the words of Parton's 1974 hit: "I Will Always Love You."



Jake Nichols

A sign outside Farragut Primary School welcomes students and teachers as another week begins.

New details emerge in Farragut Primary incident

Jake Nichols
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Since Tuesday, Aug. 18, new details have emerged regarding a Farragut Primary School incident that has led to an internal investigation by Knox County Schools.

Last Tuesday, two children left the school without supervision or permission.

Later that day, Knox County Schools released a statement:

"We can confirm that two students did leave campus without permission. Both students are safe, and school administration has been in contact with their families.

"Knox County Schools takes student supervi-

sion seriously and we have already opened an internal investigation and will take any action deemed necessary based on the results of that investigation."

On Monday, Aug. 24, Knox County Schools Chief Communications Officer Carly Harrington confirmed the investigation is still ongoing.

Also, she verified information we received from a concerned parent detailing the status of the teacher involved in the situation.

"We can confirm that the investigation is ongoing and that one staff member is currently on leave with pay," Harrington said in an email

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Farragut residents weigh in on future growth



Jake Nichols

Hollie Marlowe fills out a sticky note to give her feedback at a public kickoff meeting for the Town of Farragut's Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and a 70-acre plot near McFee Road and Boyd Station Road.

Jake Nichols
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Ideas for Farragut's future were scrawled on sticky notes and scale-model maps Monday, Aug. 24.

And town residents delivered plenty of opinions about what lies ahead.

The afternoon began in a classroom at the Farragut Community Center, where an update to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, or CLUP, was presented to the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission.

From there, the event moved to a larger room, where public input was gathered for the

CLUP as well as development of the 70-acre property near McFee Road and Boyd Station Road.

The CLUP process follows a smaller update last year for the mixed-use town center, though Town Administrator David Smoak noted the importance of

See RESIDENTS on Page 3A

Residents question Harrison Road townhomes



Krajewski

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

A 12.25-acre farm property at 13117 Harrison Road is being targeted for townhome development, raising concerns from nearby residents about density and traffic.

Thomas Krajewski, vice president of land development for Homestead Land Holdings

LLC, requested the property be rezoned from Agricultural to Attached Single-Family Residential (R-4) during a workshop at the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission's Thursday, Aug. 20, meeting. FMPC took no action on the request.

"We're pursuing a community for Saddlebrook Properties," a sis-

ter company of Homestead Land Holdings, Krajewski said.

Farragut Community Development Director Mark Shipley said the property is at the northwest intersection of Harrison Road and North Watt Road. He added the property is "entirely in the Town limits and currently has two dwelling units, a barn and some

accessory structures."

Shipley said the property currently has access onto Harrison Road.

"The property is zoned Agricultural, which has a 5-acre minimum lot size per dwelling unit and is currently used for agricultural purposes, with a farm pond on the southeast corner," Shipley said. "Some wooded areas are situated along

the northern portion of the property."

He pointed out R-4 zoning would allow a density of up to six dwelling units per acre.

"In terms of the existing Future Land Use Map, the rezoning request would fall within the Low Density Residential Land Use with a

See ROAD on Page 4A



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Lindsey seeks accountability over neighboring construction

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Andover subdivision resident Gillian Lindsey continues to seek accountability from the Town regarding drainage and construction issues involving a neighboring property.

She approached the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission during the citizen comments portion of its Thursday, Aug. 20, meeting and asked what is being done regarding the property adjacent to hers.

In earlier interviews, Herbert and Gillian Lindsey said they repeatedly questioned the Town's codes department about neighboring construction they said caused drainage issues on their property.

They said changes to the grading and drainage of the neighboring property increased runoff onto their land, leaving them facing thousands of dollars in engineering costs and concerned their home is more vulnerable to flooding.

Recently, Gillian Lindsey said she learned the neighbor was living in the residence even though she believed the property did not have a certificate of occupancy.

"And occupancy of a property that has not gotten a certificate of occupancy ... what warrants and what policy does the Town use to grant to overlook somebody occupying a property?" she asked.

However, Community Development Director Mark Shipley said the property owner has a temporary certificate of occupancy.

"The owner has a temporary CO and is legally able to occupy the house," Shipley said.



Tammy Cheek

Andover subdivision resident Gillian Lindsey asked for accountability when she addressed Farragut Municipal Planning Commission during its Thursday, Aug. 20, meeting.

Regarding the situation, he told the Commission, "Those are things I'd have to get an answer to because I don't have the status of those."

"You know, we've been working on this matter for a while, and the property owner has done a lot of things, as far as the drainage easement," Shipley said. "I don't know what the status of that currently is. I think he has a temporary certificate of occupancy right now, which would allow him to occupy the residence."

"So, it's more of a drainage issue that's the concern that's been raised," he said. "But my understanding is he does have a temporary certificate of occupancy until he gets the drainage rectified to the satisfaction of the Town engineer and his department."

Lindsey said she previously received different information from the Town.

"When I reached out to the Town of Farragut, I was confirmed that they were not going to give any certificate of occupancy, which I have documented in the email to that individual until they satisfy the requirements of the Town of Farragut," she said.

"When the Town of Farragut violates its own rules, how are they held accountable?"

"Rules are made to be enforced, and they're supposed to be applied to everyone," Lindsey said. "People in leadership roles, are they supposed to apply rules equally or selectively?"

"As a resident of the Town of Farragut for the past 20-plus years, I've had a problem that has generated in the last year and a half," she said. "And, the Town of Farragut has been violating their own rules, and I have everything documented."

KCSO policereports

July 29 — Identity theft:
A woman reported that a suspect used her personal information to open a Discover credit card. She learned of the account and an unfamiliar address while reviewing her credit information through Knoxville TVA Employees Federal Credit Union.

July 30 — Building materials stolen:
A complainant reported that five rolls of synthetic roofing felt valued at \$655 were stolen from a construction site on Red Poppy Drive. The theft occurred sometime between July 24 and July 27. The report lists the suspect as unknown.

July 31 — Identity theft:
A man reported that a suspect used his personal information and account PIN to transfer his home telephone number from TDS Telecom to another network. The man said he had never used the PIN and did not know how the suspect obtained it.

Aug. 2 — Collectibles stolen from estate sale:
A man reported three suspects stole a framed stamp collectible and two Disney wreaths during an estate sale on Admiral Road. The items had a combined reported value of \$1,270. The suspects reportedly left together in a white Ford pickup truck with Claiborne County registration.

Aug. 5 — Campaign sign vandalized:
A complainant provided investigators with video show-

ing a suspect stop a vehicle on Concord Road, walk onto a property and damage a Monty Fritts for governor campaign sign valued at \$80. Detectives identified the suspect and issued a misdemeanor citation with a court date, according to the report.

Aug. 10 — Cash stolen from vehicle:
A man reported \$600 in cash was stolen from his vehicle while it was parked at Buffalo Wild Wings on Parkside Drive. The theft reportedly occurred between 5 and 11 p.m. The man reported no damage to the vehicle.

Aug. 16 — Property lost from vehicle:
A woman reported a suitcase containing personal documents, a cellphone and other belongings was lost after the trunk of her vehicle apparently opened as she drove away from a business on Brooklawn Street. She believed the suitcase fell from the vehicle and planned to contact the business to see whether the property had been found.

Aug. 17 — Vehicles burglarized:
A man and woman reported a suspect entered two vehicles on Plumb Creek Circle. Surveillance video reportedly showed a man entering a Jeep Wrangler and a Cadillac. A portable charger valued at \$55 and a purse valued at about \$180 containing personal documents and other belongings were reported stolen. Deputies were unable to locate the suspect.

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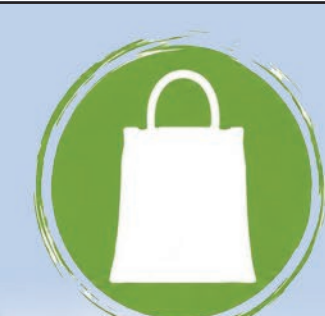
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Primary
From page 1A

to the farragutpress. “Due to the ongoing nature of the investigation, we cannot provide any additional details at this time.”

Per that same concerned parent, the two children involved saw a maintenance worker push open a playground gate that opens from the inside.

The children used that same gate to walk to the nearby library, located a five-minute walk away, as their classmates returned from recess.

Reportedly, there is no code to lock this gate since it locks from the outside, not the inside.

By the time their teacher re-

turned to the classroom, the two absent children had been spotted by a Good Samaritan, who called one of the kids’ parents.

At that point, the parent had reportedly called the school.

There was allegedly not an “all call,” which is when a teacher uses a walkie-talkie to alert others of an absence before the same alert is issued over the school intercom system.

After talking with multiple community members, a question has arisen as to why there is not a device that could scan badges as teachers enter and leave the building.

Another parent sent a photo of an email from FPS principal Lynn White, who said the school’s next steps included an

administration meeting “to reinforce expectations and ensure they are being consistently followed in every area. We will also be reviewing our internal safety and security protocols and make any adjustments needed to strengthen supervision. We are committed to learning from this incident and taking the necessary steps to prevent it from happening again.”

Knox County Schools District 5 representative Lauren Morgan added a statement to her Facebook page:

“My heart dropped when I learned that two students were able to leave the Farragut Primary School campus during the school day,” she stated. “As a parent, that news hits

especially close to home, and I know many of our parents and families feel that same concern. First and foremost, I am incredibly grateful that both children were located and are safe. That is what matters most.”

“When parents send their children to school each morning, they are trusting us with what is most precious to them,” Morgan added, “I don’t take that trust lightly, and I know an incident like this is unsettling and raises very real questions for families. Knox County Schools has opened an internal investigation to determine exactly what happened and how these students were able to leave campus. I believe it is important that we allow that

process to establish the facts, but parents also deserve answers. We need to understand what happened, identify where procedures or supervision may have broken down, and make sure the appropriate steps are taken to prevent something like this from happening again. I will be asking questions and following this closely on behalf of the families I represent. This morning, I remain incredibly thankful that these children are safe. My heart is with their families and with the entire Farragut Primary community as we work to understand what happened, learn from it, and make sure the safety and trust of our families remain at the center of everything we do.”

Residents
From page 1A

such updates "every 15 or 20 years."

Representatives from TSW, the Atlanta-based architectural firm that previously handled the mixed-use town center update, were on hand to give presentations and answer questions about the projects.

TSW’s Adam Williamson and Beverly Bell kicked off the CLUP classroom portion, discussing a plan intended to guide Farragut through 2045.

Along the way, it will address land use, population growth, housing, economic development, quality of life, transportation, infrastructure and natural resources.

“We will be looking at future land use and development patterns for the future and connect all the pieces and provide a roadmap for implementation,” Williamson said. “It’s a list of policies — but also projects that will be implemented over a long period of time. So why do this? You always experience growth and development and want to understand what the community wants to see, and if they want any growth.”

Referencing Farragut’s substantial growth, Williamson emphasized the delicate balance that comes with putting all the pieces together — and why it is vital to do so now rather than later.

“This is being proactive,” he said. “You can’t just wait until the growth hits you and then react. This process allows everyone to collectively think about what the future will hold, to be intentional about the future of Farragut.”

He also emphasized the importance of the roles of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and Planning Commission in the process. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen will provide direction, identify priorities and guide implementation, with the goal of adopting the plan in May 2027.

Meanwhile, the Planning Commission will provide a planning and technical perspective, helping to shape the future land-use framework before refining the draft and recommending a final plan.

Both bodies will use community input, a process that already has begun.

On Monday, residents labeled maps, wrote opinions and placed dots under questions asking for their suggestions for improvements and general thoughts about Farragut’s future.

A common refrain, as one might expect: too much traffic.

“This is just the start of the project,” Bell said. “We go in and count every single dot, type up every single response and analyze all of that. It’s critical.”

As for what has stood out so far?

“Balancing tradeoffs,” Bell said. “Preservation in Farragut is very important with all the natural resources, so just being strategic with new growth and development.”

New McFee Road Park planning

A similarly strategic approach is being taken for the property near McFee Park. The project follows the town’s receipt of a \$2.75 million federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant in December 2024.

The schedule for that project shows development of the master plan beginning in October and November, with the grant requiring construction of recreational facilities to begin by 2027.

Farragut Parks and Recreation Director Ron Oestreich noted the results he has seen

from recent surveys asking residents what they want to see on the property.

“Passive,” Oestreich said of the property. “I’d say 95% of the input has been trails, passive recreational elements like playgrounds, things for people with special needs and a band shell area. Sports fields have been very low.”

“We’re using this type of input and the survey results from last summer and intercept surveys we’re doing in the parks to get input, and we’ll put it all together and see whatever floats to the top,” he said.

TSW has organized one survey for both projects, and it is available on the Town of Farragut’s website through Sept. 25.

Answers from that survey will help guide the projects,

with multiple TSW representatives describing public input as “crucial.”

After that, the firm will continue engaging with the community at different events, including a pop-up at Freaky Friday Fright Night on Friday, Oct. 30, at Mayor Bob Leonard Park.

“This is just the very beginning of the process,” Smoak said. “We want to get as much public input as possible, and it just helps the Planning Commission and Board of Mayor and Aldermen make better decisions on what they want to see for the future of the community.”

“So we want to get as much public input as possible, and hopefully we can come back a year from now and have a great vision for what the community wants to see.”

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Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

Much has been made of the academic achievement gap and below expected performance, among U.S. students when compared to the rest of the world. Of 80 developed countries in the PISA international survey, overall US students ranked above average in reading and science, and below average in math. Tennessee has made considerable progress and is now in the top half compared to other states in reading and math. That said, Tennessee still has lots of opportunities for improvement, particularly in rural areas. Fortunately, Farragut is well above average, ranking 9th among 376 public high schools in Tennessee. There have been various solutions proposed to reduce any gap and/or push U.S. and local students to better performance. Some suggest charter or private schools, or that higher pay and better facilities would attract better teachers and encourage better students. All this likely has a place, but I would suggest one more action that doesn't require more money, and that is, setting high standards and expectations. As George Bush observed, there is a soft bigotry in low expectations.

Having grown up in eastern Kentucky in the 50-60's and having attended grade school in a four-room schoolhouse without indoor plumbing and a pot-bellied stove for heat in the winter, I can attest to the value of high standards and expectations. Money was scarce, but I was fortunate to have had many excellent teachers who set high standards and expectations for their classes – discipline, homework, study of the classics, challenging math assignments, etc. And, I had parents who expected me to do my best. Despite the lack of money and facilities, I went on to attend West Point and receive multiple degrees, ultimately becoming president of a company, writing several books and traveling the world consulting with major corporations. While I may have been “disadvantaged”, I had the advantage of teachers and parents who set high standards and expectations

The late Robert Rosenthal's work reached a similar conclusion, that teachers expecting better performance tend to get it. A review of 479 studies found that teacher expectations affect how students perform. High expectations raise performance up to 30%, while low expectations yield poorer performance. So, the key is not more money, though it might help. The key is the leadership in each school district setting high standards and expectations, and then holding teachers accountable to those, while rewarding the very best teachers.

~ Ron Moore
Farragut, TN

Road

From page 1A

density range from three to six dwelling units per acre,” Shipley said. “Thus, if the rezoning moves forward, a request to amend the Future Land Use Map will also be needed.”

If changed, “the development density for this property will be substantially greater than its current zoning designation,” he said. “You are going from Agricultural to Attached Single Family, which is basically townhome development.

“Improvements will be required to Harrison Road consistent with the Town's Subdivision Regulations, and those will need to be factored into the rezoning,” Shipley continued. “Harrison Road is classified as a local collector and, if rezoned, the development will likely have access onto both Harrison Road and North Watt Road.

“There would also be a connection that would need to be made to the property to the north,” he said. “As part of the preliminary plat for the property to the north, an access was stubbed into the property that is being requested for a rezoning.”

Shipley said FMPC also should consider that the Town is in the early stages of updating its Comprehensive Land Use Plan and existing future land-use designations.

“The existing future land use map designation for this property was based on the property being adjacent to a Mixed-Use Neighborhood land use to the north and proximity to North Watt Road and McFee Park,” he said.

“Whether this rezoning is premature given the pending update to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan is a matter for the Planning Commission to evaluate as part of the initial review of this request,” Shipley added.

Two neighboring residents, Gary Kobialka and Mitchell Thomas, voiced concerns about the proposed density and its potential impact on Harrison and North Watt roads.

Kobialka, who lives across the street from the property, said Harrison Road currently is a substandard road.

“I am mainly interested in the density of the development,” he said. “I think townhomes is a little much for what Harrison Road can handle and also for what Watt

Road can handle.

“Right now, there are only about 10 residents on Harrison Road,” Kobialka said. “We're not against development, but I'm against high-density development.

“Getting out from Harrison Road to Watt Road is difficult because of all the traffic that comes from the highway [Kingston Pike],” he said. “So, I'm concerned about the impact to the existing residents. What will happen to their property and their access to their homes?”

“I just want to make this a good place for the people who live here now and for the people who will live here,” Kobialka added. “The developers are not the people who are going to live here.”

Thomas echoed Kobialka's concerns about density, adding, “My biggest concern is the impact on Harrison Road, as well as Watt Road.

“Harrison Road is already used as a shortcut a lot now,” Thomas said. “My concern is with the additional townhomes and the expansion of that road, the people who will use that.

“Cars kind of already [are] speeding 50 miles per hour when the speed limit is 15

miles per hour,” he added.

“When we evaluated what zoning to request, we considered the various residential zones,” Krajewski said. “We also considered the fact this was listed as medium-density area in the future land use map.

“I understand that calls for six to eight units an acre under the current plan,” he said. “When we evaluated the zones, R-4 allows for three to six units an acre.

“We thought that, as Mark [Shipley] said, you know, you'll yield a little less than that, but it could yield up to six, which is more in line with the density plan that exists here for this property,” Krajewski said. “We thought the closest zone that matched the future land use map was R-4.”

In other business, FMPC approved a site plan for a proposed dental office on a 1-acre lot at 11232 Outlet Drive.

“This site plan involves a proposed dental office building slightly less than 7,000 square feet and to be constructed to the east of the Echo Suites Hotel that is currently under construction along Outlet Drive,” Shipley said.

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Local businesses make Dog Daze debut

Jake Nichols
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At the 10th annual Dog Daze event, plenty of dogs made their presence felt. But the same thing could be said for multiple Farragut businesses, such as SweatHouz — a private infrared sauna and cold plunge studio — and The Blushing Lemon, which featured a food truck with snow cones, lemonade and other assorted items. They also do a mobile bartending for events, too.

“I would say definitely great exposure,” SweatHouz studio manager Miranda Murphy

said. “We got to see a different part of the community than we do at regular health events, kind of get to target everyday people who are looking to change their routine or maybe add something else once a month. So it was super great meeting different types of people.”

“It was great,” added Zoe Neihart from The Blushing Lemon. “We always like interacting with the community and we live local to Farragut. So seeing people was fun, and this is the first time I have ever watched the dog show. So it

See LOCAL on Page 8A

PureMagic parent company now local

Tony Christen

MOJO Family of Brands moved its headquarters from Dallas, Texas, to Alcoa. MOJO is the parent company of PureMagic Car Wash

Jake Nichols
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Earlier this summer, the MOJO Family of Brands moved its headquarters from Dallas, Texas, to Alcoa. MOJO is the parent company of PureMagic Car Wash, the sponsor for this season's farragutpress How the West was Won contest.

“Our corporate headquarters were originally in Dallas, Texas, but we don't have any car washes in Dallas, so we closed that up and moved it to Alcoa,” said Kevin McBride, the Director of Operations for the MOJO Family of Brands.

The MOJO brand owns and operates more than 150 car wash facilities across the United States.

“We wanted it to center where all our locations are,” McBride said of the new location, “and it just so happened to be Knoxville.”

The building was repainted in a combination of the PureMagic logo, which features blue, and the MOJO company color of neon green.

Behind the car wash itself, a separate building now houses MOJO's corporate headquarters, where revamped offices, CEO suites and more welcome general managers from MOJO car washes across the country for their initial training.

“They get their MOJO juice, as we call it,” McBride said. “That's been happening over the last year, and we are glad to be a sponsor for How the West was Won.”

Jake Nichols

Kelsey Nelson, the founder and owner of Canvas Queen Needlepoint, has transformed an empty west Knoxville storefront into a booming business with a nationwide following.

Stitched with success

Jake Nichols
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In the summer of 2025, Kelsey Nelson walked into an empty store in Franklin Square in west Knoxville.

She held three Sterilite containers full of canvases and a dream that stretched well beyond her new 2,500-square-foot space.

At the time, the entire notion still seemed wild to Nelson, who started an online needlepoint store during the spring of 2025 while she taught Language Arts at Alcoa Middle School.

Two months later, she was ready to quit her job and take the leap in a brick-and-mortar.

“I walked into this space with 2,000 square feet, and I'm like, ‘What am I going to put in here?’” she said. “I looked at the space, and the rent was five times more than my mortgage payment. The entire time, I was like, ‘This is crazy.’”

Yet in the next breath: “I think we should do it.”

More than a year later, Nelson's gamble on Canvas Queen Needlepoint has more than paid off.

On Saturday, Aug. 15, the store celebrated its one-year anniversary, and the

online brand has skyrocketed in popularity.

While 20 employees hustle to handle daily foot traffic, Canvas Queen boasts more than 65,000 followers on TikTok with almost 15,000 on Instagram.

“I probably should have planned for this to be bigger than I expected it,” Nelson said with a laugh. “But honestly, I think even me getting this space was me expecting to blow it out of the water. You don't get a 2,500-square-foot space without betting on yourself. You have to believe some kind of magic will happen, or you wouldn't be doing this.”

For Nelson, that magic began less than three years ago when she looked into needlepointing as a hobby.

One class hooked her, and she began buying and kitting new canvases.

As her newfound passion lit a spark, Nelson experienced a different feeling toward her teaching job.

“I felt like maybe there was something else out there for me, and needlepoint in general has a reputation for stores not being the kindest or most welcoming,” she said. “I thought I could do it better, and I was

burned out from pouring everything I had into my teaching job. I knew I could not sustain that the rest of my life.”

She launched an online store on March 1 last year, selling items she would enjoy stitching, too.

After purchasing the space and renovating, Canvas Queen opened its doors to a long line on Aug. 16, 2025.

But even when the initial boom faded, Nelson kept the faith as word spread.

“We spent a lot of days mopping floors and finding stuff to do because we didn't have the foot traffic I was expecting. I was just like, ‘What have I done?’” she said. “But slowly and surely, word started getting out, and we've kind of become a destination.”

Visitors to the store (and still surging online shop) can find canvases of all sorts, ranging from Taylor Swift lyrics and Dolly Parton's hair to Harry Potter references and Tennessee-football-themed artwork.

There are Christmas ornament and stocking options, hats and even vibrant, rainbow-esque thread walls that are divided by color.

See SUCCESS on Page 8A





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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

A Ballpark Day at NHC Farragut

Patients and residents at NHC Farragut enjoyed a fun-filled day of baseball, laughter, and classic ballpark treats! Everyone had the opportunity to join in the game, cheer each other on, and enjoy the simple joy of spending time together. No baseball outing would be complete without hot dogs, so everyone gathered afterward to enjoy a delicious ballpark lunch. It was a wonderful afternoon filled with friendly competition, great memories, and plenty of smiles!

To learn more about NHC and their Farragut-area communities, contact Harriet Amonette at harriet.amonette@nhccare.com or go to nhccare.com.



DISCOVER LOUDON COUNTY



Tammy Cheek

Michael Boles decked out his boat in honor of the 250th anniversary of the country.

Rain couldn't sink this cardboard fleet

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

A deluge of rain did not deter sailors in the 6th Annual Cardboard Boat Race benefiting Prevention Alliance of Loudon County, held in Lenoir City.

Participants and spectators simply waited out the precipitation, then set sail in their boats.

The race took place Saturday, Aug. 1, in Lenoir City Park. Prevention Alliance director Victoria Cowell said there were 11 boats and 21 participants this year.

"In spite of the rain, we had a good crowd turnout," Cowell said.

However, "the past two years we have had around 3,000 people," she added.

The Cardboard Boat Race winners were:

- Youth, ages 8-17: First place, Shark Attack; second, Anchor of Hope; and third, Rocky Top Racer.

- Adults, 18+: First place, BCI, which also won the Golden Swan; second, The Rock; third, Fritt's Skipper; and fourth, Cat Mobile, which also won the Davy Jones Award.

- Police/Fire: First place, SS Justice with the Loudon County Sheriff's Office, which also won Treasure Island; second, Lenoir City Fire Department; third, Lenoir City Police Department; and fourth, Jailbirds (Loudon County Jail).

In the final race, the Buckl Cup — for all boats that still floated and wanted to race —

See FLEET on Page 7A

Think before you prompt

Tammy Cheek

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Be aware of what information you put into AI and be careful what you ask for.

Those are among the pieces of advice Matthew Coleman, director of managed services, and Todd Sheppard, chief information officer and director, both of Centriworks, gave to Loudon County Chamber of Commerce business owners, professionals and community members during a Chamber Learning at Lunch seminar on how to make the most of artificial intelligence at Lenoir City Utilities Board Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Centriworks, located in Knoxville, provides managed IT services, comprehensive cybersecurity solutions, IT assessments, cloud computing and hardware-as-a-service, as well as supplying and servicing office equipment.

"It's a very interesting place we live in now," Sheppard observed.

In the seminar, sponsored by Wampler Farm Sausage, Coleman, also the Loudon County Chamber Board chair, and Sheppard shared practical uses of AI in business, protecting sensitive data and rules of engagement.

While a majority of the audience dabbled in AI, fewer used it on a regular basis, but they were familiar with such AI platforms as Claude by Anthropic, Google Gemini and Copilot.

Artificial intelligence systems process data to solve problems, recognize speech, make decisions and create new content. It also can handle repetitive tasks, saving time for business staff.

"Basically, it's taking enormous amounts of data on websites — content, documents



Tammy Cheek

Matthew Coleman, left, Loudon County Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman and Centriworks Director of Managed Services, and Todd Sheppard, Chief Information Officer and Director of Centriworks, shared insights in how businesses can best use artificial intelligence in the workplace.

and code — and generating search," Coleman said.

But "Keep in mind, this [AI] is not a search engine," Sheppard warned.

While it can be used to search, he warned, "Be very, very careful because as you use AI as a search engine, there's a chance you may get some really false information. It is nothing more than a predictor of words. That's all it does.

"So, consequently, it is not thinking in the background," Sheppard said. "Make sure you check those links and make sure the information is actually valid."

Additionally, they warned people should be careful that the information they provide to AI is not sensitive because that information is going on

the internet and can get into the wrong hands, such as competitors or predators.

"It could be a major breach, so be careful," Sheppard warned. "Keep an eye out there.

"Coding is a huge security problem," he added. "You need to be a professional coder [to use AI]."

While AI has its drawbacks, Sheppard observed people in businesses who are not using AI "are going to fall farther and farther behind."

To help with security drawbacks, Coleman advised businesses to get an AI policy in place, get employees trained and obtain licenses to use AI. There are several companies, such as Microsoft and Claude by Anthropic, that provide such training for licensing.

Ribbon Cuttings



Tammy Cheek

Brice and Savannah Vaughn (with scissors) celebrate joining Loudon County Chamber of Commerce for their new business, The Playdate Society, with a Chamber-sponsored ribbon cutting at 112 Kingston St., Suite B, Friday, July 24. Joining the Vaughns are their son, Brooks, 3 (front); Bryce's parents, Deborah and Chad Vaughn (behind Bryce), Lenoir City Councilman Jim Shields, fourth from left, and other supporters. The Playdate Society is an indoor Montessori-style play café, where children and parents can play together with naturally made toys that have no batteries.



Photo submitted Blair Sitzlar

Dr. Michael Craig (with scissors) cut the ribbon for Tennessee Orthopaedic Alliance during a Loudon County Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event at TOA, 1787 Highway 72 E., Loudon, on Thursday, Aug. 13. Joining him were Jeff McPherson (to Craig's right), market president of TOA East Tennessee; Robb Seahorn (to Craig's left); TOA physical therapist; and Chamber members and other supporters.

Planning the perfect party



Engaged couples, businesses and others looking for event venues, caterers and more gathered at the Fall Open House at the Venue at Lenoir City Sunday, Aug. 2, to see what the area has to offer.

"We're happy with it," said Allison Sousa, director of The Venue. "The vendors seem happy."

Hosted by The Venue and Classy Caterer, "this event is designed for past, current and future clients booking weddings and private celebrations, corporate events and non-profit galas," the event's Facebook page stated. "It is structured as a progressive event experience — mocktails, appetizers, food tastings, a bridal fashion



Tammy Cheek

Clockwise: Engaged couple Carley Scott (left) and Austin Porter with his mom Stacey Porter. Alaina, one of several models at the Fall Open House. From left, Kay and Doyle Arp sample fare from The Classy Caterer, and Trisha Kelly, owner of The Classy Caterer.

show and some of the area's best event vendors."

The open house gave attendees a chance to meet industry

vendors, see the latest décor trends, enjoy food tastings and mocktails and tour event spaces, as well as enjoy a cash bar.

Fleet
From page 6A

first place went to Shark Attack (youth); first place, LCFD (adult); second, LCSO; and third, The Rock.

According to preliminary numbers, Cowell said the event raised more than \$10,000. She gave a shout-out to Buckeye Corrugated Incorporated, which has a plant in Loudon and has been the presenting sponsor for five of the six races.

In an obstacle course race between police — members of the Lenoir City Police Department and Loudon County

Sheriff's Office — and firefighters in Loudon County, the police brought home the win.

"Our other big sponsors this year were Bush's Best, Tennessee Orthopaedic, Sheriff Jimmy Davis with Loudon County Sheriff's Office and co-sponsor Brendan DeBoer, deputy director of the 9th Judicial Drug Task Force. Also, Alli-Jo Lacy was responsible for gathering the silent auction items, which raised \$1,800.

For the race, participants built their own boats made of cardboard, which they could race for speed or style.

"It kind of rained on us a

little bit," she said. Before this year, "every year, we've had good weather, but today's been the most wet we've had."

In the cardboard race, "we have an adult category, a youth category and a law enforcement category," she added. "Normally we have 3,000 people here."

One youth entrant, Da'mia Ashford, sailed a boat, Anchor of Hope, for Angelic Ministries for the first time.

"My grandmother, Sonya Ashford, invited us [to participate]," Da'mia said.

Cowell explained the money raised from the event goes toward more programming for

the Alliance, such as drug prevention education in the schools.

"We go into the schools and do education; and a lot of times, law enforcement will actually go with us," she said.

"We do distractive driving; we do simulation goggles," Cowell said. "We want to give them information and education to keep them from starting to use any type of drugs, so hopefully they can make better, informed decisions by the education we provide."

The Aug. 1 event also included a canine demonstration from the Loudon County

Sheriff's Office; Police and Fire Games; an obstacle course competition between law enforcement, fire departments and emergency responders, with the police winning the contest; food trucks; a rock-climbing wall; a Touch-A-Truck activity featuring emergency and public service vehicles on which children could climb; and live entertainment.

"This was the perfect event to bring your family," LCCC Blair Sitzlar stated on the website.



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Tammy Cheek

Southern Safety Supply staff, from left, Kay Stroud, owner Sara Sizemore, Ted Moreland and Connor Buis.

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members and other supporters gathered Thursday afternoon, Aug. 20, to help Southern Safety Supply celebrate its 30th anniversary with snow cones and giving back.

Supporters donated cans of peanut butter for Second Harvest Food Bank while enjoying the festivities.

“I’m trying to give back to the community because it really helped me,” Southern Safety Supply owner Sara Sizemore said.

The company sells personal protective gear, such as gloves, vests and other items used by utilities, contractors, manufacturers and public agencies. “It’s been quite a change,” Sizemore said about the business.

“I started with a desk for \$50 and an ISBN line. We put my products in a storage unit,” she recalled. “I thought I was the cat’s meow.”

Since then, “It has grown tremendously,” Sizemore said. She got her current location at 207 Center Park Drive, Suite 2090, in January 2019, and then joined Farragut West Knox Chamber in June of that year.

“The Chamber’s been the most helpful,” she said.

Sizemore remembered when people didn’t know what PPE, or personal protective equipment, was. Then, COVID-19 struck. Now, “it’s more common to wear vests, hats and the orange cone business is good.”

She also observed, “Knoxville has grown so much.”

For more information about Southern Safety Supply, call 865-673-0140.

Local

From page 5A

was great watching them and seeing what this is all about.

“I got to talk to other local vendors and connect with them, too. I got a chance to talk to Berrylicious, and they were fantastic. And then the boutique right next to it, she runs it out of her house, and they sell some really great clothing. It was great.”

While the experience was a first for those businesses,

it marked a new venture for Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance executive director Ashley Lynch, too.

Lynch oversaw Dog Daze from start to finish, facilitating multiple facets throughout the three-day event.

“This was my first time doing it, too, so it was a learning curve for everybody. So we all did that together,” she said. “It was good to see the community and people coming together. We all have camaraderie and help each other.”

Success

From page 5A

“Every item is something I would buy for myself, so that’s my strategy,” Nelson said. “The stuff I tend to gravitate toward is not your traditional style of needlepoint. They are items that represent warmth and nostalgia.”

“The design is already painted on there, but what you do with it is up to you,” she added of the canvases. “I could sell 100 of one canvas, but every one could be different depending on the type of thread, stitches and colors they choose. “There’s no right or wrong. It just depends on what

you want the end result and experience to be.”

While Nelson has come to appreciate each customer’s unique approach, she has found even more gratification in the sense of community that has developed within her walls.

“We came out of Covid-19, and people really wanted community,” she said. “It’s been so cool to see needlepoint be a common thread for people. At stitch nights, they aren’t talking about what they are stitching; they are talking about life and what they’re going through. It gives people a social experience with also having something tangible to show for it.”

Those messages have resonated with Nelson, who has created a warm and welcoming atmosphere for anyone who walks through the door.

“It has become my ministry in a way,” she said. “We get to love on people. We may not be sharing the Lord with them, but we get to show them they are valued and appreciated. I don’t care if someone walks out of here spending \$1,000 or zero dollars; they will be treated the exact same way.”

Fueled by that approach, Nelson hopes to expand Canvas Queen into other areas of Franklin Square, perhaps even with designated classrooms for teaching the craft that has changed her life.

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59 reasons to celebrate Hoops for Hope



Photo courtesy of Jack Tate

The annual Hoops for Hope event was held Saturday, Aug. 22, at Farragut High School, where a record number of participants took part.

Ken Lay
Correspondent

For the 20th consecutive year the University of Tennessee men’s and women’s basketball teams participated in Hoops for Hope at Farragut High School’s Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium.

The event took place Saturday, Aug. 22, and had its biggest turnout ever.

The event began as an Eagle Scout service project for Farragut High School graduate

Trey Sexton back in 2007.

Sexton said he was approached by Tennessee and the Down Syndrome Awareness Group about bringing back the event for a second year in 2008. Since that time, the event has now become an annual event at Farragut. It usually takes place in the late summer.

In 2026, the event played host to 59 children and young adults with Down Syndrome.

“This thing gets bigger every year,” said Farragut High School athletic director Don-

ald Dodgen. “We had 59 kids this year and that’s the most we’ve ever had.”

“I look forward to this every year and it’s an honor for us to host this. You can come in here and be in a bad mood and then you leave here feeling good. This is a feel-good day.”

The event gives the Vols and Lady Vols hoopsters the opportunity to play basketball and interact with special-needs athletes. For Rylie Theuerkauf, who will soon begin her first season with the Lady Vols after

transferring from Georgia, the event was special.

“Meeting all the kids and coloring with them, making them laugh, things like that, it’s not even about basketball, it’s just about talking to them and being with them,” said Theuerkauf, who is an education major with aspirations of a teaching career. “This is special and I love this.”

“My dad is a special education teacher back home in (New) Jersey, and I would like to do something like this

back home.”

Tennessee men’s assistant coach Bryant Lentz said that he and the Vols are honored to participate in the event.

“This is a great event,” said Lentz, who is in his ninth season at Tennessee on head coach Rick Barnes’ staff. “This is special for the kids but I think our guys get more out of this than they do.”

“For me personally, we’re very blessed to do this and help players and we have a good group of guys.”



Jake Nichols

Farragut’s Brenton Haag (22) looks for a running lane against Sevier County in the second annual First Bank Classic at Carson-Newman’s Burke-Tarr Stadium.

Bears claw Ads in season opener

Jake Nichols
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JEFFERSON CITY — Brenton Haag powered into the end zone at Carson-Newman’s Burke-Tarr Stadium, bringing a positive note as he landed on the navy turf.

If not for the first half, his touchdown and Caleb Bell’s ensuing point-after would have put Farragut within striking distance of Sevier County at 10-7.

Except the Smoky Bears’ 25 first-half points

all but sealed the final result, as they downed the Admirals 35-7 in the second annual First Bank Classic.

“We’ve got some growth to do,” FHS coach Geoff Courtney said of his team, which fell to SCHS by a similar margin after a 27-7 loss in the same event last year. “But we have a lot of guys playing their tails off, working hard. We will continue to grow and be a good football team.”

Sevier County inflicted damage early, as quarterback Cooper Newman found teammate Parker Newman (no relation) for a 67-yard touchdown on the second play from scrimmage.

He ended the night with 21 completions on 27 attempts for 258 yards and four touchdowns.

FHS followed with a turnover on downs, as Carter Collier was ruled a yard short of the line to

See ADS on Page 2B

Lady Ads finding early success in 2026

Jake Nichols
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Last Thursday, Aug. 20, the Farragut Lady Admirals moved to 2-0 in their 2026 soccer season with a 7-0 win over Lenoir City.

Ava Upshaw led FHS with five goals and will certainly be looking for plenty more this coming week.

“She’s great,” FHS coach said of Upshaw. “She’s one of our more natural strikers, and I think it’s a challenge that we’ve been trying to work on as a team, to start off stronger and be ready to go.”



Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

Ava Upshaw (22) dribbles past a Lenoir City defender during Farragut’s match against the Lady Panthers.

See LADY on Page 2B

Hawks strike early, rout Karns

Ken Lay
Correspondent

The 2026 football season began on a winning note for Hardin Valley Academy Friday night, Aug. 21.

The Hawks dismantled geographic rival Karns, 49-0, on the road, to open the new campaign. HVA controlled and dominated in all phases of the contest, keeping the Beavers at bay all night.

The lopsided victory represented Hardin Valley’s third consecutive win dating back to last season.

The Hawks started fast as they opened a 14-0 advantage by the end of the first quarter. Hardin Valley scored its first two touchdowns with a pair of short plunges.

Beau Wise got things rolling with a 2-yard run to culminate the Hawks’ first possession. Logan Holbrook added the extra point to make the score, 7-0, capping 15-play, 50-yard drive.

Hardin Valley (1-0) would extend its advantage to 14-0 when Levi

See HAWKS on Page 2B

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Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

Farragut players attempt to block a Sevier County point-after attempt during their game on Saturday night at Carson-Newman.

Ads

From page 18

gain on fourth-and-3.

The Smoky Bears capitalized on the short field, overcoming tackles for loss by John Ed-delmon and Kaden Renfro to move 42 yards for their second score less than six minutes into the game.

An Admiral fumble gave the Smoky Bears another short field on their next possession, and the score changed to 22-0 before Farragut could catch its breath.

“They big-played us,” Courtney summarized. “Second play, play action — good player and a good quarterback. Then we came out and didn’t get that fourth down and gave them a short field.

“We tried to stay aggressive there and prolong the first half. We put it in our guys’ hands, and we will continue to do that. But I thought our guys bounced back. We put ourselves in an early hole but weren’t coming here for any kind of consolation.”

The Ads showed that resolve

through the rest of the game, holding Sevier County to a field goal after three straight stops in the remainder of the first half.

That defensive effort was led by Mason Swor, who made 10 tackles (7 solo, 1 TFL) with 9 overall (and 6 solo) apiece for Thatcher Cherry and Wyatt Walker Saturday night.

“Defense, throughout the last three quarters, you could see their confidence grow,” Courtney said. “I know the final score says what it says, but you take a couple big plays out of it and extend some of those shorter drives, and I thought our guys played well. But there are things we can still get better at.”

SCHS added one more score and field goal after the break, as Parker Newman’s night ended with 108 yards and two touchdowns on six catches.

But Haag’s score punctuated the night for FHS. He delivered 13 carries for 39 yards.

Collier, meanwhile, took three touches for 20 yards, while Cruz Williams took the ball 12 times for 23 yards and

Elijah Sadler racked up 8 carries for 21 yards and a catch for 14 more.

In his debut as a starter, Admiral quarterback Hayes Sharp rushed twice for -11 yards and completed one pass on two attempts.

FHS took the field without receiver Johnny Jacobs, who continued his recovery from a concussion in the jamboree, but he should return in time for this week’s matchup with Powell.

The Admirals are set to travel to the Panthers’ “jungle” on Friday, Aug. 28, with kickoff set for 7:30 p.m.

“It’s going to be a short week, another good football team,” Courtney said. “So we’ll see how quickly can we bounce back, work on the things we need to get better at and see what we’re doing well and do more of it.”

Lady

From page 18

“We’ve been talking to her about moving into a junior leadership role, and we’ve been challenging her to come out with a little vengeance. And she did.”

Becker’s approach reflects that of the entire team, which is the fourth under Burkhart’s watch.

“What I’ve liked is that they work hard,” she said. “It may not be perfect. There are definitely things we can fine-tune, and I’d love for us to be a little more consistent, but there is not a lack of effort. The girls will go out and work

hard and give you what they have. They’re a very unselfish team, and they’re willing to do the work.”

FHS will look to continue that next week, facing Webb and Baylor in a couple measuring-stick games.

“We’re hitting a pretty big gauntlet,” Burkhart said. “So I think we just want to see some of the same ball movement and things we’ve utit together these last couple games against those quality of opponents. Both teams are very well coached and have a strong history in their divisions, so it’s definitely something where we’ll try to see if we can measure up.”

Hawks

From page 18

Amey found the end zone from two yards out to add the exclamation point to a 37-yard drive.

But that was only part of the story of this rout. The Hawks would have no trouble scoring but they also dominated defensively as the Beavers didn’t pick up their inaugural first down until their fifth possession. They would only earn four in the contest and post just 46 yards of total offense. The Karns rushing attack was particularly anemic as it was held to minus-18 yards on 26 carries.

“Our kids played really well on defense,” Hardin Valley coach Tyler Wynn said. “Blood in the water, is kind of our theme, and these guys were going after it, treating it like sharks.

“We used to be the prey and

we want to be the sharks now.”

The Hawks were definitely the sharks on this night.

HVA added two more touchdowns before halftime as Nic Rivers broke a 61-yard scoring scamper and Ayden Perry closed out the first half scoring with a 9-yarder, making the score, 28-0.

After the break quarterback Riley Matz joined in on the scoring parade as he threw two touchdown passes in the third frame, both of which, covered seven yards. The first went to Jeremiah Brown, while Holbrook was on the receiving end of the second one that expanded HVA’s advantage to 42-0.

The Hawks’ fourth-quarter score was a run from Eli Whaley that covered eight yards.

The season continues next week as the Hawks play Morristown East and the Beavers tangle with South-Doyle Friday night.

correction

In last week’s story regarding new Farragut soccer coach Derek Wright, we mentioned Lucas Spadafora as a returning player. We meant to list Lukas Maier. We regret the error and thank Coach Wright and his team for their understanding.

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YMCA Evening of Impact coming September 10

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

For the second year, YMCA supporters can make an impact by attending the Evening of Impact Gala.

The event is slated from 6 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 10, at Riverview Family Farm, 12130 Prater Lane.

Money from the event will benefit YMCA of East Tennessee, which includes every quadrant of Knoxville, as well as Blount, Roane, Loudon and Anderson counties, along with the Corryton area.

“It has a wide expanse of support,” said Erin Stidham,

executive director of Davis Family YMCA near Farragut.

Tickets currently are on sale for \$100 per person, and she said 100% of the proceeds from the Evening of Impact “benefit our annual campaign so we can give back to families, youth, seniors, adults in East Tennessee.”

Tickets are available on the YMCA website at ymcaetn.org/eveningofimpact and will be available up until the day before the event. The deadline to buy tickets is Tuesday, Sept. 8.

“This year, it is going to be a Roaring ’20s-themed party, where we are celebrating the

impact of the YMCA,” Stidham said. “We will be having a swing band that night, so put on your dancing shoes. We will have a fantasy casino event — a mock poker night — delicious food by Copper Cellar and a silent and live auction as well.”

Additionally, “we’ll do an impact paddle race, where we say \$120 supports eight swim lessons for a child in East Tennessee,” she said.

“All of the hard work that we have put in from the year 2025 into 2026, we will be sharing information about how many



Photo submitted

YMCA Evening of Impact Gala attendees will have a chance to play in a fantasy casino event.

See YMCA on Page 6B

Veterans honored with quilt ceremony



Photo submitted

Farragut resident April McCroskey, right, had a chance to thank her father-in-law, William McCroskey, for his military service at last month’s quilt presentation and catered breakfast.

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

Laurie Battles proved unable to make the trip, she could not express her thanks to her brother in person.

Last month, the Farragut resident got her chance. On Saturday, July 11, the General William Lenoir Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) — of which Battles is a member — united with the Quilts of Valor Foundation and corporate sponsor CNS Cares to honor several de-

Since Battles proved unable to make the trip, she could not express her thanks to her brother in person.

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See QUILT on Page 6B



Photo submitted

Nancy and Carlos Reveiz in front of the famous Santiago de Compostela sign at the entrance of the city.

Camino Journal: Part 5

To Santiago de Compostela and beyond

Carlos Reveiz

Correspondent

After 32 days and approximately 472 miles of walking from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port across Spain, our journey to Santiago de Compostela had finally arrived at its final day—a 13-mile walk from O Pedrouzo to the Santiago de Compostela cathedral.

We had been blessed with mostly sunny skies. But on this final day, the forecast called for rain on and off throughout the entire walk. As Nancy and I went through our normal morning routine —packing our backpacks, taping our feet with Leukotape, covering them with Vaseline and organizing our snacks — we couldn’t help but feel sad.

Santiago would be the final destination for two members of our Camino family, Bob from San Diego and Ilona from Holland. Nancy and I planned to continue walking another three days to Finisterre, the coastal village once believed to be the “end of the world,” followed by another day to the

See REVEIZ on Page 7B

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As summer winds down and another school year begins, we're celebrating an incredible season at the Y!

This summer was filled with fun, friendship, service, and plenty of memories for families across our community. Our Summer Camp kept kids active, learning, swimming, and laughing, while outdoor Family Game Nights gave families a chance to come together for some friendly competition and quality time. Our swim team also had a fantastic season—and brought home some medals this year! We couldn't be prouder of our swimmers and coaches.

The YMCA of East Tennessee also made a tremendous impact beyond our walls. In just 11 weeks, we served an incredible 265,000 meals through 10 pickup locations, Y Summer Camp, and the Pilot Family YMCA outdoor pool—helping ensure kids across our community had access to meals throughout the summer.

We also packed 48 backpacks with school supplies for local students through our Y Serve Service Project. Thank you to everyone who donated, packed, and supported the effort, and a special thank you to Lexie for coordinating another successful project!

Through it all, the Y was jam-packed every day with people of all ages. Cheers to another great summer—and to everyone who helped make it possible!

From staying active and trying new things to laughing and learning together, our kids made the most of every moment. We're grateful for a summer filled with fun, friendship, and plenty of Y spirit!



Supplies4Success was a success! Thanks to the generosity of our Y community, 48 backpacks filled with school supplies and a special note of encouragement were given to students in need throughout Knox County on the 1st day of school! A special thank you to JCPenney Turkey Creek for hosting a Backpack Roundup and generously donating backpacks to support this effort. We are so grateful for our Y Serve and Y communities for continuing to show up, give back, and pour into others. We are blessed to serve alongside you!



Serving up smiles, sunshine & a little friendly competition! Nothing better than time on the court with this crew!



Greyson says "giddy Up Cowboy Sammy!" on their way to the Lakeside Rodeo!

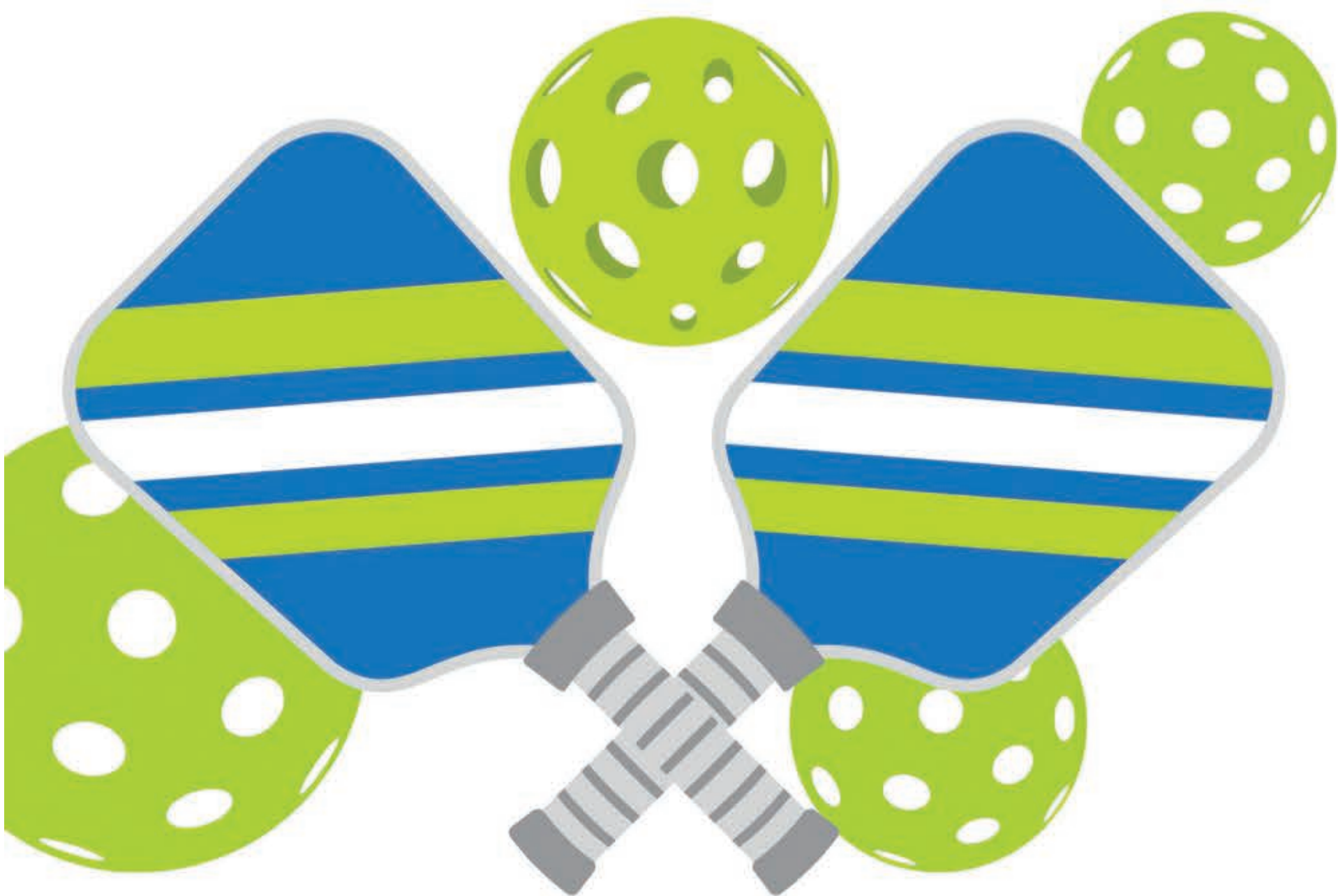


A huge thank you to Lee, GM at Craven Wings, for supporting our last 3 Unplugged Family Game Nights with over 200 delicious wings each night! Craven Wing's generosity was truly a blessing to our Y families. We are so grateful for community partners who continue to show up and give back!

Our Campfire Across America & Game Night brought our Y community together for an evening of laughter, friendly competition, and summer fun.



DAVIS FAMILY YMCA



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• The UT Creative Writing Program will present a reading by poet and writer Rochelle Hurt. The reading will take place Monday, Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. in the Lindsay Young Auditorium of John C. Hodges Library on the UT Campus. The event is free and open to the public.

• The Farragut Museum will partner with Historic Houses of Knoxville in their annual fall community outreach program, Movies at the Museums. The Farragut Museum will show Herbie: Fully Loaded on Friday, September 18 at the greenspace behind the Healthy Place to Play playground at Farragut Town Hall. Movies at the Museum is free and open to the public. The event starts at 7:30 for a chance to play on the playground, admire vintage cars, visit the Farragut Museum and enjoy the food truck. The movie starts at about 8:15. Please bring a blanket or lawn chair.

• The Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks Department will host its 21st annual Memory Magic Scrapbook & Craft Event on Sept. 18 and 19 at the Oak Ridge Recreation Center. The crop and craft area is reserved exclusively for registered participants. Cropping and Crafting will run from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. both days, providing attendees with ample time to work on projects, learn new techniques and connect with other crafters. The registration fee is \$35 per day. To register online visit visitor-recparks.recdesk.com

• The Pellissippi State Foundation invites the community to Plates for a Purpose, a fundraiser for the college's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management programs, on Sept. 29 at the Plaid Apron. Presented by The Wakefield Corporation, this intimate culinary experience features an expertly crafted four-course

dinner, thoughtfully paired wines and an opportunity to make a lasting impact on student success. Individual tickets are \$150. Seating is limited. Reserve your seat at https://www.pstcc.edu/foundation/plates-for-a-purpose/.

• Friday, Oct. 2, Maple Lane Maze will open its Corn Maze and other “agritainment” activities including tractor-pulled hayrides (daytime and nighttime), pumpkin picking, inflatables for the kids, music, corn hole, food and beverage vendors and more. Now booking weekday school groups, corporate groups and weekend private parties. The Maze is located at 1126 Maple Lane in Greenback, just 14 miles south of Knoxville’s McGhee Tyson Airport. The Maze is open weekends from Oct. 2 through 31. The Haunted Maze begins on weekends starting Friday night, Oct. 16. For hours of operation and more information visit https://tnmaplelane-farms.com

• Volunteer Ministry Center will host its 18th Annual Carry the Torch fundraising luncheon at the Knoxville Convention Center on Tuesday, Nov. 10, featuring Jeanette Walls as the keynote speaker with WATE Anchor, Lori Tucker, as Honorary Chair. This signature annual event boasts 700-800 attendees and raises funds towards preventing and ending homelessness in Knoxville. Funds are raised to support the mission of VMC through sponsorships, ticket purchases and donations. Attendees will enjoy a program, lunch and book signing from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will also be a Mission Fair to highlight other community organizations and their services beginning at 10 a.m. Get involved and learn more at www.vmcinc.org/carry-the-torch.

YMCA

From page 3B

after-school childcare children we’ve supported, how many mobile food program meals we’ve fed to YMCA’s East Tennessee community, how many swim lessons we’ve given — taught lifesaving skills to infants up to adults — which is really awesome.”

And, “something the YMCA of East Tennessee does as a standard is our financial assistance program,” she said, adding the funds are raised from its annual campaign.

Quilt

From page 3B

serving veterans with crafted quilts and a catered breakfast at the War Memorial Building in Lenoir City.

There, Battles and another Farragut member, April McCroskey, expressed appreciation to their own relatives and other veterans for their service.

Crater worked as an artillery observer attached to a tank company, becoming involved in direct combat and reconnaissance missions during a nighttime firefight.

He received the Bronze Star with “V” Device (for valor) in the first Gulf War for heroic service in combat — which was a surprise to his family.

“He went to school on an ROTC scholarship, and when he accepted it, our nation was in a time of peace,” Battles recalled. “We as a family had no idea he would see actual combat, and when he came home, I was at LSU.”

“I wasn’t able to be there when he got off that plane when he returned from combat,” she added, “so to have the opportunity to let him know how important it was to me as a sibling and a U.S. citizen was priceless. Even when I wrote the nomination, I was choking back tears because he’s such a deserving person.”

McCroskey offered similar thoughts on her father-in-law, former U.S. Army staff sergeant William McCroskey.

ing the funds are raised from its annual campaign.

“Financial assistance is a 12-month program, where people can be on a discounted or free membership, which then gives the incentives for discounted programs or free programs,” Stidham said.

The financial assistance then makes the programs more accessible for people to have after-school childcare, swim lessons and other programs.

“It’s such an epidemic right

now to find affordable childcare,” she added. “The swim lessons are vital to young people’s health, as well as anyone living in this area because we are surrounded by water.”

Last year, the event benefited the Davis Family YMCA; however, this year, Stidham said, “It has expanded to benefit all of YMCAs in East Tennessee, so we have seen a lot of support from companies all around Knoxville.

“We are hoping to continue the legacy as well,” she said.

He served two tours of duty in Vietnam, earning two Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, two Overseas Bars and a Good Conduct Medal.

A military member herself, McCroskey works as a Judge Advocate General’s Corps (JAG) officer, representing sexual assault victims in the military as an attorney.

“It really meant a lot to me to present him with that,” McCroskey said of the quilt for her father-in-law. “I know he’s had a rough time with his service and everything, and he’s 100 percent disabled from it. He did two tours in Vietnam and it was a very difficult time for him since it was not a well-supported war, so being able to present that quilt to him, it meant the world. He’s been showing it off every day at the facility he lives in.”

That Saturday, the Quilts of Valor foundation was represented by Paula Kirk, whose group gave quilts to four other veterans, too.

Loudon resident Roger Barnett was an Aviation Electronics Technician in the Coast Guard, having flown as crew in helicopters and large C-130 aircraft.

“He was involved with numerous rescues, earning the Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, The Arctic Service Medal, and the National Defense Medal,” per a release.

Another veteran honored was Jim Bleidorn, who served as a seaman in the Coast Guard on Governor’s Island in New York.

Fellow veteran Dennis Moldenhauer of Lenoir City also was honored, having been a sergeant in the United States Air Force who, like McCroskey, served in Vietnam.

He earned the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Vietnamese Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation and the Expert Marksman Ribbon.

Victor Clayton Pangle II, a U.S. Army captain living in Loudon, also was honored as a Vietnam War veteran.

He earned the Purple Heart Medal, The Bronze Star with “V” Device (for valor), three additional Bronze Stars for meritorious service in combat, an Air Medal, three Army Commendation Medals and the Combat Infantryman Badge before also receiving a Quilt of Valor.

The day certainly was special for all involved, including two Farragut residents who remain forever thankful.

“He’s always been very supportive with me, stepping in when I’m out of town to help with the kids,” McCroskey said of her father-in-law. “So the program was wonderful and meant the world to all the veterans that were there.”

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is invited to attend a swearing-in ceremony for the Town of Farragut's newly elected officials, Mayor-Elect Alex Cain, North Ward Alderman-Elect Joey Ruffalo, and South Ward Alderman-Elect Greg Wiberley, at the Farragut Town Hall Board Room, located at 11408 Municipal Center Drive, on Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. A Meet & Greet with the newly elected officials will be held beforehand, from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., at Town Hall.

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



Farragut Town Hall | 11408 Municipal Center Drive

FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

- Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- August 13, 2026 Minutes
- Mayor's Report
- Committee Reports
- Parks and Athletics Council
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Farragut Municipal Planning Commission
- Appointment of Vice-Mayor
- Mayoral Appointments to the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission
- Appointment of Board of Mayor and Aldermen Representative to the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission
- Appointment of Board of Mayor and Aldermen Representative to Tourism Committee
- Ordinances & Resolutions

- Resolutions
- Resolution R-26-15, A Resolution of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of The Town of Farragut, Tennessee Adopting Amended Public Participation Guidelines for Board of Mayor and Aldermen Meetings
- Business Items
- Approval of Purchase of Portable Stage Unit through Safeware Inc.
- Discussion and Approval of North Ward Alderman Appointment Process
- Discussion of the Appointment Process for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) Steering Committee
- Citizens Forum
- Town Administrator's Report
- Town Attorney's Report
- Adjournment

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Farragut Town Hall | 11408 Municipal Center Drive

FMPC STAFF/DEVELOPER MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 AT 9:00 AM

A). Discussion on a request to amend the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Appendix A - Zoning, Chapter 4, Section V., A. 3. so that the square footage required for fenced outdoor areas associated with day care facilities is consistent with the Tennessee Department of Human Service's requirement of 50 square feet per student. The Town's requirement is currently 100 square feet per child permitted by the State license.

B). Discussion on a request for approval of a site plan for the commercial portion of the Serenade at Farragut, 421 N. Watt Road, 9.2 Acres, Zoned Neighborhood/Convenience Commercial (NCC) (The Architecture Collaborative, Applicant)

C). Discussion on a request for approval of a preliminary plat for the Siddiqi property at 12143 Kingston Pike, 40 Lots, 8.68 Acres, Zoned Attached Single-Family Residential (R-4)(Rackley Engineering, Applicant)

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Reveiz

From page 3B

coastal village of Muxía. That meant we would soon have to say goodbye to Bob and Ilona.

We had walked with them every single day, every single step, since the beginning of our journey. The bond we developed is difficult to put into words and will be unforgettable for the rest of our lives. Although we had known them for only 32 days, it felt as if we had known them for 32 years. We shared fears, accomplishments, frustrations and joys. We laughed together, encouraged one another and had countless deep conversations about life.

A few miles into our walk, Bob told Nancy and me that he had a surprise for us. Without our knowing, Bob and Ilona had been quietly rearranging their schedules so they could continue walking with us to Finisterre! Nancy and I were ecstatic. We couldn't believe they had done that for us. After all those miles together, our Camino family wasn't going to end in Santiago after all. We were deeply touched.

As we continued toward Santiago, the excitement and anticipation grew. The rain couldn't dampen our spirits. The cathedral was getting closer, and with every step, we knew we were approaching a moment we would remember forever. Because Nancy and I had walked the 200-mile stretch from León to Santiago three years earlier, I was excited to return, but my mind was already looking beyond the cathedral. For me, Santiago was not the finish line. Finisterre was still calling.

As we entered the iconic tunnel leading into the Santiago de Compostela cathedral plaza, something happened naturally. The four of us locked arms as we wanted to arrive as one. As we stepped out of the tunnel, we saw something none of us expected. Standing in the rain in the plaza were six pilgrims we had met and walked with during the first couple of weeks of our journey. They had eventually gone ahead of us, and we were saddened when our paths separated. We assumed we would never see them again. But there they were waiting for us! They had arrived in Santiago the day before but chose to stay an extra night to greet us and celebrate our arrival.

At first, I thought the water in my eyes was from the rain. It wasn't. It was emotion. We hugged each other, laughed, cried and celebrated together in the middle of the rain. These people had no reason to wait for us other than the friendship and connection we had formed along the Camino. It was one of those moments that makes the Camino so difficult to explain to someone who hasn't experienced it.

They say "The Camino provides." Sometimes it provides food, a bed, a helping hand or a little encouragement when your legs are tired. And sometimes, it provides people who appear at exactly the right moment and remind you that the connections you make along the way can be just as important as the destination itself. That moment in the rain in Santiago was truly a blessing. It was a moment none of us will never forget.

Carlos and Nancy Reveiz with their Camino family (pictured from left to right): Bob from San Diego and Ilona from Holland. All are pictured in front of the the Santiago de Compostela cathedral.

The next morning, the four of us left Santiago very early for what would be a 19-mile day. As we walked, we couldn't stop talking about the previous day's surprise. Seeing those friends again had lifted our spirits and reminded us just how special this journey had become. But now our focus shifted. The Atlantic Ocean was calling. What had seemed impossibly far away when we started 33 days earlier was suddenly within reach. In just three more days and approximately 87 miles, we would have walked across an entire country. It was difficult to comprehend.

Together, our Camino family had crossed the French Pyrenees, walked across the seemingly endless, unforgiving hot Meseta, climbed to the highest point of the Camino Francés at the Cruz de Ferro and finally reached Santiago de Compostela. Now there was only one major challenge left. The coast.

We still had steep climbs, long days and nearly 90 miles ahead of us. But our legs were strong, our spirits were high, and our Camino family was together.

God willing, in three days we would finally stand beside the Atlantic Ocean.

And that...is a story for another day. Until then, my friends...Buen Camino!



Photo submitted

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HOW THE WEST WAS WON SCOREBOARD

School	Win-Loss	Points for Game	Net Difference
Hardin Valley Academy	1-0	49-0 W	+49
CAK	1-0	57-20 W	+37
Knoxville Catholic	1-0	19-14 W	+5
Webb School	0-1	21-20 L	-1
Bearden	0-1	21-6 L	-15
Farragut	0-1	35-7 L	-28
Concord Christian	0-1	57-20 L	-37

Hawks soar, Warriors roll to highlight Week 1 slate



Jeremy Wiggs

Hardin Valley quarterback Riley Matz (9) strolls into the end zone on Friday, Aug. 21.

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

At long last, high school football has arrived. And for the programs across west Knoxville, a wild weekend brought plenty of action to mark the start of the 2026 season and this year’s How the West was Won contest.

Be sure and keep an eye out each week to see where your team lands on the list.

The top spot for the first week goes to Hardin Valley Academy, which throttled Karns 49-0 last Friday, Aug. 21, to start the Hawks’ third season under Tyler Wynn.

HVA scored on each of its first four possessions, and seven different Hawks found the end zone against the Beavers.

“It speaks to what we’re trying to build culture-wise,” head coach Tyler Wynn said. “We talk about being selfless, and it speaks to the kids and their character. That’s special to be a part of.”

Note: for more on this game, see the corresponding story by Ken Lay in this issue’s Sports section.

Christian Academy of Knoxville saw a similarly successful outing the next day, Aug. 22, beating Concord Christian School 57-20 in the Lions’ first televised game on WBIR.

CCS held CAK in check for most of the first half. Concord freshman Dylan Brown hit Dasani Moulden for a 70-yard touchdown before Amare McKenzie reeled in two scoring grabs from Brown, keeping the Lions in the game at a 29-20 halftime deficit.

But the Warriors rolled up 28 points in the second half, as quarterback Seaton Moffett found Sawyer Anderson, Baker Sterchi and Hunter Bennett for touchdowns.

Moffett finished 13-for-15 for 208 yards and four touchdowns through the air, adding one more on the ground for almost 300 all-purpose yards.

“I saw great effort and attitude,” CAK coach Chad Speck said. “We talk about attitude and belief being how we respond, and we didn’t finish the first half the way we wanted to. I think the guys really took the challenge and wanted to respond the way we expect, and we did that. Seaton had a fantastic

game, a couple throws that were big-time. He played a very patient, smart game and did what we needed to do.”

Knoxville Catholic saw a similarly successful result later that night, edging Riverdale 19-14 at Blaine Stadium. Mack Bartholomew connected with David Thomas with 19 seconds left to give the Irish a five-point advantage, but the 2-point try was no good. Still, Riverdale came back and attempted a Hail Mary, but the catch came four yards short of the goal line as KCHS escaped in a Week 1 thriller.

“I thought both teams played incredibly hard,” Irish coach Philip Shadowens said. “A lot of talent on both sides of the field. I felt our kids showed a lot of resilience. They never wavered, never doubted, and I thought they showed incredible fight. It’s what high school football is all about.”

Bartholomew went 16-for-22 on the night for 156 yards and two scores, adding 10 rushes for 53 yards on the ground.

“Incredible,” Shadowens said of his quarterback. “Played with great heart, took a beating at times. They really tried to put pressure on him, and he stood in the face of it and delivered two big balls there in the fourth quarter.”

Farragut did not find as much success that same night, falling to Sevier County 35-7 in their second consecutive appearance in the First Bank Classic at Carson-Newman University. Brenton Haag led FHS on offense with 13 carries for 39 yards and a score.

Similarly, Paxton Parrott proved his mettle for Bearden on Friday, though the Bulldogs ultimately lost to West 21-6. A late turnover gave the Dawgs some life with a chance to make it a one-score game, but a failed fourth-down conversion all but sealed the result.

Parrott took 14 carries for 46 yards and a touchdown, adding four catches for 81 yards on the receiving end.

Finally, Webb dropped its first game of the George Quarles era, losing 21-20 against Upperman in Baxter. Catholic transfer Garrett King led the Spartans with a 10-for-17 effort through the air for 149 yards and three touchdowns, while Matthew Rogers added 14 carries for 85 yards and two catches for 32 yards.

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