



Town traffic focus at Oct. 8 session



Jake Nichols

Traffic has been a long-standing issue surrounding the Town Center.

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen will discuss the Town Center District traffic overview during a workshop, which will take place at 5 p.m., an hour before the Board's regular meeting at 6 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 8, in Farragut Town Hall, 11408

Municipal Center Drive. According to its website, the Board will review and discuss upcoming infrastructure adjustments.

"The current focus aligns heavily with the Town's [fiscal year] 2027 Capital Investment Program, which allows 73 percent of its budget di-

See **TRAFFIC** on Page 4A

Gala rolls dice for charity

Tammy Cheek

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Hundreds decked out in cocktail attire to attend Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce's Charity Gala: High Stakes & Fine Spirits, which took place in The Venue at Lenoir City Thursday evening, Oct. 1.

"I want to welcome you to one of our longest standing event and fundraiser, our gala, now in our 39th year," Farragut president/CEO Julie Blaylock said.

She later estimated the crowd between 300 and 325.

Attendees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres catered by Classy Caterer, casino game tables, networking, the event's signature silent auction, a bourbon and wine pull and dancing.

"Based on what I heard Thursday during the event, this reimagined version of our annual gala was a BIG success," Blaylock said Monday. "Multiple people mentioned that they loved the music, the DJ, the change in food and they definitely loved the casino games."

At the same time, the

See **GALA** on Page 4A



Jake Nichols

Longtime Farragut jeweler Rick Terry has found plenty of success with his business on Kingston Pike, but he also has enjoyed dirt-bike racing since he was 13 years old. The sport has become a lifelong passion for Terry, who maintains the competitive fire that developed more than five decades ago.

From dirt to diamonds

Farragut's jeweler returns to his lifelong passion

Jake Nichols

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Rick Terry holds a secret he has no problem sharing, and it starts with his hands.

The same fingers that file, cut and polish jewelry have, for more than five decades, steered handlebars and pressed accelerators on dirt bike courses across the country.

"If I ever was to get a tattoo, this hand would say, 'Vice,'" Terry said of his left hand, which holds each piece of jewelry he touches. "And this one, the right one, is the tool. One holds, and one does the work."

Terry's appreciation for that craft began in his 20s as he returned from Tennessee to his native Louisiana for an apprenticeship that taught the method behind the magic at his Farragut store.

But his first love — with racing and all the adrenaline his young body could handle — began years earlier in his hometown of Kentwood.

With a population just more than 2,000 today, the Louisiana town near the Mississippi border is known for the artesian well supplying drinking water for New Orleans.

But in the late 1960s and early 1970s, another concept breathed life into the region: dirt-bike racing.

"I played a little pee-wee football when I was young, but motocross was coming on strong," Terry said.

And for the son of an insurance salesman who did mechanical work on the side, that cultural push was all the 13-year-old Terry needed.

Once his parents relented, Terry hopped on a green 1972 Yamaha — an exact replica of which sits in his barn today.

"And that," Terry said with a smile, "is my beginning. That little motorcycle."

The family soon moved to Tennessee, where Terry's father took over a Suzuki store in Oak Ridge. They bought a track called Buttermilk Churn, and Terry's father joined forces with others in the sport to form the National Motorcycle League, where Rick Terry turned pro at just 16 years old.

"We raced 20, 30, 45-minute motos, and I could do the mile in five minutes flat," Terry said of he and his brother Mike, whom he referred to as "the best sibling anyone could imagine."

At Clinton High School, Terry met his eventual wife Patty before attending Roane State Community College.

But soon, Terry went looking for something beyond racing to make a living. So he returned to his home state to work for a family friend, a jeweler-for-hire who just had come into ownership of a full store.

"He's operating that and just got this store, and he needs help," Terry said. "Patty and I had just gotten married in 1980. He says to me, 'Pack your bags. You come watch what I do as a craftsman, stay here and help me out with some construction work.'"

"I got thrown to the wolves real quick on the craft part of sitting at the bench as a jeweler," Terry added.

See **DIAMONDS** on Page 3A

Candidates compete for District 2 congressional seat



Burchett

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

On Nov. 3, Farragut and other Knox County voters will have two choices for the Congressional District 2, U.S. House of Representatives, seat: Republican incumbent nominee Tim Burchett of Knoxville and Democratic nominee Michaela Barnett of

Knox County.

Other candidates are Independent candidates Bruce Fine and Adam Heimerman.

In the Primary election, both Burchett and Barnett advanced to the General Election with 100 percent of the votes.

Burchett, formerly a businessman, has been in office since Jan. 3, 2019. He served in the

Tennessee House of Representatives from 1994 to 1998 and Tennessee Senate from 1998 to 2010. He was Knox County mayor from 2010 to 2018.

Serving on a number of committees during his terms, within the last year, he served on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-

ture, and Committee on Foreign Affairs.

"I'm proud of my work as chairman of the DOGE subcommittee, and I'm proud to have passed my 'No Tax Dollars to Terrorists' Bill after uncovering that the U.S. sends upward of \$40 million a week to the Taliban," Burchett said.

See **SEAT** on Page 3A



Barnett

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FHS hits home run with ‘Friends on the Field’ event

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Every spring, the Farragut baseball players sprint onto John Heatherly Field to represent a historic program that is known throughout the state of Tennessee.

After all, such notoriety comes naturally with 15 state titles.

But on Wednesday, Sept. 30, several of those same state champions and their classmates cheered on students who got a taste of that glory for themselves.

From 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. during the school’s second block, Farragut senior athletes, Leadership 3 students and peer tutors watched as 30 of the school’s special-needs students took the field as part of the second annual “Friends on the Field” program.

The event is an extension of the school’s “Anchors for Hope” basketball event, where the FHS basketball teams cheer on special-needs students at Farragut in a smaller version of the Tennessee-affiliated “Hoops for Hope” event that takes place each August.

“We took the idea from Hoops for Hope and started Anchors for Hope, so this will be the third year of that,” FHS leadership teacher Abbey Ellis said. “But they wanted to do something other than basketball, too, and they started this.”

“They” refers to Ellis’ Leadership 3 students, all of whom are Farragut seniors who are nominated for the class by staff members.

“We have an all-junior class that’s Leadership 2, and that’s when they learn self-leadership, knowing who they are as leaders, and Ben Collins teaches that,” Ellis said.

“Then with Leadership 3, it’s all seniors. The biggest difference between 2 and 3 is that 3 is about teamwork lead-

ership. Because every single person in the class is a leader, but are you following, leading or who’s got the best idea? We learn how to work as a team to accomplish whatever we want to accomplish.”

The on-field event certainly was an example of that, as students worked together throughout the process.

Ellis noted that last year’s event included a football station, a soccer station and a baseball station, “but we realized that was too much,” she said. “So we kept it just to wiffle ball this year.

“And since we had the basketball teams involved for Anchors for Hope, we wanted the softball and baseball teams out here,” she added. “It’s seniors only just for numbers’ sake, but we might open it to the whole team next year if we get more kids.”

Smaller numbers or not, the smiles told the story of the event from start to finish.

“One of the things that makes Farragut so special, especially the high school, is the community we build with the special needs program,” Ellis added. “A lot of our kids do take peer tutoring. They’re involved with those kids in tutoring them, including them at lunch and events we do, so this is something we do that’s really special.”

“We’re helping students who don’t really get to play sports outside, so we give them a chance to come out with the support of friends and peers to make a cool atmosphere,” senior Kambree Fontenot added.

“We get the special needs students involved more in the student body, and they love it,” softball standout Taylor Albright said. “I love seeing them happy.”

“We all love this game,” senior baseball player Caleb Van Lant offered in summary, “so it’s fun to see them have as much fun as we do.”



Jake Nichols

Farragut High School leadership students put together the school’s 2nd annual “Friends on the Field” event.

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Seat
From page 1A

“I will continue to fight for the Senate to pick up the bill and pass it so it can become law.”

Now, he reflected, “There’s a lot of fight left to fight in Washington.

“I’m focused on delivering for the people of TN-02 through constituent services and continuing to bring more transparency and efficiency to the federal government,” Burchett said about running for re-election.

Barnett said she running because she is ready to call out politicians who aren’t working to make our lives better.

“I am a local small business owner and scientist who spent last year working in Congress,” she continued. “There, I saw what many of us feel in East Tennessee, that our government is not working for us.

“Gas prices are soaring; groceries cost too much; our infrastructure is crumbling; and rents are out of control all across East Tennessee,” Barnett said. “But Washington insiders and career politicians on both sides of the aisle aren’t working to make our lives better — they’re waiting it out.

“I believe that we need elected officials who put the needs of their constituents first and who aren’t afraid to call out their own party when they get it wrong,” she said. “ I know East Tennessee deserves better. That’s why I’m running to represent you in Congress.

“I believe that I am qualified to serve as your representative in the U.S. House because I am a business owner with a Ph.D. in civil engineering and experience working in Congress,” Barnett said. “Running my small business has shown me what it takes to balance budgets, make payroll, negotiate deals and incentivize growth.

“My background in engineering allows me to un-

derstand complex problems, evaluate opportunities and implement effective and efficient solutions in government systems,” she said. This experience is also particularly important to helping us address the massive infrastructure needs we have across our district.

“Finally, I spent last year working in the U.S. House of Representatives as a science policy fellow,” Barnett said. “I covered many policy areas, including Social Security, housing, financial services, taxes, energy and the environment.

Looking ahead, Burchett said, if elected, he will be “standing up to the big oil companies to help reduce the cost of living that so many Americans are facing. I’ve introduced bold legislation to combat this and will continue to fight to hold Big Oil accountable.”

Also, “I will continue to serve the people of TN-02 with great pride and will continue as a leader in the House for constituent services,” he said. “I will continue to fight for the elimination of waste, fraud, and abuse with a focus on decreasing our national debt.”

“My priority, if elected, is to serve the needs of East Tennesseans because we deserve a representative who will put our region first,” Barnett said. “I’m fighting for an economy that works for working people, quality healthcare that folks can afford, a government that actually represents us and investments in Tennessee’s infrastructure and workforce.

“I want to work with representatives from across the political spectrum to pass good, bi-partisan and common-sense legislation that will lower costs, invest in our region and make life easier for our neighbors,” she said. “But these aren’t just lofty goals; this is my plan to build a better future for East Tennessee.”

Diamonds
From page 1A

ed. “But I rose to the occasion, and over the next six years, we grew to three stores, did in-house manufacturing and had a refinery for taking gold and turning it to pure gold.”

In the mid-1980s, Terry returned to Tennessee to operate The Goldmaster, a jewelry store his parents placed in Oak Ridge’s Franklin Square.

Eventually, that store expanded to three. But in 1997, Terry branched out on his own in Farragut as a one-man show, occupying the same corner where his store sits now at 11320 Kingston Pike.

It has evolved over the

years, along with Terry’s motocross career.

He spent nine years away from the sport in Louisiana, then returned to the track when he moved back to Tennessee.

“At 30 years old, all the gear I had on, it was older than every kid at the starting line,” Terry said with a chuckle. “And I kicked their ass.”

Terry remained on the track for the next two decades, even overcoming a broken pelvis to win a national title two years later.

In the years since that trophy, life has changed for Terry.

He still works with customers from his bench in Farragut, though his sons Blake and

Matt handle more of the day-to-day store duties now.

He still hops on dirt bikes with his 91-year-old father, Joe, and is eager to show off pictures of his sons and grandsons on machines of their own.

He even digs into his Cajun roots at every opportunity, making jambalaya and hosting friends when LSU is in town to face Tennessee.

Yet even beneath the joy, there still exists a hint of the eager 13-year-old, yearning for a chance to sit at the starting gate with an engine rumbling below him.

“It’s my intention to race again,” Terry said. “Some of my fondest memories are of doing that. I’m a blessed man.”



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Data Centers	Pause new development and end taxpayer-funded giveaways	Accepted \$121k in donations from AI company employees	Sold 13 acres of city land to Big Tech developers
Pay-to-Play	Ban campaign cash from state contractors	Took PAC money from companies with state contracts	Took thousands of dollars from unions that live on government construction work

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Tammy Cheek

Top: Barbie Cumbess, left and Beth Milam.

Above: Connor Peak and Carly Kite check out the silent auction items during the Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce’s Charity Gala: High Stakes & Fine Spirits, which took place in The Venue at Lenoir City Thursday evening, Oct. 1.

Gala
From page 1A

event raised money for The Dream Connection, which makes children’s dreams come true, and FWKCC programs.

“We are still matching receipts and will need this week to finalize figures for the donation to The Dream Connection.” However, “as for the total gross revenue, we were at over \$40,000 in sponsorships and tickets before the event night,” she said. “I anticipate we will gross over \$50,000 easily.”

Presented by Rocky Top HVAC as High Roller, its general manager Gerald Allison, a Chamber ambassador, broke out in song to describe Rocky Top’s services.

On a more serious note, Allison related his personal connection with The Dream Connection, the non-profit organization benefitting from the gala. His oldest daughter, Brooklyn, now 26, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis when she was 6 months old.

“The nice thing about Dream Connection is they don’t just focus on children with terminal illnesses, but sometimes children with chronic illnesses,” he said.

About 13 years ago, Dream Connection came along when Brooklyn was in the hospital. Brooklyn, who loved swimming, wanted a swimming pool. Dream Connection gifted

her with a 30-foot-diameter pool in which she still swims.

“Another thing I appreciate about Dream Connection is every penny donated to them goes directly to its mission,” Allison said.

“Honestly, for me, on top of watching our members have fun together, my favorite part of this year was working alongside The Dream Connection volunteer board members throughout this whole process,” Blaylock said.

Dream Connection president Denise Rowe’s son Ethan, now deceased, wished for a trip to the headquarters of VAT19.com, a company that makes fun products for children, and sideline passes for a Rams’ football game.

“Ethan passed away two months after his dream,” she said. However, “quite honestly, our family made some incredible memories [during the trip] that we will never forget ... so I saw firsthand what the dream connection did.”

Other gala sponsors are: Smoky Mountain Deck Builders, LLC., Rate and MR10 Realty, jackpot sponsors; Segra, Strategic Tax & Business Services, Coffee & Chocolate, Fairway Home Mortgage and Keith Window Company, Full House sponsors; Bowen Door Service, Texana Bank Mortgage and Kerri A. Kor, CRE, broker at LeConte Realty, LLC, game sponsors; and Renaissance Title & Escrow and MR10 Realty, Cup sponsors.

Traffic
From page 1A

rectly toward transportation and infrastructure projects,” the site stated.

Traffic and development contexts surrounding the Town Center district include:

- The Adaptive Traffic Signal upgrades, which include ongoing pilot implementations

using SWARCO adaptive technology at four major Kingston Pike intersections — from Campbell Station Road to West End Boulevard — to alleviate core district bottlenecks.

- Boring Road and school traffic mitigation strategies, such as temporary closures, connecting access roads stemming from heavy impact of the new school development.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

FARRAGUT FORUM APPLICANTS FOR OPEN BOARD OF ALDERMAN NORTH WARD SEAT

Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Farragut Community Center 239 Jamestowne Blvd Farragut, TN 37934.

Come out and meet our neighbors who are vying for the North Ward Alderman position.

I just finished reading ALL the resumes that have been submitted to BOMA. All the candidates have management and leadership in their work experience.

This information comes directly from the resumes on the TOF civic portal. Here is the synopsis. I focused on experience directly related to the TOF.

APPLICANTS:

Michael Bittel - No mention of volunteer commitments with the Town of Farragut.

Dian Hall – Current VOLUNTEER FARRAGUT PARKS AND ATHLETICS COUNCIL VOLUNTEER Previous Fox

Run Homeowners Association board member. Worked homeowners on resident concerns and issues affecting the community.

CANDIDATE FOR FARRAGUT BOMA NORTH WARD - 2026 - Conducted a town-wide campaign focused on listening to residents and neighborhoods concerns and town-wide priorities.

ATTENDED Farragut BOMA and Municipal Planning Commission meetings.

RESEARCHED land use, zoning, development, transportation, infrastructure, stormwater, public safety, economic development and municipal finances.

Sharafat Khan - No mention of volunteer commitments with the Town of Farragut.

Trevor McQueen - No mention of volunteer commitments with the Town of Farragut.

Earle Lawrence Segrest - No mention of volunteer commitments with the Town of Farragut.

Spoke in front of BOMA about McFee Park and Advance Knox. Door knocking on behalf of Alex Cain and

Joey Ruffalo

Stacy Walters - No mention of volunteer commitments with the Town of Farragut.

Fox Den HOA board (worked with neighbors to prevent a proposed intersection that posed a safety hazard)

ONLY Dian Hall has regularly attended TOF BOMA and FMPC meetings and volunteered with the Town.

Dian received almost half of the vote in the North Ward. THIS IS IMPORTANT!

If you live in the North Ward and you voted for Dian, please be sure to attend and show your support for her.

If you want to see if the transparency and open communication promised in the August election is going to be real, please attend.

There is no guarantee the Board of Mayor and Alderman will appoint her to the open seat even though it is the logical and RIGHT thing to do unless our community stands up and speaks out.

~ Jeanne Brykalski, Farragut, TN

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The final opportunity to submit candidate endorsements in Letters to the Editor or PressTalks for publication before the November 3rd election was,

10 a.m. Monday, October 5th

for inclusion in this weeks edition of farragutpress.

No candidate endorsements will be published after the October 7 edition.

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

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

Letter to the Editor rules: Must not exceed 400 words · Include name, address & telephone number to be verified · All Letters to the Editor from any citizen must have a minimum four-week period between publication · Must not have inaccurate information, such as wrong statistics, from which to form an opinion

We reserve the right to reject publication based on factors including threats, name-calling and foul language

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

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

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

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

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Kathy Hartman ... 865-218-8878
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Notice of Early Voting

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October 14th - October 29th, 2026

EARLY VOTING

October 14th
through
October 29th

LOCATIONS AND HOURS OF OPERATION

10 am – 6 pm
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10 am – 7 pm
Wednesday

10 am – 3 pm
Saturday

Closed Sundays

Special hours at City County Building, Karns Senior Center, and Meridian Baptist Church

NEW LOCATION
EAST KNOXVILLE
Payne Avenue Missionary Baptist Church
2714 Martin Luther King Avenue

FARRAGUT
Farragut Community Center
239 Jamestowne Boulevard, Farragut

HALLS
Faithway Missionary Baptist Church (across from Halls Senior Center)
4402 Crippen Road

NORTHEAST KNOX COUNTY
Gibbs Ruritan Club
7827 Tazewell Pike, Corryton

EAST KNOX COUNTY
Carter Senior Center
9040 Asheville Highway

WEST KNOXVILLE
Downtown West
1645 Downtown West Boulevard, Unit 40

NORTHEAST KNOXVILLE
New Harvest Park
4775 New Harvest Lane

SPECIAL HOURS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

DOWNTOWN
City-County Building, Small Assembly Room, 400 Main Street
SPECIAL HOURS:
8 am - 4 pm on Saturday, October 24.

NORTHWEST KNOX COUNTY
Karns Senior Center, 8042 Oak Ridge Highway
SPECIAL HOURS:
9 am – 6 pm weekdays.
CLOSED on Saturday, October 17 and Saturday, October 24.

SOUTH KNOXVILLE
Meridian Baptist Church, 6513 Chapman Highway
SPECIAL HOURS:
10 am - 5 pm on Wednesday October 14.
10 am - 5 pm on Wednesday October 21.
10 am - 5 pm on Friday, October 23.
CLOSED on Saturday, October 24.
10 am - 3 pm on Wednesday October 28.

NORTHWEST KNOXVILLE
Knoxville Expo Center, 5441 Clinton Highway
SPECIAL HOURS:
CLOSED FIRST THREE DAYS
OPENS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

GOVERNOR
Vote for One (1)
☐ Marsha Blackburn
Republican Party Nominee
☐ Jerri Green
Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Misam Abidi
Independent Candidate
☐ Dean Brower
Independent Candidate
☐ Ray Brown
Independent Candidate
☐ David Hatley
Independent Candidate
☐ Wendell Jackson
Independent Candidate
☐ Charles Van Morgan
Independent Candidate
☐ Eddie Lee Murphy
Independent Candidate
☐ Lauren Pinkston
Independent Candidate
☐ Victor L. Scoggin
Independent Candidate
☐ Dave Seeman
Independent Candidate
☐ Karl Knox Smithson
Independent Candidate
☐ L. Webb Taylor
Independent Candidate
☐ Robert C. Vick
Independent Candidate
☐ Write-In

Constitutional Amendment #1
Vote for One (1)

Summary:
This amendment changes Article I, section 15 of the Tennessee Constitution by allowing a court to hold a defendant without bail before trial when that defendant is accused of: an offense punishable by the death penalty, an act of terrorism, second degree murder, aggravated rape of a child, aggravated rape, grave torture, or any crime for which a convicted person would be required to serve eighty-five percent of their sentence. This amendment requires courts to state on the record the reasons for their decision to grant or deny bail in those cases.

Question:
Shall Article I, Section 15 of the Constitution of Tennessee be amended by deleting the following:

That all prisoners shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, unless for capital offences, when the proof is evident, or the presumption great. And the privilege of the writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in case of rebellion or invasion, the General Assembly shall declare the public safety requires it.

and substituting instead the following:

(a) All prisoners shall be bailable by sufficient sureties unless for the following when the proof is evident or the presumption great:

(1) A capital offense;
(2) An act of terrorism;
(3) Second degree murder;
(4) Aggravated rape of a child;
(5) Aggravated rape;
(6) Grave torture; and
(7) Any other offense for which, as of November 3, 2026, a defendant, if convicted, could not be released prior to the expiration of at least eighty-five percent of the entire sentence imposed.

(b) In any case in which bail for an offense listed in subsection (a) is granted or denied before conviction, the judge or magistrate shall place in the record the judge's or magistrate's reasons for granting or denying bail.

(c) The privilege of the writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in case of rebellion or invasion, the General Assembly shall declare the public safety requires it.

☐ Yes
☐ No

Constitutional Amendment #2
Vote for One (1)

Summary:
This amendment adds text to Article II, section 28 of the Tennessee Constitution that prohibits the Legislature from imposing a State property tax on real, personal, or mixed property.

Question:
Shall Article II, Section

28 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee be amended by deleting the following language from the first sentence:

In accordance with the following provisions, all property real, personal or mixed shall be subject to taxation, but the Legislature

and substituting instead the following:

In accordance with the following provisions, all property real, personal, or mixed shall be subject to taxation, but the Legislature shall not levy, authorize, or otherwise permit any state tax upon such property, and the Legislature

☐ Yes
☐ No

Constitutional Amendment #3
Vote for One (1)

Summary:
This amendment changes Article I, section 35 of the Tennessee Constitution by clarifying existing rights for crime victims and adding new rights. The amendment gives victims new rights: to fair treatment; to be informed about and participate in the parole process; to be protected from harassment, intimidation, and abuse; to be informed of the minimum sentence the convicted criminal will serve, as well as their scheduled release date; and to have their safety, their family's safety, and the public's safety taken into account before any decision is made to release the convicted criminal. The amendment also maintains or clarifies victims' existing rights: to be informed about legal proceedings involving the accused or convicted criminal; to be present at public criminal proceedings; to be informed of any release, transfer, or escape of the accused or convicted criminal; to talk to prosecutors; to make statements about conviction, sentencing, or release of the accused person; to a speedy resolution of the case; to restitution from the convicted criminal; and to be informed of their rights. The amendment does not restrict the powers of prosecutors or courts and does not create a cause of action or claim for damages against the State of Tennessee.

Question:
Shall Article I, Section 35 of the Constitution of Tennessee be amended by deleting the section in its entirety and substituting the following:

Section 35. That to preserve and protect the rights of victims of crime to justice and due process throughout the criminal and juvenile justice systems, a victim, as defined by law and which may be expanded by the General Assembly, shall have the following rights, which shall be protected:

(1) The right to be treated with fairness for the victim's safety and dignity;
(2) The right, upon request, to reasonable notice of all public criminal proceedings and all public juvenile delinquency proceedings involving the accused;
(3) The right to be present at all public criminal proceedings and all public juvenile delinquency proceedings involving the accused;
(4) The right upon request to be heard in any proceeding involving release, plea, sentencing, disposition, and parole, as well as any public proceeding when relevant during which a right of the victim is implicated;
(5) The right to be heard and informed of all parole procedures, to participate in the parole process, to provide information to the parole authority to be considered before the parole of the offender, and to be notified, upon request, of the parole or other release of the offender;
(6) The right to be free from harassment, intimidation, and abuse throughout the criminal

justice system, including reasonable protection, as defined by the General Assembly, from the accused or any person acting on behalf of the accused;

(7) The right, upon request, to reasonable notice of any release, transfer, or escape of the accused or convicted person;

(8) The right to full and timely restitution from the offender;

(9) The right to a speedy trial or disposition and a prompt and final conclusion of the case after the conviction or sentence;

(10) The right to be informed of the minimum sentence the offender will serve in custody and the scheduled release date;

(11) The right to have the safety of the victim, the victim's family, and the general public considered before any parole or other post judgment release decision is made;
(12) The right, upon request, to confer with the prosecution; and
(13) The right to be fully informed of all rights afforded to crime victims.

A victim may assert the rights enumerated in this section, not as a party, but in the manner further provided by the General Assembly protecting the victim's right to standing. The General Assembly has the authority to enact substantive and procedural laws to further define, implement, preserve, and protect the rights guaranteed to victims by this section. This section must be interpreted to preserve and protect the rights of all persons to due process. This section, or any law enacted under this section, does not create a basis for vacating a conviction. This section does not restrict the powers of the District Attorney General or the inherent authority of the court.

Other than as provided in the preceding paragraph, this section does not create a cause of action or claim for damages against the state or a political subdivision of the state; an officer, employee, or agent of the state or of any of its political subdivisions; or an officer or employee of the court.

☐ Yes
☐ No

UNITED STATES SENATE
Vote for One (1)
☐ Bill Hagerty
Republican Party Nominee
☐ Marquita Bradehaw
Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Tharon Chandler
Independent Candidate
☐ Andrew Gorons
Independent Candidate
☐ Jeremy Dean Hearn
Independent Candidate
☐ Robert Jones
Independent Candidate
☐ James William Macon III
Independent Candidate
☐ Yoshi D. Matthews
Independent Candidate
☐ David Suttman, Jr.
Independent Candidate
☐ Catherine Barcel
"Barcy" Whitson
Independent Candidate
☐ Write-In

UNITED STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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☐ Tim Burohett
Republican Party Nominee
☐ Michaela Barnett
Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Bruce Fine
Independent Candidate
☐ Adam Heimerman
Independent Candidate
☐ Write-In

TENNESSEE SENATE
District 5
Vote for One (1)
☐ Jimmy Mallook
Republican Party Nominee
☐ David Miller
Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-In

TENNESSEE SENATE
District 7
Vote for One (1)
☐ Richard M. Briggs
Republican Party Nominee
☐ Bryan Langan
Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-In
TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Vote for One (1)

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Republican Party Nominee
☐ Lindsay Young Honaker
Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-In

TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Vote for One (1)
☐ Sam McKenzie
Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-In

TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
District 16
Vote for One (1)
☐ Michele Carringer
Republican Party Nominee
☐ Eliza Boles
Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-In

TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
District 18
Vote for One (1)
☐ Elaine Davis
Republican Party Nominee
☐ Bryan Goldberg
Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-In

TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
District 19
Vote for One (1)
☐ Dave Wright
Republican Party Nominee
☐ Jenny Fowler
Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-In

TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
District 89
Vote for One (1)
☐ Justin Lafferty
Republican Party Nominee
☐ Randy DeBord
Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-In

TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
District 90
Vote for One (1)
☐ Gloria Johnson
Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-In

City Charter Amendment
Vote for One (1)

CHARTER AMENDMENT SUBMITTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE PERTAINING TO THE ELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL:

SHALL ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 707(B) and 707 (C) OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE THAT IF A CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL RECEIVES A MAJORITY OF ALL VOTES CAST IN THE PRIMARY FOR THE DESIGNATED SEAT THE CANDIDATE SHALL BE DECLARED ELECTED WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF A RUNOFF AND A CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION SHALL BE ISSUED TO SUCH CANDIDATE, ALL AS MORE FULLY SET FORTH IN ORDINANCE No. O-62-2026 OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE AS DULY PUBLISHED?

THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S COST ESTIMATE OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT IS \$0.

☐ FOR THE AMENDMENT

☐ AGAINST THE AMENDMENT

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Courtesy of Michelle Phelps

The overall winner of Texas Roadhouses’s Quality Meat-Cutting Competition, meat cutter Austin Brown (holding the trophy) from Greeneville, was joined after the event by Tom Beem, product coach; Vanessa Kelly, managing partner; Grant Sliger, kitchen manager; Brown; Justin Grant, kitchen manager; and Ron Houser, market partner.

Sharp skills, high steaks

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Thirty-two East Tennessee Texas Roadhouse meat cutters honed their skills to showcase their cutting talents during a Quality Meat-Cutting Competition in Cool Sports, Home of the Icearium, 110 S. Watt Road, Tuesday morning, Sep. 22.

This year, the overall winner was Austin Brown of Greeneville; Best Filet, Jessie Kilgore of Hixon; Best Ribeye, Alex Leon of Pigeon Forge; and Best Sirloin, also Austin Brown.

“This is all of East Tennessee and one store in Virginia,” said Michelle Phelps, Texas Roadhouse marketing coach. “We have 14 stores represented.

“Our market stretches all the way from Bristol, Virginia, all the way to Hickson, Tennessee,” she said.

“Every market does its own qualifier,” Phelps explained. “So, the meat cutters who score the highest — or have the highest yield — will compete in our regionals, typically

See STEAKS on Page 7A

Networking



Tammy Cheek

Kelley Perry, left, First Citizens Bank, and Kim Fry, Hilton at the Airport, mingle at a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce networking hosted by Tupelo Honey, 126 Biddle Farms Blvd., Farragut, Thursday, Sept. 17.



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From nursing to fragrances

Farragut woman launches new business

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

When Susan Brooks of Farragut decided to take a break from nursing, she got an epiphany that launched a new business.

Brooks, a registered nurse for 13 years, founded Raintree & Company, a fragrance-infused products company.

“So, anywhere that you would like something to smell good, anything that you’re doing that you want something to smell good, that’s basically what we do,” she said. “We make sure that the products we make have wonderful fragrances you can take anywhere you go.

Anyone can go online to raintreeandcompany.com to check out the products.

“I have a lot of things, right now, geared toward cleaning, like I’ve got my carpet deodorizer, glass and surface cleaner, detergents, hand soap, things like that,” Brooks said. “And every fragrance that I make, I make sure all my products are available in every single fragrance.

“Have you ever had a favorite scent that you liked, a candle you liked or a wax melt you like?” she asked. “When you have cleaned your house, what’s the one thing that we do? We melt a wax melt.”

So, “why can’t our cleaners smell like our favorite fragrances?” Brooks asked.

That observation dawned on her one day while cleaning her house.

“I also didn’t like all the harsh detergents we had in our lesser-expensive cleaning products,” Brooks added. “I couldn’t afford \$15 for a glass cleaner, some of these luxury high-end Koala Eco and Puracy, are charging for. Why does it have to be so expensive?



Photo submitted

Susan Brooks of Farragut pours wax melts for a new business, Raintree & Company, in which she makes fragrance-infused products by hand in her home.

sive? Why can’t we have plant-based, clean cleaning products and waxes that don’t have the petroleum and phthalates?

“Why can’t normal, everyday people be able to afford these?” she asked.

“So, about a year and a half ago, I looked into it and I start-

ed [making the products] at home,” Brooks said.

In her spare time, she researched the potential for the business. “I discovered a whole world for plant-based living and a way

See FRAGRANCES on Page 7A

businessbrief

• Hunter Baddour, co-founder/president of Knoxville-based Spyre Sports Group, has been named to Silver Waves Media’s 2026 list of the “100 Most Influential/Powerful People in NIL,” recognizing leaders making a significant impact on the evolving landscape of NIL and college ath-

letics. Baddour is a graduate of Webb School of Knoxville and University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

• UBankshares Inc., the parent company of UBank and Heritage Community Bank in Knoxville and Greeneville, recently announced the signing of a definitive agreement

under which UBank and Heritage Community will merge in a cash and stock transaction. The combined company will operate under the UBank name with Heritage Community Bank offices operating indefinitely as “Heritage Community Bank, a division of UBank.”

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Thru the Decades

Residents got creative and added their own personal touch to one-of-a-kind tie-dye T-shirts for National Assisted Living Week: Thru the Decades! Everyone chose their colors and designs, creating shirts that were as unique as they are. It was a fun way to get ready for the week and show off their creativity.

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





Golf Envy opens

Tammy Cheek

Beverly Miller, second from right, and husband Christian Miller, at right, owners of Farragut's Golf Envy, join their children — Brooks, 11, Collins, 10, and Bennett, 8 — and Casey Belovsky, vice president of field support for Golf Envy, at left, in cutting the ribbon on the franchise's grand opening of Golf Envy at 12756 Kingston Pike, Suite 102, in Renaissance I Farragut.

Steaks

From page 6A

in January, in Houston, Texas. And, "every cut-off competition that we have, there's always a special event," she said. "So, last night, we took them to Main Event. They had dinner;

they got to play games, bowl, shoot pool, whatever they wanted to do.

"When they go to regionals, they will have another fun night for them," Phelps said. "That's their reward as they go through is getting to go on these outings and do some fun things."

Fifth Third Bank cuts the ribbon



Tammy Cheek

Fifth Third Bank branch manager Elizabeth Pagano cuts the ribbon on the new branch. Joining her are her team, Ford Goodfellow, fifth from left, Alexander Heibel sixth from left, and Ethan Daniels, eighth from left, as well as bank dignitaries, community members.

Then, the highest regional qualifiers will compete in the national competition in March, according to Phelps.

"This year, it will be in Orlando," she said. The national company winner wins a \$25,000 check from Texas Roadhouse. Why hold such a competition?

"We hand-cut all of our steaks," Phelps said. "Our meat cutters are highly trained butchers basically, and every piece of meat that hits our grill, these meat cutters cut, it's something that we're very, very proud of. They take pride in their work."

Fragrances

From page 6A

to clean my house without damaging my environment and bringing those chemicals into my home — and keeping it affordable," she said.

And, "everything is registered right here in Farragut ... so all my sales tax and everything goes to right here in Farragut," Brooks said. "And, I did that on purpose.

"I'm learning," she said. "I'm going to the Intro to Farragut class, and they were talking about the sales tax and how that supports my town."

Finding the ingredients for the products was not easy.

For example, for Brooks' corn ethanol, 190 proof, she had to go to a U.S. laboratory and then vet it to make sure it was good quality.

"I had to find U.S.-based companies that are open about the ingredients and have shared that with me so I can be secure in what I'm putting in there," said Brooks, who makes the products herself.

She launched the company in a soft launch on Monday Sept. 14.





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Lady Ads hold off Maryville in regular-season finale

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

In the last two weeks, the Farragut girls soccer team has experienced a key shift. And it took one film review for that movement to happen.

Looking back through her team's 3-0 loss to Bearden on Thursday, Sept. 24, Farragut soccer coach Jessica Burkhart said she noticed more about her own team's struggles than anything the Lady Bulldogs did right.

"So we had to have an inner look at who we are and what we do — and we didn't do those things," Burkhart said. "We had

to come together and figure that out and recenter ourselves, and the girls did that."

The result was a 1-0 victory over Maryville last Tuesday, Sept. 29, as Farragut wrapped its regular-season with a key region road win.

A timely goal from Ava Upshaw and a key save from Emery Wylie marked the difference in the victory.

Upshaw found the net after a series of close misses from FHS, as Meghan Shimall fired a cross that Upshaw buried less than 10 minutes into the second half.

"Ava and Shim (Meghan Shimall),

they're deadly on the wing," Burkhart said. "That's something that's been a staple that we've had, and Ava had some opportunities in the first half, too. It's just a matter of how long could they keep her out of the net. She buried that one, and it was a great run and ball across by Shim

and a great finish by Ava. I don't know of a keeper that can stop that."

Fortunately for Farragut, the Lady Admirals' own keeper made a great stop of her own to supplement the effort.

With Maryville pushing for a potential equaiz-

See LADY ADS on Page 2B



Jake Nichols

Hardin Valley's Nick Rivers (2) is tackled by Farragut's Mason Swor (13).

HVA tops Farragut in rivalry tilt

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Last Thursday, Oct. 1, the Hardin Valley Hawks rolled up 432 yards of offense in a 35-0 victory over Farragut. It marked their first win over the Admirals since 2019, and it is the first time since

2014 that HVA has taken down BHS and FHS in the same season.

"Not our night," Farragut head coach Geoff Courtney said. "They had a couple big plays, and they won the line of scrimmage all night. If

See RIVALRY on Page 3B

Bill Howard
Correspondent

It was a first-round match that was worthy of being the tournament championship.

In the first round of the Region 2, District 4-AAA Volleyball Tournament Monday night at West High School, fourth-seeded Hardin Valley Academy survived a determined comeback by fifth-seeded Farragut High School to defeat the Lady Admirals 3-2.

The Lady Hawks won the first two sets, 25-19 and 25-15, and it looked like they were going to sweep the Lady Admirals like they did in the regular season.

But Farragut had other ideas and won the next two sets, 25-22, and 28-26, to set up a decisive fifth set. In that set, the teams battled an 11-all tie, but HVA won the final four points to win the set 15-11 and clinch the match.

The result set up second-round matches on Tuesday between FHS

See COMEBACK on Page 3B



Jake Nichols

Farragut's Emberly McNair (8) and Olivia Cope (25) attempt to block a Hardin Valley spike during their match Monday, Oct. 5.

Area golfers vying for state success

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

This week, several local participants will hit the links at Sevierville Golf Club for the Division I and II golf state championships.

Farragut's Sophie Williams will represent the Admirals after defeating teammate Harper Holmes in a playoff at the Region 2-AA Tournament last Monday, Sept. 28, at Island Pointe Golf Club in Kodak.

On the same course, the Hardin Valley girls team qualified for state for the third consecutive year after beating the Lady Ads by seven strokes with a 167 overall.

Addisyn Newman led

HVA as the medalist.

Meanwhile, Bearden advances to state as a team after winning Region 2-AA Tournament with 304. William Ibbotson paced the Dawgs with a 72, pushing his team ahead of a Hardin

Valley boys squad that finished five strokes back — thus eliminating the Hawks from contention for a second straight state title.

Still, Hardin Valley's Arjun Patel does advance on to state as an individ-

ual, topping his competitors with a 70 to move on as the medalist.

On the Division II side, two Webb players will take the course as individuals. Junior Colmore

See GOLFERS on Page 3B

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CONCORD

Dylan Brown
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Division II volleyball programs set for postseason

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

On the volleyball court, Division II postseason is ramping up in a hurry.

Last Saturday, Oct. 3, the Concord Christian Lady Lions took down the Christian Academy of Knoxville Warriors 3-2 (25-15, 18-25, 25-11, 21-25 and 15-11) to propel the Lions on to the region tournament for their fourth consecutive appearance.

“We have continuously been focusing on staying consistent in our play and mentality,” CCS coach Mandy Richards said. “So this was a great opportunity to put what we have been practicing into play. CAK’s crowd was great and brought a ton of energy, but we stayed focused and took care of business.”

Sophomore outside hitter Laney Hochevar came through with several clutch spikes against the Warriors, while senior Manhattan Shuler di-

rected the offense as the setter.

“Laney is a leader on the court, no matter what position she is in,” Richards said. “Manhattan ran a great offense. Everyone does their job very well and we are very solid.

“We have had some young teams for a few years,” she added. “The girls have expressed how much fun they are having this season, linking together with one another and advancing in our season. This has been our motto all season: Link and Advance.”

Clearly the motto is working, as CCS moves on to the next round of the postseason.

Over at Catholic, the Fighting Irish faced off with Baylor Tuesday, Oct. 6, with the top seed hanging in the balance. Unfortunately the match occurred after press time, meaning results are not available.

Regardless, both teams advance on to the Division II Class AA first round, which will take place Tuesday, Oct.

13, according to TSSAA.com. Division II Class A and Class AA quarterfinals are set for Saturday, Oct. 17, unless schools mutually agree to play earlier than the dates indicated above.

Before those matches, though, the Irish did finish off the regular season with a pink-out victory over Webb. In that match, KCHS lost the first set 25-21 then bounced back to win the next three, 25-17, 25-19 and 25-15.

“It was a very unique match for us,” Catholic coach Brent Carter said. “Most of our season we’ve started really strong and faded a bit, and that’s part of it — it’s a long match and if you beat a team really bad one set or two, it’s easy to let up. But it was good to see us play better and that really made a difference. That was really good as a coach to see.

“All in all, we have a very physically small team,” Carter added. “But they’ve continued to mature as a team and train



Jake Nichols
The Concord Christian volleyball team defeated Christian Academy of Knoxville in postseason play last Saturday, Oct. 3, at CCS.

really hard. So the progress has been solid, and the goal is always to peak here at the end. We’re pretty close to putting stuff together consistently, and they trust each other to make adjustments and get things done.”

Lady Ads
From page 1B

er, Wylie dove and extended her arms to prevent a score with 7:14 to play, thus keeping the Lady Ads ahead en route to a victory.

“I told the team they took care of their business most of the game, and when we needed her to come up with a big play, she did,” Burkhart said of Wylie. “We needed that and she came up real big for us. Coming on the road here to pull out a win against a team that’s riding high, that’s props to our

kids for being up for that challenge.”

The next challenge awaits with the postseason, which begins Saturday, Oct. 10.

Farragut will welcome Maryville for a rematch in the district quarterfinals while Lenoir City and Hardin Valley Academy will face off the same day.

Whoever wins the quarterfinal match between Farragut and Maryville will go to Bearden for the semifinals on Tuesday, Oct. 13, and the winner of LCHS and HVA will visit West the same day.

BHS leads the district standings while HVA sits in third with Farragut in fourth.

Since the Lady Bulldogs had yet to face Lenoir City in their own regular-season finale last Tuesday, Burkhart’s group not know how the postseason would stack up.

Even so, the Lady Ads han-

dled their business and will look to do the same this week.

“We can only control what we can control,” Burkhart said. “We knew we had to come out and win this game, and that’s what we did. Everyone else has to fight it out and sort it out. I’m hoping we get a break to get some film in, get

our legs back under us and get ready for the tournament.

“This district is one of the hardest in the state, and if you’re going to make it through, you’ve got to be healthy. So we’ve done everything we can do; our focus now is on us and how we can get healthy and be prepared.”

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Golfers
From page 1B

Sprouse won his region tournament last week in a playoff, while senior Grayson Parker advances, too.

In terms of team success, CAK’s boys and girls teams will both move on to the state tournament after finishing as

region runners-up at The Bear Trace at Harrison Bay Golf Course the previous Tuesday, Sept. 22.

Notably, it will be the 15th all-time state appearance for the Warriors and their 11th in the last 12 years, as they seek their first state title since 2022.

The Lady Warriors advance to state for the 13th time in the

last 15 years, as they are going for their third-straight team title in Division II-A.

Catholic is looking to start a similar trend, as the Lady Irish will compete at the state tournament for the fourth consecutive year. Charlie Schmidt, a KCHS sophomore, came just short of qualifying as an individual to represent the boys

team after losing in a playoff.

On the scorecard, the Lady Warriors totaled a 162 between Kalen Jackson, Landrie Lane and Lenlee Smith while the Warriors fired a 290 between Tyler Stafford, Aiden Cooper, Roddy Sturgeon, Tanner Varney and Ryan Miller. CAK’s boys will be looking to expound on their district title,

which they won Sept. 17.

Meanwhile, the Catholic girls’ 154 — second only to Baylor’s 139 at the region tourney — edged Girls Preparatory School by a single stroke to push the Irish back to Sevierville. Teagan Walker and Linzy Johnson each shot 77, while Anna Kate Coatney totaled 94.

Comeback
From page 1B

and eighth-seeded Lenoir City in the losers’ bracket, and between HVA and top-seeded Maryville in the winners’. The tournament’s format is double elimination.

“I was glad to see that we fought back and didn’t go out in three like last time,” FHS coach Whitney Lee said. “We made some subs and I think that brought some life and new energy.”

“We panicked a little bit (after the second),” said Eric Boden, HVA coach. “Farragut’s a great team, well-coached, and I told them ‘they’re gonna put the pieces together here shortly, and they did in the third and fourth.’”

A strong start and long mid-

match scoring streak gave Valley the second set fairly easily and what seemed like an insurmountable 2-0 lead. Farragut led 12-8 in the third, then the teams traded points, and FHS closed it out with a kill by outside hitter Megan Frana.

When the Lady Hawks led 22-15 in the fourth, the match seemed all but over. But the Lady Admirals promptly reeled off eight of the next nine to tie it at 23. They then saved two match points and took the set with the final two points.

“We played poorly in the first two sets and that’s not how you want to start a tournament,” said Lee. “I think they were proud of themselves and proud of each other (for the comeback).”

West 3, Bearden 0

In the night’s third match, the host Lady Rebels swept the Lady

Bulldogs 3-0 to advance to play William Blount in the winner’s bracket. The loss sent Bearden to the loser’s bracket to play Karns.

The set scores were 25-15, 25-22, and 25-14.

Lady ‘Dogs’ coach Kaitlyn Davidson thought her girls never really got going.

“We weren’t sharp tonight. We did not play our best game,” said Davidson. “I think we wanted it so bad that we were just so tense. I felt like my leaders did what they were supposed to do but we just didn’t have enough to execute.”

West led 16-12 in the first, then won nine of the final 12 to take the set. WHS seemed firmly in control in the second, leading 20-13. But Bearden then won nine of 12 to trail by only one, 23-22. The Lady Rebels closed it out with the final two.

Rivalry
From page 1B

that wasn’t evident, you don’t know football. Credit to them — they’ve got a good group this year, and we didn’t play or coach well enough from start to finish.”

Farragut punted on seven of its nine possessions.

Even so, two FHS players — Hayes Sharp and Elijah Sadler — set career-highs against Hardin Valley in the loss.

Sharp tossed seven completions in 19 attempts for a career-best 119 yards while Sadler went 84 yards on five catches, pinning the ball to his shoulder on one of them.

Now, both programs will look to utilize the open date before the final push.

“Next week is the next opportunity,” Courtney said. “We’ve got a bye week and then two big region games, and we have to make the most of our opportunities to make the playoffs, which is our goal.”

Meanwhile, HVA (5-2, 2-2) will wrap up its regular season against Oak Ridge, Cleveland and Ooltewah while seeking its first postseason appearance since 2018.

“I’m just happy for these kids,” HVA coach Tyler Wynn said of his players. “This is one of those program-defining wins for these guys, especially this senior class. I told them before tonight that we have an opportunity to be West Knox champions, and I’m proud of the way they played from the jump.”



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Boots & Beauties dance

Farragut High School Dance Team treated 330 young girls and their fathers to its 5th Annual Boots & Beauties dance at FHS Friday, Sept. 27, to help raise money to take part in national competition.

Girls and their dads enjoyed having photos taken, refreshments and dancing.

The dance team booster treasurer, Lea Ann Seagraves, said there were 330 girls dancing with their dads this year.

“I think it’s the biggest turnout we’ve ever had,” she said. “The team’s girls are excited to dance with all the girls who are here today.”

“It’s so much fun,” said Caroline Seagraves, her daughter and dance team member.

“It’s one of my favorite events, seeing all these kids and their dads, something I used to do when I was little,” fellow dance team member Lydia Finnegan said.

Photos by Tammy Cheek

Right: Brian and Kara Wallace, 8



Alan Knauth with daughter, Caroline, 7



Bryce Ogle with daughter, Blakely, 5



Danny Cole with daughters, Peyton and Ana Cole



Dean Wathen with daughters, Charlie, 8, and Ella, 6



Grace Haas, 7, left, and Caroline Ohana, 7



From left, FHS Dance Team members, Maryella Wendell, Lydia Finnegan and Caroline Seagraves



Travis Nicely with daughters, Ella, 9, left and Elodie, 7



Justin Yucra with daughter, Alyssa, 7



Keith Bagwell with daughter, Leah, 14



Scott Pafford with daughter, Laney, 9



Rob Posey with daughter, Kaylyn, 10

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TEST PREP EXPERTS



Photo submitted

Music artist Summerlyn Powers, left, shared a lifetime experience for Farragut area locals, Amelia Evans, second from left; Laura Evans, second from right; and Julia Horne.

Traveling music fest comes to Farragut

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

A crowd lined up at Mayor Ralph McGill plaza to hear Nashville singers and songwriters when All Nashville Roadshow came to Farragut Friday, Sept. 25. All Nashville Roadshow is a traveling Americana music festival, bringing the Nashville experience to smaller communities across the country. “This is our second year,” producer John Cook said. “Our owner, Scott Colson, is

also one of the artists [with band Slaw]. We started it last year ... they brought me on a few months ago to help produce it. “We bring a taste of Nashville and music, food, beer, wine, all that fun stuff from Nashville to towns all over the Southeast,” Cook added. “We take local singers, songwriters from Nashville, generally Americana, country, bluegrass — all the things that encapsulate Nashville sound

See MUSIC on Page 9B

Magra shares history of Declaration of Independence

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

The public recently had two opportunities to learn more about how the Declaration of Independence justified war with Great Britain. Dr. Chris Magra, a professor of Early American History at University of Tennessee and director of the Center for the Study of Tennesseans and War, spoke about the military history of the Declaration of Independence at Farragut Museum’s History Hour in Town Hall Tuesday, Sept. 22, and to Rotary Club of Farragut members at their meeting in Fox Den Country Club Wednesday, Sept. 16. He also shared information



Magra

on his new book, “America’s First War.” “We are pleased to welcome

See MAGRA on Page 6B

Variety pedals on with annual charity event



Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

On Tuesday, Sept. 22, two children led more than 100 golfers onto the course at Willow Creek Golf Club in Farragut for the 14th annual tournament benefitting Variety, the children’s charity of Eastern Tennessee. Variety provides mobility equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, special adaptive bikes, prosthetics and cranial helmets for children. It also handles grant funding for local organizations where funds are specially placed for direct programming that serves at-risk children and children with special needs. Along with proceeds from this charity event, sponsors Regal, BGIS and LTCI allow Variety to put on life-changing programs like Kids on the Go! — which has provided more than 200 pieces of mobility equipment to local children needing specialized care in

See VARIETY on Page 8B



Photos courtesy of Neil Crosby

Above: After receiving one of these tricycles last year, Piper came back to the Variety charity golf tournament in 2026 to show off her riding skills. **Top:** Damian, 12, rode one of the unique tricycles provided through the Variety organization at an annual charity golf tournament Tuesday, Sept. 22. Behind him are just a few of the 32 volunteers who worked with Variety that day.

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Press Planner

Send upcoming events for the Press Planner to editor@farragutpress.com

• The Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking will host its 6th Annual Unmasked, presented by Pilot Company on Friday, Oct. 23, at The Mill & Mine. The spooky carnival celebration brings East Tennessee neighbors together to support survivors of human trafficking and their families. Guests will enjoy an evening of costumes, spooky craft cocktails, dinner, a lively silent auction featuring restaurant and entertainment packages, handcrafted jewelry and more — and the return of the crowd-favorite costume contest. Tickets, tables and online costume-contest voting are available at GrowFreeTN.org/Unmasked.

• Ebenezer United Methodist Church’s women, men and youth groups will come together Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23-24, for a church-wide Mission Weekend fundraiser. All proceeds will benefit missions. The weekend will begin Friday with the Ebenezer United Methodist Women’s Rummage Sale from 4 to 7 p.m. The sale will continue Saturday from 7 a.m. to noon. Also on Saturday, the Men’s Club and Youth Ministry will join the effort with pit-smoked barbecue and a bake sale. Ebenezer United Methodist Church is located at 1001 Ebenezer Road, Knoxville. For information or to order barbecue, call 865-691-8330 or visit eumcknox.org before Oct. 23.

• Rotary Club of Farragut is inviting the community to join its members in a fun Commu-

nity MiniGolf Tournament & Food Drive from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 24, at Sir Goony’s, 10925 Kingston Pike. The event, a fundraiser for RCF, will offer family fun, food trucks and an opportunity to support local community efforts. Sponsorships are available. For more information, contact Joey Ruffalo at joey@financialcoaching.com

• The Knoxville Bar Association announces a Faith and Justice Legal Advice Clinic will be held on Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. to noon at Lake Forest Presbyterian Church, 714 Lake Forest Drive. The goal of the Faith and Justice Alliance is to build a coalition of faith leaders in the Knoxville area and to host legal advice clinics at places of worship to give people a less intimidating environment to talk to a lawyer. This is a general advice and referral clinic with volunteers prepared to advise on a wide variety of legal issues, including family law, landlord/tenant, bankruptcy, criminal defense, consumer protection, contract disputes, child support and personal injury, among other issues.

• Knoxville Jazz Orchestra and Bijou Theatre will present We Love Dolly, a benefit concert featuring the music of Dolly Parton, on Friday, Nov. 13, at the Bijou Theatre. Tickets are on sale now and all net proceeds will benefit the Imagination Library of Knox County. Visit www.knoxjazz.org for tickets and more information.

Magra

From page 5B

back Dr. Magra,” said Kristi Vining, Farragut historic resources coordinator. “He has been a strong supporter of the Farragut Museum, and he’s a true asset to our community.

“We appreciate him sharing his love of history and his knowledge with us,” Vining said. “There has been a focus this year on the 250th anniversary of our country, and the military history of the Declaration of Independence goes along with that theme.”

The museum’s History Hour events are free.

To Rotarians, Magra said he was thinking about the country’s 250th anniversary and the Declaration of Independence and discovered “no one has written about the Declaration of Independence,” he said, adding, “The Declaration of Independence is a military document through and through.

“It’s about a war that was ongoing,” Magra added.

The war raged from April 1775 to July 1783. The Declaration of Independence was drafted in July 1775 by the Second Continental Congress

in the Assembly Room of Independence Hall.

Magra explained Americans were divided on why they should be at war even though “we love democracy; we love our freedom ... and we want to debate it.”

There were reasons for war: taxation without representation – the Stamp Act and the tea tax — violation of rights and then military aggression with the presence of British troops and its bombardment of Norfolk.

Still, there were citizens who were loyal to Britain or saw the magnitude of the British military and its adding of German Hessian soldiers.

The country’s founders needed to show justification for war. After the bombardment in Norfolk, Magra said colonists were angry.

The cause further was strengthened with Thomas Paine’s “Common Sense,” a 47-page document in which he advocated for independence from Great Britain.

But the Declaration of Independence clearly stated the grievances against Britain and the need for a unified response to British aggression.



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DAR chapter presents grant to Greenback School teacher

Staff Reports
editor@farragutpress.com

LOUDON COUNTY — General William Lenoir Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently awarded the Helen Pouch \$500 grant to Greenback School teacher Shannon Smith of Greenback. “The Helen Pouch Classroom Grant is designed to support classroom teachers in grades K-12 by providing financial assistance for educational resources and supplies,” stated Ann Walden with the DAR chapter. “Two grants are allotted per state and Shannon was one of the two chosen based upon her project.

“She is the Greenback High School sixth- and seventh-grade language arts teacher, and her project is to provide



Photo submitted

General William Lenoir Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution regent Melody Gentry, left, and Ann Walden, right, also with the chapter, present a Certificate of Achievement and \$500 grant to Greenback School teacher Shannon Smith.

See DAR on Page 6B

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Artwork submitted

Voting now open for favorite MEDIC T-shirt design

Staff reports

editor@farragutpress.com

The high-schoolers’ T-shirt designs for MEDIC Regional Blood Center are in, so now people can vote for their favorite design.

Voting will take place online at <https://ahaslides.com/99P7N> between now and Friday, Oct. 23, for the first round and Saturday, Oct. 24, through Saturday, Oct. 31, for the final round.

“Regional students have been working hard designing the March MEDIC T-shirt,” said Kristy Altman, MEDIC vice president of communications and public relations.

With the first round, the de-

signs will be narrowed to a top three, she said.

After the final round, the winner will be announced in November. The winning design will be featured as the shirt design for March 2027, and the student will receive a \$500 E-Gift card.

“MEDIC is the primary blood product provider for 24 hospitals and air and ground medical transport services across 23 counties,” Altman said. “MEDIC services Prisma Health Blount Memorial Hospital, Covenant Health System, Dolly Parton Children’s Hospital, Tennova Healthcare and University of Tennessee Medical Center.

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DAR

From page 6B

flexible seating options in the classroom that can help eliminate distractive behaviors while increasing participation and comprehension,” Walden said. “Learning should engage all senses and not be stifled by sedentary placement in a classroom.

“Shannon has been able to purchase a walking pad with standing desk, bean bag chairs with lap desks, bouncy bands, portable elliptical feet or wiggle feet for students to use while seated, and over the door

mini basketball net and ball for brain breaks or reward,” Walden said.

The General Lenoir DAR chapter encompasses members from many areas, including Farragut and West Knox. At its Sept. 12 meeting, Smith was awarded an NSDAR Certificate of Achievement by Chapter Regent Melody Gentry.

“We are honored that Shannon’s innovative project will help to strengthen the education of her students by enhancing the student’s comprehension and analytical thinking skills,” Gentry said.

The National Society DAR

is a women’s service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War.

“Today’s DAR is dynamic and diverse, with over 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad,” Walden said. “DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world.

“DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism,” she said.



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Variety
From page 5B

2026.

The tournament has been held every year since 2005, and with 114 golfers participating, this year’s event raised the most money ever recorded for the total amount: \$416,500.

“Without them,” Variety executive director Carol Fusco said of the sponsors, donors and more than 30 volunteers, “this would not be possible.”

Children Damian and Piper were on hand with their tri-cycles for the event, showing off machines giving children with different abilities a new outlook on life.

“She had received her trike last year, but she had so much fun, she decided to come back and help out,” Fusco said of Piper. “So in the morning, they led the golfers out onto the course with the shotgun start. She wanted to show off her riding skills. Usually when children come to us, their mobility is limited. And these trikes help with their endurance, their reciprocal movement and overall emotional health, so it’s a good piece of equipment for a child to have.

“And it’s a rite of passage for every child to have a bike, but some children can’t ride traditional bikes. So that’s where the trikes come in — ev-

everything is adapted for their ability.”

Aside from the tricycles donated this year alone, Fusco said the organization has raised more than \$16 million for children across East Tennessee since its founding in 2001.

“Whenever kids outgrow their current trikes, they can come back and get new ones from Variety,” she said. “We work with three different equipment providers, and they bring the children to us. We also partner with the children’s hospital and they refer children to us as well.”

“It touches your heart to give a child that freedom of mobility,” she added. “Every day, I take for granted that I can get from point A to point B, but it is harder for children with different abilities. It means a lot to work for an organization that gives families hope because a lot of times, we are their last hope. We kick in when insurance doesn’t.

“Or if insurance does cover it, children get these trikes once every seven years. And if a child has a growth spurt during that time, the families are out of pocket and that’s where Variety steps in. There is a lot of need, and working for an organization that gives hope to the community is immeasurable.”

Knoxville Latter-day Temple dedication announced

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

As The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints completes its temple off Kingston Pike in Farragut, it announces a public open house for the Knoxville Tennessee Temple will be from Wednesday, Jan. 27, through, Saturday, Feb. 13, 2027 (excluding Sundays).

“We are grateful for the blessing of the first temple in East Tennessee, and we warmly welcome the public to tour it before its dedication,” said David Sexton, the leader for Church members in the Knoxville area. “For Latter-day Saints, temples are the house of the Lord and the most sacred places of worship on earth.

“They help us live the gospel of Jesus Christ, draw closer to Him and learn how families can be united forever,” Sexton said. “We look forward to sharing this special event with our friends and neighbors.”

Along with the public open house, a media day for the temple will be Monday, Jan.



Photo submitted

25, followed by tours for invited guests on Tuesday, Jan. 26, according to Jeffrey Pizzino, assistant communications director of media and social media for the Church.

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles will dedicate the Knoxville Tennessee Temple on Sunday, March 7. The ceremony will be broadcast to all congregations in the temple district.

The Knoxville Tennessee Temple was announced in April 2022 and ground was broken in January 2024, according to Pizzino.

“This will be the third dedicated temple in the state, joining temples in Memphis and Nashville,” he said. “Tennessee is home to nearly 62,000 Latter-day Saints meeting in more than 120 congregations.”

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ARTS & BEAUTIFICATION
COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 19, 2026 at 11:30 AM

1) Call to Order

2) Approval of Minutes

A) Approval of Sept. 21 minutes

3) Business Items

4) Discussion Items

A) Celebrate the Season

B) Holiday Tree Village

C) Art & Photography Show

D) Farragut in Bloom

5) Adjournment

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Farragut Town Hall | 11408 Municipal Center Drive

EDUCATION RELATIONS
COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 12, 2026 at 4:00 PM

1) Call to Order

2) Approval of Minutes

A) September 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes

3) School Liaison Updates

4) Any Other Business

A) Coats for the Cold Campaign

B) Discussion of Town of Farragut Grants Use and Potential Needs

5) Call for Adjournment

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MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

I) Call to Order

II) Approval of Agenda

III) Approval of Minutes

A) September 17, 2026 Minutes

IV) Action Items

A) Discussion and public hearing on a final plat for 817 Virtue Road, 3 Lots, 8.613 Acres, Zoned R-1 (Benchmark Associates, Inc., Applicant)

B) Discussion and public hearing 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)

V) Discussion Items

VI) Approval of Utilities

A) Request for approval to install fiber following existing TDS copper lines for TDS to service 11305-11320 Station West Drive (TDS, Applicant)

VII) Citizens Forum

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Farragut Town Hall | 11408 Municipal Center Drive

FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

I. Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

A. September 24, 2026, Workshop

B. September 24, 2026

IV. Mayor's Report

A. Proclamation for Extra Mile Day

V. Citizens Forum

VI. Ordinances & Resolutions

A. Ordinances

1. First Reading

a. Approval of Ordinance 26-20, on first reading, amending the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Capital Investment Program Fund Budget Passed by Ordinance 26-10

2. Second Reading & Public Hearing

a. Approval of Ordinance 26-19 on Second Reading, to Amend Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Capital Investment Program Fund

Budget, Passed by Ordinance 26-10

VII. Business Items

A. Appointment by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to fill the vacant North Ward Alderman Position

B. Approval of Contract 2027-02 Red Mill Property Parking Lot and Trail Construction

C. Approval of purchase of John Deere 4066R Compact Utility Tractor and John Deere 1575 Front Deck Mower with accessories via the Sourcewell Co-op Grounds Maintenance Contract 112624-DAC.

D. Approval of Grant Contract With Knoxville-Knox County Planning and the Town of Farragut for Municipal Center Drive / Jamestowne Boulevard Extension Study

E. Approval of Dates for the November and December Board of Mayor and Aldermen Meetings.

VIII. Town Administrator's Report

IX. Town Attorney's Report

X. Adjournment

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

BEER BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026 AT 5:50 PM

AGENDA

I) Call to Order

II) Approval of Minutes

A) September 10, 2026

III) Beer Permit

A) Approval of a Class 6, Special Occasion Beer Permit for the Farragut Business Alliance Harvest Fest, October 25, 2026

IV) Adjournment

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 WORKSHOP MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026 AT 5:00 PM

AGENDA

I. Roll Call

II. Business Items

A. Town Center District Traffic Overview

III. Adjournment

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE (9/30/2026)

A forum with the North Ward Alderman candidates will be hosted by Alderman Joey Ruffalo on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM in the Assembly Hall at the Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Boulevard, Farragut, Tennessee 37934.

Please be advised that members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen may be in attendance.

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Popcorn fundraiser for Heroes and Helpers



Photo submitted

Finn Stephens, 8, a member of local Boy Scout Troop 770, is raising money through a Tails End popcorn fundraiser for Heroes and Helpers, a program that helps people donate popcorn directly to military members, veterans and first responders — no bags to store or hand out. He has a sales booth at Pope's Garden Supply along Highway 11 in Lenoir City and will have one at Tractor Supply, also in Lenoir City. People can donate at <https://trails-end.com/store/scout/624ULYVG>.

Music

From page 5B

— and we take them on tour,” assistant producer Jackson Cavadnaro said. “We generally kind of stick to Southeastern smaller towns.

“We’ll go as far as North Carolina and Florida, but there are a lot of Georgia [towns], Alabamas,” he added. “We kind of provide the atmosphere. People can buy food, get drinks, enjoy live music.”

About coming to Farragut, “we heard about it; we always wanted to tour and it’s been a good experience so far,” Cavadnaro said.

The Sept. 25 roadshow featured three music artists, Summerlyn Powers, Slaw and the headliner, The Ryan Waters Band.

“We usually change out every other weekend, and we have a lot of reoccurring favorites as well,” Cavadnaro added.

“This isn’t just a concert — it’s a celebration of Nashville’s vibrant culture, right in your hometown,” a press release stated. “Experience live performances from three of Nashville’s most exciting



Tammy Cheek

The All Nashville Roadshow concert also offered such fare as Smoke House BBQ, operated by, Leilani Branner (front) and in back from left, Maraia Clark and Andrea Barrientus.

rising Americana stars, savor authentic Nashville brews and bites and soak in the magic of this traveling roadshow.

Headlining the event, the Ryan Waters Band is a country music group led by Waters, who is known for small-town storytelling and streaming

hits, such as “Chevrolet You Down” and “Tomorrow’s Not Tonight.”

“Guiding the night with humor and charm, Matt Harris will keep the energy high and the crowd engaged for a truly memorable experience,” the release continued.

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HOW THE WEST WAS WON SCOREBOARD

School	Win-Loss	Points for Game	Net Difference
Christian Academy of Knoxville	7-0	27-10 W	+203
Knoxville Catholic High School	6-1	20-14 W	+14
Hardin Valley Academy	5-2	35-0 W	+149
Concord Christian School	4-3	38-14 W	+5
Webb School of Knoxville	1-6	34-14 W	-81
Farragut High School	1-6	35-0 L	-192
Bearden High School	0-7	41-10 L	-229

Division II schools dominate Week 7

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

One team stayed undefeated, two others notched historic wins, a young quarterback had a big night and a veteran coach won the first game of a new era.

All that and plenty more happened for football teams across the Farragut and west Knoxville area last week, as the How the West was Won contest extends through Week 7.

The Christian Academy of Knoxville Warriors rolled over Chattanooga Christian, 27-10, becoming 7-0 as part of their best season since 2011.

Bennett Jelks returned an interception for a touchdown, and Elijah Krokowski had a strip-sack returned for another score as part of a massive day for the Warriors' defense.

That output and Isaac Kannah's game-opening kickoff return for a touchdown paced a CAK team that found just one score on the offensive side when Seaton Moffett found Kannah down the sideline.

"Just some grit," CAK coach Chad Speck said of his team. "We didn't play our best football, but it was a gritty performance in the second half against a physical team. Our defense really stepped up and turned them over several times."

The same approach went for Knoxville Catholic at home, where the Irish defended Blaine Stadium with a pivotal 20-14 win over Ensworth in region play.

Contrary to previous weeks, Philip Shadowens' Irish squad did not need a last-minute drive or Hail Mary heave to pull out the win.

KCHS, however, did need to recover an onside kick and pick up a crucial first down after the Tigers drew within a touchdown on a penalty-aided drive late in the fourth quarter.

Even so, the Irish emerged



Jake Nichols

Above: Knoxville Catholic quarterback Mack Bartholomew (10) celebrated after the Irish picked up a key first down en route to their 20-14 win over Ensworth last Friday. **Right:** The Christian Academy of Knoxville Warriors remain atop the How the West was Won standings after a gritty road win last week.

with just their second win over the Tigers since joining Division III-AAA six years ago.

Mack Bartholomew led the Irish with 9-for-12 passing for 104 yards and two touchdowns, one each to Braylen Gibbs and David Thomas.

Kruise Buntyn took the ball 13 times for 130 yards and another touchdown to open the scoring for Catholic.

"They played really hard the whole game," Shadowens said afterward. "Had a couple mistakes throughout, but our kids played with composure and great heart. We had some penalties that last drive that kept it alive — nothing stupid, just things that happened in the course of the football game."

"Great hustle on a late hit on the quarterback, and I didn't think that was a late hit. Then a face mask that was acciden-

tal, and that happens, but what an effort. I was really proud of them. We're 6-1 right now with a big region win, and we've got Fall Break so our kids can heal."

The same goes for Concord Christian after a 38-14 victory over Providence Academy last weekend.

"We had a tough gauntlet there with Halls, MTCS and Grace, three really good teams," Lions head coach Steve Matthews said. "So to face Providence, a team more our size, that was big going into Fall Break."

Freshman QB Dylan Brown put up impressive numbers, going 18-for-28 through the air for 278 yards and four touchdowns.

Dasani Moulden and Todd Lundy racked up more than 100 yards receiving each in the first half alone, and Amare McKen-



zie took the opening kickoff for a score to clinch early momentum for CCS.

"We did a lot of good things, and the defense played much better," Matthews said. "And I'm a perfectionist when it comes to quarterbacks, but I feel like Dylan is growing. During games, I'll harp on what he can do better but then look at the stat line and say, 'Wow, he had a really good game.'"

"He's still making freshman mistakes from time to time, but we're waiting for him to put together that complete game and I think that's coming soon."

At Webb, the Spartans clinched a long-awaited first

victory in the George Quarles era, beating Notre Dame 34-14.

Garrett King led Webb with three touchdown runs on 13 carries for 49 yards. Matthew Rogers added 19 more carries for 169 yards and two more scores on the ground.

"It was really nice," Quarles said. "Really happy for our kids. They've hung in, kept working and kept listening to us and kept believing."

Hardin Valley experienced the same feeling against Farragut, beating the Admirals for the first time since 2019, while Bearden lost to Oak Ridge 41-10 with a kick returned for a touchdown by Major Dean.



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farragutpress Wednesday, October 7, 2026 • 1C



Photos submitted

A Second Chance

Stacey Bussell's journey through breast cancer and recovery

~ Story submitted by Covenant Health

After a breast cancer diagnosis, Stacey Bussell found strength in her faith, family and care team at Covenant Health's Thompson Cancer Survival Center. Today, she is preparing for a future helping others as a pediatric oncology nurse. .

A life-changing Discovery

When Stacey discovered a lump during a self-breast exam in 2023, her life changed dramatically. The lump appeared just nine months after a mammogram, reinforcing the importance of paying attention to changes in your body between routine screenings.

"I have cancer? I have cancer. I have cancer," Stacey said. "It was a lot of unknowns and no answers." At 42 years old, Stacey was diagnosed with micropapillary breast carcinoma.

As she came to terms with her di-

agnosis, her faith became a source of strength. "God, you're going with me on this journey. I do not know how to navigate this," she said.

Finding Support Every Step of the Way

One of the first people to help guide Stacey through her diagnosis was oncology nurse navigator Susan Rutherford. As a nurse navigator, Susan helps patients understand their diagnosis, coordinate care and navigate the often-complex cancer treatment process.

"Nurse Susan has been my angel throughout this whole process. Literally heaven-sent," Stacey said.

Susan remembered their early conversations: "We talked about positivity, and she maintained that, even when it was hard."

During her treatment, Stacey under-

See **SECOND CHANCE** on Page 2C

Breast Connect

Creating a comforting community

~ Story by Rachel Totten

In 2014, a group of breast cancer patients and survivors from across Knoxville came together to create a comforting community of compassion and support. That group, formerly nicknamed the Happy Hour for a Cure, quickly took off, blossoming into the local organization now known as Breast Connect.

Its foundation, however, remains unchanged: Survivors helping survivors.

"We believe that no one should face a breast cancer diagnosis alone," explained Stephanie Ewers, director of programs for Breast Connect. "Through survivor-led programs, mentorship and a deeply supportive community, we walk alongside patients and their families from diagnosis through survivorship... We're all here for each other."

Aimed at empowering breast cancer patients to

become their own best advocates, Breast Connect offers a wide range of programs and services designed to improve quality of life and build community. The organization's Sisterhood initiative, for example, matches newly diagnosed patients with breast cancer survivors, providing comfort and reassurance to those who need it most.

"Our Sisterhood program is central to the mission of Breast Connect," said Ewers, noting that the organization analyzes specific criteria to ensure the best match possible. "We collect information from both the patient and survivor, such as the type of breast cancer, surgeries, treatment plans and family details. This provides those affected by breast cancer with access to someone who has al-

See **CONNECT** on Page 4C

Strengthening those impacted by cancer

~ Story by Rachel Totten

Since its inception in 1990, Cancer Support Community East Tennessee has remained committed to its mission of uplifting and strengthening those impacted by cancer. The organization, located at 6204 Baum Drive, strives to improve the quality of life of individuals across 26 East Tennessee counties by providing support, fostering compassion and breaking down barriers to care throughout the cancer journey.

After all, the whole point is to create a local community for those affected by cancer at every stage.

"Our name says it all: Cancer. Support. Community. That is who we are and what we provide," explained Lori Friel, CSCET's development and community manager. "We focus on reducing stress, supporting physical, emotional and social well-being, and helping to connect participants with others who share the experience of cancer."

This is accomplished through a variety of thoughtfully designed programs, ranging from support groups and individual sessions, wellness and exercise classes, educational workshops and event



art courses. Friel said that virtual support services are also available for those unable to attend in-person programs.

"We offer many programs as hybrid events to allow someone outside the area or who has a compromised immune system to participate," she said.

All programs are led by pro-

fessional psychologists and licensed clinical social workers and are provided at no charge to anyone with cancer, as well as their caregivers and loved ones.

"This includes the wig and accessories room," Friel noted.

To provide these invaluable

See **STRENGTH** on Page 4C

LCUB encourages women everywhere to know the signs and symptoms of breast cancer, get regular screenings and seek help early.

We pray for everyone who has lost a loved one or for those who are currently going through treatment, and we celebrate those whose lives have been saved.

Find out how you can get involved by visiting wearitpink.org



From Patient to Proton Ambassador

Meet Walter “Wally” Davis

~ Story submitted by Covenant Health

At just 9 years old, brain cancer survivor Walter Davis, known to many as “Wally,” is stepping into a new role as a Proton Ambassador at Covenant Health Proton Center. As the youngest ambassador in the program’s history, Wally hopes to use his experience to encourage other children and families facing cancer.

A Life-Changing Diagnosis

Wally was diagnosed with medulloblastoma, a rare form of brain cancer, when he was just seven years old. Following brain surgery, he began treatment that included proton therapy and chemotherapy. Over six weeks, he completed approximately 31 proton therapy treatments at Covenant Health Proton Center and later underwent six months of inpatient high-dose chemotherapy. Along the way, he also required several transfusions and additional hospital admissions.

Throughout treatment, Wally leaned on his faith, family and the support of those around him.

“His strong faith and family support helped him a lot,” said his mother, Smita Davis “His sister Emmy was with him through most of treatment since it was summer break. Both of them share an unbreakable bond and her company kept him buoyant!”

Wally also formed meaningful friendships with members of his care team and others he met during treatment.

Smita Davis also mentioned, “Walter made a connection with all of his nurses (both from the proton center and Dolly Parton Children’s Hospital). Also, a retired air force pilot Woody and his wife made friends with him. They chatted every day after treatment and Walter waited eagerly for those shared moments prior to

setting off chemotherapy at the children’s hospital.”

Looking Ahead

Today, Wally is in remission and focused on recovery. He enjoys swimming, martial arts and playing chess. He is homeschooled with his sister, participates in a weekly co-op, attends church and continues therapy as part of his recovery.

Wally has also begun giving back by helping to raise for organizations that support pediatric cancer research. As he continues to regain his strength, he remains focused on his faith, family and the future.

Becoming the Youngest Proton Ambassador

When asked why he wanted to become an ambassador, Wally shared that he “wants to inspire people to be brave and to have faith in God to carry them through and not only rely on their own strength.”

Helping other children facing cancer is especially important to him.

“Walter doesn’t want other kids to suffer but to have trust that God will be with them through everything”, said Smita Davis.

As a Proton Ambassador, Wally hopes to make new friends, pray for them, listen to them and talk with them. He also hopes to share lessons from his treatment and recovery with others.

When asked what he would say to a child having a difficult day during treatment, Wally’s answer reflected the perspective he gained through his own journey:

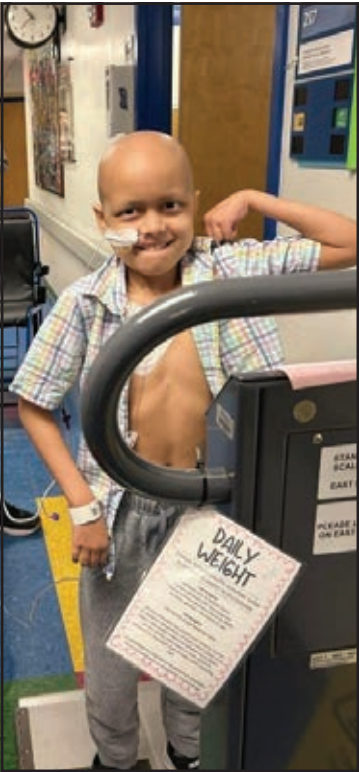
“I would give them a hug, tell them not to give up and trust that God will help them through the day. I would want to share my experiences and current recovery.”

Proton Therapy at Covenant Health

Today, Wally is using his ex-



Photos submitted



perience to encourage other children and families facing cancer. As the youngest Proton Ambassador in the program’s history, he hopes to offer the same support, understanding and encouragement that helped him throughout his

own journey.

His story reflects the impact compassionate, specialized cancer care can have on patients and families. Through services like proton therapy, Covenant Health Proton Center helps patients receive

advanced treatment close to home while supporting them throughout every stage of care.

Learn more about proton therapy and the services available through the Covenant Health Proton Center.

Second Chance

From page 1C

went chemotherapy, a double mastectomy, radiation therapy and oral chemotherapy. Along the way, she learned that recovery involved more than physical healing. “You essentially have to grieve the person that you are because you are not going to come out the same,” she said.

Strength in Family and Faith

Throughout treatment, Stacey drew strength from her parents, extended family and church community. One of the most meaningful moments came when her mother, Karen Bussell, shaved her own head in support after Stacey began losing her hair during chemotherapy. Stacey initially tried to talk her out of it, but Karen

was determined to stand beside her through every step of treatment.

“My hair on the floor. Her hair on the floor. We walked out hand in hand,” Karen recalled.

Her father, James Bussell, credits her perseverance to one thing above all else: “Her faith.”

Care That Sees the Person Behind the Diagnosis

Before beginning treatment, Stacey had one simple prayer.

“I prayed my cancer team would treat me as a patient, not a number. That’s exactly what I got here,” she said.

“I had people who saw me and heard me. I felt validated. I felt seen being here.”

The relationships she built with her care team at Thompson Cancer Survival Center helped her feel supported

throughout every stage of treatment.

A New Calling Inspired by Care

Cancer changed many aspects of Stacey’s life, including her plans for the future, and ultimately inspired a new calling.

Before her diagnosis, nursing was never on her radar. In fact, when treatment began, she was terrified of needles. “The needles are not for me,” she remembered thinking. As she moved through her cancer journey and experienced the compassion of her care team, she found herself drawn to a profession she once never considered.

“They treated me like family,” she said. “The love and care they showed me made such a difference.”

Inspired by the nurses, phy-

sicians and caregivers who supported her throughout her cancer journey, Stacey discovered a new path.

“I want to be a pediatric oncology nurse. I want to work with kids who have cancer,” she said.

Breast nurse navigator Susan believes Stacey’s personal experience will make her a remarkable nurse.

“She’ll be able to tell patients, ‘I have been where you are. I know you’re scared. I’m here to be with you, and I’m going to help you through this,’” she said.

In the future, Stacey hopes to provide the same comfort, reassurance and compassion that helped carry her through treatment, using her own experience to support children and families facing cancer.

Looking Ahead with Gratitude

Today, Stacey is focused on a future shaped by service to others and gratitude for the people who helped her reach this point.

“I’m here. I’m alive. I’m grateful,” she said.

As she looks ahead, she hopes others will learn from her experience. She encourages people to stay current on recommended screenings, perform regular self-breast exams and trust their instincts when something feels different.

If you notice a change or are due for a screening, don’t wait to talk with your healthcare provider. Early detection can make a lifesaving difference.

If you’re due for your annual mammogram, you can schedule it online with a Covenant Health Breast Center near you.



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Strength

From page 1C

services, CSCET hosts two major fundraising events each year: the Good Vibrations benefit concert in the summer and the Celebrating the Art of Survivorship fall luncheon and silent auction. This year’s luncheon, which will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 21 at Bridgewater Place, will feature local comedian and cancer survivor Karen Mills, who will share how she leveraged laughter to get through difficult times.

“This signature event brings together community leaders, survivors, caregivers and supporters to celebrate resilience while raising essential funding to ensure our services remain available at no cost to those who need them,” said Friel. “We look forward to celebrating on October 21, 2026, and sharing another meaningful afternoon of hope, inspiration and survivorship.”

As the only nonprofit cancer support organization with a physical location in Knoxville, CSCET served 570 individuals in 2025 alone, recording the highest participation rate in the organization’s 36-year history, with about 7,000 people attending both in-person and online programs.

Connect

From page 1C

ready been through a similar situation.”

Heart-to-Heart Care Packages are also available for patients in Tennessee who are undergoing chemotherapy or radiation. Ewers said that these care packages contain a heart-shaped heating pillow, warm socks, a journal and other essential items to ease the treatment process.

“Thoughtfully created by sister survivors who have been through treatment themselves, each package is filled with comforting and practical items chosen to make treatment days a little easier—and to remind you that you are cared for, supported and never alone,” she said.

Because “every woman deserves to feel cared for during recovery,” flower deliveries are also provided for patients who have undergone surgery, Ewers said.

“More than just flowers, each bouquet is a simple gesture with a heartfelt message from sister survivors who understand the journey,” she said. “We want to remind

you that you are supported and Breast Connect is thinking of you.”

Ewers emphasized that these community-focused programs have assisted thousands of individuals through their breast cancer journey, filling the gap between medical treatment and personal support in East Tennessee.

“While doctors focus on clinical care, we focus on the human experience,” she said. “Our impact is seen in the confidence our members gain when they learn to advocate for themselves, in the lifelong bonds created through our Sisterhood mentorships and in the peace of mind knowing a local community is wrapping its arms around them. We’ve transformed how local women experience treatment, moving them from feeling overwhelmed and isolated to feeling connected, empowered and supported every step of the way.”

For more information about Breast Connect, visit breast-connect.org or facebook.com/breastconnect.



Photo submitted

Profile: Euphoric Cheese Shop

Sharing experiences, creating connections

For Euphoric Cheese Shop owners Cheri and Amy, their business is about more than cheese.

When the friends opened Euphoric, Amy had just recovered from surgery for breast cancer, and Cheri was diagnosed with breast cancer six weeks after opening. As they navigated their journeys, they chose to share their experiences, creating connections within their community.

“It led to meaningful conversations,” Amy says. “And we were touched by how many people supported us and shared their own stories.”

They opened Sparrow Wine Bar in 2023 and have watched their businesses become a gathering place.

“It’s not just about cheese and wine,” Cheri says. “It’s about people—having something to gather around and a place to gather.”

Today, Cheri and Amy are celebrating five and six years cancer-free, respectively.

“Our mission is to love everyone who walks through the door,” Amy adds. “If we can encourage someone, that’s what it’s about.”



Profile: UT Medical

Breast Health Outreach Program provides access to mammograms

UT Medical’s nationally accredited breast cancer program provides coordinated, state-of-the-art care to our patients. One way we do this is through our unique, grant-funded Breast Health Outreach Program.

The Breast Health Outreach Program gives women across our region easy access to screening mammograms via our state-of-the-art mobile mammography unit (MMU). The mobile unit operates six days a week, offering screening services to both insured and uninsured women. Providing screenings where women work, live and worship removes barriers that often prevent women from being screened. Those barriers can include getting time off from work, finding childcare and getting transportation. The MMU supports UT Medical’s outreach goals by providing access to life-saving breast cancer screenings in 21 East Tennessee counties.

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<https://www.utmedical.org/mobile-mammography-unit-locations-and-appointments>





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BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

More Than Cheese

How two friends, two breast cancer journeys, and a shared dream created a community around the table

For Euphoric Cheese Shop owners and best friends Cheri and Amy, breast cancer is part of the story they never expected to tell — but it became part of the story God was writing for them.

When the two opened Euphoric in 2021, Amy had just come through surgery for breast cancer. Six weeks later, Cheri was diagnosed. What began as a difficult and uncertain season opened doors neither of them could have anticipated.

“People began coming into the shop not only to buy cheese, but to check on Cheri, ask how she was doing and offer encouragement,” Amy says. In the midst of a cancer diagnosis, a new business was becoming something much bigger: a place where people connected.

That spirit has continued to shape Euphoric. When the duo opened Sparrow Wine Bar next door, it became a place for people to gather around good food, good wine, and good conversation.

Cheri and Amy have chosen to share their cancer stories openly, believing that good can come from hard things. Their mission is simple: to love everyone who walks through the door. “Whether someone comes in for a favorite cheese, a glass of wine or just to say hello, we hope they leave feeling welcomed, known and cared for,” Cheri says.

This October, that mission continues as Euphoric gives back to Breast Connect — a local organization supporting people in the community affected by breast cancer.

“This October, we’re proud to give back to an organization that does so much for our community.”



“Breast cancer changed our lives but it also showed us the incredible power of community. We’re so grateful to be cancer-free and to be able to use our story to give back.”
 ♥ Amy & Cheri

Best friends Amy and Cheri opened Euphoric Cheese Shop in 2021 and expanded with Sparrow Wine Bar in 2023. The businesses are located in the West End Shopping Center at the intersection of Kingston Pike and Concord Road.



OCTOBER 20-24 10% OF SALES

from both Euphoric Cheese Shop and Sparrow Wine Bar will be donated to Breast Connect

TASTE OF TURKEY CREEK

October 9

Amy will be speaking about her journey at this community event raising funds for Breast Connect

OCTOBER EVENTS

October 22

World of Cheese Class
Pellissippi State - Blount County Campus

October 25

Harvest Fest, Farragut

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CHEESE SHOP

EuphoricCheese.com

sparrow
WINE BAR

SparrowWineBar.com

139 W. End Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37934

2026 Cancer Awareness Event Calendar



October 8
Fit for the Cure — Free Bra Fittings
Dillard's, 7600 Kingston Pike



October 11
Paint a Barn Quilt Square
5:30–8 PM | Cato, 4247 Sam Walton Way



October 24
Pink Dress Run
Presented by Men Wear Pink of the American Cancer Society.
9 AM–1/2 PM | World's Fair Park



October 9
Taste of Turkey Creek
Savor local flavors while supporting Breast Connect, helping provide hope, care, and local breast cancer survivors.
6–9 PM
Pinnacle Turkey Creek



October 11
Making Strides of Founder's Park
Founder's Park at Campbell Station



October 21
Cancer Support Community East Tennessee Fall Luncheon & Silent Auction
11 AM–1 PM | Bridgewater Event Place



October 27
Tile for Tatas
American Mahjong, benefit Breast Connect
11am-2pm / Knoxville Botanical Gardens



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Annual checkups vital to cancer prevention

Annual health checkups are so vital that many insurance providers offer once-yearly wellness visits free of charge to policy holders. It's important for people to get annual physicals even if they feel fit and healthy, as these yearly visits can help uncover issues that may not be producing symptoms. Annual wellness visits also afford adults an opportunity to discuss their lifestyle with their physicians, which can identify areas where changes might be necessary with a goal toward improving long-term health.

Yearly health checkups also provide an opportunity to learn about key screenings, especially those that may detect for cancer. But industry surveys indicate far too many adults aren't taking this vital step. A 2024 survey from the Prevent Cancer Foundation found that 39 percent of surveyed adults had not had a routine medical appointment in the previous 12 months. That's a troubling finding and one that could be more costly than adults realize, as the PCF reports that as many as 50 percent of cancer cases and half of all cancer deaths are preventable. Screening for cancer, a process that often begins with discussions during annual wellness checkups, is a life-saving and typically non-intrusive way to detect the disease at its earliest, most treatable stage, a point in most cancer instances when symptoms are not necessarily present or noticeable.

Annual checkups also offer patients an opportunity to discuss lifestyle changes that can decrease their cancer risk. For example, the American Cancer Society notes that a sedentary lifestyle, a diet lacking in sufficient nutrition and excessive alcohol consumption all can increase a person's cancer risk. Annual wellness visits provide an excellent opportunity for adults to discuss their lifestyle with their physicians, who may recommend some potentially life-saving tweaks that can greatly reduce a person's risk for cancer.

Simple ways to cut cancer risk

Perhaps the most comforting aspect of cancer prevention is that many of the strategies that can reduce instances of the disease are simple:

- **Avoid tobacco.** *The link between tobacco use and cancer has been known for a long time, and the good news is the message touting the importance of avoiding tobacco is working. The American Cancer Society reports that cigarette smoking rates had reached historic lows in 2019. While that's great news, it might not tell the whole story, as consumers now have many other ways to use tobacco, each of which have been linked to cancer. So it's not simply avoiding cigarettes, but also cigars, hookahs, chewing tobacco, vaping products, and more, that is necessary to reduce cancer risk.*
- **Shield your skin from the sun.** The PCF notes that exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays causes the most skin cancers. The WCRFI reports that melanoma of the skin is the thirteenth most common cancer in men and the fifteenth most common cancer in women across the globe. Protecting the skin from the sun is as simple as applying a sunscreen with a minimum sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 and covering up when spending long periods of time in the sun. The PCF urges individuals to avoid tanning beds and protect their skin year-round, including in winter.
- **Utilize fruits and vegetables in your fight against cancer.** *The popularity of plant-based diets is on the rise. In fact, retail sales of plant-based foods in the United States increased by 11 percent in a single year between 2018 and 2019, according to data from the Plant Based Foods Association. A greater reliance on plant-based diets could go a long way toward reducing cancer deaths, as the PCF notes a 2021 study found that three servings of vegetables and two servings of fruit each day reduced the risk of cancer death by 10 percent.*
- **Avoid excessive alcohol consumption.** The PCF notes that alcohol has been linked to cancers of the breast, liver, esophagus, and colon. When consuming alcohol, women are urged to limit their consumption to one drink or fewer each day, while men should limit their consumption to two or fewer alcoholic beverages per day. The science is simple: the more alcohol a person drinks, the greater his or her risk for cancer.

Cancer prevention is a vital component of a healthy lifestyle, and there are many simple ways people can cut their cancer risk.

Can certain foods lower cancer risk?

There is no way to completely prevent a cancer diagnosis, but certain foods may help to reduce your risk for the disease. According to MD Anderson Cancer Center, cancer-fighting foods are plant-based items that are rich in phytochemicals, which also are called phytonutrients. UC Davis Nutrition Department says phytochemicals are bioactive compounds found in vegetables, cereal grains and plant-based beverages like tea. Researchers have found phytochemicals can protect humans from environmental toxins and metabolic processes that can lead to chronic diseases, such as cancer and heart disease. Polyphenols are good examples of phytochemicals.

Health experts recommend packing every meal with healthy and nutritious foods that include plenty of vegetables, whole grains, fruits, and beans. MDACC recommends filling at least two-thirds of a plate with these healthy options. The remaining one-third of the meal should come from lean meat, fish or plant-based proteins and nuts/seeds. It also is important to limit foods that may increase cancer risk, including sugar-sweetened drinks and foods, processed meats, red meat, and alcohol.

When revamping diets to help reduce cancer risk, these heavy hitters should be included:

- Berries
 - Broccoli
 - Brussels sprouts
 - Cauliflower
 - Edamame
 - Eggs or egg substitute
 - Fish
 - Green or white tea
 - Grapes
- Leafy greens
 - Lean chicken
 - Lentils and other legumes/beans
 - Oatmeal
 - Oranges
 - Quinoa
 - Sweet potatoes
 - Tomatoes
 - Whole grains, including brown rice



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