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Chattanooga Times Free Press

VOL. 157 | NO. 175 | \$3.00

TIMESFREEPRESS.COM

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

New courthouse design reveals grand scope



Concept design, details subject to change
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

A rendering shows a 191,000-square-foot courthouse situated on a city block near Vine Street in downtown Chattanooga.

BY JULES FEENEY
STAFF WRITER

Concept drawings of Chattanooga's planned new federal courthouse show a grand structure of nearly 200,000 square feet with a white stone facade and a series of square, multistory, fluted columns that span the sweeping bend of the building's west-facing entrance.

The design appears to align with an executive order from President Donald Trump that directs the federal government to use elements rooted in American tradition that hearken back to the architecture of ancient Rome or Greece, or incorporate

other 20th-century architectural styles like art deco.

The General Services Administration, the agency that oversees most federally owned buildings across the country, granted the Chattanooga Times Free Press exclusive access to the initial renderings ahead of its own scheduled announcement Monday.

Former U.S. District Judge Harry S. "Sandy" Mattice Jr. served as a U.S. district judge from 2005 until his retirement in 2021 and has been involved in the courthouse relocation process for years.

"This courthouse, when completed, will represent the cul-

mination of a struggle that has been carried on by a small band of visionary Chattanooga citizens over a period of more than 30 years," Mattice said in a statement sent by email. "I salute their commitment and perseverance, and I commend the administration in Washington for finally making their dreams a reality. I firmly believe that GSA's site selection and its design of the building that will sit on it will serve as a catalyst for rejuvenation — both culturally and economically — of an area of downtown Chattanooga that has been ignored for too long."

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Cuts lead women in military to fear job limits

BY KONSTANTIN TOROPIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — After Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth cut nine Navy officers, including all the women, from a promotion list, several female officers say they see the unusual intervention as a sign that their careers now have a ceiling and worry for the future generation of female military leaders.

The Navy had selected 31 sailors to promote from the rank of captain to one-star admiral, but Hegseth recently intervened to strike nine people from the list, including three women and two Black men, according to a defense official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss information not permitted to be released publicly.

As a result, the Navy is not promoting a single woman to the one-star admiral rank this year even though women make up about one-quarter of all Navy officers and nearly one-third of the sea service's midgrade ranks, according to military data from 2024.

The Associated Press spoke with eight female Navy officers of varying ranks and time in service after Hegseth's cuts, which were reported earlier by The New York Times, became public. They spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of retribution from their superiors.

The more junior officers said they saw the development as a sign that their careers would become politicized if they rose too far in the ranks, and some said they felt they now had a limit on how far they could be promoted. Some said it made them feel less valued within the military and wondered whether that wasn't part of the intent.

The Pentagon has not offered any rationale on why the women, or any of the other six people, were removed from the promotion list.

PENTAGON STATEMENT

Sean Parnell, the Pentagon's top spokesperson, said on social media this week that

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STAFF PHOTO BY PATRICK MACCOON

Spanish national team 18-year-old sensation Lamine Yamal signs autographs for fans at Saturday's community training session at Baylor School. The practice was the first for Spain at its home base for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

'The ultimate exposure'

World's brightest soccer stars arrive for practice at Baylor School campus

BY PATRICK MACCOON
STAFF WRITER

Lately, in the small town of Aviles, Spain, as Kate Price makes her way around the port city where she is studying abroad at Colegio San Fernando, she is stopped by locals who recognize the Bay-

Inside

Feds ban drones from flying downtown during team visit, warn of heavy fines, **B1**

lor School emblem on some of her shirts.

While Baylor has maintained a global reach for decades, one of the country's most prestigious high schools is now gaining worldwide attention as the Spanish national soccer team trains on its campus for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

On Saturday evening, Spain began the first of 12 training sessions the team has scheduled at Baylor as it hopes to make a memorable run to its second World Cup title, its first since 2010.

"Several times Kate has been told how cool it is that she is from the school where the Spanish national team is training," said Baylor athletic director Mark Price, whose daughter is a rising junior and plays soccer at Baylor. "Being a World Cup host is the ultimate exposure for our school."

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18-year-old star makes young fans' dreams come true

BY PATRICK MACCOON
STAFF WRITER

Jackson Ford was shaking soon after Spanish national team 18-year-old sensation Lamine Yamal signed Ford's sports card at the end of Saturday's community training session at Baylor.

Yamal showed why he is one of soccer's brightest talents as he signed autographs after Spain had finished its first official training session at its home base in Chattanooga in advance of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

"Crazy. This is absolutely crazy," Ford said. "I have been

collecting Lamine's cards for three years, and I am glad I brought my card with me and took it out of the case for him to sign. Just meeting him was so surreal. This is the guy I watch all the time and the guy I have admired and looked up to. To have him right in front of me signing my card was so insane.

"Lamine is the next goat," Ford continued, using an acronym for "greatest of all time."

"I think the show is Lamine Yamal's already," Ford said. "I think the World Cup will be in a big way the Lamine Yamal show."

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STAFF PHOTO BY PATRICK MACCOON

From left, brothers Austin and Spencer Bradley display their signed Spanish flags that Lamine Yamal and other superstars for the national team signed during Saturday's community training session at Baylor School.



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TODAY



HIGH **85**
LOW **69**
Scattered rain possible

MONDAY



HIGH **83**
LOW **69**
Increased chance of rain

See **B8** for full weather reports