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Project may clash with Whataburger

Mayor concerned about U.S. 31 widening conflict

Jay Powell
Columbia Daily Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Spring Hill continues to be a site for what could be the next Whataburger location. The location, if approved, would be located off Belshire Village Drive, a site

that has remained vacant for several years. The burger franchise is currently seeking approval for a site plan conversion of a former drive-thru. The Texas-based fast-food chain’s final site plans were first proposed in 2022, which would have been located at a former Burger King adjacent to Publix and Truist bank, though Whataburger chose not to move forward at the site. The new Belshire Village site formerly operated as a KFC. The proposed Whataburger has been

discussed by the Spring Hill planning commission several times, this time being met with concerns about the property’s potential development, and how the potential widening of U.S. Highway 31 could cause issues with parking. Spring Hill Mayor Matt Fitterer addressed how the proposed restaurant could conflict with the Tennessee Department of Transportation’s project to widen U.S. Highway 31, and how that project could potentially eliminate much of the Whataburger’s parking lot.

“Their right-of-way acquisitions, their easements and their retaining walls basically take over all of the eastern border and northern border parking lot stalls,” Fitterer said. “It is very foreseeable that in the not-too-distant future TDOT is going to come in and take away a majority of your parking. I would be extremely cautious in moving forward with this plan.” According to a Spring Hill staff

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Opera singer J’Nai Bridges performs the song “Everything Hurts” with the Nashville Symphony on Oct. 25 at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center. ALAN POIZNER/FOR THE TENNESSEAN

Capturing balance of ‘mourning and hope’

Gorman poem finds new life in debut at Nashville Symphony

Rachel Wegner
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

As composer Brian Field watched the news spread about a school shooting that left 19 children and two teachers dead in Uvalde, Texas in 2022, his mind went back to another tragedy that rocked his own community a decade earlier. “I live just a few towns over from Newtown, Connecticut,” he said. A shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary there left 20 children and six adults dead in 2012. Also deeply moved by the Uvalde shooting, world-renowned poet and activist Amanda Gorman wrote “Hymn for the Hurting” in the months that followed. The poem captures the grief and chaos of the shooting and its

fallout, but also offers hope and a call for change. That call resonated with Fields and inspired him to adapt Gorman’s poem into a song for an orchestra and a vocalist. “I was really struck by its emotional honesty and how it captured the delicate balance between mourning and hope, which I’ve tried to translate into music,” Field said. More than three years later, that song came to life on the Nashville Symphony stage as it debuted “Everything Hurts,” marking the first time Gorman’s work has been set to music. Grammy-winning mezzo-soprano and opera singer J’Nai Bridges joined the symphony on Oct. 24-25 to perform the song, which was also

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Changes to figure skating program concern parents

Austin Hornbostel
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

When the Cooper family made the move to Middle Tennessee several years ago, figure skating was a big reason why. Patty Cooper’s 16-year-old daughter has skated for most of her life, starting at just age 5 while the family lived on the East Coast. Nashville was appealing because of its youth skating scene, including a competitive skating club affiliated with Olympic champion Scott Hamilton. The family decided to join Hamilton’s club and work with a private coach to prepare for the rigor of traveling competition. But recently, things have changed. In late May, Nashville Skating Academy and Total Package Hockey announced they’d be partnering to assume responsibility for figure skating programming previously managed by the Nashville Predators at the team’s Ford Ice Centers in Antioch and Bellevue. The new private organization would take on a host of programs, from learn to skate curriculum run by the Scott Hamilton Skating Academy to advanced figure skating instruction.

“This partnership is about more than skating,” Pat O’Neill, the executive director of Total Package Hockey Nashville, said in a news release announcing the change back in May. “It’s about creating a place where kids and individuals in our community can grow, develop and exceed what they thought was possible — on and off the ice.” Some parents, however, said this came as a surprise. The change has resulted in plenty of frustration regarding where their kids can practice, and with whom, in a region they said is short on ice in the first place. Cooper said it has even affected kids like hers who worked with a private coach who wasn’t affiliated with either of the private organizations that now run the show. “They saw an opportunity to

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