



Column: TN fans should be baffled with Vol's QB situation

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U.S. Sen. Bill Hagerty speaks alongside U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Scott Turner after a roundtable event on opportunity zones at the Tennessee Tower in Nashville on Aug. 19.

VIVIAN JONES/THE TENNESSEAN

'Nuclear center of the universe'

Leaders praise TN for energy dominance

Vivian Jones
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Tennessee is winning a national race to nuclear energy dominance, according to a panel of nuclear experts facilitated by U.S. Sen. Bill Hagerty at the Imagine IF summit at Belmont University on Oct. 5.

"We are the nuclear center of the universe," said Hash Hashemian, CEO of Knoxville-based nuclear engineering firm AMS Corporation, of Tennessee's nuclear innovation corridor around Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

While 10 states are pursuing similar paths, Tennessee has come out as the leading nuclear energy producer in the country, Hashemian said.

Hagerty spoke with Hashemian and National Nuclear Security Administration Director Brandon Williams at the Imagine IF summit, a two-day conference exploring where AI, energy infrastructure, Bitcoin and open-source technology intersect.

Their conversation ranged from the global artificial intelligence arms race to nuclear

"We're moving into another age. And making sure that America remains at the forefront of this with our innovators, with our technology capacity, I think it would be a huge mistake to let that pass us by. And my colleagues realize that too."

U.S. Sen. Bill Hagerty

energy production and alternative energy sources.

Last week, Hagerty said, he spoke with Jensen Huang of AI giant Nvidia about implementing safety guardrails for artificial intelligence.

"Some are concerned that AI is evolving so rapidly that it could get in front of us," Hagerty said. "Jensen articulated very clearly that slowing it down is not an option because of the competitive dynamic that exists between ourselves and China."

He said proposals like those from Vermont independent Sen. Bernie Sanders to put a moratorium on AI is a "fringe position."

"I think there is a strong bipartisan realization we need to do something," Hagerty said.

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Leaders battle to answer for risks of AI

Officials in NYC request testimony on tech safety

Greta Reich
USA TODAY

Leaders from OpenAI, Meta, Anthropic and Google said they could not quantify the risks imposed by artificial intelligence in the worst-case catastrophic scenario at a New York City Council hearing about AI on Oct. 5.

"I don't know. I also don't think it matters whether it's 1% or 10% or 20% chance that something catastrophic will go wrong. None of these levels is remotely acceptable," Morgan Dwyer, OpenAI head of policy development and operation, said in response to Council Speaker Julie Menin's question of how to quantify risk.

Menin said she was "incredulous at that answer" and called it "flippant, at best," asking how the companies can know that the product is safe if they can't measure potential risk.

Shane Cahill, Meta director of AI policy and legislation; Alice Friend, Google global director of AI and emergency policy; and Logan Graham, a leader at Anthropic, also testified during the hearing.

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Days after failed execution, Pike awake, speaking

Evan Mealins
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Christa Pike is conscious and speaking after surviving the state's attempt to execute her, her attorneys said in an emailed statement sent Oct. 6.

"Against all odds, Christa Pike is conscious, speaking, and continues to receive critical medical care," said attorneys Randy Spivey and Kelly Gleason from the Tennessee Office of the Post Conviction Defender, and Stephen Ferrell and Luke Ihnen from Federal Defender Services of Eastern Tennessee. "Despite the severe damage she endured to her arms, she is still handcuffed and shackled to the bed. Her recovery is medically unprecedented. Her prognosis remains unclear but, at a minimum, we expect a long recovery."

The Tennessee Department of Correction tried to

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More inside

Before execution, Christa Pike ate and drank normally. **2A**

Pike's lawyers faced communication hurdles as execution failed. **3A**



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