$1.952 million proposed for MBL Park work in FY ’23

TAMMY CHEEK
lcheek@farragutpress.com

Potential park, road, Town Hall and Campbell Sta- tion Inn improvements led Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen’s discussions as it continued its bud- get process during a workshop on Capital Investment Programs Thursday, March 10.

Among the Parks & Recreation fiscal year 2023 budget proposals is Mayor Bob Leonard Park recon- struction, $1.30 million, and MBL Park Field 2 turf replacement, $600,000.

business
“We treat people like we want to be treated. We want our customers to be our friends, and that is how we do business.”

- Kelly Horn, a business owner whose passion for all aspects of his work has translated internationally.

(Read story on page 6A)

sports
“I felt like our kids did a great job just settling in throughout the game. It was kind of a heavy-weight light fight, back and forth.”

- Justin Underwood, whose team beat a familiar foe in the biggest game of the season — earning a Gold Ball trophy (left). (Story, more photos start on page 1B)

En’Tyce’ing snowy slide

Tyce Lustbade was among several youngsters who took advantage of hilly terrain and sledding opportunities in McFee Park after the region’s surprise accumulating snowfall Saturday, March 12. Between 6 and 9 inches of the white stuff was record-ed and sledding opportunities in McFee Park after the region’s surprise accumulating snowfall Saturday, March 12.

Farragut High School graduate Dr. Russ Frazier currently is in war-torn Ukraine doing what he does best — helping save lives.

As the invasion has continued, a more recent communication noted, “We...”

- Russ Frazier

In Ukraine with medical unit, H-Valley’s Frazier puts duty above safety in war zone

MICHICLE HOLLENHEAD
mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

Farragut High School graduate Dr. Russ Frazier currently is in war-torn Ukraine doing what he does best — helping save lives.

In one town, an American flag patch was spotted on our clothing. An older gentleman approached us tearfully, hugged us, white simply saying, “Amери- can! Thank you!” and walked away.

East Tennesseans need to know that Ukraine may be 4,000 miles from home, but the land consists of proud citizens with a desire to be free. That is no different than Knoxville, Tennessee.

“East Tennesseans need to know that Ukraine may be 4,000 miles from home, but the land consists of proud citizens with a desire to be free. That is no different than Knoxville, Tennessee. Everyone’s prayers are deeply felt and appreciated.”

- Russ Frazier, on the positive U.S. medical relief impact in Ukraine

Russ: rescue despite danger

In Ukraine with medical unit, H-Valley’s Frazier puts duty above safety in war zone

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KCSO reports

At 5:03 a.m., Thursday, March 11, Knox County Sheriff Officers were dispatched to a North Campbell Station Road address in reference to a male passed out behind the wheel of a running vehicle. Complainant advised the 2006 Chevrolet Impala was parked in the parking lot of Mellow Mushroom with front-end damage. The vehicle had a flat front passenger-side tire, as well as damage to the front passenger headlight and bumper, consistent with the vehicle having been wrecked. Vehicle was parked with its front-end taking two parking spots and the back end hanging out into the area where cars would be driving. As officer approached the vehicle, “the (eventual arrestee) was slumped over in the driver’s seat with his head on the center console. The vehicle was running with the key in the ignition at this time,” the report stated. “I opened the door of the vehicle in order to check on the welfare of (eventual arrestee). Upon opening the door, I immediately detected a strong odor of alcohol coming from the vehicle.” Officer removed the key from the ignition for officer safety. Eventual arrestee did not immediately respond to officer’s attempt to wake him, but finally did awaken. He was extremely disoriented and his speech was slurred, and he kept attempting to tell officers he lived just a short distance down the road. Eventual arrestee was unsteady on his feet. “I also observed a strong odor of alcohol upon his breath … I believed (him) to be under the influence of alcohol. Eventual arrestee refused to take Standardized Field Sobriety Tests. He was taken into custody without incident. Once in custody, he agreed to supply a blood sample.

Schools’ federal mask mandate lifted upon return from ‘Break’

While Farragut and other Knox County students are enjoying this week of Spring Break, when they return to classes Monday, March 21, those wishing to do so will be mask-free.

In an announcement released Monday, March 14, Superintendent Bob Thomas stated, “U.S. District Judge Ronnie Greer has granted the joint motion to lift the mask mandate while the Board of Education and the plaintiffs are undergoing the mediation process. “This means that when students and staff return to school on Monday, March 21, masks will not be required, until further notice,” he added. “Students and staff may still wear a mask if they choose.” Knox County Schools has been under a federal mask mandate since September, even though Knox County’s Board of Education had voted to begin the year as “mask-optional” for students and staff.

‘Craftsmen of Yesterday’ exhibit

Farragut Museum guests Gita Jones, left, and Avoine Williamson visit a new exhibit, “Craftsmen of Yesterday,” which is being featured prominently inside Farragut Town Hall, and will be on display through July 17. The exhibit features farm equipment and tools from the museum’s permanent collection. “Many visitors do not realize that as late as the early ’70s, the Farragut area was a spreading rural community dotted with beautiful farmhouses,” said Julia Barham, Town historic resources coordinator, adding, “This exhibit features artifacts related to farming in the area, photographs of barns and landmarks and information on their original location.” The previous exhibit was the depiction of Admiral David Glasgow Farragut’s life on a U.S. Navy ship.
Frazier in Ukraine

From page 1A

are staying packed up at all times now, in case of need to urgently evacuate, including taking armor and helmets everywhere,” while another stated, “Biggest ongoing issue is the logjam at the border. Millions of dollars in designated medical equipment is backed up at Poland-Ukraine border. Hundreds are in line to receive care.”

Although it is incredibly scary to watch someone you love go headfirst into chaos, I understand, and so do these brave volunteers, that nothing compares to the fear and trauma of the people that they are setting out to help,” Kim said. “Our family has been so inspired by the hope and the honor shown by the Ukrainian people and their leaders.

“When you are called to use your gifts, you use them, despite the danger, and that’s what my husband and this team are doing,” she added.

While Frazier did not hesitate when contacted by GSMSG founder Dr. Aaron Epstein about the Ukraine mission, he did talk it over with his family first.

This is not the first time Frazier has responded to the call from GSMSG, as he has worked with the organization for several years, but his wife said it is the first time under dangerous war-raging circumstances.

“Every assignment has been different,” she said. “In Sweden they were imbedded with their military to provide emergency field care and surgical training. In Sierra Leone and Guyana, surgical training. In Sierra Leone and Guyana, military to provide emergency field care and training when the strength of ISIS peaked. This unique combination of medical expertise and the ability to operate in austere settings allows GSMSG to rapidly bring unparalleled services to some of the harshest environments and serve populations in dire need.”

Epstein was contacted by officials within the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense shortly after the country was invaded by Russian forces three weeks ago, requesting direct medical care and training for both their military and citizens.

“Translating the United States Military Combat Care Course and making it public was key to the coordination of this effort,” Epstein said.

“The needs of the Ukrainian people and military are exactly why GSMSG exists, an immediate need for advanced medical care and training in austere environment regardless of government involvement.”

In addition to praying for the mission, those wishing to support GSMSG may visit https://www.gsmsg.org/ukrainiantccc.

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Frazier is one of more than 1,000 licensed medical experts, along with U.S. Special operations veterans and other key volunteers from medical institutions around the world, who make up the non-profit non-government GSMSG, which is funded entirely through donations.

GSMSG background

In a press release, Epstein said he created the organization in 2015 “in response to the absence of conflict casualty care and training when the strength of ISIS peaked. This unique combination of medical expertise and the ability to operate in austere settings allows GSMSG to rapidly bring unparalleled services to some of the harshest environments and serve populations in dire need.”

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**Farragut ‘in a very sound financial condition’**

With the annual Board of Mayor and Aldermen budget retrofit behind us, the Town of Farragut moves full steam ahead to approve our fiscal year 2022-23 budget by the end of next month.

For fiscal year 2022-23, revenue is projected to be approximately $83.5 million. Of our annual operating budget is projected to be about $85.5 million. This projected number will be updated at upcoming board and public hearings. To help ensure the Town’s financial health, the Mayoral and Aldermen will vote on the changes “without actually listening to those items.”

**Budget, FY 2023**

The fiscal year 2023 budget presented today, so we still have plenty on our list of things we’re pre-emptively doing to do even more in 2023, continues to be planned for greenways and general government projects. Breaking it down even further, we have included $22.7 million in projects and $3.5 million in engineering projects, among others.

“Of course, most of those are grant opportunities for us,” said Mayor Cowperthwaite. “Those are new on General Fund obligations as we put out the CIP, as well as grant opportunities in right at $17 million over the next six years,” he added.

They also approve a new construction of a community building for the Town Hall complex, a construction cost list at about $22.5 million. FY 2023 should be approved.

“This park behind us has been approved for approximately 2.5 million,” Smoak said. He noted during the 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. hours, families have been using the Town Hall recreation center, but on “weekends, there’s a different story.”

Other projects proposed for funding in FY 2023 include: a new Campbell Station Inn Northshore Elementary School gymnasium, and 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, in Hardin Valley Middle School library, and 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, in Northshore Elementary School gymnasium.

Opportunities to participate in the process virtually also are available. Anyone interested can attend a virtual workshop at Town, Tuesday, March 29, at 10 a.m. For more information, contact the project team at contact@advancemk.com or visit advancemk.com.

**KSOS Reports**

**At 5:30 a.m., March 11,** the eventual arrestee was driving westbound on Kings-Top Pike, where he was un-able to maintain his lane of travel, with tires hitting both Barber Creek and the red-light. Officer began the process of stopping the vehicle at the Knox County Sheriff’s Office reported noticing the driver had “red and glassy eyes, and once he exited his vehicle he was unsteady on his feet.”

Other input for “Anthem” passed poorly on all tests. During the walk the turn and touch balance test to stand in the proper manner while walking by instructions and was unable to touch his nose. “Doing the one leg stand, he used his arm for balance and started to fall too soon,” the report further stated.

He was taken into custody, booked into the jail for testing, so he was trans-ported to the Knox County Medical Center, where he provided a blood sample. After the sample was procured, he was transported to Roger D. Wilson Detention Facility for processing.

**At 11 a.m., Monday, March 13,** a complaint called KCSO Teleserve Unit to report the theft of her cat-alytic converter from a Jame- son’s Chevrolet undergarment. Complaint advised between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. that day, someone cut the catalytic con-verter from her vehicle and took it. Complainant states she was shopping at a store located near this location, but is not sure if there are security cameras at this location, but is not sure if there are security cameras at this location.

For more information, contact the project team at contact@advancemk.com or visit advancemk.com.
IT’S ALWAYS COOL TO PLAY AT COOL SPORTS!

LEARN TO SKATE

Learn to Skate Classes:
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• Price $225
• An entire set of custom fit hockey gear included
• Start date March 22nd
Contact Mike at Mcraigen@coolsportstn.com
Kelly Hamm's passion and knowledge of cycling is clearly summed up in the very name of his business.

“I thought about it for years — what kind of name would I want?” said the owner of Echelon Bicycles, 138 West End Ave. in Farragut. “I wanted it to be cool word — not just my name — but something that was really descriptive.”

Finally uttered it out loud, and knew that was it. While Echelon connotes a certain level of authority or clout, it also known as a type of formation that might occur under specifically tenuous circumstances.

“When Echelons form, it breaks up the races and it stops people,” Hamm said with a smile.

For the last nine years Hamm has done just that by creating a specialized and unique bicycle shop, providing sales, repairs, consignment services and even a ‘Tap Room’ to peddle bikes through both before and after rides Hamm associates frequently.

Despite COVID-19, “Over the last 10 to 20 years, the riding scene has really exploded,” Hamm said. “It has been revolutionary in a lot of places, and it has certainly grown exponentially from there.”

Though admitting “group rides have been disrupted a bit, along with most other aspects of the business, the last two years,” the Echelon owner added, “This Spring should be a big step back toward normal.”

“Traffic patterns have changed and getting out during rush hour would be much less of an issue if we got out on a little further west, maybe Melton Hill Dam. Saturday rides from the shop won’t change, but weekday rides of the shop won’t change, but weekday rides of the shop will need to be a little bit earlier.”

Starting back carefully, “For now, we’re going to resume these Wednesday rides and see how it goes before making the call on Thursday,” Hamm said.

Opening his own shop was a long-held dream for Hamm and his wife, Tanya Hamm, who live about a mile from the West End Road Business Center. “It was making plans to fully reopen the Echelon Tap Room in the near future.”

“We are looking at opening seven days a week, and my plan is to be working behind the bar,” Hamm said, noting the need for an additional revenue stream as ongoing global supply chain issues have impact on the availability of parts and supplies — but has not diminished his customer base.

“We do a good job and have a great reputation,” he added. “We treat people like we want to be treated. We want our customers to be our friends, and that is how we do business.”

Tour de France

While he enjoys riding and pushing himself, Hamm has never been a professional racer, yet he did follow on the trail of some of the top pros — in the gold standard of worldwide bike racing — in 2009.

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“A native of Somerset, Ken-

Hamm began riding mountain bikes in the late 1980s as a teenager.

“There are not a lot of moun- tain bike trails in that part of Tennessee,” he said, noting when he moved to the Knox- ville area in 2000 he discovered East Tennessees was “bicycle-riding heaven.”

“This part of the country, with the long riding season, the lakes, mountains, the trails — you couldn’t ask for a much prettier place to ride, and I certainly haven’t been any place I’d rather live,” he added. “We really are blessed.”

Kelly Hamm, Echelon Bicycles owner and long-time rider and enthusiast, is pictured displaying his bike racing — in 2009.

He also traveled to Sedona, Arizona, for a week-long bik- ing trip last week.

Kentucky to Farragut

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Kentucky to Farragut

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1234 Bob Kirby Rd. 8.02 acres in the heart of West Knoxville! 3-bedroom 2-bath with a detached 2-car garage plus 2-car carport. Eat in kitchen with new counter tops and floors. Formal dining room. Hardwood in the living room with a fireplace. Updated baths. Pedestal sink in hall bath. New carpet and paint in two bedrooms. Master bedroom on main with the bathroom with shower on suite. Unfinished basements with great potential to be finished or for storage. Approximately year-old gas furnace. Convenient to Cedar Bluff, Webb, CAK, Tale schools as well as Catholic High School. Dir: Middlebrook Pike to Bob Kirby to house on left past big curve to the left just before Chisney Hill Ln. $649,500

No doubt Dawgs

Memorable post-tourney quotes from the 2021-22 Class 4A state champ Bearden Lady Bulldogs (35-3) after a 52-34 win against rival Farragut in MTSU’s Murphy Center Saturday evening, March 12:

"Right now it just feels like we’re on top of the world," said Jennifer Sullivan, senior guard and 2022 Class 4A Tennessee Miss Basketball.

"We’ve been at it since fifth-grade ... and to finish (as state champ) just means everything," said Bailey Burgess, a senior guard and All-State Tournament honoree who fought back tears.

"Everything we went through as a team, it’s all worth it for this moment right here," said Avery Treadwell, junior post and 4A State Tournament MVP.

Despite a 52-34 loss to rival Bearden in the Division I-Class 4A state title game Saturday evening, March 12, in Middle Tennessee State University’s Murphy Center, the 2021-22 Farragut Lady Admirals finished as state runner-up (28-9) while also making program history by earning its first state tourney trip.

Jason Mayfield’s girls enjoyed commanding wins against Rossview (27-4) in the quarterfinals, 50-38, Wednesday, March 9, before taking down Cookeville (32-2) in the semifinals 65-53 Friday, March 11.

Memorable post-tourney quotes:

"Holding Bearden to 22 first-half points, "Our girls, really more than any team I’ve ever had, bought into that defensive mentality. ... This is a special group," head coach Mayfield said.

"... I believed we were going to get here and we were going to have this opportunity," said Avery “Ace” Strickland, who joined teammates Ashlyn Sheridan and Annalise Bishop on the All-State Tournament team.
Senior quartet goes out tops in TN for Bearden

Burgess ‘3’s spark pull-away from Farragut for title

ALAN SLOAN
Editor@FarragutPress.com

MURFREESBORO — If you know anything about East Tennessee high school girls basketball, you know about Bearden Lady Bulldogs dominance.

Well, the entire state got the message during the 2022 TSSAA Class 4A State Tournament in Murphy Center on the MTSU campus, as two Lady Dawgs state tourney blowouts led to the title game versus rival Farragut Saturday evening, March 12.

Mission accomplished, in convincing fashion yet again, after a 52-34 win against the Lady Admirals (28-9) — Bearden’s fifth versus FHS this season to finish with a 35-3 record.

However, “sisterhood” has its role in the Bearden success story. “It’s a big family; it’s like sisterhood. You trust your sisters to do whatever they can to help the team,” said Emily Gonzalez, senior guard and All-State Tournament honoree.

Avery Treadwell, 6-foot-3 post and 4A State Tourney MVP, scored 16 games high to fuel the Dawgs.

With BHS head coach Justin Underwood watching closely in the background, Bearden senior guard Jennifer Sullivan — recently named 2022 Tennessee Class 4A Miss Basketball — drives on Farragut senior wing Avery “Ace” Strickland during this Division I Class 4A state title game.

See STATE CHAMPS on Page 3B

As we March into Spring here are a few Specials!

• New offering Semaglutide (Wegovy) injections for weight loss
  • All supplements 10% off
  • Purchase 40+ units of Xeomin get $50 off
  • Amp it up with vitamin injections! Add B-12 for ONLY $5
  • Do you have ALL(ergan) points that you need to redeem? We are a preferred ALL(ergan) provider!
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By mail, send to: farragutpress AR Clerk, ATTN: Carolyn Reid, 11863 Kingston Pike, Farragut, TN 37934.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.
State champs

From page 2B

Bailey Burgoss, senior guard and yet another All-State Tournament honoree, nailed three second-quarter three-pointers to help Bearden overcome a cold-shooting first half.

“In the first half we were kind of slow on offense, so I just knew I had to pick it up and hit shots when I was open,” said Burgoss, who scored a game-high 15.

However, while holding Farragut (28-9) to just 14 first-half points and leading 22-14 at the break — I thought tonight they did a fantastic job holding a very good offensive team.

Strong run

From page 2B

history — they went and beat a 27-3 team, Rossview, and a 32-1 team, Cookeville, by 12 points each, to earn a Silver Ball trophy as Class 4A state runner-up after reaching the championship game Saturday evening, March 12, in MTSU’s Murphy Center.

Starting senior wing Avery “Ace” Strickland again cranked up two big games, starting with 17 points and seven rebounds against Rossview in a 50-38 state quarterfinal win Wednesday, March 9.

She then came back even stronger offensively, scoring 31 against the CHS Lady Cavaliers (nine rebounds) to lead Farragut’s 65-53 victory. Ace scored 14 against Bearden.

“This has been our goal, all of us (seniors),” senior wing Ashley Sheridan said, fighting back tears. “Just the fact that we got here and we did it together just means the world to me.”

Senior wing Keeleigh Rogers not only scored 10 in the quarterfinal and 11 in the semis — she also had eight rebounds and two blocks against Rossview, then grabbed three steals against the Lady Cavs.

As for a most memorable state moment, “Probably the first game against Rossview,” Rogers said. “Nobody thought we would get to state.”

Annalise Bishop, junior All-State Tournament point guard, scored 13 against Cookeville while also nailing three key 3-pointers versus the Lady Bulldogs. “Annalise really stepped up in this tournament,” Lady Admirals head coach Jason Mayfield said.

McCall Willis, starting senior post, grabbed six rebounds against Cookeville. “We knew we were going to be here, but no one else did,” she said.

While pulling down six rebounds in each of the first two state games, Sheridan scored 11 versus Bearden and eight against Rossview.

Leading 36-27 after three quarters, the BHS girls held a player-only meeting. “We were kind of getting together and saying ‘eight more minutes,’ like for everything we’ve worked for,” Sullivan said.

What followed was an 8-0 run to begin the fourth quarter to lead 44-27 with 4:54 to play.

“I think after that, that swing, we were kind of knowing we did it,” Sullivan said. “I think Bailey and me, before the quarter was even over, we started to get emotional.

“I was just thinking back on the two other trips we’ve been to state and just hadn’t been able to complete it,” she added.

Maddie Brillhart, Bearden senior wing, scored eight in her final Lady Doris game.

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(Right) Postgame joy was expressed by BHS players including, from left, Amanda Parker, Maddie Brillhart (23), Bailey Burgess (32) and Britney Murphy (14).

Farragut All-State Tournament honorees, from left, are senior wing Ashley Sheridan, junior guard Annalise Bishop and senior wing Avery “Ace” Strickland.
‘Might be the best boys squad I’ve had:’ Allison on his Farragut track & field team

Mario Matta, Farragut boys track and field team senior, fires the shot put during East Tennessee Jamboree, which featured 32 teams at FHS’s Bill Parker Track Saturday, March 5.

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

It might be a special Farragut boys team that hosted East Tennessee Track & Field Jamboree Saturday, March 5, at Bill Parker Track. The Ads were among 32 schools competing—the largest ever in this event’s history.

“This might be the best boys squad I’ve had in my five years here,” FHS head coach Chris Allison said.

“We have senior Tyler Ebbert (800-meters) and sophomore Braden Ebbert (2-mile) that both qualified for indoor New Balance Nationals that started their campaign off great in the indoor season,” Allison added. “It’s going to be great when they both start their outdoor campaign season after spring break.

“Our throws are looking very strong with seniors Nathan Reczek and Mason Collins and freshman Bryce Thompson, who’s set a freshman record in the shot put already. He broke the indoor school record and held it for two weeks until Mason Collins reset it at the Louisville Indoor Classic.”

Allison said he originally thought boys pole vault might be “an area where we would need a little rebuilding.

“But after sending a few athletes over to that area, it’s looking to be taking off with sophomore Julian Gorofski leading the way, and with seniors Brett Hollenay and freshman Ash Hambrick, who set a freshman record of 11-feet,” he added.

“Sprints seem to be coming together with seniors Schumann Xie and Zachary Keasing. One surprise we had was junior Jacob Farhat, in his first year of track, who is going to be a great addition to the program. He placed fourth in the 400 March 5 running 52 seconds.”

As for distances and middle-distance, “They are looking strong, led by junior Trevor Cogglin.” Allison said. “They are already setting (personal records) and they haven’t even started the official season. We have up to six or eight boys that we can spread out just like the girls to keep them somewhat fresh for their primary events.”

“Our coaches are doing a great job in their areas with the program,” he added.

While all four of these Farragut runners (white tops) in the 1600-meter run set career personal-bests times, sophomore Harrison Cunningham, second from left, captured third place; junior Trevor Cogglin, far right, finished fourth, with senior Jake Radtke, second from right, claiming fifth and junior Riley Hanson eighth.

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Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®
FPS dresses up, dresses out for Reading week

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut Primary School’s students donned their favorite book character costumes, enjoyed reading Dr. Seuss and other books and had some “Green Eggs and Ham” to commemorate Dr. Seuss’ birthday Wednesday, March 2, during Read Across America week, among the week’s full slate of activities.

“This week we have read ‘Green Eggs and Ham,’ ‘Oh the Places you will Go,’ ‘Happy Birthday to You,’ ‘Cat and the Hat’ and ‘Diffendoofer,’” FPS first-grade teacher Danielle Sanchez said.

While students dressed as their favorite characters, even their teachers took part. Sanchez and fellow first-grade teacher Brooke Maner dressed as Mercy Watson and Eugenia Linoleum, characters in the Mercy Watson series.

“Also, each of our students received Dr. Seuss bookmarks, Dr. Seuss erasers, Dr. Seuss crayons and rubber ‘bendable pencils,’” Sanchez said. “We have dressed in all green, had Crazy Hair Sock Day, Favorite College Day and FPS Spirit Day.”

During Read Across America Week, “we’ve had a special book every day,” kindergarten teacher Christy Raines said. Friday, March 4, the class celebrated Hooray for “Diffendoofer” Day commemorating one of Seuss’ books he wrote later on in life. “(March 3) was School Spirit Day, and ‘(Diffendoofer)’ is about Diffendoofer School,” Raines added. “(In the book) teachers are very unusual and teach some unusual things, but most of all, (Above) Farragut Primary School teachers and staff are dressed for Read Across America Week. From left, Molly Davis, Deidra Ward, Wendie Lemersise, Mary Catherine Adams, Heather Webb, Jennifer Gornowich, Claudia Sanchez and Elizabeth Stewart as “The Crayon Box That Talked.”

UT-FPS Field Day ‘Fun’ set

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD
mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

Farragut Primary School’s Parent Teacher Organization once again is hosting the all-inclusive Fun-Tastic Field Day in conjunction with the University of Tennessee Therapeutic Recreation and Experiential Education Team.

The event, which is open to pre-kindergarten students through high school seniors, will take place from 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday, March 26, on the grounds of FPS, 509 N. Campbell Station Road.

“This free event is intended for youth with and without disabilities, as everyone can participate in Field Day together,” an FPS-UT press release stated. Adaptive equipment will be provided for this event.

CUMC Purse Auction nets $1,800+ for charity

(Left) Becky Bishop, president of Concord United Methodist Women, solicits bids during the organization’s Second Annual Purse Auction Saturday, March 5, which raised more than $1,800 for Focus Ministries. At least two dozen ladies, including (below) Gwen Parrish, left, and her daughter, Beth Weissemiller, attended the event.

(Left) FPS students Quinn Wolf and Johnathan Kissiah with blue Jell-O, as was Graham Biedermann (above). (Above) Far- ragut Primary School teachers and staff are dressed for Read Across America Week. From left, Molly Davis, Deidra Ward, Wendie Lemersise, Mary Catherine Adams, Heather Webb, Jennifer Gornowich, Claudia Sanchez and Elizabeth Stewart as “The Crayon Box That Talked.”

(Left) FPS students Quinn Wolf and Johnathan Kissiah with blue Jell-O, as was Graham Biedermann (above).
FARRAGUT PRIMARY SCHOOL
Celebrates ‘Read America’

Farragut Primary School was among many celebrating Dr. Seuss’ birthday (Wednesday, March 2) along with books in general during Read Across America Week Feb. 28–March 4. Teachers, staff and students dressed up as favorite book characters, ate special snacks and focused on the many fun aspects of reading, as shown in these photos, which were submitted unless otherwise noted.

(See related story and photo beginning on Page 5B).

Photos 4 through 8 by Michelle Hollenhead — others submitted

1. From left, Seneca Harris, Ingrid Salter and Adelyn Hawk, all from Jessica Stephen’s first-grade class.
2. Mason Hawe, left, with Stephens.
3. From Danielle Sanchez’s first-grade class are Hank Buck, left, and Barrett Najmola.
4. FPS bookkeeper Keely Formont with students from Hannah Scott’s kindergarten class: from left are Annelyse Causer, Charlie Anderson and Tajay Mathymmonds.
5. Students from Laura Proffitt’s kindergarten class include, from left, Henry Munson, Katrina Wiegel, Reagan Smith and Louisa Howard.
6. FPS assistant principal Dr. Anne Riley is pictured with kindergarten students, from left, Rhys Finkins, Bristol Klicka and Jay Rawlings.
7. Kindergarten students from Proffitt’s class include, from left, Adharv Kuruganti, James Langlois, Pierce McManus, Asher Adelman, Dominic Ciapp and Leia Andrews.
8. Kindergarten students from Proffitt’s class include, from left, Scarlett Tussburg, Camille Bowers, Alec Feldman and Mia Peeples.
9. First-graders from Sanchez’s class include, from left, Abigail Brown, Allison Ordine, Madison Ordine, Levi Martinez, Cooper Wilmorth and Ryan Venczel.
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Preston Hennessy joined Rotary Club of Farragut as the young- est member the club has ever inducted during RCF’s meeting at Fox Den Country Club Wednesday, March 2. His mother, RCF member Sonya Ford, presented Hennessy with his paperwork and pin. Joining them were his father and stepmom, Sean and Kim Hennessy (not pictured). “I think it’s great,” RCF president and pin. Joining them were his father and stepmom, Sean and Kim Hennessy (not pictured). “I think it’s great,” RCF president

Hennessy makes history as youngest RCF member

“I think (joining Rotary) means to help serve my community.” “I think (joining Rotary) means to help serve my community.”

“I feel great,” Hennessy said about “That’s how your organization sustains itself, is by young members coming in to join us.” “I feel great,” Hennessy said about “That’s how your organization sustains itself, is by young members coming in to join us.”

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they teach them how to think and do for themselves. “My class is getting ready to write and make their own fish fingers; after the fish, they will make the sauce; we make the sauce, but they take the meal in a small box and take it home to make it. They’re going to draw their teacher, and we’re going to write about that.” The class also had specials snacks, green eggs and ham on Green Eggs and Ham Day and made Swiss juice March 4. Some classes have made Cat in the Hat cheese sticks, all snacks, had dress-up days, and wore silly socks for Fox in Socks book,” she said. “It’s been fun to have a theme with the book and have some special things to go with it,” she added.

FieldAmerica was observed throughout FFS.

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   - Adults 12-112
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4. No entries accepted for judging after 5 p.m. EST on Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mail or Deliver to: Farragut Press, 11863 Kingston Pk., Farragut, TN 37934
Farragut High School Admirals

Baseball Preview

For more than 20 years, Farragut High School's baseball team has been a perennial state title contender.

Head coach Matt Buckner is confident that won't change this year. But in getting there, he said, his team is gonna take some lumps. The Admiral schedule, according to Buckner, is Murfreesboro's B"Tute.

"We play an extremely hard schedule, probably about as hard as you could schedule," said Buckner, who coached Boarden for six seasons before coming to PHS in 2010 and winning four state titles, along with two runner-up state finishes. "We play seven teams inside the top 25 teams of America. We could go through some really hard times early on."

Compounding Farragut's challenge will be the team's youth. Several starters are sophomores, though all have experience. "This will be an extremely young roster," Buckner said. "We had four freshmen who started a majority of the last couple games, for example." Returning starters for Buckner include senior catcher Garrett Brewer and sophomore catcher/two-hitter Brevin Brewer, a LT tournament.

"Garrett is our only senior starter, so he'll be the backbone of our defense," the Admirals skipper said. Buckner's son, sophomore Lukeker, Buckner, started at second base last year, this year he'll play shortstop. The second-base position was still undecided at deadline.

Another sophomore, Eli Evans, pitched last year and was the designated hitter. This year he'll play both first and third base.

Rotating on the corners with Evans will be Texas-A&M commit, Jeff Johnston, a junior transfer from Texas.

Two more sophomores, Lan- don Davila and Jack Alley, will join Johnston in the outfield. On the mound, the Admirals pitching should be formidable. The staff is deep and has considerable experience. "We should be deep on the mound," said Buckner.

Any ace designation will go to senior righthander Jaxson Pease, last year's district Player of the Year. Pease was 9-1 in 2021. Joining Pease on the staff will be a trio of sophomores: Kodi- Tison, Hayden Estate and Will Severns.

The effectiveness of his four arms of sophomores can take the mound for Buckner if needed. Stratton Scott and Mi-

Carol Delphy. If the Admirals are to give Buckner his fifth state championship this year, he's confident it will be because of their battle-axeithenth, throughout the season.

"The Admirals" on page 4C

Farragut Press
Thursday, March 17, 2022 • 1C

Roster

For more than 20 years, Farragut High School’s baseball team has been a perennial state title contender. Head coach Matt Buckner is confident that won’t change this year. But in getting there, he said, his team is gonna take some lumps. The Admiral schedule, according to Buckner, is Murfreesboro’s B’Tute.

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The effectiveness of his four arms of sophomores can take the mound for Buckner if needed. Stratton Scott and Mi-
Under Tommy Pharr, Christian Academy of Knoxville’s baseball team has excelled. In 12 seasons, Pharr’s Warriors have won four state championships, the first two (2014, 2017) in Division I Class AA, the latter two (2018, 2019) in Division II-A.

Pharr had similar success in his 12 years at the helm at Farragut High (five Class 3A state titles between 2003 and 2009). He denies any formula or secret. “We get good players and we work hard,” Pharr said. “I don’t know if I have any secret.”

According to Pharr, the team strengths of his ‘22 Warriors will be defense and pitching.

“Our strength is I think we’ll be good defensively and our top guys on the mound should be good,” Pharr said. “The fact that we lost so many guys (13 to graduation), it’s almost like a new team.

“They’ve worked really, really hard all year,” he added. “They’re bought in to what we do. I think it’s gonna be an exciting year.”

Despite last year’s losses, a number of seniors will take the field for Pharr this year; three are returning to their positions from last year.

Lipscomb commit Walker Strange will play third base, Grant Sterchi will be in centerfield, and All-Region Tyler Jenkins will be in left field.

Another pair of seniors will handle first base: Jeremy Crider and Cade Verdeaux. Another pair of seniors will handle first base: Jeremy Crider and Cade Verdeaux. Junior Cy Keener and senior Jackson McDowell will rotate at second base. Right field will be manned by a pair of seniors: Evan Cage and Aiden Asbury.

CAK finished 33-10 overall last year, 8-0 in Division II-A East Region District 1, while reaching the semis of the state tournament. Another district title this year would hardly be surprising.

See WARRIORS on Page 3C

PHOTO COURTESY OF PRO PHOTO

Best of Luck to our West Knox teams! Nick McBride

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ROSTER

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<td>Walker Strange</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Simon Tosh</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Caleb Verdeaux</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Austin Belcher</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Tommy Behrens</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Sam Cecil</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Ian Johnson</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Luke Jones</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Sy Keener</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Caleb Knutsen</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Austin Moore</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Connor Nelson</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Josh Price</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23 | Liam Quinn | Jr. |
26 | Wes Alg | Soph.
40 | Lewis Brooke | Soph.
27 | Christian Rose | Soph.
37 | Jace Runs | Soph.
17 | Jonathan Van Ness | Soph.
45 | Grayson Van Rossum | Soph.
30 | Tyler Benedict | Fr.
25 | Hayden Hayes | Fr.
20 | Blake Jarrad | Fr.
8  | Kennedy Bles | Fr.
41 | Ian McCormick | Fr.
32 | Jack Pearson | Fr.
44 | Sheppard Strange | Fr.
43 | Chip Shattuck | Fr.
42 | Tyler Staats | Fr.
35 | Noah Taylor | Fr.
29 | Will Wright | Fr.
31 | Jon Yeager | Fr.
35 | Brennan Broussard | Fr.

Pharr said. “He swings a big bat. Even though he’s only a sophomore, we’re gonna lean on him heavily for leadership.”

Like any coach, Pharr takes nothing for granted. “We just try to play the game really well in all facets. Whatever our talent dictates we should do, we do,” he added. “Our goal is to play really sound baseball, to make the other team beat us and not beat ourselves. Every game it’s fun to see what the new year holds.”

“My biggest strength is our depth,” Prichard said. “I think we can put 17, 18 guys on the mound in progress. Our biggest concern, whether it’s the run game or short game, we have lots of arms we feel comfortable with, but we just need consistency.”

See BULLDOGS on Page 6C
Like any baseball head coach entering a new season, Hardin Valley High School’s Tyler Roach hopes his team plays good defense, gets timely hits and has strong pitching.

But the difficulty of playing in District 4-4A is as much on his mind as ERA efficiency or BBA efficiency.

“Our district’s really tough,” said Roach, starting his fourth year at HV A. “Over here we expect the toughest journey always. Usually whoever gets out of our district has a really good chance to compete at the state level.”

The Hawks weathered their district well last year — 27-0 overall, 12-2 in the district — and went 2-3 against state power Farragut. The Hawks were eliminated by Powell in the regional tournament.

Roach’s squad this year will be a mixture of youth and experience, and should be especially strong on the mound.

“The staff will be senior Logan Ozias, who pitched last year, but also beat Com-...
“Both have done who hit .454 in 2021. Carter, along with sophomore Blake Wagner, a returning starter who played mostly outfield last year, will man the position.

Most every position in the lineup is a returner or a sophomore. "And when you're going to hit the ball pretty well," the coach added. Returners include junior catcher Joey Lamattina, sophomore outfielder Ian Hubbard. Wormsley's outfield contingent will likely be out there, as well. "I don't think we're gonna provide outfield help as needed." The coach said about senior Connor O'Brien and junior Ben Sompayrac. Returnees include junior Connor O'Brien and junior Ben Sompayrac. Returnees in the outfield feature junior All-state left fielder Miller Spence and junior right fielder Ian Hubbard. However, "I've got a few guys right now who are injured who are typically starters," Moore said of senior outfielder Spence.

As for pitching, the ace is All-Region righthander Jordan Wormsley. "I feel good about our team, how early practices and scrimmages have gone. The big thing about us this year is we're in a different region." The Spartans have been moved by the TSSAA to Class AA instead of Class A.

Because of reclassification, most every position in the lineup is a returner or a sophomore. "We've got 12 or 13 guys moving around," said Wormsley, entering his third year as head coach.

At first base, senior Ford Wagner, a returning starter who played mostly outfield last year will play junior along with sophomore Blake Carter.

"We're gonna expect quite a bit out of our left fielder," Wormsley said of the power-hitting Wagner, who hit .448 in 2021.

Junior Cole Nathan and sophomore Jack Felton will play second. "Both have done very well in the progression," the coach added.

Sophomore Connor O'Brien is the starting pitcher in the outlast next season this year, will be moved to shortstop. May's 2021 year a little and as desig- dated hitter.

Wormsley's outfield contingent will include players who hit .454 in 2021. Carter will be first on the roster again this year for it. The coach said about senior Connor O'Brien and junior Ben Sompayrac.

Wormsley started last year, will be moved to shortstop, and Parris, "they will be very strong in 2022. A pair of sophomores, Griffin Saunders and transfer Alex Daniels, also can catch. Mays, Varner, and Wagner will comprise the start- ing rotation for Webb this year. The coach added, "I would have thought Sunnypayre would be the No. 2." Senior righty Michael Kelly "will be one of our top relief arms," Moore said. "Another senior, Casey Carey, will be throwing a lot for us as well."

Another possible arm in the starting mix might be Hub- bard, especially since he's a southpaw.

As a unit, "We have some pretty good, quality depth on the mound," the coach said. However, a concern Moore brought up was "making sure we've got someone."

See IRISH on Page 6C
“Our biggest concern is arms,” Turn-er said. “All those kids can throw, but there’s a big difference between throw- ing and pitching. We’re gonna have to be very strategic with how we do that.”

A big part of Turner’s approach to the game is aggressive baserunning. “We’ll be very aggressive on the bases, always have been,” he said. “We teach our baserunners how to pick up on things that maybe other runners aren’t. We’re big on advancing on dirt balls, whether it’s a blocked successfully or gets past the catcher. We try to take advantage of other people’s mistakes.”

Without any concrete knowledge of how well his players hit, throw or run, Turner sees an intangible, team unity, as a strength. “The family atmosphere is our strength right now,” he said. “They wanna play for each other. Their heart is the most important thing they have right now. We’ll see how that relates to the field.”

“I’m excited to be at Bearden there’s a lot of tradition,” Prichard said. “I’m excited to play in the best district in the state of Tennessee.”

The Bulldogs didn’t have to wait for district play to face a strong challenge: they opened the season Monday, Mar. 14, at Johnson Science Hill, the defending 3-A state champions. “We have talent, it’s just unproven,” Prichard said. “The guys that show consistency will be the guys that play every day. I think we will be really competitive. I’m excited to see how we stack up.”

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The defending Class AAA state champion Farragut Lady Admirals return six starters, including their iron-woman senior southpaw pitching ace Avery Flatford, an All-state honoree who threw every pitch during the Lady Ad’s four-game Murfreesboro run to the state title.

"Already dealing with cystic fibrosis, Flatford, turned out to be even more iron-like than was known late last spring. "She's coming off big surgery," Farragut head coach Nick Green said. "Apparently she pitched all of last year with a tear in her hip. That's pretty impressive."

But Flatford, a Tennessee Tech signee, appears ready to go for 2022. "Obviously there's a lot of expectations out of her," Green said. "She can really make the ball move, that's her biggest attribute."

Sophomore Emma MacTavish, who went 6-3 as a freshman starting pitcher last season, returns to provide mound depth.

Her wins in 2021 included beating then defending Class AAA champ Powell, along with perennial Class AA power Gibbs. Having lost two other pitching en- deavors from 2021, MacTavish "will be expected to carry a little bit more of the inning load this year," Green said. "... We don't really have a third (pitching) option. We're a little thin at that position."

Speaking of big losses, the team’s two best position players are not returning: Third baseman Cameron Young, district MVP and No. 1 hitter in the line-up, graduated, while headfirst hitter centerfielder star Avery Strickland chose to concentrate on a major college basketball career as a senior, according to Green.

Despite having a strong core of returners, "We’re trying to be flexible with our line-up, we’re not quite as deep as we were last year," Green said. Returning position player begins with senior catcher Autumn Caywood, a Johnson University signee. "She had a fantastic year last year," the coach said. Sophomore Haley Nichols will provide pitching depth, along with sometimes serving as the team’s designated player.

"Close-up power hitting Lauren Brakovec, an All-state honoree who signed with Anderson University (South Carolina), returns at first base. "She is very the program’s single-season home run record last year with 11," Green said. Nichols also is a back-up at first, along with sophomore Carly Vining, a utility infielder.

Senior Emily Musco, an ETSU signee, returns to be the likely starter at second base. "She got hot at the state tournament.... She could also back-up at shortstop if need be," the coach said. Sophomore Kara Mills and freshman Abigail Roncone also are looking for time at second base.

**ROSTER**

- **4** Vivian Bole Sr.
- **8** Ellie Gurtis Jr.
- **10** Lauren Ruskon Sr.
- **15** Autumn Gaywood Jr.
- **16** Avery Flatford Jr.
- **17** Sarah Livingston Jr.
- **24** Angie Ansell Soph.
- **28** Kaitlyn Conner Fr.
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Looking to re-energize Boardman's softball program -- once a dominant force under former head coach Leonard Bearden -- is new head coach Kenneth Boles.

While saying "we're going to have a good defense," Boles showered the most praise on his outfields and catcher -- positions featuring the team's three seniors.

"Centerfield is one of my rock pieces," Boles said about senior Nicole Courrier. "She’s got a great bat, great speed, is a calming influence in the team."

"Junior -- she's what our pitching is doing the right thing of all the time," he added.

In left field, senior Abigail Muth "is a good kid, great team, a lot of potential there," the coach said.

"I respect her choice in right field, where freshman Abby Thompson is slated. "She’s had some travel ball experience, a good kid," Boles said. "Play's hard, ain’t scared to get dirty.

"One of the ones you want to have on your team."

Senior catcher Bradyn Bolcher "is a great, steady baseman. "She got hot at the state tournament.... She could also back-up at shortstop if need be," the coach said. Sophomore Kara Mills and freshman Abigail Roncone also are looking for time at second base.

**ROSTER**

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- **6** Nicole Courrier Sr.
- **13** Abigail Muth Sr.
- **18** Reese Wulff Jr.
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Looking to build a strong junior varsity program, "I have freshmen who are going to be

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Looking to build a strong junior varsity program, "I have freshmen who are going to be
While it could be said that Hardin Valley Academy softball has its share to fill at head coach, given the departure of highly respected and successful whipping Hickman—-the only head coach in program history dating back to 2009—there's reason to be optimistic in terms of leadership.

Just as Tennessee Vols softball thrived for decades with head coach, the Hawks began the 2022 season Monday, March 14, under co-head coaches Mitch Fisher and Brooke Taylor, Kellie Tillman, Olivia Nolty and Landry Hackley have been great voice models to our underclassman about the dedication and hard work it takes to be successful, our co-head coach said.

First starters return, with four of them seniors Ragland at first base, Taylor, An All-Star Prep honoree as an outfielder last year who was the other "up the middle" returning starter.

Another key eighth-grade player is Katie Phillips, will start in left field, a talented building block in program history dating last season who is now the other "up the middle" infield component as starting shortstop.

The battery also is young on the receiving side, as freshman Cortlyn Hedges will handle catching duties.

Despite their youth, "I'm really excited to see what they can do and how they react to high school ball," Roberts said about the Johnson-Hodges but "I just have all the confidence in the world in both of them."

"Our infield is very good behind them," the coach added.

Grace Davis, one of only two Lady Lions seniors, will start at first base.

"We're excited about her; she's a captain on the team," Roberts said, "a good leader for the girls, which is a lot of help for me."

Another key eighth-grade starter is Katie Phillips, who's enrolled at second baseman, Taylor, An All-Star Prep honoree as an outfielder last year who was the other "up the middle" infield component as starting shortstop.

"And she can come in and have her moment," he added.

Completing the youth-ful CCHS infield is sophomore third baseman Aleyah Lester. The team’s other only senior, Kyle Phillips, will start in left field.

While looking to build enthusiasm on campus for Knox-ville Catholic softball, new head coach Brooks Cherry has a talented building block in the lineup-up who also is new to KHS.

"The kid who’s probably the biggest impact kid" is junior catcher Blair Cherry, a transfer from Coskville (who will hold the defense, said coach Cherry, also Blair's father. "She may play a little infield, and may even pitch a little bit all." An All-Region honoree for the CHS Lady Cavaliers last season, "She's a good athlete. Probably will hit in the three or four hole on the lineup-up, will be our power hitter," the coach added, as Blair also was an all-state volleyballer.

As for the need to build on campus enthusiasm — with roster low numbers — "We lost some kids who decided not to play every year," Cherry said.

"We had no out fielder out to Fulton.

"We’ve got six or seven kids who never played before," he added. "...It’s going to be a rebuilding type of year.

"I think we have three returning starters."

"Sophomore lettuce, Laney Bar-ber, a Chattanoogan State Com-munity College commit, will lead off for us," coach Cherry said about his top-of-the-lineup hitter.

"It’s her knowledge of the zones and her ability to take different ways to get on base," he added about Barber’s "big success story. She’s one of our two true leaders on the field — and bring it every day."

Samahia Duffy, the team’s only other senior, "is probably going to play some second or third base," the coach said. "She’s a kid that can play any where."

The other returning starter is junior Kenzy Navarro, who coach Cherry labels as a "utility kid" capable of playing several different positions, including second, third or shortstop. "Get a good bat," he added.

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Looking at team strengths, "We have kids who can hit the ball. Our team also comes to work every day and works hard," said coach Cherry.

As for challenges, "Playing clean defense and consistent hitting," she said. "This early in the season, I think everyone will like to know how the team is going to react when the lights come on."

A strong nucleus returns for 2022.

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The Hawks return six or seven kids from 2021.

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A familiar face moves up to take charge of Christian Academy of Knoxville’s softball program

Hannah Seaver Logan served as CAK Middle School head coach for the previous three seasons, while also an assistant on the high school staff. Though probably lacking the talent from the program’s back-to-back state championship teams of 2016 and 2017, these 2022 Lady Warriors feature strong upperclassmen leadership, according to Logan, while having experience returning at several positions.

Senior pitcher Emma Bethel, an All-District honoree last season, returns as staff ace. Junior Aubrey Morgan is back to play third base. “They have been leaders in their own right,” Logan said about her other two upperclassmen, “They’ve been working really hard to keep the other girls motivated.”

For Bethel, Smith, and Morgan, “This year has been a fresh start for them,” the coach added. “The whole thing that we’ve been trying to stress is commitment to the process, and understand that whatever we get is not always going to be immediate.”

“All three have been committed to keeping everyone encouraged through that process.”

As for their talent on the field, “All three of them can have really hot bats; really good offensive and defensive players,” Logan said. “And just very coachable, all-around good girls.” Overall, “We’ve just got a great group of girls. All of them are junior shortstop duties. Senior pitcher Emma Bethel and third baseman Aubrey Morgan.

Browning said. “We’re expecting really big things out of our team captains,” Roberts said. “Juliette Wesarg, a sophomore foreign exchange student from Germany,” according to the coach, will start in right field.

Browning said. “Placing in the same district as rival Farragut, defending Division I Class AAA state champion with lots of talent returning this season,” I think we play in one of the toughest districts in the state,” Browning said. “The teams to come out of this district will be the ones with the best pitching and hitting and make the fewest mistakes.”

“I think our players, especially our upperclassmen, know this and are determined to be successful this season and show our younger players what it takes to be successful in this district.”

“She’s been doing well at practice,” the coach said. “Freshman Jordan Nix will play some outfield.”

For a team strength, “It’s their willingness to show up at practice every day and work hard, and wanting to learn the game,” coach Cherry said. “We’ve got a lot of young kids, a lot of new kids.”

“Depth is the biggest concern,” he added.

Hawks

Farragut Press - March 24, 2022

shortstop. Tillman catching. Neely, and outfielder, and Grainger shortstop; Tillman catching; Hawks

Steve Seaver Logan

Junior Sophie Starkey. As for concerns, in addition to inexperience, “A lot of the girls are playing in different places than they have in the past,” Roberts said.
Bearden strong rock for us this year … "We’ve not had that at Bearden nine varsity roster rookies. Battling all over the place to even more than she did last year," Stephenson said.

Batters all over the place to get time," Bolis said about his nine-man starting lineup. "We’re not that at Bearden. "Our JV is going to be a big, strong rock for us this year — they’re playing in 25, 26 games," he added. "It’s going to carry a lot of the load.

Three freshmen will add depth, including Sofia Silva, who “is probably our fourth outfielder on our varsity team,” Bolis added. “She’s a lot of (designated running for me).”

Kyla Bridwell is stepping up from Freshman Ransley Greene to "a couple of girls who (we hadn’t been with the team long enough (as of deadline) to accurately access, the coach said."

Bearden official schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-9</td>
<td>@ Greenback</td>
<td>noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-11</td>
<td>Bearden</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-12</td>
<td>Knoxville Catholic</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-13</td>
<td>Chattanooga Christian</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
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<td>4-14</td>
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Best of luck to our West Knox teams! Knox County Register of Deeds Nick McBride
One of the best one-to-one scoring goals tandem in program history, star forwards Tim Omitaomu and Jake Love, are no longer around to provide goals for second-year head coach Bradley Culbreth and his Lady Hawks. “We lost a lot of talent with who scored a majority of our goals,” Culbreth said of the 11 seniors and five starters graduating from the Class of 2021, which included a team reaching the Class AAA state semifinals with a 19-5-3 record.

Recognized as a state tournament team last season, the Hawks start six returning starters return from a program that reached the Class AAA state semifinals with a 19-5-3 record.

“We lost Lucas Arnold and Max Kavanaugh on the defensive side,” Culbreth said. However, six returning starters feature “top players” Will Gallo, an All-State junior defender; Christian Helton, senior midfielder; Jaden Holbrook, senior defender; Brogan Bartlett, a sophomore forward earning All-District honors as a freshman; Jack Bukovitz, a junior midfielder, and Righter Cressman, senior goalkeeper who, despite a broken hand, came off the bench late in the season to earn the Admirals’ skipper’s praise.

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“Getting Combs and Usynin back in the midfield is really nice for us,” she added. “They play very well together.”

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After coming painfully close to winning the program’s sixth state championship last fall, Ryan Radcliffe’s Bearden boys once again are likely contenders for state title honors — especially with a huge senior class.

“I can’t think of the last time we had 11 seniors,” said coach Radcliffe, who has won state crowns as a player at RHS (2006) and as head coach (2016) and (2019). “A lot of seniors are eager to play … a lot of veteran leadership as well.”

Graduation losses have been at least partially offset by coming a new and experienced area star player: senior Rudy Dardon, who was named 2022 Knox Catholic Heart O. B. P. Heart of the Year for his exceptional play.

“We have on defense,” the coach said.

Overall, “There’s plenty of returning talent back.”

As an All-state and district MVP honoree last season, “Juwan (Moises Rojas-Diaz) is one of the pillars hopefully getting built for the future,” Radcliffe said.

“I think both have the ability to have him.”

“Team captain Konner Layvold-Brown, a senior centerback and his brother, Parker Layvold-Brown, a freshman right-attacking midfielder, are definitely two of our stronger players,” Rosario said.

“Senior forward Oscar Reyes,” he added. “He was an All-state player two years ago, and his brother, Parker Laval-Rivera, a freshman right fullback, will be back defensively by senior center defender Cody Coover, who also started the past two years,” the coach said.

Logan Hunt, a senior midfielder, “has really looked good in preseason that I expect to see a lot of minutes from this year,” Radcliffe said.

Knox County Catholic School

Featuring an international flair similar to its boys basketball team, Knoxville Catholic Christian School spring sports will be represented in 2022 by its start-up varsity boys soccer team, with Jimmy Rosario serving as head coach.

“The biggest advantage we have is the mix of international players … and our determi- nation to be the best that we can be,” Rosario said.

“We’re a new team that’s hopefully getting built for the long run,” he added.

Nigerian native Oluwaseyi Akinlua, a sophomore left attacking midfielder, “is one of our pilots we have on offense,” Rosario said.

“Senior Ethan Ford, a junior forward, rewards, as does senior defender Cody Coover, who has started the past two years,” the coach said.

What Radcliffe labeled as a "good goalkeeper battle" took place between senior Ethan Share and junior Marcus Bish-

“Rudy Dardon said about the senior midfielder.

"He was an All-state player last year for Hardin Valley," Radcliffe said.

"It’s a challenging, rebuilding year." Overall, “There’s plenty of returning talent back.”

A festival of four-year starters — one each up top, at midfield and in back — look to “bring along what will be this year the biggest team we’ve had in my 10 years at Knoxville Catholic High School,” said head coach Clinton Donohoe, whose team finished 7-5-2 in 2021.

“It is a challenging, rebuilding year.”

Seniors who have started since their freshman seasons are centerback Moises Rojas (2019 and 2020) and senior forward/wing Kenner Grills, a Union University commit-

Also a returning upperclassman starter is senior centerback Colin Della-Robbia.

“Two things we want to know are what our center-back duos will look like,” the coach said.

A few legs down the line, "I think we’ll have a good mix of players who understand the game and players who are new and up-and-coming," the coach said.

North Knoxville Baptist

Senior forward Oscar Reyes "came on strong last year," the coach said. "He scored some big-time goals for us in the postseason.

See BULLDOGS on Page 13C

See IRISH on Page 13C

Knox County Register of Deeds

Nick McBride

Knoxville Catholic High School Irish

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A few legs down the line, "I think we’ll have a good mix of players who understand the game and players who are new and up-and-coming," the coach said.
A coach quite familiar with Christian Academy of Knoxville boys soccer, with an opposing program inside the county, has taken over as Warriors head coach. Bobby Deets looks to build a program with a strong state championship-winning tradition, though CAK hasn’t captured a boys soccer state crown in more than a decade.

Senior twins Ashton and Luke Wilkins—both three-year starters, senior midfielders, Highway's assistants, and student-athletes—will lead the Warriors this season. The Wilkins have been key figures on the field throughout their high school careers, playing important roles in the team's success.

Luke Wilkins, who anchors the defense, has been a key player for CAK in recent years. His leadership and experience have been crucial to the team's success.

Ashton Wilkins has been a key player in the midfield, providing leadership and experience to the team. His skillset and work ethic have been a significant asset to the team.

Head coach Bobby Deets has taken over as the Warriors' head coach, bringing with him a wealth of experience and knowledge.

The Warriors have a strong core of returning players and some new additions to the roster, making for an exciting season ahead.

The team's goal is to compete at the highest level and continue the tradition of success that CAK has been known for.

For more information on the Christian Academy of Knoxville boys soccer team, visit www.cakwarriors.com.
Tennessee Sportswriters se-Pierce Miller, “I think the harder to defend.”

“Makes us more flexible” who can play more positions, “which is invaluable,” the coach added.

Senior Jaden Gheen, a starting outside fullback, “is a very good player,” Ziegler said. “He can do the ball really, really cleanly.”

Sophomore defender/forward Keaton Sherritze “is a strong and solid,” Lopez said. “The team trusts him in the back. He can distribute the ball and that’s why he’s a very good stop-shot.”

“We’ve got some speed there — a little bit on the small side,” the coach said. “But he’s got a non-stop motor with intensity. Creates opportunities for us.”

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“I’d like to see us use it. We’ve got some speed there,” the coach said. “We’ve got a non-stop motor with intensity. Creates opportunities for us.”
**Expo excitedly anticipated**

Businesses and sponsors alike are excitedly anticipating the first time ever What’s Out West Pop-Up Expo presented by TDS Telecom and hosted by the Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce and the Farragut Business Alliance aka SHOP FARRAGUT taking place on Wednesday, April 20 from 3:00 to 7:00 pm at 11477 Kingston Pike in Farragut. This event will happen rain or shine because we’ll be popping up INSIDE the former location of Stein Mart in the Village Green Shopping Center at Campbell Station Road and Kingston Pike.

With the massive influx of new residents in the Farragut and West Knox area, both organizations want to offer an opportunity for newcomers to meet their neighbors, discover new service providers, and also give existing businesses a chance to mix, mingle, and make great connections.

See EXPO on Page 2

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**YPs Mix March Madness with Trivia!**

The Chamber’s young professionals, West Under 40, are back with a fun networking trivia event that will take place at Craven Wings at Choto on Wednesday, March 16th from 4:30 to 6:30PM.

This “March Madness Trivia” mixer invites all area young professionals to stop by and enjoy appetizers, relationship building and of course, all things March Madness. Even you’re not a pro on basketball info, you’re guaranteed to have a great time and make new contacts and friends.

Site host Craven Wings prides themselves on the difference in their food being that their chicken and ingredients are always cooked from FRESH, not frozen, as well as never using chicken with stealth.

See TRIVIA on Page 3

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**Chamber creates new role, welcomes Smith**

After nearly two years as a full time office staff of two, the chamber is thrilled to introduce their newest role and new staff, Kaitlyn Smith, who will serve as the organization’s Communications/Digital Coordinator. The chamber previously utilized a remote part time social media coordinator.

See SMITH on Page 2

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**Enterprise Club**

These Chamber members generously contribute to the Chamber and the Continuing Education Grant Program above and beyond their annual dues.

- Admiral Elite
- Admiral
- Captain
- Anchor
- Propeller
Meet the PCS team: (l-r) Robert Boehm, Dan Speare, Jeremy Waldroop, Andy Hungate, Milkena Marvel, and Michelle Durant. Since 1996, PCS has provided business IT support to the companies and schools of East Tennessee and beyond by delivering the highest quality computer systems, networking, interactive classroom technology, and IT services. Their elite team of experts is committed to doing the job right the first time, they want you – valued client – to know your needs will always be met.

Jeremy Waldroop-PCS (center) discusses how to find the right IT provider with Jodi O’Gara-Baymont by Wyndham West Knoxville/Cedar Bluff (left), and Emily Herrington-Account Resolution Team (right)

Ryan Weide, Chander Bhatia, Sonya Roy, Bob Delinger, and Gnetta Spaulding are team photo-ready as they pose just outside the entrance of Element Knoxville West on N. Peters Rd.

Tyler Parker-New York Life, Erica Corbin-New York Life, and Emily Flesher-Wavely connect with colleagues and friends during the evening networking

Smith
From page 1
but eventually realized the workload had grown to support a full time in-office position.

Originally from the Nashville area, Smith moved to Knoxville six years ago. Her background is in social media management and digital communication, and she holds certifications from StoryBrand, Hootsuite, and Adobe. Smith is excited about the new opportunity and says, “I am passionate about getting to know people for who they truly are, learning their stories, and then sharing their stories with the world. That is why I believe social media is the biggest tool, besides word of mouth, that we have today. You literally have the whole world at your fingertips!”

Smith and husband, Brandon, met in Knoxville serving at a local church together, and continue to serve at TriStar Church near the chamber’s office in Farragut. In her spare time Smith plays guitar and has for 15 years. She is also “a devout Nashville Predators fan,” with a dream to attend a Stanley Cup Game.
Ribbon Cuttings

Thrive Chiropractic
February 8, 2022

Member Briefs

Looking for more details on a specific event, special or job? Go to www.farragutchamber.com to see these and other member items!

Miser Wealth Partners, LLC, invites guests to attend a free educational workshop on March 23 at Citico’s Restaurant at WindRiver from 6:30 to 7:30pm on how new tax laws, as well as newly proposed tax changes could covertly rob you and your family of thousands if not millions of dollars in long-term wealth. Recently enacted tax laws are aimed at taxing your IRA and 401k savings and few outlets are discussing the deep negative effects that these new laws will have on retirees and their heirs. They will outline these law changes and how each of them affects you, as well as demonstrate key planning concepts that you may need to consider to protect your family’s wealth going forward. Call 865-281-1616, ext. 700 to reserve your seats today or email info@miser-wp.com. Seating is limited and capacity for this event will fill up quickly.

Colby’s Photos & Videos is happy to provide you with a Free Advertising & Commercial Photography or Videography Estimate. Call (865) 924-1455 or visit www.colbysphotosvideos.com. Voted as Knoxville’s best numerous years in both the News Sentinel Reader’s Choice and City View’s Best of the Best, along with numerous raving five-star reviews, Colby is a known quantity who specializes in:

• Professional headshots for individuals as well as corporate portraits for entire companies
• Architectural and aerial photography and videography
• Product and food photography
• Corporate events
• Advertising videography

Join Kids First Child Advocacy Center for An Evening of Celebration on April 7th to commemorate 20 Years of Giving Hope to Children. This very special evening of dinner and fundraising will include Live Music, a pictorial display of our history, Special Guest Speakers will share messages of hope and inspiration. Dinner will be provided by the award-winning, Dead End Bar-B-Que. Reservations are $100 per person. Visit www.kidsfirsttn.org to make your reservations by April 4th.

Trivia
From page 1

The Thrive Physical Therapy Team, comprising of Stephanie Stephenson (holding baby), Georgiana Clary (red dress), next to her is Lori Wittschen, Dr. Joseph Smith (light blue shirt), Gregory Vess (dark blue shirt), Steely Sawyer (behind Gregory), Shana Greenlee, Larry Brown, and Casey Pike are all smiles as the ribbon is skipped! Members and Ambassadors of the Chamber, family, friends, and colleagues join in the celebration!

Mbody Healthcare
February 15, 2022

It’s a family affair with Melissa Major, NP, daughter and Office Manager Sophia (white cardigan), and Dr. Meikel Major rounding out the staff. Waiting for the official “cut that ribbon” are Chamber members and ambassadors along with Farragutpress staff.

Element Knoxville West
February 24, 2022

Bob Dollinger, LBA Hospitality (navy blazer), General Manager Ryan Webb, Chander Bhatia-Prime Developments LLC, Knox County Commissioner John Schoonmaker (holding scissors), and Sonya Roy-Element Knoxville West are flanked with applauding Chamber ambassadors and members just after the ribbon flies!