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## HVMS 'threat' arrest made

### STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

**HARDIN VALLEY** — Knox County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Crimes Detectives unit has arrested a 12-year-old seventh-grade student for making a false report and threats of mass violence in connection with the evacuation at Hardin Valley Middle School.

The incident occurred Tuesday, April 2. The name of the minor was omitted as "reports involving minors are confidential," said Kimberly Glenn, communications direction with KCSO.

HVMS was evacuated early afternoon, Tuesday, April 2, which was attributed to a potential threat to the school "as a precaution as school security and law enforcement investigate a potential threat to the school," said Carly Harrington, chief of communications for Knox County Schools.

Since the evacuation, HVMS principal Cory Smith shared messages with parents that included: "I appreciate your understanding and support, and I want you to know that our staff followed the procedures we practice each year for days like today."

"Due to policy and procedures, I cannot share the specific nature of the potential threat," he further stated. "While this was a potential threat and, in the end, had no validity, in such instances we will always exercise caution regarding the safety of our children and staff."

Knox County Sheriff's Office had been investigating since 1 p.m. that Tuesday, after a student at Hardin Valley Middle School made a verbal threat.

## Clouds have silver lining



Tammy Cheek

These family members — decked out with glasses, chairs and a card table laden with picnic fare — were among a few hundred from Farragut and surrounding communities who descended upon McFee Park for the "(Almost) Total Eclipse" Monday afternoon, April 8. Not letting the rain and clouds dampen their spirits were Steve and Patty Seiber (seated), along with (standing from left) Darlene Upchuch, Judy Regas, Danna White and White's daughter, Raven.

## Despite cloudy, rainy McFee Eclipse, 200-plus have fun

### TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Rain and a blanket of clouds Monday afternoon, April 8, didn't keep more than 200 people — young and old — from McFee Park's Great Lawn to witness a partial eclipse at a Town of Farragut-promoted event.

They simply gathered around and in the pavilion to wait for the peak of darkness, which came at 3:07 p.m.

"I think it's really nice that the city's doing it," Farragut resident Greg Phelps said about the (Almost) Total Eclipse. "That's one of the things I like about Farragut is all the many activities,

See **CLOUDY ECLIPSE** on Page 2A



Tammy Cheek

Before Town Alderman Scott Meyer (seated) announced he was going to change his vote and approve Knox County Growth Plan Amendments, Alderman David White — saying he's keeping his "no" amendments vote — speaks before walking out of this special-called BOMA meeting Wednesday evening, April 3.

## Meeting with Jacobs, Meyer changes, saves Knox GP Amendments

### TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

After Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted 3-2 against Knox County's Growth Policy Plan Amendments resolution Thursday, March 28, Alderman Scott Meyer announced, at a special called meeting Wednesday, April 3, that he will change his vote and approve the resolution at the Board's Thursday, April 11, meeting.

"Obviously, I'm glad they're reconsidering the vote," Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs said after the meeting. "I certainly hope we can work this out. I think everybody wants that."

"Various Farragut/Knox County residents urged me to vote against the Growth Plan," Meyer said. "I believe the great opposition is rooted in frustration with Farragut traffic that comes with rapid property development."

"I understand this frustration because I, too, regularly sit in traffic for unacceptable amounts of time," he added. "I believe we all can agree that high-impact traffic comes from high-density development because we live it everyday. I also understand property owners have the Constitutional right to develop their land according to existing zoning and precedent, a characteristic that distinguishes the United States from countries like China and Cuba."

"In particular, as farmers in rural areas pass their land to their descendants, the descendants have a right to develop the land, which is a fact we must accept. Our goals should not be to deny property owners their Constitutional rights to develop

See **CHANGED VOTE** on Page 3A

## TDOT 17-mile I-40/75 plan 'greatest event ... since World's Fair:' Williams

### ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

Recognized by Tennessee Department of Transportation officials as "one of the most congested" Interstate corridors in the Volunteer State, where the Campbell Station Road and Watt Road interchanges have gone longer without improvements than any similarly busy interchanges statewide, a 17-mile corridor of Interstate 40/75, including both Farragut interchanges, now is getting immediate attention.

Having combined project improvements originally separate, with Campbell Station Road improvements not on the TDOT 10-Year Plan before being part of this "Comprehensive Strategy" 17-mile plan, Farragut Mayor Ron Williams expressed excitement during a

press conference gathering of TDOT officials and state and local politicians at the I-40/75 westbound TDOT weigh station, between the Town interchanges, Wednesday morning, April 3.

"I'll start out by saying this project is by far the greatest event that's happened in Tennessee since the World's Fair (1982)," Williams said during his address. "... The Town of Farragut is looking forward to working with TDOT on the I-40/I-75 Corridor Study."

Deputy Gov. Butch Eley, TDOT Commissioner, began the press conference by addressing the Comprehensive Strategy before giving way to Williams among local and state Knox County politicians.

TDOT "will invest in preliminary engineering to determine what corridor improvements need to be made during the next 18 to 24 months" in the 17-mile

span, which extends where I-40 and I-75 converge in Loudon County eastward to the I-640 split in Knoxville.

"By shifting focus from individual projects to a comprehensive strategy, we can better address long-term needs for this corridor and maximize the value of investments," Eley said.

After the meeting, Eley said about costs, "We don't have an actual dollar amount yet that we're setting aside because we haven't done this engineering studies or engineering planning. ... But it's a several hundred million dollar project," with "over \$100 million that we already have together" for engineering.

The TDOT commissioner said completing the 17-mile project "is a several-years process. We haven't gotten far enough into it yet to be able to put a strict timeline on it."

### March 5 voting breakdown

• According to Knox County Election Commission statistics, of the 38,423 registered voters in District 5 (includes Farragut), only 22.37 percent (8,597) cast votes during the Tuesday, March 5, Knox County and Presidential Primary election.

As for party affiliation, 7,445 of those March 5 voters chose the Republican Primary (86.60 percent) versus 1,152 (13.40) choosing Democratic.

Of 35,672 registered voters in District 6 (includes Hardin Valley), only 19.99 percent (7,132) voted March 5, with 84.66 percent voting in the Republican Primary (6,038) versus 15.34 percent choosing Democratic (1,094).

In Knox County, of 298,499 registered voters, 60,049 (20.12 percent) voted March 5 — 3,059 of those "cast a ballot in Knox County for the first time."

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pg 1C  
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# KUB details Farragut gas leak situation April 2; tips given on digging, reacting to smell

## STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

The following is a press release by Knoxville Utilities Board concerning gas-line damage, causing a leak, which necessitated closure of a section of Kingston Pike in Farragut late Tuesday afternoon, April 2:

“On Tuesday, April 2, KUB received a report that a contractor had damaged a KUB gas line, causing a natural gas leak at 13001 Kingston Pike.

“KUB responded immediately to stop the gas leak. Rural Metro worked with KUB to temporarily close Kingston Pike in both directions while KUB responded.

“No evacuations were needed as part of this response, and no customers lost gas service. KUB scheduled and completed additional repairs on (Thursday), April 4, which required no road closures.”

### Tips on what to do to avoid breaks; if smelling natural gas

“It’s important customers familiarize themselves with how to recognize a potential gas leak and how to respond:”

- **Recognize:** You can recognize a natural gas leak by sound when the gas makes a hissing sound as it leaves the pipe. You might also see brown or dead vegetation (without obvious explanation) in an area where a natural gas pipeline is buried. Or, you might smell the natural gas, which is the most common way a natural gas leak is detected. KUB adds a harmless chemical called mercaptan to its natural gas supply so it smells similar to rotten eggs.

- **React:** You should react by immediately leaving the area. Go to a location where you can no longer smell or hear the natural gas leak. Alert those in the area as you go, and take them with you as you leave. Don’t stop to turn off lights or do anything that could cause a spark. Simply leave.

- **KUB Responds:** When you have reacted and reached your safe area, call KUB at 865-524-2911. KUB will respond quickly and free of charge to investigate the natural gas leak and provide you with further guidance.

“Before starting any digging project, it’s important to call 811 to have underground utility lines marked. The process is simple and free. For more information about safe digging, visit [www.kub.org/811](http://www.kub.org/811).”

## Call 811 before you dig

Call 865-524-2911 after you Respond, React (above) to a gas leak/break or possible leak/break

### Cloudy Eclipse

From page 1A

concerts and the Christmas lights.”

Despite the rain and clouds, “we’re optimistic and hope for the best,” he said.

“We came here (to see the total eclipse) in 2017, when (her twins, Rorie and Tenley) were little,” recalled Carla Roberts of Lenoir City. “We enjoyed it.”

So she brought back the twins, now 12, to McFee Park to “enjoy it again.”

“I hate the clouds (but) I love people, so no matter what, it’s a fun party at McFee Park,” said Ron Oestreich, Farragut Parks and Recreation director.

“Oh, it’s neat, family-oriented and a lot of fun,” said Danna White, who brought her family and a picnic to enjoy. “It’s a great idea to bring people together like this.”

# KCSO reports

- On Thursday, April 4, a complainant called Knox County Sheriff’s Office Tele-serve Unit to report a theft at a Campbell Station Road business. “Complainant said he was in the business drive-through, handed the cashier his debit card to pay for the order and the cashier did not give his debit card back,” the report stated. “Complainant said he asked for his debit card back and they denied having it.”

- At 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 3, a complainant called KCSO West Precinct to report theft from Tennova Turkey Creek Hospital, 10810 Parkside Drive. Complainant advised her employer contracts, using a tablet, with Tennova “to help assist with the valet parking, taking photographs of license plates and vehicles, at Entrance A of the hospital,” the report stated. Complainant said she was notified on Dec. 21, 2023, “at the start of the business day that the tablet was not in the locked box.

Complainant stated the tablet, “at the end of the business day, is locked up in a box and the only personnel that has access is security for the hospital and workers of the valet service. Complainant did watch video cameras, but was not able to see anything due to the camera not being on the secured box.”

Complainant does have the “find my iPad” app on the tablet, but at this time is unable to locate it. Complainant advised the reason she had not made the report prior is due to being busy, as she just took this position in December 2023.” Total value of loss was listed at \$1,000.

- At 10:11 a.m., Tuesday, April 2, 2024, KCSO units responded to the West Precinct for a fraud report. Upon arrival, officers made contact with victim/complainant, who said he “is a retired author who has recently paid several large sums of money to (a company) to assist him in marketing his book,” the report stated. “The services included language translations, social media advertising, publisher services, screenplay services for movie adaptation and library sales. (Victim) presented multiple

contracts for these services and have copies of checks he has paid to (a press company).”

Victim said he’s been in contact with two employees, who are suspects, with whom “he’s negotiated services with in the past,” the report stated. Victim said he paid out about \$230,000 since Aug. 30, 2023. “Victim said “he’s been informed of royalty checks and has not received them.” As of the release of this report, victim said he “has received only \$4,000 of royalties. When (victim) last spoke to (an) employee ..., the employee told him, ‘I’m going to Rome to meet with the Illuminati and big things are coming for you.’ This statement made (victim) uncomfortable ...”

- At 10:13 a.m., Tuesday, April 2, a complainant came to KCSO West Precinct to report forgery at a Holston River Road address. On Feb. 2, complainant “wrote a check out to his Movement mortgage company in the amount of \$1,628.00 and mailed it at the post office at 1237 Weisgarber Road. “Complainant advised while checking his online banking account on (March 29) he noticed a difference in the amount that should be there versus what was there.

Upon checking his account, complainant noticed his mortgage payment check was not made out to the original name, but to (another name) in the amount of \$7,500, and not the original amount of \$1,628. “Complainant went to his local banking branch and was notified by the bank the listed check was mobile deposited and cleared into a USAA bank account ... on March 26.” Complainant advised “he does not know this person or how they accessed his check,” the report stated. “Complainant stated two other checks, check Nos. 1876 and 1877, were mailed that day to credit card companies, and the bank has put a halt to both checks due to the checks not being found or cashed as of April 2.

“... The bank affidavit does say the checks were mailed from Clinton Highway Post Office, but complainant advised it was actually mailed at the Weisgarber address.”

## The Fight of His Life

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**Editor email:** editor@farragutpress.com **Website:** www.farragutpress.com

**Phone:** 865-675-6397 **News Fax:** 675-1675 **Advertising Fax:** 675-6776

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## Chamber's triple-play networkings at Choto



Tammy Cheek

Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce held three networkings in one evening last month at Markets at Choto along Northshore Drive. During the first stop at Johnny Bruscoe's New York Style Pizza, 1620 Choto Markets Way, Jen Gambill, left, JB's chief administrative officer, was introduced by FWKCC president/CEO Julie Blaylock.



Tammy Cheek

(Above) During the second stop at Choto, Signature Storage owner John Huber and wife, Addie, welcomed the crowd to Signature Storage, 2366 S. Northshore Drive. (Below) At the third stop, Van Edom's Wine Bar & Restaurant, 12344 S. Northshore Drive, owner Bart Van Edom welcomed Chamber members.



• **Scott Greer recently was promoted to president/chief operating officer** of Citizens Bank.

Greer joined the bank in 1994 and has been a key contributor to the bank's success, according to a Citizens Bank press release.

Greer is a certified public accountant, a member of the

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Tennessee Society of Public Accountants. He currently serves on the TSCPA Council, is a past chair of TSCPA Financial Institutions Committee and has served on committees of Tennessee Bankers Association.

Additionally, Greer serves on



Tammy Cheek

Tyler Menees, Thrive Physical Therapy Hardin Valley clinic director/physical therapist, and office manager Megan Smith are ready to serve the Hardin Valley community at their new clinic, 10612 Hardin Valley Road. They will have a grand opening Wednesday, April 24.

## Thrive now in the Valley

### Third location grand opening planned for April 24

**TAMMY CHEEK**

[tcheek@farragutpress.com](mailto:tcheek@farragutpress.com)

**HARDIN VALLEY** — Thrive Physical Therapy recently added another location to Knox County.

Thrive Physical Therapy-Hardin Valley will celebrate its grand opening and Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting from 4 to 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 24, at its newest location, 10612 Hardin Valley Road.

"I feel good," Tyler Menees, clinic director and physical therapist, said about the grand opening. "We're trying to get incorporated into the community. We've done screenings for local places, like the pickleball courts, Hardin Valley Academy and Go Dance down the road" to support the community and "let them know we're here to help."

"At Thrive, we're trying to let our patients strive for success," Menees added. "We want them to get back to sports that they play, playing with their grandkids or even some basic functions like balance, walking and running, being more confident on their feet."

He said Thrive's staff strives to get to the heart of the pain.

"There's three basic steps," Menees said. "First, you want to kind of put out the fire, and some of that is finding the source of where the pain's coming from, not just treating the symptoms."

"Then dial down the pain in the next couple days and then find out why it happened," he added. "What can we do when it does come back."

Thrive sees all sorts of clients, from little chil-

dren to older adults, Menees added. "We treat pretty much anything from head to toe: dizziness or vertigo knees, back, neck, any sort of aches or pains you're having all over the body."

Going to a physical therapist, "most of the time it starts with somebody in pain, (but) it doesn't necessarily have to be," he said. "If you're having trouble walking, trouble with your balance and you have fear of falls, you can come in."

"If you sprain your ankle or you have pain in your ankle or your knee, you can come in" for a screening, Menees added. "Screening entails certain quick range of motion testing, certain special tests we can do to pick up on if something's there, with a Q and A, and advice of what we think is going on based on what you're telling us."

A doctor's referral is not needed for the screenings, but with the evaluation, it depends on your insurance," Menees said. "We accept all major insurances except for a few. It's based on the insurance plan."

"But usually, for PT, we have direct access laws so we can treat you up to 90 days without a script unless you have Medicare," he added.

"Now, they can come in for that first initial visit that we do without a script, and on my end, I can reach out to doctors or whoever to obtain that (prescription) for them," said Megan Smith, office coordinator. "They don't necessarily have to go to the doctor to get a referral before they come in to be seen."

Its hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is closed Saturday and Sunday. To book an appointment, call 865-205-9507, or visit online at [thriveptknoxville.com](http://thriveptknoxville.com)

## businessbriefs

the board of Northeast State Community College Foundation and is a member of Johnson City Kiwanis Club, where he is past president, Kiwanian of the Year and a George Hixson Fellow. He also has served on the boards of various community organizations.

• **Priority OnDemand has**

**announced John Johnson recently joined the company as chief information officer.**

Johnson will oversee development of information technology and control center strategy across the company's expanding multi-tier integrated technology, information and on-demand delivery model solutions.

• **Marble City Opera recently hired Frank Murphy as its managing director.** He has served on the organization's board since September, 2020.

Marble City Opera is raising money for the Brandon Gibson Memorial Endowment to ensure the continued success and sustainability of the organization.

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## FIS PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION'S Family Fun Night

Carnival games, food, inflatables and more awaited Farragut Intermediate School students and their families for FIS Parent-Teacher Organization's annual Family Fun Night, which took place in the school Friday, April 5.

Youngsters of all ages enjoyed watching kickboxing demonstrations by Kick & Fit Club, trying out hula hoops, games, displays and a chance on a spinning wheel while parents checked out the silent auction. All the while, the event raised funds for the PTO to address needs of the school.

Photos by Tammy Cheek

Right: Eden Scoble, left, and Layla McDill



Nick Beldyx, left, and Paulie Baio



Eighth-grade volunteers Katherine Buchanan, left, and Blair Thurman



Sixth-grader Jakayla Walter



Liz Viles assists Ankhel Muzychenko, a fifth-grader



Zac Ward and Erin Dustin



Jae Carr paints Kaden Hawhurst's face



Lauren Tyler



Alexis Williams, sixth-grader



Mike Galuppo



Fifth-grader Maddie Sarratt

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## Changed vote

From page 1A

their property because they will. “

Instead, “Our goal should be to control the development in order to mitigate the traffic impact as much as possible,” Meyer said. “The proposed Growth Plan Amendments reduce traffic impact in rural areas by the following changes: No. 1, reducing the number of units per acre from three units to two units, and No. 2 by omitting light industrial use.

“Further, because rural areas border Farragut, these changes allow for a Farragut traffic impact that is lower than currently allowed by the existing growth plan,” he added.

“I commend Vice Mayor (Louise) Povlin for advocating for these changes, as these changes will help preserve rural character and mitigate traffic impact as these properties develop. As I mentioned in last week’s meeting, my concern with the Growth Plan Amendments was that they do not address density in the growth areas that border Farragut.”

For example, “In both the planned growth area and the urban growth boundary, developers could develop a range of densities, including apartments or commercial properties, which have the highest traffic impact of already congested Farragut roads,” Meyer said.

However, “during a cordial and very productive meeting yesterday (Tuesday, April 2), Knox County Mayor Jacobs and staff confirmed their commitment to me to keep density in these growth areas as low as possible, which, in turn, will lead to the least impact on Farragut traffic as possible,” he said. “This commitment to lower density and ongoing collaboration has alleviated my concerns for the Growth Plan Amendments.

“As I previously mentioned since our last meeting, I met with Knox County officials and staff, as well as thought whether, in my opinion, the Growth Policy Plan Amendments are the best interests of the Town. I’ve decided, after much consideration, to change my vote.”

The Board voted 3-0-1 on Meyer’s motion, seconded by Mayor Ron Williams, to rescind the previous vote and

place the resolution for the Growth Policy Plan Amendments on the April 11 meeting agenda so it could be renewed or reconsidered.

“That way, everybody can come back next time,” Town attorney Tom Hale said. He explained at the beginning of the meeting that state law required the Board to state its reasons for their objections to the proposed Growth Policy Plan Amendments.

### On the other side

Alderman Drew Burnett passed on the motion, with Meyer, Williams and Povlin voting yes. Alderman David White, who left earlier in the meeting, was absent for that vote.

“There’s over a 1,000 acres that can be developed at two units an acre,” Burnette said. “That, alone, is hard to imagine what that does to an already fragile and broken road.

“On top of that it also allows for the possibility of Neighborhood Commercial,” he added. “They would only need to meet one of the three stipulations to be granted a Commercial zone in a rural area ... it just drives more traffic, it drives more homes, more development in the area.”

Also, he referred to the county’s transportation plan “that only listed minor improvements. With only minor improvements in that area, it leaves residents in a tough spot for the next 10 to 20 years.”

Burnette said there is a large piece of property along Northshore Drive that “has some parts in rural and some parts in planned growth.” He believes the whole property “should be rural.”

“After the last vote, I’ve spoken with Mayor Jacobs, and the things I hear said and the threats, that’s not the guy that I talked to,” the alderman added. “That means something.

“I’ve lost sleep over this. I’ve had countless nights trying to figure out where I stand, where my people stand.”

# Letter to the editor

## Response to April 3 Letter from Town vice mayor

In response to Vice Mayor (Louise) Povlin’s Letter to the Editor, readers should be made aware of what Michael Wilson and myself actually asked the Town to consider. There are essentially three areas of contention that we have with the current Growth Plan Amendments.

One, strengthen the language regarding the maximum allowable density in the Rural Living placetype (i.e., Choto). The initial recommendation was to simply remove the specific zoning district from the Knox County Land Use Plan.

Second, to include language that, at a minimum, requires traffic impact studies for developments in the rural area.

This language is being deleted from the current plan. We would prefer to see even tighter connections made between new developments and requirements to improve roads to handle the higher capacities.

Third, there is a large tract of land in western Hardin Valley that is being changed from Rural to Planned Growth. This will increase density and significantly impact pass-through traffic in Farragut.

The argument for doing this is that some of the land is already developed; however, there is a lot of vacant land that will be included in this area and ripe for higher density development.

Those are our three concerns. Yes, we did ask the BOMA to vote against the Growth Plan Amendments so that these issues could be addressed.

So, the under the (Mayor Ron) Williams and Povlin administration, if you ask questions or raise concerns such as these, the Vice Mayor writes that you “...conducted another fear-mongering campaign...”

In her mind, raising these issues creates “causalities” as though this was a war.

Is this how representative government is supposed to work? Last I checked, we have a First Amendment right to redress our government.

On a separate note, Mr. Wilson has e-mailed these concerns to the Knox County Mayor’s Office. During a radio interview this last Sunday, they advised that their office is speaking with the (Knox County) Commissioners regarding removal of the zoning district that allows for up to five units per acre.

We do not know what will come of this request, but it appears the county, unlike Farragut, is willing to relocate at this concern.

We will continue to work through the Knox County Mayor’s Office and the Knox County Commission as they work through their plans and ordinances. We had hoped that our Town leadership would listen and be proactive.

It appears that this is not to be, as the Town of Farragut is likely to approve the amended Growth Plan as written on Thursday.

Knox County has had a Growth Policy Plan since 2001. The Mayor and Aldermen are voting on an amended Growth Policy Plan.

Mike Mitchell, Farragut

*Editor’s Note: All Letters to the Editor from any citizen must have a minimum four-week period between publication — not to exceed 600 words — and must not have inaccurate information, such as wrong statistics, from which to form an opinion. We also reserve the right to reject publication based on factors to include, but not be limited to, threats, name-calling and foul language.*

## presstalk

• **At the beginning of every Town meeting, at both (government) meetings, the instructions,** for lack of a better word, for proper etiquette and content during the meeting is read — which includes, and I’m paraphrasing, “no loud or rude outburst or behavior.”

(During) the last three (government) meetings, a woman has decided that she had the right to be loud, rude and disruptive. And when she was asked politely to be quiet and settle down, she became even more agitated.

At this last (Town government) meeting, it was appalling to what degree her outburst reached. If you’re going to attend one of the Town meetings, bring your manners with you.

We respectfully ask our readers to follow Presstalk rules when submitting opinions:

- Please keep calls to a 90-second maximum (call 865-671-8255 24 hours a day, seven days a week);
- Please keep e-mailed Presstalks to 250 words maximum (editor@farragutpress.com);
- Libelous and malicious comments will not be published;
- Profanity will be edited out;
- Comments will remain anonymous;
- Names of individuals (including public figures) will not be published; a government entity, especially elected office entities, may not be published.

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## Heidi's Gym girls are multi-champions



Top Silver, Bronze Excel Team state honors are earned

**STAFF REPORTS**

[editor@farragutpress.com](mailto:editor@farragutpress.com)

**CLARKSVILLE** — Competing at Tennessee Gymnastics State Championships in Clarksville Friday, March 22, Heidi's Gymnastics Bronze Excel Team of Farragut (team photo, left) won the state championship for a second consecutive year.

"Our Silver Team placed sixth out of 23 schools, which is the first time we have been in the top six in the five years we have been a competitions team," said Heidi De La Rocha, team founder and head coach who is assisted by her daughter, Savannah De La Rocha.

In addition one team member ranked No. 1 in the nation for a routine, and having a Silver Division All-Around state champion, "I had three girls on my team in Bronze Division win the All-Around state title, making them All Around champions in their age level," the coach/founder said.

Raleigh Henry "was ranked No. 1 in the country on America's Top 100 gymnast in the country for her floor routine HALLELUJAH," she said.

Lily Ostrowski "was the All-Around state champion in the Silver Division; this is her second year of being a state champion," Heidi De La Rocha said.

As for Bronze, Linux Baird was an All-Around state champion "while earning a 10.000 score on the uneven bars."

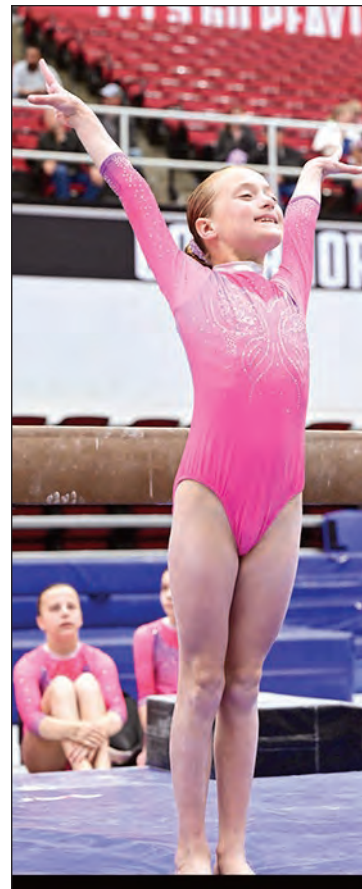
Bailey Stone, another All-Around state champion, "was ranked No. 6 in the country from America's Top 100 Gymnast in the country," she said.

Sainya Gaikas also was an All-Around state champion.

As for the girls' level of training, "Heidi's Gymnastics has been ranked No. 2 in the country in the Bronze Division on America's Top 100 Gymnastic Schools," Heidi De La Rocha said.

Photos submitted

(Above) Heidi's Gymnastics Bronze Excel Team from Farragut celebrates a first-place state finish during the Tennessee Gymnastics State Championships in Clarksville Friday, March 22. (Below) Individual performances by Heidi's gymnasts included Bailey Stone (far left); Sainya Gaikas (top middle); Linux Baird (below middle left); Raleigh Henry (below middle right) and Lily Ostrowski (far right). The team's head coach is gym founder Heidi De La Rocha, assisted by Savannah De La Rocha, Heidi's daughter.



## Ads take 13-game win streak to 'Top 16' national tourney; hand HVA first 4-4A setback

**BILL HOWARD**

Correspondent

It was a showdown between the last two undefeated baseball teams in District 4-4A last Wednesday night, April 3, on John Heatherly Field at The Ballpark at Farragut.

When it was over, Farragut High School's 9-3 win over Hardin Valley Academy showed why the two-time defending Division I-4A state champs are the team to beat in the district.

Down 2-0 early, FHS scored six runs in the second and third and never looked back. Farragut banged out 12 hits and got three sterling innings of relief from senior right-hander Stratton Scott.

"I thought we played pretty well," said Admirals skipper Matt Buckner, whose team had won 13 in row entering the

week (17-4, 7-0 in 4-4A) while playing in a 16-team tournament in Cary, North Carolina, this week against what is probably the best collection of high school baseball teams in the nation.

"We've got a good defense. Good to get a win," he added.

"They're one of the best teams in the state, obviously," Dave Dillon, HVA head coach, said. "Our guys battled, they competed. But (Farragut is) a really good ball club."

The Hawks got run-scoring hits from Caleb Jinks and Isaac Woorley to lead 2-0 in the second. In the bottom of the inning, FHS tied it when Charlie Bozeman, following Gavin Brewer's single, crushed a homer to left.

With two outs in the third, Eli Evans hit a two-run double to make it 4-2 Ads. Michael



Alan Sloan

Taking a throw home from right fielder Aidan Flagg is Farragut senior catcher Mason Grube, as junior relief pitcher Connell Driver backs up the play versus McCallie at FHS's John Heatherly Field Saturday, April 6. Despite being outthit 15-6, the Admirals beat the Blue Tornado 15-11.

Delph's single then brought in Evans for a 5-2 lead. Brewer's second single was followed by a single by Bozeman, which scored Delph, making it 6-2.

The four-run third chased Hawks' starter Jacob Dillon, who gave up seven hits and six

earned runs in three innings.

The Hawks got their final run in the fourth when Caleb Neeley was hit by a pitch, scoring Mason Shelton.

Bozeman's run-scoring single in the fifth inning was his third hit and fourth RBI.

He later scored on Brennon Seigler's grounder.

In the fifth, Scott took over for starter Cole Draper and threw three shutout innings. He gave up a walk in the fifth

**See 13 STRAIGHT on Page 2B**

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# Dramatic finishes for Farragut lacrosse girls, boys



Looking to attack the net among all the royal blue jerseys is Farragut senior Berlynn Elliott during this game at FHS against Hilliard-Davidson Friday evening, April 5. The Lady Ads rallied to win, scoring the game's final five goals for an 11-10 triumph.



Photos by Alan Sloan

Alexander Babb (43), Farragut freshman midfielder, and Eddie Gofreed (in white, right), an Ads senior midfielder, battle Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett players for ball possession during this showdown at FHS early Saturday afternoon, April 6. The Tribe broke an 8-8 tie with 1:12 to play, winning 9-8.

## Final 5 goals gives Lady Ads an 11-10 win; boys lose 9-8 vs. KDB Tribe

### STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

It was back-to-back drama within a 24-hour span from Friday evening, April 5, to early Saturday afternoon, April 6, for Farragut's girls and boys lacrosse teams at FHS.

Head coach Pam Hill's Lady

Admirals trailed Hilliard-Davidson 10-6 late in the third period Friday evening before rallying to win 11-10, thanks to a goal in the final moments of the fourth period.

*(Read details of this contest along with game details for this week — weather permitting — in the April 17 issue).*

For head coach James Graf's Farragut boys, it was a back-and-forth battle of small leads against Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett Saturday afternoon.

But in the end, the Tribe converted a goal with just 1:12 to play in the fourth period to edge the Admirals 9-8.

"Tough loss today, but I'm thinking we go back to practice .... and we work hard just to win out the rest of the season," said senior midfielder William DeFranco, who scored a team-high four goals on nine shots.

"I'm thankful for all the guys on the team. Really thankful for the coaches."

"It was a tough game both ways, but it was a great game for both sides, obviously," said sophomore attacker/midfielder Brody Gruver, who provided the assists on the Admirals' first two goals by Brock Lockhart.

"Two amazing goalies on both sides, too. So they deserve a lot of the credit. But yeah, it was well-fought 'til the end," he added.

Lockhart, a sophomore attacker/midfielder, ended the

contest with three goals on six shots.

Junior midfielder Blake Garibay scored the other Farragut goal.

As for stopping Tribe potential goals, Farragut junior goalkeeper Baker Sandavol came up big time-after-time — ending with nine saves — a few at close range.

This boys match was the first conference game for KDB (3-2 overall record) and Farragut (5-3).

## 13 straight

From page 1B

and a single in the seventh

"Proud of Charlie, he's worked hard," coach Buckner said of Bozeman. "Stratton's

been great all year."

Bozeman was confident of Farragut's chances for success "if we play the baseball we're supposed to play," he said.

After the setback, HVA was 16-3 overall, 4-1 in district.

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## 'Treasure Island' by BHS theater April 19-21

### STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

**KNOXVILLE** — Bearden High School theater department is taking to the waves when it presents "Treasure Island" starting at 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, April 19-20, and beginning at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, April 21, in the school auditorium, 8352 Kingston Pike.

The play adapted by Scottish novelist Robert Louis Stevenson's beloved novel, "Treasure Island," is "timeless entertainment for children and adults alike," theater teacher Katie Alley stated in a press release.

"This production offers a perfect blend of suspense and excitement that will appeal to young adventurers and seasoned theater-goers alike," she added. "Navigate the tumultuous waters of loyalty, ambition and friendship.

"Join Jim Hawkins and a cast of unforgettable characters for an expedition that promises to be as perilous as it is exhilarating."

However, Alley said this play "includes acts of violence

See BHS THEATER on Page 5B



Photos submitted

(Left) Bobby Arthur of Farragut running during the Oak Ridge to Kingston Marathon in September 2023. (Above) A handful of Arthur's family members displayed a poster — made by his youngest daughter and niece — which was used to help motivate Arthur during the Asheville Marathon on March 18, 2023. Surrounding Arthur after this marathon, from left, were his mother, Cheryl Arthur of Farragut; youngest daughter, Caroline Arthur; and niece, Laura Guinn of Farragut.

## Boston Marathon for Arthur

Farragut's dedicated long-distance runner reaches his goal after struggle

### ROSARIA CARLSON

Correspondent

If at first you don't succeed, try and try again. We've all heard the age-old adage, but in the age of social media, where we tend to share every aspect of our lives, failure is a daunt-

ing prospect. But failure is not the end; it's the opportunity to learn from our mistakes and try again.

In a conversation with Farragut resident Bobby Arthur, he chronicled his journey through the ups and downs of running marathons, from

getting started to his upcoming participation in the Boston Marathon Monday, April 15. For the uninitiated, a full marathon requires 26.2 miles of pure stamina and determination, and getting there is no easy feat.

For Arthur, that route start-

ed about four years ago.

"I kind of took a late route," he said. "I'm 47, and I really started getting serious during the pandemic in 2020." He said he got serious about running then, after it became clear that

See MARATHON MAN, Page 6B

## MATHCOUNTS FMS team is champ at prestigious Nashville competition



Photo submitted

Farragut Middle School MATHCOUNTS coach Leighton Simpson, left, joins team members, from left, Eason Xu, Ethan Du (state champion and chapter individual fourth-place winner), Jianshen Jiang (state champion and state and chapter individual first place), Yunho Lee, Elena Wu (state champion and chapter individual third place) and fellow coach Jodi Suggs. Not pictured are team members Abigail Liu and Andy Gu (state champion and chapter individual second place).

### STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Farragut Middle School's MATHCOUNTS team has concluded a successful season by clinching first place at the state 2024 MATHCOUNTS Competition at Adventure Science Center in Nashville Saturday, March 23.

FMS's team is composed of Ethan Du, Andy Gu, Jianshen Jiang, Elena Wu, Yunho Lee, Abigail Liu and Eason Xu.

"Winning state in a math competition is no small feat, and the students of the math club have certainly demonstrated their dedication, intellect and passion for mathematics," said their coach, Leighton Simpson. "Their achievement reflects not only their individual talent, but also the collective effort put forth by the entire club and their mentors.

"It's a testament to their hard work, perseverance and problem-solving skills," she added. "Congratulations to the math club students on their outstanding accomplishment in showcasing the power of numbers and the beauty of mathematics."

"This experience has really helped us foster significant growth

See CHAMPS on Page 6B

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• **Concord United Methodist Church's Kid's Crescendo and Concord Middle School of the Rock** "have been working tirelessly since early 2024," according to a CUMC press release, to prepare a production of "Finding Nemo Jr.," which begins at 6:30 p.m., tonight, Wednesday, April 10, at CUMC, 11020 Roane Drive. For more information, e-mail [concordunited.org](mailto:concordunited.org)

• **Jubilee Community Arts presents Sam Lewis with Daniel Kimbro** at the Laurel Theater, 1538 Laurel Avenue in Knoxville, beginning at 8 p.m., Friday, April 12. "Lewis is a songwriter based out of Nashville whose music invariably circles back to a universal truth: 'We are all trying to get somewhere — all running from something or toward something; we're all in it together, though,'" a JCA press release stated. Tickets available at TicketLeap ([jubilee-community-arts.ticketleap.com](http://jubilee-community-arts.ticketleap.com)), by mail or at the door 30 minutes prior to show. Cost is \$20 at the door, \$15 general audience advance and \$14 for JCA members, students and seniors 65-plus.

• **Tate's School and Tate's Camp in Cedar Bluff** will host their 15th Annual Open House from from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 13. "This is the first time the public has been on campus since the tornado (in) August," a Tate's press release stated.

(Use the entrance to Tate's School along North Cedar Bluff Road next to Verizon).

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turing three saltwater pools, zip lines, an archery range, an axe throwing range, climbing walls, a rappelling tower, a boating pond and the unique rustic classrooms that define the campus," the release stated. "Kids can enjoy a scavenger hunt for some great prizes, taste homemade snacks from the chef and try the 200-foot hillside slide. The event is free and open to the public.

• **Send Senior Citizens Love, a respected non-profit organization** dedicated to combating isolation among senior citizens, announces a special partnership with Island Fin Poke-Farragut from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday, April 15. Community members are invited to partake in a unique dining experience that not only tantalizes the taste buds, but also serves a noble cause

Island Fin Poke- Farragut will donate 20 percent of the proceeds from each meal purchased during the event directly to Send Senior Citizens

Love. This collaboration aims to raise significant funds and awareness for the ongoing battle against senior isolation.

For more information about the event and how you can contribute to Send Senior Citizens Love, visit [www.sendseniorcitizenslove.org](http://www.sendseniorcitizenslove.org)

• **Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking is hosting the M. Todd Cramer Memorial Golf Tournament**, presented by Johnstone Supply, Monday, April 15, at Cherokee Country Club.

Participants will start the day with lunch provided by Cherokee Country Club and then proceed to a shotgun-start on the 18-hole course. "The afternoon will be full of exciting challenges and friendly competition with prizes being awarded to winning teams and a chance to 'Beat the Pro,'" a CCC press release stated. Sign up to participate or support this fundraiser at: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/ccah2024/event/golftournament/>

## Act quickly if you suspect your dog might have Lepto

**Q:** I was at the vet's office last month with my Lab for her annual check-up, and he was talking about a vaccination for Lepto. I've never heard of Lepto before. Can you tell me more? Does Betsy (my Lab) need it? E.R., Farragut



**Stephanie Myers**  
Ask the Vet

**A:** Leptospirosis, or "Lepto" for short, is a bacteria that can affect most animals, wild and domestic. The bacteria is spread in the urine of infected animals. Dogs can contract the disease by coming into contact with infected urine in standing water, streams, lakes or recently contaminated soil. The bacteria can enter the body through the mouth, nose, eyes or a small cut in the skin or paw pad.

In rural areas, Leptospira can be spread by wildlife, such as deer, opossums and skunks. In urban areas, rats are the primary carriers, with notable outbreaks occurring in Chicago and New York City. All dogs have the potential for exposure, unless he/she is the rare dog that lives inside only and uses a litterbox.

Dogs that contract Lepto typically develop a high fever. They become weak and dehydrated, and often have vomiting and/or diarrhea. Dogs often are jaundiced; the yellow color is visible on non-haired skin, gums and/or the whites of the eyes. In most cases, acute kidney failure develops, and some dogs also develop liver failure. Blood and urine tests are required for diagnosis. Although we have effective antibiotics, treatment can be lengthy and expensive if the kidneys are severely affected. Thus, early detection, diagnosis and treatment is important.

There has been an increase in cases across the country the last 10-to-15 years, so many veterinarians are talking to clients about the vaccines. The AVMA recently came out with the recommendation that vaccine should be used for all dogs.

With increased incidence, vaccination technology for Lepto-

See ASK VET on Page 6B

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# Long, Guess are KCHS honorees: Sedes Sapientiae

## STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Knoxville Catholic High School recently announced the selection of seniors James Long and Gracie Guess as honorees of the Class of 2024's Sedes Sapientiae Award.

Long is a National Merit Commended Scholar, Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction, member of the National Honor Society, French National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta. He is president of KCHS Mock Trial Team, for which he was Best Prosecuting Attorney in competition.



Long

Long was a delegate to Tennessee American Legion Boys State, Governor's School for International Studies and participated in Youth Leadership Knoxville.

Guess is "one of the hardest working students at Knox Catholic, and is a leader amongst her peers," said Pam Rhoades, KCHS director of Marketing and Communications. She is the first president of KCHS Student Council; has been a delegate to the American Legion Auxiliary Volunteer Girls' State; and a producer/director in Irish Media Network.



Guess



Photo submitted

Bearden High School theater students Taylor Haun, left, and Jack Stapleton practice a fencing scene from "Treasure Island," which will be performed Friday through Sunday, April 19-21, in the school auditorium, 8352 Kingston Pike.

## BHS theater

From page 3B

in it as a way of storytelling. Viewer discretion is advised." Still, the performance is "open to every theater lover in our community," Alley said.

Tickets, which are available at beardentheatre.com, are \$15 for general admission, to pre-order on the website or at the door.

The play includes 20 cast members and 25 crew, ranging from sophomores to seniors.

The lead performers include: Caroline Alley, sophomore, as Jim Hawkins, and senior Lauren Hill as Long John Silver, with supporting roles played by senior Lindy McCool as Doctor Livesy, sophomore Tyson Martin as Squire and junior Luke Anderson as Captain Smollett.

"This show was chosen due to the hilarious and emotional moments throughout," Alley said.

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**FARRAGUT MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA**  
**April 18, 2024 • Farragut Community Center Assembly Room 7:00 p.m.**

For questions, please e-mail Mark Shipley at mshipley@townoffarragut.org or Bart Hose at bhose@townoffarragut.org.

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes for the March 21, 2024 meeting
3. Request for approval for the installation of six inch Medium Density Polyethylene (MDPE) pipe along a section of the south side of Kingston Pike east of Little Turkey Creek Commons to and along a portion of the west side of Old Stage Road and two inch MDPE from Old Stage Road to Windham Hill Road and from Old Stage Road along a short section of the north side of Somersworth Drive just past the intersection with Gwinhurst Road (KUB, Applicant)
4. Approval of FY 2025-2030 Capital Investment Plan (CIP)
5. Discussion on a request to amend the Future Land Use Map for Parcels 070 and 072, Tax Map 142, between the Waverly Court Subdivision and Baldwin Park Subdivision, 341 Boring Road, from Open Space Cluster Residential to Very Low Density Residential, 12 Acres (Homestead Land Holdings, Applicant)
6. Discussion on a request to amend the Zoning Map for Parcels 070 and 072, Tax Map 142, between the Waverly Court Subdivision and Baldwin Park Subdivision, 341 Boring Road, from R-1 and R-2 to R-3, 12 Acres (Homestead Land Holdings, Applicant)
7. Discussion on amendments to the Sign Ordinance in association with the Mixed-Use Town Center area (JA Fielden, Applicant)
8. Approval of utilities
9. Citizen forum

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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**FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN**  
Farragut Community Center | 239 Jamestowne Blvd  
**AGENDA • April 11, 2024**  
**WORKSHOP 5:15 PM**  
Equipment, Tourism, State Street Aid, Insurance, ARPA, ADA, CIP Funds Workshop  
**BMA MEETING 6:00 PM**

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
  - A. March 28, 2024
  - B. April 3, 2024
- IV. Mayor's Report
  - A. Arbor Day Proclamation
- V. Resolutions & Ordinances
  - A. Resolutions
    1. Approval of motion to rescind the March 28, 2024, Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen vote denying Resolution R-2024-02, a resolution approving the original Knox County Growth Policy Plan as amended by the recommended changes approved by the Knox County Growth Policy Coordinating committee at its meeting on January 10, 2024.
    2. Renewal of motion to approve Resolution R-2024-02, a resolution approving the original Knox County Growth Policy Plan as amended by the recommended changes approved by the Knox County Growth Policy Coordinating committee at its meeting on January 10, 2024.
    3. Approval of Resolution R-2024-05, Termination of Farragut Supplemental Retirement Plan
  - B. Ordinances
    1. Public Hearing and Second Reading
      - a) Ordinance 24-01, an ordinance to amend the definition of a Public Tree and a Street Tree, as provided for in the Town of Farragut Public Tree Care Ordinance
      - b) Ordinance 24-04, Ordinance to amend the General Fund, Insurance Fund, Capital Investment Program and Tourism Budget for FY23-24, passed by Ordinance 23-07
      - c) Ordinance 24-05, Ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Administration, Article 6, Finance, Section 2-267 Depository of Town Funds, of the Farragut Municipal Code
  - VI. Business Items
    - A. Approval of acceptance agreement with Midland National Life Insurance Company for a group annuity contract for the Town of Farragut supplemental retirement plan, to annuitize the plan participants in accordance with the plan's termination.
    - B. Approval of Bids for Contract 2025-01, Annual On-Call Road Maintenance
    - C. Approval of Bids for Contract 2024-14, Installation of Flashing Warning Beacon at the Intersection of Everett Road and Union Road.
  - VII. Citizens Forum
  - VIII. Town Administrator's Report
  - IX. Town Attorney's Report

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.

### Ask Vet

From page 4B

spirosis has also improved; it's a better vaccine with fewer side effects. Current vaccines include protection for the four most common subtypes. Unfortunately, there are more than 400 subtypes, so complete protection is not possible. Please have a conversation with your veterinarian regarding Betsy's medical history, lifestyle, exposure and any past vaccine reactions. *If you have a question about your pet, e-mail Dr. Myers at lenoircityac@gmail.com*

### Champs

From page 3B

in many aspects," Elena Wu said. "Not only have we learned to approach the unique and challenging problems, but we have also cultivated a strong sense of teamwork," the team member added. "We've learned to collaborate efficiently, supporting and motivating each other throughout this memorable journey." "It was a great experience," Jiang said. "I am grateful for all my teammates, teachers and parents, as well as incredibly honored to represent Tennessee at MATHCOUNTS Nationals."

Jiang seized the top position statewide, securing qualification to represent Tennessee in the National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Washington, D.C., May 12-13.

# obituary

Doris Moore Walton of Farragut peacefully passed away in her home of 69 years on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at the age of 98. She loved her family well. Doris was born in Maynardville, the oldest child to Vaughn and Edith Ailor Moore. She grew up playing in the shadows of Union County Courthouse.

She graduated from Horace Maynard High School and attended Lincoln Memorial University. From 1944 until 1955, she worked at the Oak Ridge Manhattan Project, mostly as the secretary to the Y-12 Plant Medical director.

It was while working in Oak Ridge that she met her beloved Joe, and they married at the Chapel on the Hill on July 18, 1953.

In 1955, Doris and Joe moved to Concord, which is now Farragut. She was a long-time and faithful member of Concord United Methodist Church and active in United Methodist Women.

Doris was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Owen Moore; and her devoted husband, Joe. She is survived by her brother, Harold Moore (Luz) of Corryton; and her three daughters and son-in-laws: Jean and Paul (Mike) McGowan Jr., D.D.S., Jill and Tom Gilbertson and Julia and Maj. Brian Tobler (USMC/retired).

She was the epitome of a grandmother (Mimi) to Justin Rich (Danielle), Walton Gilbertson (Lauren), Megan Blackwell (Drew), Max Garland (Marissa), Ali Rawlins (Andy), Paul D. McGowan III (Erin), Gavin McGowan, Taylor Tobler (Natalie), Kyle Tobler and Haley Tobler.

Doris enjoyed her three great-grandchildren: Nora Blackwell, Emma Rawlins and Mason McGowan.

The family would like to thank her caregivers, Veronica and AliCia, and the staff of Amedisys Hospice. "Fine and Dandy, Sweet as Candy," she was a treasure.

A Memorial Service will be held beginning at 2 p.m., Friday, April 12, 2024, at Concord United Methodist Church, 11020 Roane Drive in Knoxville, 37934. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to CUMC.

*To submit an obituary, call 865-218-8880 and speak with the editor. The next step is to contact the farragutpress receptionist at 865-675-6397 to make a payment arrangement, so the process of publishing the obituary can begin.*

*Cost is \$25 for the first 250 words, then 25 cents for each word thereafter. A small headshot photo is \$10.*



Mrs. Walton

### Marathon man

From page 3B

the pandemic "wouldn't be the nice three-week vacation that we were all led to believe it would be."

Arthur's first marathon experience came later that year when he participated in the Covenant Health Knoxville Half Marathon. During the early days of the pandemic, when crowds were not able to gather for the marathon in person, it was done a little differently: online. Participants were encouraged to run their own 13.1-mile route, record their times and upload their results on the website.

"It was a way to participate and have a goal," Arthur explained. "It was a weird time. But this way, the organizations hosting races were also still able to raise money for their chosen causes."

That good experience led to another, and soon he began setting his sights on the Boston Marathon.

Participation in his first full marathon came in 2022 in Richmond, Virginia.

"I never really had a desire to do a marathon, because at the end of a half it's kind of like, 'why would you do this twice?'" Arthur said.

He did run it, though, and finished with a time close to an hour over what he would need to qualify for Boston.

"I totally crashed," Arthur said with humor in his voice. "My legs totally cramped up. I did the marathon shuffle for about 6 miles."

That race taught him the

importance of fueling for marathons. A saying amongst marathon runners is the marathon doesn't start until mile 20. That rang true for Arthur in Richmond. He said his mistake was treating a full marathon the same way he treated half marathons.

Now, he has a better grasp on the whole thing. His second marathon, in spring of 2023 in Asheville, went much better, although Arthur once again missed the qualifying time for Boston.

"I took a much different approach to nutrition," he explained, adding he ate a couple of things beforehand and even a few times during the race.

"Now, I always eat a light breakfast and take gels (calorie-dense nutritional supplements) about every four miles."

Arthur got his Boston qualifying time during the Oak Ridge to Kingston Marathon in September of last year, with a time of around 3 hours and 13 minutes.

"When I first started this and I failed so badly at Richmond, I think there was some doubt," Arthur said. "I told my family, 'Look guys, it's fine. I could do this a hundred times. I only gotta get it right once.'"

To his two teenage daughters, Savannah and Caroline, who have supported him from the beginning, he wants to say that it's OK not to get things right the first time.

The importance is perseverance. "Whatever it is, whether it's marathons or work or whatever your passion is, just keep going," Arthur said.

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# CHAMBER LIFE

"MISSION: TO STRENGTHEN, PROMOTE, AND CREATE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS AND EDUCATION THAT ENCOURAGE MEMBER SUCCESS."

VOL. 38, NO. 4

A PUBLICATION OF THE FARRAGUT WEST KNOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

APRIL 2024

## Business Expo 2024

Wednesday, May 1 | 2 - 6 pm  
**ROTHCHILD EVENT CENTER**  
PRESENTED BY  
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CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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## Save now on EXPO tickets

Booths for the Business EXPO 2024 presented by Slamdot sold out several days ahead of the cut off deadline of March 31, so all are encouraged not to miss out on the chance to save on tickets to the event ahead of May 1.

The Business EXPO 2024 is a business to business oriented showcase and will feature over 80 businesses from across the area who are seeking to network with new vendors and clients alike. Tickets for the event are discounted at 2 for \$5 and will be \$10 on May 1 at the door. Like last year, attendees can participate in a fun sponsor and featured booth scavenger

hunt and submit their completed cards into one of several door prize drawings. Door prize baskets last year were valued well into the hundreds of dollars. Member businesses who either missed out on snagging a booth OR who could not have a booth but want to have visibility at the event can



SCAN ME

See EXPO on Page 3

You're Invited to the Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce

### 2024 SPRING NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION



April 23, 2024 | 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Farragut Community Center | Assembly Hall  
239 Jamestowne Blvd., Farragut, 37934

**Business Sponsor:** 

**Municipal Partners:** 

**Food Caterer:** 

## West YPs "Hoppy" to Host Meet & Greet, Collect for Career Closet

### Orientation will offer a little Aloha

Once again the chamber is excited to host our Spring New Member Orientation, sponsored by Perimeter Roofing, one of two biannual orientation programs that offers great networking and that member businesses often say teaches them something new every time.


This spring's orientation will come with a fun side of "Aloha" with lunch refreshments by Island Fin Poke (located in Turkey Creek). Island Fin Poke will offer a simplified version of their IncrediBOWL bar with pre-selected proteins and the opportunity to customize a few toppings. Their infamous DOle Whip will also be available. Attendees are also welcome to bring their

own lunch. Both NEW and EXISTING members (new staff, new marketing representatives) are encouraged to attend, and the chamber does open these orientations to businesses who are thinking of joining as well.

Register online at [farragutchamber.com](http://farragutchamber.com) > Events.


**CAREER CLOSET**

PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**When:** 4/02/2024 - 4/30/2024  
M-F 8:30a - 5:00p  
Chamber hours may vary - call ahead at 865-675-7057

**Drop-off site:** Chamber office  
11826 Kingston Pike, Suite 110  
Farragut, TN 37934



Easter may be over but the chamber's West Young Professionals are definitely "hoppy" to host their next program as a casual meet and greet networking. The event will take place on April 17, from 5-6:30pm at Farragut's new and popular 35 North bar and grill. It will start off with





structured networking and lead into some fun live entertainment that attendees are welcome to continue to stay for.

The first 30 attendees will enjoy a complimentary beer - hence the "hoppy" part of the

See YPS on Page 3

## Enterprise Club

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

<b>ADMIRAL ELITE</b> 	<b>ADMIRAL</b> 	<b>COMMANDER</b> 	<b>CAPTAIN</b> 
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# Networking

## Did you know?

By your  
Knoxville Small Business  
Development Center

Did you know the Knoxville Small Business Development Center offers classes and workshops each month, at no cost to attend? Topics range from how to become bank ready if you find yourself needing access to capital, to making certain you provide your team and clients a cybersafe work environment. Classes are offered in-person and there is an On-Demand portal of over 100 topics on how to start, grow and sustain your business.

Here is a list of upcoming classes offered at the Farragut Community Center:

### May 1 at 9:00 AM : Bookkeeping Basics for Small Businesses

Come prepared to learn Accounting 101 tips and tricks to help you get a better idea of your numbers in business. We will be talking about how to get your bookkeeping up to date so you can measure cash flow, prepare for funding, and drive your business forward. Our speaker, Erin Reece be answering questions on how to become financially ready for your next steps in business, whether you're just starting out, or several years in. There will be something for everyone!

### June 5 at 9:00 AM: Small Business Startup 101

This in person course is designed to provide a very brief overview of FAQ's and first steps of starting a business. Our center director will discuss different forms of business organization, tax requirements, business licenses, and financing options.

Register to attend these events and find other classes, topics and locations on their website:  
<https://tsbdc.org/training/>

You can always reach out to the Knoxville Small Business Development Center for any questions at 865-246-2663 or pstcc@tsbdc.org

## Triple Networking with Johnny Brusco's New York Style Pizza, Signature Storage at Choto, and Van Edom's Wine Bar March 14, 2024



Van Edom's Owner Bart Van Edom and KaDee Andreasen Kids First Child Advocacy Center and Iva's Place enjoy a conversation in the sunshine.



Attendees enjoy good weather and make connections at the Triple Networking.

## Lenoir City Utilities Board March 28, 2024



Perimeter Roofing Co-owner Anthony Puckett and Team Manager Palmer Wilkes smile for a quick photo.



Bryan Johnson and Tom Satkowiak TVA take a quick break from networking for a picture.

## Non-Profit Networking Showcase



The chamber was thrilled to introduce 18 of it's member 501c03 organizations to other businesses and the community! Here, Erin Stidham (right) tells attendees all about *The Davis Family YMCA*.



New members of just a few months are invited to introduce themselves near the start of each networking. Beth Milam holds the microphone as both a showcased non-profit and a brand new member with *The Dream Connection*.



11826 Kingston Pike, Suite 110 | Farragut, TN 37934  
(865) 675-7057 | (865) 671-2409 Fax

e-mail: [info@farragutchamber.com](mailto:info@farragutchamber.com) | [www.farragutchamber.com](http://www.farragutchamber.com)

This newsletter is published monthly by the Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce.

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# Ribbon Cuttings

## Hearthside Bank

March 7, 2024



**SVP/Market Leader** Steve Ward holds the ribbon-cutting scissors steady beside the Hearthside Bank team and community members who are ready to celebrate.

## Farragut Fit Body Boot Camp

March 19, 2024



**Manager** Nena Mather wields the scissors with father/**CEO** Don Mather and mother/**Marketing Director** Debra Mather by her side.

### EXPO

From page 1

still purchase Swag Bag participation for \$100. Bag sponsor Burns Mailing & Printing is providing approximately 500 swag bags which will be stuffed with

member business coupons or promotional items. The deadline to deliver your promotional items (up to 500) and pay is April 19. Businesses with a booth can do the same for just \$50.

To buy tickets, go to [farragutchamber.com](http://farragutchamber.com) > Events and click on the event link for the Expo.

### YPs

From page 1

event—courtesy of 35 North.

In addition, for the entire month of April, the chamber has partnered with West Young Professionals to help area college students “Suit Up for Success”. The chamber office will accept and house donations for Pellissippi State Community College’s Career Closet, an initiative that allows students to select two pieces of professional wear per semester that they can then wear for job fairs, interviews, or any professional work opportunities in their field.

Anyone can bring their gently used work wear to the Hoppy Hour Meet & Greet, or to the chamber of-

rice. Suits, ties, dresses, shirts/blouses, pants, shoes, or accessories like purses, scarves, belts or jewelry are accepted provided that:

- All clothing must be CLEAN, pressed, and NOT needing repair
- All items that can be, must come on a hanger, ready to go into the closet
- Nothing too trendy and preferably bought in the last 5 years

Gently used medical scrubs are needed as well. The Young Professionals are especially thankful to sponsors TDS Telecom and SouthEast Bank for their support. Register for the Hoppy Hour at [farragutchamber.com](http://farragutchamber.com) > Events.

# Member Briefs

Looking for more details on a specific event, special or job?

Go to [www.farragutchamber.com](http://www.farragutchamber.com) to see these and other member items!

The Knoxville branch of The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Tennessee has honored **The Christman Company** with a Build Knoxville Award for the Morristown-Hamblen West project. The Build Knoxville Awards were presented on Jan. 25 and highlight the area’s best construction projects. Contact them today for your construction needs. 865-546-2440

**Y-12 Credit Union** is pleased to announce the selection of the 2024 Bill T. Scholarship recipients. The Credit Union’s scholarship selection committee members were impressed by the high caliber of applicants and the diverse range of talents and interests represented by this year’s students. Check out the student recipients here: [y12fcu.org/fusion-outreach/scholarships/](http://y12fcu.org/fusion-outreach/scholarships/).

Join **Kids First Child Advocacy Center** on Friday, April 12 at 11:00am by purchasing and planting blue pinwheels for prevention at the 9th Judicial Child Advocacy Center. Help them “Paint the Town Blue” for Child Abuse Awareness. For more information, visit [www.kidsfirsttn.org/02/awarenessmonth](http://www.kidsfirsttn.org/02/awarenessmonth).

Plan to attend the **Southern Tequila and Taco Festival** for a fun festival to raise funds for Remote Area Medical! Enjoy hand-crafted tequilas, margaritas, cocktails and beer, listen to great music, and eat some tacos! Tickets available here: [www.southerntequilafest.com/tickets/](http://www.southerntequilafest.com/tickets/).

Many companies have established looks and guidelines for their portraits; **Colby’s Photos & Videos** has the skills to create a consistent look that matches your company’s particular needs. Reach out to them today to see how they can help! 865-924-1455

Join Dr. Amy Culver at **Courtley Chiropractic** on Tuesday, April 30 at 6:30 pm as she unveils the secrets of balancing hormones to help unlock new knowledge relating to the topics of aiding your sleep, managing weight, combating menstrual-related pain, mood swings, hot flashes, and more. 11915 Kingston Pike, Suite 100, Farragut 37934

Exciting news! **PCS, Inc.** is a nominee for the “MSP Leadership” category at the Scale Computing Platform Summit Awards in Las Vegas next month! Their exceptional team and visionary leadership have made this possible. Stay tuned for updates on their Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PCSknox](http://www.facebook.com/PCSknox).

Come and enjoy new cocktails by Ciarra, new wine additions, and new dishes at **Water into Wine** in Farragut! Their new Spring Menu can be viewed online at: [bit.ly/W2WMenu](http://bit.ly/W2WMenu).

# Welcome New Members!

The Chamber welcomes these businesses who joined us recently in March!

Did you know businesses/organizations can submit an application & payment online? Visit [www.farragutchamber.com](http://www.farragutchamber.com) and click “Join the Chamber!”

Smiley Swirl is a family-run mobile ice cream shop that offers cones, cups, shakes, bars, and sundaes at events. Smiley Swirl is different by design, catering to those who host events rather than driving aimlessly through neighborhoods. <https://smileyswirl.com/> or call (865) 777-3999.

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Terri Lawson developed a passion to continue to serve her clients with their process of the American dream of owning a home since 2010. She specializes in luxury homes, land sales,



first-time buyers, families growing or downsizing, working with investors, and new construction. She ensures her clients understand the process from beginning to end. Terri is also a Certified Mentor, helping other agents to get started in real estate. (865) 789-1672 or visit <https://terrilawson.exprealty.com/>

Alden Home Services (Shine of Knoxville), owned by Tiana and Myles Alden, offers premier window cleaning, pressure washing, gutter cleaning, as well as holiday and landscape lighting services. Their commitment to excellence extends to fostering strong community bonds, ensuring every client feels valued and appreciated as a member of the Shine family. Call (865) 399-3718.

John Walz is a co-owner of Best Choice Inspections with his wife Natalie. Jon is a certified master inspector with the Home Inspectors of Tennessee Association, has over 10 years of inspection experience, and has completed



See **NEW MEMBERS** on Page 4

# Welcome New Members!

## New Members

From page 3

more than 5,000 home, stucco, mold, and specialty inspections. Jon's strongest attributes are his thoroughness and ability to effectively communicate with clients. Visit <https://bcinspections.info/> or call (865) 224-6378.

With over 50 years of experience, Perimeter Roofing has worked hard to expand its reach and become a roofing company that people can trust. They strive to provide the best customer service and install the best products local to you. No matter what your roofing needs, from roof repair and installation to cleaning and maintenance, count on the experts at Perimeter Roofing. Call (678) 773-3498 or visit <https://perimeterroofing.com/>



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Join the Southern Tequila and Tacos Festival for an incredibly fun festival to raise funds for Remote Area Medical! It is continuing to grow to be the largest annual tequila and taco festival in the country! They have some of the biggest names in tequila highlighting their signature products and the best food in East Tennessee. Join them to taste hand-crafted tequilas, margaritas, cocktails, and beer, listen to some great music & eat some tacos! Visit <https://www.southerntequilafest.com/>



Zoom Drain's expertise encompasses a spectrum of issues, from the routine unblocking of drains to the intricate repair of sewers, all the way to proactive maintenance schedules. They specialize in wastewater line services, including thorough video inspections for a precise diagnosis of any underlying concerns. Their technicians undergo rigorous in-house training, meticulously honing their skills to deliver prompt, accurate, and exceptional service. Call (865) 263-9366 or visit <https://www.zoomdrain.com/knoxville/>



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The Shrunk3D booth is fully mobile and ready to capture that special moment: Step inside the booth and strike your pose to capture your 3D image. Review your images and choose your Shrunk3D statue size. The software will convert all 190 images into a high-resolution 3D image and will be sent to their 3D printer. Your Shrunk 3D Statue will be delivered to you in an estimated 4 weeks. Visit <https://www.shrunk3d.com/knoxville> or call (865) 326-3692.



Black Hawk Drone Co. is a drone service and solution provider, offering drone technology that will help businesses evolve and grow in their specific industry,

West Town Mall is a recently updated indoor mall conveniently located off Exit 380 on I-40. Considered the premier shopping destination in East Tennessee, the mall boasts more than 150 stores, over 40 of which are exclusive to the Knoxville area. West Town Mall also offers outstanding guest amenities and services, including TVs in our Dining Pavilion, free device charging areas, free Wi-Fi, and a new state-of-the-art play area. Visit <http://www.simon.com/westtownmall> or call (865) 693-4731.



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# Thank You for Renewing Your Membership!

*The Farragut/West Knox Chamber thanks these businesses who have renewed their investment in the Chamber as of March 2024. We can count them as Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members! We urge members to patronize one another when the goods or services a member can provide are needed. We also hope that area residents recognize a business's commitment to its community when it becomes part of its local chamber of commerce and reward that commitment with its patronage.*

A special thank you goes to these renewing members who are continuing their support of our chamber and the businesses it serves through their above-and-beyond Enterprise Membership:



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3 to 99  
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Alzheimer's Tennessee, Inc.  
Bridge Refugee Services  
Chris O'Rourke, DDS  
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Epic Orthodontics-Joseph Hicks, DDS, MDS  
Foxy Locks, LLC  
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MLILY USA  
Mucho Gusto Food Truck  
Nationwide Insurance - Michael Dyer  
New Covenant Baptist Church  
Pinnacle Assisted Living  
REO, LLC  
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Story Point Senior Living  
The Appraisal Firm  
The Landes Team - Realty Executives Associates  
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## Calendar of Events: April/May 2024

Members can quickly RSVP for events in their Member Portal at <http://members.farragutchamber.com/login>. Call 675-7057 or email [Suzanne@farragutchamber.com](mailto:Suzanne@farragutchamber.com) for a link to create your account! Visitors/Guests can register by clicking the links on the Chamber Calendar ([www.farragutchamber.com](http://www.farragutchamber.com) > "Events") and registering under "Not a member?"

**Tuesdays at the Chamber: FREE Business Mentoring for ANY business with SCORE Greater Knoxville. MUST Email [Clifton.Caudill@SCOREvolunteer.org](mailto:Clifton.Caudill@SCOREvolunteer.org) to pre-schedule.**

**Wednesdays at the Chamber: FREE Business ADVISING for ANY business @ Chamber with SBDC. Visit [www.tsbdc.org/request-advising/](http://www.tsbdc.org/request-advising/) to pre-schedule.**

**April 11th  
8a**

Express Employment Professionals  
8805 Kingston Pike  
Suite 101  
Knoxville 37923

**April 25th  
8a**

Lamon Jewelers  
11237 Parkside Dr.  
Knoxville 37934

**May 9th  
4:30p**

Trade Bank of Knoxville and  
All Occasions Party Rentals  
5825 Middlebrook Pike  
Knoxville 3792

**Would your business love to host one of our popular weekly networkings?  
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# COURTNEY



E N D O F A N E R A

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“He set an example with his players and his program,”


~ **Ted Gatewood, Head Coach**  
Ex-Ooltewah coach now at Red Bank in Chattanooga



# Eddie Courtney

**Admirals skipper from 1996 through 2023  
while Coaching and Teaching at  
FHS for 45 years**

- 204 career Head Coaching Wins (fifth most all-time among active head coaches through 2023)
- Inducted into Tennessee Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2021
- Led his Admirals to the 2016 Division I Class 5A State Championship (14-1 final record)
  - A four-time Region Coach of the Year
- Led his Admirals to Five Consecutive State playoff Quarterfinal appearances (2005 through 2009)
  - Was honored with the 2017 Pat Summitt Ignite Greatness Award
  - Was honored with the 2006 Knoxville News Sentinel Courage Award
- Coached 47 All-state honorees and three All-Americans, including six Mr. Football Finalists (statewide)
- Of the more than 200 Admirals he coached who earned college football scholarships, six have played in the NFL



# End of an Era

After 28 years as Admirals skipper at the helm of Farragut High School varsity football — and 45 years coaching and teaching at FHS — Eddie Courtney captured a state title amongst his 204 career wins, which was fifth most among active head coaches as of 2023.

A four-time Region Coach of the Year, Courtney then earned the highest honor for football coaching success in the state: he was inducted into the Tennessee Football Coaches Association Hall of

Fame in 2021.

And yet for all of this “on the field” success, Courtney perfectly fits the “outstanding coach, but even a better person” profile, as this two-time cancer survivor is highly popular for living out his Christian principles of life.

Soon after announcing his retirement from coaching and teaching at FHS Wednesday, March 6, Courtney said about the reaction among fellow coaches, ex-players and others who have contacted him to extend their congratulations on an outstanding career, “The number of phone calls, text, players who’ve come by school in the last few weeks, it was unreal. ... Fifty or more texts a day, or phone calls.

“I’ve been truly blessed.”

Courtney’s career was praised on the floor of Tennessee General Assembly recently, as state Rep. Jason Zachary (R-District 14, which includes Farragut) presented House Resolution 109, which listed the coach’s many career accomplishments.

# HIGHLY RESPECTED

## Eddie's peers ...

“We’ve been competing against each other for a long time,” Bradley Central head coach Damon Floyd said of Eddie Courtney. “Honestly, I would say Farragut’s probably a program I respect as much as any in the state. He’s a guy that’s always had his teams obviously really well-prepared. They were always well-coached,” he added. “They were physical. You just knew that he respected the game, the way his kids came out and performed every Friday night, year after year after year. Here at Bradley Center, we have the utmost respect for coach Courtney.”

“Coach Courtney, obviously, is competitive, but I think coach Courtney really was a role model as in how to coach, how to be a successful football coach, because he did it with character, he did it with class,” said former Ooltewah head coach Ted Gatewood, who now is leading the program at Red Bank in Chattanooga. “I consider him a friend. I consider him a mentor.

“He set an example with his players and his program. You look at his longevity and being at one place, you don’t see very much anymore,” Gatewood added. “His loyalty to the program, the school and the community was very evident and paramount. But the thing about it is you always knew when you played against coach Courtney, they were going to be fundamentally sound and they were going to be physical and they would get after it.”

“A class act — I don’t know if I’ve run across a better person in my 48 years of coaching,” said Joe Gaddis, former football head coach at Oak Ridge whose Wildcats won the 1991 TSSAA Class AAA (largest at the time) state championship.

“He’s one heck of a coach — I think he’s every bit as good a coach as he is a person,” Gaddis added. “Any success he has is well-deserved. He runs a top-notch program over there, and he’s done it for a while.

“Always well-prepared; they do things right over there.”

## High PRAISE ...

“Donald Dodgen, FHS athletic director, was hired as Farragut varsity boys basketball head coach in 1996, the same year Eddie Courtney took over the Admirals football program.

“I don’t have enough words to express the feelings I have for coach Eddie Courtney,” Dodgen said. “He is just an outstanding gentleman, plus an outstanding football coach. The winningest football coach at Farragut High School, by far.

“But he’s not only a coach and a gentleman, he is a great teacher (see story, page 20),” the AD added. “One of the best teachers at Farragut High School. He got a Teacher of the Year Award (2021) for his job in the classroom.

“He’s been good for the community, he’s been good for this school and he’s been really good for these kids. Look how many kids he’s had through this program through the years.”

About Dodgen’s relationship with Courtney, “he and I have worked together for 28 years now — he and I came in as (head) coaches together in ’96,” he said. “That’s together, not separate — our relationship was really great between football and basketball. And I have been fortunate enough to be the athletic director here working with him. It’s just been a great marriage with us. He’s such an easy person to work with.

“He’s here early in the morning and late at night, and he’s always here for the kids,” Dodgen added.

## Doucette, ‘beyond football’

For the last 24 seasons, assistant coach Tom Doucette — weight lifting coordinator and defensive line coach — has worked under Eddie Courtney at FHS.

With Courtney, “football is important, but it’s more than just about football — it’s about making these boys into men,” Doucette said. “Coach Courtney started a program, ‘BAM: Be a Man.’ Knox County has a program, ‘Boys to Men,’ and he took that and kind of worked that around the stuff that we do in our program here.

“Everything is based around family and football, and it all works together,” he added.

“It was something I connected with as far as loving the game of football.”

## Love of the Game

As for making a career out of football, “I just always enjoyed it,” Eddie Courtney said. “It was something I connected with as far as loving the game of football. I wanted to play it.”

As a ninth-grader at Whittle Spring Jr. High in 1967, “At that time, it’s something that my parents (Paul and Juanita Courtney) and everybody supported me to do — to find something I really wanted to do,” the coach said. “And I just enjoyed being around all the teammates I had through the years, and the coaches and stuff, just having the camaraderie to do that.”

An All-Knox County linebacker and center with the Fulton Falcons through the 1970 season, Courtney accepted a scholarship to Mars Hill University (North Carolina), where he was a standout linebacker through his junior season before a vehicular accident ended his playing career.

**THANK YOU**

*Eddie Courtney*

for a legacy of helping students become better players and better people

 **farragut**  
TENNESSEE

Photo by Carlos Reveiz

“I got a chance, but I worked hard at it. I tried to get to know everybody I could in the coaching business.”

# From Participant to Coach

About Eddie Courtney taking the game from participation to coaching, “just the film part of it; I liked studying the game — and had a real good (linebackers) coach (at Mars Hill) Bill Mitchell, who just encouraged me, and (MHU head coach Claude “Hoot”) Gibson, they were the ones that said, ‘Well, you’re going to finish up your degree, and you’re going to start being a student assistant,’” Courtney recalled. “And that’s how I really got into coaching.”

A graduate assistant coach at Mars Hill through spring of 1974, Courtney got a similar position at East Tennessee State University (where he earned a Masters of Science degree) from the summer of 1974 through spring 1976.

The now Farragut legend then made a big move to Rocky Top, becoming a grad assistant coach for then head coach Bill Battle’s Tennessee Vols beginning in the fall of 1976 (pictured kneeling, left). He stayed through Johnny Majors’ first spring practice on The Hill in 1977.

“Well, I knew that you just had to have some breaks to advance, and I did,” Courtney said. “I got a chance, but I worked hard at it. I tried to get to know everybody I could in the coaching business. I went to multiple clinics and also would go and visit other staffs, other places, just to learn the game.”

Comparing Battle and Majors, “Well, there were two different styles,” the coach said. “Coach Battle was—I think the best way to describe it—he was very organized, detailed. He was young; I guess he was 30-something when I was there with him.

“So he was young, energetic, whereas coach Major is a little older, and he already had his system, the way he did things,” Courtney added.



## Thanks Coach

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# Time for Farragut

Yet another special coach in Eddie Courtney's life stepped forward, encouraging him to coach and teach at Farragut High School. That would begin with the 1977 football season.

"I knew coach (Ken) Sparks for a couple of years before at FCA and other places," Courtney said about what became one of the nation's top small college football coaches. "And when he got that job, he called me, and wondered if I'd be interested. At the time ... I was taking some visits and interviewing for some college jobs. And then coach Sparks just shared his vision, what he thought Farragut could be."

Courtney recalled thinking, "well, let's try and be stable and see what I can do" at Farragut. "And, of course, those first three years (1977 through 1979 seasons), it was incredible what we did at Farragut."

As linebackers coach during that span, Courtney left FHS after the '79 season when Sparks left to be head coach at Carson-Newman College.

Two years as defensive coordinator at Halls

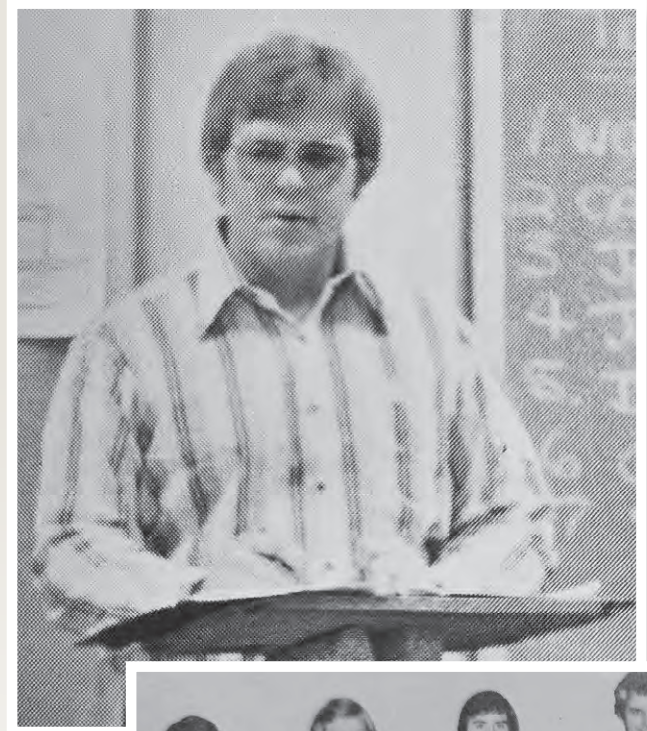
High School — under head coach Bruce Lussier, a former Admirals assistant — Courtney returned to Farragut for the 1982 season in the same coordinator role.

"I had two good years at Halls, no problem there — but I just missed some things at Farragut that I thought would give me a little bit more flexibility to do things the way I wanted to do it," Courtney said. "And I had a chance to come back," serving under FHS head coach Dan Bland.

"Coach Bland, his style was more the hard-nosed, direct approach: physical football, as far as just running the football, and playing great defense," Courtney said. "Coach Sparks, on the other hand, he had everything planned out every day, year-round. It was so organized, from that standpoint, and really just promoting the program and having a vision."

Then, from 1987 through 1995, Courtney coached under Buddy Fisher.

"Coach Fisher, his background was at UT ...," Courtney said. "And he taught me the lesson of: 'don't worry about things you have no control over. Just spend your attention on your program and your kids and those things, and don't get so carried away with all this other stuff.'"



## THANK YOU

For 28 Seasons & All You've Done for Our Community



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## Thank you

for what you've done for the Admirals

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# Time to Lead the Admirals

About getting his opportunity to lead the Admirals program beginning in 1996, “Well, I was excited; I knew that I could do it,” Eddie Courtney said. “Well, let’s put it this way: I paid my dues, but at the same time I enjoyed being a defensive coordinator.

“But I think at that time, I said, ‘I want a little bit more of a challenge,’” he added. “I’d love to be the head coach,’ and I think I was prepared.

“Coach (Buddy) Fisher allowed me, in his last couple of years, to do more and more as far as the program was concerned, to prepare me to be a head coach.”

About the difference in being a head coach versus an assistant, “until you sit in that chair, you don’t understand,” Courtney said. “Everything’s on you, that’s the way I looked at it. And I’d always put time into it.

“But I learned when you become head coach, you need to be the first one there and the last one to leave,” he added. “And that’s the way I approached it. Taking things from all those men, whether it’s coach (Bill) Battle (at Tennessee, as a grad assistant in 1976) or coach (“Hoot”) Gibson (his head coach while playing in college at Mars Hill), or all those other guys — and all the guys I played under and got to be around — I took what I thought was the best of them, but I still had to be myself.”



**Thanks, Coach**  
**for all your years at FHS!**  
You have served our children  
and community well.



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# Humble Beginnings to **Success**

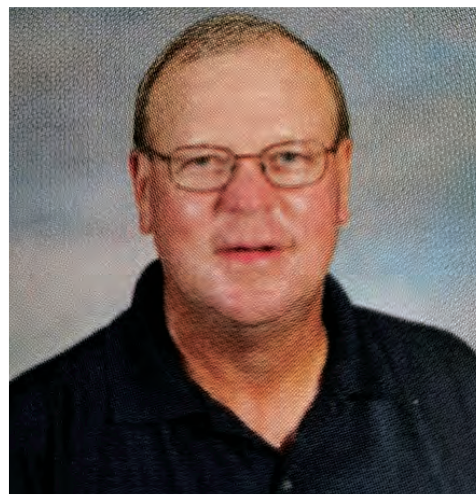
Though losing his first five games, Eddie Courtney's first head-coaching win in 1996 was a 16-13 triumph in Athens versus McMinn County.

"We were a young, inexperienced team," he said. "...I was just glad to see the kids' excitement and the hard work paying off."

In Courtney's ninth season, 2004, an upset victory on the road against then East Tennessee powerhouse Ooltewah, 10-7, highlighted a 9-3 season — his best to date.

Things only improved through 2009, as Farragut reached the TSSAA state playoff quarterfinals five consecutive seasons.

During that time, Courtney became the all-time winningest coach in program history, collecting his 88th triumph late in the 2008 season and his 100th win late in the 2009 campaign.



**“...I was just glad to see the kids' excitement and the hard work paying off.”**

*Wishing Coach Courtney success on his next adventure*



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“‘We didn’t come down here just to play. We came down here to win, guys,’”

~ Eddie Courtney



# ‘No-Quit’

## Attitude helps garner state title

Winning the TSSAA Class 5A state championship in 2016 (14-1 final record) certainly took a “no-quit” attitude.

Perhaps unprecedented either in TSSAA playoff or NFL playoff history, Farragut twice overcame 28-point deficits to win during its playoff run: trail-

ing Ooltewah 42-14 three minutes into the third quarter before rallying to force overtime, then using a goal-line stand in double overtime to win 56-49.

Then in the 5A state title game in Cookeville versus unbeaten and defending 5A state champ Independence, the Admirals trailed 35-7 late in the second quarter before going on a 38-0 run to rally and capturing gold in Tennessee Tech’s Tucker Stadium, winning the crown 45-35.

“Well, for those players, especially, that was the personality they took on all year,” Courtney said about the “no-quit” attitude. “They were very unselfish. The quarterback, Adam Fulton, always played with a chip on his shoulder, wanted to prove that to people. ... They believed we could do it. And I had very few discipline issues at all with that team.”

Though Courtney knows the game inside and out, “I felt like he was good at keeping things simple enough to where we could go out there and play fast,” Fulton said.

“I remember at halftime at the state championship game, I told them, I said, ‘We didn’t come down here just to play. We came down here to win, guys. We know we can,’” Courtney recalled. “And I told them, I said, ‘The thing we’ve got to do is we have to score. They’re going to kick off to us, and we’ve got to score on that drive. And the defense has got to hold.’”

“Well, that happened ... and we just kept playing hard, making plays,” Courtney added. “And the momentum went our way. And as far as Independence, I thought they lost a little composure, and the kids just kept on going.”

“I remember watching the state championship; I mean, as soon as he had it, I wanted to text him because when guys do it right, and you see them get rewarded like that, it was just special for the whole deal to see that happen,” Johnson City Science Hill head coach Stacy Carter said.




# SUCCESS vs. RIVALS

Against the program's top two rivals, Eddie Courtney enjoyed lots of success as head coach.

His career record against archival Bearden was 24-8 — having won 22 or 25 games against the Bulldogs in one stretch from 2002 through 2022, including a 3-1 mark in playoff games.

Struggling against rival Oak Ridge during his first 10 seasons, Courtney turned things around beginning in 2006 and went 13-5 from that point forward against one of the state's top programs historically.





“And I felt also I was trying to instill that into these young men, about all the accountability and commitment ...”

## The Eddie Way

In addition to an in-depth knowledge of the game, coaching success has a lot to do “about people, about making sure you can connect with people,” Eddie Courtney said. “And as the society has changed, I’m still old school about things; have a mindset of discipline, toughness, accountability.

“I’ve just had to find ways to relate that message to a younger generation in a different type of society and still not give up on the principles, things I believe in,” he added. “And I felt also I was trying to instill that into these young men, about all the accountability and commitment and things, and just trying to do it right and give them a chance to grow and get better.”



# COURTNEY

E N D O F A N E R A

## Timeline of Excellence

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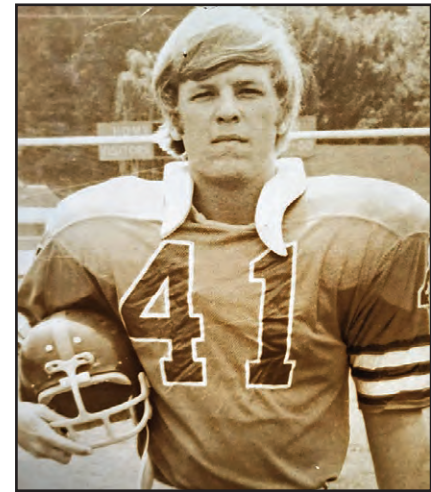


1967



Eddie Courtney (middle, second row) was a key member of Whittle Springs Junior High's ninth-grade team that finished as Knoxville City Champs in 1967 with a perfect 8-0 mark.

1968-1970



Eddie Courtney was an All-County linebacker and center for the Fulton Falcons (Class of 1971).

1971-1973



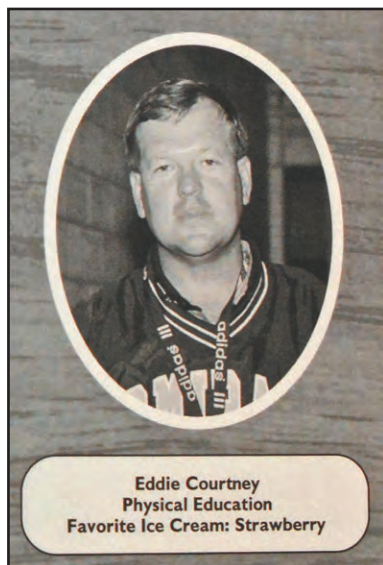
A standout linebacker at Mars Hill University (North Carolina) from 1971 through 1973, Eddie Courtney's playing career ended following a vehicular accident after his junior season.

# 1977-1995

## 1974-1977



Eddie Courtney, kneeling far left, as a graduate assistant coach on head coach Bill Battle's 1976 Tennessee Vols staff, and the next spring with then new head coach Johnny Majors. Previous to this, he served as a grad assistant coach at his alma mater, Mars Hill (Class of 1975), and at East Tennessee State, where Courtney earned a Masters of Science degree.



## 1996-2005



During his first 10 years as Admirals skipper, Eddie Courtney's first win was 16-13 versus McMinn County in 1996. That span concluded with the final year of coaching his son, standout receiver/defensive back Geoff Courtney, in 2005.

Invited by football coaching legend Ken Sparks to join his FHS staff in 1977, Eddie Courtney started out as linebackers coach, then worked his way up to becoming defensive coordinator as an Admirals assistant through the 1995 season.



2005-2009

2017

# 2016 State Champs



From 2005 through 2009, Eddie Courtney used family support to help led Farragut football to five consecutive TSSAA state quarterfinal playoff appearances. Meanwhile, he broke the record for coaching program victories (88) in 2008, then won his 100th game in 2009.



Surrounded by his happy Admirals, Eddie Courtney celebrated on the field after winning the 2016 Division I Class 5A state championship



Eddie Courtney speaks to fellow Tennessee Football Coaches Association members and Hall of Fame inductees upon his Induction into Tn-FCA's Hall of Fame in 2021.

2022

  
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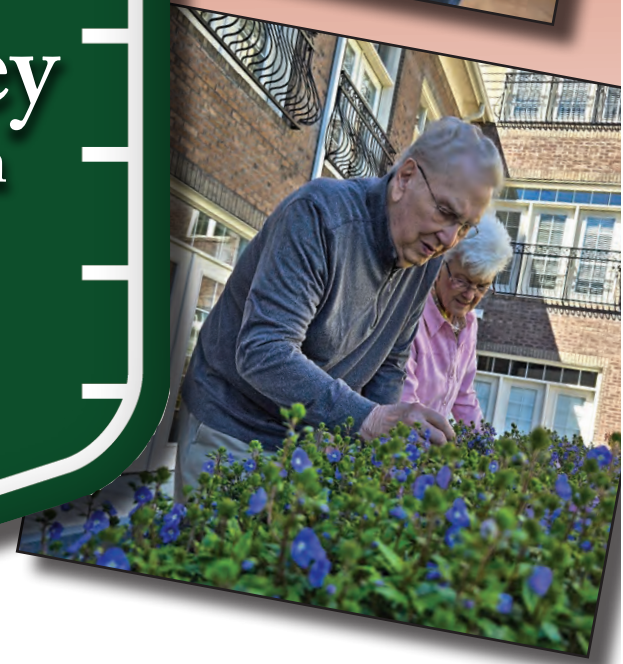
## 2021 Hall of Fame



Alongside his wife, Anita Courtney, Eddie Courtney is shown with the plaque indicating his induction into Tennessee Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2021.



In 2022, Eddie Courtney picked up his 200th win as FHS head coach while also his 24st victory against archival Bearden, finishing 24-8 against the Bulldogs — including 3-1 in playoffs — in 28 seasons.



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**Coach Courtney**  
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for giving so much  
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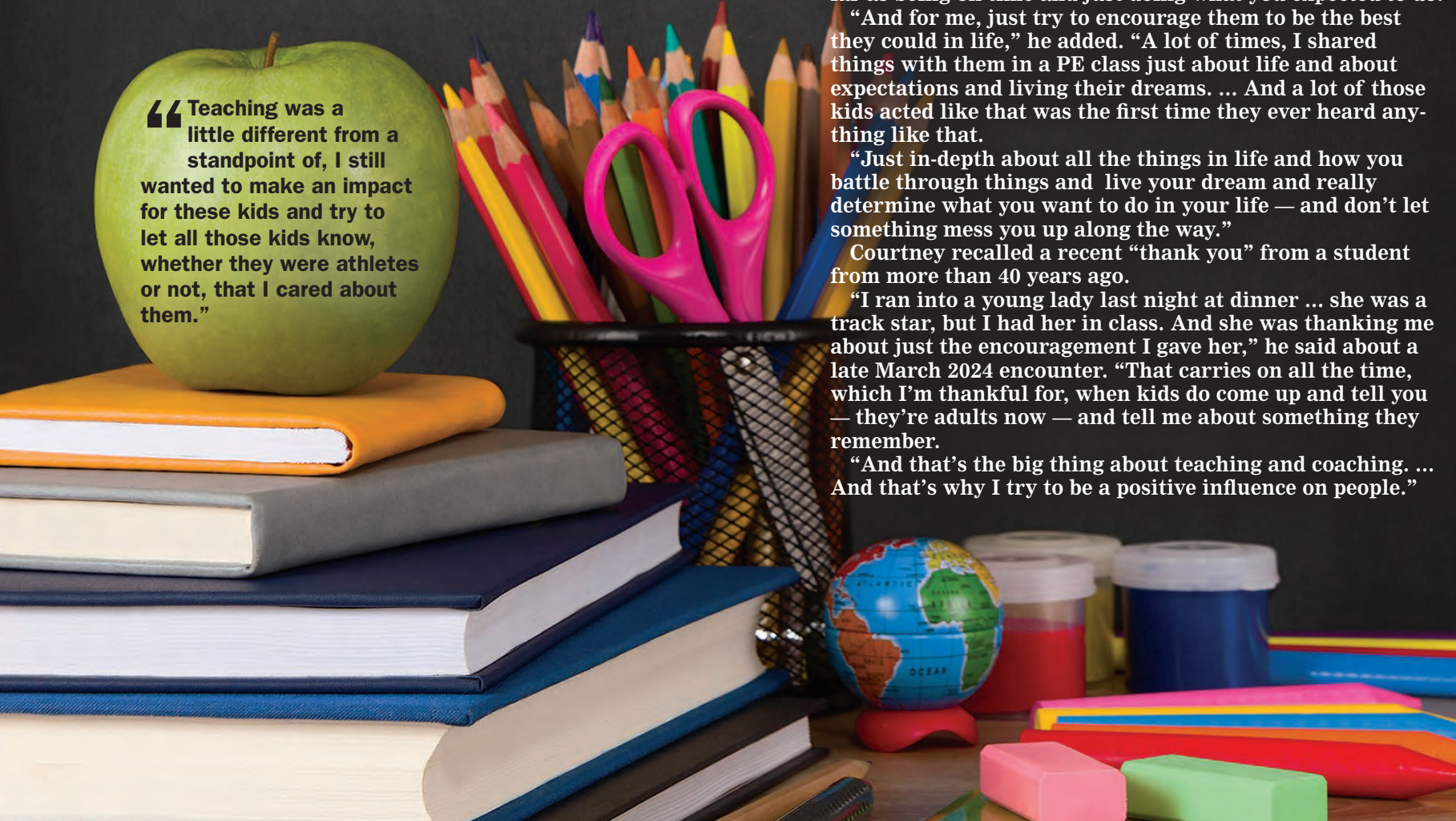
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# Courtney the Teacher



“Teaching was a little different from a standpoint of, I still wanted to make an impact for these kids and try to let all those kids know, whether they were athletes or not, that I cared about them.”

Though having occasionally taught health, psychology and one year of driver's education, Eddie Courtney, 70, has mainly served as a physical education teacher at Farragut High School.

“Teaching was a little different from a standpoint of, I still wanted to make an impact for these kids and try to let all those kids know, whether they were athletes or not, that I cared about them,” Courtney said. “I tried to put a lot of the same principles in my class that I did with football as far as being on time and just doing what you expected to do.

“And for me, just try to encourage them to be the best they could in life,” he added. “A lot of times, I shared things with them in a PE class just about life and about expectations and living their dreams. ... And a lot of those kids acted like that was the first time they ever heard anything like that.

“Just in-depth about all the things in life and how you battle through things and live your dream and really determine what you want to do in your life — and don't let something mess you up along the way.”

Courtney recalled a recent “thank you” from a student from more than 40 years ago.

“I ran into a young lady last night at dinner ... she was a track star, but I had her in class. And she was thanking me about just the encouragement I gave her,” he said about a late March 2024 encounter. “That carries on all the time, which I'm thankful for, when kids do come up and tell you — they're adults now — and tell me about something they remember.

“And that's the big thing about teaching and coaching. ... And that's why I try to be a positive influence on people.”

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“ Well, I couldn’t have done this without her and her support.”

# Backbone of Anita

About the love and support of his wife, Anita Courtney, “Well, I couldn’t have done this without her and her support,” he said.

As a registered nurse, “Sometimes she got to work the late shift, and she was committed to her job,” the coach said. “And I tried to support her and her career.”

On the other hand, “From all the times I’ve been gone from home, she’s had to learn to do things around the house a lot,” Courtney said. “And then just her love and support that she’s given, with me being gone so much time, has been so critical.”



Coach Eddie Courtney has been a great football coach and teacher at Farragut High School for over 44 years.

Coach Courtney has been the leader for the school and the young men and students for hundreds of football victories and led through losses as well. But his greatest contribution has been to teach the young men and students and the Farragut community what courage, class and character look like.

We salute this fine leader and man and thank him.

~ Doug and Brenda Horne



Megan Courtney, far right, daughter of Eddie Courtney, right, stand between Eddie's wife and Megan's mom, Anita Courtney, alongside the family of Eddie's son, Geoff Courtney. Geoff's wife, Taylor, holds their daughter, Charley, 3.

# Dad's No. 1 Fan

## Father & daughter find bond over the game

Eddie Courtney's daughter, Megan Courtney, "is probably my No. 1 fan," he said.

Being around so many FHS players, coaches and staff, "She's always said many a time that she felt like sometimes she had a lot of brothers because, again, it's those experiences," he added.

However, with demands on his time with football and teaching, "I gave up a lot of time where I was not around her," he confessed. "Even though she was a student at Farragut High School, still, it was tough. I was a football coach. I had so much going on.

"We've connected much better now ... and we're trying to do some things today that we didn't do earlier. And that was my only regret. ... Sometimes I didn't realize what I was doing it," being away from Megan and the family a lot, "but she'd always say, 'No, it's Ok.'"

Recently speaking at a University of Tennessee football clinic, "I said, 'Now, as I close, remember, your family comes first. ... And I shared my experience with Megan. ... And I said, 'All you guys who've got daughters, make sure you don't neglect them. And don't neglect your wife.'"

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# Battling Cancer



In April of 2005, “what I remember there is that, really, I thought I was having a heart attack,” Eddie Courtney recalled about being diagnosed with Hodgkin’s disease. “My chest was hurting, and I was sweating. So when I got to the hospital, they ran the test and stuff. ... And then what they found was a mass in my chest.

“So then, next thing I know, we’re meeting with the oncologist and we’re getting a plan set, ready to have chemo and radiation and take care of it,” he added. “Luckily, I’d found it at an earlier stage.”

Being informed there were 16 symptoms and signs of Hodgkin’s, “I probably had about nine of them,” he said, adding that taking cancer warning signs seriously is “another thing I’ve preached a lot about. ... I do get a physical every year, and had been. ... And if I hadn’t done that, I don’t know about where I’d be, at what stage of cancer I’d been.”

A special moment seemed to come by chance. “I remember when I was first at St. Mary’s Hospital, and I was in my room, and I looked out, and I saw my (former) head football coach (at Fulton), Bob Black, walking around the track down below where I was at,” he said. “And that, to me, was just a sign of ‘I’m going to be OK.’ because he instilled that stuff about all the things I believed in about toughness and about taking things head-on and stuff. And so that was just an encouraging thing for me to see.”

Brought up in a Christian home, yet also brought up to be “tough and hard-nosed,” Courtney said, “I just knew that I was going to fight it. I had faith, family and football, and I had people around me that had supported

me through the years, and they had prepared me for adversity.”

However, about his treatments, “man, they were tough,” he said, agreeing to take an above average dosage in chemotherapy “because I was in pretty good health. ... My tumor was in my chest between the heart and lung. And so, they were just seeing if I could take that much dosage.

“After the first month, in that grind there, I went from 18 chemos to 28 radiations,” Courtney added. “And it was tough starting, it was tough in the middle.”

However, “I only missed two days of practice, and I was at every game,” he said. “Now, there were days (at practice) I had to sit in the golf cart and just try to take it in.

“You’d be so nauseated. ... There’s times I would just lean over outside the golf cart and just throw up, and then I’d be OK; I’d just get some water,” Courtney added.

But football was therapeutic. “One of the things that kept me going was I felt like I still connected to something,” Courtney said. “That’s where my attention was. I wasn’t sitting around worrying about it or not doing anything and just laying around ... redirecting my attention and not sitting around and feeling sorry for yourself ... That’s because you need something to do. I tell people, I say, ‘Whatever your passion is, that’s what you have to hold on to.’

“As the dosages started coming down” by late October and early November, “I did feel a little better at the end,” he added.

Roughly eight months after being diagnosed, “I remember it was at our banquet in December is when I was cancer free,” Courtney said.

# Second Round of Cancer

Forever grateful for lots of support



With the cancer coming back to challenge Eddie Courtney once again, as diagnosed just after COVID hit in 2020, “Well, it was tough. I thought, ‘Oh, wow,’ because you know what you were going through,” he said.

Needing roughly a month to recover this time, “The lucky thing about it, I did not have to have chemo; I was able to do it surgically, and that was a lot easier,” Courtney said. “But still, when you say the word cancer, it really gets your attention. But I looked at it this way: I said, ‘I know how to get through this, and I’m going to do it wherever I need to do it.’”

With his son, offensive coordinator Geoff Courtney, stepping up as interim head coach, “There was really a three-week period of time there that was just hard — it was really hard,” the coach said. “But it was a little different” than the first time.

“I thought after surgery, two or three days after, I’d be fine and bounce back. But it took a while,” he added. “And I just had to be smart about it. I didn’t need to do anything foolish. And I felt like Geoff and the rest of the coaches, they can handle this. I’ve tried to allow them to grow as coaches, so I thought that was a good chance for them to find out what they’re going to do if I wasn’t around.”

Upon returning to his coaching duties, “I was back trying to walk the treadmill and then do some lifting, but not a lot,” he said. “Just trying to stay active.”

## Great support

Courtney said he will forever be grateful for the support of “my immediate family, my father and mother (the late Paul and Juanita Courtney), and my sisters (Vicki Howard and Paula Browning), my brothers-in-law (Mike Browning and Vic Howard) and in-laws (Henry and Aileen Russell). Then I had my coaching friends that would always call me, text me, try to encourage me, asking how I’m doing.

“And just my faith. It made me stronger in my faith, my belief in God, and just drew me closer to what’s real in life and what’s important in being a Christian today.”

## Special Award

In honor of Courtney, the annual Eddie Courtney Courage Award was established to recognize those similar to the Admirals’ long-time skipper in terms of battling severe adversity with strength and determination.

**ON BEHALF OF THE FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL'S  
P.E. & WELLNESS DEPARTMENT;  
WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE  
COACH EDDIE COURTNEY ON HIS RETIREMENT.**

**COACH WAS A VITAL PART OF OUR DEPARTMENT  
AS A DEDICATED TEACHER AND A GREAT FRIEND.**

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL.  
YOU WILL BE MISSED!**

**CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN & ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT.**



• “Coach (Eddie) Courtney, he actually cares about the person you’re becoming, the man you’re becoming, the life that you’re preparing,” said Tommy Lawhorn, a standout defensive lineman (FHS Class of 2005). “He had a huge impact in raising me into the man that I am today from that four-year period of my life. And outside of my parents and my family, I’d say coach Courtney has had the biggest impact on my life, helping me become the person I am today.”

• “I would just say that he was one of the most influential people in my athletic career,” said Eli Purcell (Class of 2021), a star linebacker/running back who, as a standout college linebacker, has transferred from Wofford to Tennessee. “It’s always impressed me how every single person he got in contact with, he always has their best interests at heart. I just think that really shows the character that he has and the character that he wants to instill in every player or person he comes in contact with.”

• “Coach was always very helpful to me as a young coach,” said one of his former rivals, ex-Bearden High School head coach Morgan Shinlever, now BHS athletic director. “There was several times I’d call him and ask him what they were doing and running by situations that I had at Bearden and get his take on it. He was always willing to take the time to give me an example if he had dealt with something similar, or give me his opinion on it. I think that speaks a lot for older men in the coaching profession, when they take the time to help groom the younger guys with less experience. Even though we were rivals on the field, he was always one that I felt like cared about me and our well-being as young coaches.”

• “Coach Courtney, he was a great coach; he taught me a lot of life lessons,” said Dawson Moore, a former standout quarterback (Class of 2021). “Most

coaches nowadays, they just try to win as much as possible,” Moore added. “But coach Courtney’s main objective was to teach us how to push through certain things and how to deal with certain relationships or get through tough times or confusing times.

“It was all about his team and his Town and taking care of everybody. He is a good man.”

• “The very last year (I coached), we were able to beat him 42-34, but he came across the field and he said, ‘coach, great job. I’m happy for you.’ And called me again later that night. It didn’t matter win, lose or draw, Eddie was going to be the same after every game,” said Graham Clark, former head coach of King-

sport Dobyns-Bennett.

• “Every single one of his players loved playing for him,” said Andrew Martland, a former FHS quarterback (Class of 2009). “That’s the first thing that comes to my mind. The second is a mentor that influenced thousands of not only football players,

but he was also a teacher all those years, and so he also had impact in the classroom as well. The third thing, he was an amazing family man; a great husband and a great father.”

• After he graduated, “I always would stop by at the fieldhouse or on the field, back when it had grass, or just come into his office, and he always just wanted to see how things were going,” said Danny Vest, an FHS Sports Hall of Fame inductee as a star receiver/defensive back (Class of 1990). “He didn’t want to, like, reminisce about the playing days ... but mainly he just wanted to see how you were doing and how the family was doing and how life in general was going for you. If there was anything he could do to help or give advice. A lot of people didn’t see what he did outside of coaching. ... But of all the things he did for people outside of football, I was one of those people.”

## Peers & Players alike praise Eddie

“... They don't want to talk football. ... They understand all that because I come to church to worship, not talk about football.”



# A Man of Faith

Having been brought up in a Christian home, “I went to City View Baptist Church there in downtown Knoxville,” Courtney said. “In fact, I was called to be a deacon there in that church.

“And then, after we had moved down here in Farragut, probably about 10 years after I was here, I felt like I needed to be more involved (locally) and find a church here,” the coach added. “So I knew Dr. Doug Sager (then senior pastor) at First Baptist Concord. In fact, he spoke to our team a couple of times. We'd always used somebody on the staff at that time to be our team chaplain.

“We just felt comfortable in the First Baptist Concord Sunday school class and worship service. It's just been a blessing that I understand what that means being around a fellowship of people in my Sunday school class. ... They don't want to talk football. ... They understand all that because I come to church to worship, not talk about football.”

“I think one thing about Coach Courtney was I know he's a man of faith,” said Red Bank head coach Ted Gatewood, who coached against Courtney at Ooltewah High School.

**Coach Courtney,  
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# Heir to the Loudest Whistle

The Courtney era of Farragut High School football has ended — yet it's also beginning.

An FHS football ballboy upon the ascension of his father, Eddie Courtney, to head coach of the Admirals in 1996, Geoff Courtney became a standout wide receiver/defensive back for his father's team (Class of 2006) before making it as a walk-on receiver/kick holder at the University of Tennessee.

About new Admirals football skipper Geoff Courtney, an FHS business teacher who has been an assistant coach under his father since 2010, "I watched him grow up from here (indicating his small size as a child with his hand extended down) to where he is right now," Donald Dodgen, FHS athletic director, said. "An outstanding young man. I mean, he will fit into this program. He's been in the program for a long time. He will do really, really well. I'm proud of him."

The junior Courtney already has earned statewide recognition, having been named Tennessee Football Coaches Association's Division I Class 6A Assistant Coach of the Year in 2022 (See photo, page 28).

Geoff Courtney, 35, became the 14th head coach in Farragut High School football history, with his hiring announced during a press conference in the program's Team Room Friday morning, March 22.

FHS principal Dr. John Bartlett began by praising his predecessor and father, who announced his retirement Wednesday, March 6, after 28 seasons as Admirals skipper.

Eddie Courtney "led with class and dignity, led it the right way, did things the right way, with integrity, and raised a bunch of young men," Bartlett told a gathering of players, coaches, administrators and media. "Among those young men he got to raise during that time was his own son, who's grown up in this program, who has followed in his father's footsteps, coaching football here, and has prepared for this moment."

During his speech to the gathering, Geoff Courtney thanked his parents — which also includes his mother, Anita Courtney — and his wife, Taylor Courtney (who have a daughter, Charley, 3) and other family members "who mean the world to me."

He also thanked fellow coaches, "who I have the pleasure to work with each and every single day," for their mentoring, which began in 2010 before the junior Courtney was elevated to offensive coordinator in 2017.

"It's really a proud day for me. ... Geoff has been preparing for this for years," Eddie Courtney said about his son. "Geoff's certainly a fit here, but he's going to have the freedom to do some things he thinks will make it better."

"I think he's well-prepared to do that."

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# Father, Coach & Mentor

About having his father as a coaching mentor, “I think there’s no better person to learn from,” Geoff Courtney said about replacing Eddie Courtney at Farragut.

“In this profession, I’ve been very blessed to have an up-close, first-hand experience with that,” he added. “He’s a guy that people know from all over: Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama.

“Coaches from all over will call him and pick his brain and lean on him for things because they know the type of man he is and how he’s had a successful program. I’ve just been very blessed to be able to have somebody like that that I can work with side-by-side.”

Even in 2024 and beyond, “He’ll still be somebody that I can pick his brain on some things, some topics,” the new head coach added.

In advising his son about what’s ahead, “It’s like three jobs,” Eddie Courtney said, emphasizing the desire to lighten Geoff Courtney’s load. “You teach, so there’s six, seven hours a day.

“Then you’re coaching, and all the things that go with coaching, whether it’s raising money or whether it’s talking to college coaches or running your offseason program,” he added.

“And then you have, on top of that, all those other things you’ve got to do, like a maintenance guy or someone like that. ... You’re a groundskeeper, you’re a handyman, you’re all that stuff. I mean, really. And so, that’s why it is a 12-hour-a-day job, year-around.”





# ‘Same vision, next level’

As for his focus in 2024 and beyond, “Our vision is going to remain the same; we’re just going to take it to the next level,” the new Admirals skipper Geoff Courtney said. “We are going to be the best high school football program in the state of Tennessee. And what that means, and how we do that, is about surrounding yourself with the best people.”



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# Not the Coach, yet remaining a Key Cog

To help lighten the load for his son, new Farragut football head coach Geoff Courtney, “I’m going to stay on as director of Football Operations, which means I’m going to do a lot of things behind the scenes,” retiring Admirals skipper Eddie Courtney said. “Things I enjoy doing: field maintenance and try to raise money for projects that we have for the football program; just try to enjoy that part of it.

... I’m going to encourage former players and people who have been

our supporters for football,” he added. “I’ve always kept an open door. ... So I’m going to enjoy that role of being able to just reconnect with a lot of people and just be available.”

Emphasizing he will not be coaching in any capacity, “if they ask me to help them do something or whatever, I’ll be available, whether it’s sweep the turf or whatever it is,” the senior Courtney said. “I enjoy doing those things and let those coaches be able to coach.”

Knowing first-hand the importance of family, “The coaching staff we’ve got now, most of them are young, got small kids,” Eddie Courtney added. “I’m encouraging them to either bring their kids to practice or make sure that they spend time with their family.”

On Behalf of the  
Farragut High School Athletics Department,  
we would like to thank you for 28 incredible seasons,  
& leaving a legacy that will last for ages.

“There aren’t enough words to describe coach Courtney. He’s a gentleman, an outstanding teacher and educator, and a pillar of this community. He isn’t just the heartbeat, he is Farragut High School.”

— Donald Dodgen,  
Athletics Director at Farragut High School.

Photo CRFOTO.com



# THANK YOU

farragutpress would like to wish Coach Courtney the Best of Luck in his new role and continued success.

It has been a pleasure.

For help in compiling photos and information for this tribute to Eddie Courtney, we would like to extend a special thank you to the following:

- All photos of Eddie Courtney from 2016 forward (except for family photo on page 19) and action photos were courtesy of **Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com**
- All photos dating back to the late 1960s through 2009 were courtesy of **Anita Courtney** (sharing her collection) and **Jack Tate**, FHS Sports Information director, who made annuals available from which to copy photos
- Information and quotes are from **the Courtney family** (including **Geoff Courtney and his family**), from former **FHS players and coaches**, plus various **rival coaches**.

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“Our vision is going to remain the same; we’re just going to take it to the next level,”

~ Geoff Courtney,  
new Admirals football skipper