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Dixie Garden Club's 100th, Art Fest's annual creations celebrated as summer ends



Photos by Tammy Cheek

(Top) Eliza Densky, 4, enjoyed time painting on a stone as part of Town of Farragut's annual Artfest in the parking lot of Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd, Sunday, Sept. 15. She was one of hundreds of children who enjoyed showing their creative talents. **(Above)** Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs president Denise Thorne, left, was one of the TFGC dignitaries on hand to congratulate members, such as Dixie Highway Garden Club historian Linda Ford, center, and DHGC president LaQuita Misner, for DHGC's 100th anniversary during a tea in Knoxville's Bleak Mansion Thursday, Sept 12.

Part 1 of 2 Solutions?

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

A vehicle speeding while going north on Thornton Drive during a neighborhood meeting with two Town of Farragut government officials became a symbol of residents' anger and frustrations with speeding motorists in Thornton Heights subdivision, which surrounds Concord United Methodist Church.

The meeting included about 30 adult residents living along Thornton, Roane, Hughlan and Farr drives and Towne Road.

Perhaps sparked by the Aug. 8 hit-and-run accident seriously injuring an FHS 16-year-old student waiting for her morning bus at the corner of Thornton and Hughlan, residents met with Town of Farragut South Ward Alderman Drew Burnette and Town administrator David Smoak to give their opinions and ask questions: what can the Town do to help slow down drivers?

This roughly 60-minute exchange came in the southeast parking lot of CUMC Wednesday evening, Sept. 11.

"You all have had a pretty tragic accident within the last few weeks," Burnette said. "... So I'm really here for two things: one is the absolute most important thing, which is feedback. I want to hear from you. I don't want to assume I know what you're going through. I don't want to assume I know what the problems are. Speeding is a problem all over, right? But I want to hear from you on the speeding, on the roads, on the cut-through.

"And if you see me writing down, I've got a big space here for notes," he added. "That's the first thing, is I need to hear from you all, what you're experiencing and what your frustrations are.

"And then the second piece is we've got processes in place."

About half of the adult residents on hand had at least one question and/or comment for Burnette and Smoak.

Burnette said the Town would "start with a speed study" in this area.

Meanwhile, resident Joe McBride said he "started back in 2007 trying to get this traffic calming (speed bumps) through the Town of Farragut, and here's a letter that I got back 17 years ago. ... They told me it's not in a fiscal budget. I see calming (speed bumps) around

See MEETING RESIDENTS on Page 3A



Photos by Alan Sloan

(Above) Residents on hand to meet with Town of Farragut South Ward Alderman Drew Burnette (left) and Town administrator David Smoak about their community traffic issues included Steve Reynolds (black shirt), Robert Ferguson (olive shirt) and Jason Pitts (red shirt), who were among roughly 30 adult residents on hand in the CUMC parking lot Wednesday evening, Sept. 11. About half of the 30 gave opinions and/or asked questions.



'Mistakes' only: Bartlett on 2 state Comptroller FHS 'investigations'

ALAN SLOAN
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Tennessee Comptroller's Office released two "investigative reports" related to Farragut High School — a TCO press release that was e-mailed to farragutpress Friday afternoon, Sept. 13, stated — concerning what FHS principal Dr. Jon Bartlett said were "mistakes" concerning the handling of funds and spending by two extracurricular school entities.

"Both investigations began after (Knox County) School System officials reported questionable transactions to the Comptroller's Office," the release further stated.

Details of infractions, resulting in an "investigation," targets the FHS Dugout Club, which is a school

support organization for the Farragut baseball program, while the "second investigation" involves the FHS Marching Admirals band.

"There were mistakes made. They were fixable. But nobody was corrupt or stealing money," Bartlett said. "We were not mispending money in any way, shape or form.

"... And the other thing is, when those mistakes were made, we fixed those mistakes," he added.

The following are TCO investigation details:
FHS Dugout Club

"Investigators determined club officers paid salary



Bartlett

supplements to FHS baseball coaches totaling \$3,350. These 'thank you' gifts were not approved by the school system, as required.

"Furthermore, since four of the coaches who received payments are KCS employees, the club should have provided the money to the Board of Education for payment to the coaches. This ensures tax withholdings and other deductions are done properly.

"The Farragut Dugout Club also used club funds to buy questionable gifts for coaches and themselves totaling at least \$463.63.

"The Dugout Club also charged \$600 'operational' fees to players in 2022 and 2023. School support organizations may not charge students to participate in

See 'INVESTIGATIONS' on Page 5A

new Farragut voting location; early voting Oct. 16-31

• Early voting for the federal and state elections culminating on Election Day Tuesday, Nov. 5, will take place in three Farragut/West Knox County locations Wednesday, Oct. 16, through Thursday, Oct. 31: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesdays; 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 19; and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 26; closed on Sundays:

- New Farragut location is Village Green shopping center, 11437 Kingston Pike; other West Knox County locations are:
- Downtown West, 1645 Downtown West Blvd, Unit 40
- Hardin Valley area: Karns Senior Center, 8042 Oak Ridge Highway (special hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; closed Saturday and Sunday).

Registration, offices at stake

- Monday, Oct. 7, is the final day to register to vote before Election Day.
- On the ballot are President and Vice President of the United States; U.S. Senate; U.S. House of Representatives District 2; state Senate, District 6; and state House of Representatives in District 14 and District 89 among others.



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All but \$180k of \$2.674 million paid by grants to fund McFee Park Phase 4

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen moved toward starting Phase 4 of McFee Park, the construction of a parking lot and pavilion, by unanimously approving a construction contract during its regular meeting Thursday, Sept. 12.

The Board approved the bid from The Franklin Group, LLC., for \$2.674 million.

"This contract (with The Franklin Group) includes construction of a 127-space permeable paver parking lot around the western end of the loop at McFee Park," Town engineer Darryl Smith said. "It also includes a pavilion, trailhead and associated site improvements to include irrigation, lighting and landscaping."

"The permeable pavers allow increased infiltration of stormwater runoff while providing a durable and beautiful finished product," he added.

"We had an awful lot of interest in this project prior to bidding. Unfortunately, we only received one bid on Aug. 6.:

That bid "was from Franklin Group, LLC, for \$2,674,000," Smith said. "The Franklin Group has not worked for the Town in the past, but they have worked with our consultant, Ross/Fowler, who recommends them.

"This project is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and a grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation," he added.

With Alderman Drew Burnette making the motion to approve, he pointed out while the bid was high, AARPA and TDEC are paying all but \$180,000 of the cost.

"That is a huge, huge help," Burnette added.

Still, Mayor Ron Williams questioned why there was only one bid. "Do you think (the project) was more than some of the other bidders could do?" the mayor asked.

"I don't think so," Smith answered. "I know a couple of the potential bidders that have done bigger projects, so I think it was all within their range."

He added Franklin Group is a local bidder.

On another note, the Board unanimously approved, on first reading, a request from Turkey Creek Land Partners, LLC., to rezone Parcel 19.1, 1.57 acres south of Home Federal Bank, near Publix, from Office District (O-1-3), which allows up to three stories, to General Commercial (C-1).

Community Development director Mark Shipley said the parcel is the last undeveloped tract in the Turkey Creek development. While it abuts North Campbell Station Road, it is accessed through a joint access easement shared with Home Federal Bank and Publix shopping center.

Although the Office district does not allow restaurants, Shipley said the developer has been approached with different restaurant concepts.

In separate business, the Board divided up its presence on Town committees during its workshop before the meeting.

The mayor will continue to serve on the Arts & Beautification Committee, and Burnette on the Parks & Athletics Council.

Alderman David White will serve on the Visual Resources Review Board while Alderman Alex Cain will serve on the Tourism and Visitor Committee and Education Relations Committee. Vice Mayor/Alderman Scott Meyer on the Stormwater Committee and Williams on the Museum Committee.

The Board also proclaimed Tuesday, Sept. 17, through Monday, Sept. 23 as Constitution Week in Town.



Williams

KCSO reports

• At 11:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 9, a complainant came to Knox County Sheriff's Office West Precinct to report identity theft from a Buckley Road residence. Complainant received a letter in the mail from Advance America on July 21 stating "thank you for your recent loan approval," the report stated. "Complainant thought this was an advertisement for the business and discarded the letter.

"Complainant went to Advance America in Lenoir City on July 24 and was advised from the business that an online loan was taken out on July 20 using his personal information in the amount of \$1,000," the report further stated. "Complainant was advised by Advance America that he will not be responsible for the loan and filed paperwork with the company. Complainant thought the incident was taken care of and received another letter in the mail on Sept. 6 stating his Advance America account was delinquent and wanted to file a police report."

• On Sept. 9, a complainant came into KCSO West Precinct to report a forged check from an area business. "Complainant advised he wrote the original check in the amount of \$6,500 to his property manager ... dated Sept. 1, 2024," the report stated. "Complainant dropped the check into the dropbox that was in front of Village Green subdivision along Municipal Center Drive in (Farragut) ... on Aug. 21, 2024."

Upon checking his online account on Aug. 3, "complainant noticed the check was written out ... in the amount of \$46,500," the report further stated. The bank "advised the complainant the check was also mobile deposited. "Complainant does not know the exact date the check was deposited. Complainant (said) this has happened before, but (the bank) took care of it. ..."

• At 10:21 a.m., a KCSO unit responded to a Midhurst Drive residence in reference to a domestic disturbance/vandalism.

The officer contacted the victim, who resides

there with his daughter, and her husband. The victim said he was at work and received a call from his daughter that his son-in-law "had put a few holes in the downstairs bedroom wall and a hole in the bedroom door."

Victim said he rents his home. "Upon observing the damage there were approximately three holes in the drywall and one hole in the wooden door of his (daughter's and son-in-law's) downstairs bedroom," the report stated.

Officer spoke with the daughter, who said her husband "was upset because she had cheated on him," the report further stated. Subsequently, the son-in-law "put a few holes in the wall and the door out of anger. The daughter said "nothing physical had occurred; she was not in any fear and (her husband) was not aggressive at all toward her in any way."

Officer spoke with her husband, "who made the same statement as (his wife) and admitted to causing the property damage. His father-in-law said the damage "was under \$500 to fix holes in the wall and door," the report stated. "... All parties were calm on scene and did not wish to separate."

• At three times starting at 10:25 p.m. and ending at 10:57 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 5, three complainants called KCSO West Precinct to report similar vandalisms from their Buttermilk Lane home. All three complainant said an unknown suspect carved a swastika into the lid of her mailbox, with an unknown object causing the damage. Estimated value of damage for all three homes was listed at \$10 each.

• On Wednesday, Sept. 4, officers arrived at a Justice Valley Street resident to serve a warrant. ... They heard a vehicle running in the garage. The suspect exited the garage and was taken into custody without incident. Suspect stated the vehicle was idling in his garage to "just make sure it was running property," the report quoted the suspect/arrestee as saying.



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Meeting residents

From page 1A

Town. I see all the other stuff around Town. Where do we fit in?"

"I can tell you this is not true anymore; it is in the budget if it meets the traffic study requirements," Burnette said.

Smoak advised that whatever residents in this area decide they want, there must be "50 percent plus one (resident)" in this community who approve in order for the Town to take action, whether that be speed bumps and/or any other speed-calming measures.

Burnette said the "process has been narrowed down to have the effective areas vote specifically on those traffic calming applications," letting those most affected be the only ones to have a vote.

One resident skeptical of speed bumps said motorists "don't slow down there either. ... They'll hit those speed bumps at 50 miles an hour."

Burnette said speed bumps are "a fairly easy thing to obtain."

Without a Town police force, having Knox County Sheriff's Office to enforce the speed limit was not considered a viable option due to lack of availability.

"In terms of lowering the speed limit, though, there

are studies that show that as you decrease the speed limit from 25 to 20, the visibility of pedestrians goes up significantly more ...," one resident announced. "... You increase the visibility of pedestrians in a significant way so that increases the safety of those people walking along the road."

A resident suggested installing at least one electronic/digital speed monitoring device to show motorists their speed and indicate it's "Too Fast," which are included along McFee Road, in Concord Hills subdivision and along Everett Road, among other locations.

One resident said he's taken "an active effort, in some cases, of physically slowing traffic. I've stopped people in the road and told them they're going too fast."

Yet another resident said, "The crazy thing is the speeders in here aren't the 16 year-olds, they're the 70 year-olds."

Cut-through traffic in this neighborhood is prevalent "because traffic is so bad — it's worse Friday, but it's terrible all the time," one resident said.

"I mean, I have cars on my bumper, honking and everything trying to get through the neighborhood, cutting through because Kingston Park is so backed up," she added.

It wasn't clear that considering sidewalks in this com-

munity would be either allowable from a construction/ordinance standpoint or from an expense standpoint.

Burnette warned the residents, "if you don't get consensus, and then the vote fails, you've got to wait a certain period of time before you can even go back for traffic calming measures."

As for procedure without a subdivision HOA, "Each street will have two to five people that are representatives of that street. Our engineering team will get with your team on that street and talk through what's the most effective thing," Smoak said.

(More comments/questions in next week's part 2 report)

presstalk

865-671-TALK (8255)

or editor@farragutpress.com

• My wife and I have lived here in Farragut for quite a few years. Why in the world (is) the traffic atrocious? (Recently) at 5:15 (p.m.), going down Kingston Pike, the traffic was basically stopped. I'm just calling (to say) it's like a little Manhattan, the new buildings and things that are going up there (next to) Kroger. Why on earth can't something be done about the traffic? It can only get worse.

Presstalk rules

• Keep calls to a 90-second maximum (call 865-671-8255 24 hours a day, seven days a week); • 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.

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A vision

Johnsons build The Manor as gathering place to celebrate

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Chris and Amanda Johnson have achieved their vision of building and opening The Manor at Hickory Creek, an event venue for Knox County on a grand scale.

Nestled along Hickory Creek, the Johnsons cut the ribbon for The Manor, located at 12544 Yarnell Road, during a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce event Tuesday, Sept. 10.

"It's really a place to gather and stay," Amanda said. "We really just hope that there's a lot of memories made here, that there's a lot of time people spend that they need, and this is imprinted on their hearts that it's been really special."

The venue can handle micro weddings, anniversaries, rehearsal dinners, graduation, birthday parties and many other celebrations.

"There's not nearly enough options, especially as unique and rich and beautiful as this place is," Chamber president/CEO Julie Blaylock said.

Chris said the Johnsons wanted to create a space large enough where everyone could gather in a big open meeting area, kitchen included, but

also have enough space where everyone could stay on the property.

"No one's having to drive from hotels or anywhere else," he said. "And then, no one ever wants to share bathrooms.

"That's why in the 3,400-square-foot upstairs, it will sleep 18 people — five bedrooms — and every bedroom has its own bathroom," Chris added, noting it has five-and-a-half baths.

On the main floor, which also is 3,400 square feet, the structure features a 10-by-10-foot kitchen, bridal room and the common meeting area.

The kitchen was Chris' inspiration.

"Everyone gathers in the kitchen," he observed. "I want a kitchen that can accommodate a lot of people and it's just welcoming."

Outdoors, there is plenty of space to "have a campfire out by the creek," Chris said. "If people just want to get out and walk. If they have pets, they're welcome to bring them.

"The (building is) set up so that if someone wants to just book the main level, they can book just the main level," he added.

"If they want to just book the top floor, they can book up



Tammy Cheek

The Manor at Hickory Creek co-owners Chris Johnson (with scissors) and wife, Amanda Johnson, to his right, prepared to cut the ribbon on The Manor, 12544 Yarnell Road, at a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce-sponsored ribbon cutting Tuesday, Sept. 10. Joining them were Becca Hughes, property manager, fourth from left; Hughes' daughters, Jubilee, 2, left, and Reign, 4; the Johnsons' son, Timothy, (black T-shirt); and a host of Chamber members and other supporters.

there; or if they want to book all of it together, it's usually a reduced rate. We book the whole package together."

To book the space through Airbnb ([airbnb.com](https://www.airbnb.com)) or at the Johnsons' website, visit themanorathickorycreek.com or call 865-208-0654 for more information.

A 3,000-square-foot patio paver area can accommodate celebrations as well.

"It is something that is 'come and enjoy the property, and we're right here, this close to town.' That was my vision,"

he added. "The creek is what brought us to this location. "We love it. It's a spring-fed, crystal clear creek."

The Johnsons lived in Farragut from 2006 until 2021, when they built a house in a neighborhood just outside The Manor property.

The idea to build such a venue came after a celebration of his in-laws' 50th wedding anniversary two years ago.

"We had to go to Gatlinburg to find somewhere we could all gather as a family," Chris said, noting he could not find such a

location in Knox County.

"We had already bought the property and were waiting for a vision, and somewhere in there Chris said, 'this is it,'" Amanda recalled. "This is what we're supposed to do.' Being a venue owner was not in our plans, but he kind of just went with this vision."

Construction started in February 2023 and finished last February. "We had some dry runs with friends and family staying in it, to make sure the kinks were worked out," Chris said.



Tammy Cheek

DW Designs going online only

TAMMY CHEEK
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The DW Designs, 11521 Parkside Drive in Farragut, will be moving in another direction as its presence soon will be online only, instead of a brick-and-mortar presence.

"I'm real excited to, basically, go back to my roots and going back to being online only," said Dan Wilson, owner/designer of the busi-

The DW Designs owner Dan Wilson holds some of the apparel his company will continue to produce as it moves from a storefront at 11521 Parkside Drive in Turkey Creek to an online-only presence at thedwdesigns.com

ness. "Obviously, over the last three to four years, since the pandemic, we have seen more of a trend for my customers to shop online.

"So, rather than continue to shell out the expenses of staffing and operating a storefront, I decided it would be best if we focused more on online only, which will also allow me to have more time to create not only for the DW brand, but for other people," he added. "I do custom work as well — churches, schools and small businesses."

Wilson said he expects to close the store location at the end of this month and go to an on-line only presence affective Tuesday, Oct. 1.

"Almost half of my income of my business is me assisting

others with customer apparel and promotional items they need," Wilson said.

To contact DW, e-mail hi@thedwdesigns.com. "Also, they can reach us on social media: direct message through Facebook or Instagram," he added.

At the storefront, Wilson expanded the brand to include home goods, accessories such as key chains, drink ware, refrigerator magnets, license plates and "what we built the brand on," which are hats, T-shirts and fleece apparel.

The storefront now is listed with Hatcher & Hill real estate.

"As I'm trimming down things, I will probably do away with the more breakable items, as they are more expensive and harder to ship," Wilson said.

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Dave Landeo's Tailgate for Alzheimer's Tennessee



Dave Landeo's Tailgate for Alzheimer's Tennessee was held on Friday, September 13th at Roger's Rockin' Blues Cafe'. Those in attendance enjoyed live music from Dave Landeo, Tony Bowels, Terry Adams, "Elvis" among others. A silent and live auction were held including many UT prize possessions and a 1976 classic Mercedes Benz convertible for sale. There were members of the 2024 UT Men's Baseball team on hand signing autographs and taking photos.

Dave Landeo's tailgate ties together the celebration of Volunteer football and the worthy cause of research for curing Alzheimer's and Dementia. For more information go to www.alzTennessee.org.



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Investigations

From page 1A

school-sponsored activities. Fees must be accounted for by the school and deposited in the school bank account.”

With the baseball Booster Club, “It’s 100 percent honest mistakes,” Bartlett said. “You have these volunteers that are working as hard as they can work to raise money for the school and the Booster Club to support the program.”

“They did not realize that they were doing anything that

was against any procedures,” he added.

Report on Marching Ads
“Investigators determined that FHS made payments totaling \$43,936.90 to a vendor that employed the band director (Kenneth Carrico), resulting in a potential conflict of interest.”

“These payments included purchases of band equipment and contracted audio engineering and choreography services. Investigators could not determine if the band director personally benefitted from the FHS purchases while working

in both positions.

“FHS should have also obtained written quotes, as required when disbursements for purchases or services exceed \$25,000 in one school year.”

“Investigators also found the FHS band director and assistant band director used a school credit card to pay \$1,500 for a questionable meal at a restaurant in Nashville in April 2024. Eleven band students, three FHS employees, one FHS student teacher and two individuals unaffiliated with FHS attended the meal.

“Funds collected from student fees and fundraisers should only be used for the benefit of the entire band and not selected students, faculty or other individuals.”

“It was an honest mistake. It was the band director trying to treat the kids that put so much time and effort into the band and into their musical performances,” Bartlett said. “So it was misguided, but we’ve corrected it. ... That’s been already handled with the appropriate measures in-house.”

“The results of both inves-

tigations have been communicated with the Office of the District Attorney General of the 6th Judicial District,” the TCO release stated.

“School support organizations in Tennessee must establish strong internal controls to ensure money and assets are safeguarded,” Comptroller of the Treasury Jason Mumpower stated.

“I encourage Knox County Schools to address any existing issues within its school booster clubs that could lead to improper activity.”

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Grandparents Day AT FARRAGUT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Farragut Intermediate School's third-graders had quality time with their grandparents and other family members during FIS's annual Grandparents Day at the school, 208 West End Ave., Friday, Sept. 13.

Hosted by the school's Parent Teacher Organization, children and grandparents had lunch together.

Students also got to show their artwork, which was displayed in the cafeteria.

"Teachers did that (art project) in the classroom so grandparents could take them home," said Amie Abrams, PTO president. Additionally, students and family members had their photos made together as a memento.



Cathy Barrington with granddaughter, Andie Luttrell



From left, Cynthia Anderson, third-grade teacher, with Niki Adams and Cecille Skeens, PTO Grandparents Day co-chairs



From left, third-grader Joanna Bueker with mom, Hayley Bueker, and grandma, Patty Long



Third-grader Hudson Ashburn, center, with grands Dewy and Kate Lane



Wendy and John Ginn with grandson, Henry Wilson



Sheila Anderson with granddaughter, Hayden Mack



Third-grader Alex Molaison with grandparents, from left, Chris and John Molaison and Karla Carlos



Michelle Oster with grandson, Lincoln Leatherwood



Third-grader T.J. McNeil with grandparents, standing, David and Becky Key; and seated, from left, Patrick and Rhonda Barton and P.J. McNeil



Mike Shreeve with twin grandsons, James King, left, and William King



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Lots of winning with FHS girls, boys golf

KEN LAY
Correspondent

The 2024 regular season has ended for the Farragut High School golf teams. That doesn't mean, however, that head coach Ryan Mahoney and his teams are sitting around.

"We're not playing this week because we're getting prepared for districts," said Mahoney, who is in his second season as FHS head coach, about the District 4-AA Tourney Tuesday, Sept. 24, at Egwani Farms Golf Course in Rockford for both the girls and boys teams. "We'll have a practice round at Egwani this week."

Farragut has long been home to one of Tennessee's elite high school golf programs, but the 2024 teams were both at the crossroads as graduation and other departures hit the team hard. "Coming into the season, we really didn't know what to expect," Mahoney

said. "We lost a lot of talented players to graduation."

In addition to those who graduated, two players (one boy and one girl) moved during the offseason.

Interest in golf at the school, however, was at an all-time high, judging from the number of student-athletes who attended tryouts in the spring.

"We had 32 kids come to tryouts when we had them in the spring," Mahoney said. "And that's the most that we've ever had try out at Farragut."

As the 2024 campaign progressed, the Admirals and Lady Admirals found their way.

For the boys, junior Hudson Capps emerged as the No. 1 player. He was coming off a back injury, missing significant golfing time last season.

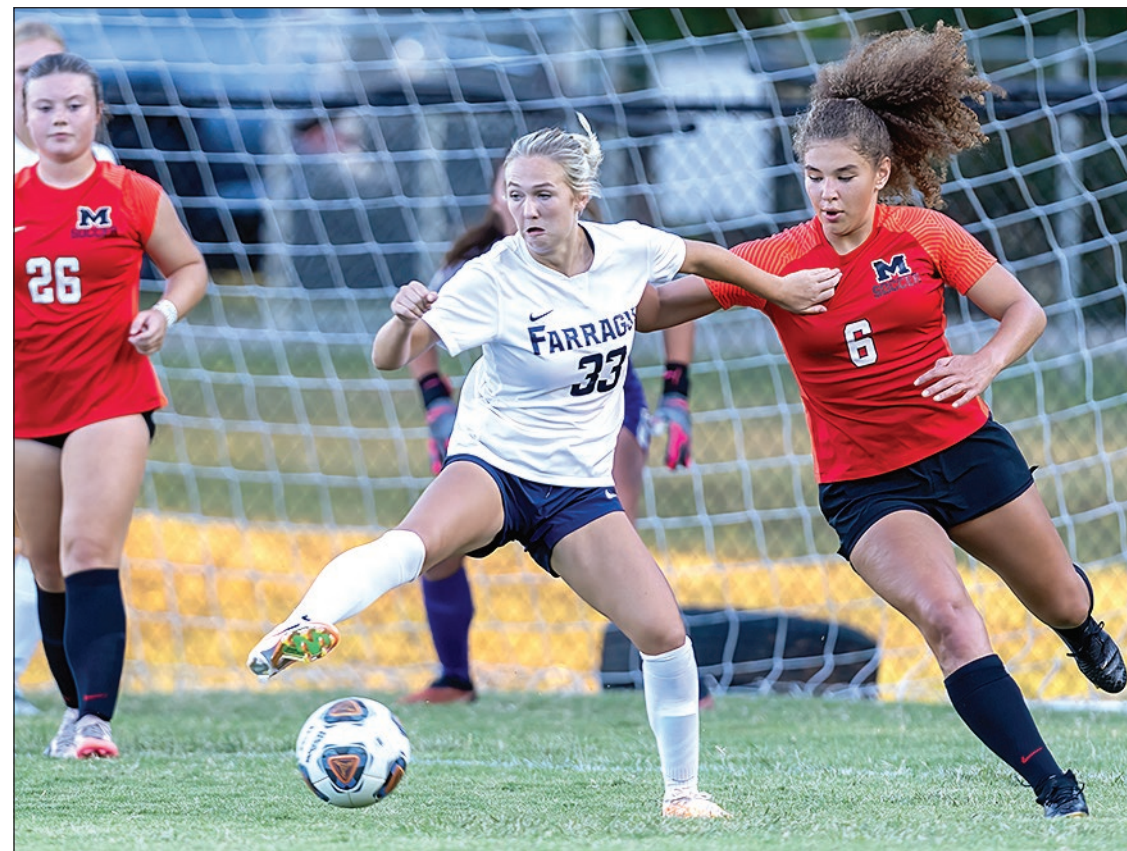
Sophomores William Feehan (No. 2) and Quinn Beck (No. 3) have been steady contributors for the Admirals this season, while senior Nicholas Lin and sophomore Bryce Coulter have alternated at No. 4.

The Lady Admirals are led by sophomore Harper Holmes, who has been their No. 1 player on the ladder since her freshman year. "Harper is a very talented player," Mahoney said. "... She's had a few rounds under par this year."

Senior Ava Shafe is a savvy veteran who's had a solid season. "Ava is a senior; she's a four-year player for us and she's had a great year," Mahoney said.

About freshman Sophie Williams, "You'll be hearing a lot about her," the coach said. "It's a big step up, a big adjustment for her. That's the biggest adjustment, the biggest step up, when you transition from middle school to high school."

The season has been one filled with success for both the Admirals and Lady Admirals, but things will heat up next week at the district championships. Mahoney's girls and boys will face some of the toughest opponents, both team and individually, in the state.



Photos courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

(Left) Leana Maier (33), Farragut freshman forward, takes control among Maryville defenders, while FHS junior forward Courtney George (above, white) makes a pass in traffic. The Lady Ads won this District 4-AAA road tilt easily, 4-1, Tuesday, Sept. 10.

Despite 2nd-half Farragut push, HVA gets 0-0 tie

Lady Ads coming off 4-1 win at Maryville

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

HARDIN VALLEY — Jessie Burkhart and Dannielle Wilson agreed that Burkhart's Farragut Lady Admirals took the fight to Wilson's Hardin Valley Academy Lady Hawks, in terms of scoring chances, in the second half of this District 4-AAA girls soccer showdown at HVA Thursday evening, Sept. 12.

But Hardin Valley (5-4-2 overall, 0-0-1 in district after this match) hung on to at least avoid defeat, playing FHS to a scoreless tie, as the Lady Ads stood at 5-2-1, 2-0-1 after this rivalry.

"They did well to hold us scoreless," Burkhart said. "We definitely would have liked to come out a little stronger in the first 40 (minutes)."

"Hats off to them," she added about HVA. "They held their ground, they played well and we just couldn't get it in the back of the net. They've got a good backline. They've got a good goalkeeper. ... We didn't do enough, but we'll go back and figure it out."

"That's definitely my strong suit; we have a solid backline," Wilson said of senior Lauren Gray, freshman Reagan Wilson and sophomores Anna Ogle and Marley Pitstick on defense, and junior Lauren Lambert in goal. "We have a solid goalkeeper."



Christie George, Farragut junior forward (12), battles Hardin Valley Academy Sophia junior Sophia Roberts during this clash of District 4-AAA rivals at HVA Thursday evening, Sept. 12. The match ended in a scoreless tie.

Photos courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

Bouncing back, FHS volleyball dumps W-Blount

BILL HOWARD
Correspondent

Farragut High School's volleyball team led two sets to none at Maryville against the Lady Red Rebels Tuesday evening, Sept. 10.

But the Lady Ads lost the next three sets and a key District 4-AAA match.

Back in FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium Thursday evening, Sept. 12, in another district match against William Blount, Farragut again won the first two sets —

25-20 and 25-14 — then lost the third, 25-19. The fourth set — a quick 25-10 match-clincher — put to rest any worry about a repeat from two nights before.

The win improved the FHS record starting this week to 11-2 overall, 2-1 in district.

"I like how we fought back after the third set," Lady Ads outside hitter Elsa Morrison said. "We talked about it as a team, that it was resembling Maryville. But we weren't worried."

"I knew we'd come back (in the fourth)," outside hitter Trinity Rye said. "Third set

was a little rough — the injury and all that — but I thought we did good coming back and overcoming that." The injury Rye referenced was to senior middle hitter Paisy White, who left the match in the third set with an apparent shoulder injury.

In the first set, Farragut jumped to a 7-2 lead, but WBHS fought back and led 18-17. An 8-2 final stretch by FHS gave them the set. The second set was all Lady Ads after building a 14-7 lead. Their dominant

See **BOUNCE BACK** on Page 2B

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Hawks hang tough, but Halls pulls away late

BILL HOWARD
Correspondent



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/
Jeremy Wiggs Photography

HARDIN VALLEY — When Hardin Valley Academy quarterback Dylan Umansky hit Michael Stewart Jr. for an 8-yard touchdown pass with 6:01 left in the third quarter, it cut visiting Halls lead to 21-14. The third quarter ended with that score. Unfortunately for HVA, the fourth period was all Halls, as the Red Devils pulled away with a 15-0 quarter and a 36-14 win. “We’re young, we’ve got a lot of growing up to do,” Hawks head coach Tyler Wynn said. “Our kids gotta learn how to win games. ...”

The Red Devils took a 7-0 lead midway through the first when quarterback Amari Lethgo threw a 30-yard scoring pass to Brody Rogers. The visitors increased it to 14-0 on the first play of the second quarter when Lethgo finished off an 80-yard drive with a 1-yard plunge.

After gaining a mere 51 yards on its first three possessions, the Hawks’ offense finally got untracked when it took over on the Devils 47 with 7:24 left in the first half.

Despite this leaping 18-yard touchdown catch by HVA senior receiver Isaac Shelby, the Hawks fell at home to Halls 36-14 Friday night, Sept. 13.

and 5 from the HVA 18 — Umansky hit Isaac Shelby for the score, and the Hawks were right back in it, 14-7. Umansky converted a fourth-and 2 on the drive with a 3-yard keeper.

The Red Devils answered right back when Lethgo connected with Landon Vest for a 6-yard TD pass with 49 seconds left in the half.

HVA penalties helped sustain the drive.

The Hawks (1-3) stuffed the Devils’ opening drive of the second half, then cut it to 21-14 when Umansky hit Stewart.

Morrison had 18, Bella Ekeler and Teagan Williams each contributed 17 and Rye got 15.

“... We have good team chemistry. Our team’s pretty solid right now,” said Morrison, a UT Lady Vols Softball commit.

Bounce back

From page 1B

fourth set closed it out.

Morrison led the winners in kills with 19. Rye added 18.

Assists were in abundance:

Another top foe, another rough Ads loss

A couple of early scoring chances, thanks in large part to the running, scrambling and passing of Farragut junior quarterback Noah Haag, got FHS fans’ hopes up early at Cleveland against the unbeaten and No. 5 state-ranked Division I-6A Blue Raiders (4-0 overall, 1-0 in Region 2-6A). But the home team turned back the threats with a strong pass rush, then began pulling away in the second quarter thanks to some big plays and won this region game 32-7 Friday night, Sept. 13. The only points from Farragut (0-4, 0-1) came early in the fourth quarter on a 79-yard drive led by sophomore quarterback Corbin Hobson, who scored on a 1-yard sneak. **(Right)** Admirals defenders Henry Dee (white jersey, left), senior strong safety, and Stephen Doubleday, junior defensive end, combine to make this stop on a CHS ballcarrier.



Photo courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

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Her childhood hardships inspire Kingdom Guardian

Local woman seeks \$ to help make a happy Xmas for children's home

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

Forced to grow up without parental support as a teenager, Lucille Casillas-Bowers of West Knox County developed a heart for underprivileged children and teenagers.

Her focus, through Kingdom Guardian, is making Christmas a happier time for children and teenagers alike — namely at Smoky Mountain Children's Home in Sevierville.

"I started in 2015, and I do 150 Christmas stockings for the group home and for foster families there," Casillas-Bowers said of combining necessary items with small, personal gifts in each stocking.

As with so many things in life, the public's financial support is vital to her meeting annual holiday goals.

"I am just one person, and I started the organization Kingdom Guardian 10 years ago," Casillas-Bowers said. "I felt led to provide children in the children's home with Christmas stockings and also help families provide Christmas stockings and a few gifts at Christmas time."

Even with financial support, Casillas-Bowers' task can be challenging.

"I struggle with tremendous health issues, like with physical health and just pain, and I suffer a lot," she said. "So I don't have a 9-to-5 job and I didn't want to go and apply for disability."

Most importantly, "I really felt God calling me into this," Casillas-Bowers said. "I was a teenager and I lived in group homes (in Indiana). And I remember at Christmas time that Christmas would roll around, and it just felt like the teenagers were forgotten. We just felt sadness every Christmas."

"I remember we got a hair brush and toothbrush and toothpaste, and that was something we needed. But we just felt forgotten," she added. "And it didn't feel good."

Of all Christmases through her teen years, "I had maybe two or three that I could have good memories of," Casillas-Bowers said. "I just remember that feeling because it wasn't just me this time."

"I was used to me feeling disappointed every Christmas growing up, but when I looked around (at the group home), I'd see my friends hurting, I'd see the other girls sad," she added. "So that stuck with me."

"I ended up running away from the other group home that I was in when I was 16."

Casillas-Bowers ended up in Tennessee, in Maryville, "and I remember spending a Christmas with a family that took me in," she said with emotion in her voice. "And the woman that took me in, she gave me a Christmas stocking, and she bought me Christmas gifts — and the stocking was filled."

"And I just remember how excited I was being a teenager, a 16-, 17-year-old getting my first Christmas stocking," she added. "I felt loved, and it was just the most wonderful feeling."

Her adopted Maryville mother "handmade me a Christmas stocking with my name on it," Casillas-Bowers recalled. "It was just absolutely a beautiful memory."

However, her health issues began taking root.

"I had to end up removing my colon, and I was diagnosed



Photos submitted

(Above) Lucille Casillas-Bowers gathers Christmas gifts for those less fortunate as part of Kingdom Guardian. (Below) Many children and teenagers join adults annually as volunteers to help in the K-G effort to spread holiday joy.



with fibromyalgia and osteoarthritis in my back, and I had a spinal infection," Casillas-Bowers said. "I just went through so much."

However, "the Lord put it on my heart" to help children who rarely, if ever, would otherwise enjoy Christmas, she said. "He's like, 'I want you to do Christmas stockings for children — and the children in the children's home.'"

At first, "I was like, 'No, I don't think I can do that,'" Casillas Bowers recalled. "... I'm just not able to do that because I was dealing with a lot of anxiety and stress because of what I had gone through. (But) I knew it was God" wanting her to

See KINGDOM GUARDIAN on Page 5B

Knox a top early voting county, RCF told

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Knox County is one of the top five counties statewide for early voting participation, featured speaker Chris Davis, administrator of elections for Knox County Election Commission, told Rotary Club of Farragut members during their meeting in Farragut Community Center Wednesday, Aug. 28.

"We've been doing (early voting) for 31 years," he said. "We are one of the best counties in the state of Tennessee when it comes to the percent of its voters who vote early."

"We promote early voting very heavily," Davis added. "We are always in the top five out of 95 counties in the terms of the voters who vote early. We love it."

The county has six to 12 locations during 14 days for early voting in a 16-day span. (See bottom of page 1A for details)

To volunteer, "I encourage you, if you think it's something you're interested in ... get involved and give us a call," he said.

Davis said there were 304,750 registered voters in Knox County as of Sept 11, with 20 to 30 new registrations every day and 20 to 30 address changes every day on average. The Commission purges registrations every day for people who move, are convicted of a felony or die.

The Commission also handles absentee voting by mail. "There are 14 reasons someone can vote absentee by mail," Davis said. Among those reasons are age — someone age 60 or over — being stationed in the military or overseas, out-of-state students, truck drivers and people who are bedridden."

In Davis' office, he has 10 full-time staff, seven part-time staff and hundreds of election workers manning the county's 78 voting locations.

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• The group **Help Others Persevere Encourage** invites the public to participate in a **Brick Memorial** event to commemorate National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims, beginning at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 25, in the City County Building, 400 Main St. in Downtown Knoxville.

• **Annual Farragut Lions Club Car Show** is set to take place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28, in the JCPenney parking lot in Turkey Creek (11534 Parkside Drive). "This highly anticipated event is the largest fundraiser of the year for the club and promises a day of fun for all ages," an FLC press release stated. "Attendees can expect a spectacular display of cars, delicious food, a variety of local vendors and exciting awards for participants. With something for everyone, this is a perfect opportunity to enjoy a morning of community and support a great cause."

"The Farragut Lions Club has been a vital part of the community, and funds raised from this event will go toward supporting local initiatives and charitable efforts. Don't miss the chance to join us for a day of automotive excitement while making a positive impact in the Farragut community."

While there is no charge to attend, attendees are asked to consider a donation to FLC.

For more information, including participation with a vehicle, contact FLC's Ashley Lynch at 865-719-1088.

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• "After an emergency blood shortage this summer, there is a continued critical need for blood in September," stated a release from The American Red Cross, which is "urging donors to make an appointment to give blood or platelets now to ensure blood supply levels remain stable throughout early fall." Through Monday, Sept. 30, all who come to give will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. Visit RedCrossBlood.org/Fall for details.

• **People living with ALS, including family members, friends, caregivers and others affected by ALS, will come together** for the 2024 Walk to Defeat ALS Knoxville at Victor Ashe Park, 4901 Bradshaw Road in Knoxville, Saturday, Sept. 28. Walk check-in is 10 a.m.; walk start is 11 a.m. ALS has no known cause or cure, and the community is coming together to make ALS livable for everyone, everywhere.

"With only two to five years to live, individuals living with ALS have an urgent need, and the community is stepping in to fill it by participating for those who cannot," the release further stated. "Walk to Defeat ALS is the ALS Association's signature event and funds di-

rectly support innovative research, care services and advocacy efforts."

Register at www.als.org/WalkKnoxville. Registered participants who raise \$100 or more receive a commemorative T-shirt.

• **Village Green in Farragut will host the Run for Parkinson's**, featuring a 5K run (starts at 8:30 a.m.) and 10K run (9 a.m.), movement classes and a Wellness Expo Saturday, Sept. 21. "Participants of all ages and fitness levels are welcome to join in the run, which will wind through the scenic areas of Farragut," a PJ Parkinson's

Support press release stated. The movement classes "is designed specifically for those with Parkinson's, while the Wellness Expo "showcases local vendors and health services." To sign up, contact Neff Lankford with PJ Parkinson's Support at 865-821-7666 or e-mail: Neff@PJParkinsons.org

• **The Farmers Market features** produce, handmade products and pastries. The event is every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Renaissance I, 12740 Kingston Pike.

• **Concord Yacht Club will host its first Community Education Open House** from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday Sept. 22.

The Club will showcase Areas of Sailing Education that Concord Yacht Club lends to our community (you do not need to be a member to participate). For more information, visit the CYC website at concordyachtclub.org or contact [\[achtclub.org\]\(http://achtclub.org\) Also visit and follow CYC on Facebook.](mailto:community@concordy-</p>
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• **Captain Bill Robinson Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America will conduct an observance of National POW / MIA Day** Friday, Sept. 20. The ceremony, open to the public, will be held at the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial in Worlds Fair Park in downtown Knoxville.

The event will offer free coffee and biscuits starting at 9 a.m., followed by the ceremony at 10 a.m. "The featured speaker will be Retired U.S. Air Force Capt. Bill Robinson, "the longest-held enlisted POW in the history of our nation," a local VVA press release stated.

• **Women's Spectacular is from 2 to 6 p.m., Friday, Sept. 27, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28**, at Pinnacle of Turkey Creek, featuring vendors, music and speakers and focusing on health, beauty, safety and family.



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FARRAGUT MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA • September 19, 2024

Farragut Community Center – Assembly Room • 7:00 p.m.

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Approval of agenda | Building, Parcel 119.02, Tax Map 130, .73 Acres, Zoned C-2 (Hutchins Associates PC, Applicant) |
| 2. Approval of minutes for the August 15, 2024 meeting | |
| 3. Approval of the installation of roughly 1,000 linear feet of comcast cable in new and existing two inch conduit along a section of the south side of Parkside Drive and a section of the east side of Lakesedge Drive to service the building at 11513 Parkside Drive (Comcast, Applicant) | 5. Discussion and public hearing on approval of a site plan for a 20x20 pavilion on the open space lot (Lot 35) for the Village at Ivey Farms Subdivision, 12616 Needlepoint Drive, .77 Acres, Zoned NCC (Goodall Homes, Applicant) |
| 4. Discussion and public hearing on approval of a site plan for the Campbell Station Retail | 6. Approval of utilities |
| | 7. 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 VISUAL RESOURCES REVIEW BOARD AGENDA

Farragut Community Center • Medium Classroom
Tuesday, September 24, 2024
7:00 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes for the August 27, 2024, meeting.
2. Staff report - wall signs approved in the past month.
3. Review of an individual tenant panel sign for Roll'em Up Taquito, located at 117 Lovell Rd.
4. Review of an internal accessory sign for Anchor 934 Leasing Office, located at 200 Brooklawn St.
5. Review of a primary ground sign (reface/update) for Concord Veterinary, located at 11904 Kingston Pk.
6. Review of a landscape plan for a new Campbell Station retail building, located at 707 North Campbell Station Rd. behind the Casey's fuel station and Campbell Station Wine & Spirits.

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Mission of Hope's 21st at W-Creek



Alan Sloan

With 224 participants divided into morning and afternoon flights, 21st Annual Chick-fil-A Knoxville & Mission of Hope Golf Classic took place at Willow Creek Golf Club in Farragut Thursday, Sept. 12. Longtime MOH executive director Emmette Thompson spoke to the first flight group who enjoyed lunch after their 18-hole 4-person scramble was completed, followed by his MOH successor David Heatherly (above right), with WCGC Head Golf pro Scott Perkins.

Kingdom Guardian

From page 3B

help children. "And I said, 'Ok, God, if you will provide for me, I will do this.'"

However, "I went to several people asking for donations and help, and I was turned down by everybody," Casillas Bowers said about her initial failure. "... But it was obvious God didn't want me to go through a church. He wanted me to do this on my own."

Turning point

A local prominent real estate developer, Doug Horne of Farragut, "is who I went to first," Casillas-Bowers said (Horne is owner of Republic Newspapers, Inc., parent company of farragutpress).

"I went to Doug Horne and I was like, 'I'm doing this for

Christmas stockings; Would you mind donating?'" she added. "He donated. And that first year, I got it done."

Though needing Horne's help for the second Christmas, "I promise you I'm not going to rely on you every year for financial backing, I'm going to grow," she recalled telling him. "I'm going to do this."

"But by the third year, I kept my word," added Casillas-Bowers, who was able to reach out at large to get the necessary funds.

"I had partnered, finally, with All Smiles Family Dental. For the past 10 years, they have been providing toothbrushes and toothpaste for the children's home and the families in need."

The next step? "I went out and I got flyers and I started a

Facebook page, and I just really started fighting for this," Casillas-Bowers said. "I ended up getting donations from people. I did a little GoFundMe and little things like that."

Extra help, growth

As for storage, "I had everything stored in my living room. I was hand-decorating the stockings by myself, doing all the Christmas cards by myself," she said, while also getting help from husband, Caleb Bowers, and their six children. "My children helped me. I had small children, and they helped me throughout the years," added Casillas-Bowers, who had to secure a storage facility to meet demands.

To give financial and/or volunteer assistance to Casillas-Bowers and Kingdom Guardian, call her at 865-693-3804.

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farragutpress HOW THE WEST WAS WON

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Webb	1-2	97-99	-2
Bearden	1-2	71-83	-12
HVA	1-3	82-111	-29
CAK	1-3	79-108	-29
Farragut	0-4	37-132	-95

Shorthanded Webb rushes for 465, zooms into Scoreboard 2nd place

Down seven key players due to injury while already fielding a young team — not to mention limited depth due to a small roster — Webb School of Knoxville didn't exactly fall apart during its home opener Friday night, Sept. 13.

Instead, the Spartans went wild running the football — to the tune of 465 yards rushing — piling up 548 yards of total offense while winning its first game of 2024 in convincing fashion, 35-6 versus Chattanooga Notre Dame.

Bouncing back from a tough loss at Silverdale Baptist Academy, 25-21, "Our defense as well did a nice job of responding, allowing Notre Dame (1-3, 1-1) to just 187 yards total offense," Webb head coach Don Mahoney said.

This Division II-AA East Region victory also jumps Mahoney's Spartans into second place, based on a points differential tiebreaker, in the PureMagic How the West Was Won Scoreboard Contest despite its 1-2 overall record (1-1 in region).

Versatile junior Baxter Johnson had 20 carries for 232 yards and one touchdown. "Baxter also was a major contributor on defense, too," Mahoney said about the linebacker/running back. "He had every bit of 12 tackles; I mean, he really played well."

Junior Shavar Young had eight carries for 115 yards and one touchdown, in addition to grabbing a touchdown pass. Senior running back Hal Niendorff had 13

carries for 105 yards and two touchdowns.

This was all accomplished despite depleted numbers.

"Really, what the situation is here is we're down seven players due to injuries," Mahoney said. "Last year, we had one and it didn't come until the playoffs."

"... But I say this as a credit to our kids, who overcame a lot of the things that have been thrown at them," he added. "It's been difficult. Last week, we lost a linebacker for the season. We're really down to a freshman quarterback right now. So we've had to shift a lot of things around in various ways. So it's been very trying that way."

"So getting that win in the manner in which we won was really big and really appreciated."

Meanwhile, Webb was the only Scoreboard team to win last Friday — Bearden had Week 4 off.

Elsewhere

Knoxville Catholic still sits at the top of the PureMagic standings, but fell to 3-1 overall after a 35-0 home loss to Division II-AAA powerhouse Ensworth (4-0).

Hitting the road, Christian Academy of Knoxville didn't have to go far as it headed along Oak Ridge Highway to play unbeaten Division II-AA East Region rival Grace Christian Academy. The homestanding Rams remained perfect (4-0, 2-0), earning a 35-14 victory. The Warriors fell to 1-3, 0-2.

Things were close heading to the fourth quarter at Hardin Valley Academy last Friday, but the Hawks saw Halls (3-1) score 15 points in the final 12 minutes to pull away for a 36-14 triumph. HVA fell to 1-3 overall (see story, photo on page 2B).

While its schedule remained tough, having to play unbeaten and No. 5-Class 6A state-ranked Cleveland (4-0, 1-0) on the road, Farragut's struggles continued. The Admirals are still searching for a win after a 32-7 Region 2-6A setback versus the Blue Raiders last Friday (see photo and game details on page 2B).

Week 5 schedule

While Farragut has Week 5 off, there's a big clash between a pair of PM-HWWW teams that's also a key Region 2-6A contest.

Hardin Valley travels to Bearden's Bill Young Field to face the Bulldogs (1-2). This game and others start at 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 20, unless otherwise noted.

Heading back to Hamilton County for another region foe, Webb goes to Chattanooga Christian (1-3, 0-2).

Staying home at CAK, the Warriors will be looking for its first region win as it hosts Lakeway Christian Academy (1-3, 0-1). Opening kickoff is 7:30 p.m.

For the KCHS Fighting Irish, it's a long trip west to Memphis to play Briarcrest Christian (2-2). Opening kickoff is 8 p.m. EDT, 7 p.m. CDT.



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