

State No. 1, again, in Navy blue-gray



Photo submitted courtesy of Jack Tate/FHS sports information

FHS, Bearden, FMS, WVMS all take dance gold

Dance team state championship are becoming the norm for Farragut-area high school and middle school programs, which include Farragut High School’s team (**above**), showing their trophies, which included TSSAA titles earned in Small Varsity Pom and Small Varsity Jazz during competition in Murfreesboro earlier this month. Farragut Middle School also was a double champ in both Jazz and Pom. Bearden High School dancers, meanwhile, also kept their state-title winning tradition alive with first-place finishes in Game Day-Large Varsity and Large Varsity Pom. West Valley Middle School dancers earned a state crown in Game Day. The FHS dancers are expected to be among those area teams competing for national honors later in school year.

Mother, teacher discuss new school: sample of Nov 30, Dec. 5 meetings?

Public voices welcomed at FPS, FMS

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — Giving Knox County Board of Education a “mother” and “teacher” perspective when it comes to deciding what grade levels will occupy a new Farragut public school, the building of which will impact the current four Town public schools, two Farragut women spoke as part of “Public Forum” during a recent Board meeting where three building options were presented.

These voices were heard prior to three KCS meetings seeking parent, teacher, administrator and general public opinions. Following the first meeting, which was held at Farragut High School Tuesday evening, Nov. 28 (after deadline), similar meetings will be held in Farragut Primary School beginning at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 30, and in Farragut Middle School starting at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Wendy Brinley

Wendy Brinley has been a Farragut resident for 11 years who has two children attending the Town’s public schools.

“First of all, I want to commend the Farragut teachers, administrations and staff for doing their absolute best,” she told the Board. “These people are my heroes. Please don’t misconstrue anything that I say is negative on anyone’s efforts. Everybody’s been doing their best with the tools that we have.

“I thank you for making the purchase and seeing the need that we have in Farragut because our schools are starting to bust at the seams and have been,” Brinley added.

“What I’m here tonight to advocate for is what I think is the benefit of all Farragut students, not just my own, because ... the

See **VOICES, MEETINGS** on Page 3A

Celebrate the Season set for Thursday in Community Center

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Celebrate the Season is returning this year to Farragut.

Presented by Farragut Arts and Beautification Committee, the festive evening — free and open to the public — will run from 4:30 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 30, in Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd.

“It is great,” Town media assistant Grayson Martin said about the event.

“Especially with our new special events coordinator, Rachel Malone, and our new Parks & Rec director Ron Oestreich,” she added. “They’ve really done a great job picking up some of Farragut’s traditional yearly events that we do and put their own spin and new ideas to them.

“I’m sure we’ll see some of that here

at this event. We know that the Town will come out for our fun crafts and games, but also with the showstopper being photos with Santa.”

Santa Claus will be on hand from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. for pictures, Malone said. She advised families to arrive early for the photos with Santa “if they want to guarantee they will get a spot for the picture.

“As people enter, they will get a time

card of when they will be able to get their picture with Santa, just to ensure we will be able to make the most of our time,” she added.

“But we don’t have an unlimited amount of time cards because we have a finite amount of time,”

Besides Santa, “there will be cookie decorating, crafts and a holiday mov-

See **CELEBRATE SEASON** on Page 3A

Lots of FAM Tour Town biz visitors

A group toured Farragut businesses as part of Visit Knoxville’s FAM Tour Tuesday, Nov. 14. The group included, in no particular order, Amy Shewmake, Brandy Hyder, Chris Sheffield, Joyce Moran, Sue-Ann Hansler, Junlei Zhang, Eric Weatherbee, Farragut Vice Mayor Louise Povline, Aaron Gicking,

Gary Steadman, Teri Jo Fox, Brooke Burnette, Ben Colgrove, Katie Inman, Colby Church, Tara Kate Richardson, Shawn Rogers, Daniel Monday and Amanda Edsell.



Tammy Cheek

Victims Remembrance Tree

• Jeanne Dotts Brykalski, a Farragut resident and outspoken advocate of victims’ rights in the years since her parents were murdered in their Farragut home in February 1995, will be among those attending a Victims Remembrance Tree Service beginning at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 30, in the City County Building, 400 Main St. SW in downtown Knoxville.

“Please show support for victims of violent crime

and their loved ones by tying a purple ribbon or placing a purple ornament on your Christmas tree,” she asked. “... The Victims Remembrance Tree Service brings together the way too many people who have had their loved ones ripped out of their lives by violent crime, and lets us share our feelings, our memories, our questions, our frustrations, etc. without being judged or talked down to.”

Day of Infamy Dec. 4

* Join local historian Frank Galbraith as he brings World War II history to life — setting the stage by discussing the end of World War I, the Roaring 20s, the Great Depression, the rise of Hitler to power and Pearl Harbor — presenting “Day of Infamy” starting at 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 4, in Farragut Community Center. Light refreshments will be served courtesy of Farragut Museum Committee. Event is free of charge.



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Light-Park music talent: harpist

Joanna Seiber’s talents on the harp was among the music entertainment — also cloggers and singing — enjoyed by hundreds of families during Countdown to Light the Park in Founders Park at Campbell Station Monday evening, Nov. 20. (See related photos in West Side Faces, page 7B)

Alan Sloan



Towncalendar

• **Seventeen mothers, PTO leaders and educators are working side-by-side in a committee to plan the Town’s 2nd Annual Christmas Parade.**

The event — complete with Santa and Mrs. Claus, Admiral Dave, Finley the Dolphin and Buddy the Elf — is slated for 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 10, with Santa’s Village open from 2 to 4 p.m. on the Farragut Middle School campus.

“We have surprise grand marshals — Farragut residents and UT sports legends,” said Amanda Kincaid, Farragut Parade Committee co-chair with Stephanie Thompson. “It’s going to be really fun ... We expect a huge turnout.”

The new route this year starts at FMS, travels down West End Avenue, proceeds west and circles at the second island on West End Avenue, then travels back up the avenue to the high school, traveling the “wrong way” in FHS’s car lane and ending at the school’s junior lot.

Along with the parade, Santa’s Village will feature 55 vendors’ booths, where people can shop, eat and enjoy hot chocolate served by FHS Student Government Association members. Kincaid said Santa’s Village will have food trucks. Additionally, the village will provide “a unique Christmas shopping experience for parents and children with crafts and booths,” such as a photo booth and face painting.

Also, Christmas carolers will entertain the crowd.

For more information about the event or to participate, visit farragutchristmasparade.com.

• **Farragut Parks & Recreation Department will play host to two family-favorite events plus a new activity for kids in December,** all of which will take place in Farragut Community Center.

Mario-Kart Tournament is from 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 7. Test your skills on an evening of tournament play. Play will be on Nintendo Switches, and everyone will get the chance to play multiple rounds. Registration is required. Tournament is open to ages 6-12 for \$10 per participant. Deadline to register is Wednesday, Dec. 6. Sign up at townoffarragut.recdesk.com

’Twas the Night with No Parents is from 6 to 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15. Get your shopping done or take a few hours to relax while your children spend the evening at the Community Center. This event features pizza, games, crafts and a holiday movie. Registration is required and open to ages 6-12 for \$10 per participant. Deadline to register is Wednesday, Dec. 13. Sign up at townoffarragut.recdesk.com

New Years at Noon runs from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 30. A New Year’s celebration at noon with dancing, New Year’s Eve snacks and child-friendly bubbly drinks while celebrating the new year at an easier time of day. Registration is required and open to all ages. Cost is \$2 for participants 16 and under; adults are free and required to attend with children. Deadline to register is Wednesday, Dec. 27. Sign up at townoffarragut.recdesk.com

For more informationm contact Rachel Malone at rmalone@townoffarragut.org or call 865-218-3375.

4th Annual Heath-Wellness Expo is back at Comm. Center Jan. 13

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance “is proud to host the 4th Annual Farragut Health & Wellness Expo in Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 13, an FBA press release stated. It is free and open to the public.

“We already have over a dozen businesses signed up,” said Stephen Krempasky, FBA/Shop Farragut executive director.

Those businesses are Turkey Creek Medical Center, South-East Bank, The Lee Company, Edward Jones Financial/Betsy Herzog, Knox Massage & Wellness, Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union, Thrive Physical Therapy, Fitnall,

Clean Eatz, Apotheca, Belton e Hearing Center, Yoga with Shelby and Fitness Together

Cost of a vendor space begins at \$100. “We also offer Sponsor level participation, which can include time and space for demonstrations or lectures plus additional advertising and logo display,” Krempasky said.

The 3rd Annual last January Expo ended up featuring 26 vendors, with a little more than 500 attendees “learning how to better care for themselves,” Krempasky said.



Krempasky

“I’ve seen a steady stream of people here, and we have a great mix of vendors here today,” he added. “Standing beside us is physical therapy, financial and how to eat well. It’s something I think the community learns from

“Our vendors were pleased with the turnout and thanked Shop Farragut for hosting it in such a lovely setting at the Community Center,” Krempasky said.

Attendees milled about, stopping at booths to talk to vendors about how they could better improve their well-being, whether that be health, home or financial.

“Look forward to doing more events with you,” Jason Scott with The Lee Company stated in an e-mail to Krempasky after the 3rd Annual Expo, as Lee also is on board for 2024.

KCSOreports

Despite contacting Knox County Sheriff’s Office at the regular time of early Monday morning (Nov. 27 this week) seeking to obtain KCSO Reports — and receiving a Sheriff’s Office e-mail confirming our request — none were received by farragutpress as of deadline at 8 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 28.

We regret this absence, but look to have KCSO Reports for our next issue Wednesday, Dec. 6.

correction

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Voices, meetings
From page 1A

chance of them being in a new building is nil. My kids are not going to be in a new building.”

Brinley gave her opinion about “what is developmentally appropriate for our children because that’s the main priority.” She said. “You’re probably going to hear about Farragut traffic through all this process, but that is not the main priority to me.

“It is meeting the needs of the students,” she added. “And the age of the building, new versus old, is not the priority. It’s, ‘Does this building meet the needs of the students?’

“...What I think is that it needs to be an elementary school. Ideally, we (need) multiple K-5 schools nurturing these babies in the same location all the way through fifth grade and not having to switch them in their elementary school career.”

However, “I’m not sure that that is the reality of what we’re going to have in Farragut,” Brinley said. “But as much as possible, they do better on an isolated campus. They need to be nurtured and cocooned and allowed to flourish until they’re ready to move on to middle school.

“Our middle school is right adjacent to the high school, which is actually fantastic,” she added. “It is a great relationship that our middle school has with high school.”

For middle schoolers, “they do not need to be cocooned and isolated anymore,” Brinley said. “They need to be a part of the community. They need

to see those high school activities and aspire to them. They see the band practicing next door and they want to go be a part of that. We don’t need to isolate our middle schoolers.

“... Please leave the middle school where it is and come up with a K-5 solution.”

Brooke Manor

Labeling herself as a “life-long resident of Knox County and a product of Knox County Schools,” Brooke Manor added she’s “taught in Knox County for 26 years and at Farragut Primary School for 18 years. I thank you for the attention that you’ve given the overcrowding situation and for purchasing the property with our relief in mind.

“In my 18 years at FPS, I have been through multiple re-zonings and two elementary school builds, which were



meant to alleviate our overcrowding,” she added. “But each time data was presented to the Board and the data said, ‘ “This will fix the overcrowding, you’re going to be set.’ And each time the data was wrong, space was overestimated, growth was underestimated and now even more new neighborhoods and apartment complexes are popping up all around us.”

As for enrollment indicators, “I realized that your data has said that apartments contribute negligently to student numbers,” Manor said. “And that may have been true in the past, but it no longer is. A third of my current class lives in apartments.

“As home prices rise, more families who want to be in the Farragut schools are turning to apartments and developers are happy to oblige them,” she added. “Instead of being reactive to this unprecedented growth in our county, we need to be proactive.

“I know you’re not psychic, but if you see undeveloped land, just know it’s going to have a neighborhood and it’s

going to have an apartment building and we are going to be flooded.”

So during this critical eight-day period, “I beg you to take the time to listen to the input from our administrators, our staff and our families before making your decision because we’re the people who’ll be living with the results,” Manor said.

“And I want to invite you to visit and spend time in each of the schools that are affected by the proposals,” she added. “Observe our epic arrivals and dismissals in action. I’d love to show you the ingenuity that we employ to move a thousand 5-, 6- and 7-year-olds in under 40 minutes to get out of their cars and back in them at the end of the day.

“I also would like for you to see the community that we have dedicated our lives to.”

Giving a personal invitation, “You are welcome in my classroom at any time,” Manor said. “And as Ms. (Susan) Horn (District 6 BOE representative, which includes Farragut) can tell you, it’s a great place to be.”

press
talk

• **There is a good solution to the problem of excessive pickleball noise at McFee Park.** The players can choose rhubarb instead of pickleball.

Rhubarb is a very similar sport invented in Chattanooga 10 years ago that utilizes the same court and the same basic rules as pickleball but with short, stringed racquets such as a racquetball racquets or 21-inch youth tennis racquets (which are inexpensive, about \$25) and a foam ball, such as a foam tennis training ball like those made by Gamma and Penn for 36-foot tennis courts (also inexpensive).

The action is quite similar to pickleball, but there is almost no noise. And, as a bonus, if a player is hit by an errant shot, the foam ball doesn’t sting ...

(Editor’s Note: attempts to verify rhubarb as a game were unsuccessful. Do other readers know the sport of rhubarb?)

Celebrate Season
From page 1A

ie,” Malone said, noting there also will be cookies and punch served as refreshments.

“You don’t have to register for the event; you just show up, but the photo spots are limited,” she added.



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Albritton brings
FitnAll to Town:
‘28 Days to new Life’



Adriana Albritton recently brought her home-based, online business, FitnAll, from New York to Farragut to steer people toward a healthier lifestyle.

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Adriana Albritton of Farragut has brought a new business, FitnAll, to Town to steer people toward a healthier lifestyle and mindset with online coaching. Albritton, the author of “28 Days to a new Life: A Holistic Program to Get Fit, Delay Aging, And Enhance Your Mindset,” holds degrees in forensic psychology and certifications in personal training, fitness and nutrition.

See FITNALL on Page 5A

businessbriefs

• Ben Brown, owner of Window Hero West Knoxville, recently won the Window Hero brand’s first Rookie of The Year award. Brown’s commitment to his community helped him earn the award. In the eight months his location has been open, he has cleaned the exteriors of five schools in his service area. His franchise location provided this service for free with the goal of revitalizing the appearance of these schools’ campuses.



Brown

News for the second year in a row. Knox News and a business partner each year with a top professional survey firm to determine the best workplaces and company cultures across East Tennessee. In 2022, FourSeasons was one of only a handful of Knoxville businesses of comparable size to receive this prestigious honor, which is determined by employee feedback. • The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives recently released its Digital Health Most Wired Survey results for the 2023 data collection period. University of Tennessee Medical Center received Level 8 achievement for the Acute survey selection. Among the more than 55,000 facilities represented, UTM ranked above peers in categories such as analytics and data man-

See BRIEFS on Page 6A

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Tammy Cheek

Christie Boone, third from left, and her partner, Dien Van Nguyen (with scissors beside Boone), are among those celebrating the opening of their business, Aria Nails Spa, with a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting at the salon, 11662 Parkside Drive in Farragut, Tuesday, Nov. 21. Joining them, from left, are Kevin Ho, Amy Nguyen, Ricky Boone (Christie’s husband in back), Farragut Vice Mayor Louise Povlin (back) and Jenny Nguyen (beside Dien).

Aria Nails Spa
Colleagues partner up to open
new business in Turkey Creek

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Former associates Christie Boone and Dien Van Nguyen have partnered to open Aria Nails Spa, offering not only nails but also facials, waxing and more. Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce welcomed the salon at 11662 Parkside Drive, near Publix, with a ribbon cutting at the spa Tuesday, Nov. 21. With a look around the room, FWKCC president/CEO Julie Blaylock exclaimed, “Beautiful spa. “It’s always important to shop local and shop Chamber members,” she added before the ribbon was cut on the new Turkey Creek business. To show its appreciation to customers, the

spa held a Thanksgiving raffle and will have gift cards for Christmas, according to Boone. And “when we have a new customer, we will give a \$10 gift card toward the next service,” Boone said. Aria Nail Spas, with its seven employees, offers various levels of manicures and pedicures, nail dipping and nail designs, hair washing, facials, eyelash extensions and waxing. “(Nail dipping) is a good product because we don’t use any chemicals, so it’s pretty healthy for your nails,” Boone said. “They have different colors.” The manicures range from classic and gels to the deluxe pampered treatment. The spa also offers collagen gloves, paraf-

See ARIA NAILS on Page 5A

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See Rick Culotta – Sales Manager

FitnAll
From page 4A

Additionally, she has participated nationally with the National Physique Committee in figure competitions and co-authored “The Better Business Book Volumes II and III.”



Albritton

Albritton also is the founder of FitnAll Coaching and blog. “I do a combination of fitness, nutrition and, if people want, I can do life coaching,” she said. “I like to meet people where

they are. I’m enthusiastic, but I also like people to be comfortable,” she added. Albritton said she is “committed to encouraging people toward a healthy lifestyle with concrete tips ... to make them change inside and out.” She launched FitnAll in 2012 in New York, becoming a top fitness blogger, but moved to Farragut a couple of months ago after researching the area online. “New York is crazy,” Albritton said. “Now I’m safe.” Before venturing into coaching, she was a mental health therapist, dealing with prison inmates in Rikers Island. “But, after I had my child, I wanted to do something less heavy,” Albritton said. To obtain her services, visit online at <https://www.fitnall.com>

Aria Nails
From page 4A

fin wax, hot stones and sugar scrub with manicures. “The pedicure, we have seven different kinds,” Boone said. “We do classic new skin, detox pedicure, deluxe and ‘spoil me,’ golden signature and new skin luxury. “We use our organic products” for pedicures, she added. The spa even has manicures and pedicures for children as young as age 4. Regarding waxing, Boone said they do almost everything from the face to under the arms to the legs, but not bikini waxing. She has been doing nails since 2015 while Nguyen has been owning and operating

Soho Nail Salon, across the street from Aria Nails. He later opened Aria Nails as his second business. “I worked at Soho before and we knew each other,” Boone said about Nguyen. She subsequently left Soho and opened her own business in Oak Ridge, but “he asked me to partner (with her at Aria),” Boone said. “It’s pretty good around here. My customers are nice. It’s a nice area,” Boone added. In addition to co-owning the nail spa, she also owns her own bubble tea shop in Oak Ridge. Aria Nail Spa is open from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and from noon to 6:30 p.m., Sunday. To book an appointment, call 865-288-7969 or visit online at arianailsspa.com

FWKCC welcomes Hurricane Bikes



Owner Andrew Ingram (with scissors) prepares to cut the ribbon signaling the opening of his new business, Hurricane Cycles, 138 West End Ave., during a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event Tuesday, Nov. 14. Joining him are Vice Mayor Louise Povlin, to Ingram’s right, and Mayor Ron Williams, to Ingram’s left, and a host of Chamber members.

Tammy Cheek

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Merry Christmas
from **farragutpress**



Trends of Eluna celebrates opening



Tammy Cheek

Trends of Eluna owner Tierra Sanders (with scissors) was joined by friends and Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members as she prepared to cut the ribbon on the opening of her shop, 11035 Parkside Drive, during a FWKCC-sponsored event Tuesday, Oct. 31.



Briefs

From page 4A

agement, population health, infrastructure and patient engagement.

• Following the historically competitive year for **Tennessee Athletics** in 2022-23 — a record sixth-place finish in the LEARNFIELD Directors' Cup and second consecutive SEC All-Sports title — Tennessee Fund reported its second-straight record year across multiple fundraising metrics.

The Fund had an all-time and record-breaking fundraising year during the 2022 fiscal year.

• Through the 2023 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award for Environmental Education and Outreach, the state recognized the research of **University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture professors, Shawn Hawkins and Forbes Walker**, who created a solution for farmers to safely use poultry litter as fertilizer.

Hawkins and Walker, both in the Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science

(BESS), created a UT Extension publication for producers and farmers that helps improve profitability and reduces the environmental impact of poultry production.

They accepted the award from Gov. Bill Lee and Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner David Salyers at a ceremony in Franklin.

• Business leaders, students and investors celebrated Knoxville's entrepreneurial ecosystem at the Innov865 Alliance's annual Startup Day pitch competition, when attendees voted for **Jonathan Halley, founder of B-Roll Bank**, to receive the Crowd Favorite Award and \$3,000 by Boston Government Services. Additionally, **Alex Stiles, founder of Vitriform3D**, won the \$7,000 Judges' Choice Award, presented by the Innov865 Alliance.

• **University Bariatric Center at University of Tennessee Medical Center** recently was recognized and designated as a Surgical Quality Partner by American College of Surgeons.

Tommy's Boats ribbon cutting

Tommy's Boats Knoxville celebrated the grand opening of its new location, 11470 Outlet Drive, with a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce-sponsored ribbon cutting Saturday, Oct. 28. On hand, from left, were Farragut Vice Mayor Louise Povlin; state Sen. Dr. Richard Briggs, (R-7th District); Tommy's Boats regional manager Travis Brooks; Farragut Mayor Ron Williams; TBK general manager Dustin Burke; Malibu Boats vice president of sales Dave Cluka; and state Sen. Becky Massey, (R-6th District).

Tammy Cheek



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Leaving senior runners ‘Greene’ with envy

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

Rick Greene of Farragut has been running — to win, to stay in shape or just for the enjoyment of it — for more than a half century.

A star distance runner at Morristown West High School, where he was the 600-yard indoor state champ and 440-yard district top finisher, Greene has run the Boston Marathon (1997) among the four marathons he’s finished.

A Senior Olympics state champ in two middle distance events in 2022, Green’s most recent Senior Olympics feat came during the Upper Cumberland District meet Sept. 30 in Crossville: he made it a clean first-place sweep in the 200, 400 and 800-meter runs in the 65-to-69 age category.

See GREENE on Page 2B

Ex-Ad, now Aggie, is TN 4A Player of Year



Photo art courtesy of Jack Tate/FHS sports information

Johnston goes from back-to-back titles to Texas A&M

STAFF REPORTS
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Jett Johnston (photos, left), a star infielder/pitcher for the two-time defending Division I-4A state champion Farragut Admirals who’s now a freshman in the Southeastern Conference at Texas A&M, recently was named Class 4A Player of the Year statewide in 2023 by Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association.

In the 2023 postseason, which culminated with a 6-0 victory against neighborhood rival Hardin Valley Academy in the Class 4A state title game at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro last May, Jett hit .489 for the Admirals with eight home runs and 24 RBI while sporting an unblemished 0.00 earned run average on the mound.

A transfer from Texas who played his final two high school seasons for head coach Matt Buckner’s program, Johnston also helped the Ads win the 2022 4A state crown.

2nd at RecruitMe T’Giving tourney for Lady Admirals

ALAN SLOAN
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Though things slipped away from the Farragut Lady Admirals in the second half against a Gatlinburg-Pittman team, FHS head coach Jason Mayfield said was “better than pretty good — that’s a really good team” — his girls still finished as Farragut Thanksgiving RecruitMe Tournament runner-ups.

Led by 2,000-plus career points scorer Maddie Newman with a game-high 19 points, “Their top three players are really, really good,” Mayfield added about GPHS after a 62-36 loss in the championship game Saturday night, Nov. 25, in FHS’s Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium. “And their role players are really, really good, too. When they were open they knocked (shots) down.”

Among his players, Mayfield praised junior guard Jaci Neubert for keeping Farragut close in the third quarter for a while by “making shots; she was getting open.”

Nailing a trio of three-point jumpers in the third quarter, while finishing with a team-high 15 points, “She can really shoot the ball,” the coach added about Neubert. “And we did a good job of finding her there.”

Starting things off strong in the opening round Monday, Nov. 20, the Lady Admirals edged past CAK 50-45. KJ McNealy, sophomore wing, led Farragut with 14 points, followed by Neubert with 12. Junior



Alan Sloan

Farragut Lady Admirals accept the FHS RecruitMe Thanksgiving Tournament runner-up plaque.

guard Annie Priest added eight points, with six each coming from Lilly Mullins and Mya Johnston.

Karlie Whited, Maddie Braden and Colie Thompson led the Lady Warriors with 12 points each.

In the semifinal round Friday, Nov. 24, the Lady Admirals bounced Johnson City Science Hill 51-38,

led again by McNealy, this time scoring a game-high 16. Neubert was close, adding 15, while Priest scored seven.

“I felt like our effort in those two (winning) games was better than it was tonight, especially how we finished” versus Gatlinburg-Pittman, Mayfield said.

Looking to drive on Fulton’s defense is Aiden VanAcker, Farragut senior wing, as younger brother Dominic VanAcker (3 in back), an Admirals junior wing, reacts to the play during this FHS RecruitMe Thanksgiving tourney championship game in FHS’s Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium Saturday night, Nov. 25. Despite Farragut losing, the brothers combined to score 49 points — 29 by Aiden.

Alan Sloan



FHS boys ‘played great’ despite tourney title loss

ALAN SLOAN
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Though losing to perennial Division I Class AA power Fulton 80-71 in the Farragut Thanksgiving RecruitMe Tournament title game Saturday night, Nov. 25, FHS head coach J P Burris came away quite pleased.

First off, senior wing Aiden VanAcker has a career performance offensively, scoring 29 points that included nailing seven three-point jumpers.

“I think our guys played great — quite honestly that’s the best we’ve played all year,” Burris said. “We had high energy, we

See “PLAYED GREAT” on Page 3B

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(Above left) Rick Greene as a runner at Morristown West High; (Above middle) with his daughter, Tiffany Tallent, after a 5k run they completed in October; and (above right) after his two gold and one silver medals earned during the 2022 state Senior Olympics.

Greene
From page 1B

“I’ve been running fairly consistently for 54 years,” he said, going on to run at Carson-Newman University

“I played football in high school ... that’s when Ken Sparks was also the track coach at Carson-Newman; he’s the one that recruited me,” Greene said about the small college football coaching legend who led FHS football as head coach from 1977 through 1979. “But in college, I ran cross country and track. And in track, I was primarily an 800-meter guy then.”

Among his big college moments, “I qualified and ran in two indoor national championships in the 600-(meter) and one outdoor in the 800-(meter,” he said.

Only beginning his Senior Olympics career in 2022, “For years I had thought about doing it, but there was always something that would interfere with my training,” he said. “And I didn’t want to enter and compete if I wasn’t properly trained. So it was either travel for work or injury or something. And finally, I was getting close to retirement last year, and I just said, ‘I’m going to do it.’

“So my first meet was the state finals last year in Franklin, and I won the 200-(meter) and 400-(meter) and was second and the 800-(meter),” he said about his first taste of big-time Senior Olympics success, coming in June 2022.

During this year’s state finals, once again held in June back in Franklin, “I ran the 400 and won that,” he said. “I was supposed to run the 200 and 800, but I was struggling with Achilles tendinitis.”

Though qualifying for the national Senior Olympics in Pittsburgh earlier this year in the 200, 400, 800, “I had to drop out of those because of the injury, which is fairly common for Senior Olympians,” Greene said.

A certified health physicist, Greene retired in August of 2022. He and his wife, Gayle Greene, have three children and four grandchildren.

Photos submitted



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“Played great”
From page 1A

competed the whole time.
“There was just a different type of effort from our guys to-night than there has been the first five games,” he added.
“I told them if we played like that our first five games we’d be 5-1 right now.”
Instead, Farragut entered this week with a 3-3 record.
“But our guys did a phenomenal job. I’m proud of them,” Burris said.

About Aiden’s offensive performance, “That’s probably his career high” in points, Burris said. “He was on fire — and he wasn’t taking bad shots.
“Very under control, very within himself,” the coach added. “That’s a credit to him, because he’s really worked on doing more than just catching and shooting threes. And tonight he displayed some of the other things he can do offensively.”
Aiden’s brother, junior wing/forward Dominic VanA-

cker, scored 20 against a tough man-to-man Falcons defense, with senior post Berkley Naro adding 13 and sophomore guard Parker Lane scoring nine.
“I really thought Dom played well,” Burris said about the 6-foot-3 junior. Dominic and Parker were also right there as far as keeping us afloat on the offensive end.”
In addition, “Dom gets a lot of rebounds for us that go unrecognized,” Burris said. “And Parker did a really good job of

getting into the lane and kicking it to shooters like Aiden.”
Free throw woes
“The only thing I’m frustrated about is we never could get to the free throw line,” Burris said, as Farragut earned only four free throws against Fulton, making three. The Falcons earned 10 trips to the line, converting eight.
“We’re trying to put an emphasis on attacking downhill, so we can try and draw some more fouls and get to the free throw line,” the coach added.

Other games
Destroying Karns 84-38 in the semifinal round Friday, Nov. 24, Dominic led the winners with 19 points followed by Lane with 14.
Naro scored eight, followed by Britton Lewis and Tony Spadafora with six each.
Opening tourney play with a dominant 68-46 victory against McMinn County Monday, Nov. 20, Dominic against led the way with 20 points. Aiden added 12, followed by senior reserve post Claudio Song with 11.

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‘CHICAGO: Teen Edition,’

42 strong, is set by FHS-APAC for Dec. 7-9

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut High School’s Admirals Performing Arts Company presents “all that jazz” of its winter musical, “CHICAGO: Teen Edition,” beginning at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 7, Friday, Dec. 8, and Saturday, Dec. 9, as well as a 1:30 p.m. understudy performance, Saturday, Dec 9 — all in FHS’s Vickie B. Wells Auditorium, 11237 Kingston Pike.

The production is open to the public, and tickets are \$15. They can be purchased at knoxcountyschools.org/farraguths

“There are 42 people in the cast and 40 people in the crew, with some overlap, along with student volunteers making up a good part of the pit band,” said FHS junior Hayden Toon, a cast member and student marketing captain for the company. Additionally, 16 students make up the tech crew.

The musical is directed by theater teacher Tony Wooley, and vocal directors Mitchell Moore (also choral director) and Kirstine Buchanan, and choreographer Bria Bannister.

“All other aspects, from the cast to the set construction to the backstage crew and most of the pit band, are carried out by students enrolled in musical theater, stagecraft or by passionate student volunteers,” Toon said.

Leading the cast are Bryson Keasling, a senior portraying Roxie Hart; Case Pappas, a senior playing Billy Flynn; Jude Smith, a senior playing Amos Hart; and Kaitlyn Mee as Velma Kelly.

See ‘CHICAGO:’ FHS-APAC on Page 6B



Photos by Tammy Cheek
(Above) Junior Kaitlyn Mee, left, will be playing Velma Kelly, and senior Bryson Keasling will play Roxie Hart in the musical.

All 138 badges: B-Scout Gerber

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

A high school senior living just outside of Farragut has accomplished a feat rarely realized even nationally, having obtained his first Boy Scout Merit Badge as a fifth-grader.

He’s earned all 138 Badges.

Zachary Gerber, a home-schooled student connected with Christian Academy of Knoxville who is taking dual-enrollment classes at Pellissippi State Community College, completed the rare feat as a member of Boy Scout Troop 87 by recently earning his Bugle Badge.

As for the toughest badges to earn, “bugle and backpacking, but for different reasons,” said Gerber, also a pianist who seeks to become a “mechanical engineer.”

Moreover, “My ideal goal on my ideal job is to design roller coasters,” the 17-year-old said.

Gerber also was a member of a PSCC math team recently finishing sixth nationally.



Gerber

Town schools form branches of Project Giving Tree

LeighAnna Colgrove, lead coordinator for Farragut’s Project Giving Tree, is ready to accept donations to help families of Farragut schools who need a helping hand this holiday. Donations are being accepted at Farragut Community Center (239 Jamestown Blvd.), as well as Mansour Hasan State Farm (10811 Kingston Pike).

Photo submitted



TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

In the 2023 holiday season, Farragut’s Project Giving Tree is under way.

“Project Giving Tree is a joint effort of the parent-teacher organizations at Farragut Primary, Intermediate, Middle and High schools,” lead coordinator LeighAnna Colgrove said. “We are all working together to support Farragut families in need of extra help this holiday season.”

“It’s been going for several years,” she added. “I’ve been involved as the lead coordinator since 2018, and it had been around at least five years before that.”

“It started as a program at the middle school only, and it’s continued to grow over the years.”

Now, “we all cooperate together so that if any child is identified to have a need for holiday gift

assistance in Farragut schools, we serve them and their entire families from birth to age 18,” Colgrove said. “We work to collect donated funds, gift cards and toys.”

“We currently have nearly 200 children from 75 families who will be served by our 2023 Giving Tree, and applications are still coming in,” she added. “We aim to cover the costs of a new warm outfit and a toy or gift for each child in the program. We also provide food assistance for each family.”

“... We hope our Farragut community will give back to this important holiday campaign. There are several ways to support Project Giving Tree.”

One way is with online donations, which can be made at “<https://app.memberhub.gives/2023farragutgivingtree/Campaign/>

See GIVING TREE on Page 8B

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• **Five University of Tennessee students have partnered with Shangri-La Therapeutic Riding Academy** in Lenoir City to create a crowd-funding campaign, Giddy Up & Give, which works to give children and adults therapeutic experiences through horse-related activities.

These students “have until Wednesday, Dec. 6, to reach their goal,” said Jaydon Kelley, one of the students involved.

Giddy Up Give is working to raise \$2,000 to help Shangri-La Therapeutic Riding Academy in Lenoir City — which uses horse-riding therapy as it works with children and adults ages 4 to 65-plus with mental, physical and neurological disabilities — buy three new saddles.

“These saddles are designed to help riders be comfortable and safe,” said Lexi Hall, another Giddy Up Give member and Hardin Valley Academy Class of 2023 graduate.

Donate by using the link to Giddy Up Give’s GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/f24caac6>

• **Faith Lutheran Church, 225 Jamestowne Blvd. in Farragut, will present its Christmas pageant,** “A Christmas Bedtime Story,” featuring children and music, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 3. It will feature 15 to 17 cast members, as well as musicians. The Rev. Bob Stelter, FLC pastor, said there will be interactive singing with children and the congregation.

• **Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs will flip the switch to open 25th Annual Holiday Festival of Lights** at The Cove at Concord Park, 11808 S. Northshore Drive, at 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1.

The festival, with lights coordinated to music, will run from 6 to 9 p.m. each evening

through Sunday, Dec. 31, excluding Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It is free and open to the public, though visitors are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to donate to The Love Kitchen.

Visitors also can make monetary donations via a QR code available inside the River Sports Outfitter facility.

The Cove has several fire pits available for guests to warm up or roast s’mores. Pets on leashes are welcome.

Opening night will feature Storytime and letters to Santa. Patrons can gather under the pavilion and hear tales from traditional Christmas characters as they write letters. Also featured will be a children’s activity zone to make sugar cookies and ornaments.

A concession stand will offer hot chocolate, pizza, hot dogs, nachos and popcorn.

• **First Farragut United Methodist Church, 12733 Kingston Pike, will host its 16th Christmas Community Day** from 1 to 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, serving neighbors and families in the community.

It will feature toy and children’s books centers, a photo

with Santa center, children’s and adult clothing/coat center and a grocery center.

Reservations are required and space is limited. Guests may come to FFUMC, 12733 Kingston Pike, and pick up a reservation card between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1, or they may register online at <http://www.ffumc.org/register>. The FFUMC parking lot opens at noon, Sunday.

• **Mission of Hope’s annual Christmas Drive to aid rural Appalachia features collecting new toys, clothes, food and hygiene products** for more than 13,000 during its Cyber Barrel Christmas Drive running thru Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Shoppers can visit the online registries and select items for purchase. These items will be shipped directly to the Mission of Hope warehouse.

Posters at various area locations feature QR codes linking to the Cyber Barrel website page: <https://missionofhope.org/christmas-collection-delivery/>. Cyber Barrel sponsor locations are Chick-fil-A, Fisher Tire, Food City, Home Federal, TVA Employees Credit Union and Barnes & Noble.

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Faith Lutheran Cookie Walk & Craft Sale returns for 1st time since 2019

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Back for the first time since 2019, Faith Lutheran Church's Cookie Walk & Craft Sale fundraiser is only four days away. The two-featured event will take place Saturday, Dec. 2, in the church's narthex and fellowship hall, 225 Jamestowne Blvd. in Farragut. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. and church members will start selling cookies at 9 a.m., giving people a chance to check out the craft fair and shop in the

narthex before getting cookies. Cookie sales will go until noon or until they run out. They are homemade by church members according to Darla Berdal, co-chair of the cookie segment with Joanne Sills, who expects to have 50 to 60 bakers. "We ask them to make their favorite Christmas cookie," Berdal added about the bakers. "This year, we're not limiting it just to Christmas cookies ... (but) a majority of them will be Christmas cookies. We get quite a variety."



Previously, "We always ran out of cookies," she said. "Our goal is 12,000 cookies, which is about 1,000 dozen." Customers, who are encouraged to arrive early, will pay for their cookies first — cash or check — before choosing from a wide variety.

"We have boxes that are 9-by-9-by-2 (inches)," Berdal said. "It's kind of like a square pie box. When they come in, they will pay for a box, which are \$20 a box for however many boxes they wish to purchase. "Then, we call out numbers," she added. "They get a number so we don't have everybody trying to fight over cookies at the same time ... we let about 10 or 15 people shop at a time. So while you're waiting to shop, you can look at all the crafters, visit and get to know your neighbors."

"We have trays of all the different varieties, and they're all mixed together so if you don't find one on one tray, it might be on another tray." During the process of gathering cookies, "the lid does need to close flat," Berdal said. "We tie the box closed for you, and you can go about your Saturday or come back and visit with the craft vendors." The Rev. Bob Stelter, FLC pastor, said the cookies can be frozen to save for Christmas..

See COOKIES-CRAFTS, Page 8B

‘Chicago:’ FHS-APAC
From page 4B

"I'm so excited," Keasling said about playing Roxie. "I'm just over the moon to work with Mr. Wooley again and be a part of the show. "(Wooley) puts such an imaginative, magical spin on

his shows," she added. "I think it's going to be eye-catching." "I'm honored to be a part of this production," Mee said. "Our theater class is just like a family that lifts each other up in the art that we create. "I think the talent is just incredible," she added. From being the tech director

in "Mama Mia" to student director in "CHICAGO," "I have been so blessed to call musical theater my family," senior Sydney Romer said. "Each and every single person in this class has been so hard-working and welcoming, and I am forever grateful for all the memories that I've been able to make."

The decision to choose "CHICAGO" as this season's production rested on a team of students according to Wooley. "We try to challenge the kids," he said. "Last year's show, 'Mama Mia,' was a great success. It was a very bright show with the pop music from (the '70s musical group) Abba,

and our whole set was this huge white hotel." "CHICAGO," "which is juxtaposed to last year's production, kept coming up on everyone's list," Wooley added. For more information, contact Wooley at Anthony.wooley@knoxschools.org

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000 LEGALS

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BMA SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
5:30 PM • AGENDA • NOVEMBER 30, 2023

I. Roll Call
II. Approval of Agenda
III. Ordinances
A. First Reading
1. Ordinance 23-18, Ordinance to amend the ARPA Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, passed by Ordinance 23-07
IV. Business Items
A. Approval of Bids and Award of Contract 2024-07, Farragut Town Hall Interior Renovations

This meeting can be viewed live on the Farragut YouTube Channel and the Town of Farragut website www.townoffarragut.org/livestream.
The meeting will be held at the Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive

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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PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut will hold a public hearing on December 14, 2023, at 6:00 PM, at the Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive, to hear citizen's comments on the following ordinance:

I. Ordinance 23-16, an ordinance to amend the Farragut Zoning Ordinance to address buffer strip requirements where an adjacent property is shown as non-residential on the Future Land Use Map

II. Ordinance 23-18, Ordinance to amend the ARPA Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, passed by Ordinance 23-07

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.

Town of Farragut’s annual Countdown to Light the Park

Hundreds of families gathered Monday evening, Nov. 20, for Town of Farragut’s annual Countdown to Light the Park in Founders Park at Campbell Station, to enjoy musical entertainment and holiday snacks before Santa switched on more than 110,000 lights in all sorts of colors and configurations.

“Public Works (Department workers) have been at it since mid-September putting them up,” Farragut Parks and Recreation director Ron Oestreich said. Visit Farragut and Parks and Recreation Department organized the event.

The park lights, which extend north to Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza and Campbell Station Inn, will illuminate starting at dusk each evening through Wednesday, Jan. 3.

Meanwhile, there will be food trucks and activities at Founders Park until Monday, Jan. 1, except for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (lights remain on those days).

Even more was in store Monday evening, as volunteers provided a fire pit with S’mores, cookies and hot chocolate, crafts, ornaments to decorate, games and a scavenger hunt.

Emceed by former WBIR-TV morning meteorologist Mike Witcher, Countdown culminated as Mayor Ron Williams helped Santa flip the light switch after entertainers performed. Southern Clogging Company joined singers Mike Snodgrass (guitar) and Sara Jean (violin), as well as harpist Joanna Seiber and musician/pianist Laura Gunsauls.

With multi-colored lights aglow in so many shapes, children played inside the lighted trees, tunnels and around candy canes and watched the lights “drop” from the trees.



Volunteer Debbie Pinchok



Volunteers April Tomlin, left, and Beth Gray



From left, JR Newman, Mary Newman with Kaileighann, Kaileighann’s mom (JR & Mary’s daughter-in-law), Marissa Newman, and Marissa’s brother-in-law, Gavin Newman.



From left, Addison Pence, 12, with Mrs. Claus/Town Recorder Allison Myers and Ruth Burnette, 10



Jennifer and Nick Acord with children, Jackson, 2, left, and Alexis, 5



Cousins Colton Fox, left, and Lincoln Lee, both 7



Blakely Carrico, 3



Jim and Carolyn Caldwell celebrated their 36th anniversary Monday



Charlotte Barker, 21 months, and big brother, Abram Barker, 3



Sisters, Roselee Elsworth, 9, and Raeanne Elsworth, 13

Giving Tree

From page 4B

Details” app.memberhub.gives/2023farragutgivingtree or via Venmo at @Farragut-MiddleSchoolPTO. “Families with children attending Farragut public schools can also send gift cards to schoolS in an envelope marked ‘Giving Tree,’” Colgrove said. “Gift cards to local stores are recommended but all is appreciated. The deadline to donate is

Monday, Dec. 4. Families pick up their gifts Thursday, Dec. 7. “For those who wish to donate toys, we are grateful to collect new, unwrapped toys at two locations this year: Farragut Community Center (239 Jamestown Blvd.) and Mansour Hasan State Farm (10811 Kingston Pike),” she said. “The toy collection provides a great way for those who wish to shop directly for a child to support Project Giving Tree. “Project Giving Tree also is proud to partner with several

of our student organizations at both Farragut Middle and High schools,” Colgrove said. “Sponsors at FHS include Farragut Dugout Club, Future Farmers of America and National Technical Honor Society.” She said several sports teams at FMS also are participating. “Every gift and every sponsor helps make the holidays a little bit brighter,” Colgrove said. For more information, e-mail”farragutgivingtree@gmail.com.

Cookies-crafts

From page 6B

“We’re excited,” the pastor added. “That was the question, ‘do we do this or not?’ But people have missed it. We’ve had calls. “Yeah, we’ve had people in the community call,” Berdal said. “People are looking for it. “It’s been a while since we had it,” she added. Stelter said the event closed “not because we wanted to, but that (year, 2020) was COVID.” However, “we’ve met and we

decided we wanted to bring it back,” Berdal said. “Our mission statement is ‘Love God, love others and serve.’” “We’ve never used Cookie Walk (proceeds) to pay our bills,” Stelter said. “It’s always gone to outreach.” This year, Berdal said the Cookie Walk funds are going to Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry housed at FLC and the youth ministry for such things as scholarships, trips, gatherings, camps and other youth events.

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