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Looking ahead a few years



New school talk heats up at Staff/Planner

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

As Knox County Schools presented the site plan for its new Farragut Elementary School (rendering above), several Baldwin Park residents voiced their opinions about the new school proposed off Boring Road behind Ingles shopping center during Farragut Municipal Planning Commission Staff/Planner meeting Tuesday morning, Dec. 3.

"It's obviously a major project for the county and the Town and the residents living in that area," Community Development director Mark Shipley said. "It's on a 41-acre tract that Horne Properties owns (owned by Doug Horne, also owner of Republic Newspapers,

Inc., parent company of farragutpress) sold.

Most of the residents' comments steered toward potential traffic along Smith Road, improvements to Boring Road and access for students walking to school.

About the traffic, Shipley said he is waiting to get a response from the school system on a traffic study requirement. Likewise, Town engineer Darryl Smith said he also is waiting for updated traffic study results.

Aaron Gray, project developer with McCarty Hol-



Smith

saple McCarty Architects Inc., said he would make sure those results got disseminated to the Town. Until then, however, Shipley said it is too early for plans to go to Farragut Municipal Planning Commission in December.

Regarding school access, Doug Shover, KCS director of Facilities and Construction, said there will be fencing around the school property for security. However, Shipley said he would like to see options for students who are walking to school be able to enter the school.

Shipley said the plan shows two areas of road improvements but no details on the site. It shows the bus

See NEW SCHOOL TALK on Page 2A



Farragut Christmas Parade, Village '24

Among all Santa's Village vendors and skaters at Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza Dec. 8 was Holly Miller, 5.



Marching from Farragut Community Center to Village Green shopping center parking lot included Farragut Christmas Parade entry Concord Christian School Pride of the Den Marching Band.



Photos by Alan Sloan/more on page 6A

Third Annual Farragut Christmas Parade Sunday afternoon, Dec. 8, featured (left) Grand Marshals from FHS: principal Dr. John Bartlett, above left, beside athletic director Donald Dodgen, and colorful entries (below) such as Island Fin Poke.



FIS, NES, HVES all 'Rewarded' by County

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

Farragut Intermediate, Hardin Valley Elementary and Northshore Elementary schools were among 18 Knox County Schools honored with the Reward designation.

The Reward designation is the "state's highest designation and recognizes schools that are making gains in student achievement and growth for all students and all student groups," a press release from KCS stated.

The state recently released district and school designations based on data from the 2023-24 school year, and results showed Knox County Schools system is continu-

See REWARDED on Page 4A

New Year's at Noon Dec. 31

• Town of Farragut presents its annual New Year's at Noon, taking place from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 31, in Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd.

This event is free and open to the public and does not require any registration, according to Rachel Malone, Recreation and Event manager.

"I'm excited," she said. "It was a lot of fun last year,

and I'm looking forward to it.

"It's geared toward younger children who aren't going to make it to midnight on New Year's Eve, but it still gives them a chance to celebrate," Malone added. "The biggest draw for the event is we drop a net full of about 1,000 balloons from the top of the gym at noon."

Children sit under the balloons and have the bal-

loons fall on top and around them.

Youngsters can enjoy crafts, snacks, games and a photo opportunity for parents to take family and children's photos at a designated wall space.

"It's been great in the past," Malone said. "We have a lot of families who come in and enjoy it. ... We capped it at 100 people last year."

She noted parents need to stay with their children.



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New Choto resident latest Town Sampler champion



Photo courtesy of Stephen Krempasky/Shop Farragut

Jessica Thaman, whose family moved to the Choto community in October, has been named Shop Farragut's November Town Sampler champion as recently celebrated at Admiral's Dough Joe. Alongside ADJ's Nick Fauls, Jessica's prize package included \$25 gift cards from Admiral's Dough Joe, Tropical Smoothie Cafe, First Watch Cafe, Kroger, Marshalls, Dairy Queen, Chilis and O'Reilly Auto Parts "plus other great Farragut schwag," a Shop Farragut press release stated. To enter the December contest, visit <https://wfv.com/contests/60/shop-farragut-december-2024> "and check out what you can win and start your New Year off with some Shop Farragut smiles."

KCSO reports

• At 12:59 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 28, a complainant called Knox County Sheriff's Office Teleserve Unit to report a vehicular burglary from a Farragut Crossing Lane residence.

Complainant advised at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 27, "she left her purse inside her unlocked vehicle inside her unsecured garage," the report stated. "It can be seen on camera footage (that) an unknown suspect entered the garage and stole the purse."

Complainant said she could provide "a video of the incident, suspect description and a list of credit card numbers ...," the report stated, all to

be given to the assigned detective,

• At 9:49 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 26, a complainant — Town of Farragut — called KCSO West Precinct to report a theft after receiving a call from Thompson Engineering inquiring about an unpaid invoice.

Complainant said the check was mailed Sept. 13, but "after looking further, the complainant (said) she noticed the check was signed by the suspect and cashed on Oct. 1. into an unidentified bank account," the report stated.

Suspect, according to complainant, forged the names of Allison Myers, Town's director of Finance, and Farragut Mayor Ron Williams.

New school talk

From page 1A

traffic going into the school from Boring Road, while parents and other traffic will be entering the school from Village Commons Boulevard off Kingston Pike.

"There will be a lot of stacking, internally, onsite to try to deal with that issue that's commonplace in some of the schools that we have in the area," Shipley said.

"The access onto Boring Road, at this point, is really intended to be bus access," he added. "Non-bus traffic will be coming off of Village Commons."

Shipley said the site plan does show improvements to the Boring Road section.

"You know, Boring Road from the end of Baldwin Park to Smith Road is already improved," he said. "That was improved by Saddlebrook when they built Baldwin Park."

The proposed site plan shows "they're basically matching that (previous improvement) and extending that to the east, past where the walking trail that was built where Country Way subdivision comes in," Shipley said. "So, you'll be coming into the walking trail on the east end of the improve-

ments to Boring Road.

"They'll also be putting a sidewalk in on the south side of Boring Road, extending from the one that terminates at the end of Baldwin Park and taking that all the way to the end of their improvement," he added.

"The remainder of Boring Road down through Kingston Pike, who's going to fix that? What's the Town going to do?" Baldwin Park resident Paul Johnson asked.

"There are not any plans with this project to improve beyond what I've already reviewed," Shipley replied. "What happens with the remainder of the road is something the Town would have to do."

Baldwin Park resident Joe Di Mauro urged the rest of Boring Road should be improved, as it currently is only a lane-and-a-half.

"The Town has to step up to improve the road," he added. He also asked for a traffic light at Boring Road, but Mayor Ron Williams explained a light at Boring Road would be too close to the one in front of the old Ingle's parking lot.

He further explained Tennessee Department of Transportation might see it as unwarranted.

However, the mayor pointed out while there will be buses coming off Boring Road, there also will be school staff coming in and out of that road.

"What if Sam Gwen's property develops, and they have an access that comes through Boring Road?" Shipley asked. "That's going to have to be thought about."

Williams said Gwen's property is going to be developed.

Another improvement planned is to Village Commons Boulevard, which includes taking out one of the raised medians and provide for stacking of vehicles.

"Part of this island will be removed to, again, improve access in and out of the school facility," Shipley said.

"One of the things discussed is to try to look at the south road going into the school) to have more zigzagging," Williams advised, noting "zigzagging" would allow for more stacking.

"You're going to pick up about 20 percent more cars in that area, which I think is going to be a critical thing," he added. "We don't want any of (the car traffic) on Kingston Pike. What we're faced with now is what goes on at the other schools. One of the things we don't want is to replicate that."



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New ownership for Anytime Fitness



Photo submitted

Michael Chere, left, and John Christopher, co-founders of Baleo Fitness Inc., have purchased the Farragut Anytime Fitness franchise with plans to keep the fitness center's strong community spirit.

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Anytime Fitness, 12572 Kingston Pike, has changed hands as owners Jay and Louise Povlin recently sold their franchise to Baleo Fitness Inc.

The club first opened Oct. 10, 2012, and the transaction for the sale was completed earlier this fall on Oct. 1.

"We knew from the beginning, way back in October of 2012, that we would transition the club to new ownership someday," Jay Povlin said. "Several determining factors influenced the decision to sell:"

1. Commitment to membership: Does the new owner share our dedication to the members? "We've been fortunate to have many members who have been with us from the beginning, and it was crucial that new ownership understood the importance of member services," Povlin said. "Baleo has demonstrated this understanding."

2. Experience and Background: "Would the new owner have the necessary experience and background to maintain the high performance that the club has achieved over the years?" the former owner asked. "The answer was a resounding yes."

"From our first meeting with the Baleo team, it was clear that Anytime Fitness members would be in great hands," he added. "Baleo brings a wealth of experience and has a team in place to continue delivering excellent service to club members and the Farragut community."

"As I have retired and Louise has completed her term in office (as vice mayor/North Ward alderman) with the Town of Farragut, we felt it was the perfect time to transition out of ownership and start exploring the world. We are excited about the opportunity to see all corners of the United States and beyond; and with this change in ownership, we are now free to embark on this new phase of our lives."

"We're excited to take over the Farragut location and join the local community," said Michael Chere, Baleo co-founder with John Christopher. "This is a special club (Anytime Fitness) with a strong legacy of excellent service to members, and we're proud to continue that tradition."

"Our focus will be on maintaining what's already working so well for members," he added. "Over time, we'll look to enhance the experience by introducing new programs and services based on member feedback. ..."

Anytime Fitness is open 24 hours, seven days a week. For more information, call 865-342-7777.

businessbriefs

• **Morning Pointe Senior Living** bestowed two of its 2024 Exceeding Expectations Awards on women employed at communities in the Knoxville area on Wednesday, Dec. 4.

Kay Lorick, community relations director at the Morning Pointe of Powell campus, re-

ceived the award for Community Outreach.

Tabatha Ellison, business office director at Morning Pointe of Hardin Valley Assisted Living and Memory Care in Knoxville, received the award for Business Office excellence.



Tammy Cheek

Candace Viox, right, Water Into Wine bistro & Lounge owner, welcomed Renee Stone, director of Faith Lutheran Church's Shepherd of Hope food pantry, and Mike Murray, Knoxville Ice Bears co-owner/president, for a signature event in which her patrons could meet Ice Bears players while raising money for the food pantry.

'Chilly Dog' event

Water Into Wine bistro & lounge hosts Ice Bears event to raise funds for Shepherd of Hope

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut's Water Into Wine bistro & lounge patrons had a chance to meet Knoxville Ice Bears hockey players/brass and benefit Faith Lutheran Church's Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry when owner Candace Viox hosted the Ice Bears' visit in her restaurant, 607 N. Campbell Station Road, Tuesday night, Dec. 3.

While meeting the hockey players, patrons could purchase a Chilly Bear cocktail, for which all proceeds benefit Shepherd of Hope, located in Faith Lutheran Church, 225 Jamestowne Blvd.

Viox estimated about \$750 was raised for SOH. Benefitting from the cocktails means "everything," said Renee Stone, SOH director. "We are 100 percent supported by the community and five churches that are involved in our ministry."

"Every church has a commitment of time or monetary donations or donations of food," she added. "And then, we have partners like Water Into Wine and others — small businesses, local businesses in the community who support — so every dollar that we get is spent on food that we distribute to the community."

The visit from the minor league hockey team members came about through Ice Bears president/co-owner Mike Murray "to let Farragut

meet and greet some of the Bears that are going to be on the ice this (season)."

"We're excited," Viox said. "I know there's a lot of people excited that they're going to be here tonight."

Players who arrived for the event were Brayden Stannard, Carson Vance, Taylor Joseph, Jimmy Soper, Dawson McKinney and Cameron Tobey.

"Mike Murray is a supporter of Water Into Wine," Viox explained. "He comes in regularly. He wanted to do something, and I support the hockey team. We have wine nights at the Knoxville Ice Bears games."

The Chilly Bear "was a drink that was created especially for this event," Stone said. "All these drinks that are sold tonight, all the proceeds come to the (SOH)."

The pantry serves 6,378 people according to its website.

"We are a ministry of five faith-based organizations: Concord United Methodist, Farragut Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Concord, Grassy Valley Baptist and Faith Lutheran Church," the website further stated.

Water Into Wine is open from 3 to 10 p.m., Monday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to midnight, Friday and Saturday; and closed Sunday.

For more SOH information, call 865-966-9626.

Recent Networking at HomeTrust



HomeTrust Bank market president Trey Coleman, left, and financial advisor Ken Wright were on hand to welcome Farragut West Knox Chamber members at a FWKCC networking hosted by the bank, 11916 Kingston Pike in Farragut, Thursday morning, Dec. 5.

Tammy Cheek

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Merry Christmas from **farragutpress**

Rewarded

From page 1A

ing to make gains in student achievement, according to the press release.

“Receiving the Governor’s Civics Seal is a significant milestone for Farragut Intermediate School,” FIS principal Suzanne Parham said. “It affirms our dedication to providing a well-rounded education that includes a strong emphasis on civic responsibility and active participation in our community.”

“This award highlights the collaborative efforts of our teachers, students and families to prioritize civic education as an integral part of our learning environment,” she added. “We are proud to be the first school in KCS to receive this distinction.”

This recognition “reflects the strength and intentionality of our civics and social studies curriculum, Parham said. “At FIS, our approach is not only about teaching students the mechanics of government, but also fostering an understanding of their role in a democratic society.”

“It demonstrates that our curriculum equips students with the knowledge and skills to think critically, engage responsibly and contribute positively to their communities,” she added. “We hope they continue throughout high school

and as adult citizens.”

For KCS, “The award showcases the district’s commitment to excellence in education and underscores the value we place on preparing students to be informed and engaged citizens,” Parham said. “It’s a testament to the collective efforts of our schools to prioritize civics and social studies education as part of a broader mission to empower students to succeed in all areas of life.”

“Our success in earning this recognition stems from the dedication of our teachers, the enthusiasm of our students and the support of our families,” she added. “Specific initiatives, such as interactive learning projects, participating in the democratic process through our school community — ranging from student government elections to voting on which songs the fourth-grade choir sang at their concert and many other items — have all played a role.”

Parham added another factor at her school is “the culture at FIS emphasizes collaboration, responsibility and a commitment to excellence, which directly influenced this achievement.”

“Two years ago, only nine schools received the Reward school designation,” the release stated. “Last year, that number jumped to 24 schools. Because Reward school designation

measures growth over previous years’ accomplishments, it is often difficult to maintain a high number of Reward schools. Nevertheless, KCS is celebrating another 18 Reward schools.”

“Results like these don’t happen by chance overnight,” School Superintendent Dr. Jon Rysewyk stated. “Our principals, teachers and students have been intentional and worked hard to make the gains we’re seeing now. They’ve remained focused on our four priorities, and that focus is paying off.”

For the second year in a row, KCS’s overall designation as a district was “Satisfactory,” up from “In Need of Improvement” in 2021-22, “... but we still have work to do when it comes to closing persistent achievement gaps — especially in our middle schools,” Rysewyk said.

towncalendar

• **Light the Park in Founders Park at Campbell Station continues every evening starting at dusk through Wednesday, Jan. 1.** There will be entertainment and giveaways from local vendors as well as food trucks at Founders Park many evenings through Monday, Dec. 23. A calendar of scheduled activities can be found under Farragut News at townoffarragut.org.

To receive a reply from Santa, mail your Santa letters at the park mailbox by Monday, Dec. 16, and include a return address.

A new addition to Light the Park festivities is a 53-foot-by-33-foot synthetic ice rink that will operate through Saturday, Jan. 4, at Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza. For more information and to make reservations, visit www.townoffarragut.org

East TN PBS will once again film a behind-the-scenes special about preparations for Light the Park, including installation of lights and the ice rink. The special will include this year’s musical entertainment and interviews with Town staff Saturday, Dec. 14, and Christmas Eve Tuesday, Dec. 24.

• **A Christmas light music show, choreographed to music,** is running from 6 to 11 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, and 6 to 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, now through Tuesday, Dec. 31, at Farragut Golf and Games, 164 West End Ave.

The light show, featuring 240,000 LED pixels taking the space of a hockey rink, is a fundraiser for Mission of Hope and costs \$5 per person.

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Festival of Lights

Families and Knox County officials surrounded the entrance of The Cove at Concord Park, along Northshore Drive, Monday night, Dec. 2, in wait for Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and Farragut Mayor Ron Williams to cut the ribbon, signaling the lights to be turned on in The Cove for this year's Holiday Festival of Lights.

While many walked around the park on the walking paths, marveling at the lights, others warmed up by the fire pit, drank hot chocolate provided by River Sports Outfitters or made crafts in the office.

As part of the event, donations are being accepted for The Love Kitchen Inc., 2418 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. in Knoxville. One donor, Voitas Group of North America, a new Knoxville engineering firm, presented a \$5,000 check to The Love Kitchen as a way to show appreciation to the community that welcomed the firm.

The park will be lit up with animated holiday-themed characters, decorated by Knox County Parks and Recreation Department, from 6 to 9 p.m., now through New Year's Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 31, excluding Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



Donation from Voitas: from left, Kyle Broomhall, Chad Hooper and Patrick Larisch with Mayor Glenn Jacobs



Christina Novello with son, Malcolm, 2, and Santa



Joey and Bettina Ruffalo



Knox County Commissioner Angela Russell, left, and Mandi Benedict



Anna Roeder



Gabriel Ma, 4



Meredith Cummings with daughters, Natalie, 2, and Ivy, 6



Olivia Caston, 9, with brother, Miles, 2

More Farragut Christmas Parade, Santa's Village, skating photos

Third Annual Farragut Christmas Parade and Santa's Village began with the Village from 2 to 5 p.m., followed by the Parade starting at 4 p.m., Sunday Dec. 8.

This year's Santa's Village, featuring various vendors, was held behind Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza alongside the temporary skating rink in Village Green shopping center parking lot.

The parade began at 239 Jamestowne Blvd. at Farragut Community Center and continued on Jamestowne, turning into the west entrance of the shopping center and ending at Santa's Village. *(More Parade/Santa's Village/skating photos, page 1A)*



Photos by Alan Sloan



(Top left) Representing Town of Farragut during Third Annual Farragut Christmas Parade was South Ward Alderman Drew Burnette and his wife, Brooke Burnette. (Above) Skaters at the temporary small rink in Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza included, left, Carolina Hampton, 6, and Hayden Miller, 10.



(Above) The sign says it all, "Go Admirals Softball," during Town's Christmas Parade.



(Above left) Enjoying both Santa's Village vendors and Third Annual Farragut Christmas Parade were Philip and Hannah Dee and their children, Isla, 3, and Elliott, 6 months. (Above right) Among the children enjoying ice skating alongside Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza was Alanna Rose, 5.



(Top) Farragut High School's double state-title winning dance team in the Town Parade. (Above) Santa's Village vendors, on the edge of Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza and Village Green shopping center, drew hundreds.

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Photo courtesy of Jack Tate/FHS sports information director

Defense, depth lift BHS to decisive wins vs. HVA to begin District 4-4A

Bearden defense limits Lady Hawks

ALAN SLOAN
 editor@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — Smothering defense against an experienced and proven Hardin Valley Academy line-up left Bearden girls basketball head coach Justin Underwood quite pleased.

His Lady Bulldogs remained undefeated (8-0 starting the week) while grabbing its first District 4-4A victory of the season after a decisive 62-24 victory at BHS Friday night, Dec. 6.

“I was really pleased with our defense ... I can’t say enough about how well we played on that end of the floor tonight,” Underwood said. “I thought we came out of the gate and were flying all over the floor.”

“Our rotations were fantastic,” he added.

As for scoring, standout junior point guard Natalya Hodge led the way with a game-high 21. Junior guard Emma Rainey added nine points while senior wing Kendall Anne Murphy scored eight and senior forward Aisha Patel ended with seven.

“I think defensively we played really well,” Patel said. “We rebounded the heck out of the ball; we did great on that. Offensively, we moved it really well.”

“I think our performance tonight is not going to define us for the rest of our season,” HVA head coach Jennifer Galloway said.

The Lady Hawks (4-3 overall, 0-1 in district) were led by senior forward Bella Buccola’s seven points.

“I thought we had some good play off the bench from Bella Buccola,” Galloway said. “She came in and gave us a lift.”

Senior wing Ava Claire Wrather added six points for the Lady Hawks.

Parrott points to depth as Dawgs roll in 2nd half vs. Hardin Valley

ALAN SLOAN
 editor@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — Pulling away in the second half versus Hardin Valley Academy, Bearden High School boys basketball head coach Jeremy Parrott pointed to the most important elements in explaining his team’s 76-50 home victory Friday night, Dec. 6.

“Our bench did well, and I think everyone did something to contribute to this win,” said Parrott, whose team remained undefeated entering this week (8-0 overall) while winning its first District 4-4A contest.

“I think that our depth was the big difference in the game,” he added.

After the Hawks hung close in the game’s first 12 minutes, the Bulldogs began a small surge and led 36-25 at halftime.

Getting a game-high 17 points from senior wing King Hubbard, 14 from senior wing JaMichael Blair and 11 from junior forward Sean Capshaw, Bearden zoomed ahead 58-40 by the end of the third quarter.

“We scrapped, rebounded and worked well together as a team,” BHS senior co-captain Dom Mahoney said.

Hardin Valley was led by senior forward Barron Scheetz’s 15 points, followed closely by senior guard Bryson Frey and senior post Will Fellers scoring 13 apiece.

In reference to the Hawks, “They’re a good team, and I think we have six good teams in our league,” Parrott said. “It’s going to take this kind of effort every night just to hang in there.”

Big wins, FHS girls/boys, at Science Hill

KJ. McNealy, Farragut junior wing, above left, guards a Cocke County player closely during Lady Admirals play at Johnson City Science Hill High School late last week. While the FHS girls edged out CCHS 37-35 in overtime, the Navy Blue and Gray improved their overall record to 6-2 following a 51-35 victory against West Ridge Saturday, Dec. 7. Leading the winning effort was senior guard Jaci Neubert, scoring a game-high 19 points, followed by McNealy who added 15. Other scorers were led by senior point guard Annie Priest, who scoring seven, with Reagan Sheridan’s six and two points each for Anna Corum and Trinity Curry. Meanwhile, the Farragut boys (6-2 starting the week) handed Sevier County its first loss of the season (4-1) in convincing fashion, beating the Smoky Bears 68-55 behind the scoring of senior wing Dominic VanAcker’s game-high 18 points. Close behind was junior forward Britton Lewis, who pumped in 17 followed by junior point guard Parker Lane’s 14 points. Other Admirals scorers were led by junior guard Daniel Lanning with eight, followed by Bryce Howard adding six, Ethan Farhat three and Brody Appling two points.

Pair of champs, runner-up, at KCHS Wrestling Inv.

STAFF REPORTS
 editor@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — Two championship efforts, one runner-up and a handful of other top four finishes resulted from Farragut area participation in annual Irish Invitational wrestling tournament at Knoxville Catholic High School Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6-7.

Senior Dylan Rohn of Farragut captured the 144-pound weight class crown, finishing first after a technical fall (21-3 lead) versus Derrick Day of Greeneville. Rohn improved his season record to 12-0.

At 215, Christian Academy of Knoxville senior Laird Stennekamp was champion, staying unbeaten this season after pinning Cooper Bar-

row of Greenback in the first period.

At 157, Irish senior Brandon McClintock earned second place and came away with a 7-1 season record.

Three locals each claimed third place: Farragut senior Phillip Stafford-Hedge at 175 (11-2 overall record); CAK junior Kyler Cook at 165 (4-1); and Webb junior Jack Quigley at 144 (12-2).

Fourth-place finishers were FHS freshman James Swaggerty at 106 (7-5 overall record) and KCHS junior Edwin Cardenas at 113 (4-2).

Turnaround for Farragut?

Under new head coach Charlie Rohn, Farragut wrestling looks to be more competitive in dual meet matches, having won a few already during the 2024-25 season.

Four wins collected during 1st FHS flag football season

York encouraged about the future, as team is young

ALAN SLOAN
 editor@farragutpress.com

Despite a 27-12 loss to Anderson County Monday night, Dec. 9, at home in Eddie Courtney Stadium on Bill Clabo Field, Farragut High School’s first season of flag football was encouraging on two fronts.

First of all, this team won four games despite limited preseason practices, given that head coach Cameron York assumed the job just a few days before the team’s first two games at Knoxville Central High School in early November.

Also, York will have all but three of his girls returning next season based on eligibility.

“I had a great time this season — I really enjoyed it,” York said with enthusiasm Monday night, as his Lady Admirals defeated South-Doyle, Gibbs, Austin-East and Career Magnet Academy in 2024.

Looking ahead, “For me it’s



Alan Sloan

Farragut High School fielded its first flag football team in 2024 under the direction of head coach Cameron York, right.

exciting because we have a team full of sophomores,” York said, also telling his team they will have more time to work on fundamentals before the 2025 season starts.

Flag football, by the way, is a Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association sanc-

tioned sport, as Farragut will seek a playoff berth in 2025.

The team’s three seniors are Erika Benfield, Madison White and Keira Shafer.

Highlights versus ACHS

Among the FHS players to stand out versus Anderson County was Kambree Fon-

tenot. The sophomore took a reverse handoff for 50 yards to set up the first Lady Ads touchdown — which was a 3-yard run by sophomore quarterback Harper Holmes — fired a 40-yard pass completion to Shafer, caught passes of 25 and 27 yards from Holmes and

broke up two passes on defense — one that would have been a TD and the other one might have been. “She’s an X-factor and one heck of an athlete,” York said of Fontenot.

Shafer’s 15-yard touchdown catch from Holmes accounted for the other Farragut points.

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Xmas Trivia Night:

A Steak & Inn fundraiser

TAMMY CHEEK
 tcheek@farragutpress.com

Hampton Inn & Suites and Longhorn Steakhouse partnered up for Christmas Trivia Night, a fundraiser to collect Marine Corps Toys for Tots, which occurred in the hotel lobby, 11340 Campbell Lakes Drive, Tuesday evening, Dec. 3.

Michelle Campbell, director of sales for LBA Hospitality, which manages Hampton Inn & Suites, said 55 toys were collected as of Wednesday, Dec. 4.

At LBA Hospitality, “we have LBA Cares,” she said. “It’s where we do charity events. We volunteer our time to help out. All of our properties do this, so for Christmas I wanted to partner with a solid organization.”

See XMAS TRIVIA on Page 4B

‘Ginny’ turns 107



With three generations to her junior on hand in NHC Farragut Cavette Hill Memory Care’s 400s dining room Sunday afternoon, Dec. 8, Virginia “Ginny” Zimmerman celebrated her 107th birthday (which is actually today, Wednesday, Dec. 11). **(Above)** Family members with Ginny are her daughters, directly behind, Joan Currie, left, and Sandra Seay; along with granddaughter, Liana Dranes, kneeling, and great-granddaughter, Anamaree Dranes, behind Liana. In back, from left, are granddaughter Jeanne Wilson and her husband, Patrick Wilson; and son-in-laws Tom Seay, left, and Phil Currie. **(Above left)** Anamaree helps Ginny blow out her birthday cake candles. **(Left)** Ginny kisses the hand of the Rev. Danny Anderson, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church along Middlebrook Pike, who came for a birthday visit.

Photos by Alan Sloan

Madigrals’ annual holiday Town Rotary performance

Webb School of Knoxville Madrigal singers paid their annual holiday visit to The Rotary Club of Farragut’s early Wednesday afternoon meeting in early December, this year falling on Dec. 4, to sing Christmas tunes in Fox Den Country Club.

Photos by Tammy Cheek



From left are Will Conley, Ben Morrow, Will Carroll, Holt Solberg, Alex Bowden and Gabriel Little.



From left are Olivia Moody, Taylor Bell, Cailyn Taylor, Sam Herrick (back row), Izzie Kerchner, Joshua Sudler (back row) and Reese Creekmore.

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Appalachian Ballet Company’s “The Nutcracker”

Appalachian Ballet Company’s opening night of “The Nutcracker” was held on Saturday, December 7th at the Knoxville Civic Auditorium. Accompanied by the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, the live performance showcased local dancers as well as Guest Artists from around the country who were invited to participate.

This is the 53rd year for this production. In addition to opening night, another performance was held at the auditorium on December 8th with 2 more schedule for this upcoming weekend at the Clayton Center for the Arts at Maryville College. Of the four shows, two were sold out prior to opening night. If you are interested in purchasing tickets or learning more about Appalachian Ballet, please visit appalachianballet.org

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• **Meet Santa Holiday Event** runs from 1 to 4 p.m., Friday, Dec. 13, in Tennova-Turkey Creek Medical Center Lobby B, Parkside Drive in Farragut. Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus for hot chocolate and treats, Children's Ornament Station, face painting, carolers and holiday trees.

• **Ladies who are new to the area, or who just want to make new friends, come and join Newcomers Club** for lunch and entertainment by K-Town Sound starting at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 18, in Bearden Banquet Hall, 5806 Kingston Pike.

It also includes an ugly Christmas attire contest. Make reservations by Wednesday, Dec. 11, by calling 865-205-4154.

• **AARP Smart Driver Course Offerings run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14, at Seymour Heights Christian Church, 122 Boyds Creek Hwy. in Seymour.** The other sessions are from 1 to 5 p.m., Monday, Dec. 16, and Tuesday, Dec. 17, at Seymour Heights. Participants must attend the Monday and Tuesday sessions.

Pre-registration for all offerings is required by calling instructor Bob Dewese at 814-931-7270 or by going to www.aarp.org/findacourse. Be sure "In Person" in red text is completed when registering.

• **Knoxville Children's Theatre, in partnership with the Clayton Foundation, will present a live production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."** The play runs through Sunday, Dec. 22: beginning at 7 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays; from 1 to 5 p.m., Saturdays; and from 3 to 6 p.m., Sundays.

For tickets, visit knoxvillechildrenstheatre.com/tc-events/best-christmas-pageant-ever-2/

• **As holiday celebrations continue into December, the American Red Cross** encourages donors to keep the blood supply top of mind by giving blood or platelets this month.

Type O negative blood donors and those giving platelets are especially urged to give now to help ensure patients can continue to receive the care they need in the coming weeks. For a limited time, those who come to give Wednesday through Sunday, Dec. 11-15, will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice.

American Red Cross in Knoxville is located at 6921 Middlebrook Pike. Phone number is 865-584-2999.

Those who come to give Monday, Dec. 16, through Friday, Jan. 3, will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last. For details on both offers, visit RedCrossBlood.org/Gifts.

Holidays, human food often a bad combination for dogs

Q: I have heard of dogs getting sick around Thanksgiving and Christmas after eating people food. It's never happened with my dogs. Can you tell me what's happening and why? S.D., Farragut

A: I'm happy to hear that your pets have been unaffected so far. Unfortunately, many veterinary offices see this trend after the holidays. When dogs are given fatty food that their system is not accustomed to, many will experience mild GI upset, resulting in loose stool and nausea.

Some dogs will experience more than gastroenteritis and be diagnosed with pancreatitis, which is inflammation of the pancreas. This small organ in the upper abdomen secretes digestive enzymes that help break down proteins and fats that the body needs. When overloaded with a fatty meal, the pancreas gets overwhelmed.

Dogs with pancreatitis can have severe GI upset, are often unable to hold down food and water and quickly become dehydrated. Affected pets often have a painful abdomen. Diagnosis is made by physical exam, clinical signs, blood tests and occasionally ultrasound. It's important to note that cats can also develop pancreatitis, but is seen less frequently.

The severity of clinical signs of pancreatitis can vary widely, and milder cases can be treated as outpatients. Severe cases often require hospitalization with IV fluids and medications, as these patients often cannot hold down oral medications. Why this occurs with some pets and not others is not always understood.

If you choose to feed your pets from the table, please limit foods that are fried, spicy or high in fat. Please ensure that the trash (including bones) is safely secured where your pet cannot access. I wish you a wonderful and healthy holiday season.



Ask the Vet
Dr. Stephanie Myers

A pet question? E-mail Dr. Myers at lenoircityac@gmail.com



Tammy Cheek

Rotarian of the Month



Tammy Cheek

Rotary Club of Farragut president Scott Bertini, left, presented member Noah Myers with Rotarian of the Month honors during the club's weekly meeting in Fox Den Country Club Wednesday, Dec. 4.

Two new RCF members

Rotary Club of Farragut president Scott Bertini, far right, inducted new members Mill Memanus, center, sponsored by Farragut Rotarian Jim O'Brien, and Laura Green, second from right, sponsored by Farragut Rotarian Candace Viox, during the club's meeting in Fox Den Country Club Wednesday, Dec. 4.

Got Community news, photos?

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Any Farragut based business is eligible for participation on Saturday, January 11, 10am to 3pm at the Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd.

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Xmas Trivia

From page 2B

“We decided on the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation,” Campbell added. “We are a public donation site also, so I thought it would be fun to just have an event, something where our colleagues, our friends, our family could come out and just have a couple hours of playing Christmas trivia.”

“We partnered with Longhorn (Steakhouse) that provided all the food. It was just a way to get everybody together for the holidays, and to give back to the community.”

As for future plans, “This is something we’re discussing that we would like to do — something like this every

quarter; pick a different organization that we can raise money for or volunteer our time,” Campbell said. “In the past, we’ve done something like Second Harvest Food Bank, so we’re looking for other organizations we can do stuff with.”

With the Dec. 3 event, “we’ve invited our guests,” she said. “One of our guests actually went nuts and bought that big Minnie Mouse car that’s out there and boxes of toys.”

Tickets to attend the event were not necessary.

“We just asked that they bring a new unwrapped toy,” Campbell said. Or, “the Foundation provided us with a QR code that can be scanned and you can donate money.”

She said one of the men from



(Far left) Hampton Inn & Suites’ Michelle Campbell, director of sales, and Casey Purkey, Longhorn Steakhouse culinary manager, greeted guests of a Christmas Trivia Night, raising toys for U.S. Marines Toys for Tots, at Hampton Inn & Suites Tuesday, Dec. 3. (Above) Attending were Joey Ruffalo and wife, Bettina Ruffalo. (Left) Trivia players Justin Knight and Alex Wehrmaker.

Photos by Tammy Cheek

Longhorn Steakhouse said the event is very close to his heart.

Casey Purkey, Longhorn culinary manager, said until he turned 18, the Marine Corps Toys for Tots, churches and local food drives were the only ways he got toys and food for Christmas as a child.

“They supported my family all the way through school,” he recalled. “If I wasn’t eating at school, I was eating at a local kitchen.”

“What I love about working at Longhorn Steakhouse is that the first (Longhorn) I was at, and even here, we have

a harvest program, and all of our extra food and things we don’t use for production goes to local restaurants, local kitchens, local churches and helps feed the hungry,” Purkey said.

“The first (Longhorn) location I worked at in Morristown actually fed me at a place when I was a kid,” he added. “It was very nice to see that full circle for myself. And, when we got an opportunity today to help Toys for Tots, I was excited to do so because every toy that I had until high school was through those guys.”

“This is something we’re discussing that we would like to do something like this every quarter,”

- Michelle Campbell
representing Hampton Inn & Suites

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Dixie Lee Farmers Market at Farragut Community Center

Dixie Lee Farmers Market found a one-day home at Farragut Community Center, 239 Kingston Pike, Saturday morning and early afternoon, Nov. 30. Thirty-one combined vendors, tables and trucks were on hand, 25 of those inside, to greet hundreds of customers for four hours.



(Above) Sloane Barra, 2, is fixed on her smartphone while her mother, Sovereign Sourdough owner Carson Barra, and father, Tanner Barra, take care of customers. Find this home-based business at sovereignsourdough.com (Below) Santa was out front to greet all Dixie Lee Farmers Market customers, including Kissiah brothers Mason, 9, in front, and Jonathan, 10.



Four Seasons Farm owner Larisa Onofriychek, left, with customers Amy Scott and her daughter, Jaycee, 12. Four Seasons is located at 501 N. Watt Road.

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(Above) Lindsay Honaker and her children, Annie, 9, right, and Tramel, 6, were customers of Melissa Ball (below), owner of Stony Clay Station, 10389 U.S. 11E, Lenoir City, just west of Dixie Lee Junction.



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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut will hold a public hearing on January 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM, at the Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd, to hear citizen's comments on the following ordinances:

I. Ordinance 24-23, an Ordinance of the Town of Farragut, Tennessee amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 General Fund, Capital Investment Program and ARPA Fund budgets, passed by Ordinance 24-07

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



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FARRAGUT VISUAL RESOURCES REVIEW BOARD AGENDA

Farragut Community Center
 Medium Classroom
 Tuesday, December 17, 2024 • 6:00 p.m

1. Approval of minutes for the October 22, 2024, meeting.
2. Staff report - wall signs approved in the past month.
3. Review of a primary permanent ground sign for Y-12 Credit Union, located at 13128 Kingston Pike.
4. Review of a primary permanent ground sign (reface) for CarFix, located at 11926 Kingston Pike.
5. Review of proposed changes to an existing subdivision entrance sign, McFee Manor Subdivision.
6. Review of a primary permanent ground sign (reface) for Kohl's-Sephora, Kingston Pike frontage, located at 11926 Kingston Pike.
7. Review of a primary permanent ground sign (reface) for Kohl's-Sephora, Glen Abbey Blvd. frontage, located at 11926 Kingston Pike.

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FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

Farragut Community Center • 239 Jamestowne Blvd

AGENDA • December 12, 2024 • BMA MEETING • 6:00 PM

I. Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

A. November 14, 2024

IV. Mayor's Report

V. Ordinances & Resolutions

A. Ordinances

1. Public Hearing and Second Reading

a) **Ordinance 24-21**, Ordinance to amend the Farragut Municipal Code, Chapter 8, Business, Section 2. to replace the existing Business License in its entirety with a new ordinance titled Business Registration Program

2. First Reading

a) **Ordinance 24-19**, Ordinance to amend the Farragut Municipal Code, Appendix A., Zoning, Chapter 3., Section III., Rural Single-Family Residential District (R-1), Subsection B., Permitted Uses and Structures, to provide for a second detached single-family dwelling unit under certain conditions

b) **Ordinance 24-23**, an Ordinance of the Town of Farragut, Tennessee amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 General Fund, Capital Investment Program and ARPA Fund budgets, passed by Ordinance 24-07

VI. Business Items

A. Approval of Information Technology Man-

aged Services Provider Contract with TenHats

B. Approval of contract with Henricksen for Farragut Town Hall furniture & fixtures through Omnia Contract #R221002 and Sourcewell Contract #091423-OFS

C. Approval of Contract with Everon for Town Hall Security & Installation through Omnia Contract #R220701

D. Approval of Contract with Everon for Town Hall Security Licensing through Omnia Contract #R220701

E. Approval of Purchases from SHI Corp. for Town Hall Network Equipment through Omnia Contract #2018011-02

F. Approval of Town Hall Construction Contract Change Order #1 with Wright Construction

G. Approval of Contract 2025-08 with Creek Enterprises LLC for the Farragut Fiber Optic Cable Infrastructure Project

H. Approval of Contract with Cannon & Cannon for Construction Engineering Inspection (CEI) Services for the Farragut Fiber Optic Infrastructure Project

I. Approval of Utility Make Ready Work Agreements for the Farragut Fiber Optic Cable Infrastructure Project

VII. Citizens Forum

VIII. Town Administrator's Report

IX. Town Attorney's Report

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen welcomes and invites Farragut residents to participate in public meetings.

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