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Holiday remembrance of those who gave all



(Left) From left, Christen Bonn; son, Tucker Bonn, 11, a member of Boy Scout Pack 242; Matthew Bonn; daughter, Paisley, 10; and grandmother, Bonnie Swain, were among 100 who laid wreaths on veterans' graves at Pleasant Forest Cemetery in Farragut Saturday, Dec. 14. **(Right)** Air National Guard Lt Col. Travis Hurst, keynote speaker Dec. 14.

Tammy Cheek

Farragut's Wreaths AA count was 278 honored Dec. 14: Williams

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

About 100 volunteers, from veterans to families and Scouts, arrived at Pleasant Forest Cemetery to lay wreaths on the graves of veterans as part of this year's national Wreaths Across America program Saturday morning, Dec. 14.

"We're here to remember not their deaths, but their lives," said Farragut operations manager Chris Sheffield, a retired Air Force officer. "Each wreath is a gift of our appreciation from a grateful America."

Participants were asked to step up to the grave, place the wreath, say aloud the name of the veteran and thank him for his service.

Dave Stinton, Pleasant Forest Cemetery caretaker, along with cemetery board members provided cards, each with information about a veteran and where his grave is located in the cem-

etry, to those laying wreaths.

Town Mayor Ron Williams said there were 278 wreaths being placed on veterans' graves in Farragut. Along with Pleasant Forest, wreaths also were laid on veterans' graves at Virtue Cumberland Presbyterian Church Cemetery along Evans Road and Grigsby Chapel Cemetery.

Among those laying wreaths were Williams, District 5 Knox County Commissioner Angela Russell, District 5 Knox County Board of Education rep Lauren Morgan and Brad Hair, representing Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs' Office.

After University of Tennessee's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps members presented the Colors, U.S. Navy veteran Pastor Patrick Pence presented the invocation.

"Dear Father, we come here today on this morning and we give thanks.

See WREATHS TO HONOR on Page 3A



Tammy Cheek

Tiffany Doyle and daughter, Harper Palmer, 7, were ready to lay a wreath on the grave of veteran William Konrad Buhler in Pleasant Forest Cemetery Saturday, Dec. 14.

Redlight system '5 months behind'

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

With Town traffic congestion something most Farragut citizens must tackle, it was a local businesswoman and chair of Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance asking a key question concerning technology originally scheduled to be completed earlier this fall, which would better time traffic light changes and help alleviate congestion.

"What's going on with the lights, the traffic and the craziness?" Candace Viox, owner of Water into Wine bistro and lounge, asked Town administrator David Smoak during the SF/FBA meeting in Farragut Community Center Wednesday morning, Dec. 11.

"I see it at (North) Campbell Station (Road) on Grigsby Chapel (Road), especially at school time. And then everybody's making a left (from Grigsby to North Campbell) trying to get on the freeway, and it backs all the way up. And I get to hear about it all the time," she added.



Smoak

"So the contractor is five months behind schedule," Smoak answered. "We are still waiting on them to finish their main work to get done. When they finish, then we will have a timing plan, all these other new things that are going to come with that we'll be able to put in place. And then we'll actually have access to it from a staff point to where we can make adjustments as we need to."

"So all that's still not in place," he added. "... And the little sensors that we have, they try to find the cars as they're pulling up, things like that. Some of those are working, some of them aren't. Those are all things that, if they go out, can back up traffic very quickly and make things a mess. And they're still working through that."

"It's basically a 60-day window for us to continue monitoring. But we really are trying to make sure everything is working right, and we're still not there yet."

Specifically, "I think all the stuff is in the ground; it's now equipment," Smoak said.

See REDLIGHT SYSTEM on Page 2A

Prepare to evaluate 'body, mind, spirit' at '25 Wellness Expo

TAMMY CHEEK
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Shop Farragut, in partnership with the Town of Farragut, will host 5th Annual Farragut Health & Wellness Expo, presented by Turkey Creek Medical Center/Tennova.

Taking place between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 11, in Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd. just north of Village Green Shopping Center, the Expo will feature unique presentations by

the TCMC staff and more than three dozen additional local businesses "specializing in the care of the human body, mind and spirit," Shop Farragut executive director Steve Krempasky said.

So far, he said the event's planning is going great and added, "People are excited about a new year."

This special event is free to the public, according to Krempasky. Parking is available at Farragut Community Center and at Village Green shopping center.

"The Expo will showcase the products and services currently available in our community for your

comfort and well-being supporting your healthy lifestyle," he said.

Last year, Krempasky recalled the Expo drew about 1,200, and he expects the same this year.

"It gives you an opportunity to talk directly to the business," he said. "If you're ever thinking about hearing aids, you'll be able to talk right to Beltone."

"You'll be able to talk to people directly about things for your home, things you thought about — you drive

See EXPO on Page 3A

Junior Commissioners sought

• Knox County Commission is continuing its Junior Commissioner youth civics leadership program for a third year. This unique program is available to Knox County high school juniors and seniors (public, private and homeschoolers) "and offers them the opportunity to learn the functions of their local government and

further develop healthy citizenry habits while promoting the importance of community engagement and public service," stated Commissioner Larsen Jay, At-Large Seat 10 representative.

Information on the program is attached and can also be found at: www.knoxcounty.org/juniorcommission

CHECK OUT
the December
Farragut West Knox
Chamber of
Commerce
Newsletter
pg 1C
In this Issue!



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Father Reed at SJNCC subject of 'boundary violation' complaints; on administrative leave: letter

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Concerning what The Diocese of Knoxville labeled as "an important matter concerning Father Joseph Reed," priest at St. John Neumann Catholic Church and School, the following is a letter addressed to "Dear Beloved Parish Members" and shared with farragutpress from John Mecklenborg, director of The Diocese of Knoxville Office of Communications, concerning Reed:

"On behalf of the Diocese of Knoxville and Bishop Mark Beckman, we are writing to inform you of an important matter concerning Father Joseph Reed.

"Effective immediately, (Reed) will be placed on administrative leave in accordance with the Diocese of Knoxville Safe Environment Policy. A complaint of boundary violations has been brought to the Diocese's attention, and we are committed to being fully transparent about our response.

"As required by Diocesan policy, the complaint has been reported to state authorities. The diocese has informed Father Reed of the complaint and will await the completion of the civil authorities' investigation before conducting its own independent and comprehensive review of the matter.

"With an abundance of caution, Father Reed has been removed from his pastoral responsibilities during the time of the investigation, as our primary concern is the protection of those in our care and ensuring a fair, comprehensive review of the allegations.

"During this investigative process, we uphold the principle of presumption of innocence and will take appropriate measures to protect the individual's dignity and reputation until the facts are

See LETTER-REED on Page 3A

Redlight system

From page 1A

"That's really what they're working on, is equipment and fine-tuning the equipment.

"... We have video monitoring now that we can do on the intersections, and we get a lot of people to say, 'you all are only letting two or three cars through,'" he added.

"It's a 12-second light. So if people pay attention instead of being distracted, you can get five or six or seven cars, even, through a 12-second light. And so when people are distracted,

that causes you to get two or three, maybe four cars."

Reaching out for more help, "We've hired another contractor engineering firm to come in and give us another set of timing plans," Smoak said. "So we're going to work off the first one we have, and then we're going to work off another one, and we're going to see which one works best.

"So this is going to be, I would say, two or three months of just changing timing patterns as we get into it to see what's the most efficient plan for us," he added.

KCSO reports

• At 12:45 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 15, two Knox County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to a Battery Hill Circle residence on report of a disturbance. The father said his son "had been behaving erratically: yelling, talking out of his head and making everyone in the residence fear for their safety and well-being," the report stated.

An officer spoke with the father of a son who "was having mental health issues and exhibiting concerning behavior," the report stated.

Though the officers tried to speak with the son, "he began to walk into the residence after officers explicitly told him not to," the report further stated. "For the safety of officers and civilians, the son "was placed in wrist restrains," but the son "became aggressive by pulling away from the officers, throwing his head back and kicking."

One deputy was kicked by the suspect, "making contact with his right knee, causing pain," the report stated. "Officers then restrained the suspect, placed him under arrest and transported him to the KCSO detention facility."

• At 12:53 p.m., Monday, Dec. 9, a KCSO

unit responded to a victim/complainant/driver who reportedly was the victim of a hit-and-run on Everett Road. Victim said he was "traveling south on Everett in a white box truck (2013 KWK Fleet), negotiating the curve just past Oakley Downs Road when the suspect traveled into his lane, crossing the double-yellow line but did not correct himself back into his lane," the report stated.

The two trucks' driver's side mirrors came in contact, "but the suspect did not stop," the report further stated.

The victim drove his vehicle back to his home along Everett Road, "where I witnessed the damage to the mirror," the report further stated. Victim "was not able to provide any description of the suspect, just that the box truck the suspect was driving was slightly smaller than his."

• At 8:01 a.m., Monday, Dec. 9, a complainant called KCSO Teleserve Unit to report two vehicular burglaries — a 2023 Jeep Grand Cherokee SUV and a 2016 Dodge Ram

See KCSO REPORTS on Page 3A



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Expo

From page 1A

by the places every day — but you haven't stopped," Krem-pasky added.

With last year's success of the Crunchy Mama Box pavilion, "we're going to put that in the assembly room this year" as Crunchy Mama Box Wellness Pavilion, Krem-pasky said, adding it will offer more vendors with healthy products to demonstrate and sell.

"Some are foods; some are beauty products; some are skin, hair, nails, all kinds of stuff," he added. Crunchy Mama Box "is kind of an umbrella for a bunch of smaller, home-based businesses all dealing with health and wellness."

New this year, Krem-pasky said, "Different people will be doing workshops, and the doctors from (TCMC) will be moving into the large classroom, where the pavilion was last year.

"We'll have specific times for some of those doctor- and nurse-headed programs to go on," he added. "There's going to be at least three different workshops."

With 38 current vendors, Krem-pasky said there still is room for more and currently is accepting applications.

"We've got physical therapists; we've got chiropractics; we've got all kinds of things for the home, insurance and financial wellness," he said. "We haven't had a dentist come forward yet.

"This is one of my programs that really concentrates on Farragut businesses, so this is stuff you can find right here in

Farragut," Krem-pasky added.

For example, "SouthEast Bank supports the Expo as a Platinum Level sponsor," Krem-pasky said. "Betsy Herzog of Edward Jones Financial is a Silver Level supporter, and both Knox Massage & Wellness and JH Health Solutions are Community sponsors.

"WFIV 105.3 FM and the farragutpress join the event as the official media sponsors," he added.

Krem-pasky said patrons can visit booths from a wide variety of services and retail.

"For example, Beltone will be set up to conduct hearing tests, and One Nation Spin & Sculpt will explain their new fixed bike approach to fitness," he said. "JCPenney Beauty & Salon will conduct special healthy hair and skin demos."

Other committed vendors include Window Hero, Sweat-Houz, Apotheca, Clean Eat, Eden Family Chiropractic, Support Her Wellness, Way with Sarah, Thrive Physical Therapy, The Exercise Coach — Farragut, Ash Chiropractic and Wellness, Healing Hands Spa, Neighborhood Barre, Courtley Chiropractic, Kat's Lash Lounge & Wax Studio, Skin by Jenn plus Tim Bairdm while Farm Bureau Insurance will proactively discuss your financial well-being.

Additionally, Farragut registered nurse and certified health coach Karyn Smydra will conduct an extensive workshop, "Empowering Your Health Through Nutrition."

Regarding vendor spaces, contact Krem-pasky via e-mail at steve@shopfarragut.com or call 865-307-2486 for current availability.

this location at 10 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 8. "When we tried to leave this morning (Dec. 9)," he discovered both vehicles had been rummaged through. However, nothing was stolen from either vehicle.

Wreaths to honor

From page 1A

We thank You for those we honor here today who have served this country and some who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

"We thank You for their dedication. We thank You for their time," he prayed. "We thank You for the sacrifice of their families.

"Their sacrifice really wouldn't be much if there weren't those who remember and honor their sacrifice," Pence added. "So, I thank You for those who are gathered here today to do that: to come out on a chilly morning to lay wreaths across old stones with

names faded away, but their memories and their sacrifice will not be faded away in our hearts.

"If it wasn't for the people here today, these stones would just remain silent."

Wreaths Across America started in 1992 with the Morrill Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine, said keynote speaker Lt. Col. Travis Hurst, executive officer of Air National Guard's 134th Air Refueling Wing at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base.

The company's owner "had 5,000 extra wreaths, and he didn't know what to do with them, didn't want to throw them away, so he donated them," Hurst said. "They

went to Arlington National Cemetery and they decorated all those graves with those wreaths.

"Then around 2006, there was a photo taken at Arlington with the snow on the wreaths, and that's when the program ballooned," he added. "Today, there will be over 19,000 wreaths decorated here and around Knox County by a team of people.

"They started on Thursday. The longest one is a hike of about 8 miles each way into the Smokies, where they will take a wreath and honor a World War II vet."

He said this year at the 134th, there were 250 who were deployed for WAA.

Letter-Reed

From page 2A

fully established.

"We ask for your prayers, compassion and respect for all individuals involved during this challenging time. The

Diocese of Knoxville remains steadfast in its commitment to maintain the spiritual care of our people.

"In the interim, Father Michael Maples will assume the pastoral needs of St. John Neumann parish, and all regu-

lar parish activities are scheduled to continue as normal.

"We appreciate your understanding, faith and support as we navigate this difficult situation with the utmost care and integrity."

KCSO Reports

From page 2A

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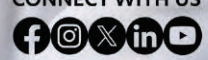
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FWK Chamber's holiday Open House



Hundreds of Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members and their guests gathered in Farragut Community Center for the Chamber's annual Holiday Open House Tuesday, Dec. 10. **(Right)** Santa and Mrs. Claus (Donnie and Susan Bentley of Bentley & Associates Home Inspection Company) were on hand to mingle with the crowd. **(Above)** From left, OYSK 3's interior designer Katie Goethert, administrative assistant Megan Conner and office manager/accountant Sherry Roop.



(Far left) Steve Krempasky, left, Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance's executive director, with his wife, Mary Krempasky.

(Left) Dan Palombi of the Palombi Team

(Below) KaDee Andreasen, left, Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee director of development, on behalf of Iva's Place, and FWKCC president/CEO Julie Blaylock show some items donated to Iva's Place.



(Above) Meagan MacDonald, studio manager with Sweathouz, left, and Brielle Ruhland with University of Tennessee. **(Immediate right)** Zane Schriver, left, Volunteer Ministry Center development and digital media manager, and Paul Armstrong. **(Far right)** From left, Bobby Fox, owner of Fox Muscle & Joint; Kat Mahn, owner of Kat's Lash Lounge & Wax Studio; and Fiona Fox, owner of Saucy Foxy.



Photos by Tammy Cheek

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'Fix' Program cards from Advance Auto Grand Opening to KCSO avoids tickets

Grand opening of Advance Auto Parts Farragut location, 13020 Kingston Pike earlier this fall, coincided with a partnership with Knox County Sheriff's Office to launch a program designed to increase roadway safety. A gift card donation from Advance's District 2711 to KCSO totaled \$1,500 — 60 cards valued at \$25 each. "If an officer pulls over a car that may have a taillight out or a headlight out, instead of them giving a ticket they write them a warning ticket and give them a \$25 gift card to help pay for that part they need," said Chris Smith, Advance District 2711 manager. "... We do this for grand openings of stores." Smith, front row third from right, is pictured beside store manager Summer Hundley, who cut the ribbon. KCSO Assistant Chief Deputy Mike Evans, front row far right, also is Chief of Patrol for the Office's Tango motorcycle unit. Also on hand included Mike Giotto, second from right, 2711 vice president of operations; Randy Ferree, far left, 2711 commercial sales manager; Melissa Snipes, second from left, 2711 commercial accounts manager; and Matt Ketrone, third from left, commercial parts pro for the new location.



Alan Sloan — event sponsored by Knoxville Chamber of Commerce



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It took a fourth-quarter rally for the Farragut Middle School Admirals to defeat rival Hardin Valley — avenging a home loss to the HVMS Hawks earlier this season — to claim the Golden Turkey Trophy in this rivalry following a 33-29 road win Monday night, Dec. 16.

Alan Sloan



Turkey grab X 2

4th-quarter rally with lots of defense lifts FMS boys

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

HARDIN VALLEY — Going the entire second quarter without a field goal, then seeing Hardin Valley Middle School bag a three-point jumper at the third quarter buzzer to go up 26-19, Shane Wells' Farragut Middle boys team had work to do in the game's final six minutes.

However, thanks to sticky defense down the stretch, and "really good defense" the entire game, these FMS Admirals held the Hawks to just three free throws in the fourth frame, grabbing a 33-29 win while taking home the Golden Turkey Trophy in this battle of Turkey Creek at HVMS Monday night, Dec. 16.

Offensively, "Henry Crecy hit a couple of big shots to get us back in it" early in the fourth quarter, "but ultimately I think our defense was really good," said Wells, whose team avenged a loss to the Hawks at FMS earlier in the season.

See FMS BOYS on Page 2B



Alan Sloan

Sweep of Lady Ads for HVMS girls

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

HARDIN VALLEY — Although the second regular season game determined which team took possession of the Golden Turkey trophy, Hardin Valley Middle School's girls ended up with a solid grip on the prize after sweeping rival Farragut this season.

A 37-27 triumph at HVMS Monday night, Dec. 16, saw Hardin Valley claim the Battle of Turkey Creek prize after these Lady Hawks won at FMS earlier this season 34-30.

"I think my girls were ready and engaged to play," HVMS head coach Alex Oliver said. "They looked good and did everything we asked of them — and they played hard, what more can I ask for?"

As for Hardin Valley's record, "I think we are now 9-3," Oliver said.

See HVMS GIRLS on Page 2B

A happy bunch of Hardin Valley Middle School Lady Hawks celebrate taking possession of the Golden Turkey — the battle of Turkey Creek — in its annual tussles with rival Farragut Middle, having swept the Lady Admirals. After winning at FMS 34-30 earlier this season, the HVMS girls captured the "Turkey game" at home Monday night, Dec. 16, with a 37-27 victory.



Alan Sloan

Reagan Sheridan of Farragut looks to get around Lenoir City defender Devin Williams during this battle at LCHS Friday night, Dec. 13. The Lady Ads pulled away to win 56-40.

Picking up the pace in 2nd quarter, Lady Ads take control at Lenoir City

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

LENOIR CITY — Jumping out in front early at home, Lenoir City's girls basketball team led Farragut 14-11 early in the second quarter when things began to change drastically.

The Lady Admirals (7-3 overall) finally kicked into a high gear, grabbing a 30-25 halftime lead that grew to 13 points in the third quarter before building the lead to 19, beating the Lady Panthers 56-40 Friday night, Dec. 13.

See LADY ADS on Page 2B

Depth has sparked FHS dual triumphs in wrestling revival: Rohn

KEN LAY

Correspondent

When Charlie Rohn took the reins for the Farragut High School wrestling program, he faced the challenge of not only a rebuilding project, he had to reboot the program, starting from scratch.

Rohn, who moved to East Tennessee from Maryland recently, expressed interest in becoming the Admirals' head coach because his son, senior Dylan Rohn (144-pound weight class), was a high school wrestler who relocated with him.

Trouble was, Farragut had no team and no coach. Charlie took the job knowing it would be an uphill battle. He began roaming the hallways at FHS in search of students who wanted to compete on the mats.

"I went to the school at lunchtime every day for a month to recruit athletes," he said. "My son wrestles and they didn't have a coach."



Alan Sloan

Izake Koga of Farragut has the upper hand against Zakry Posey of Knoxville Central during this dual meet match in FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium Wednesday, Dec. 11. Koga won by fall.

Coach Rohn's sales pitch was a simple one.

"I told the kids that we could win half of our dual matches if I could field a whole team," he said.

With that, coach Rohn was able to obtain athletes.

"We have 35 boys and that's pretty good," he said. "We have six girls."

Well, not only do the Admirals have numbers, they're winning dual meets.

Farragut began 8-2 in dual meets out of the gate in 2024-25.

Most recently, Farragut dominated Knoxville Central in FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium Wednesday, Dec. 11.

The Ads recently won three matches Tuesday, Dec. 3, at Bearden High School. They edged Maryville, 42-41. "We got a little lucky with that,"

See WRESTLING on Page 7B

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Down 13-0, final 5-minute push propels FHS boys at L-City

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

LENOIR CITY — Failing to score a point for the game's first 5 minutes, 40 seconds, and unable to connect on a field goal for the first 6 minutes, 20 seconds, Farragut's boys basketball team had a high climb against Lenoir City at LCHS Friday night, Dec. 13.

Finally catching — and passing — the Panthers when senior standout wing/post Dom VanAcker nailed a three-point jumper with 5:03 left in regulation, Farragut had its first lead of the game at 44-43.

From there, the Admirals went on a 10-0 run to lead 54-43 on VanAcker's rebound basket at the 2:50 mark

of the final period, which pretty much salted away this comeback victory, 58-47.

Farragut trailed 13-0 in the first quarter against the Panthers, who fell to 1-4 entering this week.

"A very horrible start," said VanAcker, who scored a game-high 17 points in the victory as Farragut improved its overall record to 7-3 entering this week.

"We really came out soft, we really had no energy," he added.

"But that three (to finally go ahead) really started it."



Burris

"At halftime (trailing 33-28) we were down on ourselves and our coach (J.P. Burris) was on us because we weren't playing well," said Parker Lane, FHS standout junior point guard who scored 14 points.

"But we're a team — this year more than last (year) — and we're a family, and when bad things happen we come together," he added.

"We were able to stick together and pull it off at the end."

Britton Lewis, Admirals senior post, added 12 points while junior guard Dan Lanning scored nine.

Hunter Click's 11 points led Lenoir City, while Panthers teammates Matthew Deacon and Peter Shepard each scored eight.

Lady Ads

From page 1B

Offensively, K.J. McNealy, standout junior wing, led all scorers with a game-high 27 points, which including nailing four three-point jumpers.

"It took us a little bit to get

adjusted, and (Lenoir City) made some shots," said Lady Ads skipper Jason Mayfield, whose team improved to 7-3 overall entering the week.

But in the second half, "We settled in defensively — talked about some things at halftime. Our girls adjusted well without

a real good scouting (report on LCHS)," the coach added.

"And obviously, K.J. was pretty dominant."

Jaci Neubert, senior standout guard for FHS, "got out of a little (scoring) slump," Mayfield said, as Neubert pumped in 15 points — including a trio

of three-point jumpers.

Annie Priest, standout senior point guard, scored six points for the Lady Ads.

"Tonight I think we really showed up and kept our effort up," Priest said, adding the team will have a successful season come March "if we play

like that, in my opinion."

About the season to date, "I think we should be 10-0 right now," said Priest, whose Lady Ads were coming off a disappointing loss versus Cookeville Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Kara Gresham's 15 points led the LCHS Lady Panthers.

FMS boys

From page 1B

"I think we forced 25 turnovers," he added. "We should have been creating more offense off of it. But we made the buckets when it counted towards the end."

According to Wells, Farragut's record improved to 9-3.

Henry led the Admirals in scoring with a game-high 19 points, followed by Mac Harris with five and Harrison Holmes scoring four points.

Four Hawks shared led scoring honors for Hardin Valley: Tyson Butcher, Tay Thomas, Noah Allman and Winston Barnes each pumped in six, while Abe Derenski added five points.

It was Tay's three-point jumper at the third-quarter buzzer that gave HVMS its seven-point lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Leading 9-8 after one period, the Hawks were up 16-10 at halftime while holding Farragut without a second-quarter field goal.

HVMS girls

From page 1B

Individually for the Lady Hawks, Hannah Rhoden led in scoring with a game-high 10 points, followed by Annabelle Holmes scoring nine, Brynn Williams seven and Reese Galoway six points.

"They're a great team and they've got really good size,"

said FMS head coach Devan McIntyre, whose team fell to 7-4 in Knox County games, 12-5 overall. "They dominated the boards, and that really hurt us.

"We had opportunities on offense, we've just got to knock down the shots," she added.

Farragut was led in scoring by Elin Rotan's seven points, followed by Audrey Vann's six and Jayna Carbaugh's five.

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Celebrate the Season

Hundreds of children paid a visit to Santa, decorated cookies, wrote letters to Santa and made crafts during Town of Farragut's annual Celebrate the Season event in Farragut Community Center Thursday, Dec. 5.

There were plenty of volunteers to help with activities, take photos and serve refreshments.

Vanessa Wheless with daughter, Evelyn Wheless, 5



Above:
Lily Reda, 5



Anna Thompson, 9, left, and sister, Sarah, 6



Left:
Prateek Thaman with daughter, Priya Thaman, 4, decorating cookie.

Kara Malone with son, Joey and daughter, Claire.



Gigi McKenzie, 7



Gracey Tarpeh, 5

Chelsea Dickall with daughters, Abby, 2, on lap, and Livia, 4



Willis family: Dylan and Samantha with sons, Jack, 5, left, and Declan, 4



Paisleigh Clark, 7

Campbell Nidiffer, 4, and mom, Stephanie Nidiffer, with sticker craft



Natalie Wilkinson, 9, with dad, Michael Wilkinson



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TOWN SAMPLER

Holiday celebrations in Farragut: with & without parents

Santa Breakfast at CUMC



Families enjoyed Breakfast with Santa in Concord United Methodist Church Saturday Dec. 14. The event also featured a visit and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, ornament making, face painting and reindeer feed making. **(Top)** Sophia Pham visited with Santa (Fred Montgomery). **(Above)** Brittany and Philip Pardue with daughter, Blakely, 2. **(Right)** Grandpa, Bill Taylor; mom, Melissa Snyder with son, Grayson, 7; and daughter, Emery Snyder, 4, held by her dad, Michael Snyder.



Photos by Tammy Cheek

'Twas the Night With No Parents



'Twas the Night with No Parents in Farragut Community Center is where children played games, ate pizza and played a Mario video game Friday, Dec. 13, while parents shopped or simply decompressed for a few hours. **(Top)** Cousins Layla McDill, 9, left, and Addy Boehm. **(Above)** Gabriel Downing, 7, left, and Micah Anzelje, 7, compete in a Mario video game.

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• **In the spirit of spreading holiday cheer, Tennessee credit unions will host a statewide Grocery Giveaway** at select grocery stores beginning at noon, Wednesday, Dec. 18, including two Food City locations in Knox County: downtown Knoxville, Food City No. 676, 1950 Western Ave., and in South Knoxville, Food City No. 682, 7608 Mountain Grove Drive. Credit union volunteers will be on-site at these stores “until all donation funds have been distributed to grocery shoppers,” a Tennessee Credit Union League press release stated “Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives whose core mission is people helping people. Grocery Giveaway Campaign is a collaborative initiative by Tennessee credit unions to help make holiday meals accessible and offset rising food costs.”

• **Through Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, MEDIC will reward holiday donors** with a long-sleeved holiday shirt, a night session pass to Ober Mountain (both while supplies last) and a coupon for Texas Roadhouse. Appointments can be made online at www.medicblood.org, via the MEDIC app, or by calling 865-524-3074. The Farragut MEDIC location is 11000 Kingston Pike.

• **Second Harvest Food Bank will have a mobile pantry from 10 a.m. until noon** — or until all the food is gone — Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 3550 Pleasant Ridge Road in Knoxville. It is sponsored by Tennessee Volunteers Men’s Basketball guard Jahmai Mashack, “who took it upon himself to start a virtual food drive to supply food for 30 families,” according to a SHFB press release. “This sparked a giving trend, which prompted him to increase his goal to 50 families and then to 100 families.” More than 12,000 pounds of food will be on the truck, according to the release, which includes carrots, elbow pasta, the following canned items: diced tomatoes, peaches, mixed vegetables, chicken, red salmon, green beans, sweet peas, whole kernel corn and pumpkin, plus pie crust mix, beans, ham, potatoes, apples and cheese

“Jahmai has designated this gift to our mobile pantry program, which does about 200 mobile pantries each year in our 18-county service area,” the release stated. Mashack’s Virtual Food Drive is still accepting gifts through Friday, Dec 20, at <https://secondharvestetn.fenly.org/drive/jahmai/>

• **With less than two weeks left in 2024, the American Red Cross asks donors to give blood or platelets now** to help those in need enjoy the rest of the holiday season with loved ones. Donors with type O negative blood and those giving platelets are especially urged to give now so patients can continue to receive the care they count on in the coming weeks. Those who come to give through Friday, Jan. 3, will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last. Schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of

age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are generally in good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements. Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online on the day of their donation before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

• **Knoxville Children’s Theatre 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. To purchase KCT production tickets, visit knoxvillechildrenstheatre.com/tc-events/best-christmas-pageant-ever-2/

• **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. 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

• **A Christmas light music show, choreographed to music,** runs from 6 to 11 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, and from 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. Cost is \$5 per person.

christmas-pageant-ever-2/

• **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. 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

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Mark down April 15 for Knox pro baseball return, as CEO of Smokies at RCF meeting

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Tennessee Smokies Baseball fans can get ready — construction on the new field, Covenant Health Park in downtown Knoxville, is expect to be completed for the 2025 home opening game on April 15, according to Doug Kirchhofer, CEO of Tennessee Smokies Baseball. He presented the club’s plans to The Rotary Club of Farragut members during their meeting in Fox Den Country Club Wednesday, Nov. 13. Kirchhofer said the formal groundbreaking for the new stadium was June 13, 2023; but demolition of buildings on and along the property started in 2021. “There was mass grading in preparation for construction starting in summer of 2022,” he added. “Formal construction began in March 2023. It’s about a 24-month construction period.” Construction is ongoing for the \$114 million park, which in addition to hosting the Smokies will be the home of OneKnox soccer program, concerts and festivals, and will be able to seat up to 9,925 fans. The April 15 Smokies home opener “will be the first event on the field,” Kirchhofer said. Surrounding the park are private development projects, such as a restaurant, retail, public plazas and a nine-story structure housing the Smokies head office and condos, which currently are available, and a five-story apartment building. There also will be community space, with views of the park, for apartment residents. However, “we may have some smaller soft-opening type of events with spaces around the stadium,” Kirchhofer added. Individual ticket prices, excluding club areas, for Smokies games range from \$10 to \$18. “One of the interesting elements of the stadium is a club area on the second level overlooking the field,” the CEO said. Bill Meyer Stadium club area, former home of the Smokies in East Knoxville through 1999, “probably was 1,200 square feet

See NEW HOME on Page 6B

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From page 5B

with a capacity of 50 or 60 people, but this (new) one has a club area that's about 5,300 square feet with a capacity of 350," he added, noting the club area provides the capability to bring downtown events to the stadium.

"It would be a very unique environment and atmosphere for those type of events. We think there are a lot of opportunity for business meetings, parties, receptions and those types of things ... on non-game days."

Looking back, ahead

Kirchhofer has been with Smokies for 24 years, according to RCF president-elect Candace Viox, during which the Smokies have been located in Kodak (Sevier County), taking Exit 407 off I-40.

"He has played a key role in the growth and direction of the Smokies organization," she said.

"I have enjoyed my involvement with the Smokies over the past 24 years," said Kirchhofer, who started with the club in 2001, a couple years after the team moved from Knoxville to Kodak — 2 miles east of the Knox County line.



Rendering submitted

A rendering of Covenant Health Park, new home of the Smokies Minor League Baseball team, beginning in 2025.

been to the existing Smokies Stadium," he added. "Many of you probably also remember 25, 27 years ago, when conversations were ongoing about whether there would be a new ballpark someplace adjacent

or around Knoxville or Knox County to replace Bill Meyer Stadium."

Bill Meyer Stadium originally opened in 1953 as Knoxville Municipal Stadium and later was renamed after the late Knoxville catcher and manager

in Major League Baseball and long-time Minor League skipper. It was demolished in 2003 and the property is being eyed for new development.

"Timing is everything, and the timing wasn't right (27 years ago) for lots of reasons,"

Kirchhofer said about keeping the Smokies in Knoxville. "I think the reaction probably ranged from 'it's a disaster' to 'who cares?' and everywhere in between."

"But, 25 years later, the timing is right," he added.

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Wrestling
From page 1B

coach Rohn said. "We scored 18 points on forfeits."
Phillip Stafford-Hodge, who competes in the 175-pound weight class, won by forfeit. Other Farragut grapplers to pick up forfeit wins included William Morris (106 pounds) and Andrew Evans (126).

Declan Crecy (165 pounds), Ryan Meade (132), Dylan and Luke Brown (150) all won their matches against the Rebels by fall.
Farragut also toppled William Blount, 51-30, at Bearden. Crecy, Stafford-Hodge, Isaac Maine (190 pounds), Zachary Gonzalez (215), Izaak Koga (285) and Morris all won against the Governors by forfeit.

Dylan and 157-pounder Jonathan Laney both won by fall, and Cooper Gentry, who competes in the 120-pound weight class, scored three team points for the Admirals by winning a decision.
Farragut closed the night with a 40-35 victory against the host, and rival, Bulldogs. Stafford-Hodge, Koga and Joshua Politi (144) won by

forfeit. Gonzalez scored a pin. Evans scored a major decision when he shut out Bearden's Alex Nuckles 16-0. Dylan Rohn scored a technical fall, wrestling at 150 when he routed Blake Clifford, 19-1, and Meade won by fall.
Lady Ads, assistant coaches
The six Lady Ads wrestlers are Anjali Devarakona (114 pounds), Lillyn James (114),

Morgan Oglesby (126), Sarah Stinnett (126), Raedne Ellsworth (132) and Camilla Garza.
The coaching staff: coach Rohn's staff is comprised of Jason Stinnett (Sarah's dad who primarily is coaching the Lady Ads), Ryan Jacobs and Dalton Pearl, the latter moving to Tennessee recently while pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Tennessee.

classifieds

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FARRAGUT MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION

AGENDA • December 19, 2024

Farragut Community Center – Assembly Room • 6:00 p.m.

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

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes for the November 21, 2024 meeting
3. Discussion and public hearing on approval of a final plat for Biddle Farms Commercial, 2 Lots, 4.98 Acres, Zoned PCD (Biddle Farms Commercial, Applicant)
4. Discussion and public hearing on approval of a preliminary plat and a variance from the distance between driveways requirement in the Driveways and Other Access Ways Ordinance for the Serenade at Farragut, 421 N. Watt Road, 30 units, 9.2 Acres, Zoned Neighborhood/Convenience Commercial (NCC) (Robert Campbell & Associates, Applicant)
5. Discussion and public hearing on a site plan for two additions to the Weigel's building at 12001 Kingston Pike, 1.5 Acres, Zoned General Commercial (C-1) (Weigel's, Applicant)
6. Discussion and public hearing on a request to amend the Farragut Zoning Map for the property at 12823 Kingston Pike (formerly Summit View Nursing Home) from General Commercial (C-1) to Community Service (S-1), 5 Acres (Benefield Richters, Applicant)
7. Discussion on a revised concept plan for the commercial portion of the Kingston Pike Village, Parcel 81.47, Tax Map 151, 18.5 Acres, Zoned PCD (Kingston Pike Properties 2, LLC, Applicant)
8. Discussion on a request for an amendment to the text of the Farragut Zoning Ordinance to allow a drive through lane to be permitted for a financial and real estate service in the Mixed-Use Town Center planning area of the General Commercial (C-1) Zoning District (Long, Ragsdale & Waters, P.C., Applicant)
9. Approval of utilities
10. Citizen forum

It is the policy of the Town of Farragut not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, natural origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability or veteran status pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 93-112 and 101-336 in its hiring, employment practices and programs. To request accommodations due to disabilities, please call 865-966-7057 in advance of the meeting

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VOL. 38, NO. 12

A PUBLICATION OF THE FARRAGUT WEST KNOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DECEMBER 2024



A lively group of attendees gathers for a cheerful photo while mingling, dining, and spreading holiday cheer.

Abundance Abounds at Open House

On December 10, members and guests gathered at the Farragut Community Center for this cherished event where the Chamber thanked members for their support and commitment. The Holiday Open House has taken place each year for at least two decades and has also provided member restaurants or caterers a chance to spotlight their menus with a tasting opportunity. Multiple members were featured this year with all manner of samples from hot flatbreads, to fried ravioli, to fresh cinnamon buns and more. They included Ancient Lore Village, Bake That Dough, The Casual Pint Beerstro at Northshore, Copper Cellar Marketplace, Dixie Lee Wine & Liquors (served by Drifting Daisy Mobile Bar), Jet's Pizza Farragut, Johnny Brusco's Pizza, Mom's Truffles, and Penne for Your Thoughts. 35 North also sponsored the event with their support.

New this year, the chamber's West Young Professionals committee were on hand to co-host and also promote opportunities for area YPs to participate in their events during the upcoming year. Guests had a lot of fun practicing their holiday networking with a networking "Bingo" card, which attendees turned in at the West YP table to be entered to win one of several prize baskets.

Abundance was truly on display with every arriving guest who brought donations for the selected member Charity, Iva's Place. In short order, they filled a meeting room at the venue with brand new car seats, diapers, backpacks, new clothing, and multiple other items from the wishlists the Iva's Place provided

See OPEN HOUSE on Page 3

Members of Iva's Place pose with an outpouring of generous donations from Chamber members. These contributions support Iva's Place's mission to provide a comprehensive system of support and services to victims of domestic violence so healing can begin.



First Time Wreaths Laid by West YPs



The chamber's West Young Professionals (WYP) were honored to participate for their 3rd year in a row in the annual Wreaths Across America wreath laying, with a change of venue for 2024. Thanks to communications this fall with the Town of Farragut, the WYPs were made aware of a cemetery in Farragut that needed wreath sponsorship and a dedicated crew of volunteers to ensure the 33 known veteran graves received wreaths as part of the nationwide program.

On Saturday, December 14, several of the WYP committee, chamber staff, and their family gathered to lay wreaths at each pre-marked headstone. The Union Cumberland Presbyterian cemetery contains the resting places of veterans from recent, World and even Civil Wars, as well as the final burial of several founders of the Farragut area (including the Watt and Campbell families). As the Wreaths Across America initiative has grown, cities and

See WREATHS on Page 2

YOU'RE INVITED TO A FARRAGUT WEST KNOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LUNCH N' LEARN

MIND & MUSCLE — WELLNESS IN BALANCE

FEBRUARY 6, 2025 | 11:30AM - 1:00PM

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Looking ahead to Wellness in 2025

Join us for an engaging Lunch N' Learn on mental and physical wellness on February 6 from 11:30am to 1:00pm, where expert panelists will share decades of insight and practical tips to help you nurture both mind and body. Our topic will bring in expertise from adjacent wellness areas, offering diverse perspectives to help you discover how small changes can lead to big results — from improving mental clarity to boosting physical energy — and leave feeling empow-

ered to take your well-being to the next level.

PANELISTS:
• **Ben Harrington, MA Ed**
CEO, Mental Health Association of East Tennessee

With over 30 years of experience in nonprofit health leadership, Ben has dedicated his career to improving mental health outcomes across Tennessee. His passion for early intervention led to the creation of innovative programs like Mental Health 101, the Peer Recovery Call Center, and the

Treatment Access Bank. Ben's deep personal connection to mental health drives his mission to create lasting change.

• **Don Mathers**
Owner, Farragut Fit Body Boot Camp

A lifelong advocate for physical health, Don's fitness journey began in 1975 with amateur bodybuilding competitions and publishing work in fitness magazines. After a successful career at La-Z-Boy, Don

See WELLNESS on Page 4

Enterprise Club

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

ADMIRAL ELITE 		ADMIRAL 		VICE ADMIRAL 		COMMANDER   									
CAPTAIN   		  		  		ANCHOR   		  		  		  		  	

Networkings

Island Fin Poke – November 14, 2024



Al Hazari of *Postal Annex* and Lily Dailey of *Elite Realty* smile for quick photo during the evening networking.



New member Keri Archer of *Keri Archer Photography*, Jessica Baker of *Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union*, new member Andy Salyards of *The Capitol Group*, and FWKCC Board Treasurer John Volpe of *Southern Tequila & Taco Festival* gather for a group photo.

Pinnacle Financial Partners – November 21, 2024



New members Joel Ash of *Ash Chiropractic and Wellness*, Rona Qualls of *Pureline Design & Print, Inc.*, and Kristin Troy of *The Austin Agency, an All-state Company* are recognized for joining the Chamber during the networking event.



Kim Ciukowski and Marcella Vandergriff enjoy coffee and pose for a quick photo.

Other Events

FWKCC Lunch & Learn Series: AI vs. Your Business (co-hosted with Loudon Co. Chamber) – November 20, 2024



The team at *Centriworks* poses for a photo before kicking off the seminar, which focuses on protecting businesses from AI-driven cyber threats.



Speaker Joseph Brunzman, a national expert on cyberinsurance, shares critical steps businesses must take to safeguard against major losses from AI-fueled cyberattacks with an audience of over 130 guests.

Speaker Series: A Walk Through Time – Concords Past, West Knox's Future – November 7, 2024



Jack Neely, founding director of the *Knoxville History Project*, speaks to over 70 guests about the historical evolution of *Historic Concord* and its ongoing influence on the community's identity and economy.



Jennifer Montgomery, a realtor passionate about historic homes, leads guests on a guided tour of *Historic Concord*, highlighting its contributions to the development of *Farragut* and *West Knox*.



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

Wreaths

From page 1

townships have worked to ensure that veterans at all cemeteries are honored and included. This year was the first for this particular cemetery.

Wreaths Across America aims to "Remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach our children the value of freedom." Volunteers are asked to place each wreath at the stone with the bow at the top, and then to salute the veteran (if a veteran themselves) and say the veteran's name with a thanks for service. As it states in their literature, a veteran dies twice: once when their heart stops, and the second when their name is said aloud for the last time.

The WYPS were honored again to participate in this second Saturday of



December event, and the chamber was honored to sponsor 30 of the needed wreaths. If you are interested in supporting the WYPS next year or participating with them, contact us at info@farragutchamber.com.

Ribbon Cuttings

Perimeter Roofing 1st Anniversary – November 6, 2024



Market Manager Palmer Wilkes prepares to cut the ribbon in celebration of Perimeter Roofing's 1st anniversary.

Home-based Business Ribbon Cuttings – November 11, 2024



Owner PJ Dieffenbach joins fellow Chamber members and community supporters to celebrate the 25th anniversary of **Web Mavericks** and the opening of its new brick-and-mortar location.



Owner and General Manager Kelsey Hartsook cuts the ribbon alongside her family and community members to mark the grand opening of **Bumble Bee Blinds** of Knoxville.

Trends of Eluna 1st Anniversary – November 19, 2024



Owner Tierra Sanders cuts the ribbon to celebrate the 1st anniversary of her store, located in Turkey Creek.

Member Briefs

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

Go to www.farragutchamber.com to see these and other member items!

Postal Annex in Knoxville is offering special deals on printing, packing, and shipping services this holiday season. Save on mailbox rentals, custom printing, and more. Take advantage of their seasonal offers to streamline your business needs. Visit their website for full details on these limited-time specials - postalannex.com/specials/knoxville/14023

Launching in February 2025, **BeLocal of Knoxville** is a print and digital publication connecting new movers to local businesses and experiences. Pre-launch rates start at just \$200/month, with placements in print, digital, social media, and mobile streaming. Boost your brand with this relocation guide! Contact Tiffany Davis at Davis.tiff.m@gmail.com for details.

Farragut Fit Body Boot Camp is offering a limited time "4 for \$40" program for women ready to jumpstart their fitness journey. The 4-week program includes 30-minute personalized workouts, coaching from Transformation Specialists, and a supportive community. Spaces are limited! Learn more and secure your spot by calling (865) 601-7173.

Join **Iva's Place** for their *Hunks in Heels* event on January 30th, 2025, at The Venue at Lenoir City. Watch local men step up in solidarity against domestic violence. Vote for your favorite "Hunk" with dollars and support victims of domestic violence. Get tickets here: <https://bit.ly/HunksInHeels2024>

On December 20th, from 5:00PM to 9:00PM, **Kids Cove** is hosting Parents' Night Out, a festive evening for kids with holiday games, crafts, dinner, and visits from Santa and the Grinch. Reserve at KidsCoveKnoxville.com

In celebration of its 85th anniversary, Knoxville Utilities Board (KUB) raised over \$193,000 for United Way of Greater Knoxville and donated more than 250 volunteer hours across seven organizations in three counties. Learn more about KUB's community service efforts at kub.org/community.

Get ready for a festive night at the Annual Ugly Sweater Christmas Party hosted by **Water into Wine!** Enjoy giveaways, cocktail specials, and more on Saturday, December 21, from 8:00PM to midnight. Reserve your table today on their website waterintowineknoxville.com or call (865) 392-1586 for details!

From now until December 24th, enjoy a Hansel & Gretel gingerbread-inspired latte at Frothy Monkey in Knoxville. Each purchase helps **Second Harvest Food Bank** provide three meals to families in need, combating food insecurity this winter. Visit Frothy Monkey at 419 S Gay St and warm up for a good cause.



Did you know?

As we are quickly approaching another busy holiday season, let's take a trip down memory lane and think back to January 2024. Do you remember those New Year's Resolutions you made? If so, did you stick to them? Maybe it was to lose those annoying few pounds that always seem to magically appear during the holidays. Or you made a resolution to travel to a place you have never visited before, instead of going to the same beach you and your family have been going to for years.

How about your business? Did you make any New Year's resolutions for your business at the beginning of 2024? What did those goals look like? Was your goal realistic, or was it one of those homerun shots that only the BaseVols and Tony V. could pull off in the bottom of the ninth inning? Running a small business is hard. Not only are you CEO, Owner and Operator, but you are also responsible for Human Resources, Sales, Social Media Content Creator, Marketing, Accounting and Payroll, and Maintenance. Did you know that as of October 2024, over 2400 new business licenses have been issued in Knox County alone? Are you included in that number?

If starting or growing your business sounded like a great idea at the beginning of the year, but quickly turned into a not-so-great plan, you are not alone. An acronym to help with effective goal setting and to not become overwhelmed is to start with SMART goals. SMART goals are:

- S – Specific
- M – Measurable
- A – Achievable
- R – Relevant
- T – Time Bound

Defining these parameters for the goals you have set ensures that your objectives are attainable and

See SBDC on Page 4



Tiffany Davis of **BeLocal**, her mother, and a family friend pause for a photo while savoring delicious dishes from Chamber member restaurants.



West Young Professionals Chair Lexi Anderson and Vice-Chair Brody Huskey share a smile as they co-host the Chamber Holiday Open House.

Crisis Hotline, Transportation, Legal Advocacy and Court Accompaniment, Life-skills and Educational Classes, Medical transportation and advocacy, Academic and Educational Institutional advocacy, and more. Victims arrive on any given day with nothing more than the clothing that they or their children are wearing, and Iva's Place reports that unfortunately incidents of domestic violence routinely INCREASE during the holiday season.

The Chamber is grateful to the members who adopted entire wishlists and also to Junk Galaxy who donated pickup and delivery of donations: (Insert list of members, to be confirmed).

Open House

From page 1

the chamber. As of this printing, Iva's Place staff are still inventorying the donations for final totals.

Iva's Place is a local 3-level domestic violence program—and the ONLY multi-level program of its kind in Tennessee—serving women, children, and male victims. The Safe Haven Shelter provides immediate placement for victims of domestic violence that are in imminent danger and must flee their home to avoid continued acts of domestic violence. Services also include Crisis Intervention, 24 Hour

Welcome New Members!

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

Did you know businesses/organizations can submit an application & payment online? Visit www.farragutchamber.com and click "Join the Chamber!"

Happy Health and Wellness offers integrative medicine focused on true healing by addressing root causes, not just symptoms. Their experienced team provides personalized care, helping those who haven't found relief through traditional methods achieve better health. To request an appointment, visit <https://happyhealthwellness.com/> or call (865) 895-4985.



by advanced resources and collaboration with your trusted professionals for comprehensive financial guidance. Visit <https://www.edwardjones.com/us-en/financial-advisor/joshua-riley> or call (865) 966-9911.

Christian Brothers Automotive-Karns offers expert, ASE-certified auto repairs and services for all vehicle types. With transparent communication, complimentary inspections, and dealership-quality tools, they ensure a courteous, reliable, and customer-focused experience for every repair or maintenance need. Call (865) 383-8974 or visit <https://www.cbac.com/karns/about-us/about-our-store/>



Atlantic Rehabilitation Center uses evidence-based physical therapy to treat the cause of injuries, not just symptoms. Their expert therapists provide thorough evaluations and customized, surgery-avoiding treatment plans focused on achieving results and enabling athletes to continue their activities. Call (865) 940-6096 or visit <https://atlanticrehabcenter.com/>



Joel Ash with Ash Chiropractic & Wellness is a Knoxville native who is excited to serve the local community. He is dedicated to helping you achieve optimal health and wellness through personalized chiropractic treatments. Call (865) 617-1000 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61568518493617>



Fallen Leaf Concierge & Med Spa is a private medical company prioritizing individually customizable solutions that empower their clients on their wellness & aesthetic journeys. By appointment only for personalized care and attention, call (865) 288-0646 or visit <http://fallenleafmed.co/>



Financial Advisors trust Mike Baker Insurance Consulting for special risk life insurance, leveraging 30+ years of underwriting expertise to insure clients facing medical challenges, including post-cardiac surgery, cancer treatment, and controlled hypertension or diabetes. Visit <http://www.mikebakerlifeinsurance.com> or phone (865) 399-0518.



Helen Harb, a Knoxville native and entrepreneur, re-branded her printing business to PureLine in 2006. Combining creativity and client focus, she expanded services to include design, signage, and promotional items, fostering strong community ties and lasting relationships. Call (865) 690-0288 or visit <https://purelinedesignandprint.com/>



Founded in 1985 in Birmingham, AL, Jim 'N Nick's blends authentic Southern barbecue traditions with innovation. Known for slow-smoked meats, no shortcuts, and community-focused service, it's now an iconic barbecue destination, celebrating quality and heritage. Phone (828) 278-7930 or visit <http://www.jimnicks.com>



As an Edward Jones advisor, Joshue Riley prioritizes understanding your goals and risk tolerance to craft tailored strategies. Together, you'll plan, monitor progress, and adjust as needed, supported



Thank You for Renewing Your Membership!

The Farragut/West Knox Chamber thanks these businesses who have renewed their investment in the Chamber as of November 2024.

We can count them as Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members! We urge members to patronize one another when the goods or services a member can provide are needed. We also hope that area residents recognize a business's commitment to its community when it becomes part of its local chamber of commerce and reward that commitment with its patronage.

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



Town of Farragut

Thank you for your
Admiral Enterprise Membership



AMR- RuralMetro Fire

Thank you for your
Anchor Enterprise Membership



Senior Financial Group

Thank you for your
Anchor Enterprise Membership



Turkey Creek Medical Center

Thank you for your
Anchor Enterprise Membership



United Community Bank

Thank you for your
Anchor Enterprise Membership

- ACTprep.com, Inc.
- Admiral Title, Inc.
- All Occasions Party Rentals
- Bryan Insurance Group, Inc. - Maryville Office
- Calculating Minds Math Learning Center
- City Wide Facility Solutions
- Click Funeral Home/Farragut Chapel
- Dale Skidmore Agency - Allstate
- Embroidery Boutique by Designs For You
- Emerald Youth Foundation
- Farragut Junction
- Hayden's Happy Travel
- Hearthside Bank
- Horne Properties
- Huntington Learning Center
- Knoxville Family Chiropractic Wellness, PLLC
- LifeWave
- Little Joe's Pizza
- Maddox Companies; The Palombi Team at Realty Executives
- Pioneer Heating & Cooling, Plumbing and Electrical
- Prestige Cleaners
- Primerica
- Rose Mortuary/ Mann Heritage Chapel
- Skin by Jenn
- Stokely Company; The Summer Moon Tennessee, LLC
- Tennessee Pension Administrators
- Tennova Primary Care - Choto
- Tennova Primary Care - Northshore
- The Knox Fox Real Estate Group: Teri Jo Fox & Eric Whitener
- The Shoppes at Homespun
- The Trusty Notary
- Thierry Sommer & Associates
- Tradebank of Knoxville
- Webb School of Knoxville

SBDC

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can be completed within a certain time frame. If you find yourself quickly becoming overwhelmed when you discover there are twenty new goals to achieve, narrow that number down and start with the goal that is the most attainable. There is no rule that states you cannot start a business with only one goal. And do your best to know the

best part of reaching your goals? You get to set new ones.

If you have already started planning for 2025, and pursuing your dream of small business ownership is at the top of your New Year's resolutions list, the Tennessee Small Business Development Center is here to help. Schedule an appointment with us at (865) 246-2663, as we will assist you as you start, grow, and sustain your business all year, every year.

Wellness

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retired in 2022 and embarked on a new mission: helping people achieve health and vitality through physical activity. He and his daughter Nena launched Farragut Fit Body Boot Camp, offering 30-minute High-Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) workouts with personalized guidance in a group setting. With decades of experience promoting

health and fitness, Don's mission is clear: get people up, moving, and living their best lives.

We're proud to partner with Tennova Turkey Creek as they are generously providing the venue and lunch for attendees.

Limited seating will be available for this in-person event at Turkey Creek Medical Center. Register at farragutchamber.com > Events.

Calendar of Events: January 2025

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

Tuesdays at the Chamber: FREE Business Mentoring for ANY business with SCORE Greater Knoxville.

MUST Email Clifton.Caudill@SCOREvolunteer.org to pre-schedule.

Wednesdays at the Chamber: FREE Business ADVISING for ANY business @ Chamber with SBDC.

Visit www.tsdbc.org/request-advising/ to pre-schedule.

January 16 at 8a
Business Networking
with Broadway Carpets West
9918 Kingston Pike, Knoxville 37922

January 23 at 8a
Business Networking
with State Farm Insurance Mike Massaglia
108 S. Illinois Ave., Oak Ridge 37830

January 30 at 8a
Business Networking
with JCPenney Beauty
11534 Parkside Dr., Farragut 37934

Would your business love to host one of our popular weekly networkings? Members can do just that! Call us at (865) 675-7057 to learn more or to book for this year!



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LAST MINUTE GIFT GUIDE

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Last-minute holiday shopping tips

Though devotees of early holiday shopping do not hesitate to point out how convenient it can be to get all their gifts long before the arrival of Hanukkah and Christmas, scores of shoppers still wait until the last minute to begin checking names off their lists. It might be beneficial to shop early, but it's easy to procrastinate.

Last-minute holiday shopping might not be as enjoyable a custom as family dinners or office parties, but scrambling to find the right gift in the waning days of the holiday season is a familiar situation for millions of shoppers. Shoppers who find themselves with some last-minute shopping on their to-do list can utilize these tips to make the frantic search for the right gift go smoothly.

• Establish a plan.

Even if you're shopping at the last minute, that doesn't mean you should head out unprepared. Consider the recipient, which kind of gift might fit them best, and how much you're willing to spend. Then you can narrow down which store to visit.

• Work with store personnel.

If a shopping list is lengthy but the time before the holiday arrives is dwindling, speak directly with store personnel, who may offer suggestions but can also help shoppers find what they need. In-person shoppers can speak with a store clerk immediately upon entering a store, while online shoppers can utilize chat functions on retailers' websites for help finding something that's in stock and deliverable before the big day.

• Expect competition.

Though online shopping would seemingly make last-minute shoppers relics of a bygone era, that was not really the case in 2022. A survey of more than 1,000 shoppers conducted by the retail industry publisher Best Black Friday found that just about 16 percent of consumers estimated they would finish their shopping during the week of Christmas. Last-minute shoppers who want to avoid crowds should consider shopping during off-peak hours, such as on weekday mornings and afternoons when most people are working.

• Shop local.

Last-minute shoppers may be flocking to malls and busy downtown shopping districts as they hurry to get gifts for friends and family members with different interests. Shopping at small, local businesses can help last-minute shoppers avoid such crowds. And with less on their shelves and smaller storage rooms, small business owners and their staff also tend to know their inventories inside and out. That can ensure a shopping trip is not spent wandering numerous aisles in search of the right gift.

• Bag it, don't wrap it.

Shoppers who wait until the very last minute likely won't have time to wrap all the gifts they pick up for loved ones. Gift bags conceal gifts just as well as wrapping paper, but it takes a fraction of the time to place a gift in a bag as it does to wrap it in paper. Quality gifts bags also are reusable, which can appeal to anyone looking to create less waste this holiday season.

HOLIDAY CAMPS

DEC 23 9AM-12PM
BASEBALL ALL SKILLS
AGES 12 & UNDER | \$90

DEC 23 | 12:30-3:30PM
CATCHERS CAMP
AGES 14 & UNDER | \$90

DEC 26 | 10AM-1PM
MIDDLE SCHOOL HITTING CAMP
MIDDLE SCHOOLERS | \$90

DEC 26 | 1:30-3:30PM
SMALL GROUP HITTING CAMP
AGES 12 & UNDER | \$75

DEC 27 | 9AM-12PM
BASEBALL PITCHING CAMP
AGES 12 & UNDER | \$90

DEC 27 | 12:30-3:30PM
HITTING CAMP
AGES 12 & UNDER | \$90

DEC 28 | 9AM-12PM
INFIELD CAMP
AGES 12 & UNDER | \$90

DEC 29 | 1-4:30PM
WINTER SOFTBALL CAMP
AGES 14 & UNDER | \$100

DEC 30 | 9AM-12PM
OUTFIELD CAMP
AGES 12 & UNDER | \$90

DEC 30 | 12:30-3:30PM
SOFTBALL PITCHING CAMP
AGES 14 & UNDER | \$90

JAN 2 & 3 | 9AM-12PM
SIMCOX WINTER CAMP
11 & UNDER | \$160

JAN 2 | 12:30-3:30PM
HITTING CAMP
AGES 12 & UNDER | \$90

JAN 3 | 12:30-3:30PM
PITCHING CAMP
AGES 12 & UNDER | \$90

JAN 4 | 9AM-12PM
SOFTBALL HITTING CAMP
AGES 14 & UNDER | \$90

DIAMOND
diamondbaseballtn.com

• Don't forget food.

If it's truly impossible to find something late in the season and a gift card feels too impersonal, give the gift of food. Adult recipients also can be gifted a bottle of wine or another spirit that can be enjoyed during a holiday meal. Shoppers skilled in the kitchen can whip up a homemade treat, while those without such talents can give a store-bought delicacy or even a subscription to a monthly food club or service.

• Don't downplay the power of gift cards.

Some suggest that a gift card isn't an ideal gift because it doesn't require much thought or effort. But the numbers do not lie. A research report from the Retail Gift Card Association notes that 71 percent of people surveyed feel "very satisfied" when they get a gift card.

• Consider a membership gift.

A membership for a subscription box, a wine or coffee club or even a streaming music or movie service can be great last-minute gifts.

