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Grant saw President wheeled in at Parkland

Villages of Farragut resident was on duty at Dallas hospital when President Kennedy was rushed there after shots Nov. 22, 1963

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Many people are asked, “Where were you?” when an impactful, defining moment happened in history.

Two Villages of Farragut residents, Thomas and Marilyn Grant, both 94, certainly know where they were when the late President John F. Kennedy was assassinated Nov. 22, 1963.

Thomas, a radiologist in residency at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, was there when the president was wheeled into the trauma unit. Meanwhile, Marilyn was watching the tragedy unfold on television.

The 46-year-old president was riding in a Lincoln convertible in a motorcade through Dallas, next to his wife, First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, when one bullet pierced Kennedy’s back and exited his neck before a second shot to his head.

“I was actually across the street in a little sandwich shop, at noon, with another radiologist,” he recalled. “And, on the TV, they were showing Kennedy in the parade, going through Dallas. All of a sudden they said ‘he’s been shot.’

“On the TV, you could see the car pull off (the road),” Thomas added. “Both of us, the other radiologist and I, we decided if (Kennedy) wasn’t shot really bad, they’d take him to (St. Paul) Catholic hospital because he was Catholic.” Grant also was in residency at St. Paul.

“I said, ‘If he’s bad, they’ll bring him to Parkland,’” a trauma hospital.



They returned back to work at Parkland, where “the radiology department was on the ground floor and, of course, the emergency room was on the ground floor, adjacent to each other,” he said. “I just walked into the doctor’s entrance and went on down the hall to radiology, and everyone was running around, scurrying. They decided they were bringing Kennedy there (to Parkland).

“A little bit later, very shortly, they of course pulled up and they wheeled him in (on a gurney),” Thomas added. “Now, you couldn’t see him because they had him covered with a sheet.

“They rushed him right straight into Trauma Room No. 1, which was the big one, and shut the door. Just about a minute, maybe two minutes later, they brought Mrs. Kennedy in and they sat her in a chair, right outside the trauma room where he was. The Secret Service guy stood beside her, and she sat there the whole time.

Thomas observed Mrs. Kennedy “was in

See GRANT-KENNEDY on Page 5A



Above left photo by Tammy Cheek/above photo submitted

(Above left) The Villages of Farragut residents Marilyn and Thomas Grant, both 94, still remember the fateful day they were in Dallas when the late President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963. Thomas was a radiologist in residence in Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, and was on duty when the president was wheeled into that hospital’s trauma unit. Meanwhile, Marilyn was watching the tragedy unfold on television. (Above) Marilyn and Thomas, then 26 in 1957, were married and living in Louisiana while Thomas completed medical school at Tulane University. After graduation, they returned to Dallas.

“... They, of course, pulled up and they wheeled him in (on a gurney),” Thomas said. “Now, you couldn’t see him because they had him covered with a sheet,”

- Thomas Grant
on seeing President Kennedy being wheeled in to Parkland Hospital

Mayor, Parks-Rec director share their Town goals for 2025

Pickleball courts done, Dog Park started are key

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Completion of pickleball courts, parking lot expansion and handicap pathway improvements are on the horizon for 2025.

Farragut Parks and Recreation director Ron Oestreich listed several projects he expects will be completed before the end of 2025:

- “The parking lot expansion at McFee Park should be completed by summer of 2025.
- “The pickleball complex

at Mayor Bob Leonard Park should be completed by the fall of 2025.

- “The ADA pathway improvements at Mayor Bob Leonard Park should also be completed by the fall of 2025.

- “The Dog Park and ADA pathway and restroom project will be under way within the calendar year 2025.”

Additionally, “We are planning to see more of our

See PARKS-REC GOALS, Page 4A



Oestreich



Many restaurants on Williams’ wish list; priorities told

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

With the coming of a new year, Farragut Mayor Ron Williams reflected on the Town, what had transpired and what could be in store for 2025.

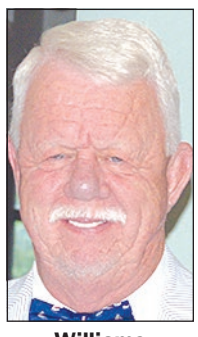
“Over the next several months we will be planning and preparing our budgets for (Fiscal Year 2025) and beyond,” he said. “It is important that we continue with the progress that we have made on enhancing our infrastructure by investing in projects that move

our traffic more efficiently and safely through town and plan for future growth.

Concerning Town Center, Williams said he would like to see 100 percent filled in retail and apartments before the end of 2025.

Regarding the Publix on the west end of Town near Dixie Lee Junction along Kingston Pike, the mayor said, “Grocery stores typically go up quick.

See MAYOR GOALS on Page 2A



Williams

Health-Wellness Expo Jan. 11

• Shop Farragut, in partnership with the Town of Farragut, will host 5th Annual Farragut Health & Wellness Expo, presented by Turkey Creek Medical Center/Tennova, from 10 a.m. to 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.

This special event is free to the public. 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,” Krempasky said.

“It gives you an opportunity to talk directly to the business,” he added with an example. “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 you thought about — you drive by the places every day — but you haven’t stopped.”



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Hagood so good, with hubby, as latest Town Sampler No. 1



Photo submitted

Hannah Hagood made a party out of receiving her December Town Sampler Contest Prize Package. This ardent Shop Farragut follower brought along her husband, Nathan Hagood, and both were surrounded by the super-excited "O'Reilly Boys," from left, only ID'd as Reese, Josh (store manager) and Jason, at the Farragut O'Reilly Auto Parts, 10870 Kingston Pike in Farragut. The Hagoods are happy to dig into their winnings, (all prizes are transferable) a \$200-plus value: free Poke Bowl and two Dole Soft Serves from Island Fin Poke Turkey Creek, plus \$25 gift cards from O'Reilly, First Watch Cafe, Admiral Dough Joe Donuts, Kroger, Marshalls, Dairy Queen and Chili's, along with a hooded sweatshirt from MEDIC Blood Center and other Farragut schwag. The January online contest link is: <https://wfiv.com/contests/61/shop-farragut-january-2025>

Mayor goals

From page 1A

"We hope they are close to opening by the end of the year, as the base property is ready to get started on now," he added. "Once it is under roof, the interior build-out can be under way while the outside is being finished."

About other commercial prospects, Williams said, "The Town of Farragut relies heavily on sales tax revenues to fund our operations and capital projects."

"It is important that we follow the vision in our Land Use Plan for the few remaining parcels of land remaining that can potentially be built on so that Farragut will have the greatest opportunity of continued success for many years to come," he said.

For example, the Town's Farragut Municipal Planning

Commission and Board of Mayor and Aldermen soon will be reviewing plans for the commercial segment of the Kingston Pike Village development adjacent to Little Joe's Pizza near Dixie Lee Junction at South Watt Road. The Mayor expects decisions to be tough on this development.

"(The owner) seems to be trying to put commercial tenants in place during 2025," Williams said. "Based on what is on the FMPC agenda, he has one restaurant or (other business) wanting a drive-thru now."

Throughout the Town, the mayor said he would like to attract businesses, such as IN-N-OUT Burger, Captains Galley, another Chick-fil-A, Aubrey's, Culvers and Trader Joes.

On another matter, the Board will be considering the type of park it will have on the roughly 70 acres it purchased

KCSO reports

Though requested, no KCSO Reports were received as of deadline at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Look for these reports in our Wednesday, Jan. 15, issue.

Choto Mobility Study meeting at Farragut High School Jan. 16

A Choto Mobility Study meeting will be held at Farragut High School, 11237 Kingston Pike, from 5 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 16. "The Choto Mobility Study is focused on transportation safety and reducing congestion through and within the Choto community in Knox County," a Knox County Government press release stated. "The study will identify and prioritize recommended improvements throughout the community to improve transportation conditions."

Letter to the editor

A Biddle/Town Center 'New Year's resolution' from a reader

A New Year's resolution on Biddle Farms: I feel all will agree that our anchor Town Center development (at) Biddle Farms has not been viewed positively by many residents.

There are plans to work on traffic-light synchronization, but what else should the Town of Farragut do to improve this development before it is too late?

While we cannot rewrite agreements, we should enforce them rigorously to the Town

of Farragut's benefit, and no leeway should be given to the developer without extracting major benefits to the Town.

Also, future Town Center developments must be lower density, greener and provide additional benefits to residents. I invite you to propose ways to mitigate Biddle Farms negatives and to improve future Town Center developments.

Bill McAdams, Farragut

towncalendar

• **Community Center Open House** is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 8, in Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd. Are you curious about the programs offered at Farragut Community Center? If so, drop in during this open house to meet some program instructors, learn about recreation programs and sign up for a free membership.

• **Indoor Drive-In Movie** runs from 5:30 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 22, in Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd. Cost is \$5 per child ages 3-10. Create your own cardboard car and enjoy a family-friendly movie. All supplies will be provided and pizza and popcorn will be served. Only register children who will be attending; adults are free. For more information, visit townoffarragut.org

• **Mario Kart Tournament** is from 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 6, in Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd. Cost is \$5 per child, ages 9-12.

Come and test your skills at an evening of

tournament play on Nintendo Switches. Everyone will get the chance to play multiple rounds. Register by visiting townoffarragut.org

• **Parents' Night Out** runs from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 14, in Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd.

Enjoy a night out while your children spend the evening in the Community Center. This event will feature pizza, crafts and lots of games. Register by visiting townoffarragut.org.

• **Shamrock Ball** again features two sessions: from 3 to 5 p.m., and from 6 to 8 p.m., Saturday, Mar. 1, in Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd. Cost is \$30 per couple and \$5 per additional family member.

This annual father/daughter dance is sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Greater West Knox and benefits two local nonprofits.

The evening includes dancing, snacks, crafts and photos. All family members are welcome to attend.

Registration begins Wednesday, Jan. 8.

last year along McFee Road.

"My vision would be to start at the existing McFee Park walking trail, down the east side of the ravine, down through the woods to the underpass and then turn and go down the west side of the ravine, back through the woods and loop back into the trail at McFee Park," Williams said. "The \$2.75 million (federal grant money the Town recently received from Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation) cuts the land cost in half."

To accommodate its growing traffic, the Town has been in the process of installing an Advanced Traffic Light System to control the traffic lights in relation to heaviest congestion.

While the completion is running late, Williams said once completed, "The new traffic management system is designed to manage flow with

programmable signal timing from a connected single source location," especially valuable "at key times of the day."

Farragut "is a wonderful Town and one I have been proud to call home for 30-plus years," the mayor said. "Our quality of life is what is driving people across the country to move to our area to call home."

"We are rated in the top three of all suburbs in Tennes-

see to move to for this reason," he added. "My plans are to continue to work to ensure that we maintain our high standards."

"The Founders of our Town had a tremendous vision for what we could become someday. I want us to continue with that vision of setting the standard for quality of life with a beautiful, close knit, connected, engaged community where individuals, families and business can thrive together."

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Luxe Lashes & Skincare opens



Tammy Cheek

April Shelton brings her 11 years of experience as an esthetician and lash extension specialist to her new salon, Luxe Lashes & Skincare, in Suite 16 of Saah Salon Suites, 102 S. Campbell Station Road.

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

West Knox County esthetician April Shelton has opened a new spa, Luxe Lashes & Skincare, in Suite 16 of Saah Salon Suites, 102 S. Campbell Station Road.

While she opened her new venture Nov. 1, she has been an esthetician, doing lash extensions, for a little more than 11 years.

Shelton is three-times certified in lashes, which means she is certified in lash extension training, advanced training and another advanced training certification for volume lashes.

She specializes in lashes, but she also provides skincare and waxing services.

In the skincare line, she provides such facials as regular, anti-aging, sensitive skin, hydra and diamondglow. She also does chemical peels.

A hydro facial is a treatment that uses a device to exfoliate, cleanse, extract and hydrate the skin, according to Shelton.

"It's new cutting edge in facials," she said about the facial.

Whereas, she explained with Diamondglow facials, she uses a machine with a diamond-tip microderm attachment.

"It will go over your skin and take off the dead skin cells," Shelton said. "But it's also infusing your skin with customized, specialized serums at the same time.

"That's kind of the way the hydrfacial works too," she added. "It's just not using the diamond tip."

Shelton's services are by appointment only. To book an appointment, call or text 1-423-754-0325 or visit Saah Salon's website at saahsalonsuites.com

Before opening her spa in Saah Salon Suites, she was in a partnership with another esthetician in the Bearden area.



Tammy Cheek

From left, vendors Shelly Morgan of Mountain Medicine and David Davis of Davis Farms chat with Jeff Cannon, co-owner/founder of Dixie Lee Farmers Market, during DLFM's winter market in Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd., Saturday, Jan. 4.

Goin' to market

Dixie Lee Farmers Market brings farmers to Farragut Community Center for winter event

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

About 250 people came to Farragut Community Center to check out Dixie Lee Farmers Market's indoor winter market, which took place Saturday morning, Jan. 4.

This was the second indoor market for Dixie Lee Farmers Market. From fresh meat to handmade soaps, the market drew vendors as far as Middle Tennessee.

With 28 vendors, "we're pretty much to ca-

capacity," said Jeff Cannon, co-owner/founder of DLFM. "This has gone over very well. The demand has grown for year-round local produce and products, and we were lucky we were able to procure this space to do it.

"We'll be here almost every Saturday (from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.), through May 12," he added.

Cannon, however, said the market will not be at the community center on the following Saturdays: Jan. 11, March 8, March 22 and April 5.

"We will go back to Renaissance | Farragut on April 19," he said.



Jodie Moore, co-owner of Rebel Hollow Farm in Hancock County, sold farm-raised frozen beef and pork products during the Winter Farmers Market. The farm, located at 1104 Rebel Hollow Road in Tazewell, also raises and sells lamb, blackberries and strawberries and sells goat milk soap. Jodie operates the family farm with her three sons, C.J., John and Hunter.

Tammy Cheek

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Farmer's Market in Farragut Community Center thrives in early January



Local agricultural vendors had a chance to sell and describe their products and services during Dixie Lee Farmer's Market indoor market in Farragut Community Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 4. More indoor farmers markets are lined up for the coming months. *For more details, see story and more photos in Business, Page 3A.*

(Above) Amber Passamonte of River's Edge Farm assisted customer Dan Greaf.

(Left) Danielle Wright, left, of Eden Family Chiropractic, is alongside customer Roxann McIntyre.



(Above) Brian Townsend, a University of Tennessee master gardener, saw the benefits of participating in Farragut Community Center Farmer's Market Saturday, Jan. 4.

(Left) Shyanne Barnett with Leaf Filter made a pitch to sell her product at Farmer's Market.

Photos by Tammy Cheek

Parks-Rec goals

From page 1A

ning to renovate the open space behind the sand volleyball courts at Mayor Bob Leonard Park into a grass rectangle sports field for football, soccer and Lacrosse," Oestreich said. "There are no other ball field improvements or spectator stands in our current plans."

The Town has Founders Park at Campbell Station, 405 N. Campbell Station Road, with greenways, bronze sculptures and two picnic pavilions; McFee Park, 917 McFee Road, with trailheads, tennis courts, splash pad, playground and future dog park; Anchor Park along Turkey Creek Road, located adjacent to the lakefront; and Mayor Bob Leonard Park, 301 Watt Road, a sports complex with 10 athletic playing fields; as well as Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza and activities in Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd.

It is expected to have another park under way, as the Town recently was awarded

a \$2.75 million Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant to be used to develop the park property on the west side of McFee Road. The director said the Town will be seeking community input for the recreational components for the property.

"Our entire Parks and Recreation team is looking forward to the process," Oestreich said. "It will be fun to develop a park property from a blank canvass to a community input-driven facility."

The property along McFee Road was purchased in 2023.

The grant, managed by the

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, was a 50 percent match of the total purchase price of the property, according to a Town

of Farragut press release.

"The 70-acre parcel, which includes 15 acres of donated land, is on the west side of McFee Road near the junc-

tion with Boyd Station Road," the release added. "The grant requires that construction of recreational facilities must begin by 2027."

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Grant-Kennedy

From page 1A

shock. People would come up and say something to her every now and then, but mostly she just sat there in her little blue dress.

"In a few minutes, they called. They wanted X-rays, so an X-ray technician went over to the room," he added. "This particular room had X-ray facilities already there. (The technician) came back, probably a good 30 minutes later with a whole stack of (X-ray) cassettes. They ran them through the machine that develops X-rays.

"The Secret Service man stood there and collected the X-rays as they came out of the developing machine, so we never saw the X-rays. They took the X-rays back to the (trauma) room. The technician told us, 'The man's dead.' He said the whole back of his head was blown off."

However, "it took them another hour (or more) before the announced (to the public) that he was dead," Thomas said. "They had to get everything lined up. They had to get (then Vice President) Lyndon Johnson. They had to get a judge to swear (Johnson) in.

"They wheeled (Kennedy) out and cleaned that room," he added. "Everything in that room they took so there would be no souvenirs, you know.

"Of course, Mrs. Kennedy went with them, and off they went. They went to the airplane and Lyndon Johnson was sworn in as a president in the airplane by the judge.

"With Mrs. Kennedy watching," Marilyn added.

"In all this hub-ub, the Governor of Texas (John Bowden Connally Jr.) was also shot, but nobody paid any attention to him," Thomas said. "He was in the front seat of that car when Kennedy got shot."

Through all that, Marilyn "was at home and saw (Presi-



Tammy Cheek

Marilyn and Thomas Grant, then only 19, were photographed together while they still were dating around 1950.

dent Kennedy) on the television," she recalled. "Actually, I saw him get shot (on the television)."

However, "my sister was at work and she and a friend left to go eat lunch," Marilyn related. "They realized that he was coming right around the corner (in the motorcade), where she

was standing. She's not very tall, so (people) put her out in front. She said she could have reached out and touched him.

"The streets were lined with people, trying to get a look at him," she added. "They had two cars. Not only (Kennedy) was there, but the governor was there; the vice president

and his wife were there; Mrs. Kennedy was there; and the governor's wife was there."

"They were in convertibles," Thomas said.

While the sister did not see the shooting, "when (she and a friend) got to the place where they were going to eat lunch, (the customers) were all talking about. On the news, they had seen where he had been shot and killed," Marilyn said.

Marilyn's biggest take-away of the tragedy was Dallas being blamed for the shooting.

"We felt like that people in the news, they made it sound like it was Dallas's fault that (Kennedy) got killed there," she said. "It wasn't Dallas' fault; it just happened to happen in Dallas."

She remembered she was teaching Sunday School when she learned Lee Harvey Oswald, who was arrested for shooting President Kennedy, was shot and killed by Jack Ruby while in Dallas Police custody. Ruby, of course, was immediately arrested.

"I thought, 'My gosh, what more can happen?'" Marilyn exclaimed.

Couple's background

Both being born and raised in Dallas, the Grants have been in The Villages for about five years, moving here from Shreveport, Louisiana, to be near his son and daughter-in-law, Charles and Peggy Grant, and their grandchildren.

"We were born in the hospital, not at the same time," Thomas said. "We went to the same junior high school and

high school. We were in the same class in high school.

But they waited to start dating. "We knew each other, but it was a big school," he said.

They graduated and went to college, then met on a family vacation in Red River, New Mexico, where they started "going together."

"We had such a good time," Marilyn recalled, saying their parents were friends. "We square-danced ... played canasta with our folks. I say, 'we courted with our parents.'

The budding romance continued after Thomas and Marilyn returned home.

He was going to North Texas University in Denton, and she was going to Texas Tech University in Lubbock, where she left to attend North Texas.

"I was in the Navy Reserves at the time, and they called me up to go to Korea," Thomas said.

"I stayed and finished school," Marilyn added.

After Korea, Thomas came home, continued college and the couple married.

"I was still in the Navy when we got married," he said.

After Thomas got out of the Navy in 1953, he went into pre-med in college and graduated in 1958. He then attended Tulane University Medical School in New Orleans.

"By then, we had two children," he said.

After residency, the couple moved to Shreveport, Louisiana, where they resided for 50 years while he practiced radiology.

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New Year's at Noon

About 200 children, escorted by parents and grandparents, attended this year's New Year's at Noon holiday event, hosted by Town of Farragut's Parks & Recreation Department, in Farragut Community Center Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Children enjoyed refreshments, designing their own party hats, having photos taken and playing games before the big moment when the 1,000 balloons, held up in a net on the ceiling of the gymnasium, were released over their heads.

Minutes before the release, children clamored around to find a spot under the balloons then counted down to 12 p.m.

Rachel Malone, Recreation & Event manager, said the event was created for children who cannot stay up until midnight to welcome New Year's Day.



From left, Arabelle Dietrich, 9; her sister, Rory, 7; friend, Abigail Celis, 5; sister, Grace, 5; and brother, Parks, 2



Ivana Albanna, 6, center, with her twin sisters, Aylin, left, and Alana, 4



Ivy Cummings, 6



Violet Knox, 9, left, and sister, Lily Knox, 12



Teegan Williams, 4



Lyla Todd, 3



Noah Frank, 3



Dad Bryan Rogers with daughter, Myla, 2

Strong 2025 start for Farragut High hoops

A Lady Ads lay-up parade downs Karns

BILL HOWARD
Correspondent

With the first quarter almost half over Friday night, Jan. 3, Farragut High School's girls' basketball team trailed visiting Karns 5-0 in FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium. One shot after another clanged off the rim.

Then the proverbial switch flipped.

The Lady Admirals scored 12 points in a row en-route to a 17-2 run to lead 17-7 after one period. A 9-0 run early in the second put the game away as FHS cruised to a 65-37 non-district win.

"We weren't doing what we were supposed to do early," Farragut head coach Jason Mayfield said. "We started the game with seven straight three attempts, and they weren't falling. Second

quarter we did a better job of (getting the ball inside)."

A much better job, and it actually started in the first period. After junior guard KJ McNealy's two free throws got FHS on the board with 4:21 left in the first, the Lady Admirals scored one lay-up after another. Of the team's 15 made baskets in the first half, only two — a jumper and a three — weren't lay-ups.

The 9-0 run in the second period made it 26-10 with 5:34 left in the half. The teams traded baskets the rest of the quarter as Farragut led 35-19



Mayfield

See LADY ADS on Page 2B

FHS boys romp KHS 73-47

BILL HOWARD
Correspondent

When Farragut High School's boys basketball team convincingly defeated Karns 73-47 Friday night, Jan. 3, in FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium on Donald Dodgen Court, it achieved two goals.

First, it rang in 2025 on a winning note. Second, it was a regular season win at home, something that did not occur a single time last season.

"We went all of last year without winning a (non-tournament) home game," Admirals head coach JP Burris said. "Finally, we took care of business at home."

Two scoring streaks — 19-3 in the second quarter to finish out the half and 12-1 to start the third quarter — turned Far-

See FHS BOYS on Page 2B

Ekeler, Rye plus KCHS pair, Webb's Langham are All-State VB

Two Farragut High School volleyball stars, helping lead the Lady Admirals to the TSSAA Division I-AAA State Tournament last fall, join two Knoxville Catholic standouts and one from Webb School of Knoxville on the Tennessee Sports Writers All-State team.

Representing FHS were senior outside hitter Trinity Rye and junior setter Bella Ekeler.

From Division II-AA were KCHS outside hitters Alex Mendillo, a senior, and Mia Kinney, a sophomore, along with Webb senior outside hitter Lennox Langham.



Alan Sloan

Ben Brophy, Hardin Valley Academy senior wing, was honored during a pregame ceremony at HVA Friday, Jan. 3, after scoring his 1,000th career point in a game versus Webb School of Knoxville Saturday, Dec. 14. Beside Brophy is Hawks boys head coach Andrew Arendt, as the pair joined other Hardin Valley players and coaches to help crush Morristown East later that evening 77-46.

1,000-plus for Brophy Hawks blow past 'Canes

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

HARDIN VALLEY — Saying his Hardin Valley Academy team "learned a lot about ourselves" against "stellar" competition during a four-game cross-country trip to San Diego late during the holiday break (1-3 record), Andrew Arendt's Hawks seemed to apply what was learned in California to

See HVA ROLLS on Page 2B

Jacobs, Collins join Beaufort, Holbrook, 4 private as All-State

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

Eight Farragut area high school football players earned Tennessee Sports Writers Association All-State honors for the 2024 season on three levels.

In Division I-6A, a pair of Farragut Admirals join one Bearden Bulldog and a Hardin Valley Hawk as honorees.

FHS senior Robbie Jacobs earned TSWA recognition as a receiver, while teammate Landon Collins, also a senior, was a defensive back honoree.

Tory Beaufort, BHS junior, also was a receiver honoree. HVA senior Nathan Holbrook was named All-State punter.

In Division II-AA, Christian Academy of Knoxville senior Zane Fields, offensive lineman, and junior Collin Crider, defensive lineman, were All-State, along with Webb senior Hal Niendorf, a defensive back.

Division II-AAA's local honor went to Knox Catholic junior Tyreek King, a receiver.



Beaufort



Holbrook



Crider



Fields



King



Niendorf

Ten dual-win FHS season led by threesome

Under first-year wrestling head coach Charlie Rohn, the Farragut High School boys program has turned around its team performance in one season, having won 10 dual matches entering 2025 while led by three grapplers.

While able to pretty much flesh out an entire roster from lightest to heavyweight, the Admirals' top individual won-loss records entering this week's action are Dylan Rohn, 33-1; Michael Stafford, 23-3; and Jonathan Laney, 21-11.

Warriors improved to 14-1 after decisive region road victory at Concord Christian

KEN LAY
Correspondent

When the Christian Academy of Knoxville boys basketball team took to the floor for the first time in 2025, it was looking to rebound from its first loss of the season. And the bad memories probably were still lingering.

The Warriors lost to Bell County (Kentucky) 48-43 Monday, Dec. 23, and had to wait 10 days for another opportunity to play. When they got the chance to hit the hardwood again, they came out and wasted little time finding their shooting touch from beyond the 3-point arc.

CAK (14-1 overall, 8-0 in region play starting the week) made six long-range jumpers in the first quarter on its way to a 70-41 Division II-A East Region victory over Concord Christian School Friday night, Jan. 3, before a packed house at CCS.

The Warriors made just one two-pointer

over the first eight minutes, but thanks to their success from beyond the arc, CAK had a 22-14 advantage at the end of the opening frame. Zach Coffman converted four 3-pointers in the first quarter, while Bryson White and Caden Owens each knocked down one shot from long range.

But it was Christian Academy's lack of early defensive intensity that left head coach J.D. Johnson concerned.

"I think we came out and played well offensively in the first half, particularly in the first quarter," Johnson said after watching the Warriors keep their perfect league record intact and remain undefeated against teams from Tennessee this season. "But defensively, we didn't have our intensity, and they scored more points than I would've liked."

"We did a little better in the second quarter — and then we came out in the third quarter, and that was us," he added.

CAK never trailed in the contest, but Johnson said the Concord Christian Gymnasium is always a difficult venue for opposing teams to enjoy sustained success.

"This is a tough place to play," he said.

See CAK 14-1 START on Page 2B



FHS action photos courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

(Above) Robbie Jacobs, Farragut senior receiver/defensive back, makes a catch. (Right) Landon Collins, FHS senior receiver/defensive back, leaps for a grab versus Knox West.



Late push allows Morristown East to slip past Hardin Valley girls

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

HARDIN VALLEY — Holding a small lead for a majority of the first two-and-a-half quarters against a stellar Morristown East squad, Hardin Valley Academy lost its grip on that advantage late in the third quarter — in part due to three consecutive turnovers late in that frame.

The Lady Hurricanes (13-4) grabbed a 39-34 lead after three quarters and, despite missing several late free throws, held off the Lady Hawks and won 55-51 in both teams' first game of 2025 Friday night, Jan. 3, at HVA.

"I thought there were a lot of things that we did well at times," Hardin Valley head coach Jennifer Galloway said. "We were able to make a few adjustments with our defenses."

"I felt that in the third quarter, though, we got a little tired and they were able to push the ball in transition," she added. "They went on a little run."



Galloway

With the Lady Hurricanes opening the door with numerous missed free throws in the game's final two minutes, "I thought we had some opportunities down the stretch," Galloway said.

"I think this was a good team for us to play at this time of year coming out of the break," she added. "Morristown East has good guard and post play, and they push the ball down the court really well. This was a good challenge for us."

Senior point guard Kyndra West and senior wing Kamryn Butcher combined for 30 points for the Lady Hawks — West having a game-high 18 and Butcher 12 — while senior wing Ava Claire Wrather ended with nine points.

Wing Holly Lindsey came off the bench and scored seven for HVA, while post Kamiyah Lovee added five points for the home team.

Galloway said she wasn't sure about Hardin Valley's overall record.

Hannah Hall's 14 points led Morristown East (13-4), while Harmony Sullivan added 13.

This week, the Lady Hawks traveled to Sevier County to face the always tough Smoky Bearettes at SCHS Tuesday, Jan. 7 (after deadline). They host District 4-4A foe Maryville beginning around 6 p.m., Friday, Jan. 10.



Alan Sloan

Bella Buccola (12), Hardin Valley Academy senior forward, guards Morristown East's Hannah Hall as she drives to the basket Friday night, Jan. 3, at HVA. The Lady Hurricanes slipped past the Lady Hawks 55-51.

HVA rolls

From page 1B

Friday night, Jan. 3, versus Morristown East at HVA.

Jumping ahead big early and building a 30-plus point lead in the final quarter, the Hawks (10-8 starting the week) won 77-46 on a night one of their top scorers was celebrated.

Hardin Valley senior wing Ben Brophy added to his 1,000-plus career point mark last Friday by scoring 10. Brophy's 1,000-point mark was reached during a holiday tournament game at Webb School of Knoxville against the Spartans Saturday, Dec. 14.

Brophy was recognized for his career point mark alongside Arendt during a brief pre-

game ceremony. "They honored me tonight because this is our first home game since" reaching the milestone, the senior said.

Against the Hurricanes, Hawks senior point guard Bryson Frey led in scoring with a game-high 19 points.

"We had just gotten back from the trip to California, and we played a lot of physical ball out there," Frey said. "I think it translated tonight; it really got us ready for this game."

Senior wing Jace Burum scored 13 for HVA, followed by senior post Will Fellers adding 12 and fellow post Barron Scheetz, a senior, with nine.

Freshman wing Michael Fritts scored four points for the winners.

FHS boys

From page 1B

ragut's five-point deficit into a 48-24 lead. The Beavers had little chance of recovering after that.

FHS's balanced scoring included four players with double figures: senior wing Dom Vanacker with 22, junior point guard Parker Lane (14) and junior guards Dan Lanning and Britton Lewis with 10 each.

"We have many scorers; it's a good problem to have," Burris said. "We tell our guys we feel like we can play any of 12 guys at any time."

"We have a lot of good players on our team," Vanacker said.

The Admirals led 10-3 with

3:12 left in the first, but Karns tied it at 10 at the end of one.

Down 20-15 with 5:37 left in the half, the Ads ran off 14 straight to lead 29-20. Lane's three-point jumper with two seconds left in the half gave FHS a 34-23 lead at intermission.

The 12-1 run to start the third put the game away. The closest KHS would get the rest of the way would be 15, 55-40, on William Summey's three-point play early in the fourth.

Karns was led offensively by Javan Curry scoring 12. Taha Tarchane added 11.

"They have a good team," Beavers head coach Lee Henson said. "We just don't have the depth to match those guys. We hung with 'em for a while."

Farragut improved to 12-5 overall starting the week. Friday, Jan. 10, the Ads begin District 4-4A play by hosting William Blount around 7:30 p.m.

Despite the decisive win, Vanacker thought the score could have been even more discrepant. The senior leader is looking forward to the District 4-4A gauntlet.

"I felt like we didn't come out with our normal energy," Vanacker said. "Our defense was pretty good, but I felt like we could have held them to 30-something points. I'm very confident headed into district."

"We did some good things offensively," Burris said. "We still feel like we gotta tighten some things up defensively."

CAK 14-1 start

From page 1B

"We've had some big wins over here, but this is always a tough place."

The Warriors, however, put the ingredients together for a winning recipe against the young Lions, who dropped to 2-11 overall and 1-5 in league play.

CAK made 12 three-pointers at Concord, including nine before halftime. The Warriors led 37-24 at halftime before putting the game out of reach with a 20-10 run in the third stanza.

CAK had four players post double figures in the scoring column. Owens led the way with 19 points. He also pulled down three rebounds and dished out two assists. Coffman added 16 points and grabbed six boards.

White, who recently won the 2024 Division II-A individual golf state tournament championship for the Warriors, had 11 points, including eight after halftime. He also re-

corded three rebounds. Teeno Hutchinson finished with 10 points and five rebounds for Christian Academy.

For the Lions and first-year head coach Mike Evers, the game represented another chapter in a season of growing pains.

"We're very inexperienced. We have five seniors and they've shown great leadership and been good leaders, but we only have two players who played significant varsity minutes last year," Evers said. "We have another who played in spots."

"We've had six freshmen and sophomores playing varsity this season," he added. "I look forward to them really being able to help us next year."

About CAK, "They have a great team. They're well-coached and J.D. does a great job," Evers said. "They shoot well and they play a tough straight-up (man-to-man) defense."

Parker led CCS with 11 points. Jace Gheen added eight.

"They have a great team. They're well-coached and J.D. does a great job. They shoot well and they play a tough straight-up (man-to-man) defense,"

-Mike Evers, CCS head coach, about the CAK team

Lady Ads

From page 1B

at intermission. The lead grew.

"They're a really good basketball team," Karns head coach Lauren Trent said. "We played well in spurts but we're still trying to figure out how to put a whole game together."

"They handed it to us in transition," she added.

Farragut's lay-up onslaught — seven of eight baskets — combined with aggressive defense, continued in the third period. The Lady Ads held Karns to seven points in the quarter while scoring 18.

The 53-26 lead after three put the game long out of reach. A 10-3 run to start the fourth period made it 63-29. With 5:23 left, Mayfield played backups the rest of the game.

"We got some good stops and

we caused some problems with defense," Mayfield said. "Kinda wore 'em down a little and used our depth."

McNealy led all scorers with 19 points while hauling in 10 rebounds. Other double-figure scorers for Farragut included sophomore wing Gabbie Vanacker with 14, senior point-guard Jaci Neubert scoring 11 and sophomore post Trinity Curry adding 11.

Rylee Roberts led the KHS girls in scoring with 16.

McNealy is glad to have Vanacker on board. "We have a lot of people who can play," she said. "It's not just first five, it's next five, too. Without her, (Vanacker) we wouldn't be where we are."

The Lady Ads (12-5 overall after the win) will host William Blount to begin District 4-4A play at 6 p.m., Friday, Jan. 10.

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‘Frank’ly speaking, a man of many talents

(Right) Frank Galbraith has entertained folks in the Farragut area in song with piano accompaniment, especially at senior living centers, for decades.

(Below) Galbraith mingled among thousands at a recent Town of Farragut Independence Day Parade on Kingston Pike checking attendees’ knowledge of history, being a local historian who also has a firm grasp on U.S. history as a former social studies teacher at Farragut Middle School.



Badminton champ, ‘Day of Infamy’ history buff, entertainer, retired teacher, Frank Galbraith still going strong

TAMMY CHEEK
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A highly respect retired teacher who has brought joy to fellow seniors as an entertainer in song with piano, a historian whose “Day of Infamy” presentations are an early December staple for the Town of Farragut, and an athlete good enough to collect Senior Olympic national and state gold medals in badminton, Frank Galbraith of Farragut is a man with so many God-given gifts.

Athletic success early, often
Focusing on athletics, Galbraith, 83, may compete in this summer’s Tennessee Senior Olympics June 17-26 in Franklin.

“When you get over 60, whoever is injured the least (in a match) wins,” Galbraith said with a laugh.

Galbraith has been enjoying success in badminton and track and field since high school and well into college.

After graduating from Farragut High School in 1959, he went on to run track at Union College in Barberville, Kentucky, where his team won the conference championship his sophomore year.

Galbraith was a decathlete

(Above) One of Frank Galbraith’s many talents has been collecting national and statewide medals in badminton singles and doubles — mainly gold — at Senior Olympic events for more than two decades. This long-time Farragut resident and retired highly respected Knox County Schools teacher — primarily a social studies teacher at Farragut Middle School — displays some of his hard-earned hardware.

(Below) Galbraith’s knowledge of U.S. history is displayed annually with his “A Day of Infamy” presentation in early December about the events leading to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on Dec. 7, 1941.



Top right photo by Tammy Cheek/ others are file photos

See GALBRAITH on Page 5B

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Galbraith

From page 3B

at University of Tennessee, where he also won a collegiate badminton championship before competing in track after transferring to East Tennessee State University — winning the badminton championship as an ETSU Buccaneer as well.

Not slowing down as an athletic when he turned 50, Galbraith competing in the Senior Olympics was no surprise. Initially competing in badminton, he won in the state level about 25 times with his doubles partner, Ron Sutch of Nashville.

“He’s 12 years behind me,” Galbraith said about the age gap. “I waited for him to turn 50.”

In 2009, “we came in second at Stanford University Senior Olympics’ national tournament (in California),” he recalled. “We got second place in 2015 in Minneapolis, (Minnesota).”

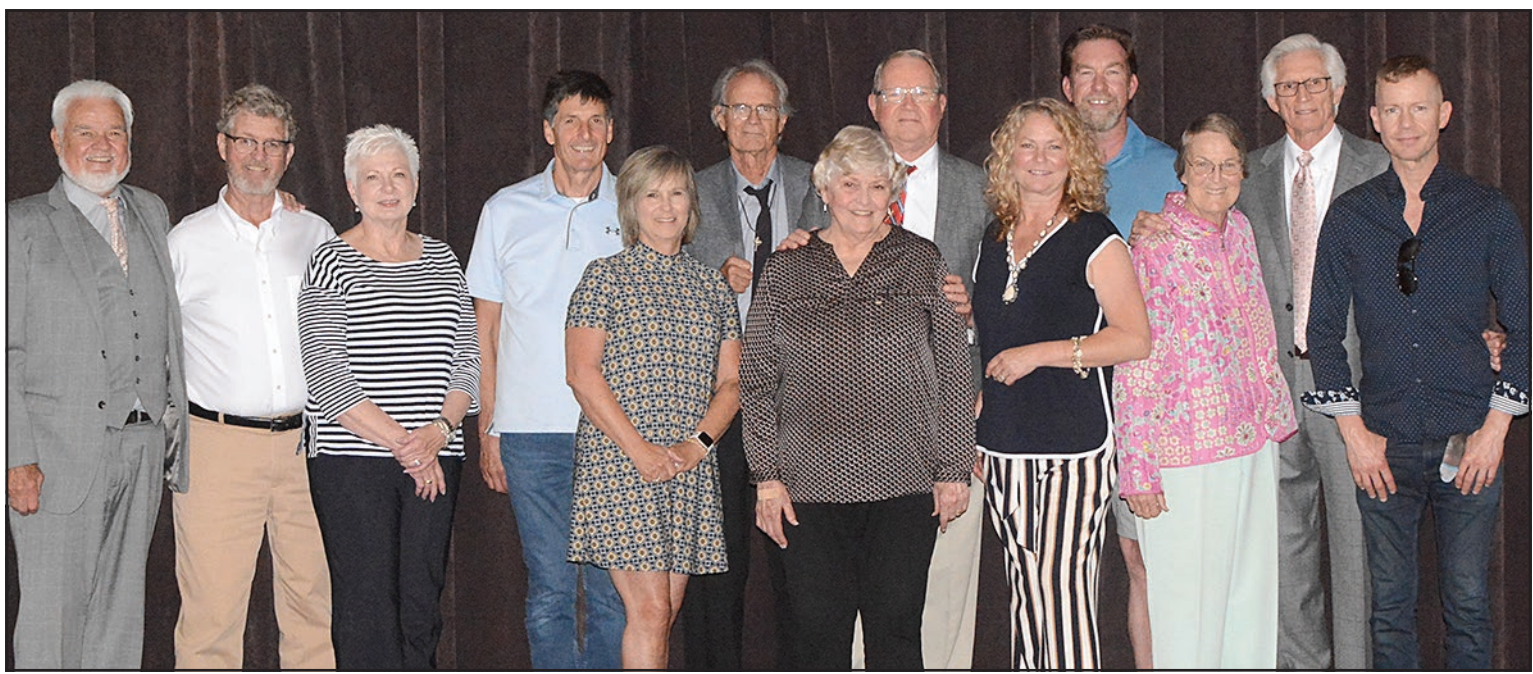
In 2013, in Cleveland, Ohio, the pair won the national championship for men’s doubles badminton for the 60 to 64 division.

“I just lucked out,” he said.

However, two years ago, Galbraith switched to discus and shot put.

“I couldn’t do badminton anymore,” he said. “I had to stop because of my knees.”

He explained badminton is a fast sport. Galbraith re-



File photo

Frank Galbraith, third from right in back, is joined by his wife, Cheryl Galbraith (in front of Frank) and other family and friends at Union Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Farragut, led by the Rev. Leonard Turner, far left, as senior pastor during a 50th Anniversary celebration of the Galbraiths’ contributions to God’s kingdom through UCPC on Sunday, June 4, 2023.

membered when he was 22 or 23, playing against Dr. Sherrill Smith, a 30-year-old who beat him during a tournament in Memphis. Stunned, Galbraith asked how he did it, and Smith showed him the “fundamentals” of how to win.

Before his switch to track events, however, Galbraith had racked up enough medals in badminton to fill up a desk drawer.

Time to teach, present day

After graduating in 1965 from ETSU with a major in geography and minors in history and physical education, “I had

no ideal what I was going to be,” Galbraith said.

He worked at TVA for a few years as a Visitor Relations representative, “but I wasn’t happy,” he recalled.

Then in 1966, Galbraith talked with a track coach and realized what he wanted to do with his life: teach and coach. Galbraith went back to school and got his teaching degree. In 1967, he began coaching track at Halls High School. He began teaching social studies at Farragut Middle School in 1970 until he retired in 2005.

Besides his athletic side,

Galbraith’s pursuits in history continue. Each year, in early December, he presents “A Day of Infamy: A World War II Historical Presentation” for Town of Farragut Museum. He chronicles the events leading up to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, prompting the United States to enter World War II. His 2024 presentation was Wednesday, Dec. 4, in Farragut Community Center.

His interest in Pearl Harbor started early, as he was “born nine months before the Pearl Harbor attack,” he said.

Additionally, he learned his uncle, Robert “Bob” Smartt, flew 31 World War II combat missions in B-17s in Europe, while a cousin, Navy ensign Joe Smartt, died at Pearl Harbor.

Galbraith’s history knowledge will be shared in another area this spring (exact date not set yet), pinpointing our own Volunteer State with his presentation of “Magnificent Tennesseans” in the Community Center.

Galbraith and wife, Cheryl Galbraith, have four children, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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Town's annual New Year's at Noon: a child's time to celebrate



About 200 children, escorted by parents and grandparents, attended this year's New Year's at Noon in Farragut Community Center, Tuesday, Dec. 31. Children enjoyed refreshments, designed their own party hats, had photos taken and played games before the big moment when the 1,000 balloons, held up in a net on the ceiling of the gymnasium, were released over their heads at noon. **(Far left)** Jordan Cummings and his daughter, Natalie, 2. **(Left)** Katherine and Grant Hoskins with their children, Rory, 3, and Riley, 1. **(Below left)** Freida Lukjanczok with her grandson, Nash Richardson, 8. **(Below right)** Ashley Knox with children, from left, Ronan, 3, Logan, 1, and Daisy, 8. **(Related photos, 6A)**



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Town of Farragut's New Year's at Noon was Tuesday, Dec. 31, in Farragut Community Center. **(Top one-column photo)** Ginny Hall, 8, behind her little sister, JoJo, 5. **(Above middle one-column photo)** Veronika Halasz, 3. **(Above one-column photo)** Lincoln Rogers, 5, with a pair of balloons.

Photos by Tammy Cheek

A SPECIAL FREE EVENT FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

Shop Farragut

Shop Farragut in partnership with the Town of Farragut will host the fifth

Everyone's Welcome!

2025

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- JC Penney Beauty & Salon
- Kat's Lash Lounge & Wax Studio
- Neighborhood Barre
- Poppets Play Place
- Premier Martial Arts
- Skin by Jenn
- Support Her Wellness
- SweatHouz
- Thrive Physical Therapy
- Way with Sarah
- Window Hero
- Y-12 Federal Credit Union

WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES

(Large Classroom)

- 11am** → "Empowering Your Health through Nutrition" with RN and Certified Health Coach, Karyn Smydra
- 12 Noon** → "Financial Wellness" with John Nolan, Community & Business Development Manager, Y-12 Federal Credit Union
- 1pm -2pm** → Experts from Turkey Creek Medical Center discuss current "Heart Health" topics with Q&A

2 Photo Booths, Live Music & Children's Activities

Explore the exclusive pop-up shop experience at the **Crunchy Mama Box Wellness Pavilion**. A dozen home-based mercantile shoppes have banded together to create an area where you can dive into Knoxville's lifestyle and boost your well-being by exploring their super local + unique products and services.

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