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ISSUE 20 VOLUME 37 FARRAGUT, TENNESSEE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025 • 1A

Birthday marks 45 for Town

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen recognized Town Founders' contributions as Mayor Ron Williams proclaimed Founders Week — Monday, Jan. 13 through Friday, Jan. 17 — during the Board's meeting Thursday, Jan. 9.

In doing so, the mayor marked the anniversary of its incorporation, which took place 45 years ago.

The proclamation read, "Whereas, residents of the southwest corner of Knox County area were concerned about low development standards and unfettered commercial development in the 1970s; and

"... a dedicated group of men and women grew weary of having their concerns ignored by Knox County government; and whereas, this Farragut Community Group, being concerned that what was known as the Concord community would be annexed by the city of Knoxville, took on the task of incorporating a new municipality, with its own elected body and planning commission, in 1979.

It also read, "Whereas, the effort required the group to devote countless hours to registering voters, creating a map of the Town's boundaries and convincing neighbors that incorporation could be accomplished with no new taxes

"... after incorporation was achieved on Jan. 16, 1980, the group continued to fight against annexation and for its share of sales tax revenue.

"Whereas, the Farragut Community Group was ulti-

See TOWN'S 45TH on Page 2A

McFee's ... snowy slopes



(Top) Taylor Riden and son, Elijah, 3. **(Above left)** Martha and Kevin Robson and daughter, Evangelina, 3. **(Above right)** Anouk Spottiswoode, 9. **(Right)** Logan Unser and daughter, Juniper, 4.



Dozens of area families enjoyed snow-sledding off the hills of McFee Park Saturday, Jan. 11. **(Other photos in West Side Faces, page 6A)**

Photos by Alan Sloan

Union Road 'drag' hits another snag

Start construction work 'probably late summer:' Smith

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

After nearly eight years working to get Union Road improved, Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen has hit another bump in the road.

The Town will have to submit another National Environmental Policy Act document for the roadway. To do so, the Board, during its meeting Thursday, Jan. 9, unanimously approved (5-0) an amendment to its professional services agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc., a Franklin design consulting firm under contract with the Town, to resubmit the federal documents that expired.



Smith

"I'm sure you are aware the Union Road project has been dragging on for several years," Town engineer Darryl Smith said. "Unfortunately, it creates problems."

"How close to the beginning of construction are we, so we don't have this expire again?" Alderman Alex Cain asked.

"We were hoping to be able to go to construction in the spring," Smith answered. "With this, it's probably going to push it back until late summer."

He said the Board approved the contract with Kimley-Horn in February 2017 to design improvements to Union Road from Hobbs to Everett roads.

"Federal funding for this project requires a National Environmental Policy Act phase, which allows the Federal Highway Administration to determine the impact the project might have on the environment," Smith said. "The NEPA phase is completed early in the design process. Unfortunately, the jurisdictional

See UNION on Page 3A

Health-Wellness Expo 2025 still alive, well: reset for Feb. 2

Fifth Annual Farragut Health & Wellness Expo, presented by Turkey Creek Medical Center/Tennova, has been delayed — but not knocked out — by the recent snow and ice in Farragut and West Knox County.

Originally scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 11, the Expo has been rescheduled from 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 2, in Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd. Admission and parking both

are free of charge. Parking is available at Farragut Community Center and at Village Green shopping center.

"Your safety is our top priority, and we sincerely appreciate your understanding," Stephen Krempasky, executive director of Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance, stated in a press release.

"This new date gives everyone more time to plan to participate in this highly anticipated event, bringing the

latest in beauty, wellness and sustainable living to those eager to explore products, services and ideas that promote a healthy lifestyle," he further stated.

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," Krempasky said. "... It gives you an opportunity to talk directly to the business."

FARRAGUT HEALTH & WELLNESS EXPO

Watt Road shootout leaves suspect injured

• A suspect reportedly drove off after being stopped by Tennessee Highway Patrol along Eastbound Interstate 75 in Loudon County early Sunday night, Jan. 12, which later involved shots being exchanged — and the suspect wounded

— after crashing his vehicle at the Interstate-40/75 Watt Road eastbound exit just outside of Farragut.

The unidentified suspect was taken to a local hospital with what THP reportedly said were non-life threatening injuries.

Youth Poet Laureate applications

• Applications are available for 2025 Knoxville Youth Poet Laureate Program. Aspiring poets ages 13 through 19 are invited to apply. They must be submitted by Friday, Feb. 14. An application can be accessed directly at <https://forms.gle/qZizQ1fyzHEbArpXA>. More details on Knoxville Writers Guild website: <http://knoxvillewritersguild.org/>

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



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Historic Inn uses? Visitors Center, residents' use for events: BOMA, survey ideas

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen gave their feedback on the Tourism/Visitor Advisory Committee presentation of plans for the interior of Historic Campbell Station Inn during a workshop Thursday, Jan. 9.

While not taking any action, Board members did express their reactions to the proposed plans.

"Do you like the idea of Tourism (Department) being someone who would have the house and occupying it?" Town administrator David Smoak asked Board members. "Or is there some other use you would like to see?"

"I would like to see the Museum Committee be involved with your committee," Mayor Ron Williams said. "We've got some videos that we have and have those in a rotating manner on the bottom floor there, so if visitors come in, that could be in a loop

"I agree. This (plan is) a great idea," the mayor added.

"What I see for (the inn), for the residents, is pretty simple: I want access for the residents," Alderman Drew Burnette said. "I'm not as in line with a visitor center. I'm not sure who visits visitors' centers anymore."

He suggested, instead, having more rentable space on the main floor for more event opportunities.

"My vision is people in that building," he said. "Everyone in Farragut needs to be in there to check that building out, check the history out ... I just want the doors open as wide as possible."

"I like the ideas you presented," Vice Mayor Scott Meyer said. "I think they're all straightforward. I think they're very usable. I think it will be very successful."

Yet, Meyer agreed with Burnette about attracting people to Campbell Station Inn.

"I think the more people in the building, the better off we will be," the vice mayor added.

"To allow occupancy on the second floor, what do we need to do?" Alderman Alex Cain asked.

"We have to do a lot," Smoak said. "That's what we're working on right now."

He said an alternate bid would be to add another restroom upstairs.

"I like everything you've done," Alderman David White said, adding he would like to see a second bathroom upstairs.

"I think we need to do everything we can to get it up there," he added.

Smoak said the property was purchased in 2013 to preserve



Meyer

See INN IDEAS on Page 3A

Town's 45th

From page 1A

mately successful in defending the new municipality, named for Civil War naval hero Adm. David (Glasgow) Farragut, and elected its first Board of Mayor and Aldermen on April 1, 1980; and whereas, the Town of Farragut continues to define quality of life with a beautiful, close-knit, connected community where families and businesses thrive.

"Now, Therefore, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of Farragut, Tennessee, does hereby designate the third week of January as Founders Week to recognize the contributions of Farragut Community Group members Ralph McGill, Eric Johnson, Betty Dick, Ron Simandl, Gene McNalley, George Dorsey and David Rodgers and express appreciation for the hard work that resulted in the incorporation of the Town of Farragut."

KCSO reports

• At 3:44 p.m., Monday, Jan. 6, Knox County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to a Kingston Pike business for a disturbance. Officers spoke with victim/suspect, who said another employee threatened him with a firearm.

Victim/suspect said the employee "accused him of hitting his vehicle in the back parking lot, which led to a verbal altercation where employee pulled what appeared to be a firearm from his jacket," the report stated. Employee said there was a verbal altercation over victim/suspect "potentially hitting his vehicle, so he went to take pictures of the damage," the report further stated. At that point, employee said victim/suspect "became verbally aggressive with him and started walking toward him in an aggressive manner."

Employee said "he was holding his phone in his hand under his jacket, which could have appeared to be a firearm. Officers did not find a firearm in his possession or in his belongings." Both parties were given a copy of this report number, advised on how to obtain a copy of this report and advised on how to pursue their own warrants if they wished.

• At 1:42 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 5, two KCSO deputies responded to a Farragut business along Outlet Drive in reference to a vehicular burglary.

"While en route, Knox County dispatchers advised there was a second caller stating there were approximately 10 to 15 individuals fighting in the parking lot," the report stated.

Deputies observed "several females by a dark-colored Chevrolet Cruz bearing (a) Tennessee license plate in the parking lot," the report further stated. A deputy stated he approached the females, who said "it was their vehicle that was broken into "and that their items had been stolen." The females said the suspect was no longer on scene.

Another female, saying she was a friend of the victims, said "she was in the vehicle when

the vehicle burglary took place," the report stated. The friend said "she had returned to the vehicle to lay down because she was intoxicated and not feeling well," and was woken up by a "female laying down on her claiming to be a friend that rode with" the victims and herself to the business.

This female, according to the friend, "grabbed her phone and was attempting to send cash via a cash app, but was not able to gain access due to a passcode. The friend said this female "then began to go through the purses of the other females and began to take items," the report stated. The friend then "ran to security to report the theft."

The other female victims said the suspect female "began recording them and calling them 'racists' for accusing her of stealing," the report further stated. As the friends began walking to the vehicle, they stated that a group of females "surrounded them and then physically began assaulting all four of the victims."

The victims said the suspects "ran eastbound through the parking lot and entered a white sport utility vehicle with an unknown plate and departed the area in an unknown direction.

"All the female (victims said) that several items were missing from their purses except for (one), who (said) that only her bottle of Crown Royal alcohol had been taken," the report stated. Two of the victims said "an Android Max-west cellphone was dropped in the car by (a) suspect while she was taking items."

Business security said they had "a picture of an identification card that was presented by (one) alleged suspect upon entry into the establishment," the report further stated.

• At 11:15 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 2, officers were approached by a victim reporting a theft from his vehicle.

While he was at a Farragut business around 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 1, "an unknown

See KCSO REPORTS on Page 5A

towncalendar

• 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."

• Indoor Drive-In Movie runs from 5:30 to

See TOWN CALENDAR on Page 3A



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<p>Publisher Tony Cox 865-218-8883 tcx@republicnewspapers.com</p> <p>Editorial Department Alan Sloan, Editor 865-218-8880 editor@farragutpress.com</p> <p>Tammy Cheek, Writer 865-218-8873 tcheek@farragutpress.com</p> <p>Production Department Tony Christen, Production Manager/ Circulation Manager. 865-218-8872 production@farragutpress.com</p> <p>Cindy Wilfert, Designer 865-218-8872</p>	<p>General Manager Kathy Hartman .. 865-218-8878 khartman@farragutpress.com</p> <p>Advertising Department Charlene Waggoner, Account Executive 865-218-8877 cwaggoner@farragutpress.com</p> <p>Glen Coleman, Account Executive 865-218-8884 gcoleman@farragutpress.com</p> <p>Laura Sayers, Account Executive 865-218-8879 lsayers@farragutpress.com</p> <p>Linda Tirban, Classified Display, Service Directory 865-218-8881 linda@farragutpress.com</p> <p>Receptionist Terrie Ware 865-218-8871 Monday - Wednesday, Friday receptionist@farragutpress.com</p>
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Editor email: editor@farragutpress.com Website: www.farragutpress.com
Press Talk: Call: 865-671-8255 or email: editor@farragutpress.com
Phone: 865-675-6397 News Fax: 675-1675 Advertising Fax: 675-6776

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Letter to the editor

Happy 45th Birthday Farragut

Happy Birthday to the Town of Farragut! On Jan. 16, 2025, we celebrate 45 years of our Town's existence. We celebrate this with Founder's Week, the third week in January. Additionally, on the third Thursday of January, during Farragut's Planning Commission meeting, we pause to honor Betty Dick, arguably the heart and soul behind the effort to establish our Town.

Our Town was established thanks to the monumental efforts of Betty Dick and a handful of bold residents who had spent a few years battling Knox County on zoning and planning issues.

Our founders realized that if they did not act, our community's residential character would not be protected as this area continued to grow. They did not want to see our portion of Kingston Pike turn into Clinton Highway or Chapman Highway.

Our Founders weren't opposed to growth and development and they understood the limitations of private property rights; they just wanted planning to be done more thoughtfully. They wanted to establish higher standards for our roads and our transportation system, and they wanted a comprehensive plan to guide growth that protected our residential character.

They thought that all of this could be better accomplished by establishing our own local government with our own Planning Commission, where both bodies would be populated by residents.

As the Farragut area has grown, the founding principles of protecting, preserving and enhancing the Town's residential character are more relevant than ever. The Founders wanted those principles to be the driving force behind all decisions.

While they valued the conservative fiscal management of our community, they believed that by focusing on protecting, preserving and enhancing our residential character, our community would thrive and our financial position would improve from year to year as a result.

Forty-five years later, the Town of Farragut does indeed thrive. We have an incredible park system and an extensive sidewalk/greenway system, both of which we continue to maintain, add to and improve. We have a safe, connected transportation system, which continues to improve. We have well-maintained roads, right-of-ways and stormwater infrastructure, and we honor our past through preservation and memorializing efforts.

We have no debt; we pay as we go; and our financial position is outstanding. We accomplished all this because the Founders and early board members put into place a comprehensive plan based on public input to define our goals and guide our growth and subsequent Boards have built on those plans.

It is important to remain true to our founding principles to keep Farragut a unique and special place where individuals, families and businesses thrive.

Louise Povlin,
Former Farragut Vice Mayor

• All Letters to the Editor from any citizen must have a minimum four-week period between publication — not to exceed 600 words — and must not have inaccurate information, such as wrong statistics, from which to form an opinion.

We also reserve the right to reject publication based on factors to include, but not be limited to, threats, name-calling and foul language.

Town calendar

From page 2A

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 test your skills during 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.

Union

From page 1A

determination portion of the NEPA document has a shelf life of five years, requiring a new report to be filed if the original document is allowed to expire," he said.

"The JD report for the Union Road project expired in August 2023. Amendment 4 provides for re-evaluation of the JD report, with additional fees of \$9,800," Smith added.

"What has happened there is it has taken so long to get the right-of-way acquisition for the easement to widen the road and to put in the walking trail that the NEPA (documentation) has expired," the mayor explained in a separate

interview. "So, we have to have Kimley-Horn go back (and) redo all the paperwork submitted to the (federal) government."

According to the Environmental Protection Agency website, NEPA — signed into law in 1970 — requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of proposed actions prior to making decisions.

"That's one of the things that has to be done when you widen a road," Williams said. "See, that (road) started out as an Indian trail. Then, it became a wagon trail, and then they threw gravel on it and then they paved it. It's not an engineered road.

"Engineered roads have

drainage pipes and all that," he added. "Well, if you go down that road when it's pouring rain, water goes everywhere ... it floods ... it doesn't even have a good ditch row."

Once the Town makes the improvements, Union Road "will be an engineered road," the mayor said. "It will have drainage on both sides ... it will have curb and gutter.

"There will also be a walking trail on the north side."

During the meeting, Smith said the original contract price with Kimley-Horn was approved with a maximum fee of \$473,185. Since then, amendments have increased the total fee to \$543,950. The new amended cost increases the total fee to \$553,750.

Inn ideas

From page 2A

the home and its history. Over the last 10-plus years the Town has been working on the home, first to stabilize it in 2017 and then build Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza beside the Inn.

"A couple years ago, we started the process of talking about the last phase of the project: the interior of the home," Smoak said. "We currently have that part of the project out for bid. We hope to have that back in a couple of weeks to the Board for your approval. We hope to get some good bids on that.

"But, as we were talking about this and looking at it, we got a lot of public input,"

Smoak added. "We got a lot of good discussion about what we want to do with the home. How do we want to use the home?"

Hallie Reed, Tourism manager, said the Town had its last survey in 2023, which had 101 participants.

From that survey, the top four suggested uses were a heritage center, an information desk or visitor kiosk, a café and an art or historic artifacts display.

Reed proposed it be used as a "welcome center, venue for small events, historic displays and provide information about events and attractions to our visitors and guests."

On the main floor Reed proposed one room at the entryway would be dedicated as a

welcome center space with a host desk in the entryway that would be staffed during operating hours.

"You could also have a small gift shop with Farragut merchandise," she said.

On the same floor, there would be dedicated space for renting for small, private events, community classes, pop-up shops from local businesses and other uses.

"The last room on the main floor would be dedicated to highlighting the community's history," Reed said.

The second floor would serve as a dedicated office space, accommodating up to six staff. "This plan includes a conference room and a break room (upper floor)," Reed added.



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Biddle SweatHouz targets end of February opening

TAMMY CHEEK
 tcheek@farragutpress.com

A new concept in health, SweatHouz, soon will be coming to Farragut in Biddle Farms at Town Center.

“We’re the first in Farragut,” said Meagan MacDonald, a studio manager along with Brielle Ruhland. She expects the studio will open at the end of February “if construction goes as planned.”

MacDonald noted there is no exact opening date so far, but “we’re very excited for it.”

SweatHouz, also called SWTHZ, is a contrast therapy studio featuring infrared sauna and a cold plunge.

“It’s like a holistic approach for healing your body and also giving you the benefits without traditional medicine,” MacDonald said.

“It’s a new concept,” she added. “The space will have nine private suites. You get to reserve a suite for up to 60 minutes. You go from the infrared sauna to the cold plunge as many times as you want.”

“You can personalize the whole experience. And, there’s a vitamin C shower in the suite as well. It’s what everyone is very interested in.”

“It really focuses on health and wellness,” Ruhland said. “The studio’s meant to give a lot of people, like, ‘me time.’”



Tammy Cheek

SweatHouz studio managers Brielle Ruhland, left, and Meagan MacDonald are ready to welcome new members to SweatHouz, a new concept coming to Biddle Farms around the end of February.

There will be a soft opening for founding members, before the grand opening, featuring a complimentary session.

To join as a founding member, visit sweathouz.com/serve/farragut

Operating hours will be from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

businessbriefs

• Dr. Greg Mathien, senior orthopaedic surgeon for University of Tennessee Athletics, has been named Southeastern Conference Team Physician of the Year for Orthopedics. He is the third Knoxville Orthopaedic Clinic physician to be honored by the SEC.



Mathien

Mathien has been treating student athletes with the Vols and Lady Vols for 33 years. This recognition is voted on annually by the SEC Directors of Sports Medicine. UT is one of four SEC schools to have three team physicians win conference awards in its 23-year history.

• East Tennessee Children’s Hospital recently won the 2024 Tennessee Employment First Inclusive Employer Award, recognizing businesses/employers that make efforts beyond legal requirements related to the recruitment, hiring, advancement and retention of people with disabilities in the state.

For 10 years, ETCH has participated in Tennessee’s Project Search, a nationally acclaimed program designed to transition students with intellectual and development disabilities into employment through internships at local businesses.

• Jonathan Mayfield has been promoted to president of Home Federal Bank. David

Reynolds, current president/CEO, will continue to serve as CEO and assume the additional role of chairman from Dale Keasling, who will continue as a member of the bank’s board.

Mayfield is a Knoxville native and a graduate of University of Tennessee. He also is a top honor graduate of the Southeastern School of Commercial Lending, a member of Knoxville’s 40 under 40 Class of 2018 and a graduate of Leadership Knoxville Class of 2023.

He has been active in the community, serving as past chair of Grace Christian Academy School Board and volunteering in various capacities with Emerald Youth Foundation, Change Center, Helen Ross McNabb, Ronald McDonald House, KCDC, Christ Led Communities and YOKE.



Mayfield

• Realtor Patti Brabham of Weichert, Realtors - Advantage Plus in Knoxville recently was awarded the Accredited Buyer’s Representative designation by National Association of Realtors. This designation is the benchmark of excellence in buyer representation and helps agents advocate for homebuyers. It is the highest credential in buyer representation awarded by the National Association of Realtors.

Homeless, housing topics for FWK Chamber 2025 1st Speaker Series

TAMMY CHEEK
 tcheek@farragutpress.com

Moving to a lunch speaker series, Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce is hosting its 2025 Speaker Series: Building Solutions – Tackling Housing & Homelessness Together.

In looking for a topic, the Chamber and its speaker series committee “always want to bring the most critical issues to our businesses and our community,” FWKCC president/CEO Julie Blaylock said.

“We want the public and our businesses to be well-informed about things that are going on in our community and also to know about solutions that are on the horizon and ways

they can be a part of those solutions,” she added.

Sometimes “that includes talking about difficult subjects,” Blaylock said. “We know that housing has been a building issue for our county and our region for quite a few years.”

“In conjunction with that, so has the issue of housing insecurity and homelessness,” she added.

The event, presented by Tennessee State Bank, will take place from 11:30 a.m.



Blaylock

to 1 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 18, in Cokesbury Church, 9919 Kingston Pike. Lunch will be provided by Classy Caterer.

“Local experts from a variety of sectors will join the conversation to explore how we can work together toward solutions,” Blaylock said.

Emceed by radio personality Hallerin Hilton Hill, the speakers include Tracey Williams, Volunteer Ministry Center CEO; Katie McIlwain, Fig Tree Connection Center director at Cokesbury Church in West Knoxville; Erin Read, executive director for Knoxville-Knox County Office of

Housing Stability; Knoxville City Police Officer Jason Culvahouse; and a representative from both Knox County Sheriff’s Office to be determined.

Cost for the event is \$35 per person for members, \$45 per person for non-members.

Also, participants can sponsor a full table of eight for \$500 or choose a half table of four sponsorship for \$250.

Full table sponsorships include reserved seating signage and a pass-through donation, which will be split between Volunteer Ministry Center and Fig Tree Connection Center.

“Local experts from a variety of sectors will join the conversation to explore how we can work together toward solutions,”

-Julie Blaylock, FWKCC president/CEO about Chamber’s next Speaker Series

Seating is limited. To purchase tickets, visit farragut-chamber.org

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KCSO Reports

From page 2A

subject took his car keys from his gym bag," the report stated. "The unknown suspect then went to (victim's) 2021 Ford F-150 and stole his wallet from the car. The suspect then returned the keys to (victim's) gym bag.

"The wallet contained approximately \$500 in cash, two Mastercard credit cards from Capital One, one Bank of America Visa debit card and one Bank of America Visa

credit card," the report further stated.

Victim said his driver's license also was in his wallet. Victim said he was going back to the business to watch security footage, and said that every card was used in several locations in the immediate area after being stolen.

• **At 6:14 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 31, KCSO deputies were dispatched to Kohl's department store, 11530 Kingston Pike, in reference to two individuals attempting to shoplift.** A witness/complain-

ant said he caught Suspect 1 and Suspect 2 attempting to shoplift.

Suspect 1 was identified through surveillance footage matching his booking photos and license photo in portal, with distinctive features including a tattoo on his neck.

Suspect 2 was identified due to past incidents with officers and confirmed matching the surveillance footage to her license photo in portal.

"An officer attempted to find the two suspects that were gone upon law enforcement

arrival while another spoke to (witness/complainant) about the attempted shoplifting," the report stated. He "showed surveillance footage that depicted the two suspects producing a bag of their own that they stuffed approximately \$665 of miscellaneous clothing into, then the suspects passed all points of sale and exited the store."

At this point, witness/complainant "ran down the sidewalk to contact (Suspect 1) and attempted to pull the bag of stolen merchandise away,

which ripped the bag throwing all of the clothing onto the ground," the report further stated. Suspects "hastily walked away, crossed Kingston Pike and were no longer in view of any surveillance cameras."

Witness/complainant "took the recovered merchandise back into the store and called 911."

Warrants were to be placed for both suspects for shoplifting and concealing the merchandise.



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1

SNOW DAY!



2

Looking to have some rare fun in the snow—many perhaps for the second straight year in January—dozens of families from Farragut, Concord and the area found the hillsides of McFee Park Saturday morning, Jan. 11, to enjoy snowboarding.

From tiny folks as young as age 1, riding with a parent, to middle-age daredevils—and perhaps a few senior citizens—all enjoyed sliding, twisting and even spilling down the snowy inclines.

A handful of residents, meanwhile, enjoyed the McFee snow scenes solely by walking, some with the family dog. (Related photos on page 1A)

Photos by Alan Sloan



3



4



5



6



9



7



8



10

1. Everett Lloyd, 3

2. From left are siblings Zeke Brown, 7, and Emery Brown, 9, along with Campbell Macready, 7, and Piper Jones, 10

3. Mary Kate Riden and her son, Noah, 18 months

4. Debbie Clark with dog, Lilly, 8

5. Joseph Ludick and his son, Corbin, 3

6. Chan Yap gets an “in action” photo of himself and daughter, Emma, 14

7. Morgan Palmer with sons, Charlie, 6, left, and Mason, 3

8. William Beuerlein and son, William, 2

9. Allen Chance and his son, Alejandro, 7

10. Christina Spottiswoode prepares to give her daughter, Vivenne, 6, a push

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TSWA All-State locals announced in girls soccer, cross country, golf

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Local high school honorees from Tennessee Sports Writers Association's All-State teams have been named in girls soccer, cross country and golf.

Class AAA girls soccer features four Bearden Lady SoccerDawgs, whose team finished as Class AAA state runner-up: senior goalkeeper Drew Tolley, senior midfielders Maci Ritzman and Halle Bibee and junior forward Jayla Blue.

Division II-AA girls soccer featured four honorees from state runner-up Webb School of Knoxville:

senior forward Pearce Groer, freshman goalkeeper Lauren Newell, sophomore defender Mary Mac Emery and junior midfielder McKalie Ball.

Knoxville Catholic was represented at the Division II-AA level by senior midfielder Jenna Clements.

In girls cross country, the top three state finishers for team state champion Webb were honored: junior Calysta Garmer, twin sister Jazzlyn Garmer and junior Carolina Areheart.

Leading the way locally for boys cross country, individual Division II-AA state champ Keegan Smith was honored after leading his Knoxville Catholic Irish to the team state crown.

At the Division I-AAA level, Hardin Valley Academy senior Garrett Hawkins, whose high finish helped lead his Hawks to a team state championship, was an All-State honoree.

Farragut senior Evan Beeler also earned top state recognition.

Three TSWA locals earned golf All-State honors: in Division II-A is senior Bryson White, individual state champ from Christian Academy of Knoxville. Helping lead the CAK girls to a team state championship was junior Isabella Coughlin.

On the Division I-AA level, Hardin Valley freshman Addisyn Newman was honored.

Wasting no time, Ads crush William Blount

BILL HOWARD

Correspondent

In its District 4-4A opener Thursday night, Jan. 9, against William Blount High School in Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium on Donald Dodge Court, it was one scoring run after another for the Farragut boys basketball team.

In the first quarter alone, FHS had runs of 8-0 and 11-0, interrupted only by a goal-tending call. The 19-2 stretch gave the Admirals a 20-point lead after one, 28-8. Only in the fourth quarter did the onslaught let up. The result was a dominating 81-27 win.

"We played well defensively and shared the ball," FHS head coach J.P. Burris said. "We did a good job of getting out and running in transition."

The Admirals did a good job in every aspect of the game. Almost every basket was either a lay-up or a trey, in which FHS drained nine. Their defense was tenacious and opportunistic.

"Farragut's a good team, well-coached ... they do a really good job," Governors head coach Kevin Windle said. "They've got a nice team; I think coach Burris is one of the best around."

The third scoring run of the first half, 8-0, started late in the first period and ended with 7:12 left in the second. The score at



Photos by Alan Sloan

(Above) Britton Lewis, Farragut High School junior forward, goes up strong for a lay-up against the William Blount defense. (Left) Carson MacTavish, Ads senior wing, also goes up strong against the Govs Thursday night, Jan. 9, at FHS. Farragut rolled to an 81-27 win.

See FHS BOYS on Page 2B



Alan Sloan

Lilly Mullins, Farragut Lady Admirals junior guard, looks to make a play against the William Blount defense during this District 4-4A battle in FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium on Donald Dodgen Court Thursday night, Jan. 9. The Lady Ads rolled to a 70-33 victory in its first district game of the 2024-25 season.

Cranking up pressure, FHS girls rip Lady Govs

BILL HOWARD

Correspondent

It was the opening of District 4-4A play Thursday night, Jan. 9, for Farragut High School's girls' basketball team in Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium.

The Lady Admirals could only hope every other district game plays out like the opener versus William Blount.

FHS was dominant in every phase of the game and won going away, 70-33. The 1-0 District record is accompanied by an overall record of 13-6 entering this week.

"Overall just a good effort defensively," Farragut head coach Jason Mayfield said. "When (junior guard) KJ (McNealy) and (senior guard) Jaci (Neubert) were able to get their normal points and everybody else was able to step up ... it was a really good effort."

"Credit to them," Lady Governors head coach Lindsey Roddy said. "He's (Mayfield) been here a long time, getting his team to do what he wants them to do. I thought we played a lot harder in the second half so I'm proud of us for that one."

A trifecta of three-point shots to open the game — one by senior guard Annie Priest, and two by sophomore wing Gabby Vanacker-



Alan Sloan

Gabby Vanacker, Farragut sophomore wing, looks to drive against the William Blount defense during this District 4-4A battle in FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium Thursday night, Jan. 9. The Lady Ads won easily 70-33, improving to 13-6 overall, 1-0 in 4-4A.

See LADY ADS on Page 2B

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Lady Ads

From page 1B

er — gave the Lady Admirals a 9-0 lead barely three minutes into the game. They never looked back.

McNealy's two lay-ups to finish the first quarter — with FHS leading 19-7 — was part of a 10-0 run that went into the second. With eight of those 10 by McNealy, Farragut led 25-7 with 6:41 left in the half.

Three lay-ups and a pair of treys — the treys coming from junior guard Anna Corum — put the Lady Admirals' half-time lead at 37-13. The only question then was the final margin of victory.

"The first goal is to start the district with a win," Mayfield said. "Win the district and see where we go from there."

A 6-0 run to start the third quarter — five coming from Priest on a three and a lay-up — put the lead at 30, 43-13 with 5:34 left in the quarter. The Lady Governors tried to fight back with an 8-3 run that cut FHS's lead to 46-21 with 3:08 left in the quarter.

But the rest of the third, and the entire fourth, was all Farragut. The final three points of the third — part of an 8-0 FHS run that extended into the fourth — put the score at 51-24 after three.

At one stretch in the fourth quarter, from 5:49 to 4:08, Neubert outscored Blount 7-2 by herself. Mayfield substituted widely in the final period.

"William Blount's a good team," Priest said. "I think we caught 'em on an off night. We were shooting really well tonight and it's hard to beat us when we're shooting like that."

Neubert, one of four Lady Admirals scoring in double figures, led all scorers with 14. McNealy and Vanacker each got 12; Priest added 10. Ally Everett scored 10 for WBHS.

Farragut got significant contributions from a variety of players, including Corum and junior guard Lilly Mul-



Photos by Alan Sloan

(Above) Anna Corum, Farragut Lady Admirals junior point guard, brings the ball upcourt against the Willam Blount defense.

(Below) Dom Vanacker, FHS senior wing/forward, charges toward the basket looking to score against the WBHS defense.



lins. The pair combined for 10 points.

"Corum off the bench did a really good job; Lilly can come in and really bother people de-

fensively," Mayfield said.

Friday night, Jan. 17, the Lady Ads travel to rival Bearden for a 4-4A showdown. Opening tip is around 6 p.m.

FHS boys

From page 1B

that point was 32-8.

After a single free throw by Blount at the 6:45 mark, FHS ran off yet another 10 in a row to lead 42-9 with still 5:42 before half. The score at half was 50-15.

"We did what we were supposed to do on the defensive end, which led to us getting some good offensive possessions," Burris said

The good offensive possessions kept coming throughout the third. Ten straight to start the period — a trey, two lay-ups and another trey — made it 60-15 with 6:22 left. A three by Blount was followed by six straight by Farragut.

After three periods, the Ads led by a whopping 50 points, 73-23. They took their foot off the gas a bit in the fourth as Burris substituted widely.

"We had four starters in double digits which is nice because those guys didn't get their normal minute count," Burris said.

Leading the double-digit scorers was junior power forward Britton Lewis with 15. Junior small forward Daniel Lanning got 14 while senior power forward Dom Vanacker added 12. Junior shooting guard Parker Lane scored 11.

"It was a great win," Lewis

said. "I think we had like four people in double digits.

"Easy wins are fun, sure, but I like a close game against a good team," he added.

The Admirals improved its record to 14-5 overall, 1-0 in district.

As for what attributes contributed to the turnaround, Burris' answer was two-fold: the hard work of his assistants and the improved maturity and leadership of his players.

"They've been huge in the time they've put into our program — scouting, film — just done all kinds of phenomenal work in helping us change our culture," the coach said about assistant coaches Adam Jenkins, Cory Johnson and Randy Swartzentruber.

As for the players, "They've done a really good job of taking another step toward maturity, and we have really good leadership through some of our older guys, and they hold each other accountable," Burris said.

"Our practices and our coaches," Lewis said about reasons for this season's improvement. "It's real good; they've changed everything around."

Friday night, Jan. 17, the Ads travel to rival Bearden for a 4-4A showdown. Opening tip is around 7:30 p.m.

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To meet with Trump, U.S. leaders: FHS's Lu one of 2 in TN honored



Sophie Lu

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

To meet with President-elect Donald Trump among other U.S. leaders as one of 104 high school seniors and juniors nationwide, Sophie Lu, a senior at Farragut High School, has earned the opportunity to join U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) and U.S. Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.) during 63rd Annual United States Senate Youth Program Washington Week, to be held March 1-8 in Washington, D.C.

Lu, along with Oluwaseyi Amosun of Brentwood, "were selected from among the state's top student leaders to be part of the 104 national student delegation that will attend meetings and briefings with senators, the president, a justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of cabi-

net agencies and other officials throughout the week," a USSYP press release stated. "Each delegate also receives a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate study.

"Each year this extremely competitive merit-based program provides two outstanding high school students from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity with an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it," the release further stated. "Each student will also receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to continue coursework in government, history and public affairs. The Hearst Foundations have fully funded the program since inception;

"She strives to mentor and inspire the next generation of leaders through her commitment for civics, STEM and general education,"

— a United States Senate Youth Program quote on Lu

See **LU HONORED** on Page 5B

Five area high schools, 7 teams, battle in annual Scholars' Bowl; 2024 #1 HVA has 2 teams

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Tennessee Scholar's Bowl, with five local Knox County schools competing — two of which have two teams — has begun.

Teams from Farragut High School, Hardin Valley Academy, Webb School of Knoxville, Christian Academy of Knoxville and Knoxville Catholic High School all will compete for this year's championship.

"Tennessee Scholars' Bowl, an exciting academic tournament featuring students from 46 high schools in East Tennessee and Southeast Kentucky, began airing its 41st season on Monday, Jan. 13, 2025 on East Tennessee PBS (WETP-TV)," a press release stated. "New episodes will air weekdays at 5:30 p.m. ET through April 3."

The host and head writer of Tennessee Scholars' Bowl is Frank Murphy, who returns for his ninth season on the show.

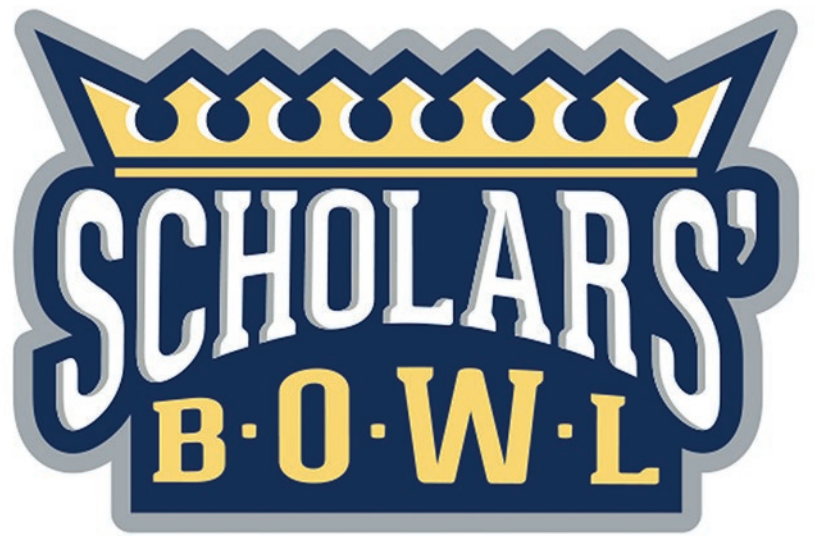
"Murphy is an experienced broadcaster, podcaster and improviser in the Knoxville area," the release

stated. Public, private, parochial and homeschooled students all compete in Tennessee Scholars' Bowl.

"Tennessee counties represented in the 2025 tournament are Anderson, Blount, Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, McMinn, Monroe, Roane, Scott, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington. Several schools sent multiple teams to the tournament," the release stated.

According to the press release, teams of four students from each school answer questions in literature, language, science, art, math, geography, music, sports, history, religion, current events and other subjects.

Each game is a single elimination match. Winning teams advance to rounds of 32, 16, eight and four before the final two teams compete for the Frank Miller



Memorial Trophy and a \$1,000 cash stipend in the championship game.

"After the first-round games are completed, the 'Threshold of 32' begins airing on Feb. 20," the release stated. "The 'Smart 16' begins airing on March 14."

"The 'Educated 8'" begins airing March 26; The 'Philosophical 4' begins airing April 1; and the championship game will air April 3.

See **SCHOLARS BOWL** on Page 4B

Bringing the world to Morning Pointe for Lumsdaine, all residents



Monika Lumsdaine

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — Morning Pointe Senior Living of Knoxville resident Monika Lumsdaine is traveling "virtually" on a computer while getting active at the 9649 Westland Drive senior living community.

Lumsdaine said she enjoys the program, which calls for more than sitting at a computer.

"The goal is to keep active, to be involved," she said, adding the program gets people together to share experiences during trivia sessions, for example.

"There are so many interesting things to do," Lumsdaine said. "We have excursions, picnics, line dancing, art classes.

"We try out different things," Lumsdaine added. "It's nice to learn something new ... I like a challenge."

The year before, the community did an Olympics-themed tour, where residents competed and won trophies.

The West Knoxville location is one of the Morning Pointe communities offering the creative virtual travel programs.

"For 2025 Morning Pointe Senior Living is taking a sonorous spin on its virtual travel program as communities throughout the Southeast will feature programming around the settings of 12 famous musicals," said Heido Pino, communication specialist for Morning Pointe Senior Living.

Residents will be visiting Hollywood, California, with a "Singing in the Rain"

theme in January; Maine with the "Carousel" theme in February; Oklahoma with the hit musical "Oklahoma!" theme in March; France with "Beauty and the Beast" in April; Kauai, Hawaii, with "South Pacific" in May; Africa with "The Lion King" in June; Chicago, Illinois, with "Grease" in July; London with "Mary Poppins" in August; Greece with "Mamma Mia" in September; Iowa with "The Music Man" in October; Austria with "The Sound of Music" in November; and New York with "Newsies" in December.

Lumsdaine said she is looking forward to November and the "Sound of Music" theme, as she is of Swiss heritage.

See **WORLD-RESIDENTS** on Page 5B

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• **St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, 110 Sugarwood Dr. in Farragut, once again will give Farragut citizens the opportunity to help those in need** in Knox County on a monthly basis.

From 1 to 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 26, the church "is collecting non-food items for people who use the FISH Food Pantries," a SEEC press release stated. Items in need are shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, soap and disinfectant wipes.

"Begun in 1986 to alleviate hunger, FISH provides food to about 21,000 people every month," the release further stated. "In addition to resolving the basic need of food, many people need help with non-food items.

"You don't even have to get out of your car; just pull up and someone will come out to get your donations."

In addition, "We are also taking donations for the five Knoxville warming centers (that) provide a warm place to stay for those who need it when the temperatures drop below 25 degrees," the release stated. "Needed are new or gently used blankets and pillows as well as protein bars, ChapStick and hand warmers."

• **A concert at Natalie Haslam Music Center/University of Tennessee College of Music, 1741 Volunteer Blvd., begins at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 9.**

The first concert of the 2025 Evelyn Miller Young Pianist Series will present Parnian Rezaei. Rezaei, an Iranian pianist, will present a concert inspired by William Blake's "Songs of Innocence and Experience." In the first half, journey through the elegance of the French Baroque to the lyricism of the 19th century with works by Debussy, Clara Schumann, Schubert, etc.

The second half dives into 20th-century innovation, with pieces by Cowell, Crumb, Fazil Say and more, exploring extended techniques and prepared piano.

Currently pursuing an artist certificate under Dr. Chih-Long Hu at UT-Knoxville, Parnian has performed across Iran, the United States, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Northern Ireland. In addition to her solo work, she is a sought-after collaborative pianist and dedicated piano instructor.

Tickets, to be purchased at the door Feb. 9, are \$25 for adults. Students are free of charge. For more information, visit www.youngpianistseries.com

• **Tennessee Artist's Association will hold its regular monthly meeting** starting at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 21, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 6500 Northshore Dr. in Knoxville. This meeting is free and open to anyone interested in the arts in East Tennessee. Refreshments will be served.

January's program will feature W. James Taylor, a well-known area musician and artist who works in a variety of media. You can find more about W. James Taylor's work and life at www.genevagaleries.com.

• **Knoxville Bar Association and Legal Aid of East Tennessee are offering an in-person Free Legal Advice Clinic for veterans** from noon to 2 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 12, in Knox County Public Defender's Community Law Office, 1101 Liberty St. in Knoxville.

Veterans who are not able to attend the clinic in person are encouraged to continue to use the telephone clinic option. Pre-registration is required for telephone clinic and veterans are asked to call Legal Aid of East Tennessee at 865-637-0484 to pre-register. This is a general advice clinic with a wide variety of legal issues, including family law, landlord/tenant, bankruptcy, criminal defense, consumer protection, contract disputes, child support and personal injury.

Clients can expect legal advice, but no wills are drafted at this clinic nor legal work performed. In 2025, the clinics are held every other month: also April 9, June 11, Aug. 13, Oct. 8 and Dec. 10.

• **Amadeus Concert Ensemble announces its Winter Season of free concerts as part of the Cathedral Concert Series** at Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, 711 S. Northshore Drive. "The Lighter Side of Beethoven" begins at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 16, featuring vocal surprises, including the composer's Tyrolean songs, "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the King."

The program also presents rarely heard selections from Beethoven's cantatas, concert scenes, Knight's Ballet and his unfinished opera Vestas Feuer. Metropolitan Opera bass Nathan

See PLANNER on Page 5B

Scholars' Bowl

From page 3B

Recent Tennessee Scholars' Bowl champions include Hardin Valley Academy as defending champ (2024); J. Frank White Academy in 2023; Maryville in 2022; Hardin Valley Academy again in 2021; Cedar Springs Homeschool in 2020 and 2019; Webb School of Knoxville in 2018; and Farragut in 2017.

Putting faces to teams

This year's local teams consist of the following:

- Farragut: Roshan Ramanan, Evan Conger, Aiden Wu, Uday Sujithkumar, Arman Oguz and Nisha Ramanan. Coaches are Christopher Hampton and Tiffany Booker;

- Christian Academy of Knoxville: Michael Bonanno, Jack Magee, Tim Acosta and Andrew Mansfield;

- Hardin Valley Academy (Team A): Zoe Cristy, Zaineb Hasan, Brock Connatser and Seojin (Ryan) Moon;

- HVA (Team B), Arturo Hernandez, Julian Lee, Jake Laws and Rahma Al-Qasir;

- Webb School (Team A): Alex Kalinin, Daisy Howard, Alexandra Mirochnikoff and Nolan Humphrey;

- Webb (Team B): Steohen Koella, Penny Willoughby, Jackson White and Sam Kowalski;

- Knoxville Catholic: Alvaro Pint, Thomas Murphy; Nate (no last name provided) and Xavier Flores.

Opening round schedule

Meanwhile, the first-round PBS broadcast dates are as follows for the seven local teams — all beginning at 5:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, Jan. 15: Grace Christian Academy (Isaiah Pointer, Kate Mullins, Kyle Spurloc and Lauren Thornton), versus Hardin Valley (Team B);

- Friday, Jan. 24: Sequoyah versus Webb (Team B);

- Wednesday, Feb. 5: Christian Academy Knoxville versus Hardin Valley Academy (A);

- Monday, Feb. 10: Career Magnet versus Webb (A);

- Friday, Feb. 14: Harriman versus Knoxville Catholic;

- Thursday, Feb. 20: Farragut versus Rockwood.

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“The goal is to keep active, to be involved. There are so many interesting things to do ...”
 —Monika Lumsdaine

World-residents

From page 3B
 “Each month features a different location as a theme that interweaves with multiple activities during the month,” Pino said. “There’s sometimes a video, sometimes trivia, art or even food centered on that location.”

“So, it’s not always exactly a ‘virtual tour’ as you might think — they’re not necessarily on something like Google Earth checking out the local scenes and not always watching an educational video.”

The travel program started during COVID-19, “when residents were quarantined and we needed innovative ways to keep spirits high,” said Amanda Yelenick, vice president for life enrichment at Morning Pointe. “The program became a creative solution to engage our residents, challenge their minds and bring a sense of adventure and fun during an otherwise isolating time.”

“It was such a hit, among both the residents and the life enrichment directors, that we’ve continued it ever since,” she added. “Through these journeys, we’ve been able to celebrate cultural traditions and tie our travels to meaningful themes, such as exploring Ireland for St. Patrick’s Day or visiting iconic U.S. cities during major events like Augusta, Georgia, during the U.S. Masters.”

Each year “we build on the program’s success with fresh and exciting themes,” Yelenick said. “In 2024, we honored the



Photo submitted

Morning Pointe of Knoxville resident Monika Lumsdaine won a trophy for an Olympic-themed activity during last year’s virtual travel experience at her senior living community.

Olympic spirit by visiting cities around the world that have hosted the games.

“This program entertains residents and also fosters social connections, learning and a shared sense of adventure,” she added. “One of our goals in this is to bring the world to our residents’ doorstep.”

Lu honored

From page 3B

as stipulated, no government funds are utilized.”

Lu serves as student representative on the Education Relations Committee for Town of Farragut and is a youth strategy leader for Knox County Schools.

“She strives to mentor and inspire the next generation of leaders through her commitment for civics, STEM and general education,” the release stated. “As the president of her school’s Youth in Government club, Sophie regularly drafts mock legislation to facilitate engaging debates with her peers.”

“Additionally, she advocates for public service and volunteerism, recently helping students to participate in voter registration efforts,” the release further stated. “Through her research efforts combining science and policy as a fellow at the Los Altos Institute, she will be traveling to San

Francisco to present research to esteemed politicians such as former President George W. Bush, Speaker Emeritus Nancy Pelosi and French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal in the spring of 2025.”

Lu travelled to France to participate in an international music camp. After high school, she plans to receive undergraduate degrees in environmental science and public policy, followed by plans to attend law school.

Chosen as one of two alternates to the 2025 program was Malvika Singh, a student at Webb School of Knoxville.

Delegates and alternates are selected by the state departments of education nationwide and the District of Columbia and Department of Defense Education Activity, after nomination by teachers and principals.

The student delegates rank academically in the top 1 percent of their states among high school juniors and seniors.

Planner

From page 4B

Stark and soprano Mary-Hollis Hundley will make their ACE and Knoxville debuts. Knoxville artist soprano Jacqueline Brecheen and tenor

John Overholt fill out the quartet of soloists. Maestro Brian Salesky returns to the ACE podium to conduct the program.

Ticket link is: www.pre-kinde.com/event/25967-rick-price-knoxville

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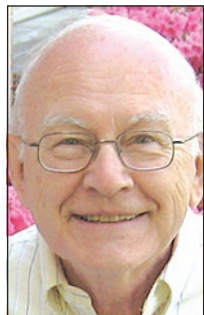
William "Bill" Dietzler, 87, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025. He was born in Milwaukee on Aug. 2, 1937, to the late Marlon and Florence Dietzler and grew up in Wausau, Wisconsin.

He loved music, including playing songs on the organ and piano (even tuba when in school), singing in the church and barbershop choirs and dancing with his wife, Ardell.

Bill was a graduate of Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, (where he met Ardell) and served in the U.S. Army while in college. He was a lifelong Lutheran and volunteered in a variety of roles within the

church his whole life. Bill grew up skiing, curling and fishing, while enjoying golf and racquetball later in life. He regularly played bridge and poker with friends, enjoyed telling jokes, traveling and spending time with his family.

Bill was very proud of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and en-



Mr. Dietzler

joyed attending their activities and events. Throughout the year, he enjoyed cheering for the Wisconsin Badgers, Green Bay Packers and UT Vols.

Bill is survived by his loving wife of nearly 64 years, Ardell; daughters, Christine Dietzler of Alpharetta, Georgia, Lori Dietzler (Kate Jones) of Atlanta and Jill Hardison (Derrick) of Roswell, Georgia; grandchildren, Jessica Howard (Caleb), Emily and Sarah Hughes, Joseph and Ella Hardison and Aaron Jones; great-grandchildren, Penelope and Pauline Howard; sister, Marilyn Schaler of Lynnwood, Washington; and sister-in-law,

Virginia Dietzler of Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Bill was preceded in death by his brother, Donald Dietzler.

The family would like to thank neighbors and friends Kadan Homecare and Agape Hospice for their tireless efforts in caring for him.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held beginning at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, at Cross of Life Lutheran Church in Roswell. The family will receive visitors following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the American Cancer Society or memorials in Bill's name to Cross of Life Lutheran Church.

To place an obituary, wedding or engagement in farragutpress — or to advise about a community-related story — contact the editor at: editor@farragutpress.com or call 865-218-8880 or text 865-765-1118

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VOL. 39, NO. 1

A PUBLICATION OF THE FARRAGUT WEST KNOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JANUARY 2025

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Speaker Series to Tackle Tough Topic

The chamber's Speaker Series events provide an opportunity for businesses and the public to hear from speakers on specific topics or issues that are of importance to them, their business, and our community. Members receive discounted pricing as a benefit of membership. Attendees from the community are always welcome.

Housing and homelessness (particularly the rise in homelessness many have noted in West Knox) is a complex and challenging topic—one that many find difficult to discuss. Yet, addressing it, and addressing it collaboratively, is vital for the well-being of our community, our businesses, and our future. On Tuesday, February 18, and with a new lunch time schedule of 11:30am to 1:00pm, the chamber will strive to do just that.

The chamber invites businesses and community members to join us for "Building Solutions: Tackling Housing & Homelessness Together." The program is presented by Tennessee State Bank. Panelists will dive into the key factors contributing to these issues, how we arrived at this point and what is being done now to strategically address them. Local experts from a variety of sectors will join the conversation to explore how we can work together toward solutions. Our panel will include Tracey Williams, CEO of Volunteer Ministry Center; Katie McIlwain, Cokesbury United Methodist Connection Center Director in West Knoxville; Erin Read, Executive Director for Knoxville-Knox County Office of Housing Stability and law enforcement from both Knoxville Police Department and Knox County Sheriff's Office who deal specifically with these issues.

Emcee and discussion leader, Hallerin Hilton Hill, will guide the conversation, bringing three decades of experience in tackling tough topics and facilitating

See **SPEAKER SERIES** on Page 2

2025 Expo returns along with Bootcamp



The chamber is excited to have started exhibitor registration for the 2025 Business Expo presented by Slamdot, taking place on Wednesday, April 23, from 1:00pm to 6:00pm at Rothchild Event Center. As

of January 18, exhibitor booths will be open to ALL chamber members with an Early Bird discount available until January 31. Any remaining booths

See **EXPO** on Page 3

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

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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 improv-

ing mental clarity to boosting physical energy — and leave feeling empowered to take your well-being to the next level.

PANELISTS:

See **LUNCH** on Page 3

Enterprise Club

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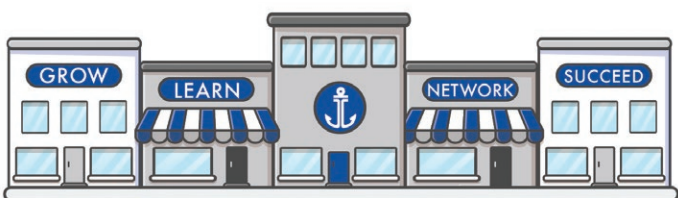
HomeTrust Bank team members gather for a group photo while hosting the Chamber's final networking event of 2024.

The annual year-end networking event brings together a large group of business community members for one last connection in 2024.



Speaker Series

From page 1
meaningful dialogue.
This luncheon is an opportunity to better understand the homelessness crisis and housing challenges in our area, and it will provide businesses and individuals with practical insights on how to help, or at least be more informed so they can engage respectfully and constructively with our homeless community. It will also provide updates on the strategic planning being done to bring together partners from across the county for a more cohesive approach.
All local business owners, residents, and community leaders are encouraged to register to attend and be part of this important discussion. Lunch is provided by Classy Caterer.
Sponsorships, tables, half tables and individual tickets are available in limited quantities for this program. ALL Sponsorships include a pass-through donation to two participating entities working hard to solve this issue (Volunteer Ministry Center and Cokesbury's "Fig Tree" Connection Center in West Knoxville). Sponsors and attendees can register at farragutchamber.com > Events.



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Ribbon Cuttings

Cousin Physical Therapy December 3, 2024



President Dalton Cousin, PT, proudly wields the ribbon-cutting scissors to celebrate the opening of his practice.

Jim 'N Nicks Community Bar-B-Q December 18, 2024



President Brian Lyman prepares a blowtorch for an unconventional ribbon "cutting" ceremony. Joined by his team, District 2 Representative Andrew Roberto, Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding (STAR) Director Lynn Kilmas Petr, a donkey, a miniature horse, and other supporters, the ribbon "torching" goes off without a hitch.

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!

Roane State invites you to "Pop into Roane State" on Thursday, January 23, 4-6 PM, at the Oak Ridge Campus. Explore programs, get FAFSA help, admissions guidance, and enjoy free popcorn! Perfect for prospective students and TN Reconnect support. Contact studentenrollment@roanestate.edu for more information.

Kat's Lash Lounge introduces Knoxville to Flash Cure Lashes by Xtreme—stronger bonding, instant waterproofing, reduced sensitivity, and a flawless finish. Join the exclusive Lash Club for unlimited fills at one flat rate! Experience effortless beauty today. Contact Kat Mahn: info@katslashlounge.com, (865) 392-1014, or visit www.katslashlounge.com.

Did you know **Penne For Your Thoughts** ALSO has a brick-and-mortar location? Stop by 9430 S. Northshore Dr., West Knoxville, for quick and easy lunch specials! Choose an entrée and side for just \$9.99. Call (865) 766-5817 and enjoy delicious dining beyond the food truck.

January is Mental Wellness Awareness Month! **Go Dance** reminds us that dancing relieves stress, boosts confidence, and fosters community. It's a fun way to nurture your mind and body. Discover the joy of movement this month! Call Go Dance at (865) 584-0009 to get started!

Printing Image helps businesses start 2025 with a fresh look that stands out! From modernized logos to stunning branded materials, their expert graphic design team delivers bold statements for your brand. Call (865) 584-8503 to get started today!

SERVPRO Team Cuthbertson urges you to winterize your home and plumbing this season. Protect your property by insulating pipes, sealing drafts, and preparing for power outages. Their team is available 24/7 to assist—call SERVPRO Team Cuthbertson at (865) 690-9658 for expert help!

Looking for warmer weather? **Simply Magical Vacations by Amy** has you covered! Spend the day at CocoCay with Royal Caribbean and enjoy these offers: Kids Sail FREE and 60% off the 2nd guest. Book now for a magical getaway! Contact Amy at alwaysmagicallyyours@gmail.com for details.

Frosty Paws invites you and your pups to a day of fun at **Ancient Lore Village** on Saturday, February 22, 2025, from 11am-3pm! Enjoy activities like the Dog Sweater Parade, Talent Show, and Trick Demonstrations. Tickets are \$25 with \$10 supporting the Humane Society. Reserve today: (865) 200-2434.



Did you know?

Did you know on December 31, 2024, a Presidential proclamation was issued declaring January 2025 would be "National Mentoring Month"? The Small Business Administration encourages this as a time for new entrepreneurs to consider mentorship as one way to grow their business.

What would the benefits of mentorship be for a small business owner?

Guidance: an experienced mentor can help guide a new owner through some uncertain business stages that almost every new business seems to face.

Perspective: those who are not like us can sometimes provide a different and more beneficial perspective on a problem that we sometimes might not have thought of.

Networking: a seasoned mentor can introduce a new business owner to a variety of contacts.

Resources: A business mentor can help identify existing tools and available resources that a new owner might now have even known existed.

In East Tennessee, there are several amazing mentorship opportunities for a new business owner to take advantage of. Knoxville Entrepreneur Center (KEC) offers a Mentor Network to connect founders with the appropriate experts that will be able to answer questions and provide guidance in the direction a new owner needs to go. SCORE provides mentorship to entrepreneurs in Greater Knoxville and surrounding areas, no matter where they are on their journey. If you are a student, The Anderson Center at the Haslam College of Business offers coaching and mentorship for students through UT faculty and area experts.

Your Knoxville Small Business Development Center can also help new entrepreneurs navigate the

See SBDC on Page 4

Lunch

From page 1

• **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 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 Tennessee 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 which is filling up quickly. Register at farragutchamber.com > Events.

Expo

From page 1

will open to non-member businesses on March 1 or a waiting list will be available for cancellations that may open up.

Prior to the Expo, a new event returns for its second year, the Expo Bootcamp. Combining networking

with best practices, this event is open to any one wanting to learn or discuss best practices for expos and tradeshows as well as meet local vendors who can provide signage, printing, promotional products and other items to help a business look its best and capture more leads at any 2025 tradeshows they may participate in. There is

no cost to attend.

Businesses can register for the 2025 Business Expo (April 23 at Rothchild Event Center, 1:00pm to 6:00pm) OR the 2025 Expo Bootcamp (February 5 at ServPro West Knoxville) by visiting farragutchamber.com > Events.

Welcome New Members!

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

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

Corina West, RN, founder of Vital Hydration and a seasoned healthcare professional with 13 years' experience, aims to prevent unnecessary ER visits by offering quality care, vitamins, and hydration services to promote health and reduce stress for individuals. <https://vitalhydrationknox.com/> or call (865) 282-4634.



businesses while prioritizing customer satisfaction and quality service. <https://primetimerooft.com/> or call (865) 235-1710.

At Waynes, they view their work as a journey of growth and service, guided by integrity, courage, perseverance, and character. Serving 150,000 customers in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee, they provide exceptional pest control, termite protection, and lawn care. <https://callwaynes.com/> or call (865) 776-8311.



With 20+ years in telecommunications, Telecom and Data Solutions builds lasting partnerships by understanding clients' needs, reducing costs, boosting productivity, and maximizing ROI. They offer tailored solutions, expert insights, and 24/7 support for exceptional customer experiences and reliable technology management. <https://telecomdatasolutions.com/> or call (904) 303-1042.



Unbox Happiness combats isolation by bringing joy to seniors through curated subscription boxes, fostering connection and companionship. With innovative programs, advocacy, and community engagement, they celebrate and respect seniors, enriching lives and strengthening communities for all ages. <https://www.sendseniorcitizenslove.org/> or call (865) 719-1088.



Brooks and Caroline McLean are both CPAs with 16 years of combined experience, bringing diverse, complementary skills from corporate accounting and KPMG. United with a passion for business, they deliver tailored solutions in bookkeeping, financial reporting, and accounting services. <https://www.smokymountaincpas.com/> or call (505) 850-3294.



Rich Little has been a locksmith since 1982 specializing in automotive locks and keys. Based in Knoxville since 1989, he's served 200,000 customers with cutting-edge technology, competitive pricing, and exceptional service. Licensed, insured, and ready to assist with your vehicle's security needs. <https://mobilekeyshop.com/> or call (865) 228-4288.



Founded in 2019 in Farragut, TN, Pursuit School of Dance offers affordable, quality instruction in various dance styles. Its vision is to inspire and equip dancers through classes, performances, conventions, and auditions, fostering creativity and growth. <https://www.pursuitschoolofdance.com/> or call (865) 973-1144.



Led by Kathryn Schrader, Strategic Tax and Business offers personalized services like bookkeeping, tax preparation, and business coaching. With nearly 20 years of entrepreneurial experience, Kathryn helps individuals and small businesses streamline finances, optimize resources, and achieve their goals. <https://www.strategictaxandbusiness.com/> or call (865) 323-8835.



Primetime Roofing & Gutters, Knoxville's trusted provider, offers expert roof installation, repairs, and seamless gutter systems. Committed to excellence, they deliver durable, reliable solutions to protect homes and



Thank You for Renewing Your Membership!

The Farragut/West Knox Chamber thanks these businesses who have renewed their investment in the Chamber as of December 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:



Knox County Mayor's Office
Thank you for your Admiral Elite Membership!



Christian Brothers Automotive
Thank you for your Anchor Enterprise Membership!

Adobe Acrobat
Boyd Harvey House
Concord Veterinary Hospital
Connie McNamara & Knoxville Dream Homes |
Keller Williams Realty
Courtyard by Marriott Knoxville West/Bearden
Cyan Insurance Solutions
eSpaces
Farragut Cleaners
Go Dance
Holiday Inn Express - Campbell Station

J.R. Financial Coaching
Jet's Pizza of Farragut
JM Addington Technology Solutions
Knox County Property Assessor
Knoxville Habitat for Humanity
LC Fence, LLC
Lisa Sinclair Realtor
MediSpa At Choto
Movement Mortgage
Net3 Information Technology
Premier Eyecare, PLLC

Ramon P. DeGennaro
REO, LLC
Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding
Tennessee Strategies
Tennessee Valley Fair
Tim's Custom Painting
Title Group of Tennessee, LLC
West Knoxville Lifestyle
Y-12 Federal Credit Union -
Middlebrook Branch

SBDC

From page 3

uncertain terrain of operating a small business. Whether it is business plan development, financial projections,

preparing to access capital, or any other imaginable issue, we have an amazing network of resource partners.

Our seasoned business consultants are here to assist you in starting, growing and sustaining your business by

being the trusted mentor to provide you with the most innovative, client-focused business solutions for your business. And all of our services are at no cost to you!

So, if January is the month you de-

ecided to start your business, but you are still uncertain of where to begin, reach out to us at the Knoxville Small Business Development Center and we would love to help you start, grow, and sustain your business!

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.tsbdc.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!