

Greenway, parks growth among Retreat topics

TAMMY CHEEK

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With the number of possible Town projects, policies and initiatives in the works or proposed, Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen set priorities on them during a Board retreat in a Turkey Creek Medical Center classroom Friday, Jan. 24.

The Board looked at its parks and recreation programs; enhancing its financial position; collaborating with county, state and federal entities; supporting and caring for its staff; and enhancing a high-quality, well-maintained community.

Regarding expanding parks and greenways, “as we build out, we’re going to have a very defined area to do what we want to do,” Mayor Ron Williams said about the greenways. To expand, “there will be times we’ll have to have right-of-way acquisitions or do land purchases in small amounts in order to do (greenway) connections.”

With parks and recreation programs, Board members agreed the priorities are: updating Town parks, greenways, sidewalks, trails and recreation master plan; developing a master plan for the McFee Road new park property; developing a strategy for outdoor entertainment opportunities for Anchor Green in Bidle Farms (downtown); using the great lawn at McFee Park for a large Town event; improving Turkey Creek Road and greenway; improving Sonja and Admiral roads and sidewalks; and adding equipment to the Town Public Works fleet to support taking better care of greenways and sidewalks.

Regarding enhancing the Town’s financial position, Board members chose the following priorities: recruiting sales tax-producing businesses for infill development and the remaining commercially zoned vacant properties in Town; actively pursuing grants for all types of projects in all departments, being more creative and assertive in funding; increasing financial transparency within the Board and staff; and conducting a special census, which would update the Town’s population and maximize its Tennessee state-shared revenues.

In collaborating at the county, state and federal level, the Town wants to: pay close attention to legislative bills that could hurt the Town; advocate and educate the Knox County delegation in the Tennessee General Assembly on potential legislation that could negatively impact the Town and other local governments;

See **RETREAT** on Page 7A



Williams

Examinations, info, flexibility at Expo



Photos by Tammy Cheek

(Top) Kevin Monaghan has his blood pressure checked by Kim Parsons, stroke coordinator with Tennova Healthcare’s Turkey Creek Medical Center, during Shop Farragut’s 2025 Health & Wellness Expo, presented by Tennova, in Farragut Community Center Sunday, Feb. 2. (Above) Juliana “Rose” Larsen, left, owner/licensed massage therapist with Mountain Home Bodywork, and Anita Dunford, owner/LMT of Knox Massage & Wellness, stretch out before giving free massages during the Expo. (See more photos in West Sides Faces, page 4A, and on 6A)

Fighting social media falsehood, recruiting sales-tax bizes among ’25 Town tasks

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As Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen delved into priorities and projects on which to focus this year, it considered the challenges it will face during a Board retreat in Turkey Creek Medical Center classrooms Friday, Jan. 24.

For Mayor Ron Williams, he said the biggest challenges this year will be: social media misinformation, completing long-in-tooth projects, recruiting sales tax businesses, dialing in the Advanced Traffic Management System, or traffic light system, and completing Campbell Station Inn.

“I think this coming year, we need to be very, very proactive in our social media,” Williams said. “What I mean by that is Wendy (Smith, communication manager) does a good job with what she

puts out there, and I think we can expand on that and make it even better.

“We have a lot of misinformation that gets out there ... I think (the social media) would be a help,” he added.

Williams also referred to projects that have been in the works for a while.

“A good example is Union Road,” the mayor said. “That has been around for at least eight years, maybe longer. It’s unbelievable that we’re still at the point that we’re still trying to get right-of-way acquisitions.”

Regarding recruiting sales tax-generating businesses, “that’s something I’m keen on personally, is going after these



Cain

businesses and try to bring them to Farragut,” he said. “To continue with the recruiting, I know the Tourism Committee is involved in that.”

About the ATMS, Williams said, “It’s pretty phenomenal.”

In the next five years, he sees the biggest challenges are increased I-40/I-75 traffic issues, prioritizing all Town infrastructure projects, succession planning, future political environment based on the Board’s current views and the 70-acre park project.

Aldermen Drew Burnette, Alex Cain and David White all agreed traffic in the Town is a challenge, “especially at the Kingston Pike corridor,” Cain said.



White

“We need to think outside the box a little and look to expand.”

“I hear people are wondering how they’re going to get around,” White said. “How are we going to get (new) school (traffic) out?”

Cain added he thinks the Board needs to “stop falling back on outdated traffic studies and the mantra ‘it’s always been like that’ or ‘it doesn’t meet the need.’”

He suggested looking at re-arranging lanes, timing and light sequences to keep vehicles moving.

Burnette said the challenges he sees are moving back into Town Hall, working with Knox County on the new elementary school, the growth of people and businesses moving to Farragut, working on McFee Park’s new parking area and dog park and increasing connectivity of the Town’s greenways and sidewalks.

SEC son praises Hall of Fame dad on tape; Hall special section inside

• The Farragut High School Buckner baseball family was center-stage for a rare treat during 13th Annual FHS Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in the school’s Commons Saturday night, Feb. 1.

With former baseball Admirals skipper Matt Buckner among nine inductees into the Hall’s Class of 2025, a player helping him enjoy huge success at the end

of his 15-season FHS career appeared, on tape, from Starkville, Mississippi, to praise the new inductee.

“... Through the years you’ve taught me so much about the game and how to play it the right way,” said Buckner’s son, Lukas Buckner, whose talents as a star shortstop at FHS (Class of 2024 graduate) landed him at Southeastern Conference baseball power

Mississippi State University as a freshman infielder. “... I’m forever grateful. But more importantly, you taught me how to be a good person. ... Congrats dad for going out on top.”

(See coach Buckner’s and the other eight inductees’ profiles/photos, and the Service Award winner, in this week’s Hall of Fame special section, 1C-4C).



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Drive-thru for proposed Town bank seems dead, per FMPC reflections

TAMMY CHEEK

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Long, Ragsdale & Waters, who were hoping to get an amendment to the Town's zoning ordinance text, allowing drive-thru for a proposed Fifth Third Bank next to Campbell Station Inn, did not get the answers they hoped for from Farragut Municipal Planning Commission during its meeting Thursday, Jan. 16.

"I'm inclined not to support the text amendment," Commissioner Jon Greene said. "All the points made (by Community Development director Mark Shipley) are valid. It's not like we really need another bank."

However, Commissioner Noah Myers said he is ambivalent toward the request.

"I don't see any difference between this (revised drive-thru plan) and the ATM," Myers said. "I'm not in favor of government picking winners and losers and deciding when we are saturated with banks. ... I don't think it's our job to determine whether we want a restaurant or a bank."

While the applicant did revise its plan regarding the drive-thru, staff and Commissioners did not agree the revision was enough.

However, attorney Taylor Forester, speaking on behalf of the applicants and White Realty, which is the property owner, said "the present text is ambiguous as its written."

"The pertinent language that results in ambiguity is the prohibition that says 'drive-thru service lanes and windows are not allowed,'" Forester read. "There's no further description or explanation included that involves what is considered to be a drive-thru service lane or a window. Even the term drive-thru is not a defined term in the Farragut ordinances."

Additionally, Davis Overton, senior vice president with White Realty, said his company bought the property, which includes Village Green shopping center, in 1964.

"We've been there for 50 years," he said. "We're not going anywhere."

Overton said the company never asked for its property to be part of the MUTC district and preferred the property be taken out of the district.

"We did talk about this at the October Planning Commission meeting," Shipley said.

"The request is to provide for a drive-thru service lane window

See BANK ISSUES on Page 7A

Approval of Town Center Vision Plan is unanimous from FMPC

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After many months of public meetings and discussions, Farragut Municipal Planning Commission finally unanimously voted in favor of recommending approval of the Mixed Use Town Center Vision Plan as a resolution during its meeting Thursday, Jan. 16.

Last year, TSW Consultants, which were hired by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to develop a vision plan for the MUTC district got input from residents, Board members, FMPC member and staff to draft a plan.

After modifications, the plan was taken to the FMPC in June for recommendations.

The staff initially submitted the plan to be considered as an ordinance, even though the Board and FMPC declared "it was only a vision."

"The staff presented the plan as an ordinance to enhance the level of support for the concepts in the plan and be consistent with how the Architectural Design Standards were adopted," Community Development director Mark Shipley said during FMPC's meeting Oct. 17, 2024.

But during previous FMPC and Board of Mayor and Aldermen meetings, residents asked the Town to consider it as a resolution and not an ordinance. Town attorney Tom Hale argued against approving the document as an ordinance.

At the same time, FMPC changed the vision plan to take out a proposed roundabout on Concord Road but add another traffic-calming measure.



Myers

KCSOreports

• At 3:55 p.m., Monday, Feb. 3, a Knox County Sheriff's Office deputy responded to 119 Brooklawn St. in Farragut "to take a report of a hit-and-run," the report stated. Victim "explained that she was in the left lane behind the suspect vehicle traveling southbound on North Campbell Station Road approaching Kingston Pike."

Complainant "moved into the left-turn lane to turn onto Kingston Pike and began to pass the suspect vehicle, a Honda SUV," the report further stated. "The suspect vehicle then also attempted to enter the turn lane, striking the front passenger's side of (complainant's) vehicle. She described the individual as a white female with light-colored hair that was approximately 63 years old."

Complainant said she asked suspect "to meet her at the Starbucks parking lot the corner of South Campbell Station Road and Kingston Pike," the report stated. "However, the suspect

verbally declined and continued through the intersection onto South Campbell Station Road. (Complainant) was able to take a picture of the back of the suspect's vehicle." Vehicle license plate was photographed, and the vehicle was a Honda CRV.

• At 11:07 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 2, a complainant called KCSO Teleserve Unit to report a stolen vehicle from U-Haul, 10833 Kingston Pike in Farragut. "He advised ... an unknown suspect was caught on video surveillance hot wiring the vehicle (Ford E-450) and taking it from the parking lot," the report stated. "He stated he was unable to get suspect identifiers at this time. Complainant advised the keys to the vehicle are still in his possession."

• At 9:40 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 1, KCSO "deputies were dispatched to an Eisenhower Street address in reference to an auto

See KCSO REPORTS on Page 6A

Weekly Black History Month events at CUMC

Throughout the month of February, Concord United Methodist Church's Community Care Night "will provide a lens into the role Christianity has played in the efforts to secure Civil Rights for all," a CUMC press release stated about its weekly celebration of Black History Month in February.

Each Wednesday evening in February, Concord United provides a free meal and connection from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. Worship time is held from 6:30 to 7 p.m. and in February will feature messages each week about The Gospel and the Civil Rights Movement, as well as a play (Wednesday), Feb. 19 titled "Walk, Don't Ride."

On Feb. 26, "We will conclude the series with a message from (the) Rev. Harold Middlebrook, a pastor and leader during the Civil Rights movement," the press release stated.

• Feb. 5 – Senior Pastor Wil Cantrell will share "Racism's Backstory and the Gospel's True Story."

• Feb. 12 – Pastor of Discipleship Brooke Hartman will share "The Gospel Within: Dr. Martin Luther King the Preacher"

• Feb. 19 – WordPlayers Theatre Co. will present "Walk, Don't Ride," a play by Peter Manos. This presentation of drama and song depicts

events that shaped American freedom, including the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Nashville Lunch Counter Sit-ins and the Greyhound/Trailways Freedom Rides. "Walk, Don't Ride" ends with a recollection of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous dream and a moving call to keep it alive today.

Feb. 26 – Middlebrook will share his experience as a pastor and leader during the Civil Rights Movement. He was a pastor in Atlanta, Memphis and Knoxville, a leader within the organizations of the Civil Rights movement and a friend of Dr. King who was present when the Civil Rights icon was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, in 1968.

All events and services are free and open to the public. "Wednesday Community Care nights include children's and student activities, and worship services are always family-friendly," the release stated. "The play on Feb. 19 is recommended for ages 10 and older. A love offering will be collected that evening to support the theatre group."

Childcare/kid's activities will be provided for younger children.

Registration for Feb. 19 play is encouraged and available at ConcordUnited.org/Events.

towncalendar

• **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.

• **Shamrock Ball** again features two sessions: from 3 to 5 p.m., and from 6 to 8 p.m., Saturday, March 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.

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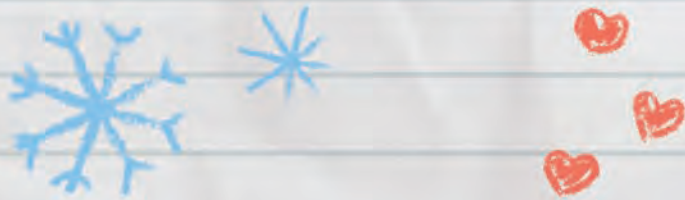
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Shop Farragut's Health & Wellness Expo

From heart to financial health, about 50 vendors provided demonstrations, lectures and information to about 800 area residents at Shop Farragut's 5th Annual Health & Wellness Expo, presented by Tennova Health Care's Turkey Creek Medical Center, in Farragut Community Center Sunday afternoon, Feb. 2.

"I come to this fair every year," said Janice Helton, an attendee who had her blood pressure checked by Turkey Creek Medical Center stroke coordinator Kim Parsons.

"I think (the Expo) looks very energetic," said Martha Pack, president/CEO with Adapt & Stay.

"It's a good place for people to come, find information about wellness and how to age in place gracefully."

"I believe people enjoyed themselves and got some vitamin D from the sunny weather," said Stephen Krempasky, SF/Farragut Business Alliance executive director.

While vendors displayed their products and services in the Community Center's gymnasium and Crunchy Mama wellness businesses in the assembly hall, Expo attendees learned more about A-Fib from Dr. Keith Kyker in the big classroom.

Another lecture came from Jeanne Miller, a phys-

ical therapist, while Kayla Ridenour, owner, and instructor Tiffany Ladd — both of Neighborhood Barre Farragut — led some Expo attendees in an exercise session.

In addition to the planned events, "We had a lot of impromptu activities," Krempasky said, regarding the exercise session.

Another highlight of the event was the massage sessions from Mountain Home Bodywork and Knox Massage & Wellness.

"A lot of people liked getting a free massage," Krempasky said, adding the massage tables were full throughout the event.



Dr. Bobbie McCue of Hearing Life



Chiropractor Dr. Joel Ash with his mother, Laura Ash of State Farm



Victoria Boyle of Poppets Play Place



Bridgett Love and Tim Baird of Farm Bureau



Levi Parks and McKenna Clark from Premier Martial Arts



Martha Pack from Adapt & Stay



Tennova's Kim Parsons, left, and attendee Janice Helton



Attendee Christy Munsey



From left, JCPenney's Dawn Shackelford, Michelle Austin, Beth Pennington with attendees Jennifer and Tom Sharp



Jeanne Miller, physical therapist



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It's a 'clean' bill of health for Farragut financially during fiscal year 2024

TAMMY CHEEK

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The Town of Farragut received a "clean" bill of health in its financial reporting for year ending June 30, 2024, as announced by Travis Lowe, auditor for PUGH CPAs in Knoxville, during a recent Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting.

"It is a clean audit opinion," Lowe said. "We do believe that the financial statements that are submitted are accurate."

"We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, the budgetary comparison statement for the general fund, the fiduciary activities and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Farragut, Tennessee, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents," Lowe read from the auditor's report.

"In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the fiduciary activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town, as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in the financial position and the respective budgetary comparison statement for the general fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America," he added.

"In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter."

Lowe reported the financial statements show total assets in the 2024 fiscal year were \$131,716,416. In 2023, total assets were \$118,990,051. It had \$7,097,226 in liabilities in 2024 and \$9,077,171 in liabilities in 2023. In 2024, the Town had a fund balance of \$54.8 million.

"For the Town, assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$124.0 million at June 30, 2024," the audit report stated.

"The largest portion of the Town's net position (55.7 percent) reflects its investment of \$69.2 million in capital assets (e.g. land, buildings, infrastructure, improvements, machinery and equipment)," the report further stated. "The Town uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending."

KCSO Reports

From page 2A

accident with property damage. Deputies observed a white Dodge Caravan with damage to the right rear of the vehicle and damage to a brick mailbox," the report stated.

Deputies spoke with (victim/property owner) and (a witness) who represents subdivision security. Victim said "he observed the white Dodge Caravan parked in the roadway in front of his residence with an unknown driver underneath the vehicle, appearing to make repairs on the vehicle," the report further stated.

Later that day, Thursday, Jan. 30, the victim "noticed the white Dodge Caravan still in the roadway with a sign in the driver's side window stating not to tow the vehicle."

Victim said he didn't notice the mailbox damage until Feb. 1. Estimated cost to repair the mailbox, according to the vic-

tim, was listed at \$3,000. Vehicle was towed.

• At 11:13 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 29, a complainant reported to KCSO West Precinct a scam from an Oak Landing Lane residence.

Complainant advised he received a text from a phone number saying "\$178.50 was charged to his Apple ID via Apple Pay, and that if it wasn't him, please call Apple Support."

Complainant called the number listed on the text and was advised from a person ... who "stated he works for Apple and that his account was hacked. Suspect advised the complainant that he would have to move money from one account to another and that access to his computer was needed."

Suspect was asked to pay more than \$1,000 to three people through Venmo, and to purchase gift cards and wait for further instructions. Complainant recognized the scam.

A final look at Health & Wellness Expo people



Photos by Tammy Cheek

(Top) From left, Dana McLeod and Sage Sirek of Apotheca talk to Lisa and Paul Winkle during Shop Farragut's 5th Annual Health & Wellness Fair, presented by Tennova Turkey Creek Medical Center, in Farragut Community Center Sunday afternoon, Feb. 2. (Above) TCMC officials on hand, from left, were Kellye Phifer, Kim Halloun, Tonya DeGuira, Nia Hollis, Suzanne Thames, Rylee Sawyer and Linde Mills. (More Expo photos in West Side Faces, page 4A, and on page 1A)

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Retreat

From page 1A

pursue an agreement with Knox County for enhanced public safety services in the Town; seek expanded collaboration with the state government agencies and local, statewide and national professional organizations; continue to work and communicate with the Town's representatives from Tennessee Department of Economic Development and Tennessee Department of

Transportation to implement grant-related projects and commitments; and manage development and zoning in the area surrounding the Town, particularly regarding traffic generation and developments that could erode the Town's sales tax base.

To support and care for Town staff, the Board wants to: continue making hires who are team builders, developing intentional, focused department-level continuing education and professional certification pro-

grams that are job specific.

Also targeted is funding and implementing the classification and comprehensive recommendations to keep Farragut competitive in the job market for employee wages and benefits; continue recognition of good work through the Employee Recognition Program; provide necessary tools and equipment to maximize employee safety and effectiveness; and work closely with Human Relations to determine future staffing needs.

To advance a high-quality, well-maintained community, the Board plans to repair the Town's reputation with some businesses on not being a business-friendly place.

Another goal is to prioritize infrastructure enhancement projects that would mitigate traffic congestion within the Mixed Use Town Center District; implement adaptive technology on existing strategic signalized intersections that would help move traffic through Farragut more ef-

ficiently and train on the Advanced Traffic Management System software and become industry experts.

Also a goal is to update the Comprehensive Land Use Plan with a new plan heavily focused on transportation, prioritizing infrastructure enhancement projects to mitigate traffic in anticipation of Farragut Elementary School opening in August 2027 and prioritize property maintenance to help ensure the Town retains its desirability appeal.

Bank issues

From page 2A

for financial banks and real estate services. In the Mixed Use Town Center (district) portion of the Town, as you know, currently drive-thrus are restricted to establishments serving food and beverage and only on lots of record that are at least 2 acres," he added. "And then, there're a lot of conditions, even with those, to lessen the scale of the building and the drive-thrus.

"The area they are looking at is to the immediate west of Campbell Station Inn, off Kingston Pike. He pointed out there are three banks in the immediate vicinity that have traditional drive-thru lanes."

However, "the staff indicated we would not support an amendment (to allow drive-thrus) for a number of reasons," Shipley said. They are:

- Incompatibility with the Town's Comprehensive Land

Use Plan. "Changing the language to allow for an auto-oriented use is not consistent with the desired built environment we are looking for in the Mixed Use Town Center," Shipley said, explaining the MUTC District is more pedestrian-oriented with places to gather.

"Particularly in this context, with it being to the west of McGill Plaza, where we would probably try to encourage some kind of use that would complement that (pedestrian activity) happening and the Plaza and what will be happening at Campbell Station Inn," he added.

- Incompatibility with the Town's strategic plan, involving "enhancing the Town's financial position ... because we do rely so much on sales tax, there's a statement in there to identify potential retailers to increase local sales tax," Shipley said.

He added changing the lan-



Rendering submitted

A rendering of proposed Fifth Third Bank location next to Campbell Station Inn along Kingston Pike.

guage for a ban would not meet the strategic plan's standard for promoting retail businesses.

- "As Chase Bank complied with the Town's requirement

to not have a drive-thru, allowing another bank in the MUTC district to have one would be inconsistent with being consistent," Shipley said.

- "If you take the surround-

ing context into consideration, you could have a lot of potentially bad precedents to these amendments with the Mixed Use Town Center," he added

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Special Section publishing

February 19, 2025

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Simply Physio makes a move

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Simply Physio has made the move from 111 Loudon Road in Farragut to 111 Fox Road, Suite 101, near the intersection of Kingston Pike and Pellissippi Parkway.

“We decided to move to better serve our patients with an expanded space, convenient location and an improved treatment environment,” said Dr. John-Mark Chesney, owner and orthopaedic and TMJ specialist with Simply Physio.

“This move allows us to continue growing, adding more specialized, high-quality care in a setting that enhances the patient experience,” he added. “We have private treatment rooms for all patients, which all our patients love.

“We’re really excited about our new office. The space is more modern, comfortable and functional, allowing us to better meet the needs of our patients.

With more space, “We have been able to add more special-

ized equipment and services, including regenerative shockwave treatment,” Chesney said. “The new location is easily accessible, has better parking and provides a welcoming atmosphere for both new and returning patients.

“One thing unique about Simply Physio is that we have individual therapists who are uniquely specialized and credentialed to help people with specific ailments,” he added.

“With the move, our core services remain the same, but we are always looking for ways to expand and enhance our offerings to better serve our patients.”

Moreover, “We’re grateful for the continued trust and support of our patients and the community,” Chesney said. “Our new space is designed to provide an even better experience, and we look forward to welcoming both familiar and new faces.

“If you haven’t been to Simply Physio before, we’d love for you to check out our new location,” he added.



Photo submitted

Simply Physio has moved to its new location to 111 Fox Road near the intersection of Pellissippi Parkway and Kingston Pike. Dr. John-Mark Chesney (second row, third from left), owner, joins his staff members, front row from left, administrative assistant Heather Tawes, Dr. Maritza Ceuvas and Dr. Cristin Carter. Middle row, from left, are administrative assistants Madi Irwin and Shannon Hargreaves, Chesney and Dan Wells, operations manager. Back row, from left, are physical therapist Stephen Karp, clinical director Michael Blair and physical therapist Tommy Lane.

Simply Physio’s team also includes: Dr. Maritza Ceuvas, women’s health and pelvic floor specialist; Dr. Michael Blair, TMJ and manual therapy specialist; Dr. Cristin Carter, vestibular and TMJ special-

ist; Dr. Tommy Lane, running and sports specialist; and Stephen Karp, headache and migraine specialist.

Chesney opened Simply Physio in 2017 at the Loudon Road location.

Office hours are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. “Our hours remain the same as before,” he said.

To contact the office, send e-mail to john-mark@simplypt.com or call 865-351-0615.



Tammy Cheek

Vehicles in the parking lot represent customers of Marco’s Pizza with new ownership at its 12552 Kingston Pike location in Farragut. Hoogland Restaurant Group recently acquired the franchise, with plans for community involvement.

Goals are set by Marco’s new owner

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

As Hoogland Restaurant Group begins its ownership of Marco’s Pizza, 12552 Kingston Pike, customers can expect the same quality and staffing.

HRG, the largest owner and operator of Marco’s Pizza franchises with more than 130 locations, announced Wednesday, Jan. 22, the acquisition of Farragut and eight other Marco’s Pizza locations across Tennessee and North Carolina.

“This strategic growth includes eight stores in Knoxville, Tennessee (and area), and one in Hendersonville, North Carolina, further solidifying HRG’s presence in communities where Marco’s Pizza has become a beloved name,” said Megan Zacharias, spokesperson for HRG.

“Following a successful year of growth in 2024, marked by 18 new builds and acquisitions, the franchise group is poised to continue its impressive momentum in 2025, bringing quality pizza and excep-

tional service to even more neighborhoods,” she added.

“At Hoogland Restaurant Group, we are thrilled to continue Marco’s Pizza’s involvement in local communities. This acquisition marks another step in solidifying our commitment to the Marco’s Pizza brand while expanding our footprint in areas that we are already proud to serve.”

Zacharias said she does not expect changes in quality or employees.

“To further support its team, HRG has made job retention a top priority, retaining all staff to ensure continuity and stability,” she said. “To further support its team, the franchisee group has introduced a retention bonus program aimed

at rewarding managers and fostering long-term loyalty.”

“We couldn’t be more thrilled about our opportunity to make a positive impact in Knoxville and Hendersonville,” said Zach McLaughlin, director of Company Operations at HRG.

The newly acquired Knoxville and Farragut locations have partnered with East Tennessee Children’s Hospital to donate 10 percent of proceeds from every Marco’s Kids Mega Meal Deal sold, according to Zacharias.

For more information about Hoogland Restaurant Group, visit www.hooglandrg.com. For more information on Marco’s Pizza, visit www.marcos.com.

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Lots of girls get to play in Lady Ads blowout at West

BILL HOWARD
 Correspondent

KNOXVILLE — On Friday, Jan. 17, Farragut High School's girls basketball team suffered a heartbreaking District 4-4A loss to archrival Bearden on the road.

Going into Friday night's District 4-4A road game at Knoxville West, the Lady Admirals had easily won all three games since then, all of which were district.

The matchup against the Lady Rebels made it 4-0, and the game was long over by the end of the first period.

When West's Emma Capps hit a lay-up with 5:44 left in the first quarter, it cut FHS's lead to 7-4. The Lady Admirals then outscored KWHS by an eye-popping 34-1 the rest of the half to lead 41-5 at the break.

The 66-15 win improved Farragut's record to 17-7 overall, 6-1 District, entering this week.

"In a game like this you have an opportunity to get

better," FHS head coach Jason Mayfield said. "... "Had some players get some minutes that needed them."

Jaci Neubert, Lady Ads senior guard who hit four treys, led FHS in scoring with 18 — outscoring West by herself.

Trinity Curry, Farragut sophomore post, added 14 points, while junior guard KJ McNealy pumped in 11. "We played really hard and were really competitive, especially in the beginning," Curry said.

Capps got 10 points for West.



Photos by Alan Sloan

Farragut High School wrestling teams celebrated its Senior Night in Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium on Donald Dodgen Court Friday night, Jan. 31, improving its strong dual meet season with easy victories against Karns and Scott. Seniors recognized with family members, beginning with the left photo, were Owen Walker (215 weight class), with his mother, Heather Owens. Middle photo featured se-

Senior trio lead FHS wrestling dual match turnaround: Walker, Rohn, Stafford-Hedge



nior Dylan Rohn (150) with father, FHS head coach Charlie Rohn, Dylan's mother, Valerie Rohn, second from left, and his sister, Alysse Rohn. Right photo is senior Michael Stafford-Hedge, third from left (165), with his fathers, Lance Stafford and Scott Hedge, along with Michael's brother, Isaiah, far left.

Ads grapplers end home season, on Senior Night, with two more dual meet wins

KEN LAY
 Correspondent

Farragut High School's wrestling team honored its three seniors late last week before the trio competed in two final dual matches.

The Admirals completed their dual meet season Friday night, Jan. 31, in Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium on Donald Dodgen Court. They posted a pair of impressive victories, defeating Karns 72-5 and toppling Scott 50-22.

The wins over the Beavers and the Highlanders certainly were a good way to send Michael Stafford-Hedge, Dylan

Rohn and Owen Walker to the next phase of their seasons while ending its 2024-25 home matches.

This is a season, however, that almost didn't happen for Farragut. Former Admirals wrestler David Garabrandt, who coached the team for two previous seasons, left the school after the Admirals — who once boasted one of the top programs in East Tennessee — hit hard times due to lack of wrestlers.

The school didn't find a replacement for Garabrandt until after the 2024-25 school year had already begun.

The school found its head coach in Charlie Rohn, who was semi-retired

upon moving to the Knoxville area with his family from Maryland over the summer. Dylan, his son, was a wrestler in a state-championship caliber program at his previous school.

The Admirals, however, had no wrestling coach and no team, so Charlie Rohn volunteered to take the reins for the program so Dylan could wrestle in his new home during his final high school season.

Had coach Rohn not taken the job, Stafford-Hedge, the lone holdover among the 2024-25 seniors from the 2023-24 campaign, wouldn't have had a season in his final year of eligibility.

"I was so glad when coach Rohn came here. (Garabrandt) just didn't have time to do it anymore," said Stafford-Hedge, who pinned the Beavers' Stone Johnson in 1 minute, 34 seconds of the 165-pound bout of the evening's first match and later won a major decision against the Highlanders' Ashton Teller with a 9-1 victory.

When Stafford-Hedge isn't competing on the mats from the Admirals, he's working at a local convenient store. Many of his co-workers were at Friday night's match and greeted him after his

See **WRESTLING SR. NIGHT** on Page 2B

Quick start not enough for FHS boys at No. 7 state-ranked West Rebels

BILL HOWARD
 Correspondent

KNOXVILLE — In their rematch against District 4-4A foe Knoxville West High School on the road Friday night, Jan. 31, things were going well for Farragut's boys basketball team late into the first half.

However, the state's No. 7-ranked Runnin' Rebels (Tennessee Sports Writers Association poll) grabbed momentum in the final minute of the half and extended it past half-time to lead by as many as 17 points. The Admirals fought hard to recover but ended up losing 78-69.

That's despite a game-high 27 points from Farragut senior wing Dominic VanAcker, scoring from all over the court. Parker Lane, Admiral junior point guard, added 21.

"We didn't execute our defense well, we let the big guys get going," Lane said. "We just gotta find a way to win and make the

See **FHS-WEST BOYS** on Page 2B



Photos by Alan Sloan

West Valley girls in Sectional semis, HVMS reached Region 1-AAA Area Finals

Undefeated in Knox County Middle School Basketball play for a second straight season, the West Valley Middle School girls (**above**) have reached the TMSAA Region 1-AAA Sectional finals, while Knox tourney runner-up Hardin Valley Middle (**below**) reached the Area Finals of the TMSAA Region 1-AAA tourney be-

fore losing. WVMS Lady Wolves on the All-County Team were Emery Cooper and Jaiya Turner. The HVMS Lady Hawks' All-County selection was Reese Galloway, while the Farragut Middle School honoree was Raina Styles. Boys All-County honorees were Ben McDonald (WVMS), Abe Derenski (HVMS) and Mac Harris (FMS).



FHS-West boys

From page 1B

plays that count.”

“The run they went on to finish the first half, they carried it over to the second half,” Farragut head coach JP Burris said.

The Admirals were down 4-0 early but scored nine of the next 11 to lead 9-6. After a lay-up by West, Lane’s lay-up was followed by VanAcker’s runner to make it 13-8. The quarter ended with a 15-10 Admirals’ lead.

The teams traded baskets in the second quarter, with Farragut maintaining the lead until the final seconds.

Down 27-21, the Runnin’ Rebels scored the final seven — culminating with forward Kevin Jack’s lay-up with four seconds left — to lead 28-27 at the half.

“It was self-inflicted,” Burris said. “We turned it over twice (near the end of the half) and they gained a lot of momentum going into halftime.”

Jack and senior post Devyn Martin — who stands 6-foot-8 — were difficult for the Admirals to contain down low. Jack scored 23 while Martin added 14 for the Runnin’ Rebs.

West continued its late-half push into the third quarter. Up 30-29 at the 7:32 mark, the Runnin’ Rebels went on a 12-1 run in a little more than two minutes to lead 42-30.

Although the Admirals (15-9, 3-4 in district after the loss) cut the lead to seven, 46-39, KWHS then struck for 10 straight in barely more than a minute, and the lead was 56-39 very late in the quarter. The closest FHS would get in the fourth would be nine points, with 1:52 left, and at the very end.

Wrestling Sr. Night

From page 1B

win versus Johnson.

“These are my co-workers at Weigel’s,” Stafford-Hedge said.

As if his busy schedule wasn’t enough, Stafford-Hedge “helped me recruit people,” coach Rohn said. “This is his third year wrestling.”

Dylan, a middleweight wrestler who competes primarily in the 150-pound weight class but also sees time in the 144-pound division, now feels at home in Farragut.

“It’s been great to wrestle here,” he said. “It’s been fun being here and watching all these kids get better.”

“I haven’t been out and about here in Farragut much, but there’s good food here and it’s nice to be so close to everything, to have everything close together,” he added.

“Where I lived before, everything was about 2 miles away.”

Dylan won by forfeit (Karns) and by fall (Scott).

Walker, a first-year wrestler, got a forfeit win against the Beavers at 215 pounds. His

story perhaps is the most captivating, according to coach Rohn.

“I have a group of good kids, but the one I’m the most impressed with is Owen,” the coach said. “He’s never played any sports, and the first day he showed up I didn’t think he would ever come back.”

“He really struggled but he stuck with it,” coach Rohn added. “When he came in, he weighed about 220 pounds. ... He weighed in at 195 tonight, so he’s lost 25 pounds. And in five of his last seven matches, he’s had pins.”

Walker has developed a passion for wrestling, exploring opportunities to compete after high school.

“I had a lot of my friends who were in wrestling and they talked me into it,” the senior said. “And I really liked it. It was fun.”

Other individual sweeps

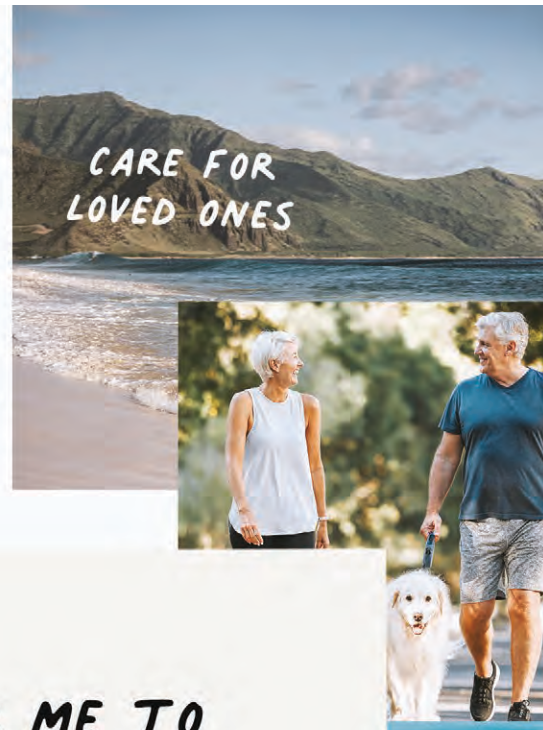
It was a big night on the mat for many Ads. Cooper Gentry (120), William Morris (106), Izaak Koga (285), Ryder Meade (126) and Declan Crecy (157) all had two wins for Farragut.

Trailblazers lacrosse teams #1, #2 in Ga. tourney



Photos submitted

The first indoor box youth lacrosse tournament of the new year — King of the South in Snellville, Georgia, Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 25-26 — saw the Tennessee Trailblazers 14-U team (**above**), featuring a number of Farragut and area players, finishing as champion among an eight-team field. Players, in no particular order, are Matt Kitchener, Finn Sachs, Pierce Ward, William Karns, Logan Winkler, Edison Bureson, Owen Tedford, Gus Leonard, Deacon Miller, Zach Ostendorf, Andrew Toth, James Ingram, Bode Farr, Ryan Shoemaker and Hatcher Macready. Not pictured are players Asher Harrison and Sam Codzillo. Coaches are Anthony Malcom and Drew Wassenaar. The Trailblazers’ 12-U team (**below**) — also featuring several Farragut and area players — finished second among four tournament teams. Players, in no particular order, are Carver Clements, Connor Griffin, Cole Moore, Holston Milligan, Emory Smith, Greyson Padgett, Bram Padgett, Robbie Sills, Finn Stallings, John Karnes, Keegan Estrada, Kobe Honeycutt, James Cudzillo and Wilder Cudzillo. This team also is coached by Malcom and Wassenaar.



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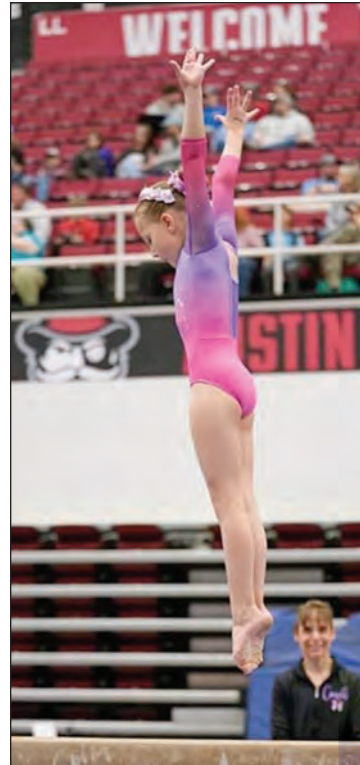
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Perfect 10 for six Heidi's Gymnastic girls at Ozone



STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Heidi's Musical Gymnastics, 159 West End Ave., produced a competition result worthy of praise for an multi-Olympic Games gold medalist.

Six of its 20 young students/performers, all ages 9 to 12, earned perfect 10.0 scores in one of two routines during the Ozone Invitational, involving multi-state talent, last month in Knoxville Convention Center.

See HEIDI'S 10.0 on Page 7B

Photos courtesy of Heidi De La Roche

Heidi's Gymnastics' perfect 10.0 scores at Ozone Invitational in Knoxville Convention Center, among a multi-state field, came from (top, far left) Saniya Galkwad; (top, middle) Linux Baird; (top, right) Bailey Stone; (far left) Shelby Pistole; (left) Elizabeth Proseanchin; and (above) Morgan Rouse.

Daughter's essay 'Remarkable' for Town biz owner

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Candace Viox, Water Into Wine bistro & lounge owner, was honored Thursday, Jan. 23, for her impact on her community with the "Remarkable Women" Award, which places her in the running for the ABC-TV Remarkable Women of the Year honor nationally.

"Unbelievable" was Viox's reaction to the presentation. "Humbled, appreciative."

"I love my Farragut community," she added. "It's just easy to do when God is involved and God calls you to do something. And, when you say 'yes,' it's a lot of fun."

"I never thought that Water Into Wine would be this much of a pillar in our community, so I'm really blessed and humbled and thankful. It was a beautiful surprise."

As she came into Water Into Wine that afternoon to her establishment, Viox noticed a couple of Farragut Business Alliance members come in and questioned their being there.

"We're just having a working lunch," one FBA member said. Then, more people trickled in.

But when Viox saw Lori Tucker, WATE-TV 6 news anchor/reporter and her crew, the restaurant owner's eyes widened and she stood up out of her chair.

Once the announcement came, Viox replied, "I wouldn't be here without my community,"

See REMARKABLE on Page 7B



Tammy Cheek

Candace Viox, Water Into Wine bistro & lounge owner, center, was presented the "Remarkable Woman" honor by WATE-TV news anchor/reporter Lori Tucker, left, Thursday afternoon, Jan. 23, at the Farragut business. Viox was joined by her daughter, Sydney Viox, who wrote the essay on her mother that inspired the honor.

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• **Remote Area Medical is offering a free, comprehensive healthcare clinic** at the Jacob Building, 3301 E. Magnolia Ave in Knoxville, Friday through Sunday, Feb. 7-9.

RAM offers free dental cleanings, dental fillings, dental extractions, dental X-rays, eye exams, eye health exams, eyeglass prescriptions, eyeglasses made on-site, women's health exams and general medical exams.

The clinic in Knoxville is open to anyone in need, with no insurance and no ID required. Parking lot will open no later than 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Thursday, Feb. 6, and remain open for the duration of the clinic.

Once in the parking lot, patients will receive additional information regarding clinic

processes and next steps.

Clinic doors open at 6 a.m., and services are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Sunday's clinic operations will be an abbreviated day, so patients are advised to arrive as early as possible. Due to time constraints, patients should be prepared to choose between dental and vision services, and all patients are offered general medical care.

For more information on the upcoming RAM Clinic, including how to volunteer or donate, visit www.ramusa.org or call 865-579-1530.

• **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. 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.

• **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.

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

• **Knoxville Bar Association, in partnership with Legal Aid of East Tennessee, will host a Debt Relief Legal Advice Clinic** for pre-screened individuals beginning at 8:45 a.m., Saturday, March 8, in the Public Defender's Community Law Office (1101 Liberty St. in Knoxville).

This advice clinic will be available to qualified individuals in Knox, Blount, Loudon and Sevier counties. Attorneys will volunteer to conduct initial meetings with the clients to discuss their situations and options.

Qualification for the free services will be income-based, with pre-screening by LAET. The client served through the clinic may also be eligible for free bankruptcy services. Individuals who live in Blount, Knox, Loudon, or Sevier County may sign up by contacting the LAET at 865-637-0484. Registration cut-off is Friday, Feb. 28.

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FIRST Robotics '25 at HVA, Knox Catholic, Webb



Photos by Tammy Cheek

(Above) Knoxville Catholic High School's Robitchaun's 2393 FIRST Robotics team for 2025. (Right) Hardin Valley Academy's RowHAWKtics 3824 team.



TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

After the kickoff Saturday, Jan. 4, for FIRST Robotics teams around the world, Knox County area schools are preparing their robots for the 2025 FIRST Robotics competition, Reefscape, an ocean exploration theme.

Teams such as Hardin Valley Academy's RoHAWKtics 3824, Webb School of Knoxville's Robotics 1466 Team and Knoxville

Catholic School's Robitchaun's 2393 Team have been working on their robots for upcoming regional competitions.

At Hardin Valley Academy, "in order to get ready, we've split our team into different subgroups that are working on different mechanics to score in different ways," said Leah Jinks, business lead for HVA RoHAWKtics. "We've already finished prototyping and are

See **ROBOTICS TEAMS** on Page 6B

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Tammy Cheek

Webb School of Knoxville's FIRST Robotics 1466 team for 2025

Robotics teams

From page 5B

working on assembly now."

HVA's 25-member team, led by co-captains Cash Egeley and Kate Crass and lead mentor Brandi Kinhead, will be competing in the Rocket City Regionals Wednesday through Saturday, March 12-15, in Huntsville, Alabama, and Smoky Mountain Regionals Thursday through Sunday, April 3-6, in Sevierville.

"Our expectations for this year are as follows: Have a drivable robot for every match, be in the position to choose an alliance and, most importantly, have fun," Jinks said.

At Knoxville Catholic, "The goal for this year is to have the younger students learn a lot," KCHS robotics lead mentor Douglas Parris said. "We have five seniors on our team, so a major goal is for them to pass down their knowledge.

"We have roughly 30 active students and nine active mentors," he added. "We are over 50 percent female as a team, and our leadership positions are 50/50 — two-thirds of our team are freshmen and sophomores."

Led by team captain Kailin McEnery, along with sub-team captains Kaspar Winston (programming), Greyson Benton (build team) and Helen-Rose O'Reilly (business), KCHS's team plans to

compete in the Smoky Mountain Regional in April.

Webb School's team, led by James Overall and Charlie McDowell, plans to compete in the Magnolia Regional Wednesday through Saturday, March 12-15, in Laurel, Mississippi, and the Smoky Mountains Regional.

"We are now three weeks into the robot-build season, and the team has spent lots of time building prototypes and running data analysis to figure out our optimal robot gameplay strategy," said Jenifer Lawrie, Webb Upper School science teacher and FIRST Robotics coach/mentor about her team of 32.

"We have just started cutting the parts to assemble our main robot for testing and — eventually — to run at competitions," she added.

Poetry Out Loud top finishers at FHS

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut High School senior Hayden Toon showed his poetry recitation talent when he won the schoolwide 2024-2025 Poetry Out Loud competition in FHS's Ferguson Theater/Mini Auditorium Thursday, Jan. 30.

In doing so, he won \$100, trophy and a swag bag. Toon will be treated to a trip to-Franklin, where he will compete in the state finals competition Friday and Saturday, Feb. 28-March 1, in Mockingbird Theater, 230 Franklin Road.

The winner of the state finals then will compete in the National Finals Monday through Wednesday, May 5-7, in Washington, D.C.

"I'm very happy," he said about winning the schoolwide finals. "I put a lot of work into this. It was just super fun. Everyone did really great. It was great to see all the hard work we put into our poems come to fruition."

Right behind Toon, Tiyanna Dudley, a junior, won second place, receiving \$75, a swag bag and trophy. Anjali Devarakonda, a freshman, won third place and earned \$50, swag bag and a trophy.

Other schoolwide finalists were juniors Natasha Gard and Skylar Gruhn and senior Daniel Martin.

Toon recited the poems, "Zoom" by Simon Armitage and "Catch a Little Rhyme" by Eve Merriam.

"The first (poem) I chose because it's about the power of words, and that's really important to me, especially with, obviously, a poetry competition, how words can impact people," the senior said. "For my second one, I wanted to do something a little more fun, a little more up-hearted, so I chose this Dr.



Tammy Cheek

Top winners of the 2024-25 FHS Poetry Out Loud Competition, from left, were champion Hayden Toon, a senior; junior Tiyanna Dudley, second place; and freshman Anjali Devarakonda, who won third place. The schoolwide competition took place in FHS's Ferguson Theater/Mini Auditorium Thursday, Jan. 30.

Seuss-like poem called 'Catch a Little Rhyme.'"

This was Toon's second year competing in POL. He also is an active member of National Spanish Honors Society, Admiral Performing Arts Company, Model United Nations and Key Club at FHS.

Additionally, he serves his community with the Teen Board in Knoxville, performs on stage and has been in numerous productions with local theaters around the Greater Knoxville area.

Emceed by FHS seniors, Caitlin Schram and Sam Wilson, this marks the 20th anni-

versary of Poetry Out Loud, a national poetry recitation competition sponsored by National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation and state art agencies, according to Dr. Cedelle Niles, FHS Poetry Out Loud coordinator and English Language Arts teacher.

"For two decades, the program has inspired a love for poetry, strengthened public speaking skills and bolstered students' self-confidence," Niles said.

"Coordinating this program at FHS has been a true privilege for me," she added.




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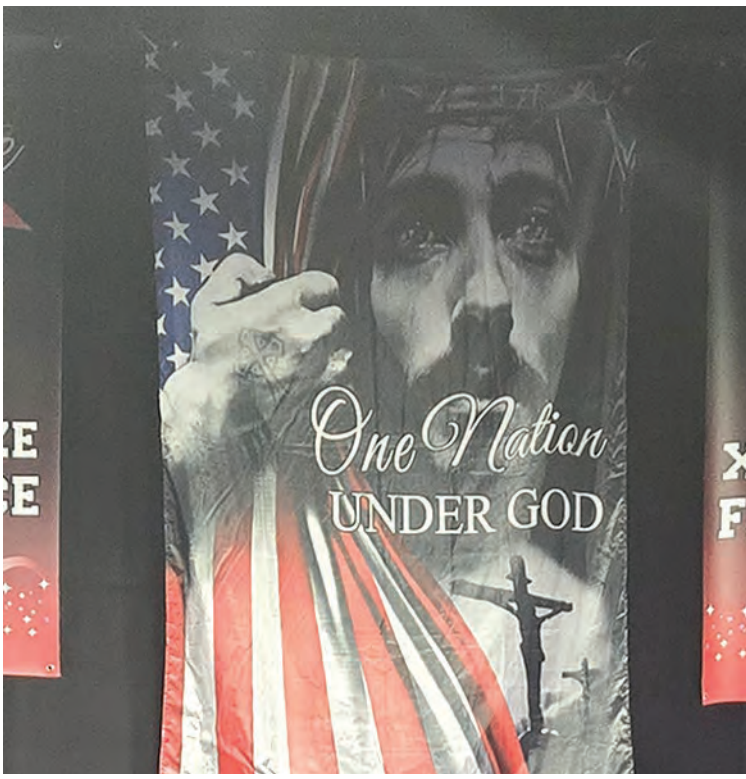


Photo courtesy of Heidi De La Rocha

The key to youth gymnast inspiration at Heidi's Musical Gymnastics in Farragut, according to the owner and former standout gymnast herself, is teaching her students through a Christian-based approach. "This is the most important photo" shared by Heidi De La Rocha, she said, which depicts Jesus Christ — with His crucifixion illustrated in the background, alongside the United States flag on the wall of her 1,800 square-foot facility.

Heidi's 10.0

From page 3B

Pulling off this rare feat were Saniya Galwa, 9, on the balance beam, and five others on the uneven bars: Linux Baird, 11, Bailey Stone, 9, Elizabeth Proseanchin, Shelby Pistole, 10, and Morgan Rouse, 12.

Their training comes in a building "that's only 1,800 square feet, counting the bathroom," owner Heidi De La Rocha said.

"I am so proud," the gym owner added. "I know they were nervous. And I tell the girls that it's OK to be scared because everybody in that competition is scared or nervous. But I tell them it's what you do with it."

"You could choose to be comfortable or you could choose courage, but you cannot choose both."

Meanwhile, in the team divisions, Heidi's Musical Gymnastics Xcel Gold Level team finished first in Knoxville Ozone Invitation

"I only have four (Gold) girls, and they've won every competition so far this season," De La Rocha said.

Her Xcel Silver Team also took home first place in the Ozone event, as did her Xcel Bronze team.

Above all else, De La Rocha demands one thing: "Behave in a Christian manner," she said, having a strong Christian faith herself that, most importantly to De La Rocha, she wants in her students.

Remarkable

From page 3B

She recalled when she first opened Water Into Wine, she knew little about running the business, but "I knew God wanted me to do this ... I just did what God let me do."

Every year in March, Nexstar Media Group Inc. celebrates Women's History Month by honoring "Remarkable Women" across the country, recognizing one of them as "Nexstar Woman of the Year."

"People who nominated had to write an essay on our website for 'Remarkable Women,'" explained Tucker, who also does WATE's "6 On Your Side." She presented Viox with the local Remarkable Woman honor. Viox's daughter, Sydney Viox, nominated her mother.

The nominees had to fulfill the following criteria: community service, making a difference in their community and family and overall "just have an impact," Tucker said. "The impact can be different depending on what you do for a living, but we thought she encompassed faith, family, business and just, overall, setting an example."

Besides her owning Water Into Wine, which she opened in May 2016, Viox holds Bible study on the premises. She also is president of Farragut Business Alliance, on the Town's Visitor/Tourism Committee, Rotary Club of Farragut president-elect and serves on the board for Pellissippi State Community College alumni.

She has spent time and efforts with Faith Lutheran Church's Shepherd of Hope Food Bank and participates in many events at St. John Neumann Catholic Church and School.

Viox is involved with those things "just because God tells us we should support

everybody. I'm not involved with any particular religion. I just love Jesus, so I support all the churches," she said. "Whatever the community needs, I try to help any way I can."

Viox will travel in March to Los Angeles to represent Knoxville at the "Remarkable Woman of the Year" national convention while nominees' stories will be highlighted on national and local media. Additionally, NexStar Charitable Founda-

tion will make donations to amplify the nominees' community causes.

"I didn't even know that was a thing," Viox said about Remarkable Women. She knew her daughter wrote an essay "but I didn't know where she sent it."

According to a press release, Remarkable Women is a nationwide initiative "to honor the influence that women have had on public policy, social progress and the quality of life. ..."

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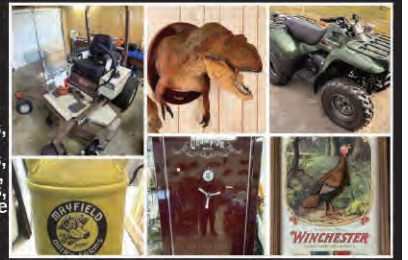
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Narrations by Erik Gerhardt/edited by Alan Sloan

FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025 • 10



Farragut High School's 13th Annual Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Saturday night, Feb. 1, in the FHS Commons honored eight former Admirals and Lady Admirals star athletes and one multiple state title-winning coach, while also recognizing the 2025 Service Award honoree. Hall of Fame Class of 2025 inductees, **standing from left**, are Jason Messing (Class of 2002, football, track & field and basketball); Matt Buckner (baseball head coach from 2010 through 2024 seasons); and Nick Senzel, (baseball, Class of 2013). Farragut Mayor Ron Williams (standing, far right) represented the Service Award winner, Town of Farragut. **Sitting, from left**, are Adam Priest (baseball, football and track & field, Class of 1991); Wendy Irick Stewart (swimming, Class of 1983); Sue Anne Heins Perry (cross country, track & field and soccer, Class of 1985); Rachel Ingleby Tabor (softball, Class of 2008); and Stuart Thomas (golf, Class of 2013). Unable to attend was Dr. Katie Beuerlein Kemple (soccer and track & field, Class of 2014). ("Class bonding family time" photos below) **beginning top left**: Perry, Tabor and Stewart in a lively discussion. **Below left**: Thomas and Priest, along with Susan Davidson, FHS Hall of Fame coach and Hall Committee member, listen to David Moore, far right, also an FHS Hall of Fame coach and Hall Committee member. **Top right**, Senzel shows his former coach, Buckner, something interesting on the Internet. **Below right**: Messing and his wife, Staci Messing, with their three children: Aaliyah, Miles and Jaden.

Eight athletes, one coach inducted during 13th Annual FHS Sports Hall of Fame Ceremony

What about "the stuff" making up Farragut High School Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2025?

Its newly inducted members, following the 13th Annual FHS Hall Induction Ceremony in the school's Commons Saturday evening, Feb. 1, feature a current Major League Baseball player, a second-generation Tennessee Vols athlete whose family has earned a Mr.

or Miss Farragut honor four times, a national champion swimmer, a seven-time state champion coach, a college record-setting receiver, a golf individual and team state champion, a record-setting softball pitcher, a uniquely talented two-sport athlete who answers to "doctor" and a former championship distance runner who, almost 40 years after graduating from FHS, could likely

give many teenage distance runners a run for their money.

Adam Priest (Class of 1991), a second generation Knoxville attorney and UT Vols athlete following in the footsteps of his father, Tim Priest, in both regards, spoke briefly on behalf of eight ex-Admirals and ex-Lady Ads and one coach inducted into the Class of 2025.

"On behalf of all of this year's in-

ductees, it's a great honor to be here," Priest said to the gathering.

He was inducted alongside ex-baseball head coach Matt Buckner (2010-2014), Wendy Irick Stewart (1983), Sue Anne Heins Perry (1985), Jason Messing (2002), Rachel Ingleby Tabor (2008), Nick Senzel (2013), Stuart Thomas (2013) and Dr. Katie Beuerlein Kemple (2014). (Details/photos, pages 2C to 4C)



Class bonding, family time



Induction Ceremony and Reception photos by Alan Sloan

Farragut High School archive photos and family photos courtesy of FHS Sports Hall of Fame Committee

13th Service Award Winner is Town of Farragut staff

Farragut High School Sports Hall of Fame's 13th Athletic Service Award was presented to Town of Farragut "for all of its dedicated service to helping support the athletic teams over the years ...," said Erik Gerhardt, annual event emcee and "Voice of the Admirals" in football and basketball.

Bill Parker, former FHS multi-state title-winning track & field and cross country head coach, said, "There were three major instances I recall that we needed monumental assistance. In 1987 upon arrival of the new track, it turned out we were 2 feet short on the asphalt poured.

"Within 24 hours the Town had pulled a crew from road work, supplementing the crew already at the school so that construction could begin," he added. "The year before, the Town matched funds after a major fundraising effort to get the new track built."

In 2020, "The school was closed due to the flu prior to the weekend of our Hall of Fame banquet, so we were in need of a venue for the Friday night reception," Parker said. "Sue Stuhl (then Parks/Rec director) returned my call very quickly, and on short notice the Town allowed us to use (Town Hall) community room."

Retired football head coach Eddie Courtney, joining Parker as FHS Hall of Fame inductees, was quoted as saying, "The Town of Farragut has helped with top-dressing practice fields, hanging banners at the stadium in difficult-to-reach high places, aeration



of grass and delivering multiple large items, such as rolls of turf, field equipment and landscape items."

Softball coach Nick Green said, "The Town of Farragut has helped pick up and transport field materials like sand and gravel (and) aerated and top dressed the field in the summer."

"The relationship and partnership is great and continues to benefit the school immensely," athletic director Donald Dodgen said about Town of Farragut and FHS.

Former Town of Farragut Public Works director Bud McKelvey, center, and Mayor Ron Williams, right, accepted the Town's 2025 FHS Hall of Fame Service Award from Donald Dodgen, athletic director/Hall Committee member.

Inductees profiles, archive photos: H of F Class of 2025

Wendy Irick Stewart swimming, Class of 1983



Wendy Irick Stewart, left, (swimming, Class of 1983), is introduced by Betsy Baymiller Jones, an athlete Hall of Famer and Hall Committee member.



One of the nation's top teenage swimmers in the early 1980s, Wendy Irick Stewart (Class of 1983) ranks among the most outstanding all-time swimmers both at Farragut and at Southern Illinois University.

A two-time national champ after winning the 200-yard backstroke in 1982 and 1983, Stewart, as a freshman in 1980, earned third and fourth-place finishes at the YMCA National Championships in the 400-yard Individual Medley, 100-backstroke and 200-IM.

As a freshman, Stewart claimed state titles in the 200-IM and 100-freestyle. As a junior, she brought home gold in the 200-IM and 100-backstroke — then won those same events as a senior, earning recognition as a National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association All-American.

At the Olympic Trials in 1984, Wendy competed in the 400-IM — and in 1986 and 1987 she participated in trials for the World Games, World Championships and Goodwill Games. At SIU, Stewart earned All-American honors all four years (1984-1987).

Adam Priest

baseball, football, track, 1991



Adam Priest, left, (baseball, football and track, 1991) is introduced by Ben Lyle, highly regarded former FHS football offensive coach and Hall Committee member.



Three-sport FHS standout Adam Priest (Class of 1991) was a three-year letterman for the football Ads at running back, wide receiver and defensive back, earning All-District and All-KFL recognitions.

His sophomore and junior seasons, Priest helped Farragut win back-to-back district championships and playoff victories in 1988 and 1989. As a senior during the 1990 season, he set school records for the longest pass reception (94 yards) and for receptions (37), which still stand for running backs at FHS.

As a freshman in track, Priest was a district champ and region runner-up in the 4-by-100-meter relay.

In the following years, his speed was put to good use on the baseball diamond, earning All-district honors his junior and senior seasons (center fielder), going on to play for the Tennessee Vols.

During his junior season, Priest led Farragut with a .471 batting average. A Second Team All-state honoree as a senior, his team-best average climbed to .484 — and was never retired on strikes the entire season.

Matt Buckner

baseball head coach, 2010-2024



Matt Buckner, right (former baseball head coach), is introduced by Donald Dodgen, fellow Hall of Famer, FHS athletic director and Hall committee member.



Matt Buckner ranks among the winningest coaches in state high school sports history. With seven baseball state titles and two state runner-up finishes in just 14 full seasons (12 state trips) as FHS head coach (2010-2014), Buckner "has a great work ethic and is a great competitor," his mentor, former Ads skipper Tommy Pharr, said. "... He has a love for the game and a love for his players that allowed him to achieve great success. I am proud to have coached him, to have coached with him and to call him my brother."

With 699 career wins (starting as Bearden head coach from 2004 through 2009), Buckner returned to Farragut (where he coached under Pharr) as the Admirals new skipper in 2010 (522-114 record at FHS).

Named State Coach of the Year on seven occasions, Buckner twice has been recognized as American Baseball Coaches Association National Region 4 Coach of the Year. He also was named the TSSAA's A.F. Bridges Male Coach of the Year in 2019 (recognizes coaches and their programs for sportsmanship).



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Jason Messing
football, track, basketball, 2002



Jason Messing, center, (football, track and basketball, 2002) is introduced by Hall of Fame Committee members Kellie Ivens (Hall of Famer) and Ben Lyle.



Among his FHS athletic accomplishments, Jason Messing (Class of 2002) is remembered for key interceptions as a star cornerback — and a lot more.

Also a standout kick returner, receiver and running back, Messing earned All-Region honors as a senior, leading the Admirals in interceptions and kickoff returns — averaging just under 28 yards on his 20 kick-off opportunities, 556 yards overall, which still stands as the highest single season total in program history.

His offensive coach at Farragut, Ben Lyle, remembered Messing as both an outstanding athlete and an outstanding young man. “Jason was gifted,” Lyle said, “able to pick up on things quickly. He could do just about anything asked of him — and do it well.”

A versatile track athlete, Messing competed in sprints, relays, hurdles, triple jump, long jump and decathlon — winning the triple jump as a senior at the William Blount Invitational.

In college, Messing went on break a few football receiving records at North Alabama University.

Rachel Ingleby Tabor
softball, Class of 2008



Rachel Ingleby Tabor (softball, Class of 2008) is introduced by Hall of Fame coach David Moore, Hall Committee member.



Rachel Ingleby Tabor, Class of 2008, ranks among the top pitchers in Farragut softball history.

A letterman each of her four seasons, Tabor was the Lady Admirals’ Rookie of the Year as a freshman, posting a 6-0 record with an earned run average under 2, while offensively leading the team in triples.

As a sophomore, Tabor led her team in doubles and was second in RBI production. As Farragut’s No. 2 pitcher, she sported a 0.75 earned-run average.

Taking over as the No. 1 pitcher as a junior, Tabor fired 14 shutouts, second most for a single season in school history, among her 24 wins. In more than 198 innings she struck out 234 batters (1.16 ERA), posted five no-hitters and also enjoyed her strongest year at the plate, batting .363 with nine doubles and 25 RBI.

Tabor was recognized as All-State while also being named District 4-AAA Player of the Year.

As a senior, Tabor pitched Farragut to the Class AAA State tourney with 27 wins — third most in FHS history — 11 shutouts and two no-hitters (1.24 ERA).

Sue Anne Heins Perry
cross country, track, soccer, 1985



Sue Anne Heins Perry (cross country, track & field and soccer, Class of 1985) is introduced by coaching Hall of Famer Bill Parker, a Hall Committee member.



Sue Anne Heins Perry, Class of 1985, was a four-year distance run letter winner in track & field, and was instrumental in a remarkable run for girls cross-country, which finished state runner-up in 1982 before winning back-to-back state titles — a first for the Lady Admirals program — in 1983 and 1984.

As a cross country senior, “Sue Anne had the race of her life” at the state meet, then head coach Bill Parker said, “finishing fourth (18 minutes, 17 seconds) — a personal best.” Despite health challenges during her senior season, Perry had top-10 finishes in nine of the 10 meets in which she competed, including third place in the KIL and fourth in region.

In the spring of her junior year in 1984, Perry helped the Lady Admirals track and field team to a fourth place state meet finish as a leg on the 3,200-meter state champion relay foursome (9:29.6).

As a senior in 1985, Perry was part of the state runner-up 3,200 relay, with her Lady Admirals bringing home the state runner-up team trophy.

Those who make Hall of Fame happen; memoriam



(Far left) Erik Gerhardt, “Voice of the Admirals” as Farragut High School football and basketball play-by-play voice on WFIV-FM 105.3, has been emcee of FHS Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony since its inception in 2013. (Left) A tribute to the late Lynn Sexton, FHS Hall of Fame boys basketball head coach for 30 years — with an open Hall of Fame Committee seat, photo and “Reserved” name plaque left in his honor — and his wife, the late Pat Sexton. A Memorial Tribute was read for the Sextons and for the late Neil Clabo, former FHS employee and ex-Admirals football star who played for the UT Vols and punted for the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl XI. (Below left) Committee members, from left, are Hall of Fame coaches David Moore and Donald Dodgen (FHS AD), Betsy Baymiller Jones (Hall of Fame athlete) and Hall of Fame coach Bill Parker. (Below right) Committee members that include Hall of Fame coaches are, from left, are Ben Lyle, Kellie Ivens, Susan Davidson and Natalie L. Sisk. Not pictured: Committee member Ben Collins.



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Nick Senzel
baseball, Class of 2013



Nick Senzel (baseball, Class of 2013) is introduced by Hall of Fame coach Kellie Ivens, a Hall Committee member.



Nick Senzel, Class of 2013, progressed from his glory prep days as a state champion at Farragut to an All-American college career at Tennessee — then to his “Field of Dreams” as a Major League Baseball starter, which included being named National League Player of the Week. It all started after he was the second overall pick in the 2016 MLB draft (Cincinnati).

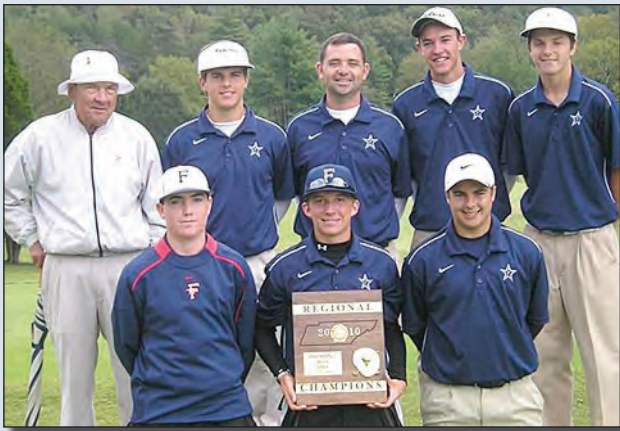
Senzel’s contributions as a freshmen for the 2010 state champs, while primarily playing second base, included batting .360. In the 2011 Class AAA state title game — a 2-0 victory over Columbia Central — the sophomore went 2-of-3 at the plate, helping FHS make still more history with a fourth consecutive state title.

As a junior in 2012, he was selected All-State and All-District 4-AAA while batting .404 with eight home runs and 46 RBI. As a senior helping the Ads to a state runner-up finish, Senzel (now at shortstop) was again All-State and All-District, batting .386 with 14 doubles, four triples, five home runs and 42 RBI.

Stuart Thomas
golf, Class of 2013



Stuart Thomas (golf, Class of 2013) is introduced by Hall of Fame coach Natalie L. Sisk, a Hall Committee member.



Stuart Thomas graduated Farragut in 2013 as the reigning Class AAA individual state golf champion.

He was a huge part of four FHS region championship teams, all advancing to the state tournament.

The Admirals won the team state title to cap Thomas’ freshman season of 2009. As a sophomore, he earned All-State honors after first taking the district championship. His 10th-place individual finish at state led the Admirals to a third-place team finish.

In the summer of 2011, Thomas advanced to the round of 32 at the U.S. Junior Amateur.

As a junior in the fall of 2011, Thomas again was chosen All-PrepXtra and All-KIL after finishing Region runner-up and leading Farragut to a fourth place finish at the TSSAA Championships. In the summer of 2012, he had an impressive third-place showing at the Tennessee Junior Amateur.

After mulling offers from two SEC schools, Stuart landed at UT-Chattanooga (a three-year letterman).

Dr. Katie Beuerlein Kemple
soccer, track & field, 2014



Accepting for Dr. Katie Beuerlein Kemple (soccer/track, 2014) is her father, Dr. Frank Beuerlein, center, with Hall of Famers Willie Parker and Susan Davidson.



Earning Academic All-American honors as an FHS senior, Dr. Katherine Beuerlein Kemple led her soccer Lady Admirals to a Division I-AAA state runner-up finish in 2011 (final record of 22-1-2) and to the state semifinals in 2012 (23-1-1) and 2013 (19-3-3).

Leading her team in scoring both her junior and senior seasons, Kemple (Class of 2014) twice was name All-South and All-State and was honored as an All-American. As a junior, she was selected the Prep Xtra Girls Soccer Player of the Year and was a Wendy’s High School Heisman state finalist.

In track & field her junior and senior years, Kemple earned All-Region honors — and as a senior was All-State while setting a new school record in the pentathlon, which still stands, with 3,315 points. She also set new school marks for the 100-meter hurdles and 300-hurdles.

Kemple went on to become a two-sport standout at Wofford College (South Carolina).

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