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## Projects cut — Turkey Creek, Sonja Drive — in 3-2 BOMA vote

**TAMMY CHEEK**  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

One of the priorities in the Town of Farragut's Strategic Plan faced criticism from aldermen and residents during Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting Thursday, Feb. 27.

The critical success factor priority, "connecting our community with excellent parks, greenways, trails, sidewalks and recreational programs" came under fire because it included two projects — the Turkey Creek Road "Multimodal Improvements" and Sonja Drive/Admiral Road "Multi-Modal Improvements."

Those two projects from the plan were cut when the Board approved the strategic plan in a 3-2 vote.

While Aldermen David White, Alex Cain and Vice Mayor Scott Meyer voted to adopt the strategic plan minus the two projects, Mayor Ron Williams and

Aldermen Drew Burnette voted against the cuts.

"The irony that we're under — 'connecting our community with excellent parks, greenways, trails and sidewalks' — and we want to take out greenway projects," Burnette said. "It's still a top priority of everyone in the Town ... that still want what the residents want for our community."

"I don't think we need to take all the wording out," Williams said.

However, "I think we need to remove (the two projects) at least temporarily, especially the Turkey Creek one, considering we have a pending lawsuit in one of the projects," Cain said. "We need more discussion ... I'd love to get more feedback before we move



Cain

forward on it ... we don't know what the outcome of that lawsuit's going to be."

Removing the projects from the strategic plan does not affect the budget, as the projects are still in the draft project that has yet to be approved in June, the mayor and Town administrator David Smoak explained.

"We're still developing the budget," Williams added.

Regarding The Sonja Drive/Admiral Road project, Cain said there were residents who did not want the roads widened.

According to a draft budget document, the project is estimated at \$1,375,000, which is placed in the 2026 budget.

"This project is construction of a 5-foot concrete

See **CRITICISM** on Page 5A

## Final Knox 'Go' for E-Z Stop with 6-2 vote

### Concord group's appeal to stop Blount-based convenience store fails before Zoning Appeals 8

**ALAN SLOAN**  
editor@farragutpress.com

**KNOXVILLE** — Barring "some wealthy resident wanting to oppose it" through legal action, E-Z Stop Food Mart has been given final clearance to build a roughly 5,000-square-foot convenience store/restaurant with seven pumps (14 points of sale) along Concord Road boarding Old Concord.

That quote, coming from Jon Harris, spokesman for Old Concord Residents Association seeking to either stop E-Z Stop's plans — or at least force them to modify their plans — happened a few minutes after a 6-2 vote by Knox County Board of Zoning Appeals denied the OCRA appeal. That appeal was necessary after Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission approved E-Z Stop's plans, subject to 11 modifications versus the Maryville-based convenience chain's original plans.

This latest decision came as the first KCBZA order of business in Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building, downtown Knoxville, Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 26.

An estimated 30 Concord residents or appeal supporters, many who are OCRA members, showed up for the appeal hearing.

"We're disappointed, obviously," said Harris, adding there are 33 homes in the immediate Old Historic Concord district. "We're not opposed to progress, but we do wish that it would be sympathetic to the neighborhood that we live in."

"We felt like we weren't asking too much with a reduction in the number of pumps (to four), the right-out only and elimina-

*"After listening to all these different statements, I'm really conflicted as to a decision, But I have a problem, in that a lot of the (OCRA) objections are speculations, but I understand the reasons behind them,"*

— Cecil Anderson,  
5th District rep on Knox County Board of Zoning Appeals



tion of the large impervious surface," he added. "They did at least give us the right-out-only, so that's something."

That also included building a raised island at that right-out-only location to further discourage those seeking to turn left.

"I think this is it ... we've exhausted all of our resources on the first go around with this," Harris said. "We don't have the money to go to court over this."

Voting in favor of the granting the appeal to deny E-Z Stop was KCBZA chair Paul Huff, 9th District, and Sherri Garrett, 7th District. Huff pointed out his displeasure about the convenience chain's insistence on seven gas pumps (14 points of sale) instead of lowering that to four (eight points of sale).

Insisting on 7/14 "obviously is not aimed (positively) at the community of Old Concord ... I strenuously object to that," the chair said.

Meanwhile, Garrett said having the seven pumps/14 points of sale "would be pushing the boundaries of being a small-scale low-intensity" commercial neighbor to Historic Old Concord.

Overall, Huff wasn't shy in questioning E-Z Stop officials — led by its legal expert, Knoxville attorney Ben Mullins, and Tommy Hunt, president/CEO of E-Z Stop/Calloway Oil Company (parent company) — and the OCRA representatives.

Mullins said E-Z Stop only wants to take advantage of existing Concord Road traffic, a little more than 15,000 vehicles per day on average, adding their new location would not add more traffic.

The board, on a motion by 5th District representative Cecil Anderson (which includes Farragut and Concord) was the motion receiving the 6-2 vote. E-Z-Stop officials were required to add a "sizeable raised curb" buffer island at its right-in, right-out only entrance from Concord Road, with "No Left Turn" signage

Ben Mullins, foreground, attorney representing E-Z Stop convenience stores/Calloway Oil Company in its desire to place a roughly 5,000-square foot convenience store/restaurant along Concord Road adjacent to Historic Concord neighborhoods, addresses Knox County Board of Zoning Appeals, led by its chair, Paul Huff, background, right, and co-chair Curtis Brown Sr., background left, Wednesday, Feb. 26. An appeal by Old Concord Residents Association, opposing the E-Z Stop location near Old Historic Concord, was necessary after Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission approved E-Z-Stop's plans, subject to 11 modifications versus the Maryville-based convenience chain's original plans.

Alan Sloan

See **APPEAL DENIED** on Page 4A

### Daylight Savings Time approaches

• A sure sign that Spring is approaching is the transition, time-wise, back to Daylight Savings Time.

In other words, it'll be time to "Spring Forward" at 2 a.m., early Sunday Morning, March 9, as everyone in the Volunteer State — and most states in this country — will move their clocks up one hour, which allows for more evening daylight in the spring, summer

### Local high school softball, baseball teams profiled this week

and early to mid-fall period each year. Many people will simply push their clocks ahead one hour upon bedtime Saturday night, March 8.

• **Early March also signals the start of the local high school seasons** for baseball, softball, boys soccer, track & field, lacrosse and girls and boys tennis. Meanwhile, this also signals the time for farragut-

press' annual Softball/Baseball Preview section, which features seven schools/13 teams (one team wasn't able to contribute to this section for unknown reasons): Farragut, Hardin Valley Academy, Bearden, Christian Academy of Knoxville, Concord Christian School, Knoxville Catholic and Webb School of Knoxville. (See Section C insert in this week's issue)



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# Shamrock Ball 'couples' dance the Town away



Photos by Tammy Cheek

(Top) Nick Acord and daughter, Alexis, 7, dance during 20th Anniversary Shamrock Ball, hosted by Town of Farragut in Farragut Community Center Saturday, March 1. (Above) Lily Kate Hilton, 7, dances with her dad, J.P. Hilton. This father-daughter dance drew about 150 attendees in the first session and roughly 200 in the second session. (More photos in West Side Faces, 5B)

# KCSO reports

• At 3:32 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25, a Knox County Sheriff's Office deputy "observed a red Nissan Rogue sitting at the entrance of Mayor Boby Leonard Park, 301 N. Watt Road, with a driver slumped over behind the wheel," the report stated.

"I approached the vehicle and had to bang on the driver's side window multiple times in order to wake the driver/suspect up," his report stated. The deputy made him "exit the vehicle due to his statements not making any sense, and him reaching around and not following simple commands."

Moreover, "I had a hard time getting (suspect's) basic information out of him due to his erratic behavior," the report stated.

Through his identification (driver's license), I was advised he was currently listed as suspended out of Loudon County for failure to pay fines and costs," the report stated.

Suspect "gave officers consent to search his vehicle, and that search revealed two plastic bottles of yellow urine with rubber bands and hot hands wrapped around the bottles in an effort to keep the urine warm to falsify a drug test," the report further stated.

Suspect was placed under arrest for suspicion of DUI. "... He consented to providing a blood sample." Suspect also, when asked, admitted he had used methamphetamines, heroine and subaxone the night before, crashing the vehicle his was driving. ... Suspect said he "was not completely sure as to what happened.

He was transported to Roger D. Wilson Detention Facility for his blood draw, which was performed at 5:02 a.m.

• At 9:53 a.m., Friday, Feb. 28, a complainant reported a theft from Kroger Marketplace, 189 Brooklawn St.

Complainant said "he was alerted by the store MAX investigation team of a suspicious transaction that involved a high-dollar amount of coupons," the report stated. "After reviewing the CCTV footage and transaction receipts I observed two unidentified males arrive at Kroger 525, located at 9501 S. Northshore Drive in a silver Nissan sedan.

"The subjects entered the store and grabbed multiple Green Dot Visa cards and took them to a register. In the first transaction, one of the subjects loaded \$200 to a Green Dot card and then spoke with the cashier about some-

thing and got him to scan a barcode from the subject's phone that equated to a \$50 coupon. This was scanned a total of four times in the first transaction, leaving the final total of the transaction to be \$1.95 (the loading fee).

"This was done in three more transactions for a total of \$1,200 loss to the store," the report further stated.

• At 3:50 p.m., Feb. 28, a victim called KCSO East Precinct to report an identity theft, which occurred at a Georgetowne Drive address. According to the victim, at 12:20 p.m. on this day "she received a message on her Lowe's app acknowledging her purchase of a washer/dryer and accessories in the amount of \$1,191.37," the report stated.

"The victim said it showed the purchase was through a Lowe's store located at 5428 Hwy. 153, Hixon (Hamilton County)," the report further stated. The victim advised she called the store and said it was not her who made the purchase.

"The victim (said) she spoke with a female in the appliance department, who said she would 'have to have the store manager call you.' The victim advised the manager never called.

Victim stated "she received a third message showing the order had been picked up," the report stated. "The victim said she called back and spoke with the female employee again. She said the employee told her the manager said they didn't have a policy on handling this type of situation.

"... According to the victim, her credit union told her as soon as the charge hits her card they will reverse the charge," the report further stated.

• At 1:17 p.m., Saturday, March 1, an officer responded to a Spinnaker Road residence in regard to a domestic disturbance.

Victim said her daughter was at this residence about two hours earlier planning to change the oil in her vehicle, the report stated.

Victim said she and her daughter were arguing about the oil change and the daughter taking the vehicle, with the daughter striking her mother after "pushing the door into her ... then struck (victim) with a closed fist on the left side of her face," the report further stated. "... I did observe what appeared to be minor swelling. ..."

Suspect was not on scene at the time the officer was there. No mention of charges or an arrest was in the report.

# Towncalendar

• 35 North, 11321 Kingston Pike at the intersection with North Campbell Station Road, is host site for Farragut Spring Festival, Saturday, March 15, through Sunday, March 16.

The festival, free of charge and open to the public, "is a two-day celebration of live music, great food and community fun," a Town press release stated. "Enjoy performances from 10 to 12 incredible bands across multiple stages, showcasing a variety of genres, including rock, country, indie and blues."

Also touted was "delicious food and drinks from local vendors," the release stated, and an "arts and crafts market featuring unique hand-made goods."

In addition, there will be "lawn games and outdoor ac-

tivities," the release stated.

"Whether you're a music lover, a foodie or looking for a family friendly event, the Farragut Spring Festival has something for everyone."

• Farragut Lions Club Car Cruise-In will run from 6 to 9 p.m., Saturday, April 5, at Dickey's Barbecue Pit, 11483 Parkside Drive in Farragut.

"Bring your classic cars, vintage rides — or just your love for all things automotive," a joint Town/FLC press release stated.

"This is a fun-filled event for car enthusiasts and families alike."

Cruise-In helps FLC "support important community initiatives," the release stated.



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## STAR's true star, Petr, retires: 38 yrs

### Justus takes executive director reins

TAMMY CHEEK

[tcheek@farragutpress.com](mailto:tcheek@farragutpress.com)

After 38 years dedicated to Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding, founder/executive director Lynn Petr is turning over the reins to Emily Justus, who has assumed the executive director role.

"It's been 38 years," Petr said. "I have done a lot in that 38 years ... it's time."

However, she said the real motivation to hand over the reins is "I felt like there needed to be a younger person's viewpoint. It's been the same person in that chair for a long time, and that's not healthy for any organization."

"As much as I don't think I've done a bad job, I think there's always a better job that could be done," Petr added.

And, she found Justus. "We had hired a firm to help us, and we had 47 (applicants)," Petr said.

But the numbers were narrowed down by a committee of

STAR's board, who chose Justus, who comes mostly from a NASCAR marketing background.

"Emily reminds me a little bit of me," Petr said. "I really feel like we've got the right person. She'll be able to take STAR where I couldn't."

Justus was born in Knoxville and lived for about 10 years in Chicago before moving to Maryville, where she graduated from Maryville High School before earning her marketing and Master's of Business Administration degree from Elon University in North Carolina.

After graduation, she started out in the non-profit sector, working for higher education at University of Virginia. Then she had the opportunity to work in NASCAR sponsorships.

With Justus' new role, "it's a lot of learning, but I think once I get my foot in, it will all make sense," the new executive director said.

STAR, started in 1987, was the brainchild of Petr, who came up with the idea while she was in graduate school at University of Tennessee.

"STAR was my master thesis project," she said. "I had an epiphany moment at a horse

camp the summer between my freshman and sophomore year."

After Petr graduated, she opened STAR and got married — all in 1987.

"This (11800 Highway 11E between Farragut and Lenoir City) is our fifth location," she said. "Our permanent one. We were able to purchase this property and slowly build as we had money to make it into what you see here today."

Petr said they did the groundbreaking on the latest site in late August 2001.

"Sept. 11 hit just two weeks later, so it was a really hard time to raise money," she recalled. "But we did it. It's a grassroots organization, so it was many people pitching in, not any one person carrying the load."

"True to East Tennessee nature, many people stepped up," Petr added.

STAR's mission is "to foster personal achievement by providing therapeutic experiences using horse-related activities for persons with disabilities or other special challenges."

The organization works with children and adults with physical, cognitive and neurological conditions; vet-



Tammy Cheek

Emily Justus, left, is welcomed as the new executive director by Lynn Petr, Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding founder/retiring executive director as they check out Bucky, an equicizer practice horse at STAR.

erans through its Heroes & Horses program; at-risk youth through its Changing Strides program; and memory

care residents. Along with classes, it also offers equine experience retreats and other learning options.

## 20th Anniversary 'blessing' for Volunteer Chiro

TAMMY CHEEK

[tcheek@farragutpress.com](mailto:tcheek@farragutpress.com)

As spring sneaks in, Volunteer Chiropractic, 10826 Kingston Pike, celebrates 20 years of operation this month.

"I've seen a lot," said Dr. Dan Watkins, owner of Volunteer Chiropractic with his wife, Keelie Watkins.

Still, I fell blessed," he added. "I feel blessed that I've been able to do this for this long."

"We always look back and say 'this is done by the grace of God.' He put us in this position."

Chiropractic care and acupuncture "seems to wow me at times, even though I've been doing it for 20 years," he said.

Watkins remembered a pa-

tient whose wife had a baby.

"They were taking the baby for a hearing test," he recalled. "It was a week old. She had failed the hearing test in the hospital. They called me and asked, 'Can you do anything?' I said, 'I don't know but let's take a look.'"

"I took a look at her and adjusted her, and she aced the hearing test," Watkins added. "It wowed me. It's pretty cool. I think that child is 6 or 7 now."

"Just seeing people get help, that's the biggest thing. We want to make sure they're helped, whether it be chiropractic or acupuncture that helps them or, if I can't do it, we refer them somewhere to get them help."

Though aware he "can't do everything," Watkins said, "if



Dr. Dan Watkins and his wife, Keelie Watkins, started Volunteer Chiropractic in March 2005.

Photo submitted

I can guide (patients) in the right direction, that's what I want to do."

The practice, named after the Tennessee Volunteers sports teams, opened on March 5, 2005, initially in the shopping center beside Gold's Gym near the Kingston Pike-Lovell Road intersection. Watkins moved the practice to its current location in 2008.

"The landlord offered us a deal," he said. "The lease was up, and he wanted us to come here."

Watkins provides chiropractic adjustments, massage and

acupuncture. "Sometimes I'm a psychologist, too," he said. "I just listen."

After graduating from Life University with a chiropractic degree, Watkins worked in Nashville for a few years before returning to the West Knoxville area to open a practice near Farragut.

One of his most memorable experiences is starting the business with his wife.

"We're partners in this," Watkins said. "We moved here (from Nashville). We had Lucy, a 2-year-old, so we built an office and we built a room for her

so we could have a true family thing. So, (we're) just building the practice, just being in the community trying to help as many people as we can."

"That's always been kind of our driving force, just to help where we can, who we can, when we can," he added. "In our pleasant, no pressure environment, we offer affordable care so anyone who needs help can get it. We welcome families and patients of all ages and health conditions."

Volunteer Chiropractic's hours are from 8 a.m. to noon and from 2 to 5 p.m. Monday; from 8 a.m. to noon and from 2 to 5 p.m., Wednesday; from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday and Friday; from 1 to 6 p.m., Thursday; and closed Saturday and Sunday.

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### BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



## Appalachian Ballet Company

The Appalachian Ballet Company accompanied by The Knoxville Symphony Orchestra will present **All About the Animals** Saturday, March 29th 7:00pm at the Clayton Center for the Arts. ABC is honored to have KSO conductor Aram Demirjian leading the orchestra. This production includes three short ballets for all ages! The performance will begin with Tchaikovsky's ballet favorite Swan Lake Act II featuring Laura Morton La Russa and James La Russa. Carnival of the Animals composed by Camille Saint Saens and choreographed by Artistic Director, Amy Morton Vaughn, will follow Swan Lake. Rounding out the performance will be Peter and the Wolf by Sergio Prokofiev. This is a story in music for narrator and orchestra and brought to life onstage with the ballet company. Kylie Morton Berry, Associate Director for ABC, will be narrating the ballet.

Tickets can be found at [AppalachianBallet.org](http://AppalachianBallet.org).



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# Heating up is '26 fiscal-yr BOMA Town budget talks

**TAMMY CHEEK**  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

As Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen heads into its fiscal year 2026 budget season, it learned more about pending Capital Investment projects for its upcoming year and beyond during a workshop session before its regular meeting Thursday, Feb. 27.

The funds were broken down for the workshops, but Town administrator David Smoak said the Board will have the entire budget by the May and June time periods. They are expected to pass the budget as an ordinance in June so it will start July 1.

"The Capital Investment Program for the Town is our six-year funding program," Smoak said. "Think about large projects. Think anything that's over \$25,000 that we want to plan for, either this year or in future years, and make sure we are funding accordingly to make sure we have enough money for those projects as they come up in the future."

"The Municipal Budget Law of 1982 requires us to adopt an annual budget every year, as well as a Capital Investment budget," he added.

According to a budget draft, the CIP's beginning balance for FY 2026 is \$16.5 million. An estimated \$12.1 million is planned for in 2027, \$4.886 million in 2028, \$4.6 million in 2029, \$5.25 million in 2030 and \$6.7 million in 2031.

The CIP is broken down into types of projects: general government, with \$2,595,000 projected for projects over the next six years; parks and recreation, with \$4,780,000 projected projects; and transportation and infrastructure with \$37,707,000 projected for six years.

For 2026, Smoak said the Board is looking at budgeting \$300,000 each year for land acquisition, which includes purchase of easements, right-of-way, land for parks, road and other capital improvement projects.

Another 2026 project involves installing security cameras at Mayor Bob Leonard, McFee, Founders and Anchor Parks for \$295,000.

Also in the parks, a project to reconstruct the sand volleyball complex at MBLP is estimated at \$50,000 and resurfacing McFee Park's tennis courts, \$40,000. Another park item slated for the 2026 budget is the McFee Road property with \$75,000 set aside for land right-of-way acquisitions and \$75,000 for design and en-

## Appeal denied

From page 1A

alongside to remind customers. "And follow the 11 recommendations the Planning Commission required."

"After listening to all these different statements, I'm really conflicted as to a decision," added Anderson, who was among the six who denied the appeal. "But I have a problem, in that a lot of the (OCRA) objections are speculations — but I understand the reasons behind them."

Anderson also said E-Z Stop's plans meet Knox County zoning requirements.

"I graduated from Farragut (High School) and I went to

school with people who lived in Old Concord, so I'm familiar with the area," he said.

Harris was joined by Kevin Murphy, president of the Knox Community Planning Alliance Board and an Old Concord resident, and Charles Ellis, OCRA president, each making the case in detail before KCBZA prior to Mullins' turn.

"Neighborhood commercial is meant to be a part of, and support, neighborhoods, but a bunch of fueling stations and a bunch of vehicle usage, that is neighborhood unfriendly," Murphy said. "We would love to see that ordinance changed, and we're disappointed that the Planning Commission and now the Board of Zoning Ap-

peals did not impose a smaller limit on the number of fuel stations in particular."

"It's a shame because we're a very tight community that just wants the best for our neighborhood," Ellis said. "Obviously, development is going to happen, and we're not trying to fight development at all, but it should be intentional and thoughtful development, not just try and grab as much cash as you can."

"Then (E-Z Stop officials) citing the 15,000 daily trips in traffic, that's great, but we would prefer they just keep moving," he added. "We don't want to stop most of that traffic for a business at our neighborhood."

See **BUDGET TALKS** on Page 5A

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**Criticism**

From page 1A

sidewalk along Sonja Drive from Admiral Road to Oran Road," the document stated. "The approximately 2,900 feet of new sidewalk will provide a safe pedestrian path for the families and students within Stonecrest to access the Farragut public schools.

Farragut Municipal Planning Commissioner Louise Povlin, formerly vice mayor and proponent of the project, reminded the Board Stonecrest subdivision and the roads are in the Parent Responsibility Zone. "It's a safety issue," she said.

The Turkey Creek project is estimated to cost \$2.5 million with \$500 for land acquisition in the 2026 budget and \$2 million for construction in the 2027 budget.

According to the budget

draft, "this project is an extension of the existing Turkey Creek greenway from its current terminus at the western side of Brixworth Subdivision to the bridge over Little Turkey Creek near Virtue Road.

"The project will likely include curb and gutter and additional width (about 3 feet) to Turkey Creek Road," the document stated. "This project will provide a necessary connection to the Little Turkey Creek Greenway at Sheffield subdivision and eventually to a greenway extension along Virtue Road from the bridge over Little Turkey Creek to Boyd Station Road."

However, Cain warned of a pending lawsuit brought forth by some residents along Turkey Creek Road, who previously said the Town would be taking their front yards.

Along with the greenway and road expansion project

along Turkey Creek, the 2026 draft budget also includes a project to improve Virtue and Boyd Station roads.

"I have the same issue that we have over on Turkey Creek Road in that the way the preliminary plans are drawn, the greenway would be coming (700 to 1,500 feet) in on my property," property owner Steve Williams said as he objected to the project. "You're going to have the same lawsuit in effect that you currently have on Turkey Creek Road.

"So I would like to either sit down with the Town and resolve it, which to me doesn't seem to be — I've been pushed off every time," he said. "It doesn't seem like a big deal, but you can't put the greenway on my property by state law.

"Therefore, we'll have to file suit, which will waste my money and your money — the Town's money," Steve Wil-

liams warned. "It makes no sense. It makes sense to sit down and work it out. It's not that hard

"I have a red barn down there — it's an historic barn — and the way (the preliminary plans are) drawn now, the barn would have to be torn down," he added. "I'd hate to see this get too far down the road to where we end up in a lawsuit.

In addition, "I'm asking, let's pull (the project) off the strategic plan; let's work it out; be neighbors," Steve Williams said. "That's where design comes in. We haven't gotten there yet."

"No one's reached out to me," he added.

"We're not to that point yet," Mayor Williams replied.

Smoak said the Virtue Road project is not included on the strategic plan.

White then asked Steve Williams to leave the podium.

**Budget talks**

From page 4A

gineering. In 2027, the budget shows a project to add a pavilion and restrooms at McFee Park for \$535,000; replacing the softball diamond outfield fencing between the park and railroad, \$175,000; and replacing the current Anchor Park playground with an Americans with Disabilities Act accessible one, \$300,000.

Among the many transportation and infrastructure projects, \$400,000 for stormwater improvements are budgeted for each year. Also, \$250,000 is set aside for adaptive traffic signal upgrades in the FY'26 budget, and \$150,000 for illuminated street signs are in the draft budget for 2026 and 2027.

It also includes funding for a traffic light at the Campbell Station/Jamestowne Boulevard intersection.

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### "2024 Gold Key Awards Celebration of Excellence"

On February 6, 2025, Gables & Gates, Realtors® presented their annual **Gold Key Awards**, designed to celebrate excellence in real estate throughout the east Tennessee area.

Company owner, Susie Lash, said, "We feel it's important to recognize the hardworking associates who have produced so well during an ever changing market. It is an honor to maintain our position in the area as a leading, locally owned, independent real estate firm."

Top honors went to **Janet Hensley** with the prestigious Associate of the Year award for combined listings and sales volume of \$18,681,598. Janet also received the Top Residential Listing Associate with \$12,021,710 in closed listing volume. The Top Residential Selling Associate with \$7,938,900 in closed sales volume went to **Debbie Holloway**. The award for most transactions went to **Janelle Poland** with 33.5 closed transactions.

Lash said, "The **GOLD KEY AWARD** exemplifies exceptional service and professionalism, exceeding the needs and expectations of all. The **BEST** people in real estate are at your service... that is what distinguishes Gables & Gates, Realtors®. Communication and determination are keys to success in every negotiation as we assist buyers and sellers through the intricacies of our real estate market. In my opinion... no one does it better! Congratulations on another great year. We are so thankful to all our associates and staff for their hard work and dedication, and because they are the very best, we are looking forward to another great year in 2025!"

The **GOLD KEY AWARD** was also presented to the following agents for combined listing and sales volume in excess of **\$3,000,000**.



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# VOLUNTEER CHIROPRACTIC CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Dr. Dan Watkins opened Volunteer Chiropractic in March 2005 after working for other chiropractors in both Atlanta and Nashville.

Dr. Dan, who was born in Knoxville, said he and his wife, Keelie, ultimately decided to open their practice in Farragut because of the area's focus on family life.

"We just knew Farragut would be a great place to raise our family," he said.

"We picked Farragut for the family aspect. We also appreciated the community atmosphere that we were looking for."

While being a business owner has not been the easiest job, Dr. Dan says it certainly is rewarding. "It gives my wife and I an opportunity to share time with one another and teach our children the importance of working hard, doing the right thing and treating people right."

Running the practice also enables a way for the couple to help others fully live their best lives without unnecessary pain.

"We want to work with them to get them better and feeling like doing more," Dr. Dan said. "

We want our patients to be active with their children or grandchildren, able to be a Weekend Warrior, run a race or just live a life without so much pain."

Specializing in chiropractic care, acupuncture and massage therapy services, Dr. Dan added that the Volunteer Chiropractic team always strives to do what's best for their patients by "offering an answer when there seems to be no answer."

"I really want to help people with the tools I have been blessed with, but I also want to get them to where they need to be if I cannot help them," he said. "I try to associate with other healthcare practitioners who share my desire to help patients."

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## Webb teams looking for Division II-AA state crowns

**STAFF REPORTS**  
 editor@farragutpress.com

**KNOXVILLE** — Looking to make the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Division II-AA Basketball Tournament a Webb School of Knoxville sweep is hardly far-fetched.

Both the Webb Lady Spartans, dominant for most of the 2024-25 season with a 27-3 record under second year head coach Greg Hernandez, and

Ricky Norris' boys team — every bit as dominant with a 32-2 record, look to close the deal and add to this private school's Knox County-leading haul of team state championship victories.



**Hernandez**

While the Webb girls have captured six state crowns — all under former head coach Shelley Collier — Norris is seeking his program's second.

On top of everything else is the collective opinions of Tennessee Sports Writers Association, which has had both teams ranked No. 1 statewide for a majority of the season.

Both Webb teams enter the "Final Four" of state-best teams in Tennessee Tech's Hooper Eblen Center begin-

ning Friday, March 7: Norris' Spartans take on Ensworth (20-11) in a semifinal, which is set to begin at 6 p.m. EST, 5 p.m. CST, while Hernandez's Lady Spartans square off against power Lipscomb Acad-



**Norris**

emy (27-3) starting at 4:30 p.m., EST, Friday.

A girls victory allows Webb to play the winner of rival Knox Catholic (19-15) or CPA (22-6) starting at 5 p.m., EST, Saturday, March, 8, for the state championship.

A Webb boys semifinal victory also would vault these West Knoxville boys into a state title showdown against the winner of MBA (24-6) versus Briarcrest (25-4). Opening tip is 7:30 p.m. EST, March 8.



## Stayin' alive

Maybe not 'Great Britton,' but FHS junior post big, with 'Dom'-inance, double L-train in lead, at Powell

**ALAN SLOAN**  
 editor@farragutpress.com

**POWELL** — Maybe he's not "Great Britton," but Farragut High School junior post Britton Lewis — just now getting back into form after a mid-season lower body injury kept him out for weeks — was clutch Saturday night, March 1, with the season on the line for his Admirals in the Region 2-4A quarterfinals at Powell High School.

On top of nailing three 3-point baskets while helping Farragut overcome a seven point first-half deficit to lead 42-36 in the third quarter, the 6-foot-4 junior grabbed one of the biggest rebounds in recent school history.

With the Ads only up 69-67 and just 21 seconds to play, Lewis grabbed a missed FHS free throw, denying what could have been the Panthers game-winning possession, and instead passed the ball to Ads junior point guard Parker Lane.

"It's been good getting my minutes in," said Lewis, who scored 11 points in the 71-67 victory, about getting re-adjusted to playing games.

Perhaps the team's best free throw shooter, Lane connected on both tosses to go up by two scores, 71-67, the final margin of victory.

Lane, who continues to have big post-season scoring nights, pumped in a game-high 28 versus Powell. "I'm fortunate to have a lot of teammates who can score, too," Lane said.

The Ads once again faced a win-or-season-over situation in the 2-4A semifinals at Oak Ridge High Tuesday night, March 4 (after deadline).

An upset win against a Maryville team, top seeded in region as District 4-4A Tournament champs, is required in order for the Admirals' season to continue. The Farragut-Red Rebels winner faces the Bearden versus Oak Ridge survivor — also played Tuesday night after deadline — in the region title game starting at 7 p.m., Thursday night, March 6.

Meanwhile, FHS senior wing Dom VanAcker scored 22 points. "In the second half, we just came out to play basketball and do what we do," said VanAcker, an All-District 4-4A honoree who recently was recognized for surpassing the 1,500 career points mark.

But the Ads saw an eight-point lead with 3:22 to play, and possession of the basketball, get cut to one point inside the game's final minute thanks to missing a pair of easy shots, seeking PHS convert two fastbreak baskets, plus a couple of turnovers the home team cashed in with late points.

However, VanAcker, Lane and junior wing Dan Lanning went 5 of 6 at the line in the game's final 43 seconds. And Lanning's one miss was grabbed by Lewis. "During a timeout, we got together, said 'calm down and just breathe,'" VanAcker said.

Lanning, who's also come up big scoring-wise in recent games, cracked double figures in scoring with 10.

Panthers wing Neyland Dugger scored a team-high 23 points in defeat.



**Photos by Alan Sloan**

(Above) Dom VanAcker, Farragut senior wing, handles the ball successfully despite Powell defensive pressure during this Region 2-4A quarterfinal at PHS Saturday night, March 1. The Admirals (20-13) held off a late charge from the District 3-4A Tournament runner-up Panthers to win 71-67 and keep its season alive. (Right) Bryce Howard, FHS senior forward, looks to dribble penetrate against the Powell defense.

## Turnovers, rebounding doom Lady Ads in season-ending loss to #4 OR

**STAFF REPORTS**  
 editor@farragutpress.com

**OAK RIDGE** — Committing 23 turnovers — 17 in the first half alone — while out-sized and out-rebounded would have meant a blowout loss was at hand for most any East Tennessee high school girls basketball team.

Especially giving up such gifts and board superiority to a team as talented as the state-ranked Oak Ridge Lady Wildcats — and at ORHS to boot.

However, Farragut's talent and determination to win allowed the Lady Ads to almost overcome the wide gap in turnovers and rebounding, forcing seven fourth-quarter turnovers of their own to close an 11-point second half Lady Wildcats lead to just one point, 61-60, in the game's final 90 seconds.

However, behind a game-high 33 points from senior guard Ayana Porter, Oak Ridge survived and beat Farragut 70-62, ending the FHS season in the Region 2-4A Tournament at ORHS

Monday night, March 3. The Lady Admirals, regular season and District 4-4A Tournament runner-up, end their season with a 23-10 final record.

The Lady Wildcats, ranked No. 4 in the latest Tennessee Sports Writers Association poll, improved to 28-3.

Oak Ridge will now host fellow state power Bearden — No. 3 in the TSWA poll at 31-4 as District 4-4A regular season and tourney champion that has breezed to a pair of easy victories in region play — beginning at 7 p.m.,

Wednesday, March 5.

The Lady Ads actually jumped out to a 7-3 lead before the Lady Wildcats began forcing mistakes. It was 16-12 Oak Ridge after one quarter and 34-27 ORHS at halftime.

The home team built a 51-40 lead midway into the third quarter before FHS trimmed that to 53-48 after three.

Junior wing KJ McNealy led the Lady Ads in scoring with 17. Senior

See LADY ADS on Page 2B



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# Track & Field Ads get cool start to season, hosting Jamboree



FHS track & field photos courtesy of Cassidy Garcia/Cassidy Garcia Photography  
Farragut High School Admirals girls and boys track & field athletes got their first taste of TSSAA competition, hosting the area Jamboree on Bill Parker Track/Bill Clabo Field inside Eddie Courtney Stadium Saturday, March 1.

## Lady Ads

From page 1B

guard Jaci Neubert pumped in four three-point jumpers and ended her Farragut career

with 16 points Monday.

Sophomore wing Gabbie VanAcker and sophomore post Trinity Curry each scored 11. Reagan Sheridan added four points, while Anna Corum

ended with three.

Annie Priest, three-year starting point guard, and back-up post Kyra Wray, also saw their FHS careers end Monday night as Class of 2025 seniors.

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## Top of the Turbyville-Watkins morning to yah!

FHS, KCHS grads revive St. Pat's Parade



Photos submitted

**Above:** Knoxville St. Patrick's Day Parade "revivers" Christy Watkins, left, a 1989 Knoxville Catholic graduate, and Chandle Turbyville, a 1994 Farragut High grad. **Right:** A little German Volkswagen flavor to the 2024 Knox St. Patrick's Parade.



a 31-year hiatus," Turbyville said. "Our first parade was 2017."

### 2025 details

The 2025 version, which begins at 1 p.m., Saturday, March 15 (two days before St. Patrick's Day), will be the seventh in this "revived" period, with 2020 (canceled due to COVID) and 2022 (canceled due to late-season snow) the exceptions.

Parade Grand Marshal is yet another West Knox County connection: NFL All-Pro veteran safety Harrison Smith of the Minnesota Vikings is a former star at KCHS (Class of 2009) before his highly successful college career at

Notre Dame.

### Putting on the parade, honors

As for parade management, "We pretty much share the responsibilities as far as reaching out and finding our major sponsors, so the ones that donate the most money toward the parade goes to our charity," said Watkins, with Catholic Charities of East Tennessee the beneficiary.

Estimating up to 10,000 parade-goers annually line either side of Gay Street, "We were voted No. 13 in the nation last year out of 200 cities" for best St. Patrick's Day Parade, "and we had a record-breaking crowd," Watkins said. "Visit

Knoxville came up with about 5,000 to 10,000 (attendees)."

Ironically, "When we first met with the city (of Knoxville officials) in 2016, we basically planned a parade in about four months," Watkins said. "Now, when we plan, it usually takes us almost a year, basically, to put on the parade."

"We start basically in April and May. ... The city has been wonderful to work with. ... Visit Knoxville has been wonderful to work with," she added.

### Motivation to revive

The motivation to bring it back?

"Chandle, myself and Chandle's husband, Josh, were at Clancy's, Chandle and Josh

are co-owners of Clancy's Tavern, downtown," Watkins said. "I believe it was May of 2016, Josh was talking about how we used to have a parade in the '80s, and he was in it, like when he was in first grade."

"So Josh said, 'You know what? We should bring the parade back,'" the KCHS grad added. "And I said, 'Yeah, let's do it. It'll be fun.' That's how it started."

Though Watkins said their task leading up to the 2017 rebirth "was fun," she added, "We were naive and we did not realize how much work needed to go into it. I mean, lots and

See PARADE on Page 4B

## FHS Ed Foundation networking



Tammy Cheek

Toni Scott, Farragut High School Education Foundation president, left, welcomed Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members, such as Peyton Lane of Net3 IT, during the Chamber's networking, hosted by FHSEF in the school's library, 11237 Kingston Pike, Thursday, Feb. 13.



Photo submitted by Bearden High School

## 'La Dispute' at BHS, then in Baltimore

Bearden High School Drama Department will present a special performance of the award-winning production "La Dispute" before representing Tennessee at the Southeastern Theatre Conference Secondary School Theatre Festival in Baltimore. The fundraising performance is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 12, in BHS Auditorium, 8352 Kingston Pike. "Selected as Tennessee's representative, Bearden's production showcases Pierre de Marivaux's classic French comedy, adapted by Timberlake Wertenbaker," a school press released stated. "The play explores love and fidelity through the eyes of four young people raised in isolation who meet for the first time. Katie Alley directs the production, featuring original music composed by Christopher Carter." Cast members are: Daniela Hernandez (Hermiane), Spencer Haymen (Prince), Caroline Alley (Églé), Zane White (Azor), Chloe Ellis (Adine), Eli Solomon (Mesrin), Blaze Gooden (Meslis), Eliana Ghally (Dina), Nora Johnson (Carise), Addison Pratt (stage manager) and Abigail Smith (costume). Musicians are Christopher Carter (cello) and Davis Winthrow (Violin). For Tickets, visit: [beardentheatre.com](http://beardentheatre.com) Proceeds support travel and production.

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• **Project Linus of East Tennessee invites the community to a special Celebration event**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, March 8, in Concord United Methodist Church, 11020 Roane Drive in Farragut.

“Whether you’re a seasoned volunteer or simply curious about Project Linus, this event has something for everyone,” a CUMC press release stated.

“Visitors interested in learning more about Project Linus are encouraged to stop by between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., while

volunteers and participants are welcome for the entire day. A special celebration will take place at approximately 1:30 p.m.,” the release further stated.

Attendees will have the opportunity to explore a variety of activities, including: crocheting around fleece and other creative fleece blanket techniques; scrappy quilt ideas and live quilt demos; using leftover fleece to make hats and scarves; and machine binding quilts and free-motion quilting on a regular sewing machine.

“Participants are encouraged to bring their sewing machines and enjoy a full day of sewing, creativity and camaraderie,” the release stated. “For those looking to relax, there will be a designated area to sit back, visit, crochet, knit and help sew on labels. Lunch will be provided.”

To help with planning, RSVP to Deb Miller at Deb@ProjectLinusEastTN.org. When RSVPing, be sure to include: the number of attendees in your group, whether you plan to stay for most of the day or just

stop by and how many in your group will be bringing a sewing machine.

For questions or further details, contact Miller at Deb@ProjectLinusEastTN.org.

• **Concerts For Our Own is partnering with Yee-Haw Brewing Company to present the Brewnevolence Concert Series**, a three-show lineup blending great music, craft beer and community giving. Held at the Yee-Haw Knoxville Stage, 745 N. Broadway in Knoxville, this exciting series kicks off at 7:30 p.m., Monday,

April 7, with The Ultimate Garth Brooks Tribute featuring Shawn Gerhard, “promising an unforgettable night of high-energy entertainment for a great cause,” a Yee-Haw press release stated

“By partnering with Concerts For Our Own, we’re not just hosting concerts — we’re creating opportunities to give back and strengthen the city we love,” Brooke Miller of Yee-Haw Brewing Company said “Live music and great beer

See PLANNER on Page 7B

## Parade

From page 3B

lots of work, lots and lots of help.”

### History

The original Knox St. Patrick’s Parade, in the modern sense, began in 1981 and continued through 1986.

“This was a rich area of Irish settlers in the early 1900s — and they definitely would celebrate — but they weren’t well liked, so it wasn’t a huge celebration, so to speak,” Watkins said about yesteryear St. Patrick’s Day parades in Knoxville.

Started by Knoxville’s McLaughlin family, “They actually brought a genuine St. Patrick’s parade to Knoxville in the ‘80s,” she added.

However, the parade ended due to a death in the family, which “made it too painful to continue planning and having it, because he died a couple of months before the actual parade in ‘86,” Watkins said.

As for their Irish heritage, “My great-grandparents came over from Ireland,” Turbyville said.

As for Watkins, who was Christy Connor before marriage, “We were actually O’Connor at the time, and my grandfather dropped the ‘O’ because, like I said, the Irish weren’t really liked back in the day — but they chose this area because it was very similar, the climate and the mountains and just everything,” to Ireland.

“My mom said that there was a just a huge Irish presence” in this area, she added.

This year’s parade will begin on Gay Street at Main Street and head north, “and it will continue to the Magnolia viaduct,” said Turbyville, a commercial real estate broker. “So it will go all the way down Gay Street and end basically at Magnolia and Fifth Avenue.”

As for the parade’s features, “We anticipate to have 55 units in the parade — and each unit could be one car, a truck or it could be 50 walkers,” Turbyville said. “Each unit is very different. We also have a couple of car clubs, so that unit would maybe make up 10 cars. So if we have dancers, that would be considered one unit, but there could be 30 dancers.”

One entry of note is Knox County Dachshund Rescue. “They said they’ll have about 30 (doxies),” she added. “So sweet, so cute.”

With time remaining to enter the parade as of story deadline, “This could be our biggest participant number this year,” Watkins said.

Major sponsors are Cherokee Distributing, the Clancy family, Mike and Carol; and Connor Foundation.

WATE-TV 6 and its long-time anchor/reporter Lori Tucker is the broadcast media sponsor. “WATE livestreams it for us,” said Watkins, a preschool children’s teacher with St. Mark’s Early Enrichment Program. “Lori Tucker is one of our emcees.”

Knoxville radio personality Kim Ansard and Tucker “will be at our VIP section, and they will be explaining and talking about the floats as they go by and the units as they go



Photo submitted

A bagpipe-dominated Scottish-theme band from the 2024 Knox St. Patrick’s Parade.

by,” Watkins said. “And Marc (Anthony, roaming reporter) will be keeping the excitement going and talking to the crowd. He’s the foot soldier, if you will, with the crowd, and

they’ll be the two in the main area just describing the floats as they go by, like they do with Macy’s Thanksgiving (Day) Parade.”

Watkins and her husband,

Greg Watkins, have three children, two grandchildren “and another grandchild on the way,” she said.

Turbyville and Josh have two sons.

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Town of Farragut's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Shamrock Ball



For the 20th year, Town of Farragut hosted its annual Shamrock Ball in Farragut Community Center, Saturday, March 1, when dads and their little girls dressed up in their finery and shared special moments dancing, making crafts and more.

"It's going well," Town Recreation and Event manager Rachel Malone said Saturday. "We've got a good crowd." In the two sessions offered, Parks and Recreation director Ron Oestreich estimated 150 attended the first session from 3 to 5 p.m., and 200 attended the second session, which took place from 6 to 8 p.m.

During those times, girls and dads danced, designed crowns or made keepsake bracelets, had their photos taken and enjoyed refreshments, the highlight of which was a chocolate fountain.



Seated, from left, Kellie Robinson and Kalei Fisher; standing, Aiden Pence. Julianne Kos and Parks and Rec director Ron Oestreich



Scarlett Keelan, 8, with dad, Trenton Keelan

Photos by  
Tammy Cheek



Scott Carlson and daughter, Elliana, 8



Anniston Bertini, 9, with dad, Scott Bertini



Andrew Hanson and daughter, Stella, 5, dance



Alec Murchie dances with daughter, Marceline, 6



Chris Moon with daughters, Lakelyn, 5, left, and Mary Peyton, 8, making bracelets



Stella Hensley, 7, and dad, Josh Hensley



Mark Kuziw and daughter, Emma, 6



Dustin Collins and daughter, Lorelei, 6



Sisters Vivian Harris, 5, left, and Violet Harris, 8, spot the chocolate fountain



# Energy crisis alert sounded by Sauger, RCF speaker

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheefarragutpress.com

America is heading toward an energy crisis. “We need more power plants. How are we going to do it?” asked John Sauger, retired chief nuclear officer with EnergySolutions, who retired in 2024, speaking to Rotary Club of Farragut members during their meeting in Fox Den Country Club Wednesday, Feb. 26.

“We live in a country, very advanced,” he added. “You walk into any room; you flip the switch; the light comes on.

“For the most part, they work all the time, but energy, power, electricity cannot really be stored. When it’s generated, it’s consumed right away.

However, “there are some stored systems — batteries,” Sauger added.

He noted when electric cars came out in the 1990s, “people thought that was cool.” The premise was people would charge up the cars at night, when the demand was low, and drive during the day, which was “better for the grid.”

However, Sauger added, “It turns out they’re putting so many electric cars on the road, there’s not enough power, but it was a good attempt.”

He said the average U.S. home uses about 2 ½ kilowatts an hour.

“We talk in trillion of watt hours because that’s how big the network is,” he said. “We have 92 remaining nuclear plants in the U.S., and they provide about 20 percent of the power to the country.”

With the Inflation Reduction Act passed during the Biden Administration, Sauger said there was a piece of the bill that saved the nuclear power industry.

“Prior to that bill being passed, nuclear power plants couldn’t compete with gas plants,” he said. “The price of gas, through the ‘90s, and up to 2010, was like a sawtooth: up and down. Around 2010, the price of gas started stabilizing ... the price of gas was so low that nuclear was more expensive than gas.

“Nuclear is a business,” Sauger added. “I was the undertaker for the nuclear business. If the plant could not make money, it got turned over to me, I took it apart and turned it into a park.

“At least eight plants came off line between 2010 and 2020 because they couldn’t make money, and their owners said ‘this is crazy,’” he said.

Even though the United States is the largest nuclear energy generator, Sauger predicted the U.S. is going to run short on energy production.

“We’re going to lose to the Chinese,” he added. “China is about half (in nuclear production), but China is currently building six large nuclear units a year. They’re going to rapidly blow by us.”

Nuclear plants initially were designed to last four years, but Sauger said today’s plants are expected to last 100 years because “they are so overdesigned and overbuilt.”

A nuclear power plant generates 1,000 megawatts and needs about a square mile of land. “A solar farm, to generate that amount of power, needs about 10 square miles of land,” he said.

Sauger pointed out a wind farm can have 200 wind turbines but cannot put any power on the grid unless there is a nuclear plant or a gas turbine next to it.

Coal, wind, hydroelectricity and gas also are sources, and he said all sources will be needed by 2035 to generate enough power.



Sauger



Photo submitted

## Competition soon, but FHS HOSA thinks bigger

Farragut High School’s five-member Health Occupation Students of America team will be competing in a State Leadership Conference in Chattanooga Convention Center Monday, March 31 and Tuesday, April 1. Front row, from left, are freshmen team members Hannah Ibrahim, Niyanthri Barath and Pranshu Patel. Back row, from left, are juniors Faraz Merchant and Albara Al-Qasir. “We’ve been putting up flyers around the school and in our community to help raise awareness about sleep deprivation,” Patel stated in an e-mail. “We want people to know how important it is to get enough sleep and how to improve their sleeping habits. We’ve also created Instagram and TikTok pages where we share information about sleep deprivation, including its effects, healthy sleep habits and statistics. We hope that by raising awareness about this issue, we can help people get the rest they need to be healthy and productive.” Their website: <https://sites.google.com/student.knoxschools.org/fhssleepdeprivationca/all-about-sleep-deprivation>



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**Planner**

From page 4B

bring people together, and when that energy is used for a bigger purpose, the impact is even greater.”

Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door, with a three-show series pass \$75.

Other concert dates are May 8, The Highwaymen Show – American Outlaw Tribute, and Sept. 25 – Exodus – A Tribute to Bob Marley.

• **In roughly three weeks' time, Professional Bull Riders' Pendleton Whisky Velocity Tour will return to Knoxville** for the seventh time in history Saturday, March 15. The upcoming event in Food City Center/Thompson-Boling Arena will mark the 23rd stop of the 30-event regular season for the PBR's expansion series.

Eventgoers will watch riders vie for crucial points in the race to be crowned the 2025 PBR Velocity Tour Champion.

Some of PBR's top talents have ridden supreme at past PBR events held in Lexington.

When PBR's Velocity Tour was last in Knoxville in March 2024, Thiago Salgado delivered a perfect 2-for-2 performance at the event in the Volunteer State. Courtesy of the golden

finish, Salgado collected 136 Velocity Global points in the race for the 2024 Velocity Tour Championship. Salgado logged two additional Top 15 finishes en route to finishing No. 29 in the title race.

Fast forward to present and Salgado currently is No. 38 in the world, chasing his first PBR World Championship this May.

Among the contenders hoping to follow in Salgado's footsteps this season is veteran rider and Virginia's own Carlos Garcia.

A now Virginia resident by way of New York, Garcia has wanted to be a bull rider for as long as he can remember. Self-trained, Garcia taught himself the basics of the sport by watching tapes of the famed Jerome Davis and Justin McBride.

After getting on his first bull at age 11, Garcia made his PBR debut in 2007 and is now a veteran of more than 10 years with the organization.

• **Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee's annual "Pack the Bag" campaign once again has made a significant impact**, raising enough funds from the public to provide more than 136,000 bags of kid-friendly foods to children across the region in

nearly 300 public schools and programs.

Through Food for Kids, more than 15,000 students across the food bank's 18-county service area receive a weekly bag filled with nutritious food to help them through the weekend.

This is completely funded by Second Harvest through support from the community. For more information about this initiative and other hunger-relief programs, visit [www.secondharvestETN.org](http://www.secondharvestETN.org).

• **City of Oak Ridge Internship Program is a paid, seasonal internship** for those looking to complete an internship to gain professional experience in the field they're studying. Applications for the Summer 2025 are due by April 30. Program begins June 16.

Interns can expect to complete between 20 and 30 hours each week. Pay rate will be determined by departmental placement. The weekly schedule for interns is generally between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Intern schedules can be set to accommodate class schedule.

To apply and to find more information, visit [OakRidgeTN.gov/Internships](http://OakRidgeTN.gov/Internships). A fall internship program will begin accepting applications in June.

The schedule for high school

interns will be based on the Oak Ridge Schools Summer Schedule. A detailed schedule will be posted closer to June.

• **Muse Knoxville, 516 N. Beaman St., has unveiled its newest hands-on exhibit**, Weather Wonders, designed to spark curiosity and engage young minds in the science behind weather phenomena, is Saturday, March 6.

This interactive exhibit invites visitors to explore storms, forecasts and more, igniting a passion for weather science in the next generation of young learners.

Weather Wonders ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4:15 p.m. is open to the public to explore this innovative space and engage in demonstrations.

There will be brief remarks from executive director Allison Comer, Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon, plus David Brace and Jennifer Searle from the City of Knoxville, plus exhibit sponsor and Knox County Commissioner Courtney Durrett.

This is followed by a member-only preview night at 4:30 p.m.

The exhibit features new additions, such as Climate Action Heroes, where visitors discover their climate hero identity through fun ques-

tions; the Whirlwind Room, an immersive tornado experience; and the Interactive Habitat Match-Up, where visitors match animals with their ideal weather habitats to learn about weather's impact on ecosystems.

Weather Wonders is made possible by the generous support of the Clayton Foundation and in partnership with the National Children's Museum and the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh.

Come explore and be inspired by the wonders of weather inside a Knoxville venue.

• **Due to inclement weather, Concord United Methodist Church, 11020 Roane Drive in Farragut, rescheduled its visit** from the Rev. Harold Middlebrook in recognition of Black History Month.

Middlebrook will share his first-hand experiences as a pastor and leader during the Civil Rights Movement beginning at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 12.

A former pastor in Atlanta, Memphis and Knoxville, Middlebrook played an active role in civil rights organizations and was a close friend of Civil Rights legend the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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We urge anyone desiring to bid on this project to visit the site for an evaluation of the required work before submitting a bid.

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# BASEBALL PREVIEW

Stories by Alan Sloan, Ken Lay and Bill Howard:  
editor@farragutpress.com

## FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL ADMIRALS

The question of whether it will be “reload or rebuild” with the super-successful Farragut High School baseball program, in 2025, has yet to be answered, of course.

However, program history dating all the way back to the late 1990s is encouraging when trying to rebound from the loss of a strong senior class from the year before.

Coming off a third consecutive Class 4A state championship led by a senior class said to be one of the best, perhaps, in TSSAA history, the Ads are now extremely young.

“I think we’re a team that, as far as the high school level is concerned, doesn’t have a ton of experience,” said new Admirals skipper Garrett Copeland, moving up after being a long-time assistant to former boss Matt Buckner.

However, “It’s guys that have played a lot of baseball,” the coach added. “Honestly, it’s a relatively new lineup; it’ll be a bunch of different faces that people aren’t used to seeing.”

About handling the pressure associated with Farragut baseball success, “I think for us and I think for our team, we have guys that want to be good,” Copeland said. “I don’t know that we feel a lot outside

See FHS BASEBALL on Page 4C



Farragut baseball seniors Jackson Zeller, left, and Cole Draper with new Admirals skipper Garrett Copeland.

### ROSTER

1	Braxton Tye	So	13	Jackson Zeller	Sr	28	TJ Renker	So
2	Benny Miller	Sr	14	Braden Humphrey	Sr	29	Connell Driver	Sr
3	Eli Tittle	Jr	16	Nash Spurgeon	Sr	30	Cole Draper	Sr
4	Sam Bobich	Sr	17	Joey Ray	So	31	Corey Cole	So
6	Braiden Meredith	So	18	Owen Stelzer	Sr	32	Patrick Kovacs	Jr
7	Reid Thomason	Sr	19	Will Dickens	Jr	33	Jake Harris	Jr
8	Aidan Flagg	Jr	20	Brayden Alexander	Sr	34	Brodie Roberts	Sr
9	Zain Kureshi-Smith	Jr	23	Will Dodson	Sr	36	Tobias Peterson	Sr
10	Bradley Wade	Jr	22	Travis Brummitt Jr.	Jr	38	Cole Creasman	Fr
11	Brody Watkins	Jr	24	Landon Searles	Sr	50	Cash Shroeder	So
12	Matthew Johnston	Jr	26	Neyland Williams	Jr			

Alan Sloan

### Farragut

3/3	Knoxville Catholic High School	Home
3/5	Knox West High School *	Home
3/7	Cherokee High School	Home
3/8	McCallie School	Home
3/8	Science Hill High School	Home
3/10	Lebanon High School	Home
3/11	Grace Christian Academy	Away
3/13	Hardin Valley Academy *	Away
3/17	Buchholz (PBC)	Home
3/18	Oakleaf (PBC)	Home
3/19	Mosely (PBC)	Home
3/20	Lincoln (PBC)	Home
3/26	Bearden High School *	Away
3/27	Lincoln Co. High (tourney)	Home
3/28	Vestavia (tourney)	Home
3/28	Mountain Brook (tourney)	Home
3/29	Heuytown (tourney)	Home
3/31	Maryville High School *	Home
4/2	William Blount High School *	Away
4/4	Dobyns-Bennett High School	Home
4/7	Hardin Valley Academy *	Home
4/9	West High School *	Away
4/10	Bowling Green, KY	Home
4/12	McCallie School (doubleheader)	Away
4/14	Bearden High School *	Home
4/15	Maryville High School *	Away
4/16	Toledo Catholic	Home
4/17	Toledo Catholic	Home
4/19	Lipscomb Academy	Away
4/19	Rossvie High School	Away
4/23	William Blount High School *	Home
4/24	Pigeon Forge High (Throwback)	Home
4/25	Baylor School	Away

\* Denotes Division I District 4-4A games

## HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY HAWKS

Confident in his pitching staff, new Hardin Valley Academy baseball head coach Aaron Simmons also emphasizes the Hawks’ “versatility” for 2025.

Adding to that versatility, yet having a solid hold on their main positions, are a handful of HVA seniors who, having tasted major program success as sophomores in 2023, helped Hardin Valley finish as Division I-4A state runner-up.

Those Hawks also defeated state power Farragut three times out of five that season.

### Pitching

About his pitchers, Simmons said, “I think we got some guys that can go out and shut out; some of the best of the best. I think we’re going to be great on the bump.”

While Hardin Valley eventually “will have somebody that’s off, we can put somebody right back in there that’s going to be on, and they won’t be able to hit them,” he said.

### Defense/infield

About being solid defensively, senior second baseman Jaxon Jones said, “Pressure’s always there. I mean, it’s go out there, do your job and try your best not to make errors. I think we have a solid infield this year.

In fact, “We’re shaping up; we’ve got players who can play any position,” the senior



Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/Jeremy Wiggs Photography

### ROSTER

4	Tyler Wright	Sr.	19	Matt Champion	Sr.	10	Cameron Dillon	Jr.	2	Ben Wright	Jr.
1	Isaac Worley	Sr.	12	Caiden Mitchell	Sr.	21	Wyatt Fellers	Jr.	18	Mason Shelton	So.
8	Braden Wyatt	Sr.	15	Neels Schoonbee	Sr.	28	Nathan Emard	Jr.	7	Caleb Van Lant	So.
6	Boone Fields	Sr.	26	Aiden Murphy	Sr.	5	Jack Pate	Jr.	25	Bryson Loveland	So.
23	Colton Denton	Sr.	16	Andrew Lewis	Sr.	20	Tyler Sowards	Jr.		Levi Thomas	So.
13	Jaxon Jones	Sr.	22	Carson Lane	Jr.	14	William Blair	Jr.			
			11	Jax Sparks	Jr.	17	Camden Huckaby	Jr.			

added. “Probably one of our best defenses, and I’ve been in this program in a while, so it’s looking great.”

“The depth of what we have

this year is tremendous,” Simmons said, also pointing out the Hawks’ versatility.

“I mean, day in, day out, each position could change,”

he added. “We have so many players that can play so many different positions at certain times. It’s going to be a wild variety of different places de-

pending on the opponent that day.

“Obviously, we’ve got some

See HAWKS BASEBALL on Page 4C

### Hardin Valley

3/4	Boyd Buchanan	Home
3/7	The Kings Academy	Away
3/8	Webb School	Home
3/10	Grace Christian	Away
3/11	Kingston	Home
3/13	Farragut *	Home
3/14	Knox Central	Away
3/17	Lincoln Christian Gulf Shores (AL)	Away
3/18	Spanish Fort (AL)	Away
3/19	Rattan (OK)	Away
3/19	Baylor School	Away
3/24	William Blount *	Away
3/26	Maryville *	Away
3/27	Central (KCHS Tourney, 3 games)	Away
3/27	Grace Christian Catholic	Away
3/28	Providence	Away
3/31	Jefferson County (Alumni Night)	Home
4/2	Bearden *	Home
	ETBCA Tourney: three games April 3-5	
4/3	Collins (KY)	Home
4/4	Mercer County (KY)	Home
4/5	Red Bank	Home
4/7	Farragut *	Away
4/9	William Blount *	Home
4/10	Oak Ridge	Away
4/14	Maryville *	Home
4/16	West *	Home
4/18	Lenoir City (Senior Night)	Home
4/21	Bearden *	Away
4/23	West *	Away
4/24	McMinn Co.	Home
4/25	Oak Ridge	Home

\* Denotes Division I District 4-4A games

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# BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS



Photo courtesy of Tammy Kreger

## Bearden

3/5	Knoxville Central	.....	Away
3/7	McCallie	.....	Away
3/10	Loudon	.....	Home
3/11	The King's Academy	.....	Home
3/12	Lenoir City	.....	Home
3/13	Elizabethton	.....	Away
3/14	Morristown West	.....	Away
3/15	Murfreesboro Central Magnet	.....	Home
3/15	Hixson	.....	Home
3/19	West	.....	Away
3/20	Science Hill	.....	Home
3/21	Jefferson County	.....	Away
3/24	Maryville	.....	Away
3/26	Farragut	.....	Home
3/27	Lakeway Christian	.....	Home
3/28	Macon County	.....	Home
3/28	Abingdon, VA	.....	Home
3/29	Howland, Ohio	.....	Home
3/31	William Blount	.....	Home
4/2	HVA	.....	Away
4/4	Knoxville Catholic	.....	Away
4/5	Mercer County, KY	.....	Home
4/5	Daniel Boone	.....	Home
4/7	West	.....	Home
4/9	Maryville	.....	Home
4/10	Grace Christian	.....	Away
4/11	CAK	.....	Home
4/12	Morristown West	.....	Home
4/14	Farragut	.....	Away
4/16	William Blount	.....	Away
4/17	Karns	.....	Home
4/19	Grace Christian	.....	Home
4/21	HVA	.....	Home
4/22	Central	.....	Home
4/24	Gibbs (Throwback at FHS)	.....	Away
4/26	Stone Memorial	.....	Away

• Denotes Division I District 4-4A games

It's high school baseball time again. Most of the area's top teams will open their respective 2025 seasons this week.

Bearden High School opened its new campaign Wednesday when it played Knoxville Central at Tommy Schumpert Park.

The Bulldogs entered the 2025 season with some lofty expectations.

Bearden returns several key players from the 2024 squad, which went 21-14 and reached the semifinals of the District 4-4A Tournament.

The 2025 campaign will be Dave Prichard's fourth as the Bulldogs' head coach, and he's no stranger to the rigors of a District 4-4A schedule as the league is home to some of Tennessee's top baseball teams, including three-time defending Class 4A state champion Farragut, region tournament quali-

2	Sammy Greene	Sr
3	Bobby Powell	Jr
4	Logan Benko	Sr
5	Jack Fennell	Jr
6	Evan Cope	Sr
8	Hunter Harris	Jr
9	Cameron Cooper	Sr

fier Maryville, Hardin Valley Academy, William Blount, the Bulldogs and Knoxville West High School.

Pritchard said he knows his team will face some stiff district competition, but that's why he came to Bearden to coach the Bulldogs.

"You know that this district is one of the toughest in the state," he said. "You know Farragut is always going to be good."

"You know Hardin Valley is going to be good and you know

## ROSTER

10	Matt Schroeffel	Jr
11	Connor Sipe	Sr
12	Isaiah Whited	Sr
13	Cole Wilhoite	Jr
14	Cristian Baker	Jr
16	Tyler Parks	Sr
21	Fenn Piper	Jr
22	Charlie Loftin	Jr
23	Grayson Wright	Jr
28	Ian McLeod	Jr
31	Gavin Bergeron	Jr
32	Walter Pankau	Jr
35	Colby Johson	Jr
46	Tyler Cline	Jr

Maryville is going to be good.

"And that's absolutely come here to a place like this. You come here because you know that you're going to play against the best teams."

As for 2025, "This could be the best team that I've had at Bearden," Prichard said. "This is the best pitching staff that I've had here and our defense is going to be solid."

"We've challenged our pitchers to throw strikes," he added. "If we throw strikes and play defense, we should do well. If

we don't throw strikes and we walk a lot of people, we could be in trouble. Our pitching and our defense should be our strengths."

Last season, the Bulldogs fell victim to offensive inconsistency and that's something BHS and Prichard are hoping to avoid in 2025. Bearden played in some close games in 2024, but came up on the losing end as it couldn't get the key hit in some clutch situations.

"I think the whole key to our season is going to be how con-

sistent we can be offensively," Prichard said. "Last year, we were inconsistent offensively. We were just hot and cold. We can't be hot and cold this year."

Bearden has a wealth of returning talent this season.

The Bulldogs' top returners include: Logan Benko (senior, infielder); Evan Cope (senior, pitcher/outfielder); Isaiah Whited (senior, outfielder/pitcher); Cameron Cooper (a senior who will play center

See BHS BASEBALL on Page 4C

# CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE WARRIORS



## CAK

3/3	Cocke Co	.....	Away
3/4	South Doyle	.....	Away
3/7	William Blount	.....	Home
3/8	Alcoa	.....	Away
3/10	Concord Christian	.....	Home
3/11	Concord Christian	.....	Away
3/12	Morristown East	.....	Home
3/13	Lenoir City	.....	Home
3/14	Onieda	.....	Away
3/17	Rockledge	.....	Tournament
3/18	Cottdale	.....	Tournament
3/19	Ridgeview	.....	Tournament
3/20	Rheobeth	.....	Tournament
3/24	Providence (DH)	.....	Away
3/26	Coalfield	.....	Home
3/27	Riverside, WV	.....	Home
3/28	Loudon	.....	Home
3/29	Howland, Ohio	.....	Home
3/31	Grace Christian	.....	Away
4/1	Grace Christian	.....	Home
4/3-5	Etba Tournament	.....	TBA
4/3	Mercer Co, KY	.....	Home
4/4	Eagleville	.....	Home
4/5	MTCS	.....	Home
	Lenoir City	.....	Home
4/7	The Kings Academy	.....	Home
4/8	The Kings Academy	.....	Away
4-10	Frankfort, KY	.....	Home
4/11	Bearden	.....	Away
4/12	Silverdale	.....	Away
4/14	Lakeway Christian	.....	Home
4/15	Lakeway Christian	.....	Away
4/18	Davidson	.....	Away

• Denotes Division II-A East Region District games

Even greatness has dry spells where they don't "go all the way."

Just ask all-time great former NFL head coach Bill Belichick and retired all-time great quarterback Tom Brady. The big two built an NFL dynasty in New England netting six Super Bowl championships — yet they went nine straight seasons without an NFL title.

Now change the scope to Tennessee high school baseball coaching greatness, and Tommy Pharr can relate to so-called dry spells — which in his world still is maintaining excellence, but falling just short of a state title during the past four seasons.

Now well into his 16th campaign leading CAK baseball, Pharr is looking for his fifth Warriors state crown — to go with 2014 and a threepeat from 2017 through 2019 — and 10th overall, having captured five in just 12 years as Admirals skipper at Farragut (1998 through 2009). That doesn't even count four times finishing as state runner-up.

### Pitching strength

Pitching appears to be CAK's biggest asset for 2025.

"We've got a good group, and I think our top-end guys will give us a chance," he said. "Obviously, we've still got a long way to go. Then we got some other guys that we hope will develop as the year moves on and give us a chance. ... I'm hoping that that'll be a strength of our

Tyler Bennett	Sr
Micah Bennett	Jr
Elijah Burress	So
Briggs Allen	Fr
Jackson Biles	Sr
Joey Sulish	Jr
Alex Cox	So
Reid Damron	Fr
Hayden Hayes	Sr
Alex Trimble	Jr
Trece Holbert	So

program."

Pharr listed senior pitchers Tyler Bennett, a Tennessee Tech signee, Parker Jones and Blake Jarrard. "Then we've got a couple of other seniors that will pitch for us: Will Wright and Jackson Biles.

"Then two of our other guys that we're going to be depending on a lot are juniors who are probably going to pitch a lot for us; they are Joey Sulish and Brody Waller," he added. Sulish has committed to Tennessee Tech.

Among that talented group entering the season, "probably our top four guys are Bennett, Soulsh, Jones and Waller," the coach said.

The new starting catcher will be Biles. "He's done a good job defensively for us in all our scrimmages," Pharr said. "He caught some for us last year and played in the field some, so it's not like he's brand new. Sophomore Will Kingery is the backstop back-up.

## ROSTER

Jackson Harden	Fr	Chip Shelton	Sr
Blake Jarrard	Sr	Seaton Moffett	Fr
Brody Waller	Jr	Will Wright	Sr
Will Kingery	So	Beckett Rich	Fr
Henley Hayes	Fr	Jon Yeager	Sr
Parker Jones	Sr	Buck Ross	Fr
Bayden Walsh	So	James Sharpe	Fr
Carter Johnson	Fr	JT Slack	Fr
Tyler McCormick	Sr	Ian Wright	Fr
Ethan Wynkoop	So	Marvin Wyrosdick	Fr
Wyatt Jones	Fr		

When not pitching, Waller returns to be the man starting at first base. "A really good defensive first baseman; he has to be a really good hitter for us to keep on getting better," the coach said.

At second base, "We got a little bit of a battle going on," Pharr said, as freshman Seaton Moffett "is a really good athlete; he's got a chance to be good going forward."

Also in the mix, "We've got a senior, Hayden Hayes. ... We've just been alternating them a lot," the coach added.

Bennett should have the job at third base, as a returning starter, when not pitching. Senior Jon Yeager "will get some time there and get some time (as designated hitter), probably," Pharr said.

Yet another top Warriors pitcher who will play a key infield position is Sulish, starting at shortstop, transitioning from being a starting outfielder in 2024.

"When he pitches, it'll either be Tyler Bennett or Moffet, one of those guys will flip over to there," the coach said.

### Outfield

In center field, "We've got Wyatt Jones, who's a freshman; I think he's got a chance to be really good," Pharr said.

Senior Chip Shelton should be the starting right fielder, while Will Wright is slated to start in left field.

Also in the outfield mix, according to Pharr, are junior Alex Trimble, sophomore Alex Cox, junior Micah Bennett and senior Tyler McCormick.

Overall, "We're still trying to figure things out in a lot of ways," the coach said.

"I feel like we got a chance to have a solid defensive club," Pharr added.

### Another strength

"I think we've got some fairly good athletes, so I think we're hopefully going to be a little more athletic," the coach said.

### Concerns, hitting duo

Though the legendary coach expressed some concern about his offense, he singled out Bennett and Sulish. "Both of those guys are good hitters, good players," Pharr said.

Otherwise, "We lost some guys that were good hitters for us last year, and just replacing them is key," the coach added. "We've got a lot of guys who are not proven."

### Round of 12 in 2024

Last season, "We made it to the round of 12" before being eliminated in the playoffs, Pharr said. "I guess that'd be like the substate round in the public school (Division I).

### Final thoughts

"I just like our guys, they're a lot of fun to be around," the coach said. "They work really hard; they put in a lot of time, effort. We've got quality young men, and that's the biggest thing anyhow."

By Alan Sloan



# WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE SPARTANS



Photo submitted by Webb School of Knoxville

## Webb

3/3	Lakeway Christian Academy	.....Away
3/6	The King's Academy	.....Home
3/7	East Robertson High School	.....Away
3/8	Hardin Valley Academy	.....Away
3/10	Baylor School * (DH)	.....Away
3/11	Baylor School *	.....Home
3/14	Concord Christian School	.....Home
3/26	McEwen High School	.....Home
3/27	William Blount High School	.....Away
3/29	Concord Christian School *	.....Away
3/31	Chattanooga Christian (DH) *	.....Home
4/1	Chattanooga Christian *	.....Away
4/5	Friendship Christian School	.....Home
4/10	Lakeway Christian Academy	.....Home
4/11	Maryville High School	.....Away
4/14	Knoxville Cholic High School *	.....Home
4/15	Knoxville Cholic High School *	.....Away
4/16	Knoxville Cholic High School *	.....Home
4/19	Sweetwater High School	.....Away
4/21	McCallie School * (DH)	.....Away
4/22	McCallie School *	.....Home
4/24	Union Co. High School	.....Home

\* Denotes Division II-AA East Region District games

As the 2025 high school baseball season looms, Webb School of Knoxville is hoping to rebound from a disappointing campaign last year.

But head coach Jordan Wormsley, who opens his 14th season with the Spartans, knows things will be anything but easy as his team contends with life in one of the state's toughest regions.

Webb is in the East Region of Division II-AA, which features the likes of Baylor, McCallie, Chattanooga Christian School and Knoxville Catholic.

Despite facing the rigors of a 2025 campaign, Wormsley said he is looking forward to the upcoming campaign.

"We have a lot to figure out, but we're going to go out there and give it a go," Wormsley said. "I love coaching these guys."

"We have a lot to determine but we also have a lot of potential and we have the potential to surprise some people," he added. "I don't think we're the team that people are going to look at us as a team that they're really going to look to surprise some people."

Thought the Spartans went 8-17 last season, they have a bevy of experienced returners back.

Top returners include: Ash-

er Harness (a senior who will play both corner infield positions and pitch. He was All-Region Honorable Mention last year.); Colten Collier (a junior outfielder and pitcher who can play both right field and center field); Wilson Luton (a junior pitcher and middle infielder who will look to be a contributor in the heart of the Spartans' lineup); and Hunter Rayson (a junior left-handed pitcher who threw a large number of innings in 2024).

Wormsley said he's expecting Rayson to fill multiple roles on the mound for Webb.

"Hunter's a left-handed pitcher who pitched a large number of innings last year," Wormsley said. "He pitched a ton of innings in relief last season. He'll be a key guy out of the bullpen and he could be part of our (starting) rotation."

The Spartans have a number of newcomers looking to make an impact in 2025 as well as other players who have been in the program who are looking to play an expanded role and make significant contributions in 2025.

"We have some newcomers who have potential to make a big impact for us early," Wormsley said.

Those players include: Ethan Walls (junior, pitcher/infield-

## ROSTER

1	Wilson Luton	Jr	15	Brayden Rivers	So
2	Hunter Rayson	Jr	16	Blake Shelor	Jr
3	Grayson Gregory	Jr	17	Asher Harness	Sr
4	Parks Lederer	Fr	18	Andrew Pruett	So
5	Colten Collier	Jr	19	Hudson Woods	So
6	Ben Lupo	Fr	20	Emmett Melton	Sr
7	Hamilton Martin	Jr	21	Cooper Lyvers	8th
8	Ethan Walls	Jr	22	Cullen Heck	Fr
9	Jackson White	Sr	23	Brady Morgan	Jr
10	Liam Justice	Jr	26	Quinn Saunders	Fr
11	Beckett Rivers	Fr	27	Evan Rivera	8th
13	Jackson Dye	Fr	29	Mcafee Sprouse	8th
14	Turner Stevens	So	30	Tyler Morgan	Fr

er); Grayson Gregory (junior catcher/outfielder/infielder); Liam Justice (junior catcher/infielder); Brady Morgan (a junior utility player who will swing a key left-handed bat for Webb); Braden Rivers (a sophomore outfielder who transferred from Kingston and will be eligible in April); Beckett Rivers (a freshman outfielder who's Braden's brother); Hamilton Martin (a junior outfielder, who has been in the program but will play a bigger role this season); Parks Lederer (freshman, first baseman, outfielder/designated hitter); Blake Shelor (junior, pitcher); Jackson White (senior, infielder) and Emmett Melton (senior, first baseman).

The team's key strength, according to Wormsley, is a solid work ethic.

"This is a group that's coming together and they have a good work ethic, and that's a key for us," he said. "They've played together in the summer and they've been together a long time and they're familiar with the game."

Collier agreed. "We have some younger guys and we're still figuring things out," he said. "But we have a good baseball IQ and we've played a lot in the summer together."

"Being familiar with the game helps our younger guys know how they're going to have to step up," the junior added. "We're going to have to be a

scrappy team and we're going to have to go out there and do what we have to do to win and get it done."

Team chemistry has increased for the Spartans, according to Harness.

"I feel like we have more chemistry this season, and that's not really something that we've had in the past," Harness said. "I look forward to developing relationships and being a better leader for our younger guys. I want to be a role model for our freshmen, our sophomores and our juniors."

The Spartans opened the season at Lakeway Christian School Monday, March 3.

By Ken Lay

# KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IRISH

Two years ago, Knoxville Catholic High School's baseball team won a state championship. Last year, the Irish fell one game short of returning to the state tournament.

Entering his 10th season as the Irish skipper, Caleb Moore is confident heading into this year's campaign. Last year's graduation losses, however, will present challenges.

"We're looking at a lot of new faces, maybe guys who haven't had the opportunity to play much previously," Moore said. "We lost key positions, but I think these guys are coming along pretty well."

Senior Hutson Oakes returns as a starter at first base. "He's a good stick. Can drive the gap; really came on strong last year at the end," the coach said.

Senior Nick Turner will likely play second base, but the position also will be by committee. "I'm looking for Nick to have a strong season for us," Moore said. "But middle infield is likely to be a rotating thing," Sophomore DJ Lowery played various positions last year, but finished the season at shortstop, where he'll start this year. "Athletic," the coach said. "Gonna be a huge piece of the puzzle."

Moore's third baseman, senior Alex Ditmore, returns to the position. "Good bat," he said. "Very consistent, good pitch selection, line-drive style hitter. He has the highest returning average."

"I would say one of my biggest goals is hitting over .350," Ditmore said. "Last year, I was around .330, so just getting over .350 would be a big goal for me."

Senior Jameson Hussey likely will start behind the plate for Moore, where he had some starts last year. "Catcher is a position where we want them to take a leadership role. Jameson's working hard at that and



Alan Sloan

Knoxville Catholic baseball seniors Alex Ditmore, left, and Cooper Williamson with Irish head coach Caleb Moore

## Catholic

3/3	Farragut High School	.....Away
3/7	Powell High School	.....Home
3/8	Grace Christian Academy	.....Home
3/10	Chattanooga Christian *	.....Home
3/13	Concord Christian School	.....Home
3/24	McCallie School *	.....Away
3/25	McCallie School * (DH)	.....Home
3/29	Providence Academy	.....Home
4/4	Bearden High School	.....Home
4/7	Baylor School * (DH)	.....Home
4/8	Baylor School *	.....Away
4/11	West High School	.....Home
4/12	Concord Christian School	.....Away
4/14	Webb School of Knoxville *	.....Away
4/15	Webb School of Knoxville *	.....Home
4/16	Webb School of Knoxville *	.....Away
4/21	Lakeway Christian Academy	.....Home

\* Denotes Division II-AA East Region District games

## ROSTER

0	Eli Dryjanski	Fr	12	Cooper Ackermann	Jr
1	DJ Lowery	So	13	Jamie Bentley	Jr
2	JB Moore	So	14	Hutson Oakes	Sr
3	Cole Scraggs	So	15	Logan Tompkins	So
4	Alex Ditmore	Sr	16	Davis Pitman	Fr
5	Nick Turner	Sr	17	Charlie Chady	Jr
6	Caiden Layman	Fr	19	Alex Ferguson	So
7	Cooper Williamson	Sr	20	Manny Maurer	Sr
8	Declan Brickner	So	21	Edward Brabham	Fr
9	Jameson Hussey	Sr	23	Emilio Maurer	Fr
10	Luke Brown	Fr	24	Kemp Avans	Jr
11	Tyler Slatas	Sr	25	Harrison Vieira	Sr

Among the team strengths according to Williamson, "we just have a great bond," he said. "We're always getting food after practice, and we're just a really tight-knit team."

Any number of players will man right field for Moore this year, the coach said. Junior Kemp Avans, senior Nate O'Donnell and sophomores JB Moore and Cole Scraggs all could see time at the position.

"They're all talented," Moore said. "Just trying to figure out what's best."

Players in prep baseball commonly pitch as well as play in

the field. Williamson likely will lead the pitching staff when he's not in center. He went 6-2 in 2024, had 68 strikeouts and an ERA around 3.2.

"He knows how to pitch, has a good feel for some offspeed pitches," Moore said.

Senior lefty Manny Maurer is another likely starter. "He's thrown extremely well so far this year," the coach said. "He has experience ... looking for him to take the next step."

Oates, another lefthander, and righthander Turner fill out the starting rotation.

"Turner has thrown the ball

phenomenally in the fall and this spring," Moore said. "He's got some good stuff ... looking for big innings from him."

Moore has senior righthander Ty Slatas and junior righty Lex Lucier to come out of the bullpen. "It's an uphill battle, but our kids embrace that," Moore said. "They wanna prove to everyone they belong."

"We might take some lumps, but it's gonna be exciting to watch. I think this group has a good mentality ... we might shock some people," he added.

By Bill Howard



**FHS baseball**

From page 1C

pressure. I think we have more internal pressure.

"I'll be honest, that group that graduated last year, they were a phenomenal group," he added, but quickly pointed to how the FHS program reloaded after a 42-3 state championship season in 2019 upon losing outstanding talent from the Class of 2020.

The new Admirals skipper said that following four straight Farragut state championships (2008-2011), "They did a good job continuing the legacy after that, and I think this class is trying to do the same.

"Our guys have really worked hard. I think I have no complaints," Copeland added. "These are guys that push themselves. These are guys that hold themselves accountable and want the best for themselves.

"But we'll see what the outcomes are once we start playing."

**Pitching ace**

The biggest name returning is senior starting pitcher Cole Draper, winning pitcher in each of Farragut's state championship games against rival Hardin Valley in 2023 — shut-out performance as a sophomore — while allowing just one run as a junior starter, helping lead his Ads to a 3-1 state title win versus Nolensville last season.

"Cole is a good senior leader ... will be at the top of the rotation," Copeland said. "... I think Cole can be as good as he wants to be. I don't think there will be a downturn from anything that he's done so far. I expect an uptick and I expect similar results to what we're used to seeing."

However, "There's always something to improve on," the senior said during Media Day Wednesday, Feb. 26, in Dick's

Sporting Goods, West Town Mall. "But I think just at a personal level, I'm just trying to get ahead of hitters and attack them early on. ... I'm just trying to dominate and help lead a team to another state championship."

**Other pitchers**

Overall among his starting pitchers, "I think it's a good mix," the coach said. "We've got a couple of young guys that I expect to do pretty well, sophomores. We've got some good relievers that will come in.

"You've got Connell Driver (senior) behind (Draper)," Copeland added. "We've got a couple of sophomores that I think have some promise in Braiden Meredith and Corey Cole."

In the bullpen, "... We've got a little bit of experience on the back end — maybe not much — but I think we're pretty good on the back end as well," Copeland said.

"Again, they're young play-

ers," the coach added. "I think they've got some potential, but we'll see if we can turn it into some predicted results.

**Team defense**

"Defense is something that I think that you can always expect," Copeland said. "I think my expectation of defense is something where you show up every single day. In the high school game, offensive production can come and go, but I think pitching and defense is something that you can hang your hat on, and I don't expect that to be any different this year."

**Position-by-position**

In the outfield, junior Zain Kureshi-Smith should be the center fielder, with junior Aiden Flag the right fielder.

Battling in left field are juniors Neyland Williams and Eli Tittle. "It'll probably be a little bit of a platoon, but all that's subject to change," Copeland said. "We'll see how it goes. Like I said, it's all new

faces and see what happens once we start rolling."

As for the Ads' infield. "I think we'll be fine; but I think, again, there's a little bit of inexperience there," he said.

"Probably fairly young on the left side. Possibly a freshman starter on the left side at third (Cole Creasman) and a sophomore at shortstop (Braxton Tye)," Copeland added.

"I think we've got a good second baseman (senior Owen Stelzer). He does a good job, and I think he'll be a good leader on the infield and hold those guys together.

"Then first base will be a platoon, as well, between Jackson Zeller (junior), Jake Harris (senior), Nash Spurgeon and maybe another person or two in there."

Catching duties will be split between Zeller and Harris, "both highly capable and qualified catchers," Copeland said.

By Alan Sloan

**Hawks baseball**

From page 1C

players that held strong on their positions, and we've got Jaxon Jones here at second base.

Senior standout Colton Denton returns and will catch in 2025. "Colton here is going to be a leader," Simmons said.

Sophomore Mason Shelton, or possibly either Denton or junior Jax Sparks, will man first base.

"Shortstop is going to be led by Cameron Dillon," Simmons said. "There's another one, Caleb Van Lant (sophomore), who can play as well. Boone Fields (senior) is another one that can play at any given moment. It's all who's playing right at the right time, depending on the day.

"We've got three or four guys that can play that position depending on the day ... they all can play up the middle," the new boss added. "Again, a wide variety who can play wherever at different times of

the day.

At third base, "You've got Jax Sparks, Caleb Van Lant, Colton Denton can all play the position," Simmons said. "Jaxon Jones could play it if he had to.

"It's just one of those times where we can play anywhere at any given moment," he added.

**Outfield**

In the outfield, "Each day could be different out there, too," the coach said. "You've got a couple of positions pretty much set, but at the same time we're finishing out our pre-season, trying to determine what we want and how we want to do it. Again, going into it on a day-to-day basis where we want to be.

"We've got a senior, Isaac Worley, who started last year."

Other outfield Hawks looking to secure a starting spot include seniors Neels Schoonbee and Andrew Lewis and junior Tyler Sowards.

"You've got a wild variety of people that can play the position," the new Hawks head

coach said.

**Biggest concern, goal**

The biggest concern? "Mental aspect, keeping their heads on right in certain positions at certain times of the game," Simmons said. "Just playing 100 per, that's all I can ask out of them."

By Alan Sloan

“Pressure’s always there. I mean, it’s go out there, do your job, try and your best not to make errors. I think we have a solid infield this year,”

— Aaron Simmons  
new HVA head coach



Alan Sloan

Hardin Valley Academy baseball seniors Colton Denton, left, and Jaxon Jones, right, with new head coach Aaron Simmons.

**BHS baseball**

From page 2C

field, pitch and occupy the leadoff spot in the batting order); Sammy Greene (senior, infielder); Jack Fennell (junior, catcher/pitcher); Matt Schroeffel (a junior who will be in the starting rotation and play at both corner infield positions); Connor Sipe (senior, pitcher/infielder); Grayson Wright (junior, infielder/pitcher) and Tyler Cline (a junior outfielder and pitcher who will also split time behind the plate with Fennell).

"We have some good arms and Cameron is our leadoff hitter and he'll be our spark plug," Prichard said. "Logan will be one of our top hitters and Matt was our best hitter last year."

Schroeffel "will primarily play first base," the coach added. "He can play third, but we're moving him to first to save his arm a little bit."

Benko said he's eager to take an expanded leadership role.

"I'm looking forward to competing with these guys in this district ev-

ery day," he said. "We have good team chemistry. I'm looking forward to being a leader and a role model for the younger guys.

"I know what it's like to be a freshman in this league," he added.

In addition to having a strong pitching staff and solid defense, Prichard said the Bulldogs feature good team chemistry.

"I really like the chemistry on this team," he said. "We really don't have any stars; we're just solid in our lineup, one through nine."

Elsewhere, the district has four new head coaches this season as Garrett Copeland takes the reins at Farragut. Rob Stacy takes over at West after a successful tenure at Clinton. Jason Lambert replaces Adam Sullivan at Maryville and Aaron Simmons is now head coach of the Hawks.

Expectations, however, remain high at every school in the league and Stacy looks to reverse the recent fortunes along Sutherland Avenue.

By Ken Lay



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farragutpress presents Spring Sports

## SOFTBALL PREVIEW

Stories by Alan Sloan, editor@farragutpress.com, and Ken Lay

## FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL ADMIRALS



Photo courtesy of Mark Mustard

## Farragut

3/4	Maryville High School *	Home
3/6	West High School *	Away
3/7-3/8	Megan McCray Tournament	Away
3/11	Hardin Valley Academy *	Home
3/12	Powell High School	Home
3/13	Bearden High School *	Home
3/21-3/22	Wildcat Classic	Away
3/25	West High School *	Home
3/27	Hardin Valley Academy *	Away
3/28	Heritage High School	Away
3/28	Gibbs High School (N)	Away
3/31	Crescent High School (SC)	Home
4/1	Bearden High School *	Away
4/3	William Blount High School *	Away
4/4	Knoxville Central High School	Home
4/8	Maryville High School *	Away
4/9	Alcoa High School	Home
4/10	William Blount High School *	Home
4/14	Christian Academy of Knoxville	Away
4/16	Karns High School	Home
4/17	Grace Christian Academy	Away
4/21	Alcoa High School	Away
4/22	Heritage High School	Home
4/24-4/26	Region II Challenge	Home
4/28	Gibbs High School	Away

\*Denotes Division I District 4-4A game

It raises eyebrows when Farragut High School softball doesn't reach the Division I Class 4A State Tournament.

Earning back-to-back state crowns in 2021 and 2022, then making a strong state run in 2023 before falling, Nick Green's 2024 Lady Admirals failed to reach Murfreesboro in late May.

While known for reloading, not rebuilding his team each season, "We don't have a lot of starters back," Green said about his 2025 team. "We graduated six starters from last year's roster. ... So, I have six upperclassmen and 17 underclassmen — we've got 10 sophomores and seven freshmen."

25	Ava Barnes	Sr.
23	Amelia Dorset	Sr.
35	Audrey Ginel	Sr.
22	Elsa Morrison	Sr.
14	Bridget Kovacs	Jr.
3	Alexa Shrader	Jr.
5	Taylor Albright	So.
44	Effy Armstrong	So.

Senior Ava Barnes returns as an experienced starting pitcher. But she's so much more.

"She ended up winning MVP in the district tournament last year because she was hitting the ball so well," the coach said.

## ROSTER

20	Hudson Bradford	So.
7	Callie Brown	So.
18	Dajah Means	So.
24	Hallie Grace Johnson	So.
10	Rylee Raby	So.
32	Eleena Ralston	So.
30	Alyssa Rohn	So.
27	Taylor Woody	So.

"So we'll be counting on her in the middle of the lineup to help drive in some runs right there," Green added.

"Pitching-wise, she was 4-2 last year with 12 appearances. Hopefully, the numbers of her innings will go up — she only had about 35 innings last year."

8	Taylor Wolfram	Fr.
4	Logan Jameson	Fr.
28	Jade Buckner	Fr.
2	Wesley Green	Fr.
12	Camryn Shrader	Fr.
9	Anna McLean	Fr.
21	Sydney Branson	Fr.

Staff ace, however, "is probably going to be Hallie Grace Johnson, a sophomore," the coach said. "She threw about 60 innings for us last year, had a record of 8-3. We'll look for her to step into probably the lead role. Barnes will be supporting that role."

Also returning on the mound is sophomore Hudson Bradford. "Didn't see very much varsity time last year, so we'll see how she develops," Green said. "I do have a freshman, Taylor Wolfram, and we'll see how fast she can develop — and hopefully, maybe, she can take on some of the varsity innings this year. We'll see."

## Other positions

Then freshman catcher

See FHS SOFTBALL on Page 6C

## HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY HAWKS



## Hardin Valley

3/3	West *	Away
3/4	Bearden High School *	Home
3/6	William Blount High School *	Away
3/7	Oak Ridge High School	Away
3/10	Karns High School	Away
3/11	Farragut High School *	Away
3/12	Knox Catholic	Away
3/13	Maryville High School *	Away
3/20	Pigeon Forge High School	Away
3/21-3/22	Anderson Co Tourney	Away
3/24	Webb School of Knoxville	Away
3/25	William Blount High School *	Home
3/26	Heritage High School	Away
3/27	Farragut High School *	Home
3/31	Lenoir City High School	Away
4/1	Maryville High School *	Home
4/3	Bearden High School *	Away
4/7	Lenoir City High School	Home
4/8	West High School *	Home
4/10	Grace Christian Academy	Home
4/14	Carter High School	Away
4/16	Knoxville Central High School	Home
4/17	Oak Ridge High School	Home
4/22	Powell High School	Away
4/24-4/25	BSN Tournament	Home
4/28	Heritage High School	Home

\*Denotes Division I District 4-4A game

Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/  
Jeremy Wiggs Photography

Being fortified by experienced and talented pitchers is always nice.

Chris Snyder, new Hardin Valley Academy softball head coach who served as the program's assistant coach the previous two seasons, will enjoy that advantage in the circle.

"I've got two returning starters in the circle this year," Snyder said of junior Kayla Sosebee and sophomore Elsie Hatcher. "I'm excited about what we have in the circle."

However, "We got hit with injuries," the coach said. "We lost one of our top incoming freshmen (Avery Gran) to a knee injury."

"I'm excited about what's to come with Avery whenever she gets healthy," he added. "If she was healthy this year, that would be a different story. We would have three strong pitchers coming to the circle."

"All three of those I would probably put in the spectrum of just power pitchers. They've got some good speed on them. Even my freshman coming up ... I'd say she's probably about

mid-60s (mph)."

Hatcher, in particular, "has control," Snyder said. "... She's hitting her spots, and she's a mature pitcher."

As a bottom line, "I'm hoping that with the strength that we have with our pitching, that we can start competing this year at district play," Snyder said, adding District 4-4A "is probably one of the toughest districts in East Tennessee — it's just insane."

## Other positions

Around the infield on defense, senior Alex Souders returns as catcher.

"She's obviously been with the program for many years," the coach said. "She would probably be the No. 1 catcher. She's the one that committed to Belmont-Abbey (University)."

"First base would probably be Madison Mann; she's also a returning starter," Snyder added about this senior. "She's been around here for a long time and has played often, between third (base) and first. I think last year she played

00	Elsie Hatcher
1	Corley Vaughn
2	Zoie Driver
3	Kayla Sosebee
4	Nathalia Rodriguez
6	Madison Mann
8	Natalie Nettles
11	Bella Garcia

some third, but this year we're going to try to transition her to first base more."

However, "she would also be sharing time with Kayla" when Sosebee isn't pitching.

Meanwhile, "second base is up in the air; I don't know 100 percent, but what I've got right now, when she's not pitching, would be Elsie Hatcher," Snyder said, adding she brings "just pure athleticism."

"The other one that would play behind her would probably be Kate Smith, a senior. She played some varsity in spots last year."

Shortstop is returning starter Addison Chandler, a senior,

## ROSTER

12	Kate Smith
13	Emma Diggs
14	Lilli Cagley
15	Avery Snyder
16	Kami Taylor
17	Bella Ford
19	Jenna Hagee
20	Addison Chandler

having shared shortstop duties last season with Ayla Perry, another 2025 senior, while Chandler moved to third base.

But Perry is expected to miss the entire season due to an ACL injury, "So Addison will probably be controlling shortstop the entire season now."

Snyder said Chandler brings "just solid athleticism" who "can play anywhere."

At third base for 2025 is senior Nathalia Rodriguez.

"With Ayla going down with her injury, that's probably going to put Nathalia into the lineup," the coach said.

In left field, junior Ashlynn Storms is a strong candidate

according to Snyder.

"The other candidate I have for left field would be Josie Smith, who is a sophomore."

Sophomore Avery Snyder returns in centerfield. "She's got speed, can cover a lot of ground in center field — that's what I was looking at," the coach said. "Last year, she played off and on between left field, center field and second (base)."

The right fielder is expected to be senior Emma Kate Schneider. "She committed to Pellissippi State last year," Snyder said. "Honestly, of all the girls on my team,

See LADY HAWKS on Page 10C



# BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS



Photo courtesy of Tammy Kreger

## Bearden

3/4	Hardin Valley Academy *	.....Away
3/6	Maryville High School *	.....Away
3/7	Seymour High School	.....Away
3/10	Knoxville Halls High School	.....Away
3/11	West High School *	.....Away
3/13	Farragut High School *	.....Away
3/20-3/22	Cal Ripken Tournament	.....Away
3/25	Maryville High School *	.....Home
3/27	West High School *	.....Home
3/28	Seymour High School	.....Home
3/31	William Blount High School *	.....Away
4/1	Farragut High School *	.....Home
4/3	Hardin Valley Academy *	.....Home
4/7	Christian Academy of Knoxville	.....Away
4/8	William Blount High School *	.....Home
4/9	Heritage High School	.....Home
4/10	Christian Academy of Knoxville	.....Home
4/14	Knoxville Halls High School	.....Home
4/21	Carter High School	.....Home
4/22	Jefferson Co. High School	.....Away
4/23	Heritage High School	.....Away
4/24	Jefferson Co. High School	.....Home

\*Denotes Division I District 4-4A game

Every new prep sports season brings a certain degree of turnover. Seniors graduate and must be replaced by others whom the coach hopes will “take that next step.”

According to Kenneth Boles, head coach of Bearden High School’s softball team, the 2025 Lady Bulldogs will have their share — and then some — of work to replace lost talent.

“We lost a bunch of talent from last year,” Boles said. “We’re revamping the whole situation ... rebuild and reload. We’ve got some good seniors, but trying to rebuild.”

### Position-by-position

Sophomore Jenna Gonzalez was a designated hitter last year, but will play first base this year. “A lot of great upside,” the coach said. “Learn-

2	Kendall Hubbs	Sr.
83	Kendyl May	Sr.
13	Elizabeth Newman	Sr.
99	Jaycie Overton	Sr.
77	Abby Thompson	Sr.
25	Bailey Hauge	Jr.
11	Makhia Nickerson	Jr.
39	Catherine Smith	Jr.
21	Aleksandra Walker	Jr.

ing the position and doing the work. It won’t take her long.”

The right side of the infield stays young as freshman Raya Inge, who came to Bearden this year from California, will play second. “Spark plug for us,” Boles said. “Played travel ball; gonna roll with that.”

Boles will have returning experience on the infield’s left

## ROSTER

27	Kaylynn Wood	Jr.
14	Megan Lawson	Jr.
5	Audrey Gayle	Jr.
95	Jenna Gonzales	So.
20	Ly’Ryah Ivy	So.
10	Kylie Dutton	So.
8	Addison Ruzecki	So.
3	KaeBree Aiello	So.
7	Ada Daniels	Fr.

side: junior Megan Lawson at shortstop and senior Jaycie Overton at third. “Great footwork, really covers a lot of ground in the middle,” the coach said of Lawson. “Girls follow her; she and Inge turning two in the middle will be key.”

About Overton, Boles said, “great bat, quiet leader; doesn’t

say a lot, but when she speaks she says a lot.”

Boles should feel confident about his catcher, Kendall Hubbs. The senior will return to play the position for the third year. “She’s a vocal lead and probably team captain,” the coach said. “Cornerstone back there.”

Boles will have both matu-

rity and experience in his outfield this season.

Returning senior left fielder Kendyl May’s bat, according to Boles, has “really come around this spring. She’s getting where she needs to be.”

In center field, returning senior Abby Thompson “covers (ground) like nobody,” the coach said. “Really quick, takes control of the outfield ... played since she was a

See LADY BULLDOGS, Page 8C

# CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE WARRIORS



## CAK

3/3	Campbell Co. High School	.....Away
3/4	Webb School of Knoxville	.....Away
3/7	William Blount High School	.....Away
3/8	The King’s Academy *	.....Home
3/10	Concord Christian School *	.....Away
3/11	Webb School of Knoxville	.....Home
3/13	The King’s Academy *	.....Away
3/24	I.A.M Ravens	.....Home
3/25	Providence Christian School	.....Home
3/26	Clinton	.....Away
3/28	Lakeway Christian Academy *	.....Away
3/31	Campbell Co. High School	.....Home
4/3	Midway High School	.....Away
4/4	Grace Christian Academy	.....Away
4/7	Bearden High School	.....Home
4/8	Midway High School	.....Home
4/9	Concord Christian School *	.....Home
4/10	Bearden High School	.....Away
4/11/12	Gibbs Tournament	.....Away
4/17	Lakeway Christian Academy *	.....Home
4/24	Grace Christian Academy	.....Home

\*Denotes Division II-A East Region District game

Photo courtesy of Bobby Lewis/Pro Photo

It’s a solid nucleus of returning talent for Christian Academy of Knoxville softball and head coach Charles Matthews.

Seven starters return, with the roster including five seniors who helped the Lady Warriors finish with a 16-14 record and No. 3 finish in its Division II-A East Region district in 2024.

### Position-by-position

All-District senior catcher Caroline Rogers, who also played some third base in 2024, is expected to be a full-time catcher this season.

“She has a real strong arm and hits for a high average,” Matthews said.

M.G. Matthews, the coach’s daughter, is a three-time All-District and All-Region player who returns to play first base as a senior. “A power hitter; and she’s committed to go to Asbury (College, Kentucky) to play softball,” her coach and father said.

“Second base will probably be a battle of eighth-graders to be truthful,” Matthews said. “We’ve got two really young, talented kids. One of them is

27	M.G. Matthews	Sr.
10	Halley Bedwell	Sr.
9	Gracie Kringen	Sr.
18	Kate Myers	Sr.
23	Emili Bogoski	Fr.
14	Caroline Rogers	Sr.

Shayler Becker, and then the other one is Emily Mount.”

At shortstop, Emili Bogoski, another All-district/All-Region player, returns despite being only a freshman. “As an

## ROSTER

11	Claire Marshall	So.
3	Sophie Carroll	Jr.
21	Ella Borbeck	Fr.
26	Shayler Becker	8th
28	Emily Mount	8th
2	Amelia Williams	8th

one of my pitchers.”

When Bogoski is pitching, “it’ll either be (junior) Sophie Carroll, my third baseman, or

See LADY WARRIORS on Page 10C

## FHS Softball

From page 5C

Rylee Raby shared time behind the plate early in 2024 with then junior star catcher Elsa Morrison, a Tennessee Lady Vols signee. However, Raby took over the job a couple of weeks into the season when Green, looking to strengthen his infield defense, moved Morrison to shortstop.

“In terms of catchers, that is a pretty good strength for us right there,” Green said. “Elsa’s probably projected to be the starting shortstop again this year. We’ll see if we can get her some innings behind the plate, but I think defensively we’re going to need her at shortstop to be able to lock down that position because we graduated all our infielders.”

Another catcher is sophomore Callie Brown.

“And then I’ve got a really promising freshman, Jade

Buckner — not related to (coach) Matt Buckner,” the coach said. “A really good, promising catcher, infielder, a good-size kid whose strong.”

As for Morrison, who as a sophomore in 2023 came one home run short of tying the state single-season record, “she’s a pretty special kid,” Green said. “I mean, she’s arguably one of the best softball players to come out of Knoxville, maybe the state of Tennessee, in several years.”

Returning outfielders Audrey Ginel and Amelia Dorset “are looking to probably project to be the starting corner outfielders this year,” Green said about the seniors.

“They both played in 20 games last year,” he added. “The year before that, Audrey played in 31 games, Amelia played in 32 games. They’re not inexperienced, but they’ve never had to carry the load. Now, instead of being a de-

fensive substitution or an offensive substitution, they’re projected to be the starters out there.

“They’ve both been working really hard. I think they’ve both been pretty focused on having a good senior year and going out strong.”

At first base is junior Bridget Kovacs. “She got some innings in last year, got some games in last year,” Green said. “But I think last year she just had seven at bats. So that’s going to be an unknown for us.”

The coach said Barnes might play some first base, while sophomore Taylor Woody and freshman Wesley Green look to be in the mix.

Third base appears to be set with junior Alexa Shrader. “Lex got some starts last year because Laney (Shrader, her older sister) was in and out of the lineup a little bit” due to injury, Green said.

“We look for her to be hope-

fully even better offensively this year,” he added. “She’s been practicing over there and working over there for the past two years.

At second base, “that one’s going to be up for grabs a little bit,” the coach said. “I really don’t know.

“The two right now would be Effy Armstrong, a sophomore, and Taylor Albright, another sophomore,” he added. “Both of them are pretty solid infielders. They’ve both got a little bit of time last year on and off. But we’ll just have to see.”

Elsewhere, sophomores Eleena Ralston and Dejah Means also should see lots of time — even at the top of the batting lineup,” Green said.

### Biggest strengths

“We’re young, but we’re pretty athletic,” Green said. “I’d say we’re maybe a little bit deeper (than 2024).

“For the most part, all the kids we’ve got can really play,”

he added. “And I think we got a little bit more team speed than we had last year.”

### Style change

However, “The past couple of years we haven’t had to run as much because we’ve been able to hit the ball out of the ballpark a lot more,” Green said. “I don’t know if we’ll have that ability — I don’t know if we’re going to hit 50 home runs this year unless Elsa hits like 20 something to help us out. But I don’t see anybody putting up huge numbers.

“Our home run numbers might be down a little bit this coming year, so we might have to play a little bit more aggressively, maybe run in a little bit more,” he added.

“We’ll see how that goes, what style of play is going to work best for us. But my younger kids, I think, are pretty good.”

By Alan Sloan



# KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IRISH

## ROSTER

Izzy Holleman  
Ryleigh McEnery  
Catie Schaad  
Danielle Kaczmarek  
Caitlin Brooks  
HR O'Reilly  
Anna Iverson  
Jaylen Drazowski

Autumn Shaffer  
Claudia Schaad  
Charlie Blache  
Anna Debusk  
Emily Lemaster  
Ada Ristenburg  
Gracie Eunice  
Hadley Troutt

## Knoxville Catholic High School

3/4	Campbell Co. High School	Home
3/5	Concord Christian School	Away
3/6	South-Doyle High School	Home
3/7	Lakeway Christian Academy	Home
3/10	Lenoir City High School	Home
3/11	Grace Christian Academy	Home
3/12	Hardin Valley Academy	Home
3/13	Webb School of Knoxville *	Home
3/25	GPS*	Home
3/26	Baylor School *	Home
3/28	FBA	Home
3/31	Oak Ridge	Away
4/1	Concord Christian School	Home
4/2	Chattanooga Christian School *	Away
4/3	GPS*	Away
4/4	South-Doyle High School	Away
4/7	Oak Ridge High School	Home
4/8	Notre Dame High School	Away
4/9	Lenoir City High School	Away
4/14	Notre Dame High School	Home
4/16	Baylor School *	Away
4/21	Seymour	Home
4/23	Webb School of Knoxville *	Away
4/24	FBA	Away
4/28	Campbell Co. High School	Away
5/1	Anderson Co. High School	Away
5/6	Chattanooga Christian School *	Away

\*Denotes Division II-AA East Region District game

Youthful enthusiasm, a demand to strive for excellence and good chemistry are three positives for Knoxville Catholic High School softball in 2025.

"This year we have a young team, but they are eager to get out there and compete," second-year KCHS head coach Hannah Seaver Logan said. "This season we put emphasis on the idea of 'excellence' and how we can make it a part of everything we do both on and off the field as student athletes."

"We are not hoping for it, we are expecting it," she added. "With that in mind, we are taking each day, practice and game one day at a time and making the most of each God-given opportunity we have."

"... This group is a special one, and I am excited to see what they do."

### Good chemistry

"It sounds cliché, but even though we've only been together for a year, I feel like this team has been together for much longer because of the bond that these girls share," Logan said. "Despite having a large group of underclassmen, they blend seamlessly into the framework of what the upperclassmen have already established."

"We have leadership in every class," the KCHS head coach added. "This group has a wide

range of talents and personalities and that has made coaching them a lot fun."

### Value of team captains

As for key contributors this season, Logan singled out her team captains: junior pitcher Caitlin Brooks, sophomore left fielder/shortstop Hadley Troutt and sophomore center-fielder Claudia Schaad.

"Caitlin Brooks is in her third year as the starting pitcher here at Catholic," Logan said.

"She has definitely been put through the ringer," she added, "and that adversity has served as motivation for her to continue to improve and compete for her spot as a both a player and a leader."

"She has a strong arm, a strong bat and a strong heart to match."

Troutt "is in her second year here — her freshman season was cut short by a wrist/hand injury — and we are excited to have her back," Logan said. "Hadley's leadership is quiet — she is focused, poised and always gives 120 percent effort."



Seaver-Logan

"Hadley is a strong contributor both in the lineup and on the field; she's one of those players you can really put about anywhere and she will do the job — and do it well," the coach added.

Schaad "is our starting center fielder and the leader of our lineup," the coach said. "She is a very intelligent, very naturally gifted player. She is constantly working to improve her game knowledge and sharpen her skills — she will contribute tremendously for us both on offense and defense."

Overall, "Top to bottom, our line-up has the potential to be solid," Logan said. "We have aggressive speed and power, but I believe our defense will be what wins us ballgames."

### Facility renovations

Logan's Lady Irish will enjoy a home softball facility that has been renovated. "We have been blessed to make a number of improvements to our facil-

ity," she said. "This past summer we completed our turf infield and new fencing project per the generous donation of the Faris family — that is a total game changer for us."

"It completely changes the way we can operate as a team during different times of the year in all types of weather," the coach added. "I can't express how thankful we are for this new addition."

"Recently, we also resurfaced and expanded our warning track with the help of Chris Zurcher and his crew at American Sports Fields. We are in the process of adding a bullpen as well and remodeling our locker room. We also refreshed our backstop with new padding and our fence with a new windscreen."

In a note of gratitude, "We are so thankful for everyone that is investing their time, efforts and talents into helping us restore this field," Logan

said. "It is such a special place and we are committed to making sure it is treated as such."

From Staff Reports

# CONCORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LIONS



## Concord

3/4	Oak Ridge High School	Home
3/5	Knoxville Cholic High School	Home
3/10	Christian Academy of Knoxville *	Home
3/14	Lakeway Christian Academy *	Away
3/21	The King's Academy *	Away
3/24	First Baptist Academy *	Away
3/27	Lakeway Christian Academy *	Home
4/1	Knoxville Cholic High School	Away
4/3	Harriman High School	Home
4/7	Grace Christian Academy *	Away
4/9	Christian Academy of Knoxville *	Away
4/11	Sweetwater High School	Home
4/11	First Baptist Academy	Home
4/15	Grace Christian Academy *	Home
4/17	The King's Academy *	Home
4/22	Oak Ridge High School	Home
4/24	Sweetwater High School	Away

\*Denotes Division II-A East Region District game

While all coaches concern themselves with wins and losses, first-year Concord Christian School softball head coach Sammie Thomas has a focus maybe as big: changing a culture.

The Lady Lions, who play in Division II-A, District 1, East Region, went 3-15 last year. For Thomas, reestablishing enthusiasm and confidence is almost as important as practicing hitting and fielding.

"The most important part is bringing some excitement back to the girls," she said. "Making it a fun game for them. Giving them that drive and excitement to be back in the game."

Thomas has but a single senior on the squad, but some experience returns.

A youthful presence will be

Mckenna Greene, Utility 8th  
Kensley Jennings, SS Jr  
Rayna Scroggins, 3B Jr  
Jianna Carr, OF 8th  
Nell Pattison, OF Jr

at first base for CCS: freshman Hayden Lewis or eighth-grader Anna Chaveriat. "A lot of power, good arm," the coach said of Chaveriat.

At second, junior Caris Baggett returns to the position. "She's done a great job," Thomas said. "Ambidextrous hitter ... quick with the double play."

Freshman Mia Rather, new to the team, "could give Baggett a run for the money,"

Anna Chaveriat, 1B 8th  
Tasi Porter, OF Jr  
Ellie Thompson, Utility Jr  
Chole Nester, OF Jr  
Cortlyn Hedger, C Sr  
Mia Rather, 2B Fr

the coach said.

Junior Kensley Jennings will return to play shortstop for the Lady Lions. "Very quick, very fast runner, great job on defense," Thomas said.

Junior Rayna Scroggins is new to the team, but has some experience. She'll play third.

"She has surprised us," the coach said. "Very reactive and quick, great arm."

Thomas's lone senior, Cortlyn Hedger, will return behind the

plate. She has a big role to play. "A leader," Thomas said of Hedger. "Leaning on her to help with the younger kids. Definitely a team leader. Amazing bat ... expecting really good things."

A pair of juniors will man the leftfield position for Thomas. Chloe Nestor, who's new to the team, is "very quick, fast, decent arm," the coach said. Nell Pattison played right field last year.

Elizabeth "Ekr" Reed, only a freshman, will return to centerfield this year. Thomas will be relying heavily on the youngster.

"Amazing bat, fantastic speed and really good arm; expecting lots of good things out of her this year," the coach said.

Junior Tasi Porter will be a returning starter in right field for Thomas, backed up by a trio of eighth-graders: Jianna Carr, McKenna Greene and Justice Phillips.

Thomas's daughter, junior Ellie Thompson, is a utility player who's hurt, but will contribute when healthy.

Thomas only has two pitch-

See LADY LIONS on Page 10C

# WE ARE CONCORD



concordchristianschool.org

# WE ARE CONCORD



concordchristianschool.org



# WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE SPARTANS

A pair of team strengths have new Webb School of Knoxville softball head coach Kaitlyn Walker excited about her 2025 team.

“The thing about us this year, we’re really fortunate: we’ve got versatility in different areas,” Walker said. “We’ve got a lot of kids that play a lot of different positions, so we’re going to be able to rotate everybody around fairly well.”

In addition, “The great thing about us is we’ve got a lot of really good ballplayers that hit really well, and hitting is going to be our strong suit,” the new coach added.

**Overall concerns**

However, “Our overall concern this year is going to be number of bodies, keeping everybody healthy, because we are a really small roster this year,” Walker said. “So us keeping everybody healthy and injury-free and not sick is going to be of the utmost importance for us.”

**Position-by-position**

“At first base, we’ve got Tara Lynn Hill over there. The kid’s a vacuum,” Walker said about the sophomore’s excellent defense. “She can catch just about anything, and she’s got a great arm.”

“She’s also going to see some time behind the plate and in the outfield as well,” the coach added.

Senior catcher Geneva Mitchell, “our Miami of Ohio commit,” is labeled “a great catcher,” by Walker. “I think

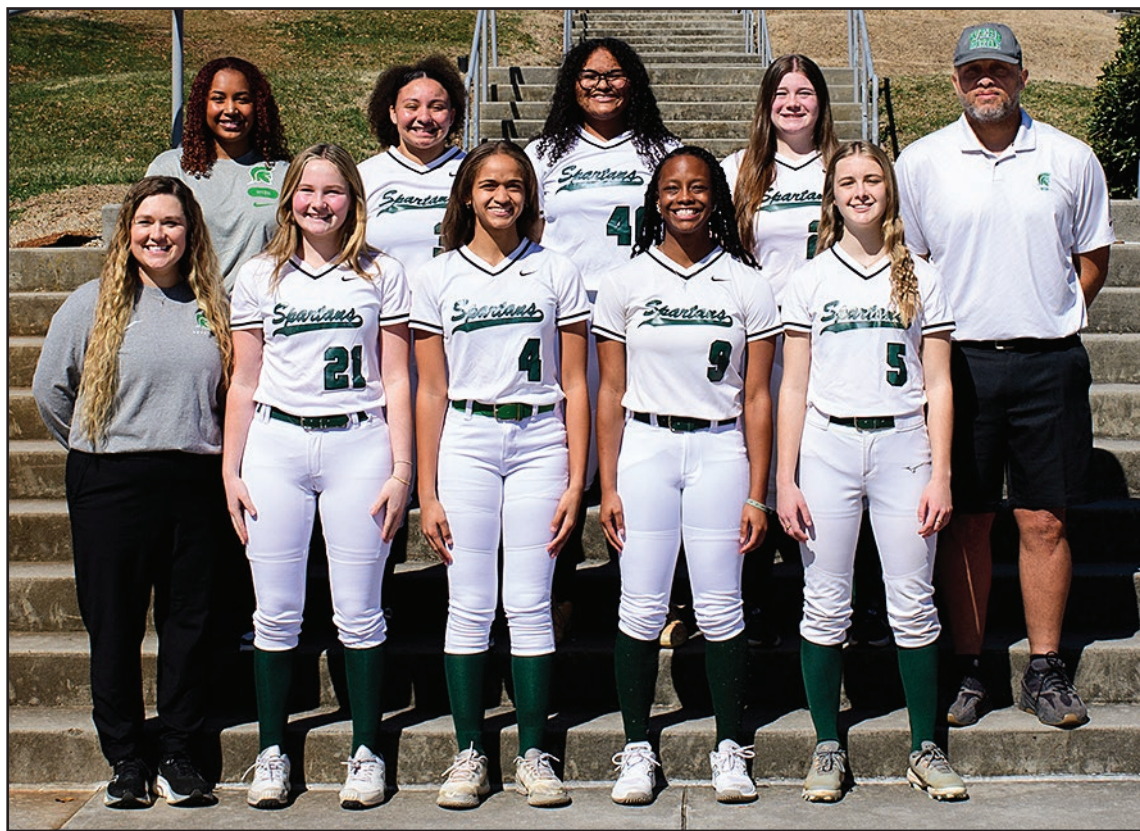


Photo submitted by Webb School of Knoxville

that’s a little known fact about Geneva, that she’s exceptional behind the plate.

“At second base right now, we’re honestly not sure what we’re going to do,” the coach said.

One girl in the mix, eighth-grader Ellie Kate Barber, “also is a really good pitcher for us. ... she’ll pitch a lot and play some second base as well,” Walker said.

“We’ve got just a ton of flexibility right there, even though we’ve not had anybody fully solidify second base just yet,” she added.

Daniels “is gonna be a big help to the team,” he said. “Good bat, great speed.”

**Top pitchers**

To open the season, Boles will have only two pitchers taking the mound. More could be in development.

Junior Audrey Gayle has

played travel ball and is new to the team. “She’s a spot pitcher; gonna have to hit her spots,” the coach said. “We got good defense behind her ... hopefully they’ll make the plays.”

Inge also will see action on the mound. “She lets it go,” Boles said. “She’s got a lot of

movement on her fastball. She’s helping us out ‘til we have a staff built.”

third.”

Outfielders likely will include senior Libby Dunaway, “once we get her back healthy,” the coach said without mentioning any other outfielders.

Look for freshman Nora Sylvan to provide pitching depth.

Walker did not name a designated player candidate or pin-

**ROSTER**

Tara Lynn Hill	So.	Sophie Sylvan	Sr.	Nora Sylvan	Fr.
Geneva Mitchell	Sr.	Libby Dunaway	Sr.	Emmy Yost	Fr.
Ellie Kate Barber	8th				

**Webb**

3/11	CAK *	.....	Away
3/13	Knoxville Catholic •	.....	Away
3/24	Hardin Valley Academy	.....	Home
3/25	Coalfield	.....	Home
3/28	GPS •	.....	Away
3/31	Powell	.....	Home
4/1	GPS •	.....	Home
4/3	Grace Christian	.....	Away
4/8	Harriman	.....	Away
4/10	Baylor (doubleheader) •	.....	Away
4/21	Harriman	.....	Home
4/23	Knoxville Catholic •	.....	Home
4/28	Grace Christian (Senior Night)	.....	Home
5/2	Chattanooga Christian (DH)*	.....	Away

\*Denotes Division II-A East Region District game

“ Our No. 1 goal is to get out there and stay really close in games, and to pull out a couple of games that people don’t think that we should contend in,”

~ **Katelyn Walker**  
new Webb head coach

point a staff ace pitcher  
**Team goal**  
“Our team goal is to be able to compete really well in our district,” Walker said. “We do have a strong district because we have Catholic, Chattanooga Christian, Baylor and GPS.”

“Our No. 1 goal is to get out there and stay really close in games and to pull out a couple of games that people don’t think that we should contend in,” she added.

By Alan Sloan

the Lady Bulldogs head coach added.

Bearden opened the season at District 4-4A opponent Hardin Valley Academy Tuesday, March 4, (after deadline).

By Bill Howard

**Lady Bulldogs**

From page 6C

freshman.”

Senior right fielder Elizabeth Newman also returns, and has “a lot of speed and good pop in her bat,” Boles said.

Freshman utility player Ada



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“I can see how he won 25 games. What I don’t understand is how he lost five.”

~ Sanford Koufax

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to all of our West Knox  
Baseball & Softball teams.

— “Play Ball!” —

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Photo courtesy of Bobby Lewis/Pro Photo

Pictured (not in order) Seniors M.G. Matthews, Halley Bedwell, Gracie Kringen, Kate Myers, Caroline Rogers

### Lady Warriors

From page 6C

(senior) Halley Bedwell, one of those two, at shortstop," the coach said.

About Carroll, "She is a power hitter; she had five home runs last year," Matthews said. "She's got all the potential in the world.

"She's just young. She's a basketball player, too; a very athletic kid," he added.

In left field, a three-time All-District honoree, senior Gracie Kringen, returns. "A left-handed batter who hits for a sky-high average," the coach said.

If not at shortstop, "My starting centerfielder is Halley Bedwell, and she's a base stealer," the coach said. "I think she's probably the best centerfielders in the district."

Right field "is going to be a battle between a returning senior, Kate Myers, and a really talented eighth grader from Oregon that just moved in, a lefty named Jordyn Halleman," Matthews said.

"Kate is a very experienced player — a good, solid fielder," he added. "And Jordyn is a terrifically talented hitter that's going to be a really good player for us."

Added to the CAK line-up in 2025 is freshman pitcher Ella Borbeck, a transfer from Maryville. "She is a hard thrower, low to mid-60s; a powerful kid," Matthews said. "There's a good chance if she isn't pitching, she'll be the designated player."

Elsewhere, "I think Amelia Williams gives us some speed as a pinch runner," the coach said. "She's an eighth-grader.

"Then I think Claire Marshall (sophomore) could be somewhere; she's working really hard, and I think she has a potential to be a bat for us off the bench and play some for us.

Look for Myers, Mount and Halleman to add pitching depth, with Myers likely the No. 3 starter.

#### Biggest team strength?

"We've got a lot of speed and a lot of power, I think that's probably the strength of the team," Matthews said.

#### Biggest concern

"Just youth," the coach said. "We got five seniors, but the rest of the team is really, really young, and we're going to be relying heavily on some eighth-graders."

By Alan Sloan



### Lady Hawks

From page 5C

she probably hits the ball harder than anybody. She has got tremendous power. It's just unreal."

Schneider also is back-up catcher.

Sophomore Zoie Driver provides quality depth in the outfield.

#### Strengths

What's the biggest team strength?

"The way these girls commu-

nicate with each other and the way these girls are, they're like a family," Snyder said. "I don't think I've ever really been around a group like that, that they just take the initiative, they take the lead, they take charge.

"From everything that I'm seeing with this group right here, to me, that's the biggest strength going into this season — the way they are, especially with the injuries, and willing to step up and take that lead and to do everything that they're

asked," he added. "It's really the core that's taking the lead and bringing these young girls in and showing them the ropes and the communication that they're having in the family-type atmosphere that they're presenting."

#### Challenges

With the team's injuries, "it's just going to force a lot of girls to step up and play at a higher level," Snyder said.

By Alan Sloan

### Lady Lions

From page 7C

ers on the staff, but is looking to develop more.

Junior Baylee Johnson will return to the mound to anchor the staff. "Very determined starter," the coach said. "Tremendously motivated."

Lewis is new to pitching, but has promise, according to Thomas.

"I asked her if she'd be willing to learn and she said 'sure,'" he said. "She's moti-

vated and willing."

Thomas knows she has her work cut out for her, but sees changes already in her kids' approach to the game.

"You can really tell the difference in the last couple months," she said. "They listen very well. They're soaking it up. We're breaking things down with fundamentals and working on their confidence.

"We're very excited to see how it goes."

By Bill Howard

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# Talk of the Town

A Publication of the Town of Farragut



Spring 2025

## Get ready for springtime fun with Farragut Parks & Rec

Shake off those cold weather blues with spring activities brought to you by Farragut Parks & Recreation!

Set your lines and cast your cares away on Saturday, May 10, at the Bob Watt Youth Fishing Rodeo at Anchor Park. Kids 12 and under are invited to compete for the biggest fish, and prizes will be awarded for different age groups. This event is free, but registration is required. Register for one of two new timeslots, 7:30-8:30 a.m. or 9-10 a.m., at [townoffarragut.org/register](http://townoffarragut.org/register).

The Town of Farragut provides worms for bait, and a

limited number of fishing poles will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants are encouraged to bring their own poles. Participants may also bring their own bait.

The Town of Farragut Arts and Beautification Committee, with Farragut Parks & Rec, is hosting a juried art and photography show on Saturday, March 22, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, March 23, from 1-4 p.m. at the Farragut Community Center. The show is free and open to the public. A closing reception will be held on Sunday, March 23, at 3 p.m.

Information about submitting artwork is available at [townoffarragut.org/specialevents](http://townoffarragut.org/specialevents); submissions are due by Friday, March 7.

Chalk the Plaza is Farragut's



new chalk art competition! On Saturday, May 31, artists will compete for the best chalk masterpiece at Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza (behind the Campbell Station Inn). Artists begin work at 10 a.m., and the public is welcome at 1 p.m. to view the chalk art and enjoy food trucks, vendors and kids' zone activities. More details will be available soon at [visitfarragut.org/events](http://visitfarragut.org/events).



## Drivers must yield to pedestrians at intersections

Did you know that there is a crosswalk at every intersection on our roads in Tennessee? Some are marked (and several in Farragut are also signalized), but **even if they have no striping at all, intersections are still legally designated places for pedestrians to cross the street.** They are called "unmarked crosswalks," and drivers must

yield the right of way to pedestrians in these areas, as well as in marked crosswalks.

Farragut resident Seth Knisley recently reached out to the Town about Farragut drivers failing to yield to pedestrians. As a runner, he's had several close calls while crossing at intersections.

"The town has done a fan-

tastic job with building a pedestrian-friendly connected community, but motorists' poor adherence to basic traffic laws poses a threat to the safety of those who use these sidewalks and greenways for recreation and fitness," he says. "I'm specifically referring to crosswalks that are not marked with illuminated signals or traffic

lights."

One of the Town's Strategic Priorities is "Connecting our Community with Excellent Parks, Greenways, Trails, Sidewalks and Recreation Programs." Creating a walkable community has long been a goal of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, and as new residents and businesses move

into our downtown area, there will be even more pedestrian traffic.

To keep pedestrians (including children who walk and ride bikes to school) safe, Farragut drivers must take time to look for them at intersections and yield when they are present. See them; stop for them.

## Town hires new historic resources coordinator

After being part of the Visit Farragut team for two years, Kristi Vining is the Town of Farragut's new historic resources coordinator. One of her primary responsibilities is getting the Farragut Museum reopened after a two-year closure. The museum will open when the newly-renovated Town Hall opens at the end of April.

Kristi has lived in Farragut for 10 years and appreciates its home-town feel, parks, schools

and proximity to Knoxville. Her oldest child graduated from Farragut High School, and her youngest child currently attends.



See VINING on Page 3

## The Historic Campbell Station Inn: Welcoming guests since the 1780s

As interior renovations begin on the historic Campbell Station Inn, the Town's tourism team is making plans to open this landmark to the public.

Once completed, the Inn will serve as Farragut's official welcome center, offering visitors and residents information about local attractions, events and businesses. A focus will be sharing the Town's history through the Inn and the Farragut Museum, located at



Town Hall.

The welcome center space will also feature a gift shop

where visitors can purchase

See INN on Page 3

## Farragut Town Hall to host an open house to showcase improvements

A reworked and refreshed Town Hall will open soon, and the community is invited to see it during an Open House, tentatively scheduled for mid-April. The date and time will be advertised later this spring; check [townoffarragut.org](http://townoffarragut.org) or Town of Farragut social media in April for details.

Building construction is now complete and contractors are installing fiber for the Town's computer network. New furniture is expected to be delivered by early April.

Updates will be noticeable from the door. Large porcelain stone tiles brighten the first floor, as does a new tiled Town of Farragut seal. The rotunda has been updated with fresh paint and a new staircase with



wood and glass railings.

The former Town of Farragut reception area is now a conference room that can accommo-

date up to 30. Directly across the hall is space for the Knox

See TOWN HALL on Page 3



## Bluegrass Summer Solstice Concert

Kick off summer with live bluegrass and celebrate the longest day of the year!

Join us at **Founders Park from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, June 20**, for an evening of toe-tapping music, yard games and delicious bites from local food trucks. Stay tuned for exciting activity details and an incredible lineup—follow Visit Farragut on Facebook and Instagram for updates!

Looking for more spring and summer fun? Visit [VisitFarragut.org](http://VisitFarragut.org) for all the upcoming events!



# WHO TO CALL

## Town of Farragut Contacts

*(All Town of Farragut phones have an 865 area code)*

Ron Williams, Mayor..... 966-0214 (rwilliams@townoffarragut.org)  
 Drew Burnette, Alderman (Ward II) ..... 203-5048 (dburnette@townoffarragut.org)  
 Alex Cain, Alderman (Ward I) .....966-7057 (acain@townoffarragut.org)  
 Scott Meyer, Vice Mayor, Alderman (Ward I) ..288-0694 (smeyer@townoffarragut.org)  
 David White, Alderman (Ward II) .....389-0028 (dwhite@townoffarragut.org)  
 David Smoak, Town Administrator..... 966-7057 (dsmoak@townoffarragut.org)

Administration, Engineering..... Phone 966-7057; Fax 675-2096  
 Community Development  
 and Public Works

Alcohol License/Permits .....Allison Myers (amyers@townoffarragut.org)  
 Finances

Accounts Receivable ..... Pam Hall (phall@townoffarragut.org)  
 Citizen Requests..... Jennifer Dietrick (jdietrick@townoffarragut.org)

Engineering .....Darryl Smith (dsmith@townoffarragut.org)  
 Event Permits ..... Maria Rayas (mrayas@townoffarragut.org)

..... Karla Magnuson (kmagnuson@townoffarragut.org)  
 Farragut Court..... Jennifer Dietrick (jdietrick@townoffarragut.org)

Landscaping ..... Mark Shipley (mshipley@townoffarragut.org)  
 Sign Permits .....Bart Hose (bhose@townoffarragut.org)

Farragut Museum.....  
 The museum is temporarily closed, but inquiries can be sent to  
 museum@townoffarragut.org

Personnel ..... Michelle Pence (mpence@townoffarragut.org)  
 Planning Requirements ..... Mark Shipley (mshipley@townoffarragut.org)

Zoning & Subdivisions .....Bart Hose (bhose@townoffarragut.org)  
 Public Relations..... Wendy Smith (media@townoffarragut.org)

Stormwater Quality..... Cliff Mann (cmann@townoffarragut.org)  
 Traffic Enforcement .....Jennifer Duggan Davis (jdavis@townoffarragut.org)

Program  
 Tourism .....Hallie Reid (visitfarragut@townoffarragut.org)

..... Phone 675-2384

**Codes ..... Phone 675-2384**

Building Inspections..... Karla Magnuson (kmagnuson@townoffarragut.org)  
 and Permits..... Maria Rayas (mrayas@townoffarragut.org)

Building Codes ..... Pete Bruce (pbruce@townoffarragut.org)  
 ..... Elliott Sievers (esievers@townoffarragut.org)

..... Karl Swierzko (kswierzko@townoffarragut.org)  
 ..... Andrew Weaver (aweaver@townoffarragut.org)

Fire Safety/Inspections..... Charles Wilson (cwilson@townoffarragut.org)  
 Codes Enforcement/ ..... Mark Shipley (mshipley@townoffarragut.org)

Property Maintenance .....Jon Ramirez (jramirez@townoffarragut.org)

**Town Hall staff, now located at the Farragut Community Center**

8 a.m-5 p.m. Monday-Friday  
 239 Jamestowne Blvd., Farragut, TN 37934  
 General email: towninfo@townoffarragut.org  
 Website: townoffarragut.org

**Social Media**

Facebook: Town of Farragut, Visit Farragut, Farragut Parks & Rec,  
 Farragut Stormwater Matters  
 Instagram: town\_of\_farragut, visitfarragut, farragutparksandrec  
 X: townoffarragut, ToFFieldUpdate (athletics/field information),  
 ToFVolleyball (volleyball league), FarragutParks  
 YouTube: Town of Farragut, Visit Farragut

**Parks & Recreation ..... Phone 218-3376**

Parks..... AthleticFieldReservations@townoffarragut.org

Athletic Field Rental & Athletic Programming  
 Ryan Rhodus (AthleticFieldReservations@townoffarragut.org)

Community Center Gym & Classroom Rental  
 (CommunityCenterRentals@townoffarragut.org)

Rentals: Pavilions and Community Center Events  
 Arleen Higginbotham (PicnicReservations@townoffarragut.org)

Special Events, Programs and Volunteers  
 Rachel Malone (ParksandRecInfo@townoffarragut.org)

General: Ron Oestreich (roestreich@townoffarragut.org)

General Parks & Rec information on programming and events:  
 ParksandRecInfo@townoffarragut.org  
 Athletic field reservations: AthleticFieldReservations@townoffarragut.org  
 Pavilion rentals: PicnicReservations@townoffarragut.org  
 Community Center rentals: CommunityCenterRentals@townoffarragut.org

**Farragut Community Center**

Open 8 a.m-9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday  
 239 Jamestowne Blvd., Farragut, TN 37934  
 Website: townoffarragut.org/parksandrec

**Anchor Park:** 11730 Turkey Creek Road

**Founders Park:** 405 N. Campbell Station Road

**Mayor Bob Leonard Park**

Main Entrance: 301 Watt Road, Farragut; West Entrance: 700 Harrison Lane, Loudon

**McFee Park:** 917 McFee Road

**Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza:** 11409 Kingston Pike

**BlueCross Healthy Place at Farragut Town Hall:** 11408 Municipal Center Drive

*It is the policy of the Town of Farragut not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, natural origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability or veteran status pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 93-112 and 101-336 in its hiring, employment practices and programs.*

# Tourism Talk

The Town of Farragut’s tourism team has exciting updates to share!

• **New “Find it in Farragut” itinerary cards** – We’ve added four itineraries: The Foodie, Family Favorite, Dog Friendly and History Buffs. Find these cards at the Farragut Community Center.

• **Revamped Dining Guide** – Featuring a brand-new design that highlights all of Farragut’s incredible restaurants, these guides are also available at the community center.

• **Upcoming social media series** “Find it in Farragut” launches this March, showcasing the best our town has to offer!

Opportunities for our business partners:

• **FAM Tour in Farragut – Thursday, March 27**

Get an insider’s look at Farragut! Explore our tourism initiatives, attractions and parks while learning how we can collaborate. Space is limited — email Visitfarragut@townoffarragut.org to register.

• **Industry newsletter sign-up**

Stay informed about media and event opportunities, plus tourism updates. Scan the QR code below to subscribe!

• **Hospitality Partnership Breakfast – coming in May**

This event will feature guest speakers and provide a valuable networking opportunity. More details will be shared in our industry newsletter soon.

• **Get listed on our website**

If your Farragut business is sales tax-producing or hospitality-based, you can be featured on our website! Need an update? Email Visitfarragut@townoffarragut.org to be added or revised.

**Save the dates for these upcoming events:**

- March 15-16: Farragut Spring Festival at 35 North Bar and Grill
- March 29: Admiral Music Fest at the Farragut Community Center
- April 5: Farragut Lion’s Club Car Cruise In at the PGA TOUR Superstore parking lot
- June 20: Bluegrass Summer Solstice Concert at Founders Park at Campbell Station (see article on page 1)

For more information about these events, explore Visitfarragut.org. For all things #FunInFarragut, follow Visit Farragut on Facebook and Instagram.



## Farragut loves trees

The Town of Farragut was named a 2024 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to effective urban forest management. To honor that designation, the Town observes Arbor Day.

This year’s event will be held on March 12 at Farragut Intermediate School and will include an essay contest and a presentation by the State Division of Forestry for 3rd graders. The top essays from each class will be displayed at the Farragut Community Center March 3-14.

At its March 13 meeting, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen will proclaim March 15 to be Arbor Day in the Town of Farragut. We invite you to celebrate Arbor Day with the Town by planting a tree!

If you love trees, please consider the Town’s Adopt A Tree program. Participants may adopt an existing tree at the Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza, the BlueCross Healthy Place at Town Hall, McFee Park or Anchor Park that will be marked with a plaque. You can even choose your own tree!

The adopted tree will be covered by a warranty so it will be around to provide shade and honor your loved one for years to come. To learn more about this program, visit townoffarragut.org/adoptprograms.

## Celebrate Bike Week with Farragut Parks & Rec

In an effort to encourage bike riding for fun and fitness, the Parks & Rec Department is offering three programs to develop new riders and motivate experienced cyclists!

For kids who need a little help getting rid of the training wheels, a Learn to Ride Workshop is offered from 4:30-6 p.m. on Monday, May 12, at Mayor Bob Leonard Park. This program is for ages 5-8 and costs \$5 per child. Please bring bikes and helmets. Registration is limited, so sign up early at townoffarragut.org/register!

New and experienced bike riders can benefit from our Bike Maintenance 101 class! Learn the basics of caring for your bicycle with Hurricane Cycles from 4:30-6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, at the Farragut Community Center. All ages are welcome and no registration is required for this free class.

To wrap up Bike Week, participate in one of two Ride Along events on Farragut



greenways! Bring your own bike and helmet.

• At 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 16, join a group ride along Parkside Greenway. Park in the At Home lot and join us on

**See BIKE WEEK on Page 3**

The Talk of the Town is a quarterly publication produced by the Town of Farragut.

For more information about this publication, please contact Wendy Smith at 865-966-7057 or media@townoffarragut.org.



# SPRING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- Unless otherwise noted, register for classes and special events at [townoffarragut.org/register](http://townoffarragut.org/register), in person at the Farragut Community Center (239 Jamestowne Blvd.) or by phone (865-218-3376). **All classes held at the community center require a free membership. Farragut residency is NOT required for membership. Please stop by the community center during regular hours or arrive early for class to register!**
- Payment is due at the time of registration. Credit card payments (Visa, Mastercard and Discover) – whether online, in person, or by phone – will incur a 2% transaction fee. Cash and check payments are also accepted.
- The Town of Farragut is not responsible for costs associated with the purchase of

supplies when a class is canceled.

- All events are held at the Farragut Community Center unless otherwise noted, and all league sports are held at Mayor Bob Leonard Park unless otherwise noted.
- Some events may be canceled or postponed in the event of inclement weather. Please see Farragut Parks & Rec social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) for updated information.
- Punch cards for community center gym programs may be purchased at the recreation office. Twenty punches are just \$30, and punch cards may be shared by family or friends.
- **No refunds are given for programs and classes.**

## ADULT

### Sourdough for Beginners

April 10, May 8, June 12; 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
Ages 12 and up, \$15 per class.  
Sourdough basics for beginners: Review of tools, terminology, and techniques for baking your own bread at home! All materials will be provided. We will not be baking bread in class, but participants will receive their own sourdough starter to take home!

### Drop-in Dodgeball

Tuesdays beginning April 1, 7-9 p.m.  
Ages 18 and up, \$2 per player  
Drop-in Dodgeball provides adults the opportunity to make friends and exercise by playing a weekly game of dodgeball. We will divide into two teams and play classic dodgeball.

### Financial Education

Thursdays, 2-3 p.m. on selected dates (see below)  
Ages 21 and up, free  
Join Brandon Newman of Edward Jones to discuss:  
April 3: Foundations of investing  
April 17: Retirement by design  
May 1: College—paying for education  
May 15: Ten rules to investing and strategies to build wealth.  
June 5: The four pillars of the new retirement  
June 19: Simplify your spending and saving strategies

## FAMILY

### Friday Night Fun – Under the Sea

Friday, April 11, 5-6:30 p.m.  
Ages 6 and up, \$5 per person  
Join us for Friday night fun at the community center! On this themed night, we will make ocean-related crafts and explore the sea. All ages are encouraged to come and wear ocean, fish or mermaid attire! All supplies are provided.

### Friday Night Fun – Get Groovy 70's Night

Friday, May 30, 5-6:30 p.m.  
Ages 6 and up, \$5 per person  
On this themed night, we will tie-dye shirts and listen to music from the '70s. All ages are encouraged to come in '70s attire—think flared pants, groovy patterns and lots of color. All supplies will be provided.

### Friday Night Fun – Paint like Bob Ross

Friday, June 13, 5-6:30 p.m.  
Ages 6 and up, \$5 per person  
On this themed night, we'll paint along with the iconic Bob Ross. All skill levels and ages are encouraged to come; Bob Ross attire and hairstyles are encouraged! All supplies will be provided.

### Bingo

May 6 and 20, June 3 and 17, July 1, 15 and 29; 6-7 p.m.  
Ages 10 and up, \$4 per person  
Join us every other week for Bingo at the Farragut Community Cen-

ter. Enjoy a night of prizes, fun and friendly competition. Ages 10 and up are welcome! Bring family and friends to try your luck!

### Mahjong and Gaming Club

Every other Tuesday, 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
Ages 9 and up, free  
Join us to learn new games! There will be special classes to learn mahjong, tong-its, chess, checkers and other organized board games. Participants may bring their own games and snacks to share. For the full schedule, visit [farragutparksandrec.org](http://farragutparksandrec.org).

### Family Basketball

Thursdays through May 29, 4-6 p.m.  
\$2 per person  
No need to pre-register – just bring a ball and get ready to play! Please arrive a few minutes early to check in and get your free community center membership. This session is specifically for youth and families to shoot around and play without the intensity of pickup open gyms.

### Bike Week

Celebrate National Bike Week with Farragut Parks & Rec! (See article on page 2)

## FITNESS

### Total Fitness

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m.  
\$4 per person  
Join Rachel Piotrowski, certified group exercise instructor and personal trainer, for a total-body fitness class! This class focuses on functional exercises to improve overall strength and balance. Please bring hand weights or other weighted objects for your workout. If you do not have any, just bring yourself! Don't forget water and a mat.

### Zumba

Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Ages 18 and up, \$4 per person  
We take the “work” out of workout with Zumba at Farragut Community Center! Zumba is a Latin-inspired dance class that makes getting fit fun!

### Sunrise Stretch

Wednesdays, 8:15-9:15 a.m.  
Free  
Start your day off right with a sunrise yoga session! This 60-minute class is the perfect way to start the day for beginning to advanced yogis with registered yoga teacher Jenny Trussell. Bring a mat (blanket and props are optional) and a smile!

### Rise and Shine Yoga

Mondays and Fridays, 8:15-9:15 a.m.  
\$4 per person  
Rise and shine! Start your day off right with a morning yoga class led by registered yoga teacher Mindy Wise or Jenny Trussell! Bring a yoga mat, water and a positive attitude!

## OPEN GYM

### Pickleball Open Gym

Mondays and Fridays, noon-3 p.m.;

Wednesdays, 4-9 p.m.

Ages 14 and up, \$4 per person  
Grab a paddle and get ready to play! During this time, the gym is on the challenge court system. Games are played to 11 points, winning by two. Limited equipment is available for checkout and nets are provided. To maximize community use, users may experience wait times.

### Pickup Volleyball

Mondays, 6:30-9 p.m.  
Ages 14 and up, \$4 per person  
Limited equipment is available for checkout and nets are provided. To maximize community use, users may experience wait times. This session is specifically for individuals who want to play scrimmage-style, non-refereed games.

### Pickup Basketball

Thursdays, 6:30-9 p.m.  
Ages 14 and up, \$4 per person  
No need to pre-register – just bring a ball and get ready to play! To maximize community use, users may experience wait times. This session is specifically for individuals who want to play scrimmage-style, non-refereed games.

### Youth Basketball Open Gym

Tuesdays and Fridays, beginning June 3, 4-6:30 p.m.  
Ages 13 and under, \$2 per person  
Parents/guardians must stay on-site with participants.

## YOUTH

### Kids Free Play Open Gym

Mondays, April 7-June 30, 4-5 p.m.  
Ages 4-12, \$2 per child  
During this Free Play hour, kids can play and stay active. With plenty of space and fun activities, it's the perfect way to burn energy and have a blast!

### Creative Space

Mondays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
Ages 6-12, free  
A perfect opportunity for school-aged kids to use the classroom for open-ended work time. Do a puzzle, learn a new art technique, work on homework, do some crocheting... the possibilities are endless! Limited supplies for various activities will be provided.

### Art Adventures

Tuesdays, 2-3:30 p.m.  
Ages 6 to 12, \$4 per child  
Each week, our school-aged artists will create a new project with varying mediums. All skill levels are welcome! Preregistration is not required.  
\*There will be no class March 18, May 27-June 10

### Afterschool Art

Wednesdays through May 21, 3:30-5 p.m.  
Ages 6 to 12, \$4 per child  
Each week, our school-aged artists will create a new project with varying mediums. All skill levels are welcome! Preregistration is not required.  
\*There will be no class March 19

### Elementary Homeschool PE

Grades K-5 (ages 6-10)  
Tuesdays through May 20, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, through May 21, 1-2 p.m.  
\$2 per child  
This homeschool PE class will feature sports and group games that emphasize teamwork, good sportsmanship, physical activity and fun! Participants must be at least 6 years old to participate. Preregistration is not required.  
\*There will be no class March 18 or 19

### Middle School Homeschool PE

Grades 6-8 (ages 11-14)  
Wednesdays through May 21, 2:30-3:30 p.m.  
\$2 per child  
This homeschool PE class will emphasize organized sports, competition and physical activity, while still including plenty of group games, teamwork and fun! Preregistration is not required.  
\*There will be no class March 19

### Youth Pickleball Lessons

Wednesdays, June 11-July 23, 2-3 p.m.  
Ages 9-12, \$10 per child  
This six-week program is a perfect introduction for young pickleball players. Learn about skills, rules and etiquette of the game while having fun!

### Adulting 101

Thursdays, April 3-May 1, 4-5pm  
Ages 14-18, \$10 for all Classes  
Through interactive lessons, practical exercises and expert guidance, teens will develop the independence, resilience and critical thinking needed to thrive in everyday life. For the topic schedule, visit [farragutpark-sandrec.org](http://farragutpark-sandrec.org).

### Youth Tennis Lessons

McFee Park  
Ages 7-9: Mondays, April 7-May 12, 4-5 p.m.  
Ages 10-12: Wednesdays, May 7-June 11, 4-5 p.m.  
\$30 per child  
This six-week program is perfect for beginner youth who are interested in playing tennis! Learn basic strokes, serves and other skills necessary for enjoying the game. All equipment is provided. Preregistration is required, as space is limited!

### Tiny Tots Soccer

Mayor Bob Leonard Park  
Tuesdays, April 8-May 13, 4-4:45 p.m.  
Ages 4 to 6, \$25 per child  
Tiny Tots Soccer is an introductory program that teaches tiny athletes the building blocks of soccer! We will focus on basic skills like dribbling, passing, shooting and related gross motor skills. Parents are required to participate with their child.

### Wiggle, Giggle, & Go

Fridays, 10-11 a.m.  
Ages walking to 5 years, \$2 per child  
It's time for toddlers to get group-led activity in and a lot of energy out!

Parents are encouraged to participate. Be sure to bring water and clothes ready for moving and grooving.

### Beginner French for Kids

Mondays, June 2-23, 2-3 p.m.  
Ages 8 to 14, \$20 for four classes  
No experience required to register. This is a casual and fun class where students will learn basic components of spoken and written French, cultural aspects of France and concepts to help with travel. Parents are not required to stay during class.

### Learn a Sport Series

Various locations, Tuesdays, May 6-June 10, 5-6 p.m.  
Ages 4 to 10, \$8 per child  
This six-week course will introduce kids to a variety of sports. We will emphasize fun, fitness, and sportsmanship, making it ideal for beginners and those looking to explore different sports. The schedule is available at [farragutparksandrec.org](http://farragutparksandrec.org).

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### The Bunny Brunch

Saturday, April 5, 10-11:30 a.m. (see New Spring Events on page 4)

### Puzzle Palooza

Wednesday, April 9, 6-8 p.m.  
All ages, \$15 per team  
Test your puzzle skills during Puzzle Palooza! Teams will race against each other to see who can finish a 300-piece puzzle first. Up to four participants will be allowed per team. Only one member of each team needs to register.

### Earth Week Adventure Challenge

Various locations, Saturday, April 19-Sunday, April 27 (see New Spring Events on page 4)

### Bob Watt Youth Fishing Rodeo

Anchor Park, Saturday, May 10 (see article on page 1)

### Youth Art Show

Thursday, May 29, 5-7 p.m.  
Ages 6-12, free  
Family and friends are invited to come view the art projects of the Art Adventures and Afterschool Art classes. Registration is required, and the deadline to register is May 23.

### Chalk the Plaza

Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza, Saturday, May 31 (see New Spring Events on page 4)

### Farragut's Kid Try-Athlon

McFee Park, Saturday, June 7, 8-10 a.m. (see New Spring Events on page 4)

### Glow-in-the-Dark Nerf War

Thursday, June 12, 5:30-7 p.m.  
Ages 7 to 14, \$8 per player  
Grab your Nerf blaster and join us for this action-packed evening! No Nerf blasters will be provided, but glow-in-the-dark darts will be. Registration is required; the deadline to register is Tuesday, June 10.

## Bike Week

From page 2

the greenway behind the store for a 4-mile group ride to Lovell Road and back.

• At 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, enjoy a guided ride on the Grigsby Chapel Greenway. Park at 11700 Campbell Lakes Drive (the Park & Ride lot) and join us for a 3.2-mile group ride.

## Vining

From page 1

“We have a lot of wonderful friends here,” she says. “I love to promote Farragut.”

Moving historic artifacts

## Inn

From page 1

Farragut merchandise, including hats, T-shirts and prints.

The renovated Inn will have dedicated space for small event rentals and a catering kitchen. When not reserved for private events, the Tourism team will use the space to host small events and programming. De-

tails on rental capacity and pricing will be shared closer to the opening date.

To better serve our residents and visitors, the Town's Tourism team will relocate to the upper floor of the Inn, making this historic space a hub for hospitality and community engagement. Stay tuned for more updates as we prepare to welcome you!

preschoolers, provide Brown Bag lectures on history topics and host special events each quarter.

She'll also promote Farragut's other historic resources: the Campbell Station Inn, the

## Town Hall

From page 1

County Clerk's Farragut office. Glass walls give both spaces an open and airy feel. Town of Farragut administration offices are behind the conference space.

The Town's Community Development, Engineering and additional administrative offices

Farragut History Walk, Pleasant Forest Cemetery, Admiral Farragut Plaza and the Civil War Trail marker at Town Hall.

Kristi thinks her tourism background complements her

are located on the second floor. One reception area will serve all three departments.

The primary goal of the renovations was a more efficient use of space, but we also think it's beautiful! We hope Town Hall will be a source of pride for the Farragut community.

new position.

“History is part of Farragut's tourism program, and I have new ideas and initiatives that will attract both residents and visitors,” she says.



# Community Center Corner

The Farragut Community Center is buzzing with excitement as we roll out programs designed to keep our community active and engaged. Whether you're looking to break a sweat, improve flexibility or enjoy friendly competition, we have something for everyone.

Looking for some fun and friendly competition? Our new Drop-in Dodgeball program begins on April 1 and runs every Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. for just \$2 per person. Gather your friends and join us for an exciting evening of fast-paced action!

For those seeking a structured workout, yoga

classes are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:15-9:15 a.m., providing the perfect way to start your day with relaxation and mindfulness. If you're looking for a full-body workout, Total Fitness meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-9:30 a.m., offering a dynamic mix of strength, cardio and endurance training.

For added convenience, we offer punchcards for just \$30 (worth \$40 of class punches). This is a great way to save while staying active! Punchcards are available for purchase at the front desk. No matter your fitness goals, the Farragut Community Center is the place to be!



## Parks & Recreation

### New spring events from Farragut Parks & Recreation

With a new season comes many new events! Farragut Parks & Rec brings the fun to Farragut this spring with activities for all ages. For events that require registration, visit [townoffarragut.org/register](http://townoffarragut.org/register).

The Bunny Brunch is 10-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, at the Farragut Community Center. Families enjoy a light breakfast, crafts and a photo op with the Easter Bunny! Registration is required

for this event; tickets are \$10 per family.

Participate in the Earth Week Adventure Challenge from April 19-27! On April 19, the adventure list will be released at [townoffarragut.org/townevents](http://townoffarragut.org/townevents) and on Farragut Parks & Rec social media. Complete at least eight tasks from the adventure list to earn a small prize. Pick up prizes at the Farragut Community Center through Tuesday, April 29.

Aspiring athletes ages 3-10 can bike, run and splash their way through the first Farragut's Kid Try-Athlon from 8-10 a.m. on Saturday, June 7. This non-competitive event will allow young athletes to experience aspects of a triathlon. No swimming will take place, but participants will encounter water obstacles as they head toward the finish line. For more information, including distances

for each age group, visit [townoffarragut.org/townevents](http://townoffarragut.org/townevents).

Two of the community's favorite events make a comeback this spring: Puzzle Palooza is 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9, and the ever-popular Glow-in-the-Dark Nerf War is 5:30-7 p.m. on Thursday, June 12. For more info, visit [townoffarragut.org/townevents](http://townoffarragut.org/townevents) or see page 3.



### The McFee Park splashpad opens in April

The days to splish and splash in the sun grow near! The McFee Park splashpad returns for play beginning Saturday, April 26! The splashpad operates daily from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Please check Farragut Parks & Rec social media sites for splashpad status before planning your trip. There will be scheduled maintenance closures from 2-3 p.m. throughout the week.

Childcare businesses looking to take a trip to the splashpad must make a pavilion reservation to ensure there is space for everyone. Reservations for businesses are available Mondays and Wednesdays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Please reach out to the Parks & Rec Department at (865) 218-3376 to make reservations.

Parking near the pavilions and splashpad is limited, but there is ample parking available in the lower lot near the park entrance. For safety purposes, please park only in designated spaces.

Pavilion rentals at McFee Park do not include rental of the splashpad. The splashpad is always open to the public during operating hours.

For more information about Farragut's parks and amenities, visit [townoffarragut.org/splashpad](http://townoffarragut.org/splashpad)



### Construction of pickleball courts at Mayor Bob Leonard Park to begin soon

In an effort to move pickleball courts away from their current location near a residential area at McFee Park, dedicated pickleball courts are planned for Mayor Bob Leonard Park (MBLP). When the pickleball courts are completed, courts at McFee Park will be dedicated to tennis.

After significant public input, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen have approved construction of a nine-court pickleball complex in the southernmost part of the park on what is currently a

grass field. The complex will include lights, fencing between and outside the courts, and a shade structure. The project also includes walkways and a paved entrance from Harrison Road with two accessible parking spaces. Primary parking for the pickleball complex is the Harrison Road MBLP lot.

The cost estimate for the new courts is \$1.3M. The project is expected to begin this spring and be completed in early fall.

### Farragut late summer adult volleyball leagues

Registration for late summer co-ed adult volleyball leagues begins Monday, April 7, with an absolute deadline of Thursday, June 26. The cost is \$175 per team for recreation and intermediate leagues. The cost is \$125 per team for the competitive fours league. Payment must be received at the time of registration.

The summer session consists of seven regular-season matches plus a post-season double elimination tournament for all levels of play. All leagues are played in the evenings at Mayor Bob Leonard Park on Watt Road.

• Recreational leagues (six players)

o Monday evenings beginning July 7. Each team must play with at least two women on the court at all times.

• Competitive fours league (four players) – This league is

self-officiated. Each team must have at least two women on the court at all times.

o Games will be played on Monday evenings beginning July 7.

• Intermediate league (six players) – This league is for players who are developing their competitive game, have indoor experience and are making strides toward their beach game, such as ex-high school players.

o Thursday evenings beginning July 10. Each team must play with at least two women on the court at all times.

For more information and to register for adult athletic leagues, please call the Farragut Parks & Recreation office at 865-218-3376, register online at [townoffarragut.org/register](http://townoffarragut.org/register) or visit the Parks & Rec office at the Farragut Community Center.

### Independence Day Parade registration available April 1

The Town of Farragut Independence Day Parade is Friday, July 4, and registration to participate in the parade begins Tuesday, April 1, at [townoffarragut.org/register](http://townoffarragut.org/register) or at the Farragut Community Center during regular business hours (8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, and 1-4 p.m. on Sunday).

Due to the overwhelming popularity of this parade, entries are limited to the first 90 registrants. Monday, June 23, is the last day to register if spaces are still available. All entries receive a confirmation email once the online registration is processed.

The parade lineup is based on the date the registration form was received (per category). Register early if you want to be near the front of the parade! Parade lineup numbers will be available on the Town's website



and posted at the community center at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, July 2. Parade lineup numbers will not be given over the phone. To add your name (or group

name) to the parade email list, contact Arleen Higginbotham at 865-218-3375 or [ParksandRecInfo@townoffarragut.org](mailto:ParksandRecInfo@townoffarragut.org).