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Spotting Town's human trafficking is key: Ruffalo

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

A Farragut businessman sees the potential for human trafficking in Town, so he's offering training to help businesses know how to address it when they see it.

Joey Ruffalo, owner of J.R. Financial Coaching in Farragut, informed Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen about the initiative during its meeting Thursday, March 27. He asked for the Board's blessing and support of the program.

"There's an initiative right now called Tennessee Businesses Against Trafficking," Farragut Alderman Alex Cain said. "Human trafficking is happening in

all 95 counties here in Tennessee.

"The 13- to 17-year-old age group is the most affected," the alderman added. "They represent about 45 percent of all the cases involving minors. But this program is going to allow businesses to come in and get training for free, (learning) how to pick up on it, how to see it, how to respond to trafficking that's happening in their businesses."

"Human trafficking is not a big city problem; it's a Tennessee problem, a local one," Ruffalo said. "According to the 2024 Governor's Brief on human trafficking, every



Ruffalo

single one of Tennessee's 95 counties has reported trafficking. That means it's happening here whether we see it or not.

"In fact, it's the second best criminal industry in Tennessee behind drug trafficking," Ruffalo added. "The numbers are heartbreaking. The human trafficking hotline received over 1,175 calls — 514 involved minors.

Still more alarming, "Every two minutes in the United States, a child is sold for sex," he said. The average age is 13. It's not just a criminal issue; it's a human one and one that requires a communitywide response."

See **TRAFFICKING** on Page 3A

'Thank you, God Bless you' for variance: Zayets on driveway access nod

TAMMY CHEEK
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"Thank you and God bless you," Knox County property owner Oleg Zayets, whose property is barely outside of Town but fronts a Farragut street, declared after receiving a variance so he can have his own driveway access off North Campbell Station Road.

After a little more than 30 minutes discussion, Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted 4-1 to approve the variance request for the access, which is to be placed directly across Fretz Road.

While Mayor Ron Williams and Aldermen David White, Drew Burnette and Alex Cain voted for the variance, Vice Mayor Scott Meyer voted against, asserting the property had an access.

He added while he has empathy with the applicant, Meyer was concerned having that third access "would mean more congestion. I'm afraid there would be more risk of an accident."

However, Burnette observed, "I think it's clear there's a hardship there."

Initially, White agreed with Meyer, but after hearing from Zayets, he voted in favor of the access.

Zayets said he bought the property with the hopes of building a duplex for his family and his aging parents. When buying the property, he said the real estate agency did not disclose he would have a shared access with two neighboring properties.

To compound the difficulties, First Utility District, in preparation for an upcoming Knox County lane-width project, moved

See **VARIANCE** on Page 3A

Non-subscribers of Rural Metro Fire now must pay

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Non-subscribers to Rural Metro Fire can expect a charge for services rendered starting this year.

During the mayor's comments at the March 27 Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting, Fire Chief Jeff Devlin announced, "In an effort to be transparent, we are ... going to start charging non-subscribers for first responder emergency medical calls.

"Since 1977, we have not charged non-subscribers when we ran first responder emergency medical calls," he added. "We always have for fires and HAZMAT (hazardous materials) emergency calls, so this is new.

The change "is not a cash grab," Devlin said. "It's a way to try to charge these folks a flat fee of \$600; and if they will sub-

See **MUST PAY** on Page 3A



Devlin



It's Dogwood Arts time in Farragut; trails open

Town of Farragut's 2025 Dogwood Trail runs 7.9 miles (established in 2000). Trail Begins at 12251 S. Fox Den Drive, then follow the pink lines beginning at the entrance to Fox Den community to experience the beauty of the trail. "The trail wanders through three distinct neighborhoods of impeccably maintained properties," a Dogwood Arts press release stated. "Most of the homes in Fox Den were built in the 1970s and 1980s and are surrounded by mature trees with beautiful landscapes. The path begins near Willow Creek Golf Course and the entrance to Fox Den subdivision, deep in the heart of Farragut. Continuing to Country Manor subdivision, you'll see newer construction highlighted by beautiful dogwoods in addition to other flowering trees that provide shade and character to the scenery. In the Village Green subdivision, the trail is transformed into an historic experience. Modeled after Colonial Williamsburg, the neighborhood features carefully maintained landscapes surrounding homes with classic American features."



Farragut Open Gardens and Camera Sites: Mary Bates, Camera Site, Altamira Drive: "This spring woodland garden originated 25 years ago with plants acquired from the owners' mother and grandmother; pink and white dogwoods mingle with azaleas, spring bulbs and perennials," a Dogwood Arts press release stated. **Becky Howard, Open Garden, Hound Ears Point:** "This hillside garden features a wide variety of perennials, hydrangeas, dogwoods, azaleas and many unique garden features;" *note: steep slope, so street parking only.* **Russ & Stacey Walters, Open Garden, Champions Point:** "large water garden with koi and goldfish bordering the fifth hole of Fox Den's golf course; pond features two waterfalls and is surrounded by blooming dogwoods and azaleas." **Farragut Public Gardens: Founders Park at Campbell Station, Open Garden.** 405 N, Campbell Station Road, during daylight hours in April. **Farragut Town Hall – Farragut Memorial Plaza, Open Garden,** 11408 Municipal Center Drive, during daylight hours in April.

Forget Me Not Race in memory of Coach Pat

• **Forget Me Not Race, a loop from Planet Fitness in Village Green shopping center through Village Green subdivision** in Farragut, is an in-person race also with a virtual option. The goal is to raise awareness and funds to eliminate dementia, a devastating disease. Come and join by racing in memory of legendary UT Lady Vols Basketball head coach Pat Summitt.

Fifteenth Annual Forget Me Not 5k/10k/1-Mile Race

will be held starting at 8 a.m., Saturday, April 12: 8 a.m. for 10k; 8:30 a.m. for 5k; 8:30 a.m. for Mile. Registration and entry fee: \$30 for 5k, \$40 for 10k and \$25 for 1-Mile per participant.

Race benefits The Pat Summitt Clinic at The University of Tennessee Medical Center for Research.

Each participant will receive an official Forget Me Not Race T-shirt. Only registered participants will receive a T-shirt and be qualified for prizes. Additional

giveaways and more. Participants can pick up their packets/shirts from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, April 11, at Little Joe's Pizza, 13100 Kingston Pike in Farragut.

Prizes will be awarded to top three place winners the 5K and 10K, plus participant awards for 1 Milers.

For more information, contact Drew Degges at drewdegges19@gmail.com or Angela Wampler at angelawampler@gmail.com



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Town needs to pay employees \$238,796 more, combined, to be on par with similar-sized cities

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Expectations of new hires, employees' benefits and new equipment highlighted Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen's budget workshop Thursday, March 27.

With an ongoing study, "the Town of Farragut reviewed the classification and compensation of all positions to ensure that employee compensation accurately reflects the job duties and market competitiveness for each position," Town administrator David Smoak said. "Overall, the study found that the midpoint of the ranges for all positions were on average 7 percent below market rate, which means that salaries are trailing slightly behind the local governments that were benchmarked.

"The overall adjustment for wages to remain competitive with the market will be \$238,796," he said, adding the Town's benefits for staff also were reviewed.

"The vast majority are in alignment with industry standards," Human Resources director Michelle Pence said. "The one area that the Town is less generous than the market is in the number of paid holidays. Most cities that were benchmarked provided between 11 to 13 holidays per year while the Town currently provides for 10 holidays.

"The recommendation for (fiscal year) '26 is to add one floating holiday to be more in line with our benchmarked cities," Pence added, noting the floating holiday will not be specified and will be one each employee may choose.

"That's good because that way you're not calling out one specific holiday over another," Mayor Ron Williams observed.

Additionally, Smoak recommended benefit adjustments. "The implementation of the classification and compensation recommendations only looked at current market rates to make sure the Town is competitive as of the time the study was performed," Smoak said. "To keep up with adjustments other local governments will be making starting July 1, a 3 percent merit package is proposed for all eligible employees for FY '26. The total cost for this adjustment is \$173,410."

He added the Town also participates in the state health insurance program.

As such, "we are projecting a 3 percent increase in health insurance costs, for a total amount of \$46,634," Smoak said.

His staff also looked at restructuring the Administration Department.

"The proposed restructuring would eliminate the assistant Town administrator position and allow for internal promotional opportunities to include an Administrative Services director and a Public Services director," Smoak said. "These positions would help facilitate improved efficiency within the departments, help align our strategic goals with our resources, give us greater adaptability and provide a greater focus on our customer service initiatives.

"These positions would report directly to the Town administrator," he added. "Included in this restructuring is the addition of a training and development coordinator in the Human Resources department.

"This position would implement structured training programs across all departments, manage onboarding of new hires and support the Town's performance management program. There is a total savings of \$35,162 in this program change."

In the Public Works department, "there are one-and-a-half employee being requested," Smoak said. "The first position would move the part-time administrative assistant to full-time."



Smoak

KCSO reports

• At 3:24 p.m., Thursday, March 20, a complainant called Knox County Sheriff's Office West Precinct to report identity theft from a Press Farm Boulevard residence.

"Complainant advised he received an alert from his identity monitoring company, Allstate Identity Protection, that a collection was on his credit," the report stated. "According to

the complainant, CenturyLink was represented by Radius Global Solutions collections agency, who informed them that a \$538.68 charge was outstanding," the report further stated.

"According to the complainant, he thinks an unidentified suspect has fraudulently used his personal information." Complainant was advised by Allstate Identity to file a police report.

Towncalendar

• **The window for applying to serve on a Town of Farragut volunteer committee is now open.** Adults are welcome to apply, and civic-minded high school juniors and seniors can apply to serve as a youth representative.

Please note: these are working committees, and applicants should be willing to give time to monthly meetings and committee projects and/or events. Some committees require a background in a professional area.

There are openings on the following boards and committees: Arts & Beautification Committee, Farragut Education Relations Committee (all Town public schools with a Farragut High School Education Foundation liaison and Concord Christian and Knoxville Christian Schools representatives), Farragut Museum Committee, Tree Board, Parks and Athletics Council,

Board of Plumbing & Gas/Mechanical Examiners, Tourism/Visitor Advisory Committee, Visual Resources Review Board and the Stormwater Advisory Committee.

More information about each of these and applications are available at townoffarragut.org/committees.

High school juniors or seniors who attend one of the public or private schools in Farragut or who live in Farragut can apply to be a youth representative. (Homeschoolers also are welcome to apply.) Selected candidates are expected to take part in all discussions and interact with fellow committee members but do not have a formal vote.

For more information, and an online application, visit townoffarragut.org/youth. Deadline for all applicants is 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 30.



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Variance

From page 1A

their utility pole and a guy wire further onto his property, making it a hardship to use the shared access.

Assistant Community Development director Bart Hose explained the lot is within an unincorporated part of Knox County, to the north of the intersection with Fretz Road.

"It was only discovered recently through some research associated with the Town's incorporation and subsequent annexations that the Town's boundary extends throughout the width of the entire North Campbell Station Road right-of-way" he said.

"This means that access to the Town's right-of-way must be approved through the Town," Hose added. "The access in question is for a duplex that is to be built on a vacant lot across from Fretz Road.

"Since North Campbell Station Road is an arterial street, a new access must be at least 400 feet from the nearest existing access," Hose said. "The

applicant's proposed access, which is shown on the plan included in the packet, is only 50 feet from the nearest existing access to the east (the neighbor's).

"Prior to the Town's involvement with access permits on this section of North Campbell Station Road, accesses were approved through Knox County. A final plat was recorded through Knox County in 2017 that provided for three house lots that were described as the Campbell Park, Unit 2 Subdivision."

Moreover, "Knox County is planning to add a southbound turn lane along this section of North Campbell Station Road, and that project is set to begin in the next few months," Hose said. "As a result, utilities have been relocated to account for the turn lane. This relocation included an electric pole and guy wire that has been moved further away from North Campbell Station Road. The applicant has stated that this creates difficulties in tying a cross access to the existing access on Lot 10."

Must pay

From page 1A

scribe, we will throw out the bill. It's 60 percent of our EMS calls, and it's a way for us to get more touches with people and hopefully convince them to subscribe, which makes it more fair for everyone.

"I've been asked a few times, 'Why are we doing this now?' The main reason is I'm the fire chief now," Devlin added. "The second reason is it makes it more fair.

"Our current subscribers

deserve that we don't give out any freebies anymore. And with the growth and expansion and demand for service in Knox County, we really can't afford to be giving away anything for free at this point."

The goal "is to work with people and make them subscribers, but ultimately, (the Board) may hear feedback when this happens, so we wanted to be transparent about it up front," the fire chief said.

Devlin said the current subscription fee is based on the square footage of a home.

Trafficking

From page 1A

As such, Ruffalo said the statewide initiative launched by Tennessee Secretary of State to "empowers businesses and organizations to help identify, prevent and report human trafficking through free, accessible training."

The program equips employees and citizens with training to recognize signs and take action.

"It doesn't matter if you are a gas station, gym, church, salon or a restaurant, you can be a frontline defender in this fight," Ruffalo said.

To find out more about the initiative, visit tbat.tnsos.gov

FAM Tour of Town is Mayor plus 18



Tammy Cheek

Farragut Mayor Ron Williams, back row far left, joined 18 residents — including current and former Town staff — in taking a Town Familiarization Tour Thursday, March 27. In no order were: Donna Spangler, Will Wiley, Melynn Denton, Ryan Simms, Aaron Gicking, Phillip Schubert, Dot LaMarche, John Osborne, Stacey Wilson, Michelle Ray, Wanda Malhotra, Debbie Pinchok, Sue-Ann Hansler, Denise Martin Helton and Nathan Helton. Town Tourism guides were Hallie Reid and Haley Elliott.

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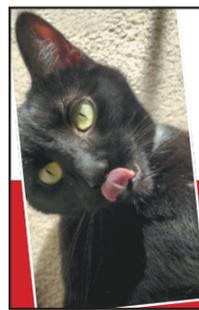
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Email photo and the pet's name to production3@farragutpress.com

Deadline: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Farragut right for Revive

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

For Samuel and Samantha Green, finding the right location for their Revive Collective Salon, in Concord Square at 11002 Kingston Pike Suite 202, was “by the grace of God.”

“We had just moved here,” Samuel said. “We sold our salon in Washington state. We got settled in, jumped in the car one day (to find a location).”

Samantha brings more than 17 years of experience in the beauty industry to her clients. The salon opened in early February, providing a new look to Farragut.

“In Washington State, we called it West Coast lived-in hair,” Samuel said about the hairstyle she brings to East Tennessee.

“She specializes in color and lived-in color that doesn’t require much maintenance,” he added.

“Throughout her career, she’s had the honor of working with, and learning from, some of the most respected professionals across the country.”

Of her 17 years in the business, Samuel said Samantha has been a master colorist for at least 16 years.

“As a master hair colorist and certified Invisible Bead Extension stylist, she combines technical expertise with a deep passion for helping clients feel confident and radiant,” he said.

“At Revive Collective Salon, we specialize in both timeless, classic color services and today’s most sought-after, low-maintenance color techniques,” Samantha said. “Whether you’re looking for a subtle refresh or a transformative new look, our goal is to enhance your natural beauty in a way that feels effortless and uniquely you.”

Samantha also cuts hair and does color corrections.

“We pride ourselves on offering a truly one-of-a-kind experience in a serene and private setting,” she said. “Our salon suites are designed to give each guest our full, undivided attention — never rushed, always relaxed.”

“From the moment you walk in, you’re treated to personalized service, luxurious amenities and thoughtful touches, like complimentary upscale snacks and beverages,” Samantha added. “Your comfort, well-being and ongoing beauty maintenance are always at the forefront of what we do.”

“More than just a salon visit, your appointment is a time to recharge and feel genuinely cared for. We believe in empowering our guests through education, providing guidance and tips to help you maintain your style long after you leave the salon chair.”

The salon is open from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, while visits are by appointment only at revivecollectivesalon.com or on Facebook @revive collective salon.

“... we specialize in both timeless, classic color services and today’s most sought-after, low-maintenance color techniques,”

~ **Samantha Green**, co-owner, Revive Collective Salon



Samantha Green, co-owner of Revive Collective Salon

MR10 Realty finally cuts ribbon on new West location



Laura Sayers

MR10 Realty recently cut the ribbon on its location, 1409 Bexhill Drive off Ebenezer Road in West Knoxville. On hand for the Farragut-West Knoxville Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event were owners Martha Riordan (with scissors) and Michael Riordan, to Martha’s right holding a family pet Corgie; Jody Neubauer, front row second from left, director of operations; agents Emily Randall, third from left, Bailey Yarbrough, with scissors, and Ashley Brody with the Riordans’ other Corgie pet; along with a host of Chamber members and other supporters.

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — After a year, Michael and Martha Riordan finally cut the ribbon on the newest location of their business, MR10 Realty, 1409 Bexhill Drive off Ebenezer Road in West Knoxville, Wednesday, March 12.

They join their team’s agents, Emily Randall, Bailey Yarbrough and Ashley Brody, and director of operations Jody Neubauer in serving the Greater Knoxville area.

MR10 Realty team members “are primarily residential Realtors,” Martha said. “That can transpose into a lot of things.”

“It can be buying and selling, investing,” she added. “It could be land. It can also be helping someone buying out of state, finding a Realtor that will do a good job.”

Martha touted “a good group of Realtors all over the country so we can help someone find the right kind of person to help them. You want someone who will be responsive to your goals, not their goals.”

“We signed the lease on it in 2021,” she added.

“It just took a long time to build with supply chain issues.”

“We joined (Farragut West Knoxville Chamber of Commerce) a little over a year ago. I had been pretty active in the Chamber previously, (but) with changing brokerages and all, it had been a while. But I’m a big fan of the Farragut Chamber.”

Before starting their own agency in 2021, working out of their home, the Riordans both worked in a “very large group in Town that did about \$120 million a year,” said Martha, who had been in the real estate business for 10 years while Michael was in the business for 12 years. “My husband was the broker general manager of that team.”

“He actually grew them from \$25 million to \$120 million,” she added. “He was there eight years, and I was there six years.”

“Then we went out on our own. It was just time to do that.”

Reflecting for a moment, “you’ve got to like people to be in a business like this, and I like

See MR10 on Page 5A

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

FWKCC 2025 Business Expo

The Farragut West Knoxville Chamber of Commerce will host its 2025 Business Expo presented by Slamdot on April 23, bringing together local businesses, entrepreneurs, and community leaders for busy afternoon of networking and growth opportunities. Attendees can explore exhibitor booths, and connect with potential partners or new vendors, service providers and businesses they’ve never met! The event, designed to support and showcase the local business community, will take place at Rothchild Event Center from 1:00-6:00pm. Admission is included for chamber members who pre-register or just \$5 for 2 entries to non-members. All other entries on April 23 are \$5 each. Visit www.farragutchamber.com for details.

MR10
From page 4A

people,” she said. “It’s a very large, emotional and financial decision to buy or sell a house. “There are a lot of moving parts. It can be very stressful, so I enjoy making (the process) smoother and less stressful

and making people happy,” Martha added. “It’s lots of fun when you hand keys to someone to their new house. We try to hold our clients’ hands and really let them know what the next step is.”

While licensed in the entire state, the agency serves clients in roughly a 100-mile radius

of its office, covering 11 or 12 counties, she said.

While office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, “you can always call us,” Martha said.

For more information about M10 Realty, call 865-737-4567 or visit www.mr10realty.com.

businessbriefs

• **Weichert, Realtors - Advantage Plus, has announced the addition of Arlyn Cuccia to its team of agents.** She provides dedicated service to clients in Knoxville and surrounding areas.

Cuccia has called Knoxville home for more than 25 years, and she is excited to share her knowledge about the neighborhoods, events and lifestyle in the area.



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2. Prizes awarded: 1st, 2nd and 3rd
3. Winners will be selected in five categories: **Ages 4-5, Ages 6-8, Ages 9-11, Adults 12-112 and Special Needs**
4. No entries accepted for judging after 4 p.m. EST on **Thursday, April 10, 2025**

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Entry Form

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Category (Please Circle One): Ages 4-5 • Ages 6-8 • Ages 9-11 • Adults 12-112 • Special Needs

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Sleep in Heavenly Peace Build Day

Rotary Club of Farragut members and non-member volunteers joined five other Rotary Clubs, Webb School of Knoxville Rotary Interact Club members and many others in building beds for children who don't have a bed at a Sleep in Heavenly Peace Build Day in Faith Lutheran Church parking lot Saturday, March 29.

The event originally started as an initiative by RCF for SIHP.

"It's great," SIHP chapter president Bill Thompson said about the turnout, with a goal to build more than 50 beds.

"It's wonderful," RCF president Scott Bertini said. "We have over 135 people building 52 beds for children who don't have beds.

"It's really incredible that all these clubs throughout the Knoxville area came out to participate," he added.

The clubs have built more than 200 beds for SIHP, which also delivers the beds to the children in need — taking place this weekend — Thompson announced after Saturday's Build Day.

The delivery "will be very meaningful to the members," Bertini said.

In addition to RCF's effort, which was coordinated by member Patrick Finn, Rotary Club of Knoxville, Knoxville Breakfast Rotary Club, the Downtown Club, Knoxville Volunteer Rotary Club and Knoxville Sunset Club had members cutting the wood, sanding, staining then assembling and branding the beds.



Photos by Tammy Cheek

From left, Rotary Club of Farragut president Scott Bertini and his daughter, Anniston Bertini, and Kennedy McCulley with her dad, Jacob McCulley



Diane O'Brien



RCF member Jim O'Brien



RCF member Tom Pattison



National Guard volunteers, from left, are Daniel Cox with National Guard Reserve (behind saw), Chris Hunkler and John Miotto



Faith Lutheran Church member Tom Jaynes



Eleanor Bookstaff, left, and Dixie Howard, both from Webb School of Knoxville



Gabriel Little, Webb School sophomore



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All you need is final lead: FHS LAX boys edge Hillsboro

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

Trailing almost the entire match, and at one time down three goals midway through the third period, Farragut High School's boys lacrosse team rallied to tie Hillsboro twice in the final period of a hotly contested showdown at the FHS field Saturday afternoon, March 29.

While attackman Brody Gruver led Farragut with four goals, including the tying shot to make it 6-6 with 9:04 to play, three other Admirals stepped up offensively from there.

Alex Babb's second goal of the match, this one from about 20 feet out, tied the score 7-7 with 2:27 remain-

ing. Forty-six seconds later, a nice pass from Bennett Elton found Finn Sachs open beside the net at the 1:41 mark for the go-ahead goal. It was Farragut's first lead, 8-7, and Sachs' second goal of the day.

The Blue and Gray defense, stellar in the final 18 minutes of the second half against the Burros (1-4) while allowing just one goal in that span, got a huge last-minute stop before the Admirals took possession in the match's final 50 seconds.

Farragut kept possession, mainly with Babb and Sachs, running out the clock for a hard-earned 8-7 win while improving its overall record to 4-1.

"These boys dug down; they found the grit that they needed to protect their home turf, and then leaned on each other to finish out strong," Admirals skipper

Ben Sachs said about the rally.

Gruver "was absolutely amazing for us. He was able to step up, beat his (defenders) and put the ball in the back of the net," the coach said.

"Our defense stood strong; we played hard, physical," coach Sachs added. "In the second half we showed what Farragut lacrosse can do when we're playing our game."

Individually, "Moses Burnette played (long-stick midfielder) and kept one of their main shooters from shooting," the coach said. "Our goalkeeper (Baker Sandoval) was making great saves in the second half."

Admiral Blake Garibay had one assist. "Credit to them, their coaching and their stability; they hung in there," Burros coach Cody Moore said.



Winning ways continue for Farragut boys soccer after victory vs. Powell

Photos courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

Farragut High Schools boys soccer continued its winning ways in 2025 Tuesday, March 25, at their Farragut Intermediate School field home, beating Powell 3-1. (Above) Admiral Nathan Henderson, left (No. 7), fights for ball possession, as does Caleb Cahagan (below) — both against heavy Panthers pressure.



Cope gets 1st 'W' vs Dawgs

BILL HOWARD
Correspondent

BEARDEN — Round one of baseball between longtime District 4-4A rivals Farragut High School and Bearden went down at BHS's Phil Garner Ballpark Wednesday evening, March 26.

And the Admirals quickly erased any home field advantage the Bulldogs might have had.

FHS put up five runs in its first at-bat, built an 11-2 lead through six innings and won 11-5. The game gave both teams 2-1 district records. Farragut improved to 9-4 overall while Bearden fell to 11-2.

"I thought we did a good job," Admirals' skipper Garrett Copeland said. "I thought we were successful offensively. Always good to walk away with a win."

Farragut had strong and disciplined hitting throughout the game — 10 hits and six walks — as well as six good innings of pitching. Starter Cole Draper went four innings, giving up one earned run on six hits. He struck out four and walked one.

"That's what we expect from Cole," Copeland said. "He's a fundamental piece in our rotation. We expect him to come out there and compete every single day."

"I felt great," said Draper, a senior righthander. "It makes it easier when you get out there and get a bunch of runs early on."

Farragut's five-run first included a two-run single by Travis Brummitt Jr., which scored



Copeland

both Eli Tittle, who was running for Jake Harris, and Aidan Flagg. A two-run triple by Braden Humphrey scored Brummitt and Owen Stelzer.

In that inning, BHS starter Evan Cope also gave up two walks and threw a wild pitch, and the team committed two errors.

"Tough first inning, that's the difference," Dave Prichard, Bulldogs head coach, said. "When you have a chance to have a 1-2-3 inning and you don't make plays defensively. ... I think it was a good ballgame that never got a chance to happen."

Bearden cut it to 5-1 in the third on Cope's run-scoring bunt, but the Admirals promptly got the run back in the fourth when Harris' ground-out scored TJ Renker.

FHS led 7-2 after five, then blew it open with three in the sixth inning. Renker and Neyland Williams led off with singles, then advanced on Harris' groundout.

Braxton Tye's single — a popup that dropped just beyond short because it got lost in the lights — scored Renker. Flagg's double then brought in Williams. Zain Kureshi-Smith's groundout then plated Tye to make it 10-2.

Williams' sac fly in the seventh scored Humphrey to make it 11-2.

Grayson Wright's two-run homer was part of the Dawgs' three-run seventh. Benny Miller came on to get the final out.

"Gotta do a better job of closing out the game," Copeland said. "Beyond that, I'm pleased with our performance."

"We clean up a couple things (and) that's really a fun game," Prichard said. "There's a lot of baseball to be played and it's gonna be fun."

Round two is Monday, April 14, at Farragut.

Big innings pace Lady Admirals past rival HVA; 6-0 in district

BILL HOWARD
Correspondent

HARDIN VALLEY — It was a bonanza of big innings for Farragut High School's softball team Thursday, March 27, on the road at rival Hardin Valley Academy.

Three four-run innings, along with a five-run inning, resulted in a dominant 17-4 run-ruled District 4-4A win. FHS, which improved to 16-4-1 overall, 6-0 in district, was held scoreless only in the second inning.

Despite the output, FHS head coach Nick Green thought his squad left some runs on the field. "I thought we could have done better," he said. "We had some at-bats where we came up empty. Had runners in scoring position where we had some unproductive at-bats."

FHS's four-run first included a bases-loaded double by Hallie Grace Johnson, which scored two. Alexa Shrader and Eleena Ralston then followed with RBI singles.

Five more runs in the third made it 9-0 and would put the game out of reach. The first two runs scored when Effy Armstrong's grounder to third, with Ralston on first, was thrown to second for an attempted force out.

The ball got by the second baseman and rolled all the way to the wall, and both players scored. Farragut also got RBI doubles in the inning from Rylee Raby and Johnson.

The Lady Hawks cut it to 9-4 in their half of the third. Consecutive singles by Addison Chandler and Elsie Hatcher and a walk to Avery Sny-

der loaded the bases with no outs.

A walk to Emma Kate Schneider brought in Chandler. Ava Barnes replaced starter Taylor Wolfgram and got the first batter she faced, Alex Souders, to hit a grounder that should have become a double play. An error allowed pinch-runner Kami Taylor and Snyder to score.

Two outs later, Nathalia Rodriguez hit an RBI double.

Wolfgram threw two innings and gave up three hits and one earned run. She walked three and struck out two. "Wolfgram gave us some good innings," Green said. "But sometimes when we did make good pitches, we didn't play very good defense."

"Ava came in and gave us solid relief," the FHS coach added about the senior.

Farragut's four runs in the fourth made it 13-4. In the fifth came the final four Lady Ad runs.

A walk to Ralston, a double by Armstrong and, one out later, a single by Logan Jameson loaded the bases.

With two outs, Elsa Morrison took the plate. The UT Lady Vols signee had a modest game to that point: intentionally walked twice and not getting a hit in her other two at-bats.

Her fifth plate appearance was vintage Morrison: a grand slam over the centerfield wall to make it 17-4. "It was high and offspeed," she said about the grand slam pitch.

"This district's tough," HVA head coach Chris Snyder said. "It's hard to compete."

HVA loaded the bases in the bottom of the fifth but couldn't score.



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Adventure with 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' from Concord Christian

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Concord Christian School's high school theater students are getting ready to take an audience on an adventure with the musical, "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang."

The performances, which are open to the public, begin at 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday, April 10-11, in Concord Kid's Theater at CCS, 11704 Kingston Pike.

"Anyone can come see the show," said Allison Hall, seventh- through 12th-grade theater arts teacher, who also teaches broadcasting and photography at CCS. "We'll open the doors to the audience at 5:30 p.m."

Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased online on the school's website, concordchristianschool.org, where there is a link.

"If people buy tickets at the door, as of right now we can only do cash sales," Hall said.

"It's going really well," she added about the production. "I just hope people appreciate the story and fall in love with the characters."

The musical, based on the 1964 children's novel, "Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang: The Magical Car" by Ian Fleming, revolves around the Potts family.



Tammy Cheek

Concord Christian School high school theater student Layla Townsend, front, portrays Truly Scrumptious in the musical "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang." Back row, from left, finds Megan Spiller, Maddy Davis and Abi Presley practicing a dance routine with Townsend during rehearsal in CCS's Concord Kid's Theater Saturday, March 29.

In rural 1910s, the children, Jeremy and Jemima, discover the wreck of a champion race-car that is to be scrapped. However, they plead with their father to save it. Eventually, they get the car and discover its magic.

"This is the first year that we've split the seventh- and eighth-grade and high school musicals," Hall said. "I think

there are a lot of benefits to that because I've been able to challenge the high schoolers a lot more now that there are not middle schoolers, who are new to theater, involved."

As such, "I think it's been a really rewarding process so far," she added. "I'm

See CCS MUSICAL on Page 4B

A new 'Day' at CAK after high school principal hire

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — Christian Academy of Knoxville "is pleased to announce that Mr. Jon Day has been named the new high school principal," a CAK press release stated.

After serving as interim principal, Day "has demonstrated exceptional leadership, a heart for students and a deep commitment to CAK's mission," the release further stated.

"The search for a new high school principal has been exciting, with many great candidates," stated Rich Fulford, CAK head of school. "It was evident throughout the interview process that Jon Day is passionate about Christian education, CAK students, faculty and moving our high school forward."



Day

"He is a great listener and an 'out-of-the-box' problem solver," Fulford further stated about Day. "I am excited for Jon and our entire CAK community as he embarks on this journey with fresh ideas, Godly humility and a quiet confidence that comes from knowing who he is in Christ."

Day "has been a dedicated member of the CAK community since 2005 when he joined as a soccer coach," the release stated. "Over the years, he has served in various roles, including middle school technology teacher, assistant technology director and high school assistant principal. His leadership and unwavering commitment to CAK's students and faculty have made a lasting impact."

"CAK has played a critical role in my professional life and spiritual development," Day said. "I look forward to the opportunity to lead and love our CAK community through the grace of Jesus as high school principal."

See DAY-CAK on Page 5B

'Windy City' St. Patrick's celebration finds Marching Ads



Photos submitted



Eighty Farragut High School Marching Admirals band members participated in Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Saturday, March 15. (Left) Austin Wilson, left, and Jackson Sprouse held up the band's banner alongside majorette Macy Morgan. (Above) Bass drum players Cady Davis, left, and Jillian Hartzog were among band members sporting St. Patrick's Day glasses.

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• **Farragut Intermediate School's Family Fun Night** carnival event is from 5 to 8 p.m., Friday, April 4. "This is a family-oriented event that invites our students, staff and families to attend for an evening of fun with activities including: inflatables, craft, games, balloon twisting, photo booths, food, snow cones and more!" an FIS press release stated.

• **Five local Farragut churches are supporting 6th Annual Posies for the Pantry Fundraiser** at Farragut Presbyterian Church, 209 Jamestowne Blvd., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 12. If you would like to volunteer at the pantry, contact pantry director Renee Stone at shephopepantry@gmail.com or call 865-966-9626.

• **Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon organizers are calling for volunteers** to help with the Saturday-Sunday, April 5-6, race weekend.

Race officials specifically are looking for volunteers to act as course monitors, staff the Goody's Health & Fitness Expo on Saturday, at the finish line for all races and at water stations during the Sunday races. Volunteers should complete online registration at knoxvillemarathon.com/volunteer-spectators and choose the day, time and task that best suits their preferences.

Volunteers are invited to attend Volunteer Appreciation Party starting at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 17, at Calhoun's on the River.

• **Knoxville Walk for Water is hosting its 3rd Annual Walk for Water** beginning at 8 a.m., Saturday, April 5, at Zoo Knoxville, 3500 Knoxville Zoo Drive, "to raise awareness about the global water crisis and the work of water mission," a KWW press release stated. Cost is \$25 for adults, \$10 for youth (ages 5-17) and free for children 4 and under.

Register at walkforwater.com/knoxville. Free entry to Zoo Knoxville is offered after the walk. All donations go toward safe water projects.

• **MEDIC blood donors will receive an umbrella for their donation during the first half of April.** From April 14 through May 10, donors will receive a ticket to Soaky Mountain Waterpark. Donations in March were lower than expected, and donors are encouraged to donate to help stabilize the blood product inventory.

Appointments can be made online at www.medicblood.org, via the MEDIC app, or by calling 865-524-3074. Walk-ins are welcome, including the 11000 Kingston Pike Farragut location.

• **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 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-

See **PLANNER** on Page 4B

'Cruise In' messages: car show, youth exams



Photo submitted

Farragut Lions Club members took part in a Tennessee Lions Charities KidSight Vision Screening focused on children in February at First Baptist Concord. To get your child screened, call the state headquarters at 615-690-8644 for details. Members pictured during the screening process at FBC were, from left, Jerry Griffin, Janice Sylvan, Norvell Burrow and Julia Hart.

Farragut Lions tout April 5 show, catching eye issues

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

While touting its Cruise-In Car Show in Dickie's Barbecue Pit parking lot, 11483 Parkside Drive, starting at 6 p.m., Saturday, April 5, Farragut Lions Club wants to spread the word about getting every child screened who might have a vision problem.

"Vision problems affect one in 20 preschoolers and one in four school-age children," a Tennessee Lions Club press pamphlet stated. "Untreated

See **CRUISE IN, EXAM**, Page 5B

Hop to it!

Don't miss out on this year's **Easter Coloring Contest!**
You have one week left to enter.
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CCS musical

From page 2B

hoping that people enjoy the show.”

A special feature of the production is a familiar prop seen in the movie.

“We have the official ‘Chitty Chitty Bang Bang’ car, which people won’t expect, so I’m hoping when that’s brought out onstage, people are just kind of shocked and appreciate all the set pieces we’ve worked hard on,” Hall said.

About choosing the musical, “I grew up watching the movie, ‘Chitty Chitty Bang Bang,’ and when I was trying to think of what musical to do this year; that one just stood out to me because of the fun, whimsical element,” Hall said.

“And we always try to do some Biblical integration, being a Christian school, so it really stood out to me about having faith things working out; working together (with) strong themes I thought would relate to the students that would be good to talk about with them,”

she added. “We have 21 cast members, three students who are helping run tech and we’re going to have two or three students in backstage management.”

“The musical’s only ninth through 12th grade.”

Students playing the lead characters are Micah Dewald who is portraying Caractacus Potts, the inventor and father, originally played by Dick Van Dyke in the movie; Jonah Dewald, Micah’s brother, playing Caractacus’ son, Jeremy Potts; Abby Daughtery, playing Caractacus’ daughter, Jemima Potts; and Layla Townsend, who will play Truly Scrumptious, the wealthy, beautiful heiress of the Scrumptious Candy Company.

About choosing those four, Hall said, “the audition process is not my favorite part because the kids are so talented, but these four, particularly, just had great stage chemistry, and I think they brought some neat characterization to these roles that fit my vision for the show.”



Tammy Cheek

Among the Concord Christian School’s high school theater students who are cast members of “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” are, front row from left, Nell Pattison, Maddy Davis, Joshua Bean, Tasi Porter and Bailey Fortino. Second row, from left, are Ariana Mason, Abi Presley, Emily Anderson and Layla Townsend. Back row, from left, are Emily Poston, Megan Spiller, Austin DeMerchant, Chase Burnette and Bauer Mynatt.

Planner

From page 3B

energy entertainment for a great cause,” a Yee-Haw press release stated.

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

• **Knoxville Bar Association and Legal Aid of East Tennessee offer local veterans an in-person, free Legal Advice Clinic** from noon to 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 9, in Knox County Public Defender’s Community Law Office, 1101 Liberty St. in Knoxville.

Veterans not able to attend the clinic are encouraged to use the telephone clinic option. For this, pre-registration is required. Call Legal Aid of East Tennessee at 865-637-0484 to pre-register.

— no wills are drafted nor legal work performed.

• **The Rotary Club of Farragut Foundation invites everyone to The Big Game Show** from 6:30 to 9 p.m., Thursday, April 17, in Fox Den Country Club, 12284 North Fox Den Drive. “The Big Game Show is a series of games similar to the kinds you see on television that are led by a professional host and involve contestants and the audience,” an RCF press release stated.

Table sponsorships (\$1,750) “include a buffet dinner for eight, silent auction, cash bar and a variety of entertaining ... games,” the release further stated. “Single tickets (\$100) are limited. Proceeds go toward worthy service projects in East Tennessee.”

For tickets or more info: farragutrotary.my.canva.site.

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obituary



Skylar Coffield

• **William “Skylar” Coffield, age 36 of Lenoir City, Tennessee**, cast off his broken and limited earthly body and became the glorified version of himself — limitless and perfect. He is now in Glory where all things are made new. His family was at his side as he made the transition on Sunday, March 23, 2025, at Fort Loudoun Medical Center in Lenoir City. He was born in Altamonte Springs, Florida, on Aug. 24, 1988, the son of Dr. James L. Coffield and Mona (Holloway) Coffield, who both survive him. Skylar lived in Dayton, Tennessee; Powell, Tennessee; Casselberry, Florida; and most recently in Lenoir City.

He was a graduate of Winter Springs High School in Winter Springs, Florida. He loved and lived a big story; changing the lives of those who experienced his captivating soul. It proved to be difficult to live as a non-typical dreamer in this broken world. Skylar was an autistic theologian who taught others about God and themselves. He was a member of Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church in Far-

ragut, Tennessee. Skylar is survived by his parents, Dr. Jim and Mona Coffield of Lenoir City; his brother, Pearce (Brelyn) Coffield of Lenoir City; his sister, Kim (Noah) Neagles of Knoxville, Tennessee; his aunt, Luana Holloway of Franklin, Kentucky; his uncle, Mike (Sherry) Coffield of Maryville, Tennessee; and his nephews, Cedar, Rowan and Zay. The family received friends in Dayton Friday, March 28, 2025, in Vanderwall Funeral Home. A graveside service at Rhea Memory Gardens in Dayton followed, with the Rev. Seth Hammond, the Rev. Andrew Baughman and Michael Palmer officiating, followed by a white dove release. A Celebration of Life for Skylar was held at Christ Covenant Presbyterian Saturday, March 29, 2025, with family visitation held one hour before the service. Please share your memories and photos of Skylar on his online guest register at www.vanderwallfh.com. The family is being cared for by Vanderwall Funeral Home in Dayton. Skylar did not enjoy flowers, so in lieu of flowers, please make generous contributions to one of the following organizations in his name: Joni & Friends of Knoxville and/or ACE ministries at Christ Covenant Church.

Cruise In, exam

From page 3B

eye problems can worsen and lead to other serious problems as well as affect learning ability, personality and adjustment in school. ... When a child goes blind, it's often a lifetime sentence. “Perhaps more unsettling, nearly 50 percent of childhood blindness is avoidable,” the pamphlet further stated. To get your child screened, call Tennessee Lions headquarters, 615-690-8644. **Donate used glasses** Meanwhile, Farragut Lions ask that Farragut and area citizens bring old glasses to the car show or to a bin at Visionworks Doctors of Optometry, 10930 Parkside Drive. “And Northshore (Jefferson) YMCA has been taking donations for us as well,”

FLC president Tyler Hunsaker said. “And we’re going to be putting a (used eye glass) box at Island Fin Poke,” 11615 Parkside Drive in Farragut. **Cruise In show** Cars and trucks of all styles, makes and models are welcome at the Cruise In without charge. There also is no charge simply to drop by. However, cash donations will be used “to go back into the communities of Farragut and West Knoxville,” Hunsaker said. “We’re trying to raise funds to do more vision screenings for children, and also bringing forward diabetes awareness to the community.” Based on his Mayor’s Choice judging selections, Farragut Mayor Ron Williams will award cash prizes to the top three vehicular participants near the end of the show. Dickie’s has food and drinks.

Day-CAK

From page 2B

Jon and his wife, Amanda Day, “have been deeply in-

involved in the CAK family for years,” the release stated. Amanda, a CAK alumna, returned to her alma mater as a teacher in 2014.

Together, they have three children: Charlie, Jackson and Jenneh, all of whom have attended CAK.

classifieds

625 AUCTION

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Posies for the Pantry

Saturday April 12, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
(rain or shine)

Farragut Presbyterian Church
209 Jamestowne Blvd. ~ Farragut, TN 37934

Shop for spring plants, lowers, herbs, garden decor, crafts and more!

KARM'S Urban Table food truck, bargain shed & crafts for kids, too!

Community churches supporting the pantry:
Faith Lutheran • Concord Methodist • Farragut Presbyterian • First Baptist Concord • Grassy Valley Baptist

fundraising proceeds benefit:
THE Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry

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Worship & Praise

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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
225 Jamestowne Blvd.
Farragut 966-9626
SUNDAY WORSHIP
9 a.m. & 11:11 a.m.
www.faithloves.org

Christian Friends of Israel
P.O. Box 1813
Jerusalem, 91015 Israel
Gen 12:3 www.cfijerusalem.org

Sunday Bible Class 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
Nursery & Children's Worship Provided
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Weekday Preschool - Monday-Thursday

farragut CHURCH OF CHRIST
136 Smith Rd. • 865-966-5025 • farragutchurch.org

NEW COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH
Fredrick E. Brabson, Sr., Senior Pastor

Worship Complex
10319 Starkey Lane
Knoxville, TN 37932

Contact Information
Church: (865) 671-3370
Fax: (865) 966-2072
Email: newcovenant@newcovenantbc.com
Website: www.newcovenantbc.com

Weekly In-Person Services
Sun: Family Bible Hour (9:30 AM)
Sun: Worship Service (11:00 AM)

Recorded Services
On ZOOM
Wed: Prayer Meeting & Bible Study (6:45 PM)
Wed: Cultivate (7:00 PM)

“Winning Souls and Changing Lives for Jesus Christ is a Total Family Ministry”

First Farragut United Methodist Church

Worship Service
Sundays at 10:30 AM
ffumc.org/events
12733 Kingston Pike
865-966-8430 • www.ffumc.org

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WESTGATE CHURCH

IT IS FINISHED!
Worship, Music, Drama, Media, Communion

QR Code

Sunday April 13
10:30 am

416 N. Campbell Station Road
www.westgatechurchknox.com

FARRAGUT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
“Praising God, Serving Others, Growing in Faith”

Family Friendly Casual Worship
9 a.m.
With a children’s program for ages 3 and up.

Traditional Sunday Worship
11 a.m.
Livestreams at fpcn.org
Loving Nursery from birth to age 3 at both services

209 Jamestowne Blvd.
Located behind Village Green Shopping Ctr.
(865)966-9547 • fpcn.org

CONCORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
11020 Roane Drive

Sunday Worship Services

Traditional & Contemporary Worship
9:00 and 11:00 AM | Concurrently
All Worship Services on-site and online.
Nursery available for both services.

11:00 AM Kids Church (K-5th)

ConcordUnited.org
Watch our services on
[Youtube.com/ConcordUnited](https://www.youtube.com/ConcordUnited)

TWO RIVERS CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICES

SATURDAY | 5:30P
SUNDAY | 9:30 & 11:00A

MID-WEEK TIMES

WEDNESDAY | 6:30-8:30P
Middle School Ministry
High School Ministry
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275 Harrison Ln., Lenoir City, TN 37772

CHRIST COVENANT PCA

12915 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN 37934
865-671-1885

Worship Times
9:30 am
and
11:00 am

For more information go to
www.christcov.org

classifieds

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 Commercial 25 words \$57/4 weeks
 Each additional word 25¢ per week
Display Ads
 \$11.25 per column inch

Classified Advertising Deadlines

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 Space & Copy: Fridays, noon

Classified Payments

Payments may be made by cash, check or credit card. Prepayment is required on all classified advertising.
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203 HELP WANTED 203 HELP WANTED

NEWSPAPER CARRIERS NEEDED!

farragutpress is in need of additional Motor Route Carriers to deliver the paper once a week.

Please contact Tony Christen at 865-218-8872 or production@farragutpress.com

318 GARAGE SALES

EUMW RUMMAGE SALE!

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Ebenezer United Methodist Church
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 office@eumcknox.org

Place your garage sale ad in farragutpress!

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000 LEGALS

239 JAMESTOWNE BLVD | FARRAGUT, TN 37934 | 865.966.7057 | WWW.TOWNOFFARRAGUT.ORG

LEGAL NOTICE

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, at its meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2025, adopted the following ordinances on second and final reading:

I. Ordinance 24-19, an Ordinance to Amend the text of the Farragut Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance 86-16, as amended, pursuant to authority granted by Section 13-4-201, Tennessee Code Annotated, by amending the Farragut Municipal Code, Appendix A., Zoning, Chapter 3., Section III., Rural Single-Family Residential District (R-1), Subsection B., Permitted Uses And Structures, to provide for a Second Detached Single-Family Dwelling Unit under certain conditions

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

000 LEGALS

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

Notice is hereby given that to settle owners past due rent and other charges, the sale of a 1999 Cobia, 190DC will be sold at Public Auction.

Sale will take place **Wednesday, April 9, 2025** at 12PM
 SunLifeConcord Marina
 10931 Concord Park Drive
 Knoxville TN 37922

Vessel must be removed at the time of sale. Sale of unit is subject to cancellation of settlement between SunLifeConcord Marina and the obligated party.

For further information, contact the Harbormaster at 865-966-5831.

service directory

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 6 Block.....\$335/mo.
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 Process color \$15/mo.

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