

See PROJECT on Page 2A

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

On October 16th this month the Farragut Planning Commission has on the agenda item 4) B) Action Items: Discussion and public hearing on a resolution, Resolution PC-25-05, to amend the Farragut Municipal Code, Appendix B - Subdivisions, Article III., Subsection A. Streets, 1., to provide for context sensitive street cross section requirements, as Illustrated in a new appendix to the Subdivision Regulations, referenced as Appendix F, in lieu of existing requirements in the Subdivision Regulations (Town of Farragut, Applicant). Good luck if you understand that agenda item. I don't see this as ethical. The agenda item is not descriptive of the full intent of what the town is doing. A new "Appendix F" is not even readily available for viewing by the public prior to the October 16th meeting. And the State of Tennessee requires by law that agenda items must be understood by the average person.

After going back to the first time this was introduced for discussion in the Farragut Planning Commission Meeting April 17th of this year, I learned of the town's attempt to take the front yards of many Farragut residents for eight-foot asphalt greenways with six-foot grass strips for a total taking of 14 feet of their property, much of which would require the taking by eminent domain. The following roads that were to be included: Evans Road, Red Mill Lane, Allen Kirby Road, Boring Road, North Campbell Station Road, and Herron Road.

On several occasions in both the Mayor and Aldermen meetings and in the Planning Commission meetings town officials have said wider roads result in more speeding and that 10' wide roads are acceptable. I agree with these statements. I live on Evans Road, and our road is fine. We want it left alone. More road width means more speeding. But if

a road is "widened" it allows the town to install greenways. So the town's motive for greenways stays the same in spite of their changing the project language.

The town of Farragut is in a lawsuit with residents of Turkey Creek Road for these very reasons. The town first named the project along Turkey Creek Road as the "Turkey Creek Road Greenway". After the lawsuit was filed the town altered the town budget and renamed the project the "Turkey Creek Road Multi-Modal Road Project" and added on foot of pavement on the road in order to classify the project as "road widening". Funny thing is that in 2022 the town notified Evans Road residents that they wanted to acquire easements from the property owners in order to specifically build a greenway. No mention was made of road widening then, but it is obviously their go-to language now.

In my opinion the town should stop trying to take residents land until the existing greenway lawsuit is adjudicated. The town should be honest with their agenda items and tell the complete story instead of passing incremental changes that they hope will inevitably lead to their goal. And the town should always notify any citizen whose land may be taken by eminent domain sooner rather than later.

My neighbors and I who live on Evans Road do not want our road widened nor do we want a greenway forced on us. For years we have fought this greenway taking and will continue to make our wishes heard. But I hope that other residents in our fine community will realize that what is happening to us will eventually happen to you.

Sincerely,
Greg Wiberley
Farragut
Resident Since 1986

Project
From page 1A

the public."

However, while "work quality is proceeding well, the production has been slower than expected due to a significant amount of hard, unfractured rock in Founders Park," said Edwin Deyton, P.E., engineering supervisor with First Utility District. "The contractor has been slowed by having to drill and hammer rock to allow for trenching, excavation and installation of new pipe.

"This has resulted in several weeks of delayed schedule, but the Town of Farragut has been a gracious partner in working with FUD's schedule and necessary infrastructure upgrades," he said.

When will work be completed? "The scope of work for the current contract is approximately

11,000 feet of sewer interceptor replacement, generally along South Campbell Station Road from Turkey Creek Road to the Village Green Subdivision," Deyton said. "The Phase 1 contract is expected to be completed by Summer 2026.

When asked about the timeline regarding the Town's holiday events, he said, "FUD's work in Founders Park is currently constrained to the northern portion of the park, and utility work will be completed on or before Nov. 15.

"FUD will return in Spring 2026 to repave the southern parking lot in Founders Park, Deyton said. "FUD and Town are actively coordinating efforts to allow for both utility work and Christmas lighting to occur concurrently.

"Again, FUD truly appreciates the Town's partnership, support and willingness to work together to support both utility and park activities," he said.

Cuisine
From page 1A

"One differentiator (of restaurants) is genuine hospitality, authentic hospitality.

"You can come here in your sweat pants, your medical scrubs, in a three-piece suit for a business lunch. You can come here for family, with your kids ... but when you come here, you need to know (that) you're completely and totally welcome," he said. "We get joy out of service. We see what we do as being noble. We have the opportunity to feed you delicious food and take a load off while you're here.

"Southern hospitality is unlike any other hospitality," Frabitore said. "We have sayings, like 'Bless your heart.' But, hospitality is critically important, and you want to go to a restaurant where you feel comfortable."

"This (opening of a new restaurant) is kind of a natural for us because we've been downtown (Knoxville) for a decade basically in Market Square," Frabitore said.

Tupelo Honey is open from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday; and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday.

"(The Farragut restaurant) is our 27th location. The largest concentration of our stores is in Tennessee.

"We like Tennessee, and Tennessee seems to like what we do," he added. "It's all a good match. We just keep doing more of them."

Celebrating its 25th anniversary as a company, Frabitore said Tupelo Honey has been around since 2000. In that vein, he reflected on why he chose Farragut for its newly added location.

"We love Knoxville," he said. "It's an extremely strong store for us, and it's withstood the test of time. There's a good workforce ... it's a pro-business climate to make it easy to do business.

"And, when we looked for a second location, we looked for a community — kind of a live-work place center like you have here — that is growing but it's growing intentionally, meaning good roads, good schools, good services," Frabitore said. "And, Farragut is very much and idealic community where people would love to live not only for its natural beauty but for all of the opportunities that are here.

"And this (Biddle Farms) is a substantial development, as you can see, so not only do you have the grocery store, not only is the high school across the street, wonderful churches down the road, a huge number of apartments and townhomes going in, you have shopping here; you have multiple restaurants here; it's a real destination center for the people of Farragut," he said. "It's a place to gather and shop and dine and play.

"This location really sparked our interest, not only because the building is three sides glass, which brings a lot of natural light and beauty into our restaurant, but we have a really killer patio.

"Dogs are welcome on the patio, too," Frabitore added. "Dogs can get a water bowl, and we have menu items for dogs."

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farragutpress is published weekly at
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Making the Most of Medicare Open Enrollment

When you turn 65, Medicare becomes a vital part of your health care coverage. But Medicare isn't a "set and forget" program.

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- **And travel plans:** Frequent travelers might want supplemental coverage for overseas medical emergencies not covered by Medicare.

So, take advantage of Medicare's annual open enrollment to ensure the coverage you choose is the best one to meet your needs.

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Financial Advisor



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Pickleball
From page 1A

the fall.

Daniel Benner, project manager with Baseline Sports Construction, said his crew currently is working on concrete of the curbs and fixings.

“We will start on the drains and face stone for the asphalt,” he added. “All that will be started in the next few weeks.”

So will the sidewalks, according to Ben White, senior engineering technician.

“It’s going,” he added. “It’s always a slow process, and it looks worse before it gets better.”

But, “We are about to be out of the ground,” White said. “It’s just that there are a lot of components ... it’s not just about putting down asphalt.”

“The hard part is making the cake; putting on the icing is the easy part,” he added.

While they are looking at mid-November to finish much of the work, Town staff said “There will still need to be logistical processes put in place.”

Last February, Farragut Mu-

nicipal Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the site plans for the pickleball courts.

“It’s a win-win for a lot of people,” Planning Commissioner Ron Pinchok said after the vote.

The approved plan calls for a nine-court complex with lights, between-court fencing, external fencing, a shade structure outside the complex and two Americans with Disabilities Act parking spots, totaling .98 acres of disturbed land,” according to Oestreich.

“The Harrison Road side parking lot at Mayor Bob Leonard Park is less than 100 yards from the new pickleball complex and has plenty of parking to accommodate all of the activity for the park, including pickleball,” he added at the Feb. 20 meeting.

“The specific location for the complex is where the current grass rectangular field is along Harrison Road,” Oestreich said. “We’ll be moving that rectangular field to the open space behind the sand volley-

ball courts.

“The front walk will have gates and a French drain between the sidewalk and the external fence. Again, those will all tie to our pathways,” he added.

The plans to build the pickleball courts at Mayor Bob Leonard Park were decided as a solution to complaints about the McFee Park tennis/pickleball complex by nearby residents.

“For the past several years, Farragut Parks and Recreation has received multiple noise complaints from the Brass Lantern residents bordering the McFee Park tennis/pickleball complex,” Oestreich said at the Feb. 20 FMPC meeting. “Members of the Brass Lantern (Homeowners Association) have attended both Parks and Athletics Council meetings and Board of Mayor and Aldermen meetings, requesting the Town stop pickleball at McFee Park.”

At the same time, he said, “pickleball players attended meetings, pleading their need for a place to play pickleball.



Tammy Cheek
Town senior Engineering technician Ben White, left, and Baseline Sports Construction project manager Daniel Benner oversee the construction of the Town’s new pickleball courts at Mayor Bob Leonard Park.

Celebrating
From page 1A

& Wellness Expo, which is planned for Feb. 1.

In the meantime, business owners can learn more about the annual Shop Farragut for the Holidays program, created to give more publicity for the

Town’s businesses during the holidays.

“That runs the Friday before Thanksgiving all the way through New Year’s Day, Jan. 1,” Krempasky said. “A lot of businesses take advantage of that time because it’s the greatest revenue time of the year.”

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The Auction

Annual Chamber gala goes purple to raise funds for Alzheimer's

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Purple was the word for about 380 Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members who attended The Auction: Charity Gala Dinner Affair in The Venue at Lenoir City, Thursday Oct. 2.

The Chamber, which included a silent auction with cocktails, dinner and concluded with a live auction, featured the color purple in honor of its non-profit partners, Alzheimer's Association-Tennessee Chapter and Alzheimer's Tennessee, who benefitted from part of the proceeds from the event.

Presented by Rocky Top HVAC, the gala is the "longest running fundraiser in its 38th year and with a sell-out tonight of 380 registrations," FWKCC president/CEO Julie Blaylock said. "This has been a stable event since we got started in 1987."

Organizers of the event included Amy Shewmake, chair; Whitney Kent, vice chair; Anthony Slay, Gerald Allison, Joey Ruffalo, board liaison John Haney, Joshua Riley, Kathryn Schrader, Kelley Perry, Mike Burris and Stacy Madar. Emceeding the live auction was John Goddard, Loudon County director and extension agent.

"I want to say what a pleasure it is for us to be a presenting sponsor," said Gerald Allison with Rocky Top HVAC. "We're proud to support the Farragut West Knox Chamber. It's a fantastic Chamber ... and also for our charities that we're giving money."

He asked the crowd, "Raise your hand if you've been touched or know someone who's been touched by Alzheimer's? ... Almost everybody."

"And, if you watch someone going through that disease, not only them but the caretakers that care for them, it's heart-breaking," Allison said.

"It's a good cause," he added about the charities.

"You are actually letting us give back a portion of the proceeds to not one, but two non-profits," Blaylock said. "You have made it possible for us to make a portion of the proceeds that goes to our non-profits partners triple in the last six or seven years."

To tell about their organizations Janice Wade-Whitehead, president/CEO of Alzheimer's Tennessee in Knoxville, and Sarah Dixon Alzheimer's Association's Tennessee Chapter, were on hand to talk about their organizations' services, such as adult day care, virtual



Photos submitted

Clockwise from top: Attendees filled The Venue at Lenoir City for The Auction: Charity Gala Dinner Affair on Thursday Oct. 2. From left, Skee and Amanda Orr with Kineteic Wealth and Connie and John Griffith were among the attendees. FWKCC president/CEO Julie Blaylock is pictured on stage with John Goddard.

meetings for caregivers and funding research.

In addition to the charities, Blaylock said some of the funds also go toward employee

training of member businesses as part of workforce grants, along with continued develop-

See AUCTION on Page 5A

Madison Insurance Group moves closer to Farragut

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Location, location, location — when Madison Insurance Group looked at where it wanted to operate, it wanted more visibility.

So, they moved from the 9721 Kingston Pike location in Cedar Bluff to 10205 Kingston Pike, closer to Farragut.

"We were looking for more road frontage, right there on Kingston Pike, and we liked moving closer to Farragut," said Jeff Hensley, insurance producer at MIG. "Where we're located at, you can pop right off Pellissippi Parkway."

"So, it was about location, visibility and availability," he added. Before, he said the agency did not have the road frontage, but now, "our sign can be seen from the road and (we are) more accessible and available."

MIG, owned by Bill and Bob Arowood, was founded by Bill Arowood Sr. in 1976 in Clinton. Bill Jr. and Bob now are the company's principals.

Hensley said while there still is an office in Clinton, the corporate office is located in Oak Ridge. Besides the Kingston Pike office, it also has 11 other offices, such as Broadway in North Knoxville, Maynardville, Maryville, Sevierville, Kingsport and others out of state.

"We are a full-line independent retail agency, so we offer all commercial lines of business insurance for businesses," he said. "We have personal lines insurance for individuals, like home, auto, life. We have a full Medicare division."

"We have specialists in each of the different areas," Hensley said. "We have a personal lines team and a commercial team, and we work with over 75 different insurance carriers we represent and all the specific appetites and lines of business they specialize in."

"So, we're always going to represent the customer," he said. "We represent the client,

See MIG on Page 5A

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4th Annual Boots & Beauties!

The Farragut High School Dance Team hosted its 4th Annual Boots and Beauties Father-Daughter Dance on Sunday, September 28th at the FHS Commons. Guests enjoyed an unforgettable time filled with dancing, games, photo opportunities, food trucks, and lively entertainment from DJ Dave & MC Seagraves.

The Farragut High School Dance Team is a nationally recognized program celebrated for its artistry, athleticism, and spirit. Competing in both Jazz and Pom, the team has earned nine state championships and was crowned NDTC Small Varsity Jazz National Champion in 2018 and 2019—proudly representing the Admirals on both state and national stages.

If you are interested in learning more about FHSDT and how you can become a sponsor, email farragutdanceteam@gmail.com

Fleming’s networking



Tammy Cheek

Fleming’s Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar server Mackenzie Kelly waits on John H. Geer, vice president of sales and marketing for Geerheads Facility Services and Supplies, and PJ Dieffenbach, owner of Web Mavericks, during a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce networking hosted by Fleming’s, 11287 Parkside Drive, Thursday, Aug. 7.

Auction

From page 4A

ment grants.
Also, “you’re letting the Chamber keep adding more

diverse programs to our businesses without inflating the cost of membership, which keeps access to our Chamber reasonable to even the most micro of businesses,” she said.



Tammy Cheek

Madison Insurance Group was treated to a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce-sponsored ribbon cutting for its move to 10205 Kingston Pike, next to FedEx, in Knoxville Tuesday, Sept. 23. On hand for the event were MIG’s team, Alaina White (fourth from left), Terri Drummey (to White’s left, back row), Jeff Hensley (with scissors), Sammy Sawyer, (third from right), Paul Rodarmel (second from right) and co-principal Bill Arowood (hidden in back row, second from left), along with a host of Chamber members.

MIG

From page 4A

not the carrier.
“We’re going to put you with the best fit for your needs,” Hensley said. “And because

we’ve been in business for so long, built the agency since 1976, the amount of carriers we have versus some other independents is quite diverse.
“That’s one thing that sets us apart: the number of carri-

ers we represent and access to different markets,” he added.
MIG is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call 865-321-8055 or visit online at migsgroup.com



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2. Prizes awarded: 1st, 2nd and 3rd

3. Winners will be selected in five categories:
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4. No entries accepted for judging after 4 p.m. EST on
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ISSUE 3 VOLUME 38

FARRAGUT, TENNESSEE

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Michelle Hollenhead
Chloe Pippin, who is in her second year on drum set

Admirals rockin’ program for 2025

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD
Correspondent

If it takes a village to raise a child, then perhaps it takes a Town to properly raise a band.

From the administration and staff, to its members and their parents, a collective cohort works behind the scenes year-round to ensure the Farragut High School Marching Admirals has everything it needs to create award-winning programs.

That effort was never more clear than this past Saturday, when in its first competition of the season, FHS won second place in percussion and third place

See ADMIRALS on Page 6A

Sobieski relates women’s right to vote, the price paid

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Women in Tennessee have had the right to vote for 105 years, but that privilege came at a price.

Wanda Sobieski, president/founder of Suffrage Coalition in Knoxville, related how Tennessee was the last state to ratify the 19th Amendment on Aug. 18, 1920, giving women the right to vote, and what it took to get there when she spoke as part of Farragut Museum’s Speaker Series, History Hour at the Museum, in Town Hall Tuesday, Sept. 16.

“Really, it’s a little bit of a misnomer to call it women’s suffrage because while the 19th amendment, when it passed, did give all women who are citizens in the United States the right to vote, it had an impact on everybody — on men, on immigrants, on everybody in society,” Sobieski said. “And I guess that’s the whole point of suffrage, was to have a voice in society.”

“Women changed the world once they got the right

See SOBIESKI on Page 2A

RiverView set to host Farm to Table experience



Photo submitted
RiverView Family Farm’s Legacy Barn, a 6,000-square-foot Gambrel barn, again will be the venue for the 6th Annual Farm to Families dinner event to benefit Loudon County Habitat for Humanity.

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

RiverView Family Farm, located on the banks of Fort Loudoun Lake, is hosting a “Farm to Table experience” to benefit Loudon County Habitat for Humanity.

“The table is set; the lights are strung; and excitement is building,” said Rachel Renden, Loudon County Habitat for Humanity director of development.

“This is the sixth year we are hosting the event,” she said. “RiverView Family Farm has been incredible to us and has allowed us to use their facilities each year for the event.”

The event, which includes a gourmet farm-to-table dinner crafted by Chef Robert Allen of Bluestem Hollow, live music, open bar and curated silent auction, will take place Thursday, Oct. 16, at RiverView Family Farm, 12130 Prater Lane, Knoxville. Cocktail hour starts at 5 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

“Chef Robert Allen of Bluestem Hollow crafts an incredible farm to table meal for the night, all in-



Photo submitted
Attendees of the Farm to Family event will enjoy gourmet dishes, prepared by Chef Robert Allen, as part of the dining experience.

See RIVERVIEW on Page 2A

Charter, Comcast approved to extend fiber optic cable

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut residents can expect to see Charter and Comcast trucks soon in their neighborhoods.

Farragut Municipal Planning Commission unanimously approved Comcast’s request to extend fiber optic cable along a portion of the east side of Concord Road, south of Kingston Pike, to service 116 Concord Road during FMPC’s meeting Thursday, Sept. 18.

“This project was reviewed last month as a mostly aerial installation of fiber optic cable along a portion of the west side of Concord Road and then crossing

Concord Road with an aerial line to service 116 Concord Road,” Town Community Development director Mark Shipley said. “The applicant was unable to proceed as originally planned and is now requesting to extend the fiber along the east side of Concord Road using directional boring from the south side of Kingston Pike to ultimately service 116 Concord Road.”

“The east side of Concord Road has a sidewalk,” Shipley explained. “The directional boring will be at a depth of at least 36 inches.”

“The work will be performed by (subcontractor) Source Broadband, and they have a letter of credit on file with the Town to ensure that any affected ar-

eas are restored to their previous condition,” he said. “The staff recommends approval of this project subject to obtaining a right-of-way permit through the Town’s Engineering Department.”

Also, FMPC unanimously approved Comcast’s request to extend fiber optic cable along the west side of South Campbell Road, using directional boring, from Kingston Pike south to service 109 S. Campbell Station Road.

In a similar action, FMPC unanimously approved Charter’s request to extend fiber optic cable along a

See FIBER OPTIC on Page 6A

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Admirals go two in a row



Carlos Reveiz, carlos@crfoto.com

FHS, 21, Logan Wright, makes long run.

KEN LAY
Correspondent

After losing five games to open the 2025 season, Farragut High School's football team won its second consecutive Region 2-6A game last week.

The Admirals (2-5 overall, 2-2 in the region) outlasted Hardin Valley Academy, 45-28, in a shootout at Bill Clabo Field.

In a game full of offensive fireworks, Farragut quarterback Corbin Hobson had a stellar outing as he went 17-of-27 through the air, racked up 282 passing yards and tossed two touchdown passes.

The Admirals' offensive attack started fast as Hobson had a long 73-yard pass to Ethan Farhat, putting Farragut deep in HVA territory.

Two plays later, Far-

ragut was in the end zone, thanks to a 3-yard touchdown plunge by Noah Haag. Kicker Ryan McCue added the extra point making the score 7-0 in favor of the Ads, who never trailed in the contest, with 10 minutes, 18 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

Later in the opening frame, the Admirals extended their advantage against the Hawks (3-4, 1-3) to 14-0 on a 6-yard scoring run by Charlie Noble.

Hardin Valley was able to slice Farragut's lead in half late in the opening stanza when it engineered a 12-play, 80-yard drive, which was culminated by a 12-yard touchdown run by Samuel Mann, making the score, 14-7.

The Admirals responded with 3:07 remaining until halftime when Hobson connected with



Carlos Reveiz, carlos@crfoto.com

FHS, 7, Ethan Farhat, returns kick off for a TD!

Max Garfield on a short 4-yard scoring strike.

HVA pulled to within 21-14 a short time later when Brody Lamb

scored on a 10-yard run but Farragut would tack on three points just before the end of the game.

See ADMIRALS on Page 9B

Hawks leave it all on the court

BILL HOWARD
Correspondent

Two weeks ago, Hardin Valley Academy's volleyball team had a comfortable lead against Bearden High School, up two sets to one and a sizable lead in the fourth.

Bearden pulled out the match three sets to two.

Monday night in the first round of the District 4-3A Volleyball Tournament at Maryville High School, the third-seeded Lady Hawks again met the Lady Bulldogs, who are seeded sixth.

Oh, how sweet is revenge.

HVA took a two-set lead, only to see Bearden storm back to tie it at two sets apiece. But, the Lady Hawks regrouped to win the fifth set 15-9 and the match. They were scheduled to play second-seed Maryville Tuesday night, at Maryville.

"Gotta do it the hard way," Lady Hawks' coach Eric Boden said. "It was a good-fought win. We had some people play some different positions and those people stepped up and I'm really proud."

"I'm proud of my team



Tony Christen

Lady Hawks, 10, Chelsea Hendren returns serve with teammate, 13, Lilly Ringle.

for the fight at the end," BHS coach Katy Davidson said. "It was good,

we just came up a little late."

See HAWKS on Page 3B



Tony Christen

Lady Admiral, libero Hailey Aiken, was very happy to avenge the regular season loss to West.

Lady Ads avenge regular season loss

BILL HOWARD
Correspondent

Monday night opened the four-night District 4-3A Volleyball Tournament, the first two nights being held at Maryville High School.

And, it couldn't have gone much better for Farragut High School.

The fourth-seeded Lady Admirals swept fifth-seed West High School three sets to none in the double-elimination event. The set scores were 25-19, 25-17, and 25-16. The win avenged the Lady Admirals' 3-1 loss to the Lady Rebels at home on Sept. 9.

"I think they had a little revenge in mind," FHS coach Andre Alves said. "I just challenged them 'guys, just take care of the ball. Make them earn, make good decisions' ... and they did. We won the serving pass better I felt like."

"I'm really proud of us," sophomore outside hitter Hope Blackiston said. "We really wanted to come back for our

revenge game because we should not have lost the first time we played them."

Sophomore libero Hailey Aiken said, "It feels really good to get back at them. We made less mistakes so I think that's a big part of it."

In the first set, the teams traded points to a 15-14 West lead. From there, it was all FHS. A 6-2 run made it 20-17 Farragut; a 5-2 run then finished off the set.

In the second set, the Lady Admirals raced to a 9-4 lead, only to see the Lady Rebels win eight of the next 11 to knot the set at 12. But as in the first set, FHS took off from there.

Five in a row made it 17-12 FHS; four of the next six put Farragut up 21-14. After two in a row by West to cut it to 21-16, the Lady Admirals won four of the final five points to win it.

Long scoring streaks by both teams characterized the final set. WHS

See LADY ADS on Page 3B

Bulldogs seek first win

BILL HOWARD
Correspondent

Going into Friday night's game on the road at Blankenship Field, Bearden High School's football team was still in search of its first win.

The Bulldogs fought and played hard to the end, but Oak Ridge High School simply was too good. The Wildcats built a 34-0 halftime lead, then cruised to a 34-7 win.

"They're a good football team," 'Dogs' coach Brad Taylor said. "I think they have a chance to have a really good game against (Region 2-6A powerhouse)

Maryville. We were a little banged up coming into this game. Few starters out but a lot of kids still played hard."

ORHS made it 7-0 on the game's opening drive when quarterback Blaine Stansberry scored on a 3-yard keeper with 9:21 left in the first.

A punt by Bearden then led to a 37-yard field goal by 'Cats' kicker Eli Pearson and a 10-0 lead halfway through the first.

Late in the quarter Oak Ridge increased its advantage to 17 when Stansberry connected

See BULLDOGS on Page 9A

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FHS, 33, Meghan Shimeall, fights for ball against Science Hill.

Regular season ends with a win

DAN HARRALSON
Correspondent

Farragut’s girls soccer regular season concluded Thursday with a home victory. The Lady Admirals (7-5-1) defeated Science Hill (12-3-1), 2-0.

Next, Farragut will host Maryville (9-9) on Oct. 11 at 1 p.m. EDT to kick off district tournament play.

The Lady Admirals scored two second-half goals on Thursday by Kennedy Dade and Bella Burton.

Farragut head coach Jessie Stephens Burkhart discussed her team’s second-half performance, resulting in two goals and a regular-season finale win.

“It is something we have been talking to the girls about all year,” she said. “We are a really young team. We’ve had times where we look great, and then we have times where we have not been so great.

“A large part of that can be consistency and things like that. Mentally, we have been trying to keep them focused. I think they did a good job coming out of halftime and mak-

ing some adjustments that we wanted to make.”

Farragut totaled three corner kicks versus Science Hill. The Lady Admirals scored one goal following a corner kick attempt.

“One of our goals was not directly off a corner kick, but we took the corner kick, had an attempt on goal. It did not work but came back out to us,” Stephens Burkhart said. “We were able to slot it back in. When you get them, you have to make sure to take advantage of them. I think we took advantage of our opportunities there. Science Hill has a very good goalie and are a very disciplined soccer team.”

Goalkeeper Emery Wylie had one save and a shutout for Farragut.

Science Hill totaled two shots, four saves and three corner kicks while Farragut finished the match with six shot attempts.

Farragut recorded wins over Heritage, Powell, Station Camp, Maryville, Catholic, Lenoir City and Science Hill during the 2025 regular season.

Lady Hawks fall to Rebels

DAN HARRALSON
Correspondent

The final week of the 2025 girls high school soccer regular season has come to an end. The final week featured a matchup between West High School and Hardin Valley Academy.

West was victorious, 1-0, on the road. The game’s only goal was scored by Ava Curtis on a free kick with 17 minutes remaining in the first half.

West finished its regular season with a 12-1-1 record. Rebels’ head coach Roberto Castro discussed his team entering the playoffs.

“We’re coming along,” he said. “Really did not know what to expect at the beginning of the year because we had such a new team. We have 18 freshmen and 17 returning players. Of course, they are quality players, but with such a young team you don’t know how quickly they will adapt and catch on to the high school game, the physicality and the speed of it, and, of course, the strength of our district is not easy. I’m happy with how we are coming along.”

Castro was pleased how West performed at Hardin Valley Academy and mentioned it is always a tough matchup versus the Hawks.

“That was a tough game,” he said. “It is always close matches with Hardin Valley. Hardin Valley is really good and has a lot of returning players from last year, so I knew they would be strong. I thought our girls responded well. We played hard and good enough to get a win.”



Top: Hawks, 27, Morgan Hammond avoids the tackle. **Above:** Hawks. 13, Morgan Holloway fights for control of the ball.

Hardin Valley Academy The Hawks finished their goalkeeper Laura Lambert recorded 15 saves against West. regular season with an 11-4-1 record.

Find more local sports coverage on www.farragutpress.com

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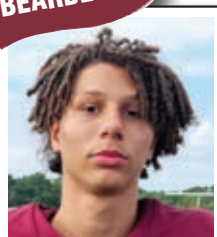
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Lady Ads
From page 1B

led 10-5, only to see FHS roar back by winning 11 of the next 12. The run included eight in a row, seven of which were served by senior setter Bella Ekeler.

Seven of the next 11 by the Lady Admirals made it 23-15, who then wrapped it up the match three points later.

Strong serving again was a major factor in the match, as was ball movement and setting for kills. Freshman outside hitter Megan Frana led FHS in kills with 15; Blackiston had 13.

Aiken was high in digs with 12. Ekeler had 10 digs along with her game-high 31 assists. Farragut was scheduled to play top-seed William Blount Tuesday night in the winner's bracket.

"They're pretty darn good," Alves said of his team's next opponent. "I told them we have to play clean. Don't give the game away."



Tony Christen

Top: Lady Admiral, 23, Hope Blackiston, defends against Rebels. Above: Lady Admiral, 3, Katherine Cabaniss, puts it over the net to score against the Rebels.



Tony Christen

Lady Bulldog, 24, Ella McDonald fires it back to the Hawks with support from teammate, 2, Cora Lobb.

Hawks
From page 1B

short. We played more as a team (in the third and fourth sets)."

Scoring streaks by both teams made the first set back and forth. Bearden led 14-8, but HVA then won five in a row and seven of nine. Three straight by Bearden made it 19-15, BHS, but the Lady Hawks won 10 of the final 14 to win the set 25-23.

Mini-streaks and back-and-forth point-trading in the second led to a 20-19 Valley lead. Five straight to the end gave the Lady Hawks the set 25-19, and a two-to-none lead in the match.


The Lady 'Dogs were hardly done.

Turnaround by BHS in the third set is an understatement. Down 4-2, Bearden ran off seven straight, and 13 of 15, and never looked back. The set score was an eye-popping 25-9.

In the fourth, the Lady Hawks led 6-2, but back came BHS, to win 10 of the next 13, and lead 12-9. Up 18-16, Bearden closed out the set, 25-21, by winning seven of the final 12.

"I think we got a little complacent and thought they were gonna give us the match," Boden said. "You're concerned about losing the third and fourth and wondering how the fifth is gonna go. I'm really proud how we rebounded."

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Photo submitted

Harvest Jam at Pinnacle Turkey Creek offers trick-or-treating for kids to safely celebrate Halloween.

Upcoming fall events in Farragut

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut is ready for fall and Halloween with upcoming events that bring activities for all ages.

The fun begins with Town of Farragut's 2nd Annual Fall Trail, which takes place now through Friday, Oct. 31.

"This year, the trail will feature a curated list of local stops, where you can sip, shop and explore everything you love about fall," the Town's website stated. "Fill out your paper or digital passport as you go and discover the unique autumn offerings that make Farragut a

perfect destination."

Registration for this event will open soon.

Another Town-sponsored event is the annual Freaky Friday Fright Nite, which is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 24, at Mayor Bob Leonard Park, 301 Watt Road. This event is free and open to the public.

Held rain or shine, children ages 12 and younger and their families can don their favorite costumes and walk along the park's trail, stopping by booths to get treats from local businesses and community

See FALL EVENTS on Page 7B

FHS grad named 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholar

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

U.S. Department of Education recently announced the selection of Farragut High School Class of 2025 Alisa Bryantseva as a 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholar.

"I was honored to be chosen for this award," said Bryantseva, who currently attends John Hopkins University in Maryland, where she is majoring in biomedical engineering. "It typically comes out in May of the year you graduate, so when it was delayed, I wasn't sure

what to expect.

"But I was very happy and grateful that it did end up being released and organized," she said. "It's an incredible recognition, and I'm proud to represent Farragut High School and Tennessee at a national level."

While the award does not come with a financial component, Bryantseva, daughter of Alla Akinina and Vyacheslav Bryantsev, said, "I value the honor itself.

"It highlights the importance of academic achievement and service, and it connects me to a small group of peers across the country who share a deep commitment to learning and leadership," she added.

She plans to pursue a PhD degree, eventually running her own research lab.

See SCHOLAR on Page 7B



Bryantseva

STEM Night at FIS



Students learn to apply STEM disciplines to everyday and futures

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Learning science, technology, engineering and math in school is one thing, but then what do you do with it?

Farragut Primary and Intermediate schools students learned how they could apply those disciplines to everyday activities and to their futures at the school's STEM Night in FIS Thursday, Sept. 25.

"The 2025 STEM Night is an exciting event happening at Farragut Intermediate School," said Ruth Granroth, Farragut Primary School art teacher who collaborated on the event with STEM teachers Elizabeth Stewart of FPS and Farragut Intermediate STEM teacher Kristi Shedden.

"We have scientists, computer scientists and engineers from (Oak Ridge National Laboratory) and other Oak Ridge companies; American Museum of Science & Energy; University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Student Space Organization; robotics teams from Farragut High School and L & N STEM Academy; UT Veterinarian College; Best Farms; Tennessee Highway Patrol Officers demonstrating their rollover simulator; Knoxville Police Forensics; South College of Pharmacy; Summit Medical; a food scientist from Bush Brothers; Great Smoky Mountains Tremont Institute and many more," Granroth said.

Additionally, there were representatives from Texas Instruments, Bectel and Hardin Valley Academy's AeroHawks.

See STEM on Page 8B



Photos by Tammy Cheek

Top: FIS third-grader Annika Mayer, 8, tries an experiment with Callie Monroe with American Museum of Science and Energy.

Above: FIS fifth-grader Cra Monts practices filling a prescription.

A portrait of Mansour Hasan, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit and white shirt. He is smiling at the camera.

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Town Camp Out

More than 20 families gathered on the Great Lawn in McFee Park to enjoy quality time during a Camp Out Friday and Saturday, Sept. 19-20.

Families brought their own camping equipment to spend the night and enjoy games and family time.

“It’s just daddy-daughter time together,” Jansen Gregory said about bringing his 7-year-old daughter, Brooklyn, to the event. “We enjoyed the event in Knoxville. It’s good family experience.”



Csilla and Silas Ottman with daughter, Gabi



Brian and Erica Beeker



Bane family, Kevin and Pam with Eli, 5, with glasses, and Oliver, 2



Brooklyn Gregory, 7, with dad Jansen Gregory



Samantha Anzeljc with twins, Micah and Noah, 7



Kate Lee with son, Camden Lee, 6



Town staff, from left: Colby Church, Kalei Fisher and Rachel Malone.

community planner

• The Knoxville Track Club and Garza Law Firm will present the “Finish on the Field” 5K and 2.5K on Saturday, Oct. 18, at 8 a.m. Runners and walkers of all levels are invited to take part in this race, starting in downtown Knoxville and winding through the city before finishing inside Neyland Stadium. Proceeds will benefit The Dream Connection, a local nonprofit that makes dreams come true for children facing life-threatening or chronically debilitating illnesses.

Registration is now open for both the 5K and 2.5K options. To sign up or learn more, visit runsignup.com/Race/TN/Knoxville/FinishontheField5k.

• Girl Scouts of the Southern Appalachians have partnered with Knoxville’s local shelter, Young-Williams Animal Center, to support shelter dogs and help fund Girl Scout programs in our community. Knoxville area donors can purchase a BarkBox to donate to a shelter dog at Young-Williams Animal Center. The Girl Scout-themed BarkBox includes a toy marshmallow stick, Berry Trio treats and instructions on how the pup can earn Puppy Patches. The boxes can be purchased for \$30 each. Proceeds benefit Girl Scout troops across East Tennessee, funding programming and the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

The Girl Scout BarkBox may be purchased for a donation online at secure.qgiv.com/for/barkbox/event/girlscout-sxbarkbox25/. Donors can select Young-Williams Animal

Center or another participating animal shelter. The boxes are available until Wednesday, Oct. 22.

• The Poetry Society of Tennessee (PST)’s Tennessee Student Poetry Contest and Tennessee Collegiate Poetry Contest are open for submission. The contests are free to enter and open to Tennessee-based students in grades 2-12 and at any level of college study. Winners will receive prizes, and first-place poems will be published in Tennessee Voices Anthology, 2025-2026, PST’s anthology of winning and other selected poems. E-mail or postmark deadline for the Tennessee Student Poetry Contests competition is Feb. 10, 2026. Find guidelines at www.poetrytennessee.org/pststudentcontests.html. Entries for the Tennessee Collegiate Poetry Contest must be submitted via e-mail by Nov. 1. Guidelines are available at poetrytennessee.org/pstcollegiate.html.

• St. John Neumann Catholic Church will present Cathedrals: An Advent Night of Worship on Friday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m at 633 St. John Court in Farragut. This concert event will feature acclaimed Christian artists Matt Maher and Sarah Kroger. Tickets are on sale now. General admission tickets are \$30 and VIP tickets are \$75. VIPs have access to special seating, heavy hors d’oeuvres and drinks along with a meet & greet before the concert. Tickets can be purchased at www.itickets.com/events/484242.html.

Tick paralysis is real
Less common with effective tick prevention

Q: A friend from Florida was telling me that his Lab got ‘tick paralysis’ earlier this summer. I thought he was joking, but he said it was real. I have never heard of this—should I be worried for my dog? I have a Lab, too.

~ J.L., Lenoir City



Ask the Vet
Dr. Stephanie Myers

A: Unfortunately, tick paralysis is real. With the advent of new and more effective tick prevention over the past 10 to 20 years, we see tick paralysis far less commonly.

Tick paralysis is just as it sounds. Some species of ticks can carry a protein with a neurotoxin in their saliva. After the tick bites, the tick attaches to the host (dog). The neurotoxin is then transmitted as the tick continues to feed and become engorged.

Clinical signs can take 4 to 10 days to develop, depending on the species of tick and the amount of neurotoxin present. Seasonality can be a factor too, as spring and summer tend to have higher rates of tick activity.

Affected dogs become weak and ataxic in the rear end, and signs quickly can involve the front legs. Clinical signs progress to paresis (severe neurological weakness) and eventual paralysis. Untreated, dogs can begin having difficulty breathing and swallowing, as those muscles also become weaker.

Treatment and prognosis are much improved with early intervention and treatment. Finding all ticks and removing them entirely is key. If tick paralysis is suspected and ticks are not found, veterinarians often will prophylactically treat with medication to kill ticks quickly. Affected dogs often are hospitalized, as they are dehydrated and need supportive care, such as handfeeding and help with urination and defecation. In severe cases, kidney and heart complications have been reported.

We do have ticks year round in East Tennessee, and year-round protection is recommended. Options include a topical, monthly chewable or a chewable that lasts three months. Please talk to your veterinarian about which prevention is right for your dog.

If you have questions about your pet, please email Dr. Myers at lenoircityanimalclinic.com



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Scholar
From page 4B

“I’m especially interested in the biology of mRNA decay and how it influences haploinsufficiency disorders,” Bryantseva said. “My goal is to combine computational and experimental approaches to better understand how gene expression is regulated and ultimately to create work that advances science and has real implications for human health.”

She is one of 161 outstanding American high school gradu-

ates who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, artistic excellence, technical expertise, leadership, citizenship, service and contribution to school and community,” a press release stated.

“Scholars are selected annually based on their academic success, artistic and technical excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of community service, leadership and demonstrated commitment to high ideals,” it stated. “Of the 3.9 million students who

graduated from high school this year, more than 6,400 candidates qualified for the 2025 awards determined by outstanding performance on the SAT or ACT exam or through nominations made by chief state school officers and partner recognition organizations.

“As directed by Presidential Executive Order, the 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholars are comprised of one young man and one young woman from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and U.S.

families living abroad, as well as 15 chosen at-large, 20 Scholars in the arts, and 20 Scholars in career and technical education,” the press release stated. “Created in 1964, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program has honored approximately 8,600 of the nation’s top-performing students.

“The program was expanded in 1979 to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, literary and performing arts,” it stated. “In 2015, the program again was extended to recognize

students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields.

“Since 1983, each U.S. Presidential Scholar has been offered the opportunity to name his or her most influential teacher,” the release added. “Each distinguished teacher is honored with a personal letter from the Secretary of Education. The teacher chosen for recognition by Bryantseva was Matthew Wayne Milligan of Farragut High School.

Fall events
From page 4B

groups, according to the Town of Farragut website. Additionally, there will be games and prizes.

Also, “participants are encouraged to bring donations for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Knoxville; a list of needed items can be found on the Town of Farragut website, townoffarragut.org”

Another fall event is being hosted by Pinnacle Turkey Creek.

“Pinnacle Turkey Creek is excited to announce Harvest Jam, a fall celebration for the whole family, taking place from 5 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 30,” Pinnacle marketing manager Gabi Walsh stated in a press release. “Guests can enjoy a lively evening of seasonal fun, interactive activities, local vendors and festive trick-or-treating throughout the property.

“This year’s Harvest Jam features Holes to Go, offering a fun, interactive Putt-Putt game activity for guests of all ages,” she said. “Local vendors will also be on hand, including Greenlings Plants, TVA Credit Union, Century Fire Protection and Rocky Top Pet Bakery, providing a variety of products, services and seasonal treats.

“Families can enjoy trick-or-treating at participating stores, such as Mountain High Outfitters, Buff City Soap, Sitka and Lizard Thicket Boutique, making it a perfect evening for kids to safely celebrate Halloween,” Walsh stated.

“Harvest Jam is one of our favorite events of the year at Pinnacle Turkey Creek,” she stated. “It’s a chance for the community to come together, enjoy a fun DJ and family-friendly activities. We’re excited to bring local vendors, festive fun and a memorable experience for attendees of all ages.

“Each year, Harvest Jam continues to grow, and we can’t wait to celebrate another amazing fall season with our neighbors and visitors,” she stated.

Harvest Jam is a free, fam-

ily-friendly event designed to bring the community together for a night of fall fun and local shopping.”

Churches also are getting in the holiday spirit with their annual Trunk or Treats events, which provide a safer trick-or-treat experience. Church members decorate their cars, possibly don costumes and fill their car trunks with treats, so youngsters can make their rounds at the respective churches.

- Trunk or Treats include:
- Concord United Methodist Church from 3 to 5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 26, in the west parking lot of the church at 1020 Roane Drive.
 - “This family-friendly event will feature decorated trunks, festive treats and plenty of fall fun for children of all ages,” CUMC office manager Catherine Barnett said. “The afternoon promises to be a safe, joyful way to celebrate the season together. There will even be a contest for the most creatively decorated trunks.”
 - “Trunk or Treat is one of our favorite ways to connect families in our community,” CUMC senior pastor Will Cantrell said. “Every year, we look forward to seeing families having fun together and making new friends.”
 - For more information, call the church office, 865-966-6728 or visit ConcordUnited.org
 - Faith Lutheran Church from 4 to 6 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 26, at the church parking lot, 225 Jamestowne Blvd.
 - First Farragut United Community Church from 1:30 to 3 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 29, at the church parking lot, 12733 Kingston Pike.
 - St. John Neumann Catholic School’s PTMO’s event will take place from 6 to 8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 25, in the back parking lot of the church, 645 St. John Court.
 - “We’re excited to invite our parish and school community to participate in our annual Trunk-or-Treat event,” a press release stated.
 - Prizes will be awarded for: Spookiest Trunk, Most Creative Trunk and Best Overall Trunk.



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Fax: (865) 966-2072
Email: newcovenant@newcovenantbc.com
Website: www.newcovenantbc.com

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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)



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STEM
From page 4B

“There were 33 different community members providing STEM activities for the kids to do,” said Shedden, adding the event was held to “get kids excited about STEM.” They enjoyed participating in a healthy eating taste test with chopsticks, filling prescriptions and other hands-on activities and AeroHawks and robotics demonstrations. Besides the activities, Shedden said students also had an opportunity to learn more about future careers in the STEM field.

Right: HVA junior Charles Harvey demonstrates AeroHawks

Far right: State Trooper John Capps

Photos by Tammy Cheek





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Admirals
From page 1B

fore halftime when McCue converted a 44-yard field goal attempt on the final play before the break.

Noble had a 2-yard run midway through the third quarter to extend the Admirals' advantage to 31-14

After the Hawks pulled to within 31-21 with 11:54 remain-

ing in the contest, Farhat all but put the contest away when he returned the ensuing kickoff 99 yards for a score, culminating a big night that saw him haul in seven receptions for 153 yards. He also scored the Ads' final touchdown of the contest after the Hawks pulled to within 38-28.

Farragut coach Geoff Courtney wasn't shocked by Farhat's explosiveness on special teams.

"He's a dangerous return man," Courtney said of Farhat, who had two kick returns for touchdowns in 2024. "He's a great playmaker and had a great night all night tonight."

Farragut and the Hawks both will have an open date this week before returning to action next week.

The Admirals will be at Cookeville while the Hawks will play at Oak Ridge.

Bulldogs
From page 1B

with tight end Malik Howard – widely recruited by D1 programs – for a 28-yard touchdown. A pass interference call against BHS on the drive's first play helped the 'Cats on the possession.

Seventeen more points in the second quarter by Oak Ridge put the game away. Twice the Bulldogs had promising drives going in the second period, but both resulted in interceptions.

"We gotta take care of the ball," Taylor said. "We had a couple drives toward the end of the first half, got some first downs. We just didn't get enough first downs early on. Too many turnovers for sure."

The Wildcats' halftime lead triggered a continuous clock in the second half. BHS avoided a shutout when, very late in the game, quarterback Aiden Thacker connected with Kannon Sipe for a touchdown.

The first-half stats were telling. Oak Ridge had 340 yards of total offense; Bearden 98. The 'Cats had 123 yards rushing; the 'Dogs' 29. Thacker threw for 69 yards; Stansberry 217, 144 of which were to Howard on 10 receptions and included two scores.

"We had some passes we'd like to get back but there were a lot of passes he made that were really good," Taylor said of Thacker, who completed 14 of 26.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, at its meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2025, adopted the following ordinances on second and final reading:

- Ordinance 25-14, an ordinance to amend Fiscal Year 2025-2026 General Fund and Capital Investment Fund Budgets, Passed by Ordinance 25-10.
- Ordinance 25-16, to amend the Farragut Municipal Code, Chapter 2, Administration, Section 2.104 to replace the existing section, Copies of Records and Ordinances, in its entirety with a new section titled Guidelines for Access to and Reproduction of Public Records and Schedule of Charges for Reproduction of Public Records.
- Ordinance 25-17, to amend the Farragut Municipal Code, Chapter 2, Administration, Division 3-Recorder; Section 2.103 Town Treasurer; to separate the roles of the Town Recorder and Town Treasurer.

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



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FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN MEETING

Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 6:00 PM

AGENDA

- Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance
- Oath of Office Ceremony
- A. Swearing in of Alderman Joe LaCroix by Tennessee Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Jason Zachary
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- A. September 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- Mayor's Report
- Ordinances & Resolutions
- A. Ordinances
- 1.Second Reading & Public Hearing
- a. Approval of Ordinance 25-18, on second reading and Public Hearing, to amend

- Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Capital Investment Fund and ARPA Fund Budgets, Passed by Ordinance 25-10.
- Business Items
 - A. Approval of the Special Event Permit for the Veterans Run, November 8, 2025
 - B. Approval of the Special Event Permit for Hot to Trot Run, November 27, 2025
 - C. Appointment of Farragut High School Education Foundation Representative to the Farragut Education Relations Committee
 - Citizens Forum
 - Town Administrator's Report
 - X. Town Attorney's Report
 - Adjournment

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



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MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM

- Call to Order
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- A) Minutes from the September 18, 2025 meeting
- Action Items
- A) Request for approval to extend fiber cable for AT&T from the north side of Parkside Drive near 11471 Parkside Drive to the south side of Parkside Drive to serve the property located at 11440 Parkside Drive (AT&T, Applicant)
- B) Discussion and public hearing on a resolution, Resolution PC-25-05, to amend the Farragut Municipal Code, Appendix B - Subdivisions, Article III., Subsection A. Streets, 1., to provide for context sensitive street cross section requirements, as

- illustrated in a new appendix to the Subdivision Regulations, referenced as Appendix F, in lieu of existing requirements in the Subdivision Regulations (Town of Farragut, Applicant)
- Discussion Items
 - A) Discussion and public hearing on a plan of services and the initiation of a study of the plan of services associated with the requested annexation of a portion of Parcel 007, Knox County Tax Map 151, Located at 424 N. Watt Road (Benjamin Mullins, Applicant)
 - B) Discussion and public hearing on a request to amend the Future Land Use Map for Parcel 007, Knox County Tax Map 151, 424 N. Watt Road, from Open Space Cluster Residential to Low Density

- Residential (3-6 Dwelling Units per Acre), 48.38 Acres with 29.58 Acres in the Town of Farragut and 18.8 Acres to be annexed into the Town (Benjamin Mullins, Applicant)
- Discussion on a request to amend the Farragut Zoning Map for Parcel 007, Knox County Tax Map 151, 424 N. Watt Road, from Agricultural (A) to Attached Single-Family Residential (R-4), 48.38 Acres with 29.58 Acres in the Town of Farragut and 18.8 Acres to be annexed into the Town (Benjamin Mullins, Applicant)
 - Discussion on a concept plan for West End Phase III, 129 West End Avenue (Sprinkle Engineering, Applicant)
 - Approval of Utilities
 - Citizens Forum

The Farragut Municipal Planning Commission welcomes and invites Farragut residents to participate in public meetings.

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<i>School</i>	<i>Win-Loss</i>	<i>Points for Game</i>	<i>Net Difference</i>
CAK	5-2	21-14 W	+75
Knoxville Catholic	4-2	35-6 L	+65
CCS	3-3	49-21 W	+96
HVA	3-4	28-45 L	-62
Farragut	2-5	45-28 W	-48
Bearden	0-6	24-7 L	-179
Webb	0-7	50-40 L	-171

A photograph of a football game in progress. In the center, a player in a white jersey with blue accents and the number 44 is being tackled by several players in black jerseys. One player in a black jersey with the number 32 is prominently shown tackling the player in white. Both teams are wearing helmets with a star logo. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators in a stadium.

FHS, 99, Owen Petoskey, 20, Connor Parris and 16, Noah Haag, break through the Hawks offensive line; tackling, HVA, QB, 5, Samuel Mann.

Shavar Young had 158 yards and three touchdowns on 19 carries. He also had eight receptions for 132 yards and caught a touchdown pass.



Cancer Awareness

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farragutpress Wednesday, October 8, 2025 • 1C

Covered in prayer

SJN teacher finds support in fighting breast cancer

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

St. John Neumann learning lab coordinator and volleyball coach Michelle Dougherty has been fighting against cancer and winning.

After being diagnosed in 2018 with breast cancer, she went through chemotherapy and removal of the tumor.

“Right now, there’s no evidence of disease, so we hope to keep it that way.

“They prayed me through it, for sure, continued to pray me through all of this,” she said about her family, as well as the faculty, staff and students of SJN. “I wouldn’t have been able to probably get through all of the treatments had I not been here.”

Likewise, Dougherty has received needed support from Knoxville Catholic High School and the K2 volleyball community.

“I’ve been coaching volleyball almost as long as I have been teaching,” she said. “I’ve been an assistant coach at KCHS for the past 14 years. I’ve been coaching club ball at K2 since they opened their doors in 2009.

“Brent Carter, Chris and J. Hames and all coaches and the player families supported me through treatment as well,” Dougherty said. “To say I was covered in prayer is an understatement.”

She received cancer-free news in April 2019, when the tumor was removed.

“I feel good,” Dougherty said. “I feel very grateful.”

However, “I still go once a month for shots and blood work, but my shots will end in December,” she said. “I’ll still be on medication for another seven years or so, and I get annual screenings and other things that the ATM Mutation (that she learned she had) carries



Photo submitted

Michelle Dougherty is pictured with SJN middle school girls before her surgery in 2019.

ries along with it, like I have a higher risk of pancreatic cancer, so I added another doctor to the team.

“And, I have a GI doctor who monitors my pancreas because there’s nothing that can be done to prevent, at this time, pancreatic cancer, other than screening,” Dougherty added.

This is her 22nd year at SJN; although, it is her 30th year in education, as she taught for

eight years in Alabama before joining SJN.

At SJN, Dougherty now does intervention for students in pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade. Before that, she was a kindergarten teacher.

“It was funny, the school year before I was diagnosed, I was teaching kindergarten (at SJN),” she said. “The Holy Spirit works in mysterious ways.

“That summer, the principal at the time asked me to take on this job (as coordinator) in the learning lab,” Dougherty said. “I loved kindergarten and I wasn’t sure about making this move, but I think that was the Holy Spirit putting me in the right place because it would have been really hard to do teaching in a classroom the

See PRAYER on Page 6C

Delivering happiness to sick children

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — Starlight Children’s Foundation is delivering happiness to seriously ill children and their families at East Tennessee Children’s Hospital in Knoxville.

“(Starlight) allows us to purchase these gaming systems for our patients,” said Lauren Birdwell, marketing and communications manager with East Tennessee Children’s Hospital. “So we have over 20 gaming systems here at the hospital that we purchased from Starlight.

“They do everything from distracting kids — it can be scary and hard when you are waiting for an answer or a procedure at the hospital — to helping get kids motivated to move if we need a child to walk



Photo submitted

A young patient enjoys playing a game with his mother while he is treated at East Tennessee Children’s Hospital.

...” she added.

“We’ve had these gaming systems for more than 30 years,” Birdwell said. “This year, we ordered two more ma-

chines.

“That’s how popular they are and how helpful they are

See STARLIGHT on Page 7C

Help in the fight with Taste of CARES

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut residents will have an opportunity to meet an Olympic Gold medalist this winter while helping in the fight against cancer by attending a “Taste of CARES fundraiser wine dinner featuring Scott Hamilton in support of the Scott Hamilton Cancer Alliance for Research Education and Survivorship (CARES) foundation.

The event, which is open to the public, is slated for 6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15, in Fox Den Country Club, 12284 N. Fox Den Drive.

That’s when the country club will transform into a “haven for food and wine lovers, philanthropists and anyone touched by cancer,” said Anne Schley, development director for Scott Hamilton CARES Foundation. “The event, Taste of CARES, will be hosted in partnership with the Wine Society of East Tennessee and promises a carefully curated

See CARES on Page 7C

LCUB encourages women everywhere to know the signs and symptoms of breast cancer, get regular screenings and seek help early.

We pray for everyone who has lost a loved one or for those who are currently going through treatment, and we celebrate those whose lives have been saved.

Find out how you can get involved by visiting wearitpink.org





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Volleyball Pink Out

KCHS supports breast cancer awareness with annual game; this year's opponent was FHS

Rachel Totten
Correspondent

Since 2018, the Girls' Volleyball team at Knoxville Catholic High School has made it their mission to support breast cancer awareness. Each fall the team, led by head coach Brent Carter, hosts a "Pink Out" to raise funds for the local charity, Breast Connect.

"In the volleyball world, breast cancer awareness is a huge, huge part of what we do, both on the club level and at the school level," Carter explained. "And with October being Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we aim to schedule a match every year where we tape the lines pink and everybody – even the referees – dresses in pink."

This year's event took place Monday, Sept. 22, during a match against Farragut High School at KCHS. Carter said about \$1,000 likely was raised through donations, ticket proceeds and a bake sale. These funds will help Breast Connect provide care packages for women undergoing breast cancer treatment.

"We're still getting the totals, but it's over \$1,000," he said. "Last year was just over \$1,000 as well, and that provided more than 40 comfort care packages. So it's pretty awesome."

While breast cancer awareness is an important element of volleyball, the annual Pink Out events are a bit more personal for the Lady Irish.

"We started holding these events when our assistant coach, Michelle Dougherty, was diagnosed with breast cancer," said Carter, noting that FHS Girls' Volleyball Coach Andre Alvez, who previously served at KCHS, also helped spearhead the initiative. "This is all in recognition of Dougherty's battle and her coming through the other side of that."

For Dougherty, the KCHS Pink Out event is "super emotional."

"It's a huge outpouring of love from the players and their families," she said. "There is a lot of love and support in the volleyball community."

Learn more about Dougherty's story beginning on page 1C of this section.

Anyone interested in supporting KCHS' breast cancer awareness initiative can send donations to the Knoxville Catholic High School Volleyball Program.

"Just denote in the memo section that it's for the Pink Out and Breast Connect," Carter said. "We try to do everything we can to help—it just makes a big difference."

Learn more about Breast Connect at breastconnect.org



Top photo submitted;
Game photos by Tony Christen



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Pink Out

On Oct. 3, Farragut High School students proudly showed their support for Breast Cancer Awareness with the annual PINK OUT, held during the highly anticipated football game between Farragut and Hardin Valley Academy. The night was not only a victory on the field — with the Admirals securing a win — but also a powerful show of unity and compassion off the field.

One of the night's most moving moments was the continuation of a beloved tradition: students shaving their heads in solidarity with those battling cancer. Now in its 7th year, the tradition saw seven brave students step forward, cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd, making the event even more meaningful.

Farragut High School once again proved that when it comes to supporting a cause, its students lead with heart, courage, and Admiral pride.



Photos by Tony Cox



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Photos submitted

Top: Dougherty gathered with SJN Teachers before Chemo in Nov. 2018
Above: Michelle Dougherty speaking in 2019
Left: Dougherty coaching in 2025

Prayer
From page 1C

whole entire time.

“So, the job made it a whole lot easier to be able to go in for my treatments without disrupting the students’ day or disrupting the whole school,” she said.

Dougherty learned about the cancer Oct. 5, 2018.

“I found out, oddly enough through a Facebook image that was showing different signs of potential breast cancer,” she recalled. “One of the pictures was of an indentation or a dimple. I was like ‘huh. I think I have that.’

“So, I did what any girl does; I went to my mother,” the teacher said. “My mother said, ‘Yeah, I think you need to go have that looked at.’

“My doctor sent me down three sets of stairs to Parkwest Breast Center, and they said, ‘Yep, there’s something here,’” Dougherty related.

Before that October, her last mammogram was in January 2018.

“They didn’t see anything in my film in January, but by the time October rolled around, I had a 3 ½-centimeter tumor,” she recalled.

So, “shock” was her first reaction since there was no history of breast cancer in her family.

“When I told my mom, she was like ‘No, that can’t be right,’” Dougherty related.

“When we went from Parkwest Breast Center, they sent me to a surgeon, Dr. William Gibson, who brought my case up to a cancer board,” she said. “My mom went to the appointment with me, and (the board) said, ‘chemo, an oncologist, we’re going that route first because of the size and type of tumor it was.’

She learned “I’m triple positive, some Her2 positive and hormone positive — I’m just a very positive person,” Dougherty said. “Because of (the positive results) and the size of the tumor, they said chemo first. And, my mom was going ‘Chemo?’

“They asked, ‘Do you have an oncologist?’ And, I’m like, ‘No! Who has an oncologist on speed dial?’ So, they sent me to (oncologist) Dr. Daniel Ibach, and from there, we attacked the tumor with all we had,” she said.

“So, the standard of treatment was six rounds of chemo every three weeks, followed by 18 rounds of targeted therapy and all kinds of different medications and shots since then and the removal of the tumor, which was April 4, 2019,” Dougherty said.

“Through this process, we found out that I do have a gene that probably is the reason for the tumor and why it grew so fast,” she said. “I don’t have Braca; I have the ATM (ataxia-telangiectasia mutated) genetic mutation (inherited genetic changes that increase the risk of developing certain types of cancer, including breast cancer), which is not a money machine, sadly.

“I have three sisters who were all tested for the gene,” Dougherty said. “Two of my sisters have the gene. One sister does not. The one sister, Katie, who does not have the gene was diagnosed with breast cancer in May (of this year).

“She has the same type of tumor as I do; (but) luckily for her, they caught it really early,” she said. “Her tumor was really small.

“(Katie) finished surgery,” Dougherty said. “She has five more rounds of radiation, and she is in a drug trial through

Emory that she’ll do for another year.”

With what Dougherty has been dealing, she then had concerns about Katie, “especially since she was the one sister who didn’t have the gene. Her doctor said she’s an anomaly,” Dougherty said.

“My other two sisters get bonus screenings because of all this. They get to go every six months (to be screened) or every year for either MRIs or mammograms,” she added.

“I just pray that my sisters who have the gene that I’ll take (the cancer) if they can not have it,” Dougherty said. “I pray that Katie gets a clear bill of health and that my other siblings don’t have to go through this, too. That’s just my big prayer and my big wish.”

Throughout the ordeal, she has had the support of everyone around her.

“This school has been very supportive,” Dougherty said. “The family of St. John Neumann really embraced me and supported me. Right before I started chemo, we did an after all-school mass. I got to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick, and all the students were a part of it.

“They were very kind when I wasn’t able to be (at school) after chemo,” she said. “The first round (of chemo), I was here because I’m bull-headed — probably shouldn’t have been here — but I was like, ‘Nope, I can do this.’

“But as the rounds went on, it took me a little longer to feel like myself again,” Dougherty said. “But, the teachers and the staff really rallied, and any duties that I had or students I needed to see, everybody kind of picked up what I couldn’t do and made sure things got done.”



File photos

Above: Mom Jill Jabatoy helps Jacqueline Jabatoy, 13

Right: Elena Lemmons and Jennifer Lemmons



Locks of Love
An annual tradition in conjunction with Catholic Schools Week

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Before St. John Neumann Catholic School learning lab coordinator Michelle Dougherty was diagnosed in 2018 with breast cancer, her experience regarding cancer began about 15 years ago, when the school started participating in Locks of Love as part of Catholic Schools Week.

In 2010, “we were thinking of ways that the students could serve or give back to the community without having the parents doing it for them,” she said. “It didn’t require a financial obligation or a purchase the parents had to make.

“It was a service project that the kids were able to do solely on their own,” Dougherty added.

The teachers found Locks for Love is a non-profit charity that provides custom-made hair prosthetics (wigs) or hairpieces to children under 21 who have lost their hair because of medical conditions, such as cancer treatments, alopecia or burns. Each year, Dougherty said Locks of Love has grown and has become an annual tradition.

After Dougherty’s diagnosis, “I think I really understood what it was like for the people receiving their hair (from the donations, the wigs, from Locks of Love) more than I did (before the diagnosis), more of an appreciation, because I think that was one of the hardest things was to lose my hair, which I did. Probably around my second chemo treatment is when my hair started falling out in a big way.

“The folks who come and join us for the hair donation day, Belleza Salon, I went to them and one of their stylists gave me a buzz cut,” she recalled. “She cut it really short for me.

“Then, when it started falling out a lot (more), I went back and she shaved it for me,” Dougherty said. “I think the hardest part was (before losing her hair) I could go about my day and nobody looking at me knew I had cancer, but as soon as I lost my hair, people knew.

“I think that makes it a little harder once you have that visible sign of something’s not right or something is different or you’re sick,” she said.

But, “that year, when I was going through treatment and was bald, my sister Marybeth came up, surprised me and she donated her hair, so that was a lot of fun,” Dougherty said. “I was touched because she lives in Mississippi, so that wasn’t like an easy commute.”

In fact, “through this process, besides my parents, every single one of my (four) siblings came and sat with me during a chemo treatment,” she said. “When they say, ‘Nobody fights alone,’ that is totally true.”

Locks of Love will take place again this year at SJN around 1:15 to 1:30 p.m., Jan. 29, in conjunction with Catholic Schools Week, unless it snows.

“We usually have around 12 to 15 students, teachers and parents,” Dougherty said.

“We had one dad one year donate,” she said. “He had a good donation going.”

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MICHAEL G. BAKER
President

The basics of breast cancer

Breast cancer is a formidable disease affecting millions of individuals each year. Data from the World Health Organization indicates 2.3 million women were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2022, when it was the most common form of the disease in 157 of 185 countries across the globe.

The impact of breast cancer goes beyond those diagnosed with the disease, affecting friends, family members, professional colleagues and others as well. That far-reaching impact means everyone has a vested interest in learning about breast cancer.

What is breast cancer?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes breast cancer occurs when cells in the breast grow out of control. The breast is made up of three main parts known as the lobules, ducts and connective tissue, and which type of breast cancer a person has depends on which cells in the breast turn into cancer.

Is there a typical breast cancer?

No two individuals diagnosed with breast cancer will have the same experience after being diagnosed. However, the CDC notes that most breast cancers begin in the ducts or lobules. The ducts are tubes that carry milk to the nipple and the lobules are the glands that produce milk.

What are some common risk factors for breast cancer?

The National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. notes gender is the foremost risk factor for breast cancer, as the WHO reports that 99 percent of breast cancers occur in women. Additional risk factors for breast cancer include age, with two out of three women diagnosed with invasive breast cancer being older than 55, and race, as the disease affects more Caucasian women than women of other races. The NBCF also notes women who have dense breast tissue may be at greater

risk for breast cancer because such tissue can make it harder to detect lumps.

What causes breast cancer?

The NBCF notes most women who have breast cancer will never be able to identify an exact cause behind their disease. Common risk factors like gender and age are beyond women's control, but there are some controllable risk factors that can be avoided. The WHO notes overconsumption of alcohol and tobacco use are two such factors.

How important is early detection?

American Cancer Society reports the five-year survival rate for breast cancers discovered in the localized stage is 99 percent. That underscores the significance of early detection. The NBCF notes monthly breast self-exams and routine clinical exams increase the likelihood of early detection. Women are urged to speak



with their physicians regarding how frequently they should be tested, as recommendations vary depending on each individual and their respective family histories.

The basics of breast cancer provide insight into the disease and what women can do to reduce their risk of developing it.

CARES

From page 1C

multi-course dinner with each course paired to perfection with wines from acclaimed producers, such as Memento Mori, Bacigalupi Vineyards and The Donum Estate.

“The highlight of the evening will be Scott Hamilton’s keynote address,” Schley said. “Known for his charisma and infectious optimism, Hamilton will share stories from his career as the world’s most recognized figure skating star and his journey through personal loss and cancer survivorship.

“His words promise to move, motivate and remind us all why this work matters,” she added.

“Enjoy hand-picked wines, delicious bites and a chance to make a real difference in the fight against cancer — all in one relaxed, joyful setting...” Schley said. “It’s the perfect blend of community, cause, and celebration.

“Scott Hamilton used to do a lot of skating-related events in Knoxville and has an affiliation with the proton center there,” said Schley, who added this may be the first time Hamilton has held an event in Farragut.

Tickets are \$250 per person. To purchase tickets, visit online at <https://scottcares.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F23521>

Schley said proceeds from the event will benefit the Scott

Hamilton CARES Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit “dedicated to advancing patient-centered, targeted treatments that fight cancer while preserving quality of life.

“Hamilton’s journey from Olympic champion to cancer survivor inspired him to found the Scott Hamilton CARES Foundation in 2014,” Schley said. “By partnering with leading hospitals, research centers and nonprofits across the country, the foundation aims to close critical gaps in knowledge, funding and access for next-generation cancer treatments.

“I see a day where everyone survives cancer,” Hamilton said. “A day when no one suffers their way through their treatments. A day cancer does no harm. Only through the research can we unlock the keys to a much brighter future - a future celebrating survivors.”

Even before the foundation was created, it was part of a CARES initiative on which he was working before with Cleveland Clinic, one of the most prominent cancer centers in America, Schley said.

The mandate of the Scott Hamilton CARES Foundation is, with the money it receives, to work with a scientific advisory committee, which in turn, identifies and gives grants to scientists to fund their cancer research.

“We’ve taken small amounts of money and achieved massive amounts of results,” she added. “Up until now, it’s been

110 research studies we have funded.

“The upcoming wine dinner is an opportunity for Knoxville to honor those we’ve lost, support those still fighting and accelerate the search for a cure,” Schley said. “Every glass raised and every dollar donated will help ensure that the next generation faces fewer obstacles and more hope through groundbreaking cancer research.”

Hamilton, not only an Olympic Gold medalist, is a best-selling author and three-time cancer survivor who founded the Scott Hamilton CARES Foundation.

“Hamilton’s commitment to cancer research is deeply personal,” Schley shared. “As a teenager, he lost his mother Dorothy, his greatest champion, to breast cancer.

“The pain of that loss became the driving force of his career and, later, his advocacy.

When his mother died, Hamilton decided to take skating seriously.

And, “he took all that motivation and won the Olympics, won the national championship four times.” Schley said. “He decided it was going to be his life’s mission and goal to fight cancer.”

“My mom was the center of my universe,” Hamilton recalled. “I figured out that I didn’t have to do anything without her. I carried her with me every day.”

His own life soon echoed his mother’s.



Scott Hamilton

“In 1997, he was diagnosed with testicular cancer,” Schley said. “He faced the disease with the same determination that defined his athletic career, beating it back only to be confronted by recurring brain tumors in 2004, 2010 and 2016.

“Each time, Hamilton refused to give in and channeled his experience into action and advocacy,” Schley said.

For more information, contact Schley at 615-579-2899 or anne.schley@scottcares.org

Starlight

From page 1C

in a clinical setting, so we continue to see these not only as a resource for our patients to have fun here — we want our patients to have fun and have joy when they’re here, even during a scary procedure or maybe a hard time — but we also see the value of a child having the opportunity to be a child, and (Starlight is) getting to help us with that.

“We actually have these (gaming systems) all throughout our hospital,” she said. “So, anything from a patient having surgeries to a patient waiting for a cardiology appointment to a patient that is going to be with us for several days or even a week, we have a number of these machines to have enough to go around. “That’s how important we think they are,” Birdwell said. But, “We want more than we have today.”

For someone wanting to donate funds to purchase a gaming system for the hospital, the system costs \$5,000.

“I think one of the really beautiful and unique things about East Tennessee Children’s Hospital is we’re not just a hospital; we are caring

for kids,” she said.

“They may have these complex illnesses and they may need to be in the hospital for days and days in a row,” Birdwell said. “And, waiting for any child is hard, especially for a child that’s maybe going to have a have a shot or maybe going to have to get blood drawn or maybe go under anesthesia.

“Anything we can do to alleviate that child’s anxiety, make their stay fun and happy ... that is our goal,” she said.

But, “of course, our No. 1 goal is caring for the child, giving (him or her) excellent clinical care, but we want it to be fun,” Birdwell added. “We want them to have a good day when they are here at Children’s Hospital.

“It is so fun to watch these kids on these kids on these gaming systems,” she added. “Being a child, we’ve really been trying to get them to walk or trying to get them out of bed, they just don’t feel good. But then, I go back to the floor and I see them walking because they are playing this video game and just the joy on their faces, just getting an opportunity to be a child, not only healing but getting to have some fun as well, it’s one of the best and rewarding

parts of the job.

“We care not only about their health and their safety, we also care about their emotional well-being, their joy, their fun, all the things that are part of being a child,” Birdwell said. “We want to make more moments like that for each child. “It’s really indescribable to see a child coming to the hospital ... getting an opportunity to do something fun, have their mood totally change.”

Still, Starlight also provides more than gaming systems.

“(Starlight Children’s Foundation) provides everything from hospital gowns to our patients to bringing in celebrity visitors,” Birdwell said. “Starlight brought in Blue Clues actors and they did an entire hospital clue search with our patients and were just so kind.”

“Founded in 1982, Starlight Children’s Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that aims to deliver happiness to seriously ill children and their families through vital programs that impact millions of kids annually,” a press release stated. “Donor-funded and offered free of charge to hospitals and families, Starlight programs unleash the power of play, empowering kids with a renewed

sense of optimism, resilience and courage.

“Starlight is a top-rated charity committed to the equitable allocation of programs to its nationwide hospital network,” the press release added. “Healing begins with happiness.”

“Their entire mission is to make children feel less lonely and scared in hospitals,” Birdwell said. “They work with all children’s hospitals throughout the U.S.

“They provide kid-friendly things like hospital gowns with kittens and puppies on them,” she said. “They also provide things to help educate our patients. For example, they provide LEGO sets that look similar to MRIs, so patients can see what it will be like when they are in one of these machines.”

ETCH, founded in 1937, serves 130,000 patients annually. Of those, it served 1,520 hematology/oncology patients last year, totaling 7,730 visits.

“I think it’s really important to know that we don’t just serve children in East Tennessee,” Birdwell said. “We serve children not only throughout the region, throughout the state, but also we serve children throughout the U.S.

“Although we are a regional children’s hospital, we have

35-plus specialties that can take care of really medically complex children,” she said. “We treat a range from genetic conditions to our cardiology team ... to our specialty clinics, like our Grow With Me Clinic for NAS babies ... we want to make sure they are meeting those milestones (the first five years of their lives).

“We really do care about these patients,” Birdwell added. “From the patients coming for a well check to the patients that’s medically complex.”

Regarding the cost of opening its doors every day, Birdwell said, “People are just astonished to know that it costs us over a million dollars.

“So from a donation perspective, we appreciate the support of the community, and we really could not open our doors without donor support,” she said.

To donate to ETCH, visit www.etch.com/donate

Typically, Birdwell said all donations are put into the areas of greatest need, but “if you have something specific you want your money to go toward, you can earmark by putting (for what you want to earmark) in the notes.”

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SEC showdown for the Vols

After an overtime win and a week off, No. 12 Tennessee returns home to face Arkansas in an SEC showdown.

The Volunteers (4-1 overall, 1-1 in the conference) will look to avenge last year’s loss to the Razorbacks. Kickoff is slated for 4:15 at Neyland Stadium.

UT coach Josh Heupel is calling for fan support as his team will play its only home game of October.

“For us, I think this is the only home game that we have here this month in our stadium, so hopefully our fans will be rested, juiced and ready to go,” Heupel said. “(We) need them to be a big part of this game as we get ready to play Saturday afternoon.”

Arkansas (2-3, 1-2), which edged the Big Orange, 19-14, in Fayetteville in 2024, enters the contest as a team in flux after firing head coach Sam Pittman, a former Tennessee assistant, after a loss to Notre Dame.

Heupel noted that the sudden change for the Razorbacks has changed his staff’s preparation process.

“We’re looking at everybody they have, the changes they’ve made, the history of what they’ve done. It’s everybody on our staff taking a look at it,” Heupel said. “This is a unique situation, so you prepare for what’s on tape, and you prepare for that potential unknowns are as well.”

“But you also understand that it is not going to be exact replicas of everything that you’ve seen on tape, as well. Communication from our staff and players will be really critical in this one.”

Heupel knows that the Razorbacks will be ready for the game when they come to Rocky Top.

“Playing an Arkansas football team, obviously that’s had some changes with their staff, but it’s a

really good football team, too,” he said. “The outcome against Notre Dame certainly wasn’t what they wanted, but you look a couple of weeks previously, they’re in a one possession game with four minutes to go in the fourth quarter against an Ole Miss football team that’s a really good football team, too.

“Defensively, it’s a huge task in front of us with their quarterback. He is playing extremely well and creating big plays in the passing game. But (he) obviously has a chance to be a huge part of the running game, too. We have to do a good job bottling him up.”

Arkansas’ interim head, Bobby Petrino, is no stranger to the SEC, Tennessee or the Razorbacks. He was Pittman’s offensive coordinator and previously was the team’s head coach.

Under his leadership, the program enjoyed success before he was dismissed due to some off-field issues.

And, Heupel said he knows just who he’s facing as he prepares his team to go up against Petrino and his team.

“Bobby’s done it at a really high level for a long time,” Heupel said. “He’s done it inside the scope of this league.

“It’s a good team and I said back at the beginning of the press conference, they’ve played well. They’ve maybe been on the wrong side of the scoreboard a little bit but I think that everybody inside of our program knows you’re going to get their best, and their best is really good. We have to get prepared to play really good football.”

~ Ken Lay, Correspondent



NEXT GAME
October 11
Arkansas
at Tennessee



Local Big Orange connection: Steve Matthews

Knoxville --- The 2025 college football season continues this week and Tennessee will return to the gridiron Saturday after an open date.

The Volunteers (4-1 overall, 1-1 in the SEC) will host Arkansas (2-3, 0-1) at Neyland Stadium with kickoff slated for 4:15 p.m.

Prior to each Vols’ home game, farragutpress will shine the spotlight on players or coaches who have ties to both UT and West Knox County. This installment will feature Steve Matthews.

Matthews, who was selected prior to the 2024 season to reboot the high school football program at Concord Christian School, played tor the Big Orange from 1989-90 under head coach Johnny Majors.

Matthews coached the Irish from 2013-21 and guided KCHS to a pair of state championships (2015, 2017). He was tapped to revive a Lions program that hadn’t fielded a varsity team since 2018.

In 2024, Concord played a split schedule that included five varsity games and five JV games. The Lions went 8-2. This year, CCS has a 3-3 record in 2025.

Matthews, a Tullahoma native, spent two seasons with Tennessee before transferring to Memphis State, where he broke multiple passing records. When he came to Knoxville, Matthews joined a loaded quarterback room that included Andy Kelly and Sterling Henton.

“The biggest thing that I took from Tennessee was the great friendships, the lifetime friendships,” Matthews said. “They’re great friends.”

Kelly was a record setter during his days on Rocky Top after he won the starting job from Henton.

Despite leaving Tennessee after appearing in just four games over two season, Matthews looks fondly upon his days with the Vols, who had a coaching staff that included Phillip Fulmer, David Cutcliffe and Randy Sanders.

“I learned a lot. You had coach Cutcliffe and you had Randy Sanders, and of course, you had coach Fulmer,” Matthews said.

After two seasons, it was Cutcliffe who had some encouraging words for Matthews. But those words would change the direction of his career.

“Coach Cutcliffe called me into the office one day, and he told me that I could play in the NFL one day,” Matthews said. “But he told me that he didn’t think I would play for Tennessee.

“He told me that we had just signed a guy named Heath Shuler. I was around Heath for about three or four weeks and decided that he was the future, so I started looking around.”

Matthews left to play for the Tigers and Shuler became a star for the Vols, and Cutcliffe’s words proved to be prophetic.

“Heath was a great quarterback and we both went on to play in the NFL,” Matthews said. “I had great coaches at Tennessee and my offensive coordinator in Memphis, Randy Fichtner, went on to be the offensive coordinator for the Steelers.

“Heath and I both made it to the NFL and that’s what it’s all about,” Matthews said. “Our teams (at Tennessee) were really good back then and a lot of the games were blowouts. I got a lot of reps in practice.”

Following his collegiate career, Matthews went on to play for Kansas City, the Titans and Jacksonville.

His Concord team will play against the Georgia Force on Saturday in Gatlinburg. The Force is a team comprised of home-schooled athletes from Atlanta.

~ Ken Lay, Correspondent

LineUp University of Arkansas



0	Justus Boone	DL	36	Cade Fields	LB
0	Braylen Russell	RB	36	Gavin Rush	P
1	Rodney Hill	RB	37	Devin Bale	P
1	Phillip Lee	DL	38	Anton Pierce	DB
2	Selman Bridges	DB	39	Cooper DiLeva	P
2	Courtney Crutchfield	WR	40	Blake Ford	K
3	CJ Brown	WR	41	Kyle Thompson	FB
3	Larry Worth III	DB	42	Wyatt Simmons	LB
4	Mike Washington Jr.	RB	43	Trent Sellers	DL
4	Jordan Young	DB	44	Frank Mulipola	DL
5	Cameron Ball	DL	45	Preston Davis	LB
5	Ja’Kayden Ferguson	WR	45	Max Schmidly	LS
6	Kavion Henderson	DL	46	Charlie Von Der Meden	K
6	Raylen Sharpe	WR	47	Maddox Lassiter	TE
7	KJ Jackson	QB	47	Braylon Watson	DB
7	Bradley Shaw	LB	48	Joseph Whitt	LB
8	Quentavius Scandrett	DB	49	Zach Haber	LS
8	Grayson Wilson	QB	50	Kobe Branham	OL
9	O’Mega Blake	WR	51	Corey Robinson II	OL
9	Charlie Collins	DL	52	Caden Kitler	OL
10	Taylen Green	QB	52	Donovan Whitten	DL
10	Xavian Sorey Jr.	LB	53	Kash Courtney	OL
11	Monte Harrison	WR	54	Keyshawn Blackstock	DL
11	Ken Talley	DL	55	Fernando Carmona	OL
13	Trever Jackson	QB	56	LJ Prudhomme	OL
13	Kani Walker	DB	57	Mason Schueck	LB
14	Stephen Dix Jr.	LB	58	Tim Dawn	OL
14	Andy Jean	WR	60	Jonas Nantze	OL
15	Kam Shanks	WR	62	Alex Johnson	OL
15	Jaheim Singletary	DB	65	Aaron Smith	OL
16	Ismael Cisse	WR	66	Payton Parks- Smith	OL
16	Miguel Mitchell	DB	70	Blake Cherry	OL
17	Jalen Brown	WR	71	Shaq McRoy	OL
17	Nigel Pringle	DB	73	Brooks Edmonson	OL
18	Krosse Johnson	WR	74	Marcus Dumervil	OL
18	Brayson McHenry	QB	75	Kavion Broussard	OL
18	Taijh Overton	DB	76	E’Marion Harris	OL
19	Antonio Jordan	WR	78	Bubba Craig	OL
19	Shakur Smalls	DB	80	Rykar Acebo	WR
20	AJ Green	RB	80	Scott Starzyk	K
20	JJ Shelton	LB	81	Andreas Paaske	TE
21	Keshawn Davila	DB	82	Zach Taylor	WR
22	Caleb Wooden	DB	83	Jaden Platt	TE
23	Julian Neal	DB	84	Grant Karnes	WR
24	Andrew Harris	LB	85	Jace Petty	WR
25	Markeylin Batton	RB	86	Walker Catsavis	WR
25	Tavion Wallace	LB	88	Rohan Jones	TE
26	Trent Whalen	LB	88	Danny Saili	DL
27	Akhhari Johnson	DB	89	Gavin Garretson	TE
27	Cam Settles	RB	90	Caleb Bell	DL
28	Justin Logan	LB	91	Kevin Oatis	DL
29	Jaden Allen	DB	92	David Oke	DL
30	Ashton Ngo	LS	93	Keiundre Johnson	DL
31	Blake Brisker	DB	94	Reginald Vaughn	DL
32	Landon Phipps	DB	95	Ian Geffrard	DL
33	Jeremiah Beck Jr.	TE	97	Quincy Rhodes Jr.	DL
34	Jabrae Shaw	DB	99	Kaleb James	DL
35	Hutson Hendrix	TE			

LineUp University of Tennessee



0	Ethan Davis	TE	37	Montrell Bandy	DB
0	William Wright	DB	38	Andre Stewart	DB
	Rickey Gibson III	DB	39	Malcolm Kinzer	WR
	Travis Smith Jr.	WR	39	Jayden Loftin	DL
2	Peyton Lewis	RB	40	Colin Brazzell	DB
2	Andre Turrentine	DB	40	Seamus Meagher	TE
3	Jermod McCoy	DB	41	Steele Katina	DB
3	Jack Van Dorselaer	TE	42	Braylon Harmon	WR
4	Mike Matthews	WR	42	Tyre West	DL
4	Ty Redmond	DB	43	Jackson Mathews	DB
4	Jourdan Thomas	DB	44	Christian Gass	DL
5	Daevin Hobbs	DL	47	Isaiah Campbell	DL
5	Radarious Jackson	WR	47	John Rosen	LS
6	Joey Aguilar	QB	48	Bennett Brady	LS
6	Jalen McMurray	DB	50	William Satterwhite	OL
7	DaSaahn Brame	TE	50	Ryan Scott	LB
7	Arion Carter	LB	51	Jeremias Heard	OL
8	Colton Hood	DB	51	Jaxson Moi	DL
9	Mariyon Dye	DL	53	Lance Heard	OL
9	Star Thomas	RB	55	Brenden Anes	LB
10	Kaleb Beasley	DB	55	Antoni Ogumoro	OL
11	Jordan Burns	LB	56	Kellen Lindstrom	DL
12	Jaedon Harmon	LB	56	Sam Pendleton	OL
12	Jake Merklinger	QB	57	Grier Short	LB
13	Mason Phillips	QB	58	Herb Gray	DL
13	Edwin Spillman	LB	58	Nic Moore	OL
14	Braylon Staley	WR	59	Charlie Powell III	OL
15	Edrees Farooq	DB	65	Michael Kostantonov	OL
15	George MacIntyre	QB	68	Bennett Warren	OL
17	Chris Brazzell II	WR	69	Gus Hill	OL
18	DeSean Bishop	RB	70	David Sanders Jr.	OL
18	Tyree Weathersby	DL	71	Max Anderson	OL
19	Joshua Josephs	DL	72	Jesse Perry	OL
19	Daune Morris	RB	73	Brian Grant	OL
20	Justin Baker	RB	74	Shamurad Umarov	OL
20	Bryson Eason	DL	75	Wendell Moe Jr.	OL
21	Tre Poteat	DB	78	Gage Ginther	OL
22	Jeremiah Telandar	LB	81	Amari Jefferson	WR
23	Boo Carter	DB	83	Trey Weary	WR
24	Hunter Barnes	RB	84	Tommy Winton III	WR
25	Timothy Merritt	DB	86	Cole Harrison	TE
26	Sidney Walton	DB	87	Joshua Helsdon	DL
26	Carson Whitehead	WR	87	Miles Kitselman	TE
27	Jadon Perlotte	LB	88	Deon Hardin	WR
28	Marcus Goree Jr.	DB	89	Mike Bethea II	DL
29	Jack-Henry Jakobik	WR	89	Joakim Dodson	WR
29	Jordan Ross	DL	90	Dominic Bailey	DL
30	Jamal Wallace	DL	90	Max Gilbert	PK
31	Caleb Herring	DL	93	Grady Dangerfield	PK
33	Ben Bolton	LB	94	Nathan Robinson	DL
34	Emmanuel Okoye	DL	94	Josh Turbyville	P/PK
35	Carson Gentle	DL	96	Isaiah Inge	DL
35	Ben Petermann	WR	97	Josh Schell	DL
36	Dylan Lewis	DB	98	Jackson Ross	P
36	Nathan Roberts	WR	99	Charles House III	DL