Heroes work here.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025 • 1A

ISSUE 8 VOLUME 38 FARRAGUT, TENNESSEE

Home-based businesses ordinance in limbo

TAMMY CHEEK

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While an ordinance to amend the Town's existing ordinance regarding home-based businesses was on Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen's agenda for its Thursday, Oct. 23, meeting, which was cancelled for lack of a quorum, some Board members still are not ready to act on it.

Monday, Mayor Ron Williams said he

does not expect that item will appear on the Board's next meeting, scheduled for Nov. 13.

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However, he added, "That doesn't mean it won't be on the next Planning Commission agenda."

In fact, Williams said, "In my opinion, it should go back to the (Farragut Municipal) Planning Commission" as a workshop item, so it can be discussed in a public meeting, before it returns to

to be worked on," he said and added he would like to see the proposed changes and the existing ordinance placed side by side so they can be compared, as the Town had done with the recent road cross sections in the subdivision regu-

"We currently have an ordinance that addresses home-based businesses, but it's very rigid and the rules are somewhat subjective," Community Developwanted to amend the ordinance so that it would have more objective provisions and be up to speed with the post-COVID business world.

"In comparison to the existing home occupation provisions, the proposed language exempts many businesses from needing a permit and broadens the types of businesses that

See HOME on Page 3B

Shining a light on Domestic Abuse

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD Correspondent

typically October, commemorated Breast Cancer Awareness month, is also set aside each year to shine a spotlight on domestic abuse as it has a scary connection to the former, victim's rights advocate Jeanne Brykalski notes.

"It is not a coincidence that October is both Domestic Violence Awareness and Breast Cancer Awareness month as MOST domestic violence victims who develop breast cancer will not be allowed by their abuser to get a mammogram or go the doctor, as the abuser does not want anyone to see current or old bruises, broken bones and other injuries during a medical exam," she said.

As one of two Farragut representatives on Knox County Community Health Council, Brykalski made a presentation to that organization Thursdav. Oct. 16. sharing a variety of statistics and information about domestic violence.

Defined as "a pattern of abusive behaviors used to gain and maintain power and control over a victim, domestic violence can be physical abuse, but nonphysical forms including financial control, stalking and emotional abuse can be just as harmful," she said.

"No matter what it

looks like or where it happens, all forms of abuse are harmful whether they are considered a crime or not.

"Victims and survivors need and deserve to be heard and supported in their journey to safety," Brykalski continued. "Behind each number is a person, a family and a community forever changed by violence.

"Every community is affected by it," she "Domestic continued. violence affects every zip code, it does not care about financial or educational status; it does not respect age, and, although women are the majority of domestic violence victims, men are affected also, and that number is growing."

She said this year's DVAM theme is "You're a survivor."

"It is both a recognition and a call to action, [acknowledging] courage and strength it takes to live through abuse while also affirming the dignity and potential that every survivor carries forward," Brykalski added.

"Surviving domestic violence is not only about enduring harm — it is about reclaiming power, healing from trauma and moving toward a future filled with possibility.

"Too often, survivors are defined only by their experiences of abuse ...

See DOMESTIC on Page 3B



Mansour Hasan State Farm group at Freaky Friday. This past weekend saw communities celebrate the fall season with festivals and trick-or-treating.

Farragut, Concord fall festive

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut and Concord were the hot spots for activities this past weekend as the communities celebrated the fall season with festivals and trick-or-treating.

The fun began Friday, Oct. 24, with the annual Freaky Friday Fright Nite in Mayor Bob Leonard Park along Watt Road. About 4,000 — children and some adults dressed as Spiderman, princesses, Power Rangers and more while they walked the park's path, gathering treats from booths provided by more than 20 area businesses and non-profit organizations. When not gathering goodies,

youngsters tried out the maze and truck and performances by Laney played corn hole and other games. and Bishop.

At the same time, attendsupported the McDonald House Charities of Knoxville with supplies and other

Celebrating continued Saturday, when Chota Lodge 253 f&am hosted the inaugural Old Concord Fall Festival on the grounds of the lodge along Second Drive in Concord, Saturday, Oct. 25.

As it was the lodge's first festival, "we're hoping to do it next year," organizer Brad Redmond said. "So far, it looks great."

The event featured crafters, food trucks, a chance to get on an Lenoir City Utilities Board bucket

Proceeds from the festival benefitted Lift East Tennessee, a nonprofit organization that supports and trains work skills to people with neurodevelopmental disorders.

"We absolutely love our partnership we have created with Chota Lodge," said Lift's founder, Jennifer Rose. "We started working on this event last year with Brad."

The partnership involves an agreement in which LIFT participants provide vard work for the lodge to teach them job skills.

Sunday, Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance joined Hal-

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Grayson Martin/ town of farragut

New icon at Ralph McGill Plaza



MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD Correspondent

Eagle-eye residents have, no doubt, noticed the addition of a bright green topiary anchor at the entrance to Mayor

Ralph McGill Plaza. The new icon clearly is visible from the intersection of Campbell Station Road and Kingston Pike and not coincidentally, mirrors the giant trator David Smoak and engagement ring topiary in front of Rick Terry's Jewelry Designs, located just across the street, as the same designer made

The eye-catching anchor had been in the discussion phase for some time and was a collective effort between Farragut Mayor Ron Williams, Farragut Town AdminisFarragut's Parks and Recreation Department.

"David and \bar{I} discussed the idea of having something at that corner, when we realized the [previously discussed] grand entrance of Biddle Farms was not going to be able to be constructed, as it would have taken up too much valuable real estate," Williams said.

"It actually would have taken the place of what is now Parlor Donuts and the new Urgent Care."

Then, "during a park tour this [past] summer, [Smoak] asked me to research possible monuments for the corner of Kingston Pike and Campbell Station Road," Town Park and Rec director

See ICON on Page 3B



IT JUST TAKES A MINUTE TO BE PREPARED

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Letters to the Editor

Guidelines for Letters to the Editor

1. Restrict word counts to 600 words or less. 2. All letters to contain addresses and phone numbers for verification — not for publication.

3. Letter writers can have one letter per 30 day period. 4. If a letter is libelous, it will not publish.

To the Editor,

To Doug Horne, Tony Cox, Alan Sloan, Kathy Hartman, Tammy Cheek and everyone else at the paper:

A big congratulations of the well-deserved many awards the farragutpress received from the Tennessee Press Association. I look forward to reading your newspaper every week. As a retired journalist I still look forward to reading a printed newspaper. All the best and many more years to serving the public.

Harry Moskos (Retired editor, News Sentinel)

To the Editor,

I recently read the article in the Farragut Press about a new access road plan for the Sugarwood subdivision. It seemed to me that there was more discussion on that issue in the BOMA meeting than has ever been made on the Evans Road project. Interestingly, the Sugarwood road plan is a recent idea whereas the Evans Road project has been going on for about 5 years.

The town has tried to say that those of us that live along Evans Road spread disinformation. So here are some facts from that article:

Sugarwood: one alderman said "I would like to meet with these residents first before I vote for something like this [preliminary design contract].

Evans Road: that alderman has never offered to meet with me to discuss the impact to my property.

Sugarwood: one alderman said "I know people who live and work there but I haven't talked to anyone about it."

Evans Road: I doubt he is personally acquainted with anyone in my neighborhood so I guess it's who you know.

Sugarwood: another alderman said "I'd like to hear a lot of input first from residents..." Evans Road: that alderman has not approached me either.

Sugarwood: the vice-mayor said "I sit in that traffic every day...and it's chaos."

Evans Road: the vice-mayor has not called me either. Can he only understand problems that personally affect him? Sugarwood: the mayor said "I see the chaos as well because I live there."

Evans Road: Obviously he does not live on Evans Road so cannot understand the issues. Sugarwood: the town administrator said he has talked with the CVS pharmacy owner. Evans Road: the town

administrator has never contacted me.

My mother and I have appeared before the BOMA and pleaded our case with little to show for it. So I hope that the everyone can understand my frustration that there appears to be a double standard when it comes to how the town deals with the residents. Just once I wish that they would hit the pause button on their Evans Road plans, the process all over again with full engagement and transparency, and treat me now like they treat their own friends and neighbors.

> **Tegwyn Pryse** Farragut

Dear Farragut Residents,

After serving over a year as Alderman for the North Ward, I am concerned about practices in our town government that appear inconsistent with the Farragut Town Charter.

When I took the oath of office, I swore to uphold the Charter and ordinances. That oath did not include interpreting or redefining the law to suit convenience. Yet, on several occasions, Town staff have indicated they hold a "different interpretation" of the law. I will address this publicly at the next Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting.

One example is Ordinance 25-13: Customary Home Occupations, originally scheduled for a first reading at the October 23 BOMA meeting. The meeting was cancelled.

Public Input: This ordinance should include a staffled BOMA workshop and an opportunity for residents to comment before any vote. The Farragut Planning Commission should also have held a public workshop prior to its approval.

Committee Process: The subcommittee met three times but did not reach consensus on a final draft. No final version was approved by the subcommittee before staff advanced it for consideration. Advancing the ordinance without subcommittee agreement was procedurally improper.

Legal Concerns: The recent appellate decision in Elijah Shaw et al. v. Metropolitan Government of Nashville requires that home-based business ordinances treat all business types equally. The Town's proposed two-tiered structure may conflict with this ruling. https://law.justia.com/cases/tennessee/supremecourt/2022/m2019-01926-sc-r11-cv.html

Farragut residents deserve a transparent, accountable local government that operates within the law. I remain committed to ensuring our processes reflect integrity, fairness, and respect for the law.

Respectfully, Alderman Alex Cain North Ward, Town of Farragut

To the Editor,

I formally and publicly object to Ordinance 25-13(25-13), the proposed amendment regulating customary home occupations within the Town of Farragut. 25-13 does not correct past overreach, it compounds it. When combined with the Town's existing code, it creates one of the most intrusive regulatory frameworks for homebased businesses anywhere in Tennessee.

-Existing Ordinance Already Grants Broad Inspection Authority

Appendix A, Chapter 4, Section II(A) of the current Farragut Code defines the Town's Administrative Officer and states that "the provisions of this ordinance shall be administered and enforced by the Town Building Official who shall be the town administrator or his designated representative who shall additionally:" "(4) conduct inspections as prescribed by this ordinance and such other inspections as are necessary to ensure compliance with the various provisions of this ordinance generally."

That may sound routine, but the definition section of the same code explicitly states that "shall" is always mandatory. Once a resident signs a Home Occupation Agreement, they effectively agree that Town officials shall inspect their property whenever it's deemed "necessary."

There are no limits on what can be inspected, when or under what conditions. The ordinance is silent on notice, scope and consent. Essentially, residents are signing away their right to privacy on their own property simply to operate a lawful business from home.

-Expands, Rather Than Fixes Instead of clarifying or limiting this outdated inspection authority, 25-13 adds a second layer of vague, open-ended. It imposes new restrictions on client visits, deliveries and "business-activity," but still offers no measurable definitions of key terms such as noise, client or traffic volume.

Preserving the same inspection clause while adding new compliance requirements,

I'm the

Daughl

One Move

Changed

Everything

the Town is effectively giving itself greater reason and broader justification, to enter or investigate private homes. This mirrors the same type of overreach recently struck down by the Tennessee Court of Appeals in Shaw & Raynor v. Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County (August 2025).

In that case, the Court ruled that all home businesses must be treated equally and that municipalities cannot impose arbitrary or unequal restrictions without a rational connection to public health or safety. 25-13 fails that test. It singles out certain lawful occupations and applies harsher standards without any datadriven justification.

-Legal Consequences Are Severe

If adopted, 25-13 would place every home business, including tutors, stylists, musicians, bakers and consultants, under potential inspection without cause, covering personal deliveries or guests. It would be impossible to distinguish between private and business activity once the Town inserts itself into a person's home. That uncertainty invites selective enforcement, neighbor surveillance and unnecessary intrusion into private residences.

The consequences extend beyond home offices. Under the Town's zoning rules, home occupations are referenced within the Agricultural District. This raises questions about whether agriculturalbased enterprises, such as riding stables or smallscale farming, would be restricted to "inside the dwelling" or prohibited altogether because they generate "odor" or involve buildings like barns. This ordinance could unintentionally outlaw long-standing rural activities that define Farragut's heritage.

A Call for Responsible Governance

- Rather than expand enforcement powers, the Town should review and modernize its existing ordinance.
- Remove the inspection requirement tied to the contract agreement.
- Establish clear, measurable standards for legitimate public concerns such as traffic or parking, based on facts, not fear.
- Ensure any enforcement is carried out with notice, consent and respect for residents' constitutional protections.

Farragut can protect neighborhoods without sacrificing privacy, entrepreneurship or trust in local government. Small-businesses and family enterprises that make this community vibrant de-

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

serve clarity, fairness and the right to work from home without signing away their civil liberties.

Kimberlie Parks Owner, Sojourney

To the Editor,

Committee member concerns go unheard by Town staff.

Home business occupations have become a big issue in recent years due to advances in technology, Covid and an acceptance by society. The Town of Farragut is attempting to not only re-specify tiers for types of businesses but also set stricter limitations and restrictions. I was a part of the Home Occupation Committee and feel Town Staff had their own agenda to make the Town one big Home Owner's Association. Multiple meetings had been

held in 2025 to bring together Town staff and citizens. I thought the idea was to bring a consensus regarding what ordinances would work within Town limits because a small amount of residents were causing problems. Looking at my notes, every meeting continued to progressively get worse to put limitations on businesses. Regardless of the push back from myself and some other members of the committee, Town staff pushed forward.

In early Summer, a presentation was made to BOMA and I spoke against the terms and report. After, the BOMA meeting, nothing was said further and the meetings stopped. However, now you will see the Town staff is bringing back the ordinance for approval. At no time, did the citizen committee take a vote, or agree on the ordinance, nor was the committee told there would be a BOMA vote. Town staff has taken it upon themselves to push for the ordinance.

Here is what I argued: If the town passes the ordinance, who will enforce the ordinance? Will the Sheriff's office come investigate why you got one more package than your weekly allotment? Will Deputies be sent out to question how many vehicles you have parked in your driveway? The accuser in any situation will remain anonymous and the business owner will have to prove they are not guilty instead of the presumption of Innocence.

The fees paid to the Town so you can operate your business will go into the General Fund of the Town. In no way will the fees help you or your business. I was also told passing this ordinance will help to 'build a case' against people in the Town for

See LETTERS on Page 3B



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Local streams quality to be accessed

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Town of Farragut's streams soon will be accessed for water quality.

"The Town's Stormwater Matters Program is required by Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to perform visual stream assessments every five years to determine the health of Farragut's waterways," Stormwater coordinator Clifford Mann stated in a Town press release."

"Farragut, as well as about 100 other cities/counties in Tennessee, are required to perform these assessments by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation," Town communications manager Wendy Smith said. "They use the data collected to monitor and report on the overall health of Tennessee waterways, as well as to identify impaired streams, plan for restoration and track water quality over time.

"Turkey Creek — including North Fork Turkey Creek and Little Turkey Creek are impaired by sedimentation/

ICON From page 1A

Ron Oestreich noted.

Based on that conversation, and at Ostrich's direction, "Blake Travis, parks manager, researched small clock towers, statues, and had the idea to contact Rick Terry about his topiary ring at his shop," Oestreich continued. "Rick gave us

Festive From page 1A

loween fun with fall festivi-

ties when it hosted its annual Harvest Fest featuring live music, 68 vendor booths, food trucks and a Halloween costume contest in Village Green Shopping Center, 11505 Kings-

Letters From page 2A

multiple violations. However, if you break the rules or do not pay your fee, nothing conclusive could be done to you.

I did not move to Farragut to have the government regulate me, I wanted to move to a free state and a business friendly town. I choose not to live in an HOA, but now the Town wants me to sign a form to allow them to search my mail, question the cars in my driveway and enter my home to make sure I don't have more than 25 percent of my gross floor area devoted to my business.

If this Ordinance passes, people won't be allowed to park

siltation due to high-density urbanization and stream alteration," she said. "The collected data will enable the Farragut Engineering Department to plan for and allocate resources to rehabilitate portions of streams that are impacted by urbanization."

The Town has contracted with Civil & Environmental Consultants Inc. to perform this assessment, which will require inspectors to traverse creeks that are adjacent to private property."

"Inspections begin in late October and are projected to be finished by the end of March 2026," the press release stated.

"Turkey Creek, North Fork Turkey Creek and Little Turkey Creek are included in the assessment," Mann stated. "Inspectors will make every attempt to contact property owners before entering nearby streams. To see if a stream adjacent to your property is part of the assessment, visit https://tdeconline.tn.gov/dwr/.

Contact Mann with any questions or concerns at stormwater@townoffarragut. org or 865-968-0599.

Topiary Joe's name.

"After discussions, we presented some renderings to Mr. Smoak," he added.

Smoak, in turn, reached out the Board of Mayor and Aldermen on final designs for the project.

"Once all of the preliminaries were done, we placed the order for the green anchor with real rope," Oestreich said.

ton Pike Oct. 26.

Children, adults and even dogs dressed up for the event. Judging this year's event were Talk Radio 97.7 personality Bob Thomas, Farragut High School principal Kasey Laudermilk and Town Alderman Drew Burnette.

their work vehicles in their driveway. No Plumbing trucks, no HVAC, not even the Deputy Sheriff on my street will be able to bring his vehicle home because it is work related. This is the same for trailers being used for business.

If you are friendly to your neighbors and they don't complain, you should be good; but someone can drive down your street, complain to the Town and an investigation will be opened on you. Farragut should stay out of people's business by staying out of people's businesses.

Brian Walker Kings Gate



New mural added to Farragut Museum

A new mural recently was added to the first gallery of Farragut Museum. Painted by local artist, Ella Pinchok, it depicts items found throughout the museum, such as the USS Hartford, swords, anchors, lanterns and more. Admiral Farragut's famous quote, "Full Speed Ahead" and four stars to represent the rank of the admiral of the U.S. Navy also are included. "It was an honor to design a mural for the Farragut Museum. This

this theme challenges that nar-

rative by celebrating their resil-

ience, amplifying their voices

and reminding our community

that survivors are leaders, par-

She said domestic violence

"matters" because it is not just

a private issue, but is actually

"a public health and safety cri-

sis that affects individuals,

families and entire commu-

nities. According to national

data, one in three women and

one in four men will experi-

ence domestic violence in their

ents, neighbors and friends."

project connects so deeply to my roots," Pinchok said.

Town Historic Resources coordinator Kristi Vining said the mural brings color and brightness to the gallery and added it was an opportunity to liven up the first gallery and add a fresh, unique look to the museum.

"I love it. It improves the experience when you walk into the museum," she said. "I also appreciate the fact we have added some art to a history museum, and I enjoyed work-

ing with such a local talent, Ella Pinchok.

Pinchok is the founder of Ella Pinchok Art and is a graduate of Farragut High School. Currently a University of Tennessee student, she has painted murals for other local businesses, such as Summer Moon Coffee and 35 North. She also performs in the Pride of the Southland Marching Band. The Museum is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday

museum, and I

lifetimes, she shared.

And the impact on children cannot be overstated, Brykalski added.

"Many, if they are not already living in violent neighborhoods, suffer through divorce, being bullied and typically have [Post Traumatic Stress Disorder]," she said. "A lot of times, they go through life 'waiting for the other shoe to drop.""

Still others "continue the cycle of abuse into adulthood.

"In our own community, the need for support is constant," she added. "Every day, law enforcement and social services respond to calls for help, provides safe shelter to families fleeing abuse and offers counseling, legal advocacy and long-term support to those rebuilding their lives."

She said one thing the aver-

through Saturday.

aware. We encourage people to be observant and ask questions if they see anything out of the ordinary or something that might seem suspicious." Supporters also are encour-

age person can do "is just be

aged to wear purple ribbons this month "as a way to stand in solidarity with survivors."

"A dark purple ribbon shows support for victims of violent crime and crime victims' rights."

Home From page 1A

Domestic

From page 1A

are allowed with a permit," he said. "We began working on the proposed amendment a year ago, and it has been reviewed by a citizen working (ad hoc) group four times and been discussed, in different stages of development, with the Municipal Planning Commission at four separate meetings.

"We recognize that this is an important amendment," Shipley said. "That's why we've taken time on it and invited a group of citizens to provide feedback."

The ad hoc committee, whose meetings are not required to be public, was appointed to hash out proposed amendments to its existing or-

dinance. However, the mayor said the committee members could not come to a consensus on matters in the proposed ordinance.

Alderman Alex Cain, who represents the North Ward (1), also has concerns about the proposed ordinance amendments (see Letter to the Editor, Page 2A).

In looking at the proposed changes, Cain said, "It centralizes too much authority in unelected staff without adequate oversight from the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, weakening the representative balance established by the Town Charter.

"The (proposed) ordinance also advanced without a final subcommittee consensus or resident input, undermining transparency and proper procedure," he said. "The Town also relies on residents to report ordinance violations due to insufficient enforcement personnel, placing the burden on citizens rather than the government."

Regarding the Town char-

ter, Cain said the proposal was inconsistent because "the ordinance grants excessive authority to staff, raising accountability concerns and threatening residents' privacy.

"It allows staff the possibility to interpret the ordinance in their own way, which violates residents' trust," he said. "Expanding discretion without oversight undermines both the charter and residents' rights."





Fort Loudon Medical Center celebrates opening of advanced care wing

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragupress.com

Last month Fort Loudon Medical Center celebrated the opening of its new advanced care wing with a presentation and ribbon cutting.

The Fort Loudoun Brethen Foundation Ad-

vanced Care
Wing, located
at 550 Fort Loudoun Medical
Center Drive,
Lenoir City, an
all-private room
care facility, was
a \$15 million investment for the
hospital, accord-

ing to Josh Cox with Covenant Health. It includes 50 beds while providing critical care services, cancer services, diagnostic imaging and physical rehabilitation. It is also equipped with command centers located outside of rooms for 24-hour monitoring of patients, Cox added.

"It's a huge benefit for Covenant staff to have the tools they need," he said.

Lisa Doran, Gift Shop Manager stated "I've always loved

working at Fort Loudoun, but I wanted to personally thank the Brethens (David and Colleen) for their extravagant gift that has allowed us to open this beautiful new wing so we can better care for people in this community and beyond. This addition has buoyed my excite-

ment for serving in this place. I know it's had the same effect on my co-workers."

Covenant Health CEO/ president Jim VanderSteeg welcomed everyone for "this very special occa-

sion to dedicate new advancements and enhancements to Fort Loudoun Medical Center." He also stated that David and Colleen Brethen's gift "has meant so much to this community, which is why, ultimately, I know you do it.

"It's also meant so much to Covenant." He also added thanks to the Tennessee Department of Health for playing a huge role in making this

See CARE on Page 5A



Tammy Cheel

Dr. John Dunn, interim commissioner of Tennessee Department of Health; donors David and Colleen Brethen; Connie Martin, FLMC president/CEO; Jim VanderSteeg, Covenant Health president/CEO, Distict 21 state Rep. Lowell Russell; and Loudon County Mayor Buddy Bradshaw get ready to cut the ribbon on Fort Loudoun Medical Center's new Brethen Foundation Advanced Care Wing.

Business After Hours at Calhouns

This addition has

ment for serving in

this place,"

buoyed my excite-

~ Lisa Doran,

Gift Shop Manager



Above: From left, farragutpress' Kathy Hartman, with door prize winners, Carriage Hill's Kyle Greening, Todd Henderson and Bob Elliott

Right: Stephen Wolfe, left and George Bove

Below: Beki Lincks, left and Jan Dougherty

Photos by Tammy Cheek





Young Professionals learn how they can serve as mentors through tnAchieves

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragupress.com

Loudon County Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals members learned how they can serve as mentors through tnAchieves during a Let's Do Lunch at Roane State Community College Wednesday, Oct. 8.

Baylor Atkins, tnAchieves Director of Mentors, said business representatives and owners can help a student succeed by being a mentor. She explained tnAchieves is the partnering organization to the Tennessee Promise Scholarship. "Tennessee Promise provides a tuition-free college education to students across the state who are seeking an associate's degree or a technical degree," Atkins said. "There are no requirements for this scholarship. There are no income requirements ... there are no academic requirements. You can be valedictorian of your class or just

making it to your graduation."

The program receives grant f u n d i n g from the state but tn-Achieves is responsible for distributing the

uting the funds, she noted. Founded in 2008 as a workforce development program in Knox County, Atkins said it has since spread throughout the state.

Baylor Atkins

Through a workforce focused grant program tn-Achieves provides mentoring and business partners provide job shadowing opportunities. "These are partners that are making a financial and time commitment to tnAchieves," she said. "They are investing their time and their resources to help students on the path to success."

The partners can invest by making donations, providing job shadowing opportunities or by helping recruit mentors for the tnAchieves' mentoring program.

Atkins said "Not only does a student learn what it is like to do a particular job; he or she also has networking opportunities to make connections through the job shadowing program. They get contact information from these businesses at the end of their job shadowing opportunities. This year, we are launching another mentoring program alongside

See TNACHIEVES on Page 5A

Coffee at Ramblin' Joe's



Ramblin' Joe's Coffee owner Sharon Valentine welcomed Loudon County Chamber of Commerce members, such as Lenoir City Council member Todd Kennedy at a Chamber coffee in Ramblin' Joe's Coffee, 108 S. B St., Lenoir City, Tuesday, Oct. 21.

Tammy Cheek

Care From page 4A

project happen.

While praising several members of Covenant's team and staff, VanderSteeg also praised Loudon County Mayor Buddy Bradshaw. "He played such an important role in this."

"Today marks an important milestone in our ongoing commitment at Covenant to serve Loudon County and surrounding communities," Vander-Steeg said. "As a not-for-profit health system, we exist purely to help improve the quality of life through better health and part of how we do that is through a promise of delivering excellent service, a promise of delivering compassionate service close to home."

tnAchieves From page 4A

our traditional one," she said. "In our traditional program, we like to call Access Mentorship, mentors help high school seniors navigate the collegegoing process ... getting their college applications done, filling out their facts, getting their community service hours submitted," Atkins said. "We are also launching a workforce program this fall," she said. "All workforce mentors will help support second-year college students as they navigate the transition to a career or a four-year institution. These mentors help students with those career-related goals. If vou're a sophomore in college and thinking about entering

into the workforce or what it looks like to find your path on a four-year institution, you might need to make a resume."

Mentors can help the stu-

dents make those resumes. For more information about tnAchieves and mentoring, visit online at tn.achieves.org







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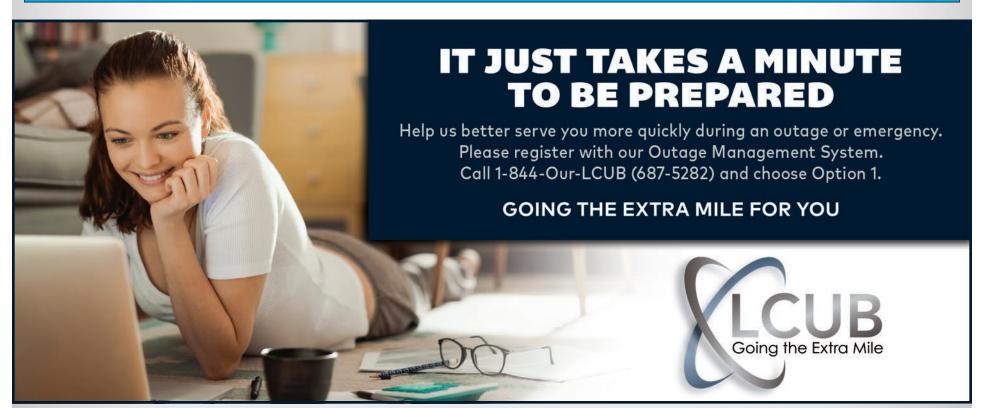


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business

6A • FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025





business Thurs-

businessbriefs

 Premier Surgical Associates announces the appointment of more than two decades of experience in healthcare leadership, Dykema "has consistently inspired a wide range of stakeholders — including physicians, medical groups, health systems, C-suite executives, directors, managers and frontline staff — by guiding organizations through transformative change," a press release stated.

· United Way of Greater Knoxville recently selected Chrystal Timothy D. Dykema, MHSA, Armstrong Brown as president as chief executive officer. With and chief executive officer following a committee-led, national search to fill the position. Armstrong Brown had served as the organization's interim CEO since November 2024, adding those duties to the existing role of chief impact officer, which she's held since joining UWGK in April 2023.

See BRIEFS on Page 8A

Below left: Dalen Products owner David Caldwell is honored for his day, Oct. 23. accomplishments.

employees and leaders celebrate 50 years in

Dalen Products 50 years

Looking toward a bright future

TAMMY CHEEK

team

tcheek@farragutpress.com

As Dalen Products has provided products from its facility at 700 Dalen Lane, off Gilbert Drive in Knoxville, for the past 50 years, it now is looking for what is ahead in the future.

"It's been an eventful five decades," said David Caldwell, son of founder, the late Neal Caldwell. "If you had told me in 1975, when the business was founded, that it would be here 50 years later, I might have had difficulty imagining that."

The company observed that milestone Thursday, Oct. 23, at the company's facility and "celebrated co-owner David Caldwell's contribution and achievement in the company," said Crystal Phelps, Dalen chief marketing officer.

Having worked with many clients as a certified public accountant before coming to Dalen, Bob Teska, Dalen's chief operating officer, he observed, "I didn't have any clients that made it to 50 years.

This, to me, is one of the most monumental events I've been apart of," he said.

Looking forward, "we are really kind of reshaping the company right now, looking to the next 50 years," said Crystal Phelps, Dalen chief marketing officer. "We have really undergone a remodel.

Dalen Products also is in the middle of rebranding with a new identity and introducing new products, she added.

"We've implemented new machinery, includ-

ing a new blow molder, and we also brought in a machine that actually does painting. It paints our owls," Phelps said. She explained the company's main product is a scarecrow owl, which until now has been hand-painted.

To date, "we've sold 8.9 million of them all across North America, basically — Walmart, Costco, Lowe's, Home Depot," Phelps said. "They are actually plastic, but that's kind of what we're known for.

But, "we just brought in a new robotic machine that is going to start painting them for us,"

she said. "So, ∠∠ ... we are really kind we're really of reshaping the excited about that because company right now, really that's looking to the next 50 going to help us in terms of years," increasing our production so ~ Crystal Phelps, we can offer

iot more

products and

have a lot more

Dalen chief marketing officer

capacity." Besides the owls, the company also manufactures other garden accessories, such as lawn fabrics, "anything to deter weeds and pests," Phelps said. "We also have a stone wall that's a big seller at Home Depot and a few places, as

See 50 YEARS on Page 8A



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Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance's Shop Farragut MIXER



Above: Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance chairman Candace Viox, left, and Embroidery Boutique owner Debby Funk check out the booths during an FBA mixer, which took place at Sir Goony's Family Fun Center.

Right: From left, Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance chairman Candace Viox, Town of Farragut Tourism manager Hallie Riddle, Town Tourism program coordinator Haley Elliott, Embroidery Boutique owner Debby Funk and JCPenney general manager Michelle Austin network.





Above: Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance executive director Steve Krempasky, left, who is retiring, took the time to introduce the incoming executive director Vic Scott during SF/FBA's Farragut Mixer.

Farragut business representatives had a fun evening at play while networking with other businesses during Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance's Shop Farragut MIXER.

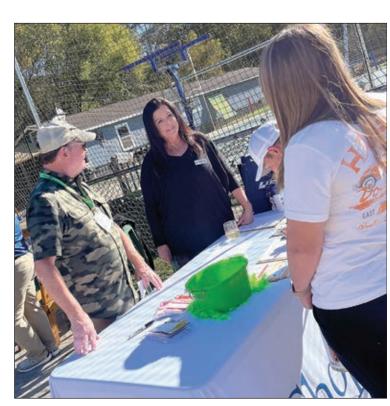
The event, which took place at Sir Gooney's Family Fun Center, 10925 Kingston Pike, Farragut, featured games, booths and refreshments. It also provided updates on upcoming promotionals in Town and a chance to meet SF/FBA's incoming executive director Vic Scott.

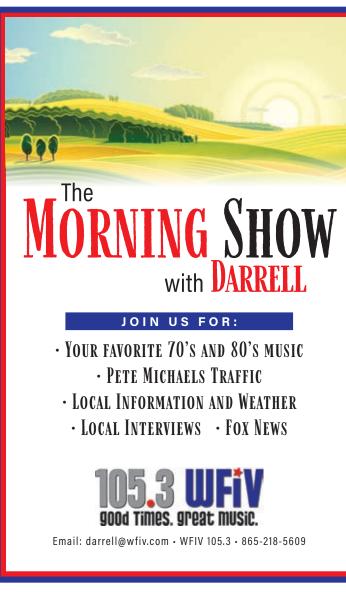
Photos by Kathy Hartman

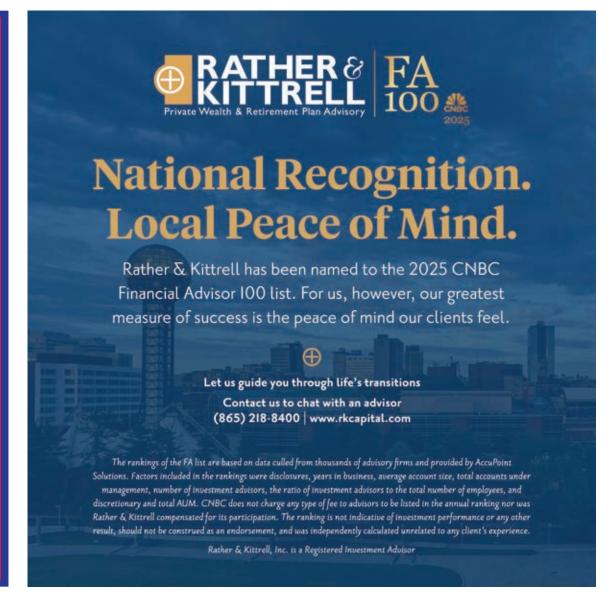


Left: Julie Blaylock, Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce president/CEO, center, joins attendees at the SF/FBA Mixer

Right: Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance executive director Steve Krempasky and Embroidery Boutique owner Debby Funk chat with a business owner during an FBA mixer, which took place at Sir Goony's Family Fun Center.







50 years From page 6A

well, that we manufacture.

"Weed-Ex is a fabric that we also sell," she said. "We have a wide variety of different (lawn and garden) products.

"We manufacture about 80 percent of our fabrics here in Knoxville," Phelps added. "And now that we've got these new machines, we'll be able to increase our production to about 85 to 95 percent."

The family-owned and operated business got its start with Neal Cardwell about 53 years ago (in 1972).

"He created a tomato planting tray and made it in his wife's oven," Phelps said. "He melted some plastic and created a mold. He had a purchase order for some lawn and garden stores and just grew the company from there.

"The owl (also created by Neal Caldwell) was really the first product that really took off," Phelps said. "It was for hunting decoys, and they realized that it was working in gardens in terms of deterring pests and scaring birds away, so they started to introduce it into lawn and garden stores."

Neal started the company itself in 1975, and David said the company's name stemmed from the first letters of the family's names D (David, his son), A (his wife Alice) L and E (Neal's daughters, Laura and the late Ellen) and N for Neal.

Briefs From page 6A

· Tennessee REALTORS has announced Lisa Askew has been awarded the Presidential Award in recognition of her efforts assisting victims of Hurricane Helene in East Tennessee.

According to a press release, Askew quickly mobilized resources and provided direct aid to those most in need. Before debris was cleared and roadways were restored, she was on her ATV navigating the devastation to make sure her community was cared for. Her leadership and compassion exemplify the REALTOR spirit of service and the association's mission to support communities beyond real estate transactions.

· Priority Ambulance announces 10 healthcare professionals from across its family of companies have been selected to receive the prestigious American Ambulance Association Stars of Life award, one of the highest honors in the EMS industry.

The following personnel are recognized for their contributions to emergency medical services: Anthony Arrigo-Kunkel Ambulance; Andre Joel Bower, LifeCare Medical Transports; Larry Christian, Seals Ambulance; Jason Cooke, Guardian Ambulance; Alex Gossett, Puckett EMS; Carol Harper, Frontier Ambulance; Connor Holt, Shoals Ambulance; Daniel Norfleet, First Call Ambulance; Thomas Elliot Owen, Magnolia Ambulance; and Daniel Rooney, Maricopa Ambulance.

• University of Tennessee Medical Center recently was named the nation's top employer for company culture in Forbes' inaugural ranking of America's Best Employers for Company Culture 2025. The list, compiled in partnership with Statista, highlights organizations setting the standard for workplace culture across the country. The rankings are available on the Forbes website.

The list is based on an independent survey of more than 218,000 U.S. employees working at companies with at least 1,000 employees. Evaluations considered both personal and public perceptions, as well as company culture-related key performance indicators such as fairness, acceptance and opportunity.

For more briefs and other news see farragutpress.com

And, son David was present during those 50 years to see the company grow.

"I was the first employee – I was the only employee for a few weeks," he recalled. After high school and college, he returned to help run the busi-

"I was here, full-time, since 1981," David said, recalling, "I never wanted to be (head of the company). "Somebody had to run the business. I didn't want to do it, but there was nobody else," he said. "But I did it, and I think I did an OK job at it."

Now, Phelps said the company is leaning more to the direct-to-consumer side to reach out to the end consumers, which is new to Dalen.

While still owned by the Caldwell family, who remain as board members, David retired from the company Oct. 1, handing the reins over to Teska.

"It's time," David said about retiring. "But, I feel very good about the team that's here to lead the business into the fu-

"(Teska) and his team are doing really wonderful work," he said. "So, I think I can enjoy my retirement and not worry about the business."

"I'm honored the Caldwell family has asked me to be a steward of the company going forward, and I'm just excited for what's coming," Teska said.



Tupelo Honey Southern Kitchen and Bar



A minute before Tupelo Honey Southern Kitchen and Bar cut the ribbon on the new restaurant at 126 Biddle Farms Blvd. in Town Center at Biddle Farms, Farragut Mayor Ron Williams (front row, left) welcomed the restaurant into Town. Ready to cut the ribbon are Ally Musgrave (with scissors), Tupelo Honey manager, and Luis Gonzalez (front row), executive chef; and Tupelo Honey staff and supporters.

Mansour Hasan, State Farm Agent presents

The Good Neighbor Character Award

Amora Briggs

Congratulations to Amora Briggs, a second grader at Farragut Primary School, for winning the Good Neighbor Character Award for September presented by Mansour Hasan, State Farm Agent. Amora was selected for this honor because she consistently demonstrates the character trait of respect. "Amora is the sweetest," said her teacher, Becky Edwards. "She is also kind and respectful to others. She has a positive attitude, works well with others, and follows classroom expectations." Keep up the great work, Amora!





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9-0 victory, Lady Dawgs heading to state

KEN LAY
Correspondent

Knoxville — In a match that seemed almost anticlimactic the Bearden High School girls soccer team punched its ticket to this week's Class AAA State Tournament in Chattanooga.

The Lady Bulldogs cruised to a 9-0 victory over Sevier County Saturday afternoon in a state sectional match contested inside the friendly confines of Turner-Allender Field.

University of Tennessee commit and senior Jayla Blue found the back of the net four times in the match against the Bearettes, giving the Lady Bulldogs the opportunity to return to the Volunteer State's grand stage and a chance to play in the state championship game for a fifth

consecutive season.

BHS has played in the state title match in each of the last four years, winning championships in 2021, 2022 and 2023. The Lady Bulldogs lost to Germantown-Houston in 2024 on a penalty kicks shootout.

Bearden (17-2-1) also got a pair of markers from Madi Bowlin in the Sevier County match. Eva Karb, MC Lemarbre and Tyler Roth also tallied for Bearden, earned the right to host Saturday's state sectional by winning the region championship over District 4-AAA rival West High, 2-0, on Thursday.

Bearden Coach Ryan Radcliffe, who won his 400th game as a head coach (combing to win with both the boys and girls teams), said getting to host the sectional was huge for his side.

"Anytime that you're

playing to go to state, you want that game to be at home," Radcliffe said after his team defeated the Lady Rebels to win the Region 2-AAA Title. "This is special for my seniors and I told them that the region championship was on the line, and there's the pride factor, but ultimately for me, and for you all, you get one more chance to play at home.

"Obviously, when

you're trying to book a ticket to state, you'd rather play at home than have to travel."

The Lady Bulldogs, who opened state tournament play Tuesday against Science Hill (which defeated West on penalty kicks Saturday), have now recorded three consecutive postseason shutouts, blanking the Lady Rebels twice and

See DAWGS on Page 2B



Carlos Reveiz, carlos@crfoto.com

FHS, 14, Nathan Jacobs, makes 1st down run

Ads fall, playoff hopes still alive



In its first season playing Class 6A football, Oak Ridge High School has an perfect record and will be exactly where it wants to be in the final week of the regular season.

The Wildcats (9-0 overall, 5-0 in Region 2-6A) will play for a league championship at Maryville High School Thursday night at Jim Renfroe Field in Blount County and ORHS coach Derek Rang said his team must believe it can knock off the Rebels (9-1, 5-0).

"We've got to go down there and

believe," said Rang, who is in his third season as the ORHS head coach. "We've got to go down there believing we can win the dang thing.

"Maryville is going to make some big plays and we're going to go down there and make some big plays because we're both good football teams.

Oak Ridge had to get a big boost of confidence as it routed Farragut, 45-21, Thursday night at Bill Clabo Field in Farragut Thursday night in front of a regional television audience in West Knox County, avenging last year's loss to the Admirals (2-7. 2-4).

The Wildcats got off to a fast start out of the gate as they opened an early 14-0 lead. They darted out to a 7-0 advantage when quarterback Blaine Stansberry scored on a 9-yard run, capping off an 85-yard scoring run. He would add another scoring scamper, this one from five yards out, to extend Oak

Ridge's advantage to 14-0.

The Admirals, who will also look to clinch a postseason bid with a win at Cleveland Thursday night trimmed their deficit to 14-7 with 9 minutes, 37 seconds remaining

See ADS on Page 2B

Lady Lions run comes to an end

KEN LAY

Correspondent

All things must come to an end. And sometimes, things are abruptly stopped in heartbreaking fashion.

This was the case Saturday for Concord Christian School's girls soccer team.

The Lady Lions controlled the tempo and held the possession advantage throughout the Division II-A State Quarterfinal match against Donelson Christian Academy.

After 100 minutes of regulation play and overtime, the match was de-

clared a 1-1 draw, but one side had to advance to this week's state tournament in Chattanooga.

So things came down to a penalty kicks shootout, which was won by the Lady Wildcats, 4-2.

"I would say that we possessed the ball more than they did and on their side more than they did," Concord coach Jason Jennings said. "They were packing it back and just getting transition.

They got one (goal) in the first half and we got one in the second half and in PK's, you never know what's going

See LIONS on Page 2B

Lady Spartans, Chattanooga bound

KEN LAY
Correspondent

Knoxville — After a scoreless first half, Webb School of Knoxville's girls soccer team had to come from behind to clinch it spot in this week's Division II Class AA State Tournament in Chattanooga.

The match remained scoreless until the 60th minute when Father Ryan's Chloe Edwards banged the ball past Lady Spartans' goal-keeper Lauren Newell, giving the Lady Irish a

1-0 lead.
But, Webb would be celebrating at the end of

the match as the Lady Spartans scored a pair of unanswered goals down the stretch to claim a 2-1 victory and punch their ticket to Chattanooga.

Webb, which reached the state championship match in 2024, pulled even in the 66th minute when Gideon Bradford found the back of the Lady Irish net with 14 minutes, 8 seconds remaining in the match.

Approximately five minutes later, the Lady Spartans (14-1-1) would score the eventual gamewinning marker when Simone Romain took a

See SPARTANS on Page 2B

Hawks senior night win, major playoff implications



The football game had the proverbial "everything": big-strike plays on offense, costly mistakes, momentum swings, critical stops on D.

And if that weren't enough, the game had major playoff implications for both teams.

In the end, Hardin Valley Academy prevailed at home on Senior Night over Cleveland High School, 42-27. The score is a bit misleading: the Hawks' win wasn't assured until late in the fourth quarter.

"Very back and forth game," HVA coach Tyler Wynn said. "Proud of our kids; they fought their tail off to get the win there at the end. I told 'em I'm really proud of em."

The first half couldn't have been more back-

and-forth, as it ended tied at 21. The Hawks led 7-0 with 5:41 left in the first when Chance Sharp finished a nine-play, 46-yard drive with a sixyard scoring run.

The Blue Raiders tied it late in the quarter with a touchdown pass, but HVA again took the lead, 14-7, when Sharp scored on a one-yard run with 6:32 left in the half. The drive had been stopped, but Becks Allen recov-

ered a fumbled Raiders' punt to give the Hawks new life.

CHS tied it at 14 on its next drive, and then took a 21-14 lead with 2:31 left in the half when Kyree Scott returned a fumble 35 yards for a touchdown.

But the Hawks struck back with 1:11 left, tying the game at 21 when quarterback Riley Metz hit Brody Lamb with a 47-yard score. The drive covered 80 yards and needed but four plays.

For the game, Metz was only five of 11 but threw for two scores and 149 yards.

"I told Riley 'I need you to be accurate on the big ones," Wynn said. "And he did a tremendous job of leading our offense and coming through in some clutch passes."

Metz's second TD pass was also big: 53 yards to Lamb to lead 28-21 with 3:48 left in the third. It was the first play after Lamb recovered a Raiders' fumble at the HVA 47.

Cleveland scored on a 98-yard drive on its next possession, but the kick was no good, leaving the Hawks with a one-point lead, 28-27.

When senior running back Samuel Mann scored on a five-yard run with 2:55 left, the Hawks

See HAWKS on Page 2B



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Ads

From page 1B

in the second stanza when quarterback Corbin Hobson connected with Max Garfield on a 28-yard touchdown pass, making the score 14-6. Farragut's Ryan McCue added the extra point, making the score, 14-7.

Oak Ridge would score the final 10 points of the opening half as Stansberry connected with Malik Howard on a

79-vard scoring strike and Eli Pearson converted a 37-yard field goal, giving the Wildcats the 24-7 lead they enjoyed at halftime.

The Admirals were able to pull to within 24-14 early in the third stanza when Hobson connected with Garfield on a scoring pass from 58 yards out.

"I give our kids credit, they battled hard all night," Admirals' coach Geoff Courtney said. "They battled back and got it to 14-7 and 24-14 against a good football team.

"We're where we want to be. We have a chance to make the playoffs in the final week of the regular season. We would've liked to clinch before now, but we are where we are and we're in control of our own destiny.'

Stansberry helped the Wildcats regain control of the contest when he lofted a 31-yard scoring toss to Ja'Rell Jemerson midway through the third frame, making it 31-14.

Howard, a tight end, had a scoring catch with 11:40 remaining in the final frame. Howard recoded another TD reception midway through the final stanza, making the score, 45-14.

"Their quarterback had a great night," Courtney said. "And their receivers, Malik Howard and Jemerson, had great nights.

Farragut running back Charlie Noble rushed for a touchdown late to close out the scoring in the contest.

Spartans From page 1B

pass from Emerson Clarke, who had two assists in the match,

With the win, the Lady Spartans advance to the state semifinals for the second consecutive year and for the second time in school history.

Webb's semifinal match against East Region rival Chattanooga Girls Preparatory School will be played today (Wednesday) at 1:30 p.m. A win there would land the Lady Spartans in the title match on Friday.

Saturday's match was marred by an injury to senior McKalie Ball. She would, however, return despite an injured elbow.

"It was scary," Ball said.
"But when we got scored on, I knew I had to go back in.

Her injury was eerily similar to an injury suffered by Pearce Groer last season. It was Groer's last match as a Lady Spartan as she missed the state tournament before moving on to play for the University of Texas.

Ball returned and said hoped she to play Chattanooga.

Hawks From page 1B

Dawgs

From page 1B

Oak Ridge once.

led by eight. There was still time for CHS to score and tie it.

HVA's defense had other ideas. Four straight incompletions by CHS's Kason Mcgowan gave the ball back to Hardin Valley on the Raiders' 20. Mann closed out the scoring with a 13-yard run

In Thursday's regional final, Emma Rainey gave the Lady

with 1:27 left.

"We were up by one and we what I did."

A slew of Hawks' running

'We have a lot of guys who can make a lot of plays," Wynn

said. One of our goals is to get many guys in. We're big on group success."

The loss eliminated Cleveland from the Region 2-6A playoff race. HVA, at 2-4 (4-5 overall) stayed alive and needs Cleveland to beat Farragut Friday night.

The Hawks conclude the regular season on the road Friday night against Ooltewah.

with a 4-0 victory over Oak

Lions

to happen."

The Lady Wildcats (12-3-1) took a 1-0 lead midway through of the match.

The Lady Lions (16-1-2) missed a chance to pull ahead early when they hit the post with a shot in the opening min-

Concord would tie the game early in the second half on a marker by Lexie Leeman. The goal came off a rebound after Ellie Leeman fired a shot off the goalpost in the

44th minute.

After regulation and overin the second and third rounds

Things ended in disappointing fashion for the Lady Lions, but that didn't sully a season where Concord accomplished

"This was history-making for us." Jennings said. "First district title, first region title

"I've got several of them who've played for me a long time, and they've earned every

needed a touchdown to seal the game," Mann said. "And the ball's in my hands so I needed to get in the endzone so that's

backs ran for 166 yards on 39

Bulldogs a 1-0 lead before halftime and Blue scored an insurance goal off an assist from Roth in the 72nd minute of the

Bearden opened region play

Ridge on Tuesday, Oct. 21, avenging a 3-2 loss to the Lady Wildcats earlier this season in West Knoxville.



the opening half when Maggie Bosworth found the back of the CCS net in the 24th minute

ute of the match.

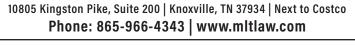
time, Doelson Christian converted all four of its penalty kicks while Concord misfired of the shootout.

(and) first state quarterfinal.

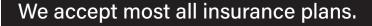
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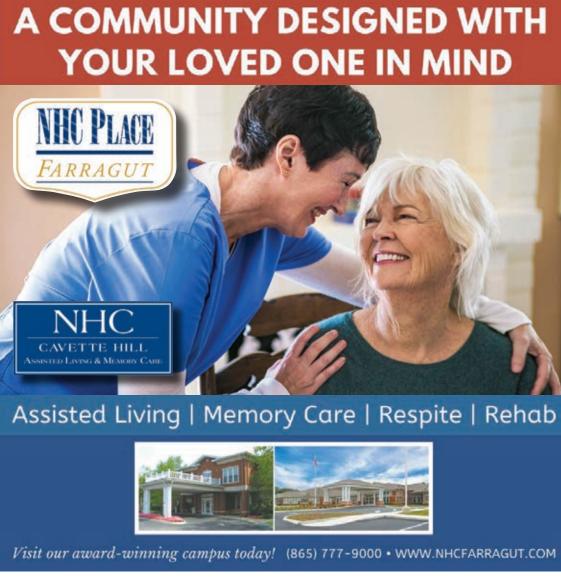


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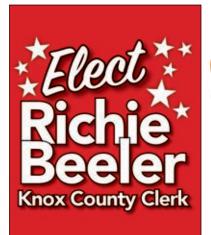
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Ages 6-8

1st - Olivia Poetzel; 2nd - Autumn Hooper; 3rd - Macie Martin

Ages 9-11

1st - Caroline Marie Young; 2nd - Audrey Ball; 3rd - Nadia Gentile

Special Needs

1st - Ivy Edwards

Adults 12-112

1st - Laura Clift; 2nd - Lisa Leko; 3rd - Kristin Koren

Pictured above:

Back Row (left to right): Alena Havrylyak, Child Activity Coordinator at The Davis Family YMCA; Nadia Gentile; Caroline Young; Autumn Hooper

Middle Row (left to right): Olivia Poetzle, Macie Martin, Laura Clift, Ellia Hubrig, Kristin Koren Front Row (left to right): Lucy Pacitti, Ivy Edwards

farragutpress wishes to thank all the participants who submitted entries. We were very impressed with the wide range of creativity!



Renaissance, Farragut





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community

4B • FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025



STEM comes to CCS

Principal introduces new programs to the curriculum

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Concord Christian School is growing, and that is being shown in its new curriculum for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

While still a college preparatory school, Holly Neill, CCS's new upper school principal is introducing new STEM programs to the curriculum.

"If you understand your world, it will help you no matter what job you have," she said. "Everybody needs to have a basic understand of how the world works, and STEM classes are the way that you can get that hands on.

"We're really excited," she said about adding the programs. "Concord is growing so much (that) we're just really blessed. And, I think a lot of this is a culmination of work that's been behind the scenes for many years, so it's really awesome to be able to step back in and participate in growing it.

"For example, we are starting a partnership with Carson-Newman University, so we can offer an associate's degree for our students," Neill said. "I'm really ramping up the number of college credits kids can take here at Concord.

"The nice thing, too, about our relationship with Carson-Newman is they have a very similar philosophy as us," she

Neill said the school is going to get that program started in the next year to increase the number of opportunities for students.

Similarly, "this year we started a new relationship with the University of Texas, Austin," she said. "Our dual enrollment engineering students actually can get college credit from UT, Austin, from its engineering program, which is literally one of the best engineering programs in the United States.

"There's just all this project-based learning and understanding not only engineering design but how to respond to stakeholder needs, and it's wonderful," Neill said. "The project they are working on right now is they are responding to a stakeholder's need."

The students are creating a

ship program and lots of other amazing things coming up, Neill said.

Jeff Evans, Concord Christian School science department chair

engineering teacher poses with three of his dual enrollment stu-

dents, from left, Caris Baggett, Payton Turner and Kalani Ro-

mines, as they show their camera.

camera for individuals with

limited use of their hands but

pinhole camera for people with

motor disabilities," dual en-

rollment engineering student

Payton Turner said. "We had

to follow ways that they could

hold it and carry it to the des-

ignated mural spot, ways they

could open it, put this film in-

rameters they have to work

with and they have to build a

camera that can take a picture

based on what those limita-tions are," Neill said. "That's

what they're doing right now.

That's a new class I got to start

The school also is seeing a

lot of support for its Key Club

and, because of that, starting

a DECA and Future Farmers

of America to provide experi-

ences in career technical edu-

be a really strong college prep.

but also really strong in get-

'So not only are we going to

cation.

with some incredible staff."

"The kids have different pa-

side ... and take pictures."

'We were tasked to make a

need to take a picture.

Tammy Cheek

Additionally, from her background in having a master's degree in environmental science chemistry, she is pushing to increase the school's STEM offerings and what it is doing with them.

"For example, our fifthgraders are doing quite a bit of work with Lego robotics and programming as well as part of a NASA program," she said. "It's called Roads to Mars.

"I got to help our fifth-grade teacher this year implement that," Neill said. "Our sixthgrade teacher actually is with his new STEM class we just developed over the summer. They're building an underwater robotics kits.

"They've built these adorable little underwater Robs," she said. "They compete in the swimming pool.

"This is a newer competition to the Knoxville area, but it is not new to Tennessee," Neill said. "We're helping Concord

See STEM on Page 7B



Candace Viox with Ben Wilson and Darrell Freeze behind her.

Water into Wine hosts Rotary Reserve Bourbon, Wine Affair

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Fifty-four attendees helped make a Rotary Reserve Bourbon and Wine Affair a success in Water Into Wine bistro & lounge on Sunday, Oct. 19.

"This is the second bourbon and wine dinner we've done," Rotary Club of Farragut president Candace Viox said. Last year, we only had about 30

"I am so glad (about this year's attendance)," she said. "That is so awesome."

Ben Wilson and Darrell Freeze of Nelson Brothers Distillery in Nashville presented the bourbon flight and presentation on the history of their company and how to taste the bourbons: Sherry Cask whiskey, Reserve Bourbon and Classic (the original recipe).

For those who prefer wines, Viox had a flight of three white wines or three red wines.

"You guys were amazing," she told fellow Rotary members at the RCF meeting Wednesday, Oct. 22.

She said the event raised close to \$8,000 for the club, of which \$700 will be shared with Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry, housed in Faith Lutheran Church in Farragut.

"That is our local sponsor we have committed to during my (presidential) year," Viox said. "They did reach out to

Currently, the pantry is seeking donations for items for the holiday baskets it makes for people with food in-

See WATER INTO WINE on Page 7B

Young-Williams Animal Center, KFD partner for help lost pets

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Young-Williams Animal Center has partnered with Knoxville Fire Department to provide pet microchip scanners at Station 3, located at 204 E. Baxter Ave., and Station 17, located at 4804 Western Ave.. as part of a new initiative to help reunite lost pets with their families faster.

Scanners are now available at both stations, giving community members a convenient and accessible way to check stray or lost animals for microchips. This initiative aims to quickly reunite lost pets with their families, who often live just a few blocks from where the animal was found.

A demonstration of the technology at KFD Station 17 on Oct. 16 showcased how the scanners work with the goal of reducing the number of animals entering the shelter

"These scanners are a simple but powerful tool to help get pets home faster," KFD deputy chief of administration Robert Cheesman said. "Our fire stations are trusted community hubs, and we're proud to support this effort to reunite

We know how heartbreak-





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Farragut Lions Club's 9th Annual Car Show

Car enthusiasts of all ages enjoyed perusing the cars, trucks and even motorcycles from all years at Farragut Lions Club's 9th Annual Car Show, which took place in JCPenney parking lot Saturday, Oct. 4. Tom Nitz, Lions Club's lion tamer and event organizer, said the event well. "We've got the Boy Scouts and Farragut High School Robotics and door prizes, he said, adding he wanted to thank the event's sponsors. "This wouldn't have been possible without the business' support." The show is a fundraiser that supports the club's community service projects, from vision screenings for children to disaster relief support.



Tom Goila with '57 Chevy



Wayne Stormer and Nora Ryan with 1966 Pontiac 2+2



Alex Gabbard and Therese Loutherback dance



Paul Oller with 1950 Ford pickup



Gary Craver with 88 Lincoln Towncar

Blessing of the Pets at St. John Neumann

Parishioners at St. John Neumann Catholic Church spent a Saturday morning having their pets — dogs, cats and even a rabbit — blessed by Father Bo Beaty and Deacon Shawn Ballard as part of the annual Blessing of the Pets in front of the church, 633 St. John Court, Saturday, Oct. 5.

The blessing was in observance of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals.





Left: Amanda and Joe Pflanz with Baron
Above: From left: Lizbette Bond with Rosie and
Andrea Padilla with Ricky, and Andrea's twins,
Zoee Padilla and Raphael Padilla, 9
Right: Mark and Rosemary Calvert With cat Eowyn



- Taste of Turkey Creek in Pinnacle at Turkey Creek -

Hundreds showed up to get a sampling of what Turkey Creek eateries have to offer during the annual Taste of Turkey Creek in Pinnacle at Turkey Creek along Parkside Drive, Friday, Oct. 10. Darryl Whitehead, general manager, said 660 tickets were pre-sold for the event. The crowd enjoyed music while tasting fare and drinks from H&H Bagels, Earth Fare, First Watch, Flemings and more.



Lawson from Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union



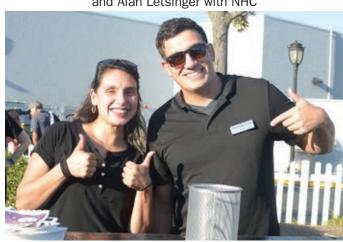
From left, Lucy Hatcher, Ava Calhoun, Liz Hatcher, Stephanie Puckett man the Earth Fare booth.



Lexi Thaxton from Regal Cinemas

From left, Alicia Lang, Maghan Surgener, Lavla Letsinger

From left, Alicia Lane, Meghan Surgenor, Layla Letsinger and Alan Letsinger with NHC



Lezly Martinez and Anthony Corio

Photos by Tammy Cheek

obituaries

Gloria Ann Ables Ditmore, age 83, went to be with the Lord on October 19, 2025, from her home in Knoxville, TN. She was born on December 23, 1941.

Gloria received her Bachelor of Science Degree, attended Warren Wilson College in North Carolina, and graduated from MTSU. She was a lifelong Travel Agent.

She was an active member of Grassy Valley Baptist Church, was Head of The Golden Sunshine, served on the Finance Team, the Greeting Team, and Counting of Tithes Team. She was also part of the Fox Den Ladies Group and was once voted Knox Businesswoman of the Year.

Gloria loved animals and was the proud owner of Dachsroyalties: Princess, Duke, and Baron.

Gloria is preceded in death by her husband, William Patrick Ditmore; and parents, Felt S. Ables and Mona Smith

She is survived by her sister, Wanda Ables Luttrell; stepdaughter, Patti Kirk step-grand-(husband-Rick), daughters, Emily Douglas (husband-Lance), Sadie and Luke; step-grandson, Andrew Kirk (wife-Julia), Kathryn and Audrey; and special maternal cousins, Sandra Pendegrass and Barbara Henry.

The family would like to say a special thank you to Kenny and Sandi Eubanks and the Pastor and members of Grassy Valley Baptist Church.

Receiving of family and friends will be held at Grassy Valley Baptist Church on Saturday, October 25, 2025, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM, with service from 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM. Pastor Mark Martin officiating.

Thirza Ava Jones, age 88, of Knoxville, TN passed away peacefully on October 16th, 2025. Thirza was the youngest of two children born to William (Bill) and Elise Hallowell May 11, 1937. She is preceded in death by her loving husband Mark George Jones, who tragically passed away at the age of 44 in November of 1987, and her sister Dorothy M. Stewart who passed away last month at the age of 96. She is survived her daughter Gretchen D. (Jones) Goodson, son-inlaw Robert (Bob) N. Goodson. grandchildren Reese Kennedy (16) and Nolen Mark (12). She also was a sister-in-law to Ramon and Jeanne Sanna of Madison, WI as well as an aunt to Deborah Bargman, Jennifer Godfrey, and Andrew Sanna all of Boston, MA.

Thirza graduated from Bremerton High School in June of 1955, and earned a

Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from the University of Washington in 1959. Throughout her career, she taught 1st and 2nd grades in Seattle, WA as well as Frederick and Rockville, MD. She and Mark were married in June of 1969 in Burien, WA before moving to Gaithersburg, Maryland. That same year she was assigned to Carroll Manor School where she taught 1st grade, earning a salary of \$9750!

In the early 80's, Thirza and Mark moved to Tennessee to

be close to his parents, Mark and Nelle Jones. Thirza was member of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension where she served altar on



Jones

guild for many years, was a substitute teacher for Knox County Schools, enjoyed working in her yard, sewing, sports, spending time with family and friends, and being a "Mimi" to her grandchildren. She also worked at Stein Mart for many years, after retiring from edu-

Later in life, Thirza lived at Park Place independent living where she made many friends and was caringly looked after. In May of 2021, Thirza was diagnosed with progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), a rare brain disease that affects walking, balance, eye movements and swallowing. She then moved to L&L Sweet Home Care where, for the remainder of her life, was given compassionate care by their loving staff. She was also well cared for by Smoky Mountain Home Health and Hospice during her final year.

She will be buried alongside Mark on 10/25/25 at Oak Ridge Memorial Park with a celebration of life event immediately following. In lieu of flowers, and in the spirit of Thirza's commitment to education, the family kindly asks for you to consider donating to CurePSP. Contributions can be mailed to 325 Hudson Street, FL 4, New York, NY 10013, or made online by visiting curepsp.org, marking tribute gift in Thirza's honor via the "donate" button. All contributions will directly support CurePSP's Student Fellowship Program, advancing research and education in the field.

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the

See OBITUARY on Page 7B

press planner

· Bring your favorite fourlegged friend to Howl-O-Woof from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 30, at McFee Park (917 McFee Road). This free Halloween event will feature a costume contest for canines (registration by Oct. 29 is required) and vendors, treats and activities for all.

For more information, contact Town of Farragut Recreation and Event Manager Rachel Malone at rmalone@ townoffarragut.org or 865-218-3375. Visit https://www. townoffarragut.org/775/Special-Events to register for the costume contest.

• The East Tennessee History Center is hosting its free Genealogy Conference from Nov.

Animal

From page 4B

7-9. The event offers a unique opportunity for genealogists, historians, and residents to explore the region's rich family histories and archival resources. Through expert-led lectures, behind-the-scenes tours, an engaging resource hall, and personalized research opportunities, attendees will gain new strategies and insights for tracing family histories. With access to the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection and Knox County Archives, the conference equips both beginners and experienced researchers with the tools they need to connect generations and deepen their understanding of the past. Learn more at https://www.knoxcountyli-

This partnership with KFD is a meaningful step toward reducing intake and reuniting pets with their families.'

Young-Williams Animal Center takes in an average of 600 stray animals per month, yet less than 20 percent have any form of traceable identification. Microchips are one of the most effective ways to identify and return lost pets, but they only work if the information is accurate and accessible.

Young-Williams Animal Center encourages pet owners to ensure their pet is micro-

• Kroger will host a Flu Vaccine Event at its pharmacies to help the community prepare for flu season. Vaccine Wellness Day will be held at all locations from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1 for customers and associates.

High-dose flu vaccines. which can provide extra protection for senior citizens, regular-dose flu vaccines, as well as the most current RSV and updated COVID-19 vaccines are available at Kroger Family of Pharmacies and The Little Clinic locations at no charge to most patients with their insurance. Customers may walkin to receive their vaccines or make an appointment.

chipped and that the microchip information is up to date and for community members to use the scanners at the shelter or participating fire stations if they find a stray animal. Additional scanners may be added in the future based on community need and program success.

Young-Williams Animal Center provides discount microchipping by appointment at their Division Street location. To make an appointment, text or call 865-265-1456. The fee is \$15, which includes registration.

ing it is to lose a pet, and we also know how quickly they can be found if they are microchipped," Young-Williams Animal Center CEO Janet Testerman said. "Once a pet crosses the threshold of the shelter, it has less than a 15 percent chance of finding its way home, so by keeping pets in the neighborhoods where they're found and using these scanners, we can reunite more families and reserve shelter space for animals in crisis.

Notice of Informational Public Meeting

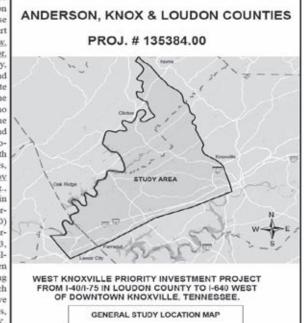
The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) will host three public informational meetings on November 10, 12, and 13, 2025, to gather public input on the proposed West Knoxville Priority (WKP) Investment Project. TDOT is initiating a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study to evaluate solutions for congestion along the Interstate 40 and Interstate 75 (I-40/I-75) corridors, as well as other surrounding routes within Anderson, Knox, and Loudon counties included in the study area. PEL is a collaborative approach that integrates transportation planning with environmental review. By connecting these phases, duplication of effort is reduced, leading to more efficient decision-making, improved public involvement and agency outreach, and better overall outcomes. At the conclusion of the WKP PEL Study, projects will be identified and prioritized for subsequent development phases. The WKP PEL Study considers improvements to approximately 17 miles of the existing I-40/I-75 corridor west of Knoxville, from the I-40/I-75 Interchange in Loudon County to the I-640 Interchange just west of downtown Knoxville. TDOT intends to adopt planning products and recommendations made as part of the PEL Study into future National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies, per Title 23 of the US Code, Part 168. The meetings will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time at the following locations:

Monday, November 10 Farragut Community Center Assembly Hall 239 Jamestowne Boulevard Farragut, TN 37934

Wednesday, November 12 Pellissippi State Community College J.L. Goins Administration Building - Student Center 10915 Hardin Valley Road Knoxville, TN 37932

Thursday, November 13 City of Knoxville Public Works Service Center - Community Room 3131 Morris Avenue Knoxville, TN 37909

These meetings will be held to offer the public an opportunity to provide comments regarding this study. The same information will be presented at each meeting. Information shared at these meetings will be published and made available online as part of a virtual public meeting on the project website: https://www. tn.gov/tdot/projects/projects-region-1/west-knoxville-corridor. html. The virtual public meeting will be available 24 hours a day. 7 days a week, from October 27 through December 4, 2025, and will offer the same information and opportunities to participate and provide feedback as the in-person public meetings. The in-person meetings will follow an open-house format with no formal presentations. The public is welcome to visit anytime during the scheduled hours to view exhibits, ask questions and offer comments. TDOT representatives will be available to provide information on various aspects of the project. Anyone with questions regarding the meeting should contact: Dexter Justis, TDOT Project Manager, (865) 594-2400, Dexter.Justis@tn.gov Persons who require a disability-related accommodation (e.g., sign language interpreter, accessible materials) to participate in this meeting should contact Ms. Shanna Chevalier, ADA Coordinator, at (615) 741-0465 or via TTY 7-1-1 no less than ten (10) days prior to the meeting: Ms. Shanna M. Chevalier, ADA Coordinator, 505 Deaderick Street, Suite 1200, Nashville, TN 37243. TDOT.ADACompliance@tn.gov Comment forms will be available to make written statements at the public meetings. Written statements and other exhibits to be included in the public meeting documentation may be submitted by December 4, 2025, which is twenty-one (21) days after the last public meeting listed above to the following address: TDOT WKP PEL Study Comments, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Suite 700, James K. Polk Building, 505 Deaderick Street, Nashville, TN 37243-0332





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Wed: Cultivate (7:00 PM)



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Water into Wine From page 4B

securities.

"Another thing they really need right now is vegetable oil and reusable grocery bags," Viox said. "That's what they pack everything in to give to people."

STEM From page 4B

become part of this (international) competition, so, we'll have a high school team as well as work in our middle school."

On another path, she said the school recently hired a chemist from Y-12 who is developing CCS's chemistry program.

Obituary From page 6B

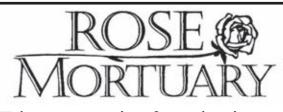
believers who have died so you

will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also be-

lieve that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died."

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

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FMPC STAFF/DEVELOPER MEETING

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 9:00 AM Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive

AGENDA

I) Discussion Items A) 9:00 - 9:30

Discussion and public hearing on a site plan for West End Center, Phase 3, 11235 West Point Drive, Zoned C-1/MUTC (The Architecture Collaborative, Applicant)

B) 9:30 - 10:00 Discussion and public hearing on a site plan for Lakesedge Retail

Center, 11328-11334 Campbell Lakes Drive, 1.04 Acres, Zoned C-2 (Seth Schweitzer, Applicant) C) 10:00 - 10:30

Discussion and public hearing on a final plat for the Biddle Farms

Townhomes, 305 Hudson Bay Lane, Parcel 003.24, Tax Map 143, 49 Lots, Zoned PCD (Homestead Land Holdings, LLC, Applicant) D) 10:30 - 11:00

Discuss a proposed text amendment to the Office (0-1) Zoning District as it may apply to "Interactive Analysis Services" being a permitted use and to include a definition for "Interactive Analysis Services" in Chapter 2 of the Zoning Ordinance (Christian Miller, Applicant)

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ccs	5-4	38-28 (L)	+135					
CAK	5-4	32-7 (L)	+29					
HVA	4-5	42-7 (W)	-27					
Farragut	2-7	45-21 (L)	-90					
Webb	1-8	34-26 (W)	-186					
Bearden	0-8	34-7 (L)	-234					

Irish, Lions battle for the top spot

KEN LAY Correspondent

Week 10 of the 2025 high school football season is now in the rear-view mirror in the farragutpress How the West was Won presented by Billy Houston Group, Realty Execu-

This week will be the final week of the 2025 campaign, and many local teams will be trying to earn a playoff berth and others will be jockeying for postseason position.

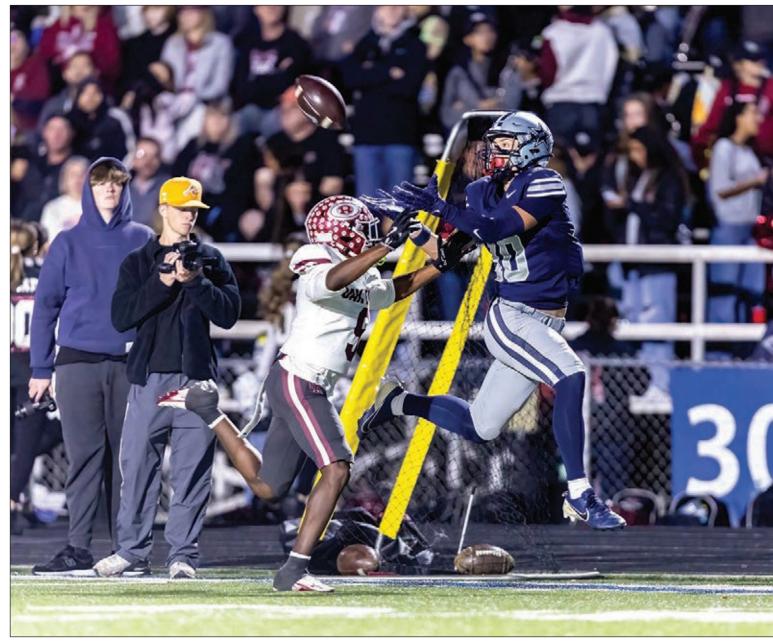
Last week was a big one for Webb School of Knoxville, which picked up its first win. The Spartans edged Chattanooga Christian School, 34-26.

Quarterback Gage Porter threw for 235 yards and three touchdowns for Webb, which plays top-ranked Boyd Buchanan this week to close out the regular season. Shavar Young finished the contest with 172 rushing yards and two touchdowns while Greg Tate had two interceptions on defense and made three receptions (including two scoring catches).

Hardin Valley Academy, meanwhile, found its way into the win column with a 42-27 victory over Cleveland on Senior Night at the Hawks Nest.

Brody Lamb had a pair of scoring receptions on offense and recorded more than 10 tackles on the defensive side of the ball. Samuel Mann had two rushing touchdowns for the Hawks (4-5), who captured their second Region 2-6A victory of the season. Chance Sharp also scored twice for HVA, which plays at Ooltewah in a non-region game this week. The Hawks could make the playoffs if Farragut loses to Cleveland on the road Thursday.

Farragut (2-7) fell to Oak Ridge, 45-21, despite getting a solid receiving performance from Max Garfield, who had three catches for 137 yards and two touchdowns. Far-



Carlos Reveiz, carlos@crfoto.com

FHS, 10, Max Garfield, makes long catch

ragut could clinch its second consecutive playoff berth with a win over the Blue Raiders, who have been eliminated from playoff contention, in Cleveland.

Bearden dropped to 0-8 Friday with a 34-7 loss to Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett in a nonregion tilt last week. Aidan Thacker was 13-for-28 through the air and had a touchdown pass. Grant Cross had eight

receptions for Bearden and caught a touchdown pass. The Bulldogs will host Bradley Central on Thursday.

Knoxville Catholic improved to 4-3 as it outlasted Christ Presbyterian Academy, 28-26, at Blaine Stadium, winning its first Division II-AAA East Region game since 2023. Garrett King completed 12-of-16 passing attempts for 150 vards and two touchdowns. He also lofted an interception. Kruise Buntyn had 16 carries for 179 yards and a touchdown while Casen Jenkins caught two touchdown passes for the Irish, who play Baylor in their regular-season finale this week.

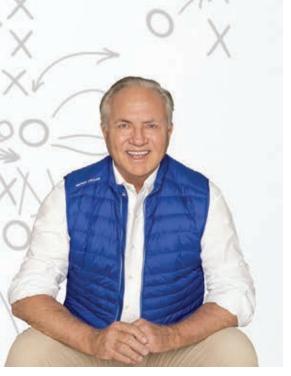
Christian Academy of Knoxville fell to Boyd Buchanan. 32-7, at home on Friday. Ryan Gibson had 24 carries for 121 vards and a touchdown for the Warriors, who play Lakeway

Christian this week.

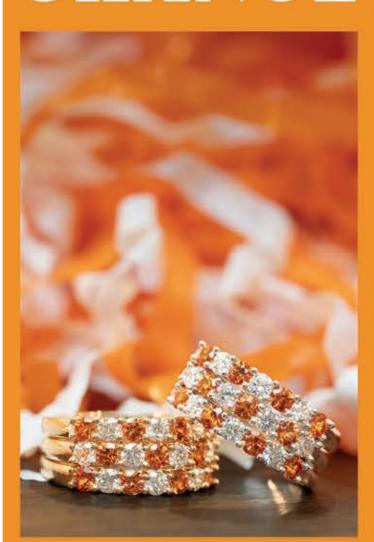
Concord Christian School (5-4) lost, 38-28 to Providence Christian Academy Friday at Blankenship Field in Oak Ridge. Dasani Moulden caught a touchdown pass for the Lions, who travel to Chattanooga to play Grace Baptist to close out the regular season. Moulden also had five tackles. Maurice Smith totaled 147 rushing yards and scored a touchdown.



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Q

NEXT GAME

November 1

Oklahoma

at Tennessee



FARRAGUT TENNESSEE

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Two in a row Vols face Sooners

Knoxville — After two consecutive road games, No. 14 Tennessee will return home to Neyland Stadium for a Southeastern Conference showdown against No. 18 Oklahoma.

Kickoff for the contest between the Volunteers (5-2 overall, 3-2 in the SEC) and the Sooners (5-2, 2-2) is slated for 7:30 p.m.

Tennessee enters after toppling Kentucky, 56-34, in a shootout in Lexington last week. Oklahoma, meanwhile suffered its second loss of the season when it fell to Ole Miss, 34-26, at home.

And Big Orange coach Josh Huepel, a former quarterback for the Sooners, knows this week's opponent will present a stiff challenge with a top defense and quarterback John Mateer running its offense.

"Defensively (Oklahoma is) one of the top teams in the country in every statistical category," Heupel said. "The front's big, strong and powerful, relentless, (a) huge test.

"Offensively (Mateer is a) dynamic quarterback that's a playmaker. He does that through the air and with his legs. He's got good skill around him."

Taking down the Sooners will be a tall order and Oklahoma will look to avenge last year's home loss to UT in Norman. Heupel is glad the contest will be played in Knoxville and called for the Tennessee faithful to show up in big numbers.

The Vols will look to step up the intimidation as they will wear their Dark Mode Uniforms.

"Great week of football here this week," Heupel said. "Obviously a huge contest against a really good football team that we're getting ready to play.

"(We're) excited to be back at Neyland. Dark Mode. (We) need the Neyland Effect to be a huge part of this football game on Saturday night. So, looking forward to spending the day with them."

The Vols' performance against the Wildcats last week was a big road win, but Heupel was completely content with his squad's effort.

"There were some things that were really good and there are some things that weren't," Heupel said. "You get a guy out of a gap, you create a seam and a couple of big pass plays. At the end of the day, it's all 11 (on defense). There's a lot of good. Man, the correctables have to be corrected. That's what we did this morning and we'll continue to do that throughout the week."

Tennessee's offense boasts some of the best numbers in the nation. Quarterback Joey Aguilar was 20-for-26 through the air, amassing 396 yards and throwing three touchdown passes. Wide receivers Mike Matthews, Chris Brazzell II and Braylon Staley all eclipsed 100 receiving yards against the Wildcats.

Defensively, however, the Vols have had more than their struggles as they have battled through injuries in key spots.

"It takes 11 guys doing their job at a high level ultimately," Heupel said. "Yeah, our personnel is different in some places, and that forces you to be different too in some positions that you're putting your guys in.

"At the end of the day (you have to) get ready to play this one."

~ Ken Lay, Correspondent

Local Big Orange connection: **Geoff Courtney**

Knoxville — The 2025 college football season continues this week as Tennessee returns home to face Oklahoma in a crucial Southeastern Conference showdown.

Kickoff is slated for 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Prior to each Vols' home game, farragutpress will shine the spotlight on players or coaches who, after their high school careers in West Knox County, moved on to the University of Tennessee to don the Big Orange.

This installment will look back at the career of Farragut High School head coach Geoff Courtney.

Courtney, who is in the midst of his second season as the Admirals' head coach after a long tenure as an assistant coach under his father, Eddie, a Tennessee high school football legend.

Geoff, who also played for his father at FHS as well as spending two years playing basketball for the Admirals, attended the University of Tennessee from 2006 to 10. He was a walk-on on the football team and played three years for head coach Phillip Fulmer before closing out his collegiate career in 2009 under head coach Lane Kiffin.

Geoff, a member of the SEC's All-Academic team in 2007, knew, as a walk-on, his playing time would be limited.

But that didn't matter.

"Coach Fulmer and (assistant) coach (Dan) Brooks gave me the opportunity to play and be a part of the program," Courtney said. "I knew that I wasn't going help Tennessee win a championship, but I also knew that I wanted to get into coaching and I wanted to learn and develop.

"I had four-and-a-half great years there and I learned from coach Fulmer and coach Kiffin, and I just really enjoyed my time there."

While in the program, Courtney learned the importance of preparation.

"Coach Fulmer really knew how to prepare a team for an SEC ballgame," he said. "He knew how to get a team ready throughout the week, from Monday, to Tuesday, to Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

"Coach Fulmer is a special motivator. They said coach Kiffin was more of a players' coach, I'm not sure about that, but I learned a lot from him."

In 2007, Courtney was part of a Tennessee squad that played for an SEC Championship.

~ Ken Lay, Correspondent

LineUp



University of Oklahoma

•			0.0	D.14 TI	Б.
0	Jaydn Ott	RB	32	R Mason Thomas	DL
0	David Stone	DL	33	Preston Tarpley	K
1	Jaydan Hardy	DB	34	Adepoju Adebawore	DL
2	Jovantae Barnes	RB	35	Liam Evans	K
2	Omarion Robinson	DB	37	Maliek Hawkins	DB
3	Michael Hawkins Jr.	QB	38	Owen Heinecke	LB
3	Robert Spears-Jennings		41	Barrett Travis	LB
4	Deion Burks	WR	42	Wyatt Gilmore	DL
4	Courtland Guillory	DB	43	Grayson Miller	K/P
5	Kendal Daniels	LB	44	•	
				John Locke Jr.	TE
5	Isaiah Sategna III	WR	44	Taylor Wein	DL
6	Tory Blaylock	RB	47	James Nesta	LB
6	Nigel Smith II	DL	49	Ben Anderson	LS
7	Zion Kearney	WR	50	Seth Freeman	LS
7	Sammy Omosigho	LB	52	Troy Everett	0L
8	Alex Shieldnight	DL	52	Damonic Williams	DL
8	Taylor Tatum	RB	54	Febechi Nwaiwu	0L
9	Keontez Lewis	WR	54	David Rowaiye	DL
9	Gentry Williams	DB	55	Eddy Pierre-Louis	0L
10	Kip Lewis	LB	56	Michael Fasusi	OL
10	John Mateer	QB	56	Gracen Halton	DL
11	Javonnie Gibson	WR	57	Gunnar Allen	0L
11	Kobie McKinzie	LB	64	Sean Hutton	0L
12	Devon Jordan	DB	65	Jayden Jackson	DL
12	Jaren Kanak			Derek Simmons	OL
		TE	66		
13	Reggie Powers III	DB	68	Owen Hollenbeck	0L
13	Zion Ragins	WR	69	Jake Maikkula	0L
14	Trystan Haynes	DB	70	Ryan Fodje	0L
14	Elijah Thomas	WR	70	Logan Howland	0L
15	Kendel Dolby	DB	73	Isaiah Dent	0L
15	Jett Niu	QB	74	Darius Afalava	0L
16	Whitt Newbauer	QB	75	Daniel Akinkunmi	0L
16	Danny Okoye	DL	76	Jacob Sexton	0L
17	Taylor Heim	LB	77	Heath Ozaeta	0L
17	Josiah Martin	WR	78	Luke Baklenko	0L
18	Kaden Helms	TE	79	Jake Taylor	0L
19	Jacobe Johnson	DB	80	Bergin Kysar	DL
19	Kade McIntyre	TE	80	Jakeb Snyder	WR
20	Casen Calmus	DB	81	Will Huggins	TE
21	Manny Choice	WR	82	Ivan Carreon	WR
21	Jeremiah Newcombe	DB	83	Maior Melson	WR
22	Peyton Bowen	DB	84	Jer'Michael Carter	WR
22	Trynae Washington	TE	85	Trey Brown	WR
23	Eli Bowen	DB	86	Carson Kent	TE
24		RB	87		P
	Xavier Robinson			Jacob Ulrich	
24	Marcus Wimberly	DB	88	Jacob Jordan	WR
25	Andy Bass	RB	88	CJ Nickson	DL
25	Michael Boganowski	DB	89	Eli Merck	WR
26	Elgee Webster	LB	90	Trent Wilson	DL
27	Preston Mickens	DB	92	Jacob Henry	DL
28	KJ Daniels	WR	93	Ace Hodges	DL
28	Marcus James	LB	95	Austin Welch	K
29	Tate Sandell	K	96	Siolaa Lolohea	DL
29	Gabe Sawchuk	RB	97	Marvin Jones Jr.	DL
31	Reed DeQuasie	DB	99	Markus Strong	DL

LineUp



University of Tennessee

	Univers	sity	Ot	lenness	ee
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 7	DaSaahn Brame	TE	50	Ryan Scott Jeremias Heard	LB
<i>7</i> 8	Arion Carter Colton Hood	LB	51 51		OL DL
9	Mariyon Dye	DB DL	53	Jaxson Moi Lance Heard	OL
9	Star Thomas	RB	55	Brenden Anes	LB
10	Kaleb Beasley	DB	55 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	0L
14	Braylon Staley	WR	59	Charlie Powell III	0L
15	Edrees Faroog	DB	65	Michael Kostantonov	0L
15	George MacIntyre	QB	68	Bennett Warren	0L
17	Chris Brazzell II	WR	69	Gus Hill	0L
18	DeSean Bishop	RB	70	David Sanders Jr.	0L
18	Tyree Weathersby	DL	71	Max Anderson	0L
19	Joshua Josephs	DL	72	Jesse Perry	0L
19	Daune Morris	RB	73	Brian Grant	0L
20	Justin Baker	RB	74	Shamurad Umarov	0L
20	Bryson Eason	DL	75	Wendell Moe Jr.	0L
21	Tre Poteat	DB	78	Gage Ginther	0L
22	Jeremiah Telander	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 Jadon Perlotte	WR	87	Miles Kitselman	TE
27	Marcus Goree Jr.	LB	88 89	Deon Hardin	WR DL
28 29	Jack-Henry Jakobik	DB WR	89	Mike Bethea II 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
	•				

Nathan Roberts

WR

Charles House III

DL