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Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW

YEAR

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Planning Commission OKs Biddle Farms, Mamone plats

Tammy Cheek
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A final plat for the Biddle Farms Townhomes received unanimous approval from the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission during its meeting Thursday, Dec. 18.

Town Community Development director Mark Shipley said the item had been postponed at the Nov. 20 meeting because of incomplete site-related issues that have since

been addressed.

The development, located at 305 Hudson Bay Lane, includes 47 dwelling units and is zoned Planned Commercial Development and Floodplain District. The project was presented by Homestead Land Holdings LLC.

Shipley said the final plat layout is consistent with the site plan approved several months ago.

See BIDDLE on Page 3A

FMPC backs façade code change for West End Center



Jake Nichols

Tammy Cheek
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Owners of West End Center soon may be able to move forward with plans to add another building in the shopping center's parking lot.

The Farragut Municipal Planning Commission voted Thursday, Dec. 18, to recommend the Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen approve an amendment to the Town's zoning ordinance related to building

façade requirements.

The proposed amendment still must be approved by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen before taking effect.

"We talked about it enough at the last meeting," FMPC Chairman Ron Pinchok said.

"We did," added Mayor Ron Williams, who also serves on the Planning Commission.

Under the current ordinance, new buildings

See FMPC on Page 3A



Special holiday party

Local children with cancer treated to celebration

Tammy Cheek
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Nineteen West Knox County youngsters, who are battling pediatric cancer, and their families were treated to a special holiday gift this year.

They celebrated the season with Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research and around 50 members of the community. Rally families and volunteers gathered for a holiday party at Westgate Church along North Campbell Station Road,



Photos by Tammy Cheek

Top: Chance, 9, enjoys the Rally Foundation party with his dad, Benny Hicks, and mom, Trish Adams. **Above:** From left, Cali Ruth Bruehl of Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research, Maryann Abbert, party organizer, and Shelley Logan, also with Rally Foundation, were on hand to make sure the party was a hit.

Tuesday, Dec. 16.

One such child was 9-year-old Chance, a Farragut Intermediate School student, who was diagnosed five days before turning 5.

See PARTY on Page 4A

Town cuts ribbon on new pickleball complex

Tammy Cheek
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Farragut area pickleball players now have a place to play ball.

The Town officially cut the ribbon on its new nine-court pickleball complex in Mayor Bob Leonard Park, along Harrison Road, Tuesday, Dec. 16.

"This is a long time coming," Town Parks & Recreation director Ron

Oestreich said. "We're excited to cut the ribbon."

"Thank you for coming out today to celebrate the completion of the Mayor Bob Leonard Pickleball complex," Farragut Mayor Ron Williams said. "We know that these courts will be used well by our local pickleballers."

"We opened it on [Wednesday] Dec. 3, and these courts have been busy," Oestreich said. "Everyone's enjoying them."

"I was complimented the other day about the lights," he added. "You can see these lights from space. They are beautiful."

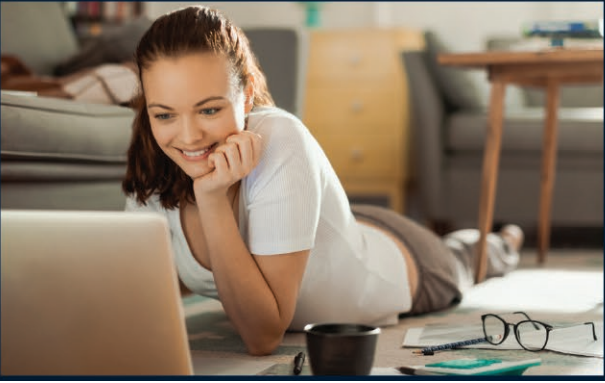
"We have heard nothing but compliments on the courts, and we're really excited to bring this project to you," Oestreich said.

"One of the most notable things about this project was how quickly the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and Town staff

were able to respond to the need for pickleball courts that wouldn't impact nearby homes with noise," Williams said. "The Board approved this project in April of last year; and after spending some time on the design, construction began in June of this year."

"As most of you know, this is lightning speed for government work," he added.

See PICKLEBALL on Page 2A



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Kristi Vining

Rhonda Snow recently stopped by Farragut Museum to see information about the Farragut Sports of Fame. She has been inducted in the Farragut Sports Hall of Fame and ran cross country, played basketball and played softball for all four years at Farragut High School. Snow graduated in 1982 and led the teams in homeruns and was a part of the state championship team. She also played collegiate softball at Cleveland State and Southern Illinois.

Temporary sports exhibit prepares to close

Staff reports

editor@farragutpress.com

Farragut Museum’s temporary sports exhibit closes at the end of the year.

The exhibit highlights sports accomplishments and sports legends in Farragut, according to a press release.

The display includes a jersey from Nicky Delmonico, a Farragut High School baseball standout who played in the MLB for the White Sox; Eddie Courtney, former football coach who spent 43 seasons with Farragut High School, for which the museum and has his visor and whistle on display.

Also, the museum exhibits the golf gloves

and U.S Open invitation of Lance Simpson, who played golf at Farragut, University of Tennessee and in the 2025 U.S. Open. World Triathlon winner Eric Bell’s shoes also are visible. His 1998-mile record of 4:15 held at Farragut High School until 2025.

“Bell raced professionally until 2010 and was the 2008 Amateur World Champion in triathlon,” the press release stated. “Memorabilia from Farragut stars Bill Bates, Tyson Clabo and Nick Senzel also are on display.”

The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, but days will be adjusted for the holiday season. See Farragut Museum on Facebook and Instagram for holiday hours.

presstalk

671-TALK (8255)

or editor@farragutpress.com

Thank you for the press, for doing what you’re doing. Two things ... number one, those speed breaks at the end of the east end of Midhurst are just nobody likes those. They’re way too sharp. Second thing is, Farragut is lit up like a Christmas Broadway! It’s beautiful. All the streets around here, in particular Kingsgate out to Farragut, are gorgeous. It’s just so good to see Farragut lit up like this. It just really helps add to the season. Thank you so much.



Tammy Cheek

Town of Farragut cut the ribbon on its new nine-court pickleball complex at Mayor Bob Leonard Park at the Harrison Road entrance Tuesday, Dec. 16. On hand to cut the ribbon were, from left, Town Parks & Recreation director Ron Oestreich; former Vice Mayor Louise Povlin, who also is a Municipal Planning Commissioner; Mayor Ron Williams; David Craig and Kyle Truax with Ross/Fowler, Alderman Joe LaCroix and Daniel Benner of Baseline, the contractors.

Pickleball

From page 1A

The mayor recognized Ross-Fowler for the complex’s design, as well as builder, Baseline Construction, Town of Farragut Engineering inspector Ben White, “who ensured that the project was built to specifications,” Williams said.

Additionally, he recognized Oestreich and the Parks & Recreation Department for their fast, efficient work and the Parks & Athletics Council, which contributed helpful feedback.

“Farragut has incredible park amenities for a town of its size, and these new dedicated pickleball courts make our park system even better,” the mayor added. “Thank you to everyone who made them happen.”

Farragut resident George Ellis also recognized former Vice Mayor Louise Povlin “as the motivating force. “Without her, it never would

have happened,” he added. Building the new courts also “showed that Mr. Oestreich could map and facilitate a new pickleball court from beginning to end.”

“Thank you, everybody,” Farragut resident Pamela Zina said. “We appreciate it so much.”

“It’s amazing,” Farragut pickleball player Carlos Reveiz said. “I’m very proud what the Town did. There was a lot of work, and it literally is a state-of-the-art facility that a lot of people are going to take advantage, not just us old people but a lot of young people.

“I’ve actually seen a bunch playing out here, their moms, their dads, the kids” he said.

“What other sport brings people out together to play. And, people come from other places, they’re going to spend their tax dollars here in Farragut,” Reveiz said.

“The only problem is, they will realize they have to build more because they are already packed,” he added.

Campbell Station Inn Open House

Farragut welcomed the community to see the completed interior of Campbell Station Inn, located at the corner of North Campbell Station Road and Kingston Pike, Monday, Dec. 8, in lieu of its Jan. 8, 2026, grand opening.



Top right: Farragut Tourism staff members, from left, Donna Spangler, Hallie Reid and Haley Elliot greet guests as they enter the foyer of Campbell Station Inn.

Right: Farragut Parks and Recreation director Ron Oestreich, left, welcomes Will LaCroix, center, and his father, Farragut Alderman Joe LaCroix to see Campbell Station Inn.

Photos Tammy Cheek

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FMPC
From page 1A

in the Mixed Use Town Center District “adherence to the Town Center Design Requirement for each exterior wall of a new building to maintain 75 percent minimum coverage with face brick,” Community Development director Mark Shipley said.

West End Center is located within both the Mixed Use Town Center District and the General Commercial (C-1) zoning district, he added.

“This item was discussed at the November meeting [during the workshop portion, where no action was taken],” Shipley said.

He said the property owners are considering construction of a new building at the southern intersection of West End Avenue and West Point Drive. “The building would be on the same parcel as the existing West End Center shopping center,” Shipley said. “As discussed at the November meeting, the existing shopping center predates the formation of the Mixed Use Town Center land use area and the associated regulations.

“Since the West End Center pre-dates this requirement, the existing buildings are well below the face brick percentage,” Shipley said.

However, the Town’s adopted Architectural Design Standards allow buildings in the Town Center Subarea to average face brick coverage across all four elevations, rather than requiring each elevation to meet the 75 percent threshold individually.

“This is the same application used outside the Mixed Use Town Center, with the exception that masonry — and not just face brick — may be used,” Shipley said.

“Our main goal is to match



Illustration Submitted

Illustration of how the West End Center addition may appear. The proposed amendment still must be approved by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen before taking effect.

the existing façade materials and have everything else be masonry,” said Jess Colby Campbell, architectural designer with The Architecture Collaborative, representing the property owners.

Shipley said the applicant is requesting the zoning ordinance be amended to allow

the averaging method already permitted under the Architectural Design Standards.

“This would allow the new building to better blend architecturally with the existing shopping center while still maintaining an average of at least 75 percent face brick,” he said. “As it stands now, this ap-

proach conflicts with the zoning ordinance.”

During its Nov. 20 meeting, Commission members indicated support for amending the ordinance to provide additional flexibility.

Shipley said Town staff is proposing that new construction be governed by the

Architectural Design Standards specific to the Town Center Subarea under Ordinance 25-20.

“In addition to increased flexibility, this amendment would also make the zoning ordinance consistent with the Architectural Design Standards,” he said.

Biddle
From page 1A

“Now, they’ve constructed most of the public improvements,” Shipley said. “There are 47 dwelling units and several small open space lots.”

Access to the townhomes will be from rear alleys, which Shipley said will improve curb appeal.

“The dwelling units will actually be accessed from the rear of the units through alleys, so it will give it a nice curb appeal for this particular development,” he said. “There is some sporadic open space throughout the development.”

Before the final plat can be signed, several site-related items still must be completed in coordination with the Town’s engineering staff, Shipley said.

The Commission approved

the plat subject to several conditions, including completion of staff punch-list items, obtaining all required signatures and removal of Note 7, which refers to water and sanitary sewer easements.

Shipley said the note should be removed because the utilities and easements already are shown on the plat. He also said a sidewalk easement should be removed because that portion of sidewalk will not be publicly maintained and instead will be addressed through covenants.

Commissioner Louise Povlin made the motion to approve the plat subject to staff conditions, and Mayor Ron Williams, a Commission member, seconded the motion.

“We just ask for approval subject to staff’s conditions,” said Thomas Krajewski, vice president of Homestead Land Holdings LLC.

FMPC Chairman Ron Pinchok asked about parking and garage access for the development.

Krajewski said garages will be located at the rear of the units. He added that limited parking spaces will be available near a small common area off Hudson Bay Lane, including spaces near the mail center.

In addition, parallel parking will be available along portions of Vista Charm Road to accommodate guest parking, Krajewski said.

In other business, the Commission also unanimously approved a final plat for the 3.71-acre Mamone property, which is zoned R-1 and Floodplain District.

Shipley said the item involves a small re-subdivision of property at 317 Everett Road that will create four residential lots and one open space lot.

“One of the lots will require a Federal Emergency Management Agency-approved bridge to access the developable area,” Shipley said.

“The Little Turkey Creek floodplain affects all four residential lots and the open space lot to varying degrees,” he said.

“Access to the property will be provided at a single location along Everett Road between Lots 2 and 3, with an access

easement included on the plat to provide for this joint access arrangement.”

Approval of the plat was subject to several conditions, including obtaining required signatures, correcting a typo related to aquatic buffer width and adding a note clarifying an existing bridge on Lot 4 is substandard and must be replaced with a FEMA-compliant structure.

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Fewer bell ringers leave Salvation Army donations down 17%

Staff reports
editor@farragutpress.com

“While The Salvation Army is part of a national organization, every local program it operates — including emergency assistance, shelters for individuals and families, opioid-abatement initiatives and disaster relief — is funded entirely by local dollars,” a press release stated. “Much of that funding comes directly from the annual Red Kettle Campaign.”

“The Red Kettle Campaign isn’t just a holiday tradition

— it’s what makes our year-round work possible,” said Maj. Cameron Henderson of the Knoxville Area Command of The Salvation Army. “When there’s no volunteer at a kettle, there’s no opportunity for the community to give, and that directly impacts the services we can provide to our neighbors when they need help most.”

According to the release, the number of volunteer bell ringers has declined this year.

“Fewer volunteers mean fewer active kettles,” the release stated. “As a result, total Red Kettle donations to date

are approximately 17 percent below where they were at this time last year. That decrease directly correlates with the decline in volunteers.

“People are still donating,” the release added. “There are simply fewer active kettles than usual.”

The shortfall directly affects The Salvation Army’s ability to respond to community needs throughout the year, particularly at a time when demand for assistance continues to rise.

“The Salvation Army can only meet that need with the

support of the community,” the release stated.

The organization emphasized even a single bell-ringing shift can make a meaningful difference.

“An individual who volunteers for just an hour helps keep a kettle active while groups that can cover an entire day dramatically increase the funds raised, especially on match days when donations are doubled through generous community partners,” the release stated.

Volunteers are needed not only in Knox County but

across East Tennessee.

“A few hours of your time can translate into critical dollars that directly support programs right here in East Tennessee,” the release stated.

The Salvation Army invites individuals, families, businesses, churches and civic groups to volunteer as bell ringers this Christmas season across Knox, Anderson, Blount, Sevier and Cocke counties.

To sign up, visit RegisterToRing.com.

For assistance, call 865-525-9401.

Party From page 1A

“He just finished at St. Jude’s Research Hospital in Memphis for medulloblastoma,” his mother, Trish Adams said. “It’s an aggressive brain cancer. He was referred there by East Tennessee Children’s Hospital.”

The trial is in Phase 2, and “it’s really showing some promise,” Adams said. “We were really excited to be part of that and to celebrate Christmas again.”

To have such a part, “it’s really exciting because any time we can be with other families who really get how special every holiday is for us — I mean, everybody loves Christmas, but when you’re unsure if you’re ever going to celebrate that again with your child — it’s really extra special. And, when you can be with other families that get it, it’s really, really nice,” Adams said.

“It’s nice to see them like normal kids, another parent said.

“Rally Tennessee is committed to creating moments of joy for families who are walking through the hardest experiences of their lives,” Rally Tennessee director Elaine Kay said. “These events give families a chance to breathe, connect and feel supported by their community.”

In addition to funding cutting edge childhood cancer research, Rally Tennessee provides families with meals in the hospital and hosts community events that offer encouragement and hope.

Maryann Appert of Farragut, organized the Dec. 16 party, which included dinner, treats, hot cocoa, cookies to decorate, games to play and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, crafts for children to do and even an opportunity to see the lights in Founders Park at Campbell Station.

“This is all being done by volunteers,” she said. “I am incredibly grateful to the Farragut community, all the people who have pitched in to make this possible — contributing their time, talents, making

donations, the food the crafts, Santa, Mrs. Claus. This has been a wonderful thing for everybody to come together to do.

“Everything has been donated,” Appert said. “They’re getting gift bags with \$30 gift cards to Walmart; they’re getting a Teddy bear; and from the Town of Farragut, they’re getting the glasses to go see the lights. They’re going to go over to the park afterward.”

“This has been a community coming together, just to love on these families because, by going through it myself, the holidays are particularly challenging when you’re carrying that burden of a sick child and the uncertainty,” said Appert, with her voice breaking with emotion. “It’s just a beautiful thing to see everyone coming together and doing this for these families.”

“My son, now 29, is a pediatric cancer survivor,” she said. “I connected with the Rally Foundation for Cancer Research when we lived in Atlanta, and I did a lot of volunteer work with them.

“I know the founder and CEO,” she said. “It’s a fantastic organization. They’ve raised over \$40.5 million for grants for childhood cancer research because it is so underfunded that an organization, like the Rally Foundation, has to come in and help fill that gap.”

Additionally, Appert said Rally helps families that have financial needs.

“For example, if they have to go from Knoxville to Nashville or Memphis for a bone marrow transplant and they need help with gas money or hotels or they need a bill paid, Rally Foundation will support them,” she said. “They also do another program where they are bringing meals to the oncology patients and their families once a month at the [East Tennessee] Children’s Hospital,” Appert said. “So, it’s all about supporting families and children battling cancer.”

In that light, “they asked me to help with this party, and I was very excited,” she said. “We make sure we love on the

entire family — the siblings and the parents — not just the child who is going through cancer.

“We just want them to feel loved and supported,” Appert said.

For a family of a sick child, such as Appert, “it is incredibly important [to have an organization like Rally] because so many families, after they hear the words, ‘Your child has been diagnosed with cancer,’ they run out of options for treatment because the cancer is so underfunded,” she said. “The Rally Foundation is funding critical research. They are getting grants out to research facilities around the country and making a significant impact so we can get better treatments, fewer side effects and hopefully, ultimately, better cure rates.

“We’re celebrating our 20th anniversary,” said Shelley Logan, volunteer and Rally board member in Atlanta, Georgia.

“We’re helping support everything here in Knoxville.

“I believe, this year, we awarded \$5 million, just in grants alone,” she said. “But, our CEO and a group from Rally are always in contact with Washington, and we have some Congress members. They are huge advocates for childhood cancer funding



Tammy Cheek

Santa and Joseph Wiggins, 5, are all smiles while having a photo taken at the Rally Foundation Party.

through the Department of Defense and other government arms and have unleashed an enormous amount of money through government funding for childhood cancer research.

“I’ve been with Rally for 15 years now,” Logan said. “My son is also a pediatric cancer survivor, and he’s 28. He’s 16 years out now from his last

treatment. He’s doing great.

“We started working with Rally right after he finished his treatments,” Logan added. “It changed from Rally Nashville to Rally Tennessee, and we are feeding children in the hospitals [Chattanooga, Nashville and in ETCH in Knoxville] and also doing the Family Emergency Fund.



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Upping the Cabinet game

New business prepares to open spring 2026

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Turkey Creek shoppers are seeing the sign of a new business coming this spring.

Cabinet IQ is making its move into 11623 Parkside Drive with hopes to open in the March, April time frame, according to franchise owner/manager Matt Wipper of Farragut.

“There are probably more than 40 Cabinet IQ locations right now,” he said. “Construction is moving along.

“We’re doing home visits now, going out to people’s houses, doing design consultations,” Wipper said. “We bring samples and all that out to their houses.

“We primarily do cabinets and countertops for kitchens. We can do laundry rooms, bathroom vanities, any entertainment areas, offices, basically any space that could need cabinets,” he said. “Right now, we’re doing a few new construction projects.”

But, he added his company also provides cabinets for existing homeowners in a remodel.

Wipper said the cabinets are better fit for residential, since commercial cabinets are typically made of a laminate material, but “we can put them in commercial [spaces].”

Cabinet IQ has nine different cabinet lines and one outdoor cabinet line.

“So, we can do cabinets that grills sit in for outdoor entertaining,” Wipper said.

“There are a range of styles and prices, so we can fit a lot of different budgets and a lot of different style design choices that people might like, all the way from solid wood, standard kitchen cabinets to one cabinet line that actually has a leather front doors — up to high-end finishes,” he added.

The wood finishes range from maple, cherry, oak, hickory, cornerstone oak and red oak, among others.

“And, we have a lot of painted styles,” Wipper said. “A lot of times with painted styles, you can do an MDF door with a good paint finish.”

Additionally, “we have metal doors,” he said. “We can also do custom colors, so if there’s a Sherwin Williams color you really like, we can do a custom color on the cabinets.”

“We also can stain any kind of wood to look pretty much any way,” Wipper said.

Cabinet IQ also has a wide range of door styles, from simple slab to raised panel.

“We can pretty much accommodate any door style or color option that anybody might like,” he said.

For more information about the company, visit cabinetiq.com or go to its facebook page at CabinetIQ of Knoxville.

Holiday Open House

Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce welcomed Chamber members and guests to its annual Holiday Open House in Farragut Community Center Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Along with networking, it offered a number of tasty treats from its members, existing and new. All the while, attendees could support a member non-profit, Knoxville Family Justice Center, with donations.

Left clockwise: Maddie Casey, left, of Bridge Refugee Services, and Riley Spangler with Ancient Lore Villages. Robert Berlin with ZC Productions. Tony Benedetti for Euphoric Cheese Shop and Spiro Wine.

Tammy Cheek



businessbriefs

- Knoxville Orthopaedic Surgery Center recently was recognized as a 2025 Leapfrog Top Ambulatory Surgery Center for the fifth consecutive year for practicing the highest patient safety standards. The facility is one of only 37 surgery centers nationwide to receive the competitive award and the only one recognized in the Knoxville area.
 - American Federation for Children recently announced it has hired Ashling Preston to serve as its new Federal Affairs director, beginning on Dec. 15.
- Ashling brings years of experience in the U.S. Senate with Sens. Marco Rubio and Tim Scott and, most recently, managed the education portfolio for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



NHC celebrates Christmas traditions

Residents at NHC Place Farragut, Tennessee enjoyed a festive and educational afternoon decorating Christmas cookies while learning about Christmas traditions in Russia. As they iced and decorated cookies, staff shared insights into Russian holiday customs, foods, and the historical significance of Christmas celebrations. The activity sparked engaging conversation as residents compared global traditions with their own cherished memories. Blending creativity with cultural learning, the event reflected NHC Place’s commitment to meaningful engagement and lifelong learning. The warm, social atmosphere made for an enjoyable experience as residents celebrated the season together in a unique and memorable way.

To learn more about NHC and their Farragut-area communities, contact Harriet Amonette at harriet.amonette@nhccare.com or go to nhccare.com.

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Lady Admirals slow start, rout Jefferson County

Bill Howard
Correspondent

Farragut High School’s girls’ basketball team had a less-than-stellar first half last Monday night, Dec. 15, on the road at Jefferson County High School.

But the second half righted the ship.

Leading by only two at half, 18-16, the Lady Admirals pulled away in the second half, winning comfortably at 55-35.

The non-district win improved FHS to 6-4 overall (3-0 district). Senior guard KJ McNealy led all scorers with 27, including four three-pointers. Junior post Trinity Curry added 12.

“Defensively, we finally put together a full 32 minutes,” Farragut coach Jason Mayfield said. “Up 18-16 at half ... we were getting good shots, but sometimes that happens. But, they stayed focused and we put together a pretty good second half.”

“First half, we should have been winning by a lot more than we were,” McNealy said. “He (Mayfield) says I need to set the tone, so we came out and I got that first steal, and we were fine.”

A bright spot for the Lady Admirals this season, especially on offense, has been the emergence of Zoe Porter as a threat from outside. Against Oak Ridge, the junior connected six times from long range.

“She’s always been able to

shoot like that,” Mayfield said. “Just a matter of her getting a little quicker and improving her ball-handling a little bit. With all the injuries it’s given her an opportunity and she’s taken advantage of it.”

Mayfield was asked with what he was most pleased at this point in the season. “Role players sliding into some spots that weren’t expected and them developing,” he said.



McNealy

See LADY ADMIRALS on Page 2B



Ellie Hatmaker

Hardin Valley Academy’s Colin Dyerneess goes up for a layup during the Hawks’ home game against Karns on Tuesday, Dec. 16. Dyerneess had 13 points for the Hawks. Hardin Valley fell to the Beavers, 76-60.

Hawks stumble against Karns rival

Ken Lay
Correspondent

HARDIN VALLEY — The early stages of the 2025-26 basketball season have been a roller-coaster ride for Hardin Valley Academy’s boys.

The Hawks have hovered around mediocrity through their first 12 games, and things didn’t go well early last week. Despite getting off to a fast start, they dropped a 76-60 non-district loss to

rival Karns on Tuesday, Dec. 16, at home.

“We’re young and we’re not thick enough, and a lot of that is because of our youth,” HVA coach Andy Arendt said. “But we’ve got to grow up sometime.”

The Hawks (6-6) were coming off a big win over Kingston Saturday, Dec. 13, and early on looked poised to build off that victory. Hardin

See HAWKS on Page 2B

Lady Hawks soar past Karns



Ellie Hatmaker

Hardin Valley Academy’s Alaina Lineberry drives to the basket against Karns during Tuesday night’s game. Lineberry scored 10 points as the Lady Hawks rolled to a 63-25 victory on Dec. 16.

Ken Lay
Correspondent

HARDIN VALLEY — Hardin Valley Academy girls basketball coach Jennifer Galloway left Tuesday night pleased with both the performance and growth shown by her young Lady Hawks after a decisive 63-25 home victory over Karns on Dec. 16.

“I’m really proud of our girls,” Galloway said. “We rebounded pretty well, played good defense and shot the ball pretty well. We also saw some different defenses and did a good job adjusting.”

The Lady Hawks overcame some early shooting struggles by leaning on their defense, which set the tone from the opening tip. Hardin Valley limited Karns to just two points in the first quarter while building a 10-2 lead.

Karns (0-8) got its lone first-quarter basket from Kiki Clay, the Lady Beavers’ only returning starter from last season’s Region 2-4A Tournament team, when she scored late in the opening period.

Hardin Valley (5-6) continued to smother Karns’ offense in the second quarter, forcing tough shots and limiting second-chance opportunities. The Lady Hawks steadily extended their lead and went into half-time ahead 27-8.

The lopsided score allowed Galloway to rotate her lineup freely, giving extended minutes to her reserves early in the game.

See LADY HAWKS on Page 2B

Lady Spartans’ standouts recognized on All-State team

Ken Lay
Correspondent

KNOXVILLE — Four Webb School of Knoxville girls soccer players recently received all-state honors from Tennessee High School Soccer Coaches Association.

In each of the last two seasons, the Lady Spartans have reached the Division II-AA State Championship Match,

finishing as runners-up in both 2024-25.

One of the top sides in East Tennessee, Webb was represented on the squad by senior forward McKalie Ball, senior forward/midfielder Emerson Clarke, junior defender Mary Mac Emery and sophomore goalkeeper Lauren Newell.

Ball and Clarke were two of the area’s top offensive players while Mac Emery was one

of the area’s top defenders and Newell was one of Knoxville’s top netminders. The Lady Spartans finished 14-2-2 and swept through their Region II-AA East Region Schedule regular-season slate of matches, going 4-0 in league play.

Webb’s two losses came to region nemesis Chattanooga Baylor in the region championship and state title matches. The Lady Spartans, however,

toppled the Lady Raiders during the regular season.

Webb coach Elaine Roth said those four players were instrumental to her team’s success during the 2025 campaign.

“A couple of them were big parts of our offense,” Roth said. “Mckalie was our leading scorer and Emerson was tied as our second leading scorer with one of our younger players.

“Then, Lauren was our goal-

keeper and Mary was one of our top defenders. These girls are all great leaders and they all lead by example.”

Roth, who recently completed her second season as the Lady Spartans’ head coach, said that quartet of players has made her job easier.

“You hear all the time about players being coaches on the

See SPARTANS on Page 2B



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Farragut falls at the buzzer

Bill Howard
Correspondent

Farragut High School's boys' basketball team suffered another last-second loss Tuesday night, falling 54-52 on the road at Jefferson County.

Trailing by three in the final seconds, senior Parker Lane went to the free-throw line with a chance to tie. After missing the first and making the second, Lane intentionally missed the third, but Farragut was unable to convert the offensive rebound, sealing the loss.

"It's not the end-of-game mistakes that lose the game," assistant coach Cory Johnson said. "We didn't play



Lane

at our pace." Jefferson County limited Farragut's transition offense and slowed the game, holding the Admirals to just 45 shot attempts — well below their typical output, Johnson said.

Lane led Farragut with 19 points while Aidan Foshie added 12. Matthew Dickens and Dan Lanning were limited to two points apiece.

The Admirals pointed to late-game execution as an area needing improvement.

"We have to close out games better and control the pace late," Lane said, adding Farragut struggled to secure stops and rebounds in the final minutes.

Despite the setback, Johnson praised the team's senior leadership, citing their unselfish play and locker-room cohesion, and noted Dickens' recent impact off the bench. Lane and Lanning both expressed confidence the team is continuing to grow as the season progresses.

Cardwell pins his way to points



Tony Cox

Bearden High School's Jack Cardwell controls McMinn Central's Peyton Fisher on the mat en route to a win by fall in the 126-pound weight class during a Bulldogs tri-meet dual at Anderson County High School on Tuesday, Dec. 16. Despite Cardwell's pin, Bearden fell to the Chargers 41-24. The Bulldogs also earned wins from Kolton Tip-ton at 144 pounds and Skylar Woods at 215, both by fall, along with a forfeit victory at 190 pounds.

Hawks

From page 1B

Valley opened a 19-13 lead against the Beavers by the end of the first quarter.

After the early surge, things slowly unraveled for the Hawks. One of Hardin Valley's leading scorers, Kristian Oliver, was held scoreless while plagued by foul trouble throughout the night. He wasn't the only Hawk saddled with fouls, as Jax Sparks and Kymani Smith also dealt with foul trouble.

"We can't have games where Kristian Oliver doesn't score, and the reason we got into foul trouble is because we keep reaching with our hands," Arendt said.

Further hindering the Hawks was an ineffective offense. Instead of attacking the basket, they frequently settled for long-range shots.

"Our shot selection was ter-

rible at times, and I think we settled for 3s," Arendt said. "We didn't drive, and when we did drive, they collapsed and we kicked the ball back out and took a bad shot.

"We settled, and that was the first thing I told our guys. A lot of that is because of our youth, and a lot of it is on me."

The struggles continued in the second quarter as Karns outscored the Hawks 17-9 in the period. Hardin Valley remained within striking distance, trailing 30-28 at half-time.

From there, the Beavers continued to build their lead, extending it to 50-43 by the end of the third quarter.

Over the final eight minutes, Karns never relinquished control, although the Hawks cut the deficit to 55-50 on a basket by Hunter Ratcliff with 4:49 remaining.

Karns then went on a decisive run, all but sealing the

victory when Remy Moore hit a 3-pointer to make it 66-54 with 2:57 left.

The Hawks made one final push, scoring six straight points to close within 68-60 when Smith scored with just over two minutes remaining. Those proved to be Hardin Valley's final points, as Karns closed the game with the final eight points.

Jaxon Schwartz sparked the late surge for the Beavers, scoring eight points in the fourth quarter.

"Jaxon had a big second half, and he had a couple of big blocks," Karns coach Lee Henson said. "We took a little bit of a gut punch, but we made some adjustments to the way they were guarding us.

"We wanted to make them play defense, and we were able to get them into foul trouble. We were keying on Oliver because we knew he could shoot it."



Ellie Hatmaker

Hardin Valley Academy's Emma Rhoden looks for an opening to the basket during the Lady Hawks' game against Karns on Tuesday, Dec. 16.

Lady Hawks

From page 1B

"We got everybody into the game and we got everybody in early," Galloway said. "That's important because we're going to need all of them at some point in the season."

While the Lady Beavers struggled to sustain offensive rhythm until the outcome was decided, Hardin Valley's offense continued to click, espe-

cially from the perimeter. The Lady Hawks knocked down nine three-pointers on the night and consistently moved the ball to find open looks.

Marley Edwards led all scorers with 17 points, including five three-pointers. Audree Rhien added 15 points while Alaina Lineberry and Holly Lindsey each scored 10. Sarah Galloway hit a pair of three-pointers, and Gracie Edwards added another from beyond the arc.

Lady Admirals

From page 1B

"Anna (Corum) and Lily (Mullins), who are starters and seniors, are still role players. Their roles have had to expand a lot."

"We turn the ball over a lot," Mayfield said when asked about how his team needs to improve. "And, trying to find ways to get scoring from everyone. When the focus is on KJ and Trinity, how are the others gonna step up?"

Three Lady Admirals are out with injury, one of whom — Gabby VanAcker — would start if she were healthy. Mayfield hopes to have the junior wing back in January, but her timeline is uncertain.

"Last year, she averaged eight or 10 a game," Mayfield said. "She would have increased that. She'd have been 12 to 15 a game."

Sophomore guard/wing Livy Slagle went down in the first game and is out for the

season. Freshman wing Raina Styles hurt her knee but is expected back at some point. "If we can get two of those players back, we're in much better shape," Mayfield said.

McNealy likes where the team is at this point in the season. "I think we've gotten better as the season has gone on," she said.

Spartans

From page 1B

field," she said. "These girls are my voice on the field.

"They're coaches on the field and they make my job easier. They always step up and they're always looking to lead."

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A night around the world at Farragut High School



Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Food, performances and information tables highlighted Farragut High School's World Culture Night, held Thursday evening, Dec. 4, in the school's Commons.

The event showcased the diverse cultures represented within FHS through its students, clubs and world language classes. Students, families and community members browsed tables featuring countries and regions including Korea, Canada, Argentina, Germany, India, Ethiopia, the Middle East, Palestine, Ecuador, Vietnam, the Philippines, France, China, Poland and the United States.

Participating clubs included Art Honor Society, Asian Culture Club, French Honor Society, German Honor Society, International Club, Latin Honor Society, Muslim Student Association and Spanish Honor Society.

Junior Selam Mengesha represented Ethiopia at one of the information tables.

"My parents came from Ethiopia. I was born here," Mengesha said.

In addition to visiting the tables, attendees enjoyed face painting and sampled foods from around the world, including Vietnamese coffee, Mexican horchata, Polish kanapki (open-faced sand-



Top left clockwise: USA table Ryan Deucker, Ana Blair Claunch, Reanna Gabel and Catherine Wiese. Khanh Nguyen serves Vietnamese coffee. Yeimily Millan represented Mexico. Students perform K-Pop dance. Junior Seam Mengesha represented Ethiopia.

wiches) and sourdough bread, Italian baked ziti, Iraqi kebabs, French crepes, Chinese chicken fried rice and Vietnamese com chien trung (egg-fried rice), Indian samosas and American brownies.

The evening also featured

a variety of student performances, including Julianne Hao performing a Chinese sword dance; Aneesh Pingali and Uma Seal presenting a traditional South Indian dance; Nahyeon Cho with a K-pop dance group; Khanh

Nguyen performing a Vietnamese dance; Grace Preston singing a Romanian song; Sofia Vander Dussen, Ella Roetgger and Sana Kado performing another K-pop routine; Ryan Deucker, Audra Nelson and Maya

Ontiveros leading a USA line dance; Aryan Sharma, Edward Zhao, Andy Michaelides and Edam Faller performing Greek music as a clarinet quartet; and teacher, Allison Maldonados, and Bahati performing Spanish-language music.

Photos Tammy Cheek



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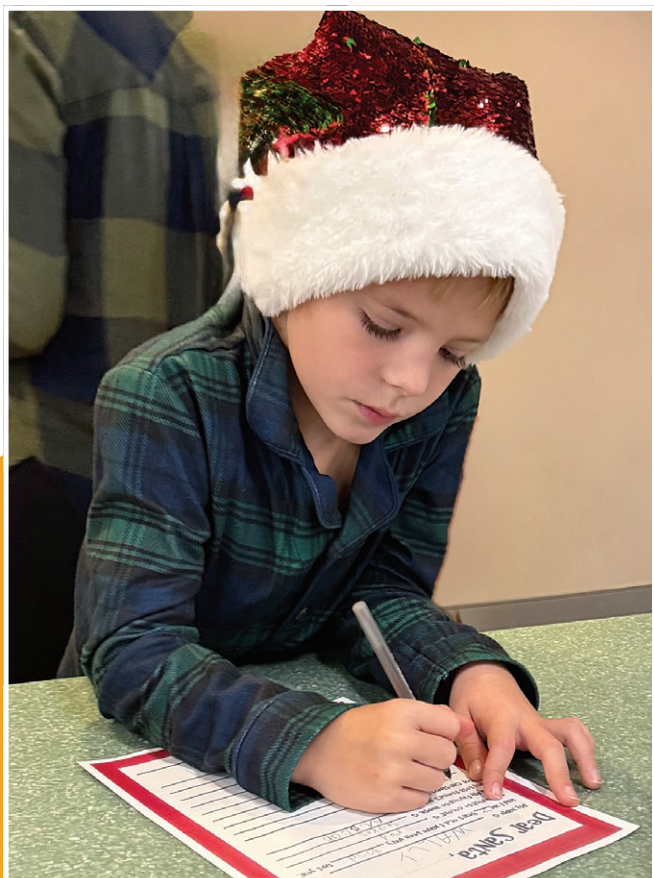


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The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, at its meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2025, adopted the following ordinances on second and final reading:

a. ORDINANCE 25-15 to amend the Farragut Municipal Code, chapter 22., article 5. – Driveways and other access ways, to delete the existing language in sections 22-145, 22-146, 22-148, 22-149, 22-151 and 22-153 and replacing with new language; modifying existing sections 22-150, 22-152 and 22-154; and re-numbering all affected sections

b. ORDINANCE 25-19 of the Town of Farragut, Tennessee amending the fiscal year 2025-2026 capital investment program fund and American rescue plan act fund budgets, passed by Ordinance 25-10

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

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3 Block.....\$170/mo.

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The Story of Christmas
presented by



And it came to pass
in those days,
that there went out a decree from
Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

- ² (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)
³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)
⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.
⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.
¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.
¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.
¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.
²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)


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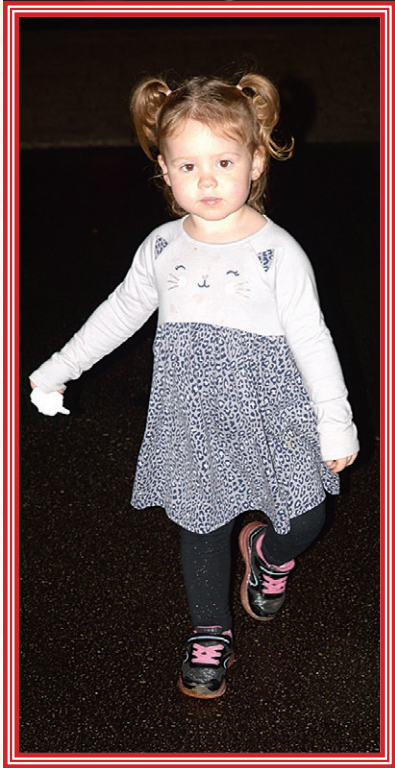
Scenes from the Season



Knox County School Board member Lauren Morgan, far right, got ready to lay wreaths on veterans’ graves with her children, from left, Jack, Cooper June and Izzy during Wreaths Across America at Pleasant Forest Cemetery off Concord Road Saturday morning, Dec. 13.



Uma Subramanian, 5, at Countdown to Light the Park Monday evening, Nov. 24



Shelby Chambers, 2, dancing at Pinnacle at Turkey Creek’s “All Is Bright” event Friday, Nov. 21



Amelia Arnold, 4, at Farragut Christmas Parade on Sunday, Dec. 7



Will Hancock, 2, with mom Melissa Hancock at Celebrate the Season Thursday, Dec. 4

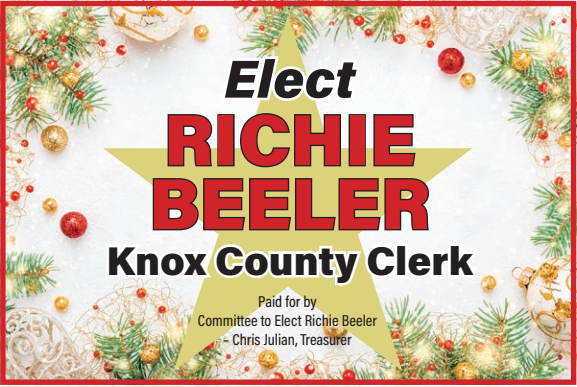


Andrew Witherspoon sings at Countdown to Light the Park



Autumn Jackson, leader of Spectra Twirlers, performs at Countdown to Light the Park

Photos by Tammy Cheek



Yes, Virginia

128 years later Santa Claus remains real

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus:
a true story

Editorial Page, New York Sun, 1897

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, “If you see it in The Sun, it’s so.” Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

~ Virginia O’Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men’s or children’s, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that’s no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby’s rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Francis P. Church’s editorial, “Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus,” was an immediate sensation, and became one of the most famous editorials ever written. It first appeared in the New York Sun in 1897, almost 128 years ago, and was reprinted annually until 1949 when the paper went out of business.