

Nichols joins farragutpress

Tammy Cheek
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The farragutpress welcomes Jake Nichols to its staff as it begins a new year.

"I'm excited," Nichols, 30, said. "So far, it's been a really welcoming environment. I feel like I can do a lot of great things here."

"I'm especially excited from not just the storytelling but also the social media and video perspective as well and just helping to elevate what seems like an already good and respected publication," he added. "I feel like I've accumulated a good bit of sports media experience; I enjoy the job; and I feel like I've gotten a wide

breadth of skills."

Nichols, who was hired Thursday, Dec. 17, grew up in Jackson, Tennessee, where he attended and graduated from Jackson Christian School in 2015 then attended University of Tennessee, Knoxville, graduating in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism and media.

Subsequently, he covered high school sports for a news outlet in Sevierville for six months then worked in radio in Dickson, Tennessee, through the pandemic for six months in 2020.

Then, Nichols moved to the Cedar Bluff area of Knoxville four years ago with Deanna, who now is his wife, when

she enrolled in law school at Lincoln Memorial University in May 2023. Since then, she graduated and practices law in downtown Knoxville.

In Knoxville, Nichols covered UT sports for a Sports Illustrated outlet for about three years before working for The Newport Plain Talk for three years while still living in Knoxville.

He applied for the position with the farragutpress because of the proximity to his home and because "I wanted to get back into high school sports."

"There are so many great teams here, and athletes," Nichols said. "Covering Tennessee for a couple of years,



Photo submitted

you come across some of those athletes through covering recruiting ... but I wanted to be

able to tell the stories of kids around the Knoxville area because I feel like it's such a good

market, as far as high school

sports.

"There's so much support," he said. "There are a lot of great athletes, coaches, and I enjoy being a part of it."

Warming

From page 1A

less Coalition, announced the launch of the 2025-25 winter warming center effort," the Office on Housing Stability stated in its website.

"Warming centers will activate on nights when temperatures fall to 25° Fahrenheit or below, beginning as early as Dec. 1, 2025 (depending on the site) and operating through Feb. 28, 2026.

According to OHS, there are warming stations at Church Street United Methodist Church, 900 Henley St., downtown Knoxville; Cokesbury Church, 9919 Kingston Pike in West Knoxville; East Knoxville's Eternal Life Harvest Center, which tentatively has two locations: 2410 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., and 1801 Western Ave.; The Salvation Army, 409 N. Broadway (the former Foyer building next to the overpass); and Fountain City United Methodist Church, 212 Hotel Road in

North Knoxville.

Also, there are centers at Vestal UMC or Magnolia Avenue UMC for overflow, often accommodating pets.

"In the winter of 2024-25, more than 400 people sought shelter at the warming centers," the press release stated.

"We've seen a really steep rise in homelessness, but our number of emergency shelter beds have not kept pace," OHS executive director Erin Read added.

People are urged to check the City of Knoxville website or KnoxTNHousing.org for current hours and locations as they can change.

Cokesbury Church's warming center is open Dec. 1, 2025, through Feb. 28, 2026. According to its website, check-in is from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. While pets are allowed, they must be crated.

Cokesbury Church serves the homeless through its Fig Tree Day Center, which offers showers, laundry, meals,

computers, resources along with its warming centers in the winter, which its website reports houses hundreds on cold nights.

Along with those services, the church stated on its website that it provides a sense of community, offering friendship and a sense of belonging.

Another organization that provides warmth for the cold is Knoxville Area Rescue Mission, which provides not only shelter but also Coats for the Cold, for which the collection took place from Monday, Oct. 20, through Friday, Nov. 7.

"Distribution started Monday, Nov. 17, and lasted through Saturday, Dec. 6," said Celia

Lively, senior director of community engagement at KARM.

"All coats are donated, professionally dry-cleaned by our friends at Prestige Cleaners, then those in need can get a ticket to go shopping and pick out the coat they want," she said. "We work with local service agencies, churches, schools and other non-profits to distribute the tickets."

Also, "we partner with Cumulus Media, WVLT and Prestige to make this annual coat drive possible," Lively added.

"KARM provides shelter 365 days a year, regardless of weather," Lively said. "We have been operating at capacity since last winter,

providing shelter to 370 people every night.

"However, during extreme weather, we can operate with a red flag policy, a critical emergency response plan designed to protect the most vulnerable members of the community when weather or environmental conditions pose an immediate and life-threatening risk," she said.

"Building on KARM's established White Flag process for inclement weather, the Red Flag response provides a structured and compassionate plan of action when conditions escalate beyond dangerous to life-threatening," Lively explained.

Election

From page 1A

County and currently is held by Dr. Richard Briggs; and 5th District Senate seat, currently held by Randy McNally; and the governor.

The filing deadline for the state seats is March 10.

"And all the local county offices, you could pick up [petitions] back on Dec. 27," he said.

This year, Town of Farragut's election is Thursday, Aug. 6, according to Davis.

"Winner take all," he added.

The date of the state and county primary elections is Tuesday, May 5.

According to the Knox County Election Commission website, people need to register to vote by mail (postmarked), in person or online before Monday, April 6 (postmarked).

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Lions**From page 1A**

amount of time under coach Matthews is a true testament to the dedication, hard work and determination of both the athletes and the coaching staff. Undoubtedly, this will not be their one and only win in our contest.

"How The West Was Won is a staple for our readers, our writers and local athletes. It brings healthy competition, community involvement and weekly recognition of the merits earned on the gridiron. The Farragut/West Knoxville area is rich with football talent, and recognizing that talent is fundamentally what has driven us for the past 18 years. It's incredibly rewarding to be a part of seven high school programs that strive for success year after year."

The Lions claimed the shiny, Stetson-adorned prize after going 6-4 in the regular season with a plus-170 point differential providing the difference between CCS and CAK, which also went 6-4 with a point mar-

gin of plus-54.

CCS also expanded on its success by making its first-ever postseason appearance in 2025, falling to Jackson Christian 27-13 in the first round of the Division II-A playoffs.

This year's contest was sponsored by a first-year backer, the Billy Houston Group with Realty Executives. Houston joined farragutpress at the team's banquet on Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026, to present the trophy and a \$500 check to Matthews' squad.

"It's been fun," Houston said with a smile. "For someone who has five kids and played sports in high school, to be associated with it again has been fun."

Houston gave a brief speech to the players before the check was presented.

"Part of my speech is on goals, and in individual and team efforts in sports, you have to have goals to accomplish and have the drive to make you do better," Houston said.

The Lions certainly set high marks this past season. After reeling off an 8-2 record with

a mixed schedule in 2024, Matthews' team scored 49 points or more four different times in 2025 with five games at 42 points or greater. They also averaged 35 points per outing with a high of 59 in Week 3. Also, the only win that did not include 40 or more points was a 35-0 shutout over the Georgia Force.

"The first year was kind of a JV schedule, just feeling our way, but really just proud of what we accomplished this year," Matthews said. "We went 6-5 but were in every game in the fourth quarter. Started seven guys on offense who had never played a high school snap, so really proud of these young men. Fantastic trophy and just a cool thing for our school."

He attributed the offensive success to the many playmakers CCS has on the offensive side of the ball — some of whom have FBS offers and most of whom will be returning next season.

"Everybody back on defense, nine returners on offense," Matthews noted.

SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team, where he continued to serve until his death.

According to his obituary, one of Mowery's career highlights was being deputized as a member of the U.S. Marshals Smokey Mountain Fugitive Task Force.

"Please pray for Deputy Mowery's family, and pray for our deputies," Sheriff Berrong said.

When he was not working in a job that friends dubbed "his calling in life," Mowery loved

fishing and duck hunting with friends or his beloved chocolate lab, Ruger.

One of Mowery's best friends, 2013 Farragut graduate Brett Dockery, called Mowery "a special human being," adding he "touched so many people throughout his life and would put a smile on your face no matter what."

Mowery lived up to that at FHS, where he was a beloved member of the football team's leadership council. He also worked as the team's center

Town**From page 1A**

has made over the past year," Smoak stated.

Highlights from 2025 include:

- Returning to a fully renovated Town Hall;
- Opening the Campbell Station Inn as a visitor center and adding a winter skate park;
- Updating and implementing the Town's Classification and Compensation study;
- Completing the Advanced Traffic Management System, which reduced travel times;
- Opening a nine-court pickleball complex at Mayor Bob Leonard Park;
- Expanding programming and participation at the Farragut Community Center;
- Completing an average of 350 building inspections per month;
- Public Works averaging 30 fleet and 37 department work orders monthly, including a sidewalk extension on Complain Road;
- Expanding "Light the Park" with additional holiday

lighting;

- Repaving 10 lane miles of roadway, the most in Town history;
- Adding 127 permeable paver parking spaces and a new pavilion at McFee Park, along with trail and sidewalk improvements;
- Installing new turf on two fields at Mayor Bob Leonard Park;
- Repairing or replacing 18 stormwater drainage pipes;
- Hiring a new finance director and Town recorder;
- Completing crisis management training for key staff;
- Purchasing a new hotbox for in-house pothole repairs;
- Completing the Town Center development;
- Welcoming numerous new businesses, including Aldi, Tupelo Honey, Parlor Doughnuts, Chase Bank, Whataburger and others.

Smoak said the accomplishments represent only a portion of the Town's progress in 2025 and credited staff and elected officials for their continued dedication to serving the Farragut community.

me he was with the Blount County Sheriff's Office. He looked great and really seemed to be happy with what he was doing."

Dockery noted he and several other people came together Saturday night, sharing memories of Mowery through tears and laughter.

"It's a long road ahead for a lot of people," Dockery said. "But it's been great to see the outpouring from people he touched. His impact was one I will never forget."

FHS**From page 1A**

versity of Tennessee Medical Center. He then pursued his desire to become a deputy sheriff with Blount County and began his career at the BCSO in May 2020, per Berrong's post. Mowery attended BCSO Regional Training Academy, graduating from Class 021 in October 2020, and was assigned to evening shift as a Patrol Deputy.

In December 2021, he earned a coveted spot on the sheriff's



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4A • FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026

Water Into Wine



Photo submitted

Water Into Wine hosted its 10th Annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Party on Thursday, Dec. 18, bringing festive cheer to its cozy wine bar in Farragut. Guests enjoyed seasonal cocktails, live music and a fun atmosphere filled with creativity and laughs. Friends gathered, photos were snapped and the celebration captured the spirit of the season. The event marked a decade of this holiday tradition. For more information about future events, visit www.waterintowineknoxville.com

HBAGK Holiday Open House



Photo submitted

The Home Builders Association of Greater Knoxville held its annual Holiday Open House Thursday, Dec. 4, at Jackson Terminal in downtown Knoxville. The festive evening brought together members and guests for seasonal refreshments, networking and holiday cheer in the historic venue. This year's event also supported Toys for Tots, encouraging attendees to donate toys to help brighten the holidays for local children. The gathering reflected the association's strong sense of community and commitment to giving back. For more information about HBA of Greater Knoxville, upcoming events, or membership, contact (865) 546-4665 or visit www.hbaknoxville.com

businessbriefs

• Knox County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Matt Schlosshan recently successfully completed a six-week certification course at the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Hazardous Devices School, located at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. This elite training program represents the gold standard for public safety bomb technicians across the United States — the only facility authorized to provide this certification. Schlosshan underwent preparation for more than 12 months and has now

earned his certification as a highly skilled bomb technician, according to a KCSO press release.

With this accomplishment, he joins an exclusive group of approximately 3,000 certified public safety bomb technicians nationwide," it stated. "These professionals play a critical role in protecting communities from explosive threats, and their specialized training is essential for ensuring public safety in an ever-evolving landscape of hazards."



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Going global

Crunchy Mama Box changes business models

Tammy Cheek
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Farragut business owner Wanda Malhotra is changing the business model for Crunchy Mama Box.

She announced the change to board members of Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance during its meeting in Farragut Community Center Wednesday, Dec. 10.

In a subsequent interview, Malhotra, a member of the Shop Farragut board, said, "We are moving away from being a traditional e-commerce retailer — selling physical products from various brands — to focusing on the most successful side of our business, our Global Wellness Media and Certification Platform.

She originally launched Crunchy Mama Box as a marketplace to find health-related businesses.

"We aren't eliminating the marketplace model entirely," said Malhotra, founder of the CMB certification program and Crunchy Mama Box. "Instead, we are licensing it internationally, starting with a major partnership in Brazil.

"This allows our U.S. team to focus on what we do best: vetting brands and creating educational content," she said. "Our CMB Certification (Clean, Mindful, Balanced) is now available to businesses in all sectors, ensuring they meet the highest standards of sustainability and ethics."

She said this affects the Farragut community in three ways:

- Global spotlight on the Town: "With over 10,000 global subscribers on YouTube and a worldwide podcast audience, I am using my platform to showcase Farragut and the Smoky Mountains as a premier destination for healthy living," Malhotra said. "I am acting as a global ambassador for our local 'green living' lifestyle."

- Economic innovation: "By joining Just Homes Group as the region's first wellness realtor, I am bringing a \$575 billion global trend directly to Farragut," she said. "My goal, as a resident, is to attract national and international investors and residents to our area, supporting property values and sustainable development."



Malhotra

"I want to ensure Farragut is at the forefront of lifestyle innovation and global wellness trends," Malhotra added.

- Supporting local ethical businesses: "Our new model makes it easier for local businesses — from salons and spas to builders and interior designers — to get certified as 'gold standard' wellness providers, giving them a competitive edge and global visibility."

"In short, we are taking a brand born right here in Farragut in 2019 and turning it into a global authority that brings international attention back to our community," she said.

Shrimp Dock in Farragut closes its doors

Tammy Cheek
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Patrons of The Shrimp Dock in Farragut last week found a note taped to the locked door.

"After many wonderful years, we have made the difficult decision to close our doors," the note stated. "We are incredibly grateful for your loyal support and all the memories we've shared," it continued. "Thank you for being part of our journey. Please visit one of our other two locations: 5210 Kingston Pike [Bearden] and 321 S. Calderwood St. [Alcoa]."

"Our lease ended on [Wednesday], Dec. 31, and it was the slowest of the three locations," The Shrimp Dock district manager Lucia Keen said. "We are looking for another third location in Knox County, but we have not found that yet.

"It was a hard decision," Keen said about closing the store. "We had extended the lease one time already, and the landlord just needed something that was more permanent, a longer lease, than what we wanted to do at that location with our sales."

"He [the landlord] needed security, and it just didn't make sense for us," she added.

The Shrimp Dock has been in that Farragut location for 17 years, when founder Phil Dangle, who purchased the original Bearden store from its founder, Capt. Paul Willis, who started the Bearden store in 1993.

Then, Dangle and wife Becky decided to retire and sold The Shrimp Dock on May 9, 2022, to Randy Burleson, who owned former Aubrey's in Farragut.

"I was 75 years old in January," Phil Dangel said in 2022. "It's time to fade away."

The shops supply fresh fish and seafood, along with cooking instructions, seasonings, soups, dips, spreads, sauces, sides and more to their communities in its market, as well as serve up po'boys and dinner plates in its restaurants.

The locations in Bearden and Alcoa remain open and serving customers. The Bearden location is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday; from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday; and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

The Alcoa store is open from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Wednesday and Saturday; from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday and Friday; from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

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Admirals looking for new leadership

FHS volleyball coach, assistant resign



File Photo

Farragut volleyball coach Andre Alves, pictured here celebrating after a big play, is stepping down to accept another job after three seasons as head coach. His assistant, Sydney Culpepper, also is resigning.

Jake Nichols

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The Farragut volleyball program is looking for a new leader, as head coach Andre Alves and assistant coach Sydney Culpepper have both resigned.

Alves has resigned to pursue other job opportunities, according to a post from Farragut Sports Information director Jack Tate.

Alves served as the

Lady Admirals' head coach for three seasons, compiling an overall record of 59-31, highlighted by a 30-7 campaign in 2024. He led the 2024 team to the district and region tournament championships as well as a Final 4 finish at the Class AAA state tournament in Murfreesboro.

"Andre did an outstanding job for us in volleyball, but he just got

See LEADERSHIP on Page 3B

Young Lady Hawks split Harriman Tournament

Ken Lay

Correspondent

Harriman — Hardin Valley Academy has one of the area's youngest high school girls basketball teams in East Tennessee. And the Lady Hawks have endured their share of growing pains during a roller-coaster ride of a 2025-2026 season.

They closed out the 2025 calendar year by splitting a pair of games in the Harriman Tournament.

The youth movement is in full swing at HVA but now that the calendar has flipped to 2026, longtime head coach Jennifer Galloway is not going to let her squad use its youth as an excuse.

"I'm pleased with our progression. We have a young team," Galloway said. "But I told the girls that we're not going to use our youth as an excuse."

"We've played 17 games and we're not a young team anymore and now, we're moving mostly into district play and our girls have 17 games of varsity experience."

See LADY HAWKS on Page 3B



Ellie Hatmaker

Hardin Valley's Alaina Lineberry (23) shoots over Karns defenders during their game on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025. Lineberry led HVA in scoring in its last two games of December, pacing a team that has seen plenty of growth from a young roster.



Ellie Hatmaker

Admirals battle top competition at Winter Classic

Jake Nichols

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From Dec. 28 to 31, both Farragut basketball programs took part in the Smoky Mountain Winter Classic at Rocky Top Sports World in Gatlinburg.

The Admirals (11-6, 2-2 in District 4-4A) finished fourth overall as they went 2-2 with four games in three days.

On the girls side, FHS (9-7, 3-0 District 4-4A) went 1-2 to finish sixth overall in their bracket.

Seniors lead FHS in packed slate

Farragut boys coach J.P. Burris added an extra game on the first day of the tournament, setting up a four-game run in three days.

But the Admirals answered admirably, going 2-2 against stiff competition.

Senior Parker Lane averaged 15.7 points per game while Britton Lewis came in at an average of 12 points across those four contests.

Lane paced FHS with 31 in a 73-56 win over Section (AL) in the second game of Farragut's double-header on Dec. 29, while Lewis totaled 16 in the previous game, a 63-47 win against Grant County (KY). Lewis also nailed a 3-pointer at the buzzer against Cincinnati Oak Hills, turning a four-point loss into a 68-67 result.

"Those guys are two of our three captains, and they've done a phenomenal job of leading," Burris said. "Parker has been our leading scorer on the year, but on most nights, Britton will guard the

other team's best player. The fact that he has to do what he does on defense then produces on offense is just a testament to the basketball player and leader he is. They've both played really well this year and in the tournament."

He noted the same of Reid Vining, who scored 17 in one game, and Dan Lanning, who poured in 14 against Oak Hills.

"We went back-to-back on Monday, and going two straight is kind of unheard of," Burris said. "So I was really proud of our guys for getting two quality wins, and we relied on some of our guys to play more minutes than they normally would with that, too."

That may have resulted in some fatigue for the Ads' Dec. 30 matchup, as Farragut let an early lead slip away in a 51-49 overtime loss to Warren Central (KY).

"With going back-to-back, you kind of wonder if that took something out of our legs and caused us to run out of steam Tuesday when we lost to Warren Central in overtime," Burris said. "They're obviously a really good team, and we had a chance to win in regulation. Just didn't get a shot off in time and then had a layup roll off the rim."

Burris added that senior Aiden Foshie played his best game in an Admiral uniform that afternoon, totaling 12 points, though he did not get a chance to finish it after leaving with a head injury late in the fourth quarter.

"You have two games that come down to losing by one possession, and I didn't do a great job putting us in a position to win in either one of those last

See ADMIRALS on Page 3B



Ellie Hatmaker

Hardin Valley sophomore Mike Fritts (5) goes in for a layup against Stone Memorial on Monday, Dec.

22, 2025.

Hawks close 2025 with pair of wins

Ken Lay

Correspondent

Harriman — The Hardin Valley Academy boys basketball team closed out the 2025 calendar year by winning a pair of games at the Harriman Christmas Tournament.

The Hawks, one of the area's youngest teams, defeated the host Blue Devils and Wartburg Central, have endured an up-and-down season as their 9-8 overall record would indicate.

And despite earning a pair of victories to end the calendar year on a winning note, HVA coach Andy Arendt said the tournament was a microcosm of the 2025-26 campaign.

"We're a young team and that's why we decided to go down there and play in that tournament," Arendt said. "We shot the ball well against Harr-

See HAWKS on Page 3B

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Farragut Middle boys roll into new year on 14-game win streak

Ken Lay
Correspondent

Clinton — Farragut Middle School's boys basketball team entered the new calendar year riding the crest of a 14-game winning streak.

The Admirals (14-1) haven't lost since dropping their season opener to rival Hardin Valley back in early November.

Still, the team has plenty of work left to do as it pursues a Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference regular-season championship. The Ads were slated to play rival West Valley on the road Monday. Results were not available at press time.

The Admirals will host Karns on Thursday at the Bobby J. Henry Gymnasium on Thursday. Tipoff is scheduled for 5:45 p.m.

"We have some big games left and even at 14-1 we're still going to have to fight for that No. 1 seed (in the postseason tournament)," Farragut coach Shane Wells said. "We still have to play West Valley and Karns and they're both dangerous teams."

"This is a tough, tough league."

Farragut will close out the regular season with a non-league game at Robertsville in Oak Ridge on Thursday, Jan. 15.

Over the holiday break, the Admirals competed in the Maverick Middle School

Christmas Classic at Anderson County High School. Farragut played five games on its way to winning a tournament championship.

The Ads had to work a little overtime to capture the championship with a 60-54 win over KCMSBC rival Bearden Tuesday, Dec. 30.

"That game against Bearden was a tough game. They have a good team," Wells said.

Henry Crecy had 18 points against the Bruins. Matthew Massey added 14 points. Harrison Holmes had 10 points. Jay Hampton scored eight points and Crawford Childers finished with seven.

The Admirals also had a tournament win over Powell. Farragut defeated the Panthers, 30-18.

Crecy had 16 points and Childers came up with 12.

Farragut also beat Oneida, earning a 45-33 victory. In that game, Crecy and Childress scored nine points each. Holmes added seven and Massey added five.

In preliminary tournament games, Farragut routed Fairview, 62-25.

Crecy finished with 16 points, while Crawford Childers had 13. Rocco Childers had seven points and Nolan Titus finished with six.

The Admirals opened tournament play with a 63-31 win over Midway behind 13 points from Crecy and 13 from Holmes.

2025 Sports Year in Review, Part II

Fireworks end the year

Jake Nichols
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The first half of 2025 was certainly worth remembering for athletes and coaches across the Farragut area. But the final six months included plenty of noteworthy moments too.

Webb School of Knoxville ended the year with a splash hire, bringing in renowned coach George Quarles to revive its football program. Webb reached just one win in 2025, and former coach Don Mahoney stepped down in November following a three-year stint with the program. The Spartans hope Quarles will have the same level of success that he saw at Maryville, where he won 11 state championships in 18 seasons with a 250-16 record. Also, Quarles became the fastest high school coach in history to reach 200 wins. Before returning to the Knoxville area, Quarles departed his post in Maryville to become an assistant coach at Furman. He then became the head coach at East Tennessee State University for two seasons and coached tight ends at Austin Peay in 2024. Now, the Jefferson County graduate is glad to be back in the 865 area code.

"I'm really excited to be back in East Tennessee and the Knoxville area," Quarles said in a brief interview with farragutpress. "I am also glad to be back in high school football. It's a fresh start for Webb

See FIREWORKS on Page 3B



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Jake Nichols

Above left: Bearden's Natalya Hodge (2) dribbles while being guarded by Upperman's Cassie Crouch (3) during the Andrew Johnson Bank Ladies' Classic championship game on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025. **Above right:** Bearden's Justin Nordin (10) goes to shoot over an Oak Ridge defender during their game on Dec. 5, 2025. Recently, Nordin and teammate Carson Asbathy were named to the All-Tournament team after their performances in The Classic in Bristol.

Bearden squads post impressive showings

Jake Nichols

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GREENEVILLE — Both Bearden basketball programs can take lessons into the New Year, having put forth notable performances in their post-Christmas showcases.

The Lady Bulldogs finished as the runner-up in the 36th annual Andrew Johnson Bank Ladies' Classic, falling 59-50 against Upperman at Hal Hearn Elementary School on New Year's Eve.

On the boys side, Jeremy Parrott's squad upended North Mecklenburg — one of the top teams in North Carolina — 62-52 to claim fifth place at The Classic, a renowned tournament at Viking Hall in Bristol.

Lady Bulldogs run out of gas in Greeneville

In the girls matchup, Bearden's loss brought a sour ending to an otherwise impressive showing in one of the top tournaments across the region.

Prior to the loss, BHS (15-3, 3-0 District 4-4A) reeled off a 3-0 record in four days with wins over Coalfield (80-60), Greeneville (85-57) and Grace Christian — when Bearden gritted its way to a 66-63 double-overtime win.

That set the stage for Wednesday's championship game, as Bearden took a 29-25 lead into halftime.

But the Lady Bees stung back, outscoring BHS 17-5 in the third quarter to take a lead they would not relinquish in the final stanza.

"We knew physical fatigue would be an issue, having played such a tough matchup last night," Bearden coach Justin Underwood said Wednesday. "This tournament is just as tough as the state tournament, if not tougher. So I told them I was proud of them."

"But we have to be better, one through 12, and pick it up when maybe some other kids are hurting. We had some injuries, some kids playing through tough situations, and had some really tired legs."

That was reflected in the final box score. Bearden senior Natalya Hodge led the team with 18 points, 12 in the first half, after averaging 34 points through the previous three contests. Meanwhile, Emma Rainey finished with 8 points for BHS after tallying a career-high 23 two nights earlier against Greeneville. Both Hodge and Rainey were named to the All-Tournament team.

"Those two are our glue," Underwood said. "They can both score at all three levels, and both those kids played 40 minutes against Grace. So they gave everything they had, but you've got to hope you can dig and maybe have other kids give you some stuff."

"We had a couple 3s off the bench, and we're proud of that, but we need to be better defensively and do better on some things that are typically staples of ours."

But even with the result, Underwood noted how much his team ultimately can learn from this experience.

"You want to be in those situations, three games in four days, and I'm proud of our girls," he said. "They fight like

crazy. You want to be the last one standing, but if we can grow from this and take some things from it, it will definitely help us in February and March."

Before diving back into district play, Bearden also took down Creekside (GA) 73-51 in the She Got Game Classic in Atlanta on Jan. 3.

Dawgs show out in Bristol

Parrott's Bulldogs saw a similar output in Bristol, where Bearden (17-1, 3-0 District 4-4A) went 4-1 over a six-day span.

The Bulldogs finished by claiming the aforementioned fifth-place spot, taking home some hardware for the first time since they won the entire event in 2018.

As a program, Bearden is now 17-6 all-time in six appearances, per Bristol Herald-Courier reporter Tim Hayes.

"It's more about simulating a state tournament type of environment," Parrott said of The Classic. "We took three trips before now where we sleep in other beds and get in other routines. The Classic is the best because you get the travel arrangements, the shooting background in the arena, and then you add in the nationally-ranked teams. It's a no-brainer to hone or measure your team."

See Bulldogs on Page 3B

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Fireworks

From page 2B

who nailed the golden goal in the second overtime off an assist from Western Kentucky signee Tyler Roth. The Farragut Middle School softball program won a title of its own in October, claiming the Tennessee Middle School State Championship with a 6-2 victory over Jefferson County in Athens, Tennessee, on Oct. 2.

Farragut Middle School cheer won its first state title in program history, while the FMS dance team followed its national title with a state championship in jazz later this year. They finished runner-up in pom but claimed regional championships in both events too. That success extended to the cross country course, where FHS finished its TSSAA season in fifth with a score of 229 at the Class AAA State Championships in Memphis. Sam Shagan led the team at 14th overall, finishing at 16:12.10 to cap off a year in which he also claimed a Section 2-AAA title by completing a 5,000-meter course in 15:56.36. On the girls side, Christie George came in 31st at the state meet to lead an FHS team that featured 14 total runners in attendance. Meanwhile, the Hardin Valley boys team came in seventh in the same classification with a score of 238, and Webb's Calysta Garmer won her second straight Division II-AA state title with a time of 17:05.60. She paced a Spartan team that had four runners in the top 10 for a first-place finish — Webb's third team state title in as many years. The Knox Catholic girls finished as state runners-up, while the boys notched third overall.

In golf, the Christian Academy of Knoxville girls and Hardin Valley Academy boys both wrapped their seasons with state titles. The Hawks unlocked plenty of history

in their run, claiming their first Division I-AA state title in school history. Eli Glenn led HVA with a two-day 36-hole total of 141, while Hunter Mousa had a two-round total of 143. For CAK, it was a second-straight title in Division II-A, marking the second time the program has gone back-to-back. The first was 2015-16. This time, senior Western Kentucky signee Isabella Coughlin led the team to its 11th state title in Division II-A.

The Farragut area also saw success on the youth cross country course, as 10-year-old Yetzel Ortega won the junior level cross country championship.

Farragut reached the 6A playoffs for the second consecutive season, nearly pulling off an upset over Dobyns-Bennett, while Hardin Valley finished .500 to mark its best season in several years. The Admirals also beat Bearden for the first time since 2022 and advanced to the playoffs for the second consecutive season under Geoff Courtney. They did receive some bad news just before Christmas, as former FHS quarterback Corbin Hobson announced that he is transferring to Grace Christian Academy. This past season, Hobson threw 131 completions on 243 attempts for 1,628 yards and 12 touchdowns and just five interceptions. Without Hobson, the Admirals will turn to rising juniors Hayes Sharp and Kyle Clark as they seek another playoff berth in 2026.

Aside from Farragut's success this past season, there was also gridiron glory in a newer way. On Oct. 18, the Hardin Valley flag football team defeated McGavock 38-30 for a Unified Flag Football state title. Numerous Knoxville schools have added flag football amid growing popularity, and the Hawks went 3-0 at the state tournament this year to claim the crown.

In November, Christian

it good against a team that is well-coached. We had 11 players score in that game."

The Hawks had three players post double figures in the scoring column. Colin Dyreness led the way with 13 points. Hunter Ratcliff added 11 points, while Brad Medzo finished with 10.

Arendt was pleased following his team's victory over the Blue Devils. This, however, wasn't the case after the win against the Bulldogs on Tuesday, Dec. 30.

Despite seeing his squad capture a 57-39 win, the coach was

A Dec. 29 performance against nationally-ranked St. Thomas Aquinas pitted the Bulldogs against a couple blue-chip recruits, and they went toe-to-toe before falling 59-56 for Bearden's first loss

From there, Navy signee Justin Nordin led the team with 20 points and eight rebounds in an 81-67 win over Calvary Baptist Academy, one of the top teams in Louisiana. Sean Capshaw added 18 more points, while Carson Asbary totaled 13. Nordin and Asbary were both named to the All-Tournament team, as Nordin totaled a tournament-high 26 points against North Mecklenberg.

Academy of Knoxville recorded its first Division II road playoff win in school history, beating Goodpasture 42-35.

In July, a five-gymnast team from Farragut-based Heidi's Musical Gymnastics took third out of 40 teams at Nationals in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

In swimming, 14-year-old Snmy Zimmer broke a pair of meet records to help the Village Green community center swim team end a 13-year Greater Knoxville Area Interclub Swimming Association reign of dominance. Led by head coach Sarah Fortney, the VG Gators won the program's first GKAISA championship since 2011. In the process, they unseated powerhouse Knoxville Racquet Club to capture the 2025 Tom Schumann Memorial GKAISA Meet.

As part of its five-win football season, Hardin Valley toppled Bearden 24-7 on Sept. 19 to pick up its first region win since 2020. The Hawks later added Jared Tharpe to the coaching staff in December.

Knoxville Catholic volleyball punched its state ticket on Oct. 18, then lost to Christ Presbyterian after knocking off Baylor 3-0. Farragut native Joe Carson, a member of a 3-on-3 Senior Olympic basketball team based out of North Carolina, won gold at the National Senior Games in Des Moines, Iowa.

In the dead heat of summer, schools across the area were red-hot with All-State selections from the Tennessee Sports Writers' Association. Six schools were represented with athletes from Farragut, Christian Academy of Knoxville, Knoxville Catholic, Bearden, Hardin Valley and Webb all making the cut. Between those six schools, there were a whopping 40 selections across five different sports: baseball, softball, boys soccer and boys and girls track and field.

anything but happy.

"Against Wartburg, we didn't play well and we didn't shoot well," Arendt said. "They gave a better effort and they played harder than we did."

Kymamni Smith led the Hawks' scoring attack against Wartburg Central as he finished with 15 points. He was the only player to score 10-plus points against the Bulldogs.

Jax Sparks and Graham Collerado scored nine points each for Hardin Valley in its final game of 2024.

this season.

Bearden lost that one on a buzzer-beater, Parrott noted, before bouncing back to beat Upperman 57-42 and handing North Mecklenberg a loss to clinch fifth.

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Lady Hawks

From page 1B

ence this season and I've challenged them to not use our youth as an excuse."

Hardin Valley (8-9) opened tournament play with a 50-43 loss to Kingston on Monday, Dec. 29.

The Lady Hawks lost to the Lady Jackets despite getting a double-double from Alaina Lineberry, who finished the contest with 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Leadership

From page 1B

a better job offer that will take more of his time," said Farragut Athletic Director Donald Dodgen in a statement to the farragutpress. "He did not feel like he could give full time to both jobs, which I totally understand. I hate to lose him because he did a great job for Farragut High School and Farragut volleyball."

Dodgen has begun the search for a new head coach. Any interested applicants should contact him by email at donald.dodgen@knoxschools.org.

When asked what he wants in the next FHS volleyball coach, Dodgen began with three words: "Maintain the program."

"We've got it posted and are just waiting for people to apply, and hopefully we will start interviewing sometime this month," he added. "But I want to keep the program at the same level it's at right now. State-level volleyball right now, and that's what I want to maintain."

Admirals

From page 1B

two possessions," Burris said. "A lot of that falls on me. But I was proud of how we played, and we faced good competition that will help us for district play for sure."

Lady Ads go 1-2 in Gatlinburg

At Rocky Top Sports World, the Lady Ads dropped two games with a 41-36 win against South River, Maryland, the defending Class 3A state champion in that state.

Against Salem, Virginia, the top 4A team in the Commonwealth, FHS lost 70-48 but competed more closely with Cherokee Bluff, Georgia, the defending 3A state champion from the Peach State, in a 49-44 tournament-opening loss.

Senior KJ McNealy tallied 10.3 points per game, while junior Reagan Sheridan averaged 9.6 per outing through the three-game span.

In the win over South River, Maryland, the Lady Admirals bounced back from a 12-3 deficit and outscored their opposition 30-20 in the middle two quarters to take the lead for good.

Even with the positive result Tuesday, head coach Jason Mayfield cited a difference in his team's performance from one day to the next.

"I know we lost Monday, but we played better than what we did Tuesday," he said of the Cherokee Bluff and South River games, respectively. "We've had a few other games like that, where I feel like we're better than the other team but end up playing flat for whatever reason. So just knowing how to tough one out Tuesday was certainly a positive."

Against the Virginia program, FHS saw 14 points from Zoe Porter with 7 from Lily Mullins.

Their output has helped anchor the team in the absence of players like Gabby Vanacker and Rayna Styles, who have been out with injuries.

"We've played however many games without those players, so there's times I feel like we should be better," said Mayfield. "But we still need to work on filling those roles."

He noted that Porter has stepped up with her shooting, while Curry is learning to be more vocal along with McNealy.

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As the 2026 election season approaches, farragutpress is providing political candidates with an opportunity to share their message directly with readers through candidate profiles published in the newspaper.

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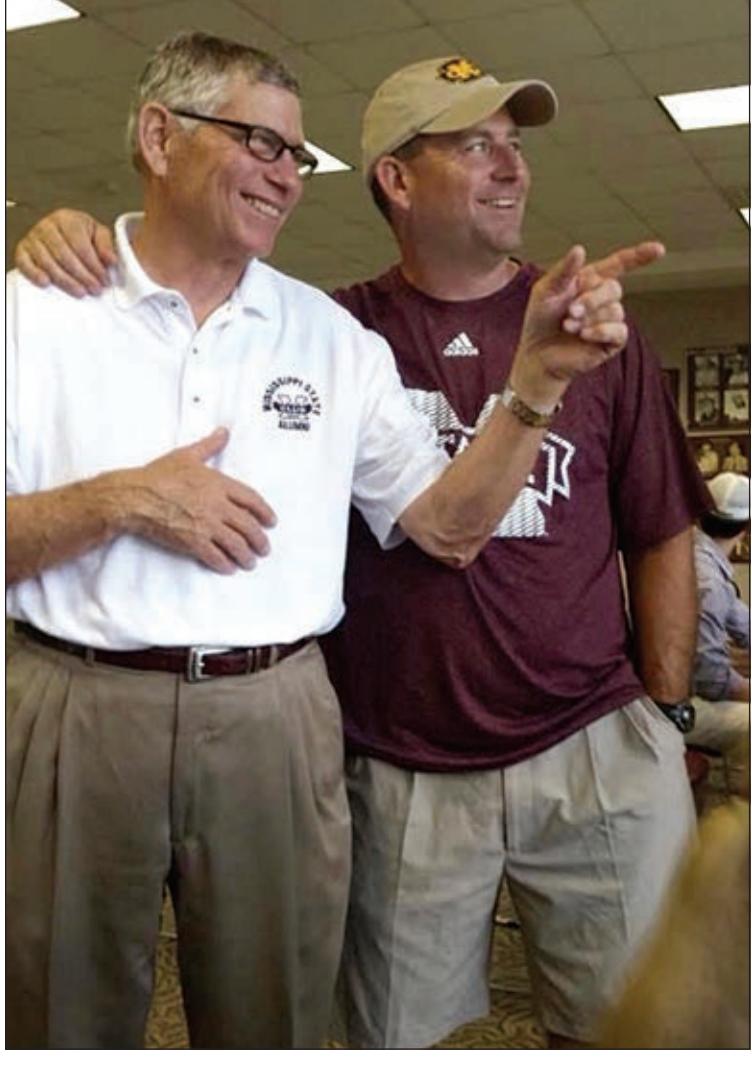
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A memorable career

Former Farragut football coach leaves legacy

Jake Nichols

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Roy Stone still can remember his first impression of Dan Bland.

It was the spring 1980 in Stone's junior year at Farragut High School, and Bland had just been hired to replace former coach Ken Sparks. Sparks, of course, would go on to achieve historic success at the college level with Carson-Newman University.

But Coach Bland — in the midst of a memorable career himself — was just getting started in west Knoxville. One film session was all Bland needed to familiarize himself with his new team.

"I remember when he first pulled us all together in the auditorium," recalled Stone, then a running back for the Admirals. "He said, 'I've been looking at some film. And y'all are soft.'"

"That got our attention," Stone added. "He came in and called it right out."

Mr. Bland swiftly changed that approach at Farragut, guiding the Admirals to a 53-24 record with two district titles and the first state semifinal appearance in school history. That seven-year stretch was just one stop in his memorable career, which spanned multiple states through four decades with a final record of 175-112.

Bland's career — and life as a whole — have been remembered with fondness after his

death at age 81 on Dec. 21 at his home in Jackson, Tennessee. In the days since Bland's death, farragutpress has spoken with a few of his relatives, friends and former players. Together, those different accounts have woven a tapestry befitting a former FHS skipper whose legacy extends far beyond the numerous fields on which he coached.

Rooted in physicality

Before leading Farragut or any other program, Bland experienced plenty of success as a player.

A native of Covington, Tennessee, he carved out a memorable college career as a halfback at Mississippi State. There, under the tutelage of an assistant coach named Johnny Majors, Bland grew into a sizable halfback who wreaked havoc across the SEC. He led the nation in kickoff return yardage with 558 in 1964, a record that stood for more than 40 years. That same year, he helped the Bulldogs — then called the "Maroons," according to the New York Times — beat Ole Miss for the first time since 1946. In 1965, Bland served as a team captain and helped the Bulldogs upset Heisman Trophy favorite Steve Spurrier in Gainesville.

One year later, he was drafted by the Houston Oilers of the American Football League and the San Francisco 49ers of the NFL. Bland opted for San Francisco, then suited up for the Pittsburgh Steelers and, later, the Houston Oilers to

bring his pro career to a close in 1968.

Throughout his time in college and the NFL, Bland used a physical running style that played into his own philosophy as a coach.

"You need to have physicality to win consistently, and he knew that," said Bland's son, Farragut alum John Bland. "I think that's why he was such a good coach, too."

Years later, Stone benefitted from that approach when the elder Bland took over the Admirals. Bland switched FHS from Sparks' Veer option to a Power I formation, offering specific instruction for how to run the ball.

"We loved when he put that in because it meant we got to run a lot," Stone said with a chuckle. "And (Bland) taught his top running backs how to finish, too. I remember one time we were getting ready to scrimmage a team, and he told us, 'If you break into the open field, instead of just going for a touchdown, you find a defensive back, and you go punish him.'"

Coach Bland's physical approach went far beyond the field, too, as former Tennessee long snapper Joel Farmer noted from his own time with Farragut.

"We would wrestle and box during the offseason, which really helped," Farmer said. "It's a tough world out there, and people want the more comfort-

See BLAND on Page 5B

Photos submitted

Top: Former Farragut High School head football coach Dan Bland, pictured left, with his son John Bland, died Sunday, Dec. 21, at the age of 81 in Jackson, Tennessee. Several of his friends and former players took time to remember Bland's impact as a coach and an individual.

Above right: The late Dan Bland, a former Farragut head football coach, gathered with several former players from the 1985 class at a 40-year reunion in August 2025 at FHS. Pictured from left to right: Scott Simon, John Bland, Jed Dance, Dan Bland, Tom Pfeiffer, Chad Bell and Shane Penn.

Above: The late Dan Bland and his wife, Martha Bland.

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Bland

From page 4B

able path. Then when they get slapped in the head by something in life, they're not ready for it.

"I see now what Coach Bland was trying to do — not just getting us ready to play Oak Ridge or whoever else, but getting us ready to face adversity in our lives. That stays with you."

Bland's words clearly resonated with Farmer, who later followed his coach's advice by trying out to become the Vols' long snapper. He wound up earning a scholarship and played under Majors in the famed 1986 Sugar Bowl win over Miami.

"That was a God thing," Farmer said. "It changed my life."

In the more immediate future, coach Bland's words helped the Admirals improve from 7-4 in 1980 to 11-2 in 1981. That year, Farragut caught fire to capture the Class AAA District 3 championship and reach the state semifinals.

Among an 11-2 record, one win stood out: a 35-7 drubbing of Oak Ridge to snap the Wildcats' 29-game win streak. In a game that the Admirals desperately wanted, one Bland decided to pour a bit more salt into the wound.

Bland's elder son, late Farragut quarterback Mike Bland, walked up to the line of scrimmage and offered a warning to the Oak Ridge players.

"We're going to run it right there," he said, extending his finger to point to the exact spot. "And you can't stop it."

That confidence, while loud in others, was quietly present in Bland's coaching style. He passed that same approach on to his son John, now a coach for Little Rock Catholic.

But it also seeped into two other coaches who found success after working with Bland. And when they faced off against each other, Joe Gaddis and Eddie Courtney both used lessons they learned from him.

'A near perfect man'

Gaddis was the first of the two coaches to encounter Bland, as they connected in 1968.

At the time, Gaddis was a junior defensive back at West Tennessee's Jackson High School, which later turned into Jackson Central-Merry (JCM).

"He moved in and became my position coach," Gaddis reflected of Bland. "Like most guys, I took to him immediately. He was so enthusiastic, positive and just magnetic."

"He's the reason I became a football coach. I wanted to be like him. He is the reason I am who I am today."

They forged a relationship beyond a typical player-coach bond, which began when Bland hired Gaddis to join him at Tullahoma High School in 1976.

"We became like brothers over half a century," Gaddis said. "Whether we saw each other all the time or not, we talked probably every month or two for 57 years. He was my best friend of a lifetime."

From Tullahoma, Bland and Gaddis went to Farragut in 1980. There, Courtney joined the staff after working under Sparks to form the second limb of Bland's remarkable coaching tree.

"He believed in having great people to surround him with, and he let you coach," Courtney said. "He gave you responsibility and expected you to fulfill that."

"And he made coming to work fun," Gaddis added. "He kept things light on the staff, something I tried to continue in my own career. He was the best storyteller I've ever known, too."

After branching off from Bland, Courtney and Gaddis wound up finding success on their own, too.

At FHS, Courtney led the Admirals to a 204-121 record, including the program's first state title in 2016. He also battled through cancer and displayed the same kind of tough-

ness he wanted his players to show on the field.

At Oak Ridge, Gaddis went 196-58 over two separate stints to become the winningest coach in program history. He wound up with more than 300 wins through multiple stops as a head coach.

He and Courtney faced off several times in an intense Farragut-Oak Ridge rivalry, forming their own friendship that transcended whatever happened on the field.

In short, each coach reached his pinnacle, just as Bland did.

But both coaches saw Bland traverse plenty of personal valleys, too — none bigger than the death of his son Mike in a 1986 car accident.

"He dealt with adversity on the field and in life better than anyone I had seen," Gaddis recalled. "That was obviously a tough, tough time. He handled that better than anyone thought was possible."

"I learned so much from him about football and how to deal with people and how to be a positive force. He was a special guy. In addition to being a great coach and mentor, he was even better as a father and a person. A near perfect man."

While Bland handled the situation in an admirable way, his surroundings at Farragut became too tough to stomach in the grief that followed.

"We really loved our time there and probably would have stayed longer," John Bland said. "But when Mike's car wreck happened, Dad really

needed a change of scenery."

Bland ultimately coached at a few other programs across the Southeast, most in west Tennessee with one stop in Pascagoula, Mississippi. In his final year at Humboldt, his last as a head coach, he met a familiar foe twice to bring his career full-circle.

"When I was at Peabody in Trenton in 2012, Coach Bland was at Humboldt," Gaddis recalled. "We played them during the regular season and again in the playoffs."

Gaddis and Peabody won both games, besting his life-long friend two separate times. One of those victories even snapped a 17-game win streak Bland had accumulated with the Vikings. But for Gaddis, neither that win nor the other one against his mentor proved half as sweet as the games they coached together.

"We're both fierce competitors, and I wanted to win. But I did not want (Bland) to lose either," Gaddis explained. "I did not enjoy that at all. The build-up was kind of fun, but that was a very bittersweet time."

Ultimately, Bland was fired from his final post at Humboldt in a move that Bland himself called "stunning," according to a 2012 Northwest Tennessee Today article. His description was accurate, as Bland had just been named District Coach of the Year.

He went on to serve as an assistant at Peabody under Ricky Woods — who replaced Gaddis — and they promptly

handed Bland's former team a 21-20 loss in 2013. Later, Bland even returned to Humboldt to assist the man who had taken over his former post before ultimately calling it a career.

Throughout all of that, one moment stood out to those who knew Bland best. Less than a day after he had been removed at Humboldt, two of his assistant coaches resigned in a show of support for their leader.

"That's the kind of support he had," said John Bland. "It was amazing."

A fulfilling legacy

That move spoke to Bland's invaluable impact, and no one felt that more than his children. The longest-reaching piece of his father's coaching tree, John Bland played for his dad at Farragut before continuing his football career at Arkansas under Ken Hatfield.

"People would ask me how it was to play for my dad," he said with a smile. "He would be even harder on me because he knew he could be, but I didn't think of it that way. I got the best of both worlds, having him as a coach in practice but getting a little more at the house, too. So I had an advantage and a blessing in being his player and his son."

That blessing flowed into John's own coaching career, as he worked as a graduate assistant under Pat Dye at Auburn. Like his dad, John Bland worked at multiple institutions before landing at Catholic in Little Rock.

Given his output at FHS, John was named to the Farragut High School Hall of Fame in 2019. His dad was no stranger to such honors, having been named to the Halls of Fame in Madison County and at Covington High. But the Farragut one specifically was special.

"I felt like I was representing him and my brother," John Bland said. "It was really all three of us with the Bland name being recognized in a lot of good ways. He really made an impact there."

That impact resonated this past August, as father and son returned to Farragut for a memorable reunion with hordes of former Admirals.

"When he got there, we barely got him to sit down because so many people stopped him to talk," John said. "He held court at that reunion, and it showed how much he loved his players and treated them right."

Forty-five years after that first meeting at FHS, Bland once again found a way to shock his Admirals. Except this time, instead of telling them how soft they were, he regaled them with stories of everything they accomplished together.

"He was every bit as intense as he ever was," Farmer said. "He was telling stories, and everybody sat around like kids with their mouths open listening. He still had that influence."

"We had some good times and some good players," John added. "He sure loved it, and the kids loved him, too."

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Newly renovated Nancy J. Land Center to combat homelessness

Staff Reports

editor@farragutpress.com

YWCA of Knoxville and Tennessee Valley officially opened the doors of the 100-year-old, newly renovated downtown building now called the Nancy J. Land Center.

The ribbon cutting and celebration were planned to be held on Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 10:30 a.m. at YWCA at 420 W. Clinch Ave. in downtown Knoxville.

The center will support and expand the Jenny Boyd Keys of Hope Program for Women, which combats homelessness and ensures women in need have the chance to rebuild lives devastated by domestic abuse, addiction, loss and other challenges.

The recent renovation added nearly 30 percent more resident rooms to the building and expanded the program to provide services for more than 200 women each year who otherwise would be homeless.

The program has a proven success rate: 90 percent of women who complete the Keys of Hope program secure employment and independent housing.

The program is a proven solution to homelessness at a fraction of the cost. The YWCA invests nearly \$6,000 per woman per year while the annual taxpayer cost to support a chronically homeless person is estimated at more than \$40,000.

Pamela Michele Gray (née Bailey) passed away Dec. 27, 2025, in Knoxville, Tennessee.

She was born April 25, 1952, in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, and spent her early years in Hopwood before her family relocated to the Pittsburgh area. She attended elementary schools in Hopwood, Bethel Park and Mt. Lebanon, and graduated from The Village Academy in Bethel Park. She later attended Penn State University and graduated from the Gemological Institute of America.

While in college, Pam discovered her gift for computer technology. After working in Harrisburg for the State of Pennsylvania, she moved to the Washington, D.C., area, where she met and married her husband, Bob. Pam built a successful career in the tech



Gray

industry as a senior systems analyst and senior systems engineer. She worked for USA Today, the Bureau of National Affairs, MCI Communications and Qwest Communications. Though she received numerous professional awards, she most valued the personal letters of appreciation from team members she mentored.

Pam had a deep love for dogs, birds and gardening. She was an avid reader, especially drawn to historical subjects.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clifford and Althea B. Bailey, and her brother, Charles B. Tackaberry.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Gray; sister, Maureen McMahan; stepson, Greg Gray (Viki); nieces, Christina Bevill (Chad) and Madison Imhof (Seth); nephew, Brandon McMahan; grandnephews, Cy and Colbey Bevill; and her beloved beagle, Mia.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the ASPCA (aspca.org), Mercy Chefs (mercychefs.com) or Samaritan's Purse (samaritans-purse.org).

Judith "Judy" Sewell Herbert, age 84 of Farragut, passed away on Thursday, January 1, 2026. She loved spending time with her family and friends camping in Townsend, TN, at Big Meadow Campground. Judy was an avid Tennessee sports fan, especially Lady Vols basketball.

Preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Joe Herbert; parents, Casper and Mary Jean Nevins Sewell; brothers-in-law, Jon Herbert and Jim Herbert; sisters: Jo Marie Kaiser and husband Larry, Betsy Hanks, and Joyce Swain.

Survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Jerry and Dee Dee Herbert; her cherished granddaughters, Abbie Herbert, who graduated from ETSU as a Registered Nurse, practicing now at Children's Hospital, and Emily Herbert,



Herbert

who graduated from UT, and is in pursuit of her Masters of Occupational Therapy; brother-in-law, Jack Herbert, Ronnie Swain, James Hanks; sisters: Rachel Palmer (E.O.), Rita Duncan (Ray), and Dale McKenzie (Jerry) along with many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Judy's niece, Jennifer Reynolds, who lovingly cared for her. The family is also grateful to Jennifer Gillman with Aging Adult Assistance for the wonderful, loving care and friendship for the past several months.

The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 4th, at Click Funeral Home in Lenoir City. A Celebration of her Life will follow at 3 p.m. with Mr. Jason Ridenour officiating. Family and friends will gather at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 5th, in the Concord Masonic Cemetery for graveside services and interment. Click Funeral Home, 109 Walnut Street, Lenoir City, is in charge of arrangements. clickfuneral-home.com

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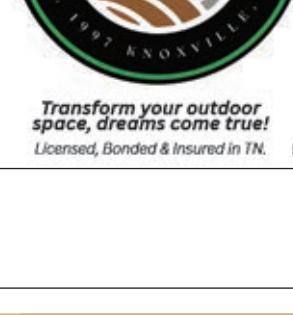
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Feeling festive with Farragut Library staff



Photo submitted
Knox County Public Library's Farragut branch staff, from left, Merry Shipley, Pat Kegley, Wendy Rogers and Lynn Bochbnek were ready to welcome patrons during the holidays.

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Farragut Town Hall | 11408 Municipal Center Drive

FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

- I. Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
- A. December 11, 2025 Board of Mayor and Aldermen Meeting Minutes
- IV. Mayor's Report
- A. Founders Week Proclamation
- V. Ordinances & Resolutions
- A. Ordinances
1. First Reading
 - a. Approval of Ordinance 26-01, an Ordinance of the Town of Farragut, Tennessee on First Reading, Amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 General Fund and Capital Investment Program Fund Budget, Passed by Ordinance 25-10
2. Second Reading & Public Hearing
 - a. Approval of Ordinance 25-24, an Ordinance of the Town of Farragut, Tennessee on Second Reading, Amending the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Capital Investment Program Fund Budget, Passed by Ordinance 25-10
- VI. Business Items
- A. Approval of Bids and Award of Contract

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

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MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM

- I) Call to Order
- II) Approval of Agenda
- III) Approval of Minutes
- A) Approval of minutes for the December 18, 2025 meeting.
- IV) Action Items
- A) Presentation of a resolution to commemorate Betty Dick Day
- B) Request for approval to extend fiber cable for Comcast along the north side of Kingston Pike just east of the intersection with Brooklawn Street, then along the east side of N. Campbell Station Road crossing

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

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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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ON PROPOSED CODE OF ORDINANCES

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing on the adoption of municipal code of ordinances will be held by the Board of Mayor & Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, Tennessee, at 6:00 p.m. on the 22nd day of January 2026, at the Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive, Farragut, TN 37934, to hear citizen comments on the following ordinance:

1. Ordinance 26-01, an Ordinance to amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 General Fund and Capital Investment Program Fund Budget, Passed by Ordinance 25-10.

A copy of the proposed code of ordinances is available online at www.townoffarragut.org or the recorder's office for anyone who desires to examine it in advance of the hearing.

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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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ON PROPOSED CODE OF ORDINANCES

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing on the adoption of municipal code of ordinances will be held by the Board of Mayor & Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, Tennessee, at 6:00 p.m. on the 12th day of February 2026, at the Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive, Farragut, TN 37934, to hear citizen comments on the following ordinance:

1. Ordinance 26-02, an ordinance to amend the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Appendix A. – Zoning, Chapter 3., Section XII., General Commercial District (C-1), Subsection F. Mixed Use Town Center, 3., Building Façade Requirements, to provide for new buildings to follow the Town of Farragut Architectural Design Standards, as amended, for the Town Center Subarea and remove reference to the Town Center Design Requirements.

2. Ordinance 26-03, an ordinance to amend the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Appendix A. – Zoning, Chapter 2. Definitions, to provide for a definition of Interactive Sports Analysis Services and Chapter 3., Section XVII., Office District (O-1), Subsection B. Permitted Principal and Accessory Uses and Structures, to add Interactive Sports Analysis Services as a permitted use.

3. Ordinance 26-04, an ordinance to amend the Farragut Zoning Map to rezone the property referenced as Parcel 05501, Tax Map 152 and Parcel 055, Tax Map 152 (12232 Turkey Creek Road), from Agricultural (A) to General Single-Family Residential (R-2).

4. Ordinance 26-05, an ordinance to amend the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Chapter 24, Subpart B., Article 3 – Vested Rights in Development Standards, by providing for updated provisions consistent with recent amendments to the Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA).

A copy of the proposed code of ordinances is available online at www.townoffarragut.org or the recorder's office for anyone who desires to examine it in advance of the hearing.

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.

westsidefaces

8B • FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026



Above:
Kenson Therrien and daughter, Riley, 2



Right: Ivy Cummings

New Year's at Noon

About 300 children, parents and grandparents joined in the celebration of a new year when Town of Farragut hosted its annual New Year's at Noon Wednesday, Dec. 31, in Farragut Community Center.

Youngsters and their families had ample opportunities to enjoy a bubbly non-alcoholic drink, make their own party hats, have photos made and play games before the official "balloon drop" in the gymnasium, when balloons suspended from the ceiling are let loose over the children.



Above:
From left, twins Aylin and Alana Albanna, 4; mom Hevron Albanna; and Ivana Albanna, 7



Left:
Quinn Hubing, 7, with mom, Katie Hubing



Photos by
Tammy Cheek



Above:
Charles Butler with wife Stephanie, daughter Charlotte, 7, and son, Noah, 2



Right: Charlotte Woodruff, 4



Left:
Karilyn Tracy with Tyler, 10 months