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FARRAGUT, TENNESSEE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 • 1A

## Town earns 'clean' audit for 2025

**Tammy Cheek**

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut's Board of Mayor and Aldermen received a "clean" bill of financial health for fiscal year 2024-25, according to an audit presented during the board's meeting Thursday, Jan. 22.

"I'm happy to report that we have an unmodified opinion again this year," said auditor, Travis D. Lowe, vice president and CPA with Pugh & Company, P.C., in Knoxville. "That means we have a clean opinion."

"In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the

respective financial position of the governmental activities, the fiduciary activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town, as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in the financial position and the respective budgetary comparison statement for the general fund for the year then ended in accor-



Lowe

See TOWN on Page 3A

## Board retreat charts 2026 vision

**Tammy Cheek**

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen spent nearly eight hours in a retreat-style workshop Friday, Jan. 23, discussing priorities and project initiatives for the Town.

The session took place in a classroom at Turkey Creek Medical Center.

Mayor Ron Williams said he would like to see a "roundabout at the north side of the tunnel at McFee Park."

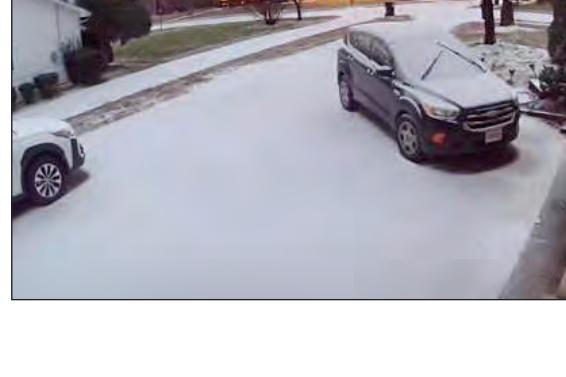
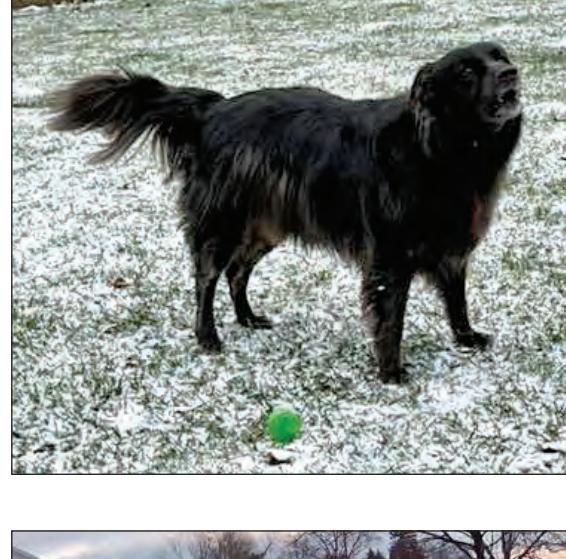
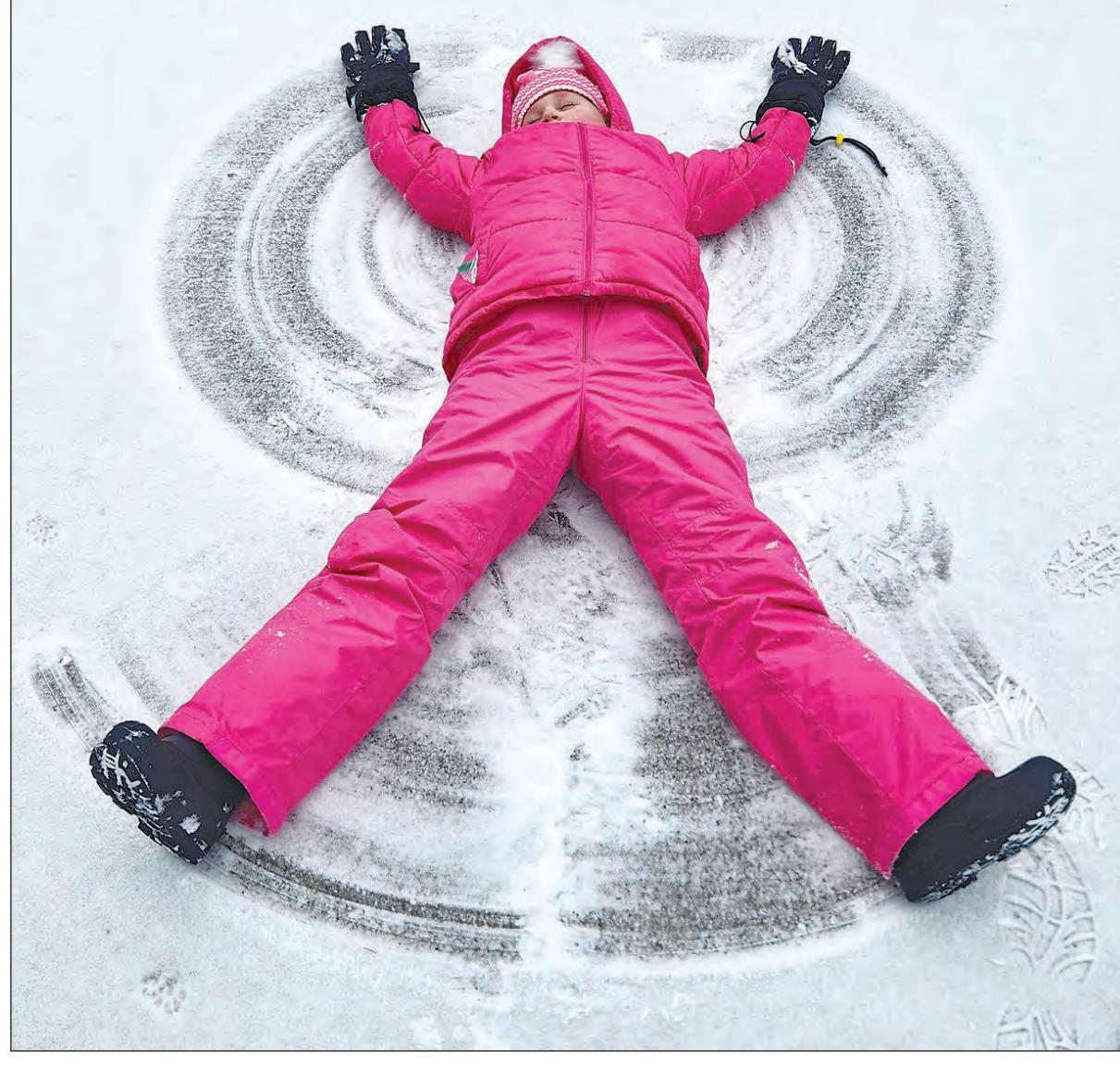
With that, he would like to see a park/tourism office near the tunnel.

The mayor also would like to see a social media fact page with past and present and before-and-after accomplishments "to showcase our Town."

Alderman Drew Burnette said he would like to see the Town connect key greenways, trails and sidewalks, development of the new McFee park land and progress on the interstate interchange.

Alderman Alex Cain said he would like to see Public Works and Park equipment replaced or improved to reduce maintenance costs; work completed on the Boring Road-Kingston Pike intersection and a traffic control device at Smith and Boring roads before the new school is built. He also would like to see the wayfinding – new signs directing people to Town attractions – completed.

See BOARD on Page 3A



## Winter wonderland

A decent bit of snow finally came down Sunday night, Jan. 25. farragutpress asked our readers on Facebook to share some pictures of the winter wonderland in their Farragut neighborhoods.

**Above:** Layla McDill made a snow angel.

**Left, above:** Gracie Mae enjoyed the snow on Concord Woods Drive.

**Left:** Village Green subdivision boasted a blanket of snow.

**Photos submitted:** Layla photo by Trisha Boehm / Gracie Mae photo by Donna Hairston / Village Green photo by Charlene Crowe

## Golf simulators may soon tee off in Farragut's Office District

**Tammy Cheek**

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Proposed interactive sports analysis businesses soon may be permitted in Farragut's Office Zoning District.

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted unanimously on first reading to allow such businesses in the Office (O-1) District during its meeting Thursday, Jan. 22. The ordinance must pass a second reading before it takes effect.

Chris Miller, the applicant, is looking to open a golf analysis simulation busi-

ness at 12756 Kingston Pike, just right of Renaissance | Farragut.

"I think it's a good fit, and good luck," Mayor Ron Williams told Miller.

Community Development director Mark Shipley said the request had already been discussed at the November Farragut Municipal Planning Commission workshop and formally voted on during the December FMPC meeting.

"The item involves a request to amend the Office (O-1) Zoning District to provide for interactive sports analysis service to be a permitted use," Shipley said. "The proposed business

would involve a member-only, appointment-based indoor golf practice and play simulation experience. Members would schedule a session, bring in their golf clubs and practice on a simulated golf course."

Although the current proposal centers on golf, Shipley noted that the use could apply to other sports in the future.

He explained that while professional services such as medical, legal, dental, engineering and financial consulting currently are permitted in the O-1 zone, sports analysis services do not fit

neatly under that definition. Instead of seeking a variance through the Board of Zoning Appeals, the applicant was advised to pursue a zoning text amendment.

"In reviewing such compatibility, an important consideration is whether the envisioned use would be similar to other office-type uses intended to serve as transitional uses between commercial and residential developments," Shipley said.

"After reviewing the use and po-

See GOLF on Page 3A

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# Farragut BOMA backs brick rule amendment

**Tammy Cheek**  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

West End Center owner Tommy Vann soon may move forward with plans to construct a new retail building, following unanimous approval by the Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen of a text amendment that adjusts building façade requirements.

The vote, taken Thursday, Jan. 22, approved the amendment on first reading. It must pass on second reading before becoming part of the Town's zoning ordinance.

The change would allow architects to average the face brick requirement across all elevations of a new building rather than requiring each exterior wall to be 75 percent brick. This adjustment is intended to help new construction blend with the existing West End Center buildings, which were built before the current standards were adopted.

"I'm glad the Planning Commission worked on this [during its Jan. 15 meeting]," Alderman Alex Cain said. "I was there the night of the meeting, and based on the architectural design plans they presented, I think the building's going to look really good; and being able to get it to fit in is a really good thing here."

"Working with new and old buildings and long-time owners and developers is something we need to do," he added.

"I think the flexibility of this change is important," Vice Mayor Scott Meyer said.

Community Development director Mark Shipley said the amendment will allow new buildings to follow the Town of Farragut Architectural Design Standards for the Town Center Subarea and remove references to older Town Center Design Requirements.

"This item was reviewed at the Planning Commission in November and approved at its December meeting," Shipley said. "The item involves a request to amend the building facade requirements for new buildings in the Mixed Use Town Center portion of the General Commercial (C-1) Zoning District."

The new structure would be located in the parking lot of the existing West End Center, at the south intersection of West End Avenue and West Point Drive.

Shipley noted because the West End Center predates the formation of the Mixed Use Town Center (MUTC) and its regulations, the original buildings currently do not meet the current façade requirements.

"One of the requirements in the ordinance is that each exterior wall of a new building within the MUTC must have at least 75 percent face brick," he said. "Since West End Center predates this, the existing buildings are well below that threshold."

Farragut Museum Committee and volunteers expressed their appreciation to the Samuel Frazier Chapter of the DAR for its donation to the museum in memory of the late Doris Woods Owens. On hand for the recent presentation were, from left, museum volunteers, Stan Duke and Joyce Moran, DAR representatives, Lori Baker and Susan Cromwell, and museum volunteer Eric Johnson.

## Farragut Museum donation



## KCSO police reports

On Jan. 13, a Farragut resident contacted the Knox County Sheriff's Office to report theft, fraud and forgery involving a check she mailed earlier this month. The complainant said the incident occurred between Jan. 3 and Jan. 7 at the Farragut Post Office located at 11409 Municipal Center Drive. According to the report, the complainant placed a \$1,250 check in a post office drop box but later learned the check had been altered and electronically deposited into another individual's bank account. Investigators said the payee name had been changed without authorization.

A Knoxville man reported the theft of a Rolex watch valued at \$16,000 from a building located at 12500 block of

Kingston Pike, according to the Knox County Sheriff's Office. The theft was reported Jan. 13. The victim told deputies the package was shipped from Los Angeles and arrived at the Kingston Pike address on Dec. 19 around 9 a.m. When he arrived about noon to pick up the package, he discovered the box had been ripped open and the watch was missing. The stolen item was described as a gold and stainless steel Rolex with a listed serial number. No suspect information was available.

On Jan. 20, the Knox County Sheriff's Office received a report of alleged fraud, forgery and theft involving a stolen check valued at \$2,200. According to an incident report, the complainant reported the case Jan. 20 at the KCSO Public

Window. She said she mailed a check Dec. 20, 2025, from the Farragut Post Office. The check was written for \$2,200 and intended for a mortgage company. The complainant later learned from her bank the check had been altered and deposited through a mobile deposit at Truist Bank. The payee name was reportedly changed while the original dollar amount remained the same. The offenses occurred between Dec. 20, 2025, and Jan. 16 at 11409 Municipal Center Drive, a government or public building, according to the report. The case includes felony charges of fraud under false pretenses, forgery and theft. A suspect has not been identified.

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Deadline for Letters to the Editor and Presstalks is **Monday at 10 a.m.** for that Wednesday's edition.

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**BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

**New Leadership, New Year for HBAGK**

Jackson Terminal was the location for this year Home Builders Association of Greater Knoxville Annual Meeting Installation and Awards Banquet. Held on Thursday, January 22nd Builder, Associate and Affiliate members enjoyed networking, honoring the outgoing board and welcoming the 2026 executive committee which includes incoming President, Lisa Smith of Ferguson Enterprises.

HBAGK represents and promotes the home building industry through education, advocacy and community involvement, creating neighborhoods for future generations. If you would like to learn more, visit [hbaknoxville.com](http://hbaknoxville.com) or call (865) 546-4665.

### PRESSTALK RULES

- Keep calls to a 90-second maximum (call 865-671-8255)
- 24 hours a day, seven days a week)
- Keep e-mailed Presstalks to 250 words maximum ([editor@farragutpress.com](mailto:editor@farragutpress.com))
- Libelous and malicious comments will not be

published; profanity will be edited out

- Comments will remain anonymous

- Names of individuals (including public figures) will not be published
- Deadline for Presstalks is Monday at 10 a.m. for that Wednesday's edition

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR RULES

- All Letters to the Editor from any citizen must have a minimum four-week period between publication
- Not to exceed 400 words (effective February 4, 2026)
- Must not have inaccurate information, such as wrong statistics, from which to form an opinion
- We reserve the right to reject publication based on

factors to include, but not be limited to, threats, name-calling and foul language

- Letters to the Editor need to have Name, Verifiable Address, Telephone number included and all letters will be verified
- Deadline for Letters to the Editor is Monday at 10 a.m. for that Wednesday's edition

**Town**  
From page 1A

dance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America," he wrote in his auditor's report to the Board.

"For the record, I thoroughly enjoyed reading [the report]," said Vice Mayor Scott Meyer, a CPA.

"Ultimately, management is responsible for the financial statements," Lowe told the Board. "Our job is to independently evaluate the financial reporting and accounting applications."

The Town's annual Comprehensive Financial Report was prepared by interim finance director and treasurer Michelle Pence, who has since transitioned the role to newly hired finance director Tessa Cortes.

"We do a significant amount of detailed test work, looking at invoices and things behind the scenes," Lowe said. "But, we also evaluate internal control structure."

He added the internal control also received a clean opinion.

"Also, because of the significant amount of federal grants coming in now, we're required to do a separate compliance audit for federal expenditures," Lowe said. "That is also a clean opinion."

With that, the report stated, "The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Town exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at June 30, 2025, by \$144.1 million (net position).

"That's an increase of \$20 million from FY 2024," Lowe said.

Of the \$144.1 million, "\$64.6 million — unrestricted net position — may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors," Lowe said.

At June 30, 2025, he said, "The Town's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balance of \$66.9 million.

**Financial Highlights**

- As of June 30, 2025, the Town's net position totaled \$144.1 million, an increase of \$20 million from FY 2024.
- Of that amount, \$64.6 million was unrestricted net position, meaning it may be used to meet the Town's ongoing obligations.
- The combined ending fund balance for all governmental funds was \$66.9 million.
- The unassigned fund balance available for discretionary spending was \$34.5 million, representing about 52 percent of the total fund balance.
- The general fund's total unrestricted fund balance was also \$34.5 million, equating to 347 percent of the year's \$9.9 million in general fund expenditures.

- The Town has no outstanding long-term debt. Long-term liabilities include \$759,000 in compensated absences and \$3,000 in lease liabilities.
- Total assets government-wide reached \$149 million, an increase of more than \$17.5 million from FY 2024.
- Total liabilities were \$4.5 million, a decrease of nearly \$3 million from the previous year.



Photo submitted

"Farragut Museum loves to welcome tour groups to the Museum," said Kristi Vining, Town historic resources coordinator. A PEO group from Farragut, Lenoir City and Knoxville recently visited the museum and was given tours by Museum volunteers Bill Rhodes and Stan Duke. Contact the Town at museum@townoffarragut.org or 865-218-3377 to schedule a tour group.

**Board**  
From page 1A

Alderman Joe LaCrox said he would like to have sidewalks installed in the parent responsibility zones; buildout of the new park near McFee

Road; completion of Turkey Creek Road improvements; a greenway on Concord Road, on the west side connecting to Biddle Farms at Town Center; full implementation of a dark fiber lease; decorative lighting in the Town Center near Con-

cord Road.

Vice Mayor Scott Meyer said he would like to see a stop light at Grigsby Chapel Road and St. John Court, sound barriers installed between Interstate 40 and the North Ward subdivisions.

**Golf**  
From page 1A

tential language that would be specific to such use at the workshop session in November, the Planning Commission supported the idea of moving forward with ordi-

nance language."

Shipley noted the use would be restricted in scope: the space devoted to sports analysis must be limited in size, it would not include the sale of retail goods, food or alcohol and any noise must be contained using soundproofing

measures detailed in building or tenant space plans.

In other action, the Board voted to re-appoint Keith Alley as municipal judge. Alley was first appointed as municipal judge in 2016 and has been reappointed each following year.

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# DISCOVER LOUDON COUNTY



## Ribbon cut on new orthopedics clinic

**Tammy Cheek**

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Loudon County Chamber of Commerce welcomed a new member to its fold as it held a ribbon cutting for the new Covenant Health Fort Loudon Orthopedics. The ribbon cutting took place in late December at the facility, located at 401 Town Creek Road East, Suite 101, in Lenoir City.

"The Covenant group is a great Chamber member," LCCC president Rodney Grugin said. "I welcome all of them with open arms. They've been a great partner of the community for years, and I look forward to them being that way for many more years."

"We're delighted that Dr. Donald Sandercock joined our medical team," said Connie Martin, president/CEO of Fort Loudon Medical Center. "It allows us to continue with our commitment to this community — to expand services, bring in additional services, as well as additional specialties."

"Our community supports us in an amazing way, as does the Chamber of Commerce and our elected officials, so it is a blessing to serve in this community."

Sandercock is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon who completed his orthopedic residency at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. He received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri. His clinical interests include general orthopedic care and specialty areas such as hips, knees and shoulders.

He is accepting new patients.



**Tammy Cheek**

Dr. Donald Sandercock (with scissors) of Covenant Health Fort Loudon Orthopedic, flanked by Monty Scott (to Sandercock's left), president/chief administrative officer with Covenant Medical Group, and Connie Martin (to Sandercock's right), president/CEO of Fort Loudon Medical Center, cut the ribbon on the new facility in Lenoir City. Also joining them was City Council member Jim Shields, third from right.

## Big night for Iva's Place



**Tammy Cheek**

Friends, from left, Heather Hughes, Katrina Gravette, Jessica Hahn, Julie Lange and Susan White, gathered for a photo at the Heroes for Hope event.

**Tammy Cheek**

tcheek@farragutpress.com

The Loudon County community showed its support for Iva's Place, a domestic violence shelter, by turning out in force for Heroes for Hope, a fundraiser held at The Venue in Lenoir City Tuesday, Jan. 13.

The gala, which featured dinner along with silent and live auctions, not only raised

Sausage, added a fun twist to the evening by dressing in costume. Guest speakers were described as "local professionals joining a cause they believe in, to raise money for services to victims of domestic violence," Evans-Longmire said.

While proceeds are still being tallied, she emphasized, "All monies are used to support the Safe Haven Shelter of Iva's Place. Services include safe stays, food, clothing, trans-

**"We have people here who want to be a part of what we are doing."**

**~ Chris Evans-Longmire,**  
Iva's Place executive director

portation, replacement costs of birth certificates, Social Security cards, state-issued IDs, medications, diapers, wipes, baby

food, bottles, bedding, linens and water/electricity/security costs."

"So far, the feedback we have received has all been positive," she added. "Folks felt the environment was warm, friendly and truly dedicated to raising awareness and monies to provide services to victims of domestic violence."

Evans-Longmire said Heroes for Hope is an annual fund-raiser that began years ago as



**Photos Tammy Creek**

From left, Calvin Graham, Wesley Graham, Christopher Graham, Jill Graham and Lelia Graham.

## Brave crowd 'plunges' into 2026

Around 50 brave souls showed up for the joint Visit Loudon County and Visit Monroe County Polar Plunge, which took place at Vonore Boat Ramp in Monroe County Thursday, Jan. 1.

Keep Monroe County Beautiful volunteers kept participants and spectators warm with hot chocolate before and after the plunge.

The event started in 2018.

According to Jeff Rauch of



**Above left:** 80 year old plunger Bev Knobel. **Above right:** Julie Shue, left, and Jill Graham greet each other before they plunge.



Tellico Boaters Assistance Response Team, which was on hand if needed, the water's temperature was 48 degrees.

Of the participants, the youngest was 6-year-old Braden Bryum, and the oldest was Bev Knobel, 80.

## Greer's Home Furnishings



Rob McCoy, left, with Our Place, chats with Bo Carey, owner of Greer's Home Furnishings, during a Loudon County Chamber After Hours event hosted by Greer's Home Furnishings, 604 Grove St., Loudon, Tuesday, Jan. 13.

**Tammy Cheek**

**Iva's**  
From page 4A

"Hunks in Heels" and was rebranded this year. Iva's Place, she noted, offers immediate assistance to victims of domestic violence.

"Victims in need of sheltering can call our office and request assistance," she said. "Sometimes we are contacted by hospitals, law enforcement or other domestic violence shelters on behalf of people in need."

Services include safe haven sheltering, advocacy, accompaniment to service providers, legal advocacy and assistance in securing housing, benefits and medical services. The organization also provides parenting classes, budgeting,

meal planning and education on domestic violence. Clients may also be connected with treatment centers and church or NA/AA meetings if recovering from addiction.

"This past year, we provided shelter to almost 100 women

and children," Evans-Longmire said. "All of the cases are bad — just different degrees of pain and harm."

Donations to Iva's Place can be made online at [www.ivasplace.org](http://www.ivasplace.org) or by calling 865-986-1505.

# EXPLORE

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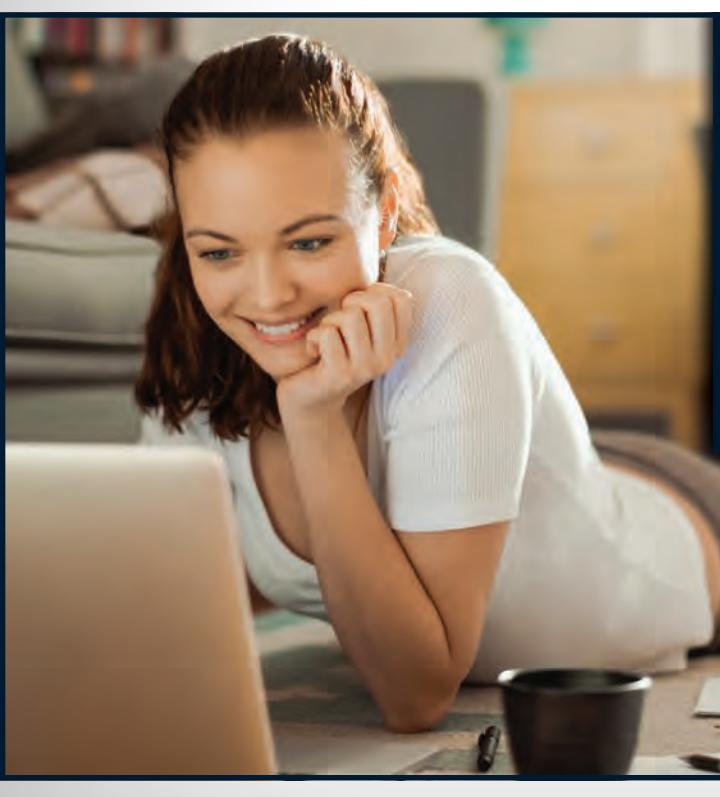
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**farragutpress**

## Provisions offers unique, quality apparel, gifts for all

**Tammy Cheek**

tcheek@farragutpress.com

A new family business has started the new year opening in Aspen Square in Farragut.

Kevin and April Cook, along with their daughter, Ashley Beck, have opened Provisions at 11110 Kingston Pike, Suite 150, bringing their family-owned lifestyle outfitter and boutique to Town.

The Cooks have been in business since 2010 in Florida.

But, "we bought a house here in Farragut over a year ago," Kevin said. "[Florida is] where April lives now with our two sons, Alex and David. They are taking care of that family business in Florida [that] is actually up for sale."

After Beck and her husband moved to Farragut, the Cooks visited and fell in love with the Town as well.

"After prayer and the Lord telling us it was time to move here, we bought a house here," Kevin said.

The name, Provisions, "came from the Lord, actually," Kevin said. "Our shop down in Florida was called Coastal Paddle Company, then we had the South Outfitters. We had those since 2010, then we moved here we prayed about keeping the name ... provisions was the name given. Really, it tells the story of how God has provided for our family."

The Farragut Provisions store carries men's and women's apparel, accessories, gifts and one-of-a-kind items, Beck said, with Kevin adding the fab-

rics are hand-picked to be comfortable and high-quality.

"We have [greeting] cards, Tyler and Capri Blue candles and cozy Bearfoot Dreams blankets, robes and socks," she said. "Then we have our custom line of candles, a Farragut with the zip code, and we have a Knoxville candle, too."

"This is our exclusive brand," Beck said, referring to the Farragut and Knoxville candles. "No one else in the area can carry it."

"It's a hand-poured soy candle," Kevin said. "It's got a long burn time."

The shop also carries University of Tennessee merchandise, as well as Vols, Rocky Top and Smoky Mountain candles.

Additionally, "we've also got Ho-

sanna Revival Bibles, journals, prayer journals and notebooks," Kevin said.

"Hosanna is exclusive to the area," Beck added. "They're beautiful."

The shop also carries Farragut and Knoxville custom short-sleeved and long-sleeved T-shirts and sweatshirts which feature coordinates that match their store's location.

Customers also will find silk pillow cases; Poppy popcorn; Tap to Pray, a line of Christian wearable accessories using NFC technology to deliver a Bible verse; jigsaw puzzles; and novelty items.

The store is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

For more information, call the shop, 865-288-0939.

## Apex Bank invests in Farragut market

**Tammy Cheek**

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Apex Bank has made Farragut one of its most recent branch homes with a new branch at 11916 Kingston Pike.

The bank acquired two locations — one in Farragut and one in Bearden — from HomeTrust Bank in May 2025.

"We are excited to expand our local presence and bring Apex Bank's full range of community banking services to the Farragut area," said Mike Thomas, senior vice president and head of retail banking for Apex Bank. "We have operated in Knoxville since 2020 with the opening of our South Knoxville location.

"With the dual opening of our Farragut and Bearden locations, as well as additional office openings in the future, we're thrilled to be able to provide more locations to better serve our customers," he said.

"We chose Farragut because it's a thriving community with strong local businesses, engaged residents and a growing economy," Thomas said. "It is a perfect fit with our community-first approach.

"Being locally headquartered in Knoxville and already deeply rooted in the region helps us better understand the needs of our neighbors here," he said. "We want to be right here with you, providing per-

sonalized service that larger banks often can't match."

Reflecting on its unique traits, Thomas said, "What sets Apex Bank apart is our community-focused mindset.

"We practice transformational, not transactional banking," he said. "We're not just here to service accounts; we're here to build relation-

**"We chose Farragut because it's a thriving community with strong local businesses, engaged residents and a growing economy,"**

**~ Mike Thomas,**  
senior vice  
president and head  
of retail banking

ships, help people reach their financial goals and support the growth of our community.

"We've been recognized [by Independent Community Bankers of America] as the No. 1 community bank in Tennessee and one of the top in the nation for performance for the last 10 years, which shows our dedication to both financial strength and service excellence," Thomas said.

"At Apex Bank, we offer a full range of personal and business financial services,"



**Tammy Cheek**

Apex Bank branch manager Ron Lee, left, universal banker Kaycey Shreve and senior commercial lender Brandon Hackett welcomed Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members to the bank when it hosted FWKCC's networking Thursday, Dec. 4, at the bank, 11916 Kingston Pike, Farragut.

he said. "Whether you're looking for a checking or savings account, a loan, CD, Money Market account or numerous other financial products, Apex Bank has a solution.

"Our CASA division works to provide Spanish-speaking residents the opportunity to own their homes through our ITIN mortgage lending process," Thomas said. "We also offer financial education resources to help our community make smart money decisions and grow their financial knowledge.

"We offer support through

knowledgeable staff who care about your financial success and an online platform to give you easy access," he added. "All of our accounts are FDIC insured.

"We want Farragut residents to know that Apex Bank is here for you, not just as a bank, but as a neighbor and partner," Thomas said. "We believe in supporting local communities, not just financially but through involvement, education and meaningful relationships.

"Whether you're opening your first account, buying a

home, growing your business or planning for the future, we're ready to help," he said. "Our focus is on community growth, personalized service and financial empowerment for everyone we serve. We look forward to meeting you, learning about your goals and being a trusted resource right here in Farragut."

Apex Bank in Farragut is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. It can be reached at 865-342-0006, and its website address is apexbank.com.

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Courtesy Jack Tate

Farragut girls basketball coach Jason Mayfield, who reached his 300th victory, Friday, Jan. 23, with the Admirals win over Oak Ridge.

## Lady Admirals deliver win no. 300

**Ken Lay**  
Correspondent

Jason Mayfield celebrated a career milestone Friday night.

Mayfield, Farragut High School's veteran girls basketball coach, captured his 300th career win as the Lady Admirals toppled Oak Ridge, 55-35, before a spirited crowd at FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium.

It was a landmark victory for Mayfield but he didn't take all the credit.

"This just means that I've been doing this a long time and I've had some really good players, too," he said.

Early on, it appeared Mayfield and the Lady Admirals might not be able to celebrate as the young Lady Wildcats got off to a fast start out of the gate and held a slim 16-13 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

But in the second stanza, Farragut's defense found another gear and surrendered just two points and outscoring Oak Ridge, 12-2, over that eight-minute stretch and opening a 25-18 advantage by halftime.

The Lady Wildcats' only offense was a field goal by Evaiya Mitchell, who led Oak Ridge with 10 points in the game.

"We got off to a little bit of a slow start," Mayfield said.

Following the lethargic beginning, the Lady Admirals (18-7 overall, 7-1 in District 4-4A) began to methodically pull away and eventually establish control of the contest as they got an offensive spark from a player seeing her first significant playing time coming off an injury.

Meanwhile, the Lady Wildcats (6-12, 3-5) suffered a blow when post player

Alani Mitchell went down with a lower body injury and didn't return.

"They had an injury and I'm sure that hurt them," Mayfield said. "And we just got a player back from injury."

Gabbie VanAcker was playing her first real minutes since she was injured and she came in and hit three big 3's for us and that was big."

VanAcker finished the contest with 11 points and was part of a balanced scoring attack for the Lady Admirals, who led, 43-25, by the end of the third frame.

Farragut's KJ McNealy had a game-high 14 points for Farragut. Lilly Mullins added seven points. Zoe Porter had six and Trinity Curry finished with five for the Lady Admirals, who edged Hardin Valley Academy, 50-47, on the road on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

*Ads rally to clip wildcats*

**Ken Lay**  
Correspondent

In overcoming a 10-point second-quarter deficit, Farragut High School boys basketball team captured arguably its biggest win of the season Friday night.

The victory now has the Admirals' perched in second place in the District 4-4A standings behind Kingston Pike rival Bearden.

Farragut notched a comeback win against Oak Ridge, prevailing against the Wildcats, 73-67, before a packed and spirited house at FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium and handing Oak Ridge its third consecutive loss.

Oak Ridge (11-9 overall, 4-4 in the district) got off to a fast start, opening a 22-

See ADS on Page 3B

## Halls halts Farragut

**Ken Lay**  
Correspondent

### Halls/Crossroads

Farragut Middle School's girls basketball team saw its 2025-26 season come to an end last week with a loss in the Knox County Middle School Conference Class AAA Tournament quarterfinals.

The Lady Admirals endured a rough second quarter on its way to suffering a season-ending 33-24 loss to Halls on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at

See HALLS on Page 3B

## Hazelbaker throws a haymaker

### Webb guard keys win over Catholic

**Jake Nichols**  
jnjchols@farragutpress.com

**KNOXVILLE** — For weeks, last Thursday's Catholic-Webb boys game had been primed as a potential Game of the Year candidate.

All the factors were there: a packed crowd, teams filled with high-profile recruits and plenty of notable attendees. In other words, it was the basketball version of a heavyweight bout.

And Webb guard Brayden Hazelbaker threw the biggest punches of the night.

The Maryville transfer poured in 35 points, 18 in the first quarter alone, to lead the Spartans in a 78-



Jake Nichols

Webb guard Brayden Hazelbaker (4) celebrates with teammate Owen Lentz (0) after nailing a layup in the late moments of the Spartans' win over Knox Catholic on Thursday, Jan. 22, at Knoxville Catholic High School.

*Bulldogs blaze past hawks*

**Dan Harrelson**  
Correspondent

Bearden (17-3) won a home district girls basketball game, 65-34, versus Hardin Valley Academy on Jan. 23.

The Lady Bulldogs were led by senior guard Emma Rainey. She led all scorers with 17 points. Senior guard Natalya Hodge also scored 15 points, while junior guard Riley Hunt totaled 14 points for Bearden.

Hodge signed with Missouri and head coach Kellie Harper on Oct. 12, 2025. Harper played for the Lady Vols from 1995-99, winning three national championships (1996-98) under Pat Summitt. She also served as Tennessee's women's basketball head coach from 2019-24, compiling a 108-52 (53-24 SEC) record. Harper led the Lady Vols to four NCAA Tournament appearances in five sea-

See BULLDOGS on Page 3B



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# Bearden's guards fire up 24th win

Dan Harrelson  
Correspondent

Bearden boys basketball improved its record to 24-1 in the 2025-26 season. The Bulldogs defeated Hardin Valley Academy, 79-48, on Jan. 23.

Bearden was led by four guards who combined for 56 points against the Hawks.

Senior guard Sean Capshaw led Bearden in scoring with 19 points. Junior guard Brendan Murphy also scored 17 points for the Bulldogs while senior guard Justin Nordin finished with 13 points and senior guard Carson Asbaty had seven points.

"They are a real cohesive group," Bearden head coach Jeremy Parrott said. "They work well and play well together. We have a really good culture."

"The strength is our perimeter play. We have several guys who can put it in the hole and defend at a high level. When you have size and strength at the perimeter position, it's always a good recipe. If you could choose between an overly big team of posts or great guards, you're going to pick guards about every time."

The Bulldogs' only loss this season was by three points to St. Thomas Aquinas from Fort Lauderdale, Florida on Dec. 29, 2025. The neutral-site matchup was contested in Bristol, Tennessee.

"We played three ranked teams in the tournament in Bristol," Parrott said. "One was Calvary Baptist out of Shreveport, Louisiana. St. Thomas Aquinas beat us by three points, and then we played North Mecklenburg out of the Charlotte area. We won two out of three against good regional or national competition. That's really good that you get into those fights because it will pay off later."

**Jake Nichols**  
Christian Academy of Knoxville's Maddie Braden (3) leaps for a rebound against Concord Christian Academy on Friday, Jan. 23, at Christian Academy of Knoxville.

## CAK programs rout CCS on Senior Night

**Jake Nichols**  
jnjichols@farragutpress.com

**KNOXVILLE** — On Jan. 6, both Christian Academy of Knoxville basketball teams picked up district wins over Concord Christian School — though each one came by single digits.

Seventeen days later, on Friday, Jan. 23, each Warrior program flipped the script on Senior Night.

Abby Williams' girls program won 55-27, a stark contrast to their 54-47 win over the same CCS team a couple weeks prior. And, J.D. Johnson's Warriors ran away with an 80-40 victory after beating CCS 54-50 in the previous matchup.

In the girls' game, Lexi Hammock led CAK with 15 points while Maddie Braden totaled 12 for the Warriors.

Emory Thomas paced Concord with 7 points, and Kiran Keeton and Brooklyn Brown scored 6 each.

Hammock did go down with a right ankle injury at the 5:21 mark of the fourth quarter, as she moved around on crutches after the game with her lower leg wrapped in ice.

"Obviously she's an integral part of our program and who we are," Williams said of Hammock. "She rolled her ankle a couple times this year, so we are hopeful it's just a sprain."

The CAK girls coach added her team did a good job of set-



ting the tempo, especially on a Senior Night that celebrated Colie Thompson and Sophie Carroll.

"This was definitely a more collective effort, and we were locked in on the defensive end," Williams said.

Going forward, CAK will look to continue its push toward a return to the Division II-A state tournament as they are no strangers to that stage.

"How you play and practice is preparing you for what you want," Williams noted. "We've been fortunate to make those runs, but they're not guaranteed. The work we do over the next few weeks will prepare us for that."

In the boys matchup, Foster Coleman scored 24 points for CAK with 23 for Rio Curry. Meanwhile, Cole Piers added 14 points off four second-half triples, and Kohbe Ward and Nolen Miller led CCS with 17 and 13 points, respectively.

Curry is one of several younger players on the CAK roster, though head coach J.D. Johnson was quick to note their improvement since the team's previous win over CCS.

"We've improved a lot, and we've got some young kids we're really relying on," Johnson said. "Sometimes there can be some inconsistency with that, but they can get a lot better really fast, too."

# Vining leads Ads past HVA

**Jake Nichols**  
jnjichols@farragutpress.com

**HARDIN VALLEY** — Coming into last week, the Farragut boys basketball team looked to shake off the previous week's rivalry loss to Bearden.

The Admirals did that in a big way, dispatching Hardin Valley 81-61 for a district win on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

The win kept FHS in the running for second place as they ran away from a Hardin Valley team that had beaten Oak Ridge 70-63 just a few days prior.

"Coach (Andy) Arendt and his team had a massive win Friday, so I had a lot of concern about where we would be because they've played so well at home lately," Farragut coach J.P. Burris said. "But we had a good start and the guys really responded to practice well on Sunday and Monday. Our guys knew what was on the line, and

this was a big one."

Reid Vining led Farragut with a career-high 29 points while Parker Lane totaled 25 on the night.

Meanwhile, Mike Fritts scored 17 points for HVA with Kymani Smith at 16 points and Kristian Oliver with 12 points.

Vining's night started early, as he poured in 13 points in the first quarter alone.

"In the first half, they really didn't double-team me as much," Vining said. "So I just went up and over, trying to play off two and go up strong."

The team fed off his approach, pulling ahead 25-10 at the first-quarter mark with a 50-21 lead at the halftime break.

That theme continued through the second half, as Vining's hot start set the tone for a district rout.

"I love it," Vining said. "The adrenaline of a game, it's one of the biggest reasons I play."

## McNealy magic: Lady Ads beat HVA in 2OT thriller

**Jake Nichols**  
jnjichols@farragutpress.com

— including a pair of clutch 3-pointers to force the first and second overtimes.

"I missed the free throws, so I knew I had to make up for it in some way," McNealy said with a smile. "I know they all trust me to shoot, and Trinity (Curry) set some great screens to get me open."

Reagan Sheridan added 14 points for the Lady Admirals while Audrey Riehn and Holly Lindsey scored 15 and 14 points, respectively for the Lady Hawks.

"That's what we need from Reagan every night," Farragut girls coach Jason Mayfield said. "She was really good at attacking and can shoot the ball too. Her attacking the rim and slashing is really big for

See MCNEALY on Page 3B

# Downhill the Rest of the Way

It was day three of an intense backpacking trip through Yosemite. My friends and I were exhausted and ready to set up camp for the night, but knew we needed to persevere for just a few more miles to keep up with our scheduled route.

My friend Peyton, holding the trail map, said confidently:

"Don't worry guys. Just around this bend, it's downhill the rest of the way."

This was an encouraging comment; however, I had already heard him make this remark two other times. And *both times*, we somehow found ourselves gaining more elevation. I knew better than placing my hope in this statement a third time. To nobody's surprise, we went around the bend, and again: the trail in front of us continued going up.

We had been depending on this map for several days, but it only told part of the story. It was reliable for general directions, but not for understanding elevation changes.

In a similar way, there are financial roadmaps *everywhere*. And many of them can be useful.

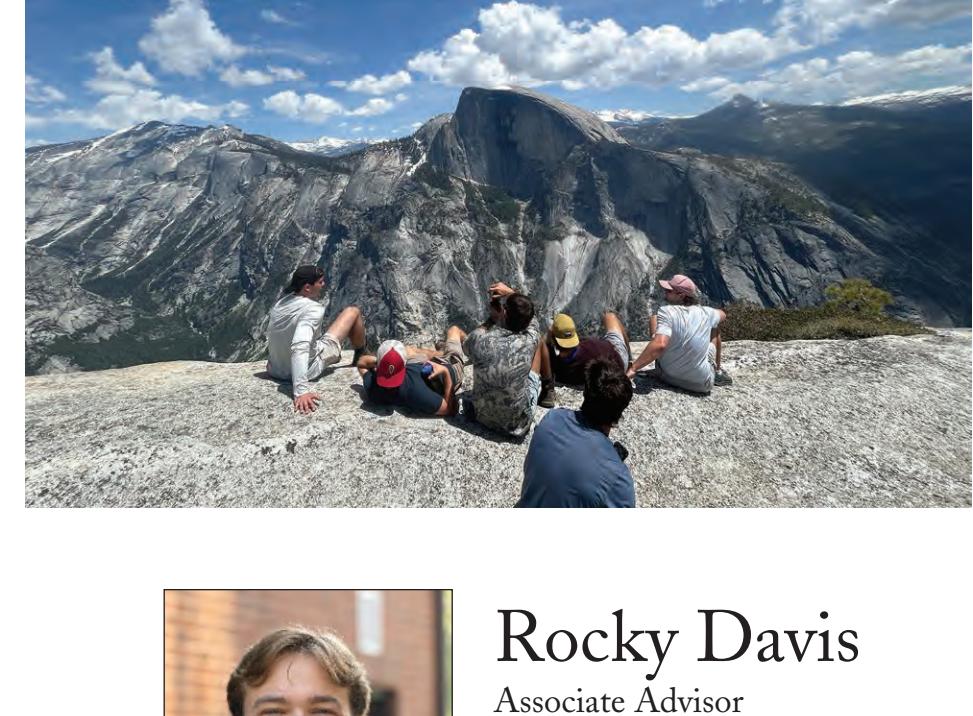
However, they can't tell the full story.

Whether it be a bestselling book, a helpful podcast, or a news segment — the part of the story they can't tell is your story. The renowned author doesn't know how important it is for you to support your children through college. The podcast hosts can't see your specific healthcare needs. The news anchor giving investment advice doesn't understand your risk tolerance.

There are so many great financial literacy resources out there, but they can only get you so far.

Looking back, if my friends and I wanted to know all the ins and outs of our trip, we could have really used a guide. A guide who has seen the trail before would know how to answer our questions. They would know how to turn a map of general directions into personal, detailed help.

At Rather & Kittrell, we're not only interested in providing clients with a roadmap; we want to be our clients' personal financial guide. When hard decisions need to be made, when seasons of life change, and when difficult questions are being asked, we come alongside our clients and provide personalized planning that goes beyond general advice.



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**Halls****From page 1B**

Halls Middle School.

The contest was a close affair out of the gate with the Lady Devils manufacturing just enough offense to open a slim 9-7 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

In the second stanza, things came unraveled for the Lady

Admirals as they scored just two points during that six-minute span.

After halftime, the two teams played evenly and Farragut even outscored the Lady Devils, 9-6, in the fourth quarter; but it was too little, too late for Farragut against Halls, the league's Class AAA East Division Champion.

Lady Admirals' first-year

head coach Whitney Lee said the loss at Halls was frustrating.

"It's always tough when you lose what you think is a winnable game," Lee said. "I got this team in the summer and consistency is something that we've talked a lot about."

"I think we were playing our best basketball at the end of the season."

**Ads****From page 1B**

14 lead by the end of the first quarter. The Wildcats continued to hold the upper hand early in the second stanza as they began the frame with a flourish and extended their advantage to 31-21 midway through the quarter.

The Admirals (16-7, 6-2),

however, would respond and close out the first half with a 10-0 run, knotting the contest, 31-31, by halftime. The Admirals pulled even when Britton Lewis knocked down a 3-point shot inside the final minute of the first half.

Farragut built upon the momentum of its second quarter surge, and while the third frame was a back-and-forth battle, the Admirals did just

enough to open a 54-50 advantage by the end of the third quarter. From there, FHS never trailed again. The game, however, was tied twice in the fourth quarter. The last deadlock came with 3 minutes, 34 seconds left in the game when Ja'Rell Jemerson scored, making it, 62-62.

The Ads then closed out the contest with an 11-6 run to seal their victory.

**Bulldogs****From page 1B**

sons. The 2020 NCAA Tournament was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Junior guard Riley Hunt also scored 10-plus points for Bearden, scoring 14 against

the Hawks. Senior center Katie Foster recorded eight points in the contest for the Lady Bulldogs.

Sophomore Emma Rhoden was Hardin Valley's leader with eight points against Bearden. Sophomore Alaina Lineberry also scored six

points, leading an Irish team that also saw 18 from Michigan signee Malachi Brown.

Together, they delivered Catholic's best response—and the Spartans answered.

Hazelbaker matched Murphy's first layup with one of his own, then connected on a

points for Hardin Valley Academy while sophomore Gracie Edwards finished with five points.

Sarah Galloway, Holly Lindsey and Audree Riehn scored four points each for the Hawks at Bearden.

jumper off an in-bounds pass while drawing a foul. Finally, South Dakota State signee Cam Swearengen (19 points) hit a pair of free-throws to make the score 76-73, and Webb's Alex Leeth jammed a two-handed dunk at the buzzer for good measure.

**Webb****From page 1B**

Eastern Kentucky signee Cade Murphy was the catalyst, hitting two layups with a pair of free-throws in-between to electrify the audience. He wound up finishing with 19

**Admirals****From page 1B**

er semifinal tilt.

Time and site for the championship contest were not available at press time and will be determined when Knox County students return to school following the weekend's winter storm. Classes were canceled on Monday, Jan. 26, due

to inclement weather.

Farragut coach Shane Wells said the title game likely would be contested the day the students return to school.

In Friday's game, Farragut had its share of offensive woes but still managed to come out on top against Powell, a team that is traditionally among one of the county's best squads.

**McNealy****From page 2B**

us and she did a good job of it."

McNealy opened the game with back-to-back 3-pointers, but Hardin Valley responded with a 13-1 run before carrying a 21-13 lead into halftime.

FHS came out firing in the third quarter, as a Jayna Carbaugh triple got the team roll-

ing. From there they whittled the home squad's lead to four at the end of the third quarter, then tied the score in the fourth before McNealy hit a triple at the seven-second mark to tie the score at 37 and force OT.

She hit another with 10 seconds left in the first overtime, forcing yet another extra period before Farragut emerged with the win.

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As Knoxville continues to grow, the Y remains a steady space for health, purpose, and community. This is a call to support what brings us together and invest in places that help us all thrive.

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TOWN  
SAMPLER

# Mayor reflects

Williams discusses decade of change

Tammy Cheek

[tcheek@farragutpress.com](mailto:tcheek@farragutpress.com)

Nearly 10 years into his service to the Town, Farragut Mayor Ron Williams said the job has centered on steady improvement—often slow, sometimes frustrating, but measurable.

"My job was to roll up my sleeves and get to work on fixing everything that needed to be fixed," Williams said of his time in office.

As he approaches the end of his term in August 2026, the mayor said there still are projects he hopes to see completed.

"There's things I'd like to see done before I'm gone," he said. "But everything has to go through the public discussion."

Williams was first elected in 2016 as an alderman, then two years later, he was elected mayor in 2018. His first task was the corner of Kingston Pike and Campbell Station Road.

"There's been a lot done in the past 10 years," Williams said, reflecting on what the Town looked like when he first took office.

He credited former Vice Mayor Louise Povlin, now a Farragut Municipal Planning Commission member, with focusing on ordinances and zoning reforms while he concentrated on roads and building improvements.

"I worked on the building portion of it and the roads," Williams said. "When we were first elected, we had 16 substandard roads. Now, what we have left is four, and two of those have been partially done; one of them is under way and another has a grant to fix it."

He said once work on Union Road, Virtue Road, Boyd Station Road and Boring Road is completed, only one substandard roadway will remain fully within Town limits—Alan Kirby Road.

"[Alan Kirby Road] will be worked on when they do the next portion of the Bridge more subdivision," Williams said.

Part of Dixon Road also lies within Town boundaries.

Currently, the Town plans to use eminent domain to obtain slope easements needed to improve Union Road.

"We're not trying to take



Jake Nichols

Farragut Mayor Ron Williams reflects on his years in office.

anybody's property," Williams said. "We just need a slope easement to fix Union Road, and there's a grant for that."

He noted the project has been in progress for nearly eight years.

"Any time you're dealing with the [Tennessee Department of Transportation and grants, you can't get in a hurry," Williams said.

Virtue Road is expected to follow.

"It's coming up right behind Union," he said.

Williams said work along

Boyd Station Road tied to the Saddlebrook development is complete, though it has not yet passed inspection.

Another major project completed during his tenure was the Advanced Traffic Management System, which upgraded and interconnected traffic signals throughout the Town in 2025.

Williams also reflected on how Farragut's commercial corridors have changed.

"If I went to the corner of

See **MAYOR** on Page 8B

Tennessee  
Scholars Bowl  
airs new season

Staff Reports

[editor@farragutpress.com](mailto:editor@farragutpress.com)

A new season begins for Tennessee Scholars Bowl, which started airing Monday, Jan. 12.

An exciting academic tournament showcasing students from 44 high schools across East Tennessee and Southeast Kentucky, Tennessee Scholars' Bowl began broadcasting its 42nd season, according to Frank Murphy, the host and head-writer of Tennessee Scholars' Bowl. New episodes will air weekdays at 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time on East Tennessee PBS through March 19.

"Tennessee Scholars' Bowl features students from public, private, parochial and home schools in Anderson, Blount, Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, McMinn, Monroe, Roane, Scott, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington counties in Tennessee, as well as Whitley County in Kentucky," Murphy said.

He explained teams of four students answer questions in literature, language, math, science, art, geography, music, sports, history, religion and other subjects. "Each game is a single-elimination match," Murphy said. "Winning teams advance through the bracket."

See **BOWL** on Page 7B

## Concord UMC helps neighbors in times of need

Tammy Cheek

[tcheek@farragutpress.com](mailto:tcheek@farragutpress.com)

Concord Methodist Church was on a mission this month with a bevy of 25 projects to help its community during its 12th Annual Mission Blitz.

"It's a way to honor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of serving," CUMC missions director Jane Currin said. "We had 27 projects going on from Friday, Jan. 16, to Monday, Jan. 19."

"We want to love and serve our neighbors, and a response to Jesus' love for us, we encourage our members to participate in serving and helping us love our community," she said.

While 500 signed up, more

people came to lend a hand.

"[Friday] night, we had 97 people here, sorting and bagging sweet potatoes for the crop drop, and we had 18 here decorating spider plant pots and gifts for nurses at East Tennessee Children's Hospital," Currin said. "They're making Valentine's Day cards for [the nurses] later this weekend."

"We packed 40,000 pounds of sweet potatoes into 10-pound bags, and they're going to 47 pantries and feeding ministries in eight counties and a place in Kentucky," the director said.

For the children at ETCH, volunteers made a craft activity bag and hygiene toiletry kits.

"Lots of times kids who come

in don't have anything, so they give them a little brush, toothbrush, shampoo and a small deodorant," Currin said. "Just those small necessities you need when you end up some place unexpected. The hospital can't afford to provide those things anymore so we make those kits."

A new project the church included is a wheelchair drive hosted Saturday, Jan. 17, at The Thrift Store, 8843 Kingston Pike. The community was invited to donate new or gently used mobility equipment to support individuals with disabilities locally and around the world.

"This project was made pos-

See **CUMC** on Page 7B



Tammy Cheek

Volunteer Terry Owen cuts a board to make a picnic table at Concord UMC.

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# obituary

**Harold Wayne Sellars**, 83, of Farragut, passed away January 3, 2026, after leading a beautiful life devoted to Christ, his family and his country. The youngest of eight children, he was born in Erwin, Tennessee on November 16, 1942. He met his sweetheart, Jeanne Evans, in first grade. They married June 26, 1965.

A proud Vietnam War Veteran of the United States Air Force from 1964 to 1968, Wayne served a tour of duty at Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand. He was honorably discharged as Staff Sergeant.

Wayne was a graduate of East Tennessee State University with a degree in Marketing. He was an investment advisor with Nationwide Retirement Solutions serving as Area Director for the Central and East Tennessee areas.

Wayne's patriotic loyalty to America, his steadfast com-

mitment to conservatism and volunteer service to his community span over 65 years. Along with his father-in-law, Hassel Evans, he organized the Concord Farragut Republican Club in 1986 and his dedicated service to the club continued until his death. He was a life member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1078, and served on the Board of Directors for Teen Board of Knoxville. Wayne was a member of Concord United Methodist Church.

Wayne's greatest enjoyment was spending invaluable time with his family. He was involved with his grandson's activities in baseball, martial arts and their shared love of University of Tennessee sports. He was never one to miss out on a Big Orange Football tailgate party!

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, John He-

non and Winnie Sellars, three sisters and four brothers. He cherished his fond memories of them and enjoyed sharing humorous family stories.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Jeanne Sellars. They have shared a marriage of faith, devotion and love for over sixty years. He was so proud to be "Daddy" to his surviving daughter, Tracy Sellars Kiumarsi, married to Kaivon. Also surviving is his extraordinary treasure and favorite topic of conversation, his grandson, Kaicy Sellars Kiumarsi, to whom he delightedly answered as "Pappy."

Heartfelt gratitude and



Sellars

thankfulness are extended to Farragut Rural Metro first responders and Park West Critical Care Unit for their compassion and care.

Funeral Services were held on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at Click Funeral Home – Farragut Chapel in Knoxville, TN. A graveside service with full military honors was held on Sunday, January 11, 2026, at Pleasant Forest Cemetery in Knoxville, TN.

Wayne Sellars Pallbearers are:

Kaicy Sellars Kiumarsi, Mark Caldwell, Nate Ogle, Bill Johns, Hal Robertson, Dylan Robertson, George Heaton, Alan Young, Joe Hollingsworth.

Honorary Pallbearers are:

Tyrell Anders, Art Thompson, DeWitt Ingram, Paul "Red Man" Souder, Millard Day.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Volunteer State Honor Guard. CHECKS should be mailed to Dave Caldwell, 6304 Sky Song Lane, Knoxville, Tennessee 37914 with a note stating it is in memory of Wayne Sellars. Also, memorials may be made to the Disabled American Veterans online at <https://www.dav.org>.

Wayne's family and friends have received abundant blessings through his devotion, dedication, humor, service, and love. He will always remain in our hearts as heaven gains another cherished veteran.

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### farragutpress is now accepting political profile submissions for the 2026 election cycle.

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.

- Each candidate may submit one profile, and the written content should be 400 words or fewer.
- One photograph may accompany the profile.
- While the newspaper will not alter the substance or message of submitted profiles, it reserves the right to make spelling and grammar corrections as needed / AP style.
- All submissions will be reviewed by the Publisher prior to print deadlines to ensure they meet established standards.
- Candidates need to provide contact information with their submission in case clarification or follow-up is necessary.

**Candidates may email their political profiles to [editor@farragutpress.com](mailto:editor@farragutpress.com)**

*Deadline for profiles is Friday by 12 p.m. prior to the following week's publication.*

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Fax: (865) 966-2072

Email: [newcovenant@newcovenantbc.com](mailto:newcovenant@newcovenantbc.com)

Website: [www.newcovenantbc.com](http://www.newcovenantbc.com)

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**Mayor**  
From page 6B

Kingston Pike and Campbell Station Road, what I saw was an abandoned gas station on one corner," he said. "On the other corner was a Ruby Tuesday's and Silver Spoon where the roof had caved in. It was abandoned."

That area is now home to new restaurants and retail, including a Starbucks center, while the former gas station site is now occupied by 35 North.

Nearby, the historic Russell-Avery house — now the Campbell Station Inn — had been deteriorating, he said.

"That's what the center of our town looked like," Williams said.

"Back behind the bank on Concord Road, on the Biddle property, you had a burnt-down barn," he said. "If you went on up Kingston Pike, on the opposite side of the road, back behind Century 21, you

had an old millworks ... the roof had caved in on that, and if you walked inside of it, there was a water line about 4 feet up along the wall where it flooded ... They just never went back in and fixed it. In the meantime, the roof caved in on it."

This past year, a property owner filled in the area and now a tire store and oil change business is being built in that location, the mayor noted.

"Before [the owner] filled it in, it was probably about 10 feet lower," Williams said.

Along Kingston Pike, the West End Center was renovated and reached full occupancy, and a former BP station site became a Tire Discounters. The old U.S. Golf property on North Campbell Station Road was redeveloped into a storage facility.

"Now, if you went the other direction, ... you saw an old Ingle's that had a Dollar Store in it," he recalled. "If you walked in the Dollar Store, they had nine buckets sitting around on the floor because the roof was leaking in nine different places."

es. Then, the rest of [the old part of the shopping center] was abandoned.

"So, what we had there was we had 13 empty buildings," Williams said. Additionally, "We had three burned-down houses, two of them in Fox Den and one down on Virtue Road. We had a burned-down barn on Concord Road. We had an old Kroger's that was abandoned ... the kids were spray painting cuss words on it. Then you had the old Ingle's that was falling down within itself."

Today, he said, those proper-

ties have largely been cleared or redeveloped. The old Kroger site was demolished and replaced with Town Center apartments and additional townhomes under construction. Two of the burned homes in Fox Den have been rebuilt, though the Virtue Road property remains vacant.

During that time, the town also purchased and restored the Russell-Avery house, converting it into the Campbell Station Inn and a visitor center, and built Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza around it.

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, at its meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2026, adopted the following ordinance on second and final reading:

a. ORDINANCE 26-01, an Ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 General Fund and Capital Investment Program Fund Budget, Passed by Ordinance 25-10.

*It is the policy of the Town of Farragut not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national 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 93-312 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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