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Ordinance rewrite heads back for review

Tammy Cheek
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A draft proposal to update the Town of Farragut's home occupation ordinance is expected to head back to the ad hoc committee for further consideration.

After a lengthy discussion and hearing from ad hoc members during a workshop Thursday, Feb. 19, the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission took no action on the proposed ordinance. However, several members recommended sending it back to the committee.

"A lot of people — on the streets, emails and phone calls — asked what happened," said Brian Walker, who served on the ad hoc committee. "We started off with a lot of people, and unfortunately by the last meeting, everyone left except myself, Alderman [Alex] Cain and [resident] Don Mann.

"There were three of us operating as a com-

mittee," he said. "That was unfortunate. I want to note the last meeting we had was June 2025."

After reviewing notes from the meetings, Walker said, "The trend we had with the committee was every objection, every suggestion we had was basically omitted or overlooked as we brought it in.

"We had questions; we had concerns about what was being shown," he said.

Walker cited a quote from Planning Commissioner Louise Povlin, who posted on Nextdoor that, from her perspective, "The ad hoc committee process broke down."

"I want to say the process didn't break down because the citizens involved in the process and the ad hoc committee did their job fighting back and pushing back on what was being pushed on by the Town," Walker said. "We gave our opin-

See BUSINESS on Page 8A

Neal: 'I'm really troubled by this concept'

Attorney raises concerns over agricultural rezoning proposal

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A new zoning district could be in the works as officials consider changes affecting property currently zoned Agricultural.

During a Farragut Municipal Planning Commission workshop Feb. 19, Community Development director Mark Shipley proposed modifying the Town's ordinance to provide estate-

lot regulations. The proposal prompted opposition from attorney John Neal, who spoke on behalf of resident Greg Wiberley.

"I'm really troubled by this concept," said Neal, of Neal Law Firm in Knoxville. "I grew up as a 4-H'er; I own a farm, so to me, the concept of agricultural zoning and the availability of farming is really important.

See NEAL on Page 4A



Tony Christen

Project location for a proposed roundabout along Watt Road, fronting the southern entrance to Mayor Bob Lenoir Park. Completion of the roundabout is still undetermined.



Jake Nichols

Visit Farragut hosted the 8th Annual Songwriters Showcase on Saturday, Feb. 21, at Wild Wing Café near Turkey Creek. Pictured onstage from left to right: Gary Gilleran, Mitch Townley, Karen Bowles and David Haley Lauver. **Below:** Musical notes filled the air Saturday night.

Songwriters showcase hits the right note

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

A billboard hung from the stage at Wild Wing Café last Saturday, Feb. 21, casting a glow onto multicolored streamers nearby. A neon sign hung in front of the streamers reflecting the same words plastered across the billboard: "Songwriters Showcase."

The words gave an easy descriptor for the four local musicians who belted out tunes as college basketball games played on televisions overhead.

Singer-songwriters Mitch Townley, Karen Bowles and David Haley Lauver delved into covers and original choices, each one accompanied by Gary Gilleran on harmonica.

This marked the eighth straight year for the songwriter's event, which is hosted by Visit Farragut.

Representatives from the organization set up a table near the stage, handing out free coozies throughout the night. There also were Songwriters Showcase pint glasses available for those who registered for the event, which was free to attend.

The showcase is held each year in conjunction with Tennessee Songwriters Week, which supports music venues and songwriters with all genres of music — thus inspiring travelers to experience musical venues and attractions across the state.

No venue in the state is more famous than the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, where Townley



took the stage in 2019, when his song "This Side of Sunday" won Inspirational Country Song of the Year from the Inspirational Country Music Association.

Seven years later, Townley joined his colleagues in a wide-ranging performance as part of the showcase.

The group ranged from a crowd favorite, "Sweet Caroline," to songs about candy and father-son relationships. There was even a catchy tune sung about the Town of Farragut right be-

See SONGWRITERS on Page 2A

Preliminary plans approved for Watt Road roundabout

Tammy Cheek
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Motorists traveling along North Watt Road can expect a roundabout at the southern entrance to Mayor Bob Leonard Park in the future.

The Farragut Municipal Planning Commission approved preliminary plans for the

roundabout at 301 N. Watt Road during its meeting Thursday, Feb. 19.

"This is a project that has been on our books for a couple of years," Town engineer Darryl Smith said. "The idea is it will slow traffic and create a safer entrance to the park.

"The roundabout will

also discourage heavy truck traffic that might be using Watt Road to avoid the truck scales on Interstate 40/75 just east of Watt Road," he added. "The proposed roundabout has an outer radius of 70 feet. For comparison, the roundabout at Northshore Drive and Concord Road has an outer radius of approxi-

mately 66 feet, and the roundabouts on McFee Road have a radius of approximately 50 feet."

"I think the other roundabouts that we have in Town are on two-lane roads, and this is on a three-lane road," Commissioner Jon Greene said. "North

See WATT on Page 4A



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Letter to the editor

I am writing to clear up some incorrect information that was shared in the farragutpress recently. The information confused two different concepts, namely road improvement projects undertaken by the Town as capital improvement projects and zoning laws that govern how citizens can use their property.

First, let's talk about roads. Road improvement projects are needed to keep our streets safe and provide pedestrians and bicyclists a safe place to travel without being hit by a car. The type of work done on a road depends on how much traffic it carries. You can see Farragut's Major Road Plan at townoffarragut.org/maps. The Town has maintained a single set of standards for sidewalks, grass strips, etc., that go with all road improvement projects. Recently, the Community Development Department has taken a closer look at some less-traveled roads to see if the standard improvements could be scaled down to better fit the character of each neighborhood. This will result in much narrower road designs with less impact on residents.

It's important to note that road design projects involve opportunities for public input from affected property owners, and there are no plans for a 25-foot grass strip or "taking" anyone's property. These are simply inaccurate statements.

The Town's zoning districts divide land into specific categories (like residential, commercial, agricultural, etc.) to regulate different kinds of

development that is allowed by the citizens who own the land. Each district has rules regarding land use, building height, density, etc., and regulations are enforced uniformly within each district. Zoning districts can be amended to encourage specific kinds of development, but amendments require a hearing and recommendation by the Municipal Planning Commission and a hearing and approval by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. As always, the public is invited to provide feedback at various points throughout this process.

Additionally, it's clear that there is still confusion about a possible amendment to the Town's Home Occupation Ordinance, which hasn't been amended in 20 years. The Town is still in the process of revising the ordinance. This is a good place to remind everyone that the best way to stay informed about any of these topics is to sign up to receive meeting agendas on the Agenda Portal at townoffarragut.org and/or attend meetings. Live meetings and recordings of past meetings are also available on the Agenda Portal.

Finally, I am proud that the Town has a clear process for traffic to address speeding in neighborhoods. Resident feedback is critical in these instances and it's important that we hear from each of you when making decisions about important safety improvements in our community.

**Town of Farragut
Mayor Ron Williams**

Songwriters

From page 1A

fore the break. That one drew a large round of applause, as Townley noted that plenty of family members and singer/songwriter friends from across the region showed up to support each person on stage. "Songwriting for us is all about the relationships we

have with one another," he said. "And playing somewhere like this is fantastic, having a big crowd here. It's very encouraging. Thank you to the Town of Farragut for putting this on for inviting us back. They could have gone with any other songwriters. But I think it has something to do with our rapport and our chemistry."

Correction

Democratic candidates running for Knox County Commissioner are Brandon Huckaby, District 3; William Cooper, District 7, Katina Sharp, Seat 10 at-large; Vivian Shipe, Seat 11 at large. Candidates running for Knox County School Board — not County Commission — are John Butler, OT Harris and Breyauna Holloway, District 1; Kat Bike, District 4; Cadence Collins, District 6; Amy Fenner, District 7; and Brandy Jenkins, District 9. The latter school board candidates were listed incorrectly in an article that ran on the front page in the Wednesday, Feb. 18, issue of the farragutpress. We regret the errors.

Police Reports

■ A vehicle fire was reported Feb. 9 on the 8100 block of Florence Gardens Road in North Knox County.

According to the Knox County Sheriff's Office, Rural Metro Fire Department responded to a report of a car fire inside a garage. Crews found an engine compartment fire and extinguished it. No injuries were reported, and the fire did not spread to the structure.

The owner of the vehicle told investigators he had started the vehicle and heard a pop before seeing smoke from the

engine compartment. The fire damaged the engine and hood of the 1968 Plymouth Road Runner and caused water damage to the interior.

The fire was determined to have originated from a probable fuel leak and was classified as accidental.

■ A West Knox County man reported identity theft Feb. 11 on the 11800 block of Cedar Bark Court.

The complainant told the Knox County Sheriff's Office that an unknown suspect used

his personal information for an identity verification check on an old Instagram account. He also believes someone attempted to access his email account using his information. The complainant said his information may have been exposed during a data breach at his credit union. The case remains under investigation.

■ A Farragut man reported a theft Feb. 12 at a restaurant on the 100 block of Biddle

See REPORTS on Page 3A

Alzheimer's Tennessee

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Names of individuals (including public figures) will not be published
Letter to the Editor rules: Must not exceed 400 words · Include name, address & telephone number to be verified
All Letters to the Editor from any citizen must have a minimum four-week period between publication
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 including threats, name-calling and foul language

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The cost is \$25 for the first 200 words and 25 cents for each additional word thereafter.
The cost to submit a photo is \$10. We only use thumbnail "head and upper chest" portrait photos.
The submission deadline for obituaries is 10 a.m. on Monday for that Wednesday edition.
Payment must be received by 10 a.m. on Tuesday for that Wednesday edition.
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Tragic crash on Kingston Pike

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Traffic stalled Tuesday afternoon following a crash occurring 1:33 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, at the intersection of Kingston Pike and Jamestowne Boulevard, which resulted in a fatality and an injury.

According to the accident report from Tennessee Highway Patrol, a 2015 Audi A5,

driven by Lidelle A. Bowling, 68, “was traveling eastbound on Highway 11 (Kingston Pike) and began a left turn onto Jamestowne Boulevard.”

Meanwhile, Austin D. Sanford, 22, driving a 2025 Honda Rebel, was “traveling westbound on Highway 11 (Kingston Pike). [Sanford] was traveling in the left lane, accelerated, moved into the right lane to pass a vehicle and swerved

back into the left lane,” the report stated.

“[Sanford]’s vehicle struck [Bowling’s Audi] and came to an uncontrolled rest at the point of impact,” according to the report. “[Bowling’s vehicle] came to a controlled rest on Jamestowne Boulevard.”

Sanford was reported as a fatality while Bowling was identified as injured.

For more see farragutpress.com



Tammy Cheek

“A Patriotic Log Cabin,” a queen-size quilt entered by Maryann Magra.

Quilts Stitch Together Farragut Showcase

Tammy Cheek
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Wedding rings, atomic starburst, VW Burst — 42 such quilts highlighted Town of Farragut’s Quilt Show, which took place in Farragut Community Center Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 21-22.

Presented by the Town’s Arts and Beautification Committee, the show featured thoughtful, sentimental and beautifully pieced works of fabric art.

Residents meandered along the displays last weekend to admire the entries. Among them, friends and fellow quilters, Betsy Tyler and Deb Stegner, enjoyed the show on Saturday.

“We met at a quilting class at Gina’s Bernina Quilt Shop about two years ago,” Stegner said. “I never quilted before.”

“We learned how to hand piece,” Tyler added. “We became friends and made my first quilt and Deb’s second.”

Since then, Stegner has made four quilts and Tyler has made two.

“This is fun to see,” Stegner

said about the show. “We look at how things are put together, the material used. It’s fun.”

The entries included works from Sandy Bumbalough, Jenni Craddick, Sharon Davis, Tammy Reed Doyle, Dottie Gololphin, Nancy Hulley, Alyssha Jenson, Erin Keegan, Cindy Lancaster, Maryann Magra, Ruth Anne Marsh, Sheri Ratliff, Elizabeth Rea, Sandra Rea, Jody M. Rickerson, Mary Salbach, Anna Seabolt, Jenny Trussell and Barbara Webster, as well as the Knoxville Modern Quilt Guild.

Ratliff’s quilt, “Vintage Tied-Tie Quilt,” was “made by my grandmother, possibly in the 1940s,” Ratliff stated in the program. “The center tie has the initial ‘B’ for her last name and my maiden name ‘Blanc.’ The silk ties are ‘crazy’ quilted, and it’s tied with yarn to secure the layers.”

“I had ‘sew’ much fun stitching this quilt together for my husband’s birthday,” Ratliff said about her “VW Bus” quilt. “He is a retired commercial contractor and started his career in a VW bus.”



Swinging Big

Why Simplicity Matters in Pickleball & Investing

I enjoy pickleball. So while on vacation recently, I showed up for open play, expecting a casual mix of games and players.

I stepped onto the court with a few younger players—and one gentleman who had to be close to 80 years old. Naturally, the thought crossed my mind: *Do I need to take it easy?*

That question didn’t last long.

Within the first few points, it was clear—this guy wasn’t just keeping up. He was dominating the game. Always in the right spot. Calm. Patient. Every shot had a purpose.

For two straight hours, he never lost and never left the top court.

After we finished, I talked with him and learned he was a former state champion tennis player. That explained the skill—and watching him play taught me something more.

What stood out wasn’t just what he *did* on the court. It was what he *didn’t* do.

No flashy shots.

No unnecessary risks.

No trying to do too much.

He kept it simple. He stayed consistent. He let the other team make mistakes—and they did.

We see the same dynamic all the time in investing.

There’s a temptation to swing big. To chase the next hot idea. To believe that better results come from more action, more complexity, more “doing.”

But often, the best outcomes come from discipline and restraint.

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aren’t the investments made — they’re the ones avoided.

- The speculative investment that didn’t fit the plan.

- The private deal that sounded compelling — but didn’t make sense for their goals.

- The emotional move we avoided during market volatility.

- The urge to react when patience was the better play.

Success isn’t about hitting the hardest shot on the court. It’s about positioning, consistency, and knowing when *not* to swing.

That 80-year-old didn’t dominate because he took big risks.

He dominated because he didn’t.

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If you’re wondering whether your current strategy is helping you stay disciplined—or tempting you to swing too hard—we’re always happy to have a conversation.



Sam Paganelli CFA®, CFP®
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Farragut Museum



Photo submitted

Farragut Museum docents Bailey Redmond, left, and Joyce Moran draw the winner for this quarter’s gift card. All guests to the Farragut Museum can enter into a quarterly drawing for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to a local business. This quarter’s guest, Zach Thompson, wins a gift card to Euphoric Cheese Shop. “At the Farragut Museum, we appreciate our visitors, and we enjoy recommending local shops for people to try,” said Kristi Vining, Town historic resources coordinator.

Police Reports

From page 2A

Farms Boulevard.

The complainant told deputies he left his wallet behind after paying for dinner. When he returned, the wallet had been turned in, but \$115 in cash was missing.

The restaurant manager advised that surveillance footage would be available upon request. The case is under investigation.

■ A Knoxville man reported vandalism Feb. 13 on the 400 block of Ferret Road.

The complainant told the Knox County Sheriff’s Office he noticed a deep scratch on the back right quarter panel of his 2013 Toyota Camry on Feb. 9.

Damage was reported to the vehicle’s fender. No suspect information was available. The case remains open.

■ A West Knox County woman reported fraud Feb. 13 on the 900 block of Blackstone Drive.

The complainant told deputies she paid \$1,000 through a Venmo as a deposit to adopt a kitten from a suspect who claimed to be a breeder. She later became concerned it was a scam after consulting another breeder. She then requested a refund. The suspect allegedly told the victim that a \$600 refund would be given, but did not return any money and stopped communicating, according to the report.

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Neal

From page 1A

"I also grew up on a 2-acre lot, which is supposedly under this proposition to preserve a rural character to the neighborhood," he said. "Well, my 2-acre lot was two blocks from the town courthouse."

Shipley said the modification would potentially establish provisions for subdivisions with estate-lot sizes, typically at least 2 acres.

"That's not rural," Neal said. "You're not going to preserve a rural atmosphere with a house on a 2-acre lot. You're just not going to do it successfully."

"In my personal view, we shouldn't make it impossible for people to farm," he said. "We shouldn't put them in a situation where their property taxes might go up because of the zoning change, which then

makes it impossible for the children of the deceased person to keep the family farm. They are forced to sell it.

"The Wiberleys' farm is zoned Agricultural," Neal said. "They are being adversely affected by being forced to be moved into a completely different kind of zoning."

"You're not just modifying Agricultural zoning; you're doing away with it," he added.

Mayor Ron Williams said he does not believe existing farms would be negatively impacted.

"We look at what kind of farms we have," Williams said. "We have horse farms ... and we've also got hay farms."

"I don't think any one of those are going to go away anytime soon, so I don't think we're going to trample on their rights at this time. I think what we're looking at is a little bit different than what you're

talking about."

Commissioner Noah Myers suggested creating a separate zoning category.

"I think the really easy solution to Mr. Neal's concern is instead of renaming the Agricultural District, we create a new large-lot residential district," Myers said. "That would solve the problem of someone who's in agriculture feeling like they are getting shoe-horned into something they don't want to be in."

"Yeah, we can do that," Shipley said. "We're open to it."

"I always look at what we have and do we ever use it," he added, noting he also is considering development realities in West Knox County.

Shipley said the issue was raised during a recent Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting under citizen forum comments, and Board members were open to staff exploring options.

"From the staff's perspective, rather than creating a new zoning district for estate lots, a recommended approach would be to amend the existing Agricultural Zoning District," he said.

The Agricultural zoning district requires a minimum lot size of 5 acres for any new lot created, Shipley said. There are currently 624 acres in the Town zoned Agricultural.

"The A Zoning District is rarely used due to the minimum lot size requirement, and over the years, some properties zoned A have been rezoned for more viable development options," he said.

He added there have been instances in which large-lot developments were proposed with numerous subdivision regulation variances requested because of lot size and overall density.

"This is mainly the result of not having specific development-related requirements or more flexible requirements for these types of large-lot communities," Shipley said.

Examples include Sassafras Meadows off Dixon Road and the Oak Farm subdivision off Union Road, he added.

"A strategy in the Town's existing Comprehensive Land Use Plan is to enhance the Town's natural identity, including its historic rural character," Shipley said. "Amending the Agricultural Zoning District to allow for a smaller minimum lot size and potentially more flexible development-related requirements may help foster development options in this district while maintaining a rural character with larger lots than would typically be associated with traditional residential subdivisions."

Watt

From page 1A

of that proposed roundabout is a crosswalk, and it's been run over two or three times, so I'm curious about how we make a transition from three lanes onto the two-lane roundabout. Do you have any comments on that?" Greene asked Seth Bradley, designer with Thompson Engineering.

"Basically, that transition will happen on the island," Bradley answered. "The center line runs east to west."

"There are concrete islands

on the left and right side, so the striping will change to gore-area striping as it transitions into the concrete island," he said. "And that curve helps slow traffic to maneuver into it."

Bradley said warning signs will be installed to alert drivers as they approach the area.

"We want to warn drivers that they can't use that center lane," Greene said. "Based on what happened up the road, on the crosswalk, when people went through the middle of the island and wiped out the instrumentation and every-

thing else, I guess it would be advisable to have clear markings that people can see."

"Because of the history, it might be a good idea," he added.

"The truck traffic that we deal with on Watt Road — part of it is to bypass the scales and part of it is legitimate local truck traffic — I really do think we need to take into account the design," Commissioner Noah Myers said. "I think the radius is a great thing. We've got a large radius on it, which should allow a tractor-trailer with a 53-foot trailer to get through there,

but I would hate to see a lot of taxpayer dollars spent on elaborate landscaping because it's

going to get driven through.

"I would encourage you not to go overboard," he added.

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2:30 p.m.

Christopher DeLange M.D.

Improving metabolic health at the cellular level Importance of controlling diabetes and focusing on exercise and diet as we age

3:30 p.m.

Attorney Carolyn Levy Gilliam

Estate and Will Planning

4:30 p.m.

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farragutpress

Women leaders share real talk on balance, resilience

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

What does it take to be a woman and business leader?

Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce delved into that issue by talking to three community female business leaders at its 2026 Speaker Series, Women in Leadership: Balance | Self-Care | Resilience, which took place in Embassy Suites by Hilton Knoxville West, 9621 Parkside Drive, Wednesday Feb. 18.

Emceed by Amanda Hara, WVLT-TV anchor, a panel consisting of Chrystal Armstrong Brown, United Way of Greater Knoxville president/CEO; Tammy White, Leadership Knoxville president/CEO; and Missy Wallen, Pinnacle Financial Partners Knoxville chair, fielded questions about how they juggle their careers and family.

“We are so thrilled to be presenting this first one to you all,” FWKCC president/CEO Julie Blaylock said.

“We are delighted to be a sponsor of the Chamber’s event today featuring this ex-

traordinary group of women leaders,” said Natalie Radcliffe, area manager of Pinnacle Financial Partners, the presenting sponsor for the event.

Looking at the “crucial role women play in leadership,” she said, “We couldn’t agree more with women representing over 65 percent of our workforce.”

PFP joined community sponsors, Lapis Insurance, Main Event, Embassy Suites, Euphoric Cheese Shop and Water Into Wine. To stay grounded, each panelist has a ritual they use. “When I’m having a rough day or I’m buried in budget, oftentimes people on other floors will see me appear, Wallen said. “I’ve always had a unique interest in people and getting to know them.

“And I think the only way you can manage and lead people is to understand them and to know what their likes and dislikes are,” she said. “[The bank staff] are what energize me and also calms me down.

“I actually retired over 12 years ago, and one of the things I missed were the friends at work,” said Wallen, who has been in the banking business

for 53 years and came from a banking family.

“My family owned, and still owns, a small community bank [in Scott County],” she said.

“I’ve loved every minute of it. It doesn’t feel like a job,” said White, who will be in her 17th year in March in her role with Leadership Knoxville.

White advised, “You can work somewhere and it doesn’t feel like a job, you are living a dream, working your passion.”

Regarding her ritual, White replied, “I think we go through seasons in our lives. I remember fondly being a single mom, getting my daughter to school and the conversations we had ... tell me one thing you are grateful for.”

She recalled those conversations helped keep her grounded. Now, her ritual is, when she gets up in the morning, to snuggle with her dog and play a mind game on the computer.

“I think we have to embrace where we are in that season of life and figure out what works for us and what gives us sparkles of happiness,” White said. Regarding network of support for her family, Armstrong



Emcee Amanda Hara, WVLT-TV anchor, addressed issues with questions to a panel of women in leadership roles.

Tammy Cheek

Brown said she found a sisterhood of other mothers “in the same journey in life.”

“Moving back to Knoxville, my family is three-plus hours away,” she explained. “Coming back, I recognized that Crys-

tal I knew no longer existed ... I found a community that was radically different from how I’d grown up but where felt like their journeys were similar to where I was in my journey in life.”

businessbriefs

• Steve Campbell recently joined Axiom Wealth Management, a private client group at Northwestern Mutual, as director of business development.

In his new role, Campbell will lead client experience initiatives, marketing strategy and new business opportunities while supporting Axiom’s partners in deepening relationships with existing clients.

Before joining Axiom, he gained 15 years of industry experience. His previous roles include serving as an advisor at Morgan Stanley and holding the positions of senior marketing director and senior vice president of client experience at a fee-only RIA.

Campbell is a native of Binghamton, New York. He earned a masters degree in education from Binghamton University in 2010, followed by a bachelors degree in history from Rutgers University in 2009.

• Weichert, Realtors - Advantage Plus, one of Knoxville’s real estate brokerages, recently announce the addition of Dustin Winchester to its team of agents. Winchester provides dedicated service to clients in Knoxville and surrounding areas.

As a Kentucky resident expanding service into Tennessee, Winchester assists buyers searching for the right home on

both sides of the state line. With a background in construction and the building supply industry, he brings hands-on knowledge of how homes are built — not just how they’re sold. That experience allows him to help clients recognize quality, value, and long-term potential.

• Bank of America has named the Knoxville Leadership Foundation in 2025 for its work building permanent supportive housing and addressing chronic homelessness in Knoxville by pairing affordable Neighborhood Builders housing with integrated, trauma-informed supportive services.

Bank of America’s signature Neighborhood Builders program continues to be one of the nation’s largest philanthropic investments into nonprofit leadership development while providing unique multiyear flexible grant funding annually to high-impact nonprofits in communities nationwide.

As a Neighborhood Builder, Knoxville Leadership Foundation is awarded a \$50,000 grant over two years, leadership training for the executive director and the opportunity to connect with nonprofits in a peer network. Since the program’s inception, seven nonprofits have been selected as Neighborhood Builders in Knoxville.



Networking

Greg Dodge, left, prearrangement counselor at Click Funeral Home, chats with Robin Sheldon, co-owner of Superior Rug Cleaning, during Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce’s networking hosted at Click Funeral Home Farragut Chapel, 11915 Kingston Pike, Thursday, Feb. 12.



Josh Hall, left, of Taltek and Travis Hanson, Ace Pickleball Club, mingle during a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce networking hosted by Kids Cove Knoxville, 10420 Kingston Pike, in Lovell Heights shopping center, Thursday, Jan. 29.

Tammy Cheek



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DISCOVER LOUDON COUNTY



Taste of Loudon County brings community together for food, fun and fellowship

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday, Feb. 27, at The Venue, 7690 Creekwood Park Blvd., Lenoir City.

“We’re always excited to have the Taste of Loudon County and Business Expo,” LCCC President Rodney Grugin said. “We’ve been doing this for a long time, and it’s a great event to bring our membership together, enjoy networking and good food, and see everything our vendors — our members — have to offer.”

Grugin said about 65 vendors and 14 restaurants will participate this year — 10 more vendors and four more restaurants than last year.

“So, we’ll have close to 80 of our members showcased at The Venue for the community to come out and visit with,” he added.

See TASTE OF LOUDON on Page 7A

Clockwise from top right: Family Brand’s Tommy Haber, left, with Jim Koon; Cindy Uitera; Mike Cmajdalka, left, with Robert Allen of Blue Stem Hollow.

Tammy Cheek



CNSCares ribbon cutting

Tammy Cheek

CNSCares celebrated its opening with a Loudon County Chamber of Commerce-sponsored ribbon cutting in CNSCares’ office, 550 Town Creek Road, Jan. 28. On hand for the event were LCCC’s new board chairman Matthew Coleman, far left, Nichole Britton, RN (with scissors), Lenoir City Mayor Tony Akins, second from right, and LCCC board member Rosemary Quillin, far right.



LCCC After Hours

Jackie Henderson, left, with Tellico Realty mingles with Jenney Mitschelen, owner of Rose Bomb Fitness, and Gretchen Mitschelen, also of Rose Bomb Fitness, during a Loudon County Chamber After Hours hosted by Rose Bomb Fitness, 455 Highway 321, Suite 7G, Tuesday, Feb. 10.

Tammy Cheek

Wallace Twin Lakes Realty open



Tammy Cheek

Wallace Twin Lakes Realty celebrated the opening of the new office with a Loudon County Chamber of Commerce-sponsored ribbon cutting at the office, 105 N. A St., Lenoir City, Thursday, Feb. 5. On hand for the event were LCCC board member Rosemary Quillin (front row, second from left); Lenoir City Councilman Jim Shields (third from left); George Wallace (fourth from left), Wallace Real Estate board chairman; Bobby Sanford (holding sign), Wallace Real Estate agent; Andrew McGranaghan (also holding sign at right), Wallace Real Estate CEO; Tyler Letner (holding scissors), principal broker for Wallace Twin Lakes office; Claudia Stallings (third from right), Wallace Real Estate chief operating officer; Jim Wallace (second from left), Wallace Real Estate board treasurer; and LuAnn Hileman Crass (far right), attorney and CEO of Melrose Title.

Power to Promote Lunch



Tammy Cheek

Fork and Vine hosted Loudon County Chamber of Commerce’s Power to Promote Lunch at the restaurant, 131 Kelsey Lane, Suite 106, Lenoir City, bringing Italian flavors to the event Friday, Feb. 20. On hand to greet Chamber members were server, Logan Greenfell, bartender Troy Tracey, owner William McGarry, head chef John Iseler and server Jesus Villa. Loudon County Chamber of Commerce ambassador April Ray, medical staff coordinator with Fort Loudoun Medical Center checks in Eddy Mejia with Priority Auto Care for LCCC’s Power to Promote Lunch hosted at Fork and Vine restaurant, 131 Kelsey Lane, Suite 106, Lenoir City, Friday, Feb. 20.

Taste of Loudon

From page 6A

The popularity of the event stems from the timing, Grugin said.

“You’re coming out of winter, coming out of the cold of January, and people want to

get out and see things. They want to know what’s going on,” he said. “So, they come out and visit with us.

“It’s just a great event to kick off spring,” he added.

There is no charge to walk through the Business Expo and see Chamber members

and their offerings. However, there is a fee for the Taste of Loudon County portion.

“If you do want to have a taste from the restaurants, it is a \$10 ticket for adults and \$5 for children,” Grugin said.

“Tickets are available at the door, and they are also avail-

able online at loudoncountychamberofcommerce.com.”

Attendees can expect a similar event to last year, but with some different vendors and restaurants, according to Grugin.

For example, while Chick-fil-A and Wampler’s Farm Sau-

sage are returning, Country-side Restaurant, Good Batch Mama, City Catering and The Casual Pint are new this year.

“It’s going to be a big event,” he added. “Just come out and join us. We’re excited for everybody to come out and visit with us.”



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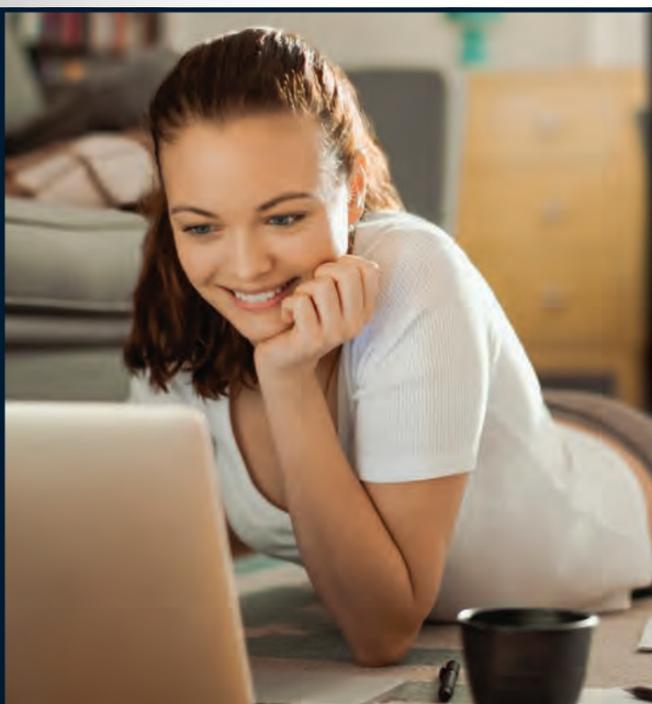
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Business

From page 1A

ions; we debated; we argued. “I wish the original committee members had kept coming,” he said. “I wish more citizen input would have been allowed ... but at no time did we have a vote on what you’re seeing now or what you saw before. “So, whenever you hear ‘we decided this’ or ‘we the committee,’ it wasn’t a we thing.” Walker added the proposed draft does not include enforcement rules or specify who would enforce it. “We don’t have the manpower to be circling all the communities over Town,” he added. “This needs to go back to the committee,” Walker said. “We need to look at it. We need to have more people, more voices on the committee and people looking at this before it’s brought before

this Commission.” “I was very disappointed, and I know I voiced my opinion to this Commission and to BOMA about the ad hoc committee process,” said Cain, who was assigned to the committee by the mayor. “It was like we just stopped meeting. “It needed a lot more input,” the alderman said. “We needed a lot more discussion, but it did seem like every time we held a meeting, we talked about things, we gave our input to (assistant Community Development director) Bart Hose, and the next time we got a draft back, none of the things we brought up — a lot of it was reworked or reworded.” “My biggest concern is to stand up for neighborhoods that don’t have an HOA,” said Mann, also an ad hoc committee member. “I would like to continue this process. I think we need to protect all neigh-

borhoods from businesses that are disturbing neighborhoods.” On behalf of fellow residents, Greg Wiberley asked how existing businesses would be grandfathered under any new regulations. He also questioned how the ordinance would apply to apartment residents and whether homes without approved surfaces for parking commercial vehicles would be disqualified. He also raised concerns about the length and size of commercial vehicles versus recreational vehicles. “Is that fair, or should they balance out 40-foot commercial and 40-foot RV?” Wiberley asked. Ultimately, several commissioners agreed the ad hoc committee should be reinstated and the draft returned to the group. Hose presented a new version of the proposed update.

“We’ve been working on it since late 2024,” he said. “We had a draft ordinance that came before you all in August ’25, and then it was forwarded to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for adoption. “The regulatory approach we took in that initial proposed set of amendments was to come up with a two-tier approach, where we would have very simple home occupations that wouldn’t require a permit, and then the more complicated ones that had the potential for more impact would require a permit.” However, during the adoption process, the Town became aware of a Middle Tennessee court case dealing with home occupations and equal protection issues, Hose said. “The Town attorney (Tom Hale) looked at that case — it’s still under appeal — but the Town attorney felt the best

course of action would be to eliminate the two-tier system and apply one single set of requirements to all home occupations.” “When the two-tiered system came forward, I was against it from the beginning,” Cain said. “I thought, how are we to decide that this business is going to be regulated from that business just because of what they did?” Hose said the new draft maintains the goal of allowing a wider range of businesses. “In fact, any business that can meet the performance standards could be permitted as a home occupation,” he said. “One of the largest issues that’s still out there and needs input on is vehicles. That was a big issue in the last regulations, and it continues to be something that we are looking to get input from the Town and the larger community.”

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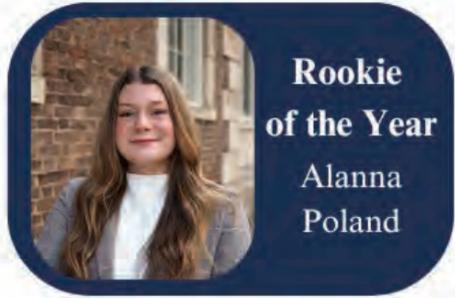
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Alanna Poland

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Kelly Clarke
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Lynette Stephens
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Anthony Buhl
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West Knoxville mourns sports media icon Wes Rucker, 43

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

Knoxville sports media lost an icon last Thursday, as well-known Tennessee sports reporter Wes Rucker died in a car accident near the Cedar Bluff exit on Interstate 40. He was 43.

A graduate of Knoxville Catholic High School and the University of Tennessee, Rucker “turned his passion for journalism, sports, and history into a two-decade career covering Tennessee athletics across print, radio, digital and television media,” his obituary read.

Rucker was a fixture on social media, sharing his thoughts on

the Vols and his family to more than 140,000 followers on X, formerly known as Twitter.

His columns were must-reads for many fans, and he was known among UT media members as the last to leave the press box following any game at Neyland Stadium — or, in his vocabulary, “General Neyland’s Big

Ol’ Damn House of Football.”

Beyond his excellent coverage, Rucker was a devoted husband and father, leaving behind a wife, Lauren, and a son, Hank, with a daughter to be born in May.

“He often wrote and spoke of the grounding force of life,



Rucker

See RUCKER on Page 2B

Bulldogs keeping blinders on through postseason

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

Over the years, the Bearden Bulldogs have learned a few lessons the hard way.

One of them? Stay focused on the task at hand.

On Friday night, Feb. 20, the Bulldogs did exactly that by thumping Hardin Valley 83-38 in the District 4-4A semifinals. In the process, Bearden played its way into a regional quarterfinal host spot for the third straight season.

The win also slid the Bulldogs into the District 4-4A championship game against Farragut, their third meeting this season, on Tuesday night, Feb. 24, at McMinn County High School.

This matchup marked the schools’ first district title meeting since 2022, as FHS won the last battle 73-62 at Heritage High School four years ago.

BHS looked for a dif-



Parrott

ferent result this time, as they also sought vengeance for a 63-62 loss to Maryville in this game last season.

Since the game took place after press time, results will be available online and via social media. But before that game took place, Parrott delved into his team’s Friday night win and detailed what it’s been like to coach a team that sat at 31-1 entering Tuesday

See BULLDOG on Page 3B



Photo Submitted

Several players from the farragutpress coverage area earned All-Tournament honors. Pictured from left to right: Farragut’s KJ McNealy, Trinity Curry and Reagan Sheridan; Bearden’s Riley Hunt, Baylie Myers and Emma Rainey. Natalya Hodge, far right, earned Most Valuable Player.

Balanced scoring pushes Bearden to district title

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

Monday, Feb. 23, the Bearden Lady Bulldogs held off the Farragut Lady Admirals for a 64-55 win in the District 4-4A championship game at McMinn County High School.

The win marked Bearden’s third victory over FHS this season, but it was also the team’s seventh consecutive district tournament championship.

“I think it shows that I’ve been fortunate to have a lot of really good players, great families and a great staff,” Bearden girls coach Justin Underwood said.

Natalya Hodge and Emma Rainey led Bearden with 14 points apiece while MC LeMarbre totaled 12 with nine from Riley Hunt.

“She’s had three really good games against Farragut, so I’m proud of her ability to score the ball,” Underwood said of LeMarbre. “Ev-



Photo Submitted

The Bearden Lady Bulldogs claimed their seventh consecutive District 4-4A Tournament title with a 64-55 win over Farragut on Monday night at McMinn County High School.

everyone knows what (Hodge) and Emma can do, so she’s been a good third or fourth option and made teams pay with that.”

“We obviously have really good players, so teams will try to take away your best scoring threats,” he added. “We try to emphasize being prepared for the moment and taking advantage of your opportunities. So anytime you can be balanced, it makes it that much tougher for a

team to try and slow you down.”

The balanced scoring helped BHS hold off the Lady Ads, who held a lead midway through the second quarter. Just before halftime, they were within three before a turnover and third-quarter slump left FHS at a 10-point deficit that proved too much to overcome.

Within that frame, the Lady Ads went just 1-for-6 from the floor.

“We got good looks,

weren’t turning the ball over,” Farragut coach Jason Mayfield said. “We just didn’t put the ball in the basket, and it wound up being a big difference.”

Farragut still saw 18 points from Trinity Curry while KJ McNealy scored 13 with 11 each from Gabbie VanAcker and Reagan Sheridan.

“Trinity played well, doing her normal thing,” Mayfield said. “We got

See BALANCED on Page 3B

Quigley leads local wrestlers at state; Franklin makes history

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

Over the last two weekends, multiple Farragut-area wrestlers took part in state championship meets for Divisions I and II.

In the Division II meet on Feb. 13 and 14, Webb’s Jack Quigley saw the best result of any west Knoxville wrestler with a third-place finish in the 144-pound bracket of the Division II championships. He went an impressive 5-1 with a 4-1 win over Father Ryan’s

Jax Crolley for his third-place finish, claiming the best result of four Spartan state qualifiers.

At the same meet, CAK’s Kyler Cook took fourth place at 165, finishing the best out of the Warriors’ three state finalists. He went 3-1 before a loss to Montgomery Bell Academy’s Leland Hardcastle ended his day in the third-place bout.

Also in Division II, Concord Christian’s Matthew Franklin placed

See QUIGLEY on Page 3B

Webb locks down Catholic, claims region title with 53-24 rout

Ken Lay

Correspondent

The Division II-AA East Region Girls Championship came relatively easily for Webb School of Knoxville Friday night.

The Lady Spartans, despite some offensive

struggles, cruised past Cedar Bluff Area rival Knoxville Catholic, 53-24, before a near-capacity crowd at the Lee Athletic Center.

Webb, the defending state champion, was locked in a tight battle early as it clung to a slim

11-8 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

But after a tense opening frame, the Lady Spartans relied heavily upon their defense to seize control of the contest.

In turning up the defensive heat, the Lady Spartans responded to a

challenge issued by head coach Greg Hernandez, who wanted his squad to keep the KCHS offense in check.

“I challenged them today, (saying) ‘Hey, I don’t want to give up more than 40 (points),’ and they held them to (24),” Hernandez

said. “If we can get 50, I like our chances, as long as we get to 50 first.”

By halftime, the Lady Spartans (24-6) had doubled the Lady Irish’s offensive attack as they extended their advantage to 24-12 by halftime.

By the close of the third

frame, Webb had racked up 41 points. Meanwhile, its defense surrendered just 17 points through the first 24 minutes of the contest.

“Offensively, it wasn’t all that pretty but we did

See WEBB on Page 2B



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Webb rolls past Catholic, caps 30-win season

Ken Lay
Correspondent

Webb School of Knoxville's boys basketball team has won 30 games in 2025. The Spartans cruised through a perfect run during their Division II-AA East Region regular-season schedule.

Webb also won the region tournament Friday night as it ran past Cedar Bluff Area rival Knoxville Catholic with an 87-52 victory before a near-capacity crowd at the Lee Athletic Center.

Still, head coach Ricky Norris said his team still is looking to make improvements. And the Spartans will spend much of this week looking to get better before they face either Memphis University School or Montgomery Bell Academy Saturday.

"You worry about a little rust because you don't play

for a week," Norris said. "But this team has kind of a walk-on mentality. By that, I mean we'll celebrate this weekend and on Monday this group will come back and I won't have to get them ready to practice."

"We'll have a great practice on Monday. We'll have the best practice we've had all year, and that's just their mentality."

Friday night's game marked the Spartans' third win of the season over the Irish, and in both games at home, Webb had to overcome an early deficit twice.

Catholic (22-6) opened an early 10-2 advantage in the contest and led, 16-12 at the end of the first quarter.

But the Spartans (30-2) stormed back and outscored Catholic, 22-11, in the second stanza and took a 34-27 lead by halftime.

"We had a 10-2 lead to start the game but we went away

from our game plan," Irish coach Mains said. "We came in and we wanted to get the thing inside, but we went away from that and we started settling."

"Webb is a tough team and we're tough, too; but tonight, they were tougher than us and that showed its head."

From there, things would only get worse for Catholic as the Spartans scored 34 points in the third frame, matching the offensive input over the first 16 minutes. The Irish, conversely, scored just 25 points after halftime.

Webb boasted a potent and balanced offensive attack, led by Alabama-Huntsville signee Owen Lentz and his 27 points. Lentz buried five long-range jumpers from beyond the 3-point arc. He was one of five Webb players to post double figures in the scoring column.



Photo Submitted

The Farragut track team saw 10 qualifiers at the indoor state championships earlier this month at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

FHS track sees indoor success

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

At the indoor track state championships in Nashville, 10 Admirals took part. Six events featured FHS athletes, and three of those resulted in season-bests or personal records.

In the two-mile run, Chase Temples, Sam Shagan and Bailey Ann Smith all set personal bests with times of, 9:58.54 (Temples), 9:45.53 (Shagan) and 12:19.29 (Smith).

In the boys 4x400 event, Cadan Baker, Nick Deguire, Fisher Smith and Aaron Pohl set a season best at 3:38.45.

In the girls distance medley relay, the combo of Christie George, Courtney George, Ella Gruzalski and Bailey Ann Smith recorded a season-best

time of 13:43.17. In other events, Christie George timed out at 5:31.39 in the one-mile run and 2:33.88 in the 800-meter run. Also, Baker reached a height of 5 feet, 4 inches in high jump.

"It truly shows how much our program is growing — this is the first year we've had double-digit indoor qualifiers," new FHS track coach Charles Bell said. "While indoor is still new for many athletes, it builds confidence and sets the foundation for big PRs and team success heading into the outdoor season."

With the indoor season behind them, the Admirals will now look toward their first outdoor meet of the year, the Tennova East TN Jamboree on Feb. 28.

with 11 points for the Lady Spartans and Mary Mac Emery, a junior, had nine in the contest.

The Lady Spartans will have a first-round bye in the state tournament before they host a quarterfinal game on Friday. Webb will entertain either Briarcrest Christian School or Ensworth Friday at the Lee Athletic Center. Game time was not set at press time.

The Lady Irish (14-15) will also have an opening-round bye before hosting the winner of the first-round game between Lipscomb Academy and Chattanooga Girls Preparatory School on Friday.

And in the girls distance medley relay, the combo of Christie George, Courtney George, Ella Gruzalski and Bailey Ann Smith recorded a season-best time of 13:43.17.

"It shows the hard work our athletes continue to put in every day," said Bell. "They come to practice focused on improving themselves while pushing their teammates to get better as well. The PRs are great to see, but even more rewarding is watching them raise their own standards through stronger work ethic, commitment, and dedication."

In other events, Christie George also timed out at 5:31.39 in the one-mile run and 2:33.88 in the 800-meter run. Also, Baker reached a height of 5 feet, 4 inches in high jump.

Rucker
From page 1B

sharing moments of everyday joy and reflecting about fatherhood, marriage, and the responsibilities that come with both," his obituary read. "He carried deep pride in his parents, siblings and loved ones, frequently expressing



Poster submitted

Former Tennessee standout Omari Thomas

CCS to host free Omari Thomas camp

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

On Feb. 28, any local aspiring football players will have a chance to interact with a former Tennessee standout.

Former Vols defensive lineman Omari Thomas will be holding a camp from 9 a.m. to noon this Saturday at Concord Christian Academy.

The camp is for current fifth- through eighth-graders, and it will be free with a complimentary T-shirt given to any attendee.

This is not the first UT-affiliated camp at CCS, as it hosted two camps last year — one through former Tennessee quarterbacks Heath Shuler and Erik Ainge and another through Cade and Cooper Mays, both of whom played for current Concord coach Steve Matthews when he was at Knoxville Catholic.

"Those were huge successes, and they were both in the summer," Matthews said. "This one, we thought, 'Let's do one in February. It's a dead time for a lot of these young men. I

don't know Omari really well, but we have a mutual friend that came across my landscape and mentioned that he's a great young man who wanted to give back to the Knoxville community."

Matthews noted other current and former Tennessee players may be there, though he didn't know who.

Thomas, a Memphis native, started for four of his five seasons on Rocky Top. He served as a team captain his senior year and totaled 115 tackles through his career — 17 for loss with five sacks, 13 QB hurries, one fumble recovery, one forced fumble and one blocked kick.

Also, he represented Tennessee on the SEC Football Leadership Council and served as the SEC's representative on the NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee Student-Athlete Connection Group in 2024.

Now, he will look to bring that leadership to the gridiron at CCS for one unique Saturday.

"We are definitely looking forward to it," Matthews said.

Webb
From page 1B

enough to win," Hernandez said. "I've got a really good group of girls and I'm just so proud of them for the way they defended."

Offensively, Meeyah Green scored 13 points for the Lady Spartans, who are the defending state champions and are currently ranked second in the state.

Hernandez commended Green, a Clemson signee for her leadership.

"Meeyah's leadership is just tremendous," he said.

Kyndall Mays chipped in

it through beautifully written reflections, though those words only hinted at the depth of love and admiration he shared privately."

His death has reverberated through Knoxville and the national sports community, as well-known personalities Scott Van Pelt and Kirk Herbstreit have been among the

several to speak on his death and donate to the GoFundMe set up for Rucker's family.

As of Monday morning, the amount donated to "Support #TeamRucker" stood at \$711,990 with a goal of \$850,000. Originally, the goal had been \$500,000 before being raised after donations poured in.

CORRECTION

In a previous story, we listed the West Valley Middle School dance coach as Catherine Brasfield. Her name actually is spelled Kathryn. We apologize for the error and once again wish to congratulate WVMS on its two national titles this season.

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Admirals 'weather storm' for historic win over Oak Ridge

Bulldog
From page 1B

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

On Friday night, the Farragut Admirals stormed back from a nine-point deficit to beat Oak Ridge 65-62 in the District 4-4A semifinals. They unlocked a bit of history in the process while also shedding a 44-year weight, having beaten ORHS for the first time since the 1982 dis-

trict finals, according to FHS Sports Information Director Jack Tate. The comeback victory snapped a 13-game drought against the Wildcats and put Farragut into Tuesday's district championship for the first time since 2022. Because of press time on Tuesday, the results from the Ads' district title matchup against Bearden will only be available

online and social media. Earlier in the week, though, FHS head coach J.P. Burris addressed his team's historic performance against Oak Ridge. "Another game where our guys weathered the storm," he said. "We had a couple things go against us, like a ball that they said hit the top of the backboard and didn't, then a walk call, too." "A lot of things that could

have caused an avalanche when you're down multiple possessions," he summarized, "but our guys stayed calm and closed out the game on a big run." Dan Lanning led FHS with 20 points while Parker Lane totaled 15 as well. "He was absolutely huge for us on Friday," Burris said of Lanning. "Attacked the paint, made good decisions with the ball and really set the tone for us."

night's tilt. "I'm never a big picture person," Parrott said. "The devil is in the details, and success and failure can hinge on those things. Coaching a team that's 31-1 is as challenging as a team that isn't doing well, because they think they're good. But as you progress into the postseason, your good has to be even better." Looking at the box score against the Hawks, it is safe to say the Bulldogs turned things up a notch. Carson Asbaty went for a career-high 31 points, leading a Bearden team that played without one starter in Sean Capshaw — who rolled his ankle against Cleveland. Brendan Murphy added 15 points for the Dawgs while Porter Dickson totaled 10 points. Altogether, their output spoke to the widespread scoring threat that is present across the roster. "It's good to always have depth, but what's even more encouraging is when you have guys that can know they can score and don't have to carry a team to be successful either," Parrott said. "Our guys give way to one another, and that makes us harder to defend. They share the wealth and spread the ball, and that's hard to cover." On Asbaty, Parrott added the senior was "asserting his physical presence." "We have big strong guards, and his strength and ability to finish through contact really helped him impose his will," Parrott said. "That's been a hallmark of him because he's a smart kid with a good basketball I.Q. that shows up."

Quigley

From page 1B
sixth in the 190-pound division. He went 3-2 with three straight wins before losing his final two matches, the final by fall against Christian Brothers' John Bramlett. Notably, Franklin was Concord's first state medalist in program history. In the Division I-AA meet in Franklin this past weekend, Farragut's Isaac Koga went 0-2 in the 175-pound bracket in his first state tournament appearance. The second-year wrestler lost to Green Hills' Rocco Harmon 15-0 in his opening match, then saw his state tournament stay end in a loss to Riverdale's Elijah Means — the eventual fourth-place medalist — in a 12-0 result. "To make the state tournament as a second-year wrestler is huge, and to lose all that weight and stay healthy is really big, too," Farragut coach Charlie Rohn said of Koga. "This past year he focused a lot on his weight, so next year



Tony Cox

Hardin Valley Academy's Mikeal Arce (top) works for control against Green Hill's Luka Nash during a 285-pound consolation match at the TSSAA Wrestling State Championships on Saturday, Feb. 21.

he won't be worrying about that. So he can be focused even more on wrestling, so I think he'll definitely place. It just shows what hard work can do." In the same meet, Hardin Valley produced three qualifi-

ers but saw similar results as Koga. HVA's Adriel Roland lost to Blackmon's Germaia Ewida by total fall, 16-0 and lost to Wilson Central's Wyatt Nichols 14-7 to go 0-2 in the

106-pound slate. William Wimer saw the same record at 157, losing to Rockvale's Gerald Rollins, 3-0, and Kirkwood's Luke Louzensky, 9-1.

Balanced

From page 1B
the ball to her and she made shots. The focus is on KJ so others have got to step up, but Reagan Sheridan did a really good job, too." Curry, McNealy and Sheri-

dan earned All-Tournament nods for FHS while Rainey, Myers and Hunt took the same honors for Bearden. Hodge was named tournament MVP. Now, both teams will look toward the Region 2-AAAA quarterfinals, which take place Friday.

Farragut will host Campbell County at home while Bearden will welcome Karns. "We feel like we've got a pretty good side of our region, so we feel like we should continue to advance so long as we play like we did for most of the game Monday,"

Mayfield said. "If anything, it's a breath of fresh air to play someone you haven't played all year," Underwood added of his own team. "Anytime you can play a new opponent, it's always welcome just for a different scout and newer personnel."

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Photos submitted

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CCS students give back at Second Harvest



Photo submitted

Concord Christian School middle and high school criminal justice students, from left, Leah Buhl, Liv Nielson, MiKayla Tyler, Cora Grudl, Lawson Hageman, Tiffany Ortez, Kate Butler and Lydia Smith fill 9.7-ounce bags with cereal at Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee's clean room.

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Concord Christian School's middle and high school criminal justice students learned about giving back at Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee in Maryville, Tuesday, Feb. 17.

"I took 20 middle and high school students, along with two staff members, to volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee," said Brandon Burley, criminal

justice instructor and family group leader at CCS. "Our group includes members of the Criminal Justice Society [middle school] and students from the Justice Leadership Academy [high school].

"During our shift in the food bank's clean room, we repackaged several hundred pounds of bulk cereal into 9.7-ounce bags for distribution to families across East Tennessee," Burley said. "In one afternoon,

See **GIVE BACK** on Page 8B

Mardi Gras at the Villages

Villages of Farragut held its annual Mardi Gras celebration at the senior living facility, Village Commons Boulevard, Wednesday, Feb. 17, when resident AW Ammans was named king and Mary Myhre was named queen. Along with the crowning, the community also had a parade and Mardi Gras fare.



Photo submitted



Photos submitted

Above: Tennessee Wind Ensemble, part of Tennessee Wind Symphony, performed at the Worlds Fair Park in Knoxville Oct. 16, 2025.

Left: John Zastoupil conducted the Tennessee Wind Ensemble during a concert at The Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Knoxville Dec. 21, 2025.



'Sky's the Limit'

Tennessee Wind Symphony presents free concert

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

East Tennessee's premier community concert band is returning to Farragut for the first time since 2016.

Tennessee Wind Symphony will present a free concert at 6 p.m., Sunday, March 1, in Farragut High School's Vicki B. Wells' auditorium while also supporting the FISH Hospitality Pantries.

"We're excited [to hold the concert]," said Christopher Best, TWS communications and publicity coordinator. "We have a long history with Farragut, rehearsing at the middle school for about 20 years.

"In our real early days in the '90s, we would have concerts in the (FHS) auditorium, and a lot of our members live in Farragut and make music in their churches in Farragut," he said. "There's a quintet, the Concord Brass, that is made up of members in our group.

"We have a lot of roots in Farragut but haven't been able to perform there in 10 years," Best said. "We have become artists in residence at the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Bearden since about 2021-22."

However, "we found this opportunity, and the high school band folks have been gracious to offer their auditorium and equipment," he said.

"We're just hoping to get the word out and connect with people who maybe haven't heard us in a long time."

Admission to the concert is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to make voluntary donations, with all proceeds benefiting FISH Hospitality Pantries and its ongoing efforts to combat food insecurity in the Knoxville area.

"By pairing an evening of live music with an opportunity to give back, the TWS aims to bring people together for both artistic enrichment and meaningful local impact," Best said.

The concert program is titled "Sky's the Limit."

"... TWS aims to bring people together for both artistic enrichment and meaningful local impact."

~ Christopher Best, TWS communications and publicity coordinator

See **CONCERT** on Page 8B

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New Eagle Scouts



Photo submitted

Farragut Presbyterian Church's Boy Scout Troop 444 celebrated three new Eagle Scouts in the church Wednesday, Feb. 17. From left, Roman Ronca, a senior at Farragut High School; Logan Henderson, a junior at Hardin Valley Academy; and Austin Wilson, a senior at Farragut High School, each started their journey as first-graders in Cub Scouts. They now join their fellow Phoenix Patrol members, Will Monroe, Graham Morrell, Charlie Robards and Parker Morrell, as all seven members have earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

obituary

Joyce Louise VanSant Judge, 90, was called home to be with the Lord on Saturday, February 14th, 2026. She passed gently from this life with her daughter holding her hand. Joyce was born on August 19th, 1935 to Vernon Vaughn VanSant and Jessie Milton Jones VanSant in Mount Victory, Kentucky.

Joyce is survived by her sisters Emily VanSant Howard of Chattanooga, TN and Frances VanSant Edwards (Robert) of Lexington KY. She is survived by a daughter, Marcia Judge Rotty of Sellersville, PA; two sons, David Allan Judge (Cynthia) of Jacksonville, AL and Daniel Franklin Judge of Knoxville, TN; five grandchildren, Elise Ivey Wright (William), Jeremy Rotty (Ashley), Gaelyn Amick (Stephen), Cory Judge, and Allison Judge (Hayden), as well as eight great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews,

cousins, and friends. She is preceded in death by her parents Vernon Vaughn VanSant and Jessie Milton Jones VanSant; her seven brothers: Benjamin Franklin, William Russell, Vernon Vaughn, Philip Hudgins, Daniel Milton, Jesse Francis, and Cecil Thomas VanSant; one son, Mark Andrew Judge Jr, and the father of her children Mark Andrew Judge Sr.



Judge

Joyce founded the Tennessee Alliance for the Mentally Ill and became its first Executive Director. In this role she spoke to the U.S. Congress to advocate for insurance benefits for mental health care, strove tirelessly to help destigmatize mental illness, and provided support for individuals and their

families experiencing mental health crises.

Joyce was an avid gardener, a dedicated tennis partner, an enthusiastic pianist, and a ruthlessly competitive player of Scrabble and Chinese Checkers. Her wordplay and silliness gave the impression of a soul that remained forever young. She enjoyed encouraging students as a substitute teacher at Farragut Middle School. She was a lifelong, devout believer in Christ who helped foster a similar abiding faith in her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Joyce's remains will be cremated per her request, arrangements by Sadler-Suess Funeral Home of Telford, PA. Joyce's memorial service will be held at a later date, in Kentucky. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made to NAMI Tennessee, 131 Sanders Ferry Rd. Suite B, Hendersonville, TN 37075 or you may donate online at namitn.org/get-involved/ways-to-give/

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FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN MEETING WORKSHOP

Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 5:00 PM
Farragut Town Hall • 11408 Municipal Center Drive

I. Roll Call
II. Business Items
A. Review of FY 27-32 CIP Draft Budget
III. Adjournment

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

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BEER BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 5:50 PM
Farragut Town Hall • 11408 Municipal Center Drive

I) Call to Order
II) Approval of Minutes
A) November 13, 2025
III) Beer Permit
A) Approval of Class 6, Special Occasion Beer Permit for St. John Neumann Catholic School "Off to the Races" Derby Auction

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

000 LEGALS

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Farragut Town Hall | 11408 Municipal Center Drive

FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

I. Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance
II. Approval of Agenda
III. Approval of Minutes
A. February 12, 2026 Workshop
B. February 12, 2026
IV. Mayor's Report
A. Justin Mowery Proclamation Presentation
V. Ordinances & Resolutions
A. Resolutions
1. Approval of Resolution R-26-02, a Resolution adopting the FY2026-2027 Town of Farragut Strategic Plan

VI. Business Items
A. Approval of a 5K for Race for a Reason starting at 11367 Parkside Drive and involving streets in the Cove at Turkey Creek and Sweet Briar Subdivisions (Darryl Whitehead and Gabi Walsh, Applicants)
VII. Citizens Forum
VIII. Town Administrator's Report
IX. Town Attorney's Report
X. Adjournment

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

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, at its meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2026, adopted the following ordinances on second and final reading:

a. Ordinance 26-02 (recommended for approval by the Planning Commission as Ordinance 25-20), on second reading, 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 Facade 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 (The Architecture Collaborative, Applicant)

b. Ordinance 26-03 (recommended for approval by the Planning Commission as Ordinance 25-21), on second reading, an ordinance to amend the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Appendix A - Zoning, 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

and to include a definition for "Interactive Sports Analysis Services" in Chapter 2 of the Zoning Ordinance (Christian Miller, Applicant)

c. Ordinance 26-04 (recommended for approval by the Planning Commission as Ordinance 25-22), on second reading, an ordinance to amend the Farragut Zoning Map to rezone 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) (Midtown Legal, Applicant)

d. Ordinance 26-05 (recommended for approval by the Planning Commission as Ordinance 25-23), on second reading, an ordinance to amend the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Chapter 24, Subpart B., Article 3 - Vest-ed Rights in Development Standards, by providing for updated provisions consistent with recent amendments to the Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA)(Town of Farragut, Applicant)

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

press planner

• Mission of Hope announces its 3rd Annual Sporting Clays Tournament, scheduled for Friday, May 15, at Iron Mountain Sporting Clays in Kodak, Tennessee. This event welcomes shooters of all skill levels for a day of friendly competition while supporting Mission of Hope's work to bring help, hope and joy to families in need across rural Appalachia. Proceeds from the tournament will support Mission of Hope's core outreach programs, which make a lasting impact in the lives of children and families each year. Individuals, teams, and sponsors are invited to register by visiting missionofhope.org/clay-tournament or by calling 865-584-7571. Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and individuals eager to make a meaningful impact in the community.

Concert

From page 6B

“Featured pieces, such as “Hymn to the Sun” and “Dusk,” are inspired by the beauty and changing moods of the sky, West said. “Audiences of all ages are invited to enjoy an inspiring performance.”

“TWS has made plenty of musical memories in Farragut over the years, having previously performed at Concord United Methodist Church, Farragut High School and on the farragutpress lawn,” he said. “Farragut Middle School served as the group’s rehearsal home for nearly 20 years.”

He added 2026 marks the 35th anniversary for TWS, which was known as the East Tennessee Concert Band for many of those years in Farragut.

“We are thrilled to return to Farragut,” said Annie Nassis, TWS executive board president. “Many of our members call Farragut home, and we are looking forward to show-

casing them in their own community.”

The TWS hired Dr. John Zastoupil as its conductor last summer. Zastoupil also serves as the director of bands at University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The March 1 event will be the fourth concert under his baton.

For general information about the event, visit tnwindsymphony.org, or facebook.com/tennesseewindsymphony. General inquiries for TWS can be emailed to tennesseewindsymphony@gmail.com.

Giving back

From page 6B

our group of 22 provided 88 total volunteer hours.”

“It makes me realize people in our own community are struggling more than we think,” seventh-grader Kate Butler said.

“This visit is part of our program’s focus on civic responsibility and service,” Burley explained.

“I didn’t know the difference between a food bank and a food pantry,” 10th-grader Savannah Jarnagin said. “Seeing how this works behind the scenes changed that.”

“They were also surprised to learn how large of a region Second Harvest of East Tennessee serves and how many families across our area rely on food assistance each week,” Burley said.

“Before today, I didn’t know how many counties Second Harvest serves,” seventh-grader Lydia Smith said. “I thought it was just Knoxville.”

Additionally, “the experience gave them a clearer understanding of food insecurity



Photo submitted

Concord Christian School students who volunteered at Second Harvest Food Bank included, front row in a split, Liv Nielson, from left, and instructor Brandon Burley (kneeling); first row standing, Justice Phillips, Leah Buhl, Lydia Smith and Cora Gruidl; second row, Savannah Jarnigan, Lawson Hageman, Mikyla Tyler, Tiffany Ortez and Kate Butler; back row, Austin Burley, Eli Blackburn, Weston Ebnet and Cody Hamill.

in our own region,” Burly said. “As a retired detective, I remind students that criminal justice is about far more than arrests,” he added. “It is about understanding the community you serve and finding ways to strengthen it.”

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