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Ads end 43-year drought

Farragut punches ticket to state for first time since '83

Jake Nichols
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At the end of any drought, there is rain. And, that is exactly what J.P. Burris walked into Monday night, March 9, as his Farragut players doused him with water after their 57-50 win over Sevier County High School in the Class 4A Sectional round. With the win, the Admirals snapped a 43-year drought to advance to the state tournament for the first time since 1983. It is the fourth state tournament berth in program history, as all three others occurred within a six-year span: 1978, 1980 and 1983. Now, after more than four decades, the Admirals will return to the pinnacle of high school basketball in Tennessee. And they will do so with a tie to history in their midst. **Dodgen a link to past Ads** When the 1983 Farragut team advanced to the state tournament, they lost to Nashville East 72-70 at Vanderbilt's Memorial Gym. Had they been as-

signed a different opponent, the Ads would have faced a McMinn County team, which was coached by a young Donald Dodgen — now the Farragut athletic director. At the time of those state tournament trips, Dodgen already knew Lynn Sexton — Farragut's coach who became the namesake of the Admirals' home gymnasium. On Monday night, the 2026 Ads walked in that same gym to cut down the nets. "It's ironic," Dodgen said. "We were both fortunate to get to the state tournament the same year. And the 1983 program they printed had the profile of McMinn County and Farragut side by side. How ironic is that?" "I believe it's meant to be," Dodgen continued. "Lynn and I, we went to school together and were both driver's ed teachers. He meant a lot to me." **New blood** So do these Admirals, who will face Walker Valley next Thursday, March 19, in the Class 4A



Farragut seniors Dan Lanning, left, and Parker Lane embrace after the Admirals' 57-50 win over Sevier County to advance to the state tournament for the first time since 1983.

See ADS on Page 4A

Candidates talk issues at GOP club

Tammy Cheek
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A full house turned out to hear from mayoral candidate Kim Frazier and sheriff's candidates, David Amburn and Jimmy "JJ" Jones, at the Concord-Farragut Republican Club meeting in Fruition Café Thursday, March 5. Other candidates and members of the executive committee also attended. **Kim Frazier** In the mayor's race, Kim Frazier, County Commissioner for At Large Seat 11, started as a community activist in the Hardin Valley community before she was elected Commissioner. "I decided to run for mayor for one reason, and that's you, the hard-working people of Knox County, who have reached out to me, expressed their confidence

in me ..." she said. "I get in there; I work hard; I find solutions; I build relationships ... people I have been representing have asked more of me." Frazier, who has chosen "to deepen her commitment" to the county, serves on 14 committees for the Commission and is a member of six community and business groups. "Farragut is really special to me," she said. "My father-in-law, before he passed away, was the principal at Farragut Intermediate School, from the time the school opened until his untimely death." Frazier's mission has been responsible growth "because of my everyday efforts to bring attention to the impact of growth and development and additional infrastructure in my own community,"

See GOP on Page 5A



From left, Tennova Healthcare CFO Suzanne Thames, Tennova representative Travis Simmons and Shop Farragut executive director Vic Scott.

Community turns out for Farragut Health

Jake Nichols
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Food trucks and the B97.5 radio van stood guard outside the Farragut Community Center Sunday, March 1. Closer to the door, a sign welcomed visitors to the 2026 Farragut Health and Wellness Expo, sponsored by Tennova Healthcare. Initially scheduled for early February, the 2026 expo was moved to March due to the large amount of snowfall across the area in the early portion of the year. Shop Farragut hosts the expo each year at the

See COMMUNITY on Page 2A

Young Democrats plan 2026 efforts

Jake Nichols
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On Saturday, March 7, the Knox County Young Democrats welcomed new members and discussed issues at Sunago Coffee Company in Hardin Valley. The meeting offered a chance for a closer encounter with people other than their official launch party, which was held Feb. 28. That event featured a multitude of speakers, including Knox County Democratic Vice Chair Dmonica Bryan, U.S. State Representative Aftyn Behn, and DNC Vice Chair Malcolm Kenyatta, who joined remotely. "Our event on the 28th had 200 people coming in and out, so we didn't get to talk to people one-on-one as much as we would have liked," KYD vice president Julia Kay said. "Things like this allow

us to do that and to talk about what we want to do and what a 2026 roadmap looks like to get members involved." "It's also about inclusivity," KYD president Solomon Trapp added. "A lot of our demographic is spread out across Knox County, so it's nice to meet people where they are." The group is a subsidiary of Tennessee Young Democrats, which falls under Young Democrats of America. Those units are separate entities from KnoxDems, which is under the Democratic National Convention. They do have a close working relationship with KnoxDems but with an age range of 18 to 35, KYD hopes to fill a niche in the Knoxville area. "KnoxDems does a great job of recruiting

See DEMOCRATS on Page 2A

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Police Reports

■ A Farragut woman reported Feb. 25 that an unknown suspect used her personal information to access her bank account on Shirecliffe Lane. According to the victim she was told the suspect(s) had her name, Social Security number and all information needed to gain access to her account. The victim advised that her financial institution had informed her someone using her Visa/Debit card number in an attempt to make a purchase with Nordstrom's in the amount of \$300 and a \$500 transfer, but the transactions were blocked by the bank's fraud department.

■ A complainant reported Feb. 26 that Turkey Creek Medical Center on Parkside Drive received two harassing phone calls from an unknown suspect. The suspect made inappropriate remarks during both calls before hanging up.

■ A complainant reported Feb. 27 that an unknown suspect stole a paint sprayer from an unsecured building at a construction site on Kingston Pike. The equipment, valued at more than \$8,000, was taken sometime between Feb. 8 and Feb. 18.

■ A complainant reported Feb. 27 that an unknown suspect spray-painted the word "Vegas" on the back of a Turkey Creek Kubota building on Snyder Road. The vandalism caused an estimated \$2,000 in damage.

■ Officers responded March 3 to a vandalism report at a commercial property on Kingston Pike. Surveillance footage reportedly shows three suspects inside the building overnight, and the property owner estimated about \$50,000 in total damage from repeated break-ins and vandalism.

Community

From page 1A

community center at 239 Jamestowne Blvd. The wait appeared well worth it on Sunday as sunlight beamed on a clear, cloudless afternoon.

"A little sad we had to delay things in February, but the snow had other plans," Shop Farragut executive director Vic Scott said. "When we first kicked off everything, it was a little bit of a slow start, then everything has started to pick up. So glad we have a nice, sunny day and that we've got the crowd we do."

Visitors had plenty of options to choose from throughout the community center, as the event ran from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Inside, a Hearing Life table welcomed people into the front hallway with free hearing screenings available for anyone. A short walk to the left would take one to a large classroom, where Tennova Medical Center doctors and local attorneys gave presentations on a range of topics from physical wellness to wills and



Six-year-old Catalina Dickinson puts together a craft during the 2026 Farragut Health and Wellness Expo.

Jake Nichols

estate plans.

In the gym, dozens of tables were lined up across the room, each one featuring a different Farragut-based business associated with some form of wellness.

There were tables for stretching companies, spinal nerve function, senior living, travel, cookware and a prosperity lounge featuring a financial coach.

At the First Citizens Bank table, vice president and manager Nikki Brinkley noted the

expo's impact from multiple angles since the bank sponsored a table and she is a member of the Shop Farragut board.

"I love what we do at the Farragut Business Alliance and Shop Farragut, which is try to bring more people and awareness into the Farragut community and bring people into the businesses in Farragut," Brinkley said. "Super thankful to have the opportunity to be a sponsor and have a booth this year, and I'm happy to be part of the community."



Jake Nichols

Knox County Young Democrats vice president Julia Kay, left, and president Solomon Trapp welcomed new members at their informal meeting on Saturday, March 7, at Sunago Coffee Company in Hardin Valley.

Democrats

From page 1A

people, getting them on the ballot and helping them fund those campaigns," Kay said. "We're more boots on the ground people and want to be involved in our community organizations. We want to work more than just an election cycle; we want to be involved in whatever is going on and want to make sure people know that. And once you do reach 36, you can still volunteer with us and be involved in that way, too."

At last Saturday's meeting, Trapp and Kay informed potential members on how to sign up for the group, as well as what they can do down the road to get involved.

They both noted more information on their 2026 slate will be announced at their first general members meeting on

March 18 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

"They feel like there's not something out there for them to get involved with, so it's important that they know there is," Kay said. "We are here to amplify people who are already doing so much good work, so we can be a face for bringing those people in."

She added they want to work with new members on a variety of subjects, including county district meeting attendees and an observer corps for everything from County Commission meetings to city council and school board meetings.

"We will help with especially local campaigns," Kay said. "Our focus is here, so local Commissioner, school board. Helping them with volunteer aspects like canvassing, door knocking, phone calls."

"We want to make our voices

heard," she continued. "When you show up, it matters and makes a difference."

Kay and Trapp both put an emphasis on non-partisan voter registration, citing University of Tennessee students as a potentially impactful group within local elections.

"A small group of people can make a huge difference, and some votes in Knox County come down to 10, 20, 100 votes," Kay said. "So it really matters to get out."

Overall, she and Trapp both want this group to be one of action within the local community.

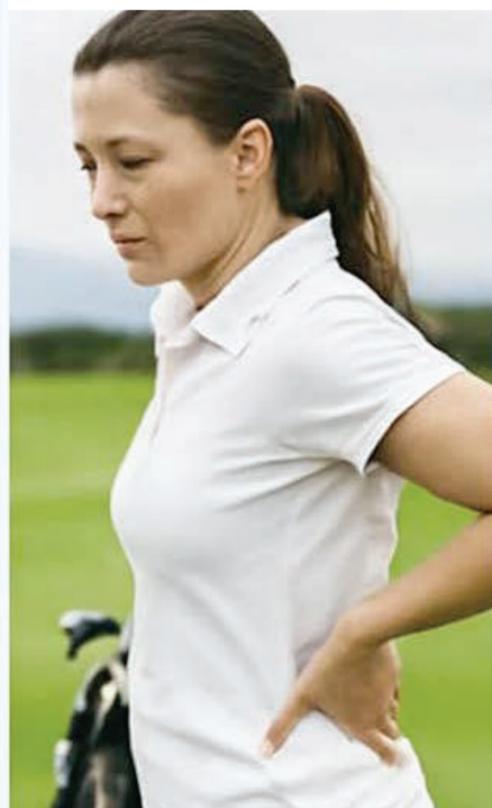
"There's a lot of organizations that preach their message, but when the opportunity arises to do something about it, nothing materializes," Trapp said. "So we want to hold our general members accountable to make sure everyone who is a member is contributing."

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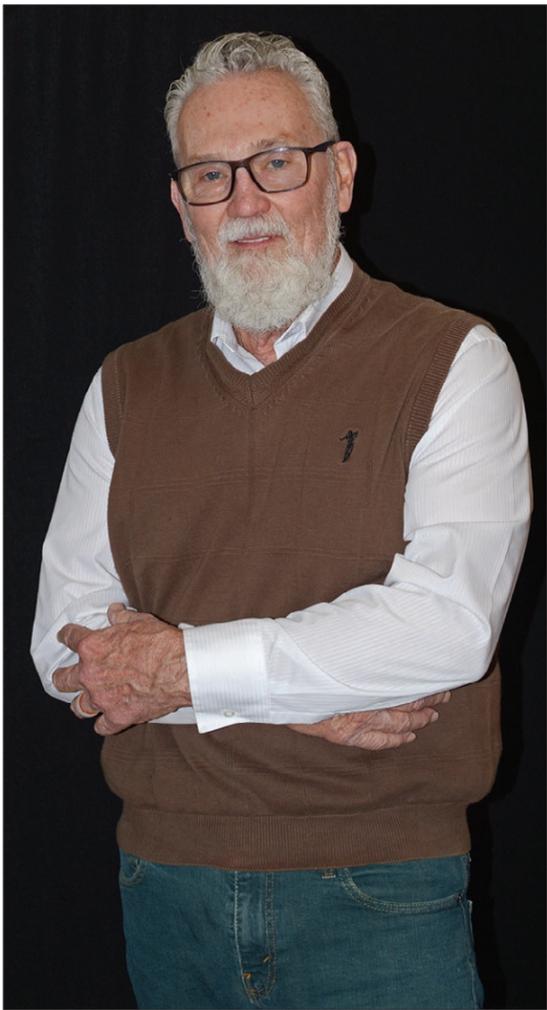


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Farragut chiropractor calls it a career



Tammy Cheek

Chiropractor Dr. Alan Lensgraf, who has been treating Farragut and West Knox County residents for 37 years, is set to retire.

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

For 37 years, chiropractor Dr. Alan Lensgraf has been treating Farragut and West Knox County residents at West Knox Chiropractic Group, 11320 Kingston Pike, in Farragut, but he decided to retire Dec. 19, 2025.

"I turned 70 last October," he said with a laugh about why he retired. "You know, it's never an easy decision, but I'd been kind of entertaining in the back of the mind for a couple years. It just seemed like the timing was correct, and it worked out."

Retiring "is definitely a different environment after you do something for that long, and then you don't," said Lensgraf, a doctor of chiropractic. "It's a transition, but so far, so good."

Born and raised in East Tennessee, he has been in practice 41 years, of which 37 of those were in Farragut.

"I started in Farragut in 1988," Lensgraf recalled.

Through the years, he had seen changes, as "the whole dynamics of the Town of Farragut is completely different."

"In the last 10 years, it has really changed, but even prior to that, it was changing rapidly," he said.

"When I moved into that building [where his office is situated at the corner of Kingston Pike and Campbell Station Road, next door to Rick Terry Jewelry Designs], the only thing at that corner was that [Phillips 66] gas station across the street that they condemned," Lensgraf said. "They ended up pulling up the tanks."

When he first opened his clinic, he remembered the gas station was still operating.

"But, they had a problem because it was so hard to get in and out of there at that corner that they eventually said 'enough is enough,'" he said, adding he thinks it closed in the early 1990s.

"It turned into an eyesore for quite some time there on that corner," Lensgraf said. "Now, they have that nice restaurant, 35 North."

In the chiropractic profession, he also has seen changes.

"You get new technology, new modalities, such as

deep-tissue laser therapy, which we will be doing at Medi-Spa [in Markets at Choto]," Lensgraf said. "It's not the latest and greatest; it's just the greatest new discipline in physical therapy modalities."

When he first started in the profession, chiropractors used ice packs and heat packs.

However, "we did have electrical muscle stem and ultrasound, which was primarily what we used, but the laser is so superior," Lensgraf said. "We still do a lot of electric stem, but we pretty much stopped doing ultrasound because the laser pretty much superseded that."

Looking back, he said what he liked best about being a chiropractor was "helping a lot of people."

"I think I had over 7,000 files [patients]; 7,000 people I touched in Farragut," Lensgraf said, noting he most will miss contact with his patients.

"In the chiropractic world, generally, when someone starts a treatment protocol, you're going to see [the patient] for a while, a couple months minimum," he said. "You basically kind of become friends. You know about their family; you know about their kids; you know about their pets."

Now, he is referring his patients to Dr. Kari and Dr. Colin Hickey, with Haven Chiropractic and Wellness, which has taken over Lensgraf's practice, at the same location on Kingston Pike.

"They acquired my practice and basically took over operations on Jan. 5," he said. "They are husband and wife, and one interesting thing, Dr. Kari is one of three chiropractors in Knoxville who is certified and licensed to treat animals."

"They do have an animal presence there on site — a couple rooms dedicated to animal care," Lensgraf said. "She stays really busy."

Haven Chiropractic and Wellness will celebrate its opening with a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting 11 a.m., Wednesday, March 18, at 11320 Kingston Pike, Suite 102.

Lensgraf said the Hickeys changed the layout of the building, formerly West Knox Chiropractic Group, to an open concept. While already retired, Lensgraf currently is transitioning with the Hickeys in the practice for a few more weeks.

Bryant Fence relocates, welcomes new owner

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

A new owner and new location marks 2026 for Bryant Fence in West Knox County.

Bruce Nicoara purchased the company Feb. 2, becoming the new owner of Bryant Fence, 10410 Cogdill Road, that moved in October from its former location off Lexington Drive.

"We take care of anybody needing a fence," Nicoara said. "We like to say we provide service to keep [property owners] secure and have peace of mind around their homes."

"We do everything from wood to vinyl, chain link and aluminum fencing," he said.

What sets Bryant Fence apart is "the people and how we take care of our customers," Nicoara said. "I tend to lead with the quality of servant leadership, so we're here to serve others and ensure that they're being treated fairly and kindly."

"We want to be known for

more than fences; we want to be known for how we treat people," he added.

Regarding his products, "our most popular fence is probably wood," Nicoara said. "There are tons of variations that you can get with wood. Next, behind that, would be aluminum fencing."

"A lot of the HOAs, especially in Farragut and West Knoxville now require aluminum fencing," he said. "So, we're getting a lot of those jobs as well."

"Especially with the growth that West Knoxville's seen, in general, with people moving in, there are a lot of new home builds and a lot of new neighborhoods popping up as well," providing business for Bryant Fence, Nicoara said.

"People want to have privacy and feel secure on their properties," he added. "So, it's a busy business, that's for sure."

Bryant Fence's office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, but it also runs estimates on Saturdays

as needed.

The company started in 1981, "so it's been in the community for a long time," Nicoara said. "It originally started in Powell, then seven years ago they moved out to West Knoxville."

"I just bought the company 24 days ago [Feb. 2]," he said. "I started about six months ago with Bryant Fence to learn as much as I could, as the general manager, before becoming owner."

"Now, I'm serving people in a new way rather than physical therapy," he said.

Nicoara's background was in physical therapy, for which he earned a doctorate in physical therapy from Belmont University in Nashville.

His mission was "working in the community, serving others by helping heal bodies, helping them recover."

"Then, I got into more of the business side, the corporate world of health care," Nicoara said.

But he was looking for an opportunity to call something



Tammy Cheek

Bruce Nicoara has traded his physical therapy career to purchase Bryant Fence, which moved in October from its former location off Lexington Drive.

this own.

Also, being married with three children, in health care, "I ended up traveling, covering the New England region for two to three weeks out of every month ... I was wanting something where I could be home more and really give back to

the community," he said.

"I ended up having a connection through a friend, which led to the purchase of [Bryant Fence]," Nicoara added.

For more information or to book an appointment, visit online www.bryantfence.com or call 865-947-9663.

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Letters to the editor

To the Editor:

This is in response to Mr. Mitchell's letter to the editor last week. According to Mr. Mitchell, a word salad is a circular conversation to avoid the real topic. Ironically, his lament in his letter is just that. Sadly, he also misrepresented the record regarding the Turkey Creek project.

During the May 2024 FMPC meeting, design plans for Turkey Creek Road were discussed.

Mr. Mitchell incorrectly attributes the initial motion to bring the matter up for discussion to me. The initial motion was made by Commissioner Myers and seconded by Mayor Williams. After a long discussion and public input, a substitute motion to defer action on the project was made by Commissioner St. Clair. I seconded the substitute motion to defer. The planning commission unanimously approved the substitute motion. You may view the meeting on

the Town's YouTube channel and the minutes for the meeting are available on the Town's website.

Before Town staff could work through the various concerns and update the design, Ms. Harkins and two of her neighbors sued the Town. It is my understanding that adjustments can be made to the initial design to bring the lane improvements and a pedestrian facility into the existing right of way.

There is no approved design for the Turkey Creek Road project. With no approved design, there's no plan for land/easement acquisition. Budgeting funds for potential land/easement acquisition is not allocation of funds. If the Board is unhappy with the final design, they do not have to vote to allocate the funds budgeted for land /easement acquisition.

Farragut's residents have repeatedly indicated through community surveys that they value the pedestrian facilities

within our transportation network and would like to see missing connections completed.

There's an effort to distract the community with claims of eminent domain. Recently, the Town adopted standards that significantly reduce the impact on residents' properties for future planned road improvements allowing the Town to work more closely within the existing right-of-way.

Sadly, misrepresenting the record and mischaracterizing my comments seems to be the norm these days. Often, when I explain the actual record, my explanation is dismissed as "word salad." It's condescending and disrespectful.

I do hope the residents of Farragut see this for what it is an effort to control things from behind a keyboard without actually participating in the public service arena by pulling a petition and running for office.

~ Louise Povlin

This issue is especially relevant as the Knox County Sheriff's race approaches. One candidate, Chief of Detectives David Amburn, has emphasized transparency in leadership. Transparency, however, should not begin after an election. A straightforward public update about the status of this investigation would go a long way toward restoring public confidence.

Farragut residents should not have to question whether it is safe to use the drive-up mailbox at their own post office. We deserve answers, action, and accountability.

~ Corey P. Kreisler

To the Editor:

As we approach the start of the 2026 Farragut Mayor and Alderman campaigns in the coming weeks, I believe it is important to speak about something that matters deeply to our community: civility.

In Farragut, we are more than candidates and supporters, we are neighbors. We attend the same churches, shop at the same stores, and our children and grandchildren grow up together in this town we all care about. While we may have different ideas about policy or priorities, we all share the same goal: doing what is best for the Town of Farragut.

I have seen personal attacks on social media that do not reflect the character of our community. The individuals being targeted deserve the same respect that each of us would expect for ourselves and our families. Before posting online, I encourage everyone to consider a few simple questions: would you say these same words to your spouse, parents, child, or loved ones? How would you feel if someone else did? If the answer gives you pause, then it is worth taking a moment to reconsider how we speak to and about

one another.

At the same time, it is important that we remain committed to truth. Opinion presented as fact becomes misinformation. When misinformation is used to damage someone's reputation, it becomes disinformation. When it is repeated without verification, it turns into rumor and gossip. These things have no place in a healthy civic conversation.

When misinformation appears, it should be addressed with facts — firmly, but respectfully. We can stand for truth while still showing kindness and grace toward one another.

At this time, the full slate of candidates have not yet been finalized. I welcome those who choose to run. Our community benefits when people step forward to serve. I look forward to discussing ideas, sharing solutions, and having thoughtful conversations about how we can continue to make Farragut a great place to live, work, and raise a family. No matter who you support in the coming election, I hope we will all commit to conducting this campaign in a way that reflects the values of the town we love.

~ Joe LaCroix

To the Editor:

How long should Farragut residents have to wonder whether a check placed in the drive-up mailbox at the Farragut Post Office will be stolen, altered, and fraudulently cashed?

For nearly a year, reports have surfaced of checks being taken from the drive-up mailboxes outside the Farragut Post Office, altered, and cashed. Many residents assumed this type of crime would quickly lead to an arrest so that we could safely return to using these convenient public mailboxes. Instead, the problem appears to continue with little visible progress.

Residents reading local po-

lice reports repeatedly see the same closing line: the case is "being investigated for theft, forgery, and fraud." After months of incidents, that statement begins to sound less like an update and more like a placeholder. What the community has not heard is a clear explanation of who is responsible for resolving the issue or what steps are being taken to stop it.

Whether the investigation falls under the Knox County Sheriff's Office or the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the lack of communication with the public is troubling. At a minimum, residents deserve to know that the problem is being addressed with urgency.

a gentleman, a great teacher and a great coach. He meant the world to me."

Dodgen offered a similar sentiment on Burris, reflecting on the man who took over the Admirals after a period as an assistant at Hardin Valley.

"You cannot find a better bunch of young men," Dodgen said. "And J.P. has come along to be one of the best high school coaches in this area. He listens; he asks questions; and he's his own man. He has done a wonderful job rebuilding this program."

Who knows? Maybe Sexton even found himself doused by water at one point as Burris was Monday.

Ads

From page 1A

State Tournament at the Murphy Center in Murfreesboro.

It is 37 miles from there to Memorial Gym, where Dodgen and Sexton both led their teams 43 years ago.

The shorts length may have changed in the years since, as have the haircuts of players, who were born well after those '83 games took place.

But these teams are still united by the name on the front of the uniform and the coaches who led them.

"He was a huge part of my program," Dodgen said of Sexton. "A wealth of knowledge,

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Full rules can be viewed at farragutpress.com under Opinion and Presstalk.

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GOP
From page 1A

she said.
“As a Commissioner, I turned the work that I started as a citizen advocate into policy, legislation and planning that focuses on what matters most to you, the taxpayer,” she said.
Regarding tax increases, Frazier said she will go to the citizens and ask them what services they want.

David Amburn
In the sheriff's race, Amburn currently is chief of detectives with the Knox County Sheriff's Office, for which he served the last 34 years.

“I was born and raised in Knox County, and I graduated from Farragut High School,” he said. “I kind of migrated to the other side of town now ... Halls and Powell area.

“Personally and professionally, I'm invested in this community,” Amburn said.

In the sheriff's office, he said he has had opportunities to

have a diverse background, from corrections to patrol, special investigations, detective, major crimes, property crimes and fleet management.

“I have had extensive experience helping to plan and implement the multi-million dollar budgets we use within the sheriff's office in the many different divisions,” Amburn said. “We had about a \$114 million budget this last year, and I'm sure it will probably increase.

“We also have a detention facility the sheriff's office is responsible for,” he added. “We have another 500 employees there.”

However, “the main thing you have to do as sheriff is, first of all, keep the citizens of Knox County safe,” Amburn said. That involves training officers, serving and supporting them and lead them.

“And you have to have a vision on how to move the sheriff's office forward,” he said. “... Knox County is at a cross-

roads. We are changing. We are exploding in our population.”

JJ Jones
Jones, who served as sheriff from 2007 to 2018, promised to bring a precinct back to Farragut.

“That would be the first thing I would do is to make sure Farragut has that precinct in Farragut, not in Cedar Bluff but in Farragut,” he said. “I was the first one to open a precinct in Farragut when I was the sheriff.

“We have opportunities that we can put a precinct back in Farragut,” said Jones, who grew up in Knox County and in the sheriff's office in 1980.

“Back then, there were about 196 employees,” he said. “Now, there are 1,000 ... things have changed a lot.”

In the 1990s, he recalled there were more officers then than now.

“Just think about how population has exploded in Knox County,” Jones said. “That's



Tammy Cheek

Candidates talk to Republican Club members.

one of the main things I look at. We need to get a full complement of officers in the sheriff's office. We're down about 100 officers.”

However, “we've got about 40 in the pipeline that we're hiring, and we still need about 45 more,” he said. “We're having to pull from different divisions to make sure our patrol

division does the job we need them to make sure our citizens are safe.

“It's not anybody's fault,” he added. “At one time, we went through COVID ... at one time we were 200 officers down, so we certainly have progressed and gotten better.”

Still, “its hard to try to retain employees,” Jones said.

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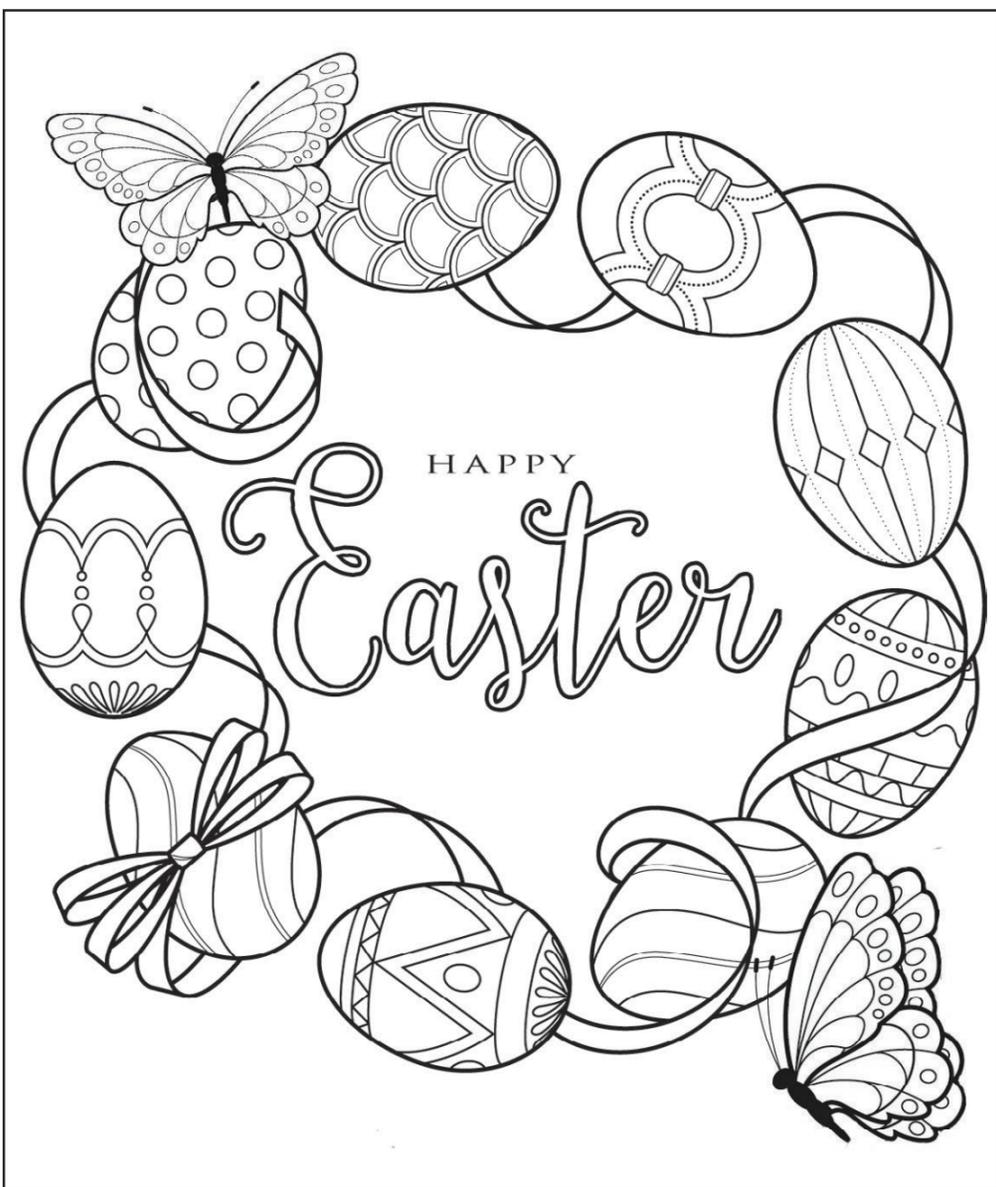
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Health and Wellness Expo

Visitors had plenty of options from which to choose at the 2026 Farragut Health and Wellness Expo held Sunday, March 1. Shop Farragut hosts the expo each year at the Farragut Community Center.

See story beginning on page 1A of this issue for more details about the Expo.



TennaNova representatives, from left: Travis Simmons, Wanda Crider, Heather Carrier, Tonya DeGuire, Debora Hamilton and Suzanne Thames



Madison Campbell and Natalie Sim smile for a photo during the 2026 Farragut Health and Wellness Expo.



Richard Reinhart and Karen Shaffer at the Water into Wine table



Drs. Kari Hickey, left, and Colin Hickey pose for a photo at their Haven chiropractor table.



Lauren Evans and Kevin Nguyen oversaw the Knoxville Federal Credit Union table.



Melissa Schuster, left, and Erica Warmack at the Orange Theory table



Nikki Brinkley welcomed visitors to the First Citizens Bank table.



Michelle Austin, left, and Taylor Hardy at their J.C. Penney table

Photos by Jake Nichols

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Bearden squads book state trips

Jake Nichols
 jnichols@farragutpress.com

Saturday night, March 7, the Bearden Lady Bulldogs did not have their best stuff against Morristown East.

Monday night, March 9, the boys squad went back and forth with Maryville in one of the better games in the area.

In the end, though, both Bearden teams are headed to the state tournament — the girls for the second consecutive year, and the boys for the first time since 2022.

It is the fourth time they have made the state tournament in the same year. Also, it marks the Bulldogs' 13th state appearance and the ninth state appearance for the Lady Bulldogs, who have an eye-popping 36 and 32 wins this year, respectively.

For the girls, they reached this point via a 56-43 win over Morristown East in Saturday's Class 4A sectional, reaching the TSSAA Class 4A State Tourna-

ment for the second consecutive year.

In the process, the Lady Bulldogs cemented a 42-1 record over the last four years, the lone blemish being a region championship loss to Farragut in 2024.

"I think until I heard the actual numbers, it doesn't do it justice until you sit and think about it," Bearden girls coach Justin Underwood said. "Basketball is such a streaky sport, so to have that over 43 games is extremely impressive and reflects those kids and what they've accomplished. This senior group has etched itself among the best in terms of what they were able to do at Bearden."

The end result was the same, as BHS cut down the nets in a sectional game for the second time in as many years.

Mo East limited Missouri signee Natalya Hodge to 13 points and held Emma Rainey, Katie Foster and Theola

See BEARDEN on Page 3B



Photos Jake Nichols

Above: Farragut coaches smiled alongside their seniors Monday, March 9, after locking up the program's first state berth in 43 years.

Senior class delivers state berth

Jake Nichols
 jnichols@farragutpress.com

Late Monday night, March 9, Farragut's five seniors sat together near the top of the bleachers at Sevier County High School.

Having played together since sixth grade, they could have been waiting for a pickup game based on their relaxed posture. Instead, with wet hair and "STATE BOUND" shirts, they smiled after clinching the program's first state tournament berth since 1983.

In a fitting twist, all five were Farragut's top five scorers on their biggest night in Admiral uniforms.

"We're just a brotherhood here," senior Britton Lewis said. "We have shirts that say family, and Coach Burris has done a great job with that. We knew that was our goal, to go to state. And he's kept us accountable to that."

"Man, that means the world to me because it's my group," Burris added with a smile. "I hope that doesn't sound selfish, but this is the group that came in with me. They bought into what our staff asked, telling them they would reap the benefits. And tonight they did."



Farragut's Britton Lewis (11) goes up for a shot against Sevier County on Monday, March 9, at Sevier County High School. Lewis led the Admirals with 15 points in their 57-50 win over the Smoky Bears, as FHS has advanced to the TSSAA State Tournament for the first time since 1983.

Lewis led the Ads with 15 points on the night, pacing FHS against a Sevier County team that upset-

See SENIOR on Page 3B

Ads out-joust Knights in thriller



Jake Nichols

Farragut senior Zain Kureshi-Smith is mobbed by teammates after scoring the winning run against Nolensville

Jake Nichols
 jnichols@farragutpress.com

An errant Nolensville pitch thumped into the backstop at the Ballpark at Farragut on Friday, March 6. Ninety feet away, Zain Kureshi-Smith leaped off third base, only to return when the ball rolled right to Knights catcher Evan McElvain.

Still, he kept his eyes peeled for another opportunity. It arrived with another wild pitch, which sent McElvain into a scramble and, eventually, an overthrow of pitcher Kyson Barney. That left a perfect win-

dow for the player nicknamed "Turbo," who sprinted home and slid across the plate to deliver a 4-3 victory after a rollercoaster eight innings in the Admirals' home opener.

"I was just a little hesitant because of the first one," Kureshi-Smith said of the wild pitches, his hair mussed after teammates bombarded him at the plate. "The ball bounced off a little weird. And all our players can hit it hard, so I didn't want to give myself up."

His two-out test in pa-

See ADS on Page 3B

Jake Nichols
 jnichols@farragutpress.com

The Farragut lacrosse seasons have begun for this season, so there is plenty to report for the Admirals thus far.

On the guys side, the Ads are off to a 3-0 start, having dispatched Christian Academy of Knoxville, Knox Catholic and Signal Mountain by scores of 20-4, 9-5 and 18-6, respectively.

FHS has shot out to quick starts in each matchup, building early

See ADMIRALS on Page 3B



Photo via Susan Kholstedt

The Farragut girls lacrosse team is 0-1 so far this season, having lost to CAK 16-9 in its first match of the year.

Admiral lacrosse under way in 2026

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Girls flag football under way in 2026

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

Greg Curtin has seen the gravitational pull of a new sport on an untapped population, having played football for Kentucky before a move to the Netherlands.

It was there he led a U.S. women's tackle football team, witnessing an impressive turnout for a sport that had only been viewed during the Super Bowl.

"There's a lot of unrecognized interest," Curtin said. "Then, one person starts a league and 160 girls show up. You're like, 'Where do these people come from?' As soon as someone says, 'Here's your opportunity,' there they are."

Curtin has seen a similar rise in girls flag football, as he is leading the Lady Admirals for the first TSSAA-sanctioned season in 2026.

FHS, Bearden and Hardin Valley have fielded teams, each one of the 14 Knox County schools that participated in the inaugural campaign

more than a year ago. The top seven teams from each district are seeded for a district tournament, then the winner of that tournament reaches the eight-team state tournament in May.

Still, the biggest changes for this year are the rule differences on the field.

"The biggest thing is that this year, there's really no rules to slow down the rusher," Bearden coach Zach Scott said. "In 2024, they had a 5-yard limit and had to have the rusher start 5 yards from the ball. This year it's a neutral zone like regular football, and you can rush all 7. That makes the snap huge, so the quarterback has to be athletic and will have half a second or a second less than a quarterback in tackle football."

These changes have a toll on players, as each team features a mix of dual-sport athletes and players who have never played a sport before.

Farragut already lost one quarterback to an ankle injury. It has relied on players,



Photo submitted

The Farragut girls flag football team is one of several across the area this spring, as the activity will be a fully-sanctioned TSSAA sport starting this season.

such as swimmer Aydan Skelton, another QB, and Bella Bruton, a linebacker and offensive weapon who is the daughter of new FHS offensive coordinator, Daniel Bruton.

The Lady Ads dropped their first two games of the year to Anderson County and Carter while Bearden is 2-0 with ath-

letes, such as Isabella Jones.

Hardin Valley has looked to players like running back Nevaeh Bellamy while shuffling quarterbacks before their first game March 27.

"They're finally getting a chance to participate in something they've been surrounded with all the time,"

Curtin added.

"They love trying a new sport and getting in the game. Our seniors have a shot to put their stamp on a new sport before they leave. All that history is on the table, so that's neat for them. And I'm excited to see other kids in the stands to watch them on the field."



Photo Submitted

The Webb Lady Spartans hugged and celebrated together on Saturday, March 7, after winning their second straight Division II-AA state championship against Lipscomb Academy.

Webb storms back for second-straight state title

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

Webb storms back for second-straight state title

Greg Hernandez knows what it's like to be on the losing end of a state championship basketball game.

But after a state title loss in 2024, his Webb Lady Spartans have claimed two straight state titles — the latest last Saturday, March 7, in a 48-47 win over Lipscomb Academy at Austin Peay State University.

In two straight games, the Lady Spartans staged improbable comebacks. The first came in a 16-point comeback to beat Christ Presbyterian Academy 59-54 in a semifinal rematch of last year's state championship game. Then, Webb trailed by 12 Saturday against Lipscomb Academy.

Green stole the ball and scored the game-winner with 6.1 seconds left.

"What a way to end a career for Meeyah Green," Hernandez said. "The biggest stage, the biggest moment. For a player of her caliber to make a play when her team needed it, to make a steal and layup and have the final blocked shot, it shows what a player and competitor she is."

Green led Webb with 17 points, taking home MVP honors while Kyndall Mays scored 12 for a Spartan team which showed resilience in each scenario.

In the end, the Lady Spartans were left feeling emotionally drained — but happy.

"We needed everything to go right in that fourth quarter, and darn it, it happened twice," Hernandez said. "Lightning struck twice."

Clemson signee Meeyah

Catholic falls in four overtimes

Ken Lay

Correspondent

Knoxville Catholic High School's boys basketball team saw its season come to an end in Division II-AA State Tournament semifinals Thursday, March 6.

The Irish battled valiantly but came up on the losing end of a 75-72 four-overtime thriller against Briarcrest Christian School, which was eventually crowned 2025-26 state champion on Saturday at F&M Bank

Arena on the campus of Austin Peay State University.

KCHS, which finished with a 24-7 record this season, defeated Briarcrest to win the 2019-20 state title before everything was shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a physical contest Thursday, Catholic had four starters foul out, leaving Cade Murphy as the Irish's lone starter on the floor by the end of the marathon game, which ended up being the longest contest ever played in TSSAA Division

II State Tournament history.

The Saints, which won their 31st game in the state title game against Pope John Paul II Saturday, March 7, withstood every punch that KCHS threw in this epic battle that went back-and-forth throughout.

But Catholic's reserves, out of necessity, made some crucial plays as starters, Malachi Brown, Warren Brown, Travis Martin and Landon Lee, all had to leave the contest after picking up a fifth foul.

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Bearden finding new scorers

Ken Lay
Correspondent

Coming into the 2026 season, Bearden High School girls lacrosse team had to replace some key players that graduated in 2025.

The Lady Bulldogs and coach Dawn Coe are rapidly finding replacements for the players who departed following last year.

"We lost a lot of scorers and a lot of great defensive players to graduation," Coe said. "We've had some kids really step up on defense and we've really had some kids step up and score goals."

Through the first four games of the 2026 campaign, the Lady Bulldogs have a 2-2 overall record with wins over Pigeon Forge (17-2) and St. Cecilia Academy (16-5). Bearden's losses have come to Page and Father Ryan, two of the Nashville Area's top teams. The Lady Patriots are the defending state champions while the

Lady Irish are a power in the Midstate.

"Page is the defending state champion and Father Ryan, out of Nashville, has a really good team," Coe said. "They have a Division I and Division II (college) recruit on their team."

Bearden lost its season opener to Page, 7-3, late last month before bouncing back to rout St. Cecilia and the Lady Tigers. The Lady Bulldogs have boasted a balanced scoring attack out of the gate this season.

Kathryn Line has bouned the back of the opposing net eight times this season and is Bearden's leading goal scorer. Kendall Coe has amassed five goals in the Lady Bulldogs' first four matches while Riley Hart has scored six goals. Madeline Council and Shea Akagi have scored six goals each.

"Our scoring has been pretty much spread out," Coach Coe said.

it's always good to challenge ourselves against a team like that."

Copeland wanted to test his team early in his second season, wanting to prepare his team for a packed district slate and, eventually, a potential fifth-straight 4A state title.

Nolensville struck first on an Admiral error in the third inning.

Two innings later, a Mason Shelton RBI single scored Neyland Williams to tie the score.

The teams remained locked at 1 until the bottom of the seventh when Farragut loaded the bases with a chance to walk it off.

Two straight strikeouts followed on a night when FHS finished just 6-of-31 at the plate.

squad, 53-50, in a game that appeared closer to a state tournament bout than one that determined who would go to state in the first place.

"It is not a game that should have occurred in a sectional," Bearden boys coach Jeremy Parrott said. "Geographically, it makes zero sense to play a team 20 minutes away in this matchup. That was tough for the kids in the programs. I know they lost their region game, but it should have never been a possibility. We knew it would be a tough task, so it was one that could have gone either way. For us to pull it out was fantastic."

Brendan Murphy led the Dawgs with 16 points while Carson Asbaty and Justin Nordin scored 15 and 12, respectively.

BHS led by 10 at one point in the second half then held on late for the win.

"It turned into a bit of a rock fight," Parrott said. "We got a couple possession leads on them and spread the floor and kept the lead out of their reach."

Senior

From page 1B

Maryville to lock up a host spot in sectionals. Fittingly, four of Lewis' points came during two straight fast breaks during the run that put the game away.

"Britton is just Britton," Burris said. "That steady hand, he guards the other team's best player, and he can go get you a bucket when you need one. I thought he was really big when we put together that run to end it. You trust him, and he delivers."

Two other seniors, Parker

Lane and Reid Vining, delivered too with 12 points each. Lane knocked down a 3-pointer to break a 40-40 tie and hit multiple free-throws late, while Vining nailed a layup as part of the Admirals' final push.

Fellow senior Aidan Foshie added 11 points of his own, including a clutch 3-pointer and a free throw that marked the last point of the game. And Dan Lanning scored three points, two of which came amidst Farragut's first run when they responded to a 6-2 deficit with a 19-2 run to close

the first quarter.

Yet even in an evening when they reached new heights, Farragut's players found familiarity in their circumstances.

After jumping out to a 21-8 lead, the Admirals withstood a second-quarter push from the Smoky Bears to take a 31-24 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Still, Sevier County was not done. Far from it, in fact.

The home squad staged a quick 11-4 run out of the break, tying the score at 35 to send the purple-clad gym into bedlam.

Admirals

From page 1B

momentum to find success.

"That quick start helps build confidence with the team and the execution and plays we want to run," head coach Ben Sachs said. "Then it gives our defense a chance to be more aggressive and pull the trigger on certain formations."

Freshman Matthew Kitchiner led the team with six goals and two assists against Signal Mountain.

"He was a force for us," Sachs said. "We have a very blessed community where a lot of young men are stepping into roles that are difficult, but they understand the I.Q. and the chemistry to play well. And they can't do that unless the upperclassmen like Brock Lockhart and Brody Gruver lead by example."

"When you come in as a freshman, you're typically un-

dersized and don't have that I.Q.," he continued. "But a lot of our guys do that work in the offseason with upperclassmen, so they can have confidence."

That confidence also has been formed via a strong pipeline in the FHS youth program, as kids who begin playing together as early as 9 years old find themselves on the same fields years later.

That will be a crucial component for the next five outings. After Spring Break, the Ads will take on Webb, Briarcrest, Baylor, Ravenwood and Hillsboro.

"All five will be extremely tough games, but we want tough games to get experience under our belt for the playoffs," Sachs said.

On the girls side, FHS is in the midst of a transition year under first-year coach Savannah Thomas, who previously served as an assistant.

With seven seniors leading

the way, the Lady Ads are looking to find more experience this year since only the starters have a significant amount of playing time.

Their first outing of the year resulted in a 16-9 loss to CAK. Jane Davanzo led the team with four goals on eight attempts with one assist, followed by three goals and two assists from Addy Chambers and two more scores with one assist for Sirilla Cretton-Gilbert.

Chambers totaled a .750 shot percentage on the night, as FHS saw its lead disappear in the second half.

"It was a lack of communication between the defense," Thomas said. "We had practiced all week and did well in those, then for whatever reason, it didn't translate. They know how to play, but it didn't translate when CAK was as aggressive as they were."

Ads

From page 1B

tience proved effective, as did Kureshi-Smith's approach at the plate and in the field. Before scoring the winning run, the centerfielder tied the game 3-3 on a two-out, two-RBI double to undo a two-run shot from McElvain in the top half of the eighth.

Combined, those plays brought a fitting end for the prep baseball edition of a Pay-Per-View prize fight, which brought plenty of pro scouts to Friday's contest.

"It's always good to be victorious against a team like that," FHS coach Garrett Copeland said. "They're a really good team that will compete for a spot in Murfreesboro, so

Bearden

From page 1B

Mills in check for four points apiece.

MC LeMarbre came through with 17 points, and Riley Hunt added 11 to boost the Lady Bulldogs.

"Teams take their chances to give options, and MC stayed ready and got that opportunity," Underwood said. "She did her job when she had her chances."

"Some of our usual pieces didn't have as many as normal in the scoring column. But still, just being able to grind out a sub-state win is big."

Now, Bearden will look to continue that effort on Thursday, March 12, against Bartlett in the state quarterfinals.

A win would put Underwood's team into the semifinals for the second straight season.

On the boys side, Bearden will face a 32-2 Beech squad next Thursday, March 19, at 2:15 p.m.

They reached this point by dispatching a feisty Maryville



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Final Honor Air flight scheduled for April 8

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Wednesday, April 8, Knoxville's McGhee Tyson Airport will host what is expected to be the community's final Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

Four of those veterans taking flight in April are from Farragut. Of those, Chester Fox, a Marine Corps veteran,

and Glenn Sisco, who served in the Navy, are hoping to see the Vietnam Memorial.

"I've seen pictures of [the memorial], and I hope I can stand it to see all that," said Fox, who added he served in "all of '67" in Vietnam.

"I've never been to the memorial," said Sisco, who served in Vietnam from 1962 to 1966. "I have a couple of friends who

were killed the war. I hope to see their names on the memorial.

"As a service person, we're so fortunate to walk up to the memorial," he added.



Sisco

"Some others couldn't. It's humbling."

In the Marine Corps, Fox was a combat engineer.

To gain a seat on the Honor Air flight, "my oldest boy, he flies for American Airlines," Fox said. "He arranged it some way. He's hoping to join me there.

"I hadn't even heard about [Honor Air flights before], but

it's pretty exciting," he added.

For Sisco, "my wife kept encouraging me to go [on the flight]," he said. "I looked it up and found out it was going to be the last one."

So, he filled out an application and was chosen.

"I feel extremely honored and thankful to the Knoxville

See HONOR AIR on Page 6B

Hardin Valley student wins Poetry Out Loud

Staff Reports
editor@farragutpress.com

Hardin Valley Academy student Sarah Williamson took home the win as the champion of the 2026 Tennessee Poetry Out Loud competition held Saturday, Feb. 28, in the Center for the Arts in Murfreesboro.

This was Williamson's first time competing in Poetry Out Loud.

"I love the art of poetry," she said. "The way that words fit together to be interpreted and performed, resonating with people's emotions and experiences.

"Despite the nerves, I love performing and am thrilled to represent Tennessee at the national competition," William-



Williamson

son said.

Others who placed in the state were: first runner-up Beatrice Sanders from Chattanooga High School Cen-

See POETRY on Page 6B



Photo submitted

Among those who broke ground for Operation Hero's Hill were Rotary Club of Farragut members, from left Tom Woodbery; Bill McGrath; Becky Duncan; president Candace Viox; Farragut Mayor Ron Williams, a Rotary member; and Greg Tilley (far right), who all joined Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs in pitching the dirt at the downtown site.

Breaking ground on Hero's Hill

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Rotary Club of Farragut members were among those who recently helped break ground on Knox County's Hero's Hill project in downtown Knoxville.

"I'm very excited," RCF president Candace Viox said. "I cannot wait to go to the ribbon cutting.

"I'm hoping that within a year, when they get the site done and the houses set up, we are hoping to know more of when the pavilion and outdoor projects, which the Rotary Club of Farragut is going to be directly impacted, will be ready.

"I'll be asking our community for gardeners," she said. "They are going to have a garden area ... when you look at the plans of what they are going to be doing on the site, it's very exciting."

RCF's part in the project started Aug. 20,

2025, when the club heard from Mayor Glenn Jacobs, who shared his goals for Operation Hero's Hill.

"He shared about the need and opportunity for 120 homeless veterans in Knox County," Viox said. "Forty-one percent of them are experiencing homelessness or have physical and mental disabilities.

"So, Mayor Glenn Jacobs created and championed Operation Hero's Hill, a transformative initiative dedicated to ending veteran homelessness by providing safe, stable and dignified housing for those who have given much in defense of our country," she said.

The project is across the street from TCAP on Liberty Street in downtown Knoxville.

"That area, being close to the freeway, close to downtown, close to Sutherland Avenue and a sidewalk system, will allow the veterans to be able to hopefully navigate the area pretty

See HERO'S HILL on Page 5B

Webb School welcomes spring with annual ArtXtravanza

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Webb School of Knoxville is continuing its tradition and holding its annual spring ArtsXtravanza to showcase community and student artists.

The event, featuring acrylic artist Vicky Reddish, will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 27; from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m., Saturday, March 28; and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, March 29, on Webb School campus' Lee Athletic Center at 9800 Webb School Lane.

"There is an incredible sense of pride in hosting Artxtravanza," said Joy Edwards, event coordinator. "It's more than just an art show; it's a moment where the walls of our venue come alive with the collective imagination of the community.

"Seeing months of planning culminate in a space filled with conversation, connection and creativity is deeply rewarding," she said.

The show will feature "an extraordinary selection of fine art from nearly 70 professional

See WEBB SCHOOL on Page 5B

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Webb School

From page 4B

artists from across the region and beyond,” Edwards said.

Visitors will find a diverse mix of mediums, including:

- Visual Arts: Oil and acrylic paintings, watercolors, photography and abstract pieces, including works by featured artist Vicky Reddish.

- 3D & Craft: Sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, wood, glass, stone and fiber arts.

- Student Work: A student art exhibition featuring Webb Lower, Middle and Upper School students, plus an “artist in action” booth, where students create live on-site art.

“Our artists are hand-selected through a competitive jury process that prioritizes professional craftsmanship and unique vision,” Edwards said. “It’s about more than just filling a booth; it’s about curating a world-class gallery experience right here in our community.”

She explained the event is

a “Show & Sale” designed for both serious collectors and casual enthusiasts in person and online.

“Works are available to suit every budget,” Edwards added. Also, 30 percent of each sale at ArtXtravaganza is tax-deductible.

Additionally, the event features a “Brushes & Bids” online auction, from March 23 to 27, which features up to five specific pieces from each participating artist.

While the cost to attend the show is free, attendees can purchase patron party tickets, \$50 per person, for a “sneak peek” of the event. Edwards said those tickets can be purchased through the official website at artxtravaganza.org/patronparty

The Patron Party tickets grant entry to the Friday night kickoff, from 5 to 9 p.m., which includes a sneak peek at the artwork before the general public, live jazz, cocktails, beer, wine and hors d’oeuvres, she said.



Photo submitted

Webb School of Knoxville students, from left, Wolf Turner, Jack Barnett and Laya Kassira turn out art works for the Webb ArtXtravaganza.

Last year, “after our expenses, we made \$60,000, and our goal this year is \$75,000,” Edwards said.

Hero’s Hill

From page 4B

easily, especially once they get in some [Americans with Disabilities Act] transportation for pick-up and drop-off,” Viox said. “The project’s going to create 20 tiny homes that are ADA compliant and interiors with options of accessibility ramps.

“The community feature will feature a computer lab, washers and dryers, a fitness center and an outdoor meeting space,” Viox said. “The outdoor pavilion will serve as a gathering space for veterans to build their own community network.

“So, the Rotary Club of Farragut committed to help with the outdoor pavilion equipment, with an estimated dollar amount cost of \$10,000, and gym equipment for the interior gym, which will be an estimated \$9,160,” she said. “With the \$20,000 that’s needed with these two projects to help Operation Hero’s Hill’s success, \$10,000 of the dollars came from the Rotary Club of Farragut and other Rotary Clubs in Knoxville associated with District 6780.

“The other \$10,000 is being matched by Rotary International,” Viox said. “The grant was written by Becky Duncan, the leader in our Rotary Club

of Farragut who requested \$10,000 on behalf of a match from Rotary International. It was accepted.

“Because of the hard work of the Rotary Club of Farragut and the other Rotary Clubs in Knoxville, we were able to commit the \$20,000 to help Operation Hero’s Hill,” she said.

Another “cool” part of the project is that the 20 tiny homes actually are being built by high school students around Knox County, Viox remarked.

Farragut High School is building two of those homes.

“Farragut High School is involved with their welders, plumbers, heating and air

program, as is Bearden High School,” she said. “The tiny homes are on their school property and the students are being assisted with mentors.

“Cara Knapp and her architectural team from oysk3 architect firm created the designs for all of the tiny homes,” Viox said, noting oysk3’s team also developed the build-out for Water Into Wine bistro and lounge, for which Viox is owner.

“Once I knew the people involved in Operation Hero’s Hill, it was easy for me to be able to meet with my Rotarians and share the opportunity to connect and raise the money for this good cause,” she said.



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See PLANNER on Page 6B

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MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

<p>I) Call to Order II) Approval of Agenda III) Approval of Minutes A) Approval of Minutes for the February 19, 2026 Meeting IV) Action Items A) Request for approval of a right of way permit for First Utility District Turkey Creek BLine Phase 2 sanitary sewer extension project (First Utility District, Applicant) B) Request for approval to extend approximately 358 feet of fiber optic cable along a section of overhead utility lines on the north side of Kingston Pike to service 11155-11157 Kingston Pike (Charter/Spectrum, Applicant) C) Discussion and public hearing on a site plan for an open air pavilion for the Farragut Christian Church, 138 Admiral Road, Zoned R-1 (Johnson Architecture, Applicant) D) Discussion and public hearing on a site plan for a preschool playground at the Concord United Methodist Church, 11040 Roane Drive, Zoned R-2 (Cannon & Cannon, Inc., Applicant) E) Approval of Resolution PC-26-02, a resolution to amend the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Appendix B - Subdivisions, Article IV., Development Prerequisite to</p>	<p>Final Approval, Subsection A. Required Improvements., 10. Street Name and Traffic Signs, to provide for clarity on the maintenance of nonstandard support posts and/or street or traffic signs F) Discussion and public hearing on Ordinance 26-07, an ordinance to amend the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Appendix A - Zoning, Chapter 4. General Provisions and Exceptions, Section VIII. - Farragut Municipal Flood Damage Prevention Regulations, Section C. General Provisions., 2. Basis for Establishing the Areas of Special Flood Hazard, to update the referenced Community Panel Numbers for O243G and O244G, to reference the LOMR effecting these panel numbers and that became effective February 10, 2026 V) Discussion Items A) Discussion on a request to amend the Future Land Use Map for 11830 Kingston Pike from Very Low Density Residential to Office (Marzolf Investment, Applicant) B) Discussion on a request to amend the Farragut Zoning Map for 11830 Kingston Pike from General Single Family Residential (R-2) to Office (O-1)(Marzolf Investment, Applicant) VI) Approval of Utilities VII) Citizens Forum</p>
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FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN MEETING WORKSHOP

Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 5:00 PM
Farragut Town Hall • 11408 Municipal Center Drive

- I. Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Business Items
- A. Review of FY 27-32 CIP Draft Budget, Equipment Replacement Funds, Tourism Funds, and Other Funds
- 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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FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN MEETING AGENDA

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance II. Approval of Agenda III. Approval of Minutes A. February 26, 2026 Workshop B. February 26, 2026 IV. Mayor’s Report A. Arbor Day Proclamation V. Ordinances & Resolutions A. Ordinances 1. First Reading a. Request for approval of Ordinance 26-06, an ordinance on first reading to amend the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Chapter 111 – Stormwater Management Control, Section 111-7. Design Standards for Detention and/or Retention Ponds, to remove the requirement for stormwater detention in the lower portion of a watershed where 	<p>engineering documentation can demonstrate that this would have a positive effect on overall stormwater management due to the timing of stormwater runoff</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> B. Resolutions 1. Approval of Resolution R-2026-05 to amend the Town of Farragut Surplus Property Policy 2. Approval of Resolution R-2026-06, Declaring Certain Town Property to be Surplus Property VI. Business Items A. Approval of Handheld Radios through NASPO cooperative pricing VII. Citizens Forum VIII. Town Administrator’s Report IX. Town Attorney’s Report X. Adjournment
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Honor Air

From page 4B

area [Honor Flight organization] to have these flights," Sisco said. "It's a privilege.

"People hear stories and know they're appreciated," he said.

HonorAir Knoxville, the all-volunteer nonprofit organization, which has spent nearly 20 years honoring America's veterans, has announced it will sunset operations following its final scheduled flights in 2026.

"Honor Flights provide veterans — primarily World War II, Korean War and Vietnam-era veterans — a free one-day

trip to visit the memorials built in their honor, with priority often given to senior and terminally ill veterans," area resident Laurie Christie said. "This final flight is completely full of veterans and, as I understand it, will have no chaperones because it's their last chance to receive this recognition in Knoxville.

"Our neighborhood will be at the airport to honor Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient Mike Melvin, who was shot in Vietnam at age 18 and survived while most of his group was killed, as well as all of the veterans on this final flight.

"Founded in 2007, HonorAir Knoxville was created with a simple but powerful mission: to take World War II veterans to Washington, D.C., allowing them to stand before the memorial built in their honor and experience the nation's gratitude firsthand," an Honor Air press release stated. "The mission later expanded to include Korean War veterans in 2011 and Vietnam War veterans in 2015," it stated. "With its final flight, HonorAir Knoxville will have attempted to honor every WWII, Korean and Vietnam veteran who expressed a desire to make the journey."

Since its inception, HonorAir

Knoxville has conducted 38 in-person flights and three virtual flights, honoring more than 4,500 East Tennessee veterans, according to the press release.

"The program was supported entirely by volunteers and fueled by more than \$3.5 million in community donations, all of which went directly toward honoring veterans," it added.

"Our board of directors and team believe the organization has fulfilled — and exceeded — the purpose for which HonorAir Knoxville was created," said Eddie Mannis, president/founder. "Sunsetting the program is not an ending born of loss, but one rooted in comple-

tion, gratitude and deep respect for what this organization set out to do — and accomplished — together."

HonorAir Knoxville currently is working on the April 8 flight.

"As in the past, priority is placed on veterans who had 'boots on the ground,'" the release stated. "If the sunset announcement results in a significant increase in applications, the board will thoughtfully evaluate whether an additional flight in 2026 is feasible."

Interested veterans can apply online at www.honorair-knoxville.com.

Poetry

From page 4B

ter for Creative Arts; second runner-up Eriel Wilkins from Arlington High School; third runner-up Haakeem Holmes from Harding Academy of Memphis.

All four state finalists received a 2026 Poetry Out Loud Tennessee Award crafted by David Adkins of Art Wire Music in Murfreesboro. Also, finalists' schools received stipends to purchase poetry books and supplies.

"Through Tennessee's Poetry Out Loud, students cultivate not only powerful public speaking skills but also invaluable self-assurance and profound connection to our rich literary traditions," Tennessee Arts Commission chair Jenny Boyd said. "Our heartfelt congratulations to every teacher and student who in-

vested their passion and effort in this year's program."

As state champion, Williamson will participate in the Poetry Out Loud national finals April 27-29, in Washington, D.C.

"Champions from each state will perform in one of three semifinals held on Tuesday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.," a press release stated. "The top

three students from each semifinal group will move on to the Poetry Out Loud National Finals event Wednesday, April 29, at 7 p.m.

"Poetry Out Loud will award a total of \$50,000 to students and schools at the national finals, including a \$20,000 award for the Poetry Out Loud National Champion," the release stated.

Planner

From page 5B

www.hbaknoxville.com or email cbowen@hbaknoxville.com to learn more.

- Mission of Hope will hold its

3rd Annual Sporting Clays Tournament Friday, May 15, at Iron Mountain Sporting Clays in Kodak, Tennessee. Register at missionofhope.org/clay-tournament or call 865-584-7571. Sponsorship opportunities are available.



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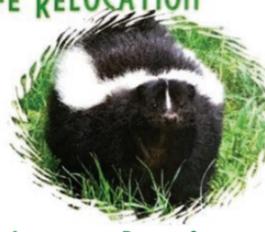
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