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Town weighs \$10M Public Works complex



Photo courtesy of Town of Farragut
The Public Works crew currently cannot fit trucks completely into the fleet management buildings.

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

With the Capital Investment Program budget draft close to completion, Town administrator David Smoak introduced a new project, a Public Works complex, during a Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen budget workshop Thursday, March 12, that could

affect the Town's bottom line.

"When we put that project in here, that changes these numbers considerably," Smoak added.

"I think this project should be a very big priority," Alderman Alex Cain said. "They are the face of the Town — on a day to day basis — those [Public Works and Parks]

departments, and I think they deserve the best facilities."

"I have absolutely no doubt that we need something new, [but] I am nowhere near ready to support \$10-\$13 million on a last-second drop in my lap," Alderman Drew Burnett said. "I don't like surprises, unless it's my birthday."

"But, this is a whole

lot," he said. "I feel like it's getting shoved into the budget at the last second. "I'm just not there," Burnett said. "I'm there in that I know that we need it, but something with this type of expenditure this large. Man, I would like to get in a room and just white board-ing, looking at options ...

See \$10M on Page 5A

Mayoral candidates to speak April 2

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Voters have an opportunity to learn more about the candidates running for Knox County mayor when Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce presents its 2026 Speaker Series: Knox County Mayoral Candidate Luncheon.

The event will take place from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday, April 2, in Rothchild Catering & Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. The program will begin at 11:45 a.m.

Republican candidates, Larsen Jay, Kim Frazier and Betsy Henderson and Democratic candidate Beau Hawk will answer questions on topics affecting the county.

"Generally, whenever there's a major election for the role of county mayor, which impacts Knox County, impacts the Town of Farragut and every community in between, we think it's important to encourage civic engagement and voter education ahead of those primary elections," FWKCC president/CEO Julie Blaylock said. "We did a forum similar to this back in 2018, which was the first primary during which Glenn Jacobs ran for mayor. "This election cycle, we're



Frazier



Hawk



Henderson



Jay

See MAYORAL on Page 2A

Farragut board eases stormwater detention rules

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Developers planning projects in the Town of Farragut may be getting a break.

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted unanimously in favor of amending its stormwater management control ordinance, Section 111-7, regarding requirements for stormwater detention.

Town engineer Darryl Smith said the amendment "would remove a requirement for stormwater detention in the lower portion of a watershed where engineering documentation can demonstrate that this would have a positive effect on overall stormwater management due to the timing of stormwater runoff. "As noted during discussion with the [Farragut

See STORMWATER on Page 2A



Photos Submitted

Farragut talent on display

From music to sculpture, artists featured in museum exhibit

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Artists hailing from Farragut come in many forms — actors, singers/songwriters, muralists, graphic designers, designers and sculptors.

Thus, Farragut Museum, located in Farragut Town Hall, is featuring them in a new temporary exhibit, "Farragut Focus: A Creative Community."

"We just really wanted to showcase some of the artists who have come from Farragut," said Kristi Vining, Historic Resources coordinator. "We are really proud of all we accomplished and the contributions that we've made to the art world.

"These former Farragut residents — and some are still Farragut residents — have a lot to be proud of, so we wanted to share their stories," she said.

The exhibit runs now through the end of April in the museum, 11408 Municipal Center Drive, and focuses on Farragut artist: performing, vi-

See TALENT on Page 4A



Photo submitted

Top: Music artists from Farragut, such as John Davis and David Haley Lauer, are among those featured in Farragut Museum's new exhibit.

Above: Colin Cunningham, Farragut High School Class of 2005, now is known professionally as Colin Brittain, a songwriter, producer and musician for Warner Chappel Music.

Dads, daughters invited to Shamrock Ball

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Daddies and their daughters once again will have a chance to dance together as Town of Farragut presents its annual Shamrock Ball Saturday, March 21, in Farragut Community Center, 239 James-

towne Blvd.

"It's our favorite event of the year," Town Parks & Recreation director Ron Oestreich exclaimed. "Dads and daughters all dressed up — it's so fun to see all the dresses and how excited the little girls are to be with their dads and to dance with their friends and just

have a great time here."

There will be two time sessions from which to choose: from 3 to 5 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m.

"They're both equally popular," he said of the sessions.

However, Oestreich observed the younger girls usually come from 3 to 5 p.m. then the older girls

attend the 6 to 8 p.m. session.

Cost for the event is \$30 per couple. They can register at the front desk of Farragut Community Center or visit online at townoffarragut.org

"If there're multiple children, then it's \$5 for

See BALL on Page 4A



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from the Town by Wendy Smith

Farragut to roll out new (and improved) park amenities this year



Three park projects that have been anticipated/needed for years will come to fruition soon, and no one is more excited about them than Parks & Rec director Ron Oestreich.

“We’re really busy right now with new programs and construction projects, but it’s a good busy, and I know that the community appreciates everything we’re working on,” he says.

A brand-new amenity that is scheduled to be completed this fall is access to Red Mill Dam. In August of 2020, the Town received a 6.43-acre parcel that includes Red Mill Dam from an anonymous donor. Turkey Creek runs through the property, and it was dammed to make a forebay, a reservoir that collects water to run equipment like a water wheel. The property is located on the west side of Concord Road, just north of Turkey Creek Road.

While the dam is scenic, it isn’t easily accessible. A small parking lot and pathway will give the public easy access to this historic area. The project, which is currently in the design stage, consists of a 10-stall parking lot and a paved pathway to an overlook of the dam. “This is a unique park, different from any other property in town. The natural aspect of this area is truly amazing,” says Oestreich.

The Town received a \$25,000 Tennessee Dog Park Dash Grant from the Boyd Foundation in 2022, and ground has finally broken on a dog park at McFee Park. The dog park, located on the western edge

of the park, will feature two fenced areas, one for small dogs and one for large, as well as installed equipment to help pooches play.

The dog park, which is partially funded by a Local Parks & Recreation Fund (LPRF) Grant from the state, should be completed this summer. A parking lot that opened last fall will serve the dog park as well as the bike trail, and a restroom for both is expected to be completed this fall. These amenities add to what is already an exceptional park, Oestreich says.

“This is a beautiful, community park with many amenities for all ages.”

An upgrade is under way at Mayor Bob Leonard Park — the reconstruction of the Sand Volleyball Complex. The sand courts were constructed in 1996 and haven’t been upgraded since then. Gravel that served as the drainage system became displaced and began working its way to the surface, creating a hazard for players.

The courts have been dug up and drainage tiles are being installed that will divert water away from the complex. The showers that serve the volleyball courts are also getting an upgrade. This much-needed improvement is also partially funded through an LPRF grant.

“From spring to fall, leagues and groups keep the volleyball courts busy. The volleyball complex is one of the most popular amenities at Mayor Bob Leonard Park,” Oestreich says.

Stormwater

From page 1A

Municipal] Planning Commission, there is a reasonable argument to allow developments in the lower portions of large watersheds to be exempt from stormwater detention requirements,” he said. “This should be considered only for developments draining directly into a major stream or only across other properties that are part of the same development before entering the stream.

“The time required for runoff from the farthest reach of the watershed to flow overland and on to the larger stream to a downstream location dictates the time of the peak dis-

charge at that particular location,” Smith explained. “If a site in the lowest portions of the watershed does not detain its runoff, the peak discharge from the site might be released long before the peak discharge from the major stream arrives from higher portions of the watershed.

“Simply stated, omitting detention at the lowest portions of the watershed can actually reduce the peak discharge of the overall watershed,” he added.

“The amendments that are reflected in Ordinance 26-06 would modify Section 111-7, adding language that would allow omission of detention in the lowest portions of Turkey Creek, North Fork

of Turkey Creek and Little Turkey Creek,” Smith said. “At their meeting on Feb. 19, the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of Ordinance 26-06 through Resolution PC-26-01.”

In other business, the Board proclaimed Friday, March 20, as Arbor Day in the Town. As part of that designation, the Town will have a program at Farragut Intermediate School for its third-graders on March 20. Additionally, the third-graders are being asked to write an essay, which will be displayed from March 16 to March 20 in the Farragut Town Hall Rotunda.

Mayoral

From page 1A

very appreciative and thankful we were able to secure participation of all of the declared county mayor candidates,” she said. “We’re also extremely grateful to have the participation of Dr. William Lyons, professor emeritus of political science at the Baker School of Public Policy and Affairs at our University of Tennessee, Knoxville, campus.

“He’s considered an expert in Tennessee state and local government, American politics and voting behavior and elections,” Blaylock said. “No-

tably, he was the chief policy officer for the city of Knoxville for 16 years, so he has both academic and very practical experience when it comes to the workings of city and county governments.

“We’re confident that he will do a great job emceeding this forum, and he will ask the questions that voters want to know about,” she said. “We are taking questions from the membership and attendees, and we’ve gotten a few.

“We will also offer a brief audience Q & A at the end of the forum,” Blaylock added.

The series “technically sold out, but we were able to talk to Rothchild and make arrange-

ments to increase capacity,” Blaylock said.

Members can purchase a ticket, which includes lunch, for \$35 and non-members can purchase tickets for \$45. Also, members can get a table of 10 for \$ 325. Tickets are available at farragutchamber.com

Tennessee Strategies is the presenting sponsor. The mid-level event sponsor is First Utility District and the three community sponsors are Lenoir City Utilities Board, State Rep. Jason Zachary and Slamdot.

“We’ll be making a donation from sponsor dollars to [Concord Adult Enrichment Services],” she said.

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Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

I've been hearing and reading about stolen checks from the drop-off mailbox at our Farragut Post Office for months. In your Farragut Press of March 4, 2026, three more victims were reported in the "Police" section on page 3A. Personally, I had two checks that I mailed at that location on Dec. 18, 2025, that never reached their intended destination. Those checks didn't clear at my bank. I assume that was because I use a gel pen for check writing which "bleeds" through the check making it harder to alter.

My question is: What's being done to stop this mail theft? Maybe if we had an actual Farragut police force, more attention could be paid to this crime in our town (population in 2026 of 26,078 and growing at an annual rate of 1.63%).

Our beautiful town of Farragut has a mayor, aldermen, a beautiful Town Hall, a huge high school, and a 144,000 square foot elementary school

under construction, but not even one Farragut police officer.

Being dependent on Knox County for safety, traffic control and crime prevention/investigation is no longer adequate for the town of Farragut. We respect and appreciate those officers, of course, but they are spread pretty thin. From personal experience, I know it sometimes takes an hour for them to respond to fender-benders on Kingston Pike that tie up traffic for a long time.

Hopefully, residents of this beautiful, growing community can look forward to having our own local police force. We deserve it.

~ Larry Sherwood, Farragut

Notes:

- A) Farragut population of 26,078 is from World Population Review: enclosure
- B) New Elementary School in Farragut — WBIR-TV

Dear Editor,

McKay's Book Store recently announced that it will be closing the Knoxville store on May 3rd. The property was sold. I wish Farragut realtors would contact them and offer a reasonable deal on the empty Ingles Building if they are interested in continuing the business here (not construct-

ing a new building).

Think of the impact McKay's Book Store would bring to the businesses and the overall economy of Farragut. Perhaps this deal could be completed if the price is right.

A Senior Citizen

~ Shelby Henry, Knoxville

Ball

From page 1A

each additional child," he said.

Oestreich anticipates 100 couples will attend each session.

"So, there will be 400 people in the building," Oestreich said.

As the attendees arrive, they will find crafts being made in the front lobby and dancing in the gym.

lets [as the crafts]," he said.

Also, photos will be taken of dads and daughters, and the Knoxville Irish Dancers will perform.

With the desserts buffet, "were going to do something a little different this year," Oestreich said. "We're doing a pudding bar. They can put whatever they want in their vanilla or their chocolate pudding. Just trying something new."

Talent

From page 1A

sual, literary and musical. Admission is free. Hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

"We have docents there [at the museum] who'll give a tour and answer questions," Vining said.

"When we first re-opened, we did veterans and then we did sports, people who have made it in the sports world," she said. "Then, we wanted to focus on artists, and the Farragut Museum just got a new mural that we added to the museum, so it's kind of a tie in to that."

The featured artists include: Colin Britian, musical producer and talent scout; Laura Beth Wells, actor, singer and teaching artist; Diana Warner, jewelry designer; Amanda Kaschak, actress; Mamma Jama Production, community concerts organizers that produced the Lawn Chair series; David Haley Lauver, singer/songwriter; art contest winners; Mark Carson English, contemporary artist specializing in fine art and sculpture; Linda Rankin, sculptor of Adm. David Farragut statue in Memorial Plaza; and Leslie Whitaker Evans, welder and sculptor who commissioned a piece of Admiral Farragut.

Dear Editor,

Over the years I have wrote editorials, posted things on Nextdoor for public debate, and spoke before Town of Farragut meetings to express my opinions on the issues. I do not feel that those actions have gotten me very far, but now understand why: I have been debating the issues rather than understanding it was the attitudes of the Town administration that needed to be addressed.

For example, for years I have been complaining that the Town does not do enough to get information out to residents, especially when it directly affects them. Beginning in January Louise Povlin has posted the meeting agendas on Nextdoor. Is that because it is now an election year that she wants to give the perception that this is important? Why did she not

do this in the many years that she has served in the Town administration? Is it because she is now running for mayor and needs the public to perceive her in a different way?

In Joe LaCroix's public meeting recently he made several statements that also appear to contradict what the Town has been saying. First, I have been saying for the longest time now that road improvements and sidewalks can be effectively placed in the current Town right-of-ways (ROW), but that position was essentially dismissed by the Town. Now, in an election year, all I hear from the Town is that they have have "changed", that every effort will be made to put their projects within the ROW. That certainly would be welcomed news to the people living along Union Road or Evans Road or Turkey Creek Road. But I

have yet to see it in writing or that any of these projects have "changed".

Finally, both myself and many in the town oppose taking people's private property for the Town's projects. In that same meeting Mr. LaCroix stated that "we don't want to go to eminent domain. It's not our plan." Yet the Town has allocated millions of dollars in their budget for land acquisition. And Mr. LaCroix recently voted to authorize the Town to take legal action against one of our fellow citizens using eminent domain.

So, in an election year, do we look at what they say or what they do? Respectfully,

~ Greg Wiberley, Farragut Candidate for Alderman, Ward 2

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\$10M
From page 1A

there are a lot of options.” Mayor Ron Williams favored completing the work in phases, agreeing with Burnette that “we couldn’t do this in one whack. It’s just too much, too soon.”

Currently, Smoak said the draft budget is balanced, “but if we drop this project in, based on the years ... you can see the available fund balance at the bottom line of this draft shows about 2030, were negative, so we would have to do something.”

“We could transfer more funds from the General Fund [budget] to the CIP fund,” he said. “We can cut or move projects out of the CIP; we could also issue bonds.”

“I know that’s something we haven’t done in a long time, but a project like this is exactly why you would do a bond is-

sue,” Smoak added. “The concept is every year you wait on a project, that’s about 5 percent more in costs that it’s going to cost you in materials and supplies and things that go up in value and cost more to build,” he said. Right now, the bond rate is at 3.57 percent and you save a little money and have the building now.

Alderman Joe LaCroix said he would like to learn more about the benefits of issuing a bond.

Regarding the needs, Smoak said the Public Works staff of 20 have a combined co-ed locker room, training room and break room totaling 416 square feet. There is no room to expand, and it does not allow room for hands-on training. Also, Smoak said the facility is the only entrance to fleet office and storage, creating interruptions during training or meetings.

A proposed administration building, 1,100 square feet,

would provide separate private male and female locker rooms, separate break room and a proper meeting space for training with technology.

The fleet management building currently has a single garage bay with a single lift, garage space of 1,080 square feet and no oversized vehicle capability. He said it can only accommodate one project.

The proposed fleet garage space would have three pass-through bays — 1,080 square feet each — with heavy vehicle and adaptable lift capabilities, parts and equipment storage, tire mounting and dismounting area and fleet mechanic office space. If the Board chooses to go ahead with the design, which is estimated to cost \$500,000, then “we would design this over the next year, Smoak said.

“I think we need to go ahead with the design,” Mayor Ron Williams said. “If we don’t get

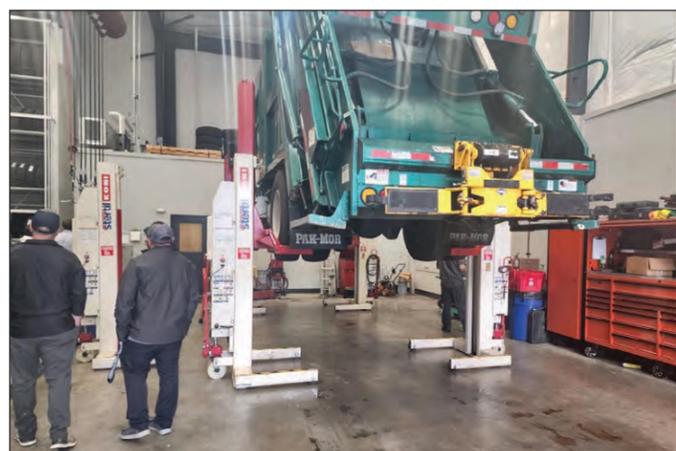


Photo courtesy of Town of Farragut

Public Works is hoping to have a lift system, such as this one from another city, that can handle large vehicles.

on design now, it’s a miniscule amount of money compared to what the phases are going to cost.”

Smoak said the Town could begin the construction in phases, starting in 2028 with the administration building, then the fleet management building in FY 2030.

However, the mayor said he thinks the fleet services management should be done before the administration building.

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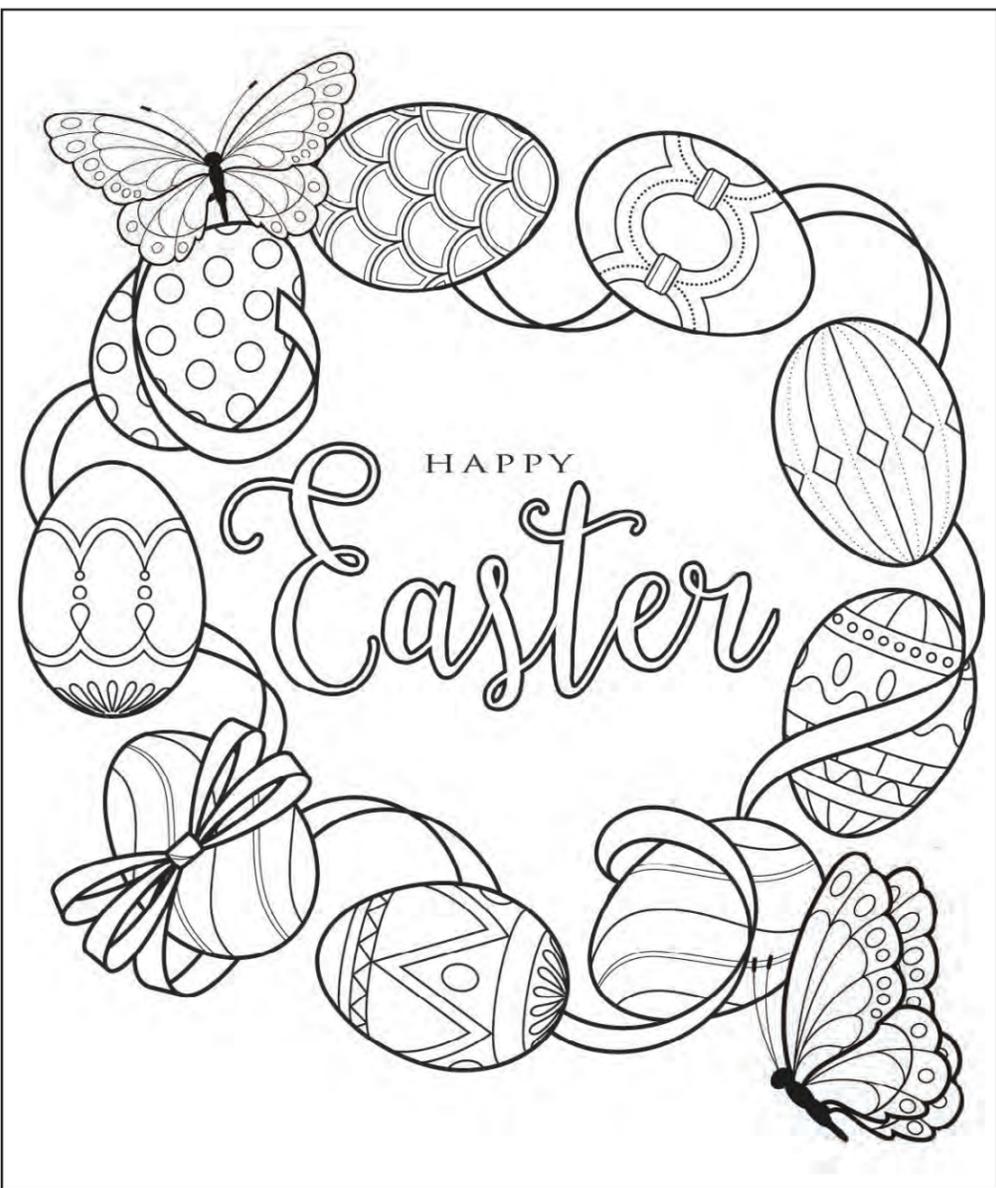
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7 Brew Knoxville opened its Farragut location in Turkey Creek by presenting a donation to Compassion Closet.

7 Brew brings coffee, kindness to Farragut

Staff Reports

editor@farragutpress.com

7 Brew, the drive-thru beverage concept revolutionizing the coffee industry, recently opened at 11495 Parkside Drive, in front of PGA TOUR Superstore in Turkey Creek, Farragut.

“Striving to be a good community partner, 7 Brew Knoxville, in collaboration with the Knoxville community, donated \$12,429 to Compassion Closet,” a press release stated.

“We are thrilled to join the Knoxville community and show our neighbors what 7 Brew is all about,” said Jacqueline Dorris, community manager for 7 Brew Knoxville. “We cultivate kindness with every cup, and it’s an honor to extend this mission through our partnership with Compassion Closet.”

To kick off the opening celebrations, 7 Brew Knoxville hosted a donation weekend from Feb. 20 through Feb. 22, when customers could try

7 Brew and “pay what they wanted,” as a donation to Compassion Closet, the press release stated.

“Compassion Closet exists to provide clothing and baby gear to foster families as children enter their homes,” said Julie Gillen, executive director of Compassion Closet. “Partnerships like the one with 7 Brew enable us to keep our doors open so families and children involved in foster care

See 7 BREW on Page 7A

Serve, dink, repeat

Ace Pickleball opens in Farragut

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Knox County pickleball players have a new place to serve and dink in Farragut.

Ace Pickleball Club opened its newest location 6 a.m., Saturday, March 14, at the former Perceptics building, 11130 Kingston Pike, behind Wendy’s, with a ribbon cutting Friday, March 13.

“It’s a love for racquet sports, having played many over the years,” owner Don Jacobson III said. “Pickleball is one that I can enjoy with the most people. I can play with my children. I can play with my parents. I can play with my friends, co-workers, and associates.

“It’s a fun game,” he said. “It’s very easy to learn, and you have that social aspect of, for me most important, putting your phone down for a little while and just having a friendly competition.”

At Ace, players do not have to have a reservation.

“We are always prioritizing open play,” general manager Linda Rand said. “Open play means you can come in with no reservation. You don’t need to have a partner. You don’t even have to know how to play.

“Even if you’re just curious, you can come in;

we’ll set you up with an intro lesson so you can learn the rules, learn to keep score and just the basics of the game,” she said. “You can come in any time and hop on any court that best suits your skill level.”

“We offer cushioned courts — performance-grade courts like you would find outdoors but they are softer on your joints,” Rand said. “When you are playing indoors in a climate-controlled facility, you are likely to play three times longer than playing outside.”

Although the courts feel the same as playing on an outside court, the player’s body will notice the difference, according to Rand.

There are 15 ½ courts available and are separated by skill level, from beginner to intermediate to advanced, where members can enjoy unlimited play.

She explained Ace is membership-based and has a monthly membership fee.

The club is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday; from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays; and from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

“We’re excited about opening,” Jacobson added, saying people can try out the club free for the first 30 days of its opening.

For more information about Ace Pickleball

See SERVE on Page 7A



Tammy Cheek

Ace Pickleball Club general manager Linda Rand and owner Don Jacobson III welcome the Farragut community to try the new club, 11130 Kingston Pike, behind Wendy’s.

Express Oil Change rolls into Farragut

Staff Reports

editor@farragutpress.com

Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers, a leading provider of quick oil change services, routine automotive maintenance and tire services, announced the opening of its new Farragut location, 11155 Kingston Pike, on Feb. 20.

“This is the brand’s newest location in the greater Knoxville area, extending Express

Oil Change & Tire Engineers’ convenient and dependable service in Tennessee,” Express Oil public relations manager Jeff Dillow stated in a press release.

The new Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers store “offers a variety of automotive services to keep customers’ vehicles safely on the road and running as they should,” he stated. “In addition to quick, convenient and reliable oil changes,

the certified technicians at the new location provide a full suite of auto maintenance and repair services,” including:

- Wheel alignments and tire repair and rotation
- Battery testing and replacement
- Drivetrain diagnostics and service
- Cooling system service and

See EXPRESS on Page 7A

businessbriefs

• Onetoomany Consignment will hold an open house from 2 to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, March 20-21, at its shop, 11416 Kingston Pike, Suite B, in the Farragut Shopping Center, Farragut. Refreshments also will be served.

• Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers is celebrating its new store with a grand opening from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Thursday, March 19, at the new Express Oil Change and Tire Engineers, 11155 Kingston Pike. There

will be food and refreshments, friendly service, a chance to win prize packs, car care giveaways and more. From noon to 12:30 p.m., there will be an official welcome and charitable donation recognition — a donation of Goodyear tires to the Humane Society of the Tennessee Valley.

• Heather Ripley, founder/CEO of Ripley PR, a global public relations agency specializing in the home service and skilled

See BRIEFS on Page 7A

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7 Brew
From page 6A

can come to obtain the items needed. We are so grateful to 7 Brew for partnering with us as they open here in Farragut," Gillen said.

To round out the grand opening celebrations, 7 Brew Knoxville hosted "Swag Day" Saturday, March 7, when customers who purchase a large drink got a free 7 Brew T-shirt.

The business is open from 5:30 to 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, and from 5:30 to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday.

"More than your standard coffee stand, 7 Brew offers more than 20,000 unique drink combinations," the press release stated.

From the original Blondie, a caramel and vanilla breve, to infused 7 Energy drinks, smoothies, 7 FizzSodas, shakes and teas, "there is something for everyone at 7 Brew," it stated. "The 7 Brew stand will add 65 jobs to the Knoxville area."

Those interested in joining the Brew Crew should apply at southernbrew.7brewcareers.com.

Express
From page 6A

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"With convenient hours, competitive pricing and fast, friendly service, the new Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers location in Farragut is dedicated to giving each customer the assurance that their vehicle is well-maintained by providing the highest quality

automotive products and services delivered quickly and conveniently in a superior environment by a professional staff emphasizing integrity in every action," Dillow stated. "New customers can receive significant discounts on full-service oil changes, brake service, tires and more for a limited time.

"Visit the new Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers in Farragut today to experience the Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers difference and keep your car performing at its best! Dependable people depend on Express Oil Change

& Tire Engineers," he stated.

Founded in 1979 with a single store in Birmingham, Alabama, Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers is part of the Mavis Tire Express Services Corp. family of brands and has grown into a national leader in automotive service with more than 400 stores across the country. Dillow stated the brand "remains synonymous with convenient, high-quality automotive service at warp speed and at a great price."

For more information, visit www.expressoil.com.

Briefs
From page 6A

trades, manufacturing, B2B tech and franchising industries, has been recognized by Women We Admire as one of its 2026 Top Women Leaders, recognizing her impact on the communications industry.

Every year, the Women We Admire team evaluates candidates across a wide range of industries, including business, media, healthcare, technology and public service. Honorees are selected based on their professional achievements, leadership within their organizations, industry influence and their ability to drive significant impact within their fields.

• BarberMcMurry Architects recently promoted Katie Lowery, NCIDQ, RID, to interior design manager.

Lowrey joined BarberMcMurry in 2014 and has grown into a senior interior designer and associate, helping lead multiple efforts within the firm to strengthen its design process and culture. She also serves on the firm's branding and design committees.

Serve
From page 6A

Club, call 865-281-5030 or visit www.acepickleballclub.com/knoxville-tn

"That membership is all inclusive, no additional fees," Rand said.

In addition to play, the membership covers use of an automatic ball machine, paddle demonstrations and members can borrow equipment as well.

"We've got balls and premium paddles that we rotate out on a quarterly basis," she said. "So if you're interested in these high-quality paddles and you're not ready to invest in a purchase and want to try it out before you buy it, you can try those here as part of your membership."

"We also offer a tournament that is exclusive to our members and there is no expense to participate in that tournament

either," Rand said.

Another perk is Ace has a lounge upstairs where members can schedule private events.

In choosing where to open, "we looked at a lot of locations in Eastern Tennessee and really fell in love with the Knoxville market, specifically Farragut as it's such a growing community," Jacobson said. "We saw that there was a lot of the players located here."



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Resilient Lady Ads fall one game short of state

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

A season that began with so much adversity ended just one game short from the TSSAA Girls Class 4A State Tournament.

That was the main takeaway for Jason Mayfield on Saturday, March 7, as his Farragut Lady Admirals lost 61-45 against eventual state champion Sevier County in the Class 4A sectional round.

The Lady Ads were still playing without Livi Slagle while still adjusting to the return of Gabbie VanAcker and Raina Styles. All three suffered devastating injuries, two in the summer and one in the season-opener.

For VanAcker, those included a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), medial collateral ligament (MCL) and meniscus while also dislocating her right knee.

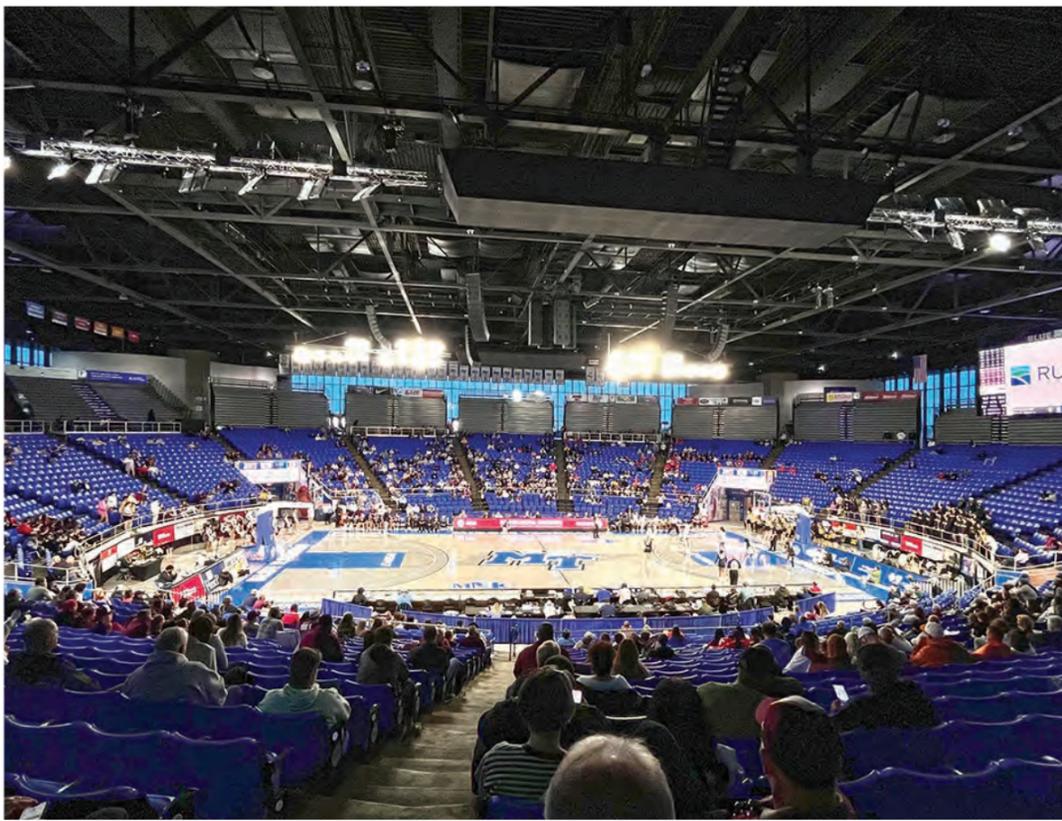
For Styles, a torn posterior cruciate ligament (PCL) left her on the bench to start the season.

And for Slagle, it was a torn ACL, MCL and meniscus in the opening matchup against Alcoa.

Yet here the Lady Ads stood, having won 14 of their last 19 games in their first sectional appearance since 2024.

"Us being here is a result of those kids in that locker room just busting their tail to try and overcome all those things," Mayfield said Saturday. "We lost some bad games before Christmas, games we should have won. And now the only two teams we've lost to since Christmas are at the state tournament. That's a really good Se-

See RESILIENT on Page 3B



Photos Jake Nichols

Farragut coach J.P. Burris made his first Murphy Center appearance 16 years ago when he was a junior at Bearden High School. This week, Burris will lead the Admirals into the same building to open the Class 4A state tournament.

From wow to now

Burris leads Farragut back to state

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

J.P. Burris still can recall the sheer size of the Murphy Center.

In March 2010, that was the aspect that stood out most to Burris, then a junior on a Bearden team that made the Class 3A state tournament at Middle Tennessee State University.

Now, 16 years later, Burris will lead the Farragut Admirals into that same arena for their first state tournament appearance in 43 years.

The Admirals (25-11) will tip off against Walker Valley (29-3) at 11 a.m. CT on Thursday, March 19, in the Class 4A quarterfinals. Tickets are available for \$20 at the gate or \$16.75 on GoFan.co.

Much like Farragut, the Mustangs are a veteran-laden team with six seniors and six juniors. After viewing the film, Burris noted WVHS guard Zach Davis — who wears no. 3 — will certainly be one to keep an eye on, as will big man Wyatt Keeton (4).

"They have really good guard play and are very similar to a Sevier County," he said. "They will switch up what they're doing, but they're good at it, whether man or zone. They are very skilled offensively and they're big and physical."

Burris acknowledged the Mustangs will have a size advantage, which will reinforce the importance of players, such as Reid Vining and Britton Lewis down low.

"But they have four guys that can shoot it, too, so our perimeter defense will be just as important," Burris noted. "Their two guard (Davis) is a three-level scorer. He is probably the tip of the spear for them, but the rest of their lineup is very capable, too."



Farragut coach J.P. Burris celebrated a big play in the Class 4A sectional round. He will make his return to Murfreesboro this week, leading an Admiral team that is making its first state appearance since 1983.

That sounds awfully similar to Farragut's roster, which features plenty of scoring options in Parker Lane, Dan Lanning, Aidan Foshie and Matthew Dickens.

"When you're down to the final eight teams, there's no one there that's not a good basketball team," Burris summarized.

Aside from the X's and O's, the Admirals also have prepared from an administrative standpoint.

See WOW on Page 2B

District 4-AAA loaded for 2026

Ken Lay
Correspondent

The 2026 high school soccer season is under way and all three area teams have hopes for making a deep postseason run after navigating the rigors of a District 4-AAA regular-season schedule.

Farragut, Bearden and Hardin Valley Academy all have big aspirations for the campaign, which kicked off recently.

The Hawks won the 2025 Class AAA State Championship under the guidance of Ray Dover and are looking to repeat in 2026.

Hardin Valley defeated Bearden, which has won multiple state championships in recent years, in the state quarterfinals.

Farragut, meanwhile, is expecting to make a huge leap forward this season.

"Hardin Valley and Bearden already have a seat at the table. I don't. But I will this year," Admirals' coach Bradley Culbreth said. "And I told our kids a year ago, that this year we could (make a deep run) and next year, we should."

Now, 2026 is here and Culbreth said his team should be a factor in the race for a district title.

"I think our program is in a good place," he said. "We definitely have something to prove this year."

Farragut is 2-0 out of the gate with shutout victories over Oak Ridge and Knoxville Catholic.

The Admirals blanked the Wildcats, 3-0, on Tuesday, March 3, and shut out the Irish, 1-0, on Thursday, March 12, as goalkeeper Matthew Burney posted two clean sheets to open the season.

"He's my No. 1 (goalkeeper)," Culbreth said

See LOADED on Page 3B



Photo Submitted

Farragut girls tennis team got off to a strong start in 2026, as the program sits at an undefeated record under second-year coach Joan Swanson, who is assisted by her husband Jim.

Ads, Lady Ads serve notice early

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

When asked about her tennis background, second-year Farragut coach Joan Swanson delivered a five-word summary: "Tennis is in our blood."

That approach has helped the Illinois native and her husband, first-year assistant coach Jim Swanson, develop a quick rapport with the FHS program. The Ads and Lady Ads are two of several area units in the midst of strong starts to

the 2026 season.

Both Farragut teams feature a bevy of returners, led by top seeds Leyton Lu (Ads) and Isha Patel (Lady Ads).

The Lady Ads sit at 2-0, having dispatched Hardin Valley and Maryville in dominant fashion early-on.

The Admirals, meanwhile, sit at 1-1 with their loss coming to rival Maryville in a tense tiebreaker.

Against the Rebels, the doubles team of senior Lu and junior Grayer

Dunagan — a transfer whom Swanson called "a great addition" — trailed 5-2 early. But they came back to win 9-7 against Maryville's top-seeded doubles team, which advanced to sectionals just last season.

"We didn't win the match, but that was a huge win against those two strong players," Swanson said.

FHS also had a strong showing in a Feb. 28 Tri-Cities match, taking

See SERVE on Page 3B



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Bearden's furious rally ends in heartbreak

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

Standing at the MT logo inside the Murphy Center, Emma Rainey yelled three words to her Bearden teammates: "We need stops!"

She could have added another word — "shots" — as Bearden trailed Bartlett 60-48 at that point, looking very unlike a team that carried 32 wins into the TSSAA Class 4A State Quarterfinals.

The Lady Bulldogs soon found their form, constructing a dizzying 14-point comeback capped by a game-tying 3-pointer from Natalya Hodge to knot the score at 68.

Unfortunately for the Lady Bulldogs (32-4), that was as close as they came in a 77-73 loss to end their 2026 season.

Hodge, a Missouri signee, led Bearden with 31 points — 18 in the fourth quarter alone — to cap a career that saw more than 3,000 points scored with three straight years as a Miss Basketball finalist.

"She's rewritten the record books," Bearden coach Justin

Underwood said. "In today's society, it's sometimes tough to put yourself out there, that you have high goals. For her to believe in herself and put the work in to get there, it's a huge deal. She's got the dog in her, and we've been able to ride that."

He added a similar sentiment of Rainey, a Carson-Newman soccer signee who battled through two ACL surgeries and scored 11 points in her final Bearden outing.

Those two and their senior teammates — Katie Foster and Theola Mills — led a Bearden team that reached the state tournament three times in the last four years.

All four grew under players such as Avery Treadwell, who led the 2022 Lady Bulldogs to a state title the year before this senior class arrived as freshmen.

They entered this state tournament intent on a different result than last year, a semifinal loss to Bradley Central.

Bartlett, to its credit, quieted that thought in a hurry.

The Lady Panthers took a

34-28 lead into halftime, as Bearden endured a three-minute, 27-second scoring drought in the second quarter.

"They're a very good team," Underwood said. "I think we limited ourselves in the first half. We talked about pace, and I think we were a little slow to react and communicate, things we normally do."

That set the tone for a 13-1 Bartlett run in the third frame, and they led 56-43 entering the fourth and final quarter.

To that point, hardly anything had gone Bearden's way.

But in the end, Underwood summed up his team best: "They were going to go down swinging."

From that point on, the Lady Bulldogs outscored the Lady Panthers 25-12 to tie the score at 68.

A late Bearden turnover and two missed free throws proved costly, as did Bartlett's 13-for-15 clip at the charity stripe.

Conversely, BHS went just 12-for-27 in free throws.

That disparity, along with a combined 52 points from Panthers Amare Booth, Faye



Jakes Nichols

Bearden senior Natalya Hodge (2) dribbles down the floor against Bartlett in the TSSAA Girls Class 4A State Quarterfinals on Thursday, March 12, inside the Murphy Center. The Lady Bulldogs lost 77-73 to bring an end to their 2025-26 season.

Williams and Anniya Bailey, seconds after urging on her teammates, Rainey joined her teammates in an emotional walk off the floor.

Green wins Miss Basketball again

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

In the past few days, Meeyah Green has spent plenty of time scrolling through her camera roll.

The Webb School of Knoxville senior has had a great reason to do so, having put a flourish on her senior year with a number of awards.

She led the Lady Spartans to a second-straight Division II-AA state title, won tournament MVP for the second consecutive year, and on March 10, won Division II-AA Miss Basketball for the second consecutive year, too.

"It's huge," Green said. "It's a blessing, and I'm thankful for the opportunity. But I was only capable of it because of God and the abilities He gives me, then my teammates and my parents and all their sacrifices."

She was not the only Miss Basketball finalist from the area either. Bearden senior

Natalya Hodge finished her career as a three-time finalist in Class 4A, where Bradley Central's Kimora Fields won the award for a second year in a row.

On the men's side, Catholic senior Cade Murphy was a Division II-AA Mr. Basketball finalist. Briarcrest's Fred Smith Jr. won the award.

All three Farragut-area finalists — Green, Hodge and Murphy — will continue their careers at the next level.

Green will head to Clemson this summer while Hodge and Murphy will move on to Missouri and Eastern Kentucky, respectively.

"I'm giving myself a little time off before, but just working hard to get in shape," Green said of her own preparation. "It's a different level of speed and strength, so strength coach has gotten in touch with the one there. Then cleaning up little things with my shot, just trying to be consistent."



Photo Submitted

Webb senior Meeyah Green, pictured at the Tucker Theatre in Murfreesboro, won Division II-AA Miss Basketball for the second consecutive year.

"The basketball community in East Tennessee is pretty strong," he said. "Even if it's a lot of information and stress trying to get all that together, there's several people that have made it easier and helped a great amount."

The team leaves the school at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 18, and will practice at Tennessee Tech, then the Ads will arrive at the Murphy Center that eve-

ning to take in the Alcoa game. And when they arrive, Burris wants his players to have the same "wow" factor he did 16 years ago.

"I'll be like a mom and make them take lots of pictures because I don't think they'll ever forget it," Burris said. "I know it still resonates with me. We're going for a business trip, but it is definitely one they have earned the right to enjoy."

Farragut shines in Florida

Ken Lay

Correspondent

During the second week of the 2026 season, three local baseball teams tested themselves in tournament play.

Farragut (5-1) spent Spring Break in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, winning three of four games. The Admirals opened with back-to-back wins over The Bennett School, 8-4 and 8-5, behind strong performances from Cole Creasman, Jake Harris and Brandon Tye. Farragut also topped Providence School, 5-2, as Mason Shelton homered and Harris added three hits. The Ads' lone loss came against Bishop Snyder, 11-0, in a game marred by four errors.

"Overall, I thought we played pretty well," coach Garrett Copeland said.

Bearden (5-3) competed in the Playing for the Cure Tournament, going 2-3. The Bulldogs earned a 10-0 no-hit win over West Ridge and a 15-6 victory against Station Camp but dropped games to Heritage, Grace Christian and Science Hill. Eli Pickard, Hunter Harris and Grayson Wright paced the offense.

"We're going to have to find ways to score runs," coach Dave Prichard said.

Hardin Valley (4-2) split four games at the Prospect U Showdown in Panama City Beach. The Hawks highlighted the trip with a no-hitter from Nathan Emard and a 23-13 win over Cottdale with Jax Sparks and Tyler Sowards leading the way.

Wow

From page 1B

Burris and FHS athletic director Donald Dodgen went through a Zoom meeting with TSSAA officials last week. Burris noted that Dodgen, FHS girls coach Jason Mayfield and Dodgen's son, White County girls coach Michael Dodgen, have all been helpful in making preparations.

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Spring break offers mixed results for Lady Ads

Serve
From page 1B

Farragut's softball team made the most of its Spring Break trip, going 4-3 at the Commando Classic in Hendersonville.

The Lady Admirals (6-3) rebounded from a 5-0 opening loss to the host team with an 8-2 win over Dobyns-Bennett. Hannah Grace Johnson threw a complete game, al-

lowing one hit and no earned runs while striking out six. Logan Jameson, Rylee Raby and Taylor Wolfram led the offense.

Farragut dropped a 3-0 game to Creek Wood but bounced back Friday, blanking Edwardsville 6-0 behind another strong outing from Johnson, who struck out seven. The

Lady Admirals also edged Oakland 4-3 on Johnson's go-ahead hit and slipped past Christ Presbyterian Academy, 5-4, as Johnson homered and Camryn Shrader added two doubles.

Farragut closed the tournament with a 6-3 loss to Independence despite home runs from Camryn Shrader and a strong showing from Alexa Shrader.

"We played some good teams and beat some good teams," coach Nick Green said.

Elsewhere, Bearden (2-2, 1-1 District 4-4A) last defeated Harriman 4-2 after splitting earlier games while Hardin Valley (0-3) returns to action March 18 against South-Doyle after an idle week.

third in a match with Science Hill, Dobyns-Bennett, Webb and Wilson Central.

"Which is huge," Swanson said, "because these are teams that always go to state."

Now, FHS will look to continue its success March 24 against Catholic.

As for Hardin Valley, the Hawks will look to continue the success they experienced last year under head coach Seth Rayman.

Madison Huffman won the district and region tournaments, advancing all the way to the state championship match. She is undefeated so far this year after going 25-1 last season with the lone blemish coming in her final match of the season.

Freshman Jaymeson Huffman is "the best player in the district and region," per Rayman and is a heavy postseason favorite. He is undefeated so far, having defeated Lu en route to a spotless record.

The HVA girls team opened its season with a 6-3 win over Bearden while the Hawks lost by the same score as the youngest team in the district.

Finally, the Bearden tennis programs are being led by first-year coach Mary Watkins, who has seen noticeable consistency so far.

The Bulldogs are 5-1 overall with a 2-0 mark in district play, as seniors Nitin Deshpande and Yejoon Ham have led a team that won four straight entering Tuesday's match with Webb.

Meanwhile, the Lady Bulldogs feature two seniors and two juniors with the rest as sophomores and freshmen. They sit at 3-3 with a 1-1 record in district, having dispatched Lenoir City 9-0 on March 6 for their third win in their last four matches.

Resilient
From page 1B

vier County team. They don't make mistakes; they can handle the ball, and they hit open shots. They're really well-coached."

The Bearettes proved that early, jumping out to a 15-4 lead at the end of the first quarter. Farragut responded with a 10-3 run to cut the lead to four, but SCHS extended the lead to seven at the break and

led by 14 in the third to take full control.

"I thought we could defend them a little better; but when you start out like that, it makes it tough," Mayfield said. "Our kids dug in, cut it to four, then they extended it back out. I know we can play better, but us being here is the result of their hard work."

VanAcker scored 12 points for the Lady Ads in their final game in 2026 as she and Styles both made their return for the

Lady Ads in January. Meanwhile, Trinity Curry led Farragut with 14 points.

They are part of a junior class that Mayfield will turn to after losing seniors Anna Corum, Lilly Mullins and KJ McNealy — who will continue her career at Grand Canyon — as well as manager Ella Schlomer.

Notably, McNealy ended her career as the program leader in rebounds, having also surpassed the 1,500-point mark.

"Those four, whenever our

next workout is, it will be tough not seeing them there," Mayfield said. "Lilly and Anna are almost like sisters, and they have been a joy to coach."

"KJ, obviously, we got a good four-year rental with her moving in from Phoenix then going back there. Even though she'll be a long way away, I know we'll stay tight. Then Ella is my next-door neighbor, so it will be easy to stay in touch. Awesome kids, and I'm very privileged to coach them."

Loaded
From page 1B

of Burney.

Other players to watch for the Admirals include: Caleb Gahagan (a junior forward who returns after missing the 2025 campaign due to injury) and defender Lincoln Unger, who was an all-state performer last season. He also earned all-district and all-region honors.

At HVA, Dover and the Hawks are looking to repeat as state champions but the coach, who previously coached at Farragut, knows that his squad will face a tall order in 2026 because there will be no easy games in the district, which features the Admirals, the Bulldogs, Knoxville West and Maryville.

Those schools are also looking to make a statement this season.

The Hawks are 2-1-1 in their

first two matches to start the season as they fell to defending Division II-A State Champion Grace Christian Academy, 5-2, and downed and played Rockvale to a 1-1 draw.

"Against Rockvale, we had four sophomores and a freshman on the field at the end of the game," Dover said. "And we're not going to have any easy games on our schedule."

"I think this year, that the district is going to be especially tough because I look for Maryville and Farragut to be back to where they usually are. You have to be ready to play every night or you're going to get beat."

The Hawks were the lone area team in action this week. They picked up wins over Gunterville (Alabama) and Westminster on Saturday, March 14.

Players to watch for Har-

din Valley in 2026 include: Ali Tarchane (a senior forward who tallied 14 goals and dished out six assists last season); Dane Hammer (an all-district, all-region and all-state performer in the mid-field last season as he scored 10 goals and recorded 14 assists); Asher Stimson (a senior defender who was named MVP of the state tournament after scoring two goals in the championship match) and goalkeeper Hudson O'Dell, who gets the starting nod after serving as a backup last season.

Longtime Bearden coach Ryan Radcliffe said that his side is seeking a bit of redemption this season after falling to HVA at the Spring Fling in 2025.

"I think losing that game in the quarterfinals left a bad taste in our mouths," he said. "And I was talking to Bradley

about how good high school soccer is going to be in Knoxville this year.

"You could play a game against a team and lose 2-0 or 3-0, and turn around and beat that team 2-0, or 3-0, a few days later. I think Maryville is going to be back to where they expect to be. You're going to have to bring your A-game every night."

Key players for the Bulldogs include: Eli Keener, who will be the starter between the goalposts this season.

Forward Aiden Ainsworth is also back after scoring 14 goals and tallying nine assists last season. Senior midfielder Ahmad Dkhari is also back after a 14-goal, 16-assist season in 2025. Ethan Yeow returns for his senior season and he'll play on the back line after serving in a utility role last season.

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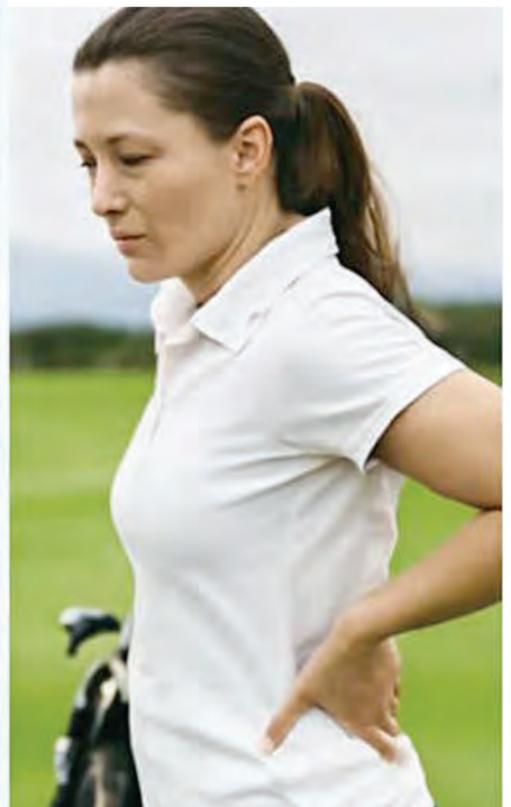
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CAK announces top of 2026 class



Bonanno Piers Atkins

Staff Reports

editor@farragutpress.com

Christian Academy of Knoxville recently announced the Class of 2026 valedictorians, Michael Bonanno and Cole Piers, and salutatorian, Brooke Atkins.

Valedictorian

Michael Bonanno

“Bonanno has distinguished himself through exceptional academic achievement, dedicated leadership and Christ-centered service throughout his high school career,” stated Christa Margene, CAK director of marketing and communications in a press release.

A National Merit Scholarship finalist, Bonanno has “maintained an almost-perfect overall average of greater than 99 percent throughout his high school tenure,”

Margene stated. “He is an [Advanced Placement] Scholar with Distinction, a recipient of the College Board National Recognition Program Academic Achievement Award and has earned the Global Seal of Bilingualism in Spanish.

“During his time at CAK, Michael has received more than 20 Academic Achievement awards across a rigorous course load that includes advanced placement and honors coursework in every core subject,” she stated. “In addition, he has been awarded CAK’s Excellence in Character award for three consecutive years.”

Beyond the classroom, Bonanno serves as president of the National English Honor Society and captain of the Scholars

See CAK on Page 8B



Above: Farragut High School’s Science Bowl Team 1 won first place in the state Science Bowl competition in February. Meghan Millwood, far left, Oak Ridge Associated Universities president/CEO; Kerri Cagle, second from left, ORAU senior vice president, and Jamie Weaver, U.S. Department of Energy/Oak Ridge National Laboratories site office director (far right), presented the winning trophy to Team 1, consisting of (from third from left), Sophia Chen, Ruhaan Singh, Nathaniel Williamson, Jared Li and Ethan Guo.

Right: Farragut High School’s Team 2, which won third place in the state Science Bowl competition in February, is pictured in action.



Photos submitted

FHS teams head to National Science Bowl competition

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

After winning first place in the 36th annual Tennessee Science Bowl, a Farragut High School team will be heading to Washington, D.C., this spring to compete in the National Science Bowl competition.

“It’s awesome,” said their Science Bowl coach, Matthew Milligan, a FHS physics and astronomy teacher. “It’s great. It always feels good when they win.

“It was an exciting day,” he said. “They had several come-from-behind wins.”

Team 1, consisting of Sophia Chen, Ruhaan Singh, Nathaniel Williamson, Jared Li and Ethan Guo, won first place in the state Science Bowl, held Feb. 20-21, at Pellissippi State Community College’s Blount County campus.

“They beat out 59 other teams to take the trophy,” according to a press release. The team will advance to the National Science Bowl, which will take place from April 30 through May 4, in Washington, D.C.

Additionally, Team 2, consisting of Frank Yang, Roshan Ramanan, Arman Oguz, Stephen Xiao and Jason Jiang, won third place in the regionals while Knoxville Catholic High School received the Civility

Award for “modeling sportsmanlike conduct,” the press release stated.

At one point in the state competition, “the two teams [from FHS] had to face each other, which was kind of bittersweet,” Milligan said. “In a way, it was kind of neat that they had competed with each other, but Team 1 eliminated Team 2 and [Team 2] got third place, so it couldn’t really have been much better than it turned out. I’m just happy for the kids ... both teams played great all day.”

To win the state, “our success at Farragut is really a testament to the entire Farragut School system, not just Farragut High School,” Milligan said about the feeder schools to FHS. “It’s really an accumulation of knowledge. They can’t really study for this and know everything that’s going to pop up. There are some physics questions, and if they get one of those right, I’m happy. I might have helped them learn that, but there’s also chemistry, biology, general knowledge of science.”

Milligan gave credit for the success to the team. “I don’t do that much,” he said. “I just make sure all the paperwork’s been done, go with them and try

See SCIENCE BOWL on Page 9B

KCS honors Teachers, Principals of the Year

Staff Reports

editor@farragutpress.com

Nearly 200 teachers and principals from across Knox County Schools recently were honored at the annual KCS Teacher of the Year banquet, held at the Knoxville Convention Center.

Recipients were nominated by their peers and selected using Tennessee Department of Education’s guidelines for Teacher of the Year. Teachers from every school and principals from every region were represented.

Among the 200, the following principal and three educators from West Knoxville’s Region 1 area were recognized:

A.L. Lotts Elementary: Tracy Marsh, princi-

See KCS on Page 8B



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obituary

Wanda Napier Lacy passed away peacefully on March 8, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. She was a devoted wife, mother, daughter, sister, grandmother, teacher, and mentor whose warmth, wit, and wisdom touched countless lives.

Wanda was born on March 30, 1949 and raised in Celina, Tennessee, where she met the love of her life, Raymond E. Lacy (Ray), who loved, supported, and cared for her. He was her best friend for 56 wonderful years of marriage.

She was Valedictorian of her 1967 Celina High School senior class, editor of the yearbook, a

cheerleader and Homecoming Queen. Her teachers inspired her to learn and pursue teaching as a career, specifically, Mrs. Leta Grace, Mrs. M.D. Cherry, Mrs. M.E. Cherry and Dr. Douglas Young, who were all incredibly dedicated.

For 40 years, Wanda taught math at Gresham Middle, W. Memphis High and Farragut High School, including AP Calculus, for almost 20 years. She served as Math Department Chair and mentor to numerous



Lacy

wonderful teachers. She was known for her intellect and dedication. She told her students, "It's about the learning, not the grade". In fact, over 98% of her AP Calculus students received college credit. One student wrote that she "brought her soul and tireless conviction to sharpen every student's mind".

She received a Bachelor of Science in Education degree with honors and a Master of Mathematics degree from the University of Tennessee. Her dedication to education earned her many honors, including Tennessee Teacher of the Year (2013-2014). She served on former Governor Bill Haslam's Teacher Cabinet for many years and was recognized by the University of Tennessee College of Education for

her lifelong contributions to teaching. Wanda was inducted into the University of Tennessee Educators Hall of Fame. She is member of AOII sorority and thoroughly enjoyed sisterhood, especially with her daughters.

Wanda devoted her life to lighting the path for others. Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she inspired. She was considered by many as a true legend in mathematics education.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Marie Neal Napier and William Earl Napier of Celina. She is survived by her devoted husband, Ray; her cherished daughters, Cindy Wagner (Crawford) of Knoxville and Allison Lederer (Reid) of Knoxville; her sweet and loving sister, Janet Richardson (Doug) of

Mt. Juliet; and her four beloved grandchildren, Ford Wagner, Jack Wagner, Parks Lederer, and Devon Lederer, all of whom she was infinitely proud.

A Memorial Mass will be held Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Knoxville, Tennessee. Receiving of friends will be in the Cathedral Hall from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. She will be laid to rest at Berry Highland Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Farragut High School Foundation - Math Department; the University of Tennessee Foundation, College of Education - Volstead Program; or the UT Medical Pat Summitt Clinic.

press planner

• Join Appalachian Ballet Company for a performance of "The Little Mermaid" at the Clayton Center for the Arts on Friday, March 27, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 28, at 3 p.m. After the Saturday matinee, audience members will have the unique opportunity to meet and greet the cast. Tickets are available now at appalachianballet.org or at the Clayton Center for the Arts box office. For group ticket sales, email appalachianballet@gmail.com.

• Race for a Reason, a family-friendly 5K run, will begin and end at Mountain High Outfitters in Pinnacle Turkey Creek on Sunday, April 26. Proceeds from this year's race will directly benefit the Humane Society of the Tennessee Valley, helping fund lifesaving programs, medical care and adoption services for animals across the region. Visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/TN/Knoxville/pinnacle-turkeycreek> for more information and to register.



SUNDAY
MAR 29

Palm Sunday Worship
9:00 am in the Life Center
10:30 am in the Sanctuary

MONDAY
MAR 30

Passion Week Service & Lunch
11:00 am in the Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY
APR 1

Journey to the Cross
4:00-7:00 pm in the Life Center

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FRIDAY
APR 3

Good Friday Worship Service
6:00 pm in the Sanctuary

SATURDAY
APR 4

Resurrection Worship Service
6:00 pm in the Life Center
Nursery (0-4yr) KidStuf (K-5th grade)

SUNDAY
APR 5

Resurrection Worship Service
8:00 & 10:30 am in the Sanctuary
9:00 am in the Life Center
Nursery (0-4yr) KidStuf (K-5th grade)



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NHC's March Madness of Activities!



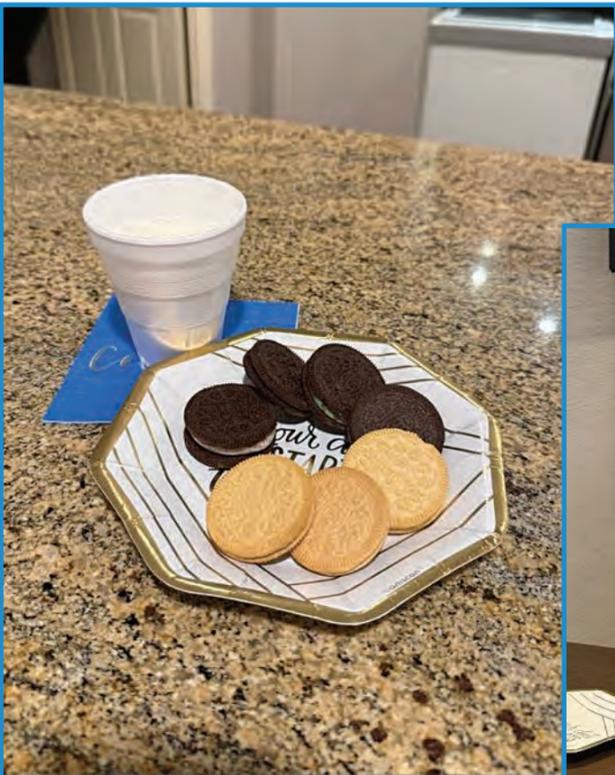
Throughout the month, residents will battle it out in fun games and voting for their favorite. Each game brings laughs, friendly competition, and lots of cheering!

Get ready for a month of fun and friendly competition at NHC! **March Movement Madness** brings residents together to try exciting games like **Table Air Hockey**, **Ping Pong Ball Toss**, **Water Bottle Pull**, **Fly Swat Game**, and **Bean Bag Throw**, as they "vote" for their favorite activity in a lively tournament-style bracket. Laughter, teamwork, and a little healthy competition fill the room as each game faces off, building excitement throughout the month.

Our **National Oreo Day Social** invites residents to sample a variety of classic and fun Oreo flavors, sparking conversation, smiles, and chocolatey fun.

Also, residents expressed their creative side during **St. Patrick's Day Watercolor Painting**, using cheerful greens and spring colors to craft shamrocks, rainbows, and festive artwork — a perfect way to relax, socialize, and celebrate the season.

Games, art, and sweet treats keep NHC lively this March, bringing residents together for fun, laughter, and the joy of community. There's something for everyone to enjoy, and the best part is sharing it all together!



To celebrate **National Oreo Day**, residents gathered for a sweet Oreo Social. Whether twisting, dunking, or simply enjoying them whole, the beloved cookie brought smiles and a little extra sweetness to the day.



Photos submitted



Residents let their imaginations run wild as we celebrate St. Patty's Day early with a splash of watercolor magic!



We partnered with the Davis YMCA to "Share the Love" with our residents. Thanks to generous local donations and the help of Davis volunteers, thoughtful gift bags were packed and delivered to brighten our residents' days and bring smiles throughout the community

Meet the Staff

of NHC CAVETTE HILL ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE



The department head team, from left to right:

Meghan: Life Enrichment Director • **Andy:** Maintenance and Housekeeping Director
Alicia: Administrator • **Allen:** Dietary Director • **Britt:** Director of Nursing



CNAs

From left to right: **Natalie, Caroline, Megan and Renee**



Life Enrichment
Meghan and Matt



Receptionist

Dee



Nurses

Misty and Serena



Dietary Team

Autumn and Elena

FHS military signing

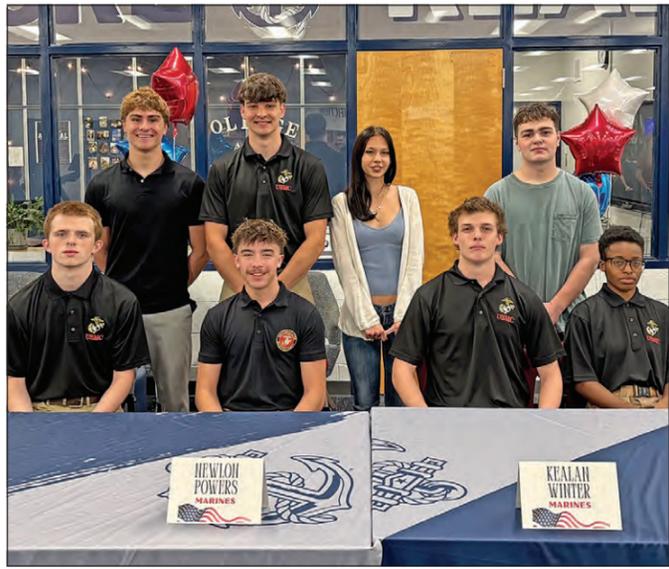


Photo submitted

Farragut High School recently recognized eight seniors who have committed to serving in the U.S. military following high school graduation. The students were honored during a special ceremony held in the FHS library on Thursday, March 5. They are: seated, from left, Ayden Reed, Newlon Powers, Kealan Winter and Ma'Kenzie Hunter, all who enlisted in the Marine Corps. Standing are: Mateus Griffin, Navy; Tyler Martin, Marine Corp; and Macey Carlson and Chase Tackett, who both enlisted in the Air Force.

KCS From page 4B

pal; Amy Jo Evers, Megan Noe and Amanda Phipps; Bearden High School: Shannon Fussa-ro, Tonya Leigh Henke, Stephanie Panczer Garza, Kristen Skates, S.P. Webb; Farragut High School: Julie Dorsey, Al Fontenot, Jake Gulledege, Lizzi Kersey and Whitney Parson; Farragut Middle: Ashley Collins, Brian Fogarty, Katie Rickard and Lauren Rutherford; Farragut Intermediate: Lacey Bullard, Kristin Hobbs and Hannah Reddick; Farra-

gut Primary: Genie Borrego, Amber Roberts and Danielle Sanchez; Northshore Elementary: Aleigh Diegel, Emily Morsch and Maria Stephanie Turpin.

Additionally, the following teachers and principals in Region 2 were honored: Hardin Valley Academy: Jennifer Gal-loway, Kaitlyn Gaskins, Mal-colm Gibbs, Lisa Jacobs and Holly Wilgus; Hardin Valley Elementary: Barbara Hughes, Andrea Johnson and Claire Johnson; Hardin Valley Mid-dle: Kimberly Mink, Nicole Pendleton and Chris Schaefer.

CAK From page 4B

Bowl team. He also is a member of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Math Society and has served as a Student Government senator and a member of the CAK Chapel Leadership Team.

"Further, Michael will portray Caleb in this year's spring musical production of 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers,'" Margene stated.

"An accomplished musician, Michael is a concert pianist who has earned superior ratings each year from the National Federation of Junior Festivals in the most advanced categories," she stated.

Valedictorian Cole Piers
"Cole Piers has excelled academically while demonstrating strong leadership, on and off the court, throughout his time at Christian Academy of Knoxville," Margene stated. "Cole will graduate with an impressive 4.55 [grade-point average] and completed every Advanced Placement course offered at CAK during his high school career."

He is an AP Scholar with Distinction, a recipient of the College Board National Recognition Program School Recognition Award and has earned the Global Seal of Bilingual.

"In addition to his academic achievements, Cole was recognized with the Care 365 Character in Sports Award and

was named the 2024-2025 Most Improved Player for CAK basketball," Margene stated. "As a junior, he was part of the Region Championship team that finished with a 30-4 record."

"During his senior year, Cole served as varsity basketball captain," she stated. "He played basketball all four years of high school, competing at both the varsity and junior varsity levels and also invested in younger athletes by serving as a JV basketball assistant coach during his senior year and coaching a recreational basketball team throughout high school."

"Cole's leadership extended beyond athletics," Margene stated. "He has been a member of the National Honor Society since his sophomore year and served as a teen advisor during his senior year."

"For his Capstone Project, Cole organized a 3v3 basketball tournament with proceeds donated to East Tennessee Children's Hospital, combining his passion for basketball with meaningful community impact," she stated.

Salutatorian Brooke Atkins
"Brooke Atkins has demonstrated exemplary leadership, academic excellence and a deep commitment to serving others throughout her four years at Christian Academy of Knoxville," Margene stated. "An AP Scholar with Distinction, Brooke is also a two-time recipient of the ACIS Distin-

guished Leadership Award and the ALA Girls State Samsung Auxiliary Award.

"A dedicated student leader, Brooke has served on the Student Senate all four years and currently holds the role of president after serving as vice president her junior year," the director stated. "She is a member of both the National English Honor Society and the National Honor Society."

"Brooke has also made her mark in athletics, competing on the varsity volleyball team all four years as captain and team MVP and playing varsity tennis for three years, advancing to the state tournament her sophomore year," Margene stated.

Additionally, "her heart for service is evident in her extensive volunteer work. For three years," Margene stated of Atkins. "Brooke has volunteered at East Tennessee Children's Hospital, serving both in the hospital and at an off-site adventure camp for HEMONC patients."

Atkins currently serves as chair of the hospital's Vol-unTeen Leadership Council, helping promote volunteerism in pediatric healthcare by supporting policy initiatives and funding projects.

Atkins also completed the Youth Leadership Knoxville program, partnering with fellow students to develop a service project supporting the nonprofit tnAchieves.

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Fax: (865) 966-2072
Email: newcovenant@newcovenantbc.com
Website: www.newcovenantbc.com

Weekly In-Person Services
Sun: Family Bible Hour (9:30 AM)
Sun: Worship Service (11:00 AM)

Recorded Services
On ZOOM
Wed: Prayer Meeting & Bible Study (6:45 PM)
Wed: Cultivate (7:00 PM)

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Science Bowl

From page 4B

to support them, but these are bright kids and they want to learn something and our schools are strong.”

“For the first time ever, two teams from Tennessee will compete at the national level,” the release stated.

“One of the neat things this year is usually the top winner of the Science Bowl goes to represent Tennessee at the national Science Bowl,” said Shannon Turner, state Science Bowl coordinator and Oak Ridge Associated Universities coordinator. “But this year, the National Science Bowl is allowing the top two teams — first and second place — to go to the nationals.

“Collierville High School’s Team One, the second-place winning team, also will be going to D.C.”

Turner said there were 60 teams — 46 individual schools — competing in the state event.

“It was great,” she said. “We even had five new schools.”

“The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Science Bowl is a nationwide academic competition that tests students’ knowledge in all areas of science and mathematics,” the Science Bowl website stated. “Middle and high school student teams are comprised of four students, one alternate and a teacher who serves as an advisor and coach.

“These teams face-off in a fast-paced question-and-answer format, being tested on

a range of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, Earth science, physics, energy and math,” the website added. “The Department of Energy created the National Science Bowl in 1991 to encourage students to excel in mathematics and science and to pursue careers in these fields. More than 350,000 students have participated in the National Science Bowl throughout its 35 years.”

FHS’s Science Bowl coach Matthew Milligan, far left, with Team 2, which won third place in the state Science Bowl competition in February. The team included, from second from left, Frank Yang, Roshan Ramanan, Arman Oguz, Stephen Xiao and Jason Jiang.



Photo submitted

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Farragut Town Hall | 11408 Municipal Center Drive

VISUAL RESOURCES REVIEW BOARD MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

AGENDA

- I) Call to Order
- II) Approval of Minutes
- A) Approval of the February 24, 2026, meeting minutes.
- III) Staff Report
- A) Wall signs approved since the last meeting.
- IV) Business Items
- A) Review of a tenant panel sign for Haven Chiropractic, located at 11320 Kingston Pike.
- B) Review of a primary multi-tenant ground sign for Horizon Plaza, located at 11011 Kingston Pike.
- V) Citizens Forum

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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misc. services

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