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## Proposed office rezoning raises Commissioner concerns



Tammy Cheek

Applicant Jeffrey Marzolf, owner of Marzolf Investment, pleads his rezoning request before Farragut Municipal Planning Commissioners.

**Tammy Cheek**  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

A Cedar Bluff business owner wants to rezone an 8.1-acre parcel behind the new Turner Homes property for a financial planning office.

But, he met resistance from Farragut Municipal Planning Commission members during a workshop Thursday, March 19.

The property at 11830 Kingston Pike is currently zoned Very Low Density Residential. Applicant Jeffrey Marzolf,

owner of Marzolf Investment, is asking to amend the Town's Future Land Use Map from Very Low Density Residential to Office/Light Industrial. He also wants to change the zoning from General Single Family Residential, or R-2, to Office.

"I'm not looking for some short-term thing," Marzolf said. "I'm looking to make an investment.

"The only way this project really works for me is if I can use the existing house," he said, noting the house is an

old, dilapidated 1960s-style building. He wants to renovate and repurpose it.

"I don't think it would impact anybody in the subdivision," Marzolf added.

While the Commission took no action on the requests, several members voiced concerns.

"My concern is, somewhere down the road, you turn that over to somebody else — what would they do with that space if it's rezoned?" Chairman Ron Pinchok asked.

"My concern is it currently is surrounded by six residential properties," Commissioner Louise Povlin said. "Once you rezone this and you allow offices to come in, you are opening up the door to precedent."

She added that she believes rezoning the property residential was "the right decision."

Commissioner Jon Greene agreed with Povlin and said that if the house were used for a business, it could not be

See REZONING on Page 2A

## Sewer upgrade project moves forward

**Tammy Cheek**  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut residents can expect more utility work ahead.

Farragut Municipal Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve a right-of-way permit for Phase 2 of First Utility District's Turkey Creek B-Line sanitary sewer extension project during its meeting Thursday, March 19.

When asked for a timeline, however, Edwin Deyton with First Utility District, said he did not have one.

"The Turkey Creek Sewer Line project is a phased, life-cycle replacement for a 50-year-old concrete sewer line servicing the Campbell Station Road corridor," Community Development director Mark Shipley said. "The purpose of the project is to provide reliable service and prevent sewer overflows near streams, homes, businesses or greenways.

"Hopefully, it will last another 50 years," he added.

Shipley said the first phase of the extension is expected to be completed May 1. Residents may remember the work done in Founders Park at Campbell Station, which experienced delays because of the amount of rock encountered.

"The second phase will include replacement from Old Colony Parkway to the Interstate 40 right-of-way," Shipley said. "The scope of work will require right-of-way permits from the Town to cross Old Colony Parkway, Grigsby Chapel Road and Campbell Lakes Drive.

"The Old Colony Parkway and Grigsby Chapel

Road crossings are designed to be trenchless construction to mitigate traffic impacts and the need for road repair," he said. "The Campbell Lakes Drive crossing will be open-trenched at the dead end of the road.

"Traffic control will be provided by the contractor, subject to approval and enforcement by the Town," Shipley said. "Outside of the Town's right-of-way permit, FUD will be replacing approximately 90 percent of the project within the same trench or location."

On another matter, the Commission unanimously approved site plans for an open-air pavilion at Farragut Christian Church, 138 Admiral Road, and a preschool playground at Concord United Methodist Church, 11040 Roane Drive.

Farragut Christian Church's pavilion would encompass 1,800 square feet, according to Shipley.

"The proposed pavilion is to the east of the church and will be connected to the church with a sidewalk," he said. "Roughly 1,500 square feet of the pavilion will be devoted to seating. The remainder will be enclosed storage.

"Exterior walls will include a brick veneer to match the brick on the church building," Shipley said. "Staff recommends approval, subject to a detail being provided for the lighting to confirm compliance with the Town's outdoor site lighting requirements and obtaining a building permit."

Regarding Concord United Method-

See SEWER on Page 2A



Tammy Cheek

Farragut Intermediate School's third-grade winners (standing) of the Arbor Day essay contest.

## Third-graders take root

**Tammy Cheek**  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut Intermediate School third-graders joined officials from the Town of Farragut and a representative from the state Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry in celebrating Arbor Day with a presentation Friday, March 20.

"Four years ago, we began working together with a mission to support the Town of Farragut as they earned the distinction as a Tree City," FIS Principal Suzanne Parham said about the school's partnership with the Town.

"We were so honored when [Town Community Development director] Mr. [Mark] Shipley reached

out to us," she said.

As part of that partnership, the third-graders competed in an essay contest about Arbor Day. The winners' essays are displayed at Farragut Community Center.

The winners are: Mario Azevedo, Landon Ball, Jessica Broome, Dani Bryant, Barrett Cary, Lena Bell Chesney, Helosia DeFreitas Selvo, Chloe Dong, Charlotte Du, Grant Garrett, Annabelle Goddard, Leah Huning, Saijal James, Eunsun Ko, Evelyn Larsen, Emma Li, Isabelle Locke, Annika Maier, Stella McClurkin Ellie Moir, Pierce Moody, Beckett O'Dell, Adeline Roberts, Ira Sharma, Emma Sours,

See ROOT on Page 2A

## Mike Davis running for Knox County Sheriff

**Submitted**  
Candidate

Mike Davis was born and raised in Knox County. Davis graduated from Doyle High School and the University of Tennessee. He has been married for 30 years, has three children and two grandchildren.

Davis started his law enforcement career with the Knox County Sher-

iff's Office (KCSO) working in Corrections and then becoming a P.O.S.T. Certified deputy sheriff. He then worked as federal agent for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (D.E.A.) and retired after 26 years. Davis had top-secret security clearance for 26 years with extensive background checks, audits, random drug testing and health screenings

throughout.

"I had to adhere to the highest standards and protocols, so when I speak about integrity, accountability and professionalism, they are not just talking points, I lived it," he said.

Davis was blessed to have served the last 20+ years of his over 30-year career in law enforce-

See DAVIS on Page 2A



Davis



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## Rezoning

From page 1A

rebuilt as a house. Instead, it would have to be rebuilt as commercial property, which could be too costly.

"I want to know the limits of what could be placed on there," Commissioner Shannon Preston said. "I agree with Louise, but also, who would build a house there?"

Commissioner Jeff Devlin recommended, and other commissioners agreed, that Marzolf should reach out to the Farragut Crossing Homeowners Association.

Marzolf said he would be willing to talk with residents.

"I don't think there's anything realistically they have to fear," he added.

Farragut Crossing resident Mary Ellen Branan said she "really didn't have an issue" with the requests, but asked how Marzolf planned to access the property. She added she preferred he use the access easement and not Federal Boulevard.

Marzolf said he would use the easement behind Turner Homes.

Because the property owner is an affiliate broker with his real estate company, Commissioner Noah Myers recused himself from discussion of the requests.

"The Future Land Use Map is not a property line map, so it's that general area," Com-

munity Development director Mark Shipley said. "This area, that parcel, historically has been used for both residential and office purposes. Most recently, it was used as an insurance office for several years.

"There's actually a parking lot on the south side of the existing building, which is a '70s rancher," he added. "To the north of this, you have a parking lot for two other office buildings. Those are actually on property zoned commercial, but on the Future Land Use Map, they are designated as Office/Light Industrial.

"The property in question is part of the larger tract that, back in 2020, was rezoned from Office to General Single Family Residential," Shipley said. "The intent at the time was to provide for three residential lots.

"So it had been Office in the past, then it got changed back to Residential," he said.

Shipley said the current owner had divided the original 8-acre tract into three lots. The northernmost lot, a little more than an acre, is the subject of the Future Land Use Map amendment and rezoning requests.

"The other two parcels are not part of that," Shipley added. "From the staff's perspective, anytime you amend the map, it is whether what they're requesting is appropriate for that area, given the surrounding context."

## Davis

From page 1A

ment here in Knox County. "This is my home and I view the people of Knox County as my extended family. I will strive to keep you safe in your home, your schools and our community."

As sheriff, Davis knows visibility of patrol cars and vigilant proactive policing deters crime. "Over my career I have seen the devastating effects narcotics has on our community and country," he said. "It also influences secondary crime, such as property theft, traffic accidents, overdoses and human trafficking. It is a scourge and I have fought gangs and drug trafficking organizations to put these serious offenders in prison."

Davis, by having an over 30-year career, knows the difficul-

ties the men and women of law enforcement face. "I am not a part of any faction. As sheriff, I can be more objective, have greater discernment and unify the office. For me, it is about merit not favoritism," he said.

"This is one of the most consequential elections in the history of KCSO. Knox County is experiencing explosive housing and population growth, a growing homeless population, a rise in criminal illegal aliens and the ever-increasing challenge of narcotic trafficking and gang activity," Davis said. "Knox County needs a sheriff that embodies professionalism and integrity and places people over politics. I am that person. As your sheriff, I have the training, experience and passion to meet these challenges. It is a calling and I humbly ask for your vote."

## Proclamation honoring fallen deputy



Tammy Cheek

Farragut Mayor Ron Williams, third from right, and Alderman Drew Burnette, second from right, presented a proclamation honoring the late Blount County Sheriff's Deputy Justin Mowery, who died in the line of duty, before their Board meeting Thursday, Feb. 26. Also on hand for the proclamation were, from left: Blount County Deputy Chief Jeff Clark; Cpl. Bryan Kavney; Deputy Caleb Smith; Sheriff James L. Berrong; Jarod Mowery, Justin's brother; Donna Mowery, Justin's mother; and far right, Chief Deputy Jeff French.

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## Root

From page 1A

Ritvi Sriram, Grady Spar, Cole Tafazzoli and Daniel Wang.

Also, the students heard from Alex Bremner, urban and community forestry engagement specialist from Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry, about why trees are needed: to prevent erosion, provide oxygen, hold soil in place and other benefits.

"Trees are vital to our community because they perform countless tasks," he said.

"We're here for Arbor Day,"

Bremner said. "The first Arbor Day was held in 1872 in Nebraska. A bunch of people got together and decided ... we should celebrate trees."

He said on a day in 1872, they planted a million trees.

"A million trees is hard to wrap your head around, but they really wanted to make that first Arbor Day to be important," Bremner said. "They really wanted to signify the importance of trees.

"Tennessee thought that was pretty cool, so they had their first Arbor Day three years later, in 1875," he added. "This year actually

marks the third year for Farragut holding an Arbor Day."

For a municipality to be declared a Tree City, Bremner said it must fulfill four requirements:

- have an active tree ordinance,
- have a tree care advocacy group to look after the trees,
- celebrate Arbor Day and
- spend at least \$2 per person on tree care. Bremner said last year the Town spent \$4.91 per person on trees.

■ approved an amendment to its subdivision ordinance stating that if subdivisions use decorative signs, homeowners associations or property owners associations will be responsible for future repairs or replacements.

■ voted unanimously to amend its flood damage prevention regulations by adding new Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplain maps, which recently were updated and made available to

## Sewer

From page 1A

ist Church's proposed playground, Shipley said it is associated with the church's children's wing addition and corresponding landscape plan, which recently were approved.

"The proposed preschool play area is to the northeast of the proposed children's wing addition," he said. "The affected area is currently tree-covered, and replacement trees

were accounted for in the landscape plan approved by the Visual Resources Review Board."

The covered shelter in the plans will require a building permit, he added.

"Staff recommends approval of the site plan, subject to a grading and building permit being issued and an erosion control letter of credit for \$7,000 being provided prior to the issuance of any permits."

In other action, the Commission:

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### Ease the squeeze on your retirement income plan

Rising prices may not dominate headlines the way they did a year or two ago, but if you're retired, you're probably still feeling them. Even when overall inflation cools, the costliest expenses — like health care, utilities, insurance and property taxes — tend to rise faster than broad inflation numbers suggest. That creates a squeeze that can make you question whether your income plan is built to last.

Fortunately, you often can adjust without drastic cuts that affect your lifestyle. Start by understanding where the pressure comes from and how to build more flexibility into your plan.

**Inflation hits retirees differently.** You've likely noticed your grocery bill, prescription drug costs and heating expenses haven't returned to "normal." Even small increases compound over time and can chip away at your buying power.

If your income plan was created years ago, it may assume lower inflation or relatively stable price increases over time. Recent years have shown that's not always the case.

**Why some income plans feel strained.** Any plan relying on fixed withdrawals or rigid budgets can feel tight when living costs rise. If you're drawing from investments, you may hesitate to increase your withdrawals because of market volatility. And if you depend on fixed income sources like Social Security or a pension, yearly cost of living increases may not keep pace with your expenses. You might live 25 to 35 years in retirement, giving small annual cost increases decades to add up.

**What you can do without sacrificing stability.** A few adjustments can help you stay ahead of rising costs and maintain your financial confidence.

First, review your withdrawal strategy. Ask your financial advisor about flexible approaches that increase income when markets and portfolios perform well and pull back during tougher times. This protects your long-term plan with room to respond to rising prices.

Next, rebalance your portfolio. You may uncover opportunities to shift toward investments with more consistent income or better tax efficiency. Sometimes a small tweak can generate extra cash flow without increasing overall risk.

Finally, look at your income sources. You may be less affected by rising costs if you delay taking Social Security, work a part-time job, add inflation-protected bonds or create predictable lifetime income with annuities, if they're appropriate for your situation.

**Don't overlook health care:** Health care costs often grow faster than general inflation. Medicare premiums and out-of-pocket expenses can rise annually, and the need for long-term care remains a big financial uncertainty for retirees. Building health care-specific inflation into your plan now can help prevent surprises later. Any savings you have in a health savings account can help you cover health care costs. And many pharmaceutical companies offer financial assistance programs to help pay for costlier medications.

**Stay flexible and informed:** Today's retirements look different from those of even a decade ago. The key is staying flexible, reviewing your plan regularly and making small adjustments before pressure builds. A financial advisor can help you find the right approach to navigating rising costs without disrupting the life you've worked hard to build.

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## From packed to spacious

### Consignment Shop finds room to grow

**Tammy Cheek**  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

When Janet Hitch of Farragut first opened her shop, Onetoomany Consignment, in July 2025, she started in a small space in Patriot's Corner, next to David's Abbey Carpet. However, she outgrew that space. "We have our consignors and they keep bringing stuff, and I had nowhere to put it," Hitch said. She found more space at 11416 Kingston Pike, Suite B, in Farragut Shopping Center from a friend, Jeff Fields, who owns the center. She is sharing the space with long-time friend, Rena Amerson, owner of Amerson Group, which does estate sales. They moved in the suite the first of March. Now, "everything is not so jam-packed in, Hitch said. "It's

easier for people to look more because it's not compacted, and we're able to get more things, more consignors." She carries high-end clothing, handbags, jewelry and other accessories and some art. "We have some new hair accessories in," Hitch pointed out. "We also have our eBay store so we can take just about anything," she added. "We'll sell it." "They're also affordable," Amerson said about the merchandise. "This can draw any type of consumer." The move was a little overwhelming, according to Hitch. "But, when I got here it felt good ... We had 100 square feet, so now we have 1,200 square feet." "It makes a huge difference," Amerson added. Designing the space, "I think my theme is eclectic — a little bit of everything," Hitch said, adding she likes the space. "It's convenient," she said. "It's close to home. And when Rena came, it really made me happy." "The timing was perfect

“Everything is not so jam-packed in. It's easier for people to look more because it's not compacted, and we're able to get more things, more consignors.”

~ Janet Hitch, Onetoomany Consignment



Tammy Cheek

Long-time friends, Rena Amerson, left, owner of Amerson Group, and Janet Hitch, owner of Onetoomany Consignment, are sharing a suite at 11416 Kingston Pike, Suite B, in Farragut Shopping Center. The consignment shop business grew, demanding more space.

because I had a client whose mother had passed," said Amerson, who added she was tasked to sell the mother's belongings. "That's when Janet was moving in here and had a little spot over there."

The shop is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday; and closed Sundays. "But, we also open by appointment, so if anybody wants to come in outside of

business hours, I will open up the store for them," Hitch said. For more information about the consignment shop, call 865-207-3645 and visit on Facebook at Onetoomany Consignment.

## Students get hands-on with orthopaedic surgery



Photo submitted

Celeste Bunch, who works in the operating room for Knoxville Orthopaedic Clinic, UT Orthopaedic Institute and also is a Roane State Community College student, engaged with instruments as an operating room attendant.

**Staff reports**  
editor@farragutpress.com

Knoxville Orthopaedic Clinic has established partnerships with two local colleges to offer interactive instruction in orthopaedic surgery and demonstrate an exciting profession that continues to grow in demand. Nichole Franco, KOC's orthopaedic operating room manager at UT Medical Center, said her clinical team sought collaborations with South College and Roane State Community College to introduce surgical technology students to the dynamic field of orthopaedics. "We went into classrooms with sawbones, drills and other surgical gear to provide students hands-on experience in repairing simulated bones with tools, screws and cement," Franco said. "Some

people can be intimidated, so it was incredibly rewarding to see the students' smiles and excitement in practicing skills and learning from clinical staff experts and surgeon presenters." KOC surgeon Dr. Anna Wallace, who is fellowship trained in both orthopaedic trauma and orthopaedic oncology, demonstrated how to drill screws into bone and answered students' questions about her clinical journey, something Wallace said she particularly enjoyed. "This was a refreshing and fun event," she said. "It feels good to show people the really cool things we do that bring so much change to a patient's outcome and experience, all while enjoying the people working alongside you." The Association of Surgical Technologists has noted a growing shortage of certi-

fied surgical technologists, a situation KOC seeks to address through collaborations with accredited programs. "The surgical technology program at South College prepares graduates to work in a variety of operating room environments," said Chris Blevins, senior department chair of Surgical Technology Programs at South College and a member of the national board of directors for the AST. "Certification requires that students participate in 120 procedures, including four different specialties, so we welcome any opportunity to offer interactive training with appropriate specialty instrumentation," he said. "It was incredibly gratifying to see one of my past CST graduates on the KOC team presenting to current students, and it made me

See SURGERY on Page 5A

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# Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

Farragut residents may find it noteworthy that an appointed Alderman, now facing voters for the first time, is suddenly calling for “civility” in public discourse.

That raises a reasonable question: where was that civility during their many years of posts on Nextdoor and Facebook? Posts that sharply criticized residents who simply held different opinions about town projects or Board decisions? The majority of this

Alderman’s replies were anything but civil, particularly when citizens questioned actions taken by the Board.

In several of those posts, the candidate stated that it was his responsibility to ensure that “truth prevailed.” The problem is that he also appointed himself as the sole authority on what constituted that truth. Farragut residents are fully capable of evaluating information and deciding for themselves whose arguments are based on facts and

whose arguments may be misleading.

Unfortunately, the opportunity for residents to personally evaluate those posts have now disappeared. This candidate’s past social media posts are no longer available for residents to review. They were not removed by the Nextdoor platform or others as some have suggested in the candidate’s defense, but rather removed by the candidate himself. Residents can draw their own conclusions about why those

records were deliberately erased rather than left available for public review. True transparency can be such an inconvenience for candidates at times.

At the end of the day, Farragut deserves leaders who are consistent, transparent, and respectful of differing viewpoints — not just during an election season, but all the time. Voters should carefully consider whether a candidate’s character truly reflects the values they now

claim to champion?

Farragut residents deserve to elect representatives whose focus is on serving their ward and protecting the character of the town that so many families have chosen as their home, rather than simply preserving a majority vote on the Board to ensure that Farragut’s future can be determined by the few.

~ Randal Roberts, Farragut

## presstalk

865-671-TALK (8255) or [editor@farragutpress.com](mailto:editor@farragutpress.com)

I found the Letter to the Editor by the South Ward alderman candidate to be interesting and somewhat selective in his criticism. He chose to point out the mayoral candidate and another South Ward alderman candidate (both of whom are running for office), as engaging with constituents and sharing useful information about upcoming meetings to all residents of Farragut. Isn’t that what the residents want? This candidate has publicly stated at numerous meetings that the elected officials are not doing enough to get the word out, yet no criticisms of the other mayoral candidate that he supports. I have NEVER seen anything posted by the current North alderman providing agenda’s, meetings, opportunities to speak, etc. It raises an obvious question: Why single out only certain candidates while ignoring

another in similar positions? This does not come across as an objective observation, but rather as something that feels more like a political advertisement than a balance commentary.

What is the cost of the Boyd Station Road construction work that the Town has to pay? I understand it’s over \$2 million. My question, too, is how much is the developer of the houses off of Boyd Station paying for the road widening and the roundabout? But I understood the Town’s cost was over \$2 million. The paper should check that out to see what the answer to that question is. And is it on schedule? That road work’s been going on for a long time at Boyd Station Road. And is it on schedule? And is that correct? The cost to the Town is over \$2 million. Thank you.



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@ Alcoa High School





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## WHY I Walk



“Alzheimer’s Tennessee is very special to me. Before my mom passed in 2008, I lived the worst day of my life. That’s when I reached out to Alzheimer’s Tennessee, and they were there to help me.”

– Connie Lane, Knoxville Walk Volunteer Co-Chairperson and Care-giver for her sister who is now living with Alzheimer’s



“You are giving your all to the ones you love, caught in this disease, and you want to leave a legacy. You want to make a difference, so that’s why I strive to do what I do for Alzheimer’s Tennessee.”

– Deana Haney, Walk Team Captain



“I’m living with this disease. It’s important to do something where you’re giving back to the community. Singing in the Hearts Sing Chorus [an Alzheimer’s Tennessee program for those living with a diagnosis] gives people like me hope and encouragement.”

– Gary Benson, Grand Marshal 2025 Knoxville Walk to Make Alzheimer’s a Memory



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## Celebrating new ownership



Tammy Cheek

Will Camp (second from left) with daughter Harper Elizabeth, and Ben Harmon (with scissors) celebrate their new ownership of Finn's Irish Restaurant and Tavern with a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce-sponsored ribbon cutting at the restaurant, 9000 Kingston Pike, Tuesday, March 10. They were joined by Harmon's parents, Ben Harmon (front row, far left) and Lisa Harmon (front row, far right), and a host of Chamber members and other supporters.

## Surgery

From page 3A

really proud to see the confident professional she is today." Emily Carter graduated from the South College Surgical Technology program in April 2025 and already had a job lined up with KOC at UT Medical Center, where she completed clinical training.

"Ortho can be scary in school," Carter said. "Getting to talk with KOC's orthopaedic surgeons and CSTs will really help students get a better grasp of the field and how we help people."

The KOC team visited both South College and Roane State in December and plans to continue the hands-on skills labs with each Surgical Technology cohort. Experienced Level I orthopaedic trauma operating room staff members, Mary Long, Jessica Smet and Sara Miller, organized the educational presentation and shared years of front-line stories and direct experience, hoping to inspire the next generation in their field.

"The experience was incredibly meaningful for our students," said Jessica Davidson, surgical technology instructor at Roane State Community College. "Being able to learn directly from KOC's CST team and gain firsthand exposure to orthopaedic surgery made a significant impact on their confidence and understanding of the specialty."

Celeste Bunch, who works with Franco's team as an operating room attendant while also attending classes at Roane State to become a CST, shared with her classmates what it's

like to be part of a surgical team.

"Working in the OR is exciting," Bunch said. "I am passionate about orthopaedic surgery, so I enjoyed engaging with the instruments and demonstrating how to don the protective suit used in total joint replacements."

KOC has a tradition of embracing collaborations that develop surgical talent to offer the best patient-centered care, according to a press release.

"The practice has a long-standing partnership with UT Medical Center to staff and co-manage the Orthopaedic Institute's six operating rooms," it stated.

"The students at South College were interested and engaged with us," said Dr. George Baddour, Orthopaedic Institute's vice president and retired orthopaedic surgeon. "It's rewarding to be able to share our passion for this work with those who are following in our footsteps."

KOC regularly recruits operating room professionals for both UT Medical Center and orthopaedic-only facilities, such as Knoxville Orthopaedic Surgery Center and University Orthopaedic Surgery Center. Along with surgical technologist roles, there are opportunities for students, recent graduates and experienced professionals. These positions vary from those offering on-the-job training to careers, such as radiologic technologist, registered nurse, surgical first assistant and sterile processing technician.

Learn more about KOC's culture and explore open positions at [KOCortho.com/careers](http://KOCortho.com/careers).



## FWKCC networking

Rebecca McDonough, director of career development with Pellissippi State Community College, chats with Zan Schriver during a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce networking sponsored by PSCC at its Hardin Valley Campus Thursday morning, Feb. 26.

Tammy Cheek



Left to right: Tim Eichhorn, Jeff Hall, Chad Starliper, Chris Kittrell and Lytle Rather

# The Gift of a Good Question

At Rather & Kittrell, we like to ask a lot of questions. We'll ask about what's most important to you when it comes to your money, what your goals are, and what fears or concerns keep you up at night. For us, knowing you is essential if we're going to offer guidance on plans that impact not just you, but also those you care about.

Our questions aren't limited to our clients. On a regular basis, we hear about and evaluate various investment strategies and financial products. It's our duty to ask good questions as we consider whether these tools might benefit our clients. If we don't ask thoughtful questions, we can't know whether something is truly in your best interest.

Recently, there was an article about Kyle Busch and an insurance investment that went wrong for his family. Without going into the details, I can say that many important questions were left unasked. The investment might have been appropriate if all the right questions had been asked and fully understood by everyone involved.

When I read that story, it reminded me of one of the sharpest minds and best question-askers I've ever known, Chad Starliper. Chad was a wonderful advisor, friend, and mentor who passed away eight years ago. I remember one meeting where he asked such a

detailed question about an investment product that even the provider pitching it to our firm was stunned. But Chad's question completely changed how we evaluated that investment.

As fiduciaries, it's our responsibility to ask questions the way Chad did. He never asked to challenge or offend; he asked to understand.

In the financial world, a fiduciary is someone who puts the clients' best interests ahead of their own. A fiduciary acts in the best interest of their clients. A fiduciary acts with prudence and diligence when determining if a recommendation is right for the client, even if it means lower financial benefit to the advisor.

Asking good questions is built into the DNA of Rather & Kittrell. From the day I arrived in our offices 13 years ago to today, we've continued that tradition—asking questions of prospective clients, current clients, each other, and those introducing us to new ideas.



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**SNAP**  
From page 6A

He then outlined his “snap, crackle, pop” strategy:

Snap: Stand out and get attention. “Be distinct ... if it’s not memorable, it’s wasted money.”

Crackle: Break through your

share of voice — how often your brand is seen or heard.

Pop: Expand beyond your existing customers and reach new audiences.

He also suggested “adding some sugar” by freeing up resources and using artificial intelligence for routine tasks.

**Food**  
From page 6A

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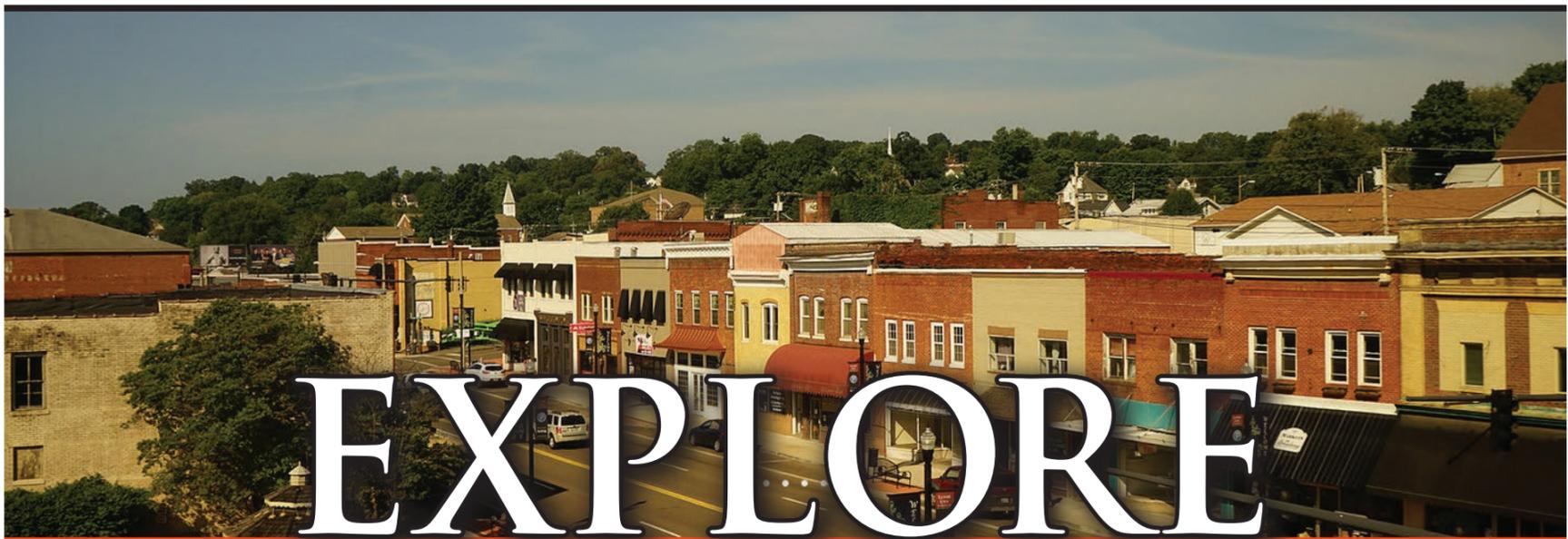
Presented by Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union, the event took place Friday, Feb. 27, at The Venue, 7690 Cree-

kwood Park Blvd., Lenoir City.

At the Business Expo, attendees and businesses had the opportunity to network among approximately 65 vendors, ranging from banks and financial institutions to nonprofit organizations and healthcare providers, all on hand to showcase their services.

Meanwhile, during the Taste of Loudon County portion, 14 restaurants and food vendors kept attendees well-fed.

Wamplers rolled out their sausage balls while Harold McClellan handed out samples of honey-baked ham and turkey — just two of the many offerings available.



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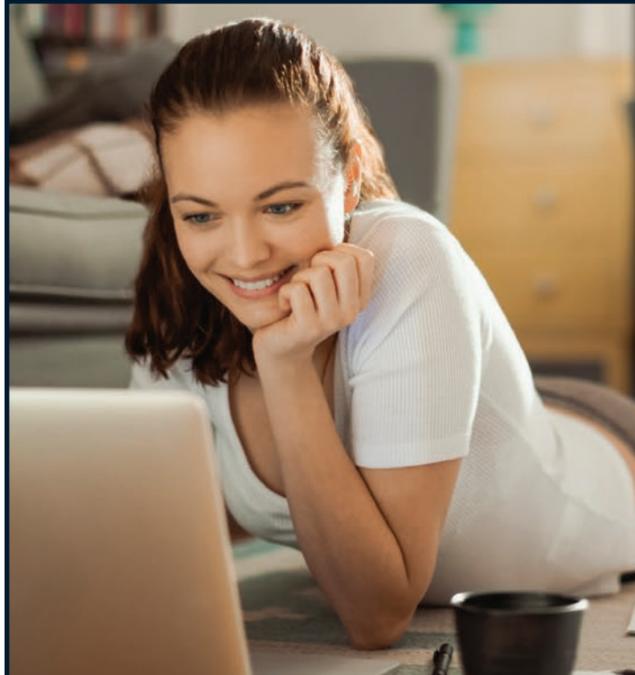
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**SNAP**  
From page 6A

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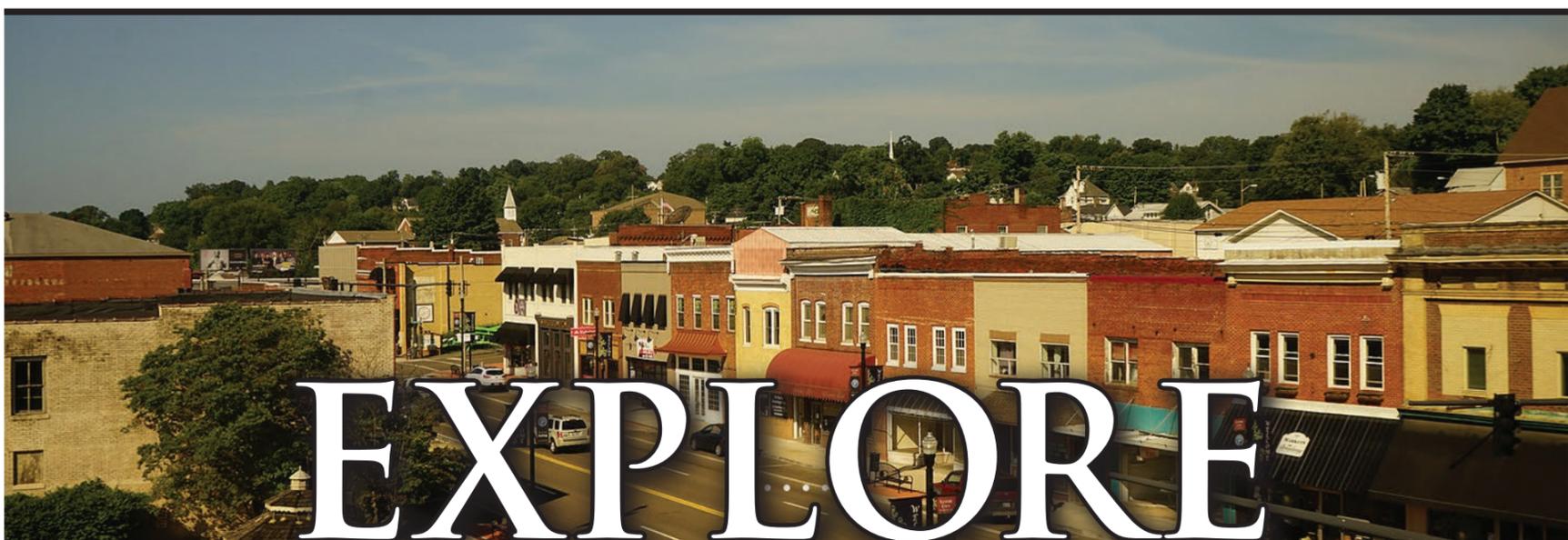
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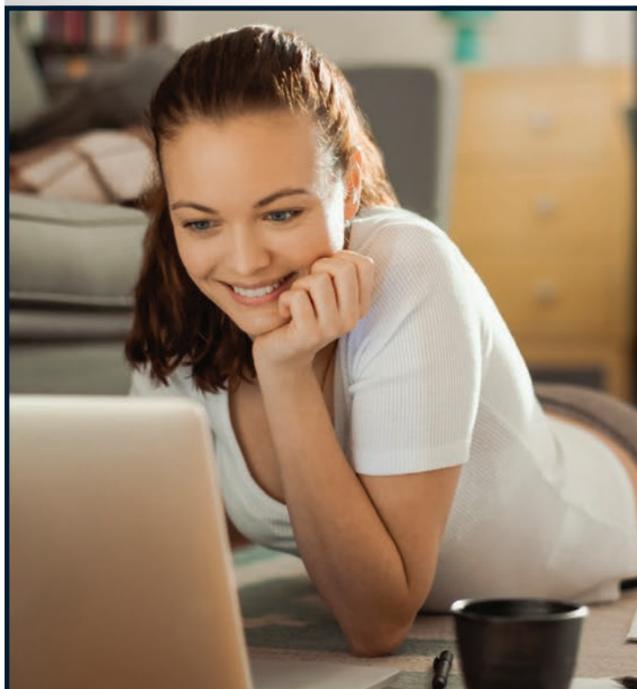
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## Historic season ends in state quarterfinals

**Jake Nichols**  
jnichols@farragutpress.com

At 10:45 a.m. last Thursday, Dan Lanning led the Farragut Admirals onto the Murphy Center floor for their first state tournament appearance in 43 years.

Exactly 90 minutes later, he was the first player to hug FHS coach J.P. Burris after a 76-58 loss to Walker Valley in the Class 4A state quarterfinals on Thursday, March 19.

The result halted Farragut's historic run, closing a memorable chapter for a senior class that came together under the close watch of

their fourth-year head coach.

"Man, I just told them how proud I am of them," Burris said. "How much I love them, how much they have meant to me. These guys have been with me since my first year, and they know the stuff I'm talking about beyond basketball. Their sophomore year, it did not go well. In a time when a lot of kids would have left, they didn't. It's a credit to them that we made it to this point, because they never wavered."

As Thursday morning gave way to afternoon, that sentiment carried over to the floor.

Walker Valley opened with a 5-0

run, extending that lead to 13-6 midway through the first quarter.

The Admirals responded with a push of their own, eventually tying the score 20-20 on a Lanning free throw.

The Mustangs galloped back out to a nine-point lead, 34-25, with a 14-5 run to close the first half.

Yet, here came Farragut again out of halftime, compiling runs of 5-0 and 11-4 to trim the deficit to three, 52-49, with 23 seconds left in the third quarter.

Unfortunately for the Ads, WVHS answered once again to

See HISTORIC on Page 3B



Jake Nichols

Farragut senior Dan Lanning embraces boys basketball coach J.P. Burris.

## Lady Ads storm back to beat Bearden



Jake Nichols

Farragut batter Hallie Grace Johnson (24) prepares to make contact with the ball.

**Jake Nichols**  
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Whenever Hallie Grace Johnson gives up a run, she reverts back to a mantra from her dad: "If they take one from you, take three from them."

The Farragut stand-out and Radford commit utilized that approach last Tuesday, March 17, smacking a two-RBI double to overcome a 1-0 deficit against Bearden. The rest of the Lady Admirals followed suit throughout the afternoon, as FHS run-ruled the Lady Bulldogs 12-1 in a five-inning rout.

"At times, we can put up big numbers, too, so it's definitely helpful knowing you don't have to worry about giving up a single run in a game,"

Lady Admirals coach Nick Green said later. "You can still know, 'Hey, we're going to be okay.'"

Indeed the Lady Ads were, stacking three runs in the first inning, four in the second and five in the third.

Following an RBI double from Bearden's Audrey Gayle in the top of the first, Camryn Shradler and Rylee Raby drew walks with Camden Houston in to run for Raby.

Johnson promptly lined a pitch to the wall in center field, the "bang!" of the ball's impact setting a tone for the day. She led the Lady Ads with a 2-for-3 afternoon at the plate with four RBIs, as well as seven strikeouts with no

See STORM on Page 3B



Jake Nichols

White County girls basketball coach Michael Dodgen, left, and his father, longtime Farragut athletic director Donald Dodgen, came together for a photo on Thursday, March 12, after Michael Dodgen's Warriorettes clinched their first state championship berth since 1992. The moment brought their journey full-circle as Michael grew up watching his father coach before finding his own success in the profession.

## The Dodgen legacy

### Father, son share hoops success

**Jake Nichols**  
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Thursday, March 12, Donald Dodgen ambled down the steps of the Murphy Center and stepped onto the shiny gray floor.

The Farragut athletic director found his son and smiled, pulling him into a hug while saying, "Good job."

It was a phrase Michael Dodgen has heard plenty from his father, having served as his ball boy and manager before playing point guard for him at Gatlinburg-Pittman High School.

But the words likely felt a little heavier this time, as the younger Dodgen had just led White County to its first state championship appearance since 1992.

It was one of several special occasions for him lately, as Michael also will be inducted into the Basketball Coaches' Association of Tennessee's Hall of

Fame on Saturday, March 28. He also will be recognized as the Tennessee Class AAA Girls Basketball Coach of the Year.

When he walks into the auditorium, Michael will be joined by his father — linked through last named and a career in which each man has carved his own legacy.

#### Shooting for success

Before he became a Hall of Fame coach, Donald was a 6-foot-5 sharpshooter at Gatlinburg-Pittman.

He used skills formed during summer days playing against college-aged kids, scoring 149 points in three straight games to become the program's all-time leading scorer at 3,318 points.

"I couldn't play defense," he summarized with a wry smile, "but I could score with the best of 'em."

See DODGEN on Page 2B

## Schroeder, Meredith toss no-hitter in five innings

**Jake Nichols**  
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Mason Shelton raised both pointer fingers and smiled last Wednesday, March 18, then knelt into a sweeping bow.

It was a fitting summation on an impressive day for the Admirals, who put on a show in a 10-0 five-inning drubbing of Bearden inside the Ballpark at Farragut.

Cash Schroeder and Braidon Meredith combined for a

no-hitter, each hurler notching the first no-no of his high school career.

Schroeder gave up no hits and no runs through four and one-third innings, striking out five and walking three. Meredith closed out the win with a strikeout in .2 innings pitched.

"He was great," Farragut coach Garrett Copeland said of Schroeder. "He and Braidon both with a combined no-hitter. Just being able to produce multiple pitches in the strike

zone, they were really effective."

"I noticed around the fourth inning that I hadn't given up a hit, but it didn't change my approach," Schroeder added. "The goal was still to attack the hitters with fastballs, get ahead in the count and put hitters away as quick as possible."

He credited the Admirals' run support for plenty of help in removing stress, allowing him to "go out and just have fun."

Farragut did exactly that against Bearden, capturing an early lead with two runs in each of the first three innings.

They scored three more runs in the fourth and finished off the win with an RBI double from Cole Creasman, scoring Braxton Tye to solidify the run-rule.

Travis Brummitt Jr. roped three hits on three at-bats, bringing four runs across in the process. Moreover, five other Admirals — Shelton, Caleb

Van Lant, Zain Kureshi-Smith, Tye and Creasman — finished 2-for-3 on the day as FHS went a combined 14-for-26 at the dish.

"Anytime you get 14 hits, it's a good day at the plate. But also, I thought we had some good, mature situational at-bats," Copeland said. "With a runner on third and the infield back, we hit infield ground balls late in the count rather than striking out. So, I was

See ADMIRALS on Page 2B



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**Dodgen**  
From page 1B

That output brought interest from Adolph Rupp at Kentucky, Dean Smith at North Carolina and Ray Mears at Tennessee. Dodgen signed with the Vols, then continued his shooting prowess at Tennessee Wesleyan before coaching at Riceville Elementary.

That led to an assistant job at McMinn County, where Donald took over as the boys' head coach in 1976. Seven years later, the Cherokees cracked the state tournament for the first time in two decades — landing in the same bracket as Farragut.

While Donald's McMinn County program lost 86-37 to the eventual state champs, the outing left an imprint on a young 5-year-old in Memorial Gym.

"When he played Melrose, they had guys who were 6-foot-8," Michael Dodgen recalled. "They were down 40, but I was the only person still cheering for him."

That belief carried through Donald's next role, as he became an assistant at Tennessee Wesleyan before being named their head coach at just 34 years old. From there, he returned to G-P, where Michael became his father's floor general.

"We didn't speak a lot during those three years, but it was the trust he had in me and my teammates," Michael said. "When you're a point guard at 5-9 and you've got 6-foot-7 and 6-foot-6 on your team, it's really simple — we knew where the ball was supposed to go."

Michael continued taking notes from his father through the course of a career that ultimately led to a 14-year stint and 308 wins at Farragut High School.

"Just being around his program, I learned a lot of tricks of the trade that he knows," Michael said. "How to turn off lights when the other team had a run, how to stop a run if there's a wet spot on the floor. He's been at every level, been successful everywhere he's been. To have that as a reference is special."

In 2010, Donald resigned with a 655-309 record to become athletic director. But the coaching lessons never stopped.

**A legacy continues**

The younger Dodgen has applied plenty of those tools in his own journey, earning 300 career wins at Cannon County before moving on to White County in 2015.

From afar, he has admired his father's work as a coach and administrator, but he also heaped plenty of credit on his late mother, Mary Anne, who died in 2021.

"My mom was the coach of our family," he said. "We could go to every ballgame, but we had to act right and have our homework done. She held us, accountable and held him accountable too. Any coach has to have a good support group at home, and she was that for us like my wife and kids are for me now."

So impactful was Mary Anne Dodgen that FHS principal Dr. John Bartlett had an azalea garden planted on campus in her memory. In a way, those bulbs represent "one part of a long-limbed coaching tree whose roots were visible that Thursday in Murfreesboro."

"One of the proudest moments of my career," Donald said of his son. "He's been with me forever, so it means the world to see where he is now. He is one of the best high school coaches around."

"That was the sixth time I've been in the state tournament, and he's not missed a single one," added Michael Dodgen of his father. "He's always been there for our family when I was little and now that I'm older, too. You see the love and support he has for Farragut. It has always been entrenched in us that if you do it, you do it the right way, and he has."

# Farragut stays unbeaten at Bearden Invitational

**KEN LAY**  
Correspondent

Farragut High School's boys soccer team kept its perfect record intact with a pair of victories in the Bearden Invitational.

The Admirals (4-0) closed out tournament play with a 3-1 win over Knoxville Central Saturday, March 21, at Bill Young Field.

Lincoln Unger, Jason Gao and Nathan Henderson all found the back of the net against the Bobcats on Saturday.

Unger scored first, tallying in the 12th minute of the morning match before Central pulled even when Devon Cole converted a penalty kick, making the score, 1-1, in the 33rd minute.

Cole had another penalty kick stopped earlier in the match when Farragut's Parker Fuller made one of his eight saves on a point-blank opportunity.

Farragut took the lead for good when Gao tallied in the final minute of the first half.

The Admirals scored an insurance marker when Nathan Henderson found the back of the net in the 57th minute.

The Admirals also won Friday night, March 20, as they outlasted Cleveland, 6-3.

**Admirals**  
From page 1B

glad to see us take a step forward in that direction."

The Admirals took more steps forward in the following days, defeating defending 3A state champion Greeneville 5-4 on Thursday, March 19. The Ads held off Providence Academy 9-5 on Friday, March 20, lost to Jefferson County 2-1 Saturday then defeated Lakeview Christian 13-0 that same day. They have since resumed their district, facing Lenoir City this week.

Goalkeeper Matthew Burney, a senior who has recorded a pair of clean sheets against Oak Ridge and Knoxville Catholic, made eight saves against the Blue Raiders. He also had an assist in the match.

Henderson tallied twice against Cleveland. Nathan Chi, Caleb Gahagan and William Morris also scored for Farragut.

"We've got pieces," Admirals' coach Bradley Culbreth said. "The effort is there and we're starting to come together."

"It's a work in progress — spring break, the weather (we're just like everybody else, but (with where we're at right now, I'm satisfied.)"

**Hawks split two matches at Bearden Invitational:**

Hardin Valley Academy didn't have the best of days on the pitch Saturday at Bill Young Field.

The Hawks (3-2-1) dropped a 4-0 decision against Hendersonville on a warm afternoon.

"We got exactly what we deserved today," HVA coach Ray Dover said. "And that was the 4-0 loss that Hendersonville handed us."

"We've been decimated by injuries, but make no mistake about it, that's no excuse for what happened out there and the guys know it. I told them



Carlos Reveiz

Farragut's Eli Saunders (14) heads the ball among Cleveland players during their Bearden Invitational matchup on Friday, March 20 at Bearden High School.

that they could use this for fuel, and they will."

The Hawks opened the tournament with a 1-0 victory over Knoxville Catholic Friday night as freshman Elijah Lakin had the lone marker of the match.

**Bearden nabs two**

**impressive wins:**

Bulldogs' coach Ryan Radcliffe saw exactly what he wanted to see from his side at the Bearden Invitational last week.

The Bulldogs (4-1) routed Hendersonville, 6-1, to open tournament play Friday night.



Farragut pitcher Cash Schroeder (2) tosses a strike toward the plate on Wednesday, March 18. The pitch was one part of a combined no-hitter against Bearden, as Schroeder and Braiden Meredith held the Bulldogs scoreless in a 10-0 win.

Jake Nichols

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**Storm**

From page 1B

walks and five hits allowed in the circle.

"She does a good job," Green added. "She throws it in the zone and has good stuff, good velocity. She's a veteran at this point and has a lot of experience, and she's a

**Historic**

From page 1B

outscore the Admirals 24-6 from that point forward.

Burris was whistled for a technical during the frame, drawing the ire of a nearby official after questioning what he thought should have been a flop warning.

"I was just yelling, 'How is that not a flop warning,' and the other official T'd me up," Burris said. "When I asked him, he said, 'You've already had a warning, and you can't yell at the official.'"

"I didn't cuss at anybody,

competitor."

Wesley Green and Taylor Albright went 2-for-2 with an RBI from Green, and Taylor Wolfram and Alexa Shrader each went 1-for-3 with two RBIs and one RBI, respectively. Logan Jameson knocked one RBI, and Camryn Shrader brought in two more runs.

"Hal, her bat started off

didn't say anything I felt was inappropriate," he continued. "That was frustrating, but I have to do a better job of handling my emotion. Through the course of my career, I feel like I've earned some technicals more than that one. It is what it is. This is my first time here as a coach, and I have to learn."

Still, Burris credited his players' ability to handle adversity — first to shake off nerves in the first quarter, then to punch back when Walker Valley first tried to take control.

"Our guys have weathered the storm all year, and these five

a little slow but then hammered that one to get us on the board," Green said of Johnson. "Then the next at-bat she hit another two-RBI double, so both good at-bats. Taylor helps us out at the bottom of the lineup because she can run, so we're not hampering the top of the order. Her getting on base just gives kids chances to drive

seniors do a good job of that," he said. "And we did — we came back. But Walker Valley was so persistent on the glass and they shot it well. I think that stuff just caught up to us."

"It's a testament to us," senior Britton Lewis added. "We've battled back all year long. Even when we play great teams, we don't give up."

That remained true even in the closing seconds, as Farragut's Blue Sagle tallied a free throw with 0.2 remaining on the clock.

By that time, though, Walker Valley had done enough damage to pull away.

in runs. Then, Wes did a good job. She worked for a walk and made an adjustment from one at-bat to the other, which is good."

**Other softball notes**

Farragut continued its success with a 4-1 record through the remainder of last week, beating Heritage, Howard Tech, Cookeville and Etowah

Guard Zach Davis led all scorers with 21 points on 8-for-12 shooting while Isaac Sausville and Ashton Davis supplemented 15 and 12 points, respectively.

As a team, the Mustangs finished 54% from the floor and 38% from 3-point range — a contrast to Farragut's 23-for-51 clip from the floor with a 34% rate beyond the arc.

Those proved enough to overcome a Farragut team that saw 13 points from Lanning and 12 from Lewis. Aidan Foshie added nine points on three triples, while Lane and Matthew Dickens scored eight

by a combined 17-0. Its only loss came in a 9-5 defeat against the Plainview (Alabama) Bears on Saturday. On Tuesday, March 24, the Lady Ads faced Hardin Valley, which came in on a three-game win streak. Meanwhile, Bearden picked up wins of 9-4 and 14-6 over Oak Ridge and Carter, respectively, after the FHS loss.

apiece with four from Reid Vining.

"We've always had this goal in mind," Lane said, "and we knew we could do it."

**CORRECTION:**

In last week's issue, we put "Photo submitted" under a soccer photo and did not give proper attribution. The picture was captured by Carlos Reveiz, who does outstanding work. We apologize to Carlos and thank him and you, our readers, for your understanding with this error.



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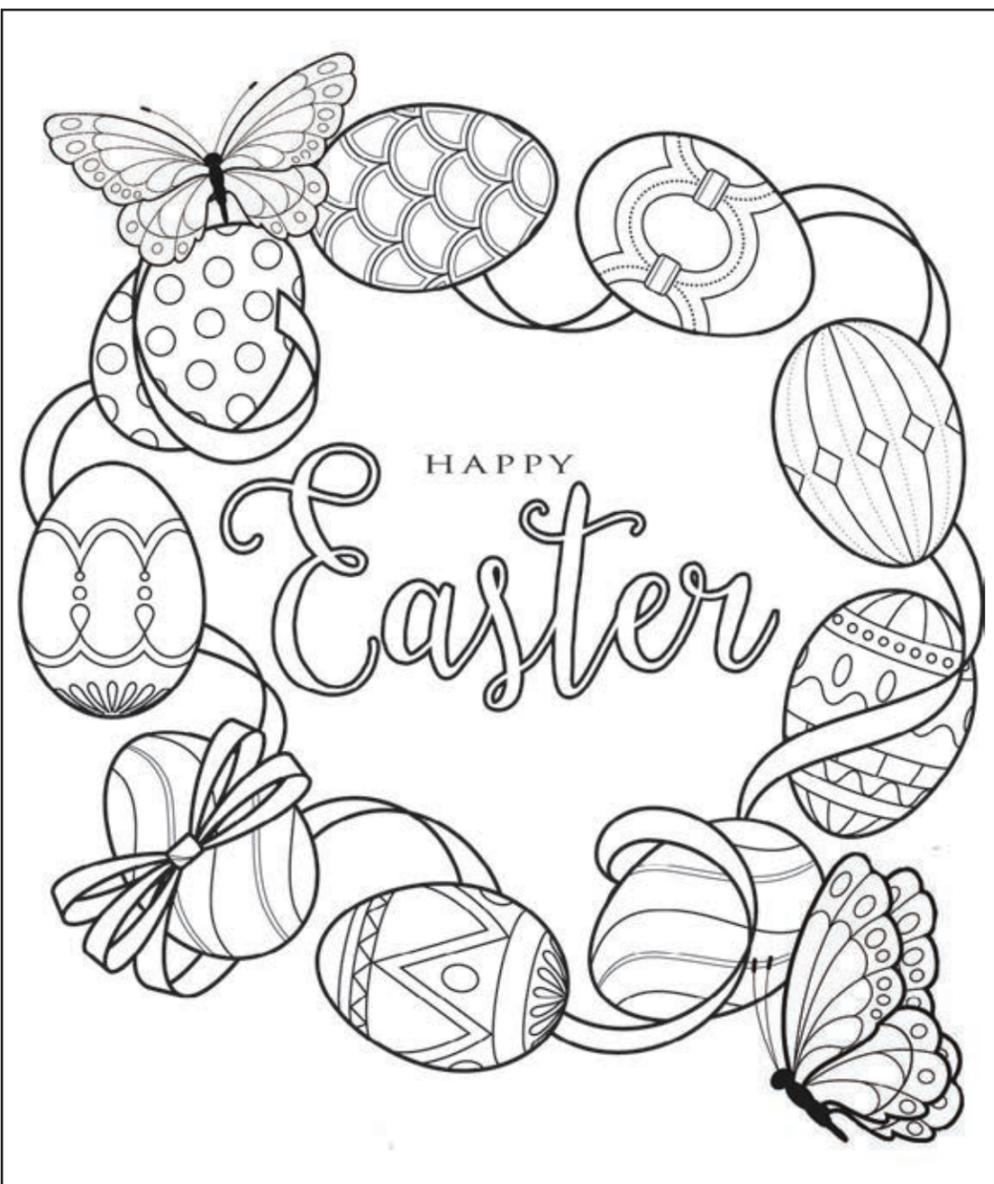
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1. Entries will be judged on a basis of originality and creativity. Decisions of the judges are final.
2. Prizes awarded: 1st, 2nd and 3rd
3. Winners will be selected in five categories: **Ages 4-5, Ages 6-8, Ages 9-11, Adults 12-112 and Special Needs**
4. No entries accepted for judging after **4 p.m. EST on Thursday, March 26, 2026**

**Mail or Deliver to:**  
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**Entry Form**

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(Please print and sign)

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## Bittersweet goodbye

### Farragut Rotary sends family to new beginning

**Tammy Cheek**  
[tcheek@farragutpress.com](mailto:tcheek@farragutpress.com)

Emotion stirred Farragut Rotary Club of Farragut's Wednesday, Feb. 21, meeting as members said farewell to former exchange student/Ukrainian refugee, Yuliia "Julie" Tryukhan, 36, and her children.

After that meeting, the Tryukhans headed for Spain on Feb. 18 to be reunited with her husband, Dmytro "Dima" Tryukhan, who had been fighting the war in Ukraine but now resides in Spain.

"I want everyone to know what we have done here in Knoxville would not have been possible without you," Tryukhan told Rotarians. "Financial support, emotional support and just being there for me every step of the way.

"It has been challenging, but I feel like we have done well," she said. "The best part of this

journey has been watching my children grow and thrive. Look at them; they are so big. "Next Sunday, we will be landing in Spain on Polly's 5th birthday, which is kind of symbolic because we fled Kiev on her first birthday.

"My favorite word in English is bittersweet," she said. "I think of the song my father wrote that says every day ends with a sunset and every new day begins with a sunrise. "Today is definitely a sunset, but our sunrise will be on the beach somewhere in Spain," Tryukhan said. "I can see how there will be a new, happy future for my children and our family."

To help her on her journey, RCF members presented Tryukhan with a check for \$2,100.

"It's just been a blessing to be part of your journey," President Candace Viox said. "Many people in our club have



Photo submitted

Saturday, Feb. 28, Julie Triukhan (second from left) and her children, Polly and Mark, were surrounded by their Farragut and Knoxville extended family as they departed McGhee Tyson Airport on their way to rejoin husband Dima in Spain. With them were Bill and Diana Vogel (back row), Julie's RYE host family; Bill Nichols (back row, third from right); and Liz Gregor (far left) of The Webb School of Knoxville.

donated for your safe journey back home."

"I'm speechless," Tryukhan said. "Thank you so, so much."

While RCF member Bill Nichols recognized a num-

ber of people for their part in getting Tryukhan to America and oriented to her new surroundings, she observed, "One name that Bill left out of that list was his name,

and I just want to thank [Nichols] for making it all possible.

"We love you," Tryukhan

See BITTERSWEET on Page 5B

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THE Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry

### Farragut Presbyterian to host annual spring fundraiser

**Jake Nichols**  
[jnichols@farragutpress.com](mailto:jnichols@farragutpress.com)

Saturday, April 18, Farragut Presbyterian Church will host the 7th annual Posies for the Pantry fundraiser from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event will be held rain or shine in the parking lot or fellowship hall.

There will be spring flowers and multiple craft vendors available, as well as a "Bargain

Shed" full of gently used garden tools and décor and free crafts for the children.

Riverside Coffee, a local non-profit coffee shop, will be on hand serving specialty coffees, assorted pastries, a variety of cold sandwiches and assorted beverages.

This event is a major fundraiser for the Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry organized

See FUNDRAISER on Page 5B

## Taking the plunge for a purpose

**Staff Reports**  
[editor@farragutpress.com](mailto:editor@farragutpress.com)

Farragut Middle School students, peer tutors and staff made a splash for a great cause Saturday, Feb. 14, by participating in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics and the school's growing Unified Sports program.

"The event marked an exciting milestone for FMS, which is in its first year as an official Unified Sports team through Special Olympics," FMS seventh-grade assistant principal Brandon White said. "Unified Sports brings together students with and without intellectual disabilities to compete on the same team, promoting inclusion, teamwork and school community.

See PLUNGE on Page 5B



Photo submitted

Farragut Middle School students and teachers recently took the plunge to raise money for Special Olympics. Participants were, front row, from left, teachers Serenity Andrews, Hannah Richardson, Angie Duncan and Gabi Duncan, Nolan Kearney (penguin), teacher Macie Brush and assistant principal Brandon White. Back row are: students, Kendall Hasan, Josie Pacelli, Catherine Craft, Forrest Kaplan, Graham Galardi, Max Glover and Hunter Jenkins.

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**SUNDAY APR 5** Resurrection Worship Service  
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## Plunge

From page 4B

“In addition to Unified Sports, Farragut Middle School students participate in several Special Olympics sports throughout the year, including bowling, track and basketball,” he said. “Through the Polar Plunge fundraiser, the FMS team raised approximately \$4,500.

“A portion of the funds will directly support the school’s Special Olympics and Unified Sports programs, helping provide opportunities, equipment and experiences for student-athletes,” White said.

He added the initiative is led by teacher, Hannah Richardson, with support from

staff member, Angie Duncan, “whose dedication has helped expand inclusive opportunities for students across the school community,” he said.

White shared his pride in the program’s impact, saying, “I couldn’t be more proud of the opportunities that our Unified Sports and Special Olympics student athletes get through this program.

“We are proud of the work and growth that happens daily in Ms. Richardson’s classroom and in our school community at Farragut Middle School, ensuring an inclusive and inviting environment that strives to provide opportunities for all students,” he said. “What a blast we had that Saturday. I can’t wait to see their smiling



Tammy Cheek

faces in this program and at the events that follow!

“Farragut Middle School

looks forward to continuing its partnership with Special Olympics and expanding op-

portunities for all students to compete, connect and succeed together,” White said.



Tammy Cheek

Former Rotary Youth Exchange Program student Yulia “Julie” Tryukhan from Ukraine shares her sentiments about her stay in Tennessee and her departure to be reunited with her husband.

## Bittersweet

From page 4B

said. “Thank you for everything.”

As a 2007-08 Rotary Youth Exchange student, she had attended Webb School of Knoxville. After the program ended, she returned home.

However, four years ago, Russia invaded Ukraine, and she and her children, Mark, then 3, and Polina, then 18 months, fled their home country. Dima stayed in Ukraine to serve in the Ukrai-

nian military.

“They kept relations,” RCF member Jim O’Brien said about Bill and Diana Vogel, who hosted Tryukhan as a student. With help from Rotarians in Tennessee and in Zilna, Slovakia, she traveled from Slovakia, to Prague, Czech Republic; Amsterdam, Netherlands, then to Atlanta, Georgia before traveling to Knoxville.

After living four years in America, she recently had the opportunity to be reunited with her husband, who is now in Spain.

## Fundraiser

From page 4B

by Farragut Presbyterian Church.

The food pantry is located at Faith Lutheran Church, FPC’s next-door neighbor on Jamestowne Boulevard and is supported by four other Farragut churches: Faith Lutheran, Concord United Methodist, Farragut Presbyterian and First Baptist Concord.

FPC has been a partner in this ministry since the pantry

opened more than 15 years ago, and the fundraiser provides much-needed funds to run the pantry.

In 2025, pantry partners, local businesses, church members and more than 100 volunteers came together to serve 5,239 people experiencing food insecurity in the community during 2025.

To volunteer at the pantry, contact Renée Stone at shephoepantry@gmail.com or call (865) 966-9626.

## press planner

• Families across Knoxville are invited to celebrate the Easter season with a fun-filled morning at Morning Pointe of Knoxville Assisted Living and Memory Care, which will host “Breakfast with the Easter Bunny” on Saturday, March 28, from 9 to 11 a.m. at 9649 Westland Dr. The community event will feature a hot breakfast, photos with the Easter Bunny, egg decorating, crafts, games, and a classic cake walk. The morning will conclude with a festive Easter egg hunt for children. For more information about the event, call 865-531-2475.

• Each month St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church has a Gift of the Month collection for local social service programs. In March, the Gift of the Month is dedicated to Compassion Closet, a volunteer run program collects new and gently used items needed by foster families. To help Compassion Closet, St. Elizabeth’s is collecting the following items: new kids’ underwear, all sizes; new children’s pajamas, all sizes; new kids’ toiletries (shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, etc.); and baby wipes. Items may be dropped off at St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church, 110 Sugarwood Drive, on Sunday, March 29, between 1 and 2 p.m. or at the church during regular business hours.

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## YMCA Celebrates 175 Years Of Strengthening Community

Photos submitted

The YMCA is proud to kick off its Annual Campaign from March 23rd through April 18th as we celebrate 175 years of serving communities and strengthening lives. For generations, the Y has been a place where individuals and families can grow in spirit, mind, and body, and this year's campaign is an opportunity for our community to be part of that lasting mission.

In honor of this milestone year, we are inviting our members and neighbors to consider making a gift of \$175 to support the programs that help make the Y accessible to all. Donations to the Annual Campaign provide free or discounted swim lessons, memberships, youth programs, and support for our Summer Feeding Program.

Every gift, no matter the size, helps ensure that children have safe places to learn and grow, families have opportunities to connect and thrive, and individuals of all ages can improve their health and wellbeing. The YMCA remains committed to enriching the community around us by serving the whole person through programs that nurture mind, spirit, and body.

As we celebrate 175 years of impact, we invite you to join us in making a difference for our community today and for generations to come.



1. Homeschool PE stretch before active play!

2. Mrs. Stephanie leads a group lesson, helping participants learn and grow together in a supportive environment.

3. Our seniors gather for chair yoga, enjoying gentle movement, connection, and support for overall wellness.

4. Mrs. Pat reads to our children in Childwatch, creating a warm and engaging time of learning, imagination, and fun!

5. The Koinonia class celebrates St. Paddy's Day with fellowship, fun, and festive community spirit.

6. Life-saving skills are taught in the pool, building confidence and safety awareness.

7. The Y kicks off a new MOWL Intelligent Cycle Class, offering a competitive and interactive way for members to stay motivated, challenged, and engaged in their fitness journey.

8. Childwatch children explore, create, and enjoy learning through play.





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# Farragut YIG expands, seeks partners for conference costs

**Tammy Cheek**  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut High School's Youth in Government chapter is making strides in helping fellow students be more active citizens.

To do so, Youth in Government founder/president Albert Liu, a FHS senior, is seeking a partner to help sponsor YIG's upcoming conference in April in Nashville.

"On [Thursday,] April 16, our students will be attending the annual Tennessee Volunteer Conference, where delegates will have the opportunity to sit in the same seats as our Tennessee lawmakers," Liu said. "We've been working for the past semester to draft their own bills to present to students across the state."

"Last year was our first time attending," he said. "Eight of our students won Best Speaker Awards and advanced their bills to final rounds of competition."

"And, because of their phenomenal performance, Tennessee Youth in Government has invited 20 of our Farragut High School students to attend this year," Liu said. "However, bringing more members means that the cost of attending increases."

"We are currently fundraising to offset the costs associated with this educational program and we're looking for potential partners who would align with our mission of empowering students through civic engagement."

FHS's YIG chapter was started two years ago and is part of a nationwide program "dedicated to providing civic

education opportunities to students," he said. "At Farragut, Youth in Government is the school center for government, public speaking, debate and civic engagement."

"Our mission is to prepare students to be active citizens..." Liu said. "What we've been able to give to our students for the past two years has been really incredible."

"At our weekly meetings, we host debates, guest speakers and host talks about current events," he said. "I've watched as new members transform from nervously public speakers to become informed, confident citizens."

"We had one student ... who started last year as a freshman — he was one of our members who really didn't say much — by the time he went to our conference in Nashville, he was one of our members who won a Tennessee State Best Speaker Award," Liu said. "He's just one of countless students who we've been able to provide quality and civic education."

"Stories like that really make me proud of what Youth In Government has been able to do for our students, but I'm equally as proud of what we've been able to do for our community," he said.

Students have been able to take what they learned at our meetings and activities and apply them to their own communities," Liu said. "Each election cycle, we've connected our members with their first campaign volunteering opportunities, and we've had members volunteer in campaigns from local County Commission elections to U.S. Congressional races."

"Just last December, we also hosted our first ever Future Leaders Day Conference, where 30 middle schoolers from around the county came to Farragut High School to learn about constructive debating, public speaking and citizenship," he said. "Our post-event survey showed that 83 percent of our participants became more interested in public speaking and debate."

"Sixty percent were more interested in readership and civic engagement," Liu added. "I think one parent really put it best when they wrote, 'This was such an awesome event. As a political science major, I am so proud of you all and the

event you organized. I was beyond impressed ...'

"Future Leaders Day was largely inspired and planned by the students who participated in our annual conference," he said.

"He's very active in his school and the community," Rotary Club of Farragut member Tom Woodbery said of Liu. "He is the school representative on Knox County Board of Education [and Farragut Municipal Planning Commission]."

"He's an extremely talented young man, and he wants to talk a little bit about a program that's near and dear to his heart, Youth in Government."

Albert Liu, Farragut High School senior and founder/president of FHS Youth in Government chapter is seeking a partnership and funds in the community so YIG members can attend an upcoming state conference.



Tammy Cheek



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Saturday

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[www.UnionCPChurch.com](http://www.UnionCPChurch.com) • 865-966-9040

Easter Egg Hunt • March 28 at 10:00 a.m.

Rain Date - April 4<sup>th</sup>

# HOLY WEEK

Holy Thursday Service

7 PM

Good Friday Service

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Fax: (865) 966-2072

Email: [newcovenant@newcovenantbc.com](mailto:newcovenant@newcovenantbc.com)  
Website: [www.newcovenantbc.com](http://www.newcovenantbc.com)

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### 000 LEGALS



Farragut Town Hall | 11408 Municipal Center Drive

## FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

- I. Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
- A. March 12, 2026 Workshop
- B. March 12, 2026 Board of Mayor and Aldermen Meeting
- IV. Mayor's Report
- V. Ordinances & Resolutions
  - A. Ordinances
    - 1. Second Reading & Public Hearing
    - a. Request for approval of Ordinance 26-06, an ordinance on second 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 engineering documentation can demonstrate that this would have a positive effect on overall stormwater management due to the timing of stormwater runoff
- VI. Citizens Forum
- VII. Town Administrator's Report
- VIII. Town Attorney's Report
- IX. 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.*

### 000 LEGALS



11408 MUNICIPAL CENTER DRIVE | FARRAGUT, TN 37934  
865.966.7057 | WWW.TOWNOFFARRAGUT.ORG

## FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN WORKSHOP AGENDA

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

- I. Roll Call
- II. Business Items
  - A. Review of Equipment Replacement Fund, Tourism Fund, State Street Aid 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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## FMPC STAFF/DEVELOPER MEETING

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Farragut Town Hall • 11408 Municipal Center Drive

- I) Discussion Items
  - A) Discussion and public hearing on a final plat for Phase 2, Unit 1 of the Grove at Boyd Station Subdivision, 16.15 Acres, 15 Lots, Zoned OSMR (Lynch Surveys, LLC., Applicant)
  - B) Discussion and public hearing on a final plat for the Stonemeade Subdivision, Parcels 070 and 072, Tax Map 142 off Boring Road, 39 Lots, Zoned R-3 (Lynch Surveys, LLC, Applicant)

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

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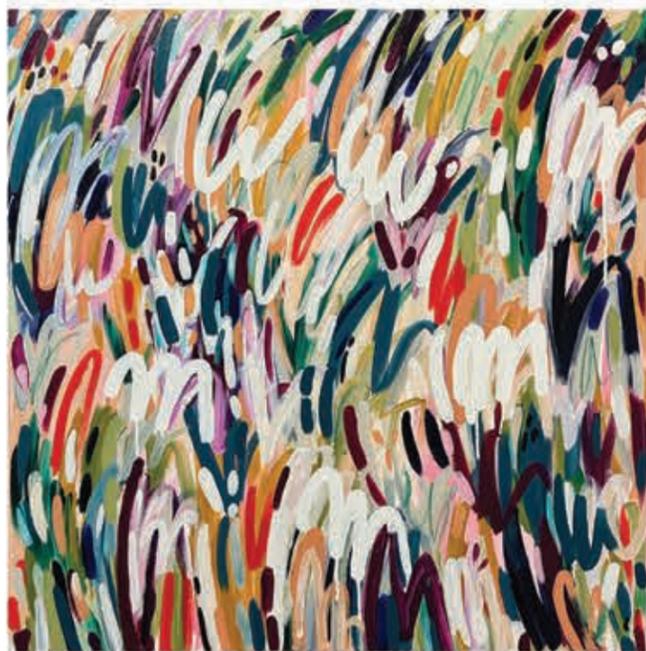
10 am  
7 pm

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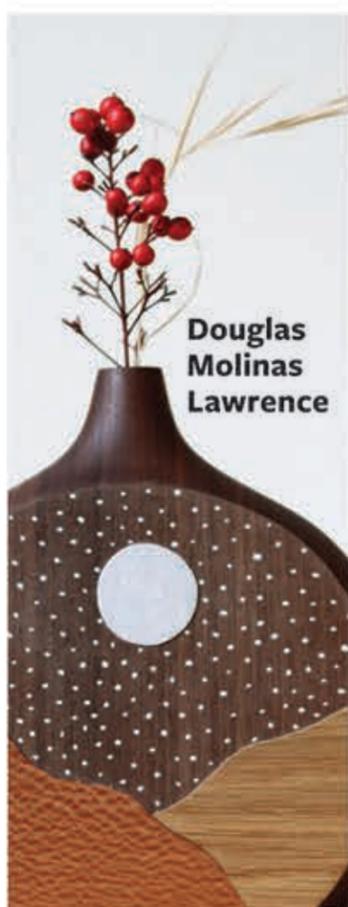
# 29

11 am  
4 pm

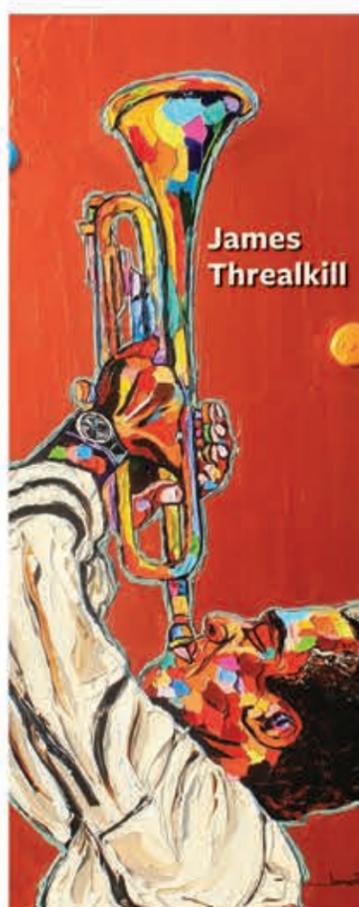
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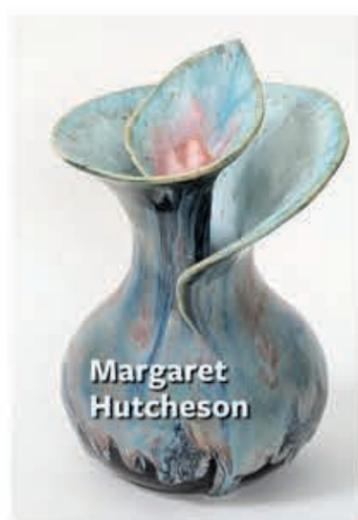
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