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Townhomes take center stage

30 Townhomes, commercial space planned on Watt Road

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

A mixed-use development featuring 30 townhomes and commercial space is being planned along Watt Road in Farragut.

Eddie Kherani of Reliance Development, the property owner, and representatives of architectural firm, The Architecture Collaborative, presented a site plan for Serenade at Farragut during a Farragut Municipal Planning Commission Staff-Developer meeting.

The proposed 9.2-acre development, at 421 Watt

Road between North Watt and Harrison roads near Town limits, is on property zoned Neighborhood/Convenience Commercial.

The development includes 30 townhomes and a number of commercial units. Although TAC sought review of the commercial portion, work already is being done on both the residential and commercial portions.

In December 2024, FMPC granted approval for a sight-distance variance between driveways for the project, as well as

See WATT on Page 2A



Tammy Cheek

Fox Den resident Keli Wise spoke against the proposed townhome development, which would front Fox Den subdivision and be located beside Enterprise Rent-A-Car along Kingston Pike.

Residents oppose access to South Fox Den Drive

Tammy Cheek
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About eight Fox Den subdivision residents told Town planners and developers during a Farragut Municipal Planning Commission Staff/Planner meeting Tuesday morning, Sept. 1, that they do not want a proposed townhouse development to have access to South Fox Den Drive.

"I'm opposed to having a connection to South Fox Den," said John Underwood, a Fox Den Homeowners Association representative.

"We don't want our property with that de-

velopment," Keli Wise added.

"There are other opportunities," Sean Sanderson said.

For almost an hour, residents argued — many talking over one another — about the proposed connection to South Fox Den Drive. Some contended the connection would bring additional traffic into their subdivision while others said it would devalue their properties.

Ultimately, Community Development director Mark Shipley said, "It's obvious you all are not

See FOX DEN on Page 3A

From TV to print, Perella finds her fit in Farragut

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Lynn Perella may be relatively new to the area.

But she is certainly no stranger to the advertising game, having worked for multiple TV stations and other media outlets before arriving in Farragut.

Now, Perella is eager to bring that acumen to the farragutpress as its newest advertising and account executive.

"The community is very intertwined, and everyone that lives here reads the farragutpress cover to cover," Perella said. "So I want to bring some advertisers, either the ones here now or the ones I'll be talking with, and just let them have the benefit of this audience. It's a huge audience, and the demographics are good. Everything about it is good for an advertiser, so I hope to help them see how that will help their business."

Perella began her media sales career with The Mountain Press in Sevierville, working there for 15 years.

After moving across the country with her husband, Perella returned to East Tennessee and took on similar roles with WATE, WTNZ and WBIR in Knoxville.



Perella

"I started out in the newspaper business, and I was in it for many years then went into TV sales," she explained. "I lost my job in COVID-19, and I decided to come back and get into the market again when I moved to Farragut. I saw the paper, and it just spoke to me that this is where I needed to be."

Perella has since been in Farragut for a year and has thoroughly enjoyed the area.

"We love Farragut so much," she said. "It just seems to be a good fit for me."

Now, she is ready to bring lessons from her previous work into this new venture.

See PERELLA on Page 4A



Spill case closed, but impact remains

Tammy Cheek
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First Utility District is conducting business as usual in regard to its management following the May 8 sewer line break near Grigsby Chapel Road's greenway that contaminated North Fork Turkey Creek.

When Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation "said we were all good, we went back to normal operations," FUD general manager Bruce Giles said. "There's really nothing [more to do] from our perspective."

"Once we resolved the short-term issue and made sure everything was good, TDEC closed the case, told us we were all good and we just kept moving along," he said. "I think the creek's right back to the same condition it was

before. Like I told you before, it's always been impaired."

Likewise, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency assistant chief of the biodiversity division Jason Miller agreed FUD fulfilled its obligations.

About penalties reported regarding the spill, Miller said, "We don't really describe it as a penalty."

"Essentially, we value the total loss of the resource, and of course, and fish and wildlife belong to Tennessee residents, so we just say [FUD] needs to remit to the agency the value of that loss because it's not a purposeful pollution event or something like that," he said. "We ask people to be responsible for attacks to the fish and wildlife. So, basically, we issued them \$6,838.44 with the loss of fish species within that small stream, and [FUD] paid

that immediately.

"We don't call it a fine because it's not a criminal thing," Miller said. "That's the impact to the resource, so we ask that they remit that to the state, and they did so."

"Most of the time with utilities, they fully understand," he said. "My feeling is that they didn't mean to do that. It was not something on purpose."

Miller said the \$6,838.44 goes into TWRA's general fund for agency operations.

"It may not go directly into that stream," he said. "Sometimes it will recover OK if you give it a little bit of time. A lot of these stream species are pretty quick to reproduce."

"After a year or two, it will repopulate that," Miller said. "But, wildlife still has a value, so we

See SPILL on Page 4A



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Photo submitted

Brenda Vandever with her brother, Tony Karnes

A memory that never fades

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Brenda Vandever of Farragut wants people to remember those who died Sept. 11, 2001, from the terrorist attack on the World Trade Towers. She cannot forget. Vandever’s youngest brother, Tony Karnes, 37, was one of those who died that day, so every year she publishes an “in loving memory” for him. “We just can’t let these people be forgotten,” she said. “In fact, they’re having a memorial on 9/11, combining it with the Stair Climb that fire-fighters do” to signify the fire-fighters who died on Sept. 11, 2001, in New York. “They went back into the buildings to try to rescue people on 104 floors,” Vandever related. “With the Stair Climb this year, it’s at the Covenant Health Park. They’re going to have a memorial for the victims first, and then they’ll start the Stair Climb. “I think they figured up and down the stands at the Smokies stadium would match the 104 floors,” she said. Built primarily between 1966 and 1975, the towers were dedicated on April 4, 1973, as a complex of seven buildings in the financial district of lower Manhattan in New York City. Then, terrorists in two hijacked planes flew into the towers on Sept. 11 and destroyed them, killing nearly 3,000 people. In an “in memory,” Vandever wrote, “On that bright, sunny day, terrorists commandeered passenger planes and killed thousands of innocent people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. From this horrific act, we began to realize the true depths of evil in the human heart and the uncertainty and fragility of life itself. We are thankful we had you for 37 years and will always remember your smile and the kindness that you showed to others as evidenced by the cards and letters that we received.” Karnes, who lived in New York City, was a software trainer with Marsh McLennan Insurance Agency on the 97th floor in Tower One of the World Trade Center in 2001. “There were 297 employees from his company perished that day,” Vandever said. “Tony traveled across the United States, training people in their software updates,” Vandever said. But, “he lived

three blocks from the World Trade Center. “We think he was en route to work or he was in his office on the 97th floor of Tower One,” she related. “There’ll never be closure as to what really happened, but there were [her brother’s] remains, which were given back to us. “There were two pieces of tissue, a little toe, a jaw bone and a tooth,” Vandever said, adding he is interred in a columbarium at a cemetery on Kingston Pike. “I was 16 when he was born,” she mused. “He was like my child.” There were five siblings in the Karnes family. Along with Vandever and Karnes, there are three sisters still living. The brother and sister were close during their lives. “I went to New York several times to visit him,” she said. “The day after it happened, there was no phone calls from him. I was pretty sure something had happened bad. “I couldn’t get a flight out until that following Sunday,” she recalled. “I stayed [in New York City] for a month. And, on the last day we were there, they had the memorial for all those people at Marsh. Then we came home.” While in New York, the insurance company’s driver took the Vandever to ground zero. “I could see the dust in the windows of the buildings was a good inch thick,” she recalled. “We could watch the flatbed trucks going down the street with debris and body parts. That’s what was so tragic.” Two years after the attack on the World Trade Center, “a Knox County deputy knocked on my door, and he gave me a phone number to call,” she recalled. “That’s when I knew.” After making the call, which was to the medical examiner’s office, “they said they found parts,” Vandever said. “Terrible,” was her initial reaction to the news. “I expected it, but I didn’t ... I’ve never been through anything like that in my life. You know, you expect people to get sick, like my mom and dad, but you don’t expect your young brother to be murdered.” Recovery efforts in identifying remains only stopped recently, she said. “They haven’t all been identified yet. “So, ever since then, it’s been memorials in downtown Knoxville and putting flowers (at the columarium),” she said.

Service leads the way for Viox

Tammy Cheek
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“I love serving the community,” exclaimed Candace Viox, owner of Water Into Wine bistro & lounge and president of Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance. “I love helping any way I can.” She also is past president of Rotary Club of Farragut, serves on the Town’s tourism committee, supports churches in the Town, supports schools with her gift baskets and donations and supports Operation Hero’s Hill. And, Viox’s service in the community has not gone unnoticed. Recently, she was nominated to participate in Leadership Knoxville 2026-2027. “I still don’t know who nominated me,” she said. “I’m so honored and just humbled because I didn’t feel like I really understood what Leadership Knoxville was.” Leadership Knoxville is a prominent non-profit community leadership development organization, which was founded in 1984, according to its website. “I was just surprised, I

guess, that they contacted me and told me that I had been chosen [in late June],” Viox said. “And then, I had to accept the invitation. “I asked a few people if they knew anything about Leadership Knoxville,” she said. After talking with people who graduated from the program, she was told, “This is an amazing opportunity for civic leadership in Knox County, and you have to take it ... you have to make time for this. It’s just one of those things you just can’t pass up.” “So, as I do everything in life, I prayed about it,” Viox recalled. Ultimately, she accepted at the end of July. “God put it on my heart that I was going,” she replied. “Still, I really had no idea what I was getting myself into.” “I wasn’t given any information of who was going to be there,” she said. “I didn’t know if it was going to be corporations. I didn’t know if it was going to be 501(c)3 leaders. I didn’t know if it was going to be politicians. “I didn’t know who was going to be in the class,” Viox said. “They don’t tell you. You



Viox

just show up. “I’m really excited,” she added. Leadership Knoxville, which has 60 in this year’s class, is a 10-month program which started with a weekend retreat in August, where Viox took part in team-building “tests” on listening to others. It will continue with classes in September.

Watt
From page 1A

a preliminary plat. Dan Brittain, an architect with TAC, said the buildings will be mostly brick and stone and will be accessible from Watt Road. One issue that could hold up the project is a shortage of parking spaces in the proposed development. Farragut Community Development director Mark Shipley said he normally does not want developments to have excessive parking, so “we kind of created the possibility for the Planning Commission to allow

for reductions. “Although, 36 [fewer parking spaces in the development] is a pretty substantial reduction,” he said. “You’ll need really to be ready to sell that [to the Planning Commission].” FMPC is expected to discuss the parking situation, with no action taken, during its Thursday, Sept. 17, meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. **Goddard School request** In other business, planners discussed a request from The Goddard School, which is planning an additional 2,800 square feet at its school at 125 Loudon Road. The school is asking the

Town to amend its ordinance governing the amount of fenced outdoor space required to make it consistent with the Tennessee Department of Human Services requirement of 50 square feet per student. The Town currently requires 100 square feet per child. The amendment is expected to be on the agenda for the Thursday, Sept. 17, FMPC meeting. In July, the Planning Commission approved the addition on the condition that the Town’s ordinance would be amended to allow 50 square feet per child instead of 100.

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History is hopping at Farragut Museum

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Farragut Museum is jumping with free events, all the way through December.

“We’re just trying to get people engaged and share our love for history with a lot of community outreach programs we’re trying to implement,” Farragut historic resources coordinator Kristi Vining said.

Since it opened April 2025, “we try to do an event every month.”

The action starts with Movies at the Museum 7:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 18, at the BlueCross Healthy Place playground behind Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive.

“We partnered with the Knoxville House Museum with something they do every fall,” Vining said. “Every Friday night in September and October, they rotate locations and have an outdoor movie.

The movies have been shown at Mabry-Hazen House, James White Fort and other locations.

“So, we’re hosting it on Sept. 18, and we’re going to do it at the field behind the playground,” she said. “We’re showing ‘Herbie Fully Loaded.’

“There’s a special tie to that

because it was written by Robert Ben Garant, who is a 1988 graduate of Farragut High School,” Vining said. “We’ll have to wait a little bit until it gets dark enough to see the movie, probably about 8:15 p.m.

“We thought kids could play on the playground if they wanted to, get some energy out,” she added. For adults, “bring your lawn chair; bring your blanket.”

Vining said people from the Dove’s Club, a Volkswagen club in Knoxville, will bring a vintage Volkswagen Beetle to display.

“We’ll have a food truck; we’ll have yard games, so it’s just a fun community event,” she said.

The activities continue with a History Hour at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 22, in Farragut Town Hall featuring Dr. Chris Magra, a University of Tennessee professor of Americans at War.

Vining said the professor will be talking about the military history of the American Revolutionary War.

“He’s just written a new book called ‘America’s First War,’ so he’ll have that for sale and talk about his research,” she said.

Then 4 p.m., Thursday, Oct.

1, the Museum will highlight a brand new program, History Readers.

“It’s a book club that we’re meeting once a quarter,” Vining said. “We’re going to give you a topic for a book to read, but you can read any book you want off that topic.

“We’re meeting at the Campbell Station Inn, 11409 Kingston Pike,” she said. “The meetings will actually be the first Thursday of every quarter, and our topic this time is the first five presidents — the people, their families, land, anything on that topic you want to read. Then people will just present on their book.”

There will be another History Hour, which will be 11 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 21, in Town Hall, presented by retired librarian Kate Brewster. She will talk about the East Tennessee ties to American royalty, the Vanderbilts.

Also in October, the museum will host a temporary museum on loan from the Tennessee State Museum.

“It’s called Voices from Tennessee,” Vining said. “This is part of the 250th celebration of America. It’s Tennesseans who have made a great impact over the centuries in America. “This is a very sought-after



Tammy Cheek

Farragut Museum Committee chairman Sue-Ann Hansler, right, directs a tour of the museum as part of the Town’s History Tour, which started at the museum in Farragut Town Hall Thursday, Aug. 20. Participants also toured Founders Park at Campbell Station, Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza, Admiral Farragut Plaza and Pleasant Forest Cemetery.

exhibit that we got on their schedule,” she said. “It will be here Sept. 10 through Oct. 15.”

The events culminated with historian Frank Galbraith, who will present The Day of Infamy 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 7, in the Town Hall. In this event, Galbraith will relate the

events that led up to the attack on World War II and Pearl Harbor.

“He covers the Roaring ‘20s and Hitler coming into power, among other events,” Vining said.

All of the events are open to the public.

Fox Den

From page 1A

going to agree.”

Nevertheless, he said the developers still have work to do and are not ready to submit a proposal to FMPC at its Thursday, Sept. 17, meeting.

The proposed townhome development would be at 12143 Kingston Pike, beside Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Developer Saddlebrook Properties is looking to build 40 townhomes on 8.68 acres zoned Attached Single-Family Residential (R-4).

“It was rezoned in the late

’90s to R-4,” Shipley said. “There’s a platted access easement here [next to Enterprise Rent-A-Car to the east of the property].”

Russ Rackley, engineer for the development, said the developers are planning to have the access easement, which is shared with Enterprise, classified as a local street.

“I think the solution here is we just improve that access 24 feet to meet the 26-foot standard,” Rackley said.

Shipley said the developers also are proposing a connection to South Fox Den Drive.

“I had a pretty long conver-

sation with the Town attorney about the access for this project, and his reading — I agree with him over the R-4 district — it does require a direct connection for an R-4 development to a non-local street,” Shipley said. “Or, it could connect to a local street, but that street has to not be interior to a subdivision.

“A secondary access can be used, like where they’re showing it, with the access easement, but the access easement itself is not a direct connection to Kingston Pike,” he said. “So,

to meet the current R-4 language, they would have to have a direct connection to Kingston Pike. That’s the Town attorney’s opinion on that.

“That is a very important provision,” Shipley added.

“Why couldn’t they just put an access onto Kingston Pike?” a resident asked.

Rackley, owner of Rackley Engineering, said the development couldn’t connect directly to Kingston Pike because of the grade between the property and the highway.

“That property is 10 feet

higher [than Kingston Pike],” he said. “You’ve seen the big bank with the trees, and with the slope of the property going up from there ... you would never come out of the ground.”

The proposal also includes two detention basins, one on each side of the development, a retaining wall and a “pretty robust landscape plan,” Rackley said.

Also, “the R-4 zone requires a 25-foot-wide buffer strip along the periphery,” Shipley said.

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

As the 2026 election season approaches, farragutpress is providing political candidates with an opportunity to share their message directly with readers through candidate profiles published in the newspaper.

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

Candidates may email their political profiles to editor@farragutpress.com

The deadline for political profiles prior to the November 3rd election is 12 p.m. on Friday, October 2nd.

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



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Kat Mahn earns prestigious certification

Tammy Cheek
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Kat Mahn, owner of Kat’s Purrfect Getaways LLC, recently officially earned the American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA) Verified Travel Advisor designation from ASTA, one of the travel industry’s most respected professional organizations.

“The ASTA Verified Travel Advisor program recognizes travel professionals who have demonstrated a commitment to industry education, ethical business practices and delivering exceptional service to travelers,” an ASTA press release stated. “This designation signifies that advisors have invested in advanced professional development to better serve their clients in an ever-changing travel landscape.”

“As travel continues to evolve, my clients deserve a travel advisor who is knowledgeable, prepared and committed to providing the highest level of service,” Mahn said. “To be a verified travel advisor, within your first two years — and I am in my first two years as a verified travel advisor this year — you have to have had two years of uninterrupted service, working full time as a travel advisor, and had booked at least \$500,000 annual sales for clients, and they verify that ... You can’t just submit and say you did it.

“It’s not something you can get by just taking a class,” she added. While there are classes

involved, Mahn reiterated the two years of uninterrupted service and sales.

“Earning my ASTA Verified Travel Advisor certification reinforces my commitment to helping travelers plan incredible vacations while giving them confidence that they have a trusted professional advocating for them every step of the way.

“When someone sees that the ASTA Verified Travel Advisor certification next to my name, they know I’ve gone beyond my calling myself a travel agent,” she said. “I’m verified; I’m a professional.

“I’ve demonstrated my ability to take care of my clients, do the sales. I’m educated, legal and ethical ... and I have a commitment to continue my education, accountability to being a professional and to the standards that are set forth by ASTA,” Mahn said.

“Unlike booking online without guidance, working with an ASTA Verified Travel Advisor means clients benefit from expert destination knowledge, personalized vacation planning, travel protection guidance, supplier relationships and professional support before, during and after their travels,” she added.

Kat’s Purrfect Getaways LLC is a full-service travel agency specializing in cruises, luxury vacations, ocean and river cruises, Alaska adventures, group travel and personalized vacation planning. Mahn is dedicated to helping travelers experience the world



Photo submitted

Kat Mahn, who owns Kat’s Purrfect Getaways, LLC., as well as Kat’s Lash Lounge in Farragut.

with confidence through expert guidance, personalized service and ongoing travel education.

The ASTA Verified designation also reflects a commitment to continuing education, ensuring clients receive current advice on destinations, travel trends, supplier partnerships and best practices within the travel industry.

“As someone who believes travel changes lives, I never stop learning,” Mahn added. “This achievement is another way I can bring greater value to every client I serve.”

Ribbon cutting



Grady Vanderhoofen (with scissors), president/CEO of Three Roots Capital, celebrated the company’s 10th year in business with a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce-sponsored ribbon cutting at Three Roots Capital, 12640 Kingston Pike, Friday, July 31. Joining him were family, friends, staff and Chamber members.

Tammy Cheek

businessbriefs

- Covenant Health Hospitals recently was nationally recognized for commitment to excellence in cardiovascular care. The American Heart Association presents Covenant Health with the “Get With The Guidelines award” for proven dedication to best practices. All Covenant Health acute care hospitals recently received American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines achievement awards, which earned by following up-to-date, research-based guidelines for heart disease and stroke treatment.
- Chad Clark, CPWA, APMA, CRPC with Vantage Point Financial Planning, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC., has become an Ameriprise Financial Private Wealth Advisor. Clark, with offices in Knoxville and LaFollette, is among the 24 percent of about 10,000 Ameriprise financial advisors to achieve this status.

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



The YMCA of East Tennessee’s Golf Tournament at Ewani Golf Course

The 2026 YMCA of East Tennessee 3-Part Golf Tournament wrapped up on a high note, bringing together golfers, supporters and community partners for a great cause. Held Monday, August 31, at Ewani Golf Course, more than 30 teams took on the challenge of the course. With farragutpress proudly serving as the media sponsor, the tournament was more than a day on the links—it was a drive toward strengthening our community. Proceeds benefited the YMCA’s general fund, supporting vital programs and services, including swimming lessons, day care and other opportunities that help local families thrive. From the first tee to the final putt, participants proved that when our community comes together, everyone wins. It was truly a hole-in-one effort. For more information, contact Kathy Hartman at khartman@farragutpress.com or Jared Daugherty at jdaugherty@ymcaetn.org.









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Fun *with* Farragut’s Fleet

Town of Farragut hosted its annual Fun with Farragut’s Fleet event Saturday morning, Aug. 22, in the parking lot at Mayor Bob Leonard Park. Families had a chance to connect with plenty of different vehicles used for Town equipment and others from local businesses as well.

For more on this special event, see the story in this week’s Community section on page 3B.

Right: Officers Kyle Bothof, left, and Jill Herman smiled with Dolly during the Fun with Farragut’s Fleet event.



Officer J.D. Ferguson showed young Reese the ropes of a police motorcycle.



Sloan Wells, 1, checked out the inside view of a fire truck.



Ava and Haley Tracy share smiles during the event.



Andrew and Ashton Mills smile for a photo with their child.



Max and Nora Ward show off their construction hats during Fun with Farragut’s Fleet.



Representatives from Vulcan, from left: Frankie Beech, Rose Moffett, Eugene Davidson, Donald Luallen, Mark Leitch, Don Bryant and Thomas Vega.



Representatives from SRM Concrete: Greg Evans, Cameron Martin, Adam Godsey, Tony Langenderfer and Tanner Coley.



Mikey Turner enjoyed the view from a concrete truck.



Ali Drake pauses for a photo with her children during Fun with Farragut’s Fleet.



Gabby Ortiz showed her children around the trucks that filled the parking lot.

Ads outshoot Dawgs on Senior Day

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

The Farragut golf team has seen plenty of success throughout this regular season. But last Thursday, Sept. 3, was even more special. The Admirals defeated Bearden by 16 strokes, 160-176, while the Lady Ads outshot the Lady Dawgs by 20 strokes (79 to 99). Farragut senior Quinn Beck led all participants with a 37 — good for 1-over through nine holes at Fox Den Country Club — to pace the Admirals. Meanwhile, classmate Harper Holmes finished one shot behind Beck to lead her group with a 38. “Quinn, he’s one of our more steady players,” Farragut coach Ryan Mahoney said. “He’s always in the top one or two, just depends how his putter is working that day. He’s really been playing well the last couple days. He shot 1-under at Cherokee, and it’s fun to see.”

“Then Harper had a couple rough rounds early in the year, but she has really turned it around,” Mahoney added. “She shot 2-over including a double-bogey so really a solid round of golf.” Oliver Gerwin and Brady Beaver shot 40 apiece for the Ads while Will Feehan finished with a 43 with a 45 from Bryce Coulter. Behind Holmes, Sophie Williams shot a 41 with Olivia Coleman notching 45. Bearden’s J.D. Chapman led the Dawgs with a 41, followed by Aiden Morgan and Karson Messer with 43 apiece. Heath Kolar rounded out their top scores with a 49.

See SENIOR on Page 2B



Jake Nichols

Farragut senior Zoi LeCours paced both Admiral programs with a first-place finish in the girls 5k portion of the Victor Ashe Fall Classic last Saturday, Sept. 5, to open the 2026 season.

LeCours win leads FHS cross country in opener

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — Zoi LeCours thought someone was right behind her. The Farragut senior was happy to be wrong. On Saturday, Sept. 5, LeCours crossed the finish line 12.7 seconds ahead of CAK’s Sophie Lee, claiming first place in the girls 5k portion of the Victor Ashe Fall Classic to open her senior year. “It was kind of crazy,” said LeCours, who clutched her trophy mere moments after her finish of 19 minutes, 2.61 seconds. “The whole race, I was just on everyone’s tail. Then I passed a CAK girl on the last hill, and I could have sworn she was right behind me. But everyone said I won by like a mile. I was kind of in shock but really happy about it.” The individual title made for a strong start for FHS, which claimed third placed in boys and girls team results with scores of 153 and 103, respectively. “We talked before the race, and that was obvi-

ously the goal,” FHS coach Garrett Jones added. “Hardin Valley, West and Maryville have a lot of good runners, too, and we wanted to go out and be competitive. She put together a good race plan, battled hard and came home with it. We’re super proud of her, and now we’re chasing Gina Rouse’s record.” Speaking of Rouse, a Farragut alum, her CAK team notched first place in the girls results with three runners in the top six overall. Lee (19:15.4) placed second, while Haylee Gasparic (19:30.4) took third with Emery Adams (19:59.1) in sixth. “We have a fairly young team, and we have a couple new kids that have joined,” Rouse said. “Haylee came in from Karns as a freshman, then Sophie came over from Grace Christian. It’s still early in the season, but I feel like we’re in a great spot. “I think it was great for us to run against some of the bigger public schools in the area and get some

See LECOURS on Page 2B

FHS looking for ‘response’ in region opener

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Last Friday, Sept. 4, Geoff Courtney posed a question in the east end zone of Eddie Courtney Stadium. His team’s 30-7 loss to Upperman glowed on the distant scoreboard, and Courtney wanted to know how his team would answer. “We’ve had as tough of a stretch as anybody around,” he said. “What is that going to make us; how are we going to respond?” The Admirals (0-3) will have a chance to answer

that question this week, as they travel to Bradley Central (1-2) for their Region 2-6A opener on Friday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m. “Just like I know they will,” Courtney said when asked about his team’s response. “They’re a tough group, and they’ve responded every time in the offseason and throughout the summer.” Farragut will be taking on a Bears team that stormed back to beat Hardin Valley 43-40 last week. But aside from the opposing team’s film,

See OPENER on Page 2B



Jake Nichols

Farragut’s Thatcher Cherry (55) and Shawn Raines (10) tackle Upperman’s Gavin Frazier (1) during their game Friday, Sept. 4, at Eddie Courtney Stadium.

HVA takes down Lady Ads in district tilt

Bill Howard
Correspondent

It was a hard-fought district-opening battle between volleyball rivals Farragut and Hardin Valley last Thursday night, Sept. 3, at HVA. In the end, the Lady Hawks came away with a 3-0 win. The set scores were 25-11, 25-22, and 25-18. HVA improved its season record to 11-2, (1-0 District 4, Region 2) Hardin Valley coach Eric Boden was happy with his girls’ overall play. “I was really pleased with our defense and blocking,” he said. “We talked a lot about the game plan in our Wednesday

See HVA on Page 2B

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HVA
From page 1B

practice and talked about what we wanted to do as a team. I thought our team went out and executed really well. We dug a lot of balls, stayed in system and served tough. We really wanted to get Farragut out of rhythm and put pressure on their passers.”

“The first set was pretty bad but the last two were close,” said FHS coach Whitney Lee. “I was pleased that we made adjustments through the match, but none of us were pleased with the end result.”

“I always want our offense to be better and more efficient,” said Boden. “I thought (senior setter) Caroline Clauss did a great job of running the offense and spreading the offense around. Our hitters took smart swings throughout the match. There were a few of our out-of- system balls I wanted back, but our hitters are progressing match by match and continue to gain confidence.”

“It was a good shakeup for

us and we’re continuing to learn more and more about each other and our team as a whole,” said Lee.

The Lady Admirals fell to 5-7 overall, 0-1 in their district.

“(Junior libero) Lilly Ringle had a great match,” Boden said. “She led the team with 24 digs. She also added six assists and two aces. Lilly also passed well. She kept us in rhythm a lot in serve-serve.”

According to Boden, Ringle’s digs total for the season is now 171.

“(Junior) Maddie Jerrell leads our team with 118 Kills as a middle blocker, and Clauss leads the team in assists with 262,” Boden said. “A stat we are incredibly proud of is our team aces. We have 127 as a team. We worked a lot in the summer on serving tougher and talked a lot as a team about wanting to score more points off our serves.”

The Lady Hawks’ only losses are to Musselman from West Virginia and Siegel, which was a sub-state team last year.

LeCours
From page 1B

exposure to their teams and see where we landed. I’m looking forward to more of that as the season progresses on the girls and boys side.”

In the boys team results, Hardin Valley posted a 44 to clinch first place. Stephen Bell (16:28.5) paced the Hawks in fourth overall, while Aiden Ruff (16:43.3) came in seventh with Isaac Socha (16:47.5) and Ignacio Almonte (16:52.0) in ninth and 10th, respectively, to put four athletes in the top 10 finishers.

HVA saw a similar finish in the girls race, notching second as a team with 53 total points despite the absences of Alexandra Vesser and Ana Berkheimer.

“You can’t replace those two,” HVA coach John Witsell said. “But we are really excited, because our year over year improvement has been huge across the board on both sides.

Senior
From page 1B

The Lady Bulldogs saw a team-leading 45 from Harper Weth, while Leah Wilhoite and Scarlett Andrews totaled 54 each.

Going forward, both teams will look to prepare for the district tournament on Monday, Sept. 21.

Mahoney noted that he wants his team to focus more on closing out rounds, putting

bad holes behind them with stiff competition ahead.

“There’s a lot of really good teams; you’ve got us, Maryville, West, Hardin Valley and Bearden,” Mahoney said. “It’ll be tough to get out, and only the top three teams move on to region along with the top five individuals not on one of those teams.”

But before the competition heats up, FHS paid special tribute to its seniors with a decisive pair of victories.

“This senior class, they’re amazing,” Mahoney said. “A fantastic group of kids. Some have been with me for all four years, some three and some two. I’ve loved getting to know them on and off the course. A great group with a lot of talent. Harper may be going on to play college golf, and they all have bright futures on and off the course. I really can’t say enough about them.”

Cover
From page 1B

the width of the pressbox.

Since they were installed “we’ve had 60,70, 80 mph winds when we’ve had storms and nothing (damage-wise) has happened; we’d have heavy snows and nothing has happened,” Bartlett said. “We don’t understand why it was an issue, but it just was.”

The FHS principal said the FHS administration did what could to bring the awnings in compliance in with county and insurance standards.

“We consulted multi-ple structural engineers and tried to go through the bleacher company and stuff like that,” Bartlett said. “The fact was that all the structural engineers we talked to would



Jake Nichols

Prior to their removal, the awnings over the press box at Eddie Courtney Stadium had stood for more than five years, per FHS athletic director Donald Dodgen.

not sign off on it because the bleacher company would not sign off on it.

“Basically nobody wanted to accept the liability if something was to happen,” he added. “We get that, we under-

stand that.”

Bartlett did not elaborate on any plans to permanently replace the awnings with another structure, such as expanding the footprint of the pressbox.

Opener
From page 1B

the Ads also can glean several lessons from their own output against Upperman in their home opener.

In the first half last Friday, the FHS offense gave up two fumbles, two sacks and a safety in its first seven plays. The next two quarters did not look much better, as Upperman rang up a 23-0 halftime lead with most of its 375 offensive yards coming in the first half.

“We’ve got to play better early, still letting the moment get too big early in the game,” Courtney said. “It happened

at Carson-Newman and again tonight. Just sloppy play, undisciplined. Got to clean those things up.”

Still, the Ads bounced back with two forced fumbles from Mason Swor (recovered by Thatcher Cherry and John Edelman) before Hayes Sharp found Johnny Jacobs for a 17-yard touchdown strike with 2:22 left in the game.

Sharp finished 5-of-14 for 67 yards, a touchdown and an interception, overcoming a hard hit that brought a grimace and back pain early in the second half.

“Probably got hit for the first time tonight,” Courtney

said Friday. “For him to battle back and respond, he needed to collect himself a little bit. He came out and finished the game and played well after that.

“He let the game come to him, he was poised, he did what he was asked to do. More than that, to see him play probably as bad as it could be in the first half — and it wasn’t all on him; we weren’t playing great around him, either — but from bad and dysfunctional as an offense, to come out and play much better, completed some balls, made great decisions, that’s what I was encouraged to see.”



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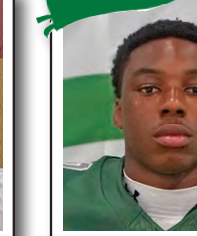
Johnny Jacobs
Sr., WR



Nick Rivers
Sr., WR/DB



Kruise Buntyn
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The last opportunity for submission of candidate endorsements to run before the November 3rd election is **10 a.m. on Monday, October 5** for publication in the Oct. 7th edition of farragutpress. No candidate endorsements will be run after the Oct. 7 edition.

Dog Daze hits high-flying decade mark



Jake Nichols

Pharaoh leaps for his toy during the pro round of the “Big Wave” event at the 10th annual Dog Daze on Sunday, Aug. 23. The 4-year-old won in his classification to finish off a packed weekend.

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Pharaoh launched off the dock, a furry black missile moving at warp speed. He contorted his body and captured his toy just before hitting the water, splashing into his second victory of the 10th annual Dog Daze event, presented by Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance at Village Green shopping center. The event ran from Friday, Aug. 21, through Sunday, Aug. 23, and it featured a carnival-

like atmosphere. “Yesterday was really busy vendor-wise,” Shop Farragut executive director Ashley Lynch said Sunday. “And today, I’ve noticed a lot of people are sitting around watching the show, staying with it. We have 40 dogs on deck, which is the most they can allow to go in one setting. It’s been great.” **A ruff start**

The event did not begin smoothly, as part of the Dock Dogs pool broke before Fri-

See DOG DAZE on Page 4B



Jake Nichols

Graham Widmer, 2, enjoys the view from the seat of a John Deere tractor at the Farragut fleet event on Saturday, Aug. 22, at Mayor Bob Leonard Park.

Fleet fun brings Saturday smiles

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

On Saturday morning, Aug. 22, the parking lot at Mayor Bob Leonard Park was abuzz with activity. Vehicles ranging from tractors to trucks to police motorcycles and cars stood ready for children to come sit inside

to experience each one, as the Town of Farragut hosted its annual Fun with Farragut’s Fleet event. The summertime special is free for all ages, and it gave families a chance to connect with plenty of different vehicles used for Town equipment and others from local businesses as well.

“I don’t have a number of years on it, but this is one of our long-standing annual events,” said Rachel Malone, the Town of Farragut’s Recreation and Event manager. “Probably about as long as the park has been around.” Malone emphasized the fun,

See FLEET on Page 5B

CCS, CAK families tackle hunger

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Football season is well underway, and plenty of teams are hoping to put a lot of points on the scoreboard this season. But in one of the first games

of the 2026 campaign, fans of Concord Christian and Christian Academy of Knoxville ensured success for families across the area, too. In each team’s opener, fans brought plenty of food as their admission tickets to Concord Christian School.

The food was donated to Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee. “It’s all season through our partnership with Rivalry Thursdays and WBIR,” said Marvin Figgins, director of

See HUNGER on Page 4B

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Dog Daze
From page 3B

day’s competition. “Something broke, like an arm that needed welding,” Lynch said, “and then the storm hit.” “So they couldn’t even set up the pool to start the event at 4 p.m.,” Shop Farragut president Candace Viox added. “So it had nothing to do with Shop Farragut or Ashley’s amazing event. It was that the pool was broken, we had to bring in a welder, wait for them to fix the pool, then fill it up. WATE came and had to leave because they couldn’t do their live coverage. “And then when they finally got it going, the rain came. We were delayed two-and-a-half hours, and if it would have started on time and they would have been here on time and their equipment would have worked, we would have been out of here before the rain came. And it would have been a completely different event on Friday.”

With the late start, some of the vendors left before the event ended Friday since they were only scheduled to be there from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. “Just like any event, there’s challenges that arise randomly,” Lynch said. “But we have pushed through it, had great support from Shop Farragut people, vendors, friends. They have all come through for me to make this event possible.”

Stiff competition
Pharaoh lived up to his description as a “high flyer” for a 7-foot, 10-inch first-place result in the extreme vertical competition Sunday morning. He also won the Sonic round of the speed retrieve competition (5.348 seconds), then jumped 24 feet to win the Big Air contest.

“He’s actually jumping less than he usually does — he’s usually a 26, 27-foot dog,” owner Amneris Santiago said. “He did very good; he just usually does more. The schedule was weird, so they had extreme vertical this morning, and he went up 7 feet, 10 inches and 8 feet out in the pool, so he’s tired.” In the semi-pro event, Camille won with 20 feet, 3 inches. Her owner, Trent Steele, helped start Smoky Mountain Dock Dogs and has seen this event grow through the years. “It’s awesome,” Steele said. “A lot of people have marked this as one of the go-to events

they want to come to, and it being a national event brings people from all over. People from North Carolina, Kentucky, Georgia, everywhere.” Gracie Nipper and Athena took first place in the contender level (18 feet, 3 inches) with Julie May and Layla winning the amateur round (12 feet, 1 inch). Other extreme vertical winners included Jennifer Bay and Rogue in the top gun class (6 feet, 2 inches) and Gretchen Hocker and Charley in cadet (5 feet, 6 inches). In other speed retrieve results, Santiago’s Cillian won the nitro class (6.355 seconds) and Brooke Hamilton and Finley Rose won in the turbo class (7.010 seconds) with Kristen Belle-Kay and her dog Urban winning among express participants (8.715 seconds).

What’s next?
Aside from the rough start and the competitions, there were a couple businesses that were featured for the first time, including Grayson BMW, which had an SUV on site. There also was a kids zone, and Lynch noted that they want to look at expanding the tent area for next year — which will mark the start of Dog Daze’s second decade in Farragut.

Hunger
From page 3B

Marketing for Second Harvest. “It’s called 10Tailgate x Tackling Hunger. Every week, two high school teams compete against each other. Before their game on Friday, they collect food donations and online donations. The team that raises the most money receives a trophy, and the team that collects the most food also gets one. The winners are announced on air every Friday.” Technically the CCS-CAK game took place on a Saturday, Aug. 22, but the effect remained the same. “This particular game was a one-time food drive for us,” Figgins added. “During half-time, we also received a \$10,000 check from Axel Logistics.” The drive brought in 11,007 pounds of food, which equates to 9,173 meals provided for families across East Tennessee. “I mean, it was incredible,” Figgins said. “To not only wrap my head around but to see so many families walking in with bags of food. It wasn’t just canned goods, either. We had peanut butter, pasta, types of different vegetables, canned fruits, canned meats. Everything we normally ask for — it was a blessing to see the community come together



Photo courtesy of Marvin Figgins

More than 11,000 pounds of food were donated by families from Concord Christian and Christian Academy of Knoxville during their football game Saturday, Aug. 22.

for football, but also to be involved in a bigger purpose: a mission of fighting food insecurity in East Tennessee. “The fact that we were able to pull together 11,000 pounds of food alone, that goes such a long way,” Figgins continued. “Families at Concord Christian and CAK, it was just amazing to see. You can’t write that.” “It was insane,” added Kristi Rule, the chief development officer for Second Harvest. “When I was in the facility, they had it all on pallets outside the office, and I was blown away at the community response. Donated food is very important to us, but when people have the option of donating a dollar versus donating a can, the dollar will go much further than the can.”

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MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

I) Call to Order

A) Election of Officers

II) Approval of Agenda

A) August 20, 2026 Minutes

IV) Action Items

A) Discussion and public hearing on Resolution PC-26-08, a resolution for Planning Commission recommendation on Ordinance 26-18, an ordinance to amend the Farragut Zoning Map for the property at 13117 Harrison Road from Agricultural (A) to Attached Single-Family Residential (R-4), 12.25 Acres (Homestead Land Holdings, LLC., Applicant)

B) Discussion and public hearing on a re-subdivision plat for the Beulah Sue Scarbrough property at 933 N. Campbell Station Road and a request to approve a variance from the requirement in the Subdivision Regulations to construct a pedestrian facility along the parcel's frontage of N. Campbell Station Road due to the minor nature of the subdivision, 5.91 Acres, Zoned R-1 (Batson Himes Norvell and Poe, Applicant)

C) Appointment of Tree Board representative for the

Planning Commission

V) Discussion Items

A) Discussion on a request to amend the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Appendix A - Zoning, Chapter 4, Section V., Subsection A. 3. so that the square footage required for fenced outdoor areas associated with day care facilities is 50 square feet per child permitted by the State license. The Town's requirement is currently 100 square feet per child permitted by the State license (Studio Four Design a Michael Graves Company, Applicant)

B) Discussion on a request to review a parking space reduction, in accordance with the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Appendix A - Zoning, Chapter 4, Section XX., Subsection A., 4. Increasing or reducing required parking, for the commercial portion of the Serenade at Farragut, 421 N. Watt Road, 9.2 Acres, Zoned Neighborhood/Convenience Commercial (NCC)(The Architecture Collaborative, Applicant)

C) Planning and Zoning Training for Commissioners

VII) Approval of Utilities

A) Request for approval to install fiber underground along Neptune Drive from Brooklawn Street to Biddle Farms Boulevard (TDS Telecom, Applicant)

B) Request for approval to install fiber along an existing overhead line system and within an existing TDS conduit to service 603-635 N. Campbell Station Road (TDS Telecom, Applicant)

C) Request for approval of fiber installation along an existing overhead line system from 421 N. Watt Road to Kingston Pike to service 13140 Kingston Pike (Comcast, Applicant)

D) Request for approval to bore AT&T fiber under N. Campbell Station Road from 801 N. Campbell Station Road to 800 N. Campbell Station Road in association with a fiber upgrade project for AT&T (Star Construction, Applicant)

E) Request for approval to bore AT&T fiber within an existing AT&T easement from 701 Harrison Lane in Loudon County to Everett Road (Star Construction, Applicant)

VII) 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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FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

• Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

• Approval of Agenda

• August 27, 2026 Minutes

• Mayor’s Report

• School Donation Presentation

• Proclamation Recognizing Constitution Week

• Proclamation Honoring the Victims and First Responders of September 11, 2001, on the 25th Anniversary

• Committee Reports

• Arts & Beautification Committee

• Education Relations Committee

• Museum Committee

• Tourism / Visitor Advisory Committee

• Stormwater Advisory Committee

• Visual Resources Review Board

• Tree Board

• Appointment of Vice Mayor

• Mayoral Appointments to the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission

• Discussion of Future Executive Sessions to

Discuss Legal Matters

• Discussion of Future Workshops on History and Process of Current Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update

• Discussion of Future Workshops regarding Knox County Sheriff’s Office Service in Town of Farragut

• Citizens Forum

• Ordinances & Resolutions

• Ordinances

• Approval of Ordinance 26-17, on first reading, amending the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Capital Investment Program Fund Budget Passed by Ordinance 26-10

• Business Items

• Appointment of Farragut Intermediate School Representative to the Education Relations Committee

• Town Administrator’s Report

• Town Attorney’s Report

• Adjournment

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Press Planner

Send upcoming events for the Press Planner to editor@farragutpress.com

• **Tributes & Tunes: A Night of Honor**, presented by Phillips, will be held on Friday, Sept. 11, at the World's Fair Park Performance Lawn. This night is designed not simply to remember September 11, but also to honor the men and women who continue to serve our communities every day. Gates open at 6 p.m., with the event beginning at 6:30 p.m. For tickets and event information, visit concertsfourown.org.

• To honor Dolly Parton's legacy, MEDIC's Skip the Gift program for September and October will benefit Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Donors can choose to skip their T-shirt or monthly incentive, and MEDIC will donate \$5 per skipped gift to Imagination Library. Donors can visit www.medicblood.org to find a mobile drive location or information on donation centers. Appointments are not required, but encouraged and can also

be made on the website.

• MEDIC donors love a good T-shirt, and MEDIC is seeking design ideas from regional high school students. Now through Sept. 28, students can submit their designs at the MEDIC website. The winner's design will be featured on a spring shirt, and they'll receive a \$500 e-gift card. Submission guidelines can be found at medicblood.org/hsshirtcontest as well as terms and conditions.

Fleet

From page 3B

educational combo she observed as people made their way around to see machinery of all shapes and sizes.

"I think the parents really enjoy it as well, and it's a really good time to connect with all the companies in the community that do this type of work," Malone said. "And it's great to involve our parks management public works team as well, so it's always really neat. I see the parents talking to the vendors and people running the equipment."

Saturday's event was a bit

different than years' past, as the Town held an inaugural sensory hour from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

For this hour, horns and lights were turned off to create a less stimulating environment.

"From 8:30 to 9:30, we asked everyone not to do horns or flashing lights or sirens or anything, and then from 9:30 to 11, it was full force," Malone said. "So all the kids could honk horns, which they love to do. But we wanted to offer a space that is great for younger kids, too, and if anyone has any sensory sensitivities, they could still come out and enjoy the event."

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HOW THE WEST WAS WON SCOREBOARD			
School	Win-Loss	Points for Game	Net Difference
Christian Academy of Knoxville	3-0	31-14 W	+103
Knoxville Catholic High School	3-0	21-20 W	+27
Hardin Valley Academy	2-1	43-40 L	+67
Concord Christian School	2-1	56-26 W	+40
Webb School of Knoxville	0-3	27-26 L	-29
Farragut High School	0-3	30-7 L	-76
Bearden High School	0-3	54-0 L	-112

Clutch plays, close losses highlight Week 3

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Over Labor Day weekend, there were plenty of wild college football matchups to enjoy.

But last Friday, Sept. 4, a notable slate of high school football games shook up the How the West was Won rankings, too.

Christian Academy of Knoxville remained unbeaten with a 31-14 trouncing of Notre Dame, as junior quarterback Seaton Moffett went 11-for-15 for 157 yards and one passing touchdown. He added eight touches for 86 rushing yards and one score, while Isaac Kannah took the ball 18 times for 152 yards and a touchdown.

Marvin Wyrosdick led the Warriors with eight tackles. Wyatt Howard added seven more tackles with one pass breakup, an interception and a defensive touchdown. Up next, the Warriors will face Oneida this week.

Catholic gutted out a 21-20 comeback win over Lipscomb Academy in Nashville. The Irish trailed by 14-0 after a lightning delay, but they thundered back with a pair of scores from Kruise Buntyn. He scored on runs of two and 27 yards — the second of which brought KCHS within six at 20-14 with less than four minutes left.

Buntyn followed with a 34-yard catch to put the Irish at the Lipscomb 4-yard-line with less than a minute left, and Ryheem Lee zipped into the end zone to cap an 80-yard drive for the win.

“When we got there, we got stuck in the locker room because of lightning,” Catholic coach Philip Shadowens said of his program, which welcomes Cardinal Ritter (MO) this week. “I don’t think we were very good to start. But our kids showed a lot of grit. We found a way to go win and showed as much heart as any team I’ve ever seen.”

Concord Christian made a shorter road trip, coming away with a 56-26 win at The King’s Academy. Dasani Moulden made five receptions for 62 yards and one touchdown. He added another score on a 53-yard pick-six and made two kickoff returns of more than 90 yards for touchdowns, one featured as the top play on 247Sports’ X account.

“He’s maturing on and off the field, and he’s a talented guy,” Steve Mat-



Above photo by Jake Nichols
Above: Concord Christian’s Dasani Moulden (1) turned in a four-touchdown performance last week at The King’s Academy, leading CCS in a dominant road win.

thews said of Moulden. “One of the fastest in his class in the state, and we feel like he’s got a very bright future. He’s focusing on defense more than he did last year, and he showed up huge in the kicking game. Just trying to figure out different ways to get him the ball. And with Amare McKenzie on the other side, we feel really good about our receiving combination right now.”

CCS came up with three more interceptions for five in total, while Alistair Middlebrook and Maurice Smithfield totaled 71 rushing yards for two scores and 101 yards, respectively.

Webb fell short in a 27-26 loss to Silverdale Academy, marking an 0-3 start under George Quarles. Despite a 150-yard rushing performance from tailback Matthew Rogers, the Spartans could not sustain early momentum as



Knoxville Catholic running back Kruise Buntyn (8) came through in the clutch for the Irish last weekend, as they left Nashville with a gritty 21-20 win over Lipscomb Academy.

Photo courtesy of Rob Daugherty

a failed 2-point try and three turnovers left Webb on the wrong end.

Hardin Valley suffered a similarly close loss against Bradley Central, giving up a double-digit lead as it pursued the program’s first 3-0 start since 2023. Senior Nic Rivers racked up 102 rushing yards and two touchdowns on the ground; quarterback Riley Matz threw for 114 more yards and two scores; and the Hawks racked up more than 400 offensive yards in the loss, which saw a failed fourth-down conversion and late turnover.

“We had some costly turnovers, one in the last few minutes of the game that gave them the ball back,” HVA coach Tyler Wynn said. “We squandered a drive going for it on 4th-and-1, and I probably should have kicked a field goal. But hindsight is 20/20. We left points on the board. We had a great night, they just got us on a few big plays.”

HVA will look to turn the page this week, as it faces West Ridge in a potential playoff preview.

Farragut will have a similar opportunity against that same Bradley Central team, as the Admirals are coming off a 30-7 loss to Upperman in their home opener.

For more on that game, see article by Jake Nichols in the sports section.

Bearden will look to bounce back, too, having lost to Maryville 54-0 last week. This Friday, the Dawgs travel to Science Hill.

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VOL. 40, NO. 9

A PUBLICATION OF THE FARRAGUT WEST KNOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SEPTEMBER 2026



**A Night That Makes
Dreams Possible Pg. 2**

**Behind the Scenes at
Zoo Knoxville
Pg. 3**

Beyond the Event: Chamber Event Supports Emerald Youth Pg. 3



Local businesses help dreams take flight

On Thursday, Oct. 1, the Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce invites the business and broader community to experience both at The Charity Gala: High Stakes & Fine Spirits, presented by Rocky Top HVAC. This elegant evening will bring together great food, entertainment and generosity in support of a greater purpose.

A reimagined version of our 35+ year signature annual fundraising event, guests will enjoy a fun night featuring the much-loved Silent Auction, casino games including blackjack, roulette, craps, and three-card poker, a bourbon pull, wine pull, music, dancing, and delectable food prepared by Classy Caterer. Whether you're celebrating with friends, entertaining clients, or meeting new people, The Charity Gala offers the perfect setting for supporting causes that strengthen our community.

This year, the Chamber is especially honored to partner with member nonprofit, The Dream Connection. At least 20% of all Silent Auction proceeds will be donated directly to this extraordinary organization.

The Dream Connection started when volunteers at East Tennessee Children's Hospital overheard young patients excitedly talk about the adventures they hoped to have "when I get better." Sadly, their families often could not fulfill their children's wishes as medical bills consumed their financial resources. Refusing to let those dreams die, the volunteers founded The Dream

Connection to turn those wishes into reality.

Still powered entirely by volunteers, the organization now serves children ages 3 to 18 in East Tennessee living with life-altering conditions, including cancer, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, and other serious illnesses. They have made dreams come true through home renovations to give a child their own room, trips to Disney World, family vacations, professional athlete visits, shopping sprees, concerts, and countless other personalized experiences. For these kids and their families, those experiences provide critically needed joy, hope, and memories that endure long after they are over.

The Charity Gala also plays an important role in advancing the Chamber's mission. As a nonprofit organization representing more than 800 local businesses, the Chamber depends on this fundraiser to expand member services at no added cost and continue offering reimbursement grants of up to \$500 that help businesses invest in their growth.

Reserved table seating for the Gala is now sold out, but General Admission tickets are still available for \$100. These tickets do not include an assigned seat at a reserved table, but guests will have access to multiple seating areas throughout the venue, as well as seating at the casino game tables while playing. Each General Admission ticket includes

beverage vouchers and \$10,000 in casino chips for gameplay.

Thank you to the sponsors supporting The Charity Gala: Rocky Top HVAC LLC (Presenting/High Roller Sponsor); MR10 Realty, Rate and Smoky Mountain Deck Builders LLC (Jackpot Sponsors); Coffee & Chocolate, Fairway Home Mortgage, Keith Window Company, Segra and Strategic Tax & Business Services (Full House Sponsors); Bowen Door Service, Kerri A. Kor, CRE Broker, LeConte Realty LLC and Texana Bank Mortgage (Game Sponsors); and MR10 Realty, with sponsor promotion shared with Renaissance Title & Escrow (Cup Sponsor). Their support is helping make this special evening possible while benefiting both the Chamber and The Dream Connection.

Guests can also support the event by donating items for the

Silent Auction, wine pull or bourbon pull. Silent Auction spaces are limited, and every sponsorship, donated item and winning bid helps strengthen the Chamber's work in the business community while increasing the support provided to The Dream Connection. Email julie@farragutchamber.com for more information on donations.

Reserve a General Admission ticket by visiting www.farragutchamber.com and selecting the Oct. 1 event on the Events page or calling (865) 675-7057. Then join us on Oct. 1, when each hand dealt, each glass raised and every bid will represent something greater than a night out as we celebrate our business community, invest in local businesses and help create memories that children and their families will carry for a lifetime.



How It's Made: Knoxville Edition heads behind the scenes at Zoo Knoxville

The Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce will take its quarterly How It's Made: Knoxville Edition series to Zoo Knoxville on Friday, Oct. 9, giving community members an early-morning look at the people and operations that help keep the zoo running.

The How It's Made series offers behind-the-scenes tours of local businesses and organizations, highlighting the work that often happens outside of the public-facing experience. The goal is to give attendees a closer look at how these organizations operate and the people who make it possible.

At Zoo Knoxville, guests will have the opportunity to explore behind-the-scenes areas of the zoo and learn more about the work that goes into operating one of the region's most recognizable attractions. The morning will also include a tasting from Jim Majerowicz, executive chef at Zoo Knoxville, in the zoo's Sugarlands Barn event space.

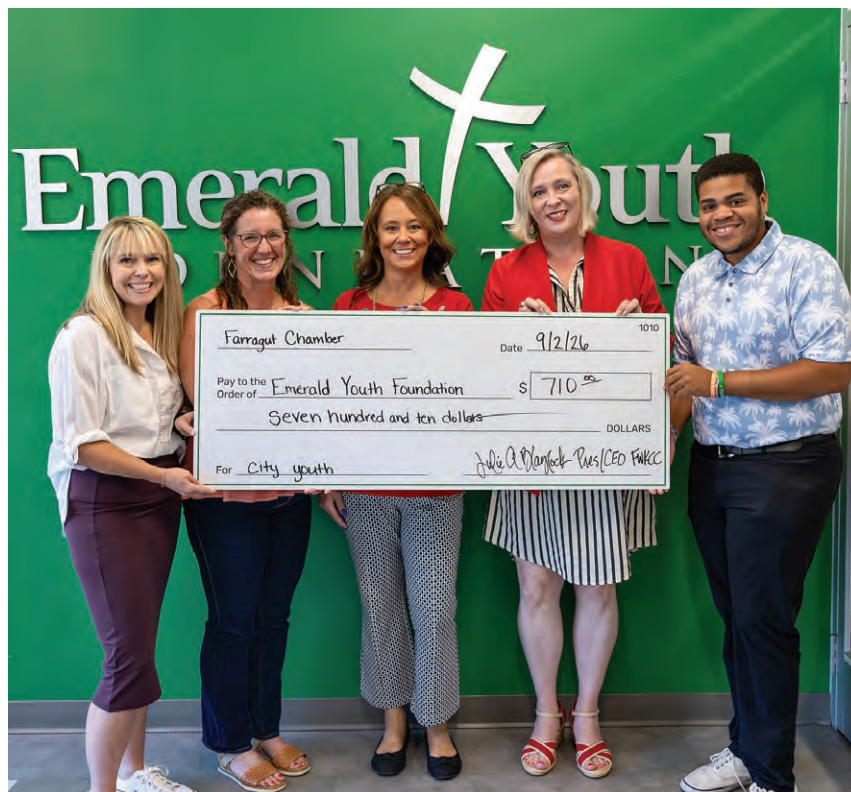
The tour itinerary is still being finalized, with the Zoo Knoxville team planning a few surprises for the group. Some details will remain under wraps until the tour, giving attendees a chance to discover what is in store as the morning unfolds.

The tour is scheduled for 8 to 9 a.m. Attendees are asked to arrive by 7:45 a.m. so the tour can begin promptly at 8 a.m. Comfortable clothing and shoes are recommended, as the experience will include walking.



The event is free and open to Chamber members and community members, but the tour is limited to adults only. Guests who arrive with children or minors will not be able to participate in the tour.

Curious to see what Zoo Knoxville has in store? Save your spot at farragutchamber.com > Events > Oct. 9.



A Morning With Mike Keith Gives Back to Knoxville Youth

A Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce Speaker Series event featuring Mike Keith, the "Voice of the Vols," is continuing to benefit the Knoxville community through a donation to Emerald Youth Foundation.

Keith spoke to Chamber members and community guests on Aug. 4 as part of the Chamber's Speaker Series, presented by Rackley Roofing Company, Inc., with additional support from First Horizon Bank and Slamdot. Sponsorships for the event included a pass-through donation to Emerald Youth Foundation, a Chamber member that provides programs and opportunities for youth in Knoxville.

The donation grew through the sale of centerpieces provided by Pope's Farm. Every centerpiece was purchased by an event guest, with all proceeds from the sales added to the contribution.

Julie A. Blaylock, FWKCC President & CEO; Casey Mynatt, Speaker Series Committee Chair; and Cara Knapp, Speaker Series Committee Vice Chair, presented the check to representatives of Emerald Youth Foundation following the event.

The contribution also qualifies for Coach Barnes' match, allowing the donation to go even further in supporting Emerald Youth Foundation.

Through the support of event sponsors and attendees, a morning centered around sports, business and community also provided an opportunity to support the work of an organization serving Knoxville-area youth.

Networkings



Embassy Suites by Hilton Knoxville West

August 13, 2026

(L-R) Karen Porter-Allman, assistant manager; Dustin Gibson, director of sales and marketing; and their colleague Madison pose for a photo while hosting a Chamber networking event at *Embassy Suites by Hilton Knoxville West*. Located just off I-40 in West Knoxville, the hotel offers spacious suites, an indoor pool, fitness center, sauna and whirlpool, along with a complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast and evening reception. The hotel is also within walking distance of several restaurants and shops and is 10 minutes from Turkey Creek Shopping Center.



Southern Safety Supply

August 20, 2026

President and Founder Sara Sizemore (center) and her team smile for a group photo while hosting a Chamber networking event at *Southern Safety Supply LLC*. The woman-owned Tennessee small business helps crews work safely and go home with thousands of in-stock PPE products at its Knoxville showroom, expert guidance at its in-person order desk and next-business-day sourcing for most other items. The company serves public agencies, utilities, higher education and contractors throughout East Tennessee and beyond.

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee

August 27, 2026



(L-R) Kristi Rule, chief development officer, and Shelli Ellis, chief impact officer, smile for a photo while hosting the 5th Annual Hunger Action Month Kick-off Breakfast with the Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce, Blount Partnership, and Loudon County Chamber of Commerce. The breakfast marked the beginning of Hunger Action Month, a nationwide campaign raising awareness of hunger and food insecurity and encouraging people to take action in their communities. This year's "Assembly Required" theme emphasizes the importance of working together to address hunger through advocacy, volunteering and food drives. Learn more about Hunger Action Month and how you can help at www.secondharvestetn.org/hunger-action-month.

Ribbon Cuttings



Premier Martial Arts August 11, 2026

Gerald Lowe (center, holding scissors), the new owner of *Premier Martial Arts*, celebrates the transition with students, friends, and community members during a ribbon cutting at the 10845 Hardin Valley Road location in Knoxville.

Smoky Mountain Deck Builders August 25, 2026

CEO Christian Kraehmer (center, holding scissors) and his team are joined by friends and community members during a ribbon cutting celebrating *Smoky Mountain Deck Builders, LLC's* 10th anniversary and the opening of its first brick-and-mortar location at 225 South Peters Road.



Scan to See What's Happening!

Use the QR code to view our September events calendar and stay up to date on networking, workshops, and Chamber happenings all month long. Don't miss a chance to connect!



Businesses that rely on tourism will have an opportunity to learn how customer information can help turn first-time visitors into returning customers during an upcoming workshop hosted by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center.

"What Visitors Tell You, And How to Keep Them Coming Back" will focus on identifying patterns in customer behavior and using those insights to strengthen customer loyalty. The workshop will also cover how websites, social media and email can help businesses stay connected with visitors after they leave.

Sherry Dial, founder and CEO of Dial Services LLC, will lead the workshop. Participants will also learn the basics of search engine optimization and how businesses can use SEO to reach visitors as they plan trips and search for things to do in the area.

The workshop will be held from 9 to 10 a.m. Nov. 4 at The Farragut Community Center, 239 James-

Did you know?

What Visitors Tell You And How To Keep Them Coming Back

with Sherry Dial

Wednesday, November 4, 2026
9:00 AM
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towne Blvd., Suite 201, Knoxville. The workshop will take place in the Medium Classroom.

To register for this event, visit tsbdc.org/training/.

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Zoo Knoxville — Sous Chef

Zoo Knoxville is seeking an experienced Sous Chef to join its Lancer Hospitality team. The position oversees daily food preparation, menu development, special events and catered functions while maintaining food quality, safety and sanitation standards and managing inventory and costs.

Candidates should have two to five years of culinary management experience, demonstrated experience with large-quantity food production and strong leadership and communication skills. Experience managing budgets and controlling costs is also required.

For more information or to apply, visit careers.elior-na.com.

All-Star Outfitters — Graphic Designer

All-Star Outfitters is seeking a creative and experienced Graphic Designer to create original artwork and designs for apparel, event merchandise and screen-print production. The full-time, in-person position involves collaborating with the team to develop designs, preparing artwork for production and managing multiple projects while meeting deadlines.

Candidates should have strong attention to detail and the ability to maintain quality throughout the design and production process.

For more information or to apply, email Katie Reeves at kreeves@asoapparel.com or call (865) 777-6832.

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His Security & Technology, LLC is seeking a motivated New Construction Wire Technician to install low-voltage wiring for security, television, data, cameras and audio systems in new construction homes. The position includes reading blueprints, completing system trim-outs and troubleshooting low-voltage systems. No prior experience is required.

Candidates should have a high school diploma or equivalent, a clean driving record, good mechanical aptitude and the ability to work independently. Candidates must also be able to work in confined spaces and repeatedly use ladders throughout the day.

For more information or to apply, email Cassie Brockamp at cassie@hissecurity.net or call (865) 474-9495.

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Thank you for your Commander Enterprise Membership!

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Welcome

New Members!

The Chamber welcomes these businesses who joined us recently in August

Did you know businesses/organizations can submit an application & payment online? Visit www.farragutchamber.com and click "Join the Chamber!"

Scan the QR code to learn about our new members!



THANK YOU for Renewing Your Membership!

The Farragut/West Knox Chamber thanks to these businesses who have renewed their investment in the Chamber as of August.

We can count them as Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members!

We urge members to patronize one another when the goods or services a member can provide are needed. We also hope that area residents recognize a business's commitment to its community when it becomes part of its local chamber of commerce and reward that commitment with its patronage.

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These Chamber members generously contribute to the Chamber and the Continued Development Grant Program above and beyond their annual dues.

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