

Board taps Segrest for North Ward

Tammy Cheek
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The Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen unanimously appointed Earle Lawrence Segrest to fill the vacant North Ward alderman seat during its meeting Thursday, Oct. 8.

Segrest is scheduled to be sworn in Thursday, Oct. 22, and will serve the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends in August 2028, according to Town Administrator David Smoak.

Segrest was one of seven people who applied for the appointment. The other applicants were Michael Bittel, who withdrew his name from consideration; Dian Hall; Sharafat Khan; Trevor McQueen; Malcolm “Col” Stiefel, who did not attend the meeting; and Stacy Walters.

Smoak said Khan was ineligible for the appointment because he lives in a different ward.

After receiving the applications, Smoak said Board members had an opportunity to speak with the applicants. A public forum also was held before the appointment.

During the Oct. 8 meeting, each eligible applicant was given three minutes to introduce themselves and answer questions from the board.

Mayor Alex Cain, Vice Mayor Greg Wiberley and Alderman Joey Ruffalo each nominated Segrest before voting unanimously to appoint him. Alderman Drew Burnette was absent.

Segrest has lived in Knox County since 1999 and in Farragut since 2011.

“I am deeply interested in the continued prosperity, fiscal health and smart management of our community,” he said.

Segrest is co-founder and CEO/CFO of Greenleaf Industries in Lenoir City, where he oversees corporate profit and loss, risk management



Tammy Cheek

Earle Lawrence Segrest talks to Farragut Board of Aldermen before being appointed..

and long-term financial planning.

He also noted that he previously had appeared before the Board as a private citizen to express concerns about the use of eminent domain to acquire private property for greenways.

Hall has lived in the Town for 14 years, developing connections in the community. She has served on the Farragut Parks & Athletics Council, volunteers at her church and has been a board member of Fox Run Homeowners Association and a volunteer coach for youth athletics.

McQueen, a research scientist, is co-founder and STEM teacher of Tutor/Coach APT Learning Services in Knoxville. He also was an adjunct chemistry instructor for Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, California, and an independent engineering contractor.

Walters, director of Brand Strategy and Communications. She said she wants to restore the character of her community and decided to become involved after a developer tried to connect to her neighborhood.

Still, “I am not against development ... wants responsible development,” she said.



Tammy Cheek

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved a contract to construct a parking lot and pathway at the Red Mill Spillway near the intersection of Turkey Creek and Concord Roads and across from TDS Telecom. Town officials remarked on the view at the spillway area.

Red Mill access plans flow forward

Tammy Cheek
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Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen unanimously approved a \$248,900 contract with GCE Construction to build a parking lot and pathway at the Red Mill spillway property during its meeting Thursday, Oct. 8.

The property is at the northwest corner of Turkey Creek and Concord Road.

“In August 2020, the Town received a 6.43-acre parcel that included Red Mill Spillway from an anonymous donor,” said Chris Sheffield, Town director of Public Services. “Turkey Creek runs through the property and was dammed to create a spillway. This scenic area is beautiful, but not easily accessible.”

He said construction will include a 10-space parking lot and a paved pathway leading to an overlook of the spillway.

“Six construction firms submitted bids,” Sheffield said. “Two were disqualified for not meeting specified requirements. GCE Construction was the low bid at \$248,900.

“The overall project budget, including design, is \$335,000,” he said. “Construction for the parking lot and pathway is projected to take 75 days from notice to proceed.”

Sheffield said Town staff recommended approval of the \$248,900 contract with GCE Construction, along with a 5% contingency of \$12,445 for potential change orders.

“Total project costs including design, construction and contingency are \$323,045, an estimated \$11,955 under budget,” Sheffield said.

Regarding flood risks, Sheffield said the project complies with all Town standards.

“Is this a good time of the year to start this project?” Vice Mayor Greg Wiberley asked, drawing some chuckles.

“Well, I would have to defer to the contractor,” Sheffield answered. “They bid on the project knowing the season they were in.”

“They looked at the calendar and understood the 45 days to proceed so I made the assumption that the contract was bid understanding the circumstances ... asphalt or rain seasons coming up,” he added.

Road extension study

The Board also approved a grant contract with Knoxville-Knox County Planning for a feasibility study examining a potential extension of Municipal Center Drive to connect with the proposed Jamestowne Boulevard extension from Kingston Pike.

Town engineer Darryl Smith

said the study would be funded through the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization using three funding sources, with total funding potentially reaching \$126,000.

The Town’s share would be 15% of the Consolidated Planning Grant’s cost, according to Smith.

The proposed route would cross the Eddy Ford property. Smith said the property owner would have to be consulted before any action beyond the feasibility study could be taken.

In other action, the Board unanimously approved:

■ On first reading, a transfer of \$25,000 from the Capital Investment Program fund balance to CIP expenditures to cover construction, engineering and inspection services needed to complete the remaining work on the Broadband Infrastructure Project.

■ On second reading, a transfer of \$16,141,112 from the CIP available fund balance to CIP expenditures to carry forward previously approved funding for projects not completed by the end of the prior fiscal year.

■ The purchase of a John Deere 4064 compact utility tractor and a John Deere 1575 front-deck mower for a total of \$100,484.82.

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We reserve the right to reject publication based on factors including threats, name-calling and foul language

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

Obituary Information and Deadlines: Send obituary & photo, if applicable, to editor@farragutpress.com. The cost is \$25 for the first 200 words and 25 cents for each additional word thereafter. The cost to submit a photo is \$10. We only use thumbnail “head and upper chest” portrait photos. The submission deadline for obituaries is 10 a.m. on Monday for that Wednesday edition. Payment must be received by 10 a.m. on Tuesday for that Wednesday edition.

Call 865-675-6397 or email editor@farragutpress.com with questions.

Find our 2026 policy for submission of political profiles at farragutpress.com.

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Mourns
From page 1A

gut ... and he and Linda were responsible for going up North and bringing back the [Admiral Farragut] stuff for the museum. I was really happy that they were able to do that.”

“Eddy was one of the finest men I ever knew. He did so much for the Town of Farragut,” former Farragut Alderman **Bob Markli** said. “He’s the one who got me involved in Town politics. He called me to the Development Process Review Board in 1995 or ’96. That was my first foray into Town politics.”

“He was Mr. Farragut in my book,” Markli said. “He helped put the Town on the map, he and [first Mayor] Bob Leonard.”

“Eddy and I sat next to each other on the first Board of Mayor and Aldermen,” said **Eric Johnson**, Town co-founder and inaugural alderman. “We were aldermen for the first term, serving a new town.

“He was not involved in the founding of the Town, where I

was so I had a head start and Eddy was playing catch-up,” Johnson said.

“His mother was a school teacher, and he was an expert in the English language,” he recalled of Ford. “Having lived in Farragut his entire life, he was diligent in his actions ... was very proud of his community where he grew up.”

“He was one of these guys who listened to the people,” **Ron Williams**, the fourth mayor for the Town said of Ford. “He didn’t say a lot, but he listened to the people and you could see stuff happening ... he put forth legislation and ordinances. He’d do what they wanted.”

“Eddy was one of the fine leaders of Farragut,” said **Doug Horne**, owner/developer of Horne Properties and owner of farragutpress. “He was vice mayor when Bob Leonard was the mayor.

“He was a very strong leader for the Town, and he was very fair to everybody — the homeowners, the business interests and the community,” Horne added.

When Town attorney **Tom Hale** began serving Farragut, Ford “had already served as an alderman for 18 years and continued his voluntary, unpaid leadership of the Town for another 11 years,” Hale said. “During his tenure on the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, the Town’s population grew from around 6,000 in 1980 to around 21,000 in 2010.

“For a town to accommodate such growth, without a property tax I might add, requires resourceful leadership and management,” the attorney said. “Eddy provided that, not only through service on the Board and Planning Commission, but he was the chair of state boards that guided transportation and resource policy and the allocation of state and federal grant monies, such as a Regional Transportation Planning Organization.

“The citizens of Farragut should be forever grateful to both Eddy, and Linda, for their long-standing commitment of time, energy and integrity to lead the growth and development of the Town of Farra-

gut,” Hale said.

At the Oct. 8 Board meeting, current **Mayor Alex Cain** formally announced, “Unfortunately, we received word today that the second mayor of Farragut Eddy Ford had passed away.

“Ford has the record of the longest-serving elected official we have, a record no one will ever top because of term limits. He served from 1980 to 2011,” Cain said. “I always listened to what his vision always was, for the Town. I know what he said in his letter and later, I know what he said is not what we have in the Town.”

“I just heard about [Ford’s passing], so I’m very sorry to hear that. I know he was an asset and well-liked in the community, so it’s very sad,” current Vice Mayor **Greg Wiberley** said.

“I’m sad to hear of Eddy Ford’s passing,” Alderman **Joey Ruffalo** said. “His service to Farragut is an important part of our Town’s history, and I’m grateful for his commitment to our community.”

“[Ford] was an alderman when I started with the Town in 1986,” said **Bud McKelvey**, retired Farragut Public Works director. “Then he was a mayor for 16 years.”

“He was a great mayor and real easygoing,” McKelvey remembered. “Very complementary of everything of the guys on the Public Works crew.

“He never wanted to go into debt,” the former director recalled of Ford. “He wanted the Town to not borrow money and pay for everything cash.

“He was a good leader for us,” McKelvey said. “He was very grateful for the position he was in and he wanted the best for the Town in every way. The Town was still young and he worked us through a lot of things.”

“Once Mayor Ford took office after winning the election when Bob Leonard retired, he was very involved in all aspects of the Town’s growth and development,” retired Parks and Recreation director **Sue Stuhl** said.

Legacy
From page 1A

School Education Foundation.

- Parks, Trails & Greenways Development: Instrumental in building and expanding Farragut’s recreational infrastructure and initiated town-wide greenways, walking trails and sidewalks.
- Structured Government Accountability & Priority Lists: Instituted a novel governance process requiring each municipal department head to formulate annual priority lists and present quarterly progress updates to the Board.

Service
From page 1A

Following his election, Ford sat alongside Town co-founders on the inaugural Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Though he was not involved in the initial incorporation of the town, he adapted quickly to municipal governance. Drawing on the influence of his mother, a schoolteacher, Ford possessed a strong command of the English language and routinely reviewed proposed ordinances to correct grammatical errors and structural flaws. He later served as vice mayor under Farragut’s first mayor, Bob Leonard.

Mayoral Leadership and Fiscal Stewardship

In 1993, Ford assumed the office of mayor, a position he held for 16 years. His full tenure as an elected official spanned from 1980 to 2011, establishing him as the longest-serving

elected official in Farragut history — a record that will stand due to modern term limits. Throughout his 31 years of leadership, Ford maintained a strict fiscal policy centered on avoiding town debt, insisting that municipal operations and community projects be funded entirely on a cash basis without borrowing.

Under his stewardship as alderman and mayor, Farragut’s population expanded from approximately 6,000 residents in 1980 to around 21,000 by 2010. Despite this substantial growth, Ford successfully managed Town operations without introducing a municipal property tax. His administrative involvement also extended beyond local boundaries as he chaired state boards guiding regional transportation and resource policy, helping allocate state and federal grant funds through organizations such as the Regional

Transportation Planning Organization.

Administrative Style and Community Impact

Colleagues and Town staff remembered Ford as an easygoing, fair and attentive leader who prioritized listening to residents and translating their priorities directly into local legislation and ordinances. He was notably supportive of municipal employees, routinely praising the Public Works crew for their dedication. In addition to his own duties, Ford actively encouraged community involvement, bringing residents into local governance through appointments to advisory bodies like the Development Process Review Board.

Local developers and business owners viewed Ford as a balanced leader who treated homeowners and commercial interests with equal fairness. On a regional level, municipal

leaders in the Tennessee Municipal League and National League of Cities held Ford in high regard, frequently expressing admiration for Farragut’s ability to thrive without a property tax. Among his contributions to local heritage, Ford and his wife personally traveled north to retrieve historical artifacts that laid the foundation for the Town museum’s collection.

Tributes and Legacy

At the Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting on Oct. 8, Mayor Alex Cain formally announced Ford’s passing and reflected on his foundational vision for the Town. Local officials, former aldermen, legal counsel and community members expressed gratitude for Ford’s decades of voluntary, unpaid leadership and lasting commitment to building and guiding the Town of Farragut.

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A sweet tradition for Vols fans

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This Saturday, Oct. 17, Tennessee and Alabama will meet on the gridiron for the 108th time in a storied rivalry.

Should the Vols pull an upset over the Crimson Tide, Tennessee fans across Neyland Stadium will pull out cigars to smoke at the end of the game. That tradition reportedly began in 1961, as Alabama players lit up stogies after a streak-snapping 34-3 romp over UT.

But for anyone who doesn't want the taste of a real cigar — or perhaps isn't old enough to smoke one — there is another solution, too.

At Bradley's Gift & Home, chocolate cigars are available to preorder this week for \$8.95 each — though owner Joy Hamlett advised ordering them in advance since they are a delicate item.

To place an order, simply call either Bradley's location in Farragut or on North Peters Road, or look online at ShopBradleys.com under "Chocolate" and "Gameday Treats."

The cigars are not the only option available at Bradley's, which opened a Farragut location in Biddle Farms in 2026. Other items include their Rocky Top chocolate-covered popcorn, a Tennessee walking stick made with milk chocolate, a Volunteer caramel popcorn and chocolate foiled footballs, among other items.

But the cigars are the biggest draw this week, as UT gears up

to take on the Crimson Tide.

"Give us a few days to get those made for you," Hamlett said. "My husband told me the tradition of the cigars after the Alabama game, and so a couple years ago, we were like, 'We have to have chocolate cigars to celebrate the win.'

"Because not everyone is going to be comfortable smoking a real cigar, but it's a sweet way for everyone to enjoy the tradition. And then you get a bite of chocolate, too."

Hamlett dug into a couple of the other options, too, citing the Scruffy City potato chips — Ruffles-style potato chips covered in milk chocolate — peanut brittle, spicy pecan brittle made with cayenne pepper and Tennessee-themed chocolate bars as options for gameday snacking.

"We are huge Tennessee fans, and we love offering gameday treats whether you're at the game or hosting a party at home," she said. "We have lots of different options."

The UT chocolate bars are a more recent item, as Bradley's received permission in the last year to use Tennessee-licensed logos on its offerings.

Now, next to "Go Vols!" cups and Knoxville-themed tea towels, there are chocolate bars with the Power T, a script Vols logo and a Tennessee football helmet as different wrapping options.

"Everything you need from start to finish for a tailgat-



Photo submitted

Here's a closer look at one of the chocolate cigars sold at Bradley's Gift & Home in Farragut and west Knoxville.

See SWEET on Page 5A

Fresh dough, fresh opportunity

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Corner Pizza, located next to Ace Hardware at Dixie Lee Junction, is one of the area's best-kept secrets, but its owners, Dennis Rowe and Simon Munjan, would like to see it not be such a secret.

Still, in operation for three years, "we've been very fortunate" Rowe said. "Business is good — it could always be better.

"The people who come in are faithful," he said. "They enjoy themselves ... great pizza tied with Southern hospitality.

"We've got exceptional pizza," Rowe said. "They are fresh made. We make each one to order. You can put pretty much whatever you want on it."

Corner Pizza offers regular, thin, cauliflower and gluten-free crusts and, as of a week ago, deep-dish crust.



Tammy Cheek

Corner Pizza co-owner Dennis Rowe, along with Simon Munjan (not pictured), started the pizzeria beside Ace Hardware at Dixie Lee Junction three years ago. He finds business is good.

See FRESH on Page 5A

Fall festival rocks 35 North

Tammy Cheek
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The 35 North Bar & Grill, at the corner of North Campbell Station and Kingston Pike, is celebrating three years in business while also celebrating the season with its 3rd Annual Fall Festival.

"It feels like we were just starting up yesterday," general manager Brady White said. "It used to operate off food trucks. We actually purchased the business in February 2023 then opened in October 2023. We kept the name but we're a completely different entity.

"We put in an in-house kitchen with a fixed menu," he said. "So, it's no longer just the food trucks and bar situation it used to be.

"I still find quite a few people who have been here before that never came back and then they'll find out ... we're an actual restaurant, and they're very surprised," White added.

Now, 35 North is known for steak and gnocchi, hot wing chicken sandwich, hot honey chicken sandwich, fried deviled eggs and its Asian-inspired 35 Nachos,

See NORTH on Page 5A

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Sweet
From page 4A

ing party,” Hamlett said. “We worked a lot with UT and love it so much, so to have their artwork on our chocolate bars is super special for us. We’ve been in Knoxville more than 30 years, so we are so excited to partner with UT in that way.”

She added the importance of partnering with Farragut, too, as the store that put its roots in Cedar Bluff has made a new footprint since opening at 138

Biddle Farms Blvd. in July 2025.

“We’ve grown and expanded over the years, and now we’ve been in this location about a year,” Hamlett said. “It’s been such a warm welcome, and I think a lot of people who live out here don’t always venture to Cedar Bluff. So it’s been really sweet having new people discover us and growing our footprint to make new friends in the community. We’re excited to continue to serve Knoxville and we love this community and the Vols.”

Fresh
From page 4A

On top, customers can choose pepperoni, banana peppers, tomatoes, Italian sausage, jalapeno peppers, black olives, mushrooms, onions, green peppers, pineapple, ground beef, green olives, bacon, ham or pork sausage. Specialty toppings, which count as two toppings, include meatballs, salami, feta cheese, anchovies, artichokes or chicken.

There also are selections such as cheese, supreme, meat lovers, Mexican and taco pizzas, among many others.

But there is more to Corner Pizza than pizza. It also offers a menagerie of salads — from garden side to Greek and Caesar tortellini salads, among the many options; munchies, wings, spaghetti, lasagna, ravioli, baked ziti, chicken alfredo, chicken or eggplant parmesan, several types of calzones, sandwiches and several chicken entrees.

The restaurant at 19668 E. U.S. Highway 11 E, Lenoir City, is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday; from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday and from noon to 9 p.m. Sunday.

It offers dine-in, carry out or delivery.

“We deliver all the way to Tellico Village, and there’s Door Dash,” Rowe said.

To order ahead or for more information, call 865-816-3237.

Along with being in health care most of his life, “back in

the ’90s, I was in the restaurant business in the Old City [Knoxville],” Rowe said. “It was Amigos Café, a Mexican restaurant, and there’s one at Walker Springs. That was before the Mexican food craze.

He spent close to seven years at that location, but with the city’s renovations of downtown Knoxville, “it took out several restaurants.

“So it was either sell it or put a lot more money into [the business],” Rowe recalled. “We decided it was not good business [to invest further].”

So, Rowe looked for another venture. But since he still is in healthcare, “I needed a good, knowledgeable partner” and he found Munjan.

“I’m fortunate the guy I work with is very knowledgeable of the business and good with numbers,” Rowe said of Munjan.

About the reason for locating at Dixie Lee Junction, “all you have to do is look around,” he said.

“I used to drive by here quite a bit when I lived in Lenoir City,” Rowe said. “You see the apartments coming up and the condos, the houses all through this area.

“It reminds me of Farragut’s growth back in the late ’80s, ’90s, when basically suddenly in pasture fields and big, open land, you wound up with subdivisions and significant growth,” he said. “We felt like we could do [a pizza restaurant] and do it well.”

Cabinet IQ networking



Matt Wipper, left, and Dan Duffy of Cabinet IQ chat with Veronica O’Hearn, Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge, about cabinets during a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce networking event hosted by Cabinet IQ, 11623 Parkside Drive in Knoxville, Thursday, Sept. 24.

Tammy Cheek

North
From page 4A

which includes wonton chips.

It also features a large patio, which is dog friendly; live music every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday night; and its 40 televisions are “always showing the Vols games,” he said.

The festivities will take place Friday through Sunday, Oct. 16-18, at 35 North, 11321 Kingston Pike.

Regarding the festival, “we typically do our fall festival around the same time [as the anniversary date] in October,” White said. “We opened up Oct. 16, 2023.”

The performers on Oct. 16 include Nathan Hinckley from 5-8 p.m. and Drunk Uncle from 8 to 11 p.m.

On Oct. 17, the bands include Stone Shine Blue from 5 to 8 p.m. and Liquid Velvet from 8 to 11 p.m.

“Sunday is going to be the big day,” White said. On that day, it is the Women Are Rock, a benefit event supporting Haven House, which is a house for domestic abuse victims.

“They take care of the women and help them get back on their feet,” he said.

Sunday’s bands include Short Term Memory, starting at 12:30 p.m., High School Reunion at 1:30 p.m., Jeanine Fuller and the True Funk Soldiers at 2:30 p.m., Judas Priest Tribute Band at 3:30 p.m., Wicked Veil at 4:30 p.m. and Ginger Band at 5:30 p.m.

The festival is free — there is no cover charge — and is

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FRIDAY • OCTOBER 16
NATHAN HINCKLEY • 5:00-8:00 PM
DRUNK UNCLE • 8:00-11:00 PM

SATURDAY • OCTOBER 17
STONE SHINE BLUE • 5:00-8:00 PM
LIQUID VELVET • 8:00-11:00 PM

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 18
W.A.R. • BENEFIT EVENT • SUPPORTING HAVEN HOUSE
SHORT TERM MEMORY • 12:30 PM
HIGH SCHOOL REUNION • 1:30 PM
JEANINE FULLER & TRUE FUNK SOLDIERS • 2:30 PM
JUDAS PRIEST TRIBUTE BAND • 3:30 PM
WICKED VEIL • 4:30 PM
GINGER BAND • 5:30 PM

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open to everyone of all ages, White said.

“Music will be outside, weather permitting,” he added.

Along with the music, there also may be vendors as well as

35 North specials and Saturday and Sunday brunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m..

“We’ll also have a merch tent set out,” White said.

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Rivalry night 2026

From cheerleaders to band members to fans along the sideline, plenty of people turned out for the annual Farragut-Bearden rivalry clash at Eddie Courtney Stadium Friday, Sept. 25. The Admirals emerged with a 10-0 win, their first victory of the 2026 season.



1. Sarah Stenger, Andrew Martland and Lance Silber enjoyed the festivities. **2.** Drew Burnette, left, and Christian Horner **3.** Josh Chandler gave his son, James, a better view for the matchup. **4.** Several people took in the Farragut-Bearden game, including (from left): Jennifer and Jason Mayfield, Chris and Gina McNeer and Ben and Erin Collins. **5.** Several Farragut High School band members took time to relax during the Bearden game. From left to right: Zach Timmerman, Luke Tichon, Maddox Ray, Weiler Kappel, Jackson "Tilly" Tilson and Jackson Raby. **6.** Farragut cheerleaders wore bandannas as part of the student section's theme against Bearden. From left to right: Caroline Seagraves, Caitlyn Stickley, Brooklyn Knight, Parker Miller, Emery Campbell and Audrey McCaleb. **7.** Pamela Haynes, left, and Alexis Darby watched the action from their tent. **8.** Before storming the field to celebrate a victory, Farragut students dressed in a farmer theme for a much-anticipated Bearden matchup. Pictured from left to right: Nick Toth, Finn Sachs, Hayden Watson and Tate Sweet. **9.** Perhaps no combination represents the Farragut-Bearden rivalry like this, as fans from both sides shared laughs while cheering for opposite teams on the field. From left to right: Shannon Hardin, Anita Courtney, Taylor Courtney, Charley Courtney, Jessica James, Tyson James, Megan Courtney, Ashley Stewart, Ellowyn Johnson, JJ Johnson, Dre James and Elias Stewart. **10.** Tanya Bartlett, left, and Joan Wiggins watched the game from their folding chair setup along the sideline. **11.** Lindsey Alley, left, and Jeffery Haynes enjoyed the game near the Farragut bench. **12.** Rock Munyan, left, and Carlos Reveiz took a break from their photography work to smile for a picture during the Farragut-Bearden contest. **13.** Joey Ruffalo gave a thumbs up to the Admirals for their victory over Bearden.



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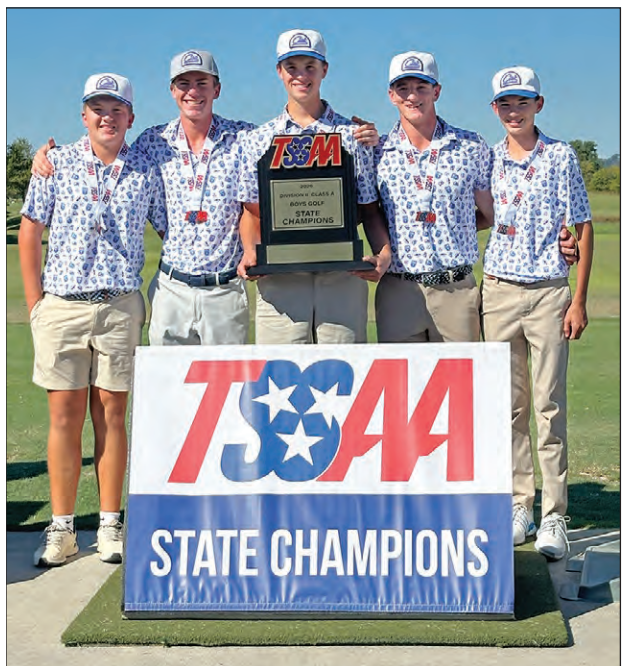


Photo courtesy of Donnie Cooper
The Christian Academy of Knoxville boys golf team rallied to win the Division II-A state championship.

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

In his tenure as the golf coach at Christian Academy of Knoxville, Donnie Cooper has seen a lot of wins. None of them have been as impressive as what occurred Tuesday, Oct. 6, at Sevierville Golf Club. Despite trailing by as many as 11 strokes, the Warriors rallied past First Baptist Academy for their first Division II-A team title since 2022. CAK posted a two-day total of 25-over 601 to defeat Jackson Christian School (606) and FBA (608). “I’ve been lucky

enough to win a few, and I’ve never won one like this,” Cooper said. “This team, they did not look like they were going to win.” So furious was the comeback that Cooper did not witness the core surge since he had gone to check on the CAK girls’ participants. “I was with the boys for the front nine and was close to the tunnel going toward the girls on the back,” Cooper said. “When I went to see the girls, we were somewhere in the neighborhood of eight or nine shots back.

See STATE on Page 2B

Shimeall clutch
in quarterfinals



Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com
Farragut’s Mia Swartzentruber (23) squeezes through a pair of Maryville defenders on Saturday, Oct. 10.

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

On Tuesday, Oct. 13, the Farragut Lady Admirals took on the Bearden Lady Bulldogs in the region semifinals. The match results were unavailable by press time. But three days before that, the Lady Admirals took down Maryville 1-0 in the region quarterfinals to

reach this point in the 2026 campaign. Sophomore Meghan Shimeall found the back of the net in the fourth minute of the contest, putting Farragut in a lead it would not relinquish in the next 76 minutes. “Shim, she’s all heart and passion,” Farragut coach Jessica Burkhart

See STRIKES on Page 4B



Farragut youth XC
teams claim region titles

Jake Nichols
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On Saturday, Oct. 3, the Farragut Intermediate and Middle School cross country teams put together top finishes at the Knoxville area regional cross country championships. The Farragut Intermediate girls won the elementary title for the second consecutive year, as the Lady Admirals’ top five runners took home awards for top-40 finishes. The Farragut Middle School boys won the middle school title with their girls team taking third overall. Also, the Farragut Intermediate boys team saw two state qualifiers in Robert Duneheew, who finished fifth overall, and Nicholas Pacitti, who took 43rd. With the state championship meet set for Saturday, Oct. 24, at Victor Ashe Park, both teams’ coaches detailed how their programs reached this point. “Coming into the race, to be honest, the way we trained all year — it’s been so hot,” Farragut Middle School cross country coach Kevin McDonnell said. “And every day after school, these kids would show up with atrocious heat indexes, ready to push themselves. And breaking down the pain of a race into those bite-sized chunks helps you become battle-tested, like you’ve done that 100 times. The key to running is getting comfortable with being uncomfortable.” “The people we raced, it’s basically the same 500 kids every week,” he added. “On the girls side, it’s Hardin Valley and West Valley, and on the boys side, it’s been the (homeschool team) Knoxville Ambassadors. It’s been a dogfight with them all year, and the boys just barely beat them at regions. We’re pushing each other as a team and as a region, too.” That approach continued during Fall Break, as McDonnell noted his runners continuing training away from school. “They’re taking it seriously,” he said. “Then the

See TITLES on Page 3B



Photo submitted
Top: The Farragut Middle School cross country team notched finishes of first place (boys) and third place (girls) in the region championship Saturday, Oct. 3. Now the team will move on to the state championship race Saturday, Oct. 24, at Victor Ashe Park in Knoxville.
Above: The Farragut Intermediate Girls team won the elementary regional championship for the second year in a row on Saturday, Oct. 3. Pictured in the back row left to right: assistant coach Ali Martin, head coach Jeff Martin, assistant coach John-Mark Chesney. Next row/group from left to right: Charlotte Steely (visible writing on arms), Rama Nimbalkar (dark hair, taller), Riley Powell (bib with 366 visible), Carolina Duneheew (bib 3646), Bridget Leiser (immediate right of 3646), Lenabell Chesney (eyes closed), Tina Liu (tallest runner in the back), Autumn Mahoney (3658), Annie Brahle (between 3658 and 3650), Rosemary Gouge (3650) and Cecilia Gouge (3649); front row left to right: Rosie Rudolph, Lilah Rickerson, Aubrey Martin and Isabella Barczak.

Rooted in technique, growing into champions



Photo courtesy of Heidi Allen
Representing Heidi’s Gymnastics – Philippians 4:13, Saniya Gaikwad was the all-around champion both days in a row for her division at the Junior Olympics in August.

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Heidi Allen — formerly De La Rocha — has seen plenty of successful gymnasts through her years owning Heidi’s Gymnastics - Philippians 4:13. In August, that success continued at the 2026 AAU Junior Olympics in Des Moines, Iowa, Tuesday, Aug. 4, through Friday, Aug. 7. Allen’s gym sent eight gymnasts to the event. Incredibly, six advanced to event finals, which requires finishing in the top four for each event. Ariyah Smith earned bronze all-around champion in her respective level as she also was a named All-American and won the vault title with a 9.9. Ultimately,

she claimed the highest all-around score out of competitors in the bronze division. In the silver division, Saniya Gaikwad was the all-around champion both days in a row. She earned two perfect 10s on uneven bars and posted two 9.9s on beam. Moreover, she advanced to the finals in two events, “which is very difficult since you have to place in the top four on an event,” Allen said. Autumn Mahoney was an all-around champion on her day, capturing the balance beam title, and Ayslyn McCreight was second all-around and won uneven bars and floor. She advanced to the bar finals with a 9.9.

See CHAMPIONS on Page 2B

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Champions

From page 1B

“Consistency and beautiful technique really stood out in our athletes’ performances,” Allen said. “Technique is the foundation of gymnastics. It’s much like a tree — without strong roots, it can’t grow into all that it’s capable of becoming. You could really see the results of the girls’ technique training in the way they competed, and it showed in their success.

“Our athletes understand that we work as a team. I provide the coaching and guidance, and they bring determination, commitment, focus, respect and a coachable spirit that make that success possible.”

Abbi Jackson advanced to the balance beam finals as well, while Lexi Adoue advanced to the uneven bars finals.

Talia Smith and Lainey Robinette also earned the opportunity to compete at Junior Olympics, an achievement in itself as athletes had to finish in the top 10 at nationals to qualify.

“All our beautiful gymnasts represented themselves and Heidi’s so beautifully in character and ability,” Allen said.

And while multiple representatives of Heidi’s Gym - Philippians 4:13 brought home trophies, the hardware did not tell the full story of the event.

“For me, it’s never just been about the trophy,” Allen summarized. “Trophies eventually get stored away, but what matters is what they represent — the work, dedication, and growth that went into earning them. Even when a gymnast



Photo courtesy of Heidi Allen

Saniya Gaikwad, performing here on the balance beam, emerged as one of several award-winners representing Heidi’s Gymnastics – Philippians 4:13 at the Junior Olympics in August.

doesn’t bring home a trophy, I still consider her a champion.

“A true champion understands hard work, has a coachable spirit, accepts critique with grace and humility, works to improve, supports teammates and keeps going even after disappointments. Those are life skills that matter far beyond gymnastics. It’s an incredible blessing to work with these girls and watch them develop these qualities.”

State

From page 1B

“I looked down, and we were four back. I wanted to get over for a par three at the end and bolted back to the River Course, and by that time, we were one shot ahead.”

Tyler Stafford finished with a 2-over 74 to lead CAK while Aiden Cooper shot a team-best 71 for CAK as part of 11 birdies for the team on the back nine.

“They were in fourth place with nine holes left, then won by five or six,” Cooper said. “They’re just a really resilient bunch. Even in the region, we were not playing well and we had to play well to even make it and did. The freshman, Ryan, never gives up, and they’re all like that — you don’t have to coach them out of the doldrums, they understand emotions can’t dictate what your next shot is.”

A young CAK girls team took the same approach for a third-place finish with a total of 57-over par.

“Really excited about how they improved in the postseason,” Cooper said. “They’re young but they’ve got better days coming. High level players, and these girls got to see what that level of play was like. They both posted their lowest scores in region to get here, so they’re hard workers and have a lot of upside.”

The same is true for Farragut’s Sophie Williams, who posted a two-day total of 159 during the Division I Class AA state tournament on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 8-9. Williams shot a 79 her first day and tied for 17th out of 47 golfers, then shot 10-over the second day for

Fighting finish sets stage for next season

Bill Howard

Correspondent

In the Region 2, District 4-AAA volleyball tournament last week, Farragut High School didn’t make the championship match, and therefore didn’t advance to the regional tournament.

But the Lady Admirals made their presence felt and set the stage for what might well be a strong season next year.

As reported last week, FHS lost in four sets to rival Hardin Valley Academy in the first round. In the second round on Tuesday night at West High School, the fifth-seeded Lady Admirals defeated eighth-seeded Lenoir City 3-0, setting up an elimination match against third-seeded West, who had lost to William Blount.

In their regular-season match, the Lady Rebels swept FHS 3-0 on Thursday, Sept. 10. Oh, how sweet revenge can be.

Last Wednesday, Oct. 7, at Lenoir City High School, the Lady Admirals beat West 3-2 and kept their postseason hopes alive. After dropping the first set 25-23, FHS won the next two by scores of 25-17 and 25-16. The fourth set went to WHS 25-16, leading to a do-or-die fifth set.

At 10-all, Farragut promptly took five of the last six points to win the set 15-11, and close out the match.

“Don’t give up, is what it says,” FHS coach Whitney Lee said when asked what the win said about her squad. “This was really big because we lost in three to them last time, and it was good to see the fight.”

Sophomore middle hitter Olivia Cope added that it was a “very big win.”

Cope was asked why the different outcome from the first time playing West. “We played with a lot more energy and we played together,” she said.

Playing immediately after the West match, the Lady Admirals had a final shot to avenge two losses to HVA. Their effort was valiant but came up just short. The Lady Hawks took the contest 3-2,



Jake Nichols

Farragut’s Katherine Cabaniss (3) spikes the ball against West High School on Wednesday, Oct. 7, at Lenoir City High School. Farragut took down West but saw its season end later that same night in a 3-2 loss to Hardin Valley Academy.

ending FHS’s season.

Farragut won the first set 25-19, lost the next two 25-13 and 25-18, won the fourth easily 25-12 but dropped the deciding fifth set 15-6.

“We stayed sharp for three sets,” said Lee. “We kept fighting to the end but came up short.”

The Lady Admirals’ final season record was 14-15 as Lee commented on the season as a whole.

“I’m proud of the progress we made,” she said. “We had

a lot of changes and girls tried new positions and I was really pleased by how they supported each other and humbled by how they embraced me.”

Lee loses only two seniors from this year’s team and is optimistic about the program’s future.

“The steadiness of our two seniors will be missed, but with four juniors, six sophomores and two freshmen returning, I’m ready to keep building on the foundation we have set this year.”

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Senior Nights Farragut Soccer & Volleyball

Soccer photos by Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com; volleyball photos by Jake Nichols

From the volleyball court to the soccer field, local schools across the area have honored their seniors in unique ways the past few weeks. Find Farragut High School’s seniors pictured with their families on this page, Bearden High School’s volleyball seniors on page 7B, and Hardin Valley Academy’s soccer seniors on page 8B.



Titles

From page 1B

next two weeks back at school, we'll have one hard week of practice then taper off a bit and do some fun things to take our mind off it, too, like running into Turkey Creek with \$5 each for candy.

"I think that's going to be something special, trying to lighten the mood and take the anxiety off them."

The FMS boys program is looking for its first team title since 2023, per McDonnell, and will face off with the Ambassadors, as well as Houston and McCallie, among others.

"It's going to be a photo finish to see who will win," McDonnell said. "Between first and our fifth runner, that differential needs to be 45 seconds or less, and Victor Ashe is a championship course."

"We run this race three times a year here, and knowing where the hills are, the mud pits, when to make a move, and having your friends and family and other local competitors there, that's really beneficial."

The Farragut Intermediate girls team will take the course that same day as head coach Jeff Martin noted the response he's seen from both squads.

"Obviously we've got two teams, the boys and the girls, third through fifth graders," he said. "The boys team was very young, had some tough luck with illness and injuries and didn't have the performance they wanted at regionals — and not for a lack of effort. They have a solid foundation for next year"

"The girls team has been pretty strong all year long," he added. "We were down two of our top five runners going into regionals, along with a couple more who are typically in the top 10."

Even so, the FIS Lady Admirals found a way to defend their region title and move on to the state round.

"This was a chance for us to see what we were made of and an opportunity for our depth to step up," Martin said. "And it was one of the most fun races I've ever watched. Just about all the girls took that opportunity and literally ran with it."

"We were down a few key contributors, but we had built so much depth, and they answered the call for sure. It gives me a lot of optimism for states. Hopefully we're whole and stay healthy, and if so, I'm pretty confident we'll be competitive."

Martin reinforced his pride in both teams now that the season is winding down, and the sentiment certainly could apply to each Farragut cross country program competing this season.



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Farragut flag football builds for breakthrough

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

In the spring of 2026, the Farragut girls flag football team finished one win shy of its first ever state tournament appearance.

In 2027, the Lady Admirals appear intent on changing that — at least if the preseason work is any indication.

On Wednesday, Sept. 30, third-year head coach G.W. Curtin patrolled Eddie Courtney Stadium in the team’s “Blue and White Game” ahead of the 2027 campaign.

The white team won 15-0, courtesy of scores by returner Kambree Fontenot and newcomer Heidi Remensperger, while the blue team saw three interceptions on the afternoon. Beyond the matchup itself, though, it was the sideline additions that stood out most.

New coaches instructed equally new players while Curtin oversaw the action for a program that is looking to expand on what has been done thus far.

“We’re taking it seriously, because we’ve got girls with scholarship offers already on this team,” Curtin said, “Colleges are bubbling, so we want to match that. We’re the largest school in our region, so we should be at the forefront

of our region in getting girls looked at by colleges, having film, having a full staff. I think it’s the right step.”

The first aspect of that step comes in roster additions, and Farragut has that covered with more than 40 girls set to take the field in the spring.

Those additions will look to replace the production of seven departed seniors, including quarterback Aydan Skelton and leading rusher Emma Pearl Riffer.

“That’s hard to replace, but we’re returning the other six defenders who started last year,” Curtin said. “And now we’ve got a rushing group that might be better than last year — we have speed, talent and depth, so if we have an injury or fatigue, we can replace people and not really have a drop-off. So that’s amazing as a coach.”

It’s equally amazing for Curtin to have new staffers. Those include offensive coordinator Jonah Hedges, who joined after being in the same role at Anderson County, and defensive coordinator Zach Johnson, who previously served as the head coach at Powell.

“Having a staff to delegate tasks and put people in charge of different things, it’s been great,” Curtin said. “It takes a lot of the pressure off and things get done a lot quicker.



Jake Nichols

Members of the 2027 Farragut girls flag football team gathered for a photo after a preseason scrimmage Wednesday, Sept. 30.

“With Jonah, we needed some quarterback help; I don’t know how to coach those, really. And (Johnson), he said he is more of a defensive guy, so I told him if he came here, he could take care of that and not have to worry about anything else.”

FHS special needs teacher Talita Nevins is on staff, too, having coached boys football before, as are teacher’s assistant Brooke Pelkey and strength and conditioning coach Mike Wilson, who owns The Forge gym in Lenoir City.

A few players include Heidi Remensperger, a junior newcomer to the sport who has played for Curtin on the rugby pitch; Kambree Fontenot, who played two seasons ago but re-

turns after just running track last spring; Kinley Frear, a senior returner who will take over captain duties after last year’s seniors graduated; and Moya Sakhleh, a homeschooler who stole the ball from wide receivers’ hands last year in a move that is now illegal, so the team has dubbed it “the Moya rule.”

Other new players include Buffalo native Paige Collins and foreign exchange students Nicholy Souza Santos (from Brazil) and Rosa Vivell (Germany).

Fontenot will take over Skelton’s spot at starting quarterback, leading Hedges’ offense that will look to complement Johnson’s versatile defense.

And on that side especially, Farragut will look to returner

Bella Bruton, too. A standout linebacker last year, she has picked up offers from Norfolk State and Milligan.

Moreover, Bruton and Sakhleh both took part in vital wins last year, including an overtime victory at Karns. With that culture in place and an arsenal of new pieces, Curtin is ready to see what could unfold.

“You can’t see it as much in practice, but in the games, it will be obvious,” he said. “Games like that Karns win last year, that will count towards a lot. So that’s why I like days like today, where we start to put some pressure on ‘em in game-like situations. And once we get the full team together in the spring, I’ll be super excited.”

Strikes

From page 1B

said of Shimeall. “That kid is small but mighty. She works her butt off to create something and stay busy and cause chaos around the ball, and she continues to grow as a player and work as hard as she can work.”

“She pushes the ball, will try to run anything down. Defensively, she gets back. We ask her to play end line to end line, and that’s been her big-

gest attribute, that she can do that. She doesn’t ever stop and has an engine that keeps going.”

Farragut goalie Emery Wylie came through with a couple saves throughout the contest, but the Lady Admirals’ defense did plenty to keep the Lady Rebels at bay, too.

“I don’t think that’s how it played,” Burkhart said. “At one point, we had over 12 shots to their two. We maintained the majority of the possession and the tempo of the game. For

soccer, that’s hard to maintain the whole game. They had moments that made us more scared than we wanted, but for the most part, we were pretty in control.”

While the Bearden results are unavailable for today’s paper, Burkhart outlined what she wanted from her team going into the match.

“We have to worry about us,” she said. “Bearden is what Bearden is. Everyone knows it, but we have to stay consistent and play better than we did

last time.

“We were not happy with that performance and didn’t think we did well, so all focus for us is that it’s not about

them. It’s about who we are and what we do well. We want to put up a fight and show the heart we know we have in this team.”

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Cancer Awareness



Catherine Trapp

Trapp retains hope and courage through grief, treatment

Rachel Totten
Contributor

While trying to navigate the many challenges of life during the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, West Knoxville resident Catherine Trapp soon found herself in the midst of another unforeseen experience: grieving the loss of her husband.

“It was totally unexpected,” Trapp explained. “So, I focused on my mom and her care, my son, my home, my job and my health.”

That same year, a routine mammogram brought more unexpected news.

“They called it Stage 0 DCIS (or ductal carcinoma in situ),” said Trapp, noting that a lumpectomy was rescheduled several times over the course of the year due to COVID. “I finally had surgery on Dec. 28.”

After completing radiation treatments in April 2021, Trapp said a follow-up mammogram later revealed microscopic remnants of breast cancer but no evidence of a lump. In July 2024, however, she discovered a new lump during a routine self-examination.

“The next mammogram showed a suspicious tumor, and the biopsy showed Stage 3 cancer,” Trapp said. “Chemo started in August... I literally had 28 days to figure out all the ‘next steps.’”

‘A journey of the unexpected’

Throughout the treatment process, Trapp said there were, understandably, many times of uncertainty.

“Cancer is a journey of the unexpected... Each person is unique and we don’t always fit into the pegboard of standard care,” she said, emphasizing the importance of self-advocacy. “And because it’s not easy to talk about, sometimes questions are missed, but the right medical personnel can listen and guide you and give you strength.”

Trapp added her faith and support system of family and friends, including those she met in treatment, were essential in retaining strength, hope and courage.

See TRAPP on Page 6B

Getting a bird’s-eye view

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

This year, Alex Cain has begun a new role as mayor for the Town of Farragut.

But for the next few Friday nights, he will settle into the same spot he has occupied for four years in the back of the west end zone at Eddie Courtney Stadium.

Every home game, Cain operates the DJI Mini 3 Pro drone Farragut uses to film the action on the field.

Having bought his own personal drone in 2012, Cain enjoys the work and the view that comes with it.

“We used to film all our practice sessions with my own personal drone, and we noticed more teams started to use it during games to get different views,” Cain said on Friday, Sept. 25, during the Admirals’ win over Bearden. “So when Coach Eddie Courtney was still here, he called me one summer and said, ‘Hey, do you think you could do this?’ I said yeah, but the biggest issue is getting the proper equipment where you can film a whole quarter without having to swap batteries every 10 minutes.

“We were able to, and the booster club went ahead and bought it. It’s worked out great,” Cain added. “The coaching staff likes it because they have a totally different view. We have a camera on the press box for a side view, then the end zone pole, which is 35



feet high, and that focuses just on the offensive and defensive linemen. With this, you get all 22 players. It’s kind of like playing Madden, and our system is plugged in.”

With the drone hovering 100 feet above the play, Cain records every sequence that unfolds. When he stops recording, that video is instantly transmitted to the iPads that Farragut coaches use on the sideline and in the press box.

“So they can watch the play as soon as it’s over,” he said, “on offense, defense and special teams.”

The work gives Cain a new way to connect with a program he has come to love despite not playing for Farragut in high school.

See DRONE on Page 6B



Photos by Jake Nichols

Top: This DJI Mini 3 Pro drone is controlled by Farragut Mayor Alex Cain during every home game at Eddie Courtney Stadium. **Above:** Cain operates the drone that captures each play of every Farragut High School football home game on Friday, Sept. 25, at Eddie Courtney Stadium. That night, the technology hovered 100 feet above the field as the Admirals took down rival Bearden, 10-0.

FPS Fall Festival set for Oct. 24

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Games, inflatables and performances and more again will take place at Farragut Primary School when it hosts its 25th annual FPS Fall Festival.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 24, on the grounds of FPS, 509 Campbell Station Road. While attendance is free, tickets to take part in festivities are \$20 the day of

the event, according to Amanda Reichwein, FPS Parent-Teacher Organization president.

While there, families can enjoy the favorite activities, such as inflatables, games, student performances, a bake sale, food trucks — The Blushing Lemon, Southern Yankee Pizza and Lillo & Bobo’s Ice Cream — buying spirit wear and silent auction.

This year, though, Reichwein said there

also will be a dunk tank; Farragut High School Agriculture Program will bring animals; and 865 Rescue will be there with dogs available for adoption.

The festival is the PTO’s major fundraiser.

“Our goal is \$35,000,” she said, adding the proceeds will be used to support students and staff at FPS, “especially as we transition to a K-5 school next year with whatever needs may arise.”

A number of sponsors are making the event possible. They are Knox Survival Swim, Fresh Impressions, KAMA, Aqua Clear, Mathnasium, Vantage Point Financial, Knox Tots Pediatric Dentistry, Luke’s Lawn Care, Signarama, Concord United Methodist Church, Altar’d State, Texas Road House, AupairCare, Dream Care Sleep - Dr. James, Smoky

See FPS FEST on Page 7B



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• The Farragut Museum’s speaker series, History Hour, continues on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 11 a.m. at Farragut Town Hall. The guest speaker will be Kate Brewster, a local writer, author, lecturer, historian and retired librarian, on East Tennessee ties to America’s Royalty, the Vanderbilts. The event is free, and the Farragut Museum is open for tours after the presentation. Light refreshments will be available.

• Cancer Support Community East Tennessee (CSCET) will host its annual Fall Luncheon & Silent Auction, CSCET’s largest fundraising event of the year, on Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m., at Bridgewater Place, 205 Bridgewater Road. The event brings together community supporters to raise funds that help CSCET provide free professional support, education and connection for individuals and families impacted by cancer throughout East Tennessee. This year’s featured speaker is Karen Mills, comedian and cancer survivor. Known for her relatable, everyday-life humor, Mills will share how she used humor to navigate her cancer journey.

• Mast General Store and Merrell’s Food for Kids campaign enters its 17th year in the fight against childhood hunger. From now through Sunday, Oct. 25, Merrell will donate \$15 to a children’s fund at a local food security agency for each pair of its footwear purchased at Mast Store or Mast Store Online. Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee will receive Food for Kids donations from Merrell footwear purchased at the Knoxville Mast General Store. All other Mast guests also can support the same cause by choosing to round up

See PRESS PLANNER on Page 7B

Drone

From page 5B

“I first got here in 2007 as a school resource officer, and Coach Eddie Courtney was the first person who welcomed me on campus,” Cain said. “So we built a bond there, and they would have us travel with the team. In 2011 or 2012, I was coaching for the middle school program, and Coach Courtney asked if I could help on Friday nights. So I would send in signals for the defense. Then the next year, he asked if I could do it full-time.”

He stepped away from his coaching duties in 2021, then took on the drone role. The machine is connected to 28 GPS

satellites as it moves, though the conditions must be precise for Cain and Farragut to put it to use.

“It does not like wind,” he said. “Anything over 12 miles an hour, you can’t fly because it will move around and come back and land itself if the wind is too strong.”

But when the conditions are right and Cain settles into his chair, he enjoys the life of a drone pilot just the same as he does his new office in Town Hall.

“It’s just giving back to the community like I did before,” he said. “It’s one of those aspects of being in a small town that you enjoy.”



Jake Nichols

This is the view for Farragut Mayor Alex Cain as he operates the drone hovering above the football field at Farragut High School.

Trapp

From page 5B

“Having faith in God and the faith in my son and friends all kept me going,” she said. “Remarkably, it is the other people in treatment that give you so much hope because each story is unique. And no matter what you’ve been going through, someone else’s story is much tougher. So, they give you hope to manage your small journey compared to theirs... It’s very humbling.”

Trapp also found strength by

getting involved with Cancer Support Community East Tennessee (CSCET), a Knoxville-based organization committed to uplifting those impacted by cancer.

“From my first phone call to learn about their offerings to now, CSCET and their entire staff have been part of my everyday living,” she said.

In fact, with a variety of programs and services designed to “support all the aspects and stressors that come with a cancer diagnosis,” the organization quickly became not only

an integral part of her life but also gave her something to look forward to each month.

“The programs provided by CSCET bring knowledge, important discoveries in cancer solutions and offer intelligent opportunities to learn and grow as you become a survivor,” she said. “They provide an opportunity for self-care and teach stress management, which sadly becomes a ‘new normal’ for cancer patients and survivors.”

The organization ultimately served as “a safe haven” for

Trapp, allowing her to access a group of supportive individuals who understood the emotions and challenges related to the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

“You can laugh, you can cry; you can share or choose not to,” she said. “No matter the type of cancer or the circumstances, you will find hope, peacefulness and respect. And you will always feel welcome... CSCET is an amazing resource; we are so fortunate to have them.”

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FPS Fest
From page 5B

Mountain Dentistry, TEG Gymnastics, First Baptist Concord/Concord Kids, Yong Ho Kwan ATA Martial Arts, WRTS and Blaze Pizza. Reichwein said the event has been taking place for at least 25 years, “but probably longer.”

Press planner
From page 6B

any transaction to the nearest whole dollar.

• Through its annual Bazillion Blooms program, Dogwood Arts sells disease-resistant, April-blooming dogwood trees. Bare-root trees (2-4 ft tall) are available for \$25 each or \$20 each when purchasing five or more in your choice of white or pink blooms. Orders placed by Tuesday, Nov. 3, can be picked up at the Dogwood Arts warehouse, 2200 Nadine St., Knoxville, on Thursday, Nov. 19, and Friday, Nov. 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. to noon. Order at dogwoodarts.com/bazillionblooms or call 865-637-4561.

Senior Nights Bearden Volleyball

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3. Winners will be selected in four categories:
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4. No entries accepted for judging after 4 p.m. EST on
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A downloadable copy of the Halloween Coloring Contest is available at
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Thanks to Jeremy Wiggs/Jeremy Wiggs Photography for HVA girls soccer photos



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TREE BOARD MEETING
Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 3:30 PM

- 1) Call to Order
 - A) Appointment of Chairman and Secretary
- 2) Approval of Minutes
 - A) Minutes of January 14, 2026 Meeting
- 3) Other Discussion
 - A) Fall Landscape Bid List
 - B) Arbor Day Celebration
 - C) Tennessee Tree Day Program
 - D) Tree Inventory
 - E) Invasive Plant Removal on Public Properties

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Knoxville Catholic High School	6-1	20-14 W	+14
Hardin Valley Academy	5-2	35-0 W	+149
Concord Christian School	4-3	38-14 W	+5
Webb School of Knoxville	1-6	34-14 W	-81
Farragut High School	1-6	35-0 L	-192
Bearden High School	0-7	41-10 L	-229

Teams focused on ‘here and now’ for final push

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

The bye week has come and gone, and teams across the area are preparing for one final push to finish off the regular season.

But before this week’s matchups roll around, let’s take stock of where each team sits with three games left until the arrival of postseason play.

At Christian Academy of Knoxville, the Warriors are preparing for a massive Rivalry Thursday tilt with the Grace Christian Rams. The Warriors are coming off a 27-10 win over Chattanooga Christian the previous Friday, Oct. 2, while Grace held off Sevier County in a 50-48 thriller this past week in one of the only games in the area.

Chad Speck’s CAK squad is enjoying its best season since 2011, and there are several underclassmen — such as junior quarterback Seaton Moffett and sophomore tailback Isaac Kannah — playing key roles along with seniors like Sawyer Anderson.

While that youth certainly bodes well for the future, CAK is focused on the here and now.

“We want to be focused in the moment we’re in and honor these seniors,” Speck said after the Chattanooga win. “The great thing about playing guys when they’re young is they get a lot of experience, and those two [Moffett and Kannah] make a lot of explosive plays. And neither one does what they’re doing without the offensive line that’s playing its tail off.”

With a pivotal matchup against Grace Christian this week, Speck’s team will look to maintain the mindset it’s held all season.

“Our guys will fight until the absolute end,” he said. “I believe that about them, but they’re a group that loves and



Jake Nichols

Above: Hardin Valley Academy quarterback Riley Matz (9) will look to lead his team to a key victory this week as HVA faces Oak Ridge in a pivotal matchup.

Right: CAK seniors such as Sawyer Anderson (1) have played a critical role in the Warriors’ 7-0 start, their best since 2011.

fighters for each other.”

The same approach exists at Hardin Valley, which has a pivotal matchup with the Oak Ridge Wildcats Friday night. A win would give HVA an extra notch in its pursuit of the program’s first playoff berth since 2018, as this matchup and a tilt with Cleveland stand between HVA and history.

“That’s the tough part because you want to look at what we have to do to get in,” Hawks head coach Tyler Wynn said of his team’s circumstance. “We have to handle the here and now, and that’s what we’re preaching. We’re trying to focus all our energy into Oak Ridge, treating every game like it’s a playoff game.”

Over at Knoxville Catholic, the Irish will welcome McCal-

lie for the first of three pivotal region battles to close out the year. These will be the final three games for KCHS, as the TSSAA issued a one-year postseason ban for the Irish after they self-reported a recruiting violation during the pre-season.

Webb will look to continue its rebound under George Quarles as the Spartans welcome Stewarts Creek after defeating Notre Dame 34-14 before the bye.

“We’ll stick with the plan we had, practicing Monday and Tuesday and giving them the rest of the week off,” Quarles said of last week. “It’s good for everybody to get away and recharge. Hopefully, we can carry this momentum into the last three games and



the offseason.”

Concord Christian is looking for similar momentum in the back half of the year, taking a 4-3 record and plenty of rest into its visit to South Greene this week.

“Never in my career have I given a team the whole week off. But we did that to recuperate and get ready for the home stretch,” head coach Steve Matthews said.

Farragut took advantage of the extra week of preparation as the Admirals welcome Cookeville to Eddie Courtney Stadium Friday night. This will be a non-region affair, though FHS will take on Oak

Ridge and Cleveland the next two weeks to close the regular season.

“We’ve got an extra week to prepare,” head coach Geoff Courtney said before the break. “Some guys will have some days off, and some guys who are banged up we’ll get back. We’ll be back at home, which is good, and that will prepare us for the Oak Ridge-Cleveland finish, which we need to be ready for.”

Bearden looks for similar improvement after the bye, facing Cleveland in a region tilt before traveling to Dobyns-Bennett and Bradley Central.

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Vols hosting Tide for ‘Third Saturday in October’

At long last, “The Third Saturday in October” has arrived.

This Saturday, Oct. 17, No. 14 Tennessee will welcome sixth-ranked Alabama for the 108th edition of the storied rivalry. The Crimson Tide hold a 60-40-7 lead in the series, having won last year’s matchup 37-20.

But the Vols have won two straight games at home dating back to 2022 when they snapped Alabama’s 15-year win streak in the matchup.

“Third Saturday in October coming up here,” Tennessee coach Josh Heupel said in his weekly press conference Monday, Oct. 12. “Great opportunity. Playing a really good football team. You look at how they are playing in all three phases of the game — huge test for us, but one we are looking forward to.”

In order to make it three straight wins over Alabama inside Neyland Stadium, Tennessee will be looking for a much better start than last week’s win over Arkansas.

The Vols took down the Hogs 24-17 for their first win in Fayetteville since 2001, but a sluggish third quarter and three turnovers almost cost UT in George MacIntyre’s first start under center.

Still, MacIntyre adjusted and made several heads-up plays in the second half, including a key third-down dart to Braylon Staley and a toss to DaSaahn Brame to set up a go-ahead touchdown in Fayetteville.

“Thought he was decisive with the football, going to the right spot,” Heupel said of MacIntyre. “Made some plays. Did some things inside the pocket that were really positive. The third down, makes a guy miss,

keeps his eyes downfield.

“Collectively, we have to do a better job taking care of the football. We have to play smarter and not make it more difficult on ourselves with pre-snap penalties and whatever else it may be. A lot to clean up as a group, but he did a good job.”

Reportedly, Alabama will be without receiver Ryan Coleman-Williams in this weekend’s matchup. The Vols will look to capitalize on that defensively, facing a unit that brings a mobile threat in quarterback Keelon Russell.

Russell went 16-for-30 for 185 yards and a passing touchdown last week in the Tide’s 20-17 loss to Georgia, adding nine carries for 41 yards on the ground.

He is one part of a talented running attack, which will complement an impressive defensive front.

“They are much more efficient and effective running the football,” Heupel said. “Quarterback is a dynamic player, throwing extremely efficiently with a bunch of yards. He extends and makes plays with his feet, scrambling to run and to throw downfield if you’re not matching things up. For us defensively, it’s a massive test.

“For them defensively, they are big, strong, physical up front. Second level very active, and they have made it difficult to run the football and have not given up a ton of explosives. They’ve gotten their hands on a bunch of balls and created turnovers as well.”

UT will look to mitigate those Saturday, as it faces Alabama in Knoxville.



NEXT GAME
October 17
Alabama
at
Tennessee



Warren recalls role in UT-Bama rivalry

On Saturday, Oct. 17, Tennessee will welcome Alabama for the 108th edition of “The Third Saturday in October.”

The Vols are looking for their third straight home win over the Crimson Tide, having snapped a 15-year losing streak to Alabama in 2022.

One standout player on that team hails from Farragut, as former Vols tight end Jacob Warren suited up for the Admirals from 2014 to 2018.

In his time at FHS, Warren helped the Admirals bounce back from a 35-7 deficit to win the 2016 Class 5A state championship game en route to a six-year career at Tennessee.

“The coaches there, Eddie and Geoff Courtney, Rusty Par-ton, Hal Broker, Chris McNeer, these men had so much impact in my life,” Warren said of his time at Farragut. “When I think about the style of coaching that I like, I always compare the new coaches I had to the ones I had in high school. They were super special to me.”

Warren experienced more special moments at Tennessee, including matchups of hysteria and heartbreak against the Crimson Tide.

“Early on in my career, I

didn’t really stress for that game,” he said. “You put the pads on and do the warm-ups, but you’re not really anxious. My first opportunity to play and travel was a huge game, and I’m sure some people may remember. It was the fumble at the goal line, returning it 100 yards with our hopes shattered.”

Four years later, though, the Vols got revenge in a 52-49 win. And when fans poured onto the grass inside Neyland Stadium, Warren and his teammates were right in the middle of it.

“I feel like everybody would say it the same, that it felt like a fever dream,” he said. “Yes we won a football game, but that team specifically, what guys had gone through, we really felt like we were taking those next steps at a team. People view that matchup a lot different now. It changed the way Tennessee football looked at itself, and we realized we can win those big games. Not all of them were that eventful, but Alabama was always a little bit anxious — more nerves just because of the buildup every year, so you definitely were giving your all and everybody felt that.”

~ Jake Nichols

Aside from the matchup itself, the uniforms will showcase the best of both programs.

For the first time since 1970, Tennessee and Alabama will both wear

their home uniforms in this week-end’s tilt. That means it truly will be orange vs. crimson when kickoff arrives at 3:30 p.m. ET on ABC.

~ Jake Nichols

LineUp University of Alabama

0	AK Dear	RB	32	Griffin Hanson	DB
0	Yhonzae Pierre	LB	32	Corey Howard Jr.	DL
1	Ryan Coleman-Williams	WR	33	Preston Landry	WR
1	Devan Thompson	DL	33	Adam Watford	P
2	Zabien Brown	DB	34	Zay Hall	LB
3	Lotzeir Brooks	WR	34	London Hill	DB
3	Keon Sabb	DB	35	Abduall Sanders Jr.	LB
4	Daniel Hill	RB	36	QB Reese	LB
4	Luke Metz	LB	36	TC Washington	RB
5	Dijon Lee Jr.	DB	37	Tailan Hall	WR
5	Noah Rogers	WR	38	Brody McCutcheon	DB
6	Red Morgan	DB	39	Jake Ivie	LB
6	Kevin Riley	RB	40	Torin Craig	LB
7	Rico Scott	WR	40	Josh Ford	TE
7	Caleb Woodson	LB	41	Jamarion Matthews	LB
8	Justin Hill	LB	42	Ben Jackson	WR
8	Cederian Morgan	WR	43	Camryn Gable	DB
9	Marshall Pritchett	TE	44	Nolan Wilson	DL
9	Desmond Umeozulu	LB	45	Jay Williams	SN
10	Jireh Edwards	DB	46	Peyton Fox	TE
10	Austin Mack	QB	47	Eli Deutsch	SN
11	Xavier Griffin	LB	50	Casey Poe	OL
11	Tayden-Evan Kaawa	QB	52	Mal Waldrep Jr.	OL
12	Zavier Mincey	DB	53	Mac Smith	OL
12	Keelon Russel	QB	54	Jayvin James	OL
13	EJ Crowell	RB	55	Racin Delgatty	OL
13	John Gazzaniga	QB	55	Alex Rozier	SN
13	Ivan Taylor	DB	57	Bear Fretwell	OL
14	Tyler Henderson	WR	59	JD Martin	OL
14	Fatutoa Henry	DL	61	Ethan Stangle	SN
15	Duke Johnson II	LB	62	Davis Peterson	OL
15	Jett Thomalla	QB	63	Bryson Cooley	OL
16	Jorden Edmonds	DB	64	Michael Carroll	OL
17	Trae'shawn Brown	RB	65	Tyrell Miller	OL
17	Zyan Gibson	DB	66	Jared Graham	OL
18	Bray Hubbard	DB	68	Billy Roby	OL
18	Mack Sutter	TE	69	Baker Hickman	OL
19	John Cooper	QB	70	William Sanders	OL
19	Chuck McDonald III	DB	71	Nick Brooks	OL
20	Khalifa Keith	RB	72	Ty Haywood	OL
20	Jah-Marien Latham	LB	75	Ethan Fields	OL
21	Dre Kirkpatrick Jr.	DB	77	Jackson Lloyd	OL
21	Maurice Mathis Jr.	WR	79	Kaden Strayhorn	OL
22	Kedrick Bingley-Jones	DL	80	Jaxon Shuttlesworth	TE
23	MJ Chirgwin	WR	81	Kaleb Edwards	TE
23	Cayden Jones	LB	82	Lane Whisenhunt	LB
24	Rihyael Kelley	DB	83	Warner Ross	WR
24	Amari Sabb	WR	85	Jack Sammarco	TE
25	Steve Bolo Mboumoua	DL	86	Jude Cascone	TE
25	J'Alan Terry	RB	87	Danny Lewis Jr.	TE
26	Mhari Johnson	DL	88	Isaia Faga	DL
26	Aubrey Walker	WR	88	Jay Lindsey	TE
27	Elijah Murray	WR	90	Lorcan Quinn	PK
27	Walter Sansing III	DB	90	London Simmons	DL
28	Carmelo O'Neal	DB	91	Caleb Smith	DL
29	Jaron Jackson	RB	92	Jeremiah Beaman	DL
29	Fredrick Moore	RB	93	Malique Franklin	DL
29	Nick Sherman	DB	94	Edric Hill	DL
30	Derek Meadows	WR	95	Leslie Black	DL
30	Bubba Odum	LB	95	Anderson Green	P
31	George French II	DB	97	Josh Underwood	DL
31	Cooper Mollison	WR	98	Tucker Cornelius	PK
31	Conor Talty	PK	99	Terrance Green	DL
32	Alex Asparuhov	P			

LineUp University of Tennessee

59	Dereon Albert	DL	12	George MacIntyre	QB
34	Zay Anderson	DB	44	Drake Martinez	TE
71	Ed Baker	OL	43	Jackson Mathews	DB
2	Justin Baker	RB	4	Mike Matthews	WR
24	Hunter BarnesR	B	40	KJ McClain	DB
55	Mike Bethea II	DL	25	Tim Merritt	DB
18	DeSean Bishop	RB	20	Tevis Metcalf	DB
66	Kamari Blair	OL	1	TJ Metcalf	DB
48	Bennett Brady	LS	75	Wendell Moe Jr.	OL
7	DaSaahn Brame	TE	58	Nic Moore	OL
11	Faizon Brandon	QB	17	Daune Morris	RB
42	DJ Burks	DB	6	Qua Moss	DB
11	Jordan Burns	LB	33	Jordan Norman	DL
0	Amare Campbell	LB	55	Antoni Ogunoro	OL
47	Isaiah Campbell	DL	79	Gabriel Osenda	OL
38	Brayden Carroll	WR	56	Sam Pendleton	OL
7	Arion Carter	LB	27	Jadon Perlotte	LB
95	Breeze Carter	DL	72	Jesse Perry	OL
38	Jowell Combay	DB	35	Ben Petermann	WR
30	JaColby Cooper	WR	13	Mason Phillips	QB
31	Lane Cope	WR	3	Tre Poteat III	DB
93	Grady Dangerfield	PK	59	Charlie Powell III	OL
0	Ethan Davis	TE	34	Will RajECKi	RB
9	Joakim Dodson	WR	28	Cooper Ranvier	PK
81	Ian Duarte	WR	4	Ty Redmond	DB
9	Mariyon Dye	DL	8	Jadais Richard	DB
85	CJ Edwards	DL	39	Darryl Rivers	DL
15	Edrees Farooq	DB	36	Nathan Roberts	WR
26	JJ Finch	DL	19	Nathan Robinson	DL
99	Logan Foley	P	98	Jackson Ross	P
44	Christian Gass	DL	28	Brayden Rouse	LB
35	Carson Gentle	DL	26	Doren Sacha	WR
63	Jeremy George-El	OL	70	David Sanders Jr.	OL
2	Xavier Gilliam	DL	50	Ryan Scott	LB
78	Gage Ginther	OL	57	Grier Short	LB
37	Kedric Golston II	DL	87	Nuk Simmons	DL
36	Carter Gooden	DL	30	Javonte Smith	DB
6	Javin Gordon	RB	1	Travis Smith Jr.	WR
56	Zach Groves	DL	13	Edwin Spillman	LB
29	Isaiah Hardge	DB	14	Braylon Staley	WR
88	Deon Hardin	WR	8	Ryan Staub	QB
12	Jaedon Harmon	LB	60	Thomas Storm	OL
97	Hezekiah Harris	DL	22	Jeremiah Telder	LB
80	Cole Harrison	TE	21	Jamyran Theodore	DB
69	Donovan Haslam	OL	82	Trent Thomas	TE
51	Jeremias Heard	OL	85	Luke Thompson	WR
5	Daevin Hobbs	DL	94	Josh Turbyville	P/PK
99	Charles House III	DL	74	Shamurad Umarov	OL
53	Blake Howard	LS	17	Ethan Utley	DL
3	Radarious Jackson	WR	23	Sidney Walton	DB
29	Jack-Henry Jakobik	WR	18	Tyree Weathersby	DL
19	Tyreek King	WR	51	TJ White	LB
65	Michael Kostantonov	OL	77	Ory Williams	OL
10	Dejuan Lane	DB	87	Luca Wolf	TE
14	Kayin Lee	DB	31	Joel Wyatt	DB
24	Dylan Lewis	DB			