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Three-lot plan wins conditional Farragut approval



Tammy Cheek

A plat to subdivide 8.613 acres along Virtue Road has the possibility of encroaching on the entry into Virtue Church.

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut Municipal Planning Commission approved a final plat for three lots on 8.613 acres at 817 Virtue Road in a 6-2 vote during its Thursday, Oct. 15, meeting, but the approval came with concerns and conditions.

Mayor Alex Cain and Vice Mayor Greg Wiberley, both Planning Commissioners, voted against approval, while Commissioners Angel Ray, Shannon Preston, Jeff Devlin, Chairman Noah

Myers, John Tague and Michael Wilson voted in favor. Derek Wright was absent.

Community Development director Mark Shipley said the Town rezoned the property to Rural Single-Family Residential in August.

Prior to that, “it had been three different zoning districts, so that [rezoning] helped clean up the property,” Shipley said. “It was with the intent of subdividing this property into three lots, and that’s what’s been requested for your ap-

proval this evening.”

“All of the lots are well over 20,000 square feet on the west side of Virtue Road,” he said.

One concern is the property will be affected by the future second phase of the Virtue Road improvement project.

“The applicant [Benjamin “Benny” Moorman, president of Benchmark Associates Inc.] has met with the Town engineering staff to make sure that what he’s doing with this plat is being coordinated with our road improvement project,”

Shipley said.

Another issue is a disagreement over the location of the right-of-way between the Town’s consulting firm working on the Virtue Road improvement project and the applicant, Shipley said.

As such, “one of the conditions for any approval of this plat would be that the right-of-way needs to be clear as to where that actually is as a condition of the approval of the plat,” he said.

See APPROVAL on Page 2A

Farragut sees strong early voter turnout



Tammy Cheek

Farragut residents stand in line to early vote at Farragut Community Center on Monday, Oct. 19.

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Another election is here, as early voting began Wednesday, Oct. 14, and will continue through Thursday, Oct. 29, for state and federal offices.

“Through the first two days, it’s gone pretty well,” Knox County Election Commission administrator Chris Davis said. “The biggest thing we’re seeing is the lines are a little longer than expected because of all the questions on the ballot — the constitutional amendments.

“But it’s not really

as high a turnout as it was eight years ago because we had the governor and the Senate and the House were all open seats [then], and now the governor is the only open seat because of no incumbent,” he said. “But it’s much higher than it was four years ago, so it’s halfway between four years ago and eight years ago with the turnout.

“I’m expecting 130,000, 140,000 [countywide] when it’s all said and done,” Davis predicted.

He urged voters to cast their ballots early, especially

See VOTER on Page 4A



Jake Nichols

Farragut High School senior Will Feehan reacts to his hair being shaved off Friday, Oct. 16, at Eddie Courtney Stadium.

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

At 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16, Maddox Craft took a deep breath, looked around and uttered four words: “We got this, y’all.”

Two minutes later, a similarly nervous tone arose from Rhodes Bryan: “It’s really hitting now.”

But it didn’t really hit — not fully, at least — until 8:37 p.m.

At that point, mouths hung open in shock where

nervous laughter had bubbled forth moments earlier. Eyes wide, eight Farragut high school senior boys — Jake Mink, Asher Watson, Rhodes Bryan, Will Feehan, Oliver Gerwin, Maddox Craft, Ian Morgan and Hank Tate — looked around in disbelief.

Heads freshly shaved, they grinned and gasped while looking down at the locks that lay below their chairs on the track of Eddie Courtney Stadium.

Their united act — to shave their heads in support

See CAUSE on Page 5A

Farragut community mourns loss of Ralph Skinner

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

The Farragut community has lost a man whose voice was synonymous with the Admirals’ baseball program.

Ralph Skinner, the longtime public address announcer for Farragut baseball, died this past weekend at the age of 71.

He served the Admirals in the P.A. role for

25 years, stretching from 2001 to 2026.

“Ralph was a really classy guy,” Farragut athletic director Donald Dodgen said of Skinner. “He gave so much dedication and loyalty to the Farragut High School baseball program. He was one of a kind. Always there when we needed some help, and he was more than a P.A. person. He’d make sure

the press box was clean, making sure things were working. Just a jack of all trades.”

Skinner’s years behind the microphone saw three different head coaches take the helm, as Tommy Pharr’s tenure gave way to that of Matt Buckner before Garrett Copeland took the reins.

“Just a lot of the things people have said,” Pharr noted of Skinner. “He

was our booster club president when his oldest son Mark was a sophomore or junior, and he was the P.A. guy and has been throughout the years. He was a classy and kind person, helping other people. He loved Farragut baseball and was a big part of the program for more than 20 years.”

Pharr reiterated the importance of Skinner’s

impact as a husband to his beloved wife, Susie, and a father to sons Mark and Andrew, both of whom played for Farragut.

“I got to see him raise his sons, what a good, godly man he was, the husband he was,” Pharr said. “He was a good friend to me. It’s a tough deal.”

See SKINNER on Page 3A



Skinner



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Town details traffic measures during BOMA workshop

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen heard how the town has addressed traffic congestion in the Town Center district and what improvements are planned during a workshop Thursday, Oct. 8.

“I know, with some of you being new to the Board, we want to give you an overview of just some of the things we have been working on as a town over the last couple years and the different projects we’ve been having, especially on the Kingston Pike corridor and Campbell Station Road — it’s a very heavily congested area — and some of the technology enhancements that we’ve added recently, and then want to continue adding,” Town administrator David Smoak said.

With that, deputy Town engineer Eric Schindler presented current and future options “to enhance the system even further,” Smoak added.

Using before-and-after photos, Schindler showed how the Town Center district has changed since 2003, when South Campbell Station Road “was non-existent,” he said.

“Later on, you’ll see the construction of Brooklawn Street, tying in of Anchor Green and the Biddle Farms Boulevard,” he said.

“Traffic flow can be improved by increasing intersection efficiency or increasing capacity, which is the number of vehicles that can get through an intersection in a given period of time,” Schindler said.

“A combination of physical capacity improvements and efficiency improvements have been completed since the early 2000s.”

Among those efforts was a Tennessee Department of Transportation project that extended South Campbell Station Road. Additional access points — Brooklawn Street, Anchor Green and Biddle Farm Boulevard — also were added to improve traffic flow.

Another improvement was the Advanced Traffic Management System, a traffic signal upgrade project completed in 2025.

“The ATMS project connected all of our traffic [light] signals within the Town via fiber to a central software and provides remote access to the intersections,” Schindler said. “This connectivity also results in a network of intersections that stay consistently in sync with what their internal time clock says it is, which is crucial for effective coordination of signals.”

Schindler said the improvements significantly reduced travel times along Kingston Pike, measured from Concord Road to Virtue Road, and Campbell Station Road, measured from Concord Road to Snyder Road.

He reported an approximately 140-second reduction in travel time along the Kingston Pike corridor during the midday peak and an approximately 260-second reduction along Campbell Station Road during the evening peak.

As part of a pilot project that

began in January 2026, the town is adding adaptive signalization to the ATMS along portions of the Kingston Pike corridor, including intersections at Campbell Station and Concord roads.

“The goal is to determine how well adaptive signalization can respond to changing traffic conditions,” Schindler said. “This adaptive system uses traffic detection to make adjustments in real time. It can increase or decrease time for individual approaches and adjust the overall intersection cycle lengths based on traffic demand.”

He estimated the pilot project would be completed in March 2027.

“If the Town wishes to move forward with implementing an adaptive signal setup long-term, licenses for the adaptive software will need to be purchased,” Schindler said. “The estimated price per license, which is one [license] per intersection, is approximately \$5,200; so to outfit the study corridor, which is those four intersections, with adaptive licenses, would cost approximately \$20,800.”

Schindler said the pilot project has shown significant improvements in peak travel times during the morning and midday periods.

Other current projects include a Kingston Pike pedestrian underpass, improvements at Campbell Station Road and Jamestown Boulevard, improvements at Campbell Station Road and Eddie Courtney Road, a potential



Jake Nichols

Traffic moved along Kingston Pike at a slow pace around 3 p.m. ET Monday, Oct. 12, in Farragut.

HAWK (High-Intensity Activated crossWalk) pedestrian crossing signal and a Municipal Center Drive extension.

“Design and right-of-way are part of the [Capital Investment Projects] right now for the fiscal year ’30 through ’32 for the Municipal Center Drive extension project,” Schindler said. “If moving forward with that, we would likely have construction as part of the fiscal year ’33.”

The engineering department also is considering lane reassignments at the Kingston Pike and Campbell Station Road intersection, with an estimated cost of \$850,000.

“It would give more than one way to move around the Town Center rather than concen-

trating so much traffic at the Campbell Station/Kingston Pike intersection,” Schindler said.

“With that said, we don’t want to assume what kind of impact that would have on the Town Center area and Town as a whole until we have the data. That’s why we are working on a majority grant-funded feasibility study with Knoxville, Knox County Planning.”

In response to a question, Schindler said the feasibility study is expected to be completed by Aug. 31, 2027.

He said the extension project is not included in the current budget and that the Town would need to contact property owners who could be affected by the project.

Approval

From page 1A

“Another condition of the approval would be, obviously, obtaining the required signatures, of which the Town engineer is one of those, and he obviously wouldn’t sign the plat until the right-of-way is clear.”

Another issue involves a sanitary sewer easement that needs to be shown on the plat, which Shipley said is being addressed.

Regarding a note on the survey, Wiberley asked Moorman whether issues involving neighboring property owners had been resolved.

“No sir, they have not because they have not chosen to respond,” Moorman answered.

Regarding the right-of-way issue, Wiberley asked whether the Town had only a prescriptive right-of-way for road maintenance.

“Well, they have a prescriptive right-of-way because of the history of road maintenance,” Moorman said. “This

property’s never been platted, so there was never a dedication.”

“Part of this plat is that the owner is willing to dedicate — on his own without the Town asking him — every bit of what amounts to the prescriptive right-of-way that the Town has,” he added.

Wiberley also raised another issue involving Lot 1, which encroaches on the Virtue Church driveway.

“Yes, into their access drive,” Moorman said.

“So, is that a conflict that also needs to be resolved?” Wiberley asked.

“It could be, but it’s not necessary,” Moorman answered. “It happens all the time.”

“Well, my concern is there seems to be a cascading series of events here where a lot of things are unresolved,” Wiberley said.

He requested postponement of the item because of the unresolved issues. However, Devlin had already made a motion, seconded by Tague, to approve

the plat with the stated conditions.

“We don’t typically get those signatures until this board has acted,” Moorman said.

Myers confirmed that the Planning Commission’s approval typically comes before other required signatures.

“Historically, when we have a plat before the Commission, the very first signature that the applicant wants to attain because, quite frankly, it’s the most difficult signature, is the Planning Commission signature,” he explained. “I do think, chronologically, Mr. Moorman is doing it correctly.”

But Myers also acknowl-

edged Wiberley’s concerns.

“Alderman Wiberley is right,” Myers said. “There is some unresolved issues; however, we’ve acted on plats with subject to’s before and the applicant knows that there’s T’s that must be crossed and I’s that must be dotted before he can ultimately go down to the courthouse and record the plat to actually have a lot to be able to sell.”

“So, it behooves the applicant to resolve these items,” the chairman said. “And until the items are resolved, the Planning Commission, even though we’ve ratified it on this board, it’s actually not been memori-

alized with a signature.”

In other business, Town administrator David Smoak announced that November will mark Community Development Director Mark Shipley’s 30th anniversary with the Town.

“I just wanted to recognize that,” Smoak said. “Mark has done a fantastic job over those 30 years, and most people know he will be retiring next spring.”

Smoak also announced Shipley received the Tennessee chapter of the American Planning Association’s Planner of the Year Award on Monday, Oct. 12.

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File photo/Photo courtesy of Town of Farragut

One of Farragut’s Arts & Beautification Committee’s tasks is overseeing the Christmas lights in parts of town, such as Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza. Farragut’s Stormwater Advisory Committee is one of the committees to which Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen will be appointing one of its members during its meeting 6 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 22.

Board to ponder committee appointments in workshop

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

The Town of Farragut officials will hold a workshop to deliberate on appointments to Town committees 5 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 22, in the Board Room of Farragut Town Hall, before its regular Board meeting at 6 p.m.

Board members are expected to review filling current vacancies on various Town committees, as well as appointing a Board liaison on several committees.

There are vacancies on the following committees: Arts & Beautification, a lodging representative and at-large representative on the Tour-

ism Visitor Advisory Committee, Visual Resources Review Board and five citizen positions on the Comprehensive Land Use Steering Committee.

Also, there needs to be a Board liaison on the following committees: Arts & Beautification, Museum, Stormwater and VRRB.

Alderman Drew Burnette already serves on the Education Relations Committee and Parks & Athletics Council; Vice Mayor Greg Wiberley serves on the Municipal Planning Commission; and Alderman Joey Ruffalo serves on the TVAC.

During the following meeting, the Board will act on appointments to those committees.

Skinner

From page 1A

“First of all, just a salt of the Earth person, a good man,” Buckner added of his own time with Skinner. “I talked to Coach Pharr (Sunday), and Coach Pharr coached Ralph’s kids. I think he’s one of the most identifiable people with Farragut baseball. The moment I stepped foot on campus, he was the first person I met with. Everybody knows Ralph. He’s kind and takes the time to talk to everyone. Just a super good dude, man. Condolences to his family.”

While Buckner interacted with Skinner at Farragut and as the Bearden coach, Copeland got a chance to connect with Skinner as a young Bulldog before taking over at FHS.

“I remember Ralph from when I was a player at Bearden, him being an integral part of the Farragut baseball community,” Copeland said. “He’d go spend 10 or 15 minutes talking to the other team’s players and coaches, being a people person. He will be missed and is someone that cannot be replaced.

“For anybody that’s committed to Farragut baseball, Ralph has to be at the top of the list,” Copeland continued. “He dedicated more than 25 years of his time serving our baseball community, something he always did with a smile on his face. You could tell he had a love for the program and the players. He was always willing to help, no matter whether the job was big or small.”

In his time in the Farragut press box, Skinner oversaw plenty of success.

Fittingly, each of his final five years in the role ended with a state title.

Along with calling games for his own children, Skinner read out names of Admiral greats and professional standouts, such as Ben Joyce, Nick Senzel, Michael McKenry and Nicky Delmonico.

With a Facebook page noting his graduation from The



File photo

Farragut baseball P.A. announcer enjoyed time with his family one day in April 2019, as the Farragut baseball press box was named in his honor that afternoon.

University of Alabama, Skinner enjoyed sports beyond the baseball diamond, too. He spoke about his love for the Crimson Tide and declared himself an “avid fisherman” on his X account.

But even with plenty of Tide-tinted success and fishing tales to celebrate, Skinner’s allegiance to Farragut baseball shone brightest.

Altogether, his upbeat voice carried the Admirals toward 22 state tournament appearances and 14 of their TSSAA-record 15 state titles.

He was inducted into the Farragut High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2022 as the service honoree, and the press box overlooking The Ballpark at Farragut and John Heatherly Field was renamed in his honor in April 2019.

Skinner took visible pride in his role with the Admirals, working in color commentary as well. Also, one of his favorite days each year involved the program’s annual “throwback game” with wooden bats and 25-cent concession items.

In a tradition beginning un-

der Pharr, Skinner leaned into the theme by donning a bow tie and vintage cap while cuing up classic tunes from Frank Sinatra and Tony Dorsey.

“He was doing it up, making it something special,” Pharr recalled with a smile. “That’s a tradition that’s carried on throughout the years.”

To announce his passing, the Farragut baseball team released a photo of Skinner in that exact outfit — a fitting nod to a man who gave his all for a program he loved.

“It is with an extremely heavy heart that we share the news that Ralph Skinner passed away unexpectedly this weekend,” the post read Sunday, Oct. 18. “To know Ralph was to love Ralph! He was dedicated to the Farragut Baseball program and its success for years. Ralph was a man of faith and is home with the Lord.”

“Last year was his last year doing it because he was retiring, but he means the world to us,” Copeland added of Skinner. “When people think about Admiral baseball, they think about Ralph as well.”

TENNESSEE GOVERNOR 2026

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MARSHA BLACKBURN (R)	JERRI GREEN (D)
1 BOTH ARE CAREER POLITICIANS BLACKBURN: 37 years in party politics, 27 in elected office. Now leaving a six-year Senate term two years in.	GREEN: Ten years on government payrolls. Her boss gave her a taxpayer-paid county job while she was already running for governor.
2 BOTH SUPPORT FLOCK CAMERAS BLACKBURN: Says license-plate readers are “very helpful” to police “in tracking criminals.”	GREEN: Voted for 94 more license-plate readers on Memphis interstate ramps. Has never voted to remove one.
3 BOTH SUPPORT DATA CENTERS BLACKBURN: Calls data centers “a good and important part” of growth. Took \$121,352 from AI-company employees.	GREEN: Voted to sell 13 acres of city land to Elon Musk’s xAI. Now she claims to want a statewide moratorium.
4 BOTH TAKE SPECIAL-INTEREST MONEY — PAY-TO-PLAY BLACKBURN: PAC money from companies holding state contracts: CoreCivic, BlueCross, AT&T, Charter.	GREEN: \$19,500 from the building-trades unions that live on government construction work.
5 BOTH SUPPORTED RAISING TAXES AND FEES BLACKBURN: Voted for the 2013 budget deal that raised airline security fees.	GREEN: Her ordinance doubled the Memphis car-registration fee, \$30 to \$60. First increase in 40 years.
6 BOTH ARE SOFT ON CRIME BLACKBURN: Voted to let 2,243 federal inmates out early, including 239 sex offenders. Called it “historic.”	GREEN: A career public defender. Fought to keep the National Guard out of Memphis. Would abolish ICE.
7 BOTH ARE FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE BLACKBURN: At least five votes to raise the debt limit. The last one took the ceiling to \$41.1 trillion.	GREEN: Voted to raid Memphis budget reserves to cover \$15 million in overtime pay.

THE QUESTION

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A pay-to-play system where the connected get rich.

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THERE IS ANOTHER CHOICE.

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FOR GOVERNOR
TUESDAY, NOV. 3

Sources: U.S. Senate roll calls; City of Memphis certified Council minutes; TN Registry of Election Finance; Local 3 News; WVLT; Nashville Scene; Action News 5; Chalkbeat; UT Tennessee State Data Center.

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Tammy Cheek

Larry Johnson, a Farragut resident since 1997, and Jane Terry take advantage of the early voting at Farragut Community Center to cast their votes on Monday, Oct. 19.

Voter
From page 1A

cially with the constitutional amendments on the ballot.

At Farragut, “some of these people were in line an hour, which is great, but I don’t want people standing in long lines on Election Day,” Davis said.

Voters may cast their ballots at any early voting location in Knox County, according to the Knox County Election Commission.

Residents can vote at Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd., from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays; and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays.

“They really need to early vote, and Farragut Community Center is a really great place to early vote,” Davis said. “I hope people will take advantage of it.

“And they have so far,” he said. “Farragut is one of the highest turnout places in the county.”

On the first day, Oct. 14, Davis said 5,633 people voted countywide, including 987 at the Farragut location.

On Thursday, Oct. 15, another 5,981 ballots were cast countywide, including 1,023 at Farragut.

“Farragut was the second-highest location” in terms of turnout, Davis said.

During the first two days, 11,614 ballots were cast countywide, including 2,010 at the Farragut Community Center.

“Lines are going to be long, but they’ll be longer on Election Day,” Davis warned.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, with polls open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Three polling locations in Farragut are Farragut Middle School, 200 West End Ave.; Farragut High School, 11237 Kingston Pike; and Korean Church of Knoxville, 108 Farlow Dr. Voters should check

their voter registration information to confirm their assigned polling location.

Candidates on the ballot

In the U.S. Senate race, Bill Hagerty is the Republican nominee, Marquita Bradshaw is the Democratic nominee, and eight independent candidates are running.

In the U.S. House of Representatives race, Tim Burchett is the Republican nominee, Michaela Barnett is the Democratic nominee, and Bruce Fine and Adam Heimerman are independent candidates.

In the governor’s race, Marsha Blackburn is the Republican nominee, Jerri Green is the Democratic nominee, and 13 independent candidates are running.

In the state Senate District 7 race, Dr. Richard Briggs is the Republican nominee, and Bryan Langan is the Democratic nominee.

In the state House District 14 race, Jason Zachary is the Republican nominee, and Lindsay Young Honaker is the Democratic nominee.

In the state House District 15 race, Sam McKenzie is the Democratic nominee.

Constitutional amendments

Along with federal and state offices, voters will find three proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot.

■ Amendment 1 defines crimes for which defendants can be denied bail.

■ Amendment 2 would add language prohibiting the state from levying a state property tax, which Tennessee currently does not have.

■ Amendment 3 would replace Article I, Section 35, of the Tennessee Constitution, revising provisions regarding the rights of crime victims.

Voters must bring a Tennessee or federal government-issued photo ID.

Residents who are unsure of their voter registration status can check online at <https://tn-map.tn.gov/voterlookup/>.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

We have a gap that needs to be addressed.

Since TOF founding in 1980 there have been five or six mayors. The first mayor was Bob Leonard who served from 1980-1993. Eddy Ford served on BOMA for a total of 29 years, the last 16 were as mayor. The third mayor was Ralph McGill who served 9 years until shortly before his death in 2018. Ron Pinchok served as interim mayor for a few months after McGill resigned until Ron Williams was sworn in later in 2018. Finally, TOF current mayor, Alex Cain, starting serving as mayor this year.

The contributions of all mayors is appreciated, some have been officially and permanently recognized.

Bob Leonard was recognized for his contributions as mayor in June 1999 in the renaming of Watt Road Park to Mayor Bob Leonard Park. Leonard was recognized by the Tennessee Municipal League as Mayor of the Year in 1991.

Ralph McGill was recognized posthumously for his contributions as mayor in May 2021 in the dedication of Farragut Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza at Campbell Station and Kingston Pike.

Eddy Ford was recognized by Tennessee Municipal

League as Mayor of the Year in 2007. TOF has not named a park or similar in his honor, despite being the longest serving member of BOMA

I assume both Ron Williams and Alex Cain will be officially and permanently recognized at some point in an appropriate way. Since Ford died this past week and he last served 17 years ago, it is time for TOF to consider officially and permanently naming something in his honor. I hope any recognition would be expedited so his widow has the opportunity to take part in any ceremony.

~ Adam Atherton
Farragut, TN

Alderman forum draws limited turnout



Tammy Cheek

Stacy Walters, left, and Dian Hall were the only two applicants for the Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen North Ward vacant seat who turned out for a public forum held by Alderman Joey Ruffalo in Farragut Community Center Wednesday, Oct. 7.

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Only 17 residents attended a public forum Wednesday, Oct. 7, at Farragut Community Center to hear from applicants seeking to fill the vacant North Ward alderman seat on the Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Of the seven applicants, only two — Stacy Walters and Dian Hall — were available to field questions.

Farragut Alderman Joey Ruffalo, who organized the forum, said one applicant, Michael Bittel, withdrew his name from consideration Oct. 7; two were traveling during fall break; another was out of the country; and one did not respond.

The North Ward seat became vacant when Alderman Alex Cain was elected mayor in August.

Seven people applied for the position: Bittel, who later withdrew; Hall; Walters; Sharafat

Khan; Trevor McQueen; Earle Lawrence Segrest; and Col Stiefel.

Among the questions Ruffalo asked was, “With rising costs and competing needs for roads, parks and other services, how would you decide what to fund now, what to scale back and what to delay?”

“I think the most important thing is to, one, always seek residents’ input,” Hall responded. “What are the citizens looking for? What are they interested in seeing?”

However, “You also have to look at the realities of the infrastructure and the needs of the Town at any given time,” she said, adding that board members need to look at high-priority issues requiring immediate attention.

As at home, “if you need a new water heater, you buy that before you decide what vacation you’re going to go on,” said Hall, who has lived in Farragut since 2012.

“It’s the same kind of process

I would take with the Town is really trying to understand the key issues: what’s needed and what would be nice to have that we might address.”

“I think fiscal priorities for Farragut is to make sure is in line and is how the residents want it to be,” Walters said. “I would definitely seek residents’ input first, but my gut tells me ... that we would prioritize resolving traffic.

“In Farragut, we are very blessed to have a lot of parks, and we should continue to focus on new parks in the future, but we have to fix the issues that we’re dealing with right now, and overwhelmingly, residents are saying that traffic is an issue.

“We have to look at the [traffic light] system that was installed and understand why it’s not performing the way we thought it would,” said Walters, who has lived in Farragut since 2014.

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Editorial Department
Tammy Cheek,
Writer..... 865-218-8873
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Jake Nichols,
Writer..... 865-218-8880
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Production Department
Tony Christen,
Production Manager 865-218-8872
production@farragutpress.com

Cindy Wilfert,
Designer..... 865-218-8872

Circulation
Tony Christen,
Circulation Manager 865-218-8872
production@farragutpress.com

Advertising Department
Glen Coleman,
Account Executive..... 865-218-8884
gcoleman@farragutpress.com

Charlene Waggoner,
Account Executive..... 865-218-8877
cwaggoner@farragutpress.com

Lynn Perella,
Account Executive..... 865-218-8879
lperella@farragutpress.com

Linda Tirban,
Classified Display,
Service Directory..... 865-218-8881
linda@farragutpress.com

Receptionist
Terrie Ware..... 865-218-8871
Monday – Wednesday, Friday
receptionist@farragutpress.com

Publisher
Tony Cox..... 865-218-8883
tc Cox@publicnewspapers.com

Editor email: editor@farragutpress.com **Website:** www.farragutpress.com
Press Talk: Call: 865-671-8255 or **email:** editor@farragutpress.com **Phone:** 865-675-6397

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Presstalk rules: Keep calls to a 90-second maximum · e-mails to 250 words maximum · Libelous & malicious comments will not be published; profanity will be edited out · Comments will remain anonymous but must come from verifiable phone/email · Names of individuals (including public figures) will not be published
Letter to the Editor rules: Must not exceed 400 words · Include name, address & telephone number to be verified · All Letters to the Editor from any citizen must have a minimum four-week period between publication · Must not have inaccurate information, such as wrong statistics, from which to form an opinion
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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.

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YOUR TENNESSEE PRESS ASSOCIATION AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

General Manager
Kathy Hartman .. 865-218-8878
khartman@farragutpress.com

Obituary

Walter Edward Ford (Eddy), age 87, of Farragut, TN, passed to his eternal home October 6, 2026. He was born in Knoxville, TN to Walter Edward Ford, Jr. and Wilda Bernice Bevins Ford. Eddy graduated from Farragut High School in 1957 as class Valedictorian. He graduated from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor 's and Master's degrees in Nuclear Engineering and later married his high school sweetheart, Linda June Laughlin. Eddy served two years in the U.S Army and was discharged as a First Lieu-

tenant. He worked at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for 33 years until retirement. He was an inactive member of Concord United Methodist Church. The next part of his career was becoming an Alderman when the Town of Farragut was incorporated, in 1980. He served on that board with first Mayor Robert Leonard until Mayor Leonard retired. Eddy was elected and stepped into the office of Mayor of The Town of Farragut and served 16 years for a total of 29 years. Eddy was instrumental in

making Campbell Station Park a reality and extending Campbell Station Road from Kingston Pike to Northshore Drive. The National League of Cities provides small cities with opportunities to connect, share ideas, and learn from one another's experiences and successful strategies for helping their communities



thrive. Eddy was elected as President of the Small Cities group and took great pride in hosting a Small Cities event in the Town of Farragut. It certainly was one of his proudest moments to show cities across the United States how planning and cooperation can work together to create a successful, thriving, and beautiful community. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Linda June Laughlin Ford and cousins both in Knoxville and Virginia who were very special to him. Thanks to the Rural Metro

Fire Department for their help on several occasions and doctors, nurses and staff at Park-west Medical Center for their kindness, care and compassion. The family invites friends to Visitation at Click's Funeral Home in Farragut, Monday, October 26, 2026, from 2 – 4 pm. Donations in Eddy's memory may be sent to the Concord United Methodist Church Building Fund. A private graveside service will be held at the Masonic Cemetery in Concord, Tennessee at a later date.

Cause From page 1A

of breast cancer awareness — was the latest culmination of a month-long event that dates back almost a decade. “We started the pink-out nine years ago with T-shirts, and the head shaving started eight years ago with seniors wanting to raise extra money,” said Stephanie Thompson, who founded the annual Farragut High School fundraiser in honor of her late sister. “We’ve sold 6,000 total shirts over nine years. My sister Ashley passed away from breast cancer in 2013, so that’s why I wanted to do it. “To see all the shirts and all the pink, it’s something fun for the whole community to do,” she added. “I think Ashley would love it. She was always like, ‘God picked me because I would be the one to join everybody together.’ And I’m so impressed! To be a senior and be okay with losing your hair at 17, 18 years old, it’s impressive.” According to Thompson, this year’s event raised \$8,830 for the American Cancer Society. But it was special for reasons beyond the fundraising, too, as one mother-son duo illustrated.

“I found out my mom had breast cancer my freshman year, and it was pretty hard for me,” Farragut senior Jake Mink said of his mother, Farragut High School assistant principal Kim Mink. “But since then, I always knew I wanted to do this. Since then, she has been good, but it’s something I wanted to do for her. I think it’s just a senior thing, so I’ve been waiting my turn and I’m glad I get the opportunity to.” “The Thompsons have led this charge for many years in honor of their sister and daughter, and it’s beautiful to hear and see the Farragut community come together and buy shirts every year and keep that memory alive for all the ladies and people we have lost to cancer,” Kim Mink said. Once Mink and other parents and friends were done giving out the haircuts, a representative from Studio 135 in Farragut swept up the locks to discard them. Thompson said they have partnered with the salon every year for the event, adding that the kids who receive the haircuts can go to the salon for free touch-ups to address any spots that were missed.



Running Your Own Race

I thought I was having a great race, until a guy pushing a baby in a stroller passed me. Suddenly, I had mixed feelings. This year, I ran the Oak Ridge Fall Classic 5K and finished with my best time of the year and 5th place overall. Halfway through the race, as he passed me, I thought, “*I know I’m getting old, but I’m not losing to a guy pushing a kid in a stroller.*” I tried to stay on his heels, but I quickly realized my choices were 1) start walking or 2) throw up. So, I chose option 3) and slowed back down to my usual pace. He finished 4th, running an average 6:37-per-mile pace while pushing his infant. Afterwards, I realized something: I had just run my best race of the year, and I was more focused on the person ahead of me than my own accomplishment. As humans, isn’t this what we do with money all the time? As an advisor, I hear versions of this consistently. “How do I compare to other people my age?” or “Am I ahead or behind?” These are natural questions. But there is a big problem when comparison becomes the scoreboard for your life: there is always someone ahead of you. Someone with a bigger boat, house, or car. You can spend your entire life so focused on what’s ahead of you that you forget to appreciate how far you’ve already come and enjoy the life you’ve built for yourself. Wouldn’t that be a sad life to live?

The better question is: are you making progress toward what matters most to you? Your financial plan might be built around:

- Retiring at 60.
- Having the flexibility to work less.
- Traveling with the family every year.
- Giving generously.
- Never having to worry about a mortgage payment again.
- Having the freedom to help children or grandchildren.

There isn’t one universally correct answer, and that’s the point. The people I see who are the most content aren’t necessarily the ones who have the most. They’re the ones who know what enough looks like for them. It’s important to run your own race. Besides, someone else’s race may leave you bent over in the grass.

Are you curious about how RK approaches financial planning and whether our coordinated planning approach may be right for you? Contact us to learn more.



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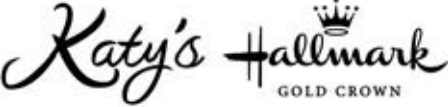


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NHC Farragut’s Second Annual Fall Festival Was a Hit!

Fall fun was in full swing at NHC Farragut for our Second Annual Fall Festival! Patients and residents enjoyed an afternoon filled with games, a hayride, balloon animals, and a pumpkin patch.

An event this special takes a village, and we are so thankful for everyone who helped make it happen!

A huge thank-you to Caris, especially Kimberly and her coworkers, for face painting and helping with booths; Billy Conley of Conley’s Landscaping for bringing the tractor that made our hayride possible; Scott and Ted at Smokey Mountain Trailers for providing the trailer; and Lacey with NHC Homecare for donating hay bales and pumpkins for our pumpkin patch.

We are also grateful to Two Rivers Church and City Hills Church for providing volunteers to run booths and assist patients and residents throughout the festival, and to the Tellico Village Clowns for their balloon animals and entertainment.

Finally, thank you to our wonderful NHC staff who helped organize the festivities and made sure everyone could join in the fun!

Here’s to another fall festival filled with laughter, community, and memories!



Kimberly from Caris helped bring smiles to our Fall Festival by face painting and creating and creating fun, colorful designs for everyone to enjoy!



Lacey from NHC HomeCare brought our pumpkin patch to life, creating a festive fall experience for everyone to enjoy!



Volunteers galore helped make our Fall Festival a success by running booths and transporting patients and residents so everyone could join in the fun!



The Tellico Village Clowns brought extra fun to our Fall Festival with amazing balloon animals, entertaining tricks, and plenty of smiles!



Billy Conley of Conley’s Landscaping drove our hayride, made possible by the generous trailer donation from Smokey Mountain Trailers. The hayride was full of smiles and fall fun!





We've been
festive here
at NHC Cavette Hill
and are ready to
trick or treat!



Farragut gets a new
Degree of wellness



Tammy Cheek

Shauna and Shawn Serrano are bringing a comprehensive service in wellness to Pinnacle at Turkey Creek.

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Shawn and Shauna Serrano are bringing a new “degree” of health and wellness to the Farragut area with their new business, Degree Wellness, to open Saturday, Nov. 7, 11251 Parkside Drive at The Pinnacle in Turkey Creek.

“We’re a premier self-care brand,” Shawn said. “Our goal here is really to create better lives in the community.”

He said Degree Wellness is doing that through technology services in self-care, and it starts as you enter the door.

“From the moment you walk

in, you will see our two salt walls,” Shawn said. “That’s very intentional. You are actually breathing micro salt particles. That’s helping with everything from your bronchial system ... helping you build better immunity, and it’s also good for your skin.”

The next area is the recovery lounge.

“This is where you can do compression massage, which helps the lymphatic system; aromatherapy, oxygen therapy and red light therapy,” Shauna said. “You can do all three at one time for 30 minutes.”

See DEGREE on Page 10A

businessbriefs

• Turkey Creek Medical Center and North Knoxville Medical Center have been recognized by Tennessee Hospital Association with a Zero Harm Award for achieving zero healthcare-associated infections in one or more categories throughout calendar year 2025.

The Zero Harm Awards recognize Tennessee hospi-

tals and clinical departments demonstrating exceptional commitment to patient safety by preventing healthcare-associated infections. Awards are presented in four categories: Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections, Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections, Clostridium diffi-

See BRIEFS on Page 9A



Tammy Cheek

Riverpark Homes & Development, LLC., president Taner Irmak, left, and Arda Irmak, marketing, welcome tour attendees to Riverpark’s home at 12564 Daisy Field Lane in Farragut, one of the homes featured in Home Builders Association of Greater Knoxville’s 2026 Parade of Homes, which is taking place Friday, Saturday and Sunday Oct. 9-Oct. 25, and showcasing more than 40 new homes across five East Tennessee counties.

Parade of Homes opens
doors across East Tennessee

Staff Reports
editor@farragutpress.com

Area residents can tour the area’s homes to see what is new in home building this month.

The 2026 Home Builders Association of Greater Knoxville Parade of Homes is taking place each Friday, Saturday and Sunday Oct. 9-Oct. 25, showcasing more than 40 new homes across five East Tennessee counties, including Farragut.

“[The Parade] provides one-on-one access to builders and their representatives at each showcase home, making it a must-see event for anyone actively shopping for a new home or homebuilder,” HBAGK executive vice president Ashley Burnette stated in a press release. “The event is free and does not require tickets to attend.”



Tammy Cheek

A home at 12564 Daisy Field Lane in Farragut that was built by Riverpark Homes & Development, LLC., is one of the homes featured in Home Builders Association of Greater Knoxville’s 2026 Parade of Homes.

The Parade is co-sponsored by ORNL Federal Credit Union and Tindell’s Building Materials.

“This is the 45th year for the

HBAGK Parade of Homes, and it is one of the longest-running Parade of Homes in the na-

See PARADE on Page 10A

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Trick-or-Treat
at NHC Farragut

Get ready for a spooktacular evening at NHC Farragut! Our annual Trick-or-Treat event is creeping up, and we’re excited to welcome families and little ghosts and goblins from the community for a night of candy, costumes, and Halloween fun.

Join us for a family-friendly evening filled with treats, festive costumes, and plenty of opportunities to capture adorable Halloween memories. Whether you arrive as a superhero, princess, dinosaur, or spooky little witch, there’s fun waiting for everyone!

Event Details:
When: Thursday, October 29
Time: 5:30–7:00 PM
Where: NHC Farragut — entire campus

Bring your best costumes, gather your little ghouls, and get ready for a boo-tiful evening with us. We can’t wait to see everyone there for a Halloween celebration full of smiles, sweet treats, and community spirit!

No tricks, just treats! Happy Halloween from NHC Farragut!



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CADES Networking

Laura Mattis, left, with Integrative Physical Therapy, learns more about Concord Adult Day Enrichment Services from CADES executive director Deena Greer during a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce networking hosted at CADES, housed in Concord United Methodist Church, 11020 Roane Drive, Farragut, Thursday, Oct. 8.

Photos Tammy Cheek



Left: Nancy Gibson, left, with American House Assisted Living and Alaina Roberson with Senior Living Placement chat during a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce networking event hosted at Concord Adult Day Enrichment Services, housed in Concord United Methodist Church, 11020 Roane Drive, Farragut, Thursday, Oct. 8.

Briefs

From page 8A

cile Infections and Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus over the past calendar year.

Turkey Creek Medical Center achieved Zero Harm in categories CDI, CLABSI, CAUTI, and MRSA.

• Covenant Health recently announced David J. O'Brien, vice president of information technology and chief information security officer, was named to Becker's Healthcare's 2026 list of Hospital and Health System CISOs and Chief Privacy Officers to Know. The annual recognition honors healthcare cybersecurity and privacy leaders who drive innovation, strengthen resilience and protect patient data across the industry.

• Weichert, Realtors - Advantage Plus recently announced David Hamilton has joined its Knoxville office.

• SmartBank recently was selected by Great Place to Work and Fortune magazine for the 2026 FortuneBest Work Places in Financial Services & Insurance List, ranking the bank No. 11 in the small and medium category.

• Pinnacle Financial Partners recently added three financial services veterans to its Knoxville team, expanding the firm's ability to serve individuals, families and businesses across East Tennessee. Rand Thomas and Andrew Pankratz joined Pinnacle as financial advisors and Jamie Harrington joined as a trust and wealth advisor. All three are based at Pinnacle's Northshore office.

• Knoxville Orthopaedic Surgery Center recently was recognized by Newsweek as one of America's Best Ambulatory Surgery Centers for 2027.

The West Knoxville outpatient facility is one of only two in Knoxville, 14 in the state and 750 nationwide to earn the title. It was selected from an analysis of more than 5,000 surgery centers, and it is the second time in three years the facility has been listed, having earned a spot in 2024 as well.

Newsweek evaluates ambulatory surgery centers using data from patient satisfaction surveys, recommendations from healthcare professionals and quality and safety measures from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Leapfrog Group.



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Degree
From page 8A

“Our red light facials are interesting as they offer three lights: red light, blue light and near infrared,” Shawn said. “so they are working at the dermatological area, working on better, more beautiful skin, but you’re also working on producing more collagen.

“You’re actually helping to reduce wrinkles and you’re helping revitalize the skin,” he said. “The blue light is helping the complexion.”

Another service Degree Wellness provides is IV therapy in its IV lounge.

“You can get vitamins and other advanced nutrients and essential hydration,” Shawn said. “We have about seven or eight different choices for you there.”

Shauna explained IV therapy is different from taking vitamins by mouth.

With an oral supplement, the vitamins have to pass through the digestive system first, “so you’re only getting about 20 percent of what you’re taking,” Shauna said, adding an IV drip delivers a fluid and nutrient blend directly into the blood stream via a vein.

“At Degree Wellness, every drip is ordered by a licensed medical provider after reviewing your wellness goals and health history,” she said.

There also are four contrast suites, which include an infrared sauna and a 47-degree pool.

“A contrast session is alternating between hot and cold,” Shawn said. “So we go between infrared sauna and a cold plunge.”

Also, Degree Wellness provides a cryotherapy in which you step into a chamber and discover an all-electric full-body cryotherapy experience in a three-minute session at temperatures as low as -175 degrees F.

Shawn said it helps boost metabolism, supports detox and immunity and lifts the mood through natural endorphin release.

The business is based on a membership model with different levels.

Once open, Degree Wellness will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

For more information about Degree Wellness, visit degree-wellness.com.

Salon Biyoshi networking



Tammy Cheek

Salon Biyoshi owner Brandon Harris, left, mingles with John Haney, senior advisor with NAI Koella | RM Moore, and Stephanie Erb, Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce board member representing Gigi’s Playhouse, during a FWKCC networking event hosted in Salon Biyoshi, 10412 Kingston Pike, Thursday, Oct. 15.

Parade
From page 8A

tion,” Burnette stated. “Each year, HBAGK and its members contribute tens of millions of dollars to the local East Tennessee economy through the annual Parade of Homes event.”

She said attendees will find homes ranging from around \$306,000 to more than \$5 million on the tour.

“Attendance is anticipated to be very strong this year even with recently increased interest

rates,” Burnette added. “This year’s HBAGK Parade of Homes includes 43 distinct showcase homes in Blount, Knox, Loudon, Roane and Sevier counties,” she stated. “A complete listing of homes is available in the official Parade of Homes magazine and on the HBAGK mobile website at TheParadeOfHomesKnoxville.com.

“Magazines are available at each Parade house during open hours, ORNL Federal Credit Union branch locations and local Tindell’s locations,” Burnette stated. “The HBAGK

mobile website includes GPS directions to each property plus routing options for multiple homes if you plan to visit more than one Parade house per day.

“The Parade of Homes showcases the work and capabilities of East Tennessee’s premier builders, the trusted members of HBAGK and exposes consumers to the newest home-related products, technologies and designs,” she stated. “Consumers see first-hand what they can get for their money at a variety of price points.”



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Entry Form

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HVA playoff-bound for first time since 2018



Jake Nichols

Hardin Valley's Trian Rowe (44) delivers a jarring hit to Oak Ridge tight end Malik Howard (3) during their matchup Friday, Oct. 16.

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

On January 25, 2024, Tyler Wynn made a simple request of his new football team at Hardin Valley Academy: "Give me 1,000 days."

Within that timeframe, he wanted the Hawks to unlock an achievement they had not seen the previous five years: a postseason berth.

Fast-forward exactly 995 days, and Wynn and the Hawks have both delivered on that goal.

On Friday, Oct. 16, HVA knocked off Oak Ridge 32-21 for the biggest win in Wynn's tenure. With the victory, the Hawks are guaranteed at least the 4-seed in the

2026 Region 2-6A playoffs. If Bradley Central loses to Maryville and HVA wins at Cleveland, the Hawks will get the 2-seed and a home game.

"I wanted it for them," Wynn said after escaping a potential Gatorade bath. "For me, it's awesome, but when you come in and invest in kids and a community, you want it for them. You go to work for them. It's about your impact on the hearts and lives of kids, and you want them to have return on investment."

“Football is here for a short while, but the lessons you can learn apply to everything the rest of your life. For me, the sigh of relief is because those kids got a small piece of

what they have worked to get. They earned the right to win and that's big."

Indeed Hardin Valley did, going up by two scores at one point before holding on late for a program-changing victory.

Quarterback Riley Matz went a perfect 5-for-5 through the air for 186 yards and two scores. Receiver Nic Rivers hauled in three of those passes for 65 yards and a score, while tight end Cade Evans caught another on an 80-yard bomb for a touchdown.

On the ground, tailback Ayden Perry added one more score on a 15-carry, 46-yard night. And kicker Logan Hol-

brook nailed a 39-yard field goal late to ice the win before Rivers capped off the night with an interception.

Holbrook's kick came on a crucial fourth-and-1 late in the game, as Wynn relied on his special teams unit to salt away the victory.

"I've got an All-State kicker sitting in the side, and I told him I'd give him a chance," Wynn said. "So when it was fourth and 1, me and Holbrook looked at each other and I said, 'Go kick it.' I told him earlier in the week that I hoped it came down to that, and he delivered."

Wynn also had other



Jake Nichols

CAK quarterback Seaton Moffett (16) hands off to tailback Isaac Kannah (20) during the Warriors' win over Grace Christian Academy.

Warriors rally past Rams

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

On a sunny Friday afternoon, Jason Price stepped out of his Chevrolet pickup and reached for a piece of equipment in his truck.

To any bystander, he could have been reaching for the weed-eater he uses as part of his lawn care business, Lawn Captains.

Instead, Price pulled out a black hockey stick — the same kind he sees every day in practice as an associate head coach for the Knoxville Ice Bears.

After becoming the Southern Professional Hockey League's highest-scoring defenseman, Price joined the Ice Bears' coaching staff ahead of the 2024-25 campaign after a playing career that spanned 16 seasons, seven in Knoxville.

He is the only player in SPHL history to appear in more than 700 games and served as captain, leading Knoxville to the 2015 President's Cup.

Before returning to East Tennessee, he



Jake Nichols

From the grass to the ice rink, Knoxville Ice Bears associate head coach Jason Price has used his work ethic in different avenues across the city.

served as an assistant coach for Pensacola in 2021 and helped the Ice Flyers to the President's Cup that season.

Most recently, he was promoted to his newest title in Septem-

ber of this year.

"It was great to be recognized in that way, the work I put into it," Price said. "I've been working a bit more with the office and the general manager, but on the coaching

side, the head coach and I have a good working relationship and a great dialogue. Not too much change there but definitely interacting with

See RINK on Page 3B



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Duncanson, Vesser claim KIL titles

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — Runners trotted toward the finish line, legs moving as steadily as the boats headed down the Tennessee River in anticipation of the Vols’ matchup with Alabama.

Yet out of all the competitors in the Knoxville Interscholastic League (KIL) championship meet on Saturday, Oct. 17, only two runners finished at the top in their respective categories.

Knoxville Catholic’s Cade Duncanson timed out at 15:24 on the course at Sequoyah Hills Park, leading an Irish team that took first overall with Hardin Valley Academy in second, Farragut in fourth and Christian Academy of Knoxville in fifth with Webb School of Knoxville in seventh.

Duncanson’s finish was followed by that of Catholic teammate Reid Bannister (15:41.2), two of four Irish runners to finish in the top seven. HVA’s Stephen Bell (15:50.2) and Aiden Rufi (16:02.7) were the Hawks’ top two finishers in third and sixth, respectively, with Farragut’s Chase Temples (16:07.2) in eighth overall.

On the girls side, HVA’s Alexandra Vesser finished first at 18:15.7, followed by CAK’s Sophie Lee (18:27.2) and Hardin Valley’s Zarah Enbom (18:40). Farragut’s Zoi LeCours (19:09.5) took ninth overall.

Vesser led a Lady Hawks program which finished first to beat out Catholic (second),



Jake Nichols

Knoxville Catholic’s Cade Duncanson crosses the finish line at Sequoyah Hills Park Saturday, Oct. 17, to win the boys KIL individual title. Duncanson’s top finish led an Irish team that finished first overall on the boys side.

CAK (third) and Farragut (fourth) with Bearden in sixth.

While both top runners were proud of their finishes, they reflected even more on the team-wide first-place results.

“Yeah, it feels awesome,” Duncanson said. “That was the game plan from the start, blasting from the start and holding on. It’s something we’ve been working for all season, and it was great to turn around and see my teammates coming down because that was the main goal today.”

gan to chip away. Moffett hit teammate Henley Hayes for a 44-yard strike to bring the Warriors within 10, then Kannah’s touchdown with 3:48 set the table for Moffett’s final maneuver. He dove into navy blue pay dirt with 1:02 left on the clock, and Bennett Jelks picked off a pass from Grace quarterback Corbin Hobson to ice the comeback victory.

After addressing his team, Speck reiterated the same phrase he had just uttered in the huddle. “Man, all we’ve talked about all week, really all year, is to surrender the outcome,” he said. “You try to get to a standard. We’re not worried about the scoreboard. We’re playing to a standard, and we’re just trying to take one play at a time. That’s what we try to get guys to focus on at all times, and they did it and hung together.



Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

Farragut’s Leana Maier (11) dribbles downfield against Bearden Tuesday, Oct. 13.

Lady Ads, Hawks bow out of district tourney

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Jessica Burkhart wanted to see her team’s heart.

Last Tuesday, Oct. 13, Burkhart saw that and plenty more from her Farragut girls soccer team, whose 2026 season drew to a close in a 3-2 loss to Bearden in the district semifinals.

With the result, Farragut’s final record this season stands at 10-5-1.

Ada Becker put the Lady Admirals on the board with 12 minutes left in the first half, but Landree Horner matched for Bearden with an equalizer.

Later on, with Farragut down 2-1, Oliveah Love tied the score with a shot right in front of the Farragut student section.

But Bearden freshman Avery Stevens came through with the winner 17 minutes later, pushing the Lady Bulldogs on to the district championship.

“The two goals we got were effort and heart,” Burkhart said. “We didn’t give up on balls, and that’s what you saw. You saw a senior not give

up on a ball and put it in the back of the net, then a freshman not give up on a ball and put it in the back of the net. I think that’s so fitting for who we are.”

After beating West 3-1 in the district title match last week, Bearden moved on to the region semifinals this week against Knox Central.

Meanwhile, Farragut’s season draws to a close, as does Hardin Valley’s since the Lady Hawks lost to West last Tuesday, too.

Burkhart noted her pride in the Lady Admirals’ performance against the Soccer Dawgs and for the season as a whole, too.

“Ihonestly could not be more proud of the effort they’ve shown and the heart they have played with,” she said. “They took it to them every step of the way, and that’s all we ask. You have to be proud of what they left on the field and they made every one of us proud.”

HVA assistant Mandy Marshall echoed similar thoughts on their result.

“Obviously wasn’t the ending we had hoped for but

we’re really proud of the girls and how hard they’ve fought all year,” she said. “This year was probably one of the toughest schedules we had, so coming away with winning record shows how hard the girls worked this year. Even the games we lost the girls were always in it. Always competing. I think that’s a testament to our senior leadership and how driven they were to succeed.”

Marshall added it is “especially tough” to lose this group of seniors, but she and head coach Dannielle Wilson are eager to see what comes for the group that’s retuning.

The same is true for FHS, which is losing eight seniors from this year’s squad.

“I think the leadership this senior group has had — and it’s not just on the soccer field,” Burkhart said. “It’s the character they show off it. We have great competitors, but they are a team-first group. They truly embody what it means to be good teammates and good people. I could not have asked for a better senior group to lead this program.”

Correction



In last week’s Senior Night photos, Farragut soccer senior Alia Cheshire was not included. We apologize to the Cheshire family and regret the error.

Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

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Rink
From page 1B

the office.”

The move came just before the 2026 season, which began last Friday, October 16th.

“I can’t wait to get going,” Price said. “It’s a great place to be a part of a hockey game and coach, and with everything we’re involved in with the community, it’s awesome to be part of and represent.”

A lifelong hockey fan, Price grew up loving the Detroit Red Wings in his home state of Michigan.

Now, he enjoys passing his love of the game to the next generation after leading the Ice Bears to an SPHL title as a player.

“With players, we get an idea of their hockey I.Q. and you can build it from there, seeing what they need help on the most,” Price said. “Try to help them understand what’s coming their way. When we prep for games, it’s not like most sports. You’ll make tiny adjustments but you won’t change your whole game plan because your team is built a certain way. You just execute better than they do.”

He brings a similarly detailed approach with his landscaping company, which can be reached at lawncaptains@gmail.com.

The business itself was inspired by Price’s grandfather, who worked in landscaping, too.

“At some point, I figured I’d be tied to some landscaping,” Price said. “It came together, and my wife and I settled here and I wanted to see how it would come together.”

Fellow Ice Bears alum and former captain Kevin Swider joined Price on the venture before Price bought out his former teammate.

“The timing works with the seasons,” Price said of his



Photo courtesy of the Knoxville Ice Bears

After an impressive career and start to his coaching career, Jason Price has taken on a new role this season as an associate head coach for the Knoxville Ice Bears.

business, which handles lawn mowing, mulching, hedge trimming, decks and fences. “A little overlap on both ends, but for the most part, when things slow down here, hockey picks up and vice versa. It’s great to do both. I’m very thankful.”

On the ice and in the grass, Price has seen a similar approach pay off.

“Work ethic,” he said. “That’s what I know, hard work, and you get what you put into it. But mainly people. I’ve learned a lot about people doing hockey, and that coincides with dealing with people and knowing their wants and how they are in general.”

With both occupations and three children, it can be a lot to handle for Price.

But he has enjoyed each line of work in its own unique way.

“For some reason I don’t like to settle down or stop, I guess,” he said with a chuckle. “I like taking a lot on my plate, and this is a great spot to be part of a hockey team and community.”

HVA volleyball season ends with Central loss

Bill Howard
Correspondent

It included many highlights, but Hardin Valley Academy’s volleyball season came to an end last Tuesday night, Oct. 13, at Maryville High School.

Finishing second in the Region 2, District 4A Tournament the week before, the Lady Hawks lost in straight sets to Central High School, winners of the Region 2, District 3A Tournament. The set scores were 28-26, 25-17 and 25-18.

“Central is a really good team,” said HVA coach Eric Boden. “We really struggled blocking; we really struggled to pass.”

“We left some chances on the table that we wanted,” Boden said when asked about the oh-so-close first set.

The first set couldn’t have

been closer. Numerous times it was tied as the momentum constantly swung back and forth. The Lady Hawks seemed to be in good shape at 21-18, but four in a row by the Lady ‘Cats put them up 22-21. Four split points later, CHS had a set point at 24-23.

But HVA won the next two to have a set point of its own, 25-24. Central tied it at 25, and it was again tied at 26. CHS then won two to close it out.

In the second set, Central used a number of scoring runs to first, build an early lead, then hold off Valley’s many attempts to fight back.

Tied at three, CHS won seven of nine to lead 10-5. HVA got it to 12-11, but Central then won five of the next seven, four of the next six and four of the final five to finish it.

In the Lady Hawks’ final set

of the season, they dug a deep early hole from which they couldn’t dig out. Down five to three, HVA then surrendered eight straight to trail 13-3. A 6-2 stretch late by Valley made it 22-17, but CHS won three of the final four.

Boden was asked to assess the season. “I like where we are; we’re taking steps in the right direction,” he said. “This is my third year and each year we’ve had a better and better finish. Next year the goal is to finish even higher. And I’m really proud of my seniors (Caroline Clauss and Avery Slone).”

Clauss thought her team was overconfident against the Lady Bobcats. “They’d lost to a couple of teams we swept,” said the four-year starter. “Going into it I think we thought they should be easy to beat.”

Lady Irish fall just short of state title

Bill Howard
Correspondent

Another stellar season for Knoxville Catholic High School’s volleyball team came up just short last Saturday at Briarcrest Christian School.

The Lady Irish fell to the Lady Saints three sets to one in the Division II-AA championship match in the State Tournament in Eads, Tennessee. KCHS won the first set 25-19, then lost 25-21, 25-17, and 25-17.

“Very proud of the grit and determination in each and every one of our girls both on the floor and on the bench,” said Catholic coach Brent Carter.

BCS defeated KCHS last year in five sets, and went on to win state.

To get to the title match, the Lady Irish beat Lipscomb Academy in the semifinal three sets to one, winning the

first two 25-19 and 25-18; lost the third 27-25, then closed it out 25-19.

“We played clean, served well and hit for a good number,” said Carter. “We passed really well; we were a handful.”

Some impressive statistics from the Lipscomb match: senior outside hitter Mia Kinney had 16 kills and five assists; setters Channing Hurley and Olivia Mikels combined

for 41 assists.

For the season, Kinney had 305 kills, Hurley 366 assists

Carter was asked to assess his 12th season. His quote came from his players. “Talking to all of our players one on one on the bus ride home, what we heard from every single one of them was what a fun year they had, and how great the culture is. That speaks volumes about the future of our program.”

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Beloved classic comes to life



Photo submitted

Concord Christian School students, from left, Abigail Daugherty, Lucas Howell and Jonah Dewald are prepping to headline the cast in CCS's production of "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe," which runs from Thursday, Nov. 5, through Saturday, Nov. 7, in First Baptist Concord's Worship Center, 11704 Kingston Pike.

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Concord Christian School's high school theater class will present its production of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday, Nov. 5-6, and 2 p.m. matinee, Saturday, Nov. 7, in the First Baptist Concord's Worship Center, 11704 Kingston Pike.

Tickets are \$20 each and are available to the public. They can be purchased online or at the door.

"The production features students in ninth through 12th grades," said Natalie Ebnet, production director and theater teacher for the Upper School.

"Mrs. Abigail Sensing, our musical theater director, is serving as assistant director for this production," Ebnet said. "She will be directing our spring musical, 'The Pirates of Penzance.'"

"We have 45 students involved in the cast and production," she said. "This year, for the first time, we also have a student assistant director, Austin DeMerchant, a senior."

Leading the cast are Jonah Dewald as Peter, Kensley Jennings as Susan, Lucas Howell as Edmund and Abigail Daugherty as Lucy.

Dramatized by Joseph Robbette from the novel by C.S. Lewis, "we selected 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' for several reasons," Ebnet said. "It is a beloved classic cherished across generations. Our fourth-grade classes at CCS read the book, so the play offers a meaningful way to connect their classroom learning with live theater."

"The story carries powerful themes of forgiveness, redemption, self-sacrifice, family, resilience, courage in the face of fear and the triumph of good over evil," she said. "With such a large class, it also gives many students valuable stage experience," Ebnet said. "Our department hopes this production will help students continue growing in their love of theater."

"We aim to bring the story to life in a way that ignites imaginations, warms hearts and reminds everyone that light always overcomes the dark," she added.

Cancer Awareness

A journey of strength: Allison Giles' breast cancer story

Story submitted

by Tennova Healthcare

For breast cancer survivor Allison Giles, putting herself first and keeping her scheduled health appointments was not always a priority. Even with a family history of cancer, Giles put the needs of others first like many women do every day.

However, the risk of developing cancer has always weighed heavily on Giles. She scheduled a genetic test indicating she did not carry the BRCA gene, a marker that shows a significant lifetime risk for certain types of cancers.

"I began receiving regular mammograms in my early 40s because deep down I knew there was a risk with my family history," Giles said. "Looking back, and what I would tell my friends and colleagues, is don't miss these appointments."

In August 2025, a routine mammogram detected hormone-positive cancer in her right breast. Determined to take an aggressive approach, she chose to undergo a bilateral total mastectomy the next month. Although a lumpectomy and radiation were recommended, Giles opted for the double mastectomy for peace of mind and long-term risk reduction.

During treatment, Giles faced several complications. In October that year, she developed cellulitis requiring an emergency visit at Tennova Newport Medical Center. Later in December, while taking the hormone-blocking medication, she developed a deep-vein thrombosis and pulmonary emboli. She was hospitalized again and treated with different medications. Giles said she continued diagnostic imaging over the past six months and remained under the close supervision of her oncology team.

See GILES on Page 6B

Play a round; feed the hungry

Staff reports

editor@farragutpress.com

Rotary Club of Farragut invites the community to a play some mini golf and help feed the hungry with its Community Mini Golf & Food Drive from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 24, at Sir Goony's, 10925 Kingston Pike.

"Our idea is simple," said Joey Ruffalo, RCF fundraising chairman. "Bring a can; play a round; make a difference."

"The mini golf will be free to the community with the donation of one nonperishable food item per person, per round," Ruffalo said. "We'll also have food vendors, family fun and an opportunity for people to learn more about Rotary and the work we do in our community."

To make the event possible and raise funds for future Rotary service projects, "we're inviting local businesses and community partners to become sponsors," he said.

"Sponsorship opportunities currently include: Presenting Sponsor (\$1,000), Community Sponsors (\$500), Food Drive Sponsor (\$500), Standard Hole Sponsors (\$150) and Premium Hole Sponsors (\$200).

"Our Pavilion Sponsorship has already been claimed by United Community Bank, and several hole sponsorships are already sold, so opportunities



Tammy Cheek

Rotary Club fundraising chairman Joey Ruffalo, also a Farragut alderman, is teeing up to welcome the community to help share in the fun of a mini golf canned food drive and fundraising event at Saturday, Oct. 24, at Sir Goony's, 10925 Kingston Pike.

are beginning to fill," Ruffalo said. "Sponsors receive recognition through Farragut Rotary social media, emails/newsletters, event publicity and other benefits depending on sponsorship level."

"Sponsors at applicable levels are also welcome to bring their own signage, promotional materials or table setup to

the event," he said. "Whether you choose to sponsor, attend, donate food or simply help us spread the word, we would love to have you involved."

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Nature photographer shares with Rotary Club

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Lions and leopards and crocodiles ... oh my!

Nature photographer Steve Brandon of Chattanooga shared images of the swamplions of Botswana with Rotary Club of Farragut members during their meeting in Fox Den Country Club Wednesday, Sept. 30.

“They call him the king of the jungle, but he’s not in the jungle,” he observed. “He’s in the savannah.”

Brandon “has photographed wildlife in all seven continents and has spoken to more than 125 nature groups, civic clubs and schools about wildlife and conservation,” president-elect John Rock said. “Steve and his wife, Patsy Fowlkes, are both Rotary Paul Harris Fellows.”

Brandon spoke to the club last year about a trip to Tanzania in Kenya to see the Great Migration.

In Botswana, Brandon got up close and personal with the lions to photograph the creatures.

“The thing, to me, is the eyes,” he said. “If you look at every one of these photographs, ... those golden eyes.

“Actually, they’re pretty hard to see,” Brandon said about the lions, who use the savannah grasses as cover. He indicated one photograph and said, “There’s a great back story of him sneaking up on me.

“We were out of the truck

and the ranger told us to get back in the truck fairly quickly, so we did,” Brandon recalled.

“Botswana is almost exactly the same size as Texas,” he said. “It’s a five-hour flight from [Lake Victoria] to Botswana.”

In 1855, it became a protectorate,” Brandon said. “In ’66, it got some independence, very stable democracy, great economy. Tourism is 22 percent of the entire economy, and all they have for tourism is us coming to take pictures — no hunting in Botswana, except for very limited areas.

“You may have heard of the Kalahari Desert,” he said. “It’s right in central Botswana. You may heard Chobe [National] Park. It’s up in the northeast corner.”

Brandon was at the Okavango Delta or Grassland, a vast inland delta formed where the Okavango River reaches a tectonic trough, in the upper northwest.

“It’s the world’s largest inland delta,” he said. “It’s one and a half times our Yellowstone [National Park]. It does not flow into a river or ocean. It is an inland delta. The average rainfall is only 18 inches. Here, it’s about 60.

Still, “You’re going to see pictures of water everywhere,” Brandon said about the delta.

While in the delta, he photographed the lions, as well as leopards, cheetahs and wild dogs, as they stalked their



Photo submitted

Steve Brandon, left, and wife Patsy and gold level guide, “Mr. Bee,” Bonnetswe Sarafo, relax outside of their jeep during a safari in the savanna.

prey: Cape buffalo, antelope, impalas, springbok, tsessebe and red lechwe.

After World War II, Brandon said the British were starving, didn’t have enough food, so they decided to take Botswana and raise cattle.

Along with predators, they

were concerned about the Cape buffalo infecting the cattle with diseases, so they built a 400-mile-long electrified fence.

There is agriculture on the east side of the fence and the Okavango Delta on the west side.

“They have no paved roads allowed; they have no cross country electric allowed; they have no permanent buildings allowed,” Brandon said. “They have no [other] fencing allowed. [The delta] is just as it has been for a thousand years.”





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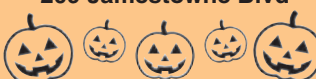
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Email: newcovenant@newcovenantbc.com
Website: www.newcovenantbc.com

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Sun: Worship Service (11:00 AM)

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Wed: Prayer Meeting & Bible Study (6:45 PM)
Wed: Cultivate (7:00 PM)



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Obituary

Colin “Mike” Gates, retired Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force, left this earth to be reunited with his beloved wife, Joan, his sweetheart of 60 years. A man of remarkable intelligence, a generous heart, and an unwavering willingness to help others,



Mike lived a life dedicated to service, education, and family.

Mike was born on February 5, 1941, in Cadillac, Michigan, to Leroy and Alfreda Gates. On March 12, 1964, he entered the United States Air Force, beginning 20 years of service to his country and a path to meet his beloved. His military career included service in Vietnam, work as a loadmaster aboard the C-130 Hercules, and service as a drug and alcohol counselor. He was awarded 20 medals during his Air Force career and retired with the rank of Master Sergeant. He became a VOL for life in 1984, when he was awarded a Coca Cola Fellowship to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Following his military service, Mike continued to make a difference through education, becoming a teacher at Sacred Heart Cathedral School and serving as adjunct faculty at Pellissippi State Community College. He was also an active member and officer of the

Knights of Columbus at both the parish, state and national levels, as well as the Air Force Sergeants Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife, Joan; and his son, Bob. He is survived and dearly missed by his daughter, Kari (Greg) Gates; daughter-in-law, Robin Gates; grandchildren, Kristle (Jason) Wilson, Dave Gates, Alaina (Colin) Hayes, Brett

Gates, and Angelina Lopez; and great-grandsons, Gavin Denison and Beau Hayes.

His family extends a special thank-you to the Murphy family and Albert Lopez for their kindness and assistance with Mike’s needs as his vision became impaired. Their care and support meant so much.

Visitation will be October 24, 2026, at 10 am with a funeral Mass at 11 am, at St John Neumann Catholic Church followed by interment in the columbarium with military and Knights of Columbus 4th degree honors.

Feel free to wear Air Force blue or UT orange for the Mass to celebrate his passions and a life well lived.

In accordance with Mike’s wishes, donations may be made to St. Joseph School in Knoxville in lieu of flowers.

Mike will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered for his sharp mind, his enormous heart, dedication to his family, and the many lives he touched. There is comfort in knowing he is once again with his sweetheart.

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.

Press Planner

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

- St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church collects needed items for a different local organization each month. For October, they are helping Mobile Meals with Christmas Gift bags. Needed items include: large-print puzzle books, socks with non-slip grip bottoms, night-lights, 8-ounce hand lotion, adhesive bandages, tissue. Drive by to drop off Sunday, Oct. 25, from 1 to 2 p.m. at 110 Sugarwood Drive, Farragut.
- The Magic of Chemistry Show with Dr. Al Hazari will be held Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 7 to 8 p.m. at Buehler Hall, Room 555, on the University of Tennessee, Knoxville campus. Open to kids 2 to 102 years old. Free admission and no reservations needed. Contact ahazari@utk.edu for more information. Free parking is available in the UTK Parking Garage (White Avenue and 11th Street) from 6 to 9 p.m.
- Make Dracula part of your Halloween weekend with Appalachian Ballet Company’s return of this haunting production. Choreographed by artistic directors Amy Morton Vaughn and Kylie Morton Berry, alongside choreographers James and Laura La Russa, the production weaves a story through a blend of classical and contemporary movement,

with lighting design by Ian Bailey transforming the intimate Haslam Family Flexible Theatre into a haunting world of its own. Only a limited number of seats remain for the two performances still available. For a memorable night out, join the Dracula-themed patron party on Friday, Oct. 30, at 6 p.m. Enjoy tasty bites catered by Foothills Milling Co., along with adult beverages and mocktails, before the performance begins at 7 p.m. General admission for the party and performance is \$100. The evening is sponsored by David’s Abbey Carpet & Floors. Prefer a Halloween afternoon outing? The Saturday, Oct. 31, performance begins at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$35. For tickets and event information, visit Appalachian Ballet Company’s website at appalachianballet.org or contact the Clayton Center for the Arts.

- The Homestead Event will be April 23-24, 2027, at Deep Well Farm in Lenoir City. The “start where you are” focus brings families and beginning homesteaders together for practical education, hands-on workshops, demonstrations and a vendor market. Find more information at www.the-homesteadevent.org.



Photo collage submitted

Giles

From page 4B

At home, Giles’ support system was equally strong. Her mother, husband and children remained by her side throughout her treatments. Family stepped in to help schedule appointments while her son flew back home to spend more time with his mother. Her daughter became her “hype woman,” offering encouragement during the hardest days. Even her Scottish terrier, Higgins, provided comfort during long recovery days.

“I cannot put into words the deep appreciation I have for my care team,” Giles said. “I was surrounded by people that helped carry me through the most difficult moments. My nurse navigator, Lindsey Robinson, played such an important role for me, coordinating my appointments, check-

ing in with me and providing emotional support.”

Today, Giles has completed treatment as of July 2026 and has made lifestyle changes, including going to therapy and prioritizing fitness to improve her overall health. But perhaps most importantly, she wants others to learn from her experience. Giles is passionate about sharing one powerful message: don’t skip your mam-

mogram.

“Early detection through routine screenings can identify breast cancer before symptoms appear,” she said. “My journey is a reminder that cancer can affect anyone, and my advice to women I know is to always keep those appointments, don’t put them off. That mammogram could one day save your life.”



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Concert to celebrate Christmas with a purpose

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

A local business is organizing a family-friendly concert to help those in need during the holidays.

Mark and Pamela Zastrow of Armor Gold Cables are spearheading Christmas with a Purpose to benefit Cold Hands Warm Hearts in Loudon County and are looking for sponsors.

The concert, featuring music artists Mark Mackay, Casey James and Morgan Myles will take place from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 28, at The Venue at Lenoir City, 7690 Creekwood Park Blvd., Lenoir City.

“I’m excited,” said music artist Casey James, who was a Season 9 finalist on American Idol. “Anytime I get to play music, especially if it’s helping out, that’s a two-for-one for me.”

James also will be performing for a benefit concert 6 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 25, at Patriot Church in Lenoir City. Attendees are asked for a minimum \$25 donation. The proceeds will go to Alliance Women’s Clinic.

Myles performed on The Voice, and Mackay is a touring country music artist in Nashville.

Early bird tickets for Christmas with a Purpose are \$42.50 for general admission, before Saturday Oct. 31; free for children ages 12 and younger; \$68.25 for preferred admission, which allows early access; and \$104.25 for VIP tickets, which include early admission, VIP

seating, meeting the artists and swag from the artists.

Along with the music, there also will be activities for children, such as photos with Santa, crafts, a hot chocolate station, cookie station and a coloring station.

Tickets purchased after Oct. 31 are \$47.75 for general admission. The prices for preferred and VIP remain the same after Oct. 31. All of the prices include booking fees.

To purchase tickets in advance, go online to <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/christmaswithapurpose>.

Armor Gold Cables is a company that custom makes high-end cables musicians use on their instruments, amplifiers and other equipment.

“It’s always been my passion,” Mark Zastrow said about getting into the cables business. “I love music; I always have,” Since the company serves well-known music artists, the Zastrows have a connection to the music business. They are using that connection to draw artists, such as Mackay, James and Myles, to this event.

“What’s on our heart is giving back to the community,” Pamela said. “What we love to do is to get involved from fighting for our healthy foods to giving back to communities with a lot of people in need.”

“We felt it was God’s calling to utilize our connections,” Mark said.

“Lenoir City has quit a few homeless people and quite a few families that actually have

a home but don’t have the ability to pay for utilities,” she said. “This time, we picked Cold Hands Warm Hearts to help the homeless and others in need, especially during the holidays.

“A lot of times Christmas isn’t so great for people who are in need,” she said. “It doesn’t come with that warm feeling that a lot of us grew up with.

“So, trying to help those families, those individuals, to have a little bit more of a warmer feeling during the holidays.”

“Cold Hands Warm Hearts is just a fantastic ministry in Lenoir City,” Mark Zastrow said. “They have so many families with so many needs.”



Photo submitted

Morgan Myles is one of the artists to be featured in the Christmas with a Purpose concert Saturday, Nov. 28.



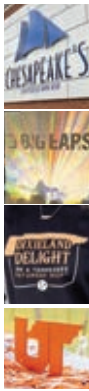
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Concord-Farragut Sertoma Club members present a \$27,000 donation to Robin Hamrick, front row, third from left, executive director of Friends of Tennessee Babies, during a club meeting in Pinnacle Bank in Farragut Thursday, Oct. 15. The \$27,000 was proceeds from the club’s 36th Annual Lindsey Nelson Memorial Golf Tournament, which took place Aug. 4, at Avalon Golf Club. Sertoma Club members on hand for the check presentation were front row, from left, Janice Williams, Sheila Thompson next to Hamrick and Nikki Stansell. Back row are Irving Rosenbloom, Ray Wells, Todd Bolinger, Ron Zuker and Michelle Carr.

Photo by Tammy Cheek



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LEGAL NOTICE

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, at its meeting on October 8, 2026, adopted the following ordinances on second and final reading:

- Ordinance 26-19, an Ordinance of the Town of Farragut, Tennessee Amending the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Capital Investment Program Fund Passed by Ordinance 26-10

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 accommodation due to disabilities, please call 865-966-7057 in advance of the meeting.

Farragut Town Hall | 11408 Municipal Center Drive

FARRAGUT MUSEUM COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026 AT 1:00 PM
AGENDA

1) Call to Order

2) Approval of Minutes

3) Business Items

A) Volunteer Report

B) Historic Resources Report

4) Discussion Items

5) Adjournment

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

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FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN WORKSHOP MEETING
Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 5:00 PM

I. Roll Call

II. Business Items

A. Discussion of FY2027 Appointments to Various Town Committees

III. Adjournment

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

Farragut Town Hall | 11408 Municipal Center Drive

FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

I. Swearing In of Lawrence Segrest as Farragut North Ward Alderman

II. Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. October 8, 2026 Workshop

B. October 8, 2026 Beer Board

C. October 8, 2026 Board of Mayor and Aldermen Meeting

V. Mayor's Report

A. Discussion of Union Road Improvement Project

VI. Citizens Forum

Ordinances & Resolutions

1. Ordinances

1. Second Reading &

Public Hearing

a. Approval of Ordinance 26-20, on second reading, amending the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Capital Investment Program Fund Budget Passed by Ordinance 26-10

B. Resolutions

1. Resolution R-2026-17 to Approve Participation in Cooperative Purchasing Organizations.

2. Resolution R-26-18 Appointment of Town Recorder

VIII. Business Items

A. Approval of Request for Supplement from Cannon & Cannon, LLC (an Ardurra Company -- formerly Cannon & Cannon, Inc.) for additional professional services

related to the Town's Fiber Optic Infrastructure Project.

B. Approval of the Farragut Frosty 5K Event on December 19, 2026

C. Approval of the Veterans Salute Race on November 7, 2026.

D. Approval of the Hot to Trot 5K/10K/Fun Run on November 26, 2026.

E. Approval of Purchase of Network Switches for the Town Broadband Project using Omnia Contract # R220804.

F. Approval of Volunteer Committee Appointments

IX. Town Administrator's Report

X. Town Attorney's Report

XI. Adjournment

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

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VISUAL RESOURCES REVIEW BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026 AT 6:00 PM
AGENDA

I) Call to Order

II) Approval of Minutes

A) Approval of the September 22, 2026, meeting minutes.

III) Staff Report

A) Wall signs approved since the last meeting.

IV) Business Items

A) Review of a new primary ground sign for Campbell Station Wine & Spirits, located at 707 N. Campbell Station Rd.

B) Review of an interior accessory sign for the new rear building at Campbell Station Wine & Spirits, located at 703

N. Campbell Station Rd.

C) Review of a reface and update of Patriots Corner's existing multi-tenant ground sign, located at 10841 Kingston Pk.

D) Review of tenant-panel signs for Elux Noir Nail Bar, located at 13121 Kingston Pike.

E) Discussion of the November and December meeting dates and re scheduling due to possible holiday week conflicts.

V) Citizens Forum

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

HVA
From page 1B

ideas up his sleeve that week, too. One of them included going for two after HVA's first touchdown, setting the tone for the game.

That decision remained the same, even after Oak Ridge punched in the first score.

"We challenged our guys to be physical," Wynn said. "From the first meeting talking about this game, we wanted to be physical. We wanted to line up and show them we wanted to do that all night. We wanted them to have to chase points from the beginning, and they scored on us first. But as soon as we had

the chance to have them chasing points, we took advantage of it."

They also took advantage of several clutch plays from Rivers, who carried eight times for 56 yards to go with his receiving stats and game-sealing interception.

He would have taken that same pick to the house, too, if

not for a penalty on the play.

"Wish we hadn't had all the penalties and stuff and that he would have gotten the defensive touchdown as well, but that kid can play football for anybody," Wynn said. "He shut down a 4-star receiver, had a touchdown in the back of the end zone. He's a really high level football player, and be-

cause he's so good in track and academically, you don't know how it'll shake out for him. But he can play for a lot of people."

For now, though, Rivers is playing for a Hardin Valley team that appears primed for plenty more history this season.

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HOW THE WEST WAS WON SCOREBOARD

School	Win-Loss	Points for Game	Net Difference
Christian Academy of Knoxville	31-27 W	8-0	+207
Knoxville Catholic High School	20-14 W	7-1	+20
Hardin Valley Academy	32-21 W	6-2	+160
Concord Christian School	41-14 W	5-3	+32
Webb School of Knoxville	26-24 L	1-7	-83
Farragut High School	34-0 L	1-7	-226
Bearden High School	42-7 L	0-8	-264

Chaos, statement wins define Week 8

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

In a weekend rich with chaos, the college football world practically turned upside-down.

But before any of that unfolded, there was plenty that went down in the high school slate. and quite a bit of it involved teams from the Farragut and west Knoxville area.

At Hardin Valley, the Hawks held on for a program-defining win against Oak Ridge by limiting a Wildcat team led by 4-star prospects.

The Hawks’ grit and resolve proved more powerful in a 32-21 victory, which brought students pouring onto the field.

Down in Chattanooga, Knoxville Catholic continued its season with a victory against McCallie — the Irish’s first since joining Division II-AAA in 2019.

Kruise Buntyn delivered a 55-yard score out of the Wildcat formation, and Ryheem Lee punched in two touchdowns after Buntyn left the game with an ankle injury.

“That’s the great thing about having two unbelievable tailbacks,” head coach Philip Shadowens said. “We knew somebody would get banged up, and the other would have to step up and he did.”

Buntyn had five carries for 53 yards, while Lee totaled 12 touches for 69 yards and those scores. Mack Bartholomew carried 10 times for 49 yards, adding five passes on 12 attempts.

“Big win for our kids, another hard fought game,” Shadowens said. “Our school has been 0-9 against them, so to win on Senior Night there meant a lot to our kids. It’s another first for this program.”

This victory is even more meaningful considering the current state of the Irish program. After a recruiting viola-



Left: Christian Academy of Knoxville quarterback Seaton Moffett (16) came through in the clutch last Thursday, leading the Warriors in a comeback win over Grace Christian. Right: Riley Matz (9) and Nic Rivers (2) helped lead Hardin Valley Academy to a historic win, as the Hawks knocked off Oak Ridge, 32-21.



Jake Nichols

tion in the summer, Catholic is in the midst of a campaign that will not include a postseason.

“We’ve talked to our kids about playing with a chip on our shoulder,” Shadowens said. “The TSSAA pushed us into a self-imposed penalty. I don’t think it was a just penalty or that we should be out of the playoffs. I think it’s somewhat a disgrace that we’re out, but we’ve taken our medicine and our kids are fighters.

“We’ve never been 7-1 in this league and know our schedule is the largest Catholic has ever had. We haven’t finished this journey and are really focused right now. Biggest one is CPA next week, as we try to win our eighth game in the regular season.”

Concord is looking for similar success, and if last week’s results are any indication, things are going pretty well.

They beat South Greene 41-14 on the road, scoring a mind-boggling six touchdowns on just 12 offensive plays through the entire game.

“I don’t really remember anything like that before,” Matthews said. “The big thing was getting our linemen healthy. That was a huge concern of depth at that position, so we’ve got our big guys back and it made a huge difference.”

Maurice Smith totaled three carries for 130 yards and three touchdowns, returning from injury as well.

Dasani Moulden added a 65-yard touchdown run and deliv-

ered a punt return inside the 5-yard-line to set up another Concord TD.

Dylan Brown tossed a swing pass to Amare McKenzie for another 50-yard touchdown, running behind returners Asher Noe (center), Eric Abaye (left guard) and Eli Wolfe (tackle).

“We’ve been relying on the passing and it was good to get the running game going,” Matthews said, adding his team has another massive tilt next week against Providence Christian Academy in Murfreesboro. “I like where we’re headed. Just got to keep the team together and hopefully we hit playoffs on all cylinders.”

The same should be true for Christian Academy of Knoxville, which roared back from a

17-point deficit to defeat Grace Christian last Thursday, Oct. 15. The Warriors trailed 27-10 at one point, then flipped the game in the fourth quarter.

Unfortunately for Webb, the Spartans experienced the opposite feeling in a 26-24 loss to Stewarts Creek. Webb jumped out to a 17-0 lead off a pair of first-half touchdown passes from Garrett King, but the Skyhawks rallied for a 17-14 halftime deficit before taking the lead 20-17. Webb responded with a touchdown from Antwan Hill, his second of the day, for a 24-20 lead, but Stewarts Creek had one more answer in the end.

Meanwhile, Farragut fell to Cookeville 34-0 at home, while Bearden lost to Cleveland 42-7.



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