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Farragut weighs TSW contract

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Tammy Cheek

Resident Bob Greenshields, during a Thursday, Nov. 12, Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting, talked to the Board about what he wanted to see in the new park at McFee Road.

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted 4-1 to direct Town staff to prepare a termination letter for the consultant on the 70-acre McFee Road park project during its meeting Thursday, Nov. 12.

The Board plans to decide whether to terminate TSW's services at its Thursday, Dec. 10, meeting.

"We're not voting to terminate tonight," North Ward Alderman Joey Ruffalo clarified. "We're voting to bring the termination letter to the Board, then at the next meeting, we would decide whether or not to proceed."

Vice Mayor Greg Wiberley made the motion, seconded by North Ward Alderman Larry Segrest, who added an amendment directing TSW to provide the Town with all the study data it has collected so far on the project.

For the Dec. 10 meeting, "can we bring back how much we would have wasted on this?" asked South Ward Alderman Drew Burnette, who cast the lone vote against the motion.

"We can certainly give you the contract num-

See TSW on Page 3A



Town of Farragut

Residents file into Light the Park.

Farragut shines for the season

Tammy Cheek
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The Town of Farragut is getting ready to light the way to the holidays with Countdown to Light the Park, the Annual Christmas Parade and Celebrate the Season.

"The Town of Farragut invites residents and visitors to celebrate the holiday season with festive events for all ages, beginning with the Town's annual holiday kickoff, Countdown to Light the Park, on Monday, Nov. 23, at Founders Park at Campbell Station, 405 N. Campbell Station Road," said Jeannine O'Malley, Town public information officer.

Festivities will begin at 5 p.m., with the switch flipped on a massive light display at 6:45 p.m. WVLT's Whitney Kent will emcee the evening, which features live entertainment, family activities, food trucks and a visit from Santa. Entertainment includes the Consultants of Sound Jazz trio, Spectra Twirlers Majorettes and contemporary pop a cappella group Jingle 5, according to O'Malley.

"Santa will make his grand entrance accompanied

See SEASON on Page 4A



File photo

Tabatha Rainwater, left, and Nora Rainwater enjoy a "hot air balloon" ride at last year's Christmas Parade in Farragut. This year's parade and Santa's Village will take place from 1 to 5 p.m., with the parade starting at 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6.

Legal review sparks debate in Farragut

Tammy Cheek
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Hale

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen is looking to put out a request for qualifications for a Town attorney.

Following a motion by Mayor Alex Cain, the Board voted 3-2 to direct staff to begin the request for qualifications (RFQ) process for the Town attorney contract.

"It doesn't make sense to me," said South Ward Alderman Drew Bur-

See LEGAL on Page 2A

Three public meetings set for school rezoning plans



Tammy Cheek

Farragut Area Elementary School is still under construction along Boring Road and Village Commons Boulevard. The school is expected to be completed in fall 2027.

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The Knox County community can learn more about potential school rezoning scenarios and have their say during three public meetings scheduled this week by Knox County Schools officials.

The public meetings are set for 5:30 p.m., Tuesday Nov. 17, in First Baptist Concord, 11704 Kingston Pike; Wednesday, Nov. 18, at Bearden High School, 8352 Kingston Pike; and Thursday, Nov. 19, at Hardin Valley Academy, 11345 Hardin Valley Road.

According to Carly Harrington, executive director of communications for Knox County Schools, the potential scenarios are related to the new $44 million Farragut Area Elementary School being constructed in Farragut. It is expected to open in fall 2027.

"These meetings will provide an overview of the rezoning process and will be an opportunity for families to share feedback on potential zoning scenarios," she said. "Families may attend any of the following meetings."

Lynn White, principal of Farragut Primary School, said the same proposal will be made at all three meetings. This year, both FPS and Farragut Intermediate School are transitioning to a kindergarten through fifth-grade school.

As such, "we will have three elementary schools in Farragut," White said, adding the new school also will be K-5.

"We will add third through fifth grade, and the same thing for the intermediate," she said, explaining the interme-

See REZONING on Page 3A


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Legal
From page 1A

nette, who voted against the motion along with Alderman Joey Ruffalo. "Redoing everything, to me, seems like it could be a huge waste of money and time without specific drivers for those changes."

Meanwhile, Vice Mayor Greg Wiberley, Alderman Larry Segrest and Cain voted in favor of the motion.

"This is something that has never been done in the Town since 1980," said Cain, who added he had talked with the Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service about the issue. "When I came on board, I asked David [Smoak, Town administrator], and I had many discussions about it.

"And I'd like to see what's out there, what's available from different law firms, including Kramer Rayson [current Town attorney Tom Hale's law firm], so I'm going to ask for the staff to start to put together the process to putting out that RFQ," Cain said.

"Based on that, what action are you asking for the Board tonight to take on any of this?" Ruffalo asked.

"All we can do tonight is we can discuss it, and I can ask the staff to start putting that together. They can come present it to us and we'll have to vote on it," Cain answered.

"How would something like this affect active cases and cost of counsel changes?" Ruffalo asked.

"Somebody else would just have to take over and get up to speed," Hale replied. "There's no prohibition about it, and it would partly be affected, I guess, you've talked about cost.

"That would be part of the process of the qualifications review, part of the criteria," he said. "And it would either be more or less the same, depending on who you picked."

Hale has been the Town's attorney for about 29 years. He came to represent Farragut through his early work alongside the Town's original attorney, David Rodgers, who was with Kramer Rayson. When Rodgers retired in the late 1990s, Hale formally applied for the position.

Burnette questioned the need to seek qualifications from other law firms without first identifying shortcomings in the Town's current legal representation.

"Clearly, we're not voting on anything tonight, but I just have some thoughts I'd like to throw out," Burnette said. "I'd like for us to think what are we looking for that we don't already have, from an experience standpoint, whether it's municipal experience, open meetings, records, land use experience, litigation?"

Burnette also noted Board members typically turn to Hale when legal questions or issues arise.

"So, I would ask have we gone to Tom, have you gone and asked hard questions?" Burnette asked. "If you don't get the answers, you go to the next person up, which would probably be David, and have a group meeting.

"What's the issue that we have?" he added.

Wiberley said the review is part of a broader effort to examine Town contracts.

"This isn't a forum for evaluating past performance, but I think you've noticed over the past couple BOMA meetings, several of us have questioned contracts that the Town has entered into," Wiberley said. "So, we're reviewing lots of contracts now … we're going to try to evaluate everything that the Town is doing to make sure your money is spent correctly."

Cain said reviewing existing agreements is a responsibility of the Board.

Coming in as mayor, "I think it's a natural process to look at [performance]," Cain said. "It's part of our civic duty to look at all the different processes, contracts and agreements that we have."

Smoak cautioned that conducting the RFQ process would require considerable staff time.

"It's not something that's on the staff's program and plan for this year," Smoak said. "It's a lot of effort to go through a process like this. I just want to make sure there's clear consensus from the Board that this is what you want the staff to do is go through the RFQ process."

Burnette said while the Board is questioning past Town decisions, it should answer several questions before committing staff time and taxpayers' money to the RFQ process.

Board questions need for immediacy of CLUP update

Tammy Cheek
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Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen members were divided on whether they should update the Comprehensive Land Use Plan at this time during a workshop and the meeting that followed on Thursday, Nov. 12.

Ultimately, the Board appointed the following to the steering committee at the CLUP meeting: Farragut Municipal Planning Commission Chairman Noah Myers, Visual Resources Review Board Chairman Marty Layman, Board of Zoning Appeals Chairman Keith Alley and Parks & Athletics Council Chairman Derek Wright, as well as five citizen members, Kimberlie Parks, Phil Trewhitt, Trevor McQueen, Stacey Walters and Michael Wilson.

South Ward Alderman Drew Burnette passed on the action.

"We don't know if we're going to push forward with the CLUP," he said. "I'm just wondering if we're doing this out of order."

North Ward Alderman Joey Ruffalo said the Board can already decide to appoint a committee and give them a task later.

Mayor Alex Cain suggested deferring the appointment to the Thursday, Dec. 10 meeting.

"I think we're just trying to move the process along if the Board wants to move it along," Town administrator David Smoak said.

"I know this process was done a certain way before, but I certainly would like to look at different ways of doing it this time," Vice Mayor Greg Wiberley said during the workshop. So, "is there really a timeline to doing this plan that's required?" he asked.





Tammy Cheek

Left to right: Resident Kimberlie Parks tells Board members the Town does not need a Comprehensive Land use update. Town Community Development director Mark Shipley explained the process for updating the Comprehensive Land Use Plan during the Thursday, Nov. 12, Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen workshop.

"Not a legal timeline, no," Community Development director Mark Shipley said.

Wiberley also questioned whether the Board could continue with its existing plan.

During the meeting, North Ward Alderman Lawrence Segrest suggested waiting 12 to 18 months to concentrate on the updates.

"Farragut does not need a land use plan right now, so I'm proposing to press the pause button," Segrest said. "What we need is traffic fixed … the TSW contract doesn't address this."

Wiberley suggested establishing subcommittees of that steering committee, with one subcommittee focusing on traffic.

"Volunteers are free, so why are we spending $100,000 without doing our homework ahead of time?" Wiberley asked. "At some point we get stuck, we can still call in a consultant, but why do that on the front end?"

"We need consultants to do this exact thing," South Ward Alderman Drew Burnette said. "This is literally exactly why they exist, for towns like ours who don't have full amenities like large cities have," he said. "We do not have the ability to do it on our own."

While Shipley agreed having traffic subcommittee was

See CLUP on Page 4A



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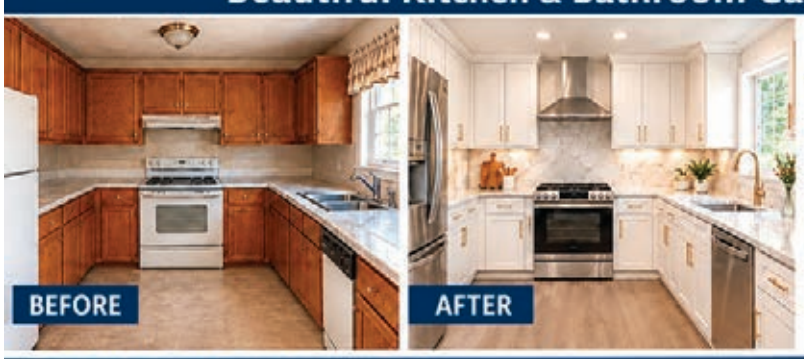
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Rezoning

From page 1A

diate school will add kindergarten through the second grades.

"We'll have to have furniture readjustments," White noted. "The library department has been planning for this.

"Once they announced this a couple years ago, they've already been working to build up our library collection to reflect a K through 5 library," she said.

"I think it's a great opportunity for our community," White said. "I encourage everybody to go [to the public meetings].

"There's also an email [rezoning@knoxschools.org] where people can submit questions to," she added. "It was provided by the district."

Still, "it will be a change," White said about FPS going to a kindergarten-through fifth-grade school.

"We've been a primary school since 1971," White said. "For us, for the primary building, we'll get a lot of the kids that were here as kindergartners, first- and second-graders."

Regarding how the changes will affect the school's enrollment numbers, she responded, "We don't know yet until they make the proposal. Depending on which proposal they go with will depend on what our numbers look like."

Currently, the school has 932 students as of Nov. 12.

With the rezoning and new school, White said the numbers are projected to be a little lower than 932, but "there's so much construction with homes and apartments … we'll just see who shows up at the door, and we'll welcome everybody."

However, she understands the changes should help with overcrowding at the primary and intermediate schools.

TSW

From page 1A

bers of what we've spent so far," Town administrator David Smoak replied.

Three Board members expressed disappointment with the first proposed master plan for the 70-acre McFee Road park property, presented by Tunnell, Spangler, Walsh & Associates, known as TSW, at an Oct. 22 public meeting at McFee Park.

"There are concerns that citizen concerns are not being taken seriously," Wiberley said. "The design is more urban than natural, which ignores what the majority of citizens want for that land.

"So, I think it's worth discussing on whether we should proceed down this path we're going or do something different," he added.

Bob Greenshields, a resident whose property is adjacent to the park property, said he wants to see the park remain natural and the forest preserved. He suggested placing the road near the railroad tracks and locating any park buildings away from residential homes.

Another resident, Kimberlie Parks, said the Town does not need a master plan for the park.

"I can say, when we had that meeting at McFee [Park] with the residents and [TSW] put their first concept out there, I was really surprised at it," Mayor Alex Cain said.

"I don't think the consultant really took into account any of what the people wanted," he said. "I think maybe we need to discuss a different path on how we're going to do this."

Ruffalo added that the amenities "were not discussed at any of the meetings I went to.

"If we can wait, if we don't have to do anything, we can leave it more nature right now …," he added.

Although Ruffalo favors having a master plan, he questioned at what point the Board should hold TSW responsible for responding to the Town's wishes.

However, Burnette defended the consultants and reminded Board members that what TSW presented was only its first concept and was subject to change.

"We are jumping on a team at the beginning of this process," he said. "You all are wanting the end result. That's not how this works. You have five, 10 iterations of a project."

Town attorney Tom Hale defended the park purchase, saying, "This is probably one of the better deals that has ever been put together by the Town."

However, Wiberley said the purchase was not presented as a future urban park but as a natural one.

One of the biggest criticisms of the proposed concept is a road planned through the park.

As part of the purchase, the Town agreed to provide a 50-foot roadway easement through the park from McFee Road to the western boundary to provide vehicular access to adjacent privately owned land, according to Wiberley.

"The easement was to be included in the design of the master plan that was to be developed by the Town at a later date by its contractor," he added.

As currently designed, "it would be heavily used if a housing development was put behind it, and there would be limited ability by the Town to mitigate speeding … and to restrict access to the park," Wiberley said, adding that it also would expose park users, especially children, to traffic.

"The thing that stuck out to me was that road went right through the middle of [the park] and that it was going to connect to eventually, possibly [a development] in Loudon County," Cain said. "When I talked to the consultant about it, it fell on deaf ears.

"Since that meeting, I've received 38 emails from that area," the mayor said, adding that residents wanted "a lot of nature."

While Burnette said he also wanted the road on the south side of the property, he was told, "It's coming … it takes time."

"I think it is a grave error not doing anything," he said. "I think not doing a master plan hurts the Town, hurts the residents and it puts us in a terrible spot.

"One, we want to have full control over where the road goes," Burnette said.

"We don't have to do anything right this moment, but at some point, we will have to have a master plan that will provide a place where we want to put our road," Hale agreed.

Secondly, "we want our parks and our Town to get every single grant we can get … you cannot do the vast majority of these grants [without a master plan]," Burnette said.

"We don't have to do anything," Segrest said. "I don't think TSW has done what they said they were going to do, what they're supposed to do, which is take our input."





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Season

From page 1A

by the Farragut High School drum line," she said.

"The display features more than 200,000 lights, which will shine through Dec. 31, offering families, friends and neighbors a place to enjoy the season all month long," O'Malley said.

The holiday spirit extends into Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza, where from Tuesday, Nov. 24, through Thursday, Dec. 31, Campbell Station Skate and the Holiday Tree Village invite the community to join the Light the Park fun at the Plaza. "The Holiday Tree Village features 30 trees decorated by local nonprofits, churches, schools and organizations, a beautiful and community-oriented addition to the Light the Park display," O'Malley said.

New to the holiday lineup, the plaza also will feature the Winter Market from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday Dec. 12.

"The Visit Farragut team is so excited to bring the Winter Market to the heart of Town," said Hallie Reid, Visit Farragut tourism manager. "This will be a fun event that highlights local makers and artists, and a great place to grab a gift or two for your artsy friends and family members." To learn more, or participate as a vendor, email visitfarragut@townoffarragut.org

Also, for the fifth year, Farragut High School Parent Teacher Organization will have 45 to 50 floats and other participants celebrating the holidays with the Christmas Parade and Santa's Village from 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6, rain or shine, with the parade starting at 4 p.m.

Three hundred spectators are expected.

Organized by Stephanie Thompson, Julie Goodrich and Toni Scott, the parade begins at Faith Lutheran Church. It travels along Jamestowne Boulevard and enters Village Green Shopping Center, across from President's Drive, and finally ends at the Campbell Station Inn. Santa's Village will be held at Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza along Kingston Pike and North Campbell Station Road.

"Vendors and food trucks will be set up for the event at the Campbell Station Inn property," Town Community Development director Mark Shipley said in Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen's Thursday, Nov. 12, meeting. "The community center will be closed on Dec. 6 to allow event organizers to use the parking area for parade parking and staging."

"Each year the event has grown," Thompson stated in the event application. "It was started and is continued by a passionate group of volunteers who want Farragut to have a Christmas parade and vendor/craft area.

"We are not a fundraiser and operate only on sponsorship donations and volunteer hours," she stated.

"I just want to recognize Julie Goodrich, Stephanie Thompson and Toni Scott," South Ward Alderman Drew Burnette said during the Nov. 12 Board meeting. "What you all have done for this community and this Christmas parade, I don't think I can put into words what it means, how it's grown, and I think this year will be the biggest.

"The work the three of you have done is just phenomenal," he added.

"Farragut Parks & Recreation has even more family fun in store with a season full of holiday programs, all held at the Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd.," O'Malley said. "It all starts from 4:30 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 3, with Celebrate the Season, a Farragut family favorite that includes photos with Santa, cookie decorating, crafts and light refreshments.

"We are very excited to offer such a wide variety of events this holiday season, and we are looking forward to seeing our community members come out and make memories with us," said Rachel Malone, interim Parks & Recreation director and recreation and event manager.

Then Thursday, Dec. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m., teams of all ages can compete in the Gingerbread House Competition. "Participants will build a gingerbread house together and vie for top honors in 'People's Choice' voting on social media," O'Malley said. "The cost is $10 per team of up to four participants and $5 for each additional team member. "All supplies will be provided, but space is limited. Teams can register for the Gingerbread House Competition online," she said.

With more to come, adults and teens ages 16 and up can enjoy Holiday Ornament Craft Night from 6 to 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 11, in the community center.

"The evening offers a variety of trendy ornament projects, light refreshments and the chance to meet new people, and all skill levels are welcome," O'Malley said.

The cost is $8 per participant, and preregistration is required. Crafters can register for the Holiday Ornament Craft Night online.

Additionally, parents can get their shopping done or take a few hours to relax during 'Twas the Night with No Parents from 5 to 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 18.

"Children ages 6 to 12 will enjoy food, games and crafts at the community center for $10 per child," she said.

Spaces are limited, and families can register online for 'Twas the Night with No Parents.

Finally, the season wraps up Thursday, Dec. 31, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with New Year's at Noon.

"Families can ring in the New Year at an easier time of day with crafts, NYE snacks and photo ops," O'Malley said.

For more information on holiday events in Farragut, visit townoffarragut.org and visitfarragut.org/events.

CLUP

From page 2A

a good idea, he added, "I also think it's important, as a planner, to hear thoughts on the kind of land uses people would like to see as the Town builds out.

"You have to do that in coordination with transportation.

"And, "I think it's important to update it sooner than later because we have people who are going to be requesting rezoning," Shipley said.

"You can't just drag that out forever, and you do need an expert, in my opinion, to help work with staff, subcommittees and citizens."

Former Mayor Ron Williams said postponing the CLUP update would hamstring the Town staff "if you put all of it on them at one time. You'd have to hire more people. With Mark retiring, this is going to be tough to begin with … so the land use study does need to be looked at."

During the workshop, Shipley explained the CLUP is simply a guide, not regulatory while Town attorney Tom Hale said the state TCA 13-4-201 requires the Planning Commission to adopt a general plan in some fashion for land use.

As such, Shipley said the Town's Comprehensive Land Use Plan is that general plan. He said it is used to help guide future growth and development.

In other action, the Board appointed Smoak as a Town representative to begin negotiations toward a settlement through legal counsel.

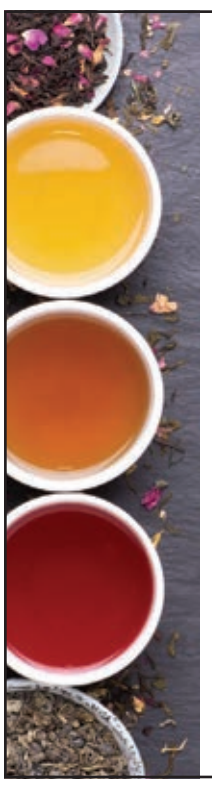
"The Town of Farragut has been involved in an ongoing legal dispute regarding future improvements along Turkey Creek Road," Smoak said.

"This discussion would be for the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to select a representative.

"Any proposed settlement agreement that is potentially reached would be required to be brought back to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to be voted upon," he said.

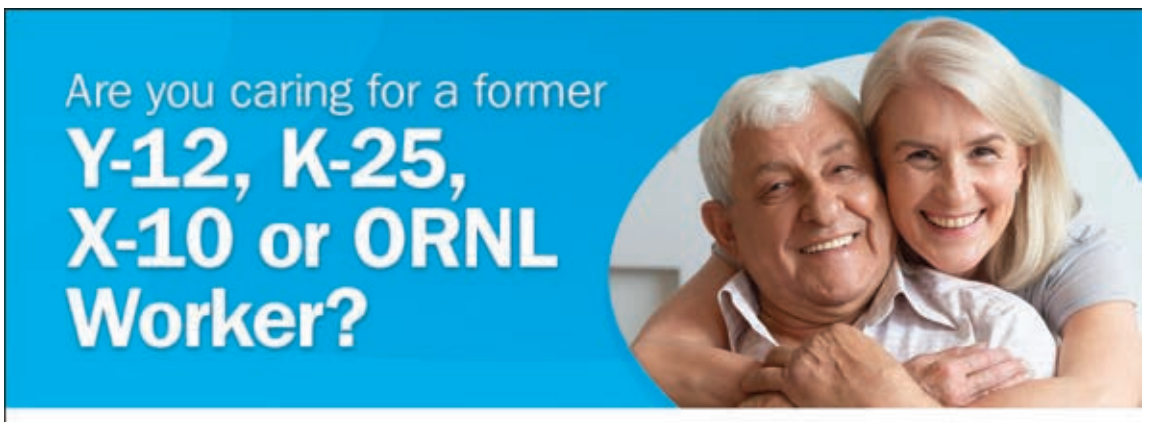
The lawsuit to which he referenced concerns the Shirley Harkins property and eminent domain.

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Deadline for Letters to the Editor and Presstalks is Monday at 10 a.m. for that Wednesday's edition.

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

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

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

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40 years of building business connections



Julie Blaylock

Tammy Cheek
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Looking at 2027, Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce will be observing its 40th year of existence.

As such, FWKCC president/CEO Julie Blaylock updated Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen with an overview of the organization at the Board's meeting Thursday, Nov. 12.

"I am a bit excited because, if you didn't know in 2027 we turn 40 years old as a Chamber of Commerce since our 1987 founding," she said. "We just completed in record time our anniversary updated logo."

On its logo, the Chamber's mission is: "To strengthen, promote and create business opportunities through relationships and education that encourage member success."

Blaylock shared the Chamber's five value sets, which were developed 10 years ago: "Number one, we do the right thing; when we make a mistake, we take accountability and we make things right.

"Number two, we do the best we can with whatever resources we have," she said. "Number three, we take care of and protect our resources and our business members to the best of our ability.

"Number four, inclusion for us means we welcome dissent," Blaylock said. "In our board room, within our membership, we think conflicting ideas in a healthy manner actually make us better.

"Number five, enterprising, we try to be creative; we try to be forward-thinking just like our business owners.

"We lean on them hard every single day," Blaylock said about the value sets.

"I was impressed with the things you believe in and I was more impressed that you're passionate about it, and it came through," North Ward Alderman Lawrence Segrest said.

"We were founded in 1987, in part, by Mayor Bob Leonard, whom I had the honor of meeting the year before he passed

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businessbriefs

• Star Powersports, 8422 Kingston Pike, is organizing a downtown event with The Motorcycle Inn. In partnership with The Motorcycle Inn, Star Powersports is organizing an Aprilia X 250GP unveiling from 6 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 19, at The Station, 213 W. Jackson Ave., Knoxville. Cocktail attire is requested.

• Girl Scouts of Southern Appalachians recently named Allen C. Rippetoe as its new chief financial officer. Rippetoe will lead the council's finances and joins the organization ahead of the retirement of Ann Wallace, who retires at the end of the year.

• Parkwest Medical Center and Peninsula Behavioral Health, both part of Covenant Health, will host the 8th Annual Survivors of Suicide Loss Day to provide a space of healing and support for individuals and families who have lost a loved one to suicide.

The free event will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Nov. 21, and registration is available at covenanthealth.com/parkwest/survivors-of-suicide-loss-day

Anyone wanting to attend also can call 865-374-7275 to register. The gathering of support will take place at Parkwest Medical Center, 9352 Park West Blvd.

The keynote speaker will be Eileen Vorbach Collins, a native of Baltimore and author of "Love in the Archives, a Patchwork of True Stories About Suicide Loss." Collins lost her 15-year-old daughter Lydia to suicide in 1999. She will lead the group through some writing activities, illustrating how she channeled her grief. Additional speakers include Matt Webb, Megan Lappas, Nina Johnston and Laurel Proulx.

• With the Nov. 20 recruitment deadline coming up, tnAchieves is calling upon community members to register as a mentor in the coming year. More than 1,500 volunteers are still needed statewide, and there remains a significant need in the East region.

Counties with outstanding need in the East Tennessee region include: Knox County with 174 mentors needed; Blount County, 63 mentors needed; Loudon County, 21 mentors needed; and Monroe County, 19 mentors needed.

After registering, new mentors complete mentor training, handbook and the critical resources needed for success. Those who are interested can learn more and register at tnAchieves.org/mentors.

• Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union presented a $100,000 donation to Second Harvest

See BRIEFS on Page 6A

A new pilates move for Farragut

Tammy Cheek
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Tammy Cheek

Kayla Logue, right, JETSET Pilates co-owner, joins her mother and co-owner, Carole Logue, and business/life partner Ben Knight, at a kick-off class on Saturday at Ace Pickleball Club in preparation for the opening of JETSET Pilates West Knoxville in early 2027.

Farragut area residents got a preview of what JETSET Pilates West Knoxville has to offer at a pop-up mat Pilates class Saturday, Nov. 14, hosted in Farragut's Ace Pickleball Club in preparation for JETSET's upcoming opening in winter 2027 at 11369 Parkside Drive in Pinnacle at Turkey Creek.

"We will open early next year," said Kayla Logue, JETSET co-owner with her parents, Carole and Matt Logue, and business and life partner, Ben Knight. "We don't have an exact date yet, but it will be January, February, with construction starting in the next week or two.

"We're so excited," Kayla said. "We can't wait to build an amazing community here.

"My family has lived here [in Farragut] for 10-plus years, so this is an easy extension," she added. "My partner [Ben] and have two studios in Charlotte, North Carolina, with three or four on the way, but this is our first flagship location in Knoxville [area] with my parents."

They chose Turkey Creek because "we're very familiar with Turkey Creek," Kayla said. "There's a lot of traffic. The Pinnacle has been wonderful to work with. They're really excited about us coming.

"JETSET is more of a modern Pilates concept," she said. "We have more of a modern reformer [class] that is customized specifically for the JETSET workout. We have over 200-plus exercises that we can do on a reformer with multiple variations."

It provides high-intensity, low impact reformer

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**AUM Calculated As Of 09/30/2026*

Years

From page 5A

away, and also by several business owners," Blaylock said, adding some of those businesses still are in operation.

Some of the Charter businesses include: Apple Cake Tea Room, farragutpress, First Utility District, Matlock Tire Service, Pellissippi State Community College, Regions Bank, which in 1987 was Union Planters Bank, and TDS Telecom.

"We spend a lot of time educating people on what a Chamber is and what a Chamber does because most actually don't know," Blaylock said. She noted a lot of Chambers operate differently.

FWKCC operates on a $505,609 budget.

"We operate on a fiscal year schedule with a 26/27 budget," she explained. "Currently, $85,000 or 16.8% comes from municipal support.

"We employ just three full-time and one part-time staff handling daily operations, bookkeeping, 100-plus events and programs, all social media content and requests for information," Blaylock added.

"The one thing that we really try to drive home in terms of what we intend to be is a problem solution center, a resource and a hub for connection," she said. "The blessing of being a Chamber of Commerce is that people think you know everything and that you can do everything.

"What we do like is that when people ask us questions or ask us for solutions to problems, we know somebody," Blaylock said. "So we have a broad network we can leverage and get the answer."

She noted Chambers are not bound by geography.

"Legally, we have to let every single business who wants to participate join and become part of the Chamber," Blaylock said.

Within the FWKCC, it has 28 percent Farragut businesses, 61 percent Knoxville/Knox County — not Farragut — and 11 percent businesses from other areas, such as Sevierville and Maryville. The largest member employees are Dolly Parton Children's Hospital, EDFinancial, Covenant Parkwest Medical Center, Knoxville Utilities Board, PSCC and Regions Bank.

However, the bulk of its members are small businesses, Blaylock said.



Tammy Cheek

Kayla Logue leads a class at JETSET Pilates.

Pilates

From page 5A

classes in 50 minutes, Kayla added.

"So, it's a very challenging workout," she said. "There's a super-strong emphasis on core strengthening and stability with every single movement in JETSET, and a full-body experience.

While hours have not been finalized, she said JETSET will be open seven days a week.

For more information, visit online at westknoxville@jetsetpilates.com or visit on Instagram on its handle, Jetset Pilates West Knoxville.

Briefs

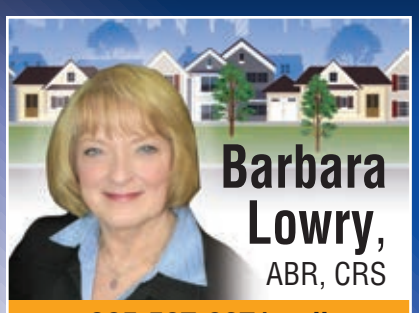
From page 5A

Food Bank of East Tennessee on Monday, Nov. 9, to support its Harvesting Hope program. The initiative provides fresh, locally grown food to adults, seniors and children in this region who face food insecurity.

Through Harvesting Hope, Second Harvest purchases food directly from East Tennessee farmers and livestock producers to distribute to families and individuals in need. The program helps support local farmers while providing nutritious food to communities throughout East Tennessee.

• René Yanes, a bilingual U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-certified housing counselor at the Knoxville Area Urban League, earned the Rising Star Award at the National Urban League's 2026 Whitney M. Young, Jr. Leadership Conference.

Yanes received the award in October during the conference in Brooklyn, New York. The national recognition celebrates emerging leaders making a meaningful impact in the housing field.

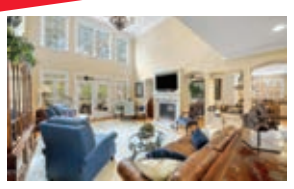

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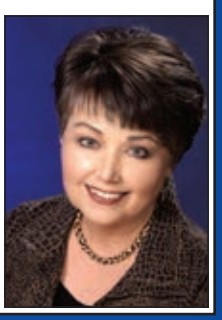
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Historic CCS season ends in state quarterfinals



Jake Nichols

Concord Christian senior Reece Franklin (22) hugs teammate Roman Hogrefe (13) after the Lions' loss.

Jake Nichols
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Steve Matthews stood on the hash mark of the 18-yard line, his visible breath swirling with a bittersweet note in the frigid November air.

His Concord Christian team had just come three points shy of a state semifinal berth, falling 45-42 to Friendship Christian in the Lions' first appearance in the Division II-AA quarterfinals — and doing so in just their second season of TSSAA football, no less.

So even with the tears being shed in front of him, Matthews wanted to remind his team just how far it had come.

"We were this close," he told his team on Friday, Nov. 13. "Three points away. But I want to tell you this: I'm proud of you. Personally, I don't know if I've ever had as much fun coaching a group of players as I have with you guys. I absolutely love this football team."

That love remained clear moments later, as players and coaches shared hugs to mourn the end of an 8-4 campaign — Concord's best in program history.

Of those four losses, three came in the first six games. After that, CCS reeled off a 5-1 record that featured 40 or more points in five of those contests. The most dominant victory was a 56-7 romp over Chattanooga Grace, as CCS bludgeoned its Senior Night opponent before beating Fayette Academy 49-21 for the first playoff win in school history.

Days later, against Friendship Christian, the path would not be quite as easy.

Freshman quarterback Dylan Brown punched in the game-opening score on a keeper, but FCS knotted things at 7 before taking the lead on a fourth-down run for a touchdown.

CCS responded with a score from Maurice Smith, one of his two touchdowns on a night when he ran for 170 yards on 13 carries.

The Lions held the Commanders to a field goal at the half, as FCS took a 17-14 lead into the break before stretching the advantage to 10 early in the third quarter.

Still, CCS was not fazed. Passes to Todd Lundy and Dasani Moulden set up another score for Smith, and Concord's defense came through to return possession to Matthews' squad. They answered with a 99-yard touchdown drive capped by an Alistair Middlebrook go-ahead touchdown, and Moulden zigzagged his way for another go-ahead score to keep the shootout going.

"He's obviously a spe-

See CCS on Page 3B



Photo courtesy of the Underwood family

Reese Underwood has attended Bearden basketball game since she was an infant. Now, she will suit up for the Dawgs under the watch of her father and coach, Justin Underwood.

Dad's lessons, daughter's drive

Underwoods enjoy basketball bloodline

Jake Nichols
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Justin Underwood has worn several different hats throughout his life.

He was a practice player under Pat Summitt for the Lady Vols. He's a title-winning coach for the Bearden Lady Bulldogs. Most importantly, he is a proud husband and father.

That final role has led to Underwood's newest occupation: driving instructor.

Reese Underwood, a freshman on Bearden's squad, has been taking driving lessons from her dad.

And before Reese steps behind the wheel of the Lady Bulldogs' offense, she has taken several of his coaching points in the car.

"He definitely tells me what I do wrong because I'm not the best at parking, but other than that, he's a good driving teacher," she said with a chuckle. "He tells me what I did well and what I need to work on."

"It has to be a little more quickly and more serious in that situation, as we're trying not to hit an obstacle," Justin added. "It's a different kind of control in letting go of that."

Underwood must relinquish control on the floor now, too, as Reese and other guards begin this season without longtime ball handler Natalya Hodge

A former Miss Basketball finalist, Hodge shook defenses with no-look passes and step-back jumpers that earned a

See DRIVE on Page 3B

Warriors soaring into state semifinals

Jake Nichols
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The Christian Academy of Knoxville defense leaped toward the sideline, celebrating its fourth-down stop last Friday, Nov. 13.

A few plays later, junior quarterback Seaton Moffett strolled into the end zone to put the Warriors up 7-0 after the PAT.

The stop and the score set the tone for the night, as CAK jumped out to a 21-0 lead en route to a 42-14 victory over visiting Evangelical Christian School in the Division II-AA quarterfinals. With the win, CAK advances to the state semifinals for the first time since 2012. Also, it will be the Warriors' first semifinal berth since joining Division II-AA in 2017 and marks the first semifinal berth of the Chad Speck era, too.

"Obviously it's been a really fun year," Speck said of his squad, which is 11-1 and tied for its best record since 2020. "We've got a group that plays together and stays together. They play for each other and don't care who gets the credit. By land or by air, we'll get it done."

The statistics reflected that approach, as CAK racked up 42 points in just 38 offensive snaps, per Speck.

"We made explosive plays

See WARRIORS on Page 3B

Local teams hitting the hardwood



Jake Nichols

Farragut's Connor Everley is one of multiple experienced returners for the Admirals in 2026.

Jake Nichols
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High school hoops are underway this week across the area, as both Farragut teams took the floor Tuesday night, Nov. 17, against Alcoa in a pair of Hall of Fame matchups to begin the season.

At Bearden, both Bulldog squads will open their 2026 campaign Thursday, Nov. 19, against Brad Cochran's Con-

See TEAMS on Page 3B







Jake Nichols

Longtime teammates and friends Hallie Grace Johnson, left, and Rylee Raby.

FHS teammates, friends to become future foes

Jake Nichols
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Wednesday, Nov. 11, marked a day of transition for the Farragut High School softball program — and two players in particular.

Along with 10 other Farragut seniors, Hallie Grace Johnson and Rylee Raby signed their National Letters of Intent to play college softball at UT-Chattanooga and Chattanooga State, respectively.

But in scratching their names across the dotted line, the pair acknowledged they will take the field apart from one another — and even against each other — next season.

They have been friends since before they played together at Concord Christian in middle school. But it was not until that point, with Johnson already developing as a pitcher, that Raby stepped behind the plate.

"It's crazy to see the development, I guess," Raby said. "She has pretty much always pitched, but I didn't become a catcher until middle school, when we needed a catcher and needed someone who could handle catching her."

"She was always my throwing partner and would be able to catch me, so they were like, 'Can you please catch?'" Johnson added. "So she started catching."

Their bond has only continued at Farragut, where each player has occupied the same position through four years of high school.

For Raby, that path has led to her emergence as an All-State catcher, where she batted .455 as a junior with a .996 fielding percentage and 223 put-outs.

Meanwhile, Johnson batted .441 as a junior with an 0.82 ERA and 208 strikeouts.

During each one, they played together, Johnson and Raby would communicate almost instinctively.

"It's been awesome, and all the years have really meant a lot. We have developed such a bond," Raby said. "We don't really need to communicate much on the field. I know what she's feeling, what pitches to call. Our communication is so good."

"She is always my energy behind the plate, so if I'm having a bad day, I can always count on her to be the constant," Johnson added. "That's something that's really important to me, to have someone I can trust and rely on."

Johnson and Raby honed that bond throughout the travel circuit, facing the best competition in the country throughout the summer.

"That is really great for both of us, and we spend a lot of time together, which is really fun," Johnson said.

Their softball friend group spends quality time together off the field, too, going bowling and watching movies.

Next year, that bond will undoubtedly continue for two players who will be 15 minutes apart. But on the field, things will look a bit different.

"It will definitely be different," Johnson said. "Other than our high school and travel teammates, I don't think I've ever had another catcher on the field with me. And I'm really excited about Chatt. I know my catcher already and want to work to build that bond with her, but it's probably not going to be the same, to be honest."

Concord's Hall headed to Arizona State

Jake Nichols
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Jake Nichols

Concord Christian's Landon Hall, second from left, signed last Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Annie Abraham remembers when Landon Hall first mentioned his goal of swimming in the Olympics.

"When I first met him," the Concord Christian swimming coach said of Hall, "he told me he was going."

Now Hall is one step closer to making that dream a reality, having signed last Wednesday, Nov. 11, with an Arizona State swim program that has produced a slew of All-Americans and Olympians in its storied history.

"They've got a really great program, and it feels like they are all connected there. It's sort of a family and seems like a really special place," Hall said. "Extremely excited to see what I can do there and what we can do as a team. I'm excited to see if I can be their next big swimmer."

Hall's connection to ASU came via Jack Little, an Arizona State assistant who previously coached Hall with Tennessee Aquatics two years ago.

"I was the first call he made," Hall said of Little. "It meant everything because I love him as a coach, and to know I was his first option meant a lot.

"Coaches can make or break a swimmer," Abraham added, reinforcing the importance of Hall's relationship with Little. "It changes the whole aspect of swimming. And if you are really connected to and comfortable with your coach, it helps you excel more."

Hall noted the Sun Devils appreciate his versatility in the pool, as he is not limited to one specific event.

"I haven't ever really specialized in a single event," he said. "I've tried to stay the best I can in every event to keep my options open."

That helped push Hall on to Arizona State, as his signing is one of three Division I signings in Concord Christian history, according to CCS athletic director Colton Sweet.

"I think the big part is a testament to how hard Landon has worked and how successful our swim program is," he said. "To go to Arizona State, a top-10 program in the country, it's an incredible opportunity. He is electric and is a fantastic athlete."

Hall has fulfilled that description throughout his career, finishing third place in the state as a sophomore before landing runner-up as a junior. Now, before directing his eyes toward Arizona State and the Olympics, he's hoping to end his senior year with a state title.

"I can't wait," Hall said. "I was second last year and third my sophomore year and I hope this year to be first."

Braden, Hammock ready to lead CAK

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com



Jake Nichols

CAK seniors Maddie Braden, left, and Lexi Hammock hope to lead the Warriors to a state title this season to finish off their careers.

There is a common phrase used among teams with several talented players: "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

Nowhere is that more true than Christian Academy of Knoxville, where seasoned veterans Maddie Braden and Lexi Hammock form one of the most dynamic duos in East Tennessee.

Braden scored her 1,000th point as a sophomore at CAK, while Hammock checked the same mark off her list in January of this year.

Ten months later, on Wednesday, Nov. 11, they signed their National Letters of Intent together: Braden to Belmont and Hammock to Tusculum.

Now, after battling injuries last season, they are ready to lead the Warriors together as seniors.

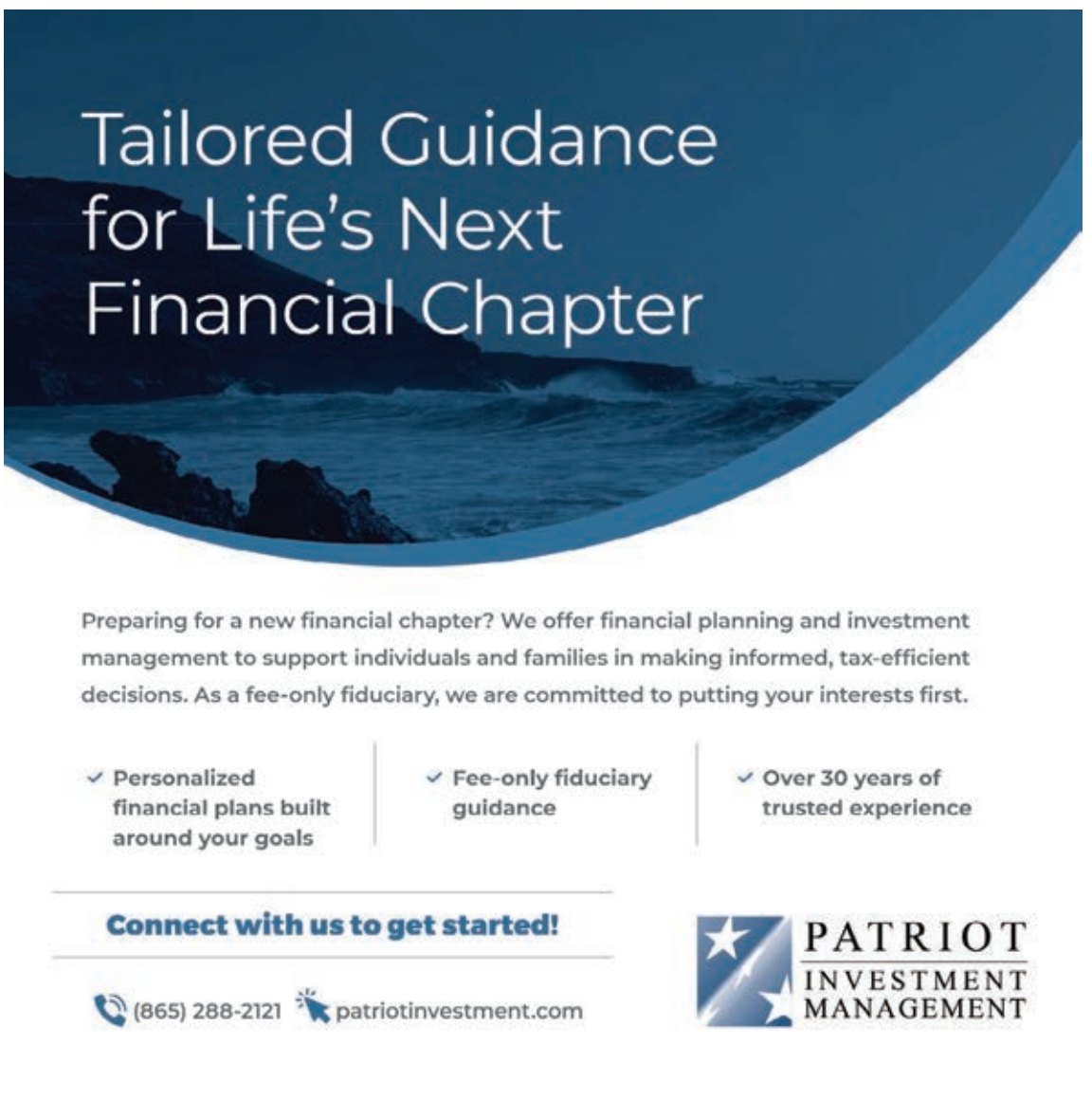
"The injuries for both of them held them back some, so I'm excited to see what healthy Maddie and Lexi together look like," CAK coach Abby Williams said. "That, to me, is the piece that people don't realize. They were good together last year.

"But I think there is a whole other level when they are healthy together. And they have the same goal, to be playing for a state championship in March. And they know they

See CAK on Page 3B







Warriors
From page 1B

and scored quickly, and our defense gave us short fields to work with," he said.

Sophomore running back Isaac Kannah racked up 112 yards on 11 carries with two touchdowns last Friday, continuing a strong second-year campaign.

"He's a special back growing into his body," Speck said. "Really hard to tackle, great balance."

Defensively, Sawyer Anderson led the Warriors with 18 total tackles while Dylann Riley had 15, including three tackles for loss and a sack. Bennett Jelks made two tackles, but he broke up one pass and snagged a pair of game-changing picks, too.

"We have a lot of weapons in Seaton, Isaac, Sawyer, Baker (Sterchi), but no one cares what their numbers are," Speck said. "And when the guys up front play hard, it gives you a chance to do some special stuff on defense. We are not big, but we will run to the football."

That was true from the jump, as the early fourth down injected momentum the Warriors carried through the rest of the contest.

"That was big," Speck said. "All week long, we told the defense that if they played well, we would have a chance to win. ECS presents a challenge with that single-wing, and they will try to limit your possessions. But we felt like they'd have a hard time stopping us too, so the idea was to get up early and get them out of what they want to do offensively."

The Warriors will look to continue that approach this week, facing Lausanne out of Memphis with a state championship berth on the line. Yet even with so much at stake, CAK's mindset will remain the same.

"We surrender the outcome, stay in the moment and make the most of each day, focusing on what we can control and what we can do," Speck said. "That's been the process and that won't change. It's a big game because it's the next one. We don't look at those external factors; it's about the process and our standard."

CCS
From page 1B

cial talent, especially in the open field," Matthews said of Moulden, who hauled in eight catches for 132 yards and the score. "Wish we could have gotten it to him a little more, but he's got a really bright future."

A 50-yard kick return for FCS and another visiting touchdown put the Commanders up 45-35, yet Concord roared back one more time with a touchdown catch from Amare McKenzie with 1:03 to go. But after an onside kick landed in the arms of a Friendship Christian player, the ensuing kneel-outs signaled the end of the Lions' 2026 campaign.

"Maurice is a sophomore, and the bulk of our offensive line is back," Matthews said. "We were able to move the ball. Have to improve some things, obviously, but did a lot of good things in this game and during the year."

Matthews reinforced the "really good core" that returns for Concord Christian, which loses senior leaders, such as Reece Franklin and Andrew Lumsdaine — yet returns weapons such as Smith, Moulden and Brown, too.

The head coach took a few moments to console his quarterback after the game, encouraging a player who transferred in from California powerhouse Mater Dei to find success in East Tennessee.

Brown's final stat line — 18 completions on 31 attempts for 301 yards and three touchdowns — reflected that growth.

"Proud of him," Matthews said. "As a freshman, to have had the season he did, it's really extraordinary. I think he will only continue to get better."

CAK
From page 2B

need each other and the other nine girls in the program to achieve that goal."

Both All-State selections last season, Braden and Hammock noted how well they complement each other on the floor.

Given their respective outputs, that meshing was not guaranteed when Hammock first arrived as a point guard from Coalfield to start her junior year.

"Lexi moved in here as a junior who came with a lot of success early-on," Williams said. "She had already scored almost 1,000 points in her two years prior to being here, and Maddie had been at the forefront as our leader and in scoring. When you have a lot of dogs, we didn't know what that would look like."

"I think it took a couple weeks for them to really understand, 'This is the best thing that could happen for me.' Maddie knew she needed Lexi and Lexi knew she needed Maddie for us to get there. Because the more we have around us, the better we will be."

That chemistry developed through one-on-one workouts.

As the season progressed, their bond paid off when Hammock would drive the floor and fire a no-look pass to Braden for a 3-pointer.

When asked if they each know where the other person will be, answers came at the same time:

"Absolutely," Hammock said.

Added Braden: "Definitely. 100%."

"I feel like I've never had a true point guard on my team, and Lexi is definitely one," Braden added. "She can make any pass and score at any time, so that's definitely needed on this team. You've always got to be ready because she'll make some crazy pass, and I've got to go finish."

"And I've not played with someone who has an I.Q. like Maddie," Hammock said.

Now, after a Division II-AA state quarterfinal loss last year, the pair is eager to end this short — but worthwhile — partnership on a high note.

Teams
From page 1B

cord Christian teams.

Both Hardin Valley programs faced Halls Tuesday, Nov. 17, and will take on Central two days later while Knoxville Catholic's teams opened against Rhea County Monday, Nov. 16.

The Webb Lady Spartans took on Cocke County Tuesday night while the Spartans faced Hamilton Heights out of Chattanooga.

And at CAK, the Lady Warriors faced Stone Memorial Tuesday night, while the Warriors' first game is not slated until Wednesday, Nov. 25, against Morristown West at Grainger High School.

For more on each squad and what they bring into the 2026-2027 campaign, see our comprehensive Hoops Preview in this week's edition of the farragutpress.

Drive
From page 1B

scholarship from The University of Missouri.

Now, Bearden looks to players like Reese to fill that role.

"With Natalya, she was a high-volume, ball-dominant point guard and was excellent at it," Justin Underwood said. "Reese is a bit more of an old-school point guard, more of a floor general that sets them up, getting the offense in place and running it that way."

That approach comes naturally for Reese. Her mother and Justin's wife, Beth Underwood, played at Farragut before continuing her career at King University.

Pair that with Justin's background, and it's no wonder Reese has developed a sharp competitive nature.

"We're very similar in personality, both ultra-competitive," Justin said. "Sometimes we butt heads, but we have learned how to give each other space. I can see her as the player and as my daughter, I think almost any kid in this particular case sees the coach as the parent — and that's natural. That's a process."

But as that process unfolds, Reese hopes to etch her name right alongside Hodge in Bearden's history books.

She set the West Valley Middle School assist record last winter with 797, and she has her eye set on a similar feat with the Lady Bulldogs.

But before that day arrives, father and daughter are trying to take each moment as it comes.

And one couldn't blame Underwood for trying to throw in a few speed bumps to slow time down, too.

"Reese first attended a game in this gym two weeks after she was born, a region quarterfinal game," he said. "She has literally grown up a Bulldog from the start. It's cool to see her walking these halls and playing on the court that she's watched so many former players play — big sisters to her, really."

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NHC PLACE FARRAGUT

Decades of Fun

NHC Farragut traveled back in time for a fun-filled week celebrating the decades! Residents and staff dressed up each day in styles from the 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s. From poodle skirts and pearls to tie-dye, bell bottoms, and neon, everyone enjoyed showing off their favorite decade. It was a week full of music, laughter, nostalgia, and fun trips down memory lane!













Fall Festivities

NHC Farragut got into the fall spirit with a fun afternoon of pumpkin decorating! Residents enjoyed picking out their perfect pumpkins and letting their creativity shine as they transformed them with their own unique designs and festive touches. From colorful decorations to imaginative creations, each pumpkin reflected the personality and creativity of its decorator. Once finished, all the pumpkins were entered into a friendly contest, giving everyone a chance to show off their hard work and admire each other's creations. A prize was awarded to the winning pumpkin, adding a little extra excitement to the afternoon! It was a wonderful way to celebrate the season, enjoy some hands-on creativity, and share plenty of smiles, laughter, and friendly competition.













Photos submitted

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Chef Alan

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Ads, Dawgs compete as pin pals



Jake Nichols

Farragut High School junior Casin Baumann goes into his delivery for the Bearden High School bowling team (a co-op between FHS and Bearden) on Thursday, Oct. 15, at Western Avenue Strike & Spare.

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Casin Baumann stepped forward, swung his right arm backward and sent a bowling ball spinning toward the pins 60 feet away.

As he went through his routine, the Farragut High School junior wore an outfit not typically seen on an FHS student: a maroon shirt with a Bulldog logo and a Bearden "B" on the chest.

Baumann is one of multiple Farragut students who are part of the Bearden-Farragut bowling team, as players from both schools joined forces last year to compete under the Bearden name.

Contrary to the rivalry existing between the schools in other sports, bowling has become common ground.

"That's what's amazing because they are a team," second-year bowling coach Tracy Webb said. "They work together and do really

See PIN PALS on Page 8B



Paws and Portraits

Farragut students use art to support shelter animals

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

A group of Farragut High School students are using their art to support shelter animals.

The effort started with one student, Joanna Lee, FHS senior, who started the volunteer art project.

"I've been involved with the art project for the past several years," she said.

"I started drawing portraits of animals from Young-Williams Animal Center when I was in middle school," Lee said. "Since then, I've created more than 80 portraits of shelter and foster animals as a way to contribute to my community through something I love doing — art.

"During my junior year, I invited a few friends to join me and started a small volunteer group called Paws and Portraits," she said. "We began visiting the shelter together in February.

"What began as an individual project has gradually grown into an opportunity for other students to use their creativity to support animals in our community," Lee said. "We also share some of our artwork and activities on Instagram (@paws_.and_.portraits).

"Right now, we're a group of six students," Lee said. "We don't sell our artwork. Instead, we create free portraits of dogs and cats available for adoption at Young-Williams, hoping to help them get noticed and find homes."

Having grown up in Farragut and continuing this project throughout both middle and high school, she thought others in the community would be interested in the endeavor.

"We'd love to welcome anyone interested in drawing or creating something for the animals," Lee said. "It's also a way for students who can't volunteer directly at a shelter or be around animals to contribute in their own way."



Top photo by Tammy Cheek / Above photo submitted

Top: A Farragut High School senior started a volunteer art project, which is gaining support of other students, to raise awareness of animals in shelters. **Above:** Farragut High School students involved in Sharing a Student Volunteer Art Project, top row, from left, Sieun Jang, Soyun Kwon, Doyoun Jang and Sophie Park; and front row, Suyeon Son and founder Joanna Lee.

All is Bright to kick off holidays at Pinnacle at Turkey Creek

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

All is Bright, a holiday celebration, is returning to Pinnacle at Turkey Creek to kick off the holidays from 6 to 9 p.m., Friday, Nov. 20, at 11251 Parkside Drive in Knoxville.

The free, family-friendly event, which is open to the public, will feature the center's tree lighting, Santa's arrival, live music and snowfall, along with vendor booths, activities for children and adults and photos with Santa, according to Gaby Walsh, Pinnacle marketing manager.

"Held throughout the open-air center, All Is Bright brings together the moments families look for at the start of the holidays in one night," Walsh stated in a press release. "Guests can watch the tree light up for the season, welcome Santa as he arrives, enjoy live music and experience snowfall in the heart of Turkey Creek."

In addition to the headline moments, she stated guests can browse vendor booths offering unique gifts and treats, take photos with Santa and enjoy activities for children and adults alike.

"Festive lights, holiday music, special giveaways and seasonal surprises will run throughout the evening, and Pinnacle's shops and restaurants will be open for holiday shopping and dining," Walsh stated.

"All Is Bright is how we start the season together at Pinnacle Turkey Creek," she said. "One night gives families the tree lighting, Santa, music and even snow, and it's free for everyone to enjoy. We invite Knoxville to come early, bring

See ALL IS BRIGHT on Page 8B

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Harvesting for Him





Above: AnnaLiese Stevens, left, and Ava Baker pet a goat, which was part of a petting zoo at St. John Neumann Catholic School/Church's Harvesting for Him Festival on the church grounds at St. John Court Sunday, Oct. 18.

Left: Audrey Reynolds joins her son, Dylan, 8, the winner of the Harvesting for Him cake walk.

Photos by Tammy Cheek

FPS Fall Festival





Above: Madison Cook, 4, learns some martial arts kicking moves from Chong Soo, KO world champion at Farragut Primary School's Fall Festival at the school, 509 N. Campbell Station Road, Saturday, Oct. 24.

Right: Kelsey and Cooper Hutson show their Vols spirit during the festival.

Photos by Tammy Cheek

Retired admiral recalls 'rewarding' experience

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Lew Felton was dressed for the occasion.

Sporting a navy tie with anchors on the front, the retired admiral folded his hands together and regaled audience members with various tales from his 35-year career in the U.S. Navy on Veteran's Day as part of the Farragut Museum's monthly History Hour.

"Obviously today is Veteran's Day, so it's a day to honor all veterans," Farragut Museum historic resources coordinator Kristi Vining said Wednesday, Nov. 11. "But obviously in Farragut, we are especially proud of admirals, being named for Adm. David Farragut. So we made a connection earlier in the year, and I reached out and asked if he would speak today."

After a lifetime of experience, the 83-year-old was all too happy to share his journey.

From the Pearl Harbor shipyard to Washington D.C., Vietnam, Australia and even the bottom of the ocean in a submarine, Felton's work took him across the globe.

As he rose through the ranks, Felton designed and maintained ships at shipyards throughout the country.

"All services are broken into two groups: the operational commands and the ones who train, equip, provide and give operators what they need," Felton said. "I was one of the train, equip and provide guys."

One stop in his career included the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, where Felton oversaw projects involving as many as seven nuclear submarine overhauls.

Coincidentally, during his time in Maine, Felton lived in the same building where Adm. David Farragut died in 1870.

And with Farragut's statue standing watch just outside the room where he spoke, Felton addressed a journey that took him even further in knowledge than it did in miles.

After beginning his education in a two-room schoolhouse in Kansas, Felton earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in aerospace engineering. That background and his military service advanced Felton to the pinnacle of his career, which included postgraduate education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

"Really eye-opening for me as a farm kid," Felton said with a smile. "I started in a two-room school house in the eighth grade in the Ozark hills. It's the best thing, probably, to ever happen to me."

But Felton offered a similar sentiment on his wife, Linda, whom he married just four days after he was commissioned.

"And then," he said, "we were off to the races."

Together, the couple traveled wherever Felton's assignments took them — though there were days when "she wouldn't even know where in the world I was," he said.

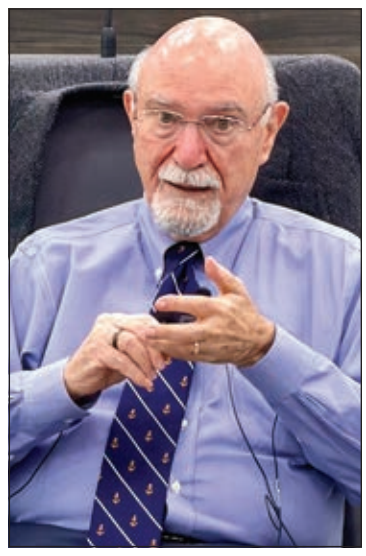
Felton worked on an aircraft carrier right before the Vietnam War, happily taking an assignment as a mine-sweeper rather than flying jets in warfighting.

"We swept a couple things," he said, "that would rattle your teeth when they went off."

Felton found similar thrills in jobs on the U.S.S. John R. Perry, where Felton and his shipmates "had to be ready to go anywhere in the world" on 72 hours' notice.

And while he could not divulge everything about what all he did within each job, Felton did say one thing: "It was exciting."

On board the U.S.S. Gray, a 1,200-pound destroyer, Felton found "another great assignment," he said. "I would take new crew members back to one of the boilers where we'd have the 750-degree steam and lay a sheet of paper on that valve and it would catch fire."



Felton

Yet even with everything he enjoyed throughout his career, Felton and the men he worked alongside felt the familiar tug of home, too.

"We got mail from aircraft flying over, dropping drums that contained letters from family and baked goods," he said. "One that was highly-anticipated were rum-filled chocolate brownies. So we always looked for the drop."

In 1996, after 35 years of service, Felton retired from the Navy and worked at Y-12 in Oak Ridge. Later, he even served as the vice president at Lockheed Martin.

In total, Felton experienced such a full career he admitted to forgetting some aspects as he put together his Veteran's Day speech. But the journey and its lessons remain as close as the navy tie he wore to commemorate the occasion.



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MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

I) Call to Order
II) Approval of Agenda
III) Approval of Minutes
A) October 15, 2026 Minutes
IV) Action Items
A) Discussion and public hearing on a request for approval of a site plan for the commercial portion of the Serenade at Farragut, 421 N. Watt Road, 9.2 Acres, Zoned Neighborhood/Convenience Commercial (NCC)(The Architecture Collaborative, Applicant)
V) Discussion Items
VI) Approval of Utilities
A) Request for approval to install fiber for Comcast along a portion of the west side of Loudoun Road to service 11124 Kingston Pike (NWA Communications, Applicant)
B) Request for approval to install fiber for Comcast from Brooklawn Street at Kingston Pike to Village Commons Boulevard to service 202 Village Commons Boulevard (Comcast, Applicant)
C) Request for approval to install fiber for Comcast along the north side of N. Campbell Station Road north of the entrance into the Overlook Apartments (NWA Communications, Applicant)
VII) Citizens Forum

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

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Pin Pals

From page 6B

well. You'd never know there is such a rivalry between them."

Baumann offered similar thoughts, noting he'd heard only about the rivalry because of the schools' matchups in sports like football and basketball.

"It's been good. I only knew like two Bearden people before this, and all the rest are pretty nice to know," he said.

Clearly the camaraderie has had an effect. The team has grown from 11 players last year to almost 30 this year, playing most matches at Western Avenue Strike & Spare. From that building, Webb has seen considerable growth.

"It is growing, and we have gotten more girls teams than we had last year, too," Webb said. "There are scholarships for bowling more than people know about, so I push that and let people know. The kids help spread the word, too, and we went from 11 bowlers last year to close to 30 this year.

"And last year, out of my 11, nine were beginners, and we still won more than 50% of our matches," she added. "During the offseason, I told them to not stop bowling. And on their own, they have practiced and gotten better and better. I'm proud of them."

The team is one of 10 in its district in Knox County, though Webb noted they are trying to get the Hardin Valley Academy team added, too.

"There's three teams that are really tough — Gibbs, Powell and Carter," Webb explained. "They were the top three last year, and these guys have competed this year. But we have not bowled against those three teams this year, so I'm looking forward to those matches."

Each match brings a certain set of rules, such as the kinds of bowling balls people can use — reactive resin and plastic — as well as the format for each match: two individual games with each team having three players in each lane going head-to-head, then five players bowling two frames each.

Aside from Baumann, two other core competitors on the team have been Maxwell Key, a Bearden sophomore, and John Caprio, a Bearden junior.

Webb noted Key has bowled 200 games consistently and said Caprio "is a natural."

"I try to get them in their technique, where they know how to throw the ball, what they need to be looking at on the lanes, what the target is," she said. "Then spare shooting, too, because nobody gets a strike every time. Just getting to where they can throw the ball consistently every time, and this is something they can learn and enjoy and do the rest of their lives."

All is Bright

From page 6B

the whole family and make it the first memory of the holiday season."

Admission and parking are free. Walsh said the event will be held rain or shine, and guests are encouraged to follow @Pinnacleatturkeycreek on social media for any weather or schedule updates.

Additionally, Story Time with Santa will continue the festivities from 3 to 5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5, in Barnes & Noble, 11334 Parkside Drive.

New this year, Santa will read a favorite Christmas story in three ticketed sessions.

"Each child takes home the storybook, a photo with Santa and treats to enjoy," Walsh said. "This event runs in three 30-minute sessions: 3-3:30 p.m., 3:40-4:10 p.m. and 4:20-4:50 p.m.; so every child gets a close, unhurried story time with Santa. Families are asked to arrive a few minutes before to get situated," she said.

Tickets are $20 per child [$25.32 per ticket at checkout, that includes fees and tax] and adults are free," Walsh said. "Each child's ticket includes the featured storybook to take home, a chance to meet Santa for a quick photo and cocoa and cookies." Tickets are available on Eventbrite, and only a few spots remain across the sessions.

"Story Time With Santa is a new tradition we are starting this year at Pinnacle," Walsh said. "It is a small, cozy way for families to slow down in the middle of the season and enjoy a memorable moment with Santa himself. We kept the sessions small, so we encourage families to book soon before we are sold out."

Press Planner

• National Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child is now through Monday, Nov. 23. Drop-off locations have opened across Knoxville. Each location will be collecting shoebox gifts — filled with fun toys, school supplies, and personal care items — for children in need around the world. The drop-off location in Farragut is First Baptist Concord, 11704 Kingston Pike. For more information about Operation Christmas Child, visit samaritanspurse.org.

• Parkwest Medical Center and Peninsula Behavioral Health, both part of Covenant Health, will host the 8th annual Survivors of Suicide Loss Day to provide a space of healing and support for individuals and families who have lost a loved one to suicide. The free event will be held Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and registration is available at covenanthealth.com/parkwest/survivors-of-suicide-loss-day Anyone wanting to attend can also call 865-374-7275 to register. The gathering of support will take place at Parkwest Medical Center, located at 9352 Park West Blvd.

• Saint John Neumann Catholic Church is hosting a Christmas Toy Drive for children and teens in the Oneida, Tennessee area. Needed donations include toys, games and sports equipment. Donations should be in new condition only. Bring new, unwrapped gifts to the church at 633 St. John Court in Farragut by Sunday, Dec. 6. Contact 865-966-4540 or sjnccoffice@sjnknox.org for more information.

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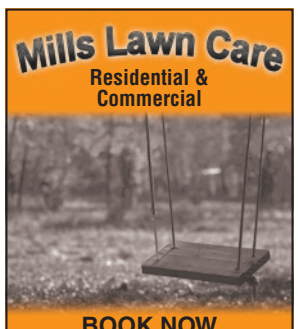
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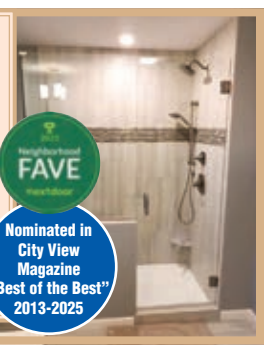
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2026 HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL PREVIEW

HOOPS



Supplement to farragutpress ▪ November 18, 2026

Stories by Jake Nichols, Bill Howard and Alan Sloan | Photography by Jake Nichols unless otherwise noted

Farragut High School ADMIRALS

There is a clear message around the Farragut boys basketball locker room these days.

Last year was last year. And while it was great, it's time to move on.



Burris

That can be a tough task for any team coming off a state tournament appearance, let alone the first one in 43 years. But this offseason, that has been exactly what head coach J.P. Burris wants from his new-look Admirals.



FHS basketball photos courtesy of Brennan Thompson

"Obviously last year was a great experience for our guys and really good for our program and what we've been trying to build," Burris said. "But that's one thing we've already discussed — this isn't 2025-26 anymore. So there's things we have learned from last year that we are trying to take, things that were successful for us and let's continue to do them.

"But this is a totally new team. Those are memories from last year that we'll never forget, but we have to focus on a new year, new group and seeing what they can accomplish."

The first step has been building chemistry. Farragut lost plenty in the tight-knit senior group that led the state run: Parker Lane, Reid Vining, Dan Lanning, Aidan Foshie and Britton Lewis.

"I'd be lying if I said this group is as tight as last year's group because they are not," Burris admitted. "That was five best friends who have played together for so long. This group has got a different make-up, and they are very good together. This group has not all grown up together, and they may be not as close as brothers, but they play really hard for one another. And I think that's really helping each of their relationships develop."

So did an offseason team trip to Hilton Head, as the Admirals took on competition from

See FHS BOYS on Page 5C

ROSTER

1	Matthew Dickens	Sr.	G
2	Connor Everley	Sr.	G
3	Bennett Wright	Sr.	G
4	Brayden Atwell	Jr.	G
5	Blue Sagle	So.	G
10	Hudson Hill	So.	G
11	Wesley Jenkins	Jr.	G
12	Benji Evans	Fr.	F
13	Westin Carbaugh	Sr.	F
20	Alex Evans	Jr.	C
23	Andrew Cabaniss	Sr.	F

Lady Admirals

Change is afoot for the Farragut Lady Admirals.

KJ McNealy, the undisputed leader and program-record-holder in rebounds, now is in college.



Mayfield

So as Farragut enters its 15th season under Jason Mayfield, the Lady Ads will be looking for players to step up if they hope to make a run like last year's sectional berth.



"We're always right there and can't quite get over that sub-state hump, but if you hang around long enough and do the right things like we feel like we do, we will make it back," said Mayfield, who led Farragut to its lone state tournament appearance in 2022.

Replacing McNealy's production won't be easy, as she tallied more than 1,500 points and 1,210 total rebounds in four years.

"The leadership thing is something we need to address," Mayfield said. "It's not that it's bad — just that KJ's was great and natural. I'm looking for that from my seniors but other players, too. And replacing her on the court will also be collective. The rebounding will have to be a team effort."

In scheme, Mayfield noted McNealy's absence could actually help.

"Offensively, we asked her to do everything," he said. "That's not a knock on other players, just, 'KJ, can you bring the ball up, make the pass to yourself and then score and get us in things and distribute the ball?' We're able to do a little bit more and have playmakers and depth."

The four seniors to headline that group include Trinity Curry, Gabby VanAcker, Zoe Porter and Reagan Sheridan.

"It starts with them," Mayfield said. "This year, I don't know that we will need them to play a different role, and Zoe Porter is a great example. I don't need her to play a different role. I need her to do what she did last year. She was a major player for us, one of those who stepped up in a huge way."

Porter, a Maryville College signee, will look to continue her sharpshooting alongside

See FHS GIRLS on Page 5C

ROSTER

2	Tory Strange	Fr.	PG
3	Zoe Porter	Sr.	G
4	Jayna Carbaugh	So.	G
5	Gabbie Vanacker	Sr.	W
10	Audrey Vann	So.	W
11	Alorah Branam	So.	W
12	Reagan Sheridan	Sr.	W
14	Arabelle Wray	So.	G
20	Trinity Curry	Sr.	P
22	Layla Burchell	Fr.	G
23	Livi Slagle	Jr.	G
24	Mia Burchell	Fr.	G
33	Makenna Hartley	Jr.	P
MGR	Blair Thurman		

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Hardin Valley Academy HAWKS



Andy Arendt remembers the interview.

In a postgame chat on Friday, Jan. 9, 2026, Arendt questioned his Hardin Valley team's toughness after a loss to Lenoir City.

A month later, his same Hawks held off Central 57-55 to capture their first region tournament win in program history. And they had to beat that same Lenoir City team to get there.



Arendt

"I questioned their toughness and challenged it," Arendt said. "Then they proved it. If you go back to our game against them in the district quarterfinals, which would put us into region, the kids that played the best were sophomores and freshmen. They showed physical and mental toughness in a pressure environment, so I don't question their toughness anymore. I question whether we'll be able to rebound and get key stops. But I like this team's toughness."

That grit could guide HVA to more history this season as the Hawks will feature plenty of youth on the 2026-27 squad.

"I'm really excited," Arendt said. "We knew last year was a transitional year. We graduated a lot of seniors the previous year, and we were super young and had some severe inexperience. So it was a challenge, but also there was no pressure. So it was super refreshing to go into every game with that.

"You didn't feel a sense of relief when you won; you felt a sense of jubilation because the expectations weren't there. Now we are going into a year where, while we are still super young, we have some expectations. And, how well we deal with those is going to determine how well we do."

In terms of personnel, HVA features three seniors in forward Brad Medzo and guards Hunter Ratcliff and Blake Crawford. Medzo is the "embodiment of hard work," Arendt said, and brings plenty of versatility.

"Getting the game to slow down and getting better at reading things will determine how well he does," Arendt said.

Ratcliff is coming off an injury last season, but he brings a physicality along with an improved left hand while Ratcliff offers a deceptively dominating presence.

"Hunter doesn't pass the eye test," Arendt said. "You look at him, and you don't expect a lot. But he's a hooper. He shoots, makes great decisions. We call him Houdini because he can finish amongst the trees better than anybody we've ever had at his size."

In the junior class, forward Graham Colloredo is coming off an injury and will look to make his bones in the paint alongside players like Witt Joseph, who brings a tough nature from the HVA football team. CJ Martin is a defensive stalwart while Arendt offered equally high praise of Kristian Oliver — a guard who is "probably the highest I.Q. player I've ever gotten to coach."

Even so, the sophomore class is the most loaded for HVA — and Arendt makes no secret of it.

"I think we have the best 2029 class in East Tennessee," he said of the group, which could feature three of the Hawks' five starters.

Guard Kymani Smith returns 22 pounds heavier, having started as a freshman last year, and he will join forces with shifty CAK transfer Rio Curry.

"The addition of Rio is huge," Arendt said. "He can

See HVA BOYS on Page 5C

ROSTER

1	CJ Martin	Jr.	G
3	Kristian Oliver	Jr.	G
4	Rio Curry	So.	G
5	Graham Colloredo	Jr.	F
10	Hunter Ratcliff	Sr.	G
15	Leyton Lewis	So.	G
12	Blake Crawford	Sr.	G
13	Winston Barnes	So.	G
23	Abe Derenski	So.	F
32	Witt Joseph	Jr.	F
41	Brad Medzo	Sr.	F

Lady Hawks



In August 2008, Hardin Valley Academy opened its doors.

And Jennifer Galloway has been there since day one.

A former Miss Basketball selection at Oak Ridge, Galloway played at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga.


Galloway

She became an assistant at Cleveland High School, but an opening lured Galloway and her husband, Keith, to HVA in 2008 as the school's first basketball coach.

Now, Galloway is entering her 19th season with the Lady Hawks.

"This is exciting," she said. "We have new goals, new kids, new expectations. That is very similar and has been consistent throughout, but it's just neat to see how our community has evolved over 19 years."

For this year, Galloway said the Lady Hawks want to be more detail-oriented.

"Our motto this year is 'All Things,' just taking care of and being intentional with all things," she said. "Every detail matters. Once you get to a point, one thing that can separate good and great is your attention to detail."

In personnel, this year will look similar to the 2025-26 squad since HVA did not have any seniors graduate.

"I feel very confident with this group coming back," Galloway said. "Last year, we were coming off losing a lot of seniors, so it was very much a throw-everyone-in-the-fire experience. This year, we return a lot of experience so we are excited about that veteran play."

Leading that group will be senior guards Holly Lindsey and Marley Edwards.

"They've been with us for four years and know what to expect," Galloway said. "Holly is a fantastic defender that can pressure someone the length of the floor, and Marley is a consistent shooter for us."

In the junior class, Audree Riehn and Alaina Lineberry bring experience and versatility.

"They are our leading scorers and rebounders from last year," Galloway said. "They are coming back for us and will be a solid presence inside.

"Alaina a fantastic athlete; she can beat people down the floor, so we are looking to give it up to her and get some easy buckets in transition. Then Audree is very physical inside, but she can step out and shoot a three, too."

Sarah Galloway and Gracie Edwards occupy a pair of perimeter spots, as Galloway cited their "strong basketball I.Q.," while HVA also will feature sophomores Brynn Williams and MaiMai Ngom with

See HVA GIRLS on Page 5C

ROSTER

2	Gracie Edwards	Jr.	G
5	Hannah Rhoden	Fr.	G
10	Berkley Morelock	Fr.	G
11	Marley Edwards	Sr.	G
12	Sarah Galloway	Jr.	G
21	Reese Galloway	Fr.	G
22	Blakely Hailstone	Fr.	G
23	Alaina Lineberry	Jr.	F
24	Brynn Williams	So.	G
25	Holly Lindsey	Sr.	G
32	MaiMai Ngom	So.	F
34	Audree Riehn	Jr.	F



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Bearden High School BULLDOGS

Jeremy Parrott is too busy drawing up plays to dig into paranormal activity.

But if he were to start hunting ghosts, the 11th-year Bearden basketball coach might start in his own home gym.



Parrott

With history lining the walls and sunlight casting a glow on each banner, the room is a four-walled museum dedicated to the history of the program.

"You walk in here, it's like a haze that hangs in the air," Parrott said, a smile creasing his face. "It has a distinct smell, a distinct feel and I sense it as I think any basketball purist would. That floor is old. Those walls have seen a lot of basketball."

And the version Parrott and his team produced just last year will forever rank as one of the best this program has ever seen.

With a record of 37-2, the Dawgs advanced to the state's Final Four in Class 4A. They ranked No. 22 in the country, according to MaxPreps.com, having ascended as high as 17 at one point. And with a championship sweep across its district, region and section, Bearden's sole losses were to St. Thomas Aquinas (Florida) and top-10 Bartlett, the eventual state champion, in a state semifinal, which more closely resembled a heavyweight title bout.

Yet even with all of that stacked in one season, the Dawgs must move on to a fresh slate. After all, that is what's expected at a program with 13 state trips in its history.

"A lot of ball to be played between now and then, but that's always the expectation here, to end your season in Murfreesboro," Parrott said.

Last year's six seniors left memorable legacies. But now, the Dawgs look to four new seniors to carry the load: Brendan Murphy, Damian Cullom, Paxton Parrott and Jayceon Blair.

A two-year letterman and All-Region player, Murphy brings the most experience of any returning starter. Cullom offers plenty of size and versatility, using his muscled frame to drive into the lane or pop up for a jumper.

"Damian and Brendan are going to have to carry," Parrott summarized. "Damian was one of our depended-on players last year, coming off the bench in a sixth-man role, and he was easy to plug in at different positions. He's essentially a returning starter, almost, and Brendan is a returning starter. There were lots of times he was one of our best scorers on the night. So those two are going to be expected to do a lot, expected to carry the lion's share of what we will do.



"Jayceon and Paxton, they will be those guys to give whatever spark they can give us. Whether it's on the glass, making a shot, getting a steal, taking a charge, those are those guys."

The junior class is comprised of players such as Porter Dickson, who made waves as a shooter last season, and Griffin Anderson, who will carry the load in the paint.

Along with Murphy, Hudson Snider will take up ball-handling duties while Ben McDonald will find minutes as a "rangy guard and tough on-ball defender," Parrott said.

The Dawgs also will feature a newcomer in Connell Byrne, a freshman who is expected to find minutes.

"We will start the season with a 10- or 11-man varsity roster, but we are not through building," Parrott said. "Everyone who plays here knows this is a meritocracy. If you can produce and can help us win games, you will move up quickly."

That, in essence, summarizes the culture of Bearden basketball.

From seniors to freshmen, the expectation and opportunity coexist for everyone.

They may even rest in the

See BHS BOYS on Page 5C

ROSTER

0	Ben McDonald	So.	W
1	Porter Dickson	Jr.	W
2	Hudson Snider	Jr.	G
3	Jayceon Blair	Sr.	W/P
4	Griffin Anderson	Jr.	P
5	Paxton Parrott	Sr.	W
10	Brendan Murphy	Sr.	G
11	Connell Byrne	Fr.	G
12	Eli Griffin	Jr.	W
24	Jacob Griffin	Jr.	W
44	Damian Cullom	Sr.	G/P

Lady Bulldogs

For the Bearden Lady Bulldogs, the 2026-27 campaign will mark a time of transition. Gone from the program is three-time Miss Basketball finalist and current Missouri freshman Natalya Hodge, along with program mainstays Emma Rainey, Theola Mills and Katie Foster.



Underwood

Now, it will be up to a new crop of Bearden players to continue a tradition rooted in the banners that line the gym walls.

Of the nine state runs Bearden has enjoyed in its history, Justin Underwood has spearheaded eight in his 16 years as head coach — five in the last seven years alone. One of those seasons resulted in the team's sole state title in 2022; and this year, BHS is looking to add its eighth straight district tournament title and 12th regular-season championship to its hallowed walls, too.

Yet even with those wins, this period of unknown is one of the most fun parts for Underwood.

"I actually enjoy the challenge of resetting a new year and new team because it forces you to grow as a coach," he said. "When you lose some of the mainstays from the previous year, whether that's leadership, experience or players who understand your terminology and expectations, you have to be intentional about building those things again. You can't expect this year's team to operate exactly like last year's team. You have to meet the players where they are, establish trust and build a new identity together. Every team has its own personality and leadership style, and learning to embrace that keeps me growing."

As far as this year's team, there are plenty of questions. But Underwood is eager to uncover the answers.

"We graduated a class that was very successful, obviously, with Natalya being at the top of that, Emma playing a ton of ball and the inside presence with Theola and Katie," he continued. "So we've got some talented young ladies who are ready to have their turn, but it will be a fun season as we put the work in."

The Dawgs will feature three seniors in Riley Hunt and Ella Hudson, a pair of point guard/wing combos; and Mary Kate Ferraris in the post.

Hunt returns the most experience, having started last season alongside Rainey and Hodge. Underwood noted his team will "lean on her heavily; she will be our gauge, if you will."

In the junior class, MC LeMarbre will be a versatile weapon with long-limbed athleticism. Ella Bush returns as a post presence after a knee injury kept her sidelined last season, and Leighton Corum and Nicole Smith-Harris will be weapons at the wing positions after successful campaigns in soccer and flag football, respectively.

There also is potential in the newest Bearden freshmen, and one is more familiar to her new head coach than the rest.

Coming off a record-setting assist season at West Valley Middle School, Reese Underwood walks into a scenario featuring her alongside players such as classmates Emery Cooper, Jaide Patel and Carsen Nesbit. On Cooper, Underwood noted she can make an "immediate impact" as she comes in as the all-time leading scorer at West Valley.



Together, those four led the Wolves to back-to-back state championships. Now they set their eyes on more with the Lady Dawgs.

"With Natalya, she was a high-volume, ball-dominant point guard and was excellent at it," Justin Underwood said. "Reese is a bit more of an old-

See BHS GIRLS on Page 5C

ROSTER

2	Leighton Corum	So.	W
3	Riley Hunt	Sr.	PG/W
4	Reese Underwood	Fr.	PG
11	MC LeMarbre	Jr.	W/P
14	Ella Hudson	Sr.	PG/W
23	Carsen Nesbit	Fr.	P
24	Emery Cooper	Fr.	W
30	Jaide Patel	Fr.	P
32	Mary Kate Ferraris	Sr.	P
33	Ella Bush	Jr.	P
34	Nicole Smith-Harris	So.	W

BULLDOGS ▪ VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2026-27

Nov. 19	Concord Christian	Home	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 21	Carter HOC Play Day	TBA	TBA
Nov. 23-24	Cougar Classic	Centennial HS	TBA
Dec. 1	West HS	Away	6 p.m.
Dec. 4	Oak Ridge*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 8	Hardin Valley*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	Rhea County*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 15	Greeneville	Home	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 18-19	Border Wars Challenge	Nashville, TN	TBA
Dec. 28-30	King of the Smokies	Pigeon Forge, TN	TBD
Jan. 5	Lenoir City*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	McMinn County*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	Farragut*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	Oak Ridge*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	Hardin Valley*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	Rhea County*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	Lenoir City*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 2	McMinn County*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	Farragut*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	Alcoa	Away	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	Central	Away	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 17-24	District Tournament	Rhea Co.	TBD
Feb. 27-March 5	Region Tournament	TBD	TBD
March 8	Girls Sectional	TBD	7 p.m.
March 18-21	Boys State Tournament	MTSU	TBA

BULLDOGS ▪ VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2026-27

Nov. 19	Concord Christian	Home	6 p.m.
Nov. 21	Gatlinburg-Pittman	Carter HS	3 p.m.
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Classic	Lenoir City	4:30 p.m.
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Classic	Lenoir City	3 p.m.
Dec. 1	West HS	Away	6 p.m.
Dec. 4	Oak Ridge*	Away	6 p.m.
Dec. 8	Hardin Valley*	Home	6 p.m.
Dec. 10	Rhea County*	Away	6 p.m.
Dec. 15	Greeneville	Home	6 p.m.
Dec. 18	CPA	Away	5 p.m. CT
Dec. 19	Davidson Academy	Away	12 p.m. CT
Dec. 28-30	Music City Hoopfest	Nashville, TN	TBD
Jan. 2	She Got Game tournament	Atlanta, GA	TBD
Jan. 5	Lenoir City*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 8	McMinn County*	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 15	Farragut*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 19	Oak Ridge*	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 22	Hardin Valley*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 26	Rhea County*	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 29	Lenoir City*	Home	6 p.m.
Feb. 2	McMinn County*	Away	6 p.m.
Feb. 5	Farragut*	Home	6 p.m.
Feb. 9	Alcoa	Away	6 p.m.
Feb. 11	Central	Away	6 p.m.
Feb. 16-22	District Tournament	Rhea Co.	TBD
Feb. 26-March 3	Region Tournament	TBD	TBD
March 6	Girls Sectional	TBD	7 p.m.
March 11-13	State Tournament	MTSU	TBD

FHS Boys
From page 2C

different states.

Now, with five new seniors and fresh faces in the starting lineup, they will look to bring that chemistry to the court.

Matthew Dickens returns with the most experience, while fellow senior guard Connor Everley will take the floor first as well.

"Matt is our most experienced player we return," Burris said. "He's had an unbelievable offseason, and I think he is poised for a really big senior year.

"Connor is our second-most experienced player, and he played some last year on that state tournament team. Both of those guys will lead us on the defensive end and have to pick it up on the offensive end compared to last year."

In the paint, Alex Evans takes up Vining's former post.

"Alex inside will be starting at the five for us as a junior, and I really like how much he has progressed," Burris said. "Backing up Reid Vining taught him a lot, so even though he doesn't have a lot of varsity experience, he had a great summer and I think will have a good two-year span for his junior and senior year."

He offered similar thoughts on Wesley Jenkins, who's "had as good of an offseason as anyone in our program," Burris said. "He's a phenomenal shooter and works his butt off."

Finally, sophomore Blue Sagle rounds out the Ads' projected starting five.

"He was on the team last year," Burris said. "No real playing experience, though he did score in the state tournament game. He is a great shooter with good vision who sees the floor well. But getting him caught up to speed on the defensive side because it's different than the guys he was defending last year at the freshman and JV level."

Farragut also will see minutes from junior guard Brayden Atwell, Hudson Hill and Westin Carbaugh, along with Benji Evans.

"Hudson Hill, a sophomore, plays a backup wing role for us," Burris said. "He's very crafty and sneaky athletic, and then you have Westin: a big, strong, physical senior who plays super hard all the time, which really benefits us.

"And Benji Evans, Alex's little brother, who we think has an unbelievably bright future here."

ADMIRALS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2026-27

Nov. 21	Hardin Valley	HVA	12 p.m., 1:30 p.m.
Nov. 23	West (Thanksgiving Classic)	Home	8:30 p.m.
Nov. 24	Karns (Thanksgiving Classic)	Home	8:30 p.m.
Nov. 30	Halls	Away	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 4	Hardin Valley*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 8	Oak Ridge*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 11	Lenoir City*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 14	Jefferson County	Home	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 18-21	Loudon Pre-Christmas Classic	Loudon HS	TBD
Dec. 28-30	Carter Christmas Tournament	Carter HS	TBD
Jan. 5	Rhea County*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 7	Fulton	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	Cumberland County	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 12	McMinn County*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	Bearden*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	Hardin Valley*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	Oak Ridge*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	Lenoir City*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	Rhea County*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 2	Concord Christian (Sr. Night)	Home	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	Bearden*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	McMinn County*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	McMinn Central	Home	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15-23	District Tournament	Rhea County	TBA
Feb. 26-Mar 4	Region Tournament	TBA	TBA
March 8	Boys Sectional	TBA	TBA
March 18-21	Boys State Tournament	MTSU	TBA

ADMIRALS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2026-27

Nov. 21	Carter HS	Carter HS	9 a.m., 12 p.m.
Nov. 23	Sevier County (Thanksgiving Classic)	Home	7 p.m.
Nov. 24	Stone Memorial (Thanksgiving)	Home	7 p.m.
Nov. 30	Halls	Away	6 p.m.
Dec. 4	Hardin Valley*	Away	6 p.m.
Dec. 8	Oak Ridge*	Home	6 p.m..
Dec. 11	Lenoir City*	Home	6 p.m.
Dec. 14	Jefferson County	Home	6 p.m.
Dec. 18-21	Loudon Pre-Christmas Classic	Loudon HS	TBD
Dec. 28-30	Carter Christmas Tournament	Carter HS	TBD
Jan. 5	Rhea County*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 7	Fulton	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 8	Cumberland County	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 12	McMinn County*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 15	Bearden*	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 19	Hardin Valley*	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 22	Oak Ridge*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 26	Lenoir City*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 29	Rhea County*	Home	6 p.m.
Feb. 2	Concord Christian (Sr. Night)	Home	6 p.m.
Feb. 5	Bearden*	Away	6 p.m.
Feb. 9	McMinn County*	Home	6 p.m.
Feb. 12	McMinn Central	Home	6 p.m.
Feb. 15-23	District Tournament	Rhea County	TBA
Feb. 26-Mar 4	Region Tournament	TBA	TBA
March 6	Girls Sectional	TBA	TBA
March 11-14	Girls State Tournament	MTSU	TBA

FHS Girls
From page 2C

VanAcker, who came off a knee injury last year to bury big shots.

In the post, FHS will look to Curry.

"We may ask a little bit more of Trinity," Mayfield admitted. "We need her to be a good passer but to be able to score, too. With Gabby, we won't have to ask any more because she'll already be healthier. And then Reagan can get to the rim, but we will ask her to step up in some different ways."

The junior class features versatile options in Livi Slagle and Makenna Hartley with the former coming off an ACL tear as well.

Jayna Carbaugh, Audrey Vann and Alorah Branam will be the primary contributors within the sophomore class, while Arabelle Wray will be rehabbing after an injury from cross country.

The freshman class brings a unique quandary for Mayfield, who said three players — Tory Strange and twins Mia and Layla Burchell — will see varsity minutes.

"They will play a ton," he said. "We will ask them to do a lot that we don't normally ask of freshmen. They may go through some bumps at the beginning, but toward the end, we will be counting on them in a huge way."

And with depth shaking things up, Mayfield and the Lady Admirals will rely on a steady culture and a fast-paced scheme.

"I feel like the culture of our program will be able to handle some things," he said. "And this is just giving an example, but if a freshman would start and a senior is coming off the bench, the competitiveness is there. They're going to want to start, but they will also trust what we are doing and the results will be the results whether in practice or games.

"That's where it could be a negative, where you've got depth and don't know and may have younger players who are a better fit to play a little bit more, but I feel like our culture is great," he added. "We are hoping to play a style where we can get a lot of people out there and use that depth to our advantage."

HVA Girls
From page 2C

freshmen Hannah Rhoden, Berkley Morelock, Reese Galloway and Blakely Hailstone.

If two of those last names sound familiar, they should. Both of Galloway's daughters are suiting up this year.

"It's neat because I'm not only coaching them but their friends, too," she said. "These are girls they have been playing with since they first started playing basketball in our youth program, so that's special.

"It's an adjustment for them and me, because I'm always going to be their mom. But here I'm coach, and at home, I drop the coach and go back to mom. Sometimes I have to check myself and make sure I'm not taking out a bad practice on them. A lot of basketball is talked at home, but that's not all we talk about. There's a good balance."

HVA will look to bring similar balance on the floor, combining defense with gritty board performances and a spread-out offensive attack.

"We like to play man-to-man defense, hanging our hat on rebounding," Galloway said. "Offensively, we like to spread the floor and create driving opportunities and a good kick for a three. And we like to get the ball inside and score there. We would like to press more this year. We've got a lot of numbers coming back, and I think we'll be able to withstand the energy the press takes."

For that approach to be effective, the Lady Hawks will need the kind of work ethic Galloway passed on from her own playing experiences.

And while Galloway said it's been "neat" to face her alma mater, she is proudest of the growth she has seen from her first day at HVA.

"Neat to have seen our growth academically, with the community, with athletics and even our youth programs," Galloway said. "It's been really special."

HAWKS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2026-27

Nov. 19	Central (HOF)	Home	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 21	Fulton	Home	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 24	South Doyle	Gibbs	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 27	William Blount	Gibbs	12:15 p.m.
Nov. 28	Powell	Gibbs	12:15 p.m.
Dec. 1	Jefferson County	Home	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 4	Farragut*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 8	Bearden*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 11	McMinn County*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 12	Turnkey Classic	Webb	TBA
Dec. 15	Karns	Away	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 18-22	5 Star Preps Classic	TBA	TBA
Dec. 28-30	Gatlinburg Christmas Tourney	Gatlinburg	TBA
Jan. 5	Jefferson County	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	Lenoir City*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 12	Rhea County*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	Oak Ridge*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	Farragut*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	Bearden*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	McMinn County*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	Clinton (girls only)	Away	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 2	Lenoir City*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	Oak Ridge*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	Rhea County*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	West	Home	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15-23	District Tournament	Rhea County	TBA
Feb. 26-Mar 4	Region Tournament	TBA	TBA
March 8	Class 4A Sectionals	TBA	TBA
March 17-20	State Tournament	MTSU	TBA

HAWKS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2026-27

Nov. 17	Halls (HOF)	Away	6 p.m.
Nov. 19	Central (HOF)	Home	6 p.m.
Nov. 24	South Doyle	Gibbs	5:45 p.m.
Nov. 27	William Blount	Gibbs	10:45 a.m.
Nov. 28	Powell	Gibbs	10:45 a.m.
Dec. 1	Jefferson County	Home	6 p.m.
Dec. 4	Farragut*	Home	6 p.m.
Dec. 8	Bearden*	Away	6 p.m.
Dec. 11	McMinn County*	Home	6 p.m.
Dec. 15	Karns	Away	6 p.m.
Dec. 18-22	5 Star Preps Classic	TBA	TBA
Dec. 28-30	Gatlinburg Christmas Tourney	Gatlinburg	TBA
Jan. 5	Jefferson County	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 8	Lenoir City*	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 12	Rhea County*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 15	Oak Ridge*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 19	Farragut*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 22	Bearden*	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 26	McMinn County*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 29	Clinton (girls only)	Away	6 p.m.
Feb. 2	Lenoir City*	Away	6 p.m.
Feb. 5	Oak Ridge*	Home	6 p.m.
Feb. 9	Rhea County*	Home	6 p.m.
Feb. 12	West	Home	6 p.m.
Feb. 15-23	District Tournament	Rhea County	TBA
Feb. 26-Mar 4	Region Tournament	TBA	TBA
March 6	Class 4A Sectionals	TBA	TBA
March 10-13	State Tournament	MTSU	TBA

HVA Boys
From page 3C

really score the basketball and is unselfish and willing to make the right play. We are super excited about what he brings."

He is equally excited about guard Caleb Murray, who plays a shooter role even at 6-foot-4.

That future appears in line for fellow sophomores, like Leyton Lewis, Abe Derenski and Winston Barnes, who round out the Hawks' varsity squad.

And when they take the floor this season, Arendt won't be questioning his team's toughness anymore, but he is eager to see how far that can take them.

BHS Boys
From page 4C

walls, left behind for players and coaches to come.

"You can't hide from it," Parrott said. "You come into this culture, a foundation laid long before I came, that we want to be the best we can be and represent our school proudly. And when you look around the gym here, you can feel the mystique. You know what's expected of you. Is every team going to accomplish their ceiling? No. But the fact that these guys are willing to try means more than anything to me as their coach."

BHS Girls
From page 4C

school point guard, more of a floor general that sets them up, getting the offense in place. We've got multiple guards — Riley, Ella, Reese — with a lot of ways we can play and a lot of people who can bring the ball down. That ability to play in multiple positions should help us be more versatile, but in challenging a lot of those girls to be better, too.

"We will have growing pains with the young kids we've got, but I am looking forward to what we are capable of doing. We've got a lot of talent, and there's not just one person to key on. We may not be great in November but we hope that we can keep growing and, come February, be playing our best ball."

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Christian Academy of Knoxville WARRIORS



Heading into the 2026-27 basketball season, Christian Academy of Knoxville's boys' basketball coach JD Johnson was asked what he thought would be his team's strength.

Johnson, starting his seventh year at the helm of the Warriors, didn't hesitate in his answer: leadership from his seniors.



Johnson

"I think we're gonna have really good senior leadership this year," Johnson said. "(My) seniors … guys who have been tremendous leaders for us, guys who have been a part of a lot of winning. You kind of go as your seniors go."

Three seniors will start for CAK this season, starting with the "engine that runs our team," 5-10 point-guard Hunter Bennett, who will start for the third straight year. According to Johnson, Bennett is a threat on both ends of the floor.

"Plays super fast, excellent defender," Johnson said of Bennett. "We're gonna rely on him to score a lot this year; he shoots the ball really well."

Bennett's senior brethren will be a pair of forwards: 6-3 Jack Shaw, and 6-4 Bennett Jelks. It will be the second year to start for both.

"A guy that we will rely on to do a lot of things," Johnson said of Shaw. "Certainly gonna look for him to score, he can play inside and outside … one of our best passers."

Jelks, according to Johnson, will, among other things, defend the opponent's best shooter.

"Really good at running the floor," Johnson said. "He can knock down shots … he creates turnovers for us and he'll go in and rebound."

Rounding out the near-certain starters for the Warriors this year will include 5-11 sophomore guard Brooks Anderson, and 6-foot sophomore forward Terrence Carlos.

"Excellent shooter; can really really score and handle the ball for us," Johnson said of Anderson, who had a couple starts last year. "Crazy motor; gonna rely on him quite a bit."

Carlos, said Johnson, is a "tremendous defender, tremendous rebounder. Super smart player; gonna rely on him to guard other teams' best player. (We're gonna) run offense through him, he's a good passer."

Any hoops coach will tell you a strong bench is essential for success. Key players are coming off the bench for Johnson this year, including Walt Parker, a 6-foot sophomore guard. "Excellent shooter/scorer," Johnson said.

Jonah Schwarz, a 6–4 sophomore forward, "a shot blocker, rebounder … runs the floor well," Johnson said.

He added that Isaac Kannah, a 6-foot sophomore guard, is a "tremendous athlete, gives us another dimension defensively. Creates turnovers, gets to the basket and scores."

Of Stone Stinson, a 6-foot sophomore guard, he said: "Super smart player; handles the ball well. Plays really hard, creates a lot of offense opportunities for us through his intelligence."

The Warriors have not a single junior on the roster this year.

On offense, Johnson is looking for his boys to get the ball up the court quickly.

"I want to try to play fast," he said. "Push it up the court, try to score a lot."

Johnson's defensive approach is "hard-core man-to-man. "We'll have everybody scouted. We'll know what everybody's gonna do. (Man) has always been our calling card; we're gonna guard you."

ROSTER

1	Hunter Bennett	Sr.	PG
2	Bennett Jelks	Sr.	SF
3	Slade Stinson	Fr.	G
5	Luke Hankins	Fr.	G
10	Stone Stinson	So.	G, F
11	Terrence Carlos	So.	F
12	Brooks Anderson	So.	G
13	Mason Witt	So.	G
15	Jonah Schwarz	So.	F
20	Isaac Kannah	So.	G
21	Mac Williams	Fr.	F
32	Connor Schwarz	Fr.	F
34	Jack Shaw	Sr.	F
44	Walt Parker	So.	G

Concerns for Johnson this year are a lack of experience behind his three seniors and a lack of size.

"After the seniors, we have no juniors," he said. "Gaining that experience and maturity (will be a challenge). When we run into some of those teams that have those 6-9s, 6-10s, we're gonna have to figure out a way to rebound the ball and keep that ball out of the post."

Lady Warriors



When Christian Academy of Knoxville's girls' basketball team takes the floor this season, the starting five could vary widely from game to game.

"I anticipate us having probably different lineups each night until I figure out what's the groups we like together, and depending on the matchups," said Lady Warriors head coach Abby Williams, starting her ninth year in the position.



Williams

Girls from all four grades could be in the starting lineup, starting with 5-10 senior guard Maddie Braden, who has started the last three years and has played hurt in two different years.

"Team leader," Williams said. "I just want her to have a healthy season. She's extremely talented. She can score at all three levels; phenomenal passer and can play defense. She can do everything you want a kid to do and it looks effortless."

Joining Braden in the backcourt will be fellow senior Lexi Hammock, a 5-5 point guard starting for the second year.

"She's a bulldog," Williams said. "She's the kid that will get on the floor, the kid that will take the contact and give the contact. She's the floor general. She'll bring the ball up and handle the pressure and she's not gonna back down."

Hammock, Williams said, was a stat machine last year: she led the team in scoring, assists and steals and was second in rebounding. She also had two game-winning shots. "We don't win some of the games we won last year without her," Williams said.

Both Braden and Hammock have scored more than 1,500 points in their careers.

The third definite starter — much younger, but not less valuable — will be 5-5 freshman guard Karlie Gray, who started last year as an eighth-grader. Gray, who was the team's second-leading scorer last year, has "no fear," Williams said. "She plays the game the right way, gives 110 percent every time she steps on the floor and she wants to be the best she can be. She's not scared to take a shot or defend a girl or take a charge. She'll get out there and do all the intangible things."

After Braden, Hammock and Gray, the other two starters are likely to be by committee, depending on the night and opponent.

Kate Rousayne is a 5-7 freshman guard who played about 10 minutes per game last year as an eighth-grader.

"The growth I have seen in her from last year to this year is astronomical," Williams said. "I think she'll have the ability to come in and impact the game in more ways than just scoring. Defensively she is physical. She's got quickness; she's hard to guard;she's strong enough to guard a post."

While Williams is highly confident about the team's guard play, she's also excited about a pair of young 6-foot post players; freshman Annabelle Holmes and sophomore Natalie Brown.

"She has the ability to impact the game in so many ways," Williams said of Holmes. "She can affect the rim … being able to rebound for us, being able to get out on the floor in transition; and can score inside that will complement our guards."

Said Williams of Brown: "She's one of the most athletic post players I've had the opportunity to coach. She can get up and down the floor, can step out and knock down the outside shot and score inside."

Williams anticipates sometimes playing both post players at the same time. "Having an inside presence is gonna be the key to us having success," she said.

ROSTER

1	Emery Adams	So.	G
2	Lexi Hammock	Sr.	G
3	Maddie Braden	Sr.	G
4	Addie Chipman	Fr.	C
10	Kate Rousayne	Fr.	G
11	Katelyn Coffman	Jr.	G
14	Lexi Roettger	Fr.	F
15	Karlie Gray	Fr.	G
22	Natalie Brown	So.	F
23	Marley Phillips	Sr.	G
24	Annabelle Holmes	Fr.	C

WARRIORS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2026-27

Nov. 25	Morristown West	Grainger	12 p.m.
Nov. 26	Carter	Grainger	2:40 p.m.
Dec. 1	Maryville Christian	Home	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 3	Providence Academy*	Home	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 4	Concord Christian*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	Apostolic Christian*	Away	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 8	Berean	Away	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	Webb – Turnkey	Away	TBD
Dec. 14	The King's Academy*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 18-22	5Star Preps	TBD	TBD
Jan. 2	Apostolic Christian*	Home	1 p.m.
Jan. 4	Tri-Cities Christian	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 5	Annoor	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	Grace Christian*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	Webb School	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 12	Concord Christian*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	The King's Academy*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 18	Providence Academy*	Away	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	Tri-Cities Christian	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	Lakeway Christian*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	Sevier County	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	Grace Christian*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	Lakeway Christian*	Home	7:30 p.m

*denotes district contest

WARRIORS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2026-27

Nov. 19	Alcoa (HOF)	Home	6:30 p.m
Nov. 20	Baylor (HOF)	Home	6 p.m.
Nov. 23	Stone Memorial	Farragut	4 p.m.
Nov. 24	Sevier County	Farragut	4 p.m.
Dec. 1	Maryville Christian	Home	6 p.m.
Dec. 3	Providence Academy*	Home	5 p.m.
Dec. 4	Concord Christian*	Home	6 p.m.
Dec. 8	Berean*	Away	6 p.m.
Dec. 10	Webb – Turnkey	Away	TBD
Dec. 12	TBD – Turnkey	Away	TBD
Dec. 14	The King's Academy*	Home	6 p.m.
Dec. 21-23	Battle of Nashville	TBD	TBD
Dec. 28-31	Ladies Classic	Away	TBD
Jan. 4	Tri-Cities Christian	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 8	Grace Christian*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 11	Webb School	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 12	Concord Christian*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 15	The King's Academy*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 18	Providence Academy*	Away	5 p.m.
Jan. 19	Tri-Cities Christian	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 22	Lakeway Christian*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 26	Sevier County	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 29	Grace Christian*	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 30	Baylor	Away	TBD
Feb. 5	Lakeway Christian*	Home	6 p.m.
Feb. 8-13	District Tournament	Lakeway	TBD
Feb. 15-20	Region Tournament	Grace	TBD
Feb. 22-28	First Round/Quarterfinal	TBD	TBD
Mar 5-7	State Tournament	Austin Peay	TBD

*denotes district contest

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District Tournament Championships	1993, 1994, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2014, 2015, 2016
Girls Varsity	
State Tournament Appearance	2013, 2019, 2022, 2023
Region Tournament Championships	2010, 2013, 2019, 2022, 2023
District Tournament Championships	1995, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2022, 2023, 2024

For more information about CAK, please call **813-4CAK** or visit **cakwarriors.com**

Concord Christian School LIONS

With the focus of the boys' offense possibly being on two transfers who had never played at Concord Christian School before the calendar year 2026 — so lead by "our 1-2 punch at guard," new head coach Brad Cochran said — the Lions are looking to improve on last year's 9-19 record.



Cochran

When addressing the strength of his squad, Cochran put his evaluation at two key points.

"I think the boys' strength could be physicality and competing," Cochran said. "I think we're getting them to learn how to compete and play physical. I think that's going to be our strength each and every night.

"The concern is just when adversity hits and how do we grow through it," he added. "We got a lot of growth to go through and a lot of failures have to happen, so we all have to make sure that we're growing through it. So, I think that's the biggest concern is, well, how are we going to handle it when things don't go our way?"

As far as who will be handling that adversity, the Lions have plenty of new faces.

Eligible to play last season in January after coming from Loudon, 5-foot-5 senior point guard Isaac Kelch is the team's only returner starter.

"He can handle the rock really well, shoots it extremely at a high clip," Cochran said. "He rides on an emotional roller coaster, which is great from a competitive standpoint, but we also got to be able to learn how to control it. But, he'll be a big contributor for us this year as far as handling the ball quite a bit.

"Another guy that's gonna probably be our best player, honestly, is going to be Mike Fritts," Cochran said. "He's a junior guard, transferred in from Hardin Valley (Academy). Super excited to have him here. Has really adapted to the school and the atmosphere. Didn't really come over here for basketball's sake.

"And he's blossomed tremendously. He's just been so great, everything that he's done," he added. "He's fast; he can shoot it; he just plays the game hard; and it's gonna be fun to watch him. I mean, I must say, our team's going to go off of how he plays each and every night, and you know, he can fill it up. And if he's not putting the ball in the hoop, he's doing something

See CCS BOYS on Page 11C



Concord photos courtesy of Brandon Bowling

ROSTER

Parker Buhl	Sr.	Blake Sutter	Jr.
Karson Jameson	Sr.	Braden Craig	So.
Tristan Thompson	Sr.	Brady Martin	So.
Isaac Kelch	Sr.	Cooper Cagle	So.
Isiah Thomas	Jr.	Clay Millsaps	So.
Michael Fritts	Jr.	Jackson Krohn	So.
Collin "Moose" Jarnagin	Jr.	Karter Spalvins	So.
Joshua Lollar	Jr.	Linkin Defendorf	So.

Lady Lions

Concord Christian School's Lady Lions basketball and fourth-year head coach Brad Cochran have four starters back this season from a 2025-26 team that made program history — led by junior guard Emery Thomas and a handful of multi-year starters.

The CCS girls finished 16-14 overall last season and 8-5 in the district.

"So we made it to the region last year, first time in school history for the program to make it to the region tournament," Cochran said. "So that was huge."

To lead another charge toward the postseason, the Lady Lions have plenty of weapons. "Our main player coming back is Emery Thomas, about a 5-foot-8 point guard, she averaged 15 points for us last year, about five rebounds and about five assists," Cochran said. "She was All-Region for us and All-District for us last couple of years. Super intelligent. I love the way she handles the rock, controls the game. Just a competitor, she loves defense. She'll probably hit her 1,000th point, probably in December.

"Another girl for us that's been a four-year starter for me has been Kiran Keeton, a senior forward/post," the coach added. "Karen averages about 12 points a game. She's about 5-foot-10, can shoot the 3-ball really well, averages close to 10 rebounds a game. And she's a competitor. Just another great kid, another girl that's just high energy, right. Really keeps the team energized. She's our only senior this year.

"Another starter for us will be another returning starter, junior guard Presley Horst," Cochran said. "She's about 5-foot-5. Can shoot the lights out of it. She was averaging about 6 or 7 points last year; looking for her to get that number up closer to about the 10-12 mark, honestly. She can shoot just about as well as anybody, and has got a great deep (3-point shot). She was averaging about three steals a game. Just a really special kid when it comes to athleticism. And she's just a very good basketball player. She sees the floor well offensively. Defensively, she just reads and reacts so well and gets steals."

Junior Gracie Harrill "started a few games, and played significant role and minutes last year," Cochran said. "She's kind of in that in-between forward and guard. Should be a starter this year, coming off of two ACL surgeries the last couple years, her eighth-grade year and her freshman year. So she finally got in the groove late last year, started to knock down some big shots, had some big games for us, and really excited to see her growth. Really good on rebounding and doing all the little things, She's an unselfish player and she's a competitor.

"And then I got three other girls I guess you could say, newcomers that are going to be very very good," he added. "We only got a roster of nine."

Kendall Mavoff, "a junior guard/ forward coming in, transferring in from us from Grace," Cochran said. "She'll probably play anywhere between a post and a point. Really excited to see her. She's a finesse defensive player, can shoot the ball really well and handle it. Really excited to see her make that jump this year.

"Two freshmen really they got a bright upside," he added. "Guards Campbell Henley, and then Sammi Dewitt.

"Honestly, Sammi can kind of do it all. She's our utility player; point guard/guard, can handle the rock really, really well. Mid-range jumper is as smooth as anybody around the area. Gonna be a special

See CCS GIRLS on Page 11C

ROSTER

2	Kinsley Marriott	Fr.
4	Presley Horst	Jr.
5	Emory Thomas	Jr.
12	Sammi Dewitt	Fr.
15	Kendall Mavoff	Jr.
21	Kiran Keeton	Sr.
22	Gracie Harrill	Jr.
24	Campbell Henley	Fr.
35	Elizabeth Queen	So.







Knoxville Catholic High School IRISH



Knoxville Catholic's High school boys' varsity basketball team has a good chance to be better than last year's version of Irish, and that should a warning to KCHS's 2026-27 opponents. Why?



Mains

Considering last year's final game was in the Division II-AA State Semifinals, losing in four overtimes to Briarcrest, by three points; as that Memphis team went on to win state in a blowout championship game — that's why.

"They were crying (at state) in the locker room, so they're very hungry to win," second-year head coach Travis Mains said. "And then the additions we got will really help us."

That's despite having "lost quite a bit" off of last year's Irish (final record of 24-7), so Mains said.

"We have three starters back, but we have eight seniors this year, and we've got two transfers that are seniors. We were pretty lucky to get very good transfers in this year," he added. Returning starters would be seniors Jovis Erwan and Landon Lee and junior Travis Martin. "Martin's our point guard. Landon Lee is a wing this year, and Jovis Erwan can play anywhere from (point guard through post)," Mains said. One of those senior transfers is 6-foot 8 center/forward Ivan Moskalenko from Lakeway Christian Academy. "He is committed to University of San Diego, and he has a chance to be one of the candidates for Mr. Basketball. Really good player."

Jovis Erwan "is committed to Gannon University (Erie, Pennsylvania) which is the Division II national champion from last year," Mains said. "And he's very versatile and explosive and a very hard worker," he added. "He's improved a whole lot in a year, so I'm waiting to see what he can do this year. He's a Division I player in the future, but he's on his way up. Has had a really good career. "Landon Lee has Division II and Division I interests as well. He had to play inside and now he's getting back to playing the (small forward) this year, his natural position. So he's very versatile and can shoot it, drive it and dunks the ball pretty hard in transition. So he's a really good player; last year for us, averaged about 9 points.

"The point guard is the head of the snake for us, Travis Martin. He's really improved and has a bunch of Division I interest in him. He's the Power 32 Player of the Year and MVP of the circuit they played in. He played in on the New Balance circuit. He led the state in assists last year and is just a really high IQ kid that makes us go, and he'll be our point guard this year." Senior shooting guard Henry Hill "is a transfer from (Kingsport) Dobyns-Bennett and has committed to Carson-Newman. A really good shooter, hard worker, character kid that's improved in three or four months, just really, really taken off," Mains said. "All due to his work ethic. So he's a potential starter; He was All-Conference and All Region in his district last year at Dobyns-Bennett.

Then Brady Renfree, a senior, "a 6-foot-5 wing, that could be a potential starter for us as well," Mains said. Senior shooting guard Finn Kerschbaum "Is a really smart player and can play three or four positions for us as well," the coach added. "He came off the bench last year and he has a chance to be a starter and a strong contributor for us as well. "All seven of those seniors could start on anybody's high school team in the area. All of them could play college basketball if they wanted to as well. Really good players and good people.

See KCHS BOYS on Page 11C

ROSTER

0	Zane Garza	Sr.	W
1	Ivan Moskolanko	Sr.	F, C, SF
2	Brady Renfree	Sr.	SF, W
3	Marcus Webb	So.	PG, G
4	Landon Lee	Sr.	PF, C, SF
12	Anderson Perry	Jr.	PG, G
14	Jovis Erwan	Sr.	SF, SG
21	Charlie Bellinghausen	Fr.	F/C
22	Finn Kerschbaum	Sr.	C, PF, SF
23	Travis Martin	Jr.	PG, SG
24	Henry Hill	Sr.	PF, W
33	Watson Walter	So.	F

Lady Irish



As a first-year Knoxville Catholic High School girls basketball head coach, Micah Scheetz led the last's season's Lady Irish to the TSSAA Division II-AA state quarterfinal game, losing to Lipscomb Academy, finishing with a 15-14 final record. "I have two starters back. and three others who played significant time in 2025-26," the coach said.



Scheetz

"We've got 12 girls on our varsity team who are young, but we also have experience with some of our upperclassmen — and being young is not a bad thing," Scheetz added. "Most of these kids have a motor in them so they can go and compete. We're young and talented, and then we've got some experienced kids, juniors and seniors who have the opportunity to lead the way and show them what it takes to get where we want to be at the end of the season."

The bottom line: "I'm super excited about them. I think that's important to note," Scheetz said.

"I think we're gonna turn some heads this year," she added. "As long as we stay healthy and keep growing as a team and staying together. I'm excited to coach with them this year."

In terms of personnel, the Irish have plenty of options.

"Khloe Cook and Emery Haws started last year for me," Scheetz said. "Emery's a sophomore point guard, she was All State and All Region.

"When she was a freshman last year, she surpassed 1,000 points and averaged 17 points a game last year, shot 45 percent from the 3-point line," the coach added about Haws. "So she's got a lot of talent. Now that she's got a year under her belt, she's got more confidence. She's grown; her body's changed; she's gotten quicker. So she's obviously great to have returning."

And Cook, a junior, "is a good 3-point shooter, strong guard.

"And then I've got a senior shooting guard, Jaylen Drazkowski, who returns, who's completely kind of changed her body as well, gotten stronger, faster," Scheetz said. "She's got a lot of confidence now being a senior. She's got experience under her belt, so she's going to be great to have.

"Molly Tipton is actually a sophomore who's also just completely changed her body," the coach added. "She's got confidence. She's going to be a kid that plays at the next level. She's going to be really good for us. She's a point guard, has really high IQ. The way she passes the ball is elite. And she's long, she can defend, she disrupts a lot of things on the defensive end."

A transfer, a junior post/forward, Brooklynn Brown is "a versatile player, strong," Scheetz said. "Can play inside, can play outside; she's a rim protector. She's probably our most athletic kid on the team. Just can defend (point guard through post), can shoot the ball, can attack, finish at the rim. She's about 5-foot-10, can jump out the roof.

"And I got a few freshmen that are going to make some noise this year," the coach added. "I got a post, Arielle Moore, who is about 6-feet-1, a big post player. She's a freshman though, so she's got to get some experience, but she's going to help us down the road a lot."

Other freshmen of note are Liv Walker, "who came to us from West Valley Middle School, and Maddie Ferguson, who came from McMinn County," Scheetz said. "Got another senior, Izzy Holleman, a post, who has not really seen a lot of playing time, but is kind of one of those gutsy players who often does show up on a stat sheet," Scheetz said. "She can shoot it, but she's someone who's gonna get on the boards and rebound. She's kind of a locker room kid, a leader.

"She's also just made leaps and bounds of development over the past year, so she could be somebody that shocks me and I cannot help but throw her out there in key moments," the coach added.

Assisting Scheetz will be Sydney Nunley.

ROSTER

2	Madi Fergueson	Fr.
3	Jaylen Drazkowski	Sr.
4	Emery Haws	So.
5	Liv Walker	Fr.
10	Mary Streval	So.
11	Molly Tipton	So.
14	Khloe Cook	Jr.
22	Arielle Moore	Fr.
23	Izzy Holleman	Sr.
24	Brooklynn Brown	Jr.
25	Avery Paulis	So.
40	Aryanna Moore	So.





Webb School of Knoxville SPARTANS



You better be ready because here they come.

That is the message Webb boys basketball coach Ricky Norris is preaching to his team ahead of the 2026-27 season, as the Spartans begin a fresh slate with plenty of new faces.



Norris

Yet, for the teams on the Spartans' schedule, those faces don't matter as much as the results that came from a five-person senior class that hasn't been on campus in a formal setting since graduation.

Those seniors — guys like Owen Lentz at the University of Alabama at Huntsville and Cam Swearengen at South Dakota State — led Webb to two straight state titles before a state quarterfinal finish last season.

And teams left in their wake will be looking for payback.

"I don't think we get that or understand that, when we go out, we'll get everyone's best," Norris said. "So they will have to be ready to play, and it's not anything they have ever earned. It's the guys who came before them and beat some teams bad. So now this group has got to deal with that. Last year's group knew it and it didn't faze them. This year's group, we will see."

But before taking the floor together this season, the Spartans have worked to hone a culture that became routine with the previous group. Now, any newcomers have a bit of learning to do.

Norris credited seniors Huston Torres and Tahj Bowers as key pieces to carry that culture forward. But they both bring plenty of versatility on the floor, too.

"Huston, been with us for the last two years and was a big piece of what we were doing," Norris said of Torres, a Lincoln Memorial commitment. "But now he goes from a piece to a lead role. He's handled it really well, had a great summer, and we need him to be that. But he's got some help, too."

The same goes for Ethan Woolard, who was in the rotation last season but steps into a bigger role this season, too.

Bowers, meanwhile, is coming off two straight season-ending injuries, so health may be a concern for him to start.

"If he's healthy, he will start, but he is our leader," Norris said. "If he can be healthy and consistent, he will be the guy that leads us in the right direction most every day."

He offered similar praise of junior guard and Pigeon Forge transfer Bryson Morrissette, "an explosive scorer who can shoot the ball but also really good around the rim in his ability to finish," Norris said.

Meanwhile, Bleu Armour enters as a versatile option who can get down low or shoot from the perimeter while Andrew Perkinson brings plenty of rebounding to go with a high basketball I.Q.

"Plays really hard, good rebounder who knows what everyone on the floor is supposed to be doing," Norris said.

Webb also will look to a rising sophomore in Noah Jenkins, who can impact the game from deep, but Norris also alluded to five freshmen who could play roles, too.

Altogether, those players will look to learn plenty of new things on the offensive and defensive ends of the floor. And with a whole new team at his disposal, Norris is eager to see what could unfold by season's end.

See WEBB BOYS on Page 11C

ROSTER

0	Ky Curtis	PG	Fr.
1	Bleu Armour	W	Jr.
2	Ethan Woolard	F	Jr.
3	Kalin Gulmire	F	Fr.
4	Bryson Morrissette	W	Jr.
5	Henry Crecy	W	Fr.
10	Noah Jenkins	W	So.
11	Tahj Bowers	F	Sr.
12	Andrew Perkinson	Jr.	F
14	Kathan West	Fr.	W
15	Huston Torres	Sr.	PG/W
22	Tyson Butcher	Fr.	PG/W

Lady Spartans



For the Webb Lady Spartans, the past two seasons have ended the same way: with a state championship.

So it's only natural that fourth-year coach Greg Hernandez would have his team thinking three-peat, right?



Hernandez

Wrong.

"The beautiful thing about it is it's not something we really focus on," Hernandez said. "Like Nick Saban, we are more process-oriented and don't talk about it. I've been preaching how good we can be at what we do, how good is our base offense and defense where we dictate pace, tempo, physicality? Our focus is on how we can improve with four new girls in the rotation and it's important they get a good understand of our philosophy. So as much as it would be a great story, our focus is trying to get ready for practice tomorrow."

And for Webb, that day-to-day process is essential given the pieces the Lady Spartans lost from last year's squad

The most notable absence this year will be two-time Division II-AA Miss Basketball winner Meeyah Green.

"We lose a ton without Meeyah," Hernandez said. "There's a reason she was two-time Miss Basketball and all that stuff. Obviously a lot of the offense ran through her, and we kept it in our best three players' hands.

"Now, I'm incorporating all five, and they have to make the right read. Meeyah did a lot of that for us. Now everyone has that opportunity, which is good. It will only help us as a group to have five girls who can make those decisions."

Kyndall Mays returns as a four-year starter for Webb while Ivy Napier will take the floor at tip-off for a second consecutive season. Hernandez noted senior Harper Ladd as another heavy contributor along with classmates Mary Mac Emery, a Princeton soccer signee, and senior floor general Corisa Lowery.

"Those are girls who have been in the program a long time, and they understand what it takes to be successful," Hernandez said. "Collectively, I'm relying on those veterans to be leaders and show the new girls what it takes and they have exceeded those expectations. They know what it means to play here, and they want to leave on a high note."

One new addition will be Raina Styles, a sophomore wing who transferred during the offseason.

Webb will include a pair of freshmen in Lola Widener and Reese Davis, both of whom bring a certain grit to the floor despite their age. And speaking of young talent, the Lady Spartans even feature on an eighth-grader in Neely Titus.

"We didn't have one last year, but Kyndall played a lot as an eighth-grader and so did Ivy," Hernandez said. "I think Neely has that same chance. She's super talented, young and eager, someone who will fit in and be one of those to have a five-year career with a ton of success."

On a more imminent note, Hernandez hopes to have guard Zahnyah Rockett back in the lineup by December after an ACL tear ended her junior season prematurely.

"If we can get her back to 85% as we get ready for a stretch run, to add a guard of her caliber, that will really help bolster our lineup," Hernandez said. "And if we're fully healthy, we can be 10 deep. I'm super excited to see what this group will do.

"Now early on, we've got a lot of tough challenges with our travel. There's no cupcakes. We go to Alabama, Memphis, Kingsport, and we've got three here with Sevier County, CAK and Alcoa. There is nowhere on our schedule for us to hide. But everything we do is to challenge these girls. And just like last year, when we get to the state tournament, we're in a position where we're not seeing anything we haven't experienced before."

But well before that point arrives, Webb is taking each day as it comes. And if the two newest trophies are any indication, that approach certainly has worked so far.

"They have gelled really well," Hernandez said, "and if we do what we are supposed to do and stay healthy, I do think we have a good chance to put ourselves in a position to succeed."

ROSTER

1	Corisa Lowery
2	Field Sanders
3	Reese Davis
4	Harper Ladd
5	Zahnyah Rockett
11	Mary Mac Emery
12	Ivy Napier
14	Neely Titus
15	Lola Widener
21	Addy Wilkes
22	Claire Baisley
23	Sisi Wortham
24	Raina Styles
33	Kyndall Mays
34	Zara Kreon





CCS Boys

From page 8C

defensively, whether that's rebounding or stealing. He just plays with a lot of heart and passion, and that's something you just can't take away from the kid. And it's exciting to see him," the coach added. "Another guy that's coming in that could be starting for us is senior, Tristan Thompson — he'll be probably like a forward for us, kind of tall, lanky kid," Cochran said. "Another name you could put on there is junior Isaiah Thomas. Kind of our other forward, plays hard. And then also, too, another kid would be Brady Martin. Excited for him. He's a sophomore. He and fellow sophompre guard Linkin Defendorf battling for starting positions and a lot of playing time. Parker Buhl is a senior forward. He'll get playing time as will sophomore forward Braden Craig. He's also a pitcher for the for the baseball team. A good athlete."

CCS Girls

From page 8C

kind of talent, hopefully, in this area. Really big upside. Super, smart IQ player. She plays unselfishly and just really excited to see her future with us; you know, she's making a name. And then Campbell's a really, really good sharpshooter, long length, can steal the ball, rebounds well, just sees the court so well," the coach added. "Just going to be a very good upside for Campbell for the next four years here in the area."

Of sophomore post player, Liz Queen, he added: "We're probably going to have to count on her a little bit here and there," Cochran said. "But she's still in that developmental phase."

Freshman Kinzley Marriott will also look to contribute.

KCHS Boys

From page 8C

"A sophomore that will come off the bench for us, is Marcus Webb, a 6-foot-3 guard, has super long arms, that will back up Travis at the point guard," Mains said.

"Zane Garza is a senior that will contribute as a shooting guard for us," he added.

The team's biggest strength is "versatility and athletic ability," Mains said.

"If we had a weakness, it would be outside shooting."

Webb Boys

From page 8C

"We're just trying to get as good as this team can be, which, if I'm being honest, I think by the end of the year we could be pretty good," he said. "But I think we get in trouble if we start comparing ourselves to last year. We are not replacing any of that, but these guys we have now are talented in their own way and we're trying to figure out the leadership piece.

"But if you rush that stuff, it is not real and doesn't last, so we are trying to let that happen over the course of the season and see where it can take us."

LIONS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2026-27

Nov. 19	Bearden	Away	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 21	Meigs County	Roane State	3:30 p.m.
Nov. 23	(Thanksgiving Classic)	Beech High	1 p.m. CT
Nov. 24	(Thanksgiving Classic)	Beech High	11:30 a.m. CT
Dec. 4	CAK*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 8	Providence Academy*	Away	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	Apostolic Christian*	Away	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 11	Sweetwater	Away	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 14	Clayton – Bradley	Home	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 15	Anoor Academy	Home	8 p.m.
Dec. 17	Maryville Christian	Home	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	Rhea County	Away	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 21-23	Boys Christmas Classic	Tellico Plains	TBA
Jan. 5	Grace Christian*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	Lakeway Christian*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 12	CAK*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	Apostolic Christian*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	First Baptist Academy	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	Berean Christian	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	Tri-Cities Christian	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	The King's Academy*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	McMinn Central	Away	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 2	Farragut	Away	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 4	Sweetwater	Home	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 8-13	District Tournament	TBA	TBA
Feb. 15-21	Region Tournament	TBA	TBA
Feb. 22-27	State Tournament	TBA	TBA

*denotes district contest

IRISH • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2026-27

Nov. 21	Brentwood Academy	Away	4:30 p.m.
Nov. 27	TBA - GP Thanksgiving Classic	Neutral	4 p.m.
Nov. 28	Eagleville - GP Thanksgiving Classic	Neutral	1 p.m.
Dec. 1	WCHS	Home	7 p.m.
Dec. 4	Tri-Cities Christian	Away	7 p.m.
Dec. 5	Volunteer	Away	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 8	NVOHS	Home	7 p.m.
Dec. 12	VOHS	Home	2 p.m.
Dec. 18-22	5 Star Preps Classic	TBA	TBA
Dec. 26-31	The Classic @ TN High	Kingsport, TN	TBA
Jan. 4	Wesley Christian	Away	5 p.m.
Jan. 8	McCallie*	Away	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 9	Corbin (KY)	Away	5 p.m.
Jan. 12	Baylor*	Away	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	Alcoa	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 16	Notre Dame	Home	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	Maryville	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	Webb*	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 30	Tri-Cities Christian	Home	3:30 p.m.
Feb. 2	McCallie*	Home	7 p.m.
Feb. 5	Webb*	Home	7 p.m.
Feb. 9	Baylor*	Home	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	Volunteer	Home	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	Region play-in games	TBA	TBA
Feb. 16	Region semifinals	TBA	TBA
Feb. 19	Region finals/consolation	TBA	TBA
Feb. 24	First round	TBA	TBA
Feb. 27	State quarterfinals	TBA	TBA
March 5	State semifinals	Austin-Peay	TBA
March 8	State finals	Austin-Peay	TBA

SPARTANS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2026-27

Nov. 21	Dobyns-Bennett	Home	11:15 a.m.
Nov. 23	Turkey Jam Tourney	Homewood, AL	5 p.m. CT
Nov. 24	Turkey Jam Tourney	Homewood, AL	2 p.m. CT
Dec. 3	Hutchison	Bartlett HS	7 p.m. CT
Dec. 4	Bartlett	Bartlett HS	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	Sevier County	Away	6 p.m.
Dec. 10-12	Webb Turnkey Tournament	Home	TBA
Dec. 19	Science Hill	Kingsport, TN	1 p.m.
Dec. 22-23	TBA	Kingsport, TN	TBA
Dec. 28-31	Ladies Classic	Greeneville, TN	12 p.m. on 12/28
Jan. 7	Stone Memorial	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 11	CAK	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 12	Sevier County	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 16	MLK Classic	Away	11 a.m.
Jan. 19	Baylor*	Home	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	Catholic*	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 26	GPS	Away	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 2	Baylor*	Away	5 p.m.
Feb. 5	Catholic	Away	6 p.m.
Feb. 8	GPS	Home	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	Alcoa	Away	6 p.m.
Feb. 15	Region play-in games	TBA	TBA
Feb. 16	Region semifinals	TBA	TBA
Feb. 19	Region finals/consolation	TBA	TBA
Feb. 23	First round	TBA	TBA
Feb. 26	State quarterfinals	TBA	TBA
March 5	State semifinals	Austin-Peay	TBA
March 6	State finals	Austin-Peay	TBA

LIONS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2026-27

Nov. 19	Bearden	Away	6 p.m.
Nov. 21	Meigs County	Roane State	2 p.m.
Nov. 23-24	(Thanksgiving Classic)	Beech High	11:30 a.m./10 a.m. CT
Dec. 4	CAK*	Away	6 p.m.
Dec. 8	Providence Academy*	Away	4 p.m.
Dec. 11	Sweetwater	Away	6 p.m.
Dec. 14	Clayton – Bradley	Home	6 p.m.
Dec. 15	Anoor Academy	Home	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	Maryville Christian	Home	6 p.m.
Dec. 18	Rhea County	Away	6 p.m.
Dec. 28	Sandestin Christmas Classic . Destin, FL		9 a.m. CT
Dec. 29	Sandestin Christmas Classic . Destin, FL		TBA
Dec. 30	Sandestin Christmas Classic . Destin, FL		TBA
Jan. 5	Grace Christian*	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 8	Lakeway Christian*	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 12	CAK*	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 15	First Baptist Academy	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 19	Berean Christian	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 22	Tri-Cities Christian	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 26	The King's Academy*	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 29	McMinn Central	Away	6 p.m.
Feb. 2	Farragut	Away	6 p.m.
Feb. 4	Sweetwater	Home	6 p.m.
Feb. 8-13	District Tournament	TBA	TBA
Feb. 15-21	Region Tournament	TBA	TBA
Feb. 22-27	State Tournament	TBA	TBA

IRISH • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2026-27

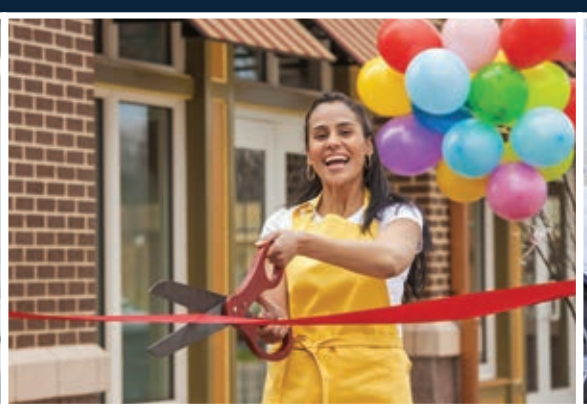
Nov. 21	Brentwood Academy	Away	3 p.m.
Nov. 27	Rocky Top Sports (v. Southwind)	Gatlinburg, TN	2:30 p.m.
Nov. 28	Rocky Top Sports (v. TKA)	Gatlinburg, TN	11:30 a.m.
Dec. 1	East Hamilton	Home	6 p.m.
Dec. 4	Tri-Cities Christian	Away	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 14	Gatlinburg-Pittman	Home	6 p.m.
Dec. 18-22	5 Star Preps Classic	TBA	TBA
Dec. 28-30	Ladies Classic	Greeneville, TN	TBA
Jan. 5	Providence Christian	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 8	GPS	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 9	Corbin (KY)	Away	3 p.m.
Jan. 12	Baylor*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 15	Alcoa	Home	6 p.m.
Jan. 16	Notre Dame	Home	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 18	Maryville @ GPS	Neutral	1:40 p.m.
Jan. 22	Webb*	Away	6 p.m.
Jan. 29	Lakeway Christian	Away	6 p.m.
Feb. 2	GPS	Home	6 p.m.
Feb. 5	Webb*	Home	6 p.m.
Feb. 9	Baylor*	Home	5 p.m.
Feb. 11	Walker Valley (Senior Night)	Home	6 p.m.
Feb. 15	Region play-in games	TBA	TBA
Feb. 16	Region semifinals	TBA	TBA
Feb. 19	Region finals/consolation	TBA	TBA
Feb. 23	First round	TBA	TBA
Feb. 26	State quarterfinals	TBA	TBA
March 5	State semifinals	Austin-Peay	TBA
March 6	State finals	Austin-Peay	TBA

SPARTANS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2026-27

Nov. 19	Tri-Cities Christian	Away	6 p.m.
Nov. 21	Boyd Buchanan	Home	2 p.m.
Nov. 23-24	Hazel Green, Jackson Academy	Away	1:30 p.m. both days
Dec. 1	Chattanooga Prep	Away	7 p.m.
Dec. 3	Pure Academy	Bartlett HS	8:30 p.m.
Dec. 4	Jim Hill (MS)	Bartlett HS	6 p.m.
Dec. 7	Sevier County	Away	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10-12	Webb Turnkey Tournament	Home	TBA
Dec. 19	Corbin (KY)	Kingsport, TN	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 21	TBA	Kingsport, TN	1 p.m. or 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 22-23	TBA	Kingsport, TN	TBA
Dec. 28-31	TBA	Nashville, TN	TBA
Jan. 7	Stone Memorial	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	CAK	Away	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 12	Sevier County	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	Baylor*	Home	7 p.m.
Jan. 22	Catholic*	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	McCallie*	Away	7 p.m.
Jan. 28	Tri-Cities Christian	Home	6 p.m.
Feb. 2	Baylor*	Away	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	Catholic	Away	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	McCallie	Home	7 p.m.
Feb. 11	Alcoa	Away	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	Region play-in games	TBA	TBA
Feb. 16	Region semifinals	TBA	TBA
Feb. 19	Region finals/consolation	TBA	TBA
Feb. 24	First round	TBA	TBA
Feb. 27	State quarterfinals	TBA	TBA
March 5	State semifinals	Austin-Peay	TBA
March 6	State finals	Austin-Peay	TBA



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Vols look to tame Tigers on Senior Day

This weekend, ninth-ranked Tennessee hosts No. 24 LSU in Neyland Stadium. With a victory, the Vols (8-2) would move one step closer to the College Football Playoff, while the Tigers (6-4) were eliminated from contention in their loss to Texas last Saturday, Nov. 14.

Lane Kiffin makes his second return to Knoxville as a head coach, as he came back to Knoxville with Ole Miss in 2021. And even though LSU has not played up to its potential, the talent evaluation gives Tennessee coach Josh Heupel plenty to scout before Saturday's 3:30 p.m. kickoff on Senior Day.

"A bunch of guys that have been here through multiple years, have played a huge part in the future inside of this building and played meaningful football," Heupel said of his senior class. "A lot of dynamic playmakers."

LSU brings similar talent, though. So with that in mind, the Vols will have to play well despite missing a few key pieces. In last Saturday's 22-7 win over Texas A&M, wideout Mike Matthews was taken off the field with a season-ending knee injury.

"You hate it. It's the ugly part of this game," Heupel said of Matthews. "The growth he's shown, the way he was playing, a huge part of what we're doing offensively. Hate it for him and the competitor he is, but he will come back and be better for it. Some of those young wideouts need to be ready to step up. Radarius (Jackson), TK (Keys) Travis (Smith). They've got to maximize their opportunities and play assignment-sound football and make plays."

Tennessee also will look to plenty of contributions from quarterbacks George MacIntyre and Faizon Brandon, who have shared the load in recent weeks. Though when MacIntyre went out with an injury Saturday, Tennessee ran the ball well behind Brandon's direction.

"With George, we looked at it this morning and will continue to progress through the course of the week," Heupel said. "At the end of the day, whoever is out there has to play. Their mental approach has been that of maturity, which is hard to do because you don't know when your opportunity is coming. Both have continued to practice and prepare, and that allows them to go play when they get their opportunity."

Defensively, the Vols will look to continue a strong season that has them ranked No. 1 in the SEC with just 14.3 points allowed per game.

"I think it's a combination of a lot of things," Heupel said of Jim Knowles' unit. "The physicality in the second half, some subtle tweaks to what we're doing. All pieces of the puzzle."

This week, UT will look to fit those pieces together against an LSU offense featuring a talented but inconsistent passer in Sam Leavitt.

And if the game comes down to a field goal, the Vols have a reliable kicker in Cooper Ranvier, who went 5-for-5 against the Aggies.

~ Jake Nichols

Reveiz goes from Rocky Top to coaching

With Tennessee welcoming LSU this week for a high-profile game against the Tigers, we are taking a look back at a former Vol and Farragut standout who suited up under current Tigers coach Lane Kiffin on Rocky Top in 2009.

Before becoming the defensive coordinator at Western Carolina, Farragut alumnus Nick Reveiz took the field for Tennessee from 2007-2010 after redshirting his freshman season. In his four years as an Admiral, Reveiz was named Class 5A All-State in 2005, and he even became a Mr. Football finalist as a lineman. He was named an All-Prep Xtra linebacker by the Knoxville News-Sentinel with more than 130 tackles as a senior, leading Farragut to a 10-3 mark under head coach Eddie Courtney. He also made 151 tackles as a junior and became a two-time state and region wrestling champion in the 215-pound class.

Once he reached UT, Reveiz made a notable impact his redshirt sophomore, junior and senior seasons as a two-time team captain. Reveiz and the Vols played under Kiffin during his redshirt junior season, which proved a pivotal year for Reveiz as he turned from a walk-on to a scholarship player and starting middle linebacker.

That same season was cut short due to an injury after four games for Reveiz, but he came back to start all 13 games and matched his career-high of 14 tackles in a single game in the 2010 Music City Bowl under Derek Dooley.

He collected 168 career tackles, including 81 solo stops and 10.5 for loss during his career, which resulted in Reveiz being named as a finalist for the Burlsworth Award — an award given to a former walk-on football player who shows outstanding performance on the field.

As a coach, Reveiz worked at Carson-Newman, Albany State, the Virginia Military Institute and Charleston Southern before joining the Western Carolina staff in February of this year.

~ Jake Nichols

LineUp LSU
Louisiana State University

0	Tamarcus Cooley	S	39	Mack Mulhern	LS
1	Princewill Umanmielen	DE	39	Lavonte Williams	DB
1	Jayce Brown	WR	40	John Hurley	S
2	Ty Benefield	S	41	Junior Tuihalamaka	DE
2	Tre' Brown	WR	42	Davhon Keys	LB
3	Eugene Wilson III	WR	43	Silas Hall	LS
3	Lamar Brown	DE	44	Zach Grace	TE
4	Jackson Harris	WR	45	Sean Perret	PK
5	DJ Pickett	CB	46	Seth Knothe	S
6	TJ Dottery	LB	46	James Larson	TE
6	Winston Watkins Jr.	WR	47	Malik Blocton	DT
7	Trey'Dez Green	TE	47	JD LaFleur	TE
7	Whit Weeks	LB	48	Kolaj Cobbins	DE
8	Husan Longstreet	QB	49	Theo Grace	LB
8	Ja'Keem Jackson	CB	50	William SatterwhiteII	OL
10	Sam Leavitt	QB	51	Ryan Miret	IOL
10	Dashawn Spears	S	52	Ja'Quan Sprinkle	OL
11	Landen Clark	QB	53	Hayes Fuqua	OL
11	PJ Woodland	CB	54	Ja'Mard Jones Jr.	OL
12	Malachi Thomas	TE	55	Aliou Bah	OL
13	Faheem Delane	S	56	Jake Ibieta	LB
13	Dilin Jones	RB	57	JaKolby Jones	OT
14	Roman Mothershed	TE	61	Braelin Moore	OL
15	Phillip Wright III	WR	65	Sean Thompkins Jr.	OT
15	Jaiden Braker	LB	67	Bo Bordelon	OL
17	Damien Shanklin	DE	68	Brett Bordelon	OL
19	Gabriel Reliford	DE	69	Darrin Strey	OT
19	Kaden Martin	QB	70	Devin Harper	OL
21	Michael Turner Jr.	CB	71	Brysten Martinez	OT
21	Cayden Jones	QB	73	Adrian Lamb	OL
22	Havon Finney Jr.	CB	74	Braden Augustus	OL
22	Harlem Berry	RB	75	Weston Davis	OT
23	Stacy Gage	RB	76	Christian Stamps	OL
23	Aidan Anding	CB	77	Jordan Seaton	OT
24	Joseph Ebun	RB	80	Scott Starzyk	PK
24	Tylen Singleton	LB	80	Brayden Allen	WR
25	Rod GaineyJr.	RB	81	Landon Craig	TE
25	Aiden Hall	S	83	Corey Barber Jr.	WR
26	Charles Ross II	LB	84	Tyree Holloway	WR
26	Nolon Buckels	WR	85	Josh Jackson	WR
27	Raycine Guillory Jr.	RB	86	Jabari Mack	WR
27	Dez Ellis	CB	87	JC Anderson	TE
28	Jhase Thomas	S	87	Joey August	DT
29	Jordan Ross	DE	88	Malik Elzy	WR
29	Caden Durham	RB	88	Richard Anderson	DT
30	Treylan James	S	90	Stephiylan Green	DT
31	CJ Jimcoily	S	90	Grant Chadwick	P
32	Gavin Higgins	PK	91	Trenton Henderson	DE
32	Keylan Moses	LB	92	Brandon Brown	DT
33	Isaiah Washington	S	93	Jaylen Brown	DE
34	Mason Dossett	S	95	Shone Washington	DT
35	Zach Weeks	LB	96	Dominick McKinley	DT
36	Emari Peterson	CB	97	Dylan Carpenter	DE
36	Aidan Corbello	PK	98	Achilles Woods	DT
37	Craig WaltonJr.	CB	99	Hayden Craig	P
38	Jackson Williams	S	99	Deuce Geralds	DT

LineUp
University of Tennessee

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