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Re-live Battle of Campbell Station Nov. 10

Farragut Museum Committee invites the public to a salute of U.S. service members and a historical presentation on the Battle of Campbell Station starting at 1 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 10, in Farragut Community Center (239 Jamestowne Blvd.). The event will include recognition for Prisoner of

War and Missing in Action soldiers, a proclamation honoring all veterans and a presentation of flags to members of each branch of the armed services. Bill Rhodes will discuss the Battle of Campbell Station, which took place on Nov. 16, 1863. A documentary video about the battle also will be shown.

A reception with refreshments and an informal question-and-answer session with local historians also are part of this free event. For more information, contact Farragut Parks & Recreation director Ron Oestreich at roestreich@townoffarragut.org.

Prepare for deals with Shop Farragut for the Holidays

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

Get ready for holiday deals and other perks at dozens of Town businesses. Shop Farragut for the Holidays, which runs from Friday, Nov. 22, through Wednesday, Jan. 1, “concentrates efforts of the Farragut Business Alliance to promote our local businesses with increased media buys and discounted ads, public service announcements and social media efforts keeping the general public aware of the shopping opportunities and in-store special events available during the holidays,” an FBA release stated. “Shop Farragut will put out some branding signs at gateways into Town by Costco, Renaissance, Campbell Station, etc. as a gentle reminder to ‘Shop Farragut for the Holidays,’” Stephen Krempasky, SF/FBA executive director, said. Free of charge to participating business, “The only investment a business may have is the cost of producing a temporary sign and their time in letting us know what their plans are,” Krempasky said. As for expected participation, “We expect three dozen or more,” he said.

See SHOP-HOLIDAYS on Page 2A

Grant sought to ease Town expense burden

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Town of Farragut is seeking matching grants to reimburse for expenses it spent on security. In its meeting Thursday, Oct. 24, Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen unanimously passed resolutions to approve authorization for the Town to participate in the Public Entity Partners’ Property Conservation matching grant, James L. Richardson Driver Safety matching grant program and security grant. “The Town’s property insurance coverage provider, Public Entity Partners, offers an annual matching grant for security equipment and devices,” Town recorder Allison Myers said. “The objective of the grant program is to help members purchase items designed to protect insured property from damage and loss. “Proper security equipment can



Myers

help prevent harm to Town employees and citizens, protect Town property from damage and may assist the Town in the recovery of stolen property or monetary reimbursement from an at-fault party for damages,” she added. “Security cameras will help prevent and record vandalism, theft, damage and general misconduct on Town owned property. “Additionally, cameras and equipment will act as a deterrent to such conduct, assist the Town in pursuing legal action when merited and help protect the Town from false claims of wrongdoing or negligence. If awarded, the Property Conservation Matching Grant, Public Entity Partners will match what the Town spends on approved items to help protect insured property from damage or loss, with the maximum reimbursement amount based on a Property Coverage Classification Matrix as determined by Public Entity Partners,” Myers said. “The grant requires the resolution be passed by the governing body to authorize participation in the grant program.” She said funding already is included.

See GRANT SOUGHT on Page 2A

Final Fest favorite: giddy green guy



Quite friendly with a wave was Makoa Gentry, 11 months, who was among the Best Baby Costume candidates during Farragut Business Alliance’s annual Harvest Fest Sunday afternoon, Oct. 27, in the Village Green shopping center parking lot. Makoa is quite secure in the arms of her mother, Jayden Gentry.

Alan Sloan

Bank neighbor to Campbell St. Inn a ‘drive-thru’ sticking point: FMPC

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

The future for a potential bank beside historic Campbell Station Inn remains up in the air as realtors’ hopes of having a drive-through at the bank are diminished. Davis Overton with White Realty, Knoxville attorney Taylor Forrester and Chad Pendlay, real estate manager with Fifth Third Bank, sought a text amendment to the Town’s ordinance to provide for a drive-through service lane and window to a bank or real estate business in the Mixed-Use Town Center (downtown). While there was no action, Farragut Municipal Planning Commissioners said they would not support such a text amendment at a recent meeting. “I would not support a variance to the MUTC for these drive-thrus,” Commissioner Noah Myers said, receiving agreements from fellow Commissioners. “There’s a reason why we didn’t

want those drive-thrus in the MUTC.” “I cannot support the text amendment for a number of reasons,” Commissioner Ron Pinchok said, adding the biggest reasons were consistency and setting a precedent. “If we play around with this, we could open up a can of worms down the road I don’t want to get into,” he added. “This property has been part of the Town Center since 2001, so this is not new news,” Vice Mayor Scott Meyer said. “This shouldn’t be shocking to anyone that this property has the constraints it’s had for quite a while.” Going down the table, none of the Commissioners supported the text



Meyer

See BANK, INN on Page 3A

business

- Celebrating 30 years of a women-owned local business has included positive transitions of ownership. “The women who owned it before me were just amazing, Godly, very generous women.” (Discover the owner who is quoted above, and other celebration details and photos, on page 5A)

community

- One local high school is really into “Pure Imagination” as it prepares for a special three-day performance later this month. Student-performers give their account of what it means to put your heart and soul into a craft, during rehearsals, leading up to the big event. (Read story, see photo on page 6B)

sports

- Several local athletes, especially at two Farragut-area high schools, were dominant on a regional stage in Knoxville on their way to the state event later this week. One of the teams involved is looking for a third consecutive TSSAA state title (See story and photos starting on page 1B)



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Light the Park Nov. 25; ice rink Nov. 22-Jan. 4

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Get your holiday season started by joining Town of Farragut as the switch gets flipped between 6:30 and 6:45 p.m. on a massive light display at Founders Park at Campbell Station: Annual Countdown to Light the Park starts at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 25, with a full slate of activities, including a visit from a special guest in red.

Light the Park continues every evening starting at dusk from Tuesday, Nov. 26, through Wednesday, Jan. 1. There will be entertainment and giveaways from local vendors as well as food trucks at Founders Park many evenings through Monday, Dec. 23. A calendar of scheduled activities can be found under Farragut News at townoffarragut.org.

“Meteorologist Mike Witcher emcees this year’s event, featuring entertainment from the Mark Boling Trio, the award-winning FHS dance team and local favorite Mike Snodgrass,” a Town press release stated. “Younger visitors will enjoy crafts, games and dropping letters into Santa’s mailbox.”

To receive a reply from Santa, mail letters by Monday, Dec. 16, and include a return address.

A new addition to Light the Park festivities is a 53-by-33-foot synthetic ice rink that will operate from Friday, Nov. 22, through Saturday, Jan. 4, at Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza. For more information and to make reservations, visit townoffarragut.org or call 865-966-7057.

Parking for Countdown to Light the Park is available across Campbell Station Road at Westgate Christian Fellowship, as well as Autumn Care Assisted Living (400 Herron Road) and Holy Cross Anglican Church (515 Herron Road). Knox County Sheriff’s Office will be on hand to assist those crossing Campbell Station Road. Additional parking is available at Farragut Community Center (239 Jamestowne Blvd.) and at Ralph McGill Plaza at the corner of Kingston Pike and Campbell Station Road.

“For those unable to make it to this year’s event, East TN PBS will once again film a behind-the-scenes special about preparations for Light the Park, including installation of lights and the ice rink,” the press release stated. “The special will include this year’s musical entertainment and interviews with Town staff. It airs Saturday, Dec. 14, and Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24.”

towncalendar

Craft fair/Angel Tree

• West Knox Senior Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd., is gearing up for the holidays with a craft fair and Angel Tree.

The craft fair will take place from noon to 3:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 15, at the center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd.

“Several of our seniors that come here do a lot of crafting,” senior center coordinator Darrell Gooding said. “So, this is an opportunity for them to meet with the public, and the public to see what they do and even purchase their items if they want.”

The event is free to attend and open to the public.

“Also, Friday, Nov. 1, we’re kicking off the Senior Angel Tree,” Gooding said.

Offered by the Office on Aging, the items collected go to seniors who are served through the Office on Aging, he said.

“We always have a drop-off box here at the senior center, and I’ve heard the Office on Aging say so many times that the people of this center go above and beyond what’s required,” Gooding said.

“We’ll have a list of items that we can make available to individuals, and they can go out and purchase items on that list, bring them in and drop them off,” he added.

People are asked not to wrap items.

“(Recipients of the items) must meet certain income guidelines, so these are individuals who are in need,” Gooding said.

CLUP workshop

Town of Farragut Community Development staff will host a free workshop on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and how it applies to property designated Mixed-Use Town Center beginning at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 20, in Farragut Community Center (239 Jamestowne Blvd.).

The workshop will cover:

- An overview of land use plans
- A history of how land use plans have been applied in the Town
- Key strategies in the current Comprehensive Land Use Plan

See TOWN CALENDAR on Page 3A

KCSO reports

• On Tuesday, Oct. 29, Knox County Sheriff Office units responded to 11340 Campbell Lakes Drive (Hampton Inn & Suites) for a hit-and-run call. Complainant said that while he was inside the hotel overnight, a vehicle he rented was hit on the passenger-side rear door while parked in the parking lot.

No camera footage was available to observe the incident taking place. Damage to the vehicle was observed. Total amount estimated in damage was listed at \$2,000 in the report.

• At 2:05 p.m., Oct. 29, an officer was flagged down along Parkside Drive at Turkey Cove Lane by a complainant. He said that while he was working on landscaping along Parkside Drive, a co-worker discovered a wallet in the roadway. The wallet contained a Florida

license belonging to the victim, “along with multiple credit/debit cards, an insurance card, medical marijuana identification card — all bearing the same name,” the report stated.

Multiple gift cards also were inside the wallet. The report did not indicate if the owner had been contacted to claim the wallet.

• At 12:56 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 31, a complainant called KCSO East Precinct to report a vehicular burglary at a Federal Boulevard address.

Complainant said sometime between 8 a.m. the night before and 12:20 a.m. on this day, “person(s) unknown stole his wife’s purse,” using her credit card twice for almost \$100 in purchases at a Taco Bell and at an Exxon convenience store.

Grant sought

From page 1A

ed in the approved FY2024-2025 budget, and reimbursement of up to \$4,000 will be requested.

In the same vein, the Board approved a resolution to participate in the driver safety grant.

“The Town’s insurance coverage provider, Public Entity Partners, offers an annual matching grant for training or equipment purchases related to driver safety,” Myers said. “The objective of the grant program is to help members address training needs and safety concerns for employees who operate Town vehicles and purchase items designed

to reduce automobile liability claims.

“The grant is a 50/50 matching grant for training and driver safety related purchases and 100 percent reimbursement for Motor Vehicle Record checks,” she added.

Myers explained an MVR check is performed on every Town employee authorized to drive Town vehicles. It provides information on the employee’s driving history so the Town can determine if these employees are eligible to drive Town vehicles.

The Town also plans to purchase replacement items for a driving course and training materials for driver safety.

“Funding is already included in the approved FY 2024-

2025 budget,” Myers said. “Reimbursement of up to \$1,000 will be requested.”

Along with those grants, the Board also passed a resolution to participate in a cyber security matching grant.

“The objective of the grant program is to help members with purchases related to cyber security tools, training and services to help protect from ransomware and social engineering attacks and allow members to increase their ability to qualify for Cyber Security Insurance coverage,” Myers said. “Funding is already included in the approved FY 2024-2025 budget. Reimbursement of up to \$1,500 will be requested.”

Shop-Holidays

From page 1A

Importance of signs

As for importance, “Temporary signs are a special issue in Farragut, as many of our businesses are located back and away from the major thoroughfares and in plazas or strip shopping centers,” the release stated. “Visitors are driving by quickly and often times miss these businesses coming through Town.

“Under Town ordinance, temporary signs are required to be permitted with a fee and be erected for no more than a 10-day period,” the release further stated.

However, “Under (this) program, a temporary sign is placed at no charge for the six-week period from the Friday before Thanksgiving through the New Year — hopefully giving our local businesses a little extra exposure during the critical holiday shopping season,” the release stated.

Background

Shop Farragut for the Holidays “is a program started by the Farragut Business Alliance over a dozen years ago,” an FBA press release stated. “In cooperation with the Town of Farragut, the FBA negotiated special conditions

for the use of temporary signs by Farragut businesses during the Thanksgiving to New Year time period.

Over the years, FBA has “added other elements to the campaign, such as heavily discounted ads in the farragutpress and other area publications,” the release stated. “For more than 10 years, a special holiday tabloid insert has been created in cooperation with the farragutpress that focuses on young families and children. It’s called “Santa Shops Farragut” and includes Letters to Santa and coloring pages with plenty of space for businesses to advertise to these families.

“Additional branding advertising through radio, television and social media is to keep Shop Farragut top of mind during the holidays,”

the release further stated. “If our businesses are planning any holiday sales, discount programs or in-store events we host a special page on our website and share this information through our social media platforms and weekly e-newsletter.”

A Shop Farragut business is any “that operates from a Farragut address and has a Farragut Business Privilege License,” the release stated. “This includes home-based and Internet businesses. There is no membership needed to take advantage of the promotional benefits of FBA’s Shop Farragut programs. Businesses, especially new businesses, can contact Krempasky to learn of Shop Farragut year-round events at steve@shopfarragut.com.



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Concerts For Our Own

Celebrating the final show of Concerts For Our Own’s 2024 season, Here Come The Mummies entertained a crowd of 700 at the Tennessee Amphitheater at Worlds Fair Park on Friday, November 1st. Thanks to the support of sponsors and concert goers alike, \$30,000 was raised in total this year and donated to their partner charities, Knoxville Pediatric Cancer Collaborative, the Joy of Music School, and the Love Kitchen, non profits in our community.

If you would like to know more about Concerts For Our Own, please go to <https://www.concertsforourown.org>

Bank, Inn

From page 1A

amendment as it was proposed. However, Myers suggested the developers reconsider their drive-thru and add an ATM like Chase bank's.

Mayor Ron Williams said developers presented two plans at a Staff-Developer meeting, one of which more closely resembled Chase's.

On one plan, "What you are seeing are two drive-thru lanes that are behind the building," Pendlay said. "From Kingston Pike, you would be shielding the drive-thru."

"The second (plan) has a detached drive-thru similar to what Chase did, which is a little further back," he added.

Community Development director Mark Shipley said if the plans for the drive-through were changed, the bank plan could be approved for that site.

"Currently, a drive-through lane is only permitted in the MUTC for establishments serving food or beverage on lots of record that are a minimum of 2 acres and subject to a number of additional criteria to basically limit the scale and visibility of the drive-through," Shipley said.

"The location where the bank is interested in is (along Kingston Pike) to the immediate west of the Campbell Station Inn," he added. "There

are three banks in close vicinity with drive-through service lanes and windows."

Shipley cited three reasons for his not supporting the drive-through.

- It is incompatible with the Comprehensive land Use Plan.

"An auto-oriented layout for a bank type use is not consistent with a built environment that prioritizes walkability and pedestrian activity."

- Is incompatible with Town's strategic plan to "Identify potential retailers to increase local sales tax revenue with remaining commercially zoned properties left to develop."

- It is inconsistent with previous actions regarding Chase bank. "When the Chase bank, which is within the MUTC, approached the Town initially with a layout that included drive-through service lanes and windows, the staff noted that it was not permitted in the MUTC."

"Chase Bank revised its layout to not include drive-through service lanes," Shipley added. "This revised layout, which only has an ATM that is separate from the building, was deemed by the Town attorney (Tom Hale) as consistent with the existing language in the Zoning Ordinance and would be permitted."

"We've tried to do what we could for the community," Overton said.

Town Calendar

From page 2A

- How the CLUP is specifically applied to the Mixed-Use Town Center

- A review of how the CLUP has been used to implement changes in the MUTC over the past decade.

This workshop is part of a quarterly program to provide citizens with information on planning and land use-related topics. For more information, contact Community Development director Mark Shipley at mshipley@townoffarragut.org.

stated. "Eighteen locations will be listed. When participants go to each location, they get a passport stamp recognizing Admiral Farragut has been found. If they collect 12 stamps of the 18 locations, they bring their passport to the Community Center for a prize. If they collect a stamp for each location (all 18), they bring the passport back to the Farragut Community Center for an additional prize."

The trail began Friday, Nov. 1, and runs through Saturday, Nov. 30, "and is designed as a fun way to explore Farragut, to introduce participants to new locations and to learn about places to shop and places to eat for the holiday season," the VF press release further stated. "Some of the locations on the passport include some Farragut favorites such as The Shrimp Dock, Euphoric Cheese Shop, Elliott's Boots Shoes & Sandals, Park & Alley and Brickhouse Collectibles."

"Part of the uniqueness of Farragut is the connection to Admiral Farragut, and the passport trail is a way to celebrate that history by continuing to spotlight him and his significance."

For more information, e-mail Tourism assistant Kristi Vining at kvining@townoffarragut.org



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Town traffic a big problem; real solutions?

Kingston Pike/Campbell Station intersection in the heart of Town of Farragut is hard broke.

Traffic congestion through TOF is a challenging problem to solve because there are so many variables, including over-development, cut-through traffic between (Interstate) I-40 and Choto/Loudon County, roads that are too narrow and/or have physical constraints, and, of course, parents and students commuting to schools.

Mayor (Ron Williams) does a poor job managing the traffic despite making many promises and spending millions of dollars to address the problem.

It is time for effective solutions that have immediate impact. It is not time for excuses or blame-shifting. Recently, the TOF Communications manager, Wendy Smith, posted an update on TOF traffic, acknowledging the problem and laying blame at the contractor's feet, "... ATMS project is delayed due to our contractor being significantly behind schedule ..."

Williams on ND blames the grant process while whining about the cut-through traffic and occasionally pulling the misinformation chain. Where there is blame-shifting, you are probably dealing with a lack of accountability and maturity.

What the mayor gets right is that the cut-through traffic is a gross problem (verses a finer problem — I agree). It is easier to solve gross problems, but finer problems may be lurking once gross problems are addressed. So, what does the mayor have in mind to solve the gross problem at some future date?

lettertotheeditor

He has hailed the ATMS literally for years because it would give the TOF engineers the ability to address acute and chronic traffic issues through a centralized hub.

Sounds great, and it has worked in communities across the United States. How is it going here? Although ATMS has been physically installed, we are still waiting for signs of improvement four months after the finish date.

The TOF Communication manager said in the same post mentioned earlier that TOF has hired a traffic consultant and is planning on tweaking in timing, which indicates little progress has been made besides installing the physical components.

The mayor claims that adding lanes to I-40, removing the scales and adding a diverging diamond at the Campbell Station/I-40 (TDOT improvements, not TOF) will help solve the traffic issues at Campbell Station/Kingston Pike. This is incorrect. The mayor is flat out wrong.

Interstate improvements only shift the problem by enabling cut-through traffic to continue down I-40 and exiting at Campbell Station rather than, or in addition to, Lovell exit.

So, the cut-through traffic is now coming south down Campbell Station instead of West on Kingston Pike — both head towards the hard broke KP/CS intersection. Interstate improvements do not improve the traffic congestion at Campbell Station/Kingston Pike intersection.

Biddle Farm traffic studies predicted the likelihood of KP/CS intersection failing years ago and suggested making physical changes at the intersection.

When I reminded the mayor of this recently, he said the

changes would not fit. If there is a refusal to push out curbs, this is accurate, but why is that a constraint?

It makes sense that we can't move the buildings, but why can't we move traffic signals and curbs/sidewalks, especially if it helps solve the traffic congestion? The mayor seems rigid when flexibility is needed.

I remind him that his flexibility at Campbell Station/I-40 a few years ago enabled an effective interim solution by re-striping lanes. A similar openness and sense of urgency is needed now, especially with traffic impacts due to Biddle Farm apartments filling up and KP sewer remediation incoming.

I don't think the mayor understands the urgency needed to solve the traffic congestion at peak times. I guarantee thousands of commuters do.

He needs to act now.

Adam Atherton, Farragut

presstalk

• I was wondering what happened to the Midwestern company, Hy-Vee, that wanted to come to Farragut. They were going to come on the property just west of Town Hall.

A great idea. I'm sure the Town officials were for it. What in the world happened to that? I heard that Hy-Vee was frustrated with Farragut, all the rules and regulations and all the jacking around that they got.

And I heard that they were thinking seriously of going to Loudon County. But what happened? Why did we lose the Hy-Vee sales revenue? Why did we lose the Hy-Vee company's commercial store and big grocery complex for the property west of Town Hall?

Who stopped that? I thought the Town officials were business-oriented; I thought they were pro-business.

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- keep e-mailed **Presstalks** to 250 words maximum (editor@farragutpress.com);
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- comments will remain anonymous;
- names of individuals (including public figures) will not be published.
- all **Letters to the Editor** from any citizen must have a minimum four-week period between publication — not to exceed 600 words — and must not have inaccurate information, such as wrong statistics, from which to form an opinion. We also reserve the right to reject publication based on factors to include, but not be limited to, threats, name-calling and foul language.

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Woman-owned Corporate Quarters turns 30

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — For the past 30 years, Corporate Quarters had been helping clients find living arrangements as they locate to Knox County and East Tennessee.

It celebrated that milestone with a ribbon cutting, sponsored by Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce, at CQ's office, 10912 Murdock Road, Tuesday, Oct. 29.

"We are so pleased to be here for Corporate Quarters' 30th anniversary," FWKCC president/CEO Julie Blaylock said.

A woman-owned company from its start, "I think it is such an amazing legacy to be a part of," said Alofa Porter, CQ president, who started with the company in 2019 as its vice president of operations.

"And the women who owned it before me were just amazing, Godly, very generous women," she added. "So, to be the new chapter of this women legacy is something I never imagined for myself.

Porter said the company's industry is called "corporate housing industry."

"It's basically a home away from home," she explained, adding it has inventory from Kingsport and Johnson City to West Knoxville, Powell and Oak Ridge. "It's usually an apartment or a townhouse — it could be a single-family home — that we have rented. What we do is we go in and fully furnish it.

"We provide all the housewares, the linens, everything that someone would need to basically move into a place and have it move-in ready. We say all they need to do is bring their suitcase.

"They rent that from us



Tammy Cheek

Alofa Porter (with scissors), Corporate Quarters' president/owner, prepares to cut the ribbon to celebrate the company's 30 years in business with a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce-sponsored ribbon cutting at Corporate Quarters, 10912 Murdock Road, Tuesday, Oct. 29. Joining her, front row from left, are Charlene Waggoner, Jane Sharp, Taryn Erwin, Amber Burchett, Karen MacDonald (holding the 3), Nolan Taylor (holding the 0, son of an employee) and Stephen Trent.

with flexible lease terms, so normally people might need something fully furnished for like a 90-day period of time, just kind of an interim housing situation," she said. "But, sometimes people rent from us long-term, for years at a time."

Many times, corporations rent housing for their employees who are relocating to the area.

"We have contracts with several large employers in our area that do a lot of relocation to the East Tennessee area, and they might be relocating folks from the West Coast or from overseas," Porter said.

"Some of the larger companies will offer their employees, as part of their relocation package, a per diem where they say, 'We're going to relocate you to East Tennessee and

we'll take care of up to 60 or 90 days housing,'" she added.

What they do "is reach out to us directly and see what we have available," Porter said.

She said that way the employees can come to the area, get a better understanding of Knoxville and what part of town they want to live in.

"It's a really good way to get acclimated first before they decide on their permanent home," Porter added.

However, individuals also can use the company to find a temporary home.

"A good size portion of our business is individual reservations," she said, adding those include clients vacationing or visiting family in the area.

"It's more comfortable than a hotel," Porter also said. "They have all the amenities

the community has to offer ... a lot more comfortable than being in an extended stay, air B&B or a hotel."

Porter also said she is proud of the company's generous giving-back philosophy as it holds food drives for local non-profits and other projects to serve the community.

"I'm really proud of the history we have as a local, woman-owned company," she said.

Sherry Williams, founder, started the business in October 1994 with just a couple of apartments and one major corporate client, Goody's Family Clothing.

"Through the years, she was able to grow the company, and had great success during her 10 years as the owner," Porter said.

Now, she said it averages

from 25 to 150 apartments.

"The Williams family is very dear to me because (Sherry's) daughter (Amy Williams Peeler) and I grew up together," Porter said. "I spent many weekends in the Williams' home. As a 14-year-old at the time, I knew about Corporate Quarters."

Williams retired in 2008 and sold the company to Kim Taylor, who sold it to Porter in 2022.

The office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, but "there always is a manager on call for guests," Porter said.

Companies and individuals can reach out to CQ by visiting online at knoxcorporateapts.com, calling 865-675-3146 or e-mailing to alofa@corporate-quarters.net

businessbriefs

• **Weichert, Realtors - Advantage Plus, a Knoxville real estate brokerage at 10160 Parkside Drive and 221 W. Young High Pike in Knoxville, recently welcomed Mark Atkins** to its team of agents.

Atkins assists clients in Knoxville and surrounding areas with all their real estate needs.

"We're thrilled to welcome Mark to our team," said Jeff Grebe, broker/owner of Weichert, Realtors - Advantage Plus. "His hardworking demeanor and strong knowledge



Atkins

of the local housing market will be great assets for all his clients."

As a Weichert-affiliated agent, Atkins has access to in-depth training programs, the latest technology and the most powerful sales and marketing tools in the industry to help provide his clients with superior real estate service.

And, as a Knoxville native, he brings extensive local knowledge and personal experience to the real estate market. With a background in new home construction and renovations, Atkins offers a unique perspective allowing him to help clients not only find the right home but also understand the true potential of each property.

Known for his integrity, commitment and strong work ethic, Atkins strives to make clients'

real estate experiences smooth and tailored to their specific needs.

• **The Lantern at Morning Pointe in Hardin Valley will be offering targeted support** for Alzheimer's and other memory care concerns with a targeted opening in early 2025 at 2433 Reagan Road, next to the current Morning Pointe of Hardin Valley Assisted Living.

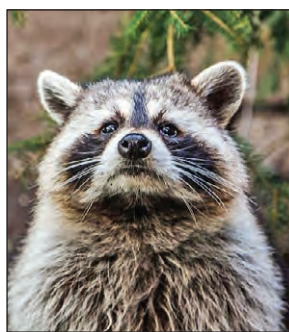
• **Pinnacle Financial Partners, with a branch at 241 Brooklawn St., Farragut, recently was selected** — once again — as one of the 2024 Fortune Best Workplaces for Women. This is the firm's seventh time being named to this list, this year ranking No. 8. Pinnacle has earned this distinction in six of the previous seven years.

To determine the Best Work-

places for Women, Great Place To Work analyzed the survey responses of nearly 600,000 women who work for Great Place To Work Certified companies that were eligible for the list.

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homecoming

6A • FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024



Farragut High School

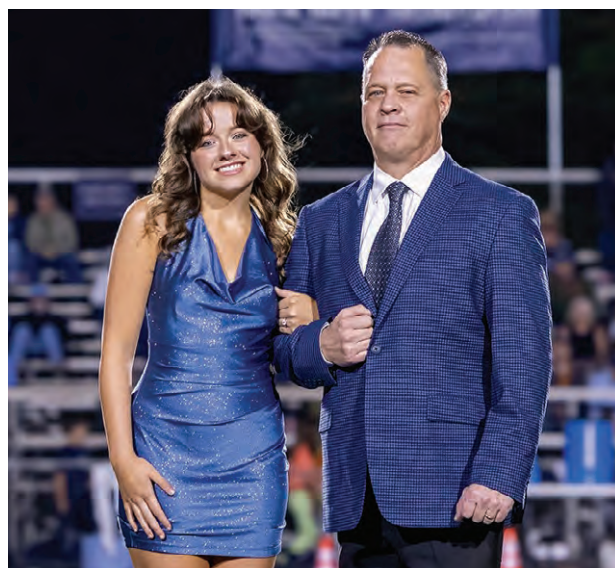
Above: 2024 FHS Homecoming Queen Annie Priest (middle, red dress) is joined by the FHS Homecoming Court, from left, Blair Thurman (freshman), Maisie Hagen (junior), Alanna Williams (senior), Reese Paige Venegas (senior), Kinsley Morgan (sophomore) and Kaitlyn Mee (senior).

Right: Senior Annie Priest, center, was named Farragut High School 2024 Homecoming Queen. She is joined by Myla Lewis, 2023 FHS Homecoming Queen, and Tim Priest, Annie's grandfather.

FHS photos courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com



Senior Alanna Williams



Senior Kaitlyn Mee



Senior Reese Paige



Junior Maisie Hagen



Sophomore Kinsley Morgan



Freshman Blair Thurman



THE VILLAGES

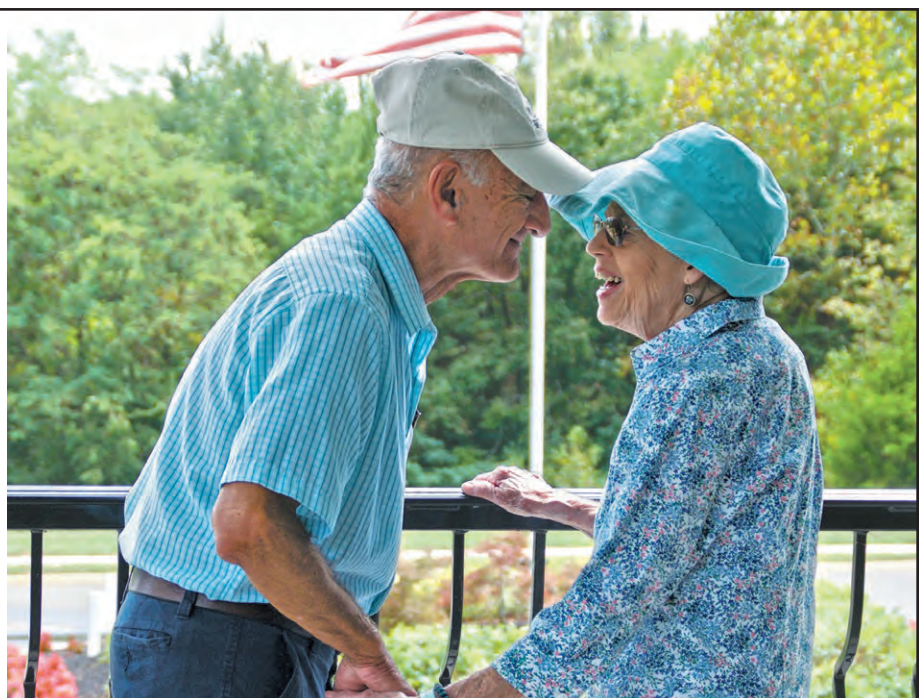
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homecoming



Brock Connater, escorted by his girlfriend, Grace Marsh



Maddox Farrow, escorted by his auntie, Danielle Hightower



Adam Lunsford, escorted by his mother, Lea Ann Lunsford



Ryland Parkey, escorted by his friend, Annabella Roark



Hardin Valley Academy

HVA photos courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/
Jeremy Wiggs Photography

Right: Ryland Parkey, Hardin Valley Academy Homecoming King 2024, alongside HVA Homecoming Queen Emma Johnson



Kate Crass is escorted by her parents, Evan and Marta Crass



Emma Johnson, escorted by her father, Mark Johnson



Kaitlyn Keim, escorted by her father, Chip Keim



Allison Lozano, escorted by her grandmother, Susan Cromwell



Kamayah Love, escorted by her father, Charles Love



Rylie McClagherty, escorted by her parents, Steven and Carla McClagherty



Macy McIntruff, escorted by her sister, Madeline McIntruff



Jordyn Surrette, escorted by her brother, Jaxyn Surrette, and friend, Ethan Richards



Kydra West, escorted by her father, Joey West



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Bearden High School

Left: 2024 BHS Homecoming Queen Kimberly Martinez Sevilla, right, and 2024 BHS Homecoming King Cooper Mann, right, with 2023 King Jordan James and 2023 Queen Kenzie Bankes

BHS photos courtesy of Kevin Lemere/
Kevin Lemere Photography

homecoming

8A • FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024



Senior Cooper Mann



Senior Isaiah Myers



Freshman Warner Graham



Freshman Brody Webb



Senior Cami Burlson



Senior Cadence Eastman



Senior Lana Nelson



Senior Rachel Roberts



Senior Kimberly Martinez Sevilla



Senior Mallory Simpson



Senior Mallory Haskins



Senior Ella Chattin



Senior Isabella Adams



Junior Kyra Rasmussen



Junior Kendall Coe



Junior Ella Eakins



Junior Jocelyn Williams



Sophomore Lucy Tirgrath



Sophomore Addie Duggan



Sophomore Brooklyn Childress



Freshman Jaraiah Levertte



Freshman Veronica Bonilla-Tascon



Freshman Lana Ghazanchyan

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Ads scare Red Rebs

Farragut shocks state power MHS, goes up 21-0 before losing 28-21

BILL HOWARD
Correspondent

A cliché in sports says it doesn't matter how you start, but how you finish.

Unfortunately, the cliché became the painful reality for Farragut High School's football team last Thursday — Halloween night and Senior Night in FHS's Eddie Courtney Stadium — in the regular-season finale.

Against Regional archrival Maryville, the Admirals started strong, racing to a 21-0 halftime lead. The second-half finish, however, was all Red Rebels: a 28-0 shutout.

The 28-21 loss gave Farragut a 4-6 record overall, 2-3 in Region 2-6A. The Admirals finished fourth in the Region and will play Dobyns-Bennett Friday in Kingsport in the first round of the TSSAA State Playoffs. Opening kickoff is 7 p.m.

"We'll come back ready to go next week," FHS head coach Geoff Courtney said. "Our kids are excited about being back in the playoffs. It was a goal of theirs."

Farragut dominated the first half. After an exchange of punts, FHS took over on the Rebels' 45. On third-and-goal from the MHS 8, quarterback Corbin Hobson hit Aaron Heatherly for a 7-0 lead with 1:46 left in the first period.

The Admirals forced an incomplete pass on fourth down on MHS's next possession and started on their own 41. On the fifth play of the drive, running back Charlie Noble busted up the middle for a 22-yard TD, and a 14-0 lead with 7:58 left in the half.

A mere 75 seconds later the Admirals' lead was 21 after they forced a Red Rebel punt giving them possession on their own 36. On first-and-20 from the 26, Hobson hit receiver Landon Collins over the middle, who then broke tackles and galloped all the way to the end zone on a 74-yard score.

"He's everything you want in a football player," Courtney said of Collins.

See ADS SCARE MHS on Page 3B



Photo submitted by Jack Tate/FHS Sports Information director

UCA Division Winner: FHS

On Saturday, Nov. 2, during the Universal Cheerleaders Association Regional Competition in Charlotte, North Carolina, the Farragut High School Cheerleaders took first-Place in the Super Varsity Game Day Division and earned a bid to the National UCA competition.

Dominant in the top spots, Farragut boys, HVA girls Region 2-AAA No. 1

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — Once again finishing on top at the Region 2-AAA boys cross-country level, two-time defending Division 1-AAA state champ Farragut (boys and girls photo, right) placed six of the top 15 — including champ Evan Beeler (16:01.49 on the 3-mile course) and runner-up Tanner Coggin (16:04.90), both seniors — to capture first place with 37 points at the Victor Ashe Park course Wednesday morning, Oct. 30.

Beeler, who won despite taking a wrong turn that cost him "about 3 seconds, said he "had a huge panic there for a second."

Led by a pair of sophomores finishing first and second, the HVA Lady Hawks (photo below with HVA boys) reversed



the script, winning the 2-AAA meet with 23 points versus runner-up FHS with 68. Both teams advance to the state meet Friday, Nov. 8, at Sanders Ferry Park in Hendersonville. Bearden was fourth with 95.

Boys 2-AAA leaders
Rival Hardin Valley Acad-

emy was a real close second, 41 points, placing five of the top 15 finishers led by senior Josh Hunt in third-place (16:05.82) and senior Gabe Allen earning fourth (16:12.34). Both Farragut and HVA advance to this week's state meet.

Other top 15 Admirals were

senior Ross Tootie placing ninth (16:54.42), junior Sam Shagan 12th, senior Jase Morton 13th and sophomore Andrew Cabaniss 14th.

Other top 15 Hawks were junior Cooper McKaig taking eighth (16:53.84), senior Sean Brown 11th and sophomore

Aiden Ruffi 15th.

Girls 2-AAA leaders

HVA's Alexandra Vesser smoked the field by running 18:57.80 on the 3-mile course to become champ, followed by teammate Ana Berkheimer's

See REGION'S BEST on Page 3B



Farragut photo courtesy of Cassidy Garcia/Cassidy Garcia Photography

HVA photo courtesy of Barry Houchin/Barry Houchin Photography



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Mini Ads 7th play for MAC title, defeat Gibbs 8-6

STAFF REPORTS
 editor@farragutpress.com

GIBBS — It was a dramatic finish in the Knox-Area MAC 7th-Grade Football Tournament semifinals at Gibbs High School Saturday morning, Nov. 2.

With Casen Culbreth 6-yard TD run early in the fourth quarter and a well-struck 2-point conversion kick by Gavin McClarkin, Farragut, tourney No. 3 seed despite suffering just one loss in 2024, led homestanding No. 2 seed Gibbs 8-0 in the closing minutes.

But the Mini Eagles drove deep inside Blue and Gray territory late, then scored on a 1-yard quarterback keeper with just nine seconds to play. However, the potential



(Above) Farragut's Casen Culbreth runs for key yards against Gibbs in the MAC 7th-Grade semifinal at Gibbs High Saturday, Nov. 2. (Right) Mini Ads Jay Hampton (43) and Andrew Toth (10) make a tackle.



Farragut MAC photos by Alan Sloan

2-point tying conversion kick was wide left, and Farragut (8-1) reached the MAC title game — back at Gibbs starting at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 9 —

following this 8-6 thriller. Drake Lewis had a key fourth-down run on the Farragut scoring drive. He also reeled off a 13-yard run.

Running back Jay Hampton ripped off a 20-yard run and caught a 16-yard pass from quarterback Andrew Toth. Casen ran 16 yards to help set

up his TD. Defensively, he recovered a fumble. Farragut beat Karns 8-0 — Casen TD run and Gavin conversion— in the quarterfinals.

MAC tourney 2nd-place for Farragut 6th-G

STAFF REPORTS
 editor@farragutpress.com

GIBBS — Losing only two games the entire season with a final 7-2 mark — both to Knox-Area MAC champ Austin-East — Farragut's 6th-Grade football team (right) earned much praise from its head coach after finishing second in the league tournament following its title game at Gibbs High Saturday morning, Nov. 2.

"I'm proud of this group, we've been together about four years now," Farragut



head coach Jay Garrett said. "I'm excited for the continuity that this team has — they're building a future.

"They play fast, they give us all that they've got four days a week," he added. "They come out and execute well in the

game. We just came up a little bit short today. "It's a pleasure to coach this team."

Farragut earned its title game trip after beating Halls 14-2 in the semifinals Sunday, Oct. 27, at Austin-East High.

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Almost state #1: BHS boys golf, Webb girls soccer 2nd; Newman leads HVA girls to 3rd

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

After 36 holes over two days at Sevierville Golf Club River Course, Region 2-AA champion Bearden boys golf earned a second-place team finish in TSSAA Division I-AA, scoring 605 (297-308 or +29).

Individually, Bulldogs Bryce Harmon (70-78—148) and Dane Helzer (71-77—148) were among six who finished tied for 10th-place (+4). Charlie Culbertson ended in a three-way tie for 28th (75-78—153 or +9).

Newman, HVA girls third
Region champion Hardin Valley Academy girls finished tied for third at state (150-157—307 or +27) led by Adisyn Newman, who finished in a three-way tie for state

medalist honors (68-72—140 or even-par through 36 holes).

William Blount's Sophia Gambini earned state medalist honors in a playoff.

HVA teammates Leona Patel and Rylee Taylor finished 32nd and tied for 34th, respectively.

In Division II-AA, Knoxville Catholic's girls placed fifth in state, led by a 12th-place finish by Linzy Johnson (75-84—159) and 14th-place showing from Teagan Walker (76-86—162). KCHS's Ava Holmes finished 21st.

Elsewhere in Sevierville, Farragut's Harper Holmes placed in a four-way tie for 13th in state (76-76—152).

Webb girls soccer second
The third time wasn't a charm for Webb School of Knoxville girls soccer in the TSSAA Division II-AA state

tournament in Chattanooga.

Despite a pair of victories earlier in the 2024 season against region rival Baylor (18-4-2), the Lady Spartans fell to the Lady Red Raiders 2-0 in the state title match Friday, Oct. 25, at Boyd-Buchanan High School.

With Baylor goals coming in the 40th and 55th minute, Webb shots-on-goal came from Abby Weigel, Gideon Bradford, Layla Kassira and A. Castleberry.

But a goal from Piper Luhn in the 36th minute got Webb into the title match, with a 1-0 victory versus Harpeth Hall (13-1-3) Thursday, Oct. 24.

Simone Romain (two shots) and June Samulski (one shot)

also had shots-on-goal for the Lady Spartans (15-2-1).

Webb goalkeeper Lauren Newell had seven saves.

Bearden soccer rolls twice

Despite falling short in the Division I-AAA state title match versus Houston, Bearden girls soccer were dominant in a quarterfinal win against Siegel (15-3-1) Wednesday, Oct. 23, and in the semifinal versus Page (16-6-2) Oct. 24.

Against Siegel, the Lady Bulldogs (19-2-1) had a whopping 28-3 edge in shots and a 16-3 advantage in shots-on-goal while winning easily 3-0.

A serious threat to break the all-time goals-scored school record in 2025, junior star

forward Jayla Blue tallied all three BHS markers — all unassisted and coming after halftime (eight shots-on-goal). Halle Bibee ended with five shots-on-goal for Bearden.

Against Page, Bibee was the offensive star, scoring twice with four shots-on-goal in a 4-0 Lady Bulldogs rout.

With Bearden's defense and midfield so strong that Page could not record a shot-on-goal, Maci Ritzman and Kennedy Lucas also tallied for BHS, which held a 27-2 overall shots advantage. Ritzman and Natalie Heinig provided assists.

Blue, meanwhile, did put five shots-on-goal in this match.

Ads scare MHS

From page 1B

Hobson finished 16 of 27 for 228 yards with two scores and a pick.

Maryville rallies
"We just didn't finish the game," senior safety Kent Carbaugh said.

The game's tale-of-two-halves dimension started when MHS scored on the opening drive of the third quarter to make it 21-7. A quick interception by Maryville then led to another score, which cut

FHS's lead to 21-14.

The Admirals couldn't rebound from the change in momentum. The Red Rebels tied it at 21 on the first play of the fourth quarter, then took the lead with 3:35 left in the game.

A late-game drive by FHS to try to force overtime ended when, on fourth-and-eight from Maryville's 8, Hobson's pass fell incomplete.

"We gave ourselves a shot down there at the end," Courtney said.

"They made the one last play."

Region's best

From page 1B

20:21.90 showing in second.

Despite her dominance, "This is my first one," Vesser said about her career first-place finishes.

Farragut's three in the top 15 were led by sophomore Zoi LeCours placing third (20:27.73), followed by senior Kenzie Lefler in 11th-place and senior Lydia McFall finishing

15th for the Lady Ads.

Four other Lady Hawks placed in the top 15: junior Rachel Benson was fifth (20:37.46), sophomore Ana Sofia Marquez sixth (20:40.95), senior Stuart Ann Leath ninth (20:48.93) and sophomore Ava Woodyatt 13th.

Bearden was led by junior Brielle Pickett's eighth-place finish (20:48.53) and senior Haley Jordan's 10th-place showing (20:56.69). Both are state qualifiers.

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Harvest Jam

Children, with parents in tow, donned Halloween costumes to show up for The Pinnacle at Turkey Creek's annual Harvest Jam, which took place in The Pinnacle along Parkside Drive Friday, Oct. 18.

While children played in the inflatable bounce house and in bumper cars, they also went from vendor booth to booth to get candy, had their faces painted and played with rescue dogs. Meanwhile, their parents browsed the booths and listened to bands, such as True Blue.



True Blue band



From left, Grace Fedders, Lilyana Bowlin and Brooke Slattery



Emma Neary and dad, Kevin Neary



Josh Ray painting Amelia Rogers, 6



Isabella Hartsell, 10



Stevie Hughes, 10 months



Lucas Balwierz



Kathleen Homes with Pippin (dog) and Farragut Lions Club's Tom Nitz



Madielyn Stiles Diaz, 7



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Tammy Cheek

Hardin Valley Academy musical theater students including, front row from left, Landrey Adam, Mallory Norbert and Eva Du, practice dance numbers in preparation for the class' upcoming per-

formance of "Pure Imagination Jr., taking place Friday through Sunday, Nov. 15-17, in the HVA Auditorium, 11345 Hardin Valley Road.

'Pure Imagination Jr.'

HVA's 4th Annual Musical Theatre revue, with a cast of 50, is Nov. 15-17

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Hardin Valley Academy's musical theater students, as well as faculty and alumni, are kicking up their heels to get ready for HVA's upcoming musical, "Pure Imagination Jr."

"This is our Fourth Annual Musical Theatre revue," said John McMeen, music director and HVA choir director.

The show involves 50 cast members, 37 of whom are in the musical theater class.

"In this revue, we have solos, duets, ensemble songs," he said. "We have a faculty member from (the musical) 'Annie,' and we also have alumni coming back for this production."

The performances, which are open to the public, will take place starting at 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15-16, and at 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 17, in HVA auditorium, 11345 Hardin Valley Road.

Tickets, which are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 12 and younger, are being sold online only at <https://cur8.com/19814/project/126282#HVVHawkNation#MusicalHawks>

"This is a very kid-friendly show with songs from popular musicals, including 'Winnie the Pooh,' 'Matilda,' 'Shrek,' 'Elf' and more," McMeen said. "Bring your family for a fun night out.

"Vocalists will include current musical theatre students, alumni and faculty," he added. "Science teacher Brandi Kinhead will be performing as little orphan Annie, so you definitely need to see that. And yes, there will be dancing, too."

For example, Avia Hawkins, a senior, will be singing a solo, "In Summer," as Olaf from "Frozen."

"I'm real excited because this is my first solo," she said. "Last year, I did a duet.

"I'm in the class for the experience," Hawkins added. "I really love the class, and it's so much fun when you're friends with everyone."

"I think it's super-duper fun," said Jaylon Carey, a junior who will be singing a solo, "Hola, Lola," as Edwina from "Dear Edwina Jr." "I love doing musical revues because they are really choreographed heavy. I love all the dancing.

"It's a good way to expose yourself to different musicals you might not have known about," she added about being part of the revue.

"I think it's super-duper fun. I love doing musical revues because they are really choreographed heavy. I love all the dancing,"

-Jaylon Carey, HVA junior, in the role of Edwina

Haven't heard of "Dear Edwina Jr." before? "I'm really excited to try something new and not be on stage alone," Carey said. While doing her solo, there will be dancing around her.

Like Hawkins, she hopes to gain more experience. Anderson Rast, a senior, is going into his second year with musical theater. He will be singing "Pure Imagination" as Willy Wonka from "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory."

"I think it's really fun," Rast said about his character. "I'm excited to put my own spin on the character ... see how people react each night."

Rast added he is hoping to get more experience in the general theater arts aspect of the class.

"I really want to go into sound design, so I think this is a great gateway into that," he said.

"The choreography has been super challenging for the students," McMeen said.

Some of the songs include "Revolting Children" from the musical, "Matilda Jr.," and "Freak Flag" from "Shrek Jr."

"We do this fall revue to help make money for our spring show," McMeen said. "So we do this as an introduction to the musical theater class and also to fund the spring musical.

"Some of the kids who are new in the class, this is a chance to get their feet wet with dancing and singing and figure out where they belong in the class and on the stage," he added.

'All Is Bright,' Pinnacle, Nov. 15

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — Pinnacle Turkey Creek announces the return of its annual holiday extravaganza, All Is Bright, which will take place from 6 to 9 p.m., Friday, Nov. 15, at Pinnacle along Parkside Drive.

"This year's celebration promises to be the most dazzling yet, featuring a festive parade, local vendors and the highly anticipated lighting of our stunning 60-foot Christmas tree," said Gabi Walsh, Pinnacle marketing associate.

"The evening will kick off with a joyous parade that will wind through Pinnacle Turkey Creek, bringing holiday cheer to all who attend," she added. "Spectators can look forward to festive floats, live entertainment and, of course, a special appearance by Santa Claus himself."

See 'ALL IS BRIGHT' on Page 8B

'Treasure trove' of Crafts: HVES 'Market' Nov. 9

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

For the 10th year, Hardin Valley Elementary School will host its annual Holiday Craft Market from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday Nov. 9, at the school, 11445 Hardin Valley Road.

"Embrace the season's spirit and discover a treasure trove of unique crafts, delightful treats and festive joy," a press release stated.

Jessica Turnbull, hospital-ity committee chair, said vendors will provide crochet, clay jewelry, permanent jewelry, scentsy, T-shirts and other different handmade gifts.

"The event is free for the community, and the vendors pay for their spot, so I want them to also make a profit,"

See CRAFTS-HVES on Page 7B

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First Farragut United Methodist Church, 12733 Kingston Pike, will host a conversation about loss and the holidays from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 17. Samantha Pitkin will facilitate (LCSW, Pitkin Counseling LLC). This event is designed for youth and adults.

First Farragut United Methodist Church is a Certified Recovery Congregation through the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Faith-Based Initiative. Hope Rises is a community series that discusses and works to break the stigma of mental health and addiction.

“Loss is hard, especially around the holidays, but there is hope in what feels like a hopeless process,” an event press release stated.

- What is considered loss?
- What does healthy grieving look like? What does it look like when grief gets “stuck?”
- When is it time to consider working with a therapist?
- What are some common coping skills grievers use to manage hard seasons?
- The importance of community and connection for grievers.

For more information or to register, visit online at <https://fumc.org/event/hope-rises-loss-and-the-holidays/> or call the church office at 865-966-8430.

• **Farragut Primary School’s PTO’s Book Fair Frenzy** is from 4 to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov 12, at FPS, 509 N. Campbell Station Road. The event is free and open to the public. In addition to Book Fair, FPS PTO will provide opportunities for:

- Photos with Finley, the school’s mascot
- Spiritwear for purchase
- All kids to receive a Dolphin-themed Bookmark courtesy of FPS PTO
- Sponsors and food trucks (Penne For Your Thoughts and Kooky Cookies)

“We are also so excited that this year’s ‘Frenzy’ activities for kids will have a focus on acts of service,” an FPS PTO press release stated. “FPS is a school with a Volunteer Spirit and we have

See **PLANNER** on Page **9B**

‘Knight-time’ tai chi ‘you can grow with’ at Arbor Terrace

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — Residents of Arbor Terrace of Knoxville, a senior living community at 9051 Cross Park Drive, are getting balanced under the instruction of tai chi instructor Paul Knight.

With tai chi, “it’s something you can grow with through your whole life,” Knight said. “It’s a lifetime practice.”

He has been doing tai chi for about 42 years. “Originally, I liked it for the philosophy,” he recalled.

However, “I grew up in New York City at a time it was a pretty dangerous place to be — I was mugged several times at knife-point and gunpoint — so self-defense took over the philosophical aspect of it.” Knight said he delved into kung fu, a form of Chinese martial arts resembling karate.

He evolved into the internal aspect, tai chi, after a motorcycle accident, where he lost his left foot. It was reattached in 1994.

“Someone ran a red-light and ran into me on the motorcycle,” Knight said. “In the recovery is where I started concentrating on chi-Gung, which is internal energy.

“That is about healing, meditation, breath work and that’s what got me into concentrating more on the internal part of martial arts, or kung fu,” he added.

Focusing on the healing aspects of tai chi, “that’s why I’m here,” Knight said. “Tai Chi uses a combination of body postures and breathing to maximize energy flow through the whole body.

“It’s energy circulation,” he added. “That’s what we want to improve, and that’s what we want to facilitate.”

Tai chi “literally translates as the ‘grand ultimate,’” Knight said. “It’s a series of movements with breathing and exercise. It strengthens you from the inside out.

“It strengthens the organs,” he added. “It improves circulation. It helps free the breathing.”

Tai chi has been growing in popularity among seniors.

“A lot of people are wanting to have a better quality of life in their later years,” Knight said. “It is something that’s easy to do — the movements are easy to do — they don’t injure the joints, and you don’t need much room, you don’t need equipment or much space.”

See **‘KNIGHT-TIME’** on Page **8B**



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Dario Antonucci, age 100, passed away peacefully on Friday, Oct. 25, at Parkwest Medical Center. Dario was born on March 9, 1924, in a mud brick farm house without running water or electricity in Calabria, Italy. His mother died when he was 10 years old and his father moved him and his sister to New York in 1937, a few weeks shy of his 13th birthday.

Knowing no English, he was placed in the fourth grade and five years later graduated from high school. One week after graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Dario loved his adopted country and served as a sergeant in the 54th Fighter Patrol Squadron.

He was a radio operator/mechanic and trained aircraft controller. He was stationed in the jungles of Burma, guiding fighter planes, bombers and cargo planes of the “Hump” (the Himalayan Mountains) in the fight against the Japanese. He also served as a radio operator onboard the planes themselves.

Returning to the United States from overseas in February 1946, he found a long waiting list for full-time college. Undeterred, he attended college at night while raising

Crafts-HVES

From page 6B

Turnbill said. “The more we raise, the more we can do for our staff and to thank our parent volunteers.”

Turnbill explained the hos-

obituary

a family and working in research labs during the day.

After 13 years of night school, he earned a degree in electrical engineering from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute. He spent the next 30 years as an aerospace engineer working for Grumman Corporation (now Northrup-Grumman) and was Metrology section chief (chief of measurements) for the F-14, A-6, E-2C and the C-2 aircraft, as well as the Lunar Module vehicle that landed Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the lunar surface.



Mr. Antonucci

Dario believed in hard work. He especially loved working with his hands. He was an avid gardener, opera buff, dog lover and devoted family man. He was a member of St John Neumann Catholic Church and active member of the Civitan Club. He had a kind and gentle spirit.

He was predeceased by his mother, Rosa Lecce Antonucci; father, Angelo Antonucci; sister, Julia Ferraro; and his beloved wife of 68 years, Annette Antonucci, who died in 2019.

He is survived by his three children, Richard Antonucci (Mary), Rosemary Calvert (Mark) and Daria Antonucci (Larry Travis); eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Family will receive friends from 3:30 to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 6, at Click Funeral Home Farragut Chapel, 11915 Kingston Pike in Farragut. Service will begin at 5 p.m. and a rosary service will be held after.

Family and friends will meet at 10 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 7, at East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery, 2200 Gov. John Sevier Hwy., for a graveside service with military honors by Volunteer State Honor Guard and U.S. Army.

The family would like to thank the staff of Morning Pointe Westland for the love and kindness they showed Dario over the last four years. He truly considered them family. We also would like to thank UT Hospice and Ginger Maples of UT Hospice. In lieu of flowers, please donate in his name to your favorite charity.

pitality committee is in charge of contributing money for staff baby showers, wedding showers and retirement parties.

“We celebrate staff birthdays with a card, get gifts for death in family or illness and also schedule a staff holiday party

and something for our parent volunteers,” she said. “This is the only fundraiser we do, so the more vendors and community traffic the better.”

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NHC PLACE FARRAGUT

New courtyard track-play space at Northshore Elem.



Alan Sloan

With its children all fired-up, Northshore Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization held an opening ceremony with administration, staff, volunteers and contractors to unveil the new play space — within a 325-foot-by-100-foot NES courtyard — for students on school grounds Friday morning, Oct. 25. “This new play space was built with funds (roughly \$140,000) raised from the last two years from our school’s Fun Run, our school’s main annual fundraising event held every November (held all day Friday, Nov. 15, this year),” an NES PTO press release stated. “Lambcon, Streetscapes and The Yard Force were our contractors that helped bring our vision into reality. The play space includes a two-lane running track, full-court basketball court, two four-square pads and a concrete pad for musical performances and concerts, as well as plenty of green space for the students to run and play during recess. Our school of almost 1,100 students was in desperate need of an additional play space, and our school community rallied together to make it happen. From the design of the space donated by Maudy Budiardja (school parent), to the concrete from Adam Lambert (school

parent) to the project management by Matt Sherrod (school parent) and (concrete project manager) Joe Getley with C2C and all of the parents that helped to water and keep the new sod alive, it truly was a team effort from our NES community. We are so proud of this space and how it will serve our school community for years to come. Also, a special thanks to our administration (principal Kimberly Harris and assistant principals Stacy Hilliard and Ches Betz), teachers and staff who have supported and been patient with the construction over the last few months.” “And thank you so much to our PTO board: couldn’t have done it without all of you,” Harris said during her speech at the ceremony about president Nicole Lipsey and all other PTO contributors. After the ceremony, Harris said this project started “about four years ago” when “I was the assistant principal here and Dr. Keith Cottrell, he was the principal. We had this vision of this area, that was unused, being put to good use.” What’s more, “everything’s ADA accessible,” Harris added. Sherrod said about the sod, “We do have a group of dads called the Sodfathers that take care of the landscape.”

‘All Is Bright’

From page 6B

After the parade, guests can explore a variety of local vendors offering unique holiday gifts, delicious treats and more, according to Walsh.

“Whether you’re looking for the perfect present or just want to soak in the holiday atmosphere, there’s something for everyone at All Is Bright,” she said.

“The highlight of the evening will be the grand illumination of our magnificent 60-foot Christmas tree, adorned

with thousands of twinkling lights,” she added. “This spectacular moment marks the official start of the holiday season at Pinnacle Turkey Creek and is a sight you won’t want to miss.

“All Is Bright is our way of bringing the community together to celebrate the magic of the holiday season. We’re excited to host this event and create lasting memories for families and friends in our community.”

Pinnacle Turkey Creek is an open-air, lifestyle center located at 11251 Parkside Drive. It is

home to more than 75 stores, including many retailers exclusive to the market, such as Ulta, Nike, Altar’d State, World Market, Athleta, J.Crew Factory and Smoky Mountain Brewery.

“In addition to the area’s best shopping, Pinnacle Turkey Creek plays hosts to several popular events and exciting workshops throughout the year,” Walsh said.

Visit pinnacleatturkeycreek.com or follow The Pinnacle Turkey Creek on Facebook and Instagram.

‘Knight-time’

From page 7B

While looking for a place to teach, he wanted to share what he learned while recovering from the motorcycle accident. Knight reached out to Arbor Terrace. He also teaches tai chi at Storypoint Senior Living along Northshore Drive and Island Home Park Health

and Rehab in South Knoxville.

Knight holds the class from 10 to 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays, at Arbor Terrace; 10:30 a.m., Fridays at Storypoint; and 1:30 p.m., Fridays, at Island Home.

He also teaches private classes by appointment by calling 865-415-8437, on Facebook at Paul Knight, Instagram or by e-mailing to knightdragon108@yahoo.com

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Planner

From page 6B

a PTO Board and many parent volunteers with servant hearts.”

Also, Joey & Nancy from the WIVK Morning Show will be on site with a station set up for kids to make Cards for the Troops; FPS PTO will sponsor

three 3-foot trees at Fantasy of Trees “and kiddos will get to make ornaments for this effort,” the release stated.

Project Giving Tree will be present with info and will have encouraging coloring sheets that will be given to families in need of encouragement throughout Knoxville

Farragut High Student Gov-

ernment Association will be on site taking canned good donations for their Can Food Drive benefiting The Love Kitchen.

• **West Knox Senior Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd., is gearing up for the holidays with a Craft Fair and Angel Tree from noon to 3:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 15, at the center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd.**

“Several of our seniors that come here do a lot of crafting,” Senior Center coordinator Darrell Gooding said.

The event is free to attend and open to the public.

“Also, Friday, Nov. 1, we’re kicking off the Senior Angel Tree,” Gooding said.

Offered by the Office on Aging, the items collected go to se-

niors who are served through the Office on Aging, he said.

“We’ll have a list of items that we can make available to individuals, and they can go out and purchase items on that list ... and drop them off.”

Do not wrap donated items. “(Recipients) must meet certain income guidelines ... who are in need,” Gooding said.

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farragutpress HOW THE WEST WAS WON

PUREMAGIC CARWASH SCOREBOARD

Presented by



School	Win-Loss	Points	Net Difference
Bearden	7-3	296-220	+76
Webb	5-4	248-214	+34
Farragut	4-6	186-275	-89
CAK	3-7	198-232	-34
Knox Catholic	3-7	227-328	-101
HVA	1-9	137-309	-172

It's Bearden, Webb, Farragut as final top 3

With Bearden's 31-22 home victory against Region 2-6A foe Bradley Central (3-7, 1-5), the Dawgs' first-place finish in the PureMagic How the West Was Won Scoreboard contest for best regular season record will go down as a 7-3 mark (4-1 in region). BHS also is a No. 2 seed earning a home game for this week's opening round of the TSSAA playoffs.

Against the Bears Friday night, Nov. 1, Drew Parrott caught a 64-yard touchdown pass from quarterback DJ Hunter for a 7-0 Bearden lead early in the first quarter. Running back Jayzon Thompson scored on third-and-goal from the 1, capping a 56-yard, eight-play drive to put the Dawgs up 14-7.

Thompson got his second 1-yard score with 3:14 left in the half, finishing a nine-play, 45-yard drive. The BHS led at halftime was 21-16.

For the game, Thompson had 19 carries for 113 yards and two scores. "We faced a lot of adversity throughout the game, but we got the dub (win)," the junior said.

Bearden built a 31-16 lead midway through the fourth. First, Parrott caught his second long touchdown from Hunter, this one for 40 yards with 10:47 left in the game.

Then on the next BHS possession, kicker Daniel Kinney connected on a 54-yard field goal. Sources around the school weren't sure if it was a school record for distance.

Webb, Farragut

Webb School of Knoxville, second place in the final PureMagic HWWW standings at 5-4 (4-3 in East Region), heads into the Division I-AA playoffs as a No. 4 seed having to hit the road.

Tuning up for that challenge, the Spartans used long runs and two "pick-6's" to rout East Region foe Lakeway Christian School (1-9) 40-7 at home in David Meske Stadium last Friday.

Hal Niendorff returned an interception 50 yards for six points in the second quarter, while Gregory Tate III did the same a few minutes later from 49 yards, which gave Webb a 27-0 lead at halftime.

Baxter Johnson's 33-yard scoring run opened the night's scoring in the first quarter, followed by Gage Porter's 21-yard touchdown pass to Benjamin Shawl early in the second frame.

Two long runs capped the Webb scoring, both in the third period: a 41-yard scamper from Shavar Young followed by Johnson's second TD, this one from 27 yards out. Greyson Webb converted three extra-point kicks.

Farragut (4-6, 2-3) shocked the TSSAA football world with its first-half performance against powerful No. 3 state-ranked Maryville (9-1 in Class 6A) before losing a close contest. (Read details beginning on page 1B).

Irish, CAK, Hawks

Knoxville Catholic found the going tough, once again, in the rugged Division II-AAA East Region, falling 49-17 at home to top-ranked and unbeaten Baylor (10-0) last Friday.

It also was a rough night in Chattanooga for Christian Academy of Knoxville in a 28-16 loss to Silverdale Baptist Academy (8-2) last Friday.

Hardin Valley Academy ended at 1-9 after being shut out by visiting Cleveland 28-0, as the Blue Raiders (7-3, 3-2) are a No. 3 seed in the upcoming playoffs.

The season finale wasn't without a few bright spots for the Hawks. Senior Nathan Holbrook grabbed an interception, while fellow senior Neal Henley came up with a pair of sacks in his final high school game.

Head coach Tyler Wynn was grateful for his 2024 seniors. "We had a great group of seniors. It's tough when you have three (head) coaches in four years," he said. "... They stayed and they did all the hard work and they're not going to see any of the benefits."

Opening playoff round

Bearden, a No. 2 seed, will host Jefferson County (6-4), the No. 3 seed from Region 1-6A, in a special Thursday, Nov. 7, playoff setting at BHS's Bill Young Field. Opening kickoff is 7 p.m.

Webb is headed for a rematch at Middle Region No. 3 seed Battle Ground Academy (8-2) — where the Spartans hope to do a much better job limiting the home team's scoring versus late August (68-41 loss). Opening kickoff is 8 p.m., EST, Friday, Nov. 8.

As the No. 4 seed from Region 2-6A, Farragut also has a regular season rematch at hand, once again hitting the road to Kingsport to face a Dobyns-Bennett team that finished unbeaten in Region 1-6A, earning at No. 1 seed (8-2 overall). The Indians edged the Admirals 27-20 during Week 1 action.

Opening kickoff is 7 p.m., Friday.

The KCHS Irish (3-7, 0-4), a No. 5 playoff seed, take a seven-game losing streak into its playoff game at No. 4 West Region seed Memphis University School (4-6). Opening kickoff is 7 p.m., EST.

The CAK Warriors also hit the road as a No. 6 seed versus powerhouse No. 1 Middle seed Christ Presbyterian Academy (10-0). Opening kickoff is 8 p.m., EST.



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Veterans Day



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Farragut Flyer

Wanting to fly, 'Jack' made it his life



Top: Dewitt "Jack" Ferrell Jr. was about 32 when he flew a AD Skyraider, an engine-driven propeller plane. That plane took him to missions over North Korea.

Above: Now almost 95, Dewitt "Jack" Ferrell dons his Navy uniform to salute the flag to show love for country and his service in his Farragut home.

Photo submitted/Tammy Creek



Dewitt "Jack" Ferrell Jr. still holds dear a photo of him (far right) and his fellow fighter pilots.

years and shore duty was three years.

"My sister was born while he was on one of those cruises, and the Red Cross sent him a telegraph to tell him that mom and baby were fine," Miller recalled.

Jack remembered, at that time, he was on the USS Hancock, in 1960 while serving in

the Reserves.

Miller remembered when her dad returned home in 1964, her sister, Melissa, was a toddler and did not know her father.

Jack married Frankie Sue on Dec. 9 in 1953, "and stayed married 63 years until she

See Flyer on Page 4C

"I always wanted to fly," Farragut Korean War veteran Dewitt T. "Jack" Ferrell Jr. reminisced about his enlisting the U.S. Navy when he was 21 on Feb. 19, 1950.

Jack, who will turn 95 in January, got his wish after enlisting in the Navy, flying fighter planes in combat on 33 missions in North Korea to support ground infantry during the Korean War.

"So, I made my whole life flying," he added.

All the while, Jack's wife, Frankie Sue Ferrell, and their four children — Mary Ferrell Minor, Michael, Melissa and Megan — waited in the United States for his return — many times waiting long periods — but he said he would do it all again "10 times over."

"It was the highlight of my life," Jack reflected about his military service.

"I'm very proud of my dad," his oldest daughter, Mary Miller, said, but observed

the events in the country "weighs on him, more than the average person. He loves his country, and he wants it to be OK."

"He had a pretty good Navy life, although we moved around a lot," she further reflected.

"It was kind of hard on me because I never went to school for very long in any one place," Miller said. "I was always the new kid."

Also, Miller's dad was gone a lot, but "we were always excited to see him. He was a fun dad," she said.

"Mama always used to sing this song, 'Won't be long 'till your daddy comes home,'" the daughter sang.

Jack was born Jan. 14, 1930, to Dewitt (Sr.) and Mary Ferrell in Dallas, and was the brother of Richard "Dickie" Ferrell.

He initially tried to join the Air Force but ran into an obstacle. His friend, Bob Lewis, then talked him into joining the Navy, although his friend went into the Marines. Jack's brother, Richard Ferrell, did join the Air Force, a tail gunner riding in B-29s in the Korean War.

After Jack enlisted and completed Naval flight training on Sept. 5, 1952, he got his wings of Navy gold and he was given orders to the Fighter Squadrons at Naval Air Base at Alameda Naval Air Station near San Francisco. There, he was deployed aboard the USS Boxer, an aircraft carrier, in April 1952.

"The USS Boxer joined the Carrier Task Force 77 in May 1953 in the Sea of Japan with three other aircraft carriers ... commanded by Vice Adm. Jocko Clark," he recalled.

While his mother nicknamed him "Jack," in the Navy, "I earned the name 'Dewey' because of my first name," Jack said.

"Everyone calls him Jack, and I don't really know why," Mary said. "His brother (Richard) is 93. He's Dickie. My mother started calling him Jack."

Jack said his skipper nicknamed him "Dewey."

"We would always go to Japan on (an airplane) carrier," he recalled. "Later, the Naval Reserves had sea duty and shore duty. Sea duty was four





Faith, Family, Fellowship, Fun & Our Future!

Located in the heart of our hometown, The Villages of Farragut Senior community offers luxury living with a comfortable and catered lifestyle.

The community, owned by Goodworks Unlimited, LLC, opened in December of 2019 at Village Commons Boulevard, has been thriving ever since. Located on the corner property at Kingston Pike and Smith Road, The Villages of Farragut is very proud to be a part of the fabric of Farragut, and the community soon will be celebrating five years of "Goodworks" in serving independent seniors.

Residents are living life to the fullest and thriving with a very active lifestyle. Each day offers different opportunities, including fitness and wellness, educational growth, spiritual studies, philanthropy, several clubs for various interests, social outings, live music and themed parties and celebrations of special events and holidays.

Photos of its Villages' Veterans are proudly displayed on its Wall of Honor, and its Veterans Club leads celebrations on patriotic holidays to honor all veterans who served this great nation. Its Walking Club promotes good health and encourages all residents to stay active by walking and counting steps, and its Sunshine Club provides outreach and well wishes with greeting cards and gifts.

Residents enjoy educational and fun outings, art classes and crafts, courtyard golf, the library, spiritual gatherings and especially music and dance. Wednesdays include live entertainment along with Happy Hour and live music every Friday. From tail-gate parties to Fall Festival to holiday dinners and events, residents enjoy an active and engaged social life all year long.

Resident Agnes Strelvel stated, "When I walked in there was a warm feeling and it felt like home. I knew this is where I wanted to live. I moved here two years ago, and I've made lots of new friends. The staff is wonderful, and I'm really

happy with my decision."

"When you choose to live here, you truly become part of our family," said Melody Matney, executive director. "We are 'Goodworks' and we are very proud to be a part of the fabric of Farragut."

"The vision for The Villages took several years of planning and nearly three years of construction to become a reality, as married couple Gary and Ricki Keckley — owners of GoodWorks Unlimited, LLC — along with several local investor partners, worked on every detail. The community is adorned with portraits, pictures and artifacts reflecting not only the Town of Farragut, but also the beauty of East Tennessee. The 25-acre campus provides breathtaking views of the Smoky Mountains from its outdoor porches. Residents also enjoy restaurant-style dining with chef prepared meals offering many menu choices. We support an active and healthy lifestyle with paved walking paths and a Walking Club, cardio classes, tai chi, Bridge Club, Book Club, Poker Night and Golf Tournaments on the putting green. We are also proud to offer on-site physical therapy through EmpowerMe Wellness," a press release stated.

"Spacious apartments, in a wide variety of floorplans (from 685 to just under 1,500 square feet, many with balconies, sunrooms, or screened in porches), surround the main three-story palatial shared living spaces that include an expansive dining area complete with a grand piano for live musical concerts. Residents have a variety of activities literally at their fingertips, from interpersonal social and creative opportunities to a wellness center, billiard parlor, and courtyard with putting green, along with a spa, and on-site salon services, among its many amenities."

Matney said she is proud "to have a strong leadership team and great employees who have a servant heart. Sandi Simpson-community relations, Brittany Charnley-resident events, Daniel Beebe-executive chef, Tamichael Brown-maintenance director and Sharon Wender-administrative assistant — and the Villages team all go above and beyond to

provide exceptional services every moment every day."

Residents are invited to bring their ideas and customs to The Villages under the slogan "Your Life. Your Way," which they incorporate into prominent social events, such as Fall Festival, Christmas Open House by Candlelight, Mardi Gras celebration, Kentucky Derby and much more.

The Admiral's Club is the residents' way of giving back to the Community. The club has raised significant funds for Parkinson's' Research, Wreaths Across America for the Veterans, a local food pantry, and the walk for Alzheimer's Tennessee. Residents in the Admiral's Club also partnered with the Tennessee Valley Humane Society to help with needed supplies for its adoption program. Most recently, residents have supported a fundraiser for Mobile Meals for seniors, and presented a gift to its local fire-fighters and paramedics in appreciation of their services.

"We invite seniors to come visit and feel the warmth of our community and experience what catered living is all about," Matney said. "The residents who come here want a happy, safe environment, providing a vibrant social life with great food, friends and a family atmosphere and that is exactly what we offer. Additional on-site services such as physical therapy, podiatry care and a visiting nurse practitioner help support our residents' overall wellness and longevity. After all, our goal is to help residents remain in the community through an active and healthy lifestyle."

While The Villages independent living community is flourishing, plans currently are in the works for future development. "We are excited to announce construction is now under way for the first six villas to be built on our 25-acre property here at The Villages of Farragut," Matney said. "These Phase 2 plans include 28 of the 66 total independent living villas, and the first 10 garages, which will be available for current residents. Street names and Villa names have been selected and approved and will be announced soon. Floor plan renderings and rates are also forthcoming in a



press release.

"Several deposits already have been accepted for the villas, and interested parties are invited to call or stop by the community to be added to the wait list," she added.

"We are excited to offer this lifestyle to our community."

Additional phases of construction will include an assisted living and memory care community. The future development will allow for a continuum of care for seniors to age in place right here at home in the heart of Farragut.



Photos submitted

After serving as a chief gunner of a B-29 bomber plane in Korea, veteran John Boyer was a boom operator of a KC-135A jet tanker, refueling jets in flight.

Villages resident

reflects on his military career

Korean war veteran John Boyer, 90, remembers the excitement of battles over Korea as an 18-year-old.

Then a corporal, he was a chief gunner of a B-29 bomber plane supervising other gunners as they defended other bombers from fighter attacks using machine guns.

"I'm 18 years old (a corporal) and I'm supervising," said John, a resident of The Villages of Farragut. "I was with a 10-man crew: two pilots, a bombardier, a navigator, radio operator, flight engineer, radar operator and four gunners."

"It's like you see in the movies," he added. "We flew out of Okinawa. It was an about 10-hour mission. We'd fly up to Korea, bomb targets in North Korea and come back home."

Got shot at? "Oh, yes," John recalled. "I had to fly through flack (air bursts from where North Koreans tried to shoot down a plane, they'd flare shells in the air and the shells burst in air) all the time. You had to fly right through it."

"If you'd seen those old war movies where the bombers were going over and the big puffs of black smoke, that's air bursts," he explained. "They're firing at you and the shells explode." Although "It might hit you," John added, "You have to fly through them."

"When you're 18 years old, you're afraid of nothing. It isn't until you get older and get smart that you begin to realize that you could die."

Yet, John was never injured. Instead, he returned home with an Air Medal, commendation medals, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Crew Member Medal, Korean Service medal, United Nations medal and National Defense medal, among others.

"He was in the air flying while everybody else was on the ground shooting people," his wife, Jane Boyer, said.

"I loved it," John said about his military experience. "I would have probably stayed longer, but I got out because it



was time to make a change and move on with my life. If I had not been married, I would have stayed in.

"I moved my children around a lot, so I figured it was time to settle down," he added.

Still, given the chance to go back into the military, he responded, "Oh yeah, absolutely. I love this country."

"I think everybody ought to give part of their life to serve their country," John added. "That's the reason we're free is because of people who joined the military and protected the country."

Raised in upstate New York, Boyer always liked the military and admired several of his uncles who served in World

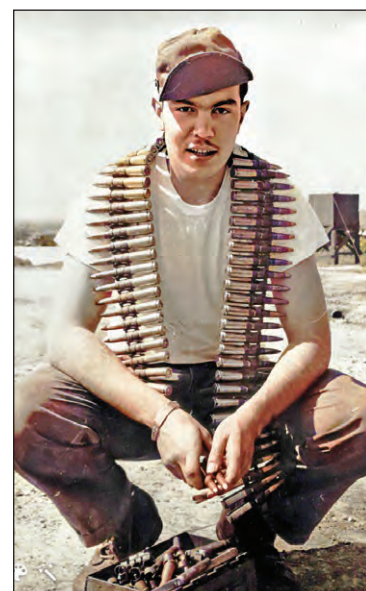
War II, one of them a B-17 gunner flying over Germany. So he could not wait to leave home.

He enlisted when he was 17 in the Army National Guard in 1949, where he spent two years before joining the Air Force in 1951. John remained in the USAF until he retired in 1971.

While in the military, he flew 25 missions over North Korea.

"What I found amazing is what he did after that (a gunner). ... He was refueling jets over Vietnam with this boom thing that came out from (his) plane," Jane said.

"After (Korea), I came back to the states, was a gunner on B-50s; and when they got rid of those airplanes, I went in KC-97s as a boom operator — it's inflight,"



Clockwise: U.S. Air Force veteran John Boyer was 24 when this photo was taken while he was in service. John Boyer wears his uniform proudly as he prepares for a recent event at The Villages of Farragut, where he resides. A Korean War veteran, Mr. Boyer was only 18 when this photo was taken. He was a gunner, flying over North Korea at that time. Mr. Boyer continued to serve, this time helping fellow veterans as part of the East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard, performing military funerals for deceased veterans.

John said. "I went to Loring Air Force Base in May 1955. In 1957, we put the first KC-135s — the jet tankers — in operation."

"There's a boom in the back that you drop down, it extends out and you stick it into a receptacle (of the plane being refueled)," he said. "I'm lay-

ing here in the back, and ... I operate to push (out) the boom to put it in the receptacle to transfer fuel."

Showing a framed photograph of a KC-135 John flew in 1957, he added, "That's the

See VILLAGES on Page 4C



Wreaths Across America expands its role in Farragut

Wreaths Across America is expanding its role in Farragut to honor deceased U.S. veterans, including Congressional Medal of Honor recipients and other war heroes, during its annual December ceremony — starting at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 14.

“The number we have is almost 300 folks and veterans in four different cemeteries” in Farragut, said Marilyn Childress, president of the Veterans Heritage Site Foundation with Wreaths Across America and a former U.S. Navy hospital corpsman. “I was a Vietnam-era veteran. ... I’m in charge of six different locations on that day and then two more locations on Sunday.”

Farragut sites are Pleasant Forest Cemetery, 401 Concord Road; Virtue Cemetery, 12446 Evans Road; Grigsby Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery, 11603 Grigsby Chapel Road; and Union Cumberland Presbyterian Cemetery, 12434 Union Road.

At Pleasant Forest alone, “There’s like, I think it’s 12 Revolutionary War heroes,” she said. “The main Revolutionary War Veterans in Pleasant Forest are Archibald Roane (also second governor of Tennessee), David Campbell and Thomas Boyd.”

At Virtue, “There’s over 50 people buried at that cemetery,” Childress said. “... There is James Campbell; his descendant, Cindy Johnson, will place his wreath (Dec. 14). There is also (Sgt.) Mitchell Stout, a Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War. He has a monument there as well.”

To kick things off, “They’ll have a main ceremony at Pleasant Forest,” Childress said. “When that ceremony is over, then folks that are going to the other three cemeteries will leave Pleasant Forest. And there might be some folks that just go straight to those other cemeteries.

“At the opening ceremony, there’s ceremonial wreaths placed to honor each of the services,” she added. “... They’ll do a prayer and then they’ll present the flags. They may have somebody sing the Star-Spangled Banner ... or they may just do the Pledge of Allegiance. I think they’re arranging someone to sing.

“Then they’ll talk a little bit about what Wreaths Across America is about and how they’re honoring the veterans in their city. Then they’ll do the presentation of each. They’ll talk about each of the services. Then one of the servicemen from that service, like

Army or Navy, when they talk about that (service), that person will go and place a wreath on a stand. Those ceremonial wreaths will stay there (until) sometime in the first part of January. Those wreaths will stay there to honor each of the services as well. Then they’ll have some speakers that will come and speak.”

As for volunteers laying wreaths, including local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, “I would say, from last year’s numbers, we’re talking at least a couple of hundred folks ... a lot of them will be citizens of Farragut,” Childress said.

About getting more Farragut gravesites involved in Wreaths Across America, “Last year, I approached Pleasant Forest because Veteran Heritage Site Foundation (has) a Revolutionary War project,” Childress said. “We’ve been trying to recognize and honor the Revolutionary War veterans that are buried in the Knox County Metro area, which includes about six or seven counties.”

In Farragut, “I found out they had a bunch of Revolutionary War veterans,” she said. “I approached them last year. The manager of that cemetery was all excited, so we ended up doing the whole cemetery. We did that cemetery last



These children placed a wreath at the grave of their grandfather, Gene McNutt “Mac” Abel, and their grandmother, Frances Larson Abel, at Concord Masonic Cemetery Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023.

year — and Virtue.

By adding those two other cemeteries, “We’ve gone from 200 to almost 300, just from last year to this year,” Childress added.

The VHSF president said their goal is to honor all late veterans.

“Just because veterans are buried in a private cemetery, it doesn’t mean that they shouldn’t be being honored and remembered,” she said. “We’ve reached out to a lot of the different cemeteries to place wreaths.

“That’s one of the reasons I went to Pleasant Forest; I wanted to make sure we got

those Revolutionary War veterans covered, and then they embraced it and wanted to make sure all the veterans in their cemetery got taken care of,” Childress added.

Of special note, “One of the things that the Veteran Heritage Site Foundation does, we are actively seeking these smaller cemeteries,” she said. “... We are the ones that got the National Park Service to give us permission to go and place wreaths in the Smoky Mountains. There’s 248 veterans buried there, and so we have to hike to them — there’s 65 different sites.”

Flyer

From page 1C

passed away,” he said.

Flying over enemy territory during his combat missions, Jack’s plane, a Douglas AD Skyraider, was shot at, and hit sometimes, but “I never did get hurt,” he recalled.

“We’d have duels with 22-millimeter cannons, but we didn’t lose any of our airplanes, though, to gunfire,” Jack added. “It took a lot of hits ... but none on any vital part that affected the airplane.”

He said the AD Skyraider was an engine-driven propeller plane.

The one problem he did have with it was “the engine was so loud. That’s why I can’t hear very well. My brother’s the same way. They had four of them.

“Later, I flew an A-4 Skyhawk,” Jack added. “I flew it for about 14 years. It was a little jet fighter.”

On the day a truce was declared, July 27, 1953, Jack flew

two combat missions on the same day, three hours each.

The truce was no surprise, though.

“I knew it was going to happen,” he said. “(The military leaders) wanted to put as much pressure on the Chinese as they could — double up — to make it hard on them and easier (to negotiate).”

In all, Jack was awarded three Air Medals — “You got an air medal for every 10 missions,” he said — a Legion of Merit medal, China Service medal, American Defense medal, Korean Service medal, United Nations medal, another medal for service in Korea and a U.S. Navy Expert Pistol Shot medal. His most prestigious medals are worn close to his heart on his uniform.

In 2023, he was awarded the South Korean Protect Medal of Freedom from Veterans Administration in Athens (McMinn County).

Additionally, the state of Tennessee “gave us a free license

(plate) forever,” Jack said.

After Jack retired from active duty, having served 14 years and achieving the rank of lieutenant, he immediately joined the Naval Reserves as a flight instructor, where he was promoted to commander and served until he retired from military service on Jan. 14, 1990.

All totaled, Jack served his country for 38 years.

After leaving active duty in the Navy, he stayed in the Reserves but he also was a captain for United Airlines starting in 1964.

“He had the best of both (worlds),” Miller said.

While in the Reserves, the Vietnam War was under way, but Jack did not have to go to that arena. “But we were ready and available,” he said.

He retired from United Airlines when he turned 60, having commuted from Washington, D.C., to Knoxville for 19 years as commercial pilot. He later moved to Athens, but then subsequently moved to Farragut.

Villages

From page 3C

early model. It could be very dangerous, especially because you have two airplanes flying very close together.

“I refueled practically everything when I was in the Air Force. I refueled B-50s, B-47s, B-58s, B-52s, F-84s (fighters), all kind of fighter planes.

John flew those “until 1965, when I quit flying,” he said.

While still in the Air Force, John went into telecommunications.

“I went into what they call radio relay,” he said. “We took care of all of the microwave and tropospheric scattered communications and multiplex microwave.

“Then, I spent a couple years in Turkey, and when I came back from Turkey I went to Kessler Air Force Base (in Biloxi, Mississippi),” he said. “I was an instructor down there. I taught electronics.

“That’s what I retired from in 1971 as a master sergeant.”

After the military

After retiring from Air Force, he moved to East Tennessee, where John worked for United Intermountain Telephone Company in Bristol, Tennessee, for 12 years, and at the same time, went to college at night, getting his electronics degree from East Tennessee State University.

After earning his degree, he was employed for a telecommunications equipment manufacturer, becoming a product manager, designing communication test systems.

John later was promoted to director of systems engineering before taking another job in Florida as vice president of engineering, then moving back to East Tennessee.

Family tree

John and Jane have four children: the late John Jr., Rachel, Matthew and Mark; eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren — and a 15-year-old Maltipoo named Peaches.



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