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# ‘Avoid Boyd’ starting in June; 8 to 10 weeks

**TAMMY CHEEK**  
[tcheek@farragutpress.com](mailto:tcheek@farragutpress.com)

Motorists usually traveling along Boyd Station Road in Farragut might need to find another route for about eight to 10 weeks starting in June.

As part of The Grove at Boyd Station subdivision development along Boyd Station Road, Rackley Engineering expects to be making improvements to that road, which include a roundabout.

“As soon as we get bids, and then we’ll have to come back to the Board (of Mayor and Aldermen to make

sure everybody’s on board — June, I’d like to start,” Russ Rackley, owner of Rackley Engineering, said at the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission Staff/Developer meeting Tuesday, April 29, regarding the timetable for the road project.

Rackley said both lanes of Boyd Station would be closed during construction.

“I think, for cost and time advantages and being that the only intersection there is our development, which isn’t connected yet, we’ll hard close both ends of it and detour around Evans (Road),” he added. “I’ll have a traffic control plan and we’ll have to put warn-

ing signs on McFee Road and Virtue that says ‘Boyd Station closed.’”

“Do you have any idea how long that will take?” Community Development director Mark Shipley asked. Rackley estimated eight to 10 weeks but added, “I think it will go pretty quick.”

He said the roundabout is going to be “where the design connection for our subdivision is proposed.

“It’s approximately 3,500 feet” of road improvements,” starting at the McFee Road intersection with

See “AVOID BOYD” on Page 3A

## TPO study advises Town, Hardin Valley road revamps thru ’50

**STAFF REPORTS**  
[editor@farragutpress.com](mailto:editor@farragutpress.com)

*(First of two parts: four local plans through 2035)*

With Farragut and Hardin Valley road improvements prominent in its long-range planning for the next quarter century, Mobility Plan 2050 was adopted by Knoxville Regional TPO Executive Board at its meeting Wednesday, April 30.

“This long-range transportation plan will guide infrastructure investments over the next 25 years and allows federal money to be received for them,” a TPO press release stated. “It is updated every four years to account for changes in community and regional priorities, technology, project costs and available funding.

“This plan ensures the best decisions are being made for our communities so that we can all get from Point A to Point B safely and efficiently,” said Doug Burton, TPO coordinator. “Now that the plan has been adopted, these projects can begin to move through the development process.”

“The projects were selected and prioritized after consideration of both technical analysis and public input, with a focus on safety, modernization, congestion management and

See ROAD REVAMPS on Page 3A

## FHS Grand Reunion ’25



Among scores of graduates from the Old Farragut High School building (through the 1975-76 school year) on hand for their annual Grand Reunion in Virtue Church Fellowship Hall the first Saturday in May (May 3) were **(right)** Phil Kirby, left, (1966 grad) and Matt McFee (1977). **(Above)** John Marius, left, (1954) is joined by Doug Horne (1963), owner of Republic Newspapers, Inc., parent company of farragutpress.



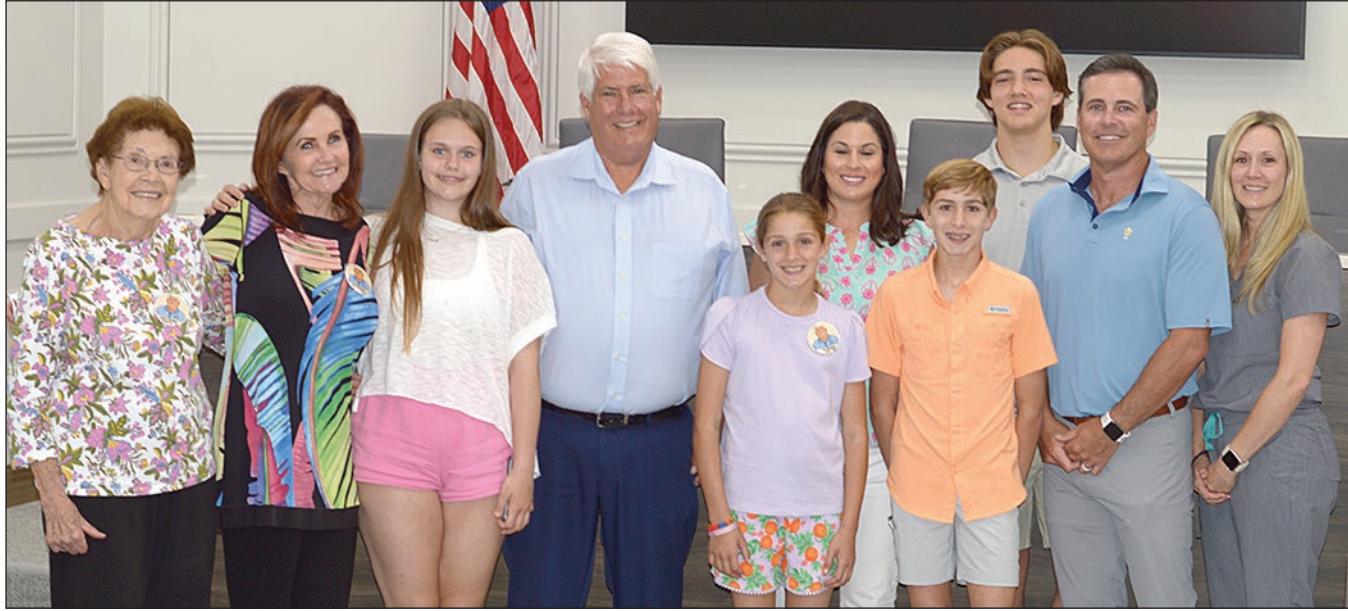
Photos by Tammy Cheek

## ‘When you say Bud, you’ve said it all:’ McKelvey retires from Town after almost 38 years



Photo submitted

From his early days as Town of Farragut Public Works director, Bud McKelvey apparently “saw into the future” about his retirement.



Tammy Cheek

Retiring Public Works director/Town Hall project manager Bud McKelvey was surrounded by his family during a reception in his honor Friday, May 2, in Town Hall. On hand for the event were, from left, his mother, Audrey McKelvey; wife, Faye McKelvey; granddaughters, Presley Sims and Peyton Case; daughter, Lindsey Case (in back); grandsons, Camden Case (orange shirt) and Sadler Sims (in back); stepson, Justin Sims and Justin’s wife, Katie Sims.

### 41st Annual Bob Watt Fishing Rodeo May 10

Spaces are filling up for 41st Annual Bob Watt Fishing Rodeo, which takes place Saturday, May 10, in Anchor Park, 11730 Turkey Creek Road.

Youth ages 12 and under have been invited to the rodeo for a morning of fishing and competing for prizes, according to a Town press release.

“The event will include two rounds of fishing, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and from 9 to 10 a.m.,” the

release stated. “Prizes will be awarded after each round.”

Limited bait and fishing poles are available for use during the event, according to the Town press release.

“Poles will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis,” the release stated. “Participants are encouraged to bring their own poles and are

welcome to bring their own bait.”

The Fishing Rodeo will be held rain or shine. However, in the case of severe inclement weather, check Farragut Parks & Recreation social media for the status of the event.

For more information, e-mail ParksandReclnfo@townoffarragut.org or call 865-218-3376.

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# Board, council, committee meetings updated

**STAFF REPORTS**  
editor@farragutpress.com

Now that Farragut Town Hall (11408 Municipal Center Drive) has reopened, several volunteer advisory committees, councils and boards, as well as Board of Mayor and Aldermen, will resume meeting there, according to a Town press release.

“Some committees meet irregularly or only when needed,” the release stated. “Find agendas for upcoming meetings (on the Town’s website) in the Agenda Center. To learn more about Town volunteer advisory committees, visit [townoffarragut.org/committees](http://townoffarragut.org/committees).

The following are times and locations for meetings that have returned to Town Hall:

- Board of Mayor and Aldermen begin at 6 p.m. on second and fourth Thursdays of each month in the first floor Boardroom;
- Board of Plumbing & Gas/Mechanical Examiners at 5 p.m. the second Tuesday, as needed, in Suite 210 (Hartford Room), second floor;

- Board of Zoning Appeals at 7 p.m. the fourth Wednesday, as needed, in the Boardroom;
- Farragut Education Relations Committee at 4 p.m. the first Monday as scheduled (see website for dates) in Suite 102 (Admiral Room, located on the second floor);
- Farragut Municipal Planning Commission at 6 p.m. the third Thursday, in the Boardroom;
- Stormwater Advisory Committee at 3:45 p.m. the second Thursday, as needed, in Suite 210 (Hartford Room);
- Beer Board takes place prior to Board of Mayor and Aldermen meetings, as needed, in the Boardroom;
- Tree Board meets quarterly, as scheduled, in Suite 210 (Hartford Room);
- Visual Resources Review Board at 6 p.m. the fourth Tuesday, in the Boardroom. However ...
- Arts & Beautification Committee, Farragut Tourism/Visitor Advisory Board and Parks & Athletics Council will continue to meet in Farragut Community Center (239 Jamestowne Blvd.).

## lettertotheeditor

### Defending speed bumps, Town brass

I am writing in response to a recent Letter to the Editor concerning the speed bumps on Sonja Drive and Admiral Road. While I appreciate the author’s concern for public safety, I must respectfully disagree with the statements made, particularly those suggesting that the speed bumps on our roads are illegal or were improperly installed.

The Town of Farragut, along with the residents of our neighborhood, followed the appropriate and lawful procedures to approve the installation of these speed bumps. The process involved a formal vote, several opportunities for public input and adherence to municipal regulations and guidelines. This ensured that the traffic-calming measures were implemented through a community-driven and legally sound process.

Regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is important to clarify that Section 35.151 addresses the new construction and alteration of facilities by public entities. The ADA does not prohibit the use of speed bumps on public streets, provided they do not obstruct accessibility for individuals with disabilities and that pedestrian areas, such as sidewalks and parking lots, remain fully usable.

On Sonja Drive, the existing speed bumps are thoughtfully placed and do not interfere with sidewalk access or pedestrian mobility on the sidewalks in any way. In contrast, Admiral Road lacks a sidewalk altogether, which poses far more significant accessibility and safety concerns. Residents on Admiral Road are forced to walk along the roadway often in close proximity to speeding vehicles.

What must not be overlooked is the ongoing and serious issue of speeding along Admiral Road and Sonja Drive. As a resident of Admiral Road, I have repeatedly witnessed drivers accelerating aggressively over the speed bumps, clearly attempting to undermine their intended purpose. In addition to excessive speeding, I have observed disturbing behaviors, such as loud honking and engine revving, when driving over the speed bumps, along with a blatant disregard for the clearly posted 25-mile-per-hour speed limit. Speeding through residential neighborhoods, unnecessary aggressive and antagonistic driving behavior and ignoring traffic-calming measures puts children, pedestrians, cyclists, pets and fellow drivers at risk.

The purpose of these speed bumps is to reduce risk and not

See LETTER on Page 3A



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## KCSOreports

• At 5:56 p.m., Monday, May 5, a Knox County Sheriff’ Office unit was dispatched to 10745 Kingston Pike (Costco), in reference to a dispute at the gas pumps. Victim/complainant said she was “throwing trash away near the pumps and a man appeared agitated at her doing so,” the report stated. “She said something to him about being able to go around her, and according to the victim, the man ‘revved his engine’ in her direction causing her to leap out of the way before putting the vehicle in reverse and driving to (the) Costco (store). Victim “located the man’s car to confront him and call police. “Before my arrival, the man came out of the store and left the scene.”

• At 6:06 a.m., Sunday, May 4, an officer responded to a Broadwood Drive residence in reference to a fraud call. Victim/complainant advised he had been scammed out of \$100,000. The victim said two days prior he was contacted by an unknown male suspect who convinced him that his financial institutions system had been hacked.

The unknown suspect convinced the victim to make several withdraws from three of his bank accounts and his 401K totaling \$100,000. Victim said two unknown males came to his residence, where he gave them the money, showing up in separate vehicles, one that was light colored and one that was dark colored.

## towncalendar

• Chalk the Plaza, a celebration of creativity, community and fun, happens at Mayor Ralph McGill Park, 101 N. Campbell Station Road, from 1 to 6 p.m., Saturday, May 31.

“Enjoy delicious bites from food trucks, browse unique pieces from local art vendors and let the little ones have a blast in the kids’ zone — all while watching talented artists transform the sidewalks into stunning masterpieces,” a Town press release stated. “Our mini art market and food trucks will be available from 1 to 6 p.m., while our artists are hard at work.

“This fun and lighthearted competition is perfect for amateur artists,” the release further stated. “Participants will check in at 10 a.m. to begin their sidewalk masterpiece. If you’re competing with a group or class, only one person

needs to complete the registration form. Registration is open; go to [townoffarragut.recdesk.com](http://townoffarragut.recdesk.com) and look for Chalk the Plaza Competition. “We are looking for local artists to join in on the fun of this event with a mini art market.”

• Dixie Lee Farmers Market is well under way with its Outdoor Farmers Market Season from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday through Nov. 1 at The Renaissance - Farragut, 12740 Kingston Pike.

“We are committed to bringing you the freshest and most delicious fruits, vegetables, and other locally sourced products,” a DL Farmers Market press release stated.” Our farmers work hard to bring their harvest to your table, and our artisans craft unique products that you won’t find anywhere else.”



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‘Avoid Boyd’

From page 1A

Boyd Station Road and ending at the “extent of our development property ... plus from the western edge of our subdivision to the McFee Road intersection,” Rackley said.

“The Town is participating (in the improvements),” Shipley said. “Of course, the Board has already approved the financing for it. Basically, it’s a 3-foot widening of the Boyd Station Road.

“They are going to mill an inch-and-a-half overlay, 3 ½-inch binder and 1 ½-inch surface to Boyd Station Road itself,” he added. “One of the

things the Board had asked the developer and the Town is to look” to add a roundabout.

“Boyd Station Road is a pretty long straightaway, “t just kind of invites faster car speeds.”

So to slow down motorists on that section of the road, Shipley said the Board supported including the roundabout.

Shipley added a proposed walking trail along Boyd Station Road would eventually tie into the Virtue trail with a 6-foot grass strip between the edge of the road and edge of the trail.

“The Town will have to put in the last section across the property between The Grove at

Boyd Station and McFee Road, which is the Gibson property,” he said. “The roundabout itself is kind of asymmetrical.

“It’s all to the north,” Shipley added about the roundabout. “You know you have the railroad right-of-way to the south.

This roundabout, “unlike the two that are on McFee Road, should actually slow you down,” he said. “This is like the Virtue Road (roundabout), where you veer off and come back into the main road section.

“I think roundabouts have kind of evolved — in the Town at least,” he added.

“Is the roundabout a raised

roundabout?” Planning Commissioner Ron Pinchok asked. “Is it raised off the road surface? Is there a curb?”

“Yes,” Rackley answered. “I’m not proposing any wall or anything like Virtue Road, but dimensionally, this is the same as the Virtue roundabout.”

“I like that; it’s good,” Pinchok said.

“It will meet (standards for) buses, fire trucks, everything” except 53-foot 18-wheelers, Rackley said.

“They will be over a curb or in the center landscaping if they try to navigate through it ... there shouldn’t be an 18-wheeler down through there,” he added.

Letter

From page 2A

increase it. It is disheartening to see the blame shifted onto infrastructure rather than on those who choose to violate traffic laws and disregard the safety of their neighbors.

Public safety is a collective responsibility. Instead of challenging measures that were approved through legal and democratic means, we should be advocating for stronger enforcement of speed limits and promoting responsible driving.

The Huffstetlers, Farragut

Road revamps

From page 1A

efficiency,” the TPO release stated.

**Horizon Year 2030: Hardin Valley Road widening,** 2.1 miles from near Pellissippi Parkway west to North Campbell Station Road: widen from three lanes to five lanes beginning in 2030, Cost estimated at \$ 18,864,391; to be funded LO-CAL

**Horizon Year 2030: Union Road to North Hobbs Road,** 1 mile, reconstructing two-lane road with additional turn lanes and bicycle/pedestrian facilities; it runs from North Hobbs Road’s connection with Kingston Pike northward and westward to Union Road’s

westward connection to Everett Road. Cost estimate is \$9,170,996; to be funded by L-STBG.

**Horizon Year 2030: Virtue Road/Boyd Station Road Improvements - Phase 2,** 1.1 miles from Willow Cove Way to 1200s of Needlegrass Lane, reconstructing two-lane road with additional turn lanes and bicycle/pedestrian facilities; Cost estimate is \$10,641,838; to be funded by L-STBG.

**Horizon Year 2035: Everett Road widening,** El Camino Lane to Buttermilk Road, 0.8 mile; widen from two to four lanes with median and/or center turn lane, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities; estimated cost is \$15,753,607; to be funded by STBG





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# Anchor 934 Apartments cuts ribbon

TAMMY CHEEK  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

The long-awaited moment for Anchor 934 Apartments came to fruition recently when Biddle Development Residential president Joe Fielden Jr. — whose father's company, JA Fielden Co., Inc., was project contractor — cut the ribbon on community at 200 Brooklawn St. in Farragut.

"We've been watching and waiting for this to be built for quite a while," said Julie Blaylock, president/CEO of Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce, which sponsored the ribbon cutting.

"It's been hard work to get here, so we're excited about the grand opening," Fielden said. "I think what we set out to do here is to create a destination that would be the epicenter of Farragut — great retail, restaurants and the nicest apartment homes in West Knoxville.

"It's an incredible honor to be here," he added, then lauded the Town's support through it all.

"Thank you for adding to the fabric of our community," Blaylock said.

"We're very busy getting the preparations complete," said Christina Rister, project manager.

ager. "We have a vacancy of 40 percent pre-leased.

"We anticipate this summer to be very busy," added Rister, a Farragut resident and Farragut High School Class of 2001 graduate. "I'm very excited.

"My mom used to bring me here (to the Biddle Farm) to feed the ponies. We used to go to the old Kroger to go shopping."

Despite some people's concerns, Rister said Anchor 934 "are luxury apartments."

It has a total of 286 apartments — one bedroom, two bedroom and three bedroom (options) with seven floor plans from which to choose and fourth-floor penthouse apartments as well.

"The fourth-floor penthouse apartments have been widely popular," Rister said. "They offer outstanding views. If your apartment is facing the right way, you can get a mountain view."

She added some people also voiced concerns about the development adding traffic, but she assured the Town's new traffic management system will help, as well as the complex's walkability to neighboring businesses.

The development features a fourth-floor sky lounge overlooking the Town Greens and



Photo submitted

Biddle Development Residential president Joe Fielden Jr. (with scissors) prepared to cut the ribbon on Anchor 934 Apartments at 200 Brooklawn St. in Farragut during a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce-sponsored recent event. Joining him were, front row, from left, Anchor 934 leasing professional Noni Bakshi; property manager Christina Rister; Adam Birch (sunglasses), project coordinator with JA Fielden Co., Inc.; Fielden's sons, Kennie (taller) and Bennie; leasing professionals Anika Lawson and Emanuel Castro; and many Chamber members and other supporters.

retail businesses; a game lawn; pet spa; bark (dog) park; fitness center; community-wide Wi-Fi; bike room; and a state-of-the-art and resort-inspired saltwater swimming pool.

Also, "we have an outdoor living and grilling area, as well as a fire pit, club house, co-

working spaces, Internet café and free and unlimited gourmet coffee bar," Rister said. "We also offer (rentable) garages and storage units — all attached to the building. And, walkability is second to none.

"Our customer service sets us apart from all our competi-

tors," she added.

The office is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday; from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday; and closed Sunday.

For more information, call 865-503-1550 or visit [apartmentsfarragut.com](http://apartmentsfarragut.com)

## Chamber hosts Revive Collective ribbon cutting



Tammy Cheek

Revive Collective owners Sam Green (front row, third from left, blue shirt) and wife Samantha Green (with scissors) join Farragut West Knox Chamber members as they cut the ribbon on their business, located at 11002 Kingston Pike, Suite 202, Farragut during a FWKCC-sponsored event in Farragut Community Center Tuesday, April 15.

## businessbriefs

• **Ryan Dobbs, AIA, NCARB, recently was named president of BarberMcMurry Architects.** He has been with BarberMcMurry since 2012 and was named a partner in 2017. He fills the shoes of Chuck Griffin, AIA, NCARB, who will remain CEO of BarberMcMurry until his planned retirement in early 2027.

Dobbs is responsible for several of the most awarded projects in BarberMcMurry's history. During his leadership tenure, he has led initiatives related to design process, culture and community involvement, emphasizing BarberMcMurry's vision and mission: "Be good people. Do great design."

Griffin is a long-time tAchieves mentor and serves on the Covenant Health Foundation board of directors. He previously has served on numerous boards and committees.

Dobbs and Griffin will continue to serve with BarberMcMurry's other equity partners.

• **Charles Martinez recently received the Emerging Scholar Award from the Southern Agricultural Eco-**

nomics Association as assistant professor and Extension specialist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture. The award is presented to high-performing, early-career professionals with demonstrated research and resulting publication activity.

• Dogwood Arts announced the appointment of **Eddie Manis and Cory Dickson as 2025 Dogwood Arts co-chairs.** "Since 1961, two community leaders have served as ambassadors for the organization, representing its mission with distinction and dedication," a Dogwood Arts press release stated. "This longstanding tradition began alongside the inaugural Dogwood Arts Festival, following the planting of the first Dogwood Trail in 1955."

As Dogwood Arts commemorated "Seven Decades in Bloom"

See BRIEFS on Page 5A

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70. Best Mortgage Lending Company
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72. Best Nail Salon
73. Best Oil Change
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77. Best Pediatrician
78. Best Pest Control Service
79. Best Pet Grooming
80. Best Pet Shop
81. Best Photographer
82. Best Physical Therapy Clinic
83. Best Physician
84. Best Pizza
85. Best Place Of Worship
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Regional championship for FHS boys lacrosse



Photo courtesy of Susan Kohlstedt/freelance photographer

Under the direction of head coach Ben Sachs, Farragut High School boys lacrosse capped a super-successful 2025 regular season with a Regional championship (10-1 record) after a blowout victory against Johnson City Science Hill on Senior Night at home Wednesday evening, April 30. A state quarterfinal playoff game against Cookeville came after deadline. Team members, in no particular order, are Carson Tucker, Nick Toth, Alex Babb, Blake Garibay, Rylan Crouchet,

Oliver Dixon, Ian Fanta, Cameron Hogue, Brady Elton, Brenden Griffen, Hayden Watson, Joe Horwege, Stefan Hayes, Graham Reynolds, Jakob Neisler, Bennett Elton, Chase Tackett, Judd Kohlmyer, Tate Sweet, Finn Sachs, Joshua Politi, Turner Sherrod, Brandon Nash, Gavin Corn, Colin Buhl, Baker Sandoval, Nicholi Gahagan, Caden Watters, Brock Lockhart, Nate Shilling, Brody Gruver, Daniel Lanning, Luke Duenckel and Moses Burnette.



Dist. 4-2A champs

Coach Joan Swanson, in her first year at the helm of Farragut High School girls and boys tennis, saw her Lady Admirals claim the District 4-2A championship last week, keeping their season alive while looking to earn one of four statewide spots in the Division I-AA "Final Four" tournament in Murfreesboro later this month. Next for Swanson's girls is a Region 2-AA showdown against a District 3-AA opponent not known at press deadline, which will be played at Tyson Park Thursday, May 8.

Photo courtesy of Jack Tate, FHS Sports Information director



Bell



Jones

New Track-Field, CC coaches at Farragut

At deadline it was learned Farragut High hired a new track and field head coach, Charles Bell, and new cross county head coach, Garrett Jones.

Stayin' Alive at The Ballpark

Ads end the season of two rivals, assured of a Region berth after romping Bearden then slipping past HVA

BILL HOWARD

Correspondent

It was the rubber match Monday night, May 5, between longtime baseball rivals Farragut High School and Bearden at The Ballpark at Farragut. And the stakes were high.

After splitting their two games in the regular season, the 4-4A District Tournament's top two seeds met Monday to see who would stay alive. The losers would conclude their season.

Victory to the Admirals, and it wasn't close.

FHS combined strong hitting with a pitching gem by starter/staff ace Cole Draper to cruise to a 10-0 run-ruled, six-inning win.

"Any time you get to keep playing it's a good day," Admirals skipper Garrett Copeland said. "I thought our guys did a great job staying in the strike zone and not chasing pitches."

"Draper did really well," Bulldogs' head coach Dave Prichard said. "I think Farragut maybe hasn't seen that Draper all year, but he showed up tonight."

Draper went the distance, striking out four while walking none. The only other baserunner beside Logan Benko, who singled leading off the fifth, was Sammy Greene, who was hit by a pitch leading off the third.

"Feels great," Draper said. "To be able to run-rule and give up just one hit, great way to roll over to the next game." The two runs FHS's bats gave Draper

BILL HOWARD

Correspondent

When Farragut High School's baseball team survived an elimination game against Bearden in the 4-4A District Tournament Monday night, May 5, at The Ballpark at Farragut, it still wasn't safe.

The top-seeded Ads then had to win another elimination game — this time against rival and No. 3 seed Hardin Valley Academy a mere 30 minutes later — for a spot in the Regional 2-4A Tournament and the right to play Maryville for the District championship.

Mission accomplished for the Ads in a hard-fought 3-1 victory.

Farragut played the MHS Red Rebels last night, Tuesday, May 6, needing two wins to claim the tourney title (after deadline). The Ads will play either Oak Ridge or Powell in the region semifinal.

"This team, they compete every single day and come ready to work every single day and let the results take care of themselves," FHS head coach Garrett Copeland said.

"Making plays, that's what it came down to," Aaron Simmons, HVA head coach, said. "We had our moments; they made some good plays as well."

FHS took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first when Neyland Williams led off with a double, went to third on Braxton Tye's grounder and scored when Travis Brummit, Jr. reached on an error.

In the bottom of the second, Owen



Photos by Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

HVA next; easy Soccer Ads win

FHS Soccer Ads Declan Crecy (top, 48) and Brody Dickerson (above 44) fight hard during a District 4-3A tourney home match versus Heritage Monday, May 5. The No. 3-seed Ads won 8-0, setting up a semifinal showdown at No. 2 seed HVA (7 p.m., Wednesday, May 7).

Pitching, 'D' have softball Ads 1 victory from 4-4A title

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

MARYVILLE — Lots of solid glove work defensively to go with outstanding pitching from sophomore ace Hallie Grace Johnson, and you have a Farragut softball team one victory away from a District 4-4A Tournament title.

Though the top-seeded Lady Ads' bats haven't been sizzling at William Blount High School in two tourney games, Johnson and her defense have produced a pair of shutouts. After opening with a 2-0 win versus No. 4 seed Knox West, Farragut blanked the next foe, No. 3 seed Maryville, 3-0 in a winner's bracket game Monday night, Feb. 5.

Against the Lady Red Rebels, Johnson allowed no runs, six hits and just one walk with four strikeouts in a complete seven-inning performance.

"We made all of our plays defensively. ... Here lately we've been playing really solid defense," said FHS head coach Nick Green, whose team improved to 27-10-1 and awaits the tourney loser's bracket survivor with a chance to win

See ROMP DAWGS on Page 7B

See EDGE HVA on Page 7B

See PITCHING-D on Page 7B

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Photos submitted by Knoxville Christian School

Feed the Need, at KCS, again packs 10,000 meals for needy



Knoxville Christian School packed 10,000 meals for families dealing with food insecurity in the Appalachian region of Kentucky during its annual Feed the Need Day Friday, April 25. “Our entire campus, from kindergarten through 12th grade, worked in shifts to fill, measure, sort, seal and pack food,” said Emily Miller, KCS marketing director. “As a campus community, we raised over \$24,000. This event truly reflects the Knoxville Christian School community: it’s coming together to serve and meet a community need. It’s a day we all look forward to every year. This is our third year participating in Feed the Need. Together, we make a difference — all in the name of Jesus Christ. It takes a lot of teamwork to pull this event off, and we are proud of our older students helping our younger students to make it happen.” (Top) Caroline Miller, KCS third-grader, and Samantha Ford, KCS sophomore. (Above) Graham Bealer, KCS seventh-grader.

Top of the heap: Aces of local academics

Double vals, one sal featured with HVA Class of 2025

TAMMY CHEEK  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

**HARDIN VALLEY** — Hardin Valley Academy recently announced it has two valedictorians this year — Kaylin Mata and Lauren Johnson — while its salutatorian is Sameer Nathawat. “I was unsure if I would become valedictorian because of the large size of our graduating class,” said Johnson, daughter of Karen and Christopher Johnson. “When I was told by all of the administrators that I was valedictorian, I was thrilled because it is something that I have been working toward for the last four years. “I was not expecting it at



Mata



Johnson



Nathawat

all,” said Mata, daughter of Kervie Mata. “I was really surprised. I’ve worked hard in hopes of achieving this, so I was grateful for the work I put in.” “I’m very happy to be my school’s salutatorian,” said Nathawat, son of Neelima Mertya and Laxman Nathawat. “It’s a result of the time and effort I’ve put into my classes, and I’m thankful for all the support I’ve received along the way.” “I love HVA’s Pathway Programs and broad course offerings, which have allowed me to explore career paths and take classes that interest me,” Johnson said. “I am part of the Nursing Services Pathway in the Health Science Academy

and will become a Certified Nursing Assistant after completing the courses. “This pathway gave me real-world experience in healthcare when we went to an assisted living facility for clinicals, which has confirmed that medicine is the field I want to pursue,” she added. “Additionally, the teachers and counselors at HVA have been extremely helpful and supportive throughout my time at the school by doing everything from answering a simple question to helping me navigate school while having two broken arms during my freshman year.” At HVA, “I grew a lot and gained a lot more confidence,”

See HVA VALS, SAL on Page 4B

Odom, Frana are KCHS Sedes Sapientiae ’25 awardees

STAFF REPORTS  
editor@farragutpress.com

**KNOXVILLE** — Knoxville Catholic High School recently announced the selection of seniors Grant Odom and Maggie Frana as honorees of the Class of 2025’s Sedes Sapientiae award. “The Sedes Sapientiae Award is the highest honor Knoxville Catholic High School confers on its graduating seniors,” KCHS marketing and communications director Pam Rhoades stated in a press release. “This award, voted on by the faculty and the administration, is presented to two seniors who best epitomize loyalty, service, scholarship and authentic Christian leadership. “Jesus Christ is the Wisdom of God the Father,” she added. “He took flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary and, seated upon her knee, He grew in wisdom, age and grace. Mary made a fitting throne for the Lord, and thus she is the

Sedes Sapientiae, the Seat of Wisdom. “In naming our highest award for Mary, Seat of Wisdom, Knoxville Catholic seeks both to honor the Mother of God and to encourage our students to take her as a model of Christian life. The recipients of this award are students who, in the eyes of the faculty, best demonstrate the supernatural faith, hope and charity that marked Our Lady’s life on Earth and that denote true wisdom.” Odom has been a KCHS golf team captain in his junior and senior years and is an active member of the Interact and Mathletes clubs. He also is co-lead of the Irish Ambassadors, an officer in Mu Alpha Theta and a member of

the Spanish and National Honor Societies. “Grant was selected as a delegate for the 2024 American Legion Boys State and has participated in the East Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association All-State Senior Clinic for four years,” Rhoades stated. Frana is a state champion in track and field and was a member of the Lady Irish varsity basketball team. She is actively involved in the KCHS community as a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and Spanish Honor Society. “In 2024, she was honored by her peers as (football) Homecoming Queen,” Rhoades stated.



Odom



Frana

See ODOM, FRANA on Page 4B

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• **Experience the magic of a candlelight concert with “Sanctus Real & Blue Violin” from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Friday, May 9,** in Bijou Theater, downtown Knoxville.

Billboard-charting Christian rock band Sanctus Real, a Grammy-nominated and GMA Dove Award-winning band known for its chart-topping Christian radio hits, teams up with internationally acclaimed rock violinist Blue Violin to combine high-energy rock and timeless power ballads re-imagined through virtuosic violin loops.

All of this unfolds under the enchanting glow of 500 candles, blurring the lines between voice and violin. This intimate concert will blend the rich, soulful tones of the violin with powerful worship anthems and rock classics.

This is a concert the whole family can enjoy — children are encouraged to attend. Family discount passes are available. The public also is invited to enjoy an exclusive VIP experience before the show, where you’ll get to meet the artists and take part in a unique behind-the-scenes mo-

ment. For ticket information, call 615-575-9519.

**Knoxville Children’s Theatre, 747 World’s Fair Park in downtown Knoxville,** welcomes the public to its production of “Twelve Dancing Princesses.”

Directed by guest director Chris Freeman, this series of performances through Sunday, May 18, is described in a KCT press release as a “charming production packed with enchantment, adventure and heartwarming performances.

“Once upon a time, a king had 12 beautiful daughters who danced in secret every night. ... The king is mystified by their secret and issues a challenge to the men of his kingdom – find out what his daughters are up to,” the release also stated. “Of course, one good-hearted young man succeeds – but at what cost?”

Showtimes begin at 7 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays; starting at 1 and 5 p.m. on Saturdays, and at 3 p.m. on Sundays.

Tickets, costing between \$13 and \$16 for each performance, are available on the KCT website at <https://knoxvillechildrenstheatre.com/tc-events/12->

dancing-princesses/

• **Farragut Cheerleading will host a Junior Cheer Camp for rising kindergarten through fifth-graders** in Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium at Farragut High School from 9:30 a.m. to noon, Monday through Wednesday, June 9-11.

“All participants will learn cheers, chants, stunts and a dance,” a Farragut Cheerleading press release stated. For more information, or to register, visit <https://farrhs.givebacks.com//store/items/1185039>

• **MEDIC blood donors**

**through Saturday, May 10,** will receive a ticket to Soaky Mountain Waterpark. Make appointments online at [www.medicblood.org](http://www.medicblood.org), via the MEDIC app or by calling 865-524-3074. Walk-ins welcome, including at the 11000 Kingston Pike location in Farragut.

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HVA vals, sal

From page 2B

Mata said. “I learned that I’m capable of a lot more than I thought.”

At HVA, Mata received the Liberal Arts Academy Endorsement, Spanish Seal of Bilitery and has earned the AP Capstone diploma.

She is president of Interact Club and a National Honor Society member.

“I’m planning to go to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in the Chancellor’s Honors Program and major in neuroscience,” Mata said. “I’m aiming to earn an MD and become a neurologist.

About any advise to younger high school students, “I would say to make sure to be present and make the most out of your time,” she added. “Make a lot of memories.”

Johnson has been named a National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction and Health Science Academy Student of the Month.

At the same time, she was awarded the Cross Country Coach’s Award, Excellence in SDC Pre-Calculus Award, Excellence in Honors Algebra 2 Award, Excellence in Chemistry 1 Award, Freshman Historian Award and Class of 2025 Problem Solver Award.

“I also am an all-state athlete for both outdoor and indoor track,” Johnson said. “At school, I am a Nursing Services Pathway Ambassador and am involved in track and field, cross country, the Student Council Executive Board,

HOSA, National Honors Society and Math Honors Society.

“Outside of school, I have volunteered at UT Medical Center, East Tennessee Children’s Hospital and Remote Area Medical Clinics,” she added. “I also have been a part of the Knox County Youth Health Board, Youth Leadership Knoxville, the Science Accelerating Girls’ Engagement (SAGE) Program and have attended the Governor’s School for the Scientific Exploration of Tennessee Heritage.”

After high school, Johnson also plans to attend UTK and major in neuroscience with a pre-med focus.

“I also will be a member of the Chancellor’s Honors Program,” she said. “In the future, I hope to pursue medicine and become an orthopedic surgeon or forensic pathologist.”

As for advise, “I would tell underclassmen to use their time in high school to explore all their interests and to never hesitate to reach out to their counselors and teachers,” Johnson said.

Nathawat is a National Merit finalist, an AP Scholar with distinction and is receiving an AP Capstone diploma.

“I have interned at Oak Ridge National Laboratory as part of their Next Generation STEM Internship Program,” he said. “I am a junior coach for the First Tee of Greater Knoxville, where I teach kids the game of golf.”

Additionally, “I am a part of STEMbassadors, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honors Society and Scholars’ Bowl,” Nathawat added.

After Nathawat graduates, he plans to attend Cornell University, an Ivy League school, to study statistics.

“I would like to work in a field where I can analyze data or conduct research, so I am interested in being a quantitative analyst or data scientist,” he said.

Odom, Frana

From page 2B

“Maggie is also the founder of one of the largest student-led faith-based clubs on campus, Bible Babes, and has represented our school with pride as an Irish Ambassador.”

Plaques and scholarship

money for this prestigious honor will be awarded during graduation exercises, which begin at 8 p.m., Friday, May 16, in Blaine Stadium on the KCHS campus.

The Sedes Sapientiae recipients will be “honored speakers” at the commencement ceremony.

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## Katy's Hallmark

Charlie and Sherilyn Tallent have been retailers since 1994 and acquired ownership of Katy's Farragut in 2023. They also own stores in Nashville and Brentwood, TN. As an Oak Ridge native, and UT grad, Charlie finally feels like he has come home. At Katy's, we are in the rewarding business of helping people create unique moments and we strive for excellence to make them especially memorable. Our goal is to serve our community with care and integrity and to nurture lifelong customers as well.



## Water into Wine

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50th Anniversary for PEO’s Knox County AC Chapter



(Left) Knox County AC Chapter of Philanthropic Educational Organization recently celebrated its 50 anniversary. Members, from left in front, are Dana King and Kris VanAllen. In back, from left, are Donna Connors, Margaret Bickley, Angela Quick, Ellen Herrmann, Marsha Petersen, Shari Wood, Ann Curtin, Stacy Lane, Lisel Powell, Theresa Zavadi and Michelle Anthor. (Below left) AC Chapter’s Dottie Hale holds the 50th Anniversary congratulatory certificate from Shining Star. AC Chapter is one of almost 6,000 under PEO, which “provides educational opportunities for women by offering scholarships, grants, awards and loans to help women enhance their lives through learning,” an AC Chapter press release stated. “Chapter AC (is) dedicated to helping women advance their educational goals.”

Photos submitted



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FARRAGUT MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA

Farragut Town Hall Board Room • Thursday, May 15, 2025 • 6:00 p.m.

For questions, please e-mail Mark Shipley at [mshipley@townoffarragut.org](mailto:mshipley@townoffarragut.org), or Bart Hose at [bhose@townoffarragut.org](mailto:bhose@townoffarragut.org)

1. Appointment of Chairman

2. Approval of agenda

3. Approval of minutes for the April 17, 2025 meeting

4. Review of First Utility District Everett Road Water Tank and Booster Station Improvements Project (FUD, Applicant)

5. Approval of FY 2026-2031 Capital Investment Plan (CIP)

6. Discussion and public hearing on approval of a preliminary plat for improvements to Boyd Sta-

tion Road in association with the Grove at Boyd Station Subdivision, Zoned R-1/OSMR (Rackley Engineering, Applicant)

7. Discussion and public hearing on approval of a site plan for a gym renovation and an expansion to the St. John Neumann Catholic School, 625 St. John Court, Zoned R-1 (Community Tectonics Architects, Inc., Applicant)

8. Approval of utilities

9. Citizen forum

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

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut will hold a public hearing on May 22, 2025, at 6:00 PM, at the Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive, to hear citizen’s comments on the following ordinances:

I. Ordinance 25-07 amending Farragut Municipal Code Chapter 12 Municipal Court, Section 12-8, Office of municipal court clerk; to replace the existing section in its entirety with a new ordinance; court clerk to be designated by the Town Administrator

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

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ORDER IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE TOWN OF FARRAGUT, TENNESSEE

Pursuant to Chapter 12, Section 12-1 of the Code of Ordinances for Farragut, Tennessee, it is ORDERED that the Town of Farragut Municipal Court will convene for the purpose of conducting hearings on any citations issued for Automated Traffic Enforcement and Code violations.

Farragut Municipal Court will convene on June 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM, and thereafter as previously published, at the Farragut Town Hall, located at 11408 Municipal Center Drive. Any cancellations or delays to the court schedule will be posted to the Municipal Court page of the Town of Farragut website at [www.townoffarragut.org/court](http://www.townoffarragut.org/court).

It is the policy of the Town of Farragut not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, natural origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability or veteran status. It is also the policy of the Town of Farragut to reasonably accommodate all qualified individuals with disabilities in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services and activities, unless such accommodations would cause an undue hardship. Should anyone have a concern or question about the application of these policies, please contact the Director of Human Resources and ADA Coordinator, Michelle Pence, by e-mail at [mpence@townoffarragut.org](mailto:mpence@townoffarragut.org) or phone 865-966-7057 or in person at Town Hall.

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FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN AGENDA

Farragut Town Hall • 11408 Municipal Center Drive • AGENDA • May 8, 2025 • BMA MEETING 6:00 PM

I. Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes A. April 24, 2025

IV. Mayor's Report

V. Ordinances & Resolutions

A. Ordinance 1. First Reading

a) Approval of Ordinance 25-07 amending Farragut Municipal Code Chapter 12 Municipal Court, Section 12-8, Office of municipal court clerk; to replace the existing section in its entirety with a new ordinance; court clerk to be designated by the Town Administrator

VI. Business Items

A. Approval of re-appointment for Brittany Moore to the Visual Resources Review Board.

B. Approval for a contract with ADT/Everon for the installation of Access Control, Burglary, and Camera Systems at both the Farragut Community Center and Farragut Public Works facilities, through the Omnia Partners cooperative purchasing agreement (Contract #R220701)

C. Approval of Contract 2025-15, Mayor Bob Leonard Park Pickleball Complex

VII. Citizens Forum

VIII. Town Administrator's Report

IX. Town Attorney's Report

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



Edge HVA

From page 1B

Stelzer made it 2-0 with a lead-off home run, a monster shot over the left field wall.

The Hawks' lone run came in the top of the third. Neels Schoonbee led off with a walk, went to second on a grounder and scored on Jaxon Jones' single.

Farragut made it 3-1 in the bottom half of the inning when pinch runner Eli Tittle, running for Jake Harris who had walked, scored on an error.

A potentially game-changing play occurred in HVA's top of the fourth. With runners on

first and second and one out, left-hander Aiden Murphy hit a line shot up the middle. Shortstop Stelzer, cheating toward second, stabbed the ball and touched second base for a double play, ending the threat.

"That double play was big," Simmons said.

Senior righthander Connell Driver went five innings for the Admirals, giving up three hits and one walk. He struck out three. Cole Draper, who shut down Bearden in the first game, pitched the final two innings.

"That's exactly what we needed from Connell," Cope-land said. "That's what we expect from him."

Romp Dawgs

From page 1B

in the second inning would be all he would need.

Among the FHS highlights on offense: Braxton Tye

clubbed a two-run homer plus an RBI single; Jackson Zeller added a single and a run. RBI singles also came from Zain Kureshi-Smith and Aidan Flagg. Braden Humphrey added a sacrifice fly.

Pitching-D

From page 1B

the tourney title starting at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 7. "Hallie Grace has been good enough. She's thrown three straight shutouts (including regular season)."

Scoring all three runs in the

first inning versus Maryville, singles by district MVP Elsa Morrison and Johnson set up Eleena Ralston's two-RBI single. Ralston scored on a passed ball and an error.

Logan Jameson's single, and doubles by Wesley Green and Alexa Shrader were the other Farragut hits.



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Masons, from left, Amber, daughter, Amelia and husband, Stephen



Bishops, from left, Wade, Jenn, Charlotte and Lee

# Shared Visions

## Student Art Exhibit & Empty Bowls

Art students from Farragut’s four public schools shined a light on their talents, which were on exhibit while the community enjoyed a soup dinner to help raise money for Fish Hospitality Pantries. This was all part of Shared Visions Student Art Exhibit and Empty Bowls in the Commons of Farragut High School, 11237 Kingston Pike, Thursday night, April 3.

Students from kindergarten through high school senior made ceramic bowls, which were then fired by FHS art class. Those bowls were then sold at the event as part of attendees’ dinner packages and/or independently.

At the exhibit, high school students walked around — some dressed as noted artists from the past. After performances by Farragut Middle School Orchestra and FHS Jazz Band, winners of the exhibit were announced, with the Best of Show award going to Farragut senior Nick Snyder for his ceramic entry, “Society of Cones.”



Addison Garrett, left, portrayed artist Georgia O’Keefe. Tiyannda Dudley portrayed Frieda Kahalo.



Angela McCarter with children, Elizabeth and Duncan



Fourth-grader Maya Stockton with art



Diners Jan Hrivnak, left, and Julie Helms



FIS fifth-graders Amy Cao, left, and Annie Liu



FMS Orchestra members Selena Ma, left, and Aditi Ramuhatti played the violin



Landon Ball wins first place in primary division



FMS Orchestra member Jiyu Kim on cello