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Skipper’s retirement/rookie rewards: 2 Farragut state champs

4 X 400 FHS boys track drama sends Osborne out as TN #1



A Farragut High School boys track & field state title (Division I-AAA) came down to the Ads beating Memphis Whitehaven in the final event, the 4 X 400-meter relay. The foursome above pulled off not only an event state title, edging Whitehaven by roughly half a second (3:20.50 to 3:21.03), but giving FHS the state crown by one point, 65-64, sending retiring head coach Chelsea Osborne out with the big prize. Evan Beeler, third from left, also was state champ in the 800-meter (1:53.29) and 1600-meter (4:16.93), while Chase McAvoy, second from left, was state runner-up in the decathlon (6222). Also contributing to the 4 X 400 triumph were freshman Lucas Spadafora, far left, and senior Noah Eaker, far right. *(Team photo, more details on page 1B)*



FHS track & field 4 X 400 team photo submitted/baseball celebration photo by Alan Sloan

Copeland & Co., lots of new faces, carry on Ads’ tradition with 4-peat

With a rookie head coach plus eight new position players, grade the job by first-year head coach Garrett Copeland with an “F” for fantastic feat: that’s the grade for this program’s fourth straight Class 4A state title, which now adds up to a TSSAA state record 14 Tennessee championships in program history dating back to 1982. Six times fighting off elimination in the playoffs — having to beat both of its rivals, Bearden and Hardin Valley Academy, just to keep its season alive in district — the Ads fought off elimination by beating Powell and Maryville in region, then at King-sport Dobyns-Bennett in Sectional before its final elimination game: the state title showdown with Clarksville at Murfreesboro Oakland High School late Saturday morning/early afternoon, May 24. Having beaten Independence twice (3-2 and 9-5) and slipping past Seigel 1-0 on the Stars’ home field at state, the Ads rallied from a 2-0 deficit Saturday to win 11-3 and, as shown above, grab the state title trophy with much enthusiasm. *(More photos and story details staring on page 2B)*

Pleasant Forest site of Farragut ‘remembering’



Photos by Tammy Cheek

(Left) Town of Farragut operations manager Chris Sheffield and former Vice Mayor Dot LaMarche look for gravestones on which to place flags honoring veterans in Pleasant Forest Cemetery as part of a Memorial Day weekend event in the historic cemetery Saturday morning, May 24. **(Above)** John Lay places a flag on a veteran’s grave while his wife, Deb Lay, and Pleasant Forest Cemetery board member Stan Duke watch as part of the Memorial Day weekend remembrance May 24.

Knox Co. Mayor, 5th District Knox Commission rep disagree about debt, timetable to question budget

ALAN SLOAN
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First of a two-part series — KNOXVILLE —While Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs said he and Angela Russell are Republicans, it didn’t tone down his criticisms of this Knox County Commission 5th District rep serving her first four-year term. Jacobs made a point to strongly challenge Russell’s views on limiting Knox County Schools spending increases based upon debt concerns and prolonging the fiscal year 2026 county budget process with questions and amendments. Both Knox leaders spoke to farragutpress — with Jacobs’ office contacting the paper last week eager to amplify his issues with Russell — while their comments also are taken from an often spirited and confrontational Commission meeting Monday, May 19. Russell answered Jacobs’ criticisms both at the meeting and in a telephone interview with this paper Friday afternoon, May 23. About KCS spending and the FY 2026 budget, Jacobs’ criticism came after one of Russell’s failed amendments — failing by a vote of her peers in attempt to add amendments to the budget. One of those was, “I will also be making a motion to reduce the school funding to the minimum required by Tennessee State Law. We have had a 38 percent increase from the 2021 proposed bud-



Jacobs



Russell

See JACOBS-RUSSELL on Page 7A

With lots of drama, HVA Hawks are boys soccer state champions

Rallying from a 2-0 deficit against district rival Bearden in the final 25 minutes to win its Division I-AAA state quarterfinal match in Murfreesboro 3-2, Hardin Valley Academy then converted a penalty kick with less than two minutes remaining in a scoreless state semifinal match against Hendersonville, winning 1-0. Then came the late drama versus Bartlett in the state title match Friday, May 23, when the same Hawks player, for the third time at state, scored the game-winning goal — this time with just 2:53 remaining, to become state champs with a 4-3 win. **(Right)** Frank Manrod (23) hugs scoring hero Ben Brophy during the celebration. *(See story, more photos, starting on page 1B)*



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Photo submitted by Stephen Krempasky, Shop Farragut

Latest Sampler champ, son, pay visit to Snooty Patootie

Busy Farragut resident Kella Arwood had just enough time after picking up her son, Jack, from school to meet at Snooty Patootie Boutique, 11100 Kingston Pike, to claim her Shop Farragut Town Sampler prize package as the latest monthly contest winner. Photographed alongside Jack and Jolee Gasque, boutique store associate, Atwood bagged more than \$200 in gift cards and merchandise from local Farragut businesses. The May contest is still going. Enter here: <https://wfiv.com/contests/65/shop-farragut-may-2025>

Ribbon cut, celebration for renovated Farragut Museum May 31; tours set

STAFF REPORTS

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Celebrate the reopening of Farragut Museum with a ribbon cutting/historical presentations starting at 11 a.m., Saturday, May 31. After the celebration, the museum will be open for tours. Speakers will include Vice Mayor Scott Meyer, UT History Professor Christopher Magra and local historian Frank Galbraith. Members of Girl Scout Troops 20627 and 20391 will voice historical readings. iolinist Haley Reasoner will offer music, and light refreshments will be served. The event is hosted by Farragut Museum Committee and the Town of Farragut’s Historic Resources department. “The Farragut Museum was closed during the Town of Farragut’s Town Hall remodel, and we want to celebrate the reopening of this great community asset,” a Town press release stated. The Museum currently is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. “Volunteer docents can offer additional information on exhibits,” Kristi Vining, Historic Resources coordinator, said.



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Body found near Northshore thought to be local

STAFF REPORTS

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The body of a man, recovered by Knox County Sheriff’s Office officials along Northshore Drive on Memorial Day Monday, May 26, is believed to be a West Knox County man last accounted for

by family members Sunday afternoon, May 26. Narendra Patel, 51, reportedly left his home around 2:30 p.m., Sunday, according to family members. Mr. Patel’s vehicle was found near the bridge on Northshore Drive just west of the Concord Road-Northshore roundabout intersection.

KCSOreports

• **At 6:39 p.m., Tuesday, May 20, Knox County Sheriff’s Office units officers responded “to the area of 12001 Kingston Pike (Weigels) in reference to an intoxicated male walking in and out of traffic on Kingston Pike,” the report stated.** “Upon arrival, officers circulated the immediate area where I observed a male matching the description given to E-911 dispatch by the complainant at the intersection of Kingston Pike and Fox Den Boulevard,” the report further stated.” I observed the male sitting on the

ground next to the busy roadway with his legs stretched out almost into westbound traffic of Kingston Pike. I identified the (suspect). “I observed a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from his person, his eyes to be bloodshot and glassy and a strong slurred speech pattern. Further, I observed the front of his pants to be saturated in urine.” Given “the likelihood he would continue to walk into the heavy traffic on Kingston Pike, and being a danger to himself and others, I placed (him) into custodial arrest in lieu of a written citation.”

towncalendar

• **The public is invited to a free workshop offered by Town of Farragut Community Development Department** starting at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, May 29, in Farragut Town Hall (11408 Municipal Center Drive). This informative session will cover zoning regulations and other land-use provisions directly impacting homeowners. Attendees also will get answers to frequently asked questions about homeowner-specific guidelines. Workshop will include information about Town’s Property Maintenance Division: its mission, the code enforcement process and the most common violations. Information about opportunities to support neighbors who are struggling to maintain their properties also will be available. For more information, contact Community Development director Mark Shipley at mshipley@townoffarragut.org or call 865-966-7057.

• **Race For a Reason 5K will run from 8 to 11 a.m., Sunday, June 1,** beginning at Pinnacle at Turkey Creek, 11251 Parkside Drive in Farragut. “We’re just (days) away from the Race For a Reason 5K — and we can’t wait to see you at the starting line,” a Town press release stated “Whether you’re running, walking or cheering from the sidelines, you’re making a difference “Don’t forget to invite your friends, lace up those sneakers and get ready for a fun-filled day

of fitness, community and purpose,” the release further stated. “Let’s race for something bigger.” Cost is \$30.15 if you register and pay no later than Friday, May 31. Visit runsingup.com/Race/TN/Knoxville/pinnacle

This 5K begins and ends at Nike Unite, located in the heart of the shopping center. Runners will head out along the greenway behind Turkey Creek, winding through scenic residential areas and tree-lined streets.

The course loops through the neighborhood near True Meridian Land Surveyors, then stretches toward Parkside Drive before circling back through quiet, rolling terrain. Participants will pass familiar landmarks, such as Publix supermarket and enjoy a smooth, paved path ideal for runners and walkers of all levels.

This route is a mix of shaded residential streets and open stretches, offering a pleasant balance of community charm and energy. Water stations will be located along the course and signage will clearly mark all turns/checkpoints.

• **Dixie Lee Farmers Market’s Outdoor Farmers Market Season continues** 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.

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Tammy Cheek

Kristine Nicholson of Farragut has added a second Elle Boutique location, this one in Farragut Town Center at Biddle Farms. The new store is planned to open the beginning of July.

Elle Boutique adds Biddle Farms site

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Kristine Nicholson of Farragut is bringing Elle Boutique to Farragut Town Center at Biddle Farms the beginning of July. “As you can see, construction is under way, so it’s just a matter of how quickly we can get it done,” she said. “We are so excited,” Nicholson added about the new shop in Town Center. “There’s just wasn’t any other option for us. When we saw this (development) coming up, we said, ‘This is where we have to be,’ and it’s really exciting to see the other restaurants and businesses coming in. “Hopefully, it will be a thriving, busy area, and I’m really excited to be in the center of it all.” Nicholson took over ownership of Elle Boutique in Bearden in November. “I think, part of the vision has always been to bring it to Farragut, so we’re opening the second location,” she said. “Our kids go to Farragut, and we live here, so it makes sense to be out here. Also, there’s just a need for good shopping.” Elle Boutique is a contemporary women’s clothing boutique. “We’re really well-known for our denim brands,” Nicholson said. “We carry Mother Denim, AG Jeans and Moussy. But we also carry more fashion-forward contemporary clothing and dresses for daywear and for events and accessories as well.” Elle Boutique will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and from noon to 6 p.m., Sunday. For more information until the new location opens, call the Bearden store at 865-606-5449.

The Shrimp Dock going strong



Tammy Cheek

Lucia Keen, The Shrimp Dock general manager shows one of the fresh seafood items, crawfish, which is available for sale at the store in Farragut.

TAMMY CHEEK
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A little more than three years after Randy Burleson, Aubrey’s Restaurant owner, purchased The Shrimp Dock from its founder, Phil Dangel, Burleson continues the seafood legacy. Burleson is no stranger to Farragut customers, as he owned and operated an Aubrey’s restaurant location in Town for 30 years. “It’s going great,” general manager Lucia Keen said about the three Shrimp Dock locations: 11124 Kingston Pike in Farragut, 5210 Kingston Pike in Bearden and 321 S. Calderwood St. in Alcoa. “We’ve made small changes but have tried to stay true to a lot of the authenticity of what was already here,” she said. “I enjoy (managing the three stores). “I came from the Aubrey’s side,” Keen added, noting when Burleson bought The Shrimp Dock, he asked Keen if she wanted to take over as that company’s general manager. “It’s different than a normal restaurant, but a lot of fun,” she added. The shop carries “fresh domestic fish, main-

ly,” Keen said. “It varies by season, of course.” The Shrimp Dock also carries shellfish, such as live mussels, clams and oysters all the time, as well as crawfish and Gulf shrimp. And, po’boys and seafood plates are still two of its staples. “Especially at this location, the menu really has not changed,” Keen said, as Po’boys include shrimp, tilapia, oyster, catfish, cod. Plates include crabcake, trout, fried clams, shrimp, tilapia, oyster, cod, catfish, 8-ounce salmon, shrimp and scallops, and it serves fish tacos. Meanwhile, patrons have not had to miss out on gator meat. “We have gator meat all the time,” Keen said. “We sell it frozen as a specialty meat year round. ... We do offer cooked gator the week leading up to the UT-Florida (football) game.” To help patrons with preparation, “we actually have a YouTube channel that has about, I think, 20 to 30 videos on how to cook all different types of fish, how to cut fish, different recipes,” she said. “A lot of people say they don’t know how to cook it, but cooking fish is really easy.” For more information or to order ahead, call 865-777-3625.

Dunkin’ Donuts cuts ribbon in Farragut



Tammy Cheek

Dunkin Donuts celebrated the opening of its new store, 13038 Kingston Pike near Dixie Lee Junction in Farragut, with a recent Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce-sponsored ribbon cutting. On hand to cut the ribbon were Tara Bock (far left by mini horse), Dunkin Donuts marketing specialist; Kanda Martin (fourth from left), regional director of operations; Craig Norris (left with scissors), general manager; founder/CEO Dave Baumgardner (right with scissors); and Gena Huckaby (back row, second from right, pink top), district manager; as well as Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding and Chamber representatives.

businessbriefs

• **Jake Blevins**, head trainer with Athletic Republic Knoxville, recently was chosen as **Trainee of the Year Award recipient**. This annual award honors an exceptional trainer who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, innovation and dedication to improving both athlete performance and the overall Athletic Republic experience.

• **Ayers Foundation Trust** has announced the loss of **James W. “Jim” Ayers**, who passed away April 1 in Nashville after battling a variety of health issues in recent years. The founder, former executive chair and CEO of FirstBank, Mr. Ayers will be missed by all who knew him

• **Doug Lawyer** recently joined **The Christman Company** as **manager of business development** in the construction management and real estate development firm’s office in Knoxville. Lawyer served for 24 years with the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, where was vice president of economic development and oversaw the organization’s strategies and team in business attraction and expansion.



Lawyer

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

East Tennessee Children’s Hospital Holds Special Night at Zoo for Patients

In May, East Tennessee Children’s Hospital (ETCH) held Dreamnight at Zoo Knoxville, an event that’s been happening at zoos around the world since 1996. This fun, no-cost evening is for children with special health care needs and their parents and siblings. Patients from hematology/oncology, home health and rehabilitation enjoyed the evening in their Children’s Hospital capes, got autographs and pictures with University of Tennessee athletes, met their favorite superheroes and more. “Dreamnight is amazing because it allows patients and their families to visit the zoo at an after-hours private event,” said a patient family. “Some patients have medical needs, are immuno-compromised or monetarily cannot access places like the zoo easily.” This private, invite-only event is a safe but fun way for these patients to get to enjoy the zoo with their families. “ETCH provides cool gifts, visits with athletes and community helpers such as firemen and police officers, animal encounters, character meet and greets and so much more for patients and their families to enjoy. My daughter Hattie, an ETCH oncology patient, looks forward to Dreamnight every year! Kids can be themselves amongst others who understand some of their challenges and live their best lives for a few hours.”



Making an Impact: *Building a Stronger Community at the YMCA of East Tennessee*

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Our programs don’t just serve individuals—they unite families, bridge generations, and bring neighbors together. Whether it’s a child learning to swim, a teen finding confidence in leadership, or a volunteer mentoring the next generation, every story is a ripple in the wave of impact we’re creating together.

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2. Coffee and conversation with friends in the Y lobby.
3. Y Cheer Starz squad showing their spirit for Kinder Kicks outside!
4. Jen’s Group fitness class bringing the energy!
5. Coffee, laughs, stories, and the occasional debate—just another morning at the “Table of Knowledge”!
6. Mrs. Stephanie’s swim lessons fill her students with confidence and joy from learning new skills.
7. Miss Jamie is making a splash teaching our Boys & Girls Club kids essential swim skills with confidence and care.
8. Coach Christina’s Wednesday 11 am Water Aerobics classes making power waves together!
9. Lilly’s turning snack time into smile time with her orange slice grin!
10. One of our proud prizewinners at Unplugged Family Game Night!



Photos submitted

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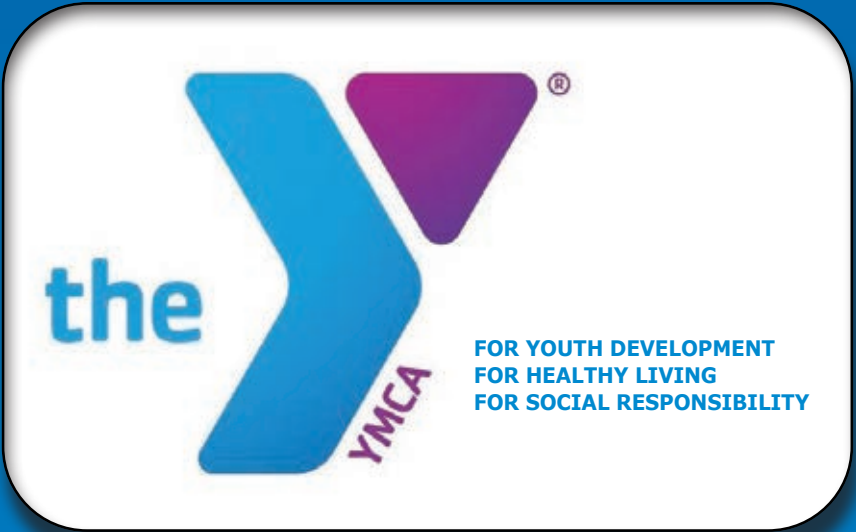
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'I think soft opening in June:' Dixie Lee PureMagic carwash

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Motorists traveling along Kingston Pike near the Dixie Lee intersection will be able to get their vehicles washed at a new PureMagic carwash next month, which is across the street from the Publix under construction.

"It is very close (to completion)," said Garrett Nix, location manager of the Farragut location at 11133 Kingston Pike. "I think there's a soft opening in June, and there may be a grand opening in early August.

"I think the new washers look great," he added, also pointing out customers may expect some reduced rates at its car washes, including the new location.

"The (new carwash), I would say, is probably the most like it is at our Karns location," Nix said. "The new manager they are going to have there has managed our Maryville location for a long time.

"He's very knowledgable, very customer service-(oriented)," he added. "It will have a very good team behind it."

About the Farragut location, "These washes, like the one we're operating here, are operated from a chain-and-rollers setup," Nix said. "They had Farragut, Lenoir City, Lovell Road, Alcoa and Fountain City all with chain and rollers."

The company later got into another setup, "Tommy Sites," which is used at PureMagic's Walker Springs, Powell, Maryville and Oak Ridge locations. Once Tommy's started franchising, "we could no longer build Tommy's washes."

So, the Dixie Lee setup is a new style, Nix said. "It's set up like

See PUREMAGIC on Page 7A



Tammy Cheek

Town takes in trafficking training

Town of Farragut staff recently took part in training to detect human trafficking. Shown leading the training was Lydia Wimsatt, Tennessee Businesses Against Trafficking Program coordinator, which took place in Town Hall, Wednesday, May 14. Wimsatt said Farragut is the best-trained area in all of Tennessee. By completing this training with so many staff members, Farragut becomes the first Town partner in the program statewide. "We are planning additional expanded training in the fall," said Joey Ruffalo, a Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance board member with trafficking prevention expertise who organized the meetings, adding there were 50 staff members who attended either a morning or afternoon session May 14. "A mid-morning session for community members, volunteers and committee members had five attendees."

New option for Virtue, Boyd Station roads improvement presented

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As Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen plans for the road improvements to Virtue and Boyd Station roads, Town engineer Darryl Smith proposed a new option for the project during the Board's meeting Thursday, May 22.

With the new option, Smith asked for approval of a supplement from LDA Engineering for additional design services for the project, which the Board approved unanimously.

Smith said the Board initially approved a professional services agreement with LDA Engineering Inc. for design services for improvements of Virtue Road/Boyd Station Road in April 2023.

"The project involves road improvements to Virtue Road and Boyd Station Road, along with a greenway extension from Evans Road to just south of property owned by Virtue Cumberland Presbyterian Church, tying to a greenway proposed through the Grove at Boyd Station subdivision," Smith said. "Our original preliminary plan showed the greenway along the western side of Virtue Road.

"Unfortunately, that had some significant impact to properties along the route, requiring retaining walls and a pedestrian bridge, he said. "We looked at different options.

"One option that we like quite a bit is to move the greenway from the west side of the road to the east side

and construct it as a timber board walk, about 1,650 feet, from Turkey Creek Road to the Grove subdivision because (the topography) drops off very steep on the eastern side," Smith said. "Naturally, this is going to have more design involved.

"While this option is more expensive than the original alignment, the additional expense will be partially offset by elimination of the retaining walls and pedestrian bridge," he said. "LDA Engineering's request for supplement includes a lump sum fee of \$58,000, increasing its fee for Phase 2 of project development (final design) from \$288,000 to \$346,000. The total fee for project development will increase from \$739,000 to \$797,000."

Following Vice Mayor Scott Meyer's motion to approve, and Alderman David White's second, Virtue Road resident Steve Williams expressed his pleasure with the option.

"The first thing I want to say is I'm really pleased that Alderman (Drew) Burnette and Darryl Smith jumped in to help us work out the issues in front of our property.

"We had a great meeting."

About the boardwalk, "It looks like a great opportunity



Smith

for the Town, and it helps us, as well, on the impact; so I'm really pleased that we're moving in that direction," he said.

However, "what I was hoping to do, so the Town didn't spend a whole lot of extra money, is we need to talk about traffic calming," Williams said.

"We all know traffic on Virtue Road is bad," he added. "I think what we need to do, before we start spending on another design process ... if we could have some public meetings ..."

"Until we talk about traffic calming, I don't think we're ready to turn (the designer) loose."

"At this moment, what we've got in front of us is what we have to vote on," Mayor Ron Williams said. "This would approve the money for what needs to be done. It doesn't necessarily mean it needs to be stamped right this minute. There can be some workshops to discuss what you're talking about."

With the topography along Virtue Road, "there's not an awful lot of room to do things," Smith said. "I need to make

clear that this is federally funded. They may have some heartburn over traffic calming on one of their projects."

The mayor said on the Union Road project, for which the Town also received federal funds, a developer put in a roundabout.

"So, maybe there's something that could happen that may not give (federal officials) heartburn," he added.

While White seconded the motion to approve the supplement, he objected to a boardwalk being built.

"I'm not one bit happy about this at all," he said. "I'm glad, Steve, we worked something out with you so your property's not affected, but in order to do that, we affected someone else's property across the street. I don't want to affect anybody's property."

Steve Williams said the pro-

posed boardwalk would be in the right-of-way.

White still objected, warning teenagers would use it to ride motorized bikes on the boardwalk.

"We couldn't keep the teenagers out of the pickleball courts (in McFee Park)," he said. "They wanted to get in there. They tore down the gates to get in. What do you think a boardwalk down by the lake's going to be? There's going to be kids hanging out on that thing, having a good time, riding bikes ... I think we're wasting a lot of engineering money."

In other business, the Board voted unanimously to:

- amend its ordinance regarding the municipal court by giving the Town administrator the authority to designate the court clerk, a position initially appointed by the Board.
- amend the 2024-25 budget with the following changes: increasing expenditures from \$11,188,302 to \$1,332,352 — an increase of \$144,050 in the General Fund for vehicle

See BOMA on Page 7A



Meyer

FARRAGUT

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Jacobs-Russell

From page 1A

get while enrollment has not increased,” Russell said, “yet so many of the other departments have kept their funding low — but they’re servicing more population. ... So we’re expecting the (Knox County Sheriff’s Office) to serve more people, but their budget has only gone up 30 percent during that time.

“I do care about education, I do care about children, but I think saddling them with debt isn’t the right answer,” she added. “... And that the savings go toward school debt.”

However, “even if we were to cut funding to the schools, that doesn’t mean that we can tell (Knox County) Schools what to do as far as paying debt service on that,” Jacobs said during the meeting.

The mayor then said, “adjusted for inflation, the debt is actually lower than it has been over the last 10 years. ... If debt was a problem we wouldn’t have a double-A bond rating.”

Jacobs also challenged the view of Russell and 9th District Commissioner Andy Fox “that there’s not been enough time to look at the budget,”

pointing out budget preparation work begins in December.

He also said Chief Financial officer Chris Caldwell has been readily available to answer Commissioners’ questions.

Moreover, “If we start amending the budget it causes all kinds of issues,” he added. “We won’t get the budget approved in time (by June 30).”

While Fox backed Russell’s view about budget information time, other Commissioners agreed with Jacobs — including chair Gina Oster (3rd District), labeling such extended time requests as “disingenuous” during the meeting.

However, Russell told Jacobs and her fellow Commissioners that extra questions, and therefore extra time, also are necessary due to constituents coming to her with questions and concerns later in the budgetary process.

Moreover, the 5th District rep said that upon meeting with Jacobs April 30 “was the first time I was given official numbers for the budget.”

However, “I was only given about six pages,” adding the “summary budget” for Commissioners and the public came out around May 5, then the full version “after May 5.”

lettertotheeditor

Reflecting on Knox County veterans memorialized in print

It was moving and a moment to reflect upon, seeing the farragutpress’ insertion of the servicemen’s names from Knox County who gave their all during the wars of the recent past. For one single county, Knox, from this country to amount to these numbers lost is both sickening and staggering.

I recognized some names and wondered if they were related to the present-day Farragut folks I’ve met since moving here. The World War I names reminded me of my grandfather who fought in the British artillery in the battles of the Somme, and also my father who was involved in World War II, in the Royal Signal Corps, then military intelligence, which evolved into M-16 as one of the spy-catchers in England, France and Germany before finally ending up in Belgium.

There, for the grace of God, both my ancestors survived. If they had not, well, I wouldn’t be writing this,

As a child born a few years after WWII ended, my mother would take me on the bus to Bristol, where bombers and fighters were built at the Bristol Aircraft factories, from our village in the Cotswold’s where I was raised.

On the way to the city, from the bus windows we could see rows of houses blown apart; wallpaper still visible, along with sinks and bathtubs inside open, sagging front doors and exploded windows amid rubble where walls once stood.

I couldn’t understand how people could live in such places. I asked, “where are the children, why aren’t they playing?” My mother simply said, “they don’t live there anymore, they were bombed.”

If these fallen on the list of names are known by present day residents, I would like them, if reading this, to understand that the British and the French, along with other countries that were occupied, or were under threat, that to this day have a huge appreciation for the American men and women that came to that part of Europe during both world wars.

These recruits probably didn’t know anyone there back in the ‘old country,’ but they came with their rifles, tanks, ships and planes with the intent to win. The fortunate ones saw the vicious battles come to an end, but many lost their lives during these sickening conflicts called war.

I wonder how many of these lost men would have gone on to be fathers, grandfathers, maybe great-grandfathers. Now, we will all never know. Going to war is a necessary evil since the alternative is even more dire.

It is a good thing to not let this memory of these brave Knox County men be lost to time. No matter which war, I appreciate the farragutpress keeping the flame burning. We all need to be reminded who Memorial Day really is for.

George Ellis, Farragut

PureMagic

From page 3A

a Tommy’s site, where (vehicles) are no longer pushed by a chain and rollers. (Drivers) pull in, and they are on a conveyor belt system, and their

car hovers through the wash.”

Regarding features, he said the new car wash would be about the same — except it has a single tunnel.

“It’s about 110 yards long,” Nix said.

“Lot and all, I would say it

takes up, probably, nearly an acre-and-a-quarter,” he added.

There also will be vacuums outside on the lot and amenities, such as cleaners, mat clipboard and pressurized gun (agitator) — but it will not have interior detailing.

BOMA

From page 3A

maintenance (\$10,000 added) for Parks Department; \$35,000 added for legal service due to ongoing litigation; Mixed Drink Tax (\$97,000 — this line item is used to remit payment

to Knox County for half of the funds collected from the tax) and reclassifying the first aid supplies (2,050 added) for AED equipment for Farragut Museum. Finance director/Town Recorder Allison Myers said funds will be used from the fund balance.



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Upcoming EVENTS



The goal is “an evening of excitement and fun centered around ‘the most exciting two minutes in sports, The Kentucky Derby,’” a LCCC press release stated.

The evening began with Social Hour, as post time for the race was 6:57 p.m. Attendees were encouraged “to do your research and come ready to pick the winner.”

After the race, dinner was served followed by the announcement of Chamber Choice Award winners for 2025 in addition to “our special awards for the best derby attire,” the release further stated.

“The legendary” auctioneer John Goddard led the live auction, “entertaining as usual while presenting items provided by our generous Chamber members.”

Premium Table Sponsors were: Centriworks, City of Lenoir City, Fort Loudoun Medical Center, JTEKT, Perimeter Roofing, Regions Bank, Restoration 1 of Knoxville, Tennessee Orthopaedic Alliance, TGS Precision and Wampler’s Farm Sausage.

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Clockwise from top left: From left are Christy Fitzgerald, Loudon County Chamber’s director of membership, and Rodney Grugin, LCCC president; and Shaunda Spell and husband, Stephen Sallas, co-owners of Mill Agent Design Co. in Lenoir City. Cindy Bengel, left, Realtor with Keller-Williams of West Knoxville, and her mother, Linda Horn. Erin Giblin and her boyfriend, Daniel Vesco, area business manager for CentriWorks. From left are Amy Swank with MDI Contracting, Lenoir City, alongside Janet Bove and Sherri Wampler.

Tuesday, June 10
5:00 pm
Business after Hours
Mango’s Décor & Co.
145 Hwy. 70 W,
Lenoir City

Wednesday, June 11
8:30 am
Young Professionals
of Loudon County
Coffee Connect
Riverside Coffee Shop
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Tuesday, June 24
4:30 – 7:30 pm
Regional Networking
The Venue at Lenoir City

Thursday, June 26
11:30 am
Chamber Lunch & Learn
Lenoir City
Utilities Board

Tuesday, July 8
5:00 pm
Business after Hours and
5th Annual Non-Profit
Spotlight
The Venue at Lenoir City

Tuesday, July 22
8:00 am
Chamber Coffee &
Commerce
Coffee Culture
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Thursday, July 31
11:30 am
Chamber Speaker Series
With Randy Boyd
The Venue at Lenoir City

Thursday, September 18
Chamber Golf
Tournament
Avalon Country Club,
Lenoir City

Young Professionals descend upon Avalon for Spring Social



Photos by Alan Sloan

Young Professionals of Loudon County, in connection with Loudon County Chamber of Commerce, held its annual Spring Social — Sunset Soiree at Avalon Country Club Thursday evening, May 8. The following were among roughly 40 in attendance: **From far left:** are John Carey, Luke Hornsby and Megann Gaylor. **Middle:** Mandie Cox and Blair Sitzlar. **Right:** Stephen Sallas, Shaunda Spell and Krista Vincil.

Aubrey’s Restaurant celebrates new location with ribbon cutting



The Loudon County Chamber was honored to help Aubrey’s Restaurant celebrate with a ribbon cutting for their brand-new location of 375 Town Creek Pkwy., Lenoir City. The new restaurant has many of the same friendly faces, and Manager Bradley Westenhaver was delighted to welcome everyone back to Aubrey’s after the construction. Stop by the new location soon!

Photo submitted



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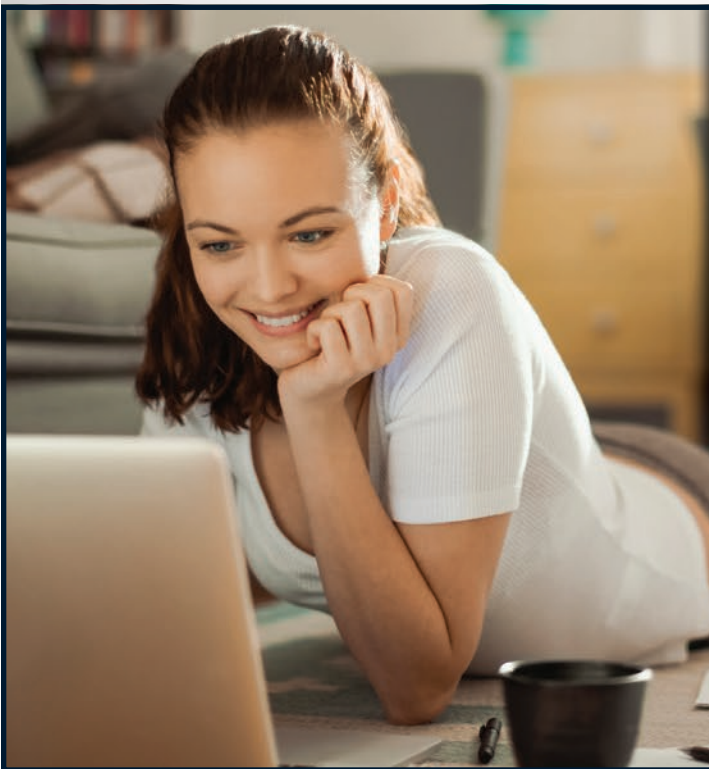
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MVP Stimson, Brophy lead HVA title surge



Photos by Alan Sloan
(Left) Head coach Ray Dover, second from right standing, and his assistants join HVA players to celebrate a soccer state title.
(Above) Joyful are Hawk junior Asher Stimson (18), tourney MPV, and senior Josh Colmac.

Hawks shock defending state champ Dawgs, Hendersonville, Bartlett with late goals

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

MURFREESBORO — His penalty kick in the 68th minute allowed Hardin Valley Academy to cap a late-match rally from 2-0 down against rival and defending state champ Bearden, shocking the Dawgs 3-2 in the Division I-AAA state quarterfinals.
Ben Brophy, senior star forward, then broke a scoreless tie in the 79th minute with the game's only tally — another penalty kick — to edge Hendersonville in the state semifinals Thursday night, May 22.
And just when Bartlett sent its own shocker into the net, tying the Hawks 3-3 with just 4:14 to play in the state title match Friday afternoon, May 23, Brophy needed just 81 seconds to answer — and break a

school record in the process.
The senior launched a roughly 30-foot shot, just right of center, past a diving Bartlett goalkeeper into the far lower left corner of the net at the 2:53 mark of regulation, his 80th career goal to break the record.
And win the program its second state crown (also 2011), 4-3, in Richard Siegel Soccer Complex.
“That was one of the most amazing goals I’ve ever scored in my life,” the senior star said.
“It does suck when we’re that close (up 3-2) and they do tie it up,” he added. “But it had happened before and we just kept playing hard, and I just hoped we could get in there and just score another one and take it home. And that’s what we did.”
About his team, “We’re exhausted, but we left everything out there and that’s what we had to do,” Bro-

phy said. “Now it’s time to rest, and we did it, so we can go home happy now.”
“When you have a center striker like Ben, that’s another player who’s got that attitude, like a finishing attitude, an attitude that ‘when I kick the ball, this is going to go in the net,’” said HVA head coach Ray Dover, whose team ends with a 20-3-3 record. “That is something that we try and foster with him.”
“It was a fairy-tale ending; I mean, you get a goal to break the school record right there at the very end of your career with less than (three) minutes to go and sink the other team” and win state, the coach added about Brophy. “We needed him to be a great player, and I was telling my assistant coaches this morning,

See DRAMA HAWKS on Page 10B

What a way to end a career for seniors, Osborne

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

MURFREESBORO — By .53 of a second, with Farragut High School’s 4 X 400-meter relay team’s super effort paying off by literally a nose, the Admirals boys track & field team is celebrating a Division I-AA state championship.
Trailing Memphis Whitehaven 56-55 going to the final event, the 4 X 400 foursome of senior Evan Beeler, also state champ in the 800-meter (1:53.29) and 1600-meter (4:16.93), junior Chase McAvoy



Retiring head coach Chelsea Osborne, second from right, and FHS boys track & field seniors go out as Division I-AAA state champs in thrilling fashion among happy teammates and assistant coaches at Middle Tennessee State in Murfreesboro Thursday, May 22.

(second in decathlon), senior Noah Eaker and freshman Lucas Spadafora edged the WHS quartet 3:20.50 versus 3:21.03.
“This group of boys are special,” retiring Admirals skipper Chelsea Osborne said.

“The work they put in day in and day out and the willingness to do what is needed for the team is their greatest attribute.
“Evan is one of those athletes that a coach dreams of

working with,” she added. “He is confident, but so down to earth. He didn’t flinch when asked to do three events at Sectionals and then doing them again at state and come away with two individual titles in

the 1600 and 800 and then help secure a third title in the 4 x400 and the team win is a perfect way to finish his career.”
McAvoy “is just a junior and

See CLUTCH on Page 10B

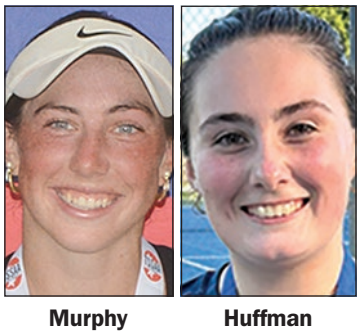
Dominant in sprints, distance runs gives Webb girls repeat as Div II-AA state #1

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

MURFREESBORO — The Webb School of Knoxville girls track & field team may be building a dynasty in Division II-AA, winning its second consecutive state crown Wednesday, May 21, at Middle Tennessee State University.
The Lady Spartans, winning state by 43 points (130), displayed a balance of power in both sprints and distance running, with more points coming in the field jumping events.
Freshmen Lacy Young and Simone Romain captured first and third, respectively, in the 100- and 200-meter dashes. Young was champ in the 100 (11.79) and 200 (24.97), with Romain third in

100 (12.12) and 200 (25.53).
Junior Carolina Areheart grabbed the 800 run state title (2:09.43), with junior teammate Calysta Garmer fourth (2:18.92) and her sister, junior Jazzlyn Garmer, sixth.
Calysta and Jazzlyn were a close champ and runner-up in the two longest individual runs, respectively, the 1600 and 3200 run. Calysta was first in the 1600 (4:49.41) and 3200 (10:31.20) and Jazzlyn second in 1600 (4:51.32) and just .15 of a second behind her sister in the 3200 (10:31.35).
Webb’s 4 X 200 relay team took second behind rival Knoxville Catholic (1:41.92), with the Lady Spartans foursome just .15 behind the first-

See REPEAT TITLE on Page 10B



Murphy

Huffman

Murphy’s 4th title in Div II-AA; State runner-up in singles for HVA’s Huffman

Lillian Murphy, Knoxville Catholic High School senior tennis star, matched her doubles state title run in Division II-AA as a freshman and sophomore by winning her second consecutive singles state crown. Murphy disposed of Baylor’s Margarette Berdy 6-1, 6-2 in the title match in Murfreesboro Friday, May 23.
Madison Huffman of Hardin Valley Academy finished second in Division I-AA state singles (25-1 final record). “Madison had an amazing season ... and for her to win 25 matches is a school record for HVA tennis,” Seth Rayman, HVA coach, said.

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SENIOR NIGHT

In recent weeks, three local high schools recognized their seniors at their respective Senior Nights. Find students from Farragut High School, Hardin Valley Academy and Bearden High School featured with their families in these pages.



BASEBALL



BHS's Cameron Cooper



BHS's Connor Sipe



BHS's Evan Cope



BHS's Isaiah Whited



BHS's Logan Benko



BHS's Sammy Greene



BHS's Tyler Parks



FHS's Benny Miller



FHS's Braden Alexander



FHS's Braden Humphrey



FHS's Brodie Roberts



FHS's Cole Draper



FHS's Connell Driver



FHS's Jackson Zeller



FHS's Nash Spurgeon



FHS's Owen Stelzer



FHS's Reid Thomason



FHS's Sam Bobich



FHS's Tobias Peterson



FHS's Will Dodson



HVA's Aiden Murphy



HVA's Andrew Lewis



HVA's Boone Fields



HVA's Braden Wyatt



HVA's Caiden Mitchell



HVA's Colton Denton



HVA's Isaac Worley



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To see additional photos of seniors celebrated for other sports, see our [online extended Senior Night](#) edition! Visit farragutpress.com



HVA's Jaxon Jones



HVA's Matthew Champion



HVA's Neels Schoonbee



HVA's Tyler Wright



SOFTBALL



BHS's Abby Thompson



BHS's Elizabeth Newman



BHS's Jaycie Overton



BHS's Kendall Hubbs



BHS's Kendyl May



FHS's Amelia Dorset



FHS's Audrey Ginel



FHS's Ava Barnes



FHS's Elsa Morrison



FHS's Molly Barber



HVA's Addison Chandler



HVA's Alex Souders



HVA's Ayla Perry



HVA's Emma Kate Schneider



HVA's Kate Smith



HVA's Madison Mann



HVA's Nathalia Rodriguez



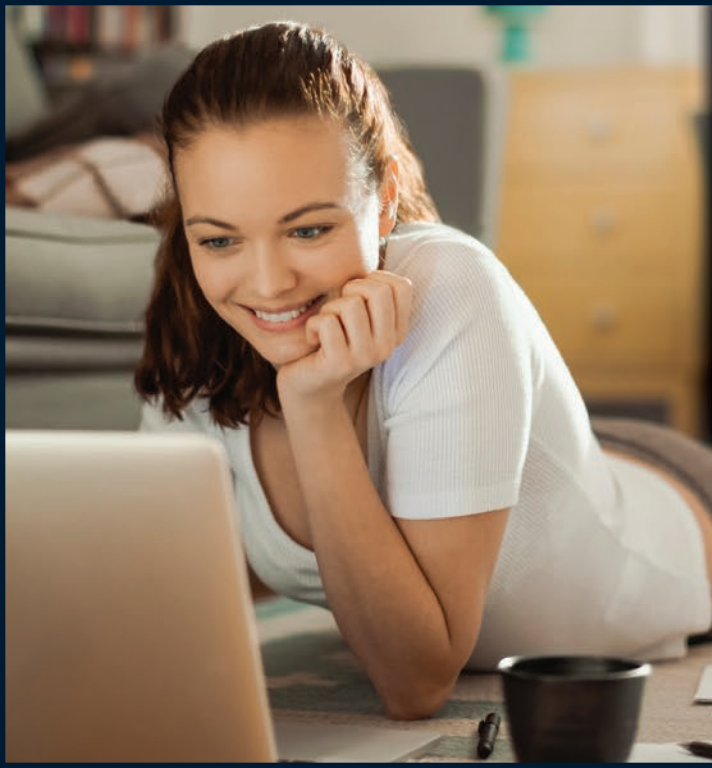
TENNIS

Farragut High School Tennis Senior Day — held Wednesday, April 9, at West Hills Tennis Center — honored five from the girls and boys teams who represent the Class of 2025. Girls team seniors are Michelle Lian, left, and Rachel Le. Boys team seniors, from left, are Parker Fitzgerald, Derek Diaz and Jackson Neal.



Tennis photo submitted

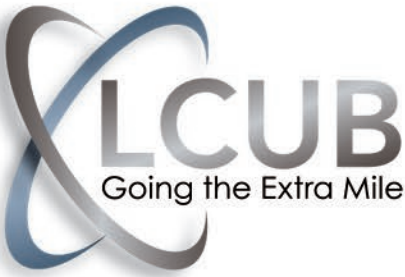
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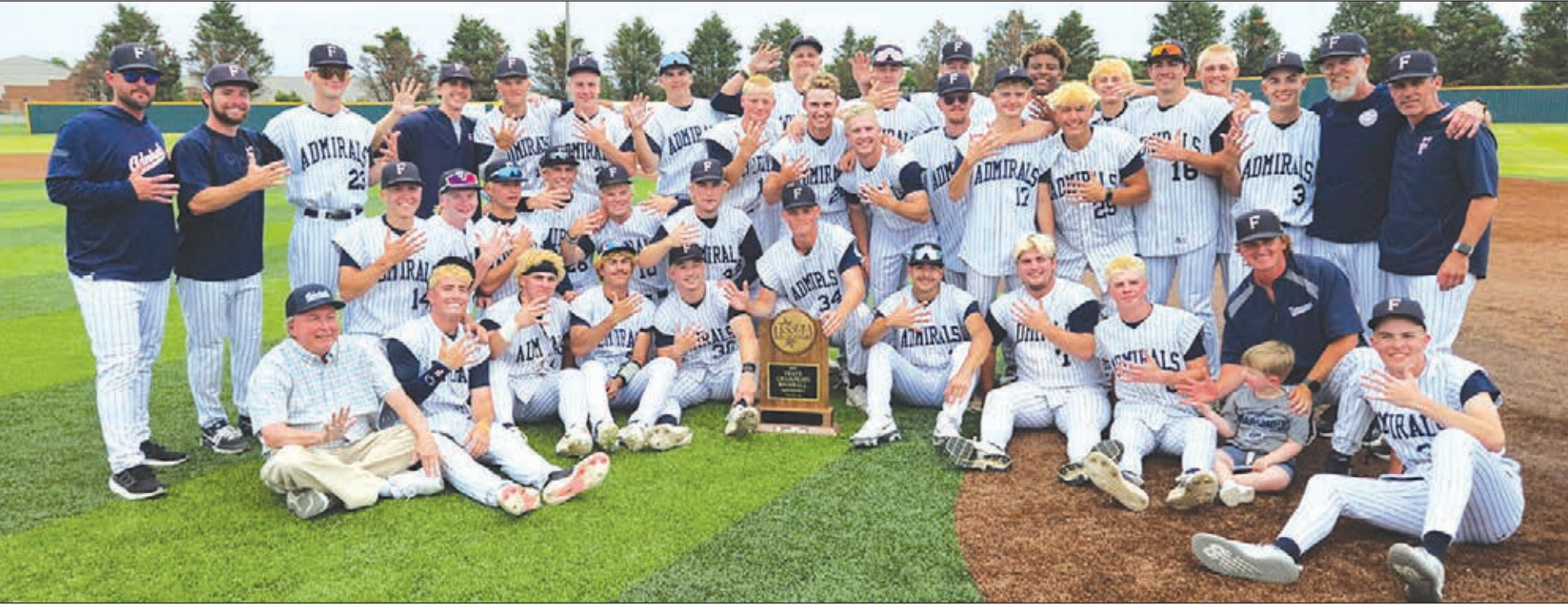
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Four-peat also TSSAA record 14th FHS baseball state crown



Alan Sloan

Ads skipper Garrett Copeland, far left, his assistants and SID Jack Tate, sitting far left, join a happy bunch of “four-peating” FHS baseball state champs in Division I-4A.

Hitting matches pitching in final 2 games; Draper finds his edge in middle, late innings for 3rd state title game win

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

MURFREESBORO — A team seemingly too inexperienced to perform in the pressure-cooker of post-season play — especially its position players — and make a serious run at the program’s fourth straight state title, the 2025 Farragut Admirals were on the brink of elimination early and often in the playoffs. And led by a rookie Admirals skipper, Garrett Copeland, some folks assumed this Farragut team would fall well short of a long playoff run. But after successfully fighting off its sixth season-elimination game, this time in the Division I-4A state title game versus Clarksville at Oakland High School

Saturday, May 24, this unlikely state title four-peat was a reality with a come-from-behind 11-3 win. Copeland’s first state crown is the program’s 14th, a TSSAA state record. “I think it’s a team that shows up and is ready to compete every single day,” the coach said. “I think it’s a team that doesn’t really seem to feel any pressure with their backs against the wall. They’re still able to play with freedom. They’re still able to play well.” After pitching carried the Admirals (32-11) early in its state tourney run, a 3-2 win versus Independence followed by a 1-0 victory against Siegel on its home field, Copeland’s boys got the bats going in a rematch against Indy, winning 9-5 Friday, May 23, to advance to the championship showdown.

Farragut staff ace Cole Draper, looking for his third straight state championship pitching victory as a starter, had a rough first two innings against the Wildcats (37-8), giving up two runs before working out of a pair of bases-loaded jams. But the crusty veteran hurler settled down, aided by an offense that twice tied the game before exploding in the late innings — highlighted by sophomore Braxton Tye’s sixth-inning grand slam after his double highlighted a three-run fifth — to ignite the pure joy of yet another Admirals dogpile on a pitchers mound in Rutherford County. “He’s our guy, and everybody on the team knows

See 4-PEAT-14TH on Page 10B




(Right) Cole Draper, FHS senior staff ace, finished off Clarksville in the late innings for a complete game/106-pitch state title game win. (Above) Draper gets a big hug from fellow senior pitcher Benny Miller (2) and other Ads.



Photos by Alan Sloan

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\$24+ million from roughly 470: HVA grads

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

With almost 470 graduates, Hardin Valley Academy celebrated its 17th year as a school with its Commencement Ceremony in the school’s stadium Wednesday evening, May 21.

This year’s HVA graduating students earned more than \$24 million in scholarships, assistant principal Nicole Slayton announced.

She added more than 450 students qualified for the Tennessee Promise scholarship, and more than 350 HVA graduating seniors qualified for the Hope Scholarship.

“As a senior class, we are here to sit before you and thank you for the love, support and encouragement and help that has brought us to this place of accomplishment,” said Vanshika Patel, senior class president.

Hawk Award

The highlight of the evening was the Hawk Award presentation to Brock Connatser, a Distinction Graduate, honors candidate and member of the National Honor Society who also received the Seal of Bilitery.

Principal Kirk Renegar said the Hawk Award is the school’s highest honor voted on by the HVA faculty.

“It is bestowed upon a graduating senior whose performance exemplifies and defines qualities of HVA,” Renegar said. “The Hawk Award is annually presented to a student who exhibits the highest standards: dependability, responsibility, citizenship, cheerfulness and moral character.”



Photos by Tammy Cheek

(Above right) Hardin Valley Academy principal Dr. Kirk Renegar presented HVA graduate Brock Connatser with the coveted Hawk Award during HVA Class of 2025 Commencement ceremony in

“The recipient of this award has scored high in academics,” he added. “It is truly a great honor to be nominated for this award.

Reading the graduate’s nomination letter, “Brock has exemplified what it takes to be hard-working and present in class and extra-curricular activities since his freshman year,” the principal said. “He is resolved to be 100 percent, is impressive and humble.

“Brock is an outstanding student athlete,” Renegar added.



ed. “He has taken multiple AP and dual enrollment classes in math, science and humanities while earning the Seal of Bilitery in Spanish and is recognized as an AP Scholar, as well as being inducted into the Mu Alpha Theta and National Honor Society.

“He is a four-time wrestling team captain; two-time state placer; (a) sectional champion, ... which he has done twice; and four-time state qualifier. He is a three-time outstanding wrestler and a two-time wres-

ting Hawk Award winner.

“In the community, he has been involved in Leadership Game Changers, promoting inclusion and morals in athletics,” Renegar said.

The graduate also was involved in the Four H and Rotary Interact Club the last four years, in which he has been actively involved in many community engagements and volunteer efforts, such as Second Harvest Food Bank, Knoxville

See GRADUATION on Page 6B



Rocky Top Chess Club instructor Dr. Fangxing Li (above in yellow shirt and in portrait photo, right) was honored by club members, instructors and family for his 10-year teaching anniversary during a celebratory party in Farragut Community Center Sunday, May 18.

“Dr. Li has been a cornerstone of our chess community since founding the club in late fall 2015 to early spring 2016, when it was originally known as the Knoxville Chinese Christian Church Chess Club,” said Fei Tian, club president. “Over the past decade, he has served as the lead instructor for Step 1, Step 2 and Step 3 classes. He also co-managed club operations from 2016 to 2022, coordinated activities with other regional chess groups, co-founded Rocky Top Chess Inc. and served as its president from 2021 to 2022.”

Li’s service, at RTCC, 10 years, lauded



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• **Sixty-Second Annual Lenoir City Arts & Crafts Festival**, a key non-profit fundraiser, once again is set for Lenoir City Park, 6707 City Park Drive, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 7, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, June 8. Open to the public, event entry fee is \$3, with children 12-and-under free. Bus rides from the parking lots also are free of charge.

Event beneficiary is General Federation of Women's Clubs' Suburbia Woman's Club. Sponsorship are \$10,000 (Presenting sponsor); \$5,000 (Gold sponsor); \$3,000 (Silver sponsor); \$1,500 (Area sponsor); and \$1,000 (Supporting sponsor). Visit lenoircityartsandcrafts.com/sponsors-lenoir-city-festival/ for more information.

• **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 info, or to register, visit <https://farrhs.givebacks.com//store/items/1185039>

• **Southern Pickleball presents 3rd Annual Volley for Hope benefiting Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee** at Pavilion of Pickleball, 701 Racquet Club Way in Knoxville, Friday, June 6 through Sunday, June 8.

Registration is \$60 and includes up to two events. To sign up, visit Second Harvest's Volley for Hope page: SecondHarvestETN.org/volley-for-hope Signups also can be done at pickleball-tournaments.com Registration ends after Sunday, May 25.

Women/girls doubles is June 6, with mixed doubles June 7 and men/boys doubles June 8. All ages are welcomed, with bracket set-ups de-

pendent on age-group sign-ups according to Jon Rice, SHFBET Engagement and Communications manager.

Competition the final two days may begin as early as 8 a.m. "Specific start times for each event will be posted and e-mailed to players approximately one week prior to the event," a SHFBET press release stated.

"It's been a lot of fun entering this pickleball (event) over the past couple of years," Rice said. "There's a lot of passionate pickleball players in Knoxville. It's a fun weekend for them — but also supporting a good cause.

"We really encourage people — even if they're a beginning pickleball player — to sign up, come out and support the Food Bank and have a good time with their friends and family," he added.

As registration proceeds, tournament management reserves the option to combine brackets as needed if certain brackets do not fill.

Brackets will be combined by age, if possible, to avoid combining skills.

Skills levels include 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5-plus; skill levels will be divided by age after registration is completed.

A team must play at the skill level of the higher-rated player and the age group of the younger player. Age is calculated as of 12/31/2025.

Tournament players each receive a swag bag full of pickleball goodies. Snacks and beverages are available throughout the tournament.

*The last day to be guaranteed a tournament shirt is Sunday, June 1," the release further stated. "Shirts are unisex and run larger than gender sizes specifically for women."

Having raised roughly \$500,000 at the first two Volley for Hope fundraisers, Second Harvest is "leading the community in the fight to end hunger," the release stated.

'New homeschool umbrella/hybrid option' ready at CCS for 2025-26

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Concord Christian School is reaching children in a new way.

"At the start of the 2025-26 school year, we are thrilled to (announce) a new homeschool umbrella and hybrid school option," said Angela Keathley, director of homeschool for the new Concord Christian Home-school.

"This initiative is designed to serve our families by providing additional resources, community and flexibility for those who choose to homeschool," she added. "This addition reflects the church and school's dedication to fostering a collaborative educational opportunity for all those desiring Kingdom Education for their children."

The program came about when Keathley approached CCS head of school Don Snider two years ago, when Concord Christian was building its high school, about starting a homeschool program.

"I had been at the church, probably, about 15 years," she said. "One Sunday morning, I said to Don Snider, 'I would like to start a homeschool umbrella program here.'

"He looked at me and said, 'I'm building a school. I don't have time.' I said, 'OK, call me when you do.'"

When she learned CCS was starting the homeschool pro-

gram, she recalled telling Snider, "I would love to do the program."

Now that it's under way, Keathley said, "I absolutely love it."

CCH offers two flexible pathways: the umbrella program provides administrative and legal support, record-keeping, standardized testing and curriculum guidance, "all designed to give families greater peace of mind while preserving their homeschooling freedom," Keathley said.

The second pathway is the hybrid program, which "blends the best of both worlds with engaging in-person classes one day a week on campus while still allowing families to homeschool the remainder of the time," she said.

As director of the new program, Keathley said, "before we do anything else, we have to seek the Lord's guidance.

"So if the Lord has called you and you see that you want to homeschool, then I sit down with families and I help them decide how they are going to do that," she said.

For more information, call Keathley at 865-282-7004 or visit concordchristianschool.org



Keathley



Tammy Cheek

Rahma Iyad Al-Qasir, representing STEM Academy, spoke during Hardin Valley Academy Commencement Ceremony in the HVA stadium Wednesday, May 21.

Graduation

From page 5B

Area Rescue Missions, Angel Tree gift sorting and Vacation Bible School

Connatser was one of five nominated for the award. Also in the running were Bella Buccola, Ryan Moon, Neels Schoonbee and Kendra West.

Other speakers
Rahma Iyad Al-Qasir, representing the Academy of Science, Math, Engineering and Technology, spoke on "Our Final Five Minutes" while Macy Clara McInturff, also from STEM, spoke on "The Power of Change." Hitarth Mayur Barot, yet another from STEM, spoke on "Everything Starts from Here."



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(Above) Team 8A members were among those participating in Davis YMCA Golf Tournament at Gettysvue Polo, Golf & Country Club Monday, May 5. From left are Joel Ash of Ash Chiropractic & Wellness, Glen Coleman, farragutpress advertising executive, and Spencer Kilcrease and Billy Houston. (Right) Event champs were Jeff Cook, left, and Craig Phillips.



Photos by Tammy Cheek

Gettysvue, The Venue Davis Y fundraisers



Photos by Alan Sloan

Davis YMCA's largest fundraiser, the inaugural "An Evening of Impact 2025," happened at The Venue in Lenoir City Thursday evening, May 22. (Left) Erin Stidham, Davis Y executive director, center, is flanked by personal trainer Nolan Nevels and his wife, Davis Y member Donna Nevels. (Above) Davis Y employees, from left, are Vickey Beard, fitness instructor; her husband, Ted Beard, maintenance; and Vicki Karas, fitness instructor/personal trainer.

Villages 'Derby wins' for STAR

This team of "gamblers" are holding their winning tickets for the dapple horse that won the Villages Kentucky Derby race during this special event at The Villages of Farragut, 230 Village Commons Blvd., Friday afternoon, May 2. The winning five, from left, are residents Shirley Mitchell, Judith Bradbury, Mary Myhre, Jerri Griffith and Nancy Anzalone. "Residents placed their bets on eight horses, and all funds were donated" to (Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding between Farragut and Lenoir City, stated Melody Matney, Villages executive director. "The Villages charitable gift to this most deserving organization was \$1,500. Residents plan to make this an annual fundraising event for STAR. ..."

Alan Sloan

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Tuesday, June 3, 2025 | Hartford Room
9:00 a.m. Discussion and public hearing on approval of a preliminary plat for improvements to Outlet Drive to include a turn lane for the property at 11471 Outlet Drive and for improvements at the Snyder Road/N. Campbell Station Road intersection in association with the Venture at Laster Farms development in Knox County at 11471 Outlet Drive (Cannon & Cannon, Inc., Applicant)

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 or phone 865-966-7057 or in person at Town Hall.

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Drama Hawks

From page 1B

I was like, ‘We need him to have a big day,’ and he did.” However, it was junior Asher Stimson who was named tourney MVP, getting the Hawks started offensively with its first two goals, overcoming a 1-0 Bartlett advantage in the 17th minute, then putting HVA up 2-1 in the 24th minute before the Memphis team tied things up in the 37th minute. “We know that he has the ability to score big goals, and we’ve run him at forward and

at defender about all year,” Dover said of Stimson. “There’s only about two or three guys on the team that can hit the ball like he can.” “Our coach always says ‘just battle through adversity,’” Stimson said of Dover. “I think today sums up this season.” Hardin Valley regained the lead in the 49th minute on senior Nathan Holbrook’s goal from around the top of the box. “A lot of us have been playing together since we were 8 or 9 years old,” Holbrook said. “It’s great to end my last game of soccer with the state

championship,” he added. About some of his other top seniors, Dover said, “Josh Colmac was fantastic in the back for us as a center-back. Frank Manrod played in multiple positions this season; just an outstanding player when it came to that. “Then you had guys coming off the bench like Jackson Yarbrough, who put in some good minutes tonight up at the wing, just working because he’s such a good athlete,” he added. “Gavin Standefer, who played center defensive mid for us and had a knee injury

in the Bearden match, didn’t really play much last night in the semifinal. But he toughed it out and played in the state championship. So that effort right there is unbelievable.” About his teammates, Brophy said, “It starts with our keeper, (senior) Adam Leonard, an amazing goalie with his communications, leadership. “Then our defense, just with Frank, Josh, Aaron (Garcia), Asher, Vance (Easler). ... Our midfield, they play together all the time,” he added. “I feel like our attack is the best in the state.”

Repeat title

From page 1B

place Lady Irish (1:42.07). The eventual state champ’s 4 X 800 relay foursome was yet another first-place showing (9:39.72). Lady Spartans senior Lennox Langham grabbed the triple jump state crown (40-feet-2) and claimed second in long jump (18-feet-7). In high jump, Webb junior Tallulah Carney finished third (5-feet-4). (Other non-Webb girls Division II top results next week)

4-peat, 14th

From page 2B

he’s our guy,” Copeland said of Draper. “He did struggle, but with the success he’s had, with the résumé he’s had, he has a little bit of an extended leash. I never really felt like it was a dire situation to get him out.” “Once I knew we were back in there (offensively), I knew we were going to fight throughout that whole game,” said Draper, who went the entire seven innings (106 pitches) with just two days of rest after pitching five innings (70 pitches) in the opening 3-2 win. Against Clarksville he allowed three earned runs, eight

hits and one walk while hitting one batter. He struck out five. “I knew they had my back, and I could go out there with a bunch of freedom and pitch. ...My body felt good. I knew I wasn’t going to stop.” Elsewhere offensively, Owen Stelzer had a huge day: a run-scoring double plus a pair of RBI singles. “I mean, it’s just hard work from these guys,” said Stelzer, a senior shortstop. Aidan Flagg smacked a fourth-inning home run, tying the game 3-3. Zain Kureshi-Smith added a double, scoring a run, plus a sacrifice fly. Jake Harris doubled and courtesy runner Eli Tittle scored. Neyland Williams dou-

bled and scored on Tye’s slam. Braden Humphrey, whose defense was huge at third base in the 3-2 opening win, added a single versus Clarksville. Jackson Zeller earned an RBI with a bases-loaded walk. In shutting down Siegel, Ads senior starter Reid Thomason allowed no runs, three hits and two walks in 4.1 innings. Reliever Joey Ray allowed no hits and no walks with two strikeouts in 2.2 innings. In beating Independence 3-2, Draper went five innings (two runs, six hits and no walks allowed with seven strikeouts). Reliever Ben Miller closed the door (final inning: no runs, no walks, two strikeouts).

Clutch

From page 1B

has already shown so much promise in the decathlon (6262 points),” the coach said. “Him getting second helped get the expectation going.” Senior star thrower Bryce Thompson captured a third straight shot put state crown (58-feet-4.75) while adding a valuable eight extra points by taking second in discus (171-feet-4). “Bryce came into the state meet with a determination I had not seen from him before,” Osborne said. “Watching him take second in discus and first in shot was pretty

awesome, and he really helped put us in a good spot team score-wise.” Senior Tanner Coggin captured second place, another key eight points, in the 3200 run (9:21.19). Also, “Tanner was anchor of our 4 x 800 that finished eighth, which earned us a point,” Osborne said. “The other boys Jase Morton, a senior, Nick DeGuira, a junior, and Andrew Cabaniss, a sophomore, put the team in a good spot for Tanner to hold it. “Then to turn around and run an outstanding 3200, earning second place, shows his talent and heart for the team.” (Other results next week)

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