Issue 2 | Volume 5 May - July 2025

Flying the Nest

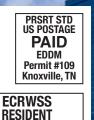
Summer

Events & Activities listing in Kids Corner

Hardin

Camps

Two graduates discuss their K-12 experience at Hardin Valley schools



ARDIN VA **'My** Charlie'

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Remembering HVA teen Charlie Schuster

> Soccer & Lacrosse Photos from Hardin Valley sports

Cast your vote!

BALLOT

INESS NAME

Find the fourth annual Readers Choice Awards ballot inside

Hardin alley

Net3

Managed IT services returning to the Valley



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Flying the Nest
'My Charlie'p. 8 Remembering HVA teen Charlie Schuster
Chews and Brewsp. 12 Blackberry picking and lessons learned
Going back to its Valley roots p. 14 Net3IT managed IT services returns to Hardin Valley
Readers Choice Awards ballot
New levels of Excellence & Dementia Care
PSCC's Earn and Learn program
Hardin Valley Sportsp. 22, 24 Photos from HVA soccer and HVMS lacrosse
Kids Corner

On the cover: Ethan Rome and Zachary Kuban



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The first-ever graduating class to go K-12 in Hardin Valley

The first class in the community's history to be entirely "Hardin Valley educated" has just graduated. Zachary Kuban and Ethan Rome are two members of that Hardin Valley Academy Class of 2025 who received a kindergarten-through-high school education without leaving the Valley. "It's definitely exciting for Zach to

be a part of the first-ever graduating class to go K-12 in Hardin Valley," said Kuban's mother, Jordan Kuban, about her son attending Hardin Valley Elementary School and Hardin Valley Middle School before HVA. "He's had an awesome experience as a Hawk."

"Ethan and Zach have had the opportunity to be in class together many times over the past 13 years," said Rome's mom, Jaime Rome. "Their love for track and running relays together has helped to expand their friendship as well.

"Ethan has been a proud Hawk all (13) years," she added. "Ethan and Zachary have built a wide network of friends who take care of each other. Having all three schools close by helps nurture the community feeling among Hardin Valley families.

"The sense of community these students feel with being able to go to Hardin Valley schools throughout their years can't be beat."

"I'm very happy to be in the Hardin Valley schools for so long because I've made a lot of friends through that," Rome said. "Because people come in from Cedar Bluff or somewhere that don't have high schools to go to in their community."

"It's pretty cool that I've gone to the same place for the last 13 years," Kuban said about the three schools being adjacent to each other.

Early years

Thinking back to kindergarten when the boys first met, Kuban said with a big smile, "I kind of remember that Ethan was a little bit of a trouble-maker."

"Well, I can't really deny it at all because I'm pretty sure I was one of the first people to go to the principal's offices in kindergarten," Rome said, also smiling. "But I've definitely gotten better."

As for how these two hit it off early on, "when you made a lot of your friends, it was in class and on the playground," Rome said.

"He's just a nice kid, really," Rome added about Kuban. "He's just someone that you want to surround yourself with."

Track and fields ties

Their love of track and field dates back to elementary school and has continued at HVA, being the main connection point for the senior pair.

"We've been running track since, like, the fourth grade," said Rome, whose specialties are the 100, 200- and 400-meter dashes at HVA.

See CLASS OF 2025 on Page 6



Left: Ethan Rome with his little sister, Madelyn, at her field day.

Photos submitted



Right: Zachary Kuban during his track and field years at Hardin Valley Middle School.



Photo by Alan Sloan

Ethan Rome, left, and Zachary Kuban, Hardin Valley Class of 2025 graduates

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"The sense of community these students feel with being able to go to Hardin Valley schools throughout their years can't be beat."

~ Jaime Rome, Ethan's mother

Far left: Just getting started in Hardin Valley schools was Zachary Kuban in HVES kindergarten. **Left:** Ethan Rome just before his 5th grade Hardin Valley Elementary School graduation.

Photos submitted

Class of 2025

From page 4

"We've been running track together for a while, and so we probably have developed a lot of getting to know each other better through that," said Kuban, a 100- and 200-meter sprinter. "And Ethan's definitely a natural leader — people want to listen to him and follow him because he's, you know, just really responsible at track and stuff like that."

"Ethan's definitely a lot more of a natural leader than I am," he added. "I guess I tend to be more quiet and reserved."

Rome's also there to help. "When there's a new kid at track, he the one who will go and talk to him and show him our drills and stuff," Kuban said.

"Ethan always takes time for everybody and he knows everybody on the team. That's really cool. So I've definitely taken that from him and learned how to be a leader at track from him."

Kuban's putting into practice what he's learned.

"We're both trying to be leaders on the track team this year because we're both seniors," he said. "That's definitely an opportunity to let people look up to us and learn from us. So we both probably have that same goal in mind."

One of their senior goals has been reached — times two: Rome and Kuban are both legs on the Hawks' state qualifying 4 X 200 and 4 X 100 relay teams performing in Murfreesboro in the Division 1-AAA state meet Thursday, May 22. The 4 X 100 team, in fact, was Sectional champions.

In terms of helping each other get better, "It's a lot easier to take, not criticism, but constructive criticism," Rome said, "Because you can't see how you're running, so it's a lot easier for somebody else to tell you 'hey, this is what you need to work on."

"Zach's a lot better at the start (of a race) than me," he added. "And I'm still trying to pick it up. And he's very natural when it comes to that."

"If I'm better at the start, Ethan's definitely better (later in the race) because, being a 400 runner, he has that endurance and he's really good at holding his running form, so he helps me with that, too," Kuban said. "And, yeah, that's just kind of a cool thing with track. We all watch each other run and help each other out."

A key strong point

But Rome pointed to an even more important Kuban quality. "He's been

very involved in the church," Rome said of Kuban, as these friends attend different Christian denomination churches. "You kind of want to surround yourself with those kind of people.

"I'm trying to learn to grow in that way, and I think he's done a great job at it," he added about Kuban.

Looking ahead

On the academic front, "We both are in the National Honors Society," said Kuban, who is in the STEM Academy at HVA. "I started doing engineering classes here because I want to be an aerospace engineer after college.

"But eventually, I switched to the early college experience pathway, and that's something that's kind of unique to Hardin Valley, but it's where we can go to Pellissippi State down the road and get college classes done, which is really nice," he added. "And I'll go to college with a lot of my (general education) classes done."

"Zachary, with his early college experience, he will go to college with something like 36 credit hours already because he's been doing dual enrollment his junior year and senior year," said Ashli Beeler, HVA's academy coach. "He spends the majority of his day off campus at Pellissippi."

As for Rome, "I started in the Health Science Academy," he said. "... I started taking classes for cardiovascular services and I'm in a clinicals class where I get to go to different sites and shadow. Right now I'm in a rehab clinic, and it's a lot of fun.

"They're letting me do stuff that's hands on and it's giving me more experience basically to figure out what I want to do when I'm older," Rome added. "I'll probably major in something like pre med because, I mean, I'm just trying to go into healthcare. It's kind of hard to pinpoint exactly where, but in my mind it has to have something to do with patients — I'm a big fan of patient care."

"He's in his clinicals now, which means he's actually doing similar to like rotations where he's out working in the field," Beeler said about Rome. "That's ultimately our goal: for more kids to get to that point, doing more work-based learning or real world-type experience while they're in high school."

While their next educational stop is a gigantic campus, Rome and Kuban will remain together in a manner of speaking: both plan to attend the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

By Alan Sloan



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'My Charlie'

HVA teen is a source of much praise from his girlfriend, her mom and so many more as he is memorialized in giving



 \mathbf{F} orget about parents skeptical of their teenage daughter's boyfriend: Charlie Schuster couldn't have been more popular with mom and daughter in the Hungate household.

Almost five months after this beloved 16-year-old sophomore at Hardin Valley Academy was killed in a vehicular accident Jan. 3, the memory of Charlie lives on through a church, a golf event and maybe a roadway.

And through the kind words of Tabatha and Lily Hungate, among so many others.

"As Lily's mother, I would just like to say that Charlie was the type of young man that any mother could only hope that their daughter would choose to spend time with," Tabatha Hungate said. "He was hardworking, kind and he treated Lily like a princess."

"My Charlie was so kind and always thoughtful; he was an amazing boyfriend to me and I'll always love him," said Lily, a fellow HVA sophomore. "I hope everyone can learn something from Charlie's kindness. If we could all do that, the world would be a better place."

Reaching out

"He would reach out to new students and stuff like that just to make them feel comfortable because he was a new student once at Hardin Valley" coming from Maryville to begin the seventh grade at Hardin Valley Middle School — "so he knew how it felt," said Jimmy Schuster, Charlie's dad.

"We had multiple people come up to us after he passed, and they were like, 'he was the first person to welcome me,'" the father added. "... He made an impact on a handful of kids with their journey and being new to the school."

Among those "kids" was Landon Kennedy, who came from Memphis "about three years ago" and met Charlie in school.

"Charlie was super inclusive," she said. "I didn't have too many friends and I was a quiet girl. But Charlie, I met up with him for the first time and we started becoming really close friends — and he started getting me out of my shell and even started taking me on some family trips and stuff like that."

Being honored

An employee at the Hardin Valley Food City for a few months, "Charlie Schuster was good young man with a bright future ahead of him — and he'd just turned 16," Joe Fahy, Hardin Valley Food City manager, said. "Charlie's parents raised some money in his honor (\$6,225) that they presented to us, and we will donate food to Cokesbury Church for their food bank. They plan on doing the fundraiser yearly and donating the proceeds in his honor."

Moreover, "We are also working with the state to adopt the road in front of the school(s) (HVA and Hardin Valley Elementary) and our location in his honor as well," Fahy added about that stretch of Hardin Valley Road.

"When he got his first job he loved it," Jimmy Schuster said about Food City, adding Charlie earned at least one raise "within those six months" of his employment. "He was learning quite a bit and his coworkers loved him."

Another fundraiser is the Third Annual Swider's Christmas Classic, a 501(c)(3) charity golf event "created to help others in our community through generous donations" according to a press release from host Avalon Country Club. While raising funds for Knoxville Amateur Hockey Association, "this year we are also raising money on behalf of the late Charlie Schuster," the release further stated. "... Partnering with Charlie's father, Jimmy, and Food City where Charlie worked, we will also be donating to The Connection Center's Fig Tree program and to the Charlie Schuster Scholarship Fund." The scholarship will award \$2,000 this school year.

See MY CHARLIE on Page 10



Our Food Pantry is open the second Monday of each month and serves those living in the 37931 and

37932 zip code regions.



Dan & Tammy Doyle, members of Hardin Valley Church of Christ, presented \$1400 in gift card donations made by church members to **Stephanie Erb** (left), Chief Development Officer for **Knoxville Family Justice Center**. Stephanie accepted the donation Monday, February 17, 2025. The cards will be distributed by the Justice Center to "family violence victims to assist with needs, such as groceries, gas and child and infant care items." Based on statistics, the donations are expected to last about four months. The Knoxville Family Justice Center is Knoxville's and Knox County's hub for domestic violence services and support, including legal help and social services for victims and their children. The center is designed as a one stop shop to help victims quickly and efficiently access the help they need.

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Knoxville, TN 37932







Hardin Valley Youth A Ministry for 6th-12th Grade Youth Minister: David Schilling david@hvcoc.org HVYKnox.org

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Worship 8:45am & 11:00am Bible Class 10:00am Devo 6:00-8:00pm

Mondays High School Bible Study—7:00-8:30pm Wednesdays

Class & Worship 6:45-7:30pm

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Charlie Schuster, in back, with his family: father, Jimmy Schuster; stepmother, Melissa Schuster (far left) and siblings, from left, step sister, Henley James; and sisters, Audrie and Addison.







Photos submitted

Top left: Charlie Schuster on the beach with his siblings, HVA senior Audrie Schuster and Addison, a Hardin Valley Elementary School fifth-grader.

Above: Lily Hungate alongside her boyfriend, the late Charlie Schuster.

Left: Charlie Schuster and his mother, Leah Woods.

My Charlie

From page 8

Selfless Charlie

"I remember when he was about 11 years old and we were downtown in Knoxville, we had walked by a homeless guy and we just kept walking; but (Charlie) turned around, reached in his pocket and gave the man his only money, \$20, that he had on him," Jimmy Schuster said. "That's the giving person he was. A good way to say it is: 'he would just give you the shirt off his back.""

With Jimmy saying he "owned some rental properties," the father added that Charlie "was my right-hand man. ... He would always help me mow and work. He was a worker."

Much support

While echoing the father's memories, Charlie's mother sounded a note of gratefulness.

As for the outpouring of support since the accident, "The community has been nothing short of amazing," Leah Woods said. "They were here for us from the very moment of this tragedy. My friends, people that I knew, people that I didn't know."

That included "the baseball community — Charlie had been a baseball player since he was 3 years old," Charlie's mom said. "Our teams from the past, current teams; parents that we've met and known throughout his years of playing baseball have been there for us. They've all reached out to us. They've helped, they've supported. "Food City has been great to us," Woods added. "They have gone out of their way to just reach out and ask: 'Are you okay? What can we do?' They've been very, very supportive."

That list also includes "the school administrators — because we have two daughters (Audrie, a senior, and Addison, a fifth-grader) that are also in Hardin Valley schools — their teachers have been super kind and supportive and helpful.

"We can't say enough good things about Hardin Valley community and the way they have come together to help us and be supportive when we needed it most."

By Alan Sloan



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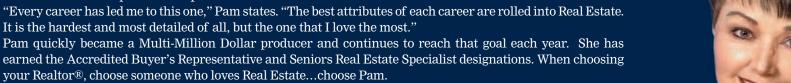
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Hardin Valley Living 11

Wasas)

Chews & Brews



Blackberry picking & a lesson learned Grandson's touching tale of Grandma's green thumb

My grandmother was a green thumb; a kind of pre-Sierra Club "tree hugger." She spoke to her plants and her garden, and they grew bountifully.

She was "Appalachian," and she spoke the dialect. She also was a teacher. She went back to school at the University of Tennessee when she was 40, received her education degree and taught in Oak Ridge schools for 25 years.

When I was about 7 or 8, she took me blackberry picking, somewhere in Anderson County. It was an overgrown field with tons of wild flowers and plenty of blackberry bushes in the fence line. There were bees everywhere, and I was afraid I would get stung. She told me, "don't worry, they're busy collecting pollen. They won't sting unless you grab one by mistake so look before you pick."

We continued, but I was still very apprehensive, and she could tell. So out of the blue she said: "Let's lie down. I want to show you something." So, we did, but I wasn't very comfortable doing it. Lying on our backs in the field along the fence, I could see hundreds — or even thousands — of bees, grasshoppers, gnats, flies, butterflies, beetles, etc flying across the skyline between the flowers, plants, bushes and weeds. She proceeds to tell me that "all of these creatures have a purpose, and they all rely on one another. You do as well. They don't mind you being here so long as you respect them and what they are doing."

We laid there for a few minutes in silence after that, just watching, and I was calm. We got up and finished filling our bags. I may have picked up a few chiggers, so grandma insisted I shower when we got home. This day shaped my view of nature greatly and I am so grateful to have had it.

To this day, when given the opportunity, I will lay down in the grass or field and watch the insects fly around me and feel peace knowing the magnificence, beauty and purpose of all the living things that surround me. It's a cool thing.

Thanks grandma.

~ Glen Coleman, farragutpress advertising executive



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Chews & Brews

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Above/far right: Friends Glen Coleman, farragutpress Account Executive and Katie Hartman, long time farragutpress reader, enjoy summertime beer!

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May - July 2025



Going back to its Valley roots

Net3IT managed IT services recently returned to its roots. The company moved from its Cedar Bluff office to 2575 Willow Point Way, Suite 109, off Hardin Valley Road.

"We are celebrating a business that literally started with one gentleman and then grew and grew and grew and now (the partners) are the proud owners of this whole building," said Julie Blaylock, Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce president/CEO, during a Chamber-sponsored ribbon cutting earlier this spring.

"It's really a blessing," said Jeff Scott, founder and one of three partners in Net3IT. "When we did our 10-year anniversary, we did a ribbon cutting for that milestone.

"We're also very grateful to our clients ... for your support and trusting us with your IT services," he added. "We are in a very unique position in how we help clients."

Net3IT is an IT consulting firm for businesses that also provides 24/7 monitoring services, network security protection, mediation services with vendors and help desk services.

Scott said he and his wife, Suzanne, started the business in 2012 "in the bedroom of our house with four young children under 14 ... we had a lot of faith in what we were trying to accomplish.

"We were able to help people in our careers, my career, especially in the IT world helping other companies," he added.

After moving the business out of their homes, "we actually rented a small office (in the building at Willow Point Way)," Scott recalled. "We just had one room."

At that time, the building's owners were John and Mitzi Platillero, who also owned the company Event Booking, and "were our very first clients," Scott said. "And when we bought this (Willow Point Way) building (in March), there were some leftover records, and my initial proposal was in a folder in there. Now, it's been framed."

Later, Net3IT moved from Hardin Valley to a business park in Cedar Bluff and operated there for a number of years and continued to grow, he said. He added Neal Arwood, who came on board as a partner in 2014, helping the Scotts convert the business to a managed IT services and voice-over IT phone services company. "We're focused on building a generational company, something we can hand down to the generations and keep that running," Scott said.

"What Jeff didn't tell you was in 2012, when he started this (business), he started it with the idea of it being a CIO consulting firm," Arwood said. "Ultimately, clients continued to ask us to keep things running. It was running good, and they asked, 'Can you keep it running?' So, we decided, 'yeah, maybe that's a good thing.""



Jeff Scott, left, Net3IT founder and co-

owner, joined his partners, Patrick Hobbs,

center, and Neal Arwood in celebrating

For more information about the company, visit online at net3it.com, e-mail to sales@ net3it.com or call 865-244-2508. About Scott taking in Ar-

wood as a partner, "that looked

like a guy who took a risk for him and his family," Arwood said. "And when I came in, I didn't have near the risk because he took care of me and my family to give us an opportunity to build.

Net3IT's move

"So, I'll be eternally grateful to Jeff for believing in me and for taking a risk," he added. "You can imagine, two headstrong guys ... but God has orchestrated a partner for me, has moved me back to center way more often than I would ever imagine I needed to move.

"(Scott's) the one who's been helping me try new things. I'm the one making sure he doesn't try too many new things."

Fast forwarding a number of years, "It's such a blessing to be part of this company today," Arwood said. "We are not only excited about the past; we're excited about the future."

In looking for a younger business partner, he found Patrick Hobbs, who joined as a partner in 2021.

"Patrick has brought another level of confidence, another 25 years of experience in IT management," Arwood said. "Of all the things Patrick brings to us, he brings shepherding to our staff. He's the kind of guy who can really understand what the needs of the people are, and he is a wonderful third and deciding vote between me and Jeff."

Recently, Scott said a Realtor friend asked him if he thought about buying a building.

"That night, I called my friend, John Platillero, and said, 'Hey, I hear you're trying to sell your building," Scott related. "The next morning, we came and looked at it (and) that night we had it bought."

By Tammy Cheek

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~ Jeff Scott, founder Net3IT managed IT services

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Hardinvalley

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Welcome to the 4th annual **Hardin Valley Readers Choice Awards!**

Winners must be located within the Hardin Valley Living readership area: Turkey Creek at Campbell Station to Lovell Road, Middlebrook Rd. from Lovell Road to Hardin Valley and over to Watt Road.

> Winners will be announced in the August 2025 edition of Hardin Valley Living.

All Ballots Due Monday, July 7, 2025 @ 4:00 pm **NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED** All Ballots Must Be Signed & Have Votes in 25 Different Categories to be Counted!

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Best Apartment Complex	23. Best Credit Union
Best Appliance Store	24. Best Cup Of Coffee
Best Asian Food	25. Best Customer Service
Best Assisted Living	26. Best Day Spa
Best Auto Dealer	27. Best Dentist
Best Bakery	28. Best Drug Store
Best Bar-B-Que	29. Best Dry Cleaners
Best Barber Shop	30. Best Eye Care Center/Optometrist
Best Beauty/Hair Salon	31. Best Family Restaurant
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Best Boat Dealer	34. Best Financial Planning Company
Best Breakfast/Brunch	35. Best Fitness Center
Best Burger	36. Best Full Service Bank
Best Car & Truck Repair	37. Best Furniture Store
Best Car Wash/Detail Shop	38. Best Gifts/Collectibles/Antiques
Best Caterer	39. Best Grocery Store
Best CBD/Tobacco/Vape Shop	40. Best Handyman
Best Child Care	41. Best Hardware Store
Best Chiropractor	42. Best Heating And Air Service

2. Best Apartment Complex _____ 3. Best Appliance Store Best Asian Food 4. 5. Best Assisted Living _____ 6. Best Auto Dealer 7. Best Bakery 8. Best Bar-B-Que 9. Best Barber Shop 10. Best Beauty/Hair Salon Best Beer/Cocktails 11. 12. Best Bistro/Wine Bar Best Boat Dealer 13. 14. Best Breakfast/Brunch 15. Best Burger 16. Best Car & Truck Repair _____ 17. Best Car Wash/Detail Shop _____ 18. Best Caterer Best CBD/Tobacco/Vape Shop _____ 19. 20. Best Child Care 21. Best Chiropractor

1.

Name Address (REQUIRED)_____ City _____ Zip _____

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ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SIGNED AND RECEIVED BY 4PM

ON MONDAY, JULY 7, 2025 Please include both pages of the ballot.

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OFFICIAL BALLOT

BUSINESS NAME

43.	Best Home Cleaning Service	63.	Best Pediatrician
44.	Best Ice Cream/Milk Shake	64.	Best Pest Control Service
45.	Best Insurance Agency/Agent	65.	Best Pet Grooming
46.	Best Jewelry Store	66.	Best Pet Shop
47.	Best Kids Party Venue	67.	Best Physical Therapy Clinic
48.	Best Landscaping/Lawncare	68.	Best Physician
49.	Best Liquor & Wine Store	69.	Best Pizza
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51.	Best Martial Arts School	71.	Best Plumbing Service
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54.	Best Mexican Food	74.	Best Seafood
55.	Best Milk Shake/Ice Cream	75.	Best Security Service
56.	Best Mortgage Lender	76.	Best Senior Lifestyle Facility
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58.	Best Nail Salon	78.	Best Storage Facility
59.	Best Oil Change	79.	Best Tanning Salon
60.	Best Orthodontist		Best Tire Dealer
61.	Best Paint And Body Shop	81.	Best Veterinarian
62.	Best Paint/Wall Covering Store	82.	Best Wings

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BUSINESS NAME



New levels *of* Excellence & Dementia Care

The Lantern at Morning Pointe Alzheimer's Center of Excellence, Hardin Valley, has 60 apartments and two distinct levels of memory care at its 2449 Reagan Road location just off Hardin Valley Road.

As Morning Pointe's 41st community, the new memory care facilities welcomed residents dating back to April 4.

During this initial transition period, more than 20 seniors moved to the brand-new building "completely dedicated to serving those with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia," the company press release stated. "Here, they can also benefit from the community's two distinct levels of memory care."

The Lamplight neighborhood is a large area for residents with early-stage Alzheimer's and dementia who are more active, while the Lantern wing provides a more intimate and quiet space designed for more advanced stages.

"Families are truly embracing this new memory care community on the rapidly growing west side of Knoxville," said Greg A. Vital, Morning Pointe Senior Living co-founder and president. "With the growing prevalence of Alzheimer's and other dementias, we are honored to be able to offer support and service to more citizens living with the disease and to their families."

"We have been anticipating this day for a long time, and it is wonderful to see it come to fruition," said Sandra Franklin, executive director at The Lantern. "With this campus expansion we will be able to serve more seniors living with dementia and support more families. The early-stage memory care on our Lamplight wing is a welcome addition to the continuum of care







Top left: Cissie King and her mom. **Top right:** Hardin Valley Lantern team. **Above:** The ribbon is cut to open The Lantern at Morning Pointe Alzheimer's Center of Excellence, Hardin Valley.

here in West Knoxville.

"We are excited to celebrate with our wider community as we offer more choices for care for aging seniors and families to stay close together in the area they love," Franklin added.

Several floor plan choices include studios and companion two-bedroom apartments, the latter of which also accommodates couples.

Memory care offerings at The Lantern include the Best Friends Approach, Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care, Meaningful Day purposeful programming, music therapy, art therapy and cuddle therapy.

"We offer the ability for loved ones to receive just the right amount of care within a city they have grown to love," the company release stated. "That is why we have designed a state-of-the-art, one-story memory care community that gives our residents a better quality of life.

"We offer memory care services in a convenient location down the street from Pellissippi State, centrally located between Oak Ridge and West Knoxville," the release further stated. "Whether you are looking for just a little help with everyday activities or a more comprehensive care plan as you age, The Lantern at Morning Pointe Hardin Valley can help provide a better quality of life for your loved one while supporting the whole family."

Meanwhile, the original campus building has converted to Morning Pointe of Hardin Valley Assisted Living and offers new Signature Alcove apartments and expanding assisted living offerings in the area.

By Tammy Cheek

For more information, visit morningpointe.com

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Earn & Learn

More than just classroom to career

It's a good time for Pellissippi State Community College to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

One reason, among many, is "Earn and Learn," as told by a PSCC media release:

Yosef Erasmus always knew he wanted to work in the engineering field. But when he began exploring four-year degree programs, he was frustrated by the lack of hands-on learning opportunities. That all changed when he discovered Pellissippi State Community College's Earn and Learn program—an innovative pathway blending classroom instruction with real-world, paid work experiences.

"I heard about this program through Pellissippi, where I'd be learning engineering fundamentals while getting to apply them in the field," Erasmus said. "The chance to work with my hands and see how these concepts play out in real life — plus getting paid for it — was exactly what I needed."

Today, Erasmus is thriving as one of three students in the Earn and Learn's Electrical Engineering Technology initiative and one of two placed with Arconic Tennessee Operations. Over the past semester, he's been immersed in projects alongside seasoned Arconic electricians, running electric lines, testing fire alarms and touring the high-voltage yard that powers the entire plant.

The Earn and Learn initiative is more than just a classroom-to-career bridge — it's a launchpad for students eager to jump into industry with confidence and skills. Students currently in electrical engineering and water quality technology areas are reaping the benefits.

Under the Earn and Learn model, students balance two days of intensive classroom instruction with up to 25 hours a week of hands-on work in their chosen field. Industry partners such as Arconic, DENSO, Knoxville Utilities Board, Northeast Knox Utility District, South Blount County Utility District and West Knox Utility District are equipping students with invaluable skills while creating a direct pipeline to a skilled, ready-to-work talent pool.

"Employers are seeing the value firsthand," said Jon Gilbert, Pellissippi's Work-Based Learning manager. "They're investing in students right out of high school, shaping them into future employees who are already familiar with their systems and culture."

For companies such as KUB, the Earn and Learn program is a win-win. Business Analyst Dannon Dallmann has been instrumental in tailoring unique experiences for students.

"We really feel like it's an opportunity for us to give back to students," she said. "So, while they do have some administrative tasks, we're not trying to make them just work for their paycheck. It's more about giving them an experience, and it's rewarding to us to see people who are really interested and excited about working this hard."

Jay Easter, Arconic's Central Services Maintenance superintendent, agreed. He believes the partnership eases his company's introduction to those entering the workforce in electrical and mechanical trades.

Led by dual enrollment approach, PSCC is largest community college in state

For the last decade, Pellissippi State Community College has been the largest community college in the state, according to PSCC president Dr. Anthony Wise, who spoke to Rotary Club of Farragut members during a recent meeting in Fox Den Country Club.

Despite the challenges brought about by COVID, "We began to see enrollment start to move back forward four or five semesters ago, but a lot of that was related to the growth of dual enrollment," he said. "We had 3 percent enrollment increases, but it was almost all associated with dual enrollment."

Wise explained dual enrollment is the population of students who are enrolled in a local high school or home school and taking courses at PSCC and getting both high school and college credit.

He has seen strong growth in dual enrollment from students in Knox and Blount counties.

"In fact, dual enrollment students are about 24 percent of the student population at PSCC," Wise added.

On a personal note, "It's hard for me to believe I've been at Pellissippi State for 27 years," said Wise, who oversees the college's participation in KnoxAchieves, TNAchieves, Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect.

By Tammy Cheek

"We're looking to educate," Easter said. "And what we're giving students is an opportunity to see hands-on what happens when you get out here in the field in a large industrial environment."

Pellissippi State will expand Earn and Learn even further, aiming to add 12 more students across existing programs and creating partnerships with three new companies. Civil and Construction Engineering partnerships also are in development, offering even more diverse opportunities for the upcoming academic year.

For Mackenzie Watson, Earn and Learn has been a game-changer. After traveling to Zambia and witnessing the effects of poor water quality, she knew she wanted a career that could make a real difference. Through her placement with KUB, Watson has been able to dive deep into wastewater microbiology and the intricacies of water distribution.

She appreciates she's been able to "choose (my) own adventure," Watson said. "It gives me the opportunity to shadow where I want, to learn what I want and ask all the questions I have. I'm confident that it's setting me up for success ... and I have this team of people who are supporting me and encouraging me and my education and career goals."

Future students interested in launching their careers or employers eager to invest in the next generation of talent are encouraged to contact Pellissippi State to learn more.



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Fom left to right:

Adam Leonard, HVA senoir goalkeeper (yellow) saves a Farragut shot. HVA senior Nathan Holbrook (41, left) and Admiral Hudson Hale. In close contact are Camden Wolfe, Hardin Valley junior (6), and Farragut's Johnathan Moreno



Hardin Valley Academy



Photos courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

It's always a wonderful day in the Valley when a Hardin Valley Academy sports team beats archival Farragut. It's especially wonderful when it happens in a playoff elimination game or match.

Such was the case at HVA Wednesday evening, May 7, when the boys soccer Hawks rallied from a 1-0 deficit to defeat the Admirals 2-1, ending the FHS season in the TSSAA Division I District 4-AAA playoff semifinal.

This win also was huge because the Hawks earned a Region 2-AAA berth, needing just one victory at the region level to earn a Sectional berth, which would leave Hardin Valley just one triumph from the state tournament in Murfreesboro later in May.

The Hawks went on to win the state title on May 23, capping a great season!



Fom left to right:

Ali Tarchane, HVA junior, and Admiral Lincoln Unger

Hawk senior **Frank Manrod** (23) and Farragut's Eric Bukovitz

Hawk senior **Gavin Standefer** (13) and Farragut's Franklin Von Hagen







Absolutely love Blue Dog! Dr. Smith and her staff are the best! <u>Everyo</u>ne is so kind! -L Gray

want to thank erica, I'm not sure her exact job title but she was the one answering the 5 phone calls i've had to them over the past 2 is so so so kind, so patient, she went so above and beyond in explaining the difference insurances/cost/ insurance. i've always been scared of the dentist but they have done an amazing job at making me comfortable! they were also soooo broke while out of the country (they didnt even do my crown i've had it 8 years) they got me in the NEXT MORNING!!!! they are so fast and efficient and everyone is so so so nice and comforting. if you're scared/don't like the dentist or you just simply want amazing care, this dentist to everyone! thank you -KRose

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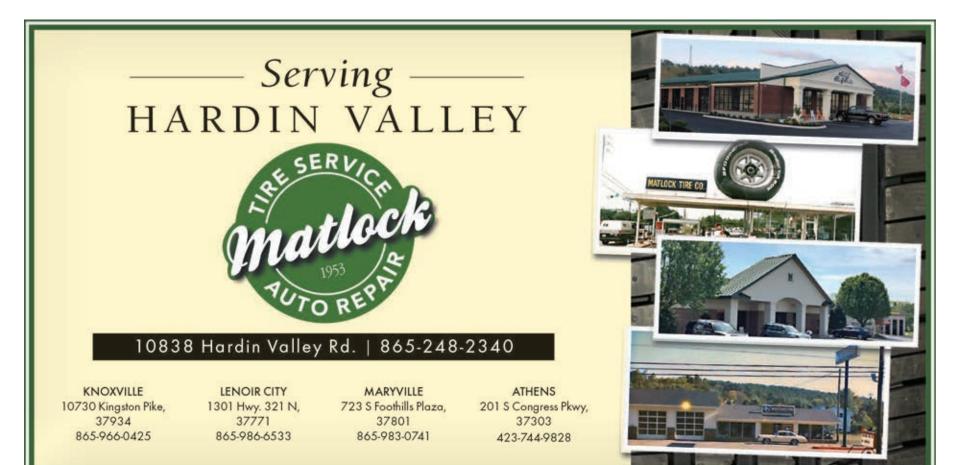
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Hardin Valley Middle School **LACROSSE**

The popularity of youth lacrosse seems to be taking off in West Knox County: most symbolically, perhaps, with Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association sanctioning the sport at the high school level beginning with this school year.

The "building-block" levels leading to high school, from younger elementary age children through middle school, were on display Saturday morning and afternoon, April 4, on various rectangular fields at Town of Farragut's Mayor Bob Leonard Park.

Among those teams was the Hardin Valley Middle School Hawks boys, shown in action against a team from private school power Chattanooga McCallie.

Photos by Alan Sloan











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Kids' Corner



The winner of the Find the Hawk contest for the February 2025 edition of Hardin Valley Living is

Olivia Whaley

Olivia received a gift card from Chick-fil-A! (Turkey Creek and Overlook Center locations) Thank you to Chick-fil-A for their sponsorship of the Hawk contest, and congratulations to our winner!





This hawk has been hidden in this issue of "Hardin Valley Living!" Search through the pages to find the hawk. When you do, fill out this form and mail or bring it to: farragutpress, 11863 Kingston Pike, Farragut, TN 37934

Location of Hawk (page number, description of hiding place):

Name:______ Age:_____

Parent Name: _____

Phone Number:

Email:

If correct, you will be entered in a drawing for prizes to be held July 11, 2025. Winner to be announced in the next edition of Hardin Valley Living. (Ages 12 and under are eligible.)

Summer Camps, Events & Activities Listing

ATOMIC ROWING - OAK RIDGE ROWING ASSOCIATION

Learn-to-Row Summer Camps For young people who turn 12 this year up to age 17 Boys & Girls / No Experience necessary Learn-to-Row Week 1: June 23 - 27 Learn-to-Row Week 2: August 18-22 Monday - Friday from 4:15 to 6:15 PM \$125 per week atomicrowing.com/summer-programs/

CAMP BIG FISH

Christian Summer Dav Camp For rising Kindergarten through rising 5th grade children

• Big Fish Summer Camp at Knoxville Christian School Campus 11549 Snyder Road, Knoxville 37932 May 27th – July 25th, 7 AM – 5:45 PM \$1850/camper Registration Fees May 1 – July 25 200/camper No refunds and no multi child discount. Main Office Phone: 423-400-1504 Preschool Phone Number: 865-292-1904 office@campbigfish.org www.campbigfish.org

CAMP MUSE

Storvbook STEM – rising Pre K (must be 4 by 5-31) and Kindergarten Cosmic Explorers – rising Kindergartners and 1st Grade STEAM Ventures Around the Globe rising 2nd and 3rd graders 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM 235-275/week. 516 Beaman Street Knoxville TN 37914 865-594-1494

CAMP WEBB

Sports Camps Football camps, lacrosse camps, cheer & dance, volleyball camp, soccer camp, basketball camps, track/running camp. K-7th grade Adventure Camp 9 AM- 4 PM 385/week June 2 – July 25 Specialty Camp

9 AM - 2 PM 335 and 355/week Sports Camp 9 AM- 2 PM 325/week Camp Wonderwoo 4 - 5 years 9 AM-2:30 PM 335/week June 2-6, June 9-13. June 16-20 Lunch & T-shirt included State-champion level coaching 9800 Webb School Drive, Knoxville 37923 865-291-3840, campwebb.com

CEDAR BLUFF RACQUET CLUB

Summer Fun Camp June 2-5, 19-21, Jul 7-10, Jul 21-24, Jul 28-31 Mon-Thurs 9 AM- 12 Noon Cost: \$250 Snacks provided Grades: 1st-8th 865-690-5700, info@cbrctennis.com 701 Racquet Club Way, Knoxville TN 37923 Register online at cbrctennis.com

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY **OF KNOXVILLE**

CAK offers week-long specialty camps, called Warrior Summer Camps. Join us for faith, friends, and fun as you discover a new love of art or grow in your athletic skills, All Sports Camp, Baseball Camp, Basketball Camp, Elementary Art Camp, Softball Camp, Tennis Camp, Warrior Football Camp, SOFTBALL CAMP. VOLLEYBALL CAMP 9AM- 3 PM

529 Academy Way, Knoxville, TN 37923 865-690-4721. Visit www.cakwarriors.com/ summer_camps/ for more information and registration.

CONCORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

CCS will offer summer camps in volleyball, soccer. basketball, cheer, and football. Camps will be led by our HS Varsity Head Coaches and will be held at the Concord Christian School campus.

11704 Kingston Pike, Farragut, TN 37934 865-966-8858

Visit www.concordchristianschool.org/ athletics/summer-camps.cfm for more information and registration.



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CONCORD SAILING CAMP

One week sessions June 2-27. Mon-Fri 9 AM – 5 PM, 400/week. No experience necessary – will be divided into fleets by age and experience. Must be able to swim. Bring own lunch and PFD. Ages 8-16. **11600 S Northshore Drive**

Knoxville, TN 37922 865-599-0820, concordail@gmail.com

COOL SPORTS

Facility for Turf, Hockey, Skating, and Parties/Rentals **110 S Watt Road, Knoxville, TN 37934 865-218-4500 coolsportstn.com**

THE CUTTING EDGE CLASSROOM

Kids' Cooking Camps Camps are for ages 9-15. Each camp has a unique theme for your child to harness different culinary skills like baking, cake decorating, and cooking basics. Hands on, funfilled, culinary adventures.

150 N Martinwood Rd, Ste 402 Knoxville TN 37923; (865) 335-9370 Visit thecuttingedgeclassroom.com/ kids-camps/ for more information and registration.

DIAMOND BASEBALL

Baseball & Softball Summer Camps Various skills camps available – check website. Visit diamondbaseballtn.com/camps-events/ for details and registration.

200 Center Park Drive, Knoxville, TN 37922 865-389-5889 info@h3sports.org diamondbaseballtn.com

THE EPISCOPAL SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE

Camp ESK June and July 2025, Camp options for ages Rising K - 8th grade. 950 Episcopal School Way, Knoxville, TN 37932, 865-777-9032 camp@esknoxville.org Visit shop.esknoxville.org for more information and registration.

HUNTINGTON Learning Center

Tutoring and Test prep. ACT/SAT test specialists. Math, Reading and Study Skills for all ages. Subject tutoring in a variety of subject areas. **117 North Peters Road, Knoxville, 37923 865-691-6688, www.huntingtonhelps.com**

ICE CHALET

Beginner and intermediate skating ages 6 and up. Mon-Thursday 1 PM – 5:30 PM, Friday 2 PM – 5:30 PM. June 30 – July 26 Lebanon Street, Knoxville, TN 37919 865-588-1858

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2915 Island Home Avenue, Knoxville, 37920 865-577-4717 ext 1012, kpreston@ijams.org

KNOXVILLE ACADEMY OF MARTIAL ARTS

Field trips, rock wall climbing, martial arts, bounce

houses, lazer tag, nerf wars and dodge ball. Bring your own snacks, lunch and water bottle. **10961 Kingston Pike** Knoxville TN 37934 865-675-4499, rbutturini@rbkama.com

KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Every summer has a story at Camp Irish! Imagine summer experiences where your child grows in mind, body and spirit. Camp Irish 2025 is open to everyone and provides a safe place to explore interests, make new friends and sharpen skills. With arts, academic and athletic camps to choose from, there's a camp for you!

9245 Fox Lonas Road, Knoxville, TN 37923, 865-560-0313 Visit camps.knoxvillecatholic.com for individual camp information and registration.

KNOXVILLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Summer Term at

CT's Creative Dramatics Most classes will culminate in a showcase presentation for family and friends at the end of the term. The cost for the week varies by class. Ages 4 and up. 5 day sessions. Visit knoxvillechildrenstheatre.com/classes/summer-camps/ for more information about the variety of class offerings.

747 World's Fair Park, Knoxville, TN 37902, 865-208-3677 knoxvillechildrenstheatre.com

KNOXVILLE CHRISTIAN BASKETBALL CAMP

Future Champs Basketball Camp Ages 6-17 – Jun 2-6 girls, June 9-13 Boys, July 7-11 Boys, July 14-18 Coed, July 21-25 Boys Held at Farragut Middle School. Boys and Girls. \$165.00/camper/week. 9 AM- 3 PM. T-shirts, certificates and awards provided. Camper provide own lunch and water bottle. **200 West End Avenue, Farragut TN 37934**

865-388-1262 Knoxvillechristianbasketballcamp.com

KNOXVILLE MUSEUM OF ART

Summer Art Academy June 2- July 25, Ages 3-17 The Knowille Museum of Art's Summ

The Knoxville Museum of Art's Summer Art Academy offers quality educational opportunities that will ignite your child's imagination through drawing, painting, sculpture, and more! Summer Art Academy will continue to offer classes and workshops for ages 3-17. Workshops will be held in Bailey Hall, the Sarah Jane Hardrath Kramer Education Center, and Martin Studio.

Morning classes 3- 12 years. Afternoon classes – teens 13 and up. 160.00/week for member 175.00/week for non member.

For more information call 865-525-6101 ext. 241 or e-mail education@knoxart.org 1050 Worlds Fair Park Drive Knoxville TN 37916 Visit knoxart.org/kma_events/saa2023/ to download the brochure.

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- ADVENTURE CAMP Ages 6-12 / Mon Sat
- ACTION CAMP Ages 13-17 / Mon Sat

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423-636-0032, 190 Bledsoe Hollow Lane Mosheim, TN 37818 Register online: longviewranch.com

MISS CHLOE'S SCHOOL OF DANCE

2025 Summer Camps How to enroll: Log in to your parent portal to enroll online or pay by check. E-mail misschloestn@gmail.com 865-235-6627, 111 East Broadway Street Historic Downtown, Lenoir City, TN, 37771

See CAMPS on Page 29



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CAMPS From page 28

MORNING STAR CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Camp Morning Star is for children aged 5 to 12 years and is designed to keep your child learning and having fun all summer long. There are three camps: Scampers Camp – for rising kindergartners, Junior Camp – for rising 1st and 2nd graders, and Day Camp – for rising 3rd through 5th graders. May 27 - Aug 21.

10614 Flickinger Lane, 37922 865-671-0244 www.morningstarchild.com

NATIONAL FITNESS CENTER IN KNOXVILLE

Several of our locations offer a variety of actionpacked, themed summer camps that are open to children ages 5 – 12 years old. For a fee, you can enroll your kids in one or all our week-long programs. Camps are open to members as well as non-members and vary by location. Weekly camp themes in West Knoxville and Oak Ridge. Monday – Friday 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

West Knoxville location: 865-470-3600 or 865-344-0912 8511 Walbrook Drive, Knoxville, TN 37923

Visit nfc1.com/programs/kids-camps/ for more information.

SAMURAI DRAGONS

KARATE, KOBUDO, SELF DEFENSE, SAMURAI SWORD Classes held at Davis Family YMCA 12133 South Northshore Drive, Knoxville TN 37922, 865-300-2318 www.samuraidragons.com

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101 Sherlake Lane, Suite 101 (Kingston Pike & Sherlake) (865) 247-4038 (school) (865) 919-0699 (cell) Knoxville.SchoolofRock.com

STUDIO ARTS FOR DANCERS

In a Barbie World June 3-5, Ages 5-9, 9AM-11:30AM, \$105 *Wizard of Oz Camp* June 9-13, Ages 5-12, 9AM-1PM, \$200 *Broadway Bound* June 16-20, Ages 8-16, 9AM-3PM, \$275 *Descendants Camp* June 23-25, Ages 7-11, 9AM-11:30AM, \$105 *Super Heroes Camp*

July 21-25, Ages 6-12, 9AM-1PM, \$200 Youth Dance Classes Week 1: June 24, 26; Week 2: July 1, 3; Week 3: July 8, 10 Ages 4-5. 4:00PM-5:00PM. \$40/week Ages 6-9, 5:15PM-6:45PM, \$55/week Diversity in Dance Mini Workshop, 9AM-11:30AM, \$80/week Must meet ability requirements of Studio Arts for Dancers. Rising level III & IV Diversity in Dance Workshop June 23-July 10. Monday-Thursday each week. 9AM to 1PM. \$200/week Must meet ability requirements of Studio Arts for Dancers. Rising Level V-Advanced. SAFD's Workshop broadens students' horizons with a diverse array of dance styles. Excellence In Motion Guest Artist Intensive July 15-18 Tuesday-Friday 9AM-4PM \$400/week, Rising Level VI-Advanced Marlavna Locklear, Contemporary, Jazz, Afro Fusion. Conditioning and Joulia Moisseeva. Ballet. Pointe. Variations 1234 Rocky Hill Road,

Knoxville, TN 37919 865-539-2475 www.studioartsfordancers.com

THE LITTLE GYM OF WEST KNOX/ FARRAGUT

4 months to 12 years **Super Quest Camp** 3-12 years **Skill Thrill** 6-12 years Monday thru Friday May 30 – August 4 Morning 9-12 or all day 9-4 **215 Brooklawn Street , Knoxville tn 37934 865-966-4386**

TATE'S DAY CAMP

At Tate's Day Camp, we provide traditional camp activities like swimming, arts & crafts, music, hands-on nature study, archery, boating, fishing, sports, games, and group initiative activities. Different weekly themes help to keep camp exciting and fresh for our campers. May 27 to August 1.

9215 Bob Gray Road, Knoxville TN 37923 865-690-9208, info@tatescamp.com tatescamp.com

TOWN OF FARRAGUT

The Farragut Parks & Recreation Department endeavors to provide quality programming for all ages and abilities in our new community center as well as sports and outdoor activities at the Town's four parks. Farragut also hosts several community events each year.

Independence Day Parade on Friday, July 4 9:30 AM – 12 noon Farragut Community Center activities Classes, Open Gym, Toddler Takeover and more (see website for schedule) Learn more about these and other upcoming events at farragutparksandrec.org

UT KNOXVILLE COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

UT Summer Design Camp June 30 – July 17

Come spend a week with us this summer in a UT design studio to learn about design and your place in it during our summer design camp for high school students. You'll learn about architecture, interior architecture and graphic design and how they impact the world.

1715 Volunteer Blvd. Knoxville TN 37996 865-974-5265

Archdesign.utk.edu/study/summerdesign-camp

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE GARDENS

Located on UT Ag Campus next to UT Vet School. Campers will take home their own plants, taste foods grown in garden and play while exploring the Botanical Garden. Weekly June 2 – August 7

Whitneyhale@tennessee.edu 865-974-4625

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KIDCAM CAMP (T REC SPORTS)

Sports, creative arts, STEM, movement, specialist programs, swimming and water play. Weekly themes. May 27- August 1 5-13 years 9 AM – 3 PM. 260/week, 234/siblings.

2111 Volunteer Blvd. Knoxville TN 37996 877-454-3226, Utkkidcamcamp.com

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KIDS U

Kids U features weeklong day camps during June and July for area youth in grades 3-12 (rising). These camps provide an opportunity for students to work with University staff, faculty, and graduate students, while exploring their interests in various fields.

Register at www.utkidsu.com or call 865-974-0150 for more information. See full catalog and other important forms and information at www.utkidsu.com

WE ROCK THE SPECTRUM KIDS GYM

Eight weeks of themed fun – can attend one week or as many as you wish. 9 AM- 1 PM. Daily open play, themed arts and crafts, games and stories. 9648 Kingston Pike Ste 4 Knoxville TN 37922 865-357-9648 werockthespectrumknoxville.com

YMCA CAMP OCOEE

One-week sessions. Morning sessions are for individual activities and afternoon are for bonding with their cabin group through shared experiences with Christian emphasis. 7-16 years – boys and girls. **111 YMCA Drive Ocoee TN 37361 423-338-588** info@campocoee.com





for \$10 a unit

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Tate Insurance Group named Top 10 Companywide Elite Award winner for 2024 by Erie Insurance



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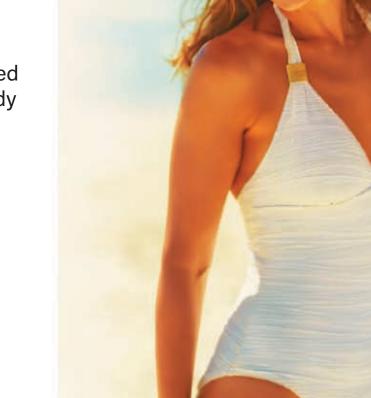
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