

Strong exchanges on St. John Court traffic calming

TAMMY CHEEK

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Residents living along and near St. John Court, off Grigsby Chapel Road, listened to a solution Town of Farragut's Engineering Department offered for traffic calming along this street during a public meeting in Farragut Town Hall Wednesday, Dec. 8 — but discussion was anything but calm as the meeting progressed.

"The Town of Farragut failed this process," said one resident, who declined to be identified, eliciting gasps from Town officials, who offered speed cushions as a solution.

"If there is an issue with this policy, all we can do is go forward and change it," said Vice Mayor Louise Povlin, who also sits on Farragut Municipal Planning Commission.

"I'm just a resident just like you. I'm volunteering my time."

"This affects two of our neighborhoods, and they should have been involved in the process," said a female resident, who also declined to be identified.

"This is a time for input," Povlin replied.

"In defense of the Town of Farragut, I think you are doing a great job. I love living in this Town," another resident said.

"Having the neighborhood for 17 years, I don't see this drastic speed problem," said the initially quoted resident, but added he did see a problem at a dip on St. John Court.

"The process (for determining the cushions) is so questionable to me."

See **TRAFFIC CALMING** on Page 2A



Tammy Cheek

Newton Calhoun talked to Town of Farragut officials during a public meeting Wednesday evening, Dec. 8, about a proposal to place speed cushions along St. John Court.

Pearl Harbor survivor, longest-enduring POW

Durwood Swanson, age 100, one of the last remaining World War II survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack 80 years ago, was surprised to meet the eagle, Challenger, handled by Lindsay Bellaw with American Eagle Foundation, following the Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance program at Tennessee Veterans Cemetery, 5901 Lyons View Pike in Knoxville, Tuesday, Dec. 7.

Tammy Cheek



'I'm one of the luckiest men alive:' POW Robinson in Town

ALAN SLOAN

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As the longest-held prisoner of war in United States military history at 2,703 days — almost seven-and-a-half years in a North Vietnamese POW camp — Retired U.S. Air Force Capt. Bill Robinson left his Farragut audience with one profound reflection.

"I can truly say I'm one of the luckiest men alive," Robinson, who lives in Madisonville, said despite being shot down as an airman first class crew chief aboard a USAF rescue helicopter. He was captured in the Ha Tinh Province of North Vietnam on Sept. 20, 1965.

See **ROBINSON POW** on Page 4A



Alan Sloan

Retired USAF Capt. Bill Robinson, a POW survivor for more than seven years, came to Farragut to speak Friday, Dec. 2.

'Bombs all around,' hero Durwood said

TAMMY CHEEK

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Among those present at Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance program last week was 100-year-old Durwood Swanson, one of the last remaining World War II veterans who not only survived the Dec. 7, 1941 attack — but was a hero.

Saving the life of his cousin also stationed at Pearl Harbor, Durwood said the program "brings back a lot of memories."

Now living at Ben Atchley State Veteran's Home in Karns, Durwood joined American

See **SURVIVORS** on Page 2A

Storm impacts Town

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD

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Storms that blew through East Tennessee Saturday, Dec. 11, were to blame for the loss of the newly-installed 45-foot tall Christmas tree in Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza.

The National Weather Service reported wind gusts between 60 and 70 miles per hour during the storm front, which was part of a series of deadly storms thanks to tornado touchdowns in seven states — including Tennessee.

"A staff member watched the tree fall at 10:14 a.m. Saturday morning in high winds," Town Marketing & Public Relations coordinator Wendy Smith said. "The whole thing had to be cut up in order to get it down, so it won't be back this year. It will be back next year — with guide wires."

Reportedly, both the tree pole and its bottom base were destroyed, but the lights and garland were salvaged.

"The Public Works Department put in a lot of overtime on Saturday taking the tree down, fixing lights at Founders Park and getting fallen trees/limbs out of the road," Smith added.

Additionally, the storms toppled a tree onto Dollar General Store, 12403 Kingston Pike, causing extensive roof damage according to store employees.

The storms also caused local and regional power outages, with some Farragut Senior City Utilities Board customers losing power for nearly six hours Saturday.

business

"We're excited that it will help us continue to be in Farragut for a very long time. I'm excited about everything happening down this way. I hope it continues,"

-Matt Beeler, president/founder of an area restaurant looking to make a great dining experience even better. (Read story beginning on page 3A)

community

"My wife and I were visiting Alabama. ... 'Look at those crazy Methodists standing out in the rain.' We looked closer ... the 'people' were made and not real,"

- the Rev. Leonard Turner, pastor of a church going extra lengths to authenticate the Christmas experience. (Read story beginning on page 3B)

sports

"We were super excited about him last year. To me, he's one of the best-kept secrets in the whole state. He works very hard, plays on both ends of the floor,"

-James Johnson, head coach of a high school basketball team with a special talent on board. (Read story beginning on page 1B)



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Survivors

From page 1A

Legion Post 2 members along with dignitaries for Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance program at Tennessee Veterans Cemetery, 5901 Lyons View Pike in Knoxville, Tuesday, Dec. 7.

Serving from 1939 to 1945, “I was there when the first bomb hit at Hickam Field,” Durwood said. “That was the first casualty of the war.

“It was like all hell broke loose,” the veteran added. “... I didn’t have but two more weeks before I was going to be sent home.

“Someone woke me up (yelling) ‘the Japs are attacking us.’ There were bombs all around us.”

Veteran Kyle Stooksbury, who served in 1958, remembered when he heard the news of the Pearl Harbor attack when he was 6. “That Sunday afternoon, we were sitting on the porch, and back then everyone was using radios,” he said.

“The important thing of having this (program) today is to remember this is the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the terrific losses that we incurred; but with the attack it gave us determination to see through,” said Jim Hackworth, program director with the American Legion.

“We’ve always said, as a veterans service organization, that when an individual’s name is no longer spoken, he’s forgotten,” American Legion Cmdr. Mike Testerman said. “That’s one thing I hope to never do — to forget our veterans — especially our Pearl Harbor veterans because it doesn’t matter what branch of service or who, we want to make sure they’re remembered.”

Larry Sharp, coordinating the event, introduced Challenger, an eagle courtesy of Dolly-



Tammy Cheek

Bagpiper Lloyd Pitney played “Amazing Grace.”

wood and American Eagle Foundation. The program also included a presentation of wreaths by South-Doyle High Army JROTC, music by Smoky Land Sound Chorus and speaker Tim Eichorn, a former Marine who shared a letter from another Pear Harbor survivor

Kevin Knowles, military director of East Tennessee Veterans Affairs, presented a proclamation from Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee. “Whereas, we are eternally grateful to the members of our nation’s military, their families,” he read.

Lloyd Pitney played “Amazing Grace” on the bagpipes; a rifle volley from East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard followed before playing of Taps from Dan Maxwell.

KCSOreports

• At 9:46 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 11, Knox County Sheriff’s Office units responded to 10745 Kingston Pike (Costco) in reference to a male stumbling into the roadway. Officers spoke with the individual, who gave officers an incorrect name, date of birth and Social Security number. Officers asked the individual again about his name, and were given a different name SSN and date of birth. Officers were able to locate a church ID with a name and a picture matching the individual. Suspect was taken into custody without incident and transported to Roger D. Wilson Detention Facility.

• At 7:22 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 9, an officer responded to a Campbell Station Road address in reference to threats. Complainant/victim said the suspect had been making threats to kill him since the victim’s last report. Victim also said the suspect is making the threats through a witness.

• At 8:40 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 2, a complainant came to KCSO West Precinct to file a report of a vehicular burglary at a Lanesborough Way address. He advised between 9 a.m., Friday, Nov. 26, and 2 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 1, a suspect stole a handgun from his unlocked 2019 Dodge Ram 1500 pick-up truck. Estimated value of loss was listed at \$450.

• At 12:12 p.m., Dec. 1, an officer responded to 11656 Parkside Drive (Publix) in regards to a subject refusing to leave. The complainant, who said she is the assistant store manager, said there has been an ongoing issue with the suspect coming onto the property and refusing to leave. Complainant said she asked for him to be removed from the property and be trespass. Suspect was advised he needed to leave the property and not return or he will be arrested for criminal trespassing. He left the property while officers were on the scene.

• At 12:32 p.m., Dec. 1, a complainant called KCSO

See KCSO REPORTS on Page 4A

Traffic calming

From page 1A

“I see a lot of fast cars, a lot more than 30-40 miles per hour,” a St. John Court resident said. “It’s not just a handful of them.”

In one instance, he said a guy came over the hill, going fairly fast, looking at his phone and “I had to jump out of his way.”

Regarding Berkeley Park, another resident speculated those residents would oppose the cushions because “they are passing through, and they’re

having to go over these speed bumps, and they’d just as soon not do it. It’s not affecting their quality of life quite as much.

“I think it’s the most effective solution to slow things down, but it’s also the most impactful to people,” he added. “The rumble strip might be more acceptable to Berkeley Park (residents) and may mitigate it not as effectively, but may mitigate it some.”

“We don’t usually look at rumble strips because they are very loud, and at 3 o’clock in the morning, everything is

loud,” Town engineer Darryl Smith said.

“I think you have a very good quality-of-life issue to make to your neighbors in Berkeley Park and Battery that I think you should make to get them on board,” Povlin said.

Brannon Tupper, assistant Town engineer, said the process started with a request Prestwick Place Home Owners Association submitted in January to evaluate traffic along St. John Court.

A speed study followed. “(We) found that the stretch

of St. John Court from St. John Neumann (Catholic Church and School) to O’Connell Drive had excessive speeding,” Tupper said, adding they found at least 15 percent of the cars that cross over the measured area were driving at least 40 miles per hour.

“We met with the requesting HOA residents of Prestwick Place – the traffic team for this application — and are proposing a series of four speed cushions,” he added.

The next phase was public notification.

“This meeting is to review the proposal with Prestwick Place, Berkeley Park, the Battery at Berkeley Park and any other affected residents who have questions or would like to provide comment prior to voting on cards being mailed to the affected area,” Tupper said.

If the residents vote to approve the speed cushions, the project goes to FMPC and Board of Mayor and Aldermen for approval. “If it’s not approved, then it’s not eligible for two years,” Tupper said.

towncalendar

Letters to Santa

This fun tradition continues this year, as children may drop off their letters in Founder’s Park at Campbell Station through Monday, Dec. 20. Letter-writers are urged to include a return address so Santa can write back.

“Twas the Night with No Parents”

A new event offered at Farragut Community Center from 6 to 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 17, “Twas the Night with No Parents” will provide pizza,

games, crafts and a movie for kindergarten through fifth-grade children. Cost is \$10 per child, and pre-registration is required at townof-farragut.org/register. It’s an opportunity for parents to do some last-minute shopping, wrapping or relaxing before Christmas week.

Light the Park

Light the Park, which extends from Mayor

See CALENDAR on Page 4A

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30 years for FASTSIGNS

TAMMY CHEEK

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Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce joined FASTSIGNS as it celebrated 30 years of operation with a ribbon cutting at its West Knoxville location, 8333 Gleason Drive, Wednesday, Dec. 8.

“I believe it’s a great example of the business overall in regard to the products and the services that we sell,” Daniel Maw, owner of the West Knoxville franchise, said about the 30 years.

“Every business needs some form of a sign,” Maw added. “Because of that, it is definitely a needed business in every community, so (Dec. 8) the Chamber helped us celebrate the 30 years of FASTSIGNS being able to offer quality products and services here in the Knoxville market.”

He also told of how FASTSIGNS has grown worldwide. “There are almost 800 FASTSIGNS centers all over the world,” Maw said. “We are in Italy; London; England; Berlin, Germany; Canada; Mexico; and Japan.”

“We’ve been able to deliver these products and services

with an affordable price,” he added. “We’re not the most expensive, but we’re really big on product quality.”

“We’re also proud of the fact that we produce over 80 percent of our products here in Knoxville, at our production center. We have 4,000 square feet in the back (of the retail portion) that produces most of the stuff that we sell.

The center “been a blessing for us because of some of the shortages of materials and so on, people who have to get a vendor for most of their orders are struggling right now,” Maw said. “They’re having to wait for other companies to produce their product ... we’re not having to wait quite as much.”

Maw, who chairs FWKCC Ambassadors, added, “As we gain experience in the market, we begin to grow more toward business clients; but yet, we’re also able to continue to take care of the local individuals and retailers.

“As we grow, we’re blessed to have the resources to be able to manage and provide for large commercial and industrial products.”

FASTSIGNS has two prod-



Photo submitted

Daniel Maw (with scissors), FASTSIGNS owner, and his staff join Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members in celebrating his company’s 30th anniversary with a ribbon cutting at his franchise, 8333 Gleason Drive, Wednesday, Dec. 8.

uct managers onsite and three offices in the facility, so an owner of a large commercial company “can come in and we can provide signage, from the smallest to biggest need that you may have,” Maw said.

“But, we now have the space

with a mini board room, where we can do a presentation on screen ... and do (presentations) by video now,” he added.

“Those things just come with time, and we’ve been blessed to add some of this here over the last few years.”

Originally located across from McDonald’s along Kingston Pike near Bearden High School, FASTSIGNS, opened in 1991 under David and Nancy Harter. Maw bought it

See FASTSIGNS on Page 5A

Ready to expand

BKW add-on to offer more dining space, smoother flow

TAMMY CHEEK

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Big Kahuna Wings, 12828 Kingston Pike next to South Hobbs Road near Dixie Lee Junction, is expanding its building to accommodate more guests and improve its serving flow.

Matt Beeler, BKW president/founder, received permission on his expansion plan in November from Farragut Municipal Planning Commission to add about 460 square feet to his restaurant. He hopes construction will start before Christmas and be completed before the Super Bowl Feb. 13.

“We shall see,” he added and laughed.

While Beeler conceded he is nervous about the expansion, he also is excited.

“People have been very loyal,” Beeler said. “We’re excited that it will help us continue to be in Farragut for a very long time. I’m excited about everything happening down this way. I hope it continues.”

He does not plan to close the restaurant during construction, but instead will work around it.

Beeler said he always has been trying to expand the restaurant. However, “we were able to put a plan together that still was within the parking requirements and allowed us to add the little bit of space that we needed to add.

“I’ve been trying to do that, pretty much, since we opened (in July 2014),” he added. “The way this was able to be done is

we took advantage of the compact car parking spaces.”

As for other concerns, “I wish I could add more parking,” Beeler said. “If they could ever level Hobbs Road with Kingston Pike, which would make it a much safer intersection, then adding additional parking would be so much easier and way less expensive.”

He explained the back door, past the bar, will be opened up and replaced with a “server alley,” going from the kitchen to the dining room. The back door would move into the dining room.

“So, it will make better flow for the servers,” Beeler added.

“Ever since we’ve been open, (the servers) have to come behind the bar with the food to get (to the dining room), so we’re just creating a little server path.”

Another concern server alley would alleviate is the staff get busy near the front door

See BKW EXPANDS on Page 6A



Tammy Cheek

Big Kahuna Wings president/founder Matt Beeler shows original staff member Lorna Rosson his plans to expand BKW’s dining room, adding a server alley where the door is behind them, and pushing out the wall to add more seating.

Ribbon cutting: FWKCC at the Villages

Celebrating its second year, The Villages of Farragut cut the ribbon on the senior living community at 230 Village Commons Blvd. near Kingston Pike, a few hundred yards north of farragutpress, Friday, Dec. 3. On hand for the Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event were Farragut Mayor Ron Williams, third from left; Vice Mayor Louise Povlin, fourth from left; Sandi Simpson, fifth from left (in shadow), Villages community relations director; Melody Matney, (with scissors), Villages executive director; Sharon Wender, fourth from right, Villages administrative assistant; Deb Gregory, third from right, Villages residents event director; and Chamber members.

Tammy Cheek



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4A • **FARRAGUTPRESS** THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021

From page 1A

Michael Christian

Using “cold water, a wash cloth and prayer,”

From page 2A

Ralph McGill Plaza at the corner of North Campbell Station Road and Kingston Pike to Founders Park at Campbell Station, runs nightly from dusk until 10 p.m. nightly

An early commemoration of the end of the old year and commencement of a new one will take place in Farragut Community Center from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 31. The event is designed for

Having faith

“But most of all, faith in our God, that He would see us through,” Robinson added.

Little “outside” knowledge

“That’s how we found out Neil Armstrong had walked on the Moon, on the back of a sugar pack.”

Turning point

Defining freedom

When the POWs began tasting freedom upon reaching the United States, a reporter asked one of those men “to define freedom,” Robinson recalled.

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From page 2A

Teleserve Unit to report a theft from a Channing Lane address.

Complainant said the suspect, his home health nurse's sister, stole \$1,000 in cash and

\$1,000 worth of jewelry between Nov. 1 and Nov. 15. Complainant said she would come to the residence with her sister on her scheduled days of work.

Complainant said he discovered the items stolen Sunday, Nov. 28.

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farragutpress is published weekly at

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FWKCC networking

Premier Eyecare staff members, from left, Sarah Hill, Dana Vandergriff, Rachel Dudek and Jessica Valentine, welcome Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members to a FWKCC networking, which Brent Fry, OD, and his staff at Premier Eyecare, 11111 Kingston Pike, hosted Nov. 18.

Tammy Cheek

Currier finds salon ‘home’ in Turkey Creek

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

After years of cutting and coloring hair, Stella Currier opened Stella Currier Hair in Turkey Creek’s Sola Salon Suites, 11324 Parkside Drive, the day before Thanksgiving.

Having been in the hair salon business for 25 years, she was co-owner of Salon Chetella in Farragut for 10 years.

“I’ve always been in Farragut,” but “I’m getting older and I need things easier,” Currier said. “So far this has just been easier, less stress.

“That has been my goal — to have less stress,” she added. “I

can come in, do my job and not have to worry about all the extras now.”

In her new salon, she cuts and colors hair, specializing in grey coverage and blonding — highlights and hand-painted Balayage.

However, she does not do perms.

Currier is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays; from noon to 6 p.m., Thursdays; and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday.

She is closed Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays.

To book an appointment, visit her website, www.stella-currierhair.com.



Tammy Cheek

Stella Currier, cosmetologist, has opened her new business, Stella Currier Hair, in Turkey Creek’s Sola Salon Suites, 11324 Parkside Drive.

FASTSIGNS

From page 3A

four-and-a-half years ago.

He explained the company produces and offers all realms of signage.

“We rebranded Farragut High School’s football stadium,” Maw added. “Probably the only thing we don’t do is billboards on the highway.

“We print. We do whatever your requests are,” he added. “We have a truck bay in the back, where we can wrap vehicles.

“This past summer, we actually wrapped three oil tankers.”

The company also provides real estate signage.

“We can produce those right here, and what gives us the advantage is we don’t have to order them from somebody else and wait on them,” Maw said. “We print them right here and then we install them.

“Our slogan is ‘We are more than fast and we are more than signs’ because we offer so much more.”

In addition to walk-in service, customers can visit online at fastsigns.com (look for Center 134) or by e-mail at 134@fastsigns.com

business-briefs

• **Knoxville Bar Association** passed its president’s gavel from **Cheryl G. Rice**, a civil litigator with Egerton McAfee Armistead & Davis, P.C., to **Jason H. Long**, a member of the Knoxville law firm of London Amburn during KBA’s annual meeting Friday, Dec. 10. Other 2022 KBA officers are president-elect **Loretta G. Cravens**, Cravens Legal; treasurer **Catherine E. Shuck**, East Tennessee Children’s Hospital; and secretary **Carlos A. Yunsan**, Tennessee Appellate Courts.

KBA members elected their four-person Board of Governors: **Ursula Bailey**, Law Office of Ursula Bailey; **William A. Mynatt Jr.**; **Lewis Thomason**, P.C.; and **Vanessa Samano**, Samano Family Law.

Charles Swanson received KBA’s highest award, the Governors’ Award, given annually to a lawyer whose peers believe has brought distinction and honor to the legal profession.

The Presidents’ Award for 2021 was presented to **Mohamed Faizer** and **Carlos Yunsan**, co-chairs of KBA’s Diversity in the Profession Committee.

The award for outstanding writing was presented to Bailey for her article, “I Am Not OK,” which appeared in the August issue of the KBA monthly magazine DICTA.

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Be Well celebrates ‘1st’



Alan Sloan

A big anniversary gathering took place earlier this fall at Be Well Anti-Aging & Weight Loss, 10918 Kingston Pike, as it celebrated one full year of operation in Farragut. Guests and customers received various product and services giveaways — which also included gift certificates from area businesses — along with sampling tasty treats of all kinds while meeting and greeting employees and other guests/customers. That included Jill Price, Bell Well RN, **left**, in front of her oldest son, Mason, 10, who enjoyed the moment in front of his younger brothers, Graeme, 8 (holding food), and Hudson, 6 (orange T-shirt). They were joined by Tiffany Palmer and her daughters, Harper, 4, and Kate, 7.

BKW expands

From page 3A

with people waiting for a table or to-go orders. With the servers currently having to go from the bar into the people coming in to get to the dining room, “it all just clogs up (at the front),” Beeler said.

“So (the expansion) will make it much easier for everybody,” he added. “We’ll be able to move the host stand to a more prominent position, our waiting area (will be) expanded here for people ... the new server alley will allow (the staff) not to come from behind the bar with food. They’ll be able to come straight out into the dining area.”

However, Beeler said the main change will be the expanded dining area.

“We’ll be able to go from eight tables to 17 and also might not be so tight with the tables,” he added. “We’ll be able to be a little bit more open, which will be more enjoyable for everyone

sitting down.

“We’ll be able to handle bigger parties we haven’t been able to handle in the past and bring in some more of the elements we currently

have in here.”

Additionally, the expansion would allow him to redistribute the HVAC system to make the dining room more comfortable.

Giving back to Toys For Tots



Photo submitted

Simply Physio and Chesney Dentistry, both in the Chesney Building at 111 Loudoun Road in Farragut, recently teamed up to collect toy donations to fill a box for Marine Corps Reserve Toys For Tots campaign, which John Mark Chesney, owner of Simply Physio, said was a great success: the box was overflowing with toys by the time it was picked up last week.

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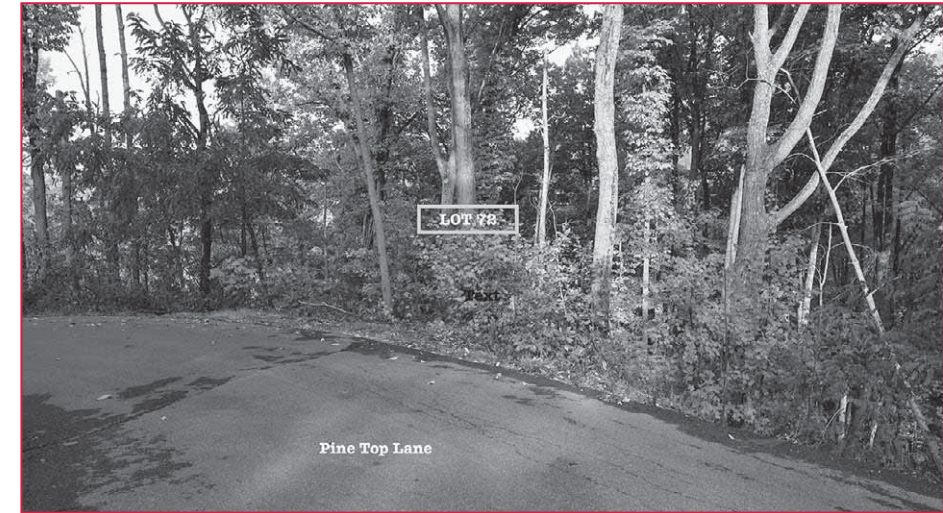


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A new Hall of Fame



Sixth Annual Metro Knoxville Cross Country Banquet also served as MKCC's Inaugural Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Monday night, Dec. 6, in Rothchild Catering & Conference Center. While four individual former high school cross country stars were inducted (**see below**), Farragut High School's 1984 Class AAA state champion girls team, **above**, was named as the first girls team inductee. Introduced by their former coach, local cross country/track & field coaching legend Bill Parker, ex-teammates are, from left, Katherine Marshall Moore, Sue Anne Heins Perry, Jeanne Heydet Harkins, Kelley Officer Butts, Angie Long, Mary Helen Little Story, Elizabeth Goeser Womack and Melanie Burke Ruhlman.

Among four individual former high school cross country champion inductees into the Inaugural Knoxville Metro Cross Country Hall of Fame Class Monday night, Dec. 6, were (**near right**) Aaron Templeton, an All-American, two-time Class AAA state champion and four-time All-state honoree with Hardin Valley Academy (HVA Class of 2014). Also inducted was Tony Cosey (**far right**), a former U.S. Olympic distance runner, seven-time All-American at UT, former head coach of CAK track & field teams and current assistant at Webb School of Knoxville. Also inducted (not pictured) were former Knoxville Catholic All-American and state champion Joanna Thompson (Class of 2011) and fellow champ Christy Baird. (**Right**) Bryan Brown, HVA cross country and track & field head coach who led his Hawks XC boys team to a second straight Division I Class AAA state championship in November, was named Metro Knoxville Cross Country Coach of the Year during the annual MKCC banquet, which was held in Rothchild Catering & Conference Center in West Knoxville Monday Night, Dec. 6. Presenting the award was Chelsea Osborne, Farragut High School cross country head coach.



Photos by Alan Sloan

Green named TN Softball-Fast Pitch Coach of the Year

Nick Green, Farragut High School varsity softball head coach who led his Lady Admirals to the TSSAA Class AAA state championship last season, "has been selected as the 2020-21 Tennessee Girls Softball-Fast Pitch Coach of the Year," according to a press release from Dr. Karissa L Niehoff, executive director of National Federation of State High School Associations.

"This year's honorees were selected based upon their coaching performance in the 2020-21 school year, lifetime community involvement, school involvement and philosophy of coaching."



Green

Solid FHS revenge with Rogers means win No. 200 for Mayfield

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

With the return of standout senior point guard Keeleigh Rogers from injury, Farragut High School girls varsity hoops capped off a special night at home Monday, Dec. 13.

Thanks to its four-game winning streak, culminating with a 59-42 victory against a Sevier County team that beat them by 9 points on the same court 23 days prior — inside FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium — head coach Jason Mayfield reached a milestone as Lady Admirals skipper.

Monday's win was his 200th as Farragut head coach. "I told the people that have asked me, 'That's just a reflection of a lot of good players when you have 200 wins,'" said Mayfield, in his 11th season guiding the FHS varsity girls program. "It's a cool accomplishment — but we've got higher goals than that."

See LADY ADMIRALS on Page 2B

With OT payback at Fulton, Ads win 4 straight — but fall Monday

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

Holding Sevier County without a point for more than 10 minutes in the second half — down to the final two minutes of regulation play — Farragut's boys had overcome as much as a 12-point deficit while trailing 30-24 entering the final quarter.

But a 34-32 Admirals lead was erased by Smoky Bears standout power forward Cooper Takacs' two free throws with 1:34 to play.

After a turnover with 40 seconds left prevented Farragut from getting the game's last solid scoring chance in

See FARRAGUT BOYS on Page 2A

Behind Carter's 35, Warriors romp; CAK girls get LCA monkey off their backs

BILL HOWARD

Correspondent

KNOXVILLE — It was the Luke Carter show Friday night, Dec. 10, at Christian Academy of Knoxville.

The junior guard poured in 35 points — scoring every way possible — as the Warriors defeated Lakeway Christian Academy 67-50. CAK improved to 6-4, 2-0 in District 1 East Region, Division II Class A.

"He's a very, very talented guy," Warriors head coach JD Johnson said of Carter. "We were super ex-

cited about him last year. To me, he's one of the best-kept secrets in the whole state. He works very hard, plays on both ends of the floor."

Carter's long three at the first-quarter buzzer made it 13-6 Warriors after one period.

CAK played only six boys in the game — five of them scored in the second period. Senior guard Denzel Jackson led with five, as Warriors were on top 29-15 at intermission.

Nathan Benton's three with 5:59

BILL HOWARD

Correspondent

KNOXVILLE — When Christian Academy of Knoxville's girls' basketball team led Lakeway Christian Academy 29-16 early in the second period at home Friday night, Dec. 10, the lead seemed comfortable.

A 19-2 burst created the lead.

For most of the second quarter and all



Williams

of the third, however, CAK would score but 12 points and trail 42-41 at the end of three. It was anybody's game.

The Lady Warriors promptly opened the fourth by scoring the first seven points, and never trailed again as they held on to win 59-53 and improve to 5-5 overall, 2-0 in District 1 East Region, Division II Class A.

CAK head coach Abby Williams said her first career win versus Lakeway was especially sweet.

"It's been a long time coming," she said. "They've been a powerhouse. They have

See LADY WARRIORS on Page 2B

See CAK BOYS on Page 2B

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CAK boys
From page 1B

left in the third put the lead at 37-21, and the game seemed in hand. But LCA then scored eight straight to make it 37-29.

A pair of late lay-ups by Jackson gave the Warriors a 45-34 lead heading into the fourth.

In the final period, Carter was a one-man wrecking crew. Of CAK's 22 points, the junior guard got 16, including seven in a 9-0, two-minute run that put the game away. Jackson finished with 13 while Benton added nine.

"We came out there and we did our job," said Carter, who scored 41 against Powell. "They're a really good team. This was a big win for us."

"He scores in a variety of ways," Johnson said of Carter. "He gets to the rim, he gets to the line, he hits the mid-range, he hits the threes. He can catch-and-shoot, he can do it all. He's definitely a guy who's gonna earn some interest at the next level."

"Carter looked great tonight, and we had no answer for him," Lions head coach Curtis Staples said.

Overall, "This is only our second game at home," Johnson said. "... We've got our first two district wins. We're off to a good start."

Shajai Jackson led LCA with 18 points.

Lady Admirals
From page 1B

While senior wing Avery "Ace" Strickland pumped in a game-high 23 points, Rogers added 19 — 15 in the second half — to help lead the Lady Admirals attack.

The difference Monday versus a 48-39 Sevier County win at FHS Saturday, Nov. 20?

"Not to make it simple, but Keeleigh Rogers," Mayfield said. "That's basically the difference. She gives us a little bit of everything."

GWU is Chism's rowing choice



Photo courtesy of Cathy Dowhos-O'Gorman/Webb School

Webb School of Knoxville celebrated Spartan senior rowing team standout April Chism's signing with George Washington University and its Women's Rowing team during a ceremony Monday, Nov. 15, in Webb's Lee Athletic Center. Chism is seated alongside her parents, Liliana and David Chism, and her sister, Leah Chism. Standing, from left, are Matt Macdonald, Webb Upper School head; Camden Moore, Atomic Rowing assistant coach; John Davis, Atomic head coach; and Michael McBrien, Webb School president.

"The things she can create defensively, and she rebounds really well for us," the coach added about Rogers.

While the senior "had four turnovers; she holds herself to higher expectations than that," Mayfield added, "Having her out there on the court makes all the difference."

As for other top efforts, "Annalise Bishop did a great job on Sevier County's best player, (freshman Cybil) Penland," he said about the Lady Ads junior guard against the Smoky Bearette guard who scored

half of Sevier County's 24 first-half points.

Assigned to Penland in the second half, Bishop "absolutely shut her down ... Annalise did a fantastic job," Mayfield said.

Senior wing Ashlyn Sheridan added nine points for FHS while senior post McCall Wilis had four.

Bishop and Annie Priest, Lady Ads freshman point, each scored two.

While the Smoky Bearettes' record fell to-2 overall, Farragut improved to 8-3.

Farragut boys
From page 1B

its half-court offense, Takacs converted his own missed rebound shot with just .4 of a second to play, allowing Sevier County (6-2) to escape FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gym with a 36-34 win Monday night, Dec. 13.

"A tough game. Two good teams playing great defense," Ads skipper Jon Higgins said.

About only scoring 34 points, "Sometimes you're going to have those games during the season," the coach added.

Lady Warriors
From page 1B

a lot of talent. We had to get over the hump of trying to find a way to beat Lakeway.

"We're a team of runs," Williams added. "We struggled a little bit there. We kept our composure and we came out in the fourth quarter and said 'we got this.' One possession at a time."

"I knew we had a good chance coming in," said Emily Wilson, Lady Warriors' junior point guard who led all scorers with 16. "The coaches have been preparing us really well for this game."

When the Lions' Audrey Laney hit a three with 12 seconds left in the third, it gave the Lions a one-point lead, 42-41, heading into the fourth.

"I have faith in my teammates and I trust what we can do," Wilson said when asked about losing the lead. "We executed well. This is a really big win for us."

A three by Wilson and lay-ups by Madi Jones and Izzy Proffitt to start the fourth gave CAK a 48-42 lead. Down 52-45, the Lions scored six straight to cut it to one with 1:27 left.

But the Lady Warriors closed it out on a 7-2 run.

Jones scored 12 for the game. Junior guard Keira Lefew added nine.

Madi Hawk led LCA with 15 points. Laney scored 14.

Minus starting senior point guard Carter Mayfield and starting senior wing Elisha Brabson (injuries), FHS (8-3) saw its four-game win streak end — which included a 65-62 overtime win at Fulton Tuesday, Dec. 7, to avenge an earlier home loss to the Falcons.

Senior guard Dillon Atwell led Farragut in scoring versus Sevier with 12, followed by wing/post Dallas Carbaugh with nine. Ryan Neal scored seven and Isaiah Smith six.

Takacs led Sevier County with a game-high 19 points.



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Fun, chili and ‘awkward’ photos

Giles: FUD holiday fundraiser ‘for the kids’

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD
mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

First Utility District employees work hard throughout the year — but they play hard, too, especially during the holidays. They raise money throughout the year through a program they call “Christmas for the Kids,” which provides gifts for children through the McNabb Center. This year, they sponsored more than \$16,000 worth of gifts for 131 children, which were delivered earlier this month. FUD employees also host an annual chili cook-off, held this year on Wednesday, Dec. 1, which not only raised \$3,000 but also was a chance to show off cooking skills and highlight another “fun-raising” project: an “Awkward Family Photos” project turned into a calendar.

FUD general manager Bruce Giles, so flush with the Christmas spirit he eagerly dressed as “Cousin Eddie” from the “Christmas Vacation” movie for the Awkward Family Photos project, said he would “look silly all day if it’s for the kids.” Several high-profile volunteers helped judge the contest, ultimately won by Tate Bowden (first place) and Greg Parker (second place). Judges included Darris Upton, chief of staff for Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs; Jane Jolley, also from Mayor Jacobs’ office; Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce president/CEO Julie Blaylock; and Jessica Hill, director of Community Relations for the McNabb Center. “This is one of my favorite

See “FUN-RAISERS” on Page 9B



Photo submitted

First Utility District general manager Bruce Giles, dressed as “Cousin Eddie” from the “Christmas Vacation” movie, put his own spin on the group’s ‘Awkward Family Photos’ fundraiser, which since has been turned into a calendar.



Michelle Hollenhead

Union Cumberland Presbyterian Church is keeping up a long-standing tradition by offering a life-size nativity scene at its 400 Everett Road home.

UCPC shares life-size nativity

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD
mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

Union Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Farragut once again is pointing to the true “reason for the season” with a life-sized nativity scene. A manger/barn backdrop houses Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, while shepherds and wise men gather close to the scene on the church grounds, located at the intersection of Everett and Smith roads. “It’s a service for the com-

munity,” said church pastor, the Rev. Leonard Turner, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary with Union Cumberland Presbyterian this year. Turner said the church has a long-standing tradition of life-size nativity scenes, beginning with a live one enacted several decades ago near Willow Creek Golf Course. “We had real people, real sheep and real donkeys,” he recalled. “The men of the church grew beards for it, and I still have mine.”

Eventually, the live re-enactments gave way to the display the church currently offers, after being inspired by a similar display in a neighboring state. “My wife and I were visit-

See NATIVITY on Page 8B

Hardin Valley donates to vets

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

The Hardin Valley community recently came together to provide much needed essentials to veterans living in West Knox County’s Ben Atchley Tennessee State Veterans Home. The local American Legion spearheaded the effort, which ran through November, asking for donations of small throw blankets, toiletries, sweat shirts and sweat pants, pajamas, undergarments, bath towels and socks for both men and women. Hardin Valley overwhelmingly responded, collectively gathering more than 300 items, which included blankets hand-made by a local Boy Scout troop — all of which were presented Dec. 2 to Bill Polander of the American Legion. Polander annually collects donations and items through his work with American Legion, but reported on seeing an overall decline in both cash and item donations. Community leader Kim Frazier learned of the needs earlier this year after meeting Polander at a Corryton Community Club meeting. She engaged in an effort to connect the two communities by reaching out to several Hardin Valley community partners and asking for their help. “I feel a responsibility to take care of those who fought for my freedoms and this is just one small, but impactful, way that communities can come together for a common purpose — to serve our veterans,” Frazier said. Donations were presented to Polander, a Vietnam veteran, who delivered the items to the Ben Atchley Home.

See VETERANS on Page 4B

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• **Flying Anvil Theatre celebrates the holidays with a farcical, Victorian Music Hall version of “A Christmas Carol”** called “Scrooge in Rouge” — a wild romp through a familiar story, which runs through Friday, Dec 31, at Flying Anvil Theatre, 1300 Rocky Hill Road behind Rocky Hill Shopping Center along Northshore Drive. Tickets are \$25 and \$27, \$13 for students with an I.D. and may be purchased online at flyinganviltheatre.com. For group reservations, call 865-357-1309. Masks are required within the theatre, and patrons must show a vaccination card, a negative COVID test (within 72 hours) or a letter from a physician certifying COVID antibodies at the door.

• **“Right now, the American Red Cross blood supply is at historically low levels.** We’re at a point where some patients relying on a transfusion may not receive the blood they need,” an ARC press release stated. Donors are urged to schedule an appointment

now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). There is no blood donation waiting period for those who have received a flu shot or a Moderna, Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine or booster, so long as they are symptom-free.

Upcoming ARC blood donation opportunities in Knox County from Friday, Dec. 17, through Sunday, Jan. 2, are from 1 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 21, Monday, Dec. 27, and Tuesday, Dec. 28, at East Tennessee Red Cross, 6921 Middlebrook Pike.

Donors can also save up to 15 minutes at the blood drive by completing a pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of donation, from a mobile device or computer. To complete, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App. To donate blood, individuals need

to bring a blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals are eligible to donate who are at least 17 years of age (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds (high school students age 18 and under also must meet certain height requirements) and are in generally good health.

• **Wreaths Across America honors fallen veterans with wreath-laying ceremonies** the third Saturday in December (Dec. 18 this year) at Arlington National Cemetery and in Knox County Veterans cemeteries. For more information, or to sponsor a wreath, visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.



Photo submitted

American Legion representative Bill Polander received donations Thursday, Dec. 2, that were gathered throughout the Hardin Valley community for residents of Ben Atchley Tennessee State Veteran’s Home.

Veterans

From page 3B

Drop off locations were at State Farm Hardin Valley, Hard Knox Pizzeria Hardin Valley, Morning Pointe of

Hardin Valley, Hardin Valley Academy and Regions Bank, Hardin Valley.
Coming in first place for donations at HVA were coding students under business teacher Jennifer Miles.

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What incredible times we continue to be in, as we continue to deal with the Covid health crisis. Christmas will look a little different for the Mission of Hope again this year. We are trying to do all that we can to not only work within the guidelines and requirements of the Schools; but also help keep our Mission of Hope Volunteers and Staff safe as well.

As deliveries of New Toys, New Clothes, Food and Hygiene are already in process, God is continuing to bless and provide the Mission of Hope with the ability to serve those in dire need this Christmas. Doing what we do year after year...it's an incredible blessing to know that people believe in your cause and support your Ministry efforts. You have been a True Blessing to this Ministry and we cherish the fact that you have deemed us worthy of your support. I am humbly appealing for you to consider making a Financial Donation to our Ministry and to uplift us and those we serve in fervent Prayer.

For more information or to make a Donation, please contact the **Mission of Hope** office at 865-584-7571; email to info@missionofhope.org; visit our **website at missionofhope.org**; or mail to our **mailing address at: Mission of Hope – P. O Box 51824 – Knoxville, TN 37950**. The Mission of Hope is a fully licensed 501c3 non-profit organization, so donations are tax deductible.

We believe without hesitation and with childlike Faith...there is always HOPE. May we all remember that through these challenging times, God is truly all around us and will carry us through. May each of you and your loved ones be protected by God's Hands of Grace and Comfort...as we trust Him to be our Beacon of HOPE...this Christmas and always.

**Thank You For Your Friendship And Support...
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**Sincerest Appreciation;
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obituary

Mary “Sue” (McCall) Shirley, age 85, passed away peacefully on Nov. 30, 2021, in Knoxville, professing Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.

Sue was born in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, on Sept. 24, 1936. Her father, Herbert McCall, was a carpenter and farmer. Her mother, Iola Josephine (Neece) McCall, affectionately known as “Momola,” was a mother to seven children and grandmother to 13 grandchildren. Sue was the sixth of the seven children.

Sue graduated from Walnut Ridge High School and attended Arkansas State University. She worked as a telephone operator in Memphis.

She was married to Lt. Millard G. Shirley, United States Air Force, in 1958, while he was stationed at Walnut Ridge Air Force Base. Sue and Millard had two children, Mark Alan Shirley, born in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and Sabrina Starr (Shirley) Houston, born in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Sue became an interior decorator. This served her family well, allowing her to create beautiful backdrops for the many homes in which they would live. Sue fulfilled all of the duties of an Air Force wife with detail and care. This included entertaining, moving and taking care of the house and kids when Millard was assigned remote tours in Alaska, Greenland and Australia.

Sue loved to travel and was always ready to pick up and move to a new location. She enjoyed starting over with a blank slate to decorate a new home every few years. These locations included Lompoc, California; Sumter, South Carolina; Wichita Falls; Lincoln,

Nebraska; Petersburg, Virginia; Biloxi, Mississippi; Memphis; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Tampa; Woomera, South Australia; Denver; Huntington Beach, California; Palm Coast, Florida; Jacksonville, Florida, and finally to Farragut to live near her daughter.

Sue volunteered for the Kidney Foundation for many years. She was involved in numerous Bible studies and served as an elder in the Presbyterian Church. Sue had the gift of hospitality. She loved to cook and entertain. Her dinner parties and social events were legendary.

Gracious and elegant, Sue

will be remembered for her sass, sense of humor and flair for fashion. She lived life full throttle, despite facing numerous health issues throughout much of her life. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends, shopping, walking, picnics, Tab, good food and playing Bridge, Chickenfoot and Sequence.

Sue lived her final two years at The Villages of Farragut in a beautifully decorated apartment, where she had an “Open Door” policy and spent quality time on her balcony reading her Bible. She made many dear friends and enjoyed participating in the activities and events. Most of all, she loved her Lord, her husband and her children.

Sue was preceded in death by her beloved husband and faithful companion of 63 years, Lt. Colonel Millard G. Shirley, USAF of Springfield, Kentucky; parents, Herbert

F. McCall and Iola Josephine (Neece) McCall; brothers, Harry McCall, Thomas McCall and Herbert F. McCall Jr.; and sisters, Joyce Whittington, Katherine Light and Margaret Ann Fisher.

She is survived by son, Mark (Trang) Shirley of San Jose; daughter, Sabrina (Paul) Houston of Lenoir City; several nieces, nephews and their families; and three grand-dogs.

Visitation was held Monday, Dec. 13, in Click Funeral Home Farragut. Funeral ser-

vice was held in the chapel at East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery Tuesday, Dec. 14, where Sue was buried with her husband, who passed away Jan. 26, 2021.

Family requests donations be made in Sue’s memory to a charity of your choice or to Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, <https://billygraham.org/>; Samaritan’s Purse, <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/>; or Wreaths Across America – Knoxville, <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>.



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FARRAGUT WEST KNOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Holiday Open House

Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members had two options to enjoy the holidays together this year when the Chamber offered a morning holiday open house and an evening cocktail open house Tuesday, Dec. 7. While some members gathered for morning breakfast and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, portrayed by Ronnie and Susan Bentley, others chose to visit during the evening session. However, the highlight of the event was members' generosity as they adopted families from, and donated toys to, Childhelp Child Advocacy Center in Knoxville, which serves abused children in Knox County. "From what we can see, we think it was a huge success," FWKCC president/CEO Julie Blaylock said. "We're super grateful for all of our business members who managed to adopt a total of 25 families, comprising well over 55 children, plus all the donations for Childhelp's toy closet, which will continue to be replenished to help children who are in need." The children had wish lists, which were given to the Chamber for its members to fill.

Photos by Tammy Cheek



(Left) Santa and Mrs. Claus (*Donnie and Susan Bentley*)
(Center) From left Steve Krempasky, C.J. Stephens, and Matthew Bryan (Right) Kathleen Holman



Ken and April Finster, (left) with David Smoak



From left Chuck Chalker, Stephanie Erb, Vanessa O'Donnell and Jim Hill



Julie Blaylock and Santa (*Ronnie Bentley*)



Kayla Zehner, left, and Agnes Predny



From left Susan Bentley, April Damron and Cara Knapp



From left Mike Niemeyer, Devin Sellmer and Trevor Hobbs



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Nativity

From page 3B

ing Alabama near Christmas time, and it was raining,” Turner said. “We saw what I thought was a live nativity at a Methodist church, and I said, ‘Look at those crazy Methodists standing out in the rain.’ We looked closer and realized, the ‘people’ were made and not real.

“I went down there and asked if they minded if we copied what they had done, and they agreed, and drew out for us how to make (it).”

Turner said the scene has evolved over the years, and the church was able to add mannequins when some local stores went out of business.

“We have a young man, Jimmy Green, who redoes the faces and paints them to make them look more realistic. Then the ladies of the church keep up with all the clothes, making sure they always look new and fresh.”

The scene is central to the church’s 6 p.m. Christmas Eve service — if the weather cooperates.

“If the weather isn’t too bad, we go outside and stand around it, holding (electric) candles,” he said.

“It is what Christmas is all about.”

Ronald (Ron) Phillip Sparks, age 83, went to his heavenly home on Nov. 28, 2021.

Ron was born to Ralph Sr. and Julia (Bailey) Sparks in Erwin, where he lived most of his life.

Ron married Melinda Jennings in 1962, and they raised two sons, Kevin and Gary Sparks. They moved to Knoxville to be near their grandchildren after his retirement.

His career included time working for Clinchfield Railroad, Hoover Ball, GMF and Aerojet (in Jonesborough).

Ron was a Christian and long-time member of Calvary Baptist Church in Erwin, where he served as a deacon. After moving to Knoxville, he

Light the Park through Jan. 2

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

Food truck carts, caroling and giveaways continue in Founder’s Park at Campbell Station as Light the Park continues from dusk to 10 p.m. each night through Sunday, Jan. 2. For a full schedule, visit www.farragutparksandrec.org.

obituary

was a member of First Baptist Concord, where he enjoyed working on and building sets for VBS and Christmas productions.

He was a loving, compassionate husband, father and granddad. Ron’s greatest joy was beach time with his family, golf, Tennessee Vols sports and NASCAR. During his retirement, he was devoted to spending time with his two grandchildren. He and Melinda also were involved for several years with the Mission of Hope ministry.

He was preceded in death by

his parents, one brother (Everette) and one son (Gary).

Ron is survived by the love of his life, his wife of 60 years, Melinda Sparks; their son, Kevin (Lori) of Knoxville; grandchildren, Chelsea Chrisp (Neil) of Nollesville and Andrew Sparks of Knoxville; and sister, Carrie Lee (Stanley) Edwards of Erwin; brother, Ralph Jr. (Wanda) of Erwin; sister-in-law, Donna Sparks of Gainesville, Florida; brother-in-law, Robert Jennings (Cheryl) of Erwin; sister-in-law, Carleen Anderson of Knoxville; and his great-grandchildren, Em-

ory Chrisp and Nolan Chrisp; many nieces and nephews; and countless lifelong friends.

The family has decided to have a Celebration of Life and graveside committal service in the new year. Details will be provided once arrangements have been finalized.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in memory of Ron to Mission of Hope, P.O. Box 51824, Knoxville, TN, 37950, or Samaritan’s Purse, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, N.C., 28607.

Ron loved knowing that through the Christmas deliveries, children would not only receive gifts, but the message of the hope of Jesus Christ.

Ron will be dearly missed by all of those who loved him.



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“Fun-raisers”

From page 3B

things that I look forward to all year,” said frequent taster Upton, as he dove into more than 30 different chili offerings. “It’s got great participation and it’s fun.”

“... When we find a community partner that is already so committed on the front end, we love it,” he added.

“Hats off to Bruce and all his employees. You’ve got to respect all the people here for what they do.”

“We have other agencies who help us, but there is no other company that participates as an entire group like FUD,” said Hill, who also noted FUD “participates in the Dear Santa program by sponsoring children’s wish lists.”

Hill said FUD has been an ongoing contributor for almost a decade. “The gifts purchased and donated by FUD support children who are clients of the McNabb Center and their siblings.

“So, they might be kids who are receiving mental health treatment or are participating in one of our social services or substance use treatment programs,” Hill added.

“We could not be more amazed by the hard work and generosity of every member of our team,” FUD communications manager Chloe Pool said.

For more information on a calendar, message FUD through its Facebook page, where readers also may follow “12 Days of Awkward Family Photos” currently under way.



(Above left) Unloading 131 children’s “Dear Santa” Christmas gifts at the McNabb Center were, from left, First Utility District employees Chloe Pool (communications manager), Jimmy Miller (distribution), Kole Pritchett (Field Services tech) and Doyle Noe (project inspector). (Above right) Darris Upton, chief of staff for Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, was one of four chili tasters who judged the FUD employee cook-off.



Above left photo submitted/Above right photo by Michelle Hollenhead

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Monday, Dec 27th Stick & Puck 11:40A - 12:30P Public Skate 12:40P - 2P Stick & Puck 5:40P - 6:30P Public Skate 6:40P - 8P	Tuesday, Dec 28th Stick & Puck 11:40A - 12:30P Public Skate 12:40P - 2P Stick & Puck 5:40P - 6:30P Public Skate 6:40P - 8P	Wednesday, Dec 29th Stick & Puck 11:40A - 12:30P Public Skate 12:40P - 2P Stick & Puck 5:40P - 6:30P Public Skate 6:40P - 8P	Thursday, Dec 30th Stick & Puck 11:40A - 12:30P Public Skate 12:40P - 2P Stick & Puck 5:40P - 6:30P Public Skate 6:40P - 8P	Friday, Dec 31st Stick & Puck 11:40A - 12:30P Public Skate 12:40P - 2P Stick & Puck 5:40P - 6:30P Public Skate 6:40P - 8P	Saturday, Jan. 1 Stick & Puck 11:40A - 12:30P Public Skate 12:40P - 2P	Sunday, Jan. 2 Public Skate 4P - 5:30P

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Merry Christmas

Last-minute Christmas shopping tips



Some people thrive by doing all of their tasks early. Others seem to do their best work when faced with a time crunch. The methods individuals use to manage their time at work and play may extend to the ways they approach holiday shopping as well.

There's no right or wrong way to handle holiday shopping tasks, though Christmas Eve crowds at malls and throughout shopping districts suggest that there's more late comers than there are early birds. The following tips can help those who typically wait until the last minute to check names off their lists.

• Utilize free shipping services.
Shoppers who shop for gifts online at the last minute run the risk of gifts not arriving on time. Many online retailers charge a premium for expedited shipping. Try to stick to shopping at online retailers that offer free shipping even in the eleventh hour.

• Create a budget.
When rushing around from store to store, it may be easy to spend more than you want to. Make a list of how much you want to spend on each person, and stick to that limit for each person. Move on to the next store if you didn't find what you need in your price range.

• Establish a time limit.
Stores have strategies in place to keep shoppers in their establishments longer, hoping you'll make

impulse buys. These tricks include scenting the air with inviting aromas, putting necessities at the rear of the store, failing to display the time, and putting discounted items by the registers or door to attract shoppers. Set an alarm on your watch or phone for each store so you get what you need and get out on time.

• Subdivide bulk gifts.
Think about purchasing bulk gifts like gift baskets from wholesale clubs and then breaking them down into individual gifts. This way you can gift several people on one purchase and save time in the process.

• Choose one-size-fits-all gifts.
Think about a gift that can be purchased for multiple people so you can save time shopping for individualized gifts for everyone. For example, print a personalized photo calendar for several members of your family. You also can purchase multiple subscriptions or memberships to zoos or magazines for people on your list. Streamlining gifting in this way may save money as well as time.

• Choose in-store pickup.
Rather than scouring various aisles, you can shop a retailer's website and then pick up items in the store. You'll save on potential shipping fees but still benefit by avoiding crowds.

Some people wait until the last minute to do their holiday shopping. A few tricks of the procrastinator's trade can make last-minute shopping go smoothly.

Stick to a holiday budget

The holidays are an exciting, fun and joyful time of year. And for many people, the holidays also are expensive. According to the Motley Fool Company, a financial wellness resource, the average American spent \$882.45 on Christmas gifts, food, decorations, travel, and other holiday-related expenses in 2019. Around 56 percent of gift shoppers set a budget for holiday spending, but only 64 percent stuck to it. In addition, 21.5 percent of respondents went into debt due to holiday shopping. Who doesn't want to have a super holiday with delicious foods on the table and lots of presents to share with family and friends? While that's tempting, such a bounty should never result in financial peril. These six strategies can make it easy to establish and stick to a budget this holiday season.

- 1 Budget for everything.** When working out holiday spending plans, factor in all of the expenses associated with the holidays — not just the most obvious, like gifts. Costs for gas, parking lot fees, greeting cards, postage, travel expenses, and much more should be included in your final number.
- 2 Determine how much you can spend.** Money for gifts and other holiday expenses should ideally come from your disposable income. Look at your finances in advance of the holiday season and figure out how much extra cash you have for the holidays, and use that figure to determine how much you should spend. Find ways to make up any deficit by curtailing expenses like dining out or entertainment extras. Many people plan to use credit cards to pay now and worry about the aftermath later. Only use credit cards if you have the money in the bank and can pay off the entire bill when the balance due is in January.
- 3 Set a spending limit for individuals.** Based on your numbers and how much you plan to spend overall, start allocating money to categories, including gift recipients. Come up with a spending range for each person and stick to it.
- 4 Pay in cash as much as possible.** It's easy to know what you're spending when using cash as opposed to credit. There is some risk with carrying around cash, but that risk may be offset by the benefit of spending only what you can afford to spend.
- 5 Track all purchases.** Save the receipts and keep a running total of expenditures so you can see how your spending is measuring up to your budget. If necessary, scale back on one category if you've tipped the scales in spending on another.
- 6 Shop sales and deals.** High-end stores may have the impressive tag, but their prices can set you back. Instead, look for comparable gifts at discount stores and other retailers. Also, if you must use a credit card, use one that earns you a cash-back bonus for added savings.

Gifts for the family athlete

Holiday shoppers know that few things can match the joy of finding the perfect gift for a loved one. Whether that loved one is a tiny tot who can't wait to unwrap this year's must-have toy or an adult hoping to find the latest gadget under the tree on Christmas morning, the thrill of giving a great gift is part of what makes the holiday season so enjoyable. Friends and family members may fall into certain categories, and that can make holiday shopping a little easier. When it comes to gifting the family athlete, the following ideas can provide the inspiration shoppers need to put a smile on the face of fitness-minded friends and family members.

• Weighted vest: Weighted vests have gained popularity in recent years. Available from a variety of manufacturers and for athletes of varying skill levels, weighted vests can be ideal for athletes who want to burn more calories and build strength during their workouts. This can be an especially useful gift for endurance athletes who want their training sessions to mimic the challenges posed by nature or difficult competitive terrains.

• Noise-canceling headphones or earbuds: Many athletes relish their workouts not only as opportunities to zero in on their fitness goals, but also as chances to block out distractions and clear their heads for an hour or two each day. Noise-cancelling headphones or earbuds effectively block out external noises, allowing athletes to direct all of their focus on their workouts and training sessions.



• Energy drinks: Though it might not seem like the most exciting gift to unwrap on Christmas morning, energy drinks are vital to many fitness enthusiasts' athletic endeavors. For example, endurance athletes may appreciate a tub of Osmo Active Hydration Performance Drink Mix, which contains an optimal ratio of sucrose, glucose and electrolytes, helping athletes improve their endurance and power while reducing instances of cramping and fatigue. Energy drinks make for a perfect stocking stuffer.

• Home gym equipment: Pandemic-related gym closures turned athletes into their own personal trainers, and some may not want to return to local fitness facilities even now that they've safely reopened. Home gym equipment can help athletes continue to build their own private home gyms, making items like kettle bells, dumbbells, weight benches, and resistance bands great items to put under the tree this holiday season.

