

*And it came to pass in those days,
that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus
that all the world should be taxed.*

2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

*4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea,
unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house
and lineage of David:)*

5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

*6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she
should be delivered.*

*7 And she brought forth her **firstborn son**, and wrapped him in swaddling
clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*

*8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch
over their flock by night.*

*9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone
round about them: and they were sore afraid.*

*10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you **good tidings**
of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

*11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is **Christ**
the Lord.*

*12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling
clothes, lying in a manger.*

*13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising
God, and saying,*

*14 **Glory to God in the highest**, and on earth peace, good will
toward men.*

*15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the
shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this
thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.*

*16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe
lying in a manger.*

*17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told
them concerning this child.*

*18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the
shepherds.*

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

*20 And the shepherds returned, **glorifying and praising God** for all the
things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.*

Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)

*The Villages of Farragut
Wishes you a Very Merry Christmas*



Scenes from the Season

Pictured are a selection of photos from Farragut 2024 Christmas events.

A visit with Santa and writing letters to Santa combined with shopping for handmade crafts highlighted **Hardin Valley Elementary School's Holiday Craft Market**, which took place in the school gym Saturday, Nov. 9.

Wooden snowmen and Santas, handmade jewelry, snow globes, microwave cozies, hand-painted glass and more attracted the attention of shoppers checking out **West Knox County Senior Center's Senior Craft Sale**. The event, took place in the Senior Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd. Friday, Nov. 15.

Hundreds of families made for a few thousand attendees enjoying holiday music/dancing entertainment from Mark Boling Trio, Farragut High School's double state championship dance team and from Mike Snodgrass & Sarah Jean during **Countdown to Light the Park** in Founders Park at Campbell Station Monday night, Nov. 25.

Families and Knox County officials surrounded the entrance of The Cove at Concord Park, along Northshore Drive, Monday night, Dec. 2, in wait for Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and Farragut Mayor Ron Williams to cut the ribbon, signaling the lights to be turned on in The Cove for this year's **Holiday Festival of Lights**.

Hundreds of Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members and their guests gathered in Farragut Community Center for the **Chamber's annual Holiday Open House** Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Twas the Night with No Parents in Farragut Community Center is where children played games, ate pizza and played a Mario video game Friday, Dec. 13, while parents shopped or simply decompressed for a few hours.

Families enjoyed **Breakfast with Santa in Concord United Methodist Church** Saturday Dec. 14. The event also featured a visit and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, ornament making, face painting and reindeer feed making.



Above: Brenda MacDonald at West Knox County Senior Center's Senior Craft Sale



Left: Hadley Guider, 2, with mom Allie Guider at Breakfast with Santa



Left: Gracey Tarpeh, 5, with Santa at Celebrate the Season

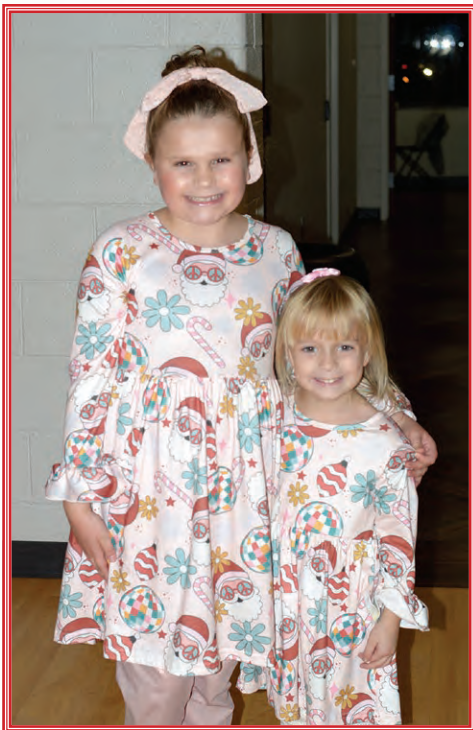


Above: Mrs. Claus (Rose Montgomery) at Breakfast with Santa

Below: Harper Shaddle, 8, at Countdown to Light the Park



Right: Cousins Layla McDill, 9, left, and Addy Boehm at Twas the Night with No Parents



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Merry Christmas

to everyone in Farragut, Concord, Hardin Valley, West Knox Co. & to all our readers worldwide

RCF Ugly Sweater champ, 3rd



Tammy Cheek

The Rotary Club of Farragut members got lots of laughs with its Ugly Christmas Sweater contest during the club's meeting in Fox Den Country Club Wednesday, Dec. 18. (Left) RCF member Ralph Henry took home the first-place prize, a dinner at Water Into Wine bistro & lounge. (Right) One of RCF's newest members, Bill McManus, took third. (See runner-up/fourth-place winner on page 3A)

Wins for local developers at FMPC: its unanimous

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Some local developers got an early Christmas present when Farragut Municipal Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve their projects, with some conditions, during its meeting Thursday, Dec. 19.

In one action, a variance for the site distance between drive-ways requirement was approved for Serenade, a proposed Neighborhood/Convenience Commercial District development of 9.2 acres at 421 N. Watt Road, between North Watt and Harrison roads near Town limits.

Likewise, the preliminary plat for Serenade, which is being developed by Robert Campbell, owner of Robert G. Campbell & Associates civil engineering firm, also was approved. It includes 30 residential units and some commercial units with the number of units to be determined at a later date.

The variance was requested because the minimum separation requirement between two accesses is less than the required 400 feet. "The proposed access would be roughly 131 feet from the nearest access to the south, which is noted as Harbin Lane, currently a driveway to a single dwelling unit," Community Development director Mark Shipley said. "The design engineer (Campbell) noted that the main reason for the proposed location (of the access) was to provide maximum sight distance.

"Should development occur on the 50-acre tract on the east side of North Watt that is currently served by Harbin Lane? The staff will work with that developer to line up the accesses," he added.

There still are 11 subject-to issues Campbell will have to ad-

See DEVELOPERS WIN on Page 3A

Lots of new goodies, \$3 mil+, for Town Hall; Valentine's Day re-open

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

As Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen awaits the re-opening of its Town Hall (11408 Municipal Center Drive), currently being remodeled, it voted on several items concerning furnishings, security, network equipment, construction, fiber optic infrastructure and more during its meeting Thursday, Dec. 12.

The Board unanimously approved the following:

- Information Technology managed services provider 12-month contract with its current provider TenHats, with an option to extend to 24 months.
- It has been providing the service since May for \$3,820 per month, totaling \$22,920 for the remainder six months of the fiscal year, according to Travis Ramsey, Town IT manager.
- Contract with Hendricksen for Town Hall furniture and fixtures through an Omnia contract and Sourcewell contract for \$268,154.33. The funds are coming from the federal American Rescue Plan Act funding.
- Approval of a contract with Everon ADT for Town Hall Security and Installation through Omnia contract for \$121,813.96.
- Approval of a five-year contract with Everon for security licensing for \$35,116.85 for security equipment.
- Approval of purchase from SHI Court of Town Hall network equipment for \$34,051.46 to be installed by TenHats.
- Approval of proposal from Canon & Canon for construction engineering inspection services for the fiber optic infrastruc-



Alan Sloan

ture, which costs the Town \$150,000.

- Approval of Wright Construction change order for \$110,832 above the contract price and add 17 days to the construction contract.

The original bid price was \$2,999,700. "With any remodeling that we do, we're going to run into unexpected things," said Bud McKelvey, Town senior facilities project manager overseeing the remodel. The new completion date is set for Feb. 14, 2025.

See TOWN HALL PROGRESS on Page 3A

Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive, remains in renovation at a cost of more than \$3 million. Farragut officials estimate Town Hall's grand opening to be Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, with lots of new infrastructure.

added shopping security: KCSO

• Knox County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Bernie Lyon and Capt. Aaron Yarnell "announce a new initiative to help keep folks a little safer," Lyon stated in a press release.

The KCSO Digital Intelligence Unit has launched a new program called "Safe Exchange," which is "designed for those who have purchased online from

Facebook marketplace or something similar and need a safe place to meet for the exchange," he added.

How does it work? "Locate the safe exchange sign in the parking lot (locally in the Parkside Drive Walmart parking lot) and meet to purchase your online items under the surveillance of the Knox County Sheriff's Office," Lyon stated. "With so many options

to buy items online from individuals, we've created a way for citizens to add more protection to their transactions."

"The cameras aren't monitored in real-time, but they are recording, which can be very helpful," stated Yarnell, who leads the Digital Intelligence Unit for KCSO.



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GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR YOU



Express Oil Change, Tire Engineers looking to plant Town roots; Shipley asks for architectural 'checklist'

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

A new Express Oil Change and Tire Engineers location is being proposed for 11153 and 11157 Kingston Pike.

Representatives from EOCTE presented a site plan at a Farragut Municipal Planning Commission Staff/Planner meeting Tuesday, Dec. 3, showing both an oil change and tire facilities in the development located just past West End Center, between Century 21 Legacy, Turkey Creek and Potrillo's Taqueria & Nevada.

"They did a good job with these plans with the civil aspect of it," Town Community Development director Mark Shipley said. However, "one of the things that is missing — and they're probably not ready for the Planning Commission because of this — is they didn't have any architectural.

"We need to know what the buildings are going to look like; all the architectural design standards checklist has to be completed," he added. "But, as far as how they did the site plan, from a staff's perspective, I was pretty pleased with it.

"I think they were pretty thorough."

Regarding the location, "you got the flood fringe (of Turkey Creek), you've got the wetlands over here," Shipley said. And, "there's an existing billboard.

"There're two lots here," he added about the site. "(EOCTE) is combining the lots, which they would have to do because this building would need the setbacks from the existing lot lines."

Shipley noted the entrance is an existing access, about which he has been in contact with the Town attorney for his feedback.

"It's an existing access, but it's for an old, abandoned site," he said, noting the access "is a terrible place to access Kingston Pike, but they don't have a lot of options ... it's pretty much where it is.



Shipley

See **NEW BIZ?** on Page 3A

White, Cain kill Town business info collect ordinance change

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen's action to approve, on final reading, an amendment to replace the Town's existing business license requirements with a new ordinance, titled Business Registration Program, failed during the Board's meeting Thursday, Dec. 12.

"In the first reading of the ordinance (amendment), the Board requested the Home Occupation definition be referenced in the ordinance for second reading," Town recorder Allison Myers said. "That update has been made."

Still, "I can't vote for this, mayor, because of the section on home businesses and booth businesses," Alderman David White said. "A lot of citizens in Farragut are retired; they run businesses out of their homes to supplement their income."

White and Alderman Alex Cain voted against the amendment, while Mayor Ron Williams and Vice Mayor Scott Meyer voted for it, creating a tie and causing the motion to fail. Alderman Drew Burnette was absent.

"I realize (the staff is) just wanting permission to collect information, but if you collect the information, something's got to be done with it someday," White said. "It may not be this Board, but another Board could take it up and do whatever they want to.

"I just feel like these people shouldn't have to pay sales tax if we ever try to put a sales tax on them," he added. "The rest of this ordinance I don't have a problem with, but if it did not have that about home businesses and booth businesses, I could support it."

Town administrator David Smoak said the ordinance already has been in place for some time. "We're just changing the name of it to the Business Registration Program rather than the Business License Program because a lot of cities have business licenses, and they have a business tax that goes with the licenses," he said.

"We don't do that (tax), so we just wanted to make sure it was really clear to businesses that come into Town that this isn't a

See **CHANGE NIXED** on Page 3A

KCSO reports

• At 8:47 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 18, a complainant called Knox County Sheriff's Office West Precinct to report theft and vandalism at East Tennessee Children's Hospital Home Health Care along West Point Drive.

"Complainant (said) after they received the oxygen concentrators, it is their routine to place the equipment in a bag with materials to kill any bugs and place them outside on the porch for a few days until inspectors are finished," the report stated.

"When staff members began going through the machines, they saw copper wiring had been ripped out of the machines and stolen, and then the cords had been reinserted to hide the missing copper," the report further stated. At the

time of this report there were no known suspects.

• At noon, Dec. 18, a victim advised that several items were taken from her Chowning Drive residence. The victim was unsure of the quantities that were taken of Oriental rugs, light fixtures and household goods. Victim advised she was making a list of all the items missing. Total value of loss was listed at \$3,600.

• At 7:45 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 17, a complainant called KCSO Teleserve Unit to report a theft of services from 115 Brooklawn St.

Complainant advised an unknown suspect came into his restaurant and ate half of their meal and left without paying. Value of loss was reported at \$31.

towncalendar

• **Light the Park in Founders Park at Campbell Station continues every evening starting at dusk through Wednesday, Jan. 1.** A new addition to the festivities is a 53-foot-by-33-foot synthetic ice rink that will operate through Saturday, Jan. 4, at Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza. For more information and to make reservations, visit www.townoffarragut.org

• **A Christmas light music show** runs from 6 to 11 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, and 6 to 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, now through Tuesday, Dec. 31, at Farragut Golf and Games, 164 West End Ave.

The light show, featuring 240,000 LED pixels and taking the space of a hockey rink, is a Mis-

sion of Hope fundraiser and costs \$5 per person.

• **New Year's at Noon is from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 31,** in Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd.

This event is free and open to the public and does not require any registration.

"It's geared toward younger children who aren't going to make it to midnight on New Year's Eve, but it still gives them a chance to celebrate," said Rachel Malone, Town Recreation and Event manager. "The biggest draw for the event is we drop a net full of about 1,000 balloons from the top of the gym at noon."

Youngsters also can enjoy crafts, snacks, games and various photo opportunities.

A process for future property owners to watch? Proposed 2nd house on same lot back to FMPC

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

A proposed ordinance amendment allowing a property owner to build another house on his lot in the Rural Single-Family Residential (R-1) District was sent back to Farragut Municipal Planning Commission.

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted to send the amendment back during its meeting Thursday, Dec. 12, when Tyler Butler, the applicant asking for the second dwelling unit, asked that he not be required to go on sewer, as he already is on a septic tank.

Aldermen David White and Alex Cain both said they thought he and other applicants should have a choice.

"I can't put an unnecessary burden on an existing (property owner)," Cain said.

Community Development director Mark Shipley said such a change in the proposed ordinance should go back to the Planning Commission, and Mayor Ron Williams agreed.

Williams made the motion to send the matter back to the Planning Commission "for clarity on whether we can allow one (dwelling unit) to stay on (sewer) and one not."

"The new unit to be added would be required to be on sewer, but the existing home — if it is not on sewer — would

not be required to be on sewer?" Town administrator David Smoak said in asking for clarity.

"Yes," the mayor said.

"If there's no sewer available, that's a cocked pistol," White warned.

"If there's no sewer available, then all of them would be on a septic tank," Williams replied.

Still, "It would be good planning to have anything new on sewer," Shipley said.

FMPC will not have the item on its agenda until its Thursday, Jan. 16, meeting.

The amendment, Ordinance 24-19, would provide a second detached single-family dwelling unit under certain conditions in the Rural Single-Fam-

ily Residential (R-1) District, which would have more than 1.5 acres of street frontage.

"This was initially discussed at the August (Farragut Municipal) Planning Commission" in a workshop discussion, Shipley said. "The applicant has more than an acre-and-a-half in property zoned R-1.

"They asked to have a potential to have a second dwelling unit to be added to an existing lot," he added. "The Planning Commission was generally open to that concept, but they asked the staff to look at how many lots are we talking about that could potentially qualify for this."

Shipley said there are 115 house lots that qualify.

"The Planning Commission was concerned about that number and asked staff to look at options to lower that (number) since this is something

See **2ND HOUSE?** on Page 3A



Smoak

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<p>Publisher</p> <p>Tony Cox865-218-8883 tc Cox@publicnewspapers.com</p>	<p>General Manager</p> <p>Kathy Hartman ... 865-218-8878 khartman@farragutpress.com</p>
<p>Editorial Department</p> <p>Alan Sloan, Editor.....865-218-8880 editor@farragutpress.com</p> <p>Tammy Cheek, Writer.....865-218-8873 tcheek@farragutpress.com</p>	<p>Advertising Department</p> <p>Charlene Waggoner, Account Executive.....865-218-8877 cwaggoner@farragutpress.com</p> <p>Glen Coleman, Account Executive865-218-8884 gcoleman@farragutpress.com</p> <p>Laura Sayers, Account Executive 865-218-8879 lsayers@farragutpress.com</p>
<p>Production Department</p> <p>Tony Christen, Production Manager/ Circulation Manager.865-218-8872 production@farragutpress.com</p> <p>Cindy Wilfert, Designer.....865-218-8872</p>	<p>Linda Tirban, Classified Display, Service Directory 865-218-8881 linda@farragutpress.com</p> <p>Receptionist</p> <p>Terrie Ware.....865-218-8871 Monday – Wednesday, Friday receptionist@farragutpress.com</p>

Editor email: editor@farragutpress.com **Website:** www.farragutpress.com

Press Talk: Call: 865-671-8255 or **email:** editor@farragutpress.com

Phone: 865-675-6397 **News Fax:** 675-1675 **Advertising Fax:** 675-6776

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Developers win

From page 1A

dress before the development has final approval.

On another action, the Commission approved a site plan for two additions to the Weigel's store at Smith Road and Kingston Pike.

Melissa Clark, real estate director for Weigel's, said the company plans to add a freezer/cooler space in the back of the building and a kitchen/deli area in the front of the store.

Concerning the back addition, Shipley said a retaining wall would need to be moved.

Clark said the deli area would be where the cash register currently is located, and the cash register would be moved further to the front of the building.

"This is a Generation 2 store," Clark said. "It's been around for a while."

She said Weigel's plans to keep the store open during construction.

While previously there had been concerns about the addi-

tion taking up the sidewalk in front of the store, plans now show two front entrances with a sidewalk.

"I'm excited about this, but I have one concern," Commissioner Ron Pinchok said. "The parking spaces are close to the pumps.

"If I'm backing out (of a parking space), (vehicles coming from Smith Road) are coming in fast. I'm afraid there will be accidents," he added.

Clark said the space between the parking spaces and the gas pumps meet requirements.

Commissioner Louise Povlin recommended putting in speed bumps.

In other action:

- Benefield Richters, developers planning to redesign the former Summit View nursing home to an independent living facility, was granted a recommendation for approval for its request to rezone the property at 12823 Kingston Pike from C-1 (General Commercial) to S-1 (Community Service). It still needs approval from Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

More Ugly Sweater top 4



Tammy Cheek

Rotary Club of Farragut members had some holiday fun with an Ugly Christmas Sweater contest during the club's meeting in Fox Den Country Club Wednesday, Dec. 18. **(Left)** RCF vice president Brian Walker and his gnomes won second place. **(Right)** RCF member Alex Barnwell was all aglow in red with a green tie and suspenders as the fourth-place winner in the contest. (See the RCF Ugly Sweater champion and the third-place finisher on page 1A)

2nd house?

From page 2A

we don't allow for in other districts," he said. "We do allow for it in agricultural districts under certain conditions."

Then they looked at lots that could not be further subdivided, as they do not have enough frontage to meet re-subdivision requirements.

"When we applied that (requirement) to the 115 lots, that was reduced to around 25," Shipley said. "The Planning Commission was comfortable with that" and asked for an ordinance on which they could vote.

The conditions added to the ordinance include: the new dwelling unit has to meet setback requirements, has to be at least 40 feet from the existing dwelling unit, cannot create and additional access to a public street — the two houses would have to share the access — has to meet utility codes and both units be connected to sewer.

Butler said he would prefer not to hook up his existing home to sewer, but Shipley said the Board needs to think of the other 25 lots.

But White and Cain agreed, "I think it should be either-or."

Change nixed

From page 2A

licenses process like they're used to," Smoak added. "It's a business registration program."

Regarding "the piece about the home-based business, there's a section in our zoning ordinance that talks about the types (of businesses) that are allowed in homes," Smoak said. "Many of those are service-based businesses. They could be architects; they could be a masseuse (or) a hairdresser, and they don't do any kind of sales tax.

"Any of those businesses would have to register, anyway, with the state of Tennessee if they have a sales use on permit," he added. "That would not be something that goes to the Town of Farragut."

Any sales businesses, however, could include Internet sales, and "there are thresholds (of amount of sales) they would have to reach" before sales tax is collected, Smoak said. "That's state law."

New biz?

From page 2A

"If you try to turn east-bound, it's almost a suicide mission," Shipley added.

He said one of the staff's comments was to try to work with the adjacent property owner to have a common entrance for both businesses. "They might need a variance, depending on (Town attorney) Tom (Hale's) interpretation," Shipley said.

Mayor Ron Williams said the location does have a better turn east than the car wash, which is located a little further past the proposed location.

Town Hall Progress

From page 1A

- Approval of contract for fiber optic cable infrastructure from Creek Enterprises for with funds from AARPA.

- Approval of utility Make Ready Work agreements for fiber optic cable infrastructure project with McKinley-Horn.

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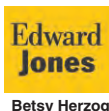
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3x World-record martial artist is bringing Legacy

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Leif Becker, three-time world record martial artist, is preparing to open Legacy Academy of Martial Arts on Wednesday, Jan. 1, at 11533 Kingston Pike in Village Green shopping center, to help Farragut begin to get in shape for the New Year.

Becker has partnered with Jon Drew, owner of Drew Fuel Services in Knoxville, to launch the enterprise. He will be teaching ages 4 years to adults, offering various forms of martial arts, which include kickboxing, karate and young children's classes.

To join a class, call 865-290-4224 or visit the website online at legacyama.com

"We're currently registering people for the new year," Becker said. "They get a holiday discount registration."

As a three-time world record holder, Becker has been featured on the Today Show, Late

Night with David Letterman and various TV shows, putting his name out internationally.

"We see martial arts as an opportunity or canvas for individuals to enhance their lives, and we work with all ages on that," the martial artist said.

Becker has been doing a lot of events for the Knox County community.

"Earlier this year, I performed at World's Fair Park, and we raised over \$20,000 for Childhelp," he said. "What was taking place was a lot of individuals saw me in the community and they inquired about where my school might be.

"I didn't have one in Knoxville, so the community came together, and that's where Jon Drew (and others) came and said, 'there really should be a martial arts school with your name on it,'" Becker added

"It takes a village to raise (a business); you know, finding the right partners, getting them on board; it really brought this together."



Photo submitted

Leif Becker, three-time world record martial artist, will open Legacy Academy of Martial Arts Wednesday, Jan. 1, at 11533 Kingston Pike in Village Green shopping center.

As for the key to starting a business here, "It's really been through our community service over the past year and individuals looking to see what we have to offer that brought this to fruition," Becker said.

Of Drew, "he saw the opportunity and the need in the community for the things we have

to offer," he said.

To help the community, "We offer a program called Breaking Barriers, Building Futures. It's a specialized program that works with individuals to find guidance and direction in their lives," Becker said.

As such, he recently worked with a local drug and alco-

hol prevention group, works with children's organizations and visits children's hospitals around the country.

In martial arts for more than 30 years, Becker had a martial arts school in Connecticut for more than 20 years. "I think you just continue to come back to your calling," he said.

businessbriefs

• **Tommy Cutcher recently was promoted to vice president of Merit Construction Inc.** Cutcher started with Merit in 2005 as a project estimator/manager and was promoted to project executive in 2021.

He has overseen 11 projects on the University of Tennessee campus during his time at Merit, as well as projects in Johnson City, Newport, Sevierville and other East Tennessee cities.

• **Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce will join local Chamber partners, including Knoxville Chamber, Anderson County Chamber, Blount Partnership and Oak Ridge Chamber** to hear the 2025 Regional Legislative Agenda of shared priorities starting at 7:30 a.m. with the breakfast Friday, Jan. 31, in Knoxville Convention Center, 701 Henley St. in Knoxville.

Opening remarks are at 8 a.m., and the discussion by elected officials starts at 8:05 a.m.

Attendees will hear directly from elected officials on the presented priorities and their strategies to execute those priorities. These priorities aim to address job and business growth in the region. The presenting sponsor is LDA Engineering. Cost is \$40 to \$55.

• **Land Rover Knoxville recently has moved into its just-finished location at 10556 Parkside Drive** in West Knoxville. Parkside Auto, a new business that will sell all makes and models of pre-owned vehicles, will take over Land Rover's former location at 10215 Parkside Drive.

John Hodges, general manager of Land Rover Knoxville, said the dealership's new location will be larger, allowing more room to showcase vehicles and comfortably accommodate customers, which "is important because Land Rover Knoxville is the only certified Land Rover store in Knoxville for sales and services that are covered under vehicles' warranties," a press release stated.

• **Knoxville attorney Jonathan Cooper recently was named president of The**

Knoxville Bar Association, succeeding Carlos Yusan of the University of Tennessee College of Law, during KBA's annual meeting Friday, Dec. 13.

Cooper is a long-time lawyer, practicing at Knox Defense.

During the meeting, Yusan presented President's Awards to KBA Access to Justice Committee co-chairs **Daniel Ellis and Caitlin Torney.**

Additionally, the following were elected as officers: **Rachel Hurt** with Arnette Baker Draker & Hagood, president-elect; **Ursula Bailey**, Law Office of Ursula Bailey, treasurer; and **Cathy Shuck** with East Tennessee Children's Hospital, secretary.

Members elected the following to open positions on the Board of Governors: **Kim Burnette** with Arnett Baker Draper & Hagood; **Meagan Collier** with Lewis Thomason, PC; **Samuel Lee** with the Office of the Knox County District Attorney; and **Scott Taylor** with Bernstein, Stair & McAdams, LLP.

• **Knox County Criminal Court Clerk Mike Hammond, recently was elected president of Tennessee Clerks of Court Association** at the County Officials Association of Tennessee Annual Conference in Nashville.

Hammond, who has served as Knox County's Criminal Court Clerk for more than a decade, was chosen by his peers from all 95 counties across Tennessee to lead the organization (one year).



Cutcher



Cooper

Racheal's Chair offers 'suite' life for Poole: 'I enjoy hair'

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Racheal R. Poole has brought her almost 30 years of experience to her new salon in Farragut.

She opened Racheal's Chair in Suite 16 of Complete Suites, Renaissance | Farragut, 12748 Kingston Pike, Nov. 6.

After working in a corporate hair salon and her own salon with a number of employees, "It's nice coming back to the 'suite' life," she said.

"I enjoy hair," Poole added. "I enjoy people. I'm a people person."

For the person sitting in her chair, "it's a safety zone," Poole added. "I never judge."

She provides cuts and colors of all natures, keratin treatments, and she is a curly hair specialist for men, women and children.

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Poole works with all lengths of hair — and she can do color corrections, "something I really do enjoy," she said. "It's more helping people at the heart of it at the end of the day.

"People feel more confident about themselves, and if I can help contribute to that and touch their lives in a positive manner, that's really important to me and has essentially kept me in the business this long," Poole added.

She also does perms. "I have some clients, it's a trending



Tammy Cheek

Racheal R. Poole opened Racheal's Chair in Suite 16 of Complete Suites, Renaissance | Farragut, 12748 Kingston Pike, Nov. 6 to experience the "suite" life.

with the younger boys who want curly hair," Poole said. "Not a lot of stylists here in the area do them.

"I try to do that (perms) on days it's not as busy here," the

salon owner added.

For women needing a style for a formal occasion, whether that would be a prom or a wedding, Poole will provide those styles as well.

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Hawk Holbrook to be an ETSU Buccaneer

Known as one of the most versatile football players in the Knoxville Metro area as a linebacker/tight end/kicker and punter, Hardin Valley Academy senior Nathan Holbrook, third from left, also has been versatile in other Hawks sports, being a big contributor in soccer and in basketball. Holbrook had a day in the spotlight earlier this month — surrounded by family, teammates, coaches and other HVA colleagues — as he signed National Letter of Intent papers with East Tennessee State University during a short ceremony in the HVA Auditorium. Seated alongside Holbrook are his brother, Logan Holbrook, far left, and his parents, Phil and Vonna Holbrook.

Photo submitted



Irish awake, late 'D' clutch vs. Ads

Editor's note: due to an extremely early holiday deadline necessitated by printing requirements, the opening round of the Hammer's Hardwood Classic Thursday, Dec. 19, was our last chance to cover this tourney for this issue.

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

HARDIN VALLEY — Labeled by head coach J.P. Burris as “probably the best first half offensively we’ve had all year,” Farragut High School’s boys basketball team built a 13-point first-quarter lead against Division II-AA Knoxville Catholic Thursday night, Dec. 19, at Hardin Valley Academy.

But on the other end of this night, after play got especially intense, physically and — some might say — chippy, it was the Fighting Irish perhaps playing one of its best quarters of defensive basketball all season.

Cutting the FHS lead to one



Alan Sloan

Parker Lane, left, Farragut High School point guard, looks to drive on Knoxville Catholic’s Jason Gainey during this opening round Hammer’s Hardwood Classic game at Hardin Valley Academy Thursday night, Dec. 19. The Fighting Irish overcame an early 13-point deficit with tough defense late for an 83-74 win.

point in the second quarter before taking its first lead of the game at 51-49 early in the third frame, Knoxville Catholic’s defense in the contest’s last eight minutes turned a 68-66 deficit after three quarters into an 83-74 Catholic triumph.

The Fighting Irish defense held Farragut to just two points in the first seven min-

utes of the fourth quarter.

“Every day at practice we’ll put three minutes on the clock and say, ‘you’re down 10 and you’ve got to come back,’” said KCHS junior post Cade Murphy, who exploded offensively in the second and third quarters, ending with a game-

See IRISH RALLY on Page 8A

Pair of 9-point runs helps Webb dispose of Hawks

Editor's note: due to an extremely early holiday deadline necessitated by printing requirements, the opening round of the 2024 Hammer's Hardwood Classic Thursday, Dec. 19, was our last chance to cover this tourney for this issue.

BILL HOWARD

Correspondent

KNOXVILLE — Any basketball fan knows the game can be streaky.

Thursday night, Dec. 19, at Webb School of Knoxville in the opening round of the Hammer’s Hardwood Classic, sponsored by 5-Star Preps, the Spartans used a pair of second-half nine-point runs to pull away from visiting Hardin Valley Academy.

A game that was competitive into the third quarter wound up as a convincing Spartans win, 66-43.

Webb was equally adept at both getting the ball inside and hitting jumpers, including threes.

“We’ve got a good team,” Spartans head coach Ricky Norris said. “We’ve got a little balance; we got some guys who can make shots. That opens up the lanes so we can drive it.”

Hawks head coach Andy Arendt was impressed with the Team in Green. “They’re a fantastic team,” he said. “The most complete team in Knoxville, probably. They’ve got all the pieces.”

Webb led only 15-12 after one, but thanks to a 9-2 run in the second quarter that lead grew to 31-20 at the half.

More than halfway through the third, the Spartans still led



Norris

See SPARTANS ROLL on Page 8A

Dominant 2nd quarter leads Webb girls past Lady Warriors

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BILL HOWARD

Correspondent

KNOXVILLE — It was two Dutchtown Road rivals separated by less than one mile — Webb School of Knoxville and Christian Academy of Knoxville — squaring off in the opening round of the Hammer’s Hardwood Classic, sponsored by 5-Star Preps, Thursday night, Sept. 19.

A dominant second quarter by the home-steady Lady Spartans built a comfortable lead they wouldn’t relinquish. The final was 67-53.

“I’m excited about what this team’s capable of,” second-year Webb head coach Greg Hernandez said. “They’ve bought in; they work hard.”

“They executed their game plan the way they needed to and we didn’t,” CAK head coach Abby Williams said, despite Lady Warrior Maddie Braden scoring a game-high 27 points. “Every time we’d go on a bit of a run, they’d stop it.”

The Lady Spartans jumped to a 7-2 lead, but six straight by the Lady Warriors gave them an 8-7 advantage with two minutes left in the first period. Webb finished the quarter on a 5-1 run to lead 12-9 after one.

The game-changing second quarter for Webb started with consecutive jumpers by Meeyah Green, the second of which made it 16-9 with 5:36 left in the half. Green led her team with 21 points.

“Meeyah got us started, and then once everybody got acclimated to the game, we started making plays,” Hernandez said.



Hernandez

See WEBB GIRLS WIN on Page 8A



Photos by Alan Sloan

(Above left) Dom VanAcker, left, Farragut wing, tries to initiate the Admirals offense while guarded by Knoxville Catholic’s Carson Asbaty. (Above right) T.J. Tipton, Fighting Irish post, looks to secure an offensive rebound surrounded by FHS defenders Bryce Howard (1) and Kent Carbaugh (4).

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Young homeschoolers brighten holidays for Concord Place residents



(Above) The home-schooled group enjoyed this tree for seniors. (Far left) Concord Place resident Helen James connected with one of the younger homeschoolers. (Left) Home-schoolers helped residents wrap presents.

Photos submitted

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Local homeschoolers recently joined residents at Concord Place, an Anthem Memory Care community, 901 Concord Road, to celebrate the holidays.

The students and their families led the seniors in Christmas carols, tree decorating and crafting. The group also enjoyed Christmas cookies and a visit with Santa, according to a press release from Anthem Memory Care.

See **CELEBRATE** on Page 7A

Stock tips a 'kick' in the pants



Tammy Cheek

Jeff Hall, left, partner/senior advisor with Rather & Kittrell and a former standout Tennessee Vols kicker in the mid- to late-1990s, is welcomed by Rotary Club of Farragut sergeant-at-arms Howard Fass. Hall was featured speaker for the Wednesday, Dec. 18, RCF meeting in Fox Den Country Club.

Investment falsehoods among Hall's advice at RCF

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

A standout kicker for University of Tennessee Vols, helping his team win a national championship in 1998, Jeff Hall found a new calling after a brief period of professional football.

These days, this Farragut resident and Winchester native helps others meet their financial goals as a partner/senior advisor with Rather & Kittrell. During a meeting with The Rotary Club of Farragut in Fox Den Country Club Wednesday, Dec. 18, he shared insights about investing.

"There are things that matter, and then there are things you can control, and what we need to focus on is where those two overlap," he said. "That's what makes life full and blessed is finding those things that do overlap and pulling your time and energy into whatever those are."

However, there are misconceptions that could affect people's financial wealth.

One of those misconceptions is "someone knows the secret."

"Nope," Hall responded. "\$800 billion of trading and transactions go on everyday in the capi-

tal market. No one knows what's going to happen.

"There's no discernable trend," he added. "There's no way to predict what's going to happen next."

Also, "just because someone's the smartest person in the room, it doesn't mean you should listen to him about finances," Hall said.

A second misconception is "invest money based on politics." He observed, "The market doesn't care ... because there are so many influences on the stock market."

Another misconception is more effort equals better results.

"Money is like soap: the more you handle it, the more it disappears," Hall said, adding he observed dormant accounts had better returns than overly managed ones.

"Jeff's finance career began in 1999, after a successful four years as a student athlete at the University of Tennessee" and a stint in the NFL, RCF president-elect Candace Viox said in her introduction of Hall. "Jeff will be the first to tell you that success in one area of life does

See **ADVICE** on Page 7A

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• **Amadeus Concert Ensemble announces its Winter Season of free concerts as part of the Cathedral Concert Series** at Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, 711 South Northshore Drive, Knoxville.

“The Lighter Side of Beethoven begins at 4:30 p.m., Feb. 16, featuring vocal surprises including the composer’s Tyrolean songs, “Auld Lang Syne” and “God Save the King.”

The program also presents rarely heard selections from Beethoven’s cantatas, concert scenes, Knight’s Ballet and his unfinished opera Vestas Feuer. Metropolitan Opera bass Nathan Stark — “ominous and unearthly power” according to the Washington Post — and soprano Mary-Hollis Hundley — “sophisticated ... sparkling” according to Tulsa World — will make their ACE and Knoxville debuts.

Knoxville artists soprano Jacqueline Brecheen — “lyrically beautiful and strong” according to Arts Knoxville — and tenor John Overholt fill out the quartet of solo-

ists. Maestro Brian Salesky returns to the ACE podium to conduct this unique program, which includes the participation of Knoxville Symphony Youth Choir in their second collaboration with ACE.

• **With less than a week left in 2024, the American Red Cross asks donors to give blood or platelets now** to help those in need enjoy the rest of the holiday season with loved ones.

Donors with type O negative blood and those giving platelets especially are urged to give now so patients can continue to receive the care they count on in the coming weeks.

Those who come to give through Friday, Jan. 3, will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt while supplies last.

Schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information.

All blood types are needed

to ensure a reliable supply for patients.

A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are generally in good health may be eligible to donate blood.

High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online on the day of their donation before arriving at the blood drive.

To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

Advice

From page 6A

not automatically translate to success elsewhere.”

“Three years, almost to the day, that we won that national championship game, I had to make, probably, one of the most difficult phone calls I ever had to make,” he recalled. He had to call his parents and ask for \$500 to pay his bills.

“So, I went from a guy who’s ‘the world is your oyster,’ everything right there in front of me, to the next three years just made some pretty silly decisions,” Hall added.

However, he had the good fortune of being hired in 2002 by Lyle Rather and Chris Kittrell as the first employee at the Farragut firm, Rather & Kittrell. “Since that moment, Jeff has dedicated his profes-

sional career to helping others have peace of mind about their finances through good stewardship, giving and thoughtful wealth transfer planning,” Viox said.

In 2011, Hall became a partner at Rather & Kittrell and solidified a successional plan for the firm.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration, with a major in marketing and minor in speech communications from UT.

Hall’s pursuit of life-long learning and technical proficiency led him to earn the Certified Financial Planner certification, Certified Financial Management Analyst certification from Wharton School of Business in University of Pennsylvania, and a certified Kingdom Advisor designation from Kingdom Advisors.

Celebrate

From page 6A

“Having dementia doesn’t diminish the joy of celebrating the holidays,” said Lorie Warren, life engagement director for Concord Place. “This was a great chance for the youngsters and our residents to reminisce and share their love of Christmas.”

“Anthem’s core purpose is to protect, engage and love

people living with memory loss and is committed to providing understanding and significance to people with Alzheimer’s disease and other types of dementia,” the press release stated.

Anthem, based in West Linn, Oregon, also operates and develops memory care communities in Arkansas, California, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.



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Irish rally

From page 5A

high 37 points. "Doing that every day in practice definitely gives us a little experience in just the type of energy needed, how you need to be flying around in situations like that."

"And we stayed composed," the junior post added.

On the defensive end in the fourth quarter, "our rebounding was better; they weren't getting as many second-chance opportunities," Murphy said.

Though Farragut senior wing Dominic VanAcker scored a team-high 30 points, he scored only two points during the first seven minutes of the fourth quarter.

"Carson Asbaty did a great job guarding him in the fourth quarter," Murphy said.

"Catholic's obviously a really good team," Burris said about the Irish.

"We started off hot, shot it

really well in the first half," he added. "Didn't shoot it as well in the second half, definitely."

"In the fourth quarter I think we only scored six points, which in close games you can't finish a game that way."

Guard Brylen Gibbs added 11 points for the Irish, while forward Juice Eleam scored nine and Asbaty eight points for the winners.

Britton Lewis, FHS senior post, scored 14. Bryce Howard and Reid Vining both came off the bench and contributed offensively, with Howard scoring seven and Vining ending with six points.

"I thought our guys' effort was really good," Burris said. "We played hard — I couldn't fault that at all."

Offensively in the first half, "I was really proud of the fact that we shared the ball," the Admirals skipper added.

"And in the first quarter we were great defensively."

"Every day at practice we'll put three minutes on the clock and say, 'you're down 10 and you've got to come back.' ... Definitely gives us a little experience in just the type of energy needed ...,"

- Cade Murphy, KCHS junior post on what it takes to rally from behind

Spartans roll

From page 5A

by 11, 40-29. A 9-0 run over the next three minutes put the lead at 20, 49-29, and HVA wouldn't catch up.

"It all starts with us on the defensive end," Norris said. "When other teams are feeling us defensively, then offense usually takes care of itself."

The Hawks managed to cut the lead to 15, 51-36, at the end of three, but another 9-0 run by Webb to start the fourth

Webb girls win

From page 5A

Up 22-17 with 3:22 remaining, the Lady Spartans scored eight unanswered — including two straight treys by eighth-grader Ivy Napier — to lead 30-17.

The score at intermission was 36-20. "We got outscored 24-11 in the second quarter and allowed them to create that gap," Williams said.

blew the game open.

"We don't have a ton of depth," Arendt said. "Whenever we put some bench guys in they're gonna take advantage of them in the post."

While Webb improved its record to 11-1, HVA fell to 7-4.

Junior wing Owen Lentz led the Spartans in scoring with 16. Senior wing Shavar Young added 11.

Hawks' senior wing Ben Brophy led all scorers with 21, which included his 1,000th point at HVA.

A 10-3 run by Webb to open the third frame made the score 46-23 with 5:59 left. CAK then scored seven straight to cut the lead to 46-30. It would be the Lady Warriors' last gasp.

The teams traded baskets the rest of the third, which ended with the Lady Spartans leading 56-40.

Webb improved to 11-0 after the victory, while the Lady Warriors fell to 6-4.

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Cookie Walk & Craft Sale

Faith Lutheran Church again treated the community to its annual Cookie Walk & Craft Sale, which took place in the church, 225 Jamestowne Blvd., Saturday, Dec. 7. In all, members made and sold 750 dozen (9,000 cookies), said Darla Berdal, tri-chair of the cookie walk with Joanne Sills and Carol Nanney. Nanney said there were 22 vendors selling crafts at the event.

While many shopped the crafts, waiting for their turn around the cookie tables, others chose their favorite cookies when their numbers were called.

“Words just don’t describe what people do” to support the event, Berdal said.

“We just ask and they do it. I had non-members — neighbors and co-workers of members — make cookies. We just trust He’s going to take care of everything, and we have enough,” she added. “It truly is an amazing event. It’s humbling.”



Event chairs Carol Nanney, left, and Joanne Sills with crafter Charlie Hewston



Jan Maskarinec



Greeter Larry Koran



Carol Ann Schneider



Crafter Vicky Marrow



Christian Berry, 11, left, with dad, Brad Berry



Jennifer Berry, left, and Darla Berdal



Connie Rist, right, with daughter, Karli Pritchard



Volunteers Esha Patel, left, and Scarlett Parrott



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Above: From left, Alissa Sanchez, Hannah Ireland, Breanna Foy and Laura Cutter at FWKCC's Holiday Open House

Right: From left, grandma, Jan Gorashi with Henry Sangid, 4, his sister, Harper, 6, and friend Camille Helenek at Countdown to Light the Park

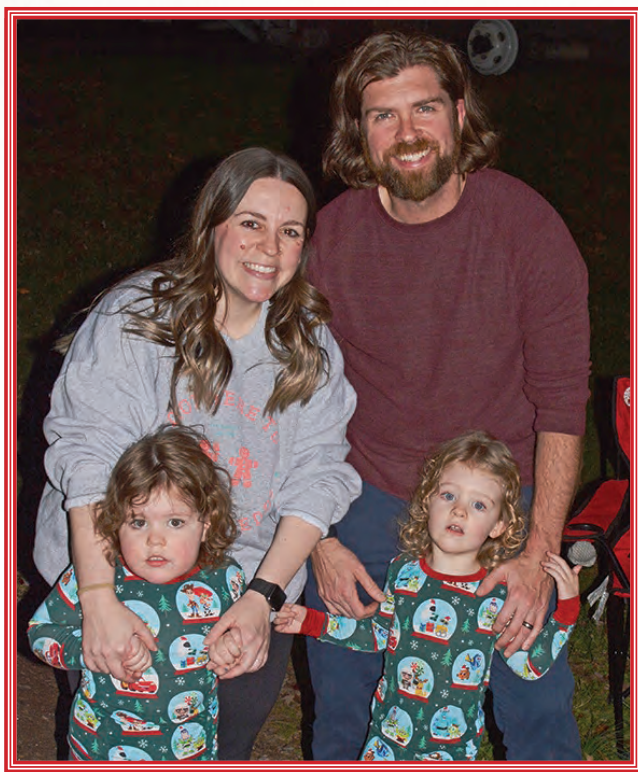


Above: Meredith Cummings with daughters, Natalie, 2, and Ivy, 6, at Holiday Festival of Lights

Left: Joey and Bettina Ruffalo at Holiday Festival of Lights

Right: Santa with Charlie Turnbull, 8, at HVES's Holiday Craft Market

Below: Twins Olivia Gibson, left, and Lexie, 3, with parents, Carlee and Nate Gibson at Countdown to Light the Park



Above: Santa and one of his elves joined members of Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen and local meteorologist Mike Witcher, emcee, at Countdown to Light the Park. Representing BOMA, from left, are Alderman Alex Cain, Mayor Ron Williams and Alderman Drew Burnette.

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Yes, Virginia,

127 years later Santa Claus remains real

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus: a true story

Editorial Page, New York Sun, 1897

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

~ Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Francis P. Church's editorial, "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus," was an immediate sensation, and became one of the most famous editorials ever written. It first appeared in the New York Sun in 1897, almost 125 years ago, and was reprinted annually until 1949 when the paper went out of business.



Dan Palombi of the Palombi Team at FWKCC's Holiday Open House



Brittany and Philip Pardue with daughter, Blakely, 2, at Breakfast with Santa



Prateek Thaman with daughter, Priya Thaman, 4, decorate a cookie at Celebrate the Season

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