

Celebrate the Season held in Town Hall for final time

Annual free event, Dec. 6, shifts to new Community Center in 2020

TAMMY CHEEK

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For the last year of holding Celebrate the Season at Farragut Town Hall, Town of Farragut invites families in the community to the 26th annual free event taking place from 4:30 to 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 6.

This year's "Celebrate" being on a Friday is unlike other years when the event was held on a Thursday.

"We thought it would be better attended since it won't be a school night," said Wendy Smith, Town Public Relations and Marketing coordinator.

With Town Hall adorned with Christmas finery, many favorite activities return for children and their families: crafts, refreshments, cookie decorating, museum tours, entertainment by Farragut Middle School Choir, Farragut High School Madrigal Singers and Bearden United Methodist Children's Bell Choir - and, of course, meeting and having photos with Santa from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Final photo numbers, a must, will be given at 6 p.m., Smith said.

As a reminder to parents, "Due to the number of participants, this is a photo opportunity rather than a time to

share wish lists," Smith said.

Farragut Town Hall is located at 11408 Municipal Center Drive, across from Farragut Branch, U.S. Post Office.

Next year, the Town anticipates holding Celebrate the Season in the new Community Center along Jamestowne Boulevard, as the center is expected to open in January 2020, Smith said.

For more information about Celebrate the Season, go online at visitfarragut.org/events or contact Arleen Higginbotham at ahigginbotham@townoffarragut or 865-218-3375.

FB Concord hosts **TN Baptist Convention**

Pastors, leaders discuss pastoral care, religious liberty, Senate 'Pro-Life' bill

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD

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First Baptist Concord hosted hundreds of church pastors and leaders who attended the 2019 Tennessee Baptist Convention's annual Summit convention Nov. 17-20.

It offered worship services, breakout meetings and topical updates on key issues of concern, including pastoral care, religious liberty and an upcoming Senate bill addressing abortion.

It was the first time in about 15 years the event took place at FBC, said Chris Turner, director of communications for Tennessee Baptist Missions Board, noting Baptist Missions Board executive directhe Summit is rotated between the state's east, middle and west divisions.



Photo submitted

State Rep. Jason Zachary (R-District 14), left, was one of the guest speakers when Tennessee Baptist Convention visited

First Baptist Concord Nov. 17-20. The

Rev. Randy Davis, right, is Tennessee

tor and a former interim pastor at FBC.

Life after death

A deceased infant's heart is FHS junior's 'gift of life'

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD

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As a basketball-playing honors student, Gra-but this Farragut High School junior actually is a living miracle several times over thanks to a selfless donation when he was just 41 days old.

Graham was born March 8, 2003, in Michigan to Angela and Tim Baakko, and was critically ill from the beginning. He suffered from a heart defect, which had been undetected in his utero.

"The ultrasound showed everything was normal, but as they later explained they had been unable to detect the issue on the left side of his heart," Angela said. "Then when he was born, he turned purple and they put him on a ventilator before airlifting him to the University of Michigan, Mott Children's Hospital," which was about an hour away.

Graham's prognosis was poor.

for our child to live."

choose to donate the organs."

"They told us we had three options," Angela said. "A transplant; the Ross Procedure (which would replace Graham's aorta with his own pulmonary valve, offering only a 25 percent success rate) or putting him on comfort care."

While a transplant would give Graham the best

chance of survival, the situation was devastating

to his parents. "I hated it," Angela said. "I didn't

want to pray for some child to die, but I did pray

She finally reached the decision "to pray that

if something happened to another child and that child could not live, that the parents would



Michelle Hollenhead

Heart transplant recipient Graham Baakko holds a picture of Austin, the 5-month old whose death 16 years ago gave Graham the gift of life.

Turner said 997 "messengers" from Baptist churches across the state

See CONVENTION on Page 6A

business

"I started thinking I might be interested in real estate when my parents decided to move to Farragut in 2002. ... I found I thoroughly enjoyed the process,"

- Claudia Stallings, who recently made company history when being named a co-owner. (Read story on page 3A)

community

"We are excited to partner with hundreds of local churches, like First Baptist Concord, through the program,"

- Evan Crass, Knox Area Rescue Ministries director of Partner Engagement, about a special holiday outreach. (Read story beginning on page 3B)

sports

"We really picked up our intensity defensively. And we finally started getting those loose balls ... I thought we really took advantage of those,"

- Jon Higgins, FHS boys basketball head coach, about how his team won a huge tourney game. (Read story beginning on page 1B)

That prayer was answered when Austin, a 5-month-old boy from Minnesota, inexplicably stopped breathing at his daycare. After he was determined to be brain dead, his family donated

See GIFT on Page 4A



Elected to "use my judgement," former Alderman Joel Garber judges Town success. (Read Part 24 story, page 5A)



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Knoxville, TN 37916



Fox Run key area of Town's pilot program to ID areas with weaker stormwater infrastructure

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD

mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

Following a year in which two unexpected stormwater failures cost Farragut more than \$300,000 in repairs, the Town is considering an overall infrastructure mapping project. But officials are gingerly testing the waters with a pilot program to better understand how to proceed.

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen unanimously approved a proposal during its Thursday, Nov. 14, meeting from Civil & Environmental Consultation to begin the pilot project in two locations: Fox Run subdivision and near the Interstate 40/75 interchange under Campbell Station Road.

BOMA elected to put \$750,000 into the stormwater fund for fiscal year 2020 to fund a comprehensive study of the stormwater infrastructure, prepare a prioritized list of repair/ replace locations and to fund initial projects identified. Cost of the pilot, \$39,070, will come

out of that fund. "The purpose of this pilot study is to enable CED and the Town's staff to more accurately price future investigations that will eventually include all stormwater facilities in the Town," a report prepared by Town engineer



reveal as an average the general condition of corrugated metal pipe installed in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and assist in determining which pipes, if any within Fox Run and near the Interstate, that might need further investigation," the report continued.

Fox Run was chosen because it is one of the Town's largest subdivisions, and also is known to have a large quantity of corrugated metal piping, according to the report.

"Fox Run was chosen both for its size and the various phases, which were completed over a significant period of time - 1989-2006," Vice Mayor Louise Povlin, who lives in the neighborhood, said in a separate interview.

Per the agreement, work was expected to begin within two weeks of approval and take approximately three weeks to complete evaluation of both sites. According to the proposal, the company estimated it could have a report back to officials "four to six weeks after field date collection has commenced."

"This study does not include robotic camera inspections of pipes, but it will determine which pipes, if any within Fox Run and near the Interstate, that might need such investigation," Smith's report stated.

The pilot study includes development of a database of infrastructure information that will be used on all future studies, the report continued.

KCSO reports

In recent weeks, farragutpress has been unable to obtain e-mailed Knox County Sheriff's Office reports due to apparent changes in how KCSO distributes those reports.

While we apologize for not having these reports to publish, we will continue attempting to get them for future issues.

correction

The name of Lauryn Smith, Hardin Valley Academy senior and former Lady Hawks soccer standout who recently signed as a future student/athlete at Tennessee Wesleyan University in Athens, was misspelled in a "signing day" story in our Nov. 21 sports section. We regret the error.

'Raise the Tree' a Farragut High Foundation holiday fundraiser

Smith



Helping with the Farragut High School Education Foundation's first "Raise the Tree" fundraising event, held Sunday, Dec. 1, in FHS's main parking lot were, from left, FHS assistant principal Karey Lowdermilk and Farragut Vice Mayor Louise Povlin, both of whom are non-voting Foundation members, and Foundation cochair Jean Ogle. Ian Dovan operates "Raise the Tree," which has standing locations in Maryville and Knoxville. and he offered the pop-up store option to the Foundation, which received a percentage of the Christmas tree and wreath sales made Sunday.





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business



FARRAGUTPRESS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019 • 3A

Howdy, partner

New ground broken: Stallings a Coldwell Banker Wallace-Wallace partner with bros.

ALAN SLOAN editor@farragutpress.com

Not one who specializes in the "hard sell" by her own admission. Claudia Stallings' new career direction was sparked by trying to help her parents, Paul and Phylis Garrison.

"I started thinking I might be interested in real estate when my parents decided to move to Farragut in 2002," said Stallings, recently named Coldwell Banker Wallace & Wallace, Realtors' first female partner since the 1940s and first partner outside the Wallace family ---- for a company started in 1936 by James A Wallace Sr. and his son, Charles A. Wallace.

"I started looking for houses for them. I found I thoroughly enjoyed the process," added Stallings, who obtained her real estate license then was hired as a CBWW agent out of the Farragut office, 10815 Kingston Pike, in 2004. She was elevated to principal broker in 2010.

Vice president of residential sales since 2016, Stallings now oversees CBWW "residential efforts."

Her partnership became official during a ceremony in corporate headquarters in Bearden Wednesday, Nov. 20. "To know that I am trusted to protect the reputation that the Wallace family has cre-



Claudia Stallings, new partner with Coldwell Banker Wallace & Wallace, Realtors, started with the company as an agent in 2004 after having her interest in real estate piqued by helping her parents find a home in Farragut in 2002.

ated and maintained for 83 years is very humbling," Stallings said.

"CBWW is known for its reputation of integrity and professionalism," she added. "I am proud to represent a company that insists on doing business in this way, even when those actions are sometimes more difficult to accomplish."

"What makes Claudia unique is her ability to nurture relationships with clients and colleagues alike," said George Wallace, long-time CBWW partner with brother, Jim Wallace. "She generates ideas and initiatives, challenging the status quo in thought and action to yield better results."

Agent, principal broker

Among all CBWW agents in six Knox County offices, now totaling about 360, "The highest I ever ranked in the company was No. 7 in 2007," Stallings said.

As principal broker, "I grew it to about 80 agents," she said. "In the middle of 2015 I kind of started, part-time, helping the brokers in the other offices."

About Jeanne Bird, principal broker before Stallings took that job, the new partner said, "She

taught me everything I know." Background

Saying she comes "from a marketing background" that included work in advertising sales at the Nashville Business Jounral, in her hometown, and as promotions manager for the Nashville PBS station, Stallings and husband, Mike Stallings, moved to Farragut in 1999.

That was eight years after she graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications "with an advertising focus."

Thomas new Town **Y-12** FCU manager

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpresss.com

Teresa Thomas has been named the new Branch Manager for the Y-12 Federal Credit Union Farragut Branch.

Initially hired as a senior business services officer three years ago, Thomas has more than 30

years of experience in the finan cial services field.

During her career, she has spent more than 20 years in management and said she



Thomas "is excited

to have the opportunity to coach, guide and counsel others again."

Thomas also said she "strongly believes in the credit union philosophy of people helping people.

"Not only do we offer the best products and services, but great team members to provide them. At our branch we will continue to serve our members to deliver WOW experiences that we all strive for, in our day-to-day interactions," she added.

Thomas has been active in working with various non-profits, and her Y-12 Farragut Branch is collecting nonperishable food items for Good Samaritan Center of Loudon County.

Uniquely modeled, The Vitamin Shoppe now open in Turkey Creek



TAMMY CHEEK tcheek@farragutpress.com

two years of the company to be est versions of themselves." modeled to look like this," Moore said, adding the Turkey Creek store design is brand new.

that was created within the past selves - or the healthiest, happi-

The Vitamin Shoppe has made Turkey Creek home in a new location.

The store, which is part of The Vitamin Shoppe national chain, opened Friday, Nov. 22, at 10950 Parkside Drive just past Starbucks - but plans to have a grand opening from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 15.

"We're a specialty retailer for vitamins, sport supplements and natural beauty products," TVS assistant store manager Arianna Moore said.

Jordan Randolph, keyholder/ supervisor, noted The Vitamin Shoppe is "the only one like it in the country."

"We're actually the first store

"I think our knowledge on the products allows people to really understand the supplements and vitamins that they're purchasing," she also added. "We offer an array of different brands

"We really have that one-on-one interaction with each customer who comes in. We can help them with their optimal lifestyles."

Randolph said customers could acquire "tools to be their optimal

"There's not many (TVS) locations in Tennessee," Moore added. "The only one around here would be the original Knoxville (store, at 7833 Kingston Pike)."

Offering a "buy online, pick-up in-store" service, TVS is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Shopping also can be done at thevitaminshoppe.com/, where a subscription-based delivery program allows customers to get their products shipped on a monthly or reoccurring basis.



Tammy Cheek Jordan Randolph, keyholder/supervisor, and Arianna Moore, assistant manager, welcome the community to The Vitamin Shoppe's new location, 10950 Parkside Drive, which opened Friday, Nov. 22.

Check this off your bucket list. UPDATE YOUR WILL Ensure your loved ones are taken care of today.

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4A • FARRAGUTPRESS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019

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December is a great time to be in Farragut. Our holiday events. as well as our many shopping and dining options, make Farragut especially attractive during this festive time of the year.

The lights are now on at Founders Park at Campbell Station. Be sure to take out-of-town friends and relatives to see this magnificent holiday display. The lights come on at dusk each day through Jan. 1.

Kids will enjoy dropping letters to Santa in a special mailbox, and if they include their return address, they may get a response from the North Pole! There will also be carolers in the park on some evenings.

The Town is still scheduling individuals and groups to carol in the park in 30-minute blocks. "Elves" are also needed to answer letters to Santa.

Call 966-7057 to volunteer. Celebrate the Season is from

4:30 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6. Local groups, including the Farragut High

School Madrigal Singers, will perform, and there will be refreshments, crafts and photos with Santa. This event is a holiday tradition for many

lies. If you've never been before, I highly recommend it.

I would be remiss not to remind Farragut residents to shop and dine locally during this holiday season. Because we don't have a municipal property tax, the Town of Farragut relies heavily on sales



• Farragut's northern boundary is Interstate 40/75 except at Campbell Station Road and Snyder Road/Outlet Drive. The only shopping/dining within Town limits on Snyder Road/Outlet Drive (at this time) are Buddy Gregg RVs & Motor Homes and Cotton Eyed Joe.

• The Town's eastern boundary is Lovell Road on the north side of Kingston Pike and Thornton Heights and Concord Hills subdivisions on the south side.

The last Farragut retail establishments while traveling east on Kingston Pike are the Costco shopping center on the north side and O'Reilly Auto Parts on the south side.

• Slightly less than half of Turkey Creek Shopping Center is located within the Town. The last Farragut retail establishments while traveling east on Parkside Drive are the Belk Men & Home Store on the north side and Chili's Grill & Bar on the south side.

• Farragut's western boundary is the Loudon County Line. Farragut Lawn & Tractor is the last Farragut retail establishment on Kingston Pike heading west.

Shopping in Farragut keeps our merchants happy, and happy merchants fill shopping centers. We have new development and redevelopment in the works, and shopping locally could attract desirable new businesses to our Town.

As you enjoy friends and family this month, take some time to appreciate this wonderful place we call home. We need to do everything we can to support it.

presstalk 671-TALK (8255) or editor@farragutpress.com

• Regarding the new developement at the northeast corner of Kingston Pike and Campbell Station Road, while I'm glad to see something coming on this empty piece of property, I am sad to see they cleared out some beautiful hardwood trees, including several 100-year-old oak trees on that site. It's a real shame they couldn't have incorporated those trees in with their construction design. It appears they're going to squeeze every inch out of that property to put in what I'm sure will be too large a building for that small piece of property.

As with this caller, please use civil language — no vulgarity - when calling Presstalk.

Gift

From page 1A

several of his organs — including his heart to Graham.

"It was our Easter miracle," Angela said. The surgery was performed on Good Friday, April 18, 2003.

It was not a minute too soon. Doctors later told his parents "they felt he couldn't have lasted much longer," Angela said.

While Graham's new heart began working immediately, doctors did find a small hole in the new heart, which they repaired.

But doctors then discovered a separate problem — a coarctation in Graham's aorta that had not been noticed before.

A follow-up surgery was required, and he was sent home on oxygen.

While his parents helped him overcome these issues, other problems occurred. "He never developed the suck/swallow capabilities, and ended up being on a (gastrostomy tube) for four years, and had both physical and occupational therapy for that until he was 4 or 5," his mother said.

surgery when he was 18 months old.

"They had to break my skull into 70 or so pieces, to make room for my brain to grow," Graham said.

By the time Graham started school, most of his medical issues were behind him. The family moved from Michigan, finding a new transplant team in Charlotte, North Carolina, where twice a year he undergoes an EKG and an ultrasound. He is on cholesterol and anti-rejection medications, among others, and takes nine pills each morning and "two or three at

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night," he mother said.

Despite being warned against playing contact sports, Graham has no medical limitations. "I feel like a normal kid," he said.

Graham also is looking forward to participating in his first Transplant Games next year as a member of Team Michigan, in honor of where he received his transplant.

He is fundraising for the event, which will take place in New Jersey, where he will partcipate in basketball and possibly bowling and darts. "I felt it would be really neat to play with other people like

me," he said.

One fundraiser is through the Honey Baked Ham company, which is donating 20 percent of proceeds from online gift card sales through Friday, Dec. 20, to Team Michigan to help purchase uniforms.

Anyone wishing to purchase a gift card can visit the Team Michigan Facebook page and follow the link listed.

"If you already going to buy a ham, you could get the gift card, and use that — it doesn't cost anything extra," Angela said.

Following many years of written communication with the donor family, the Baakkos finally met them face-to-face about eight years ago during a summer vacation in Minnesota.

"We had started writing them little notes the year after the transplant," Angela said. "How do you thank someone who saved your son like that? But we certainly tried."

They also have one of Austin's baby pictures, which they framed and keep prominently displayed.





Tastes and textures were hard for Graham, whose first "real food" was ketchup. "Which now he hates," his mother said with a laugh.

Graham also was diagnosed with craniosynostosis, which fused the pieces of his skull together prematurely and required

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Garber details town success

ALAN SLOAN editor@farragutpress.com

Doing what he felt was in the best interest of the Town of Farragut while serving as a North Ward alderman for 12 years (1995-200), Joel Garber reluctantly would be willing to disappoint, even anger, a majority of his constituents.

Though obviously wanting to satisfy as much of his constituency as possible when casting a vote or voicing an opinion, Garber said, "If there ever was a case where I didn't agree with what my constituency wanted, I think they voted for me to use my judgment.

"I felt strongly about that." For example, "How many constituency groups will ever want you to raise taxes?" he asked. "So, what if there is a time where — 'we hate to do it guys' — we need to raise taxes?

"The downside of that is you may not get elected, which is fine," Garber added.

But this now-retired engineer from Oak Ridge National Laboratory chose to leave office, as opposed to being voted out, after his 12 years — beginning his Town service on the Farragut **Municipal Planning Commission** for two years (1993-95).

Motivation to run Appointed by then Mayor

learned how the Town of Farragut operates.' Parks

"Our planning, development and management of parks is a phenomenal thing," he said. "... Our parks are magnificent, and they're such a big benefit for everybody, not just Farragut people."

Another point of pride during Garber's 12 years was "the purchase and inclusion of art statues in our parks," he said. "We took some very nice trips to the National League of Cities conventions in a lot of big cities: Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Indianapolis. ... I noticed the cities had some really nice statues.

"So I came back with the idea of trying to convince the city that we need to do what we can to bring that kind of art to our parks," Garber added. "So we asked the Arts Council to do some research on what kind of statues we'd like to put in our parks."

About the "statues of young children playing" located in Founders Park at Campbell Station, "We've had lots and lots of compliments on that," he said.

Roads

As for roads, "We had to develop a road plan: which roads do we want to upgrade in the future" as a priority? Garber said. Going back before incorpora tion, "My earliest remembrance ... Campbell Station Road was rebuilt at least twice within five to 10 years. Once to just say you could get from one place to another," he said.

One of the popular statues at Founders Park at Campbell Station, of which former Alderman Joel Garber (1995-2007)

takes special pride. Alan Sloar

Garber said then Vice Mayor Mike Haynes "was a wonderful alderman. He's an attorney. Very much in tune with making Farragut a better Town. Worked hard.

"He was just a solid person that you could count on," he added.

LCUB-Farragut

Garber has represented Farragut on the Lenoir City Utilities Board of Directors, now in his third term, dating back to 2006.

"LCUB is very, very important to the Town of Farragut, and the Town of Farragut is very, very

Having never run for elected office before his bid to become a North Ward alderman for Town of Farragut in 1995, Joel Garber detailed his campaign process.

"Let me tell you, it's a lot of work," said Garber, a retired engineer at Oak Ridge National Laboratory who moved to Village Green in 1967, after being elected to three fouryear terms (1995-2007) before stepping aside. "And it's an humbling process for you to be brought before your fellow citizens and ask them to put their confidence in you and ask them for their vote," he added. "You're asking for something pretty important."

important to LCUB," Garber said. "A large part of electrical revenue for LCUB comes from Knox County, like 60 to 80 percent.

"LCUB will listen to Farragut's problems, and Farragut will listen to LCUB's problems," he added.

Looking back

After almost 40 years, "I'm very proud of the Town and what they've done," he said. "... It's been a privilege to serve the Town of Farragut. I hope I did well in my terms, and I appreci-

added. "But my advisors said, 'you have to do that,' and I said, 'OK."

Specifically, Garber recalls campaign help from then Farragut Mayor Eddy Ford, who appointed Garber to Farragut Municipal Planning Commission upon first being elected mayor in 1993. Serving two years on FMPC, Garber said he also got campaign help from "Steve Maynard, Mike Ragsdale (former Knox County mayor) and my wife (Sandy Garber) and Claudia Ragsdale. "... It's an honor to be chosen to represent your neighbors, so I felt good about that," he added.

ate the confidence people had in me to elect me for three terms," Garber said.

Looking ahead

"I just hope they continue to take a conservative approach," Garber said about Town leaders' fiscal approach, concerned about "additional capital that we have to maintain. I hope they minimize that because we've got so many facilities around with our schools and churches."



Eddy Ford (serving from 1993 to 2009) to FMPC, Garber ran for alderman in 1995 "because Eddy Ford asked me to," Garber said. "Eddy called me and said he needed a candidate for alderman and recommended I give it some thought.

"I said, 'Yes, I'd be happy to do that.""

Moreover, "Eddy told me (being an) alderman was less work than (being on) FMPC, and he was right," Garber added.

As for being better prepared to become an alderman based on his two years of FMPC service, Garber said, "I more-or-less

After incorporation, "The second time with wider (lanes) to better handle traffic like it's handling today," Garber added.

Olson, Haynes

Garber recalls then Town administrator Dan Olson "was a very good financial planner and budgeter, and he's the one that made it all happen."

About the Board's dynamics,

Moreover, "I was a little squeamish about putting my name in someone's yard," he

As an alderman, "You have to listen to a lot of people" to be effective, he said.

A Johnson City native, Gar-

ber's first 21 years in what is now Farragut were spent in Village Green before he and Sandy moved to Fox Den in 1988.

The Garbers have two children, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Listen to his Interview on the Foundations Podcast at www.farragutpress.com

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Convention From page 1A

attended, as did 150 guests including spouses and laypersons.

The need for stepped-up pastoral care has been an issue, which came to light after the Rev. Randy Davis, executive director for TBMB who served as interim pastor at FBC for several months, met with pastors and staff across the state prior to the Summit.

Legal rights among churches also are under attack, with TBMB sharing a new partnership it has established with the non-profit Alliance Defending Freedom, which "advocates, trains and funds the issues of religious freedom, sanctity of life and marriage and family," according to its website.

"There are so many issues dealing with religious liberty," Turner said. "But many of the problems will likely be faced in our smaller churches."

He said among more than 40,000 churches comprising the Southern Baptist Convention, a majority have less than 250 members.

Moreover, "61 percent of our Tennessee Baptist churches have pastors who are bi-vocational, meaning those churches often don't have much in the way of resources to address legal issues that might arise," Turner said.

With this new partnership, however, smaller churches will have access to legal counsel, with a cost structure that will depend on the church's size.

"We are making it affordable, at a cost of just a few hundred dol-

lars a year for that access," Turner added.

Meanwhile, "Randy is really making sure we are addressing the spiritual and mental health needs among our pastors in very tangible ways," he added.

Legislation, event reflection The upcoming state Senate Bill 1236, described by literature as "the most comprehensive prolife legislation ever proposed in Tennessee, would protect unborn babies from the point of conception."

It was a key topic for state Rep. Jason Zachary (R-District 14, including Farragut), who attended the convention.

A staunch pro-life supporter, Zachary noted the companion house bill already had been passed earlier this year.

"The Bill will be taken up by the Senate in January," Davis said. "We are asking you to reach out to you state senators and call them, let them know where you stand.

"The bottom line is that we work for you," Zachary said. "If the people I work for call me, I listen."

Under the leadership of the Rev. John Mark Harrison, FBC senior pastor, "the church was glad to host it," Turner said about the convention.



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FARRAGUTPRESS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019 • 1B

Early season FHS boys, girls basketball success Admirals of November: 6-0

Defense, 3-point shooting allow FHS girls to surge past Jeff Co., win tourney

ALAN SLOAN editor@farragutpress.com

Struggling to crack Jefferson County's zone defense, Farragut saw the visiting Lady Patriots grab an eight-point second quarter lead and take a 19-14 advantage into halftime of this Reeder Chevrolet Farragut Thanksgiving Tournament title game in FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium.

But intensifying its own defensive pressure after halftime, plus some hot three-point shooting, allowed the Lady Ads to take control and win the tourney title 42-33 Saturday night, Nov. 30.

Junior guard Macy Barnes scored a team-leading 12 points, all on three-point jumpers, helping keep Farragut unbeaten at 6-0.

"I knew I had to provide for my team. And that's what I do, I shoot," said Barnes, whose 16



Jason Mayfield's Farragut Lady Admirals with their Reeder Chevrolet Farragut Thanksgiving Tournament championship plaque.

points led the way in a 55-40 win against Fulton in opening round tourney play Monday, Nov. 25.

"Macy obviously shot the ball well," FHS head coach Jason Mayfield said. Sophomore guards were next

in the scoring column. Keeleigh

Rogers tossed in seven of her nine points after the break. Avery Strickland added eight.

"We got a little more comfortable with their zone ... but we are having an issue right now getting some inside looks," Mayfield said. "Our assistant coaches had some good suggestions on adjustments we made."

Holding Jeff County to five points in the third quarter, "If we play defense and get stops we're really a good transition team," said Claire Wyatt, FHS senior wing who scored seven in the title game, but led her team with 22 points in a 79-50 semifinal tourney win against Campbell County Friday, Nov. 29.

Ashlyn Sheridan, sophomore guard, scored her four points Saturday in the final quarter. McCall Willis, sophomore post, had two.



Traditional power Fulton tamed; Ads sparked by defense, Geron's 21 points to win Reeder tourney

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

Trailing tradition Class AA state power Fulton 25-14 with less than five minutes left in the first half, Farragut caught and passed the Falcons midway into the third quarter — going on to claim a convincing 64-57 win to earn the eight-team Reeder Chevrolet Farragut Thanksgiving Tournament title played last week.

While defensive intensity keyed the rally during



this Saturday night, Nov. 30, title game in FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium, the Admirals stayed perfect at 6-0 behind 21 points from Robby Geron, senior guard. Kaleb VanAcker, senior wing, added 13 points while Dillon Atwell, sophomore guard back for his first game after a foot injury, scored 10.

"We really picked up our intensity defensively,"

Photos by Alan Sloan

Jon Higgins' Farragut Admirals pose with their Reeder Chevrolet Farragut Thanksgiving Tournament title plaque.

See BOYS CHAMPS on Page 2B

After HHS Classic, Underwood's BHS girls start 5-0; boys get 1st win

KEN LAY Correspondent

- LEBANON-BLOUNT COUNTY

Justin Underwood's Bearden Lady Bulldogs remained perfect with a pair of victories at the Heritage Thanksgiving Classic over the holiday weekend.

Bearden (5-0) picked up easy wins versus Johnson City Science Hill and Christian Academy of Knoxville.

"I think we had a couple of good games," coach Underwood said. "We still have some things that we need to work on, but I was happy with the way our girls played against two good teams.

"I was pleased with the way they played, especially with all the distractions with the holidays," he added.

On Friday, Nov. 29, Bearden had four players score in double figures as it downed the Lady Hill-toppers 59-43.

Jakhyia Davis scored 14 points. Freshman Avery Treadwell added 12 while Emma Stone and Zneyah McLaughlin finished with 10 apiece.

The Lady Bulldogs closed out the weekend with a 55-17 victory over the Lady Warriors.

Davis scored 25 points and McLaughlin had 11.

Boys in Lebanon

Bearden boys basketball head coach Jeremy Parrott said he knew the early season would be full of growing pains for his young squad. The Bulldogs lost all five starters from last season's squad that brought home a Class AAA state championship trophy.

Add having an inexperienced roster and an early-season schedule that has included opponents such as Cleveland, Hendersonville Beech, Murfreesboro schools Siegel and Riverdale plus John Greer State Farm Classic host Lebanon, and you have all the makings for a tough road out of the starting gate.

But Parrott has watched his team play valiantly on the road, despite its 1-4 overall record, after dropping its season opener to the CHS Blue Raiders at home Friday, Nov. 22.

"We've been road warriors," Parrott said after the Bulldogs came up on the short end of a 66-58 decision against the host LHS Blue Devils Saturday night, Nov. 30.

"We went to where the games were being played. They didn't come to us.

"We couldn't get anybody locally to play us, so we had to go on the road," he added. "We have a tough schedule, and this will make us better. Playing this kind of schedule will toughen us up and show us what we need to work on individually. Hopefully this will get us ready for our district schedule."

Parrott said he has been pleased with the Bulldogs despite the rocky start record-wise. He also noted the Blue Devils (5-0) were a special opponent.

"Lebanon is a great team and

they're obviously trying to get to Murfreesboro (to the state tournament in March)," he said. "They're arguably the best team that we've played this season.

"We were competitive, and had we shot a little better from the free throw line it would've been a little bit closer," Parrott added.

Against the Blue Devils, BHS had four players post double figures in the scoring column as Cahlib Edwards and Walker Kyle led the way with 12 points each.

A.J. Pruitt and Tyler Nordin added 10 points apiece. It was Nordin's 2019-2020 season debut.

On Friday, Nov. 29, Bearden picked up its first win of the new campaign when it outlasted Riverdale 64-55 in the tournament opener.



West Valley edges past FMS teams for rivalry sweep

KEN LAY

Correspondent

Devan McIntvre, Farragut Middle School girls basketball head coach, couldn't have scripted a better start when her team had its annual clash with rival West Valley.

But the WVMS Lady Wolves got a little defensive after falling behind.

"I was really excited when we came out hitting (shots) early, but I knew they would make their run," McIntyre said after the Lady Admirals dropped a 32-27 decision to West Valley in a Knox County Middle School Conference contest Monday, Nov.

Boys champs

From page 1B

Farragut head coach Jon Higgins said. "And we finally started getting those loose balls. ... From about mid-second quarter on, I thought we really took advantage 25. in FMS's Bobby J. Henry Gymnasium.

Farragut (5-1 in conference play) jumped out to a 10-3 lead, but the Lady Wolves (8-0) responded big-time and led 19-10 at the break. Sharon Wilson, an WVMS wing player, scored a game-high 13 points.

"I think we went on a 16-0 run in that second quarter and Sharon was the key on that run," West Valley head head coach Josh Ballard said. Lindsay Wilson added nine points. Lainey Cox had six and Kendall Anne Murphy finished with four.

Farragut got 10 points from Addison Presslev and seven each from Hannah Enderson and Annie Priest.

of those. Grabbed the loose balls." free throw.

"This team has a lot of fight," Geron said about the rally.

KEN LAY

Correspondent

West Valley Middle School boys basketball head coach Noel Landrum knew his team faced a tall order against Farragut.

"Farragut is tough to guard. They're tough to defend because they always seem to have five shooters on the floor at one time." Landrum said after the Wolves held off the Admirals 37-34 before a packed and spirited house at FMS's Bobby J. Henry Gymnasium Monday, Nov. 25. "Defense has been our calling card, and tonight I think we defended pretty well."

> Individually, "I told (the team), 'we wouldn't be 6-0 without Robby," Higgins said. "... I thought Ka-

While the Wolves started the week 7-1 in Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference play, FHS fell to 4-2.

"Our kids never quit and our effort was there all night," Farragut head coach Randy Swartzentruber said.

King Hubbard scored 10 points to lead the Wolves. Sam Tummins had six, including a three-point field goal to break a 28-28 tie with 2:18 to play. Drew Parrott and Conner Ruth finished with five each.

Farragut's Eli Evans had a game-high 11 points and hit three 3-pointers. Tony Spadafora scored nine and Braylon Hall added six for FMS.

> leb played fantastic today — but he has all season. ... Jack Carasso gave us some great minutes."

Jake Wallace, Admirals junior post, scored eight while Isaiah Smith, sophomore guard, added seven points. Jack Carasso, junior post, scored all four of his points in the second half. Carter Mayfield, sophomore guard, added a





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community



FARRAGUTPRESS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019 • 3B



Tammy Cheek

Winners of Farragut High School's Poetry Out Loud schoolwide competition, which took place in Vickie B. Wells Auditorium at FHS Tuesday, Nov. 19, were, from left, Jack Bukovitz, first runner-up; Varsha Babu, champion; and Sana Boghani, second runner-up.

Babu, Bukovitz, Boghani tops

At FHS Poetry Out Loud competition

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Five Farragut High School students braved standing before judges to recite their favorite poems in a Poetry Out Loud schoolwide competition in the school's Vickie B. Wells Auditorium Tuesday, Nov. 19.

James Gray Parker, Jack Bukovitz, Varsha Babu, Caylan Sholem and Sana Boghani each read poems in two rounds with Babu, a senior, emerging as the champion and winning \$100 cash and an all-expense-paid trip to Nashville to advance to the state finals in the spring.

"It's really incredible," said Babu, the daughter of Anuradha and Soresh Babu. "It's such an honor to represent Farragut tition — but it's also scary. "It's rather surprising (to win)," she added. "Everyone is

so talented here." Babu's poetry selections were "Harp Song of the Dane Woman" by Rudyard Kipling and "God's Secretary" by R.S. Gwynn.

Close behind her were Bukovitz, who won first runner-up, \$75 cash and will compete in the state competition if Babu is unable to attend, and Boghani, who won second runner-up and a gift certificate. Bukovitz recited "Always Something More Beautiful" by Stephen Dunn and "Fishing" by A.E. Stallings.

Boghani recited "Love Lives Beyond the Tomb" by John Clare and "Famous" by Naomi Shihab Nye.

'Helping Hands' in many forms for the holidays

'Jolly Old Elf' breakfast set at Pinnacle

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD

mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

Santa Claus is certainly making the rounds this season — specifically for breakfast.

Children and their families have three upcoming opportunities to share that meal with their favorite "Jolly Old Elf" starting this Saturday, Dec. 7, when the Pinnacle at Turkey Creek hosts "Breakfast with Santa Presented by Chick-fil-A" from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. at 11427 Parkside Drive.

In addition to a catered breakfast, children will receive a Santa Wish list, a holiday coloring craft and a digitally delivered photo with Santa.

See BREAKFAST on Page 6B

FBC features special outreach

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD

mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

As the name suggests, members of the Helping Hands ministry at First Baptist Concord are typically assisting others — but recently the group enjoyed the church's generosity in the spirit of the Christmas season.

"Typically we make Christmas

See OUTREACH on Page 6B



Michelle Hollenhead

Helping Hands ministry member Kory Reese was excited about helping wrap the Christmas gifts he was able to purchase for his family, thanks to the generosity of First Baptist Concord.

FWKCC Holiday Open House Dec. 12

STAFF REPORT

editor@farragutpress.com

Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce again opens its doors to its members and the community, hosting its annual Holiday Open House.

will take place from 4 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 12, at the Chamber office, 11826 Kingston Pike, in Farragut.

The event offers a showcase of favorites, as well as new specialties, from local restaurants, sponsorships and networking for This year's "Gold Giving Tree" charity recipients from the event are FWKCC member Kids First Child Advocacy Center of the 9th Judicial District. The non-profit center serves children ages 3 to 17 from Loudon, Meigs, Morgan

See POETRY HONORS on Page 7B

The festivities, which are free, members.

Concord-Farragut Sertoma Club presents check to F-Tn Babies with Special Needs reps



Concord-Farragut Sertoma Club, in conjunction with SouthEast Bank, presented a \$20,000 check to representatives from Friends of Tennessee's Babies with Special Needs during a luncheon Thursday afternoon, Nov. 14, in the bank's corporate headquaters, 12700 Kingston Pike. Accepting the check were FTBSN volunteer executive director Dr. Don Thompson, holding check on the left, and FTBSN representative Teresa McMahan, holding check on the right. The amount represented proceeds raised from 30th Annual Lindsey Nelson Memorial Benefit Golf Tournament held last summer at Willow Creek Golf Club. Among those representing Concord-Farragut Sertoma was Timothy M. Dentz, president, second from right. Among the invited guests were Doug Horne, in back on left with red tie, owner of Horne Properties, Inc., Horne Radio, LLC and Republic Newspapers, Inc. (parent company of farragutpress). Also on hand included Knox County Commissioner John Schoonmaker, in back on right wearing tie, who represents the 5th District (includes Farragut). Among those representing SouthEast Bank was Todd Bolinger, third from left in back with blue vest, commercial loan officer.

Alan Sloan



fp 10-Day-plusPress Planner

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DECEMBER

• Alzheimer's Tennessee's "Purple Tree" at Lexus of Knoxville, 10315 Parkside Drive, wants to make sure Purple Santa can visit area seniors and deliver gifts, especially to those with memory loss who may not have local family support, through Monday, Dec. 9. Needed items at www.alzTennessee.org/. Volunteers are needed to sort items, package gifts and deliver. E-mail amanda.armstrong@TNalz.org or call 865-544-6288.

• Knox County's 21st Annual Holiday Festival of Lights at The Cove at Concord Park, 11808 S. Northshore Drive, which is free and open to the public, runs from 6 to 9 p.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 31, excluding Christmas day. Representatives from The Love Kitchen will be on hand each evening to collect donations of cans and/or money.

• Pinnacle at Turkey Creek's second annual "Be a Santa to a Senior" program, is under way at Gift Donation drop-off near Bed Bath & Beyond, 11251 Parkside Drive. Christmas trees decorated with "gift bulbs" are located around the center, each featuring a list of care package items. Participants can drop items off at the Pinnacle guest services office. Community "gift wrapping parties" are from 6 to 7 p.m., Thursday and Friday, Dec. 12-13, near Buffalo Wild Wings, 11427 Parkside Drive. Volunteers can register at pinnacleatturkeycreek.com.

• First Farragut United Methodist, 12733 Kingston Pike, will host "Breakfast with Santa" from 9 to 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 14. Enjoy Elf Shop, craft area and photo taken with Santa. Cost is \$5 per person with a \$25 household maximum cost. Children 2 and under free. For more

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information: Paige Morgan at 865-966-8430 or pmorgan@ffumc.org

• First Farragut UMC, 12733 Kingston Pike, will host its 12th Annual Christmas Community Day from 1 to 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 8, with a meal, photos with Santa and free shopping for children's gifts, books, gently used clothing and coats. For more information, contact Jill Wolverton at marketing@ ffumc.org or 865-405-6347.

• Concord United Methodist Church, 11020 Roane Drive in Farragut. presents its annual Christmas Cantata at 5 and 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 8, in the church sanctuary.

• The third Mayor's Night Out, featuring Farragut Mayor Ron Williams reaching out to Town citizens to hear their opinions, concerns and questions, begins at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10, at The Shrimp Dock, 11124 Kingston Pike.

Laundry Love enjoyed by Rotary Club of Farragut

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Knox County's low-income families had some helping hands when The Rotary Club of Farragut members pitched in to do their laundry at Laundry Love Knoxville's new location, The Wash House, 8035 Kingston Pike in West Knoxville, Tuesday evening, Nov. 5.

The first Tuesday of each month, Rotarian volunteers assist with washing and drying clothes as well as serve food, help with children's activities and even fold clothes, if needed.

Hardin Valley Academy's Interact Club also has helped.

"I'm getting the hang of it," RCF member Mike Fleenor said.

"I think it provides a service that's much needed," said his wife, Susan Fleenor, who also volunteered Nov. 5.

"It shows people care," Mike added. "We take a lot for granted."

"I consider it a great blessing," recipient Cindy Jubran said. "The people who take time to do this are angels."

Looking at others getting their laundry done, she pointed out, "Some of these kids get nothing else to eat all day."

Jubran added the program also gives volunteers a way to connect to the community while meeting a practical need.

See LAUNDRY LOVE on Page 5B



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'Light Has Come' at Central Baptist Bearden Dec. 8

The nation's premiere liturgical dance troupe, Ballet Magnificat!, will perform "Light Has Come" beginning at 6 p.m., Sunday, Dec, 8, at Central Baptist Bearden.

"Light Has Come — The Angels' Story," a 70-minute performance free of charge to the public, "powerfully depicts the story of salvation from the unique perspective of the angels," a press release stated. "This epic retelling, from the beginning in the garden to the ultimate fulfilling in the Messiah Jesus, draws the audience in to experience the great love of the King of all kings."

Complementary childcare for nursery through preschool-aged children will be provided. For more information, contact Jeff Fyke, director of Media and Communications, at 865-335-9773 or jfyke@cbcbearden.org.

Laundry Love

From page 4B

"To me, it is the happiest level of caring," she said.

Laundry Love Knoxville, established three-and-a-half years ago, is a non-profit program operated by Neighboring Knoxville. Its purpose is to ease the burden of laundry for struggling low-income families, said Garland Pope, cofounder along with Kevin White.

The program has two locations — Bridgewater Laundry, 3721 N. Broadway in North Knoxville, and The Wash House.

10:00 am

11:00 am

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Growing in Faith"

Outreach

From page 3B

presents for family members," said Diane Knudsen, executive director for the program, which provides productive activities and partnerships for special needs adults. "But this year, for the first time, they were able to shop at Knox Area Rescue Ministries' Christmas Store and were able to pick out anything they wanted for their families."

Fourteen of the program's 23 members visited the pop-up store near Cedar Bluff Road in November for the shopping spree, which was funded using KARM gift cards provided by First Baptist Concord through KARM's Corners of the Your Field program.

"We are excited to partner with

hundreds of local churches, like First Baptist Concord, through the program," said Evan Crass, KARM director of Partner Engagement. "Every time a donation is made at KARM Stores, a donor can name his or her local church to receive gift cards from that donation. Quarterly, gift cards to KARM Stores are delivered to these partners so they can use them to help those they know."

Elizabeth "Liz" Adams was among the shoppers, and said she purchased gifts for her parents.

"I hope it we can do it every vear." Adams said.

"I love Christmas," said Suzi Gillen, who added she shopped for "my mom, my dad and my sister."

"It was different," Christine Floyd noted. "It was a fun trip."



Michelle Hollenhead

Liz Adams, left, gets a little help from Helping Hands ministry assistant Debbie Anders as they wrap the Christmas gifts Adams purchased from Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries for her family.

Breakfast

From page 3B

Cost is \$15 per adult and \$12 per child. Tickets may be ordered in advance from www.pinnacleatturkevcreek.ticketspice.com.

Santa will somehow be in two places at once when both Concord United Methodist Church and First Farragut United Methodist Church hosts their annual "Breakfast with Santa" events Saturday, Dec. 14.

From 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at CUMC, tickets are \$6 each. Purchase online at www.concordumc.com under "events" tab.

From 9 to 11 a.m. at FFUMC. tickets are \$5 each (\$25 per family maximum cost); children 2 and younger are free. Advance registration required at www.ffumc.org/.

AVALON





Poetry honors

From page 3B

Parker recited "All Hallows Eve" by Dorothea Tanning and "300 Goats" by Naomi Shihab Nye, and Sholem recited "Acquainted with the Night" by Robert Frost and "The Days Gone By," also by Frost.

FHS Education Foundation provided monetary prizes to the winners, and Faith Promise Church also contributed to the competition. Officials included emcees Alex Forrest and Will Stevens; prompter Erin Ashe; tabulator Angela Buckman and judges Katie Beckett, Valarie Cagle, Laicee Hatfield, Dillon Lambert and Ted Ross.

"Poetry has the power to help us make meaning out of things we feel and believe," event coordinator Cedelle Niles said.

"In 2005, the National Endowment for the Arts and

the Poetry Foundation joined together to create Poetry Out Loud, a program that encourages the nation's high school to learn about poetry through exploration, memorization and recitation," school librarian Holly Matthews said.

"... Since the program began in 2005, more than 3.8 million students and 60,000 teachers from 16,000 schools across the country have participated in Poetry Out Loud," she added.

"Poetry Out Loud begins at the classroom level, where students select ... more than 900 classic and contemporary poems," Niles said.

Students who win the state competition earn \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to the National Finals at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., according to Niles. Meanwhile the winner's school will receive \$500 for purchase of poetry books.

Open House

From page 3B

and Roane counties who have been sexually or severely physically abused.

Also, this year the Chamber is adopting six families from the center to help, the FWKCC newsletter stated. To contribute, attendees can look at the Chamber's website for the "wishlist" and bring a new, unwrapped gift to the open house.

Event sponsors are Abuelos Mexican Restaurant, Apple Cake Tea Room, The Casual Pint Northshore, Clean Juice, Knoxville Room Service, Kroger Marketplace, Water Into Wine bistro & lounge, Dixie Lee Wines & Liquors, Calhouns of Tennessee, Finn's Restaurant & Tavern, NHC Place Farragut, Jessica Phillips, CPA, and Buttermilk Sky Pie Shop.

While no RSVP is required, the Chamber asks those attending to bring a gift for the adopted families from Kids First CAC.

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ORDER IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE TOWN OF TENNESSEE, FARRAGUT, Pursuant to Title 3, Chapter 1, Section 3-101 of the Code of Ordinances for Farragut, Tennessee, it is ORDERED that the Town of Farragut Municipal Court will convene on the second Monday of every Month beginning at 6:00 PM in the Board Room of Farra gut Town Hall for the purpose of conducting hearings on any citations issued for Automated Traffic Enforcement and Code violations. This will be the regularly scheduled monthly court date for the Town of Farragut beginning August 9, 2010.

It is the policy of the Town of Farragut not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national sex, or disability pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law origin, age, sex, or disability pursuant to rule of or the own rights rate or 200 of a 200 of dations due to disabilities, please call 865-966-7057 in advance of the meeting





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Service Directory



service directory

306 PETS FOR SALE

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8B • FARRAGUTPRESS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019



Tis the Season...

Countdown to Light the Park, hosted by Shop Farragut and Town of Farragut, brought hundreds to Founder's Park at Campbell Station, North Campbell Station Road, Monday night, Nov. 25. All eagerly awaited the appearance of Santa Claus, who helped Town officials, including Farragut Mayor Ron Williams, "flip the switch" and turn on nearly 70,000 holiday lights, trees and displays. They will remain lit from 5:30 p.m. until dawn through Jan. 1.

Left: Santa and Mrs. Claus (Town of Farragut recorder Allison Myers) waved to the crowd.



Shop Farragut Excecutive Director Steve Krempasky, center, with Town of Farragut "elves" Jenn Hatmaker, left, and Jeff Williams



Piper Jones



Best friends Haven Booth, left, and Harper Jones



Siblings Samantha and Sebastian Churchwell



David Royse with Concord Brass was among the many seasonal performers.



Jessie Stuhl and her son, Finley



Siblings, from left, Avery, Parks and Walker Winstead, get ready to mail their letters to Santa in the official Town mailbox at Founder's Park.

A Grand Day

Concord Christian School held its annual Grandparent's Day Celebration earlier this fall, honoring students' family members with breakfast, a program and classroom visits.



Connor Hutton, second from right, with his grandparents, Terry Wilson, right, and, far left, Vicky and Jim Hutton. Center is Connor's great-grandmother, Mary Wilson



Christopher Hamilton with his grandmother, Faye McConnell



CCS fifth-grader Abby Lu Eckles performs as part of the elementary school's worship club.



Katie Phillips, center, with her grandparents, Tony and Anita York



Samuel Eason and his grandmother, Betty Eason



Cleve Porter, second from left, with two of his "surrogate" grandchildren, Molly and Megan Spiller, along with the girls' father, Richard Spiller

Photos by Michelle Hollenhead