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20 YEAR in 19 REVIEW



Michelle Hollenhead

Farragut Public Works employees started prep work on the retaining wall along North Campbell Station Road last week, in preparation for the surface finishing work to be done in early 2020. Public Works stepped in as sub-contractor on the project, which has saved the Town thousands of dollars.

Bud-led \$134,337 wall plan

Subcontractors approved; sidewalk shut down for next three months

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD
mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

Following two years of discussion and challenges, the North Campbell Station retaining wall finally will undergo a surface transformation in early 2020 — with Public Works director Bud McKelvey's leadership credited for the project coming in well under budget.

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted during its Dec. 12 meeting to approve a \$57,337 contract with General Shale Brick for the materials,

See WALL on Page 2A

Pajamas aplenty thanks to girl, 5

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD
mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

A 5-year-old's compassion and concern has provided 200 sets of pajamas to area youngsters in foster care.

Teaghyn Luper, accompanied by her parents, Chris and Libby, and little sister, Anistyn, dropped off the sleep ware Saturday, Dec. 21, at Compassion Closet Farragut location, which provides area foster families with much-needed clothing and supplies.

"Is this the pajama fairy?" exclaimed Compassion Closet co-founder Melissa Cox as she greeted the child.

Teaghyn shyly nodded as she began helping unload the piles of pajamas from the family's SUV.

It was the second year in a row the youngster had others on the brain, having held consecutive December hot cocoa stand fundraisers. Last year she wanted to make sure children served at The Wesley House in downtown Knoxville received toys during the holidays, and raised more than \$100 for that cause.

Her mother said she wanted to do the hot cocoa

See PAJAMAS on Page 2A



Sitel, TopGolf, school feats highlight final year of decade

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

A January through November reflection on the top stories of 2019 in the Farragut area.

January: Concord Road Widening Project

• A source of frustration for motorists, especially at or near the intersection of Concord and Turkey Creek roads, construction for the long-anticipated Concord Road Widening Project began early in 2019.

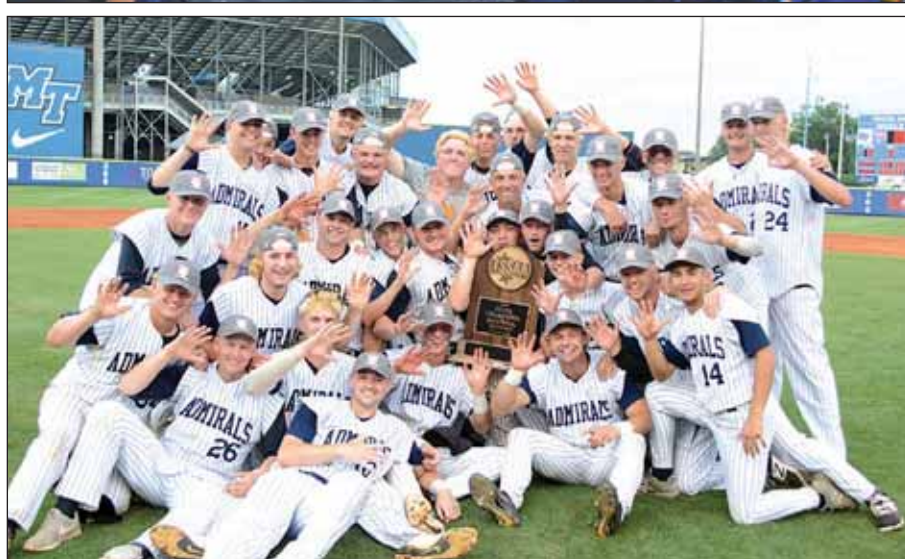
With state Rep. Jason Zachary (R-District 14) fighting to get progress for turn-lane functions at the Concord-Turkey Creek intersection, TDOT officials extended the projected construction finish time from October 2020 to June 2021.

Adriana a SJNCS state champ

• Adriana Zablah, a St. John Neumann Catholic School eighth-grader, was recognized for her leadership initiative by winning first place in Tennessee Secretary of State Office's Third-Annual Civics Essay Contest.

Town threatens, Ingles responds with renovation

See YEAR IN REVIEW, Page 3A



business

"I love it — I'm just crazy about it. Everybody is great, the meals are fabulous and it is just so homey,"

— Geraldine Watson, a new resident at a long-awaited Farragut senior living center's opening. (Read story beginning on page 6A)

community

"My rationale for choosing to remember Joe by giving the window is because the window is far more than just an ornament to make the church look nice...."

— Mildred Fenske, who chose a special Christian way to memorialize her late husband. (Read story beginning on page 2B)

sports

"First, I felt like we were losing some intensity when we left the arena and went to the locker room"

— Jeremy Parrott, Bearden boys basketball head coach, about a change of team strategy that seems to be paying off. (Read story on page 1B)



Foundations
40 YEARS OF FARRAGUT

Darryl Smith already made an impact on Farragut before becoming Town engineer. (Read Part 27 story, page 5A)



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Michelle Hollenhead

Teaghyn Luper, second from left, with her mother, Libby, father, Chris and sister, Anistyn, donated 200 sets of pajamas to the Compassion Closet Saturday, Dec. 21, following a heart-felt fund-drive she began earlier in the month.

Pajamas

From page 1A

stand again this year, and thought about what she could do to fill another need.

"She said she liked to wear pajamas at Christmas, so maybe she could raise money for that," Libby said.

Initially, the drive yielded 60 pair, and Libby reached out to Cox, with whom she had connected earlier this summer.

"It was certainly a God thing," said Libby, as Cox shared with her the organization "is always in need of new pajamas."

"We serve hundreds a month here," said Cox. "Being able to provide that warmth and comfort to kids in foster care is so important."

The drive took off, with Libby posting a video of Teaghyn, asking for donations.

"We had donations of money and of pajamas," said Chris. "We had packages from Amazon arriving at our house."

They finished up their shopping for the donations early Saturday, bringing the total number of pajamas to exactly 200.

"I'm just stunned," said Chris, who is youth pastor at Concord United Methodist Church. "It has definitely been the Holy Spirit at work."

"We just feel lucky to be able to stand on the sidelines and watch it," Libby added. "It was all driven by her — we have just given her the vehicle to make it happen."

"I'm just overwhelmed by the generosity of a little person who has such a big heart," Cox said. "I try to model selflessness in my home, and obviously it was modeled in her home, too."

Teaghyn's efforts are not over. Her mother said she has challenged the University of Tennessee basketball team to match her efforts, along with Clemson's football team.

"She wants others to take up the challenge, and do it in their own communities and to keep it going," Libby said.



Photo submitted

For the second year in a row, Teaghyn Luper, right, held a hot chocolate stand fund-raiser, which this year sought donations for pajamas for foster children served through the Compassion Closet. With Teaghyn is her little sister, Anistyn.

• At 11:17 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 19, a complainant at Zaxby's, 11636 Parkside Drive, called Knox County Sheriff's Office West Precinct to file a report on an employee/suspect taking money from the business/victim. He advised the suspect had been changing the deposit slips and not depositing the full amount. He advised \$3,894 had been taken. Complainant also advised suspect was confronted, and she advised she doesn't remember taking the money, but said she would pay it back. She made one payment for \$150.

• At 3:43 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 18, a victim called KCSO North Precinct to report fraud, which occurred at a Federal Boulevard address. According to the victim, she has an app on her phone, which she thought was the legitimate app for Apple. She said at around 2 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 17, she called what she thought was Apple Customer Service. The victim advised she first spoke with a male who identified himself. According to the victim, his voice "sounded like a white male" as she didn't detect any foreign accent. Victim said she was then connected with a female who identified herself. As with the first suspect, victim said the female's voice "appeared to be a white female" as she didn't detect any foreign accent.

According to the victim, she was instructed to buy two \$50 ebay gift cards in order for them to assist her. She said she went to Ingles and purchased the two gift cards. The victim stated she gave the female suspect the numbers off the back of both cards. According to the victim, the female suspect told her one of the card numbers would not go through and she needed to go somewhere else and purchase three \$200 ebay gift cards. Victim advised she then went to Walgreens and purchased the cards requested and gave the numbers on the back of the cards. She stated the female suspect told her to leave her phone in her vehicle and not to call anyone else. According to the victim, the female suspect again

told her this would not be enough money and instructed her to go to get five ebay cards worth \$200. The victim said she then went to the Farragut Kroger where she said she always shops. Victim said when she requested to buy the cards, the manager, who knew her, came and told her she wouldn't sell her the cards because she felt the victim was being scammed. Victim advised she went back to her car and told the suspects the store would not sell her the cards. She said the suspects tried to get her to go back in and buy \$200 one card at a time. According to the victim, she told them she was not going back in and would not buy anymore cards. Total value of loss was listed at \$700.

• At 1:28 p.m., Dec. 18, a victim called KCSO North Precinct to report a theft at Tennova Healthcare Turkey Creek Medical Center, 10280 Parkside Drive. According to the victim, sometime between 6:40 a.m. and 2:15 p.m., Dec. 17, person(s) unknown stole her BB&T Visa debit card out of her wallet. She said her purse was sitting in the window sill of their breakroom. Victim advised the breakroom has a coded lock on the door where only employees can enter. Victim said she didn't realize the card was gone until the morning of Dec. 18, when she opened her wallet. Victim advised she later noticed on her cell phone she had gotten an alert the previous day from her bank at 2:20 p.m. concerning a charge at Kroger in Farragut for \$1,011.90. Victim said there are cameras in the breakroom and security officials are supposed to check the video to try and determine who took the card out of her wallet.

• At 4:04 p.m., Dec. 17, a complainant called KCSO Teleserve Unit to report vandalism of a 2007 Honda Civic at a Kingston Pike address. Complainant said while at work someone busted the driver side window of his vehicle between 11:30 a.m. and 1:45 p.m., Dec. 17. Complainant advised there appeared to be nothing taken from the vehicle. Value of damage was listed at \$750.

Wall

From page 1A

and a \$77,000 contract with Pratt Masonry to do the work, which combined (\$134,337) is well under the \$200,000 set aside in the 2020 budget for repairs.

Project bids were requested earlier this year, but only two were received — both of which far exceeded the budget, one by more than 150 percent.

At that time, officials reconsidered the project and asked McKelvey if he would agree for Public Works to take on general contracting duties, with materials and work then being subcontracted out.

"After those first bids came in, and one was \$350,000, I had a conversation with Bud" about overseeing the project, Town administrator David Smoak said. "He agreed to do it knowing it was going to be a big job and take a lot of time. But overall, our being able to save over 100 percent of the cost is significant."

Public Works staff were on site last week doing some preliminary work in preparation for the construction, which will take place sometime early next year.

"They have until April 1 to finish, but we expect it to be done

much sooner," McKelvey said.

As of last week, the sidewalk fronting the wall is closed in preparation for the work. When work begins it would shut down the right lane of northbound traffic on North Campbell Station.

"We already went to Farragut High School and Farragut Intermediate School and told them about the project and how the sidewalk will have to be closed," McKelvey said.

"We just don't have a choice. The scaffolding is 40 feet wide and will cover the sidewalk."

While the Town did not construct the wall, it has had to con-

tend with the ongoing issues and upkeep.

It was completed by Tennessee Department of Transportation in 2010 as part of the multi-lane widening of Campbell Station Road, and had a simulated stone overlay, which was not properly attached leading to cracking and crumbling of the façade, before Public Works removed what was left in February 2018.

When asked about the recovering process, McKelvey assured the Board, "this is a totally different system. We will do it the right way."

See more at www.farragutpress.com



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Year in Review

From page 1A

• Owners of the Ingles property were cited in Farragut Municipal Court Monday, Jan. 14, for violations of property management at its former grocery location, Town administrator David Smoak said, but they were given an extra 30 days to work on improvements.

Ingles Markets construction manager Preston Kendall and Samia Coker, associate with Robertston Loia Roof Architects and Engineers, presented a site plan to remodel the former Ingles building at 11080-11833 Kingston Pike, during a Town Staff-Developer meeting March 5.

“History of Concord” reviews

• Packing Town Hall boardroom to learn more about Concord-Farragut history, Town leaders, historians and interested citizens viewed the 28-minute film, “The History of Concord and Farragut” Jan. 31.

Echoing the rave reviews, “I was always proud to be from Farragut, and now I’m even prouder. There were things I didn’t know,” Cindy Hollyfield said about the film, which was created by local award-winning filmmaker Keith McDaniel.

New Tennessean Turkey Creek wing

• Tennessean Healthcare broke ground Monday, Jan. 31, for a new cardiac catheterization laboratory at Turkey Creek Medical Center, which will complement the existing four cath labs located at the hospital in Farragut.

FMS No. 1 in state science

• Farragut Middle School Team Two won first place during Second Annual Volunteer State Science Bowl in Kingsport Jan. 26.

February: FHS Dance national champs again; state champs along with FMS next season

• Farragut High School’s 2018-19 Dance Team earned an

unprecedented second-in-a-row National Dance Championship in Small Varsity Jazz Feb. 3 in Orlando, Florida — tops among 87 teams from across the country.

It was a sweet repeat for the 2019-20 FHS and Farragut Middle School Dance teams at state in early December, earning best in Tennessee honors for the second year in a row in both Pom and Jazz categories.

Ivey Farms, Union Road issues

• Nine residents along Union Road and its adjacent subdivisions turned out at Farragut’s Staff-Developer meeting Feb. 5 to find out more about plans for the proposed Ivey Farms subdivision, which developers are planning to build along Union Road.

Saddle Ridge residents, upset at a revised concept plan for their subdivision, helped change FMPC votes Thursday night, March 21, regarding one portion of the plan.

The proposal brought Pecos Road residents out to protest, even as many also acknowledged a development of the size and scope of Ivey Farms — which is slated to have more than 200 homes when completed — is required by the Town to have two vehicular access points for emergency vehicles.

For nearly two hours April 18, a number of Farragut residents voiced opposition to proposed Union Road construction during Farragut Municipal Planning Commission’s regular monthly meeting.

After nearly two hours of discussion on plans to improve Union Road, Farragut Municipal Planning Commission approved a compromise during its May 16 regular meeting, designed to slightly mitigate the physical impact on property owners most affected.

Town’s 100-year flood

• Farragut experienced what some are calling its “100-year flood” in late February, and crews worked extensively as-



Whiskey, a 1 ½-year-old Australian shepherd, is about to make a big catch-and-splash while watched closely by owner LeeAnn Duckett during “fun jumps” by Town and locally owned dogs Aug. 16, part of 3rd Annual Dog Daze’s Dock Dogs regional competition Aug. 16-18 at Village Green Shopping Center parking lot.

sessing and repairing lingering damages.

More than 10 inches of rain was recorded in the Town during the week leading up to the deluge — 5 inches Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22 and Feb. 23 alone — that most notably created shutdowns on the Campbell Station Road intersection with I-40/75, but also included portions of Outlet Drive, Concord Road, Virtue Road, Everett Road, Newport Road, Woody Road and Loop Road..

SJNCS 8th-grader state champ

• St. John Neumann Catholic School eighth-grader Paul Liulevicius received the news Wednesday, Feb. 13 he won the state Knights of Columbus essay

contest.

State honors Gage

• Family members and Farragut Youth Football players and coaches arrived in force at a Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting Feb. 28 to show their support for 11-year-old cancer victim Gage Kirby, as Feb. 28 and Nov. 1 were declared “Gage Kirby Days” by the Town.

McFee Park plans

• Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen again wrestled with designs for the next stage of McFee Park during a workshop before its regular meeting Thursday, Feb. 28.

However, hearing of another “stormwater fail,” which cost Town of Farragut more than

\$200,000 following the floodwaters experienced in February, was a concern expressed by Farragut Vice Mayor Louise Povlin. “I don’t support putting \$8 million to the McFee expansion when there is only \$100,000 in the stormwater fund,” she said.

A compromise eventual was reached on McFee spending.

March: Mu Alpha Theta No. 1

• Farragut High School’s 29-member Mu Alpha Theta club bested math competition teams from all across Tennessee, and won first place overall at the state competition March 9 at Dobyns-Bennett High School in Kingsport.

Webb boys hoops state champs

• Webb School of Knoxville’s boys basketball team (30-6) wasted little time asserting their dominance in a 75-40 win versus Tipton-Rosemark Academy March 2 to win the 2019 TSSAA Division II-A state crown, the program’s first, at David Lipscomb University’s Allen Arena in Nashville.

Bulldogs state hoops champs

• Bearden High School’s senior-dominated hoops team won the program’s first Class AAA state title, defeating Memphis East 83-68 at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, March 16.

Town: featured Dogwood Trail

• The 58th Annual Dogwood Arts Festival’s 2019 Featured Dogwood Trail spanned almost eight miles in Fox Den and Village Green.

FHS grad wins big on “Wheel”

• Molly Rodabaugh appeared on the popular TV game show “Wheel of Fortune,” and this Farragut High School graduate and University of Tennessee senior solved two wheels and won \$12,750 as seen Thursday night, March 21.

FHS’s Chen: U.S. Chess scholar

• Farragut High School junior Forest Chen, 16, was one of

See YEAR IN REVIEW, Page 4A

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throughthelens



Alan Slaan

Now that plans have been finalized for replacement of the retaining wall façade along North Campbell Station Road just north of Farragut High School's entrance/exit, what do you think? (See story beginning on page 1A. plus a review of this topic in our Year in Review, also beginning on page 1A). Will you wait and see what the wall looks like upon completion before making a final assessment? Is the cost of subcontracted work, which is reported to be \$134,337, reasonable? We welcome your comments on this or any other Town, county, area, state, national or international issue by calling Presstalk at 671-TALK (8255) or e-mailing editor@farragutpress.com

Year in Review

From page 3A

five high school students across the country to receive a 2019 Scholar-Chess player Award from the U.S. Chess Federation.

April: Farragut Ladies Coalition

• Farragut Ladies Coalition Black Tie event, held in Fox Den Country Club, introduced 62 inaugural members of Farragut Ladies Society April 6 in FDCC's main ballroom "to unify the Farragut community while supporting local charities," FLS president/director Arrington Russell said.

Zachary vote controversy

• Saying he was using the "opportunity to fight" for Farragut and other Knox County schools by voting "no" on a state school voucher bill, state Rep. Jason Zachary's changed vote to "yes" set in motion a controversy drawing national attention. In meetings with Republican Gov. Bill Lee, proposing the program granting tax dollars for private school choice, and GOP House Speaker Glen Casada, telling them Knox County needed to be exempted from the tax dollar voucher program for him to support it, Zachary (R-Farragut/Concord/West Knox County) originally didn't get those assurances. With the program primarily targeted for large urban counties such as Shelby, Davidson and Knox, Zachary said he "had to use leverage" by voting "no," deadlocking the House vote 49-49 Tuesday, April 23, before the change.

MLily corporate HQ now here

• MLily, a company that

produces its own mattress line, adjustable bases and pillows, brought its corporate headquarters to Farragut's Village Green shopping center, next to The Fresh Market at 11537 Kingston Pike, in the spring.

Couple honored nationally

• HME founders Henry and Monica Perry of Farragut received the 2019 Department of Homeland Security Small Business Achievement Award in recognition of the company's outstanding work supporting the DHS mission at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Aniston, Alabama.

FHS's Li 1 of 26 nationally

• Farragut High School Class of 2019 senior Jessie Li was one of only 26 students from across the country named a Haslam Scholar.

Lady Ads softball to substate

• Farragut High School knocked off an old nemesis, defending Class AAA state champion Powell, 3-2 in the Region 2-AAA Tournament semifinals May 13, after beating Maryville and claiming the District 4-AAA championship.

FHS soccer wins district

Farragut defeated Maryville 4-1 in Farragut Soccer Stadium May 11 to win the District 4-AAA tourney championship before going on to win the Region 2-AAA tourney.

Concord Galleria opens

• Concord Galleria shopping center, 10800 Kingston Pike, a 7,545-square-foot building on the .85-acre lot with six spaces, opened in the summer.

Bearden again ends FHS year

• For a second straight season, Bearden High School boys soc-



The Rev. Dr. Harold Middlebrook Sr., a long-time pastor in Knoxville who at one time worked alongside the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., shared one of the slain civil rights champion's mantras during his annual address at Farragut Intermediate School Friday, Jan. 11, in commemoration of the holiday honoring King (Monday, Jan. 21). Middlebrook, 77, talked to Farragut Intermediate School third-grader Jaxton Witt following his address.

cer ended Farragut's season in substate play in Farragut Soccer Stadium, this time 2-0 May 18.

FHS wins 10th state title

• Dying their hair blonde in a show of unity, Farragut High School baseball players celebrated the program's 10th TSSAA Class AAA state championship after beating Bradley Central 7-3 May 24 at Middle Tennessee State University. The Admirals, under head coach Matt Buckner, finished with a 42-3 record, the second best in program history.

Bearden wins state soccer

• Bearden's SoccerDawgs needed a penalty kicks shootout to win the 2019 Class AAA state championship match versus Station Camp May 24 at Richard Siegel Soccer Complex. It was

the program's fifth state title.

CAK threepeats at state

• Christian Academy of Knoxville baseball captured its third consecutive TSSAA state title after edging Nashville's Christ Presbyterian Academy 3-2 May 23 at MTSU's Reese Smith Jr. Field.

Webb track, tennis state champs

• With an exceptionally strong showing in dash and distance running, Webb School of Knoxville finished as champ during TSSAA Division II-A Girls Track & Field State Meet May 22 at MTSU. With six first-place individual and relay performances, the Lady Spartans captured the state crown with 140 points.

Meanwhile, Webb's girls tennis program won its 10th straight

Division II-A state team championship May 22 with a 4-0 shutout over St. George's at Old Fort Park's Adams Tennis Complex.

The Spartans' boys tennis team won its third consecutive Division II-A state team championship when it outlasted Cedar Bluff area rival Christian Academy of Knoxville 4-2 May 22.

Renfree double state champ

• Jake Renfree of Farragut finished his outstanding Knoxville Catholic High School distance-running career by sweeping first-place honors in the 800-meter run (1:53.80) and 1600 (4:14.3) during the TSSAA Large School Track & Field state meet May 23 at MTSU.

June: Sitel comes to Town

• Sitel Group hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday, June 12, officially marking the grand opening of its new Outlet Drive location. Combining the efforts of Kodak Properties and Town of Farragut officials to broker the deal, Sitel Group's move into Town limits will bring an estimated 530 employees who will be transferring — occupying the former Outlet Mall.

Town ETHS award

• A Community History Award was earned by Farragut Historic Resources coordinator Julia Barham during the ETHS annual awards banquet May 4.

July: TopGolf to Town, new zoning

• TopGolf, the international sports entertainment facility, is set to build a complex along Outlet Drive, just west of Cotton Eyed Joe, according to plans revealed Thursday, June 6, during a special called workshop session of Farragut

See YEAR IN REVIEW, Page 7A

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While there were no Presstalks submitted for this week's issue, we respectfully ask our readers to follow the following Presstalk rules when submitting their opinions:

- Please keep calls to a 90-second maximum (call 671-8255 24 hours a day, seven days a week);
- Please keep e-mailed Presstalks to 250 words maximum (editor@farragutpress.com);
- Libelous and malicious comments will not be published;
- Profanity will be edited out;
- Comments will remain anonymous;
- Names of individuals or businesses may not be published (including public figures) depending on the issue.

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Foundations

40 YEARS OF FARRAGUT

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FARRAGUTPRESS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2019 • 5A

Smith a big player in Town transportation before his 2000 hiring

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

Darryl Smith recalled the good old days when he and his children were “riding along” a certain special road or highway — and dad would have to throw in a reminder.

“I would have to say, ‘hey kids, this is my road here,’ and of course they would roll their eyes and say ‘yeah, yeah,’” Smith, Town of Farragut engineer for almost 20 years, said with laughter about some of the roads and highways he led the way in designing in Farragut before being hired by the Town.

“I’ve actually done a lot of projects, designed a lot of projects, for the Town of Farragut going back to the late ’80s all through the ’90s,” he added.

For example, “Old Stage Road to Lawton Boulevard and Kingston Pike between Jamestowne Boulevard and West End (Avenue) and Concord (Road),” he said about his work, from 1987 into 2000, “as a consultant doing roadway design. At that time it was Wilbur Smith Associates — they’re now CDM Smith here in Knoxville.”

Other Town examples include “early design on Campbell Station Road extension south of Kingston Pike, and Fretz Road,” Smith said. “I stayed plenty busy then.

“So it’s kind of nice to drive through some of the things I was working on 25 years ago,” he added. “... There’s a lot of satisfaction to accomplishing what you want to do, even if it takes a long time.”

20 years of growth

Hired as Town engineer in February 2000, “Looking back, if you look on KGIS at some of the historical areas you can see how the Town has grown” since his hiring, Smith said.

Recalling the Turkey Creek/Parkside Drive development, “They finished up Parkside Drive (and) I think they opened it for traffic in 2001 if I remember right,” he said.

Critical road funding

“I guess one of the more important roles I fill is working with the TPO, that’s the Transportation Planning Organization,” comprised of area municipalities within the Knoxville metropoli-

tan region, Smith said.

Their goal is to “put together a Transportation Improvement Program to set priorities for funding of projects,” he said. “And through that comes most of our federal funds that we use for roadway improvements.”

As for the Town’s portion, “We’ve been very successful at obtaining money for our road projects,” Smith said.

Because the Town imposes no property tax, “We operate on a more limited budget for capital projects,” Smith said, adding a majority of federally funded projects are 80 percent federal portion and 20 percent Town/local portion.

“What I’m most proud of would be that we’ve been able to leverage so much in federal funding to improve our roads,” Smith said, estimating the total federal amount has been “probably in the \$30 to \$40 million range.”

Traffic signal upgrades

In response to aging traffic signal equipment and technology, the Town will install an Advanced Traffic Management system to “improve our signal system throughout the Town ... we’ll have central control,” Smith said about the project, which will begin early next year for 26 traffic signals.

Adding closed circuit television cameras “can provide kind of an instant notification of what’s going on when trouble develops at a major intersection — if there’s an accident or something,” he said. “... We’ll be able to get alerts through e-mail that there’s a problem.”

Moreover, in order to better collect data from which to adjust times on traffic signals, “All of our 26 intersections will be radar controlled,” Smith said. “Radar receivers will pick up vehicles in the stacking (position) to determine the best way to operate. ... If you’re on a side road and come up to Kingston Pike or Campbell Station (Road), if it doesn’t know you’re there you’re not going to necessarily get a green ball.”

As for cost, “We’re looking at something like a \$7 million project,” Smith said.

Public misconceptions

Though saying his department “wants to help all we can,” often finding it “hard to say no” when



Alan Sloan

a request for help from the public has to be turned down, Smith emphasized there are citizen misconceptions about what his department can do.

Preventing private property flooding, especially due to heavy rain in a short period of time, is one example.

“My backyard flooded and washed out my garden” or what have you — I’ll hear that,” he said. “... Very often, the Town cannot do anything about drainage issues on private property.”

Concerning a “microburst” rainstorm, where “you get 4 inches of rain in 40 minutes, we’ve had that,” he said. “How do you do design for that? You really can’t. And what happens then? You’re going have some flooding. There will be some damaged properties.”

However, “We do make sure everyone builds above the floodplain,” Smith said.

As for public misconceptions about road construction delays, Smith said the current Concord Road Widening Project — though pointing out its completely under the jurisdiction of Tennessee Department of Transportation — “is a good example. ... They have to maintain traffic through there, yet at the same time there’s an amazing amount of utility work that has gone on and is currently going on.”

Final thoughts

Overall, “We have a very demanding public and that’s a challenge all its own,” Smith said. “There’s a lot of very intelligent people in Farragut, and a lot of times they know enough to call

me up and say, ‘this is what you need to do.’”

The bottom line in dealing with the public: “If you have to say ‘no,’ you better be right,” Smith said.

“My job is a long-term challenge,” he added.

However, “There is a lot of satisfaction to accomplishing what you want to do — even if it takes a long time.”

A section of South Campbell Station Road, at its intersection with Brooklawn Street, which Town of Farragut engineer Darryl Smith said he had an “early design” role in developing while employed at Wilbur Smith Associates — now CDM Smith here in Knoxville — prior to being employed by the Town.

A native of Cocke County, Town of Farragut engineer Darryl Smith recalled his first interest in an engineering career started while in high school there.

Smith then earned a civil engineering degree at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. “When I got out of school in ’85 I started working in Florida for about a year-and-a-half ... that was a very good learning experience, and it was very good to get out on my own,” he said.

Moving back to East Tennessee, “I started working at Wilbur Smith Associates,” he said (see main story on this page).

As for coming to Farragut, “Dan Olson was the one who hired me in 2000, and I really had a lot of respect for him,” Smith said about the late Town administrator.

Current Town administrator David Smoak “has been there for about 10 years and he does a terrific job. I really have a lot of respect for him,” he added.



Darryl Smith

For all the changes in his department in almost 20 years, “The number of employees really hasn’t changed: I think we’re still at six,” Smith said. “... We’re a small staff, so I have to wear a whole lot of hats.”

Smith and wife, Kim Cook, have three children and four grandchildren.

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



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Holiday Opening at the Villages

Despite enduring months of delays, Town's newest senior living community has high move-in rate at Dec. 19 opening

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Though opening months behind schedule, and almost two-and-a-half years after its official groundbreaking, The Villages of Farragut has new residents enjoying the holiday season at the senior living community's 230 Village Commons Blvd. home.

"We got our certificate of occupancy late Wednesday afternoon (Dec. 18)," said Melody Matney, Villages executive director. "Then we started making phone calls to our depositors — we have approximately 50 residents (in more than 40 apartments) moving in, and they started Thursday (Dec. 19)," noting the first residents spent the night Thursday.

"We are just so delighted to be here," she added.

With Phase I of The Villages at Farragut featuring 83 apartment homes, occupancy already "is about 50 percent," said Sandi Simpson, Resident Event director.

"I love it — I'm just crazy about it," new resident Geraldine Watson said. "Everybody is great, the meals are fabulous and it is just so homey. We are just one big happy family here.

"We love it, we love it, we love it," she added with enthusiasm.

With homes ranging in size from 529 square feet to 1,658 square feet, "We now have beautiful yet comfortable custom furniture in the common areas, including the community room, the dining room and pub, the clubroom, lounge areas, the chapel, salon and spa," Matney said.

"All outdoor common areas include covered porches, the third floor look-out and the courtyard," she added.

Meanwhile, "We are still ... taking reservations for move ins," Matney said. To seek information about possibly becoming a resident, call 865-671-2500.

Celebrations, staff

While new residents enjoyed a late afternoon "Happy Hour" Friday, Matney said she and other Villages staff are looking forward "to being here celebrating Christmas with our residents.

"It's an exciting time."

As for the staff, "Our team brings a lot of experience in senior care to The Villages and we all have a passion to serve," Matney said about two teams, which includes her at the top of the Leadership Team followed by Lorri Ryan, Sales & Marketing



Matney



(Above) Enjoying "Happy Hour" at newly-opened The Villages of Farragut last Friday afternoon, Dec. 20, were, from left, resident Arleen Malcolm, event coordinator Sandi Simpson, Don Olson and Joni Jones. (Left) New Villages residents Geraldine Watson and Dr. Tom Mountie also enjoyed Happy Hour. (Below) Dr. Thomas Grant and his wife, Marilyn Grant, checked in to their new Villages residence Dec. 20 and were completing paperwork in the office of executive director Melody Matney.

director; Simpson; Lori Lynn Gorman, Administrative assistant; Doug Smith, Maintenance director, and Tom Hopkins, Executive chef.

Villages Support Team staff are chefs Greg Gorton and Nathalie Jones; Stephanie Sloan, Wait staff; Marion DeVelle, Resident Care; and night watchmen Paul Mancini, Steven Jenks and George Harrs.

"Additional staff members are scheduled for onboarding and will be joining our team in the immediate future," Matney said.

Phase II coming

Looking ahead, "Owner Gary Keckley is already planning Phase II for The Villages of Farragut, with building to start on the first group of independent living villas in summer 2020," Matney said. "These homes will allow for some customizing of finish work, and all community amenities will be included for the Villa residents.

"Keckley has also established our Admiral's Club to partner with local organizations and charities and to give back to the community," she added.




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Year in Review

From page 4A

Municipal Planning Commission in Town Hall.

Its centerpiece, a sleek two-level, three-sided building with the TopGolf logo built into the structure, would front Outlet Drive and contain a restaurant and bar, both of which would be open to the public — not just TopGolf guests.

Additional plans tentatively call for a separate hotel and restaurant to be constructed alongside the sports complex.

If final details can be ironed out, TopGolf officials said construction would begin in 2020, and the facility could “hopefully open by early 2021.”

The Board voted unanimously Aug. 2, on second reading to approve an ordinance creating the Outlet Drive Regional Entertainment and Employment District (OD-RE/E), which replaces the Town’s C-2-R/W District.

Hot Shots again No. 1 in nation

• The Smoky Mountain Hot Shots, an East Tennessee age 70-plus women’s basketball team, came home with its third gold medal from the National Senior Games (also in 2013 and 2017) last summer in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The team completed an undefeated run.

Bob Hill, Rocky Goode pass

• Highly respected for his knowledge and zeal for all matters concerning the growth and overall well-being of Farragut, which manifested itself with more than a quarter-century of service as Farragut Municipal Planning Commission chair, Bob “Robin” Hill passed away July 10. He was 90.

Bob’s work with Town of Farragut was matched by what many observed as “an exemplary career” in Project Engineering Manage-

ment at Y-12 in Oak Ridge.

Farragut’s Rocky Goode, long-time SEC Football referee and former Bearden Bulldog star running back who was inducted into the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame in 2012, passed away Nov. 18. He was 66.

New “Landing” for Phillips 66

• Two young visionaries are hoping to transform the long-vacant Phillips 66 convenience store location at the intersection of Campbell Station Road and Kingston Pike. Business partners and co-developers Doug Justus and Carlos Cortez unveiled their concept plan, which they have tentatively called Admiral’s Landing, before Farragut Municipal Planning Commission July 18 during its regular monthly meeting.

Their plans, which were enthusiastically greeted by FMPC members, showed a roughly 9,000-square-foot building with a circular entrance-way and front patio that would set at the corner of Kingston Pike and Campbell Station Road.

Bartlett new FHS principal

• A former U.S. Marine, Dr. John Bartlett returned to his first love — being a principal — as the popular Knox County School administrator took the helm as Farragut High principal after serving as principal at Bearden High from 2008-09 through 2017-18.

Town No. 3 in tax friendliness



A mother’s love is not limited to the good times, but feeling the pain of their child in challenging times. Rebekah Page is one such mother, who grimaces while daughter, Beatrice, receives her shot from Dr. Tadhg Hart during Free Flu Shot Saturday, sponsored by The Rotary Club of Farragut. Taking place Saturday morning, Sept. 28, at Farragut High School.

• Town of Farragut ranked No. 3 among cities and towns in Tennessee for retirement tax friendliness.

In its fifth annual study, Smart-Asset analyzed sales, property, income, fuel and Social Security tax data to rank locations on how financially favorable they are for retirees.

Hatfield honored by NASSP

• Laicee Hatfield, Farragut High School’s curriculum director, was named Tennessee Assistant Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School

Principals.

Locals in Knox Hall of Fame

• Wade Chapman of Farragut was proclaimed “one of the truly great golfers in Knoxville history” and “one of the top teaching pros in the nation” by “Voice of the Vols” Bob Kesling, emcee during Chapman’s Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame induction, which was part of the ceremony in Knoxville Convention Center July 25.

Dave Meske, Webb School of Knoxville head football coach since 1985 who has seven state champi-

onships, three runner-up finishes and 267 wins in his first 34 years piloting the Spartans, joined Webb Class of 2002 all-time great Olympic gold medal swimmer Davis Tarwater (London Olympics 2012), an NCAA national champ swimming the butterfly who’s a 13-time All-American.

August: Knox Open leaves FDCC

• For 21 consecutive years the Knoxville Open was held at Fox Den Country Club. But the streak is over. Rebranded as Visit Knoxville Open, this PGA “minor league” tour event moves to Holston Hills Country Club in North Knoxville for the new Korn Ferry Tour, with next year’s stop Thursday through Sunday, May 14-17.

Raby tops all-time in Vandy wins

• Patrick Raby, a 2015 Farragut High School graduate and a key pitcher for 2019 national champion Vanderbilt, left Nashville as the Commodores’ all-time pitching wins record holder at 32.

Peterson Road narrowed

• Paving and lane reconfiguring along Peterson Road was completed last summer, but some Kingsgate residents, unhappy with the finished product, contacted Town Hall and took to social media voicing their displeasure with what are now two 9-foot travel lanes,

See YEAR IN REVIEW, Page 8A

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Year in Review

From page 7A

along with a 4-foot bicycle/pedestrian lane.

Three are Reward Schools

• Three Farragut schools were singled out as "Reward Schools" by the Tennessee Department of Education, as recognized by state Sen. Dr. Richard Briggs (R-District 7, which includes Farragut): Farragut High School, Farragut Intermediate School and Farragut Middle School.

September: Hotel/Motel Tax considered again

• Will the third time be a charm concerning Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen enacting a Hotel/Motel Tax? The Town's Tourism/Visitor Advisory committee voted to recommend BOMA consider the issue during its regular bi-monthly meeting Sept. 10.

October: Mayor's Night Out

• Attempting to personalize his relationship with Farragut con-

stituents and create clearer lines of communication on issues, Mayor Ron Williams unveiled "Mayor's Night Out" beginning in Oct. 8, at Sam & Andy's in Aspen Square.

By year's end, Mayor's Night Out also was held in November at Water into Wine bistro & lounge, and at The Shrimp Dock in December.

Myers TAMC 'Clerk of Year'

• Farragut Town recorder/treasurer Allison Myers earned the Tennessee Association of Municipal Clerks "Clerk of the Year" award, as presented during the organization's fall conference in Murfreesboro.

FMS JVs win first MAC title

• Farragut Middle School's junior varsity football team won the inaugural Knox County Middle-School-Age Conference crown. The Admirals closed out a perfect 9-0 season in perfect fashion when they routed Halls 24-0 Oct. 3 at Alcoa High School's Bill Bailey Field.

Bearden MAC varsity champs

• Having avenged a regular

season loss to Farragut in the semifinals a week earlier, Bearden's Middle School Varsity football team claimed the inaugural Knox County Middle-School-Age Conference championship. "It feels great to beat Alcoa," said Jackson Graham, a defensive lineman who made a crucial late sack that all but sealed the Bulldogs' 24-20 victory over the host and previously unbeaten Tornadoes Oct. 3 at Alcoa High School.

FIS fifth-graders win state

• Farragut Intermediate School fifth-graders Marelly Ortega and Andrew Cabaniss won their individual one-mile races Oct 19, running as part of the FIS cross country team in the Knoxville Youth Athletics program, besting students from across Tennessee.

November: CAK state champs

• Consistency at the top proved to be huge for the Christian Academy of Knoxville boys golf team, winning the 2019 Division II-A state championship, a 36-hole two-day

event in November at WillowBrook Golf Club in Manchester.

Tucker c-country state champ

• Callie Tucker, Knoxville Catholic girls cross-country senior, earned a state championship by finishing first in the Division II-AA field with a time of 18:56.

Buckner Bridges Coach of Year

• Matt Buckner, Farragut High School's baseball head coach, has won more than 550 games at two schools, appeared in nine Class AAA State Tournaments and won four state championships (2010, 2011, 2014 and last season, 2019, all at FHS). Buckner was named A.F. Bridges District 2 Male Coach of the Year Nov. 4 by the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association for the 2018-19 school year.

Action on Kroger property?

• While no entity or company has been officially named, the "old Kroger" property currently is under contract. Budd Cullom of CHM Development LLC confirmed that

news Nov. 5, following the monthly Town of Farragut Staff/Developer meeting in Town Hall, at which he and John Anderson of SITE Inc. discussed a preliminary plat and site plan for changes to a portion of the former Kroger parking lot.

Tucker an All-American

• Bryn "Tuck" Tucker, one the nation's more highly regarded high school lineman — a Clemson signee — as a senior lineman at Knoxville Catholic, has been chosen among more than 90 top high school football players in the United States to play in the prestigious Under Armour All-American Game. It begins at 6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 2, in Orlando, Florida.

FBC hosts TBC Summit

• 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 was the first time in about 15 years the event took place at FBC.

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Hoping to learn from struggle, FHS girls fall to defending state champ Bradley

KEN LAY

Correspondent

Farragut High School girls basketball head coach Jason Mayfield couldn't find any explanations after his squad was routed by defending Class AAA state champion Bradley Central late last week.

"I don't know what you say after a night like this," Mayfield said after his Lady Admirals came up on the short end of a 50-25 decision against the Bearettes Friday night, Dec. 20, in the 5-Star Basketball Classic in FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium.

"With the holidays coming up, we can

learn from this. We're obviously a level lower than where we thought we were, and they're a state championship type of team for a reason."

"Jason has a better team than they showed tonight, and they didn't shoot well," said Bradley Central head coach Jason Reuter, whose team improved to 8-2. "But our girls had something to do with that."



Mayfield

The Lady Admirals (11-2) got off to a rough start, scoring just 12 points over the first 16 minutes of the contest and committing 13 turnovers in the first half.

"I know we had double-digit turnovers in the first half, and we probably had double digits (in turnovers) in the first quarter," Mayfield said. "And you're not going to beat anybody when you play like that."

The Lady Admirals were 5-for-17 from the floor in the first half.

Bradley Central, meanwhile, had no trouble scoring early, as the Bearettes' inside duo of Anna Muhonen and Anna Walker combined to score 21 points before

halftime. Muhonen had 14 of her 16 points in the first half while Walker had seven of her game-high 19 points before the break.

"Their post players are really good, and I don't think anybody is going to be able to hang with them," Mayfield said.

"Defense is our calling card and that's what we hang our hat on," Reuter said. "We didn't shoot well tonight. Imagine what it would've been like if we would've shot 44 percent, we would've beaten them by 40."

Claire Wyatt, senior post/wing, scored eight points to pace Farragut's offense. Macy Barnes, junior guard, had seven for the Lady Admirals.

'Going through tough stretch,' Ads lose twice

KEN LAY

Correspondent

Farragut High School's boys basketball team got off to a blazing start this season, winning its first six games and claiming the championship of the Farragut Thanksgiving Classic.

But that all seems to be a distant memory, as the Admirals have now lost six of their last eight tilts, including two consecutive games late last week.

Farragut headed into the Christmas break on a sour note as it dropped a 77-66 decision to Bradley Central Friday night, Dec. 20, during the 5-Star Preps Classic in FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium.

"We're going through a tough stretch," Admirals' head coach Jon Higgins said. "But we'll navigate our way through it. We just need to keep coming to work every day."

Friday night's loss comes on the heels of a 73-71 overtime loss to Austin-East in opening round 5-Star play Thursday, Dec. 19 --- a game that FHS had more than its share of chances to win.

But the game against the Bears was a different story, as the Admirals fell behind big early and never really recovered. After Bradley Central (5-3) got off to a lead, it never trailed in the game.

"They came out and they jumped on us early, but then we settled down and got back in it," Higgins said. "But then we let it get away from us again."

"Then we came back and got back in it again, but then we let it get away from us again," he added.

Despite watching his team struggle, Higgins was upbeat about his squad's prospects moving forward. The Ads (8-6), however, must continue to stay on course.

"We're just going to have to develop consistency, and if we do that we'll be all right," Higgins said.

Senior guards led the Admirals in scoring: Aaron Dozier with 19 points and Robby Geron adding 12.

"We have to start better and we have to finish better," Dozier said. "We came in here and we got off to a slow start --- and honestly, we've had a habit of doing that."

"We just have to start strong and finish strong."

"Jon does a great job with his kids fundamentally, and he's never out of a game. He'll never be out of one," BCHS head coach Chuck Clark said. "Give Farragut credit, they really have some great shooters."

Quante Berry led the Bears with 21 points, while Trey Curry added 20.



Photos by Alan Sloan

(Above) FHS senior guard Aaron Dozier, left in white uniform, and teammate Carter Mayfield, sophomore guard, press a Bradley Central ballhandler during this 5-Star Preps Classic game in Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium Friday night, Dec. 20. The Bears won 77-66. (Below) Admiral defenders Saish Malluri, left, senior guard, and Jake Wallace, junior post, surround a Bears rebounder.



'Thirds' big: Dawgs rip Bears, A-E

KEN LAY

Correspondent

After getting off to a slow start in an effort to defend its 2018-19 Class AAA state championship, the Bearden High School boys basketball team now finds itself above .500, as it heads into a brief Christmas break.

Head coach Jeremy Parrott did a little experiment at halftime of two games late last week.

It appeared to work.

"If you noticed, the last two nights we stayed on the court at halftime," Parrott said after the Bulldogs (7-6) ran past Austin-East 80-43 Friday night, Dec. 20, at the 5-Star Classic in Farragut High School's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium. "I decided to do that for two reasons."

"First, I felt like we were losing some intensity when we left the arena and went to the locker room. Secondly, I wanted the guys to get some more shots up. It always helps to get shots up. So I wanted us to get shots up and then come over to the sideline and talk a little bit about what we want to do coming back after halftime."

The reason for Parrott's unorthodox tactics was simple. During their losing streak to start the season, the Bulldogs had struggled during the third quarter.

"Early, we lost a lot of third quarters," he said.

Bearden opened a 36-26 advantage by halftime against the Roadrunners (4-2), then outscored Austin-East 27-9 in the third frame to continue a trend that it started Thursday, Dec. 19, against Bradley Central in their Classic opener.

The Bulldogs trailed 18-17 at the break against the Bears, but scored the first 13 points of the third quarter and cruising to a 47-27 victory.

At halftime versus A-E, "Coach (Parrott) was telling us that we've got to win the third quarter and we were able to take care of it," said senior guard Cahlib Edwards, a transfer from Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences, who led the Bulldogs with 21 points. "The third quarter is key. It can win or lose you a ballgame."

Bulldog Izaiha Bredwood scored 18 points and teammate Tyler Nordin had 10 against the Roadrunners. Elijah Bredwood and A.J. Pruitt each pitched in six points, as the contest was played with a running clock for much of the fourth quarter.

Though hanging close to '19 state champs, 1st BHS loss 'not our best game'

KEN LAY

Correspondent

After watching his team suffer its first loss of the 2019-20 season, Bearden High School girls basketball head coach Justin Underwood said he knew one thing was certain.

"This wasn't our best game," Underwood said after the Lady Bulldogs fell 36-26 to defending Class AAA state champion

Bradley Central in the 5-Star Classic Thursday, Dec. 19, in Farragut High School's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium. "We definitely didn't play our best basketball, and you're not going to win many basketball games when you only score 26 points."

That was a season-low in points for the Lady Bulldogs (11-1). "I don't know if it was finals or I don't know if it was fatigue, or exactly what it was. But you have to

credit Bradley," Underwood said.

Never trailing, Bradley opened a 15-6 lead in the first half. But the Lady Bulldogs would find some offensive rhythm in the second stanza,



Underwood

using a 12-8 run in the frame to pull to within 23-18 by halftime.

But Bearden, which shot just 24.4 percent from the floor (11-for-45), did not have a player posting double figures in scoring.

Freshman Avery Treadwell led Bearden with nine points and 10 rebounds, while senior forward Jakhya Davis (an East Tennessee State University signee) scored eight points and pulled down nine rebounds.

Bradley Central head coach Jason Reuter said his team "shot 33 percent ... and we still won --- and Bearden has a great team."

"We don't see them much during the regular season, but when we do it seems like the games are always like this," he added. "Justin does a great job, and we see a lot of him in the summer."

"We're good friends." Bradley Central's Anna Walker led all scorers with 21 points.

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TOWN SAMPLER

‘Elf on the Shelf’



Photo submitted

Hardin Valley Academy “Elf on the Shelf” elves were back in force starting Thursday, Dec. 12, when Liberal Arts Principal David Combs, right, and HVA social studies teacher Rebecca Furman sprinkled students with confetti snow between classes.

A Combs-Ashe creation, HVA’s between-class holiday fun carries on adding Speas, Furman

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD

mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

While young children may have experienced their own in-home “Elf on a Shelf” buddy during the holidays, Hardin Valley Academy students enjoyed their own live versions in the days leading up to Christmas.

Every school day, starting Thursday, Dec. 12, fully-dressed elves, including Liberal Arts Academy principal David Combs, HVA principal Rob Speas and social studies teacher Rebecca Furman, staged a variety of interactive scenes during class breaks, from tossing confetti “snow” on students in the school entry-way, to “snowball” fights and even a “fender bender” sledding accident in a stairwell, complete with an incident report-writing police officer.

“We hide in different places, and come out between classes,” explained Combs, who started the fun with former HVA STEM principal/athletic director George Ashe several years ago. “It was fun finding different scenarios and giving (students) something to look for.”

The Elves have been a huge hit with not only the students, but faculty, too.

“The kids and teachers, they love it,” he added.

Combs said he and Ashe had the idea for Hardin Valley’s “Elf on the Shelf” to give students a little levity during pre-winter break finals.

“There is so much testing going on, we wanted to give them a little fun, too,” said Combs, who noted an off-hand comment about his resemblance to the “Elf on the Shelf” also fueled the notion.

“Someone said that to me one day, and I thought, ‘Maybe I can go with that idea.’”

Even though Ashe retired at the end of last school year, Combs carried on the tradition this year, and got Speas and Furman involved.

The idea also has spread from its HVA beginnings, with Elves popping up at Knoxville Central High School and Hardin Valley Middle, too.

Combs said he enjoys what has become an annual tradition.

“We have had a lot of fun doing what we can to lift the spirits of our students during what can sometimes be a stressful time,” he said.

Combs has been posting about the shenanigans on Twitter, @HVA2008, and various other posts have been shared on several Hardin Valley Community Facebook pages.

A tool of witness, a memorial: FLC’s stained glass window



Michelle Hollenhead

“Luther’s Rose,” Farragut Faith Lutheran Church’s circular 8-foot diameter stained glass window, recently was installed inside the sanctuary, behind the pulpit, in honor of highly respected former FLC member, the late Joe Yarnell. Moreover, the special window, “Like the church itself, is an opportunity for evangelistic outreach and for drawing people into a deeply personal and spiritual relationship with Christ,” said Mildred Fenske, Joe’s widow.

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD

mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

The late Joe Yarnell was born and raised Baptist, but one of his legacies will forever be tied to Farragut’s Faith Lutheran Church, where a stunningly appointed stained glass window, “Luther’s Rose,” recently was installed in his memory.

The circular 8-foot diameter piece was placed inside the sanctuary, behind the pulpit, the week before Thanksgiving, under the watchful eye of Joe’s widow, Mildred Fenske, and church member Steve Dean, who served as project manager.

“My rationale for choosing to remember Joe by giving the window is because the window is far more than just an ornament to make the church look nice and colorful,” she said. “It, like the church itself, is an opportunity for evangelistic outreach and for drawing people into a deeply personal and spiritual relationship with Christ.”

Fenske, who is a charter member of Faith Lutheran, had the idea to honor Joe after he passed away more than five years ago. The couple had been married for 34 years, and Mildred said Joe “never met a stranger. He ‘glad-handed’ everybody.”

Throughout their marriage, Joe attended Mildred’s church, while she attended his.

“I went with him and he went with me,” Fenske recalled. “He would always ask people if they had a church home, and if they

See **SPECIAL WINDOW** on Page 3B

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DECEMBER

• **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.** Representatives from The Love Kitchen will be on hand each evening to collect donations of cans and/or money.

• **MEDIC Regional Blood Center currently has a low inventory of O Negative blood.** O Negative Donors are encouraged to donate as soon as possible. Meanwhile, Medic is offering a variety of incentives and opportunities to donate blood and blood-related products through the holidays. For the month of December, while supplies last, each donor will receive a pair of holiday socks as well as a Texas Roadhouse appetizer coupon.

During the week of Christmas (**Tuesday and Friday, Dec. 26-27**), donors will receive a movie ticket and their choice of the holiday socks or the holiday-themed shirt (while supplies last) as well as the Texas Roadhouse appetizer coupon.

MEDIC will resume regular hours **Thursday, Dec. 26.** For more information on MEDIC Regional Blood Center, visit the website at www.medicblood.org or contact Director of Marketing and Donor Recruitment Kristy Altman at Kaltman@medicblood.org or by phone at 865-805-2008.

JANUARY

• **Authors Guild of Tennessee will hold its regular monthly meeting** beginning at **11 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 9.** in Faith Lutheran Church, 225 Jamestowne Blvd. in Farragut. Published authors are invited to attend. Special speaker will be AGT member Randall Carpenter, whose topic will be on selling techniques to incorporate at a fair or festival. For more information, visit www.authorsguildoftn.org.

• **East Tennessee Writers Hall of Famer R.B. Morris**, a poet, songwriter, solo performer and band leader from Knoxville, will join Greg Horne, Daniel Kim-

bro, and Hunter Deacon for the record release of "Going Back to the Sky" beginning at **8 p.m., Friday, Jan. 10**, in Laurel Theater, located on the corner of 16th and Laurel Avenue in the historic Fort Sanders neighborhood near the UT campus. Tickets are \$15 (discounts apply to advance purchase, Jubilee Community Arts members, students and seniors) and are available through Brown Paper Tickets, brownpapertickets.com/, 1-800-838-3006 ext. 1, by mail or at the door. For more information, call Brent Cantrell or Toby Koosman at 865-522-5851 or e-mail info@jubileearts.org

• **Barbara West Portrait Group** will showcase an exhibition of its work in January in Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive. Located in the rotunda, the free exhibition will run from **8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, Jan. 6-10 and Jan. 11-15.** The group's namesake, the late Barbara West, was an artist who shared her hospitality and home with fellow artists. After living in California for many years, she relocated to Knoxville in 2002. The Barbara West Portrait Group meets twice a week to draw and paint. To learn more about the group, call 865-675-6339. For more information about the exhibition, contact Special Event & Program coordinator Brittany Spencer at bspencer@townoffarragut.org or 865-218-3378.



Faith Lutheran Church member Mildred Fenske, left, who funded the church's new "Luther's Rose" stained glass window (in background) is alongside fellow member Steve Dean, center, who helped spearhead the project, and the church's pastor, the Rev. Robert "Bob" Stelter.

Photo submitted

Special window

From page 2B

didn't, he would say, 'I know of two good ones.'

They were, of course, attending Faith Lutheran when the church moved next door from its original location on Jamestown Boulevard to the former site of St. John Neumann Catholic Church.

While Mildred considered how best to honor her late husband, she said she also had noticed how "it was very dark, by the pulpit, and the building doesn't look very Lutheran," realizing the addition of "Luther's Rose," also known as "Luther's Seal," would certainly make a difference.

"Anytime you see that, you know, it is Lutheran," she said, noting the Seal had been designed by Martin Luther himself "while he was teaching at Wittenberg. The Black Cross stands for faith in Christ crucified; the Red Heart, for faith in the Savior; the White Rose, to show that faith causes joy, consolation and peace; the Blue Sky denotes that the joy of faith in the spirit is the beginning of heavenly joy to come; and the Golden Ring surrounding it signifies that such bliss in Heaven is endless."

It was only within the last year that she was able to make the dream a reality, thanks to help and support from Dean, who agreed to manage the project.

"He has done a wonderful job shepherding it," Fenske said.

They worked with local artist Ben Parham of State of the Art Stained Glass on the design.

"He is a true artist," Fenske said. "We gave him the dimensions, but it was his idea to add the wheat

and the grapes, which indicate the importance of the sacrament of Holy Communion."

The design also features the words "Scripture Alone, Grace Alone and Faith Alone," along with a small section imprinted with the dedication to Joe Yarnell.

"It is there, but I wanted it to be subtle — I didn't want it to be showy," Fenske said.

Masons from WASCO, which had performed similar work at the historic Campbell Station Inn earlier this year, worked more than three weeks on creating the space for the window to be hung.

Faith Lutheran congregants were able to see the window for the first time during services Sunday, Dec. 1.

"Ninety percent of the people had not seen it, and they were just in awe," Dean said. "It is so vibrant and beautiful. It just brings something to the church that touches everyone — I would love for everyone in the community to come and see it."

Fenske, who also is helping out with another stained glass project at the church, "which will make the Narthex brighter," said Dean single-handedly shouldered the cost of the entire project, which he estimated will end up being more than \$50,000.

Dean said Joe and he "both had very humble beginnings. However, throughout our lives, both of us were truly blessed; we were 'blessed to be a blessing,'" Fenske said. "I hope that the widow of 'Luther's Seal' will be a blessing, not only to all of (the members now) at Faith Lutheran Church, but to subsequent generations as well."

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Photos submitted

FHS Dec.-Nov. Stars

Farragut High School Stars of the Month (*December Stars far left*): Students of Month, sitting, are Ava Weatherby, far left, and Zachary Foust, far right. Athletes of Month are basketballers Claire Wyatt and Robby Geron. Staff Member of Month is Lynsey Flatford, standing third from right, Family and Consumer Science. Sponsors in both photos, from left, are Eric Whitener and Teri Jo Fox of The Knox Fox Real Estate Group, and Sarah Post of Padtome Promotions. (*November Stars, sitting, left*): Student of Month, left, is Addie Grace Fields, and Athletes of Month are Reese Schroeder, volleyball, and Trevor Coggin, cross country. Staff Member of Month is Patrick Doucette, Not pictured is Angus Pence, Student of Month.

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STAFF/DEVELOPER AGENDA
Tuesday, December 31, 2019
Back of Board Room, Farragut Town Hall, January 16, 2020
FMPC Items **9:00 a.m.** Discussion and public hearing on a final plat for the Campbell Crossing Subdivision, 1107 N. Campbell Station Road, 10.19 Acres, 22 Houselots and 1 Open Space Lot, Zoned R-1/OSR (Lemay and Associates, Applicant) **9:30 a.m.** Discussion and public hearing on a revision to the site plan approved on August 15, 2019 for a generator at the Summit View Nursing Home, 12823 Kingston Pike, 5 Acres, Zoned C-1 (Falconnier Design Company, Applicant) **10:00 a.m.** Discussion and public hearing on a request for approval for small cell support structures within the public rights of ways adjacent to 100 S. Campbell Station Road, 500 N. Campbell Station Road, 10809 Dineen Drive, 10870 Kingston Pike, 11124 Kingston Pike, 11840 Kingston Pike, 12001 Kingston Pike, 11433 Parkside Drive, 11534 Parkside Drive, 11101 Sonja Drive, 11221 Sonja Drive, Lot 75 Cove at Turkey Creek (near intersection of Turkey Cove Lane and Matthews Cove Lane) (Tower-source, Applicant)

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Breakfast with Santa

Concord United Methodist and First Farragut United Methodist churches each hosted Breakfast with Santa, Saturday, Dec. 14. Both featured delicious hot food, pictures with Santa, games and other activities designed to get children and their parents fully immersed in the Christmas spirit.



Amy Cherry and her son, Calen



Lillian McLemore carefully paints a holiday design on Megan Krumm's cheek.



Tucker Bowles, left, and Amy Shaggio, with their son, Oakley



Annalyn Olumstad excitedly shares her Christmas wish list with Santa.



Jennifer Rodriguez, cleverly disguised as one of Santa's reindeer



Mark Robbins and his grandson, Jackson



Roha Charnia



Noel Love and her daughter, Cate



Getting their picture made with Santa and Mrs. Claus were John Knox Irons, left, and his cousins, Alex, Marlee and Bailey Wall.



Ami Brown and her daughters, Olivia, left, and Hallie



Steven Kavjian and his daughter, Emmy



Vasileios and Cynthia Maroulas with their sons, Kosta, left, and Yanni



Above: FFUMC volunteer Perian Reese, left, and her friend, Kristen Overbay



Left: Rena Shinohara, left, got a little gift-wrapping help from one of Santa's elves, Ivy Enyenihi.



Left: Brian Kelly

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