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1st-degree murder is charged

STAFF REPORTS
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A Boyd Station Road mother was charged with first-degree murder following the apparent drowning death of her 11-month-old son last week, two days after he was found unresponsive in a bathtub.

Lindsee Louise Leonardo, 32, 12916 Boyd Station Road, was already jailed on charges of felony aggravated child abuse/neglect/ endangerment when charges were upgraded to murder Friday, Jan. 10, one day after the infant died, according to Knox County Sheriff's Office reports.

According to an arrest warrant, Leonardo told police she put her children, 11-month-old Aiden Xavier Leonardo, and a 23-month-old unnamed child, in the bathtub with 4-to-6 inches of water before going outside to smoke a cigarette at around 8 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 8.

The warrant further stated Leonardo told authorities she was outside for about 10 minutes. When she returned, the 23-month-old had turned the water on, filling the tub to the top. She said the 11-month old was floating on his back while the 23-month-old stood in the tub.

The mother stated she took the victim to her bed and called 911, with dispatchers instructing her on how to perform CPR.

American Medical Response transported the victim to Tennova Turkey Creek Medical Center where personnel regained a heartbeat. The 11-month was later transferred to the East Tennessee Children's Hospital, where he died Thursday.

Leonardo remained jailed Monday, Jan. 13, in lieu of \$350,000 bond. She faces a Tuesday, Jan. 21, court date on the charges.



(Above left) Cooper Stansbury, 4, is surrounded by birthday cards made for him during a blood drive in his honor Friday, Jan. 10, which he was unable to attend because he was undergoing his fourth chemotherapy treatment for Neuroblastoma. (Above right) Cooper's aunt, Morgan Bieber, left, and Louise Dover were among the many volunteers at Shoreline Church Friday, Jan. 10.



Photo submitted

Hoteliers can't stop 4-1 vote

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD
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Despite several impassioned pleas from local hoteliers and a former Farragut alderman, the Town's Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted 4-1 on first reading to approve a 3 percent hotel/motel occupancy tax during its regular meeting Jan. 9.

It was the third time since 2013 the issue had come before the Board on first reading, and Thursday's vote followed several months of internal and external discussion, information gathering and planning. If approved on its scheduled second reading Thursday, Jan. 23, the tax will become effective March 1, with all funding raised specifically earmarked for Town tourism development.

Three hoteliers opposed the tax, but one spoke in support.

Darren Tallent, general manager for Hampton Inn & Suites, said, "We as hoteliers continue to be a bit disappointed, because we have yet to see a clear mission or plan to developed to put 'heads in beds.'"

Tallent also noted the recent "largest hotel growth in Knoxville since 2012."

"Currently we have a competitive advantage ... but you put the tax in, I feel we will have to lower our rates to compete," he added. "Three percent might not seem like a huge difference, but it is to us and to our several thousand group and corporate accounts we have annually."

Tallent also questioned the March 1 effect date for the pro-

Gift to Cooper

Blood drive for 4-year old facing chemo

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD
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Cooper Stansbury of Farragut was unable to attend the birthday party held in his honor Friday, Jan. 10, but more than 100 friends, family members and even strangers made sure it would be a day he and his family will never forget.

While Cooper, 4, was at East Tennessee Children's Hospital beginning his fourth round of chemotherapy for neuroblastoma (which had been diagnosed in November), a replacement

blood drive was held at Shoreline Church, where his family attends.

"We just asked for his birthday that people donate," explained his mother, Lauren Stansbury, who said she worked with MEDIC on the details.

"For every donation, a \$15 credit goes toward Cooper's account to help with blood transfusions. Eleven people donating equals the cost of one transfusion."

Along with the donations, a birthday cake featuring a Captain America shield, a nod to Cooper's love for superheroes, was served,

and cards were available to personalize, which Cooper could read at a later time.

Cooper's aunt and Lauren's sister, Morgan Bieber, helped with onsite coordination at Shoreline, along with many other family friends and volunteers.

"It just feels like an easy way to help, because so many people want to help in some way," Bieber said of the drive.

Lauren reported more than 100 people donated Friday, but anyone who may have missed that

See COOPER on Page 4B

See TAX TALK on Page 3A

Rash of Town vehicle thefts, burglaries continue: Hall

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Car break-ins continue to plague Farragut neighborhoods, as Capt. Brad Hall of Knox County Sheriff's Office West Precinct reiterated during last weeks' Farragut Board of Mayor and Alderman meeting.

"There has been a rash of car burglaries and car thefts recently," Hall told the Board Thursday, Jan. 9. "Most of the dates I looked at were between Christmas day and (Dec.) 29th," when break-ins

were reported in Waterford and on Farr Drive (in Thornton Heights) behind Sam and Andy's.

"Nine cars were broken into, and a couple of cars were stolen," Hall added. "The main thing is that the cars were unlocked, and in several of those cars were handguns that were stolen."

"Please lock your cars. Don't leave anything of value in them. Get the word out to friends, family and coworkers — don't leave anything in sight."

For example, "Just last night we had a couple of reports in Fox

Den of cars broken into. They were unlocked, and one of those cars had a gun," Hall said. "There was also a car stolen in Village Green, and the keys were in it."

"Most of time, burglars won't break windows, but will go from car to car, take what they can of value so they could trade or sell (them)," he added.

Residents are encouraged to contact 911 if burglaries are in progress, or to call the non-emergency number, 865-215-2444, or e-mail crimetips@knoxsheriff.org.



Michelle Hollenhead

Car burglaries and thefts have been reported in Waterford subdivision, off Concord Road, during the holidays, while others, including Village Green and Fox Den, have since been targeted.

business

"This was like a red carpet treatment, but I feel like this is how they always are. ... They fixed it within 30 minutes. Everybody just did everything fast and with great attitudes,"

- Mike Wilson, a stranded motorist helped by a "Good Samaritan" local business. (Read story beginning on page 6A)

community

"When I was about 15 years old there was something that came out of nowhere ... that maybe came straight from the throne of God and crashed into me,"

- Jonathan Sweet, recalling his years as a high school student/athlete being mentored by a special Christian man he was memorializing. (Read story beginning on page 3B)

sports

"We're really proud of him. ... He always encourages us, and it's good for it to pay off for him like this. It kind of acknowledges all the hard work he does for us,"

- Lauren White, Farragut High School senior basketball player, about her coach's milestone victory. (Read story beginning on page 1B)



Foundations
40 YEARS OF FARRAGUT

"Ambassador" Dorothy "Dot" LaMarche, former vice mayor, had a "family" first impression of Town leaders, staff. (Read Part 30 story, page 5A)



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Markli targeted by BOMA over anti-tax letter in fp

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD
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Editor's Note: farragutpress apologizes to Bob Markli for the misunderstanding concerning thoughts he submitted about the proposed Hotel-Motel Occupancy Tax, which he said was not intended to be published. Those thoughts became a Letter to the Editor in our Jan. 16 issue.

Prior to the publication, however, Markli and editor Alan Sloan did discuss the possibility of him submitting a letter. But greater care should have been taken by the editor to assure the document was to be published.

This statement reflects neither opposition nor support by farragutpress for the tax in question.

Former Farragut Alderman Bob Markli was taken to task Thursday, Jan. 9, regarding remarks he had made in a farragutpress Letter to the Editor published as part of the paper's Thursday, Jan. 9, issue.

Markli, who has long expressed opposition to the proposed Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax the Board of

Mayor and Aldermen considered and voted on during the meeting (see story beginning on page 1A), had written a letter not only opposing the tax, but also questioning BOMA's motives.

Among many accusations alleged in the 648-word letter, Markli stated about tax supporters, "Or perhaps even more ominously, does it mask an entrenched bigotry and disdain for our Indian community?"

Farragut resident Joleen Dewald spoke during the discussion portion of the meeting, in support of the tax, but also denouncing the letter.

"I've been following the Hotel Motel Tax since it started in 2013-14," DeWald said. "I've been here about 15 years ... I'm very much in support of a Hotel/Motel Tax. I'm not sure what percentage it should be — maybe a lower rate until you get a better plan, but as a resident I would much rather see a Hotel Motel Tax as opposed to a special assessment or property tax."

"The other reason I came tonight — I understand the author is in the audience — I was horribly offended this morning when I read the farragutpress, and read the editorial," he added. "I thought it was demeaning to the Board, demeaning to the mayor, and as an individual who does support this I thought it was very offensive to me, for some of the allegations of possible discrimina-



Markli

See LETTER on Page 3A

KCSO policereports

• **At 8:37 a.m., Friday, Jan. 10,** a complainant called Knox County Sheriff's Office Tele-serve Unit to report a burglary to his vehicle at an Augusta National Way address.

Complainant advised an unknown suspect stole items from his 2007 Lexus ES 350 sometime between 5 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 8, and 7:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 9. Complainant advised the vehicle was unlocked and no damage was made to the vehicle.

Stolen was various wrestling equipment, with a listed value

at \$350, and a backpack, with a listed value of \$80.

• **At 3:49 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 9,** a complainant called KCSO West Precinct to report a burglary to her 2018 Nissan Versa at the Sprint store parking lot, 11655 Parkside Drive. She advised an unknown suspect shattered her front passenger side window to gain entry and stole items. Total value of damage was listed at \$200. Items taken were a purse (\$125), wallet (\$75) her Tennessee driver's license (\$25) and a debit card.

• **At 10:08 a.m., Jan. 9,** a

Georgetowne Drive complainant called KCSO West Precinct to report a stolen vehicle. He advised an unknown suspect took his 2006 Toyota Highlander from his driveway. Complainant advised he might have had a spare key inside the vehicle.

Total value of loss was listed at \$6,500.

He stated the vehicle has a sticker on the back near the license plate that says, "If you are prepared for a zombie apocalypse you are prepared for anything."

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Tax talk

From page 1A

posed tax. "It doesn't give us much time to prepare for this," he said.

Scott Pejsa, regional vice president of operations for McKibbin Hospitality, which operates Hampton Inn and Suites, also spoke out against the proposed tax, and cited one recent negotiated contact only netted the hotel a profit of \$2.12 per room night.

"If you add that three percent tax, that [profit] goes away," Pejsa said.

"I really want for everyone to really think about this," Pejsa continued. "I will say, over last seven years, you guys have allowed us to be heard, but in my honest opinion I don't think we've been listened to."

During discussion, Alderman Louise Povlin, who opposed the three percent tax from the beginning, proposing instead starting at two percent, said, "I agree with your point of view. We have no plan for what we are envisioning here. We have nothing to establish a three percent tax."

"Speak for yourself — I have done my research on this," interjected Alderman Scott Meyer.

Amit Patel, owner of Comfort Suites, said he believes hoteliers "have not been getting straight answers" regarding the need for the tax.

Meyer asked if Patel would participate in helping make a tourism plan. Patel responded he would.



Patel

"I think that would be great progress," Patel said

"We've gone through this before," Alderman Ron Pinchok said. "You wanted to be involved but then don't show up for the meetings. We've been trying for two years to get you all involved."

"It is your responsibility to come up with a plan that is straight forward and clear cut," replied Patel. "That's what we don't have."

Alderman Drew Burnette said a plan had been discussed at a Tourism workshop held in December.

"We had all that at the last meeting. We can't keep getting to within five yards of the finish line and punt back 20 yards," Burnette added.

Trent Walker, of Fairfield Inn and Suites spoke in favor of the proposed tax, but asked if it could be considered at 2 percent.

"It would allow the hotels to keep a small competitive advantage," Walker said.

Bob Markli, former Town alderman well known for his opposition to the tax, also spoke during the meeting.

He suggested if the matter was an important one, "let's make it a budget item" instead of a tax. Markli also suggested the issue could be placed on the ballot for a residential vote.

The Board discussed the issue, with Burnette reiterating the basic plan put forth in December "gives us the foundation on which to build" the Town's tourism program.

Ultimately, Mayor Ron Williams, Meyer, Burnette and Pinchok voted to approve the ordinance on first reading.

Povlin voting against, as she reiterated her support for a 2 percent rather than a 3 percent tax.

Letter

From page 2A

tion and bigotry. I just wanted to address that.

"I don't think that has any role in Farragut politics or issues, and I expect better from both our past and our current board members."

Markli spoke during the meeting about his opposition to this tax. Alderman Scott Meyer then addressed the letter.

"Bob, I have the utmost respect for you, but I have to say that your article today, and the information you included in that — and that you included in the personal e-mail you sent to me — in some ways broke my heart," Meyer said. "... I wish

that you would have the opportunity to talk to my 20-year-old nephew, Josiah, who was adopted from an orphanage in Haiti, and ask him if his Uncle Scott is a bigot. ..."

"Scott, everybody, everybody in the audience, listening, I want to apologize for that remark," Markli replied. "I didn't mean to offend anybody; this whole discussion has gotten pretty emotional, pretty passionate. ... I wanted to make people think; I apologize for that remark; to anyone who is offended by it, I don't believe it about anybody. I don't want to believe it about anybody."

"I think you offended everyone Bob," Mayor Ron Williams said. "I think it's pretty much consensus across the Board, and across the

neighborhoods. I have had a multitude — just about all day, I've fielded calls about this article you put in the paper."

"First of all, I want to say I never intended for that to be in the paper ... it was a letter to you all," Markli said. "I just copied the editor on that."

"It doesn't make it any less hurtful," Alderman Drew Burnette said.

Both Meyer and Vice Mayor Louise Povlin thanked Markli for his apology.

"I appreciate you coming up here and talking, and I appreciate your apology," Povlin said. "I appreciate you are very passionate about this subject. You love this town — we do too."

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letterstoeditor:anti occupancy tax pro occupancy tax

We want to address the proposed 3 percent hotel tax for Farragut that was approved 4 to 1 on first reading by the Board of Aldermen this week. As an industry of hoteliers, we are all for growing tourism in our great Town, and as experts in the field we know this additional tax burden on our hotels and guests is not the answer.

Farragut hotels are currently situated in a unique setting where the current tax structure allows our nine small hotels to enjoy a distinct advantage over our neighboring hotels in Knoxville. Farragut hotels currently collect a total tax of 14.25 percent, which is 3 percent lower than the City of Knoxville. This is a huge advantage and is, quite frankly, needed in order to compete with newer hotels that are located closer to the main demand generators bringing travel to our area. While you may think travelers don't look at tax rates, they absolutely do. In today's environment, it is easier than ever to compare, as websites quote prices in terms of total spend for the guest.

Our well-intentioned Town government wants to help our business. Nonetheless, no one on the Town government has long-term experience in the hospitality industry, or to my knowledge has higher education specifically in the hospitality field. By contrast, our nine hotels have leadership that have either gone

to school specifically for Hospitality and Tourism; or, maybe more importantly, have spent their life's work learning to succeed in one of the most competitive fields. If we, as tourism experts, truly thought this proposed tax would benefit our Town and our businesses, we would be 100 percent behind it. The truth of the matter is, it would have the opposite effect; driving down our occupancies and costing the Town that much more in coveted sales tax base that has allowed the Town to succeed since day one.

The sales tax base in this year's budget contributes 6.3 million dollars. Beer, wine and mixed drinks combined taxes contribute over 1.1 million. Our nine hotels do a lot to help drive that combined 7.4 million dollars in collections for the Town. When this new tax starts, some of our guests will go stay at other hotels; they will also shop, dine, drink and fill their gas tanks elsewhere resulting in additional lost sales tax base.

The 2019/2020 budget is already set, and the Town is operating in this fiscal year at a surplus of 3.7 million dollars. As a business, our hotels are also operating in their fiscal year within their budgets and after all expenses are paid, a far less amount will

See **HOTELS-MOTELS' VIEW** on Page 7A

This is a great time to be in Farragut! Our new community center and several upcoming development projects are sure to make 2020, the 40th anniversary of our incorporation, a year to remember. With these things in mind, I need to respond to some of the issues brought up in the Letter to the Editor from our hoteliers regarding the Town's proposed hotel tax.

• Tourism requires a dedicated funding source. While our FY2020 budget shows a surplus, those funds are slated for specific capital items. The Town will need \$30 million in road improvements over the next 20 years, and we are in the process of researching needed repairs to our aging stormwater infrastructure. We don't know yet what the cost for repairs will be. Having extra room in our budget is what allows us to address infrastructure costs without borrowing money or instituting a property tax, and I think Farragut residents appreciate this.

• The Town is not "singling out" nine small businesses with a tax. In fact, the Town taxes wholesale beer and liquor, mixed drinks and cable television franchises, and we are not required to spend revenue raised from those taxes to promote the taxed businesses. A hotel tax would be different because the State of Tennessee would require the Town to use revenues from the tax solely for tourism projects. Funding received through a hotel tax cannot legally be used to improve roads or stormwater infrastructure; it could only be used to attract visitors to Farragut.

• The Town has a plan for future proceeds from a hotel tax. In 2018, the board implemented a Tourism/Visitor Advisory Committee to ad-

See **MAYOR'S VIEW** on Page 7A

Forty years ago our Founders set up our little Town against seemingly insurmountable obstacles. It was not too novel an idea for those times: a small, agile, accountable, pay-as-you-go government run by the people.

It was, whether intentionally or inadvertently, modeled after what Alexis de Tocqueville described in 1835 as the genius of America. It has succeeded perhaps beyond our founders' fondest hopes, and today enjoys an enviable quality of life.

We have better roads, side-

walks, parks and amenities, traffic management, street lights, schools and public safety, less crime, a more pleasing aesthetic and much more because of their vision.

I have lived here most of Farragut's 40 years, have known all of its mayors and I have served in Town government in one capacity or another for about half that time. I own a rent house in Kingston where I pay over \$2,000/year more in taxes and services than I do in Farragut for a house not nearly as nice as my home here.

That money saved from government allows our citizens to better maintain their homes, support our schools, etc.

Since Farragut's founding, our favorable tax structure provided the significant competitive advantage that put us on the map as a hospitality destination with nine fine hotels with 720 rooms in a wide range of prices. These in turn have allowed our restaurants, fuel centers, convenience stores and other related businesses to thrive,

See **ANTI-HOTEL TAX**, Page 8A

letter:delay structures

At 7 p.m., Jan. 16, Farragut Municipal Planning Commission (FMPC) will decide if Verizon Communications may place 5G cellular small cell support structures in 12 locations in Farragut, including four in residential areas including Stonecrest, Farragut View and The Cove at Turkey Creek.

I am requesting a delay for this

approval as the people of Farragut do not have adequate knowledge of how this will impact their property value and whether this new 5G technology is safe for the public. Please attend this meeting so you can learn how your property will be affected.

Some 5G cellular technology

See **DELAY STRUCTURES**, Page 8A

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‘Ambassador’ LaMarche

had a ‘family’ first impression of Town staff

ALAN SLOAN

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If one person could be branded Town of Farragut’s ambassador to the state of Tennessee and nationwide, Dorothy “Dot” LaMarche would fit the bill.

But that story, perhaps, wouldn’t have unfolded if not for two things: a cell tower issue in Sugarwood subdivision and a great first impression upon encountering Farragut staff inside Town Hall.

Those encounters created a domino effect eventually earning LaMarche local, statewide and national respect.

First impressions

Visiting Town Hall one day, “I saw how the Town was and how the staff was — it was like a little family,” said LaMarche, serving Farragut on the Board of Mayor and Alderman for 13 years (2003-2016 representing South Ward), including the final seven as vice mayor, who also served for years on Farragut Municipal Planning Commission as BOMA alderman representative.

“I felt such a good feeling. Everybody was friendly and kind,” she added. “And so that’s when I thought, ‘You know, I really ought to run for alderman.’”

Cell tower incentive

However, this future vice mayor said the initial reason she “got involved in politics was because they wanted to put a cell tower in our neighborhood.”

That meant “getting involved” with Sugarwood subdivision Homeowners Association after she retired from the nursing profession.

“We got organized — and we won,” she said. “I would go to the (F)MPC every two weeks and speak.”

Ready to serve Town

However, saying she was frustrated, “I called (then Mayor) Eddy Ford, and I said, ‘Eddy,

how to you get on this (F)MPC?’ I said, ‘Because I’m very upset with some of these people. They don’t listen to their constituents.’ They thought it was OK to have a cell tower,” LaMarche recalled.

“He said, ‘send me your résumé.’ I did, but he appointed another lady,” she added. “... That was OK.”

However, “Two months later he called and said, ‘How would you like to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals?’” LaMarche said.

She accepted, serving for two-and-a-half years. “I had never done anything like that before. Dan (Olson, then Town administrator) was a wonderful mentor to me. He encouraged me.”

LaMarche said she and the other BZA members fought Town leaders to get David’s Abbey Carpet the road sign they wanted — BZA won — and fought to allow developers of Vista subdivision along Virtue Road to keep “a beautiful column” at its entrance from being removed.

About the column, “I stayed up (one) night arguing with the Town, (saying) ‘this is stupid.’

“We compromised. ... But it was never moved,” she added.

Years later, “We’re more flexible now,” she said about such Town regulations.

Ready to run

“Then one day the newspaper came out and said no one is running for (South Ward) alderman,” LaMarche said. “And I said to Lou (LaMarche, husband), ‘would you be my campaign manager?’

“Why do you want to do this, Dot? You’ll get all these phone calls,” LaMarche said her husband replied. “I said, ‘Because I love Farragut — and no one is running.’

However, “As soon as I put my name in, five men put their name in,” she added with a laugh. “Two weeks before the election, three of them dropped out.”

That left “two young men half my age,” LaMarche said.

Saying she ran her campaign “on (building) a community center and no taxes,” LaMarche was elected in 2003.

Serving as vice mayor from 2009 to 2016 before stepping down, she pointing to the “big box” additions of Costco and Publix among the BOMA accomplishments she is most proud of during her years of service.

‘Ambassador’ LaMarche

LaMarche said she was challenged by Ford to contribute on a much bigger scale.

“You’re the only (alderman) retired. I want you to be involved on the state and the national level,” she recalled Ford saying to her.

LaMarche became chairman of Tennessee Municipal League’s District 2, which was “my first dealing with TML,” she said. “Then I got on the TML Board and served on that for a few years.

“Then I decided I’d try out the National League of Cities ... to become active on the NLC to represent the Town of Farragut and small cities,” LaMarche added. “... I wanted to make sure small cities were recognized and appreciated.”

The next step with NLC was “becoming chairman of the Human Development Committee. I chaired that for two years,” she said. “That gave me a way to get into the (NLC) Board.”

“... I worked really hard for small cities,” LaMarche added. “... We were able to change a lot of things to help small cities.”

Then next step was “getting involved with Women in Municipal Government; I became president for one year. That’s all elected women officials in the United States,” she said.

Moreover, “I brought all the women to Knoxville,” she added. “I had to raise \$35,000 to bring



Photo credit

Then Town of Farragut Vice Mayor Dorothy “Dot” LaMarche alongside then Mayor Ralph McGill (front), headlining the Board of Mayor and Aldermen from April 2011 to August 2014. In back, from left, are then Aldermen Bob Markli, Ron Honken and Jeff Elliott.

Originally from Nashville, Dorothy “Dot” LaMarche and husband, Lou LaMarche, came to Knox County in 1994 “because of my husband’s new position. He’s been in the paper industry all of his career (now retired). He was a chemical engineer (who graduated from Clemson,” she said. “... The last seven years of his career were here.

“I was still active in nursing,” Dot added, with the couple coming here from Raleigh, North Carolina, where she served “as Patient Care coordinator of the emergency room” at Rex Hospital. Prior to that her nursing career included serving “as head nurse for four years” at Bradley Memorial Hospital in Cleveland.

Starting her professional career as an elementary school teacher in Nashville, LaMarche also served in “intensive care nursing” at a hospital in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Her next move out-of-state was serving as an oncology nurse for three years at a hospital in Atlanta before the move to Raleigh.

Lou LaMarche is a native of Charleston, South Carolina,



LaMarche

who served his country as a U.S. Army veteran of 32 years — retiring as a colonel.

Lou’s volunteer service to the Town, and to Farragut Museum, perhaps has been highlighted by his role for years as “Admiral Farragut” at various Town and museum-related events and re-enactments.

The LaMarches have three daughters, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

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

them to Knoxville in, I believe, 2016.”

Staying for three days, which included “a luncheon at Fox Den,” in the end “they loved being here,” LaMarche said. “... It went off well.”

Final credits

All of this recognition, begin-

ning with TML, “was because Eddy Ford was my mentor, he had gone before me, and everybody loved Eddy and knew him,” she said. “He paved the way.”

She also credited the late Mayor Robert “Bob” Leonard for his advice when she first ran for alderman.

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Going the extra mile

Honest-1 Auto Care comes to the rescue

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

A Farragut business, Honest-1 Auto Care, got a shout-out for going the extra mile from Mike Wilson, a Paris, Tennessee, motorist and his wife, who were stranded over the holidays.

"This was like a red carpet treatment, but I feel like this is how they always are," Wilson said, remembering the employees' kindness.

Wilson and wife, Cheryl, were traveling along Interstate 40 East from Paris to Knoxville around 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, to visit family for the holidays.

Wilson recalled when they got 15 miles from Knoxville, at mile marker 358 — just outside of Farragut, their car "just lost power.

"We found out later it was the fuel pump that failed," he said.

Wilson pulled over to the shoulder of the road and called "Star TN," which automatically connects a driver with Tennessee Highway Patrol.

With a recommendation from his insurance company, Honest-1 Auto Care was called.

Although it closes at 3 p.m. on Saturdays, Wilson said staff members told him, "If you can get here, we will help."

He said three staff members helped with the car, fixing the vehicle in the parking lot.



Photo submitted

Paris, Tennessee, resident Mike Wilson said he and wife, Cheryl Wilson, are grateful for the kindness of Honest-1 Auto Care's staff who got the Wilson's car back on the road during the Christmas holiday.

"They fixed it within 30 minutes," Wilson said. "Everybody just did everything fast and with great attitudes.

"They didn't make me feel like I was putting them out," he added. "They were very accommodating."

Eric Van Cleve, owner of Hon-

est-1, 150 N. Campbell Station Road, said his team wants to go "that that extra mile" to help others.

"Essentially, that goes back to the Bible," Van Cleve noted, referencing Matthew 5:41, "when Jesus said, 'go that extra mile.'"

businessbriefs

• **Dr. Todd Abel**, a board-certified neurosurgeon with the University of Tennessee Medical Center and East Tennessee Children's Hospital, has accepted the chairmanship position of Spinal Resources Inc.'s Scientific Advisory Board. SRI is a spinal medical device engineering innovative mechanical and biomechanical products for surgical repair and reconstruction of debilitating spinal conditions. Abel is a clinical instructor with UT Graduate School of Medicine and medical director of Spine Center at UT Medical Center.



Abel

• **Dr. H.M. "Hash" Hashemian**, president/CEO of Analysis and Measurement Services Corporation, has been appointed by Tennessee Lt. Gov. Randy McNally to serve as a member of Tennessee Technology Development Corporation Board of Directors for Launch Tennessee. Hashemian also is an adjunct professor of nuclear engineering at UT Knoxville.



Hashemian

• **Pinnacle Financial Partners and Strata-G** are joining forces to support Knox Area Rescue Ministries and Westview Community School through Great Schools Partnership. Strata-G recently was honored with

Dream Big Small Business Award from U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which came with a \$25,000 prize Strata-G promised to donate to the two charities.

• **Knoxville resident C. Craig Smith, P.E.**, current vice president of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, has been named the association's president effective Jan. 1. He was elected during Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society's 114th annual convention in Columbus, Ohio.



Smith

• **Emerald Youth Foundation Board of Trustees** has named a new chairman for the first time in more than a decade. Dr. Keith Gray, senior vice president and chief medical officer of UT Medical Center, will succeed Doug Kennedy. Kennedy also is CEO of Johnson & Galyon Construction.



Gray

• **Pellissippi State Community College** recently won an International Award for Excellence in Marketing from the Learning Resources Network, one of the largest associations of lifelong learning in the world. The award was one of only 20 given at LERN's annual conference in San Diego, which was attended by 800 professionals in lifelong learning from five countries.

Choto future home to Johnny Brusco's NY Style Pizza

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Markets at Choto continues to grow, welcoming Johnny Brusco's New York Style Pizza, a chain, to its line-up of businesses.

Owners Jamie Garcia and wife, Holly Garcia, expect to open the restaurant the first week of February at 1620 Choto Markets Way, off South Northshore Drive.

"We will be their fourth location in Tennessee," Jamie Garcia said.

The restaurant will offer the traditional favorites and specialty pizzas, even featuring cauliflower and gluten-free crusts.

However, Garcia promises there is more to Johnny Brusco's.

"We will be a full-serve restaurant," he said. "It's not just pizza."

Starters will include garlic bread with marina sauce and

salads; dinners will feature calzones, pasta, stromboli and lasagna; and a really large children's menu await patrons.

As a father of three, Garcia said the children's menu was important.

"Our kids are not big pizza kids themselves, so we'll have pasta, we'll have salads, and after the first 30 days we'll bring in our burgers — we'll have a burger line, too," he said.

For adults, Johnny Brusco's will have 14 beers on tap.

This is not Garcia's first go-around as a pizzeria owner.

With a lifelong love for pizza, he said, "I owned my own pizza restaurant when I was 18 years old ... I did that for about four years."

Garcia then pursued higher education, entered corporate America, married and while rais-

ing three children joined AT&T, from which he recently resigned to pursue ownership of Johnny Brusco's.

"I always wanted to come to (owning a pizza restaurant)," he said. "I just knew if I was going to come back to it, then I wanted to do it 100 percent, have the right funding, be more mature and do it right.

The Garcias spent three years of research, food testing and looking for the "right fit" for them.

"We traveled between seven different states trying out their products," Garcia said. "We just kept coming back to Johnny Brusco's New York Style Pizza. ... The first thing that piqued our interest was in (Johnny Brusco's) philosophy, it is the neighborhood pizzeria.

Therefore, "It was an alignment of philosophies," added



Tammy Cheek

Jamie Garcia, co-owner with wife, Holly Garcia (not pictured), plans to open a Johnny Brusco's New York Style Pizza location in Markets at Choto the first of February, offering pizza and a whole line of other menu items, including a large children's menu.

Garcia, who lives in Hardin Valley but is president of Farragut Youth Lacrosse. "We want to be as big a part of the community as they will let us be."

It also will offer an outdoor patio and carryout service, and 30 days after opening it will offer pre-ordering online.

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Hotels-Motels' view

From page 4A

be our surplus. We are glad the Town is healthy enough to have a \$3.7 million surplus in their budget and even more proud our small, but mighty, group of nine hotels have contributed a lot of money to that number.

Our hope is that you do not kill the golden goose while being overly eager to institute a tax to "help" a group of businesses. If you must institute this tax, we demand to see a strong strategic plan that makes sense. What are you going to do with the additional \$450,000 you will receive? Show us how it will boost our hotel occupancies prior to implementation. To force this tax into place before doing so is completely irresponsible and will lead to lower sales tax collections.

There is not a state of emergency currently

in the Farragut budget. We all understand the Hall income tax stream goes away this year and the Town is going to lose \$454,000 from the budget. This is eerily similar to the amount the new hotel tax could contribute at \$450,000.

If this is not simply an effort to replace the Hall income tax stream, but rather a shrewd investment in tourism, then prove it to us. We all know investments in tourism have a great return on investment (ROI) when implemented correctly.

If the Town government is as committed to Tourism as you say you are, then look at the big picture. If money is needed to promote Tourism that will benefit the whole Town, Farragut is currently charging 2.25 percent local sales and use tax but can charge up to 2.75 percent. Why not look at a raise there that would allow all businesses to help rather than single

out a small group of nine?

By implementing a .25 percent increase in local sales and use tax, the Town could produce more toward the budget. This small increase would result in far more revenue than the proposed hotel tax to put toward the Town budget and into tourism, if tourism is what the citizens of Farragut want.

At 2.5 percent, Farragut would be on par with the Tennessee average for local sales and use tax. A small increase to the local sales and use tax would spread the burden across many businesses, not just nine. It is also worth noting, none of our hotels rank in the top 10 employers in Farragut. While we are sure the intention is not to single the hotels out, the optics are unfavorable in that light.

We know Farragut was very proud to receive a designation of being the most "Business Friendly" city in Tennessee in 2011. That repu-

tation and designation have been a driving factor in businesses, like our hotels, choosing to operate in Farragut and contributing to healthy reserves the Town has built up over that time.

We would love to see the business-friendly environment continue and potentially receive that designation again. We all love doing business in Farragut and want to see continued success, but singling out nine small businesses, in a field of hundreds, is a short-sighted way to operate.

Town of Farragut hotels: Comfort Inn & Suites, Country Inn & Suites, Clarion Inn & Suites, Fairfield Inn & Suites, Hampton Inn & Suites, Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Quality Inn, Staybridge Suites, Super 8 and Scott Pejsa, McKibbin Hospitality

Mayor's view

From page 4A

wise and assist elected officials, citizens and staff on tourism initiatives, and the committee includes a representative of the hotel industry.

Recommendations for initial projects were sought from Design Sensory, a local ad agency that has worked on successful tourism projects for several small communities, and the Town's Tourism coordinator created a budget plan based on those recommendations. This budget has been discussed at several public workshops, and local hoteliers have participated in each one.

Our hoteliers have asked us to produce proof that our tourism initiatives will result in quantifiable results. But without a crystal ball, this simply isn't realistic. Farragut residents probably had similar doubts when the Town was founded 40 years ago. After all, there was no board, no ordinances, no staff and no money. We started small and made good decisions, and the result is the thriving community we have today.

That's what I envision for our tourism program. If we start small and make good decisions, we'll grow a program that benefits the whole town, including our hoteliers.

For those who wonder if Farragut can be marketed as a tourist destination, I'll borrow some words from a previous 'Press article that said exit 373 is "The Safest, Cleanest, Most Charming Exit on the Inter-

state," and calls Farragut a "hospitality, travel and shopping destination." I agree.

These qualities can be used to market Farragut to visitors, which would benefit all our businesses and

help us avoid a property tax. That's why I support a hotel occupancy tax that is paid for by visitors, not our residents.

Mayor Ron Williams

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Delay structures

From page 4A

requires a line of sight with no inference with a maximum distance of 1,000 feet from antenna to antenna. This means trees, hills and curves will require more antennas with distances as short as 400 feet in a dense suburban neighborhood.

In the Agenda for the FMPC meeting Thursday, Jan. 16, there is not enough technical detail on what kind of 5G antennas will be used, where they will be placed, how far apart they will be and whether they will be in the front yards of Farragut residents. If the 5G antennas are placed in the front yards of Farragut residents, it could be expected that many homes will have

in their yard, be next door to or across the street from a 5G cellular antenna.

There has been a vibrant discussion on nextdoor.com about the 5G cellular roll out in Farragut. But even after two columns in nextdoor.com about this and containing over 134 comments, the people of Farragut still do not know if 5G antennas will be installed in their front

yards. This is not acceptable. This is why I will ask FMPC to delay this agenda item until more clarity can be given to the people of Farragut.

This is an important matter. What is needed is a workshop in the FMPC with much better notice and information for the people of Farragut.

Mike Mitchell, Farragut

Anti-Hotel Tax

From page 4A

and together they have created a dynamic market that brought other businesses and industries to Town to support our community and enjoy its benefits.

Now we find ourselves part of a regional shopping and hospitality destination and our sales tax-based economy has thrived and grown to the point that it can now support expanding our parks, preserving our historic buildings, opening a wonderful new community center, etc. And to a large degree our hotel owners are the unsung heroes of Farragut's enviable success.

Beyond these happy results, our

tax structure also provides us the leverage to require higher architectural aesthetics, better signage, better energy efficiency and higher safety standards, which in any other community would be deal-breakers, but which far-sighted developers willingly pay because the tax structure makes it feasible in the long run.

Now all that is about to change. Thursday, 1-9-2020, your Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted 4 to 1 to enact a Hotel/Motel Tax of 3 percent, which will effectively strip our hotels of their competitive advantage and immediately reduce sales tax revenues from them and all the other businesses that thrive because of them.

Basic economics, common sense

and numerous studies prove this result inevitable.

What was shot down three times in the past as a bad idea by more prudent Boards is now nothing short of economic suicide! Anyone traveling the Interstates will readily observe seven new hotels coming online in the area with some 870 new rooms to compete with ours.

These are scary times for what should be one of our most treasured assets, making this the worst possible time to saddle and hamstring them with this reckless and unwarranted tax.

The irony is that this BOMA wants to do this to promote "tourism" in a Town with no real tourist attractions and no plans to build any. That would

be bad enough, but as justification they cite the mantra of actual tourist destinations that for every dollar spent on tourism they will reap multiple dollars in return.

This flimsy argument is immediately shot down by the obvious question that, if it will support itself, why on earth would you need a separate revenue stream to fund it?

In short, I urge all Farragut residents to go online at Farragut.org and watch the video of the meeting, draw their own conclusions and then contact this BOMA and let them know that if they really believe in this "tourism" initiative we expect them to go about it in the proven and responsible way and provide a budget line item for it, and some metrics

to measure its success, and then let it sink or swim on its own merits.

Just please don't destroy one of our main economic engines on the experiment.

The following is BOMA contact information:

Mayor Ron Williams
rwilliams@townoffarragut.org
Vice Mayor Louise Povlin
lpovlin@townoffarragut.org
Alderman Ron Pinchok
rpinchok@townoffarragut.org
Alderman Scott Meyer
smeyer@townoffarragut.org
Alderman Drew Burnette
dburnette@townoffarragut.org

Bob Markli
 Former Farragut alderman



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Bearden - 109 Northshore Dr. Ste 200 | (865) 588-3232

North - 3232 Tazewell Pike | (865) 688-3232

Maryville - 1213 W Lamar Alexander Pkwy | (865) 983-0011

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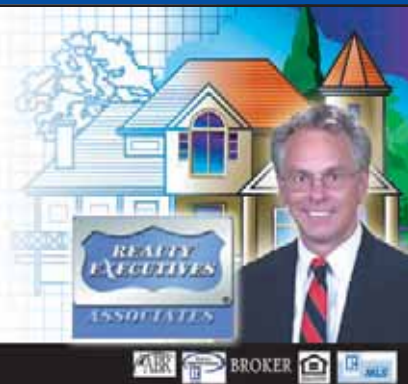
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KARNS AREA - JUBILEE FARMS

3208 LOBETTI RD. JUBILEE FARMS, IDYLIC SETTING. Personal home with 10 bdrms in one wing, additional 5 bdrms, & 2 bdrm apartment. 11 full & 4 half baths on approximately 10 acres. Potentially a retreat, assisted living, therapeutic facility, church, or school. Zoned agricultural. Handicap accessible w/commercial fire sprinkler system throughout and drains in all baths. Elevator to lower & upper levels. Custom designed, vaulted great room, massive stone fireplace & floor to ceiling windows. Sunroom, 2 commercial kitchens. Dining Room opens to Family Room. Master bedroom on main w/adjoining study. Master bath w/2 entrances. Two adjoining parcels are a potential option for buyer including 4-5 acres for \$25,000 per acre, plus adjoining house & 1 acre for \$450,000. The approximate 10 acres is part of parcel 091-202.c Separate apartment upper level. Electric handicap door entrances. Incredible storage. Many laundry rooms to accommodate residents. Fabulous outside patio w/waterfall ideal for entertaining. Security system w/cameras. Generator for lower level. Heated 2889 SF garage w/adjustable basketball hoops. Brick construction. Public water, propane gas, 12 HVAC units (garage HVAC is not functioning, 2 wells for irrigation, septic approved for 17 bedrooms. Additional grounds include gazebo, pond, 5 stall horse barn (on public and well water), chicken coop, 2 goat barns, peacock barn plus rental house w/5 bedroom, 2 full and 2 half baths are part of the listing with approximately 43 acres and the house for \$5,250,000. Additional property will not be sold prior to the main house closing. Buyer of the main house will have first right of refusal on all additional property. The main house and approximately 10 acres to be surveyed off the larger parcel. Sellers have been told there will be an exit off the Schaad Road connector behind the property. **\$3,250,000** (1099914)



ARLINGTON RIDGE

4520 HIGHLAND WOODS WAY. Custom built one owner brick, stone, and hardi plank 4 bedroom plus bonus (with window, closet, and private bath), 5.5 baths, 3 car garage on 2.49 acres. March 2018 appraisal value was \$655,000.00 (copy of appraisal available upon request). That is \$71,000 of instant equity! "The Brookmoore" plan by Garrell & Associates with personal changes by the owners. Great curb appeal with a covered porch and front door with side lights and transom on the level front yard. 18 foot ceilings in foyer and great room. There is a wall of windows in the great room allowing natural light and beautiful ridge views. Open floor plan. Tongue and groove wide plank hand scraped hardwood flooring through out the main level. Large arched window and arched openings in dining room with tray ceiling and chair rail. Detailed 12" crown and dentil moldings on the main and upper level. Fabulous kitchen made for entertaining! Granite counter tops, 2 sinks (one in island), abundance of cream cabinets with pull out drawers and rope molding, custom made vent hood over the range, large pantry. Slate floor in the hallway from the garage to kitchen. Keeping room with wood burning fireplace as well as a wood burning fireplace in the great room. Master bedroom on main with deep tray ceiling. Huge walk in closet. Master bath with garden tub, ceramic tile shower, dual sinks with make up area. Access from the master bedroom and keeping room to the trex deck. The main level laundry with cabinets is plumbed for a utility sink. Stairs to upper level are hardwood with wrought iron balusters. All upper level bedroom as well as bonus with private baths. Please click the details on the MLS photos box to view the virtual tour. Partially finished lower level. Walk out with high ceilings. Fabulous storage in rest of the lower level, Plumbed for a bath. Potential space for boat garage or workshop. Unique upscale architecturally restricted neighborhood with 40+ acres of walking trails that lead to a natural creek area. 400 AMP electric service. Excellent insulation with poured concrete walls. Rear wall with R 19 insulation and 2x6 studs. Security system on all levels. TDS Broadband internet currently available with Fiber Optic internet coming in fall of 2019. **\$584,000** (1087496)



EAGLE GLEN

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HANNAHS GROVE

7538 MISTYWOOD RD. Brookstone, One story with Bonus Room Two car side entry Garage All Brick except for gables 9' ceilings on Floor 1, 30 Year Roof 2 Baths, 3 Bedrooms, Hardwood Flooring in Foyer, Dining, Family, Room, Kitchen, Breakfast, Hallways. Ceramic Tile Flooring in Master Bath, Bath 2, Laundry. Carpet Flooring in bedrooms, closets, staircase and bonus room. Gas fireplace Tray ceiling in Master Bedroom Tray ceiling in Dining Room Bedroom 2 and 3 have WIC Granite Kitchen Tops Granite Bath Tops Breakfast area Sentricon Pest Control System Electric Heat Electric Water Heater Electric Range Electric Dryer Crown molding on Floor 1 except for vaulted ceiling areas and closets 2-10 Home Warranty. **\$347,000** (1078751)



JOSHUA'S LANDING

5039 DOVEWOOD WAY. HOA Dues \$140/M HOA Initial Dues: \$250 Finished Bonus Room/Bedroom with Bath Sunroom, Screen Porch, Extended Patio, Attic Storage, Pella Sliding Door in Sunroom, Master Bathroom ceramic tile shower and frameless shower door, Bath 2 tile down to tub, Water Circulatory Line (Requires circulatory pump), Hardwood on Floor 1 in Foyer, Hallway, Dining Room, Great Room, Kitchen, Breakfast, Sunroom Ceramic Tile Flooring in Master Bath, Bath 2, Bath 3, Laundry Carpet Flooring in all remaining finished areas. Hardwood Steps with wrought iron balusters Laundry Room Cabinets with Laundry Sink. Granite Kitchen Countertops Granite Bath Countertops Gas Heat Gas Tankless Water Heater with Circulatory Line BUILT-INS IN GREAT ROOM Stainless Steel Appliances Electric Range, Solid Custom Closet Shelving, Two car garage, 3 baths, 3 bedrooms, Gas fireplace, Tray ceiling in Master Bedroom, 11' Ceiling in Great Room and Kitchen, Sodded yard, All brick construction, Sentricon Pest Control System, Security System Pre-wire, 2-10 Home Warranty. **\$399,900** (1057152)



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CAK girls trip Webb

KEN LAY
Correspondent

KNOXVILLE — The 2019-2020 basketball season has been a roller-coaster ride for Christian Academy of Knoxville girls basketball, but the Lady Warriors nabbed a signature Division II-A East Region District 1 win Friday night, Jan. 10.

"I'm hoping that maybe this will be the win that helps us really turn the corner," Lady Warriors' second-year head coach Abby Williams said after CAK (8-7 overall, 3-1 in the district) routed rival Webb School at home 64-43.

Freshmen led the way scoring-wise, as Keira Leffew scored a game-high 22 points, followed by 14 points from Emily Wilson. Senior Hannah Carroll added 12 and senior Mackenna Mazingo scored 10.

"Our two freshmen really stepped up, and we had two of our seniors really come up big," Williams said.

Spartans rule CAK

KEN LAY
Correspondent

KNOXVILLE — If one word best describes Webb School of Knoxville's boys hoops, it is "unselfish."

The Spartans' brand of play was on display Friday night, Jan. 10, routing rival Christian Academy of Knoxville 91-57 at CAK.

Lucas Walls' 20 points led Webb (12-5 overall and 3-0 in Division II-A East Region District 1), while David Sanger added 16. Tariq Daughton and Uriah Powers scored 15 each. Luke Burnett had 10.

Webb also got eight points from Jaylon Green, while Owen Feld and John Tolsma scored five apiece.

"We do a great job moving the ball around and we don't care who scores," Sanger said.

John Ogle led the Warriors (10-7, 2-1) with 13 points. Luke Carter added 11 while Dante Oliver and Denzel Jackson had nine points each. Griffin Parker scored seven and Jayden Housewright had six.



Photos by Alan Sloan



(Left) With his Farragut Lady Admirals players helping him celebrate, Jason Mayfield was recognized as the school's all-time winningest varsity girls head coach. He picked up career win No. 164 after a 74-10 romp at Lenoir City Friday, Jan. 10, led by eight 3-point baskets from junior guard Macy Barnes (above).

Six 3s in a quarter: 164

Barnes' 3s lead Mayfield to all-time FHS girls win mark

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

LENOIR CITY — One apparent Farragut High School girls basketball program record, most three-point baskets in one quarter, helped lay the foundation for head coach Jason Mayfield's milestone victory.

In his eighth season as Lady Admirals' skipper, Mayfield became the program's all-time winningest coach — 164 victories — after junior guard Macy Barnes nailed six 3-point baskets in the first quarter to help dismantle Lenoir City 74-10 Friday night, Jan. 10, at LCHS.

With team members making a couple of "congrats coach" posters for a team photo after the game, Barnes said about Mayfield, "I think he does a great job. He expects a lot out of us when we do get on the court (such as) boxing out and defense and running the floor."

As Farragut improved to 13-5 overall, 4-1 in

District 4-AAA action, the team's four seniors also weighed in on Mayfield's milestone.

"We're just very thankful to be a small part of this big accomplishment for him," guard Madison Hodge said. "We're so proud of him."

"We can't wait to be with him when he gets a lot more, because we know they're coming for him," added post Claire Wyatt. "We're excited."

"We're really proud of him, he leads us really well," post Lauren White said. "He always encourages us, and it's good for it to pay off for him like this. It kind of acknowledges all the hard work he does for us."

"I'm just so proud of him because he loves the game and he loves the team and he loves (coaching) all the girls so much," injured guard Hailey Johnson said. "He's put so much work into this. It's so good to be a part of this."

Donald Dodgen, Farragut athletic director, labeled Mayfield "an outstanding coach, an outstanding person and a great educator."

"He relates so well to the girls and girls basketball," Dodgen added.

As for Barnes' exceptionally hot hand early, "I felt it warming up," the junior said, adding she decided, shortly after the opening-game tip-off, "I'm going to go for it."

"I didn't know I was going to be that on tonight," added Barnes, who ended with a game-high 24 points (eight 3-pointers overall).

"It's funny: she hadn't really been shooting the ball well," Mayfield said. "We've been telling her, 'shoot the ball, shoot the ball.'"

Other FHS scorers were Keeleigh Rogers, sophomore point guard in her first game back from a nine-game absence due to injury, finishing with 19. Wyatt scored 14 and Avery Strickland added nine, while White and Ashlyn Sheridan tossed in four each.

Reflecting on 164

About his milestone, "I had honestly forgot about it," Mayfield said. "We've been sitting on that number (163) for a while."

Back on track, Admirals romp LC

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

LENOIR CITY — After a tough December and rough opening performance in 2020, Farragut needed to vent some frustration with a dominant performance.

Lenoir City was the perfect opponent for such venting, as the Admirals (11-9 overall, 3-2 in District 4-AAA entering the week) built a big lead midway into the

opening quarter and cruised to a 79-29 victory Friday night, Jan. 10, at LCHS.

"We haven't been playing up to par lately, so I feel like it was a game where we were trying to really get back on track," said Isaiah Smith, sophomore guard who tossed in 16 points.

"We've struggled in this middle part of the season after starting off hot," said senior guard Robby Geron, who led the Admirals

in scoring with 17. "We executed really well and played a lot harder than we have lately."

Other Farragut scorers were senior wing Kaleb VanAcker with 13, junior post Jake Wallace adding 11 and Jack Wrapp, Elisha Brabson and Saish Malluri scoring six each. Zain Zitawi and Carter Mayfield added two points apiece.

Individually, "I thought Robby played extremely well," Admirals

skipper Jon Higgins said. "I thought he showed great leadership both offensively and defensively. He was very active getting his hands on some balls defensively. ... When Robby is playing that way, he kind of sets the tone for everybody."

"Isaiah starting making some shots, Elisha started making some shots, and you saw the end result tonight," Higgins added.

Turkey Trophy 2 again earned by FMS boys vs. Hawks



Alan Sloan

Farragut Middle School boys hoops team celebrates after earning its second straight Golden Turkey Trophy by beating HVMS.

KEN LAY
Correspondent

HARDIN VALLEY — The Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference's regular season is now in the rear view mirror and the James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Boys Basketball Tournament begins today (Thursday, Jan. 16), as Farragut will host a first round playoff game.

The Admirals (10-5 in KCMSBC play) won three games in the final week of the season and will be the seventh seed in the tournament.

One of Farragut's victories was a 43-25 win at rival Hardin Valley

Thursday, Jan. 9, which earned the Ads the Golden Turkey Trophy for a second straight season.

"This was a pretty well-played game, I thought," said FMS coach Randy Swartzentruber, dean of county middle school hoops coaches. "As our defense goes, we go."

Two-time all-county standout post Alex Doerger, who was injured early in the 2019-2020 campaign, scored 14 of his game-high 21 points before halftime.

"It's nice to have him back," Swartzentruber said. "I'm certainly not complaining about it. We can play big and we're locked in to the seventh seed."

Against the Hawks, Eli Evans scored eight points and knocked down a pair of 3-point baskets.

FMS also beat Gibbs 49-16 at home Friday, Jan. 10, after also defeating South-Doyle 50-33.

Hardin Valley (5-10) got seven points by Will Kline and five from Rylie Gladwin.

"We played in some close games this year and we have several eighth graders who are new to our program this year," HVMS head coach Dylan Rayho said. "... Our eighth graders have bought in and these kids have come in here and gone to work every day. As a coach, that's all you can ask."



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With a dominant performance, HVMS girls earn Golden Turkey Trophy

KEN LAY
Correspondent

HARDIN VALLEY — Hardin Valley Middle School's girls basketball team earned a signature

victory Thursday, Jan. 9, at HVMS, claiming a 30-19 win over Farragut (12-3 in conference) and earning its first Golden Turkey Trophy in the rivalry.

"I'm really proud of the girls be-

cause we just came out and took it to them," HVMS head coach Cahak said,

The Lady Hawks (9-6 in confer-

ence) were led in scoring by Ava Claire Wrather with 10 points. Madison Smith added nine and Kyndra West finished with six.

Addison Pressley led the Lady Ads with seven points, while Annie Priest added six — all from the free throw line after halftime.



Photo courtesy of Ken Lay

Hardin Valley Middle School girls hoops team celebrates after earning its first Golden Turkey Trophy with a win against FMS.

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7th Annual West Knox Preschool & Activities Fair Jan. 25

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Knoxville-Northshore chapter of Moms Offering Moms Support club international is hosting its 7th annual West Knox Preschool & Activities Fair from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Jan. 25, in the

gym of St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 625 St. John Court in Farragut.

There, parents will be able to find out more about more than 30 area preschool and activity programs, including education, soccer, dance, martial arts, language study and gymnastics.

While parents are learning, their children will have the chance to play, enjoying crafts from the Episcopal School of Knoxville and interactive opportunities from The Muse, Cool Sports Home of the Icearium, Kindermusik and Knox Dance Worx.

Many prizes will be given away, too, including an eight-week learn to skate package from Cool Sports, a \$49 voucher from Athleticacademy and three one-month memberships from Fort Sanders Health & Fitness Center. "We are asking parents to come and see what West Knox (County)

has to offer your little ones," said Kate Lee, Knoxville-Northshore MOMS Club president.

Coffee and donuts will be provided by Dunkin' Donuts, 712 N. Campbell Station Road, while supplies last.

Event is free and open to the community.

Pete's legacy: 'leaving a mark'

Remembered for his Christian love and service locally, Pete Billingsley, FHS Sports Hall of Famer, memorialized

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

A pioneer by circumstance, yet a sacrificial lamb by choice: that sums up, perhaps, the two most important impacts of Arthur Pete Billingsley's life.

Not even a teenager, Pete was breaking the athletic color barrier at what was then called Farragut Elementary School (kindergarten through eighth-grade) in the mid-1960s.

It's no wonder why Roy Stone, one of hundreds to attend a Memorial Service in honor of this 1972 graduate of Farragut High School, had a point to make about a man praised more for his selfless walk with Jesus Christ, as a devout Christian, than for his

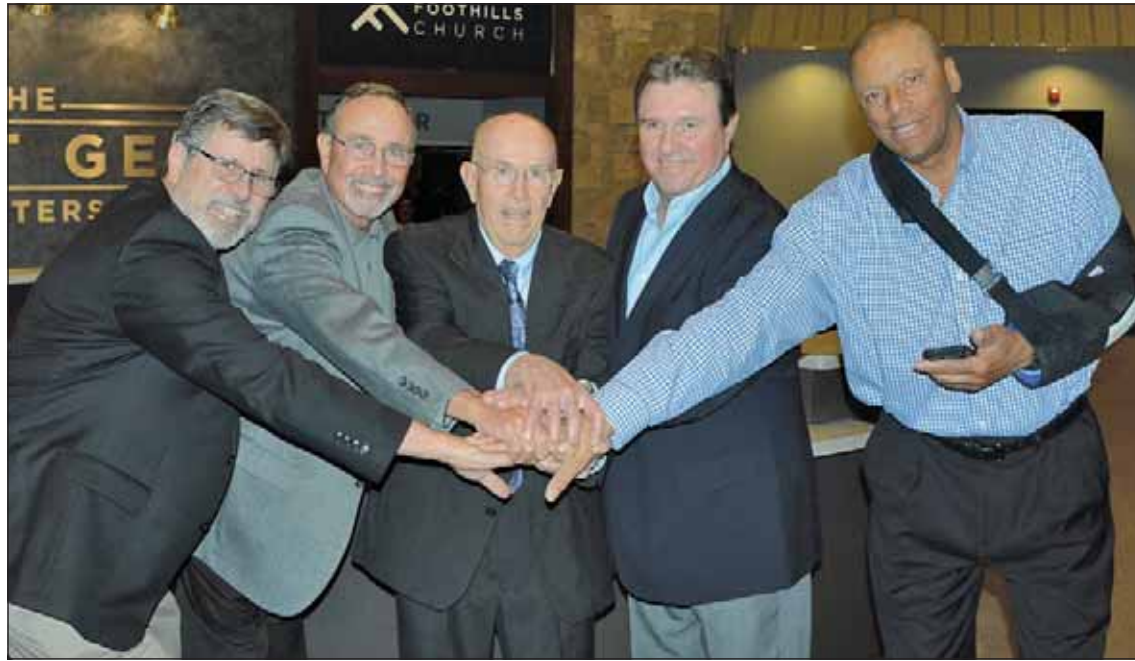
abundant basketball skills that earned him All-state honors and a scholarship to Carson-Newman University.

Referencing now-retired Farragut Elementary/Middle School basketball coach and teacher Bobby Henry, "All he talked about was Pete Billingsley, what a wonderful man he was," he said about Henry's respect for Pete while Stone (FHS Class of 1981) was a student/athlete of Henry's at FMS.

"I started the basketball program in '65. ... He was my first black player," Henry said about Pete, whose life and service to community were remembered during a roughly 90-minute ceremony in Foothills Church Theater in Maryville, where he was a member and leader, Saturday afternoon, Jan. 11.

Passing away Dec. 6 following a heart illness, Pete was 65.

As for his Christian impact as a football coach, Fellowship of Christian Athletes leader and biology teacher at a number of area high schools who also performed special professional duties, three former Maryville High School stu-



Alan Sloan

Hundreds were on hand in Foothills Church Theater in Maryville early Saturday afternoon, Jan. 11, to memorialize the late Arthur Pete Billingsley, Farragut High School Class of 1972 and former Admirals star basketball player who was inducted into the FHS Sports Hall of Fame. Remembered most fondly for his influence as a coach, teacher and Christian leader while at Maryville High School, as expressed during a roughly 90-minute service, several former FHS classmates, teammates and coaches were on hand. Three of his teammates join then head coach Lynn Sexton, center, and then assistant coach Jerry Cannon, second from left, in a show of solidarity. From left are ex-Admirals Mark Priode (Class of 1972); Glenn Harness (Class of 1974) and Willie "Bones" Almond (Class of 1972).

dent/athletes — who joined Pete in helping win a football state championship in 1998 — each had to fight back tears while sharing "personal reflection" during the memorial.

"Pete is one of those guys in my life that it's hard to pare down to just an opening remark, what he

meant to me," Jonathan Sweet said.

"... When I was about 15 years old there was something that came out of nowhere ... that maybe came straight from the throne of God and crashed into me," he added. "The mark that he left on my life is substantial."

One year later at MHS, "Pete convinced me there was nothing more important on this planet than the Scriptures and getting closer and spending time with Jesus Christ," Sweet said. "He said it with such authority,

See PETE on Page 5B



Photo submitted

Fox Den Country Club membership director Caroline Inman and general manager Ryan Ott head to a party at The Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley office with a U-Haul load of toys Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Hundreds of gifts in tow, FDCC hits the road

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Fox Den Country Club members once again outdid themselves with a record response, brightening Christmas for children of The Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley in Knoxville with bundles of toys.

Children lit up as they received gifts and were treated to a party Tuesday, Dec. 17, at The Walter P. Taylor Boys & Girls Club along

Western Avenue in Knoxville.

"Fox Den Country Club has proudly hosted a Holiday Toy Drive for well over 10 years now, with the last two being partnered with The Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley," FDCC membership director Caroline Inman said. "They donated nearly 600 toys to The Walter P. Taylor Boys & Girls Club."

"This toy drive has continued to grow, with this year being the biggest and best yet," she added.

Normally the party has taken place at Fox Den. However, Inman said sickness and weather tried to get in their way this year.

Boys & Girls Club organizers "had to reschedule once because of weather and tried to a second time due to sickness of their bus drivers, so we rearranged and went to them," Inman said.

She and FDCC general manager Ryan Ott loaded up a U-Haul

See RESPONDING on Page 5B

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JANUARY

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• **2020 Farragut Primary Schools Art Show**, sponsored by

Town of Farragut, will be open from **8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Jan. 20, through Friday, Jan. 24** (regular Town Hall hours, 11408 Municipal Center Drive). Featuring young artists from Concord Christian School and Farragut Primary School, the show also features a reception to honor private school artists from **5 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 21**, and to honor public school artists from **5 to 6 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 22**.

• **Concord United Methodist Church will be hosting its Sixth Annual Mission Blitz Saturday, Jan. 18, through Monday, Jan. 20**, with 20 opportunities to serve throughout Knox County and surrounding areas. Projects range from packing disaster relief kits and Habitat House trim painting to delivering dinners to senior citizens. Visit the church's Mission Blitz page at

<http://www.concordumc.com/misionblitz/> to register for an activity. For more details, call the church at 865-966-6728 or e-mail Jane Currin at jcurrin@concordumc.com.

• **Knoxville Writers' Group meets from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 22**, in Holiday Inn West at Cedar Bluff, 9134 Executive Park Drive. Guest speaker will be author and Holocaust survivor Sonja DuBois. All-inclusive lunch is \$14. RSVP by e-mailing kaye.george@gmail.com by noon, Monday, Jan. 20. Use KWG/Rsvp in subject line.

• **Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce young professionals group, F.U.E.L.**, has rebranded, changing its name to West Under 40. It will meet for an icebreaker social from **4 to 6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 23**, at First Utility District office, 122 Durwood Road, Knoxville.

Cooper

From page 1A

opportunity can still donate.

"Anyone can visit any Medic location at any time, and give them Cooper's name for the replacement," she said.

Cooper, who is described by his mother as "active, strong and wild — a total three year old going on 6" — has had some bouts of nausea associated with his chemotherapy in a treatment plan expected to last a total of 15-18 months, but the latest round "went well," she said, and he was able to return home Sunday.

The family, which includes Cooper's father, Sam, has been on "an emotional roller coaster" since Cooper's diagnosis, Lauren explained. While still processing the situation, the couple found out they are expecting twins.

"We are very excited about that, and we truly believe that the Lord is making a way for us," she said. "We are faithful in His timing, His plan and we trust the outcome."

"It's not easy, but we have the very best support system. Our family and friends are standing



Michelle Hollenhead

Jennifer Shuler was among the more than 100 donors who stepped up for Cooper Stansbury, 4, Friday, Jan. 10 in Shoreline Church.

with us in prayer. This community means the world to us."

Family friends and Knox Catholic High School students Reagan Tate and Ellie Wolski are planning a T-shirt sale fundraiser for Cooper Wednesday, Jan. 25, during the Catholic vs. IMG basketball game at KCHS. Fellow Knox Catholic student Kiersten Mann designed the shirt, which features a drawing of Cooper along with the slogan, "Super Cooper Troopers."

Tennessee-based TriStar Hats Co. designed a red knit beanie in Cooper's honor, with sale proceeds going to the family.

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Psalm 103: 1-5 (NIV)

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Jason Warden, Senior Minister

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Sun: WVLR/Christian Network TV (4:30-5:30 PM)
Sat: WVLR/Christian Network TV (3:00-4:00 PM)



"Winning Souls and Changing Lives for Jesus Christ is a Total Family Ministry"

Pete
From page 3B

such conviction.”
About Pete’s determination, “If he felt like he heard from God on a matter, he was going to make it happen,” Sweet said. “... Pete chose to live in abject poverty for years of his life ... just to minister” despite being “a college graduate; he was a providential secondary educator and an experienced football coach.”

Influence at FHS

Pete’s popularity seemed to overpower whatever elements of racism existed at FHS in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

“When he went to Farragut High School, he was class president three out of four years,”

Henry said. “And the other year he was vice president.”

“He was super popular.”

In addition to several former FHS basketball teammates in attendance were Pete’s high school head coach, Lynn Sexton, and his assistant coach, Jerry Cannon.

“Pete was a quality person, and he impacted a lot of people’s lives,” said Willie “Bones” Almond, fellow Class of 72 graduate and teammate. “... He also had Christ in his heart. He put Christ in a lot of people’s hearts.”

“You rarely ever saw him where he didn’t have a smile on his face,” said Glenn Harness, fellow teammate (Class of 1974).

A member of FHS Sports Hall of Fame, Pete’s basketball skills were fondly recalled.



The late Arthur Pete Billingsley

“He didn’t have any weaknesses,” Harness said, noting Pete’s then-school record 45-point game, long before the three-point shot came around, against “Oneida” during the 1971-72 season.

Influence professionally

“I remember the love Pete had for the world and the kids, our youth,” said Kyle Dupree, another former MHS student/athlete

memorializing Pete’s impact on lives. “... Unconditional love, being there in times of need.”

Chance Oliver, yet another former MHS student/athlete speaking, said about Pete, “The circle of his influence was so large.”

Using the letter “L,” Oliver first defined Pete as “loud ... even his whisper sounded like that muffled base sound of a car driving by (which drew laughter).”

Then came “laughter,” with Oliver saying, “man that dude loved to laugh. He was a cut-up.”

“The next word that comes to mind is ‘lesser.’ ... He always made himself lesser than others,” he added. “... He was always more content helping you out.”

Responding
From page 3B

and hit the road with the almost 600 toys in tow.

During the party, “the kids got to decorate Santa hats, play holiday Bingo and pick out their very own toy from the drive,” Inman said. “To top off an already amazing evening, Santa himself made a special visit to The Club.”

“None of this would be possible without the generosity of Fox Den’s amazing members who make this event bigger and better each year. Some of Fox Den’s members even went to Walter P. Taylor to make sure that these kids had the best party yet.”

“It was such a special and rewarding night,” Ott said.

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St. John Neumann Catholic Church

Epiphany Open House

St. John Neumann Catholic Church's members observed the Day of Epiphany, a Christian feast day, with an Epiphany Open House in the home and convent of the Missionary Congregation of the Evangelizing Sisters of Mary on Sunday, Jan. 5.

Epiphany is "the manifestation of Jesus being one with the people," Sister Dorothy Casian explained, adding it commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child. "The Magi opened the eyes of the people to know Jesus more," she added.

The open house, hosted by SJN Women's Club in conjunction with the Evangelizing Sisters of Mary, not only gave the congregation an opportunity for fellowship and observance of the feast day, it also gave them a chance to visit the sisters and see where they live, Sister Elizabeth Wanyoike said.

She related the parish bought a house, across the street from SJN Church, in Prestwick Place subdivision, in 2014.

According to the church's website, that house became St. Patrick's Convent, which serves four of five members of Missionary Congregation of the Evangelizing Sisters of Mary. While four directly serve SJN, one works for Catholic Charities.



Joyce Forte, left, and Susan Roberts



From left, Sister Restituta "Resty" Nyinowaitu, Michael Carzon and Sister Elizabeth Wanyoike



Sister Leviria Grace, left, and Sister Maureen Oum



John Pacitti with daughter, Claire, 8



Mary Kay Lyons, left, with Carol Dawson



Nicholas Pacitti, 2, and Sister Maureen Ouma



Jim Quriin with Sister Dorothy Casia



Lisa Beldyk, left, and Sister Dorothy Casian



Kathryn Kopp, left, and Sister Dorothy Casian



James Froula, left, with Father Mark Schuster



Loretta Jacobs