



## **F&M CONTRIBUTES TO NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM**

### *NIE provides newspapers to students in Maury County*

COLUMBIA, Tenn. May 10, 2007 – Information is power and when it comes to issues affecting Maury County, there is no better source for information than the local newspaper. The Newspapers in Education program puts the power of the local paper in the hands of students nationwide.

First Farmers & Merchants Bank recently donated \$300 to help *The Daily Herald* provide newspapers to students in more than 95 classrooms in 18 Maury County schools. Students receive the paper once per week, free of charge.

“We believe that a student who is informed of local issues will become actively engaged in making our community a better place,” said T. Randy Stevens, F&M chairman and CEO. “Reading the newspaper can develop intellectual curiosity and encourage good citizenship. F&M is proud to be a part of the Newspapers in Education Program.”

Recently, *The Daily Herald* put out the call for donations to the NIE because increased demand was going to force the paper to cut 300-400 editions from the program. While the company that audits the paper’s circulation doesn’t allow the paper to be given away, *The Daily Herald* provides newspapers to schools for just 13 cents per issue.

Founded in 1909, First Farmers & Merchants Bank (Member FDIC) is one of the most successful independent banks in Tennessee, with total assets of approximately \$820 million and an additional \$2.6 billion in assets held by its Trust & Financial Management Department. Headquartered in Columbia, the bank operates 19 offices in a seven-county area that includes Maury, Lawrence, Marshall, Hickman, Dickson, Giles and Williamson counties. It is distinguished by its commitment to traditional, personal banking relationships that incorporate state-of-the-art technology to provide the highest possible level of service.

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