

Birthday Cake entry will celebrate Town at age 45

Farragut Museum will have a new entry, or “float,” for the Town of Farragut’s 37th Independence Day parade starting at 9:30 a.m., Friday, July 4, on Kingston Pike from Lendon Welch Way westward to just past Boring Road.

In recognition of the Town’s 45th Anniversary, the Farragut Museum committee has chosen to feature a birthday cake on its new entry. Town’s Parks Maintenance department constructed a 10-foot-tall cake replica that can be used for many occasions.

“The committee was very thoughtful about the design of the new float,” Historic Resources coordinator Kristi Vining said. “Next year, the float will be used to honor the 250th birthday of America, and in the future the float will commemorate Admiral David Farragut’s birthday on July 5, 1801.”

Previously, the committee had an entry modeled after the USS Hartford. “That float was built by (the late) Lou LaMarche in 2016 and signified the ship used by Admiral Farragut in the Battle of Mobile Bay,” a museum press release stated.

TownCalendar

• **Before Town of Farragut’s 37th Annual Independence Day Parade at 9:30 p.m., Friday, July 4, spectators and participants can enjoy annual Farragut Freedom Run 1-Mile and 2-Mile**, hosted by Fleet Feet Sports, that starts 30 minutes earlier, at 9 a.m., also along Kingston Pike and also ending in Farragut Towne Square.

“This flat and fast course is USATF certified and perfect for all levels,” a Town press release stated. To participate, register at runsignup.com/farragutfreedomrun.

High ranks

From page 1A

The Town was second to Mount Juliet in the overall ranking, which was based on “fostering an environment that supports freedom and prosperity,” Mayor Ron Williams explained.

“This is a significant achievement, and we want to extend our sincere congratulations to you and your team for

fostering an environment that supports freedom and prosperity,” Walker said in congratulating Williams and others.

The mayor attributed the cost of government ranking to how BOMA has run the Town without a property tax.

“We owe no one,” he said. The ranking “tells me we’re following our goals and vision.”

Williams said BCT conducts these rankings every five

Roads

From page 1A

miles,” Schindler said, adding the Town received three bids on the contract on June 12: APAC-Atlantic, Inc. for \$1.654,963.70; PRI of East Tennessee Inc., \$2,465,492; and Duracap Asphalt Paving Company, Inc., \$1,960,342.59.

“APAC-Atlantic has been awarded our resurfacing contract in the past, and we have been pleased with their performance,” he also added.

With that, the Board approved a contract with APAC-Atlantic.

Also, after receiving two bids on June 11 — PRI of East

Tennessee Inc., and J.G. Mullins Construction Company Inc. — the Board approved an annual on-call road maintenance contract with J.G. Mullins Construction Company Inc. for \$40,000.

“The Town has worked with Mullins in the past and were pleased with their performance,” Schindler, said.

Similarly, the Town received bids Thursday, June 12, from Stansell Electric Company Inc.; Progression Electric, LLC; and David H. Elliott Construction Company Inc. for on-call traffic signal maintenance and approved Stansell’s bid of \$20,000.

KCSOReports

• **At 1:01 a.m., Saturday, June 28, Knox County Sheriff’s Office units were flagged down at 11220 Outlet Drive (Cotton Eyed Joe)** by an employee regarding a female standing near the entrance door who was yelling at all employees nearby. When officers attempted to speak with suspect/arrestee, “she kept yelling about being removed from the bar,” the report stated. “I tried numerous times to get (suspect/arrestee) to calm down, but she kept screaming that “bitches were jealous” and calling the employees various names.

“During the time I was near (her), I could smell the odor of an unknown alcoholic beverage coming from about her person and breath,” the report further stated. “(Suspect/arrestee) was unsteady on her feet and her eyes were bloodshot and glassy.

“After several moments I was able to speak with (an employee) who works security for the bar,” the report further stated. “(He) stated (suspect/arrestee) had been removed for vaping within the business then became enraged and started yelling and refusing to leave. (This employee said) he wanted (her) criminally trespass.”

After being advised she was criminally trespassed, suspect/arrestee “continued to yell over me and still scream at the employees,” the report further stated. “(She) would not stop screaming long enough for me to give her any explanation for why she had to leave the es-

tablishment. (Her) behavior caused numerous patrons to slow down and congest the entrance area. With (suspect/arrestee) refusing to leave and being extremely disorderly, I escorted her to my patrol vehicle.

“I arrested (her) for criminal trespassing, public intoxication and disorderly conduct.” She was subsequently transported to Roger D. Wilson Detention Facility by the jail transport wagon.

• **At 12:08 p.m., Thursday, June 26, a complainant came to KCSO West Precinct to report forgery at Farragut Post Office**, 11409 Municipal Center Drive. “Complainant advised she received a mail notice that her American Express account bill was not paid for,” the report stated. “Upon calling her ORNL bank, complainant was advised (her) check number was cashed at a unknown location of Chase Bank on June 2, 2025, in the amount of \$1,906.23 to (a) suspect. The original check was written out to American Express on May 25, 2025, in the amount of \$906.23.”

Complainant said the original check “was dropped off at the outside box at the United States Postal Service in Farragut at 11409 Municipal Center Drive ... around May 26,” the report further stated. “Complainant advised she does not know the listed suspect. Complainant was advised from ORNL to file a police report.”

See KCSO REPORTS on Page 6A

years, with the last ranking in 2020 when the Town ranked seventh overall.

Mayoral reviews

Williams said the Town was created with the vision of fiscal responsibility, and having no property tax was the wish of Farragut’s first mayor, Robert “Bob” Leonard. Mayoral successors

Eddy Ford, Dr. Ralph McGill and Williams also have governed without such a tax.

Each mayor left a legacy, Williams said: Leonard’s leadership skills and knowledge of law when the townspeople battled a lawsuit brought on by City of Knoxville; Ford, who brought about parks and walking trails; and McGill recruit-

ing Costco and purchasing Campbell Station Inn.

With his term ending in 2026, Williams said he can “look back at 13 abandoned, derelict buildings in Town, which were torn down and have made way for new businesses, a community center, a renovated Town Hall and completion of Campbell Station Inn’s restoration.”

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Publisher
Tony Cox.....865-218-8883
tc Cox@republicnewspapers.com

Editorial Department
Alan Sloan,
Editor..... 865-218-8880
editor@farragutpress.com

Tammy Cheek,
Writer..... 865-218-8873
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Production Department
Tony Christen,
Production Manager/
Circulation Manager. 865-218-8872
production@farragutpress.com

Cindy Wilfert,
Designer..... 865-218-8872

General Manager
Kathy Hartman .. 865-218-8878
khartman@farragutpress.com

Advertising Department
Glen Coleman,
Account Executive 865-218-8884
gcoleman@farragutpress.com

Laura Sayers,
Account Executive 865-218-8879
lsayers@farragutpress.com

Charlene Waggoner,
Account Executive..... 865-218-8877
cwaggoner@farragutpress.com

Linda Tirban,
Classified Display,
Service Directory 865-218-8881
linda@farragutpress.com

Receptionist
Terrie Ware.....865-218-8871
Monday – Wednesday, Friday
receptionist@farragutpress.com

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

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

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

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lettertotheeditor St. John Ct.-Grigsby needs traffic help

As a former business process consultant, I still look for ways to find solutions when the status quo says “We Can’t Because.”

Our mayor (Farragut Mayor Ron Williams) doesn’t want a traffic light where Grigsby Chapel meets St. John Court. Darryl Smith (Town engineer) says the MUTCD deems it unnecessary.

We can build roundabouts for \$475,000, but even after 25 years the residents and the school (St. John Neumann Catholic School) behind this only intersection for entry or exit cannot get a traffic light to improve our safety.

Perhaps this possible solution to the problem of turning left from St. John Court into oncoming traffic moving up the blind hill from Grigsby might find

some traction:

- Use of convex mirrors is not included in the MUTCD, but countless communities and businesses buy about 200 of these a month just to see what is coming.

If we installed one on the side of the street where motorists are trying to go, they could see what is coming and reduce the need for the much sought-after traffic light.

The problem with the intersection is exacerbated by people traveling over 40 mph up the blind hill toward St. John Court.

The flashing lights during school hours do slow the traffic, but every driver that turns left on Grigsby has a different level of bravery.

If drivers could see what is coming, everyone would be safer. These mirrors are ubiquitous and easy to install.

I believe the reason that convex mirrors are not in the MUTCD is because its authors don’t consider them a viable solution on public streets for a number of reasons:

- Mirrors do not function well at night and can be difficult to see and lights from vehicles reflect in different directions.
- Mirrors do not work as well in poor weather conditions, including rain, snow and ice events.
- Mirrors have to be aligned properly and locked in place so they work as required.

While mirrors distort an image, they

still let the driver that is looking at the image see that a vehicle is coming. That is their primary goal.

Traffic lights are better, but for whatever reason, our Town staff maintains a “no” to installing a convex mirror.

Perhaps the communities behind this problem intersection can come up with \$100 and install one on their own (mirrors) to see if it helps. My in-laws installed one in Oak Ridge so they could get out of their drive on Robertsville Road.

Those career teachers died of old age. They were always able to see oncoming cars.

Kim Frasch, Farragut

Budget

From page 1A

Town did not have community input. “So I will be a ‘no’ vote also,” Cain added.

New budget amendments:

- adding \$1,200 in expenditures for ICMA membership and \$1,000 for benefit disbursement (two receptionists and a new hire) to the Human Resources fund;
- deducting \$500 for benefit disbursement (two reception-

ists) from Community Development fund;

- adding \$105,000 to expenditures for Enterprise Resource Planning annual maintenance to Information Technology department fund;
- deducting \$75,000 from expenditures for a special census from legislative expenditures;
- adding \$10,000 to expenditures for Campbell Station Inn building maintenance from General Government fund;
- adding \$4,000 to expendi-

tures for personnel benefits in Community Center fund.

- adding \$20,000 to expenditures for traffic signal maintenance;
- adding \$16,000 to expenditures for Town-wide fiber project audit;
- adding \$9,000 to expenditures for Community Development personnel;
- Tourism fund amendments: adding \$10,000 in revenues for event tickets/fees, deducting overtime costs by \$4,153, and

adding benefit disbursement, \$500 for museum and adding \$1,500 benefit disbursement in Tourism.

- amendments to Capital Investment Plan fund: adding \$75,000 for greenway paving and maintenance, adding \$65,000 for Town Hall HVAC unit replacements and deducting \$40,000 for McFee Park tennis resurfacing.

Town administrator David Smoak said the Town’s revenues in the General Fund

remain at \$17,817,804 while expenditures come to \$12,173,643.

Meanwhile, Smoak said the Capital Investment Program fund has \$17,402,000 in projects planned to get under way in Fiscal Year 2026. Among those is construction of Boyd Station Road multi-modal improvements and Union Road multi-modal improvements, intersection improvements at Campbell Station Road and Jamestown Blvd., and also Concord Road and Loop Road.

KCSO Reports

From page 2A

- At 5:14 p.m., Wednesday, June 25, a complainant called KCSO Teleserve Unit to report fraud/false pretenses at a Torrey Pines Point residence. Complainant said the suspect “called her claiming to be a bondsman,” the report stated. “The complainant reported the

suspect was referencing her husband, who had just been arrested needing money for an ankle bracelet. The complainant advised she sent over \$1,000 for the ankle bracelet through Apple pay.

“Complainant (said) the suspect said she needed to send \$150 for the processing fee and an additional \$600 for bond for other charges that did not exist,” the report further stated.

“The complainant advised she sent the money through Apple pay. The total amount (was) \$1,750. The complainant reported she took screenshots of the conversations and was ad-

vised to send them to the Teleserve e-mail.

- At 5:11 p.m., Wednesday, June 11, a complainant called KCSO Teleserve Unit report credit card fraud at a

Boyd Station Road address. “The complainant advised (a) suspect gained access to her purse and stole her Belk credit card,” the report stated. Total value of loss was \$1,192.49.

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business
briefs

• Ali Swofford, president of Prosperity Partners Wealth Management, LLC, recently was honored as the first-ever Million Dollar Knight for the Million Dollar Round Table Foundation.

This recognition celebrates Swofford's extraordinary dedication to philanthropy, her outstanding service to the financial profession and her deep impact on communities both locally and globally. The MDRT Foundation is the charitable arm of MDRT, the premier association of financial professionals.

June 21, at the MDRT annual meeting in Miami, Florida, Swofford was recognized formally and presented with a special Million Dollar Knight pin — an historic moment marking her as the Foundation's first Million Dollar Knight.

• Priority Ambulance has announced the promotion of Richard Pritchard to vice president of operations for Magnolia Ambulance in Mississippi.



Pritchard

Pritchard brings more than four decades of EMS experience and proven operational leadership to his new role. He began his career earning his EMT license in 1982 and paramedic license in 1987, serving in various front-line and leadership positions throughout his career.

Most recently, he served as director of operations for Baptist Ambulance in Mississippi, contributing 16 years of total EMS leadership experience.

In his new position, Pritchard will oversee all operational aspects of Magnolia Ambulance Service, with a focus on performance optimization, strategic growth, and continuous improvement initiatives.

• Sindhu Jagadamma, associate professor of soil science at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, will receive the Soil and Water Conservation Society's 2025 Conservation Research Award at the society's annual conference in August.



Jagadamma

Jagadamma's research in her Sustainable Soil Management Lab is developing ways to mitigate soil and environmental problems associated with conventional farm management practices. Her team studies how to maintain soil health through various practices, which include no-till, cover crops and crop rotation.

What's new in business

Nordstrom
sets sights on
Turkey Creek

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

The Seattle-based fashion retailer, Nordstrom Inc., recently announced its plans to open a new Nordstrom Rack in Pinnacle at Turkey Creek development in spring 2026.

"We look forward to being a part of the Knoxville community and serving our customers with an amazing offering of great brands at great prices," said Gemma Lionello, president of Nordstrom Rack. "We're excited to grow our footprint in the Knoxville market and introduce new customers to the Nordstrom experience."

The 30,000-square-foot store will be located next to Sono Bello and near Buffalo Wild Wings, in Pinnacle Turkey Creek, "a popular shopping center that includes PGA Tour Superstore, Marshall's and Burlington," she said.

"We're thrilled to welcome Nordstrom Rack to Pinnacle Turkey Creek," said Gabi Walsh, marketing manager for Pinnacle Turkey Creek. "As one of the nation's most



Photo submitted

Fashion retailer, Nordstrom Inc., recently announced plans to open a new Nordstrom Rack in Pinnacle Turkey Creek in spring 2026.

sought-after retailers, their arrival further enhances the exceptional mix of fashion, dining and lifestyle offerings that make Turkey Creek a premiere shopping destination for Knoxville."

She added a specific opening date has not been announced.

Lionello said in this location, "customers will be able to take advantage of our convenient services, such as online order pick-up from both Nordstrom.com and NordstromRack.com, and they can make returns easily."

Nordstrom Rack is the off-

price retail division of Nordstrom Inc. and "plays a critical role in the company's 'Closer to You' strategy, which focuses on delivering customers a more convenient and interconnected experience across its stores and digital platforms," she said.

Nordstrom Rack offers customers up to 70 percent off on-trend apparel, accessories, beauty products, home décor and shoes from many of the top brands sold at Nordstrom stores, as well as services, such as online order pickup for Nordstrom.com and Nordstrom-

Rack.com, easy returns and alterations at select stores.

"Nordstrom Rack is the largest source of new customers to Nordstrom," Lionello said. "This new location expands the company's physical footprint and economic impact in Tennessee."

"It currently operates one Nordstrom store and four Nordstrom Rack stores in Tennessee, generating 490 jobs statewide," she added.

"Nordstrom is committed to investing in the diverse com-

See NORDSTROM on Page 8A

Little Turkey Creek shopping
center to add Dollar Tree soon

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

A Dollar Tree store soon will be opening in Farragut.

The store currently is under construction at 12500 Kingston Pike in Little Turkey Creek shopping center near Old Stage Road.

Hunter Hardy, superintendent with Summit General Contractors in Knoxville, said he expects the store to be completed, construction-wise, by July 4, but "it probably won't be opening for another month-and-a-half, at least, because they still have to hire all the associates, stock the store and there's a lot of back-end stuff that they have to do in order to open."

"We are at the vanilla box portion of the store, where most of the construction is finished and we are setting up the shelving and floor gondolas (aisles) right now," he added, estimating an August opening date.

Attempts to contact Dollar Tree's corporate offices for comments were unsuccessful at press deadline.

Hardy surmised the company chose the shopping center

because it is a good location.

The store offers products "at extreme values," its website stated.

"We're working hard to create an environment where shopping is fun, a place where our customers can discover new treasures every week, a store where entire families can enjoy hunting for that special something," the website stated. "We bring it all to you in stores that are bright and well lit, clean and well-organized and stocked with the items you're looking for."

"Just as important, especially during these tough economic times, we continue to offer our customers the products they need at extreme values," it further stated. "We're expanding our assortment



Tammy Cheek

A Dollar Tree store is expected to open in August at 12500 Kingston Pike in Little Turkey Creek shopping center near Old Stage Road.

of merchandise, constantly bringing you new and exciting items.

"Some of the product departments you'll find at a Dollar Tree store ... include housewares, glassware, din-

nerware, cleaning supplies, candy, snacks, food, health and beauty, toys, gifts, gift bags and wrap, party supplies, stationery, craft supplies, teach-

See DOLLAR TREE on Page 8A

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Random Acts of Flowers recently delivered bouquets to Memory Care facilities in Farragut and West Knoxville as part of Brightest Week. Throughout the year, they also host special deliveries: cancer centers in February, dialysis clinics in March, VA hospitals and mental health facilities in May, pediatric units in August, homebound seniors in September, and veterans in November. Events include a Garden Party fundraiser in May and Family Fall Fest in October. They also partner with AHA during Heart Month and deliver poinsettias to hospitals in December. Each initiative brings joy to those facing health challenges across East Tennessee. If you would like to learn more, please visit www.RandomActsofFlowers.org





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**READERS CHOICE AWARDS**

The Curated Home Collective helps homeowners ‘reconnect’ with spaces

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Getting organized has never been easier with help from The Curated Home Collective.

Launched by owner Deborah Kilroy of Farragut on Friday, June 6, she is booking sessions now to serve Farragut and surrounding Knoxville areas with in-home sessions.

“We offer personalized in-home organizing and de-cluttering services that go beyond surface-level tidying,” she said. “We create sustainable systems that blend functionality with aesthetics, ensuring that your home works for you, not against you.”

Kilroy brings a blend of practical organizing skills, a creative background and a deep understanding of the emotional side of home life.

“Over the years, I’ve helped friends, family and clients nav-

igate big transitions — moves, downsizing and life resets — by creating supportive, calming spaces,” she said. “My approach is rooted in empathy, mindfulness and the belief that your home should reflect and support the life you want to live.”

“Consultations and sessions are available every day, with flexible hours to meet your schedule,” she added.

Learn more and schedule through the business’ website at thecuratedhomecollective.com or Instagram @thecuratedhome.knox, on Facebook at The Curated Home Collective or e-mailing dk@thecuratedhomecollective.com

“The Curated Home Collective brings a thoughtful approach to organizing,” Kilroy said. “We meet clients with compassion and help them move through the mental blocks that keep them stuck.”

“The spaces we create are not just organized — they’re supportive, sustainable and aligned with who our clients are becoming,” she added.

The Curated Home Collective grew out of “a natural love for simplifying and organizing spaces, but more importantly for helping people feel more at home in their homes,” Kilroy said. “I realized that the physical clutter often reflects emotional weight, and there’s so much healing in helping someone release what no longer serves them.”

“What I love most is seeing a client breathe easier, smile wider and feel at ease again,” she added.

As such, Kilroy said The Curated Home Collective “aspires to help people reconnect with their homes — and themselves — by creating curated, meaningful spaces that support their lives.”



Photo submitted

Deborah Kilroy, owner of newly launched The Curated Home Collective, is ready to help clients create balance in their homes and lives with in-home sessions.

Nordstrom

From page 7A

munities where it operates.”

During the past four years, “Nordstrom, with its customers, has donated more than \$2 million in support of its long-term partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the United States,” Lionello said.

“These proceeds support the recruitment, training and engagement of adult mentors and mentorship moments between Bigs and Littles, including preparing for an interview, learning to tie a tie and helping with homework,” she added.

And at Nordstrom Inc., “we exist to help our customers feel good and look their best,”

Lionello said. “Since starting as a shoe store in 1901, how to best serve customers has been at the center of every decision we make.”

“This heritage of service is the foundation we’re building on as we provide convenience and true connection for our customers,” she added. “Our interconnected model enables

us to serve customers when, where and how they want to shop — whether that’s in-store at more than 350 Nordstrom, Nordstrom Local and Nordstrom Rack locations or digitally through our Nordstrom and Rack apps and websites.

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Dollar Tree

From page 7A

ing supplies, books, seasonal décor and more,” it stated. “.... With new items arriving weekly, we invite you to come check out our unbelievable mix of merchandise and discover how you can stretch your dollars.”



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Small but powerful at Nationals: Heidi's



Among Heidi's Musical Gymnastics competitors recently at Nationals in Virginia Beach, Virginia, **(above)** Morgan Rouse was an All-Around National champion: National All-Around floor champion and National All-Around balance beam champion. She was named to the National Team in the Silver Excel Division — this is among hundreds of gymnasts, and only 10 were selected to be on the National Team. **(Far right)** Raleigh Henry was an All-Around National champion, as well as the National beam champion and National floor champion; on floor she earned a 9.9725. Raleigh was was named a National Team member. **(Right)** Shelby Pistole also was selected to the National Team in Silver Excel.



Photos submitted



Farragut-based children's gymnastics team has 3 National Team honorees

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Heidi's Musical Gymnastics, 159 West End Ave. in Farragut featuring children gymnasts, enjoyed huge success while recently competing in Nationals in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

"At Nationals our very small Silver team, with only five gymnasts, came in third out of 40 teams, which was outstanding," coach/gym owner Heidi De La Ro-

cha said. "We had four All-Around National Champions; three gymnasts made the National Team (only 10 were selected throughout all age groups); and six were recognized as Beam Queens.

"We also had three National Floor Champions and five National Beam Champions," she added.

Individually, "Morgan Rouse was an All-Around National champion: National All-Around floor champion and National All-Around balance beam champion," De La Rocha said. "She was named to the Nation-

al Team in the Silver Excel Division — this is among hundreds of gymnasts, and only 10 were selected to be on the National Team.

"Raleigh Henry was an All-Around National champion, as well as the National beam champion and National floor champion; on floor she earned a 9.9725," the coach added. "Raleigh was was named as a National Team member.

"Shelby Pistole also was selected onto the National Team in Silver Excel Division."

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Six area high schools were represented on Tennessee Sports Writers Association All-State teams in baseball, softball, boys soccer and boys track & field for 2025 (look for girls track & field and tennis honorees in next week's issue).

Baseball, Division I-4A, pitcher Cole Draper, Farragut, senior; infielder Jaxon Jones, Hardin Valley Academy, senior.

Division II-A, infielder Tyler Bennett, Christian Academy of Knoxville, senior; pitcher Brody Waller, CAK, junior.

See ALL-STATE on Page 4B

TSWA All-State in high schoolspring sports named in track-field, baseball, softball, boys soccer

Concord Hills Piranhas community swim team roster for 2025



Concord Hills Piranhas 2025 community swim team roster, in age order, are:
(Girls 15-18) Kendall Austin, Meira Desal, Victoria McNair, Alexandra Kaye, Reagan McNair, Sophia Ciorciari, Peyton Dial, Hallie Hill, Greenlee Cook, Taylor Chaney, Emily Dubes, Lydia Fletcher, Anna Whitley, Karley Wolfram and Milanna Stoewer. **(Boys 15-18)** Asher Soans, Landon Hall, Jeffrey Nichols, Charles Robards, Enrique Chance, Hunter Lorusso, Collen Slinger, Charlie Houston, Jack Brimer, Christopher Rector, Patrick McIsaac, Nolan Beck, Evan King, Logan Williams, Kolby Leach, Andrew Chou, Hayden Hall and Dean Jett. **(Girls 13-14)** Sam Duby, Anya Soans, Ava Brinley, Mylann Mattie, Addelynn Sliger, Zofia Sharma, Vera Lobodina, Taylen Hodge, Brooke Hessert, Mia Compton, Maeve Grossman, Alexandra Guglielmo and Sophia Guglielmo. **(Boys 13-14)** Kingsley Lorusso, Sawyer Lorusso, Carlo Gonzalez, Josiah Burgos, Evan Ciorciari, Daniel Combiths, Ace Knox, Cooper Chaney, Landon Ortiz, William Nettles and Mark Shields. **(Girls 11-12)** Layla Oakley, Evangeline Chesney, Olivia Denny, Amelia Brahle, Meridian Saylor, Ruby Schleyer, Chloe Bratcher, Lucy Brimer, Collins Rector, Campbell Rector, Riyanshi Mahajan, Chloe Fichthorn, Brooklyn Chaney, Zoe Compton, Lindsey Poore, Charley Wiggins and Elizabeth Lindsey. **(Boys 11-12)** Eli Anderson, Grayson Adams, Nathaniel Bell, Levi Soans, Asa Allman, Milo Roberts, Luke Holseberg, Will Chandler, Bowen Miller, Ethan Ebanks, Parker Abraham, Jack Stevens, Ezekiel Combiths, Rowen Samples, Bennett Edger, Austin Burley, William Garland, Colt Knox, Jack Miller, Graham Barnett, Daniel Shin Levi Whitley, Benjamin Biddix and Callahan Newnam. **(Girls 9-10)** Harper Jones, Annabelle Brahle, Penelope Lorusso, Quinn McIsaac, Avery Denny, Mae Miller, Austen Worley, Abigail Pat-

erson, Sydney Roberts, Harper Hightower, Kira Lobodina, McKenna Reilly, Mackenzie Stevens, Ashley Mayo, Reagan Clendenen, Nora Myers, Lillian Alexander, Ryker Bumgarner, Hayden Mack, Annabelle Wynkoop, Lucinda Grossman, Lenox Roth, Skylar Chen, Madelaine Sheffield, Victoria Russell, Elizabeth Price, Kelsey Poore, Hailey Keener, Liv Nilsen, Alice Batmanova, Jacey Wiggins and Indigo Hall. **(Boys 9-10)** Shepherd Chesney, Reed Thurman, Miles Brinley, Jack Anderson, Steven Emison, Connor Bell, Jude Saylor, Christian Dial, Taylor Bryant, Hudson Hugus, Charlie Schleyer, Hunter Beler, Lucas Xiao, Ryder Driscoll, Crew Piersma, Boh-Duke Cook, Henry Garland, Owen Moss, Grant Shields, Owen Moss and William Fecher. **(Girls 8-under)** Amina Burgos, Carolina Chesney, Peyton Sliger, Caroline Hightower, Lilly Crigger, Grace McIsaac, Blakely Hugus, Hailey Hugus, Aveline Combiths, Berklee Edger, Margaret Clendenen, Ansley Watson, Virginia Savage, Danielle Bryant, Lucy Bryant, Julia Copinger, Eleanora McFarland, Vivian McFarland, Claire Colgrove, Kristen Poore, Eloise Patterson, Caroline Denny, Reagan Smith, Charleston Driscoll, Abigail Brahle, Annie Moss, Megan Riffert, Cambrie Woods, Berklee Edger and Perry Wiggins. **(Boys 8-under)** Jack Duby, Bryce Ferguson, Abel Combiths, Ben Stevens, Bodhi Scheve, Chasen Rector, Henry Abraham, Ethan Bratcher, Eli Holsberg, Alejandro Chance, Paulo Chance, Ford Sullivan, Knox Sullivan, Jack Savage, Samuel Brown, Carter Puckett, Tyler Mayo, Brock Miller, James Mooney, Dylan Kouri, Harvey Mack, Jennings Piersma, Levi McCullough, Jason Xu, Emerson Reilly, Jensen Kouri, Thomas Emison, Camden Beier, Bridger Worley, Liam Wolfgram, William Riffert, Scott Rainey, Nuku Rainey, Jon Fecher and Sebastian Guernsey.

Photo submitted



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CHALK the PLAZA

2B • FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2025

Hundreds of artists and families gathered at Ralph McGill Plaza Saturday afternoon, May 31, for Town of Farragut's first Chalk the Plaza event, where youngsters and adults vied for prizes for their chalk art.

Winners were:

- Adult category: first place, Desiderio Manresa Bodipo; second place, Sonia Summers; and third place, John Thayer;
- Teen category: first place, Morgan Campbell; second, Jenisis Bird; and third, Kyri Tarpley;
- Group category: first place, Katelyn Wieniewitz and Petros Chili; second, Madison Romer and Teagan Nelson; and third, Ellee Smith and friends.



1. Winning art by Desiderio Manresa Bodipo
2. Group category first place art by Katelyn Wieniewitz and Petros Chili
3. Teen category first place art by Morgan Campbell
4. Adult category first place winner Desiderio Manresa Bodipo with Town Tourism director Hallie Reid
5. Group category second place winners Madison Romer, center, and Teagan Nelson, left, with Reid
6. Teen category second place artist Jenisis Bird with Reid
7. Adult category third place winner John Thayer with Reid
8. Adult category second place winner Sonia Summers with Reid



9. From left: Ellie Smith, Annie Bowers, Myles Smith and Emma Smith
10. Artist Alex Squires
11. Artist Kelley Cook
12. Mary Ward
13. Mason Freeman
14. Alyse Dubuis with Zylah DuBuis, 1, blowing bubbles
15. Donna Spangler, seated, with Reid
16. Knox Carter

Candid photos by Tammy Cheek

Winners photos courtesy of Hallie Reid, Town of Farragut





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All-State
From page 1B

Division II-AA, infielder Alex Ditmore, Knoxville Catholic, senior; outfielder DJ Lowery, KCHS, sophomore.

Softball, Division 1-4A, catcher Elsa Morrison, Farragut, senior.

Division II-A, outfielder Halle Bedwell, Christian Academy of Knoxville, senior; infielder Emily Bogoski, CAK, freshman.

Division II-AA, outfielder Hadley Troutt, Knoxville Catholic, sophomore.

Boys Soccer, Division I-3A, goalkeeper Logan Nelson, Bearden, senior; goalkeeper Adam Leonard, Hardin Valley Academy, senior; forward, Ben Brophy, HVA, senior; midfielder Frankie

Manrod, HVA, senior; defender Lincoln Unger, Farragut, junior.

Division II-A, forward, Colby Stokely, Christian Academy of Knoxville, junior.

Track & Field boys, Division I-AAA, Shot put and discus, Bryce Thompson, Farragut, senior; pole vault, Gavin

Bailey, Bearden, senior; 1600 meter run, Evan Beeler, Farragut, senior; Gabe Allen, Hardin Valley Academy, senior; 800 meter run, Evan Beeler, Farragut, senior; 3200 meter run, Garrett Hawkins, HVA, senior; and Tanner Coggin, Farragut, senior; decathlon, Chase McAvoy, Farragut, junior.

Division II-A, Pole vault, Silas Fulford, Christian Academy of Knoxville, senior; 3200 meter run, Graham Lloyd, CAK, senior; decathlon, Fulford, CAK, senior. **Division II-AA**, shot put, discus, JR Fowler, Knox Catholic, junior.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, at its meeting on Thursday, June 26, 2025, adopted the following ordinances on second and final reading:

- Ordinance 25-05, an ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article 6, Finance, of the Farragut Municipal Code to add section 2-300, Competitive Sealed Proposals
- Ordinance 25-10, an ordinance adopting the annual budget for the Town of Farragut for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026

It is the policy of the Town of Farragut not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, natural origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability or veteran status pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 93-112 and 101-336 in its hiring, employment practices and programs. To request accommodations due to disabilities, please call 865-966-7057 in advance of the meeting

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‘Surreal’ performances in Ireland for FHS Choir Tour

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Thirty Farragut High School choir students — from freshmen to seniors — had an opportunity of the lifetime when they performed in Ireland as Farragut High School Choir Tour last month.

“We were invited to perform in Galway Choral Festival in Galway,” said Kirstine Buchanan, co-choir director, along with Mitchell Moore. “We have a great relationship with Dr. (Craig) Zamer (professor of music and choral activities) from Tennessee Tech University.

“He was conducting in the Galway Choral Festival and he invited us to come and join Tennessee Tech (chorus) on the trip,” Buchanan added.

“It was so surreal,” rising FHS junior Layla Baker said. “When we first found out, it was not a place I thought I’d be able to go, especially in high school, and it was such a cool opportunity.”

To take the trip, “students had to fundraise on their own,” she added.

They held fundraisers, had jobs or did odd jobs to raise the funds.

Meanwhile, “we used a tour company that organized the trip, called Perform International,” Buchanan said. “They were amazing to work with.”



Photos submitted

Farragut High School Choir Tour students, 30 strong, performed musical pieces in Dublin (above) and Galway, Ireland last month.

The group left Knoxville Monday, June 2, arrived in Galway Tuesday, June 3, and performed at Galway Cathedral Friday, June 6. Then, they left Galway on Saturday, June 7, for Dublin, where they stayed for a couple of days before traveling home Monday, June 9.

“The kids were very excited when we announced the trip,” the choir director recalled. “We ended up having about 30

See IRELAND-FHS on Page 2C

Reliving Helene relief efforts, awarding Lynch FLC highlights

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

Reliving the relief experience he took part in alongside Farragut Lions Club members last fall after the devastation of Hurricane Helene in Upper East Tennessee, Frank McCall, a Lions Club past district governor, visited FLC last week.

Guest speaker during the regular fourth Tuesday of the month Farragut Lions meeting in Mimi’s Café June 24, McCall also was the official who installed new FLC officers for the 2025-26 year.

The evening also featured FLC membership chair Ashley Lynch receiving the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award from her fellow Lions for her selfless volunteer work.

About the Hurricane Helene relief efforts, “I participated with you guys on the truck and had a real blast doing that. ... It was very uplifting because just seeing the people donate stuff to us and come back three or four more times,

See SPECIAL EVENTS, Page 5C



A ‘Cutler’ above for her creativity, workmanship: crowned during 44th Quilt Show

Barb Cutler of Farragut (left) was honored for her creativity and excellent workmanship at 44th Annual Quilt Show & Competition, hosted by the Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee Friday and Saturday, June 20-21, in Knoxville Expo Center. “The quilt show featured more than 200 stunning quilts and over \$7,800 in awards,” a SMQT press release stated. Cutler received a first-place award for her quilt “Sweet Mathilde” in the Kits and Alternative Techniques category. The guild’s roughly 100 members range from novice to master quilters in diverse quilt styles, including traditional and art quilts, complex and minimalist modern designs, miniatures and bed-sized and hand- or machine-stitched. For more information, visit www.smokymtnquilters.com or follow on Facebook.

Photo submitted

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• **Featuring three bands, a fireworks show, a Patriotic Ceremony and lots of great food and fun in-between, 25th Annual Rockin’ the Docks** happens in Lenoir City Park from 1 p.m. to the end of the fireworks show (which starts at 10 p.m.) on Independence Day, Friday, July 4. Though the event is free of charge, “If you come by car, we do ask for a donation at parking,” said Zack Cusick, Lenoir City Parks & Recreation director.

• **Wil Tustin, one of the top selling and nationally acclaimed authors of Christian historian fiction novels, will be on hand** at Cedar Springs Christian Bookstore, 504 N. Peters Road, Knoxville, to sign copies of his latest book, “Unhindered / Paul the Traveler, Martyr and Apostle to the Roman World,” from noon to 2 p.m., Saturday, July 12. Autograph seekers must buy a copy of his latest book at the bookstore prior to getting it autographed.

• **Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee’s Volunteer Assisted Transportation program is seeking volunteers** to provide assisted transportation to seniors and people with disabilities, a CAC press release stated. “Volunteer drivers will drive an agency vehicle when volunteering their time

to assist and transport someone to their destination.” This CAC transportation program also will “provide training and gas,” the release further stated. “Volunteers can choose what day and how often they would like to volunteer,” the release stated. “We provide a calendar for you to choose your rides.”

For more information, or to sign up, call 865-673-5001.

• **Farragut High School’s Class of 1985 will hold its 40th Reunion in Avalon Country Club** from 6 to 10 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 2. Spouses are welcome; cost is \$65 per person/\$120 per couple. “Casual dress — school colors would be great,” a Class of 1985 representative’s press release stated. “No band — but good ole’ ’80s music will be played. Hors d’oeuvres, tea and water included; cash bar available.”

• **KAPA Boot Scootin’ Ball is set for Friday, Aug. 22, at The Mill & Mine, 227 W. Depot Ave in Knoxville.** Get ready for a boot-stompin’ good time featuring: -Live country music from Songs of the South — an Alabama tribute band — plus line dancing and two-steppin’ fun; -A delicious dinner, with complimentary beer from Yee-Haw Brewing Company, free tastings and specialty cocktails from Ole Smoky Moonshine; and a lively silent auction packed with various items.

Tickets and sponsorships are available. Reserve your spot or learn more at: kapabootscootin.com

• **Salsarita’s is holding a ‘Give \$15, Get \$15’ campaign through Sunday, July 27, benefitting East Tennessee Children’s Hospital.** Every \$15 donation will receive a free Salsarita’s gift card for \$15 in return.

Participating locations include the following: Turkey Creek, Cedar Bluff, Hardin Valley, Bearden, Alcoa, Fountain City, Oak Ridge, Powell, Chapman Highway, Morristown, Ooltewah. Hixson, Gunbarrel and Cleveland (Bradley County). For more info, contact Natalia Havasy at 865-216-6907 or e-mail NLHavasy@etch.com

• **St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church, 110 Sugarwood Drive in Farragut, has announced its July Gift of the Month again** going to Vine Middle Magnet School in Knoxville. “Vine Middle is an inner-city, low-income school with a diverse population,” an SEEC press release further stated. “... The attendance and test scores are problematic, so we are encouraged to help in a variety of ways since education is the best way to alleviate poverty.”

What is requested? Crayola Color Markers, 2-pocket folders, small binders (1 inch and 1.5 inch), pencils and Clorox wipes.

Ireland-FHS

From page 1C

kids sign on to do the trip. Kids, all the way from ninth-graders to seniors who had graduated the week before (attended the trip). We just felt like it was an opportunity we couldn’t turn down, to take them abroad and sing in places people had been singing in for thousands of years.”

“When I got off the plane, I instantly knew that this was going to be my favorite place on earth,” rising sophomore Caden Eaker said. “This was going to be the best week of my life because, I don’t know, it just all felt perfect.”

“Walking into (Galway Cathedral) was insane,” Baker said. “It was not something I expected ... it was absolutely gorgeous, one of the best places I have ever been.”

At the Galway Choral Festival, the students sang a work called “Illuminare” by a composer named Elaine Hagenburg.

“The cool thing about this performance was (Hagenburg) was there,” Buchanan said. “She worked with them throughout the week.”

“A group of us actually got to talk to her right before our concert and got some of our music signed by her,” Baker said. “She was very busy ... but she was very sweet and personable.”

“It just felt like crazy,” Eaker said about meeting the composer. “We’ve sang music by her before, and she created this piece and we actually got to sing with her.”

“Dr. Zamer conducted the performance, conducted the work, and Elaine Hagenburg was in residence,” Buchanan said. “(Hagenburg) conducted another one of her pieces, ‘You Do Not Walk Alone,’ at the concert. So, the kids getting to talk

with her, learn from her about what inspired the work, was amazing, something they’re never going to forget.”

Buchanan explained the piece was a “master work” five movements long, which they performed with a professional orchestra.

“There were 193 singers in total — between Tennessee Tech, Farragut and a handful of other schools throughout the Southeast,” she said. “It’s the biggest choral performance they had ever had in Galway Cathedral.”

A trip such as this “does not come often,” Buchanan said. “I don’t know of very many schools in general who are able to take high schoolers abroad, so we just jumped at the opportunity when we got it.

“Choir tour, in my own life, has changed my outlook, made me even more invested in wanting to become a choral director, and I see the same experiences I had when I was in college that they’re getting to have now,” she added. “All of a sudden, they are doing things very differently after coming back from Ireland.

“They are much more committed to their craft. I have a number of kids who say, ‘I just wish I could go back and relive it.’”

Saturday morning, June 7, “We drove to Dublin, and we had our own performance in Saint Patrick’s Cathedral,” Buchanan said. “It was just Farragut, so they prepared six pieces and they gave us a 25-minute recital ... and (the cathedral) was packed” with tourists and local residents.

“It was life-changing for (the FHS students),” she added. “To sing in some of those spaces that people have been singing in for thousands of years just makes you take a second and think about what you are doing as a singer and how the

tradition of choral singing has existed around the world for thousands of years.

“We get so tuned in to our own community and doing the things that we get to do here (United States), but the opportunity to go abroad and share in that tradition that has been happening for thousands of years is otherworldly.”

Another thing for students to ponder is British composer George Frederic Handel, who rehearsed the oratorio “Messiah” in Saint Patrick’s Cathedral.

“I had told the kids that before they got there, ‘Where you are singing is where music greats have been conducting ... and you are getting the opportunity to add your voice to that tradition,’” Buchanan said.

Along with their performances, the group also did “a lot of sightseeing,” she added. “A favorite of ours was the Cliffs of Moher ... it’s the famous view of Ireland.”

Students also saw Kylemore Abbey, where they had an opportunity to sing in a small chapel at the Kylemore Estates.

“They really loved their visit there,” Buchanan said.

They also tried the local cuisine, such as shepherd’s pie, bangers and mash (sausage and potatoes) and black pudding (blood sausage), which “some of them liked; a lot of them didn’t,” she noted.

“A lot of them bought chocolates, fudge and things,” Buchanan added. “Many of them came home with the Claddagh ring.”

The director said she hopes to have another such experience abroad for choir students.

“It’s just eye-opening when you get outside of your bubble and see what the world has to offer,” Buchanan said. “I’m really glad I got to share that with them.”

Grads, Prez List, Dean’s Lists, Honor Roll told at U-Alabama, U-Arkansas, Miss. St., Ole Miss, Rhodes College

• **Cade O’Leary, Micah Brooks and Landis Davila of Farragut earned President’s List honors at Mississippi State University,** each achieving a 3.80 or better grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale while completing at least 12 semester hours of coursework with no incomplete grades or grades lower than a C.

• **Bennett Ogle of Farragut will be an August 2025 Summa Cum Laude Honors College graduate at the University of Alabama.** He is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, Blackburn Institute and the inaugural class of Shelby Scholars. He will receive a Bachelor’s degree in economics and mathematics, a Master’s degree in quantitative economics and a Graduate Certificate in museum studies. Bennett has been selected to teach English in Latvia.

• **Sarah Carter of Farragut was named to the University of Arkansas Dean’s List for the 2025 Spring Semester.** To qualify for the Dean’s List, undergraduates must achieve a grade-point average of 3.75 (or higher) during the semester while completing at least 12 credit hours. School of Law students must earn a 3.0 grade-point average or higher during the semester to be named to the Law School Dean’s List.

• **Cooper Alleman of Farragut was named to the University of Mississippi’s Spring 2025 Honor Roll List.** Alleman, majoring in philosophy, was named to the Chancellor’s Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA between 3.75 and 4.00.

• **Ella Myers of Farragut was named to Rhodes College’s Spring 2025 Honor Roll.** To qualify for the Honor Roll, a student must be enrolled in at least 16 credits of academic work and achieve a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better.

• **Ann Rogers of Farragut was named to the Mississippi State University Spring 2025 Deans’ List.** To be named to the Deans’ List, a student must have achieved a grade-point average between 3.5 and 3.79 based on a 4.0 scale, while completing at least 12 semester hours of coursework with no incomplete grades or grades lower than a C.



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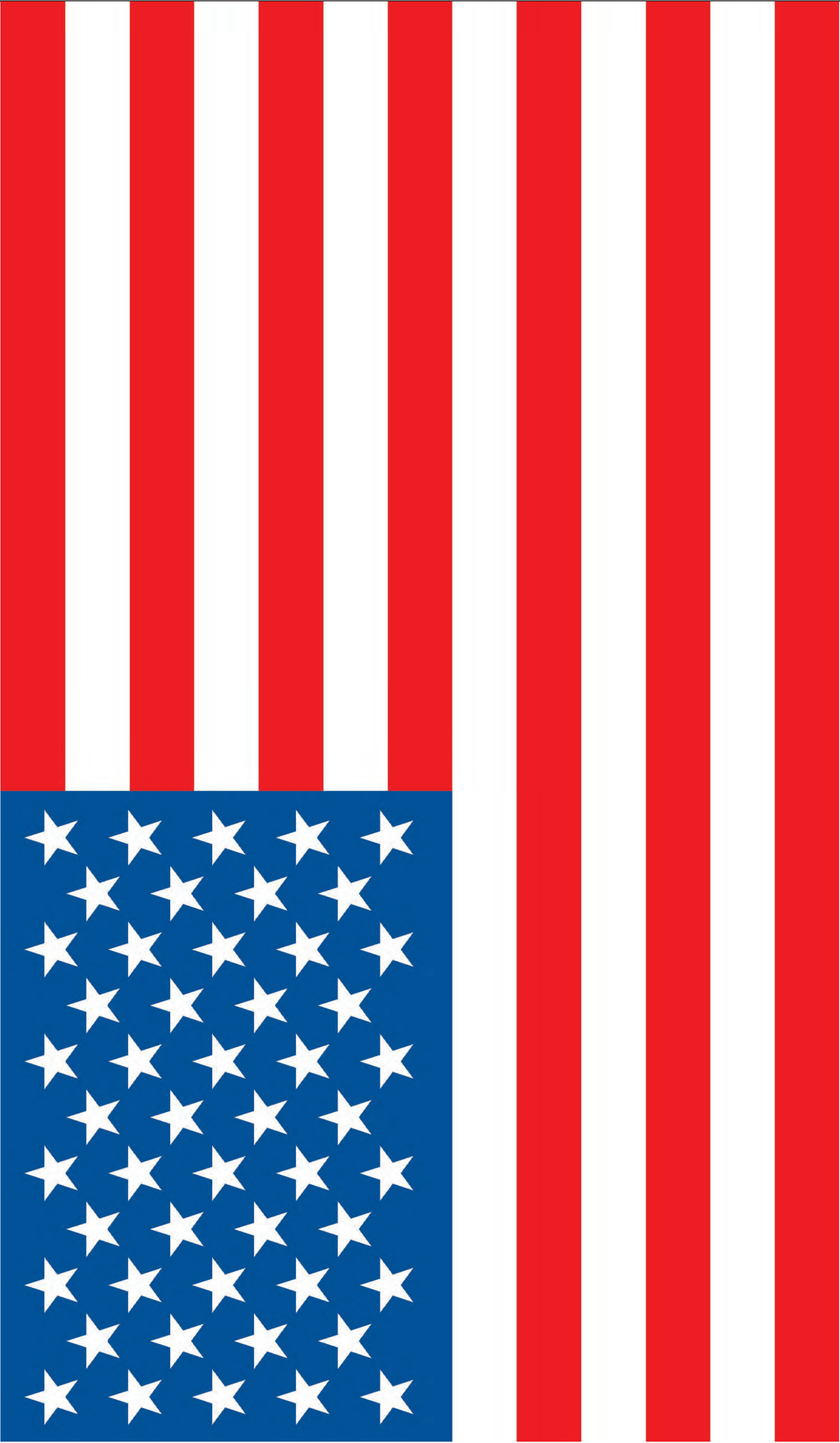
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obituary

Ardell (Troester) Dietzler, 86, passed away peacefully Saturday, June 21, 2025. She was born in Guttenberg, Iowa, on Jan. 30, 1939, to the late Emil and Ruth Troester and grew up in Clayton County, Iowa.

She loved to read, cook, quilt, sew, knit and crochet.

Ardell met her husband, William (Bill), at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. After graduating college, Ardell enjoyed teaching students in kindergarten through 12th grade (plus Sunday school classrooms) in Iowa, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Louisiana and Ten-

nessee. She was a lifelong Lutheran and volunteered in a variety of roles within the church. Ardell was an active member of American Association of University Women (AAUW), Red Hat Society, Bible study groups and many book clubs. She was an avid bridge player and always cherished dancing with her husband. Ardell



Mrs. Dietzler

was very proud of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and liked attending their activities and events.

Ardell is survived by her three daughters, Christine Dietzler of Alpharetta, Georgia, Lori Dietzler (Kate Jones) of Atlanta and Jill Hardison (Derrick) of Roswell, Georgia; grandchildren, Jessica Howard (Caleb), Emily and Sarah Hughes, Joseph and Ella Hardison and Aaron Jones; great-grandchildren, Penelope and Pauline Howard; sisters, Betty Schwietert and Lorna Troester, both of Clayton County.

Ardell was preceded in death by her loving husband, Bill.

The family would like to thank neighbors, friends and family for their tireless efforts in caring for her.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held starting at 1 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025, in Faith Lutheran Church, 225 Jamestowne Blvd. in Farragut, Tennessee.

The family will receive visitors following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Ardell's name to Faith Lutheran Church.

(Near right) Ashley Lynch, Farragut Lions Club membership chair, earned Melvin Jones Fellowship Award from her fellow Lions. **(Far right)** FLC officers for 2025-26 around Frank McCall (blue coat), a Lions Club past district governor, are, from left, Sam Green, 1st vice president; Ann Raby, secretary; Dave Crawford, treasurer; Tyler Hunsaker, president; and Jerry Griffin, director.



Photos by Alan Sloan

Special events

From page 1C

you can't beat that," said McCall, who is a member of Loudon Lions Club.

"We filled up, I think, four trucks," he added. "... I made about six trips up to Mountain City to assist up there.

"They asked for cleaning supplies; we took that and blankets, sleeping bags, whether it be Mountain City or Green County or Erwin. There were a lot of people that were sleeping outside in tents. Tents were a big donation also."

Of special note, "... The one

thing that was very imperative was that we helped get them through the winter season," McCall said. "And you can imagine yourself sleeping in a tent, especially in the high elevations where it was cold.

"... We took a bunch of space heaters up there, and they said they went quick," he added.

Installing officers

Though McCall said, "We always encourage new leaders because we have new ideas and new innovations that come in," he added, "Some people go by the cliché, 'If it's not broke, don't fix it.' So there's nothing wrong with that."



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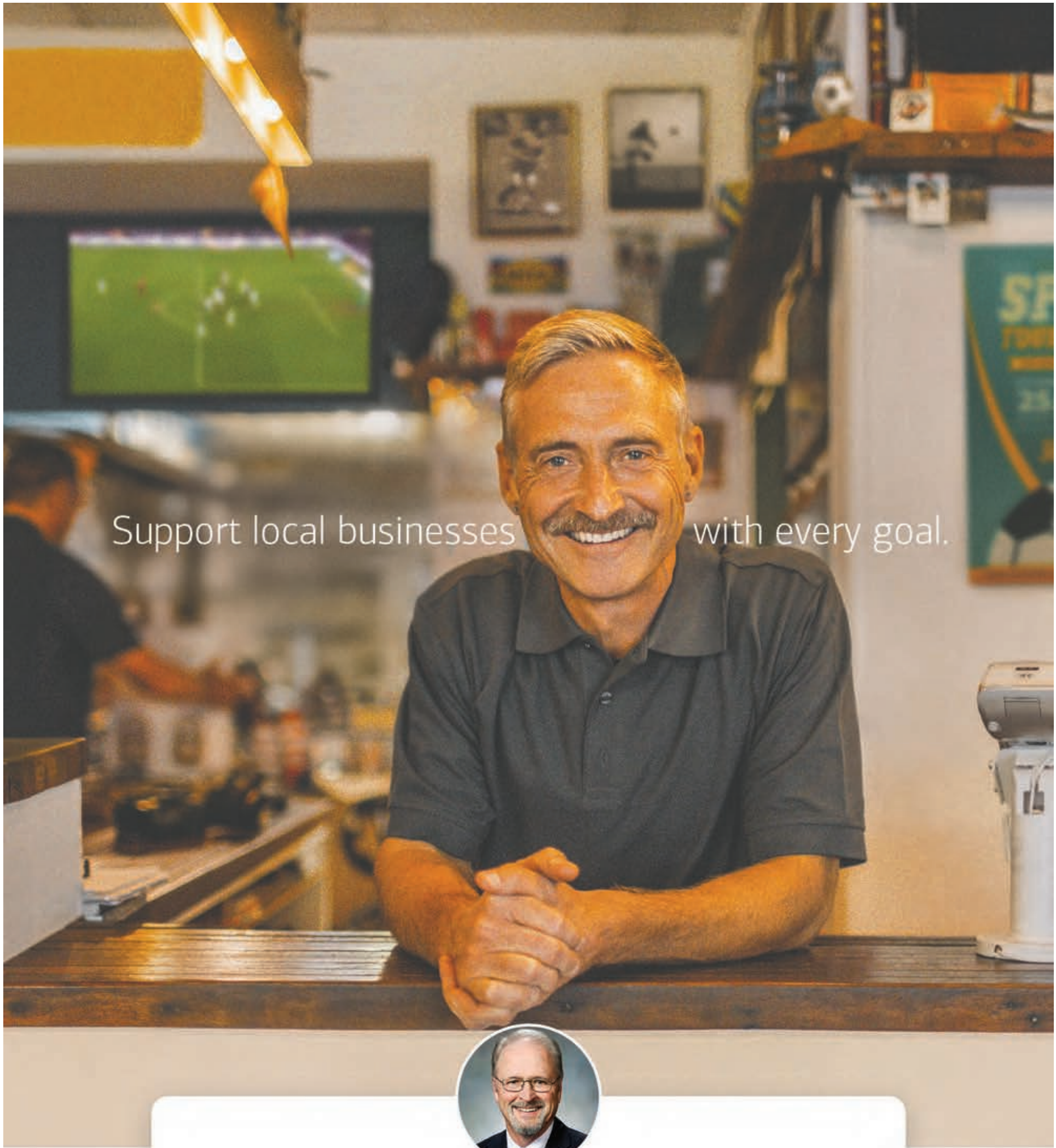
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