

'Idol' contestant keeps on singing

By Nila Harris

FALMOUTH — Callie Daugherty has been singing since she was a young girl, singing at Neave United Methodist Church in Falmouth.

At the age of 12, she sang the national anthem for the veterans' ceremony at the American Legion Post 109 in Falmouth.

Singing patriotic music touched her heart, she said, and she has been performing at veterans' celebrations ever since.

When Daugherty was 17, she tried out for "American Idol." Auditions were held in Newport with 1,200 musicians vying for the coveted position. Daugherty made it within "one or two rounds of the top 40" chosen.

She also tried out for



Former "American Idol" contestant Callie Daugherty continues to perform around the Pendleton County area.

"The Voice" in Atlanta and made it through three

rounds in that competition.

Although Daugherty did not get to go on to compete at the final levels, she said she is grateful for the experiences and had a lot of fun doing the auditions.

Now Daugherty "writes a little bit, and plays. I love it — it's my passion. I love seeing people enjoying my music."

She continues to sing at veteran celebrations in Pendleton County, Alexandria and Cold Spring because "I love to give back (to the veterans)."

In addition to beautifully performing the national anthem for veterans, she sings music from "country to rock, to a little bit of R&B."

For the past three years, Daugherty has been playing out live.

She said that singing/performing is a family affair.

"My little girl, Victoria, is 7; she loves to sing. My older daughter, Audrina, and stepdaughter, Sabrina, like to sing too," Daugherty said.

Daugherty said her significant other, Kenneth Rarriek, is her number one fan. He encouraged her to start performing gigs — even going to Nashville to perform.

Rarriek books gigs for Daugherty, who has played at several private parties and establishments locally. She played at Holler Fest for a community in Alexandria a couple of Saturdays ago.

When not on a stage, Daugherty works part time at Heritage Bank in Butler.

Contact her at 859-428-6107.



Callie Daugherty poses with, from left, daughters Audrina and Victoria, stepdaughter Sabrina, and significant other, Kenneth Rarriek. Photos courtesy of Daugherty.

St. Vincent de Paul awarded grant

SVdPNKY

COVINGTON — St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky has been awarded a major grant of \$20,000 by the STG Foundation.

This is the second time that the Covington-based non-profit has received the award, allowing SVdPNKY to directly help local neighbors struggling with rising housing and energy costs as we prepare for the cold winter months ahead.

The Northern Kentucky region includes the St. Vincent de Paul store and donation center at 518 Barkley St., Falmouth. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The other Northern Kentucky sites are in Erlanger, Florence and Cold Springs.

Aiding those in need is at the heart of St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky's mission.

Since Oct. 1, St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky has helped 9,700 people from becoming homeless with rent and utility assistance — totaling \$1,032,000.

The STG Foundation's \$20,000 grant will allow SVdPNKY to continue to provide these crucial services to local men, women and families, sharing hope in a time of need with those struggling to make ends meet.

The STG Foundation is a nonprofit 501C agency that aims to meet the



St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky Executive Director Karen Zengel receives a \$20,000 grant from Steve O'Connor, board member with the STG Foundation. Photo courtesy of SVdPNKY.

needs of high-performing charities — including St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky.

Each charity is vetted with pre-determined criteria to ensure that the vast majority of the money given directly impacts the cause.

"We are honored to support St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky," Scott Farmer, president of STG Foundation, said.

"In a time when many individuals and families are struggling with rent and utility expenses, we are happy to partner and help provide aid for these much needed services."

For someone experiencing crisis or poverty, call St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky's Assistance Office Help Line at 859-341-3219.

The Assistance Office is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Monday through Friday. To learn more about this program and other services offered by SVdPNKY, visit their website at www.svdpnky.org.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky, through its 31 conferences, provides emergency rent and utility assistance, food, clothing, and in-store vouchers, serving more than 56,000 Northern Kentuckians in need last year.

The STG Foundation is an organization established to support charities globally.

It provides a way for individuals to give through vetted charities with anonymity and accountability.

The ultimate goal of the organization is to provide financial resources to high performing charities that will make a difference in the lives of others.

AG sues TikTok on behalf of Kentucky kids

Kentucky AG Office

FLORENCE — Attorney General Russell Coleman announced last Wednesday the filing of a lawsuit against TikTok and its affiliated entities for the social media platform's exploitation of Kentucky's young people to turn a profit.

Coleman alleges this Chinese social media platform engaged in predatory behavior to suck in minors, leading to depression, anxiety, altered development, lack of sleep and more.

"TikTok was specifically designed to be an addiction machine, targeting children who are still in the process of developing appropriate self-control."

"It doesn't take much for our kids to fall headfirst into a digital world of unrealistic beauty standards,

bullying and low self-esteem," Coleman said.

"If we don't hold TikTok accountable, our children will suffer the very real consequences. Nothing less than their mental, physical and emotional health are on the line."

In 2022, TikTok reportedly had nearly 100 million U.S. monthly active users and generated an estimated \$9.4 billion in revenue.

By addicting young people to spend endless hours on the platform, TikTok can deliver them to advertisers and collect a hefty profit, Coleman said.

He quoted one TikTok executive as saying, "Teenagers in the U.S. are the golden audience."

The lawsuit, filed in Scott County Circuit Court, alleges that TikTok:

- Created a deliberately

addictive content system to maximize the amount of time young users spend on the platform;

- Designed features that exploit children's psychological vulnerabilities;

- Engaged in a scheme to deceptively market the platform and its features;

- Refused to address the accessibility and spread of child sexual abuse material on the platform.

Coleman joined a bipartisan group of attorneys general in filing separate enforcement actions to hold TikTok accountable for its role in worsening children's mental health, including from California, New York, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Jersey, Oregon, South Carolina, Vermont, Washington and the District of Columbia.

Schools seek members for planning committee

FALMOUTH — Pendleton County Schools is in the process of reviewing its District Facility Plan.

The first step in the process is the establishment of a local planning committee.

The local planning

committee consists of parents, teachers, administrators, district staff, a board member and local business/community members.

The board of education must appoint three local community members from a list of those interested in

serving.

Anyone interested in serving on this committee should submit a letter of interest to the Pendleton County Board of Education, 2525 Highway 27 N, Falmouth 41040, by Oct. 22.

Public Notice:

Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission is seeking vendors for the upcoming Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program's (LIHEAP) Subsidy and Crisis components, which includes all bulk fuel vendors (propane, kerosene, fuel oil, wood, and coal), metered utilities, and any landlord who provides heat as an undesignated portion of the rent to their tenants. For more information, or to request a vendor application, contact Laura Torres at NKCAC by email at ltorres@nkcac.org or by phone at (859) 951-3734. NKCAC serves Gallatin, Boone, Campbell, Carroll, Grant, Kenton, Owen, and Pendleton Counties. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or disability.

Hilltop Presents the Pendleton County Schools

ACADEMIC STUDENT OF THE MONTH

October 2024

Name: Riley Combs

Favorite Subject: English



PARENTS: Jeff and Melinda Combs

Riley is an incredibly hard-working kid. She is a strong academic student who is always dedicating herself to whatever task is before her. She is respectful and kind and always an exemplary example to her peers. She has been selected to begin a gifted extension project in English this month about To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, while balancing the responsibilities she carries in 4-H and FFA (Future Farmers of America). Riley is a model student and an absolute pleasure to teach!



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