

HABITAT

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love Somerset.

“My son graduated from Somerset (High School). He played football and baseball,” she said. “I absolutely love everybody we’ve met. And when my husband passed away, there was support then too.”

While Stacy Ehrsam is currently renting a place, she said that it is too big for her now that her children have grown up and are moving on with their lives.

She also said that she has never owned her own home, so being selected to be part of the Purple Heart Veterans Village is a huge blessing for her.

As part of the deal, Habitat for Humanity requires new homeowners to participate in the building of their new homes,

whether that be through painting or light work, or through more construction-involved tasks.

It’s a job that Stacy Ehrsam said she is not only looking forward to but is prepared for.

“Thank goodness for my husband, because he worked construction, so I used to go out into the shop and help him build stuff, so I know how to run machinery,” she said.

Two others who were selected for the Habitat village talked about being overwhelmed by the show of support at the groundbreaking ceremony.

“It hasn’t hit me yet,” said Mars. “I’m still kind of in disbelief, but once I see (construction) progressing, it will be like, ‘Okay, it’s actually happening.’”

Mars and Burton, who will be neighbors in the new village, are actually neighbors already.

Burton said that Mars was the person who encouraged her to submit an application.

They had been talking back and forth about their applications with each other about it, with Mars saying Burton kept asking her if she had heard anything about it before they both found out they were selected.

Burton said that since her daughter, Aryana, was born, they had moved seven times.

“I’m so thankful to get this, because I can call this home,” Burton said. “I won’t have to worry about her, because she’ll have a home that she can grow up in. It’s a blessing for sure.”

Mars said that before moving to a place in Somerset, she was homeless.

“I asked God, ‘If you can find me a home, I will do anything, I will do community service

in your name.’ ... I had two places out of 60 that I heard from: Sandusky, Ohio and Somerset, Ky. Somerset gave me the call, and I decided to come to Somerset, and it’s been nothing more than gratitude and blessings,” she said.

Mars said she followed through on her promise to God in part by volunteering with many veterans organizations, including the Suicide Coalition, as an ambassador for the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs’ Pulaski Women’s Veterans, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS and American Legion.

She said she thought that being selected for Habitat for Humanity’s village was God’s way of rewarding her.

“He said, ‘You did a great job, pat yourself on the back, here’s your home,’” she said.

Jon Roberts, Habitat for Humanity Veteran Task Force head, looked back at the dedication of the previous veteran’s village and how they named it in honor of 1st Sgt. Louis D. Garrett.

“As we began to have conversations about this village, one thing I realized is that we did way too good of a job the first time, and there was only one Louis D. Garrett,” Roberts said. “Men like that don’t just fall out of trees.”

In looking for inspiration on what to name the new village, he found it at the new Veterans Park in downtown Somerset, seeing the names on the bricks of all those who were from Pulaski and had been given Purple Hearts, the medal awarded to those who were wounded in conflict.

“I felt like it was very fitting, particularly when

we understand that the ways we fight conflicts are changing or has changed, and we, thankfully, have fewer purple heart recipients in the military,” Roberts said. “So we want to dedicate this village, this site and this project, to the memory of Purple Heart recipients from Pulaski County.”

Also on hand during the groundbreaking was Somerset Mayor Alan Keck, who not only thanked the members of the Habitat board of directors for their work in helping veterans, but thanked those veterans who would be receiving new homes.

“Thank you so much for your service. I think it’s fitting today that as we celebrate our great country, you all had an active role, a very real-world role in preserving those freedoms that we’re going to get to celebrate,” Keck said.

BOOMS

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Kentucky’s famed Bourbon Trail.

And while things got off to a dampened start this past weekend, with rainy weather and the postponement of the downtown Somerset Soapbox Derby, excitement for Lake Cumberland 250 is still riding higher than Paul Revere at midnight.

“The people have come together to celebrate Lake Cumberland 250, no matter what’s going on,” said Allen. “I am so proud of our community to have joined in on this movement, because I didn’t expect it to be as big as it is.”

Of course, Lake Cumberland continues to draw in tourists as it always does each summer, the Ohio Navy a more formidable economic force than General Washington’s army at the Siege of Yorktown. Allen said that hotels are nearly full and short-term rentals are being snatched up like the Declaration of Independence collecting signatures. And that means even after this weekend, it will continue to be an exciting summer for Pulaski County.

“Even though we had to reschedule the Soapbox Derby, that’s something to look forward to even more in July, because celebrating 250 is about (doing so) all year long, it just happens to be that we’re really celebrating big on the actual birthday, July 4, so the excitement has really been building for all of us here,” she said.

This year, the center of attention will be on the newly-opened Horse Soldier Farms, which is finally hard after years of ready work and public buzz. The distillery for the Horse Soldier Bourbon brand, started by a group of former U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers who decided to locate their business here in Somerset in 2019, breaking ground on the project at the for-



CHRISTOPHER HARRIS | CJ

With a blue fountain, patriotic colors on local trees and utility poles (courtesy of Griswold Holiday Lighting), and local businesses like The Urban Stillhouse getting into the spirit of things, downtown Somerset is celebrating America 250 and Lake Cumberland 250 in style this summer.

mer Waitsboro Hills Golf Course on the southern end of Somerset in 2021.

To celebrate, Horse Soldier has brought in one of the most definitively American sporting events — Professional Bull Riding. The PBR Freedom Invitational will be held Friday and Saturday, July 3 and 4, and is part of the PBR Challenger Series, which features some of the most exciting action and top names in bull riding — making it a massive sports event to bring to Somerset.

“Any large-scale event that someone brings to Somerset, whether in private sector, non-profit, or government-based, is always an asset,” said City of Somerset Tourism Director Leslie Ikerd. “Not only as an economic driver for our entire county but also as a cultural driver. ... I’m honored and humbled that Horse Soldier chose Somerset as their forever home, but to have them host a top tier event partner like PBR in Somerset is incredible.”

Along with the bull riding action will be two nights of country music at Horse Soldier Farms — multi-platinum selling artist Chris Janson, known for songs like “Buy Me a Boat” and “Fix a Drink,” performing on Friday, July 3, and music duo LOCASH, of “I Love

This Life” and “One Big Country Song” fame, on Saturday, July 4.

The events will also feature fireworks at night, and food trucks, a fan zone, kids’ zone, and more. Gates for both Saturday and Sunday open at 5 p.m., with PBR taking to the arena at 7 p.m.

“PBR is huge,” said Allen. “... You’ve got men jumping out of planes carrying the flag, you’ve got the actual (rodeo) clowns that are there. ... (Those associated with it) will be in our community, eating at our restaurants, staying at our hotels, so it’s kind of giving a whole different look to people who haven’t been here and hopefully they’ll come back. So it is the true deal, and I’m so excited that we’re able to have this here.”

Visit <https://www.exploretoc.com/horse-soldier-bourbon>, for tickets and additional information. Also, lakecumberland250.com for more information about the community’s celebration of America 250 as a whole and everything going on locally in conjunction with Lake Cumberland 250, including themed deals and promotions from local businesses.

Of course, on the other side of the county in Eubank, the Fourth of July is always a big deal — including an annual

parade, which will begin at the northern Pulaski community’s old stove mill as usual and end around Eubank Elementary (a slight difference, as it usually stops at the park, noted Eubank Fire Chief Norman Rutheford).

The parade begins at 11 a.m., with line-up starting at 10 a.m. It’s free to enter your float, vehicle, or whatever your attraction is — just come that day and join the line-up.

As far as the whole day of fun known as Eubank’s Independence Day Celebration, it’s being influenced by the spirit of the semiquincentennial.

“We’re trying to make it bigger and better,” said Rutheford. “Since it’s 250, we’ve expanded our fireworks show. We’ve got a whole lot more fireworks for end of the day Saturday, and more entertainment.”

After the parade Saturday, there will be a flag ceremony at noon, and live music at 12:30 p.m. Afternoon activities include a cornhole tournament, a martial arts demonstration, beard competition, cow patty bingo, and more. At 8 p.m. will be the placing of a time capsule. There’s also a silent auction and raffle drawing, and performances by the Mad Women Band, Four Shots, and the Shelter Band, and when it’s dark enough, the beefed-up fireworks show.

There are Friday festivities too, however, including a musical performance by Called Upon at 4:45 p.m., beauty pageants starting at 6 p.m., and The Purcells performing at around 7:30 p.m. All of the above action for

Friday and Saturday after the parade takes place at Eubank City Park on West Ky. 70. Visit the “Eubank Independence Day Celebration” event page on Facebook, or the “Eubank Fire FD” or Eubank Ruritan Club pages, for more information.

As usual, there will be plenty of fireworks around the county to enjoy. One of the more festive spots will be Pulaski County Park off of West Ky. 80, which is hosting an all-day July 4 celebration Saturday, featuring food trucks, live music by Rumorz, and of course fireworks at dark. Music starts at 6:30 p.m., and food trucks will likely be there earlier in the day.

For those interested in hitting as many fireworks shows as possible, or seeing which is the best fit for them, the Somerset-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce has a running list of local pyrotechnics displays on its Facebook page. Among those listed (that haven’t already been mentioned above) are:

FRIDAY, JULY 3

- The Millie Weaver Team Fourth of July Bash: Firebrook Park, 40 Firebrook Drive, Somerset, KY 42503, 7:30 p.m., fireworks at 10 p.m.

- Thunder on the Mountain: Potters Place Church, 5370 Ky. 914, Somerset, KY 42501, 6 p.m., fireworks at 10 p.m.

- Nancy Fire Department Fish Fry & Fireworks: 9288 West Ky. 80, Nancy, Ky., 42544, serving dinner 6-8 p.m., fireworks at dark.

- Pulaski County Little League Field Fireworks: 307 West Ky. 635, Science Hill, Ky. 42553, fireworks Begin Around 9:30 p.m.

- Grace Baptist Church Fireworks Celebration: 340 Oak Leaf Lane, Somerset, Ky. 42501, fireworks at dark.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

- ABA Fireworks Celebration: Downtown Somerset around College Street, fireworks at dark.

- Canaan Baptist Church: 1143 Pine Hill Road, Somerset, KY 42503, fireworks, inflatables, food, 6 p.m., fireworks at dark.

- Fireworks Over Lake Cumberland: Lee’s Ford Marina, off of West Ky. 80, Nancy, 9-11 p.m., fireworks at dark.

- VFW Post 269 Fourth of July Celebration: 160 VFW Drive, Somerset, KY 42503. Open to the Public — \$10 per carload parking. Activities begin at noon, fireworks at dark.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TowerNorth Development LLC is proposing to construct a 250-foot Lattice telecommunications tower at 1705 Old Waynesburg Road, Eubank, Pulaski County, Kentucky 42567 (37 16 35.91 N / 84 36 30.2 W). The tower is anticipated to have FAA Style E (L-864/L-865/L-810), medium intensity flashing dual (white/red) strobe lights. Interested persons may review the application for this project at www.fcc.gov/asr/ applications and entering Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) Form 854 File Number “A1387837” and may raise environmental concerns about the project by filing a Request for Environmental Review with the Federal Communications Commission. Requests for Environmental Review must be filed within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC’s website. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online at <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/pleadings/pleadingsType.jsp>. Parties wishing to submit the request by mail may do so by addressing the request to: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554. Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: EBI Consulting, % Project 260068384PR, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at (617) 715-1822.

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