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Falmouth

OUTLOOK

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Balloons tune up for festival return

By **Burton Cole**

FALMOUTH — This Saturday, the hills of the Kentucky Wool Festival Grounds once again will be alive with the glow of hot air balloons.

Last July, the debut of the Balloons and Tunes festival drew about 3,500 people to the single-evening event. The Tourism Council expects at least as many and probably more people to flock to the Wool Festival Grounds, 48 Concord Caddo Road, for the evening of live music, food trucks, kids' games and hot air balloons, and has made tweaks to improve the event.

"What we were not as prepared for was the regional response to the event," Alex Carson, president of the nonprofit Pendleton County Tourism Council, said. "People were excited to see something of that quality here." Improvements for this

year include more drink vendors and more food trucks, and to have them spread out more. Last year, with the heat and the fact that festival hours coincided with the dinner hour, things got congested around the food and drink areas.

The balloons will stay grounded, creating a glowing field of colorful nylon and polyester. Like last year, there will be 10 hot air balloons, two of which will offer tethered rides.

"We were blown away by how many people wanted to do the tethered ride," Carson said.

How high the balloons climb depends on the weather. Under ideal conditions, the balloons can carry riders 200 feet off the ground.

The Tunes portion of the evening will feature three regional acts.

Jared Redden, a rising Kentucky country artist, **Balloons, Page 2**

Council challenged to livestream meets

By **Jim Thaxton**

FALMOUTH — As the minutes ticked down before the start of Falmouth City Council's July 17 meeting, City Hall's seats began to fill up with the typical citizens in attendance.

Police Chief Marty Hart took a seat in the back row and was joined by two of his officers.

A gentleman wearing a ballcap, T-shirt and cargo shorts signed in on the guest sheet to address council, then took a seat in the center of the front row and began setting up a tripod and smartphone to record the meeting.

Mayor Sabrina Hazen called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a brief prayer. She then addressed the man with the camera who had signed in to speak

as Mr. Weber, asking him if he wanted to take the floor. Tommy Weber of Butler declined, stating he would wait until the end of the meeting.

Toward the end of the meeting, when the mayor announced public comments as the next agenda item, the two officers sitting next to the chief moved to either side of City Hall and stood against the walls.

Weber said he wanted to address a couple of issues. Foremost on his mind was why the council meetings were not streamed live over the internet. He pointed out that many citizens cannot make it to the meetings and since the city is not streaming their meetings many people believe that they are hiding the city's actions from the public.

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A matter of heart



ABOVE: Falmouth Rotary presented five AEDs to local groups as part of Project Heart ReStart. From left are Shawn Moore of the Kincaid Lake State Park Board of Directors, Rotary Past President Duke Hamilton, Kincaid park manager David Billings, Kincaid Regional Theatre Vice President Donald Knox, Rotary President Shirley Merrill, American Legion American Legion Hardin and Browning Post 109 Commander Jim Sharp and Falmouth police Chief Marty Hart.

LEFT: Three of the portable automated external defibrillators will be wall-mounted, and two come with a cases to be installed in first responder vehicles. Photos by Burton Cole.



Falmouth Rotary presents AEDs

By **Burton Cole**

FALMOUTH — In March, Falmouth Rotary launched Project Heart ReStart in hopes of raising enough to purchase at least three AED units — portable automated external defibrillators — for Kincaid Lake State Park and American Legion Post 109.

"All told, we raised more than \$8,000," Rotary Past President Duke Hamilton said.

It was enough to buy five AED units, three with boxes to be attached to walls, and two with carrying cases to be used as portable units carried in cars.

The stationary units will be installed at the Kincaid Lake State Park swimming pool, the American Legion Hardin and Browning Post 109, and at Kincaid Regional Theatre. One of the portable units will go into the park ranger's car and the other will go with the Falmouth Police Department, which had an AED in every cruiser until the department increased in personnel.

On Saturday, Rotary presented the five life-saving units to the recipients. David Billings, Kincaid Lake State Park manager,

said, "You have no idea how much this means to us. We have had to deal with emergencies and guests. The chance to extend a life... To have the resources available means everything."

The park had one unit, which was at the office. Now one will be in the ranger's car and another at the swimming pool, making for better response times.

Post 109 Cmdr. Jim Sharp said, "We hope we never have to use it (AED). It's one thing we never want to use."

Donald Knox, vice pres-

ident of Kincaid Regional Theatre, said, "You never know. It's a great gift."

Rotary President Shirley Merrill said the campaign fits the Rotary motto: Service above self.

Project Heart ReStart began with the Cincinnati Rotary about 10 years ago. When it reached its goal of installing an AED in every Hamilton County patrol car, the project expanded into Northern Kentucky.

The day after an AED was installed in an Alexandria police cruiser, it was used to save a life, Hamilton said.

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