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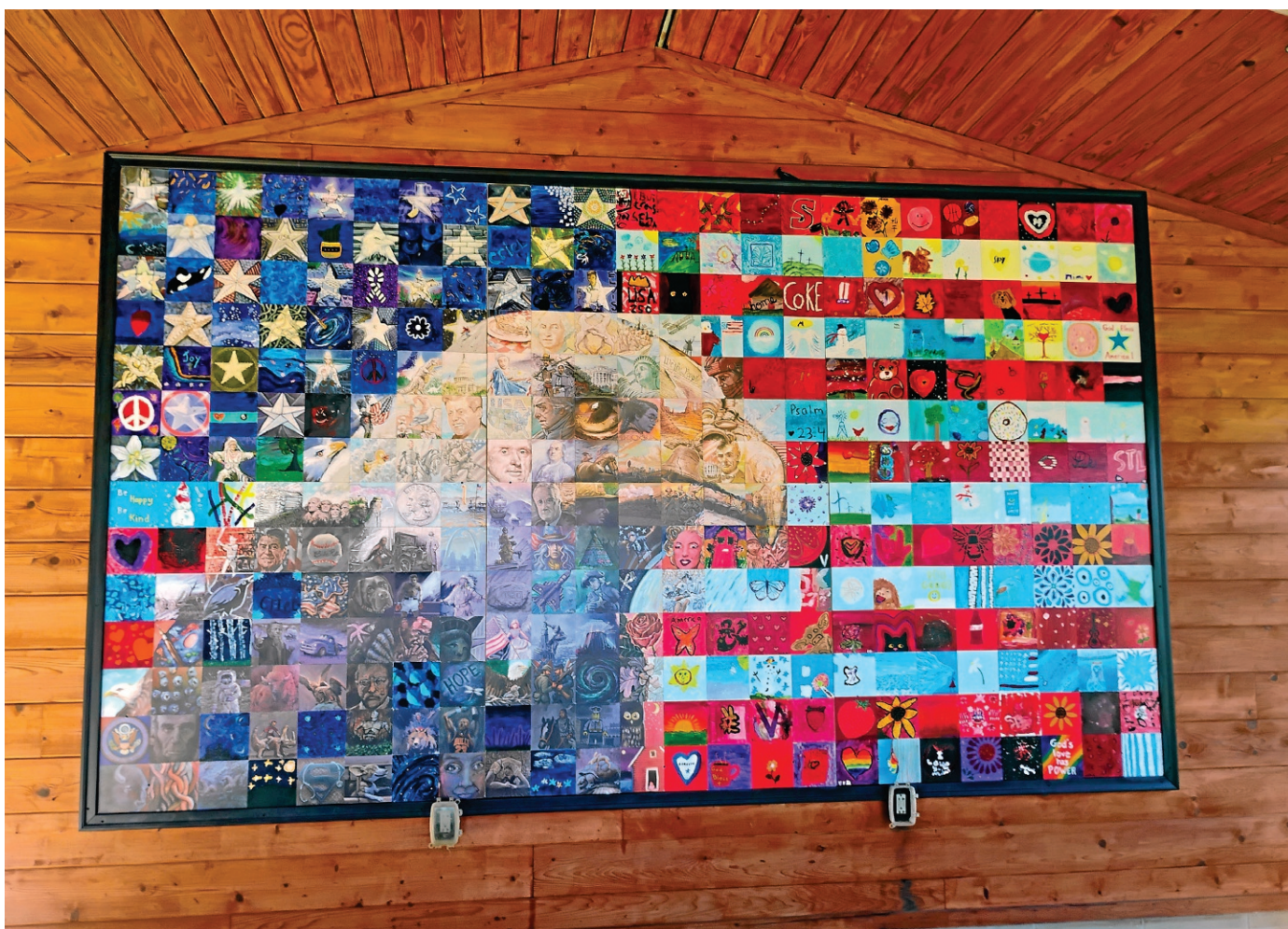
Tuesday, June 23, 2026

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AMERICA 250

PATRIOTISM SHINES AT VETERANS PARK



VALERIE WELLS PHOTOS, HERALD & REVIEW

Forsyth unveiled its community mural on Saturday, June 20, with more than 250 tiles hand-painted by residents, with a little help from Stephen Decatur Middle School art students.

Forsyth community comes together to make mosaic mural

VALERIE WELLS
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FORSYTH — Life in a small town means that when you have a project, plenty of people pitch in to help make it happen.

The Community Mural in Veterans Pavilion in Forsyth was that project.

The mural consists of more than 250 square tiles, painted by residents both big and small, and even a class of Stephen Decatur Middle School students popped in to paint some of them.

"Especially when we did it at the library, (library director Melanie Weigel) would have settings where she'd put a time frame together, we're going to do this from 2 to 4, and 25 kids would show up," said Mayor Jim Peck. "It's about community."

The mural was unveiled on Saturday during Forsyth Fest, and the pattern for the mural, which is an American flag, with the profile of a bald eagle as the focal point, surrounded by the hand-painted tiles, came from Mural Mosaic, with plenty of themes to choose from depending on the situation. Forsyth chose the flag because it's displayed in Veterans Pavilion in Forsyth Park.

Plans are to refurbish the area around the pavilion, said Forsyth administrator Jill Applebee, with an expanded area for memorial bricks, new landscaping, and stones to represent all the branches of the military. The work is slated to be complete in time for Veterans Day, Nov. 11, this year. The mosaic will remain in the pavilion, and the pavilion will not be changed during the rest of the upgrade of that part of the park.

While they expected the tiles to be a sort of "paint by number" project, said Kim Taylor, who works for the village of Forsyth and



America at 250: The story still unfolding

This story is part of an ongoing series exploring the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. Visit our website to read other stories in the series and share your own.

painted several of the tiles, they arrived blank. To keep the flag colors correct, volunteers had to use specific colors on their tiles, whether that was light blue, indigo, crimson or cream, but then they could freehand their own particular design onto the tile. Some have Bible verses; one has STL for the St. Louis Cardinals, which Peck joked was his grandson who "hasn't been converted (into a Cubs fan) yet"; there are fireflies and butterflies, a teddy bear, sunflowers, stars, a whale, Elvis Presley and one was painted the word "Coke."

"I did at least six or seven in there," Taylor said. "I did one for my grandsons who just lost their (other) grandma, the one up there with angel wings. Jill (Applebee) did a jar with lightning bugs in it. My youngest grandson did the whale up there."

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IRAN

VP says talks set roadmap to peace

Vance: Negotiations
laid 'good foundation'
for a final agreement

HUMEYRA PAMUK, DAVE GRAHAM
AND TALA RAMADAN
Reuters

BUERGENSTOCK, Switzerland — U.S. Vice President JD Vance said Monday talks with Iranian officials in Switzerland laid a "good foundation" for a final peace deal, despite tensions over the Strait of Hormuz and Lebanon.

The two sides, trying to build on an interim deal signed last week, agreed to a roadmap toward a permanent agreement within 60 days at the talks in the Qatari-owned Swiss mountain resort of Buergenstock, mediators Pakistan and Qatar said.

They also agreed on a mechanism to end fighting in Lebanon between U.S. ally Israel and Iran-aligned Hezbollah, and opened a communications line to help ensure safe passage for commercial ships through the strait, a vital global oil supply route.

Optimistic assessment

Vance claimed Tehran agreed to allow in nuclear inspectors, and to establish mechanisms to handle its assets frozen abroad and manage ceasefires.

"We laid a very good foundation for a successful final deal," he told reporters after taking part in the talks.

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■ **INSIDE:** How Trump's agreement with Iran measures up with Obama document **PAGE A6**

HEALTH

Alcohol study at odds with federal guidance

MARY WALRATH-HOLDRIDGE
USA Today

The "less is more" approach to alcohol may be replaced by "none is best" if you hope to avoid diseases like cancer, according to a new study at odds with recent federal guidance.

Adults should stick to one drink (generally 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine or 1.5 ounces of spirits) a day, or seven drinks total a week, if they hope to avoid the worst of health effects associated with alcohol, according to the study published this month in the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs. Even that rate is not devoid of risk, the study's authors caution.

After conducting a large-scale review of more than 7,200 studies on alcohol-related disease, the authors found

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Weather
Partly sunny, pleasant
High: 80 Low: 59
Forecast: B8

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