

DOLLY PARTON DIES



CATHAL MCNAUGHTON, REUTERS

American country music star Dolly Parton performs June 29, 2014, on the Pyramid Stage at Worthy Farm in Somerset, during the Glastonbury Festival.

Country music queen and philanthropist was 80 years old

DEVARRICK TURNER
Knoxville News Sentinel

Dolly Parton, the “Queen of Country Music,” a philanthropist supporting a diverse array of projects and causes and Dollywood’s Dreamer-in-Chief, has died, according to her social media accounts.

Parton’s death was announced in a video message from her family on her social media pages and confirmed to USA Today. The East Tennessee native was 80 years old.

With a successful career spanning almost 60 years, she was a legend in the music industry, known for hits-turned-classics such as “Jolene,” “I Will Always Love You,” “9 to 5” and “Coat of Many Colors.”

She was also a film star, appearing in films such as “9 to 5,” “Steel Magnolias” and “The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas.”

Parton released 49 solo studio albums and earned 25 No. 1 hits on the Billboard’s U.S. Hot Country Songs chart, the most of any female country artist. Her first album “Hello, I’m Dolly,” was released in 1967. “Rockstar,” her latest album, was released in 2023 and went No. 1.

“When I die, I hope I just go to sleep one night, dreaming of show business and never waking up,” Parton said at Dollywood in 1998.

Health concerns prevented Parton from attending an announcement about Dollywood’s newest ride in September, and later prompted the delay of her planned Las Vegas residency until 2026.

She challenged herself creatively in music, film and stage and often collaborated with other artists. And she branched out of the entertainment industry to build a business empire that included theme parks, hotels, branded Duncan Hines baking kits, fragrances, beauty products, wines, apparel, merchandise and other business ventures.

“I’m pretty independent. I can do what I please,” she continued. “I love being able to have that freedom. I think freedom is a great word for everybody, anybody, in anything you do. Just having the freedom to work and the freedom to express yourself the way you want to. To do what you want to, go where you want to.”

Parton’s husband of nearly 60 years Carl Dean died last year at age 82. The couple married in 1966 and had no children.

Parton was born in 1946 in Locust Ridge in Sevier County to Avie Lee and Robert Lee Parton, the fourth of 12 children. Avie Lee filled the family’s two-room East Tennessee

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Data centers, round 2

The Iron Spur fight is over. The larger data center debate isn’t. Forsyth commissioners are preparing for what could come next

It was far from a call for a formal vote, but if a last-minute addition to the workload of the county commissioners is any indication, Forsyth County could join some of its neighbors in calling for a pause on approving large data centers.

After they’d dispensed with a lengthy agenda on Monday afternoon, 35 items that included a discussion of a 434-page report on school building maintenance and construction needs, Commissioner Dan Besse acknowledged an open secret about a contentious issue.

“There have been conversations, including me ... about the advisability of considering whether we wanted to ask staff to draft a hyperscale data center moratorium,” he said.

Couched and perhaps a bit wordy, the man is a lawyer after all, but



SCOTT SEXTON



Besse

Please see **DATA CENTERS**, Page A2

GOP Senate ad says Cooper to blame for refugee’s killing. Cooper refutes it.

KEVIN GRIFFIN
Staff Reporter

Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Roy Cooper pushed back against accusations from his Republican opponent that Cooper bears responsibility for the killing of a Ukrainian refugee on a train in Charlotte last year.

Saturday marked one year since the killing of Iryna Zarutska, an event that garnered national attention and has been used as a focal point in Republican criticisms of Democratic criminal justice policies.

In recent social media posts, the Whatley campaign has accused Cooper of taking actions that led to the release

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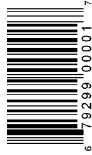
Winston-Salem shooting leaves woman dead, man critically wounded. NEWS, A3

Weather

Thunderstorm late in the p.m.
High: 85 Low: 68
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