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The Daily News Journal



WSMV4's Lisa Spencer retiring

INSIDE, 3A



Pana Aladwan, 6, shows off her patriotic spirit July 2 during Smyrna's Independence Day Celebration that also honors America's 250th anniversary at Lee Victory Park. BELOW: She-Ra-Rah with the band Rubik's Groove gives high-fives to a group of young girls between songs. PHOTOS BY HELEN COMER/THE DAILY NEWS JOURNAL

Thousands in Smyrna mark USA's 250th

Helen Comer

Murfreesboro Daily News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Lee Victory Recreation Park was abuzz with about 18,000 people celebrating the nation's 250th anniversary during Smyrna's 2026 Independence Day Celebration.

Before dark on July 2, the air was filled with bubbles, the aroma of comfort food and the music of Rubik's Groove, a Nashville tribute band that provided an anthem of hit songs from the 1980's to today.

See **CELEBRATION**, Page 4A



New exhibit honors the Stones River battlefield

Scott Broden

Murfreesboro Daily News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Photographs showing, “Hallowed Ground: Reflections of the Stones River National Battlefield,” will be on display through Nov. 30 at Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center, according to a recent news release.

The chamber and its Convention and Visitors Bureau are promoting the photography exhibit of the Civil War site from local photographer Jane Powell in a new partnership with the Rutherford Arts Alliance and the Friends of Stones River National Battlefield, according to the news release from Lauren Knox, the chamber's vice president of marketing and communications.

See **EXHIBIT**, Page 3A

Trump says ceasefire with Iran is 'over'

Number of U.S. service members killed rises to 14

Francesca Chambers, Erin Mansfield, Zac Anderson, Bart Jansen, Chris Cann and Rachel Barber
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump said on July 8 that he considered the ceasefire between the United States and Iran to be over and could resume his bombing campaign after the latest round of tit-for-tat strikes, casting uncertainty over efforts to end the conflict.

“To me, I think it's over. I don't want to deal with them,” Trump said from Ankara, Turkey, where he was attending a NATO summit. “They're scum. They're sick people. They're led by sick people, and they're vicious, violent people.”

His remarks came as a U.S. Navy commander was presumed dead following an emergency helicopter landing in the Arabian Sea, raising the number of U.S. service members killed in the Iran war to 14.

Cmdr. Gabriel Edwards, the commanding officer of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 5, was reported missing after the July 1 incident. On July 5, the Navy suspended its search-and-rescue operations.

Three of the helicopter's crew members were found and reported in stable condition, the Navy said. They were aboard an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the USS George H.W. Bush, one of two aircraft carriers that continues to operate in the Arabian Sea region amid the war.

See **CEASEFIRE**, Page 8A

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