

# Muletown *{local}*

COLUMBIA & MAURY COUNTY

APRIL 2023

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## PRODUCING TV SHOWS

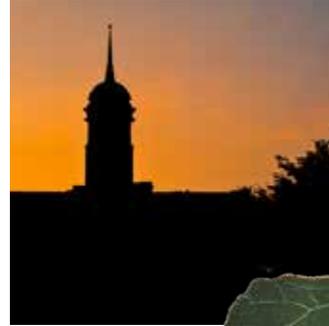
Local production company transforms idea to life



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## SAFE DISPOSAL

Spring Hill Insurance agency helps you shred your unwanted paperwork



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## MAURY MEMORIES

Former resident visits old family farm, family and friends on a special trip



## LOCAL FOCUS

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Visit our website [muletownlocal.com](http://muletownlocal.com)

**ON THE COVER:** Gabe McCauley, host of the PBS show, *Reconnecting Roots*, also owns *iiDRAGON* and *Soul Feather Studios*, the two companies that produce the show.

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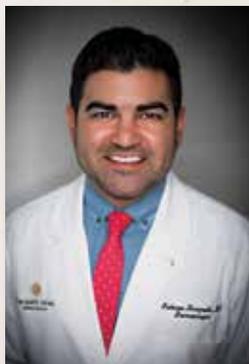
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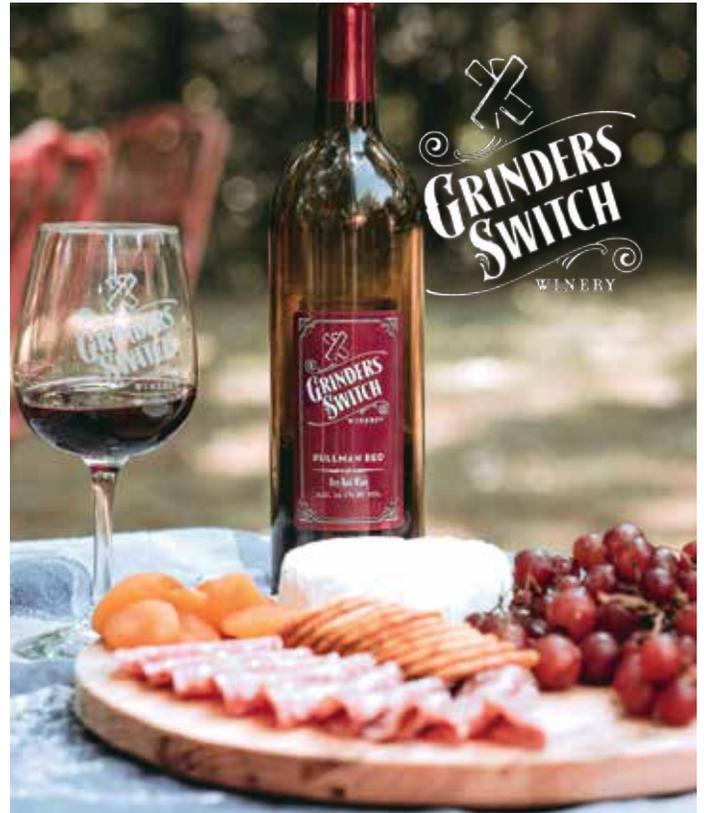
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# COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS



## HEALTH CONNECT AMERICA

Health Connect America was honored with a ribbon cutting to celebrate expanding services in Maury County and moving to a new location. They are located at 1121 Trotwood Avenue, Suite 4, Columbia.



## CONCIERGE RIDE TN

Concierge Ride TN was established in 2016. They are celebrating their preferred transportation partnership with Worldwide Stages. The event was a joint celebration with Maury Alliance and The Spring Hill Chamber of Commerce.



## COLUMBIA ACADEMY

Columbia Academy is celebrating the completion of their Vest Hall renovations and expansion on March 10, 2023.



## THE FACTORY AT COLUMBIA

The Factory at Columbia is a 71,000 square foot facility offering music and entertainment space, eateries, gift shops, a boutique furniture store, antiques and more. Chris & Christy Poche and John & Ashley Pomeroy celebrated being the new ownership team at 101 N James Campbell Blvd, Columbia.





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## CEDAR RECOVERY

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## SPRING HILL HAVEN

The Spring Hill Chamber celebrates Spring Hill Haven with a ribbon cutting ceremony on February 8, 2023. Learn more about this short term rental at [springhillhaven.com](https://springhillhaven.com).



The Mule Day Queen and her court pose in their western attire at Maury Co Park, preparing for a week of appearances for Mule Day 2023.



## TEXAS ROADHOUSE

The Spring Hill Chamber celebrates the grand opening of Texas Roadhouse with a ribbon cutting ceremony on February 27, 2023. Learn more about the Spring Hill location at [texasroadhouse.com/locations/spring-hill](https://texasroadhouse.com/locations/spring-hill).





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# PRODUCING TV SHOWS

## LOCAL PRODUCTION COMPANY TRANSFORMS IDEA TO LIFE

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---

The PBS show *Reconnecting Roots*, which kicks off Season 3 this month, has an interesting connection to Columbia. Local fans may have noticed familiar sights appearing randomly throughout the nationally broadcast show over the past two seasons. There's a good reason for that, a number of the production staff and crew live in Columbia.

"I love being local," says Gabe McCauley, who hosts the show and owns lilDRAGON and Soul Feather Studios, the two companies that produce it. "So, when we can, I always kind of default to shooting in Columbia."

He says it limits having to travel so much, and the people of Columbia go out of their way to help.

"There's just such a willingness with people and business

owners here. It's been nice to have a community that is truly interested in developing good art and educational programming."

*Reconnecting Roots* is a series of 30-minute shows that looks at American life over the past six generations. It was inspired by Frank Smith, a Canadian American engineer, author, and songwriter who wrote a book about America.

"He basically came to us and said we want to turn this into a television show," McCauley explains. "And the fun part for us has been figuring out how to take someone's observations over the course of 80 years about what makes America great and turn it into a compelling and entertaining TV show."

They do it with creativity, innovation, music, graphics, and on-site field trips. The episodes are fast-moving, with McCauley serving as host.

"We didn't actually start the program with me in mind. In fact,

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## < FROM PAGE 12

we weren't even sure there would be a host. We were just trying to figure out what the show is and how to make it work. And because I was part of the production company developing the show and I was free as talent to be on camera, we said let's try it out," McCauley said with laughter.

Reconnecting Roots takes viewers through different aspects of America's history. Previous episodes have touched on education, national parks, horses, hunting, bicycles, and more. In addition, the show has showcased Columbia with singer/songwriter Rory Feek's one-room school house, an interview with Mike Wolfe at Columbia Motor Alley, Muletown Coffee, Skipwith Hall, Possum Holler, and more.

McCauley's wife, Mandy, a singer, songwriter, and musician, is the Music Supervisor. She helps find songs to support the storyline. The show also has a house band that performs some of the music.

"The house band is a duo called firekid which is actually Rory Feek's daughter, Heidi, and her husband, Dillon. What they do is find public domain songs that are relevant to the topics we

choose," McCauley explains. "As an example, for our hunting episode, they did a version of "Home on the Range," for the Irish immigration show, they did "Danny Boy," and for a travel episode, they did "Wayfaring Stranger."

Each season, they release an album of the music used in the shows. One side has original versions of the songs and the other features firekid's versions.

Season 3 kicks off in April with the first episode on Space. Since each PBS station makes its own schedule, the best way to find airtimes is to check local listings. But new shows, along with previous episodes from Seasons 1 and 2, are available online at [pbs.org/show/reconnecting-roots/](https://pbs.org/show/reconnecting-roots/)

McCauley, who stays busy with other projects through his production companies, says "Reconnecting Roots" has been one of the most interesting projects he's ever worked on. He's already gearing up for Season 4.

"I've worked on a lot of projects that have been fantastic, but there's something unique and special about this one. It's really been a lot of fun."

To learn more visit: [reconnectingroots.com](https://reconnectingroots.com)



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# DEBERRY INSURANCE TO HOST 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FREE SHRED DAY

DeBerry Insurance Agency is set to host their 7th Annual FREE Shred Day for the community on Saturday, April 15, 2023. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the agency on Main Street in Spring Hill, TN.

FREE Shred Day has become a signature event for the agency since their first shred event in 2016. The agency has continued to provide the event as a service to the community every year (except for 2020), collecting more than 18 tons of paper for recycling.

"Each year, we look forward to hosting this event," said Chris DeBerry, Owner and Principal Licensed Agent. "It has become an important tradition for us and we truly enjoy the opportunity to connect with our customers, friends, and members of the community. Making those connections is why we opened our agency in the very beginning in 2003."

DeBerry Insurance Agency will celebrate 20 years in business this July. Their give-back efforts all along the way have become an integral part of their reputation for service. From founding the Spring Hill Country Ham Festival (now the Whole Hog Festival benefitting The Well Outreach), to serving in leadership for the Rotary Club of Spring Hill and Thompson's Station and the Spring Hill Chamber of Commerce, the DeBerrys are known for giving back.

"We are local business owners who are committed to serving our customers and the community," said Eric DeBerry, Owner and Principal Licensed Agent. "That sense of connection has become more important than ever. We want people to know that they can pick up the phone, or walk through our door and we will personally work with them to get them the coverage that they need."

The FREE Shred Day event is an expansion of the community life that is experienced every day at DeBerry Insurance Agency. The office is a hub of the community where people stop by to catch up or just say "hello" throughout the day.

"We are thankful to everyone who comes to our event and makes it a great day," said Eric DeBerry, owner of DeBerry Insurance Agency. "We look forward to seeing everyone!"

*DeBerry Insurance Agency is your Hometown Independent Insurance Agency, locally owned and operated since 2003. The agency provides comprehensive insurance packages for individuals and businesses. Their team of licensed and experienced agents can personally work with you to find the coverage options that are right for you. Visit them online at [DeBerryInsurance.com](http://DeBerryInsurance.com), or call (931) 486-3300. DeBerry Insurance Agency is located at 5232 Main Street in Spring Hill, TN.*

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# MAURY COUNTY MEMORY

## FOND MEMORIES OF GROWING UP IN MAURY



To celebrate Nancy (Raden) Bekemeyer's 90th birthday in March of 2022, she was surprised by two of her daughters and their husbands with a trip to Tennessee to visit the area where she was born and grew up and to attend the annual "Mule Day Celebration".

Nancy was born at her parent's home in Fountain Heights (near Culleoka, Tennessee) on March 12, 1932, to Annis (Fox) Raden and John Earl Raden. As Nancy recalled, her mother told her it was a very snowy day. Unfortunately, her regular doctor could not make it out to

their house due to the snow. Still, another doctor was able to come and assist in her delivery into the world.

Nancy fondly remembers growing up and playing on the family's 112-acre farm. They grew corn, cotton, and tobacco. Nancy says picking the cotton was really painful on her hands, but she had fun playing in the tobacco barn. She also kept her horse, Strawberry, in this same barn and enjoyed riding her occasionally.

John Raden (Nancy's dad) would walk six miles to Columbia with their family mule to attend Mule Day every year. Nancy's older brother, John Witt Raden, also attended the Mule Day with the family as a member of his school's FFA group. The FFA group had a refreshment stand on the side of the street, and they sold hot dogs and cold drinks.

Nancy went to elementary school in Mooresville, Tennessee, and high school in Winter Garden, Florida, where her family had moved to when they sold the farm. Nancy met the love of her life while in high school (George W. Bekemeyer). During their 67 years of marriage, they had 5 children, all with their own families.

Nancy never really left the farm life, as her father-in-law had a large garden and orange grove that Nancy always helped in. To this day, at the age of 90, you can still find Nancy out in the yard tending to her flowers that she loves and still working in the family farm with the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, tending to a new hydroponic, up-pick strawberry, citrus, and vege-

table farm. Nancy turned 91 in March 2023 and shows no signs of slowing down!

While on her trip to Tennessee for Mules Day in 2022, Nancy visited her childhood farm. Although the fields of cotton, corn, and tobacco are no longer there, she can still see them in her mind. The tobacco barn still stands and brings back many memories. The home she grew up in is no longer there, but it has been moved down the road by another family of owners, lovingly restored, and looks beautiful.

Nancy got to visit with some family members and friends that she had not seen them in many years and had a great time reminiscing with them. While attending the 'Mule Day parade last year, Nancy, her daughters, and their husbands had the great fortune and pleasure of meeting Mr. C.T. Johnson of Columbia, whom they had a great time talking with, remembering people and places from the past. Attending one of the evening events during the Mule Day week, Nancy also posed for a picture with the Mule Day queen and her court.



*During the Mule Day week 2022, Nancy (Raden) Bekemeyer posed for a picture with the Mule Day Royalty.*

Although so many things had changed in and around Culleoka, Mooresville, Lewisburg, and Columbia, where Nancy and her family lived, fond memories remain of the beautiful surroundings and of family and friends.



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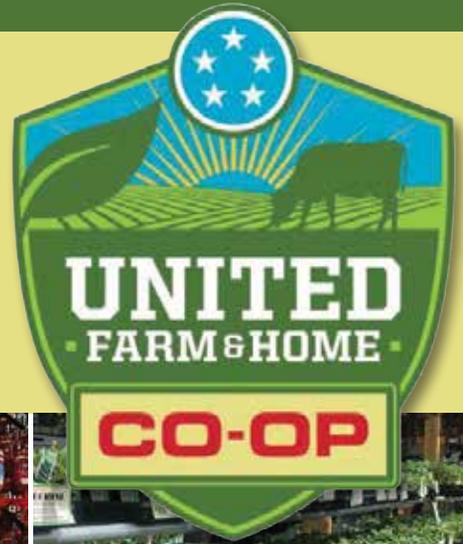
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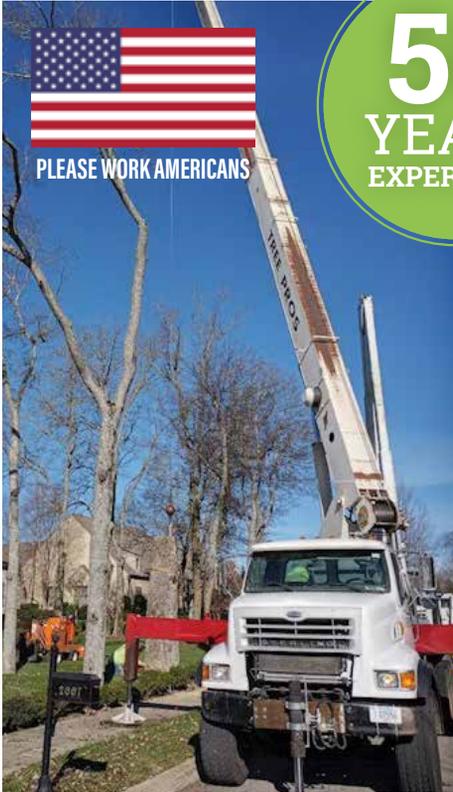
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## Family Favorite Lasagna

### INGREDIENTS:

1 LB. SWEET ITALIAN SAUSAGE	½ TSP. FENNEL SEEDS
¾ LB. LEAN GROUND BEEF	1 TSP. ITALIAN SEASONING
½ CUP MINCED ONION	1-1/2 TSP. SALT (DIVIDED OR TO TASTE)
2 CLOVES GARLIC, CRUSHED	¼ TSP. GROUND BLACK PEPPER
1 (28 OZ.) CAN CRUSHED TOMATOES	4 TBSP. CHOPPED FRESH PARSLEY
2 (6 OZ.) CANS TOMATO PASTE	12 LASAGNA NOODLES
2 (6.5 OZ.) CANS CANNED TOMATO SAUCE	1-16 OZ. SMALL CURD COTTAGE CHEESE
½ CUP WATER	1 EGG
2 TBSP. WHITE SUGAR (OPTIONAL)	¾ LB. MOZZARELLA CHEESE, SLICED
1-1/2 TSP. DRIED BASIL LEAVES	¾ CUP GRATED PARMESAN CHEESE



*From the Kitchen of  
Camille Wilder*

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- In a Dutch oven, cook sausage, ground beef, onion, and garlic over medium heat until well browned. Drain fat. Stir in crushed tomatoes, tomato paste, tomato sauce, and water. Season with sugar, basil, fennel seeds, Italian seasoning, 1 tsp. salt, pepper, and 2 tbsp. parsley. Simmer, covered, for 1-1/2 hours.
  - Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook lasagna noodles in boiling water for 8 to 10 minutes. Drain noodles, and rinse with cold water. In a mixing bowl, combine cottage cheese with egg, remaining parsley, and ½ tsp. salt.
  - Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
  - To assemble: Spread 1 ½ cups of meat sauce in the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking dish. Arrange 6 noodles lengthwise over meat sauce. Spread with ½ of the cottage cheese mixture. Top with 1/3 of mozzarella cheese slices. Spoon 1 ½ cups meat sauce over mozzarella, and sprinkle with ¼ cup Parmesan cheese. Repeat layers, and top with remaining mozzarella and Parmesan cheese. Cover with foil: to prevent sticking, either coat foil with cooking spray, or make sure the foil does not touch the cheese.
  - Bake in preheated oven for 25 minutes. Remove foil and bake an additional 25 minutes. Cool for 15 minutes before serving.
- Serve with garlic toast and tossed salad. Leftovers are good too!





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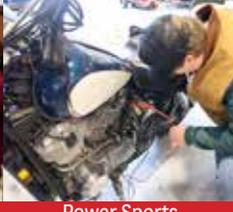
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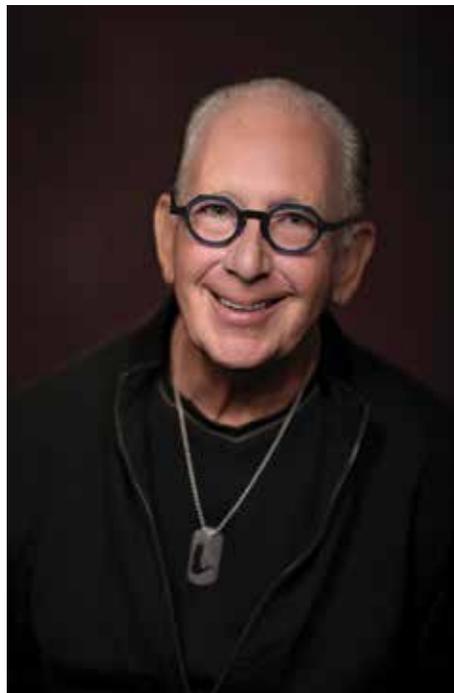
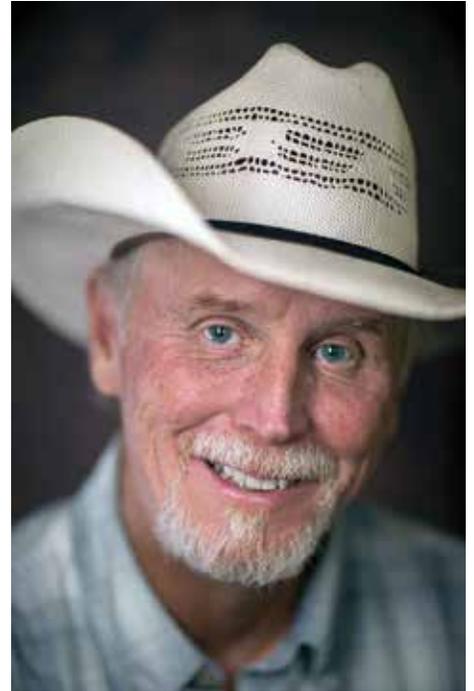
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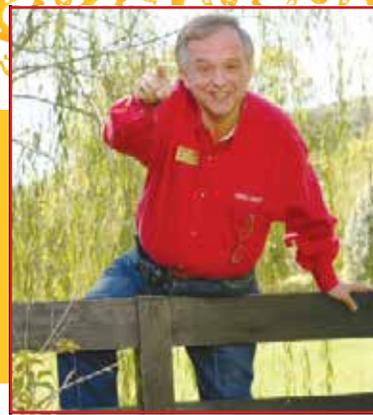
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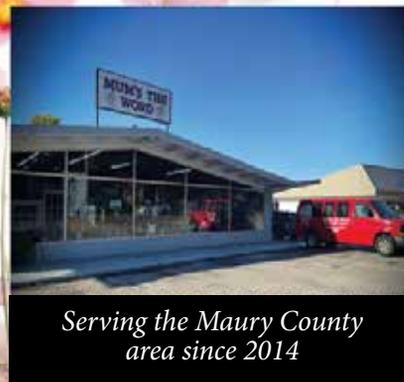
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# WE'RE READY

## ‘WE’RE READY’ MAURY ALLIANCE LAUNCHES COUNTY-WIDE TALENT ATTRACTION CAMPAIGN

Commissioned in response to the needs of both new and existing employers in Maury County, a new talent attraction campaign tells how and why Maury County is positioned to welcome, hire and support new residents.

The campaign, created by the Maury County Chamber of Commerce & Economic Alliance, also focuses on how the area is sparking innovation, growing small businesses, and offering unique cultural, recreational, and educational opportunities.

As one of the state’s fastest-growing counties, Maury County has already seen an influx of new people along with billions of dollars in economic investment. The campaign’s theme, “We’re Ready,” showcases this momentum and how the county has prepared for growth.

“‘We’re Ready’ is the ideal way to describe Maury County and the momentum that’s been building here,” Evans said. “We’re truly ready as a community to grow and welcome new residents from all over the world.”

The campaign—which is one piece of ALIGN Maury, Maury Alliance’s larger workforce development initiative—also showcases amenities and the quality-of-life perks county residents enjoy.

“We have a top-rated healthcare system, great schools, and a vibrant business community,” said Russ Adcox, 2022 chair of the Alliance’s ALIGN Maury steering committee. “We also have some of the greatest natural resources around and, most importantly, a strong sense of community. It’s easy to be known and get involved.”

“Workforce development has always been a focus of the Maury Alliance, but we realized we also needed to attract new talent to Maury County,” Adcox said. “Our employers are hiring, and they are looking for people willing to relocate to our community.”

Maury Alliance Vice President of Economic Development Travis Groth said the county and its communities—including Columbia, Mount Pleasant, and Spring Hill—offer a mix of city and

country life.

“I relocated here myself and have lived in a lot of different places. This is a goldilocks community,” he said. “It’s close to Nashville, so you have the amenities and can get to the airport, but just far enough that you have a more relaxed pace. You can breathe. People are kind, friendly. It’s a real community.”

The campaign’s primary audience is workers who can help service the county’s growing advanced manufacturing and health-care industries.

CNC machine operators, industrial maintenance technicians, welders, and nurses, Groth said, are in particularly high demand, as are K-12 teachers, engineers, and leaders at all levels—from team leaders at manufacturing plants to bank branch managers.

“One of the most exciting things for this campaign is that there are so many types of talent that can move to Maury County and be successful,” he said. “If one member of the family finds a job, they can be confident their spouse can find opportunities—diverse opportunities—too.”

Groth said he also expects the county’s already thriving community of local restaurants, event venues, retail shops, and other businesses to grow alongside industry, as well as engineering companies, law firms, banks, and other professional service organizations.

The campaign will feature storytelling about Maury County and its people on a variety of platforms as well as targeted advertising, outreach efforts, and a dedicated campaign website:

**[mauryisready.com](http://mauryisready.com).**

“We hope this campaign will spread the word about Maury County and encourage more people to consider making this community their home,” Adcox said. “We’ve seen a lot of economic wins and a lot of new businesses, so we’re eager to do what we can to support that growth.”



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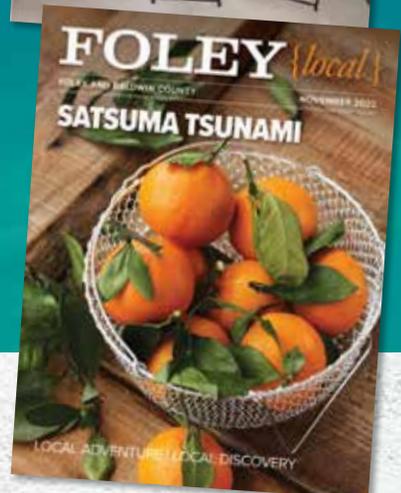
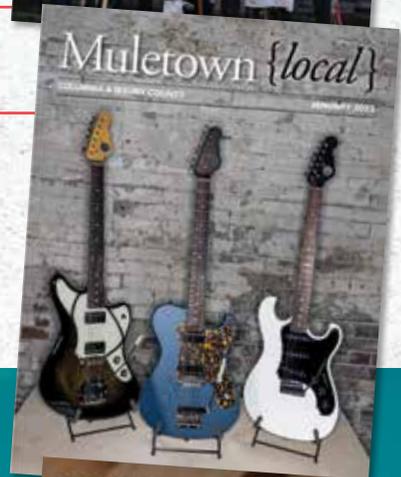
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