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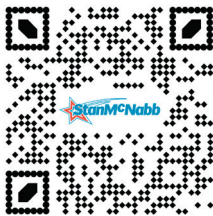
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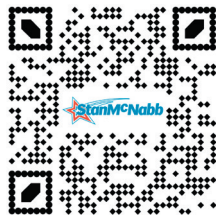
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Selfless

Instinctual sacrifice for a better world

THE MERRIAM-WEBSTER dictionary defines the word selfless as “someone who has no concern for self, or unselfish.” As the world keeps turning, it may feel like selfless people are few and far between. It can be rewarding to fight with your elbows in a dog-eat-dog world where unapologetic selfishness gets you to the top. Just because a certain type of behavior is more visible and more noticeable doesn’t mean that all hope is lost. In fact, there is so much more to celebrate.

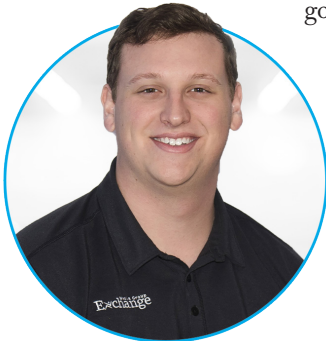
In this issue, I can’t help but think of dolphins going out of their way to help each other. They watch out for other dolphins... and they watch out for other species as well. As reported in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, a wide variety of animals have shown something called ‘altruistic behavior.’ Altruistic behavior basically means animals in the wild—even when it could be dangerous—go out of their way to help other animals.

Stanford’s text reads, “Altruistic behavior is common throughout the animal kingdom, particularly in species with complex social structures. For example, vampire bats regularly regurgitate blood and donate it to other members of their group who have failed to feed that night, ensuring they do not starve” (2003).

That selfless behavior is not a learned behavior. It’s something instilled in them from birth, just like an instinct. Why would it be instilled in species of animals across the globe and skip humans? I believe — even in the darkest of times — that we humans also have a natural instinct for altruistic behavior. There are people who are just simply... good. Just because that’s who they are.

For this issue of Good News, I want to highlight people in our community who show selfless behavior. Even when we don’t notice it, we’re surrounded by people who would sacrifice if it meant that we got to live a better life.

To those selfless people, those we write stories about and those we don’t, we thank you. **-GN**



Wesley Bryant
Wesley Bryant,
MANAGING EDITOR

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A photograph of a large, ornate brick building with a red-tiled roof and white flowers in the foreground. The building features Gothic-style architecture with arched windows and intricate stonework. The foreground is filled with white cherry blossoms, and the background shows a clear blue sky.

GOOD NEWS

There is enough bad news out there. Good News is hearing about your neighbor's successes. It's listening to your five-year-old niece tell a story that seems to go on forever; she stumbles over her words, but it's worth listening to. Good News is everywhere. It's in our community; it's in our homes; it's in our future.

GOOD NEWS STAYS ALIVE AS LONG AS WE SHARE IT.

Photo courtesy of University of the South

CITY NEWS

Dare to dream

Resources for new and existing businesses are a reality.

By Tina Neeley

THE DREAM never ultimately left Kyle. Night after night, he faithfully clocked into his job at the auto manufacturing plant. There were weeks it didn't once cross his mind. There were weeks it was the only thing keeping him going. On his breaks and while he was winding down before going to bed before the next shift, looking at his social media, he saw something other than missing dogs and memes; he saw the connection to his future and unfulfilled dreams.

Social media was not mindless scrolling to him; it was a means to connect people to places, purposes, and platforms that enrich their lives and shape their future. He analyzed post after post – from fonts to graphics to content – looking for ways he'd improve it and use it to serve the customer's needs better. He believed he saw details often overlooked, essential nuances that would stop the scrolling and nudge a closer look at the merits of the post. He had researched precisely how many words would typically show before you had to click to show more, recognizing the importance of grabbing attention from the beginning.

He knew he should search for jobs with existing digital media and information system companies, but his dream had always been to own the company and have total control over the direction it took. But start-up took resources he didn't have.

Resources do exist, and the cities of Franklin County welcome new businesses.

According to the State of Tennessee's website, small businesses make up the majority of all companies in Tennessee. New and existing companies have support in many places. The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce is a great first stop.





ADOBE STOCK

The Chamber is connection-driven, focusing on bringing together businesses and their customers. It's a hub of activity for new and existing businesses with ongoing events and tools to lighten the load.

The 2022 Membership Benefits Guide published by the Chamber explains their Business Expo & Marketplace and provides an opportunity for your business to set up a booth with over 85+ local businesses. Here you can network, meet new customers, gain exposure, introduce new products, and build relationships that will lead to new growth and production.

Networking is a vital tool for establishing and maintaining connections. The Chamber has it covered with its monthly Coffee Connection. It's a fun monthly net-

working event designed to enable you to connect with new opportunities and gain support for your business.

Lunch & Learn seminars are free to Chamber members and combine a meal and a professional speaker. These seminars cover relevant topics such as advertising, social media marketing, technology tips, and other areas helpful to business owners.

Kayla Doney, director of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, said, "We can refer anyone desiring to start their own business to small business counselors. If they already have their business plan and are ready to open, we encourage them to join the Chamber and plan a ribbon-cutting event, participate in our networking, and grow their customer base." -GN



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COUNTY NEWS

Franklin County marches forward

Latest census data offers encouraging data for the area.

By Tina Neeley // Photos contributed by Nissan and The University of the South

Natural disasters, economic turndown, a global pandemic, political upheaval, and other gloom and doom headlines scream at us from the media. Shortages, both real and rumored, have become common. The least of them irritate, and the most serious of them leave us with concern for the future. Empty shelves hint at an element of truth. Scarcity is a niggling whisper heard all day and night. But despite all of the bad news, Franklin County is home to good news. Despite the darkness and negativity, the area has marched quietly forward in a pattern of

growth and productivity, and the 2020 U.S. Census confirms it.

With a current growth rate of 5%, the affordability of life in Franklin County is evident. Employment opportunities, housing, solid education systems, and beautiful outdoor recreational resources bring balance and security.

The employment rate in Franklin County has steadily increased from 49.8% in 2014 to 52.9% in 2020. Four international businesses fueling Franklin County's employment growth are Nissan, Tepro, Zanni, and Hamilton Kent. Another

large employer, Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC), is located on the north end of Franklin County. AEDC is the world's largest and most advanced complex of flight simulation facilities in the country.

With an average annual income of \$47,777, over 700 small businesses support the community's employment in addition to the primary industries. Room for new small businesses and industries exists and can bring additional future growth. While manufacturing, educational services, healthcare, and social

services are the largest employment sectors, there's growing room for arts, entertainment, and recreation.

Education is a priority to area residents, and you don't have to travel far to obtain higher education. One-fifth of the residents have obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. The University of the South - Sewanee is located on a 13,000-acre campus and is a national liberal arts university with an outstanding undergraduate College of Arts and Sciences, a respected graduate School of Theology of the Episcopal Church, and an innovative master's degree program in English and creative writing. The University of Tennessee Space Institute is adjacent to the U.S. Air Force Engineering Development Center. It is internationally recognized for graduate study and research in engineering, physics, math, and aviation systems.

A place to call home brings security. The homeownership rate of 73.5% in Franklin County exceeds the 66.5% rate for the entire state of Tennessee. Rent in Franklin County is lower than the median rent for the state by \$191 per month. Development in the county has continued over the past decade. Twin Creeks Marina, located on Tims Ford Lake, offers options for permanent housing or a second home and a wealth of recreational resources.

Franklin County is affordable, attractive, and accessible. It's a quiet, gentle home for its residents to live, work, and play. **-GN**

Website: data.census.gov, 2020.



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SCHOOL NEWS

Expanding territory in Franklin County

Winchester Christian Academy adds a ninth-grade class.

By Julia Eads // Photos contributed by Winchester Christian Academy

WHAT STARTED out as a Mother's Day Out (MDO) program for children ages 2 and 3, in 2007, has steadily grown into a trusted and dependable school for children of all ages. After the first two years of providing exceptional care, parents began asking questions concerning additional programs. "Will you be extending the age group to include 4-year-olds? Will there be a pre-kindergarten class? "What about kindergarten?" So in 2009, Georgie Speers, the overseer of the program, rallied to start a kindergarten class. The first kindergarten class had only eight

students. Today, those students are seniors in high school anticipating graduation.

Following the kindergarten addition in 2009, the governing board came together and set a goal. The goal was to add one grade per year. However, achieving this goal largely depended on student enrollment and need. There were a few years that a grade was not added due to enrollment numbers or to a lack of physical space to accommodate kids during school hours. Still, growth was consistent. To date, the Winchester Christian Academy (WCA) is the home to 266 students.

The latest and most exciting news from WCA is the initiation of the “Bridge to the Future” plans to implement an entire high school over the next four years! The school announced that it will extend again and add a ninth-grade class for the 2022-2023 school year. Enrollment for the upcoming school year is now open, and the count is already at 313 students. That is the largest enrollment count to date.

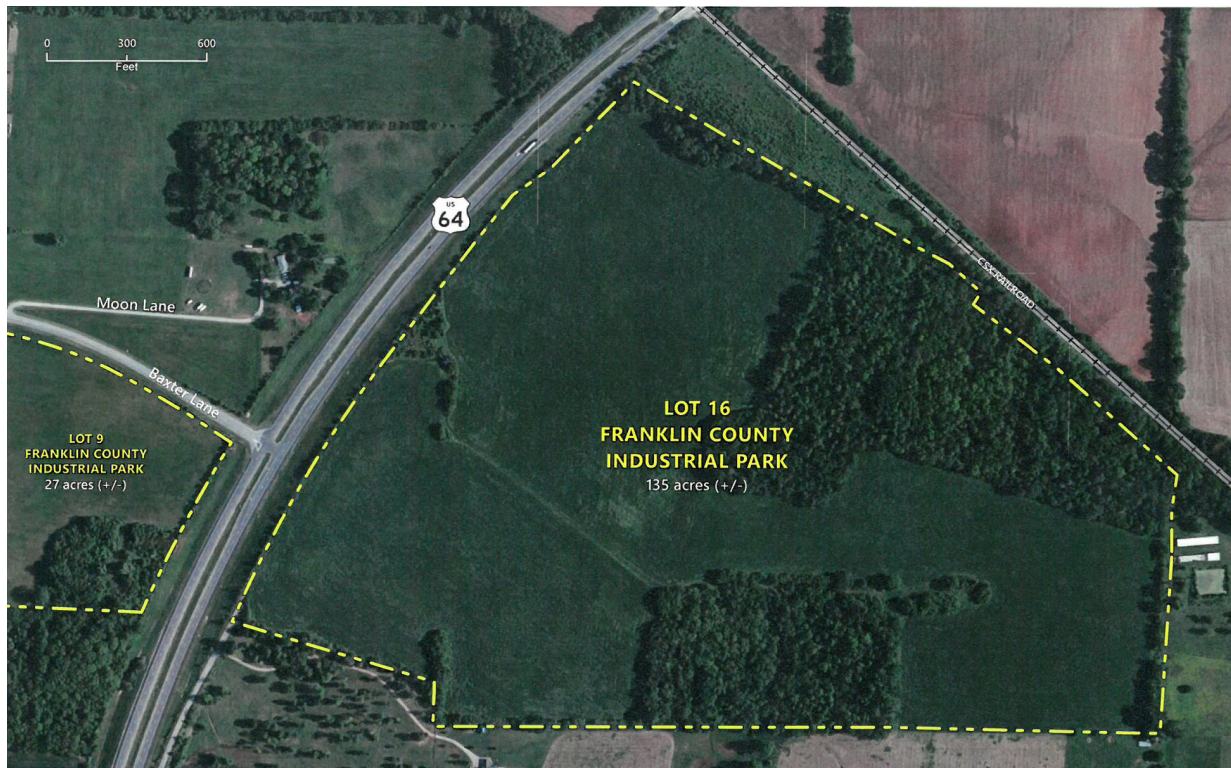
While the school will still be operating out of the Winchester Church of Christ building and facilities, with the modular-style classrooms and bathrooms on site, school officials do have more exciting news to share! Head of Schools, Caroline Simmons, confirmed that they are in the process of purchasing land to house a new campus for the high school and middle school. She said, “We are thankful for the Winchester Church of Christ for allowing us access to their building as we keep growing and growing.” However, the new space is much needed, and teachers and administrators alike, look forward to the next season at WCA.

If you are unfamiliar with WCA, it is an accredited and dependable academic pillar in the Winchester community. Simmons shares, “We are a dually accredited school by Cognia and [the] National Christian School Association (NCSA). We wanted to ensure the courses our students took were going towards their high school or college credits when applicable.” The school is very proactive about providing the best sports and extracurricular activities for students in addition to its academic accreditations. As a member of both the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) and Tennessee Middle School Athletic Association (TMSAA), the school and its students are eligible to compete in sports within the area. They



offer a wide variety of unique extracurricular activities, including basketball, cross country, bowling, tennis, archery, baseball, softball, football, and soccer.

Choosing the best education and environment for your child is one of a parent’s most important decisions. Middle school and high school principal and director of student life, Josh Neal, shares, “I was a public school teacher for 10 years, and while I was still at public school, we enrolled our oldest in the preschool program. Whether I worked here or not, this is where I’d want my child to go, for sure. We purposely keep our classroom sizes small to provide an exciting and engaging learning experience.” Teacher to student ratios average from 8 to 1. Classrooms are equipped with the latest educational technology. Students third grade and up have Chromebooks, and the second-grade students have iPads. WCA is a Christ-centered, family-oriented school providing quality education. If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling, please visit winchesterchristianacademy.org. -GN



INDUSTRY NEWS

East Moon property wastewater approved by county.

The wastewater extension project has cleared a hurdle.

By Tina Neeley

THE FUTURE of Franklin County's 136 acres, the East Moon Property, is looking brighter. The property located on Highway 64 has remained undeveloped and unappealing to developers due to the lack of wastewater and road access, yet its biggest asset is the large size and CSX Rail bordering the property. In the past, funding for an extension of wastewater to the property required a property tax increase, but a tax increase for the project is no longer necessary due to the availability of funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dedicated to water, wastewater and broadband projects.

On March 1, Franklin County Industrial Development Board Director/Recruiter Kelli Riley presented to the Franklin County Finance Committee the wastewater project proposal totaling \$4.315 million. The committee unanimously approved the funding for the wastewater extension project and sent it on to the Franklin County Commission for final approval. On March 21, the county commissioners heard the motion to approve the financing of the county's portion of the project, \$4.315 million.

Riley explained the need to the commissioners and stated, "This is an active investment. We currently are



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not receiving property tax on this property as it is owned by the county. We extend the wastewater, develop the property, and we begin receiving property tax, along with sales tax. This investment is not just for the East Moon Property and industrial use but also for residential and commercial use for future developments on the east side of Highway 64. This investment will continue to grow.”

Upon completion of the presentation, the vote in favor of the project was unanimous, and the county commission approved payment of \$4.315 million from its ARPA funds. The total cost of the project is \$10.675 million. The City of Winchester will be completing their own wastewater improvement throughout the City. The City’s portion is \$6.36 million. The allocation for the funding of the City’s portion is still in process.

Pat Sanders, Winchester’s community development coordinator, explained that Winchester has experienced tremendous growth in the past few years. The City’s 40-year growth

plan it utilized has been exhausted in only four years resulting in the need for additional work on the City’s wastewater infrastructure.

Sanders said, “The city is going to have to make some upgrades to its system. The city and Winchester Utilities System are still reviewing the funds available from its ARPA funds and determining how much it’s going to cost. If there’s not enough to cover it, that may mean putting into place a system that’s going to require some form of impact fees for future developments in order to recoup some of the money that won’t be covered. We still have a couple hurdles to clear, but we are on the same page.”

Once the remaining funding is in place, the last issue will be supply chain demands. Due to the ongoing supply chain issues, completion time cannot be guaranteed and is expected to take at least 28 months.

The development of the county’s East Moon Property is closer than ever to becoming an income-producing asset. -GN

Why it's always a good idea to work towards your best self.

How friendly competition and hard work turned into a dream fulfilled.

By Julia Eads



SQUARING UP for a jump shot, a basketball player takes an elbow to the face. His opponent does everything in his power to challenge his offense, even by utilizing excessive force. This is gritty competition at its finest, the type of content that keeps ESPN broadcasting on every television set in America. While it is engaging, competition doesn't always involve physical contact, bumps, or bruises. In fact, competition doesn't even require a secondary contender. Competition can simply mean working towards the best version of yourself. And some individuals might look up and find

they are standing shoulder to shoulder with the best of the best.

This is precisely what happened to small-town sweetheart Hunter Wolkonowski. Better known as Hunter Girl, this country music singer has taken the hearts of America by storm. And the best part about Hunter Girl is that she is one of our own! Hunter is a Winchester native. From the time she was a little girl, she belted out beautiful melodies and sang in the local church. After graduating high school, Hunter moved to Nashville to work toward becoming the best singer she could be. Quickly, her talent was noticed, and →

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“I’ve been doing this for 5 years, and that’s my favorite female country voice I’ve ever heard.”

-Luke Bryan,
American Idol

she won various songwriting contests and had the honor of opening for many famous country music stars. However, the moment that really put her name on the map happened during an audition for American Idol’s Season 20, where she received a golden ticket granting her a trip to Hollywood. She sang “Riot” by Rascal Flatts. After she finished, Luke Bryan equated her voice to a “new-age Miranda Lambert” then he complimented her by saying, “I’ve been doing this for five years, and that’s my favorite female country voice I’ve heard.”

“I CANNOT BELIEVE IT!! SOMEONE PINCH ME!! I have worked so hard to be in music. I have dreamed of singing country music since I was a little girl. To see myself singing on TV is a surreal feeling,” she shared on Instagram.

BEAR TRACE GOLF COURSE

Bear Trace Golf Course, located inside Tims Ford State Park, is opening for the 23rd Annual Bear Trace Golf Classic on Monday, May 2. This friendly competition provides contenders the chance to win cash prizes; a LED HD television; \$25,000; or a brand new car! While it is not a golden ticket to Hollywood, it is still a fun-filled competition. The registration cost is \$520 for a four-player team (\$130 per person) and includes lunch that day. To register or receive more information, call (931) 967-6788 or email the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce at info@franklincountychamber.com. -GN

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A vibrant sunset over a green field with a line of trees in the distance. The sky is filled with colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and purple, transitioning to a deep blue at the top. The foreground is a lush green field with some small white flowers. A line of dark trees is visible in the middle ground.

GOOD LIVING

How we live is up to us. Living a good and happy life is hiding in the way leaves sway in the wind. It's hiding in the bright purple sunset every evening. It hides in the heartbeat of a rabbit racing across your front yard. When we appreciate every moment as a gift and everything around us as a once-in-a-lifetime experience, our lives change. It might even change the lives of those around us.

HERE'S TO A HAPPY LIFE.

SAVING LIVES ON LAND AND IN WATER



Franklin
County
Rescue
Squad
responds
to dire
situations.

By Tina Neeley // Photos contributed by The Rescue Squad



WHEN JULIE and her three children left home for mid-week church services, the rain was lightly falling. Thirty minutes later the rain poured harder and steadily, bombarding the building's metal roof and drowning out normal conversation. As the wind howled and lightning flashed, the service was cut short out of concerns for safety.

The dark country road was barely visible as they headed for home. Julie dialed her husband, Steve, but the call quickly dropped. Cell service was spotty. A large tree crashed into the fence on the opposite side of the road just ahead. There was no getting through.

Slowly backing the SUV, Julie opened her door to navigate the ditches, the rain drenching her and the car. The water rushing through the ditches sounded instant alarms. A security light shone on the gate to a nearby cattle farm bringing a second's relief and allowing her to turn around. "You parted the sea for Moses, Lord. You'll do the same for me," she whispered.

Putting the car in drive, she eased ahead. Water, pooled in the road, pulled the car's rear end. She quickly adjusted, but as she reached the bottom of the hill the asphalt was no longer visible. On either side of the road were deep, wooded gorges, and the road in her rearview mirror had disappeared.

"Lord, help!" she whispered, not wanting to scare her passengers.

Thunder jerked and lightning snaked while, at the exact second, a furious and frightening wind pushed them off the road. As the vehicle was flipping, Julie knew they were in water, and it was rising too quickly.

"Tyler, Callie, Ryan! Answer me! Are you ok?"

"Mama, help!"

It was the last thing she remembered hearing.

Luckily, the car behind them saw it and called for help.

THE JULY 4th celebration was winding down. As the fireworks exploded overhead, their reflection on the lake's surface was mesmerizing. Nashville's fireworks couldn't hold

a candle to these. The music competed with conversations. The grill was still sizzling, and the cooler was still full. It was chaotic but fun.

Ka-ploosh!

The splash was common but the scream that followed was not.

"Help! Somebody, help! Misty fell overboard, and she can't swim!"

HE WAS here just a minute ago. Shelly's son, Jake, loved cows. His favorite stuffed cow, Moo, was his constant companion. Moo and Jake had been in the dining room for an hour, singing along with the Old McDonald video, while she switched out the laundry.

E I E I O...no Jake and no Moo.

"Jake! Jake! Where are you, Jake!"

"Jake!"

Rushing room to room, there was no sign of Jake.

Out of the corner of her eye, Shelly noticed the back door ajar. The hills and valleys surrounding their home suddenly terrified her.

"Jake!"

Moo was on the patio, but Jake was nowhere to be found. →

WHILE THE STORIES BEFORE ARE FICTIONAL,

the heroes in our community are very real. Help in dire situations like these comes from the Franklin County Rescue Squad, a division of the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency (FCEMA). And while they're services you pray you'll never need, you'll be thankful for the 24/7 lifesaving responses they can provide.

Swiftwater rescue is one service both on the roads and off, but with Tims Ford Lake situated within Franklin County, water rescue is at the heart of many of the public services provided by the squad. And with the summer boating season approaching, the all-volunteer team will be on standby to respond to the community's needs.

"Public service on the lake is one of our primary focuses. We keep a pontoon boat, a big diesel towboat, and a patrol boat on the water in the summer. We respond to water-related incidents – boating accidents, recovering vessels, drowning victims, motor assistance," said FCEMA Director Scott Smith.

Water safety promotion is high on the list of services provided by the agency and the squad. Boating tragedy on the waters is a sad reality. The diving team searches for



the missing, bringing closure to families waiting anxiously on the shore.

It's heavy work, physically and mentally. With nearly 100 pounds of gear, divers enter cold, pitch-black waters searching for humans, light salvage, and evidence collection. The team closely monitors the diver's respiration from the shore and assists the diver's exit from the waters.

Helping at home and in the surrounding communities, the Franklin County Rescue Squad responds to emergencies in surrounding counties as well, both on land and in the water.

On land, K-9 Operations teams search for missing or lost persons.



**Public
service on
the lake
is one of
our primary
focuses...**

-Scott Smith

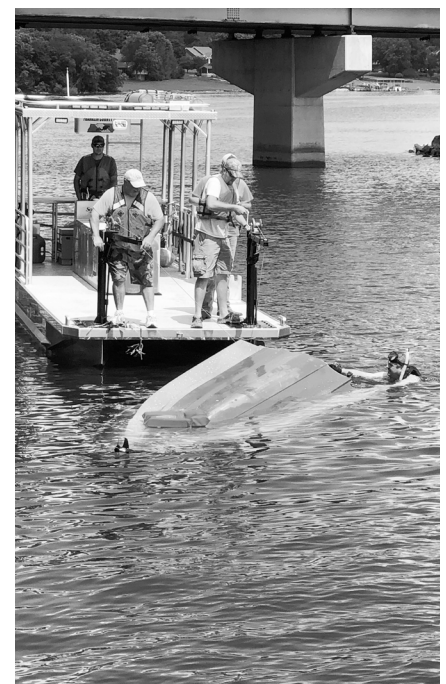


The team's bloodhounds are trained to follow a person's unique scent over extended periods and varying and challenging terrain.

One of the ways to assist the team is by preparing for an emergency before it arises. The agency provides free Scent Preservation Kits for dementia and Alzheimer's patients and patients who are on the autism spectrum. With the tools in the kit, scent samples are created and stored together with answers to questions that will guide rescuers and save precious time searching for a missing loved one.

Squad members are unpaid volunteers sacrificing their time for the safety of those around them, both in response events and training events. Their commitment to the community's safety often takes precedence over time with family and friends. On-call at all times, they show up and suit up for whatever is necessary to bring assistance to those in need.

We hope and pray we'll never need the rescue squad's services. Still, we are thankful for their dedication, training, and commitment to keeping us safe on the land and in water. -GN





Good News

in Franklin County
deserves to be shared

By Wesley Bryant // Photographs by James Jordan

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Tennessee, is a place like no other. It provides a time of peace and relaxation to thousands of guests from all over the country. While its lakes, nature, things to do, and businesses make this county fun, it's the people who make it memorable. The Good News inside our county is worth sharing.

Decherd

86 miles from Nashville, Tennessee, sits Decherd of Franklin County. The population is just over 2,400 people in the town. It's a perfect middle point resting in the triangle of Nashville; Chattanooga; and Huntsville, Alabama. The three main employers help keep the local economy alive: Nissan Powertrain Assembly, Kroger, and Henley Supply & Millworks. The two city parks provide a great place for a family picnic, walking trail, and playgrounds to enjoy.

Estill Springs

Join a little league baseball team and visit the monthly horse shows. There's also pee wee football and many other events throughout the year. It's the good times like these that make it easy to call Estill home. The natural drinking water has generations of history. The water whispers tales from centuries before.



Huntland

You won't find a better sunset than on your drive through Huntland, Tennessee. As a part of Franklin County, it is one of the most untouched areas with a population just under 900 people. Our town was able to recently improve the local park and playgrounds with almost a million dollars in grants from BlueCross BlueShield. The town was established in the early 1900s by Clinton Armstrong Hunt. Take in the good views and the hometown feel.

Sherwood

Technically an unincorporated community, Sherwood rests at the north end of Crow Creek Valley in Franklin County. It is just 13 miles southeast of Winchester, Tennessee. Generations of people have happy memories of family, friends, and baseball here in Sherwood. The Crow Creek, which flows from Lost Cove Cave, offers a local and natural swimming environment. Other notable locations in Sherwood include Posey Field, Sinking Cove, and the Crow Creek Valley Volunteer Fire Department and Station.

Find the thing that makes your heart happy. And like always, share joy with your neighbors. -GN

How helping others helps you


Ways to make the community a better place... and boost your mental health.

FEW PATHS to positive personal growth are more noble than resolving to help others through increased acts of generosity and kindness. According to Psychology Today, doing good for others—no matter how big or small the deed—feels good but also provides reciprocal benefits. The link between volunteering and lower rates of depression has been well-documented, and there is neural evidence from MRI studies suggesting a link between being generous and signs of happiness in the brain.





The following are several ways to improve oneself by being more mindful of others:



Be aware of social issues. Read your local newspaper to stay up-to-date on the pulse of your community as well as the world. Educate yourself about current issues that are affecting people from all walks of life. Understanding the needs or plights of others may boost your willingness to get involved with nonprofit organizations. It also may make you more empathetic and compassionate toward other people. Of course, we're not asking you to focus on upsetting or depressing news! We're saying the more aware you are about a local issue, the more likely you will be able to help those in need.

Volunteer at a charity on a random Saturday. Find a charitable group with which you can volunteer your time. This is a great way to support a cause you believe in and makes it possible for you to collaborate with others who are like-minded, potentially helping you make new friends. Between making new friends and helping your neighbors, you'll remember that Saturday for the rest of your life. Working at the charity or non-

profit could easily become your new full-time job and change your (and others') lives.

Learn a new language. North America is a melting pot that's home to people from many different parts of the world. Learning a new language may facilitate interactions with fellow community members who might not speak English as a first language. This helps build stronger communication and connection with the people who live around you. It will boost your mental agility, a new friend, or even the ability to help someone who doesn't speak English well.

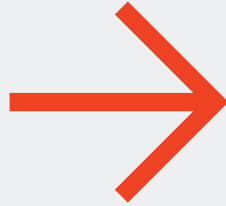
Help someone you know. It's commendable to want to assist a charity or a global cause, but what about people close to you who may need a boost? Whether you're lugging boxes to help a friend move or babysitting a niece or nephew so their parents can enjoy a much-needed night out, when you help someone, those good deeds will return to you in time.

When making resolutions, a new life goal, or even a sudden change to the way you live your life, people should consider goals that involve helping others. While this assistance can benefit the people who are on the receiving end of the care and attention, those who are giving of themselves also reap considerable rewards. -GN



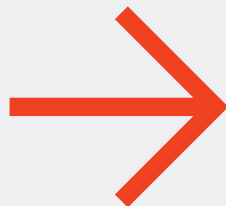
Helping the Next Generation Learn from Past Mistakes





Franklin County Prevention Coalition connects and educates against substance abuse.

Story by Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder





“We need the entire community involved.”

SINCE ITS establishment in 2007, The Franklin County Prevention Coalition (FCPC) has had a simple mission: to keep kids off drugs and make a better tomorrow. Accomplishing this mission requires the entire community’s involvement. Different organizations working together towards a common goal, while maintaining their own identity, is the very definition of a coalition.

Jessie Sheehan, director of FCPC, said, “My role as a director is to make those connections with the community partners, and find ways for us to work together, so that we can prevent the onset of substance use in youth. We need the entire community involved.”

Through education and prevention strategies to students, parents, and community members, the coalition teaches what substance misuse is, the dangers, and how to build protective factors against it.

Early intervention is critical, and school programs strive to inform and engage students early. Topics covered are underage drinking, prescription drug use, e-cigarettes and vapes, and opioid use. These programs are also presented through partnerships with area community partners at events, church gatherings, and camps. →

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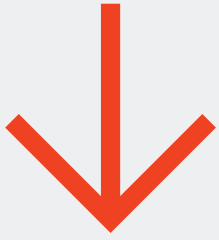
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“There’s a big amount of work to be done.”

Working with adults through partnerships with employers is another element of prevention. More than just putting up “Don’t Do Drugs” posters, the work of the coalition is practical and partners with area businesses. Presentations through prevention programs inform employees about a drug-free workplace. Employers are coached on identifying substance use and offering information on treatment programs.

“We try to do that with every aspect of the community, whether it’s medical, mental health, law enforcement, or working with other youth-serving organizations. We work with policy-makers, civic organizations, volunteers, and parents just trying to reach every sector and have us all work together,” said Sheehan.

The TN Save a Life Program trains people to recognize an opioid overdose and use Naloxone to reverse it. It truly is a life-saving program, as one mother found out. Within days of receiving the training and the Naloxone, her adult son overdosed. The mother was able to administer the Naloxone and save his



life, and FCPC helped the mother get her son into treatment.

The coalition is 100% funded through grants from the State of Tennessee, and Sheehan works with staff assigned to the management of each grant.

“We have grants that focus on intervention and focus on recovery, because we need that piece of the puzzle as well, in order to help the youth,” she said.

Sheehan continued, “It’s very much a team effort. Again, it goes back to the idea of coalition and how it takes everybody to make this change. We’re just all very like-minded. It’s all about meeting people (where they are) and helping them, whether it’s helping a parent reach their child or talking to a child who’s concerned about their parent. We hit every walk of life. It’s amazing. Prevention works, but the issue is big. There’s a big amount of work to be done.” -GN

For more information, visit the coalition’s website fcpcn.org or call (931) 800-9112.

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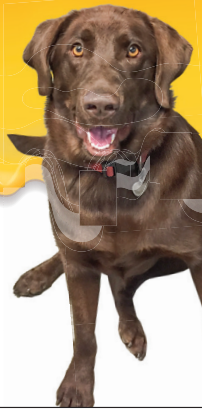
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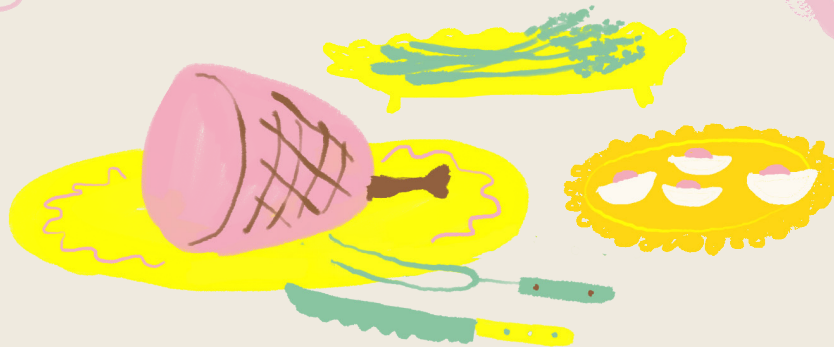
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DO bunnies



Our Easter traditions gather so much more than eggs. Here are just a few of them:

By Tina Neeley
Illustration by Karen Schipper

Easter parades may have passed on by, but its many other traditions are alive and well.

Even though the internet has changed how we watch movies, families still watch “The Ten Commandments” every year, waiting for it like children waiting for the Easter Bunny. Released to theaters in 1956, ABC has broadcast the Cecille B. DeMille classic since 1973 during the Passover and Easter holidays. The movie starring Charlton Heston, Yul Brynner, and Anne Baxter remains one of the most popular films ever made.

The Easter Bunny’s origin in America is believed to have arrived with German immigrants in Pennsylvania

in the 1700s. Their children made nests for the rabbit’s delivery of its colorful eggs. Soon the tradition spread throughout the country, and Americans added chocolates, candy, and gifts to the eggs. Decorated baskets replaced the nests. Lucky for the children – baskets hold larger goodies than the nests!

Whether store-bought or personally assembled, the baskets are one of the first harbingers of spring, much like robins. Children rise early to discover what the Easter Bunny left sitting by the door. Marshmallow goodies, candy-filled plastic eggs, hollow chocolate Easter bunnies, and toys greet them through their cellophane wrapping.



Those hollow bunnies haven't been around as long as the Easter Bunny. By comparison, they're spring chickens! The chocolate bunnies date back to the 1890s, but hollow chocolate bunnies surfaced during World War II when cocoa was rationed. The change was practical and profitable. No wonder they've never gone out of style.

Style is synonymous with Easter. Fashion trends themselves have come, gone, and come again, but the excuse to buy new clothes never gets old. The thrill of the hunt for the perfect outfit rivals the one for the golden egg. Easter Sunday's service often yields color-coordinated families at church and at the holiday buffets.

Honey-glazed ham, cheesy potatoes, roasted asparagus, green bean casserole, deviled eggs, hot cross buns, and a coconut bunny cake sits on the kitchen counter. Table settings are inviting and sometimes

whimsical with displays of ceramic rabbits, miniature grass-lined baskets with tiny eggs. Spring bouquets in vases lined with peeps and jelly beans add personality and fun.

But the celebration is not complete without the egg hunt.

The children, with dye-covered fingers still smelling of last night's vinegar dips, cover their eyes impatiently while adults hide the eggs. They race off in search of dollar store eggs stuffed with candies and the ultimate prize – the golden egg!

We probably have the mother of Princess Victoria to thank for egg hunting. On Sunday, April 7, 1833, the 14-year-old princess wrote in her diary: "Mama did some pretty painted and ornamented eggs, and we looked for them."

As the sun sets on another Easter, the empty plastic egg quietly points back to the empty tomb and the changing season. Life on Earth is renewed as spring comes once again. -GN

Self

stories by tina neeley // art direction & design by will kelly // photography by brooke snyder

leess

stories of local people who are putting others before themselves.

in the spirit of selflessness

WEBSTER MAY define selflessness as having no concern for self, but givers in our community give the world and our lives deeper meaning. They take to heart the well-being and care of others and place those needs ahead of their very own. From public servants to quiet, behind-the-scenes workers, Shelbyville and Bedford County know firsthand the quality they add to our lives.

On any given day, we meet them out and about. We interact with some. Others we never see, but without them our days would be dim.

SOME TYPES OF GIVERS ARE:

The grocery store clerk that never fails to say hello.

The fast-food manager that buys your breakfast from time to time.

The caregiver that knows your mom loves snack cakes and brings her favorite once a week.

The single mom that slips supplies into area blessing boxes.

The high school senior that leaves home at 6 a.m. to tutor a struggling fellow student.

The recreation league basketball coach that bends low to teach and encourage your first-grader.

The senior citizen who checks on his young neighbors just because he cares.

They touch hearts and change lives; see needs and meet them; sense grief and offer comfort.

They are generous, compassionate, thoughtful, and devoted with helpful hands and hearts.

The opposite of selfishness, selflessness unites us, inspires other acts of kindness, and improves the quality of life in all it touches. And the lives of the selfless are enriched as well. Ask them, they'll tell you.

These givers are happier, have stronger relationships, live more meaningful and healthier lives.

Better than a single financial investment, one selfless act of kindness can spark more. Lives are shaped – even saved – by a single encounter with these generous individuals.

And sometimes, their contributions deal less with physical needs and deeply-felt emotions and more with making someone's day leaving both the giver and the receiver happier and blessed.

Studies have shown that their brain's amygdala is larger. They read the facial expressions and emotions of others better. They sense and deeply feel others pain, fears, and hardships.

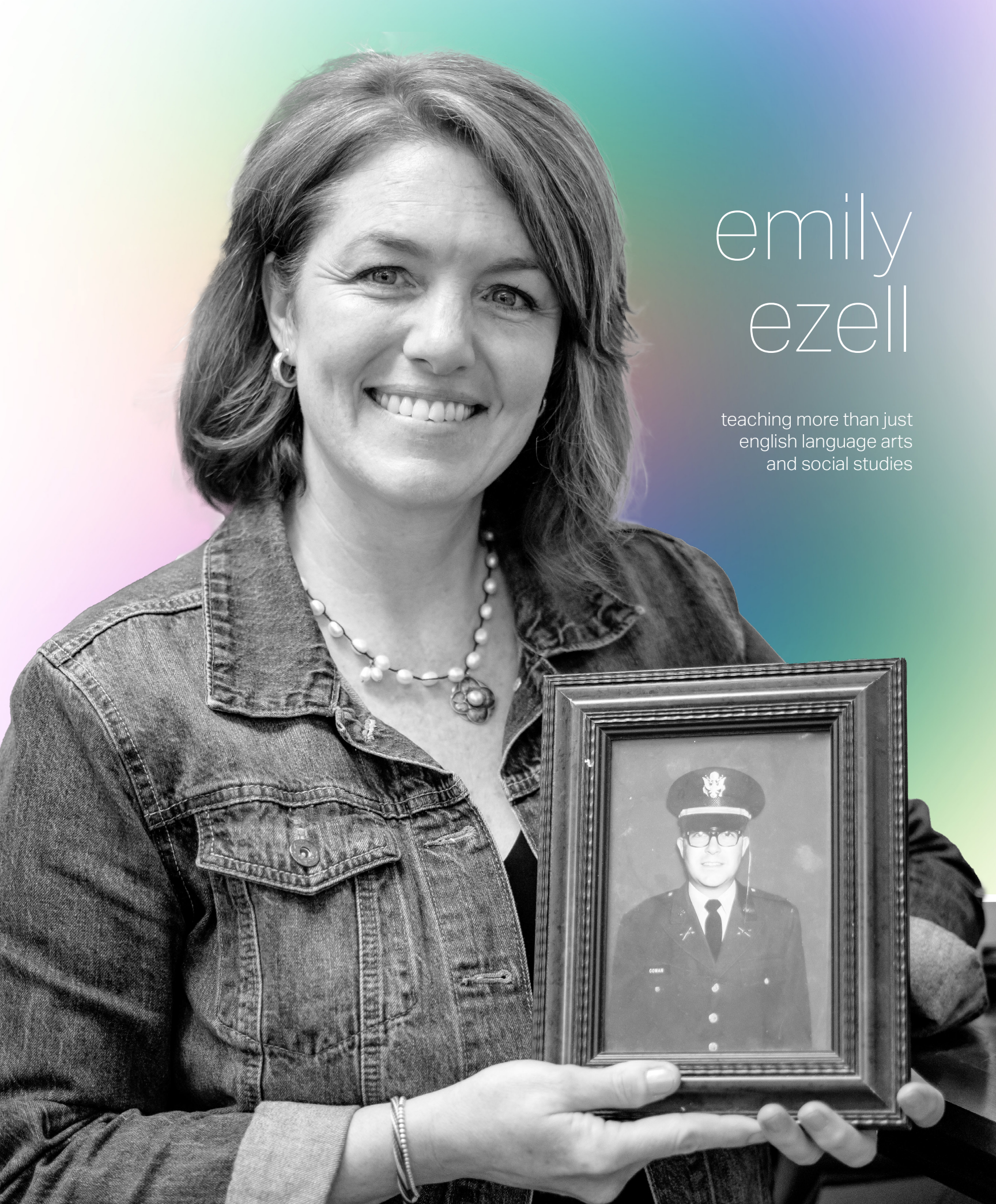
While their giving is automatic, we can learn from them and make conscious efforts to be more selfless in our dealings with others. Perhaps it can teach us to be more kind to ourselves as well.

Let's look for opportunities to offer kindness more often. Let's seek out those that have touched our lives with their generosity and compassion and return the gift. Let's get up a little earlier in the morning or stay up a little later in the evening to interact with someone we've overlooked in the busyness of our lives. Let's show up and offer a shoulder to cry on or a listening ear.

Let's make selflessness the cornerstone of our community. After all, this is the Volunteer State. -GN

"the best portion
of a good man's
life is his little,
nameless,
unremembered
acts of kindness
and love."

– william wordsworth



emily
ezell

teaching more than just
english language arts
and social studies

building up the next generation

WITH ONE eye on her toddler and the other on the images before her – images of 9/11’s horrific planes crashing, burning buildings, and first responders – Emily Ezell knew she was no longer just hearing war stories. As she watched her generation deploy, the Cowan Elementary School teacher felt the reality of the cost of freedom.

“What can I do, from where I am, to serve my country?” Ezell asked herself. “I’m in the classroom, a perfect place to make a difference. If I can teach these children to love our country and the importance of the sacrifices that have been made and are going to be made, then I know I’m doing something worthwhile and meaningful,” she said.

That something began as a school play honoring veterans and their sacrifices. She wrote and directed the play expecting to present it a time or two, but it continued to grow. As the support grew, so did the play and its influence.

“It brought about a sense of community within our classroom and our school,” Ezell said.

“It wasn’t just a third-grade play. It was a sea of red, white, and blue throughout our building. All students and teachers wanted to go all out for the visiting veterans,” she said.

Commander Kimberly King of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10904 Manchester attended the play in 2017, and her visit changed everything for Ezell. Commander King, moved by the school’s patriotism and pride, encouraged Ezell to apply for VFW’s Teacher of the Year. She did and was one of three teachers nationally awarded Teacher of the Year in 2018. Ezell attended a Freedom Foundation event where she learned of the Medal of Honor Character Development Program through this connection. This program teaches children to develop essential character traits: courage, integrity, commitment, sacrifice, citizenship, and patriotism.

“we’re definitely better together, and we each have something special to contribute.”

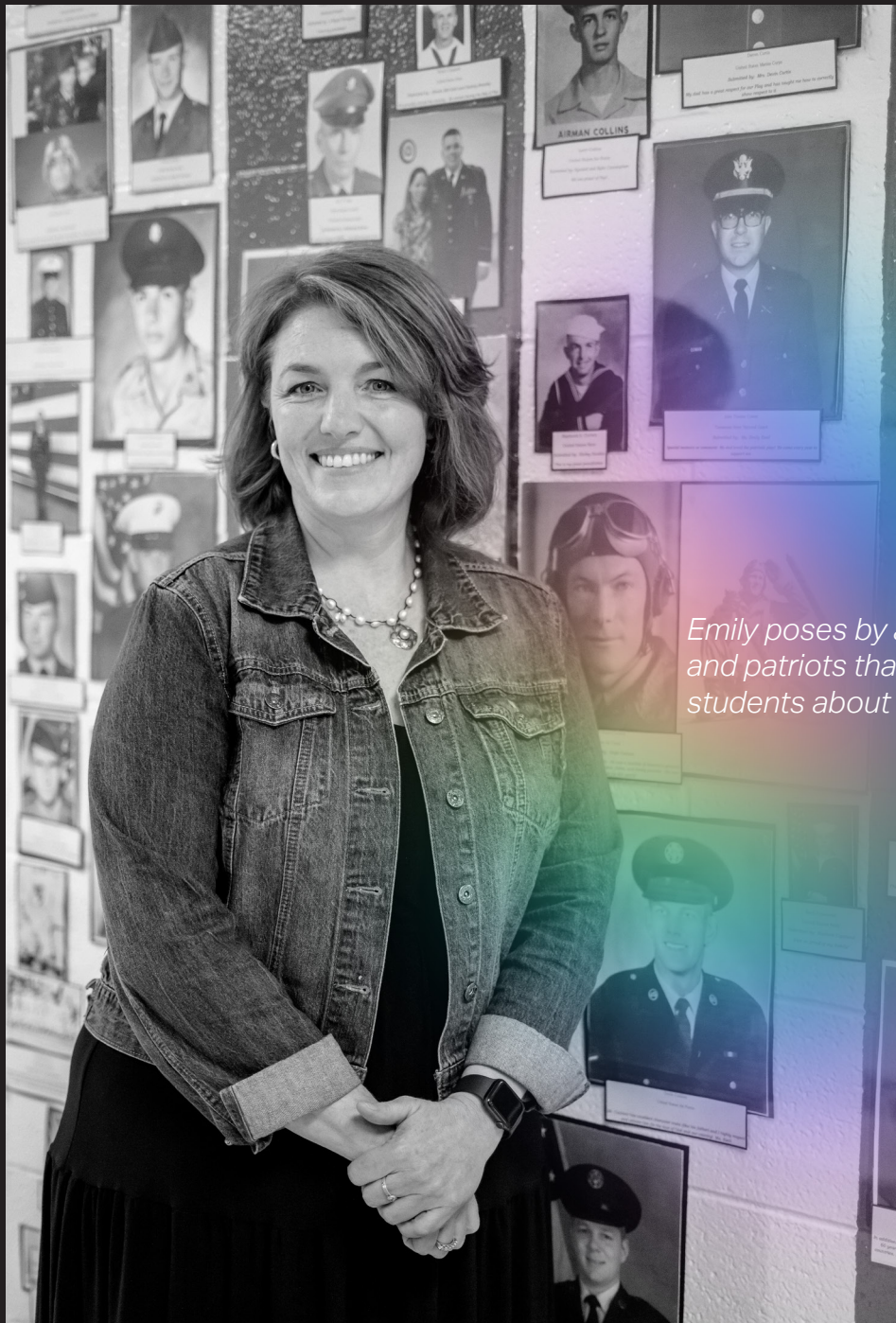


Ezell easily integrated the program into the curriculum, pleased that it offered more than just lessons. Students see why these character traits are important and how they can change lives.

Ezell said, “The Medal of Honor Foundation wants you to know if you learn to possess these traits, you’re going to make your community stronger, your country stronger, your family stronger, and the world stronger. My goal is to help children find these character traits within themselves, so they’ll be an active part of making our community better. We’re definitely better together, and we each have something special to contribute.”

She continued, “I call my students ‘the greatest generation yet to come.’ I believe it’s so important to breathe that kind of life into them. Today, there’s so much negativity about our country, our children, and the world. They completely depend on us to show them the way, and that’s where I think this program comes into play.”

Ezell said, “World War II veterans are the greatest generation; I don’t want to take anything from that generation. But, if enough of us can show students today the way and work together and breathe life into them, there can be another great generation yet to come.” -GN



Emily poses by a wall of veterans and patriots that she teaches her students about each day.



kathy pack

Librarian, volunteer,
community organizer.

she is service in motion

WITH A head filled with internet technology and a heart filled with compassion, Kathy Pack is plugged into helping wherever she is.

At the Franklin County Library, Pack manages a wealth of resources and programs. She keeps their 23 computers updated and running for staff and patrons, and she manages the library's website. She also oversees the library's Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, and Math (STREAM) programs. She leads STREAM classes, and her weekly STREAM packets are such a hit they are quickly picked up by patrons. That's just a tiny part of all she does there.

Pack is part of the library's programming and marketing team. She also works with Library Director Tina Stevens to develop and implement its long-range

technology plan. She compiles monthly data reports on the usage of all library resources and ensures the staff gets their required continuing education.

Before Pack came to work at the library, she volunteered with the Historical Society, whose archives are located in the library. During her time there, Pack assisted Author Rita Lorraine Hubbard in her research for her book, "Hammering for Freedom." In her acknowledgment, Hubbard recognized Pack for her assistance with the story's genealogy. The book received the Lee & Low New Voices Award and a Junior Library Guild selection.

As director of the local Salvation Army for nine years, Pack oversees emergency assistance with lodging and utilities, and she works closely with other agencies providing emergency food and shelter programs.

outreach is multiplied when joined with the help of others

“We’re also a United Way partner and depend on donations from churches and individuals in the community. Our kettle campaign is one of our biggest sources of funding, and we have a great group of Interact Club members from Huntland and Franklin County High School that help,” Pack said. In addition, kettlebell ringers may qualify for community service credit through Tennessee Promise.

And, like all emergency relief organizations, the local Salvation Army needs volunteers.

“We appreciate all of the assistance that we’re receiving, because that’s the only way we can help the people that need help,” she said.

The Salvation Army has been part of Pack’s life since childhood. She saw her mother, Betty Jean Pack, serve others personally and through her work with the Salvation Army.

Kathy’s church in Sherwood, Epiphany Mission Episcopal Church, participates in a summer feeding program with the University of the South. The church assists throughout the year with groceries wherever possible. Like many churches, their congregation size is dwindling and needs volunteers.

While dwindling congregation numbers and increasing challenges do nothing to diminish Pack’s mission, outreach is multiplied when joined with the help of others. Pack appreciates the assistance of everyone in her circle.

For more information on the library’s resources, go to franklincountylibrary.org. To volunteer or donate to the Salvation Army, contact Kathy Pack at (931) 691-3603. **-GN**





*Kathy packs grocery donation bags
at the Salvation Army*



kelly
may

Organizer of Rain Teen
Center and Camp Rain

a heart for young people

A YOUTH CAMP trip changed everything for Kelly May. In 2010 he and his wife, Jessica, took a group of kids from Journey Church to camp in Alabama. Seeing the kids fired up for Jesus, the Mays asked the campers what could be done to keep the passion going. The young people suggested a once-a-month service geared just towards teenagers.

Journey Church hosted the monthly service for two years to bring the vision into reality, and attendance grew. It soon became apparent that a new facility was needed.

A building was located and rented at 1910 Sharp Springs Road, Winchester. Seeing a need to reach the community a non-profit organization was created welcoming all denominations and religions. The Rain Teen Center was born.

The center wanted to offer a more consistent gathering place for middle schoolers and high schoolers, so they shifted to a weekly Wednesday program, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. From 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. the Franklin County Prevention Coalition presents a positive action program. Then the game room is opened, and a meal follows. At 7 p.m. the gathering moves to the auditorium for Bible study or other presentations, such as their Real Life series, during which someone addicted to drugs and alcohol shares their story of recovery.





Kelly with one of the many friendly animal inhabitants at Camp Rain

"I'm humbled that they believe in me, and they believe in what's happening here."

"We want to give them a variety. We give them plenty of free time, but we ask that you give us your time, for about 20 minutes, for us to share a message," said Kelly.

Roughly two and half years later, in 2015, the organization acquired 210 acres at the foot of Cedar Mountain and began working to build a camp. Kelly's vision was for the camp to be ready in 2016. His wife thought he was crazy. With only one old hunting cabin on the property, they added four cabins, bathrooms, roads, power, water, and a pavilion between February and June.

"In 2016 we started building, and the building hasn't ever stopped. Now we can house over 100 kids. We have eight camper cabins, five staff cabins, a pavilion, a camp store, a goat barn, and an animal farm. It's amazing how many kids have never seen or messed with a goat. And we're putting in a pond right now where we can do kayaking, canoe, paddleboats, and fishing. We have shooting facilities and hiking areas," Kelly said.

Camp Rain has two or three camps a year and partners with local organizations to host their events. People come from all over the state to utilize all that Camp Rain has to offer.

"It's just by the grace of God, and for all this to be debt-free is unheard of. It's just by sponsorships, donors, businesses, and individuals that care that our kids have no place to go. For all these people to get behind a vision for a camp that God gave me is very humbling. I'm humbled that they believe in me, and they believe in what's happening here," said Kelly.

Contact The Rain Teen Center at (931) 308-0998, or by email at therainteencenter@gmail.com. You can also find The Rain Teen Center and Camp Rain on Facebook. **-GN**



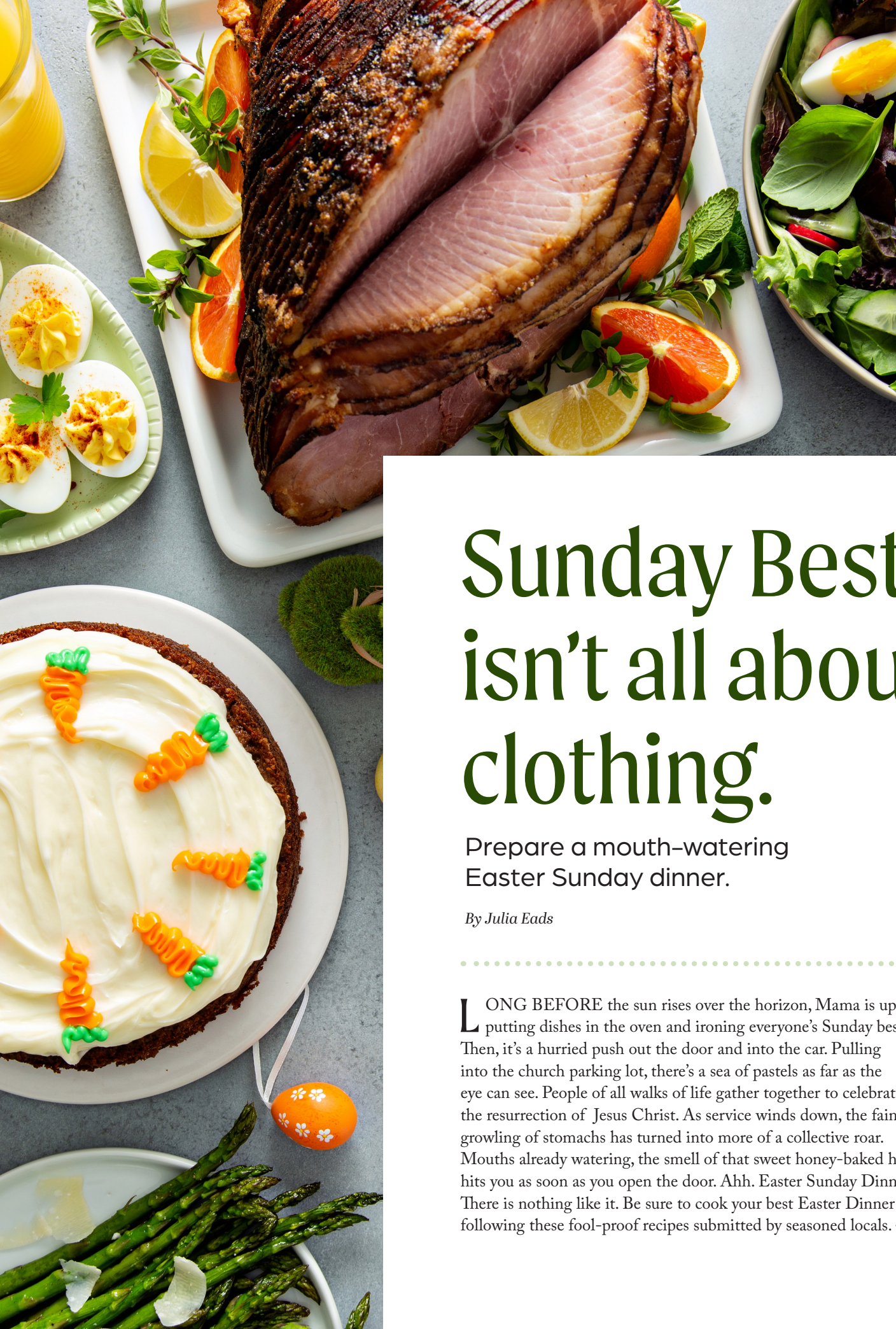
A photograph of a wall with peeling paint and a blue leather chair. The wall is light-colored with several large, irregular patches of peeling paint, revealing a darker, textured surface underneath. In the bottom left corner, the back and armrest of a blue leather chair with brass studs are visible. The overall scene is dimly lit, creating a somewhat somber or neglected atmosphere.

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Good News FRANKLIN COUNTY



Sunday Best isn't all about clothing.

Prepare a mouth-watering
Easter Sunday dinner.

By Julia Eads

LONG BEFORE the sun rises over the horizon, Mama is up putting dishes in the oven and ironing everyone's Sunday best. Then, it's a hurried push out the door and into the car. Pulling into the church parking lot, there's a sea of pastels as far as the eye can see. People of all walks of life gather together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As service winds down, the faint growling of stomachs has turned into more of a collective roar. Mouths already watering, the smell of that sweet honey-baked ham hits you as soon as you open the door. Ahh. Easter Sunday Dinner. There is nothing like it. Be sure to cook your best Easter Dinner by following these fool-proof recipes submitted by seasoned locals. -GN

Scalloped Potatoes

Submitted By Anita Faulkner

Ingredients

1 stick margarine
4-5 large potatoes
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
1 t. salt
1/2 t. pepper
1 1/2 c. milk
1 c. Cheddar cheese, grated



Directions

Preheat oven to 350°. Melt margarine in a 9x13" baking dish. Peel and slice potatoes thin and place in melted margarine. Cover with onion slices. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Add milk. Bake for 35 minutes. Place cheese over the top and bake an additional 20-25 minutes.

Carrot Cake

Submitted By Faye Bonner

Ingredients

2 c. sugar	3 c. carrots, grated
2 c. AP flour	1 pkg. cream cheese, softened, 8 oz.
2 t. baking soda	1 stick margarine
1 t. salt	1 box confectioners sugar
2 t. cinnamon	2 t. vanilla
1 c. oil	1 c. nuts, chopped
4 eggs	

Directions

In a large mixing bowl, sift together sugar, flour, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon. Add oil. Mix well. Add eggs, one at a time. Add carrots. Pour into cake pans. Bake at 350° for 35 minutes. For frosting, in a medium mixing bowl, combine cream cheese, margarine, confectioners sugar, and vanilla. Add nuts. Spread frosting over cooled cake. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Holiday Ham with Cider Glaze

Submitted By Donna Simmons

Ingredients

5-6 lb. ham, cooked, rump, or shank
2 c. apple cider or apple juice
1 c. honey
1/2 c. cider vinegar
1/4 c. Dijon mustard
2 t. chili powder
1 T. butter
1/2 t. apple pie spice

Directions

Preheat oven to 325°. Trim excess fat from ham. Score ham with diagonal cuts in a diamond pattern. Place ham on rack in a shallow roasting pan. Insert a meat thermometer. Bake until it registers 140°. This should take about 1 1/2-2 hours. Meanwhile, in a large saucepan, combine cider, honey, vinegar, mustard, and chili powder. Bring to a boil; reduce heat. Boil gently, uncovered, for 15 minutes, stirring often. You should have about 2 cups of mixture. Remove half of mixture to a small mixing bowl. Stir in butter and 1/4 teaspoon pie spice. Set aside for sauce; use for glaze. Brush ham with glaze the last 20 minutes of cooking. Serve remaining sauce with ham. If glaze should set before serving; reheat in microwave.



When empty is full

Remembering Mary Magdalene's encounter with Jesus at the tomb.

By Tina Neeley

AS MORNING'S first light nudged the last of the darkness, Mary Magdalene walked with heavy heart and feet along the dirt road. The garden's birdsong and fragrant blossoms, usually welcomed, suffocated her and assaulted her senses.

Mary's first encounter with Jesus altered the course of her life forever. Possessed by seven demons, she was trapped in darkness, no companionship except the spirits that sought to cause her harm and evil. Anxiety, depression, and distress defined her. She was full but so empty.

Casting out the demons, Jesus created space for a filling of new, good things. She was empty but quickly filled with devotion to Jesus. Mary and other healed women followed Jesus, taking care of him as he traveled, teaching and preaching. Drawn to his loving countenance, Mary had never experienced such grace and compassion.

And then everything changed. They had taken Jesus, savagely beaten him, and hung him on the cross between two criminals. Although part of her wanted to hide, she had to be there; she had to see.

As they took his dead body from the cross and carried him away, Mary was empty. Her hope was smashed, and her future was uncertain. And yet she had to honor him. His body had not been properly prepared for burial due to the

quickly approaching Sabbath. And so, as soon as the law allowed, she'd set out to finish.

With the stone rolled away, the coolness of the tomb joined that of the early morning. It testified to the emptiness she could no longer hold in. Sobbing, bending low, she looked in.

"Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" asked the angels, one at the head and one at the feet where Jesus' body had laid.

"Because they've taken my Lord, and I don't know where," Mary answered them.

Turning and standing again, Mary saw a man who asked the same questions.

"Please, just tell me where you took his body," Mary pleaded, seeing but not at all comprehending, the man was Jesus.

"Mary."

It was all Jesus said – all he had to say – to open her eyes to his true identity.

And while she longed to embrace him and linger with him, she obediently went to carry his message to the disciples.

Filled with good news and resurrected hope, surely she ran. The morning light washed her weary body. The birdsong and blossoms carried her along the dirt road, her feet barely touching the ground.

"I've seen the Lord!" she announced.

The first to proclaim it, Mary Magdalene, reminds us when we go empty to Jesus, He never fails to fill us. **-GN**

GO DEEPER:

Explore the gospels and start a list of those changed when they encountered Jesus.

Resource:
"Encounters with Jesus" by Timothy Keller explores stories of lives changed by personally meeting Jesus. The book is available on Amazon.com and other booksellers.



OUTDOORSY



GOOD TIMES

"There's nothing to do in a small town." We hear it often, but is it true? There are Good Times every weekend in Bedford County. It doesn't matter if it's a s'more at a bonfire, a lazy day with a book by the window, or exploring the town with the people you love most—there is something to do.

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS SAY YES.

Photo by Brooke Snyder



FRANKLIN COUNTY'S ONE DAY

Community Outreach

BY JULIA EADS

HAVE YOU ever experienced the kindness of a stranger at just the right time? Barely hanging on, something as simple as a genuine compliment could send tears streaming down your face in an instance. Have you ever worked, strived, or fought as hard as you could, yet still when it was time to bring out the measuring stick you came up short? The feeling of lack surrounds itself with its partners in crime: stress, discomfort, pain, sadness, hunger, and defeat. Do these feelings sound more than familiar to you? If so, odds are you have experienced genuine need or struggle. Heck, you may even be experiencing a significant deficit right now. The climb out can feel weighty, suffocating, and lonely. But don't give up yet friend; Good News is on the horizon!

Imagine a day where you could walk down the street and get a tasty lunch and even a stylish haircut, free of charge. You could see a dentist or a doctor without worrying about medical bills or health insurance coverages. Stroll through racks and racks of clothing and not take the first peep at a price tag. Could you imagine it? The ease. The relief. What a gift that would be. Well, here as promised, is the Good News— there is a day of that proportion that exists here in Franklin County!

Franklin County's One Day Community Outreach first found its backing in late December 2013. Members of the Southern Tennessee Christian Medical and Dental Association wanted to do an outreach where they gave away their services for a full day. They hoped to be the hands and feet of Jesus and share His love for others. The group set up a meeting and invited many community leaders, including the mayor and city administrator. MC Luttrell was working as the finance director of the city at the time. When both the mayor and city administrator expressed they were unable to attend the meeting, they asked Luttrell if she would go in their place. Unbeknownst to the meeting host, Luttrell had seen a nearby

“Next to Christmas, this is my favorite day of the year.”

-MC Luttrell

community host a similar outreach event and had been praying for God to make a way here in Franklin County. Prior to arriving, Luttrell thought the meeting was simply about a health fair. When she got there and heard the first few statements spoken, she excitedly thought, “Oh! Yay! God sent me here! I'm here for a reason!” Since that day, Luttrell and countless other individuals, non-profits, churches, businesses, and municipal agencies have worked together to host an annual outreach day each year!

The 9th annual Community Outreach Day will be held on May 14, 2022, across the church campuses of Winchester First Baptist Church and First United Methodist Church. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. at 100 S. Jefferson Street. Everything at the event is entirely free. Whether guests come for food and clothing distribution only, or come and receive every available service, there is no charge. Services include medical and dental screenings, eye exams, mammograms, chiropractic adjustments, haircuts, family photos by a professional photographer, and more. Additionally, there will be numerous non-profit organizations present. Those organizations will provide contact information to individuals that may need help during the other 364 days of the year. -GN

For more information, email fconeday@gmail.com or visit the Facebook page, “Franklin County One Day Community Outreach.” Translators are available on the event day.

ARTWORK BY WILL KELLY

CITY NEWS // COUNTY NEWS // SCHOOL NEWS // FAITH // EVENTS // RECIPES

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Good News

MAY 2022

Prevention
Coalition
educates the
next generation



Saving lives
on land and
in the water

Selfless

shining a light on Franklin County's best
Meet Emily Ezell, Kathy Pack, & Kelly May

A PUBLICATION OF
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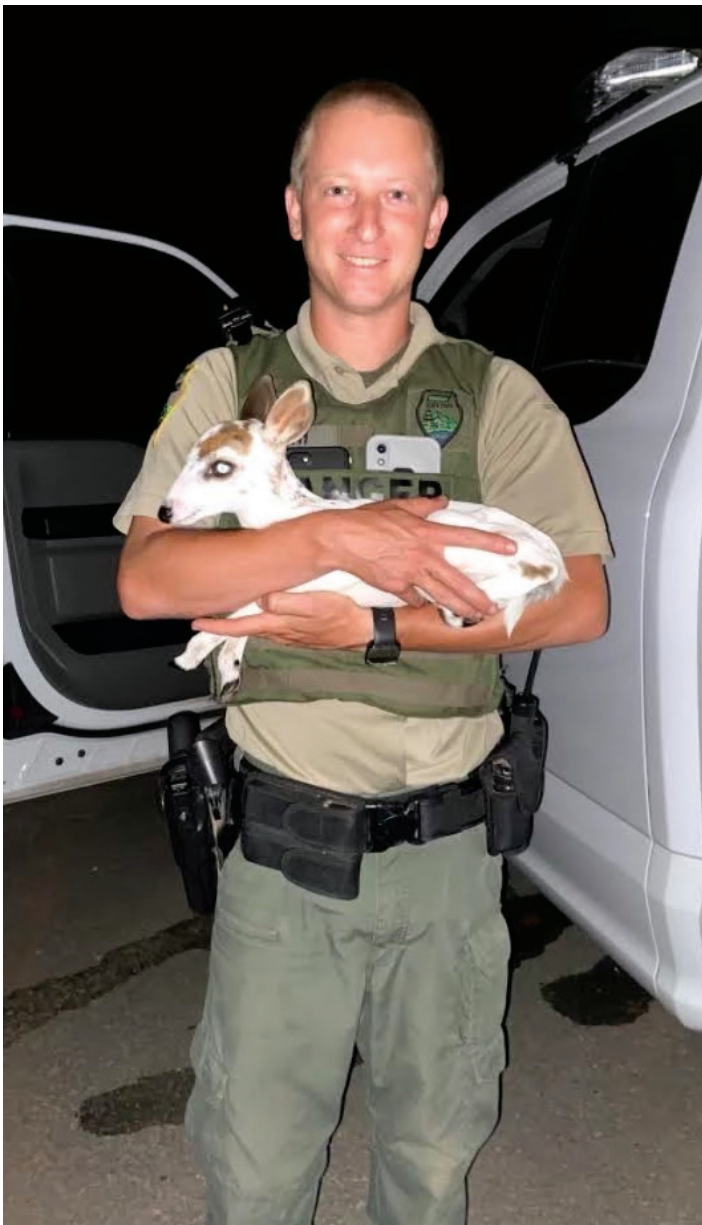


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Good News MAGAZINE

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Get outdoors and STAY outdoors

Photos provided by Park Ranger Dalton Smith

Tims Ford State Park rangers hosted a Backpacking Basics Workshop on March 12, 2022. The workshop covered everything you need, to feel confident going on your own adventures. The training covered how to plan and prepare for trips, how to pack a backpack properly, tent and hammock set up as well as meal preparation while outside!

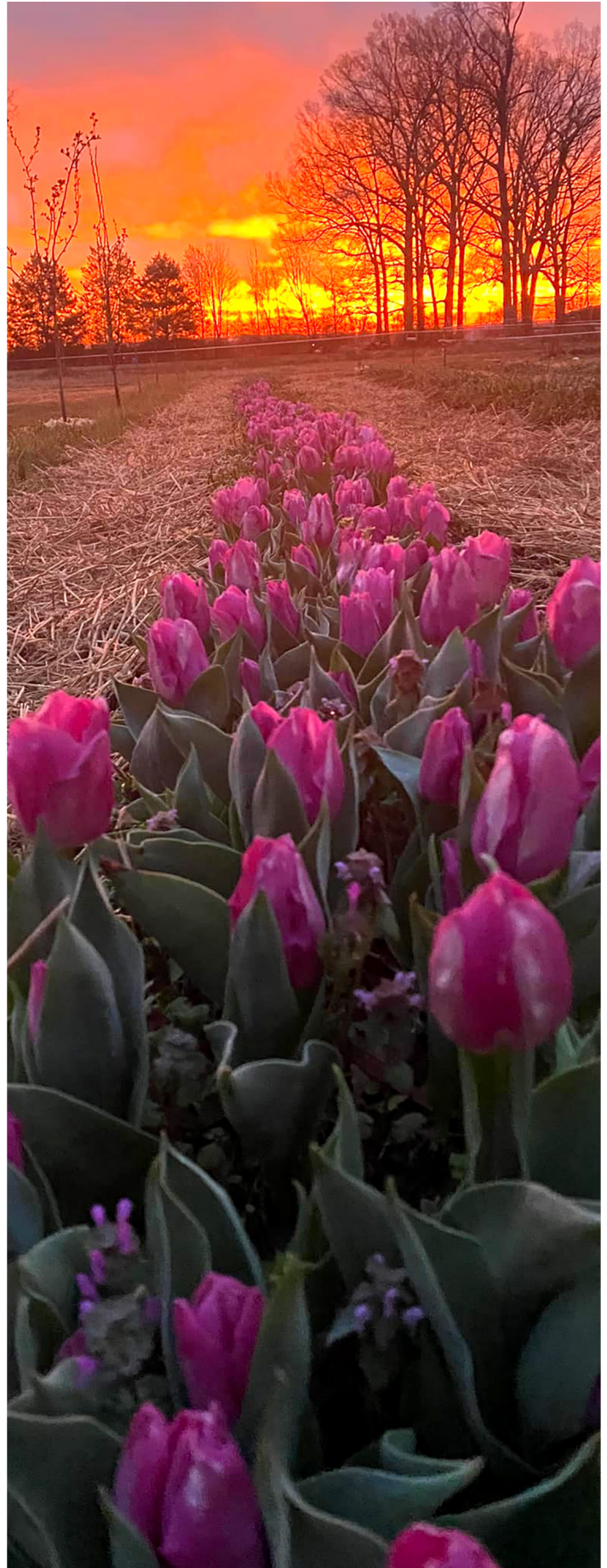




You Pick Tulip Event

Photos provided by Morris Acres Farm

Morris Acres Farm had friends and family lacing up their work boots and reaching for shovels on March 19. The farm was able to spread a lot of joy early this spring season by hosting a family-friendly picking event. The event was free to the public. Only visitors who brought tulips home were charged. The day resulted in beautiful pictures, and it was filled with fun, fresh air, and lots of memories.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

CONTINUED

Spring Soiree Membership Banquet

Photos by Amy Haring Photography

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce held its spring banquet celebrating its members, the community, and all of the growth over the last few months. The banquet was the 72nd Annual Membership & Awards Banquet. While every year is a celebration, freely gathering together after the last few years made this year feel even more special for members and chamber staff alike!





EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL / MAY 2022

April 15

**8:00 pm Blackberry Smoke
in the Caverns**
The Caverns
555 Charlie Roberts Road
Pelham

Tickets: TheCaverns.com

2:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt
Tims Ford State Park
570 Tims Ford Drive
Winchester

Meet at Baseball Field

Bring your basket and enjoy the spring weather with our Easter egg hunt! The hunt will be divided into multiple age divisions accommodating children from 1-12 years old. It will take place in the area of the baseball field on Picnic Rd. within Tims Ford State Park. Prior registration is encouraged.

Park Ranger Mark Matzkiw
Phone: (931) 279-4893
Email: mark.matzkiw@tn.gov

April 21

2:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous
First United Methodist Church,
100 S. Jefferson Street,
Winchester

(931) 967-3333
SAMHSA's National Helpline
(800) 662-HELP (4357)

April 22

**8:00 pm Twiddle in the Caverns
with Captain Midnight
Band**
The Caverns
555 Charlie Roberts Road
Pelham

Tickets: TheCaverns.com

April 23

**7:00 am Mid-South BT
Tim's Ford Open**
Bear Trace at Tims Ford State
Park, 891 Wiseman Bend
Road, Winchester

**GJGR ranked event for 18-
hole players** This is a ONE
DAY event. Mid-South features
60+ tournaments & three
major championships in 2022.
Affordable. Caddies allowed.
Family friendly. And fun

Information and tickets:
Bluegolf.com

**9:00 am National Cornbread
Festival**
221 S. Cedar Avenue
South Pittsburg
Saturday April 23 9 a.m.-6 p.m.,
Sunday April 24 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Each April, South Pittsburg
is an open-air mall with
the streets filled with live
entertainment, juried arts and
crafts, and great foods to
taste. This Southern cuisine
festival honors cornbread.

April 24

**8:00 pm JJ Grey & Mofro
in The Caverns**
The Caverns
555 Charlie Roberts Road
Pelham

JJ Grey & Mofro return to The
Caverns. Join us underground
for a night of bone-deep
groove and soul rock.

Tickets: TheCaverns.com



April 28

8:00 pm Power of Presence Onsite 4 Day Retreat
St. Mary's Sewanee
Thursday, April 28 through
Sunday, May 1
770 St. Marys Lane,
Sewanee

Tickets: www.stmaryssewanee.org/events/power-of-presence-onsite-4-day-retreat/

April 30

7:00 am NSH - Tims Ford
Bear Trace at Tims Ford
State Park
891 Wiseman Bend Road
Winchester

Tee: Green span (6,472 yds - Par 71) Come play the new Champion Greens on the Jack Nicklaus Signature course at Tims Ford

Information and tickets:
Bluegolf.com

8:00 pm Godspeed You! Black Emperor
The Caverns
555 Charlie Roberts Road
Pelham

Tickets: TheCaverns.com

May 2

11:00 am 23rd Annual Bear Trace Gold Classic
Bear Trace at Tims Ford
State Park
891 Wiseman Bend Road
Winchester

Registration is now OPEN

Cost is \$520 for 4 player team (\$130 per person) with the chance to WIN - CASH prizes, a LED HD Television, \$25,000 or A BRAND NEW CAR!
You can email us at info@franklincountychamber.com or stop by the chamber office to register your team!

May 7

9:00 am 3rd Annual May Expo
910 S. Shephard Street
Winchester

Have 30+ vendors with a great variety of items.

10:00 am Miss Down and Derby Beauty Pageant
Winchester Livery
122 North Jefferson St.
Winchester

May 14

8:00 am High on the Hog Festival
April 14 and April 21
Winchester City Park
Disc Golf Course
1569-1677 Phillip Fulmer
Parkway,
Winchester

35th High on the Hog Festival. Is the Main fund raiser for the Kiwanis Club of Franklin County Tennessee. This is a SCA Steak Cook-Off and a KCBS BBQ Cook-Off along with a KCBS Backyard contest.

9:00 am Food Giveaway Second Harvest
Winchester First Baptist Church
108 S High Street,
Winchester
www.winfb.com/
(931) 967-0622
wintnfb@gmail.com

12:00 pm Miss Tennessee Sparkle 2022
Lynchburg Elementary School
276 Mechanic Street North
Lynchburg

Deadline May 9.

4:00 pm Painting with a Purpose
River of Life Ministries
106 Spring Creek Road
Estill Springs

It's that time again! Come on out for this FREE event. You do not have to be good at painting to come and paint with us!
The deadline to sign up is May 7!

May 21

7:00 am 2nd Annual FC United and Kiwanis 5K
Winchester City Park

2022 COULD BE YOUR YEAR FOR A NEW HOME!

For a limited time only, Citizens Tri-County Bank has been selected to be a lender offering the Welcome Home Program grant funding for 2022.



Thinking about purchasing a home? The Welcome Home Program offers grants up to \$5,000 for closing costs and down payment assistance for low and moderate income homebuyers.

- Homebuyers must contribute at least \$500 of their own funds towards down payment and/or closing costs.
- Homebuyers do not have to be first-time homebuyers; however, all first-time homebuyers are required to complete a homeownership counseling program.
- Funds are distributed on a prequalification basis. Available now until funds are depleted.



Contact me for details on purchasing your dream home.

Jennifer Rodgers
NMLS# 463217
jrogers@ctcbonline.com
Decherd Office
931-968-3282



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The Welcome Home Program (WHP) funds are for reasonable down payment and closing costs incurred in conjunction with the acquisition or construction of owner-occupied housing located only in Tennessee by low- and moderate-income homebuyers. The funds are limited to \$7,500 for homebuyers who are honorably discharged veterans or active duty military personnel and \$5,000 for all other homebuyers. Homebuyers must contribute at least \$500 of their own funds towards down payment and/or closing costs. WHP funds are subject to a five-year retention in which repayment of all or a portion of the funds may be required if the home is sold or refinanced within five years from loan closing. Monthly payment will also include an escrow account to pay annual real estate taxes and insurance premiums. A pre-qualification is not an approval or commitment to lend but includes a preliminary determination on whether potential applicant(s) would likely qualify for credit based on information provided to us or authorized by the potential applicant(s) for us to review, as well as a review of the potential applicant or application qualifies for the WHP. An approval or commitment to lend can only occur after a comprehensive analysis of creditworthiness is made. This latter analysis could include, but not limited to, a formal residential mortgage application with identification of a suitable property, recent credit report, employment verification, income verification, downpayment verification if applicable, and an acceptable appraisal, marketable title, and proof of satisfactory insurance coverage. Funds are available on a first-come first-serve basis, when a formal loan application is received on or after March 1, 2022, in which a written sales contract has been executed and provided to us. The total income for all occupants must be at or below 80% of the Mortgage Revenue Bond limit for the county and state where the property is located (we can provide this information upon request). The interest rate will not be known at the time of pre-qualification and will be based on factors relating to the loan request during the formal application process. As WHP funds are utilized, the depletion of available WHP funds occurring after March 1, 2022, may occur without further notice.

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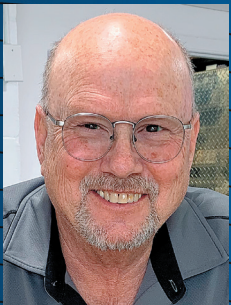


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