

Good News

FRANKLIN COUNTY

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Pam Peck
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Born in Franklin County, Pam’s family moved to Grundy County when she was young. She met and married her husband, John, in 1974. John’s work took them to Concord, NC where Pam managed a real estate office. In 1989, they moved to Tallahassee, FL where they bought and managed a hotel for five years.

Longing to return to their Tennessee roots, they sold the hotel and moved to Winchester in 1994. John encouraged Pam to pursue a career in real estate. She was considering the possibility and inquiring about positions with local agents when Century 21 reached out to her for an interview. She wondered how they got her name and discovered that John had submitted an application on her behalf. Weeks after the interview, Century 21 called and informed Pam that she had been chosen. Now she had to secure the franchise fee.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Every weekend can be a vacation

Take a staycation in a hometown full of joy.

TENNESSEE MAY not have sandy shores. We may not have Buckingham Palace sitting in our backyard. Vacation spots all around the world, from Big Ben to the Eiffel Tower, attract tourists from far and wide. Every corner of the Earth is always pulling, offering a place to let loose. To relax. And to ignore the stressors of life for just a moment. Bali, Indonesia, with floating huts on crystal clear water is not the only place to find your inner peace and happiness.

Traveling to places we only see on screens is a part of life—and you may find me sitting on a beach at the first opportunity—but there is a world of wonder right in our backyards. Tennessee has an endless list of things to do. I would bet money you haven't done them all. In fact, there are 'vacations' sitting right under our noses. And I'm not talking about Nashville or Dollywood. I'm talking about the attractions in our hometown. The things we drive by on the way to work. The things people from neighboring states notice with an unbiased lens.

You don't have to get away to let your hair down. You don't have to stay in Tennessee, either. But you should know about the hidden gems we may have forgotten about. Spend every weekend like a vacation.

Find joy in your backyard. And if you can't find it, make it. This issue of Good News is about shining a light on Tennessee and the things that make us great. -GN



Wesley Bryant
Wesley Bryant,
MANAGING EDITOR

From our readers



Thank you for reading Good News

"I am new to the area and received my first magazine this past week. I just want to say I LOVED IT! I literally read it from front cover to the last page. I learned a lot about this community that I'm happy to now call home! Thank you for your positive, feel good magazine. And GO HUNTERGIRL! What a delight to hear sing."

—Liz Huber, Winchester

Share your thoughts on Facebook or our website. It could be featured in the next issue!

Tell us about your experience!

Do you enjoy Good News? Let us know what you think! Send a letter to the editor: goodnews@exchange-inc.com

Good News^{FRANKLIN COUNTY}

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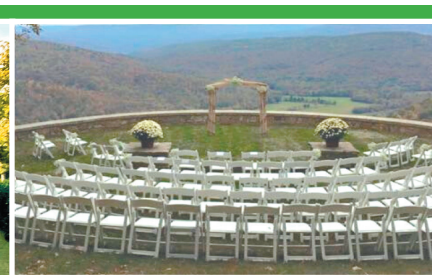
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A photograph of a golf course under a cloudy sky. A large, leafy tree stands on the right side of the frame. The foreground is a green lawn, and a dirt path leads through the middle ground. In the background, there are more trees and a small body of water.

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 BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES



Top left by Arts Inside artist Brittany Shelton; top right "Untitled" by Courtney Reed from the "Cacophony" exhibit; bottom left by Arts Inside artist Sarandon Johnson; bottom right by Arts Inside artist Whitney Alexander

Artisan Depot springs into art

Cowan's local art gallery opens new show for the spring season.

By Kali Bates // Photos provided by The Artisan Depot

THE QUIANT city of Cowan has welcomed the spring season with colorful and meaningful art exhibits that can be enjoyed by all at the town's local art hub, The Artisan Depot. The gallery premiered its latest community exhibit, "Cacophony," on March 31. This show features original works by several new local artists as well as returning area artists, according to gallery volunteer Margie Gallagher. The show will run through May 29.

The depot is also showcasing works from the local nonprofit, Arts Inside. The local organization offers art classes for incarcerated individuals in Grundy, Franklin, and Maury counties as well as other community projects.

According to the organization's website, AmeriCorps volunteer Hilda Vaughan founded the program in 2017 in response to the lack of art programming in the Grundy County Jail in Altamont. For the last five years, Vaughan and her volunteers have taught classes in creative writing, painting, and other art forms to local inmates. Each year, the

organizations hold public art exhibitions for artists to celebrate their creative achievements and connect with friends, family, and the community.

Gallagher stated that the show opened to the public on March 31 and will run through May 29. The public is invited to come and check out what Gallagher states as "inspirational works of art."

BEHIND THE ART

No strangers to the love of art, the depot is an extension of the Franklin County Arts Guild, an organization of local artists and members who are interested in promoting fine arts and crafts in Franklin County and the surrounding areas. According to the guild's website, the primary focus of the guild is to advance and provide arts education and awareness to youth and the public.

Along with guild artists' exhibits, the depot holds a community exhibit where the community is encouraged and invited to participate. All artistic levels and ages are welcomed to submit works of art to be on showcase for six weeks at the center.

Art classes are also available at the depot. Artists of all levels are welcome to participate in "Art Wednesday." The weekly event is held from 10 a.m. to noon at the depot. Local artists can bring their current project to work on while enjoying working with other artists. The class is free to attend.

The depot also features several items and works of art made by local artisans. Items such as jewelry, handmade books, cards, pottery, and more, can be purchased. The purchases will benefit local artists along with other community projects of the guild.

IF YOU GO

The depot is open to the public from noon to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each Saturday and is located at 204 Cumberland St. East in Cowan. For more information on The Artisan Depot and The Franklin County Arts Guild, visit online at franklincoarts.org. For more information on Arts Inside, visit online at artsinside.org. **-GN**



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SUMMER READING at the Franklin County Library




Are you looking for a positive summer activity that can be done anywhere at any time? We have that activity at the Franklin County Library! Summer Reading starts June 1 and ends with a huge finale celebration on July 29. Readers earn 'brag tags' and other prizes.

Why participate in summer reading when there is sunshine and swimming pools and lakes and ball? Because it encourages life-long reading habits and helps children maintain their reading skills over the summer which decreases 'summer slide'. Reading increases a child's knowledge base and motivates them to read for fun. Reading also promotes self-esteem, comprehension and memory skills.

Participation can be done via digital reading material or a real printed book that you hold in your hands. June 1 is the first day of Summer Reading 2022 and the theme is "Oceans of Possibilities". There will also be activities centered on this theme during the summer.

We hope to see you on June 1st for Summer Reading 2022 signup!

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COUNTY NEWS

Tims Ford State Park home to more than 20 miles of trails

Get outside and move your body with a hike at Tims Ford State Park.

By Kali Bates // Photos by Kali Bates

MOUNTAINEER, JOHN Muir, stated that “in every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks.”

Tims Ford State Park offers several trails that awaken the soul and leaves its travelers with a sincere appreciation of the sights and sounds of nature. The state park is home to more than 20 miles of trails.

All the parks’ trails range in level from easy to moderate to difficult and range in terrain from paved to natural trails.

While walking the trails, park-goers can enjoy the sights and sounds of the

135 species of birds that the park is home to. According to the Tennessee Parks website, one can expect to see the Canada goose, mallard, pied-billed grebe, ring-billed gulls, and wintering bay ducks. Barred and great horned owls may also be heard by visitors along with field sparrows, indigo bunting, American goldfinch, and chuck-will’s-widow.

Wildlife such as deer, foxes, and squirrels can be spotted playing in and among the trails.

BENEFITS OF HITTING THE TRAIL

There are several benefits to getting outside and taking a hike.

Hiking is one of the best ways to get exercise. No matter what type of trail you find yourself on, hiking is a great head-to-toe workout. The parks trails offer steep inclines and winding dirt paths that will work every muscle in the body.

Being out in nature can also boost your mood and improve mental health. Research has found that spending time in the great outdoors reduces stress, calms anxiety, and can lead to a lower risk of depression. In addition to having mental health benefits, being outdoors opens up your senses to your surroundings and improves your sensory perception.

Hitting the trail is also a great way to spend time with friends and family. Hiking with a partner, or even in a group, can improve the strength and health of relationships. Because hiking ranges in difficulty from an extremely challenging climb to a casual way of spending time outside, it's a great way to strengthen the friendships or bonds you have with your companions.

Best of all hiking is free and welcome to all ages.

The park will be hosting a trails day hike on June 4 to celebrate National Trails Day. The hike will take place from 9 to 11 a.m. The hike will be approximately 2.5 miles with easy to moderate difficulty. Bring weather appropriate clothing and shoes, and be prepared to enjoy the sites and sound of nature. **-GN**

Tims Ford State Park is located at 570 Tims Ford Drive in Winchester. For more information, visit online at <https://tnstateparks.com/parks/info/tims-ford>.



The following trails can be found in the park:

Lost Creek Overlook Trail: 1.3 miles

Overlook Trail: 1 mile

Marble Plains Loop Trail: 1.2 miles

Ray Branch Shoreline Trail: 6 miles

Evans Loop Trail: 3 miles

Spann House Trail: 4 miles

Highland Rim Wildflower Trail: 0.3 miles

Tims Ford Bicycle Trail: 6 miles

Clifton Doyle Trail: 0.8 miles

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SCHOOL NEWS

Funding for the Future

Local industries donate to county schools.

By Kali Bates // Photos provided by Franklin County Schools

Local industry is helping students further their interests and knowledge of technology with grants and donations recently made from Nissan, Harbor Freight Tools and Southern Tennessee Rural Health System.

Nissan North America donated a new Fanuc robot. The grant was assisted by the Tennessee College of Applied Technology. These specific robots aid in assembly at industries such as Nissan. The donation of

the robot will help students gain extensive knowledge about the technology of the robot by getting to work with it one on one in the classroom. The robot is mobile and will be used for the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) students at both Huntland and Franklin County High School (FCHS).

Harbor Freight also donated \$200 that has been used to purchase tools for architecture and construction classes. The

donation was a part of the business' "Tools for Schools" program. A part of The Smidt Foundation, established by Harbor Freight Tools Founder Eric Smidt, supports the advancement of skilled trades education in America.

Additionally, the FCHS health science department received a \$1300 grant from Southern Tennessee Rural Health System to help pilot a program, teaching employability skills in the health field.

According to Suzanne Mitchell, Career and Technical Education (CTE) director for Franklin County Schools, these donations are a vital part of helping students find success in pursuing careers in these fields of interest.

"Community support and industry partnerships are vital to education, especially Career Technical Education," stated Mitchell. "It is through these relationships that teachers stay current on local labor market needs, emerging trends, and new technologies in the industry. These grants and donations have been essential in providing a high-quality CTE program. The equipment/curriculum provided is utilized to promote career awareness and to foster the development of a trained and educated workforce."

We are preparing our students for amazing careers in STEM, thanks to a grant from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and Bicentennial Volunteers, Inc. (BVI). The grant has allowed our teachers to provide additional resources to help their students excel in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. This would not be possible without the support of TVA, BVI, and Duck River Electric Membership Corporation. **GN**





The Battelle Education TSIN/STEMx STEM Classroom Grants, sponsored by TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) and Duck River Electric, recently announced recipients of grant funding for STEM classrooms. Huntland Schools was awarded \$5,000. Pictured from left are Scott Spence, Duck River Electric; Suzanne Mitchell, Franklin County CTE Director; Ken Bishop, Huntland School Principal; Kim Collins, CTE STEM Instructor; and Lori Brown, TVA.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) interest sparked with grant.

Huntland Schools is awarded the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) STEM Grant.

By Kali Bates // Photos submitted by Huntland Schools

HELPING TO increase student interest in the growing field of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), Huntland Schools was recently awarded a grant from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), in partnership with Bicentennial Volunteers, Inc. (BVI), a TVA retiree organization. The grant will help develop STEM projects that are aimed to help spark student interest in future careers in STEM-related fields.

To qualify, teachers across TVA's seven-state region applied for funding of up to \$5,000 for projects, and 233 applications were selected.

According to the program's specifications, schools that are awarded grants must receive their power from a local power company served by TVA. Huntland's schools are served by the Duck River Electric Membership Corporation.

Funds from the grant will be used throughout the Huntland Schools. Huntland High School Career Technical Education (CTE) STEM Instructor, Kim Collins, is one of the school's

teachers that will benefit from the grant. She stated that she will use funds to offer her students the opportunity to participate in hydroponics.

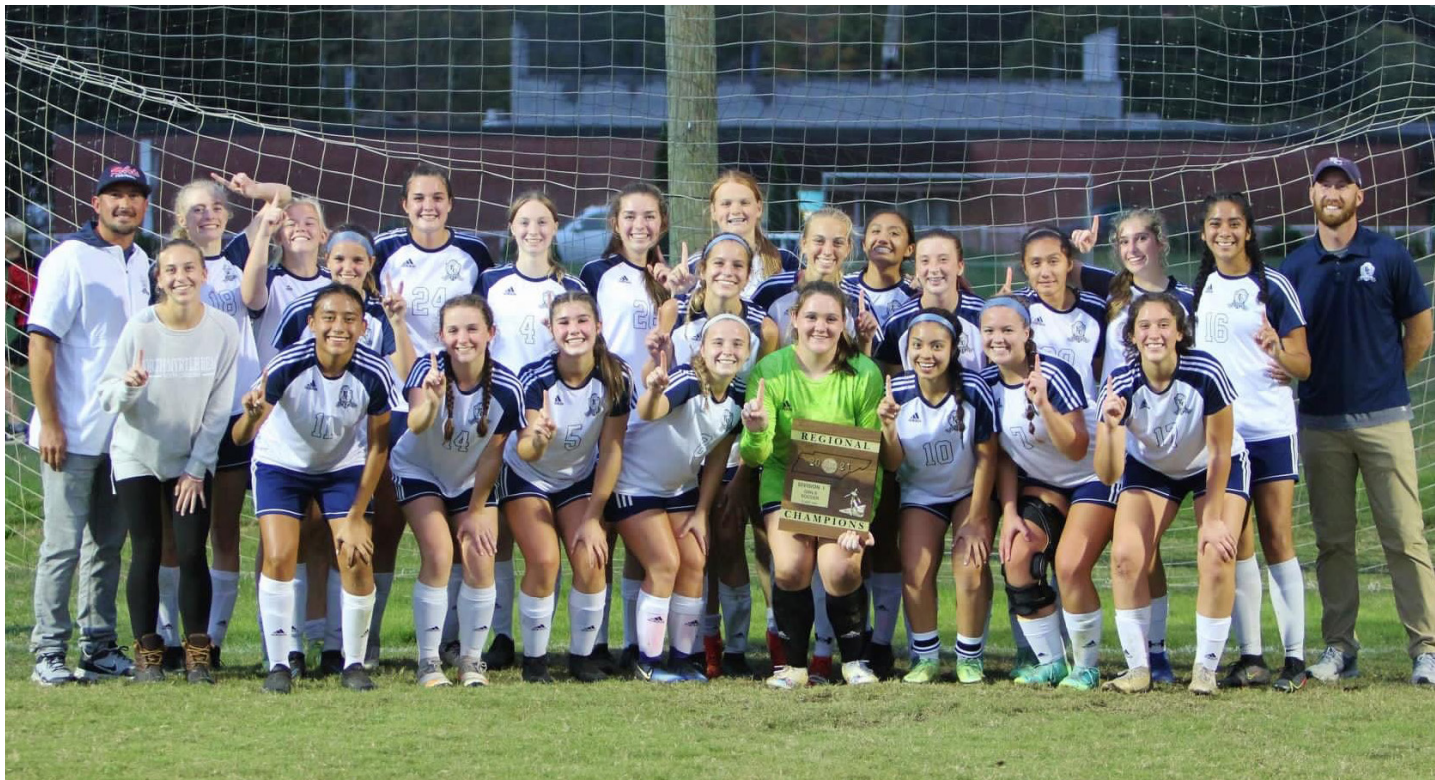
Collins wrote the grant and will be using the funds to offset the purchase of some of the vegetables served in their cafeteria, by growing their own vegetables they have started in the hydroponics units.

TVA stated that they hope these types of grants benefit students in the classroom and into a bright future with STEM.

"TVA is committed to supporting STEM education to help develop today's students into tomorrow's engineers, scientists and IT professionals," said Jeanette Mills, TVA executive vice president and chief external relations officer. "It's inspiring to be able to contribute to the innovators of the next generation."

Since 2018, TVA and BVI have awarded nearly \$2 million in STEM grants to support local education.

For more information on the STEM grant and to view a list of its recipients, visit online at www.tvastem.com. **-GN**



SPORTS NEWS

Kicking up a successful season

FCHS girls soccer team celebrates a winning season.

By Kali Bates // Photos by Jason Daugherty

WHILE THE season is over for the Franklin County High School girls soccer team, the team is still celebrating a season of success and lessons learned.

The team, headed up by coach Kent Bean, finished with a record of 16 wins, five losses and one tie, making them District 6AAA champions for the third consecutive year, Region 3AAA champions, and sectional champions. The team's coaches, Bean, Jake Cashion, and Matthew Parkerson additionally earned district and region coaches of the year.

This was also the team's first state appearance in the school's history, something that Kent said was "simply incredible."

"Our girls absolutely killed it this year," he said. "The heart and hustle this team showed day in and day out was simply incredible. They were such a family on and off the field that we were able to focus on taking care of business, and that's exactly what we did. When you have a team full of kids that want to be leaders instead of MVPs, the results will come."



Kent added that the team's success was due to the comradery between the players, along with the examples set by the upperclassmen.

"Our girls got along so well," he explained. "The seniors kept the locker room in order and led by example. They laid down the expectations and made sure that their teammates understood and bought into what we wanted to achieve. They motivated and inspired the younger girls to work hard and not quit. This is something that not only helped us be successful this year, but we believe will trickle down and be the standard for years to come."

While the team fell in the state tournament, Kent stated that the overall season left them with much to build on for the next season. He also added that the depth of the team will also help to add to another successful run for the team.

"We set our goal this year to make it to the State Tournament," he said. "We accomplished that, so our goals next year will be to get back there and win a few

games. We get back most of the team next year and were able to get many younger girls some valuable experience at that level. We played three freshmen in that state tournament game."

While winning is something that Kent and his coaching staff encourage, respect and toughness is at the core of what has made this team so successful, according to Kent.

"I am most proud of the way the leaders treat their teammates and how much the younger girls respect them," he said. "It is truly a family. Due to this environment, we were able to fight our way through many tough games. These girls have each other's backs and brought each other out of tough moments and always celebrated individual triumphs as a team." -GN



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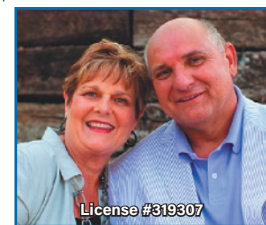


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A close-up photograph of a chef's hands in a kitchen setting. The chef is wearing a grey apron over a white shirt. They are carefully garnishing a plate of food with fresh green herbs. The plate contains a piece of seared meat, a whole roasted onion, and a potato. In the foreground, there are fresh vegetables including red tomatoes and green bell peppers. The background is slightly blurred, showing the chef's torso and the kitchen environment.

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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.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES





Relying on the Generosity of Others

The Good Samaritan Ministry meets many needs because you give.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

In concentrated, metropolitan areas, people in need are more visible. Many people in rural communities are struggling but are less visible.

Good Samaritan Ministries (GSM) of Franklin County exists to meet these needs.

Philip Johnson, president of GSM, said, "Clients have to rely on the generosity of others who have given to us, to meet their emergency food, clothing, and utility needs."

But GSM's mission is more than meeting clients' basic needs. It's offering empathy and respect, and it's rooted in dependence on the generosity of others.

"We're in the same position as our clients. We can only provide assistance out of what others have given to us. We want to ensure every client is treated with respect and dignity as a son or daughter of God," said Johnson.



“We want to ensure every client is treated with respect and dignity as a son or daughter of God”

GSM was founded in 1983 as a ministry of different churches in Franklin County. The ministry provides nutritional food boxes, enough to feed a family for up to two weeks, from the donations and contributions of area churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals. Residents meeting income eligibility requirements may receive up to 12 boxes per year. Utility assistance is available once every 12 months, and clothing for men, women, and children, and small household items and utensils are available.



The ministry is staffed entirely by volunteers, and more are always needed. Ideal candidates for this position have a common characteristic. “Everyone here is sure not to judge people. People end up needing our assistance for all kinds of reasons. We don’t judge their reasons, try to mentor them, or try to change their lives. We’re just here to try to help them with food when they need it, clothing when they need it, and utility assistance within the limits of their eligibility, and to do that in a way that leaves them feeling respected,” Johnson said.

GSM welcomes donations of canned goods, and of course financial contributions allow the ministry to offer other assistance through its program.

“It’s not just those of us who volunteer, reaching out to the most vulnerable and the most disadvantaged, It’s the community.”

The rising food costs are straining more and more households, a reality that GSM sees firsthand.

Johnson said, “Last year we met 2,000 requests for food, and this year we’re on pace to meet about 2,500. I think one reason for that is pandemic-related assistance, like stimulus checks and extended unemployment, has ended, so I think people who had a buffer with those systems are feeling it impact their budgets.”

“Good Samaritan Ministries is one of the good news stories in Franklin County in the sense that it really is an example of the community. It’s not just those of us who volunteer, reaching out to the most vulnerable and the most disadvantaged,” said Johnson. “It’s the community.” -GN



For more information on obtaining assistance or to volunteer or make donations, please see the Good Samaritan Ministries of Franklin County website at goodsamaritanfc.org, call (931) 967-9336, or visit their office at 1725 Decherd Blvd, Decherd.



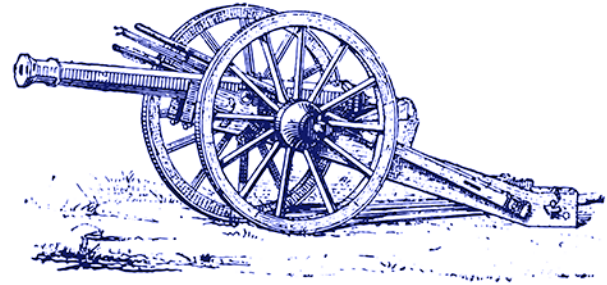


The original portrait was painted by American artist, Ralph Eleaser White Earl, in 1817. Learn more about the original portrait at tnportraits.org

THE WINCHESTER NAME

A recount of
General James
Winchester

By Julia Eads



CAN YOU imagine showing up to what is now the Winchester public square only to find rolling hills, trees, and ferocious wild animals? You would have likely walked for months or rode horseback if you were lucky. There was no hotel to freshen up at or a grocery store to grab a quick bite to eat when you arrived. No structure or anything that resembled a building would have been in sight. It was just you and billions of stars shining overhead in the open sky. It's amusing to think about how different things were hundreds of years ago. Can you further imagine early settlers visiting downtown Winchester today? Eyes wide and full of wonder as flashing lights and towering buildings cloud their view. What is this place? And why is it called Winchester?

General James Winchester would play a significant role in answering that question. According to the *Tennessee Historical Magazine* published in June 1915, Winchester was born on February 6, 1752, in Westminster, Maryland. In 1776 he enlisted in the Revolutionary Army as a private and was quickly promoted for his bravery and became a lieutenant. At the battle of Long Island in 1776, he was wounded and captured, then held captive. He endured suffering in a British prison ship in the New York harbor for over a year. Finally, after being exchanged and released, Winchester rejoined his regiment in the South, where he was later commissioned as a captain. It was then that he

heard of the brave men and women who had founded settlements in modern-day Middle Tennessee. Word of the beauty and fertility of the Cumberland country spread to Winchester, and in 1785 he decided it was his time to head towards what we now know as Tennessee.

Though Winchester did not specifically found Winchester, Tennessee, his impact on our state and city reaches far and wide. He was a soldier of the American Revolution, the first Speaker of the Tennessee legislature, and a Brigadier General in the War of 1812. Winchester served on the state commission to regulate the Tennessee-Missouri boundary. He was also foundational in planning and founding Memphis along with Andrew Jackson and John Overton (*Tennessee Historical Society, James Winchester* by Walter T. Durham, March 2018).

An act passed on November 22, 1809, by the Tennessee General Assembly specified that the county seat in Franklin County should be called Winchester in honor of General James Winchester. This was due to his involvement in politics and in military action within the western territory of North Carolina before it became the state of Tennessee (*Tennessee Historical Magazine* Vol. 1, No. 2, June 1915).

As a pioneer, military commander, city planner, entrepreneur, and leader among leaders, we can only hope our Winchester would make him and his name proud.

Tennessee Historical Magazine Vol. 1, No. 2, June 1915

Tennessee Historical Society, James Winchester by Walter T. Durham, March 2018





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Good News MAGAZINE



Not just a playground for children

Huntland's commitment to community and history built a healthy place for everyone.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

A PICK-UP BASKETBALL game draws a crowd, but you can't stay long because there's nowhere to sit. The doctor said you've got to lose weight or you're on a fast track to diabetes. You can't afford a gym membership or home exercise equipment. You're in desperate need of adult conversation and fresh air, but what will you do with your children?

If any of this sounds familiar and you live in Huntland, you're in luck! There's a huge asset in this little town of just over 800 people, the BlueCross Healthy Place at Huntland City Park. The updated park is a reality, thanks to the dedication of Huntland's Vice Mayor Ann Gardner and her committee members.



Members of a small town know one another. It's a smallness that makes a connection and creates sensitivity to neighbors' needs. What better place to gather and stay connected than a spacious park accessible to everyone?

With a desire to update the park for the present and the future, the city started the ball rolling. A park committee was formed, led by Vice Mayor Gardner, and in 2017 they began their quest for a better park. They worked for over two years to raise money to upgrade the playground equipment. The committee applied for many grants, all written at Gardner's kitchen table. The last grant they applied for was from the BlueCross BlueShield Tennessee Health Foundation. Their heartfelt request was among 80 grant applications competing for funding, but something unique about Huntland connected with the foundation.

The foundation's goal for these spaces is more than helping people get healthy. It's about connection.

In an online news story announcing the construction program, Scott Wilson of the foundation said, "BlueCross Healthy Places demonstrate our commitment to give back to the people and communities we serve by providing neighbors with spaces for connection and healthy activity. At each BlueCross Healthy Place, new relationships will form, strengthening the bonds that form the backbone of our communities. This will be a place for the whole town, not just a playground for children."

The foundation's commitment is for now and the future. Huntland's grant application requested \$215,000 to update the park's equipment. The foundation answered with \$936,000, 20% of which is held back by the foundation for future updates, repairs, and replacements.

At the reception announcing the grant award, Wilson said, "We saw how important history is to this town, that it's some-

"Connection gives purpose and meaning to our lives." - Brene Brown

thing with you in the present. BlueCross Healthy Places is going to be a part of its history going forward."

Wilson went on to reveal renderings of the new park including the basketball court with bleachers. "Ahhhhhhhhhh", the audience responded. Then the playground accessible to all children was revealed. "Ohhhhhhh", sighed the audience, and the reaction was the same to each design that followed. The foundation's plans were more



than anyone had dreamed for the property because the cost was so great.

Vice Mayor Gardner said, “This is going to mean so much to our community – now and in the future. We hope it will help our town grow and prosper.”

The construction and installation of the park were quicker than the search for its funding. The announcement of the grant in April 2019 rolled quickly to the park’s grand opening the following September.

A large tree towers over the playground, offering its shade and watchful eye to giggling children enjoying the freedom of a place of their own. It’s a place where no child watches from the sidelines, longing to be a part. Slides, swings, and see-saws are both safe and suitable. Signs indicate the age levels for each area or piece of equipment. Special swings for little ones and their parents or caregivers allow both to swing together, one facing the other, enhancing the experience and deepening connections.

Workout equipment is located next to the playground. What an awesome tool for multi-tasking. Mom can watch her children play and grab cardio exercise at the same time. Walking trails around the park offer a nice way to wind down from a workout or a workday.

The guardian tree looks over basketball games on the new courts and lends its breeze to the players. Friends and family watch comfortably from nearby bleachers, benches, and picnic tables. A pavilion by the court is perfect for reunions and get-togethers, creating space for strengthening relationships and making memories.

Huntland, a city with a heart for its history and residents, now has a park reflecting its commitment to connection. **-GN**

The BlueCross Healthy Place at Huntland City Park is located at 100 Moore Lane, Huntland.



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WHAT MEMORIAL DAY MEANS TO A WAR VETERAN

Memorial Day is a reminder of all that has been lost and won by tears and blood.

By Julia Eads

AN OLDER gentleman living across the street shows himself peculiar in this world, addicted to speed and noise. Our world rushes and zips by, yet he stands unmoved and never in a hurry. The way he lives his life feels foreign as if he belongs to a different world than the rest of us. Behind the times, he is happily detached from modern conveniences. Instead of gazing at a screen, he spends each day soaking in his surroundings, moment by moment.

Each morning, with a coffee mug in hand, he strolls out on his covered front porch and sits down to read. Rocking slowly back and forth, he envelops himself in the daily newspaper. A torn and tattered ballcap rests proudly on his head. It reads “Vietnam Veteran” and is covered in ribbons, pins, and metals. After folding up the paper and placing it across his knee, he stops rocking. Closing his eyes, he listens to the songbirds sing their morning song. After what looks like reflecting, meditating, or praying, he gets up, goes inside, and dresses in work clothes. Then, like clockwork, he is out tending to the yard by 10 a.m. each day. Whether it’s pulling weeds, raking leaves, or mowing his tiny lawn with a push mower, he is painfully slow to complete each task. Still, he works steadily, taking pride in each step.

One particular day, the old man’s black pickup truck came flying down the street and abruptly stopped in his driveway. Outside, it had just started to storm. It seemed as if the man was concerned with safety and taking cover from the storm, yet he didn’t strike anyone as the fearful type. Something was wrong.

He hobbled out of the vehicle and raced up his porch steps, moving faster than his tired legs appeared they could handle. Pushing a step stool, he headed towards his American flag. Adamant about bringing it in as often as the rain came and lowering it to half staff when applicable, he struggled to get it

down. Just as he had the final ring unclipped, the wind picked up tremendously; he lost his balance and took a tumble. The flag went flying into the wind.

Panic set in on the older man’s face as he watched the flag tumbling down the street. This man, who is never in a hurry, began racing down the steps and after those stars and stripes. The wind and rain were unrelenting. Combined, they felt like pins and needles pricking the skin. The red, white, and blue flag turned a muddy brown as it blew across the neighborhood.

Finally, the man reached his flag. He and the flag were soaked, muddy, and on the ground. There, sitting in a puddle, he wept. Tear after tear streamed down his cheeks, giving a warm sensation as it mixed with the dampness of the cool rain. All he wanted to do was honor his fallen brothers and sisters he served with, but he felt he had failed. He felt that back then and now.

That veteran man did get himself back on his feet, get home, and get dry. Life for him went on per usual. However, life was different for the few neighbors and bystanders who witnessed the heart-wrenching episode. They carried a new perspective and respect for those who had served our country. By the end of the week word got out, and every house on the entire street had proudly hung American flags from railings, porches, and flagpoles alike.

As Memorial Day approaches this year, we hope you carry a reinstated sense of honor and pride for those who have fought, served, and lost their lives defending our freedoms. Since 1971, Memorial Day has been held on the last Monday in May. Initially, it was in honor of those who lost their lives fighting in the Civil War, but it has evolved to commemorate American military members who passed in all wars. Whether you decorate a gravesite or fly an American flag, we urge you to take the time to appreciate our fallen heroes. **-GN**

Stayc

Our team at Good News has put together a list of things to do here in Middle Tennessee for you and your family. A full day of making memories is just a short drive away!

***Staycation: a vacation,
without all the hassle.***

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

ation

By Julia Eads

BEEP BEEP BEEP, beep beep beep was the noise that rallied her out of bed long before the sun peered over the horizon. With a quick press of a button, the coffee maker began to gurgle and drip. "I'm definitely going to need this," she sighed as she thought about that dreadfully long car ride ahead.

Pulling sheets out of the dryer and moving over the damp items from the washing machine, "shew wee," she said aloud to herself. "These smell like they have sat too long," she thought. She shrugged and tossed a few more dryer sheets in with the load. "Oh well, we have to have Jenny's favorite teddy bear or she won't sleep well this weekend."

Heading over to the kitchen, she gathered up some healthy snacks and drinks and filled the cooler. Next, she grabbed a pen and wrote "get ice" at the bottom of her "Things To Do Before We Leave" list. On another sheet of paper she began writing out detailed instructions for the dog sitter. "Hopefully, they will show up this time. That was a nightmare last vacation."

"So many things to do, so little time," she whispered, beginning to accumulate tension in her neck and shoulders. While traveling out of town is nice, it's also a lot of work. She still had to pack everyone's bags for the trip, empty the fridge, run by the pharmacy, and ask the neighbor to pull in the mail and packages. Just then, she began regretting that she had even made vacation plans in the first place. "Gee, I want to take time off and enjoy my family but not have to travel so far. Like being on vacation, but just staying home."

Just as she finished that thought, she pulled out Good News magazine from her mailbox. In bright and bold lettering, the first words read, "Staycation." She laughed to herself and chalked the whole situation up to fate.

Just then, she decided to cancel all the plans. She stopped packing bags, climbed back into bed, and reset her alarm for a few hours later. She realized she didn't have to go far away to have fun, experience new things, or have a vacation. She would have a staycation with her family right here, all while supporting the local community. Relief and peace washed over her as she realized adventure was waiting right in the backyard.

And she is right! Adventure is in our backyard. While traveling is a blast, it's not a prerequisite to having a good time.

Floating Vacations

on local water

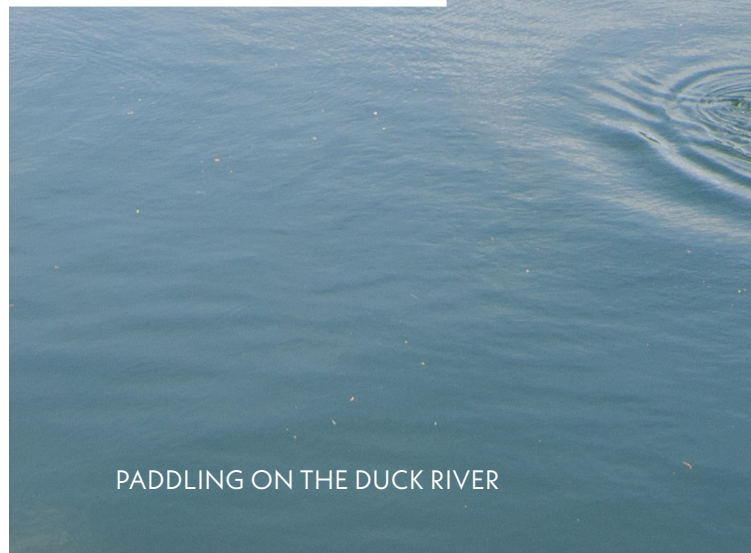
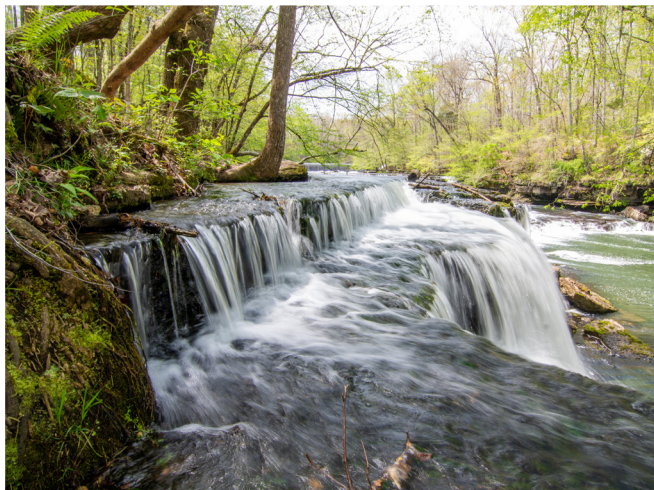
By Tina Neeley

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL FAR TO FIND A GREAT ESCAPE.

Whether it's relaxation or adventure you're seeking, you don't have to look far to find it. Middle Tennessee's waterways will refresh and restore you.

A lazy float with nature's soundtrack of birdsong and insect chatter will softly rock you. A bass or trout flopping at the end of your line will energize you in the morning and fill your stomach in the evening. A hike will inform you of archaeological landmarks and artifacts while amazing you with the vistas and viewpoints. The crackle and pop from the firepit will punctuate the laughter and conversation of friends and family. The options in our area are endless. You can plan for a weekend or a week and never run out of things to do and see.

Plan to explore our waters and their surrounding areas. Take advantage of the amenities offered by our state parks, including hiking trails, camping, fishing, floating, swimming, golfing, bird-watching, and a year-round schedule of activities and events. Make exploration of your home state a summer tradition.



PADDLING ON THE DUCK RIVER

A photograph of a person in a red kayak paddling down a wide, calm river. The river is surrounded by lush green trees and vegetation. In the distance, a concrete bridge spans across the river. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

A Duck River float will carry you away.

According to nature.org, the Duck River is one of the state's most scenic waterways and North America's most biologically diverse freshwater river. It is located entirely within the state of Tennessee and originates in the Barrens on the Highland Rim, flowing through seven Middle Tennessee counties. Its long deep pools and shallow stretches of mini-rapids wind 269 miles through Middle Tennessee.

Rentals are available in many locations and offer drop-off and pick-up services. Fill a cooler with snacks and drinks and launch your kayak or canoe at one of the many access points along the Duck River. Wood ducks, mallards, kingfishers, and songbirds serenade you. Expect to see deer, mink, and the shells of the once-endangered mussels. Look overboard for bass, channel catfish, and darters. Watch out for logs, limbs, gravel bars, and tricky drops that sometimes appear out of nowhere.

End your float with dinner at a nearby restaurant or cook over a campfire near the river. An overnight stay under the canopy of starlight is just what you need.

Remember to check the water current at tva.gov/environment/lake-levels/normandy by calling (800) 238-2264, or using their app, TVA Lake Info.



FLY FISHING ON THE ELK

The **Elk River** *trout are calling*

Located below Tims Ford Dam, the Elk River is popular for panfish and trout fishing. The tailwaters below the dam are about 50 feet wide with gravel bars and intermittent deep pools. For approximately 15 miles, brook, brown, and rainbow trout await you whether you wade, fish from a boat, or fish from the bank.

Wade into the river's pools as the morning's mist still hangs sleepily over it. A turtle splashes as it jumps clumsily from the fallen log. Squirrels chatter among the branches. Cicadas are waking. The day is already heating up, but you're not worried about checking the time. You have all the time in the world.

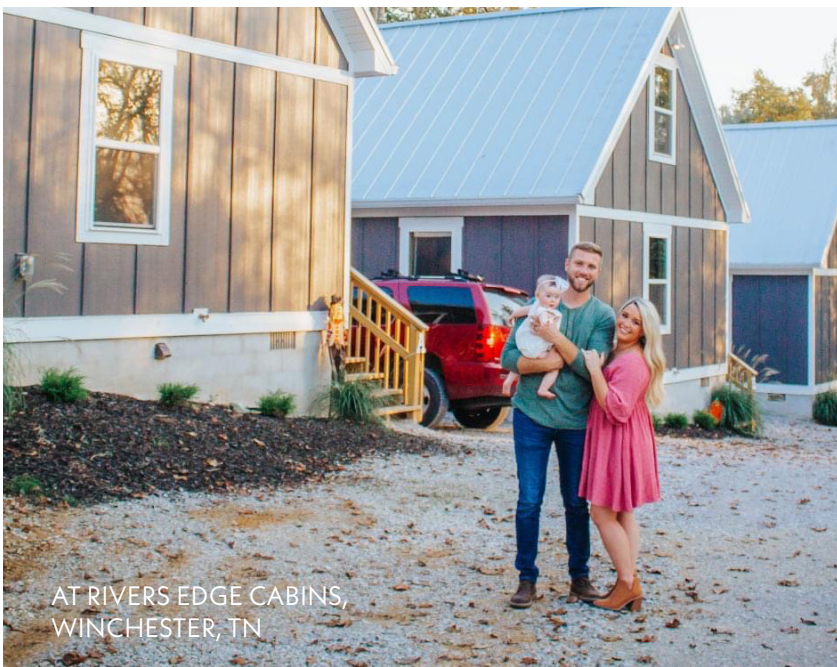
Take your catch back to your cabin at Rivers Edge and prepare a dinner of fresh trout and grilled veggies. Top off the evening in an Adirondack chair by the fire pit. Life is good.



**DON'T
FORGET
TO WEAR A
LIFEJACKET!**



AIRBNB CABIN IN KELSO, TN



AT RIVERS EDGE CABINS,
WINCHESTER, TN

Area Rentals

Need a place to stay while you explore the area? Want to rent a boat for a day on the water? Look no further:

Tims Ford Jet Ski Rentals
(931) 800-9793

Twin Creeks Marina
1260 Lynchburg Rd, Winchester
(931) 229-4095

Holiday Landing Marina
912 Old Awalt Rd., Tullahoma
(931) 455-3151

Tims Ford Marina
175 Marina Lane, Winchester
(931) 967-4509

Lucky Duck River Rentals at Halls Mill Market
871 Halls Mill Rd. Shelbyville
(931) 294-3474

Duck Canoe
1395 Highway 99, Lewisburg
(931) 364-2969

River Rat Canoe Rental
4361 Highway 431, Columbia, TN
(931) 381-2278

Elk River Canoe Rental
190 Smithland Rd., Kelso
(931) 937-6886

At Rivers Edge Cabin Rentals
148 Garner Ford Rd. Winchester
(678) 491-8480

Henry Horton State Park
Chapel Hill
(888) TN-PARKS

Tims Ford Lake *inviting water recreation*

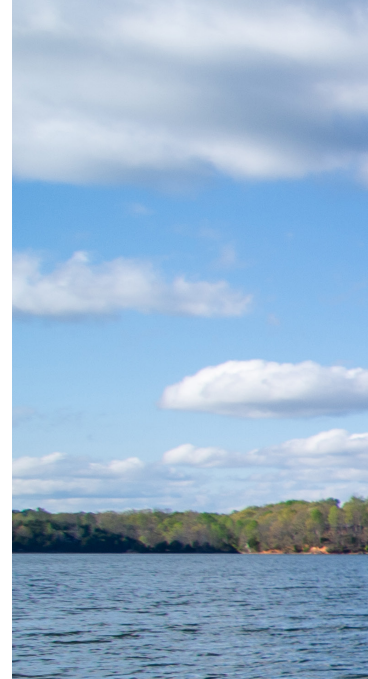
Tims Ford Reservoir is 10,600 acres in South Central Tennessee, a major portion of which is located in Franklin County. The lake is considered one of the most picturesque in Tennessee. It's regarded as one of the Southeast's top bass fishing and recreational lakes.

Play all day on the water. Kayaks, pontoons, paddleboards, jet skis, tubes – bring your own or rent from area marinas and shops. Crank up the music and work on your tan. Tighten up the kids' life jackets and holler with them as they swoosh down the pontoon slide, and pop up ready to go again.

Rather fish? Put your boat in and motor to your favorite spot. Pull into a shady cove and cast your line. Try a new lure or jig.

Consider overnight stays in the area campgrounds or cabins. You'll find RV hookups, showers, and laundry facilities. Evening activities and entertainment are often scheduled so look ahead and plan around your favorite ones.

There's something for everyone on Middle Tennessee's waters. Don't overlook your own backyard for this summer's vacation.



Where to Eat

Hard Dock Café at Tims Ford Marina - 175 Marina Lane, Winchester (800) 722-1164

Bluegill Grill at Holiday Landing Marina - 912 Old Awalt Rd., Tullahoma (931) 455-3151

Barrel House BBQ - 105 S. Mechanic St., Lynchburg (931) 759-5760

Walnut Hill Coffee Co. - 100 1st Ave W, Winchester (931) 313-5472



CRUISING
TIMS FORD LAKE



Miss Mary Bobo's Boarding House - 295 Main St., Lynchburg (931) 759-7394

Halls Mill Market - 871 Halls Mill Rd., Shelbyville (931) 294-3474

From the Heart Diner - 4384 Nashville Hwy, Suite 200, Chapel Hill (931) 364-4711

Nash Family Creamery - 4019 Hwy 41-A N, Chapel Hill (931) 294-2999

get familiar
with our **Wild
Neighbors**

Tims Ford Lake is a haven for wildlife. Whether on the water, in the sky or on land, there is always something to see.

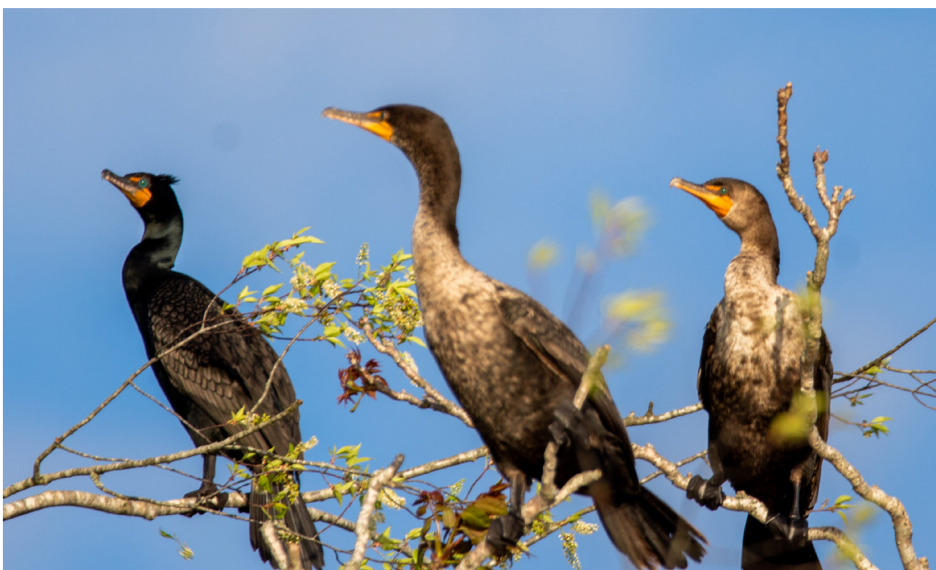


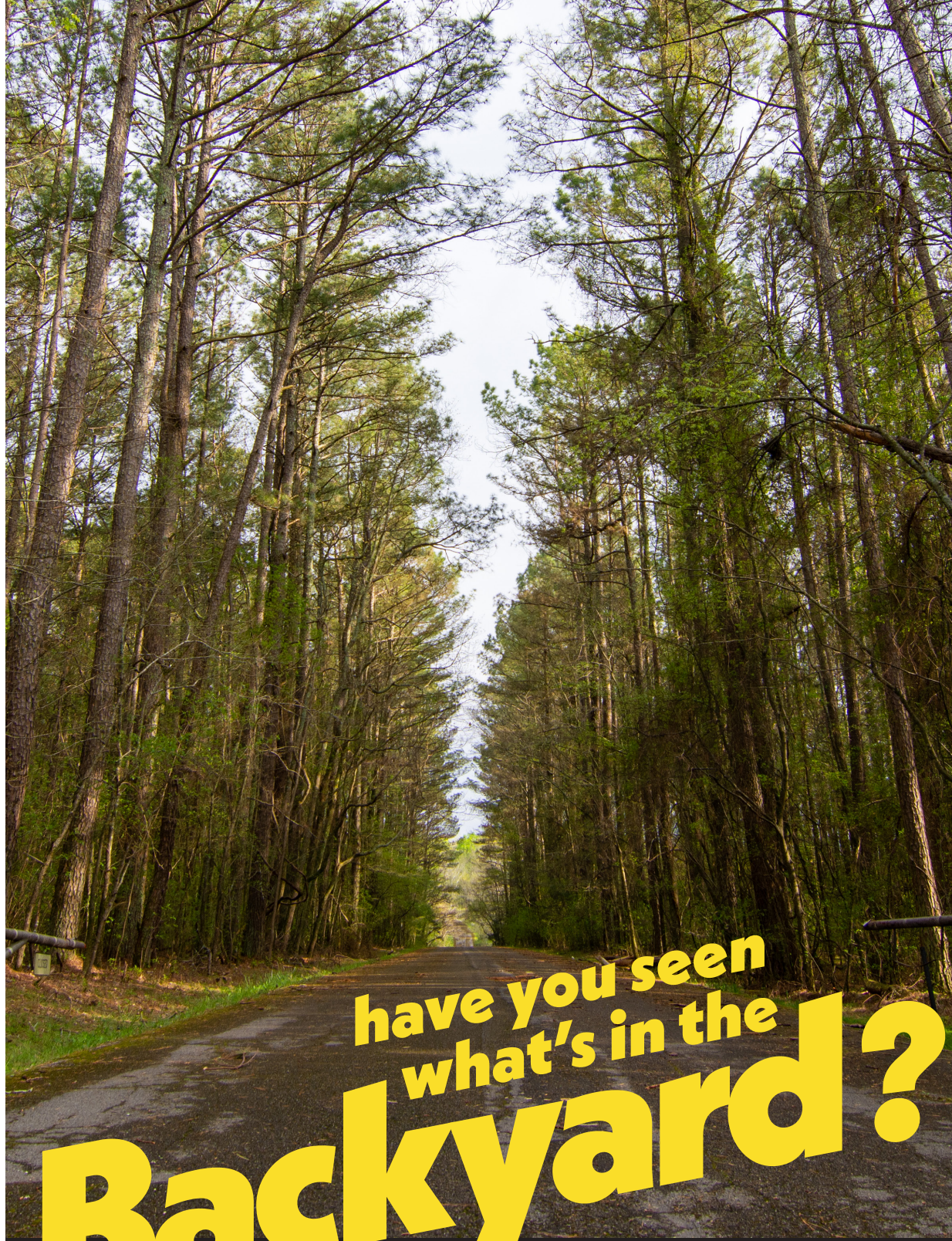
ON THIS PAGE: Northern Shoveler (top), White Tailed Deer, Canada Goose





ON THIS PAGE: Common Loon (top left), Crayfish (top right), Red Eared Slider (middle), Double Crested Cormorant (bottom left), Canada Goose nest (bottom right).





Right in our own backyard, we have access to one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. Henry Horton State Park (HHSP) neighbors the peaceful Duck River and is waiting to be explored. The park, built in the 1960s, has a variety of activities for visitors to enjoy. So pack your day bag and lace up your hiking boots; it's time to get outside!

By Julia Eads

**DISCOVER THE MANY
THINGS TO DO AT
HENRY HORTON
STATE PARK**



Fishing

There is no thrill like the one you experience when a fish bites down and takes hold of your bait! Then begins the battle of reeling the fish in before it can maneuver itself free. Whether you are an angler who enjoys fishing from the shore, wading through the water, or sitting in a small boat, HHSP has plenty of access points for anglers of all styles. Visitors often brag about catching largemouth and smallmouth bass, red-eye bass, catfish, and many other fish species.



Camping

Warmer weather is upon us, so we can finally pull out the camping gear. Spend these beautiful, sunny days exploring the outdoors. Then, as the day turns into a chilling night, cozy up by a crackling fire. Whether you are an outdoor enthusiast looking for the next challenge or simply wanting to take a family trip with your children to enjoy nature, HHSP has you covered. The park offers RV, tent, hammock, and backcountry campsites. Other than the backcountry campsites, every site is equipped with a grill, picnic table, and fire pit. Two bathhouses are available on location as well. Still too primitive for your taste? HHSP has cabins available for rent for those who want to enjoy the outdoors but have a bit more of the comforts of home. Book a campsite or cabin at HHSP today!

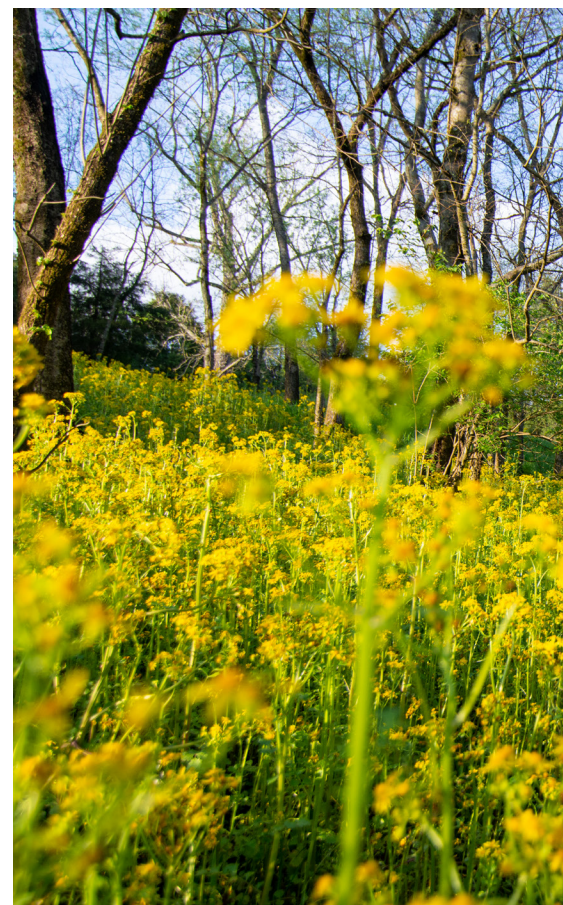


Golfing

Whether you are an experienced golfer looking at expanding your skill set or an amateur needing some practice, the heavily treed course at HHSP is the perfect place to spend your Saturday afternoon. The Buford Ellington championship 18-hole golf course has 37 bunkers, making it a pretty difficult course to navigate. So ditch your regular tee time at the country club and take a swing through these luscious trees! The younger crowd might be more prone to visit the 18-hole disc golf course. The best part about it is that it is free to the public!



COTTON THE OWL &
RANGER SHAUN RAINONE



Bird Watching

Hey! Don't knock it until you try it. While wildlife observation might be a laughing matter to some, those who have tried it have found themselves in awe. With over 1,500 acres, HHSP offers various landscapes for bird species of many types to inhabit and make their home. Over 70 species have been spotted and identified on park property. Will you be a first-time bird watcher? Here's a tip: be as quiet as possible. Silence is crucial. Once you get settled and still enough, you'll be able to hear and see activity. If you have never watched a massive heron hunt for fish in shallow waters, seen a wild turkey, or listened to an owl hoot right overhead, you are in for a real treat!



Hiking

The fun thing about taking off down a trail is the discovery. What is going to be around the next bend? What about over the next hill? With over 10 miles of hiking trails, HHSP is a perfect place to get outside, get some fresh air, exercise, and explore. There is always something unique, from deep sinkholes to desert-like cedar glades. As the Duck River neighbors the park, visitors can enjoy observing riverbank ecosystems or investigating remnants of an old mill and bridge. Just show up at HHSP, pick a trail, and follow the blaze!



Trap and Skeet Shooting

If you hear, “PULL!” you might want to hit the ground and take cover. The Henry Horton Trap and Skeet Range is one of the finest in the state. The range offers five skeet fields, two trap fields, and a lodge-style building with concessions. While you must be 18 years of age or a youth sportsman to participate in this activity, the good news is that you do not have to be a gun owner! Gun and ammo rentals are available on-site at the park. A fun-filled and safety ensured afternoon of shooting is just a short drive away!



HIKING
ALONG
THE DUCK
RIVER

Ride, drive, and Relax

By Tina Neeley // Photos by Brooke Snyder

CIRCLE E GUEST RANCH IS A PERFECT ESCAPE.

Sometimes you have to get away. All you can think about is the gentle rocking of your favorite horse as he carries you over fallen logs through rippling creeks. You can see the hills and hollows welcoming you as your horse rounds the slight bend. The birds sing and dart, and the wildlife scurries off the path as you amble along.

Or maybe the week's aggravations have pushed you so hard that you'd welcome the roar of your Razor. Its seat vibrates and is better than a Swedish massage, for what ails you. You're in your happy place, the driver's seat.

You can choose either experience at Circle E Guest Ranch on Highway 16 South in Belvidere. And you don't have to worry that one might interfere with the other. The highway neatly divides the ranch property – off-highway vehicles (OHVs) on one side and horseback riding on the other. The best of both worlds awaits you.

Whether for the day or for a week, everything you need for your stay is there. There are 10 cabins, or you can camp at one of their 250 campsites. The campsites have water and electricity, and some have sewer available. Stable your horse in one of their 370 stalls.





She'll be as cozy in the stall's shavings as you will be, sleeping in your cabarn (a cabin in the barn).

To say nature is the star of the show at the ranch, is an understatement.

Explore 120 miles of marked and mapped trails, tucked away in the Cumberland Mountains, at the edge of 100,000 acres. Follow the trails to views and vistas to renew your spirit and energize your mind and body. Feel

the mist from the waterfalls and splash in the creeks. Come in all four seasons to fill your phone's photo albums with images that will sustain you when you return to reality.

Ray Evans, the owner of Circle E, was inspired to build the ranch after a Friday through Sunday trail ride with his friends – so inspired that he began work on it the following Monday! It was a labor of love for a man who has spent his life in the

woods. Evans worked his whole life as a logger and ran a sawmill, working alongside his father. Logs cut and sawn by Evans, built the barns and cabins on the ranch. You might say the place is his pride and joy.

On the ranch's website, Evans said, "It makes me proud to know that I have built a place that folks come to from all over the United States and Canada. It just makes me feel good."

From guided horseback, OHV and Jeep rides, to guided hunts and events, attention to detail is everywhere you look. It's not a one-man job.

"I've surrounded myself with the best folks that could be had. They're second to none," said Evans.

During events, the restaurant is open with buffet meals and





concessions. Circle E welcomes the public to eat, even if you're not riding their trails or staying there. After a long, fun day of riding, let their restaurant do the cooking for you. Local bands are often scheduled and will end your day on a high note.

Check your calendar and register for upcoming events, and there are lots to choose from.

For the equestrian, there are organized rides with trail bosses, fast rides, slow rides, gaited rides, quarter horse rides, and more. The ranch's equestrian events page on the website is already filling up with something for everyone.

Ready to hit the trail in your OHV? They've got you covered! Check the website for upcoming events and opportunities to sling

some mud and raise money for a good cause or just because.

If you prefer a Jeep over an OHV or horse, you're in luck! Hit the trails in your Jeep. Test your abilities on the blindfolded obstacle course. Confident that your Jeep's rigged out? The Ramp Travel Index ramp will let you know how flexible you really are.

The home page of the ranch's website has captured the essence of the property and the experiences to be had there. If you've not been yet, go soon to Circle E Guest Ranch where you will find yourself, again and again. -GN

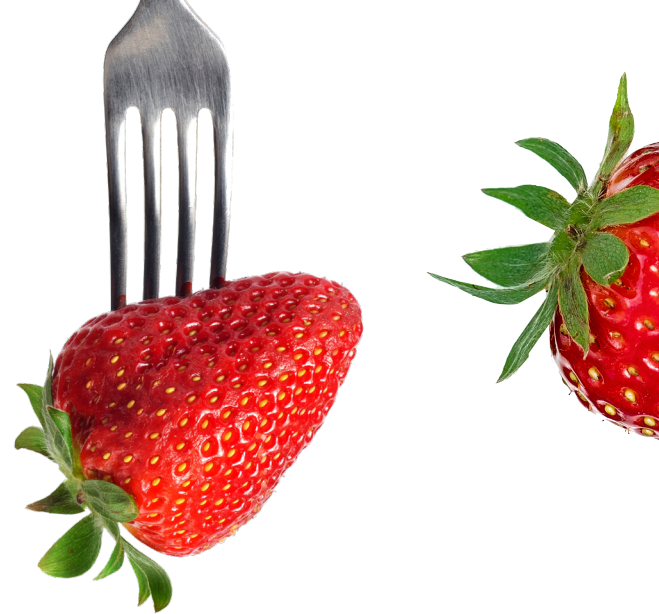
For more information, visit circleequestranch.com, follow the ranch on Facebook, or call (931) 962-1790.



Enjoy Your
Staycation!







REFRESHING SUMMER TREATS

straight out of
Mama's cookbook.

**It's ready;
come and get it!**

By Julia Eads

It's hard to want to eat a large meal after a long day working or playing out in the blistering heat.

You know you need something substantial to sustain you, yet you're so worn out. Those hearty winter meals, while tasty, sit too heavy on your stomach. That's the last thing you want. It sounds

like you need something light, refreshing, yet still incredibly appetizing. Well, fret no more. We have just the right lighter fare recipes to fill you up and get you on your way! By utilizing summer's perfectly ripe harvest and local recipes, we'll have your taste buds satisfied in no time. Just head to the produce stand, pick up some strawberries, and leave the rest to Mama!



Strawberry Lemonade

Morgan Hargrove

Ingredients

1 c. strawberries, chopped
1/4 c. lemon juice
1/2 c. sugar
1 can frozen lemonade concentrate
1 can water
1/2 c. powdered lemonade mix
2 bottles strawberry sparkling water
1/2 c. strawberry soda

Directions

Place chopped strawberries in a medium bowl with lemonade juice and sugar. Let sugar dissolve to make a syrup. Add lemonade concentrate and water. Stir in lemonade mix. Pour into a large pitcher. Add 1 bottle of sparkling water. Mix well. Add remaining sparkling water. Stir in strawberry soda.

Strawberry Trifle

In memory of Patricia Hopper

Ingredients

1 round angel food cake, torn into pieces
1 c. confectioner's sugar
1 pkg. cream cheese, 8 oz., softened
1 c. milk
2 qts. strawberries, sliced
2 bags strawberry glaze
1 container whipped topping, 8 oz.

Directions

Place the angel food cake pieces into a large bowl. Mix sugar, cream cheese, and milk together in a separate bowl, until smooth. Pour sugar mixture over the cake pieces. Layer sliced strawberries over cake mixture. Spread glaze evenly over strawberries; top with whipped topping. Refrigerate overnight.

Strawberry Preserves

Margie Drake

Ingredients

2 qts. strawberries
6 c. sugar
water, enough to boil berries

Directions

Scald strawberries for 2 minutes; drain. Put in pan and add 4 cups sugar; bring to a boil. Cook for 3 minutes after boiling begins; cool. Let stand 5 minutes; add remaining sugar and return to heat. Bring to boil; cook for 10 minutes. Remove from heat. Cool for 24 hours before putting into jars stirring occasionally. Jars do not have to be hot.



FAITH

Life Lessons on the Lawn

Learn what it takes to protect your spiritual house.

By Julia Eads


HAVE YOU ever given something away and later felt regret settle in? Last summer, I was push-mowing our grass. I thoroughly enjoy breaking a sweat and getting a little exercise while doing yard work. However, I have to admit our lawn was toeing the line of size appropriateness for push-mowing. It was a bit of a task. Plus, it was in the blistering heat of the summer, and I had a refreshing drink waiting by the poolside with my name on it.

I had already finished cutting our backyard and was working in the front yard, moving left to right. There is a

row of trees and an oddly placed bush between mine and my neighbor's lawn. When we purchased our home, the land survey showed these trees fell on our side of the property line. However, over the summer, any time I mowed the grass, I had slowly begun scooting our lines over and ending a few inches short. Besides, the neighbor was new to the subdivision and he had a riding lawn mower. Plus, it's not like he really knew the exact property lines either.

On this particular day, I was just about ready to release the blade control handle and call it a day. I was covered in sweat. My shoes were green and caked with clumps of grass, and mentally I was more than over it. However, the Holy Spirit spoke to me, "Is that all it takes for you to give up ground? Because you are tired? Because it is a little bit more work? Nobody even has to take it from you. You are just giving it away."





I was the owner of this land, and I was essentially willing to give it up because of my laziness. Inch by inch. And while that might seem insignificant to some, if you add an inch here or there over a trajectory of time, that is a lot of territory being forfeited! The Lord used a physical analogy to convey a message regarding my spiritual life.

The Bible says in John 10:10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy,” but I had become so passive and inattentive that the thief did not even have to come steal from me! I was freely giving up ground on my own! After wrestling in my head for a few moments, I leaned down, yanked at the lawnmower cord, and mowed my lawn to the fullest measure. This was not my neighbor’s grass to cut. It was mine, and I was no longer going to let laziness win. -GN

GOING DEEPER:

Where have you become lazy and forfeited ground? You’ve been given access, treasure, and territory. Don’t be so quick to let it go. Take ownership of it. Tend to it. Invest in it. It is time to hold tight.

“Protect, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.”

2 Timothy 1:14, NASB

“By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.”

2 Peter 1:3, NLT



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 Franklin 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





A party for POTATOES!



Decherd is a “spud”tacular
place to live and play.

By Julia Eads // Photos submitted by Terri Quick



WHAT ARE the marks of a fun and vibrant community? It's both the community's willingness and ability to gather together to celebrate just about anything and everything. You shouldn't wait for a grandiose reason to assemble and play. Thankfully, the community of Decherd seems to feel the same way. Over 2,000 people made their way to downtown Decherd to hear live music, visit food trucks, participate in contests and cookoffs, and play games on April 2, 2022. Do you know for what reason? For potatoes! The Old Town Decherd Merchants Association and many other sponsors held the first ever Decherd Potato Festival this year.

While a festival celebrating potatoes may seem odd at first, there is more significance between the common root vegetable and Decherd. Like many towns in Middle Tennessee, Decherd partially owes its beginnings to the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, completed in 1851. Decherd was founded in 1853. Over the next few decades, Decherd became known as a shipping and processing point for many agricultural products. Most specifically, Decherd was known for its large potato houses filled with the brown root vegetable. In fact, in the 1930s and

1940s, sacked potatoes being shipped in railcards to larger markets or Northern states is what, in essence, put Decherd on the map. So celebrating potatoes is truly a creative way to celebrate our heritage here in Tennessee.

The event itself was well-attended despite being the festival's first year. Those in attendance had plenty to do and eat, as multiple food truck vendors and sponsors lined the streets. Four different artists played live music throughout the day. There was an ongoing silent auction and door prizes as well as local vendors set up, offering those in attendance a place to purchase local artisan goods. An "Eye of the Potato" parade strolled through the streets at 11 a.m. and was immediately followed up by a Potato Cook-Off contest. Winners with the best sweet potato casserole and potato soup recipes went home with cash prizes.

The most popular part of the festival was an inviting Kids' Zone nicknamed the Lil Spuds Zone. The zone was organized and sponsored by Highland Rim Habitat for Humanity, Nissan, and Zaxby's of Manchester. At the festival, children had access to a mini petting zoo, a face painting station, a photo booth, a potato launcher, a potato toss game, and more! With the parent's permission, each child

left with handfuls of candy and a free toy. Terrie Quick, Highland Rim Habitat for Humanity president, shared, "We love kids and love making people happy. Running the kid's zone was a blast. With COVID being over, it's really nice to be able to be out in the community, in a safe area, and enjoy things for free."

Next year's festival is tentatively scheduled for April 1, 2023. **-GN**



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

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COMMUNITY EVENTS



Chamber Business Expo

Photos by Cassie Fulmer, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce

Food trucks, tractors, and souped-up trucks lined the streets as the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce held the 28th Annual Business Expo and Marketplace. The event took place on April 7 at Monterey Station in Cowan. Attendees had the chance to stroll through balloon-lined walkways and visit close to a hundred different exhibits. Exhibits hosted by local business vendors had various door prizes and giveaways.





Pack the Park Car Show

Photos submitted by Terrie Coleman

The sound of rumbling car engines traveled throughout Decherd, to John L. Sanders Park, on April 9. Vehicle enthusiasts gathered there for the 10th Semiannual Pack the Park Car and Truck Show. The day provided perfect weather for strolling around admiring the vehicles of all makes and models and from classic to unusual.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

CONTINUED



Chamber Coffee

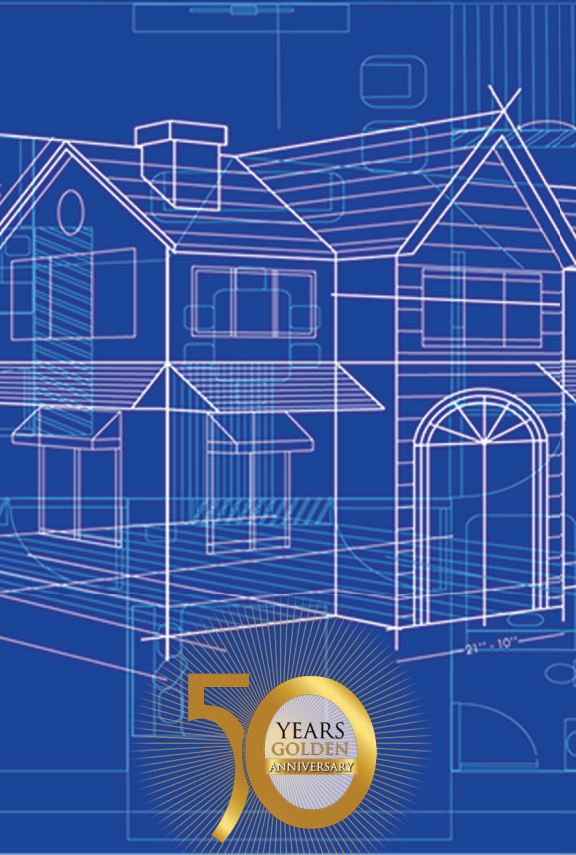
Photos by Cassie Fulmer, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce

Franklin County Prevention Coalition (FCPC) sponsored a Coffee Connection on April 11, 2022 at Winchester Livery. FCPC brings people and organizations together to reduce youth substance abuse and violence through education and prevention strategies in Franklin County. Members of the Franklin County Chamber were able to hear firsthand about FCPC strategies and efforts as well as network with other businesses in town.





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GOOD TIMES

EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE 2022

May 21

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

5:00 pm Acoustic Club
Franklin County Senior Citizens, Inc.
74 Clover Dr. Winchester

Each Saturday evening, play your instruments or come out and listen to great music.

5:00 pm Eco Print and Photography by Mary Ann Morrison
Franklin County Art Guild
204 East Cumberland St., Cowan

8:00 pm Dark Star Orchestra
The Caverns
555 Charlie Roberts Rd., Pelham

May 27

7:00 am Friday Night Concert Series Featuring Salem Creek
South Jackson Civic Center
404 South Jackson St., Tullahoma

Courtyard Stage. Bring your own chair.

May 29

5:00 pm Cacophony Community show
Franklin County Art Guild 204 East Cumberland St., Cowan

June 1

10:00 am Join us weekly for STORYTIME!
Franklin County Public Library,
105 S. Porter St., Winchester

June 4

8:00 am Silent Art Auction at the Artisan Depot Gallery
Franklin County Art Guild, 204 East Cumberland St., Cowan

A Franklin County Arts Guild Fundraiser for Art Scholarship awarded to a high school student from Franklin County.

Bidding from April to June 4

11:00 am Miss Charitable Heart
The Rain Teen Center, 1910 Sharp Springs Rd., Winchester

8 divisions! Ages 0-20+ No residency restrictions. All proceeds will be donated to benefit Adam Parks and his family while on their journey to getting him a kidney transplant!

1:30 pm The Angel Wings Project Summer Series: Art Journaling (Adults)
Franklin County Art Guild 204 East Cumberland St., Cowan

This is a kick-off to the summer series. Learn how to unlock your creativity and start your summer art journal.

Two hour workshop.
\$30 per person.
Canvas & Journal Included.

June 5

10:00 am Homecoming
Wilder Chapel Rd., Dechard

Event by Wilder Chapel Congregational Methodist Church.

By Faith singers, and food will be served following service.



June 9

**2:00 pm Peaceful Depths -
Summer Lake Retreat**

June 9 - 12
Estill Springs, Tennessee

We would be over the moon if you joined us at our Summer Lake Retreat!

This is a retreat to help you dive deep within yourself. This is an opportunity to discover your depths while building connections with like-minded women. It's a chance to heal the relationship with your inner child as you set the foundation for your highest self.

June 11

**6:00 pm 1970s "Decade"
Reunion of FCHS**

349 Belvidere Rd., Belvidere

We are having a reunion for all classmates from the years 1970-1979. Any other fellow FCHS graduates are also welcome to attend.

We will have live entertainment from The Hairy Canary Band.

Cost to attend in advance:
Couple-\$25. Single-\$15.
Night of event: \$5 extra added to the above cost.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Wright via Facebook messenger or mikewright0154@gmail.com or Ronnie Curtis via Facebook messenger.

June 18

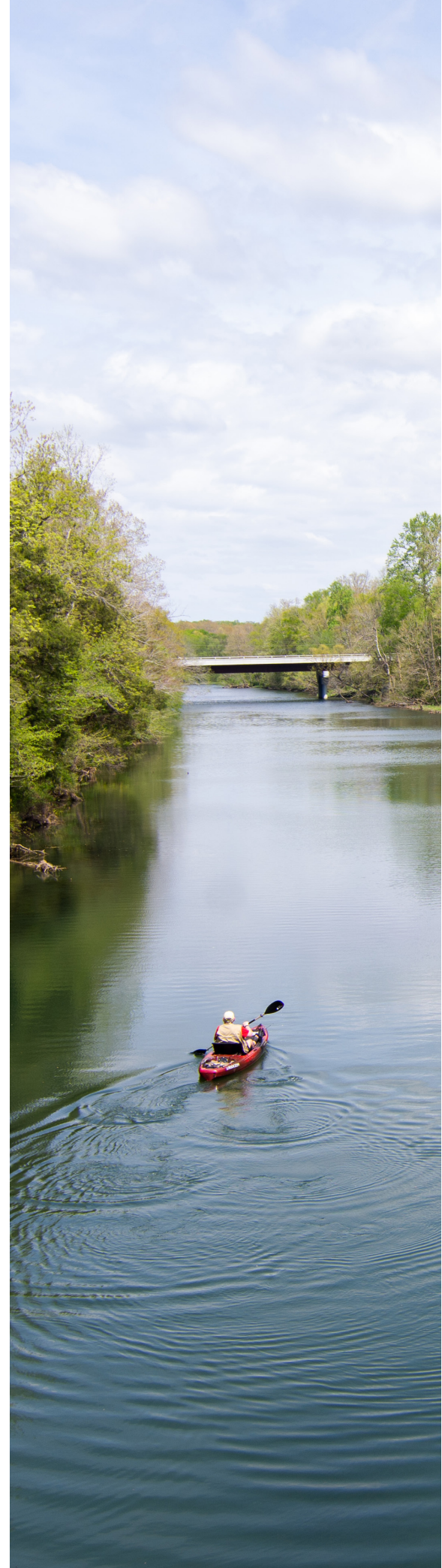
**12:00 pm An Evening with
The Oak Ridge Boys**

Franklin County High School
833 Bypass Rd., Winchester

A Piece of History
Theirs is one of the most distinctive and recognizable sounds in the music industry. The four-part harmonies and upbeat songs of The Oak Ridge Boys have spawned dozens of Country hits and a Number One Pop smash, earned them Grammy, Dove, CMA, and ACM awards, and garnered a host of other industry and fan accolades.

For more events visit:

[www.goodnewsmags.com/
franklin-county-events](http://www.goodnewsmags.com/franklin-county-events)



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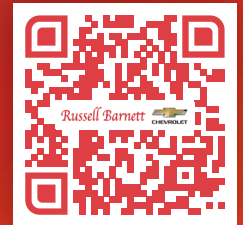


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