

# Good News MANCHESTER

JULY 2022

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Across America*



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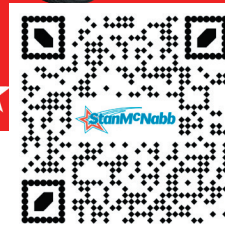
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JULY 2022

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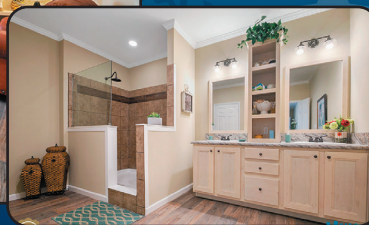
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# The Sound of Trumpets

Independence for a more perfect union.

**I**F YOU took a snapshot of any 10 years in our country's history, there is a hurt we were trying to heal. The same is true today. It's our independence that lets us correct that, to heal, and to build our country up for a more perfect union. We can all be made by the same Creator and still land somewhere else on what we believe. We can be different. That is the beauty of independence. This land is your land; this land is my land. Sometimes, people just want to feel heard. And finding a common ground through compromise can be the answer. Learning to listen is the answer.

We can be better because of the people in our communities. Those who allow us to be independent provide an open field. We can run for miles into the unknown, and while it's scary, we know we are capable of whatever waits on the other side. We can run with the wind to our backs, hitting the ground to the beat of drums and trumpets that empower us. The same trumpets that rang as we fought a civil war to end slavery. The same drums that banged as we flew to Europe to end the second world war. The same trumpets that helped us stand in September of 2001.

While perfection is almost impossible to attain, it's our duty to fight for it every day. To get closer to the threshold of freedom and equality for everyone. Independence is a blessing that paints a beautiful picture of blues and reds, that when you pull away, makes a purple you can only find between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

This issue of Good News highlights those in our community that make us better. It's their independence, and fight to obtain it, that make us who we are.



*Wesley Bryant*  
**Wesley Bryant,**  
MANAGING EDITOR

## From our readers



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— *Lori Burtts, Adult and Pediatric Dermatology Skin Solutions, Tullahoma*

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INSIDE GOOD NEWS

## Meet the Team

We asked three Good News team members:  
*"How has working on the Good News team changed you?"*



### **BRIANNA BRUBAKER**

*Layout Artist*

"When you work on a magazine with a mission to spread love, joy, and positive news, it's really hard not to apply those same principles to your personal life. This wonderful opportunity has brought me so much hope as I watch the community come together to celebrate their local heroes."



### **TINA NEELEY**

*Story Writer*

"Working with the Good News team fuels my passion for stories that encourage, uplift, and remind us we're not alone in our life experiences. It has also teamed me with other creative spirits that energize my work and motivate me to grow and learn and impact our communities."



### **MICHELLE HARWELL**

*Proofreader*

"With no experience and very little confidence in myself, I joined the Good News team with a lot of apprehension. I had definitely stepped out of my comfort zone. As someone who always second guesses herself, I was doubtful about my decision and had some concerns. What do I have to offer? Will I "fit in?" Will I be an asset to the team? Do I have what it takes to "learn the ropes" of this new position? There were so many questions that would eventually be answered. Everyone on the team was so positive and inspiring. They welcomed me and assured me that I would do a great job. I've learned so much from each of them, and their continuous encouragement has helped bring me "out of my shell." As a proofreader working alongside the managing editor, I gained a lot of knowledge very quickly. But that's not the only thing I gained. I gained more confidence in myself, and I also gained the opportunity to be a small part of an amazing team, working together, doing big things and bringing Good News to our communities!"





# 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.*











CITY NEWS

# Lemonade Day comes to Manchester

The chamber of commerce initiates a student entrepreneurship program in schools.

By Sara McClaran // Photos by Ashleigh Newnes

**M**AY 19 is officially Lemonade Day in Manchester, Tennessee, and the day means a lot more than just a celebration of a delicious drink. Vice Mayor Mark Messick made the official proclamation on May 10, 2022, but the day and the initiation of the program that inspired it were spearheaded by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

“We’ve got a fantastic chamber of commerce – they’re very active and they do very good jobs, and they deserve all the credit for this,” Messick said. “I just happen to be lucky enough to be where... I could do the proclamation.”

Executive director of the chamber of commerce, Katy Riddle, heard about Lemonade Day at a chamber of commerce conference. Lemonade Day is a national youth entrepreneurship program based in Texas, that teaches students how to create a business plan, market a product, and make a profit.

“I knew that I had to bring it to Manchester,” Riddle said. “We immediately reached out to the school system to see how we could partner to bring this to Manchester, and it took a little while in order to figure out how we wanted to implement it,





but we were so lucky to have the support of both the city of Manchester and the Manchester City Schools, so that every fourth grader at Westwood and College Street Elementary schools will be given the curriculum.”

Riddle said that while there are Lemonade Days all across the United States, Manchester is only the second community to implement the program in Tennessee. Manchester has also implemented the program differently than any other community.

“This curriculum is being taught by the teachers in the classroom,” Riddle said. “In other communities they disseminate the information, typically through someone like a chamber of commerce, and then it becomes a self-guided program – but what we’re doing is giving every student in fourth grade a chance to learn this information.”

Besides the four main learning components of the program, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, self-reliance, and community development, Lemonade Day teaches kids about business creation, branding, and business competition. The learning poten-

tial was the greatest benefit of the program for Messick.

“We ought to do more stuff like this,” Messick said. “So children won’t be so illiterate when they graduate, as far as balancing a checkbook and knowing how to make money.”

Riddle said while being able to implement Lemonade Day was expensive for the chamber of commerce, the community responded by surpassing the fundraising goal. The extra funds will be put towards sustaining the program for the future. Besides fundraising, the Manchester community has been involved in providing volunteers, donating signage, and hosting one of the twelve lemonade stands across Manchester.

“I mean, this really has been a true community partnership,” Riddle said. “The community development, workforce initiative, economic development – that’s what a chamber of commerce is all about, so I feel like Lemonade Day encapsulates all of those things.” GN





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COUNTY NEWS

## Local nonprofit spreads art across Tennessee

Nonprofit paints murals throughout the community.

By Sara McClaran // Photography by Odinn Media

MURALS CAN make a drab, broken wall beautiful and bring a dreary city to life again. The Coffee County-born nonprofit DO. MORE. ART.-events (DMA-events) has been working tirelessly to bring beautiful wall art to not only Manchester and Tullahoma, but across Tennessee. DMA-events has installed over 40 large-scale murals in more than a dozen communities throughout Tennessee and is in the process of installing two more in Tullahoma and Sweetwater.

“At the heart of our work, we’re devoted to improving communities across the country through art installations and education, in the pursuit of a prettier world,” said president and co-founder, Kristin Luna, “Public art is a unifier—it’s free for everyone to access, regardless of age, race or socioeconomic status—which is why we find it so important to champion art in communities like Manchester and Tullahoma.”

Luna, a Tullahoma native herself, said that she and her husband came up with the idea after moving to a historic house in downtown Manchester.

“Through our travels, we naturally gravitated to towns and neighborhoods that had come alive through public art,” Luna said. “We wanted to infuse that sense of placemaking in Manchester.”

DMA-events’ work began in 2018, after they arranged for a Southern magnolia flag mural on the side of Wheeler Construction & Restoration in Manchester.

“We had intended to do just one mural and that be it,” Luna said. “We both work full-time as journalists and also have a company, Odinn Media, that handles the tourism marketing for many destinations across the South, so we already have jobs











"American Flag" by TaraAversa

we love. But many Manchester locals asked us to do more art after that first mural, so we found ourselves starting a nonprofit committed to doing just that."

Most recently, DMA-events began an initiative, "Walls for Women," to honor the 19th Amendment Centennial, in 2020. Those murals include "Wisteria Maiden" in Tullahoma, "Punch Bug" in Centerville, and "Lady Justice" in Columbia, among others. In 2021, Tullahoma native, Collin Shuran, produced a documentary that chronicled the project titled "Walls for Women."

"'Walls for Women' is what brought us national attention," Luna said. "We were covered nationally in more than 50 stories, by publications like Parade, Forbes, and Food + Wine, as well as the recipients of the Tennessee Daughters of the American

Revolution state award for media and public relations."

Luna said that they've seen the art of the murals drive tourism, stimulate economic development, and improve the well-being of the community – as well as create a sense of identity in rural areas and forgotten communities. In addition, DMA-events brings a wide variety of artists and art styles to Coffee County. Some of the artists are from Coffee County, like Manchester natives, Jennifer Hodge and Sarah Pearson, and Tullahoma native, Jenalee Ipock, but many come from other states or even countries like Japan.

"Murals drive more attention to the business and community and as a result, provide ongoing marketing value that you just can't buy," Luna said. "The question should be: Why aren't all rural communities championing mural programs?" **GN**



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SCHOOL NEWS

# Coffee County students implement service project for Blue Monarch

Chick-fil-A Leader Academy teaches students to be leaders.

By Sara McClaran



FOR THE first time, Coffee County Central High School (CCCHS) has been able to implement the full scope of a new program to facilitate student leadership. The Chick-fil-A Leader Academy is a seven-month curriculum that teaches important leadership skills as well as guiding them through two service projects. CCCHS first implemented the program in the 2019-2020 year, but was only able to do the first of the projects, a school-based project “Do Good December,” before the program was cut short for a year and a half by COVID-19.

The second project, a large-scale community project “Impact Through Action,” was just completed for the first time. The project was student initiated, student led, and student implemented, focusing on benefiting the children of the nonprofit Blue Monarch. Blue Monarch is a residential recovery program focused on serving women and children dealing with addiction, domestic violence, and economic hardship. The students of the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy planned a carnival day for the children, complete with face paint, a bouncy house, food, and many other games.

“The kids did everything... they planned the games, they planned the snacks, we had students

reaching out to businesses asking for donations,” Sponsor of the program, Lacey Brown, said. “Our leaders got up early and came and set everything up and just gave them a little field day, kind of where they could do some things that they don’t normally.”

Brown said the project was a huge success, especially for it being their first year, and she is excited to see what the students are able to achieve in the future.

“The plan is to do it each year, and I feel like it’s only going to get bigger,” Brown said. “I’m excited about that, to see where we can go.”

Lacy Cote was also a sponsor for the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy and said the biggest impact of the project was on the students, rather than the focus of the project itself. Students involved began to realize they could make a difference in the lives of those around them, and many wanted to continue volunteering even after they graduated the academy.

“My favorite part is watching students go from unsure of themselves and the program, to being confident, strong, leaders who develop, plan and implement a small project to an entire day of service, all on their own,” Cote said. “Seeing their ideas come to fruition is such an amazing process to watch.” GN



# Veteran teacher recognized at Coffee County Central High School

Kelly Smith is awarded Champion Teacher.

By Sara McClaran // Photo contributed by Megan Hardy

**A**MONG THE many teachers recognized by Coffee County High School's (CCHS) Champion Teacher program is veteran psychology teacher, Kelly Smith. Smith grew up in Coffee County and attended CCHS and has been teaching in the same school system for 28 years.

Smith's consistency in her actions and results brought her up for the honor—CCHS Principal Paul Parsley said Smith was an amazing teacher whose students always had excellent Advanced Placement scores.

"Kelly is conscientious about her lesson planning and is always careful to be on time and in her assigned area," Parsley said. "She is reliable, which is much appreciated."

Part of the teacher's job, Smith said, was to help kids learn not just school work but life skills and social skills. She said her favorite part of teaching was the mentor relationships formed with the kids and the ability to support them when they need it.

"I just try to make sure I'm always doing what I'm asked to do," Smith said. "There on time and just doing my job." **GN**





INDUSTRY NEWS

# Industrial parks pave the way for growth.

Coffee County continues to maintain POLICOM ranking.

By Sara McClaran

**M**ANCHESTER HAS always had a history in industry. It was named after the first industrialized city in the world, Manchester, England, and in the 1800s was home to several mills that harnessed the Duck River. Today the Manchester economy is steadily growing enough so that the independent economic research firm POLICOM has ranked the Manchester/Tullahoma area in economic strength as the second best micropolitan in the state of Tennessee. A large part of that strength is the result of the many industrial parks residing in Coffee County. While the two parks in Tullahoma – the Tullahoma Business Airpark and the Tullahoma Industrial Park – are a big part of that, there are a few that are closer to home for those in Manchester.



## JOINT INDUSTRIAL PARK

Midway between the cities of Manchester and Tullahoma lies a 395-acre stretch of land dedicated to the industrial development of Coffee County. Established in 2001 by the combined efforts of Manchester, Tullahoma, and Coffee County, the Coffee County Joint Industrial Park (CCJIP) holds a 49-acre Select TN Certified Site as well as 35 other lots varying from 3 acres to 32. Currently, the park is home to several businesses, including MDS Foods, SEYI, a Duck River Electric Membership Corporation substation, Omar Medical Supplies, and Fischer Tool and Die Storage. The joint industrial park is located uniquely close to both the University of Tennessee Space Institute and the U.S. Air Force's Arnold Engineering Development Center, providing access to exceptional research and development facilities.

## MANCHESTER INDUSTRIAL PARK

The Manchester Industrial Park lies inside the city of Manchester, boasting a 405-acre tract of land with over 270 acres Select TN certified. As with the CCJIP, Select TN Certified Sites have numerous incentives to bring business to the community. Multiple grants are available, offering anything from infrastructure to job training and economic development. The Coffee County Industry Board is also continually working to bring more businesses to the area. Dot Foods, Inc. is a perfect example of this, with a plan to establish a new distribution facility in Manchester, but there are still many unfilled lots.

## INTERSTATE INDUSTRIAL PARK

Unlike the Manchester and joint industrial parks, the Interstate Industrial Park's 795 acres are completely developed, and home to 24 industries that employ over 2,700 people. The park was originally a part of the Arnold Air Force Base, but since its purchase in 1977 it has driven significant economic growth in Manchester. More information on this park and the others in Coffee County can be found at the Industrial Board of Coffee County at [coffeetn.com](http://coffeetn.com). **GN**

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COUNTY NEWS

## Coffee County track teams break records.

A history of excellence continues as both girls and boys teams make it to the state championship.

By Sara McClaran

WHILE IT may not always be as celebrated as other sports, track and cross country athletes work just as hard – and at Coffee County Central High School, they are no less successful. Throughout the spring track season multiple athletes have broken school records, and the track teams as a whole have continued their record of excellence.

“It’s a sport that we’re highly competitive in,” head track coach Matt Rossman said. “Our cross country team – both boys and girls – went to the state championship this

year for the first time in school history.”

While Rossman has many years of experience coaching basketball in Coffee County, he is relatively new to Coffee County’s track and cross country programs. He has been active in both finding competitive events and keeping up with the team’s record history, supported by assistant coaches Chris Welch and Jon and Nikki Helms.

“He’s looked back at several of the records that have been written down and has been very diligent as we’ve competed to



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*“Our cross country team – both boys and girls – went to the state championship this year for the first time in school history.”*

Matt Rossman

see, you know, how our kids are stacking up against past records,” Co-Athletic Director Brad Costello said. “The track program at Coffee County has been around for a long time, so for any kid to come in and break records is an awesome achievement because there’s been some great athletes who have competed for our track teams in the past,” Costello said.

The team has not had a home meet this semester due to Rossman’s late start, but Costello said the track team has been very successful – especially against some of the stronger opponents like Murfreesboro, Riverdale, Oakland, and Stewarts Creek.

“We’re talking about some really, really good athletes and our kids are hanging right there with them,” Costello said. “It’s been a good year so far.”

“Track is often considered a smaller sport compared to sports like football and basketball,” Costello said, “and sometimes the athletes in track don’t get the recognition they deserve.” He said he hopes the athletes get the same recognition for their hard work and successes as all of the other sports.

“There’s been a lot of good athletes who have competed for Coffee County track teams in the past who’ve been very successful, and I think this year is the same – a lot of good athletes. They practice hard, they work hard, they compete hard,” Costello said. “They’ve had a lot of successes this year, so I think really more than anything they’ve just continued, kind of, the tradition that has been set by Coffee County.” **GN**



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PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES





# *Lights, camera,* *and* REMODEL

Coffee County Central High School's auditorium receives a much-needed facelift.

By Julia Eads // Photos by Brooke Snyder

**M**AYBE IT'S the pollen, but something about springtime creates an itch within us all to get busy. Whether it's a simple task like cleaning out a cluttered closet or a more elaborate one such as adding on a sunroom or a screened-in porch, the start of spring gets wheels churning for project boards and "honey-do" lists that last all summer long.

A particular project that will affect countless people within our community is taking place within the auditorium at Coffee County Central High School (CCCHS). The auditorium at CCCHS has been in dire need of updating for decades. CCCHS Principal Paul Parsley shared, "Our auditorium is utilized for theater productions, music productions,

large school meetings, and even community events from time to time. Over the years, the theater has become worn and dated." If you have ever visited the space for a band performance, choir concert, play, or any other event, you might have been mildly disappointed by the hospitable capacity of the space. The auditorium contained worn and tattered seats, spotty microphones, and ancient speakers that popped and hummed. Though there was an undeniable nostalgic charm that the old theater radiated, everything has an expiration date. Make way for a new start to be born!

Initially, the remodel plans consisted of tearing out and replacing the old seating, and carpet flooring, then adding a fresh layer of paint. These updates were made



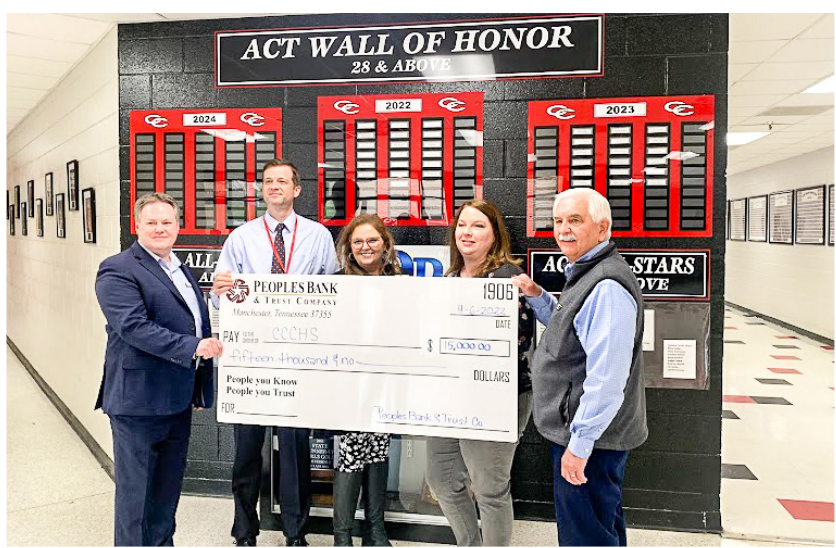


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ROB CLUTTER



*“Our auditorium is utilized for theater productions, music productions, large school meetings, and even community events from time to time. Over the years, the theater has become worn and dated.”*

– Principal Paul Parsley



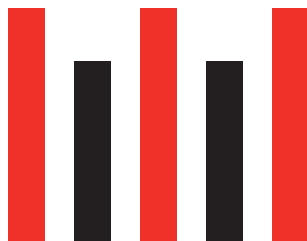




possible by a combination of local and federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. However, when President Phillip Calahan of Peoples Bank and Trust heard the project had run out of funds and that none of the sound equipment or technology within the auditorium would be replaced, he decided that the bank would do everything they could to help.

After a few internal meetings, Peoples Bank and Trust decided to donate a \$15,000 check to cover the cost of a top-of-the-line sound system, including new speakers, a soundboard, wireless microphones, hanging choir microphones and amps, and the installation fees associated with the project. Parsley shared, “We are most thankful for People’s Bank of Manchester and their commitment to the school and our students. The financial contribution from the bank will assure a high quality of sound for our theater and music productions and meetings.”

If you were to step foot inside the auditorium today, you would see the beginning phases of the demolition. All of the old chairs and floors have been removed, leaving the space feeling empty and cold. However, new life and creativity will be flowing out of the room soon, as several contractors are working tirelessly on the various parts of the renovation. With all hands on deck the project is set to be complete by fall, just in time for the new school year. Parsley concluded, “Our school stakeholders and our arts programs in particular are excited about what the new and clean look will bring. We are all looking forward to putting the newly renovated theater to use.” **GN**

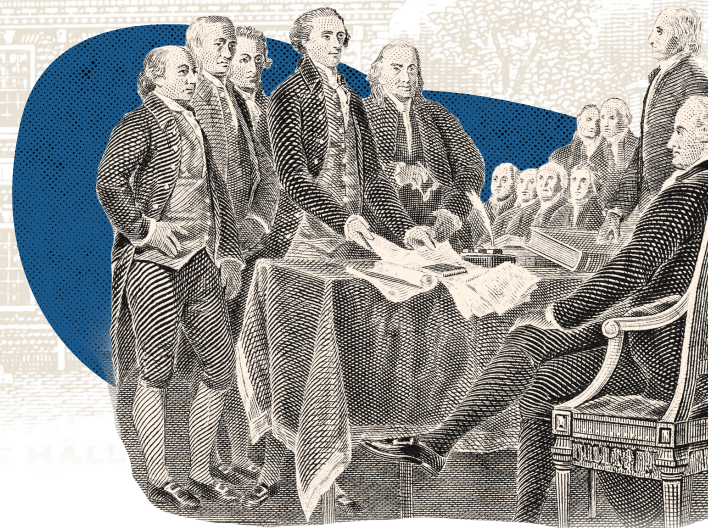
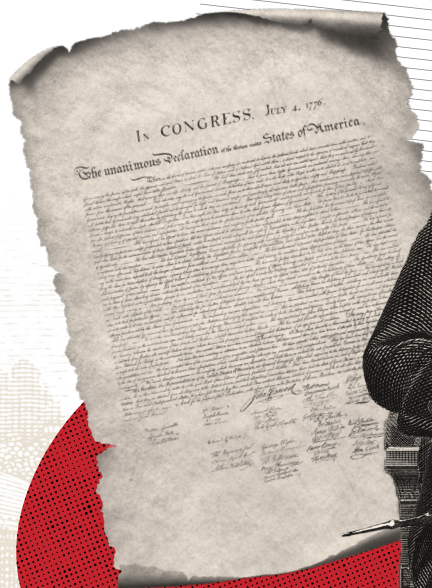




# MORE THAN FIREWORKS & COOKOUTS

Independence Day's history plays a part.

By Tina Neeley



Here are fun facts to challenge your players:

## DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE:

John Hancock's was the first and only one on July Fourth. The remaining signatures were added over time, following the Fourth of July.

The average age of the signers was 45. The youngest was 27, Thomas Lynch, Jr., and the oldest was Benjamin Franklin, at age 70.

Two signers went on to become U.S. presidents: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Coincidentally, Jefferson and Adams both died on July 4, 1826, within hours of each other.

The Declaration of Independence began as a letter to Britain's King George explaining why the Continental Congress desired its independence from Great Britain.

The writing took three days. It began on July 2 and was completed on July 4, 1776.

56 signatures appear on the Declaration of Independence.



**F**IREWORKS SHOWER the night sky in brilliant colors. Red, white, and blue punctuate the explosions. Friends and family enjoy homemade ice cream in scattered lawn chairs on freshly-mown grass while the children play nearby. As the grill and the humidity cool down, a day of celebration is wrapping itself in pyrotechnic glory, preparing for its finale. It's been good to be together again.

But Independence Day is more than a federal holiday offering an extra day off. The celebrations we enjoy are possible because of our forefathers' hard work and commitment to freedom.

We will always have much to learn from our country's journey to independence. The July Fourth holiday is the ideal time to explore its history, if only for a few minutes each year. Consider adding a history trivia game to your celebration.



ILLUSTRATION: BRIANNA BRUBAKER

#### PHILADELPHIA'S INDEPENDENCE HALL:

Formerly the Pennsylvania Statehouse. It was the location of the declaration's adoption.

#### LIBERTY BELL:

Philadelphia is the birthplace of much of America's history and is home to the Liberty Bell. Each Independence Day, the bell is tapped 13 times in honor of the original 13 American colonies.

#### AMERICAN FLAG:

The stars on the original American flag were placed in a circle so all of the colonies would be equally represented.

#### NATIONAL BIRD:

Benjamin Franklin proposed the turkey as the national bird of the United States. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson overruled him, and the bald eagle became the national bird.

**Your Independence Day trivia game will grow each year with our country's rich history and today's easy access to information. Your knowledge and appreciation for your country and the freedom it affords, will grow exponentially as well. Now, that's a fun fact!**

**Explore America's history and find more fun facts at [American-history.net](http://American-history.net). GN**



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# Good News

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A rustic wooden plank with a teal geometric shape in the bottom left corner.

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# Southern Healing & Good Karma

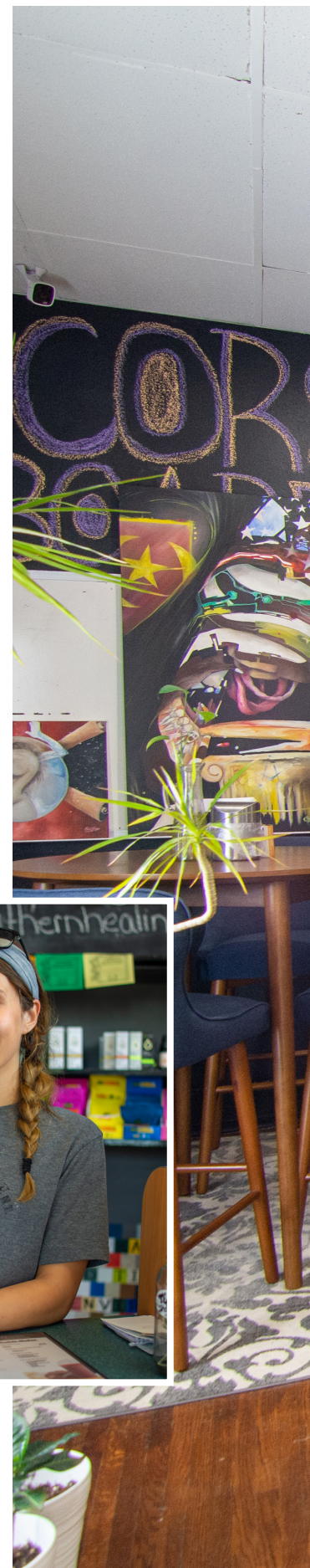
How an upscale flooring company became a hub for those concerned with health and wellness.

By Julia Eads // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

**T**HE ORIGIN story of Manchester's Southern Healing Farmacy and Good Karma Cafe is as fast as it is wild. "It was totally one of those God moments. Basically, I rode by a hemp field on a Sunday, and by Monday morning I was walking in my storefront saying I was going to grow hemp." Owner Wendy Barton is a general contractor by trade. She had a general contracting store downtown on Spring Street called Southern Home Enterprises (S.H.E.), where she operated as a floor covering dealer since 2008. On a whim and what feels like overnight, Barton transitioned her storefront from an upscale flooring company to a health and wellness store bubbling over with hospitality.

Barton shared, "Because it's quite costly, I knew I couldn't afford to grow the hemp, so I decided to open up a CBD store in the back room of my building to fund my grow. Within three months, the CBD store outgrew the space." Barton shared that as much as she wanted to take credit for the rapid growth of the business, she couldn't. Barton shared, "It kind of evolved itself. Or rather, the community evolved the store." She and her daughter, Lu, shared that their aim for the store was to

BELOW: Lu, Wendy Barton's daughter















be the furthest thing from a classic head shop. They did not want to simply sell a bottle of oil and send people on their way. They desire to educate customers and understand their needs on a deeper level. Lu explained, “We sit and talk forever. It’s a long process. We like to know what medications you’re on, how you’re feeling, and any other relevant details of your story, to make appropriate suggestions or recommendations.” Sometimes those conversations were a couple of hours long, forcing staff and visitors alike to look around for a place to sit to continue the conversation. A warm relational atmosphere only continued to grow within the store’s walls.

After many long conversations, the women heard customers ask for drinks or small snacks. Being the







hospitable women they are, baked goods and some simple drink options were added to the store for purchase. And it didn't stop there. Soon, people were asking about coffees, teas, and more substantial food options. Wendy shared a story about stopping at the store on her way home from the grocery store. She carried with her a few items inside her grocery bags and made herself a simple meal there in the corner. Quickly, a man asked if he could have whatever it was she made. Wendy obliged. By the afternoon, Wendy had to go to the grocery store again because she had sold all of her own groceries! In short, Good Karma Cafe was born. If you were to visit the business today, you could walk in the front door and experience that same kind of hospitality that says, "if we don't have it, we can get it."

Southern Healing and Good Karma are located at 120 North Spring Street in Manchester. The space is filled with local artisan art, soaps, and gifts. The cafe is open for breakfast and lunch. There are a ton of round tables and chairs beckoning weary visitors to sit down and relax. Free wifi is available for anyone working, studying, or doing homework. You can even reserve a small meeting room upon request! Come visit Manchester's fastest-growing social hub and wellness store. **GN**





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# JUNETEENTH



ILLUSTRATION: BRIANNA BRUBAKER



# OUR NEWEST NATIONAL HOLIDAY

FREEDOM RINGS A LITTLE LOUDER ON JUNE NINETEENTH.

By Julia Eads

**“F**REEDOM” enters the chatroom and immediately it’s all barbecued meat and who’s got the biggest bang of a firework show. While Independence Day is our nation’s designated time to pause and celebrate freedom and independence from Great Britain, the day is not all-encompassing by any means. Freedom remained a lofty and painful longing for African Americans. Liberty was a far cry from reality, day in and day out.

Imagine waking up each morning achy and sore. Physical, mental, and emotional exhaustion weighs heavily on your entire being, even during sleep. You would spend your day tilling a land you would never own, even if you had the money. With each pickaxe swing, you buried another seed of hope deep within the cold, hard ground. Independence and freedom was for white men.

Not every seed of hope withered. Some seeds took root and grew into an army of human rights leaders. Scattered throughout many different spheres of influence, these powerful leaders primarily held positions within the political and military arenas. President Abraham Lincoln stood out among them. Lincoln knew slavery, in any form or fashion, could not and should not be justified. Therefore, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. This proclamation established that all enslaved people “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.” (History.com, December 2009). As foundational as signing this document was, in reality, the Emancipation Proclamation did not immediately free enslaved people.

Many enslavers held out on sharing this news until harvest time was over. Many more chose not to communicate the information of liberty with those enslaved to them and instead

picked up and snuck away to Texas, as it was viewed as a safe zone for continued enslavement. It’s no surprise that even two years after the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed into effect, hundreds of thousands of people still lived in bondage.

However, on June 19, 1865, federal troops were sent to Galveston, Texas, to take control of the state and help ensure that all of those who were enslaved would be set free. According to archives found in the Texas State Library, Union Major-General Gordon Granger read General Order No. 3 to the people of Galveston on that day. It stated:

“The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor.”

Upon hearing this decree, jubilant celebrations broke out among newly freed black people and friends. National holiday or not, the victory of Juneteenth was seared within the souls of man, that very day. The year following 1865, freed men in Texas organized the first of what became an annual celebration of “Jubilee Day” on June 19. The celebration grew larger and more prominent over the next few decades. Texas became the first state to make Juneteenth an official holiday. Then in 2021, President Joe Biden signed a bill into law, making the day a national holiday. Juneteenth honors the end of slavery in the United States and celebrates freedom for all people. **GN**



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ASHLEIGH NEWNES











# THE DREAM MAKER

*American freedoms continue the cycle of life.*

*by Tina Neeley*

**W**HEN VIKTOR Makela arrived in America from Finland, the Statue of Liberty welcomed him. He brought more than a few material possessions with him; he arrived with a heart filled with dreams. Makela disembarked into a nation whose foundation promises an opportunity for prosperity and success for every individual. It was a voyage that would change history.

Viktor married Maria Luoma, also a Finnish immigrant, and had three children, one of them a son, Reino, whom they called Ray. Ray married another second-generation Finnish immigrant, Eva Pyykönen. Their daughter, Mary Barra, who spoke at the Duke University commencement ceremony on May 8, 2022, tells more about them:

“My mom came from a large family with eight kids and grew up on a farm in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. She grew up in the Depression, and they were very poor. My dad grew up in Minnesota, on the Iron Range, also during the Depression. He earned a Gold Star Medal and the Purple Heart while serving in World War II,

and he worked for General Motors (GM) for 39 years as a die maker. They both believed in the American dream: If you worked hard enough, got yourself an education, and believed in yourself, you could achieve anything,” Barra said.

Mary Barra took it to heart.

In 1980, while attending General Motors Institute (now Kettering University), Barra worked as a co-op student for General Motors, where she inspected hoods and fender panels on the Pontiac Grand Prix. She paid for her college tuition with the money earned from this job, graduating in 1985 with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering. Barra then obtained her master’s degree in business administration from the Stanford Graduate School of Business on a GM fellowship.

Barra’s work at GM continued in various administrative and engineering positions, one of which was the Detroit/Hamtramck Assembly Plant manager. She seized every professional and educational opportunity presented to her by GM. Her hard work paid off.

In 2014, Barra was named the

first female CEO of a major big-three auto manufacturer and was the most powerful woman on the Forbes list in 2017. Today she is the fourth most powerful.

Barra said in the commencement ceremony, “I’ve always been a big believer in the expression that ‘hard work beats talent if talent doesn’t work hard.’”

Barra’s management style is saturated in honesty, hard work, a genuine listening ear, and all-inclusive policies, offering every employee the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness undergird our freedom. It’s a freedom that began with the founding of our country and still remains, 246 years from the signing of the declaration. It has been bought at a price. It is a privilege that continues to be possible through the ongoing service and sacrifice of others.

This freedom allows independent spirits to pursue their dreams. Inherent to their success is the desire and the means to help others pursue their dreams. It is a cycle of life in the land of the free.





# THE AEDC FELLOWS

*Discover the world-class people behind Arnold's world-class facilities.*

*by Julia Eads*

**I**F YOU LOOK at the major milestones in aerospace history, such as getting a man on the moon, most of the materials, rocket engines, and models were tested right here at Arnold Air Force Base (Arnold AFB), or Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC).

Former Commander of Arnold AFB, Major General Mike Wiedemer, spoke of the significance of the facilities that hide just down the road, tucked away beneath the tall pines. He shared, “Even though people know Arnold does really great things, I don’t think they fully know. Every time you get into a commercial aircraft, those engines, materials, and models were all tested at AEDC.”

“Of all the Air Force bases, Arnold is truly the most unique. There are about 58 ground test facilities for which Arnold is responsible. Thirteen of those facilities are unique in the world, meaning there is no other place you can test like that in the world. Twenty-six are unique to the United States. No place can test like Arnold can.”

Behind every world-class test facility are world-class people. Unfortunately, these extraordinary people were hidden beneath the shady towering forest too. Though they weren’t looking for it, these men and women worked steadfastly day in and day out with little to no recognition. In 1989, this all changed when the AEDC Fellows program was established. Slowly, the names and stories of brilliant men and women began to surface.

Wiedemer, chairman of the AEDC Fellows collection committee, shared, “The people at Arnold Air Force Base have a wonderful mission of expanding aerospace excellence for the United States, both from a defense perspective and a commercial perspective. The AEDC Fellows program was created specifically to recognize those who have a disproportionately positive impact on the aerospace community at large. Fellows award recipients are those who have gone above and beyond as







it relates to their impact.”

Since the program’s formation, 114 individuals have been inducted into this exclusively honorary program (meaning there are no monetary bonuses or stipends related to the honor). Upon submitting a nomination, fellow nominees must be sorted into one of four categories: Technical Fellow, Craft Fellow, Lifetime Achievement Fellow, or Honorary Fellow.

Technical Fellows are often the most advanced scientists and engineers in the world. Craft Fellows include those who build and maintain facilities. These are not just any facilities, though. Essentially, craftsmen put together instrumentation that has never been created by anyone else in the world. Lifetime Achievement Fellows have made a significant impact regardless of time on the job or employment status. Many of the Lifetime Achievement Fellows were also employed outside AEDC but were connected to the base in some other capacity. Contractors, customers, sponsors, and contributors from other organizations like NASA or the Navy, might be nominated for a Lifetime Achievement award. Lastly, Honorary Fellows are those who might be unable to receive the honor in a traditional manner. This type of fellow is the rarest of the four.

To be an AEDC Fellow, you practically have had to hang the moon or at least figured out how to throw a lasso around it and bring it in for extensive testing. Suppose you look through the old archive of the 114 past fellow inductees. In that case, you would see greatness staring right back at you there in the gaze of every man or woman—each with a particular name, story, and significant contribution.

Major General Wiedemer shared a few of the most memorable fellows in his mind. Two of the fellows he shared about were Honorary Fellows, Dr. Theodore von Karman, and General Henry “Hap” Arnold. Arnold is the same Arnold whom AEDC was named after. Karman was a brilliant scientist and served as the Chief Scientist of the United States of America

during World War II. Arnold was a five-star general, the military’s highest-ranking position. Wiedemer shared, “The two men came back from World War II after the bomb damage assessment campaign was done. They concluded that the United States was lucky to come out on the winning end of WWII because the Germans were way more advanced than we were in regards to aerospace systems, rockets, missiles, jet fighters, etc.”

Wiedemer continued, “We won because we simply manufactured more weapons systems and logistics support. In response, von Karman and Arnold co-authored a 50-year strategic plan for the Air Force, to make sure we would never be second to anyone.” The plan was entitled “Towards New Horizons.” Years following, the two men worked tirelessly to bridge the gap between academia and military aviators. Their work paved the way for establishing many aeronautical research centers, wind tunnels, and testing facilities.

Another fellow that stuck out to Wiedemer was former Tullahoma resident Dr. Jim Mitchell, the chief scientist at AEDC for many years. Wiedemer explained, “Many people understand that the facilities are the heart and soul of AEDC. They are used to test and determine the potential effectiveness and efficiency of any aerospace structure. Jim Mitchell is probably more responsible for successfully getting the government to build new facilities at AEDC than anyone else.”

According to Wiedemer, the process for getting a new facility is extensive. Imagine trying to convince people to give their support and money to build a facility to test something that doesn’t exist yet. Wiedemer said, “It takes a lot of faith, smarts, advocacy, money, political support, and governmental support to get it to happen. We have had people from the Arnold Community Council go to Washington D.C. for many years to make things like building a new hypersonic test site (happening right now at AEDC) happen. And that is exactly what Jim





Mitchell did. He camped out at the Pentagon and in Congress and wouldn't take no for an answer when it came to getting major facilities at AEDC.”

Whether a fellow spent most of their time testing how much fuel was needed for a trip to the moon or how the various components would separate when traveling there, all the work was done locally at Arnold AFB. Whether a fellow spent most of his or her time lobbying in our nation's capital for support of a grandiose idea, it was all done to ensure the effectiveness and superiority of the United State Air Force. Whether a fellow was inducted for reasons that are beyond the general public's clearance level, you can guarantee he or she worked on cutting-edge technologies that directly influenced the United State's effectiveness in war.



Wiedemer, an AEDC Fellow himself, shared, “It is the highest honor one connected to AEDC and the aerospace community can receive.”

This year's fellows will be announced on June 25, 2022, on the birthday of General Arnold. Please help us congratulate and celebrate some of the most remarkable minds of our time! We salute you, fellows!









# WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

*Paying tribute to our veterans to keep their memories alive.*

*by Julia Eads*

TRAVELING ABOUT as far northeast as roads will lead you, lies a quaint fishing and farming town known as Harrington, Maine. Years ago, a 12-year-old boy hailing from the town went on a trip of a lifetime to our nation's capital. During his visit, the impressionable young boy went to Arlington National Cemetery. Seeing the infinite sea of headstones was an experience that marked him. Consequently, it made him more aware and appreciative of veterans who had made the ultimate sacrifice for their country — his country.

Years later, back in his quiet corner of the world in Harrington, there were thousands of acres of balsam trees. The young boy, now a man, began using those resources most prevalent to him, balsam trees. He became a very successful businessman after founding a handcrafted wreath company. The man's name is Morrill Worcester of Worcester Wreath Company. A simple act of honor made by Worcester himself in 1992, is still making significant ripples across our nation decades later.

The initial pebble into the pond moment happened at the end of the winter holiday season in 1992. Worcester Wreath had a surplus of fresh balsam wreaths in inventory that remained unsold and unclaimed. Worcester, remembering his experience at Arlington as a young boy, recognized what a chance he had to honor our country's veterans. Quickly and with the help of many volunteers, businesses, organizations, and elected officials, the wreaths were taken to Arlington by the truckloads. Soon, every wreath donated was placed on the graves of fallen heroes in Virginia. Though their hearts had stopped beating long ago, their legacies and contributions live on. The rich smell of the balsam needles filled the air and acted as a reminder of that.

The tender tribute of Worcester became an annual occurrence. His company, Worcester Wreath, and the small army of people that made the first year's wreath-laying possible, coordinated to make the same trip to the nation's capital over the next few years. Each year the small army grew. However, in 2005 a photo of the Arlington grave markers





adorned with wreaths, red ribbons, and a fresh dusting of snow went viral. Almost overnight, the heartfelt action of one man inspired thousands of people from all over the country. Requests came pouring in with people wanting to help at Arlington or reproduce the Arlington wreath project at their local cemeteries. Very quickly, it became apparent that the desire to remember and honor fallen heroes was bigger than what the Worcester Wreath Company could maintain themselves.

Thus, According to Wreaths Across America's official story, "In 2007 the Worcester family, along

with veterans and other groups and individuals who had helped with their annual veterans' wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, to continue and expand the effort and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same. The mission of the group is simple: Remember. Honor. Teach."

The mission of Wreaths Across America came rippling into our local community when a small group of friends gathered together and in agreement, said, "Let's do this here locally." That group consisted of one of our own Vietnam Veter-

ans, Claude Morse and his wife, Bobbie, Ron and Cyndi Clower of Clower's Automotive in Manchester, and Dr. Linda Walden. Together, they teamed up to figure out what it would take to bring Wreaths Across America to our small towns in Tennessee.

The group jumped right in. They formed a local committee which later became the

Coffee County Tennessee Wreaths Across America Committee operating under the 501(c)(3) nonprofit of the national wreaths Across America organization. Next, they chose a few cemeteries to begin the process of identifying military graves. Morse shared, "We had to identify and count the military graves before fundraising for wreaths. So we went to the city and got whatever records we could. Then, we got permission from the city to walk the cemeteries. As we walked, we used a software called "Find A Grave." As we found each veteran's grave, we would geotag its location in that software." This process made it much easier to find the graves again. In addition to the geotag, the team placed a tiny American Flag on a wire stand at each veteran's grave in early December, making it easier for volunteers to identify military graves on the actual ceremony day. Then, they began networking within the community to gather sponsorships for wreaths. Morse shared the "why" behind all of his volunteer work. He said, "I appreciate all of those who served, and I want to keep their memory alive."

In the first year, the group organized ceremonies at four local locations: Coffee County Veterans Memorial in Manchester, Hurricane Grove Cemetery in rural Coffee County, and Oakwood and Citizens Cemetery in Tullahoma. Then, after the short ceremonies, groups of volunteers helped honorably adorn a little over 300 military graves with the red-ribbon wreaths. The ceremonies took place on the same day and time as Arlington's wreath-laying ceremony, usually held on the second or third Saturday each December.

Wreaths Across America would not be successful without volunteers who have bought into the mission: to remember the men and women who served our country, honor our military and their families, and teach our children about our freedom and those who protect it. As a

member of the board of directors of the Coffee County Tennessee Wreaths Across America Committee, Morse shared his most profound gratitude for the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps of Tullahoma High, Coffee County Central High School, and Warren County High

School, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Trail Life Scouts, Christian Motorcycle Riders Group, the local VFW and American Legion members, and many elected officials for volunteering their time for this great cause. He also wanted to give special thanks to Manchester Fire Department

Captain Emmett Wright, Ron Clower and his employees at Clower Automotive, Coffee County Trustee John Marchesoni, and Vietnam veteran Doyle Reeves for the hundreds of hours they have volunteered to get wreaths to the cemeteries, help run the ceremonies, and then clean the cemeteries in January.

2022 will be the fifth year of locally placing wreaths on veteran graves. Morse shared, "We anticipate placing more than 1,200 wreaths on military graves and war memorials at 15 different locations. We are looking for others to take on responsibility for covering military graves in more local cemeteries."



If you would like to donate or get involved here locally, contact Claude Morse at (931) 247-5151 or Cyndi Clower at (931) 728-9898.



# FOOD, FIRE- WORKS & FUN



*Celebrate our freedom with your community.*

*by Tina Neeley*

**W**E WELCOME a summer celebration more than ever, and Independence Day is the perfect time to gather for food, fun, fireworks, and flag-waving. There's an event near you, so there's no excuse for missing the colorful shows.

Check out one or more of these salutes to America →



**BELL BUCKLE** is hosting a night filled with magic, in a manner that would make our forefathers proud. On July 4, from 5-9:30 p.m., the city will offer music, food, fireworks, and free admission. Catch the Escape Band at the Bell Buckle Park Amphitheater. A highlight of the evening is always the recitation of the Declaration of Independence, a long-standing tradition that unites those attending and rallies a standing ovation each time.

*For more information, visit [bellbucklepark.info](http://bellbucklepark.info) or follow Bell Buckle Park on Facebook for this and other events.*



**SHELBYVILLE'S** annual celebration will be on July 4, in the H. V. Griffin Park. Activities begin at 5 p.m. and will include music for the evening by Utopia. There will be food trucks, arts and crafts vendors, games, free inflatables, and fireworks. *Admission is free.*



The **27TH ANNUAL SHADOW VALLEY GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL** will be held July 7-9. A who's who of gospel music fills the weekend. The Kingsman, Gold City, the Chuck Wagon Gang, the Inspirations, Bradley Walker, the Blackwood Brothers, and more will perform. The event is held rain or shine, and camping is available.

*For more information, see [shadowvalley-productions.com](http://shadowvalley-productions.com) or follow the festival's Facebook page. Shadow Valley is located at 54 Warden Road (off Highway 231-N), Fayetteville.*



**MANCHESTER** will celebrate from 7-9 p.m. with fireworks, food trucks, fun, free admission, and musical entertainment by The Spazmatics. The event is held at Rotary Park on July 4 and is hosted by the Manchester Parks and Recreation. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

*See Manchester Parks and Recreation on Facebook or [cityofmanchestertn.com](http://cityofmanchestertn.com) for more details.*

In the **WINCHESTER** area, Twin Creeks Development will host the annual Fourth of July fireworks show on Saturday, July 2, from 8:49-10 p.m. Winchester City Park is noted as an excellent viewing point. See [winchester-tn.com](http://winchester-tn.com) for complete details.



The **2022 TULLAHOMA REGIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**

will be on July 3 at Frazier McEwen Park/Grider Stadium from 3-10 p.m. Vinyl Radio will perform from 5-7 p.m., followed by Six Wire from 7:30-9 p.m. Fireworks from 9-9:20 p.m., and Six Wire will wrap up the event through 10 p.m.



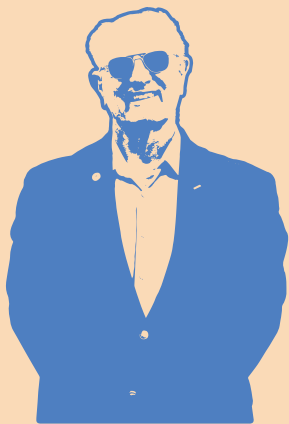
**SEWANEE** will celebrate July 3 and July 4 with their Hot Diggity All-American Dogs festival on University Ave.

*For full details, visit [sewanee4thofjuly.org](http://sewanee4thofjuly.org).*



**FAYETTEVILLE** will celebrate with fireworks on June 25 at Don Davidson Park. Gates open at 6 p.m. *More information can be found on the City of Fayetteville TN Parks & Recreation page on Facebook.* **GN**





Manchester is full of hometown heroes like Major General Mike Wiedemer, Claude Morse, and Cyndi Clower. You may not know it, but you cross paths with them every day.

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A top-down view of a wooden cutting board on a rustic wooden table. On the board is a burger with a dark, charred patty on a light-colored bun. Next to it is a whole red onion, a slice of red onion, a half tomato, and several pickles. A small metal bowl with white salt and a larger bowl with mixed peppercorns are also on the board. The background is a dark, textured wooden surface.

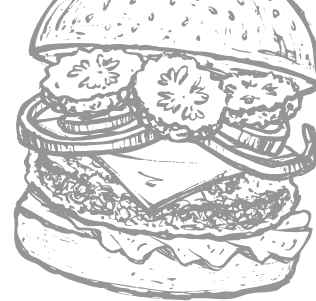
# ON THE GRILL: COOKING UP THE GOOD STUFF

Fresh and flavorful meals  
to kickstart the summer!

By Julia Eads

**H** MMM AAAHH. It smells like the weekend. Those grilled pineapple burgers will be lip-smacking, mouth-watering, and juicy down to the last bite. However, what lies on the grill is much more than your family's next meal. The instant you start up the grill, and that sweet nostalgic smell begins to drift through the air, you start doing much more than simple food preparation. When that grill cranked on, you, my friend, switched into the entertainment and hospitality industry as you just began serving up some of the sweetest memories. So, grillmasters, as you take position over your grills this summer, take a moment to look up above the smoke and steam. Take it all in because this is the good stuff. Ah, and the food shouldn't be too shabby either! Just follow the recipes.





## GRILLED PINEAPPLE BURGERS

*Submitted by Pam Adcock*

### Ingredients

2 lbs. lean ground beef  
1 can (15 ¼ oz.) sliced pineapple, drained  
1/4 c. packed brown sugar  
3 T. Zesty Italian salad dressing  
1/8 t. pepper  
8 slices bacon  
3/4 c. barbecue sauce  
1/4 c. honey  
1 T. lemon juice  
1 T. salt

### Directions:

In a large bowl, mix ground beef, salad dressing, and salt and pepper. Shape into 8 patties, 3 inches in diameter. Press a pineapple slice into each patty. Wrap each patty with bacon, using a wooden pick. In a small bowl, mix barbecue sauce, brown sugar, honey, and lemon juice. Place patties in a glass or plastic 13x9x2 dish. Pour barbecue mixture on patties. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Grill patties, pineapple sides down, 4 inches from hot coals, for 12-15 minutes. Turn; brush with barbecue mixture. Grill for 10-15 minutes. Heat remaining barbecue mixture; serve with patties. Yield: 8 servings.

## BEANS AND WIENERS WAIKIKI

*Submitted by Debbie Dunn*

### Ingredients

1 can pineapple rings (20 oz.),  
drain and reserve juice  
1/3 c. green pepper, coarsely chopped  
1/4 c. onion, chopped  
1 pkg. wieners, cut into chunks  
2 T. margarine  
2 T. vinegar  
1 T. soy sauce  
1/3 c. ketchup  
1/3 c. brown sugar, finely packed  
1 can pork & beans (31 oz.)  
1 can Chow Mein® noodles

### Directions:

Cut pineapple into chunks, reserving a few rings for garnish. In a large skillet, sauté the green pepper, onion, pineapple, and wieners with margarine. Simmer for 5 minutes. Add reserved pineapple juice, vinegar, soy sauce, ketchup and brown sugar, heating until bubbly. Pour pork and beans into a baking dish; add pineapple mixture. Stir gently to blend. Place reserved pineapple rings on top to garnish. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Serve with Chow Mein® noodles. Yield: 6 servings.



## HOMEMADE VANILLA ICE CREAM

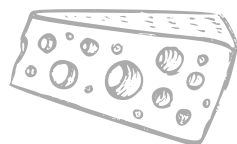
*Submitted by Emma Hardin*

### Ingredients

3 T. flour  
2 1/5 c. sugar  
3/4 t. salt  
6 c. milk  
6 egg yolks  
6 t. vanilla  
6 c. cream

### Directions

Mix flour, sugar and salt in a bowl. Stir mixture into milk in a saucepan, and cook over boiling water until slightly thickened. Cover and cook for 10 minutes more. Stir a little hot milk into eggs and then into milk. Cook 5 minutes more, until mixture coats the spoon. Chill. Add vanilla and cream. Freeze in ice cream freezer. Yield: 1 gallon. **GN**







ADOBE STOCK

FAITH

# Freedom on fire

A country road paved with freedom leads to love.

By Julia Eads

WHEN I was a young buck, I decided if there was a rule, I was going to break it. There have been many distinct times in my life when I have felt suffocated by others' control, expectations, or rules. Unfortunately, my feisty nature would have me push away those limits every chance I got. If you listen closely, you can hear the sighs of my poor parents.

What about you? Have you ever found yourself frantic, craving and grasping for independence or freedom? Ripping out of the driveway only to look up and find yourself running on empty at dangerously high speeds along the highway to hell. Looking out the window to the right, is a road sign. It dashes by. It looked like it said, "Last exit before toll." ...If this sounds all too familiar, hang on. Ride shotgun with me for a few minutes.

As more fine lines have settled on my face, I've come to realize that freedom doesn't necessarily mean pushing the pedal to the floorboard. Going way too fast with little regard is not the equivalent of "living your best life." In my personal experience, living like that has equated more realistically to living a fast life.

The Oxford Languages dictionary defines freedom as, "the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint." Notice, that freedom is not defined as simply acting without restraint. Rather freedom is defined as the power to choose, act, think, speak, etc.

Unfortunately, I am much more of a "live and learn" type of person, although I am working on learning and then living. Over the years, I have had my fair share of spinning out of control. Trainwreck or car wreck, whichever you want to call it— I have been in the ditch, on the side of the road, wrecked, feeling utterly hopeless. I have felt stuck in a cycle of making wrong turns over and over again as if my power steering went out. Fortunately, each time my wrong turn caused my world to catch on fire, I learned to do things differently. Or at the very least, I learned that I had the powerful freedom to do things differently.

Galatians 5:13 reads, "For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature.

Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love."

After many years of my freedom on fire, I discovered that most limitations were not put in place to keep me from fun, enjoyment, and living life to the fullest. Instead, I realized that laws, rules, and commands were put in place to protect me and keep me from harm. But more importantly, how to love better. In many ways, I found that scripture is a road map to truly living life to the fullest and not a long list of do's and don'ts. **GN**

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## **TAKE A PIT STOP:**

*How are you using your freedom of choice?*

*Where are you headed?*

*Or, are you on the side of the road  
in need of a tow?*

*There is nothing wrong with  
slowing down to rethink your drive.*

Here are a few destinations that might help you get started on your journey: (Romans 10:9-13, John 10:10, 1 John 1:9-10, 1 Corinthians 10:13)









# 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 Manchester. 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 ASHLEIGH NEWNES



# More than a faith-based recovery program.

Be the Bush Recovery Ministries' annual banquet supports recovery and restoration.

By Tina Neeley // Photos by Ashleigh Newnes

**R**ECOVERING FROM life-controlling issues is challenging but possible. Greater still, restoration of families through recovery is more than possible through God and Be the Bush Recovery Ministries' (BTB) program in Manchester.

"The world looks at us as a faith-based drug and alcohol rehabilitation program, and sure, in a sense we are that. But what we really are is a discipleship program. We teach men and women Jesus and in return they not only get free from drugs and alcohol, but a lifestyle of sin. Drugs and alcohol are just the surface issues. We deal with the deep-rooted ones as well at BTB," said Caleb McCall, director of BTB.

BTB's residential discipleship/recovery program is three-phased and lasts 12 to 18 months. In phase one, which lasts four months, the schedule follows a daily rotation of work and class, utilizing a curriculum that follows the Teen Challenge model. In phase two, the next four to eight months continue the work/class rotation and a different curriculum. It also introduces more freedoms and privileges. Phase three covers the last eight







to 12 months and provides for re-entry into the community. Students can obtain employment at area businesses through the program director's assistance or become student leaders through internships.

McCall said, "We follow the fundraising business model. Our students work in the first two phases at our businesses, Bush Boyz Lawn Care and Jehovah Java Coffee Shop. Our program is very structured; it's like a spiritual boot camp. Visits are allowed once a month, and phone calls once a week. There are no cell phones. We are completely free of all tobacco, controlled substances, and drugs."

The program presently has a 95% recidivism success rate with its graduates, but McCall sees the restoration of the students to their families as a greater blessing.

"The program is returning contributing tax-paying members into our community. They are completely changed individuals. Dads are returned

to their children. Husbands are restored to their wives," said McCall.

The program's annual banquet and golf tournament took place in May. Approximately 350 people attended the banquet, and about 100 golfers participated in the tournament. The guest speakers, baseball great Daryl Strawberry and his former teammate Barry Lyons, believe in faith-based recovery and value the restoration of families as the main priority. Testimonies of former students and their families were also a part of the evening's program.

Women in need of recovery and restoration can find help at Miriam House. Monies raised from the golf tournament further support its ministry and the work of BTB. Together, the 501(c)(3) organizations reunite families and restore hope and light to lives that were once out of control and enveloped in darkness. **GN**

**For more information, see [bethebushministries.com](http://bethebushministries.com) or [miriamhouse.com](http://miriamhouse.com) or call Caleb McCall at (931) 222-0010.**







A group of people are sitting in folding chairs around a campfire at night. The fire is bright and glowing, illuminating the scene. The people are silhouetted against the light of the fire. In the background, there are trees with some leaves that appear to be in autumn. The overall atmosphere is warm and cozy.

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**Good News** MAGAZINE

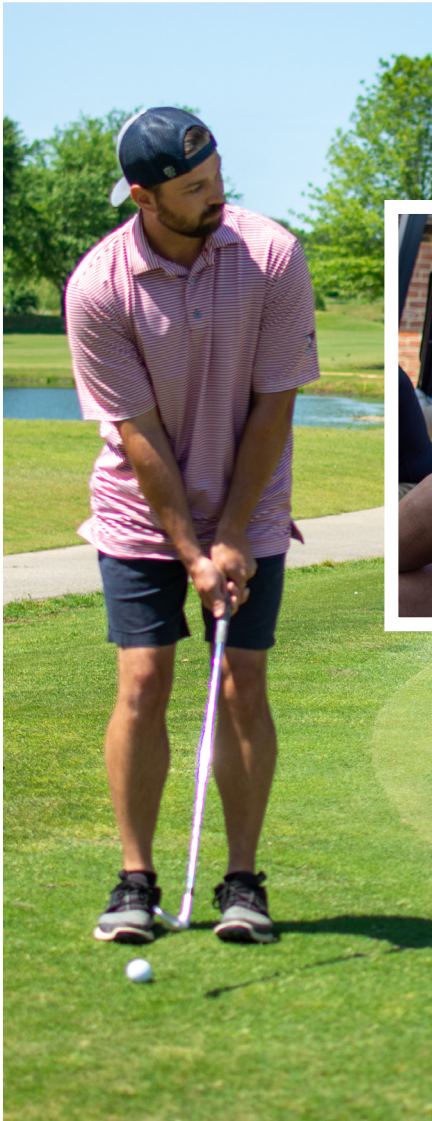


# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Manchester Chamber Golf Classic

Photos by Ashleigh Newnes

Manchester Chamber of Commerce's Annual Golf Classic was held on May 13, at WillowBrook Golf Club.







# Lemonade Day

Photos by Ashleigh Newnes

May 19 was officially Lemonade Day in Manchester. The city school's in-class youth entrepreneurship program teaches students to create a business plan, market a product, and determine the costs to make a profit. Stands were in 12 area locations.







FACES AROUND TOWN

# Enjoying lunch and golf.

Manchester Chamber of Commerce's Annual Golf Classic at WillowBrook Golf Club.







Photos by: Ashleigh Newnes



# EVENTS CALENDAR

## JUNE 15

**10:00 am Jerry White  
Magician Performance**  
Coffee County  
Manchester Library  
1005 Hillsboro Blvd.  
Manchester

## JUNE 16

**5:30 pm Thursday Night Life  
with FPC Hope Dinner**  
First Presbyterian Church  
1101 Jackson Street  
Manchester

**6:00 pm Sexual Assault  
Support Group**  
Families in Crisis  
101 W Main Street  
McMinnville

Come feel at home with other survivors. Receive support, take part in healing activities, increase self-esteem, and learn coping skills to empower you, for wherever you are in your journey.

For more information:  
McMinnville-Warren County  
Chamber of Commerce

## JUNE 18

**9:00 am RC Cola - MoonPie  
Festival**  
8 Railroad Square  
Bellbuckle

This wacky, fun for the whole family event celebrates the South's original fast food – an ice cold RC Cola and a fresh MoonPie. Visit the downtown area to find plenty of music, cloggers, weird but fun contests, MoonPie games, and a colorful parade just to name a few of the many things that occur throughout the day

**12:00 pm Father's Day Out  
Fundraiser**  
Daily Fun Spot  
Ledford Mill Road  
Tullahoma

Proceeds benefit the Coffee  
County Advocacy Center

**2:00 pm Father's Day  
Father Daughter  
Tea Party**  
120 N Spring Street  
Manchester

Reservations required along  
with non-refundable deposit.

## JUNE 21

**9:00 am Pirate Week  
Oceans of Possibilities  
Summer Reading**  
June 21-24  
Coffee County  
Manchester Library  
1005 Hillsboro Blvd.  
Manchester

**5:00 pm Summer Solstice  
Celebration and Hike**  
Old Stone Fort  
732 Stone Fort Drive  
Manchester

This hike is approximately  
1.25 miles long and will take  
around 1.5 hours to complete  
and is considered moderate-  
difficult. Sturdy walking shoes  
or hiking boots are suggested  
as this is a natural dirt trail.

Tickets are available at:  
[tnstateparks.com/parks/  
event\\_details/old-stone-fort](https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/old-stone-fort)



## JUNE 22

**10:00 am Tom Mason  
& the Blue Buccaneers  
Performance**  
Coffee County  
Manchester Library  
1005 Hillsboro Blvd.  
Manchester

## JUNE 24

**7:00 pm Ultimate Oldies  
Rock and Roll Show**  
Manchester Arts Center  
128 East Main Street  
Manchester

The best of the 70s and 80s!  
Rock and roll, pop, disco,  
classic rock and more!

For more information:  
[https://millenniumrepertory-  
companythundertix.com](https://millenniumrepertory-companythundertix.com)

## JUNE 25

**10:30 am Rain Barrel Workshop**  
873 Gourdneck Rd NW  
Tullahoma

Event by Elizabeth Gilchrist  
and Tullahoma Home and  
Gardens

**7:00 pm Chase Clanton  
& Vintage Vibes**  
Praters BBQ  
620 Woodbury Highway  
Manchester

## JUNE 27

**1:00 pm Mermaid Week  
Oceans of Possibilities  
Summer Reading**  
June 27-July 1  
Coffee County  
Manchester Library  
1005 Hillsboro Blvd.  
Manchester

## JUNE 29

**10:00 am Jill Thatcher Ventriloquist**  
Coffee County  
Manchester Library  
1005 Hillsboro Blvd.  
Manchester

## JULY 2

**8:00 am Arts and Crafts Fair**  
705 Wilson Avenue  
Tullahoma

Local craft fair with 28+  
vendors! There will be a little  
bit of everything from good  
food to home decor and lots  
of handmade items! Come  
support all your local vendors

## JULY 3

**3:00 pm 2022 Tullahoma  
Independence Day  
Regional Celebration**  
Frazier McEwin Park  
216 Big Springs Avenue  
Tullahoma

## JULY 4

**5:00 pm Fourth of July  
Celebration & Summer  
Concert Series**  
Bell Buckle Park

## JULY 11

**5:00 pm Nightly VBS  
Celebrating  
God's Creation**  
Manchester Church of God  
413 Oakdale Street  
Manchester

**For more events visit:**  
[www.goodnewsmags.com/  
manchester-events](http://www.goodnewsmags.com/manchester-events)

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Great service from friendly and knowledgeable employees

- Tim



Al White treated me with great respect and did everything that I asked and did a free car wash at the end and was super nice at all times

- Kimberly



Great experience during social distancing. Will give them our business again.

- Jason



Both my husband and I agreed that the buying process at Al White as the best we have ever had. Smooth process that did not take hours. Staff was wonderful and had answers to the questions we asked.

- Martha



This was one of the easiest car buying experiences I have ever had. Al. White Motors is a great family run dealership. I appreciate all the helpful staff.

- Phillip



They take care of you even after the sale. Thomas W and Rob T came thru in the clutch to help a Al White client. Service department is top notch. They get you in and out efficiently.

- Bo



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