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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Get ready for the Friday night lights

High school football has brought the community together decade after decade.

THE ONLY time I was ever on a football field was for my graduation. I was never interested in playing the sport, and for good reason. Around 9 or 10 years old, a group of my friends played football in the elementary school's gym during Summer Care. I ran from one side of the gym to the other... without stopping. I ran into the cement wall. And to spare you the gory details, I spent that summer with both my wrists in casts. Surprisingly, I never fell in love with football after that!

But, as a high schooler, going to the football game under those Friday night lights made me feel like I was living. I could laugh about the time I broke both of my wrists at the same time, sit with my family and friends, and enjoy food from the concession stand. The band carried on with music that made the game feel like we were watching a movie. The cheerleaders kept us pumped. At the time, I was overwhelmed with bright colors, loud noises, and crowds of people... but now I've realized that football is about being together and rooting for the same thing.

There is always something new to divide us every day...

but nothing brings us together like sitting with people you love under those Friday night lights. This

issue of Good News features stories about high school football, the success that launches from our fields into the world, and how our community is a better place. The hardworking players, cheerleaders, band members, coaches, and parents leave a lasting impression from one yard line to the next. **GN**

Wesley Bryant,

From our readers



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— Janice P. Carr, Good News reader

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CITY NEWS

VFW Post 10904 wins fourth consecutive All-American designation

Continuing community service hour by hour

By Sara McClaran // Photo by Ashleigh Newnes

ANY PEOPLE think that when veterans leave the military, they are done serving. In Manchester, they couldn't be more wrong. This past year, VFW Post 10904 earned its fourth consecutive All-American designation – an award given to those posts that outstandingly serve their veterans and their community. Retired Navy Chief and commander of the Manchester post Kimberly King said that the local VFW performed far beyond the requirements of a rarely achieved award.

"Last year, for example, our state had seven posts out of 89 that earned the title. This year, they've had 13 out of 89," King said. "[Our district] finished in first place, nationally, in our division."

The requirements for the designation include submitting essays to two essay contests, and an optional category of Teacher of the Year. Instead of the minimum one in each category, the Old Stone Fort VFW submitted 84 total entries for the essay contests, and three for the Teacher of the Year category. All three teachers won at the district level, and one at state. The biggest achievement, however, was in community service.

"They also consider how much work and volunteer hours and money you're providing to the community, and we really blew that out of the water," King said. "We had almost 6,500 hours reported."

"The post also donated over \$62,000," King said, "and is doing much better than average for posts around the country."

One big thing that the Manchester VFW does is put on all patriotic events in the county, aside from the Fourth of July. They have also partnered with organizations like the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans, and they support everything from retirement homes to scouting programs.



King said one of the reasons veterans work so much is because of their continued desire to serve – even after retirement.

"Your heart still wants to serve your country badly, cause none of us are very old when we stop doing this," King said. "Well this allows us to continue that in a different form or fashion by partnering up with the other veterans or people that served, and then collectively we go out and do things in the public."

King said the camaraderie of a VFW post is very important, because that is something many get used to in the military. Any veteran is welcome to join.

"We're there to support each other," King said. "It could just be family needs, or your family is sick, or there's a funeral... it's a lot of things."

The connection, both within the post and with the community, has allowed it to blossom. This past fiscal year, post 10904 won the VFW National Award of Merit, the Department of Tennessee Community Service Award, and its fifth VFW Department of Tennessee All-State Award. Those are only a few of the many awards it has won since its founding in 1990. For more information or the complete list of awards, the Manchester VFW post can be found online at www.vfwpost10904.com. **GN**

SPORTS NEWS

Manchester Parks and Recreation Department

Wellness opportunities for everyone, 0 – 99.

By Sara McClaran // Photo by James Jordan

THE SCHOOLS of Manchester have thriving athletic programs in many sports, but they are not the only organization that promotes physical welfare in the community. The Manchester Parks and Recreation Department aims to provide affordable quality programs and facilities to all individuals and families in the community, and it does so with great effect. Part of that success is in the sheer scope of the projects directed by the department.

"We operate year-round," said Director AJ Fox, "We have a wide variety of different programs [and] activities that we do."

Some of those activities include swim lessons, movies, and parades, as well as everything that can be found in the department's 69,000 square foot indoor recreation center and the 104 acres of park land. Citizens of Manchester can play on the basketball, tennis, or racquetball courts; compete on baseball or softball fields; and swim in one of the three pools that the Parks and Recreation department offers – in addition to the ninja warrior course.

"Part of the reason we're here is to... enhance people's quality of life," said Assistant Director Becki Johnson. "There's so many different needs, from age 0 to 99, that we offer for people here."

Johnson said the membership fee for the recreation center is much cheaper than most other places because it is a community-based department.

"That's part of our role here is to offer these opportunities, whether they want to walk on the greenway, or walk on the treadmill, or walk our indoor track – whether it's outdoors, athletics, wellness, aquatics, you know, or just family time," Johnson said. "Something for everybody."

Community is an integral part of Manchester, and it is continually shown by the partnerships and volunteers that make so many



projects possible. Schools and civic organizations, like the Rotary Club, have partnered with the recreation department to offer activities to the children of Manchester, as well as attract volunteers and fundraisers. While Fox said that many of the larger community events went away during COVID-19, they are slowly coming back. There are several new events in the works as well, including a highly-anticipated farmers market.

Another large part of the recreation department's success is the care of the people who work in it. Fox, who has been a part of the department for 13 years, said that job titles don't mean much.

"We do everything from janitor, to lifeguard, to working concessions," Fox said. "I mean, we all just pitch in and do it all together."

Johnson, who has 30 years of experience in the field despite only joining the Manchester department just over a year ago, said recreation has always been an integral part of her life, from growing up in local parks to learning to be a lifeguard. Fox started his career by volunteering in the Manchester Parks and Recreation Department and hasn't been able to leave for long.

"I also went into this field because I knew I wanted to make an impact in children's lives," Fox said. "We do off-site trips when we can, to state parks and taking kids... to Six Flags, and some of them have never even been out of the city – and you know, it's because of us that they get to do those things." **GN**

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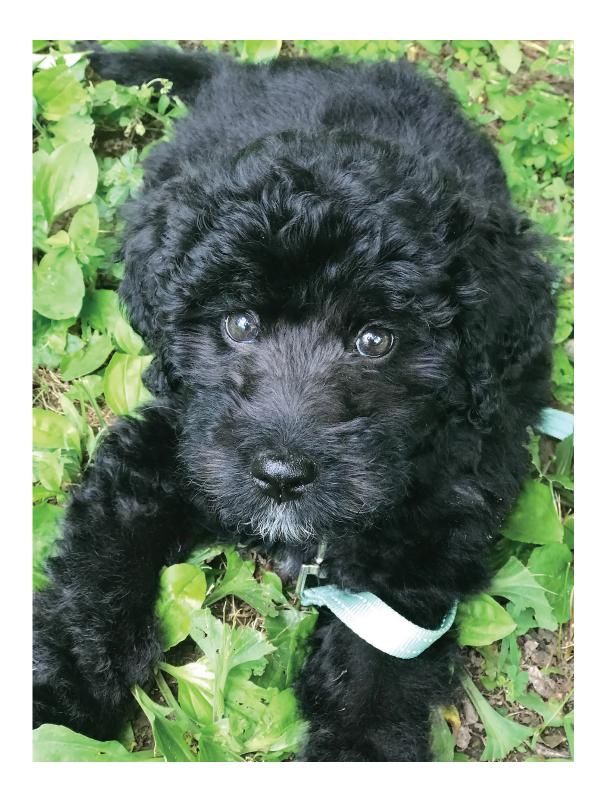
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SCHOOL NEWS

Manchester schools get a therapy dog

Daisy... the Bernedoodle extraordinaire

By Sara McClaran // Photo submitted by Lou Paschall

P OR YEARS, the Manchester City School District has been looking for a service dog to work in their school system... and that wish has finally been granted in the form of the Bernedoodle puppy, Daisy.

While there are organizations that work with private pet owners whose dogs are certified, none of those dogs were available to come to the Manchester school district. Daisy was a gift from Clanton Ridge Doodles, based in West Point Tennessee. The work involved with raising and training a service dog doesn't end there. Daisy needed someone to care for her and get her certified, and that volunteer was school social worker, Lou Paschall.

"They actually donate a puppy every year," Paschall said. "They actually contacted us about donating a puppy to the district, and so it was a really great opportunity for us."

Paschall hasn't taken the responsibility lightly.

"She's taking that on, and she is raising this puppy," said College Street Elementary's principal, Tom Jacobs, "She's made a Facebook page for it and everything."

Daisy will have to go through several stages of training to become a fully-fledged service dog; a process that will take months. Paschall will be working with a trainer in Murfreesboro.

"There's a basic skills class that she'll take and that could be in the next couple of months, and then there's a second part [that] is a canine good citizen course that's a little more advanced than that," said Paschall. "She has to be 18 months old to take the actual therapy dog certification."

Once Daisy has passed her certification, she will begin to work in the school system.

"The idea behind it is to... be able to come in and work with students," Jacobs said. "Help bring them some comfort in some way."

Statistics have shown that this is not wishful thinking. Trauma patients have a much easier time with animal assisted therapy. Eighty one percent of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) prefer to play with animals over toys, and children in speech therapy can find it much easier to practice with an animal than with an adult or even friends. Even in smaller situations therapy animals can have a major influence in calming stress and anxiety.

"We might just do something like bring the therapy dog, and the therapy dog's there while we are reading a story to [the] children – so building those literacy skills," Paschall said. "There's just so many different ways that it can be beneficial to students."

Daisy's work will affect children across the community as a result of the community effort going into her placement and training. Clanton Ridge Doodles donated the dog and provided resources on how to care for her, and the Manchester Animal Health Clinic is partnering with the Manchester City School District to provide well-care.

"It's already definitely a community venture, where we have support from outside of... the school system to help us bring this to our students," Paschall said. "We're really appreciative of that as a district." **GN**

INDUSTRY NEWS

University of Tennessee Space Institute appoints new executive director

University of Tennessee Space Institute seeks to connect.

By Sara McClaran // Photo provided by John Schmisseur

HILE IT may not be the first thing someone thinks when they think of 'Coffee County,' the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI) has been a part of the community for nearly six decades. In the years since its founding in 1964, UTSI has been working tirelessly to teach a growing pool of young engineers from across the nation. Recently, that growth has included a new executive director – professor and H.H. Arnold Chair John Schmisseur. Schmisseur has been a part of UTSI since 2014, and has many years of practical experience in aerospace engineering.

"I spent the first 23 years of my career working for the Air Force Research Laboratory, where I first did research and then later on was a program manager for all the fundamental science work – that's primarily university work – that the Air Force sponsored in the area of high-speed flight and hypersonics," Schmisseur said. "That made me a great candidate to be a faculty member."

Schmisseur has been instrumental in growing the hypersonics program at UTSI, which he said has now become a program of national stature.

"I can hopefully... move from leading one group to leading the whole institute along the same trajectory that my group has experienced the last few years," Schmisseur said.

While many of his goals involve research and the growth of UTSI, Schmisseur said there were many relationships he hoped to grow as well. UTSI works closely with the Arnold Engineering Development Complex, as well as several engineering focused businesses in Coffee County, and especially in Huntsville, AL.

"Our ultimate goal is because of that relationship," Schmisseur said. "We would like to draw a lot of the industry that's in the Huntsville area to think about having operations in Tennessee and ultimately have an economic impact for Southern Middle Tennessee."

As part of teaching the next generation of engineers, UTSI has also participated in job and career fairs. Schmisseur said the people of UTSI want to be a source of inspiration to kids throughout the Coffee County educational system and show them that there is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to work in aerospace.

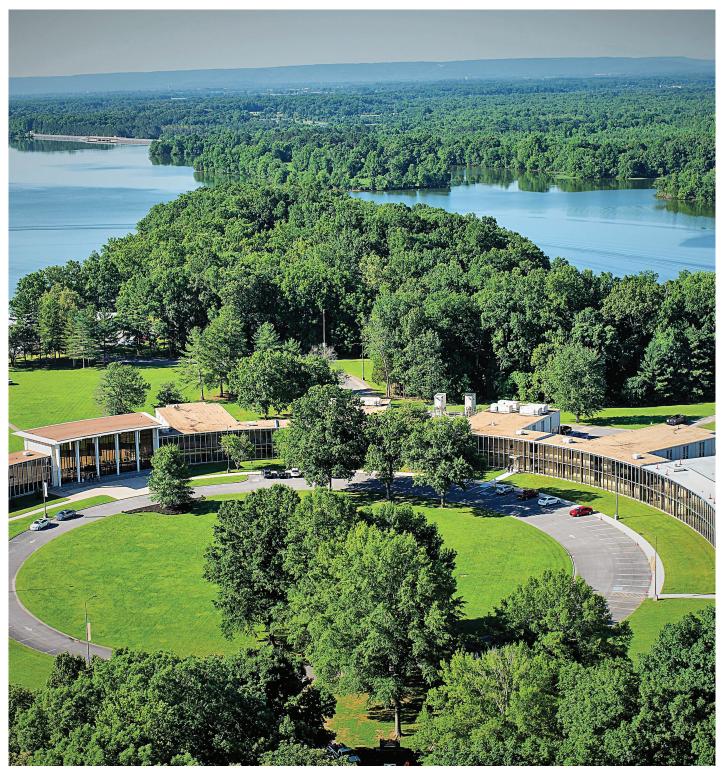
"Something that's a reward to watch – just take a couple of women PhD students out and put them in the middle of a career fair and watch all the young ladies gravitate towards them and say, 'I want to be an aerospace engineer,'" Schmisseur said. "We'd like to be a place that can both... create that spark that excites them about a future in aerospace and eventually contribute to their training



and development as well."

Despite all of this, Schmisseur would like for UTSI to be a greater part of the surrounding community. The mission of the University of Tennessee is to support the well-being of the people of Tennessee, and Schmisseur said he wants the space institute to be a resource to the region as well as an improver of quality of life.

"I think people here aren't really familiar enough with UTSI, and the fact that the University of Tennessee has a campus here in Coffee County," Schmisseur said. "We want to play a much bigger role in doing that, and that includes us revisiting how we can do a better job of contributing to the education of people in this part of the state." **GN**



 \blacktriangle University of Tennessee Space Institute

COUNTY NEWS

Coffee County Children's Advocacy Center unveils new award

Bonnie Watts receives the first-ever Melissa Johnson Children's Champion Award.

By Kali Bates // Photography provided by Coffee County Children's Advocacy Center

THE COFFEE County Children's Advocacy Center (CCCAC) recently unveiled a new recognition for those who work tirelessly advocating for children in Coffee County.

According to the CCCAC director, Joyce Prusak, the award was created for the late Melissa Johnson.

"The award was created to honor the memory of Melissa Johnson," she explained. "Her husband, Ward Johnson, wanted to find a way to honor her memory and her love of children. So we worked with him to create this award."

Receiving the inaugural Melissa Johnson Children's Champion Award is one of the CCCAC's founding members, Bonnie Watts.

In 2004, Watts, and a group of local activists with the Coffee County Church Women United, founded the center that officially opened in 2005. For almost 20 years, the center has served children who have experienced severe abuse.

Prusak said this recognition for Watts was long overdue.

"Through the founding of the Coffee County Children's Advocacy Center, Bonnie has had a tremendous impact on the children and families that have been helped through the CAC," she said. "Over 4,400 children have received some kind of service from the center due to severe child abuse allegations. The more support we can give children and families to begin the healing process, the stronger our community will be as a whole. Bonnie is an unsung hero. It was time to give her the recognition and credit she deserves."

Prusak added that the award will help to recognize those with the CCCAC who work to make an impact through the organization.

"The board of directors of the CCCAC will be deciding who receives this award based on the impact of the work someone has done for children in our community," she explained. "This is a new award and there was no doubt who we wanted to award it to this first time based on the work that was done to found the center and the lasting legacy of that work. Although over 4,400 children have been helped so far, that number will just continue to grow."

A humbled Watts said she is grateful for the award and proud to be a part of an organization that works to advocate for children.

"I am so humbled being acknowledged to receive the

first Melissa Johnson Children's Champion Award, and it is such an honor," she said. "But I have to say it was not only myself who worked hard to get the center on its feet. So many people were involved, and a lot of those same folks are still working hard for the children of our community. I feel privileged to have been a part of the process."

According to Prusak, the CCCAC offers services that include forensic interviews, family advocacy, mental health services, medical exams, and prevention training. In addition to the intervention services that the CCCAC provides to children and families in the community who experience severe abuse, the CCCAC also provides an evidence-based prevention program for adults, called Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children, thanks to a grant received by the center.

The program trains adults to recognize signs and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. It also aims to eliminate child abuse through prevention. The program is evidence-informed, adult-focused, and it is proven to increase knowledge and change behavior. **GN**



For more information, email Elena Cawley at elena@ coffeecountycac.org. The center is located at 104 N. Spring St., Manchester, and can be reached by calling (931) 723-8888. "I am so humbled being acknowledged to receive the first Melissa Johnson Children's Champion Award, and it is such an honor,"

- Bonnie Watts

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Pittman: The Persistent Player

Football career made memorable for former player, Matthew Pittman, thanks to his teammates.

By Kali Bates // Photography Ashleigh Newnes

HIS PRACTICE wasn't like all the others. It was the last practice before the season opener; the official start of the season. You could feel the tension and excitement amongst the players. It was almost as thick as the humidity.

He wiped the sweat from his face with his jersey and looked around at his fellow players. They were really more like brothers at this point. Years had been spent with his fellow brothers enduring long, hot practices that sometimes felt like there was no end in sight.

But even if he could, he wouldn't trade a single miserable moment. He'd suit up proudly alongside them and run every single drill that the coaches threw at them.

A whistle blew and he and his teammates looked at each other. They know what's in store for them for the next few hours and they are ready to tackle it together.

Practices like this were "ah ha" moments for former Coffee County football player Matthew Pittman. In these moments, Pittman said he knew that as a team, they could do anything.

"Even in our summer practices, I don't know what

it was about that time," he said. "Maybe it was that time of the year or something in the air? I don't know what it was. But my team, we had a bond and we had been through a lot, and we knew that we were going to be perfectly fine."

Playing since he was a child, Pittman said he was always a nervous player getting wrapped up in the excitement. Helping him to calm that nervousness, was him just getting out there and knocking up against another player and being alongside his teammates.

"The nervousness of it was always huge," he said. "It's a big part for me. I was always a nervous player. It's something about that feeling when you're on the field and the lights turn on, finally. You go out there as soon as that first whistle sounds, you don't think anymore, and you just do it."

Pittman added that the bond he and his fellow players shared was what made playing football so special.

"A solid team starts with fundamentals," he said. "It's then about teamwork and forming a bond with your teammates. Once you're solid on teamwork, it's all about persistence and just staying at it."



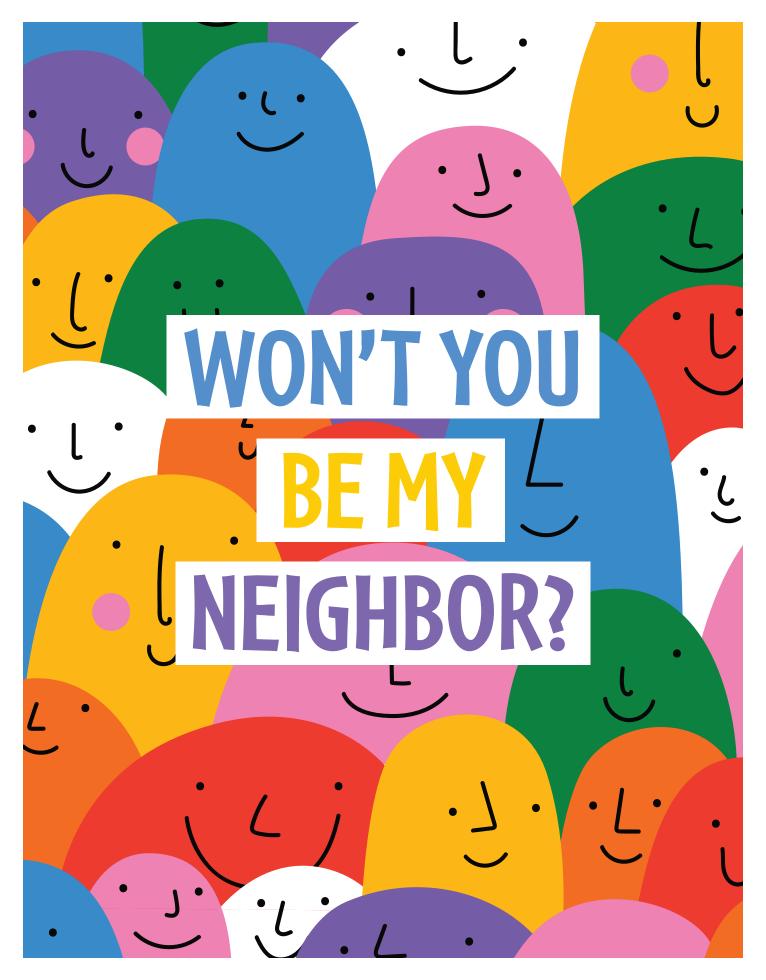
"Once you're solid on teamwork, it's all about persistence and just staying at it."

- Matthew Pittman

A recent graduate himself, Pittman said that he encourages current players to make the most of their time playing under the lights and with their teammates.

"I would cherish the time they have," he said. "I hate to make it so sad, but it really... it passes you by so quick. You never realize it before you're out of the moment and that you can never do something like this again with these people." GN





This official national day encourages building stronger communities.

By Tina Neeley

EPTEMBER 28 is
National Good Neighbor
Day, but we don't have to
wait for the official holiday to
become better neighbors. Manchester residents don't contain their
neighborly outreach to a single day;
we have a long history of supporting one another. Still, using the
Good Neighbor Pledge and the five
pillars for building better neighborhoods, we can multiply the impact
of support.

The first pillar begins where all natural first connections are made - by saying hello. In our digital age and a world reshaped by a national pandemic, it was safer and more convenient to retreat to virtual communities. These resources kept us connected and enabled us to stay encouraged. As we've eased back into something more closely resembling normal, we may need to be intentional about coming together again in person. Saying hello to neighbors as we come and go may be routine, or we may have gotten out of the habit. National Good Neighbor Day is the perfect time to reset.

What better way to reset than with an invitation to gather for a neighborhood meal or fun event? How about an "operation neighborhood reset" celebration? Jumpstart the reset by working together to brainstorm the details of your gathering. Be sure there's something for everyone, from small children to senior citizens. Deliver goodie bags

to those unable to attend due to work schedules or other conflicts.

Once your reset is complete, remember to continue connecting by recognizing and celebrating holidays, birthdays, milestones, and special moments. It can be as simple as a call, card, or text message to make their day brighter. Celebration is the third pillar of neighborhood construction.

The fourth pillar reminds us to keep an eye out for each other. As you come and go, remember to notice your neighbor and their property. You know, better than anyone, their regular routines and might be the first to recognize if something is out of the norm. While no one wants to feel a violation of privacy, few will deny the comfort that comes from knowing someone is watching out for them and with them. It's the pillar of awareness.

With lives busier than ever, the final pillar may take the most effort, but it says "I'm here for you" and brings the other four pillars full circle. The final pillar is availability. It's making time to be there for our neighbors, coming through when help and support are needed. That seals the neighborhood deal.

While Good Neighbor Day focuses on that area immediately surrounding our homes, remember that everyone we meet is our neighbor. "Hello" opens the door to conversation, connection, and community. We're all stronger together! **GN**

THE "GOOD NEIGHBOR" PLEDGE

I pledge to be the "good neighbor." With the goal of becoming a more connected and caring community, I will be a person who lives with kindness and concern for my neighbors. I'll take the first step by connecting with neighbors and introduce myself. I will practice the "good neighbor mindset" to make connections, invitations, stay aware, and be available to my neighbors. Good neighbors make great neighborhoods.









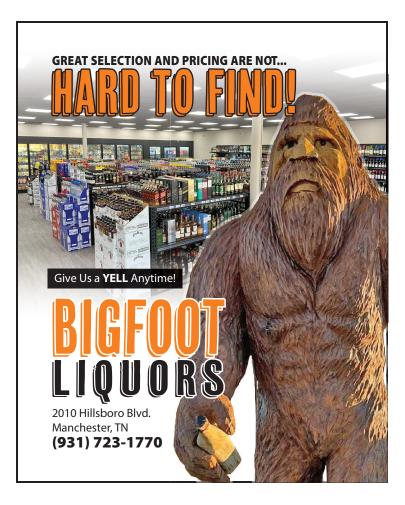






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This drum major is unstoppable!

Mariana Stein leads fellow bandmates with positivity.

BY KALI BATES // PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHELIGH NEWNES

HE AFTERNOON SUN beats down, throwing its last few heated punches before it sets for the evening. The smell of hotdogs and popcorn waft through the air luring patrons to the concession stands. Footsteps can be heard clanging against the metal as folks make their way through the stands. The booming voice of the announcer sounds from the press box calling the attention of all to direct them toward the field.

At this moment, she takes it all in. The smells, sounds, and the charged atmosphere. She meticulously adjusts her uniform and leads her fellow bandmates onto their grass-covered stage where they will showcase months of hard work that has led them to this moment.

She is ready. She's always been ready. Ready to lead and ready to perform.

From a young age, Coffee County High School senior Mariana Stein knew she wanted to be a part of the band. You could say it was inevitable.

"It wasn't even a question for me. I just knew that was what I was going to do," said Stein.

Choosing the trombone as her go-to instrument, Stein enjoyed a successful middle school experience in band. That success would almost be cut short heading into high school.

"By the end of my 8th grade year I was ready to quit the band," she explained. "I was terrified. I was afraid I wouldn't have any friends. But my dad and the band directors told me I was going to have fun, and I would like it. I really dug my heels in, but they convinced me. And a week in, I was really enjoying the whole experience. As much as it pains me to say it, they were right."

Once she overcame the hurdle of doubt, Stein has been unstoppable.

"Once I had reached that point, I realized that I wanted to be a leader; a student leader in the band," she said.

From achieving first trombone chair as a freshman, to section leader in her sophomore year, to a drum major in her junior and senior year, she has been on a musical roll. As she enjoys her final year of performing, Stein said she has taken great pride in being a part of the Coffee County Band.

"It feels really good to put on the uniform. Even the few hours before the game at school, loading the instruments onto the trailer, getting them ready to take onto the football field," she said. "I feel like we are all coming together and representing something. I kind of like the feeling that everyone is watching me. I know I'm representing something, and I've worked

"I know I'm
representing
something, and
I've worked
hard to be here.
I think a lot of
band members
feel that same
way and are very
proud to put on
the uniform and
do what we do."

- Mariana Stein



hard to be here. I think a lot of band members feel that same way and are very proud to put on the uniform and do what we do. Because we know it's not easy and that what we represent is something that only we represent and is unique to us."

Stein has plans to major in psychology and minor in Spanish at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville after graduating next May. But before she says her final high school farewell, she hopes to leave her classmates with what she feels is quintessential to the success of a student musician: positivity.

"As drum major, if I'm not positive, the other 60 kids are going to feel that, and it's going to affect the entire morale of the band," she explained. "I want to graduate knowing that I helped at least one person and made a difference for them. To leave a kind of legacy where the next drum major says 'I want to do it how she did, because what she did was really cool and it worked, and everyone enjoyed it." GN



IT'S FOOTBALL TIME

Local high school football kicks off season

By Kali Bates

OWN, SET, HIKE! In almost an instant, the center snaps the ball placing it directly into the quarter-back's hands. Dropping back, he looks over a flurry of jerseys searching for an open player. Quickly finding his target, he launches a cannon of pigskin that finds his intended teammate at just the right moment. In what seems like clockwork, the crowd goes wild as the player steps across the goal line for six points under the Friday night lights.

It is a scene that many can remember well and something that is looked forward to

each fall. Whether you are a parent watching your child play, a fan showing up in support, or a part of the team, band or cheer squad on hand to play their part in the festivities, each is able to take part in the glory of Friday night football.

Now that the season has kicked off, that same feeling can be re-lived or even experienced for the first time.

So clear your Friday night and make your way down to your alma mater or local high-school and enjoy the timeless experience that is high school football. **GN**



Coffee County Schedule HOME GAME AWAY GAME

COFFEE COUNTY

VS

FRANKLIN COUNTY

AUGUST 19, 2022 | 7 P.M.

TULLAHOMA

VS

COFFEE COUNTY

AUGUST 26, 2022 | 7 P.M. AT TULLAHOMA

COFFEE COUNTY

VS

SHELBYVILLE

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022 | 7 P.M.

PAGE HS

VS

COFFEE COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 16, 2022 | 7 P.M. AT PAGE HSW

COFFEE COUNTY

VS

LEBANON

SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 | 7 P.M.

COFFEE COUNTY

VS

SPRING HILL

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 | 7 P.M.

WARREN COUNTY

VS

COFFEE COUNTY

OCTOBER 6, 2022 | 7 P.M. AT WARREN COUNTY

COOKEVILLE

VS

COFFEE COUNTY

OCTOBER 14, 2022 | 7 P.M. AT COOKEVILLE

ROCKVALE

VS

COFFEE COUNTY

OCTOBER 21, 2022 | 7 P.M. AT ROCKVALE

COFFEE COUNTY

VS

RHEA COUNTY

OCTOBER 28, 2022 | 7 P.M.





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IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK!

FRIDAY NIGHTS ARE FOR FOOTBALL.

BY TINA NEELEY // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

It's finally here! Although the outside temperature argues for summer, your school spirit knows it's fall. Tonight you've chosen shorts and flip-flops, but soon it will be flannel shirts, pants, and your favorite boots. Your cap echoes your team pride, and your favorite cup sports the familiar combination of your school's mascot and colors. You're home again – It's high school football time!

You didn't think 5 p.m. would ever come on Friday. You run home long enough to load up your family and point your car toward the field. The deep orange sun has begun its slow dip behind the horizon, and the first stars have turned on their lights, but the lights you're ready for are closer and brighter. The stadium floodlights will focus their energy on the buzz around the brown leather ball that brings everyone together year after year.

The new season brings fresh opportunities for a championship year, and the anticipation continues building as you get out of your car. Stadium seats in hand, you stroll toward the ticket booth, expecting to see your former teacher. You're not disappoint-

ed as you gladly hand over the cost for the priceless experience of community, teamwork, and nostalgia.

The stop at the concession stand on the way to your seat yields fan food that never gets old. At the grill nearby, conversation and laughter penetrate the billowing smoke. There's something for everyone. Nachos smothered in yellow cheese topped with jalapenos; the hot dog with relish and the works; and the cheeseburger that caused you to think twice before you loaded it with onions. Cold drinks, hot drinks, and hydrating drinks are all options.

Familiar faces on the field mingle with new ones. Will it be the winning combination? How long will it take to fall into a new rhythm, to design the surprising play that never fails to catch our opponent off guard?

It's good to be back and climb to your usual spot in the stands. Across the field, the visiting team is filing in, and their band is warming up. Students, still pumped up from today's pep rally and by the cheerleaders on the sidelines, dart up and down the stands spreading their attention among

clusters of classmates, filling their usual section of the grandstands. Some are pairing up for the first time, while other couples have stayed together over the summer. The excitement surrounding rebooting classes and routines spills over and adds its melodies to the pulse of the drum section in the band behind them.

Soon, everyone's attention shifts to the field. The cheerleaders have formed the lane through which suited-up players will run, bursting through the paper banner boasting school pride. It's finally time for real action. All the hours of practice in the relentless summer heat have been for this moment.

The scoreboard clock ticks down to the national anthem and prayer for a safe game. Silence falls over the place, hats are removed, and reverence for the moment is recognized. In the quiet, before the hard-hitting action begins, your heart races under your hand that's held over your heart as your eyes find the red, white, and blue waving behind the field goal. A coin toss, a decision for kicking or receiving is announced, and it's on!

Friday night lights is back! GN

ALL OR NOTHIG

TRAVIS MARTIN PLANS TO LEAVE IT ALL ON THE FIELD FOR HIS SENIOR YEAR.

BY KALI BATES // PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

HE CROWD is wild with excitement, chanting louder and louder. The band chimes in alongside the crowd, performing the jubilant number that welcomes their team onto the field. The cheerleaders wave their pom pom's excitedly and jump in anticipation.

This is it. This will be the first time he will storm the field as a senior. He's almost lost count of the amount of times he's ran across the historic Carden-Jarrell Field. But no matter the number, it will never get old.

While the noise around him is almost deafening, he hears nothing. He looks around him, taking in the sight of his teammates; his brother's who he will march proudly into battle with for 48 minutes.

It's time. It's time for all or nothing. It's his chance to leave a legacy for his fellow Red Raiders to carry on after he graduates.

And in almost an instant, he is catapulted back to the moment where the noise and excitement comes into full focus. He takes off with his teammates running onto the field and under the lights on a Friday night. It's game time.

This time of the year is an exciting one for Travis Martin. You could even say it's his favorite. When asked what he looks forward to the most about football season, his answer is simple and straightforward.

"I get to hit somebody," he said. "I get to go into battle with my brothers. That first game, [against] Franklin County, is always on our minds."

Martin has always had a love for sports. As a young child, he was filled with joy when his parents surprised him with the news that they had signed him up for Pee Wee football.

"I've just kind of always wanted to play sports," said Martin. "They surprised me with football sign-ups one year. Once I got started and realized that I was pretty decent, and I was hooked after that. After the first year of PeeWee, I just loved it."

That love only grew for Martin as he furthered his career in football, playing in middle school and now highschool. He said that the sport is like none other.

"I love to compete, and football is just different from any other sport I've encoun"I love to compete, and football is just different from any other sport I've encountered and tried."

- TRAUIS MARTIN





tered and tried," explained Martin. "Just the rush and adrenaline of being in the game and being able to compete with a tight brother-hood in the game. It's a whole other level of excitement. I run track as well and before a meet you get excited and even get butterflies. But with football it's just magnified."

That same excitement has been passed on to his brother, Tyler [Martin], who will be playing alongside Travis this year as a sophomore strong safety.

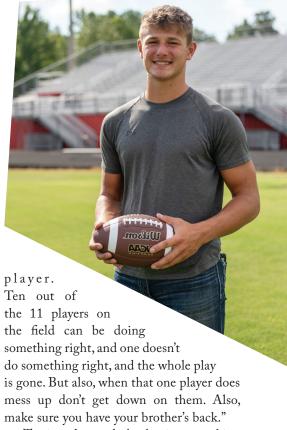
"It's going to be unique," he said. "We are both playing strong safety. So he will sub in for me and give me a little breather. Up until now, I've been playing both sides of the ball. My little cousin, Caden, is a freshman and will also be playing with us"

Now a senior, Travis understands that leaving something worthwhile is of the utmost importance.

"I want to be able to look back and know that I actually did something, and we did something as a senior class," he explained. "We have 20 seniors this year. Almost all of us have been together since middle school. We've seen it coming since freshman year, and we're just a tight-knit group that loves each other. I want to be able to look back and say we actually did something for Coffee County Football."

The legacy that Travis and his teammates are working toward will include a love for the game, being a team player, and being accountable to oneself and one's teammates. These are all qualities that Travis said encompass a great team.

"If you don't love the game, you're not going to do what it takes to be better on the field," he said. "Also, you have to be a team



Travis understands that leaving something worthwhile is of the utmost importance.

"It is my goal to be a godly influence to my teammates by living out my faith both on the field and in the locker room," he said.

At the end of the season, Travis will hang his pads up for good, but he will take the lessons learned along with him to help him in the game of life.

"Football has really improved my work ethic and taught me that if you are consistent with things, it will pay off," he said. It's also helped me to be a better leader. You're going to have people helping you and people bringing you down. It's pretty much just getting you ready for the world." **GN**

GRIGHT WHERE INEED TO BE TO B

COFFEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH DOUG GREENE CREDITS OTHERS FOR HIS COACHING SUCCESS.

BY KALI BATES // PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

HEN WE tell the story of our lives, it is not solely about us. When we tell the story of our successes, our triumphs, and even our failures, it involves more than just ourselves. There are a whole cast of folks who show up throughout our story. Folks who have helped, inspired, challenged, and even those who might have carried us when we weren't able to continue on by ourselves.

Our story is filled with these people and without them our story is incomplete. They are essential to our story and make it the beautiful experience that life is.

Coffee County High School (CCHS) football coach Doug Greene understands this well. He credits those people, mentors, fellow coaches, people in the community, and his players with help in molding him into the successful coach that he is, because it's not just in wins and championships that he has been successful. It is in compassion, understanding, determination, dedication, and love that he has gained through others that has also made him a successful coach.

On a muggy afternoon, reprieve is given by the air conditioning of the field house at

CCHS. In his office, Greene takes a seat in his chair surrounded by trophies, plaques and pictures of past wins, and most importantly, past players. He points to each one, smiling as if each player was his own. He has a special memory of each photograph and a story about how it made him a better coach by being a part of that program.

As odd as it may seem to those who know him, Greene didn't grow up with grand dreams of coaching sports. While he played several sports, that included baseball and football, the idea of coaching would not become a reality until he became a student at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU).

"When I was in college, I played football and baseball for two years in Jackson, Mississippi and then transferred to MTSU and finished up with baseball," he explained. "I was approached my sophomore year [and informed] that there was a private school, right off the campus, that needed help with their eighth-grade team. I coached the defense and realized then, that I had an aptitude for it. We won our conference, and

they were so happy. And I had a good time with it even though I obviously had some really long hours. I had school, then I had my practice and their practice. But I realized that that's probably what I was going to do. Prior to that, I thought I was going to be a lawyer."

He then realized he wanted to be around good coaches and make quality connections that would help him grow as a coach. Over the years, Greene would find himself amongst great coaches who would do just that.

"I was fortunate at that time that I had coach [Steve] Peterson in my life," he said. "He was the baseball coach at MTSU. He really supported me. There is a lot in me that he built into me. I was able to work with and be around some good coaches. I got blessed with being able to work with my old high school coach, Donnie Yates. He was my secondary coach in his high school and planted a seed of sorts. He realized that I knew what everyone was doing on the field. He pulled me aside and told me that I might be good at this coaching





"The good
Lord has
put me in
the right
place and
given me the
experience
that this is
right where
I need to be."

thing. I had some good people that just built things into me, and I appreciated them."

Over the years, he would coach on both the high school and collegiate levels alongside coaches that included Ron Crawfrod, Gary Rankin, Doug Matthews, Benny Monroe, and Ken Sparks, just to name a few. These are coaches that Greene said helped mold him into the coach he is today.

Now, with a coaching tenure that spans more than two decades, Greene has found his success not only on the field, but off the field as well.

"I've always felt like I wanted to take care of the whole player," he said. "Yes, I want them to lift weights and be faster and know football, but I also want them to be successful in the classroom and to be able to hold down a job. Most importantly though, these guys are going to be husbands and dads, and the lessons you learn in football is that it ain't about you, it's about us. You are a part of a family and protecting that family."

He's also learned that it's about making the most of what you've got.

"There is more than one way to win football games," explained Greene. "For example, the University of Wisconsin wins a certain way, the University of Florida has their way and so does Alabama. It is not all 40-yard dashes. I noticed that for a long time and really appreciate it. People get in their minds that you have to have this certain type of player. But my job is to figure out what our kids do well and then put them in a position to be successful. It's about winning with what you have. You've got to quit looking

around at everyone else and focus on us and being the best version of us."

As he suits up for the 100th year of football at CCHS, he does so with a staff, community, and group of players that he knows will help him continue to grow and continue his successful journey.

"The good Lord has put me in the right place and given me the experience that this is right where I need to be," said Greene. GN



TEMPUS PERFECTUM⁹

PERFECT TIMING FOLLOWS BAND ALUM ALEX BALDWIN THROUGH HIS MUSICAL CAREER.

BY KALI BATES // PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEY NEWNES

T'S QUIET. Which is very uncommon for a Friday night football game. The score is close, and one right or wrong play could decide the whole game. It's almost as if the whole crowd knows this, and they're holding their breath in anticipation of what will happen next. The players look up at the play clock noting the time and the score and then look to their coaches for what to do next.

Standing at attention on the bleachers, he notices the quiet of the crowd and nervousness of the players. And looking over his group of bandmates, he knows what needs to be done. He calls their attention and almost instantly they respond in unison to the call to not only bring life back to the game but to offer a sense of hope for both the fans and players.

Hearing the upbeat tempo of the brass, woodwinds, and percussion, the crowd begins to clap their hands and feet in response. This sparks a chain reaction through the stands with cheers of encouragement from fans, cheerleaders, and coaches on the field. Win or lose, he knows that he helped give the support that his team needed, to get back in the game.

For Coffee County Band alum Alex Baldwin, he knows all too well the importance of the band playing at game time

"There was always a ton of pressure," he said. "Especially being a drum major. You have to pay attention to the game. When you're on offense or defense, and the score, because you have to know to play the right song that will motivate everyone; not just the football players, not just the cheerleaders, but everyone. If the band wasn't a part of that environment, I don't think it would be the same. It would be much harder to fulfill that fun that you enjoy while you're at a game."

Being a member of the band encompasses some of the happiest moments of Baldwin's time in school.





"We would have such fun rides on the bus, and we'd always sing songs. It was always so much fun."

"One of my favorite memories was always going to competitions," he explained. "We would have such fun rides on the bus, and we'd always sing songs. It was always so much fun."

Baldwin gives credit to his brother, private instructors, and fellow band leaders for helping to show him just how much fun being in band could be.

"My brother was who I initially looked up to," he said. "I started playing in band in the fifth grade, mostly because he was also in band, and I actually hated it. I remember crying to my mom in the car after the first day. It was hard. Which, of course it's going to be hard picking up an instrument for the first time. But I ended up loving it, and I had some private lesson instructors who showed me how I should be playing my instrument. And also past leaders, like past drum majors and quartermasters, and just other things of that nature. We've always had really good leadership within the band."

One of his most memorable moments came as a senior during his time as drum major.

"When we went to COC, which is [the] Contest of Champions, at MTSU (Middle Tennessee State University)," said Baldwin. "It was just something about stepping on the field. And the way that the field feels with the rubber astroturf. Going onto that field and walking on there and leading the band on that huge and amazing field. It's just such a powerful feeling. It just felt like you could do anything."

Currently, Baldwin is pursuing a vocal education and vocal performance double major at MTSU. While he didn't continue performing as a musician, he has taken what he learned from his time in band and is applying it to what he plans to pursue for the future.

"The principles within vocal music and instrumental music are basically the same," he explained. "You're trying to create the same thing, which is beautiful music. I'm really thankful, because there's a lot of things that I learned that I would not have known if I had not been in band." GN



For all the rowdy fans who burn just as much energy as players do.

THE ELECTRIFYING atmosphere under Friday night lights is majorly fueled by loyal fans scattered across stadium seats. Young children with painted faces, parents with cushioned seats, and grand-parents with binoculars, all assemble together to chant and cheer on their adored teams. These fans supply players with the strength and much-needed spirit to trudge forward one more down, again and again. But who fuels the fans? Where do they get their charge from? Tailgate party foods, of course! Below we have shared a few of our favorite pregame recipes. Try them this fall.

Submit your recipes to be included in Good News Magazine and the Exchange Cookbook: www.southernaprons.com

Sheet Pan Nachos

Party Ham Rolls



Submitted By Ruth Cochran

Ingredients

1 c. butter, melted 3 T. prepared mustard 3 T. poppy seed 1 sm. onion, grated 3 pkgs. party rolls 1 lb. ham, shredded 2 c. Swiss cheese

Directions

In a small mixing bowl, combine butter, mustard, poppy seed, and onion. Slice rolls in half with an electric knife. Remove tops and spread both sides with butter mixture. Place ham and cheese on the roll bottoms. Cover with top halves. Bake in foil roll container at 400° for 10-15 minutes.



Submitted By Sheri Elder

Ingredients

1 onion, chopped
1-2 lbs. ground beef
dash of chili powder
dash of garlic powder
dash of paprika
dash of black pepper
dash of salt
1 bag nachos
1 can black beans
1 c. cheese, shredded
2 tomatoes, chopped
lettuce, shredded
1 container sour cream, 10 oz.

Directions

In a greased skillet, brown onion and ground beef. In a small mixing bowl, combine chili powder, garlic powder, paprika, black pepper, and salt. Add to ground beef mixture. Mix well. On a sheet pan, layer nachos, ground beef, black beans, and cheese. Bake at 350° until the cheese has melted. Next, layer tomatoes, lettuce, and sour cream.

Buffalo Chicken Dip



Submitted By Cindy Crosslin

Ingredients

1 pkg. cream cheese, softened, 8 oz. 1 can chunk white chicken, drained, 10 oz. 1/2 c. buffalo wing sauce 1/2 c. ranch salad dressing 2 c. Colby/Jack cheese, shredded

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350°. Spread cream cheese into an ungreased, shallow, light baking dish. Layer with chicken, wing sauce & salad dressing. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake uncovered, 20-25 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve with baguette slices, tortilla chips, or celery. GN



FAITH

Picking your teammates

Who do you want in your corner?

By Julia Eads

OST OF the greatest athletes in the world are not solely championed due to their physical abilities. Instead, they are recognized for their capabilities to see beyond themselves. They are known for their abilities to bolster up the teammates surrounding them. For example, great quarterbacks can see the entire field and anticipate even the slightest movements from their teammates. They make adjustments as needed, to make the whole team shine. Point guards, or floor generals, are the same way. They work hard to look after their team by creating scoring opportunities for their teammates. What about you? Do you have life teammates that see where you are, can anticipate where you're headed, and will help you with a win? There is an Old Testament story that tells about a man named Moses and a few of his "teammates."

The story occurs right after the entire Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin. The Israelites were traveling in the desert

from place to place as the Lord had commanded them. Moses was their primary leader. While they were traveling, a group called the Amalekites came and attacked them (the Israelites) at a place called Rephidim.

Exodus 17:9 tells us that Moses told his successor, Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands."

As Joshua went down into the valley to fight the Amalekites, two other men, Aaron and Hur, went on top of the mountain with Moses. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites would prevail. As soon as he lowered his hands, the Amalekites would gain traction. Moses was growing weary, as this went on for quite some time. However, Moses' teammates, Aaron and Hur, recognized his struggle and provided support without being asked. The two men took a stone and put it under Moses. Moses sat on it while Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands so Israel would prevail to victory. **GN**

COACH'S CORNER:

In life, it is essential to have teammates. Who is it you are surrounding yourself with? Are they willing to lift you up? Are they only bringing you down? Are you sacrificially lifting others up and helping them gain a win? Make adjustments where needed. It's the fourth quarter and the clock is ticking.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV)
"Two are better than one,
because they have a good
return for their labor: If either of
them falls down, one can help
the other up. But pity anyone
who falls and has no one to help
them up."

Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)
"Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm."





PLAYING FOR A ELONO 1300 ON 1200 AREA MUSICIAN STEPHEN SIMMONS RETURNS FOR AN INTIMATE PERFORMANCE AT LOCAL BREWERY

By Kali Bates // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



T'S HOT. The humidity is as thick as honey on a fluffy buttermilk biscuit that has just come out of the oven. People sit in their camp chairs and fan themselves with whatever is in arm's reach as they sip on a cold brew, both of which help to calm the heat.

Taking the stage, he looks over the crowd taking in the sights and sounds of a lazy summer evening. This is a sight he's seen many times but never gets tired of. It's one that is filled with memories. Memories that span from his childhood in Woodbury where he would watch family members play the guitar to countless performances he's made across the world.

He's playing for his hometown crowd on this night along with an audience that will have the pleasure of taking in the music of Stephen Simmons.

Simmons took the stage on Saturday, July 16, at the Common John Brewing Company in Manchester. Opening to the public in 2020, the brewery offers craft beer, brewed in-house, along with a tasty menu. Along with their popular homebrew, the brewery hosts musicians from in and around the area to perform on their 20-ft outdoor stage.

A long-time friend of Common John owners, Lebron and Angela Haggard, Simmons said he had been planning a performance at the brewery for some time.

"LeBron and Angela graduated with me," he said. "Last summer we were talking about doing something, and that was about the time everything kind of went sideways here [with Covid]. Then at some point, it was too cold to do shows outside there, so we just moved it to this summer."

Simmons said he enjoys playing locally and getting to catch up with old friends.

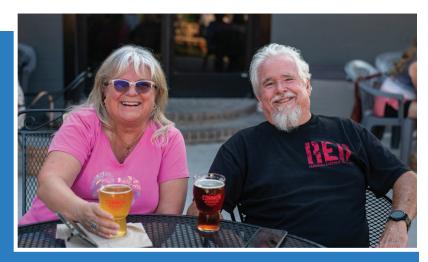
"I think it's fun. I mean, I'm still in touch with a lot of people I went to school with. And I come from a big family so I'm closer to them too. But I have played [in Manchester] often, over the years," he said.

A songwriter and performer, when asked if preferred one over the other, Simmons said he enjoys both.

"There's no preference," he said.
"That's why I think "singer-songwriter" is a really appropriate term for people like me, because songwriting is by and large, a very lonely process. You have to have an introverted side of your personality. But to really enjoy playing gigs, and performing and singing for people, you also must have an extra extroverted side."

Simmons is now in his 20th year of being a musician in what he would call the "official capacity." He has 15 records to his credit with a plethora of music that he has created or helped to create. He said it is still surreal to him that he has come this far.

"Writing is just something I always did even before I knew that I ever wanted to perform," he explained. "On my dad's side of the family, there were a lot of musicians.





My grandmother played guitar and wrote songs and so did my uncle. My dad also played guitar. And so that was a family thing that we always did, and I kind of grew up just wanting to join in. I was out of college before I realized I could get paid for it. I knew you could write songs, but I was older before I realized there was a thing called singer-songwriter. It's been around forever, but I didn't think about it as a career you go into or something you did."

He has enjoyed success, both at home and abroad, and as he looks over his career, the one thing he seems to be the proudest of, is the process of it all.

"[Proud] is a tough word to use," he explained. "I guess because I don't really

use it. You've always got the song that you've started [but] you haven't finished, or the other album you want to make next. It sounds so cliche, but the process is what's fun and engaging. So you don't really spend that much time patting yourself on the back because by the time you've done it, the satisfaction, bliss, and the joy you get is from the process, and then you're wanting to do something else because you're chasing that same feeling."

To check out the music and work of Stephen Simmons, visit online at stephen-simmonsmusic.com. To keep up with the latest musical happenings at Common John Brewing Company, visit them online at commonjohnbc.com. **GN**.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

River critters and where to find them

Photos by Ashleigh Newnes



Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Park invited participants, on July 16, to explore the Duck River and to find and identify river critters with the assistance of park rangers, Jed and Eric. The soldout event was an up-close look at the variety of aquatic life in their natural habitat and included stories about the history of the river, one of the most biodiverse river systems on the planet.







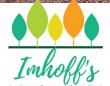












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EVENTS CALENDAR

August 4

8:00 am 26th Annual Ladies Invitational

WillowBrook Golf Club 6751 McMinnville Highway Manchester

Cost: \$75 per person or \$300 per team Includes: green fee, cart, breakfast, and lunch as well as one mulligan & one toss per player. Cash prizes and flights based on full field

August 5

7:30 pm Catch Me If You Can

Manchester Arts Center 128 E. Main St. Manchester

August 10

5:00 pm Hunger Games Back to school bash

First Baptist Church 108 E. Grundy St. Tullahoma

Food, fun, games and introduction to the Essential Student Ministry. For all students in 6-12 grade.

6:00 pm Beauties in Business

Jefferson's 138 Relco Drive Manchester

August 13

5:00 pm Free Movie Night Encanto

Wartrace Fire Department 110 Blackman Blvd. E. Wartrace

There will be a concession stand with pizza, hot dogs, and sweet treats for purchase. Cash only please. Doors open at 5 pm Movie starts at 6 pm



August 27

11:00 am Old Stone Fort **Duck River Clean Up**

732 Stone Fort Drive Manchester

The park will provide trash bags, gloves, and water to our participants.

September 10

8:00 am Fourth Annual **Fisher House Ride**

Ends at Common John Brewing Company

Hiram Squires hosts this event which raises money for the Fisher House in Murfreesboro.

September 17

10:00 am Out of the Darkness Walk for Suicide Prevention

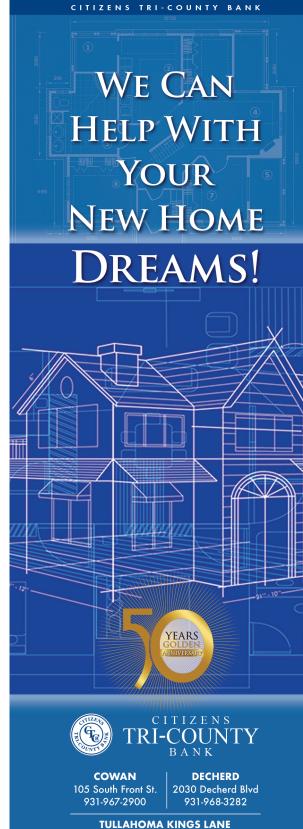
Manchester Rotary Park

Register at www.afsp.org/coffeecounty

For more events and to submit an event visit:

www.GoodNewsMags.com/events or call (800) 247-7318





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Metro Industrial Manchester	32
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Peoples Bank	25
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Sherrill Pest Control	16
Sir Pizza Manchester	17
Southeastern Institute of Medical Technology	16
Southern TN Regional Health System	67
Southland Pharmacy	36
Stan McNabb Chevrolet Buick GMC	3
Tennessee Craft Fire Pits	8
The Mercantile On The Square	9
The Mossy Pot	32
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- Jason









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- Martha



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