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Good



JANUARY 2023

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

JANUARY 2023

LETTER FROM 10 THE EDITOR: History over and over again

Good News

- CARE COMES HOME 14 Palliative care and hospice put more life into last days when started as early as possible.
 - WATSON-NORTH 18 FUNERAL HOME JOINS THE LIFE CELEBRATION COMMUNITY
- MORE THAN 1,700 LIVES 20 IMPACTED Christine Hopkins sees the
 - good in everyone.
 - **'TRUTH NEVER** 24 DAMAGES A CAUSE THAT IS JUST.' Franklin County Sheriff Tim Fuller strives for a legacy of truth.







Good Living

- 30 HOLDING THE TITLE OF KINDNESS Ms. Vickie offers her heart with every meal she serves.
- 34 SERVING UP A FULL TANK OF NOSTALGIA Cowan Texaco fuels nostalgia for the Golden Age of America.
- 40 IF I CAN DREAM A nostalgic look back at our community
- 56 'JUST AS YOU ARE'

Good Times

- 60 CREATE TO CELEBRATE! Artisan Depot celebrates craft week with a month full of creative workshops.
- 62 COMMUNITY EVENTS
- 64 EVENTS CALENDER
- 66 ADVERTISER INDEX

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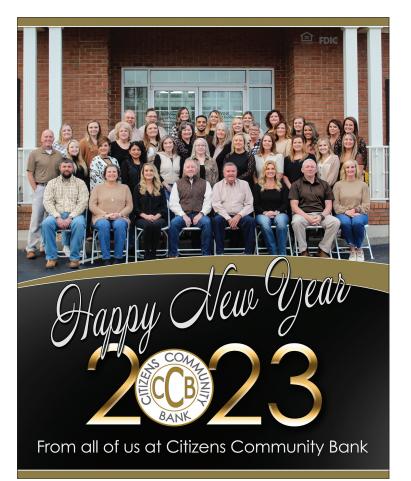
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

History over and over again

When the tide comes in, peace is knowing it will wash away back to the ocean.

AM IN the middle of my third decade of life, and within the last two years, I've discovered something I always ignored: music from the midcentury. Life does not seem to be slowing down. Our schedules are more packed than ever before, and we're still somehow adding more to our plates. When I actually started listening to Sam Cooke, Billie Holiday, The Righteous Brothers, Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, and more, I found myself slowing down. While the minute hand on the clock didn't actually stop moving, it felt like it did.

Music can do that. My heart rate slowed. My mind seemed to stop running and worrying about the next thing. The people of that time experienced history over and over again... and so are we. But I have good news... the decades before us made it out okay. Yes, they experienced their own traumas and surprises that influence who we are today, but they found peace.

That peace I found in nostalgia is something I've searched for in my adult life. I understood that the tide comes in and it retreats. Like a pendulum, it will come closer and then swing away again. In the words of Frank Sinatra, "that's life."

In my discovery of peace through nostalgia, I found Elvis's "If I Can Dream." His voice, filled with talent and power, is astronomically moving, but I focused on the lyrics. He sings about hardship and events that may drain our spirits, but he still finds hope to keep moving forward. I believe that is more important today than ever. No matter if you're in the middle of your third decade of life or your seventh, the tide will continue to come in and then wash away.

For this issue of Good News, I want to look back at our community. Decades of life, hope, and love have made us who we are today. I encourage you to find peace in nostalgia as the tide comes in again. GN

Wesley Bryant

MANAGING EDITOR



From our readers

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Thank you for reading Good News!

"It's so nice to pick up a publication and read about the successes and events in our little community. I try to grab up local magazines when in other areas to learn more about people, places, and things, but reading one that I can really relate to and learn from is so special. Great job Exchange Media!"

- Cindy Kite, Good News reader

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CHAPTER 1 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local positive news you may have missed.



18 Watson-North Funeral Home joins the Life Celebration Community

20 More than 1,700 lives impacted

24 'Truth never damages a cause that is just'

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

< Christine Hopkins

GOOD NEWS FRANKLIN COUNTY



Front: Susan McCurry, Rita Barbour, Skyler Weddington, Gayle Player, Haley Pelzer, Sara Roberson, Elizabeth Riddle, Candy Couch

Back: Melinda Luna, Tammy Cawthran, Donita Burke, Rob Nichol, Jeff Collett, Jack Kennington

Care comes home

Palliative care and hospice put more life into last days when started as early as possible.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

T WO WORDS strike fear and dread in our hearts. Cancer is number two. While number one is associated with it, it is no longer exclusive to it. Any number of conditions can lead to a call for it; the word is hospice. Whispers of a patient in the care of hospice paint mental pictures of resignation and the end. It is, however, a beginning when care comes home.

Edie Rimas, the Tennessee area executive of clinical operations of Compassus, said, "Most studies show that patients that go under hospice care actually live an average of 60 days longer than patients who face the end of life without hospice. The reason is that the focus turns to comfort and enables better management of symptoms through medications. They feel better, get out, do more, and spend time with their family. The biggest misconception is that they're giving up, because it's so far from giving up."

We tend to think of hospice as giving up control when, instead, it creates an opportunity to choose what's most important to the patient. Compassus does everything possible to help achieve these goals, so it's putting more living into the last days.

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Kay and Roger Caldwell BillieKayCaldwell.com



Maximizing the benefits of end-of-life care starts while we're still in good health. Considering how we want to be cared for should we find ourselves unable to self-advocate is not just for us; it's a priceless gift to family members. One tool is Five Wishes, a form available online at fivewishes.org that makes your spiritual, personal, medical, and legal wishes known in one document through a series of easy-to-understand questions. Being sure you have a Medical Power of Attorney and Will before facing our last days brings peace of mind to you and your loved ones.

Prior to hospice, some conditions qualify for palliative care simultaneously with home health care. According to Compassus, palliative care focuses on relieving the pain, symptoms, and stress of a serious illness and is appropriate at any age and stage of the sickness that could lead to the end of life within 18-24 months of the illness' current course. It doesn't prohibit seeking curative or restorative treatment for the illness. This program offers one more tool for extending days and quality of life when pursued early enough.

Finally, palliative and hospice care put arms around both the patient and the family. The peace, support, and warmth described by recipients of such care come back in 'thank you', care, and conversations blessing, gift, help, hope, and comfort.

Knowledge of palliative and hospice care is a quilt of blessings we can stitch in wellness and cover ourselves with when colder days near. GN

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▲ Robert Cortner, Jim Cortner, Bob Cortner, Tommy North and Ben Watson

Watson-North Funeral Home joins the Life Celebration Community.

A FTER YEARS of partnership and friendships, Moore-Cortner Funeral Home and Watson-North Funeral Home are joining together to serve the Winchester community and provide the best grieving and healing Life Celebration[®] services. A Life Celebration Home[®] means providing families with unparalleled service, personalized tributes, and customized healing funeral experiences. Watson-North Funeral Home who is transitioning to Watson Funeral Home & Memorial Park pending approval of the State Board of Funeral Directors, announced today that they have new owners Jim, Robert, and Bob Cortner.

Tommy North, the present owner has chosen the Cortner Family to continue to serve his community as in the past months Tommy has been challenged by health issues. Tommy has informed us that Jim and Holly have consistently offered unsolicited help in critical times of need for Watson-North families, while refusing anything in return, Tommy entrusts Jim and Holly to continue his lifelong mission. A quote from Tommy North "I have known the Cortners for 20+ years and I could always rely on them for anything, just as if I were one of their families in need. I firmly believe that the Cortner family and staff will continue my ministerial work that I was called to serve throughout my most fortunate career. Winchester is a small knit community that I was very thankful to be accepted into, and I know that the Cortners will take tender loving care of them."

The family friendship started years ago in 1973 when Roy Watson (Owner of Watson's Funeral Home) and Bob Cortner (Owner of Moore-Cornter Funeral Home) became partners in Franklin Memorial Gardens. They became best friends and it was history, Bob and Roy would spend time working and traveling together and would never make a decision without the other one's input, always returning to their montra of "is this going to be good for all concerned".



▼ Roy Watson and Bob Cortner

"I have known the Cortners for 20+ years and I could always rely on them for anything, just as if I were one of their families in need."

- Tommy North

Watson-North Funeral Home has always offered individualized memorials focusing on each family's needs and desires; becoming a Life Celebration Home® will further enhance the already unique memorials currently offered at the family-owned funeral home. The customized memorials will include photographs, memorabilia, special honors, photo collages, mementos, music, and other unique tributes that travel the path & tell the story of a wonderful life well lived.

Recognizing that this is a difficult time for families and friends, Jim and Holly Cortner are trained to provide families with the

tools necessary to create a one-ofa-kind experience, without creating undue burden on family and friends. Jim and Holly Cortner discussed the healing affect of the program saying, "The Life Celebration® concept will inspire family and friends to co-create a meaningful experience for their loved one that will minister to everyone in an inherently personal way allowing them to remember and reflect."

To learn more about the Watson-North Funeral Home visit their website at www.watsonfhtn.com or call (931) 967-2345.



▼ Roy Watson, Jim Cortner and Bob Cortner





More than 1,700 lives impacted

Christine Hopkins sees the good in everyone.

By Kali Bates // Photography by Brooke Synder

T HERE MIGHT not be a better person in your corner than Christine Hopkins. She is hope encased in human form and is determined to leave each person she encounters better than when she found them.

Her kind eyes and smile immediately let you know that you are in caring hands, but her wit and intelligent manner will leave you with no doubt that whatever your needs, Hopkins is going to do her best to see that they are taken care of.

For over 60 years, she has made her way through several careers, or "lives," as she likes to call them, working to give hope and a voice to those who are in need or have been dealt a bad hand in life. There are no lost causes for Hopkins—just another chance at showing the person and the world how valuable they are. A Franklin County High School graduate, Hopkins would attend Motlow College and then Middle Tennessee State University, where she would achieve a bachelor's and master's degree.

"I started my professional career in the education field, as I always wanted to be a guidance counselor in vocational education," she explained. "It probably goes back to my earlier life when I wanted to help people. When I think about those times and the need to help those who cannot help themselves, becoming a counselor was the goal, but the education part is what it took to get there."

Over the last six decades, she has served as a social worker for the Franklin County Board of Education, a Counselor II for the State of Tennessee, a manager and



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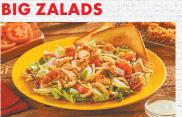
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state director for the Tennessee Vocational Training Center's Division of Rehabilitation Services, director for Caring Incorporated, a member of the Franklin County School Board, Regional and State Workforce and several other boards.

Hopkins said the goal was and still is to make a difference. Now, at 87, she currently serves as the executive director of the Middle Tennessee Rural Reentry program. For Hopkins, there are still many more "lives" to live and people to help.

"Just because people are elderly doesn't mean they are done," she explained. "That's when they start knowing what they need to do. When you are lying in the casket, the only thing that you take with you is what you gave away. What you give away can create a ripple effect and make generational changes for years."

Hopkins is making ripples in grand proportions through her work as a reentry director. She and her staff work to "provide quality community reentry services that will reduce recidivism, empower clients to enter gainful employment, lead productive lives, and return to safer communities," according to the program's mission statement.

"We've been in existence since 2007," explained Hopkins. "We've served over 1700 people. Every story you could ever think of, I've heard. There is nothing you could tell me that would shock me. I have never worked with incarcerated individuals, but this population drives you. We provide evidence-based classes that change cognitive behavior and build self-esteem and self-worth. You'll never be able to rehabilitate individuals unless their self-esteem is present. Most individuals desire to make a difference in someone's life. You just have to help find it." She has also worked to improve the lives of Franklin County residents with what Hopkins considers to be the biggest material accomplishment—the Tennessee College of Applied Technology, which opened in 2020. Hopkins said with the support of a lot of people and God's will, the dream of the school became a reality. She also expresses her love to all 15 members of her family who are a part of her success.

"It took us about 10 years to secure the tech school, but we didn't give up," she said. "I'm one of the most persistent people you'll ever want to meet. The goal was to raise the standard of living for citizens of the community by having a career and higher income to raise their families."

While she is getting older and may not be as fast-moving as she used to be, she said that God gave her a brain, and as long as he wants her to use it, she will work to help make a difference in people's lives.

"The goal is to keep on changing," she said. "When things go wrong, as they sometimes do, don't quit. When they tell you 'no,' it doesn't necessarily mean no. There may be someone in line who might say yes." **GN**



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'Truth never damages a cause that is just.'

Franklin County Sheriff Tim Fuller strives for a legacy of truth. By Kali Bates // Photos provided by Tim Fuller and Katelyn Isbell

T HEY SAY honesty is the best policy. For Franklin County Sheriff Tim Fuller, it is the bottom line and at the core of his beliefs as a lawman, father, and human. Fuller was recently elected for his fifth term, making him the longest-serving sheriff in the county's history.

Fuller's career in law began at the age of 19 with the Moore County Sheriff's Department. Fuller said a career in law was not something he saw himself doing.

"I had two older brothers in law enforcement," he said. "As odd as it may sound, I made fun of them. I said that they never really did anything. I had ridden with my older brother, a deputy sheriff at the time. I saw all the positive things and a degree of excitement in law enforcement. No two days are alike, ever. I also saw where he could help people, giving me a different viewpoint."

Moore County Sheriff Herb Glassmeyer gave Fuller a job as a deputy, and with that, his career in law enforcement began. Fuller stated that Glassmeyer had a significant influence on his career. "Some of the things he instilled in me hold true today," he said. "He taught me how serious the job is. You deal with people when they are going through the worst tragedy of their life. When you go to deal with them, how you handle them will be a part of your legacy throughout your career. He was very hard on me, but in a good way."

Honesty is an essential quality that Fuller has acquired during his years as a lawman and now as sheriff. It is at the core of all that he does.

"Tell the truth no matter what," he said. "Be honest and be upfront. Don't hide anything. Being honest started from day one."

LEGACY IN ACTION

His two children, Ryan Fuller and Katelyn Isbell, follow in his footsteps of serving the community through the law.

As a detective for the Winchester Police Department, Ryan said his father had instilled a strong work ethic in him and his



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sister. He said his father also goes out of his way to help, whether he knows the person or not.

"Throughout my personal and professional life, dad has instilled a hard work ethic in my sister and me," he explained. "We have learned there's no substitute for a strong work ethic and genuine care for our job. Dad's legacy in law enforcement will be an unequaled line of communication with coworkers and the community. His open-door policy has evolved into an open-phone policy. He's always taking time out of his work or personal day to answer calls and help anyone who calls him. I cannot count the number of times I've stood beside dad after he got off the phone with someone and asked, 'who was that?' and he just looked at me and said, 'I don't know.""

Isbell is a deputy clerk in the Franklin County Circuit Court Clerk's Office. She echoed her brother's sentiments on their dad's lesson about work ethic, but she shared that his perseverance is something she is proud to have.

"In addition to so many lessons and values that I have learned, Dad's perseverance is something I am proud of," said Isbell. "I have seen many struggles throughout dad's life that include career and personal losses of his parents, brothers, and his wife and our mother (Bobbie Fuller) to job stresses and day-to-day issues that arise. His perseverance has been evident and kept him moving forward. He truly drowns out all the negative noise of others and focuses on what is important. I admire that no matter how tough the situation, he doesn't run; he stands tall and leads."

She added that she hopes people can see him as the sheriff and as a father, grandfather, and human.

"I hope others see him as I do," said Isbell. "He is honest, even when it might not be what you want to hear. His actions and very few words show his love. To the grandkids, he is the keeper of the candy and their chauffeur on the tractor and ranger. As for me, I could never repay him for all the lessons and tough love he has shown me. I am always so proud of him and every one of his accomplishments. It's a true honor to meet others across the state of Tennessee who know him, appreciate him, and share stories about how wonderful he is. I wouldn't be where I am without my parents' example and their love and dedication."

STICKING TO HIS GUNS

Now at 60 and starting another term as sheriff, Fuller said he hopes to continue making progress for the county. And he plans to keep doing it the way he always has—with dedication and honesty.

When asked what he hopes his legacy will be, he leans on what has gotten him through his 60 years of life: honesty.

"I hope they say I was honest and did the best job possible with what I was dealt. Fifty years from now, I hope they say I was honest with people and that I left something that positively affected someone." GN



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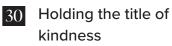
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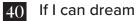


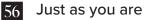
CHAPTER 2 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local people or businesses you need to know about.



34 Serving up a full tank of nostalgia





Our stories are based on submissions from local people. Submit yours here:



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

Enjoying a sundae at Bennett's Pharmacy

Holding the title of

ress

Ms. Vickie offers her heart with every meal she serves.

> By Kali Bates Photography by Brooke Snyder

Vickie Mathews

O YOU remember that most important Sunday school teacher or maybe a favorite waitress who always made you smile when your family went to a particular restaurant? Perhaps you had a kind librarian who always saved you a book they knew you would love. Whatever they might have been, I'm sure you referred to them as Mr. or Ms., followed by their first name. It was a title of sorts, like sir or madam. They were important, but they were also your friend, hence adding the Mr. of Ms. to show respect. By Southern standards, being referred to as such meant you were significant in both statuses and the heart.

This would be the case for Winchester resident Vickie Mathews. She's known as Vickie on her driver's license; mom to her son, Jeremiah; Gigi to her grandson, Harrison; and Ms. Vickie to the many that love her.

Born in Decherd, Mathews grew up influenced by her grandmother. Affectionately and respectfully known as "Granny Tate," Mathews said she learned about the person she wanted to be from her grandmother. "My grandmother was probably the biggest influence on my life. She was always there for me," said Mathews.

At 21, Mathews moved to Winchester and worked as a waitress at the local restaurant, Skipp's Grill. Little did she know that she would be embarking on a career that would lead her to a life of service where she would become a staple for the restaurant.

"A friend of my mother approached me and told me they needed help. I started waiting tables and was promoted to manager within the first year," said Mathews.

For the last 20 years, she has been the fuel that has kept the restaurant's engine going. She works daily from sun up to sun down, ensuring that her employees and customers are cared for.

According to Mathews, the customers are the best part of the job.

"The people connection is the best part of the job," she said. "It's funny when all of your best friends are old men. We have sweet older gentlemen who come in daily to sit, talk, and drink coffee. They are a lot of fun." A friend of mine told me one time that everyone has a purpose in life, and mine is to serve and help people," said Mathews. "I'm at my best when helping others. I don't know that I give it a lot of thought. It's just what I do.

-Vickie Mathews



Jerry Limbough, Vickie Mathews



While she may not have known it then, over the last 30 years, she has created a life and a business where the community can enjoy some good food and some time with Ms. Vickie.

"We've had some great people come in over the years," she said. "There is a saying that everyone should have to work for the public. But you know, those types of unfriendly people are very far and few in between. You do have those everyday people that greet you with a smile at the door and call you by your name. That's what it's all about." Mathews is also known for her hard work. According to her daughter-inlaw, Lacey Jones, Mathews gets the gold medal for diligence.

"She does have the kindest heart and tries to help in any way she can," said Jones. "She would do anything for anyone. I think the biggest thing is how hard she works. She's always working hard and then goes home and does even more. She never stops."

When asked if she feels she's a helper, Mathews said it's just who she is.



"A friend of mine told me one time that everyone has a purpose in life, and mine is to serve and help people," said Mathews. "I'm at my best when helping others. I don't know that I give it a lot of thought. It's just what I do." GN

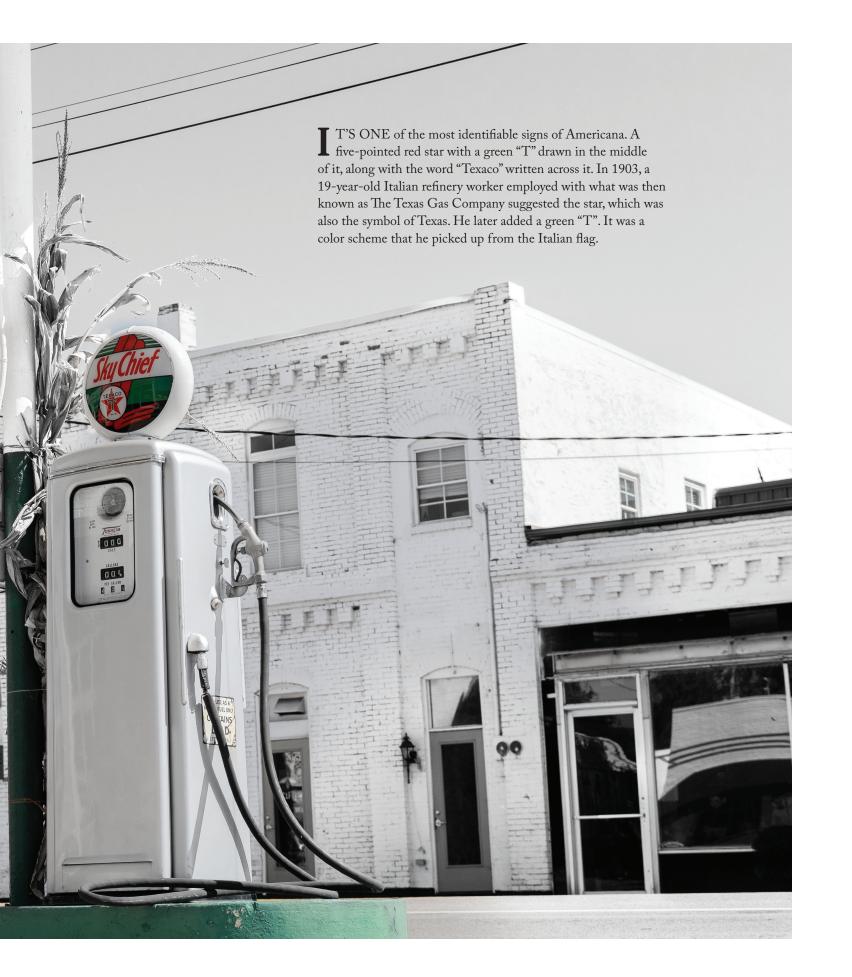
Serving up a full tank of nostalgia.

Cowan Texaco fuels nostalgia for the Golden Age of America.

By Kali Bates

Photography by Brook Snyder

FIRE-CHE





Before adopting the logo, a company salesman spotted an abbreviation for the company in a telegram as "Texaco." From there, The Texas Gas Company would officially adopt both the nickname and the logo.

Since its beginning, the Texaco name and symbol have become synonymous with America's growth as they ventured out searching for new adventures via the open road.

Just as one crosses the railroad tracks in the small town of Cowan, you'll see the iconic sites of a gas station straight out of the Golden Age of America—better known as the 1950s.

Known today as the Cowan Texaco, the station has been a part of the Cowan community since 1936.

Stations such as these were a huge turning point for the American traveler. Before filling stations, consumers bought gasoline from a barrel at the grocery or hardware store. But the new market for gas and consumer desire to buy more easily soon led to a landscape dotted with gas stations—more than 200,000 by 1935.

Although it doesn't seem revolutionary now, gas stations were the first commercial buildings to be placed back from the street. The design accommodated cars without disrupting street traffic and eventually dominated the American retail landscape.

"The building started as a Texaco station and has [since] served as a Shell station and repair shop," said Amanda Wiseman, office manager with the Cowan Development Company. "Cowan Development Company purchased the property in 2004 and restored it to its original configuration, opening it in 2006. Since that time, it has served primarily as a tourist stop."

The vintage station has also been a backdrop for music videos, prom, and senior photos. It's seen as a car repair or two, filling up automobiles for road trips, or just a cruise down the main street.

"Several bands, including Cowboys and Hippies, have used the building as a backdrop in music videos; Chevrolet used the station in a calendar photo," said Wiseman. "It's a great place to take prom, engagement, and senior pictures. Antique and classic car owners have also found it an ideal spot for a photo shoot."

Wiseman stated that the Texaco station has also served as a gift shop, restaurant, and art gallery. At one time, the town's public library had a residence there. Currently, the station also serves as home to a small portion of an impressive collection of historic and beautifully restored automobiles and memorabilia belonging to a local auto restorer, Leonard Brown, according to Wiseman.

"The addition of the collection was to its antique automobiles and memorabilia that fit perfectly with the setting of the old station and to encourage tourism," she said. "It's a wonderful attraction for car lovers and history buffs. It serves the community as a tourist attraction bringing people from everywhere to enjoy. Tourism is a vital part of our area's economy."

Cowan Mayor Mark Ledbetter said Texaco is integral to preserving the city's history.

"These places serve as a snapshot of a place in time," he said. "Many times, artifacts bring a more colorful and in-depth understanding than words alone. It is important to preserve our history for future generations to enjoy and learn from."

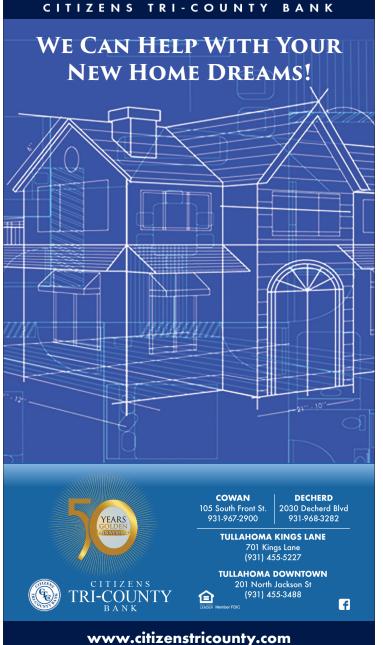
Once you've finished, you've had a dose of nostalgia at the station. Ledbetter and Wiseman invite you to continue exploring the quaint city of Cowan, which is rich in nostalgia and history.

"We have several wonderful retail shops, the railroad museum, a boutique hotel, and six restaurants open in town, so make a day of your photo shoot and see all the beautiful opportunities Cowan has to offer. **GN**

The Cowan Texaco is located at 101 Cumberland St. E. in Cowan. To reserve a tour inside the station, contact Cowan Development at (931) 967-1560

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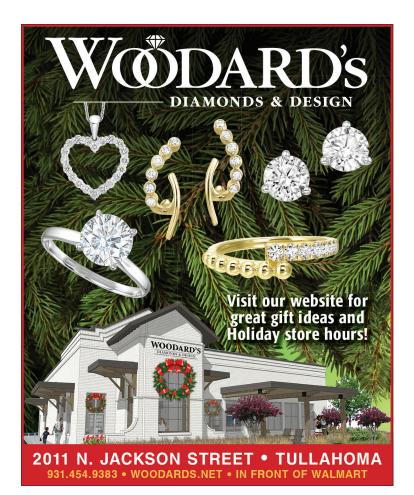


with courage, honor, and integrity we protect the rights and dignity of all citizens. In partnership with our communities, we strive to preserve the peace and provide for a safe environment for all."

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FICAN DOCUMENTALGIC LOOK BACK

AT OUR COMMUNITY

UR COMMUNITY has a rich history. Businesses, people, and locations have created the foundation of who we are today. Each decade is a building block to our identity, creating a beautiful masterpiece that only gets better with the next block.

Today, there are times when we don't have an answer. When hope is almost snuffed out but comes back like a beckoning candle. The same story was true in the 1950s, 60s, 70s, 80s, and more. Every decade has its own story, oftentimes with a happy ending.

This history-themed issue of Good News tells the story of decades ago. Stories that remind us today of hope, happiness, and peace that's right around the corner. Something that can only be described as a dream come true.

Deep in my heart there's a trembling question Still I am sure that the answer, answer's gonna come somehow Out there in the dark, there's a beckoning candle, yeah And while I can think, while I can talk While I can stand, while I can walk While I can dream Oh, please let my dream Come true. – "If I Can Dream" by Elvis Presley

A prescription for success

Three generations of loving and serving the community

By Kali Bates Photography by Brooke Snyder

W HEN MOST of us think of a pharmacy by today's standards, we think of running in, grabbing our prescriptions, and running out. There might be the odd occasion where we need toilet paper or some laundry detergent that we will pick up on our way in, but the idea of "hanging around" would find most with a look of utter shock.

But then some know the pharmacy as something different. It's a place to hear the latest news, enjoy an ice-cold coke, pick up a gift for someone special, or even enjoy some lunch. As you may have guessed, it's also a place to have your prescriptions filled and any questions about your health answered.

Such places are not of days long forgotten but of ones open for business and ready to help you on your journey to good health.

For 64 years, Bennett's Pharmacy has been assisting locals with their medications, vaccines, and overall health. They also happen to be quite the hub for the community from their 1960s-style lunch counter, complete with a soda fountain and a celebrity drink known as the "Blood Marty." Family-owned for the past three generations, pharmacist and owner Lisa Wallace said it's all about helping people in whatever way they can.

FILLING THE FIRST SCRIPT

According to Wallace, her grandfather, Loel Bennett, opened the pharmacy just off the square in Winchester in 1958.

"We started off [on] the square just right around where Blue Front Drugs is now," she explained. "Shortly after, we had a fire. We moved to the current location in 1960 and have been there ever since."

Welcomed by the community, Wallace explained that the family business would grow with the addition of his daughter and Wallace's mother, Betty Don Henshaw, becoming a fellow pharmacist and a partner in the pharmacy.

Wallace said her mother added value to the business.

"My mother was smart as a whip," she said. "She was the first in Franklin County to have a computer in the pharmacy. That was a pretty big deal then. She also helped at the hospital when they were shortstaffed. She worked at both places until they could find someone to fill the position at the hospital."

Wallace would grow up in the business, helping wherever she could and taking on almost every position in the pharmacy.

"You just take everything in and learn as you go," she said. "I have done it all. I had to wash dishes when I was around 7 or 8. One of my jobs was to wash glass pill bottles. We reused them until plastic ones came along."

Wallace would also follow in her mother's and grandfather's footsteps and join the family business in 1997 as a co-partner with her mother, until her mother's passing.

"I knew I wanted to do something medical, whether it would be a physician or a pharmacist," she said. "I just felt this place was perfect to fit right back. I love people and being able to do something to help someone."

MORE THAN A PHARMACY

When you step into Bennett's, it's almost like a step back in time. You are welcomed by a retro lunch counter complete with blue vinyl bar



- PHARMACIST AND OWNER LISA WALLACE
- LITTLE GIRL > ENJOYS A MOUTH-WATERING BANANA SPLIT
- A DISPLAY OF VINTAGE MEDICINE BOTTLES AND PACKAGING





stools and a soda fountain that seems straight out of the 60s.

Served at the lunch counter is a chicken salad plate (that Wallace claims is out of this world) with the famous "Blood Marty," which is well-known by almost every student who attended Franklin County High School before 2007 when the school moved locations.

"The big thing is a Blood Marty. Everyone used to skip school and come and have a Bloody Marty and then go back," said Wallace.

Wallace added that they make all their chicken salad, pimento cheese, and tuna salad from scratch, along with homemade ice cream served with their most popular sweet treat—a banana split.

"Our other big thing is a chicken salad plate. It's amazing," said Wallace. "People can get it here or to go. We make chicken salad anywhere from two to four times a day."

As if friendly service and good food weren't enough, the pharmacy also offers a selection of gifts for all ages and tastes. Whether you are coming in to shop for your-



<image>

self or pick up something for a loved one, they have got you covered. Wallace added that they expanded in 2007 into what was known as the old Scenic Restaurant to provide their customers with even more to enjoy.

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE.

As the years have passed, Wallace said that they worked diligently to keep up with the fast world of medicine with things such as vaccines and helping their patients learn about their medications.

"We try to add things as they come available," explained Wallace. "We do medication therapy management and a lot of vaccines. We've changed, but we also try to be there for our customers to help them with their



MEMPHIS, MALLOREE, AXLE, AND OAKLEY SNYDER ENJOY A SWEET TREAT AT THE ICE CREAM BAR. medications and know them by name. They are more than just a number to us."

What hasn't changed, and won't, is Wallace and her team's dedication to providing the best possible experience for their customers. Whether they're just stopping to pick up their prescription or staying for a while to chat and have some lunch, they want each customer to enjoy the magic of this truly unique place.

"It's nice to come into a place where you can just relax and live in the past for a bit," said Wallace. "We have customers who have come in since they were knee-high, to now grown adults. Here, your customers are more like your family." GN

Bennett's Pharmacy is located at 1201 Dinah Shore Blvd. in Winchester.

▼ GRACIE JOHNSON AND MIKAYLIE EDWARDS





Capturing the magic of the past

The Oldham Theater offers the magical movie experience of long ago.

By Kali Bates Photography by Brooke Synder



MELISSA BAXLEY 🔺

T HE MOVIE theater can be a magical place. One of my fondest cinematic memories is being 8 years old and going to see the Rocketeer in 1991. The theater was packed with no seats left, and my sister and I sat on the floor and watched in pure fascination as Bill Campbell strapped on his metallic rocket contraption and blasted into the air on the big screen. I can still smell the popcorn and hear the other kids gasping in excitement, just as I did.

Most of us have enjoyed great cinematic experiences, such as going on a date, celebrating a birthday, or even being the first in line and getting that ticket to a long-awaited film. While streaming may offer the convenience of watching a movie from the comfort of our home, one can never truly replicate or replace the one-of-a-kind magical experience of the theater.

One place that has been offering this magical experience for the past 73 years is The Oldham Theater. Now owned by Ray and Beth Ann Rhoton, the theater has undergone numerous renovations over the years to move into the 21st century while preserving the nostalgic 1950s feel that has made it a downtown staple.

HISTORY OF THE OLDHAM

George Oldham purchased the theater in 1949 to replace The Rivoli Theater, located on the south side of the square. The theater was named after Oldham following his death that same year.

Located in the heart of downtown Winchester, the theater opened its doors on Sept.15, 1950, airing the film "And Baby Makes Three," starring Robert Young and Barbara Hale.

In 1994, Rhonda Acklen took over ownership and made several improvements, such as transforming the upstairs balcony into a second theater.



In 2000, Acklen sold the theater to Ray and Beth Ann Rhoton. The Rhotons made further improvements in 2009, including incorporating digital projection equipment, installing surround sound, new curtains, and new seats.

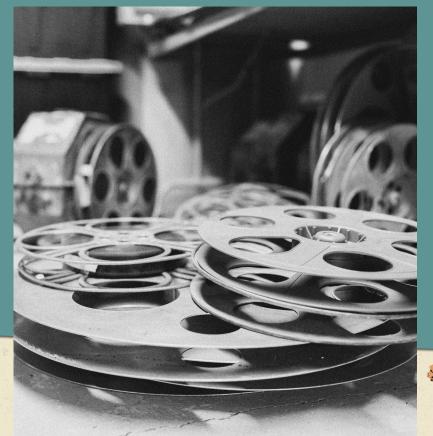
PRESERVATION AND MODERNIZATION

According to the Rhotons' daughter, Montana Medina, since purchasing the theater 23 years ago, the family has worked tirelessly to preserve the historical integrity of the building while offering their customers the latest in cinematic technology.

"We really tried to keep it as original as possible," she explained. "For example, when digital came along, a lot of theaters closed down. That was something that we



had to make a decision about. Do you move from the film that this theater has played for the last 60 years, and what does that look like? And it was the same with the seating. We looked at each addition and what it meant as far as the authenticity of the theater."







Medina has a long history with theater—one that spans her entire life. Her aunt, Rhonda Acklen, owned the theater before her parents took ownership of it. She and other family members have worked almost every position at the theater. Medina said being this close to the theater has made her appreciate it more.

"It really represents the community, but it also represents family for me because my whole family has pitched in over the years, from grandparents, aunts, uncles, to cousins. For most of us, it was our first job. It has been very much a family affair."

COME AND ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE

Medina said one of the best things about The Oldham is the experience it offers to those who step through its doors. It's as if you've stepped away from everyday life.

"I can specifically remember times with my parents when we watched movies there," she said. "The smell of the popcorn, the boxed candy that you can't necessarily get anywhere anymore. It just kind of makes you forget about the day-today business for a few hours."

She also added that places like these are essential in keeping that small-town feel as Winchester continues to grow and move forward.

"It's just that small-town feel," she said. "And with all the growth we're having, which I think is wonderful, it's important to remember where we came from. I think The Oldham is one of those businesses that has been around since some people's grandparents were kids. It's neat to be able to take their grandkids to The Oldham and let them have that same magical experience as they did. We hope that when you come to the theater, it's a whole experience. It's a time with your family that you're outside your house and making the most of this amazing town and our favorite theater." GN





They Marched On



THE 1960S was a decade filled with transition and turbulent times. Overseas, the Vietnam War was raging. War protests were taking place across the country. Martin Luther King Jr. led peaceful protests and marches across the South at the height of the civil rights movement. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. In 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men to arrive on the moon during NASA's Apollo 11 Mission.

In Winchester, the events of the world were no secret, and the town had its change taking place with growth and its period of integration. Making their change and marching to the beat of their drum was the Townsend High School Drum Corps. Townsend Drum Corps made a name for themselves by being themselves.

During the time of the corps, there was nothing like it. They were a dedicated group of performers dancing and twirling just to the beat of drums. Due to the times, the school did not have access to other instruments that would have been common in a marching band. That did not stop them. However, it only made them better and a force that commanded attention.

"We only had drums," said former drum corps member Patricia Nimox. "There were three young men who played the drums. People would come running to watch us march when they heard us begin to play. We were stepping... and just to drums. All these other schools had different kinds of instruments; all we had were drums. You bet we made a showing when we marched down that street." By Kali Bates Photography by Brooke Snyder

"JUNE BUG"

At the helm of the corps was Cowan native Samuel Featherstone. Respectively known as "June Bug" to family, friends, and students, Featherstone was a man of many talents, according to former Townsend Drum Corps member Joanne Hill.

"He was a jack of all trades. He made sure we were all on point and well-dressed," she said.

Nimox added that Featherstone ensured each student who joined the corps was well-trained.

"We practiced almost every day. June Bug lived up the road from where I lived in Cowan, and Dorothy and I used to go up there and practice in his yard. He was teaching us how to twirl the baton. June Bug was a gifted man. There wasn't too much he didn't know how to do. He was funny, but he was for real. He had an idea of how things should be for our performance and wanted to see it executed in the best way possible."

She said that Featherstone was always helping to care for his students.



TOWNSEND HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND Under the direction of: Samuel "June Bug" Featherstone

PATRICIA NIMOX

JOANNE HILL AND 🔺

TOWNSEND → HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND





"He had a Volkswagen Bug, and when we wanted to go to a football game we would give him a quarter," she said. "Gas was a quarter a gallon at that time. He was just a good guy."

MAKING A STATEMENT

Nimox said that Featherstone was in charge of choosing the uniforms for the corps. Making a memorable statement were the outfits, complete with yellow and gold, which were the school's colors. Each member wore white boots that Nimox said were always clean and white, thanks to white shoe polish and frequent cleanings.

"Back in the day, we thought the uniforms looked good because we thought we looked good wearing them," laughed Nimox. "It was good to know that we had something like that going on for a black high school. We looked forward to performances, especially the Christmas parade. We were always in the Cowan Christmas Parade."

A significant event in itself, the Cowan Christmas Parade is one of the most well-known events in Franklin County, with people coming from outside of the county to either participate or watch the long line of participants that in the mid-60s included the drum corps. "I remember when we were getting ready at the school to go to the Cowan parade, and we were so excited to be able to march together," she said. "It was so exciting to know that this all-black school had a marching band. We commanded attention, and we had a particular beat. When we heard that beat, we'd get to stepping. And when the crowd heard that beat, they knew we were coming."

In remembering those times, Hill said they were remembered fondly and cherished.

"We enjoyed everything we did," she said. "We were just happy people. From the drum corps to basketball to cheerleading. It was all fun and brought back so many good memories."

Those interested in revisiting memories or viewing memorabilia of the drum corps can do so at the Townsend Cultural Center, located at 910 S. Shepard St. in Winchester. **GN**

SAMUEL FEATHERSTONE ▼ (JUNE BUG)





We have been going to the fair every year to watch the horse races, it's our tradition and we feared this year it would not happen. Mom fell in July and has been at Lynchburg Nursing Center, but we found out they planned a trip to the fair with some residents. Mom was so excited! We got to go, we got to continue our tradition and enjoy it together because of the thoughtful, wonderful staff at Lynchburg.

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- Hilda Woodard

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GOOD NEWS FRANKLIN COUNTY



'Just as you are'

By Kali Bates

F OR OVER 30 years, children's television host Mister Rogers came into the homes of millions via our television sets and told each of us one of the most important things a person could say to us.

"I like you just the way you are."

There are over 900 episodes of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," which means he told us he liked us just as we are approximately 905 times.

I was one of these people. I was born in 1983 and can vividly remember watching Mister Rogers on PBS while visiting my grandparents in Nashville.

In my mid-30s, I was reintroduced to "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" through what seemed to be a national reemergence of popularity for the late children's television host. A movie was made, a documentary was released, and so were a few podcasts, among other things.

Jumping on the trend, I downloaded a podcast called "Finding Fred" that delved into the life, thinking, and work of Rogers. I immediately fell in love with all the things I had felt were so uninteresting to me as a child.

For example, the way he talked. He slowed his cadence to make sure that children could understand him better and feel that they were in a conversation with him and not being talked to.

The puppets he used helped children identify with different emotions and personality traits. He also spoke about adult topics, such as death, assassination, and race. He helped children to be able to process and understand these difficult topics. Finally came the real tear-jerker. The thing that, even now, makes me tear up just writing it. That fact that Mister Rogers liked us just as we are. We didn't need to be anything else but ourselves. We were loved and accepted just for being us—such a simple statement with profound meaning.

Imagine, if you will, someone telling you that they like you just as you are—genuinely meaning that you are loved completely through all your pain, suffering, joy, weariness, flaws, and imperfections.

In a world where we are constantly bombarded with the need to be anything but ourselves, Rogers wanted us to know that being ourselves was all we needed to be.

It's important to note that Rogers wasn't the originator of this message, and he wouldn't want to be. As an ordained Presbyterian minister, he learned it from a much higher power who calls us daily to remember that he, too, loves us just as we are. God loves us so much that he sacrificed us through Jesus' death.

What a truly wonderful and humbling feeling that we are loved just as we are, in our brokenness and flaws. We are embraced and reminded that we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

I'd like to think that Mister Rogers knew the seeds of acceptance he was planting. He knew they would grow and bloom long after his work was done.

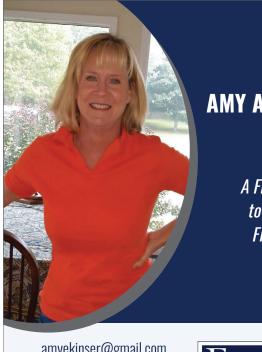
I am relistening to the podcast now and being reminded of how significant the impact was from his little show on public television. I am also reminded of just how important kindness is and how vital being kind and present in the moment is to the very essence of being human.

We should all take time to remember the power of kindness and accept each other just as we are. And remember that God's love is gracious, and He loves us just the way we are. **GN**

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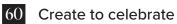
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CHAPTER 3 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local things to do.





64

Events calendar

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Pat Brandenstein

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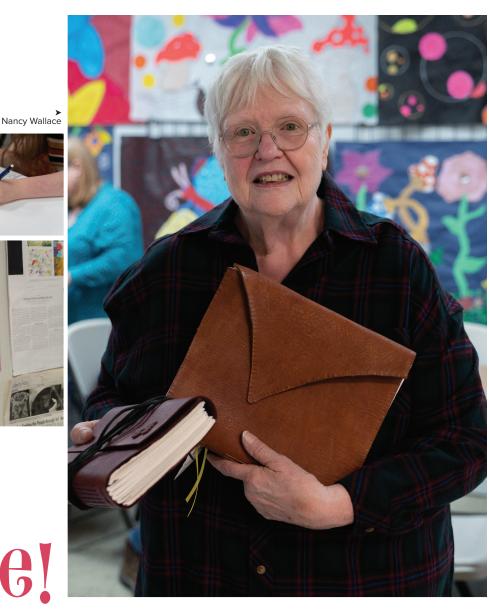
Artisan Depot celebrates craft week with a month full of creative workshops.

By Kali Bates // Photography by Brooke Snyder

ELEBRATING THE community and all things art was the Artisan Depot. The Depot held a month-long series of workshops to bring out the creativity in everyone from the novice to the master.

The series is in recognition of Tennessee Craft Week and is held each year during the first week of October, celebrating the vital role of craft in the state with events featuring traditional to contemporary craft art and craft making in all regions of the Volunteer State.

According to Nancy Wallace, art instructor and member of the Franklin County Arts Guild, the series was the Depot's participation with Tennessee Crafts for Tennessee Craft Week. It



was also a chance for the Depot to welcome back workshops after a long absence due to Covid. Due to the pandemic, workshops were put on hold, according to Wallace.

"We have been open most of the time, but workshops weren't happening. It's good to have people back in here creating," she said.

The sights and sounds of paper being cut, leather being sewn, and just the general conversations that took place while people were putting their masterpieces together were welcomed by Wallace.

The following classes were offered with the intent of students learning a new skill or gaining inspiration for a new project.

In the "Back to Nature" class, instructor Marion C. Ridel helped participants produce a Christmas tree design using natural and recycled materials.

The following week, instructor and long-time nature journalist, Margie Gallagher, assisted participants in creating a nature journal that also served as an art book for all their outdoor journeys.



While getting into the holiday spirit, participants learned the intricate art of stained glass as Denise Brislin helped them construct Christmas sun catchers. The professional stainedglass artist shared with them the basic steps in applying copper foil and flux and finishing with lead solder. Brislin also showed participants how to clean and enhance each piece.

Long-time book-binding extraordinaire Nancy Wallace then shared the historic art of leather binding with students. Participants of the class learned how to cut, fold, and bind a leather-bound journal.

Through their pouring class, experienced acrylic artists Denise Miller and Stacey Irons Jernigan shared their love for all things acrylic, where participants learned about different color selections and paint-mixing techniques.

And to round up the month of classes, the Depot invited the whole family to learn how to create a seasonal-themed, wax-

resist painting. Artisan Depot and Arts guild member Tanya Ingvoldstad Otero instructed the class and then shared how they could recreate the project at home.

The Depot celebrates art year-round by offering classes to the community. All class fees and registration are due before taking the class.

Follow the Artisan Depot on Facebook for the most up-to-date information, or visit their website at franklincoarts.org. The Artisan Depot is located at 204 Cumberland St. E. in Cowan.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



A fellowship of hope

Photography by Brooke Snyder

The Wings of Hope Ministry recently held and sponsored a fish fry at Winchester City Park. Attendees gathered at the Red Roof Pavilion for an afternoon of fellowship and good food. A fish fry took place with all proceeds going to the organization. The Wings of Hope Ministry is an organization that promotes the cause of Christ by educating and demonstrating Christian love to those who have lost their spouse.





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EVENTS CALENDAR

December 10

7:30 am Rudolph Run 5K Downtown Winchester

> The race will start and end in downtown Winchester. Early bird registration is \$25. After that, general registration will increase to \$35.

Race proceeds benefit Campora Family Resource Center's

Angel Tree Program.

December 17

9:00 am Circle E Ranch Iron Gap Road Ride 50 Circle E Ln. Belvidere

> We will meet at the shop at 9 a.m. and head out at 9:30 a.m. Please bring your own lunch.

December 21

10:00 am Weekly Storytime Franklin County Public Library

2:00 pm Weekly

Lego Club Franklin County Public Library

We meet every Wednesday from 2-4 p.m.

December 28

10:00 pm Weekly Storytime

Franklin County Public Library

We will be decorating Christmas ornaments at this meeting.



December 30

8:00 am New Year's Party and Ride Circle E Guest Ranch and Circle E Off Poad

and Circle E Off-Road Park

This event is by reservation only. The ride is for horse riders only but dinner party is open to all guests.

December 31

9:00 am New Years Eve Bash at Hogwarts Franklin County Public Library

This event is fun for the entire family.

January 3

6:00 pm Beauties in Business Ladies Networking Night Camino Real Winchester

This is a free laid-back gathering for female small-business owners and businesswomen who have a desire to share their knowledge, build relationships, learn from their peers, and grow together.

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