

LOCAL NEWS // LOCAL PEOPLE // FAITH // EVENTS // RECIPES

# Good News

# SHELBYVILLE

# News

JUNE 2023

**Discover a  
vacation in  
your backyard:**

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# Summer

# GUIDE



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565 Powell Howell Road, Tullahoma, TN  
**\$419,900** MLS# 2502419

## Beautiful Brick Home in Brookhaven Subdivision



Check out this 3 bedroom 2 bathroom home in Stonegate Estates. This home features hardwood floors, carpet in bedrooms, tile in bathrooms, and tile countertops in kitchen. The primary suite has a tray ceiling and a separate shower/tub. Exterior features a 26x21 garage plus storage area, screened in porch, fenced in backyard and storage shed.

113 Stonegate Circle, Shelbyville, TN  
**\$389,000** MLS# 2509272

## Gorgeous Newly Built Home



9.03 acres with mature trees, covered back and front porches, soaring ceilings in family room, huge first floor master suite w/walk in closet, open and airy kitchen with all stainless-steel appliances, tray ceiling in master bath, 2 car side load garage, bonus room above garage and some amazing views!

1438 Shelbyville Highway, Petersburg, TN  
**\$579,900** MLS# 2458091

## Park Like Setting with 29.82+/- Acres



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1801 Highway 82 South, Shelbyville, TN  
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# INFLATION!

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## Your Local Summer Guide

You don't have to travel far to have a vacation.

**T**HE AIR is thick and heavy, like a woolen blanket draped over the landscape. The sun blazes down, casting a golden glow over the world below. The grass is tall and green, swaying in the breeze like waves on an ocean. Cicadas sing a chorus in the trees; their buzzing filling the air like a symphony. The scent of freshly cut grass mixes with the aroma of sizzling barbecue, filling the senses with warmth. Children run through the sprinklers, shrieking with joy as the cool water splashes over their faces.

As summer approaches, many of us are starting to plan vacations, booking flights and hotels to far-off destinations. But what if I told you that the best summer adventures are right in

your own backyard? This issue of Good News is all about the ultimate staycation, filled with local places to explore, adventure, and more without having to travel far.

The best part about a staycation is that it allows you to truly immerse yourself in your community. You'll have the chance to discover new things about your hometown and create memories that will last a lifetime. Whether you're looking for a day trip or a weekend getaway, there's something for everyone in this issue.

So, pack your bags (or don't) and get ready to embark on the ultimate staycation. The adventures await, and they're closer than you think. **GN**

Wesley Bryant,  
MANAGING EDITOR

### From our readers



Do you have family and friends in Shelbyville who would enjoy Good News? Sign them up for free at [goodnewsmags.com](http://goodnewsmags.com)

Thank you for reading Good News!

"I am new to the area and received my first magazine this past week. I just want to say I LOVED IT! I literally read it from front cover to the last page. I learned a lot about this community that I'm happy to now call home! Thank you for your positive, feel good magazine."  
— Liz Huber, Good News reader

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

### What do you think about the magazine?



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CHAPTER 1 OF 3

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

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- 18 Nearest Green Distillery is home to the Guinness Book of World Records' longest bar
- 22 Local program sends seniors back to school

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▲ Hannah Amaro, Susan Redden, Irelyh Bullington, and Maria Valle

## Community Elementary installs a tool to increase literacy.

A vending machine dispenses more than books.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

**P**ROGRAMS LIKE Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library are a blessing, putting books into the hands of children from birth to 5 years. But once a child enters school, their library may not continue to grow. While they can access books at school, most of the reading material is the school’s property. Children longing for books of their own are often left without resources and access to stories that enrich their lives and entertain them outside of school. And the local literacy rate, especially following the pandemic, could use a boost.

Susan Redden, librarian and media specialist at Community Elementary, first saw a book vending machine on social media. Seeing it as an opportunity to encourage students to read, she shared the idea with the school’s principal, Whitney Yoes, and the two immediately began brainstorming for its funding. Soon, letters were mailed to area businesses, churches, government leaders, and others in our community. The letters were sent in April, and by report card day in May, a local Kiwanis club donation enabled the school to fund the purchase of the machine.

Redden said, “I was amazed because I thought I’d need to save money from the book fair in the fall just to get the money for it. I was blown away.”

Installed in November 2021, students earn “Inchy” tokens through their Accelerated Reader program, and the youngest students obtain them as they progress with their sight words.

The 2022-23 school year included a 40-book challenge for extra opportunities to earn tokens. Third through fifth grade students who read 40 books from different genres received a coin. All students also received a coin last Christmas and were excited to select the book of their choice.

“Part of the reason we [installed the machine] is that many of our kids don’t have books at home. Studies have found that students having books in their homes improves literacy rates. Our goal with the machine is to improve literacy and the students’ love of reading. I feel like if students get to pick a book they want, it’s going to make them want to read, and I think the kids feel that way, too,” said Redden.

Redden fills the machine with books inspired by the students’ feedback.

She said, “A lot of times, it’s based on what’s popular for library checkout because they get stuck on a series, and they absolutely love it. I try to find books I know they like or will catch their attention. I even asked them when we first started this for ideas for books they wanted to see in the machine.”

With an ever-changing selection, the book vending machine dispenses more than books. Building a love of reading and libraries, no matter how small, sparks joy in students’ hearts. And the literacy rate? It improved from 28.3 (2020-21) to 31.3 (2021-22).

Who knew an “Inchy” token could buy so much? **GN**

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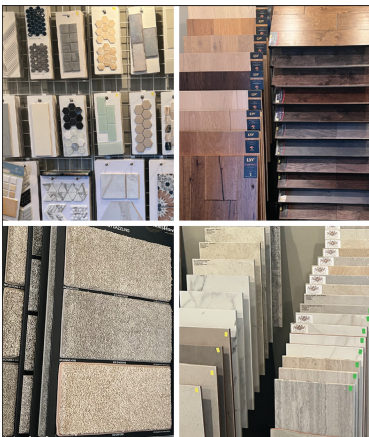
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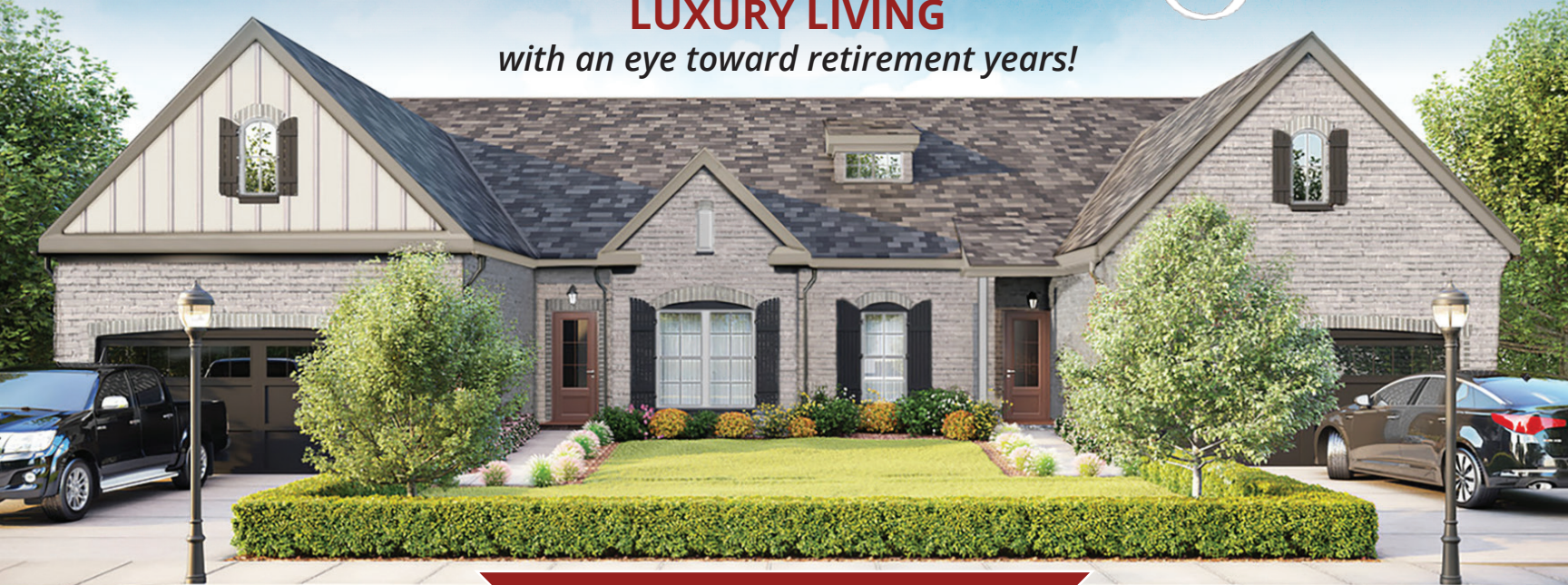
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# Nearest Green Distillery is home to the Guinness Book of World Records' longest bar.

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By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



▲ Keith Weaver

NEAREST GREEN Distillery's local and worldwide influence expanded when it opened its doors to The Humble Baron on March 23, 2023.

With something for everyone, The Humble Baron features a 17-station, 518-foot-long showpiece bar that wraps stunningly around an indoor stage, allowing guests to enjoy elevated fare and creative cocktails while watching live entertainment. According to MSN.com, the Guinness Book of World Records measured the 518-foot bar and confirmed it beats a 25-year record held by Ohio's Beer Barrel Saloon, which measured 405 feet, 10 inches.

"Humble Baron is a place where everyone has a seat at the table," said Humble Baron's inspiration, Keith Weaver. "We want our guests to pull up a seat at the world's longest bar and enjoy some amazing music over a craft cocktail or a bite to eat and engage with those around them. Humble Baron reflects my varied musical tastes and will bring all types of people, with all interests and backgrounds, together."

Nominee and critically acclaimed chef James Beard and television host Chet G. Garvin crafted a menu of sophisticated yet familiar dishes for its culinary offerings. The menu included the restaurant's signature Nashville Hot Shrimp and Grits, and Snow Crab Claws sauteed in brown butter and sage. Renowned Atlanta chef Jay Craddick will helm the kitchen as the executive chef, bringing more than 18 years of experience and a passion for innovative Southern cuisine to Humble Baron.

The bar program was crafted in partnership with Gin & Luck, the hospitality company behind renowned cocktail institution Death & Co., with Black-owned spirits taking center stage. Signature libations include the "Queen's Gambit" featuring Sorel Liqueur, Hella Cocktail Co., Apple Blossom Bitters, local premium Tennessee whiskey, pineapple gomme, and lemon juice. Also offered is the "Dear Fawn," a spin on a favorite classic cocktail, the espresso martini, swapping the usual vodka for local premium Tennessee whiskey. As-

sistant Director of Beverage DeAndre A. Jackson leads the bar's cocktail innovation."

Live entertainment at the Humble Baron will not disappoint. The grand opening weekend performances included American Idol's country music artist Hunter Girl and international DJ Bova.

Humble Baron will rapidly become one of Tennessee's most visited destinations. Audio and visual for the state-of-the-art music venue, with an indoor and outdoor stage, was designed by the former technical director and engineer for Prince's Paisley Park. The indoor stage, separated by a glass garage door from its mirroring outdoor stage, will allow live concerts hosting more than 15,000 guests.

"Although the vision of Humble Baron comes from the incredible mind of my favorite person on earth, I had the great honor of naming it," said Fawn Weaver of her husband and partner. "Keith's storied career as an executive vice president for one of the largest movie studios in the world and one of the highest-ranking Black executives in



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► Cary Ann Fuller and Delia Joe Ramsey



◀ Cyndi Williams and Kim Palmer



Hollywood for more than 20 years causes people to look at him as a baron. But he's remained the humblest person I've ever known throughout his impressive career."

The March 23 grand opening included a ribbon-cutting ceremony and live music throughout the weekend.

The Nearest Green Distillery is a popular destination, welcoming more than 110,000 visitors in the past 12 months, with that number expected to triple by the end of the year. Humble Baron will be a welcome addition to the community and distillery guests. It is open Fridays from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. It offers private events carefully curated and tailored to your every need, including bespoke menus of Humble Baron classics and crafted cocktails.

In addition to its newest venue, Nearest Green Distillery includes a welcome center, Barrel House II BBQ

restaurant, Philo + Frank's, the world's first non-alcoholic speakeasy, and more, making the site a full-blown destination for whiskey lovers, history enthusiasts, and families.

And it was all born from the desire to discover and preserve the story of the first known African American master distiller, Nearest Green. A story that was lost in time is now known. Nearest Green Distillery's mission is to share the story and ensure the credit long due to Uncle Nearest is told for generations to come. **GN**

---

The Nearest Green Distillery is located at 3125 US-231, Shelbyville. Visit [humblebaron.com](http://humblebaron.com) and follow the distillery on Facebook for a growing list of events and opportunities.

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▲ Della Jolly, Peggy Dollar, and Mary Arnold

## Local program sends seniors back to school.

Foster grandparents find purpose and help shape lives.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

**A**H, RETIREMENT! We dream about it, save for it, and imagine how we'll fill our days. While many seniors and retirees find countless ways to spend their time, others discover extra time on their hands. Living costs continue to rise faster than retirement benefits, and low-income seniors are hit particularly hard.

Teachers never seem to have enough time or resources to meet all the demands placed on them and their students, and the pandemic left many students behind in reading. Not every student has a strong fam-

ily support system to encourage and help to catch up in any areas where they struggle.

But there is one excellent resource that serves to fill the gap for seniors, teachers, and students. The South Central Human Resource Agency's (SCHRA) Foster Grandparent Program, funded through AmeriCorps Seniors, is that bridge.

Jeana Mills, Foster Grandparent Program director, said Bedford, Franklin, Coffee, and Lincoln County headstarts, schools, and after-school programs are among the 13 counties covered in our area. Foster grand-

parents presently serve over 27 students in Lincoln and Franklin Counties. SCHRA is ready and able to connect students, seniors, headstarts, schools, and after-school programs in Bedford and Coffee Counties."

Mills said, "We currently serve 23 partnerships in our area, and my goal is to establish a partnership with Bedford and Coffee [Counties]. While headstart programs usually receive only one [grandparent], we can cover a larger area in our school systems."

The volunteer program is open to all seniors. Travel is reimbursed, and participat-



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ing seniors are paid \$4 per hour. Volunteers must work at least five hours weekly and may choose to work up to 40 hours weekly.

The one-on-one sessions with students focus on reading, math, and building life skills. Teamwork and self-confidence grow as students benefit academically and form lasting connections with the foster grandparents long after the school year ends. The areas where volunteers are presently assigned find the presence of the foster grandparents to be an essential part of student learning and something positive within the school or program's culture.

Mills explained the foster grandparents' requirements. "To qualify, they must be low income, over 55, and able to pass a background check. They receive 40 hours of training — 20 hours with us and 20 hours shadowing someone at the school," she said.

Volunteers choose the number of hours they want to work, and many choose additional hours once they've experienced the program.



▲ Memphis Snyder and Della Jolly



▲ Peggy Dollar and Kassie Ryan

"I always warn the volunteers, once you start working with these children, they will love you endlessly, and you will love them the same. They will become like family, and when you're out for doctors' appointments, illness, or simply a personal day, you will be missed. So be ready to explain why you were out because they will ask," she said.

Mills continued, "It's just a win-win. The kids get extra help, the teachers get extra help, and senior citizens stay active and engaged in the community. Every morning, they have a purpose to get out of bed and push themselves to keep going. It's a really good program that works hand in hand between both generations." GN

For information on becoming a foster grandparent or to connect your school with the program, contact Jeana Mills at South Central Human Resource Agency at (731) 514-5967



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# GoodLiving

## CHAPTER 2 OF 3

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

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- 32 Discovering a local legend
- 40 Your Shelbyville summer guide
- 55 No blue days with this Blue Goose

Our stories are based on submissions from local people.

Submit yours here:



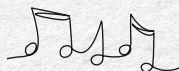
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

◀ Billie Crowell



# When life is a song



## BILLIE CROWELL CONNECTS TO THE WORLD AND US THROUGH MUSIC.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

**I**T'S A life of song. Spend 15 minutes with Billie Crowell, and tell me you don't walk away with a song in your heart, a smile on your face, and a pep in your step. She says music is God's gift to her; Crowell is God's gift to us.

The piano has its place in many childhood memories. Some find practice and recitals a chore, while others, like Crowell, discovered a life-changing melody. It was a connection that grew stronger when Billie Crowell's father, W.D. (Bill) Hayes, who operated Bill's Grocery, received a piano as payment on an ac-

count. The ivory keys on that old Wurlitzer played more than scales; they played into Crowell's future and set the trajectory of her life.

According to [hellomusic-theory.com](http://hellomusic-theory.com), one of the many benefits of learning to play the piano is it improves your memory. Crowell is living proof and effortlessly recounts events in her life in song. She burst into song with lines from the first song she sang with her sister, Mary Jane. "There's a gold mine in the sky far away. We will find it, you and I, some sweet day."

Music and the piano are Crowell's heartbeat, and Crow-

ell and music are a dance. While the metronome of life ticks perfect rhythm as crescendos approach and gentle melodies evolve, Crowell can't (and would never want to) separate herself from music.

That first Wurlitzer watched Crowell grow up. It patiently worked through scales, recital practices, and performance preparation. Like a doting parent, it watched as she left behind childhood toys and waded into young adulthood.

Also testifying to this season is a framed, yellowed newspaper. The Bedford County Times reminded its readers to tune in for Shelbyville's AM 1400 WHAL

first broadcast on Friday, December 20, 1946, featuring Ralph (Rat) Brantley and Miss Billie Hayes.

She said of that first broadcast, "The first sound ever [on WHAL] was Rat playing piano, and I sang, 'If I Had My Way.'"

Other opportunities to perform during this time stirred memories of specific songs.

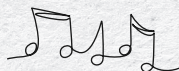
Crowell recalled, "In my high school days, we had one morning where everyone with a talent performed. 'Dream

(When You're Feeling Blue).' Remember that one?"

Indeed, piano playing sharpens and extends memory while simultaneously creating lifetime memories.

Crowell took her beloved music with her as she married Elmer "Coke" Crowell, and they began their family. You'll find that handsome football captain pictured on the same yellowed front page newspaper, foreshadowing two lives that would become one.

While chauffeuring her children, Jackie, David, and Nancy, Crowell found ways to continue to make music a part of everyday life. She shared music with Bedford County's school children as a music teacher in the '70s and '80s and taught private lessons. She briefly operated a dance studio in her home's basement before moving on to playing piano and teaching dance at Nancy June Brandon's School of Dance.



"God grant me the serenity to start each day on a joyful note, courage to sing the song of my soul, and wisdom to trust you always accompany me, that's my prayer."

**- MUSICIAN'S SERENITY PRAYER**

Brenda Ayers was one of Crowell's dance students and remembered how important it was in her life.

"We were poor growing up, but dance was the one place I could go to and escape that reality," Ayers said.

Crowell said, "My real joy was helping others learn to love music and have a part in it, even if they never played anywhere."

But some still play and live with the joy their time with Crowell sparked.

Her first piano student, Bob Smith, plays piano and organ. Music has taken him from the center ring of the Tennessee Walking Horse National

Celebration to church platforms, and he continues a life of music sparked at Crowell's side on the piano bench.

He said, "I credit everything I've ever accomplished through my music to this super dear lady! She was so patient and worked with me to learn to play the piano; then, the organ came naturally. I owe my love of music to her, and, to this day, when I see her, it's like seeing my idol. I'm so humbly thankful God allowed me to learn and study piano under her."

Crowell has always shared her love of music by serving as a pianist at area churches.

She said, "I am still blessed to be able to play the piano and organ at my church, First Presbyterian, every Sunday morning in praise to our Lord God."

The list of piano positivity states that learning the piano removes negative emotions. Another benefit of playing the piano is that it helps alleviate stress and reduce anxiety. Crowell agrees, saying she depends on it and God for strength and happiness.

Crowell adds her reason for learning to play the piano to this long list.

"It becomes a joy in your life like nothing else," she said. **GN**





# Discovering a local legend

Laura Trescott Ledbetter was ahead of her time.

By Tina Neeley  
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

**A**N OLD ledger-turned-scrapbook testifies to the tenacious and adventurous spirit of a woman ahead of her time. Glued to the aged pages is a series of encouraging quotes, more roadmap than sentiment for the one that cut and pasted keepsakes from her travels. While many of us dream of all we'll do "one day," Laura Trescott Ledbetter charged head-on into life.

"Remember, nothing can put you down but yourself, and nothing can keep you there but yourself."

Ledbetter was not one to be put down or slowed down.

Her grandparents raised her after her mother, who was married to a Native American man, died 11 days after giving birth to her. Her grandfather died when she was 12, and her grandmother died two years later. Only two and a half months after her grandmother's death, her father was killed by Indians in Arizona. By her 15th birthday, Ledbetter was without immediate family.

She obtained her early education in Bedford County's schools, then attended a preparatory college in

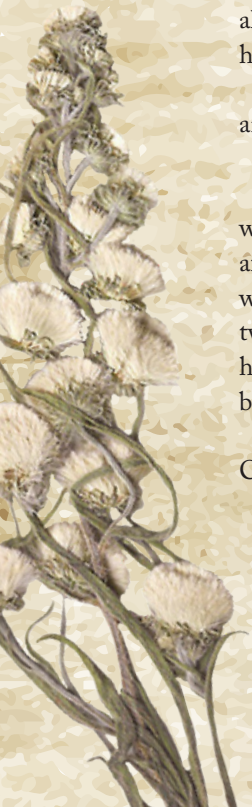
Cincinnati, Ohio. Education became one of Ledbetter's champion causes. In Laura Ledbetter Ingram's book, "My Grandmother," Ingram recalls her grandmother's desire for her children and grandchildren to be cultured, seeing they received music and elocution lessons.

"Grandmother had a business college in her home. Because of her interest in education, my mother and father met and married," wrote Ingram. Her mother taught shorthand and typing at the school and met Ledbetter's son, John Trescott Ledbetter, who lived in Texas at the time when he visited his mother in Shelbyville.

Ingram recalled her grandmother getting her started in stamp collecting and gifting her a ten-volume set of *Journeys Through Bookland*, which is still among Ingram's most treasured possessions. Ledbetter was always actively investing in her grandchildren's lives,

"There is a sure path to success, and it is up to you to find it."

A path to success for a woman twice widowed by the time she was 47 would seem like a winding,





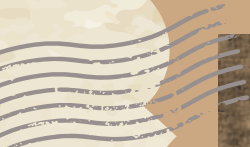


PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAMILLE BELL

*Laura Trescott Ledbetter*

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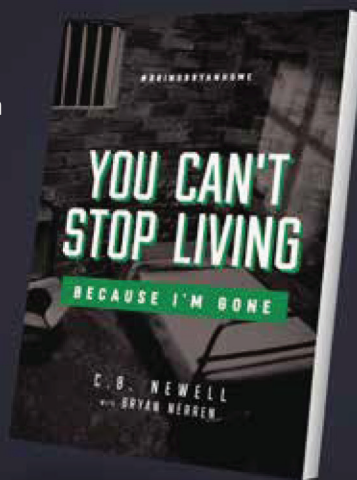
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*“Whether you have success or failure,  
you have to pay for it.  
Then why not pay for success?”*

-Laura Trescott Ledbetter

mountainous road. With two sons born from each marriage, Ledbetter wasn't one to wring her hands and woe-is-me wallow. In addition to her school of business, Ledbetter owned numerous rental properties, an investment for her financial security and an investment in the lives of her tenants.

Ingram's book shared a May 26, 1940, birthday tribute from the Shelbyville paper. “Miss Laura, as Mrs. Ledbetter is affectionately known by hundreds of admirers, is a large property owner and personally attends to all the details of repairing, remodeling, and building houses. It is said that no one in Shelbyville is better informed on the cost and selection of building materials or more active, regardless of years.”

Ledbetter took to heart the needs of her tenants, especially at Christmas. Recalling holiday celebrations, Ingram wrote, “It was an annual custom to have a tree for the benefit of a large number of people who would otherwise not be remembered — mostly her tenants, as she had many houses for rent. One year 149 attended and were served turkey sandwiches, cranberries, and hot coffee. Heads of families received gifts of practical value, and candy, fruit, and nuts were given to all.”

“Whether you have success or failure, you have to pay for it. Then why not pay for success?”

Ledbetter was not all work and no play. The tribute in the paper noted, “When she desires to relax and forget business worries, she takes a trip, sometimes to distant points, always driving the car herself and alone. ‘May she never grow old’ is the sincere wish of the hundreds of friends at home and acquired in her travels over the country. Mrs. Ledbetter, whose appearance and indomitable energy do not indicate it, was 73 years of age Sunday.”



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**BEDFORD COUNTY COURT HOUSE, SHELBYVILLE, TENN.**

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAMILLE BELL

1925

The old scrapbook begins with a newspaper clipping that reads: “Mrs. Laura Ledbetter left last Sunday for Nashville, where she joined a party for an extensive Western trip and expects to be away for a month or so. She will visit California and many other points of interest.” During the 1926 trip, she collected memorabilia from Kansas City. She clipped the header of the free coach schedule at Unity Inn and collected information on an Indian detour, Grand Canyon outings, Santa Fe highlights, and California not-to-be-missed lakes, mountains, and cottages. Even a Hollywood brochure is fully intact.

“Have you a vision? Put it to work.”

Ledbetter put her vision to work in more ways than one. “Postcard Memories of Bedford County, Tennessee” features Ledbetter as Shelbyville’s Pioneer Postcard Photographer. Despite being widely traveled, all of Ledbetter’s postcard photography captured scenes exclusive to Bedford County. Sylvan Mills (The Cotton Factory), the old First Baptist Church on Depot Street, Shelbyville’s public square, and other local landmarks and images of everyday life are frozen in time.

### *The future is now.*

Ledbetter’s great-granddaughters, Becky Nichols and Camille Bell, reflected on Ledbetter’s colorful life and her influence still today. Education is threaded through Nichols’ life as a home economics teacher, and Bell is a local real estate agent. Their father, John T. Ledbetter Jr., regularly invested in real estate and rental properties.

Nichols said, “I think that was passed down. Our dad said, ‘Education is the most important thing. People can take your inheritance away from you, but they can’t take education away.’ And that seems to be something that was passed down from her.”

Today, Ledbetter might have documented her travels on Facebook, tweeted her thoughts on kindness, and shared her local photography in an Instagram feed. She would have much to add to conversations about homelessness, zoning, and land development. But most of all, she would be proud to see that her influence is alive and well in the family that follows in her footsteps.

Ledbetter is a Bedford County legend. **GN**

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# YOUR SHELBYVILLE Summer GUIDE

Treat your hometown like a dream vacation.

**T**he sky is a vast expanse of blue, broken only by the occasional cloud lazily drifting by. It seems to go on forever, stretching out over the fields and trees like a canvas waiting to be painted. The heat is oppressive, a tangible force that weighs down on the body and mind. But despite the discomfort, there is a sense of contentment in the air. It is a time of lazy afternoons spent on front porches, sipping sweet tea and watching the world go by.

Summer in the South is a season of contrasts. It is hot and humid, yet filled with the simple pleasures of life. It is a time of long days and warm nights, of fireflies dancing in the darkness and the sound of crickets singing in the distance. It is a time to slow down and appreciate the beauty of the world around us, to find joy in the simple things, and savor the sweetness of life.

Did you know people from all over the world come to travel to Tennessee? And not just to Nashville and Dollywood. Our hometowns excite people all over the world. Why couldn't it excite us, too? There are endless options to have a fun summer. And vacations can become staycations when we learn to appreciate what our home has to offer.

Good News invites you to explore your own backyard.

This is your summer guide! ☺









# Beat the heat and have some

# FUN!

Area activities welcome families  
to make the most of summer.

By Kali Bradford // Photography by Brooke Snyder and Ashleigh Newnes

**F**INDING SOMETHING the whole family can do during the summer can be challenging. The beach is too crowded, and the amusement parks are too far away. And both can be astronomically expensive. You are looking to save gas and your sanity. Thankfully, many family-friendly activities are heating up in popularity for the summer months. Not only do they welcome the whole family to enjoy, but they won't break the bank, and they will also get everyone up and moving.

## DISC GOLF

While the two words seem contradictory, the sport's growing popularity is anything but.

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, Disc Golf is also known as Frisbee golf. In playing the game, players attempt to toss a plastic disc into each of a succession of basketlike receptacles stationed along a course, with the object being to reach each target in as few attempts as possible. It is similar to regular golf in that it has 18 holes and is played primarily by the same rules. But instead of hitting a ball into a hole in the ground, in Disc Golf, Frisbees are thrown into metal disc-trapping baskets on stationary poles.

Locally, Disc Golf courses have popped up steadily, with plenty of spots to play a round in whatever county you might find yourself in. It's also a sport that welcomes all skill levels and almost all ages.

Heather Brown is an avid lover of the game who not only plays but also competes in area tournaments and competitions. One of her favorite courses is the Red Apple Disc Golf Course at Stone Mountain Distillery in Woodbury.

"It's one of my favorites. The course is super challenging but fun," she said. "I have sort of a noodle arm, so it's harder for me to throw farther," she said. "A wooded course is a little more challenging but allows you to use the trees to your advantage. My family and I enjoy playing the more heavily wooded courses."

As a female who plays the game, Brown added that she welcomes other females to try the sport.

"I think it can be a little intimidating to come out and see a bunch of guys throwing discs," she said. "But the more you're out there, the better you get. We invite women of all [skill] levels to come out and enjoy with us."



▲ Luke Wallace



## PICKLEBALL

Another summer activity that seems to have picked up its own cult following is Pickleball.

A paddle sport with combined elements of tennis, badminton, and Ping-Pong, Pickleball is played on a doubles badminton court. The net is similar to a tennis net but is 2 inches lower and played with a hard paddle, identical to Ping-Pong. It can be played in either singles or doubles matches.

The Shelbyville Recreation Center welcomes Pickleball players of all ages and [skill] levels to come check



▲ Leslie King

out and experience the addictive sport. According to the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA), playing Pickleball can boost mood and overall mental health while burning calories. It also works on balance and agility while offering the same benefits as other exercises, including reducing the risk of heart attack and chronic disease, toning muscles, and increasing energy.

Local Pickleball player Felicia Daniels knows the benefits of playing the sport. She and her family have a long-standing love of Pickleball, which is four generations strong.

“My family is a four-generation family that plays,” she explained. “My mother started playing in Tullahoma at the D.W. Wilson Community Center. I hardly ever got to see her because she was so addicted to it. She told me I should start playing so I could see her more, so that’s how I got into it. That was probably



three years ago, and that’s how long my husband and I have played. My children started giving me a hard time about never seeing me, and I told them the same story. So now my children have started playing, and even my grandbaby is trying to play too. It has become one big family affair.”

The Shelbyville Recreation Center has a \$3 fee, with courts open from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. for those wanting to play indoors. Outdoor players can enjoy Pickleball free of charge from 6 a.m. to midnight every day on specially marked outdoor courses at the center.



## DISC GOLF

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## PICKLEBALL

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## SWIMMING

Shelbyville Recreation Center  
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## SWIMMING

The local pool is on almost everyone's list for summertime activities. The smell of chlorine, pizza, and suntan lotion is not only hypnotic but intoxicating and draws all ages to come in and cool off from the summertime heat.

The Shelbyville Recreation Center is home to indoor and outdoor pools, which can be utilized in various ways, including open play, fitness classes, and lap and competitive swimming. The outdoor pool ranges from zero depth entry to 5 feet, and its features include a water slide, basketball goal, and sprinklers. **GN**



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SHELBYVILLE RECREATION CENTER



# Entertainment, fireworks, and ART!

Explore summer's invitation  
to escape and explore.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

**S**UMMER'S NOT just for outdoors! Fellowship with friends and family while experiencing our area's best arts and entertainment, indoors and out. Don't forget the fireworks, but there's more than fireworks lighting up the skies; there's an explosion of things to do and places to go.

As summer's heat bears down, the footlights come up on local arts and entertainment. Escape into the air-conditioned theatre for a play or musical, where you'll be transported while supporting your local arts center. While there, consider exhibits and classes for all ages where you might discover a new hobby or untapped natural talent.

When it comes to art classes, don't forget area studios for a wide variety of things to do this summer. There's something for adults and children.

Angie Jackson of Arty All the Time has a busy summer camp lineup.

Jackson said, "We have a fibers camp where we make different crafts such as needle felting, stuffie making, and weaving. And there will be a stop-motion animation camp. For older children,







▲ Michael Burtram, Will Prater, Brad Whitaker, Chase Perryman, Trenton Decker, Jon Rubke, and Ty Alexander Grabovich

there's a camp presenting different printing techniques. I'll have open paint days where people of all ages can come in and paint whatever in-stock shape they wish."

She continued, "As a public school art teacher, I have [more than] 30 years of experience with children. I know what projects they enjoy; these lessons are all big hits! The camps will meet two hours a day, four days a week, and the dates will be on the Facebook page," said Jackson.

Escape the heat and humidity with a great book, whether under your favorite shade tree or in the most comfortable chair at home. Find a new favorite author or genre while your children make their selections for the library's summer reading program. You can borrow books using your library card online if you prefer not to leave the comfort of home to snag a current bestseller or an old classic you'd like to rediscover.

And don't forget long-standing community events and traditions. Summer standards include fairs, festivals, cook-offs, tractor pulls, and vacation Bible schools.

The Raus community lowers the summer heat every June with its annual ice cream supper.

The Raus Community Center archivist, Carol Roberts, said, "Since 1955, community members make and bring homemade ice cream. Hamburgers, cakes, and ice cream are sold, with proceeds benefiting the maintenance of the community center. Cake walks and Bingo were a big part of years ago, but not anymore. We'll start at 5 p.m. and keep going until we sell out. We usually have a bluegrass band that plays for us, too."

You can save the date now for every year for this special evening. The ice cream supper is always the second Saturday in June.

So why not try something new this year, along with your favorite annual summer events, projects, and programs? For up-to-date information on these and many more, bookmark the Good News events calendar and check it often.

You never know what you'll discover in your own backyard! **GN**





# MORE SUMMER FUN



## JUNE 5-JULY 21

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Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library  
[sbcplibrary.org](http://sbcplibrary.org)

## JUNE 5-JULY 28

Summer Camp (ages 7-11)  
Shelbyville Parks & Recreation Department  
[facebook.com/shelbyvillerec](https://facebook.com/shelbyvillerec)

## JUNE 10

Raus Ice Cream Supper  
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[facebook.com/ShelbyvilleRecbe](https://facebook.com/ShelbyvilleRecbe)

## JUNE 15-17

The Children's Theatre presentation of  
"Alice In Wonderland"  
The Fly Arts Center. [flyartscenter.com](http://flyartscenter.com)

## JUNE 24

Wizard Escape Room  
Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library

## JUNE 30, JULY 7, 11, 21, AND 28

The Starlite Cinema Series  
Shelbyville Recreation Center  
[facebook.com/shelbyvillerec](https://facebook.com/shelbyvillerec)

## JULY 4

Fireworks at H.V. Griffin Park  
Shelbyville Recreation Center  
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## JULY 17-22

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## AUGUST 11, 12, 18, 19, AND 20

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# Beats, tents, and GOOD TIMES

Get ready for a musical rendezvous this summer.

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

**S**UMMER IS a season of warmth, joy, and fun. It is a time when people get together to enjoy the outdoors, dance to great music, and make unforgettable memories. Summer music festivals are a perfect way to experience all these things and more.

Whether you're a music lover or just looking for a fun way to spend a weekend, there's nothing quite like the experience of attending a festival in the heart of Tennessee.

The state is known for its rich musical heritage and diverse music scene, making it the perfect destination for music lovers





of all tastes. It's no surprise that the state is home to some of the best summer music events in the country. These events celebrate the diverse musical traditions of Tennessee and bring together music lovers from all over the world.

One of the most popular festivals in the state is Bonnaroo, which takes place in Manchester each year. The four-day festival draws thousands of music fans worldwide, with headliners like Kendrick Lamar and Paramore lighting up the stage. But Bonnaroo isn't just about the music – it's an all-encompassing experience featuring art installations, interactive experiences, and a vibrant food and drink scene.

Rebecca French, a volunteer with Bonnaroo, said, "Music is a universal language. And even if you speak a second language, are nonverbal, or can't hear, you can still feel the music."

In Tennessee, artists showcase their genre-defying music from all over the world, with performances taking place outdoors, in churches, theaters, and other unique venues throughout the state.

Calvin Cannon with Chase Clanton and Vintage Vibes said, "Music brings joy to whatever event it is a part of. Live music at street festivals brings out the energy in people, and that energy radiates to the other aspects of what's around you."

At festivals, people often dance and sing along, creating a sense of community and vibrancy that attendees can feel throughout the event. The music becomes a focal point that brings people together and generates an atmosphere of celebration and fun.



▲ Wade and Jenna O'Neal

The energy live music creates can have a powerful ripple effect, spreading to other aspects of the event and enriching the experience for all attendees.

No matter which festival you choose, there's something truly magical about attending a summer music festival in Tennessee. The state's natural beauty and welcoming Southern hospitality create the perfect backdrop for unforgettable experiences, whether you're camping out in the countryside or exploring the city's thriving music scene.

People from all over Tennessee have the opportunity to bask in the summer sun, eat tasty treats from local restaurants and food trucks, and enjoy the beautiful sound of music.

No matter your music genre, there is sure to be a summer music event that suits your style. So pack your bags, grab your friends, and get ready for an unforgettable experience. You won't want to miss these community-wide festivals. **GN**

**MORE  
SUMMER  
FUN**

**JUNE 3**  
Wartrace Music Festival

**JUNE 10**  
Summer Swing Dance  
The Fly Arts Center

**JUNE 15-18**  
Bonnaroo Summer  
Music Festival  
Manchester



“

MUSIC SPEAKS  
WHAT CANNOT  
BE EXPRESSED,  
SOOTHES THE  
MIND AND GIVES IT  
REST; HEALS THE  
HEART AND MAKES  
IT WHOLE, FLOWS  
FROM HEAVEN TO  
THE SOUL.

*-Angela Monet*



▲ Kalee Rice

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▲ Blake Gray and Brian Nutter



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# No Blue Days with This Blue Goose

Don't be a silly goose — stop and grab the perfect lunch at The Blue Goose.

**I**T'S A modern love story. Love at first bite, if you will. It all started with a chicken bacon ranch quesadilla. My love grew stronger with the Kitchen Sink fries, then tragedy struck. The Blue Goose Food Trailer was involved in a wreck that resulted in the loss of their food truck. Luckily, they sprang back quickly and are fully operational once again. I can't wait to work my way through their menu, but here are my experiences so far.

The Kitchen Sink fries are what dreams are made of, with crisp fries underneath tender and juicy pieces of chicken, shredded cheese, and a blanket of queso topped with something almost unexpected — Flamin' Hot Cheetos. I'll admit, I'd never eaten these Cheetos before, and now I can't stop thinking about them. The crunch and slight kick of heat they added to the already

perfect french fries made for a dynamic duo unlike any other. Stuffed was an understatement, but I left no bite behind.

The chicken bacon ranch quesadilla, a toasty outside tortilla stuffed inside with cheese, chicken, and bacon with a perfect ribbon of creamy ranch on top, was equally as delicious. Perhaps I should sneak some Flaming Hot Cheetos inside the quesadilla next time.

I'm happy to say that their food has been consistently on point every time I've eaten at The Blue Goose — never a bad bite and always a photo-worthy presentation with a pristinely clean food truck to go with it. Their menu of familiar favorites on a professional level is a crowd-pleasing delicacy in Shelbyville. Paired with outstanding customer service, The Blue Goose is set to soar to new heights. **GN**

## Good News is coming to dinner!

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as he dines in Shelbyville. This month Colby Prince visited The Blue Goose.

## The Blue Goose

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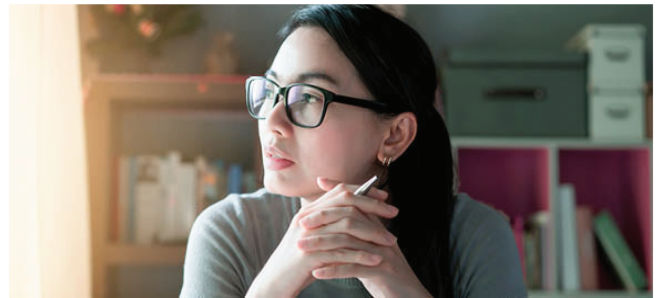
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**MLS# 2473855 \$489,900**



**CUSTOM ONE OWNER** 3BR, 3BA brick home on 5 acres. Hardwood floors in LR, DR, & K. Tile in downstairs BA & UR. 3 large BRs downstairs, & 2BA. 2-story foyer, & LR w/16ft. ceilings. Large bonus room & office with BA upstairs. A 30x50 detached shop. Backyard has underground dog fence. Located just 13 minutes from I-24 & 30 minutes to Murfreesboro.  
**MLS# 2437633 \$649,900**



**MINI FARM:** 3 BR 2 BA, one owner home with large eat-in country kitchen, Storm shelter room in basement area, covered front porch, 8x49 covered back deck, 2 car carport, barn w/ attached shed, & large shop. All property is fenced & pond on the property.  
**MLS# 2498343 \$399,900**



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# Good Times

## CHAPTER 3 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local things to do.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

◀ Chase Perryman, Trenton Decker,  
and Jon Rubke

# 'THE GREAT DETECTIVE GAME'

THE FLY ARTS CENTER PRESENTS THEATRICAL  
MYSTERY FAVORITE, "CLUE."

BY KALI BRADFORD

**T**HE SETTING was dark and ominous, the plot thrilling and mysterious, and the entertainment value was absolutely off the charts! What else could be expected for the recent production of "Clue" at The Fly Arts Center in Shelbyville? Patrons flocked to the center for an evening of suspense and fun and to raise funds for the beloved local arts destination.

Based on the cult classic film and the popular board game, the production is set on a dark and stormy night at the Boddy Manor. The manor is hosting a dinner party with guests that include well-known characters, Miss Scarlet, Professor Plum, Mrs. White, Mr. Green, Mrs. Peacock, and Colonel Mustard. A murder occurs, leaving the guests and the audience racing to uncover the guilty party.


The production featured talented locals, which included Terry Cooper, Jackie Roberts, April Glosson, Sue Thelen, Jennifer Smith, Cort Huffman, Jody Turner, David Butner, Jeanne Edwards, Alex Phillips, Lucy Smith, and Raffé Roberts.

The screenplay was by Jonathan Lynn and written by Sandy Rustin. Hunter Foster and Eric Price provided additional material. Music was by Jill Jackson, with sound provided by Daniel Shearon and Raffé Roberts.

The cast and crew transformed the stage and audience seating area into an all-in-one stage for the production.

"We did the production out in the big room rather than in the theatre," said Jeanne Edwards, who played the roles of 'cook' and 'chief of police.' "Instead of a stage where you would have scenes move on and off the stage, the Boddy mansion encompassed





all of the room's walls. Everybody was on the front row at some point during the show because of the actors moving around 'the mansion.' They would come in the front door, move to the lounge, then to the dining room, and finally to the dining room study. The action was 360 degrees around the room. So if some of the audience felt they couldn't see, they only needed to wait a few minutes, and they would have a front-row seat as the actors would move toward them."

Edwards added that it was a thrill and a challenge for the actors to take on such a production.

"I've done theatre for a while, but it was neat as we started staging; we realized we were doing something different," she explained. "It was going to be a different experience than most people have participated in. That made it exciting

for us. In staging, we watched the mansion build up around us. We had fun thinking about where things would be placed without having an actual set. We also tried to incorporate fun props such as vintage telephones and staged big beautiful table settings with crystal for the dining room. We also had free-standing doors that made it seem like we were going from room to room. Every aspect was so much fun, and it had great energy to it. Both the actors and the audience just really enjoyed it."

The production was also a fundraiser for the center. According to Edwards, it was a success and will provide vital funds for the center. The center has many more theatrical offerings for patrons to enjoy in 2023. For the latest classes and events, visit online at [flyartscenter.com](http://flyartscenter.com). **GN**



▲ PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SHERRI FRAME

Alex Phillips, Shawn Shearon, Sherry Patterson, David Butner, Jody Turner, Ronnie Edwards, April Glosson, Terry Cooper, Cort Huffman, Jennifer Smith, James Stephens, Jackie Roberts, Raffe Roberts, Mary Margaret Edwards, Daniel Shearon, Lucy Smith, Jeanne Edwards, Jill Jackson, Danielle Ross, Sherri Frame, and Sue Thelen

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

▼ Sharon and Billy Lowery



## Enjoying the spotlight

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

Local talent took the stage and put on their best performance for the Tony Award-winning play, "Biloxi Blues." Presented by the Fly Community Theatre, the play, written by Neil Simon, tells the story of a boy from Brooklyn who undergoes basic Army training in the Deep South. The boy, Eugene Morris Jerome, chronicles his experiences in hopes of becoming a writer one day.



◀ Melissa Simmons, Judy Smith, Patsy Taylor, and Patricia Shavers

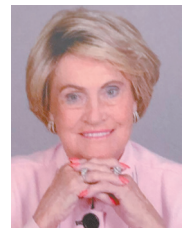


▲ Jon Rubke

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◀ JP Cannon with John and Tonya Farley



◀ Sam and Aiken Pierce

## A beautiful day of shopping local

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

The Fruity Lemon Grille kicked off warmer weather at the Johnson's Maker Spring Market. The event featured 50 handcrafted vendors and a bounce house for the kids! Food trucks were also on hand for hungry patrons. They were able to grab a bite and enjoy their meal under the pavilion on a sunny day.



▲ Penny Patterson



◀ Matthew, Tierza, and Amber Reynolds





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# Get a good look



We wish we could publish all the photos we have, but we have too many! Browse our online gallery for free or purchase photos to be mailed to your home. **All proceeds from photos go to local nonprofits.**

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### May 13

**9:00 am Wartrace Strawberry Festival**

Town of Wartrace Main St.  
Wartrace

The Wartrace Strawberry Festival is our annual celebration of spring and all things strawberry! Set in historic downtown Wartrace, we host a variety of vendors selling their arts & crafts, baked goods, decor, boutique clothing, pottery, canned goods, produce, handmade items, direct sales products, and each booth will have something strawberry-themed.

**3:00 pm First Choice Pregnancy Center Fish Fry**

Walnut Ridge Farm  
1198 Whiteside Hill Rd.

A family friendly event that will include food, children's activities, performances by the Dazzling Dorrells, a silent auction, and a live auction.

### May 18

**8:00 am Third Thursday with the SBC Chamber**

Shelbyville Chamber of Commerce  
100 N. Cannon Blvd.  
Shelbyville

Join us for coffee and refreshments at Third Thursday with the chamber networking event. This is a free event.

### May 19

**7:00 pm Whispers Of Hope DISCO Ball**

Fly Cultural Arts Center  
204 South Main St.  
Shelbyville

Join us for our second annual fundraising ball. Guests can expect some inspiring stories, a pizza buffet, and a dance floor to boogie!





*May 21*

**ALL DAY National Day of Prayer for VBS**

Statewide emphasis, encouraging churches to pray for VBS and Backyard Kids Clubs.

*May 25*

**6:00 pm TWHNC Spring Fun Show**

Cooper Steel Arena  
721 Whitthorne St.  
Shelbyville

*May 27*

**8:00 pm Sneakers Ball**

Fly Cultural Arts Center  
204 South Main St.  
Shelbyville

2-3 Family Inc. first annual Sneakers Ball. All proceeds go to our nonprofit organization to fund summer events.

*June 3*

**8:00 am Extreme Cowboy Race National Championships**

Champions Arena  
1110 Evans St.  
Shelbyville

Craig Cameron's Extreme Cowboy Race consists of obstacles, such as water, moguls, side-pass, bridges, back-thrus, jumps, roping, etc.

For more information please visit our website or contact Tracey Pinson (352) 217-2448.



**For more events and to submit an event visit:**

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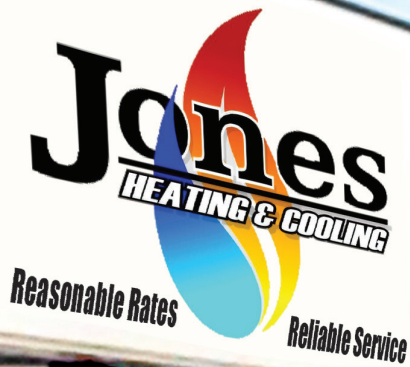
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