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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**JUNE 2023** 

#### LETTER FROM 10 THE EDITOR:

Your local summer guide

#### **Good News**

## TEDX SHOWCASES 14 LOCAL EXCELLENCE IN 3RD EVENT

Annual event brings all walks of life together to spark discussion and connection

#### HABITAT LOOKS 18 TO BUILD IN TULLAHOMA

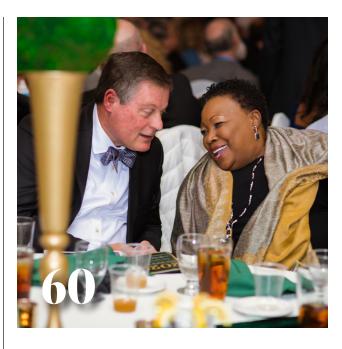
Local organization is making preparations for a new home in Tullahoma

## IMAGINATION 22 LIBRARY RAISES AWARENESS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY WITH ANNUAL EVENT

Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast is a success for well-known reading organization







#### Good Living

**28** THE BIGGEST FAMILY REUNION IN TOWN

Long-running South Jackson Goes Country show brings the community together

32 TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

Mother and daughter team make local theatre a family affair

**40** YOUR TULLAHOMA SUMMER GUIDE

Treat your hometown like a dream vacation

**54** RECIPES: A NEW AROMA

Flavor the day with backyard grilling

56 FAITH: "I GOT YOU, GIRL"

#### **Good Times**

**60** LET'S CELEBRATE

The annual chamber event celebrates all things local

**62 COMMUNITY EVENTS** 

**64 EVENTS CALENDAR** 

**66** ADVERTISER INDEX

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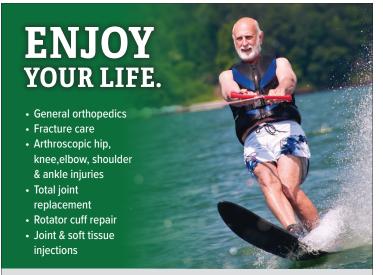
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

### Your Local Summer Guide

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

THE 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**  From our readers



Do you have family and friends in Tullahoma who would enjoy Good News? Sign them up for free at 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

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#### **CHAPTER 1 OF 3**

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

- 14 Tedx showcases local excellence in 3rd event
- 18 Habitat looks to build in Tullahoma
- 22 Imagination Library raises awareness for early childhood literacy with annual event

Submit a positive story on our website:



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

■ McGuire Cleveland and Terrie Quick



▲ Lyle Russell

## Tedx showcases local excellence in 3rd event

Annual event brings all walks of life together to spark discussion and connection.

By Kali Bradford // Photography by Chase Perryman

TEDXTULLAHOMA RECENTLY held its third annual South Jackson Civic Center event. The event featured people from different walks of life sharing their inspiring stories. Speakers included Arianna Marin, Brittany Weddington, Colin Shuran, Donald Choate, Fire Phoenix Belly Dancers, Lisa Baker, Nidhi Gupta, and Lyle Russell. The event also featured "experience stations" that allowed participants to participate in bright interactive stations, courtesy of the event's sponsors, such as The University of Tennessee Space Institute, Motlow College, Vanderbilt Harton Hospital, and more.

Event coordinator Robin Dunn said this year's event also includes the addition of a student from Tullahoma City Schools.

"We are excited that Ariana Marin could join us," said Dunn. "She is a student at Tullahoma Virtual Academy. Several of her paintings have been featured at the Frist [Art Center in Nashville]. She is also neurodivergent and shared her experience in that way. We also showcased her amazing artistic talent as well. We want other students from Tullahoma and surrounding areas to come and learn about all the different things we've got going on."

Dunn added that a reduced ticket rate was available for all students for the past event. That discounted rate will continue for future events.

## STEP INSIDE TO A SIMPLER TIME...

#### **BREAKFAST**

#### Queen City Platter - \$10.50

Two fresh eggs cooked to order with toast and your choice of Applewood smoke bacon, Tennessee Pride sausage or grilled ham.

#### T-Town Special - \$ 11.50

Made from scratch Buttermilk pancakes served with 2 fresh eggs cooked to order with your choice of Applewood smoked bacon, Tennessee Pride sausage or grilled ham.

#### **Big Springs Breakfast Sandwiches**

We start with two grilled pieces of bread, Swiss and American cheese along with your choice below

Egg and Cheese - \$ 7.50 • Egg, Meat and Cheese - \$10.50

Breakfast meat choices: Tennessee Pride Sausage, Applewood Smoked Bacon or Ham

#### **SIDE DISHES**

Side of Applewood Smoked Bacon (3) - \$4.00 Side of Tennessee Pride Sausage - \$4.00 Made from scratch Buttermilk Pancakes (3) \$9.00 Fresh Fruit Cup - \$5.50

Toast (choice of white or wheat bread) - \$3.00 Basket of Chips - \$3.00

#### **COLD SANDWICHES**

All sandwiches are served with kettle chips and pickle spear on your choice of white or wheat bread.

#### Aunt ME's Chicken Salad - \$11.50

In-house made creamy, white meat chicken salad with chopped celery, onions, pecans, Granny Smith apples and sliced grapes, blended with Hellmann's mayonnaise, served with leaf lettuce and sliced tomato.

#### Grandaddy's Pimento Cheese - \$9.00

A generous serving of our family recipe of shredded cheeses, Hellmann's mayonnaise and diced pimentos. For a true Grandaddy experience, try it grilled or with bacon for an additional \$1.50.

#### Robert's Classic Club Sandwich - \$14.00

The Classic Club on toasted bread with in-house cut honey ham and turkey, crisp bacon, and American cheese dressed with Hellmann's mayonnaise, leaf lettuce and sliced tomato.

#### Gigi's BLT - \$12.00

. Freshly cooked bacon and American Cheese dressed with leaf lettuce, sliced tomato and Hellmann's mayonnaise served on your choice of toasted bread.

#### 1/2 Sandwich and Soup Combination - \$9.00

Any of our cold sandwich options or grilled cheese served with your choice of a cup of our homemade soups.

#### **HOT SANDWICHES**

All sandwiches are served with kettle chips and pickle spear on your choice of white or wheat bread.

#### Our Famous Pot Roast French Dip - \$14.00

Shredded chuck roast slow cooked with pepperoncinis, seasoning and garlic topped with melted Swiss on a toasted sandwich roll served with a side of au jus.

#### Trent's Turkey Bacon Ranch - \$13.00

Deli-sliced turkey and bacon with double cheese grilled with the zest of ranch dressing.

#### Madison's Grilled Cheese - \$9.00

When nothing else will do, a combination of Swiss, American and cheddar cheeses grilled on your choice of bread with a hint of Hellmann's mavonnaise

Add Applewood smoked bacon, ham or avocado to any sandwich - \$3.00

#### **SOUPS & SALADS**

#### Maggie's Cream of Tomato Soup - Cup: \$4.00/\$5.50

The classic comfort food favorite, rich and creamy, wonderful with a grilled cheese!

#### Paige's Award Winning White Chicken Chili - Cup: \$4.00/\$5.50

Extra rich and creamy made with white meat chicken, Navy beans, cumin and spices, sour cream and Monterrey Jack cheese.

#### J.C.'s Cheesy Potato Soup - Cup: \$4.00/\$5.50

Creamy and smooth, potato based and extra cheesy with hints of bacon, carrot and onion, topped with shredded cheddar cheese, bacon bits, and chives.

#### French Onion Soup - \$5.50

Hearty and flavorful beef broth with grilled onions poured over a large toasted crouton, topped with melted Swiss cheese

#### Nanny Graham's Chicken Salad Plate - \$12.00

A scoop of our in-house made chicken salad made with all white meat chicken salad, celery, onion, Granny Smith apples, grapes and pecans, blended with Hellmann's mayonnaise, served on a bed of lettuce with seasonal fresh fruit.

#### Caroline's Blackened Chicken Caesar - \$11.50

Grilled Blackened Chicken on a bed of spring mix tossed with in-house made Caesar dressing and fresh croutons.

#### Mary Grace's Strawberry Poppyseed Salad - \$10.50

Spring mix topped with candied almonds, and sliced strawberries. Served with in-house made creamy poppyseed dressing. Top any salad with grilled chicken - \$2.00

#### **KIDS**

Pancake Plate - \$5.50

One large Buttermilk pancake served with choice of Applewood smoked bacon or Tennessee Pride sausage

#### Egg Plate - \$5.50

One egg cooked to order with choice of Applewood smoked bacon or Tennessee Pride sausage

#### Clay's PB & Jelly or PB & Banana - \$6.50

A classic combination of smooth peanut butter and strawberry preserves. The beloved Depression era favorite of smooth peanut butter and freshly sliced banana on white bread. Try it Elvis' way—grilled!

#### **BEVERAGES**

#### **Bottomless Fountain Beverages - \$3.00**

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Fresh Brewed Coffee - \$2.00 Orange Juice - \$3.50 Chocolate Milk - \$3.00

#### **SINGLE SERVE BEVERAGES**

Served Ice Cold in Longneck Bottles - \$3.00

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#### Sundrop in Ice Cold Cans - \$1.50

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#### Sundrop Float - \$5.50

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#### Cherry Sundrop Float - \$5.50

Cherry Sundrop served over our exclusively made Cherry Sundrop Gelato, with chopped cherries topped with fresh whipped cream and a maraschino cherry.

#### RC Cola Float - \$5.50

Fountain Royal Crown Colas served over vanilla ice cream topped with fresh whipped cream and garnished with a mini chocolate Moon Pie.

#### Stewart's Root Beer Float - \$5.50

Stewart's Root Beer served over vanilla ice cream topped with fresh whipped cream.

#### Sunkist Orange Soda Float - \$5.50

Fountain Sunkist Orange soda served over our exclusively made Sunkist Gelato topped with fresh whipped cream and a gummy candy orange slice.

#### Milkshakes and Malts - \$5.50

All of our milkshakes and malts are made to order by hand. Your choice of chocolate, vanilla, or strawberry blended with whole milk and topped with fresh whipped cream and a maraschino cherry.

#### Ice Cream Sundaes - \$6.50

Your choice of 2 scoops of chocolate, vanilla, or strawberry ice cream, covered in your choice of chocolate syrup, caramel syrup, strawberry or pineapple purée, topped with fresh whipped cream and a maraschino cherry.

Single Scoop Legacy Creamery Gelato - \$3.50 (Each topping: .50¢)

Single Scoop Ice Cream - \$3.00 (Each topping: .50¢)

#### Classic Banana Split - \$8.00

One scoop each of chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry ice cream, topped with chocolate sauce, strawberry and pineapple purées, nestled in a fresh banana topped with whipped cream, diced peanuts and a maraschino cherry.

#### Miss Daisy's Blondie Sundae - \$8.00

Daisy King's beloved Blonde Brownie recipe, a tollhouse base with chocolate chips and pecans served with vanilla ice cream and smothered in caramel sauce.

#### Sundrop Cake - \$5.50

Our signature dessert, a moist and lemony delicious Bundt style sponge cake covered in a Sundrop glaze, or order it Tullahoma style with George Dickel Whisky glaze!

#### Miss Barbara's Orange Cream Cake - \$5.50

Once only a birthday favorite, now available every day! This bundt style cake is rich and full of citrusy goodness, drizzled with an orange glaze.



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▲ Lyle Russll, Donald Choate, Josh Dunn, Robin Dunn, Lisa Baker, Brittany Weddington, Nidhi Gupta, Colin Shuran, and Fire Phoenix Belly Dance Troupe

Now in its third year, Dunn said her dedicated crew is part of what has made the event so successful.

"The best part about this whole thing is that we have a great team," she said. "People like Tisha Fritz, Philip Scoggins, and Gregg Gressel, along with a lot of the folks at South Jackson. I've just let them know that this was what I wanted to do, and I've gotten a yes so many times from so many people just wanting to be involved because they know what it means to me. This is what makes us. This is the human experience — to be creative and to share technology and new ideas — so it's really been a lot of fun."

In the future, Dunn said she hopes to continue to have more people attending the event and able to connect with the speaker and each other.

"I don't remember how many tens of thousands viewed our videos of the event on YouTube, but I would love for the people who are speaking to be able to con-

nect with other people who otherwise would have never known about it. What I think is really unbelievable about YouTube is that there are going to be people who are going to be watching and seeing that sign that says TEDxTullahoma, having never heard of our town. And they are just able to get all of these great ideas in areas such as puppetry, falconry, health, and more."

Dunn also wants the event to remind those living in Tullahoma just how special our small town is.

"We want to remind people that good things are happening here," she said. "There are experts right here who are making things better. And it's fun to be a part of this. We are reminding everyone what a special place Tullahoma really is. There are good people here who are making a positive difference by just showcasing that expertise." GN

To learn more about TEDxTullahoma, visit online at tedxtullahoma.com.



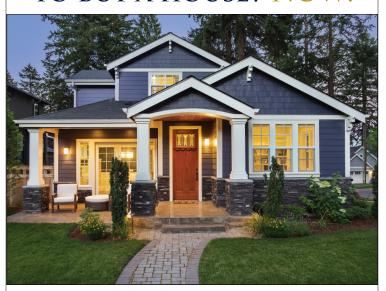


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▲ Sherrie McGuire Cleveland and Terrie Quick

### Habitat looks to build in Tullahoma

Local organization is making preparations for a new home in Tullahoma

By Kali Bradford // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

THEY SAY home is where the heart is; for one local nonprofit organization, it is their mission to bring the hearts of well-deserved citizens home. With that mission in mind, the Highland Rim Habitat for Humanity (HRHFH) has begun the process of building its next new home in Tullahoma.

After completing their latest home in Franklin County, the city of Tullahoma contacted HRHFH President Terrie Quick. The city donated an abandoned house located on Maplewood Drive. The property has since been cleared and is ready for building.

HRHFH is a nonprofit, nondenominational Christian organization dedicated to building simple, decent,

affordable homes in Coffee and Franklin Counties since 1992. The nonprofit is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, which has over 2,300 affiliates worldwide. HRHFH partners with volunteers and low-income families to fulfill its purpose. Homeowner families are chosen according to their needs, ability to repay the no-profit, no-interest mortgage, and willingness to work in partnership with the organization.

According to Quick, additional variables must be completed before construction can begin.

"Some variables are not set in stone yet," she explained. "We are still going through applications to choose a family. This is a crucial part, as the family will

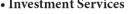
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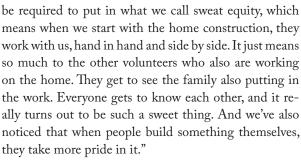
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"The hope for this home is to be finished by Christmas. My goal is always to have a new family and a new home for Christmas."

- Terrie Quick



Funding is another variable that the organization is working through. The Publix Super Markets Charities program recently donated \$5,000 that will go to the project. Quick stated that HRHFH needs corporate partnerships to help provide funding and volunteers in Tullahoma, similar to the organization's partnership with Nissan in Franklin County, to get the project going.

"We have an excellent partnership with Nissan at Dechard," said Quick. "Not only do they give financially and on a corporate level, which helps pay for most of a home, but they also structure in their volunteers from their employees. For the success of the home here in Tullahoma, we need at least four to five corporate spon-



sors who can donate around \$25,000 each. We could build a brand new home for that amount."

Quick will work with the Tullahoma community over the next few months to recruit funds and volunteers to ensure the home's success. She said her goal is to have her Habitat family in their new home by Christmas.

"The home we just finished in Winchester was started at the end of September," she explained. "We dedicated it in the middle of December, so it took three months to build. At the same time, that is on the quicker side of things, which can happen when you have great support, volunteers, and funding. The hope for this home is to be finished by Christmas. My goal is always to have a new family and a new home for Christmas." GN

For more information, visit the organization's website at hrhfh.org or its Facebook page. Those who want to volunteer can contact Quick at (931) 273-2201 or HRHFH Office Manager Elisa Chessor at (931) 247-5599.



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▲ Kelly Lapczynski and Betty Dale

## Imagination Libary raises awareness for early childhood literacy with annual event

Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast is a success for well-known reading organization

By Kali Bradford // Photography provided by Imagination Library of Coffee County

S INCE 1995, Dolly Parton has been growing her early childhood literacy mission. Known as the Imagination Library, Parton was inspired by her father's inability to read and write. Starting in her home county of Sevier, located in East Tennessee, her vision was to foster a love of reading among her county's preschool children and their families by giving them the gift of a specially selected book each month. According to the Imagination Library website, today, Parton's program spans five countries and gives over 2 million

free books each month to children around the world. According to the website, that is a total of 2,340,707 children registered to receive books, along with over 201,967,356 books gifted.

Locally, the Imagination Library is alive and well, with dedicated individuals working tirelessly to encourage early childhood literacy in Coffee County. The Imagination Library of Coffee County provides books to children from birth to age 5 in Coffee County every month, thanks to a partnership with Governor's Early Literacy Foundation and Parton's Imagination Library. Parton's Imagination Library selects the books, mails them, and covers operational overhead costs. The cost of purchasing the books – more than \$75,000 a year – is split between the Imagination Library of Coffee County and the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation. About 3,000 children in Coffee County receive books monthly at no cost to their families.

Helping to raise funds, the organization hosts fundraisers to raise money for operating costs and literacy awareness in the







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Lou Pascal and Preston Blake as Cat in the Hat

community. One of the Imagination Library of Coffee County's most successful and well-known fundraisers is the Green Eggs and Ham fundraiser. Book lovers of all ages are welcome to come out and enjoy a fun breakfast inspired by the beloved children's book, "Green Eggs and Ham," by Dr. Seuss. The breakfast takes place at Damron's restaurant and is complete with all the fixings — most importantly, green eggs.

"Gloria is always so fabulous about offering the venue for the breakfast," said Bertha Smith, Imagination Library of Coffee County Board Chair. "She and her staff were wonderful. We had a wonderful turnout, and after we looked at the overall numbers from last year, we sold 20 more tickets than last year. I know that may not seem monumental to some, but for us, that's more children and families that we can serve. It's one of the two main fundraisers that we have each year. This is the kickoff for the year for us, and we were really pleased with the turnout this year."

The event also featured readings from the classic children's book for the children in attendance.

Smith, whose son was a recipient of the books, said she knows firsthand the benefits that the program offers.

"My son was a recipient of Imagination Library books," she explained. "I had come home with him from the children's hospital at that time. He was born three months premature with significant developmental delay. But the books have been a blessing. He looked forward to having something with his name on it every month. Getting something out of the mailbox that's theirs and theirs alone is a big deal for a child. We would read the books together, and soon he was reading the books to



Richard, Elena, Adam, and Alex Cawley enjoying their green eggs & ham

me. And even though he may be developmentally delayed in some areas, he gained some early literacy skills that I am still confident was because of the books he received from the Imagination Library."

Smith encourages locals to support early childhood literacy in any way possible, whether working with the Imagination Library or simply sitting down with their children to read a book. Setting a little time for reading goes a long way.

Donations to the Imagination Library of Coffee County can be made by visiting governors foundation. org/donate/ and designating the Imagination Library of Coffee County. Check out the Imagination Library of Coffee County Facebook page for the latest information and upcoming visits. You can also contact Smith via email at berthas 1968@gmail.com. GN

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**CHAPTER 2 OF 3** 

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

- The biggest family reunion in town
- 32 Teamwork makes the dream work
- 40 Your Tullahoma summer guide
- 54 Recipes: A new aroma
- 56 Faith: "I got you, girl"

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



goodnewsmags.com

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

◄ Erica Peterson and Ann Wonder

## The Biggest Family Reunion in Town

## Long-running South Jackson Goes Country show brings the community together

By Kali Bradford // Photography by Brooke Snyder

S UMMERTIME IN Tullahoma means a couple of things — school is out, the pool is open, and South Jackson Goes Country (SJGC) will take place in August. It's a local three-day event that folks mark their calendar by, families schedule vacations around, and some come from afar to attend.

This annual musical tradition has been taking place for nearly half a century with no end in sight, thanks to a dedicated matriarch, her devoted crew, and locals who can't seem to get enough of the heart-warming local event, SJGC.

### From the French Riviera to Jackson Street

During a meeting in 1979 for the newly opened South Jackson Civic Center, a willing hand shot up when the question of raising money for the center arose. That hand belonged to a young, vibrant, talented woman, Peggy Burton. Burton had performed around the world singing and directing; with her experience, she knew how to bring a crowd out.

"I suggested a country show," explained Burton. "The idea came from my time in Europe. I was touring with folk singers and dancers, and we would go to these very large venues where there were free shows. Thousands of people would be on the French Riviera, and I noticed that their folk music was very country. People loved it. Thinking about that, I thought it would be great to bring something similar to Tullahoma."

The first year for SJGC was a success, according to Burton. Since the first show, SJGC has continued to grow in popularity while making a name for itself with its unique programming.

### Funny Commercials and Hilarious Characters

Today, SJGC is a three-day event that contains a warm-up show, a main show, and commercials.

While it may seem odd that commercials are a big deal, Burton will quickly tell you that it's one of the most beloved parts of the show. Commercials are written by Burton and long-time contributors Lynn Sebourn and Melissa Shuran, just to name a few that have helped over the years. The commercials are humorous and have claimed their own place in the show.

"The first commercial came after a trip years ago to a friend of mine's store," ex-





plained Burton. "When I started driving home, a tune came into my head about his shop. I went back and sang it to him and then asked if he would like to buy it. Thankfully he said yes, and he's done it ever since. I must credit him for hanging in there and being the first to help."

Burton asked \$50 for that first commercial. Today, the show's commercials have become so popular they fetch around \$350 each, with each advertiser claiming their spot as early as possible.

The show has also created its beloved characters, including Sadie Gruesome, played by Deb Rackley; Earnestine, played by Mellisa Shuran; and Mike Snead as Stroop Man.

"They all have been with us so long and are fun to watch; we can't stand to think about doing the show without them," said Burton.

#### The Show Will Go On

Now in her 44th year, Burton has begun to look to the future of the beloved show. She had brought on three local women who had grown up with the performance and Burton as a mentor.

Samantha Waters is a long-time performer with SJGC who coordinates the main show, with Burton stepping in to consult when needed.

"Jacqueline, Martha, and I started talking about creating a trio to help tackle the show and help Peggy's legacy continue within the community," she explained. "It takes an army to tackle this massive production she envisioned and brought to the community. Peggy was grooming us for years, and when we mentioned tackling the show as a unit, she loved the idea and kept grooming us as the amazing advisor that she is!"

Waters said seeing those dedicated to the show return each year is inspirational.

"Seeing the performers, crew, and audience return year after year is truly inspirational," she said. "It's rare to have

an event that brings people back each year. Peggy's 'country show' has created a long-lasting fundraiser to help the arts survive and has fostered a following of cast, crew, and audience that can't wait for the next production. It is a time filled with laughter, family fun, and talent."

As an 8-year-old, Jacquline Painter joined the show to perform with friends. She quickly became hooked and has been a part of it since.

"It's a family unit, and we get to perform and do something we love," said Painter. "We all come together and put this crazy show together. It's all about doing something as a family and for the community."

Painter's focus is the show's choreography, and she aids where she is needed. She said the show benefits the entire community, especially children.

"We need to support the arts and our community. The children, especially those who are involved in it, get so much out of it. I know just from my teaching experience that kids get so much from the arts that people don't realize it."

Coordinating SJGC's warm-up show is Martha Hood. The show's warm-up portion allows younger singers to get acclimated to performing in front of the audience.

"Sometimes younger kids who really want to sing and perform are not ready for a live band," said Hood. "The warm-up allows them to get that experience. People are coming and getting a seat while they are performing. So people are watching, but it's not as much pressure."

Hood said a part of the show's family brings her back each year.

"I love coming back and seeing everybody every year," she said. "Some adults in the show have watched me grow, and now I have my children. There are also the children I get to work with and see grow, which is truly bittersweet. The sense of family is definitely my favorite part." GN

# TEAMWORK makes the DREAM WORK.

Mother and daughter team make local theatre a family affair.

By Kali Bradford // Photography by Brooke Snyder

T IS one of the most magical moments in the production of "Cinderella." With Cinderella's hopes of attending Prince Charming's ball after her evil stepsisters tear her gown to shreds dashed, her fairy godmother appears in the garden. She transforms her appearance for the ball, turning her torn dress into a beautiful silver dress with glass slippers.

While the cinematic version may make this transformation seem to happen in a finger snap, those who have tackled Cinderella's dramatic costume change on the stage know it's a bit different.

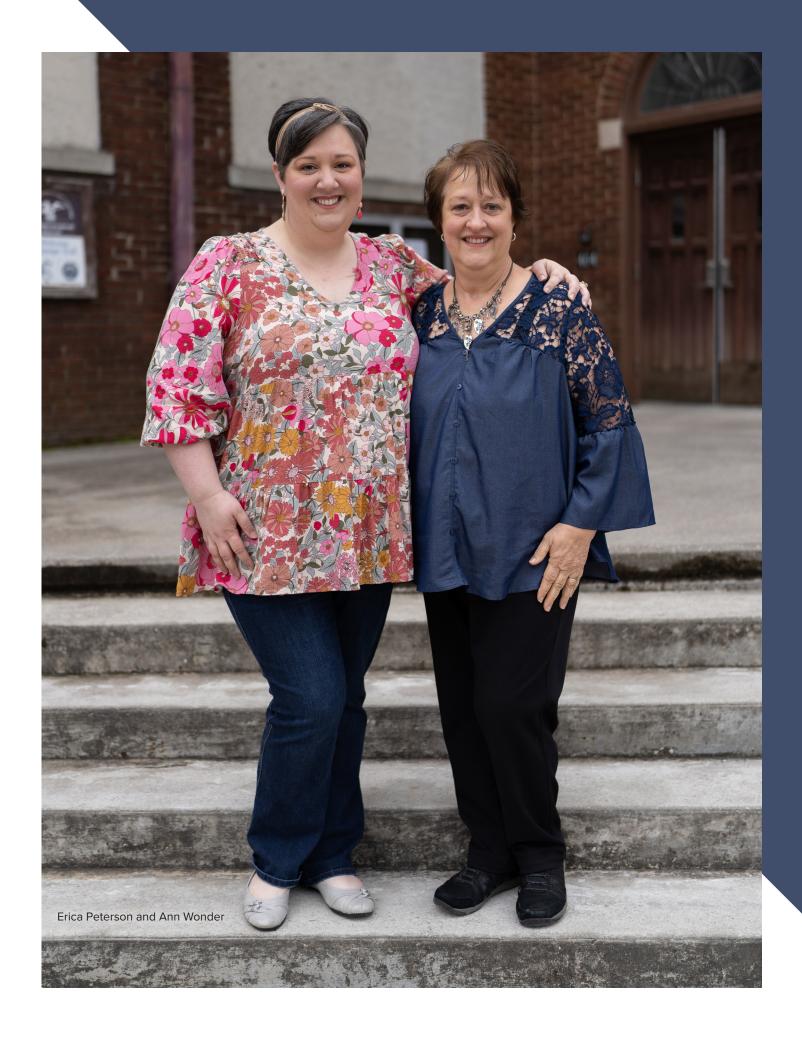
Anne Wonder is one of these people. The local seamstress and avid supporter of the local arts has taken on the challenging dress and its unique transformation.

"Cinderella's dress was probably the most important one I've ever done because

if it didn't work, the magic was gone. It was so integral to the scene," she said.

Many elements contribute to the magic we see on stage during a theatrical production. And costumes are one such element necessary for creating spectacle and building character — for example, the red dress and curly wig in "Annie," the blue pinafore and red shoes in "The Wizard of Oz," and the mask in "The Phantom of the Opera." All iconic costumes or pieces became as essential to the production as the actors who wore them. They must be special to be appreciated from the front row to the back of the balcony.

Wonder is a mainstay on the local theatrical stage, having put together, sewn, and created countless pieces for productions at South Jackson Civic



Center. She understands the magic a costume can have on the actor and show.

"I love being part of it and making the clothes fit the character," she said. "We don't want the outfit to stand out necessarily; we want it to blend in. I don't want the audience to wonder why a character is wearing something that doesn't fit in the production."

Wonder's involvement in the local theatre is thanks to her daughter, Erica Petersen.

Wonder and her husband, Frank, are both Tullahoma natives. The family moved back after Frank retired from the Navy. Upon moving to Tullahoma, Petersen got into the theatre scene by auditioning for a local play.

Petersen then became heavily involved in performing with the South Jackson Civic Center, leading to more behind-the-scenes avenues, such as directing. She has also carried her love of the arts into the school system. She currently serves as the choral music director at Coffee County Central High.

"I teach choir and one section of Theatre 1," said Petersen. "It's a lot of fun. I oversee the choir program and am the fine arts department chair. I work with all departments and ensure everyone is thriving."

Continuing her reach in the arts, she also works with local theatrical programs such as Performing Arts for Children and Teens. Through all of her theatrical pursuits, Petersen looks to her mother as someone to lend a hand and help bring her productions to life.

"I completely trust her," said Petersen. "She has great vision and has always been good with colors and design. Every time we moved, she would decorate our house and make it look amazing. She sewed curtains and made our Halloween costumes. So I knew she could make it happen regarding productions."

Both mom and daughter say they enjoy working together and seeing a production come along.

"I tell her our color scheme or whatever we're going for, and she'll go to work making it happen. She is very resourceful and can make a costume out of almost anything," said Petersen.

Anne said she is proud to be a part of something supporting her daughter and the local theatre.





"I love to create something special for people, but sometimes I just pull off what we already have. It's amazing when you see just how magical a costume can be," she added.

Along with Anne, Petersen has recruited the entire family into the local theatre — from her parents to her brother to her husband, Erik, who directs and acts. Her daughters, Charlotte and Aurora, are also getting an early start on the stage.

Erica said she is blessed to have her family involved in something she loves. While not every family is like hers, she added that theatre is one big family.

"The best thing about seeing others become involved in theatre is that they realize they have found a family," she explained. "It's a good expression for the community. So whether they know it or not, they need it."

And as with any family, Erica said there is a place for everyone to

contribute, regardless of skill.

"There is a place for everybody in theatre," said Erica. "That's why I love it. If you just want to be offstage and move furniture, there's something for you. If you want to push buttons and be technical, there's something for you. If you want to sew and design costumes, there's something for you, or if you want to be the star, there is something for you. The theatre is for everyone." GN

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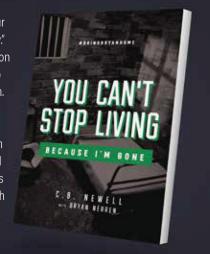




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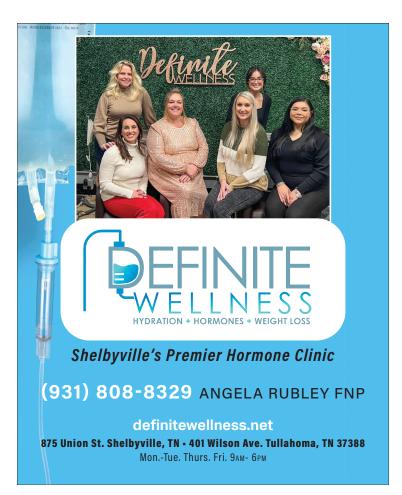




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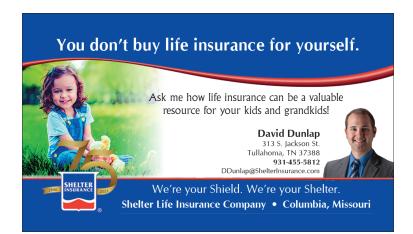
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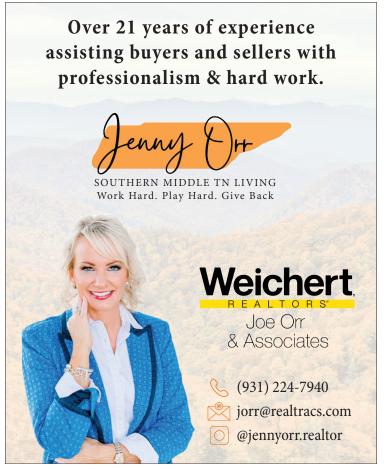
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#### Treat your hometown like a dream vacation.

he sky is a vast expanse of blue, broken only by the occasional cloud lazily driffing 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.







# Beat the heat and have some



Area activities welcome families to make the most of summer.

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

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.

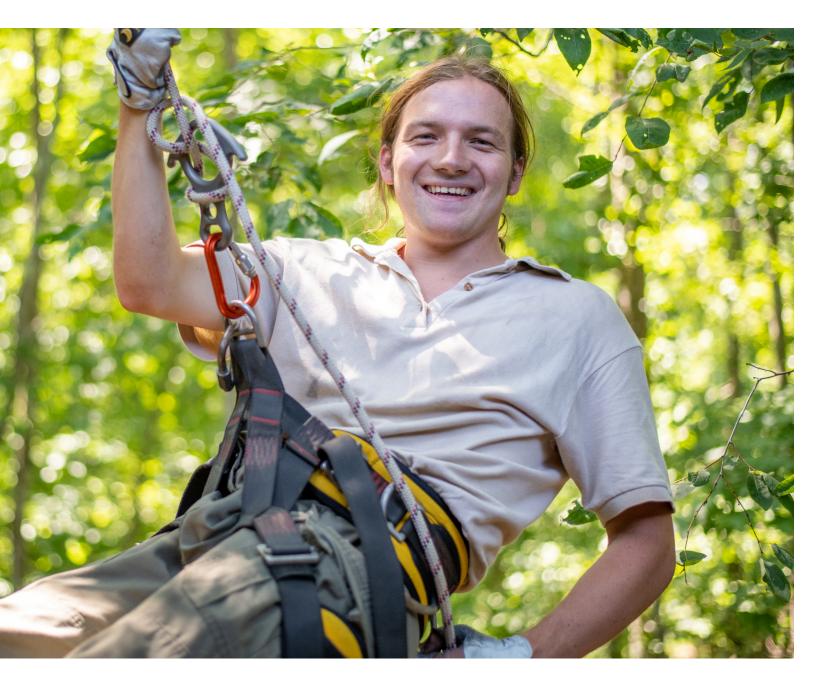
Seasoned Disc Golf player Heather Brown said the game is one that everyone can play and has captured her entire family. Her husband, Eric, is credited for introducing her to the sport. The couple has since included the whole family, with two of their children becoming competitive players of the sport, competing in area tournaments.

"Our son started playing around 2020, which is when he became pretty serious about it," she said. "We've always gone out as a family and played. Hannah, our daughter, also got serious around a year ago."

The event prompted the family to start their own food truck. The Browns' truck is called Mando Eats LLC. and serves hungry Disc Golfers at area tournaments.

"There is nothing worse than being hungry and not being able to get something to eat," said Brown. "We've had the food truck since October. We saw the need and wanted to be able to offer something to help everyone enjoy the game that much more."







#### **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.

While mostly played indoors, you can find Pickleball at outdoor tennis courts or specially built Pickleball courts.

Felicia Daniels 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



▲ Heather Brown

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."

Daniels isn't alone in her love of Pickleball. There are local groups, such as Tullahoma Pickleball, that can be



▲ Hannah Brown

found playing at D.W. Wilson Community Center and King's Cross Church in Tullahoma. The group welcomes all that are interested in the sport. You can join the group via Facebook. Pickleball is open at King's Cross Church from 6 to 8 p.m. each Thursday in the church's gym. D.W. Wilson hosts Pickleball from noon to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#### **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.



#### **DISC GOLF**

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#### **PICKLEBALL**

King's Cross Church 222 Turkey Creek Rd., Tullahoma (931) 393-4570

D.W. Wilson Community Center 501 N. Collins St., Tullahoma (931) 455-1121

#### **SWIMMING**

Splash Island 501 N. Collins St., Tullahoma (931) 455-1121

Area swimming today offers a much more upgraded experience than it once did. Area pools have been upgraded to include swimming options for all ages, such as splash pads and shallow water play areas.

Tullahoma is one such area. Its 1970s Olympic-sized pool underwent a complete renovation and reopened in 2015 as Splash Island. The new multi-use pool includes a splash pad, three 25-foot-tall water slides, and a 300-foot lazy river. It also has a fully-operational concession stand that offers poolside treats and healthy and fresh options. **GN** 





# Entertainment, fireworks, and



Explore summer's invitation to escape and explore.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder and Ashleigh Newnes

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.

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'd rather not leave the comfort of home to snag a current bestseller or an old classic you'd like to rediscover.

Even better, the Coffee County Lannom Library's summer reading program, All Together, will kick off its summer reading program on June 1 at 6 p.m. with a block party. The reading program is for the whole family, so you can participate with your young reader and compete for prizes.

The library's director, Courtney Mercurio, said, "We're trying to coordinate our programs towards whole families with multi-generational programming. So if kids enjoy it, it's something adults would enjoy, too. All of our programs are things that any age group can come to and have fun with. Parents can participate in the summer reading program and earn prizes, too. We have prizes for all age groups,

from zero to 100. If parents are reading to their children, that counts for both the kids and the parents."

Upping the value of the summer reading program is a partnership with the Tullahoma City Schools Summer Meals Program. Lunch is free for children up to 18 and \$4 for adults.

The meals program's director, Angela White, said, "Our plans this summer cover the entire city, and we will do Lunch at the Library June 5-30. The children must be present to get the meals this year. Lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. each weekday".

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

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



# 







#### **ALL SUMMER**

Summer Reading Program
Coffee County Lannom Library
lannom.org

Art Classes and Art Gallery
The Painted House
thepaintedhousetullahoma.com

#### **JUNE 5-9**

South Jackson Performing Arts for Children and Teens Summer Theatre Camp South Jackson Performing Arts Center southjackson.org

#### **JUNE 24**

Arts Alive Regional Arts & Crafts Festival tullahomaart.org

#### JULY 3

Independence Day Regional Celebration Frazier/McEwen Park/Grider Stadium Facebook.com/tullahomaparks

#### **SEPTEMER 1-9**

Coffee County Fair Manchester coffeecountyfairtn.org



# Beats, tents, and

# Get ready for a musical rendezvous this summer.

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Brooke Snyder

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 worldwide, with performances taking place outdoors, in churches, theaters, and other unique venues throughout the state.

Bluegrass musician and fiddler Becky Buller said, "I'm very stoked that The Caverns asked me to be their artist-in-residence at the brand new Big Mouth Bluegrass Festival. So many of my bluegrass friends and heroes are on the bill; I'm thrilled they'll be on my home turf.

She continued, "I sure hope you'll make plans to experience the acoustic authenticity of bluegrass music July 1 and 2 in Pelham, Tennessee."



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 camping in the countryside or exploring the city's thriving music scene.

People from all over Tennessee can 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 prepare for an unforgettable experience. You won't want to miss these community-wide festivals. **GN** 

#### **JUNE 10**

Summer Swing Dance The Fly Arts Center

#### **JUNE 15-18**

Bonnaroo Summer Music Festival Manchester

#### **JULY 1-2**

The Big Mouth Bluegrass Festival The Caverns







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

#### **SEPTEMBER 23**

The 41A Music Festival Tullahoma

#### **SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 1**

The American Mule and Bluegrass Festival Shelbyville

#### **OCTOBER 7**

Old Time Harvest Days 170th Town Anniversary Celebration





# ANEW AROMA

Flavor the day with backyard grilling.

By Tina Neeley

HE BREEZE carries a hickory-smoked aroma from the nearby grill throughout the backyard as the family laughs and catches up in the early summer sunshine. It's Dad's day, but any excuse to get together is a welcomed one. Hungry appetites are settled, and hearts are filled with love and appreciation for the one that fixes the broken things and guides us through the rollercoaster of life.

It's a great occasion to try something new while gathering around traditional summer favorites. A new dessert may become an old favorite. A new recipe for grilling might send new flavors throughout nearby yards, causing neighbors to investigate the source. Or a new salad might be the day's perfect pairing.

While it's not what you eat, it's the company around you. Great food complements any special occasion. **GN** 

#### **Grilled Chipotle Ribs**

Submitted by Essie Mills

2 sm. onions, peeled, divided 1 rack pork spareribs, 4 1/2 lbs. water for garnish 1/2 c. mesquite flavored marinade 1 t. chipotle chili powder 2 T. fesh cilantro, chopped

Quarter 1 onion and chop remaining onion. In a roasting pan over high heat, bring ribs, quartered onion, and enough water to cover ribs to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes. In a small mixing bowl, combine chopped onion, marinade, chili powder, and cilantro. Heat grill to medium-high. Brush ribs with marinade mixture. Grill for 15 minutes or until thermometer reads 160°, turning once, brushing often.

#### **Summer Salad**

Submitted by Cindy Raybern

1 pkg. zesty garlic salad dressing mix 1T. red cooking wine 1 cucumber, sliced 1 tomato, sliced 1 red onion, sliced 1 green pepper, sliced vinegar and oil

Combine salad dressing by directions on package, but substitute 1T. red cooking wine for water. Add vinegar and oil. Pour over cucumber, tomato, onion, and green pepper, and serve.



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



# "I got you, girl."

By Kali Bradford

I T IS the best of times; it is (sometimes) the worst of times. I have three children, ages 16, 12, and 5. It's not lost on me how fast they grow. Now, with a child who is nearing 18, it really does go by too fast. While I love being their mother at any of their ages, I would have to say I have truly enjoyed the younger years with them. The cuddling, kisses and hugs, and them constantly being attached to my hip. While that may seem crazy to some, I would much rather have my child needing a hug than give me attitude. I feel like most of you who are parents can commiserate.

My son is the youngest and as wild and sweet as they come. At the bold but also tender age of 5, he's ready to take on the world, but he also wants his mom and dad close to keep him safe while he tries to conquer.

A few months ago, I was tested on my theory of loving the younger years as he went through a significant milestone: losing his first tooth. To say it was dramatic would be an understatement. It all happened as we were walking out the door to head to preschool. While he was brave, there was also quite a bit of screaming and blood, along with me being told I was a "bad doctor." He was right on that one. I'm a writer, not a doctor, and I have never played one on television. The good news is that he lived to tell about it and received a whopping \$3 for his first tooth. A pretty good haul for a tooth if you ask me. My most significant tooth payday memory was a handful of dimes under my pillow, courtesy of my own tooth fairy — my grandfather.

On the other hand, I was left a little ragged and torn. Getting out the door with three kids is never easy. Add in the drama of losing a tooth during an already crazy

morning; I would be lying if I said that it didn't leave me a little depleted.

I know I'm preaching to the choir when I say that being a mom, or a parent, is hard work. Sleepless nights, long days, hurried moments, and the constant worry if we are doing it right. It all goes so fast; will our children know just how much we love them? They never tell you about the hard parts.

But there is a small voice in my head, and if I quiet the crazy for just a moment, I can hear it say, "I got you, girl."

And if I stay quiet just a little longer, I can hear: "I got you. I've always had you, and I'll always have you. Be still and know that I am God."

And he's right, you know. He's got me. Through the crazy mornings, nights of worry, and tears of sadness that my babies are growing so fast, He's holding me and has already made the way. All I need to do is remember his promise. Psalms 16:8 is just one of the many verses in the bible that tell us this.

"I know that the Lord always has me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me."

That night as I snuggled with my little guy, he looked up at me and, with his beautiful toothless grin, told me he loved me. And I was reminded then that he knows I love him.

So I'm trying. In moments of chaos, uncertainty, and even fear, I remind myself that He is with me and loves me. Remember what we learned from Mister Rogers? He loves us just as we are. We love our children just as they are. We should also remember that the good Lord does the same for all his children, even in our worst moments. **GN** 



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**CHAPTER 3 OF 3** 

This section of the magazine covers local things to do.

- 60 Let's celebrate
- 62 Community Events
- 64 Events Calendar
- 66 Advertiser Index

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

✓ Kathy Judge and Mac Copeland



#### THE ANNUAL CHAMBER EVENT CELEBRATES ALL THINGS LOCAL.

By Kali Bradford // Photography provided by Grass Roots Photography

OCAL BUSINESS owners, community leaders, and chamber members recently came together for the annual 2022 Membership Celebration hosted by the Tullahoma Area Chamber of Commerce. Held at the Manchester-Coffee County Conference Center, the sold-out event recognized individuals and businesses impacting the community.

Sponsored by Vanderbilt Tullahoma-Harton Hospital, the evening began with one hour of open networking and the annual awards banquet, followed by Cat Murray emceeing. The following individuals and businesses received recognition for their impact on Tullahoma and the surrounding area: James Fuller, the President's Award; Kaycee Edwards, Rising Star Award; Carol Fulmer, Ambassador of the Year; Allen Potter, Board Member of the Year; Stan McNabb Automotive, CEO Business Partner of the Year; F.I.T. Beyond Therapy, Small Business of the Year; Vanderbilt Tullahoma-Harton Hospital, Business of the Year, and Nancy Fuller received Citizen of the Year.

Concluding the evening was a live auction where items such as a unique selection

of Jack Daniel's whiskey, Ed Binkley's classic car dinner experience, flowers for a year from The Flower Shoppe, and much more were auctioned off.

Tullahoma Area Chamber of Commerce Marketing and Communications Coordinator Lily Thompson said the event was a huge success. This was the second year for Thompson, who has been with the chamber for over a year. For her year with the chamber, she said she had enjoyed a plethora of hands-on experience in seeing a community of businesses working together.

While the evening was busy for Thompson, who's in charge of capturing the evening's events and awards for the chamber's website and social media outlets, she said she was in awe and inspired to see a glittering room full of individuals who support each other.

"It's incredible," she explained. "I wasn't completely aware of how connected these businesses were until I took the position. But to see the sense of community that everyone has with each other has been outstanding. It was great to see everyone together."

She added that everyone's support of each other was palpable.

"It's great to see how everyone builds each other up, along with building up other businesses too. It's been an incredible year, and this was just a great way to celebrate it," said Thompson.

For anyone involved with local businesses who aren't yet a member of the Tullahoma Area Chamber of Commerce, Thompson said the chamber said it offers a community of people ready to not only welcome them but who are excited to help them succeed.

"The chamber adds so much ease and assistance to business owners," she said. "We are helping people to make connections, meet people, and get them the recognition they need. It makes it so much easier to be seen in the community."

The Tullahoma Area Chamber of Commerce has several networking opportunities for local businesses to take advantage of. For the latest news and events, visit them online at tullahoma.org. You can also find them on social media: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. **GN** 



# COMMUNITY EVENTS



#### Sun, food, and fun!

Photos provided by Joy Claybrook Photography

Kings Cross Church recently held its annual spring festival. Church members and visitors enjoyed an Easter egg hunt, bouncy houses, and outdoor games. Food trucks, Taco Del Dragon, The Good Food Spot, 3-2-1 Dogs, and Hillbilly Q were available for everyone to enjoy.



Will, Allison, Audrey, Wesley, and Susan Carpenter



▲ Christopher and Elliott King



Alex Delgado, Austin Jenkins, Jayden Villarrean, and Edwardo Perez

#### Birds of a feather flock together

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

Reeda Best from Crimson Clover Master Gardeners gave visitors an in-depth look at the bluebird at Tims Ford State Park. Park visitors enjoyed listening to Best talk about all things bluebirds, including what type of box and location bluebirds prefer, how to clean a bluebird box, what bluebirds eat, and why bluebirds are essential to the environment.



▲ Cheryl King



▲ Tom Best, Reeda Best, and Linda Rogers

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## **EVENTS** CALENDAR

#### *May 13*

#### 10:00 am Franklin Co. Kiwanis High On The Hog -Steak Cook-Off

Winchester City Park 1561 Phillip Fulmer Pkwy., Winchester

Franklin Co. Kiwanis High On The Hog kicks off with cruise in, craft fair, vendors, and more.

#### *May 15*

#### 6:00 pm Tullahoma Ladies **Networking Night**

El Costal 1905 N. Jackson St. #800, Tullahoma

Ladies Networking Nights are a free laidback gathering for local business women who have a desire to grow socially and professionally. You will have the opportunity to network, introduce yourself and your business, and then hear from our key speaker and join the roundtable discussion. Women from all types of businesses and backgrounds attend our events.

#### *May 17*

8:00 am Franklin Co. Kiwanis **High On The Hog Family Carnival** 

Winchester City Park 1561 Phillip Fulmer Pkwy., Winchester

#### May 19

7:00 pm South Jackson **Courtyard Stage Friday Night Concert Series** 

> Enjoy the music, food, and bar. \$10 fee.

#### *May 20*

#### 6:00 pm The Thundies **Sports Awards**

First Baptist Church Manchester 1006 Hillsboro Blvd., Manchester

Celebrating the athletes of Coffee County at the second annual Thundies Sports Awards!



#### *May 21*

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

This is a statewide emphasis, encouraging churches to pray for VBS and Backyard Kids Clubs.

#### June 2

7:00 pm South Jackson Courtyard Stage Friday Night Concert Series

Enjoy the music, food, and bar. \$10 fee.

#### June 5

# 8:00 am South Jackson PACT Summer Theatre Camp

Performing arts for children and teens summer theatre camp. For more details and to register go to www.southjackson.org

#### June 9

7:00 pm South Jackson Courtyard Stage Friday Night Concert Series

Enjoy the music, food, and bar. \$10 fee.

#### *June 15*

8:00 am Broadway Revue

Learn more at www.southjackson.org

# For more events and to submit an event visit:

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





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