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**ISSUE 9 2023** 

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#### VANDERBILT BEDFORD HOSPITAL WELCOMES



### **Sheela Parrish, MD**

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We welcome Dr. Sheela Parrish to the Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital team of primary care providers. Dr. Parrish is a boardcertified family physician who diagnoses and treats a wide range of chronic and acute conditions in adults 18 and older, and offers preventive services such as routine physicals and immunizations.

Dr. Parrish earned her medical degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and completed her residency in family medicine at UAB's Huntsville campus. Her extensive professional background includes providing care in both private and hospital settings and serving for more than a decade at the Department of Veterans Affairs. She is accepting new patients at Vanderbilt Integrated Primary Care Shelbyville. To schedule an appointment, please call 931-685-2022 or visit VanderbiltBedfordHospital.com.

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135 Sulphur Springs Road, Shelbyville, TN \$765,000 MLS# 2555416

#### **Custom Built Brick Home** Situated on 6+/- Acres!



Situated on 6.14 acres, has 4 BR, 4.5 BA & approximately 7,700 sqft under roof. Interior features hardwood, carpet, & tile flooring throughout, granite countertops in kitchen w/island & pantry, walk in closets, tons of storage, attic space in upstairs, fully finished basement & more! Exterior features 5 car garage spaces (3 up & 2 down), covered porch, 21x11 sunroom w/thermo-pane windows & beautiful hilltop views!

625 Smith Chapel Road, Tullahoma, TN \$889,000 MLS# 2545149

#### Hunter's Paradise with 405+/- Scenic Acres!!



This stunning property features a 1,299 sqft home, 2 bedroom trailer, cabin, 1 large barn & much more! Throughout the property has springs, a pond & the Cane Creek flowing through it. Property is loaded w/ wildlife. Best Hunting in Middle Tennessee!!!

60 Lambrick Road, Petersburg, TN \$2,450,000 MLS# 2516437



Million Dollar Views **North Bedford County** 



Beautiful rolling hill farm w/million-dollar views & 91+/- acres! This property has an older farmhouse that will need renovations, & utilities are active at the home. This farm is in a convenient location just off the main Highway 231 North going towards Murfreesboro & has open & wooded acreage as well as 1,262 feet of road frontage.

559 Coop Road, Bell Buckle, TN \$1,065,000 MLS# 2549608

#### **Brick Home in Convenient Location!**



Check out this 3 bedroom 2 bathroom brick home on a great lot & neighborhood! This home features a gas log fireplace in the living area, carpet & vinyl flooring throughout the home & large size BR. The exterior features a covered back patio, open & covered patio, carport & a mini barn that stays w/the property!

402 Cloverdale Road, Shelbyville, TN \$393,900 MLS# 2548952

#### **Ranch Style Home** Situated on 1.1+/- Acres



This 4 bedroom 2.5 bathroom home features built in cabinets in the den and brick fireplace with gas logs, formal dining room, cathedral ceiling in bonus room, extra closets, home office could even be a 5th bedroom and more! Exterior features a detached 2 car garage with 2 storage rooms, covered porch, large size concrete patio in rear of home, white picket in back yard, gazebo in back yard, mature trees and more!

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#### **Renovated Brick Home** on 8.72+/- Acres!!



This home features 3 BR, 2.5 BA, all new flooring throughout w/lifetime warranty for laminate, all new paint, new gas stove top in kitchen, double ovens, new sunroom, 38x23 bonus w/half bath & finished attic. Exterior features a 30x50 shop w/19x14 office, new roof, & new LED lighting. Other exterior features include a new 2 car carport, shed, new salt water in ground pool & more!!

2350 Highway 64 East, Shelbyville, TN \$799.900 MLS# 2539443

#### **Custom Built Brick Home** Situated on 6+/- Acres!



This amazing home sits right off 231 North in a convenient location! This home features 3 BR, 2 BA, 2,143 sqft & hardwood/tile throughout. Exterior features beautiful landscaping, outbuilding, in-ground salt water Pool w/ heater, covered patio & more!!

126 McDale Road, Shelbyville, TN \$585.500 MLS# 2534198

#### **Pristine Farm Nestled** in the Northern Bedford County Area



This beautiful 22+/- acres has a cozy 2 bedroom 1 bathroom home. This property also has several buildings such as, 60X46 RV garage w/ storage, 45X40 horse barn, 60X40 equipment shed & more!! Property is being surveyed.

841 Kennedy Road, Shelbyville, TN \$729,000 MLS# 2548207



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Dianne Arnold (931) 703-5104 Madison Arnold (615) 603-0077





**524 Hwy 82 E** - Custom built one owner 3 Br 3 bath brick home with 2 BR 1 bath tenant house on 62+ acres with large pond with pier, older barn & 2 older chicken houses for barn use or storage. Main house has living room w/FP, den, Master bedroom & bath, formal dining, kitchen breakfast room combo, guest bath all downstairs. Upstairs you have 2 bedrooms, office & large bonus room & 1 bath. Property has 1,317' of frontage on Hwy 82 E & 1,898' of frontage on Adams Ln. This property is great for farm living or possible development property with this amount of Rd. frontage. Located just outside of Bell Buckle. **\$1,499,900.00 MLS#2562991** 

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**569 Short Mountain Rd.** - PRICE REDUCED!! Spacious, kitchen with skylight. Big rec room, utility room, full BA, & back entrance. Wooden deck & fenced yard on 3 sides, privacy borders, & blackberry bushes. A storage building & fenced dog run in the back. There are 3 more BRs with a full-size BA. Also, a large LR.The front porch is covered. Come see this beautiful home. **\$299,900.00 MLS#2556103** 

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OTHING EXCITES me more than the idea of autumn. The trees are beautiful and never fail to take your breath away and then give it back to you. The perfect Saturday is a cool breeze coming in from the open window, classic slashers like John Carpenter's Halloween playing on the TV, and a pumpkin-scented candle dancing shadows to the corners of the room. Every autumn brings families together as the holidays sneak up on us once again. While we may jump into fun at local farm attractions and get lost in corn mazes, the season brings much more than hay rides and jump scares. It's a time of year when we're allowed to take a breath. The breakneck speed of summer is finally coming to an end. Now's the time to relax with an iced coffee and nostalgia.

As the vibrant colors of autumn begin to paint the world around us, we find ourselves immersed in a season of both beauty and togetherness. The golden hues of falling leaves and the warm embrace of cozy sweaters evoke a sense of nostalgia and comfort that warms the soul. Just as the trees shed their leaves, we, too, shed the worries of yes-

Wesley Bryant, MANAGING EDITOR

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

#### A Breath of Fresh Air

#### Autumn reminds us that every end is a new beginning

terday, basking in the promise that each new day brings.

The crisp air seems to carry with it a sense of unity, reminding us of the importance of coming together, of finding solace in one another's company. Whether it's around a dinner table or a crackling bonfire, these moments of connection remind us of the power of community and the joy that flourishes when we share our lives with those we hold dear.

Each step we take in the crunching leaves serves as a reminder that even in the midst of change, there is an opportunity for renewal and growth. The autumn harvest is a testament to the cycle of life, to the assurance that every ending is merely the start of a new beginning.

Cherish the moments of togetherness that warm our hearts, and let us embrace the hope that blossoms with each passing day. As the world around us transforms, may we, too, find the courage to shed what no longer serves us and make space for the beautiful possibilities that lie ahead.

This issue of Good News focuses on the autumn harvest — when our communities harvest not just crops... but love, positivity, and Good News. **GN** 

#### From our publishing partner



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**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT** Lorri Allen, Faith Cashion, Amanda Cox, Mark Mahagan, Kevin Maples, Janet Mullins, Matt Scott, Sandra Thomas

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CHAPTER 1 OF 3

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

- Shelbyville's nostalgic popcorn stand returns to historic square, igniting memories and creating new ones
- 18 New Alliance Unleashes Unlimited Opportunities for Economic Growth
- 20 Music and Dance Celebrated in Unionville
- 22 Planning and Zoning Leader Kennon Threet Honored for 28 Years of Leadership

Submit a positive story on our website:



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Photography by Asheigh Newnes

 Dena Landers, Turner Taylor, and Warren Landers



A Dena Landers, Turner Taylor, and Warren Landers

#### Shelbyville's nostalgic popcorn stand returns to historic square, igniting memories and creating new ones.

Warren and Dena Landers recognize the value of a memory.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

T HE SMALLEST building on Shelbyville's historic square anchors the childhood memories of countless residents. Big enough for only one person, its tiny footprint connects our hearts to the past and now brings the hope of creating new memories for area families thanks to Warren and Dena Landers. Shelbyville's popcorn stand is back!

When the stand was removed from the square for sidewalk renovations, people

flooded Facebook with comments of favorite memories and pleas to save the treasure and return it to operation. Words like icon, landmark, institution, and good old days linked with childhood, popcorn, candy, and people-watching as locals and those with local ties recalled Saturdays on the square with their parents and grandparents. Photos of the stand in disrepair caused commenters to vocalize their fears that the memory-filled booth was decaying and never to return. Even then, Landers and others were hard at work restoring the stand to its former glory, but saving a memory is not quick, easy, or inexpensive. It's a challenge Landers was willing to take because the payout was priceless.

After waiting for the completion of the sidewalk renovation, which moved faster than expected, the weather created further delays. The overall condition of the stand was not usable.



















#### **AMERICAN MULE AND MUSIC AND UNCLE DAVE MACON DAYS ARE TEAMING UP! SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 1**

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- Homestead demonstrations
- Song Writers Workshop

- Horse Clinic by Rikki Lee

- Cast Iron Cooking contest
- Packing and mule Clinic
- Mid-State Cloggers
- Open Mule race
- Mule drawing give away
- Open Gaited & Wester Ranch Mule
- Draft Mule and Horse Halter show
- · Mule and Draft Horse Pulling contest
- . Kingdom Cultivation Ministries Sunday
- Church service revival







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GOOD NEWS SHELBYVILLE



"It's the original popcorn stand; we just had to take the skin off of it. And it's got all new treated lumber inside, and we put the original skin back on it. The actual popcorn machine is the machine that was in it, but it's got new wiring. LED lights modernized it, and the air conditioner, especially around July and August, will be really nice," said Landers.

For the completion of the project, Landers credits Carter Clay, who oversaw the rebuilding and was assisted by Brent Pewitt, who took care of the wiring, and Brent Hitt, who handled the popcorn motor repairs

"When you're trying to do stuff like this outdoors, and it's 25 degrees and a lot of rainy days, it just goes on and on. It seemed like we couldn't get a break, and our timing was very poor. When they got sidewalks done, we didn't have the popcorn stand ready because the weather had been bad," said Landers.

The longer it took to get the stand back to its original home, the more restless the community became.

"I would meet people on the square or at a restaurant, and they'd say, 'Where's the popcorn stand?' I'm in the well-drilling business, and I wouldn't have anybody ask me anything about my business; they wanted to know about popcorn," said Landers. "I guess that was when it dawned on me how much this really meant to the community. People would tell you a story about how their mom would go shopping on Saturdays, and they'd have to go by and get popcorn. And I heard the same story over and over from men and women. It's just amazing how many people this thing has touched."

Our beloved popcorn stand will be open for Fourth Friday on the square, parades, and other special events. Most recently, proceeds from popcorn sales benefited the Bedford County Imagination Library.

What a great way to honor our past and future! Let's get busy making new memories. GN

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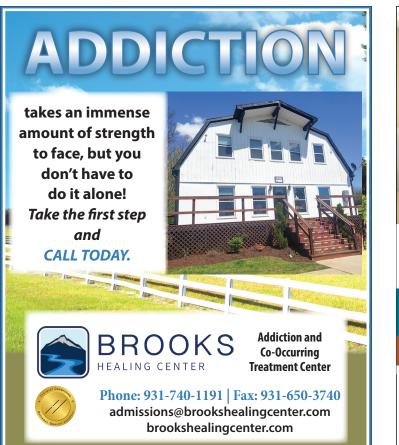
#### New Alliance Unleashes Unlimited Opportunities for Economic Growth.

Photo provided by Shelbyville Bedford Partnership/Community Foundation

Shelbyville-Bedford Partnership and Shelbyville Chamber of Commerce recently announced a new collaborative relationship to support economic growth. The alliance aims to serve the business community's needs, capitalize on recent milestones like Duksan Electera's manufacturing plant, and work together to achieve common goals for the community's prosperity. Decision-makers view the partnership as a strategic win for economic growth, emphasizing the potential for greater coordination and effectiveness. The merger is expected to elevate both organizations to new heights and promises unlimited opportunities for our community's future. **GN** 

#### Bedford County Receives Highest Honor for Financial Reporting.

Bedford County has been awarded the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, met the association's high standards, which include demonstrating a "spirit of full disclosure." This recognition signifies a remarkable achievement for the government and its management in the field of governmental accounting and financial reporting. **GN** 







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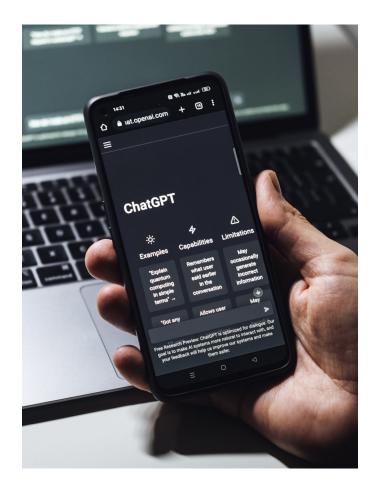


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#### Webb School Library Director Hannah Byrd Little Leads Panel on Chat GPT at American Library Association Conference in Chicago.

Hannah Byrd Little, the national chair of the independent schools section, organized a tour of Chicago Independent School Libraries during the American Library Association's annual conference. She also spoke on a panel about Chat GPT's impact on information literacy. The conference included attending the Newbery and Caldecott Awards Banquet and listening to speeches by Judy Blume and Amanda Gorman. **GN** 



#### Music and Dance Celebrated in Unionville

MaupinFest 2023 was celebrated on September 23 at Hootenanny Haven in Unionville. The annual celebration awards the National Old Time Buck Dancing Champion on behalf of Uncle Dave Macon Days as originally assigned by the 1986 U.S. Congress. National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellow Thomas Maupin is honored through the annual old-time music and dance festival. **GN** 



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#### Planning and Zoning Leader Kennon Threet Honored for 28 Years of Leadership

Photo submitted by Bedford County Government

Kennon Threet, a lifelong Bedford County resident, was honored by peers for his 28-year leadership as a Bedford County Regional Planning Commission chairperson. Elected president in 1995, his steadfast dedication and historical perspective guided the commission through changing county leadership and community planning. Threet, also a Bedford County Board of Zoning Appeals member, remains committed to his roles, offering valuable experience. He has witnessed major changes and evolution in community planning and zoning through the leadership of four different county mayors and just as many county planners. **GN** 

#### Mural Brightens Shelbyville

The talent of Jose Vera Gonzalez is vibrantly displayed on a new mural at 403 N. Thompson St., the former Mittwede Shopping Center. "Believe in Shelbyville" is surrounded by colorful flowers and decorative pots, a Mexican candy skull, pinatas, a rag doll, and other cheerful images, including a winged photo spot. **GN** 

#### Library Card Sign-up Month in September

The Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library will be offering free new or replacement library cards to anyone age 5 & up all month long! New cardholders of all ages will also be entered into a prize drawing for even more goodies. **GN** 



#### New Menu Items at The Humble Baron and Barrel House II at Nearest Green Distillery

The Humble Baron at the Nearest Green Distillery recently introduced new menu items highlighting seasonal delights with a unique focus on barbecue and Tennessee flavors. Check out Uncle Nearest's Glazed Smoked Wings, Tennessee Lobster Roll, and the Smokehouse Bloody cocktail. Barrel House II, also located at the distillery, invites guests to create their own plate selecting from their special pulled pork or chicken, smoked sausage, brisket, and ribs. A two-meat or three-meat plate is offered, or you can try one of their sandwiches or an a la carte meat. Style your meal with sides of loaded potatoes, cornbread, Texas toast, baked beans, potato salad, collard greens, mac and cheese, and Southern slaw. Delivery is now available through DoorDash. **GN** 





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#### New Location for Shelbyville Planning & Community Development and Building & Codes Departments

Photo submitted by City of Shelbyville

On July 21, 2023, there was a ribbon cutting and open house for the new City of Shelbyville Planning & Community Development offices and the Building & Codes Departments. The new location is the former Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber of Commerce building at 100 N. Cannon Blvd., Shelbyville. **GN** 

#### Nearest Green Distillery and The Celebration Partner

During the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration, visitors were treated to a Nearest Green Distillery pop-up booth, and an exclusive cocktail, Toppy's Choice, was available at bars throughout the Celebration. Complimentary trolley rides to the distillery and limited-edition Uncle Nearest Single Barrel Whiskey bottles for sale marked the event's 85th anniversary. Humble Baron also served the Toppy's Choice cocktail during this year's Celebration. **GN** 



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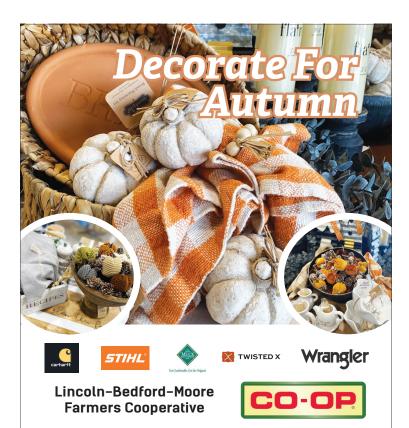
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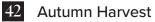
This section of the magazine covers local people or businesses you need to know about.



A divine calling



40 A golden revolution of the wagon wheel



57 Rise and Shine, it's **Morning Glory Donuts** 

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



#### goodnewsmags.com

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

< Katy Ishee



# A DIVINE CALLING

Follow Father Edwuin Cardona's unconventional path to St. William of Montevergine Catholic Church.

BY TINA NEELEY // PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

**S THE DIVERSITY** of the population of Shelbyville and Bedford County evolves, so does the congregation of St. William of Montevergine Catholic Church. The church celebrated the first anniversary of its pastor, Father Edwuin Cardona, in June, but Cardona's connection to the church was established much earlier.

"I have been linked to Shelbyville for 7 1/2 years since I came here as a seminarian during summer. I knew this was going to be my first parish as a pastor," he said.

He based that belief upon the term remaining for the former pas-

tor, the diversity of the congregation, and the connection he'd made with the people since his earliest days. Assuming his role as the parish leader was easier and more natural than his journey to seminary.

Cardona grew up in Colombia, South America, a Catholic country by constitution until 1991.

Cardona said, "I wanted to be a priest when I was 6. That was the first time I said it."

And he was serious and entered seminary when he was 17. After five years, he decided to take a break.

"That break was about six years, and I did a lot of things in those years," he said. "I got my degree in philosophy and worked in different things. I was a general coordinator in a cultural office in a very difficult neighborhood, but I also had some businesses on the side."

He said, "I also used to buy and sell motorcycles. I love motorcycles — that's something I like. I had an office supply store and telephone service where there was no service for cell phones in the mountains of Colombia. I did a little bit of everything before coming here."

He didn't have much money but had a good, easy life. He had a girlfriend, a good job, and was very happy.

"But something was missing because I knew God wanted me to be a priest. I was happy, but I didn't have something I have now — peace," Cardona said. "Just to know I'm doing God's will and not mine gives me the peace I couldn't find in anything else. I firmly believe that when you do God's will, you are more at peace than when you do yours." Cardona believed God had a calling for him. He imagined a life living among poor indigenous people in the Amazon jungle. But God had a different plan.

"I used to say, 'I'm too old; I don't want to obey anybody right now.' Later, I decided with the Lord to try it, and I ended up in seminary in the United States. I think God really wanted me to come because I was hoping I wouldn't be accepted, but I was. I'm very thankful because I can't see myself being anything other than a Catholic priest," he said.

So the man who could not dance ended his two-steps-forward, threesteps-back routine and followed what he believed was God's calling for his life.

He said, "When I went to seminary with the Franciscans, it was my decision. The second time I went to seminary, it was God's decision because, as a boy, I wanted a wife and three children at least, and I was fighting with the



seminary. But once I was ordained as a deacon, all my doubts and concerns around my vocation disappeared — not because I'm good but because God is good. It's because of Jesus that everything made sense."

His journey and struggles were not wasted.

"When I see my life with eyes of faith, I see God, and when I preach to people, my previous experiences help me talk with the people in a deeper way. I'm far from what I'm called to be, but I'm learning with the help of the people and with God, of course," said Cardona.

Although there are challenges, there's nowhere else he'd rather be.

"I like being part of the people," he said. "I love being here and far from the chaos of the big city." GN





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# Highway 41 Toy Convoy and Show delivers Christmas joy.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

HAT DOESN'T resemble a sleigh or make a rooftop landing but delivers Christmas toys? It's the Highway 41 Toy Convoy and Show topping the hill on Highway 64, entering Wartrace on the first Sunday in November, bringing Christmas joy to children in Bedford and surrounding counties.

Motorcycles, emergency vehicles, vintage and late-model cars and trucks, and practically anything with a motor and wheels gathered earlier at Raiders Academy off I-24's Exit 111 in Manchester. They made their way with a police escort to Wartrace, determined to support Katy Ishee's annual toy drive and car show. The excitement begins long before they leave the academy.

Ishee said, "Everybody's just out there walking around, and you usually pretty much know who the winners [of the show] are going to be because you'll hear a buzz start in the crowd, and you'll hear, 'Oh, wow! Look!' And every head in the parking lot swings around to look at this guy turning in. And when you see somebody like that, you know that's a winner. It's a response of the convoy and crowd to what's coming in."

Now in its 27th year, the Wartrace community and fire department hosts the event held for many years in Tullahoma, ushering in a new holiday tradition.

The story of the convoy began over two decades ago when a motorcycle club organized it. In its early years, the convoy faced challenges, but Ishee and others remained determined to deliver the true magic of the convoy and the joy it brings to children.

Not limiting the convoy to motorcycles was important to Ishee.

"When we started organizing this convoy, I told them I wanted it open to anybody that wants to help the children because Christmas is for everybody. It's not just for bikers or hot rodders. So we all agree that we'd invite everything that rolls: cars, bikes, jeeps, trucks, vans, hot rods, trucks, motorcycles. Everyone is asked to fly the American flag to salute our country and our many freedoms. It's just the most awesome thing, and we've just tried to keep it rolling for the kids," said Ishee.

Door prizes are collected from local businesses in Wartrace, Manchester, Shelbyville, Tullahoma, Lynchburg, and Murfreesboro months before the convoy. To spread the word, Ishee gets the word out through various website ads during the summer and contacts local newspapers and TV stations weeks in advance. Then the helpers start to fall into place.

"A couple of weeks before the convoy, I'll start getting phone calls from people asking, 'Do you want me to do this? Do you want me to do that?' And that's how we get it done; it's just friends of Highway 41 that have stepped up to help because there's no club. It's just me and my friends — whoever shows up to help. And it's been really great because we've met so many good people that way," Ishee said.

Good people like Fran Eley and her husband, Billy, purchase so many new toys, shoes, clothes, and electronics for the children and teenagers that they



Dale Lawrence, Adam Cataldo, Dave Cataldo, Ben Cataldo, and Sam Cataldo

It's just me and my friends whoever shows up to help. And it's been really great because we've met so many good people that way.

-Katy Ishee



Aleaha Miller and Grayson Hall

need an enclosed trailer to haul them in the convoy. Good people like Mike McClain and his wife act as Santa and Mrs. Claus and welcome all the children to the event. And good people like long-time supporter Samuel Jarrett, Wartrace Fire Chief Mike De Jesus, firemen Duane Drake and Ike Eichelberger, and Rodney Hall of Rodney's Body Shop, who loads and stores all the toys and then separates them for each group that will distribute them.

And the good people of Wartrace turn out in large numbers to support the convoy as it fills up their small town with more good people, gifts, great rides, and good music by the Virgil T & Uncle Tom Band.

And it's not just local people.

"We have many out-of-state folks come in for the convoy," Ishee said. "One man drives down from Lake Erie, 589 miles one way. We are expecting folks to come in from across the state and from Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Alabama, and Ohio."

Convoy participants may choose to compete in a cruise-in type show.

Ishee said, "When they come through the gate, they pay a \$10 entry fee per vehicle, not per person. If you're entering the show, it's \$20. Trophies are handed out to

GOOD NEWS SHELBYVILLE

show winners. Everybody gets tickets, which they use for door prizes that we draw for later in the day."

The collected items are distributed by the Manchester Police Department, Wartrace Fire Department, Coffee County Rescue, and Steve Gray's Gene Taylor Christmas Foundation, with approximately one-third of them going to children in Bedford County, according to Ishee.

The story of the Highway 41 Toy Convoy and Show is a testament to the power of unity, generosity, and the spirit of giving. It not only brings joy to the children who receive the toys but also to the participants and volunteers who contribute to its success.

For more information, follow Highway 41 Toy Convoy on Facebook or contact Katy Ishee at (931) 224-0612. For those who can't attend, you can drop off your toys at Wartrace Town Hall or C.A.R.S. in Manchester.



Everyone has a story. We would love to hear yours.

SINCE GOOD News launched, we have received more than 400 nominations for people to be covered. We're often asked how or why a story would get coverage in the magazine. The answer: YOU! Not only are the stories about local people, but they come from other local people, too! We base our magazine on submissions from our website.

### How does a story get into Good News Magazine?

Nominate someone to be featured in Good News Magazine.

#### Step 1:

#### A reader submits a story idea on our website.

We're not looking for superstars or outlandish stories. We're looking for everyday people. We believe everyone has a story. A perfect submission includes a name, contact information, and a testimony on the person's character. Include what they do for work, the community, or their impact on family and friends.

#### Step 2:

#### We select stories based on relevance to our many themes.

We tell stories about local people. We've told stories about people ranging from first responders to school staff, including local officials, charities, volunteers, and others who have impacted our community. We cover about five people per magazine every month. Just because someone wasn't covered immediately doesn't mean they won't be covered in the near future.

#### Step 3:

#### Our team of writers and photographers reach out to plan a photo shoot and conduct the interview.

The Good News team continues to be inspired by the submissions and the stories we're given the opportunity to tell. In order to stay ahead of the volume of stories, we complete the story and photos several months before we go to print for that issue.

We believe that everyone has a story. Our writers are trained to find the good in everyone and are experts at telling positive stories. If we choose to include your story, a writer and photographer will be in touch! We review and read every submission! We thank you for your submission, and we can't wait to tell your story.

#### Do you know someone we should include in Good News Magazine?

Let us know with a submission at www.GoodNewsMags.com Or scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera:





Josh Hammonds, Paul Myers, Dean Pugh, David Andrews, Steve Huddleston, Tad Craig, Michael Hix, Ben Craig, Gene Ray, Asa Kelly, Alan Gill, Tyler Gill, Kerrie Upchurch, Belinda Craig, Camille Belt, Carissa Craig, Brooklyn Richardson, and Lana Craig

# A golden revolution of the wagon wheel

Craig & Wheeler Realty & Auction celebrates a milestone.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

**F** OR AN evening, they replaced the cadence of the auctioneer's chant for a time-transporting trio's acoustic guitar, harmonica, and smooth vocals on easy rock hits of decades past. Closing document signings at the conference room table were replaced with hugs, handshakes, and recollections of favorite memories from the past 50 years. Mouth-watering barbeque and desserts filled plates on tables topped with potted hydrangeas, bringing fellowship full circle.

The Craig & Wheeler Realty & Auction family celebrated the company's golden anniversary on August 5th at the Blue Ribbon Circle at the Celebration. Before his death, it was a special occasion David Craig looked forward to as he saw the date growing closer. Tad Craig said, "Our dad mentioned for years how if you can have a company for 50 years, you have done something, and we wanted to honor him and our grandfather, Auburn Wheeler [who founded the company]. We are simply continuing what they started in 1973."

Brothers Tad and Ben Craig and their mother, Belinda Craig, are committed to fulfilling the original vision and dream upon which David Craig and his father-in-law, Auburn Wheeler, founded the company.

"This event was a culmination of [their] ultimate sacrifice, hard work, dedication, commitment, [and desire] to start a company, trying to live the American dream," said Ben. Inflation and mortgage rates were rising in 1973, but that couldn't decrease the pair's passion and heart for pursuing their dream of serving the real estate and auction needs of the residents of Bedford County and the surrounding area. Over the years, the market and the company have ridden out their highs and lows and witnessed a futuristic change in how we conduct business. And today's team grew from only four: David, Auburn, Belinda, and Alan Gill, David's brother-in-law.

Ben said, "We have evolved from a family business into one with more than 20 agents. Buyers and sellers appreciate knowing we have great agents and the assurance that the company's owners are here every day in the office, willing and ready to help our agents in all aspects."

The Craig family recognizes that the key to their door to success opens with the support of everyone on both sides.

"We are humbled by the turnout for the 50th Celebration, and we want to thank all the families and people that have helped get us to where we are," said Tad. "So many companies sell out or shut down, and family businesses are tough, simply because you're working with family."

But David's passion for their family's work in the community trumped every difficulty.

Tad said, "He loved what we do, and I've always said if this were a job, I would have quit 28 years ago. Real estate is a lifestyle for our family; it's just what we do and who we are. It's been our honor to help families sell their property, hold estate auctions, or buy their first home. I believe that Aub and Big Dave would have loved the 50th Celebration."

Ben agrees. "It's amazing, and my only regret is that Granddad and Dad weren't able to be a part of it. We are truly just leading a vision of what they began into the future. And the future is bright for years ahead."

Belinda appreciated the opportunity to thank the community for the support extended to her family throughout the many years they've been here.

"I couldn't help but be a little sentimental, greeting people and watching those from every walk of life come through those doors — the very people who helped build our company. Each person shared memories of buying or selling their home or farms from Daddy or David. These are the people who helped feed, clothe, and educate my sons, and I will forever be humbled and grateful for each



Ben, Belinda, and Tad Craig

and every one that entrusted us to help them with their real estate transactions," Belinda said.

She's seen it all.

"I was there from the very first day when Daddy, David, and myself had a dream, and with the people of this and surrounding counties, we watched that dream come true," said Belinda. "I guess I'm the last one standing! I truly felt David and Daddy's presence all around us, and I know if there are holes in heaven, they were surely watching as the torch has been passed to the third generation."

The third generation's vision for the future is more of the same.

"Real estate is a relationship business, and Dad and Granddad laid a foundation of work ethic and treating people right. We continue to strive for that in every deal we do," said Tad.

It's teamwork, just like the past 50 years.

"Ben has so many things that he excels in. We are different, but I can say he's been a great partner because his strengths are opposite of mine and vice versa. We both think that with all the new businesses and neighborhoods coming to our marketplace, there are years of growth for Shelbyville and Bedford County. I hope you will be seeing wagon wheels and orange and white signs for many years to follow." GN

For more information, visit craigwheeler.com or follow Craig & Wheeler Realty & Auction LLC on Facebook. Offices are located at 508 Cannon Blvd., Shelbyville, and they can be reached at (931) 684–9112.



As autumn's gentle embrace envelops the land, it's easy to find yourself drawn to the mesmerizing symphony of colors that unfold during the harvest season. The vibrant oranges, deep reds, and golden yellows of the falling leaves mirror the warmth of love within the community. Walk through local farms and smell the crisp air that carries hints of earthy sweetness. With each corn plucked and pumpkin gathered, we are reminded of the bountiful rewards that patience and nurturing can bring, and feel a deep connection of community growth and renewal.



# Seeds of

Brooke Smith Sanders continues her family's legacy as a third-generation farmer.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

ROWTH IS stunted in the shadows. A healthy balance of sun and shade, light and dark, warmth and cool all produce the best in life. While Brooke Smith Sanders is her father's daughter, walking side by side with him and not in his shadow was fertile ground for producing a farmer.

Farmers in our rural communities are still made up mostly of men, but Sanders' father, saw fertile soil for his future farmer. His approach to planting seeds for a third-generation farmer was perfect, and the harvest may yield even more generations of farmers.

Sanders said, "He was very hands-on. Even when I was young, I would come to him and say I [had] a problem, and he would say, 'What do you think it is?' Or, he always led with questions. He would never say, this is what you need to do. We worked together every day, but he and my mama were adamant that I needed to know how to fix things and figure things out because one day, they wouldn't be here. And that was hard and aggravating, but it was the biggest asset and the best thing they ever did for me."

GOOD NEWS SHELBYVILLE



Brooke Smith Sanders



Sanders' family has a rich history in farming, dating back to the 1960s when her grandparents, and her parents, Jimmy and Charlene Smith, began acquiring and merging smaller farms. Growing row crops and tending to beef and dairy cows were integral parts of their lives.

"My favorite thing to tell people is my daddy made me go to college — he said that was my backup plan," said Sanders. "I got a degree in agribusiness. You had to take a milk science class to get that degree, and you had to come milk cows. I told the professor, 'I'm not coming up here to milk cows; I do that at home.' And my professor said that's a true reaction of somebody that has milk cows, so I'm going to let you skip that part."

The family ceased their milk cow operations during her sophomore year of college and later added hair sheep. Add annual hay crops to the mixture, and you have a picture of Sanders' life.

"It's a good life; I love it. My daddy died in January 2020, and there's been a lot of adjustments since then, but I still love it as much as I used to. And I'm glad I get to do it. I hope my kids want to do it one day," said Sanders.

She hopes but doesn't pressure her twins in the direction of a life of farming. Like her daddy, she shares all of life on the farm with them and will let them decide when the time comes.



"Growing up, when you farm, you don't get to go on vacations, and you don't get to do a lot of things, but my parents always wanted me to have the best of both worlds," said Sanders. "So, there were times that Mama would take me, my aunt, and my cousin, and we would go on trips and vacations together. My daddy never got to go. As I got older and my responsibilities increased, I could understand that."

The decision to follow in her parents' farming footsteps was not forced upon her. Her mother had been adamant about her not pursuing farming due to the demanding nature of the profession. But, her appreciation for the role of farmers in sustaining life and a desire to honor her family's legacy was as natural as breathing. She cares deeply and personally for their livestock and acknowledges that farmers are often misunderstood and underappreciated.

"I think the common theory is that farmers don't care about their animals. I really wish people understood that we do," Sanders said. "We put our entire life into these animals, and just because they're a food product doesn't mean they're mistreated. There are a lot of struggles in farming, and I wish people understood that. Farmers are dehumanized sometimes. We're all trying to hang on as long as we can, and I think that gets lost in translation."

What's not lost in translation is her commitment to and heart for agriculture instilled by her father's love and example and her mother's support. Her passion for farming and family runs deep, yielding a harvest of life-sustaining food for others and a model and legacy for her children and future generations.

That's the circle of life. GN





# ATHIIII like III UTHER

Bell Buckle Craft Fair welcomes fall and holiday shoppers.

By Tina Neeley Photography by Ashleigh Newnes and provided by Odinn Media





ACH SEASON brings its traditions, but few compare to one annual kick off to fall and holiday shopping. Unphased by weather fluctuations, only thunderstorms send shoppers scattering to shelter. When the small town of Bell Buckle, with a population of approximately 500, welcomes over 100,000 visitors the third weekend of October, summer vacates our hearts, fall takes the helm, and Christmas waves to us, and all feels right in the world.

Loved by locals, the Webb Craft Fair is an iconic weekend event. But countless others from lesser-known zip codes contribute to the continual growth and success of the festival.

Bell Buckle Chamber of Commerce President Heather Williams has seen a sizable jump in attendance during her nine-year tenure.



"The people come in groups, and we hear people regularly say they've been coming to this for 15 years. Or you'll see these groups walking around, and they'll say there are three generations here, or you'll see them walking around in matching T-shirts that say things like 'I conquered the Bell Buckle Craft Fair.' It really has become this pilgrimage, and people who are unaware of what it is sometimes get taken aback because they don't expect the traffic. But those who know are willing to settle in and hang out for the hour ride into town or however long it takes them to get in here, and then they're here all day," Williams said.

The Webb Craft Fair has gained even more traction in recent years, surpassing its previous attendance records. After a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the festival returned triumphantly, drawing in the largest crowd it had ever seen. Only a University of Tennessee home game and attendance at the State Fair, once it moved to Wilson County, are more largely attended.

The festival, managed by the Bell Buckle Chamber of Commerce, has grown in size and recognition over its 47 years of



operation. The juried art show started as the Webb School Art and Craft Show on the school campus and expanded beyond its boundaries. The Bell Buckle community joined in, opening up their properties to vendors and for parking. While the original juried section still exists under the Webb School Arts and Crafts Show, the festival encompasses many city blocks. It enables a diverse offering of handcrafted goods, food, and other items.

Williams said, "We have a lot of fantastic jewelers, hand-turned and hand-carved wood items, personalized items, and metal art. People look for that item that is unique or handcrafted because they're coming here buying gifts they can't buy at the department stores."

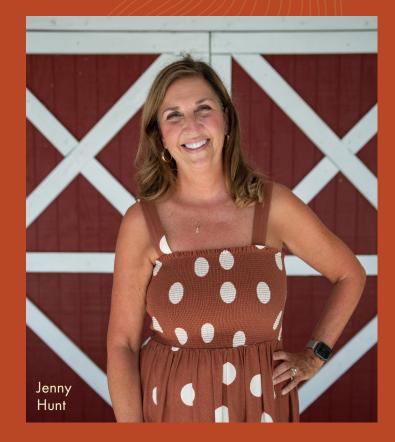
The food selection offers a variety that is synonymous with the event.

"There's just about anything you can ask for here, from woodfired pizzas to traditional fair food like hotdogs, corndogs, and barbecue. We have Asian food, tacos, and just about anything you could imagine," Williams said

Managing the growing size of the craft fair has presented challenges. The fair relied on local volunteers in the past, but additional measures were necessary as the attendance numbers surged. Emergency management became an integral part of the event's organization. Local law enforcement, including the Bedford County Sheriff's Department and the Tennessee Highway Patrol, were hired, and ambulances were strategically placed at both exits of the town to ensure the safety and well-being of attendees.

Jenny Hunt, treasurer and public relations director for the Bell Buckle Chamber of Commerce, said, "The majority of people come on Saturday. People think all the good stuff is there on Saturday, and they're going to run out of things. Though it sometimes happens, vendors know what they've got to have for a show like this and are prepared. So Sunday is a good day to come instead to beat the crowd."

The impact of the Webb Craft Fair on the local economy cannot be overstated. Homeowners, who serve as individual organizers, benefit significantly from the event. The influx of visitors brings economic prosperity to the town, supporting local businesses and residents alike. The fair's reputation has spread through various media outlets, including Southern Living features and the Smithsonian recognition. As a result, the festival receives widespread attention, attracting even more visitors each year.



But it's more than the event and the tangible things it offers. It's an experience that can hardly be found anywhere else.

"I think it's a unique experience," Williams said. "Bell Buckle is such a tiny little town to be able to host something as large as this and have people enjoy it comfortably. It's a feel-good place. I think they leave with the courtesy and invitation of a small town, not just the shopping experience. We're a welcoming place to be."

Bell Buckle is a town that transports you.

Williams and the town agree. "Our theme here is "close to home, but a world away," and it's true," she said. "We're an hour from Nashville, but it feels like a step back in time."

When better to step back in time than as leaves of yellow, red, and orange abandon the canopy that was summer's shade and carpet a storybook town in the wonder of the changing seasons? **GN** 

Gloria Christy and Andrew Dixon





# Pulling for a PDSITIVE future STRENGTHENED by the past

American Mule & Bluegrass Festival and Uncle Dave Macon Days partner to bring the traditions and influence of our past into our present.

By Jeriah Brumfield Photography by Brooke Snyder and submitted by Andrew Dixon

EPTEMBER'S NOONDAY sun showed no mercy as the field hands repeatedly ripped the corn from its stalk, dropping it into long burlap sacks draped across their bodies. Clothes and bulging harvest bags clung to their bodies, glued by sweat. Lost in rows that stood taller than their heads, the workers rushed to fill their bags, dump them into the nearest wagon, and return to their spot to begin again.

The Middle Tennessee air was filled with humidity, birdsong, and the occasional braying from the wagon team until the faintest melody of a clawhammer banjo, song, and laughter joined in. As the music grew louder, the workers dropped their sacks, marking their spots, and rushed to the side of the rutted road. Uncle Dave Macon and his mules were passing through on their way to market, loaded with tobacco, soybeans, sorghum, and other crops that provided for the families dotting the rural countryside.

The corn could wait. Macon's music lifted spirits and energized tired bodies as he played and sang songs reflecting the struggles and joys of everyday people whose lives were connected to the ground they worked and each other. Better together, music and mules teamed up to pull Middle Tennesseeans through season after season.

Music and mules are teaming up again this fall, dedicated to connecting our present and future to our past.

In 2021, Marty Ray Gordon turned off the news. He tuned into a way to effect change for our community, longing to offer people a chance to be part of something that changes lives while entertaining and educating us about the resilience and strength of previous generations. Gordon's first step in that direction was to organize the American Mule & Bluegrass Festival (AMBF).

"The mule has pulled people out of the Great Depression. The mule pulled us out of war, as mules participated in every war we had. There's no reason mules can't help to provide funds for charities and help them get back on their feet. What the mules will be pulling for now is charity," Gordon said when the festival began.



So the mules pulled to benefit local charities and now pull to assist our veterans. In 2023, the mules are adding more to the wagons. The festival will partner with Uncle Dave Macon Days (UDMD), an annual old-time music festival held for 42 years in Rutherford County that has outgrown its past locations. But the mules will pull UDMD into more than a larger venue.

According to uncledavemacondays.com, the nonprofit is dedicated to ensuring our communities stay connected to the history and spirit of our country by building bridges in education through the cultural heritage experience in arts and music. It preserves the past, enriches the present, and inspires the future — our legacy to the next generation — what we collect, what we create, and ultimately what we treasure.

The event takes place September 28-October 1 at Shelbyville's Cooper Steel Arena, and the two events expect the combination to connect us to the lives and values of timeless tools and traditions steeped in music and mules. The music that accompanied the hard work in the fields and provided the soundtrack to life's celebrations and hardships still resonates. Although motorized equipment revolutionized agricultural work, mules remind us to slow down and let them work for us while enjoying their companionship and the beauty in nature around us. Their brays harmonize with the strings of music that tell the highs and lows of our stories.

About the new partnership, Gordon said, "Making Music & Mules provides education, entertainment, competition, and activities to give back to the community and others. Because of that agreement and handshake, we could become a regional festival because the more than 40-year history of Uncle Dave Macon Days is an incredible experience for American Mules & Bluegrass to lean on."



We are not so far removed from the past that we can't reconnect with timeless elements of the early rural agrarian lifestyle. The least we can do is develop an appreciation for the God-given ways that the earth and those that work it sustain us. At best, we can learn the skills for homesteading, an appreciation of our roots, an entertaining break from life in the digital age, and fellowship with and support for our neighbors.

Gordon and Uncle Dave Macon Days President Gloria Christy agree that this year's festival works to erase the boundaries between neighbors, including the boundaries between Bedford and Rutherford Counties.

Christy said, "We want to show that Bedford County and Rutherford County don't have to be separate entities. We have seen this work in other parts of the country and even in our own state, with events and festivals merging together even in two different states like Bristol, Virginia, and Bristol, Tennessee, with the Carter fold and what's going on up in East Tennessee. They don't really pay attention to the political boundaries of counties or states. They make it work. What if we can make it work? This not only benefits us [the missions of UDMD and AMBF] financially, but the tourism possibilities are incredible. It really is a regional initiative." It's an initiative celebrating Middle Tennessee as the home of the first Grand Ole Opry star and the gaited mule.

"We need to get the word out that Middle Tennessee is the home of the Grand Ole Opry star, Uncle Dave Macon, and where the gaited mule became recognized because of the Tennessee walking horse connection. It takes a gaited horse to help bring the gait into the mule. A gaited mule is a fourbeat bilateral gait. We are one of the biggest mule shows in the United States with more than 100 classes," said Gordon.

This year's festival benefits the United Veterans Council of Bedford County. The components that allow the event to contribute to the council are the junior mule skinner program for all of Bedford County's fourth graders to learn about the mules and the music, homesteading and songwriting workshops, mule communication clinics, chuckwagon cooking, blacksmithing, and a petting zoo. There's a chance to win a mule. Keep it or donate it for an auction to benefit veterans.

It's an invitation to slow down, unplug, celebrate, and reconnect with the music and traditions that make us better together. **GN** 



New Covenant Fall is in the air! **New Limited Edition** art by October is as Kinkade Studios Clergy Appreciation Month Fall at Fox Creek Bridge We have Beautiful Fall Décor for appreciation cards your home, seasonal and gifts apparel and books to recognize your ministerial staff for all they do! oon on the Fa swia We will have Patrick and Zac Kinkade as our special guests New on Friday, October 6th and Pumpkin Saturday, October 7th. Call the store for more Hallmark 3-wick Spice design for a limited candles in fall scents information are buy 1 get 1 FREE time. full-service Christian bookstore Hallmark ٦ *P. Graham* D.UNN 800 North Main St. | Shelbyville, TN 37160 | phone (931) 684-8878 rs: Mon. – Sat. 8:30 am to 5:30 pm | www.shopnewcovenant.com

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# it's Morning Glory Donuts

### Good News is coming to dinner!

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as he dines in Bedford County. This month Colby Prince visited Morning Glory Donuts.

#### Morning Glory Donuts

(615) 775-3670 3627 US-41A N. Unionville On Facebook as Morning Glory Donuts ORNING GLORY Donuts offers a delightful haven for donut aficionados seeking an unforgettable culinary experience.

From the moment I stepped inside the charming bakery, the sweet aroma of freshly baked goods enveloped me, instantly setting the stage for a delectable adventure. The warm and inviting atmosphere created a cozy ambiance that made me feel right at home.

As I perused their extensive selection, my eyes were immediately drawn to the luscious display of donuts, each a work of art. I couldn't resist indulging in a medley of flavors, starting with the classic Chocolate Donut. The first bite was pure bliss, with its moist, rich chocolatey goodness melting in my mouth, leaving me craving more.

Next, I ventured into the realm of fruity delights with the Strawberry Donut. The delicate sweetness of the strawberry icing on the dough made for a delightful combination that was both refreshing and satisfying. It was evident that Morning Glory Donuts takes great care in using top-quality ingredients, as the flavors were remarkably authentic.

For a nostalgic trip down memory lane, I couldn't pass up the Fruity Pebbles Donut. This playful creation featured a soft, pillowy donut generously coated in a rainbow of colorful cereal, adding a delightful crunch to each bite. It was a delightful fusion of childhood nostalgia and the beloved classic treat.

But the highlight of the visit was an unexpected treat – a free, hot and fresh Glazed Honey Bun. The moment I sank my teeth into this indulgent delight, It was as if eating a warm cloud. The hot, flaky layers of dough were drenched in a luscious honey glaze that made it impossible to resist savoring every last morsel.

Throughout my visit, the friendly and attentive staff at Morning Glory Donuts added to the overall experience. Their passion for crafting exceptional donuts and commitment to providing outstanding customer service were evident, making my time there even more enjoyable. **GN** 





CHAPTER 3 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local things to do.





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Photography by Brooke Snyder

Bob Davis and A.G. Jacobson

GOOD TIMES

# Celebration Walking Horse Show - August 29







Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

The community of Shelbyville rallied for The Celebration, the week leading up to Labor Day. People travel from everywhere to Shelbyville to enjoy the 11-day event.



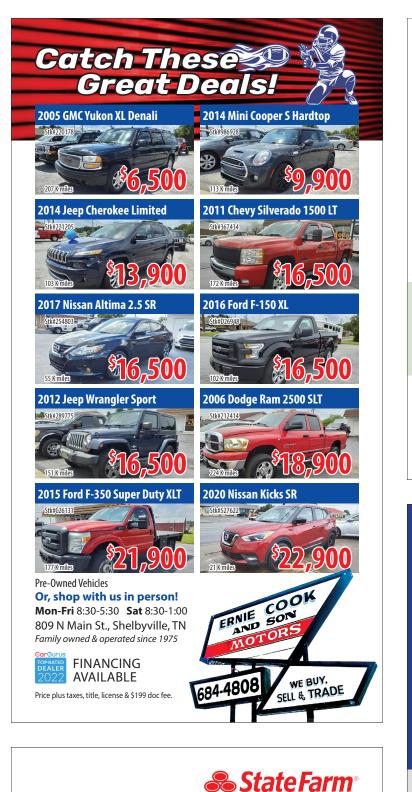




1. Ryan and Hutch Pilkington 2. Walt, Shepard, Maverick, and Brooke Sanders 3. Justin, Charlee, and Sarah Stallings 4. Slayden Harris and Debbie Fleming 5. Claire and Jennifer Hankins 6. Debbie Wells, Doctor Larry Heiden, and Jack Bolozki



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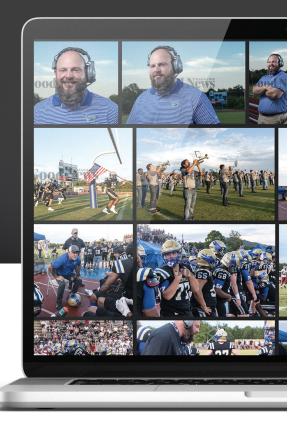
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# Get a good look



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

#### September 16

8:00 am Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event AG Center 2119 Midland Rd. Shelbyville

> Event is free and is sponsored by Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

#### September 19

4:00 pm After-school STEAM Club Bedford County Public Library 220 S. Jefferson St. Shelbyville

> Grades K-5. Join us for crafts and activities relating to science, art, and more!

#### September 21

8:00 am Shelbyville Farmers Market Celebration Grounds (next to the blue water tower)

Every Thursday through September.

#### September 23

#### 9:00 am Third Annual Faith and Fellowship Fun Show Blankenship United Methodist Church 3602 Midland Rd. Shelbyville

Trucks, cars, motorcycles and special interest \$25 fee trivia, 50/50, door prizes, popular vote, spectators free.

For more information email blankenshipumc. events@gmail.com



#### 9:00 am MaupinFest

Hootenanny Haven 539 Coopertown Rd. Unionville

MaupinFest is an annual old-time music and dance festival honoring Thomas Maupin, National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellow.

#### September 27

10:30 am Morning Storytime

Bedford County Public Library 220 S. Jefferson St. Shelbyville

Ages 0 to 6 years old. Interactive storytimes introduce young children to reading, music, STEAM, and language with stories, songs, and activities.

#### October 14

# 8:00 am 2023 Women's Conference

The Legacy Church 2011 South Cannon Blvd. Shelbyville

Breakfast and lunch provided, vendor shopping, and three guest speakers will be sharing their testimonies.

Provided by There is Hope Women's Ministry.

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

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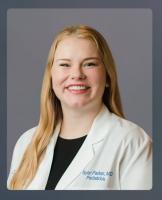
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