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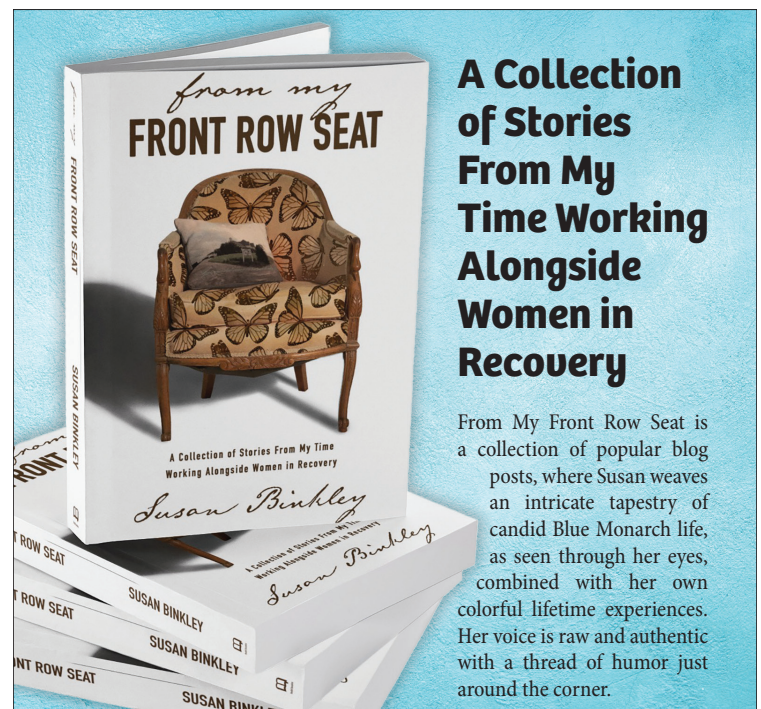
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

A Breath of Fresh Air

Autumn reminds us that every end is a new beginning

NOTHING 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 break-neck 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-

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**


Wesley Bryant,
MANAGING EDITOR

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CHAPTER 1 OF 3

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

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- 16** Expansion Plans in the Works for Blue Monarch.
- 18** Tullahoma High School Students are Given Useful Industrial Items.
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- 22** Sonoco Donates Over \$1,000 Dollars Worth of School Supplies to TSC

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THS Tennis Team Donates Old Tennis Balls to Police K-9 Unit.

You can't teach an old dog new tricks, but you can give old tennis balls to a certified police service dog. That is exactly what The Tullahoma High School and Middle School tennis teams recently did. They joined together to donate two boxes of old tennis balls and new dog toys to a special K-9 unit, Storm. These balls will be used for training purposes for the 5-year-old canine who is trained in narcotics detection and handler protection, among other things. **GN**

Tullahoma Area Chamber of Commerce Recognizing Elite Young Professionals Under 40.

The Tullahoma Area Chamber of commerce hosted their third annual "40 Under 40: Recognizing Young Professionals" mixer. The chamber asked the community to submit nominations for who they thought were outstanding business professionals under the age of 40. The Chamber holds this event each year as a way to honor the hard work of young professionals living in Tullahoma. **GN**



Spectrum Medical Welcomes Home a Native.

Patients who go to Spectrum Medical will be seeing a new, yet possibly familiar, face as Tullahoma native Jennifer Stroop has joined the staff as a physician assistant (PA). Stroop graduated from Tullahoma High School and then attended East Tennessee State University. She has been working in healthcare since 2008 and said it was always her plan to make it home and serve the community where she grew up. Her duties as a PA include treating and diagnosing patients, prescribing medications, ordering blood work and other tests, among other things. She is also currently working on her Doctorate of Medical Science from Butler University. **GN**



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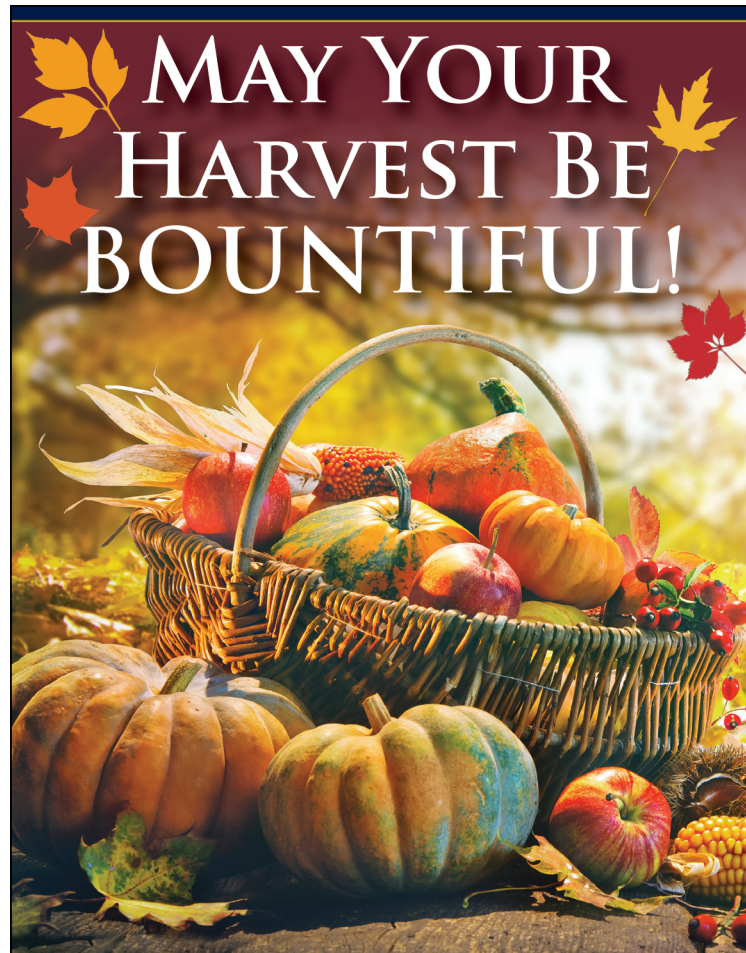
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Expansion Plans in the Works for Blue Monarch.

Blue Monarch, a long-term residential and therapeutic treatment community for women and their children, is planning a large addition to their Hillsboro campus upon their 20th anniversary. Founder and President Susan Brinkley received approval for a two-story 9,853.48-square-foot building that will allow the center to better serve families in the community. Brinkley said they have seen a dramatic increase in child trauma in recent years and have developed a program to meet specific needs. The plans include a large event hall, a chapel, and rooms for classes. Blue Monarch has over 200 families on their waiting list in addition to those currently in the program, and Brinkley said this new space will help more people in the community. Blue Monarch received a one-time gift from the state of \$100,000 that will be used to help fund the expansion. **GN**



Taking in the Fall Foliage in Tullahoma.

If you are looking to take advantage of the changing leaves and vibrant colors, now is the time. According to the Farmer's Almanac 2023, Tennessee will see peak fall foliage colors across the state October 12-28. Local spots such as Tims Ford State Park and Old Stone Fort State Park attract visitors to see the beauty of the leaves as late autumn arrives. **GN**



Ascend Voted Best Credit Union for Eighth Year in a Row.

Ascend, the largest credit union in all of Middle Tennessee, will carry on the title of Best Credit Union for the eighth consecutive year. This award was announced in the 2023 Rutherford County Main Street Awards. Ascend was also among the three finalists for the Best Bank and Best Mortgage categories. Winners were selected by Murfreesboro Post readers who voted for their favorite businesses in the area. **GN**



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Tullahoma High School Students are Given Useful Industrial Items

Tullahoma High School students now have the opportunity to gain skills in basic electrical systems and more, thanks to Nissan North America. The Decherd plant donated over \$5,000 worth of items commonly used by electricians, engineers, and technicians in the industry today. This will help students learn more about electrical systems, in a hands-on way. **GN**

Science Center Hosts an “a-MAZE-ing” Celebration

The Hands-On Science Center recently introduced its newest exhibit, the “a-MAZE-ing Science Maze.” This new outdoor exhibit was originally announced last November when David W. Saylers, a commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation visited the science center to present the Hands-On Science Center executive director a grant of \$78,723. The grant was about recycling, so the new maze will be made by recycled tires. **GN**



Local Jack Daniel's Distillery Announces Newest Special Release

Calling all whiskey drinkers or anyone interested in the rich history of Tennessee whiskey. The Jack Daniel's Distillery introduced Jack Daniel's Twice Barreled Special Release Heritage Barrel Rye as the newest barrel in the collection. Jack Daniel's Twice Barreled Special Release Heritage Barrel Rye is aged in American white oak barrels for at least five years and then aged for another two years in heavy-toast heritage barrels from the Jack Daniel's Cooperage. **GN**



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Duck River Wins Award for Best Tasting Water.

If you are looking for the best tasting water in Tennessee, you are in the right place. The Duck River Utility Commission (DRUC) was recently selected as the 2023 winner of two best tasting water competitions. At the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Professionals Conference, the panel of judges awarded DRUC as the Best of the Best Water Tasting Water. During competition, each water sample is judged by experts on clarity, scent and flavor. This is the third time the DRUC gained bragging rights for being named the best tasting water in Kentucky and Tennessee by the American Water Works Association. **GN**

Tullahoma City Schools Earn Level 5 Rating in Academics

Tullahoma City Schools recently earned the highest rating for student academic growth, leading into the new school year. As a district, the composite score, literacy score, and numeracy score each got a level 5 rating from the Tennessee Department of Education. In addition to the high ranking, the school district also saw a year's worth of growth in every academic subject. **GN**



County Honored with Philanthropy Award following TCAT Campus Donation.

Coffee County was recently honored with a Philanthropy Award from the Tennessee Board of Regents for help with the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) Coffee County Campus. Last year, the county set aside over 7 acres in the Joint Industrial Park for TCAT's campus and were awarded for their commitment to higher education in the region. **GN**

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Sonoco Donates Over \$1,000 Dollars Worth of School Supplies to TSC.

Tullahoma City Schools received more than just a “Welcome Back” on their first day of school this fall. Sunoco and their team donated school supplies to each of TSC’s elementary schools. The company raised over \$1,100 for the district’s students as they started the new school year. Team members dropped off backpacks, headphones, and school supplies to the elementary schools in the district. **GN**



“Let’s Plant” Program Major Success in Tullahoma.

The community showed up for Tullahoma Parks and Recreation’s “Let’s Plant” program. The event was held at C.D. Stamps Community Garden and was a chance for youth, parents, and volunteers to plant fall crop seeds in the garden beds. Tullahoma Parks and Rec said on Facebook that they are hoping for a harvest of collards, beets, carrots, lettuce, and mustard greens. This event allowed kids the opportunity to learn about gardening and planting from Petaland Flower and Herb Farm, both life skills they can use in the future. The community garden will continue through the autumn harvest. **GN**

CEO’s and Students Come Together to Kick Off the School Year

Local CEO’s in the area came together to join students at Tullahoma High School to kick off the school year with a pep rally. School spirit and positivity were in full swing as students got rowdy for the Wildcats. The purpose of the CEO event is to build career awareness for students in local school districts. The CEO partners provide support and opportunities for students to later find jobs in the workforce with full confidence. **GN**



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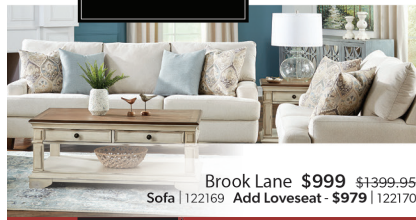
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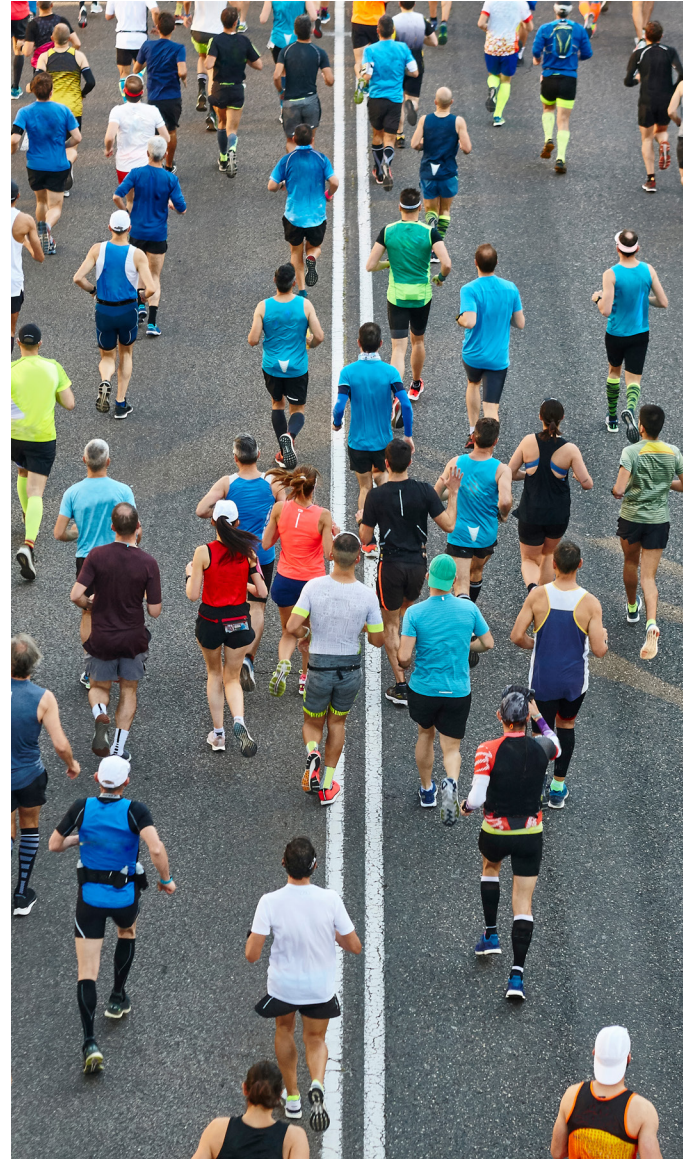
Tulahoma Places Fourth in Golf Competition.

The Tulahoma High School golf team took the lead on the green at the Golden Classic Invitational. They teed off against seven other schools at WillowBrook Golf and Country Club and finished fourth and sixth, as they had two teams entered in the competition. Both Tulahoma and Coffee County had two teams competing in the Invitational. The team that finished fourth included locals Alex Miller, Jack Hill, Keegan Taylor, Caden Finchum, and Brody Fulmer. **GN**



Sharpshooters Have Opportunity to Showcase Their Skills.

Local gun enthusiasts and sharpshooters had the opportunity to showcase their skills at Tulahoma Sunrise Rotary's annual Hot Shots competition at the Templar Shooting Range in Tulahoma in early September. The funds collected at this annual event go to support local youth service activities in Tulahoma. This was the first big event for the Sunrise Rotary this year. **GN**



Runners will Soon Have the Chance to Hobble and Gobble

The Tulahoma Area Chamber of Commerce will be promoting fitness and feasting on the same day. They are holding their 4th Annual Wobble Gobble 5K on November 18, 2023. This is a run/walk 5K that will stretch across Tulahoma's well-known Jackson and Atlantic Streets. The downtown Tulahoma area's shops, restaurants, and businesses will be featured throughout the course, and runners will see staples like the Tulahoma Fine Arts Center, South Jackson Civic Center, multiple historic churches and buildings, and City Hall. **GN**

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GoodNews

CHAPTER 2 OF 3

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

- 28** Making history
- 34** Embrace the season
- 40** Autumn harvest
- 56** A taste of the harvest

Our stories are based on submissions from local people.

Submit yours here:



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Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

◀ Jacqueline and Chris Williams

MAK- ING HIS- TORY

Chris Rounds
shares his love
of flying through
historic aircraft,
The Red Knight

By Kali Bradford
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



A LITTLE BOY squinted at the Texas sun, using his tiny hand to shield its powerful rays and give him a better chance of seeing the magic that was about to take place. His sneakers dug into the red dirt, grounding him while his heart raced with excitement. He loved coming to this dirt runway with his dad and watching the larger-than-life metal birds take flight. Each aircraft was full of history and stories of victory. As the WWII-era aircraft accelerated down the dirt runway, it was soon airborne and climbing into the sky. The little boy smiled from ear to ear, knowing that he, too, would fly one day.

For local resident and licensed pilot Chris Rounds, flying has been a lifelong love and dream. Since childhood, flying has symbolized both freedom and accomplishment for Rounds, leading him to travel the country and the world, sharing his love of aviation with the masses. It has also enabled the flying of such treasured and famous planes as The Red Knight, which has a unique history.





LEARNING TO FLY

Rounds said his love of flying came from his father. His trips to the airfield with his father to watch WWII-era planes take off and land were the foundation that led to a lifelong love of flying.

“Older planes have always intrigued me since I was a young kid,” he said. “It was always fun to fly up there and see all of the old warbirds and walk across the strip and have lunch. These planes are a symbol of our heritage, our history, and the freedom that we enjoy. Those Saturday’s flying around with my dad instilled a passion for aviation and airplanes of all sorts.”

After gaining his pilot’s license at an early age, Rounds said he enjoyed showing his friends his love of flying by taking them up in the air with him.

“My first flight as a licensed pilot was in 1978 after I got my private pilot’s license from Evelyn Brian Johnson in Morristown, who was an aviation legend,” he said. “After I got my certificate, I was the only one in my area with a pilot’s certificate at that age. I took a lot of friends flying.”

THE RED KNIGHT

The Red Knight was a Canadian air force aerobatic display aircraft that operated from 1958 to 1969. The red-painted Silver Star performed loops, rolls, Cuban 8s, horizontal 360s, inverted flight, and high-speed passes at air shows around North America.

“The Red Knight is an airplane that I really enjoy flying,” explained Rounds. “Its design is so unique. It was designed and built right after WWII at the very beginning of the jet age. I will say that out of all the airplanes that I have flown, it is one of my favorites. It’s just in a league of its own, and it’s one of the best flying ones I’ve ever seen designed. It was designed in 1946 and built in 1956 and was very much ahead of its time.”

Rounds added that he enjoys showcasing the historical aircraft in air shows and other aviation events across the globe.

“The overall purpose for the plane is to take it to different air shows and events around the country so people can enjoy seeing a piece of history, not only up close and personal but to see it fly,” he explained. “My mission is to help share my passion with aviation and to let people know that it is always a dream of mine to fly something like this and to let them know how dreams do come true.”



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY CHRIS ROUNDS

THE SKY’S THE LIMIT

While traveling to air shows and events is important, Rounds hopes to reach a whole new generation and audience through social media. Through social platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, he hopes to share his love of flying and teach others the necessity of aviation.

“I hope people understand what an important role they play in our society for our freedoms and advancements in technology,” he said. “Flying is also one of the best challenges people could take on, and it can be one of the most enjoyable things they can experience. I hope they come away with the feeling that the sky’s the limit with their goals in life. We live in the best country in the world, and that did not come without hard work and ambition. As far as social media goes, it would be nice to say that here’s a normal, everyday guy doing something he loves to do and wants to share his passion.” GN



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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.

Granddaddy's Pimento Cheese - \$9.00

A generous serving of our family recipe of shredded cheeses, Hellmann's mayonnaise and diced pimentos. For a true Granddaddy 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 peppercornis, 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 mayonnaise

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 Poppysseed 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

Sundrop, RC Cola, Sunkist, 7up, Sweet and Unsweet Tea, Orange Juice, Chocolate Milk

Fresh Brewed Coffee - \$2.00

Orange Juice - \$3.50

Chocolate Milk - \$3.00

SINGLE SERVE BEVERAGES

Served Ice Cold in Longneck Bottles - \$3.00

Sundrop, Stewart's Root Beer, Stewart's Orange Cream Soda, and RC Cola

Sundrop in Ice Cold Cans - \$1.50

Diet, Cherry, Diet Cherry, Diet Caffeine Free

Evian Bottled Water - \$1.50

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Sundrop Float - \$5.50

Our signature menu item! Fountain Sundrop served over our exclusive Sundrop Gelato, topped with fresh whipped cream and garnished with a gummy candy lemon slice.

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 puree, 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 purees, 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

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Miss Barbara's Orange Cream Cake - \$5.50

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Chris and
Jacqueline
Williams



...

Embrace THE Season



Fall gatherings bring
family and friends together

By Kali Bradford
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

HUMANS ARE social creatures. We crave connection with others. Gathering is a way for us to connect, build community, and celebrate life.

The fall season is one of the best times for people to come together. The atmosphere is just right, with cooler weather and picturesque scenes of the changing leaves, pumpkins, and hay bales. From small neighborhood block parties to large festivals, the season allows people to connect. No matter the size, gatherings allow people to come together and build community.

Tullahoma residents, Chris and Jacqueline Williams, know the importance of such gatherings and for the last 15 years have worked to host their own fall gatherings while encouraging others to do the same in their backyards and communities.

Making use of nature's bounty

An abundance of hay and the joy of having family come together is how the fall gathering came together for the couple.

"We baled hay, and a lot of my family lived around Lexi Crossroads," explained Chris. "Many of us would get together at my grandmother's home down there and have dinner on Sunday. When fall came around, we had a bunch of hay and an old graveyard down a gravel road. At that time, some cousins were younger and took an interest in hayrides, so it really got started from there."

He added that they would enjoy a meal together along with the hayride. Both Chris and Jacqueline said that family gatherings had been important to both of them growing up, and they wanted to continue that now as a married couple.

Growing into a tradition

Starting with just a small group, the gathering has reached around 50 people making it an annual tradition that now brings together more than just family to eat, fellowship, and enjoy a hayride around the backroads of Tullahoma.

"We invite friends and co-workers," added Chris. "Our children also have friends they like to invite over. We enjoy the fellowship that comes along with it. We are able to catch up with those we haven't seen in a little bit and meet those who might be attending for the first time."

Jacqueline said there had been as many as 90 people attending.

"The year of COVID, we actually had our largest turnout of about 90 people," she said. "We thought that would be the year no one would come. But I think because everybody had been inside and contained for so long, they were ready to be out and with friends and family."

With a large number of people attending, Jacqueline said planning is crucial. She starts a list of food and necessities as early as May and works diligently to schedule a date when everyone can come. Chris said the event would not be what it is without Jacqueline's expert coordination and dedication.

"Her job is harder than mine," he said. "I get to do more of the fun side of things. She does a great job planning everything, ensuring everyone is invited, and the food is prepared. She is the backbone of the whole operation."

While tedious and stressful at times, Jacqueline said the event truly is a labor of love.

"It's just great to see everyone come together," she said. "Both sides of our family, friends, and co-workers all come together to fellowship and to be thankful for all God has blessed us with. It wouldn't be possible without Him. It's truly amazing to have all these people who make up our lives come together."

Chris added that one of the highlights of hosting the event has been the excitement of the children who attend each year.

"That's probably the part that I hold the closest to my heart is the kids," he said. "Especially with agriculture, a passion I've had all my life. I grew up in town, but my grandparents had a farm, and I loved to visit them and ride on the tractor with my uncle or do something to help one of the neighbors. I spent my summers there and made a lot of great memories. And now, when the kids come out, and we see their eyes light up at the [sight of the] tractor, I feel they get the same feeling I did at their age. They have a good time. They enjoy themselves, which probably makes me the happiest about it."

No matter what you choose, gathering during the fall is a great way to connect with family and friends and have some fun. Check out the following to start your own fall gatherings:

Block parties: Block parties are a great way to get to know your neighbors and build community. You can have potlucks, games, and other activities.

Festivals: Many fall festivals celebrate local culture. These festivals often have food, music, and dancing.

Backyard barbecues: Backyard barbecues are a great way to relax and enjoy the fall weather. You can invite friends and family to enjoy some good food and company. **GN**



“
It's just great to see everyone come together. Both sides of our family, friends, and co-workers all come together to fellowship and to be thankful for all God has blessed us with. It wouldn't be possible without Him.

-Jacqueline Williams



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JACQUELINE WILLIAMS

Williams annual fall gathering 2020

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Step 2:

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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 read and review 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
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AUTUMN HARVEST





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.

Andrew
Dixon





**AUTUMN
Harvest**

FALL on the FARM

Granddaddy's Farm welcomes all ages to come and enjoy the fall season.

By Jeriah Brumfield

Photography by Brooke Snyder and submitted by Andrew Dixon

FALL IS an exciting time around these parts. Its arrival brings a sense of warmth, comfort, and joy, with many things to look forward to during the season.

High school and college football are gearing up. Fans don their lucky hats and shirts, excited to participate in the ritual of Friday Night Lights.

There is also a much-welcomed coolness to the air that signals one of Mother Nature's biggest shows of the year with the changing of the leaves. Red, orange, and yellow leaves create picturesque landscapes around every corner.

Another exciting aspect of the fall season is Halloween. Folks are making plans for creativity with costumes and decorating their houses accordingly. They also have a few haunted places to check out with friends and family.

Fall is also a great time to explore the great outdoors. The season creates a breathtaking backdrop for a scenic hike or bike ride. Camping during this time of the year is also an experience, with cooler temperatures and fewer crowds.



But one of the best things about the fall season is the annual visit to the pumpkin patch. It is the quintessential fall activity that is fun for all ages. For the last 18 years, Granddaddy's Farm has offered families a chance to get into the spirit of the harvest season while creating lifelong memories with friends and family.

Since 1951, Granddaddy's Farm has been a family-owned business run by the Dixon family. The farming tradition has been passed down from generation to generation, starting with Charles Dixon and his wife working tirelessly on the land while raising their four children. Despite working full time at a hardware store in Decherd, Charles never gave up on his passion for farming.

Years later, the farm is a family operation with Charles's grandson, Steve, and wife, Karen, along with their two sons, Andrew and Philip Dixon, following proudly in his footsteps. Andrew and Philip say they are proud fourth-generation farmers who work side by side with their dad daily. The family farm has over 2,000 acres in Franklin and Moore Counties, with a significant portion of the acreage being rented property.

"We have a wholesale straw operation and raise several cattle as well," said farm co-owner Andrew Dixon. "We also grow soybeans, corn, and wheat. Diverting our farm operation has allowed us to handle more households living off the farm."

While the farm has been a working farm for 65 years for the Dixon family, 18 years ago, the family decided to open it to the public.

Andrew explained that "going into agritourism was another way to keep the farm viable for the future."

"It goes back to when we were kids and working on the farm," added Andrew. "The cornstalk bundles we sold wholesale to fruit stands and farmers markets. That was the way my siblings and I made money. When I was about to graduate, Dad began to look at how we could stay on the farm if we wanted to. Someone had given us the idea to make it a place where folks could visit, and we just put the idea into motion."

Because it was his great-grandfather's farm, Andrew said they knew they had to name it after him.



“This is my great-grandfather’s farm. He died four years before we opened. We always called it Granddaddy’s Farm, so the name just stuck with it,” he said.

Today, the farm offers hayrides, a corn maze, slides of all shapes and sizes, games, pig races, a u-pick pumpkin patch, an apple orchard, and more.

Andrew said that over the years, the farm has added new attractions to encourage visitors of all ages to enjoy the fun on the farm.

“Each year, the farm has built on itself, and we just keep adding more and more,” he said. “We try to add things that allow parents to play with their kids. They (parents) are paying customers, and we want them to have a great time and as much fun as the kids are having. We listen to our employees and customers to continue improving the farm.”

Their mission is to share the joy of farming, agriculture, and agritourism with their community. The Dixon brothers are passionate about preserving their family’s legacy and making lasting memories for visitors to the farm. Their love of agriculture and dedication to their craft makes it easy to carry on the tradition started by Charles over 70 years ago.

“I’m excited for my son. He’ll be 2 this fall, and I am excited for him to be able to play and enjoy the farm himself,” said Andrew. “We love to see everyone enjoying it. My dad has always joked that he enjoys seeing the kids crying when they leave because he knows they’re having a good time.”

The farm is open from mid-September through October and is located at 454 Highland Ridge Rd. in Estill Springs. Plan your visit at granddaddysfarm.com. GN



BLOOM where you are **PLANTED**

Graf finds more profound
meaning in planting flowers.

By Kali Bradford // Photography by Brooke Snyder

FOR AUSTIN Graf, flowers are more than just pretty blooms put into a vase or a pot and displayed on a table or porch. When it comes to flowers, the Coffee County resident sees endless possibilities for growth, sustainability, beauty, and just plain old happiness.

For the past six years, Graf has been on a journey that literally started from the ground up. A journey that started with a leap of faith came with a learning curve that led to unrealized success in an industry he knew nothing about. That success led to a plot twist that taught him courage, patience, reinvention, and the realization that when one door closes, a window of possibilities opens.





Austin Graff



10,000 BULBS AND A DREAM

Seeing the fruits, or in this case, blooms of Graf's labor at his business, Buzzed Blooms, might lead one to believe that he was born with a green thumb on one hand and a shovel in the other. However, Graf's love of plants grew in childhood but bloomed as an adult.

"Both my parents worked," he explained. "We had a small farm with a few cows, but that was it. We grew vegetables and other things because we were lower income, and that's just part of how we fed our family. From a very young age, I got really into plants. I enjoyed being out in the garden."

All grown up, Graf became caught up in the rat race of the marketing world. Tired of the grind, he began to think back to his childhood and love of gardening. Graf then saw an opportunity to gain some peace and extra cash.

"I've worked in marketing since graduating college," he explained. "Ultimately, I needed some relief from marketing. I had this great idea to grow sugar beets. Most sugar in America comes from beets. My idea was to create some kind of small batch artisanal sugar growing sugar beets."

Graf laughs now, remembering the terrible idea of growing such a plant. However, there was a silver lining.

"I killed all of the beets," he said. "I couldn't even get one beet to grow. But I had planted the garden with flowers such as Dahlias, tubers, and Zinnias, which took off."

Graf said the flowers did so well that his mother had asked to purchase some from him.

"Of course, I said no," he laughed. "What kind of son would I be if I made my mom pay for flowers? However, that led me to learn more about the flower industry. I started digging, and I thought maybe I could do this. So I went out and bought 1,000 tulip bulbs."

Graf went through what he lovingly refers to as a learning curve.

"I killed so many plants," he said. "The whole plan was to plant twice as many as you think you killed, and something will survive. And little by little, it took shape."

THE PLOT TWIST

While making real progress as a plant farmer, Graf had to undergo abdominal surgery. That surgery would leave him with permanent nerve damage, ultimately changing the trajectory of his business.

"It was a routine surgery, and it did not go well," he explained. "Because of the nerve damage I sustained from the surgery, I've had to relearn my entire business from the ground up."

While I have been fortunate to have a great team [of employees] on the farm, it's difficult to teach them all that goes into [fresh] cut flowers without actually having your body be able to do it or demonstrate it.”

While Graf has continued to grow flowers for wholesale purposes, he is now focusing on educating folks about the magic of growing things.

“I educate and teach using the skills I have built up. And that is slowly becoming my new line of business,” he explained.

The education portion of Graf’s work has found a home on social media platforms such as Instagram and TikTok. Starting with just a few thousand followers, Graf now shares his love of plants with over 65,000 followers on Instagram and 20,000 on TikTok.

He gives tips, tricks, and advice, all with a hefty dose of enthusiasm and love.

Graf said the journey has had its ups and downs, but he looks at this new chapter as a way to continue to grow and share his story with others.

“I’m getting to share my story with others,” he said. “Sometimes things aren't all sunny in the garden. People living with chronic pain and disabilities can benefit from and enjoy gardening. I try to help and motivate people to go out there and do what they can; it doesn't have to be perfect.”

He added that he also hopes to inspire people that the world of growing things is endless.

“People want to grow things for their community,” he said. “They want to build up their local community but feel like they can't because they don't have 100 acres. I show them what they can do in a small footprint.”

For the future, Graf plans to do just as his plants do: continue to fight the elements and bloom no matter what.

“I could have shut it down completely, he said. “But I took the time to rework the business for my health, and there's absolutely no shame in that. I'm proud of realizing that and just moving through regardless.”

Follow and support Graf, @buzzedblooms on Instagram and TikTok. GN



Erica Mcillwain
and Linda Reed





**AUTUMN
HARVEST**

Cultivating **COMMUNITY** and **QUALITY** in Middle Tennessee

Locally Grown's online hub cultivates quality and community

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Brooke Snyder

IN ATHENS, Georgia, a passionate advocate for local farmers dared to dream big. Fueling this dream was the creation of innovative software that revolutionized how people connected with nearby farmers. This concept came to life through an online platform known as Locally Grown. This digital market has emerged as a beacon of hope for farmers and customers alike, combining the convenience of online shopping with the joy of supporting local agriculture.

Meanwhile, here in Coffee County, an unexpected encounter changed the course of Linda Reed's life. As a dedicated bookstore owner, Linda yearned for a solution to address her grocery needs while accommodating her hectic schedule. And then, she stumbled upon Locally Grown.



LOCAL FARMERS:

DOGWOOD VALLEY GREENHOUSE
(Hillsboro)

FRONTIER FAMILY FARM
(Michael Raines, Altamont)

CS3 FARMS
(Carter Smith, Beechgrove)

COUNTRY ROAD HOMESTEAD
(Viola Valley)

MERRIWETHER BAKE
(Zada Sorrel, Manchester)

TRIPLE T CATTLE FARMS
(Scott Tidwell, Bedford/Coffee Co)

WEAVER FARMS
(Ray & Elaine Weaver, Coffee/Franklin Co)

For more information, visit <https://manchester.locallygrown.net/>

With their weekly delivery service in Tullahoma, Linda realized that her bookstore could become a pickup location along the route, allowing farmers to drop off orders. It was an idea too good to pass up, and Linda's decision marked the humble beginnings of a remarkable collaborative effort.

Initially, Linda's leap into offering pickup services at her bookstore was driven by her desire for convenience. Little did she know that her spontaneous decision would blossom into a flourishing platform benefiting farmers and customers. As more farmers joined the Locally Grown market, they discovered its unique advantages.

"Customers don't know about these little farmers. So it's exposing the small farmers to the customers, so they know what's available out there," she explained.

Though not a farmer, Linda found her unique way to contribute to the market's success. Her shady yard prevented her from growing vegetables, but it didn't hinder her from offering a captivating array of perennial flowers, hanging baskets, plants, and seasonal decorations. Her plants thrived better than those found in larger retail stores, like Walmart or Home Depot, and she took great pride in the exceptional quality she provided.

Locally Grown's role as a vibrant hub for small-scale farmers and producers in the community provides diverse offerings, from luscious goat's milk and delectable dog treats to beautiful garden plants.

At the heart of the Locally Grown market lay an unwavering commitment to supporting local farmers in the area. This dedication to locality set it apart from the large supermarket chains that often waved "locally grown" labels while sourcing produce from distant regions. Customers cherished the market's transparency and authenticity, recognizing the immense value of supporting nearby farmers and reducing their ecological footprint.

As the market expanded its reach, it began to captivate the attention and curiosity of the local community. Many were astounded by its existence and the remarkable range of products available.

Determined to shed light on the market's impact, Linda took it upon herself to emphasize the dedication of these small-scale farmers and the unrivaled freshness



and variety of their offerings. By raising awareness, she aimed to inspire more people to embrace the local market and savor its abundant benefits.

While the primary focus of Locally Grown remained serving the community, its influence occasionally reached neighboring areas. The spirit of Southern hospitality and the dedication of these farmers extended beyond boundaries, creating ripples of positive change wherever they ventured.

Carter Smith with CS3 Farms in Beechgrove said, "We are based in Beechgrove, so there isn't much of an opportunity for a farm stand. We like the online market format because it ensures we can get seriously fresh vegetables to our customers instead of trying to read their minds and pick a whole lot of vegetables, frag them to market before the sun comes up, and then figure out what to do with any unsold vegetables afterward."

Based in Beechgrove, Carter and Sharmyn Smith sell fresh medicinal herbs, seeds, tinctures, and vegetables at Manchester Locally Grown Market, the Stones River online Market in Murfreesboro, and Harvest Local Foods on Manchester Square.

Locally Grown has become more than just an online marketplace. It is a celebration of the South's rich agricultural heritage and a testament to the enduring spirit of community. Through their unwavering commitment to quality, sustainability, and supporting local farmers, the market has become a place where food, connection, and shared values intertwine to create an atmosphere akin to our grandmother's garden and the childhood farm our parents grew up on.

"They're serving the community and bringing something to the community that you could probably find at Walmart, but it's a better quality, and it's fresher because everything on our market is produced within 30 miles of Manchester. We can offer delivery within Coffee County if needed," Reed said.

"It's convenient. It's fresh. It's varied. We have a lot more varied offerings than anybody would imagine."

As the crisp autumn breeze rustles through the colorful leaves, it's time to embrace the abundant harvest and join the celebration at the South Cumberland Farmers Market. Experience the heartwarming connection between food, community, and shared values. Shop local, support local, and let the bountiful treasures of our land nourish your soul. **GN**



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Miss Randa



"The Red Knight"





A taste of the harvest

Fall brings sweet treats and savory favorites

By Kali Bradford

AUTUMN BRINGS a bounty of delicious foods to enjoy as the weather cools down. From sweet to savory, there are plenty of flavors to savor during the fall season. Nothing quite beats a warm apple cider doughnut or pumpkin spice latte for breakfast. As lunchtime rolls around, hearty soups and stews, like butternut squash soup or beef chili, become go-to options. Roasted root vegetables and savory pot pies are comforting and filling for dinner. Of course, no fall meal would be complete without a slice of warm apple pie or a pumpkin-spiced dessert. Indulging in these seasonal treats is one of the best ways to truly embrace the flavors of autumn. **GN**



Deep Dish Apple Pie

Submitted by Virginia Campbell

6 tart cooking apples, peeled,
cut in eighths
1 c. sugar
1 stick butter, softened
1 c. flour
1/4 c. brown sugar
scoop of vanilla ice cream, optional

Place apple slices into a casserole dish. Cover apples with sugar. In a medium mixing bowl, blend together butter, flour, and brown sugar until it looks like meal. Spread this mixture over apples in the casserole dish. Bake at 350° for 1 hour. Remove from oven and add a scoop of vanilla ice cream to hot pie if desired.

Wonderful Butternut Squash Soup

Submitted by Nancy Morrison

2 lg. butternut squash, remove ends,
cut in half lengthwise, remove seeds
6 slices bacon
2 onions, chopped
2 T. butter
3 c. chicken broth
salt & pepper, to taste

Place cut side down on baking sheet and bake at 350° for about an hour. Fry bacon in a skillet, remove bacon, add onions to bacon grease. Add butter, saute until lightly brown. Blend all ingredients, cooked squash minus the skin, bacon, onions, and chicken broth in a blender. Heat in large pot or Crock-Pot, add salt and pepper and more chicken broth to get to the consistency that you prefer.

Hot Mulled Apple Cider

Submitted by Johnnie Baker

1/2 c. brown sugar
1 t. whole allspice
1 t. whole cloves
1/4 t. salt
dash of nutmeg
1 cinnamon stick, 3 inches
2 qts. apple cider
8-10 orange wedges

In a saucepan, combine brown sugar, allspice, cloves, salt, nutmeg, cinnamon sticks, and cider. Bring to a boil. Remove all spices. In a large serving bowl, pour cider over orange wedges. Serve in mugs and place an orange wedge in each one for garnish.

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





CHAPTER 3 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local things to do.

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Submit a positive story on our website:



goodnewsmags.com

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

◀ Tullahoma High School Cheerleaders

Coffee County Central's Varsity Football Game - August 25



Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

This was one of the first Friday night games under the lights. The stands were filled with fans and students wearing red to support the Red Raiders on their home field in Manchester.



1. Phillip Sisk and Anne Phillips 2. Alaiah Treuhaft, Addison Vincent, and Zoie Roberts
3. Alan Sweeton, Emily Sweeton, Audrey Sweeton, Jim Payne, Evalyn Carter, and Reada Payne 4. John and Cindy Prebola
5. Jimmy and Krysten Bratcher 6. Mackenzie Dixon

The Tullahoma Chamber of Commerce Coffee - August 22



Photos submitted by Hope Nunley

The Tullahoma Chamber of Commerce hosted a Chamber Coffee with F.I.T Beyond Therapy and Kiwanis of the Highland Rim on August 22. The Chamber Coffee is a way to help members make connections while taking advantage of networking opportunities in their own community. The free event welcomed a packed house of people looking to connect with others.



1. Rachel Ferrell, Nancy Fuller, Andy Whitt, Tisha Fritz, and Kim Uselton 2. Emily Rath and Hope Nunley
 3. Brody Faler and Claire Garner 4. Kiwanis of the Highland Rim Club

It's good
to know
people 🤝



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GOOD TIMES

EVENTS CALENDAR

September 16

12:01 am Grocery Tax Holiday
State of Tennessee

For 2023, Tennessee's General Assembly has approved a three-month grocery tax holiday that ends at 11:59 p.m. on October 31. The tax relief does not include alcoholic beverages, tobacco, candy, dietary supplements, or prepared food.

10:00 am Home Team Football Card Holder
2211 N. Jackson St.

Get in the game and score with this hands-on workshop hosted by one of our Red Vest experts until 1 p.m. and will be in-store only.

12:00 pm Beer Fest at Common John Brewing Co
210 Woodbury Hwy.
Manchester, TN

Enjoy craft beer, live music, food trucks, and more!

September 19

5:30 pm 3rd Annual 40 Under 40: Recognizing Young Professionals
Lakewood Golf & Country Club

Honor local business people who have made an outstanding impact all under the age of 40!

September 22

8:00 am Canopy Coaching
Skydive Tennessee

Come learn with worldwide skydivers all on safe canopy piloting. Ends at 5 p.m. on September 24.

September 23

8:00 am Hazardous Waste Collection Event
Tullahoma Animal Shelter

Get rid of unwanted materials and participate in a survey regarding county household waste.



8:30 am 2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's®
133 Lynchburg Hwy.
Lynchburg

Held annually, this is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research.

10:00 am 4th Annual Talk Like A Pirate Day Crafts Show
Johnson's Hwy 55
Flea Market

Enjoy handmade crafts, prizes, a treasure hunt, and more! Dress like a pirate and have a change to win a prize!

6:00 pm Jacob Bryant Johnson Concert
Whiskey Trail BBQ & Steakhouse

September 24

10:30 am Mercy's Well Concert
Highland Baptist Church

6:30 pm Grace Baptist Church Revival
1520 McArthur St.

October 27

11:00 am TACC Fall Chamber Golf Classic
Lakewood Golf & Country Club

Sponsored by FirstBank, the cost is \$500 per team. Reserve yours quickly, it fills up fast!

For more events and to submit an event visit:

www.GoodNewsMags.com/events
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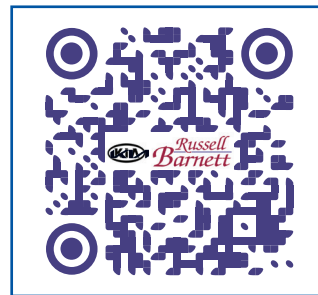
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