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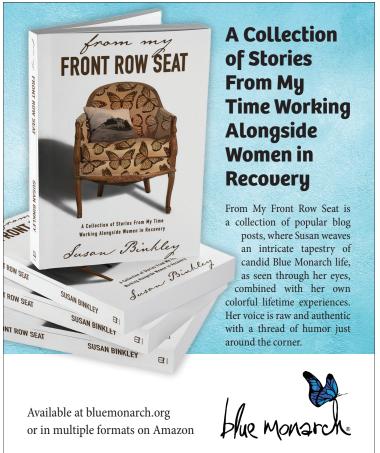






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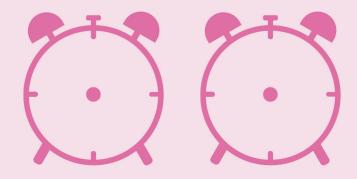








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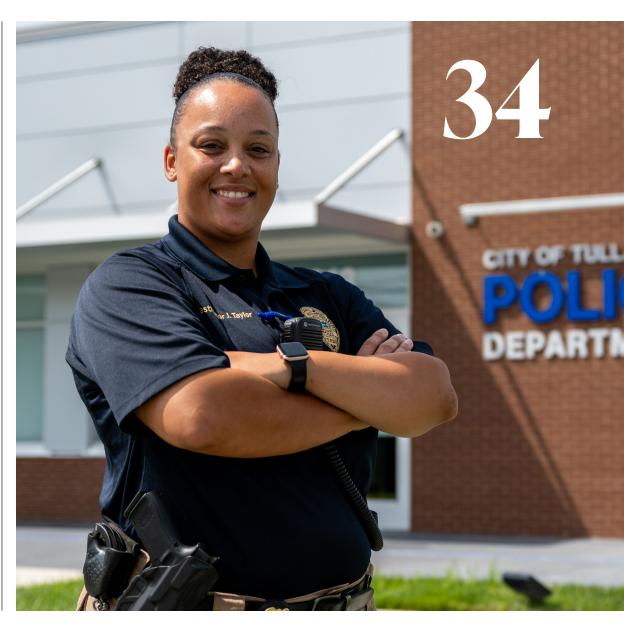
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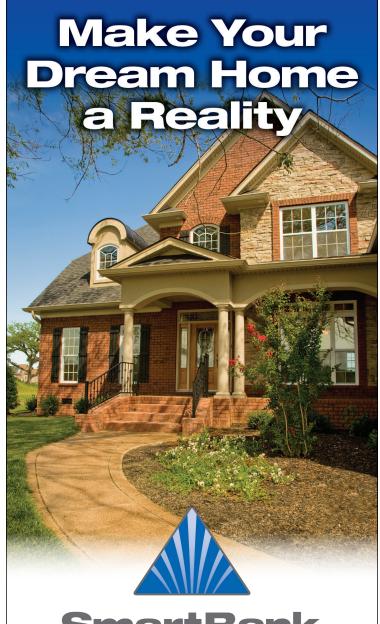


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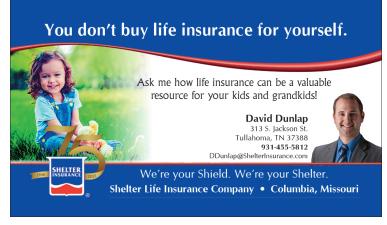
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

### Saluting Our Local Heroes

A Tribute to Courage and Community

E ENCOUNTER unsung heroes who walk among us without recognition. They may not be wearing a cape and a mask, but they're a hero regardless. Their unwavering commitment to service and sacrifice makes our communities safer and more compassionate. They're the Batman to our Gotham and the Captain Marvel to our universe.

In these pages, you'll find stories that illuminate the courage, resilience, and selflessness of our local first responders and those who help them. These individuals are tirelessly dedicated to ensuring our well-being, often in the face of adversity. They are the reassuring voices on the other end of emergency calls, the steady hands that rush to accidents, and the compassionate hearts that offer solace in moments of crisis.

But this issue goes beyond spotlighting the heroes in uniform. It also sheds light on the incredible people who support and stand beside our first responders—the families, friends, and community members who provide the unwavering support and love that keep our heroes going.

The past few years have tested our communities and our country, but through it all, our local heroes have risen to the occasion, reminding us that hope and humanity will always prevail. They embody the true essence of community, where the well-being of one is the concern of all.

As you read through these stories of resilience, dedication, and unity, I hope you'll be as inspired as I am by the extraordinary individuals who call our community home. Our heroes don't wear capes, but their actions and unwavering commitment to the greater good make them shine brighter. Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Is it Superman? No. It's someone better. It's our heroes, right here at home.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating "Our Heroes." May their stories serve as a beacon of hope and a reminder that even in challenging times, the strength of our community lies in the kindness and courage of its people. **GN** 

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"I'm so proud to be a part of such a positive publication that's helping to build a stronger Tullahoma. Thanks to all of you that help make Good News possible and if you would like to learn more about becoming a supporter, please contact me today."

#### Lorri Allen

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# Exciting Changes Coming to the Good News Section!

We've always believed in building stronger communities through positive stories, and our magazine sections have been a cornerstone of that belief. Issue after issue, we've featured heartwarming stories in three dedicated segments: Good News, Good Living, and Good Times. These sections have celebrated the positives of our community and the incredible moments that make it special.

But, like any good story, ours is evolving. We've been listening closely to your feedback, and we're thrilled to announce some exciting changes that will allow us to better serve you and our beloved community.

#### Shining a Brighter Spotlight on Local People

Our readers have shown us that they want more stories about the local heroes among us—those individuals who work tirelessly behind the scenes, making a real difference in the lives of others. We're pivoting our Good News section to focus exclusively on local people who are shaping our community for the better. With that comes a new way to describe our three sections. You can now enjoy Good Living, Good Stories, and Good Times every month.

#### Highlighting Six Local Difference-Makers Per Month

You can expect to read about an average of six remarkable individuals in our community each month. These stories will delve into the lives, achievements, and contributions of our neighbors, friends, and unsung heroes. From the volunteer coach who inspires the next generation to the small business owner who supports local causes, our revamped sections will cast a brighter spotlight on these incredible local people.

#### You Help Make the Magazine

We're committed to bringing you the most inspiring stories from our community, and we believe that you, our readers, are our greatest resource. If you know of someone who deserves recognition for their positive impact, we encourage you to share their story leads with us. Visit our website, where you can submit your suggestions, and help us uncover the hidden gems in our community.

#### All About Local People

With these changes, it will be solely dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments, resilience, and compassion of our local people. This renewed focus on our community members allows us to build stronger connections and promote positivity on a larger scale.

We're excited about this transformation and the opportunity it provides to foster an even closer-knit community. By sharing stories of local people who make a difference, we hope to inspire and connect our readers on a deeper level.

Thank you for being part of our community and for your continued support. Together, we'll continue to make our community an even better place to live, one positive story at a time.

## Do you know someone who should be in the magazine?

Nominate them on our website: www.GoodNewsMags.com or scan the QR code.







#### CHAPTER 1 OF 3

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

- 16 Testing her limits
- 22 Powering through disaster

Submit a positive story on our website:



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Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

▼ Kyle Riddle



# Bethany Weatherspoon finds purpose in adversity.

By Kali Bradford // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

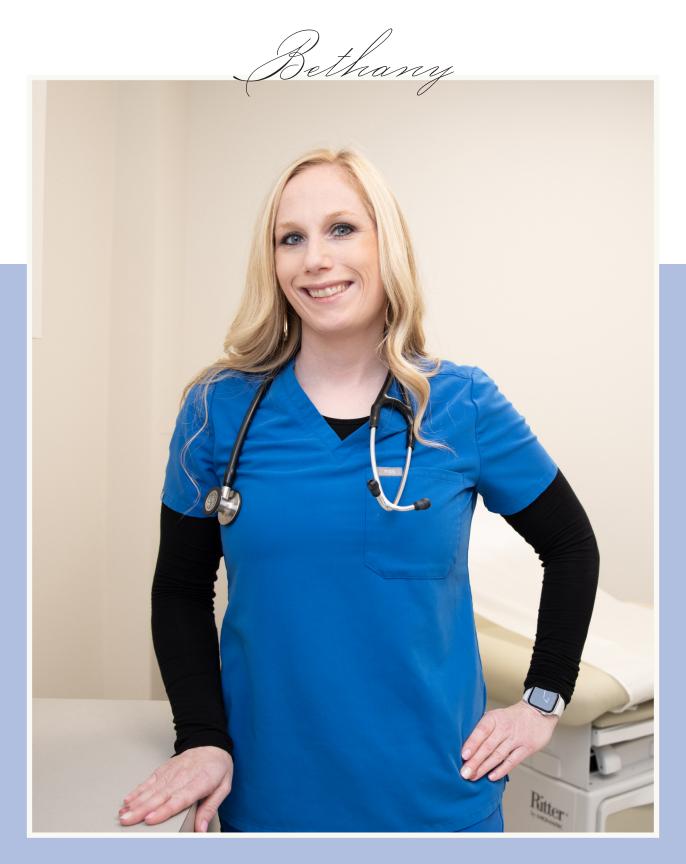
N THE face of adversity, pushing forward is a testament to resilience and strength.

During tough times, we discover the depths of our character and capacity for growth. Each obstacle presents an opportunity for learning and transformation. It may feel overwhelming, but we cultivate courage and determination by embracing challenges. We find solace in knowing that setbacks are temporary, and they fuel our drive to overcome them.

With every step forward, we gain valuable insights and

develop the skills needed to navigate future hardships. Pushing forward requires perseverance, leading us to greater wisdom, personal growth, and success.

Bethany Weatherspoon knows well the act of pushing through difficult situations. From her journey in nursing to the unexpected passing of her husband, Andy, she has dug deep into herself, her family, and her faith and has come out on the other side. Today, she is stronger for her trials, using them to be the best human, mother, and nurse.



Weatherspoon

Weatherspoon's aspirations to enter the healthcare field came after losing several family members and feeling led to help people.

"I understood that God still wanted me to help people," she said. "I decided that I wanted to become a nurse after seeing the deaths of several members of my family. This would allow me to provide the most satisfying care for patients."

Pursuing her career as a registered nurse (RN), she would come to understand that it was more than just donning a pair of scrubs and administering medicine. Her journey would lead her to achieve and overcome more than she could have imagined. Starting as a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) in 2004, she became a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in 2005 while attending Tennessee College of Applied Technology in Shelbyville. After working a year on the medical-surgical/progressive care unit floor for a year, she became a cardiology nurse.

"I have been in that role since the end of 2006," explained Weatherspoon. "During that time, I have performed several roles and grown in education and experience in these different roles. However, during this time of growth, I was also diagnosed with Renal Cell Carcinoma. I have been in remission since 2018."

Her battle with cancer led her to delve further into medicine. It would also help guide her through an unexpected and devastating time in her life.

"It's what stirred me up to go back and get more education," she said. "I bridged from an LPN to an RN in 2021 at Motlow. In the last semester, my husband, Andy, suffered a dissection of his aorta and died suddenly. This only pushed me further to do more in the medical profession."

She is currently working on her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Tennessee Knoxville and plans to become a nurse practitioner.



Lindsea Mackersie, Veda Randall, Bethany Weatherspoon, and Stephanie Holder

I understood that God still wanted me to help people. I decided that I wanted to become a nurse after seeing the deaths of several members of my family. This would allow me to provide the most satisfying care for patients.

- Bethany Weatherspoon



With all the adversity she has faced in her career, Weatherspoon said it has been a humbling journey.

"Over the past 17 years, I've experienced an amazing shift in my perspective on nursing," she said. "I continue to be humbled. Losing my husband changed my entire profession. Now, in addition to doing everything in my power to assist the patient, I also remember the terrified family member seated in the chair next to them. I continue to achieve things daily that I thought I would never do. My biggest achievement would be making it through LPN and RN school during Andy's death. This all while working full time and raising two very active boys. The biggest challenge I think I have faced is working in the specialty, which was the cause of Andy's death. It's hard some days when the patients come through and have suffered the same condition."

Weatherspoon added that she is dedicated to "ensuring that everyone receives top-notch treatment" when it comes to her patients.

With almost two decades of experience under her belt, Weatherspoon understands that helping people far outweighs the demands of the job.

"It's not a simple job," she said. "It's not a person going to work in patient care while wearing cute scrubs. It's someone who will make every effort to serve a patient to get them the best care. Despite the fact that they don't always receive the credit they deserve, nurses still show up and take care of their patients' needs. Also, trauma can change your life. It puts you in a position where you choose to keep pushing forward or stop your life. You make that decision. I am glad for the sake of my patients and my kids, I chose to push forward." GN



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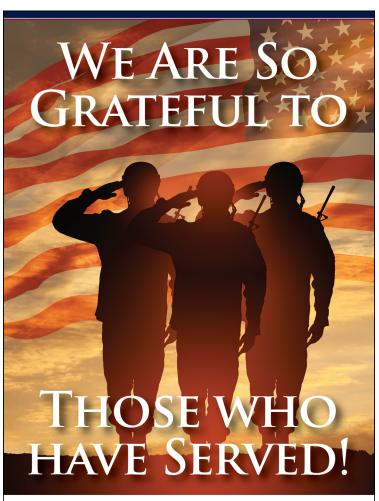


# POVVERING THROUGH DISASTER

The grit and dedication of the Tullahoma Utilities crews.

By Kali Bradford

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



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Long-time TUA employee Kyle Riddle knows all too well just how critical restoring power can be. For over a decade, Riddle has gained firsthand experience locally and by assisting in disaster-ridden situations, such as hurricanes and other natural disasters in neighboring states. While the job is dangerous, Riddle knows that his and his crew's work saves lives.

Riddle works as a general foreman over construction for TUA. He is behind the desk and out in the field, supervising three construction groups.

"I like being out in the field with my crews," he said. "I'm young, so I feel like I have a lot left and enjoy working outside. I like being able to restore power to people. We definitely see the good and the bad. With storm work and such, there is an urgency to get everyone taken care of and power restored. They're happy to see us working in the rain, so I like that part about it. I also like the troubleshooting aspect of it. When people have an issue, you go out there and figure it out, and you can repair it."

Being a part of the crew is no little thing. The position requires over 8,000 hours of training to ensure each crew member is adequately trained.

"You go through a four-year apprenticeship," explained Riddle. You start as a ground man, then a first-year apprentice, and work your way up. You can't start day one working up in the bucket on 7200, which is our system voltage. That's pretty high voltage. You have to learn your way up. You learn material, safety, and how everything works from the ground up. While it's fun, we do our best to ensure that all our crew is properly trained and equipped."

It's also important to note that just around 12 crew members ensure the power of more than 20,000 residents. Riddle said he hopes people understand that each crew member is always working diligently to keep Tullahoma up and running.

"We just want people to be understanding," he said. "We're either there, or we are on the way. We start out working the larger outages and then whittle them down to smaller outages. We are trying to get power back to as many people as we can in the shortest amount of time. Patience is something we appreciate and need. We want to get you back up and running as soon as possible, but there are only so many of us."

Riddle also credits his crew, which he said is "tight-knit." According to Riddle, each member loves their job and serving the Tullahoma community to the best of their ability.

Restoring power has also extended far beyond Tullahoma. Riddle and his crew have helped restore power after several hurricanes and natural disasters in neighboring states.

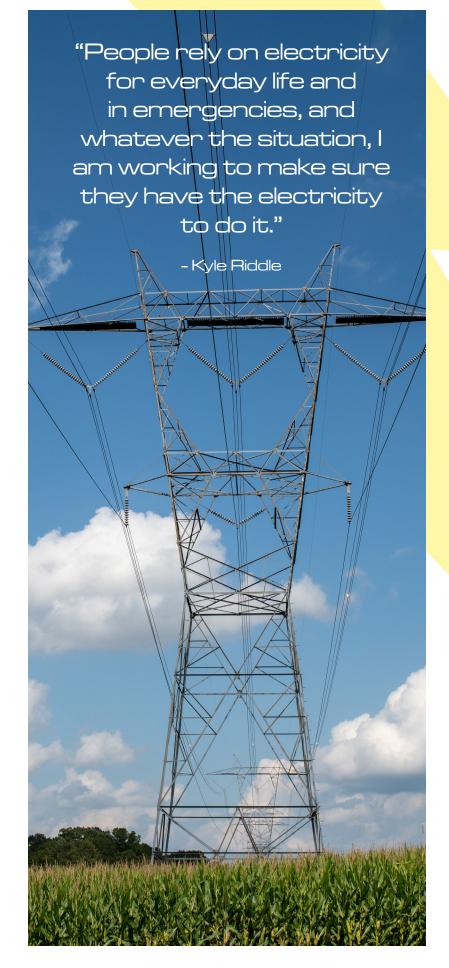
"One of the worst we've helped with is Hurricane Michael in 2018," he said. "We went to Blountstown, Florida, and it was completely devastated. I've never really seen any kind of damage like that."

Riddle added that when on rescue missions such as these, they are usually on-site for around two weeks, working 16-18 hour days to restore power and help in these devastated areas.

"They are some long weeks, and it's hard to be away from home for so long, but seeing what we can do for those who need us is worth it. The other cool thing is seeing and meeting other utility crews. You get to talk to people from other places and see how they do things. It's definitely a tight-knit group because there are so few of us."

Whether restoring power after a severe storm in Tullahoma or helping to clear out devastation after a hurricane in Florida, Riddle said it's all about keeping calm and getting the job done.

"It makes me feel good to be able to help people with whatever I can," he said. "People rely on electricity for everyday life and in emergencies, and whatever the situation, I am working to make sure they have the electricity to do it." GN





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

#### French Onion Soup - \$5.50

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **KIDS**

#### Pancake Plate - \$5.50

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

#### Egg Plate - \$5.50

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

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

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

#### **BEVERAGES**

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

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 Col

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

Diet, Cherry, Diet Cherry, Diet Caffeine Free

Evian Bottled Water - \$1.50

#### **SODA FOUNTAIN FAVORITES AND SWEET TREATS**

Classic ice cream treats sand a few fun new twists sure to please the sweetest of sweet tooth! All of our gelato is prepared locally by Legacy Creamery.

#### 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 purée, topped with fresh whipped cream and a maraschino cherry.

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

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

#### Classic Banana Split - \$8.00

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

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

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

#### Sundrop Cake - \$5.50

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

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

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



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#### **CHAPTER 2 OF 3**

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

- 32 Our Heroes
- 34 Behind the badge
- 38 Leading by example
- 44 Serving beyond the flames

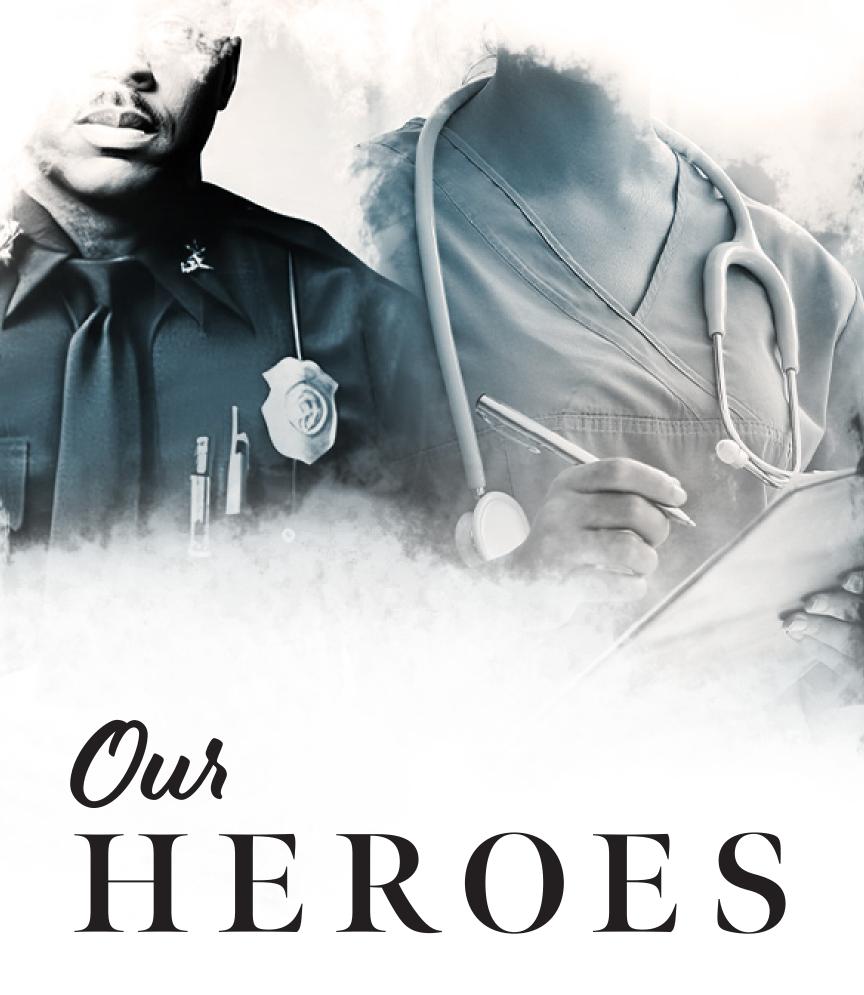
Our stories are based on submissions from local people.
Submit yours here:



goodnewsmags.com

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

◀ Jasen Damron





N THIS edition of Good News Magazine, we proudly present a collection of stories that pay tribute to the unyielding courage and unwavering dedication of our local heroes—individuals who selflessly run toward danger, provide comfort in

times of crisis, and tirelessly give their all to protect and serve our communities. These are the stories of those who exemplify the true essence of heroism, whether it's offering a lifeline during emergencies, upholding the law, or simply lending a helping hand. Join us as we shine a spotlight on their remarkable journeys and the selfless spirit that binds our communities together in times of need. These are the inspiring stories of our local heroes. We thank you for your contribution to our communities. GN

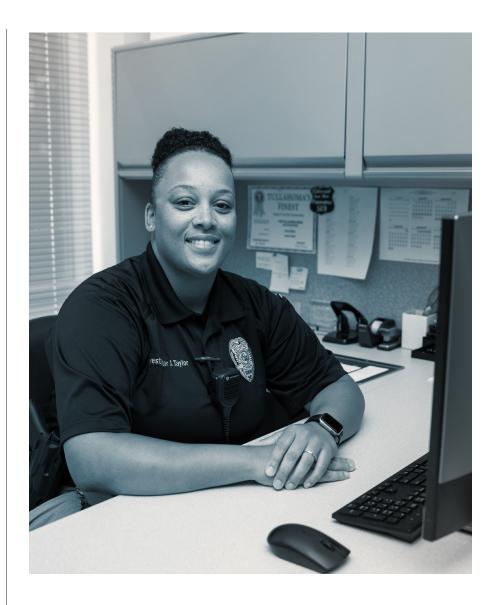
# Behind the badge

A TULLAHOMA POLICE OFFICER'S DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY

OLICE OFFICERS are driven by a desire to help and serve their communities. They actively engage with residents, building trust and ensuring public safety. By participating in community outreach programs, such as neighborhood events and volunteer activities, they show their commitment to the well-being of their communities. The ultimate goal of local law enforcement is to foster positive relationships and open communication while working toward maintaining a stable community and effective policing. Their presence is not only to deter crime but to help promote a sense of security and community.

Tullahoma Police Department (TPD) Criminal Investigator Jessica Taylor wants people to know she and her fellow officers are here for the Tullahoma community.

"One thing I hope people understand about first responders is we do this job because it is something we love, and we have a desire to help others," she said. "I know a lot of people are nervous when police officers arrive on the scene, but we don't want people to fear us. We want people to trust that we are ultimately there to help make their day better."



#### A love for the job

Taylor began her career in law enforcement working in corrections in Florida. She would eventually find herself in Tullahoma after a family move. She took a position as an instructor for the Tennessee Corrections Academy.

"I was a drill instructor for about a year and a half. I enjoyed what I did because I like training and working



"We don't want people to fear us. We want people to trust that we are ultimately there to help make their day better."

- Jessica Taylor

with people and helping them get to the goals they wanted to achieve."

But as much as Taylor enjoyed her job, she felt a higher calling. She wanted the opportunity to help out in the community.

"I wanted something different," she said. "I wanted to be out in the public





and helping the community. So I applied with the Tullahoma Police Department, and this became my next journey."

Joining the TPD force in 2018, Taylor has been working to build relationships with people in the community and to show that being an officer is not just about making arrests.

"I like to help people," she said. "I know a part of our job that most people see is making arrests and writing citations. And while it is, that's not what appeals to me. What appeals to me is being able to help people on some of their worst days. Whether it's a car accident, the loss of a loved one, or domestic assault, I want them to know we are here for them and to help them along the way."

Taylor is also working to shed a more positive light on law enforcement.

"I love being able to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community, especially with events that have happened within the last several years," she explained. "It has shed such a negative light on law enforcement. But I think in the community that we live in, there's a lot more positivity that comes from our agency and other local agencies around us. When it comes to engaging with the community, we still have those community members who see us in a negative light because of some of the situations they've been in. But that's all the more reason for us to get out there, be involved, and show that we are here for everyone."



you allow it to be, I love all that I'm learning and getting to really make a difference."

#### On being a hero

Taylor said she would rather not be considered such. She is not looking for recognition. She feels that she speaks for her fellow officers that helping others is just a part of who they are, and it is their calling to help make the Tullahoma community safe and a better place for its residents to thrive in.

"We're here for a purpose," she said. "We get a call to help, serve the purpose, and then go on to the next. I don't see myself as a hero for anybody. I just want people to know that we're available for whatever they have going on — whatever situation, no matter how big or small. A quote that I often remind myself of is by Maya Angelou, 'People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." GN

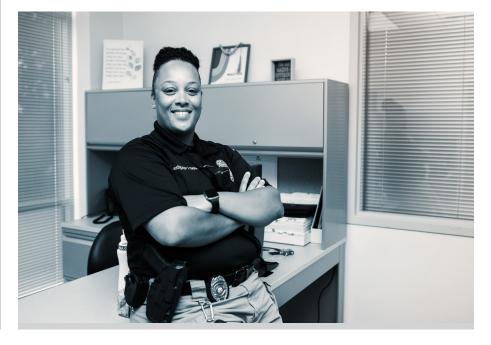
"We're here for a purpose. We get a call to help, serve the purpose, and then go on to the next. I don't see myself as a hero for anybody. I just want people to know that we're available for whatever they have going on — whatever situation, no matter how big or small."

- Jessica Taylor

## The journey continues

Broadening her horizons in law enforcement and the ability to help her community, Taylor was recently promoted to criminal investigator for the TPD. While it has added more responsibility, it has given her an even greater opportunity to do what she loves most: serve her community.

"I do a lot more work as an investigator than I ever did on patrol," she said. "As an investigator, you have a caseload. It's your job to prioritize those cases and solve each one of them at a priority level. It's rewarding because you get to work more closely with the victims and the cases themselves. While it can be overwhelming if



## Leading by example

A LOCAL FIRST RESPONDER'S COMMITMENT TO CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

IRST RESPONDERS are seen as the calm in the chaos for almost all of us. They are trained professionals who remain calm in high-pressure situations. Serving as a source of comfort and reassurance, they work diligently and efficiently to mitigate panic and confusion. Their collaborative efforts lead to successful outcomes. Despite the challenges, first responders continuously serve their communities with dedication and commitment, often risking their own lives to save others. They are everyday heroes who keep us safe.

Stephen Alderman is one of these heroes. While he doesn't consider himself one, he does feel that helping people is, without a doubt, his calling.

"A hero, to me, is somebody who puts others above themselves and is focused on other people rather than themselves," he said. "When I think of a hero, I think of calm in the chaos — somebody who runs to the rescue when everyone else may be running away. Helping people is my purpose on this earth. I'm 100% confident that God has put me in this spot to do what I do. My form of ministry just so happens to be a job. I minister daily to patients and my crews and make their jobs easier. All I do is give myself away daily, and I love that."



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY STEPHEN ALDERMAN

### Diving in

Alderman began his first responder career as a firefighter. However, during his time as such, he fell in love with helping on the medical side.

"I got my EMT certification and began to take that pathway," he explained. "During my clinical for the EMT class that I took, I was in an ambulance, and I took medical calls. I just kind of fell

head over heels for it. I believe it was one of the first clinical [calls] I went on where there was an elderly lady who was having a heart attack. I watched the paramedics and EMTs completely turn her around, get her to a hospital, and save her life."

Currently, Alderman is the district chief for Williamson Health Emergency Medical Services.

"I've been there since 2016. I was quickly promoted through the ranks there and went from a paramedic to a field training officer to a critical care paramedic. Now I'm a district chief," he said. "We run 18 ambulances, so it's a big and busy system. As a supervisor, I respond to high acuity calls like cardiac arrests and any kind of dangerous situations with assaults, stabbings, or shootings. Anytime there are multiple casualty [situations], I will respond to those, and then I can dispatch to other calls that possibly need my help."

#### After hours

Alderdman's love of helping others also follows him off the job. Currently, he is helping to educate up-and-coming first responders by serving as the instructor for both EMT and Advanced EMT programs at Motlow College.

"I had some folks reach out to me to see if I was interested," he said. "Of course once I started doing it, I loved it. I like reaching them from that early stage and teaching them how I would handle and approach things."

In the same vain of molding young minds, Alderman works as a character development coach for Tullahoma High School football.

"We are around the football program as a positive figure and mentor," said Alderman. "It's about getting to know and developing positive relationships with those students. We create lessons that offer a little bit of gospel and a little bit of life lessons here. And we kind of get the feeling of the team through the coaches and how the team is doing, which will dictate where we go with our lessons. I also bring my children along and hope that the kids can see a good father/son/daughter relationship."

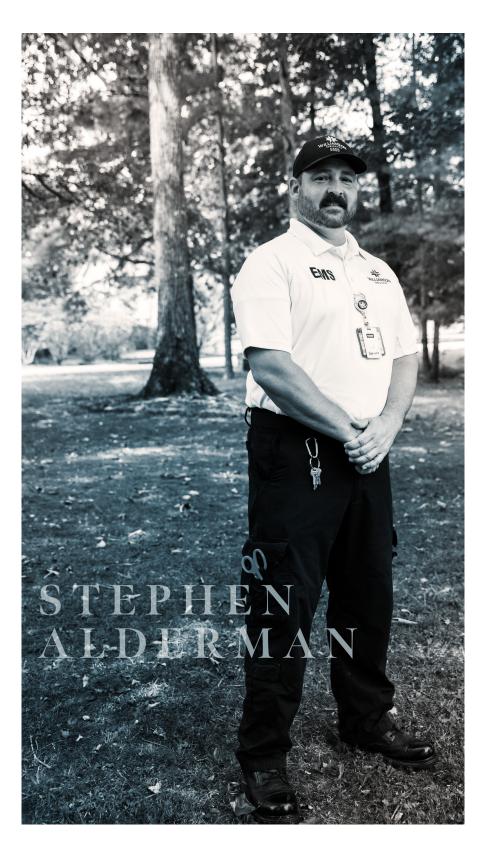








PHOTO SUBMITTED BY STEPHEN ALDERMAN

"I want to impact those I'm around positively and then see them going to impact others."

- Stephen Alderman

## A legacy of impact

Whether Alderman is racing to a call, instructing a class, or on the sidelines, he hopes his impact will be felt and carried on through his influences.

"I am creating a tree, so to speak, of people I impact at my job," he explained. "I've probably impacted thousands and thousands of people. I want to impact those I'm around positively

and then see them going to impact others. I want to be positive and to help people. I want people to see what I do and say, 'I want to do that. I want to serve like that. I want to be like that.' And as far as the football team goes, I want to be the person I needed when I was growing up and just display a good role model around kids." GN



# Too good 45 to miss

We want to build stronger communities through positive, local stories. Please help us continue the conversation online and follow us on Facebook today.



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# Serving beyond the flames

THE MANY ROLES OF A FIREFIGHTER

FIREFIGHTER FOR almost 30 years, Jasen Damron has seen a lot. He's run fearlessly into burning buildings, saved lives, and prevented further damage to homes and businesses through the heroic efforts of himself and his fellow firefighters. But fighting fires just scratches the surface of what Damron has done for his community over the last three decades.

Firefighters like Damron are true local heroes who go above and beyond to serve their communities. They are well-trained professionals who handle various emergencies, from fires to medical crises to natural disasters. Beyond their technical skills, firefighters are also compassionate and dedicated public servants who put others' safety and well-being above their own.

## Turning the dream into reality Growing up, Damron was surrounded by local firefighters.

"I've always had a large interest in the profession throughout my entire life," explained Damron. "I knew a lot of the former firefighters that worked in the community. Those stories and seeing other firefighters' service in the community motivated me to pursue the profession. I've always been a person who tries to help people, and it felt like this profession would allow me to do just that."

Starting in Tullahoma as a volunteer firefighter in '95, Damron was hired full time with the Tullahoma Fire Department in 1998. Since then, he has worked his way up and now holds the position of assistant chief for the department.

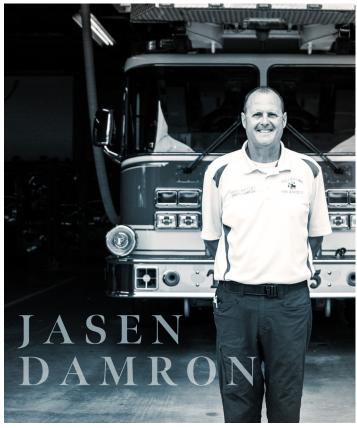


"From where I started to where I am now is a big accomplishment. I've always strived to advance to the next position," Damron said. "But I've always felt like this is where I'm supposed to be. I grew up with a mentality of helping others. That came from my parents. I think that mentality and being raised that way solidified that this was the profession for me. Helping people, especially the people in my community, has been a driving factor in my love for the job."

Fighting danger without flames Damron added that there are many jobs that a firefighter takes on. They conduct fire safety inspections and provide information on how to use fire extinguishers. Firefighters are often involved in community outreach programs and support various community services. They promote public safety by ensuring buildings meet safety standards and assist with emergency planning and preparedness efforts. Damron and his crew are also trained

"Twe always been a person who tries to help people, and it felt like this profession would allow me to do just that."

Jasen Damron









as EMTs and provide vital medical assistance until an ambulance arrives.

"A great thing about the fire services is that there are opportunities to do a lot of different jobs," he explained.

Damron added that while he and his crew are proud to serve, he hopes the community understands the sacrifice each member makes for Tullahoma.

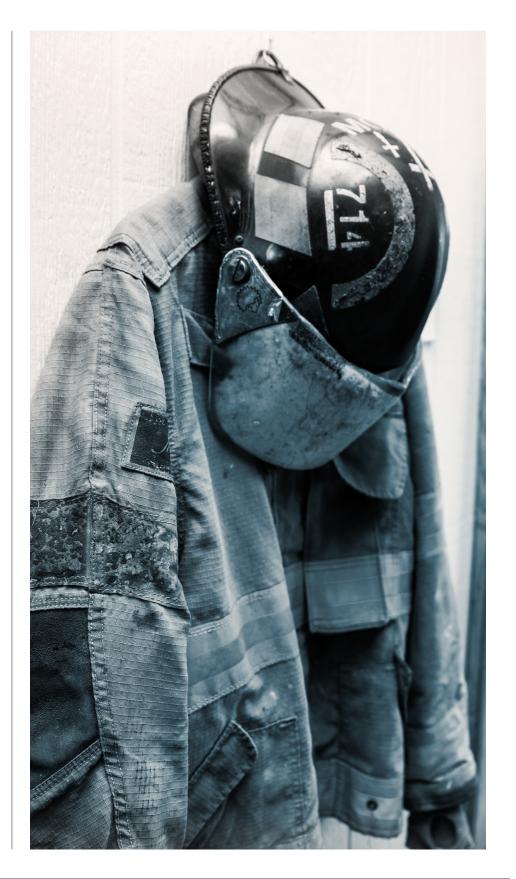
"I hope people realize that we do a whole lot more," he said. "It's not just running into burning buildings. There's so much more to it. Eighty percent of our calls now are medical-related. We assist with car wrecks and hazardous material calls. We have a joint team in Manchester that can be deployed anywhere and anytime in the state of Tennessee to work hazmat scenes. And the training and certifications are continuous. These men and women have to keep current on all of that, and most of the time, all of the hard work they put in to make sure they are up to date and prepared goes unnoticed."

As Damron reflects on his time as a first responder, he hopes he's made a positive difference in the community that he loves so much. He also hopes to continue inspiring future men and women looking to enter a profession that plays such a vital role in the community.

My main hope is that I left the job better than I found it, which also goes for the city, too. I hope I've made my community better. Just being able to have an opportunity to serve feels like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I also hope I'm sharing the pride and loyalty I have for the job with the men and women coming up through the ranks. I want them to understand how important they are to the community and this profession." GN

"My main hope is that I left the job better than I found it, which also goes for the city, too. I hope I've made my community better.

Just being able to have an opportunity to serve feels like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."



# How the Good News Magic Happens: From Submission to Print

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

Nominate someone to be featured in Good News Magazine.

Since Good News launched, we have received hundreds of nominations for people to be covered. Ever wondered how a story finds its way into the pages of our magazine? Well, the answer is simple: it's all thanks to you! Not only are the stories about local people, but they come from other local people, too! Here's a glimpse into the journey of how stories come alive in Good News Magazine.



#### Step 1: The submission process: goodnewsmags.com

We believe that everyone has a story worth sharing, and we rely on our readers to help us discover these extraordinary individuals. Submissions are made through our website and include the following details:

- A nominee's name
- Contact information (phone and email)
- The reason for the submission, along with why they qualify as a "Good News" story. This may include their contributions to the community, impactful deeds, family life, occupation, and more.
- We're not looking for you to write the story or find a superstar. We believe everyone has a story, and we only need relevant information. Our writers will do the rest!

#### Step 2: Selection and theme assignment

We tell stories about local people and what they are doing to make a difference. We have told stories about charities, medical staff, volunteers, school staff, and your next-door neighbor. Again, everyone has a story. While we feature six remarkable individuals in each issue, keep in mind that our production schedule is planned months in advance. So, if someone isn't featured in the upcoming issue, there's still a chance they'll be highlighted in the future. We keep all submissions on file for potential use.

#### Step 3: Interviews and photo shoots

Once a story is selected, our talented writers and photographers swing into action. We continue to be inspired by the stories submitted to us, and we complete the interviews and photo shoots several months before the issue goes to print. Our writers may conduct interviews via phone or video chat, while others prefer in-person meetings with the individuals behind the stories.



What's next in Good News Magazine?

Currently, our dedicated team of magazine writers and editors is hard at work crafting stories under themes like "Home for the Holidays," "Hometown Healing," and "From the Heart." We are excited to announce the next theme needing story submissions is "Charity Spotlight."

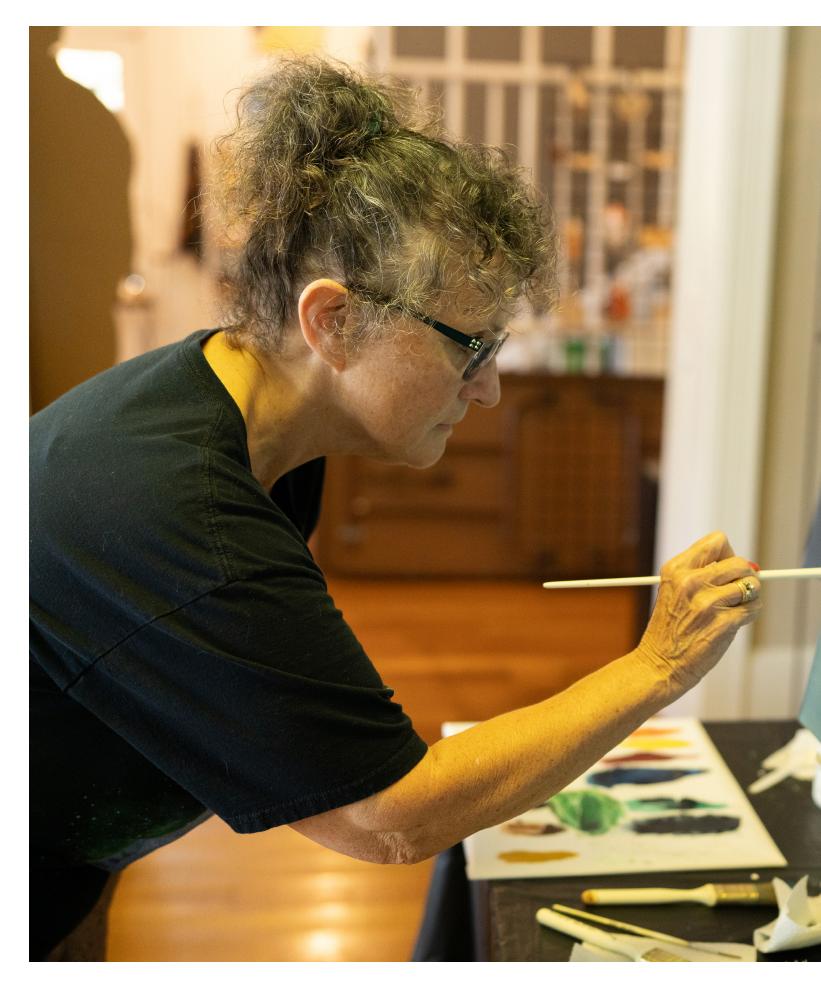
#### What we seek in Charity Spotlight stories:

Do you know a couple in your community who overcame adversity and decided to extend a helping hand to others facing similar challenges? Perhaps there's a group that stepped up to support local businesses during the pandemic. Or maybe you're aware of countless charities making a positive impact in the community. Behind each of these organizations, there are individuals who drive their mission, founded them, or have been profoundly touched by their work. These are the people and stories we're eager to showcase in our upcoming Charity Spotlight issue.

## Do you know someone who deserves to be in Good News Magazine?

Let us know with a submission at www.GoodNewsMags.com or scan the QR code. Share your stories with us, and let's continue spreading the Good News together.







CHAPTER 3 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local things to do.

- 52 Community Events
- 56 Events Calendar
- 58 Advertiser Index

Submit a positive story on our website:



goodnewsmags.com

Photography by Brooke Snyder

◀ Nancy Berken

## **41A Music Festival** - September 29







Photography by Brooke Snyder

The 13th annual 41A Music Festival returned to its downtown roots last weekend for a two-day event. This followed a brief hiatus when the festival was held as a one-day event at the high school due to COVID concerns. The community gathered in drones to support this popular Tullahoma event.



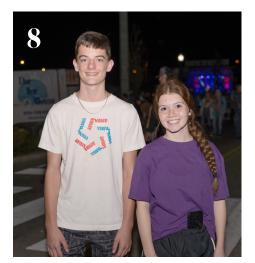




Robin Wylie
 Brooke Arthur, Jamason Wells, Chase Sons, and Investigator Yates
 Tanya and Philip Howard
 Bonnie shrader and Connor austell
 Raven Ashley
 Dillon, Brian, Carrie, and Brooks Bennett









7. Bad Monkey Band 8. Jalen Wilburn and Lacie Holder

## **Bob Ross Oil Painting Class** - September 15









Photography by Brooke Snyder

The community enjoyed a unique experience as they attended a Bob Ross oil painting class led by a certified Bob Ross instructor. Several sessions were held in August, and community members eagerly gathered to unleash their artistic talents and create their own beautiful paintings.





1. Nancy Berken 2. Allie Hice







3. Carol Tidwell and Laurie Seymour



## EVENTS CALENDAR

#### October 14

#### 6:00 am Coffee County Farmers Market

216 Fort St. Manchester October 14-28

## October 27

## 11:00 am TACC Fall Chamber Golf Classic

Lakewood Golf & Country Club 1900 Country Club Dr. Tullahoma

2023 Fall Chamber Golf Classic sponsored by FirstBank will be hosted on Friday, October 27 at 11 a.m. You are encouraged to reserve your teams quickly, as this tournament fills up fast! The cost is \$500 per team. The cost includes: 4 person scramble, box lunch, 2 carts per team, greens fees, beverages provided. Mulligans included in package.

#### November 11

#### 2:00 pm 5-Star Fall Festival

Frazier McEwen Park 216 Big Springs Ave. Tullahoma

Celebrating Veterans
Day! Free to get in! Food
trucks, local vendors,
live music from Jacob
Johnson, hayrides,
corn-hole, and more.
At Frazier McEwen
Park, 216 Big Springs
Ave, Tullahoma (Park at
Tullahoma High School).

#### November 18

## 8:00 am 2023 Wobble Gobble 5K Run & Walk

Tullahoma Area Chamber of Commerce 135 W. Lincoln St. Tullahoma

This is a Run/Walk 5K that will run down Tullahoma's well-known Jackson and Atlantic Streets. You will be able to catch a glance at many historic sites and sounds in a new and unique way. Register at: chamber.tullahoma.org.



## November 30

## 5:30 pm Annual Grand Marshal Reception & Tree Lighting

South Jackson Performing Arts Center 404 S. Jackson St. Tullahoma

The Annual Grand Marshal Reception sponsored by Rodney's Body Shop will have light refreshments, music, and the annual tree lighting.

## December 1

## 7:00 pm 67th Annual Christmas Parade

135 W. Lincoln St. Tullahoma

The 67th Annual
Tullahoma Christmas
Parade will be presented
by the Tullahoma Area
Chamber of Commerce
and sponsored by Stan
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# For more events and to submit an event visit:

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





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"A Hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."

~ Christopher Reeve









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915 South Anderson St. Tullahoma, TN

