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Charming Ranch Style Home on 1.1+/- acres



In an established neighborhood, this 4 bed, 2.5 bath home offers den cabinets, a brick fireplace, formal dining, bonus room, ample closets, a flexible home office/5th bedroom, and more. Outside, enjoy a detached 2-car garage, covered porch, rear patio, picket fence, gazebo, trees, and mini barn. Don't miss out on this fantastic home with great features and a charming setting.

204 Greenbriar Ave Shelbyville, TN 37160
\$326,500.00 MLS# 2622508

Stunning Custom Built Home on 4.15+/- Acres



Conveniently located just minutes from I-65, this custom-built home features 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, a spacious pantry, and large laundry area. The property includes a 52' x 36' steel shop with water, sewer, and electricity, ideal for commercial use. Situated on 4.15 acres, with a pond beyond the fence line. Easy access to Spring Hill (36 min.), Franklin (45 min.), Huntsville AL (1.25 hrs), and Murfreesboro (1 hr).

1235 Yell Rd Lewisburg, TN 37091
\$575,000 MLS # 2641259

Hunting Cabin Situated on 153+/- Acres



This secluded & private renovated cabin has 3 bedrooms, 3 full BAs, soaring ceilings, stone fireplace (wood burning), brick fireplace in basement, covered deck out back, miles of trails, tree stands will remain as well as shooting houses, excellent hunting for whitetail & wild turkey, food plots, mature hardwoods & barn has cooler room for hanging your harvests, spring water & much more!

249 Coffey Road, Petersburg, TN
\$1,450,000 MLS# 2563618

Cascade School District!



Situated in the highly sought-after Cascade Schools district, discover the beauty of this stunning custom-built home located on a private 21.8-acre property in historic Bell Buckle, Tennessee

209 Adams Ln., Bell Buckle, TN 37020
\$1,100,000 MLS# 2635589

Experience The Serenity on 288 Acres



This property features a House, Studio/Bunkhouse, Shop, Barns & More!!! Generator hook-ups & city water w/spring available. Farm has 2 Hay Barns w/ sheds, open equipment barn & cattle working barn, fenced & cross fenced throughout property, 6 waterers & more. Simply breathtaking view of Downtown Lynchburg! Very Secluded - Home half mile off Goosebranch Road.

501 Gray Road, Lynchburg, TN
\$2,850,000 MLS# 2586908

Endless Opportunities on 7.70+/- Acres



This potential prime development land in Marshall County, Chapel Hill, TN, boasts greenbelt pasture, soil tested & perked for 3 BR 2 BA. Conveniently located parallel to Hwy 99 (Eagleville Pike), it offers easy access to Murfreesboro, Franklin, Spring Hill, Shelbyville, Tullahoma, Columbia & Nashville, TN. Public water, Natural Gas & Fiber internet connections are available at the Hwy 99 entrance.

Eagleville Pike Chapel Hill, TN 37304
\$354,500 MLS# 2636410

Completely Renovated Home in Riverbend Country Club!!



Stunning home features 3 BR, 2 BA, hardwood & tile flooring, recessed lighting, custom made shaker style cabinets, farm sink in island, wine cooler/fridge in kitchen, all stainless steel appliances stay, huge walk in closets throughout, tiled shower w/rain heads & body sprays in primary BA, plus a roomy air jetted tub, barn doors in utility room. Exterior features a composite cladding siding, oversized heated & cooled 2 car attached garage & 29x36 deck for entertainment & outdoor living space!

240 Riverbend Country Club Rd., Shelbyville, TN
\$749,900 MLS# 2589395

An Idyllic Cozy Cottage



Presenting two charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath cabin-like cottages situated in an exceptionally desirable location, boasting excellent walkability, and conveniently near the renowned Celebration Show grounds. These cottages offer hickory cabinets and beautifully stained concrete floors. Nestled in the idyllic setting of Shelbyville, TN, these accommodations are perfect for individuals seeking a cozy Airbnb experience, a rental property, or a rewarding investment opportunity.

607/609 Whitthorne, TN
\$575,000 MLS# 2622508

Charming Historic Farm on 175+/- Acres



This exceptional property features over 175 rolling acres and a beautifully renovated 4-bedroom historic home with 3 fireplaces, built-ins, hardwoods, and tile. It includes a rocking chair front porch, covered porches, and a large 40x60 shop with 16-foot sheds. Nestled in the Flat Creek community, it offers lush forests, open fields, creeks, and stunning views, close to Lynchburg and Shelbyville.

2173 Hwy 82 south Shelbyville, TN 37160
\$S1,690,000 MLS# 25912231

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1001 Unionville Deason Rd., Shelbyville - NEW LISTING!! COMMERCIAL: 4,000 SqFt Metal Building on 1+- Acres. Property has been a tool & dye shop since 2000. If interested in the business & equipment we can get you a price. **MLS#2625197 \$495,000**

Dianne Arnold
(931) 703-5104

Madison Arnold
(615) 603-0077



619 N. Jefferson St., Shelbyville - NEW LISTING!! Charming: 3 BR, 2 BA like new home in the heart of Shelbyville. Home has open concept LR, DR, and K. Split bedroom system. Large MBR w/bath and closet. 2 Guest BA has been redone to make a walk-in shower. Attached one car garage, concrete drive, and patio in the back. Just minutes away from everything in Shelbyville! **MLS#2627797 \$369,900**

Dianne Arnold
(931) 703-5104

Madison Arnold
(615) 603-0077



100 Logan St., Shelbyville - PRICE REDUCED!! One owner 3 BR, 2.5 BA custom brick home. On a shady corner lot in Bedford County. Downstairs, large master suite w/walk-in-closet, & separate tub & shower. Kitchen w/ breakfast nook, formal dining room, & LR are all very spacious. Two large BRs upstairs w/BA. Plenty of closet & storage space. Intercom & radio system throughout. Oversized 2 car garage. Large, shady, & landscaped yard! Join Riverbend Country Club to get all of the amenities: pool, golf course, & clubhouse. **MLS# 2559687 \$540,000**

Dianne Arnold
(931) 703-5104

Madison Arnold
(615) 603-0077



102 Megan Cr., Shelbyville - NEW LISTING!! All brick, home in Green Hills Subdivision. 3 BR, 2 Full BA, lots of trim work, white decorative columns & hardwood floor in Dining Room, large open LR w/hardwood floor, granite counter tops, tile back splash & tile floor in kitchen, stainless steel appliances, master BR has a his & her closet, master BA has tiled shower, like new carpet in BR, HVAC-5 yrs, roof & windows-8 yrs, rocking chair porch, patio & partial backyard fence, 1 car garage, on a large lot, landscaped, paved driveway redone. No HOA. **MLS# 2645406 \$399,900**

Teresa Smith
(931) 703-3120



2265 Alydar Run Lot 100, Murfreesboro - NEW LISTING!! Spacious corner lot in Nelson Downs! Covered front porch. Roses, day-lilies, & more. Open living room with hardwood floors, & a gas fp. The eat-in kitchen features lots of cabinets w granite countertops, upgraded appliances, & a pantry. It flows into a dining room. The master suite is on one side of the house with a master BA 2 granite vanities, stand up shower, walk-in tub & 2 closets. The other side of the home has two BRs with a BA in between. There is an upstairs with an office or hobby room, media room, or could be used as another BR or two however it only perks for a 3 BR. There is a full BA upstairs & tons of storage. Large screened porch w/ ceiling fan & ramp to back yard. There is a patio & Fire Pit to enjoy also. This is a very loved and well-maintained home. **MLS# 2636870 \$535,000**

Cindy Barnes
(931) 703-3738

Don Barnes
(931) 703-1022



655 White Rd., Shelbyville - NEW LISTING!! 5 acre "Mini Farm" w/renovated manufactured home on permanent foundation. Barn, circular drive. New 16x8 & 8x8 decks w/grip steps, new energy efficient windows, shutters, gutters & downspouts, metal roof, gravel round driveway, exterior beveled front door, back door & interior doors, new HVAC unit, ductwork, new plumbing underneath, some new wiring, new well filtration system, new kitchen sink, countertops, under cabinet lights, new faucets, dishwasher, microwave, smoke detectors, new LVT flooring, new carpet & padding, new lights, door knobs, trim work, baseboards, 50 gal. hot water heater, new toilets, vanities, sinks, lighting, new custom tiled shower in master BA w/bluetooth lighting & music, new vent, smoke detectors, new access door, landscaping. **MLS# 2642494 \$339,900**

Cindy Barnes
(931) 703-3738



202 Rochester Dr., Shelbyville - PRICE REDUCED!! Beautiful home in the Hartford Community on a cul-de-sac. "Avery plan" by Smith Douglas Homes. The foyer has a hallway leading to the formal dining room w/wanes coating, crown molding, & a new chandelier. Kitchen adjoins the dining room w/upgraded cabinets, backsplash, granite counter tops, seating at bar & dining area in kitchen. It opens into the great room w/new lighting. The master BA has a garden tub, glass tile shower, double sinks, separate toilet area, utility room w/2 entrances. All BRs have a BA. New trek deck w/part covered & part uncovered. Water purification system installed. **MLS#2601788 \$449,900**

Cindy Barnes
(931) 703-3738



214 Ashlyn Dr., Shelbyville - NEW LISTING!! Country in the city! This beautiful New 3BR, 2BA open concept home is situated on a hard to find wooded lot with over 2 1/4 acres. Enjoy all the amenities of the city, with the feel of country living. Features include a concrete parking area, tile shower in MBA, tile floors in wet areas, LVP floors, kitchen island, granite countertops, all electric HVAC, and stainless appliances. **MLS# 2638063 \$349,900**

Gerald Baker
(931) 607-6463

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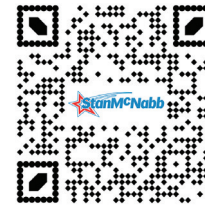
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Go on vacation here in Shelbyville

Start a road trip without your GPS.

SUMMER IS coming. And surely your home will sit empty for a week in this heat. The playful cheers of the kids on summer break go missing for a week that was planned for a year. The dishes sit in the cabinets, waiting for their family to come back home. The doormat sits excitedly to welcome you to the front door. The cool air hits just right over the threshold, pushing its way to the door to fight the heat that keeps increasing by the day. Our furry friends are excited to see our faces instead of the house sitter's. We catch the smell of home for just a moment, and soon, our noses will go back blind to our scent. We're finally home from vacation.

We exchange "I need to forget, so take me to Florida" for "Florida was fun... but it's good to be home." We go back to our work friends. We get to have lunch at our favorite spots again. And we get to drive on roads without the GPS on our phones.

We should explore the world that was created for us. It's exciting to plan a vacation, pack for it, and dig through snacks on the six-hour drive. Those butterflies creep up when the fancy sign starts to get closer on the trip. We jump out in the hotel parking lot and stretch our legs before our first step. The dopamine is on a never-ending conveyor belt. But still, there's nothing like that welcome mat outside our door. The feeling of coming home cannot be matched.

Marketing messages and year-long anticipation pull us away from home for a short time. But I'm convinced every week — even working nine to five — can be a vacation. Our community is packed with things to do that we overlook. I encourage you, reader, to start a list of your home vacation spots. Your home has more fun than you realize, sitting just beyond your backyard. We'll start your list in this issue of Good News. Welcome home to a life of vacation — every day. **GN**

Wesley Bryant,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

From our publishing partner



"As a lifetime resident of Shelbyville and an experienced advertising/marketing professional, I'm incredibly thrilled to contribute to a magazine that shares positive stories, strengthening our community. If you are interested in building a stronger brand or promoting your business feel free to reach out to me and let's talk."

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This section of the magazine covers local positive stories.



Good Living

▲ Jessica O'Neal
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

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HONORING the PAST while adapting to the FUTURE

Ernie Cook & Son Motors keeps
Shelbyville and the world on the road
for almost 50 years.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



Tim Cook

A STRAFFIC came and went along Madison Street, a two-lane main street through the heart of Shelbyville in 1975, late model, pre-owned cars lined the lot of Ernie Cook & Son Motors. Once you'd located your dream car among the selections (family car, convertible, pickup truck, sports car), you could be on your way in your new-to-you vehicle within a few minutes of the handshake that sealed your deal. A handwritten bill of sale and a temporary tag made it official. These sales marked the start of Shelbyville's oldest pre-owned dealership, which is 49 years old and counting.



Ernie and Tim Cook

Ernie Cook was a seasoned salesman in the car business, having spent a considerable part of his life working with various local car dealerships. With Ernie's years of experience and his son Tim's fresh ideas from marketing classes, the two established Ernie Cook & Son Motors shortly after Tim graduated from high school.

For decades, conversations on the lot covered everything from the best deals to tall tales and true adventures. Whether talking about cars, music, horses, or fishing, Ernie's jolly belly laugh and spirited personality lightened the mood.

"My dad always had a smile on his face. He loved dealing with people and

was good with them. He was definitely a cut-up," Tim said.

Beyond their shared career, Ernie and Tim had several common interests and hobbies. Ernie had a deep passion for fishing, while Tim treasures free time on the lake. They shared a love of horses, and The Celebration Grounds' location near their first dealership at the intersection of Madison and Whitthorne Streets was a bonus. This location provided them with the added advantage of locking up the dealership and quickly making their way to their ringside box seats, which are also just a stone's throw away from the business's current North Main Street location.

Over the years, automobiles have undergone significant changes with the advancement of technology. From basic models with manual gear shifting to advanced vehicles equipped with modern features like GPS, Bluetooth connectivity, and voice-activated controls, the evolution of cars seems like something out of a science fiction film from the '70s. These technological advancements have enhanced the driving experience and presented challenges to the sales industry. With the rise of e-commerce and the internet, car dealerships have had to adapt sales strategies to meet the evolving demands of the market.



Madison Layne and Tim Cook

Tim said, “The car business has changed tremendously since the internet came into play, and finding really nice pre-owned cars to sell is more difficult. It makes the business much more competitive. Most individuals have access to everything for sale around the world.”

The challenge that arose also became an opportunity to expand the reach of the dealership.

“The internet advertising has enabled me to sell cars across the United States and even around the world,” Tim said. “However, our customer base primarily comes from being in business here for many years. The internet has just expanded the audience we reach.”

Years of doing business in Shelbyville have resulted in generations of loyal customers for Ernie Cook & Son Motors. Repeat customers, whom the Cooks consider friends, confirm the strong connections built over time. Tim values these relationships.

“It makes me feel like I might be doing a good job, and I’m very thankful they trust me. I try my best to be fair with people,” he said.

Ernie passed away in 2022, and today, Tim swaps stories and laughs with those shopping or just dropping by. He is passionate about helping customers find the right car that fits their needs and budget.

Tim said, “I have thoroughly enjoyed the car business, and I’ve met a lot of nice folks.”

As Ernie Cook & Son Motors approaches its 50th anniversary, Tim is excited about the future. He knows that the industry will continue to change, but he’s confident that the dealership’s commitment to customer service and quality will keep it ahead of the curve. You can still close your deal quickly and painlessly and be on the road in no time with the sunroof open and the satellite radio jamming to your favorite station. **GN**

Ernie Cook & Son Motors is located at 809 N. Main St. in Shelbyville. For more information, call (931) 684-4808 or visit erniecookmotors.com.



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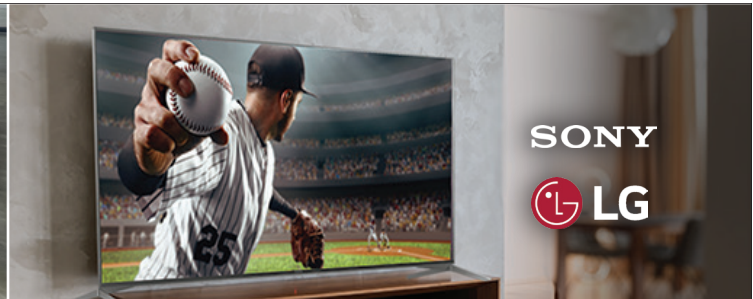
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Rise Up Cafe:

**WHERE COFFEE MEETS
COMMUNITY AND
INCLUSION**

A new Shelbyville cafe fosters a sense of
belonging for people with disabilities.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

HERE WAS always a place for them. In Jessica O’Neal’s childhood home, their names were all different, but the loving spirit they brought with them was the same. They were children and teenagers with disabilities, abandoned or taken from abusive situations, who needed care and supervision. For the older ones, there were jobs — sometimes — but the jobs ended when the government-subsidized pay to the businesses that employed them ran out, which was often.

“As a teenager, I always thought when I got older, I’d love to have a place where I could hire people with disabilities without worrying about funding [issues]. I had a friend with Down syndrome in high school who had a job at a coffee shop, and I always remember her being so happy that she had a little job. I always thought how fun it would be to bring that special happiness to someone. The world sees them so differently, but I see them as little angels that we’re supposed to take care of because I feel like they’ll take care of us one day,” O’Neal said.

Originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, O’Neal attended New Mexico State University, and her hotel, restaurant, and tourism management degree led her to Nashville. She met her husband, Chris, while managing a Green Hills restaurant. He worked at a next-door food establishment.



She shared, “It was love at first sight, and we got married and had babies.”

They have eight children, one of whom was a still-born baby with Trisomy 18.

“I thought, ‘OK, God, maybe I couldn’t handle a baby like that.’ But then we had a little boy, and he was born on the same month and day we lost his sister. He has Trisomy 21, and he’s just a perfect little angel that God gave us,” said O’Neal. “Ever since I was little, I remember my mother taking care of kids with autism, Down syndrome — things like that — and I remem-

“

And I like the name ‘Rise Up’ because people have got to understand that you’ve got to rise up from this world and what people think about others with disabilities.

- JESSICA O’NEAL

”



▲ Lydia West



▲ Angela Wojtkowski

ber thinking, ‘Oh, I’d love to have one of those babies and children because they’re such little angels; they’re so sweet.’”

The couple moved from Nashville to her husband’s family farm. But no matter how much taking care of her family consumes her days, her heart is always watching for ways to make space for young people with disabilities. She hopes to provide a place where people with disabilities can contribute through responsibilities that give them a sense of pride and ownership and a place where they can spend time like other teenagers doing “everyday teenage things.”

What better place for them to work and spend time than a coffee shop? O’Neal connected with young people in our community who could flourish through work and activities in a local coffee shop through conversations with like-minded people advocating for people with disabilities. She crossed paths with the woman who manages suites of businesses within the Flamingo Fiesta on North Thompson Street, remembered by long-time Shelbyville residents as the old Mittwede Shopping Center.

You’ll find the Rise Up Cafe there serving specialty coffees, pastries, baked goods, salads, gourmet sandwiches, take-and-bake items, and a variety of offerings. Stopping at the coffee shop refuels your body and your spirit while pouring into the lives of those working there. O’Neal said the cafe’s profits help support other nonprofit groups serving persons with disabilities.



▲ Cannon and Jessica O'Neal

“Everybody loves coffee shops, and [people with disabilities] love coffee shops, too. They love Starbucks just as much as everybody else,” she said. “This is just a cool place for them to work. Making others happy when they serve them coffee or a sandwich puts a smile on their faces.”

It’s where O’Neal hopes to see the community and those with disabilities coming together on both sides of the counter. She envisions the space as a meeting place for small groups and a gathering place where friendships bloss-

om and no one is separated or excluded based on their differences.

“Everybody’s welcome at the coffee shop. And I like the name ‘Rise Up’ because people have got to understand that you’ve got to rise up from this world and what people think about others with disabilities,” said O’Neal passionately.

The café is a place of belonging.

“God is so good. Our community needs this, and I think we’ll all be blessed for supporting something like this,” she said, adding, “I give all the glory to

God. I’m just a small vessel He’s using to give young and older people with disabilities a voice.”

There will always be a place for them. In O’Neal’s life, outreach, and world, there will always be a place for them. **GN**

Rise Up Cafe is inside the Flamingo Fiesta at 405 N. Thompson St. in Shelbyville, TN. Contact Jessica O’Neal at (931) 205-2706 for more information and follow @rise.up.caf. jessi on TikTok.

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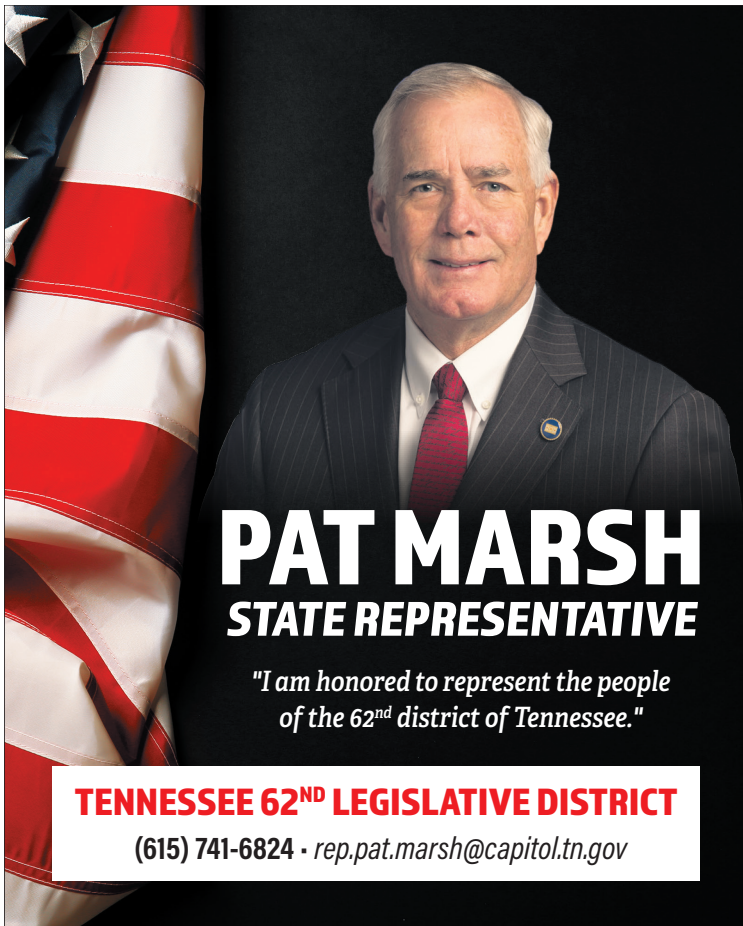
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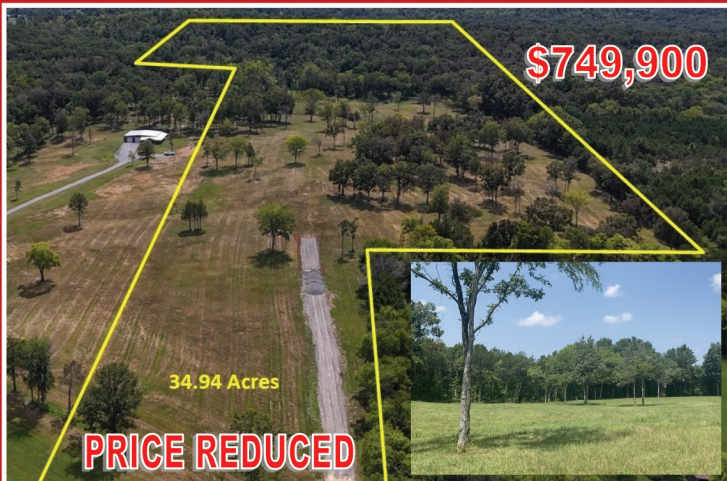
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COLOR, COMPASSION, & CREATIVITY

WESTON JOHNSON'S
BRUSHSTROKES OF WONDER
INSPIRE GIVING.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

A portrait of Weston Johnson, an 8-year-old boy with short brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a white polo shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred green and yellow pattern. There are large, colorful brushstrokes in orange, blue, and green on the right side of the page.

PERCHED ATOP a stool in the colorful Bad Rabbit Art Studio, 8-year-old Weston Johnson glances thoughtfully from a photo to the artboard beside it, brush in hand. The iconic Stonehenge emerges stroke by stroke from sketched shadows under a cobalt sky and over forest green grass. Weston isn't just focusing on creating dimension in the massive rock structures — he's in deep thought about the archaeological wonder he's painting.

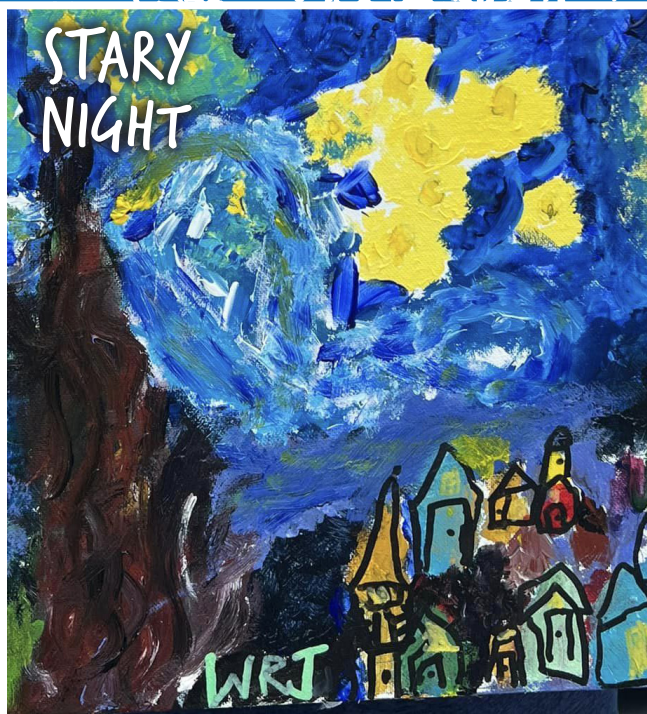
“If I could touch it, I would say, ‘Did a caveman touch this?’ I think it was there a thousand years ago, and I wonder who touched it. I would ...” he said, his voice trailing in awe.

We reviewed some of his favorite pieces one at a time, talking through the artistic challenges and why he connects with them. Landscapes are his favorite.

His portfolio pops with timeless treasures like the Golden Gate Bridge, “See Rock City” barns, Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower, and Van Gogh’s “Starry Night.” His interpretation reflects his vibrant personality.

“Sometimes I need a little help, but they don’t do it for me,” he said. “Like this clock [on Big Ben]; this clock was very hard.”

WESTON
JOHNSON



It took shading to create dimension, he explained. His parents and local art teachers support his interest in painting, and Martin Rabbit's ongoing instruction at Bad Rabbit Art Studio in Bell Buckle expands Weston's skills. He paints with Rabbit weekly. "She's really encouraged his painting, and I think he enjoys it," said his mom, Krystle.

Weston agreed. "I feel good [when I'm painting], and I'm very proud of my art."

Some weeks, he knows what he wants to paint when he arrives at the studio. But there are times he is undecided.

"Sometimes I know in my mind what I want to do. Sometimes it takes longer," Weston said.

One of his favorite paintings is one he knew he wanted to do.

"This was my idea. I saw a Bob Ross picture, and I thought I could do it," he said, holding up a tranquil landscape with an evergreen-flanked stream winding down from snow-capped mountains.

And he was right. There's no mistaking the trademark peace felt by the teachings of Bob Ross. Happy trees, soft clouds, and a trickling stream invite you to slow down.

Weston doesn't just paint images; he wants to experience them. Referring to his Bob Ross landscape, he said, "I want to see this place. I don't know where it is, but I want to see it. I'm thinking it's gonna be in Utah."

He visited Rock City, but other sites he's painted are still on his list to see. Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower, the Golden Gate Bridge, and Stonehenge aren't just landmarks to take in visually. He wants to experience them with all his senses.

"With Big Ben, I would ask someone who has seen it, 'Have you ever touched it before? Is it very dusty?'" he expressed thoughtfully.

For all the ways he experiences the art that brings him joy, it's also a tool for touching others' lives. People in Colorado, Florida, Texas, and Michigan have bought his art. Last year, he sold prints of his art at the Bell Buckle Craft Fair, raising \$500 for the Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen.

Robert Martin, manager of the soup kitchen, said he knew Weston was a special young man the first time he met him.

“He always shined, and when I found out about his donation to the soup kitchen, it just confirmed my first impression of him,” said Martin.

Weston’s parents hope to help him raise money for a good cause every year.

His dad, Adam, said, “We want to push Weston to continue to be creative. We want him to continue to give back to the community by selling his art, and that’s something that’s really important. He wants to do that because it makes him feel good to give back.”

Weston has some advice for those who think we can’t paint or are afraid to try.

“There’s nothing to worry about. It’s just all about fun. If you get something on your shoes or your clothes, it doesn’t matter about that. It matters what you paint.”

Weston’s advice is as much about infusing creativity into your lifestyle as it is about painting. While he may be too young to understand the depth of his wisdom, his parents are not.

“It’s exciting watching Weston be creative. A creative mind is going to help as he goes through life. It’s amazing to see,” Adam said. “He goes [into the studio], and we don’t know what he’s going to paint, and then, all of a sudden, he comes out with it. And you’re like, ‘What just happened?’”

Krystle agrees. “It’s exciting when we pick him up each week just to find out what he’s painted and why he chose it. We were completely surprised when he painted Gordon Ramsay. My favorite is his ostrich in motorcycle goggles. The creativity that went into it just makes me smile.”

His art does that; it brings a smile, spreads joy, and helps make life better all the way around.

Weston’s artistic journey is just beginning, but the foundation is already strong. It’s a journey filled with exploration, challenges, and moments of pure joy. It’s a testament to the power of curiosity, the importance of support, and the magic that happens when a child is encouraged to dream in color. With each sunrise, a new canvas awaits, and with each stroke, Weston continues to paint his own unique masterpiece. GN



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As I pulled into Nash Family Creamery after a pleasant countryside drive, I knew I was in for a treat. Greeted by the sound of laughter from the nearby playground, I took in the beautiful scenery of this hidden gem nestled in scenic Unionville.

As I waited, I couldn't help but admire the pristine and bright interior of the creamery. The shelves were adorned with tempting treats, from artisanal cheeses to decadent baked goods. Nash Family Creamery truly had something for everyone, including a variety of shirts and souvenirs to take home.

When my Piggy Mac sandwich arrived, my mouth started to water. They dropped a fork beside my dish, which confused me initially, but I quickly understood why. This sandwich was stuffed to the max with cheesy macaroni and smoky barbecue pork. The perfectly crisp bread held the weight of the dynamic duo, and the fork allowed me to scoop up the excess that oozed out. No bite was left behind today.

But the indulgence didn't stop there because ice cream is a must. I couldn't resist trying the Cow Pie milkshake. With rich





chocolate ice cream studded with brownie bits, blended to creamy perfection and topped with a generous dollop of whipped cream, it was a decadent delight that left me craving more.

Whether you're a cheese lover, a dessert enthusiast, or simply seeking a cozy spot to enjoy a delicious meal, Nash Family Creamery has something to satisfy every hungry belly or sweet tooth. So take a scenic drive, grab a hearty sandwich with a milkshake on the side, and maybe even a T-shirt to help show your unwavering support of the best ice cream in Bedford County. **GN**

GOOD NEWS IS COMING TO DINNER!

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as they dine in Shelbyville. This month Colby Prince visited Nash Family Creamery.

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Good Stories

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

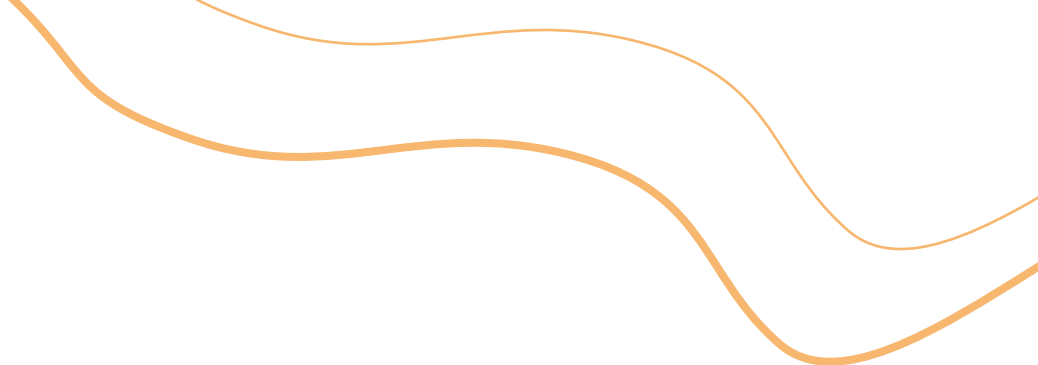
▲ Shane and Elizabeth Stuart
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

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FROM FARM TO FORK TO FAMILY FUN

Crossing Creeks Farm delivers unforgettable experiences.

By Tina Neeley

*Photography by
Ashleigh Newnes*

AS YOU look from your desk to the nearby window, nature's blossoming limbs wave to you. The birdsong and blue sky seem to defy the concrete and office buildings surrounding you, but the stress inside pulls you back into reality. Notification dings from your phone and laptop tap your shoulder, demanding attention. Your work week may last a few days longer, but the date on your calendar confirms the reservation for your three-day weekend escape to an unplugged life.

You can't wait! You stare at the photos online throughout the day, imagining the glass no longer separating you from spring's celebrations. The screened front of your Adirondack cabin invites stargazing and gentle breezes. Crickets and hoot owls lull you to sleep, and the mockingbird awakes you — not your cell phone alarm. Breakfast over

the fire pit and showers in the open bathhouse prepare you for the day. A tour of the property is first on your agenda, followed by a family hike at a nearby state park. Finish the day gathered around the fire pit again under the glow of solar-powered string lights. With the stars in view, your cabin welcomes you for another peaceful night's sleep.

It's not a spring fever-induced delusion. It's a reality when you visit Crossing Creeks Farm in Shelbyville, a local agribusiness featuring regenerative farming, RV and open-air camping, and sales of grass-fed meats, eggs, and locally sourced products. Its on-site commercial kitchen offers take-and-bakes, dairy, beverages, desserts, bone broths, and other organic, nutrient-rich foods.

Good-for-you food, farm living, and hospitality permeate the atmosphere at Crossing Creeks, a 125-acre farm purchased in 2012 by Shane and

Elizabeth Stuart alongside Elizabeth's parents, Reid and Susan Farmer. What started as an idea for a generational farm soon grew into a passion for nutrient-dense beef and a desire to feed their family the best possible food. From there, they expanded to sharing their food with the community.

Elizabeth said, "My parents are the true inspiration behind Crossing Creeks Farm. Through their own health journey, they connected the quality of food they consumed to the quality of their health. And so to better feed them, ourselves, and our

community, we stepped into farming over 15 years ago."

They knew how they farmed would influence the quality of the foods they produced.

"We practice regenerative farming with intensive rotational grazing, which puts our focus on healing the soil first," Elizabeth said. "This results in healthier animals, which in turn produces nutrient-dense meats and eggs for our community."

Their farm kitchen and store connects farmers and artisans committed to improved lifestyles. It offers these sellers a

storefront for their goods, strengthening our community through collaboration.

"We currently work with Belle Fleur Farms for their organically grown produce and Red Hill Farm for their organic jams and sourdough bread, both of which are located right here in Bedford County," Elizabeth said. "These partnerships support our local customers as well as traveling guests for a convenient one-stop shop for all things local. During their visit, guests and customers can enjoy freshly made treats from our on-site commercial kitchen and a latte,

▼ Caleb Stuart, Reid and Susan Farmer, and Elizabeth, Shane, and Noah Stuart





We practice regenerative farming with intensive rotational grazing, which puts our focus on healing the soil first.

- Elizabeth Stuart

smoothie, muffin, or brownie from our kitchen window.”

The farm’s convenient location to Bedford County’s historical sites and events and its location near the Tennessee Whiskey Trail makes for the perfect place to stay overnight. There are RV and camper pads with hookups and charming open-air Adirondack cabins with everything you need. New things are developing this year as well.

Elizabeth said, “We are currently working on remodeling a 1970s block garage into a stunning Airbnb for guests to stay year-round, with plans to open in the spring of 2024. In the summer of 2023, we had the opportunity to create an educational nonprofit, The Bridge at Crossing Creeks, here on the farm in order to create workshops and classes for our community to gain hands-on learning experiences for farming and homesteading. With continued support from our community, we hope to expand our educational offerings in 2024.”

Through these and other offerings, like their horseback riding program, the family connects with guests on a deeper level as they spend more time on the regenerative farm.

“Our greatest joy of hosting is when a guest or their child encounters farming for the first time, like watching a chicken peck the ground or lay an egg or watching a calf take its first steps,” Elizabeth enthused.

An unplugged adventure awaits you at Crossing Creeks Farm. Visit for a day, overnight, or longer, immersing yourself in the beauty of nature and the healthier options for nourishing your mind, body, and soul. Put a visit on your calendar. Lean back, breathe deep, and smile. Everyone around you may still be stressed and think you’ve finally lost it, but you know better. Blame it on spring fever! **GN**

Crossing Creeks Farm is located at 221 Eady Rd. in Shelbyville. Follow the farm on Facebook and Instagram for the latest happenings. Call (615) 767-6745 or visit crossingcreeks.com for more information.

NEAREST GREEN DISTILLERY & HUMBLE BARON: WHERE HISTORY MEETS HOSPITALITY

Fawn and Keith Weaver are committed to empowering lives, honoring diversity, and giving back to Shelbyville.

By Tina Neeley

*Photography by
Ashleigh Newnes and
submitted by Humble Baron*

SUMMER VACATIONS are the stage for some of our favorite memories and stories. Shelbyville's Nearest Green Distillery and Humble Baron value the power of story and provide the backdrop for the fun and good times we'll treasure for years to come.

The story of Nearest Green drew Fawn and Keith Weaver to Middle Tennessee, and Shelbyville soon became home to their entrepreneurial enterprises, sparked by the broader area's roots in whiskey-making. Shelbyville's presence as a vacation destination soon enlarged.

Keith said, "Inspired by Clay Risen's story in The New York Times, Fawn felt compelled to travel to Lynchburg for her 40th birthday and uncover more about Nearest's remarkable narrative. Once there, we connected with descendants of Nearest and Jack Daniel, as well as the wider community, which led us to learn more about the profound impact they had on the area. We were immediately hooked and drawn to stay



KEITH WEAVER AND
QUEEN VICTORIA
EADY BUTLER



▲ The War and Treaty



in Shelbyville to fully immerse ourselves in the stories of the people around us and really dig deep into Nearest’s narrative, spreading it far and wide.”

But Shelbyville was more than a name along the Tennessee Whiskey Trail map.

“The spirit of Shelbyville is all about community, history, and good ole Southern hospitality,” Keith shared. “I love the people in our community and the way in which folks are coming together to be forces for good. The thoughtful approach to economic growth and prosperity while maintaining a special identity inspires me greatly.”

There’s much to be celebrated here and many with whom to celebrate. Nearest Green Distillery and Humble Baron honor and celebrate our various cultures and connections.

“There is a vibrant and diverse community in Shelbyville, and we created Humble Baron to be a place where everyone has a seat at the table. We’re proud to be a cornerstone of the community — a haven that embraces and unites people from all walks of life,” Keith said.

Locally, we have another longstanding story and icon, The Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC). Where better to combine forces?



There is a vibrant and diverse community in Shelbyville, and we created Humble Baron to be a place where everyone has a seat at the table.

- Keith Weaver

Keith said, “In 2023, we had the honor of being the official spirit sponsor, adding some flavor to the festivities with a delightful cocktail crafted by our master mixologist, DeAndre Jackson, which paid homage to Fawn’s horse, Toppo! We even rolled out the Nearest Green Distillery trolley to ferry folks from the event to our property to enjoy cocktails at Humble Baron and be able to purchase a limited-edition bottle we made to honor The Celebration.”

The Weavers’ investment in our area’s future extends beyond the grounds of Nearest Green Distillery. It reaches forward, enriching and empowering the lives of others.

“At Nearest Green Distillery and Humble Baron, we celebrate Tennessee whiskey’s rich history, proudly spotlighting Black-owned spirits and paying

homage to the legacy of Nearest Green, the first known African American master distiller,” he said. “We’re committed to diversity and to honoring the overlooked contributions of Black artisans in the spirits industry. It’s been incredibly rewarding to see our distillery become a gathering place where people from all walks of life can come together, share stories, and enjoy exceptional spirits.”

Other projects promise to honor and improve the lives of area residents and Shelbyville visitors.

Keith added, “We take immense pride in being a member of the Shelbyville community, and our commitment to giving back is unwavering. As we continue to grow, we’re dedicated to expanding our offerings with exciting future hospitality projects that will further shape this area as a destination. In addition

to future ventures in the area, we’re also excited to embark on a multitude of community-led initiatives, including commemorating our nation’s fallen troops with Honor Day and our continued involvement in The Celebration.”

For these reasons, you can fill your calendar with a tasting and tour at the distillery and expect a variety of events at Humble Baron celebrating this season’s holidays. Enjoy outdoor movie nights under the stars from June through August and special programming during the TWHNC. There’s an ever-evolving variety of events and entertainment at Humble Baron, so check for updates often.

“I want to ensure that people know the deep pride we feel in representing Shelbyville, our profound admiration and respect for the local community, and our unwavering focus on not only strengthening the bonds within the community but also showcasing to the world the incredible essence of Shelbyville,” expressed Keith.

All of this and more grew from a story’s spark. And there are more chapters to come.

“It brings me joy to bring world-class experiences, such as Humble Baron, ‘The World’s Longest Bar,’ and, of course, Nearest Green Distillery, the seventh most visited distillery in the world, to our community.” GN

For a calendar of events and more information, visit unclenearest.com/distillery and humblebaron.com or call (931) 773-3070. Humble Baron and Nearest Green Distillery are located at 3125 US-231 N. in Shelbyville.



WARREN
WELLS

SADDLE UP: EQUESTRIAN EXCITEMENT AT THE CELEBRATION GROUNDS

Explore diverse events, family-friendly attractions, and the iconic Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration.

By Tina Neeley

*Photography by
Ashleigh Newnes*

WHILE MANY may be considering mountain or beach destinations for their summer getaway, there is a full schedule of diverse events taking place throughout the summer in our own backyard at the grounds of the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC). Make room on your calendar for these experiences and activities, whether for a weekend or part of a week-long staycation. From the iconic sights and sounds of the annual crowning of the national champion walker to an array of family-friendly attractions and events, there's no shortage of ways to create lasting memories as we bask in the magic of summer right here in Shelbyville.

IBRA Barrel Race: May 17-19

Get ready for an exhilarating showcase of horsemanship and skill as the International Barrel Racing Association (IBRA) commands the Cooper Steel Arena this May. This thrilling event promises heart-pounding action

and fierce competition, making it a must-see for those who appreciate the beauty and excitement of equestrian sports. Whether you're a seasoned fan or new to the world of barrel racing, this is an opportunity to witness top-tier riders and their magnificent equine partners in a setting that's sure to leave you on the edge of your seat.

TWHNC Spring Fun Show: May 23-25

The TWHNC Spring Fun Show promises a delightful blend of competition and community spirit, offering an excellent opportunity for local residents to witness the grace and beauty of the Tennessee walking horse in action.

TWHNC CEO Warren Wells said, "We have moved the Fun Show back outside to the big arena, and that's our intention again this year. The weather was phenomenal last year, and everybody really loved it. So our plan, unless something changes, is to have it outdoors in the big Celebration Arena again."



We expect another great year. Last year's attendance was one of the two highest, and the number of entries was second highest in the last 10 years.

- Warren Wells

Black Rodeo USA and Extreme Cowboy Race National Championship: June 1

Saddle up for an unforgettable experience as the dynamic Black Rodeo USA rides into the Cooper Steel Arena, bringing with it a fusion of entertainment, culture, and education. This family-friendly event coincides with the Extreme Cowboy Race National Championship in the Champion Arena, hosted by the Southern Obstacle Challenge Association. It promises a must-see combination of thrilling rodeo performances, Juneteenth celebrations, and exciting obstacle course action. It's a weekend full of unique and enriching experiences.

Walking for Cancer Horse Show: June 8

The Walking for Cancer Horse Show is an annual event uniting the power of community and compassion, benefiting the Bedford Cancer Foundation. It's an event that resonates far beyond the confines of the Champions Arena. Cancer touches the lives of everyone. This show contributes to the foundation's ability to support the day-to-day needs of local cancer patients.

State 4-H Horse Show: June 17-21

The State 4-H Horse Show is a highly anticipated event that brings together young equestrians to showcase their skills and horsemanship. The show serves as a platform for 4-H members to demonstrate their dedication, knowl-

edge, and passion for horse riding and care. The show not only highlights the achievements of the young riders but also promotes the values of sportsmanship, responsibility, and teamwork.

IBRA Youth Barrel Race: June 29

The IBRA Youth Barrel Race provides a platform for young riders to demonstrate their skills and dedication in a thrilling and competitive environment. As the next generation of barrel racers takes center stage, it's an opportunity for the community to witness the passion and commitment of these talented individuals. The IBRA Youth Barrel Race promises an action-packed experience that is sure to captivate audiences of all ages.

TWHNC: Aug. 21-31

You don't have to check your calendar to know when it's time for the annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration. The energy of the town shifts as new and familiar faces come to town with trailers and campers in tow. Now in its 86th year, The Celebration is an 11-day event at The Celebration Grounds, culminating in the crowning of the World Grand Champion on the Saturday night before Labor Day. It's a time-honored tradition, crowning more than a champion; it's a celebration of the enduring legacy of the Tennessee walking horse.

"We expect another great year. Last year's attendance was one of the two highest, and the number of entries was second highest in the last 10 years," said Wells.



▲ Tony and Savannah Lee

So don't overlook the fun unfolding at The Celebration Grounds from the closing of the school year to the opening of the next. Exciting events for the whole family fill the TWHNC calendar this summer. Don't let the season slip away! Grab your calendar, head to TWHNC's website, and dive into a world of equestrian excitement. Memories await, just a click or visit away! GN

Check TWHNC's calendar at twbnc.com or call (931) 684-5915 for more information. The Celebration Grounds are located at 1110 Evans St. in Shelbyville.

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This section of the magazine covers local events, charities, and nonprofits.



GoodTimes

▲ Denise Parker and Tracey Strassner
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

Submit a positive story on our website:
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Spark - April 18



Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

On April 18, First Community Bank hosted the Shelbyville-Bedford Partnership monthly “Spark” meeting for seasoned chamber members and fresh faces alike to network and get to know one another.



1. Luci Tapley, Kayla Hillard, and Morgan Bargas 2. Hank Becker and Mark Holder 3. Whitney Collier, Kelly North, and Linda Nichols
4. Bryan Nerren and Charlie Williams 5. Christy Womack and Scott Cocanougher 6. Stephanie Martin and Linda Botsch

Solar Eclipse



Photos submitted by the Shelbyville Community

In a moment of unity, friends from Shelbyville and beyond gathered on April 8 to witness a rare solar eclipse. As darkness cloaked the land at midday, it marked an unforgettable event for all.



1. Billy Hix 2. Rawlings and Shaen 3. Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital operating room staff
4. Cinthia Sanabia, Bria Smith, Vickie Ransom, and Susannah Thompson

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his father Steve, his
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work goes into dairy
a. The Nash family
of 2020. "We'd al-

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www.cdctn.org

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sammy.gatewayoutreach@gmail.com
www.gatewayshelbyville.com/ministries

Clothe Our Kids Bedford County

Provides at-risk children with needed clothing and shoes.

(931) 703-6263
www.clotheourkids.com/independent-locations
Facebook: Clothe Our Kids of Bedford County, TN

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