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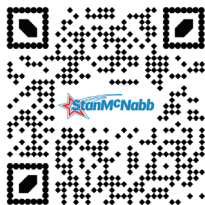


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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# Go on vacation here in Manchester

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.

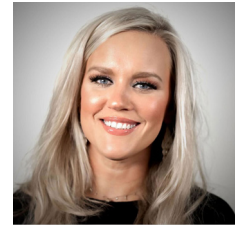
We exchange "I need to forget, so take me to Florida" for "Florida was fun... but it's good to be home." We go back to our work friends. We get to have lunch at our favorite spots again. And we get to drive on roads without the GPS on our phones.

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

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This section of the magazine covers local positive stories.



▲ Bernadette Doud  
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

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# ENTERTAINMENT MEETS NOSTALGIA IN MORRISON

Detention is where people of all generations make memories that last a lifetime.

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

**W**alk into Detention @ the Elementary, where excitement awaits. Gone are the rows of desks and stern expressions of teachers. In their place, chatter erupts from families and friends united in their pursuit of fun. The scent of freshly baked pizza and breaded chicken tenders drift from the kitchen, luring in hungry

adventurers. You quickly notice laser tag warriors chanting their victories and air hockey champions high-fiving with excitement. The minute you get in line to purchase your armband or load up your gaming card for the day, you notice crowds disperse. Many run straight to the concessions, drawn in by the aroma of fresh food.

Detention, a family entertainment center, has transformed an old elementary school into an entertainment space for fun, laughter, and good times.

Bernadette Doud, proudly shared her connection to the place.

“I was born in Coffee County but went to school in Warren County. We were right on the





## EMMA COOPER

line. I can throw a rock into Coffee County from the house I grew up in.”

Inspiration for the family entertainment center’s unique name was drawn from the school setting and paid homage to the building’s educational past.

The building, filled with personal history for Bernadette’s

family, is situated in the very school where her aunt and uncle graduated. She even attended the elementary school after its conversion. The school, which started as a high school in the ‘40s and ‘50s, has seen generations pass through its halls.

Opening Detention was a collaborative effort between

Bernadette and her husband and co-owner, Dwayne. The couple is seasoned in the entertainment and food industry.

Dwayne, a licensed general contractor, carried out most of the building’s construction with his team. They lovingly revamped the building to embrace its new life as a fun zone. The very same basketball





## EMMA COOPER AND COURTNEY FLETCHER

court where her uncle's graduating class once honed their skills years ago now houses a popular bounce house for birthday parties.

The couple's combined expertise shines through in every aspect of Detention, from the lively arcade to the versatile banquet hall. Its spaciousness, enhanced by a stage and sound system, offers a welcoming space for memorable celebrations.

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When the arcade's festivities wind down, guests can explore a

different kind of adventure.

"We have three golf simulators. There are three different golf bays, and you can play over 300 courses from around the United States — some fictional, some not," Bernadette explained.

Aside from gaming thrills, Detention entices taste buds with a restaurant committed to freshness. Its salad bar boasts hand-chopped iceberg lettuce, fresh spring mix, and spinach. Indulge in the signature hand-breaded fried chicken, available on Saturdays.

Every Thursday is Italian Night, featuring classic dishes like Alfredo, lasagna, and baked spaghetti. Fridays transform into Fiesta Fridays with mouthwatering taco options.

Whether you crave a quick bite or a full-fledged feast, Detention offers a delicious escape that caters to every taste bud.

Every venture has its setbacks, and Detention is no exception. From figuring out the menu to adapting to changing demands and supply chain disruptions, Detention perseveres through the daily ebbs and flows of business ownership.

The owners actively participate in community events, sponsor local sports team events, and contribute to fundraisers like Lemonade Day. As a member of Coffee and Warren County chambers, the center won an award from the Warren County Chamber of Commerce, showcasing its growing passion for impacting the community through entertainment.

Local schools also find the center to be a valuable resource for educational outings, popping in for a day of field trip fun.

The ultimate reward for Dwayne, Bernadette, and their team is witnessing the joy and satisfaction of their customers.

"It's so rewarding to have these teachers come back and say, 'This has been the best and easiest field trip that we have ever done. We enjoy coming here.'"

Parents gleefully express surprise at the quality of the delicious food. Detention has become a place where memories are made, smiles are abundant, and community spirit thrives.



Come see for yourself how a “labor of love” can transform a refurbished school building into an adventure zone, and discover what it means to be part of something bigger than a game. Detention awaits, ready to welcome you with open arms, warm smiles, and perhaps even a slice of pizza named after your old school. **GN**

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# A hub of *Hope*



The Community Development Center's programs turn challenges into possibilities.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes and submitted by Anita Teague

**W**E OFTEN overlook the significance of basic abilities such as independence, clear sight, good hearing, problem-solving skills, and easy access to essential resources. Navigating the challenges associated with what society labels as disabilities, disorders, limitations, and conditions requires more than personal determination; it takes a supportive community dedicated to helping individuals achieve their utmost potential.

Finding assistance for those grappling with such obstacles can be daunting. However, the Community Development Center (CDC) is a central hub assisting all ages. Each program is a spoke in the center's wheel of resources.

The CDC's purposeful rotation connects lives and propels them forward. The CDC acts as a driving force, steering individuals toward a brighter and more empowered future within this dynamic wheel of change.

Originating as the Child Development Center over 50 years ago, the CDC initially focused on early intervention. This program delivers therapy to children with developmental delays and disabilities, offering support and continuing eligibility until kindergarten.

The CDC supports 11 counties in South Central Middle Tennessee and ensures that children receive personalized assistance within the familiar environment of their homes. Staff work closely with parents and caregivers to comprehend developmental milestones and implement strategies for day-to-day challenges.



The Child Development Center transitioned to the Community Development Center in the mid-'90s to support all age groups. The Family Support program, initiated during this expansion, covers six counties and provides essential funding to families caring for a member with developmental or intellectual disabilities. Operating statewide under the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, this program addresses daily life skill challenges, offering financial assistance to alleviate costs.

Anita Teague, executive director of the CDC, said, "We serve our entire community of those with special needs and of all abilities. We help them work, achieve their personal goals, strive for independence, and connect them with resources."

Resources like the Children's Center for Autism, launched in 2016, address the growing need for autism services in rural communities. There are locations in Lewisburg and Shelbyville, with a Fayetteville location coming in 2024. This program serves children aged 18 months to 12 years who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The Children's Center for Autism is staffed by licensed board-certified behavior analysts and certified registered behavior technicians. It provides applied behavior analysis therapy, parent training, and community outreach.

The CDC's Employment Services cover a wide range of support, including assisting individuals with job readiness, placement, and pre-employment transition services to students. They also help those in TennCare's Employment and Community First CHOICES program, offering support for independence skills and community navigation. A recent addition, MAPS, focuses on skills like independence and employment. This program operates across 10 counties in the center's service area, including Coffee County.

Teague and her team understand the frustration of being tossed around from resource to resource without guidance.

"Family members get so stressed and tired because they're having to manage their household and [deal with] medical issues, therapy sessions, insurance, and all these things for their family member with a disability," said Teague.

But a call to their office is different. Staff will check to see if you fall within the guidelines of any of their programs, and if not, they will recommend other resources that might meet your needs.

The Independent Support Coordination program, established in the mid-1990s, offers case management for individuals with significant intellectual disabilities. This program operates across 17 counties. It ensures that individual desires and needs get prioritized. Additionally, assistance with disability case management services is available under the Tennessee Strong Families program.

The CDC's commitment extends to seniors through the Senior Equipment Loan program, initiated in 2017. Providing durable medical equipment across South Central Middle Tennessee regardless of income, this program operates through a collaborative effort among CDC staff.

The CDC's leadership team is composed of Teague and program managers. To ensure the seamless operation of these vital programs, leaders meet monthly and annually to review and improve them.

She said, "We work with many partner agencies, including other nonprofits in our communities, focusing on other aspects, not just disabilities. We are





▲ Henry, Aiden, Rachel Rudolf, and Kelli Lafont

“ We serve our entire community of those with special needs and of all abilities. We help them work, achieve their personal goals, strive for independence, and connect them with resources.

—Anita Teague

all involved in our local communities, and many of us serve on the Community Health Councils and Community Advisory Boards, which gives us avenues to learn what the needs are in our communities. The CDC’s main focus is on those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Still, by being involved, supporting other nonprofit’s missions, and expanding our services to those of all abilities, we are more inclusive and meet a larger community of need.”

The CDC is the wheel that turns toward hope and carves out paths to independence and empowerment. As the center’s wheel of change continues to turn, it leaves an indelible mark on those navigating challenges, fostering a brighter and more inclusive future. **GN**

*For more information, visit [cdctn.org](http://cdctn.org) or follow the center on Facebook. The main office is at 111 Eaglette Way, Shelbyville, or you can reach them by calling (931) 684-8681.*

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Rebecca French





# There's **POWER** in **INCLUSION**

MCCCC empowers others  
and bridges connections.

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

**I**NSIDE THE Manchester Coffee County Conference Center (MCCCC), there is a warm atmosphere full of genuine smiles and friendly conversations. Each room offers comfortable seating, creating a welcoming environment that accommodates everyone. It invites visitors to engage in encouraging connections and inquire about resources that make them feel at home.

In one of these rooms, Rebecca French and her dedicated team have created an inclusive program that provides education, connections, and resources for individuals with disabilities, newcomers, and those seeking employment.

French has worked tirelessly with a strategic approach to make the Manchester community more hospitable and inclusive. The program she initiated provides a safe and supportive space for people to gain valuable skills and cultivate connections, regardless of background or abilities.

French's journey toward creating an inclusive space both inside and outside the MCCCC is deeply rooted in her personal experiences.

She reflected, "As I age and experience life's lessons, I have learned empathy. I understand the human element behind everyday struggles, and I remember struggling as a preteen, young adult, and as a young woman finding her way between a corporate career and being a mother/wife."

Leading up to her role at MCCCC, French's experiences extended to leadership roles in retail and pharmacy management, all inspired by her genuine desire to empower others. Outside of her professional career, she actively volunteers with local organizations.

"I have been able to make changes in child care, mental health, access to health care for uninsured, partner to help educate work-based learning students, policy and oversight, and serve on the local economic development board. I have accomplished more as a volunteer choosing the path of servant leadership and building strategic goals within each organization," she said.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, French diligently visited local culinary classrooms, offering students employment opportunities and a chance to gain soft skills in a safe environment. Her initiative, in collaboration with Vocational Rehabilitation, led to her appointment on the State Rehabilitation Council by Gov. Bill Lee, advocating for solutions to challenges Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Human Services faced. Upon arriving at MCCCC, she seized the opportunity to collaborate with the job coach from her previous employer, initiating training programs.

At the conference center, attendees witness the success of the inclusion program firsthand. Individuals with disabilities, standing confidently beside their peers, become living proof of the program's impact. Through the program, they build self-confidence and independence in themselves and their abilities.

Integrated employment is the program's goal, but success takes many forms, from personal decision-making skills to finding full-time jobs, opening businesses, or rebuilding confidence after incarceration. The program contributes to the local workforce, increasing the pool of qualified applicants.

The conference center, built by visionaries recognizing the community's potential, primarily aimed to encourage out-of-town guests to stay and host meetings in town and stimulate economic growth. In 2016, the business model changed, transforming the center into a full-service venue, supporting traveling attendees, and becoming a one-stop shop for meeting planners, business travel groups, and leisure events.

Despite plans for program expansion beyond Coffee County, the persistent challenge of funding remains. Yet, French and her team are relentless in their pursuits, drawing strength from the tangible impact they make on people all around the community.

Choosing the path of servant leadership, French has learned to make waves through volunteer work and philanthropy, transforming lives and contributing to the economic growth of the community. The Manchester Coffee County Conference Center is the beating heart of the community, pulsating with the rhythm of community connection and empowerment.

French has partnered with various organizations, including Coffee County High School's SPED department, Franklin County High School's SPED department, Vocational Rehabilitation, and the departments of Labor, Human Services, Tourism, Higher Education, Economic Development, and Corrections, to bring her vision to life.

While French initiated the program, her staff played a pivotal role in implementing and ensuring the program's success.

"The program itself I built, with help from many resources. But the most exemplary thing is this — I gave my staff the tools, and they have to implement and do most of the heavy lifting to ensure the success. I did not and have not done this program alone. Without my staff and their support and willingness to support my vision, there wouldn't be a program." **GN**

*Visit [www.mcccc.com](http://www.mcccc.com) or call (931) 723-8283 for more information — located at 147 Hospitality Blvd. in Manchester.*





Erica Colter







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# You don't have to go far for destination foods.

**S**AVOR THE essence of a hometown getaway with heartwarming flavors that celebrate locally available ingredients. From comforting classics to tempting treats, give yourself a break and bring the charm of a small-town vacation right to your kitchen.

If you want the taste of exploration you find on vacation, try a new-to-you recipe from your dream destination's cookbooks. Or plan a meal resembling your favorite summer vacation spots. Have fun creating an authentic atmosphere that takes you miles away without ever leaving home.

So, kick back, relax, and let your taste buds embark on a journey without leaving home. These recipes are your staycation ticket, where every bite reminds you of the charm and flavors that make your hometown truly special. **GN**

## Banana Pudding

*Submitted by Nancy Parkerson*

2 eggs, separated  
1/2 c. + 3 T. sugar  
pinch of salt  
1 T. flour  
2 c. milk  
1 t. vanilla  
3-4 bananas, sliced  
1 box vanilla wafers

In a saucepan, combine egg yolks and sugar. Add salt, flour, and milk. Cook over slow heat until thickened. Add vanilla. Pour into a baking dish, alternating with bananas. Add wafers. Beat egg whites with 3 T. sugar in a medium mixing bowl. Cover pudding and brown at 350°.

## Fried Chicken

*In memory of Margie Inez Drake*

2 pkgs. Italian salad dressing  
2 c. biscuit mix  
2/3 c. club soda  
1 egg, beaten  
1 fryer chicken, cut up  
oil for frying

In a small mixing bowl, combine 1 package of salad dressing with the biscuit mix. In a small mixing bowl, combine soda and egg. Dip chicken in egg mixture, then baking mix mixture. Set chicken pieces on a rack to drip. Fry in a skillet of deep fat for 3 minutes. Place in a baking dish and bake for 350° for 30 minutes. You can also just deep fry for 20-25 minutes.

## Strawberry Lemonade

*Submitted by Morgan Hargrove*

1 c. strawberries, chopped  
1/4 c. lemon juice  
1/2 c. sugar  
1 can frozen lemonade concentrate  
1 can water  
1/2 c. powdered lemonade mix  
2 bottles strawberry sparkling water  
1/2 c. strawberry soda

Place chopped strawberries in a medium bowl with lemon juice and sugar. Let sugar dissolve to make a syrup. Add lemonade concentrate and water. Stir in lemonade mix. Pour into a large pitcher. Add 1 bottle of sparkling water. Mix well. Add remaining sparkling water. Stir in strawberry soda.



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## GOOD NEWS IS COMING TO DINNER!

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as she dines in Manchester. This month Shellymar Repollet visited Prater's Bar-B-Que.

Shellymar Repollet  
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I mmediately struck by the warmth emanating from the kitchen, I was directed by a friendly smile to order at the counter. The restaurant's rustic charm seemed to extend to its team, who chipped in to assure me that everything is made in-house. The passion was evident in the way they talked about the menu, making it clear that they take immense pride in their craft of barbecue.

The menu features an array of meats, from tender brisket and ribs to pulled pork and chicken. But it wasn't just the meat that left me intrigued, as there were plenty of side options — vegetables, onion rings, sweet potato fries — the list goes on. After being convinced this spot was going to be good, I ordered the loose brisket plate with ranch-style beans, coleslaw, and potato salad. Personally, some days are “quesadilla days,” and that was motivation enough to also try the brisket quesadilla with potato skins on the side.

As the dishes arrived, my senses were greeted by the rich aroma of barbecue. The brisket came with raw onions, pickles, and

bread. Each slice was generous and soft enough to make it so you didn't need a knife to enjoy dinner. In between bites, I almost forgot to drizzle some of the homemade barbecue sauce over the meat. I was offered a choice in spice level and decided on mild, and it struck the ideal balance between sweet and spice, adding another layer of flavor to an already satisfying meal. The ranch-style beans balanced smokiness with a touch of sweetness, and the coleslaw was a lovely combination of creaminess and tang. The potato salad was velvety and paired really well with the natural grease from the brisket. My fingers, however, spoke a tale all in themselves as they dug into the brisket quesadilla. It was cheesy and savory, with onions and peppers spilling from the sides after every bite.

Overall, this otherwise unassuming family business has captured the hearts and palates of locals and visitors alike for decades, serving up a slice of barbecue heaven that's well-loved by their communities of Manchester and Morrison. **GN**



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



# Good Stories

▲ Jody Marshall  
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

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**VACATION**  
*in Manchester*









**KAYLA  
TRANSUE**



# COMFORT AWAY FROM HOME

Enjoy a warm summer staycation at Comfort Suites on Hospitality Boulevard.

*By Jeriah Brumfield*

*Photography by  
Ashleigh Newnes*

IT'S TIME for your annual summer staycation and you and a group of friends, bags packed with swimsuits and smiles, push open the doors of Comfort Suites on Hospitality Boulevard. The summer light streams through the lobby, warming the inviting space. The friendly aroma of freshly brewed coffee collides with the scent of crisp linens.

"Ahhhhh..." You're finally able to relax and enjoy all your stay has to offer. As you make your way to the counter to check in, you might encounter the smiling face of Kayla Transue, the hotel's general manager. Her presence exudes Southern hospitality.

Transue's first stint in hospitality began at 16, working at a Holiday Inn in Plymouth, Indiana. After moving to Tennessee, she continued her path at the local Holiday Inn Express in Manchester, accumulating a wealth of knowledge and valuable experience.

Comfort Suites beckoned her upon her return to Manchester after living out of state for a short time. Upon her arrival, hotel management offered her a director of sales position. Later, Transue accepted the general manager position. Following was a period of overseeing both Comfort Suites and Holiday Inn Express until Dr. Elstein bought Comfort Suites as a sole proprietor.

Having spent over a decade at Comfort Suites and nearly 24 years in the hospitality industry, Transue has been instrumental in the hotel's success. The establishment has proudly earned three awards, putting them in the top 6% of Comfort Suites hotels nationwide.

Beyond managerial duties, Transue served as the president of the chamber of commerce. She dedicated her time to the community and hotel, all while raising her children, Kaydence and Austin, in Coffee County.



“Hospitality is just the field I fell into but have always enjoyed. Now, I say it’s my calling. I enjoy having a team and interacting with guests from all over the world and our community.”

In a world where friendly faces and warm hospitality can be a rare find, Comfort Suites staff pride themselves on greeting guests with a smile and good conversation.

Guest reviews consistently commend the friendly staff and warm ambiance the team has carefully curated together, giving the hotel a “home away from home” experience.

The hotel’s amenities offer guests a truly memorable stay, including

an indoor pool, fitness center, hot breakfast, and inviting patio with a grill and fire pit.

At the top of the hotel staff’s priority list is ensuring a comforting stay for all who enter the hotel’s doors. A recent social media post highlighted a positive guest experience. A sweet mother and daughter enjoyed a carefree stay with friends, swimming, ordering pizza, and roasting s’mores by the fire pit, leaving them with unforgettable memories.

“We love it when people make memories with us,” Transue shared. “We recently had a very lovely couple who wanted an anniversary night away,

and we went a step above and helped decorate the room for the guests. They loved their stay with us. Both guests were from Coffee County and made memories in their home city.”

The hotel team prioritizes community connections and establishing partnerships with local businesses. Whether you’re seeking a staycation as a local or exploring Manchester’s gems as an honored tourist, the front desk offers a curated list of local businesses to enhance your experience. The hotel partners with Common John Brewing Co., O’Charleys, and Fresh & Fruity to provide exclusive discounts, making your staycation more enjoyable.







**We try to make sure our community knows we are here and care about being in Manchester, Tennessee.**

*- Kayla Transue*



Beyond the doors of Comfort Suites, Transue guides guests to explore Manchester's hidden treasures, leaving them swooning over the town's charm.

Comfort Suites constantly evolves by staying updated on guest reviews and adapting to their desires. The hotel actively gives back to the community to ensure it never gets lost under the corporate name. It sponsors movie nights at the recreation center, donates

to local shelters, supports the children's advocacy center, and provides discounted assistance during severe weather events, ensuring safety for all who need it.

"We try to make sure our community knows we are here and care about being in Manchester, Tennessee," Transue affirmed. GN

*Call (931) 228-8393 for more information. Comfort Suites is located at 152 Hospitality Blvd. in Manchester.*



# A HIKE THROUGH TIME

Join Old Stone Fort to discover and preserve its unique history.

*By Jeriah Brumfield*

*Photography by  
Ashleigh Newnes*

OLD STONE Fort has been a large part of Park Ranger Keith Wimberley's life for over three decades. In the early '90s, he spent his summers working as a seasonal employee, the spark of discovery instilling a passion that would lead him back in 2000 as a park ranger. Eventually, in 2010, he took on the mantle of park manager, becoming the official steward of this historical treasure.

"I have a long history concerning Old Stone Fort," he expressed.

Inside this slice of paradise, you'll find a 42-acre hilltop enclosure cradled by the meandering Duck and Little Duck rivers. This is Old Stone Fort, with a history that spans 2,000 years.

In the Woodland Period, Native Americans built the structure, which served as a central ceremonial gathering place for centuries before fading into the mists of time. By the time European settlers arrived, its purpose remained unknown, leading to the name "Old Stone Fort." Today, the park represents a bygone era — a place where history remains, thanks to the preservation efforts of park rangers and staff.

Old Stone Fort's beauty lies in its unique blend of historical significance and outdoor adventure. Visitors embarking on the main





KEITH  
WIMBERLEY









## Old Stone Fort is the first and one of only two designated State Archaeological Parks in Tennessee.

- Keith Wimberley

trail find themselves walking along the ancient mounds, remnants of the past enlightening on their journey. The trail itself is a masterpiece, strategically positioned to offer breathtaking views of both the mounds and the rivers, immersing visitors in the full experience.

“The natural setting surrounding the Old Stone Fort is significant. The two are very much intertwined and, assuredly, reasoning for the Woodland Period Native Americans building the enclosure here. Our main trail, which surrounds the mounds, is juxtaposed between the mounds and rivers so visitors can see both aspects of the park on this hike,” Wimberley shared.

One of the most intriguing aspects of Old Stone Fort is the summer solstice alignment. Like a giant sundial, the entrance mound complex points almost perfectly toward the sunrise on the first day of summer. Each year, on this special day, the park opens its gates early, inviting visitors to witness this awe-inspiring phenomenon.

The museum is a must-visit to help visitors dive deeper into Old Stone Fort’s story. Here, exhibits showcase the intricate details of the mound site and fascinating insights into archaeology, flintknapping, plant use, and the daily lives of the people who once called this place “home.”

The park also offers a plethora of programs and events throughout the year designed to engage and educate visitors of all ages. Families, in particular, will find something special during the summer programs the park offers consistently between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The park held Spring Nature Day on the last Saturday of March — another popular must-visit event.

Preserving a site like Old Stone Fort comes with its own set of challenges. Finding the balance between education, accessibility, and preservation is an ongoing quest for park staff nationwide. The park urges visitors to be mindful of the delicate nature of the mounds and to stay on designated trails, refraining from

climbing or digging. Through education and responsible exploration, this irreplaceable treasure can remain intact for generations to come.

Aside from its captivating beauty and recreational appeal, Old Stone Fort holds a unique historical significance that visitors might often overlook. In unveiling layers of history, you’ll discover fascinating facts that add to its charm.

“Old Stone Fort is the first and one of only two designated State Archaeological Parks in Tennessee. It has been recognized by experts as ‘the most spectacularly sited of Woodland sacred places’ and has been a beloved area for thousands of years and many generations,” enthused Wimberley.

“Thus, it is extremely important for visitors to be mindful of its significance and do their part to help us preserve it.”

There’s a certain magic in every corner of this park, waiting for you to discover it. There are nearly 10 miles of trails to explore, including a recently opened mountain bike trail. The park also has a well-maintained campground and a gift shop where visitors can find souvenirs to commemorate their visit.

Come explore the wonders of Old Stone Fort. Take a walk through time and become a part of the park’s legacy. Remember, we are all stewards of this irreplaceable treasure, and together, we can ensure its story continues to be told for generations to come.

“We strive to educate all visitors in this regard. We are making efforts to improve accessibility, including developing an audio tour of the site and exploring additional measures.” **GN**

*Visit [www.tnstateparks.com/parks/old-stone-fort](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/old-stone-fort), or call (888) 867-2757 for more information — located at 732 Stone Fort Dr. in Manchester.*





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# ESCAPE TO RELAXATION AND FUN

The Broken Banjo is a go-to destination for nature lovers.

*By Jeriah Brumfield*

*Photography by  
Ashleigh Newnes*

**Y**OU NOTICE the gentle ripples in the pool. It relaxes you as you dip your toes into the cool water, with luminous shades of the sunset painting the sky above. This idyllic scene awaits you at The Broken Banjo campground, a place for peace and recreation in your hometown. Roadville, a dedicated family-owned company, recently transformed this beloved community treasure, founded over 50 years ago. The family is committed to creating exceptional camping experiences for guests.

The Broken Banjo RV Park transports you into a world where rustic beauty blends with modern conveniences from the moment you enter the parking lot.

“The park is a peaceful escape into nature that is still in the heart of civilization, so it’s the best of both worlds — enjoying the outdoors but easy access to modern life,” said Jody Marshall, general manager of The Broken Banjo.

Breathe in the fresh air, filled with the scent of pines and wildflowers, as

you wind through the thoughtfully landscaped grounds. The sun shines bright, filtering through the leaves of towering trees and casting shadows on the paved pathways.

You make your way around the park, where the joyful sounds of laughter resound from the playground. Children shriek with delight as they scale the brightly colored climbing structures. Parents relax nearby under the shade of a pavilion. Their banter blends with the surrounding trees rustling in the wind.

## **Unwind by the pool or explore the hidden trails.**

The sparkling pool beckons those seeking a refreshing escape. Families splash and play, creating memories that will last a lifetime. Relax on a comfortable chaise lounge and soak in the warm sunshine.

A hidden trail invites exploration beyond the pool. Lace up your hiking boots and embark on a journey along the nature trail.





“

**The park is a peaceful escape into nature that is still in the heart of civilization, so it's the best of both worlds — enjoying the outdoors but easy access to modern life.**

- *Jody Marshall*

“The planning and construction of the nature trail absolutely complements the property’s natural beauty,” said Marshall.

Lush greenery and the gentle sounds of cicadas and crickets surround you. As you walk, keep an eye out for playful squirrels scampering amongst the trees and the flash of colorful birds dashing through the branches.

### **Unleash your inner explorer with unique “glamping options.”**

The Broken Banjo offers an unforgettable glamping experience for the adventurous spirit. Slumber among the leaves in the enchanting treehouse cabin as its nostalgic charm transports you back to your childhood. Or, channel your inner pioneer in the Conestoga wagon. It is complete with a cozy interior and a campfire pit for evening storytelling under the starlit sky. Teepees and a spacious safari tent round out the diverse selection, ensuring an adventure-filled stay that caters to every taste.

### **It's a campground and a community gem.**

The Broken Banjo’s dedicated team actively contributes to the local community and tourism economy. They support local events and are proud Manchester Chamber of Commerce members. They generously donated a two-night stay in a deluxe cabin

to an event for first responders at the fairgrounds. Their community involvement highlights their deep connection to their neighbors.

The dedicated staff takes pride in exceeding guests’ expectations and ensuring they feel right at home.

“While our grounds and accommodations are beautiful, our staff brings The Broken Banjo experience to life. We are committed to exceeding expectations from check-in to departure with our friendliness and cleanliness,” said Marshall.

### **Create memories that last a lifetime.**

The Broken Banjo cherishes the multi-generational traditions guests have built within its grounds. Basking in the nature surrounding the park and indulging in the activities within it allows friends, families, and individuals to create memories and try new things.

“We had a guest last summer who has been coming to the campground since childhood. She learned to swim in our pool and now brings her family here. We are excited for new guests to start making their memories with The Broken Banjo,” Marshall shared.

The Broken Banjo welcomes guests from all walks of life. Families create lasting traditions, and solo travelers come seeking a peaceful escape. Strangers become friends around crackling campfires in the campground and exchange stories under the night sky.





### **Join The Broken Banjo family.**

The Broken Banjo awaits experienced campers and curious newcomers alike with open arms. With its abundant amenities, captivating glamping options, and unwavering commitment to the community, The Broken Banjo offers the perfect escape for your next vacation.

“Several weekends during the summer months have special activities, including kids craft activities, night train rides around the nature trail, and bonfires. We look forward to adding more activities to the summer schedule.” GN

*Call (931) 728-9777 or visit [www.roadville.com/broken-banjo](http://www.roadville.com/broken-banjo) to learn more about The Broken Banjo, including upcoming activities, availability, and special offers — located at 586 Campground Rd. in Manchester.*



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We're looking for story ideas about  
local farmers, agricultural workers, and those who  
support them for a future issue,  
**“Farm to Table.”**

Submit your story on  
[GoodNewsMags.com](http://GoodNewsMags.com)









# What our readers say

Our readers told us why you should advertise in Good News



“I am exposed to more advertisers in Good News than in any other publication that I have seen in this area.”

“Great magazine for shopping and eating LOCAL! Thank you for publishing useful information on our little community.”

“This magazine allows owners to share what is closest to their hearts while showcasing their products. Plus the customer service Good News offers is outstanding. The magazine is very well put together, well polished, neat, and very inviting. I look forward to each one!”

“The content of the magazine is wholesome and seems to support a good cause. It is much preferable to other advertising sources because it seems to build up the community, rather than solely profit from it.”

“Good News is a great magazine, and it is delivered to many people, probably more than the local newspaper. I look all the way through and read most of it. It is the best place to advertise.”





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



# GOOD NEWS

▲ Daniel and Christie Brown  
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

Submit a positive story on our website:  
[goodnewsmags.com](http://goodnewsmags.com)



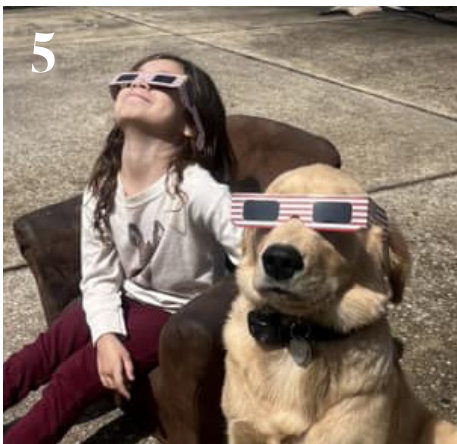


# Solar Eclipse - April 8



Photos submitted by folks in our community

Friends from Manchester and surrounding areas gathered to witness the solar eclipse, a once in a lifetime event. The eclipse happened on April 8 as darkness came over the area in the middle of the day.



1. Liam, Isla, and Ruby Conner 2. Keenan and Meila Hyzer 3. David and Rowena Shipley with grandchildren 4. Violet Young and Marlie Hester  
5. Caroline and Lucy Christian 6. Ashley Woods, Brook Umbarger, and Brooklynn Hale



# Boots -N- Bling - April 24



Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

On April 25, Coffee County Children’s Advocacy Center and the Coffee County community partied for a purpose on their Boots -N- Bling night at The Atlantic in Tullahoma. The evening consisted of dinner, silent and live auctions, and a performance from Dolly Parton (Natasha Neely).



1. Ashley Abraham, Natasha Neely, and Ashley Franklin 2. Heather and Rhonda Myers  
 3. Ashley Smithson and Mia Thomas 4. Scarlett Carpenter, Natasha Neely, Misty Weaver, and Ivy Petty



# INSPIRE MORE GOOD

Donate or volunteer at your local charities and nonprofits.

Good News Magazine's mission is to build stronger communities through positive stories. We encourage you to donate and volunteer at local nonprofits to spread more good in your community.

## **Coffee County Children's Advocacy Center**

Providing support and resources for children who have experienced abuse or trauma, working closely with law enforcement and other agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of children.

(931) 723-8888  
[www.coffeecountycac.org](http://www.coffeecountycac.org)

## **Coffee County Historical Society**

Seeking to preserve and record the history of the county and its people.

(931) 728-0145  
[www.cctnhs.org](http://www.cctnhs.org)

## **Duck River Watershed Society Inc.**

Focusing on increasing the watershed's overall health and sustainability for the betterment of all who rely on it.

(205) 382-3955  
[www.duckriverwatershedsociety.com](http://www.duckriverwatershedsociety.com)

## **Family Counseling Center of Middle Tennessee**

Counseling center that provides faith-based professional counseling services for both individuals and families. Also sanctions the Access Hope Hotline, which has certified facilitators available 24/7 to answer calls from adults and teens.

Office: (931) 723-0380  
Hotline: (844) 269-4673  
[www.victory4families.org](http://www.victory4families.org)

## **Life Choices Pregnancy Support Center**

Offering free pregnancy tests, family planning education, and confidential support for those with an unexpected pregnancy.

(931) 954-5381  
[www.lifechoicestn.org](http://www.lifechoicestn.org)

## **Moms Loving Moms**

Providing postpartum recovery kits that provide tools and resources to help new mothers in Coffee, Cannon, DeKalb, Rutherford, Davidson, Bedford, Marshall, Williamson, and Wilson Counties.

[info@momslovingmoms.com](mailto:info@momslovingmoms.com)  
[www.momslovingmoms.com](http://www.momslovingmoms.com)

## **Good Samaritan of Manchester Tennessee Inc.**

Focusing on food assistance and operates as a food bank.

(931) 728-5122  
Facebook: Good Samaritan





# This Space Is Reserved For You!

Show Your Support For Local Nonprofit Organizations By Sponsoring This Page!



**Amanda Cox**  
Publishing Partner

Join inspiring local charities and become a part of a movement that embodies the true essence of compassion. Not only will you have the opportunity to connect with readers on a deep and meaningful level, but you will also have the chance to uplift your brand in an impactful way.

Contact me today!  
(931) 408-0714  
Amanda@GoodNewsMags.com

**Good News**  
exchange

## Coffee County Senior Citizens - Manchester

Supporting senior citizens by offering social activities, meals, and transportation services to enhance the quality of life for seniors.

(931) 723-8288

## Park Partners

Assisting in the planning and funding of improvements to the Manchester Parks and Recreation Department.

[www.cityofmanchestertn.com/254/Park-Partners](http://www.cityofmanchestertn.com/254/Park-Partners)  
(931) 728-0273

## Coffee County Rescue Squad

Providing essential rescue services in Coffee County.

(931) 728-1785  
[www.coffeecountyrescuesquad.org](http://www.coffeecountyrescuesquad.org)

See more options or add your organization to the listing:

Scan the QR code





# GOOD NEWS SUPPORTERS

We can spread Good News because of our generous advertisers. They help make our world a little brighter. We encourage you to do business with them.

All Creatures Veterinary Clinic - Manchester .....	12	MDS Foods.....	25
Amani Women's Health Center .....	5	Metro Industrial Manchester .....	19
Animal Health Clinic .....	18	Old Stone Fort Golf Course.....	4
Autumn Oaks .....	19	Owen's Provisions & Apparel.....	12
Beans Creek Winery .....	4	Peoples Bank Manchester.....	24
Bertzett Excavating.....	5	Ravago Manufacturing Americas.....	25
Chasin' Trends Clothing Co.....	9	Reese's Genes Boutique .....	4
Comfort Suites.....	34	Richardson Waste Removal & Richardson Waste Solution.....	18
Dotson's Country Market.....	8	St. Andrew's Sewanee.....	18
Elk River Public Utility District.....	9	Stan McNabb Chevrolet Buick GMC.....	3
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First Vision Bank - Tullahoma .....	5	The Mercantile Cafe.....	60
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Keith's Tank Service.....	8	Ultimate Health Chiropractic Wellness & Holistic Healthcare.....	24
Life Care Center of Tullahoma .....	8	Unity Medical Center .....	9
Manchester Coffee County Conference Center .....	25	Watson Metals LLC .....	12
Manchester Tire & Brake.....	8	Watson's Equipment Rental.....	24



SUBMIT A STORY



education that comes  
celebrating Dairy  
his father Steve, his  
and his wife Kara  
family started dairy  
been in Tennessee  
month is a way to ob-  
behind the scenes,  
agriculture.  
light on many people  
energy, high-pro-  
farmers do a lot of  
in terms of raising  
care of cattle, being  
problems, and wear-  
work goes into dairy  
a. The Nash family  
of 2020. "We'd al-

Tell us  
something  
good 



We want to build stronger communities through positive, local stories. We can't do that without your submissions. Submit a story idea, and it could be featured in the magazine.

[goodnewsmags.com/stories](https://goodnewsmags.com/stories)



# Enjoy Our Spring Treats



## Blue Bunny Hand Dipped Ice Cream

8 Flavors changing weekly.

### SPECIALTY ITEMS

Ice Cream Float  
Banana Split  
Hot Fudge Cake  
Sorbet

Coffee Shop & Ice Cream Open @ 7:00 am Wed. -Fri.

## POPCORN

Bag  
Box

## TOPPINGS

## NOVELTIES

Big Bopper  
Ice Cream Sandwich  
Big Alaska  
Bomb Pop  
Chocolate/Vanilla  
Twist Cone  
Fudge Brownie Bar  
Nerd Bomb Pops

## NOVELTY & NOSTALGIC CANDIES

## BAKERY

Oatmeal Cream Pie  
Macarons  
No Bake Cookies  
Jumbo Peanut Butter Cups  
Brownies  
Chess Squares  
Mudslides  
More



## BREAKFAST

Serving Light Breakfast Items

## SPECIALTY DRINKS

- Pumpkin Spice Latte
- Toasted Marshmallow Mocha
- Cinnamon Churro
- Espresso
- Cappuccino
- Latte
- Hot chocolate
- Hot tea



*Menu is subject to change.*

# the Mercantile Café

## Café, Bakery & Gift Shop

Wed. & Thurs.: 11:00 am - 8:00 pm  
Fri.: 11:00 am - 8:30 pm  
Sat.: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Sunday: 11:00 AM - 2:00 pm

Lunch 11:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Dinner 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Cafe located at: 210 N. Irwin St., Manchester, TN - (931) 723-2491

Our Coffee/Ice Cream Shop is located at: 109 W High St., Manchester, TN (Right around the corner from the Cafe)