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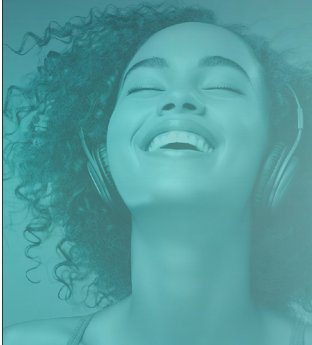
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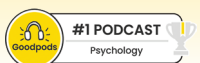


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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Go on vacation here in Lebanon

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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PUBLISHING PARTNERS Cindy Baldhoff, Kevin Hines

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Wesley Bryant

VP OF SALES Ken Holtzinger

REGIONAL PUBLISHER Jack Owens

LEAD LAYOUT ARTIST Brianna Brubaker

SENIOR LAYOUT ARTIST Melissa Davis

LAYOUT ARTIST Ben Adams

LEAD PRINT AD DESIGNER Todd Pitts

JR. PRINT AD DESIGNER Jane Morrell

LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER Ashleigh Newnes

PHOTOGRAPHER Brooke Snyder

FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHERS Amanda Guy, Adin Parks,
Sarah Bussard, Chad Barrett, Robin Fast, Gretchen Clark

LEAD WRITER Tina Neeley

STORY WRITER Jeriah Brumfield

FREELANCE WRITERS Amanda West, Sara Hook, Paige Cushman,
Kali Bradford, Gabriel Huff, Dave Lenehan, Richard Klin

STORY COORDINATOR Haley Potter

PROOFREADER Michelle Harwell

JR. PROOFREADER Kaitlin Rettig

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Faith Cashion,
Amanda Cox, Mark Mahagan, Kevin Maples,
Janet Mullins, Gina Rose, Sissy Smith, Sandra Thomas

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FOUNDER Bill Thomas (1940-2010)

PRESIDENT / CEO Will Thomas

DIRECTOR OF MAGAZINES Katie McNabb

VP OF TALENT Chase Perryman

VP OF MARKETING Gabby Denny

HUMAN RESOURCES AND FINANCE Tracey Pollock

CUSTOMER SERVICE Shelli Fuller, Barb Hargrove

DIGITAL DESIGN DIRECTOR Clinton George

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BACK ON TRACK

*Emerging from a decade of silence
to victory laps*

*By Amanda E. West
Photography by Robin Holcomb*



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Don Huebner



“

I hope to leave behind a legacy of work ethic, of sticking it out. Don't just give up. Fight for what you believe in — for what you want.

-Don Huebner



FROM 2011 to 2021, the Nashville Superspeedway stood silent but not forgotten. For a solid decade, the gates remained locked, its track untouched by the thrill of race day, and the roar of cheering fans was a distant memory. Yet, through the stillness, Don Huebner kept the spirit of the speedway smoldering in his heart. Day after day, year after year, this unsung hero faithfully tended to the asphalt giant, preserving a temple of speed against the relentless march of time. He dreamed that scores of people would return to the hallowed grounds of Nashville Superspeedway one day. And so they have.

Huebner explained, “During that time, I kept busy maintaining the entire facility. I didn’t want it to fall into disrepair. I pressure-washed everything and kept the grass mowed. We were kept busy with NASCAR testing. Some days, we’d have three or four teams in a single week. Several music videos and television commercials were filmed there. The Wilson County Sheriff’s Department and the Tennessee Highway Patrol also used the facility for training, and we held minor events.

“That was pretty much it. We were just trying to keep the doors open — to keep everything usable. Nobody ever thought we’d reopen. We were just going to be bulldozed. I kept fighting for it, saying, ‘This track has too much potential. Something is bound to happen.’ At what seemed like the last moment, it did.”

With over 1,000 acres and a seating capacity for 25,000 fans with potential for greater expansion, the Nashville Superspeedway officially opened in 2001, debuting as a staple in the NASCAR Busch Series and IndyCar Series following a marked rise in popularity of stock car racing in the 1990s. As the largest concrete-only track in NASCAR, the 1.33-mile D-shaped track hosted three NASCAR Cup Series races, 24 NASCAR Xfinity Series races, 16 NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series events, and eight Indy Racing League contests.

The mighty roar of race engines ended abruptly in August 2011 when Dover Motorsports announced the track would close for the 2012 season. Other than the security guards, on most days after this announcement, Huebner was the only person working at the facility. As the grounds changed ownership and the prospects of reopening grew bleaker, Huebner never let the rumors deter him from performing the daily maintenance.

“I’ve always taken my job seriously,” expressed Huebner. “This place is close to my heart. I care for it as if it were my very own business. One time, someone with Dover Motorsports asked me why I was still here working at an event. My answer was, ‘You may own this track, but you’re at my facility,’ and that’s just how I look

at it. Most of the time, I never even talked to anybody. The owners knew that if there was something wrong, I’d call them. If they didn’t hear from me, they knew this place was in good hands.”

In June 2020, amid a spreading pandemic and worldwide uncertainty, with the unwavering faith displayed by Don Huebner, Dover Motorsports made plans to reopen the Nashville Superspeedway. After being closed for a decade, estimates rolled in, with renovation costs ranging upwards of \$8-10 million. However, after a detailed inspection by structural engineers, CEO Mike Tatoian announced there were no major repairs needed. In fact, the facility was in “phenomenal shape.”

Huebner credits his strong work ethic to his father, Charlie, who struggled to make a living on their small dairy farm in Verona, Wisconsin, while his mother lived daily with Multiple Sclerosis. Huebner has always enjoyed tinkering with tractors and restoring vehicles and thought he’d become a mechanic. After his parents died, the lure of Middle Tennessee beckoned him to come for a visit and stay indefinitely.

Recently, the Nashville Superspeedway awarded Huebner a Gibson guitar, recognized his 23 years of dedicated service, and awarded him the Employee of the Year title.

“I hope to leave behind a legacy of work ethic, of sticking it out. Don’t just give up. Fight for what you believe in — for what you want.”

When it comes to racing, Huebner said, “It’s really not about competition to me. It’s just the feel of it and the smell of it. There’s nothing else like it. Stock car racing, tractor pulls... it doesn’t matter. I love the adrenaline that goes through my body — to know something has that much horsepower. Can anything else be more fun?” **GN**

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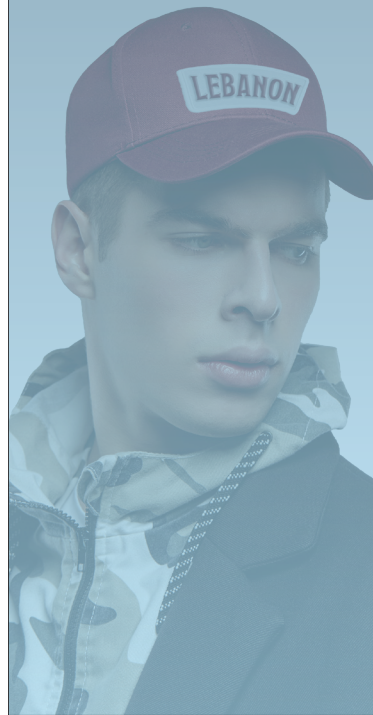
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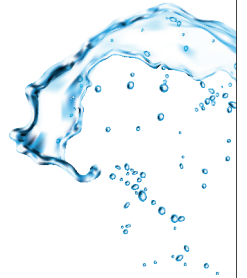
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PREACHER PRODUCER PODCAST HOST

The multi-faceted life of Ben Graham

By Amanda E. West // Photography by Robin Holcomb





BEN GRAHAM is a man who wears many hats. He's a husband, father of four, grandfather, actor, film producer, podcast creator, speaker, radio program host — the list goes on. As a fifth-generation preacher who felt called to preach the gospel at age 14, Graham has since preached in all 50 states and over 40 foreign countries. He holds doctorate degrees in theology and temperament counseling and is a certified counselor. His friend, Derrek Fisher, who played for the Los Angeles Lakers, once invited him to warm up with Shaq and Kobe Bryant.

As a radio host with his own radio program called "Real Talk with Pastor Ben," his station airs across the United States and online around the world. Guests have included former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and producer and actor Kevin Sorbo, who played the leading role of Hercules, as well as many others. Graham recently sat down for an interview with Dr. Ben Carson and was a featured guest on the "Las Vegas United" TV show.

Graham played lead acting roles in the movies "Fearless Faith" and "Pardon by Grace," and has produced several films under his brand Graham Family Films. These include "Remember the Goal," featuring Allee Sutton Hethcoat, "I'm Not Ashamed," the inspirational true story of Rachel Joy Scott, who was the first fatality of the Columbine High School shooting, "A Place in the Heart," "Beautifully Broken," along with his most successful release, "Christmas at Keestone."

"I had done a little filming and theatrical work when I was younger but really got interested in acting and filmmaking after moving to Tennessee in 2012. It started with being an extra in a movie. Then, my family was cast to be the leads in a commercial. It continued from there. I have acted in or produced 15 movies and multiple commercials, including our latest film that Candice, and I had lead roles in called 'Christmas at Keestone,' which came out this past

December. We also have several movies set to release this year that I acted in and several other movies in production where I am one of the lead actors."

Growing up in a musical family, Graham toured and performed from the time he was 13 until about the age of 19 when the door opened for him to be a full-time pastor. Graham has also authored three books, including "Bring Back the Glory" and "1948: Countdown to the Day of Reckoning." His newest book, "Ignorance & Apathy: Two of America's Deadliest Sins," became available in March. As a writer knowledgeable on a wide variety of topics, he's contributed to countless articles, blog posts, and newsletters. His work is widely available online.

Never one to shy away from politics, Graham remains involved at the state and local levels. He also served as chaplain with the Tennessee State Guard, the Roane County Sheriff's Department, and the York City Police Department. National



"I had done a little filming and theatrical work when I was younger but really got interested in acting and filmmaking after moving to Tennessee in 2012. It started with being an extra in a movie."

-Ben Graham



and worldwide topics are also near to his heart, so he's served on over 50 boards, including S.W.A.T League (Sports World Against Trafficking), Let's Talk Interactive, as well as various organizations that strive to combat the opioid and addiction crisis. Recently, he also co-founded the Faith-Based Initiative App.

In 2013, Pastor Graham, his wife, Candice, and their four sons, Jordan, Zach, Carson, and Cooper, moved to Nashville to plant Music City Church. Here, he served as lead pastor until October 2023, when he handed the

torch to a faithful friend he'd ordained 16 years prior. Graham is now traveling from coast to coast, working toward his goal to film and speak in every state for his "By the Word" tour.

What's even more amazing is that before all of this, Graham's health took a sharp turn, yet he let none of the events that would soon take place define or derail his calling.

"My health battle began in 2012 when I found out I was diabetic," said Graham. "I started working to get very healthy. After getting off of all of my medications,

I was doing really well until I had a heart attack in 2019. Then, six months later, they found a mass in and around my right kidney. The cancer returned the next year in one of my lungs. A few months ago, doctors found cancer in my left kidney, so I am currently going through treatments."

Graham said he plans to continue to speak, act, and host his podcast in the days ahead, along with expanding his company, Graham Family Films. **GN**

For more information, visit www.pastorbengraham.com.



RECLAIMED RELIQS

Digging up
the past

By Amanda E. West // Photography by Robin Holcomb



EXCEPT FOR four years spent at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UT-K) and two and a half years living in Murfreesboro, veteran relic hunter Quindy Robertson has always lived in Trousdale County. Since Tennessee ranks second in the number of Civil War battles during the War Between the States, relics from this era are his favorite to recover. He also enjoys hunting for Native American artifacts, old home artifacts, old coins, and fossils.

He met his wife, Kathy Parker, from Cannon County, at UT-K. She is also a Civil War buff with extensive knowledge of the subject. They were married in 1973, and in subsequent years, they visited many Civil War battle sites in Tennessee and across the Eastern

United States. In 1976, they built a home on one of their family farms near Hartsville, and that's when Quindy became interested in metal detecting.

In August 1995, he borrowed a metal detector from a friend and tried his luck on the privately owned Hartsville battlefield/Union camp with his son, Jared. Their first hunt only produced a few iron agricultural parts, but Quindy returned the next day and dug two Civil War period lead bullets. After that, he was hooked.

The property owner told Quindy that the field where the Union camp was located was the site attacked by Col. John Hunt Morgan, and it had been searched for nearly 30 years. He told Quindy that one of his classmates, Jerry Watson, from the Trousdale County class of 1967, also hunted there. Quindy bought a detector,

and Jerry showed him a lot about how to use the machine effectively. The two still hunt together today.

In the late 1960s, metal detectors were like minesweepers from World War II (WWII) and very heavy, but detectors today are lightweight and relatively affordable at a cost of less than \$500.

"My machine weighs just over 3 pounds," said Quindy. "Also, the electronic machines of today have digital displays that can discriminate better between good signals and trash targets like fence wire, nails, and aluminum."

Relic dealers and other veteran hunters told Quindy that he had waited 20 years too late to start detecting since the battle areas are now protected by law and any large camps on private land have been hunted extensively. But he has been fortunate to find five Civil War sites that were not previously hunted.

"Civil War, WWII maneuvers, soldier, and Native American camps will have two things in common. They will be on a high, well-drained site with a good source of fresh water."

Veteran hunter Donnie Vaughn, also from Tennessee, has over 40 years of hunting experience and hunts alongside Jerry and Quindy. Donnie says that family cemeteries will often be near an old Colonial homesite — he's proven this theory hundreds of times.

When asked what he was most likely to dig up in Civil War camps, Quindy said, "Lead bullets and lead balls. I might also find a few brass buttons. U.S. buttons will have an eagle on the front. An enlisted soldier's button will have a shield on the eagle's breast. An eagle button with an A, I,



D, C, or R would have been worn by an officer with a rank of second lieutenant or higher. The letters denote artillery, infantry, dragoon [prewar], cavalry, or rifleman. Eagle button sizes may be cuff, vest, or coat size. I was excited to dig my first eagle button. It had a sun above the eagle's head. Unfortunately, it was a great seal button from WWII Army maneuvers and not Civil War period."

According to Quindy, personal items such as rings or identification tags are always significant finds. He said he's found most of his reclaimed relics a mere 3-10 inches below the surface unless the soil has been disturbed previously.

"However, about three or four out of 100 bullets dug up will have been finely carved examples of soldiers' art versus just whittled-on bullets. Chess pieces, some animal images, fishing sinkers, etc., will occasionally show up. Iron objects like eating utensils, broken knives, gun tools, etc., are more common finds."

One last piece of advice that Quindy maintains is essential for newbies: "Go with people who can be trusted. There's a lot of competition for sites out there. Make sure everybody in your hunt group knows not to divulge the location. Remember, it's not just what you find but the fun and fellowship you enjoy while hunting for the relics. We should take every opportunity to educate our children and grandchildren about our American history." GN

For more information, check out his YouTube channel: Quindy Robertson.

“

Remember, it's not just what you find but the fun and fellowship you enjoy while hunting for the relics. We should take every opportunity to educate our children and grandchildren about our American history.

-Quindy Robertson





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FRESH BREW -AND- TAILORED BITES

Savor sensational sandwiches and specialty brews at Vanilla Moose Coffee.

VANILLA MOOSE Coffee is a brand-new coffee cafe in Lebanon. It began as a coffee truck and added a physical location in the Hamilton Station area. I had the pleasure of eating lunch. The shop serves and sells special roast coffee in whole beans or grinds it for you.

I ordered the mocha because that is my go-to drink. It tasted great and was hot. The margharita panini looked like a great dish — it includes baby crushed tomatoes, but I can't have tomato seeds. Josh, the owner, said that he would deseed the tomatoes. I was very impressed with his willingness to accommodate dietary issues. The panini did not disappoint. I'm craving it as I type this review. It had the perfect combination of flavors.

My friend had the classic turkey panini and a black coffee. He said that it was delicious. I am not usually a fan of black coffee. I typically prefer a little coffee with my creamer. At the urging of my friend, I decided to taste the black coffee. It was so good that I bought a couple of packages of the grounds to brew at home. The aroma and flavor were not your typical black coffee. More information about the roaster is on the cafe's website.





The restaurant was well-decorated, with books and magazines for customers to peruse. The furniture was nice, with plenty of seating. I recommend Vanilla Moose Coffee to anyone looking for a flavorful cup of coffee and a good sandwich. I plan to return and try a few more items off the menu, and my family requests I buy more grounds to brew at home. I give them five stars. GN

GOOD NEWS IS COMING TO DINNER!

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as they dine in Lebanon. This month Krys Midgett visited Vanilla Moose Coffee.

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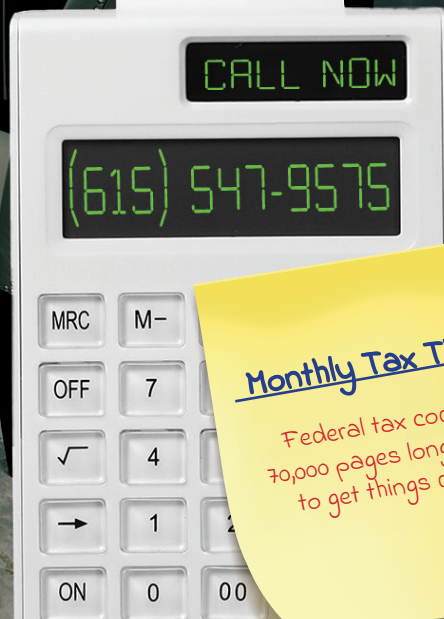
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Children Learning Center

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



▲ Brandon Mathis and Wade Ricketts
Photography by Robin Holcomb

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STEP BACK IN TIME TODAY AT FIDDLERS GROVE

Where
you'll curate
unforgettable
memories

By Amanda E. West

*Photography by
Robin Holcomb*

PRESS THE pause button this summer and spend the day rambling through the historic buildings at Fiddlers Grove Historic Village, nestled in the heart of the Wilson County Fair Grounds. Explore a genuine doctor's office, complete with medical journals, equipment, and bottles of quirky medicine. Learn about the gristmill's importance to the community's survival, tour the once bustling general store, the home of the telephone operator, the cobbler shop, and log cabins that date back to 1798. Snap selfies in front of "Baxter," the caboose, and enjoy a cool breeze while you sit a spell on the porch of the dogtrot, identical to the ones that sheltered many pioneers across the South. Pack a picnic and soak in the serenity of Fiddlers Grove while enjoying lunch beneath the covered pavilion.

Last year, visitors from 33 states and nine countries stopped in from April through October. As a staple for schoolchildren in Lebanon since 1991, Fiddlers Grove also hosted over 1,000 students during its Pioneer Days last spring and fall. Now that its Pioneer Day program will coincide with Wilson County Farm Days, over 2,000 second graders are expected to make their pilgrimage to the grounds this year.



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The only way future generations will understand and appreciate everything they have is to take a look back at where they came from.

- Rhonda Birdwell

Rhonda Birdwell, Fiddlers Grove coordinator, took the Pioneer Tour in 2018, fell in love with the village, and began work the next day.

“Fiddlers Grove is a step back in time,” said Birdwell. “It’s a place to preserve the history of the citizens of Wilson County by collecting buildings and artifacts that we then present to people and families to remind them of the pioneer times and local history. On our scheduled Pioneer Day tours, we have a broom artisan that handmakes brooms here in the Grove. Our ‘schoolteacher,’ Ms. Grace, shows children a glimpse of what school was like years ago. Multiple blacksmiths teach kids what it was like to bend metal with fire, and many other stops give our visitors a look into pioneer life.”

With the season starting in April and ending in October, Fiddlers Grove also

hosts a wide variety of family-friendly and affordable activities. Surrounding Fiddlers Grove, the Wilson County Fair Grounds host the largest county fair in our entire state: the Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair, which runs Aug. 15-24.

“The Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair brings so many people. We hear people walking around the Grove during the fair, talking about how they never knew Fiddlers Grove was even on the grounds of the AG Center. I think Fiddlers Grove is truly a hidden gem. Besides our Pioneer Tours, we have so many events that rotate through the grounds. For example, SpringFest [and] the Slammedenuff Car Show. In October, we have the Ghosts in the Grove, and Redneck Rumble comes twice a year. We also welcome the Music City Mopar Car Show, Smoke on the

Shores BBQ Championship, Bark in the Park, Southeastern Truck Nationals, and so many other events!”

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Fiddlers Grove was recently the proud recipient of a grant awarded by the Kubota Corporation and will host the BeHealthy KIDS Summer Gardening Camp for the first time in June and July.

“We are really excited to partner with Vine Branch Fellowship to host the BeHealthy KIDS Summer Camp. It will be the first time we have done this, and we are really looking forward to it. This year, we have added a new greenhouse on the grounds thanks to a grant we received from Kubota and can’t wait to get our hands in the dirt.”

During the early days when Fiddlers Grove was a dream, Carlton and Geneva Thomas combed every back road in Wilson County, searching for abandoned buildings with historical significance to add to the village. Their efforts, combined with countless others, have provided a place to escape the stress of day-to-day life while keeping history alive.

“The only way future generations will understand and appreciate everything they have is to take a look back at where they came from. Just being able to walk through Fiddlers Grove and see a day in the life of a pioneer and the challenges they faced, and how smart they were, and how they overcame obstacles is so amazing to see. They accomplished everything they needed without any of the technology that we rely on today. Technology has evolved so much that you see the amazement on a group of kids’ faces just by walking in the telephone museum.” GN

For a list of activities, visit www.fiddlersgrovetn.com.



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**BRANDON
MATHIS**

THE COLLECTORS

Lebanon's only pop culture store brings fun and inspiration to everyone.

By Sara Hook

Photography by Robin Holcomb

WHILE THE superheroes of our childhood may not be real, their effect cannot be denied. Whether you love them for the lessons they taught, the stories they told, or simply the memories you made, you can explore that childhood nostalgia at Lebanon's newest and only pop culture store, The Collectors. There, comic books, action figures, decor, and more await a loving home, watched over by co-owners Brandon Mathis and Wade Ricketts.

The Collectors may have opened in November 2022, but it really began years earlier when a young Mathis first began to love comics. As a child with separated parents, Mathis said he found both lessons and inspiration in the superheroes portrayed.

"Batman says, 'Always be prepared.' So, guess what? Now I'm always prepared," Mathis said. "I've got a plan A, plan B, [and] plan C — and then Superman says, 'And never give up.' So, I'll never give up. I'm going to keep on trying, keep on doing better."

As he got older, Mathis' love of superheroes led him to cosplay and attend birthday parties dressed as

"Spiderman." He was one of the few characters in the area who would talk and used the opportunity to share those inspirational messages with the children he met. Then, he got a new opportunity — the chance to hang out with a distressed child after his father had kidnapped him. They played together, with "Spiderman" doing his best to take the child's mind off of the things happening in his life.

"We jumped on the trampoline, and we played with his toys in his room," Mathis said. "It was an awesome little thing."

After that, Mathis said he started advertising for worried parents to "just give Spiderman a call."

"I got to the point where I was getting to just walk around stores with kids and just go on about their daily stuff," Mathis said. "That was like a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

The hope was that the kids he interacted with would be influenced for the better or, at the very least, distracted from the negative things in their lives. The Collectors could have a similar influence, introducing people to those positive messages and role models. Mathis was preparing for that opportunity, even if he didn't



BRANDON MATHIS
AND WADE RICKETTS



“

I got to the point where I was getting to just walk around stores with kids and just go on about their daily stuff. That was like a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

- *Brandon Mathis*

know it, as he and his future co-owner were building their own collection of comic books, figures, and other collectibles. In fact, much of The Collectors’ original stock was from Mathis’ and Ricketts’ personal supply, which they gathered over many years as they worked at Nissan together.

“I made a lot of money, so I had plenty of money to spend,” Mathis said. “I amassed a huge inventory of stuff, and with no intention to sell.”

It was a change of houses that made him realize just how many collectibles he had, and he brought up the idea of starting a pop culture store to Ricketts. It took several years, but when the time was right, Mathis began researching how to open a business. His research led him to Lebanon, a town that had no other pop culture or collectible stores, so The Collectors joined the Wilson County community.

“The ball just kept rolling, and the information kept coming in,” Mathis said. “I got help from other store owners — other business owners — and [it’s] been going great ever since.”

Mathis said his wife, Samantha, has also been a great help, as she is the reason he is able to run The Collectors at all. As a new business, The Collectors is only paying its own bills, so her work supports the family. That won’t be true for much longer, as the store is still growing. Mathis said they are hoping to add a wider variety of comic book publishers, more valuable collectibles, and maybe even a tabletop card game area for the community. In the meantime, The Collectors still has something for everyone, whether they are fans of pop culture or have never gotten involved in the genre.

“What reminds you of something that [you] did when you were a kid? What did you play with? What did you watch?” Mathis asked. “I guarantee you, there’s some kind of superhero or cartoon or anime for whatever you do.” GN

For more information about The Collectors, visit them on Facebook or call (615) 965-2063.



JAY
WILFONG



STARSTRUCK FARM:

Jay Wilfong's
journey of passion
and purpose

By Haley Potter

*Photography by
Robin Holcomb*

IN THE rolling hills of Lebanon, right off state Route 109 amidst the serenity of the countryside, lies a hidden gem: Starstruck Farm. Owned and nurtured by the visionary Jay Wilfong, this enchanting haven is not just a music and hospitality venue — it's a testament to dreams realized, memories created, and hearts touched.

As Jay recounts the genesis of Starstruck Farm, his voice brims with emotion.

"It all started in 2019," he shared, his words carrying the weight of years of anticipation. "I had driven by it for years, and one day, I thought, 'I gotta buy that place.' And so, I did."

But the journey was more than a mere acquisition. It was a leap of faith, proving Jay's unwavering determination.

"After closing, I sat here wondering what to do," he recalled, reminiscing about the transformed

landscape. "And that's when it all started — drawing pictures, making notes."

The farm was originally founded by renowned country music artist Reba McEntire as a personal haven for her beloved horses. The beautiful space became a well-known and appreciated landmark in the area, sitting dormant for several years until Jay acquired the farm.

What emerged from those humble beginnings was nothing short of extraordinary. From the rustic charm of the grand old barn to the cozy embrace of the A-frame glampers, each corner of Starstruck Farm tells a story of reinvention, resilience, and reverence for the past.

"We try to maintain the integrity of the original architecture. This room where we are sitting right now, we call it the 'grand old barn,'" Jay gestured, a fondness creeping into his voice. "It used to be a horse riding



“

People from all over the world have been here. Over 30,000 visitors and counting. It’s amazing to see how this place brings people together.

- Jay Wilfong

arena with nothing but a gravel floor. And now, it’s alive with music, laughter, and love.”

Guests from near and far make their way to Starstruck Farm for lodging, events, music, and a mouth-watering, heartfelt homestyle meal from Jay Bob’s Country Kitchen. But the true heart of Starstruck Farm lies in its personalized touches, each one a testament to Jay’s deeply rooted connection to the land.

“The rooms used to be horse stalls and are named after things from my past,” he shared, his eyes sparkling with nostalgia. “Da Vinci, Sunny Honey, Uncle Eldred, Aunt Lucille — each name carries a story, a memory, a piece of my heart.”

As visitors from all walks of life arrive at Starstruck Farm, Jay’s vision of a welcoming, inclusive community comes to fruition.

“People from all over the world have been here,” he said, a sense of pride coloring his words. “Over 30,000 visitors and counting. It’s amazing to see how this place brings people together.”

Beyond the numbers lies something far more profound: a sense of belonging, kinship, and home.

“We want people to feel at home,” Jay emphasized, his voice tinged with sincerity. “To feel like they’re part of our family, part of something special.”

For Jay Wilfong, Starstruck Farm is more than just a business — it’s a labor of love, a sanctuary of soul, a legacy in the making.

“It’s not just about success,” he reflected. “It’s about the people who love this place, who feel like family.”

As the seasons change and the farm continues to evolve, Jay remains committed to preserving its essence.



▲ Heather Ahmann



“We’re always looking for ways to grow, to improve, [and] to innovate,” he shared, his eyes glowing with passion. “But no matter how much we change, one thing will always remain the same — the heart and soul of Starstruck Farms.”

Jay extended a heartfelt invitation to his community and beyond: “Stop by anytime,” he said with a smile. “We’ll make sure you feel right at home.”

And with that, the story of Starstruck Farm — a story of hope, hospitality, and heartfelt dreams — continues to unfold, one visitor, one memory, and one heartbeat at a time. **GN**



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



Good Times

Photography by Sara Perry

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Zion Logue - April 27



Photography by Robin Holcomb

Zion Logue, a local football star from Lebanon and a former Georgia player, has made it to the big leagues by getting drafted by the Atlanta Falcons during draft weekend in April. His journey to the NFL was celebrated with a lively draft watch party at his house. Aside from his impressive plays on the field, Logue is known around town for his big heart. Every summer, he heads back to Lebanon to help out young football players, showing them the ropes and giving back to his community. His full story, from local fields to NFL dreams and all he does to give back to Lebanon, will be featured in a later issue of Good News Lebanon.



Speedway on the Square - April 20



Photography by Sara Perry

On April 20, the community gathered for an exhilarating day at Speedway on the Square, presented by Nashville Superspeedway and sponsored by the city of Lebanon, Ally 400, NASCAR, and the Lebanon Wilson County Chamber of Commerce.

The event featured a thrilling performance by the band Sweetn3. Attendees enjoyed live entertainment, giveaways, food trucks, show cars, face painting, and inflatables. The event was a success, thanks to the participation of the community and the efforts of all involved.



Wag it Forward - April 27



Photos submitted by Cindy Baldhoff



Haley Veterinary Practice LLC has felt drawn to do something to help those in our community who need a helping hand.

“We thought about several ways and have had coat drives, food drives, etc., for the humans. However, our passion lies with the animals we serve. So, how better to serve the humans than to help their pets when maybe they cannot.”

That’s why Wag it Forward, a two-hour event to vaccinate the pets of our housing-challenged neighbors, is held.

“We look forward to more events like this and have hopes of diving deeper into this community to provide services for more of these beloved pets,” said Matthew N. Haley, doctor of veterinary medicine.



Ducky Derby - May 4



Photos submitted by Schrader Photography

The Wilson County Help Center held its ninth annual Ducky Derby event on Saturday, May 4. Entertainment was provided by Double Take Band, with catering by Sammy B's, and both silent and live auctions took place. Cash prizes for derby winners totaled \$2,000 for 1st place, \$1,000 for 2nd place, and \$500 for 3rd place. The Help Center offers aid to Wilson County neighbors, providing essential items, home comforts, and nutritional supplements. The center also assists with prescription medication and utility bills. More information is available at wilsoncountyhelpcenter.org.



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www.friendsofcedars.com

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Fiddlers Grove Foundation Inc.

Preserves the history of Wilson County and its heritage, arts, and skills — done by preserving buildings, artifacts, oral and written histories, and engaging the public through exhibitions, education, and hands-on experiences.

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History Associates of Wilson County

Promotes local history and education. Owns and manages the Fite-Fessenden House Museum, complete with period furnishing of the late Victorian period.

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