

# Good News

exchange

## Our HEROES

*Destiny Wilkinson*

### A Daughter's Duty

#### A Lifeline in the Skies

LIFE FORCE Air Medical strives to maintain an active presence in the community.

#### Breaking the Glass Ceiling

Women like Kalyn Lindsey break barriers and set new standards in law enforcement.



# Don't forget to schedule your 3D screening mammogram.



## Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Is it time for you to have a mammogram? For women of average risk, the American College of Radiology\* recommends annual mammograms starting at age 40, with no upper age limit as long as the woman is in good health. A screening mammogram can help detect breast cancer in its earliest and most treatable stages.

Schedule an appointment by calling 931-461-4800.

*(A doctor's order is NOT necessary for a screening mammogram.)*

## Vanderbilt Tullahoma-Harton Hospital

VANDERBILT  HEALTH

[VanderbiltTullahomaHartonHospital.com](http://VanderbiltTullahomaHartonHospital.com)

\*For American College of Radiology recommendations, visit [acr.org](http://acr.org). An order from a physician or qualified healthcare provider is not required, but the patient must provide a physician/provider name when an appointment is made. All mammogram reports will be sent to the physician/provider, and the patient is responsible for follow-up.

1801 N. Jackson St. • Tullahoma, TN 37388 • 931-393-3000

# SAME GREAT STAFF SERVING AT TWO PREMIER LOCATIONS



931-967-2345  
405 Sharp Springs Rd.  
Winchester, TN 37398  
[www.watsonfhtn.com](http://www.watsonfhtn.com)



931-967-2222  
300 First Avenue NW  
Winchester, TN 37398  
[www.moorecortner.com](http://www.moorecortner.com)



931-967-2998  
300 1st Ave NW  
Winchester, TN 37398  
[www.franklinmemorialgardens.com](http://www.franklinmemorialgardens.com)



931-581-4234  
300 1st Ave.  
Winchester, TN 3798  
[www.winchestermunument.com](http://www.winchestermunument.com)

Wherever a beautiful soul has been there is a trail of beautiful memories.



# CITIZENS TRI-COUNTY BANK WISHES TO THANK ALL OF OUR FIRST RESPONDERS!

We are so grateful for all that you do for our community!



**CITIZENS  
TRI-COUNTY  
BANK**

[www.citizenstricounty.com](http://www.citizenstricounty.com)

**COWAN**  
105 South Front St.  
931-967-2900

**TULLAHOMA DOWNTOWN**  
201 North Jackson St  
(931) 455-3488

**DECHERD**  
2030 Decherd Blvd.  
931-968-3282

**GRUNDY STREET**  
200 Grundy Street  
ITM Only Location



EQUAL HOUSING  
LENDER

**Call us Mon-Sat 7-7<sup>CT</sup> • We're Here To Serve You.**

Member FDIC

*The Only Community Bank You'll Ever Need!*



## Implants

**Look, Feel, & Function  
Like Real Teeth!**



Sleep Apnea | Sedation Dentistry | Full Family Dentistry

**Most Insurances Accepted**



**931.967.4143**

1741 Bypass Road  
Winchester, TN

[winchesterfamilydentistrytn.com](http://winchesterfamilydentistrytn.com)

## Foot & Ankle Care

- Diabetic Foot Care
- Sports Injuries
- Heel & Arch Pain
- Ingrown Toenails
- Hammertoes
- Foot & Ankle Care
- Bunions
- Warts

### Winchester Podiatry

Charles D. Ganime, DPM, FACFAS

155 Hospital Rd. Suite 1 • Anderton/Smith  
Building at the hospital in Winchester.

(931) 968-9191 • [www.winchesterpodiatry.com](http://www.winchesterpodiatry.com)



## NOW HIRING

**Full-time for Water  
& Sewer Line  
Maintenance Crew**

Competitive pay & benefits

Apply in person at  
219 2nd Ave NW, Winchester, TN



# Looking For A New Vehicle?



## 200+ USED AUTOS

### NEW Chevys



### NEW Jeeps



### Pre-Owned



**Chevrolet Buick GMC**  
Sales: (931) 455-3451  
Service: (877) 427-5222

**Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram**  
Sales: (931) 408-9662  
Service: (931) 408-9671

**StanMcNabbChevy.com**  
and **StanMcNabbCDJR.com!**



All prices plus tax, title & license includes \$599 doc fee. Prices subject to change & vehicle availability.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ISSUE 10 2024

**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:** 10  
Our Heroes

## *Good Living*

**THE HEART OF A FIREFIGHTER** 12

The sound of the fire alarm is a call to action for firefighter Zachary Langford

**BELVIDERE TRADITIONS CONTINUE** 18

The biannual Belvidere Volunteer Fire Department Fish Fry honors longtime supporters

**TWO GENERATIONS, ONE MISSION** 22

Veronica Leech and her daughter, Lauren Flatt, shape Franklin County's educational future

**WALNUT HILL COFFEE COMPANY** 28

From "the little white truck" to a staple on the square





## Good Stories

- 32 A DAUGHTER'S DUTY**  
How tragedy and a father's influence shaped Deputy Wilkinson's career path
- 36 BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING**  
Women like Kalyn Lindsey break barriers and set new standards in law enforcement
- 40 A LIFELINE IN THE SKIES**  
LIFE FORCE Air Medical strives to maintain an active presence in the community

## Good Times

- 44 COMMUNITY EVENTS**
- 46 ADVERTISER INDEX**

*We thank you  
First Responders for your  
selflessness and commitment  
to serving others.*

*"Everyday Heroes ...  
Ordinary people doing extraordinary things!"*  
*Unknown*

*Experiencing* lives,  
*sharing* stories,  
& *healing* hearts  
**one family at a time.**

RECOGNIZED AND HONORED AS FRANKLIN COUNTY'S FINEST FUNERAL HOME,  
THANK YOU FOR PLACING YOUR TRUST IN US FOR OVER A CENTURY.

*Franklin County's only  
Life Celebration Home*

*A Franklin County Tradition*



**Moore-Cortner  
Funeral Home**

300 First Avenue N.W.  
Winchester, Tennessee 37398  
[www.moorecortner.com](http://www.moorecortner.com) 931-967-2222

# WATSON METALS

We Roll-Form and Manufacture Metal Roofing and Supplies, and we service all of Middle Tennessee and surrounding areas.



## WHAT WE CARRY

- Tuff Rib Panel
- PBR Panel
- Watson Wave Panel
- 5V Panel
- Corrugated Panel
- Standing Seam Panels in 1", 1.5" & 2"
- Mechanical Seam panels
- Board & Patton Panels
- Metal Shingles
- Perforated Panels in 20+ Colors
- Custom Bent Trims
- Roll-Form Standard Trims
- Closures
- Screws For Wood & Metal
- Stock Screws 1" - 3"
- Over Size Screws
- Solar Seal All
- Colors & Clear

Over 20 Years Of Quality Service & Experience  
 Monday thru Friday 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
 238 Interstate Dr., Manchester, TN

**931-728-8185**  
**watsonmetals.com**

## Everything For Your Fall Festival



- Cotton Candy Machines
- SnoCone Machines
- Nacho & Cheese Warmer
- Giant Yard Jenga
- Yard Yahtzee
- Hot Dog & Popcorn Machines
- Bounce Houses
- So Much More!

**R | R**

Reliable Rental of  
 Franklin County, LLC

Inflatables  
 Starting At \$125

Concession  
 Equipment  
 Starting At \$25

Heavy Equipment and Event Rental

**Reserve Today! 931-962-0406**

Pack, Ship, Fax, Scan, Email, Copy, Laminating,  
 Mailbox Suite Rental, Shredding Service

**UPS & FedEx Shipping**

**MR. POSTMAN**  
 Authorized Shipping Center  
 209 S. Jefferson St., Winchester, TN  
**(931) 967-5777 • www.shipwithmrpostman.com**

Experience **Convenient Healthcare!**

- Primary & Urgent Care
- IV Hydration
- Weight Loss Management
- Beauty Enhancement

**LAKE MED**  
 HEALTH & WELLNESS

**Amy Richardson, NP-C**  
**(931) 998-2915**  
 lakemedhealth@gmail.com  
 199 W. Petty Ln., Winchester, TN



*Courage is not the absence of fear.  
It is doing what is right in spite of it.  
- Mark Twain*



**I want to thank our team for their service.**  
*Tim Fuller, Franklin County Sheriff*

**Blessed are the Peacemakers -Matthew 5:9**

**Credibility • Accountability • Responsibility • Reliability**

**Franklin County Sheriff's Department • 494 George Fraley Pkwy., Winchester, TN • 931-962-0123**

**25% Off**

for Veterans, First Responders,  
and Teachers



**Franklin County Paint**

**See us today!** 938 Dinah Shore Blvd. • Winchester, TN 37398

Monday-Friday 7:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.; Saturday 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

**931-962-4300 • franklincountypaint.com**

- Personalized Service
- Guaranteed Color Match

**MANAGER'S  
SPECIAL**



**2024 CHRYSLER  
PACIFICA LIMITED**

Stk #D12654N

MSRP: \$51,120

Russell Barnett Discount: -\$1,224

Dealer Finance Assistance: -\$2,000

Dealer Trade Assistance: -\$2,000

Chrysler Incentives: -\$2,500

**Your Price: \$43,396**

Picture may not depict actual vehicle. See store for details.

**PACIFICA  
SALES EVENT**

**Russell Barnett**  
WINCHESTER



2756 Decherd Blvd., Winchester, TN • 931-691-1712

[www.russellbarnettchryslerdodgejeep.com](http://www.russellbarnettchryslerdodgejeep.com)

\*All rebates applied. All prices plus tax, title & tag. \$698 processing fee included. Due to advertising deadline, all prices and incentives including employee pricing is subject to change by the manufacturer without notice. Customers must finance to obtain all Rebates

**MACHINERY REPAIR  
& CONSIGNMENT SALES**

- Parts
- Service
- Lawn & Garden
- Farm

**SWANN  
EQUIPMENT CO.**



8521 Tullahoma Hwy., Estill Springs, TN

**(931) 962-8897**





LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# Running toward danger

Celebrating our local heroes

SHE FLASHES her lights and pushes the gas pedal a little harder. The walkie-talkie is too quiet, so she spins the dial and makes her bulletproof vest a little more comfortable. She worked hard to wear that badge. She joined the force to give people comfort and safety — a luxury her mother didn't have. A few people may think she joined law enforcement for pride, power, or influence, but the truth is that she just wants to help people.

He puts on a yellow helmet — the real one — not the play one he wore when he was younger. Decades ago, he watched his dad go to work every morning to go save the day. Sure, some of the days were not as exhilarating, like climbing a tree to get a cat home. But other days were scary. He

thought of his dad every time he ran into a burning house.

And she shops at Bath & Body Works for the new deals they're offering. Her favorite lotion scent is "Into The Night." She is sometimes self-conscious about her cracked, itching hands. When she worked long 16-hour days during the COVID-19 pandemic, she had to wash her hands triple what she used to... because she had to save triple the lives she used to. Only a hero like her could help give a family several more years with their loved ones.

Our first responders are heroes. And this issue of Good News shines a light on the life, happiness, and joy they help us keep. When we scream for help, they run toward danger. We thank you, now and forever. **GN**

Wesley Bryant,  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

From our  
publishing  
partner



*"I am so excited to be the publishing partner for Good News Franklin County. It's an absolute joy to be part of this uplifting publication, inspiring readers and helping local businesses thrive. If you would like to become an advertising partner to spread the Good News, please give me a call."*

**Sandra Thomas**

Publishing Partner  
(931) 308-7898  
sandra@goodnewsmags.com

What do you think  
about the magazine?



Scan with your  
smartphone's camera.

Do you enjoy Good News? Let us know what you think! Follow us and leave a review on Facebook. Search Good News Franklin County or send a letter to the editor: [goodnews@goodnewsmags.com](mailto:goodnews@goodnewsmags.com)

# Good News<sup>MAGAZINE</sup>

**PUBLISHING PARTNER** Sandra Thomas

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Wesley Bryant

**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

**FOOD CRITIC** Shannon Beebe

**STORY COORDINATOR** Haley Potter

**PROOFREADER** Michelle Harwell

**JR. PROOFREADER** Kaitlin Rettig

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT** Cindy Baldhoff, Faith Cashion,

Amanda Cox, Tony Glenn, Kevin Hines, Mark Mahagan, Kevin Maples,

Janet Mullins, Sissy Smith

Subscribe to Good News on [www.GoodNewsMags.com](http://www.GoodNewsMags.com)  
or call (800) 247-7318

**GOOD NEWS IS PUBLISHED BY** Exchange Media Group, Inc.

**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

P.O. Box 490, Fayetteville, TN 37334 | (800) 247-7318 | [exchange-inc.com](http://exchange-inc.com)

Art work or other copy submitted for publication is considered to be the property of the advertiser. Advertising is accepted with the understanding that all liability for copyright violation is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Exchange Media Group will make every effort to see that advertising copy is correctly printed, but shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for typographical errors. The advertiser assumes full liability for his/her advertisements and agrees to hold Exchange Media Group unaccountable for the content of all advertisements authorized for publication and any claims that may be made against the Exchange Media Group. Exchange Media Group will gladly reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error occurs, provided a claim is made within three (3) days of the first publication of the ad. Exchange Media Group will not knowingly accept any advertisement that is defamatory, promotes academic dishonesty, violates any federal, state or local laws or encourages discrimination against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, color, creed, religion, national origin or disability. Exchange Media Group reserves the right to reject ads considered distasteful or defamatory. All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. Exchange Media Group will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

© 2024 Exchange Media Group, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



## Your family and friends can be in this magazine.

Get your family and friends in our local, free magazine that covers only positive stories.



**Submit your family and friends online**

[goodnewsmags.com/submit-a-story/](http://goodnewsmags.com/submit-a-story/)

**Good News**  
e\*change

# THE HEART OF A FIREFIGHTER

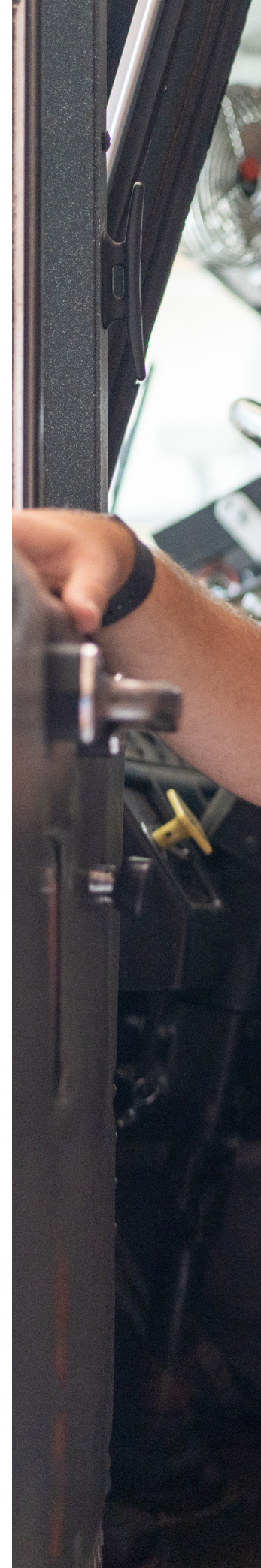
★ The sound of the fire alarm is a call to action for firefighter Zachary Langford. ★

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Brooke Snyder

**L**IFE AS a firefighter requires immense bravery, but for Zachary Langford, the greatest reward is being able to say, "I helped." The piercing fire alarm of a nearby building would jolt anyone awake. It signals chaos and uncertainty. But for Langford, that sound is a call to action — a chance to make a difference. Years ago, witnessing the courage and skill of the firefighters who responded to a blaze near his home left him with a deep admiration that would influence his career path. Today, that admiration has transformed into something far more significant than extinguishing flames.

According to Langford, life as a firefighter takes courage but is also extremely rewarding in many ways.

"My biggest reward is just getting to say, 'I helped those people, and I made their day so much better,'" he explained. "We may go from seeing somebody that has passed on from this life to witnessing a new baby being brought into the world. There are endless things that make this job rewarding, whether it's getting to spend time in the community, going to schools, teaching fire safety, or just getting to help an older person get up and go to the bathroom or the fridge."





Zachary Langford



*"My biggest reward is just getting to say, 'I helped those people, and I made their day so much better.'"*

**-Zachary Langford**

Langford's interest in firefighting began with childhood inspiration and grew into an exhilarating career. Being neighbors with the Decherd Fire Department, Langford was captivated by the men and women rushing to the aid of the community during their most troubling moments.

"When I was 5, we moved into our new house, which is actually right across the street from the Decherd fire station where I work now," he recalled. **"Just getting to come over and visit with the guys who were on duty and see what they got to do was really what sparked me.** I also have some family members who were firefighters."

Today, Langford drives the trucks that carry his team into the heart of emergencies. He carries out his duties with determination and a keen sense of urgency. He manages the water pressure, provides vital water supplies to his team, and coordinates equipment to support their efforts. In moments of crisis, he leans on extensive training to stay composed and focused, knowing that each action holds the power to save a life. It's all about remaining centered and applying what they've repeatedly practiced.

Outside of emergencies, the Decherd Fire Department seizes every opportunity to provide public education. They

make regular school visits to teach fire safety and even join in on the fun with the students during activities like dodgeball. They organize events like fireworks shows and always carry stuffed animals and stickers to gift to children around the community.

**"We carry stuffed animals on our fire trucks. We have stickers and little plastic fire helmets that we give out. Whether it's a kid we're treating on a medical call or just on a routine call, or if we see kids out in public and they wave at us, we'll stop and give them a tour of the fire truck and give them a sticker or a stuffed animal,"** Langford shared.



Full-time firefighting isn't enough for Langford; he also volunteers on his off days. The passion and thrill of rescuing troubled community members are a flame that not even the most skilled firefighters can extinguish. For Langford, volunteering doesn't require an incentive — just empathy.

**“The biggest incentive to be a volunteer is just being able to give people a little bit of hope on their worst day,” he said.**

If you're looking for a way to make the most of your spare time while gaining a second family, Langford encourages you to drop by a fire station in Decherd, Winchester, or a nearby volunteer department to explore the possibility of joining a fire rescue team.

Langford encourages all young residents to consider the remarkable experience of joining the fire service — an opportunity to make a real difference while enjoying meaningful connections and life-changing moments. For Langford, firefighting is a collective effort where unity shines brightest. **GN**



# PIONEER MOTORCYCLES

On Road - Off Road - Work & Play

**WORK HARD,  
PLAY HARDER**

**2024 Honda  
FourTrax  
Rancher 4x4**  
MSRP: **\$7,099**  
Stk. #080124-1



TEXT Us: 931-277-4922  
962 AEDC Rd. | Winchester, TN  
[www.pioneermotorcycles.com](http://www.pioneermotorcycles.com)

UTILITY ATVS ARE RECOMMENDED FOR RIDERS 16 YEARS AND OLDER. ATVS CAN BE HAZARDOUS TO OPERATE. FOR YOUR SAFETY, BE RESPONSIBLE. READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL. ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET, EYE PROTECTION AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING. BE CAREFUL ON DIFFICULT TERRAIN. NEVER RIDE AFTER CONSUMING DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, ON PAVED SURFACES, ON PUBLIC ROADS, WITH PASSENGERS, OR AT EXCESSIVE SPEEDS. NO STUNT RIDING. FourTrax, Foreman are registered trademarks of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. ©2022 American Honda Motor Co., Inc. Price, if shown and unless otherwise noted, represents the Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) and does not include government fees, taxes. MSRP does not include \$620 in destination charges. Dealer document preparation charges of (\$199.00), labor, installation, or any finance charges (if applicable). MSRP and/or final actual sales price will vary depending on options or accessories selected; contact dealer for more details.

# New Designs

*A lasting  
memorial  
for the life  
of your  
loved one*



**In Stock**

## Estill Monument Co.

600 S. Main St. Hwy. 41-A, Estill Springs, TN 37330  
Serving The Community For Over 50 Years

**(931) 649-5949**

[www.estillmonument.com](http://www.estillmonument.com)

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. • Sat. By Appointment Only



## metro | SERVICES

**PROVIDING A DEDICATED  
WORKFORCE TO ENSURE  
YOUR COMPANY'S SUCCESS**

Temp-to-Hire Staffing • Direct Hire Placement  
Onboarding Services • On-site Supervisor  
3PL Travel jobs • 3PQI Quality inspection



2081 Hillsboro Boulevard  
Manchester, TN - (931) 723-7810  
[metroindustrialservices.com](http://metroindustrialservices.com)

**TOLL FREE (855) 715.5627**



**VA Approved  
Care**



3619 Cowan Hwy., Winchester, TN 37398 • (931) 967-9765  
[inspiritseiorliving.com/franklinmanor](http://inspiritseiorliving.com/franklinmanor)

**Need Help SCARING  
Up Some Cash?**

**First Loan FREE!**



**MID-TOWN  
LOANS COMPANY**

**Loans \$200 & Up\*** Subject to our liberal credit policy

Now Accepting Debit Payments by Phone

1927 Decherd Blvd., Decherd, TN  
Monday - Friday 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. **931-962-1240**







**We Salute Our First Responders**

We appreciate your faithful service to the community.



100 Hudgins St. • Estill Springs, TN 37330 • (931) 649-5188



**Taking Holiday Orders**

Smoked Turkey, Pumpkin Roll, Dinner Rolls, Pies, Cakes, Chicken & Dressing Casseroles, Sweet Potato Casseroles, and More.


**Donut Saturdays!**  
October 19<sup>th</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

(931) 962-0567  
10026 David Crockett Hwy. • Belvidere, TN  
swisspantry@gmail.com  
WWW.SWISS-PANTRY.COM  


**Extraordinary Craftsmanship**  
Custom Design



- Interior & Exterior Railing • Pool & Yard Fences
- Driveway & Pedestrian Gates • Guard Railing
- Residential & Light Commercial


  
575 Lynchburg Hwy., Mulberry, TN 37359  
**931-993-9710**  
[www.southernironworks.com](http://www.southernironworks.com)

A Great Saturday...  
is Banking on Sunday




**Our Convenient Mobile Banking Solutions**

*free you up for life's important things.*

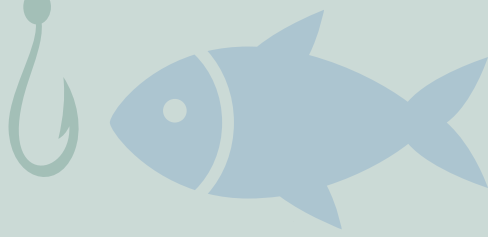
 Citizens Community Bank

[www.ccbank.net](http://www.ccbank.net)



Learn more about our mobile banking solutions at [ccbank.net/mobile-banking](http://ccbank.net/mobile-banking)

# Belvidere traditions continue



The biannual Belvidere Volunteer Fire Department Fish Fry honors longtime supporters.

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photos submitted by Andrew Knapper



▲ Aileen Cowan and Phyllis Larson manning the serving tables

**T**WICE A year, the charming community of Belvidere comes together for an event that has become a staple on the local calendar — the biannual Belvidere Volunteer Fire Department Fish Fry. This special event brings delicious food and live music to the community and displays the persistent efforts of volunteers who work behind the scenes. During this year's events, the community paid special tribute to the late Tim

Yannayon, the founder of the fish fry, and to the outstanding volunteers who continue to make the event possible.

According to Andy Knapper, the fire department's treasurer, the volunteer fire department dates back to 1955, possibly making it the oldest in the county. The biannual fish fry began 20 years ago. A volunteer fire department inspired it in Finger, Tennessee, and it has become a cherished event attracting people from outside of Franklin County.

The initial success of the fish fry made it clear that the community demanded more, and the fire department was more than happy to deliver. The fire hall's location, adjacent to the old Belvidere School turned community center, provides the perfect setting for this gathering. With ample space, the community center accommodates tables, a stage for live music, and activities for children, making it a fun affair for everyone.

Last year's fish fry saw over 1,400 attendees, and the event is growing in popularity. Ed Burns, the fish fry chairman, shared that despite some changes, the essence of the event remained consistent. Notably, for the first time in over 20 years, a new couple, Ben and Orpha Horst, took over the task of cutting fish, which Simon Beachy had handled since day one of the event.

"He went through and inspected every piece of fish and then split it down the lateral line so that the smaller fish would fry a lot better. These are 4 to 6-ounce fillets, totaling approximately 2,400 fillets for the 750 pounds of fish fried at each event. The man has cut every piece for 20 years," Burns recounted.

The true heroes of the Belvidere Fire Department's fish fry are the volunteers, the very foundation on which it stands.

Knapper said, "The fish fry could not even come close to happening if it weren't for the volunteers in the community. The fire department is just a small fraction of the event."

Volunteering for the event involves a variety of tasks, from planning months in advance to executing on the day of the fry. This includes everything from coordinating with local bands to arranging for a refrigerated trailer, printing and mailing postcards to over 300 people, and sending emails to previous attendees. The volunteers are not limited to adults — around 20 students from the Interact Club at Huntland Schools also lend a hand. They help serve, fill cups with ice, manage garbage, and assist with takeout plates.

Preparations for the fish fry begin well in advance, with volunteers ordering supplies from the wholesale market for the fish and chicken tenders. Local merchants provide essential ingredients to transform the raw products into delicious entrees.

Other community members come forward to make delicious homemade pies, cakes, and desserts, which have quickly become the highlight of the event.

Yannayon's family and several others who participated in the inaugural event in 2003 have kept the tradition alive. His legacy continues through the dedicated efforts of volunteers who have helped with the event since its beginning.

This year, the Belvidere Volunteer Fire Department honored Simon Beachy for his 20 years of invaluable service in preparing each fillet for the fish fryer.

"Simon is just one of many integral volunteers so critical to the success of the Belvidere Volunteer Fire Department's fish fry. While Simon's presence at the fish prepping table will be missed, his expertise will continue in true Belvidere volunteer fashion," Burns shared.

The Belvidere Volunteer Fire Department's fish fry maintains its tradition of being held on the last Saturday of April and October due to its great

volunteers! As always, the event featured farm-raised Mississippi catfish, generously donated chickens from Tyson Foods, and a lively lineup of local bands playing for free. The organizers are already hard at work, coordinating with volunteers and ensuring all preparations are in place for next year's celebrations.

The Belvidere Fire Department's fish fry is ultimately a celebration of community, tradition, and the beauty of volunteerism, and will continue to build on the legacy that makes this event so special.

If you find yourself in beloved Franklin County on the last Saturday in April or October from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., stop by and experience the Southern hospitality of the Belvidere community. You might leave with a satisfied appetite and a heart full of special memories and new friendships that last long after the meal. **GN**

*For more information, email Ed Burns, the fish fry chairman, at [eburns2@retiree.utk.edu](mailto:eburns2@retiree.utk.edu).*



◀ Simon Beachy has ensured that all the fish served over the past 20 years are uniform and ready for the cookers.

BANK WITH A BANK  
**THAT PAYS YOU**

15 YEARS OF REWARDS

**\$2 MILLION +  
 TOTAL REWARDS PAID OUT**



Member **FDIC** **FVB.BANK**



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



**Ready for you  
 Fall Checkup?**

**FREE Estimates** On New System Installs



1102 Dinah Shore Blvd.  
 Winchester, TN 37398  
**(931) 967-3209**

**IMMEDIATE POSITIONS OPEN**

for Direct Support professionals, all shifts for Employment and Community First positions, day services, and supported living services. Great benefits, health insurance, paid time off, and holiday pay.



Call for more info  
**(931) 967-0100**  
 702 Hundred Oaks St.  
 Winchester, TN

.....  
 Please apply in person at  
 702 Hundred Oaks Street, Winchester.  
 Must have valid driver's license.  
 .....



## MrBeast Box

4 hand-breaded Chicken Fingerz™ with Zax Sauce®, Crinkle Fries, half order of White Cheddar Bites with Ranch, 2 slices of Texas Toast, Small Drink, and a Feastables Milk Chocolate Bar. Served in a collectible box

## 3 Chicken Finger Tacos

served with Small Drink. Choose Chipotle Ranch with shredded lettuce, Cheddar Jack cheese, pico de gallo, Chipotle Ranch Sauce or Avocado Ranch BLT with shredded lettuce, Roma tomatoes, natural hardwood smoked bacon, Avocado Ranch Sauce.



## Bite-sized Cheesecake

lightly battered and fried to golden brown. Served with Strawberry Sauce.

## ZAX FAMILY PACKS



**20 PC. CHICKEN FINGERZ™ FAMILY PACK**  
Regular or Buffalo

**30 PC. BONELESS WINGS FAMILY PACK**  
Regular

## FAMOUS FINGERZ & WINGS



**BONELESS WINGS**  
5ct., 10ct., or 20ct.

**TRADITIONAL WINGS**  
5ct., 10ct., or 20ct.

**CHICKEN FINGERZ™**  
10ct., or 20ct

**BUFFALO CHICKEN FINGERZ™**  
5ct., 10ct., or 20ct.

## DESSERTS



**CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE**  
Three

## FAMOUS MEAL DEALZ



**CHICKEN FINGER PLATE**  
Regular: 4ct., 5ct., 6ct.  
Buffalo: 4ct., 5ct., 6ct.

**TRADITIONAL WINGS & THINGS**  
Regular or Buffalo

**BONELESS WINGS & THINGS**  
Regular or Buffalo

**BIG ZAX SNAK® MEAL**  
Regular

**BUFFALO BIG ZAX SNAK® MEAL**  
Regular

**GREAT 8 BONELESS WINGS MEAL**  
Regular

**BONELESS WINGS MEAL**  
Regular

**TRADITIONAL WINGS MEAL**  
Regular

## DRINKS



**DRINK**  
Small, Medium or Large

**GALLON OF SWEET OR UNSWEET TEA**

**KIDZ® DRINK**

**MILK**  
Regular or Chocolate

**APPLE JUICE**

## BIG ZALADS



**THE HOUSE ZALAD®**  
Fried, Grilled, or Garden

**THE COBB ZALAD®**  
Fried, Grilled, or Garden

## SHAREABLES & SIDES



**FRIED WHITE CHEDDAR BITES**

**FRIED PICKLES**

**CRINKLE FRIES**  
Regular or Large

**COLESLAW - CUP**

**BASKET OF TEXAS TOAST**

**EXTRA CHICKEN FINGER**  
Regular or Buffalo

**THE NIBBLER**

**ZAX KIDZ® MEALS**  
Served with Crinkle Fries, Kidz® Drink, and a Treat.

**KIDDIE FINGER**

**KIDDIE CHEESE**

## SANDWICH MEALZ



**ZAXBY'S® SIGNATURE SANDWICH**  
Meal or Sandwich only

**ZAXBY'S SIGNATURE CLUB SANDWICH**  
Meal or Sandwich only

**KICKIN CHICKEN SANDWICH**  
Meal or Sandwich only

**GRILLED CHICKEN SANDWICH**  
Meal or Sandwich only

**3 NIBBLER® SANDWICH**  
Meal or Sandwich only

## SAUCES

Zax Sauce®, Spicy Zax Sauce™, Ranch, Honey Mustard, Wimpy™, Tongue Torch®, Nuclear™, Hot Honey Mustard, Sweet & Spicy, Teriyaki, BBQ, Buffalo Garlic Blaze

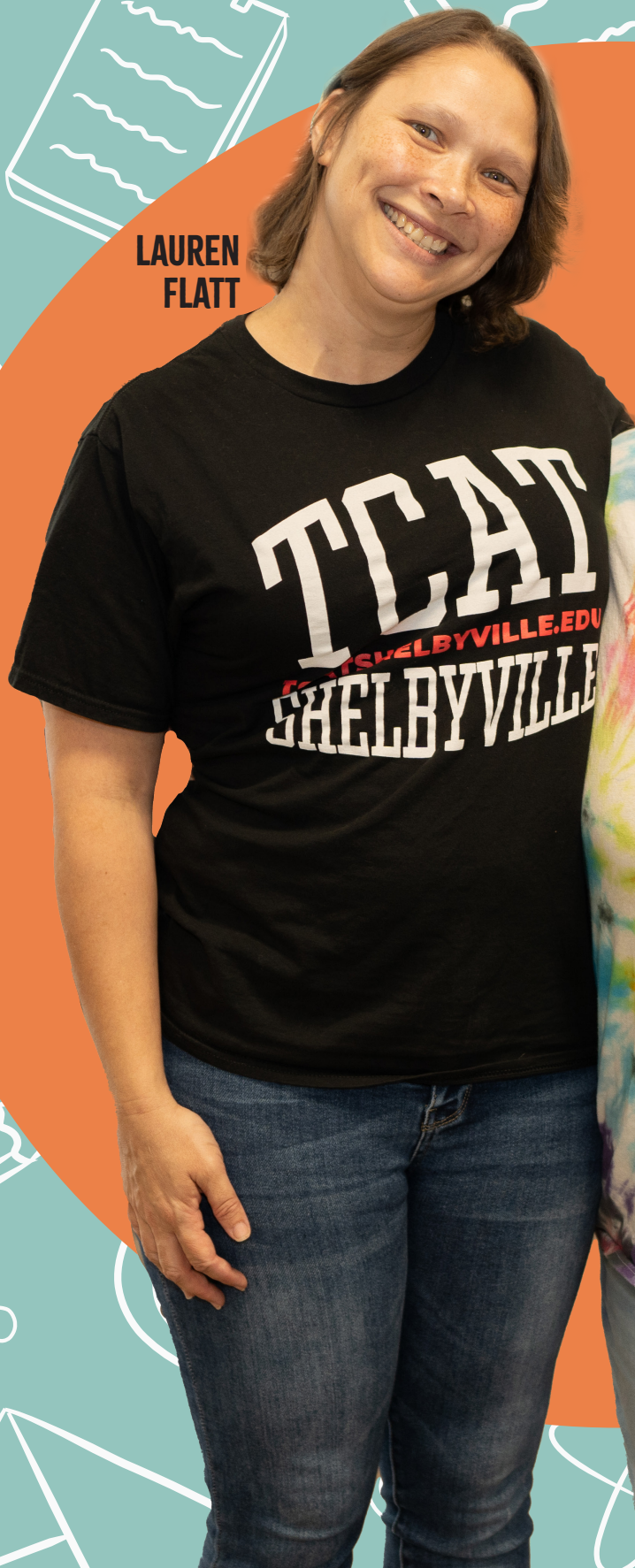


**931-967-2527**

2909 Decherd Blvd., Winchester, TN

[www.zaxbys.com](http://www.zaxbys.com)

**LAUREN  
FLATT**



**VERONICA  
LEECH**



# TWO GENERATIONS, ONE MISSION

**VERONICA LEECH AND HER DAUGHTER, LAUREN FLATT,  
SHAPE FRANKLIN COUNTY'S EDUCATIONAL FUTURE.**

**BY JERIAH BRUMFIELD // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER**

**V**ERONICA LEECH spent over 30 years erasing and rewriting equations on dry-erase boards in school systems. Her distinctive handwriting, and even more so her zeal for learning, are well remembered by her former students. Now, her daughter, Lauren Flatt, serves as a dual enrollment coordinator, and the same love for education continues at the Dinah Shore address.

Leech was a beloved science teacher at Franklin County High School (FCHS) before closing her classroom door to care for her father. Now, her daughter is continuing this legacy at the new Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) building, where she works as the dual enrollment coordinator.

Leech's family's roots in Franklin County trace back to the Revolutionary War. Though she grew up in Illinois, the call of her ancestral home brought her back to Tennessee. Growing up, her high school teachers

inspired her to pursue a career in education. After one of her professors at Motlow State Community College encouraged her to specialize in science, she dedicated herself to teaching biology and other sciences at FCHS.

"I had some really good teachers as a student in high school," Leech recalled. "One of my teachers at Motlow inspired me to teach science. He said, 'We really need science teachers in Tennessee.' And that's what I did."

Leech's aspiration to become an educator was groundbreaking for her family. She's the first person in her lineage to graduate from high school and the first to go to college and graduate. Her career is full of memorable moments, but one stands out.

"I had one student who went away to a national medical forum and sent me the nicest letter. She told me that she was so happy to have been in my class because she could hold her own with students

“



**I WOULD LIKE TO SEE EDUCATION BECOME SOMETHING THAT IS TRULY PERSONALIZED, WHERE EVERY YOUNG PERSON IS GIVEN THE TOOLS EARLY ON TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THEY'RE GOOD AT AND WHAT THEY LIKE. LET'S BUILD ON THAT.**

-Lauren Flatt



from all over the United States. She said, 'Just a simple girl coming from Winchester, Tennessee, and I knew as much as the rest of them.' That letter made a difference."

Leech believes the most important quality for a teacher is liking students.

"If you don't like children, you shouldn't be a teacher," she advised.

She instilled this same philosophy in her daughter, Flatt, who was fully immersed in the world of education at a young age.

"When I was young, Mom was a single parent going to college. I grew up under the desks of countless college classes because the teachers were kind enough to let me be there. I would hear things and be interested," she shared.

Flatt's early experience in education naturally led her to a career in the field. After initially taking nursing classes at TCAT, she returned to teach anatomy and physiology. Now, as the dual enrollment coordinator, she helps high school students earn both high school and college credits while preparing for their careers.

"It's incredibly rewarding to know that when our high school students leave one of our programs, they will be able to start a career and build their lives around that, financially," Flatt explained. "The biggest challenge is matching students to the correct program. It comes down to talking to them and understanding their goals, then figuring out how to get them from A to B."

Both Leech and Flatt see their work as part of a larger mission to improve education in Franklin County. They believe in making education accessible and relevant to all students and tailoring programs to meet individual needs and aspirations.

Flatt said, "I would like to see education become something that is truly personalized, where every young person is given the tools early on to figure out what they're good at and what they like. Let's build on that."

Leech added, "When I went through school, you just went to get a degree and then tried to figure out what to do with it. Many didn't know how to use their degrees. I think it's great that Lauren has the ability to expand on what the students are already doing."

As she reflected on her upbringing, Flatt said she appreciated her mother's high standards and encouragement, which ultimately led her to where she is now.

"My mother never let me say 'I can't' and get away with it. She always forced me to realize what





▲ Lauren Flatt, Howard Breighner (one of Lauren's first students and one of Veronica's last students), and Veronica Leech

I was capable of. Critical parents that hold their children to a standard create children who hold themselves to a standard."

Flatt brings these core values to life as she engages with her students at TCAT.

"The students who come through our programs don't have a lot of debt after they leave. Between Tennessee Promise, Tennessee Reconnect, and the dual enrollment grant, many of our students can attend pretty much free of charge."

Leech and Flatt are shaping the future of the community with each student they encounter. Flatt continues to ensure that Franklin County's legacy of learning and quality education remains strong.

"I have a ring that Lauren won for me with an essay she wrote in the fifth grade. The point that she made in her essay was that not only was I her mother, but I took care of a whole lot of other young people as their teacher," Leech said proudly.

Leech's and Flatt's combined zeal for education has influenced the trajectory of countless students' careers. Leech's prior years as a teacher and Flatt's current work have inspired many generations of academic excellence. GN



# Sign On Bonuses

- RN's - Night Shift  
**\$6,000 Sign On Bonus for FT**
- LPN's - Night shift FT/PT/PRN  
**With \$5,000 Sign On Bonus for FT**
- Baylor LPN/ RN  
**\$5,000 Sign On Bonus for FT**
- CNA's  
**\$1,500 Sign On Bonus for FT**

Nursing positions require a Tennessee certification. Long-term care experience a plus.

**We now offer Pay in Lieu of Benefits for FT Nurses and CNAs**

Apply in person at:  
32 Memorial Dr. Winchester, TN  
or online at: [ElkRiverHrofWinchester.com](http://ElkRiverHrofWinchester.com)

32 Memorial Drive  
Winchester, TN 37398  
**(931) 967-0200**  
[elkriverhrofwinchester.com](http://elkriverhrofwinchester.com)



*Amani*

## Women's Health Center

**BRYAN MYERS, M.D.**

MELODY HARRISON, NP-C      SAHARRA JEWELL, APN

Winchester: 161 Shirley Dr. <b>(931) 962-0450</b>	Manchester: 1034 McArthur St. <b>(931) 954-5111</b>	Tullahoma: 100 Hunters Ln., Suite 100B <b>(931) 393-4700</b>
---	---	--

# We Have Buyers!



Franklin County's  
**MOST** powerful  
home selling  
team!



*The Peck Team!*  
*We Put Your Family 1st!*  
*Tennessee*

**Pam Peck**  
(931) 580-8321  
[pampeckc21@gmail.com](mailto:pampeckc21@gmail.com)

**John Michael Peck**  
(931) 636-7020  
[johnmichaelpeckc21@gmail.com](mailto:johnmichaelpeckc21@gmail.com)

1810 Sharp Springs Rd.  
Winchester, TN 37398  
48 years experience



## You can rely on NATURAL GAS.

Sometimes the best things in life are the simplest ones – reliable home and water heating, lower monthly utility bills, and a home that can keep up with the hustle and bustle year-round.



**Elk River Public Utility District**  
217 S. Jackson St., Tullahoma • 931-455-9311  
1524 Hillsboro Blvd., Manchester • 931-728-3332  
635 Dinah Shore Blvd., Winchester • 931-967-3642  
*"Your Hometown Natural Gas Provider Since 1955"*

**WWW.ERPUD.COM**

## Richardson Waste Removal & Richardson Waste Solution

**Weekly Service**  
Residential • Commercial • Industrial

**Roll-Off Containers**  
Construction • Demo Debris • Commercial  
Industrial • General Clean-Up



**CALL TODAY**



Quality service since 1963 Our Business is Picking Up!

**931-433-6634**  
Ask about automatic payment  
[richardsonwaste@gmail.com](mailto:richardsonwaste@gmail.com)

# HALLOWEEN

## Costume Contest!

Saturday  
**October 26, 2024**  
**3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

*Get a Ghost cookie & Bloody Marty Punch!*

**Explore Our New Fall Items & Watch For Our Christmas Open House in Early November!**

**BENNETT'S PHARMACY** | 1201 Dinah Shore Blvd.  
 Winchester, TN 37398  
 (931) 967-2777

Mon. - Fri. 8 A.M. - 8 P.M. • Sat. 8 A.M. - 6 P.M. • Sun. 8 A.M. - 11 A.M. & 1 P.M. - 6 P.M.

[bennettspharmacywinchester.com](http://bennettspharmacywinchester.com) 

# WE'VE GOT YOUR BANK

Whether you're planning to start a business, purchase a new home, or finance your education, Traders Bank is here to support you.

Here's why you should choose our bank for your financial needs:

- People You Know
- Competitive Interest Rates
- Wide Range of Loan Options

**BANK WITH US!** 

 931-455-3426  
 [www.citizens-bank.org](http://www.citizens-bank.org)

 **TRADERS BANK**  
 CITIZENS BANK FAMILY  
 CITIZENS BANK • SMITH COUNTY BANK  
 BANK OF CELINA • LIBERTY STATE BANK  
 AMERICAN BANK & TRUST

**Member FDIC**

## Bring your love of music to life!

- Piano
- Guitar & Most String Instruments
- Woodwinds
- Art
- Sewing
- Dance
- And More!

View Our Website



*Let's Make a Note*  
 MUSIC, ART & ENRICHMENT CENTER

(931) 691-7937 • [letsmakeanote.com](http://letsmakeanote.com)  
 105 North High St., Ste. H, Winchester, TN (Historic Collins Seed Bldg.)

*Private & Small Class Settings*

# CHAMPS SEPTIC TANK



- Septic Tanks
- Driveway Tile
- Field Line Pipe
- Septic Tank Cleaning

**(931) 962-3446**

# HELPING YOU 'NAIL IT.'

- Tool Replacement Handles
- Paint And Supplies
- Nuts, Bolts, Screws, & Nails
- Plumbing Supplies
- Pumps & Pump Supplies
- Canning Supplies
- And Much More
- Locally, Veteran Owned

**JONES HARDWARE** | 

Visit Us Today: 103 Alabama St., Huntland, TN  
 (931) 469-7774 • [www.doitbest.com](http://www.doitbest.com)

# Walnut Hill Coffee Company

From “the little white truck”  
to a staple on the square

AS I sit here enjoying some of my favorite breakfast tacos at Walnut Hill Coffee Company, I can’t help but marvel at the ambiance. I think to myself, “How could one coffee shop change the entire dynamics of a town?” Yet, I look up and see just that.

When Walnut Hill Coffee Company first opened its doors on the square in Winchester just over three years ago, you’d find yourself in a vibe like no other in Franklin County. You walked into its eclectic elegance — a class of its own, sophistication at its finest.

Today, it’s even better. On a Saturday morning, you’ll find a line to the back door. Yet everyone is smiling, content to wait, knowing that what they receive will be exceptional. Walnut Hill has quickly become a local landmark and a must-visit destination.

This morning, I decided on Chuck’s Tacos, which offers several options. I went with one of each: the 830, the ATX, and the Alamo. Every taco offers its own unique flavor. The 830 has scrambled eggs and this amazing chorizo topped with cheese. The ATX taco has a luscious avocado lime crema, chicken, scrambled eggs, and cheese. They prepare the Alamo with crispy fried potatoes, scrambled eggs, bacon, and cheese. They serve all three in soft, delicious, house-made tortillas that melt in your mouth.

For my drink, I chose the 24-ounce iced sugar-free Fidgety Fox. This shaken espresso includes three espresso shots and homemade vanilla syrup with half-and-half. One sip, and you know it will perfectly complement the tacos.





At any given point in the day, you'll find those like me sitting with their laptops working or chatting with friends and family around the center fireplace. You may even see business meetings or family reunions, but one thing that's for sure — Walnut Hill is a family of its own.

As I sit here, I admire the accomplishments one coffee shop can make in this community we call home. **GN**

### **GOOD NEWS IS COMING TO DINNER!**

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as they dine in Franklin County. This month Shannon Beebe visited Walnut Hill Coffee Company.

Shannon Beebe  
franklincountyfoodcritic@gmail.com

*Walnut Hill Coffee Company*

100 1st Ave. NW, Winchester  
(931) 313-5472



# Heal WITH US

Return to wellness with the help of our short-term therapy services.

CALL TO SCHEDULE A PERSONAL TOUR.



**931.759.6000**  
40 Nursing Home Rd.  
Lynchburg, TN 37352  
LynchburgNursingCenter.com

150044

# Don't Compromise, Switch & Save

Personal & Commercial

- Auto • Home
- Life • Health
- Recreational Vehicles



**Melinda Drake**  
License 2299033  
mdrake2@farmersagent.com



16 S. Jefferson St., Winchester, TN  
**(931) 262-2024**

Advertisement produced on behalf of the following specific insurers and seeking to obtain business for insurance underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange, Fire Insurance Exchange, Truck Insurance Exchange, Mid-Century Insurance Company, Farmers Insurance Company of Washington (Bellevue, WA) or affiliates. In TX: insurance is underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange, Fire Insurance Exchange, Truck Insurance Exchange, Mid-Century Insurance Company, Farmers Texas County Mutual Insurance Company, Mid-Century Insurance Company of Texas or Texas Farmers Insurance Company. In NY: insurance is underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange, Truck Insurance Exchange, Mid-Century Insurance Company or Farmers New Century Insurance Company, Home office, Los Angeles, CA. Each insurer has sole financial responsibility for its own insurance. List of all insurers and states where licensed at farmers.com/companies/state/. Not all insurers are authorized in all states. Not all products, coverages, features and discounts are available in every state and may vary by state. Restrictions, exclusions, limits, and conditions apply. See agent for details.

# The Sign of Experience & Results

Check out our current auctions and listings at [lynchrigsby.com](http://lynchrigsby.com)



Firm Lic #302, Auction Lic #4909

931.967.1672 | 23 S. College St., Winchester, TN 37398  
[www.LynchRigsby.com](http://www.LynchRigsby.com)

# WE CAN DO IT ALL!



## Complete Excavation Services:

- |                       |                   |                       |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Skid Steer Loader     | Demolition        | Ponds & Lakes         |
| Mini Excavator        | Roads & Driveways | Underground Utilities |
| Bulldozer & Track Hoe | Grade Work        | Complete Rock         |
| Site Prep             | Pads              | Hammer Services       |

Insured



All major credit cards accepted



**931-625-7013**

# Have Your Septic Tanks Taken Care Of

We Serve All Of Middle Tennessee



- OVER 23 YEARS EXPERIENCE
- COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
- FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED
- LICENSED & INSURED

• Septic Tank Pumping  
• Sewer Drain  
• Install • Clean Out

**KEITH'S TANK SERVICE**  
(931) 433-0900 • (931) 962-0510  
[www.keithssepticpumping.com](http://www.keithssepticpumping.com)



# Only positive and local stories at your door every month ... for FREE.

Get a local, free magazine that covers only positive stories about everyday people in our community.



*Subscribe to  
Good News  
Magazine online*

[goodnewsmags.com/subscribe/](http://goodnewsmags.com/subscribe/)

**Good News**  
e×change

# A Daughter's Duty

HOW TRAGEDY AND A FATHER'S INFLUENCE SHAPED DEPUTY WILKINSON'S CAREER PATH

**T**HE PATROL car engine rumbled through young Destiny Wilkinson's shoes. Her nose pressed against the cool window. The world became blurry with flashing red and blue lights as her dad, Deputy Rusty Clark, navigated the streets as the sun began to set. She fixed her twinkling eyes on his right hand, resting on the steering wheel. It was the same hand that now held the weight of the badge and the responsibility of keeping their town safe.

Wilkinson adjusted her own badge; the cool metal felt familiar against her chest. Years had passed, and her desk lamp's muted glow had replaced the bright patrol car lights as she finished a report. The badge's weight still felt the same. It constantly reminded her of the man who had first shown her its power.

A smile touched her lips as she vividly recalled a specific memory — a little girl filled with wonder as she stood beside her father, dressed in his uniform. She now wears the same uniform and carries his legacy and her own light, determined to make their community a little brighter.

Wilkinson is a remarkable presence in our community. As the only woman officer on patrol at the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, she dedicates her life to



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY DESTINY WILKINSON

keeping the community safe. She not only carries her father's torch but also inspires a new generation of young girls to shine their lights and courageously pursue their dreams.

Wilkinson's father greatly influenced her career while she was growing up.

▲ Wilkinson with her dad, Deputy Rusty Clark, at her police academy graduation. Clark presented his daughter with her POST certificate.



# DESTINY WILKINSON



She recalled, "I just always enjoyed hearing the stories about the brotherhood that he had with his work family. It's what I've always wanted to do, and I've really enjoyed every minute of it."

Her father's wisdom and integrity have guided her on her journey.

*"We meet a lot of people on the worst days of their lives, and we get a chance to make an impact on them."*

- Destiny Wilkinson



“When I graduated from the police academy, he gave me this piece of advice: ‘Your badge gives you authority, but your integrity, morals, and how you treat people are what earn you respect.’ That has stuck with me,” she shared.

Wilkinson’s honesty and integrity guide her interactions with the community. Today, she helps people facing mental health challenges.

Wilkinson’s parents had different reactions to her career choice. Though they were both incredibly supportive of their daughter’s aspirations, her father was hesitant due to the challenges he knew firsthand. Her mother saw it as an excellent op-

portunity for her and encouraged her to follow her dreams. Eventually, her father’s reservations eased.

Even though her father has died, Wilkinson holds dear many wonderful memories of their time together. One particularly special memory that brightens Wilkinson’s spirit is the precious time she spent patrolling alongside him.

Balancing work and personal life can be challenging for anyone, but for Wilkinson and her husband, who also works in the sheriff’s department, their mutual understanding of the job’s trials and stress makes it work.

“We promise each other that every day we come home, we make time for

just us and leave the officer parts of us at the door,” she explained.

Their mutual respect and support help them navigate their careers’ demands while maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

Wilkinson is passionate about helping people, especially those in mental health crises.

“The majority of what we do is help people in mental health crises,” she shared. “We go through crisis negotiation classes to learn how to talk to these individuals and try to help them to seek treatment.”

Her passion for this aspect of her job arose from personal experiences and a desire to impact people’s lives



lice gear and playing games with them. She hopes her connection with the younger generation will help build trust and create a positive relationship between law enforcement and the community.

As a woman in a predominantly male field, Wilkinson is aware of the challenges but encourages other women to pursue careers in law enforcement.

"It's a mental battle sometimes, but if you have the right resources and the right people to vent to, it makes all the difference."

She hopes to see more women in leadership roles and believes diverse perspectives can enhance law enforcement's effectiveness.

Wilkinson wants the community to know that the Franklin County Sheriff's Office is there to help.

"We have a very supportive community, and we're here to provide resources and assistance to those in need," she said.

Wilkinson's dedication, compassion, and strength make her a true hero in Franklin County. She upholds the values and courage of her childhood and inspires the next generation of women in law enforcement.

Through her service, she inspires the next generation to step into the light, wear their badge with pride, and bring their unique strengths to the forefront in making their community a safer and brighter place. GN

positively. Losing one of her best friends to mental health issues led her to devote her life to supporting others in navigating the challenges associated with mental health.

"We meet a lot of people on the worst days of their lives, and we get a chance to make an impact on them," she shared.

Wilkinson finds fulfillment in being there for her community, whether she's providing support in domestic violence situations or simply listening to someone in need of comfort.

She especially enjoys interacting with children and participating in activities like school visits, Easter egg hunts, and Nerf wars. She enjoys answering their questions about her po-





# Breaking the Glass Ceiling

WOMEN LIKE KALYN LINDSEY BREAK BARRIERS AND SET NEW STANDARDS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT.

“ONE OF my favorite quotes — which I keep posted in my office and read daily — is, ‘Whatever women do, they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, that is not hard.’”

Since graduating from the law enforcement academy 13 years ago, Kalyn Lindsey has dedicated herself to refining her skills as one of the department’s only female investigators. She has been on a quest to carve out her place, and while it hasn’t always been easy, she has persevered with courage.

The pursuit of recognition isn’t what drives Lindsey. Her reward is knowing she can bring peace to people during their most challenging moments — it’s her ability to fight alongside them on their quest for justice and reassure them of her support every step of the way. She is also motivated by the chance to break glass ceilings and demonstrate to the community that women have a vital place in law enforcement.

After taking some classes in high school, Lindsey discovered her love for criminal justice. Although she ini-

tially pursued a different career path when she got to college, she soon realized that criminal justice was her true calling. Despite facing some major obstacles, she never gave up on her dream.

“I had a child at a young age, so my journey through finishing my degree took a little longer than normal,” she explained. “In 2010, I decided I wanted to go to the police academy. I thought if I could make a difference in people’s lives in our community, then I could make our county a better place.”

After graduating from the police academy in 2011, she landed a job at the Decherd Police Department, beginning an exciting and fulfilling career path.

In April 2013, she began working part time with the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office. At that time, there were no other female deputies due to the previous ones leaving.

In November 2013, the sheriff’s department offered her a full-time position. Even then, she continued working part time in Decherd.

Throughout her time on patrol, she represented the department as the only female deputy. Her perseverance and dedication paid off as she eventually transitioned to investigations, paving the way for another female deputy to join the patrol. Lindsey soon realized that she was truly meant to be in investigations.

“I enjoyed following a case through and being able to work it from beginning to end.”

In 2017, she completed her bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice.

After numerous attempts, her hard work paid off when she secured a part-time role in investigations in 2018. When Capt. Danny Warren retired and the next full-time investigation position became available in June 2018, she obtained that position.

As she began her new role as an investigator, Lt. George Dyer’s arrival brought a new wave of inspiration. It was clear from the start that Dyer would be an influential figure to look up to in her investigative endeavors. With such a great role model in place, the future looked bright.

“I was fortunate to be taught how to do this job by quite possibly the best investigator I will ever know. Know-

ing George is a true testament to the amazing person and officer his father must have been.”

Lindsey’s desire to continuously learn has completely transformed her career in law enforcement. In 2022, she became the first person from her department to attend the National Forensics Academy. This achievement, comprised of extensive exams, combined with her certification from the



▲ Ashley Dove, Shawn Malhoit, Kalyn Lindsey, Destiny Wilkinson, Kayla Matlock, and Melinda Meeks

*“I now have five certified female deputies here in Franklin County: two on patrol, two SROs, and one court security.*

*It makes me proud.”*

- Kalyn Lindsey

OUR HEROES





International Association for Identification, made her one of only 15 certified crime scene analysts in Tennessee.

Handling sensitive cases like abuse is of particular importance to Lindsey. Mentored by Andrea Davidson, she learned essential skills to navigate emotionally challenging situations.

Lindsey believes temperament, a quality often attributed to women in law enforcement, allows her to handle these cases better.

For Lindsey, the joys of working with fellow investigators to solve drug-related cases is unparalleled.

“Drug cases are rewarding, especially when you can get fentanyl and other drugs off the street that are killing people daily,” she explained. “Only a select few types of cases require us to work closely with the whole group of investigators, and that is something I enjoy.”

Lindsey said her strong support system, including her sister, mother, and law enforcement officer husband, has been essential for her thriving career.

Lindsey is currently the longest-serving female officer in the county. She is proud of the county’s ever-growing number of female deputies, school resource officers (SROs), and officers.

“I now have five certified female deputies here in Franklin County: two on patrol, two SROs, and one court security. It makes me proud.”

She hopes to continue breaking glass ceilings and inspiring more young women to pursue law enforcement careers.

As best said by Ruth Bader Ginsberg, “Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn’t be that women are the exception.” GN



▲ LIFE FORCE group photo

# A Lifeline in the Skies

LIFE FORCE AIR MEDICAL STRIVES TO MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY.

**T**HE EMERGENCY phone rang, cutting through the morning silence at Erlanger Health System. This sound was familiar, yet one that never failed to send a rush of adrenaline through the LIFE FORCE Air Medical flight crew's veins. Andrew Condrey glanced at the clock — 6:15 a.m. Another life was at risk; another race against time was about to begin. Across the building, a pilot and a flight paramedic were already springing into

action. Years of experience and many critical missions had already sharpened their swift movements. Coffee could wait. Lives couldn't. This was a typical day at LIFE FORCE.

Erlanger established LIFE FORCE Air Medical in 1988. At that time, Erlanger was the only trauma center serving Southeast Tennessee and was considered part of the trauma system in North Georgia, which still holds true today.

Since its inception, LIFE FORCE has expanded to six bases within a 100-mile concentric ring around Erlanger, now recognized as its home base. Erlanger LIFE FORCE transports patients to the closest appropriate facility, and in Franklin County, this often means Vanderbilt, depending on the patient's condition.

The concept of LIFE FORCE was to create a "circle of support" around Erlanger to serve those with medical emergencies in East Tennessee, North Georgia, Northeastern Alabama, and Middle Tennessee.

There was a time when citizens in crises living on the Cumberland Plateau had to drive to Vanderbilt in Nashville, often facing the challenge of negotiating terrain fea-



OUR HEROES



tures like Monteagle. LIFE FORCE's presence in Franklin County means patients can reach Erlanger's emergency room by helicopter in just 30 minutes. This reduction in time is critical for patients suffering extreme injuries or dangerous medical conditions like heart attacks or strokes.

Condrey, one of LIFE FORCE's many flight crew members, shared how he joined LIFE FORCE.

"I've been serving now for 35 years.

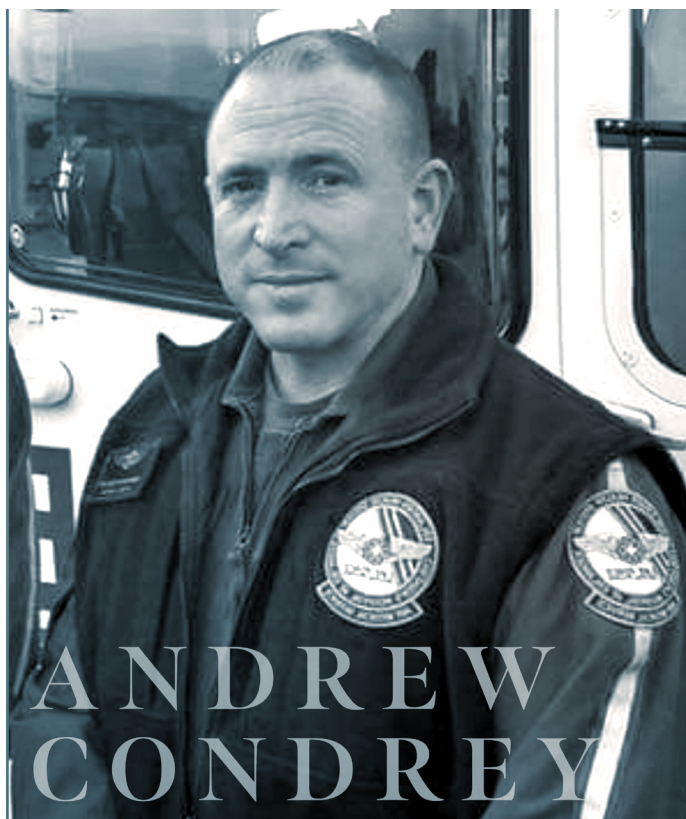
I got my start as a firefighter paramedic down in Atlanta, Georgia, and began flying in Atlanta 20 years ago. I came to know LIFE FORCE at Erlanger by flying patients up here."

He continued, "I found out very quickly LIFE FORCE's reputation, especially in the trauma world and in helicopter Emergency Medical Services, is just considered major league ball. And I wanted to be a part of that."

Condrey understands the impor-

*"It feels good to show up, zip up that flight suit, go on these missions, and take care of people. It's a great honor and opportunity."*

- Andrew Condrey



▲ LIFE FORCE helicopter

## OUR HEROES



▲ A LIFE FORCE crew: Cory Murtaugh, pilot; Alex Gallenstein, paramedic; and Nathan Koestner, flight nurse

tance of LIFE FORCE in the community and hopes to spread awareness about the organization.

LIFE FORCE teams, known as flight crews, function as a unit. They consist of a pilot, a flight nurse, and a flight paramedic, and each member undergoes cross-training. The teams train rigorously and complete quarterly training sessions to enhance their skills and maintain peak performance. Each mission is unique, and the team must adapt and overcome many challenges such as weather and terrain. They train for failure so that they are always prepared.

Condrey describes the special bond among the team members.

“The pride of working as a member of such a cohesive team that is taking

risks together is a notable thing that we do. We’re prioritizing the lives of strangers above that of our own. It’s dangerous work, but the totality of that creates this atmosphere of ‘esprit de corps,’ a pride of belonging that is second to none.”

Before joining LIFE FORCE, Condrey proudly served in the Marine Corps, and he wouldn’t trade his time in the military or his experience with LIFE FORCE for anything in the world.

“These two experiences — I would put them at the same level. It is really a rewarding career. It feels good to show up, zip up that flight suit, go on these missions, and take care of people. It’s a great honor and opportunity,” he said.

LIFE FORCE and the Franklin County community have embraced each other with open arms. LIFE FORCE has made it a priority to engage with the residents here in Franklin County. They’ve partnered with local hospitals like Southern Tennessee Medical Center in Winchester and Sewanee for years.

They hire local staff and remain involved in community events. Condrey spoke on behalf of the team, expressing that his goal for the future is to continue offering access to the high level of care that makes Erlanger a blazing force in the region.

Condrey wants the Franklin County community to know that they will continue to provide top-tier services to the community.

“We are proud to provide our services to you. We consider ourselves a part of the community, and we are here. We’re not going anywhere, and you can pop by and see us. We’re here at the Winchester Municipal Airport. You can also look for us at any one of the community events that pop up where we’re super active in the area and the community. Any opportunity that we have to get out there and interface with the public — we love to take advantage of that.”

Condrey and the team’s ability to provide top-notch emergency medical services makes LIFE FORCE a valuable asset to the area. Swiftly transporting their patients to the necessary medical facilities has undoubtedly saved countless lives and will continue to do so in the future. GN

Visit <https://www.lifeforceairmed.com/> to learn more about LIFE FORCE.

*“We are proud to provide our services to you. We consider ourselves a part of the community, and we are here. We’re not going anywhere, and you can pop by and see us.”*

- Andrew Condrey



▲ A LIFEFORCE helicopter on approach for landing.

# Breath of Life Fundraising Gala - Sept. 12



Photography by Brooke Snyder

Life Choices hosted the Breath of Life Fundraising Gala on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. The night consisted of a wonderful meal, fellowship, and so much more.



1. Laura Conquest and Kelli Robertson 2. Faith Mann, Taylor and Dylon Smith, Becky Morris, Billy Morris, and Valentina Hill  
3. James Coffelt, Ashley Coffelt, and Nicole Clark 4. Steve and Erin Petersheim 5. Ron Taylor and John Bush  
6. Garrett and Marijo Orr, Donna Hemshaw, and Sharon Holst

# Annual Fall Heritage Festival - Sept. 20-22



Photography by Brooke Snyder

The annual Fall Heritage Festival was held Sept. 20-22. Artists performed on every stage and vendors covered the streets. People travel from all over to be a part of this event.



1. Brandi Clark 2. Benji Niemiller  
3. Tom Toner 4. Aubree Vaughn, Starr Heade, Audrey Davis, and Preston Acosta

# 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.

Amani Women's Health Center.....	26	Moore-Cortner Funeral Home.....	7
Bennett's Pharmacy.....	27	Mr. Postman.....	8
Berzett Excavating.....	30	New Life TN.....	20
Century 21-Pam Peck.....	26	Pioneer Motorcycles.....	16
Champs Septic Tank LLC.....	27	Reliable Rental of Franklin County.....	8
Citizens Community Bank.....	17	Richardson Waste Removal & Richardson Waste Solutions LLC.....	26
Citizens Tri-County Bank - Dechard.....	4	Russell Barnett Chrysler Dodge Jeep.....	9
Danley Heating and Air Conditioning.....	20	Russell Barnett Ford of Winchester.....	48
Elk River Health & Nursing of Winchester.....	26	Sheriff Tim Fuller.....	9
Elk River Public Utility District.....	26	Southern Iron Works.....	17
Estill Monument Company.....	16	Southern TN Regional Health System.....	47
Farmers Insurance - Melinda Drake.....	30	Stan McNabb Chevrolet Buick GMC.....	5
First Vision Bank - Tullahoma.....	20	Swann Equipment Co.....	9
Franklin County Paint.....	9	Swiss Pantry.....	17
Franklin Manor.....	16	Town of Estill Springs.....	17
Jones Hardware.....	27	Traders Bank - Tullahoma.....	27
Keith's Tank Service.....	30	Vanderbilt Tullahoma-Harton Hospital.....	2
Lake Med Health & Wellness.....	8	Watson Funeral Home.....	3
Let's Make a Note.....	27	Watson Metals LLC.....	8
Lynch-Rigsby Realty and Auction.....	30	Winchester Family Dentistry.....	4
Lynchburg Nursing Center.....	30	Winchester Podiatry.....	4
Metro Industrial - Manchester.....	16	Winchester Utilities.....	4
Mid-Town Loans.....	16	Zaxby's - Winchester.....	21



# Welcome

**Philip Smith, MD**

*General Surgery*

**Winchester Surgeons  
83 Memorial Dr.  
Winchester, TN 37398**

## **Specializes in:**

- Gastrointestinal surgery
- Biliary surgery
- Abdominal and retroperitoneal surgery
- Surgery of the skin and soft tissue

**Welcoming new patients**

**Appointments may be made by calling**

**931.967.3966**



**SouthernTnWinchester.com**

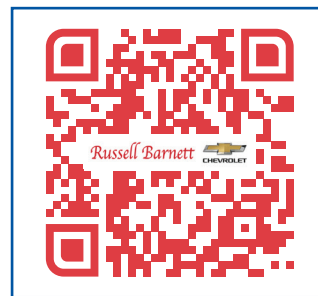
**Russell Barnett** Ford Chevrolet GMC KIA  
CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep  
**AUTOMOTIVE FAMILY**

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

***~ Christopher Reeve***



**VIEW OUR INVENTORY**



**View Our Inventory or Schedule Service Appointments Online**

DISCOVER THE  
**RUSSELL BARNETT**  
**ADVANTAGE**  
 WITH EVERY CAR YOU BUY!

**Russell Barnett Ford**  
**931-967-2277**  
 4055 Tullahoma Hwy.  
 Winchester, TN

**Russell Barnett Chevy GMC**  
**931-967-4513**  
 1981 Cowan Hwy.  
 Winchester, TN

Ask Us About Our  
**LIFETIME**  
 POWERTRAIN WARRANTY

**www.RussellBarnett.com**