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TIFFANY WOOSLEY

THE DRIVE TO LEAD

Basketball, business,
and the power of GRIT
shaped her path on
and off the court.

THE HOME TEAM



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ISSUE 8 2025

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Home Team

A community is built under Friday night lights.

THE SCENT of warm butter-covered popcorn and the huge roar of the crowd... does anything bring you back faster than a Friday night under the stadium lights? For me, it's a flood of memories: the nervous jitters before kickoff, the eruption of cheers after a touchdown, even bumping into old friends and teachers in the concession line. These moments aren't just for students anymore; they whisk us right back to our own school days. We remember walking the school halls, practically buzzing for the game later that night. Those feelings? They stick with us for decades.

No matter how the game went, whether it was a nail-biting win or a tough loss, we played hard, cheered loudly, and probably got a little too carried away. It was something bigger, something you could truly feel in the air. We were together, not just in matching colors and jerseys, but in spirit, drive, and care.

Think about it: whether it's the powerful sounds of the band, the gravity-defying stunts of the cheerleaders, or the grit of the players on the field, every person involved

learns lessons that stick with them long after that final whistle. They learn about teamwork, about picking themselves up after a fall, and about the quiet power of sportsmanship. These are the qualities that make our community special, building character and shaping the next wave of leaders right here in our own backyard.

As life speeds up, it's easy to lose sight of these simple, Friday-night experiences. But there's a hidden treasure in our local fields and courts, a comfort and strength that we shouldn't take for granted. It's the feeling of knowing that our team, our community, always has our backs. That game that's not just a game? It ties us together under those Friday night lights. We build our lives together, often finding ourselves meeting up in those very same stands year after year.

Our home teams have always been a reflection of who we are as a community, inspiring us and cheering us on, both on and off the field. This issue of Good News, "The Home Team," is a celebration. GN

Wesley Bryant,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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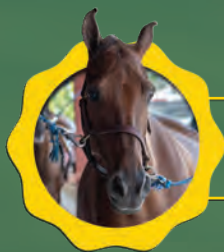


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IT'S TIME TO
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RIDING IRISH LUCK TO *Victory*

Cavender was named the 2024 World Grand Champion, guided by Tim Smith, a two-time Trainer of the Year.

By Amanda E. West // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

EVERY EYE was on the center ring. The floodlights overhead, which had previously illuminated the arena for dozens of Tennessee walking horses (TWH) and their riders, switched off. A subtle hush fell over the crowd as a single spotlight zeroed in on Cavender and his trainer, Tim Smith. This wasn't Cavender's first ride beneath the spotlight reserved for winners, but this time, he had earned the title of World Grand Champion at the 86th annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC).

A full-page photograph of a man, Tim Smith, standing next to a brown horse, Cavender, in a grassy field. The man is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, a blue baseball cap, and sunglasses. He is holding the horse's lead rope. The horse is a dark brown color with a white blaze on its face and a white ribbon around its neck. In the background, there is a white fence, a white barn, and trees under a blue sky with clouds.

World Grand Champion Cavender stands beside his trainer and rider, Tim Smith — a team built on trust, talent, and a shared drive to win.

When the judges wrapped the garland around Cavender's muscular neck, he raised his head proudly, and Smith, donning his green satin tie, straightened in the saddle, inhaling a victorious breath. The aroma of red roses filled their nostrils. As Cavender made his way around the perimeter of the show ring, a gentle August wind roused his dark, silky mane, and the tri-colored ribbon hanging from his browband fluttered.



“Although we compete on the weekends, many of my fellow trainers are good friends. We bounce things off each other and really lean on each other.”

—Tim Smith



Was it the luck of the Irish, the blood of champions flowing through the stallion's veins, or the perfect balance of knowledge and dedication from his rider, who had been voted Trainer of the Year twice? Perhaps it was the combination of all three.

Smith recalled his first impression of the chestnut colt, sired by the legendary 2016 World Grand Champion Honors and out of Jose's Cafe Au-Lait. Smith and Knox Blackburn were in Mississippi for the Abernathy Stables Colt Preview in February 2021 and admired the “high-headed colt.”

“I called Bruce MacDonald and said, ‘If you want him, you’ve got to buy him now,’” Smith said. “The youngster was under the direction of Cottonwood Farm in Kentucky and was raised by Brenda Corey with the help of Martin Cox.”

Over the last 30 years, Bruce and Robin MacDonald have been the proud owners of several horses who have left their mark on the TWH industry, including John F.K.'s Pusher, The Titleist, Prime Poison, It's Taboo, Busted At Pebble Beach, and Georgia Florida Line. Robin and Bruce have both successfully shown Uptight Jose and Mr. Heisman, as well as others. So when Smith contacted them about the colt, they knew he'd chosen another winner.

Robin named him Cavender, which is Irish and means bold and brave. Later that year, Cavender won blue ribbons at Thor-Sport Spring Fling in Murfreesboro, and as a 2-year-old, he won another at the Spring Fun Show in Shelbyville.

"The more I rode him, the better he got," recalled Smith. Each time Cavender entered the Celebration show ring, the audience and judges adored him. "As a 3 and 4-year-old, his World Championships and World Grand Championship wins were unanimous."

Several more wins included the Money Tree Classic, Division C World Championship, and the unanimous choice as the 4-year-old World Grand Champion. The team also won the Money Tree Classic and the Marshall County Horseman's Association.

During the first Saturday night of the TWHNC, they topped the A division of the Aged Stallions class, which features stallions age 5 and older. They also won the Canter class unanimously. Their top recognition came on Aug. 31, when they were named World Grand Champion — also by unanimous decision.

When Cavender isn't showing off, he has a sweet tooth like many of us. He loves to nibble on apple oat horse cookies, vanilla wafers, carrots, and even peppermints.

Smith grew up outside of Birmingham, Alabama. When he turned 18, he applied for his trainer's license. "I grew up around horses as my dad, Tex Smith, was a trainer, and I really began my love for horses with my first pony, Domino. In high school, I played football and trained horses with my dad after school. At that time, we owned the horses that I showed on the Alabama circuit, and we had a few outside customers."

He credits his love of the TWH breed to his dad, but says his mom, Joan, supported both of their dreams. "My dad doesn't miss watching a show online now. My in-laws, Becky and Walter Nichols, and a lot of my wife's family come to the shows to cheer me on. And, although we compete on the weekends, many of my fellow trainers are good friends. We bounce things off each other and really lean on each other. And then, there are the great customers that I have, and have had, over the years. Their trust in me with their horses really means a

lot and keeps me wanting to do the best job I can all the time."

Tim's wife, Sarah, is a Shelbyville native. "In 2002, thanks to a mutual horse industry friend, I met my wife. I moved to Tennessee in the spring of 2003, and we married the next October."

The Smiths have three children: Abi, Lexi, and Andy. "My wife, as well as our girls, have also won World Grand Championships at the Celebration. Andy loves horses and going to the shows, but he is really into basketball, so his focus is on that."

When it comes to Cavender, Tim said, "Cavender has been special since day one. He has the best personality. He just wants to please. He is truly a talented animal." **GN**





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IT'S TIME TO
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‘WATCH IT UNFOLD’

A mother-daughter duo and their Tennessee walking horse community rallied their town to send relief supplies to hurricane victims.

BY AMANDA E. WEST

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

HURRICANE HELENE dumped an astonishing 30 inches of rain on portions of Tennessee and Western North Carolina, triggering deadly landslides. Scenes unfolding across social media showed utter devastation. Entire chunks of Interstate 40 were missing, and so were dozens of homes, businesses, and people.

“I was scrolling through Facebook,” recalled Julie Graham. “I saw a horse owner from East Tennessee

reaching out for help during the flood. I decided that we, as the Tennessee walking horse (TWH) industry, had to do something to help on an emergency basis. I didn’t know how much we could do, but the need was immediate. I made a phone call to a couple of trainers. I thought maybe we could take one to two horse trailers. I called my daughter, Aimee Campbell, and from there, it exploded.”

Graham has been involved in the TWH industry for over

25 years and is the host of the Walking for the Angels show, which provides Christmas gifts for hundreds of children in Bedford County.

Her daughter, Aimee, said, “Until my mom told me about the Facebook post, I had no idea how unfathomable the devastation really was, but when I saw there were children they were trying to feed who had lost their homes, well, as a mom, that broke me.”





▲ Julie and Aimee used their connections in the Tennessee Walking Horse community to mobilize volunteers and collect essential supplies. Their horse trailers quickly transformed into lifelines for families who had lost everything.

As Shelbyville natives, Aimee and her mother had witnessed the community rally to help others in crisis before, but this was different. Those affected were strangers living hours away. Would the community help? They placed the first horse trailer at Edgemont Baptist Church on the corner of Fairfield Pike and Deery Street, and New Covenant Christian Bookstore on North Main Street.

"I can remember setting up that first trailer, thinking I could load one trailer by myself. I made a Facebook Live saying we were

set up and asked everyone to bring donations. It was unlike anything I'd ever seen before," Aimee recalled.

What happened next was also unfathomable. Like the dams that burst in the mountains following the Category 4 hurricane, what started as a steady trickle of donations erupted into more than they ever imagined. Bottled water, toilet paper, pet food, horse feed, clothing, nonperishable food, and hygiene supplies were being unloaded, sorted by a dozen volunteers, and packed into the horse trailer.

When the last pair of red taillights exited the parking lots, they made an amazing discovery. The 50-foot horse trailers were packed so tightly their doors wouldn't bolt.

"Shelbyville showed up in huge ways to help. It was an act of faith that we could do something, and God just handled the rest — from donations to volunteers to people offering to drive the trailers. It was remarkable how our community and the TWH industry responded to such a terrible event. We hoped to fill one or



We're all given opportunities to be a helping hand to others. Never let fear hold you back. Step out on that faith and watch it unfold.

**Julie
Graham**

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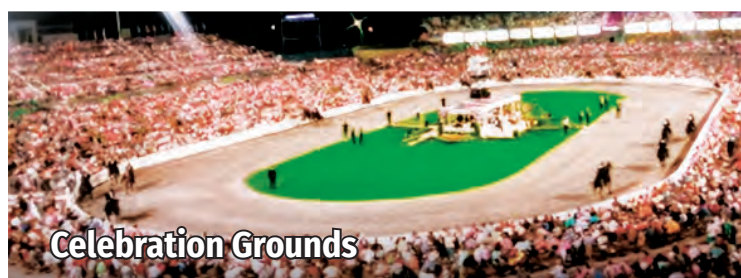
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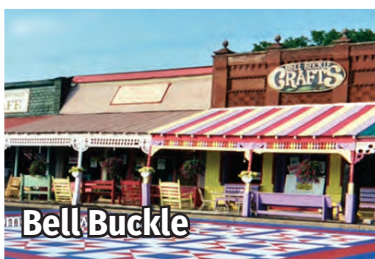
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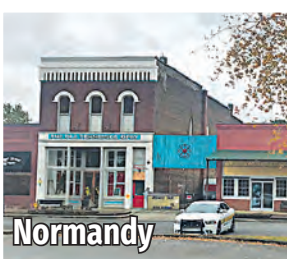
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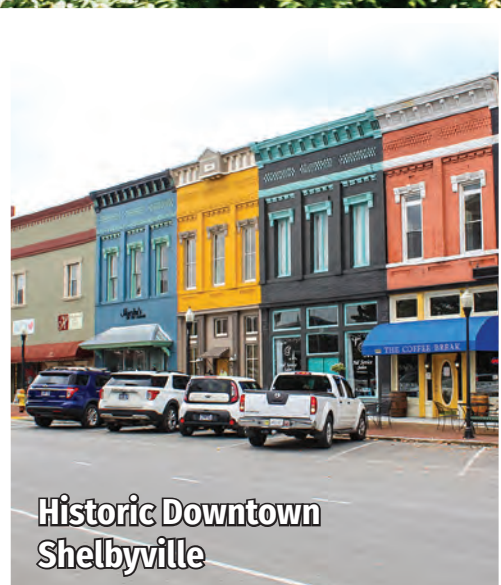
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▲ Julie Graham and her daughter, Aimee Campbell, stand in front of one of the trailers filled with donations bound for flood-ravaged communities in East Tennessee and Western North Carolina. What began as a single call for help turned into a convoy of hope.

two trailers with supplies, but in the end, we left with 10 full trailers. The first bunch of supplies was dropped off at a school in Greenville. It was like a distribution hub. From there, people in that community were able to fill up their four-wheelers and go into disaster areas that we couldn't get into," Julie said.

"It was humbling to see the people lined up for help, but it was also devastating to see just how badly the supplies were needed. It's one thing to say, 'let's help,' but it's another to see the faces of people who have lost absolutely everything," Aimee recalled.

They partnered with Layne Leverette from Layne Leverette & Sons Stables and over a dozen other volunteers. Aimee said, "The day I got home from the first trip, I

immediately began to plan another. I kept telling others, 'You just can't understand the devastation until you see it.' I received a call from Layne because he wanted to go and feed people. I said, 'Absolutely, but if we're going back to feed people, let's also take donations.' I made another Facebook Live. For three days, we gathered donations and left with 16 to 17 vehicles. Some of those were 18-wheelers loaded down with supplies, some were people hauling heavy equipment, and others were trucks loaded with food."

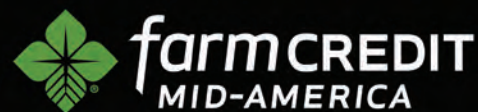
Volunteers distributed donations in Greenville, Black Mountain, and Asheville, North Carolina, and Erwin, Tennessee.

Aimee said, "I have never been through a natural disaster, so honestly, I couldn't

quite comprehend what devastation really looked like. This experience changed my perspective and has given me a true passion for helping others. It truly changed my life and who I am as a person. When God tells you to move, that's exactly what [you] need to do. You can't be worried about how it's gonna happen, or what if this, or what if that. When God tells you to go, you go."

The Bible verse Isaiah 6:8 has become Aimee's motivation: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here I am. Send me!'"

Her mother, Julie, said, "We're all given opportunities to be a helping hand to others. Never let fear hold you back. Step out on that faith and watch it unfold." GN



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For nearly 86 years, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration has been deeply woven into the fabric of the Shelbyville, Tennessee community. To Bedford County and surrounding areas, this isn't just a sport—it's a way of life. Seeing the Celebrations' support of numerous civic groups and bringing together people from all walks of rural life, support of the organization has been an easy choice for the team at Rural 1st. The tradition, pride, and spirit that define these events can't be replicated, making it a perfect way to further Rural 1st's mission of Securing the Future of Rural Communities and Agriculture®.

Regional Vice President of Rural 1st Sales in Tennessee, Chris Coffey, understands first-hand the impact the Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration has on rural communities and the families that call them home. "My family has been involved with the Tennessee Walking Horse since its inception, even owning one of the first registered walking horses," Chris shared.

The breed has been integral to his family's story for generations. Chris' Grandfather, Berry Coffey, showed at the inaugural Celebration in 1939 and trained 1969 World Grand Champion, B. Major Wilson. Chris continued, "I started showing when I was four years old and won the youth weanling class at the Celebration when I was seven. I still like to compete, but my favorite activity is seeing my wife Nicole and son Landon win world championships of their own."



Rural 1st helps finance rural property dreams—and as a customer-owned cooperative, they also support organizations that strengthen the communities their customer-owners call home. In 2024 alone, nearly \$4.5 million was invested directly into communities, programs and initiatives that demonstrate a living commitment to their purpose.

"Rural 1st has been an invaluable partner to the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration and their support has played a significant role in our ability to host a world-class event, year after year," shared Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration CEO, Warren Wells. "It's simply impossible to produce a show of this magnitude, with all the tradition, excitement and attention to detail without the backing of exceptional partners like Rural 1st."



For those looking to finance a rural property in the Middle Tennessee area, Rural 1st Loan Officers Katherine Baxter and Laura Fisher can help turn dreams into reality. Katherine shared, "we understand the unique challenges that come with rural properties. Our team of experienced loan officers live and serve in the same communities as our customers. We're familiar with properties in our home territories and their unique features; including equestrian properties."

As the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration looks ahead to the 88th event in 2026, there is no doubt that Rural 1st will continue to serve as a key partner in bringing this time-honored celebration to life for years to come. With a team of rural lending experts like Chris, Katherine and Laura, customers in Tennessee can rest assured that when working with Rural 1st, they'll be able to celebrate wins in both the show ring and the rural home of their dreams.

Learn more at Rural1st.com, or call the Shelbyville, Tennessee office to get started at **931-684-3291**.

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COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

2025 Football Schedule


DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Friday	Aug. 22, 2025	Moore County High School	7 p.m.
Thursday	Aug. 28, 2025	AWAY @ Eagleville High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Sept. 5, 2025	Huntland High School	TBA
Friday	Sept. 12, 2025	AWAY @ Cannon County High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Sept. 19, 2025	Richland High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Sept. 26, 2025	AWAY @ Watertown High School	TBA
Friday	Oct. 3, 2025	Forrest High School	TBA
Friday	Oct. 10, 2025	Giles County High School	TBA
Friday	Oct. 17, 2025	Sequatchie County High School	TBA
Friday	Oct. 31, 2025	AWAY @ Cascade High School	7 p.m.

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2025 Football Schedule

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Friday	Aug. 22, 2025	AWAY @ Tullahoma High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Aug. 29, 2025	AWAY @ Marshall County High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Sept. 5, 2025	AWAY @ Franklin High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Sept. 12, 2025	Independence High School	TBA
Friday	Sept. 19, 2025	AWAY @ Brentwood High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Sept. 26, 2025	AWAY @ Summit High School	TBA
Thursday	Oct. 9, 2025	AWAY @ Clarksville High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 17, 2025	Ravenwood High School	TBA
Friday	Oct. 24, 2025	Hendersonville High School	7 p.m.
Thursday	Oct. 30, 2025	Coffee County High School	TBA

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CASCADE HIGH SCHOOL

2025 Football Schedule

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Friday	Aug. 22, 2025	Cheatham County Central High	7 p.m.
Friday	Aug. 29, 2025	AWAY @ Moore County High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Sept. 5, 2025	AWAY @ Summertown High School	7 p.m.
Thursday	Sept. 11, 2025	Eagleville High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Sept. 19, 2025	AWAY @ Sequatchie County High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 3, 2025	Giles County High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 10, 2025	AWAY @ Forrest High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 17, 2025	Watertown High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 24, 2025	AWAY @ Marion County High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 31, 2025	Community High School	7 p.m.

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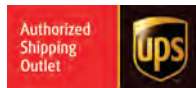
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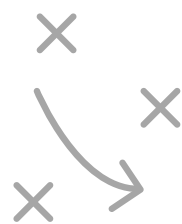


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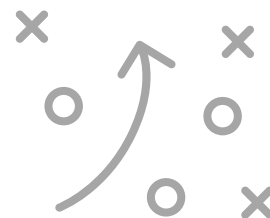


Chicken Nachos

Submitted by Rosalind Lindsey

1 can white premium chunk chicken in water, drained, 9.75 oz.
1 c. pinto beans, drained and rinsed
1 c. tomatoes with jalapenos, drained
1 pkg. pepper jack cheese, shredded, 3 oz.
tortilla chips, unsalted

Arrange chips on a large, microwave-safe platter. Break the chicken in pieces and scatter over the chips. Scatter the beans over the chicken and the tomatoes over the beans. Top with an even layer of cheese and microwave at full power until the cheese is melted, about 3-4 minutes.



Submit your recipes to be included in Good News Magazine and the Exchange Cookbook: www.southernaprons.com

Sweet and Tangy Chicken Wings

Submitted by Renee Steelman

3 lbs. chicken wingettes, about 30
1/2 t. salt, divided
dash of pepper
1 1/2 c. ketchup
1/4 c. brown sugar, packed
1/4 c. red wine vinegar
2 T. Worcestershire sauce
2 T. Dijon mustard
1 t. garlic, minced
1 t. liquid smoke, optional
sesame seeds, optional



Sprinkle chicken wings with dash of salt and pepper. Place in a baking dish and broil 4-6 inches from heat for 5-10 minutes on each side or until golden brown. Transfer wings to a greased 5 quart slow cooker. In a mixing bowl, combine ketchup, brown sugar, vinegar, Worcestershire, mustard, garlic, liquid smoke, and remaining salt. Pour over wings; toss to coat. Cover and cook on low for 3 1/4 - 3 3/4 hours or until chicken juices run clear. Sprinkle with sesame seeds if desired.



Best Ever Skillet Burgers

Submitted by Mary Tipper

1 1/2 lbs. ground beef
1 lg. onion, chopped
1 bell pepper, chopped
3/4 c. ketchup
2 T. sugar
2 T. mustard
1 T. vinegar
1 T. Worcestershire sauce
salt & pepper, to taste
hamburger buns



In a heavy skillet, brown meat, onion, and pepper; drain. In a bowl, combine ketchup, sugar, mustard, vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, salt, and pepper. Add to meat mixture. Simmer 30 minutes. Serve on buns with your favorite condiments.



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An advertisement for a law firm. On the left is a close-up of a wooden gavel. On the right is a yellow diamond-shaped logo with a black border containing the initials 'W X H' and 'Est. 1989'. Below the logo, the names of the attorneys are listed: C. Kelly Wilson, Garrett D. Haynes, and Austin K. Wilson, followed by the phone number (931) 684-5424. At the bottom left is the email address ckwilson@wilsonhayneslawfirm.com, and at the bottom right is the address 100 Public Square E, Shelbyville, TN 37160 • 931-684-5425.

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An advertisement for Garrison Valley Farms. It features a background image of a cow. The text reads: 'Locally Raised Beef! No steroids or therapeutic antibiotics!'. Below this is the 'GARRISON VALLEY FARMS' logo, which includes a small illustration of a farm. The contact information is: 'Call: (931) 389-1005' and 'Store hours: Mon-Fri 8-4 Sat. 10-12'. At the bottom, it lists 'Single Cuts | Qtrs | Halves | Whole'.

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An advertisement for Garrett's Automotive and Wrecker Service. The top half features the text 'HEAVY TOWING & RECOVERY' in large, bold, red letters. Below this is a list of services: 'Over 25 Years Experience', 'Your One Stop Auto Shop', '24 hr Wrecker Service', 'Computer Diagnostics', 'Collision Center', 'Tires & Alignments', 'Diesel Repairs', 'Oil Changes', 'A/C Services', and 'Brakes'. To the right of the list is a QR code. Below the list are logos for 'JASPER ENGINES & TRANSMISSIONS' and 'NAPA AUTOCARE CENTER'. At the bottom, the company name 'GARRETT'S' is written in large, bold, red letters, followed by 'AUTOMOTIVE AND WRECKER SERVICE' in smaller red letters. The contact information is: 'Office: 931-294-5330 • Cell: 931-639-4396' and '2678 Hwy 41A North Shelbyville, TN 37160'.

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A high-angle photograph of a football game. In the foreground, two players in blue jerseys and helmets are in a three-point stance on a green artificial turf field. The field has white yard lines and large white numbers '5' and '0' visible. In the background, a crowd of spectators stands on the sidelines, and several other players in blue jerseys are visible. The title 'THE HOME TEAM' is overlaid in large, bold, white letters with a yellow outline, slanted to the right.

THE HOME TEAM

From Friday night lights to packed gymnasiums, neighbors gather to cheer on hometown heroes and create memories that last a lifetime.





TIFFANY WOOSLEY

THE DRIVE TO LEAD

Basketball, business, and the power of GRIT shaped her path on and off the court.

THE HOME TEAM



▲ A symbol of excellence: Tiffany Woosley's 3,105 career points still inspire young athletes across Tennessee. She now gives back by mentoring the next generation of leaders.

BY AMANDA E. WEST

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

AND SUBMITTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE ATHLETICS

TIFFANY WOOSLEY transferred from Moore County and started her freshman year at Shelbyville Central High School (SCHS). This decision proved to be a game-changer for Woosley. She rose from an Eaglette to a Lady Vol at the University of Tennessee through tough work and perseverance. Then she signed with the Women's National Basketball Association as a guard for the Houston Comets.

"Community and competition were at the heart of everything in Shelbyville," Woosley said. "Basketball wasn't just a sport here; it was a way of life. I fell in love with the game early and poured everything into it. The structure, discipline, and teamwork I learned through basketball shaped not just my interests, but my approach to life."

She learned from the best while playing for Rick Insell at SCHS and Pat Summitt at the University of Tennessee. "I was blessed to play under legendary

coach Pat Summitt and Rick Insell, which was a tremendous honor. Being part of such a storied program taught me excellence and accountability. Now, being featured in this magazine and having built Homeland into a growing business is a new kind of proud moment for me, one rooted in impact beyond the court."

As one of the most influential coaches in basketball history, Pat Summitt led the Lady Vols for 38 seasons, leaving a permanent mark on the sport with her demanding yet supportive coaching style and countless victories. By the time she retired in 2012, her successful coaching had led to 1,098 wins, the most in NCAA Division I history.

"My family has always been my anchor," Woosley said. "Their support during my basketball journey — through wins, injuries, and setbacks — built my resilience. Professionally, they continue to be my biggest cheerleaders. They instilled in me the value of



◀ *Tiffany Woosley bringing intensity and skill to the court during her time with the University of Tennessee Lady Vols.*

“Basketball taught me how to win, but community taught me why it matters. Everything I’ve built at Homeland Talent Solutions is a reflection of both.”

TIFFANY WOOSLEY

hard work and integrity, which now guides how I lead my team at Homeland Talent Solutions.”

She continued, “After basketball, I realized I wanted to build something that echoed the values I learned on the court: teamwork, purpose, and drive. Discovering and developing talent has made staffing a natural transition for me. Guiding people toward meaningful careers and helping companies build strong teams has become my new form of coaching.”

Homeland Talent Solutions, based in Franklin, specializes in matching the ideal candidates for both long-term and short-term positions in the fields of information technology, engineering, and executive roles. Nashville Business Journal recognized Woosley’s company as Best in Business and gave her a Women of Influence Award. The governor’s office certified Homeland as a diverse business enterprise, and the Nashville Technology Council awarded them Innovator of the Year.

“We’re launching a new service line at Homeland focused on data and analytics staffing. It’s an exciting expansion that allows us to meet new client needs while growing our team from within.”

Woosley describes her role in the company as rewarding. “Whether it’s a candidate landing a life-changing role or a team member at Homeland growing into a leadership position, I get the same sense of pride I used to feel after a big win on the court.”

As a female entrepreneur, she had defining moments that carved her pathway to success. “Starting Homeland from the ground up, I had to rely on the same grit and faith I had as an athlete. Each time we have a win with a client, I’m reminded that the right people can transform a company and a life. I’d love to build this business into a nationally recognized brand for staffing excellence and develop mentorship programs for student-athletes transitioning into the professional world.”

Whether parents, teachers, or coaches, throughout her life, others have poured into and invested their time and talents to ensure Woosley reached her greatest potential. To honor those who have helped her succeed, she finds time to repay their efforts by helping others.

“I want to focus more on mentorship and empowering the next generation, especially women in business and young athletes who are trying to find their path. I also see myself advocating for work-life balance and purpose-driven leadership across industries. Habitat for

TENNESSEE

Lady Vol pride runs deep. Tiffany credits legendary coach Pat Summitt with teaching her how to lead with integrity — lessons she now applies as a CEO and mentor.

Humanity is close to my heart, as it's a tangible way to build both homes and hope in the community. I also love mentoring young athletes and business professionals. Giving back, whether through coaching or volunteering, keeps me grounded," Woosley said.

She describes herself as "fiercely competitive."

"Whether it's playing a card game or building a business strategy, I always bring my A-game. People often associate competitiveness with ego, but for me, it's about passion and purpose."

Faith, perseverance, and integrity have guided her steps. "I believe in doing things the right way, even when it's hard. That mindset carried me through sports, and it continues to guide every decision I make today. Basketball taught me how to win, but the community taught me why it matters. Everything I've built at Homeland is a reflection of both." **GN**

For more information on Homeland Talent Solutions, go to www.homelandus.com.





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*Tiffany stands in front
of the 1990–91 SCHS
championship team photo
— honoring the legacy that
launched her basketball
career and life of leadership.*

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CHRIS FRITZ

COUNTYWIDE MENTOR

He leads by example as a coach and educator, inspiring students through hard work and compassion.

THE HOME TEAM



▲ As he adds another trophy to the growing collection at Shelbyville Central High, Chris Fritz knows it's never just about the win — it's about the players who grew up chasing it.

BY AMANDA E. WEST

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

AND SUBMITTED BY LILLY BOTELLO

WHILE HIS mother earned a nursing degree from Motlow State Community College and worked full time to support her family, Chris Fritz watched with silent admiration. “I’ll never forget waking up at night when I was in elementary school and seeing her studying or doing homework,” recalled Fritz. “She worked her tail off to provide Hamburger Helper for dinner. She read to me every night and made sure that I believed academics were a way to change my life.”

His mother’s dedication to earning a college degree, coupled with a string of teachers pushing Fritz to give his best efforts, molded him into a teacher, soccer coach, and mentor who prioritizes investing in his students and players.

“I had a long line of exceptional teachers that helped me mature by investing in me as a person first. I wasn’t the easiest student by any means. Ann Spencer, Ardis Rittenberry, and Marla Agee were a few, but these aren’t all of the teachers who helped shape my personality. One of my current best friends, coach Neal Gordon, was my chemistry teacher, and he allowed me to flourish in his class,” Fritz said.

After graduating from Shelbyville Central High School (SCHS), Fritz earned a degree in criminal justice from Middle Tennessee State University. A chance encounter with coach Gordon changed the trajectory of Fritz’s life when he encouraged him to pursue teaching.

“I love watching people develop grit and self-confidence to achieve in ways that surprise themselves.”

CHRIS FRITZ

“Within a year, I was working at the high school as a teacher, and coach Gordon took me under his wing as an assistant coach. He showed me how rewarding both responsibilities can be when you truly give yourself to the kids. I’ve been blessed to know a man like coach Gordon. He taught me how to reflect, own my mistakes, and be true to myself.”

When done well, coaching and teaching students in the classroom can have similar outcomes. According to Fritz, “Both require you to pour into people, be passionate, and focus on the growth, not the outcome. I love watching people develop grit and self-confidence to achieve in ways that surprise themselves. That carries over to the classroom with some of the difficult or hard-to-reach students. The ‘light bulb moment’ is a real thing in a good teacher’s classroom; it’s a lot slower than most people realize, but when it happens, it’s immensely rewarding.”

When it comes to sports, Fritz vividly recalled the financial struggles his single mother faced. “I don’t take coaching fees for the youth soccer teams that I coach. That’s nine different age groups of boys and over 130 little guys that I’ve coached over the past decade. I have strong opinions about affordable sports for our community and free public spaces for people to gather and play sports. It’s also the same philosophy we had with the Bedford County elementary league. In trying to give as many kids the opportunity to play as possible, we even ran our camp last year for free.”

Coach Chris Fritz breaks down strategy on the tactics board, keeping his team locked in during game time.



Fritz taught history and math at SCHS for 16 years and has coached soccer for 17 years. While teaching, he also became a student, earning a master’s degree in school administration from Arkansas State University in 2018. Because of the investments he continues to make in the lives of countless students, the board of education promoted him to dean of students. He faithfully served in this capacity while also teaching. The board expanded the position for the 2024-2025 school year, so Fritz now mentors full time at all three high schools.

He is a devoted husband to his wife, Misty, and the father of three sons, Mason, Callum, and Rory. “My wife is a nurse in Lynchburg. She has been my rock, and honestly, I look up to her. She is the most optimistic and caring person I have ever known. She helps me work through the ups and downs of the coaching world. She even coached alongside me when I was coaching the girls. She will tell you that coaching has made me a better father and husband. Our three sons have lost a ton of ‘dad time’ to



Out on the field at Shelbyville Central, Chris Fritz leads by example.

my coaching, but I try to make it up as much as I can. I think people generally just take for granted the sacrifices that come with pouring yourself out in coaching kids that aren't yours. It truly must be a calling on your soul."

As a teacher, Chris believed in the value of academics, and as a coach, he models the importance of teamwork and physical exercise to his players. But as someone who looks at the greater picture, he knows every athlete must be well-rounded, capable, and mature adults. To achieve this, every player becomes a mentor through the Cooper Steel Twelve/Twelve Reading Program or by volunteering during elementary league practices.

"Most of the boys go way above and beyond in helping with that league. We have some of our boys that show up every Saturday to support their favorite player."

Fritz's motto is: "Do the work others won't and that you dread. Never be satisfied." GN

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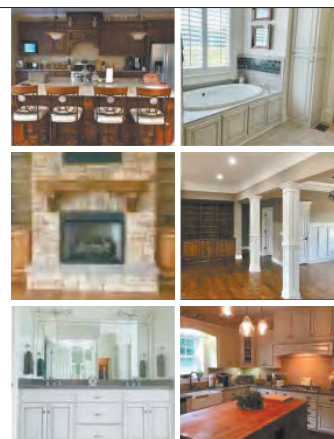
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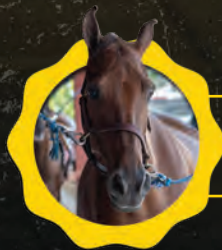
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IT'S TIME TO
CELEBRATE

MICKEY AND DRU MCCORMICK

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stays together.

THE HOME TEAM



▲ TN Lineman and Dru McCormick celebrate their big win alongside trainer Mickey McCormick at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration during the 2025 World Grand Champion Amateur Mares & Geldings.

BY AMANDA E. WEST

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

AND SUBMITTED BY DRU MCCORMICK

AFTER DRU McCormick graduated from Louisiana State University with a psychology degree, she traded tantalizing French beignets, Cajun and Creole cuisine, and the cypress-lined bayous of “Fisherman’s Paradise” for Middle Tennessee. But her love for Shelbyville — the “Tennessee Walking Horse Capital of the World” — had begun much earlier. From the age of 10, she’d spent every summer here competing with her best friend — her Tennessee walking horse.

Though Dru and Mickey McCormick grew up together in the Tennessee walking horse industry, their affections blossomed while Mickey worked as an assistant trainer at the barn where Dru’s family boarded their horses. With so many common interests, including their shared love for the breed, they married and have spent the last 27 years working as a team.

“Neither of us remembers a time when we haven’t been involved with Tennessee walking horses,” recalls Dru.

Their daughters, Bailey and Morgan, share their parents’ love of the breed, and through the guidance of their parents, both girls have competed in the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC).

“One of the greatest experiences of our lives is when they both won the World Grand Championships in 2011,” Dru said. “For me, my greatest experiences have been watching Dru and my girls win championships at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration,” said Mickey.

Mickey, who is a graduate of Cascade High School, has been training Tennessee walking horses professionally since 1978. Over the years, he has become a respected leader in the industry, known for excellence and integrity in both training and breeding. He is the proud owner of Mane Motion Stables on Highway 64 West, which has a proven track record for training winners. Their barn has been a part of 106 World and World Grand Champion-

“It is a caring and giving community which rallies around its members. We are competitors in the ring, and we’re all friends outside the ring.”

MICKEY MCCORMICK

ships. Outside the show ring, Mickey has served as the president of the Tennessee Walking Horse Trainers Association twice, and in the ring, he has won numerous championships.

“We love for people to come by Mane Motion Stables for a visit,” Mickey said. “Once you do, you understand our attraction as the horses themselves are the best ambassadors of their breed. I started with probably five horses and have been blessed through the years to have some of the best owners in the industry who brought fantastic horses to me. I love to put amateurs in the ring and have prepared horses for riders from 6 to 76 years of age. Today, we have about 35 show horses.”

Dru said, “Mane Motion Stables is a business, yet we feel like we are actually a barn family. We know we are blessed to have had such a huge success and owe it to our wonderful customers we’ve had throughout the years.”

Like her husband, Dru also spends her days working in the equine industry. She has been the operations liaison at Equine Services LLC since 2011. During the 2024 TWHNC, Dru took home top prizes in two categories: World Championship on TN Lineman in the Amateur 15.2 Mare and Gelding category and the World

Grand Championship in the Amateur Mare and Gelding category.

“The versatility of the breed is what I love most,” Mickey said. “Not all of them are show horses, but all can find a place in the world. Any rider, whether 6 or 90, no matter the age, can ride them. Their temperament and willingness are outstanding. There is also a Classic Horse class for horses older than 15, and it’s very competitive.”

What is the McCormicks’ secret to training scores of Tennessee walking horses that reach the top tier in competitions? Mickey said, “You must devote lots of time and patience. You’ll also need to spend lots of time in the saddle, ‘listening to the horse.’ It’s so rewarding to see a young, unbroken colt progress to become a show horse.”

For those interested in becoming trainers themselves, Mickey said, “Starting out, work under trainers who can teach you and who love their job. Just like any job, get good experience. As a rider, take your time, listen to your trainer, and enjoy yourself. Win or lose, you will have fun!”

Because of trainers and breeders like the McCormicks leading the local industry, the future of the Tennessee walking horse shines brighter than the noonday sun perched high atop the show ring of the TWHNC.



Mickey and Dru McCormick stand with their Champion, "TN Lineman," affectionately known as "Toby." Nearly three decades into their shared journey, the McCormicks continue to leave a lasting legacy in the Tennessee walking horse industry.



"I hope the Tennessee walking horse has a long, thriving future," said Mickey. "I've met many great people through the years because of this horse breed. We have a caring and giving equine community which rallies around its members. We are competitors in the ring, and we're all friends outside of the ring."

With their unmistakably smooth gaits, gentle demeanor, and trainable spirit, the Tennessee walking horse is a breed like none other. Renowned for its signature running walk that delivers an effortless ride, whether in the show ring or for pleasure riding, this unique breed has an enduring legacy that has captivated audiences and horse lovers for generations. As they say at the TWHNC, "Let 'em walk on..." GN



*Dru McCormick brushes down
"TN Lineman," affectionately
known as "Toby." The pair
recently took home the World
Grand Championship in the
Owner-Amateur Mares &
Geldings division at the 2024
TWHNC.*



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Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration

By Amanda E. West // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



SADDLE UP your Tennessee walking horses, slip on your favorite pair of boots, and bring your excitement and appetite to the largest event facility in Tennessee for the 87th annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration. This year, over 2,000 horses will compete for titles in 100 classes, with the World Grand Champion selected on the Saturday night before Labor Day. With over 100,000 tickets sold annually, and ticket sales steadily increasing each year, the 2025 Celebration is sure to be the best yet.

Dates:

Aug. 20-30

What to Expect:

Dozens of local vendors will be selling Western wear, equine jewelry, paraphernalia, and custom-embroidered hats, shirts, hoodies, and other items.

Local schools and civic organizations are firing up their grills and will sell hamburgers, hot dogs, loaded nachos, and, the much-loved, most anticipated autumn fare available — horse show donuts.

A wholesome, family-friendly atmosphere where national patriotism, community spirit, and nearly 100 years of tradition come together in a vibrant celebration of the Tennessee walking horse — honoring local heritage, showcasing equestrian excellence, and creating unforgettable memories for all generations.

Facilities:

The 100-plus-acre complex in the center of Shelbyville includes 45 barns with over 850 horse stalls and more than 300 recreational vehicle hookups for extended stays. Indoor seating inside the Cooper Steel Arena provides room for 4,500 spectators, while the outdoor stadium seats 30,000. **GN**

Mark Your Calendars:

Saturday, Aug. 23:
Hat Night

Sunday, Aug. 24:
Worship Service at 8 a.m.
Church & Family Night

Monday & Tuesday, Aug. 25-26:
General Admission: \$1.00

Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 28-30:
Championship Nights

Thursday, Aug. 28:
Here's to the Horse

Friday, Aug. 29:
Patriotic Night: Military
& First Responders Appreciation

Saturday, Aug. 30:
Stars of the Future (Youth Winners)

For more information: www.twhnc.com

For a complete list of events: <https://twhnc.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/2025-CELEBRATION-CLASS-SCHEDULE.pdf>



▲ Tony Prince



▲ Charleen Richardson



▲ Henry and Paulette Atkins







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