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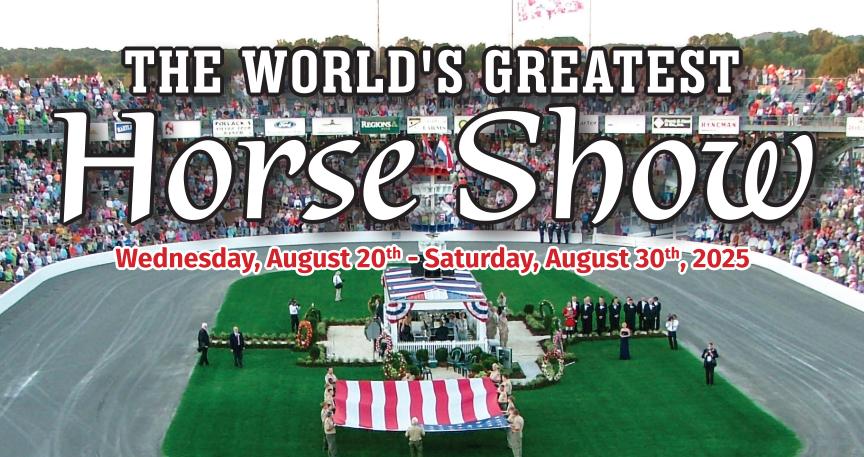
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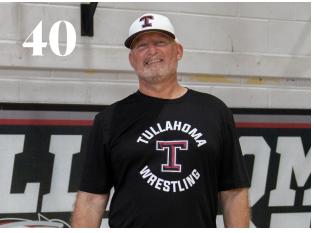
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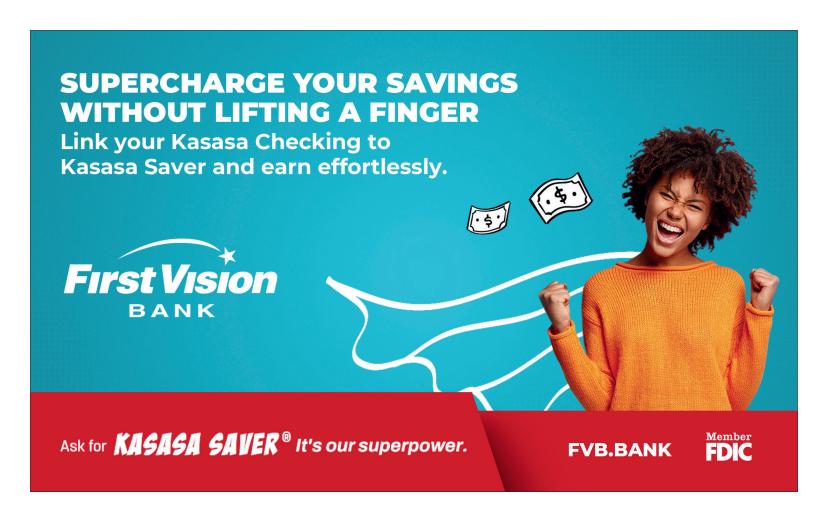
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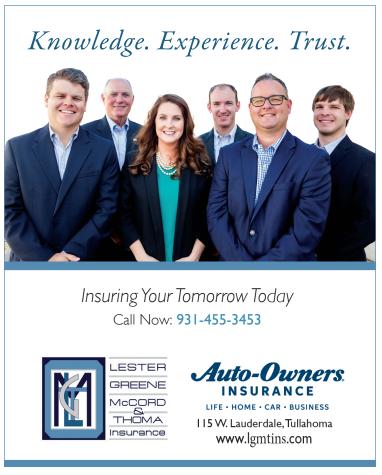
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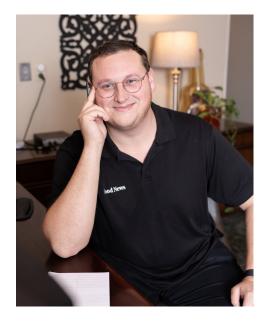












LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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

Mesly Bt

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**

From our publishing partner



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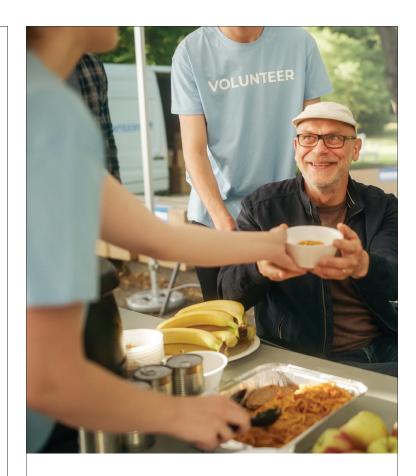
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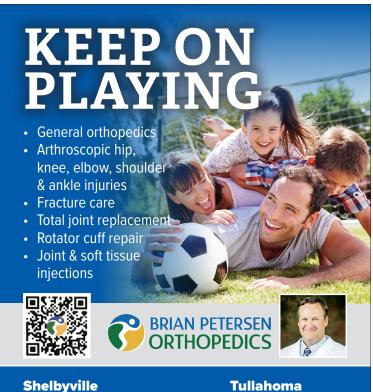


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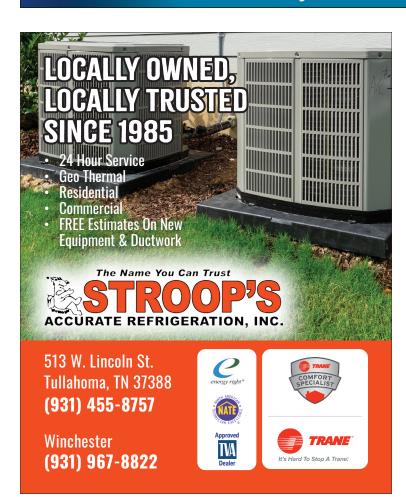




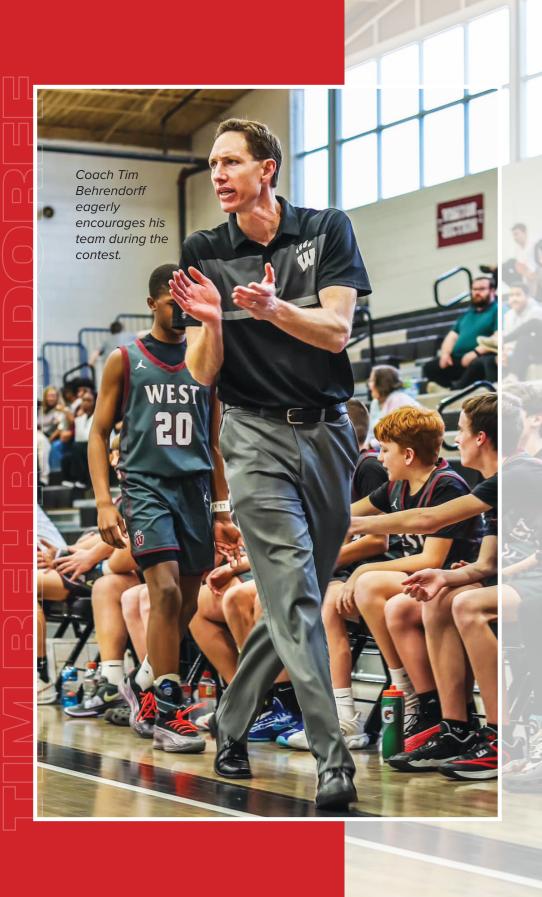
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LEADERSHIP on the Court

A good basketball team needs talent — and something deeper.

By Sara Hook // Photos submitted by Sharp Linz

HOES SQUEAK against the polished wood of the basketball court, and the swoosh of a ball passing through the net is barely heard over the audience's cheering. Tim Behrendorff proudly watches from the sidelines as the West Middle School boys basketball team scores another goal.

This spring marked the end of Behrendorff's fourth year as head basketball coach, a position he sought because of his love for kids and basketball. He describes coaching as a more intense version of teaching.

"You get to work with the kids closely. You get to know them a little bit better," Behrendorff said. "Hopefully, teach them something about the sport of basketball, but also maybe a little bit about life as well — try and point them in the right direction."

His efforts paid off this year, as the West Middle School basketball team won the regular-season conference and the area tournament and then placed second in the region — one of only four regions in Tennessee.



▲ Price Harden goes for the layup



A High fives down the bench toward the end of a game to celebrate another win

"Us coming in second in the region means that we were one of the top eight teams in the state this year," Behrendorff said. "That was something that West Middle School hadn't done previously, so that was pretty special."

The team was very talented and had a strong group of eighth-grade players, but that wasn't the only reason they excelled. Behrendorff said the eighth graders knew what was expected on and off the court and embraced that.

"We had good leadership within our group," Behrendorff said. "We also had a really good group of eight seventh-graders who were able to push those eighth graders daily in practice."

While the seventh graders may not have played as much on the court, the team would not have made it as far without them. Practices were very competitive — something that Behrendorff said he was really proud of. The students grew together, learning how to get the most out of each other and where each player excelled. They also held each other accountable on a day-to-day basis and built each other up.



▲ Javian Sheffield surveys the court off an on-ball screen by Kyle Tipps



GG

When you're working together as a team, and when you're doing all the right things, you're going to have fun doing it.

.TIM BEHRENDORFF





▲ Colby Shepherd pressures the inbound pass

"They're good students. They're leaders of the school, and they do the right thing on and off the court," Behrendorff said. "Anyone that's been around team sports knows it's not just about having the athletes, it's about everything else that goes along with it, and that's something that this group definitely had. We had a group of really good character, and that helped us go as far as we did."

This year was a particularly fun season, and Behrendorff said he missed going to practice and hanging out with the team after the season ended.

"When you're working together as a team, and when you're doing all the right things, you're going to have fun doing it," Behrendorff said.

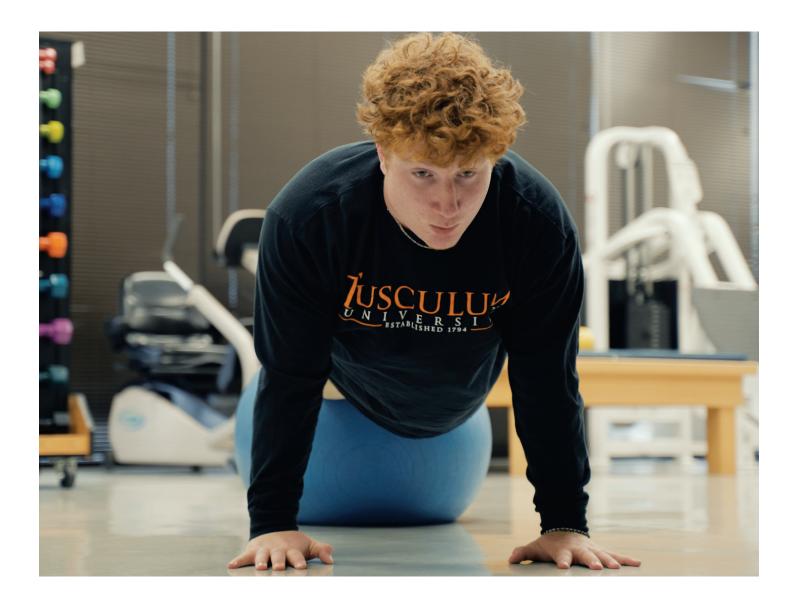
It isn't just West Middle School that has that experience. Basketball all across Tullahoma is in a good place, Behrendorff said, with excellent teams at West and East Middle schools and Tullahoma High School. The sport's future looks bright.

"Tullahoma should be really excited about that — about what we've got going on — and look to continue, and continue building on what we've got," Behrendorff said. "We have had success, and I think we can continue to be successful." GN

Recovering well with Highpoint Health

An athlete's lowest point is met with expert care at Highpoint Health - Winchester with Ascension Saint Thomas.

By Becca Roberts // Photos submitted by Ramie Hutchison, Hutch Digital LLC



T WAS another Friday night under the bright stadium lights for Franklin County High School varsity football player Dawson Sowers, who was in his senior year. The tension on the field was palpable, but Sowers had been under this pressure before, and he knew what he was doing. Unfortunately, there are always risks that come with playing sports, and that fateful evening, Sowers, as the team's linebacker, went for a tackle out of bounds that would change everything for his football career.

"When we both went down, I realized my shoulder was really far out behind me," Sowers said. "I felt a pop, and I realized something was really hurting, and I couldn't get up."

Dr. John Arnold, the team's physician and an orthopedic specialist at Highpoint Health - Winchester with Ascension Saint Thomas, was beside him on the field instantly, assessing the situation and treating the injured player. Sowers had torn cartilage in his shoulder and would eventually need a labrum repair: a surgical procedure to repair the torn ring of cartilage.

But Sowers was in his senior year and wanted the opportunity to attend college on a football scholarship, so Arnold, Sowers, and Sowers' parents worked together to hash out a treatment plan that would allow Sowers to continue playing while maintaining the minimum amount of risk to the already injured shoulder.





Arnold fitted him with a shoulder brace that would protect the injury as much as possible while allowing Sowers to finish out his season. His knowledge as an orthopedist restored Sowers' ability to keep pursuing his athletic goals.

Because he was able to continue playing, Sowers received a football scholarship to Tusculum University. While Arnold had brought him this far, his medical care was not over yet. For the injury to heal fully, Sowers still needed to have the labrum repair surgery. Arnold was prepared to see Sowers through to full recovery, and as an orthopedic surgeon at Highpoint Health, he performed the surgery himself.

"With posterior shoulder instability, once it becomes a surgical problem, unfortunately, the recovery time is about five or six months," Arnold said. "The labrum, when it is repaired, takes about three months to heal back to the bone."

Arnold is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon specializing in orthopedic sports medicine and general orthopedics. He and other orthopedic specialists, such as Dr. James McClure, offer specialized, professional care to patients at Highpoint Health, where patients feel heard, and treatments are customized based on the individual's needs. For Sowers, this level of skill and care gave him peace of mind, knowing that he was in good hands.

"I was worried because I heard the word surgery, but the doctors assured me that this was going to be a perfect recovery and that everything would go smoothly. So I felt more confident going into the surgery," Sowers said.

The surgery, recovery, and rehabilitation all went smoothly thanks to Highpoint Health's excellent team of doctors, nurses, and physical therapists.

"They really helped me. When you have an injury requiring surgery, most people believe that you aren't going to be able to bounce back," Sowers said. "But Highpoint Health is the opposite of that. They helped me reach my goal to earn a football scholarship, and now I'm feeling my best to go to college in the fall as a Tusculum Pioneer." GN

TULLAHOMA HIGH SCHOOL

2025 Football Schedule

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Friday	Aug. 22, 2025	Shelbyville Central High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Aug. 29, 2025	AWAY @ Coffee County High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Sept. 5, 2025	Cleveland High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Sept. 12, 2025	AWAY @ White County High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Sept. 19, 2025	Nolensville High School	7 p.m.
Thursday	Sept. 25, 2025	AWAY @ Lawrence County High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 3, 2025	AWAY @ Lincoln County High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 17, 2025	AWAY @ Rockvale High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 24, 2025	Franklin County High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 31, 2025	Columbia Central High School	7 p.m.



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MOORE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

2025 Football Schedule

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Friday	Aug. 22, 2025	AWAY @ Community High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Aug. 29, 2025	Cascade High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Sept. 5, 2025	Goodpasture Christian School	7 p.m.
Thurday	Sept. 11, 2025	AWAY @ Battle Creek High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Sept. 19, 2025	Huntland High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 3, 2025	AWAY @ Eagleville High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 10, 2025	AWAY @ Smith County High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 17, 2025	Fayetteville High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 24, 2025	AWAY @ Cornersville High School	7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 31, 2025	Richland High School	7 p.m.

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PIGGY'S PLACE

WHERE THE SMOKE MEETS THE SOUL

This small-town barbecue joint serves up comfort, community, and mouthwatering meals that feel like home.

i ggy's Place exudes the comforting promise of great barbecue before you even step inside. The smoke hits you before the front door does, and that's exactly how it should be when it comes to barbecue. On a random Thursday, I decided to try it, and immediately felt at home with its no-frills atmosphere: checkerboard tablecloths, pig decor, and the hum of regulars.

I chose the combo plate with two ribs, a chicken quarter, pulled pork, and two sides, going with the barbecue classics — slaw and baked beans. The pork was smoky without being dry, saucy but not drowned. The ribs and chicken were perfectly tender — charred goodness. The slaw was crisp and a little peppery, pairing well with the beans that had that brown sugar backnote I love. All in all, it was exactly what you want out of a traditional barbecue plate.

My husband was excited for the Thursday special: turkey and dressing. The dish came with smoked turkey, dressing, gravy, green beans, mashed potatoes (which he swapped for potato salad), cranberry sauce, and a roll. Each bite reminded him of childhood visits to this very spot with his grandmother, the kind of memories triggered by a single bite.

As hard as it is, try to save a little room. The dessert selection is not to be missed, with cakes lining the counter when you enter, waiting for you to begin the debate of which flavor you will be trying. And then to make matters more difficult, they have coconut cream pie on Thursdays! It is light, fluffy, and lusciously creamy—the perfect ending to the savory, smoky meal.

But what truly makes Piggy's Place special isn't just the food. It's the feeling of community and comfort that fills the small-town barbecue joint. It's the kind of place that leaves you not just full, but satisfied in ways that go beyond food, offering up the warmth of home and the flavors we always come back to. **GN**

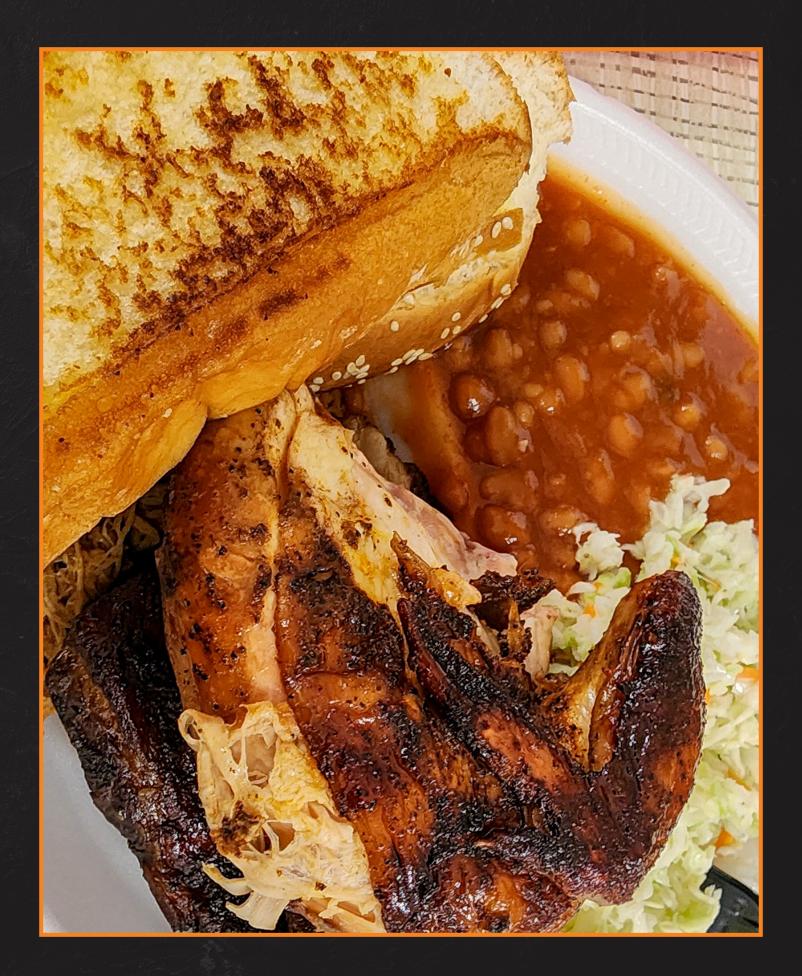


GOOD NEWS IS COMING TO DINNER!

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as they dine in Tullahoma. This month Tabitha Buckner visited Piggy's Place Bar-B-Que.

PIGGY'S PLACE BAR-B-QUE

112 N. Anderson St. Tullahoma, TN 37388





Touchdown Favorites ×

AME DAY is back, and with it comes the thrill of the plays, the roar of the crowd, and the unbeatable joy of gathering with friends. Whether you're glued to every down or just there for the fun, one thing unites everyone: incredible food. This lineup of game day greats is here to satisfy every craving. Think cheesy chicken nachos, sweet and tangy wings, and the always addictive skillet burgers. These MVP-worthy dishes will score big with your guests. So huddle up in the kitchen and bring your A-game — because the best plays happen around the table. GN

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

11/2 c. ketchup

1/4 c. brown sugar, packed

1/4 c. red wine vinegar

2T. Worcestershire sauce

2T. Dijon mustard

1t. 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

11/2 lbs. ground beef 1 lg. onion, chopped

1 bell pepper, chopped

3/4 c. ketchup

2T. sugar

2T. mustard

1T. vinegar

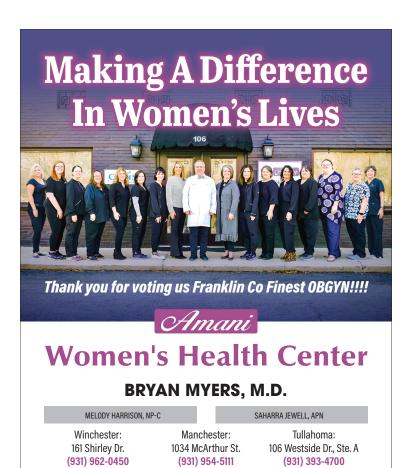
1T. Worcestershire sauce

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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▲ Xavier Farrell getting a steal on defense

BY RACHAEL SMITH

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

AND SUBMITTED BY XAVIER FARRELL

T TULLAHOMA High School, recently graduated senior Xavier Farrell carved his name into the school's history books, not just as a record-breaking basketball player but also as a multi-sport athlete, academic competitor, and community-minded role model.

Farrell recently broke the all-time scoring record at Tullahoma High with 1,562 career points, including 865 points during his senior season, also a school record.

"Going into the season, [breaking the record] was not on my mind at all," he said. "It wasn't anything that I was thinking about. As the season went on, my coach was like, I mean, you know how close you are, don't you?" Farrell said. "I was shooting to get my 1,000th point, and from there, everything else just came so quickly."

Farrell's senior year was a breakout season, both personally and for the team. After choosing to forgo football to focus entirely on basketball, he poured everything into the sport.

"I just worked my tail off, stayed in the gym, just working on my craft," he said. "I scored more points this season than I did the other three years combined."

That decision paid off.

Farrell helped lead his team to the state championship game, where they finished as the runner-up, a feat that hadn't happened in decades.

"Just work hard and trust your instinct.
Don't be a follower. The decision I made with football this year was the game-changer.
Just put in the work and stay focused."

XAVIER FARRELL

"Just the atmosphere — being able to compete there — it was surreal," he said. "We got closer than we did any year before. We hung out more outside of basketball every weekend. That bond helped us on the court as well."

But Farrell isn't just a basketball star. He played football for two years and ran track all four years of high school. In addition to sports, he found success academically, particularly through his involvement in Health Occupations Students of America, where he and a partner earned second place in the state for a medical innovation project and will head to nationals this summer.

"It's important to me to know that I'm more than an athlete," Farrell said. "It makes me feel like I can do more than just what I do on the court."

His goal is to become a respiratory therapist, an interest he began pursuing in high school. In the fall, he'll attend Motlow State Community College in Lynchburg to continue his academic and athletic careers.

"We have a new coach this year, so I'm excited," he said. "I'm going to get my general studies done and then transfer to a four-year school to start my respiratory program."

Time management was a challenge for Farrell early in high school, but he's grown from it.

"I really just want to have my main focus on keeping my grades up and making sure that I'm on top of my schoolwork," he said.

Despite the long practices, heavy workload, and sacrifices like missing social events, Farrell has no regrets.

"There were times when I had friends going out, and, of course, I was sad to miss it, but the results showed when we had the success that we had," he said.

When asked what he hopes to be remembered for at Tullahoma, Farrell said he wants the younger kids to know that Tullahoma is a basketball town and can compete with the best.

"If you put in the work, it's going to show," he said. As for advice to those following in his footsteps?

"Just work hard and trust your instinct," Farrell said. "Don't be a follower. The decision I made with football this year was the game-changer. Just put in the work and stay focused." GN



▲ Making a move on a defender in their cross-town rivalry game







Coaches Jonathan Wood, Nick Watson, Jason Welch, A.J. Johnson, Cameron Welch, Heath McCullough, Tommy Bumbalough, and Tom Fulton with all their trophies

BY GABRIEL GRANT HUFF

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

AND SUBMITTED BY JASON WELCH

Welch grinned ear to ear as the Tullahoma Wildcats basketball players rushed onto the court, colliding in hugs, celebrating their punched ticket to the state championship and 32nd win of the 2025 season — the most in the school's history. Emotions ran high. Not everyone anticipated such a feat. Welch cherished The win much more as he remembered facing a possible life-or-death situation just months prior.

The Manchester native's life had always revolved around sports. Since the seventh grade, Welch knew he wanted to coach basketball. After graduating from college with a degree in education, he spent more than two decades coaching basketball programs across Tennessee before joining Tulla-

homa High School in 2019. Along the way, he married his wife of over 30 years, Angela, who also teaches at the school. Together, they have two grown children, Cameron and Abi.

Heading into his sixth season as Tullahoma's head coach, Welch participated in a triathlon with his son in Huntsville during August 2024. While swimming in a pool for the race, he felt an unsettling tightness in his chest that he quickly brushed off as a one-time occurrence. However, the small episode turned into a larger one on Sept. 5, when he suddenly collapsed while running. That's when he knew something was wrong.

A visit to a cardiologist revealed he needed triple bypass surgery — or a coronary artery bypass graft so he underwent the operation a week later.

"Persistence pays off. It's amazing how loving people are and how caring people are."

JASON WELCH

"It was like I was on a slippery slope," Welch recalled. "It's just like I kept going to the next level. It kept getting worse. Honestly, I prayed about it. I gave it to the Lord and let Him have it. I knew that it would all work out."

The procedure was a success, and Welch returned to coaching on Oct. 17 — though in a limited capacity — just in time for the start of basketball practice in November 2024.

Those recovery days were slow, but his family, school, and Wildcats team ensured he never lacked support. His son became his assistant coach, making the season even more special, while the players spent the school year looking out for their head coach.

"The kids really took care of me this year. They won't let me do anything anymore. They carry everything [and] do everything. I guess I went from being that old coach to just being a really old man that they don't want to fall over," Welch said, laughing.

The special bond and hard work carried the Wildcats to a historic 32-5 record, shattering the school's previous record of 24 victories as they won the district and region

tournaments. The school had never won a game in the state tournament's final eight. But in March 2025, coach Welch led the past two teams to the state tournament at Middle Tennessee State University's Murphy Center — beating Jackson South Side by 20 points and Fayette-Ware by nine.

Unfortunately, the team fell short in the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class 3A State Championship game against the Upperman Bees, finishing as the runner-up. But when they arrived home, they were greeted with a winner's welcome.

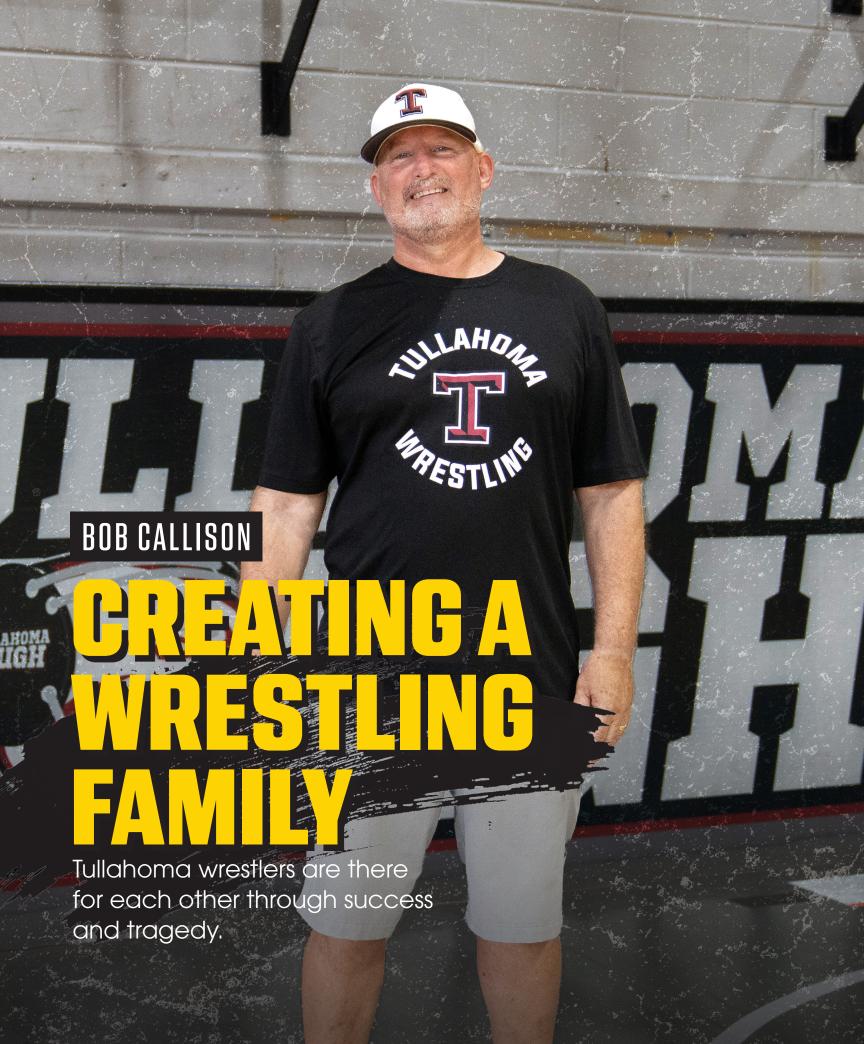
In many ways, Welch became the heart of the team in 2025, as players and staff worked together to create an unforgettable season and now look ahead to continued success in 2026.

"Persistence pays off," Welch said. "It's amazing how loving people are and how caring people are. Sometimes you get so cynical. You watch the news, and you're like, 'Oh, the world is terrible.' Well, my community is not terrible. Tullahoma is not terrible. I felt overwhelmed by the outpouring of support and love from everybody."

For the head coach, that's the Tullahoma way. GN







THE HUME TELM



▲ 2024-25 Tullahoma High School wrestling coaching staff: Zach Valdez, Hunter VanDerworp, Bob Callison, Jeff Lester, John Olive, and Haley Roberts after Region Duals Championship

BY SARA HOOK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

AND SUBMITTED BY BOB CALLISON

HE TULLAHOMA High School Wrestling team has had a challenging and successful year, and their coach, Bob Callison, has been a pillar of support throughout it all. The 2024-25 year will be his second in Tullahoma, but Callison has over 30 years of coaching experience and a passion for wrestling and the impact it can make on students.

After all, it made an impact on him. Callison started wrestling at just 8 years old, as a ward of the court with a chip on his shoulder. He found success in the sport through elementary school, middle school, high school, and into college.

"It was a great outlet for me," Callison said. "I was one of those students [who] needed something like a sport to help me get good grades and get me through. And it's crazy — I never really liked school, and here I've been doing school for my whole life."

Wrestling alone wouldn't have changed Callison's life the way it did. He also had wonderful coaches and mentors. Those people drove him to be better and, in turn, led him to coach.

"My high school coach had a big impact on my life; he was just a good role model," Callison said. "I decided ... I was going to be a teacher and a coach and try to make an impact on my students and my athletes like he had for me."

Last year, the Tullahoma High School boys wrestling team finished as state runner-up in dual team wrestling, earning Callison his 500th dual match victory.

"We were there together like a big family. I was just praying that I would do the right thing for our team."

BOB CALLISON

Winning isn't the only goal, however. Callison said having a good relationship with his students is one of the most important things he can achieve. It helps them work harder, push further, and achieve things they may have never thought they could.

"There's struggles that we have," Callison said. "We're working through those — myself and the team together — and so I think we continually get better because of that."

Tragically, the team's tight bond was put to the test on Sept. 7, 2024, when Brodie Minor passed away after a motor-bike crash. That first night — and the one after — Callison kept the wrestling room open until midnight as the team and community tried to make sense of what had happened.

"I think giving them a place to talk and to work through that was good. We were there together like a big family," Callison said. "I was just praying that I would do the right thing for our team — for us to get through that [and] to heal."

The wrestling team was also there for Callison, and the community came out to support the Minor family.

"We were kind of all in this thing together. It was new ground," Callison said. "We stayed together, and it probably made us tougher as a team."

Callison said that many of the team wrestled for Brodie as well as themselves, and they rallied together to achieve a fourth-place finish. These past two seasons have been the best finishes in Tullahoma's wrestling history. He said the Tullahoma community was very supportive, as they have been throughout the year.

"To have a good program, you need a supportive community, and our community — great support for wrestling," Callison said. "We couldn't do the things and give our kids opportunities that we give them without that support."

Callison was drawn to Tullahoma because of its support for sports — wrestling in particular — and said the wrestling team's booster club members are some of the best people in the world.

"We've fallen in love with this place," Callison said. "We're thankful and blessed to be part of the Tullahoma community." **GN**



A Brodie Minor in 2023 after earning second place at the Ray Dalton Invitational at Brentwood Academy. He passed away in 2024.



SECOND ANNUAL SUMMER CRAFT FAIR:

MADE FOR COMMUNITY



▲ Artist Crystal Springer

Brianna Victory Events presented an afternoon of shopping, food trucks, live music, and handmade goods.

By Becca Roberts Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

OCAL CRAFTERS enjoyed selling handmade treasures at the Second Annual Summer Craft Fair on July 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. On that Sunday afternoon, colorful tents lined the parking lot in front of Hobby Lobby, offering baked goods, flavored lemonades, hand-crafted jewelry, toys, decor, and more.

Local singers Creations for Christ presented live music, and food trucks offered a variety of options for hungry guests. The fun, family-friendly event highlighted local talent.

The fair was hosted by Brianna Victory Events, owned by Brianna Hale, who has a passion for supporting local entrepreneurs and small businesses.

"I started this to bring the community together and support local makers," Hale said. "Last year's response was incredible, so this year we have more vendors, more food trucks, and more fun for families."

The event featured more than 85 scheduled vendors, food trucks, and even a "kids zone." Attendees could shop for clothing at boutiques such as Magnolia Honey Boutique and Jenny Craftly. Those looking for natural candles found options from Mia Bella Candles and Creekbed LLC. Bakers like Deely's Dough served up mouthwatering bread and cinnamon rolls.

Other vendors sold interesting decor items such as repurposed wine bottle wind chimes, wood etchings, and beautifully painted signs.

Crystal Sprin

Paintings and Prin

"The vendors are always so kind and fun to be around, and I just love watching the customers' faces light up when they find something of mine they love," said Madisyn Ward, owner of Fable Fox Creations. She sells lovely nature-inspired crafts.

"These events create real moments of connection. Vendors meet new customers, neighbors catch up, and families make memories. It all brings the community closer," Hale said.

Even the youngest vendors are welcome, with a parent supervising. Charlie and Georgia Jacobs, ages 11 and 8, started a customized jewelry business, The Beaded Brats, and this was their first craft show.

"It was a lot of fun, and I would definitely do it again," Charlie Jacobs said. ${\bf GN}$

Look for other craft fairs and events coming up by visiting www. brianna-victory-events.com.



← Erika Mooneyham with Erika's Crocheted Creations

> ▼ Bob McGuire with Branch Out Woodcrafts





▲ Leigh Ann Antoniak and Michelle Arnold



✓ Clayton and Brooklyn Bain with Sweet Sips

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