

June 2024 • [tnmagazine.org](http://tnmagazine.org)

# THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

## Hockaday Handmade Brooms

Reporters  
'See Tennessee'

Alfresco Flavors

Burgess Falls  
State Park





Don't let summer temps make you lose your cool.

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ENERGY TIP #60

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Close curtains, drapes and blinds in sunny rooms during the hottest times of the day to keep things cool indoors.



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*The sunrise from the Lookout Mountain Tower at Ruby Falls is breathtaking. See page 8 to learn about the attraction's special anniversary. Photograph courtesy of Ruby Falls*

## ABOUT THE COVER

*Jack Martin of Hockaday Handmade Brooms in Selmer puts the finishing touches on a house broom. See pages 12-15. Photograph by Robin Conover*



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### Mission Statement

Corporation provides safe, affordable and reliable services the cooperative way by maintaining a dedicated, highly skilled workforce guided by cooperative values and principles and a commitment to excellence.

### The Tennessee Magazine

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## Between the Lines

*News from your community*

### Simple but powerful

Ensuring the safety of the public and our team is critical for us at Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation. Electricity is important, but it can also be dangerous. Among our highest priorities is providing our employees who work tirelessly to keep the lights on with the training, equipment and resources needed to do their jobs safely.

Despite our best efforts, one of the greatest threats to their safety is something that is outside our control. That's where you come in. I want to address a critical issue that impacts the safety of our workers: the importance of moving over when driving past a roadside utility crew.

Did you know that in Tennessee it is not just a recommendation but a state law to move over when passing a utility crew working on the side of the road? Electric co-ops worked to have utility crews included in Tennessee's existing Move Over Law in 2011. This law is in place to protect the lives of those who maintain and repair our electrical infrastructure.

Beyond being a legal requirement, it is also a matter of common courtesy and basic human decency.

Unfortunately, despite these laws and the ongoing efforts to raise awareness, roadside utility workers continue to be at risk of injury or death due to passing vehicles. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, on average, 30 workers are killed each year in the United States after being struck by passing vehicles while working on or near roadways. These are not just

numbers; they represent husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters whose lives have been tragically cut short.

In addition to the lives lost, many more utility workers are injured every year in similar incidents. These injuries can have lasting effects on their physical and mental well-being, not to mention the impact on their families and loved ones.

We all have a responsibility to ensure the safety of those who work to provide essential services, including electricity. Moving over when passing a roadside utility crew is a simple yet powerful way to show our appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

The next time you see utility crews working on the side of the road, please remember to move over if it is safe to do so. Slow down, pay attention and give them the space they need to work safely. Let's work together to protect the lives of our utility workers and ensure they safely return home to their families at the end of the day.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and thank you to our utility workers for all they do to keep our communities powered and connected.



**By Chris A. Davis**  
*General Manager,  
Cumberland Electric  
Membership  
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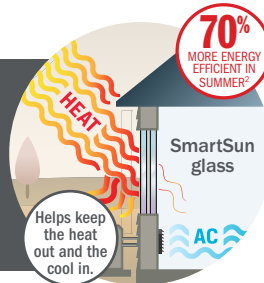
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<sup>4</sup>Using U.S. and imported parts.



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## TENNESSEE TODAY

Viewpoint

### Tow truck lessons

My oldest son just returned home from his first year of college, a fact that has warmed my heart significantly in recent days. Good grades, new friends and his baseball team's most successful season in over 30 years mean he is happy. And while his time home with his beloved mother and brothers will be interrupted by a month at a collegiate summer league near the coast, I'm glad to have him at the dinner table and in the pew beside me for a while.

But I know his time at home is short-lived, and that is bittersweet. Like many parents, I worry whether I have adequately prepared him for all that life will throw at him. But the funny thing is that life has a way of preparing people all on its own. A recent experience serves as an example of this truth.

Over the years, I have dutifully tried to teach him about cars — not just how to drive but to have a general understanding of how they work. How an internal combustion engine creates power. How to change the oil and check the tire pressure. Yet last week, he reminded me that he does not know how to drive a manual transmission. How did I forget that one?

After his graduation from high school, we matched the money he had saved and helped him buy his own vehicle. He found a great deal for a one-owner, inexpensive, reliable used car. He made it his own, outfitting it to hold his fishing gear and nicknaming it the "Bassmobile." It became part SUV, part rolling closet for his first time living away from home.

However, a couple of months ago, I got a text message that began with the phrase, "Everything is OK, but ..." As my anxiety climbed watching the three little dots that indicated he was typing, his next message finally let me know that someone had collided with him on the highway near his school. The impact was serious enough that the airbags had gone off, but, most importantly, he was safe and unhurt.

A quick photo showed the damage. Not good. And then, in an instant, I realized something. In all the lessons I had given

him about cars, had we ever talked about what to do if he had an accident? Nope. Had I lectured him about keeping the insurance card in the vehicle to avoid a ticket? Yep. But had I ever taught him what to do if he ever actually needed the card to, you know, utilize the insurance company and its services? Not so much.

My mental checklists instantly began to form, and I started to think about how he would need me to guide him through the many steps of the process. I dispensed with the text messages and got him on the phone, ready to walk him through it.

When he answered, a calm and mature voice reassured me that he had checked on the other driver, and he was also unhurt. The police were already on-site and writing a report. I heard his polite and respectful exchange with the officer conducting the investigation. Soon after, a tow truck arrived to take his vehicle to the impound lot, and he had already arranged for a friend to come pick him up. He was handling it like a pro — despite my lack of specific preparation in post-car-accident management.

I was proud of him in those moments. And since then, it has helped me realize that despite my own futile efforts to the contrary, it is impossible to predict every event that might occur to us in life. No amount of preparation, however pertinent and important, can plan for every possibility. I can, though, take solace in the fact that my son's unexpected maturity at the time of a crisis is not a result of my own efforts but is a reflection of the gifts his creator has bestowed upon all of us. And for that, I am grateful. ■



By Mike Knotts

Tennessee Electric  
Cooperative Association



# How a Safe Step Walk-In Tub can change your life

## Remember when...

Think about the things you loved to do that are difficult today — going for a walk or just sitting comfortably while reading a book. And remember the last time you got a great night's sleep?

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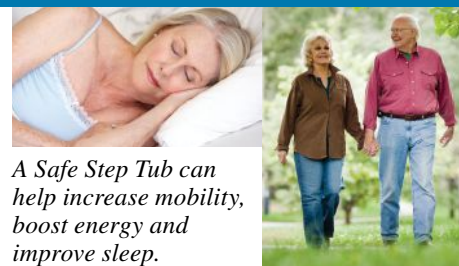
## Personal Checklist:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arthritis       | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Skin         |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes        | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility Issues  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lower Back Pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Circulation |

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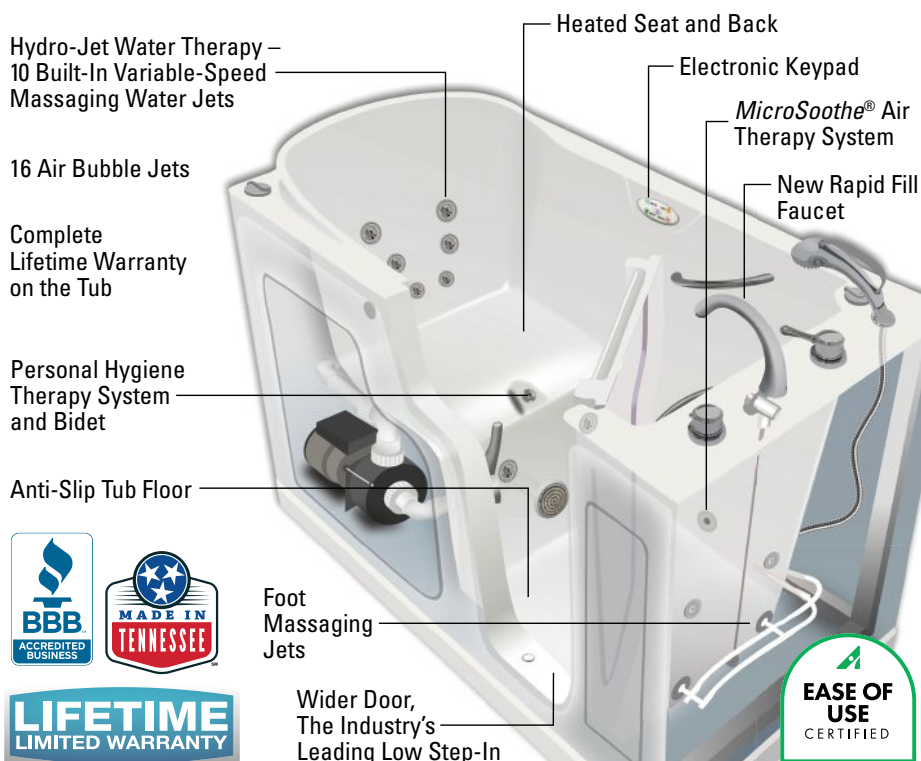
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# TENNESSEE ALMANAC

Bite-sized news, notes and knowledge — June 2024

## From the editor

As I'm putting the finishing touches on this month's introduction, I can't ignore the hums and chirps radiating from hotspot treetops around my neighborhood. Brood XIX cicadas are making their presence known.

Robin Conover photographed a freshly molted adult cicada, below left, its exoskeleton still light in color before it hardens. Below right is one of the first cicadas I found around my home, fully cured with familiar red eyes and a dark exoskeleton. They were sluggish in early May, but by now a walk through the yard stirs a mass of beating wings like I'm flushing a covey of miniature screaming quail.

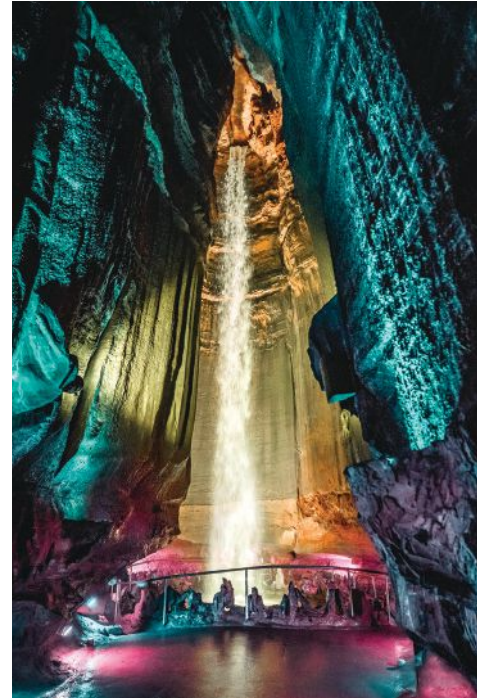
May was an incredible month of natural wonder. In addition to the historic cicada emergence, many of us were treated to the northern lights in the South. Robin, of course, captured incredible images, and you can read about one of them on page 42.

Burgess Falls is another treasure in nature. Learn about the park near Sparta beginning on page 16. And Bill Carey's history feature (page 28) highlights travel writers on the "See Tennessee" junket organized by the state in 1940 to generate publicity and cast Tennessee as a natural and entertainment destination.

Thanks for reading,



Chris Kirk  
Editor, *The Tennessee Magazine*



## Ruby Falls turns 95

Popular Lookout Mountain attraction Ruby Falls is commemorating the 95th anniversary of its discovery with a yearlong celebration of exciting new experiences, unique events, a historical exhibit and special edition cave adventures.

Visit [rubyfalls.com](https://rubyfalls.com) and the Ruby Falls Facebook and Instagram feeds to find details and dates for special events.

Photograph courtesy of Ruby Falls



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# TENNESSEE EVENTS

*Festivals, celebrations and other happenings around the state*

## West Tennessee

**Now-June 30 • Garden Tours**, private, public and farm gardens throughout greater Memphis. 901-299-5887 or [experiencememphisingardens.org](http://experiencememphisingardens.org)

**June 7-30 • “Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella,”** Lohrey Theatre, Memphis. 901-682-8323 or [theatrememphis.org](http://theatrememphis.org)

**June 8 • Mid-South Hydrangea Society Plant Sale and Lecture**, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis. 901-761-5250 or [dixon.org](http://dixon.org)

**June 15 • Zebra**, Graceland Soundstage, Memphis. 877-777-0606 or [gracelandlive.com/zebra](http://gracelandlive.com/zebra)

**June 15 • Juneteenth: A Celebration of Black American Freedom**, Discovery Park of America, Union City. 731-885-5455 or [discoveryparkofamerica.com](http://discoveryparkofamerica.com)

**June 21-23 • “Come From Away,”** Orpheum Theatre, Memphis. 901- 525-3000 or [orpheum-memphis.com](http://orpheum-memphis.com)

**July 4-6 • All-American Weekend**, Graceland, Memphis. 901-332-3322 or [graceland.com](http://graceland.com)

## Middle Tennessee

**June 1 • Town-Wide Yard Sale**, Cannon County Courthouse Square, Woodbury. 615-427-2539 or [cannontn.com](http://cannontn.com)

**June 1 • 38th Annual Bluegrass Festival**, Dunlap Coke Ovens Amphitheater. 423-949-2156 or [cokeovens.com](http://cokeovens.com)

**June 2 • TenThirtyFive’s Fashion Show Fundraiser**, 14TENN, Nashville. 615-805-6862 or [tenthirtyfive.net](http://tenthirtyfive.net)

**June 2-9 • International Folkfest**, cities around Middle Tennessee. [mboro-international-folkfest.org](http://mboro-international-folkfest.org)

**June 15 • RC Cola – MoonPie Festival**, Bell Buckle. [bellbucklechamber.com](http://bellbucklechamber.com)

**June 15 • Sixth Highland Realm Blueberry Bash**, Highland Realm Blueberry Farm, Hampshire. 931-215-8197 or [facebook.com/HighlandRealm](https://facebook.com/HighlandRealm)

**June 20-22 • Lafayette Lions and Lioness Lions Macon County Hillbilly Days**, Key Park, Lafayette. 615-633-7369 or [bjblank1322@yahoo.com](mailto:bjblank1322@yahoo.com)

**June 21-22 • Ag and Arts Tour**, Hickman County. [AgAndArtsTour@gmail.com](mailto:AgAndArtsTour@gmail.com) or [agandartstour.com](http://agandartstour.com)

**June 29 • Lavender Festival**, Oak Grove Lavender Farm and Event Center, Hohenwald. 931-295-8945 or [oakgrovelavender.com](http://oakgrovelavender.com)

## East Tennessee

**June 6, 13, 20 • Summer Series**, Heritage Hall Theatre, Mountain City. 423-727-7444 or [heritagehalltheatre.org/event](http://heritagehalltheatre.org/event)

**June 11-16 • “Beetlejuice,”** Tennessee Theatre, Knoxville. 865-684-1200 or [tennesseetheatre.com](http://tennesseetheatre.com)

**June 14 • Barn Dance**, Museum of Appalachia, Clinton. 865-494-7680 or [museumofappalachia.org/barn-dance](http://museumofappalachia.org/barn-dance)

**June 15 • Ice Cream Safari**, Chattanooga Zoo. 423-697-1322 or [chattzoo.org/events/ice-cream-safari](http://chattzoo.org/events/ice-cream-safari)

**June 21-22 • Crossville Vintage Antique Crafts Arts Market**, Cumberland County Community Complex. 931-337-9266

**June 21-22 • 43rd Annual Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee Show**, Knoxville Expo Center. [info@smokymtnquilters.com](mailto:info@smokymtnquilters.com) or [smokymtnquilters.com](http://smokymtnquilters.com)

**June 22 • Fish and Sips**, Tennessee Aquarium, Chattanooga. 800-262-0695 or [tnaqua.org/aquarium-events](http://tnaqua.org/aquarium-events)

**June 22-23 • Rhododendron Festival**, Roan Mountain State Park. [roanmountain.com/rhododendron-festival](http://roanmountain.com/rhododendron-festival)

**June 24-29 • Annual Painting and Craft Expo**, Chattanooga Convention Center. 937-343-4440 or [apcexpo.net](http://apcexpo.net)

**July 4 • Independence Day Anvil Shoot Celebration**, Museum of Appalachia, Clinton. 865-494-7680 or [museumofappalachia.org/independence-day](http://museumofappalachia.org/independence-day)

## Submit your events

Complete the form at [tnmagazine.org](http://tnmagazine.org) or email [events@tnelectric.org](mailto:events@tnelectric.org).

Information must be received at least two months ahead of the event date, and we accept submissions up to a year in advance. Due to the great demand for space in each month’s issue, we cannot guarantee publication. Find a complete listing of submissions we’ve received at [tnmagazine.org/events](http://tnmagazine.org/events).



# My TENNESSEE Notebook

by Antsy McClain

## Fathers and other epic creatures

*The art of family folklore makes our genealogy come to life, making it more than names, dates and places.*

My first memories of my father have him looming against a wide backdrop of open sky, smiling down on me while clouds glided slowly behind him. I was small, helpless, untrained. He was big, a force of nature. He could fix anything.

Another memory has him over my right shoulder as he teaches me to ride a bike. His large, calloused hand is on my shoulder, steadying me, while the other is on the back of the bicycle seat. He trots alongside as I pedal. Moments later, I glance to my right and he is gone. I am pedaling alone, finally keeping the bike upright as I bounce along the front lawn. In my peripheral, I notice him standing a good way off, behind me, smiling. I let out a shriek of joy-fright as I realize I am now in full control. Soon, however, I lose focus, the bike slows and I tip over. My father jogs to help me up. Despite my scraped knee and elbow, I share my excitement with the man who got me there, whose hand was on my shoulder. We smile at the accomplishment, and I realize nothing will ever be the same again. I can ride a bike now. I am no longer a mere biped. I have discovered wheels.\*

My father was a truck driver. He would sometimes sneak me along on his deliveries to places like Atlanta or Roanoke, Virginia. It was so exciting to see the world outside of the tiny trailer park where we lived. Once I was old enough to appreciate good stories, weird history, colorful characters and country music, the bond with my father strengthened. He loved old diners, strong coffee and watching the patchwork quilt of America's heartland roll past in slow, manageable frames that became like favorite scenes in a movie. He could watch it over and over again, always finding something new.\*\*

My father would climb into his truck, slide behind the wheel and become instantly giddy like a child at his own birthday party. He once told me the sound of wheels on a paved highway was music to his ears — right up there with Marty Robbins, George Jones and Tammy Wynette, just a few

of his favorites. Their 8-track tapes were always scattered atop the doghouse, that big compartment in between the front seats of a semitruck, under which the engine can be heard churning. And I learned some valuable sign language on those trips like how to signal “honk back” to truckers by raising my arm

in honk position, pulling down on the imaginary chain above the driver's side window to trigger the air horn.

Always present in the truck's large glove compartment were maps, tokens of the driving trade before GPS. No respecting truck driver would have ever been caught dead without scads of Rand McNally road maps from every state you could name. Of course, one or two nationwide maps were always there, but drivers of my father's caliber preferred the magnification of the statewides. Driving through Atlanta, for instance, my father could easily zoom in, so to speak, choosing alternate routes to return to favorite stops. I would study those maps with Dad's hand-inked stars and circles, some of which were labeled “Lila's — Good coffee” or “Dukes — Best pancakes.”

Now, of course, those folded paper maps have been replaced by our smartphones. If we need to zoom in or out, all we need now is the familiar two-finger pinch.\*\*\*

Our passed-down family folklore is a lot like Papa Joe's (the name we all called him) old Rand McNally maps, giving us a more detailed glimpse inside the infrastructure of a family's culture. As I sat down to write this piece, my thoughts migrated from my father to his sisters and brothers and the dozens of cousins whose stories have taken their own honored place around dinner tables far and wide. I'll share a few favorites with you, and I would love to hear some of your own family folklore on our Facebook page (theTNmagazine) or at tnmagazine.org.

My father had false teeth. Most people would prefer to keep that a dignified secret, but Papa Joe displayed the evidence with



*The author signals “honk back” to a passing trucker, smiling as the driver obliges. The honk back gesture is a simple thing but is the most direct conduit to childhood any adult can experience. There is also ice cream, but this has no calories. Photo by a hitchhiker named Mitch from Reno. (Just kidding. Don't pick up hitchhikers.)*



Folklore should get better with each telling. If you hear a family story repeated 20 years later, and nothing has changed, you ain't doing it right.

comedic glee. When seeing a group of young kids, he would pop his teeth out so he appeared skeleton-like and open his eyes wide. The rest of us would laugh uproariously as his audience squealed and stepped back in horror. He would then pop his teeth back in, smile and wink at the kids as they giggled with relief. More than one kid would ask how he did it, and he never hesitated to give them the demonstration, "It's really easy," he'd say. "You just have to have all your teeth pulled out and get fake ones put back in."

At age 17 or so, my cousin Jay hopped a train late at night with a friend. They were thinking they could just get off in the next town and hitchhike back. The train actually had no scheduled stops and picked up top speed once out of the city limits. They were trapped on the train for hours and had to call home at daybreak from a city they'd never heard of. The family drew straws around the breakfast table, and a long-suffering uncle made the all-day drive to retrieve them, thereafter taking on the nickname "Short Straw."

Alcohol is often present, if not center stage, in many of the stories from my family folklore. A favorite story involves a half-full bottle of Boone's Farm wine, a casket and several neighborhood bars. My Uncle Zed and several of his friends were hopping along favorite downtown drinking establishments when, inexplicably, they came across an empty casket. After years of hearing this story in family circles, I am still unaware how they procured said casket — whether one of them worked at a funeral home, or whatever — but the casket is crucial to the story, so I will continue without sufficient details as to how the casket found its way into the story. According to eye witness accounts, Uncle Zed climbed inside

the casket while the others acted as pallbearers, carrying him down tavern row lid-free and exposed to the public.

Stopping in several watering holes along the way, they got rounds of free drinks in honor of their fallen friend (my Uncle Zed), who kept his eyes closed and his head propped up by the aforementioned half-full bottle of Boone's Farm.\*\*\*\*

These characters, bound to me by blood and history, are a part of me, and I feel more connected to them — and my father — in the retelling of their stories.

I have spent 23 Father's Days without our beloved Papa Joe. I am now the same age he was when he died. Having had rheumatic fever when he was a child, his scarred heart only had so many beats in it — fewer than most and fewer, by far, than we all would have liked.

His large, calloused hand once guided me as I pedaled my way into an unknown future. He had to let me go to make my own mistakes, to fall. But for a long time thereafter, he was there when I got back up to try again. When your fathers are no longer at the other end of a phone or in the old house at the end of a driveway, things change, and they can change hard.

I've been driving a lot these days, and I feel connected to Papa Joe with every road trip. Sometimes I talk to him and say thanks, and when I signal "honk back" to a neighbor on the highway and hear that familiar blast of air horn, I can smile and imagine it's my father. ■

*Antsy McClain is a Nashville-adjacent singer songwriter, author and graphic artist. Go to [unhitched.com](http://unhitched.com) for his books, music, events and a download of his song, "Wheels in Motion," free to The Tennessee Magazine readers. It's about his father.*



### Necessary, life-changing footnotes

\* Mobility has long been the mark of modern man, the rite of passage in stages. From skateboard to bicycle to automobile to airplane, our modern lives are divided into chapters by speed. Is it any wonder time goes faster as we get older? It's an inevitable outcome of the accelerated lives we've created on wheels and wings, only to wish them to slow down when we hit age 50 or so.

\*\* I have grown into a man much like my father. I appreciate the open road and the folklore that comes with it. Memories from my own recent travels are held buoyantly in my heart, and I'll mention a few here because my father would have loved to hear them, and, well, I can't share them with him anymore. So I'll share them with you, and I'll thank you for being there.

1. A one-legged gas station attendant in Wyoming got to talking and let his crutches slide from their leanings to leave a perfect arc scratched on my back door. He was so apologetic, but I assured him not to worry, saying the scratch (not my old car's first) would be just another good story to tell.

2. An elderly lady, a former dancer with purple, glittery eye makeup, held me in rapt conversation at a diner late one night in Cincinnati. We talked about life for two hours, and I helplessly confessed some of my darkest fears to her.

3. A stuttering bartender in Milwaukee attended to my friends and me with a dignity and poise I've only ever seen in movies. His arms were adorned with bold, skull-crossed Marine Corps tattoos and the name of his infant daughter in a light, delicate cursive font on his forearm.

It's called folklore for a reason, the root being "folk" because people are fascinating, and there's a story in everyone if we but look.

\*\*\* I had to laugh at myself the other day while reading a book — an old-school book. I wanted more detail and started to "pinch out" over the picture to enlarge it. Many of us find ourselves caught between these digital and analog worlds.

\*\*\*\* Many of the men in my family are accomplished drinkers, and alcohol only

exaggerates their already jovial nature. They are also eternal optimists, so the bottles mentioned in our family folklore are always half-full.

AUTHOR NOTE: Names have been changed herein, not to protect the innocent but to avoid the inevitable backlash and corrections at the next family reunion. A good story should never concern itself with protecting anyone. Tell it like it is. Or how you wish it to be. Either way, as a storyteller, you are right. Embrace your pre-eminence as a folklorist. I am also leaving the details of each story as I remember them, without fact-checking with living relatives. Folklore can be a lot like playing "Telephone," that game where you sit in a circle and whisper a sentence into the ear of the person next to you until the last person has a completely different message than the first. In my opinion, folklore — especially those stories kept within families — should get better with each telling. Tales should never be stagnant, but alive, morphing into other things as we tell them. If you hear a family story repeated 20 years later, and nothing has changed, you ain't doing it right.



# Living the SWEEP LIFE

Hockaday  
Handmade  
Brooms

*Story by Cheré Coen • Photographs by Robin Conover*

Making brooms is in Jack Martin's blood. He continues his family's heritage and the traditional craft of broom-making in his shop just outside Selmer. Most of the equipment he uses on a daily basis has been used by three generations of his family and dates to the early 1900s.





Jack Martin grew up on a family farm outside Selmer, property that had been in his family since the Civil War. His great-grandfather, Will Hockaday, grew broomcorn in the summer months and made brooms in the winter, selling them to friends for 25 cents after they'd given him an old mop handle to get started.

Hockaday once saw in the newspaper a photo of broom-making machinery, the kind that attaches the broomcorn to the wood handle, and built his own "broom-wrapping table" from old farm equipment and a broom press to flatten out the finished product. Broom-making became a Hockaday family tradition.

Martin never considered much of his family's broom-making business until he met his future wife, singer Dee Fisk. He had been working offshore, and the two met through music, he a "beer-joint drummer" and she a blues singer for musicians such as John Mayall, Joe Cocker, Jeff Beck and Greg Allman. They fell in love, and Martin invited her back to his Tennessee homestead.

"We pulled into the driveway, and every aunt and uncle and cousin was there," Martin remembers with a laugh. "They shoved me out the door and pulled her in."

When Martin gave Fisk a tour of the family's broom shed, her comments changed his life.

"She looked at the equipment, and she gets this funny look," Martin says. "She said, 'Do you know what you have here? You have folk art.'"

The two, while continuing to tour with their music, began carrying on the family broom-making tradition that's known today as Hockaday Brooms.

"The business really started at that point," Martin says of following in his ancestor's craft. "None of it would have happened without her."

Fisk passed away in 2015, and you can still hear the pain in Martin's voice when he discusses their life together. But he credits his broom-making success — he creates about 12 brooms a day and ships them nationwide — to his wife.





*Making a broom by hand involves several steps — growing and harvesting the broomcorn, raking the husks off the plant, binding it to a broom handle in several layers that are each wire-wrapped and then sewing it all together (as seen on the previous page). Below are examples of the pieces Martin makes in addition to the regular kitchen broom.*

### Hockaday broom-making history

The Hockaday family worked the Selmer farm for years, raising corn, cotton and livestock, but it was Will Hockaday who saw broom-making as a skill for earning extra money. The family routinely created utilitarian items on the farm using skills such as woodcarving and chair-caning, so broom-making seemed natural.

Hockaday grew the broomcorn and sold his creations at the turn of the 20th century, and he passed the skill along to his son, Jack Hockaday. Like his father, Jack Hockaday would grow broomcorn in summer and sell brooms in winter to earn extra money or to trade for items the family needed such as seeds for planting and clothes. Jack's daughter, Mildred, married Lester Martin, and their son, Jack Martin, learned the trade from his grandfather.

But Jack Martin never considered doing the craft himself.

Until he met Fisk.

Jack Martin and Dee Fisk, whom Jack nicknamed "Baby Doll," moved to Selmer and the family farm. They

established a broom shop out of the farm's tractor shed that Martin's father had built.

"The next day, she was in her jeans and working in the shop," Martin says.

Like Martin's ancestors, the couple grew broomcorn in summer and sold brooms from the farm and while traveling in their music careers. They would work craft shows and festivals and give demonstrations at museums and historic homes; they performed at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

"We've been everywhere," Martin says.

For 20 years, the couple demonstrated broom-making at West Tennessee elementary and middle schools, driving sometimes as far as four hours to visit a school. They would work five one-hour shows a day.

"We loved it because we talked to so many kids, many who didn't know what our ancestors did," Martin says. "I loved doing it."

The couple also started the Broomcorn Festival that ran for 20 years in downtown Selmer, rain or shine, with 20 to 30 folk art vendors. The festival has ceased, but Martin still helps put on a music event the third Saturday in September that features music genres such as gospel, rock and folk in Selmer's Rockabilly Park.

### Making brooms

Broomcorn, also known as broom straw, is a grass plant that produces a long strand of straw from the top of the plant much like an ear of corn would on corn stalks. Martin picks the straw from the plant when it's green and the stalk stands straight.

"You then have a nice, long, straight broomcorn," he says.

Only one straw piece grows from each plant, so it takes 200 plants to make a 2-pound broom.

"It makes a nice, heavy-duty sweeper broom," Martin says.

He plants two crops a year if the weather cooperates — first in the spring and another around the Fourth of July.

First, Martin bundles the straw in his shop using one of his many broom-making machines — he collects them — then wraps the bundle by rotating the broomcorn onto a handle. Some broom handles are plain and straight while others might be curvy. Occasionally, Martin carves images onto the broom







Above, self-described “beer-joint drummer” Jack Martin demonstrates his skills using brushes he made from corn straw grown on his family’s land. Far left, Martin’s wife and business partner, Dee “Baby Doll” Fisk, sings at Beale Street’s Rum Boogie Cafe in the early 1990s. She was instrumental in getting Hockaday Brooms back in production. Left, Jack and Dee work together in the shop they converted from an existing shed on the property. Photographs courtesy of Jack Martin

handle or incorporates different school colors — such as orange for the University of Tennessee.

He then mashes the broom from a round to a flat shape.

“Every broom starts out round,” Martin explains, adding that some of the brooms he sells are round, especially at Halloween to mimic a witch’s broom.

The final step in the process is stitching the broom together using a 7-inch needle.

In addition to his Shaker sweeper brooms, Martin creates rainbow brooms after dyeing the straw different colors. He creates cotton mops as well.

He sells the brooms through his shop during weekdays or by special arrangement and will ship to the lower 48 states in extra-large boxes to protect his creations.

“A lot of folks drive out here because I’m usually here five days a week,” he says.

### The next generation

Martin’s grandchildren grew up watching him create brooms, and all have learned some aspect of the business, he says. Whether they continue the Hockaday tradition is yet to be seen, but Martin is hopeful.

He also teaches broom-making through the Tennessee Arts Commission in a master apprenticeship program where a student works with him in his shop for six months, graduating with a public demonstration to show off the skills he or she has learned.

It’s all part of passing on a long-standing Tennessee tradition.

“That’s what Baby Doll was firm about,” Martin says of his wife, “that you have to share your art.”

And they have.

“We had a great life — and I’m still having it.” ■

## Hockaday Handmade Brooms

For more information on the broom-making business in Selmer, including product descriptions, a price list and order form, visit [hhbrooms.com](http://hhbrooms.com). Place your orders by calling the shop at 731-645-4823.







# Falling for Nature's Beauty

## Burgess Falls offers abundant scenic views

*Story by Trish Milburn • Photographs by Robin Conover*

When Nathaniel Garrison, park manager at Burgess Falls State Park, describes being on the Ridgetop Trail and watching storms roll in, it feels like the pinnacle of viewing Mother Nature at work.

“Looking straight down the river canyon, I could see lightning hitting pine trees in the distance,” Garrison says. “It provides such a sense of place, and the awe of nature takes the cake.”

Garrison has been Burgess Falls State Park’s manager for a bit less than a year, but he’s not new to working in Tennessee’s state parks. In addition to being a ranger at Burgess Falls, he’s spent time as a seasonal worker or ranger at other parks such as Henry Horton and Rock Island after earning a degree in anthropology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

While other parks have offerings catering to campers, golfers, horseback riders, boaters and more, the focus at Burgess Falls is very much on nature itself. As you might expect from a park with “falls” in its name, the waterfalls in the park are the main attractions for the many visitors who arrive at this busy park each year.

Four waterfalls along the appropriately named Falling Water River cascade from a height of 250 feet, the last one with the most dramatic drop of 136 feet into the gorge below. Once,

visitors could take a staircase down to the bottom of the falls, but damage to that staircase required its removal. So now access to the bottom of the falls is only available by boat from outside the park.

### **Beyond the river**

While the spectacular falls are the main draws, the park shines in other natural ways as well. For those able to hike at least moderately strenuous trails, there are some beautiful views to behold. The River Trail/Service Road Loop takes you past the park’s waterfalls but also provides opportunities to see and photograph land-based beauty such as trees, wildflowers and the critters that make their home here.


The Ridge Top Trail is where Garrison had his awe-inspiring moment. The views down the canyon are indeed worthy of that awe.

Not requiring a hike are the lovely views of the native butterfly garden located adjacent to the parking lot. Also popular are birding, fishing and picnicking at the park’s picnic areas and covered pavilion.

### **Busy, busy, busy**

Burgess Falls, located near Sparta, is easily accessible to a large percentage of the state’s population — being centrally situated among





*Hiking trails lead park visitors to sites like the remains of a historic suspension bridge that once carried a flume across Falling Water River and to the main waterfall, Burgess Falls, which is 136 feet tall.*

Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga and only four miles from Interstate 40. This ease of access, however, leads to large numbers of visitors in a park that only has about 100 parking spaces. In fact, if you visit the park's website, you'll see a pop-up window that shares three important facts about the park that visitors need to know before visiting: There is no access to the bottom of the falls from the park; there is no designated swim area in the park; and if the lot is full, there's no parking on the roadsides or nondesignated areas.

While Garrison was already seeing steady growth in park visitation prior to 2020, he says the pandemic's result of sending people outdoors pushed that growth forward by an estimated five years.

"When we're full, we stay full for hours, especially on weekends," he says. "Try to come during the week or in the early morning."

Investment in Tennessee state parks is going to be bringing changes to Burgess Falls that will help give all these visitors a richer experience. By the end of 2025, the park will have a new

visitor and interpretive center with a front porch and an audio-visual/teaching room.

### **Window Cliffs State Natural Area**

Though it is a separate entity not connected to the state park physically, Window Cliffs State Natural Area, which opened in 2017, is managed by Burgess Falls State Park staff.

The natural area is 275 acres, the focus of which is "a prominent geological clifftop feature that consists of a very narrow, elongated ridge that lies in the neck of an incised meander of Cane Creek," according to the natural area's website.

Hiking here is on the difficult and strenuous end of the scale, so it's important to plan ahead and know your physical limits. Also imperative is knowing the weather forecast because the trail can be closed due to flooding. It has 18 creek crossings that can become difficult and dangerous, even impassible, when the water is high. None of these crossings have bridges, only cables and rocks. The water level can rise very quickly.

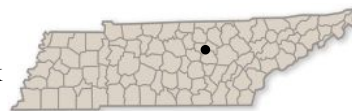




*Falling Water River pours over Burgess Falls, which can be seen from an observation deck. Below, when the sun is high in the sky and the water flow is at the right level, rainbows can be seen cast across the limestone face of the falls.*

## Burgess Falls State Park

For more information, visit [tnstateparks.com/parks/burgess-falls](http://tnstateparks.com/parks/burgess-falls) or call the park office at 931-432-5312.



It is suggested that you plan to spend two and a half to three hours to complete the 5.4-mile round trip and to head back an hour and a half before sunset.

### Leave only footprints

Garrison reiterated the importance of the leave-no-trace principle when visiting the park. He noted that the difference between areas where foot traffic has impacted the soil and the areas fenced off to protect the plant life is very noticeable.

“If you step off the trail, it compacts the soil, and it becomes devoid of plant life,” he says. “We’re not trying to be the fun police, but human visitation does have an impact on the local ecosystem.”

The more people who stick to the marked trails and take care of the park, the more who will be able to enjoy being outside in this free resource. ■







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## Local students win trip to D.C. in electric cooperative writing contest

**T**welve local high school students have been selected to represent Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation on the 2024 Washington Youth Tour. The students earned their spots on the weeklong, expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., by writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives Connect” explaining how co-ops connect Tennessee communities with energy, education, broadband, economic development and more.

CEMC’s delegates will join nearly 2,000 other students representing co-ops from across the country

on the tour. While in D.C., students will have the opportunity to visit popular tourist destinations, including monuments, memorials and museums, as well as a tour of the U.S. Capitol and meet with elected officials.

In addition to earning spots on this fun and educational trip, Youth Tour attendees will also be able to compete for future trips and scholarships.

Be sure to watch for the August issue of *The Tennessee Magazine* for a recap of their unforgettable trip.



Abigail Chambers  
Montgomery Central  
High School



Alexis Creekmore  
Portland  
High School



Rebecca Fowler  
Montgomery Central  
High School



Katie French  
Montgomery Central  
High School



Lydia Frye  
Portland  
High School



Sam Hardin  
Portland  
High School



Ella Honeycutt  
Greenbrier  
High School



Samuel Knight  
White House  
High School



Raegan Reynolds  
Montgomery Central  
High School



Ryan Semore  
Greenbrier  
High School



Addesyn Underwood  
Rossvie  
High School



Andelyn Underwood  
Rossvie  
High School



# CEMC awards \$12,000 in scholarships through Senior Scholarship Program

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is proud to support higher education by awarding college scholarships to 12 deserving students through its 2024 Senior Scholarship Program.

The scholarship program is a part of CEMC's ongoing commitment to education and community service. The scholarship winners were chosen through a competitive selection process that included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, community involvement and financial need. The selection committee was made up of educators who assessed each applicant's potential for success and future contribution to society.

Congratulations to the following students who have each been awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship that can be used toward freshman year expenses such as tuition, textbooks and lab fees.

**Abigail Clinard of Greenbrier.** Abigail is a graduate of Greenbrier High School and will attend the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**Clarence Cobbins of Cedar Hill.** Clarence is a graduate of Springfield High School and will attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

**Lucy Coffey of White House.** Lucy is a graduate of White House Heritage High School and will attend Western Kentucky University.

**Riley Dominique of Indian Mound.** Riley is a graduate of Stewart County High School and will attend Murray State University.

**Hope Holloway of Clarksville.** Hope is a graduate of Clarksville High School and will attend the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**Kinsley Smith of Bumpus Mills.** Kinsley is a graduate of Stewart County High School and will attend the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

**Maura Smith of White House.** Maura is a graduate of Christian Community School and will attend Union University.

**Alexis Mazzola of Clarksville.** Alexis is a graduate of Montgomery Central High School and will attend Lipscomb University.

**Kristin Nichols of Pleasant View.** Kristin is a graduate of Pleasant View Christian School and will attend Belmont University.

**Nicklaus Suttle of White House.** Nicklaus is a graduate of Portland High School and will attend the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**Logan Weakley of Ashland City.** Logan is a graduate of Cheatham County Central High School and will attend Vanderbilt University.

**Drew Yarbrough of Clarksville.** Drew is a graduate of Montgomery Central High School and will attend Austin Peay State University.



Abigail Clinard



Clarence Cobbins



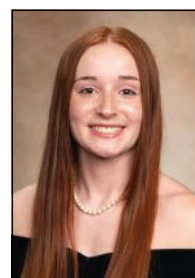
Lucy Coffey



Riley Dominique



Hope Holloway



Kinsley Smith



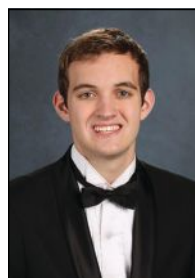
Maura Smith



Alexis Mazzola



Kristin Nichols



Nicklaus Suttle



Logan Weakley



Drew Yarbrough



# CEMC director candidates must meet July 30 deadline

Members of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation who are interested in serving on the board of directors should contact the general manager's office to obtain a petition.

Petitions must be signed by at least 15 members and returned to the general manager's office by the deadline of Tuesday, July 30, which is 60 days prior to CEMC's 2024 annual meeting. This year's meeting will be held Saturday, Sept. 28, at White House Heritage High School in Robertson County.

An election will be held for the following director positions: South Stewart, North Robertson and North Sumner.

Anyone with a valid membership in good standing as of July 30 can vote in director elections. Those applying for membership after July 30 will not be eligible to vote in this year's election but are welcome to attend the meeting and register for prizes.

*(CEMC Bylaws Article 3 — Section 3.05)*



## SIGNS OF AN ENERGY SCAM

### High-Pressure Tactics

Scammers will pressure you, creating a sense of urgency. Claims that your power will be disconnected without immediate payment are common with utility scams.

### Sketchy Payment Methods

Scammers might ask for unusual payment methods like gift cards or cryptocurrency. In these cases, it's likely a scam.

### Dodgy Communication

Whether an email, text message or letter, utility scams typically include poor grammar, spelling errors or unusual email addresses. These are common warning signs of a scam.

The illustration on the right side of the infographic depicts three common warning signs of an energy scam. At the top, a hand in a red sleeve points at a laptop screen displaying a large question mark and exclamation marks, with a red 'X' above it. Below this, a hand in a red sleeve holds a red gift card with a dollar sign on it, also marked with a red 'X'. At the bottom, a hand in a red sleeve holds a red envelope with a white document inside featuring a large exclamation mark, also marked with a red 'X'. Dashed lines connect the text boxes on the left to these illustrations.

*If you are ever in doubt about a potential energy scam, give Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation a call at 800-987-2362 so we can assist. CEMC wants to help protect its members against utility fraud. We urge you to report any potential scams so we can spread the word and prevent others in our community from falling victim.*



# Electric co-op leaders discuss Tennessee issues with D.C. lawmakers

Leaders from Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation traveled to Washington, D.C., on Monday and Tuesday, April 22 and 23, to meet with members of the Tennessee congressional delegation. Directors Wes Aymett, Jeannie Beauchamp and Shela Williams and General Manager Chris Davis, Administrative Division Manager Annebelle Pittenger, Engineering and Operations Division Manager David Abernathy and District Operations Manager Michael Blackwell met with staff of Sens. Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty.

In meetings with legislative staff, co-op leaders discussed reliability, energy policy, broadband and other issues that directly impact Tennessee's electric co-ops and the consumers they serve. Lawmakers were also invited to visit their local co-ops to meet employees, attend annual meetings or tour co-op facilities.

"Legislative visits like these help to span the gap between policy and reality," said Davis. "Building relationships with lawmakers isn't just about advocacy; it's

about sharing the stories and struggles of those we serve back home. By helping lawmakers understand the human face behind every policy decision, we are helping them craft legislation that truly makes a difference in people's lives."

"Meetings with lawmakers are important opportunities to build bridges between policymakers and the communities they represent," said Mike Knotts, CEO of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. "These conversations are not merely exchanges of words; they truly help shape policy that impacts our communities. I'm grateful for each co-op member who took time away from work and family to serve their co-op in this way."

In addition to visits with members of Congress, attendees also heard from industry and policy experts, including Xochitl Torres Small, deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; David Turk, deputy secretary of the Department of Energy; and Bret Baier, chief political anchor for Fox News.



Leaders from Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation joined other electric co-op leaders from across the state to discuss reliability, energy policy, broadband and other issues that impact Tennessee's electric co-ops with members of the Tennessee congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., on April 22 and 23.



# Local schools receive \$33,500 in TVA STEM grants

Nine schools from Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's service area were recently awarded grants from the Tennessee Valley Authority, in partnership with Bicentennial Volunteers Inc. (BVI), a TVA retiree organization, for educators in public schools to develop science, technology, engineering and math education projects across the Tennessee Valley region.

Teachers across TVA's seven-state region applied for funding of up to \$5,000 for projects, and a total of 343 applications were selected.

Schools must receive their power from a local power company served by TVA to be eligible for the grants. Receiving grants from CEMC's service area in 2024 were:

- Portland West Middle School — \$3,500
- Liberty Creek High School — \$5,000
- Oakmont Elementary School — \$5,000
- North Stewart Elementary School — \$2,500

- Portland Gateview Elementary School — \$1,500
- White House Heritage Elementary School — \$5,000
- Ashland City Elementary STEM Academy — \$1,000
- Sycamore Middle School — \$5,000
- Liberty Creek Elementary School — \$5,000

"TVA is committed to supporting schools and educators who are inspiring an interest in STEM education in students across our seven-state region as we know our young people will design and build the energy systems of the future," said Jeannette Mills, TVA executive vice president and chief external relations officer. "Providing resources and access to STEM education is key to inspiring innovation, and we're proud to contribute to the next generation's visionaries."

Since 2018, TVA and BVI have provided nearly \$6.5 million in STEM grants to support local education. A full list of grant recipients and information on how to apply for future STEM grants can be found online at [tvastem.com](http://tvastem.com).



Liberty Creek High School was the recipient of a \$5,000 STEM grant from TVA.



Oakmont Elementary School was the recipient of a \$5,000 STEM grant from TVA.



Portland Gateview Elementary School was the recipient of a \$1,500 STEM grant from TVA.



Portland West Middle School was the recipient of a \$3,500 STEM grant from TVA.



# Give your work life a boost:

## Tips for crafting a great home office



In the era of remote work, your home office setup can make or break your work life. We've all been there — the dinner table doubles as your desk, or you're joining virtual meetings in your pj's from your couch. As tempting as this can be, it might not be doing you any favors as far as productivity, creativity and work-life balance. A dedicated home office space is essential for those working from home, and we have some tips on creating a great one that blends functionality, productivity, comfort and personal touches.

The first step is to choose a dedicated space in your home to set up your office. Ideally, you should choose a quiet, low-traffic room with a door to keep distractions at a minimum. A space with natural light such as a window also helps, but you can also set up a few lamps with warm, soft lighting. Next, you'll want to invest in a desk that is sizable enough to avoid becoming cluttered or cramped and an ergonomic, comfortable office chair. These two pieces of furniture are where you will likely spend most of your work time, so it is worth investing in something that will keep you comfortable!

You'll also want to ensure you have the proper technology for working at home. A computer, mouse and keyboard are a given — but you could optimize your work experience even further by adding multiple monitors (trust us, it's a game-changer!) or an ergonomic mouse. If virtual meetings are a big part of your day, consider investing in a quality webcam, a microphone or headset and maybe even some extra lighting. No matter what your work entails, you'll want to ensure you have a great internet connection. Fiber internet with

speeds of at least 1 Gbps is the ideal choice thanks to superb reliability and symmetrical speeds that give you the power to tackle video conferences, uploads and downloads with ease.

Once you've covered the basics, it's time to get creative and make the space your own. The sky is the limit as far as the possibilities for your office, but the general idea is to create a space that will help you be calm, productive and happy throughout the workday. Consider adding some live plants, your favorite artwork, trinkets and photos of loved ones or pets. You can go even further and paint the walls a different color, add some extra furniture or create a separate nook in your office where you can step away from the computer to brainstorm, jot ideas or just take a break. Whatever you decide to do, your home office should be a space that works for *you*.

While setting up an ideal, dedicated space to work from home might seem like quite the task, it is an investment worth making in yourself to ensure you have the best work life possible. Remember, crafting a home office is a balance among functionality, productivity and comfort — all while injecting your own personal touch into the space to make it your own.

If you're on a journey to create your optimal home office and are looking for a great internet provider, be sure to contact Cumberland Connect for fast, reliable, local service that will keep up with all your internet needs — from video conferences with your colleagues to streaming your favorite TV show when the workday is done and everything in between!



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# Set your home to vacay mode

Before you leave for vacation, reduce unnecessary energy waste and unneeded wear and tear on your home's equipment by following these energy-saving tips.

**Q:** How can I lower my electric bill when I'm gone on vacation?

**A:** Just like you, the equipment in your home is hard at work getting through the daily grind. While you are off enjoying a new adventure or time away, give your home's equipment a vacation, too. Doing so can reduce unnecessary energy waste and unneeded wear and tear on your heating and cooling system, appliances and more. Here's how to set your home to vacay mode:

Your heating and cooling system keeps you comfortable. If you aren't there, it doesn't need to be quite so comfortable in your home. Setting the thermostat closer to the outdoor temperature can save you energy and money. I don't recommend completely turning off the heating or cooling system. In extreme weather, your heating and cooling system also helps protect your home from freezing pipes or damage from excessive heat.

As a rule, you can typically set your thermostat 5 to 10 degrees closer to the outdoor temperature when you aren't home. Each home is different, and the weather varies depending on where you live. Consider the right temperature balance for your home.

Installing a smart thermostat gives you the ability to control your settings remotely from your smartphone. This allows you to adjust the temperature after you leave home and right before you return.

Most water heaters include a vacation mode

setting. This setting drops the temperature to reduce wasted energy when you're away. A storage water heater is like an insulated tea kettle, standing by and ready for you to have hot water whenever you need it. Give that water heater a vacation, too. Changing the setting to vacation mode keeps it on at a lower setting, saving energy. Leave yourself a note with a reminder to turn it back on when you get home so you don't wind up with a disappointing shower before the first day back at work.

Closing the curtains can provide two benefits. It can keep heat from the sun at bay. This reduces the load on your heating and cooling system, which saves energy. It also has the benefit of blocking visibility into your home when you're away.

For security, some people use timers or leave on exterior lights. Make sure any lights left on are LEDs, instead of incandescent or compact fluorescent bulbs. LEDs use less energy and have less impact on your electricity use when left on all night. You can also consider adding smart LEDs to your home. Smart LEDs can be controlled remotely through an app on your phone.

Did you know there are devices in your home that continue to draw power from your electrical outlets even when turned off or on standby? Before you leave, walk through your home and unplug devices



Set your thermostat 5 to 10 degrees closer to the outdoor temperature when you aren't home. You can also consider upgrading to a smart thermostat, which gives you control over the temperature from anywhere.





Having peace of mind that your house is powered down and secure can help you enjoy your vacation.

and small appliances. Make sure gaming consoles and computers are fully powered down. Unplugging any devices that have lights or clocks or use standby mode can also reduce wasted energy.

Having peace of mind that your home is powered down and secure can help you enjoy your vacation. After all, we all need an occasional break. ■

Miranda Boutelle is vice president of operations and customer engagement at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company. She also writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.



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# 'See Tennessee'

Who are these 15 unidentified reporters in Gatlinburg in 1940, and why are they important to Tennessee's history?

Newspaper reporters used to shape public opinion. Gatlinburg used to be a little-known tourist destination. Men used to wear coats and ties, even while sightseeing.

I recently researched a photograph that brought these three statements to light.

It started a few months ago when I discovered a photo in the Tennessee State Library and Archives collection. The image shows 15 people, with the following description:

"Members of the See Tennessee Tour — newspaper men and women, posed at Gatlinburg. May 12, 1940."

Neither the people nor their exact location were identified, but I immediately recognized its setting and one of the people in it. The reporters were standing in front of the Gatlinburg Inn, which is still open today. Percy Priest — for whom there is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dam and lake named today — is crouched, fifth from the left on the bottom row.

"If Percy Priest is unidentified, who were these other reporters?" I thought.

There were other things about the photo that aroused my attention. One is that Gatlinburg was still a rural town, unknown to most Tennessee residents, in 1940.



After researching this photograph of journalists in Gatlinburg on the "See Tennessee" junket, Bill Carey believes they are, from left, front row, Samuel Head, Garth Cate, Rufus Terral, James Sachs, Percy Priest, Robert Brown and Stoddard White; and back row, Paul Morris, Eldon Roark, Nancy Ford, Fred Burns, Lucia Lewis, Nellie Kenyon, Reuben Markham and Albert Hera.



The other thing was the world situation at the time. The U.S. was about to change dramatically with its entry into World War II in 1941. Obviously, I thought, the reporters in this photo would change with it.

I have since researched the photo at length, and I think I've identified all the people in it. But before I go over who I think everyone was and what happened to them, I'd like to answer two questions.

### **What was "See Tennessee"?**

To generate publicity, the Tennessee Department of Conservation organized and funded weeklong tours for travel writers. The first of these junkets, called "See Tennessee," occurred in 1940.

About two dozen reporters took part in the first event. It included stops at Beale Street, Reelfoot Lake, Shiloh, Pickwick Dam, The Hermitage, the Parthenon, Norris Lake, Lookout Mountain and other attractions. The group was greeted by a large crowd in Tullahoma and by parades in Humboldt and Columbia. Reporters met dignitaries along the way, including Gov. Prentice Cooper. And, sure enough, the junket resulted in articles in publications ranging from the Chicago Sun Times to National Geographic.

### **Secondly, why were there no Black reporters on the trip?**

In 1940, there were no African-American reporters at Tennessee newspapers such as the Commercial Appeal, News Sentinel and Tennessean. There were Black-owned newspapers, such as the Nashville Globe. However, the Department of Conservation would not have invited Black reporters on the junket because the reporters stayed in hotels and ate in restaurants at a time when interracial accommodations were illegal in Tennessee.

### **Here is what I believe to be the identities of everyone pictured:**

#### **Front row:**

Samuel Head (1885-1946) was a reporter in Buffalo who covered the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901 and the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. When this photo was taken, he was an editor at the Buffalo News.

Garth Cate (1883-1974) worked for the New York World Telegram from 1936 to 1942 and later was travel editor for the Scripps Howard newspaper chain. A 1970 profile in the Asheville Citizen Times said he was friends with Henry Ford, Carl Sandburg and Margaret Sanger. Cate took up the causes of civil rights and environmentalism "before they became public matters."

To generate publicity, the Tennessee Department of Conservation organized and funded weeklong tours for travel writers. The first of these junkets, called "See Tennessee," occurred in 1940.

Cate retired to the North Carolina mountains and lived to be 91.

Rufus Terral of the Chattanooga Times wrote several complimentary stories about the Tennessee Valley Authority during the "See Tennessee" junket. Not long after that, he got a job with TVA and stayed there for three years, then went back to journalism. In 1947, Terral wrote a book that advocated a TVA-type program for the Missouri River (which never came to fruition). He remained with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch until his death in 1979.

James Sachs (1907-1971) is the only man who never wore a coat and tie on the junket. Sachs was the publisher of the Nashville Times, a short-lived publication that existed from 1937 until 1940. During World War II, he held various positions in the Office of



On May 8, 1940, the "See Tennessee" tour was greeted by the Columbia High School Marching Band.

War Information. A resident of New York for most of his life, he was one of the original stockholders of Newsweek magazine in 1932 and American Heritage magazine in 1954.

Percy Priest (1900-1956) was probably the most popular newspaper reporter in the state when this photo was taken. Priest's job was to write articles for the Nashville Tennessean about matters of human interest in small towns. Only four months after this trip to Gatlinburg, Priest resigned from the paper to run (as an independent) against Rep. Joe Byrns Jr., a Democrat who was heavily criticized for not supporting the nation's first peacetime





Above, two Kingsport residents entertain bus drivers on the tour. Below, while visiting Pickwick Landing State Park, reporters such as Stoddard White of the Detroit News pecked away at typewriters.

draft. Priest won and remained in Congress until he died in October 1956. He was one of the few Southern House members who refused to sign the pro-segregation “Southern Manifesto” of 1956.

Robert Brown (1900-1944) was editor of the Columbus (Ohio) Citizen. A few months after this photo was taken, Brown joined the U.S. Army public relations department. He was killed in a plane crash in the South Pacific in 1944. Because of connections he made on the trip through Tennessee, the Knoxville News-Sentinel published a posthumous tribute to “Bob Brown, fine newspaperman and good friend.”

Stoddard White (1913-1972) worked for the Detroit News his entire career, other than a short interruption to work for Stars and Stripes during World War II. White later became marine editor of the Detroit News, so his specialty was ships and commerce on the Great Lakes.

#### Back row:

Paul Morris (1909-1977) worked with the Memphis Commercial Appeal during World War II, then, in 1946, moved to St. Louis to do public relations for the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway. Morris started his own PR firm in 1958.

Eldon Roark (1898-1979) was a columnist for the Memphis Press-Scimitar for 46 years, from 1933 until his death. He wrote columns about oddities, funny anecdotes, things he’d heard and

stories from small towns. His column, called “Strolling,” started when his editor saw him half asleep in his chair and said, “If you haven’t anything else to do, suppose you go out and take a stroll.” When Roark died in 1979, his death was announced in a long story that began on the top of the front page of the Press-Scimitar.

Nancy Ford (1904-1976) was travel editor of the Chicago Journal of Commerce when the photo was taken. She later became the Midwest transportation editor for the Wall Street Journal, then a special features editor for Modern Railroads magazine. “Women journalists are a common sight these days,” the Chicago Daily Herald reported in 1975, “but Ford remembers the time when she was one of the few female reporters who did not write weddings or recipes.”

Fred Burns (1889-1971) was the travel editor for the Cincinnati Times Star, a publication that closed in 1958. When Burns died in 1971, his Cincinnati Enquirer obituary said he had been a journalist in that city from 1911 to 1958. “He was probably best known for his work as travel editor, covering not only all of the United States, but Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, South America and the principal parts of England, France and Spain.”

Lucia Lewis was one of America’s best known travel writers in the decades after World War II, penning articles about locations such as Hawaii, Scotland and Greece that were published in the Chicago Sun-Times, Miami Herald and other newspapers. However, when she died in March 1975, her obituary didn’t mention her journalism career.

Nellie Kenyon (1898-1982) is the subject of a 2022 book by Tyler Boyd called “Nellie Kenyon: Trailblazing Tennessee Journalist.” When this photo was taken, she worked for the Chattanooga Times Free Press, but she got hired at the Tennessean only a few months later. Kenyon covered the Scopes Trial in 1925 and the Jimmy Hoffa Trial in 1964. She outlived everyone else in the photo.

I believe that the next man in the photo is Reuben Markham (1887-1949), but his grandson Ted Van Dyke disagrees with me. (There were people on the junket who weren’t in this photograph). In any case, Reuben Markham was considered the most important reporter on “See Tennessee.” In the 1930s, he lived in Europe and wrote for the Christian Science Monitor,





covering the rise of fascist regimes in Germany and Italy. When World War II broke out, the Monitor sent Markham around the

U.S. to write about American public opinion (which is what led him to go on the Tennessee junket). In early 1941, he wrote "The Wave of the Past," a book that argued for American involvement in World War II. After the war, the Monitor sent him to Eastern Europe where he exposed Soviet totalitarianism. His articles might have had a key role in leading to the Marshall Plan.

Albert Hera (1885-1953). On one of his columns about the junket, Marshall Morgan of the Nashville Banner had this to say: "The dean of the newspaper folk who are telling this odyssey to the world, huge and ruddy-faced,



R.E. Hera, who has been with the Philadelphia Record since 1902, is one of the group's finest humorists. In addition

he has an appetite that shames the combined appetites of several petit females who are braving the trip."

Finally, this admission: I did my best to identify everyone accurately. But it is not easy to recognize everyone in an 84-year-old photo. So it is possible that I've identified someone wrong.

Also, there are reporters who took part in the junket who aren't in this photo (at least I don't think they are), including Morgan, Leonard Roy of National Geographic and Bert Vincent of the Knoxville News Sentinel, among others. ■

On May 9, 1940, the "See Tennessee" group got to see the magnificent view from Point Park at Lookout Mountain. Above, even when they went for hikes, such as here on Lynn Mountain (near Elizabethton), most of the male reporters on the tour wore ties.





# Garden Party

A garden party spread featuring a plate of roasted pork chops, red potatoes with herbs, a bread roll, and a strawberry cup on a floral tablecloth.

*Enjoy summer's beautiful beginning*

"June is bustin' out all over," so get out into the garden — not only to toil but to celebrate. All of creation is in party mode, showing off its colors and flavors. There's no better time to go outside and get creative yourself. Take these recipes and grow yourself a gorgeous garden party.

## **The Perfect Summer Spread**

Recipes by  
Tammy Algood  
Food styling  
by Cynthia Kent  
Photographs  
by Robin Conover



### Bacon-Wrapped Onion Skewers



Bake another 15 to 17 minutes or until the bacon is crisp. Allow to rest 5 minutes before serving warm with lime wedges.

### Chilled Shrimp Soup

Yield: 6 servings

1 pound cooked salad shrimp, divided  
2 small or 1 medium cucumber, peeled and finely chopped  
1 green onion, finely sliced and divided  
1 teaspoon fresh minced dill  
1 teaspoon salt  
¼ teaspoon white pepper  
¾ cup sour cream  
2 cups buttermilk  
Freshly cracked black pepper

Place all but ⅓ cup of the shrimp in a blender or food processor. Add the cucumber and green onions, reserving the green tops. Add the dill, salt, white pepper, sour cream and buttermilk, pureeing to blend. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours. Serve in chilled bowls with a garnish of the reserved shrimp, green onion tops and a grind of black pepper.

### Bacon-Wrapped Onion Skewers

Yield: 12 skewers

12 green onions, trimmed

12 bacon slices

Lime wedges

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Place a greased cooling rack over a rimmed baking pan. Wrap each onion with a bacon slice and place on the rack. Bake for 10 minutes. Remove from the oven and turn each onion “skewer.”

### Chilled Shrimp Soup





## Pick Your Herb Potatoes



### Pick Your Herb Potatoes

Yield: 6 servings

2 pounds new potatoes, cut in quarters  
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted  
4 tablespoons chopped fresh herbs  
(combinations of thyme, rosemary,  
chives, parsley, etc.)  
½ teaspoon salt or more to taste  
¼ teaspoon black pepper

Place water in the bottom of a steamer and bring to a boil. Place the potatoes in the steamer and cover. Steam for 15 minutes or until the potatoes are tender when checked with a tester. Transfer to a serving bowl and drizzle with the butter, then sprinkle with the herbs, salt and pepper. Toss to evenly coat and serve warm.

### Quick Beer Bread

Yield: 1 loaf

3 cups all-purpose flour  
2 tablespoons sugar  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1 tablespoon chopped fresh chives or  
parsley  
1 teaspoon garlic salt  
12 ounces beer

2 tablespoons honey  
5 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted  
and divided

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease a loaf pan and set aside. In a mixing bowl, stir together the flour, sugar, baking powder, herbs and salt. Make a well in the center and slowly add the beer and honey. Stir gently until blended.

Put 2 tablespoons of the butter in the loaf pan and tilt to evenly coat the bottom. Add the batter. Bake for 30 minutes. Carefully remove from the oven and top with the remaining

butter. Continue baking another 25-30 minutes or until the top is browned and a tester pierced into the loaf comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack in the pan for 5 minutes. Remove from the pan and allow to cool completely on the wire rack before slicing and serving.

### Glazed Pork Chops — *Brined then grilled and glazed equals a perfect pork chop*

Yield: 4 servings

1 cup apple juice  
½ cup orange juice

### Glazed Pork Chops





1/3 cup salt  
 1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar  
 6 whole peppercorns  
 4 fresh thyme sprigs  
 2 bay leaves  
 2 large garlic cloves, peeled and crushed  
 4 thick pork chops  
 1/2 cup barbecue sauce of your choice

Place the apple juice, orange juice, salt, sugar, peppercorns, thyme, bay leaves and garlic in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Bring to a simmer, stirring to completely dissolve the sugar and salt. Set aside to cool to room temperature.

Place the pork chops in a 9-by-13-inch baking dish and pour the cooled brine mixture over the top. Cover and refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight. Flip the chops halfway through.

Preheat the grill to high and remove the chops from the brine. Discard the brine mixture. When the grill is hot, place chops on the grate and cook 15 to 20 minutes, turning once halfway through. Check the internal temperature with an instant read thermometer for 140 degrees.

Brush with the barbecue sauce and cook 2 minutes longer to set the glaze. Wrap in aluminum foil and allow to rest for 10 minutes before serving warm.

### **Limoncello Cream — *This cold dessert is a great meal ending!***

Yield: 4 servings  
 9 ounces cold heavy whipping cream  
 1/4 cup sugar  
 Zest of 1 large lemon  
 Juice of half a large lemon (1-1/2 tablespoons)  
 2 ounces limoncello  
 Lemon balm sprigs for garnish

Place a mixing bowl in the freezer for 10 minutes while gathering ingredients. Remove and add the cream. Mix on high speed of the electric mixer until it thickens and holds shape. Reduce the mixer speed and add the sugar, zest and juice. Continue mixing on low speed and gradually add the Limoncello. Spoon the cream into small ramekins, cover and refrigerate until ready to serve with a garnish of fresh lemon balm. ■

*Tammy Algood develops recipes for **The Tennessee Magazine** that feature farm-fresh Tennessee food. Those fresh, local ingredients will always add cleaner, more flavorful foods to your table. We recommend visiting local farms and farmers markets to find the freshest seasonal produce.*



**DeeDee** writes: “I have a friend in Wisconsin who sent me some brick cheese. It is very strong, and I am wondering if it needs to be discarded. What I usually receive from her isn’t as pungent.”

**DeeDee**, don’t throw it away! What you have received is simply an aged brick cheese versus a younger one that

you are used to. This is what happens when brick cheese ages or ripens. The cheese is so named because bricks were once used to press down the cheese and remove the whey.

**Robert** asks: “I vacationed overseas and was served a terrific dessert that I have never had before. It was like baklava but had a sweetened dense

cream in the middle. Can you please help me figure out the name? I am obsessed with it now!”

**Robert**, I believe what you enjoyed is galatobourekos, which is a terrific Greek dessert. Basically, the custard is topped with layers of phyllo pastry, baked like pie and then served with a drizzle of syrup. ■

## **Tips and tricks**

Get yourself out of the normal routine of using only chopped chives and/or parsley in recipes. The potato dish is a good way to experiment with others such as sage, thyme, oregano, basil or even mint.

New potatoes are in season and plentiful at the market. The thin skins only need a quick scrubbing under

water before steaming. You can also substitute a good quality olive oil for the butter if desired.

Limoncello is an Italian liqueur that is wonderful to enjoy in small chilled glasses as well as in multiple dessert recipes. It makes a grand internal glaze for any pound cake you make. Simply poke holes in the cake with an ice pick when it is removed from the oven and slowly pour a couple of ounces of limoncello to soak in.

Use any beer you have on hand for the beer bread, but the darker the better! Make sure it is room temperature and pour slowly when adding to the mix. ■

Email your cooking questions to Tammy Algood: [talgood@tnelectric.org](mailto:talgood@tnelectric.org).



# FUN at the FAIR

Every year, county and regional fairs are not-to-be-missed events for communities across the Volunteer State. Food, rides, displays, competitions, performances — it all comes together for a weekend or week or longer for folks to come together and celebrate what makes their communities special.

This year's season kicks off with the Clay County Fair in Celina June 4-8 and continues through the Hamilton County Fair in Sale Creek in November.

In Lebanon, the Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair runs Aug. 15-24, and organizers go to great efforts to make sure everyone knows this is a statewide affair. This year's theme is "95 Reasons to Celebrate Tennessee — Sow the Fun. Harvest the Memories," and *The Tennessee Magazine* is partnering with the fair to use the same theme for our next Shutterbug Photography Contest. See page 43 for details.

Fair season is an exciting time across Tennessee. Make plans to attend.



*The Tennessee Magazine* has again partnered with the Tennessee Association of Fairs to share information about the state's county, regional and state fairs. Visit our website for an interactive map and more information: [TNMAGAZINE.ORG/FAIRS](https://TNMAGAZINE.ORG/FAIRS).

*Photograph courtesy of the Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair*

## 2024 Tennessee Agricultural Fairs

### June

4-8 • Clay Co. Fair, Celina  
24-29 • DeKalb Co. Fair, Alexandria

### July

1-6 • Smith Co. Fair, Carthage  
9-13 • Jefferson Co. Fair, Jefferson City  
15-20 • Anderson Co. Fair, Clinton  
15-20 • Bedford Co. Fair, Shelbyville  
15-20 • Morgan Co. Fair, Wartburg  
18-28 • Overton Co. Fair, Livingston  
22-27 • Greene Co. Fair, Greeneville  
July 26-Aug. 3 • Macon Co. Fair, Lafayette  
July 30-Aug. 3 • Bledsoe Co. Fair, Pikeville  
July 31-Aug. 3 • Cheatham Co. Fair, Ashland City

### August

1-10 • Putnam Co. Fair, Cookeville  
2-10 • Williamson Co. Fair, Franklin  
4-10 • Fentress Co. Fair, Jamestown  
5-10 • Benton Co. Fair, Camden  
6-10 • Rhea Co. Fair, Evensville  
6-10 • Robertson Co. Fair, Springfield  
7-10 • Carroll Co. Fair, Huntingdon

9-17 • Henry Co. Fair, Paris  
10-17 • Sequatchie Co. Fair, Dunlap  
13-17 • Cocke Co. Fair, Newport  
15-24 • Wilson Co.-TN State Fair, Lebanon  
17-24 • Scott Co. Fair, Oneida  
19-24 • Appalachian Fair, Gray  
19-24 • Cumberland Co. Fair, Crossville  
20-27 • Obion Co. Fair, Union City  
21-24 • Decatur Co. Fair, Parsons  
26-31 • Claiborne Co. Fair, Tazewell  
26-31 • Gibson Co. Fair, Trenton  
27-31 • Meigs Co. Fair, Decatur  
Aug. 27-Sept. 2 • Sevier Co. Fair, Sevierville  
Aug. 29-Sept. 2 • Dickson Co. Fair, Dickson  
Aug. 29-Sept. 2 • Maury Co. Fair, Columbia  
Aug. 30-Sept. 7 • White Co. Fair, Sparta  
Aug. 30-Sept. 7 • Coffee Co. Fair, Manchester  
Aug. 30-Sept. 8 • Delta Fair, Memphis

### September

1-7 • Van Buren Co. Fair, Spencer

2-7 • Dyer Co. Fair, Dyersburg  
5-7 • Trousdale Co. Fair, Hartsville  
6-14 • Warren Co. Fair, McMinnville  
6-15 • Tennessee Valley Fair, Knoxville  
6-15 • The Nashville Fair, Nashville  
9-14 • Henderson Co. Fair, Lexington  
10-15 • West TN State Fair, Jackson  
11-14 • Humphreys Co. Fair, Waverly  
11-14 • Lauderdale Co. Fair, Halls  
14-21 • Lincoln Co. Fair, Fayetteville  
16-21 • Hardin Co. Fair, Savannah  
19-21 • Houston Co. Fair, Erin  
19-28 • Middle TN District Fair, Lawrenceburg

### November

8-10 • Hamilton Co. Fair, Sale Creek

### Dates to be determined

Giles Co. Fair, Pulaski  
Hickman Co. Fair, Centerville  
Franklin Co. Fair, Winchester  
Polk Co. Fair, Benton  
S. Central Area Fair, Hohenwald  
Sumner Co. Fair, Gallatin  
Weakley Co. Fair, Gleason



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# BEST of TENNESSEE

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

## We're searching for the Best of Tennessee

VOTING NOW OPEN FOR ANNUAL READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

Our readers are the foremost experts on all things Tennessee, and that's why we need your help naming the Best of Tennessee for our 2024 Readers' Choice Awards. This year, we have revamped our categories to make voting easier. The program highlights readers' favorites in 14 individual categories from travel and art to food and shopping.

There are two ways to enter. Simply visit [tnmagazine.org/BOT24](https://tnmagazine.org/BOT24), or use the form in this magazine. (Online entries will be entered in a drawing for an additional \$250 prize!) Fill out the nomination form with your choices for each category. You can nominate as many businesses and attractions as you like.

"Tennessee is an incredible and unique place, and no one knows that better than our readers," says Chris Kirk, editor of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

"Cast your vote, and help us honor Tennessee's most unique eats and destinations."

Don't wait — submit your nominations today, and be entered in the sweepstakes for a chance to win some fantastic prizes.

Help us honor your community's local businesses that serve you and your neighbors each day. Join us in recognizing Tennessee's best.

"Cast your vote, and help us honor Tennessee's most unique eats and destinations."



**NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITES.**  
ENTER ONLINE AT [TNMAGAZINE.ORG/BOT24](https://tnmagazine.org/BOT24).

**Official rules:** No purchase necessary. One entry per person. Ballot must be postmarked or submitted online no later than Friday, Aug. 30. • To be eligible for the prize drawings, ballots must have a "Best of Tennessee" vote in at least five categories. You can cast votes in any or all of the regions. • Drawing to be held on Friday, Sept. 13. Must be at least 18 years old to win. Grand-prize winners will be notified by mail. • Best of Tennessee results will be published in the December edition of *The Tennessee Magazine*. • Electric cooperative employees and their immediate families are not eligible for the prize giveaways.



# BEST TENNESSEE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Electric cooperative: \_\_\_\_\_

The division of the state in which you live: West \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ or East \_\_\_\_\_

**All entries must be postmarked by Friday, Aug. 30. Return the completed forms to:**

**Best of Tennessee**  
*The Tennessee Magazine*  
P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224

**Complete your ballot online  
for a chance to win \$250!**

ENTER FOR A CHANCE  
TO WIN ONE OF THREE  
GRAND PRIZE PACKAGES  
THAT INCLUDE:



A \$200 gift certificate to be  
applied toward a stay at a  
park cabin or lodge.



A basket of locally made  
artisan foods from Pick  
Tennessee Products.



\$250 to spend while you're  
enjoying your state park  
visit.

## EATS

### Bakery

West: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

East: \_\_\_\_\_

### Barbecue

West: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

East: \_\_\_\_\_

### Brewery/Craft Beer/Winery

West: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

East: \_\_\_\_\_

### Catfish

West: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

East: \_\_\_\_\_

### Hamburger

West: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

East: \_\_\_\_\_

### Home/Country Cooking

West: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

East: \_\_\_\_\_

### Place for Dessert

West: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

East: \_\_\_\_\_

## DESTINATION AND RECREATION

### Farmers Market

West: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

East: \_\_\_\_\_

### Festival

West: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

East: \_\_\_\_\_

### Historic Site

West: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

East: \_\_\_\_\_

### Museum/Art Gallery

West: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

East: \_\_\_\_\_

### Place to Take the Kids

West: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

East: \_\_\_\_\_

### Outdoor Adventure

West: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

East: \_\_\_\_\_

### State Park

West: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

East: \_\_\_\_\_



# Find the Tennessee flag



We have hidden somewhere in this magazine the icon from the Tennessee flag like the one pictured here. It could be larger or smaller than this, and it could be in black and white or any color. If you find it, send us a postcard or email us with the page number where it's located. Include your name, mailing address, phone number, email address and electric cooperative. One entry per person. Three winners will be chosen from a random drawing, and each will receive \$20.

Note that the icon we hide will not be on an actual flag or historical marker, will not appear on pages 20-25 and will not be placed in any ads. This month's flag will not appear on this page (that would just be too easy). Good luck!

Send **postcards only** (no phone calls, please) to: *The Tennessee Magazine*, Find the Flag, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224. Or you can fill out the

form at [tnmagazine.org](http://tnmagazine.org) or email [flag@tnelectric.org](mailto:flag@tnelectric.org). Entries must be postmarked or received via email by Monday, July 1. Winners will be published in the August issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

## April Flag Spotters

Thanks for the postcards and emails again this month identifying the correct location of the flag, which was found among the stars on **page 12**.

Winners are drawn randomly from each month's entries. April's lucky flag spotters are:

**Linda Jones**, Eads, Chickasaw EC

**James Vaughn**, Doyle, Caney Fork EC

**Dorcas A. Fairchild**, Rogersville, Holston EC



# Artist's Palette

## Assignment for August

**Three age categories:** 8 and younger, 9 to 13 and 14 to 18 years old. Each group will have first-, second- and third-place winners.

**Media:** Drawing or painting on **8½-by-11-inch unlined** paper, canvas or board. We encourage the use of color. **Please follow these size guidelines.** Oversized canvas entries are especially difficult to handle and cannot be returned. Framed pieces will not be accepted.

**Entry:** Send your original art to: *The Tennessee Magazine*, Artist's Palette — **August**, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224. *(Please make sure you include the month on the outside of the envelope!)* Only one entry per artist, please.

**Deadline:** Art must be postmarked by Monday, July 1.

**Include:** Your name, age, mailing address, phone number, email address and electric cooperative. **Leaving anything out will result in disqualification.**

**Please note:** By entering, you give *The Tennessee Magazine* permission to publish your work in print, online and via social media.

Artwork will not be returned **unless** you include a self-addressed, **stamped** envelope (SASE) with your submission. **Only the U.S. Postal Service** will be used for returns. *For best reproduction results, do not fold artwork.*

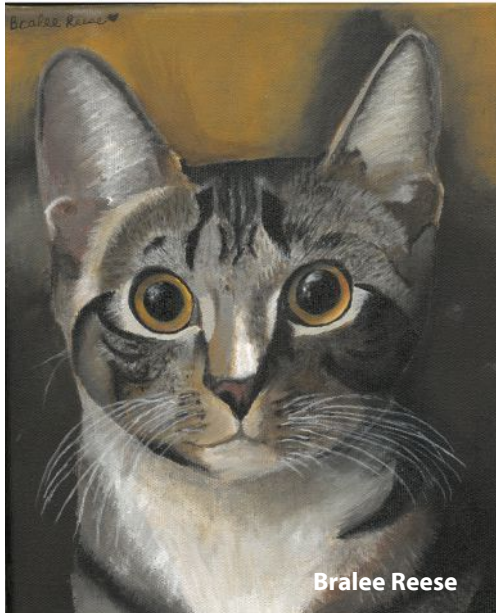
**Each entry needs its own SASE, please.** Siblings must enter separately with their own envelopes.

**Attention, teachers:** You may send multiple entries in one envelope along with one SASE with sufficient postage.

**Winners** will be published in the August issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*. First place wins \$50, second place wins \$30 and third place wins \$20. Winners are eligible to enter again after three months. Winners will receive their checks, artwork and certificates of placement within six to eight weeks of publication.



# Artist's Palette *June Winners*



Bralee Reese



Leah Moody



Jessica Dreiling

**WINNERS, 14-18 AGE GROUP:** **First place:** Bralee Reese, age 15, Upper Cumberland EMC; **Second place:** Leah Moody, age 14, Duck River EMC; **Third place:** Jessica Dreiling, Age 16, Middle Tennessee Electric



Shreya Seshan



Ariel Helton

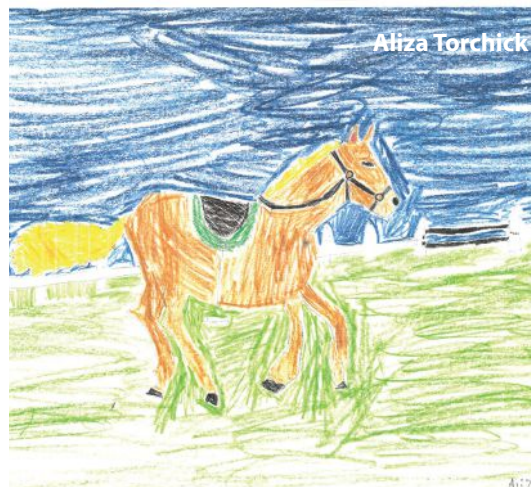


Sarah Smith

**WINNERS, 9-13 AGE GROUP:** **First place:** Shreya Seshan, age 11, Middle Tennessee Electric; **Second place:** Ariel Helton, age 13, Duck River EMC; **Third place:** Sarah Smith, age 12, Volunteer EC



Maahi Kembhari



Aliza Torchick



Alexandra Disla


**WINNERS, 8 AND YOUNGER AGE GROUP:** **First place:** Maahi Kembhari, age 5, Middle Tennessee Electric; **Second place:** Aliza Torchick, age 7, Volunteer EC; **Third place:** Alexandra Disla, age 6, Middle Tennessee Electric



# Point of View

By Robin Conover

"Aurora Borealis in Tennessee" by Robin Conover,  
Canon EOS 5D Mark IV, 16-35mm at 16 mm,  
f2.8L II US, ISO 2,000, f9 at 15 seconds, Gitzo tripod



A couple of weeks ago, many of us bore witness to the Aurora borealis, commonly known as the northern lights, being visible in Tennessee and even farther south. The rare opportunity resulted from the Earth being hit by a "G5 Extreme Solar Storm," according to the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration's Weather Prediction Center. The last storm of this intensity was in 2003.

When I first heard about it, I didn't really think it would be possible to see the light show, so I actually ignored some of the early predictions and went on about my day. By about 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 9, I started to take notice.

It became clear how excited the meteorologists on local and national news stations were about the potential viewing opportunity in Tennessee and across other parts of the country not accustomed to ever seeing the northern lights. Experiencing them has always been on my bucket list, so prior research into where and when to go for the highest chance of actually seeing them included locations such as Canada, Alaska and Iceland. All were shaping up to be expensive endeavors.

I decided I would give it a shot later in the evening, and then I began seeing posts from people in Tennessee on the national news beginning at about 9:30 p.m. Reports had indicated the peak for my location might be in the early morning hours between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. I got my equipment together and tried to get to sleep early.

It was painful to answer the call of my alarm at 2 a.m., not hit snooze and get out of bed. I was out the door in

15 minutes and couldn't see a thing. I decided to drive north and find an empty field where I could wait for the cosmic light show. In doing so, I expected to actually see the color and light streaks with my naked eye. That turned out to be completely wrong.

As I was driving, I noticed a weak streak resembling the shaft of light from a rainbow but with no discernible color. At first I thought it was a very distant searchlight.

I turned toward the light beam and found a field where I parked and began to take in the spectacle. I still had only really made out the one shaft of light but began to see a few other streaks along the horizon.

By this time, I had heard that smartphones were capturing the lights with more color than you could see with the naked eye. I tried that, and sure enough, I could see the brilliant streaks and colors. I've since learned that our camera sensors see more wavelengths of light than our eyes can, making it possible to capture the lights but not see them.

With my camera mounted securely on a tripod, I tried a timed exposure of 15 seconds. To my surprise, it worked. My camera captured much more color than I could have ever seen with the naked eye. The 15-second exposure was also enough to capture several stars without blurring them.

I chased the northern lights for two more nights with no luck, making the first time I saw them even more special. I haven't checked viewing the aurora borealis off of my bucket list yet because I can't imagine not making the effort to see them again and again. Fascinating! ■



# SHUTTERBUG SHOWCASE

In the next installment of our Shutterbug Photography Contest, *The Tennessee Magazine* is partnering with the Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair to highlight “95 Reasons to Celebrate Tennessee — Sow the Fun. Harvest the Memories,” which is the theme of this year’s fair. The topic is general, giving you plenty of room for creativity; we do want to know the town and county where each photo was taken.

There is much to celebrate across Tennessee, and we’d love to see each of the state’s 95 counties represented among the entries. *The*

*Tennessee Magazine* will name first-, second- and third-place winners as well as honorable mention recipients in each division — **Adult Shutterbug**, **Junior Shutterbug** (ages 17 and younger) and **Professional**. The fair could bestow additional honors upon entries capturing the spirit of the theme.

Images can include people or not, and they can be selfies. As you accept this challenge, please stay safe. We don’t want anyone to take a tumble in the name of the Shutterbug contest.

## Contest rules

1. The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers. For the purposes of this competition, you are considered a professional if you regularly sell your images or garner more than 50% of your income from photography.
2. Photographs must have been taken by you.
3. A photographer can enter no more than three photographs. There is no cost to enter.
4. All entries must be made online. We

won’t accept prints for this contest. Sign on to [tnmagazine.org](http://tnmagazine.org) and click on “Entry Forms” under “Contests.” Complete the form and upload your photograph(s).

5. Employees of Tennessee’s electric cooperatives and their immediate families are not eligible to win.
6. Please include the name of each recognizable person, if any other than yourself, in your photograph. It is the photographer’s responsibility to have the subject’s permission to enter his or her image in the contest. You must include the subject’s name and contact information with your submission. Omitting any of this information can result in disqualification.
7. By entering the contest, photographers automatically give *The Tennessee Magazine* and the Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair permission to publish the winning images in print and digital publications, to social media and on websites.

## Shutterbug assignment:

“95 Reasons to Celebrate Tennessee — Sow the Fun. Harvest the Memories.”

## Submissions — online entries only

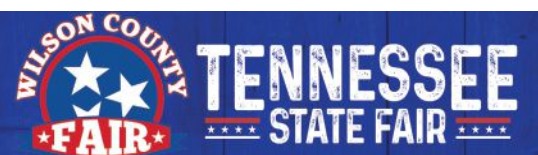
To enter, visit [tnmagazine.org](http://tnmagazine.org) and click on “Entry Forms” under the “Contests” tab.

## Deadline

Entries must be entered online by the end of the day on Monday, July 15. Winners will be published in the September issue.

## Prize packages:

Judges will select a first-, second- and third-place winner in each division and age group. These prizes will be awarded: First place wins \$150, second place \$100 and third place \$50.



Photograph by Robin Conover





## CCFiber Facts

**Unlimited Data  
No Data Caps**



**No Residential Contracts  
GIG Internet \$80**

**Up to 1,000 Mbps**

**Fiber 100%**

**100% Fiber Optic Delivery**

**Fiber Internet for Homes & Businesses**

**Standard Residential Installation Free**

**Local Customer Service**

**Technical Support 24/7/365**

**Transparent, Monthly Pricing**

**No Hidden Fees or Fillers**

**Includes a Gig-Ready Router**

**CCFiber Smart IQ App Free**

**Peace of Mind Package +\$10/month**

**No Throttled Speeds & No Data Caps**

**No Endless Fine Print or Surprise Fees**

*Just Awesome Internet.*

**No hidden fees.  
No teaser rates.  
No gimmicks.**

**Just awesome  
fiber Internet.**

**Scan this code to see how  
CCFiber is different from  
the other guys.**



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[CumberlandConnect.org/Check-Availability](https://CumberlandConnect.org/Check-Availability).**



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