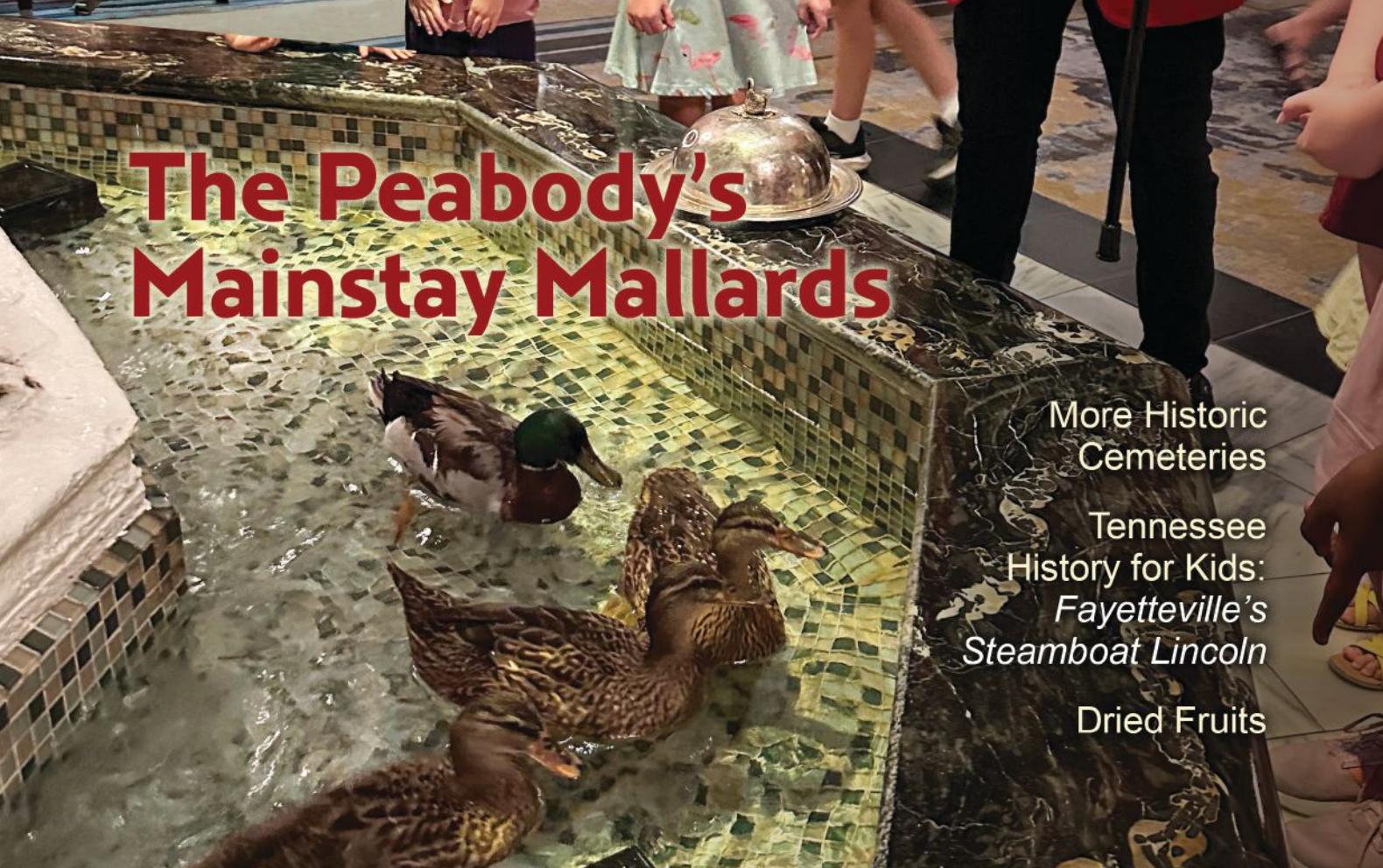


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THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE



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From left, Cassidy Bowling, Eva Bureau, Emalyn Gurka and Kyle Ford listen for instructions from Duckmaster Kenon Walker before they feed the Peabody's famous mascots. See page 12. Photograph by Robin Conover

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Mission Statement

CEMC 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

To power and empower

October ushers in cooler weather, vibrant fall foliage and perhaps a trip to your local pumpkin patch. October is a time for cooking your favorite pot of chili, cheering on your favorite football team and welcoming trick-or-treaters to your front door.

October is also a time to celebrate everything Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation and other cooperatives do for you and our community. October is Co-op Month.

Co-ops have a significant impact on our state throughout the year, not just during Co-op Month. October is a fitting time to consider CEMC's contributions to the people and places we serve.

We connect communities with safe and reliable energy. At the heart of CEMC's mission is an 86-year commitment to power homes, schools and businesses. Hand in hand with that commitment comes a focus on safety. It is our No. 1 priority, not only for our employees but for the community as well.

We connect communities with the world. The need for broadband access has never been greater, and Cumberland Connect, our broadband subsidiary, is working to connect our communities with knowledge and information. From healthcare to education to commerce, it's our goal to ensure that everyone benefits from the connectivity we provide.

We connect young people with life-changing opportunities. Thanks to programs like the Washington Youth Tour, Youth Leadership Summit, 4-H Electric Camp and



By Chris A. Davis

*General Manager,
Cumberland Electric
Membership
Corporation*

Senior Scholarships, CEMC provides educational opportunities that will better prepare students for future careers and leadership roles in our community.

We connect today and tomorrow. It is no secret that our world is changing faster than most of us can keep up with. CEMC is investing in the future of rural and suburban Tennessee. We're building a robust and resilient electric grid to ensure that our infrastructure can meet the needs of our communities — regardless of what might lie ahead.

There are many types of cooperatives — ag, banking, telephone and, of course, electric. Regardless of the service they provide, all co-ops have something in common: a sincere desire to meet the needs of their communities. As nonprofit entities governed by a board of directors elected by their members, co-ops prioritize people above all else.

This Co-op Month, remember that CEMC is here to build connections. We believe that by creating these connections, we can achieve a greater goal: not just powering our communities but also empowering our members to live better lives.

From our team to you, happy Co-op Month.

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TENNESSEE TODAY

Viewpoint

No fight required

Earlier this summer, I enjoyed spending some time watching the Olympics. As someone who appreciates the commitment and years of training to which competitive athletes must dedicate themselves, seeing the Olympians compete is in a league of its own.

While a professional baseball player will play in 162 games during a single regular season, plus another 30 games during spring training and a handful more if his team makes it to the playoffs, an Olympic athlete might only have one chance. Ever.

Think about training day in and day out for years and years. Think about all the hard work, sweat and effort that is required to make it to the highest level of competition in the world. After all of that effort, you stand at the starting line, the gun fires and you have 200 meters to sprint. And in 20 seconds, the race is over.

It provides a sense of drama that I don't get watching other sports because the stakes are so high. And since the Olympics only happen every four years, that athlete might never make it back again. I think these athletes are extraordinary.

On Nov. 5, there is another event in our state and our country that happens on a four-year cycle. And you have the ability to do something extraordinary. The good news is that you can do it without the years of toiling and training, without the fear of failure or rejection that comes from not measuring up. And frankly, many in the world couldn't even imagine this feat even being possible.

If you have registered to vote, you have the right to go to your polling place and choose who our elected leaders will be. Whether it is your local dog catcher or the president of the United States, your vote matters. In the scope of human history, it is extraordinary that you can go to cast

your ballot without fear and in an orderly fashion.

And the even better news is that Tennessee makes voting easy and secure.

In our state, as in most, the responsibility for conducting elections is shared among state and local government officials. Secretary of State Tre Hargett oversees the administration of elections statewide, and each county has a bipartisan Election Commission that implements voting procedures and runs polling places. Tennessee was recently ranked No. 1 in the nation for election integrity, based on the rules and regulations that protect the ballot box.

If you need to learn more about the upcoming elections, look up a sample ballot, see where you can go to vote and find lots of other useful information, you can go to sos.tn.gov/elections, or you can download the GoVoteTN app from your phone's app store.

If you haven't yet registered, it might not be too late. The deadline to register before the state and federal general election is Oct. 7. If you have already registered but won't be able to vote on Nov. 5, you might be eligible to cast an absentee ballot, or you can visit an early-voting site Oct. 16-31. Or you can join me in the excitement of voting on Election Day itself.

Back in the late 1980s, a popular song told us that we had to fight for our right. But in this case, there is no fight required. Just show up and take the time to exercise your right. A party afterward is optional. ■



By Mike Knotts
Tennessee Electric
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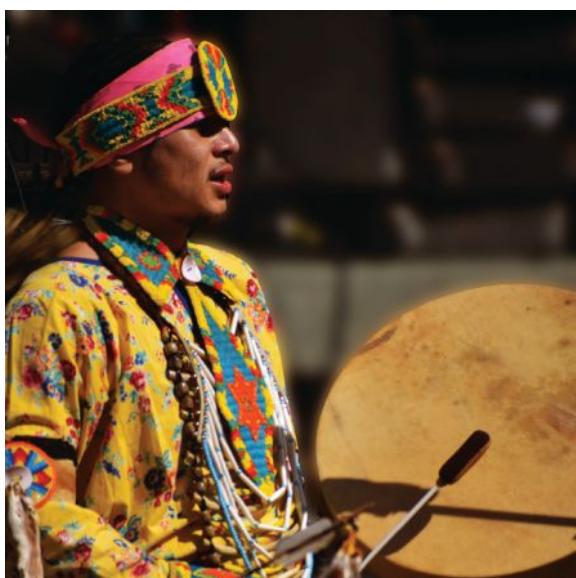
Bite-sized news, notes and knowledge — October 2024



Share your memories of *The Tennessee Magazine*

“Do you have special memories tied to *The Tennessee Magazine*?” editor Chris Kirk asked in his introduction last month. “For a favorite dinner, did your mother pull out a worn, creased page saved from the magazine years earlier? Does your family compete for an ice cream sundae in a high-stakes contest to see who is the first to find the flag? Did you appear in the magazine, showcasing a special skill or achievement?”

We’re working on a special project and hope to highlight some of the ways *The Tennessee Magazine* has touched readers’ lives. If you’d like to share your story, email memories@tnmagazine.org.



Oct. 18-20 • Long Hunter State Park, Nashville

Indian Education Tennessee Pow Wow

The three-day Indian Education Tennessee Pow Wow offers opportunities to personally experience the culture and spirit of the American Indian people. The spirited event is not just a reunion of family and friends but is open to anyone to witness and join the celebration of culture nurtured by more than 40,000 American Indians who call Tennessee home today.

Treat yourself to traditional native foods such as fry bread, Indian tacos and hominy made the “Indian way.” Convenient parking and seating are available at Long Hunter State Park.

Photograph courtesy of the Native American Indian Association of Tennessee

This month in Tennessee History

October 1855

First Tennessee State Fair

Oct. 5, 1925

Nashville radio station WSM goes live. That November sees the debut of "WSM Barn Dance," which today is known as the "Grand Ole Opry."

Oct. 26

National Tennessee Day



50 YEARS AGO IN THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

The cover of the October 1974 edition of *The Tennessee Magazine* featured an Amish couple's conveyance photographed near Arthur, Tennessee, by Charles Warren. Articles inside included features on nuclear generation and artist Martha Hinson of Centerville. View the entire issue at tnmagazine.org.

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From the editor

Two years ago in the October edition of *The Tennessee Magazine*, my headshot first greeted readers, welcoming them to my first edition at the helm of our state's most widely circulated monthly periodical. It's hard to believe it's been two years since assuming my new role.

Time flies when you're having fun advocating on behalf of fine organizations like our state's electric cooperatives.

Over the couple of weeks between the day this magazine goes to press and you receive it in your mailbox, the magazine staff will meet to revisit our editorial calendar and continue planning for feature articles highlighting more people, places and things across the Volunteer State. Another project we're tackling is collecting your memories about *The Tennessee Magazine*, so I'm taking this opportunity again to ask you to please share your stories at memories@tnmagazine.org.

Speaking of memories, you'll want to check out Antsy McClain's latest piece about trick-or-treating, clowns and laughter. See "My Tennessee Notebook" beginning on page 10.

Thinking now about how we remember those who came before and are no longer with us, we've revisited more of Tennessee's historic cemeteries. We covered several last October (you can find that feature online at tnmagazine.org), and we explore more starting on page 28. The stories of these sacred places and the people laid to rest there are fascinating to me, and I wish we could explore them all. I hope this sampling will motivate readers to discover more on their own.

Our cover story features the Peabody Ducks that reside in palatial accommodations atop the Memphis hotel and spend their days in the lobby fountain. See page 12.

And Bill Carey is back with another column covering an interesting footnote from Tennessee history. This month, he tells us about the steamboat *Lincoln* that Fayetteville merchants purchased to navigate the Elk River. How did it turn out? See page 32.

Welcome to October! Enjoy the cooling temperatures after our sweltering summer. Cozy up beside a fire or underneath a warming quilt. And bring along your copy of *The Tennessee Magazine* to learn about more cool things happening in our state.

Thanks for reading,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Kirk".

Chris Kirk

Editor, *The Tennessee Magazine*

My TENNESSEE Notebook

by Antsy McClain

In all seriousness, let's talk about clowns

I looked in the mirror anxiously and saw someone I no longer recognized. The stubble on my face revealed that I hadn't seen a razor in days, maybe weeks. My clothes hung off me like the ancient castle draperies I'd seen in horror movies. My cuffs were ratty and torn, my pants held up with twine I found in a barn. The stale, foul-smelling butt of a cigar was pinched between my thumb and forefinger, unlit, ignored. My thin, felt hat had a hole the size of my fist, and my shoes were borrowed, three sizes too big. This was the image of a man who had hit rock bottom.

I was 7 years old. And for the next three hours, I would score more candy than I had ever seen in my entire life.

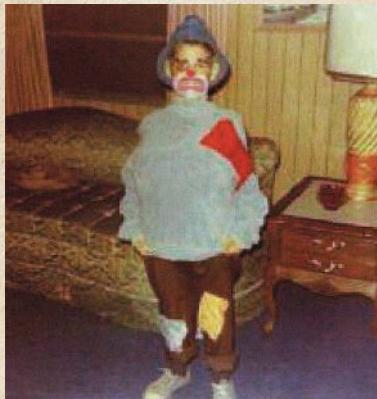
It was Trick-or-Treat, and I was dressed up as Emmett Kelly, the sad, circus clown who silently won over audiences with his painted face and baggy clothes. I had just seen him on television. He performed the bit he had made famous in the circus: sweeping up the spotlight with a janitor's broom at the end of the night. Sad, plaintive music played as he pushed the circle of light smaller and smaller, finally sweeping it under a rug or fitting it onto his dustpan. He would then bow, the lights would dim and he'd leave the stage with a shy wave.

That night, clowns became my heroes.

As I grew older, I idolized a generation of clowns: Red Skelton, Jonathan Winters, Tommy Smothers, Jerry Lewis and so many more. If someone went to great lengths to make people laugh, I saw angels in our midst.¹

The sound of laughter does things to some people. Most just hear a common reaction to a humorous situation. Others, and I am one of those people, hear music. When I've made you laugh, it's better than having the best seat at the symphony. Laughter is glorious.

My friends gave little thought to their costumes at Halloween.² Most just followed their moms to Kmart and plucked the "superhero du jour" from the hooks of the overstuffed Halloween aisle.³



The author at age 7 on Trick-or-Treat night, about to score more candy than he'd ever seen in his life. And if you're impressed by that glorious, amazing sofa, join the club. The '70s were real, people, and they were fabulous.

I, on the other hand, had curated my costume from hand-me-downs, Goodwill finds and a pair of shoes from the trash bin behind my aunt's apartment complex. I laid my findings out at the foot of my bed. I tried on my costume 20 times that week, staring at myself in the bathroom mirror.⁴ I wasn't just a kid from the trailer park down the road anymore. I was Emmett Kelly, the clown of clowns who made people laugh or made them sigh or made them go "Awwww" in that way sensitive souls do when they watch kitten videos.

When it came time to go door-to-door, I carried a sign that read "Trick or Treat" in my best attempt at circus lettering. I had taken a vow of silence in the role, and I refused to break character. After the candy was plopped into my bag, I flipped the sign

over to reveal my hand-drawn message of "THANK YOU." I tipped my hat and bowed a low, theatrical bow. I heard more than one "Awwww" that night from young mothers in my neighborhood, an indicator to me that I was clearly onto something. Women dig clowns.⁵

I know what some of you are thinking: Clowns are creepy. I know. What's up with all these scary clowns? If you've seen a horror movie in the last 15 years, you've seen a veritable parade of evil clowns. Pennywise from Stephen King's "It," Captain Spaulding from Rob Zombie's "House of 1000 Corpses" and more. Even Joaquin Phoenix's take on the Joker from the Batman franchise takes "evil clown" to a whole new level.

The original symbol and purpose of a clown — to make people laugh with glee — has been turned on its head, its bloody, murderous head, causing a growing number of people to have actual phobias of the once happy creatures. It's called coulrophobia, and it's no laughing matter if you have it. The sight of a clown can cause a coulrophobe to faint or have panic attacks. I love a good horror movie, but I wish they had left clowns out of it.

There are more evil clowns on the way. Halloween film trailers have been

*"As I stumble through this life,
Help me to create more laughter than tears,
Dispense more happiness than gloom,
Spread more cheer than despair."*

— An excerpt from "The Clown's Prayer."

The author is unknown, but many clowns know it by heart. The comedian and actor Chris Farley was known to keep a copy of the poem in his wallet at all times.

teasing us for weeks now. Horror movie makers love finding the most innocent, unexpected characters to jump scare us out of our seats. Nuns, children, kittens, dentists, even ice cream men have been scaring us since long before clowns ever entered the picture. I mean, where's the surprise in an investment banker or a politician gone bad? Boring. We see that in the news every day. Come at me from left field with that stuff, and I'm jumping like a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs.⁶

Grown-ups who don't appreciate Halloween grew up in neighborhoods of retired English teachers who passed out apples and pencils. I get it, and if I could change that crummy chapter of your childhood, I would. In a casual poll of my circle of friends, I discovered that Halloween avoiders are also likely to find clowns untrustworthy. One friend, a lifelong coulrophobe, told me, "So, you're OK with a large, grown-up man covering his face with clown white, putting on a big, red wig and towering over you silently, smiling and handing you a balloon? That's OK?"

Well, when you put it that way ... never mind. Let's just agree to disagree.

* * *

Lucky for me, my Halloween memories are nice. I love passing out candy and seeing all the different costumes, but there's a new housing development about a mile away with



The author's selfie from the stage at one of his recent Halloween shows, still paying homage to his favorite clown.

hundreds of homes close together and filled with young families. The kids have been wisely migrating over there for their Halloween treats. Last year, I only had a dozen trick-or-treaters.

I was dressed up as the Grim Reaper, sickle and all, to pass out candy last year. I'd pull up my rubber skeleton mask when the younger ones approached to let them know there's a nice guy — a clown, really —

underneath. It's fun, Halloween. The neighbors come over, we hang out. I pull my little fire pit into the front yard and make a fire. We eat the leftover candy.

This year, I think I'll dress up as Emmett Kelly again. It's been a while. I miss that guy. And it's high time I start laughing again. I'll make a little sign that says, "Happy Halloween" on one side, and, "You're welcome," on the other. You know, in keeping with the clown's vow of silence and all.

And who knows? I might hear another "Awww" or two. ■

Listen to the song, "Aunt Beulah's Roadkill Overcoat," here:

Antsy McClain is a Nashville-adjacent singer-songwriter, author, graphic artist and self-professed clown. Go to unhitched.com for his books, music and events. Use this QR code to download the scariest song he ever wrote, "Aunt Beulah's Roadkill Overcoat," FREE to readers of **The Tennessee Magazine**.



¹ Legendary comedian Buddy Hackett would go to great lengths for a laugh. He hosted weekly luncheons for comedians in his Beverly Hills home. Along the foyer were dozens of framed 8-by-10-inch photos — not of his celebrity friends but of Los Angeles-area dry cleaners, mostly Asian guys. The photos were signed, with love and gratitude, to Buddy Hackett. Los Angeles dry cleaners all have signed photos of celebrities hanging in their lobbies, so Hackett thought, why not return the favor? He hired a photographer to visit a few dozen dry cleaner operators and take their photos, had them developed, returned to have them signed and hung the photos. It was the first thing his guests would see as they came through the door. Now that's a lot to do for a laugh, but it paid off when he'd hear his friends' laughter.

² I once put on my friend Randy's Incredible Hulk mask as we were trading our loot on the living room carpet. I could barely see through the eye holes. It smelled like plastic fumes and remnants of a Bit-O-Honey that Randy had been gnawing on for 10 minutes trying to get it to soften. His costume hung loosely over his skinny frame, and it made me sad, "The Once Incredible Hulk," emaciated and malnourished, his skin just hanging off his bones. The costume was meant to be stuffed with pillows, but Randy couldn't be bothered with that. He had bigger fish to fry. Candy was waiting.

³ One year I wandered to the Halloween aisle a few days before Trick-or-Treat. It looked like a bomb had gone off. Pieces of superheroes were strewn about in limp piles, tangled together like they'd been fighting right up until the blast.

A ginger-headed 5-year-old boy stood holding his mother's hand, bewildered as they surveyed the damage.

Two Kmart employees showed up and scowled at the mess. One was about 17 years old, his face a haunting blend of acne and freckles. The other was a thin, elderly man with his front teeth missing. He was like an inverted first-grader, but with wrinkles and nose hair. Both dutifully wore their red vests with name tags.

"Wow," said the teen.

Refusing to bond over this with the teenager, the old man walked away with a grunt. He came back moments later with some coat hangers and a large silver flask in his back pocket.

⁴ Attention to detail is paramount when dressing up as a clown, and footwear is often what divides the men from the boys. I discovered this later in life when I rented a clown costume for the birthday party of my then-5-year-old son, Buddy. It was an extra 20 bucks for the big clown shoes, and I balked, thinking they were probably a trip hazard, anyway. "I'll just wear my Nike running shoes," I thought. "They're white with red swooshes. They'll be fine." I wore them all the time and even got a matching pair for Buddy. We called them our "Same and Same Shoes."

After I burst onto the scene in full Bozo regalia — face paint, wig, baggy white one-piece suit with red and blue yarn balls dangling off me — all the kids squealed with glee ... except my son, who looked me up and down, locked eyes on the shoes and ran to his mother in tears.

"This is a bad family in which to be afraid of clowns," I thought disappointedly.

Buddy then pulled his head from his mother's lap and yelled, "That clown stolen my Daddy's shoes!" and then, "Where's Daddy?"

Despite my attempts to warm him up to me, Buddy watched me suspiciously for the duration of the party and kept looking toward the door for his father's arrival.

⁵ Not all women, certainly. Some are attracted to bad guys, the dangerous types. And, hey, whatever floats your boat. But look around in 20 years at your friends who married the clowns. They'll still be laughing. Clowns just get funnier. Dangerous guys, if they don't have psychotherapy, ride off into the sunset on a Harley you helped pay for.

⁶ When the head fell out of the boat in "Jaws" (it's terrifying), I jumped so high in my seat that when I landed — on my wrist — I cracked it in two places. I sat through the rest of the movie while it swelled up to the size of a cantaloupe. I wore a cast for six weeks. Now, that was a jump scare. Thank you, Mr. Spielberg.

The Peabody Duck March

The world-famous Peabody Ducks make a splash with visitors

Story and photographs by Robin Conover



The Peabody Memphis is an experience to behold, especially for lovers of Southern charm, hospitality and grandeur. Located at the corner of Union Avenue and South Second Street, the historic hotel has been a fixture downtown since 1869.

Earning the moniker “the South’s Grand Hotel,” every detail — from the professional staff to the central location to the well-appointed accommodations — makes a stay at this four-star hotel unforgettable. But there’s something else you don’t want to miss that makes the Peabody experience unique: its world-famous mascots — the Peabody Ducks.

Hundreds of visitors gather in the hotel’s grand lobby each week to witness the Peabody Duck March. Hotel visitors and guests gather twice daily and jockey for the best positions around the Peabody fountain in the grand lobby and on the mezzanine level to witness the morning arrival and afternoon departure of the five world-famous mallards.

Led by the Duckmaster, the festivities begin promptly at 11 a.m. and again at 5 p.m. with an introduction and a little history about the ducks and how this tradition came to be.

“My name is Kenon Walker. I am the Duckmaster here at the Peabody. I just want to personally and officially welcome everybody, not just to the Peabody, but also to this morning’s

Peabody Duckmaster Kenon Walker escorts the Peabody Ducks down from the rooftop Royal Duck Palace. Once the elevator doors open to the lobby, the ducks waddle quickly down the red carpet to their famous fountain. The world-famous ducks bring countless smiles to the Peabody guests and visitors every day.



Duck March ceremony," Walker says as he addresses an audience of about 150. "Thank you all so much for showing up. I appreciate every single one of you."

Decked out in his official Duckmaster red jacket with gold trim, Walker quickly commands the attention of everyone in the crowd. Every day this ceremony brings people together of all ages, nationalities and walks of life, and it brings smiles to everyone's faces, according to Walker.

Explaining that this tradition began nearly a century ago in the 1930s as a practical joke amongst friends, Walker quickly has the crowd laughing as they listen to his storytelling.

"It all began with the general manager at that time, a man by the name of Frank Schutt, and his good friend, Chip Barwick," says Walker. "These two gentlemen decided to go on a duck hunt over in Arkansas in the middle of the winter along the icy-cold waters of the Mississippi River.

"Now, like I mentioned, it was wintertime, so these two were going to need to try to find a way to stay warm, so they decided to take another colleague along with them by the name of Jack Daniel's."



Legend tells that the fine Tennessee sippin' whiskey could be to blame for what happened next.

"Well, they decided as a practical joke that it would be funny to bring back the last three live duck decoys they were using that day and set them loose in the fountain," says Walker. "And that's exactly what they did. They laughed it off and went up to their rooms for the evening.

"In the morning, Frank Schutt came downstairs, expecting to find the ducks gone, but he was surprised to find two things. No. 1, the ducks were still right here inside this fountain; they didn't go anywhere. And No. 2, they had started to attract visitors, people just like each and every single one of you. People were absolutely amazed to see live animals frolicking inside the lobby fountain of an establishment as fine as the Peabody."

Guests soon expected to see the famous ducks swimming the fountain, and in 1940, a hotel bellman named Edward Pembroke volunteered to help. Escorting the ducks back and forth to the fountain each day became Pembroke's job, according to Walker's account. Pembroke had experience as a former circus trainer and became the first official Duckmaster.

Pembroke would spend the next 50 years gently training countless teams of mallards for the Peabody Duck March to the fountain in the morning and to their sleeping quarters in the afternoon. Pembroke retired in 1991.

Walker's Duckmaster career began when he served as an assistant to beloved Doug Weatherford who was the full-time Duckmaster at the time. The two worked closely together until the student became the teacher. Weatherford, who is also the Peabody hotel's historian, turned over the full-time role to Walker in 2019 and became Walker's backup.

"Doug is the person who recruited me," says Walker. "I wouldn't be in the position if it wasn't for him."

Now standing at the fountain, Walker asks for volunteers to literally help roll out the red carpet for the Peabody's five mallard ducks. Walker chose a few younger audience members who will not forget this experience anytime soon.

After instructing the crowd to remain still and seated, Walker takes the elevator to the rooftop and walks to the Royal Duck Palace. The structure is almost as opulent

Top, honorary Duckmasters, from left, Harlow and Cassidy Bowling, Elise and Eva Bureau and Quentin Charette roll out the red carpet for the Peabody Duck March. Left, guests and visitors line the way, anxiously awaiting the arrival of the famous ducks.

Right, Duckmaster Kenon Walker escorts the hotel's famous mascots to the rooftop elevator in preparation for their grand entrance. Below and bottom, the ducks will remain in the fountain all day, eating, swimming and greeting their adoring fans.

as the hotel lobby and features another fountain with feeding and nesting areas where the ducks relax away from adoring crowds.

As Walker opens the palace door, the ducks excitedly spill out, requiring little direction as they waddle at



Walker's side to the awaiting elevator. The teams of five always consist of one male and four female mallards.

While riding down the elevator, they begin crowding the door. As it opens, they almost sprint down the red carpet to the fountain that's about 40 feet away. It's as if they can't wait to meet their adoring fans and dive in for a swim.

Perhaps it's also that they are expecting to be fed upon arrival. As they settle in the water in the basin of the fountain, Walker retrieves a silver serving platter with food. Volunteers help Walker spread the food onto raised platforms in the fountain.



The Peabody Ducks are all raised on an undisclosed farm in West Tennessee. After serving for three months at the Peabody, they are retired back to the same farm where they are free to spend the rest of their days being regular ducks without the pomp and circumstance of the world-famous Peabody Duck March.

It's interesting that five ducks command such attention. Maybe it's the simplicity of the event amid grand accommodations or the curiosity visitors have with being so close to wild things. But it seems this simple Southern tradition keeps on bringing smiles and happiness to generation after generation. ■



ONE of a KIND

Cumberland Trail
Tennessee's only
linear state park

It seems appropriate that Tennessee's longest state park also has a rather lengthy full name — Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park. Currently stretching over more than 270 noncontiguous miles through 11 counties, it is also a park in progress.

"We are still trying to acquire land to connect sections of the trail," says Park Manager Anthony D. Jones. "When complete, the park will be a little over 300 miles in length."

The park is also the largest as far as acreage in the state, encompassing 33,500 acres.

Story by Trish Milburn

Photographs

by Teresa Kemmer

Trail to park

Cumberland Trail was established as a state scenic trail more than 50 years ago, in 1971. It became a state park in 1998 and four years later was renamed, adding former Tennessee Deputy Gov. and Comptroller Justin P. Wilson's name at the beginning. This was done to honor Wilson's dedication to helping move the park closer to completion.

Long-distance trails hold an appeal because they offer the opportunity to step away from the stresses of everyday life for extended periods. Numerous books have been written about hikes along famous long-distance trails such as Bill Bryson's "A Walk in the Woods" about the Appalachian Trail and the Cheryl Strayed's "Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail," and many people dream of being able to get away from it all and lose themselves in nature for more than a few hours.

While the Cumberland Trail currently has breaks in it forcing hikers to be ferried by car from the end of one section to the beginning of the next, Jones says there are



a couple of 30-mile sections and a 50-mile stretch from Lafayette to Frozen Head State Park that provide extended hiking opportunities. A real-time, interactive map of completed sections is available on the park's website.

Each segment of the trail is natural surface — no concrete or pavement — and is

rated either moderate or difficult.

Beauty, history and adventure

While hiking is, of course, the recreation one would associate with a park built around a trail, Jones notes that it's far from the only activity visitors to the sections of Cumberland Trail State Park can enjoy.

"There are so many other things to do — rock climbing, fishing, hunting, kayaking, whitewater rafting," Jones says.

The Cumberland Trail offers some amazing views along the ridges and down in the gorges of the Cumberland Plateau, perfect for taking photos or even putting pencil to paper for a sketch. Hikers on the trail can pass through



Above, a bridge in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area crosses the Sequatchie River. Top and opposite page, Black Mountain in Crab Orchard is one of the beautiful natural landmarks of the Cumberland Trail.

lands managed as state parks, national parks, state natural areas and wildlife management areas. Because of this variety of public lands, each with its own preservation mission, Cumberland Trail visitors can explore pieces of history and a whole range of ecosystems.

You can learn about the “first gateway to the West” at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, located at the trail’s northern terminus, where Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia meet. For a lovely place to have a picnic lunch, try the Head of Sequatchie, named for the headwaters of the Sequatchie River near Pikeville.

If you’re a rock climber, there are opportunities to enjoy this sport at Black Mountain outside of Crossville, Buzzard Point inside Laurel Snow State Natural Area near Dayton and Deep Creek near Chattanooga. Registration — either online or with park management on site — is required before rock climbing in any of these designated areas.

No matter what section of the park you’re exploring, it’s important to remember that sometimes privately owned land is nearby. Jones says that at some points, the park corridor is only 200 feet wide. Pay attention to park signage as well as any signs indicating private property upon which you should not trespass.

If your visit to the park requires an overnight stay, there are a number of backcountry campsites and two backcountry campgrounds for tent camping. These also require registration ahead of your stay. Some also require



Left and below, the Head of Sequatchie in Pikeville is a serene area of the state park.

a paid reservation, which can be made via the park’s website.

Helping hands

Even though the trail is about 90% finished and the park uses some contractors to help with trail building, volunteers are also still needed to lend a hand. The more hands working, the sooner the

disconnected sections of the trail can become a contiguous whole — stretching all the way from the Cumberland Gap at the north to the southern terminus at Signal Point near Chattanooga.

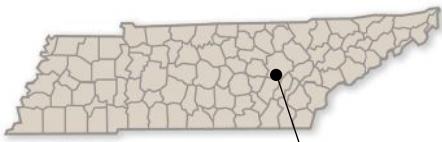
Jones says the fact that the park is one in progress is what helps make his job exciting.

“It never gets old,” he says. “There is something new to experience every day. We get to build our park from the ground up, and this is something my son can hike long after I’m gone.” ■

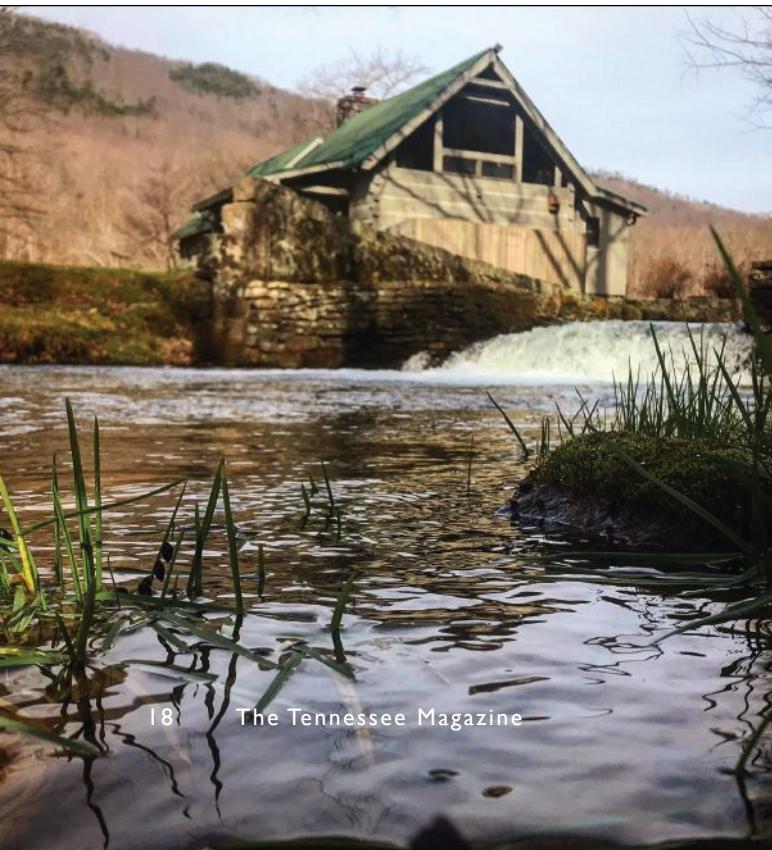


Cumberland Trail State Park

The main office is located at 270 Glyph Parkway in Pikeville. You can get more detailed information or register for backcountry camping or rock climbing at the park’s website at tnstateparks.com/parks/cumberland-trail or by calling the park at 423-533-2928. Also of interest is the information available on the Friends of the Cumberland Trail website: friendsofthecumberlandtrail.org.



Main office





Tennessee Voices for Cooperative Power gives you
the power to speak about energy policies that
impact your community and your electric co-op.

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Expanded due date selection for CEMC/Cumberland Connect members

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation/Cumberland Connect is enhancing its billing process by offering members increased flexibility in selecting their due dates. Starting this fall, **all accounts will be moved to new due dates**. To accommodate individual preferences, members can choose from eight available due dates: the 3rd, 6th, 9th, 12th, 15th, 18th, 21st or 24th of each month.

Key details:

- **Selection window:** Members can choose their preferred due dates now through Nov. 1.
- **How to select:** You can select your new due date online through SmartHub, by phone with a customer service representative at 800-987-2362 or in person at a CEMC/Cumberland Connect business office.
- **Automatic assignment:** Members who do not actively choose a new due date will be automatically assigned one of the available options. We will make every effort to assign a new due date

as close as possible to your current due date.

- **Billing impact:** The change will take effect on the November billing cycle (bills rendered after Nov. 17). Depending on the new due date, the November billing period might be shorter or longer than usual.

Important reminder: During the selection process, **CEMC/Cumberland Connect will not ask for any payment information**. The only information needed is your preferred due date. Please be cautious of any requests for payment details during this period as they could be fraudulent.

It's important to note that all accounts will be moved to a new due date. Members are encouraged to make their selections during the specified period to ensure they receive due dates that best suit their needs.

If you have any questions or need help selecting your new due date, our customer service team is here to assist. Thank you for being a valued member of CEMC/Cumberland Connect.



SELECT YOUR DUE DATE

- 1**
Scan the code below to log in to SmartHub® or use the mobile app.
- 2**
Select "Expanded Due Date Selection."
- 3**
Choose your preferred due date.

! SELECT YOUR DUE DATE

1 Scan the code below to log in to SmartHub® or use the mobile app.

2 Select "Expanded Due Date Selection."

3 Choose your preferred due date.

QR code

Celebrating Cooperative Month: Our commitment to community

As an electric cooperative, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation believes in the power of community. This Cooperative Month, we're proud to highlight a few of our efforts to give back and support the areas we serve. Through various initiatives, we're helping build a brighter future for our communities.

TVA Community Care Fund grants

This year, we continued our partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority to provide Community Care Fund grants to several vital organizations, including United Way, Second Harvest Food Bank, Safe Haven, Loaves and Fishes and Manna Café, to name a few. These funds help our nonprofits continue their essential work, providing food, shelter and assistance to those in need.

Engaging with our youth

Investing in our youth is investing in our future. This year, we participated in career days at local schools, giving students insight into careers in energy and beyond. We sponsored the Washington Youth Tour, where we sent 12 young leaders to learn about government and leadership; we also provided 12 college scholarships to graduating seniors and sponsored middle school students to attend 4-H Electric Camp at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Supporting back-to-school success

Understanding the importance of education, we participated in several back-to-school events this summer, donating and passing out school supplies to those in attendance. These efforts ensured that students started the school year with the tools necessary for success.

Safety and community fun

We were happy to take part in community Touch-A-Truck events, where families had the opportunity to explore utility vehicles up close while learning about safety in a fun, interactive environment. These events enable us to connect with the community and highlight the importance of electrical safety.

As we celebrate Cooperative Month, we're reminded that our mission goes beyond providing reliable electricity. It's about empowering our community, supporting our neighbors and building a better tomorrow — together.



Loaves and Fishes of Montgomery County receives a \$2,000 Community Care Fund grant from CEMC and TVA.



CEMC employees welcome students and deliver notebooks for the STEM program on the first day of school at Cumberland Heights Elementary School.



CEMC lineworkers allow children to try on safety gear at the Millersville Public Library Summer Reading Program Touch-a-Truck event.

Planting the right tree in the right place

Typically, we think about planting trees in the springtime when things begin to bloom, but late fall through early winter is actually the best time to plant trees in Tennessee. According to the Nashville Tree Conservation Corps, the changing of leaf colors is a good signal that it is safe to start planting trees. You can continue planting trees through the winter as long as the ground isn't frozen. The earlier you plant, the better because the tree has more time to spread its roots.

While timing is important, it is also important that you consider where you are planting this new tree and the size it will be when it is fully mature. It is easy to get excited about the beauty you are adding to your landscape, not to mention the important environmental benefits and added property value. But, if a fully grown tree becomes so tall that it interferes with power lines, that can create a real problem.

If your tree is not planted in the right place, high winds could bring tree branches into contact with power lines, resulting in safety hazards for your family, your neighbors and your community's lineworkers. Trees can also be a tremendous inconvenience when planted in the wrong location. Trees in contact with power lines are one of the most common causes of power outages on the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation system. To avoid these problems, do some research before purchasing



or planting trees on your property. If you have questions about the tree you are considering adding to your yard, give us a call. You can also visit us online at cemc.org/electric-service/vegetation-management for more information.

And before you plant, always remember to call 811 before you dig. At no cost to you, your underground utility lines will be located and marked prior to the start of your project. One phone call can prevent dangerous accidental contact or expensive repairs.

5 ways to save on water heating

Next to heating and cooling your home, heating the water your family uses eats up more energy than anything else. Here are five ways to cut down on your use of hot water, which could shave a few bucks off your energy bill.

1. Take shorter showers. Set a timer for four minutes before you hop into the shower. You'll have plenty of time to lather up and rinse off without wasting hot water.

2. Wash dishes in the dishwasher instead of by hand. The dishwasher uses less energy and less water than hand-washing. It also does a better job of sanitizing dishes because it operates at higher

temperatures than you typically would use when hand-washing.

3. Fix leaky faucets. That tiny drip — even at a rate of one drip per second — can run up your energy bill by up to \$35 extra per year and waste more than 1,600 gallons of water.

4. Wash clothes in cold water. Most laundry detergents clean clothes just as well in cold or warm water as they do in hot water. Your clothes will get just as clean without the extra energy use.

5. Wait until the dishwasher and the clothes washer are full before running them. The fewer loads you run, the less hot water you'll use.

Why you should caulk your windows

One of the easiest and least-expensive ways to cut your energy bill either in summer or winter is to caulk around exterior windows and other “holes” such as where cables or phone lines come through the wall.

As windows age, the seals around them can break down and start letting cold or warm drafts — depending on the season — sneak into your heated or air-conditioned home. Likewise, heated or air-conditioned air can escape from your home to the outdoors the same way.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that drafty windows are responsible for up to 30% of your energy use — and that’s a waste that you can easily prevent.

You can replace drafty windows, of course, or you can caulk around them if the air gaps aren’t any wider than a quarter-inch.

Get the family in on the effort by teaching everyone how to use a caulk gun and making it a group project. Here’s a step-by-step guide to getting started.

A note: Caulk around the windows’ molding and stay away from the movable parts that allow you to open and close the windows.

1. Caulk on a day when your windows are completely dry inside and out and on a day that is not extremely hot or cold.

2. Choose a good caulk: Some can be painted; different kinds are compatible with masonry, vinyl or wood; and some are formulated for use in humid climates. Also, different caulk are for indoor or outdoor use. Read the label before purchasing.

3. Collect the caulk, a caulk gun with a trigger, a putty knife, a sponge or rags, and a wire brush.

4. Use the putty knife to scrape the old caulk off of the windows. If it won’t budge, buy a caulk softener.

5. Clean the windows with a damp sponge or rag and then dry them. Wait until they are completely dry before applying fresh caulk.

6. Fill the caulk gun with caulk and point it to the corner of the window farthest from you. Press the trigger and work your way backward. Get caulk in all of the joints.

7. Smooth out the caulk by applying water to your fingers and working it into the cracks.

8. Let the caulk dry, which can take several hours.

9. Read the instructions that come with the caulk and the caulk gun; they’re more detailed and full of tips for success.



Get your house ready for winter

Even if it’s not cold outside yet, it’s time to get ready for the day when the temperature falls.

Here are five fall jobs that will prepare your home for cold weather:

1. Caulk windows and doors, even if you did it last fall. Cracks in old caulk can let cold air in and warm air out. (See the previous article for more on caulking windows.)

2. Reverse the direction of ceiling fan blades so they circulate clockwise.

3. Get your chimney inspected and cleaned if you plan to burn wood this season. Buildup of creosote can cause a chimney fire.

4. Call an HVAC tech to inspect your central heating system, perform maintenance and do any needed repairs so you don’t lose heat once it gets cold.

5. Change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors before heating season begins.

Cybersecurity tips for a safer digital world

Did you know the average household with internet access owns about 17 connected devices? That figure covers a wide range of electronics, including smartphones, computers, streaming devices, smart speakers, home assistants and more. Given our increasing reliance on internet-connected technologies, the likelihood of new cyber threats is ever-present.

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is deeply committed to ensuring our local system is safe and secure. We routinely monitor and manage cyber risks, and we work together with other co-ops to share the latest advancements in cybersecurity measures that make us stronger. But you can help too.

When we all work together to stay safe online, we lower the risk of cyber threats to our systems, online accounts and sensitive data.

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and while good cyber hygiene should be practiced year-round, we'd like to share a few cybersecurity tips to help you bolster your online safety.

- **Learn how to spot and report phishing attempts.**

Phishing occurs when criminals use phony emails, direct messages or other types of digital communications that lure you to click a bad link or download a malicious

attachment. If you receive a suspicious email or message that includes urgent language, offers that seem too good to be true, generic greetings, poor grammar or an unusual sender address, it could be a phishing attempt. If you spot one, report it as soon as possible — and don't forget to block the sender. (If you receive a suspicious work email, report it to the appropriate IT contact. Suspicious

messages that are delivered to your personal email or social media accounts can also be reported.)

- **Create strong, unique passwords.** When it comes to passwords, remember that length trumps complexity. Strong passwords contain at least 12 characters and include a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. Create unique passwords for each online account you manage, and use phrases you can easily remember.

- **Enable multi-factor authentication when available.** Multi-factor authentication (also known as two-factor authentication) adds an extra layer of security to your online accounts. These extra security steps can include facial recognition, fingerprint access or one-time codes sent to your email or phone.

- **Update software regularly.** Software and internet-connected devices — including personal computers, smartphones and tablets — should always be current on updates to reduce the risk of infection from ransomware and malware. When possible, configure devices to automatically update or notify you when an update is available.

Let's all do our part to stay cyber smart and create a safer digital world for all. Visit staysafeonline.org to learn about additional cybersecurity tips.

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Let's work together to build a safer digital world. Whether at home, work or school, we can increase our online safety with the following tips.

- **Recognize and report phishing attempts.**
- **Use strong, unique passwords.**
- **Enable multi-factor authentication.**
- **Update software regularly.**



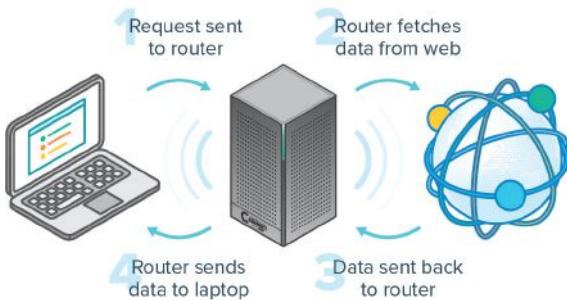
Wicked Wi-Fi coverage:

Uncover the creepy causes of spotty Wi-Fi signal.



As Halloween approaches, you might encounter more than trick-or-treaters at your door. Your home could be playing tricks too, causing mysterious interference on your Wi-Fi signal! Just like a haunted house has its hidden ghosts, your home might have hidden factors affecting your in-home Wi-Fi coverage. This month's article will explore the unseen things that could be haunting your home Wi-Fi.

Understanding how Wi-Fi actually works might help you better understand the factors that affect your Wi-Fi coverage. Wi-Fi is like an invisible bridge that wirelessly connects your devices to the internet. In your home, your router acts as the internet hub and sends Wi-Fi signals over the air. When you use your device to browse the web, stream movies or check your email, the device wirelessly communicates your request with your router. Your router then connects to the internet and fetches and sends the information you requested back to your device.



Because Wi-Fi signals are transmitted over the air, anything and everything between your router and your device has the potential to degrade the signal strength. This is also why you'll probably notice a difference between hard-wired and wirelessly connected devices. For example, if you are subscribed to Cumberland Connect's 250 Mbps plan and have an up-to-date computer hard-wired to your router with an Ethernet cable, you should get speeds of 250 Mbps up and down. This is because data is transmitted to the computer directly through a hard line, with no obstacles to obstruct it. However, your wirelessly connected smartphone most likely will see lower speeds since the internet signal is transmitted over the air and, as a result, isn't as strong.

While an over-air Wi-Fi connection is naturally not quite as strong as a hard-wired connection, your home can present several physical obstacles that can further affect your connection. For example, a Wi-Fi signal will have difficulty moving through a home with thick brick or concrete walls, especially if multiple walls exist between the router and your device. Metal appliances like washing machines and refrigerators and large furniture like bookshelves also act as mini-walls in your home, creating more obstacles for your Wi-Fi to navigate. We recommend placing your router in a central location in your home that is a reasonable distance away from these potential obstacles to overcome these issues. If you have thick walls in your home, you might want to consider adding a hard-wired Wi-Fi extender to another location in your home to help bypass interference from the walls.

Speaking of interference, electronic devices in your home can interfere with your Wi-Fi signal too. For example, microwaves, cordless phones, baby monitors and Bluetooth devices can create a lot of "noise" on your home network, making it harder for your Wi-Fi signal to pass through. Keep these devices away from your router to help strengthen your connection. Old, outdated devices also play a part because older devices could only support older Wi-Fi standards. When these obsolete devices connect to your network, your router might have to switch to a slower mode to accommodate them, which can slow down your entire network. Older devices also have less efficient antennas, so they have a harder time dealing with other sources of interference in your home. To sum it up — it might be time to ditch that old laptop from 2011 and replace it to ensure you have the best experience and to keep your network running smoothly.

It might seem daunting to work around all these different factors to get great coverage, but don't fret! Your internet experience doesn't have to be a horror story. At Cumberland Connect, our installation technicians can help determine the best solutions to keep your network running at full strength throughout your entire home. And if there is ever any issue with your Wi-Fi signal, our team is just a phone call away to get you back on track!

Lay your Wi-Fi woes to rest!

Scan the code to learn more about Cumberland Connect.



Find hidden energy savings and extra storage in your attic

Q: Do you have any tips on finding hidden energy savings in my home?

A: I've been in a lot of homes. One common hiding spot for energy savings is the attic. It is also a common location for storing holiday decorations and infrequently used sentimental items.

Yet, using your attic for storage can be problematic when trying to maximize your home's energy efficiency. Let's explore how you can improve insulation levels and properly store items in your attic.

Attic insulation is one of the best low-cost ways to make your home efficient. People often associate

insulation with keeping your home warmer in the winter, but it also provides benefits in the summer. Insulation reduces heat transfer from the attic to the house, which lowers energy bills for air conditioning and makes your home more comfortable.

Attic insulation is measured in R-value, which is a measurement of how well a material resists the flow of heat. For attic insulation, thicker is better. The recommended R-value is typically between R-38 and R-60, depending on your climate. Hawaii and the southernmost tips of Florida and Texas recommend R-30. Measured in inches, that ranges from around 10 to 20 inches, depending on the type of insulation you have. In most homes, the ceiling joists are buried in insulation to achieve the recommended R-value.

The problem with attic storage is it typically doesn't offer enough space for the recommended R-value. Often, plywood or boards are placed directly on top of the ceiling joists, which isn't enough space for the insulation. Insulation can get compacted by people moving items in or out, reducing the effective R-value.

Ideally, the attic would not be used for storage so it can be properly insulated, but that's not feasible for everyone. Here are some strategies for maintaining attic storage and recommended insulation levels.

The best location for attic storage is over an unconditioned area of your home such as the garage. You don't need insulation in attic spaces over a garage or unconditioned area because you are not heating or cooling the space below. This makes it the perfect spot to tuck away items for storage.

If that isn't an option, consider minimizing the number of stored items or the storage area's footprint. A great way to do this is by building an attic storage

While using your attic for storage, build an attic storage platform to maintain insulation levels and lock in savings and comfort. Photo by Mark Gilliland, Pioneer Utility Resources



Building an attic storage platform offers extra storage space and helps maintain the energy efficiency of the attic with insulation underneath it. Illustration by Sarah Decker, Pioneer Utility Resources

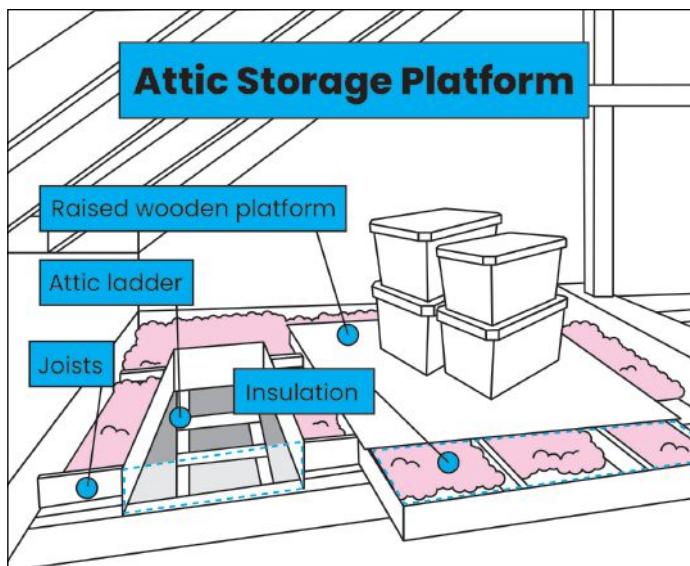
platform. A raised platform allows the space underneath it to be fully insulated. These platforms are available in ready-to-install kits, or you can buy materials and build them yourself.

Allow enough space underneath the platform to achieve the proper R-value. Use lumber to build a frame perpendicular to the existing joists and cover it with plywood or oriented strand board. Once your storage area is set up, add insulation inside the platform to bring the R-value up to the proper level.

Your attic might also have trusses that allow you to build shelves and maximize space by storing items vertically.

Always wear a dust mask or respirator when working in the attic. Don't forget to weather strip the attic hatch to ensure a tight seal. Take a look around your attic to see if you can find any hidden opportunities for energy savings. ■

Attic Storage Platform



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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WHERE THEY WERE LAID TO REST

Tennessee's Historic Cemeteries

Story by Cheré Coen

Below is Nannie Tyler's ornate monument in Clarksville's Greenwood Cemetery. Photograph courtesy of Visit Clarksville.

Opposite page, whiskey maker Jack Daniel is buried in Lynchburg Cemetery near his world-famous distillery.



Drayton Callison seeks out America's unusual and abandoned sites for his "Dray's World" videos on his popular YouTube channel. On a trip to Tennessee, he stumbled upon something unexpected in the small town of Sparta. There in the **Mt. Gilead United Methodist Church** cemetery was a collection of "tent graves," burials topped with concrete stones in the shape of a tent.

"It was unique," Callison said. "I wondered if there were other places in the world that had that. I would have liked to have known who they were and why they did those."

Callison is not alone. Reasons for the tent graves popular in the 19th and 20th century differ. Some think the graves like those found in White County were meant to withstand weather and animal intrusion while others believe they were created for their aesthetic value. Although relatively rare, others can be found in parts of Kentucky and northern Alabama.

These unique tent graves are just some of the fascinating aspects of Tennessee cemeteries.

Celebrities

Naturally, many of Nashville's famous country singers are buried in several city cemeteries. **Woodlawn Memorial Park**, for instance, includes the final resting places of Porter Wagoner, George Jones, Eddy Arnold, Tammy Wynette and Lynn Anderson. A unique feature of Woodlawn is the Lynn Anderson Rose Garden with its Lynn Anderson hybrid rose bushes named by the National Rose Society of America. The garden stands in honor of Anderson's hit song, "Rose Garden."

A few miles northeast of Nashville lies **Hendersonville Memory Gardens**, chosen by many country music stars, the most notable Johnny Cash, June Carter Cash, "Mother" Maybelle Carter and Anita Carter.

In Williamson County, fans can visit **Mount Hope Cemetery Franklin** to honor celebrities such as Sarah Ophelia Colley Cannon, well-known under her stage name, Minnie Pearl. With her trademark sales tag hanging from her hat, Cannon was a regular at the Grand Ole Opry.

Mount Hope also is home to four U.S. congressmen and music producer Felton Jarvis who produced Elvis Presley from 1966 to 1977.

Visitors to the **Alex Haley House and Museum State Historic Site** learn about the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of the best-selling novel "Roots" but also visit his grave and those of his grandparents, Queen and Alex Haley. From 1921 to 1929 and during some subsequent summers, Haley lived at the Henning home with his grandparents and listened to oral accounts of his family history that inspired his award-winning novel.

Established in 1872, **Greenwood Cemetery** in Clarksville pays homage to many fallen Confederate soldiers with its dramatic monument, but it might be actor Frank Sutton's grave people visit most often. Sutton played

the energetic Sgt. Carter on the TV sitcom "Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C."

Tennessee pioneers

Dating back to the state's settlement and founding is Clarksville's **Riverview Cemetery**, created in 1800 by Revolutionary War hero Valentine Sevier, brother of Tennessee's first governor, John Sevier. Valentine Sevier lies on this property that overlooks the Cumberland River as do Revolutionary War soldier Robert Nelson, U.S. congressman James B. Reynolds and other early Clarksville pioneers, settlers, civic leaders and statesmen.

Clarksville's Greenwood contains the graves of two Tennessee governors, Willie Blount and Austin Peay, the latter who also founded Austin Peay State University.

Explorers, champions and whiskey lovers

Famous explorer Meriwether Lewis was a leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition that mapped out the Louisiana Purchase from 1804 to 1806. On Oct. 11, 1809, the man who helped shape the expansion of the United States was found dead in Hickman County at age 35 from two gunshot wounds. It's unclear if Lewis was murdered or took his own life, but most claim he died by suicide due to financial troubles.

Lewis is buried beneath the **Meriwether Lewis Monument** in Hohenwald at Milepost 385.9 on the **Natchez Trace Parkway**, a circular column with a broken top that signifies a life cut short.

McNairy County Sheriff Buford Hayse Pusser took on the "Dixie Mafia" and a variety of vices running rampant near the Mississippi state line. The life story of the former Marine became the 1973 semibiographical film "Walking Tall." Pusser died in a suspicious car accident in 1974 and is buried in the **Adamsville Cemetery**.



Adamsville is also the birthplace of “Daddy-O” Dewey Phillips, one of rock ‘n’ roll’s pioneering disk jockeys, who is buried in nearby **Crump Cemetery**.

Jasper “Jack” Newton Daniel, who learned the art of making charcoal-mellowed Tennessee whiskey from an enslaved man named Nathan “Nearest” Green, went on to create Jack Daniel’s in Lynchburg, one of the world’s top whiskey distilleries.

Daniel left his finances, including the business’s thick iron safe, in the hands of his nephew Lem Motlow. Early one morning when Daniel was about to travel and in need of the safe’s contents, he attempted to open it on his own. He didn’t know the combination and kicked the safe in frustration, shattering his big toe in the process.

“He doesn’t see a doctor about it, thinks he can walk it off,” said Jack Daniel’s tour guide Ben Spears. “All those bad decisions lead to an infection, and then the toe’s

amputation, since that’s all they can do at that point in history.”

The infection spread, and Daniel died. He was laid to rest in the nearby **Lynchburg Cemetery**, not far from his famous distillery. His grave contains two cast-iron chairs in case visitors wish to pay respects for his spirited life.

On the other hand, Nearest Green’s headstone at Lynchburg’s **Highview Cemetery** reads, “Father, husband, mentor, the greatest whiskey maker the world never knew.”

African American cemeteries

Tucked behind the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church on Cumberland Drive in Clarksville is one of the oldest cemeteries dedicated to Tennessee’s African American citizens. **Mount Olive Cemetery** dates to 1817 and contains gravesites of at least 1,350 African Americans, including more than 20 members of the U.S. Colored Troops. The Mount Olive Cemetery Historical



Top, visit Buford Pusser’s final resting place in Adamsville Cemetery. Left, the grave of Sarah Cannon, better known as Minnie Pearl (above), is found in Mount Hope Cemetery Franklin. Photograph by Ken Naegele, necrotourist.com.



Tent graves — like these in Overton County's Tompkins Cemetery, above, and at Mt. Gilead United Methodist Church in Sparta, below left — are relatively rare, found in parts of Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama. Photographs courtesy of the Tennessee State Library (Tompkins Cemetery) and Beverly Joe Vaughn (Mt. Gilead). Below right, the grave of famous explorer Meriwether Lewis is near the Natchez Trace Parkway in Lewis County. Photograph by Jed Dekalb.

Preservation Society was established in 2004 to protect the 7.24-acre property — 90% of the graves are unmarked —

and, in 2020, the cemetery was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1863, the former enslaved Stephen Cole purchased land in Montgomery County that would become the oldest tract

of land continuously owned by African Americans in the county. **Golden Hill Cemetery** is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many gravestones in both Golden Hill and bordering **Evergreen Cemetery**, also an African American burial site, were designed by Hiram Johnson, an African American stonemason and sculptor who worked for Samuel Hodgson, owner of Clarksville Marble Works.

Joshua Beck, a Union supporter living in northern Chattanooga, donated a 1-acre site around 1865 for the



burials of African American contraband soldiers and members of the city's African American community. **Beck Knob Cemetery** contains 188 known burials, but only 42 graves contain markers. It's believed that many graves have not been discovered.

William Gaines started a church and school for African Americans in the hamlet of Comfort in Marion County, not far from Chattanooga. The Gaines Chapel was in operation from 1881 to 1922, but all that is left of the chapel, school and the Comfort community is the **Gaines Chapel Cemetery** across the street from the Battle Creek Baptist Church. ■



The steamboat that Fayetteville merchants regretted buying

In 1850, progress was passing by the town of Fayetteville. In desperation, its merchants made a bold move that didn't pay off.

Here's some background:

Robert Fulton's original steamboats were made to travel on deep rivers such as the Hudson and Mississippi. As the years passed, designers built steamboats that could operate in more shallow waters.

That's why a steamboat called the *Constitution* made it to Nashville in 1818 and a steamboat called the *Atlas* made it to Knoxville 10 years after that. But the Elk River wasn't as deep or wide as the Cumberland and Tennessee, so no steamboats tried to make it to Fayetteville for many years.

By 1840, Fayetteville was hoping for an eventual railroad connection. But even that development in transportation seemed to be passing the town by. Tennessee's first railroads to operate near Lincoln County were the one from Nashville to Chattanooga and the one from Memphis to Charleston. The closest Nashville & Chattanooga depot was being built in Winchester (30 miles east of Fayetteville); the closest Memphis & Charleston depot was being built in Decatur, Alabama (60 miles to the south).

Then, in July 1847, a steamer called the *Sam Martin* left Decatur and made it all the way up the Elk River to the Giles County town of Elkton (25 miles downstream from Fayetteville). The boat was 121 feet long, 18 feet wide and drew only 16 inches of water (it wasn't carrying cargo at the time). The captain of the *Sam Martin* was the hero of the day. He predicted that, "with a little improvement," the Elk River could be navigable seven months of the year.

At the time, each Tennessee county received an Internal Improvement Fund from the state that was typically spent on roads and ferries. From the moment the *Sam Martin* arrived in Elkton, Fayetteville newspapers began crusading

for Lincoln County's share of that money to be spent on "improving" the Elk River.

In September 1849 there was a public meeting in Elkton on the subject of steamboat traffic on the Elk River. A few months later, newspapers became boosterish after a second steamboat called the *News*, then a third steamboat called the *George Nicholson*, made it to Elkton. "The most incredulous ought, by this time, to be convinced of the

practicability of navigating Elk River by steam," the *Pulaski Western Star* said in January 1850.

On April 26, 1850, the steamer *Union* made it all the way to Fayetteville. It was 125 feet long, had 20 state rooms and drew 2.5 feet of water. "At about 2 o'clock, the *Union* arrived ... amid the huzzas and shouts of 'welcome' from hundreds of voices on the bank," the *Western Star* reported. "Remaining two hours, crowded all the time with visitors, of all ages,

sexes and conditions, Captain Spiller kindly consented to gratify the company with a pleasure excursion up the river."

Steamboat fever took over Fayetteville. The Elk River "is soon to become a great thoroughfare of commerce, bearing upon its bosom the products of a fertile soil and an energized industry," the *Western Star* proclaimed. Within a matter of days after the *Union*'s visit, 60 Lincoln County merchants invested \$100 each and sent a representative to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to have a new steamboat built from scratch. To honor their home county, the merchants decided to call the boat *Lincoln*.

I'd like to point out that it is a coincidence that the first steamboat that came to Fayetteville was called the *Union* and the one citizens ordered was called the *Lincoln*. Neither name had anything to do with Civil War sentiments. Lincoln County was named for Benjamin Lincoln of Revolutionary War fame; in 1850, almost no Tennessee residents had ever heard of Abraham Lincoln.

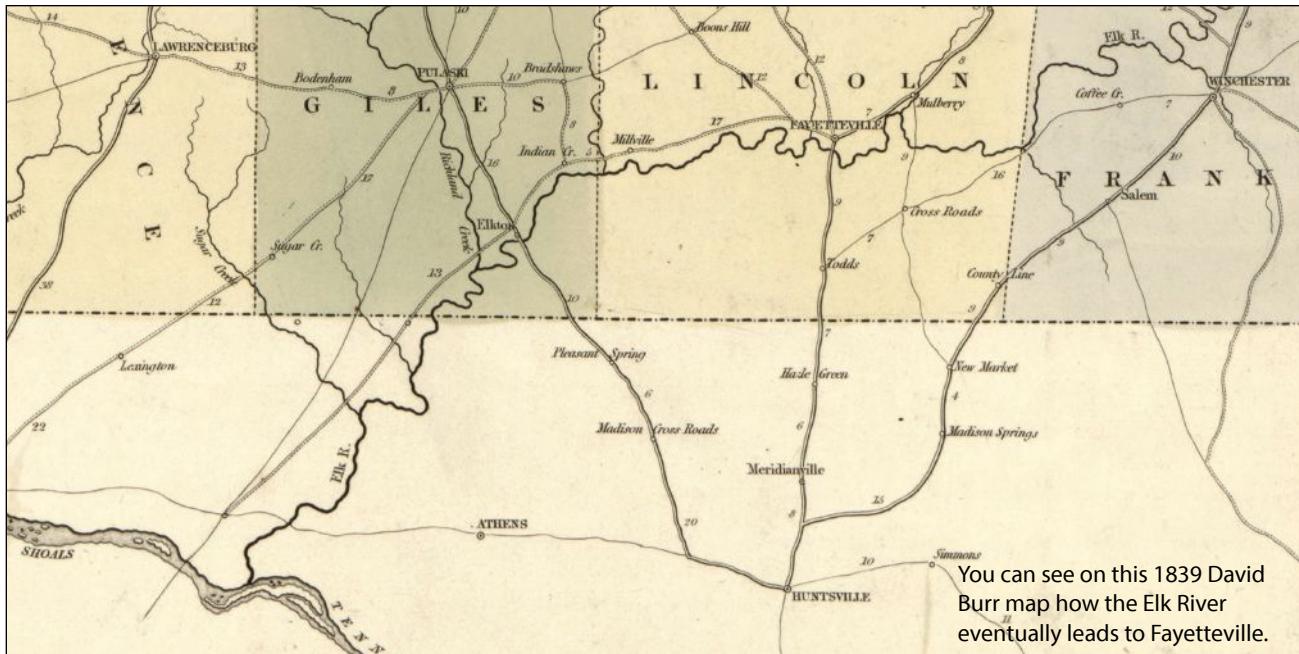
**Steamboat Navigation of
ELK RIVER.**

A CONVENTION will be held at Elkton, Tenn., on Wednesday, the 19th day of September next, for the purpose of taking into consideration, the subject of shipping Cotton and other produce from the adjacent Counties on Elk River, to Charleston, South Carolina; and also for the purpose of procuring Steam Boats to take it out of Elk River.

All persons who feel any interest on the subject are earnestly requested to attend; several gentlemen, who are fully competent, are expected to make speeches on the occasion.

[Sept 6, 1849.]

Here is the item in the Sept. 6, 1849, *Pulaski Western Star* newspaper announcing the big meeting about steamboats on the Elk River.



Furthermore, the use of the word “union” in 1850 was not a statement of anti-Southern sentiment.)

The steamboat *Lincoln* left Pittsburgh on Nov. 10, 1850. It traded on the Tennessee River for a couple of months. Then, on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 1851, the *Lincoln* made it to Fayetteville. “The captain says she can safely carry five hundred bales of cotton downstream and four hundred up, and at the same time conveniently and comfortably accommodate a number of passengers,” reported the *Fayetteville Observer*.

It was the most optimistic moment in Lincoln County history and was immediately followed by one of the most tragic. On Feb. 24, 1851, a tornado annihilated Fayetteville and left the town in ruins, destroying a Presbyterian church, several stores and about a dozen homes. “The wind roared and blew with fearful violence, a perfect hurricane, amidst which could be heard the shrieks of women and the screams of children, falling houses, crumbling walls, timbers dashing against timbers,” reported the *Daily Nashville Union*.

The *Lincoln* had a brief and unprofitable existence. A display at the Lincoln County Museum today maintains that its smokestacks were, at least on one occasion, knocked off by tree

limbs hanging over the Elk River. And in early May 1851, the *Lincoln* hit a boulder in the dangerous part of the Tennessee River known as the Suck, just downstream from Chattanooga, and sank in shallow water.

The *Lincoln* was raised, but Fayetteville history maintains that the steamboat didn’t make money for two reasons: one, the questionable navigability of the Elk and Tennessee rivers, and two, the eventual construction of the Winchester & Alabama Railroad — a branch line of the Nashville & Chattanooga connecting Fayetteville to the outside world.

Lincoln County invested heavily in the Winchester & Alabama Railroad. The first locomotive rolled into Fayetteville on Friday, Aug. 19, 1859 — by which time, it was probably a bad idea to mention the steamboat *Lincoln* or the word “union” at a respectable Fayetteville social event.

Note: This column is dedicated to Lincoln County native Adm. Frank Kelso (1933-2013), who was chief of naval operations when I was a lowly lieutenant.



The Lincoln County Museum in Fayetteville has this model of the steamboat *Lincoln*. Photo courtesy of Richard Locker

The FRUITS of FALL

Dried fruits add a surprising layer of flavor to your fall fare

Cranberry Pecan Scones

Recipes by

Tammy Algood

Food styling by

Cynthia Kent

Photographs by

Robin Conover



It's fall — time to appreciate fruits at their next level. Dried fruits can be just as nutritious and delicious as fresh fruits ... in a highly concentrated form. They also can be rehydrated and plumped up in any number of tantalizing ways. Need more encouragement to focus on dried fruits for fall and winter? Dried fruits are shelf-stable and easy to incorporate into baking since they don't bring lots of their own moisture into a batter. The possibilities are practically endless; here are a few to try during this dried fruit season.

Cranberry Pecan Scones

Yield: 10 scones

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon baking soda
¼ cup firmly packed light brown sugar
½ cup (1 stick) very cold unsalted butter
½ heaping cup dried cranberries
½ cup chopped pecans
1 egg, beaten
½ cup cream or half-and-half
Milk for brushing
Granulated sugar for sprinkling*

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment and set aside.

In a mixing bowl, stir together the flour, baking powder, salt and baking soda. Stir in the brown sugar. Grate the butter into the flour mixture using a cheese grater. Using a pastry cutter or 2 forks, cut the butter into the flour mixture until it resembles coarse meal.

Add the cranberries and pecans, mixing just until combined. Make a well in the center and add the egg and cream or half-and-half. Mix well until the dough forms.

Turn the dough out onto a floured surface and knead 4 times. Divide the dough into 2 equal sized balls. On the



floured surface, roll out each dough ball into a circle ½ inch thick. Cut into wedges and place on the prepared baking sheet ½ inch apart. Repeat with the remaining dough ball.

Brush the tops of the wedges with milk and sprinkle evenly with granulated sugar. Bake 12 to 13 minutes. Cool on a wire rack and serve with clotted cream, sour cream or preserves.

* If desired, substitute a drizzle of powdered sugar glaze. Simply mix 1 cup powdered sugar with 2 tablespoons half-and-half or milk.

Cherry Almond Biscotti

Yield: 8 servings

3 eggs
1 teaspoon pure almond extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
¾ cup sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
½ cup slivered or sliced almonds
½ cup dried cherries

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper and set aside. In a small bowl, whisk together the eggs and extract. Set aside.

In a mixing bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Make a well in the center and add the egg mixture. Beat at medium-low speed until the dough forms. Stir in the almonds and cherries. Divide the dough in half and shape into logs, placing each on a baking sheet.

Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until firm. Remove from the oven but leave the oven on. Slip the parchment paper onto

a wire rack for the logs to cool 10 minutes. Transfer each log to a cutting board and slice on the diagonal with a serrated knife.

Place the parchment paper back on each baking sheet. Arrange the slices on the baking sheets and bake 10 minutes. Turn the slices over and bake another 10 minutes until golden-brown and crunchy. Let cool on the wire racks before storing in an airtight container.

Cherry Nut Bark

Yield: 3 ¼ pounds

1 ¼ cups dried cherries
2 tablespoons water
1 (24-ounce) package white chocolate morsels
6 (2-ounce) squares vanilla candy coating
1 ¼ cups chopped pistachios

Line a jellyroll pan with waxed paper and set aside. Place the cherries and water in a small glass bowl and microwave 2 minutes on high power. Drain and set aside.

Meanwhile, in a heavy saucepan over low heat, melt the morsels and candy coating. When completely melted, stir in the cherries and nuts.

Spread evenly into the prepared pan. Refrigerate 1 hour or until firm. Break into pieces and store in an airtight container.

Spiked Cranberry Turkey Wraps

Yield: 6 servings

⅔ cup bourbon or apple cider
⅔ cup dried cranberries
7 tablespoons cream cheese, softened
1 cup finely shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
2 green onions, thinly sliced
6 (8- or 10-inch) flour tortillas
1 ½ pounds sliced deli turkey
6 tablespoons chopped toasted pecans
¼ cup fresh chopped parsley

Place the bourbon or cider and dried cranberries in a small saucepan

over low heat. Bring to a simmer for 5 minutes. Remove from the heat, set aside to cool completely, then drain.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In a bowl, mix together the cream cheese, Cheddar and green onions. Evenly spread on each tortilla and top with turkey, then the cranberry mixture, pecans and parsley. Roll and wrap each in aluminum foil. Place on a baking sheet and heat for 7 minutes. Serve warm.

Warm Raisin Apple Dressing

Yield: 6 to 8 servings
2 tablespoons olive oil
1½ cups finely chopped yellow onion
2 garlic cloves, minced
2 Newtown Pippin or Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored and chopped
1 cup chopped dried apples
½ cup golden raisins
1 tablespoon chopped fresh sage
½ cup soft breadcrumbs
1 cup apple cider
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon black pepper

Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onions and garlic. Sauté 5 minutes or until the onions are translucent.

Add the fresh apples and cook 4 minutes longer. Add the dried apples,

raisins, sage and breadcrumbs, stirring to combine. Add the cider and increase the heat to medium-high. Cook 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from the heat and season with the salt and pepper. Serve warm.

Fruited Breakfast Bread

Yield: 1 loaf
3 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
¾ cup sugar
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
3 eggs, lightly beaten
1½ cups milk
1 cup chopped pecans
1¼ cups golden raisins or chopped dates
1 cup peeled and chopped Golden Delicious apples

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Grease and flour a loaf pan and set aside.

In mixing bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, salt, sugar and cinnamon. In the bowl of an electric mixer, combine the eggs and milk, beating well. Gradually add the flour mixture. Fold in the pecans, raisins or dates, and apples.

Spoon the batter into the prepared pan. Bake 1 hour or until a tester

Tips and tricks

Unopened packages of dried fruit will retain good quality for up to a year thanks to the low moisture content.

Once opened, place the leftovers in an airtight container (or a plastic bag with as much air as possible removed) in the pantry.

Sinking dried fruit in cake or quick bread batters is caused by excessive aeration or overmixing. Avoid this by mixing slowly and stopping as soon as the mixture is moistened and blended.

To soften dried fruit quickly, place in a colander, cover and set over boiling water for 5 minutes.

To prevent dried fruit from sticking to chopping blades, give the fruits a quick rinse in warm water prior to placing them on the cutting board.

inserted in the center comes out clean. Immediately remove from the pan and cool completely on a wire rack before slicing and serving.



Sylvia asks, "Is it OK to substitute regular raisins for the higher priced golden ones in a recipe?"

Sylvia, by all means you can. Golden raisins are only partially dried, then treated with sulfur dioxide to prevent them from darkening

any further. Because of that, they are more plump than dark raisins, so account for that in measuring. Steam them before using for the same consistency (see tips, above).

Randall writes, "What are dried currants?"

Randall, these dried fruits are not related to the berries of the gooseberry family. Instead, they are from tiny seedless Zante grapes or sometimes Black Corinth grapes. Both grape varieties are names for the region of Greece where they originated.

Email your cooking questions to Tammy Algood: talgood@tnelectric.org.

*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.*

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TENNESSEE EVENTS

Festivals, celebrations and other happenings around the state

Oct. 2-26 • Granville's Scarecrow Festival, Historic Granville.
931-653-4151
or granvilletn.com

Tennessee's largest display of scarecrows, the event features hundreds lining the streets all set in a burst of colorful fall displays. Find fall photo opportunities and activities for the whole family. Visit granvilletn.com for details.



Photograph courtesy of Historic Granville

West Tennessee

Oct. 4 • Todd Rundgren, Graceland Soundstage, Memphis. 877-777-0606 or gracelandlive.com/todd-rundgren

Oct. 5 • Corey Holcomb, Graceland Soundstage, Memphis. 877-777-0606 or gracelandlive.com/corey-holcomb

Oct. 6-12 • The 57th Davy Crockett Days Festival, Rutherford. davycrockettdays@outlook.com

Oct. 12 • Disney's "Hocus Pocus" in Concert Live to Film, Carl Perkins Civic Center, Jackson. 731-427-6440 or thejacksonsymphony.org

Oct. 18-20 • Pelican Festival, Reelfoot Lake State Park, Tiptonville. 731-253-9652 or tnstateparks.com

Oct. 19 • 24th Annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, Shelby Farms Park, Memphis. secure.acsevents.org/site/SPageServer/?pagename=strides_msabc

Middle Tennessee

Tuesdays and Fridays through Oct. 25 • Rutherford County Farmers' Market Fall Market and Arts Festival, Lane Agri-Park Community Center, Murfreesboro. 615-898-7710 or rutherford.tennessee.edu/farmers-market

Now-Oct. 27 • Shuckle's Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch, The Barn at Fiddle Dee Farms, Greenbrier. 615-669-6293 or shucklescornmaze.com

Oct. 1-5 • Artsville Fest, Clarksville. artsivillefest@gmail.com or artsivillefest.com

Oct. 2-26 • Granville's Scarecrow Festival, Historic Granville. 931-653-4151 or granvilletn.com

Oct. 4 • AngelFest, Sewanee Angel Park. info@sewaneevillage.com or sewaneevillage.com

Oct. 4-5 • Oktoberfest, Harris Park, Dunlap. 423-949-7608 or sequatchie.com

Oct. 4-5 • Hickman County Quilt Guild's Annual Quilt Show — "Wrapped in Love," First Baptist Church, Centerville. hcqg1930@gmail.com or facebook.com/hcqg1930

Oct. 5 • Fall Festival, Granville. 931-653-4151 or granvilletn.com

Oct. 5 • 13th Annual Artisan Craft Fair, Hermitage Presbyterian Church. 615-883-8944 or hermitagepc.org

Oct. 5 • 16th Autumn in the Country Arts and Crafts Festival, Centerville Courthouse lawn. 931-242-0428 or hickmanartsandcraftsguild.org

Oct. 5-6 • National Banana Pudding Festival, Hickman County Ag Pavilion, Centerville. 931-994-6273 or bananapuddingfest.org

Oct. 12 • Ninth Fannie Moffitt Autumn Stomp, Altamont. 931-235-1012 or facebook.com/FannieMoffittAutumnStomp

Oct. 18-20 • 43rd Annual Indian Education Tennessee Pow Wow, Long Hunter State Park, Nashville. 615-232-9179 or naiatn.org

Oct. 19 • Haunts at the Font, Cragfont State Historic Site, Castalian Springs. 615-452-7070 or historiccastaliansprings.org

Oct. 19-20 • Webb School Art and Craft Show, Bell Buckle. bellbucklechamber.com

Oct. 25 • Third Annual Fredonia Mountain Craft Fair, Fredonia Mountain Community Center, Dunlap. 423-949-9400 or lizvan29@aol.com

Oct. 25-27 • Morgan on the Rim Civil War Reenactment and Living History Event, Ridgetop Station Park. 615-310-2323 or ridgetoptn.org

Oct. 26 • Belvidere Volunteer Fire Department Fall Fish Fry, Belvidere Community Center. 931-580-0708

East Tennessee

Oct. 4-5 • Fall Arts and Crafts-O-Rama, Cumberland County Community Complex, Crossville. 931-337-9266 or macantique@citlink.net

Oct. 4-5 • Fall Marketplace, A Southern Marketplace, Red Boiling Springs. info@asouthernmarketplace.com or asouthernmarketplace.com

Oct. 5-6 • 47th Hancock County Fall Festival, Court Street, Sneedville. 423-300-1020

Oct. 5-6 • Harvest Street Festival, downtown Newport. 423-623-7201 or [cocke\(county\)partnership.com](http://cocke(county)partnership.com)

Oct. 10 • Creature Feature, McMinn County Living Heritage Museum, Athens. 423-745-0329 or livingheritagemuseum.org

Oct. 11-12 • Genealogy Jamboree and Pioneer Days, Cumberland Gap. 678-522-4838 or cgtghg.org/genealogy-jamboree

Oct. 12 • Pumpkintown, historic downtown Athens. info@friendlycityfestivals.com or friendlycityfestivals.com/pumpkintown

Oct. 18-19 • Oktoberfest, Knights of Columbus Festival Grounds, Crossville. 860-796-9106 or crossvilleoktoberfest.com

Oct. 18-19 • Witches Wynd, Exchange Place Living History Farm, Kingsport. 423-288-6071 or exchangeplacetcn.org

Oct. 19-20 • Chattanooga Apple Festival, Camp Jordan, East Ridge. 423-650-1388 or touchtheskyevents.com

Ends Oct. 20 • Ruby Falls History Exhibit: Celebrating 95 Years of Wonder, Ruby Falls, Chattanooga. 423-821-2544 or rubyfalls.com

Submit your events

Complete the form at tnmagazine.org or email 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.

Oct. 20 • Seven Bridges Marathon, Coolidge Park, Chattanooga. 865-300-6722 or sevenbridgesmarathon.com

Oct. 26-27 • Mountain Makins Festival 2024, Rose Center Council For the Arts, Morristown. 423-581-4330 or rosecenter.org

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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 or email flag@tnelectric.org. Entries must be postmarked or received via email by Friday, Nov. 1. Winners will be published in the December issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

August Flag Spotters

Thanks for the postcards and emails again this month identifying the correct location of the flag, which was found on the puppy pen on **page 15**.

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

David Scott, Dyersburg, Forked Deer EC

Joe Belles, Winchester, Duck River EMC

Charles Thurmond, Jasper, Sequatchie Valley EC



Artist's Palette

Assignment for December

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 — **December**, 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 Friday, Nov. 1.

Include: Your name (*legibly, please!*), 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 December 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 awards, artwork and certificates of placement within six to eight weeks of publication.

Artist's Palette October Winners



Emma Grace
Rooker

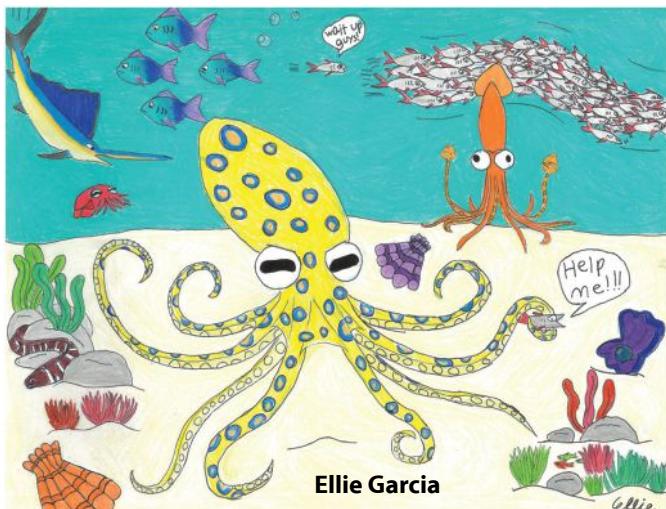


Katelyn Cook

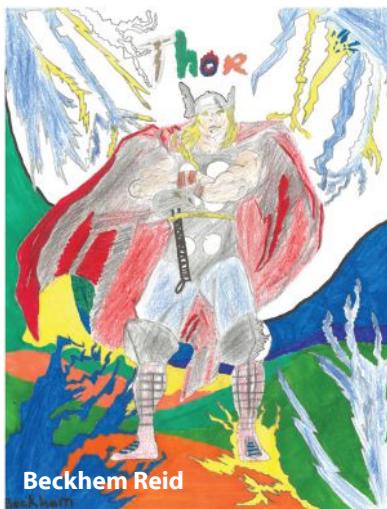


Evangeline
Slayton

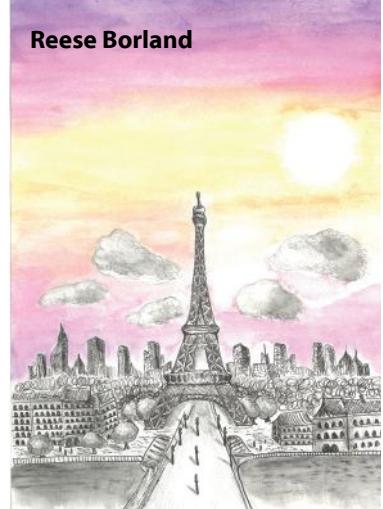
WINNERS, 14-18 AGE GROUP: First place: Emma Grace Rooker, age 16, Middle Tennessee Electric; Second place: Katelyn Cook, age 16, Cumberland EMC; Third place: Evangeline Slayton, Age 14, Gibson EMC



Ellie Garcia

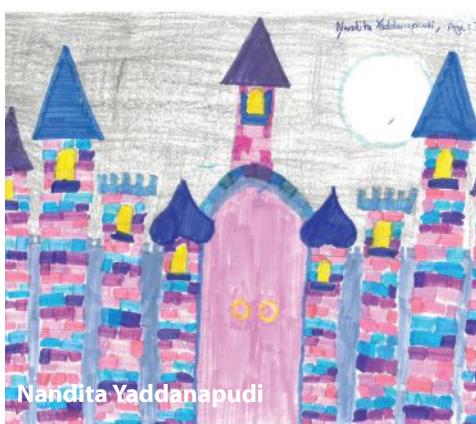


Beckhem Reid

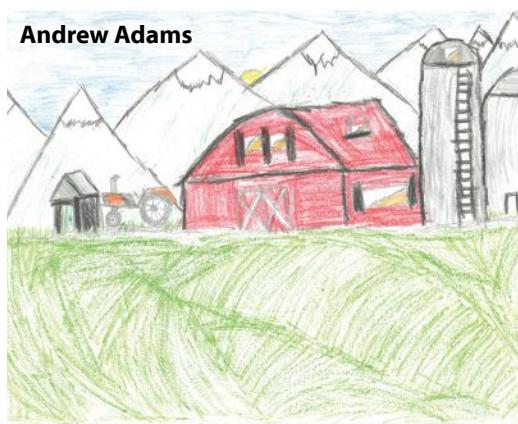


Reese Borland

WINNERS, 9-13 AGE GROUP: First place: Ellie Garcia, age 12, Fayetteville Public Utilities; Second place: Beckhem Reid, age 12, Middle Tennessee Electric; Third place: Reese Borland, age 13, Middle Tennessee Electric



Nandita Yaddanapudi



Andrew Adams



Olivia Patel-Schmitt

WINNERS, 8 AND YOUNGER AGE GROUP: First place: Nandita Yaddanapudi, age 7, Middle Tennessee Electric; Second place: Andrew Adams, age 7, Volunteer EC; Third place: Olivia Patel-Schmitt, age 8, Cumberland EMC

Olivia P.S.



Point of View

By Robin Conover

Nature photographers, hunters and fishermen are just a few of the outdoors people who understand how much truth is in the old idiom, “The early bird gets the worm.” I know it was an expression I heard many times growing up.

I didn’t really understand it then, but I do now. Whether you are chasing the warm light at sunrise, a deer or turkey crossing your path or a record largemouth bass, the earliest moments of the day are often the most rewarding.

Believe me, I know how easy it is to hit snooze and fall back asleep instead of getting up when it’s still dark outside so I can greet the first light of day. When I do convince myself to be the early bird and get up, I’m rarely disappointed. Being in the woods at sunrise is one of my favorite and most enjoyable times as a nature enthusiast and photographer.

On this particular day last October, I planned to photograph the sunrise from the Adams Family Observation Deck at Radnor Lake in Nashville. I was hiking to the deck located about a mile from the parking area as the blue hue of twilight began to brighten. This is

“Great Blue Heron Fishing in Morning Light”

by Robin Conover, Canon EOS 5D Mark IV,

EF 100-400 mm at 235 mm, f4.5-5.6 L USM lens,

ISO 320, f6.3 at 1/500 second, Gitzo tripod

a magical hour between night and day that few people get out to enjoy.

You can literally hear and feel the forest and its inhabitants begin to awaken. As dawn approaches, the wildlife begins to stir, songbirds start to welcome the new day with their distinctive songs and the sunlight begins to warm the air.

Standing alone on the observation deck, I was concentrating on capturing the sunrise and the interaction of fog with the lake’s surface when I noticed this great blue heron creeping along the shoreline nearby in search of his first catch of the day. The fog and fall color made a beautiful background while the angle of the sunrise provided a rim light or highlight along the beak and body, outlining and separating the subject from the background.

I captured this image as the heron continued to wade along the lake’s edge, occasionally stabbing at minnows. Within a few minutes, it had moved out of the perfect light and out of view. I was thankful to have been at the right place at the right time to capture the image — and catch the “worm” of the day. ■



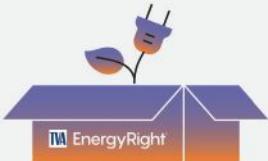
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