

the tennessee magazine

October 2025

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TENNESSEE HISTORY

First Skyscrapers

Tennessee Lineworkers
Electrify Guatemala

Spooky Sips

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ELECTRIC
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Celebrating the Extraordinary Nature of Everyday Life

OCTOBER 2025



ON THE COVER

For decades, the Life and Casualty (L&C) Tower was the tallest building on the Nashville skyline, as you can see in this photo taken in the 1970s. See page 28. Photograph from Nashville Banner Archives, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library.



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Celebrating the Extraordinary
Nature of Everyday Life

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Mission Statement

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

Between the Lines

News from your Community



Chris A. Davis

CEMC General Manager

CEMC and TVA: Partners for the future

You might not think much about where your electricity comes from.

When you flip a switch, the light comes on. When you need to do chores, the vacuum, washing machine or dishwasher powers right up. When your kids need to do homework, their laptops are charged and ready. When you want to decompress after a long day, your TV comes on with the click of a button. And when your head hits the pillow, your thermostat keeps your home at just the right temperature all night, letting you rest comfortably.

You can take all those things for granted thanks to electricity, delivered safely and reliably by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation and our employees. We're here every day, powering every aspect of your life — at home, at work and at play — rain or shine. That's true here in northern Middle Tennessee and in communities across the Tennessee Valley where locally owned power providers partner with the Tennessee Valley Authority. You might know it as TVA.

TVA generates and transmits electricity for the 153 local power providers in our region, and we distribute it to members like you. This public power model is unique to our nation — a way of doing business that has

given our region a competitive advantage for more than 90 years.

In fact, before TVA was formed, many communities in our region didn't have access to electricity. Private utilities refused to serve them, believing there wasn't enough money to be made in largely rural areas scattered with small towns. The founding of TVA spread electrification across our region, and with it came new industries, new jobs and a newfound prosperity for the Tennessee Valley and its people.

Today, TVA remains as committed as ever to serving the 10 million people in the Tennessee Valley. CEMC relies on TVA so we can provide you with the electric services you need. That means we all have a vested interest in making sure TVA's future is strong and its leaders remain committed to providing reliable, resilient electricity while keeping costs as low as possible for you. This drives our local economies and supports our well-being and quality of life. After all, here in the Tennessee Valley, decisions about how our power companies operate are made by people who live, work and serve in our region, not by corporations. It's our members right here in the communities we serve and others across our region, not shareholders, who come first. *(continued on page 20)*

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By Mike Knotts

Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association

A light in the darkness

Growing up, I was fortunate to be raised by a family that believes that being gracious and generous to others is more than just a value to believe in. It is something to live out each and every day. Not too long ago, I was in the church of my youth with my own kids and pointed out a plaque that hangs by the front door. They smiled to see both my father and grandfather — whose names they share — appear there as leaders who helped to build the very building that bronze memorial hangs upon.

My mom was a schoolteacher. I am so proud today to look back and realize that she chose to be at the schools where students had difficult circumstances and oftentimes very sad stories. She committed herself to not just teach English but to provide a respite and a loving example to young people who needed it, whether they realized it or not. My dad's involvement in the Rotary Club taught me that "service above self" was something that successful men and women from our community should commit themselves to in real and tangible ways.

Today, I'm proud to work with some amazing people at your electric cooperative who make both the everyday and the extraordinary possible. I've heard breathtaking stories about how electric lineworkers saved their neighbors from rushing floodwaters, reacting and risking their own safety to rescue their fellow man. After it was over, these true heroes shied away from the cameras seeking their story and simply packed up their truck and went home to be with their own families.

I've seen reports detailing the impact you make by choosing to round up your electric

bill to the next dollar and how just a few pennies can compound into millions of dollars of life-changing charitable impact for our neighbors right down the road. And later this month, the Tennessee Electric Co-op Day of Service will call hundreds of co-op employees to action to volunteer in our communities. But none of this prepared me to see the impact a few lightbulbs would have on the lives of our fellow man and the smile of a child would have on my own.

Turn to page 12, and read the story of how 15 Tennessee heroes brought light, power and hope to the people of two small villages in Guatemala. Their stories will warm your heart and bring tears to your eyes, just as it did for the lineworkers. I was privileged to be there with them and experience a truly powerful moment. The children of Corral Viejo gathered in their one-room schoolhouse. I held a precious young man in my arms and counted, "uno, dos, tres!" And then he did something everyday and ordinary for you and I. He flipped a light switch.

But for Darwin and his classmates, the lights came on for the first time in a moment those young people will remember forever. And then their future changed. I will always be affected by the resilience, smiles, kindness and simple joy of the people whose lives were changed that day. And I will always be inspired by the heroes who made it happen.

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

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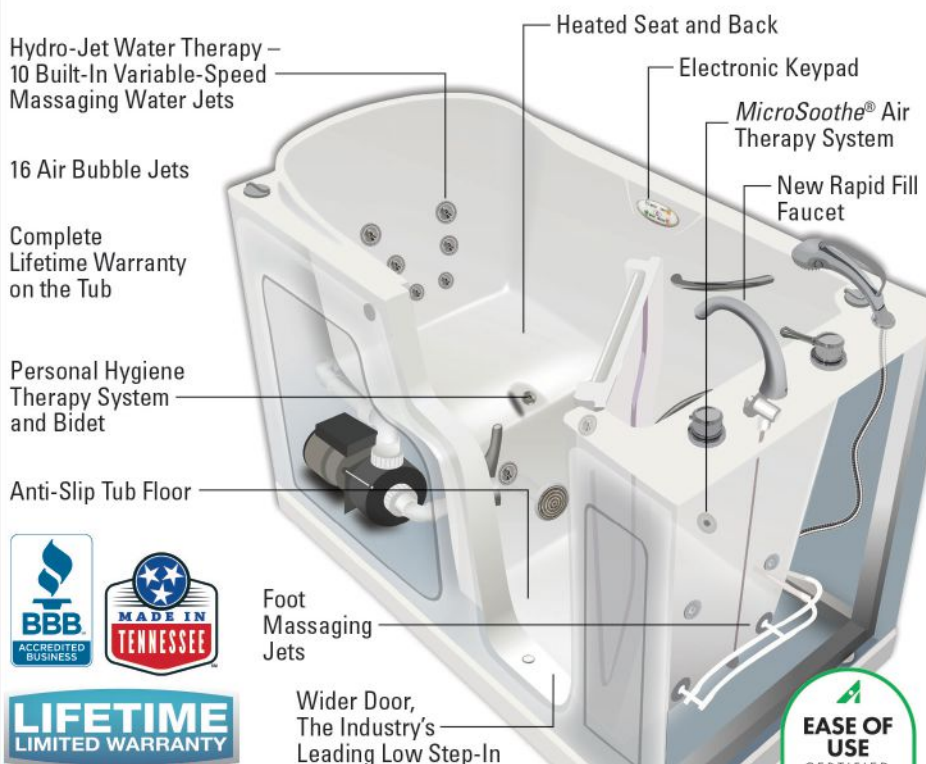
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By Chris Kirk

Editor, *The Tennessee Magazine*

Making memories in the good today

As a Nashville native, it can be jarring to take a trip through the downtown area. The booming city of towering buildings bears little resemblance to the skyline I remember dominated by the “Batman Building” and just a handful of structures that could be called “tallish” by today’s standards.

I was very interested when columnist Bill Carey pitched a feature-length exploration of the first skyscrapers in Tennessee’s largest cities. I felt nostalgic looking at the archive photos of the L&C Tower. See pages 28-31 to read about each “first” and how the definition of “skyscraper” evolved as these cities grew.

“I miss the good old days,” I thought after my first trip through that history.

Then I read Antsy McClain’s latest contribution (*My Tennessee Notebook*, pages 10-11). In another thoughtful, humorous entry, he eloquently argues that “the good old days” are, in fact, right in front of us.

Well, after that perspective flip, perhaps filling skylines in our cities are signs that the secret is out. People are moving to Tennessee to find their spots in our prospering, welcoming communities.

Another sign of the expanding opportunities in the Volunteer State is the addition of recreational and natural oases to our already-expansive state parks system. As we continue to wrap our series on our

parks, we give you a taste of several that are in development to open in the coming years. See what’s ahead on pages 32-34.

Swinging back to nostalgia, Robin Conover’s Point of View column reminds me of a favorite family pastime. Accompanying her keys to fall photography (see page 42 for the pro tips) is another beautiful Smokies shot. My family always took an autumn trip to Gatlinburg, but it’s been a while since I’ve traveled that way for the seasonal splendor.

Seeing that we’re living in the good old days, maybe it’s time to make some new memories. And I hope this and all editions of *The Tennessee Magazine* give you the motivation to revisit favorite haunts and discover new draws.

Thanks for reading,

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Hands-Free Dining

And other bygone practices from the 1900s, some of which I don't miss all that much

As one gets older, it's common to grow nostalgic for things we don't see as often: locally owned hardware stores, homestyle grits made from scratch and people talking to each other at restaurants. I call it hands-free dining, and it's not as common as it used to be. These days, most couples seem to be on their cellphones, quietly chewing, scrolling, chewing some more, scrolling some more, but not talking to each other that much. If there's any interaction at all, it's likely done by sharing things to each other's cellphones. Studies show that 48% of couples laughing simultaneously while dining are sharing cat videos.*

Now, don't mistake me for the grumbling old geezer who prattles on about the good old days. I'm one of those old guys who happens to believe the good old days are right here and now. To be fair, I've only been an old guy for a few years. I was a young guy far longer than I've been old, so I'm still figuring all this out. But by and large, my life is better now than it was back in the 1900s, a time for which so many folks my age seem to be pining. We often let nostalgia cloud our vision and get in the way of what's right in front of us.

Our cellphones can be a distraction, no doubt. I mean, it's a little box that lights up with pretty colors and plays our favorite music. And it's not just a phone; it's a television, a movie screen, an encyclopedia, a calendar, a checkbook, a camera, a Game Boy, a Rolodex, a radio and more. It can order your groceries, pay your bills and find you a ride to happy hour. It's no mystery why someone might rather spend more time with their cellphone than their spouse of 45 years.

Perspective

But let's keep a fair perspective. I remember newspapers, a distraction predating the cellphone by hundreds of years. Search the internet for images of "people in 1925 reading newspapers," and you'll see that we were almost as cut off from each other then — 100 years ago — as we are now.

The artist Norman Rockwell, who could accurately be called *the* most popular meme creator of his day, provided unforgettable images of Americana in the social media of his time: magazines. Rockwell famously depicted families at the dinner table with Dad face-planted in the daily paper.

Most everything that has gone extinct, I gotta tell you, I'm not sad that it's gone.** I never liked having to memorize phone numbers, for instance, and I disliked not knowing who was calling me. Before caller ID, it was a

crapshoot every time I'd pick up the phone. It could have been a salesperson, my boss or my mother. I had no way of knowing. The salesman, I could hang up on. Not so for my boss or my mother.***

Another reason why you'll never hear me pining over the so-called good old days is this: wheels on luggage. I've said it before, but if you've ever had to lug a wheelless suitcase through an airport, you'll forget about how good things were "back in the day." I'll never

forget that first four-wheeled dash to my gate, my belongings gliding smoothly in the carry-on beside me, as if floating on air, guided only by the light, nimble nudge of my thumb and forefinger. I felt like a king. Heck, I was a king. I was winning the game of life. The "good old days" can go fly a kite.

Handing it over

I am constantly amazed in this day and age how we can share a cat video with someone sitting right next to us. Let's say you've watched a compilation of cats being frightened by cucumbers (Hilarious, by the way. Fold the corner down on this magazine and Google it. I'll wait), and your dining partner naturally wants to know why you're laughing.

It would be easy to just hand them your phone, but let's face it, other people handling your phone never feels right. I don't want to live in a world where everyone is just handing their phones to each other. Not that we have anything to hide, necessarily; it's just weird. First off, now you've handed your phone to another person. You don't

"I've only been an old guy for a few years. I was a young guy far longer than I've been old, so I'm still figuring all this out."

have your phone. What do you do now? What do you do with your hands? It's just awkward.

Secondly, while watching the cat video on your phone, they might scroll or adjust the volume, and that is akin to going through someone's medicine cabinet. Buttons and preferences are all different. You don't know what could happen. They could unintentionally reset your world clock or delete your Marco Polos. You don't know. Our phones are personal. They're like an extension of ourselves. And by giving them to someone else, they're now severed from us. It's almost Darwinian, the way we feel about our phones in that moment.

So, most of us — unless you were raised by feral dogs and have no sense of boundaries — have a social aversion to handing our phone to another person.

Instead, we just share the video, even if the other person is right next to us. We do this without thinking about it, and what happens next is astounding: The device shoots the data up to a satellite hundreds of miles above our heads in space, then shoots it back down 18 inches away into the other person's device in about one and a half seconds. Then they can watch the video on their own phone, and we can all laugh together. It's amazing. The good old days can go fly a kite.

Grits and gratitude

Like you, dear reader, I have had some bad times, but I have experienced the good old days. I have a lot to be grateful for. I've lived a wild, adventurous life. My music has taken me around the globe and to exotic, faraway places like Texas. I have wonderful people in my world. And there's much more ahead.

But the good old days? I don't just see them only in my rearview mirror. I see them all around me, every day.

I was once asked, "Living in the moment is all fine and dandy, but what if the here and now really sucks?"

I get it. Life can be terrible sometimes. And maybe you're going through a rough spell yourself. We all take our turns. I just think we are more resilient than we realize, and we have the capacity to heal, so that one day, not very far from now, we can look back on even those bad times and see some good in them.

I'm writing to you from home right now as the sun comes up over a line of trees across the street. A steaming cup of coffee sits on the table beside me. A tortoiseshell cat is snoozing at my feet, and a beautiful woman is curled up at my side, still dreaming. I think the cat is starting to like me, but I never can tell with cats. I'm pretty sure about the beautiful woman, though. She said, "Yes," last week when I popped the question.

Later today we'll get breakfast at The Papermill, one of our favorite Wilson County diners. The staff is friendly, and the food is great. And they have the best grits I've ever tasted, made from scratch with smoked Gouda cheese and a hint of bacon.

I just wanted to paint a picture of the good old days from right here and now. Sure, there are bills to pay, some health issues to address, but all in all, life is pretty darn good. May you see your good old days right in front of you, dear reader — today, tomorrow and always.

Download Antsy McClain's song, "The Good Old Days."

Antsy McClain is a Nashville-adjacent singer-songwriter, author and graphic artist. Go to **unhitched.com** for more. Use this QR code to download "The Good Old Days," **FREE** to readers of **The Tennessee Magazine**. The song speaks to how we never seem to realize that we are living in our future good old days right here and now.



* There is actually no data to support that claim, which should be a relief to know that people in white lab coats weren't given a research grant to determine how many people are sharing cat videos at Cracker Barrel. But it's a lot. You know it is.

** I have friends who are still sad that Blockbuster Video stores have closed. I am not. Let me take you back to 1988. "The Princess Bride" was the hottest video, and your family was dying to see it at home with a big bowl of homemade popcorn. In order to watch that movie in the comfort of your own home, you had to put on pants and shoes, get in your car and drive to the nearest video store. When you got there, all 30 copies of "The Princess Bride" were rented out. You didn't have a cellphone — nobody did — so you weren't able to phone your family to ask if they might have another choice. It was all up to you. You returned home to less-than-a-hero's welcome, holding worn copies of "Back to the Future" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark," which your family had seen five or six times already. You will have to drive back to the store the next day to return the videos, paying a \$1 fine if they were not rewound properly. I'm exhausted just retelling this nightmare. The simple act of watching a movie at home in the 1980s was a lot of work.

*** Mom was a lovely woman, but her epic Sunday night phone calls could last hours. I used that time to fold the family laundry, iron my shirts for the week and learn Portuguese. I could set the phone down for long stretches while she filled me in on every neighbor, every past girlfriend, and gave me a full, detailed weather report of the previous week.

Tennessee lineworkers gather for a final soccer game with young people from the village of Corral Viejo. This summer, 15 lineworkers from Tennessee built power lines to bring electricity to two remote Guatemalan villages.



Story and photos by Trent Scott

Lighting the Way

How Tennessee lineworkers brought first-time power to Guatemala

High in the mountains of eastern Guatemala, families in the villages of Corral Viejo and La Paz have always lived by the rising and setting of the sun. Without electricity, days ended early. Work was done before sunset, and families ate meals by candlelight.

This summer, all of that changed.

In July, a group of 15 Tennessee electric cooperative volunteer lineworkers packed their tools, left behind their families and traveled hundreds of miles to bring light, power and hope to these remote communities. For 17 days, they dug holes, set poles

and strung nearly 8 miles of power lines across rugged hillsides.

On Aug. 2 and 3, the lights came on in La Paz and Corral Viejo.

A total of 28 homes, two schools and a small business were connected to electricity for the very first time.

Crews didn't stop at stringing wire. In each home, they installed basic lights, switches and outlets — making it possible for families to use electricity from day one. A few security lights were also installed along the dirt roads of each community.



Top left, crew leader Nick Gipson from Sequachee Valley EC speaks with a resident of La Paz with help of translator Mynor Morales. Left, lineworker Donny “Bubba” Thomas Jr. from Gibson EMC gives a piggyback ride to a young man from the village. Above, villager Leonel Perez participates in a ceremony as the lights come on in his village.

Beyond poles and wire

The gift of electricity is transformational, but what struck the lineworkers most wasn’t the poles they set or the lines they strung — it was the people they met.

Each day, children gathered at the worksites, curious about the equipment and eager to play. The lineworkers brought small toys, played soccer with them and shared laughter that needed no translation.

“The kids were overjoyed when we arrived — they jumped in to

help with the work and played soccer and tag with us,” said Nick Gipson, a line foreman for Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative and team leader for the project. “Those moments meant just as much — if not more — than their reactions we saw when the lights came on.”

These connections turned a construction project into something more: A reminder that co-op work has always been about people, not just power.

“I thank God for this blessing that has come to our village. I have lived here for 34 years, and I never thought we would see anything like this.”

— Leonel Perez, Corral Viejo resident

Tennessee volunteers

Fifteen lineworkers from seven electric cooperatives across the state volunteered their time and talents to bring electricity and hope to two remote villages in Guatemala.

Appalachian Electric Cooperative
Chase McSpadden

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation
Jake Perry
Josh Kennedy
Micah Hagan

Duck River Electric Membership Corporation
Lucas Burk
Colton McIlwain
Chase Cares

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation
Donny Thomas Jr.

Middle Tennessee Electric
Manny Bibian
Mike Diggs
Terence Floyd

Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative
Nick Gipson
Daniel Walker

Volunteer Energy Cooperative
Chris Miller
Kaleb Waldrop

Changed lives, changed hearts

When the lights finally came on, the joy for the villagers was evident. Children clapped and cheered while parents thanked the lineworkers.

With working lights and outlets in place, the families of Corral Viejo and La Paz could now do things that were once unthinkable — children could read at night, food could be kept safe with refrigerators and small appliances could make daily chores easier.

But it wasn't just the villagers who were changed.

"The work we performed was excruciating at points," said Chris Miller, a lineworker from Volunteer Energy Cooperative. "But at the end of the day, it was more gratifying than anything I've ever accomplished."

For the crew, the trip was more than service — it was a shift in perspective. They returned to Tennessee with renewed appreciation for the simple power of electricity and the communities they serve every day.

The work was especially important for one lineworker.

"I was born in Guatemala before I was adopted and brought to the States," said Micah Hagan, a lineworker with Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation.

"I was really drawn to doing something for the people here. It just made me more grateful for what I have and the opportunities I was given in life. Things could have been drastically different for me."

"Our linemen didn't just build power lines — they built relationships and gave families a chance at a better life."

— **Mike Partin, Sequachee Valley Electric CEO and NRECA board president**

A tradition of service

Tennessee's electric cooperatives were founded on the idea of neighbors helping neighbors. In the 1930s, Tennessee farmers and families banded together to do what no one else would — bring electricity to rural communities.

That spirit lives on today. "These linemen embody the very best of Tennessee," said Mike Knotts, CEO of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, who joined the crew in Guatemala to see the lines energized. "They stepped forward, volunteered their time and used their skills to serve people in need. It's the same cooperative commitment that keeps the lights on here at home."

Mike Partin, president and CEO of Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative and current board president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), also joined the crews in Guatemala.

"The people in the villages are experiencing something that we experienced in our communities 80 years ago, and it will change lives forever," Partin said. "Our linemen didn't just build power lines — they built relationships and gave families a chance at a better life. It's proof that the cooperative commitment to serve knows no borders, and I couldn't be prouder of the men who represented Tennessee and our nation's co-ops so well."

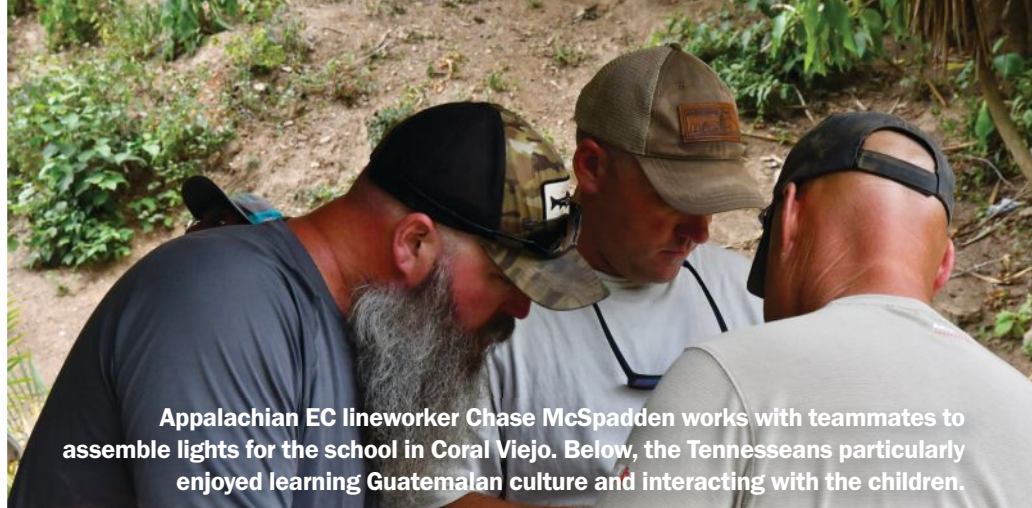


A global cooperative effort

The work in Guatemala was part of NRECA International, a program launched more than 60 years ago to share lessons learned in the electrification of rural America with developing countries. Since 1962, NRECA International has helped develop more than 250 electric co-ops in 54 countries and connect more than 220 million people to reliable power.

This summer's trip — dubbed Project Highlight — marked the first time that Tennessee's electric cooperatives had partnered together on a state-wide volunteer electrification project with NRECA International.

Because Tennessee co-ops are willing to share their expertise with the world, these projects help communities gain access to modern education, safer healthcare, cleaner water and stronger local economies.



Appalachian EC lineworker Chase McSpadden works with teammates to assemble lights for the school in Coral Viejo. Below, the Tennesseans particularly enjoyed learning Guatemalan culture and interacting with the children.

Forever changed

In Corral Viejo and La Paz, the first lightbulbs glowed this summer because of the service, sacrifice and hard work of 15 Tennesseans. The impact on the villages will be felt for years, but it will also be felt by the lineworkers who answered the call.

"The community reminded me why I do this work," Gipson said. "It's about more than electricity. It's about people."



More than power

The Tennessee crews came to Guatemala to build power lines, but their work didn't stop there.

Volunteer Energy Cooperative helped purchase 50 pairs of shoes for children in the villages, many of whom were wearing shoes with holes worn in the soles. Middle Tennessee Electric, Duck River Electric and Sequachee Valley Electric joined together to provide six laptops for the schools, opening doors to a world past their mountainside village.

Tennessee co-ops worked with supply partners Gresco and

United Utility Supply to provide the local utility with new hard hats, work gloves, rubber gloves and headlamps. The lineworkers shared lessons that will help Guatemalan lineworkers work more safely long after the project ended. And in a gesture that spoke volumes, many of the Tennessee lineworkers quietly handed over some of their own personal tools to the local crews they had worked with.

This underscored what the project was about — helping people and building connections that reach far beyond the poles and wires.



A local teacher and students receive gifts from the Tennessee lineworkers.



20
26

best — of — tennessee

*The Tennessee Magazine
Readers' Choice Awards*

We're searching for the Best of Tennessee

Vote now in Readers' Choice Awards

Our readers are the foremost experts on all things Tennessee, and we need your help naming the Best of Tennessee for our 2026 Readers' Choice Awards. We have further streamlined the contest that will make the entry process easier and quicker for submitting your nominees and allow us to more fully spotlight the winners.

There are two ways to enter. Simply visit tnmagazine.org/BOT26,

or use the form in this magazine. (Online entries will be entered in a drawing for an additional \$250 prize!) Fill out the form with your choices for each category, nominating your favorites from East, Middle and West Tennessee.

"No one knows Tennessee better than readers of *The Tennessee Magazine*," said editor Chris Kirk. "We think that by choosing only a few

categories each year, we can highlight the diverse offerings across the state. And the whole process will be quicker for our busy readers."

Submit your nominations today, and be entered in the sweepstakes for a chance to win some fantastic prizes.

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



Help us honor Tennessee's most unique eats and destinations:

NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITES!

ENTER ONLINE AT [TNMAGAZINE.ORG/BOT26](https://tnmagazine.org/BOT26).

OFFICIAL RULES: No purchase necessary. One entry per person. Ballot must be postmarked or submitted online no later than Thursday, Jan. 15. • To be eligible for the prize drawings, ballots must have a "Best of Tennessee" vote in at least four categories. You can cast votes in any or all of the regions. • Drawing to be held on Friday, Feb. 20. Must be at least 18 years old to win. Grand-prize winners will be notified by mail. • Best of Tennessee results will be published in the June 2026 edition of *The Tennessee Magazine*. • Electric cooperative employees and their immediate families are not eligible for the prize giveaways.

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



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



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



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



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

Email: _____

Electric cooperative: _____

The division of the state in which you live:

West _____ Middle _____ or East _____

All entries must be postmarked by Thursday, Jan. 15. Return the completed forms to:

Best of Tennessee

The Tennessee Magazine

P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224

Bakery

West: _____

Middle: _____

East: _____

Burger

West: _____

Middle: _____

East: _____

Place for Dessert

West: _____

Middle: _____

East: _____

Festival

West: _____

Middle: _____

East: _____

Museum/Art Gallery

West: _____

Middle: _____

East: _____

State Park

West: _____

Middle: _____

East: _____

Tennessee Events

Festivals, celebrations and other happenings around the state

OCT. 11, 18 AND 25 AND NOV. 1, 8 AND 15

Fall Color Hikes

Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary,
Brentwood.

615-370-4672 or owlshill.org

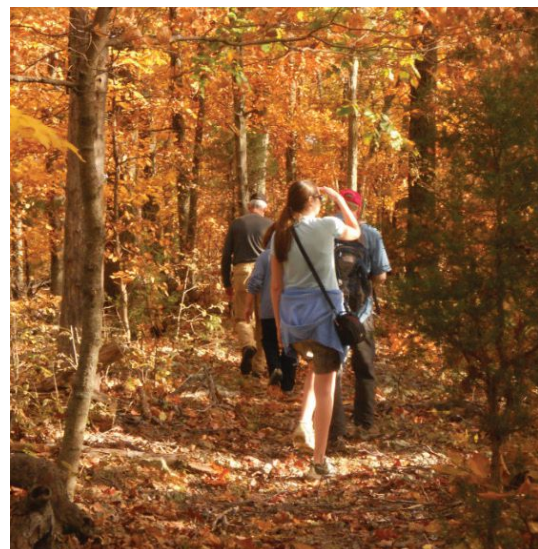
Fall is the perfect time to get outside and enjoy nature, and what better way to enjoy the colors of autumn than hiking? One way you can do so is with Fall Color Hikes at Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary in Brentwood.

These expert-led hikes are offered on multiple Saturdays throughout October and November to follow the progression of fall and are open

to adults and teens (pets are not permitted at Owl's Hill; binoculars and cameras are allowed). Please note that the hikes are moderately strenuous and that minors must be accompanied by an adult.

For more info on the Fall Color Hikes and other hikes offered at Owl's Hill, call **615-370-4672** or go to **owlshill.org**.

If you're not located near Owl's Hill, there are plenty of beautiful trails all over Tennessee where you can enjoy the fall colors — from state parks to nature centers to greenways. So, get out there and hit the trails!



Photograph courtesy of Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary

West Tennessee

OCT. 1-31

Pumpkin Village 2025

Discovery Park of America, Union City. 731-885-5455 or discoveryparkofamerica.com/event/pumpkin-village-2025

OCT. 3-4

Hub City BBQ Fest

Lafayette Street, Jackson. hubcitybbqfest.com

OCT. 3-5

54th Annual Reelfoot Arts and Crafts Festival

Reelfoot Lake, Tiptonville. 731-694-9283 or reelfootartsandcrafts.com

OCT. 4

Fall Games Festival

Canada's Collectible Games, Jackson. 731-240-1105 or canadacollectiblegames.com

OCT. 5-11

Davy Crockett Days Festival

Davy Crockett Cabin Museum, Rutherford. davycrockettdays@outlook.com or facebook.com/p/Davy-Crockett-Days-Rutherford-Tennessee-100064412390752

OCT. 11

"Disney Concerts Presents Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas"

Carl Perkins Civic Center, Jackson. 731-427-6440 or thejacksonsymphony.org

OCT. 18

Harvest/Holiday Bazaar

Somerville Methodist Church. 901-465-2627 or somervillemethodist.org

OCT. 18

Autumn Festival and Car Show

Historic downtown Dyersburg. 731-285-3433 or facebook.com/mainstreetdyersburg

Middle Tennessee

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS IN OCTOBER

Raven's Hollow Haunted Forest

Circle P Ranch, Mt. Juliet. ravenshollownashville.com

OCT. 1-31

Granville's Scarecrow Festival

Historic Granville. 931-653-4151 or granvilletn.com

OCT. 4-5

15th Annual National Banana Pudding Festival

Centerville. info@bananapuddingfest.org or bananapuddingfest.org

OCT. 10-11

Tennessee Beekeepers Association Fall Conference

Middle Tenn. State University, Murfreesboro. 615-430-7059 or greg38tn@yahoo.com

OCT. 10-12

Nashville Ballet "If I Can Dream"

Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Nashville. 615-297-2966 or nashvilleballet.com

OCT. 11

31st Annual All British Car Show

Holy Family Church, Brentwood. nashvillebritishcarclub@gmail.com

OCT. 17-19

44th Annual NAIA Indian Education Pow Wow

Long Hunter State Park, Nashville. 615-232-9179 or naiatn.org

OCT. 18-19

Webb School Art and Craft Show

Bell Buckle. 931-808-7640 or
bellbucklechamber.com/
webb-school-art-craft-show

OCT. 18-19

Fall Festival

Oak Grove Lavender Farm and Event
Center, Hohenwald. 931-295-8945 or
oakgrovelavender.com

OCT. 18-31

Cooper Trooper Foundation Annual Pumpkin Patch 2025

Corner of Cool Springs Boulevard and
Mallory Lane, Franklin. 629-256-5656 or
coopertrooper.org

OCT. 24-26

Morgan on the Rim Civil War Reenactment

Ridgetop Station Park. 615-310-2323

East Tennessee

OCT. 4-5

Fall Festival

Etowah. 423-920-5659 or
enterpriseetowah.com

OCT. 11

Dye Creek Fine Arts Festival

Old Woolen Mill, Cleveland. 423-715-0030

OCT. 11

Fannie Moffitt Autumn Stomp

Altamont. 931-592-6200 or
facebook.com/FannieMoffittAutumnStomp

OCT. 11

Pumpkintown

Athens. info@friendlycityfestivals.com or
friendlycityfestivals.com

OCT. 11

Annual Back Porch Fall Festival

Crab Orchard Christian Church.
931-335-5145 or
craborchardfallfest2024@gmail.com

OCT. 17-18

Witches Wynd

Exchange Place Living History
Farm, Kingsport. 423-288-6071 or
exchangeplaceln.org

OCT. 17-18

Crossville Oktoberfest

Crossville Festival Grounds.
info@crossvilleoktoberfest.com or
crossvilleoktoberfest.com

OCT. 24, 30-31 AND NOV. 7

Fall Heritage Days

Museum of Appalachia, Clinton.
865-494-7680 or
museumofappalachia.org



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COOPERATIVE
FOUNDATION

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TENNESSEE
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ITEMS!



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tinyurl.com/coopauctionbarn

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.

granvilletn.com
GRANVILLE
Tennessee's Mayberry Town



Scarecrow & Artisan
Festival Oct. 1-31
Cornbread, Tennessee Spirits,
Quilts & Jazz Festival Oct. 4
Ghost Walk Oct. 17 & 18
Christmas Traditions
Festival of Trees, Toy Show, Mayberry
Dinner Plays, Bluegrass Dinner Shows in a
Hallmark Movie Town Nov. 14-Dec. 29
CALL (931) 653-4151

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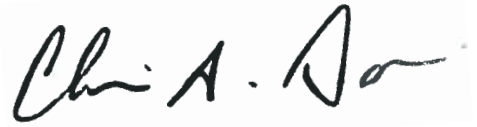
We take our responsibility to our community seriously, and we are dedicated to making our hometown thrive by reinvesting revenue from the sale of electricity back into our power system and through

additional initiatives that support our community.

That's the Tennessee Valley public power way. That's our way. And it's made possible thanks to TVA.

I encourage you to visit tva.com/energy/public-power-partnerships

to learn more and watch the Energy 101 video.



Tennessee lineworkers bring light to 2 remote Guatemalan villages

Three Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation lineworkers — Portland District Fourth Period Apprentice Lineman Micah Hagan, Gallatin District Serviceman Josh Kennedy and Gallatin District Lineman Jake Perry — recently returned from a life-changing mission to bring electricity to two remote villages in Guatemala.

They joined a 15-member volunteer crew from electric cooperatives

across Tennessee — including Appalachian Electric Cooperative, Duck River Electric Membership Corporation, Gibson Electric Membership Corporation, Middle Tennessee Electric, Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative and Volunteer Energy Cooperative.

The crew worked for 17 days in the mountainous communities of Corral Viejo and La Paz, building nearly 8 miles of power line across

rugged terrain, to connect 28 homes, two schools and a small business to electricity for the very first time. The work will allow children to study after dark, families to refrigerate food and store medicine and entrepreneurs to open or expand their businesses.

“It is impossible to fully grasp the impact this project will have on the people of these villages,” said Mike Knotts, CEO of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. “Their



Above, Kennedy and Perry perform work to connect electricity to a home in a remote village in Guatemala. Opposite page, CEMC lineworkers Micah Hagan, Jake Perry and Josh Kennedy enjoy some downtime with children from the villages where they worked during Project Highlight.

lives will be forever changed thanks to the service and sacrifice of these volunteer lineworkers.”

For many residents, it marked the first time they could flip a switch and see their home illuminated.

“I thank God for this blessing that has come to our village,” said Corral Viejo resident Leonel Perez. “I have lived here for 34 years, and I never thought we would see anything like this.”

For CEMC’s Micah Hagan, the project held special meaning.

“I was born in Guatemala before I was adopted and brought to the States,” Hagan shared. “I was really drawn to doing something for the people here, and it was a special opportunity. I’m thankful I was able to do it.”

The project was part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Program, an ongoing ef-

fort to extend electric service to underserved areas, reflecting the cooperative principle of “Concern for Community” — a commitment that extends beyond state or national borders.

“The people in the villages are experiencing something that we experienced in our communities 80 years ago,” said Mike Partin, CEO of Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative and president of the NRECA board of directors. “And it will change lives forever.”

The volunteers are excited about the opportunities created by the project and the bond formed with fellow lineworkers from across the state.

“For me to be able to come here and maybe initiate a small spark that might help these communities to grow was an opportunity I really wanted to jump on to,” said Nick Gipson, a line foreman for Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative and team leader for the project. “These were some of the best men that I’ve ever worked with, and I would work with them anywhere in the world.”

In addition to building power lines, Volunteer Energy Cooperative donated 50 pairs of shoes for the children in the villages, while Middle Tennessee Electric, Duck River Electric Membership Corporation and Sequachee

Valley Electric Cooperative provided six new laptops for the village schools. These gifts will help students take their first steps into a brighter academic future and give teachers new tools to prepare the next generation.

Tennessee co-ops, along with supply partners United Utility Supply and Gresco, also provided new hard hats, work gloves, rubber gloves and headlamps for the lineworkers at the local Guatemalan utility.

The project would not have been possible without the support of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, CoBank, TVA, United Utility Supply and Gresco.

“This project was a perfect example of what happens when co-ops work together,” said CEMC General Manager Chris Davis. “Micah, Josh and Jake gave their time and skills to bring hope and opportunity to these communities, and we are incredibly proud of their service.”

“I was really drawn to doing something for the people here, and it was a special opportunity. I’m thankful I was able to do it.”

— Micah Hagan
(pictured below)



Maximizing heat pump efficiency

A heat pump is a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system that both heats and cools your home by transferring heat rather than generating it. Like a refrigerator, heat pumps use electricity to transfer heat from a cool space to a warm space, which makes the cool space cooler and the warm space warmer. Heat pumps often offer an energy-efficient alternative to furnaces and air conditioners for all climates. Follow these three tips to maximize the electric efficiency of a heat pump.

Maintain a consistent temperature setting. Heat pumps are most efficient when set at a steady temperature, rather than repeatedly heating up from a lower setting. Do your best to avoid drastic temperature adjustments on your thermostat, especially during unoccupied times. If you have a programmable thermostat, consider setting a schedule that maintains a comfortable

temperature throughout the day instead of turning the heat down significantly when you are away or asleep.

Optimize airflow. Keep your outdoor unit clear of obstructions like mulch, plants, dirt and snow to allow proper airflow. Inside your home, keep vents and registers clear of shoes, clothes or even furniture. Also, be sure to clean or replace air filters regularly to prevent them from becoming clogged.

Have the heat pump professionally cleaned. To ensure the best performance, follow the manufacturers' recommendations for professional cleaning from time to time.

For more tips on saving energy and improving efficiency in your home, visit Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation at cemc.org/programs/energy-solutions.



Watch out for energy vampires

The little vampires who ring your doorbell on Halloween night aren't the only ones with tricks up their

sleeves. Your home could be full of vampires all year round — energy vampires.

Even when they're turned off, many of your home's electronics are still quietly using electricity.

These energy vampires include **TVs, cable boxes, coffee makers, computers and phone chargers**, along with anything else with a display or standby light. Over time, that wasted electricity adds up.

You can stop this silent drain by unplugging devices when you're not

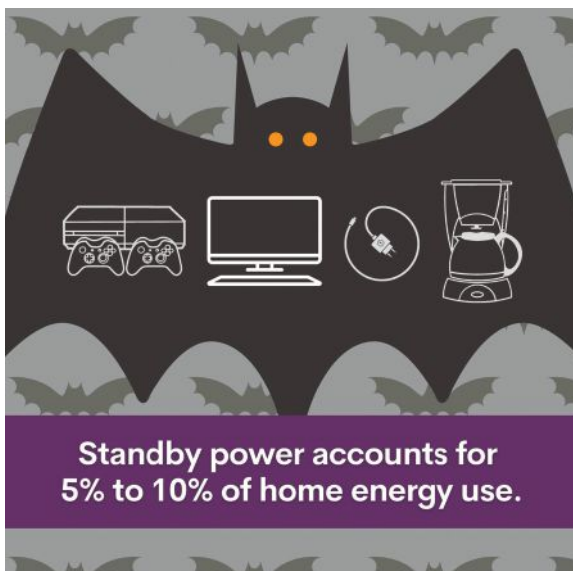
using them. If that's not practical, plug them into a smart power strip that cuts off power automatically when the electronics are not in use.

In the kitchen, unplug the toaster, coffee maker and microwave if you only use them occasionally.

In your home office, shut down your computer completely — don't just let it sleep — and unplug your printer.

Phone chargers are another offender. They continue to draw power even when your phone isn't connected.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that standby power use accounts for up to 10% of household electricity use and could waste \$100 or more every year.





Move over — it's still the law

In 2006, a law was introduced to protect those who put their lives on the line every single day. Originally, the Move Over law protected first responders like police, fire and EMS workers. However, in 2011, Tennessee's electric cooperatives led a coalition to revise that law to include utility workers. Collectively, those men and women risk it all to make sure others have what they need, even when it might mean missing out on precious moments in their own lives. It is important to remember that the Move Over law is still in effect today.

The requirements of the law are simple. **On a four-lane road, if safety and traffic conditions allow, a driver approaching a utility vehicle**

with flashing lights should move into the far lane. On a two-lane road or when changing lanes is not possible, a driver should reduce their speed. Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation recommends reducing speed to at least 10 miles per hour below the posted speed limit. The penalty for violating the Move Over law in Tennessee is a maximum fine of up to \$500 and possibly up to 30 days in jail.

While it might seem inconvenient, especially if you are running behind to get to work or if you have been traveling in the car all day, think about the lineworkers who are doing their jobs. Electric lineworkers face

many dangers, including high voltage, heights and, more often than not, extreme weather conditions. On top of these challenges, one of the most dangerous parts of the job is working alongside busy roadways, often only feet away from moving cars. While lineworkers are trained to avoid and manage risk around power lines and take many precautions to stay safe, there is little they can do to avoid the dangers of passing vehicles. Too many times, lineworkers have experienced incidents of motorists hitting traffic cones, utility vehicles and, unfortunately, crew members.

Do your part by slowing down and moving over — remember it is still the law.

Celebrating Cooperative Month with community impact

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is committed to more than delivering reliable power and broadband — we're committed to empowering people. This Cooperative Month, we're celebrating the programs and partnerships that allow us to give back to the communities we proudly serve.

Community grants

Through our partnerships with the Tennessee Valley Authority and Vonlas Inc., this year we awarded grants to several vital organizations, including United Way, YAIPAK, Highland Rim Economic Corporation, The Bethesda Center, Second Harvest Food Bank, Safe Haven, Loaves and Fishes, Gallatin Cares and Habitat For Humanity of Sumner County, to name a few. These funds ensure nonprofits can continue their essential work — providing food, shelter and critical support to those in need.

Investing in youth

Supporting the next generation is an investment in the future of our communities. This year, we engaged students at local career days, introducing them to opportunities in the energy and broadband industries as well as other career paths. We also sponsored the Washington Youth Tour, sending 12 young leaders to Washington, D.C., to learn about government and leadership. In addition, we awarded 12 scholarships to graduating seniors, two Lineworker Program scholarships and sponsored middle school students to attend 4-H Electric Camp at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Helping students start strong

Recognizing the importance of education, we participated in several back-to-school events over the summer, donating and distributing school supplies to students. These contributions helped ensure they

began the academic year prepared and equipped for success.

Promoting safety and community connections

We were proud to promote safety throughout the year by participating in Touch-A-Truck events and delivering safety presentations at schools and community gatherings. These interactive experiences allowed families to explore utility vehicles while children and adults learned practical tips for staying safe around electricity. Together, these efforts help build stronger community connections while reinforcing the importance of electrical safety in everyday life.

As we celebrate Cooperative Month, we're reminded that our mission extends beyond providing electricity and broadband. It's about strengthening communities, supporting our neighbors and working together to create a brighter tomorrow.



CEMC employees built a custom-designed playhouse for a local family in need through the Habitat for Humanity's Project Playhouse this spring.



Co-op employees joined employees from other local businesses to welcome Montgomery Central Elementary School students back on their first day of school this fall.

Beyond the basics

Cybersecurity in a changing world



October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and you've probably heard the usual advice before: Use strong passwords, don't click suspicious links and keep your software updated. That's all still important — but these days, online threats are changing in ways most people don't realize. Here are a few newer risks you should know about and what you can do to protect yourself and your family in today's digital landscape.

Scams that sound real

Cybercriminals are now using artificial intelligence (AI) to trick people. They can create fake videos or voice recordings that sound exactly like someone you know. These can sound just like your boss, your pastor or even a family member. These scams are called "deepfakes," and they're getting harder to spot.

If someone asks you to send money, give personal info or do something that feels off, don't act right away. Call or text them directly using a number you already know is real. A few extra seconds can save you from a costly mistake.

A new kind of computer

You don't need to be a tech expert to know this: New types of computers are being developed that could one day break the security systems we use to protect things like bank accounts and medical records.

This change is likely still a few years away, but it's a good reminder that technology is always evolving. The best thing you can do now is stick with trusted providers who keep their systems updated and take security seriously.

People are the target

Even the best security tools can't stop someone from clicking a bad link or using a weak password. That's why criminals often focus on tricking people, not breaking into systems. Some companies even train their employees with fake scam emails to help them learn what to watch for. You can do something similar at home by talking with your family about common scams and what to look out for.

The simplest steps make a big difference: Use different passwords for different accounts, turn on two-step verification whenever it's offered and always think twice before clicking on links in emails or text messages.

Ransomware is still a threat

You might have heard of ransomware, which is when hackers lock up your files and demand money to get them back. These attacks are still common, and they now target everyday people, not just big businesses.

The best defense is preparation. Back up your important files to an external drive or a trusted cloud service so you always have a safe copy. Keep your devices and apps updated

so you're protected against the latest threats. And be cautious about what you download or open, since that's one of the easiest ways for hackers to slip in.

Cybersecurity doesn't have to be complicated. You don't need to be an expert, but you always need to stay alert. This Cybersecurity Awareness Month, take a few minutes to review your accounts, update your passwords and talk to your family about staying safe online. A little effort and preparation now can save a lot of trouble later.

And remember — you don't have to face online threats alone. Cumberland Connect offers the Peace of Mind Package, which includes built-in tools to help protect your home network from viruses, malware and other digital dangers. It's an extra layer of security designed to keep you and your family safer every time you go online.



Stay cyber-safe all year long.
Scan to learn more about our
Peace of Mind Package!



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Fall for new habits that help your family save money on energy costs

Q: I live in an older home with younger kids. How can I get them interested in helping us save energy and reduce our energy bills without breaking the bank on home improvements?

A: Great question! And timely, too, because October is the perfect season for scaring away energy monsters.

Here's a treat: Teach your old home some new tricks

After a hot and swampy summer, it's hard to believe that October's crisp and cool days are finally here. Every old-home dweller knows that spectacular displays of fall color also mean it's time to clear up precious closet space by packing away your shorts and swimsuits to make room for cozy sweats and sweaters.

Families across the state — from historical farmhouses and shotgun houses to midcentury ranch homes and bungalows — can rest assured that you don't need a brand-new house or an extensive renovation to start saving money on energy. Here are a few fall- and family-friendly tips to help you keep the energy gremlins at bay so you can enjoy a cozy, energy efficient season.



Recruit little draft detectives

Aging is hard work, and your home is no exception to the rule. Although older homes are full of character and memories, they might also bear the signs of time — as a home settles, weathers storms and endures heat streaks and cold snaps, its wrinkles begin to show.

Often, these wrinkles take the shape of leaky windows, door frames that aren't as tight as they once were and attics that need some TLC. The good news is that sealing those leaks probably won't require a contractor's help. And in fact, it's so easy that you can enlist kids to help. Start by deputizing your sneaky leak sleuths, and walk through each room in your home on a "draft detection" mission.

Arm them with craft feathers or a piece of tissue, and check for unwanted airflow around window frames, doors, baseboards, electrical outlets, crawl spaces, registers and attic doors. When you find a drafty spot, sound the alarm (we recommend a ghoulish howl) and mark it with a "BOO! An energy ghost lives here!" sticky note.

Once the kids have worked their magic, you can be the wizard and fix the problems with inexpensive weather stripping around doors and windows, door sweeps and insulating outlet inserts as well as caulking any visible cracks around windows, baseboards and trim.

Put your kids in charge of the sun

Now that the scorching summer rays have set, it's time to let the sunshine in. Put your kids on "sun duty." Each morning — we recommend before or after they brush their teeth to help establish healthy and energy-saving habits — enlist your kids to open up the shades and let sunlight warm your home during the day. At night, they'll simply close them when it's time to brush them (their teeth, that is).



Gather 'round the family dinner

Although you should never use your oven to warm your home, there are no rules around using it to whip up a slow-roasted family feast. We recommend easy-to-prepare, kid-friendly sheet pan dinners that'll warm up your kitchen and fill up hungry tummies. (For bonus points: Double up and make enough for school and work lunches.)

Create a snuggling station

Turning down your thermostat by just a few degrees can make a noticeable difference in your energy bill.

Cooler indoor temperatures mean layering up. Find a cozy cranny in your home, and let your kids add a few fuzzy socks, slippers, quilts and maybe even a silly scarf or two. When your kids are feeling chilly, send them to the snuggling station! Not only will they have some fun, but you'll be helping them build energy-saving habits they'll carry well beyond their snuggling station days.

Brad Wagner is a programs operations manager at TVA EnergyRight, and he's committed to helping people make informed decisions and lower their energy costs.



First Skyscraper?

Every city has more than one

History Lesson

by Bill Carey
The Tennessee History Guy



The word “skyscraper” means something different to every generation. In fact, Nashville, Memphis, Knoxville and Chattanooga have all had multiple buildings that were called that city’s “first” skyscraper.

Among them are my nominations for the most poorly built structure in Tennessee history and for the most bizarre “topping off” ceremony in American history.

But before I get to the list, I need to define the word “skyscraper.” These days, it evidently only refers to buildings 30 stories or higher. But buildings have gotten a lot taller over the years. After digging up newspaper articles in the late 1800s and early 1900s that use the word, I have come to believe that the original definition of skyscraper was “a structure considerably taller than it is wide.”

Nashville

The 30-story **Life and Casualty Tower** was the tallest building in the Southeast when it opened in 1957 and dominated the Nashville skyline until the 1980s. Therefore, it is safe to call the L&C Tower Nashville’s first skyscraper. Or was it?

In 1890, the eight-story **Exchange Building** went up at 311 Church St. Three years later, the seven-story **Jackson Building** was erected two blocks away. In the early 20th century, Nashvillians sometimes referred to both structures as their city’s first skyscraper. “It brings to mind Nashville’s first skyscraper, the Jackson Building,” said a 1916 letter by resident R.C. Brien that was published in *The Tennessean*. (The Jackson Building was razed in 1949; the Exchange Building burned in 1954.)

In 1905, when the **First National Bank Building** went up at the corner of Fourth and Church, newspaper headlines proclaimed it to be Nashville’s first skyscraper. “Finishing touches to Nashville’s first skyscraper are being put on,” *the Banner* said in 1905. (The structure, later known as the Third National Bank Building, is now a Courtyard Hotel.)

To complicate matters, many articles published between 1920 and 1950 refer to a different 12-story building built in 1907 by that same description. “Title to the **Stahlman Building**, Nashville’s first skyscraper, is now held by First American National Bank,” *The Tennessean* reported in September 1954. (The Stahlman is now apartments.)

Meanwhile, let’s put this in perspective: Seven decades after it was built, the L&C Tower no longer dominates the Nashville skyline; in fact, it is now the 14th tallest building in the city. With all the buildings under construction or being planned, it will soon slide to about 20th.

So who knows what future generations will call Nashville’s “first skyscraper”?

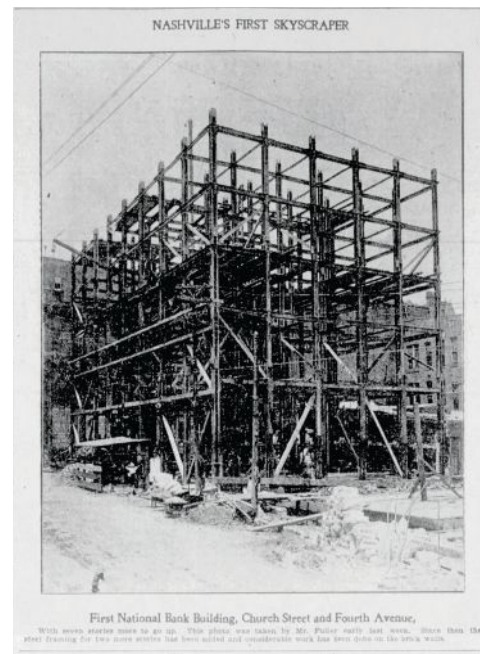
Memphis

In 1891, Memphis businessman William Randolph built a seven-story structure. Later renamed the **Manufacturers and Merchants (M&M) Building**, it was often referred to in 20th century newspapers as Memphis’ first skyscraper.

From today’s perspective, the most exciting thing that ever happened in the M&M Building was when Elvis Presley was inducted into the U.S. Army in the draft office there on March 24, 1958. (The M&M was torn down in the urban renewal era of the late 1960s.)

Four years after the M&M Building went up, the 15-story **D.T. Porter Building** was built. Because its elevators — the first in the city — were a tourist attraction, many Memphians called it the city’s first skyscraper.

“We let them ride the elevators and get on the roof for nothing in the daytime, but if they wanted to see the city at night, it cost them a dime,” said Matt Clavin, who worked there in the 1890s. “Some of them were so frightened that after the rode to the top floor they got off and walked down.”



Top, *Nashville American* newspaper, June 11, 1905.
Above, the same building today, which now houses a Courtyard Hotel.

Tennessee History
for Kids photo

Opposite page, in the 1970s, the L&C Tower was still, by far, the tallest building on the Nashville skyline
Nashville Banner Archives,
Special Collections Division,
Nashville Public Library



Memphis' Porter Building around 1910, top (Memphis and Shelby County Room, Benjamin Hooks Central Library), **and today, above** (Kenneth C. Zirkel/Wikipedia).

The Porter Building was converted to condos in 1983 and still stands at 10 N. Main St. in Memphis.

In 1924, the 22-story **Columbian Mutual Tower** was built in Memphis at the corner of North Main and Court streets. Now known as the Lincoln American Tower, some people referred to it as the city's first skyscraper.

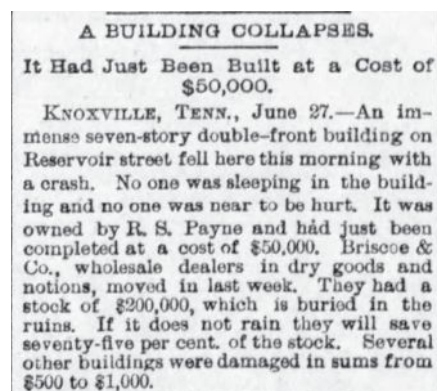
Five years later, the 29-story **Sterrick Building** went up. It remained the tallest building in Tennessee for nearly three decades. A lot of Memphians consider it Memphis' first skyscraper, even though it has been empty for nearly 40 years.

Knoxville

As many as six buildings have been known as "Knoxville's first skyscraper."

The first must have been the most shoddily built structure in Tennessee history. The seven-story **Payne Building** was opened in early 1890. It was named for its owner, former Knoxville Mayor Reuben Payne. As soon as the crew and the architect — there must not have been an engineer — said the building was ready, a department store moved in.

The Payne Building fell down early in the morning of June 27, 1890. "An immense seven-story double-front building on Reservoir Street fell this morning with a crash," newspapers throughout the South reported. There was no tornado or earthquake; it just collapsed on its own. (The reason you haven't heard about this before is that there was no one in the building at the time, so no one was killed.) Many of the shoes, clothes and household items that were in the store when it crashed were later sold at various sales throughout Knoxville. So, for generations later, many residents probably referred to a possession as something that "survived the collapse of Knoxville's first skyscraper."



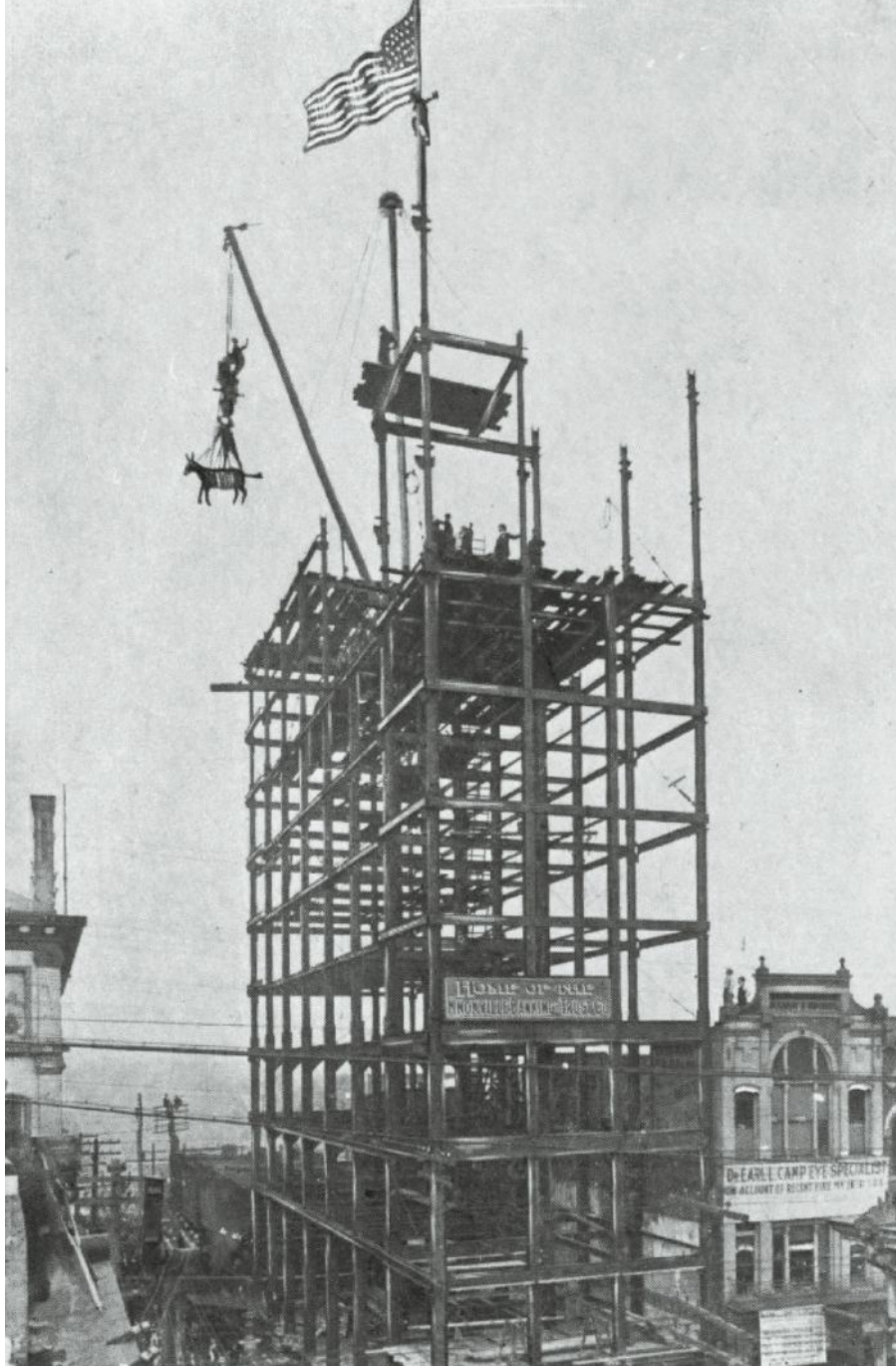
Savannah (Georgia) Morning News, June 28, 1890.

Fifteen years after the Payne Building crumbled, another seven-story structure called the **Arnstein Building** opened at 505 Market. Unlike the Payne, the Arnstein Building didn't fall down. It was originally the home of a department store, then a TVA headquarters, and for the last decade, a combination of retail and residential. Many current reporters refer to the Arnstein as Knoxville's first skyscraper.

Three years later, the 10-story **Knoxville Bank and Trust Building** at Gay and Clinch opened. Its developers knew how to draw a crowd because, in its "topping off" ceremony, a mule called Maud and several men were hoisted to the top of the building. "Higher and higher rose Maud's party, and the great crowds below laughed and cheered," the *Knoxville Journal Tribune* reported on March 8, 1908. "It was quite the most novel entertainment most of them had witnessed." News of Maud the Mule's ride made the papers as far away as Buffalo, New York.

Now called the Burwell Building, the structure that Maud was lifted to the top of is better known as the home of the Tennessee Theatre. A lot of locals refer to it as Knoxville's first skyscraper.

In 1913, the 12-story **Holston National Bank Building** went up, also on Gay Street. Two stories were later added to the structure. It's now a residential building called the Holston,



and you might hear it described as Knoxville's first skyscraper.

In 1928, the 18-story **Andrew Johnson Hotel** opened at 912 Gay St. It would remain the tallest building in Knoxville for more than half a century. Many residents in the mid-20th century referred to the Andrew Johnson Hotel as the city's first skyscraper.

Finally, Jake Butcher built the 27-story **United American Bank Building** in 1979. Since the building was nine stories taller than any other building in Knoxville history, some people refer to it as Knoxville's first skyscraper.

Chattanooga

As best I can tell, Chattanooga had given the title of first skyscraper only twice.

In 1905 the eight-story **News Building** (also known as the **Pound Building**) was completed and for a couple of years was regarded by that title. *The Chattanooga News* was the building's main tenant for several years, and then TVA took over the building in the 1930s. (It was torn down in 1989.)

Shortly after the News Building opened, the 12-story **James Building** was completed at the corner of Eighth and Broad. Today, the James Building is still used as office space, and it is often called Chattanooga's first skyscraper.



Top, Maud the Mule is hoisted to the top of the Knoxville Bank and Trust Building in March 1908 (*University of Tennessee Digital Archives*). **Left, today, most Knoxville residents know the Knoxville Bank and Trust Building as either the Burwell Building or as home of the Tennessee Theatre** (*Wikionright/Wikipedia*). **Right, the Pound Building in Chattanooga, which was home to the Chattanooga News for many years** (*Paul Hiener Collection, Chattanooga Public Library*).

PARKS IN PROGRESS

Tennessee to soon add new state parks

Story by Trish Milburn • Photographs by Rachel B. Lee

No matter the season, a trip to any of Tennessee's state parks can be both enjoyable and educational. Whether you love dropping a line in a lake in an attempt to land the big one, trying your luck on the golf course or learning about Tennessee's frontier history by touring historic structures, you'll find something to your liking. From T.O. Fuller State Park in Memphis to Roan Mountain State Park in Carter County, Tennessee's 60 state parks vary as widely as the state's landscape.

Even though 60 is an impressive number of parks, that number will be increasing to preserve more land, history and recreational opportunities for Tennesseans and visitors to the state to enjoy. Though there are currently no definite dates available for the official establishment of these new state parks, they are in the works.

Devil's Backbone State Park

This future park, the creation of which was set in motion in Gov. Bill Lee's 2023 budget, showcases Tennessee State Parks' method of strategic

reclassification through which existing state natural areas and historic sites are being elevated to full state park status. This method of creating new state parks allows for the unlocking of substantial development funding and enhanced management while not having to go through the lengthy and more costly process of acquiring all new land and creating new parks from scratch.

Nature enthusiasts already enjoy the Devil's Backbone State Natural Area, located in Lewis County, adjacent to the Natchez Trace Parkway — a National Park Service unit that sees more than 6.5 million visitors a year.

"Devil's Backbone State Park will be able to serve as a gateway to Tennessee State Parks for visitors traveling the Natchez Trace Parkway," says Park Manager Rachel Lee. "They will be able to stop at a Tennessee State Park right on the Parkway.

Transitioning from a natural area to a state park and natural area allows us to preserve a prime example of the Western Highland Rim while telling its story to visitors, providing us the

opportunity to fulfill our mission by protecting and sharing this wonderful resource."

For visitors who are capable of moderately strenuous hiking, a 3-mile trail provides a great way to enjoy a quiet walk in the woods. Listening to the birds sing and the wind dance through tree canopy as you make your way along this loop trail is a great way to relax, get some exercise and help alleviate stress all at once. Be aware that there is a 200-foot change in elevation, however, as the trail descends to a creek and then back up to the ridge.

The soon-to-be state park is a relatively rare high-quality example of the Western Highland Rim that Lee mentioned, a collection of forest communities filled with several varieties of trees in the oak, maple, sycamore, tulip, hickory and beech families.

Fort Southwest Point State Historic Park

Slated to become Tennessee's newest state historic park, Fort Southwest

Point in Kingston will also have the distinction of being the smallest park in the system at just under 40 acres. This park is already open to the public, operated by Kingston City Parks and will continue to be so while the transition takes place.

Fort Southwest Point provides the opportunity for visitors to step into the late 18th century, when Tennessee had just become a state. Constructed in 1797 and in use until 1811, it was the first federal fort in the state and today is the only pioneer-era fort in Tennessee that has been reconstructed at its original location. On the National Register of Historic Places since 1972 for its historic and archaeological significance, the park has a museum where you can view artifacts that have been excavated on the site.

Historic re-enactments with costumed interpreters happen at various points throughout the year — from the Living History Days in the summer to the Colonial Christmas

Candlelight Tour in December. The fact that the fort sits at the beautiful confluence of the Clinch and Tennessee rivers is just a bonus.

Head of the Crow State Park

This 4,258-acre park might just win in a contest of coolest park name, which refers to the headwaters of Crow Creek. Currently operated as part of South Cumberland State Park, the new park will bring together under one umbrella these four existing state natural areas: Sherwood Forest, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lee Carter, Natural Bridge and Hawkins Cove.

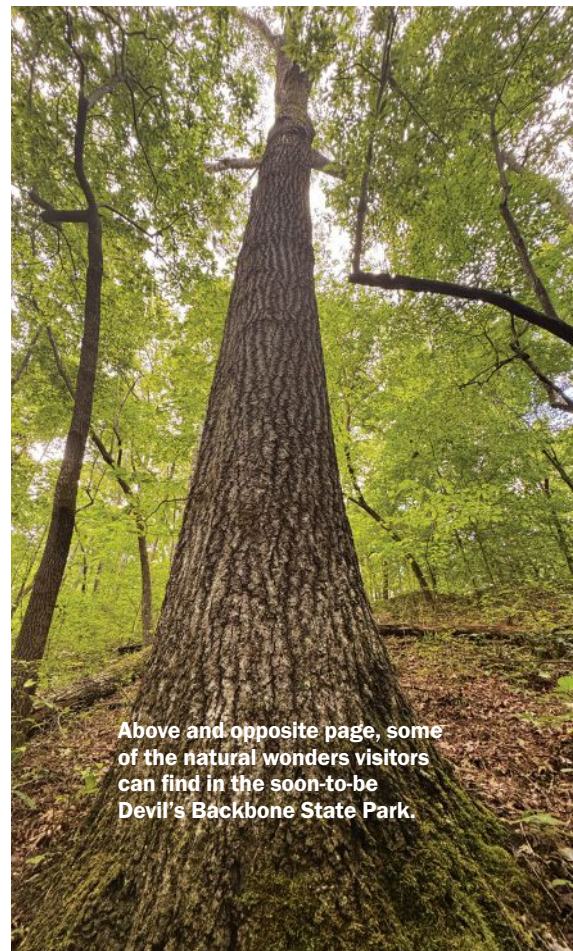
Joining all these lovely areas together as one park will help staff be able to bring to visitors a better outdoor recreation experience. Visitors will be able to enjoy an impressive variety of experiences: the cave system at the Carter site, a 50-foot natural sandstone arch at Natural Bridge and preservation efforts for federally endangered and threatened species such as the Cumberland

rosinweed sunflower and Morefield's leather flower.

Hiwassee Scenic River State Park and Ocoee River State Park

While Head of the Crow combines current recreation destinations into one park, the current Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park will instead be divided into two separate parks. Operation will continue under the joint park as two distinct management plans and offerings are developed. Anyone, including outfitters, with existing reservations will have those honored. No action is required on their part.

Why split the two? Each river has its own unique personality and attraction. The Hiwassee offers a gentler paddling experience than the whitewater rapids of the Ocoee. Having each be its own park will allow management and programs that highlight those distinct personalities and cater to visitors looking for very different river experiences.



Above and opposite page, some of the natural wonders visitors can find in the soon-to-be Devil's Backbone State Park.

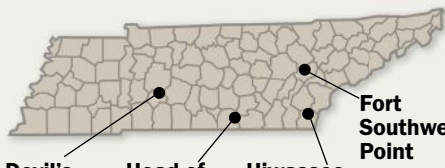
A win for everyone

Preservation of Tennessee's natural resources, history and outdoor recreational opportunities are not the only benefits that come from the establishment of new state parks. The communities close to these parks also benefit from the additional dollars pumped into the hospitality and retail sectors of the local economies.

In February of this year, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation released information about the economic impact that state parks had in 2024. According to a study conducted by Impact Data-

Source, that figure totaled \$1.9 billion in jobs created, household income generated and tax revenue (both state and local).

"We are proud of the impact our state parks have on the Tennessee economy," said David Salyers, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, at the time the data report was released. "We are grateful to Gov. Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly for having such vision and commitment to conservation, and the figures show how that works for all Tennesseans."

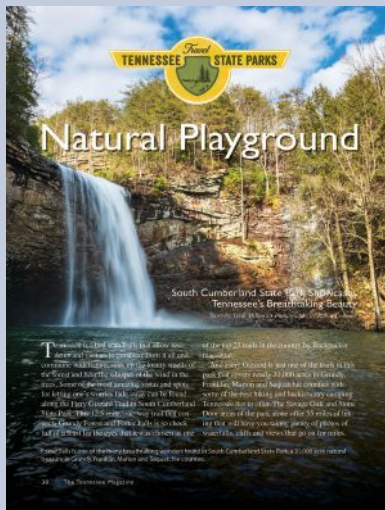


Devil's Backbone **Head of the Crow** **Hiwassee Scenic River and Ocoee River** **Fort Southwest Point**

To learn more about the parks that are in progress, visit tnstateparks.com/about/future-state-parks on the Tennessee State Parks site. Find a full listing of parks at tnstateparks.com/about/find-a-park.

Discover more online!

Be sure to check out tnmagazine.org/category/features/state-parks to find all of *The Tennessee Magazine's* features spotlighting our state parks, including South Cumberland State Park (published in March 2020) and Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park (December 2023), two parks currently managing areas to be set aside as future state parks.



Tennessee State Parks

Natural Playground

South Cumberland State Park, Tennessee's breathtaking beauty

"This is a park with so much to offer... it's not just a park, it's a playground."

"The park is a natural playground, a place where you can find everything you need for a perfect day outdoors. From hiking trails to fishing spots, there's something for everyone. The views are incredible, and the staff is so helpful. It's a true gem of Tennessee."

March 2020 31



Tennessee State Parks

ADVENTURE AWAITS

Follow us into the rich woods and waterways winding through Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park

"The park is a true gem, with stunning views and a wealth of outdoor activities. The staff is knowledgeable and friendly, and the facilities are top-notch. It's a great place to spend a day with family or friends."

December 2023 37



Tennessee State Parks

Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park

"The park is a true gem, with stunning views and a wealth of outdoor activities. The staff is knowledgeable and friendly, and the facilities are top-notch. It's a great place to spend a day with family or friends."

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Fanfare for fall

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



Franken-Wine

It's eerie how much we love fall. It's spooky how much we want to celebrate this season. And it's almost frightening how many ways you can use these recipes! You can enjoy several of these delicious drinks as written in front of a cozy fire ... or manipulate them in your kitchen laboratory with the ingredients of your choice when you want to howl at the moon!

Eye See You Hot Chocolate

Yield: 6 servings

- 12 large marshmallows
- 12 chocolate chips
- ½ cup water
- ⅓ cup sugar
- ¼ cup cocoa
- Pinch of salt
- 4 cups milk, room temperature
- ¼ teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Make a slit in the center of each marshmallow with a paring knife. Insert a chocolate chip into the slit and set aside.

In a heavy saucepan over medium heat, combine the water, sugar, cocoa and salt. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Stir in the milk and remove from the heat. Stir in the extract and blend well. Ladle into warm mugs and place 2 marshmallows in each cup. Serve immediately.

Pumpkin Spice Syrup

Yield: 1¼ cups

- ⅓ cup granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons firmly packed dark brown sugar
- 1 cup water
- 3 cinnamon sticks
- 2 tablespoons pumpkin puree (not pumpkin pie filling)
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
- ⅛ teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Place the granulated sugar, brown sugar and water in a heavy saucepan over medium heat. Add the cinnamon sticks, pumpkin puree, nutmeg, ginger and cloves. Bring to a simmer, then reduce the heat to low and simmer, uncovered, for 15 minutes. Stir in the vanilla and remove from the heat. Allow to cool for 15 minutes, then pour through a fine meshed sieve into a canning jar; discard the solids. Cool completely, then cover and use immediately or refrigerate for later use.

Floating Hands

Prepare at least a day before you need the hands to float in a punch bowl!

Yield: 2 hands

- 6 cups water, divided
- 6 drops green food coloring, divided
- 2 new large or extra large plastic household gloves

Cover a baking sheet with paper towels. Invert 2 shallow custard cups on the sheet and set aside. Place half of the water in a pitcher and stir in half of the green food coloring. Blend well. Pour into the glove and tightly secure the top with a twist tie and clamp. Place on the prepared pan and elevate the tied end against the cup to prevent leakage. Repeat with the remaining glove, and carefully place in the freezer for at least 12 hours. When ready to float, cut the glove away from the frozen hand and put on top of the punch.

Franken-Wine

Plan ahead to allow time for freezing the grapes!

Yield: 4½ cups

- Green seedless grapes
- 1 bottle dry white wine*
- ½ cup brandy*
- ½ cup sugar
- 2⅓ cups lemon-lime sparkling water or carbonated soda

Place the washed and patted dry grapes in a single layer on a parchment-lined rimmed baking sheet. Transfer the sheet to the freezer and freeze for 3 hours. If not using right away, transfer the frozen grapes to a zip-top bag and return to the freezer.

Meanwhile, combine the wine, brandy and sugar in a large pitcher. Stir to blend until the sugar dissolves. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. When ready to serve, add the sparkling water or soda. Add half of the frozen grapes to the pitcher. Add a couple of the remaining grapes to each serving goblet and enjoy.

**Nonalcoholic Version: Substitute nonalcoholic wine for the dry white wine and omit the brandy.*

Boo-bon Zinger with Bloodshot Eyes

Make the eyeball ice cubes ahead of time.

Yield: 10-12 servings

- 1 (10-ounce) jar whole stemless red maraschino cherries
- 1 (12-ounce) can frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed
- 1 (12-ounce) can frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed
- 2 cups bourbon, optional*
- 2 (1-liter) bottles sparkling water (plain or lime)

Drain the cherries, reserving the juice. Rinse the cherries and drain. Place one cherry in each section of an ice cube tray and top off with water. Freeze for 3 hours. If not using right away, transfer the cubes to a large zip-top bag and return to the freezer.

Meanwhile, in a large pitcher, stir together the reserved cherry juice, lemonade concentrate, orange juice concentrate and bourbon, if using. Cover and refrigerate.

When ready to serve, pour the bourbon mixture into a punch bowl and add the sparkling water. Place the cherry cubes in each serving glass, ladle in some Zinger and enjoy.

**Nonalcoholic version: Substitute nonalcoholic or alcohol-free bourbon for traditional bourbon.*

I Want to Drink Your ... Pomegranate Martini

Yield: 4 servings

- 2 cups tequila
- 1 cup chilled pomegranate juice
- ¾ cup lime juice
- ¾ cup Grand Marnier
- ¼ cup grenadine

Place the tequila, pomegranate juice, lime juice, Grand Marnier and grenadine in a large container filled halfway with ice. Cover and shake well for 30 seconds. Strain and pour into glasses and enjoy.

**Note: This can be made ahead of time. Simply combine without the ice and refrigerate.*

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.



I Want to Drink Your ... Pomegranate Martini

Tips & Tricks

Get a jump on the preparation time for punches and drinks by combining the base ingredients ahead of time. Refrigerate the mixture tightly covered so it won't absorb any refrigerator odors. Simply add the chilled carbonated requirement just before guests arrive or prior to serving.

For hot beverages that stay that way longer, run some hot water into the mugs and drain before filling with the warm mixture.

If you have a recipe calling for "dutch" cocoa, you can use regular cocoa powder instead. "Dutch" cocoa has the natural acidity neutralized through the treatment of alkali.



Eye See You Hot Chocolate

Ask Chef Tammy

Shellie asks, "I have several of my grandmother's handwritten recipes that I want to try and make. In most of them, she says to cook in a moderate oven. What is the temperature for that?"

Shellie, a moderate oven temperature is 350 degrees. A medium-high temperature is 400 degrees, and a hot oven is 450 degrees.

Marcus writes, "Why is it necessary for me to cook custards in a pan of hot water in the oven. Can't I just cook it in the oven by itself?"

Marcus, a hot water bath is commonly called for when cooking delicate foods like custards. In essence, it helps maintain a constant temperature around the custard containers. This prevents the custard from overcooking. An added benefit is that it also helps prevent cracks from forming, particularly on the surface of cheesecakes when prepared in this manner.

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

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Community Corner

– What our neighbors are up to –

Find the Tennessee Flag

We have hidden somewhere in this magazine the icon from the Tennessee flag like the one pictured above. 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 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/flag or email flag@tnelectric.org. Entries must be postmarked or received via email

by Friday, Oct. 31. 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 location of the flag, left, which was found on the frozen drink machine on page 31.

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

Norma Anderson

Newbern, Forked Deer EC

Anthony Abbate

Spring Hill, Duck River EMC

Diane Bustin

Harrogate, Powell 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, Oct. 31.

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:

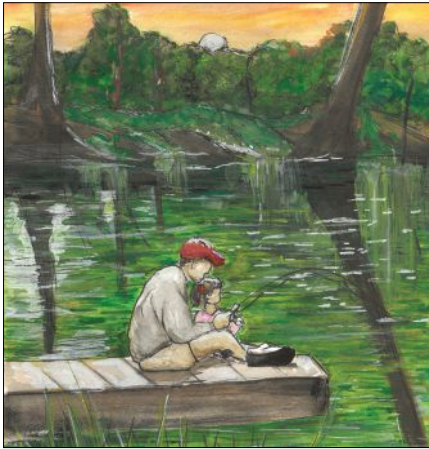
You may send multiple entries in one envelope along with one SASE with sufficient postage.

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

14-18 AGE GROUP WINNERS



FIRST PLACE: Cecily B. McDaniel,
16, Southwest Tennessee EMC

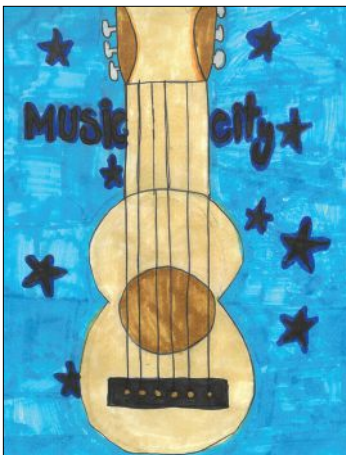


SECOND PLACE: Nora Sanfilippo,
15, Middle Tennessee Electric

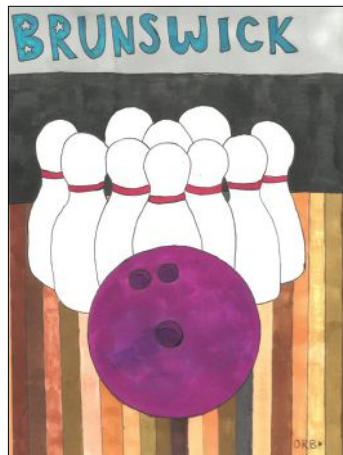


THIRD PLACE: Samuel Nicosia,
16, Duck River EMC

9-13 AGE GROUP WINNERS



FIRST PLACE: Quinn Tompkins,
9, Middle Tennessee Electric



SECOND PLACE: Olivia Booker,
13, Duck River EMC



THIRD PLACE: Tirzah Smith,
11, Meriwether Lewis EC

8 AND YOUNGER AGE GROUP WINNERS



FIRST PLACE: Greta Larson,
7, Middle Tennessee Electric



SECOND PLACE: Noelle Taber,
5, Caney Fork EC



THIRD PLACE: Rinnah McAulay,
7, Duck River EMC

Point of View

by Robin Conover

“Fall Color in Tremont”

Canon EOS 5D Mark IV, EF 24-70 mm *f*2.8L USM 2.8 at 24mm, ISO 100, *f*-22 at 1 second with a circular polarizer, Gitzo tripod

Tennessee, renowned for its remarkable biodiversity, offers many hidden gems that await your exploration. This fall, embark on a road trip to witness the state’s captivating fall festivals, breathtaking scenery and vibrant fall foliage.

As you journey east to west, you’ll encounter six distinct physiographic regions: the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Ridge-and-Valley Appalachians, the Cumberland Plateau, the Highland Rim, the Central Basin and the Gulf Coastal Plain.

For photographers seeking to capture the essence of fall color, the eastern Blue Ridge Mountains, particularly the Smoky Mountains, are an ideal starting point. Tennessee’s fall foliage begins in the higher elevations of this region in October and gradually spreads across the state to the west throughout November.

One of my favorite locations to capture the season’s beauty is the Tremont area within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, near Townsend. The road that leads to this scenic spot snakes along the Middle Prong of the Little River. Several tributaries along the way offer numerous opportunities to capture the fall color of the hardwood forest.

The Tremont area gives visitors easy access to a diverse array of mountain streams throughout the year, but it truly comes alive in the fall. The combination of colorful fallen leaves blanketing the rocks and the soothing sound of the rushing mountain streams epitomizes the essence of fall in East Tennessee.

While finding the perfect location is a crucial step, the remaining challenge lies in harnessing your technical skills with your smartphone or camera. Here are some valuable tips to ensure a successful fall photograph:

- Adjust your shutter speed to capture the movement of the water. This

requires a tripod or some other means to maintain stillness during the longer exposure.

- Opt for early morning, late afternoon or slightly overcast skies for optimal lighting conditions. Overhead midday sun can be too harsh and contrasty.
- Utilize a circular polarizer to reduce glare on the rocks and the water’s surface.
- Try to avoid weekends if possible, as crowds of leaf peepers will flock to the most popular areas.

- Timing is crucial when it comes to finding fall color at its peak. You might want to track the fall color progression through websites like tnstateparks.com/blog/where-and-when-to-view-fall-colors-in-tennessee-state-parks and nps.gov/natr/planyourvisit/fall-colors.htm.

I hope you enjoy the sights and sounds of fall as much as I do. Fall has always been a time of reflection, renewal and peace for me, and it’s also a time to get outside and explore.



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