

the  
tennessee  
magazine

June 2026

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THERE'S A PLACE:  
FAYETTEVILLE  
FUN AT THE FAIR  
AIR-FRIED DELIGHTS





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*by Mark Johnson*

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*Illustration by Shane Read*



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the  
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magazine

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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*

## Why vegetation management matters

Trees are an important part of our community. They provide shade, beauty and a sense of place throughout every season. At the same time, reliable electricity is essential to our homes, businesses and daily routines.

At Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, we work to protect both. One of the most important ways we do that is through regular tree trimming and vegetation management around power lines. While it might not always be noticeable, this work plays a key role in preventing outages, improving safety and keeping electric service reliable for our members.

Keeping power lines clear of overgrown trees and vegetation is one of the most effective ways to reduce service interruptions. During storms, high winds, ice and heavy rain can cause branches to fall onto lines, damaging equipment and causing outages. In fact, trees and vegetation are among the leading causes of power disruptions.

That is why you might see CEMC crews or our contractors working in neighborhoods throughout the year. These crews are specially trained to trim vegetation safely and according to industry standards. Their work is

planned and proactive, helping address potential problems before they lead to outages.

Vegetation management is also a necessary part of operating an electric system. Utilities are required to maintain safe clearances around power lines. Regular trimming removes dead or weakened limbs and helps prevent fast-growing trees from interfering with electric service, especially as severe weather becomes more common.

Safety is another important reason this work matters. Trees that contact power lines can become energized, posing serious hazards. Children climbing nearby trees might not recognize the danger. Fallen trees and branches after storms can also create unsafe conditions for homeowners and crews working to restore service.

Regular tree trimming also helps control costs. Preventive maintenance is far less expensive than repairing damaged lines, replacing poles and restoring power after major outages. By regularly managing vegetation, we can reduce unexpected expenses and help keep costs lower for our members.

Members can help by planning carefully when planting new trees and landscaping. Trees that grow up to

*(Continued on page 23)*

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

## Remember when...

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

As we get older, health issues or even everyday aches, pains and stress can prevent us from enjoying life.

So what's keeping you from having a better quality of life?

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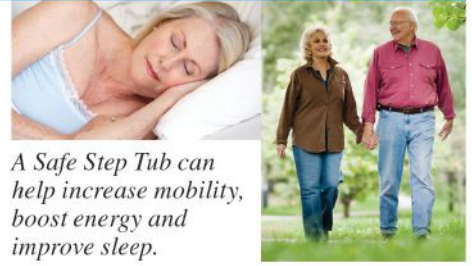
## Personal Checklist:

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Then read on to learn how a Safe Step Walk-In Tub can help.

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By Mike Knotts

*Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association*

# Time marches on

**S**ometimes, it can be hard to admit defeat — especially when the battle you are waging is close to home. It is human nature, and it just plain feels good, to win rather than to lose. So, as a society, we have oriented some of our expectations about life around the concepts of winning.

I'm sure many of you can still hear the voice in your head from the beginning of "ABC's Wide World of Sports" iconically preparing viewers for "the thrill of victory ... and the agony of defeat." Those words were accompanied by a rotating set of visual examples such as a highlight of a champion boxer lifted upon the shoulders of an adoring crowd before the scene faded to the moment a competitive skier crashed into a fence. The video always caused a crescendo of emotion that resulted in an uncomfortable feeling of loss deep in your gut.

My recent moment of defeat came in a not-too-particularly dramatic fashion and was not something that anyone other than my own family experienced. I was sorting printed photos of one of our kids and made a mistake that felt a lot like losing to me. After much effort of organizing and sorting and categorizing and laying out the photos in an aesthetically pleasing way, the moment of truth came when my son casually walked by and said three words: "That's not me."

Ouch.

In my own defense, I am the father of identical twins. They have spent their entire lives being asked, "Where is your brother?" "Do you like the same things?" and, "Which

one are you?" While it might be their everyday reality, and they rarely complain, I can't help but believe it has to get old when your own identity is so closely tied to someone else. But they take it all in stride and with grace, and they both have amazing (albeit differing) personalities. And they deeply love each other.

But that didn't lessen the sting when I confused them in the photos. Frankly, I still get it wrong on an all-too-frequent basis, especially if I am distracted. And it feels like a defeat to me each time. Thankfully, these two kind and mature young men brush it off and ease my shame with a hug and a positive word.

And by the time you read this, they will have experienced their own thrill of victory by graduating high school. Someone recently asked them if they were ready for living in a college dorm, and since they have shared a room with each other their entire life, the answer was quick and witty: "We've been living dorm life since Day 1!"

And in case you are wondering — same school but different roommates.

Good luck in your next chapter, Will and Wes. Enjoy the thrills, endure the defeats and know that each is there to teach you about life and help to anchor your identity. Not in your twin brother but in your status as a beloved child of God. Don't forget that your mom and dad come in a close second.



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By Chris Kirk  
Editor, *The Tennessee Magazine*

# I just want to celebrate!

**W**elcome to June, and welcome to summer! Well, we don't officially change seasons until June 21, but it sure has felt like summer across Tennessee for weeks. Kids are out of school, pools are open and parks are offering an array of educational and entertaining programming.

June marks several noteworthy dates for our state, nation and families. Tennessee's Statehood Day is June 1, and, of course, Independence Day is July 4, with this year's celebrations commemorating our country's 250th birthday. And in between is Father's Day. I'm looking forward to the annual Father's Day Plunge at my neighborhood pool where all attention turns to a parade of dads showcasing their best cannonballs, can openers and other acrobatics. The kids love it — maybe as much as the dads. I'm told my signature move is called a "watermelon."

*The Tennessee Magazine* also gets to celebrate our state and communities this month as we unveil winners of the Best of Tennessee Readers' Choice Awards. I'm coming up with excuses to check out as many of these businesses and attractions — highlighted on pages 12-17 — as I can this summer and beyond.

Another cause for celebration is the arrival of fair season. The midways and show barns will be jumping across Tennessee. See pages 18 and 19 to find dates of the state's agricultural fairs.

I suppose a person can only tolerate so many corn dogs, funnel cakes and similar decadent treats. I know I appreciate a home-cooked meal after a schedule packed with travel and adventure. So I'll definitely be adding this month's air fryer recipes from "A Taste of Tennessee" to the rotation. Prep time is minimal, cleanup is easy and the dishes look amazing! See page 36.

Oh, and while you're out celebrating summer, be on the lookout for photo opportunities fitting our "Red, White or Blue" Shutterbug Photography Contest. Find details on page 39.

Thanks for reading,

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# I have issues with our state bird

Our state bird is outside our bedroom window. Well, probably not THE state bird, but she's the same breed. It's 4:30 a.m. on a Tuesday, and she's been singing at the top of her lungs since just after midnight. My closed double-paned windows bring little relief. I've had to resort to earplugs.

The northern mockingbird — whose scientific name is *mimus polyglottos*, meaning “many-tongued mimic” — never seems to shut up. Singing at all hours of the night, the nocturnal mockingbird is known for its wide vocabulary of notes and extremely territorial nature.

As I hear the mockingbird's frenetic singing, I am reminded of a blind date I once endured across the table from a well-coiffed woman in a sweater with shoulder holes.\* She allowed me to say exactly five words, my first and only sentence of the night: “So, tell me about yourself.” The ensuing onslaught of her life history and endless verbosity gave me an eye twitch that lasted for weeks and forever installed what I now call my “tone trigger,” which activates when I hear sounds at 2,500 hertz or higher. She only took breaths to reload. I'm sure she found a very nice man who doesn't talk much and is hard of hearing.

That's the mockingbird: loud, unceasing and pervasive. Other birds like mourning doves have very little to say, and they say it all in those lazy, low-key five notes. Some of us are mockingbirds, and some of us are mourning doves. If I were a bird, I'd prefer to hang out with the mourning doves.

This particular mockingbird also thinks she owns the entire front yard, every tree in it and all the bird feeders.

Springtime usually brings a variety of birds to our feeders — from the tiny chickadee to the tufted titmouse — having returned from Southern climes. Warblers and finches of all kinds have enjoyed our feeders during the rotation of eight seasons now. Two years. That is, until this one mockingbird showed up. She first came for the suet stand I had made available to the many woodpeckers and sapsuckers in our neighborhood. She won't

touch any of the other food, but she dive-bombs any bird that dares try and eat it.\*\*

It begs the question: Why do we have such an obnoxious bird representing us? Tennessee is one of the most beautiful, amazing states in the Union, filled with kind, peaceful, compassionate people who

deserve a more fitting state bird, one that is more in line with the chill, civil vibe we enjoy here, not some caterwauling bully prone to nocturnal conniptions.

Well, I did a little research. And the answers are quite interesting. Turns out, timing is everything.

The mockingbird was selected during one of the darkest hours of American history. The Tennessee Ornithological Society organized and conducted the statewide election on April 11, 1933. Students and educators were heavily involved in the advocacy and voting process, which was part of a larger movement to foster regional pride during the dark days of the Great Depression. Over 70,000 citizens cast votes. The mockingbird won by 480 votes. Results showed the mockingbird getting

15,553 votes, narrowly beating the robin, which received

15,073 votes. The Tennessee General Assembly officially confirmed the people's choice by adopting Senate Joint Resolution 51 on April 19, 1933, and Gov. Hill McAlister signed the legislation into law. The mock-

“Why do we have such an obnoxious bird representing us? Tennessee is one of the most beautiful, amazing states in the Union, filled with kind, peaceful, compassionate people who deserve a more fitting state bird ... not some caterwauling bully prone to nocturnal conniptions.”



## These footnotes have never harmed birds or any other living creature

\* I never understood that fashion trend. Who was the first designer who felt the shoulder needed liberating? “I know,” they said. “We’ll take a perfectly good sweater and cut two big holes in it so the shoulders can poke out!” I guess it was just a matter of time, as otherwise sane people have been walking around with huge holes in the knees of their jeans for decades now. It’s a matching set. I’m anxiously awaiting elbow liberation. That’ll be some real fun. Come on, Paris, what are you waiting for? We’ve been

covering our elbows with patches for far too long.

\*\* I try my best, I really do, to keep these columns bird-free. My editor has asked that I keep it at less than 30% of my output. I get it. I understand that not everyone is into birds. And unlike other bird people, I don’t necessarily think something is wrong with you if you are not into birds. I do suspect, though, like other bird people, that everyone eventually gets into birds, and maybe

it just isn’t your time yet. I get that your heart might not melt when you hear mourning doves, for instance (mine softens to the consistency of a poached egg), but I firmly believe that if you live long enough, something will happen to first make you curious about birds, and you will soon thereafter spend every spare penny on squirrel-proof feeders, birdseed, fancy binoculars and cameras that link to an app on your phone. It’s just a matter of time. A bonus for us older bird watchers: Most little kids

are fascinated by birds, so it’s a grand activity for any grandparent to share with the next generations.

\*\*\* I would love to be a fly on the wall when that offender gets on the inside and is asked what he’s in for. First day of prison, in line for lunch. Will they make bird sounds at him? Will they mock him as they watch “To Kill a Mockingbird”? Will these hard-nosed criminals — in for armed robbery and assault — nickname him Atticus Finch?

ingbird was reportedly selected due to its “year-round presence in the state, its extraordinary singing ability and its bold personality.”

The mockingbird has been the topic of many songs, the most popular being the 1974 duet by James Taylor and Carly Simon. Brother and sister duo Inez and Charlie Foxx wrote the song and first recorded it in 1963, putting it on the radar for rearrangements by countless artists over the years. It was inspired by the timeless lullaby, “Hush, Little Baby (Don’t You Cry).”

Despite all of us singing about it, the mockingbird remains a complicated creature. Bird experts caution us all to stay clear of the bird when they are mating and nesting — that’s late March to mid-June around here. The northern mockingbird is ranked third in the U.S., after the great horned owl and red shouldered hawk, as being the most aggressive. If you get too close to a mockingbird nest, you will be dive-bombed, scratched, pecked and/or generally harassed. But these aggressors are protected. If you cause harm to a northern mockingbird (and other similar migratory birds), you can face up to six months in prison and a fine of \$500.\*\*\*

Reports of mockingbird attacks abound in the U.S., with some people admitting to wearing bicycle helmets when they walk their dogs. Some birders are so leery of the breed, they will use harassing measures of their own to keep the birds from nesting on their property. Repellents, noise machines and certain nontoxic substances are available. Other enthusiasts just recommend patience, as the birds will disappear in a few months. But those few months are peak birder season, and we wait all winter for this time. We look forward to the lovely variety of returning birds, only to be chased away by this obnoxious troublemaker — the Tennessee state bird.

As I’ve talked with other bird enthusiasts, we often end up at the same place: Birds and people really aren’t that much different. We exhibit many, if not all the same

behaviors: loyalty, love, care and compassion on the one side and anger, greed, territory-hoarding and aggression on the other. We wage wars over natural resources. Bird life is a filter, really, a microcosm showing us our own foibles and insecurities, and they are just as silly and petty and small as that of a bird’s.

A bird’s eye view (so to speak) of our planet reveals a divided and war-torn human race who has plenty of food if we but share. I think about this every day. As I watch the birds fight over the several feeders I keep full, I mutter, “There’s plenty for everyone! Do I not always take care of you? Don’t I refill the feeders before they get empty? Why do you all fight so much?”

Thankfully, there are many other birds much less territorial. I can watch as they hop aside while another bird approaches — like the man I saw give up his seat for a woman at the doctor’s office the other day. I can watch while a male cardinal feeds his mate the best and biggest seeds — like the beautiful, elderly couple I saw at the restaurant sampling each other’s entrees and smiling blissfully while they chewed.

Yes, it’s true. The world has bad people in it. They attack. They hoard. They yell. But if we make the effort to notice, there are far more good people around. They’re not as loud. They’re much quieter. They smile warmly at strangers. And they inform those of us who are watching what breed of bird we want to be.

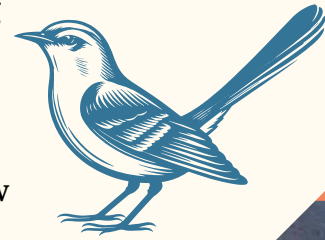
### Download Antsy’s song, “Leftover Birds”

Antsy McClain is a Nashville-adjacent singer-songwriter, author and graphic artist. Go to [unhitched.com](http://unhitched.com) for more. Use this QR code to download “Leftover Birds” FREE to readers of *The Tennessee Magazine*. The song is not about birds at all but about a duo he saw at Tootsie’s Orchid Lounge at 1 p.m. on a Tuesday who, despite seeming too old to be there, were singing their hearts out. He thinks of them often and hopes they’re still singing.





What are the best places in Tennessee for a bite to eat, a day to explore and a memory to make? We asked, and you answered by the thousands. For our contest this year, we selected six categories for the best of the three grand divisions to shine, and now it's time for the moment we've all been waiting for. We present the winners of the 2026 Best of Tennessee Readers' Choice Awards, selected by the ones who know Tennessee best – you!



# Best Hamburger

- |        |                           |            |
|--------|---------------------------|------------|
| West   | <b>Smokey Joe's BBQ</b>   | Selmer     |
| Middle | <b>Jiffy Burger</b>       | Manchester |
| East   | <b>Stock &amp; Barrel</b> | Knoxville  |

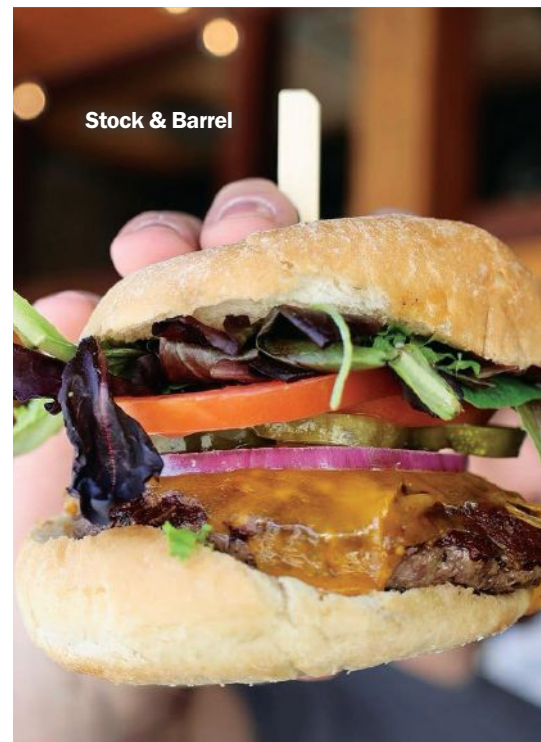


## FEATURE SPOT

### Smokey Joe's BBQ • Selmer

Smokey Joe's BBQ is where family-owned meets a hometown crowd and maybe some barbecue sauce on your chin. The restaurant is found in Pickwick Electric Cooperative's service territory and offers a full menu,

daily plate lunch specials and a salad bar specially crafted for customers. This Selmer favorite specializes in ribs, barbecue, brisket and chicken but is also well known and now award-winning for fresh ground beef hamburgers. Even though Smokey Joe's is in a small community, the family and joy continue to grow with every relationship built and plate shared with everyday customers.



# Best Museum/ Art Gallery

<b>West</b>	<b>Discovery Park of America</b>	<b>Union City</b>
<b>Middle</b>	<b>Frist Art Museum</b>	<b>Nashville</b>
<b>East</b>	<b>Hunter Museum of American Art</b>	<b>Chattanooga</b>

## FEATURE SPOT

### Frist Art Museum • Nashville

The Frist Art Museum is where visual arts meet hands-on experiences. Since the doors first opened in 2001, the Nashville museum has been dedicated to presenting the finest visual art from all over the world while offering a variety of educational experiences. As a noncollecting institution, there are

new exhibitions every six to eight weeks. Available year-round is the award-winning Martin ArtQuest where families can learn about art and engage in hands-on activities. Some new exhibits to visit this summer include “International Surrealism from Tate: Fifty Years of Dreams,” “Anila Quayyum Agha: Interwoven” and “An Indigenous Present.” For 25 years, the staff has been proud to be more than just a museum building but a resource for the entire community.



Hunter Museum  
of American Art



Frist Art Museum



Discovery Park  
of America



Suba's Restaurant

# Best Place for Dessert

<b>West</b>	<b>Dumplings Bistro and Bakery</b>	<b>Jackson</b>
<b>Middle</b>	<b>Triple Crown Bakery</b>	<b>Franklin</b>
<b>East</b>	<b>Suba's Restaurant</b>	<b>Mountain City</b>

## FEATURE SPOT

**Suba's Restaurant**  
• Mountain City

Suba's Restaurant is where professionally trained chefs meet a friendly atmosphere. This dining experience is located inside Mountain Electric Cooperative's service area. While it might be a small restaurant, it has an extensive menu — from soup, salads

and sandwiches at lunch to steaks, seafood and chicken at dinner. Customers always make sure to leave room, though, for a treat from the dessert display that's filled daily with butterscotch pie, cheesecakes, bread pudding and more. The husband-and-wife owner duo are heading into their 28th year since opening and still enjoy bringing this culinary joy to everyone who walks through their doors.



Dumplings Bistro and Bakery



Triple Crown Bakery

# Best State Park

<b>West</b>	<b>Reelfoot Lake State Park</b>	<b>Tiptonville</b>
<b>Middle</b>	<b>Fall Creek Falls State Park</b>	<b>Spencer</b>
<b>East</b>	<b>Roan Mountain State Park</b>	<b>Roan Mountain</b>

## FEATURE SPOT

### Reelfoot Lake State Park • Tiptonville

Reelfoot Lake State Park is where a natural wonder meets endless outdoor opportunities. This 280-acre park in Tiptonville is served by Gibson Electric was created by the 1811-1812 New Madrid earthquakes. The park is the site of Tennessee's only large naturally

occurring lake, which is a haven for numerous wildlife species and recreation activities like canoeing and kayaking. Daily tours are led to see the thousands of bald eagles that call Reelfoot home. There are also five trails available for hiking, all rated on the easy level and ranging from a half-mile to 2 miles long. If you'd like to spend more than just a day exploring, the park has seven lakeside cabins to rent and more than 100 tent and RV campsites.



Fall Creek Falls State Park



Roan Mountain State Park



Reelfoot Lake State Park



Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival  
Photograph by Phill McDonald

# Best Tennessee Festival

- |               |   |                   |
|---------------|---|-------------------|
| <b>West</b>   | <b>West Tennessee Strawberry Festival</b> | <b>Humboldt</b>   |
| <b>Middle</b> | <b>Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival</b>   | <b>Manchester</b> |
| <b>East</b>   | <b>Big Ears Festival</b>                  | <b>Knoxville</b>  |

## FEATURE SPOT

### Big Ears Festival

• Knoxville

The Big Ears Festival is where worldwide music meets East Tennessee. This four-day celebration of musical and artistic adventure and discovery is found in downtown Knoxville. It takes place mostly indoors across 20 different venues, all within walking distance, and features over 200

concerts. Since 2009, thousands of attendees per day have come from all 50 states and two dozen foreign countries to enjoy films, conversations, literary events, art installations and music from the genres of classical, jazz, rock, folk, bluegrass, electronica and beyond. Many of the artists performing are among the most influential in the world in their respective genres. Make plans to join music lovers from all over the world at the 2027 festival April 1-4.



West Tennessee Strawberry Festival



Big Ears Festival  
Photograph by Christian Stewart



Julia's Homestyle Bakery



Two Sisters Bakery

# Best Local Bakery

- West **Two Sisters Bakery** Jackson
- Middle **Julia's Homestyle Bakery** Murfreesboro
- East **Wild Love Bakehouse** Knoxville

## FEATURE SPOT

### Julia's Homestyle Bakery • Murfreesboro

Julia's Homestyle Bakery is where art meets delicious. The only employee-owned bakery in the state, it's a staple in Middle Tennessee Electric's service area and has been for nearly two decades. Since being established in 2007, the women-founded and -operated shop has been the place

to go for custom cakes, delicious frog cut out or thumbprint cookies, award-winning fudge pie and all your favorite homestyle baked goods. Employees are proud members of the Murfreesboro community and love that they've helped foster local family traditions for going on two generations now. Customers who were brought in as kids after school for cookies are now ordering wedding cakes and their own children's birthday cakes.



## Congratulations to our grand-prize winners!

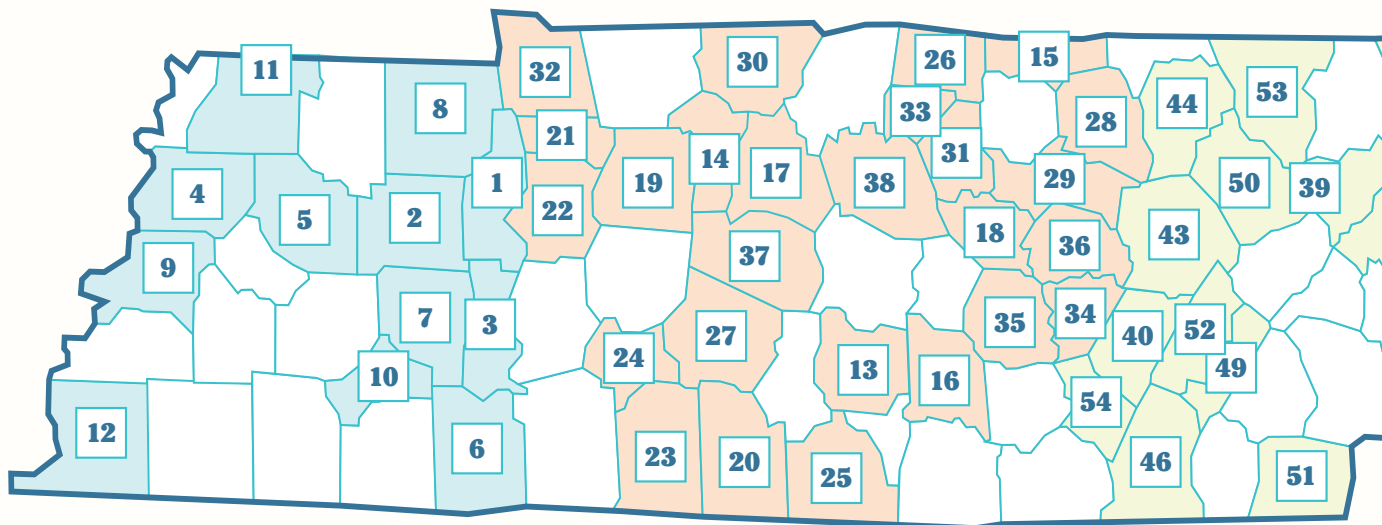
**E**ach winner, drawn from all qualifying entries, will receive certificates from Tennessee State Parks for up to a four-night stay at any state resort park inn, \$250 to spend while enjoying the visit and a basket of farm-direct, locally made artisan foods from Pick Tennessee Products.

**Doug Robertson,**  
Gibson EMC

**Lindsay Buttrum,**  
Middle Tennessee Electric

**Cyndi Hess,**  
Mountain EC





Tennessee's agricultural fairs are a vibrant celebration of tradition, community and down-home fun where the scents of funnel cakes and barbecue fill the air and the sounds of laughter and live music echo across fairgrounds.

From thrilling rides and lively competitions to prize-winning livestock and handmade crafts, each fair showcases the heart and heritage of rural life. Families gather under glowing lights to cheer on tractor pulls, marvel at blue-ribbon exhibits and enjoy classic games, creating unforgettable memories that capture the spirit of Tennessee at its most joyful and authentic.

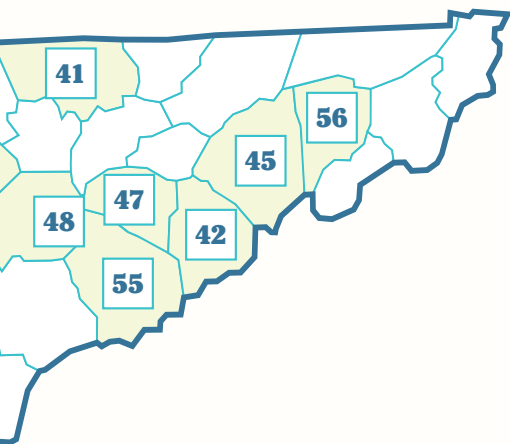


### WEST TENNESSEE FAIRS

1. BENTON COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 3-8	CAMDEN
2. CARROLL COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 12-15	HUNTINGDON
3. DECATUR COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 18-22	PARSONS
4. DYER COUNTY FAIR	SEPT. 7-12	DYERSBURG
5. GIBSON COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 31-SEPT. 5	TRENTON
6. HARDIN COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 28-SEPT. 5	SAVANNAH
7. HENDERSON COUNTY FAIR	SEPT. 14-19	LEXINGTON
8. HENRY COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 21-29	PARIS
9. LAUDERDALE COUNTY FAIR	SEPT. 14-19	HALLS
10. WEST TENNESSEE STATE FAIR	OCTOBER – TBD	HENDERSON
11. OBION COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 24-29	UNION CITY
12. DELTA FAIR	SEPT. 4-13	MEMPHIS

### MIDDLE TENNESSEE FAIRS

13. BEDFORD COUNTY FAIR	JULY 13-18	SHELBYVILLE
14. CHEATHAM COUNTY FAIR	SEPT. 15-19	ASHLAND CITY
15. CLAY COUNTY FAIR	MAY 26-30	CELINA
16. COFFEE COUNTY FAIR	SEPT. 4-12	MANCHESTER
17. THE NASHVILLE FAIR	SEPT. 11-20	NASHVILLE
18. DEKALB COUNTY FAIR	JUNE 22-27	ALEXANDRIA
19. DICKSON COUNTY FAIR	SEPT. 3-7	DICKSON
20. GILES COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 17-22	PULASKI
21. HOUSTON COUNTY FAIR	SEPT. 15-20	ERIN
22. HUMPHREYS COUNTY FAIR	SEPT. 23-27	WAVERLY
23. MIDDLE TENNESSEE DISTRICT FAIR	SEPT. 24-OCT. 3	LAWRENCEBURG
24. SOUTH CENTRAL AREA FAIR	SEPT. 8-12	HOHENWALD
25. LINCOLN COUNTY FAIR	SEPT. 19-26	FAYETTEVILLE
26. MACON COUNTY FAIR	JULY 24-AUG. 1	LAFAYETTE
27. MAURY COUNTY FAIR	SEPT. 3-7	COLUMBIA
28. OVERTON COUNTY FAIR	JULY 16-26	LIVINGSTON



# 2026

# Tennessee Agricultural Fairs

29. PUTNAM COUNTY FAIR	JULY 30-AUG. 8	COOKEVILLE
30. ROBERTSON COUNTY FAIR	SEPT. 22-26	SPRINGFIELD
31. SMITH COUNTY FAIR	JUNE 29-JULY 4	CARTHAGE
32. STEWART COUNTY FAIR	SEPT. 24-26	DOVER
33. TROUSDALE COUNTY FAIR	SEPT. 10-12	HARTSVILLE
34. VAN BUREN COUNTY FAIR	OCTOBER – TBD	SPENCER
35. WARREN COUNTY FAIR	SEPT. 11-19	MCMINNVILLE
36. WHITE COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 28-SEPT. 5	SPARTA
37. WILLIAMSON COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 7-15	FRANKLIN
38. WILSON COUNTY-TENNESSEE STATE FAIR	AUG. 13-22	LEBANON

## EAST TENNESSEE FAIRS

39. ANDERSON COUNTY FAIR	JULY 13-18	CLINTON
40. BLEDSOE COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 1-8	PIKEVILLE
41. CLAIBORNE COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 31-SEPT. 5	TAZEWELL
42. COCKE COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 18-22	NEWPORT
43. CUMBERLAND COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 17-22	CROSSVILLE
44. FENTRESS COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 23-29	JAMESTOWN
45. GREENE COUNTY FAIR	JULY 20-25	GREENEVILLE
46. HAMILTON COUNTY FAIR	NOV. 6-8	SALE CREEK
47. JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR	JULY 7-11	JEFFERSON CITY
48. TENNESSEE VALLEY FAIR	SEPT. 11-20	KNOXVILLE
49. MEIGS COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 25-29	DECATUR
50. MORGAN COUNTY FAIR	JULY 21-25	WARTBURG
51. POLK COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 17-22	BENTON
52. RHEA COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 11-15	EVENSVILLE
53. SCOTT COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 11-15	ONEIDA
54. SEQUATCHIE COUNTY FAIR	AUG. 13-15	DUNLAP
55. SEVIER COUNTY FAIR	SEPT. 1-7	SEVIERVILLE
56. APPALACHIAN FAIR	AUG. 22-29	GRAY



Information provided by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and Tennessee Association of Fairs

# CEMC announces 2026 Washington Youth Tour winners

**T**welve high school juniors have been selected to represent Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation on the 2026 Washington Youth Tour.

Sponsored by CEMC and the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, the Washington Youth Tour gives young leaders the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., learn about electric cooperatives and strengthen their leadership skills.

Delegates were selected through a creative writing competition,

where students submitted short stories explaining how co-ops are “Energizing Every Moment” by supplying Tennessee communities with energy, education, broadband internet, economic development and more.

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

In addition to the expense-paid trip, Youth Tour delegates will also have a chance to compete for future trips and scholarships.

“The Youth Tour is an incredible opportunity for students to visit historic landmarks, meet with elected officials and connect with peers from across the country,” says Community Relations Coordinator Susie Yonkers. “As an electric cooperative, we’re proud to invest in experiences like these that strengthen our communities.”

Be sure to check out the August issue of *The Tennessee Magazine* for highlights from their amazing trip.



**Alma Cowart**  
Homeschool



**Haley Faulk**  
Montgomery Central High School



**Caley Grimmitt**  
Stewart County High School



**Joshua Jones**  
Portland High School



**Rachel Krumel**  
Montgomery Central High School



**Micah Menefee**  
Greenbrier High School



**Katie Rose Neal**  
Montgomery Central High School



**Jaylin Pierceall**  
Greenbrier High School



**Elizabeth Portillo**  
Portland High School



**Sophie Russell**  
Portland High School



**Abigail Wilson**  
Montgomery Central High School



**Maddy Wright**  
Montgomery Central High School

# 12 local students awarded \$1,000 college scholarships

**C**umberland Electric Membership Corporation is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2026 Senior Scholarship Program. Each of the following promising high school seniors has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to support their pursuit of higher education.

**Melinda Galvez Hernandez** is a graduate of Innovation Academy and plans to attend Carson-Newman University.

**Ansley Irvin** is a graduate of Clarksville Christian School and plans to attend Austin Peay State University.

**Evan Johns** is a graduate of Portland High School and plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

**Nathanael Johnson** is a graduate of Montgomery Central High School and plans to attend the University of Tennessee.

**Jeremy Kuamo'o** is a graduate of Stewart County High School and plans to attend Tennessee Tech University.

**Taylor McGovern** is a graduate of Northwest High School and plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

**Olivia Rochelle** is a graduate of Montgomery Central High School and plans to attend Belmont University.

**Dayvid Rojas** is a graduate of Pleasant View Christian School and plans to attend Austin Peay State University.

**Kaylee Shoels** is a graduate of Montgomery Central High School and plans to attend Austin Peay State University.

**William Surface** is a graduate of Portland High School and plans to attend Trevecca Nazarene University.

**McKaylie Wallace** is a graduate of Stewart County High School and plans to attend Freed-Hardeman University.

**Gracie Weakley** is a graduate of Cheatham County Central High School and plans to attend Murray State University.

To qualify for the scholarships, students were required to complete applications, each including two letters of recommendation, and write 300-word essays describing what they most look forward to about attending college and how scholarships, in terms of financial assistance, will help them accomplish their academic goals. The applications were judged by a panel of retired teachers.

For more information about CEMC's youth and community programs, please visit us online at [cemc.org](http://cemc.org).



**Melinda Galvez Hernandez**



**Ansley Irvin**



**Evan Johns**



**Nathanael Johnson**



**Jeremy Kuamo'o**



**Taylor McGovern**



**Olivia Rochelle**



**Dayvid Rojas**



**Kaylee Shoels**



**William Surface**



**McKaylie Wallace**



**Gracie Weakley**

# Ballard and Rambo awarded Lineworker Program Scholarships



Tate Ballard



Wyat Rambo

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is proud to recognize the recipients of the 2026 Lineworker Program Scholarship. South Haven Christian School graduate Tate Ballard and White House High School graduate Wyatt Rambo have each been awarded one-time scholarship of \$2,000 to help cover costs associated with enrollment in an approved lineworker training

program. Ballard and Rambo plan to attend the North American Lineman Training Center in McEwen.

In its second year, this scholarship program is designed to assist CEMC members and their dependents in pursuing a career as a lineworker — an essential and rewarding role in the electric utility and communications industry.

Ballard and Rambo were selected from a competitive pool of applicants and demonstrated a strong commitment to joining the field.

“CEMC is proud to support the next generation stepping into this essential profession, and we wish Tate and Wyatt the very best as they get started in their careers,” says Community Relations Coordinator Susie Yonkers.



**CEMC is proud to support local organizations through CoBank’s Sharing Success Program. Above left, CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Susie Yonkers presents \$2,000 to Special Olympics of Montgomery and Cheatham counties. At right, Yonkers presents Camp Rainbow with a \$1,000 donation through the charitable contribution matching program.**

## Why vegetation management matters


(from page 4)

40 feet tall should be planted at least 25 feet away from overhead power lines. Trees taller than 40 feet should be planted at least 50 feet away. Shrubs near pad-mounted transformers should

be kept at least 12 feet from the front and 4 feet from the sides to allow crews to safely access the equipment.

If your neighborhood has underground electric lines, remember to call 811 before digging. This free service helps locate underground utilities and can prevent serious accidents or service interruptions

We all want a community that is safe, reliable and attractive. CEMC is proud to do our part by maintaining the electric system while helping preserve the natural beauty that makes this area home.



## Downed power line safety tips

**P**ower lines are a part of everyday life. When you look up, they are there, and likely they have been providing essential electricity for you your entire life. However, if you look down and see a power line, then there's a problem. Here are five critical steps to keep you and your loved ones safe if you come across a downed power line.

**Always assume.** Always treat a downed power line as live and dangerous. The line can still be energized even if you don't see arcing, sparks or smoke or hear a buzzing-like sound.

**Maintain distance.** Keep at least 35 feet between you and the

line. You need to be even farther away if the conditions around you are wet. Make sure others in your household are following these guidelines as well.

**Don't attempt.** If you are in a car when you encounter a downed power line, do not attempt to drive over it. Do not try to move the line with another object such as a broomstick or a tree branch either. Even materials that are typically nonconductive can conduct electricity when slightly wet.

**Call 911.** If severe weather causes power lines to fall on your property or nearby, call 911. As soon as Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is

notified, we will take immediate action to de-energize the line. Until then, though, keep others, including pets, as far away as possible.

**Be aware.** Other nearby items such as trees, cars, fences or even basketball hoops, can become energized by contact with a downed power line — meaning they could pose a threat to your safety. Keep a good distance from these items to reduce your risk of electrical shock.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about any power lines, please give CEMC a call at 800-987-2362.

# Lower your electric bill with one simple adjustment

**A**djust the thermostat. Did you just groan reading that statement? Did you roll your eyes or maybe ignore the statement altogether? Whether it is something you want to hear or not, adjusting the thermostat saves energy and money on your electric bill. Here at Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, we want to help our members better understand why this small change can lead to big savings.

The heating and cooling system is often one of if not the biggest energy user in the home. It all boils down to how hard and how long that system has to work. Your HVAC system's job is to maintain the difference between the temperature inside your house and the temperature outside your house. The bigger the gap between those two numbers, the harder and longer your system has to work. The harder and longer it runs, the more electricity it uses, which leads to a bigger number on your electric bill. In simple terms, the closer your thermostat is to the outdoor temperature, the less energy your system uses and the more money you save.

#### For example:

- It is 95 degrees outside today.
- If your thermostat is set to 72 degrees, that equals a 23 degree difference.
- If you raise the temperature inside your home to 78 degrees that equals a 17 degree difference.

#### That smaller gap means:

- Less heat entering your home.
- Less cooling required for your home.

• Shorter run times for your A/C.  
**That's where the savings come from:**

- About 1%-3% energy savings per degree over an 8-hour period.
- 6-degree increase = ~6%-18% savings on cooling costs.

By making this small change, your system cycles on less frequently and runs for shorter periods, which leads to noticeable savings on your bill. Even a one to two-degree adjustment can make a

difference and still keep you comfortable.

Timing also plays a part in this change, and savings can really add up when you adjust the thermostat for extended periods. Consider adjusting the thermostat while you're asleep, at work or away for the day. The longer your home stays at a less extreme temperature, the more energy and money you save.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 800-987-CEMC (2362).

**RAISE. SAVE. REPEAT.**

UP TO **18%** SAVINGS ON YOUR COOLING BILL

**Contact us for more details. We are here to help!**

The infographic features a yellow background with a blue hand icon pointing to a thermostat screen. The screen displays a thermometer icon, a red upward arrow, and the text '+6°'. To the left of the screen is a yellow sun icon. Below the screen is a red circular callout containing the text 'UP TO 18% SAVINGS ON YOUR COOLING BILL' and a thumbs-up icon. At the bottom, a teal banner contains the text 'Contact us for more details. We are here to help!'.

# Working from home this summer

## Keeping your connection solid all summer long



**T**here's a moment every summer that remote workers know well. The kids are finally out of school, and suddenly the whole house has changed. The kitchen table is occupied. Someone is streaming something at full volume two rooms over. A gaming session is running on the TV, a video call is happening on a laptop and you're somehow supposed to present to your team while the house buzzes around you.

Working from home is now a permanent reality for a lot of people in our service area. And for most of the year, it works. But summer puts a specific kind of strain on a home network that a lot of households aren't prepared for.



### The bandwidth math gets real

During the school year, your home network is probably running lean during work hours. A laptop or two, maybe a smart TV on in the background. Summer changes that math in a hurry. Video calls alone can use 3 to 4 Mbps per session. Add a 4K stream, an online game and a few phones doing their background thing,

and you're stacking up real demand all at once.

The good news is that fiber handles simultaneous use differently than older cable connections. Because fiber provides symmetrical speeds, upload and download traffic don't compete with each other the way they do on cable. That matters a lot when you're screen-sharing or on a video call, since both of those are upload-heavy. If your connection has been feeling fine all year and suddenly struggles when the kids are home, the issue usually isn't your internet plan. It's a network management problem, and it's fixable.

### Giving your work traffic priority

One of the most underused features on a home network is Quality of Service, or QoS. This lets your router prioritize certain devices or types of traffic so your work laptop stays at the front of the line even when the rest of the house is hammering the connection. Cumberland Connect members with the Peace of Mind package have access to network prioritization (part of ExperienceIQ) through the CCFiber SmartIQ app, which lets you manage this from your phone without digging through router settings.

While you're in the app, it's also worth setting up a guest network if you haven't already. Summer tends to bring a steady flow of visitors, and giving them their own separate ac-

cess keeps your main network secure without having to hand out your primary Wi-Fi password to everyone who walks through the door. It also means guest devices stay isolated from your personal ones, so anything on their end stays off your main network and keeps your own devices more secure.

### A few things worth doing

The best time to sort out your home network is before the chaos starts. It's a good idea to take a quick inventory of your home network setup to ensure it's in good shape. Check which devices are connected and drop anything that's no longer in use. Old tablets, spare phones and forgotten smart speakers sitting idle on your network still take up space.

If you're not sure your current plan has enough room to handle a full house all summer, that's worth a quick check. Cumberland Connect's team can help you figure out if an upgrade makes sense for your household's needs, and getting that sorted on the front end is a lot easier than troubleshooting in the middle of a work call.

Summer is supposed to be the easy season. A little prep now means fewer headaches when the house fills up and the workday has to share space with everyone else's summer plans. The kids might be out of school, but your workday doesn't have to know it!



Your best summer starts with the right connection! Scan to learn about Cumberland Connect.



## Summer bill-busters: Energy upgrades to keep you cool and save money

**Q:** Do you have any DIY or low-cost recommendations for keeping my house more comfortable this summer?

**A:** Yes! Read on for low-cost project suggestions and recommendations for bigger upgrades for long-term savings.

After last winter's ice storms, it's hard to believe that we're already thinking about summer. This, however, is the June issue, which means summer is already hot on spring's heels. When the forecast is hot, and the humidity is rising, your home's energy systems work overtime. The good news? A few smart moves now can keep your family and your wallet comfortable all season long.

### Schedule an HVAC tuneup

When it comes to your heating and cooling systems, being proactive is far better than being reactive. A professional tuneup is like a physical for your HVAC. When you schedule a tuneup, a qualified technician will clean coils, check refrigerant levels, inspect electrical connections and ensure everything is running at peak efficiency.

The U.S. Department of Energy reports that heating and cooling use more energy than any other system in your home, and poorly maintained systems generally require more effort and run longer to cool



your home. Not only do tuneups maximize the efficiency of your system and help prolong its lifespan, but they can also help prevent unexpected failures or costly emergency repairs.

By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with appropriate insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can cut your energy use for heating and cooling by 20% to 50%.

### Use your fans, and close your blinds

Make sure the blades on your ceiling fan rotate counterclockwise to create a cooling downdraft. Pro tip: Consider cleaning your fan blades thoroughly before reversing them to prevent an unexpected dust shower! And remember to turn your ceiling

fan off when you're not in the room — fans cool people, not rooms.

About 75% of the sunlight that shines through a double-pane window enters your home as heat, so closing your curtains and blinds is a great habit to get into as we spring into summer. If replacing your windows isn't in the budget, closing your shades is an easy, no-cost way to keep the sun's powerful rays from warming up your home.

### Improve efficiency with a smart thermostat

Another easy and affordable upgrade is swapping out an old thermostat with a smart model. These devices are easy to program (some models even learn your schedule and program themselves), adjust temperatures automatically and allow

Did you know about

75%

of the sunlight that shines into your home is converted into heat?

SOURCE: Energy.gov



you to control settings remotely — so you're not cooling an empty house while you're at work or away.

Studies consistently show that smart thermostats can meaningfully reduce cooling costs. Some local power companies might even offer rebates for purchasing or enrolling an existing smart thermostat in a rewards program.

### Seal in savings with professional duct cleaning, sealing and insulation

Because they're hidden away in your attic or tucked into your crawl

space, ducts are among the most overlooked residential energy wasters. Energy Star reports that leaky ducts can reduce heating and cooling system efficiency by up to 20%.

Gaps, cracks and unnecessary seams in your duct system allow cool, conditioned air to escape into your attic or crawl space. Not only does this waste energy, but it also forces your HVAC to compensate by running longer.

Professional duct cleaning, sealing and insulation improve both comfort and efficiency — and they can make a noticeable difference on your

utility bills month after month. Be sure to look for rebates that might be available in your area.

### Pump up your comfort with a heat pump

If your cooling system is approaching the 10-year mark or you're facing a costly repair bill, it might be time to think about an energy-efficient replacement. In Tennessee, air-source and dual-fuel heat pumps are increasingly popular choices for homeowners.

For homes with additions, sunrooms or spaces that traditional ductwork doesn't reach well, mini split heat pumps offer a flexible solution. These ductless systems can be installed in individual rooms or zones, providing precise control over comfort without the energy losses associated with ducted systems. Once again, rebates might be available!

### Schedule a home energy evaluation

Not sure where to start? An in-person home energy evaluation takes the guesswork out of the equation. A certified energy auditor will assess your home's insulation, air sealing, windows and systems to pinpoint exactly where you're losing energy and money.

Your professional audit should produce a prioritized list of improvements tailored to your specific home, so you can invest your time and money where it matters most. Many power companies offer evaluations at low or no cost — making this a great first step before committing to larger upgrades.

Prioritize energy-saving improvements with a home energy evaluation.



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. Visit [EnergyRight.com](https://EnergyRight.com) for more energy-saving tips and recommendations.

## Fayetteville

# In the cradle of the Volunteer

*Fayetteville's heritage is nearly rivaled by its famous slawburger*

Story by Mark Johnson • Photographs by Robin Conover

**T**here's a place in southern Middle Tennessee called Fayetteville. It sits at the center of Lincoln County, where the land rolls gently in every direction and is equally suitable for rowcrops and cattle, a curiosity in a state where it's usually one or the other.

Founded in 1809, Fayetteville is situated about 30 miles north of Huntsville, Alabama, 50 miles south of Murfreesboro and a stone's throw southwest of Lynchburg.

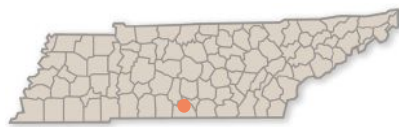
I drove into Lincoln County on a perfect, blue-sky April day. Approaching downtown via College Street, I turned right onto Main Avenue and made a circuit of the town square, rolling past historic buildings and storefronts facing inward toward the Lincoln County Courthouse. The circa-1904 centerpiece is a two-story, red brick Classic Revival structure featuring a clock tower that would impress Doc Brown and Marty McFly.

The town was teeming with activity, and nearly every parking space was occupied. I finally found one and beelined to the office of Fayetteville Main Street where the organization's executive director, Aimee Byrd, and

City Mayor Donna Hartman had agreed to a chat.

I could see immediately that both ladies were bundles of enthusiasm and anxious to talk about their town. Aimee began by telling me that she was originally from Scottsboro, Alabama, but fell in love with Fayetteville upon her first visit some 15 years ago.

### It's "slaw that" with a side of fries



Fayetteville Tourism  
Contact: 931-433-6154  
[fayettevilletn.com/tourism.php](http://fayettevilletn.com/tourism.php)

"It didn't take long; I just knew that this was where I wanted to raise my kids," she recalled. "The people here were just so welcoming right off the bat that I told my husband, 'That's it — I want to live here forever!'"

Similarly, Donna moved from Huntsville to Lincoln County in 2001 and quickly became enamored with the community. She was elected

mayor in 2022 after a four-year stint as town alderman.

I visited with Aimee and Donna for over an hour, learning about the various activities and events that happen in Fayetteville throughout the year. Among these are an outdoor market held the first Saturday of every month between April and October, a fall festival, ghost tours and a January "Chocolate Walk" around the square where patrons visit each participating merchant and are rewarded with a treat.

"It's kind of like adult Halloween," Donna explained with a chuckle.

After our visit wrapped up, I decided to take my first stroll around the square. The establishments I passed ranged from legal offices to coffee shops, a beautiful vintage movie theater (a staple of small-town Tennessee) and what seemed like a disproportionately high number of antique malls.

In Sissy's Antiques and Interiors, I met employees (and sisters) Myra Dickey and Sherry Womack. Sherry, the manager of Sissy's, told me that Fayetteville has become a destination for antiques enthusiasts.

"People come from all over the country to shop here," she said. "I can't

35.1520° N, 86.5706° W



Greetings from  
**FAYETTEVILLE**  
TENNESSEE



**HONEY'S RESTAURANT**



Cahoots Restaurant opened nearly 40 years ago in Fayetteville. The old jail cells inside are just some of the reminders that this historic building once housed the town jail and firehouse.



Ray Bean, left, opened Crazy Ray's Dive on Market Street in 2024. Now his son, Devin, right, owns it, and together they serve up the classic slawburger and fries.



Lincoln Theatre



The Lincoln County Museum, housed in the old Borden Milk Plant, is a must-see. Visitors can explore the 33,000 square feet of exhibit space at their leisure. It is truly a walk through the history of the county.

really explain it, but I guess Fayetteville is well-suited for antiques because we have so much history and old homes nearby.”

Myra added that Sissy’s is also known for being haunted.

“There are a lot of haunted places here in downtown, but I think we take the top prize,” she stated in a serious tone. “Things go missing or move around by themselves in here all the time. Most of these buildings, after all, date back at least 100 years, so it’s not surprising that some ghosts may be lingering.”

The hair rising on the back of my neck, I purchased an Old West poster and quickly said goodbye to Myra, Sherry and whatever spooks might be listening.

Plus, it was now lunchtime, and I was primed for my first slawburger.

Wait ... what?

Yes, Fayetteville has its own distinctive food item — the slawburger. This regional dish wasn’t invented in a single moment but emerged in the 1920s from the town’s diner culture and became a shared local favorite. Such is the fame of the Fayetteville slawburger that an annual, one-day festival in its honor has been held every April since 2015 and includes the much-anticipated Slawburger Eating Contest. (See the details at

slawburgerfestival.com.) One controversial year, an out-of-town ringer knocked down 27 of the things when, usually, the tally is closer to 12, Aimee told me. The scandal resulted in some rule changes, she added.

For my first slawburger experience, I opted on Crazy Ray’s Dive, a popular restaurant on the corner of Main Avenue and Market Street. Two other longtime establishments serving up the local staple are Honey’s Restaurant and Ken’s Fast Foods. Opinions abound on whose is the best, so you might want to plan for further “research” to reach your own conclusions.

When the basket containing my burger and a heaping pile of seasoned fries arrived at my table, I was practically giddy with anticipation. Aimee had explained earlier that the slaw on slawburgers isn’t the typical bland white coleslaw we’re all accustomed to but a tangy, mustard-based variant.

“You’ve just got to go in with an open mind,” she had advised. “We’re also famous for our many beef cattle farms around here, and the meat is usually sourced locally, so it’s awesome too.”

With a decidedly open mind, I attacked my burger.

*Impression No. 1: Have plenty of napkins handy — slawburgers are messy.*

*Impression No. 2: Be prepared to order another slawburger. (Although 27 might be a bit excessive.)*

Even with all the hype, the meal exceeded my expectations by a wide margin.

Hoping to burn off some of my newly added poundage, I left Crazy Ray's and continued my exploration around the courthouse, reading the various historical markers and examining the Civil War-era canons displayed in the yard.

It was then time to check into my Airbnb, a loft apartment located on the second floor above The Revolutionary Tavern on Main Avenue. The stunning, two-bedroom abode featured a living room with enormous windows that looked out over the entirety of downtown. I quickly decided that my wife, Holly, and I could easily live in this loft one day.

Relaxing with a scoop of banana pudding ice cream from nearby Pythian Parlour, I rang up retired Lincoln County veterinarian Farris Beasley, a gentleman with whom I'd worked on a different story years ago. Now in his 90s, Farris, a noted historian of the area, sounded as spry as ever. He told me how then-Col. Andrew Jackson had mustered volunteers — including nearby resident David Crockett — for the brutal Creek War of 1813 at Camp Blount, just on the outskirts of downtown Fayetteville.

"It was there, as militia gathered for the Creek War, that the idea of the 'Tennessee Volunteer' took hold," Farris said. "Men who weren't soldiers by trade but who showed up when they were called made a huge impression on Jackson. Legend has it that he referred to them as his Tennessee Volunteers in a local newspaper article, and the phrase stuck."

This conversation inspired me to make the short drive out to Camp Blount, now a well-maintained

historical site featuring an incredible bronze sculpture of the "original" Tennessee Volunteer, an unnamed soldier. As is often the case, I was moved nearly to tears by the stories told in the many placards placed around the site.

That evening, after enjoying a meal at Cahoots Restaurant — formerly, the town jail — I stopped into Bogart's Cigar Lounge after noting its splendid cigar-store Indian standing guard in the window. Co-owner George Hoch graciously showed me around the place, adorned with high-back leather smoking chairs, original paintings and artwork, and spinning slushy machines.

"This is just a good spot to mingle and tell tales out of school," George said with a grin. "The conversations here are always interesting, and everyone contributes."

I was impressed to the point that I considered taking up cigar smoking for the night but then thought better of it.

The next day found me calling on with a variety of friendly folk, including Lincoln County Mayor Bill Newman; former Fayetteville Mayor Jerry Mansfield; Chris Bowman, manager of the local Lincoln-Bedford-Moore Farmers Co-op store; and Britt Dye, CEO/general manager of Fayetteville Public Utilities. I was also treated to a tour of the wonderful Lincoln County Museum by advisory board member John Woodall. Without fail, these men spoke of the rich history, fierce spirit of community and solid, hard-working citizenry of Lincoln County.

When the time came for me to head toward home that afternoon, I grabbed a homemade smoothie from Pythian Parlour before heading north. Leaving the town limits, I felt a pang of sadness and spent my ride home devising other reasons for a return trip to Fayetteville.

## Why all the Fayettevilles?

It's estimated that there are around 60 American towns named either Fayetteville or Lafayette. Washington and Jefferson, I could understand — but Fayetteville?

There's actually a good reason. During the Revolutionary War days, there was a wealthy French aristocrat called Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette. Instead of living a safe, comfortable life in France, this 19-year-old was so inspired by the American struggle for independence that he sailed over here, fought bravely alongside George Washington and was even wounded at the Battle of Brandywine. Despite the injury, he continued fighting throughout the Revolution and was pivotal to our final victory at the Battle of Yorktown.

His name became synonymous with the Revolution itself.

Turns out that we Americans were more than a little appreciative of this, and over the ensuing 58 years of Lafayette's life, towns named Fayetteville and Lafayette began popping up in his honor across America, beginning in North Carolina. Historians say Fayetteville, Tennessee — the third-oldest American town with this name — was founded by early settlers who had previously lived in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and supposedly laid out the new town square in the same dimensions as the old one.

So instead of being named for a geographic landmark or an early founder, Fayetteville was chosen for an ideal, a nod to bravery and self-sacrifice in the defense of freedom. Not too shabby.



## The crime of drunk driving predates the car



A crowd of men stand at the door of Nashville's Silver Dollar Saloon around 1900. Tennessee State Library and Archives photo

Tennessee imposed statewide prohibition on the sale of alcoholic beverages in 1909 — a decade before the 18th Amendment imposed it nationally. This column might put prohibition in context.

Back when people drove horse-drawn carts, wagons, hacks and buggies, there were frequent stories in Tennessee newspapers about people driving drunk. For example:

In December 1870, the *Memphis Public Ledger* had a long story about the frequency of reckless drivers injuring and killing people in the streets. “Pedestrians have some right which

ought to be respected, and fast driving on Main and Second Streets, especially late in the evening, is becoming a nuisance which must be abated. We have heard several citizens say that they are determined to protect themselves from these reckless and sometimes drunken drivers.”

In February 1883, the *Chattanooga Daily Times* reported that a man driving a horse-drawn wagon was so drunk that he “fell forward and became entangled in the harness, whereupon the horses started off at a rapid gait.” Fortunately, a woman named Hattie Williams rushed out

in the street and stopped the horses, saving the man's life.

In October 1885, the *Greeneville Bulletin* had this short article: “A mule team belonging to the Wrought Iron Range Company ran through town last week and overturned the wagon at the corner of Summer and Irish Streets. Patrick McCulloch, of Hawkins County, was on the wagon at the time and was seriously injured. The catastrophe may be put the account of drunkenness. The parties were promptly taken charge of by the town authorities and fined for reckless driving.”



**A horse-drawn wagon is parked in front of Mack's Saloon in Memphis in 1905.**  
Tennessee State Library and Archives photo

Proving that drunk driving affected mass transit: In November 1891, the Memphis paper had a story about a driver for the Patterson Transfer Company who drank whiskey, then got lost. “Henry (Ellis) started off all right with his load, but his head commenced getting top-heavy and he knew not where he was driving,” the *Public Ledger* reported. “After running around town about two hours and coming very near dumping his passengers out several times, he landed at Cole’s Mill, in the southeastern portion of the city, some distance from the depot.

Here all but four of his passengers got out and, taking in the situation, walked to depot.” Ellis lost his job and was fined \$50.

In October 1895, the *Daily Times* reported that Ethel Gibbs and Lula Lee “drove past police headquarters in a buggy at a furious rate and were evidently considerably under the influence of that which inebriates.” The women were arrested and charged with “drunk and driving recklessly.”

In June 1896, John Martin of Nashville was arrested on a charge of “drunk and reckless driving.

Apparently, Martin was in a buggy with two other people and ran over a bystander on Bridge Avenue. “Martin resisted the officer and the two had a quite a lively tilt on Woodland Street, the policeman being compelled to use his club,” the *Nashville Banner* reported.

**Drunk Cost Him His Life.**  
Sparta, Tenn., Oct. 14.—Wm. Waters, a well-to-do miner of Bon Air, while celebrating his 44th birthday yesterday by getting drunk and driving rapidly, fell from his buggy about a mile from town. He died about 8 o’clock last night. He leaves a wife and seven children. The body was taken to McMinnville today for interment.

Oct. 15, 1897, *Chattanooga Daily Times*

In December 1896, the *Daily Times* said that two drunk men were the passengers in a hack being driven over a bridge by a sober driver when they decided the driver wasn’t going fast enough. They tried to take the reins, causing the horses to panic and go “over the embankment of Chattanooga Creek.” The vehicle was destroyed, but none of the men or horses was killed.

In December 1901, the *Banner* reported that T.M. Jones, a driver for a soda water company, had been ar-

rested for drunk driving. “He came rattling down Kayne Avenue at a ripping pace and near the corner of Hawkins Street encountered Mr. E. L. Taggart in a buggy. With a whoop he crashed into Taggart’s buggy, throwing the occupant out and injuring the horse so that the animal will be of no more use.” Jones lost his job, and the soda water company was sued for damages.

According to the May 1907 *Knoxville Journal and Tribune*, the first two people arrested in the new part of town called Park City were two men arrested for drunk driving. They were “driving a horse across the city at a rate of speed that was too much for the buggy in which they rode. A front wheel of the buggy was demolished.”

In addition to these accounts, I have found about 20 items in various police columns about people being fined or jailed for driving

horse-drawn vehicles while drunk. “Henry Franklin was arrested by Officer Bauman yesterday afternoon from driving at an unlawful rate of speed through the city while in a state of intoxication,” the *Nashville American* reported in June 1889.

“Mike and John Salvini were arrested for being drunk and driving restlessly,” the *Public Ledger* said in May 1890.

The saddest report of drunk driving that predates the automobile that I found ran in the Chattanooga and Nashville newspapers in October 1897: “William Waters, a well-to-do miner of Bon Air (Tennessee), while celebrating his 44th birthday yesterday by getting drunk and driving rapidly, fell from his buggy about a mile from town,” the papers said.

“He died about 8 o’clock last night. He leaves a wife and seven children.”

# Tennessee Events

*Festivals, celebrations and other happenings around the state*

JUNE 30–FEB. 1, 2027

## **Southern Artist Showcase:** *Brushstrokes of a Young Nation: The Art of David Wright*

Discovery Park of America,  
Union City. 731-885-5455 or  
[discoveryparkofamerica.com](http://discoveryparkofamerica.com)

**A**s part of Tennessee's ongoing America 250 celebration, Discovery Park of America invites visitors to experience the American frontier and history through the art of renowned Tennessee-based historical artist David Wright.

The exhibit launches in late June during the West Tennessee museum's Independence Day Celebration and runs through early 2027, giving people plenty of time to go view Wright's detailed historical art.

This exhibit is a part of Discovery Park of America's rotating exhibit series that showcases Southern artists. It is also funded in part by a Tennessee America 250 grant.

For more information on the exhibit, go to [discoveryparkofamerica.com](http://discoveryparkofamerica.com).

To learn more about David Wright, check out our recent feature, "Historian with a Brush" — [tnmagazine.org/historian-with-a-brush](http://tnmagazine.org/historian-with-a-brush).



Photograph by Robin Conover

## **West Tennessee**

NOW–JUNE 26

### **Last Whistle: Steamboat Stories of Memphis**

Pink Palace Museum and Mansion, Memphis.  
901-636-2362 or [moshmemphis.com](http://moshmemphis.com)

JUNE 2–7

### **"Disney's Beauty and the Beast"**

Orpheum Theatre, Memphis.  
901-525-3000 or [orpheum-memphis.com](http://orpheum-memphis.com)

JUNE 6

### **Community Health, Wellness and Safety Resource Fair**

Raleigh Springs Civic Center, Memphis.  
[info@fcaresfoundation.com](mailto:info@fcaresfoundation.com) or 901-337-8964

JUNE 13

### **Flag Day Cannon Firing Demonstrations**

Shiloh National Military Park, Shiloh.  
731-689-5696 or [nps.gov/shil/index.htm](http://nps.gov/shil/index.htm)

JUNE 18–20

### **Suzuki Music Camp**

Twin Lakes Farm, Trenton. 270-627-2636 or  
[twinlake.my.canva.site/club](http://twinlake.my.canva.site/club)

JUNE 20

### **Juneteenth**

Discovery Park of America, Union City. 731-885-5455 or [discoveryparkofamerica.com](http://discoveryparkofamerica.com)

JUNE 27

### **Savannah Riverfest 2026**

Savannah Main Street. [savannahriverfest.com](http://savannahriverfest.com) or [info@savannahriverfest.com](mailto:info@savannahriverfest.com)

JULY 3–4

### **Independence Day Celebration**

Discovery Park of America, Union City. 731-885-5455 or [discoveryparkofamerica.com](http://discoveryparkofamerica.com)

JULY 3–5

### **All-American Weekend**

Graceland, Memphis. 901-332-3322 or [graceland.com](http://graceland.com)

## **Middle Tennessee**

JUNE 6

### **Lewis County Summerfest**

Hohenwald Chamber. 931-796-4084 or  
[director@hohenwaldlewischamber.com](mailto:director@hohenwaldlewischamber.com)

JUNE 6–7

### **Third Annual Lavender Festival**

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

JUNE 6–7

### **34th Annual Secret Garden Tour**

Discovery Center at Murfree Spring, Murfreesboro. 615-890-2300 or [exploredcdc.org](http://exploredcdc.org)

JUNE 13

### **40th Annual Dunlap Coke Ovens Bluegrass Festival**

Dunlap Coke Ovens Amphitheater.  
423-949-2156 or [cokeovens.com](http://cokeovens.com)


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JUNE 13

## Blueberry Festival

Highland Realm Blueberry Farm, Hampshire.  
931-215-8197 or  
facebook.com/highlandrealm

JUNE 13

## Cheesecake Festival

Gallatin Civic Center. 931-952-0472  
or brianna-victory-events.com

JUNE 13

## Old Fashioned Ice Cream Supper

Raus Community Center, Tullahoma.  
931-857-3171 or raustn.org

JUNE 27

## Stones River Summer Market

Stones River Mall, Murfreesboro.  
931-952-0472 or  
brianna-victory-events.com

JULY 3

## Freedomfest 250

Kilgore Park, Cross Plains. 615-654-2555  
or visitcrossplains.com

JULY 3-4

## Sewanee Fourth of July

Sewanee. sewanee4thofjuly.org

## East Tennessee

JUNE 6

### EVs in the Smokies

Peaceful Side Social, Townsend.  
865-455-8791 or knoxville.ev.club@gmail.com

JUNE 6

### Bijou Jubilee

Bijou Theatre, Knoxville. knoxbijou.org

JUNE 6-7

### Smallmouth King Bass Tournament

Sevierville. 865-661-3474 or  
visitsevierville.com/SmallmouthBassKing.aspx

JUNE 7

### Walnut Street Bridge Festival

Coolidge Park, Chattanooga. 404-437-6320 or  
vonzarainc.com/the-walnut-street-bridge-festival

JUNE 14

### Soulful Sounds in Chattanooga

The Granfalloon, Chattanooga.  
212-729-8372 or acuteinfections.com

JUNE 19-20

### 45th Annual Quilt Show

Knoxville Expo Center. 865-213-2335 or  
smokymtnquilters.com

JUNE 20

### Lavender Festival

Historic Jackson Square, Oak Ridge.  
lavenderfestivaljs@gmail.com or  
jacksonsquarelavenderfestival.org

JUNE 20-21

### 2026 Rhododendron Festival

Roan Mountain State Park.  
roanmountain.com

JUNE 26 & 27, JULY 4

### Rhea County TN's 250 Bash

Dayton, Spring City and Graysville.  
423-285-4542 or visitrhea.com

JUNE 27

### "KPop Demon Hunters" — Family Friendly DJ Night

The Signal, Chattanooga.  
423-498-4700 or thesignaltn.com

JUNE 28

### Treat Trot Chattanooga

Camp Jordan, East Ridge. 760-669-6471  
or runsignup.com/Race/TN/EastRidge/  
TreatTrotChattanooga

[tnmagazine.org/events](https://tnmagazine.org/events)

# Oh, Fry Not?

Let's not debate what "frying" really means or go into a long explanation about how the popular "air fryer" works. Once you find out how well the air fryer does so many things while taking up little counter space and even less cleaning time ... all that other stuff won't matter. The day will come when you entrust your wings and French fries, plus your salmon and roast chicken, to an air fryer. These recipes are a great starting point for new users.

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



Appetizer Ravioli

## Sweet Cilantro Seafood Balls

Yield: 6 servings

- 1 (9- to 10-ounce) fish fillet (tilapia or any white fish)
- 1 (8.5-ounce) package long grain or basmati rice, cooked
- ½ cup cilantro leaves, divided
- ½ cup unsweetened coconut
- 1 (1½-inch) piece peeled fresh ginger
- 1 egg
- 1 lime, juiced and finely zested
- 1¼ teaspoons mustard
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- ⅛ teaspoon white pepper
- Olive oil cooking spray
- 3 tablespoons fruit chutney (my preference is mango)

Preheat the air fryer to 400 degrees.

Place the fish, rice, most of the cilantro leaves (remainder is for garnish), coconut, ginger, egg, lime zest, mustard, salt and pepper in the bowl of a food processor. Pulse until well combined. Divide into 12 to 14 equal pieces and roll into balls or small patties. Place on a parchment paper lined baking sheet. Spray the fish balls as well as the air fryer grate with olive oil.

Working in batches, cook in a single layer for 6 minutes. Shake to move around the balls and cook another 6 to 7 minutes or until golden brown and cooked through.

Meanwhile, place the chutney in a small bowl and add a teaspoon of water. Microwave covered on low power for 20 seconds. Stir, cover and set aside.

Place balls in a rimmed flat serving bowl and drizzle with the warm chutney and lime juice. Garnish with the remaining cilantro leaves and serve warm.

---

## “Fried” Boneless Chicken Breasts

Yield: 4 servings

- 4 boneless chicken breasts
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, plus more to spray grate and chicken
- 2 tablespoons packed dark brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 teaspoon paprika

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper

Using a meat mallet, pound the chicken between pieces of waxed paper to an even thickness. Rub the chicken with the olive oil and set aside.

In a small bowl, mix together the sugar, Italian seasoning, paprika, salt, garlic powder and pepper. Rub evenly on the chicken and place in the refrigerator for 20 minutes.

Preheat the air fryer to 375 degrees. Remove the chicken from the refrigerator. Spray the grate and chicken with olive oil. Cook in a single layer for 8 minutes. Turn and cook another 8 minutes (work in batches if necessary).

Check with an instant-read thermometer. Continue cooking if needed to reach 165 degrees. Remove from the air fryer and wrap tightly in aluminum foil. Allow to rest for 10 minutes before serving warm.

---

## Appetizer Ravioli

Yield: 6 servings

- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon cream, half-and-half or milk
- ¾ cup seasoned breadcrumbs
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 (9-ounce) package spinach- or cheese-stuffed refrigerated ravioli (if frozen, thaw)
- Olive oil cooking spray
- Chopped fresh parsley
- Marinara sauce of your choice

Preheat the air fryer to 350 degrees. Line a platter with parchment or waxed paper and set aside.

In a flat dish, whisk together the egg and the cream, half-and-half or milk. In a separate flat dish, combine the breadcrumbs with the Parmesan. Dip the ravioli in the egg mixture, coating well on both sides. Then dip in the breadcrumb mixture, gently pressing with your fingers on both sides. Place on the prepared platter, and liberally spray both sides of ravioli with the cooking spray.

Working in batches, place the ravioli in a single layer in the air

fryer. Cook 5 minutes, then flip and cook 4 to 5 minutes longer or until golden-brown. Place on the serving dish and sprinkle with the parsley. Repeat with the remaining ravioli. Serve warm or at room temperature with marinara sauce.

---

## Crispy Zucchini Wedges

Yield: 4 servings

- 4 medium zucchini, cut into long wedges
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 eggs
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1½ cups plain panko
- ¼ cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 2 teaspoons Old Bay seasoning
- ½ teaspoon onion or garlic salt
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon white pepper
- Olive oil cooking spray

Preheat the air fryer to 350 degrees.

Place the zucchini and the flour in a zip-top bag. Shake gently to evenly coat. Work in batches if necessary.

In a shallow dish, whisk together the eggs with the milk. In a separate shallow dish, combine the panko, Parmesan, Old Bay seasoning, onion or garlic salt, onion powder and white pepper.

Shake off the excess flour and dip each wedge in the egg mixture. Then coat in the panko and place in a single layer in the air fryer basket. Spritz with olive oil and cook 10 minutes. Flip and cook an additional 5 minutes or until golden brown and crispy. Serve warm.

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## Hasselbacks

*A beautiful way to serve potatoes!*

Yield: 4 servings

- 4 small Yukon gold potatoes
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 1 large garlic clove, peeled and minced
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- Fresh parsley for garnish

Preheat the air fryer to 350 degrees.

“Fried” Boneless  
Chicken Breasts



Use a sharp paring knife to cut each potato crosswise in  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch slices, making sure to leave  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of the bottom intact.

In a small bowl, stir together the butter, garlic, Italian seasoning, dried parsley, salt and pepper.

Place the potatoes in the air fryer basket and brush liberally with the half of the butter mixture. Cook for 15 minutes and baste the potatoes with the remaining butter. Cook 15 minutes longer and serve warm with a garnish of fresh parsley.

### Madness Stuffed Mushrooms

You will be the party hit with these appetizers!

Yield: 16 mushrooms

- 16 medium to large mushrooms, stems removed (save for soups or salads)
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 4 bacon slices, cooked and crumbled
- 1 green onion, thinly sliced
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup shredded Gouda cheese, divided
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon garlic or onion salt

- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon white pepper
- $\frac{1}{8}$  teaspoon paprika
- Olive oil cooking spray

Place the mushrooms stem side up on a baking sheet and set aside.

In the bowl of an electric mixer, beat the cream cheese at medium speed until creamy. Reduce the mixer speed to low and add the bacon, onions, 3 tablespoons of the shredded Gouda, Parmesan, salt, pepper and paprika. Blend well.

Using a spoon, stuff the mushrooms with the filling. (At this point, you can refrigerate until ready to serve if necessary.) Preheat the air fryer to 400 degrees. Add the mushrooms to the basket, working in batches if needed, and spritz lightly with olive oil. Immediately reduce the air fryer temperature to 350 and cook for 6 minutes. Top with the remaining cheese and cook 2 minutes longer. Allow to rest 5 minutes before serving warm.

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.

## Ask Chef Tammy

*Mallie asks, “I need to know the correct way to saute. I frequently end up with oil-soaked vegetables.”*

Mallie, it sounds like your heat is not high enough. Place a small amount of oil in the skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Add your vegetables (uniform sizes are best), and avoid the temptation to overcrowd the pan.

*Marty writes, “Guide me, please, on the proper temperature for cooking chicken breasts.”*

Marty, if the chicken breasts are boneless, the recommended temperature is 165 degrees. If the breasts contain bone, it should be 170 degrees.

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

## Tips & Tricks

- The air fryer cooks food quickly and efficiently, but remember the 25 rule. If you typically cook a food in the oven at 350 degrees, the air fryer will need to be 25 degrees lower at 325 degrees.
- Avoid using regular cooking sprays to keep foods from sticking to the rack. Instead, use a spray specifically designed for air fryer use or light olive oil.
- Make sure you keep the food in a single layer, and avoid the temptation to overcrowd the basket.
- A good shake halfway through the cooking process will help with even cooking. Flip the foods if they are in larger pieces.
- Just like any appliance, your air fryer needs to be kept clean in order to work best. Parchment paper liners designed for the size of your air fryer help to make cleanup a snap.



# Call for Entries

# Shutterbug Showcase



In our next Shutterbug Photography Contest, *The Tennessee Magazine* is again partnering with the Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair. This year's fair theme is "Tennessee Voices and Volunteers: Celebrating America 250," and we're leaning into that spirit with "Red, White or Blue." Winning entries will feature one or more of these star-spangled shades. You can include American flags, but we're

really looking for more creative compositions.

*The Tennessee Magazine* will name first-, second- and third-place winners as well as honorable mention recipients in each division — **Shutterbug, Junior Shutterbug** (ages 17 and younger) and **Professional**. As you accept this challenge, please stay safe. We don't want anyone to take a tumble in the name of the Shutterbug contest.

## SHUTTERBUG ASSIGNMENT

"Red, White or Blue"

## SUBMISSIONS — ONLINE ENTRIES ONLY

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

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

## PRIZE PACKAGES

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

## CONTEST RULES

1. The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers. For the purposes of this competition, you are considered a professional if you regularly sell your images or garner more than 50% of your income from photography.
2. Photographs must have been taken by you.
3. A photographer can enter no more than three photographs. There is no cost to enter.
4. All entries must be made online. We won't accept prints for this contest. Sign on to [tnmagazine.org](http://tnmagazine.org) and click on "Entry Forms" under "Contests." Complete the form and upload your photograph(s).
5. Employees of Tennessee's electric cooperatives and their immediate families are not eligible to win.
6. Please include the name of each recognizable person, if any other than yourself, in your photograph. It is the photographer's responsibility to have the subject's permission to enter his or her image in the contest. You must include the subject's name and contact information with your submission. Omitting any of this information can result in disqualification.
7. By entering the contest, photographers automatically give *The Tennessee Magazine* permission to publish the winning images in print and digital publications, to social media and on websites.



# Community Corner

– What our neighbors are up to –

## Find the Tennessee Flag

**W**e 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



April's flag location

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](http://tnmagazine.org/flag) or email [flag@tnmagazine.org](mailto:flag@tnmagazine.org). Entries must be postmarked or received via email

by Wednesday, July 1. Winners will be published in the August issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

### April flag spotters

Thanks for the postcards and emails again this month identifying the location of the flag, left, which was found in the window on page 28.

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

#### David Scott

Dyersburg, Forked Deer EC

#### Mylor Chris Edwards

Fayetteville, Fayetteville Public Utilities

#### Amy Dekoeyer

Jamestown, Volunteer EC

## Artist's Palette Assignment for August

### Three age categories:

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

### Media:

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

### Entry:

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

### Deadline:

Art must be postmarked by Wednesday, July 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 August issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

First place wins \$50, second place wins \$30 and third place wins \$20. Winners are eligible to enter again after three months. Winners will receive their awards, artwork and certificates of placement within six to eight weeks of publication.

# Artist's Palette June Winners

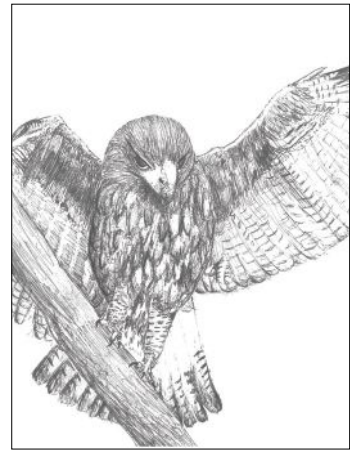
## 14-18 AGE GROUP WINNERS



**FIRST PLACE:** Ella Davis,  
18, Middle Tennessee Electric



**SECOND PLACE:** Landon Faust,  
15, Cumberland EMC



**THIRD PLACE:** Lillian Thomson,  
14, Meriwether Lewis EC

## 9-13 AGE GROUP WINNERS



**FIRST PLACE:** Rosemary Pfeffer,  
11, Middle Tennessee Electric



**SECOND PLACE:** Luke Alfermann,  
10, Middle Tennessee Electric



**THIRD PLACE:** Leryn Swarey,  
13, Meriwether Lewis EC

## 8 AND YOUNGER AGE GROUP WINNERS



**FIRST PLACE:** Emma Merkler,  
8, Middle Tennessee Electric



**SECOND PLACE:** Nicholas Alfermann,  
7, Middle Tennessee Electric



**THIRD PLACE:** Brea Staker,  
5, Duck River EMC

# Point of View

by Robin Conover



“There is nothing more eloquent in nature than a mountain stream.”

— John Muir

Rushing mountain streams and rivers call to me, especially during hot summer days. The sound of the water, the smell of fresh mountain air and the eternal peace I find in these moments are magical.

One of my favorite river drives is along Laurel Creek in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The two-lane road snakes along the Little River for 9 miles from Townsend to Cades Cove. The drive winds through this deeply forested area of the Smokies, offering several pull offs for visitors to park and sit a spell.

In many ways, these streams and rivers have provided sustenance for generations. Countless Native Americans, long hunters, early settlers and even today’s TikTokers have found their way to the river’s edge. Whether it be for clean water and fish to feed their bodies or time to find peace and reflection to relax

their minds, these rivers will call you back again and again, providing what you seek.

As an artist and writer, I seek inspiration and energy as I sit on a lichen-covered boulder. I contemplate that this water has carved these gorges over tens of thousands of years, leaving us a window with a view into the geological history of these mountains.

As a photographer, I wonder about just how many shades of green there really are in this scene and what shutter speed would capture the water in a silky white blur without blowing out details.

As I set up my tripod, I combine the aspects of observation, artistry and technical know-how to capture an image that conveys the feeling of renewal I find in these wild places.

On this day, an early morning rain left everything freshly washed

and the colors more saturated.

Adding to the serenity, an overcast sky produced an even light across the whole scene, much like a giant studio soft box.

I chose a low ISO of 100 and a slow shutter speed of 0.6 seconds for the effect I wanted on the water. Then I chose an *f*-stop of 13 for the correct exposure. One way to get a good starting exposure is to try manual mode, throw the scene out of focus and meter on a medium green area.

As a subject, this river offers countless photographic opportunities as the water flow, light and seasons change. As a respite, it’s always like an old friend, providing space for me to listen to its call.

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## “Little River, Great Smoky Mountains”

Canon EOS 5D Mark IV, EF 28-300 mm *f*3.5-5.6 L IS USM, ISO 100, *f*-13 at 0.6 seconds, Gitzo tripod



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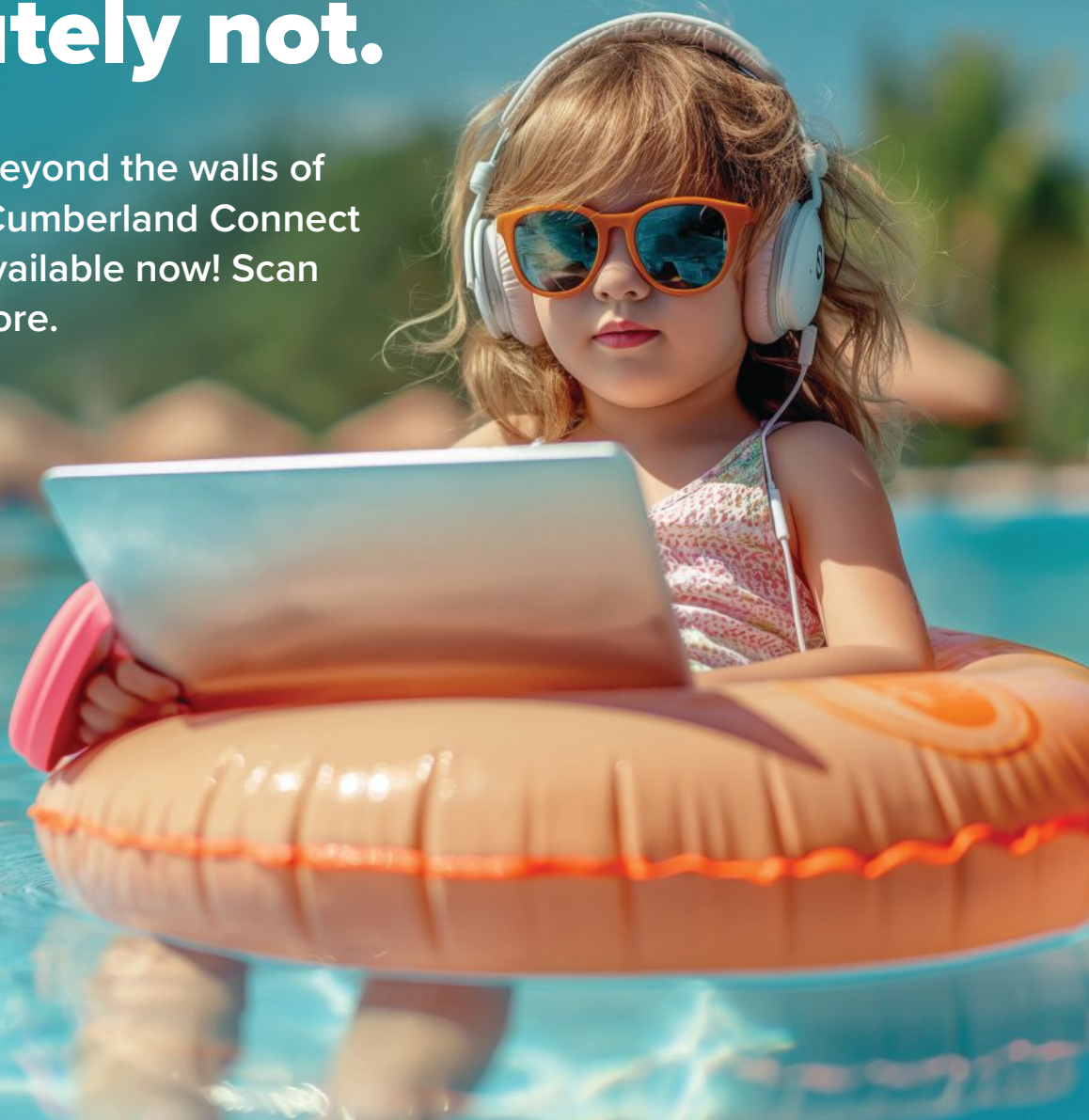
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