Storm Recovery Continues
How You Can Help

Best of Tennessee
And the Winners Are...

History for Kids:
Tennessee’s First Hydroelectric Dam

State Park Spotlight:
Johnsonville State Historic Park

Loving Lemons
In the market for a new energy efficient refrigerator or washing machine but don’t know where to start? TVA EnergyRight® and your local power company are here to help. Head to the EnergyRight Marketplace to find the best energy efficient appliances and products for you. From AC units to light bulbs, the EnergyRight Marketplace is your one stop shop to compare products, read and write reviews, and even make purchases. Search by type, brand or model for these products and more:

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- Electric appliances
- Central air conditioners
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Bathed in pastel-tinted light of dusk, electric cooperative crews and reinforcements from other utilities and contractors work to repair storm damage near Samburg along Reelfoot Lake. See page 8 for information on how you can help the affected communities. Photograph by Trent Scott

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Books and papers from the library are among the treasures found at the Hermitage — Middle Tennessee’s best historic site, according to our readers. See all the winners in this year’s Best of Tennessee Readers’ Choice Awards beginning on page 10. Photograph courtesy of Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage
Between the Lines

News from your community

Working with local legislators

“All politics is local.” This observation by the late Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill Jr., former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, means that even national politics have a local impact, and people care most about issues that directly affect them. Indirectly, this famous adage underscores the importance and value of local politics.

At Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, we think it’s critical to develop and cultivate relationships with local legislators because they craft, introduce and vote on legislation that impacts the local business climate, the environment and quality of life for our community. That’s why we work closely with our local elected officials. After all, our purpose is to provide safe, reliable, affordable services, but our mission is to help our community thrive.

CEMC is a local business that powers economic development and prosperity for our region. As a cooperative, we have deep roots here, and we listen closely to our members to better understand the needs of the community. Our leadership, board members and employees live and work right here in the community we serve.

We strive to be an advocate for our community, ensuring that local legislators know, understand and act on the issues that are important to our area.

As a practical matter, we recognize that most legislators are “generalists,” yet they vote on a wide range of issues. Their expertise may not include the changing energy industry, which is why CEMC provides guidance and expertise from subject matter experts who’ve been in the energy industry for many years.

Today’s energy landscape is an increasingly complex topic covering not only the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspects of the industry, but also encompasses technology, cybersecurity, the electrification of the transportation sector and more.

Our experts provide briefings and backgrounder sessions to legislators, committees and staff, and we offer expert testimony for hearings and other legislative or regulatory meetings or gatherings. And because we’re involved in economic development and we know local community leaders, we can provide insight on how issues and policies under discussion might impact our region.

We strive to be a trusted resource on energy issues. Because of our deep roots in the community, we have a firm understanding of local issues and needs. We will continue looking after the long-term interests of our members. This means we are able to cultivate and foster positive, productive relationships with legislators who know and trust us because we’re advocating on behalf of the community we serve.

We’re proud to power your life and bring good things to the community. We hope you’ll continue to advise CEMC on matters of importance so we can continue to advocate on your behalf and improve the quality of life for all.
On The Trail Of

LEWIS & CLARK

COLUMBIA AND SNAKE RIVERS

Follow Lewis and Clark's epic 19th-century expedition along the Columbia and Snake Rivers aboard the newest riverboats in the region. Enjoy unique shore excursions, scenic landscapes, and talented onboard experts who bring the region to life.

Cruise Close To Home®

Call 1-800-459-2596 to request a FREE Cruise Guide

AmericanCruiseLines.com
December destruction

Weather impacts us all. And this past December was no exception, bringing severe weather to our region. The losses were devastating. My heart goes out to everyone who was affected by the storms. I truly hope that things are on the mend and life is improving. While we all do our best to be aware of severe weather and keep our families safe by hunkering down in an interior closet or a concrete bunker as tomatoes pass, protecting the electric grid is another story entirely.

Storms can severely impact businesses and different industries in a variety of ways. For example, several years ago, I participated in an educational conference that was primarily attended by people involved in agriculture. At that time, there was a large storm system packing hurricane-force winds moving into the Southeast. I was concerned about the effects it would have on the electric grid. The other attendees were concerned about their crops and livestock. All of us were concerned — but for very different reasons. That was an eye-opener for me.

While weather impacts us all, for those of us in the electric utility industry, what happens to our systems affects everyone. In our industry, we keep a close eye on the weather, depending on the National Weather Service, local and national climate experts, and our own in-house meteorologists, private weather and manufacturers and suppliers have yet to meet increased demand after being sidelined during the pandemic.

Like always, we pulled together. TVA, Tennessee’s electric co-ops, municipal power providers and contractors restored power as quickly as possible to the substations to be able to serve those people.

Compounding this disaster was a lack of materials available to effect repairs. Transformers, which are required to bring the electricity safely into your home at voltages you can use, have been in short supply for months. In recent years, multiple storms have affected numerous utilities, resulting in limited inventories. Manufacturers and suppliers have yet to meet increased demand after being sidelined during the pandemic.

We’ve done this before, and we’ll do it again. We can’t prevent disasters; we can only plan on how we respond. Hopefully, it will a long time before we have to do it again — at least on this scale.

Please see page 8 to learn how you can help recovery efforts.
For years, the millions of Americans with mobility issues had a choice when it came to wheelchairs: convenience or comfort. Wheelchairs have been around since the 17th century, but there have not been significant improvements to their design . . . until now.

Thanks to the So Lite™ Wheelchair, individuals with mobility challenges and their caregivers no longer need to choose between wheelchairs that are comfortable and those that can be easily transported. The frame is crafted using magnesium, known for its combination of light weight and strength. This has resulted in a chair frame that weighs only 16.5 pounds, but can easily handle a person weighing as much as 250 pounds. This lesser weight makes it easier to maneuver, whether by the person sitting in it or the person pushing it. The seat and the back feature comfortable yet durable cushions that can be removed easily for cleaning. The rear wheels, footrests and anti-tippers all feature easy quick-release, no-tool removal. The backrest folds for convenient storage in a closet, underneath a bed or in a car trunk, and the armrests flip back, so you can roll up close to a desk or table. The tires feature flat-free design and do not require maintenance, and there is a dual braking system featuring manual locks and handbrakes.

Call now and a helpful, knowledgeable product expert will answer any questions you have. The So Lite™ Wheelchair comes with a one-year manufacturer’s warranty and our exclusive home trial. We’ll even give you FREE back and seat cushions. Don’t wait . . . Call now.

Available in Black (shown), White or Blue
On the evening on Friday, Dec. 10, a series of violent tornadoes ripped across West and Middle Tennessee. Hundreds of homes were damaged or destroyed, and three Tennesseans lost their lives.

In the wake of the storm, many are looking for opportunities to assist.

“The outpouring has been phenomenal,” said Danny Jowers, emergency management director for Obion County as he worked in the Samburg resource center that was established in the days following the storm. “We have plenty of supplies, but if someone wants to make a monetary donation, find a way to do that. People are going to need funds to get their lives back — for housing, for rent or other things they’ll need.”

At press time, several organizations were working in the affected areas. This list is subject to change, so visit tnmagazine.org for an updated list of needs and opportunities to assist.

**Ways to help Tennesseans impacted by the December tornadoes**

**Obion County Tornado Relief Fund**
Security Bank and Trust Company
securitybanktn.com • 731-642-6644

**Samburg Relief Fund**
Security Bank and Trust Company
securitybanktn.com • 731-642-6644

**Lake Road Relief Fund**
Simmons Bank
simmonsbank.com

**Middle Tennessee Emergency Response Fund**
The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
cfmt.org/tornado2021
888-540-5200

**American Red Cross**
redcross.org • 1-800-RED CROSS

**Southern Baptist Churches Disaster Relief**
tnbaptist.org • 615-373-2255

**United Methodist Committee on Relief**
umcmission.org • 800-862-4246

**Churches of Christ Disaster Relief**
churchesofchristdrt.org
937-308-7593

**Samaritan’s Purse**
samaritanspurse.org • 828-262-1980

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Samburg suffered heavy damage from the December tornadoes. Crews from Gibson Electric Membership Corporation and assisting co-ops work to restore power.

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by Trent Scott
The very best hunting knives possess a perfect balance of form and function. They’re carefully constructed from fine materials, but also have that little something extra to connect the owner with nature.

If you’re on the hunt for a knife that combines impeccable craftsmanship with a sense of wonder, the $79 Huntsman Blade is the trophy you’re looking for.

The blade is full tang, meaning it doesn’t stop at the handle but extends to the length of the grip for the ultimate in strength. The blade is made from 420 surgical steel, famed for its sharpness and its resistance to corrosion.

The handle is made from genuine natural bone, and features decorative wood spacers and a hand-carved motif of two overlapping feathers—a reminder for you to respect and connect with the natural world.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of $2,000. Well, that won’t cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers. Also, receive a genuine leather sheath FREE when you purchase the Huntsman Blade.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship. If you don’t feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

Limited Reserves. A deal like this won’t last long. We have only 1120 Huntsman Blades for this ad only. Don’t let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

Huntsman Blade $249*
Offer Code Price Only $79 + S&P Save $170
1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: HUK698-03
You must use the insider offer code to get our special price.

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. HUK698-03
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

*Discount is only for customers who use the offer code versus the listed original Stauer.com price.

California residents please call 1-800-333-2045 regarding Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.

- 12” overall length; 6 ½” stainless steel full tang blade
- Genuine bone handle with brass hand guard & bolsters
- Includes genuine leather sheath

Stauer... Afford the Extraordinary.
Once again this year, The Tennessee Magazine asked readers to identify their favorites across the state — everything from milkshakes to scenic drives to flea markets — and the answers came pouring in. Without further ado, we present the winners of the 2021 Best of Tennessee Readers’ Choice Awards. Also, be sure to visit our website at tnmagazine.org for expanded results, including the winners and runners-up in every category.

EATS

Bakery
West
Tiny Baker, 411 S. Third St., Union City; 731-507-0080, facebook.com/tinybakeruc

Middle
Julia’s Homestyle Bakery, 1911 Medical Center Parkway, Murfreesboro; 615-890-2253; borobakery.com

East
Alessandro’s Italian Artisan Bakery, 231 S. Cedar Ave., South Pittsburg; 423-818-1444; facebook.com/alessandrositalianartbakery

Barbecue
West
Central BBQ, 6201 Poplar Ave., Memphis; 901-417-7962; eatcbbq.com

Middle
Martin’s BBQ, 410 Fourth Ave S., Nashville; 615-288-0880; martinsbbqjoint.com

East
Big H BBQ, 549 Flora Road, Rogersville; 423-293-3707; facebook.com/bighbq

Catfish
West
Boyette’s Dining Room, Highway 21, Tiptonville; 731-253-7307; reelfoot.com/boyettes

Middle
Granny Fishes House, 340 Shipman Creek Road, Wartrace; 931-857-4025; grannyfishes.com

East
Huck Finn’s Catfish, 3330 Parkway, Pigeon Forge; 865-429-3353; huckfinnscatfish.com

Craft Beer
West
Hub City Brewing, 250 W. Main St., Jackson; 731-240-1168; drinkhubcity.com

Middle
Common John Brewing Co., 210 Woodbury Highway, Manchester; 931-954-5387; commonjohnbc.com

East
Smoky Mountain Brewery, 1004 Parkway, Gatlinburg; 865-436-4200; smoky-mtn-brewery.com

Hamburger
West
The Grind Mac and Cheese Burger Bar, 112 Lovelace Ave., Martin; 731-587-6912; thegrindburgerbar.com
**Middle**

**Jiffy Burger**  
1001 Hillsboro Blvd., Manchester; 931-728-4452; facebook.com/jiffyburgertn

**East**  
**Litton’s Market, Restaurant and Bakery,**  
2803 Essary Drive, Knoxville; 865-688-0429; littonsdirecttouyou.com

**Home/Country Cooking**  
**West**  
**Brooks Shaw’s Old Country Store,**  
56 Casey Jones Lane, Jackson; 731-668-1223; caseyjones.com

**Middle**  
**Miller’s Grocery,**  
7011 Main St., Christiana; 615-893-1878; millersgrocery.com

**East**  
**Cookie Jar Cafe,**  
1887 Kelly Cross Road, Dunlap; 423-949-5852; thecookiejarcafe.com

**Milkshake**  
**West**  
**The Grind Mac and Cheese Burger Bar,**  
112 Lovelace Ave., Martin; 731-587-6912; thegrindburgerbar.com

**Middle**  
**Legendairy Milkshake Bar,**  
171 Third Ave. N., Nashville; 615-750-5843; legendairymilkshakebar.com

**East**  
**Frostee Freeze Drive-In,**  
1617 N. Broad St., Tazewell; 423-626-3522; facebook.com/frosteefreezedriverin

**Place for Dessert**  
**West**  
**Dumplins Bistro & Bakery,**  
31C Wiley Parker Road, Jackson; 731-664-4959; dumplinsofjackson.com

**East**  
**The Winery at Seven Springs Farm,**  
1474 Highway 61 E., Maynardville; 865-745-2902; winerysevenspringsfarm.com

**Winery**  
**West**  
**White Squirrel Winery,**  
4385 Highway 45 W., Kenton; 731-796-1713; whitesquirrelwinery.com

**Middle**  
**Arrington Vineyards,**  
6211 Patton Road, Arrington; 615-395-0102; arringtonvineyards.com

**East**  
**The Winery at Seven Springs Farm,**  
1474 Highway 61 E., Maynardville; 865-745-2902; winerysevenspringsfarm.com

**TRAVEL & FUN**

**Agritourism/ Pick-Your-Own Farm**  
**West**  
**Green Acres Farm,**  
158 Medina Highway, Milan; 731-686-2004; greenacresmilan.com

**Middle**  
**Lucky Ladd Farms,**  
4374 Rocky Glade Road, Eagleville; 615-274-3786; luckyladdfarms.com

**East**  
**Scott’s Strawberry and Tomato Farms,**  
650 Scott Road, Unicoi; 423-743-7511; scottfarmstn.com

**Camping**  
**West**  
**Reelfoot Lake State Park,**  
2595 Highway 21 E., Tiptonville; 731-253-9652; tnstateparks.com/parks/reelfoot-lake
Middle
Fall Creek Falls State Park.
2009 Village Camp Road, Spencer; 423-881-5298; tnstateparks.com/parks/fall-creek-falls

East
Indian Boundary,
250 Ranger Station Road, Tellico Plains; 423-397-8455; fs.usda.gov/cherokee/

Chickasaw Golf Course
West
Chickasaw Golf Course, 9555 State Route 100, Henderson; 731-989-3111; golfatchickasaw.com

Middle
Center Hill Lake, DeKalb County; 931-205-1063; centerhilllaketenn.com

East
Cherokee Lake,
Bean Station, Morristown, Jefferson City; cherokee-lake.org

Golf Course
West
Chickasaw Golf Course, 9555 State Route 100, Henderson; 731-989-3111; golfatchickasaw.com

Middle
WillowBrook Golf Club, 6751 McMinnville Highway, Manchester; 931-728-8989; golfwillowbrook.net

East
Woodlake Lodge, Golf and Country Club, 330 Woodlake Blvd., Tazewell; 423-626-6010; woodlakegolf.com

Fishing Spot
West
Reelfoot Lake State Park, 2595 Highway 21 E., Tiptonville; 731-253-9652; tnstateparks.com/parks/reelfoot-lake

Historic Site
West
Shiloh National Military Park, 1055 Pittsburg Landing Road, Shiloh; 731-689-5696; nps.gov/shil

Middle
Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage,
4580 Rachel’s Lane, Nashville; 615-889-2941; thehermitage.com

East
Cades Cove, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg; 865-436-1200; nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/cadescove.htm

Sporting Event
West
Memphis Grizzlies,
191 Beale St., Memphis; 901-888-HOOP; grizzlies.com

Middle
Tennessee Titans,
1 Titans Way, Nashville; tennesseetitans.com

East
University of Tennessee Volunteers football,
1600 Phillip Fulmer Way, Suite 201, Knoxville; 800-332-VOLS; utsports.com

State Park
West
Reelfoot Lake State Park, 2595 Highway 21 E., Tiptonville; 731-253-9652; tnstateparks.com/parks/reelfoot-lake

Middle
Fall Creek Falls State Park, 2009 Village Camp Road, Spencer; 423-881-5298; tnstateparks.com/parks/fall-creek-falls
**East (Tie)**

**Roan Mountain State Park,** 1015 Highway 143, Roan Mountain; 423-547-3900; tnstateparks.com/parks/info/roan-mountain

**Warriors’ Path State Park,** 490 Hemlock Road, Kingsport; 423-239-8531 tnstateparks.com/parks/warriors-path

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**THE ARTS**

**Art Gallery**

**West**

Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, 1934 Poplar Ave., Memphis; 901-544-6200; brooksmuseum.org

**Middle**

Frist Art Museum, 919 Broadway, Nashville; 615-244-3340; fristcenter.org

**East**

Hunter Museum of American Art, 10 Bluff View, Chattanooga; 423-267-0968; huntermuseum.org

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**Museum**

**West**

Discovery Park of America, 830 Everett Blvd., Union City; 731-885-5455; discoveryparkofamerica.com

**Middle**

Tennessee State Museum, 1000 Rosa L. Parks Blvd., Nashville; 615-741-2692; tnmuseum.org

**East**

Museum of Appalachia, 2819 Andersonville Highway, Clinton; 865-494-7680; museumofappalachia.org

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**Performing Arts**

**West**

Orpheum Theatre, 203 S. Main St., Memphis; 901-525-3000; orpheum-memphis.com

**Middle**

Tennessee Performing Arts Center, 505 Deaderick St., Nashville; 615-782-4040; tpac.org

**East**

Cumberland County Playhouse, 221 Tennessee Ave., Crossville; 931-484-5000; ccplayhouse.com

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**GETAWAYS**

**Place to Take the Kids**

**West**

Discovery Park of America, 830 Everett Blvd., Union City; 731-885-5455; discoveryparkofamerica.com

**Middle**

Nashville Zoo, 3777 Nolensville Pike, Nashville; 615-833-1534; nashvillezoo.org

**East**

Dollywood, 2700 Dollywood Parks Blvd., Pigeon Forge; 1-800-DOLLYWOOD; dollywood.com

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**Scenic Drive**

**West**

Reelfoot Lake State Park,
Weekend Getaway
West
Memphis, Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau, 47 Union Ave., Memphis; 901-543-5300; memphistravel.com

Middle
Nashville, Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp., 500 11th Ave. N., Suite 650, Nashville; 800-657-6910; visitmusiccity.com

East
Gatlinburg, Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, 811 E. Parkway, Gatlinburg; 865-436-4178; gatlinburg.com

SHOPPING

Antiques Store
West
Carriage House Antique Market and Cafe, 195 Carriage House Drive, Jackson;
731-664-6678; carriagehouseantiquemarket.net

Middle
Shelton Lane Antiques, 100 Shelton Lane, Manchester; 931-728-5525; sheltonlaneantiques.com

East
The Homestead Shoppe, 401 Richmond St., Church Hill; 423-357-5400; facebook.com/the-homestead-shoppe-230494330280

Farmers Market
West
West Tennessee Farmers’ Market, 91 New Market St., Jackson; 731-425-8308; jacksontn.gov/residents/farmers__market

Middle
Nashville Farmers’ Market, 900 Rosa L. Parks Blvd., Nashville; 615-880-2001; nashvillefarmersmarket.org

East
Kingsport Farmers Market, 308 Clinchfield St., Kingsport; 423-224-2821; kingsportfarmersmarket.org

EVENTS

Arts and Crafts Show
West
Reelfoot Arts and Crafts Festival, 2595 Highway 21 E., Tiptonville; 731-694-9283; reelfootartsandcrafts.com

Flea Market
West
Friendly Frank’s Flea Market (NOW CLOSED),

800 S. Highland Ave., Jackson

Middle
Nashville Flea Market, 401 Wingrove St., Nashville; 615-862-5016;

East
Great Smokies Flea Market, 220 W. Dumplin Valley Road, Kodak; 866-785-3532; greatsmokiesfleamarket.com

Flea Market

West
Friendly Frank’s Flea Market (NOW CLOSED),

800 S. Highland Ave., Jackson

Middle
Nashville Flea Market, 401 Wingrove St., Nashville; 615-862-5016;

East
Great Smokies Flea Market, 220 W. Dumplin Valley Road, Kodak; 866-785-3532; greatsmokiesfleamarket.com
Congratulations to our grand-prize winners

Each 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 his or her visit and a basket of farm-direct, locally made artisan foods from Pick Tennessee Products.

- **Pam Caldwell,** Gibson EMC
- **Hannah Saenz,** Cumberland EMC
- **Steven Owens,** Mountain EC
- **Herbert Cox,** Southwest Tennessee EMC, won $250 after his name was selected from online entrants.
The race to build Tennessee’s first hydroelectric dam

One hundred ten years ago, three companies battled Mother Nature and labor disputes to pioneer hydropower in the Tennessee Valley

First some background: The science behind hydroelectricity reached a fever pitch around the turn of the 19th century. Hydroelectric dams had been built before, most notably at Niagara Falls, and the technology had great promise. This led enterprising individuals to gaze longingly at the tributaries of the Tennessee River that descend from the Appalachian Mountains as potential sources of electricity.

The Chattanooga & Tennessee Power Company was the first to break ground on a hydroelectric dam in Tennessee — on Hales Bar, about 30 miles downstream from Chattanooga on the Tennessee River — in 1905.

Unfortunately, the Hales Bar project had all sorts of problems. The bedrock at the bottom of the Tennessee River was more porous than the engineers had hoped. “Although it was an easy matter to make the dam water-
tight, it was found that great quantities of water spurted up from fissures in the bedrock itself,” explained a trade publication. To make the barrier watertight, workers tried to plug the massive limestone tunnels using every means possible, a frustrating and dangerous battle with Mother Nature that took years.

In search of workers, the company brought in Italian and Hungarian immigrants from New York City. They were housed along with men from the region in a makeshift community known as Sucktown, named for one of the barriers to navigation to be overcome by the lake created by the dam.

Sucktown was a scary place. In 1907, there were at least two strikes — one of Italian workers and another of White workers who were angry that an African-American had been put in a position of authority. In February 1910, at least three Black men were killed in an incident dubbed a race riot by newspapers across the country.

Meanwhile, as if to confirm the notion that there was a curse on the project, laborers repeatedly unearthed skeletons while digging at Hales Bar. No one knew — or will ever know — if the bones were the remains of mound...
builders, Chickamaugan Indians, Civil War soldiers or none of the above. “Last week was not the first time human bones have been pitched out by the diggers,” the superintendent explained in May 1908. “If you go down there you will see that sort of thing happen most every day.”

Then there were issues between the power company and four general contractors. Details of why the first three contractors were fired filled a lot of newspaper articles, but suffice it to say that the dam and hydroelectric plant cost more than three times the original estimate.

The Hales Bar dam, plant and power lines were finished in the fall of 1913 — a season that proved to be, quite literally, a watershed moment for Chattanooga and the Tennessee River. Around Oct. 20, the dam was closed, and the waters upstream began to rise. Forever submerged beneath the waters of the manmade lake were all the legendary barriers to navigation that had played such an important role in the story of the Chickamaugan Indians, the saga of river commerce and tales from the Civil War. “Take a last look at the suck, the pot and the skillet,” the Chattanooga News said on Oct. 23. “They now pass into the history of impeded river transportation.”

It was a remarkable month for Chattanooga. What no one bothered to point out was that the Hales Bar Dam was the first to start construction in Tennessee but the third to be completed.

You see, in 1910, projects for two other hydroelectric dams were commenced in East Tennessee. Neither was nearly as large as Hales Bar. One was the Watauga Dam (now known as Wilbur Dam) in Carter County. This dam was financed by the Watauga Power Company and intended to provide power for the tri-cities. Its general contractor was W.J. Oliver, who was restoring his reputation after the bad publicity he received from being fired from the Hales Bar project.

Watauga Dam began producing electricity on Christmas Day 1911. “Ere long the wonderful waterpower of Tennessee, said to be perhaps greater than is afforded by any other state in the South, will be put to use for commercial and manufacturing purposes,” the Charlotte Observer pointed out.

A third firm called the East Tennessee Power Company finished a dam on the Ocoee River at Parksville about a month after Watauga Dam was finished. Its intention was to sell power to the copper factories on Polk County’s Ducktown Basin, but it also provided electricity to Chattanooga. “The current came singing into the station, the song proving to be delightful music in ears of electricians,” the Chattanooga Daily Times reported.

All this dam building was watched closely by big national companies, including a bustling Pittsburgh-based firm called Aluminum Corporation of America, later known as Alcoa (much more on this subject in a future column!).

I write all this because we normally associate the Tennessee Valley Authority with the development of hydroelectricity. But TVA came a generation after this first wave of dams. TVA acquired Watauga, Parksville, Hales Bar and other dams produced by these predecessor companies and went on to build much larger dams such as Norris, Nickajack and Pickwick Landing. It’s important that we remember the companies and workers who came before TVA.
**West Tennessee**

**Now-Jan. 9 • Christmas at Graceland**, Graceland, Memphis. 800-238-2000 or graceland.com/christmas-at-graceland

**Now-March 1 • The Fascinating World of Murray Hudson’s Globes and Maps**, Discovery Park of America, Union City. 731-885-5455 or discoveryparkofamerica.com

**Jan. 21 • Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández**, Orpheum Theatre, Memphis. 901-525-3000 or orpheum-memphis.com

**Feb. 1-6 • Hadestown**, Orpheum Theatre, Memphis. 901-525-3000 or orpheum-memphis.com

**Feb. 5 • 10th Annual Chocolate Tour**, downtown Covington. 901-476-9727 or cedc38019@gmail.com

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**Middle Tennessee**

**Now-Jan. 9 • The Elegance of Royal Fashion**, Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center, Hendersonville. 615-822-0789 or monthavenartsandculturalcenter.com

**Now-Jan. 9 • Holiday LIGHTS**, Cheekwood Estate and Gardens, Nashville. 615-356-8000 or cheekwood.org

**Now-Jan. 9 • Interventions: Fortuna**, Cheekwood Estate and Gardens, Nashville. 615-356-8000 or cheekwood.org

**Now-Jan. 10 • Ice Skating**, Downtown Commons Winter Ice Rink, Clarksville. 931-245-3366 or facebook.com/downtowncommonscissors

**Now-Jan. 15 • Marshmallow Hikes**, Owl’s Hill Nature Sanctuary, Brentwood. 615-370-4672 or owlshill.org

**Now-Jan. 16 • Manhattan Memories: Soaring Towers and Park Visions of Jefferson Hayman and A.C. Webb**, Cheekwood Estate and Gardens, Nashville. 615-356-8000 or cheekwood.org

**Now-Feb. 20 • 2021 Best of Tennessee Craft Exhibition**, Tennessee State Museum, Nashville. 615-741-2692 or tnmuseum.org

**Jan. 6-23 • Disney’s The Lion King**, Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Nashville. 615-782-4040 or tpac.org

**Jan. 8 • Songwriter Session: Frank Ray**, Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville. 615-416-2001 or countrymusichalloffame.org

**Jan. 9 • Epiphany Concert with Choir and Instruments**, Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville. 931-647-6750 or grace-lutheran-church.org

**Jan. 21 • Big Band of Brothers: A Jazz Celebration of The Allman Brothers Band**, CMA Theater at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville. 615-416-2001 or countrymusichalloffame.org

**Feb. 4 • Hog Day 2022**, Davis Kessler & Davis, Winchester. 931-967-7000

**Feb. 5 • Sweetheart Shopping Pop-Up**, Time to Eat Bar and Grill, Lewisburg. 931-246-9057 or thunderrunevents.com

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**East Tennessee**

**Now-Jan. 31 • Lights Over Gatlinburg**, Gatlinburg Skylift Park. 865-436-4307 or gatlinburgskylift.com

**Now-Feb. 15 • Pigeon Forge Winterfest**, throughout Pigeon Forge. pigeonforgewinterfest.com

**Now-Feb. 27 • Sandhill Crane Kayak Tour with Chattanooga Guided Adventures**, Cherokee Removal Memorial, Birchwood. 423-390-8688 or chattanoogaguidedadventures.com

**Jan. 6 • Jeff and Sheri Easter**, Palace Theatre, Crossville. 931-484-6133 or palacetheatre-crossville.com

**Jan. 7-9 • Primary Players Presents Matilda Jr.**, Clayton Center for the Arts, Maryville. 865-981-8590 or claytonartscenter.com

**Jan. 15 • Gypsy Moon**, Shulz Brau Brewing Company, Knoxville. 865-585-4508 or facebook.com/gypsymoonknoxville

**Jan. 15-16 • Eighth Annual Winter Angel Expo**, Great Smoky Mountain Expo Center, White Pine. 423-312-2259 or tdgk9n@comcast.net

**Jan. 18-20 • Jersey Boys**, Tivoli Theatre, Chattanooga. 423-757-5580 or tivolichattanooga.com

**Feb. 3 • Gypsy Moon**, 35 North, Farragut. 865-585-4508 or facebook.com/gypsymoonknoxville

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**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 Almanac, we cannot guarantee publication. Find a complete listing of submissions we’ve received at tnmagazine.org/events.*

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**January 2022**

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‘Building a Brighter Tennessee’: An electric cooperative creative writing and scholarship competition

High school juniors from Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation’s service area have a unique opportunity to earn spots on a once-in-a-lifetime tour of our nation’s capital by participating in the Electric Cooperative Creative Writing and Scholarship Competition.

CEMC will select 12 students who write winning short stories describing the benefits of cooperative power to attend the Washington Youth Tour, an unforgettable trip to Washington, D.C., this summer. Sponsored by CEMC and the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, the Washington Youth Tour provides young leaders an opportunity to explore our nation’s capital, learn more about government and cooperatives, develop leadership skills and network with other young leaders from across the nation.

To enter, students must write short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives — Building a Brighter Tennessee” explaining how electric co-ops are building a brighter Tennessee through investments in energy, education, broadband, economic development and more.

Stories must not exceed 900 words, including articles (“a,” “an” and “the”), and the exact word count must be included on the cover page. Entries, which must be typewritten and double-spaced, will be judged on appropriate treatment of theme, knowledge of the subject, originality, creativity, grammar and composition.

The contest deadline is Monday, Feb. 21, and winners will be announced this spring. Writers of the top 12 entries in CEMC’s service area will join nearly 2,000 other delegates from across the country for the 2022 Washington Youth Tour in June.

Food, travel and lodging expenses are paid by Tennessee’s electric cooperatives, but the benefits of the Youth Tour go far beyond an expense-paid trip. Youth Tour attendees will qualify for additional trips and thousands of dollars in scholarships. TECA will award $3,000, $2,000 and $1,000 scholarships for the state’s top three short stories. Additional scholarships on the national level will be awarded by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association as well.

Winners can also choose to participate in the Cooperative Youth Ambassador program. Delegates who remain active and engaged with CEMC for 12 months following the contest will qualify for a drawing for a $10,000 scholarship to the school of the winner’s choice.

The Washington Youth Tour Creative Writing and Scholarship Competition is open to high school juniors living in CEMC’s five-county service area. Resource materials and additional information can be found online at cemc.org and youthtour.tnelectric.org or by contacting Susie Yonkers, CEMC community relations coordinator, at 1-800-987-2362, ext. 1143, or by email at syonkers@cemc.org.
Each year, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation invests in future leaders by awarding scholarships to deserving high school seniors through the Senior Scholarship Program.

Twelve students will be chosen this year to receive one-time awards of $1,000 that can be used toward their freshman year expenses such as tuition, textbooks and lab fees or to purchase other required classroom materials. The program is coordinated through each school’s senior guidance counselor.

To be eligible, applicants must meet these requirements:
- Must be a graduating high school senior whose parents or guardians are members of CEMC and receive electric service from CEMC at his or her primary residence.
- Must have attained a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade-point average.
- Must enroll or plan to enroll as a full-time student at an accredited Tennessee college, university or trade school by fall 2022 (Murray State and Western Kentucky universities are included).
- Must submit a completed application, including two letters of reference: one from a teacher or other school official and one from a community leader.
- Must write an original essay of at least 300 words explaining what the student most looks forward to about attending college and how a scholarship, in terms of financial assistance, will help in completing his or her education. All essays will be judged on the basis of content, composition, grammar and neatness.

Applications are available through the senior guidance counselors at each school and can be found on CEMC’s website: cemc.org. Deadline for scholarship entry is Monday, Feb. 21. Children of CEMC, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association or Tennessee Valley Authority employees, directors or attorneys are not eligible to apply.

For additional information, contact CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Susie Yonkers at 800-987-2362, ext. 1143, or via email at syonkers@cemc.org.
Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is seeking entries from local student-artists for its 2023 Calendar Art Contest. Winners will receive cash prizes and have their artwork published in CEMC’s 2023 calendar, which will be displayed in homes, businesses and schools throughout the co-op’s service area. Calendars are free and available at CEMC’s offices beginning in November each year. (Get your 2022 calendar at any CEMC office while supplies last!)

The contest is open to all students in grades kindergarten through 12 who reside within CEMC’s service area. Entries will be accepted through participating schools and are due by Monday, Feb. 21. Each grade (for which the student is currently enrolled) has been assigned a calendar month to illustrate as follows: January, kindergarten; February, first; March, second; April, third; May, fourth; June, fifth; July, sixth; August, seventh; September, eighth; October, ninth; November, 10th; and December, 11th. Seniors will illustrate the cover.

There is no specific theme for the cover; however, rural scenes, barns, wildlife and items that illustrate CEMC’s service (line trucks, utility poles, etc.) are a few suggestions. Artwork will be judged on artistic merit, creativity and how well the assigned month is depicted. All elements of the artwork must be the work of the student submitting the entry. Artwork must be on white or light-colored, unruled paper no larger than 11 by 14 inches and no smaller than 8.5 by 11 inches. Original artwork must be submitted (no photocopies), and art must be in the horizontal or landscape position.

First-place winners will receive cash prizes as follows: K-fifth, $25; sixth-eighth, $50; and ninth-12th, $75. The Overall Winner will receive $100.

Complete contest details and instructions can be obtained by contacting CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Susie Yonkers at 800-987-2362, ext. 1143, or by emailing syonkers@cemc.org.

Below, the artwork of Sycamore Middle School student Ally Beecher was the overall winner in the 2022 CEMC Calendar Art Contest.
Winter brings higher electric bills
Take steps NOW to lower your energy use!

Due to the projected rising cost of fuels used to generate electricity, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation members might see an increase in their energy bills this winter.

Take steps now to stay on top of your energy consumption and keep your CEMC bill under control:

1. **Instead of waiting to get your electric bill each month, keep up with your energy use by viewing your daily consumption at cemc.org or utilizing the SmartHub mobile app.** If you notice your use increasing, take steps to curb it immediately. Energy tools and tips can be found in our Energy Resource Center at cemc.org.

2. **Lower your thermostat setting a few degrees.** Even if nothing changes in your home, your heating system will have to run more often when it’s extremely cold outside. Setting the thermostat to 68 degrees is recommended, but the lower you set your thermostat, the more you’ll save on heating. Programmable thermostats installed by a qualified technician are a great way to control your thermostat settings. They allow you to set a lower setting at night when it’s typically the coldest or during the day when no one is home for several hours.

3. **Never set a thermostat in emergency heat.** If your unit is working properly, you should not have to use the emergency heat setting. If your unit is malfunctioning and you must engage emergency heat, be sure to call a qualified contractor immediately to have your unit checked. A list of qualified contractors is available online at cemc.org.

4. **Change your HVAC return air filters monthly.**

5. **Have your HVAC unit serviced annually.**

6. **Check the ductwork for leaks.** You pay for the conditioned air in your home; make sure it’s not escaping into a crawl space, basement or attic.

7. **Use blinds and heavy curtains to your advantage.** Let the sunlight in during the day. Warm sunlight will help heat your home. Close blinds and curtains at night and on the shady side of the house to help keep heat in.

8. **Make sure the damper is closed when you’re not using your fireplace, and use an insulating balloon to help seal the damper to prevent heat loss.**

9. **Be careful using space heaters.** Not only can space heaters create a fire hazard, but they also consume a lot of energy. Just one 1,500-watt space heater running on average 12 hours per day can cause an approximate additional $50 on your electric bill.

10. **Insulate and seal:**
    - Use caulk and weather stripping around doors and windows to stop air leaks including attic entryways.
    - Seal gaps around pipes and electrical wires that come through walls, floors and ceilings.
    - Add insulation to attic and floors.

11. **Set your electric water heater thermostat to 120 degrees.** For electric water heaters in nonconditioned spaces, install an insulating wrap to preserve heat in the tank.

12. **Take cooler, shorter showers, and use cold water settings for laundry to reduce hot water use.**

13. **Air-dry dishes instead of using the dishwasher heated drying option.**

14. **Turn off unnecessary water pumps, or install timers.** And make sure all hot tubs are covered, and lower the thermostats when not in use.

15. **Consider signing up for our budgeting program called Levelized billing.** Levelized bills are calculated by averaging the previous 11 months use and multiplying by the current CEMC residential rates. To learn more and see if you qualify, please call 800-987-2362.

16. **If you or someone you know is having trouble paying energy bills, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) may be able to help.** This federally funded program helps eligible households pay for home energy bills. Learn more and find out where to apply at energyright.com/residential/energy-assistance.
In honor of Cooperative Month in October, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation teamed up with local elementary schools to host our annual community food drive.

With the help of students, parents, teachers and communities, thousands of nonperishable food items were collected this year. All donated items were delivered to local food banks and distributed to local families in need before Thanksgiving.

Participating elementary schools were Clyde Riggs, Pleasant View, West Cheatham, North Stewart, Sango, East Robertson, Cumberland Heights, Ashland City and Portland Gateview.

“Thank you to all who helped support our community food drive this year,” says CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Susie Yonkers. “We are so grateful for your generous donations, which helped provide meals for the less fortunate in our communities. You are truly appreciated!”
Our Mission Continues in 2022: A Letter From Our Team

Throughout 2021, CEMC & Cumberland Connect continued our mission to provide access to high-speed, reliable Internet, Phone, and Video services to all eligible CEMC members. We believe that a reliable Internet connection is just as vital a utility as electricity is in today's world — and our members' great need for this necessity continues fueling our efforts to complete our fiber network construction in as little time as possible.

At the conclusion of 2021, crews have constructed over 2,400 miles of fiber, providing access to CCFiber services to over 34,500 locations in Cheatham, Montgomery, Robertson, Stewart, and Sumner counties. In addition to this progress, we celebrated the exciting milestone of surpassing 12,000 Cumberland Connect subscribers — and while we are so grateful for this opportunity to serve more than 12,000 members to date, we will continue working hard every day to provide CCFiber service access to all eligible CEMC members. The announcement of the third phase in our network rollout signifies the approach to the halfway point of our fiber network construction. With the completion of Phase 2 in the books, Phase 3 construction is now underway!

Cumberland Connect services are already available in some Phase 3 areas, and remaining Phase 3 construction will encompass the areas depicted in yellow and dark blue on our Status Map pictured above — including communities in eastern Montgomery County, northern Cheatham County, central and eastern Robertson County, and western Sumner County. During Phase 3, our crews will be constructing more than 1,000 miles of fiber — that's the same as the distance between Nashville, TN and Albany, NY! Phase 3 construction will pass an additional 24,000+ locations, and we project that Cumberland Connect fiber services will be made available to all these additional homes and businesses by the end of 2022.

Our team is often asked, “How do you choose which areas you are going to next?” Many factors contribute to our construction planning — one of the biggest being the preparations, including vegetation management, that are required in each area before fiber construction can begin. “I've been in the telecom industry pushing 40 years, starting my career as an installer. The size and construction schedule of the Cumberland Connect project is by far the most aggressive schedule I've ever been a part of,” says Wes Pauls, Regional Project Manager for Conexon. As our network construction progresses, our commitment to reach underserved members throughout our service territory — those with little to no options for a reliable Internet connection — remains unwavering. Coupled with strategic planning, our aggressive construction schedule will allow us to reach all CEMC members in the shortest amount of time possible.

At Cumberland Connect, our purpose is connecting you to your best life — to our team, this means providing reliable fiber services at a reasonable, transparent price, and support that our members can rely on. “Our members deserve the best, and as a service provider, we want to be different in a good way,” says Mark Cook, Cumberland Connect Broadband Manager. “Our hope is that through the introduction of high-speed broadband services, we can continue supporting the growth of our communities and improving the lives of all CEMC members.”

Our team appreciates your patience and ongoing support while we continue working to expand CCFiber service access to all our members, and we are so grateful for this opportunity to serve our very own friends, neighbors, and communities.

—From all of us at Cumberland Connect
**The power of energy efficiency**

**Q:** Do energy-saving measures in my home make a big difference?

**A:** For the average household, it depends on your home’s efficiency and your habits. Your energy use is based on your home’s equipment and how you use it. You might already have an efficient home and good energy use habits, or you might have room for improvement.

Energy keeps us comfortable in our homes, and our monthly bill is the associated cost for this energy use. Making energy-saving measures work in your home comes down to preventing energy waste while maintaining personal comfort.

Let’s take it back to the basics and see if we can find opportunities to save energy in your home. Filters, LEDs and thermostat settings are great places to start.

**Replace filters**

If your home has a forced-air system, you have a filter. The filter needs to be checked regularly and replaced when it’s dirty. A dirty filter can cause heating and air-conditioning systems to use 15 percent more energy, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Since heating and air conditioning make up nearly half of your energy use, replacing your filter when it looks dirty is a habit that can reduce energy waste.

**Upgrade to LEDs**

Upgrading your lighting to LEDs is a simple, low-cost way to cut energy use. Depending on your budget, you can do it all at once or change bulbs out over time. If you are going to replace a few at a time, prioritize the lights you use the most.

There are many LED options available. One major variation is the color temperature, which is listed on the packaging in Kelvin. I recommend 2,700 K because it is similar to incandescent lighting. I also suggest Energy Star-rated products because they meet strict quality and efficiency standards and use up to 90 percent less energy and last 15 times longer than standard bulbs.

You can save year-round by adjusting your thermostat. During the winter, set it to 68 degrees when you’re home, and dial it back 8 to 10 degrees when you leave the house or go to sleep. Photo source: Mark Gilliland, Pioneer Utility Resources
Adjust your thermostat

It’s amazing how much difference a few degrees can make. By adjusting your thermostat to your home habits, you can save year-round on heating and cooling costs.

For winter months, the DOE recommends setting your thermostat to 68 degrees when you are home and dialing it back 8 to 10 degrees when you leave the house or go to sleep. For summer, the recommendation is 78 degrees when you are home and 8 to 10 degrees warmer when you are away. Using a programmable or smart thermostat will allow you to set it according to your schedule.

Making these small changes in your routine will help improve your energy efficiency while maintaining comfort in your home.

Update your lighting to LEDs for a low-cost, simple way to save energy. Energy Star-rated LEDs use up to 90 percent less energy. Photo source: Mark Gilliland, Pioneer Utility Resources

Meet the new voice of energy efficiency

Hello. I’m Miranda, director of operations and customer engagement at Efficiency Services Group. Our company partners with electric utilities to provide energy efficiency services to members. I have dedicated my career to helping people improve the efficiency of their homes.

I fell in love with energy efficiency at a manufactured home in Wisconsin 20 years ago. I worked as a weatherization technician at a nonprofit that provided efficiency services to seniors, people with disabilities and income-eligible people. That’s where I met Joan.

Joan worked at a factory making Christmas presents. Joan was rarely comfortable in her single-wide manufactured home during Wisconsin winters, and her energy bill took a large portion of her income. While working on her home, the HVAC crew found that the ductwork was set up for a double-wide. There was a large hole underneath the furnace meant to heat a section of the home that did not exist. Joan was unknowingly heating the space under her home and the surrounding cornfields for years. Our crews sealed up the 12-inch hole and weatherized her home.

When we checked in a few months later, Joan welcomed us with open arms and snickerdoodles. Since we completed the work, she saved enough on her electric bills to buy Christmas presents for her grandchildren. Imagine that: a grandmother who worked at a factory making Christmas presents who couldn’t afford to buy them.

After that experience, I was hooked. Making that kind of difference in someone else’s life changed my life. I look forward to sharing my energy efficiency advice with you.

Miranda Boutelle of Efficiency Services Group writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation’s landscape. For additional energy tips and information on Collaborative Efficiency, visit collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.
Though many Tennesseans flock to state parks during the warmer months, the frostier winter months are actually a great time to visit Johnsonville State Historic Park in New Johnsonville. Why? Because that’s when Kentucky Lake is at winter pool, several feet lower than the summer pool. The lower water level in the winter reveals a part of this area’s rich history, remnants of the old town of Johnsonville that was inundated when Kentucky Lake was formed.

“Some foundation sites remain, and the lower water level exposes portions of old railroad beds,” says Park Manager Bob Holliday. “It also shows the more traditional width of the river.”

At right, during winter months when Kentucky Lake is at winter pool with lower water levels, original pilings that once supported the tracks of the Nashville and Northwestern Military Railroad can be seen at the western edge of Johnsonville State Historic Park. Above, the strip of land in the upper right is near where the transfer building was once located. Supplies were offloaded from riverboats at the transfer building and then loaded onto railcars. This became a critical supply line for Union troops in 1864. Opposite page, living history interpreters host a few events a year to share the stories of Union soldiers, sailors and civilians with park visitors.
Civil War history

Most people associate the park with the area’s ties to the Civil War — the Johnsonville Depot as well as the 1864 Battle of Johnsonville. The town’s location on the Tennessee River made it convenient for steamboats to deliver Union supplies to the depot. From there they were transferred to trains and transported to Nashville and on to Sherman’s Army in Georgia.

On Nov. 4, 1864, Confederate troops under Nathan Bedford Forrest attacked and destroyed a number of boats and millions of dollars worth of supplies. This battle only lasted two days, but it disrupted the supply chain for Union troops in Nashville and beyond.

Today, visitors can see echoes of that battle, including earthen fortifications, rifle pits, reproductions of soldiers’ huts, a rail bed and a railroad turntable. There are also a number of wayside exhibits, and each year, the battle is commemorated with a living history event the first Saturday in November. Additionally, on the actual anniversary of the battle, Nov. 4, a park ranger leads a walking tour detailing the battle and how that history is preserved by the park.

The arrival of TVA

Like many towns along rivers that were dammed by the Tennessee Valley Authority, the old town of Johnsonville lies underwater now. The town grew up around what remained of the depot and thrived in the age of railroad transportation.

When TVA undertook its dam-building projects for flood control, hydroelectric power and lakes for recreation, the original Johnsonville gave way to the waters of Kentucky Lake in 1944. Residents moved to what was to become, appropriately named, New Johnsonville, which was incorporated as an official town five years later.

Native American and African-American historical ties

“For years, the emphasis was on the Civil War,” Holliday says. “But there is a wide variety of other stories that connect to our park such as this area being a water route for the Trail of Tears. We have also recently discovered significant research related to a Freedmen’s Bureau school that was located in Johnsonville after the Civil War.”

Tennessee State Parks are in the midst of working toward being able to tell fuller, richer, more complete stories of the past regarding the land they occupy and the people who lived there before the parks were established. This includes not only White settlers but also the Native Americans who were here before the settlers as well as African-American residents, both during slavery and afterward. Being able to tell these additional stories makes a park experience more vibrant, multidimensional and true, and having those stories available also creates a welcoming environment for more people. Seeing your own people’s history preserved and shared is a powerful thing and, in some cases, too long overlooked or ignored.

Part of that history involves the contributions of former slaves freed by the Emancipation Proclamation. They were part of the workforce that built the Nashville and Northwestern Military Railroad that connected Johnsonville to Nashville. Later on, some of them joined the 100th Regiment of
the United States Colored Infantry to help defend the railroad they had built.

Holliday recalls a conversation he had with an African-American woman from Humphreys County when he was still a park ranger at Johnsonville.

“She asked me why the White cemeteries in the park were well maintained while the Black cemeteries were overgrown and forgotten,” he says. “I didn’t have an answer for her.”

Construction began on the Johnsonville Supply Depot in March 1864. By May of 1864, the Union had a 90-acre supply depot on the Tennessee River with a 78-mile railroad route to move supplies to Nashville. Photograph courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.

Grave markers for World War I veterans George Wells and Andrew Green are seen in the African Methodist Cemetery, which overlooks the historic rail bed.

Bertram Floyd, Lee Randle and Fredrick Smith portray U.S. Colored Troops during a living history event. Photo courtesy of Johnsonville State Historic Park.

Living history interpreters Alex Burcham, Christopher Wheat, Myers Brown and Jerry Wooten portray sailors and civilian laborers who supported the operations of the Johnsonville Supply Depot, patrolling the Tennessee River and moving the arriving supplies onto boxcars.
After he became park manager, it was one of the areas he focused on. About 160 gravesites have been identified in the African Methodist Cemetery, dating back to the 1860s, a cemetery that was completely overgrown with thick brush and sawbriars when he became a ranger in 2013. Some research suggests that a portion of the graves belong to some of the troops who served with the U.S. Colored Infantry, but the research is ongoing to confirm that.

Holliday says that lots of volunteers have helped clean up and preserve the cemetery with significant support coming from Friends of Johnsonville State Historic Park and Friends of Tennessee State Parks. One of the first workdays on this project was held in 2015 as part of a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

The cemetery has since become one of the most popular areas of the park for visitors, and many are amazed that it’s there at all. Of the 160 gravesites, only 28 have names attached to them. However, research efforts continue to seek out additional information so that those interred there can be identified and given appropriate markers.

For the efforts to clean up this cemetery and mark graves, the park received an award of excellence in 2021 from Tennessee State Parks.

Through TVA maps and oral histories, the park has also identified an area near the cemetery where an African Methodist church once stood. One of the oral histories stated that the music coming from the church during services was so beautiful that White residents of Johnsonville would come and sit on the opposite hillside to listen.

Research is also ongoing regarding the site of the Freedmen’s Bureau school that once sat where a current park ranger’s residence is located. The education arm of the Freedman’s Bureau was aimed at helping former slaves receive a public education — to learn to read and write.

Outdoor recreation

Beyond the park’s fascinating history, there are also many opportunities to enjoy the natural world.

If you want to stretch your legs while taking in the sights, there are three trails to choose from, ranging in length from half a mile to 8 miles. Each of these trails focuses on an aspect of the park’s history, but you’ll also be able to enjoy the fresh air and perhaps spot some of the critters native to the area.

The park’s location on the Tennessee River makes it excellent for fishing — particularly by boat, even though you can have a good day fishing from the bank as well.

Birders can spot a variety of both woodland birds and waterfowl because of the park’s riverside location. And this time of year, you may even be able to spot some bald eagles.

Johnsonville State Historic Park

When you arrive

Begin your park experience at the visitor center with a museum and theater. Visitors can learn about the area’s history as well as what it offers today’s guests — abundant flora, fauna and recreational opportunities. There’s also a gift shop that allows you to take a piece of your park experience home with you.

For more information

Visit the park’s website at tnstateparks.com/parks/johnsonville or call the park office at 931-535-2789.
Lighten up with Lemons

Brighten your palate with the tangy, citrusy flavor of lemons this winter.

Clockwise from top left, Lemon Oil, Lemon Garlic Butter and Lemon Crema
Recipes by Tammy Algood; photograph by Robin Conover
We could all use a little sunshine right about now. The calendar and the stars tell us that the longest and darkest days are already behind us, but after two months of rich, heavy foods, it’s natural for us to crave “light” in all its aspects. To brighten up your wintry fare, add the color and flavor of the sun with lemons. This popular citrus will come to the rescue, adding a tart, bright flavor to your meals and bringing with it a hint of the sunnier days to come.

**Lemon-Roasted Potatoes**

*Yield: 6 servings*

- 1 teaspoon salt, divided
- 2½ pounds white potatoes, cut in large cubes
- 1 large lemon, zested and juiced
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

Bring a large pot of water to a boil over high heat. Add ¾ teaspoon of the salt and the potatoes. Boil for 8 minutes, then drain in a large colander for 3 minutes. Transfer to a rimmed roasting pan that has been lightly coated with cooking spray. Toss with the lemon zest, juice, olive oil, pepper and the remaining salt. Cool to room temperature, then cover and refrigerate 8 hours or overnight.

Remove from the refrigerator for 30 minutes. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees, and roast for 45 minutes, stirring and tossing gently halfway through. When golden brown, remove from the oven, and transfer to a serving bowl. Garnish with the parsley, and serve warm.

**Citrus Meltaway Cookies**

*Yield: 4 dozen cookies*

- 1¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup plus ¼ cup confectioners’ sugar, divided
- ½ pound (2 sticks) unsalted butter, divided
- 2 teaspoons grated lemon zest, divided
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice, divided

In the bowl of an electric mixer, combine the flour, cornstarch, ¼ cup of the confectioners’ sugar, 1½ sticks of the butter, 1 teaspoon of the zest and 1 tablespoon of the juice. Beat on low speed 3 minutes or until well combined.

Divide the dough in half. Shape each half into an 8-by-1-inch log. Wrap in plastic wrap, and refrigerate 2 hours.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. With a sharp knife, cut each log into ¼-inch slices. Place the slices 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake 10 to 12 minutes. The cookies will not be brown. Cool completely on a wire rack.

Note: Store in cookie tins or any airtight container.

**Lemon Garlic Butter**

*(Perfect on grilled fish!)*

*Yield: 8 tablespoons*

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 4 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
- 1 stick unsalted butter, softened
- Finely grated zest and juice of half a lemon

Place the oil in a small skillet over medium-high heat. As soon as it gets hot, add the garlic and reduce the heat to medium low. Simmer for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat, and set aside to cool.

Place the butter, lemon zest, lemon juice and garlic mixture in the bowl of a food processor. Process until smooth. Transfer to a large piece of plastic wrap, and roll into a 2-inch diameter cylinder. Wrap tightly, and refrigerate until ready to use.

**Lemon Crema**

*(Also perfect drizzled on grilled fish! Can easily be doubled.)*

*Yield: ½ cup*

- ½ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup crème fraîche*
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- Finely grated zest of half a lemon
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ⅛ teaspoon white pepper

In a small mixing bowl, whisk together the sour cream, crème fraîche, lemon juice, zest, salt and pepper. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

*To make crème fraîche, place a pint of heavy cream in a glass jar, and add 3 tablespoons of cultured butter-milk. Cover tightly with cheesecloth, and allow to sit at room temperature for 24 hours. Then refrigerate for 24 hours before using.

**Lemon Oil**

*(Yet another option for grilled fish! Can easily be doubled.)*

*Yield: ½ cup*

- ½ cup light olive oil
- 1 teaspoon mustard seeds
- 1 teaspoon whole peppercorns
- 2 sprigs thyme
- 6 wide strips lemon zest

Place the oil, mustard seeds, peppercorns, thyme and lemon zest in a small saucepan over medium-high heat.
heat. Bring the oil to 160 degrees. Remove from the heat and cover. Allow to sit at room temperature for 8 hours or overnight. Strain through a fine mesh strainer, and discard the solids. Transfer to a small bowl, cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

Lemon Chess Pie
Yield: 8 servings
1 single crust pie pastry
4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
1¼ cups sugar
4 eggs
1 tablespoon lemon zest
¼ cup fresh lemon juice
¼ cup milk
2 tablespoons self-rising cornmeal
1 tablespoon self-rising flour

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Press the pie pastry into a 9-inch pie pan, and crimp the edges. In the bowl of an electric mixer, combine the butter, sugar, eggs, zest, juice, milk, cornmeal and flour. Mix well. Pour into the prepared crust. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until set in the center. Cool 1 hour on a wire rack before slicing and serving.

Tips and tricks
- Lemons can be stored at room temperature if you are planning to use them rather quickly. If not, you will quadruple the shelf life by placing them in the vegetable crisper drawer of the refrigerator.
- To squeeze the most juice from lemons, make sure they are room temperature. If they have been refrigerated, remove them for at least 30 minutes before use. Then using some pressure, roll the lemon several times back and forth on the countertop.
- Always zest before juicing lemons. If you have extra, place it in a heavy-duty zip-top bag, and freeze it. Squeeze as much air as possible out of the bag before labeling it. No need to thaw before use.
- If you have extra zested strips of lemon peel, place in an ice cube tray and freeze with water to make attractive accents for iced drinks such as water and tea.
- The average lemon will yield between 2 and 3 tablespoons of juice and about 3 teaspoons of grated zest.
- Substitute lemon juice for vinegar in most recipes for a fresher, more lively taste.
- Lemon juice keeps fruits that oxidize when cut from turning dark. Sprinkle or spray it on cut apples, bananas and avocados as soon as they are peeled.
- Toss used lemons in the garbage disposal to keep it fresh-smelling.

Robert would like to know why his iced tea is becoming cloudy. “I allow the tea bags to brew for 5 minutes in the boiling water. Then I transfer the tea to a serving pitcher, add some ice and put it in the refrigerator. What am I doing wrong?” he asks.

Robert, you are cooling the brewed tea too quickly, which is why it is becoming cloudy. Your brewing is correct, but don’t add ice to it. I understand the temptation to cool it down, but allow it to cool to room temperature naturally. Then resist the further temptation to refrigerate it. Instead, serve it over loads of ice in the glass.

Lynette asks: I have some plastic bowls that I use often and love. Over the summer, I made loads of tomato sauce, and while stored, it has stained the plastic. I have washed them in the dishwasher and tried several different stain removers, but the stains remain. Can you help or am I stuck with stained plasticware? Lynette, I have experienced the same problem, and here is what I do: First, I rub the stains with dry baking soda. Then the plastic bowl soaks in a gallon of hot water with a cup of bleach for 20 minutes. After rinsing, I wash it as normal, and most — if not all — of the stains disappear. If it doesn’t work on yours, save those pieces of plasticware just for tomato sauce! 

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.
Green is the color of many things, including grass, leaves, spring and life. It can represent renewal, calm and rebirth in many aspects. With that in mind, our next Shutterbug Photography Contest theme is “Going Green.”

Images can be from any year and anywhere, but they must contain at least one element of the color green. Enter any subject matter that captures what green means to you. Subjects could include but aren’t limited to self-portraits or portraits of your family or pets, the scenery outside your window or from the front porch, any sports event or the bounty of your garden.

You can enter photographs taken on a phone or with a camera. Judges will look at the quality of light as well as the composition and subject matter to choose the winners. Images can include people or not, and they can be selfies. As you accept this challenge, please stay safe and mind your surroundings. We don’t want any injuries in pursuit of a photograph.

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 percent 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 to 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.

Shutterbug assignment: “Going Green”

Submissions — online entries only
Visit our website to enter at tnmagazine.org.

Deadline
Photographs must be entered online by midnight (Central Standard Time) on Monday, Jan. 31. Winners will be published in the March issue.

Prize packages:
Judges will select a first-, second- and third-place winner in each division and age group. These prizes will be awarded: First place wins $150, second place $100 and third place $50.
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 here. It could be larger or smaller than this, and it could be in black and white or any color. If you find it, send us a postcard or email us with the page number where it’s located. Include your name, address, phone number 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 20-26 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 email flag@tnelectric.org. Entries must be postmarked or received via email by Tuesday, Feb. 1. Winners will be published in the March issue of The Tennessee Magazine.

November Flag Spotters
Thanks for the postcards and emails again this month identifying the correct location of the flag, which was found in the “O” of “HOLIDAY” on page 12. Winners are drawn randomly from each month’s entries. November’s lucky flag spotters are:

David Scott, Dyersburg, Forked Deer EC
Linda Copas, Red Boiling Springs, Tri-County Electric
Bernice Proffitt, Mountain City, Mountain EC

Artist’s Palette
Assignment for January

Three age categories: 1 to 9, 10 to 14 and 15 to 18 years old. Each group will have first-, second- and third-place winners.

Media: Drawing or painting on 8 1/2-by-11-inch unlined paper, canvas or board. We encourage the use of color.

Entry: Send your original art to: The Tennessee Magazine, Artist’s Palette — January, 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 Tuesday, Feb. 1.

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

Artwork will not be returned unless you include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your submission. 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 March issue of The Tennessee Magazine. First place wins $50, second place wins $30 and third place wins $20. Winners are eligible to enter again after three months. Winners will receive their checks, artwork and certificates of placement within 30 days of publication.

Call for Entries
Poet’s Playground

Are you a poet at heart? If so, we would like to see your efforts in The Tennessee Magazine’s monthly poetry contest. Please limit your poem to no more than 100 words. Your work must include a Tennessee theme. Winning poems will be printed in our March issue.

Subject: While the theme of your poem must include something Tennessee-related, including the word “Tennessee” is not required.

Age categories: The competition has six age divisions — 8 and younger, 9-13, 14-18, 19-22, 23-64 and 65 and older. Each group will have first-, second- and third-place winners. First place wins $50 and will be printed in the magazine, second place wins $30 and third place wins $20. Poems capturing first-, second- and third-place honors will be published online at tnmagazine.org.

What to enter: A poem of 100 words or fewer pertaining to the theme. One entry per person, and please give your entry a title.

Deadline: A poem of 100 words or fewer pertaining to the theme. One entry per person, and please give your entry a title.

Please enter online at tnmagazine.org or mail handwritten entries to: Poetry Contest, The Tennessee Magazine, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224. Make sure to print your poem legibly, and be sure to keep a copy of your poem as submissions received via mail will not be returned.

All entries must include the following information, or they will be disqualified: your name, age, mailing address, phone number and the name of your electric cooperative.
Artists Palette November Winners

WINNERS, 15-18 AGE GROUP: First place: Rachel Ulven, age 18; Sequachee Valley EC; Second place: Luther Clay, age 17, Middle Tennessee Electric; Third place: Anna McClung, age 15, Meriwether Lewis EC.

WINNERS, 10-14 AGE GROUP: First place: Jaeden Greenman, age 14, Duck River EMC; Second place: Lauren Kinsman, age 13, Middle Tennessee Electric; Third place: Evangeline Slayton, age 11, Gibson EMC.

WINNERS, 1-9 AGE GROUP: First place: Ryann Payne, age 9, Middle Tennessee Electric; Second place: Reid Budge, age 8, Middle Tennessee Electric; Third place: Kendall Cook, age 8, Middle Tennessee Electric.
Poet’s Playground

**Age 9-13**

*Just a Dream*

I reach to touch a familiar person my papa but I can’t. He’s no longer here. Flashback from Biltmore to California to Destin to Hawaii and accomplishments in my young past when he cheered me on. Unless it came to the peanut M&Ms when he’d say, “Hayden, you’d better save those for me.” Alas! The mourning sun streams through my window and I realize it’s one more day without him. Just a dream back in Tennessee. Yet he’s still with me not only on an ornament atop my Christmas tree, but living in my heart where he’ll always be.

— Hayden Thompson, Middle Tennessee Electric

**Age 19-22**

*Highway 68*

I’ve never seen so many stars A tiny Appalachian town No smoke or smog or billboards Just winding roads and a tackle store Overwhelming mountains and trout filled rivers Lightning bugs and barefooted kids Sun burnt cheeks and fishing lines Rusty pick ups and the smell of bonfire A thousand stars and a green eyed boy

— Molly Wilson, Appalachian Electric Cooperative

**Age 23-64**

*The Autumn Leaves of Monteagle*

Yellow is Green electrified, stereo to Green’s mono, a playful child to grownup calm. Yellow laughs in the present, Green dwells in the past. Yellow’s sportscar revs past Green’s family sedan, its playful puppy teases Green’s wise owl. Yellow is devil-may-care. Green knows this could go down on our permanent record. Yellow is mercurial, prone to periodic tantrums of joy. Green smiles rarely, and only when amused. For Yellow, every day is a snow day. Each autumn, Green stumps for weekends. After all, we need to rest from these seasonal comparisons to Yellow.

— Reed Omary, Sequachee Valley EC

**Age 65 and older**

*The Value of Paintings*

That landscape over the sofa no matter how small or wide Offers eyes a visceral benefit equal to have’n just walked outside The painting will tell the eye if perspectives are bonafide To travel the eyes for miles over a distant mountain and back to a seaside For, when all day these ‘ole cooped-up Tennessee eyes’ focus is only on near objects plied The eyes can then rest themselves as for miles on the seascapes and landscapes they can tide.

— Joan Binkley, Cumberland EMC

More poetry can be read at tnmagazine.org. See page 36 for details on how to enter The Tennessee Magazine’s monthly poetry contest.
For more than 50 years, The Tennessee Magazine has been the official publication of our electric cooperatives, keeping consumer-members informed about their co-ops, showcasing the wonders of electric service and highlighting the special events around the state.

The cover feature of the January 1972 magazine spotlighted the Tennessee Highway Patrol, then an organization of 500 men responsible for protecting 2 million Tennesseans. Inside, readers also found an article on Pickwick State Park, scheduled to become the newest state park with many of its amenities to be completed later in 1972.

While our fashions, appliances and recipes have significantly changed since our first issue in 1958, our mission to entertain, educate and inform our readers has not. Here's a glimpse of what members saw 50 years ago in The Tennessee Magazine. View the entire January 1972 edition online at tnmagazine.org.
Dear Connie Sue,

My dad received this platter from his grandpa in 1972. It belonged to my great-great-grandmother. I would never part with it but am curious about it. The only markings on the back are “MADE IN ITALI.” Any info would appease my curiosity.

Tracy

Dear Tracy,

The bright colors and whimsical turkeys of your family’s platter are typical of Italian ceramics. The raised images give the colors even more impact. I know you must enjoy displaying and using the piece.

It is unusual to have three turkeys on one platter. Of course, there’s the large central turkey and two smaller, surprise turkeys hiding among the mushrooms.

Your plethora of poultry platter was made mid-1900s. Similar platters sell for $25 to $60.

Michael, Murfreesboro

Dear Michael,

A working Lux cuckoo clock with the stag crown, crossed shotguns and Roman numerals surrounded by a huntsman’s motif currently sells for $40 to $95. Yours was made between 1920 and 1948 in Waterbury, Connecticut.

The clock’s case is a romantic depiction of living off the land — with a tiny cuckoo bird reminding us that time is passing.

Dear Connie Sue,

Can’t wait to read your articles every month. I have these three books and know they are very old. The pages are delicate. I ran across them in my basement with lots of other stuff and am curious about their value.

Mark, Hohenwald

Dear Mark,

I inherited this Lux cuckoo clock from my grandmother. As a child, I was always fascinated with it. She told me that she got it as a housewarming gift when she bought her house in 1938, and it hung on her wall until she passed in 1980. I have had it hanging on the wall of my house since then, so I have had it nearly as long as she did!

It has stood the test of time. The cuckoo still comes out and sounds on the hour and half hour, and it keeps perfect time.

Dear Rachel,

Your novelty hi-fi tiny turntable with an AM/FM radio was made in the 1970s by the Musica Company in Japan. Behind the speaker panels are tiny drawers. It came with one record, and the titles varied. This tabletop toy is offered online and in shops at around $100. I did not find any recently sold.

Want to learn more about your antiques?

Send your inquiry with photos to the mailing address or email below. Only published appraisals are free. Private appraisals are available for a fee.

Mailing address: Connie Sue Davenport, P.O. Box 343, White House, TN 37188
Email: treasures@conniesue.com

Connie Sue Davenport makes her living by appraising houses full of antiques for private clients and at appraisal events hosted by businesses and organizations. Her website, ConnieSue.com, describes these services.
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2022 Calendar — The beautiful scenery of Tennessee is captured by Robin Conover, editor of The Tennessee Magazine.

“Barns of Tennessee” — This 160-page hardbound book highlights more than 350 images of Tennessee barns, with most photos taken by readers of The Tennessee Magazine.

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January 2022  41
As winter sets in across Tennessee, new photographic opportunities arrive almost daily in the form of migratory birds. Some species stay all winter while others stop to feed and rest before continuing their southern migration. These avian travelers will reverse their routes in the spring. Many birds return to the same places year after year depending on their ability to find water, food sources and nesting sites. This year, reports started coming in late November that a few different groups of American white pelicans and sandhill cranes had returned to East Tennessee at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Birchwood.

The Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge is one of several hotspots for migratory birds in Tennessee that is managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Reelfoot Lake, Radnor Lake and Seven Islands State Birding Park are just a few of Tennessee’s State Parks to which birders and photographers alike flock during migrations.

In early December, I heard that a flock of American white pelicans had returned to Old Hickory Lake, which is relatively close to where I live. I immediately wanted to see and photograph them. Knowing that finding them would be hit and miss, I spent half the day driving back and forth from Hendersonville and Hermitage with no luck.

The lake lies between the two cities in Middle Tennessee. As the pelican flies, it’s only a couple of miles from their favorite coves in Hermitage to this location where I found them. By car, it takes 30 minutes or more. On my last drive down Sanders Ferry Road, I spotted about 30 of them perched on a log in the water.

They were preening in the late afternoon light, which was fading fast. I was able to photograph them for about 20 minutes before the light was gone. To date, this was the one and only time I have seen them.

Try these websites for more migratory birding locations near you:

- tnbirdingtrail.org
- tnbirds.org
- audubon.org
- allaboutbirds.org/news
Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind To See

High Technology For Low Vision Patients Allows Many To Drive Again

For many patients with macular degeneration and other vision-related conditions, the loss of central visual detail also signals the end to one of the last bastions of independence: driving. A Lebanon optometrist, Dr. John Pino, is using miniaturized telescopes that are mounted in glasses to help people who have lost vision from macular degeneration and other eye conditions.

“Some of my patients consider me the last stop for people who have vision loss,” said Dr. Pino, one of only a few doctors in the world who specialize in fitting biotic telescopes to help those who have lost vision due to macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and other debilitating eye diseases.

Imagine a pair of glasses that can improve your vision enough to change your life. If you’re a low vision patient, you’ve probably not only imagined them, but have been searching for them. Biotic telescopes may be the breakthrough in optical technology that will give you the independence you’ve been looking for. Patients with vision in the 20/200 range can many times be improved to 20/50 or better.

Macular degeneration is the leading cause of blindness and vision loss in people over 50. Despite this, most adults are not familiar with the condition. As many as 25% of those over the age of 50 have some degree of macular degeneration. The macula is only one small part of the retina; however, it is the most sensitive and gives us sharp central vision. When it degenerates, macular degeneration leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision, making it difficult or impossible to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver’s vision test.

Nine out of 10 people who have macular degeneration have the dry form. New research suggests vitamins can help. The British medical journal BMC Ophthalmology recently reported that functioning, especially driving,” says Dr. Pino.

When Elaine, 57, of Kingsport, TN, came to see Dr. Pino she wanted to keep her Tennessee driver’s license and was prescribed biotic telescopic glasses to read signs and see traffic lights farther away. Dr. Pino also prescribed microscope glasses for reading newspapers and menus in restaurants.

As Elaine puts it, “My regular glasses didn’t help too much—it was like looking through a fog. These new telescopic glasses not only allow me to read signs from a farther distance, but make driving much easier. I’ve also used them to watch television so I don’t have to sit so close. I don’t know why I waited to do this; I should have come sooner.”

“Biotic telescopes can cost over $2,000,” said Dr. Pino, “especially if we build them with an automatic sunglass.”

“The major benefit of the biotic telescope is that the lens automatically focuses on whatever you’re looking at,” said Dr. Pino. “It’s like a self-focusing camera, but much more precise.”

To learn more about biotic telescopes or to schedule a consultation with Dr. Pino, give us a call at 1-855-405-8800. You can also visit our website at www.lowvisiontn.com

For more information and a FREE telephone consultation, call us today: 1-855-405-8800

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