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Welch’s Point adjoins Virgin Falls and offers scenic views of Scott’s Gulf. See page 14 to learn more about the pocket wilderness area. Photograph by Park Manager Stuart Carroll, courtesy of Virgin Falls State Natural Area
Between the Lines

News from your community

A little room for safety

Electricity is a significant part of our modern lives. It is all around us, powering everything from cellphones to hospital equipment. Electric power maintains such a presence in our modern society that it’s easy to forget that it can also be dangerous.

Our team here at Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation works with electricity each day, and familiarity could allow us to get comfortable with risk. That’s why we constantly remind our team about the dangers they face when working with electricity. Our employees attend regular safety training, and crew leaders hold tailgate discussions about the dangers of each job. We work hard to make safety an important part of everything we do.

Most likely, you don’t have routine safety training to remind yourself to be safe around electricity, and that’s why we think Electrical Safety Month is important. Celebrated each May, it is a great time to raise awareness of electrical safety.

Should you cross paths with one of our crews — whether they are restoring power following a storm or performing routine maintenance — here are some important things to remember to keep you and our crews safe:

**Don’t enter the workspace.**

Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it requires the full attention of our crew and their colleagues. Everyone is responsible for the team’s safety, and distractions can have deadly consequences. This is also important for your own safety. Trucks and equipment on the ground could be energized while crews are working above, and contacting that equipment could be disastrous. Plus, you never know when something heavy might fall from above. If you have questions, call our office or speak to the crew leader after the job is finished.

**Keep animals away.** If you have a dog, keep it indoors or on a leash while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can’t distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet “supervising” the job.

**Know who’s there.** We recognize that for your family’s safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize our employees by the logo on their uniforms and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You might also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our local community.

**Slow down and move over.** In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This extra barrier of safety keeps us all safe.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days a year. But equally important is keeping our employees and our communities safe around electricity. Visit us online at cemc.org for more information about electrical safety.
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TENNESSEE TODAY

Manager’s Viewpoint

Fractured Freeze

In his book “Outliers,” Malcolm Gladwell writes about the “ten-thousand-hour rule.” The theory is that practice, repetition and role preparation play significant and measurable functions in success. Gladwell also points out that while no one succeeds at a high level without innate talent, “achievement is talent plus preparation.”

Gladwell further writes that “the amount of practice necessary for exceptional performance is so extensive that people who end up on top need help.” He cites the considerable hours — more than two years — the Beatles spent playing clubs in Hamburg, Germany, or the unlimited access to computers afforded to a young Bill Gates. In essence, privileges or conditions make all those years of practice possible.

In March, electric cooperative staff gathered with national and state emergency response leaders for their own kind of practice. The situation: What would happen if a polar vortex plunged thousands into icy darkness in the Northeast and then, after electric cooperatives in the central U.S. sent mutual aid, a 7.7-magnitude earthquake hit along the New Madrid Fault that stretches from Illinois to Arkansas?

This is a very realistic scenario, one that would directly impact Tennessee.

Emergency, safety and energy coordinators from 22 electric cooperative statewide associations, including the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association (TECA), and their state government peers participated in Fractured Freeze, the first tabletop exercise of its kind. The drill was organized by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and National Association of State Energy Officials. The U.S. Department of Energy also participated.

“Dual disasters like those in Fractured Freeze may not be that far-fetched as weather and environmental conditions become more extreme,” said Martha Duggan, NRECA senior regulatory affairs director. “This exercise allowed electric co-ops to face two catastrophes in a safe place, polish their strengths and develop bonds with state officials that will be crucial when disaster strikes.”

Ben Bolton is senior energy programs administrator at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. He helped facilitate the exercise and used his experience from 11 natural disasters we’ve had in Tennessee over the past two years.

“You can’t have a massive outage without it affecting rural co-ops or the state energy office,” Bolton said. “Both get involved in different ways. We need to increase our cooperation. This is a great first step to build that bridge between rural co-ops and state energy offices.”

Bolton’s office at the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency is, quite literally, just around the corner from our offices at TECA. We interact with the agency as well as other local and state departments during widespread outages. Large-scale disasters require coordinated communications on many fronts to effectively react to emergencies.

The Fractured Freeze drill was what we call a “blue-sky” exercise. It provides an opportunity to deal with a situation that you might face in the future. During a real-life disaster, you’re focused solely on emergency issues.

Every hour spent growing our skills, improving the process and increasing our cooperation will lead to success during a future disaster.

The more we practice, the better we can respond. And that benefits us all.
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LETTERS to the EDITOR

Logging in the Smokies

I have a question. We are volunteers for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We answer kids’ requests for information concerning our park. We recently had a question that concerned how the logging industry devastated the area and found an article written by you at tnmagazine.org/before-the-national-park-large-parts-of-the-smokies-were-clear-cut. If we include the whole article showing that it was written by you and not us, are we allowed to print a copy of this to insert into the kids’ packet? I did not do this on this request as I wanted verification from you first.

Thank you,
Scott Young, Gatlinburg

Editor’s response:

Thank you for asking. Yes, you have permission. Our articles can be used for educational purposes with our written permission. Readers are also encouraged to check out tnmagazine.org. Our archives include numerous articles, photographs and recipes. Each can be shared via social media links or email.

Recipe archives

I am looking for a recipe that The Tennessee Magazine published. It is a Honey Bun Cake. Is there any way you can email me that recipe?

Thank you,
Janice O’Connor, Middle Tennessee Electric

Editor’s response:

Thank you for your question. We have searched the archives and can’t find a Honey Bun Cake recipe. Perhaps our readers might send in a few of their favorites for Honey Bun Cakes. We do have numerous other cake recipes in our archive at tnmagazine.org.

Subscriptions

I currently receive the magazine and love it. I also share the events with my daughter, who would love it if she could receive one of her own.

Please let me know if this is possible and approximately when she could start receiving it. Thank you for your prompt response.

Respectfully,
Suzanne Swire, Middle Tennessee Electric

Editor’s response:

Hello,
How can I get a hardcopy magazine? I live in Michigan, but we have family in Tennessee, and we will be traveling there in just two short months.

Thank you,
Michelle Land, Melvindale, Michigan

Hello,

Is this magazine publication no longer free to electric co-op members? I used to receive The Tennessee Magazine regularly but don’t recall ever paying for a subscription. Every month I continue looking for one, yet they never arrive! I love the physical magazine and am not too keen on digital publications.

Please advise if a paid subscription is now required?

Thank you in advance,
Abby Tisdale, Upper Cumberland EMC

Editor’s response:

The Tennessee Magazine is distributed through Tennessee’s electric cooperatives. The publication schedule varies by co-op as to whether members receive it monthly, bimonthly or quarterly.

If you are a member of an electric cooperative and are not receiving the magazine, please check with your local cooperative office to get back on the mailing list. If you are not a member of an electric cooperative in Tennessee, you can purchase a subscription. Please visit our shop at tnmagazine.org.

Tennessee events

I need to find out how to submit information to you for May events. We have a festival in Winchester in Franklin County.

Brenda Long, Winchester

Editor’s response:

You can submit your event on our website at tnmagazine.org/events/submit-event/add. To view our complete listing of Tennessee events, visit tnmagazine.org/events.

The Tennessee Magazine contact information:

For questions or concerns about specific departments, please contact staff members listed below. To enter Almanac events or our contests, including Poetry and Shutterbug, please do so via our website at tnmagazine.org.

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Like millions of older Americans, I struggle with mobility. For years, I watched my quality of life slip away, as I was forced to stay home while friends and family took part in activities I’d once enjoyed. I thought I’d made some progress when I got a mobility scooter, but then I realized how hard it was to transport. Taking it apart and putting it back together was like doing a jigsaw puzzle. Once I had it disassembled, I had to try to put all of the pieces in the trunk of a car, go to wherever I was going, and repeat the process in reverse. Travel scooters were easier to transport, but they were uncomfortable and scary to drive, I always felt like I was ready to tip over. Then I found the So Lite™ Scooter. Now there’s nothing that can hold me back.

Years of work by innovative engineers have resulted in a scooter that’s designed with seniors in mind. They created Electronic Stability Control (ESC) that makes it virtually impossible to tip over. If you try to turn too quickly, the scooter automatically slows down to prevent it from tipping over. The battery provides powerful energy at a fraction of the weight of most batteries. With its rugged yet lightweight aluminum frame, the So Lite™ Scooter is the most portable scooter ever—but it can hold up to 265 pounds—yet weighs only 40.8 pounds without the battery! What’s more, it easily folds up for storage in a car seat, trunk or even on an airplane. It folds in seconds without tools and is safe and reliable. Best of all, it’s designed with your safety in mind, from the newest technology and superior craftsmanship. Why spend another day letting your lack of mobility ruin your quality of life? Call now and find out how you can get a So Lite™ Scooter of your very own.

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Across the nation, the real estate market has been red-hot with demand for homes exceeding supply and, in many areas, homes selling faster and for more money than ever before.

“Your home is probably the biggest investment you will ever make,” said Patricia (Patty) Harman, a Realtor for Black Lion Realty in Nashville. “It is most likely your largest financial asset as well. Getting the most out of the sale of your home is not hard to do.”

Home prices in Tennessee were up 21.7 percent this March when compared to March 2021, yet the number of homes sold fell 6.8 percent and homes for sale dropped 12 percent, according to Redfin’s statistics. This makes for a tricky place for potential home sellers who are looking at a market where the number of homes sold has decreased along with the price of homes increasing.

Even in cases where sellers anticipate numerous offers and a quick sale, they still benefit from efforts to get the highest selling price possible. There are ways to help a home sell quickly and for top dollar.

“Understanding what is important to you will help you plan for the sale of your home and help you get the most value out of your home,” Harman said.

“Understanding your home’s value is important; what are similar houses selling for in your area?” Harman said. “Knowing what you are willing to do to get the greatest value from your home; what are you willing to spend now to potentially make more money on the sale of your home?”

Change your perspective

“Once you’ve decided to sell, you must look at your home as an investment you want a big return on,” said Tiffini Lindsay, an affiliate broker with Zeitlin Sotheby’s International Realty in Franklin. “Real estate is one of the most emotional and biggest financial purchases a person will ever make.”

When selling, emotion and personal design preferences must take a backseat to the goal of profit, Lindsay said.

“It’s hard to put a dollar amount on the sentimental value your home has brought into your life,” Harman said, adding that it’s important when thinking about selling to try to step back from your emotional attachment and look at your home through the eyes of others. What can you do to make your home more valuable to a buyer? The easiest way for a seller to understand this is to think like a...
buyer, Lindsay said. The challenge is to think like multiple buyers who all have different preferences.

“The goal is to keep things simple, up to date and clean,” Lindsay said. “The term often used is ‘turnkey,’ meaning the buyer could pull up with the moving truck and move in.”

Experts say it benefits the seller to have someone else provide feedback about your home.

“As a homeowner, sometimes it can be difficult to see your home in a different light,” Lindsay said. “Having a friend who tells it like it is and/or a knowledgeable real estate agent to take a walk through the home can be extremely beneficial.”

Lindsay said there have been multiple times where she has pointed out simple items in sellers’ homes that would make their listings much more desirable such as placing furniture a certain way, removing personal pictures, updating light fixtures or finding more ways to add light to a room.

Upgrade to sell

To get the most for your home, upgrades might be in order. But how do you decide what to renovate and how much to spend?

“Renovating can be overwhelming at times, but an easy way to decide how and what to renovate is by comparing your home with others in the area,” Lindsay said. “Look at color schemes, finishes, appliances and how others staged their homes.”

It’s important to understand that, when doing these renovations, you must take your personal preference out of it, Lindsay said. Take the time to research what other sellers are doing that looks classic, not trendy.

“Some renovations made to your home now can bring you top dollar,” Harman said. “The goal is to make your home attractive to many buyers, which creates competition and increases the value of your home.”

Almost without exception, real estate professionals say that even though the entire home is important, sellers should primarily focus on two areas: the kitchen and bathrooms … especially the kitchen.

“Prioritize your renovations based on what buyers will want,” Lindsay said. “The kitchen tends to always be a big desire because it’s where all your guests gather when visiting. Little changes can make a big impact.”

Harman said updating handles on cabinets is inexpensive and takes little time but can make a big difference.

“If remodeling your home is not something you want to do, don’t be afraid to make small changes to your home,” Harman said. “Small changes to your house can add value. Knowing what those changes are can save you time and money.”

Lindsay said there have been multiple times where she has pointed out simple items in sellers’ homes that would make their listings much more desirable such as placing furniture a certain way, removing personal pictures, updating light fixtures or finding more ways to add light to a room.

“More often than not, you will see a nice return on your investment,” Lindsay said. “Not only will it bring a better offer from the buyer, but your home should sell much faster as well.”

Make a strong impression outside

Many experts say to initially focus on what potential buyers see first. Whether in-person or online, a home must capture attention. Known as curb appeal, the general attractiveness of a house from the street or the sidewalk is a priority.

“First impressions are everything,” Lindsay said. “Even when a home is posted online, typically the first picture is of the front. When a buyer drives up to your home, you want that first impression to be a lasting one. Create a welcoming environment with beautiful landscaping.”

“Take a minute and stand in the front of your yard and look at your house,” Harman said. “Simple things can make your house look more inviting. Make sure your grass is cut and trimmed. Pick up any trash, and keep your yard tidy.”

A fresh coat of paint on the door, a welcome mat and a flowerpot make a perfect entrance, Lindsay said. Detailed work like power washing sidewalks and the house, washing windows, sweeping the porch and making sure there are no hanging gutters will only add to the buyer’s desire to see more.

Likewise, improving the looks of the front of your home without paying attention to the rest of the property is akin to ironing only the collar and cuffs of a shirt.

Outbuildings, the backyard, decks and patios need to look their best and can be attractive to potential buyers as ways of bringing the inside outside.
“People are spending more time at home nowadays and looking for ways to get outside while retaining the same comfort as inside the home,” Lindsay said. “A porch swing or table and chairs with cozy cushions is a great start. If you’re able to add a bird feeder, small fire pit or trickling water fountain, you are upping your outdoor game to appease the masses.”

... And inside
The initial impact when people enter a home could be the only impression they take away with them.
“Once a buyer enters the home, there’s only a few minutes to leave a lasting impression,” Lindsay said. “Buyers are looking for a way to bond with the home. They want to imagine how they would live there and how their personal items would fit in the home. If there’s an odd smell, sticky floors, clutter or filth, you can almost guarantee that’s what they’re going to associate with the home when thinking back on their visit.”

For that reason, brokers encourage decluttering, deep cleaning and home staging.
“It’s easy to make your home more attractive to buyers without spending a fortune,” Harman said. “The most important thing you can do to get the most value for your home is to make sure your house is neat and clean. You will hear it said over and over — declutter your home.”

Harman said there are several reasons why decluttering is important. It protects you as the seller from someone walking away with something that is sentimental to you or stealing something of value, including personal information. Decluttering also allows your home to be seen from the buyer’s perspective and demonstrates to the buyer that the house is well taken care of.

“Having your home professionally cleaned is a good investment and will guarantee you more interest in your home,” Harman said. “A clean home signals to a buyer that the home has been well cared for and is more attractive to a buyer.”

“Not only do I recommend professional cleaning, I also recommend professional photography,” Lindsay said. “You have one chance to wow the buyer and gain the most traction to bring in the offers. Professional photographers know how to angle their lenses to really showcase the size of the room, feature the natural light and highlight the best features.”

Sellers should strive to present the home in its best light from the beginning, not just for showings.
“You want your home remembered for its good features, not the things a potential buyer is not satisfied with,” Harman said. “Dirty windows, trash in the yard and nasty smells are things you can prevent. Make your home the home the buyer will pay top dollar to own.”

Help buyers feel at home
The goal is to help house hunters imagine themselves living in the home and make them feel welcome. One way to do so is through fragrances.
“Find a scent that’s not overwhelming,” Lindsay said. “Vanilla, fresh linen and woody scents typically do well. Refreshments such as bottled water, candy and mints definitely put a smile on a buyer’s face. An old school trick is baking cookies before a day of showings. Not only does it smell delicious, but who doesn’t love a cookie?”

Letting buyers know “inside” information also is important — things like what internet service is available, if there is hardwood under the carpeting and which walls are not load bearing and potentially could be removed as part of future remodeling.

Taking the right steps to prepare a home for sale can make a big difference in how quickly the home attracts buyers and how much they are willing to pay. It takes some work, but it’s worth it.

“The real estate market is complicated, and there are lots of rumors and half-truths floating around,” Harman said. “That’s why it’s important to bring in someone who will spend time with you and really evaluate your home.”

Ask a professional for advice on what is happening in your market and where to spend money, time and energy to get top value for your home, Harman said.

“Anyone can put their home up for sale, and it will eventually sell,” Lindsay said. “But if you don’t do the little things and put some love and pride into it, you’re leaving a lot of money on the table.”

Les O’Dell is a professional journalist. A multimedia reporter for The Southern Illinoisan, a regional newspaper, he is a frequent contributor to Illinois Country Living Magazine, Life and Style in Southern Illinois, Southern Business Journal and other publications.
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POCKETS OF PEACE

Virgin Falls State Natural Area offers a beautiful, natural escape

Story by Trish Milburn
Photographs by Stuart Carroll
The hike to Virgin Falls, located between Sparta and Crossville, is not an easy one. In fact, it’s around nine miles round trip and descends about 900 feet over sometimes rocky, uneven and slippery terrain. Those undertaking the hike should plan to spend five to nine hours for the entire excursion. But if you’re able to make the hike, you’ll be rewarded with a stunningly beautiful pocket of the natural world.

In fact, Virgin Falls lies in what is known as a pocket wilderness, a tract of land that the Bowater Pulp and Paper Corporation set aside for preservation in the early 1970s and was later acquired by the state of Tennessee. It’s one of several such pocket wildernesses that are to be kept in their natural state with no development other than hiking trails and, in some cases, primitive backcountry campsites.

Part of the attraction of Virgin Falls is its uniqueness. The water emerges from a cave at the top, falls down the craggy bluff for 110 feet and then disappears into another cave.

Park Manager Stuart Carroll notes that Virgin Falls State Natural Area is actually composed of three distinct areas. Virgin Falls State Natural Area is now joined to Lost Creek State Natural Area, and the two areas combined are around 2,000 acres. Just north of these two areas is Dog Cove Historic Area, which is 1,000 acres and includes the circa 1900s Beecher Wallace Homestead.

“We are also developing a river access area on the Caney Fork at Mitchell Ford,” Carroll says.

**Biodiversity**

In addition to simply being beautiful, Virgin Falls and other pocket wilderness areas are also rich in biodiversity and geological features such as the caves and sinkholes common in karst topography. Though there are many caves in the area, most are closed to recreational use. This is because of the presence of white-nose syndrome, which is deadly to the bat inhabitants of caves. This white fungus doesn’t hurt humans, but we can easily spread it on our clothing and shoes. According to the Tennessee Bat Working Group, millions of bats have died from this disease, which causes them to expend too much energy while in winter hibernation. In some locations, up to 100 percent of the bats have died because of white-nose syndrome.

Much like the concern over declining bee populations, this decrease in bat numbers is also troubling. Bats eat a lot of insects, which not only helps cut down on annoyances such as mosquito bites but also provides farmers with $3.7 billion of free insect control each year, according to the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team, a group of biologists, researchers, land managers, naturalists and communicators who are working together to help protect bats from this disease.

**Differences from state parks**

State natural areas, as the name implies, are more focused on preserving Tennessee’s natural wonders than with extensive recreational options. They are not developed with offerings such as lodges, golf courses, RV campgrounds, visitor centers,
swimming pools and the like. Virgin Falls does have some backcountry campsites that can be reserved.

“Some natural areas do not even have trails, but many do,” Carroll says. “When you come to a natural area, be ready to hike and sightsee. And remember: If you come to see us and want to go to a developed campground, cabin or hotel, you can stay over at Fall Creek Falls State Park and then make the drive over to Virgin Falls for the challenging hike.”

With or without the amenities, Tennessee’s natural areas and state parks saw record visitation during the last two years as people sought refuge outside as we dealt with COVID. Parks provided safe, outdoor recreation.

“As the pandemic has wound down and restaurants and malls reopened, we thought we would see a drop in visitation,” Carroll says. “But so far, the crowds are still here, imbibing the tonic of nature.”

Safety first

As mentioned, the hike to Virgin Falls is a strenuous one. It’s important to be honest with yourself about your abilities. You don’t want to get partway into a hike only to realize you can’t manage the return and have to be rescued. If you are going to hike to the falls, it’s advisable to start early in the day so you will have plenty of daylight during which to complete your excursion. Also let a friend or family member know of your plans, and take water, food and appropriate seasonal clothing. Particularly if it has rained recently, you will need to assess the situation at the cable crossing over Big Laurel Creek, about a mile and a half into the hike. Do not cross if the creek is flooding or if there is rain in the forecast that could cause flooding before you can make it back across.

Virgin Falls is definitely a beautiful spot to visit, but it’s not worth risking your safety or life to do so. With proper planning, those who are physically able to undertake the hike to the falls will be rewarded with the opportunity to soak in the beauty and peace that only nature can provide.

Easier options

If you know the Virgin Falls hike isn’t possible for you, Carroll says there are other options in the area where you can still observe the wonders of the Cumberland Plateau.

“While we plan on keeping the wilderness character at the core at Virgin Falls, we have worked hard to develop more access for visitors who might not be able to make the strenuous hike to Virgin Falls,” he says. “Lost Creek Falls, the ‘little sister’ to Virgin Falls, is an easy drive and walk to its base. We worked with TWRA (Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency) to open up the road out to Welch’s Point, a panoramic view overlooking Scott’s Gulf, which, again, is easy to get to. Recently, we opened up a 2.5-mile trail up at the Hardie Trailhead to Dog Cove, which is an easy drive, and the trail is moderate in difficulty. Stop by Dog Cove for some great history or the Mitchell Ford River Access to fish, kayak, picnic or even have a family reunion.

“Developing more access that includes people of varying physical abilities helps us further the Healthy Parks, Healthy Person program. Walking, hiking or paddling should help improve the health of the locals and visitors driving in.”

The road to preservation

Carroll says that the preservation of these beautiful pockets of wilderness wouldn’t have been possible without a lot of help from many different organizations and individuals. The efforts of the Open Spaces Institute were critical as were those of several individuals who shouldn’t be forgotten. Among them are the James Rylander family, who donated the Lost Creek Area; the Hardie family, who held onto the Hardie Trailhead property for three years until the state could purchase it; the descendants of Beecher Wallace, who helped to set aside Dog Cove; the folks at Bowater, who built the first trails at Virgin Falls; and other individual donors and corporations that stepped forward to help set the area aside, make it accessible for the public and keep it protected in perpetuity.

Virgin Falls State Natural Area

For more information, call the Virgin Falls park office at Dog Cove at 931-739-6747 or visit tn.gov/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas.html and select Virgin Falls from the List of Natural Areas link under the Natural Areas Program heading. Backcountry camping reservations are handled through the system for Fall Creek Falls State Park at reserve.tnstateparks.com/fall-creek-falls/campsites.
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Our new Whitetail™ Hunting Knife will quickly become your go-to blade for every expedition. The Whitetail™ is a premium fixed-blade hunting knife that’s perfect for skinning. With the Whitetail at hand, you’ll be ready for field dressing in only seconds, and you’ll never need a separate gut hook tool ever again. The Whitetail™ boasts a mighty 420 high carbon, full tang stainless steel blade, meaning the blade doesn’t stop at the handle, it runs the full length of the knife. According to Gear Patrol, a full tang blade is key, saying “A full tang lends structural strength to the knife, allowing for better leverage ... think one long steel beam versus two.”

The comfortable handle is made from pakkawood—moisture-resistant and more durable than hardwood. If hunting is your life, then the Whitetail™ Knife was designed to make your life easier.

With our limited edition Whitetail™ Hunting Knife you’re getting the best in 21st-century construction with a classic look inspired by legendary American pioneers. What you won’t get is the trumped up price tag. We know a thing or two about the hunt—like how to seek out and capture an outstanding, collector’s-quality knife that won’t cut into your bank account.

This knife can be yours to use out in the field or to display as the art piece it truly is. But don’t wait. A knife of this caliber typically cost hundreds. Priced at an amazing $49, we can’t guarantee this knife will stick around for long. So call today!

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the craftsmanship. If you don’t feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 60 days for a complete refund of the item sale price. But we believe that once you wrap your fingers around the Whitetail’s handle, you’ll be ready to carve your own niche into the wild frontier.

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Whitetail™ Hunting Knife $79
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TENNESSEE ALMANAC
Events and happenings around the state

West Tennessee

May 6 • Fayette Cares Golf Tournament, Fair Oaks Golf Club, Oakland. 901-465-3802, ext. 223, or fayettecares.org

May 21 • Blue Suede Shoes and Red Hot Rides Car and Truck Show, 100 E. Main St., Jackson. 731-217-3130 or facebook.com/ParkwayChristianCarAndTruckClub/

June 4 • Home of the Brave Car Show, Jack McConnico Memorial Library, Selmer. 731-610-2018

Middle Tennessee

May 4-7 • Annual Craft Supply Sale, Lane Agri-Park Community Center, Murfreesboro. 615-542-1669 or crafters-exchange.blogspot.com

May 7 • Maury County Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale, Maury County Park, Columbia. 931-481-3130 or maurycountymastergardeners.org

May 7 • Arts and Crafts Fair, Shoupe Park, Sewanee. 931-691-3873 or infosacaa9@gmail.com

May 7 • German Mayfest Festival and Excursion Train, Tennessee Central Railway Museum, Nashville. 615-241-0436 or tcrv.org

May 7 • Strawberry Festival, 6R Farms, Woodbury. 615-653-9122 or facebook.com/6r farms

May 7 • First Choice Pregnancy Center Fish Fry Fundraiser, Walnut Ridge Farm, Wartrace. 931-680-0066 or firstchoicepregnancy.com

May 7 • Founders Day Celebration, Rippavilla Plantation, Spring Hill. 931-487-0027 or springhilltn.org/207/parks-recreation

May 7 • Middle Tennessee Iris Society Annual Iris Show, St. Joseph Parish Center, Madison. 615-452-1263

May 13-14 • Good Ole Days, Cannon County Courthouse Square, Woodbury. 615-563-5304 or cannoncountygoodol edays.com

May 13-14 • 81st Annual Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival, downtown Portland. 615-325-9032 or portlandcofc.com

May 14-21 • The High on the Hog Festival, Winchester City Park. 931-607-7879 or highonthehogfestival.com

May 18-22 • Toodle Bugs Consignment Sale, Gladenville Community Center, Lebanon. 615-542-1669 or toodlebugsconsignment.com

May 20-21 • Coin and Currency Show, Gallatin Civic Center Gym. 615-451-5911

May 20-21 • 2022 Kilgore Station Bluegrass Festival, Kilgore Park, Cross Plains. 615-202-4014 or kilgorestation.com

May 21 • Mutts in May, downtown Bell Buckle. bellbucklechamber.com

May 21 • Antique Tractor, Truck and Gas Engine Show, James E. Ward Agricultural Center, Lebanon. 615-444-6944

May 7 • Annual Spring Art Event, Hillhippy Hollow, Tazewell. 989-239-6719 or hillhippyhollow.com

May 7-8 • Southern Fried Food Truck Festival, Collegealde Commons, Collegealde. 423-650-1388 or触摸theskyevents.com

May 14 • Butterfly Festival, Whitwell High School, Whitwell. 423-658-5151

May 20-21 • Bloomin’ BBQ Music and Food Festival, historic downtown Sevierville. 888-738-4378 or visitsevierville.com

May 21 • 2022 Strawberry Festival, WCRK/WMTN, Morristown. 423-586-9101 or stephanie@wcrk.com

East Tennessee

May 7 • Annual Spring Art Event, Hillhippy Hollow, Tazewell. 989-239-6719 or hillhippyhollow.com

May 7-8 • Southern Fried Food Truck Festival, Collegealde Commons, Collegealde. 423-650-1388 or触摸theskyevents.com

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May 21 • 2022 Strawberry Festival, WCRK/WMTN, Morristown. 423-586-9101 or stephanie@wcrk.com

Submit your events
Complete the form at tnmagazine.org or email events@tnelectric.org. Information must be received at least two months ahead of the event date, and we accept submissions up to a year in advance. Due to the great demand for space in each month’s Almanac, we cannot guarantee publication. Find a complete listing of submissions we’ve received at tnmagazine.org/events.
BE A GEEZER GUARDIAN, BE A HERO

Want to open your heart and home to a senior dog in need, but worried about expenses? Become a Geezer Guardian!

Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary provides and covers the cost of ALL medical care for each dog’s life, at no cost to their Geezer Guardian!

OFSDS provides high-quality, lifetime care to senior dogs in Middle Tennessee and aims to place them into loving forever homes.

For more information about available dogs or to become a Geezer Guardian, visit

OFSDS.org

765 Nonaville Road
Mount Juliet, TN 37122
EnergyRight home upgrades = savings to CEMC members

By Joseph Woodard, CEMC Energy Programs Inspector

Since its beginning in January 2015, the EnergyRight Energy Efficiency Program has helped more than 2,300 Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation members make home improvement choices to save more than 3.4 million kilowatt-hours, equating to over $340,000 in energy savings to CEMC members.

The EnergyRight Energy Efficiency Program allows homeowners to achieve energy savings through quality upgrades to their homes. Upgrades can be installed to increase a home’s energy efficiency, and qualifying homeowners are eligible to receive financing for the work they’ve had done.

QCN members perform admirably

The Quality Contractor Network (QCN) provides trained, reputable local companies that are dedicated to quality installation and materials to ensure that participating CEMC members can achieve their full potential savings. Many of these companies have been part of the QCN for decades, and these relationships strengthen the message that CEMC wants to be an energy partner, not just an energy provider.

In 2021, contractors saved CEMC members an estimated 125,688 kWh in energy through 581 upgrades across CEMC territory. This reduction in power load is equivalent to removing seven homes from the grid! Of these efficiency measures, 91 heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades were performed. Installs include new heat pumps and central air conditioners as well as tune-ups and new or sealed existing ductwork. We are thankful for these local companies that contribute to CEMC members receiving the utmost service and savings from the work they provide.

Top Performers

CEMC annually awards the top-performing QCN members in each region with the QCN Excellence Award. This year, the award was earned by Baggett Heating & Cooling in the Western Region and Derryberry’s Heat & Air in the Eastern Region. These outstanding installers upgraded 21 homes while saving 16,000 kWh (equivalent to $1,600 in energy costs). We thank these contractors for their continued dedication to the CEMC membership and to the quality of our energy programs.

If you are interested in making energy-efficient upgrades to your home, please visit us online at cemc.org to learn more.
All members of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation who are enrolled in bank draft prior to Tuesday, May 31, will be entered into a drawing to win one of five $50 electric bill credits. As an added bonus, members who sign up for bank draft any time during the month of May will be entered into a second drawing with a chance to win a $250 electric bill credit.

Bank draft is a convenient way to make electric bill payments automatically. With bank draft, your bill is securely drafted from your checking or savings account each month on your due date, eliminating late fees. You will continue to receive your electric bill each month — in your mailbox or your inbox — and we’ll take care of the rest.

To sign up for bank draft, give us a call at 1-800-987-2362, stop by your local CEMC office, or enroll via SmartHub online or in the mobile app. When signing up by phone or in your local office, you will be required to sign an authorization form and provide a voided check.

Please note: this contest is open to members enrolled in bank draft payments only. It does not apply to members enrolled in Auto Pay recurring credit/debit card payments.
CEMC and TVA extend Community Care Fund

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is continuing its partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority in addressing hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic by participating in the Community Care Fund program. CEMC will be matching funds offered by TVA to selected charitable organizations throughout the cooperative’s five-county service area.

These organizations recently received Community Care Fund grants from CEMC and TVA:

• $4,000 — The Robertson County Family Resource Center. Funds will be used to provide resources for 250 students in Robertson County that have been identified as homeless. Resources include food for the food pantry, new clothing, shoes, school supplies and occasional medical assistance.

• $3,000 — Stewart County Board of Education. Funds will be used to purchase new lab equipment for the Advanced Placement biology program at Stewart County High School.

• $3,000 — Highland Rim Economic Corporation. Funds will be used to provide financial assistance to individuals in Stewart County who are struggling to pay for utilities, rent, medication and food.

Above left, Jennifer Dusky, family liaison/social worker for the Robertson County Family Resource Center, accepts the Community Care Fund grant from CEMC Springfield District Manager Chad Crabtree. From left are Dr. Chris Causey, director of schools; Crabtree; Dusky; Teresa Leavitt, supervisor of student services; and CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Susie Yonkers. Above right, Stewart County High School biology teacher Jessica Crutcher and SCHS AP biology students accept the Community Care Fund grant from Yonkers. At right, Highland Rim Economic Corporation’s Neighborhood Service Center Supervisor Lisa Brooks accepts the Community Care Fund grant from Yonkers.
CEMC Reads Across America

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation was honored to take part in Read Across America celebrations at two local elementary schools in March. Employees volunteered to serve as guest readers at North Stewart and Dover Elementary and presented a safety demonstration to students at North Stewart.

Participating from CEMC were General Manager Chris Davis, Dover District Storeroom Janitor Carmella Dunsmoor, Member Services Assistant Nicole Hagewood, Community Relations Coordinator Susie Yonkers, Safety Coordinators John Anthony and Todd Hesson and Dover District linemen.

Clockwise from above, Dover District Storeroom Janitor Carmella Dunsmoor shares a story with students at Dover Elementary School; General Manager Chris Davis reads to students at North Stewart Elementary; and Safety Coordinator John Anthony addresses students during an electrical safety presentation at North Stewart.

NEW LOBBY HOURS

Beginning May 2, our lobbies and drive-thrus will be open from 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.
Young leaders learn about government and leadership during co-op event in Nashville

More than 45 high school juniors from across the state were in Nashville March 21-23 for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association’s annual Youth Leadership Summit. Representing Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation at the event were Stewart County High School student Grace Howell and Montgomery Central High School student Noel Price Jr.

Delegates to the event receive a hands-on look at state government, learn networking and leadership skills and develop a better understanding of their local electric cooperatives.

Tre Hargett, Tennessee secretary of state, welcomed the students to the Capitol where they visited with legislators, sat in on committee meetings and debated and voted on a mock bill.

In addition to meeting lawmakers and experiencing the state Capitol, students also developed their leadership and team building skills at the Joe C. Davis YMCA Outdoor Center at Camp Widjiwagen, completed a leadership training course with leadership expert Amy Gallimore and met trooper Shane Moore and K9 officer Sumo from the Tennessee Executive Protection Detail. Students also spent a morning at Middle Tennessee Electric in Murfreesboro for a behind-the-scenes look at an electric cooperative.

Delegates to the Youth Leadership Summit are encouraged to be leaders and use their talents to improve rural Tennessee. “The future is built on the investments we make today, and there is no greater investment we can make than to prepare these young people to face the opportunities and challenges of tomorrow,” says Todd Blocker, vice president of member relations for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and director of the Youth Leadership Summit. “These students are selected by their local electric co-ops, school officials and guidance counselors, and they truly are the best and the brightest. The Youth Leadership Summit is an example of the many ways that electric co-ops are building a brighter Tennessee.”
May is National Pet Month — Our team loves National Pet Month because it gives us an extra excuse to spoil our pets, so we put together the checklists below to help you do just that!

Want to be entered to win a Cumberland Connect pet care package? Visit our website by clicking the link at the bottom of this page and fill out the form to enter our National Pet Month Giveaway!

**SMART HOME PET DEVICES TO TRY**
- Wi-Fi Pet Camera (some can even toss treats!)
- Wi-Fi Enabled Self-Cleaning Litter Box
- Wi-Fi Enabled Automatic Pet Feeder
- Smart Vacuum (tried-and-true for pet hair!)

**MONTHLY/ANNUAL CHECKLIST**
- Give heartworm, flea & tick meds: monthly
- Clip their nails: monthly or as needed
- Stock up on food, treats & supplies: as needed
- Take your pet for regular checkups: annually
- Schedule a dental cleaning: annually

**FUN ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR PET**
- Go on a walk in your favorite park
- Play a sensory video (they will be mesmerized!)
- Keep your pet busy with a puzzle toy

**WEEKLY CHECKLIST**
- Brush your pet: 2-3 times per week or as needed
- Brush their teeth: 2-3 times per week
- Clean their bed and toys: 1-2 times per week

Every pet is different, so be sure to talk to your veterinarian about the care, treatment, and checkup schedule that is right for your pet!

For additional details on these products, visit our website link at the bottom of the page. Connecting you and your pet to your best life!

Pet care tips provided by PetMD

To enter and view the official giveaway rules, visit
www.CumberlandConnect.org/tn-magazine

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
What steps can I take this summer to keep my home cool while saving on my energy bills?

A hot home and high energy bills can take away from summer fun. Here are 10 tips to prepare your home for high summer temperatures.

Service your AC unit

Air conditioning (AC) units work by moving air over fins or coils that contain refrigerant. When the coils or fins get dirty, the unit doesn’t work as well and uses more energy.

Whether you have a portable unit, central AC or a ductless/minisplit, get your system ready for summer by cleaning the filter, coils and fins. If you are tackling this yourself, always disconnect power to the unit.

Central AC systems have two sets of coils: one inside and one outside. Both should be cleaned annually. If you hire a professional, he or she can check refrigerant levels during the process.

Seal your window AC unit

If you have a window or portable AC unit that vents through a window, seal the area between the window sashes. Water heater pipe insulation is a great way to seal this spot. It’s available at your local hardware store and is easy to cut for a snug fit.

Thermostat settings

Keeping your thermostat at the highest comfortable temperature will save you money. If you aren’t home during the day, increase your thermostat 8 to 10 degrees. There’s no need to cool an empty house.

Keep your cool

Before heading to the thermostat, turn on a fan in the room you’re in, change into lighter clothing and drink something cool. This might be enough to make you comfortable without spending more to cool your home. Finding the balance between comfort and savings is key.

Lock windows

After opening your windows at night or in the morning to let in fresh air, ensure your windows are closed and locked. This reduces gaps that allow air to flow through and cause drafts.

Keeping your thermostat at the highest comfortable temperature will save energy and money. Photo source: Mark Gilliland, Pioneer Utility Resources

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One way to reduce the amount of heat entering your home is by turning off your gas fireplace pilot light in the summer. Photo source: Mark Gilliland, Pioneer Utility Resources
Add curtains to your windows that you can pull shut during the hottest times of the day to block out sunlight. Below, grilling is a crowd-pleaser with many families. Cook al fresco to keep your home cooler on hot summer days. Photo source: Mark Gilliland, Pioneer Utility Resources.

your locks don’t form a tight fit, add weather stripping. Most products are easy to install.

**Weather stripping and curtains**

Covering and sealing windows may seem like a wintertime efficiency practice, yet these help in the summer, too. Windows are typically the least-insulated surface in a room. Add weatherstripping to form a tight seal and curtains you can close during the hottest times of the day to block out the sun.

**Cook al fresco**

Keep your home cool or your AC from working overtime by cooking outside. My grill has an extra burner on the side that lets me do stovetop cooking outside, too.

**Add insulation**

Even in the summer, adding insulation can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your air conditioning system. As a general rule, if you can see the joists in the floor of your attic, you need more insulation.

**Turn off gas fireplaces**

Reducing the amount of heat entering your home can keep it cooler, especially if you don’t have AC. If you have a gas fireplace, your pilot light lets off a small amount of heat into the room. Consider turning it off during summer months.

**Add shade outside**

Several years ago, we planted a hedge on the south side of our home. I was surprised by how much cooler it made the house in the summertime. Planting trees and shrubs strategically around your home can shade the roof, walls and pavement, reducing heat radiation to your home. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, tree-shaded neighborhoods can be up to 6 degrees cooler in the daytime than treeless areas. Before buying a tree or shrub, check with your city or utility about free tree programs.

Applying a few of these ideas to your home will help keep you comfortable and provide summer energy savings.

Miranda Boutelle is director of operations and customer engagement at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company. She also writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. 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.
I’m happy to say that Americans aren’t used to seeing soldiers, tanks and warplanes unless they happen to live near a military base. But during World War II, the U.S. Army used Middle Tennessee for maneuvers; more than 850,000 soldiers trained in the state. During these military exercises, it wasn’t unusual for a farmer to see tanks driving through his cow fields or for children to encounter soldiers marching down the road.

Today the very idea that the U.S. military would use private property for military maneuvers is so alien to us that I’ve put together a series of obvious questions and their answers:

**Why were so many of the maneuvers staged in Tennessee?**

The terrain in Middle Tennessee is similar to that of France, Belgium and Germany, which is where the U.S. government anticipated that the war would be fought. Also, Tennessee Gov. Prentice Cooper and U.S. Sen. Kenneth McKellar reportedly urged the Army to stage maneuvers in Tennessee.

**What types of soldiers and weaponry were involved?**

Foot soldiers (infantry), soldiers who jump out of airplanes (airborne), tanks and aircraft were all
involved. Fighting forces were divided into two opposing sides: red and blue. Neither side used live ammunition; Army officers wandered through the maneuver area and acted as umpires, determining which soldiers, tanks and units had been “killed” and which had prevailed.

**In what counties were the maneuvers staged?**

Twenty-one different counties: Bedford, Cannon, Coffee, DeKalb, Hickman, Humphreys, Jackson, Lawrence, Maury, Moore, Perry, Putnam, Rutherford, Smith, Sumner, Trousdale, Warren, Wayne, White, Williamson and Wilson. The “center of operations” was Cumberland University in Lebanon, which served as the headquarters.

**Were the maneuvers continuous?**

No. There were seven separate events that took place in Tennessee between 1941 and 1944. Most would last about two months, and the Army would announce them in advance.

**How did the U.S. Army deal with private property laws?**

The U.S. Army sent letters to every farmer in the counties where soldiers intended to operate, asking property owners to agree to allow soldiers to trespass and promising farmers in advance to reimburse them for any damages. “Our army can’t be ready unless we have practice,” the letter said. “Such practice may be annoying to you as a property owner, but we hope you will make a sacrifice in order to make your army efficient.” Property owners agreed to allow soldiers to “enter, maneuver upon, pass over and bivouac or camp” and
“use the water therein or thereon for drinking, cooking and cleaning purposes.”

I don’t know what happened if farmers refused to sign the agreement with the Army. In fact, I can’t find a single article that mentions that ever happening.

**Did the maneuvers affect day-to-day life in Tennessee?**

Absolutely. The war maneuvers made parts of the state impassable, wore out a lot of old roads and bridges, clogged up mail delivery, and ran hotels out of rooms and restaurants out of food. It even disrupted hunting season, which was called off or delayed in war maneuver areas!

I’m sure a lot of people complained about the inconvenience. But newspapers were far more likely to quote people who didn’t mind. “Why, mister, they (the U.S. Army) can tear this place up if they want to,” one Wilson County woman told a reporter. “I got four boys in the Army, and they’re learning how to keep alive by tearing somebody else’s place up.”

**Did the maneuvers affect towns or just the countryside?**

Both. A vivid example took place on June 12, 1941, when the Army simulated a bombing raid on Shelbyville. Residents were ordered to execute a complete “blackout” in advance of the event, and most residents stood out in the streets and watched the planes fly overhead.

**Was property damaged?**

Oh, yes. Countless fences, driveways and crops were damaged, and a U.S. Army department known as the Board of Rents and Claims wrote more than 20,000 reimbursement checks. By the end of the war, the Army had installed more than 5 million feet of wire fencing in Tennessee and repaired more than 1,000 bridges damaged by its tanks and trucks. Even with all this work, however, many of Middle Tennessee’s roads and bridges were in a sorry state by war’s end.

The most famous instance of damage occurred when a tank from George Patton’s 2nd Armored Division accidentally drove through Bell Buckle’s city hall. “The damn city hall was not on the map!” Patton reportedly joked.
What are some of the personal stories that came out of the maneuvers?

At a time before television, many people in Tennessee thought the maneuvers were the most exciting thing they had ever experienced. The most interesting event of the day was when soldiers marched past, a warplane flew overhead or a tank rolled by. “When those steel monsters clattered through the streets of the small towns here, all of the townspeople turn out to line the sidewalks and look at one of Uncle Sam’s most potent fighting machines,” the Chattanooga Daily Times reported on June 30, 1941.

John Hood, a former state representative from Murfreesboro, says he remembers the maneuvers very well. “I had a friend whose father owned a grocery store, and we would buy food from the store and sell it to the soldiers and make a little money in the process,” he said. “Sometimes we’d trade food for insignia.”

Hood says his family would hear gunfire at night and look out a window to see soldiers firing weapons (with blanks) in their front yards. “It sort of frightened us, but it was very exciting,” he says.

Were the maneuvers dangerous?

More so than you would think. More than 250 soldiers died while stationed in Tennessee during maneuvers, most of them in truck and jeep accidents, plane crashes and failed river crossings.

Two tragedies stick out. On June 6, 1943, 19 soldiers died when a U.S. Army truck crashed through a wooden guardrail and fell 30 feet into a train track in the Woodbine section of Nashville — in what may be the deadliest traffic accident in Tennessee history. Nine months later, a raft crossing the Cumberland River near Hartsville capsized, killing 21 soldiers.

Did reporters travel along with the maneuvering Army?

Yes. During active maneuvers, two or three times a week, reporters from various newspapers published stories starting off with the vague identifier “WITH THE SECOND ARMY ON TENNESSEE MANEUVERS.”

One of these reporters was a woman — Marion Coleman of the Chattanooga Times and later Associated Press. One of Coleman’s descendants later donated her papers to the Walker Library at Middle Tennessee State University.

Did the soldiers get to take time off while in Tennessee?

Yes, which is why churches, schools, YMCAs and even some private homes were converted to USOs and other social venues for soldiers. The most popular weekend destination was Nashville — which, according to Woody McMillin’s book “In the Presence of Soldiers,” had no fewer than 22 specially arranged places where servicemen could relax, take showers and sleep. This sudden addition of tens of thousands of servicemen brought with it the expected mischief; Middle Tennessee law enforcement officers had to deal with far more crime than normal during the maneuvers.

Did the soldiers make permanent connections to Tennessee?

Some did. Researchers have uncovered stories of many former soldiers who moved to Tennessee after the war because they liked what they saw of the place during the war. Also, many Tennessee women met and married soldiers while the men were stationed in Tennessee during the war. “I would have no way of estimating how many marriages came out of the maneuvers,” says Smith County researcher Tressa Bush. “I think it’s safe to say that the number was in the hundreds.”

Tressa Bush, one of the organizers of the Tennessee Maneuvers Remembered event in Carthage on May 14, helped us research and write this column. For more information about this exciting event, flip to page 18.
KEBABS from your kitchen

Meals that are fun for the whole family to prepare

Apricot Chicken and Tzatziki Dipped Kebabs
Recipes by Tammy Algood; photograph by Robin Conover
Vegetable Kebabs
Yield: 4 servings
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
1 teaspoon coarse salt
1 teaspoon garlic powder
½ teaspoon dried oregano
½ teaspoon black pepper
8 ounces button mushrooms
1 large red bell pepper, seeded and coarsely diced
½ large red onion, peeled and coarsely diced
2 medium zucchini or yellow squash, cut into ¼-inch slices

If you’re using wooden skewers, soak them in water 30 minutes before ready to use. In a large bowl, mix together the oil, vinegar, salt, garlic powder, oregano and black pepper. Add the vegetables to the marinade and gently mix until well-coated.

Heat grill to medium-high. Thread the vegetables on 6 skewers. If using soaked wooden skewers, first pat them dry. Oil your grill and place the vegetable skewers on the grill. Grill until tender, 4-5 minutes per side. Serve warm.

Apricot Chicken Kebabs
Yield: 4 servings
1 (10-ounce) jar apricot preserves
¼ cup apricot nectar
¼ cup orange juice
4 tablespoons unsalted butter
6 boneless skinless chicken thighs, cut in large cubes
2 red bell peppers, seeded and cut in large cubes

In a medium saucepan over medium-low heat, combine the preserves, nectar, orange juice and butter. Simmer 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Set aside to cool for 30 minutes.

Place the chicken in a large resealable zip-top bag. Pour ⅛ cup of the cooled marinade over the chicken. Seal and refrigerate for at least 2 hours and up to 8 hours. Cover and refrigerate the remaining marinade.

If you’re using wooden skewers, soak them in water 30 minutes before ready to use. Remove chicken from the marinade (and discard the marinade), threading chicken and peppers on different skewers. Place on a foil-lined baking sheet and set aside. Remove the reserved marinade from the refrigerator.

Preheat the grill to medium-high. Place the chicken kebabs on the grill for 13-15 minutes. Turn occasionally and baste with the remaining marinade. Add the pepper skewers halfway through the cooking time for the chicken, turning to evenly char. Make sure the juices of the chicken run clear when pierced, or use an instant read thermometer to make sure the chicken is done.

Spicy Peanut Beef Kebabs
Yield: 4 servings
2½ pounds lean ground chicken or beef
¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
1 tomato, finely diced
½ sweet onion, peeled and finely diced
½ teaspoon garlic salt
¼ teaspoon black pepper
Barbecue sauce or aioli of your choice

Preheat the grill to 400 degrees. In a mixing bowl, combine the meat, parsley, tomato, onions, salt and pepper. Working with your hands, gently mix until well combined.

Divide the mixture into 10 equal portions, pressing each around a long metal skewer. Place on a waxed paper-lined baking dish. Grill 5 minutes on each side. Test for doneness and allow to rest for 5 minutes. Drizzle with your favorite barbecue sauce or aioli, and serve warm.

Tzatziki Dipped Kebabs
Yield: 4-6 servings
1 pound boneless chicken, pork tenderloin or leg of lamb, cut into 1-inch cubes
Juice of 1 lemon
½ cup canola oil
4 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
1½ teaspoons fresh oregano
1½ teaspoons salt, divided

Stir in the oil to make a paste. Place the beef in a large resealable zip-top bag. Add the spice mixture, seal and massage to evenly coat. Refrigerate 8 hours or overnight.

Preheat the broiler to high. Alternate skewer the peppers and onions on skewers and the beef on separate skewers. Place on a greased sheet pan and sprinkle with the salt and pepper. Broil for 2 minutes, then turn and broil another 2 minutes or until the meat is browned on all sides. If the vegetable skewers char before the meat is done, remove from the oven and continue browning the meat. Let rest for 5 minutes before serving warm.
½ teaspoon black pepper, divided
1 small cucumber, peeled, if desired, and finely chopped
2 fresh mint leaves, chopped
½ cup plain Greek yogurt
1 large sweet yellow or purple onion, peeled and quartered
12-15 cherry tomatoes
Fresh parsley for garnishing

Place the meat in a large zip-top bag and set aside. Place the lemon juice, oil, garlic, oregano, ½ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon black pepper in a jar with a tight-fitting lid. Cover and shake to emulsify. Pour over the meat, seal and refrigerate at least 4 hours.

Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, toss together the cucumber, mint and yogurt along with the remaining salt and pepper. Stir gently to combine, cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Remove meat from the refrigerator for 30 minutes prior to cooking. Preheat grill to 400 degrees. Drain meat and thread onto skewers. Thread tomatoes and onion pieces onto skewers. Add to the grill halfway through the meat cooking time, turning to evenly brown. Allow to rest for 5 minutes before serving with Tzatziki sauce and a garnish of fresh parsley.

**Mustard Marinated Pork Shoulder Kebabs**

Yield: 4-6 servings
1¾ pounds pork shoulder, cut into generous 1-inch cubes
⅔ cup canola oil
Juice of 1 lemon
½ cup Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon fresh oregano
⅛ teaspoon onion or garlic salt
⅛ teaspoon black pepper
1 yellow bell pepper, seeded and cubed

Place the pork in a large zip-top bag. Place the oil, lemon juice, mustard, oregano, salt and pepper in a jar with a tight-fitting lid. Cover and shake to emulsify. Pour over the pork, seal and massage to evenly coat. Refrigerate at least 2 hours and up to overnight.

Remove from the refrigerator at least 30 minutes before grilling. Preheat the grill to 400 degrees. Drain the meat and thread onto skewers. Thread peppers on different skewers. Grill the pork 8-10 minutes total, turning halfway through to evenly cook and brown. Add the peppers halfway through the pork cooking time, turning to evenly brown. Allow to rest for 5 minutes before serving warm.

*Serve with Tzatziki sauce (recipe above), honey mustard dressing or a vinegar-based barbecue sauce.*

**Kebab tips and tricks**

- For even cooking, aim for the same size of all items skewered together. Go no smaller than 1 inch.
- If using bamboo skewers, make sure you soak them completely in water before using. The minimum soaking time is 30 minutes but can stretch into an hour.
- Treading meat on separate skewers from vegetables increases the possibility that the vegetables will not be overcooked or the meat undercooked. You can start the meat first, then add the vegetable skewers to the grill halfway through the meat cooking time.
- Don’t crowd the skewers! By leaving a bit of space in between each skewered food item, you allow heat to circulate all around each piece. This gives you evenly cooked food.
- Invest in some good quality skewers, and your work is easier. They are sturdy and have loops at the top to make them easy to turn on the grill.
- For extra flavor, reserve some of the meat marinade (that meat has not been soaking in!) and brush over the nearly done kebabs.

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.

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

Billie has started making bread. “I am hoping you can guide me as to what I am doing wrong because the bread loaves are not browning on all the sides. Could it be my oven?” she asks.

Billie, after thoroughly going over your recipe and a conversation on the phone, I have discovered that this is a pan placement issue. You are overcrowding the oven with multiple pans crammed next to each other for baking. So from now on, stagger your preparation of multiple loaves, which will give your pans plenty of room in the oven for even browning.

Jerry would like some tips on helping his pizza dough rise. “I use fresh yeast and ingredients and knead it for 5 minutes by hand, but it still doesn’t rise as much as I would like,” he writes.

Jerry, make sure you knead the dough until it is smooth and elastic, which will take twice the time you are kneading it now. It needs at least 10 minutes, then it should double in size when left to rise.
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COMMUNITY CORNER  What our neighbors are up to

Find the Tennessee flag

We have hidden somewhere in this magazine the icon from the Tennessee flag like the one pictured 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 Wednesday, June 1. Winners will be published in the July issue of The Tennessee Magazine.

March Flag Spotters
Thanks for the postcards and emails again this month identifying the correct location of the flag, which was found inside the “L” block at the top of page 10.

Winners are drawn randomly from each month’s entries. March’s lucky flag spotters are:
Winston Suarez, Kenton, Gibson EMC
Kristina Davis, Clarksville, Cumberland EMC
Jean Dunn, Cookeville, Upper Cumberland EMC

Artist’s Palette
Assignment for May

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 8½-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 — May, 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, June 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 July 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 July 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: Entry must be emailed or postmarked by Monday, May 23.

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

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.
WINNERS, 15-18 AGE GROUP: First place: Madison Johnston, age 17, Duck River EMC; Second place: Abby Purtee, age 15, Upper Cumberland EMC; Third place: Audra Hazzard, age 18, Middle Tennessee Electric.

WINNERS, 10-14 AGE GROUP: First place: Jack Garwood, age 11, Cumberland EMC; Second place: Heather Tafoya, age 13, Tennessee Valley EC; Third place: Lidya Dean, age 12, Cumberland EMC.

WINNERS, 1-9 AGE GROUP: First place: Shyam Venkatesh, age 9, Middle Tennessee Electric; Second place: Asha Bryan, age 9, Middle Tennessee Electric; Third place: Ivey Unland, age 9, Middle Tennessee Electric.
Poet’s Playground

Age 8 and younger

Sunset by Caeden
I like to watch the sunset that’s setting over me, And when the sun has finally set, the moon glimmers the sea. Sometimes couples go and sit and watch it on the shore, Because when you’re sitting hand in hand, You’ll love it even more.
— Caeden Gipson,
Middle Tennessee Electric

Age 9–13

Only I
I am the only one who’ll ever know me Even if I tell you my secrets I’m still a mystery Deep down you’ll never know Only I can see my soul I am the only one who’ll ever know me Even if I told you my hopes and dreams You’d never see them like I do They mean to me what they never can to you I am the only one who’ll ever know me Even if I laid myself bare at your feet You’d never really see my soul clearly I am the only one who’ll ever know me
— Samantha McNabb,
Tennessee Valley EC

Age 14–18

Hidden Beauty
Something beautiful is hidden on these mountains. Maybe it’s obscured in an Iris? A vibrant violet flower whose eponym is from the rainbow goddess.

Age 19–22

My Own Brutal World.
I have filled my heart with concrete To turn it to stone. Stiffened my shoulders To carry the heavy burden alone. I’ve poured glue in my broken places To keep myself together. Removed my thin skin And replaced it with leather. I couldn’t afford a new face, So I had to sell this smile of mine, I found a hunk of wood in the forest, At least now I have a spine. They said I must be tough If I’m to stay untouched, Now all I am is tough things, But the pain remains too much.
— David Smith,
Fayetteville Public Utilities

Age 23–64

Cycle
Raindrops bathed by the lamplight stretch across the window pane coruscating like stars on the endless canvas painted in delicate strokes by the artist’s hand The puddles on the ravaged earth goad them waiting to see if they’ll make the leap dauntlessly let go and fall to the abyss of uncertainty below Burial awaits them — a temporary home among rich dirt and earthworms before the resurrection Soon they’ll rise head for the sky prepare to fall again at Heaven’s next heartbeat
— Rebecca Case, Pickwick EC

Age 65 and older

Ode to the Iris
No Plain Jane, even though you appeal to ordinary people. Commonly appear at borders, stand around varied gardens in simple solids like blue and purple. At lawn’s edge you remind us of children waving flags at a July Fourth parade. You exude an air of sophistication, spruce up any floral space with elegance. Your wardrobe of bold colors, patterns and designs varies even to exotic. You have a flair for ruffles and stun us with your impressive collection of two-tone suits accented with ribs, trims, and speckles. You so wowed Tennesseans they chose you as their state flower.
— Wesley Sims, Oak Ridge

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 of the May 1972 magazine featured a wildlife illustration by Ralph McDonald, whose artwork had twice before graced the front of the magazine. Inside, readers learned about the cooling comfort of air conditioning, World War II tank commander turned Smyrna Mayor Sam Ridley and census results concerning Tennessee agriculture.

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 May 1972 edition online at tnmagazine.org.
This photograph of a mid-century beaded purse was emailed to me without a message on July 2, 2014. I assume the sender wanted information and value.

Dear reader,

Most every estate I appraise has one — and often more than five — fancy beaded purses. Most have sewn-in labels and were made in Hong Kong or Japan. Today they can be priced from $55 in a retail shop to less than $10 at an estate sale. Looking closely at the photo, I detect loose and missing beads. As a buyer, make sure the threads are still strong.

Dear Connie Sue,

I recently bought this ceramic figurine of Lady from Walt Disney’s “Lady and the Tramp” with the assumption she’s worth something. After some Googling, I found out she was made in Japan to sell only in Disney stores. People sell similar figurines on eBay (for around $15) and Etsy (for around $45). Most people (and Google) said the Lady figurine is from the 1950s, but a couple others said ‘70s and ‘80s. She also lacks a “Made in Japan” marking. Instead, “Walt Disney Productions” is written in black ink on the bottom of the figurine.

I’m interested in knowing if the figurine is really from the ’50s and what she’s truly worth (she has no cracks or chips).

I also discovered there are figurines of Tramp, Trusty and Jock that are related to Lady. Are they harder to find and worth more than Lady?

Rachel, Franklin

Dear Rachel,

Disney’s movie “Lady and the Tramp” came out in 1955. Your Lady came out with that movie. At the time, foil and paper labels were used to identify the maker and country of origin. The glue used to attach these labels has long since dried or was washed away. Most labels are gone. I can see the shadow of the round label on your figurine. It is most likely Japanese made.

A Tramp figurine was recently offered at auction with an estimate of $50 to $100. It did not bring the minimum bid of $25. Ceramic figurines were made depicting all the dogs in the movie. A set of four is offered online for $99. There are no bidders. At estate sales, I see them selling for less than $10 on the last day of a sale.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Disney periodically rereleased its early movies in theaters and on VHS. Baby boomers had children and grandchildren by then. Figurines, plush toys, Christmas ornaments and all manner of other trinkets were produced and marketed along with the movies. I think there were even Happy Meal Disney toys. We may have over bought; this market is flooded and floundering.

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.
Our next Shutterbug Photography Contest theme is “Summertime in Tennessee.” Please share your images of what the summer in Tennessee looks like to you. Images can be from any year and anywhere in Tennessee.

Subjects could include 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.

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 and online entry**

No prints are needed; we will accept online entries only. For the complete list of the Shutterbug Showcase contest rules and entry information, please visit our website at tnmagazine.org.

**Shutterbug assignment**

“Summertime in Tennessee”

**Deadline**

Photographs must be entered online by midnight (Central time) on Sunday, July 17. Winners will be published in the September issue.

**Prize packages**

Judges will select a first-, second- and third-place winner in each division and age group. These prizes will be awarded: First place wins $150, second place $100 and third place $50.
Have you ever heard that common refrain, “Who, who, who cooks for you?” Chances are that you have heard the melodic call of the barred owl coming from the tree lines, swamps and wooded areas of Tennessee. Barred owls are common here and throughout most of the eastern United States.

They usually roost high in the trees during the day and hunt in the evening, so you will often hear their call before you see them. They are masters of camouflage and can remain motionless for extended periods of time.

I came across this owl late in the day along the Lake Trail at Radnor Lake State Natural Area in Nashville. Unlike most of the owls I see, it was close to the trail and not obscured by tree limbs. Perched on a fallen tree about 6 feet off the ground, it was out in the open and hunting.

Staying about 20 yards away, I was relieved that my presence didn’t seem to affect the hunter’s focus. I had a 100-400 mm zoom on my camera this particular day, and it turned out to be the perfect lens for this subject. I wanted to zoom in close while keeping my distance and completely blur the background, bringing the focus of the image to the owl and the texture of the tree bark.

The light was somewhat flat but nicely diffused across the overcast sky. I increased the ISO to 600 so I could use a higher shutter speed. That helped prevent any shake from hand-holding the camera as I shot. The lens and f-stop setting helped completely blur the background with a shallow depth of field.

The owl remained virtually motionless except for an occasional head turn as it listened for voles and chipmunks rustling in the leaves beneath its perch. After 30 minutes of observation, the owl took aim at something on the ground a few yards farther away. Launching off the tree, it landed in one swoop, quickly grabbing at something hidden in the leaves.

It was a miss for the owl and for me as I was manually focusing and wasn’t quick enough. But I didn’t leave empty-handed: This image was my catch of the day.
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 biopic 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. Biopic 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 biopic 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.”

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

“The major benefit of the biopic 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 biopic 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

Office located in Lebanon, TN

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