June 2022 tnmagazine.org

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Fair Season Begins
State Historic Site
Rock Castle
Books for Bedtime

History for Kids
Opryland USA

Going Solar?
Do Your Research

Dinnertime Duos
Lower your utility bills with smart financing.

From HVAC replacement to windows and doors, home energy upgrades shouldn’t break the bank. That’s why TVA EnergyRight® and your local power company work together to provide you with simple and affordable financing options. Now it’s easier to improve your home energy efficiency, save money on utilities and live more comfortably with professionally installed upgrades from TVA-approved contractors.

Visit EnergyRight.com/residential to register your home and learn more about your financing options. Contact your local power company for eligibility. All lending programs subject to credit qualifications.
THIS PAGE
This summer and fall, bright midway lights signal the return of county fairs to communities across Tennessee. See page 10 to learn about the festivals that each year offer entertainment and agricultural education.
Between the Lines

News from your community

Not just a good idea — it’s the law

Most of us instinctively slow down when we spot the flashing lights of a law enforcement vehicle or an ambulance on the side of the roadway ahead. But that’s not enough, folks.

As drivers in the state of Tennessee, we have a statutory responsibility to move over into the next lane (after it’s safe to do so, of course) if we encounter an emergency vehicle. In other words, it’s the law. If it’s not possible to safely move into the next lane, then we have an obligation to reduce our speed accordingly.

The need to move over for a “first responder” seems obvious, but there are other types of vehicles that need a wide berth: utility vehicles (my personal favorite), highway maintenance vehicles, tow trucks, solid waste trucks and other vehicles operated by those whose job requires them to work alongside roadways.

It may seem like a matter of common sense, but failure to obey the “Move Over” law is punishable by a fine of $500; violators can also be subject to up to 30 days of jail time. This is more than a matter of courtesy to others; you or someone you love who happened to experience car trouble could benefit from the law. That’s because a recent amendment included any personal vehicle that has pulled over with hazard lights flashing. And the law applies to any road in the state — from a small residential street to a busy interstate highway.

The consequences of ignoring the Move Over law can involve much more than penalties for those who violate it. Just over a year ago, a supervisor with the Tennessee Department of Transportation was struck by a motorist while working along I-40 in Knoxville and had to be hospitalized.

From my own point of view, I can imagine few things more disturbing than being informed that one of our Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation employees was injured — or worse — from being struck by a vehicle while working along one of the roadways in our service area. Our workers always take care to wear high-visibility safety vests. We place cones around our roadside workspaces and, if the situation calls for it, use “flaggers” to help route traffic around the area where we’re working.

But none of those precautions will make the slightest bit of difference if a driver fails to move over or slow down. The safety zone established by the Move Over law is designed to protect the lives of those whose truly essential work requires them to operate along our roadways. Don’t we owe these folks the courtesy of not making their (often hazardous) job even more dangerous than it already is?

Put yourself in the position of having a loved one working within this “side of the road” space. We’d all be grateful to those who strictly obey the Move Over law. Instead of finding motivation in your desire to avoid being ticketed, fined or even jailed, I hope you’ll decide to move over and slow down because it’s the right thing to do.
You can’t always lie down in bed and sleep. Heartburn, cardiac problems, hip or back aches – and dozens of other ailments and worries. Those are the nights you’d give anything for a comfortable chair to sleep in: one that reclines to exactly the right degree, raises your feet and legs just where you want them, supports your head and shoulders properly, and operates at the touch of a button.

Our Perfect Sleep Chair® does all that and more. More than a chair or recliner, it’s designed to provide total comfort. Choose your preferred heat and massage settings, for hours of soothing relaxation. Reading or watching TV? Our chair’s recline technology allows you to pause the chair in an infinite number of settings. And best of all, it features a powerful lift mechanism that tilts the entire chair forward, making it easy to stand. You’ll love the other benefits, too. It helps with correct spinal alignment and promotes back pressure relief, to prevent back and muscle pain. The overtrusted, oversized biscuit style back and unique seat design will cradle you in comfort. Generously filled, wide armrests provide enhanced arm support when sitting or reclining. It even has a battery backup in case of a power outage.

White glove delivery included in shipping charge. Professionals will deliver the chair to the exact spot in your home where you want it, unpack it, inspect it, test it, position it, and even carry the packaging away! You get your choice of Genuine Italian Leather, plush and durable Brisa™, stain and liquid repellent DuraLux™ with the classic leather look or plush MicroLux™ microfiber, all handcrafted in a variety of colors to fit any decor. Call now!

The Perfect Sleep Chair®
1-888-520-6647
Please mention code 117019 when ordering.

To you, it’s the perfect lift chair.
To me, it’s the best sleep chair I’ve ever had.”
— J. Fitzgerald, VA
Summer energy costs

We have serious problems in just about every business sector in our nation right now. In the past several months, we’ve seen the price of products rise — from the bread we eat to the vehicles we drive. Materials and supplies are a concern as well as finding enough employees to get the job done. The worldwide impact of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine continue to keep things unstable. It’s not limited to the United States but is also affecting industries around the world.

The electric utility industry is not immune to the pressures. Inevitably, the inflationary forces will increase the cost of electricity. Electric cooperatives in Tennessee are doing everything we can to keep rates as low as possible. In fact, Tennessee cooperatives operate far more cost-effectively than co-ops in other parts of the county. Here is a fact to consider: For every dollar you pay for your electricity, only about 27 cents, on average, stays at the local co-op to purchase and maintain the poles, wires and transformers and pay the employees who serve you. The other 73 cents pays for the power generated by the Tennessee Valley Authority. The average across the nation finds that 41 cents of every dollar is used by the local co-op for operations.

That helps explain why electric rates in Tennessee are 17 percent lower than the rest of the U.S. The other factor is TVA’s low rates. The average rate per kilowatt-hour in Tennessee is about 11 cents compared to 13.3 cents elsewhere.

As efficient as we are and despite TVA’s low rates, TVA recently announced an increase due to rising costs for fuel used to generate electricity and for purchased power. TVA’s fuel cost is based on the prices of gas, coal and other fuel sources. (That’s a complicated subject, which I’ll explain in more detail next month.)

As we go into the summer months — which Tennessee weather does quickly! — cooling your home can account for a significant portion of your electric bill. When it gets hot outside, your air conditioner must run longer and work harder to cool the inside of your home. With temperatures hitting the 90s in May, we could be in for a long, hot summer.

Here are a few things you can do to help keep your energy costs down:

• Turn off lights, televisions, computers and gaming consoles when they are not in use.
• Don’t leave small appliances and chargers plugged in — remember that if a device has a light, it is using electricity.
• Make sure your heat pump, central air conditioning unit or window air conditioner is clean and in good working order. Inspect, clean or replace all filters as needed.
• Run room air conditioners only when you need them.
• Set your heat pump/central air thermostat to 75 in the summer and 67 in the winter.
• Dry only complete loads of laundry so you don’t have to reheat the dryer for small loads.
• Wash as much clothing as you can in cold water.
• Install efficient LED lighting, which uses far less energy than other types.
• Always close the damper when you aren’t using the fireplace.

If you can do most of these, you will use less energy, which will lower the impact of higher rates.

Keep in mind that we are one business that really wants you to use less of what we sell! Our co-ops and TVA will do everything we can to operate as efficiently — and safely — as possible.

For additional tips on how to keep your energy use as low as possible, see the next page.
HOT WEATHER AND YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

IT'S NOT JUST HOT AIR

YOUR HOME USES MUCH MORE ENERGY DURING HOT WEATHER
EVEN WHEN YOUR THERMOSTAT SETTINGS ARE THE SAME

MILD DAY
OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE
80°

AIR NEEDED IN THE HOME 5°
The difference between the thermostat setting and the outside temperature is only 5 degrees. The cooling system may only operate a few minutes of each hour to cool the home.

HOT DAY
OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE
105°

AIR NEEDED IN THE HOME 30°
The difference between the thermostat setting and the outside temperature is 30 degrees. The cooling system may operate almost the entire hour to cool the home.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE USES COOLING DEGREE DAYS (CDD) TO MEASURE THE ENERGY NEEDED TO COOL A HOME OR BUILDING. CDD AVERAGES GO UP SIGNIFICANTLY DURING SUMMER MONTHS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>CDD AVERAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APRIL</td>
<td>52 CDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>177 CDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td>363 CDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
<td>487 CDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUG</td>
<td>465 CDD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DATA / KBNA / NASHVILLE

MORE THAN HALF OF THE ENERGY USED IN THE AVERAGE HOME IS FOR HEATING AND COOLING.

ELECTRIC RATES WILL BE HIGHER THIS SUMMER DUE TO HIGHER GENERATION COSTS.

CO-OP RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC RATES ARE 17 PERCENT BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

TIPS TO SAVE ENERGY DURING HOT WEATHER:

- SET THERMOSTAT TO 75 DEGREES.
- CLOSE DRAPES TO KEEP OUT HEAT.
- RUN FANS TO CIRCULATE AIR.
- KEEP AIR FILTERS CLEAN.
Guinness World Records update

Four generations of the McNabb family tandem skydived together last June for Buddy McNabb’s 90th birthday; great-granddaughter Hannah McNabb, her father and Buddy’s grandson Brad, Buddy’s son Randall and family patriarch Lucien “Buddy” McNabb.

McNabb and his family were featured in The Tennessee Magazine in September for trying to attain a world record with this multigenerational free-fall skydive.

McNabb recently received the official certificate from Guinness World Records stating, “The most generations of one family to skydive simultaneously is 4,” and naming the McNabbs who attained the recognition.

More of Buddy’s story can be found in the autobiographical book he wrote titled “To Hell and Back In a Bottle.” It can be found on Amazon, and all proceeds go to helping others in his community.

Recipe question
Hi, this message is for Tammy Algood. I read her article on heavy cream/half-and-half in my local newspaper and have a question that no one has yet answered. Can you explain what “fat-free half-and-half” means? If there ever was an oxymoron, this is it. Hoping for a response. Thank you!

— Nelly Blackbourn

Food editor’s response:
Hello, Nelly,

I appreciate the excellent question! Instead of originating from whole milk, the fat-free version starts with skim milk. Then loads of sweeteners are added for flavor — otherwise there would be none! So thanks to those sweeteners, it has calories, but none of those calories come from fat.

Quite honestly, it is a product I refuse to purchase! I hope this helps, and feel free to email me back if you have additional questions!

All my best,

— Tammy Algood

Antiques
How can I submit items to Connie Sue Davenport for comment in the “It’s Just Stuff” segment of the magazine? I have a pie safe and an old clock I would appreciate her comments on. Thank you!

— Brenda Long, Winchester

Editor’s response:
Mail your information and pictures to:
Connie Sue Davenport
P.O. Box 343
White House, TN 37188
Or send them via email to treasures@conniesue.com.

Subscriptions
My wife and I recently moved to Cleveland, Tennessee, from Ohio. We received a magazine through our electric cooperative in Ohio, but our electricity provider (Cleveland Utilities) is not listed on your list. Am I still eligible to receive your magazine?

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.

Honeybun Cake
I am sending this in response to a recent letter from one of your subscribers requesting a Honeybun Cake recipe. This is being submitted in memory of my mother, Syble Banks.

It has always been a favorite of my family. My mother was born in 1927, the oldest child in what became a large family of 11 children. Affectionately known to her family and friends as “Granny Banks,” she began cooking at an early age, helping her mom and then continuing her cooking experience throughout her life. At family gatherings and church fellowships, her dishes were always sought out and soon disappeared.

Mother passed away in 2016 at the age of 88. As was the way of all of her generation, she made sure no one ever left her home hungry. Today we treasure her memory and are so thankful for all the wonderful recipes she left us to enjoy.

— Iva Hanback, Cypress Inn

Honeybun Cake
1 package yellow cake mix
(with pudding)
½ cup sugar
½ cup oil
4 eggs
1 cup sour cream
½ cup brown sugar
2 teaspoons cinnamon

Topping
1 cup powdered sugar
4 tablespoons milk

Mix cake mix, sugar, oil, eggs and sour cream. Beat on medium for 2 minutes. In a small bowl, mix brown sugar and cinnamon. Pour half of cake batter into a greased long baking dish. Sprinkle half of brown sugar mix over batter. Add the remaining batter and sprinkle with remaining sugar mixture. Stir lightly with a knife. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Top with a mixture of powdered sugar and milk while hot.

Recipe

**Honeybun Cake**

**Batter**

- 1 package yellow cake mix
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup oil
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon

**Topping**

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 4 tablespoons milk

Mix cake mix, sugar, oil, eggs and sour cream. Beat on medium for 2 minutes. In a small bowl, mix brown sugar and cinnamon. Pour half of cake batter into a greased long baking dish. Sprinkle half of brown sugar mix over batter. Add the remaining batter and sprinkle with remaining sugar mixture. Stir lightly with a knife. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Top with a mixture of powdered sugar and milk while hot.
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.

But we don’t stop there. While supplies last, we’ll include a pair of $99 8x21 power compact binoculars and 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: HUK796-01
*Special price only for customers using the offer code.

What Stauer Clients Are Saying About Our Knives

“★ ★ ★ ★ ★
This knife is beautiful!”
— J., La Crescent, MN

“★ ★ ★ ★ ★
The feel of this knife is unbelievable...this is an incredibly fine instrument.”
— H., Arvada, CO

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. HUK796-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

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.®
Fair season is upon us! The lights of the midways, the smell of frying funnel cakes and the excitement on the faces of kids and adults alike await you at any of the 57 agricultural fairs in Tennessee this year. Nearly 3 million people visit fairs across the state each year.

Clay County will open the season with the first fair beginning on Tuesday, June 7. Fairs will run throughout the summer and fall until early October.

“In 2021, after most fairs were unable to hold 2020 events due to the pandemic concerns, fairs returned with excitement and enthusiasm,” said Lynne Williams, fair administrator with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

In 2021, more than 22,000 volunteers worked hard to put on the fairs. Their efforts across the state resulted in some 212,000 agricultural exhibits and more than 76,000 entries in competitions and exhibitions.

“Fairs bring joy to people’s lives, and fairs are a mirror of their communities,” said Helen McPeak, executive director with Wilson County Promotions, sponsor of the Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair. “Fairs provide wholesome family fun and showcase what is important in our communities, agriculture and industry.

What better place to provide educational opportunities for people to learn? Our fairs give us the opportunity to tell our story.”

There are more than 3,200 fairs in the U.S., and more than 150 million people attend the fairs each year, McPeak said. Fairs date all the way back to biblical days with evidence showing that fairs and festivals existed as early as 500 B.C.

“Where and when the first fair was held is not known,” McPeak said. “The first fair in the United States that we know of was in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in 1807.”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture started encouraging agricultural fairs to be held around 1850, seeing them as ways to promote and educate people about agriculture, Williams said.

“Agricultural fairs are a tradition in Tennessee,” she added.

The earliest agricultural fairs in Tennessee were held between 1853 and 1856. Today, 11 Tennessee fairs are more than 150 years old, and another nine fairs are between 100 and 150 years old.

“It’s amazing that fairs started almost 10 years before the Civil War, so there’s some significant history with these fairs,” Williams said. “What other events in Tennessee have been going on for over 150 years?”

One of the oldest is the Wilson County Fair, which is now known as
the Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair as Lebanon began hosting the State Fair last year. The first known fair in Wilson County was held in 1853, according to the county’s archives.

Another of the earliest Tennessee fairs is Gibson County’s, which was first held in October 1856 and was organized through the a legislative act in 1855 that encouraged every county in Tennessee to hold an agricultural fair in the fall of each year.

“The fair was not held during the Civil War and first years of Reconstruction but started again in 1869 and has not missed a year since, making Gibson County’s the oldest continuously running fair in the South,” Williams said.

The Gibson County Fair has survived two World Wars, the Great Depression and now two pandemics, said Will Lowery, who serves on the Gibson County Fair board of directors.

“I think the reason for this longevity is simple: It’s a true labor of love among some very tenacious people,” Lowery said. “I think it’s also a shining example of who we are as Gibson Countians. When we commit to something, we are in it for the long haul.”

The years 1850 to 1870 were known as “the golden age” of the agricultural fair, and during that time, Tennessee fairs stepped up to support agriculture and provide these events for their citizens, Williams said.

“The county fairs that we know and enjoy today came about from this early agriculture and education approach for farmers to learn and for fairgoers to have learning opportunities as well as new adventures,” Williams said.

U.S. fairs’ beginnings are rooted in farmers participating in livestock showcases at public gatherings where the animals would be judged and awarded, Williams said. Typical fair events included exhibits that showed new farming techniques and plowing contests.

“Fairs gave rural families an opportunity to see firsthand the latest agricultural techniques, equipment, crops and livestock,” Williams said. “The fairs were much more than education and amusement. They helped guide rural people through an increasingly modern world — whether that was introducing them to new equipment or forms of entertainment.”

As the fairs’ popularity grew over time, technology became more important, Williams said. Fairs held events to showcase new advancements like electricity, electric lights, airplanes and other machinery.

“One of the things that I will never forget is that the first time I ever ate out of a microwave was at a county fair,” Williams said.

She said Jim Griffin, who worked as the director of member services for Centerville-headquartered Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative, had an exhibit at the Hickman County Fair where he demonstrated the microwave.

“He microwaved hot dogs for people coming through, and I was like, ‘You could actually cook a hot dog in this little machine?’” Williams said. “I don’t even know what year that was, possibly around the late ’60s, but it was before regular households had microwaves, so it was way back. But I have that good memory, and that was Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative reaching out to people and educating them about electricity and appliances, and microwaves were something new.”

Some things the fairs have to offer have changed over time. Hot-air balloons and, later on, automobile races and airplane demonstrations were common at the early fairs more than 100 years ago, Williams said, and plowing matches and evening lectures were replaced with pyrotechnic displays, or fireworks, which are still popular closing events at county fairs.

“Within a few years, county and state fairs became a time-honored American tradition,” Williams said.

Entertainment acts were also an important aspect at fairs, featuring local music performances. Carnival rides, still popular draws for fair lineups today, also became commonplace, Williams said.

“Of course, the rides get more elaborate, but you still have your basic Ferris wheel and merry-go-round,” Williams said. “People like to carry on those kinds of memories, and then when they grow up and have children, they want to take their children to do those things that they did when they were little.”

Extensive midways and live performances are now abundant at the fairs, but the root opportunities for farmers
and youth to participate in and learn about agriculture are still the core of Tennessee’s county fairs today, Williams said.

“It’s like a model of an old car,” said Emily Pitcock, executive secretary with the Tennessee Association of Fairs.

“We have new cars now, and things change as far as the way they’re built. So it serves the same purpose today as it did a long time ago: The fairs are all about agriculture.”

Williams said agricultural education demonstrations and competitions — ranging from livestock and crops to quilting and art to canning and baking to so much more — are open to all who are interested.

“Fair volunteers and organizers know that most families are a generation or two removed from the farm or rural areas,” Williams said. “Fairs today emphasize agricultural education to show and educate, especially children, about where their food comes from.”

Many Tennessee county fairs promote farms and producers by showcasing Pick Tennessee Products exhibits, which highlight items grown or produced in fairgoers’ own counties along with products from across the state, Williams said. There are also sometimes cooking competitions held at fairs where participants can only use Tennessee-made products.

“Like a family reunion, these families gather annually at the fair for fellowship and are recognized by the fair through exhibits, plaques, certificates, receptions and various ways to spotlight these farms that have been in continuous agricultural production within the same family for at least 100 years,” Williams said.

Going beyond agriculture, some Tennessee fairs have unique events and aspects that make each county fair stand out. One such example is harness racing at the Lincoln County Fair, which has been held since 1903.

“In my hometown, besides the agriculture and the livestock and the concerts, the harness racing is a tradition,” Pitcock said. “You’ll have people who will come in the afternoon, and they’ll sit there and watch the harness racing. There are facilities for 70-something horses that could stay on the grounds all year long if they wanted to, and there are horses that stay there and train on the horse track.”

Some other unique events at fairs include the baby-chicks hatchery in the poultry house at the Fentress County Fair and the Appalachian Fair’s Wildlife Building, which is the only designated wildlife building in Tennessee and is maintained by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Williams said. There is a multitude of interesting and surprising activities and events at each fair in Tennessee.

Some county fairgrounds are also unique and often hold historic significance, one being the DeKalb County Fairgrounds, Williams said.

The first DeKalb County Fair was held Oct. 5-7, 1856, in Alexandria and was put on without any problems for the first five years. Then, in 1863, Federal troops camped on the grounds during the Civil War, and when they left, they destroyed the rail pens by fire; no structures were rebuilt until 1872.
In 1908 the DeKalb County Fair was the first in Tennessee to hold a night fair, and some say it was the first in the entire South to do so.

“Up until that time, all fairs had been during daylight hours only,” Williams said. “A tractor engine pulling a leased generator made the electricity for that first night fair.”

“The night fair was the first time they ever charged to get into the fair. I always found that fascinating,” said Ria Baker, former DeKalb County Fair board member. “They had to pay for the generator.”

Between the years of 1914 and 1929, the DeKalb County Fairgrounds suffered incidents of a fire destroying the grandstand, a storm demolishing a building just before it was completed, a tornado ripping through the fairgrounds and destroying infrastructure in its path, and floodwaters washing away buildings.

“When the buildings blew down due to the tornado in 1920s, they had actually built the largest exhibit building that any fair had, and it blew down just a few weeks before the fair, but they managed to build it back,” Baker said. “That’s what’s always amazing to me. They got flooded, and they just built it back. They got hit by a tornado, and they just built it back.”

DeKalb is not the only county with unique fairgrounds history, Williams said. The Lauderdale County Fair in Halls is located on a World War II Army airbase. The Van Buren County Fair is held on the former campus of Burritt College, which was established in 1848 and was one of the first coeducational institutions in the South and one of the first state-chartered schools in Middle Tennessee; it was also occupied by Union troops during the Civil War.

“Every fair is kind of hard to sum up into one thing because every fair has something unique,” Pitcock said. “Every fair has some history that most will not know unless they’re from that particular county. But I would say fairs are a tradition anywhere you go.”

The Tennessee State Fair, unique in its own way, moved to be a part of the Wilson County Fair in 2021.

“We are probably the most unique state fair in the nation because we are a county fair and a state fair all together,” said Shari Bazydola, assistant fair manager of the Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair.

There are both Wilson County Fair competitions and State Fair competitions happening at the same time. This year, county fairs from across the state of Tennessee will compete for the “Best of Tennessee State Fair Champion Awards,” McPeak said.

As an agriculture fair, the Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair selects a Tennessee agriculture commodity each year to promote. This year will be the Year of Hay. A theme is also picked each year “to breathe new life into our fair,” Bazydola said.

“Since we are the State Fair now, too, we want to make sure we are taking into account not just Wilson County but the entire state, so our theme this year is ‘95 Reasons to Celebrate Tennessee’ so we can concentrate on highlighting and showcasing all 95 counties across the state,” said Randall Clemons, president of the Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair.

The goal of every Tennessee county fair is to meet the needs of their community by showcasing livestock, products and the county through different exhibits, Pitcock said.

“County fairs in Tennessee are a community,” Williams said. “You’re going to go and see your friends from school and your neighbors. You’re going to see people you’ve known.”

County fairs, at the end of the day, are still that grassroots celebration from years past with local people putting it together, Williams said.

“Fairs are a mirror of the community, showcasing what is best and brightest of the people and its resources,” she added.

For more information on the 2022 Tennessee fairs, visit picktnproducts.org/find-products/fun-education/fairs.html or tn.gov/agriculture/farms/fairs.

Go visit your fair in your community and make family memories that will last a lifetime. We’ll see YOU at the fair!
Houses are not technically living things, but when you delve into the history and stories attached to them, they can seem as though they are. That is especially true when the home has a long history, as is the case with Historic Rock Castle in Hendersonville. Middle Tennessee’s oldest home dates back to 1784 and preserves a time in the state’s history so different from the present that it’s difficult to fathom.

Life on the frontier

Since Rock Castle became a state historic site in 1969, the story of the home and the Smith family has been shared with visitors. Daniel Smith, the builder of Rock Castle, surveyed and drew the first map of Tennessee. He nearly lost his life in what would eventually become the 16th state. The event was harrowing and makes it stunning that he still decided to move his family to the part of the frontier where he’d nearly lost his life.

“Daniel Smith came out to this frontier on several excursions before settling here in 1783,” says Jess Gilbert, director of education and events for Rock Castle State Historic Site. “On one of these excursions, his party was attacked and scattered. He was shot in the chest and had to crawl his way, alone, several miles back to Mansker’s Fort, where he very nearly died but was, fortunately, nursed back to health. He then went immediately back to his home in Virginia, gathered his wife and two children (then ages 8 and 3) and moved them to the remote location where he had been shot and almost killed. Just the courage and fortitude it would have taken to be willing to do that for the sake of building a new nation and a new legacy for your family — and for his wife to be willing to go with him! — are just staggering. When we give tours of the home, we try to tell its story in a way that encourages visitors to be immersed in the American experience at that time and in this specific place.”
The Federal-style, limestone home housed Daniel Smith, wife Sarah and their children and then their descendants for nearly two centuries. Sarah Crosby Berry, Daniel Smith's great-granddaughter, was the one to sell the property to the state to be restored and preserved.

Like many who served in the Revolutionary War, Smith came West and settled on land grants he’d received for his military service. It was on these more than 3,100 acres beside Drakes Creek that the Smith family’s story unfolded. But their story wasn’t the only one attached to Rock Castle. Native Americans lived and hunted in the area well before settlers arrived from the East. The enslaved later toiled here. And after slavery ended, those working the fields became sharecroppers.

Today, Rock Castle’s proximity to Nashville means it is surrounded by urbanization that Daniel and Sarah Smith couldn’t have even imagined.

**Sharing Rock Castle’s rich history**

The many aspects of Rock Castle’s part in Tennessee history are shared in a variety of ways: through regular tours for visitors, school tours and special events. Children learn best about history when it’s hands-on, so the Rock Castle staff engages students and preschoolers through Colonial activities such as writing with quills and playing 18th century games.

Rock Castle has also hosted many living history days over the years, but Gilbert says some changes are coming to those this year.

“We have reimagined our Living History Days and Folk N Bluegrass Fest events to occur on one weekend rather than being two separate events,” Gilbert says. “For the past few years, our Sumner Harvest Living History Days have been on a Thursday and Friday in October, during the school day, so it was difficult for families or individuals without children to attend. This year we’ve renamed the event Rock Castle Living History Days and moved it to September to coincide with our Folk N Bluegrass Fest. We are extending the historical demonstrations on Thursday and Friday into Saturday morning, Sept. 10, so that families and the general public can also come and experience a Colonial re-enactment event at Rock Castle in the morning and then our Folk N Bluegrass Fest event in the afternoon and evening.”

The living history demonstrations range from working with farm animals to fabric making to blacksmithing — all things that were vital to survival on the frontier.

Rock Castle is also hosting six day camps this summer. During these camps — with pop culture themes such as “Fantasy Camp” and “American Girl Camp” — staff will also be sharing the history of Rock Castle.

**Special events**

In addition to these scheduled gatherings, Rock Castle is the beautiful backdrop for many other special events. Among them is the site’s most popular, the Summer Songwriter Series, which occurs one weekend a month from May through August.

“We have several amazing musicians showcased at each event along with bounce houses and family yard games, food trucks and concessions,” Gilbert says. “It makes for a super family-friendly evening on Old Hickory Lake!”

Among the most special events a person may have during their life is a wedding, and Rock Castle is a beautiful place to exchange vows — whether the backdrop is the home itself, the lake or the wooded areas of the property.
Counting the many weddings held at Rock Castle as well as special events and tours, the historic site sees between 50,000 and 60,000 visitors each year. Gilbert says the fact that the site offers more than the home itself has actually helped over the course of the pandemic during which many parts of the tourism industry that depended on indoor events suffered.

“We are fortunate to have an abundance of open outdoor space, so we were able to carry on with most of our events as usual while practicing social distancing, and they were all well attended,” she says. “I think people were looking for more outdoor activities than usual, and so many events had been canceled, so it did bring out guests who had never visited Rock Castle before to see what it was all about. We’re seeing a noticeable increase in visitation and private rentals like weddings in 2022 as a result of reaching a whole new group of people during the pandemic who maybe would not have visited had they not been looking for strictly outdoor activities or events to replace others that were not able to take place. They came and visited and then spread the word. It’s kind of a snowball effect.”

**A place to cherish**

Gilbert and her husband, Sam, who is Historic Rock Castle’s executive director, are proof that one does not have to be born a Tennessean to love this site and its history. They moved to Tennessee from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 2006, and Sam joined the Rock Castle staff the following year.

“We fall into the category of the vast majority of our guests who weren’t originally drawn to Rock Castle by the history, necessarily, but we immediately realized what a priceless hidden gem it is, and we want to draw as many people as we can into that community who cherishes it,” she says. “We are story people around here, and Rock Castle has one that is guaranteed to draw you in and give you something significant to be a part of.

“One thing we always say at our events is that we want Rock Castle to feel like the backyard that everyone loves to gather in — the one where old friends meet new, weddings and graduations and class reunions are celebrated. And whether we are native Tennesseans or transplants (like so many of us are now), we can be a part of a community that treasures the deep roots that run here and that works together to preserve this legacy to be passed down long past our own time. It’s a really incredible story to be a part of.”
West Tennessee

Now-June 24 (Fridays) • Rhythm on the Rails 2022 Outdoor Concert Series, Discovery Park of America, Union City: 731-885-5455 or discoveryparkofamerica.com

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

June 11 • Forks and Corks, De Terra Vineyard, Somerville: 901-465-3802, ext. 223, or fayetteecares.org

June 18-Jan. 8 • Discover Steampunk: A Fantastical Hands-On Adventure, Discovery Park of America, Union City: 731-885-5455 or discoveryparkofamerica.com

Middle Tennessee

Now-Sept. 18-19 • 24th Annual Jamboree and Crafts Festival, Smithville: 615-597-8500 or smithvilletamboree.com

June 8-25 • Shakerag Workshops, St. Andrew’s-Sewanee School: info@shakerag.org or shakerag.org

June 10-11 • Eighth Annual Spring Redneck Rumble, Farm Bureau Expo Center, Lebanon: 615-364-1828 or bothbarrels.us

June 10-July 29 (Fridays) • Main Street Live, Security Federal Savings Bank, McMinnville: 931-506-5335 or mainstreetmcminnville.org

June 11 • Spring Pop-Up Market, Re-Invintage Home, Murfreesboro: 615-617-5632 or reinvintagehome.com

June 11 • Green Thumb Produce Craft Fair, Rucker Road, Murfreesboro: 615-890-4452 or cagle@comcast.net

June 11 • Art Saturday, downtown Bell Buckle. facebook.com/bellbucklearts or janiejbecker@gmail.com

June 11 • Second Annual Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show, Dinah Shore Boulevard, Winchester: 931-691-4604

June 17 • Full Moon Pickin' Parties, Percy Warner Park, Nashville: 615-370-8053 or warnerparks.org

June 18 • Summer Market Vendor Event, Big Creek Winery Tasting Room, Christiana: 615-785-2124 or facebook.com/bigcreekwinerytastingroom

June 18 • Blueberry Bash, Highland Realm Blueberry Farm, Hampshire: facebook.com/highlandrealm

June 18-19 • RC Cola-MoonPie Festival and 10-Mile and 5K Run, Bell Buckle: bellbucklechamber.com

June 25 • Park Summer Concert Series, downtown Bell Buckle: bellbucklechamber.com

June 5 • Jeep Day, Big Creek Winery Tasting Room, Christiana: 615-785-2124 or facebook.com/bigcreekwinerytastingroom

Submit your events

Complete the form at tmagazine.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 tmagazine.org/events.
The beauty in north Alabama runs deep – literally. From the depths of Cathedral Caverns to the mountaintop vistas at Lake Guntersville State Park, the landscape diversity and natural beauty are world-class. As if that weren’t enough to enjoy, nationally renowned artisans, award-winning local wineries, and mouth-watering local eateries satisfy every appetite for a multi-day adventure.

I grew up a stone’s throw away from north Alabama; however, I hadn’t taken the time to explore there until recently. But now that I’ve been, I keep going back more and more seemingly never seeing the same thing twice.

One of my recent adventures began in DeSoto State Park, near Ft. Payne, Alabama. The gorgeous mountain scenery and a walk in the woods were just what I needed to stretch my legs and breathe the fresh clean mountain air. After a short hike to soak up the bliss, I replayed the childhood joy of casting stones in a small lake as a couple of kayakers paddled in the still waters. The thought of unsent emails, texts, and other work began to melt away as I listened to the rhythmic slap of the paddles on the water and the thunk of rocks splashing down.

With peace of mind restored, I ventured a short drive to Little River Canyon National Preserve. Here erosion is a work of art, and I could see how Little River has taken its time – some say millions of years – to craft a 600-foot limestone cavern into Lookout Mountain.

The cavern is visible from numerous viewpoints along the Canyon Rim Drive, and the lookout points along the rim are undeniably beautiful. However, venturing below the rim reveals the cascading Little River Falls and the small reflecting pools formed at the top. These pools stirred my own reflections amid the lush green forest and...
blue skies, and it was life imitating art as my energy and peace were restored.

Refreshed and enthusiastic, I was off to my next destination, Cathedral Caverns State Park, located off the beaten path near Woodville, Alabama. Because of its rural location, this park is one of those places that require effort and desire to visit. After passing verdant farms, grazing cows, and an occasional tractor on the road, I arrived. The cavern is well-kept and offers guided tours several times daily. The 90-minute tour was the perfect amount of time to admire the dramatically lit stalactites and stalagmites. Although the journey to the destination was relaxing on its own, the tucked away cavern was a happily discovered gem.

Lake Guntersville State Park was the final destination of my three-night odyssey through north Alabama. I overnighted in the park lodge with a lovely patio overlooking the lake. As tempting as it was to sit back and enjoy the view, I didn’t linger; I had to explore. Although the zipline called my attention, I chose a more sublime experience. I rode past the 18-hole golf course on the way to the lake below. My goal was to arrive at the water’s edge before sunset; however, there were too many pleasant distractions along the way including a family of deer enjoying their early evening dinner on the roadside. After meandering through the campground and boat launch area, I arrived at a remote spot on the lake just in time to catch a beautiful sunset. In this exquisite moment, my quest for serenity was complete.

Three state parks and a national preserve in four days are a lot to see. I could have easily stayed four days in a single location. There’s so much to enjoy for the entire family in such a small region. With easy access from two major interstates, well-maintained lodges and plenty of campgrounds, plus an abundance of diverse natural beauty, it’s as worthy as any global destination I’ve visited. I’m thankful I had time and space to enjoy it for myself.

Scott Baker is an internationally published photojournalist based in Alexander City, Alabama. He is a contributing photographer to The New York Times and has been published in The London Sunday Times Magazine, Drift Magazine and many other regional publications. You can follow his work on Instagram: @scottbakerphotos.
Twelve local high school students have been selected to represent Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation on the 2022 Washington Youth Tour. The students earned their spots on the weeklong, expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., by writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives — Building a Brighter Tennessee” describing how local electric co-ops are building a brighter Tennessee through investments in energy, education, broadband, economic development and more.

In D.C., CEMC’s delegates will join nearly 2,000 other students representing co-ops from across the country. The tour will include visits to the numerous tourist destinations of our nation’s capital, including monuments, memorials and museums, as well as a tour of the U.S. Capitol and the opportunity to meet with elected officials.

In addition to earning spots on this fun and educational trip, Youth Tour attendees will also be able to compete for additional trips and scholarships.
Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation congratulates the winners of its 2022 Senior Scholarship Program.

Each of the following students has been awarded a $1,000 college scholarship that can be used toward freshman year expenses such as tuition, textbooks and lab fees.

**Hanna Ballentine of Greenbrier.** Hanna is a graduate of Goodpasture Christian School and will attend Freed-Hardeman University.

**Brayden Barnhill of Springfield.** Brayden is a graduate of South Haven Christian School and will attend the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**Baylor Betts of Greenbrier.** Baylor is a graduate of Springfield High School and will attend the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**Makenzi Bouras of Bumpus Mills.** Makenzi is a graduate of Stewart County High School and will attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

**Reece Boyd of Cottontown.** Reece is a graduate of Goodpasture Christian School and will attend Lipscomb University.

**Emily Disney of Springfield.** Emily is a graduate of Greenbrier High School and will attend Volunteer State Community College.

**Kayla Frost of Cedar Hill.** Kayla is a graduate of Jo Byrns High School and will attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

**Abigail Hall of Springfield.** Abigail is a graduate of East Robertson High School and will attend Austin Peay State University.

**Tyanne Howe of Clarksville.** Tyanne is a graduate of Clarksville High School and will attend the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

**Zachariah Johnson of Adams.** Zachariah is a graduate of Montgomery Central High School and will attend the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**Gracey Suggs of Cumberland Furnace.** Gracey is a graduate of Montgomery Central High School and will attend Austin Peay State University.

**Lindsey Welker of Dover.** Lindsey is a graduate of Stewart County High School and will attend Austin Peay State University.

To qualify for the scholarships, students were required to complete applications, each including two letters of recommendation, and write 300-word essays describing what they most look forward to about attending college and how scholarships, in terms of financial assistance, will help them accomplish their academic goals. The applications were judged by a panel of retired teachers.
Director candidates must meet July 12 deadline

Memors of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation who are interested in serving on the board of directors can obtain petitions from the general manager’s office. Each petition must be signed by at least 15 members.

The petition must be completed and turned back in by the deadline of Tuesday, July 12, which is 60 days prior to the 2022 annual meeting. This year’s meeting will be held Saturday, Sept. 10, at Stewart County High School in Dover.

An election will be held for the following director positions: Cheatham, South Robertson and South Montgomery.

Anyone with a valid membership in good standing as of July 12 can vote in director elections. Those applying for membership after July 12 will not be eligible to vote in this year’s election but are welcome to attend the meeting and register for prizes.

(CEMC Bylaws Article 3 — Section 3.05)

Restoring power safely and efficiently

We do our best to avoid them, but there’s no way around it: Power outages occasionally happen. For most of our members, outages are rare and only last a few hours. But when major storms like tornadoes and ice storms impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable.

So when the power goes out, how do Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We’ve got answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When the lights go out and it’s safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that serve a great number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformers and homes are repaired.

We can’t control the weather, but we can prepare for it. CEMC keeps a supply of extra utility poles, transformers and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field, simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages; this is why you see our crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights-of-way. We love trees, too, but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire neighborhood. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community. In addition to managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

If you experience a power outage, don’t assume a neighbor reported it. It’s best to report the outage yourself, and we make it easy to do. The quickest way to report an outage is through SmartHub — via the mobile app or online at cemc.org. You can also call our outage reporting number at 1-800-987-2362.

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, please let us know, and always have a backup plan in place. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of CEMC, you can feel confident knowing we’re standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.
Kendall Odom of Chapmansboro has been awarded a $4,000 scholarship through a program made possible through Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation and other local power companies across the Tennessee Valley Authority’s seven-state service area.

Kendall, daughter of CEMC Ashland City District Serviceman Henry Odom and his wife, Cynthia, is among 35 recipients of this year’s Power Play Scholarships, provided by the Power Play Scholarship Association to recognize outstanding academic performance and a commitment to community service among high school seniors whose parents are employed by local power companies.

Valedictorian of her graduating class at Cheatham County Central High School, Kendall will attend Nashville State Community College where she will pursue an occupational therapy assistant degree with plans to obtain an occupational therapy degree in the future.

Since the scholarship program was established in 1995, 708 Power Play scholarships have been awarded through contributions and fundraising efforts by the Power Play Association and its members. In 2022, 111 applications were received from across the Tennessee Valley.

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation Safety Coordinators Todd Hesson and John Anthony have completed an intensive program in electric utility safety and loss control. The Certified Loss Control Program is a series of workshops offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in conjunction with the National Utility Training and Safety Education Association. The program is designed to instruct participants in many areas related to electric utility industry safety.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, nearly 4 million injuries occur annually in the workplace. One of the goals of a Certified Loss Control Professional is to help ensure a safe work environment for utility workers and the public in general. Avoiding workplace accidents avoids down time and can ultimately lead to lower utility rates.

Hesson and Anthony are two of only a few electric utility professionals in the country who will receive this certification this year. The program requires participants to complete a rigorous series of seminars and tests, a 30-hour OSHA course and a detailed final course project.

Loss control participants go through four weeklong sessions that are designed to challenge and educate them in new, innovative safety techniques. Participants must also maintain their certificates by attending courses every year in order to stay on top of changes in the industry.

CEMC Safety Coordinators Todd Hesson, left, and John Anthony receive Certified Loss Control Professional certificates after successful completion of an intensive safety program offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and National Utility Training and Safety Education Association.
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 and awarding them to selected charitable organizations throughout the cooperative’s five-county service area.

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

• **$2,000 — Camp Rainbow.** Funds will be used to help pay camp fees and purchase supplies for children with serious illnesses who cannot attend traditional summer camps.

• **$3,000 — SAFE: Soldiers and Families Embraced.** Funds will be used to provide mental health resources for active-duty military, military dependents, veterans and first responders in Montgomery County.

• **$4,000 — The Jason Foundation.** Funds will help provide free suicide prevention services and training to the community, students, educators, school counselors, first responders and front-line workers throughout CEMC’s service area.

Above left, CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Susie Yonkers, left, presents a Community Care Fund grant to Camp Rainbow camper Kady Rae and her grandmother, Sheila Chitwood, who is a Camp Rainbow counselor. Above right, S.A.F.E. Executive Director Christina Watson, left, accepts a Community Care Fund grant from Yonkers. At right, Clark Flatt, founder and president of The Jason Foundation, accepts a Community Care Fund grant from Yonkers. From left are Yonkers, Flatt, The Jason Foundation Vice President Deanne Ray and CEMC Energy Consultant Chad Corlew.
Summertime is just around the corner, so our team put together a Summer Bucket List full of great activities to do with your family & friends! Be sure to visit our website using the link below for more information!

1. **Backyard Olympics**
   - Set up games and obstacle courses in your backyard and hold your own Olympics — great for kids!

2. **Go For a Hike**
   - Visit a local state park or your favorite trail and enjoy the sunshine with a long hike — bring a picnic!

3. **Visit a Farmers Market**
   - Visit your local farmers market to find unique local goods, produce, arts & crafts, and more.

4. **Go Out For Ice Cream**
   - Because a hot summer day isn’t complete without a visit to your local ice cream shop.

5. **Learn a New Skill**
   - Skillsharing websites offer simple courses on many different skills, including business, design & more.

6. **Outdoor Movie Night**
   - Set up a projector in your backyard and stream your favorite movie with your family & friends.

7. **Weekend Getaway**
   - Take a quick weekend trip to a neighboring city or state — adventure is never too far away!

8. **Bake Something Great**
   - Find a great recipe online and bake something delicious — bonus points if you use local ingredients!

9. **Set Up a S’mores Bar**
   - Take your s’mores to the next level with creative fillings — try filling them with your favorite candy bars!

10. **Visit a Virtual Museum**
    - Thanks to the Internet, you can tour famous museums from around the world right from your own home!

Visit the link below to read more about these awesome summer bucket list ideas & activities!

Explore more awesome summer fun on our website: www.CumberlandConnect.org/tn-magazine

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Q. I am considering a solar array on the roof of my home. What steps should I take with efficiency and energy savings in mind?

A. When I tell people that I work in energy efficiency, one of the first responses I hear is, “Oh, I’m thinking about getting solar installed on my house.” I hear it around campfires, while meeting other parents at the park and on the ride to the airport.

Most people don’t realize that solar is not energy efficiency. Solar is generating energy. Energy efficiency is finding ways to use less energy. I can see the association because both are thought of as beneficial to the environment and ways to save money.

My follow-up question is, “What are your motivations for installing solar?”

In my experience, people are motivated by saving money, concern for the environment or both. Focusing first on energy efficiency addresses both motivations.

Here are considerations if you are interested in installing solar:

**Contact your electric co-op**

Solar contractors often work in several utility service territories and might not be familiar with your co-op’s offerings, rate structures and interconnection agreements. Before signing an agreement, check with your electric co-op for local information rather than relying on what the contractor says.

As with any other system for your home, I recommend getting bids from three contractors to compare equipment and pricing.

Another option may be community-owned solar. Many electric co-ops offer community solar programs. You may have an option to enjoy the benefits of solar without the responsibilities of ownership and maintenance.

**Energy consumption**

Solar systems are sized based on a home’s energy needs. The larger the system, the higher the cost. Before installing solar, make sure your home is as energy efficient as possible. That means it will use less energy and allow you to install a smaller solar system — which will save money and reduce your home’s environmental impact.

Verify the efficiency of your lighting, HVAC systems and insulation. A fully insulated and air-sealed home uses less energy, and those measures are less expensive than...
solar panels. Finish these energy efficiency projects before installing solar.

**Roofing**

Consider the age, orientation and shade of your roof. It is more difficult — and expensive — to reroof a home with solar panels. Will the roof need to be replaced before the solar panels need to be replaced? The best orientation for solar panels is south facing to receive direct light throughout the day. A shaded roof helps keep your home cool in the summertime but reduces solar energy production.

**Maintenance**

A solar system doesn’t last forever. Lifespans range from 25 to 30 years. As systems degrade over time, they produce less energy. You should also budget for maintenance and repairs that will be needed.

**Electric bills and storage**

Solar is not “off the grid.” Unless you plan to disconnect from your electric co-op, you’ll still receive a monthly bill. Solar panels only produce power when the sun is shining. If you want power to your home at other times like after dark, you need to be connected to your electric co-op or invest in battery storage system — that comes at an additional cost.

During power outages, don’t assume solar panels will supply you with power. Typical solar interconnection to the grid requires the panels to shut down during a power outage. This protects lineworkers from injury while making repairs.

Understanding these considerations before installing solar will ensure you meet your money-saving and environmental goals.

Miranda Boutelle is director of operations and customer engagement at Efficiency Services Group, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company in Oregon. 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.

Left: Many electric co-ops offer community solar programs. You might have an option to enjoy the benefits of solar without the responsibilities of ownership and maintenance. Below: Before adding a solar array to your roof, make sure you take into account maintenance costs and your home's current energy efficiency.
Opryland USA opened 50 years ago

A family theme park once stood where Opry Mills shopping mall is now located
all those people would stand in line around the block, every itinerant preacher, beggar, hooker and shoeshine boy was bothering them.”

The decision to move the Opry to the suburbs led to a discussion about how to draw people to it.

When I researched my book “Fortunes Fiddles and Fried Chicken: A Nashville Business History,” I learned that several people claimed that starting Opryland USA was their idea. WSM president Irving Waugh said it was based on something he saw on a visit to Houston. “When I saw what they had done around the Astrodome with a ride-oriented park and hotels, it made me wonder,” Waugh told me in 1999. “In Houston, the Astrodome was the centerpiece to that theme park. In Anaheim, the castle was the centerpiece to Disneyland. And in Nashville, the Opry House was going to be our centerpiece.”

Under Waugh’s plan, Opryland would be organized on the different types of music that had influenced country music. Part of the park would have jazz music. Another part would have sort of an Appalachian feel and feature bluegrass. The park would also have some rides, even though there wouldn’t be as many as other amusement parks. “I wanted the park to have a certain number of rides, but I wanted a mix rather than a ride-oriented park,” Waugh said. With the Opry House and a theme park going in, it made sense to also put a hotel on the site.

In September 1969, NLT announced it would build the Opryland USA theme park, a new Grand Ole Opry House and a 150-room hotel called the Oprytowne Inn. About a month later the company chose a 400-acre site in the eastern part of Davidson County for its complex. The property was adjacent to a four-lane divided highway then under construction that was later christened Briley Parkway.

The theme park opened in the summer of 1972. Admission cost $5.25 for adults and $3.50 for children. The park exceeded even the most optimistic predictions; nearly 1.5 million people attended the park in 1972.

NLT delayed the construction of its hotel because of the gas shortage of the early 1970s. By the time the company was ready to move ahead with it, NLT had hired an executive with the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles named Jack Vaughn to run the Oprytowne Inn. Vaughn and marketing director Mike Dimond convinced Bud Wendell to turn the small inn into a convention hotel. “They convinced me that the convention business is more stable and more profitable than the motel business,” Wendell said. By the time it broke ground, the Opryland Hotel and Convention Center was to have 600 rooms. It, too, exceeded projections; the hotel would expand many times over the years and now has an incredible 2,888 rooms.

Back to the theme park: Thanks to Opryland USA, Nashville had something other Southern cities did not. Opryland’s visitors returned again and again and had the time of their lives, riding roller coasters such as the Wabash Cannonball and attending shows such as “I Hear America Singing.” Thousands of young people worked their first jobs at Opryland, selling cotton candy, putting tourists on a log flume or singing in a show. “When I came from high school, I only knew people from my high school,” said Ashland City native Velvet Hunter, who worked at Opryland for three summers in the 1980s. “When I went to Opryland, I met so many people my age from all over Nashville.”

For purposes of full disclosure, I should point out that I also worked at Opryland. For about two months in the summer of 1986, I was on the Opryland train crew. I stood in the train stations, sat on the back of the train and read the script they wanted us to read, and even sat up in the front and got to run the engine a few times.

I’m not going to go into the saga of why the Opryland theme park closed in 1997 (you can read the rationalization of it in my book). I will say, however, that I’ve never met a longtime Nashville resident who doesn’t have fond memories of the place and who doesn’t wish it was still open. If you don’t believe me, check out the Facebook groups that are devoted to memories of the park. Buy the paperback book (published in 2016) called “Opryland USA” that consists entirely of photos of the park. You can also check out the Nashville Public Television-produced documentary about the park, which contains quite a bit of home videos that people took while visiting the place.

To see more photos of when Opryland opened from our June 1972 issue of the The Tennessee Magazine, go to page 39.
Bedtime in our house is always the best and worst part of the night. The day is wrapping up, quiet time is beginning and the expectation of not having to take care of anyone else for the rest of the evening is quickly approaching. Conversely, bedtime is always a never-ending routine of brushing teeth, refilling waters, reading bedtime stories, saying prayers and, finally, the recurring pitter-patter of feet that have come out once again for “a very important reason.” It is often too easy to pull something out of this cycle to shorten the process. “You don’t want to brush your teeth tonight? Fine, but tonight only.” “You already went potty when you took a bath; you are good on that!” “You already went potty when you took a bath; you are good on that!” And finally, “It’s just too late to read any books tonight; sorry!” All too often this third, and possibly most important, part of our day gets skipped.

To say that I understand the value and impact of literature in a child’s life is an understatement. I have a master’s in education, taught for 10 years and then decided to switch career paths and delve into writing. I currently write children’s books, along with a blog. “BRAVE” is my first book, and it is based on my children’s fears at night. My kids were not sleeping well and were consistently waking me up through the night. I could not find a book that was age-appropriate, did not create more fears in them and reinforced that they were safe and loved. Six months later, I self-published my book. I know how important books are in a child’s development. I also know that sometimes you just need to

Reading to our kids is more important than we could imagine

*Story by Kathleen Davis • Photographs by Alaina Miller*
put your kids to bed without one more thing to do. Parenting is hard work.

When I was a teacher, I specialized in reading and writing, finding literary elements of value that were relatable and teachable, helping children learn strategies that could be transferred to better comprehending any text and conveying these elements into their writing. It was no coincidence when a struggling reader simultaneously struggled with math. When parents would come in for conferences regarding how they could assist in improving their children’s grades, I would always give them the same answer: “Read aloud to your child.” It didn’t matter if they were in second grade or fifth; the advice remained the same. Telling people how to do things is very easy. Carrying out your own recommendations can be extremely difficult. We all know we need to floss two times a day, but how many of us actually do it?

Reading frequency is also a vital component to this concept. Of course, “some” is better than “none.” However, just like anything good, the more we do it, the better. From literacyproj.org, the website for The Literacy Project, a group working to eliminate the literacy gap of emerging second-graders: “According to the Department of Education, the more students read or are read to for fun on their own time and at home, the higher their reading scores, generally.” What does this mean for parents? The advice remained the same. “Books contain many words that children are unlikely to encounter frequently in spoken language,” according to literacyproj.org. “Books for kids actually contain 50 percent more words that children are unlikely to encounter frequently than regular conversation, TV or radio.”

And all of this starts at a very young age. “Cognitive processes develop rapidly in the first few years of life. In fact, by age 3, roughly 85 percent of the brain is developed,” says The Literacy Project website. In other words, the one activity that takes us 5-10 minutes of our day quite possibly embodies the quintessential learning experience for children, providing them with exposure to new vocabulary, a fluent reading example and essentially equipping them with the reading tools they will need later in life.

Having a read-aloud, whether it is before bedtime or in the middle of playtime, is not only about cognitive growth. As a mother of two (with one more on the way), reading to my children is also about winding down, bonding and connecting. Almost every time I read to my children, I find that there is something important that we can discuss — either an issue the characters in the text are facing or a connection from the book to our life. There could be a theme that is important and relevant to our day. The book might cheer them up, spark curiosity or simply be a sweet holiday read that brings joy.

The times when I view reading as a chore (which are more frequent than not) are when our precious time is not really optimized. I rush through the book, reading at an auctioneer’s speed. I do not allow for questions, we do not take in the illustrations and we are certainly not forming any connections to our daily life. Are the kids still getting exposure to vocabulary and fluent reading? Yes. Could I take 90 seconds more and make it an experience they will enjoy? Yes.

My kids never ask me to read to them (unless it is mere seconds before bed and they are delaying the inevitable). The responsibility of carving out enough time to possibly create any kind of meaningful reading is up to me. It’s a matter of habit forming. It can be a pain when you feel done for the day and exhausted, but it can also be a time that is filled with love, snuggles and (without them even knowing) cognitive growth.

My advice to parents with children who are interested in improving their children’s reading ability would be to start small. Anything is better than nothing. Try to start with short books that interest both you and your children. Aim for two to three read-alouds per week, whether at night, waiting for the dentist, sitting in car line or in between commercials during the football game. Audio books are just as good as traditional texts, so plug in your phone, turn up the volume and don’t hesitate to push pause if a teachable moment occurs. Just get started! You will find that like any good thing, the more you do it, the more you will continue to do it.

Kathleen Davis is a retired teacher, wife, mother and author. She and her family recently moved to the mid state area and are Middle Tennessee Electric members. She has her master’s in elementary education from the University of Florida and spent her career searching for and reading good children’s books to her students. She believes that books not only provide a fountain of information but are also a way to enter a new world and completely change a perspective. Her children’s book “BRAVE” can be found on Amazon by searching for “BRAVE by Kathleen Davis.” You can also follow Kathleen and her family’s adventures throughout the Nashville area on Instagram — @kathleenadavisbooks — and Facebook at facebook.com/BRAVEtheBook.kd/.
Some foods are just made for each other.
Try these combinations for your summertime cooking.

In or Out Fried Catfish and Grilled Corn with Maple Vinaigrette.
Recipes by Tammy Algood;
Photograph by Robin Conover
What does it take to make a perfect pair? Generally, a great pair has a lot in common but enough differences to create more interest as a couple, each one’s strengths complementing the other. Great pairs are just better together.

Some foods are like that, too, served together across decades and cultures. The following recipes demonstrate that unbeatable blend of textures, flavors and seasonings that guarantee they’ll be together forever.

**Buttermilk Fried Chicken**
Yield: 6 servings
1 large whole chicken, cut into pieces
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon black pepper
1 cup buttermilk
2 tablespoons water
2 eggs
1 cup bacon drippings
1 cup vegetable shortening or lard
1 tablespoon unsalted butter
2 cups all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon paprika

Place the chicken pieces in a 13-by-9-inch baking dish. Sprinkle evenly with the salt and pepper. Set aside 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, whisk together the buttermilk, water and eggs. Pour the buttermilk mixture over the chicken. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour.

In a large cast iron skillet or Dutch oven, heat the drippings, shortening or lard, and butter to 350 degrees. Place the flour in a shallow dish and add the paprika. Roll the chicken in the flour mixture, shaking off the excess.

Fry in batches, 10 to 15 minutes on each side or until the chicken is completely done. Drain on paper towels and serve warm.

**Brown Butter Green Beans**
Yield: 4 servings
2 cups water
¼ teaspoon salt
1 pound green beans, trimmed
¼ pound (1 stick) unsalted butter

Place the water and salt over medium-high heat and bring to a boil. Add the beans and cook 10 minutes or to the desired degree of tenderness and drain.

Meanwhile, place the butter in a small skillet over medium heat. Cook 6 minutes or until the butter turns a dark amber color. Drizzle the hot beans with the butter. Serve warm.

**Note:** If you want “Cooked to Death” Green Beans, cook the beans at least 30 minutes or to the desired degree of doneness.

**Pork Sandwiches with Rosemary Mayonnaise**
Yield: 8 servings
2 cups canned chopped tomatoes, drained
1 tablespoon brown sugar
1 tablespoon chili powder
3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
3 tablespoons adobo sauce (puree of chiles peppers, herbs and vinegar)
1 tablespoon honey
4 garlic cloves, peeled and divided
⅛ teaspoon salt
8 sandwich buns

Cut the pork in half and place in a 5-quart slow cooker. Pour the tomato mixture over the pork. Cook on high 8 hours.

Meanwhile, mince the remaining garlic. Add the mayonnaise, rosemary, lemon juice and salt. Blend well, cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

Shred the pork in the slow cooker. Smear the buns with the rosemary mayonnaise. Top with the warm pork and serve.

**Creamy Potato Salad**
Yield: 8 servings
7 medium new red potatoes, peeled
3 hard-cooked eggs, chopped
3 green onions, sliced
2 celery stalks, sliced
1 cup mayonnaise
¼ cup Italian dressing
1½ teaspoons mustard
½ teaspoon kosher salt
¼ teaspoon celery seeds

Fill a Dutch oven with water and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Add the potatoes and cook 30 minutes or until tender. Drain well and cool. Cut the potatoes into cubes and transfer to a serving bowl. Add the eggs, onions and celery.

In a medium bowl, stir together the mayonnaise, dressing, mustard, salt and celery seeds. Gently toss over the potato mixture. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving.

**In or Out Fried Catfish**
Yield: 24 fillets
24 (6-ounce) catfish fillets
2 cups buttermilk
3 cups cornmeal
3 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons salt
3 teaspoons red pepper

Place the fillets in a large zip-top plastic bag and add the buttermilk. Seal well and let marinate at room temperature 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a shallow dish, combine the cornmeal, flour, salt and pepper. Dredge the fillets in the flour mixture, shaking off the excess.

In a large cast iron skillet or Dutch oven, heat the drippings, shortening or lard, and butter to 350 degrees. Place the flour in a shallow dish and add the paprika. Roll the chicken in the flour mixture, shaking off the excess.

Fry in batches, 10 to 15 minutes on each side or until the chicken is completely done. Drain on paper towels and serve warm.
Note: For inside frying, heat the oil at a depth of 1 inch in a large, cast iron skillet and follow the same instructions as above. Cut the amount of everything in half.

**Grilled Corn with Maple Vinaigrette**

Yield: 6 servings

- 6 ears sweet corn, silked but with husks still intact
- ¼ cup unsweetened brewed tea
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper

Place the corn in water and soak 30 minutes. Drain and pat dry. Pull the husks over the corn. Preheat the grill to medium (350 degrees). Place the corn on the grate and grill 15 minutes, turning occasionally.

Meanwhile, place the tea, oil, vinegar, syrup, garlic, salt and pepper in a jar with a tight-fitting lid. Shake to blend. With tongs, carefully pull back the husks and remove from the corn. Place in a 13-by-9-inch baking dish. Pour the maple vinaigrette over the corn, turning to coat evenly. Serve warm with corn handles.

**Dutch Baby with Fresh Fruit and Pear Syrup**

*(This tasty dessert will pair with any of our summer recipes.)*

Yield: 4 servings

- 3 eggs, room temperature
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup milk, room temperature
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- Pinch of nutmeg
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature
- Fresh raspberries
- Pear, pecan or maple syrup (or substitute cinnamon sugar or powdered sugar)

Place a large 10-inch cast iron skillet in the oven and preheat to 425 degrees. Meanwhile, in a mixing bowl stir together the eggs, flour, milk, sugar and nutmeg. When the oven temperature reaches 375 degrees, remove the skillet from the oven and add the butter. Swirl to melt and evenly coat the bottom, then add the batter. Return to the preheated oven and bake 20 minutes. Turn the oven off and let bake 5 minutes longer. Cut in wedges and serve immediately with fresh raspberries and a drizzle of syrup.

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@tnelectric.org.

Dave writes: I love cooking whole artichokes to serve as fun appetizers, but lately the ones I have found practically have no flavor. Even though I serve them with melted butter, the taste is still forgettable. Can you please help?

Dave, start by adding ⅛ teaspoon each (just a tiny amount!) of dried fennel and sugar to your cooking water. Then enhance your butter with a shake of hot sauce to add interest without much heat. Another trick I use is to forego the butter and instead serve it with hollandaise sauce. If you want something lighter, make a vinaigrette with 3 parts good oil to 1 part vinegar as well as a bit of freshly chopped tarragon.

Jessica has a wok that is a favorite of hers in the kitchen, but it looks terrible. “I am borderline embarrassed to use it in front of guests because it is so stained on the inside. I’ve tried numerous commercial cleaners and am wondering if you have a suggestion for helping me.”

Jessica, I know you think it looks bad, but I love well-used cooking vessels! We all have them! Here’s what I do: Pour a small mound of regular salt in the wok and scrub it with a paper towel that has been well moistened with some cooking oil. I use rubber gloves. Then wipe it out with another paper towel before washing it in hot soapy water. You might have to do this several times since woks are used at such high cooking temperatures, causing those stains to “bake in,” as they say.

Nicole writes: I frequently purchase whole pineapple but have a really hard time holding this large fruit while I peel it. I can get it cored, but the peeling is difficult for me because of the size. Can you help with a tip to make it easier?

Nicole, I have had the same issue many times, and it’s a frustrating situation. Instead of trying to peel the whole pineapple, go ahead and slice it after it has been cored. Then you have much smaller pieces to handle when cutting away the outer peel. You don’t even have to core it first! Use a paring knife to remove the core after it is sliced.
PERMANENTLY SEAL YOUR WOOD AND CONCRETE
PERMANENT ONE-TIME SOLUTION

Free Estimates
844.481.6862
PermaSealUSA.com

25% OFF
WITH THIS AD

The Right Loan Lifts You Higher.
When you’re ready to expand, you need a lender who thinks big. Take your operation further with real estate loans tailored to your needs.

• Customizable – Our loans are available at fully-fixed rates up to 25 years. We also offer adjustable and variable rate loans.
• Convertible – When interest rates change, convert your existing loans to a lower rate.
• Specialized – Every loan is backed by our local team’s financial and agricultural expertise.

Visit E-FARMCREDIT.COM/REAL-ESTATE or call 800-444-FARM to start a conversation.

Subject to credit approval. Additional terms and conditions may apply. Farm Credit Mid-America is an equal opportunity lender.

SUBSCRIBE to The Tennessee Magazine
615-515-5525

Call for specials!

Storage Buildings
Hay Barns
Horse Barns
Garages

• Fully Insured
• #1 Metal
• 4/12 Roof Pitch
• Engineered Trusses
Ask about our do-it-yourself materials kits.

www.nationalbarn.com
1-888-427-BARN (2276)

We clean, restore & permanently preserve your product.

Prevents wood from rotting, decaying and further damage from moisture.

Repels mold, mildew & fungus growth.

Prevents concrete from pitting, flaking, dusting and scaling.

Prevents salt & alkali damage.

Backed by a 25-year guarantee.

Before

After

SUBSCRIBE to
The Tennessee Magazine
615-515-5525

Call for specials!

Storage Buildings
Hay Barns
Horse Barns
Garages

• Fully Insured
• #1 Metal
• 4/12 Roof Pitch
• Engineered Trusses
Ask about our do-it-yourself materials kits.

www.nationalbarn.com
1-888-427-BARN (2276)
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. Entries must be postmarked or received via email by Friday, June 28th. Winners will be drawn randomly from each month’s entries. June’s lucky flag spotters are:

- Ian Dycus, Somerville, Chickasaw EC
- Adam Craig, Bethpage, Tri-County Electric
- Dorothy Watson, Oneida, Plateau EC

June Flag Spotters

Thanks for the postcards and emails again this month identifying the correct location of the flag, which was found in the water beside the walkway on page 14. Winners are drawn randomly from each month’s entries. June’s lucky flag spotters are:

- Ian Dycus, Somerville, Chickasaw EC
- Adam Craig, Bethpage, Tri-County Electric
- Dorothy Watson, Oneida, Plateau EC

Artist’s Palette

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 — June, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224. (Please make sure you include the month on the outside of the envelope!) Only one entry per artist, please.

Deadline: Art must be postmarked by Friday, July 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 August issue of The Tennessee Magazine. First place wins $50, second place wins $30 and third place wins $20. Winners are eligible to enter again after three months. Winners will receive their 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 August 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 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: Hannah Knowles, age 16, Caney Fork EC; Second place: Alexander Legall, age 15, Tennessee Valley EC; Third place: Natalee Youngblood, age 16, Cumberland EMC

WINNERS, 10-14 AGE GROUP: First place: Natalie Marie Jacobs, age 10, Middle Tennessee Electric; Second place: Claire Lemmons, age 14, Duck River EMC; Third place: Declan Sullivan, age 10, Middle Tennessee Electric

WINNERS, 1-9 AGE GROUP: First place: Dolores Wanner, age 9, Middle Tennessee Electric; Second place: Sofia Rafael, age 7, Duck River EMC; Third place: Charlotte Wunderlich, age 9, Middle Tennessee Electric
Age 8 and younger

The Seas
The seas are blue when I go in
Sometimes green
I like the seas because in the summer
it’s warm
No matter what
It’s nice because that’s how God made it
God’s creations are beautiful
Especially the seas
The seas are nice
They have sharks and fish
and many other creatures
— Kaityn Smith, Plateau EC

Age 9-13

Primordial Iris
The flowers begin to bloom
as the sun peaks out,
From Tennessee’s garden wild.
A violet blossom catches my sight
out of all colours bright and mild
Amid the grass, an Iris thrives,
With its thick stem
it seems bold and clear.
Not to be mistaken for a lavender.
The shade of its colour
And its breathtaking features,
drop me a message.
“Dream beyond your Imagination.”
I lean lower
to admire life,
to lend hope,
to gain faith,
to become intelligent,
From the only courageous flower.
The primordial Iris.
— Nethra Anbalagan,
Middle Tennessee Electric

Age 14-18

Moving On
Driving down backroads
All I can do is think
About my life, my past
and what’s to come
simple yet complex woods and country
that housed my ambitions for so long
Left behind
I’m graduating soon
going off to a place foreign to me
In my rear-view mirror, Tennessee
The land I grew up in
About to become an afterthought
As I travel forward and move on
I can’t help but think of the bonds
The friends and life that I’ve forged here
Part of my heart will stay there
But the rest of me has to move on
— Kameron Dickson,
Southwest Tennessee EMC

Age 19-22

Where I’m From
I am from worn pages
ink spills covering up words
I am from countless adventures
from a ship made of a flatbed trailer
I am from chickens
and the cows
for whom each had a name
I am from water
(peaceful, cold
the feeling of home)
I am from bamboo forests
taking over and expanding beyond
I am from my garden
where all my hard work bloomed
I am from the stars above
that guide me through the night
I am from my imagination
which moves like a river
supplying endless possibilities
— Michayla Smith, Cumberland EMC

Age 23-64

If Tennessee Were a Song
If Tennessee were a song
What would the melody be
Sunrises and sunsets
Or beautiful scenery
If Tennessee were a song
What would the lyrics be
Unconditional volunteer spirit
Caring community
If Tennessee were a song
What would the chorus be
Cheering for Tennessee Vols
Or Nashville Predators hockey
If Tennessee were a song
Who would the singer be
Dolly Parton, Billy Ray Cyrus
Or Elvis Presley
If Tennessee were a song
Where would the laughter be
In old reruns of Minnie Pearl
On the Grand Ole Opry
— Cindy Jackson, Cumberland EMC

Age 65 and older

Birthing a Tennessee Beauty
January’s cold hands caressed February
Bringing forth the creation
of Fluorescent Snow
News of the birth streamed on televisions
Lovers posted
Sunshine smiled revealing
veneered white
Moonlit streams grinned with silver braces
Frozen doves sat beneath hooded porches
Observing ...
Furry critters crossed their paws in wonder
Wishing for an upcoming Spring
Preparing hidden dens
Dreaming for creations of their own
Fluorescent Snow changed quickly
Young always do
Sprouting into her predestined formation
Spreading forth yellow hair
Eyes of green with specs of white
Evident she was maturing
Becoming herself
Soon to be known as March.
— Deborah Thomas, Caney Fork EC

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 June 1972 magazine featured an illustration showcasing the array of entertainment options at recently opened Opryland (see Tennessee History on page 28 to revisit the theme park that closed in 1997). Inside, readers learned more about the Nashville attraction as well as other Tennessee- and electricity-related subjects.

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 June 1972 edition online at tnmagazine.org.
Dear Connie Sue,

This doll was passed down to me. Aunt Nancy told me whatever I did to not break the finger. Any information you have would be appreciated.

M.L., Whitwell

Dear M.L.,

Your Aunt Nancy’s porcelain doll is called a piano baby. She was made in the 1870s. They were often displayed on pianos, but I see them in display cabinets and on wall shelves.

Although I cannot see a mark, she might have been made by Carl Schneider in Germany. His babies were sparsely decorated but with the distinctive, cute baby poses, molded hair and expressive fingers. She might sell for $28 to $55.

I agree with Aunt Nancy. If you break the finger, she’s worth less than $10 because the first thing you’d see would be a broken finger.

Dear Connie Sue,

Here are photos of what I believe are porcelain lamps (we have two). My grandfather was in World War II, Korean and Vietnam wars.

He came home with these after missions in the Philippines, India or somewhere in Asia. The interior of the porcelain section also lights up in the lamp. We know very little about these, and I don’t see any labels or initials on the exterior.

Chris, Nassau, Bahamas

Dear Chris,

The pair of porcelain lamps are called blanc de chine. They were made first in China with an open work porcelain base revealing lotus branches. A pair sold recently at auction for $175. Like all decorative arts items, they can sell for less in need-to-liquidate situations.

Yours are stunning. The open work base provides subtle low light, and the traditional socket and bulb at the top provide enough light for handwork or reading.

Dear Connie Sue,

My daddy gave my mother a bouquet in this vase when I was born in March 1951. Can you tell me anything about the stamp on the bottom, which says, “Made in Occupied Japan”?

Nelle, Winchester

Dear Nelle,

The mark “Made in Occupied Japan” was used from 1945 to 1952 when United States troops occupied Japan after World War II. Florists and Woolworth were probably the best known distributors of items with this mark. Your little blue ceramic stroller is worth around $8.

Dear Connie Sue,

We purchased this piece of furniture decades ago from a man in California. I’ve had furniture dealers tell me how unique it is, and I wonder about its value. What do you think?

Doreen

Dear Doreen,

Made between 1930 and 1939, this art deco case piece was used as a drop-front desk. Although I can’t see them clearly, I think there are shelves on each side. Comparable desks from that era sell from as little as $100 at an estate sale to $400 in a high end shop.

With added mirror top and back behind the drop front, I’ve seen similar desks transformed into bars. In this form, the side shelves held glasses, and bottles could be hidden behind the drop front. Value remains the same.

Note to Trisha, the lady with all the Haviland (April 2022): Martha and Vickie asked that I tell you about Replacements.com. This online site sells replacement dinnerware from thousands of companies and their patterns. I consider the site’s prices for insurance replacement appraisal reports.

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 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.

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 Shutterbug Showcase contest rules and entry information, visit 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.
The wood duck, perhaps one of the most colorful you will see in Tennessee, is a handsome photographic subject. The spring plumage of the drake is particularly beautiful, especially compared to the muted browns of the hen. The contrasting colors of this drake against the green reflections on the lake surface certainly caught my eye.

I heard the drake flying in and hoped it would land close by. As he splashed down, which I didn’t capture, I chose to compose the photo with the rule of thirds. Focusing on the duck as I panned the camera to the right, I tried to match its speed. Keeping the subject in the lower third of the frame, I tried to hold steady as I shot about 20 frames before the duck was too far away.

It swam by quickly about 35 feet from the shore where I was standing. The encounter was less than a minute but was a highlight of this slightly overcast day.

This image isn’t as tack-sharp as I prefer, and the reason is that I needed to use a slightly faster shutter speed but just didn’t have time to recalculate settings as I was shooting. Birds in motion almost always require a shutter speed higher than 1/1600 of a second. The faster, the better, for a sharp image.

This time of year, watch for the females to be swimming with their brood of chicks typically numbering about 10-12. They stick very close to the hen for protection from predators.

Wood ducks nest in cavities or nest boxes on or near water. The chicks’ first “flight” is generally a free fall to the ground or water below.

To find out more about wood ducks or how to build a nesting box, check out the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website at birds.cornell.edu/home.
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

John M. Pino, O.D., Ph.D.

[Logo: BBB Accredited Business]
Cumberland Connect is participating in

The FCC’s Affordable Connectivity Program

The ACP could help you save $30/month on your Internet bill!

The Affordable Connectivity Program provides qualifying households with a monthly credit to help pay for Internet service. If eligible, you may receive a credit of up to $30 per month toward your broadband services.

Learn more about whether you may qualify and how to enroll in the ACP on our website:

www.CumberlandConnect.org/ACP

Check Availability & Register for Email Updates at CumberlandConnect.org/Check-Availability

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.