Family Heirlooms Made by Lynnville’s Colonel Littleton

Tennessee History for Kids
The Notorious Ned Buntline

State Park Spotlight
Lamar Alexander
Rocky Fork State Park

Poet’s Playground Contest Winners

Brisket Brilliance
From small, rural farming communities to bustling city centers, each community across our great state has interesting stories to tell — and we want to hear them. Show us the interesting people, events and sites that give your hometown the local flavor that sets it apart.

Our next Shutterbug Photography Contest tasks entrants to capture their hometown pride — and that hometown can be where you’re living currently or a place from your past that had a major impact on shaping the person you are today. Winning photographs will show a strong grasp of technical skills such as use of light and composition as well as captivating subject matter.

Images can include people or not, and they can be selfies. As you accept this challenge, please stay safe. We don’t want anyone to take a tumble in the name of the Shutterbug contest.

Contest rules
1. The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers. For the purposes of this competition, you are considered a professional if you regularly sell your images or garner more than 50 percent of your income from photography.

2. Photographs must have been taken by you.

3. A photographer can enter no more than three photographs. There is no cost to enter.

4. All entries must be made online. We won’t accept prints for this contest. Sign on to tnmagazine.org and click on “Entry Forms” under “Contests.” Complete the form and upload your photograph(s).

5. Employees of Tennessee’s electric cooperatives and their immediate families are not eligible to win.

6. Please include the name of each recognizable person, if any other than yourself, in your photograph. It is the photographer’s responsibility to have the subject’s permission to enter his or her image in the contest. You must include the subject’s name and contact information with your submission. Omitting any of this information can result in disqualification.

7. By entering the contest, photographers automatically give The Tennessee Magazine permission to publish the winning images in print and digital publications, to social media and on websites.

Shutterbug assignment
“My Hometown”

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

Deadline
Entries must be entered online by midnight (Central Daylight Time) on Monday, 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.
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ABOUT THE COVER

Colonel Littleton stands in his warm, eclectic shop in Lynnville among his own designs: handbags, purses, notebooks and other products handcrafted by leatherwork masters. Read of the history of this internationally renowned, one-of-a-kind brand on page 10. Photograph by Robin Conover

THIS PAGE

The sun sets on the Defeated Creek campground looking over Cordell Hull Lake near Carthage. Photograph by Robin Conover
Co-op Concerns

News from your community

Summer energy tips

Summer in Tennessee is hard to beat. I love the cookouts, the longer days and all the outdoor activities our beautiful state has to offer this time of year. Summer also brings something I don’t enjoy so much: relentless heat and humidity.

While it’s tempting to crank up the air conditioning and seek relief from the sweltering heat, it’s important to be mindful that running the A/C can have a big impact on your electricity bill. Fortunately, there are plenty of energy-saving tips you can follow to stay cool and save money this summer. Here are a few suggestions.

**Use a programmable thermostat.** A programmable thermostat allows you to set the temperature in your home according to your schedule. You can program it to increase the temperature when you’re away from home and decrease it when you’re back. This can help you save energy and reduce your electricity bill without sacrificing your comfort.

**Keep your blinds and curtains closed.** Sunlight can quickly heat up your home, causing your air conditioner to work harder to maintain a comfortable temperature. Keep your blinds and curtains closed during the day to block out the sun and prevent your home from becoming too warm.

**Use fans to circulate air.** Fans are an effective way to circulate air and make your home feel cooler. Use ceiling fans or portable fans to create a breeze and help you feel more comfortable. Remember to turn them off when you leave the room to save energy.

**Avoid using appliances during the hottest part of the day.** Some appliances such as your dishwasher or washing machine can introduce additional heat and humidity into your home, forcing your cooling system to run extra to keep your home comfortable. Consider using these appliances at night when they have less impact on the comfort of your home.

**Maintain your air conditioner.** Regular maintenance of your air conditioner can help it run more efficiently and reduce your energy use. Change your air filters regularly, clean the condenser coils and have your system inspected by a professional at least once a year.

Summer is a time for fun and relaxation, but it’s important to be mindful of your energy use during the hot and humid months. Even small changes can make a big difference. Following these energy-saving tips can help you stay cool and comfortable while keeping your electric bill under control.

For more energy tips or information about energy solutions offered by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, visit us online at cemc.org.
A Safe Step Tub can help increase mobility, boost energy and improve sleep.

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

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

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

So what’s keeping you from having a better quality of life?
Check all the conditions that apply to you.

Personal Checklist:
- Arthritis
- Dry Skin
- Insomnia
- Anxiety
- Diabetes
- Mobility Issues
- Lower Back Pain
- Poor Circulation

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TENNESSEE TODAY

Viewpoint

Handbaskets and better times

I spent a lot of time this May commemorating the accomplishments of young adults who have reached a significant milestone in their lives — high school graduation. My oldest son reached this important point in his own life. He donned his cap and robe and officially completed his high school years.

I could fill this column with the river of emotions I felt as I watched him walk across the stage and receive his diploma. And while I am quite proud of the accomplishments he has earned in high school, I am so much prouder of his character and the kind, compassionate, self-assured young man he has become.

We hosted a party to honor him, and many of our guests offered up conversation about things other than high school. Several asked my thoughts about the current political climate. They said things like, “Isn’t it just terrible these days?” or, “I’ve never seen it so bad.”

I don’t blame them. And I don’t know many folks who would say otherwise because trust in political leaders and belief that America is on the right track are definitely at low points in history.

Just a few days earlier, I had listened to a podcast where Jon Meacham, a prominent historian who lives here in Tennessee, was describing a series of important current events. His contention was that these specific events had fostered incredible pessimism and uncertainty among the population.

He described how the U.S. had concluded a long war on foreign shores, a war that altered the view of American power to our foreign adversaries. The population of the U.S. was shifting from rural farm communities to larger urban centers, changing the cultural expectations about family and community. Racial division continued to be a problem as one of the major political parties struggled to nominate a presidential candidate because of the racial and religious strife present in its midst. The explosion of new technology was changing the way Americans received information. And culture wars raged amongst the people, fueled by real-time access to information that those same technological advancements had brought.

Meacham then revealed that his description was not of our current social and political climate of 2023 but of 1923. His discussion of the end of the Great War (World War I), the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan and its political strength, the invention of radio and the Scopes Monkey Trial in Dayton felt eerily familiar to today’s political and social landscape.

But his conclusion about the state of our country is worth sharing here: “My view of the country, which is very similar to my view of human nature, is that it is a remarkable thing that just enough (Americans) have done the right thing at just the right time to continue an experiment that’s worth defending. And I think that the American story is a perennial battle between our worst instincts and our better angels. And sometimes the better angels win, and sometimes the worst instincts do.”

So I told my guests at my son’s graduation party that I believed it wasn’t the worst of times. Though our leaders are not perfect, and everyone makes mistakes, I believe better days are ahead. And how could I not believe that? Looking across the room at the fine young man who just graduated from high school, my optimism was off the charts.
Summer like you mean it with

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June 1 is Statehood Day in Tennessee

Tennessee celebrates the 223rd anniversary of the state’s admission to the Union on June 1. In commemoration of Statehood Day, the Tennessee State Library and Archives displays the state’s original founding documents in the lobby. The documents are normally kept in a vault, but they are available for public viewing from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Daylight Time May 30-June 1.

The Tennessee State Museum will also celebrate the occasion by holding a family history scavenger hunt, children’s crafts and story time every hour in the Children’s Gallery. You can also stop by the museum at noon for a slice of birthday cake!

Statehood Day serves as a reminder of the resilience and pride of Tennessee’s people and their enduring contributions to American history.

The Eastern box turtle (Terrapene carolina) was officially recognized as the state reptile in 1995 and is known for its remarkable longevity. These turtles have been documented to live up to 100 years, making this one of the longest-living turtle species.

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50 YEARS AGO: JUNE 1973
The June 1973 magazine featured articles about the impact “electromation” can have on farm operations, selecting the right dishwasher and fighting crabgrass. View the entire June 1973 edition online at tnmagazine.org.

Save energy this summer with ceiling fans

Ceiling fans can be an effective way to save energy during the summer months. Make sure they rotate counterclockwise in the summer. This creates a wind-chill effect, making you feel cooler without lowering the room temperature. Turn off fans when you leave the room since they cool people, not spaces.

“Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June.”

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Stepping into the Col. Littleton retail store in Lynnville feels like stepping back in time. Just an hour or so south of Nashville, where Highway 129 crosses the tracks by the railroad museum, you will find a strip of downtown businesses along Mill Street.

The large glass storefronts, circa 1860s, have seen their share of businesses come and go through the years. Once at the center of a bustling farming community, these downtown businesses provided residents with the staples of rural farm life — fabric, hard candy, flour and sugar as well as necessary hardware, tools and feed.

Today, Lynnville’s downtown merchants rely on tourists as well as locals for business success. Three of the most popular tourist stops have become the Soda Pop Junction for a real homemade meal, Lynnville Railroad Museum for some local history and Col. Littleton for family heirlooms.

As one of Lynnville’s largest employers, Littleton now owns several of these storefronts and a manufacturing facility near downtown to house his thriving business. In a small town with a population of about 400, you might not expect to find the fashionable, high-end leather products that fill the large window displays on either side of the front door.

Inside, the collection of antiques and memorabilia that supplement the beautiful displays of leather goods catch the eye of many a window-shopping passerby. The smell of leather permeates the store — as does the warmth of the friendly greeting each customer receives from the proprietors.

Colonel Littleton, a Duck River Electric Membership Corporation member whose given name is Garry Allen Littleton, designs every item the company sells — leather belts, wallets, purses, travel bags, briefcases and portfolios, to name just a few of the items produced.

“This all started out in 1987 with 17 pairs of antique cuff links,” says Colonel Littleton. “I was on the road, traveling throughout the country in the men’s apparel industry. I had purchased these antique cuff links, thinking some of the store owners I called on might like them. The next week, the first store I visited in Birmingham bought all 17 pairs. I thought, well, that’s not bad, you know. So I started adding more items like that.”

After calling on upscale men’s apparel stores for years, the Colonel had a nagging thought in the back of his head.

“One day I got to thinking that there weren’t going to be any more family heirlooms. Laptops and cellphones aren’t going to be family heirlooms, you know. I thought if there’s no more pocket knives or fountain pens or
pearl-handled pistols — what will you have to pass on?” Littleton said. “I thought everybody needed a pocket knife, so I designed some and was selling them to a few stores. Then we started engraving names on the handle, and we really started selling them.”

Those pocket knives have been a staple in Col. Littleton’s line until this year. “This year, we phased them out. But I always say if you had your Granddaddy’s pocket knife with his name engraved on it, what would you take for it? Probably 98% of all items we sell are monogrammed.”

Beginning about 35 years ago, the Colonel and his wife, Susie, began to see a path for their accessories business leading both to leave their full-time occupations to concentrate on their growing business.

Gradually moving from accessories into high-end men’s and women’s leather goods, the business has become a full-time passion — a legacy, if you will, for the Littletons.

Together they have grown the company, which is based in Susie’s hometown, to about 40 full-time employees selling products throughout the entire country.

Customers notably include a number of past U.S. presidents such as George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, governors such as Bill Lee and a host of celebrities. Numerous corporations ranging from Fortune 500 companies to medium and small companies use Col. Littleton products for their corporate gifting programs, and countless CEOs carry Littleton’s most popular products — leather portfolios or briefcases.

Today, the Colonel’s product line includes 175 meticulously handmade leather items ranging in price from about $30 to several thousands of dollars. Littleton hopes customers will treasure their purchases for years before eventually passing them on as family heirlooms to the next generation.
With all the products made in the U.S., each piece begins as a design created by the Colonel. Some of the first leather products included cell phone holsters, mouse pads and wallets.

American buffalo, steer and alligator hides are chosen carefully and inspected before being cut by hand using custom metal templates as guides. Each item moves through the assembly process as part of a small batch from one workstation to the next until completion with a final inspection.

Touring the facility, you can’t help but notice some of the Colonel’s words of wisdom and quotes to live by printed on various signs and posters, including this one:

“A good philosophy for life and business: Do more than you get paid for. Give people more than they expect. Go the extra mile. Strive to be Stellar. — Colonel”

Each of Littleton’s employees seems to take this motto to heart as they strive to precisely complete each step in the process and with attention to every detail.

“I promote small town America. I think everybody wants to believe there’s a Mayberry somewhere… that life is not as crazy as it is in downtown Nashville or in a high rise in Chicago or New York,” says Littleton. “They want to think maybe somewhere life’s a little simpler. Our products come from small town America, and I believe people can associate with that a little bit. It’s a connection to something a little bit different … maybe to a different place in time.”

Colonel Littleton’s successful formula combines small town America, products sourced and handmade in the U.S. and customer service that makes you feel like you are in Mayberry. It’s safe to say the company will be making family heirlooms that will be enjoyed for many generations to come.

For more information about Col. Littleton, please stop by the Lynnville store or contact via:

Phone: 1-800-842-4075 (customer service)
or 931-527-0593 (retail store)
Email: CustomerService@ColonelLittleton.com
Address: 113 Mill St., Lynnville, TN 38472
Website: colonellittleton.com
had the Nashville lynch mob succeeded, American history might have turned out differently.

There might not have been a “Know-Nothing” political party. There might not have been a “Buffalo” Bill Cody, at least not in the eyes of the public. In fact, the image of the American West might have been different if someone hadn’t cut the rope that would have hanged Edward Zane Carroll Judson in front of the Nashville courthouse.

As luck would have it, however, Judson survived the attempt on his life, although his brush with a group of angry Nashville residents crippled him for the rest of his life.

Judson was better known by the pen name Ned Buntline. Author, journalist, activist, self-promoter and showman, he was famous for different things at different times of his life. You can learn a lot about Buntline at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming. “Poor people read his (Buntline’s) books and wanted to go West,” says a 1951 book about him.

Buntline’s name even turns up on weaponry (Colt once allegedly produced a revolver with a 12-inch barrel known as the “Buntline Special”) and in Mark Twain novels (at one point, Tom Sawyer pretended to be in one of Buntline’s pirate novels).

Judson was born in 1821 in upstate New York. At 17, while a midshipman in the Navy, he wrote a story for a national magazine called The Knickerbocker. He gave himself the pen name Ned Buntline (the word “buntline” is a nautical term that refers to the rope at the bottom of a square sail). Other stories followed, and soon he found a readership for his tales about pirates and other adventures at sea.

When Buntline got out of the Navy, he started his own publication called Ned Buntline’s Magazine. People read it, but it later folded, as did a successor publication, as did another successor publication.

In 1845 he and his wife, Seberina Escudero, moved to Nashville — drawn there for two reasons. One was cultural; at the time Nashville was the political center of what was still, culturally at least, the American West. The other reason was personal; Buntline had a connection to Nashville Banner editor Felix Zollicoffer.

A man who married at least six times, Ned Buntline always did have
a way with the ladies. During his short stint in Nashville, he allegedly got involved with someone else’s. At the time one of the prettiest women in town was Mary Porterfield, the teenage wife of an auctioneer named Robert Porterfield. Married or not, Ned, Judson or whatever he was called was quite the figure around town, and he caught her eye.

In details that later came out in court, Ned started to woo the young lady — by talking to her and on at least one occasion sending her a poem. Lots of rumors were flying around about the two of them at the Trabue boarding house, where Mr. and Mrs. Porterfield were living at that time. Ned and Mrs. Porterfield were seen together in suspicious circumstances — once in an alley beside a church.

Robert Porterfield met Ned and warned him to stay away from his wife. The warning went unheeded because a few days later — on March 11, 1846 — a minister spotted Ned and Mrs. Porterfield together in the graveyard in which the Porterfield’s infant daughter had been buried. They were “standing face to face very near each other and apparently engaged in close conversation,” the minister later testified.

A few days later, Porterfield found Ned and started shooting at him. Ned fired back and struck Porterfield with a bullet right above his eye. Hours later, Buntline gave himself up to the local sheriff.

In those days law and order were relative concepts. When the hearing took place, Porterfield’s brother barged into the courtroom and opened fire on the accused. Buntline fled the courthouse and into the City Hotel across the street. A mob dragged him to jail.

That night, Robert Porterfield died of his wound. The mob reassembled and, as an eyewitness later said:

“When the mob rushed into the jail, they knocked (jailer Louis) Hord out of a rocking chair and secured the keys when he said, ‘For God’s sake, don’t let all the prisoners out.’ Three of the mob entered Buntline’s cell. While one caught him by a leg, another seized him by the collar. A third, placing his foot on Buntline’s neck, was about to fire when the jailer pleaded with him not to kill him there. Buntline was then dragged pell-mell into the street. He was then permitted to say his prayers, and on finishing pulled a ring from his finger, handed it to a minister to be sent to his father at Pittsburgh. The crowd then hallooed, ‘Take him on,’ and they did so.”

A rope was tied around Buntline’s neck, and he was hung from an awning post on a public square. Before his neck broke, however, the rope snapped and his body tumbled back to the ground. “The rope was cut by a friend,” Ned later wrote. (An 1886 account of the incident claimed former Nashville Mayor Samuel Van Dyke Stout cut the rope; perhaps Stout was the “friend” to which Buntline referred.)

A few days later, after order had been restored, the grand jury absolved Buntline from any legal wrongdoing. He left town and apparently never stepped foot in Nashville again. However, the troubles of the widow Porterfield continued; the next year, after a lengthy and well-publicized public hearing, she was excommunicated from the Baptist church.

Incredibly, Ned Buntline’s Nashville adventure fits in with the rest of his life. After escaping death, he moved to New York and began writing popular fiction, most notably a series of stories that dramatized the squalid living

This article is an excerpt from Bill Carey’s new book, “True Tales of Tennessee: Earthquake to Railroad.”
conditions of the working-class people of New York (a prelude to the books of Upton Sinclair three quarters of a century later). He also started his own muckraking newspaper, Ned Buntline’s Own, and used it to publish his own stories and advance his causes, which by now included prohibition, suspicion of foreigners and Catholics, and reform politics.

In 1854 Buntline was credited (at least in one newspaper) with starting the political party now known as the Know-Nothing Party. “The Know-Nothing Party, it is pretty generally known, was first formed by a person of some notoriety who called himself ‘Ned Buntline,’” The New York Daily Times reported. “Ned instructed his proselytes and acolytes to reply to all questions in respect to the movements of the new party, ‘I don’t know.’ So they were at first called ‘Don’t-Knows,’ and then ‘Know-Nothings’ by outsiders, who knew nothing of them than that they invariably replied ‘I don’t know’ to all questions.” The Know-Nothing Party was a notable factor in American politics but largely dissolved in 1856.

As busy and prominent as he was, however, Buntline was never out of trouble for long. With each expose and crusade, he took on new enemies. He was twice convicted for starting riots — first in New York and later in St. Louis. In 1854 he shot an African-American man, but he was later acquitted of murder on grounds of self-defense. And as far as his being a leader in the temperance movement, he might make a speech or two, “but only after he’d braced himself with a few drinks,” one account of his life claims.

Buntline was a soldier in the U.S. Army in the Civil War, enlisting as a private with the New York militia. It was, curiously enough, the most uneventful part of his life; he spent a year in northern Virginia, saw little combat and was discharged because of injury. (None of this stopped him from lying about his military career; he was often referred to as “Col. Judson” in later years.)

After the war, Buntline wrote dime-store novels with names such as “The Comanche’s Dream” and “The King of the Border Men.” Here he found his literary niche. Buntline wrote more than 400 novels, scribbling chapters on trains, in hotel rooms and whenever he needed the money and could find the time. During the years following the Civil War, he might have been the highest paid writer that made Cody’s nickname a household phrase.

A few years later Buntline wrote a stage production called “The Scouts of the Plains,” featuring himself, Cody and “Texas Jack” Omohundro, another scout and hero of the Old West. Critics howled, but the public loved it, and the play launched Cody’s stage career (not Buntline’s because Ned was an abominably bad actor with a bad back, injured all those years earlier while trying to escape the Nashville lynch mob). In 1887 “Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show” hit the stage, starring real cowboys and real Native Americans but not Ned Buntline. The show spent 10 of its 30 years in Europe and turned Buffalo Bill Cody into one of the most famous men in the world.

Buntline eventually returned to New York and remained a celebrity in his later years, frequently granting interviews. However, he was rarely asked about his near-brush with the Nashville lynch mob. When he died in 1886, practically every newspaper in America contained a lengthy obituary of the man, some of them replete with exaggerations and tall tales. “Ned Buntline probably carried more wounds in his body than any living American,” claimed one version of his obituary, which was published in dozens of papers. “He had in his right knee a bullet received in Virginia and had twelve other wounds inflicted by sword, shell and gun, seven of which were got in battle.”

Another claim: “He once earned $12,500 in six weeks, and at another time, under pressure, wrote a book of 610 pages in sixty-two hours, scarcely sleeping or eating during that time.”

Hundreds attended the funeral of Edward Zane Carroll Judson, aka Ned Buntline. A few days later, two women came forward, each claiming to be his wife and entitled to his estate.
Throughout the ages, there have been many important advances in mobility. Canes, walkers, rollators, and scooters were created to help people with mobility issues get around and retain their independence. Lately, however, there haven’t been any new improvements to these existing products or developments in this field. Until now. Recently, an innovative design engineer who’s developed one of the world’s most popular products created a completely new breakthrough...a personal electric vehicle. It’s called the Zinger, and there is nothing out there quite like it.

“What my wife especially loves is it gives her back feelings of safety and independence which has given a real boost to her confidence and happiness! Thank You!”

–Kent C., California

The first thing you’ll notice about the Zinger is its unique look. It doesn’t look like a scooter. Its sleek, lightweight yet durable frame is made with aircraft grade aluminum so it weighs only 47.2 lbs. It features one-touch folding and unfolding – when folded it can be wheeled around like a suitcase and fits easily into a backseat or trunk. Then, there are the steering levers. They enable the Zinger to move forward, backward, turn on a dime and even pull right up to a table or desk. With its compact yet powerful motor it can go up to 6 miles an hour and its rechargeable battery can go up to 8 miles on a single charge. With its low center of gravity and inflatable tires it can handle rugged terrain and is virtually tip-proof. Think about it, you can take your Zinger almost anywhere, so you don’t have to let mobility issues rule your life.

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Help us recognize Tennessee’s best

No one knows Tennessee better than our readers, and that’s why we need your help in selecting the Best of Tennessee for our 2023 Readers’ Choice Awards. The program highlights readers’ favorites in 25 individual categories—from food and drink to entertainment and outdoor activities.

To enter, simply visit tnmagazine.org/BOT23 and fill out the nomination form with your choices for each category. You can nominate as many businesses and attractions as you like.

“By participating in the Best of Tennessee Readers’ Choice Awards, you are not only recognizing the best of what Tennessee has to offer, but you’re also joining a community of passionate and dedicated individuals who are proud to call this state their home,” says Chris Kirk, editor of The Tennessee Magazine. “So let your voice be heard, and help us shine a spotlight on the places and experiences that make Tennessee truly special.”

Just for nominating your favorites, you’ll be entered in a sweepstakes for great Tennessee-themed prizes. Packages include a gift certificate from Tennessee State Parks for a stay in a cabin or lodge, a basket of locally made artisan foods from Pick Tennessee Products and $250 from The Tennessee Magazine.

Don’t wait — head to tnmagazine.org/BOT23 to submit your nominations today and be entered in the sweepstakes for a chance to win some fantastic prizes. Together, we can celebrate and recognize the best of Tennessee and all the amazing places and experiences it has to offer.
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Local students win D.C. trip for writing about electric cooperatives’ impact on communities

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest. In this contest, students were asked to write short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives Connect” describing how electric cooperatives connect Tennessee communities with energy, education, broadband, economic development and more. We received a wide range of creative and inspiring stories from young writers across our service area.

After careful consideration, 12 talented students have been selected. These winners will represent CEMC on the Washington Youth Tour, where they will have the opportunity to learn more about the electric industry, meet with elected officials, explore the city’s many historical and cultural landmarks and engage with peers from other cooperatives across the country.

In addition to earning spots on this weeklong, expense-paid trip, Youth Tour attendees will be able to compete for additional trips and scholarships.

We extend our sincere congratulations to all the winners of this year’s contest. We are confident you will represent your electric cooperative with pride and will continue to inspire others with your passion for writing and community service.

Allison Finn
White House High School

Kelsey Fitzgerald
Greenbrier High School

Gracie Gibbs
Portland High School

Micayla Harrison
Springfield High School

Bradley Hughes
Montgomery Central High School

Micah Kibbey
Portland High School

Alexis Mazzola
Montgomery Central High School

Gabrielle Meguiar
White House High School

Caroline Moles
Greenbrier High School

Tucker Phaneuf
Rossview High School

Rebecca Quaye
White House High School

Nick Suttle
Portland High School
Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is proud to support higher education by awarding college scholarships to 12 deserving students through its 2023 Senior Scholarship Program.

The scholarship program is a part of the cooperative’s ongoing commitment to education and community service. Winners were chosen through a competitive selection process that included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, community involvement and financial need. The selection committee was made up of educators who assessed each applicant’s potential for success and future contribution to society.

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

**Jude Abernathy of White House.** Jude is a graduate of White House High School and will attend Freed-Hardeman University.

**London Abernathy of White House.** London is a graduate of White House Heritage High School and will attend the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**Dya’Ron Grundy of Pleasant View.** Dya’Ron is a graduate of Springfield High School and will attend Tennessee State University.

**Madelyn Harrison of Ashland City.** Madelyn is a graduate of Sycamore High School and will attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

**Faith Keith of Portland.** Faith is a graduate of Portland High School and will attend Western Kentucky University.

**Layla Loftis of Portland.** Layla is a graduate of Portland High School and will attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

**Sarah McGee of Dover.** Sarah is a graduate of Stewart County High School and will attend Murray State University.

**Brenden McWhorter of Clarksville.** Brenden is a graduate of Montgomery Central High School and will attend Austin Peay State University.

**Samantha Mortagua of Woodlawn.** Samantha is a graduate of Northwest High School and will attend Austin Peay State University.

**McKenna Passmore of Clarksville.** McKenna is a graduate of Clarksville High School and will attend Western Kentucky University.

**Gracie Reeder of Chapmansboro.** Gracie is a graduate of Cheatham County High School and will attend Austin Peay State University.

**Claire Surface of Portland.** Claire is a graduate of Christian Community Schools and will attend the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.
**Director candidates must meet July 25 deadline**

Members 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 25**, which is 60 days prior to the 2023 annual meeting. This year’s meeting will be held Saturday, September 23, at Rossview High School in Clarksville. An election will be held for the following director positions: North Stewart, North Montgomery, South Sumner and Director at Large. Anyone with a valid membership in good standing as of July 25 can vote in director elections. Those applying for membership after July 25 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)

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**Tennessee creates permanent Lineworker Appreciation Day**

On April 10, Tennessee became the first state in the nation to formally adopt a standing Lineworker Appreciation Day. The second Monday of April of each year has been codified into state law as a day to show appreciation for the state’s 3,500 electric lineworkers.

Dozens of lineworkers from across the state were at the State Capitol April 10 to be honored by members of the Tennessee General Assembly. Attending from CEMC were Ashland City District Servicemen Henry Odom and John Wilson, Engineering and Operations Division Manager David Abernathy and General Manager Chris Davis. They were welcomed by Sen. Paul Bailey and Rep. Clark Boyd, sponsors of the legislation creating the day of appreciation, along with Secretary of State Tre Hargett in a special ceremony in the Old Supreme Court Chambers. Later they were recognized from the floor of the House of Representatives.

“You should be honored and appreciated for what you do on a daily basis,” said Sen. Bailey.

Electric lineworker is consistently ranked among the most dangerous jobs in America. “Safe and reliable energy is a critical part of Tennessee’s economy,” says Mike Knotts, CEO of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, “and lineworkers are the guardians of that infrastructure. Their tireless efforts, often in the face of extreme weather conditions and challenging environments, keep the lights on and our homes, businesses and communities powered. We owe a debt of gratitude to these brave men and women who work so hard to ensure our safety and well-being.”

From left, Chris Davis, Henry Odom, John Wilson and David Abernathy attend a ceremony at the State Capitol recognizing and honoring Tennessee’s lineworkers.
Co-op leaders discuss energy, infrastructure with D.C. lawmakers

A group of electric cooperative leaders from Tennessee traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers and advocate for policies that could impact co-op communities. The delegation was made up of board members, executives and other leaders from the electric cooperatives, including Chris Davis, Mark Cook, Ed Oliver, Wes Aymett, Shela Williams and Eddie Swan from Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation.

The primary goal of the meetings was to raise awareness among lawmakers about the unique needs and challenges faced by rural communities in Tennessee. Specifically, electric cooperative leaders discussed policies related to energy, infrastructure and broadband access, which are critical to the economic development and well-being of Tennessee’s rural and suburban communities.

“We are pleased to have the opportunity to meet with lawmakers and discuss issues that are important to our members and communities,” said CEMC General Manager Chris Davis. “As electric cooperatives, we are committed to serving our communities and ensuring they have the resources and support they need to thrive. This trip is an important part of that effort.”

The delegation from CEMC met with Sens. Marsha Blackburn and Bill Haggerty as well as Rep. John Rose.

“Our cooperatives are more than just providers of electricity,” said Davis. “We are partners in the communities we serve, and we want to make sure our voices are heard in Washington. We hope our discussions with lawmakers will lead to policies that support rural Tennessee and the electric cooperatives that serve them.”

“We are proud to support electric cooperatives as they advocate for the needs of rural Tennessee,” said Mike Knotts, CEO of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. “These discussions are an opportunity to showcase the important work of co-ops and ensure that policymakers in Washington understand the vital roles electric cooperatives play in their communities.”

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 grant program in 2023. CEMC has matched funds offered by TVA to select nonprofit agencies throughout its five-county service area. CEMC and TVA awarded a total of $93,500 to 15 different agencies this year.

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

- **$11,000 — Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee.** Funds will provide support to Cheatham, Montgomery, Robertson and Sumner counties.
- **$9,000 — The Bethesda Center.** Funds will provide food support and will assist members who are struggling to pay for medication, utility bills and rent.
- **$5,000 — Urban Ministries.** Funds will be used to assist members who are struggling to pay for medication, childcare and food and stay current on rent, mortgage payments and utility bills.
- **$10,000 — United Way of Robertson County.** Funds will be used to assist members who are struggling to pay for medication, childcare and food and stay current on rent, mortgage payments and utility bills.
- **$4,000 — The Hope Center.** Funds will be used to assist members who are struggling to pay for medication, childcare and food and stay current on rent, mortgage payments and utility bills.
- **$4,000 — Highland Rim Economic Corporation.** Funds will be used to assist members who are struggling to pay for medication, rent, mortgage payments, utility bills, childcare and food.
- **$3,000 — Hands of Hope.** Funds will be used to assist members who are struggling with food insecurities and have trouble purchasing personal hygiene products and other essentials.
- **$5,000 — Gallatin CARES.** Funds will be used to assist members who are struggling to pay for medication, rent and utility bills.
- **$5,000 — Portland CARES.** Funds will be used to assist members who are struggling to pay for medication, rent and utility bills.
- **$5,000 — Manna Cafe.** Funds will be used to assist members who are struggling to pay for medication, rent and utility bills.
- **$15,000 — United Way of Sumner County.** Funds will be used to assist members struggling to make rent, mortgage and utility bill payments.

Hands of Hope in Sumner County is awarded a $3,000 Community Care Fund grant.

CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Susie Yonkers, left, presents a Community Care Fund grant in the amount of $5,000 to Urban Ministries in Montgomery County.
Smart Home Technology for Seniors: Making Life Easier and Safer

As we age, it can become increasingly difficult to perform everyday tasks and maintain our independence. Luckily, advances in technology have made it easier for seniors to stay connected to their loved ones while living independently in their homes, and smart home technology can play a big role in this. From increased safety to easier daily tasks, here are some smart home devices that can help seniors go about their day-to-day with confidence.

**Voice assistants**
Devices like Amazon Echo and Google Home allow seniors to control their smart home devices with voice commands, making it easier for them to turn on lights, adjust the thermostat and play music without having to get up from their seat. Some voice assistant devices even feature screens and cameras so seniors can call or video chat with their loved ones.

**Smart locks**
Smart door locks can be controlled remotely through a smartphone app, allowing homeowners to lock or unlock their doors without having to physically turn a key or a deadbolt. This can be particularly helpful for those who have mobility issues. Many smart locks also allow users to set schedules in order to lock doors automatically at a certain time, so homeowners won’t need to worry if they remembered to lock the door.

**Smart lighting**
Smart lighting can be controlled remotely through a smartphone app or voice commands, making it easier to turn on lights without having to physically get up. Users can turn on lights before entering a room so they don’t have to try and find their way around in low-light conditions.

**Smart thermostats**
Smart thermostats allow users to control their home temperature remotely through a smartphone app, making it easier to ensure they’re comfortable at all times without having to physically adjust the thermostat.

**Medication reminders**
Medication reminders are particularly useful for seniors who might have difficulty remembering when to take their medication. Devices like MedMinder and Hero use visual and auditory cues to remind seniors when it’s time to take their medication.

**Personal emergency response systems**
Personal emergency response systems (PERS) are wearable devices that allow seniors to call for help in case of an emergency. Devices like Life Alert and Medical Guardian connect seniors to call centers that can dispatch emergency services if necessary.

Smart home technology can greatly benefit seniors and provide peace of mind for them and their loved ones. However, for all of these devices to function reliably, a strong and stable internet connection is essential. That’s where Cumberland Connect fiber internet services come in. Our reliable and lightning-fast fiber internet services provide a foundation for all of these devices to function seamlessly, allowing seniors to stay connected, independent, entertained and safe. With Cumberland Connect, seniors can enjoy the benefits of smart home technology and maintain their independence and peace of mind.

To learn more about our Internet services, visit CumberlandConnect.org/Internet.

This institution is an equal-opportunity provider and employer.
Efficiency tips for residential well pumps

Q: I get my water supply from my own well. How can I use less electricity with my well?

A: The energy a residential well system uses depends on the equipment and water use. The homeowner is responsible for maintaining the well, ensuring drinking water is safe and paying for the electricity needed to run the well pump. Here are steps to improve and maintain your residential well and use less electricity:

Get your well system inspected

If you’re concerned about how much you pay to pump water from your well, start with an inspection.

Similar to heating and cooling systems, well pumps are put to work daily, and parts will wear over time. Regular maintenance can improve efficiency and increase the lifespan of the system.

The proper system design and sizing can save energy. Oversizing equipment can waste energy. Ask a professional if your well equipment is properly sized for your needs. In some cases, adding a variable-speed drive can save energy. Keep in mind that well systems don’t last forever. Consider design and sizing before the existing system fails.

Things can go wrong with your well that are hard to spot. The water system might even act normally with good water pressure and flow while using more energy and causing higher bills.

Save money by lowering your water use

The less water you use, the less energy you use. Here’s how you can conserve water and electricity with your home appliances:

Toilets. Check your toilet for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If the color appears in the bowl without flushing, your toilet has a leak. This is likely caused by a worn flapper, which is an inexpensive and easy do-it-yourself fix.

If your toilets were installed before 1994, they are likely using more than 4 gallons per flush, which is well above new energy standards of 1.6 gallons. The average family

Instead of hand-washing, use your dishwasher to conserve water and energy. Eco mode on dishwashers is automatically programmed to optimum settings for reducing water and energy use. Photographs by Mark Gilliland, Pioneer Utility Resources

One of the most common causes of increased energy use is underground water line leakage between the pump and the home. Water lines can freeze and break or be damaged by digging or a vehicle driving over underground lines. Other issues can include waterlogged pressure tanks and malfunctioning equipment. Even if your well is in good working order, there are practices you can implement to save on your electric bill.
can save nearly 13,000 gallons per year by replacing old, inefficient toilets with WaterSense-labeled models.

Another option is the tried-and-true plastic bottle method. Place sand or pebbles into a 1- or 2-liter bottle and place it in your toilet tank or buy toilet tank bags. This results in less water filling the tank and less water being flushed.

**Dishwasher.** If you wash dishes by hand, start using your dishwasher instead. Did you know new Energy Star-certified dishwashers use less than half the energy it takes to wash dishes by hand? According to the Department of Energy, this simple change in habit can save more than 8,000 gallons of water each year.

Switch to a low-flow showerhead with flow rates of less than 2 gallons per minute for maximum water efficiency.

**Washing machine.** Run your machine only with full loads to save water and energy. You could also consider upgrading to an Energy Star-certified washing machine, which uses about 20% less energy and about 30% less water than regular washers.

**Showerheads and faucets.** Get leaky showerheads and faucets fixed. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, a leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water per year.

Faucet and shower aerators are inexpensive devices that reduce the amount of water flow. For maximum water efficiency, look for faucet aerators with no more than 1 gallon per minute flow rates and low-flow showerhead flow rates of less than 2 GPM.

Understanding proper well system design, maintenance and water conservation will help you save.

Miranda Boutelle is vice president of operations and customer engagement at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company. She also writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.
Age 8 and younger

Magical Music
I like Music
It feels like Magic
I love Country Music that comes from Tennessee
It gives me Energy
I feel it in my Heart, It makes me want to Start
My Day!!!
— Kingston Walters, Caney Fork Electric Cooperative

Age 9-13

What the Iris said to me
I was walking when I heard a voice,
As sweet as moist,
It talked to me,
So very quietly.

I looked down and saw an iris,
It was very stylish,
It said, “You know the place that I love?”
“What?” I said as I looked up above.

“It’s a place that has pearls,
It said as I reached down to touch its curls,
“It ends with an e.”
It said, so very quietly,

Suddenly I knew the place it liked so much,
It had pearls and such,
It was Tannassie,
AKA Tennessee.
— Nora Harrell, Middle Tennessee Electric

Age 14-18

My Tennessee
A battle of flames and forest arise
but not here.
Secrets that turn into lies
but not here.
Everyone on their own, quiet, alone
but not here.
I’ll tell you about here.
Crimson cardinals sing in the trees.
Out bloom the flowers, then come the bees.
Loud and proud we shout our song.
Each one different, depending on the path we are on.
Our starred flag is raised tall and high to show
that we are free.
My home, my city, my Tennessee.
— Imagen Ogden, Middle Tennessee Electric

Age 19-22

Tri-Star
It’s more than three stars in a blue circle.
It’s respect,
“Yes ma’am,” “Yes sir,”
“Let me get that door for you.”
It’s volunteering,
Donating, clean up crews,
providing care for those who came before us.
It’s hard workers,
Business men and women, educators,
Home to the nursery capital of the world.
Each star,
a characteristic to describe who we are.
The circle,
Representing unity within ourselves.
Standing up,
Hand on heart,
“One nation under God.”
— Destiny Wanamaker, Caney Fork Electric Cooperative

Read more finalists’ prose at tnmagazine.org.
Age 23-64

A Tennessee Lineman

Started out our “little man,”
loving monster trucks.
Asking “why” and “how,”
sometimes I said, “Not now!”

We watched him grow —
where he went, what he did.
“Little man” left our yard —
six years in the Army National Guard.
He became big and brave,
moved out —
paid his own rent;
then an idea heaven sent.

Lineman school in McEwen —
climbing poles, hauling wire,
working for “hot hours.”

“Is that ‘little man’ really ours?”
Snuggle under — go back to bed.

“Little man” is already up.
Tornado, lightning, snow or ice;
Tennessee linemen are extra nice!

— Wilma Vernich,
Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

Age 65 and older

They Watch

They stand guard by night
Bark-armored Sentinels
At attention along the shale-layered banks
Of the Duck River.
By day uniformed in glory
Undulating canopy
A great green flag unfurling
As soldier crow cry
Their tuneless trumpets.

Time fleets away … day dims to twilight.
Militant titans muted to gray
Silhouettes looming in the growing gloom
Stoic. Strong.
Still as shadow
Silent as stars
Guards at the Gate.
Beneath Heaven’s eye.

Come, Night.
Ebbing embers
Bring dreams of youth
Awaiting morning’s glow.
There comes for each of us
Both dawn and dusk …

Still the Sentries remain.
They wait.
They watch.

— J.E. Robinson, Middle Tennessee Electric

Do you have a way with words?

We’re searching for Tennessee’s most talented and gifted poets. Enter our next Poet’s Playground contest!

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

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

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

**Deadline:** Entry must be submitted online or postmarked by Friday, Sept. 1. First-place poems will be published in the December issue.

**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 local electric cooperative.
Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park rich in biodiversity and photo opportunities

Story by Trish Milburn • Photographs courtesy of Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park
Tennessee’s state parks have been welcoming visitors since the Great Depression, when Harrison Bay became the first state park in 1937. More than 50 additional state parks have been established in the years since. While many have now been around for decades, one of the newer parks to join the ranks is Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park in the small community of Flag Pond in Unicoi County. Established in 2012, the park didn’t officially open until three years later. Four years after that, in 2019, the park’s name was altered slightly to honor Sen. Lamar Alexander.

With more than 2,000 acres of gorgeous mountainous wilderness within its boundaries, this park is a perfect destination for lovers of lush forests.

“Rocky Fork is right smack in the middle of a huge expanse of wilderness lands,” says Park Manager Timothy Pharis. “Surrounded on three sides by the Cherokee National Forest-Sampson Mountain Wilderness-Appalachian Trail corridor and within the boundaries of the Unicoi Bear Preserve, Rocky Fork offers park visitors the rare chance to experience the bounty of the Blue Ridge Mountains.”

Beauty abounds

The natural beauty of this area is breathtaking. From the moment you enter the park, perhaps the best word to describe it is “stunning” or, perhaps, “verdant.” Both are apt. You’ll encounter mountain streams such as namesake Rocky Fork Creek; forests filled with many different types of trees such as beech, hemlock and rhododendron; native wildflowers, including the pink lady’s slipper and yellow fringed orchid; and wildlife big and small.

The richness of this forested land made it a target of lumber companies. Within the park and the surrounding national forest lands lie many miles of old logging roads. More recently, the tract of land that now makes up the park as well as nearly 7,700 acres of neighboring Cherokee National Forest nearly fell victim to
multimillion-dollar residential development. In 2006, the property was put up for sale by the timber company that owned it. Over the next several years, the Conservation Fund, U.S. Forest Service and state of Tennessee worked to acquire and preserve around 10,000 total acres.

“Conservationists pulled out a major win with the help of many nonprofits to secure this important tract of land and preserve it forever,” Pharis says.

Flora and fauna

Most of the park is what is known as Appalachian cove forest, one of North America’s most biologically diverse habitats. As you explore this land filled with hardwoods and evergreens, you’ll be happy that the sights, sounds and loamy scents have been preserved for all to enjoy.

Animals and birds that call the park home range from black bears to several endangered species, including the peregrine falcon and the Yonahlossee salamander. The list of bird species that have been seen in the Rocky Fork Watershed is three and a half pages long, so be sure to bring a camera and your binoculars. This checklist is available on the park’s website.

One of the highlights of Pharis’ time serving at Rocky Fork involves some of the park’s smaller residents.

“My most memorable experience was finding synchronous and blue ghost fireflies,” he says. “Once thought to be only in two to three places worldwide, we were lucky enough to find a huge population of both species here. We now run a very popular series of programs around them. Last year we had over 8,000 people apply to get a ticket to see them.”

Activities

In addition to photography and bird watching, the park offers 15 miles of mountain bike trails, nearly 20 miles of marked hiking trails as well as access to the long-distance Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and fly fishing for trout.

Among the benefits of hiking here is being able to enjoy the highest elevation overlook located in any Tennessee state park. Ranger-led hikes are available and recommended. Whether you are on a led hike or out on your own, be aware of your surroundings, and follow all precautions to help prevent a dangerous encounter with a bear.

Rock climbing is also available at the park’s Whitehouse Cliffs, a more than 200-foot quartzite cliff. Climbing permits are required.

Sad history

In the late 1700s, at the junction of Flint Creek and Rocky Fork, Creek and Cherokee were camped for the winter. Col. John Sevier, who would later become the first governor of Tennessee, and his men surrounded the camp and attacked in response to longstanding tensions between the groups. The Creek and Cherokee suffered heavy fatalities and other casualties.

Facilities

While modifications to the park are being planned, as of now the park is served by the narrow, single-lane Rocky Fork Road. Pull-offs are located at various points, but caution is urged when driving in the park. The parking lot is small, and all that is available here is a portable toilet and bear-resistant trash and recycling bins.

Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park

Operating hours, trail maps, directions and climbing regulations are available on the park’s website at tnstateparks.com/parks/rocky-fork or by calling 423-271-1233.
County fairs have been a staple of Tennessee's heritage since the 19th century, offering a unique opportunity for communities to come together to celebrate the best of their local culture and agriculture. Fairs were originally established as a way for farmers to showcase their prized crops and livestock, and over time, they have evolved to include carnival rides, games, live music and various food vendors.

Today, fairs continue to play an important role in connecting people to their roots and preserving the state’s heritage. They offer a platform for local farmers and businesses to showcase their products and provide a source of entertainment for families to enjoy.

The Clay County Fair kicks off the season this month in Celina with activities like a marble tournament and haybale decorating. It is one of 60 county, regional and state fairs that will take place through October.

The Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair is a highlight of fair season. It will be held Aug. 17-26 in Lebanon. There, fairgoers can enjoy a celebration that’s steeped in tradition while making new memories with family and friends.

### Tennessee’s County, Regional and State Fairs

#### June
6-10 • Clay Co. Fair • Celina
28 - July 2 • Sumner Co. Fair • Gallatin

#### July
3-8 • Smith Co. Fair • Carthage
10-15 • DeKalb Co. Fair • Alexandria
11-15 • Jefferson Co. Fair • Jefferson City
17-22 • Anderson Co. Fair • Clinton
17-22 • Bedford Co. Fair • Shelbyville
20-30 • Overton Co. Fair • Livingston
24-29 • Greene Co. Fair • Greeneville
28-Aug 5 • Macon Co. Fair • Lafayette
31 - Aug 5 • Benton Co. Fair • Camden
9-12 • Carroll Co. Fair • Huntingdon
11-19 • Henry Co. Fair • Paris
14-19 • Cumberland Co. Fair • Crossville
15-19 • Cheatham Co. Fair • Ashland City
15-19 • Cocke Co. Fair • Newport
17-26 • Wilson Co. Fair-Tennessee State Fair • Lebanon
19-26 • Obion Co. Fair • Union City
19-26 • Sequatchie Co. Fair • Dunlap
20-26 • Fentress Co. Fair • Jamestown
21-26 • Appalachian Fair • Gray
21-26 • Decatur Co. Fair • Parsons
28 - Sept 2 • Claiborne Co. Fair • Tazewell
28 - Sept 2 • Gibson Co. Fair • Trenton
29 - Sept 2 • Meigs Co. Fair • Decatur
29 - Sept 2 • S. Central Fair • Hohenwald
29 - Sept 4 • Sevier Co. Fair • Sevierville
31 - Sept 4 • Dickson Co. Fair • Dickson
31 - Sept 4 • Maury Co. Fair • Columbia

#### August
2-5 • Bledsoe Co. Fair • Pikeville
2-5 • Weakley Co. Fair • Gleason
3-5 • Trousdale Co. Fair • Hartsville
3-12 • Putnam Co. Fair • Cookeville
4-12 • Williamson Co. Fair • Franklin
8-12 • Rhea Co. Fair • Evensville
8-12 • Scott Co. Fair • Oneida
1-9 • Coffee Co. Fair • Manchester
1-9 • White Co. Fair • Sparta

#### September
1-10 • Delta Fair • Memphis
4-9 • Dyer Co. Fair • Dyersburg
6-11 • Giles Co. Fair • Pulaski
7-9 • Humphreys Co. Fair • Waverly
8-16 • Warren Co. Fair • McMinnville
8-17 • Tennessee Valley Fair • Knoxville
8-17 • The Nashville Fair • Nashville
9-16 • Van Buren Co. Fair • Spencer
12-17 • Henderson Co. Fair • Lexington
12-17 • West TN State Fair • Jackson
13-16 • Lauderdale Co. Fair • Halls
14-16 • Houston Co. Fair • Erin
16-23 • Lincoln Co. Fair • Fayetteville
18-23 • Hardin Co. Fair • Savannah
19-23 • Robertson Co. Fair • Springfield
21-30 • Middle TN Fair • Lawrenceburg

#### October
4-7 • Hamilton Co. Fair • Sale Creek
Brisket can take some time to prepare, but the wait is always worth it for this flavorful, tender cut of beef.
Cooking perfectly tender and delicious brisket is a time-honored tradition — because, you know, the time required to do it. Brisket is both famously delectable and slow to achieve its perfection. These brisket recipes can't magically make brisket take less time to prepare, but they WILL eliminate any anxiety over whether all that time and effort will be worth it.

Wine Braised Beef Brisket — Use this recipe when needing something special for an intimate dinner for two. You'll have leftovers for a great sandwich the following day. Serve with roasted vegetables from the garden.

Yield: 4 servings
1 (2½-pound) beef brisket
1 tablespoon salt
1½ teaspoons black pepper
2 cups dry red wine
2 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
4 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
1 small sweet onion, peeled and sliced
1 large carrot, peeled and sliced
1 celery stalk, sliced
½ cup dried apricots, cut into strips
1 bay leaf
1 tablespoon tomato paste
4 cups beef stock
Minced fresh parsley for garnish

Place the brisket on a large piece of aluminum foil and sprinkle on both sides with the salt and pepper. Cover with the foil and refrigerate for 2 hours. Meanwhile, place the wine in a saucepan over medium-high heat and bring to a boil. Reduce by half, around 12 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Place a Dutch oven over high heat and add 1 tablespoon of the vegetable oil. Sprinkle the brisket on both sides with the flour, shaking off any excess. When the oil is hot, reduce the heat to medium-high and add the brisket. Sear 3 minutes per side until well browned. Remove the brisket to a platter and add the remaining oil to the Dutch oven.

Add the garlic, onions, carrots and celery, cooking 1 minute. Remove from the heat and add the apricots, bay leaf, tomato paste, stock and reduced wine. Stir well and place the brisket on top of the vegetables with the fat side up. Cover and cook 3 to 3½ hours or until the brisket is fork tender. Uncover and cook 20 minutes longer. Remove from the oven and skim any fat from the surface. Allow the brisket to rest for 15 minutes. Slice the brisket against the grain and serve warm with pan drippings.

Oven Roasted Brisket — This is the recipe you need when feeding a crowd. Serve it with coleslaw, sliced tomatoes and bread for grabbing any extra gravy on your plate!

Yield: 12 servings
1 (4- to 5-pound) beef brisket
1 (12-ounce) bottle beer
1 (1-ounce) package dry onion soup mix
1 (12-ounce) bottle chili sauce
½ cup cornstarch

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease heavy roaster with cooking spray and place the brisket inside. Pour the beer over the top. Sprinkle the brisket evenly with the onion soup mix and pepper. Drizzle the chili sauce over the top. Cover and bake 5-6 hours (1 hour per pound of brisket), making sure not to baste.

Remove the brisket from the roaster onto a platter and cover tightly with foil. Strain the drippings into the measuring cup and measure ½ cup. If necessary, add water to make sure it is ½ cup of liquid.

Place the cornstarch in a jar with a tight-fitting lid. Add the ½ cup of reserved drippings, cover and shake vigorously to emulsify. Stir into the drippings in the saucepan. Cook until thickened, stirring constantly for 5-7 minutes. Decrease heat to low and cover.

Cut the brisket into ½-inch slices and place on the serving dish. Transfer the gravy to a serving dish or boat and serve warm.

Roasted Brisket with Fruit — Serve with early fresh English peas or snow peas.

Yield: 8 servings
1 (3- to 3½-pound) beef brisket, trimmed
1 teaspoon vegetable oil
1 sweet onion, peeled and finely chopped
2 large carrots, peeled and finely chopped
1 celery stalk, thinly sliced
1 leek, thinly sliced
2 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
4 cups beef stock, divided
1 cup dry red wine
2 bay leaves
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon black pepper
1½ cups dried apricots
1½ cups dried pears
½ cup fresh minced parsley

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Adjust the rack to fit a large roasting pan. Place the brisket in a large roasting pan that has been coated with cooking spray. Set aside.

Place the oil in a large skilet over medium-high heat. When hot, add the onions, carrots, celery, leeks and garlic. Sauté for 4 minutes, stirring frequently. Transfer to the roasting pan around the brisket.

Return the skillet to the stove and add 3 cups of the stock, wine, bay leaves and ½ cup water. Bring to a simmer then carefully pour around the brisket. Cover tightly with foil and place in the oven. Roast for 1½ hours.

Remove from the oven and the brisket from the pan. Slice it across the grain and return to the pan. Add the salt, pepper, remaining stock, apricots and pears. Cover tightly with foil and roast for 1½ hours longer or until the meat is tender.

To serve, place the meat in the center of a large platter. Using a slotted spoon, remove and discard the bay leaves. Arrange the fruit around the brisket and garnish with the parsley. Strain the pan juices into a gravy boat and serve warm with the brisket.
Smoked Brisket — If you have a smoker, this is the only recipe you need for brisket! If you don’t have a smoker, see the alternative directions below for preparing on a gas grill.

Yield: 8 servings
1 (3-pound) flat-cut beef brisket
1 teaspoon paprika
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon sugar
1 teaspoon black pepper
½ teaspoon onion powder
½ teaspoon garlic powder
½ teaspoon chili powder
Barbecue sauce of your choice

Prepare the smoker according to manufacturer’s instructions to 225-250 degrees. Meanwhile, place the brisket in a large baking pan. In a small bowl, mix together the paprika, salt, sugar, pepper, onion powder, garlic powder and chili powder. With your hands, sprinkle the dry rub evenly on the brisket, rubbing it in. Allow to sit at room temperature while the smoker preheats.

Place the brisket in the smoker and maintain the temperature for 5 hours or until a thermometer inserted in the thickest part of the meat registers 195-205 degrees. Remove from the smoker and allow to rest for 10 minutes. Slice thin across the grain and serve warm with your preferred barbecue sauce.

**Alternative gas grill method**

Soak hickory pieces in water for 35 minutes, then drain. Wrap the pieces in heavy-duty aluminum foil (or a double thickness of regular foil) and poke several holes in the foil with an ice pick.

Light one side of the gas grill and place the foil-wrapped pieces on the hot coals. Allow to preheat for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, after rubbing with the dry spices, place the brisket in a large disposable aluminum roasting pan. Add 1 cup water and cover tightly with foil.

Place on the unlit side of the grill and close the lid. Grill for 2 hours or until the brisket is tender, turning halfway through.

Remove from the pan and place on the grill rack over the hot coals. Grill 6 to 7 minutes on each side, then remove and wrap in aluminum foil. Allow to rest for 10 minutes before slicing across the grain.

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.

**Brisket bits:**

Always trim away any excess fat from the brisket before you begin. This will be easier to do if you place the unopened package in the freezer for about 20 minutes.

When trimming, you don’t want to remove all the fat because that serves as a self-baster to help keep the meat moist. But removing the extra will make the cut nice and smooth, allowing smoke and heat to evenly permeate the brisket.

Keep the temperature steady for cooking. This means you might need to avoid windy days if you are cooking the brisket outside on the grill. Or you can select the oven version and prepare it there instead.

Undercooked brisket will be tough. That’s because the collagen (connective tissue) in the meat seizes up before it reaches the point where it begins to melt. Always use a meat thermometer to check for doneness. It should slip in and out as if you were probing room temperature butter.

Resting the meat is a key to keeping it moist, so set a timer, and don’t fudge on the time. It needs at least 10 minutes!

A good electric knife is great for slicing, but a sharp chef’s knife will work equally well.

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

*Festivals, celebrations and other happenings around the state*

Free admission to active-duty personnel and families this summer

**Through Labor Day • Discovery Park of America, Union City**

Discovery Park of America is now a Blue Star Museum. This collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and museums like Discovery Park provides free admission to the nation’s active-duty military personnel and their families each summer. The free admission program is available through Labor Day, Sept. 4.

“Discovery Park is excited to support the men and women who are serving our country,” said Scott Williams, president and CEO of Discovery Park. “Our military exhibits and related events make us a natural fit for the Blue Star Museum program.”

To plan a visit to Discovery Park or for more information, go to discoveryparkofamerica.com/visit.

Learn more about Blue Star Museums, guidelines for receiving discounts and other participating attractions at arts.gov/initiatives/blue-star-museums.

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**West Tennessee**

**June 6 • Ryan Adams and the Cardinals**, Orpheum Theatre, Memphis. 901-525-3000 or orpheum-memphis.com/event/ryan-adams

**June 6-10 • Charity Horse Show**, Germantown. 901-754-0009 or gchs.org

**June 9, 16, 30 • Amp Music Series**, Jackson’s Amp at the Market. facebook.com/jacksonampatthemarket

**June 10 • “Juneteenth the Musical,”** Orpheum Theatre, Memphis. 901-525-3000 or orpheum-memphis.com/event/juneteenth

**June 10 • Forks and Corks - Fayette Cares**, De Terra Vineyard, Somerville. 901-465-3802, ext. 223, or fayettecares.org/forks-corks

**June 14 • Flag Day Ceremony**, Veterans’ Museum, Halls. 731-836-7400 or vetmuseumhalls@outlook.com

**June 17 • Third Annual Pets Rock Fest**, Jackson Fairgrounds Park. jacc@jacksontn.gov or facebook.com/jacksonanimalcarecenter

**June 22-July 2 • “Frozen,”** Orpheum Theatre, Memphis. 901-525-3000 or orpheum-memphis.com/event/disneys-frozen

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**Middle Tennessee**

**June 2-3 • Gardens of Columbia Tour**, President James K. Polk Home and Museum, Columbia. 931-505-8019 or jameskpolk.com

**June 2-Oct. 6 (First Fridays of the month) • First Friday Night Market**, downtown Springfield. 615-708-8657 or historicspfielddec.com

**June 3 • Annual Bluegrass Festival**, historic Coke Ovens Park Amphitheater, Dunlap. 423-949-2156 or cokeovens.com/festival

**June 3 • Barrel Festival**, Coopertown. 615-382-4470 or coopertowntn.org/barrelfest

**June 10 • The Black Barn Summer Market and Craft Sale**, Events at East 96, Lascassas. facebook.com/eventsatEast96

**June 10 • The Big Hill Challenge**, Watertown. bighillchallenge.com

**June 11 • Sunday Mornin’ Country**, Grand Ole Opry House, Nashville. 615-593-8084 or musiccitychristianfellowship.org
List your events in The Tennessee Magazine

The Tennessee Magazine publishes event listings as space allows, giving preference to events of regional or statewide interest and those that are annual or one-time happenings. The magazine does not publish recurring events such as those held weekly.

The magazine assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of information submitted for publication and advises calling or emailing ahead to confirm dates, locations, times and possible admission fees.

To be included in the calendar, visit our website, tnmagazine.org, and fill out the submission form. You can also email listings to events@tnelectric.org or send them to Tennessee Events, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224.

Please include the name of the event, where it will be held (both town and physical location), a phone number readers can call for more information and an email or website address, if applicable, where readers can learn more.

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 magazine, we cannot guarantee publication.

Find a complete listing of submissions we’ve received at tnmagazine.org/events.

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**East Tennessee**

**June 17 • Fifth Annual Blueberry Bash**, Highland Realm Blueberry Farm, Hampshire. 931-628-4459 or facebook.com/highlandrealm

**June 17 • Third Annual Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show**, old Franklin County High School football field, Winchester. 931-691-4604

**June 17 • 25th Anniversary Cruize’n and Music Show**, Miller’s Pond, Manchester. 931-723-3448 or fefe4u2000@yahoo.com

**June 24 • Comedy Fest**, the Caverns, Pelham. 931-516-9724 or thecaverns.com

**June 24 • Viola Valley Stars and Stripes Festival**, Viola Sports Park. 931-952-3775

**June 23-24 • 42nd Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee Show**, Knoxville Expo Center. 865-213-2335 or smokymtnquilters.com

**June 23-24 • Craft and Vendors Event**, Surgoinsville Riverfront Park. 423-327-8026 or moorevendorevents0421@gmail.com

**June 30 • Avery County Heritage Festival**, Newland, NC. 828-733-7111 or averymuseum@gmail.com

**July 1 • Red, White and Boom**, historic Tellico Plains town square. 423-253-6530 or 615-347-0086

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June 3 • Scythian, Blue Ridge Music Center, Galax, VA. 866-308-2773 or blueridgemusiccenter.org

June 9-10 • Second Annual Negro League Appreciation Weekend | Lookouts vs. Barons, AT&T Field, Chattanooga. 423-267-2208 or milb.com/chattanooga/tickets/single-game-tickets

June 16-17 • American Truck Historical Society Music City Chapter Truck Show, Cumberland County Community Complex, Crossville. 931-200-0968 or 615-419-0461

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June 3 • Whiskey Run, UpCountry Brewing, Brevard, NC. thewhiskeyrun.com/brevard

June 30-July 1 • Smithville Fiddlers’ Jamboree and Crafts Festival, downtown Smithville. 615-597-8500 or smithvillejamboree.com
COMMUNITY CORNER

Find the Tennessee flag

We have hidden somewhere in this magazine the icon from the Tennessee flag like the one pictured here. It could be larger or smaller than this, and it could be in black and white or any color. If you find it, send us a postcard or email us with the page number where it’s located. Include your name, address, phone number and electric cooperative. One entry per person. Three winners will be chosen from a random drawing, and each will receive $20.

Note that the icon we hide will not be on an actual flag or historical marker, will not appear on pages 20-26 and will not be placed in any ads. This month’s flag will not appear on this page (that would just be too easy). Good luck!

Send postcards only (no phone calls, please) to: The Tennessee Magazine, Find the Flag, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224. Or you can fill out the form at tnmagazine.org or email flag@tnelectric.org. Entries must be postmarked or received via email by Friday, June 30. Winners will be published in the August issue of The Tennessee Magazine.

April Flag Spotters

Thanks for the postcards and emails again this month identifying the correct location of the flag, which was found on the wall on page 10.

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

Connie Frazier, Drummonds, Southwest Tenn. EMC
Lovie Dulworth, Celina, Tri-County EMC
Devin Pate, Lancing, Plateau EC

Artist’s Palette

Assignment for June

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. Please follow these size guidelines. Oversized canvas entries and framed pieces are especially difficult to handle and cannot be returned.

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, June 30.

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 (SASE) with your submission. Only U.S. Postal Service will be used for returns. For best reproduction results, do not fold artwork.

Each entry needs its own SASE, please. Siblings must enter separately with their own envelopes.

Attention, teachers: You may send multiple entries in one envelope along with one SASE with sufficient postage.

Winners will be published in the August issue of The Tennessee Magazine. First place wins $50, second place wins $30 and third place wins $20. Winners are eligible to enter again after three months. Winners will receive their checks, artwork and certificates of placement within six to eight weeks of publication.
**WINNERS, 15-18 AGE GROUP:** First place: Abby Salvatore, age 15, Meriwether Lewis EC; Second place: Layla Williams, age 15; Third place: Lillian Arnold, age 16, Upper Cumberland EMC

**WINNERS, 10-14 AGE GROUP:** First place: Esther Snyder, age 14, Volunteer EC; Second place: Brooke Robinson, age 14, Middle Tennessee Electric; Third place: Dani Norman, age 13, Volunteer EC

**WINNERS, 1-9 AGE GROUP:** First place: Reid Budge, age 9, Middle Tennessee Electric; Second place: Jerrick Eakles, age 9, Tri-County Electric; Third place: Alexander Hilton, age 4, Middle Tennessee Electric
Glacier National Park in Montana is a haven for nature lovers, tourists and photographers alike and a bucket list item for me. Sadly, some of the namesake glaciers in the park have receded an estimated 80% since the 1880s, according to the National Park Service. Some will disappear in my lifetime. Seeing the glaciers was definitely part of the draw for me to visit this park, but the ecology of the region and its rivers also quickly won me over.

Wading in the Flathead River in June is an exhilarating experience, to say the least. With incredible vistas all around, the river flows clear and cold! Its sources include melting snowpack as well as numerous springs and tributaries. The water temperature can vary quite a bit this time of year, but it is generally about 50 degrees.

The color in the rocks attracted me, and finding just the right combination of dappled sunlight and oddly shaped glacial rocks tempted me into the river. Staying close to the edge and out of swifter moving water, I took my camera in hand and began to photograph the patterns created as the late afternoon sunlight filtered through the river’s surface as the water flowed over the rocks.

Finding an interesting composition was a challenge, but I used a basic photographer’s trick. I knew I was reacting to the colors because I had not seen rocks quite like these before, so I took extra time to scan each edge of my viewfinder — from corner to corner — to make sure I included everything I wanted and excluded from the shot anything that was distracting.

The next time you have your camera or smartphone out, try this technique by beginning with the upper left corner and moving your eye clockwise to the upper right, lower right, lower left and then back up to the upper left. With lots of practice, this technique will become second nature. It will improve your compositions as you make quick decisions through the viewfinder to eliminate distractions and include interesting elements.

Once I settled upon this composition, I chose a shutter speed that would be fast enough to capture the sunlight patterns cast on each rock. The crystal-clear water and low angle of the sunlight emphasized the fascinating colors and textures.

Doing a little research in the park’s visitor center, I learned that these rocks form naturally over time and could have traveled down from the glaciers that once covered the upper elevations of the park centuries ago. The stones are largely composed of sandstone, shale and limestone. The rich colors are derived from various minerals and sediment present as the rocks were formed from glacial movement, erosion and weathering.

I stayed in the river as long as I could, finding new color combinations and compositions. In truth, I was only in the water about 15 minutes before the cold ran me out. Luckily, the light was also fading, so I didn’t regret the session being cut short.
For many patients with macular degeneration and other vision-related conditions, the loss of central visual detail also signals the end to one of the last bastions of independence: driving. A Lebanon optometrist, Dr. John Pino, is using miniaturized telescopes that are mounted in glasses to help people who have lost vision from macular degeneration and other eye conditions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.lowvisiontn.com

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

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