



The Upper Cumberland Shopper Inc.

**FREE
TAKE ONE**

"The Upper Cumberland's Marketplace since 1995"

May 8 - 21, 2026 • Vol. 32, No. 9

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the father will give you" John 15:16 (NIV)

Get The Space YOU NEED

RENT
TO OWN
AVAILABLE

Get A Container

See Our
Google Reviews



Questions to Ask BEFORE YOU BUY

- Is the dealer a registered Tennessee business? - **YES, WE ARE**
- Do they collect the sales tax and send it to the state monthly? - **YES, WE DO**
- How long have they been in business? - **YES, WE have been in business 10 YEARS**
- Do they operate legally on the highways and roadways? - **YES, WE DO**
- Do they have a long list of local references from satisfied customers? - **YES, WE DO**
- Do they use local people in their business? - **YES, WE DO**
- Does your purchase money stay in the local economy - **YES, OURS DOES**

We Check ALL THE BOXES

We are local, trustworthy, dependable, and have a proven outstanding track record for over 10 years!

ASK YOURSELF: Is it worth it to take a gamble on a container business that is not well established, not local, and is a business that cuts corners on important issues?

jeff@containit.info

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Serving All of Tennessee, Kentucky and Indiana

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Starting At \$8,899

Fleet Discounts Up To
20% Available.



Residential Zero
Turns Starting At
\$3,399

Tractors Starting
At \$2,499



Husqvarna

MOYER'S REPAIR

2 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

3757 Blackburn Min. Rd. - Sparta, TN- 931-738-9108

924 Miller Lane - Smithville, TN - 615-597-9166

• Financing Available, W.A.C. see dealer for details.



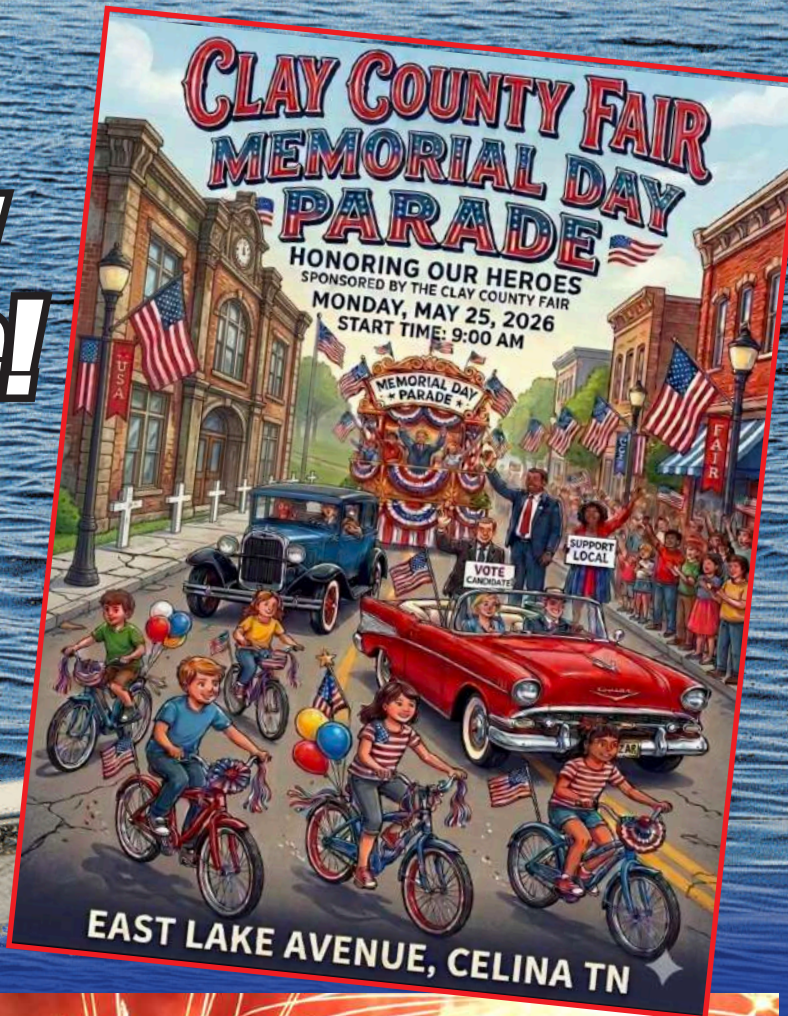
Spend Memorial Day Weekend Here!



2026

Congratulations

to all the graduating Clay County High School Seniors, from the Chamber of Commerce



CLAY COUNTY FAIR

May 26 - 30, 2026

The Clay County Fair is coming! Fairgrounds opening Tuesday May 26, 2026.



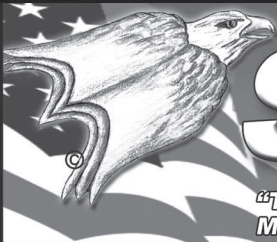
Come out and have some fun in 2026!



424 Brown St., Celina TN 38551

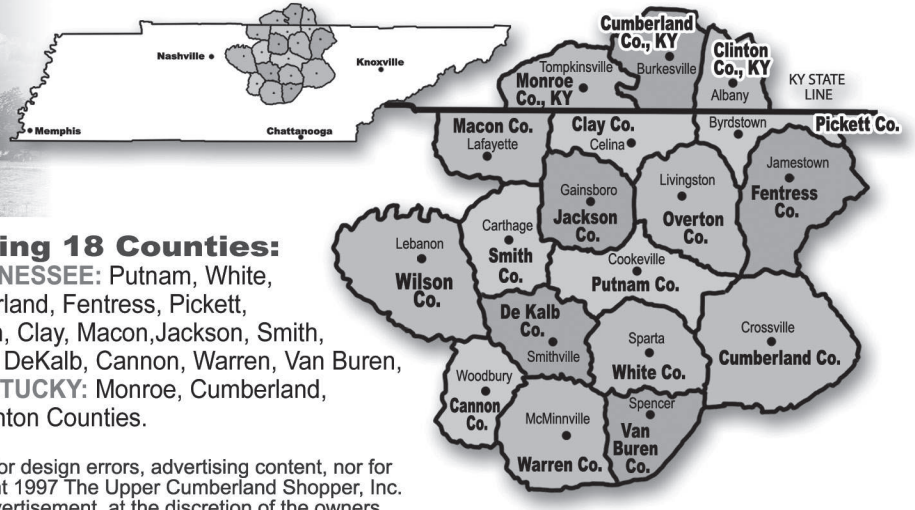
dalehollowtennessee.com

931-243-3338



The Upper Cumberland Shopper Inc.

"The Upper Cumberland's Marketplace since 1995"



Advertising Information Can Be Obtained By:

Phone: 931-372-9978 • **E-Mail:** theucshopper@gmail.com
Mail: 3900 Clouse Drive, Cookeville, TN 38506
Classified Ads: Form inside back cover of each issue

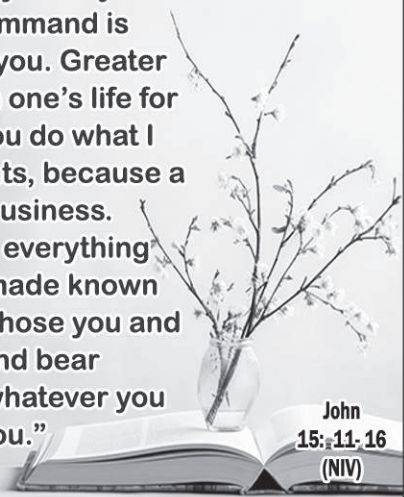
Serving 18 Counties:
IN TENNESSEE: Putnam, White, Cumberland, Fentress, Pickett, Overton, Clay, Macon, Jackson, Smith, Wilson, DeKalb, Cannon, Warren, Van Buren,
IN KENTUCKY: Monroe, Cumberland, and Clinton Counties.

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The Breath of Life

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

John 15: 11-16 (NIV)



Community Events Calendar



EMAIL: THEUCSHOPPER@GMAIL.COM FOR A FREE LISTING OF YOUR EVENT!

ONGOING: Heart of the Cumberland hosts **support groups** for those who have lost a love one. Visit our website at: heartofthecumberland.org

8 am. Contact Hope Adoption Agency for more information about this event at 931-252-7159.

Location: Heavenly Host Lutheran Church, 777 S. Willow Ave., Cookeville, TN.

Community Bingo: Play Bingo from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Tuesday at 270 Carlen Dr., Cookeville. A \$5 entry fee gets you lunch and a bingo card.

May 9 Cookeville Museums' History Hike

Location: Between the Cookeville Depot Museum and the Cookeville History Museum. The 2nd Saturday of each month. **Time:** 10:30 am - 2:30 pm. Find the answers to trivia questions along Broad St. return your form to be included in the prize drawing! FREE family fun from your City of Cookeville Dept. of Leisure Services.

Time: Seminar runs from 8 - 8:45 am, claims assistance runs from 9 am - 4 pm. All veterans and family members are welcome to attend you don't need to be a member of the DAV. Contact DAV Chapter Commander Tim Werre at 608-408-0844 for info.

Free Food Giveaway for Veterans every Sat. from 5:00 am until it's all gone. At Uncle Pete's Restaurant. 1210 Sparta Pike, Lebanon, TN.

May 12 Parkinson's Support Group Meeting

Location: Caney Fork Baptist Church, 2404 Hwy 70E, Cookeville, TN **Time:** 10 am. Speaker will be Dr. Taylor K Peabody, a movement disorder specialist from the Cole Center at UT Knoxville. For more info call Laura at 931-319-0309.

May 25 - August Community Bank Concerts

Location: Dogwood Performance Pav., 43 N. Walnut Ave., Cookeville, TN. **Time:** 7:30 pm. FREE event

Beginning In June After Dark Movies in the Park

Location: Dogwood Perform. Pavilion, 43 N. Walnut Ave., Cookeville, TN. **Time:** Movies begin at dusk. This summer outdoor movie series brings family friendly features to the park!

(931) 268-1634

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161 Wade Subdivision Lane • Gainesboro, TN
 (just off Hwy. 56, behind K & K)
931-268-1634

The Shopper Calendar Alert:
 Sunday, May 10th



When You're Done With Me, Don't Throw Me Away!

Turn Me Into Something **NEW**

We ALL Need to Recycle:
 Paper, Plastic, Cardboard,
 Paper Board, Metals & MORE



CONTACT INFO TO PLACE YOUR EVENT CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE ~3~ IN THE INFORMATION HEADING. ADS WILL BE EDITED FOR SPACE CONSIDERATIONS.

ABSOLUTE REAL ESTATE AUCTION



83 Nixon Lane Watertown, TN 37184

ABSOLUTE ON SITE AUCTION! Saturday May 16, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

18.58 acres selling in one tract with road frontage on Nixon Lane and Linwood Rd. Existing single wide trailer and outbuildings, with level to rolling terrain, beautiful views, treed and open field areas. Two large ponds, majestic seasoned hardwood trees and wildlife everywhere! New survey, city water and existing septic system for 3 bedrooms. This auction is one you won't want to miss if you are looking for your own home away from home, hunting camp or place to build a new home. Conveniently located just 10 minutes from Interstate I-40!

PREVIEW AT YOUR CONVENIENCE

Real Estate General Terms: No Buyer's Premium. A 10% non-refundable deposit of the total contract price & signing of Auction Purchase Contract immediately following the close of the auction will be required. A valid drivers license is required to register to bid. Property is being sold "AS-IS" "WHERE IS". All Information Is Believed To Be Correct, But Not Warranted Or Guaranteed. Day of Sale Terms and Conditions will take precedence over all oral statements, written and printed material. Closing will be on or before June 19, 2026. Subject only to Wilson Co. Court Approval.

Seller: Andrew Parker, Representative for Andrew McIntyre Estate

For more info and photos visit **MikeWalkerAuctions.com**



615-308-9009
Mike Walker CAI
 Principal Auctioneer #2361



27TH ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY

May 23rd • 9am-5pm

America 250: "Stories That Built Us, Dreams That Move Us"



ADMISSION \$7
 UNDER 6 FREE — PARKING \$5
 Includes tours of all Museums,
 Historic Home and Village.

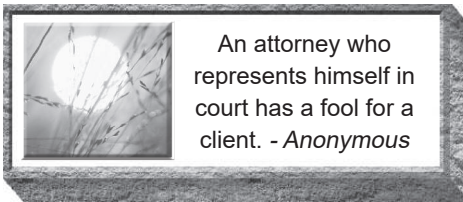
Featuring:
 Antique Car & Tractor Show
 Uncle Jimmy Thompson Old Time Fiddler's
 National Championship

Also Featuring:
 "Home Runs & Home Team"
 Baseball Exhibit

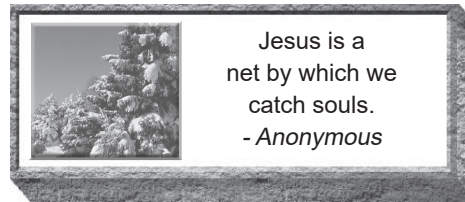
Independence Hall
 250 Years of American History
 Borrowed Mules Bluegrass Band
 Evermean Evergreen Cloggers
 Pioneer Village Craft Demonstrations
 Magician, Ventriloquist
 Great Food, Music, Family Fun



www.granvilletn.com • for more info call 931-653-4151 or 931-653-4544



An attorney who represents himself in court has a fool for a client. - Anonymous



Jesus is a net by which we catch souls. - Anonymous

ABSOLUTE REAL ESTATE AUCTION

315 Davis Corner Rd. Mt. Juliet, TN 37122



Old Hickory LAKE VIEW!

½ Mile to Boat Ramp!



SATURDAY MAY 30TH, 2026 10:00 a.m. On Site

315 Davis Corner, Mt. Juliet, TN. This property includes a 1957 stick built, 1800 sq. ft. home with three bedrooms and three full bathrooms, central heat and air, .33 acre with storage building. Located ½ mile from the Lone Branch Access and The Cedar Creek Yacht Club on Old Hickory Lake. The properties main attribute is LOCATION! The home will need renovation and your personal touch, but this is a great opportunity to be close to the lake, shopping, schools, restaurants and ½ hour to downtown Nashville.

OPEN HOUSE Thursday May 28 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

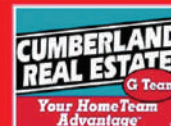
Real Estate General Terms: 5% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid price to determine the contract price. A 10% non-refundable deposit of the total contract price and signing of the Auction Purchase Contract immediately following the close of the auction will be required. A valid drivers license is required to register to bid. Property is being sold "AS-IS WHERE-IS". All information is believed to be correct, but not warranted or guaranteed. Day of Sale Terms and Conditions will take precedence over all oral statements, written and printed material. Close of Escrow will be on or before June 30, 2026. Seller: Wendy Hudson, Executrix of the Estate of Linda J. Smith



MikeWalkerAuctions.com

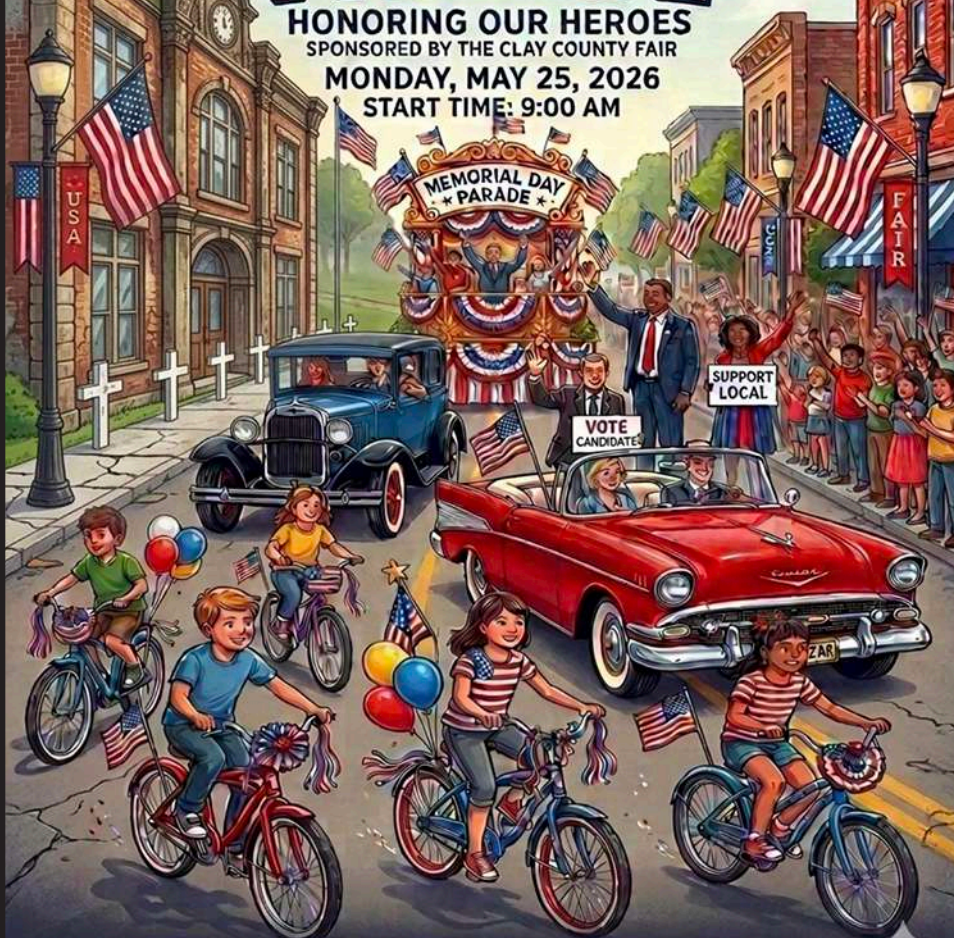
Mike Walker #2361
 615-308-9009

Referring Agent Dwayne Rogers

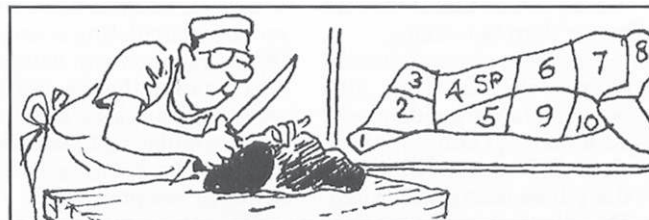


CLAY COUNTY FAIR MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

HONORING OUR HEROES
 SPONSORED BY THE CLAY COUNTY FAIR
MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026
START TIME: 9:00 AM



EAST LAKE AVENUE, CELINA TN



There are nine basic cuts of beef: round, sirloin, short loin, rib, chuck, fore shank, brisket, short plate and flank.



Auction

Saturday, May 16, 2026 at 10 a.m.

1124 Dale Ridge Road, Dowelltown, TN

4 Beds, 3 Baths, 3,200 Sq. Ft. on 2 Acres near Center Hill Lake

Newly Constructed Home with Two Separate Living Spaces — Ideal for Multi-Generational Living, Rental Income, or a Private Guest Suite

This property offers a rare setup with two complete and independent living spaces, each designed with modern finishes and practical flexibility. The main level features an open living and kitchen area with custom tilework, polished concrete floors with radiant heat, two bedrooms, two full bathrooms, a walk-in pantry, private deck, and in-unit laundry.

The upper level provides a second full living space with two additional bedrooms, one bathroom, an oversized living room, walk-in pantry, laundry, and a large deck with gorgeous valley views. Both levels include modern fixtures, foam insulation and a tankless water heater. A heated and cooled garage space adds year-round comfort and practical use.

Located just 2 miles from the Indian Creek Boat Ramp on Center Hill Lake—one of the state's most popular recreation spots—this property offers modern design, flexible living options, and a scenic setting with excellent potential for space, versatility, or income.



Real Estate Sale Day Terms: 20% nonrefundable deposit day of sale. Balance due in full day of closing.



SCAN for more information, photos and directions.



Announcements made the day of the sale take precedence over all printed material and advertising.

See more photos and info at www.closeandpaschalauction.com.

CLOSE & PASCHAL Auction & Realty



Ron Paschal Owner /Auctioneer
615-574-0931

Principal Auctioneer License # 2249

David Close Affiliate Broker

Joel Moore Affiliate Broker

Robert Smith Auctioneer

David Funk Managing Broker

George Taylor Auctioneer

8600 Nashville Hwy
Dowelltown, TN 37059
615-536-6333

www.cpauctionandrealty.com
www.facebook.com/closepaschalauctionrealty

FL # 5856

NON-QUALIFYING TERMS

32 PRESTON HOLLOW LANE • HICKMAN, TENNESSEE

ABSOLUTE AUCTION

HOUSE & ACREAGE

ON-SITE AUCTION

97.25 ACRES / 3 TRACTS • 1076 FT. ROAD FRONTAGE
OPEN & WOODED • 1½ STORY FARM HOUSE • DETACHED GARAGE
UTILITY WATER • MASSEY FERGUSON TRACTOR • TOYOTA CAMRY
CJ JEEP • POP-UP CAMPER • SUZUKI STREET BIKE
FARM EQUIPMENT • TOOLS • KOBALT TOOL CHEST • GO-CART • GUN SAFE • OIL LAMPS
TIN DOOR PIE SAFE AND MORE....
MR. CHRIS AMACHER ESTATE

NICE SECLUDED LOCATION

SAT., MAY 16 9:00 A.M.

LOCATION: 32 PRESTON HOLLOW LANE
HICKMAN, TN 38567

DIRECTIONS FROM I-40 @ GORDONSVILLE: Travel Hwy. 53 (Gordonsville Hwy.) going thru 4-way stop to remain on Hwy. 264 (Hickman Hwy.) crossing RR tracks, left onto Hickman Creek Road S, right onto Preston Hollow Lane to property and sale site.

TRACT #1: 1.84 acres fronting Preston Hollow Lane 422 ft. This tract improved with a 1½ story farm house and detached garage. This tract has a small creek and offers a lot of seclusion and privacy.

TRACT #2: 5.76 acres fronting Preston Hollow Lane 525 ft.

TRACT #3: 89.65 acres fronting Preston Hollow Lane 129 ft.

TRACTOR • CAR • CAMPER • MOTORCYCLES:

- Massey Ferguson 240 Tractor 4 WD w/loader and 2-post canopy
- Jeep CJ, 4x4
- 2016 Toyota Camry SE 4 dr., black
- 2011 Coachman Clipper pop-up camper
- Suzuki Boulevard Street Bike
- Yamaha Dirt Bike
- Bushhog, grader blade, cone seeder,

SELLER: Chris Amacher Estate
TERMS: Real Estate - 10% down day of sale and balance with the deed or Macon Bank & Trust if offering non-qualifying terms by paying a total of 20% down and financing the remaining 80% payable monthly @ 9% (locked for 56 months) and amortized up to a 10 to 15 year repayment plan depending on the amount of your purchase. Questions on bank terms, call Macon Bank & Trust @ 615-666-2121.
AUCTION AGENT: Ben Bray 615-666-2232.

Information in this ad is believed to be correct but not warranted. Any announcement made day of sale takes precedence over all other advertising.

Better Homes and Gardens REAL ESTATE

BEN BRAY & ASSOCIATES

PRIVATE SALES AND AUCTIONS

672 Hwy. 52 By-Pass W. • Lafayette, TN 37083 • (615) 666-2232
125 E. Prince St., Suite 102 • Gallatin, TN 37066 • (615) 899-6089

BEN BRAY, AUCTIONEER - Lic. #4817, Broker Lic. #262922
Auction Firm Lic. #194 • Real Estate Lic. #250140
Ky. Lic. #7189 • Ky. Real Estate Lic. #24023

www.benbrayrealestate.com

AGENTS

Joe Barber	615-888-7099	Nick Hill	615-388-1186
Tim Johns	615-655-2761	Jennifer Sullivan	615-476-2062
Penny Kirby	615-388-0441	Danielle Eldridge	615-489-7865
David Painter	615-888-6786	Whitney Shrum	615-489-6821
Stacey Brawner	615-388-5595	Kyle Woodard	615-388-7715
Necia Borders	615-633-8906	Jennifer West	615-830-4956
Devon Bray	615-476-9232	A. J. Holiday	615-578-0465
Nicole Miller	937-750-2161	Danya Cox	615-655-4196
Katie Jones	270-618-1617	Karen Burrow	615-948-5973
Katie Blankenship	615-388-3224	Stephanie Gray	615-651-9471
Annette Morgan	615-633-6298	Devin Shrum	615-670-3522
Cameron Roberts	615-388-5576	Blaine Higgins	615-561-8567
Nicole Carver	615-655-3621	Greg Russell	615-655-4368
Jared Sullivan	615-670-7097	Trevor Swindle	615-670-4724
Kelsey Goolsby	270-427-9555	Bryce Nichols	615-670-8525
Landon Colter	615-633-5378	Jerry Henderson	615-388-6279

A ton of religion doesn't equal an ounce of salvation.
- Anonymous

God promises a safe landing, not calm passage.
- Anonymous

TURN YOUR EXTRA STUFF INTO EXTRA CASH

\$4 for 4 weeks coverage

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The Shopper

Classified Form is inside the back cover

Ph. 931-372-9978 • theucshopper@gmail.com

Large Circulation - 14,000 Copies
AFFORDABLE RATES!

ANIMALS

Come meet some great Forever Friends that need Homes at the Putnam Co. Animal Shelter located at: 2600 Gainesboro Grade, Cookeville, TN Call 931-526-364 for hours and make sure to bring pet id# with you. **Gordi:** male, Black & White Domestic Shorthair cat, 4 yrs old. **Grisi:** Female, White/Brown Brindle Pit Bull Terrier & Mtn Cur Mix, 2 yrs old dog. **Cosmo:** Male, Australian Shepherd Mix, 13 weeks old dog. **Phish:** Female, Brown Tabby, 2 yr old cat. Make room for a sweet companion!

To Give Away: FREE Golden Retriever Puppies to Forever Homes due to relocating: 1 Male, 1 Female. Preferably email me first at: stephaniechristensen59@gmail.com before text 352-533-2411.

Macon Spay Neuter Assistance. We offer Affordable High-Quality Spay & Neuter Services with Bi-Monthly Transports. **Greatly reduced rates.** Call 615-670-0448 for appointment. www.ms-na.org. Non-Profit 501(c)(3). Macon County.

Spaying and neutering can prevent thousands of unwanted pets, with one unspayed female cat and her offspring potentially producing over 400,000 kittens in seven years. A single unspayed female dog and her offspring can create 67,000 puppies in six years!

CARS

1969 Ford 351ci Windsor V8 engine. 290hp, fresh. **1968 Ford FE 428ci V8,** fresh. Too much to list, both are professionally built. Call 931-349-2616 - Cookeville, TN.

1961 Ford 390: V8 intake manifold with 2 barrel carburetors with linkage & fuel log complete. Call 931-349-2616.

1997-2000 Chevy Venture 3.4L, catalytic converters for sale, brand new. Crossville area - \$300 OBO. Call 931-201-3465.

1952 Chevrolet Panel Van: Everything complete, needs some work - \$18,000. Call 423-505-6734

2008 Chevrolet 3500 Cargo Van. Jasper crate engine, Onan generator, good condition. \$10,000 OBO. 423-505-6734.

Find it all in The Shopper!

2011 Ford Flex. Extra clean. New engine, transmission, brakes, shocks, struts. Tip top shape. \$18,000. Call 931-349-2616.

2001 Chrysler Sebring LX Convertible. Raymond Johnson Call 931-265-6258.

EMPLOYMENT

Now Hiring: Layout Person for Stone Monuments. Experience would be helpful, but will train. Cookeville, TN. Call 931-261-7769.

Class A CDL Drivers Wanted: \$800 to 1,200 per week. Home at least 2 days a week. Please call Gary at 615-260-6854.

Now Seeking Self Motivated, apprentice/helper for professional plumbing company. Call 931-271-0216.

Need a job? Check out: Jobs4TN.gov

FARMING

Duck eggs - \$4/dzn. Farm pick up. Cookeville. Call 931-252-0176.

6' Pull Type Disc. Good cond. \$300. 615-642-6191.

John Deere 660 Hay Rake. Five bar, field ready - \$1,900. Call 615-708-9276.

No Future Without Farmers!

Mixed Grass Square Hay Bales. \$5 per bale. 931-337-1000 no texts.

1956 John Deere 420 Tractor. In good shape, 3 point hitch. 931-265-6258.

Tractor Pull Bog. Ready to pull behind a tractor. \$650. 931-265-6258.

ANIMALS

1964 Cadillac Sedan DeVille. 6 windows, 500ci V8 engine, 200R GM transmission. Needs paint and new upholstery. \$2,500. Call 931-349-2616.

FARMING

1964 Cadillac Sedan DeVille. 6 windows, 500ci V8 engine, 200R GM transmission. Needs paint and new upholstery. \$2,500. Call 931-349-2616.

Czar Peter the Great of Russia put a tax on men's beards and a clerk at the gate of every town to collect it.



152+ / Acres Offered in 8 Tracts

**PRIME
TIMBER**

**Gentry Rd./Bakerton Rd.
Red Boiling Springs, TN 37150**

ONLINE ONLY ABSOLUTE AUCTION



BIDDING ENDS THURSDAY • MAY 14 • 10 AM

More Images, Drone Video, Timber Cruise, Aerial & Bidding @ EAGLEAUCTIONS.COM

This diverse ±152-acre property offers a unique opportunity for agricultural, recreational, or investment use. The land will be divided into 8 tracts and features an even mix of open farmland and mature timber, providing both productive ground and natural cover. The wooded acreage includes quality, mature timber and supports strong wildlife presence, making it well-suited for hunting and outdoor recreation. Tract 6 includes a basic hunting cabin that provides a simple shelter for weekend stays or seasonal use. Tracts 7 and 8 include ponds that are best suited for agricultural purposes, such as watering livestock or supporting farm operations. With a combination of tillable land, timber, and functional improvements, this property offers flexibility for farming, recreation, or a private rural getaway.



Terms: 10% Buyer's Premium, 20% Deposit at conclusion of sale, with balance due in 30 days. Current Year's Taxes Pro-Rated. Possession with Deed. All Property selling "As Is, Where Is" both surface and subsurface with no warranties. Bidders should complete their own due diligence prior to the sale. Announcements & Updates Take Precedence Over All Other Advertising.

HOME + BARN + 2.27+/- ACRES

ONLINE ONLY ABSOLUTE AUCTION

BIDDING ENDS THURSDAY • MAY 14 • 12 NOON

OPEN HOUSE: THURSDAY • APRIL 30 • 4-6 PM



**1282 Speck Rd.
Albany, KY 42602**



**For More Images, Survey Plat, & Bidding Visit
EAGLEAUCTIONS.COM**

The Newell Fred Lowhorn Estate

A timeless bedford stone home offering 3 bedrooms and 1 bathroom with approximately 1540 sq. ft of living area plus a walk out basement. This well kept home has a large living room, den with a fireplace and an attached covered carport. Additionally, a large barn is located on the property with a partial concrete floor and the acreage is all open and fenced making it suitable for a small hobby farm. From the back patio area you can enjoy the serenity of a rural setting. This desirable property is less than 5 miles from Wolf River Dock on Dale Hollow Lake.



**Nathan Groce • Agent/Auctioneer • (606) 688-1925
Lee J. Amonett • Boker/Auctioneer • (931)252-1907**

Terms: 10% Buyer's Premium, 20% Deposit at conclusion of sale, with balance due in 30 days. Current Year's Taxes Pro-Rated. Possession with Deed. Home built prior to 1978, buyer to sign a 10 day waiver on inspection for lead based paint. All Property selling "As Is, Where Is" both surface and subsurface with no warranties. Bidders should complete their own due diligence prior to the sale. Announcements & Updates Take Precedence Over All Other Advertising.

AUCTION

SATURDAY • MAY 16th @ 10AM

1247 Myrtle Rd. Bradyville, TN 37026



3 bedroom, 2 bath Mobile Home on 7.4+/- Acres



Detached building - Front and rear carports.

Estate of Carolyn Butcher - 100 years of ownership

Selling at public auction is a 3 bedroom 2 bath mobile home situated on 7.4+/- beautiful acres in the desirable Bradyville community. This property features: 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, new HVAC unit, newly dug well, year-round spring, spacious kitchen with oak cabinets and island, wraparound side and back porch, covered front porch, washer and dryer, front and rear carports, and a utility building.

Terms: \$10,000 down day of sale, balance due on or before 30 days. 2026 property taxes to be prorated. Possession with deed at closing. A 10% buyers' premium will be added to the final bid to determine the final contract price.

Donald Hillis Realty & Auction Company - 101 Morrison Street, McMinnville, TN 37110 931-473-7774 - Firm# 7794, Principal Auctioneer# 2332



(931) 473-7774
Firm Lic. #2273

Connor Williams • Aff. Broker and Auctioneer • Cell 931.259.2888
Donald Hillis, Broker • Auctioneer • Cell 931.808.7774

www.donaldhillisrealty.com • www.auctionzip.com

The clouds can help you predict rain

This is one of the coolest rain facts: The shape and size of clouds can help predict the weather. Generally speaking, if you spot a cumulonimbus cloud (a tall, puffy cloud that looks flat at the top and is shaped like an anvil) or a nimbostratus cloud (a flat low-level gray cloud with a somewhat ragged base), you can be fairly certain that rain is in the 24-hour forecast. These clouds, which float between 1,100 to 6,500 feet and 2,000 to 10,000 feet respectively, are full of moisture content—comprising water droplets and some ice crystals at the top ends, where temperature is the lowest.

On the other hand, if you were to notice a bright white, wispy type of cloud that looks like tufts of hair, tuck your rain boots away because you're looking at a Cirrus cloud. These sit quite high in the sky, at about 20,000 to 40,000 feet, and are made ntirely of ice crystals (due to the cold temperature where they hang) and do not indicate precipitation. Although highly unlikely, if these ever do rain, they do not make the ground wet.



SALVATION PATHWAYS

BUILD YOUR LIFE ON A FIRM Foundation



Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.
- Psalm 127: 1

★ THANK YOU FOR
★ SERVING
★ OUR COUNTRY

ARMED FORCES DAY ★ ★ ★

• AHF PRODUCTS •
CROSSVILLE TILE OUTLET
Manufacturer's Quality Seconds

		First Grade & Quality Factory Seconds
Great Selection at BIG SAVINGS		

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ELEVATE YOUR SPACE®

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(I-40, EXIT 320)

All About Lawns

by Lisa Luck



May is a great time of the year to redesign your yard to create a natural habitat that can be enjoyed by all. The ideal yard is one that sustains and supports lots of life including insects, rabbits, birds and many others that depend on foraging. So many communities expect – and sometimes even require – homes to surround themselves with lawns. Lawns stretch from one side of the yard to the next and encircle the house. A lawn is a monocrop -- just grass -- that may look beautiful to some but doesn't contribute to the wildlife like other plants do. A good-looking lawn requires a lot of chemicals to maintain.

Lawn maintenance requires chemicals in the form of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. Each time it rains, chemicals soak down into the soil killing beneficial worms and bugs. Chemical-laden rainwater kills small water animals in creeks and streams. Lawns must be mowed regularly to keep weeds from seeding themselves and growing within the lawn. Mowing a lawn regularly requires energy of some sort in the form of fossil fuel or electric mowers. During mowing, gas or oil can drip onto lawns and run off into waterways along with watering or rainwater. Lawns also require irrigation. Precious freshwater is used to water a crop that does not provide any benefit to our pollinators. Approximately 50% of the annual freshwater used is for irrigation. It is estimated that three trillion gallons of water is used annually to maintain lawns in the U.S. According to Bee City USA, 20 million acres of land is covered in lawns in the U.S.

Historically, grass has been used as a ground cover around houses since the 1700s, beginning in France and England. Only the rich were able to have lawns due to the amount of care they required. Less wealthy people did not have the land, the livestock to eat down the grass to keep it short, or the manpower to maintain them. Over a period of 100 years, lawns became a trend in the U.S. Interest in golf initiated research about lawns and grasses in the early 1900s. By the late 1940s, rotary powered lawn mowers were marketed, increasing the number of households that replaced gardens with lawns. Also contributing to the increase in lawns was the adoption of the 40-hour workweek which freed up workers to spend time in their yards. Over time, lawns have become the rule rather than just an exception. Popularity has grown despite the resources required to maintain a lawn.

For the health of the environment, replace lawns with native perennial plants that are easier to maintain, tolerate the heat and require less water. Native plants thrive with minimal care and provide food for the pollinators such as bees and butterflies. Replace lawns with meadow and prairie grasses as they are more diverse and require less water. Prairie grasses provide food for the birds that overwinter. Environmentally friendly alternatives that look attractive but are less dependent on toxic chemicals are available.

Lisa Luck is a writer living in Cookeville, TN

AUCTION



2085 OLD JAMESTOWN HWY, CROSSVILLE, TN

SATURDAY, MAY 16TH 5:00PM

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Preview: Friday, May 15th - 10am to 4pm. Saturday - 11am until sale time.

Selling items from historical log cabin in Pleasant Hill Tn, plus other consignment.

Early butcher block, cylinder roll top desk with bookcase top, whiskey barrels, crock churn, primitive rockers, antique black powder rifle, Griswold skillet, dining room & bedroom furniture, blue & white Willow dishes, vintage walnut drop leaf table & 6 chairs, and MUCH MORE.

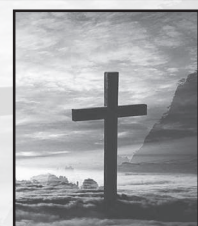
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Due to advertising deadlines, some items may be sold.
Announcements made day of sale take precedence over previously printed matter.

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.



1 Timothy 3: 12 - 17

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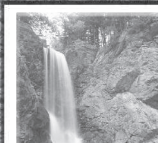
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He who angers you, controls you.
- Anonymous



Prayer: Don't give God instructions - just report for duty!
- Anonymous

AUCTION SATURDAY

May 30th @ 10AM

105 VICKERS DR. McMINNVILLE, TN

3 BEDROOM 2 BATH BRICK HOME IN TOWN
SELLING FOR JIMMY HUFF



(2) SEMIS, RV, SLINGSHOT, BOAT, MOTORCYCLE & MORE!



2013 FREIGHTLINER

2011 HARLEY SOFTAIL

1988 VOLVO



SPRINT 262 BASS BOAT

2016 POLARIS SLINGSHOT

2013 Freightliner Detroit Single Axle/Sleeper 800,176 mi., 1988 Volvo Detroit (miles unknown), 2011 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail 28242 mi. 96 cu. in., Sprint 262 bass boat with Force 90 II outboard motor, 2016 Polaris Slingshot SL 6346.1 mi., 2004 Mirada RV with Ford V10 37,000 mi. 2 Bed 1 Bath, 2 side boxes, (2) New Holland skid steer wheels, (4) 22.5 Alcoa wheels, (1) 24.5 Alcoa wheel, GE washer & dryer, swing set, other outdoor toys, Matchbox cars, (2) toy kitchen sets, pet playpen, lit ceramic Christmas village, (2) electric guitars w/amps, some furniture & more!!! ***Also selling for Mr. Randy Johnson a 2011 Nissan Sentra with 171K miles***

Auctioneer's Note: Mr. Jimmy Huff is selling this property and these items so that he can concentrate on assisting his wife with recent health challenges. These items and this property are selling absolute, so come prepared to bid and buy on auction day!

Directions: From the Hwy.70S & Hwy. 56 intersection in McMinnville head east on 70S .8 mi. Left onto Faulkner Springs Rd. .2 mi. Left onto Lagoon Dr. .1 mi. Right onto Vickers Dr. Auction site on the left.

Real Estate Terms: 10% BUYER'S PREMIUM. 10% will be added to final bid to determine contract price. 10% down day of sale. Balance due at closing within 30 days. Taxes to be prorated. Possession with deed. Personal Property Terms: 10% BUYER'S PREMIUM. Cash or check day of sale.

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He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.



Isaiah 53: 3 - 6

AUCTION SATURDAY

MAY 16TH AT 10 AM
 2730 SPENCER RD. ROCK ISLAND, TN
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- TRACT 2: 5.301± AC w/ Home, Shop, Equipment Shed, Grain bin, and older barns
- TRACT 3: 8.263± AC: All open ground with lots of potential.
- TRACT 4: 9.057± AC: Mostly open ground with a small grove of trees
- TRACT 5: 25.476± AC: Nice large acreage tract with access on Dee Lusk Rd. Plenty of homesites.

DIRECTIONS: From the Hwy. 70S/Hwy. 56 intersection in McMinnville head east on US-70S 4.8 mi. Slight right onto TN-30 E/Spencer Rd. Auction site on right in 2.7 mi.

TERMS: 10% BUYER'S PREMIUM. 10% Buyer's premium to be added to final bid to form the contract price. 10% down day of sale, balance due at closing within 30 days. Possession given with deed. 2026 Property taxes to be prorated.

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Zeal without knowledge is fire without light.
 - Thomas Fuller



If you want a place in the sun, you have to expect a few blisters.
 - Loretta Young



United Country
ONLINE REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Ball Hill Rd
 Baxter, TN 38544

PREVIEW DAY:
 5/30/26 • 3-6PM

AUCTION ENDS:
 6/6/26 AT 7PM



- 50.75 Acres Total
- 8 Separate Tracts
- Spring with Year-Round Creek on Property
- Creek Frontage Approximately 1,700 Feet
- Presently a Working Cattle Farm
- Barn and Silo on Property
- Approximately 1,500 Feet from Window Cliffs State Natural Area
- Great for Development or Cattle Farm



Bill Hallcomb – Broker / Auctioneer
 TN License #5288

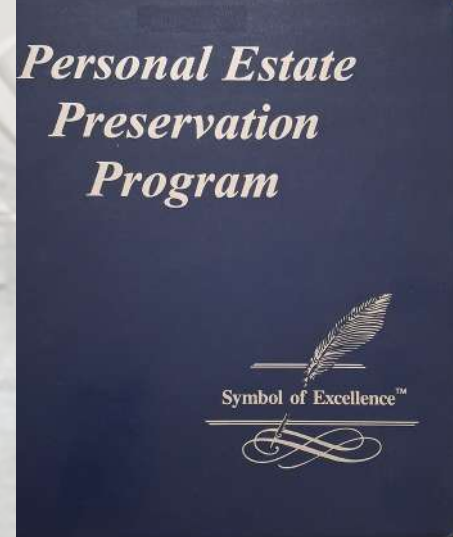
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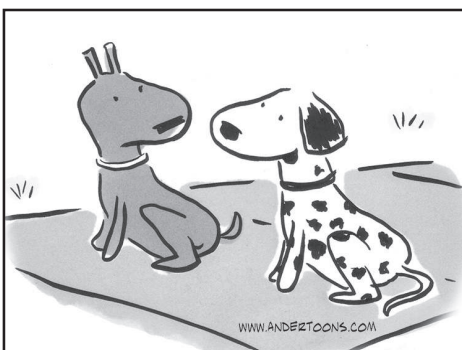
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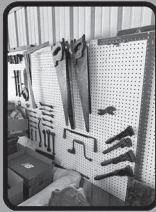


Real Estate + Personal Property Auction

900 Rose Garden Ln
Cookeville, TN
May 16, 2026 @ 10am



Mobile home on 1 ac | Detached shop | Variety of personal property



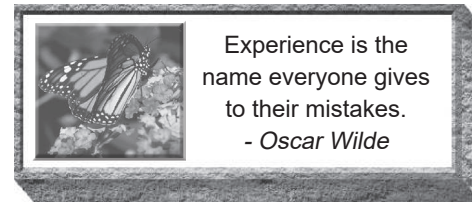
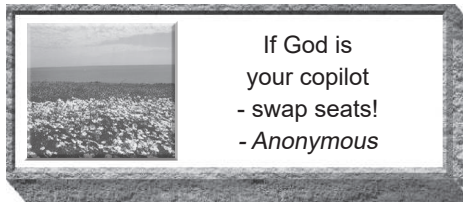
Personal property includes, but is not limited to:

Lawn mowers Tiller Welder Weed eaters Air compressor Bedroom suites
Household items Refrigerator/Freezer Misc shop tools Reno parlor stove

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Ashley AW-2020 wood stove; Ashley wood fireplace insert; 2 - 100 pound anvils; Indoor wood/coal furnace. Call 423-505-6734.

300 Craftsmen Lawn Mower: ride on tractor, in good condition - \$600. Call 931-265-6258

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MISCELLANEOUS

We Help People in Need of the basics of life: food, clothing, and shelter. Open on Tuesdays from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. 7311 Baxter Rd., Baxter, TN. **Donations** are always welcome and appreciated. Visit our website to donation days and times. Call 931-858-1119 - **RestoringOnesHope.com.**

14'x40' Mennonite Building. 3 windows, insulated, good condition-12,000. Call 931-265-6258.

Dish DT4400 King Tailgater HD satellite TV antenna for RV's and campers. Like new, asking \$275. Call 931-316-9730 Baxter, TN.

Browning .800 Winchester Mag with 220 rounds of ammo, Nikon scope, bipod and case included - \$850. Call 931-349-4397.

Lap Steel Guitars custom made in Livingston, TN. Six, eight & ten string models. Call Bob Allen at 931-823-0055. Visit us online at: www.melbertguitars.com.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Saturday, June 6 @ 11 am
 1050 Pine Creek Falls Rd
 Smithville, TN

SELLING ABSOLUTE
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 Tract 2: 27 ac

Preview Day May 31 @ 1-5pm



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ABSOLUTE AUCTION

80 Dillard Creek Rd.
 Chestnut Mound, TN

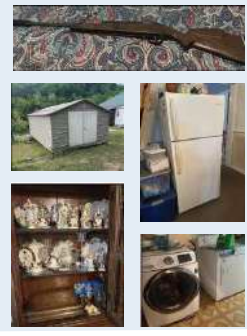
Saturday - May 16, 2026 • 10:00 AM



3 Bedroom Home & 2 +/- Acres
12 x 20 Metal Storage Building
Personal Property - Appliances
Furniture - Tools - Glassware

Real Estate to sell at 11:00 am

DIRECTIONS: Exit 258 S on Hwy 53 straight onto Hwy 264 for 3 miles & turn right on Sykes Road. Go for approx. 1/2 mile and property is on the right. See Signs!!!
AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Don't miss this opportunity! We've got a solid older home with lots of character sitting on approximately 2+/- acres-plenty of room to spread out, invest, or make it your own! This property features a detached carport, open land, and endless potential-whether you're looking for a homestead, rental, or fixer-upper project! Only 3 miles to Wildwood Resort & Marina on Cordell Hull Lake! Come prepared, bring a friend, and plan to stay-there's something here for everyone. Real estate, tools, furniture, and more!!!
TITLE: Seller will provide Attorney Title Opinion Letter and Warranty Deed. 2026 Taxes will be prorated.
CLOSING ATTORNEY: Jamie D. Winkler
TERMS: REAL ESTATE: 20% non-refundable deposit down day of sale, sign sales contract, w/balance due at closing. Real Estate is selling "As Is" "Where Is" with no written or implied warranties, and no contingencies including and not limited to financing, appraisal, or inspections of any kind. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** Cash or Good Check Day of Sale.



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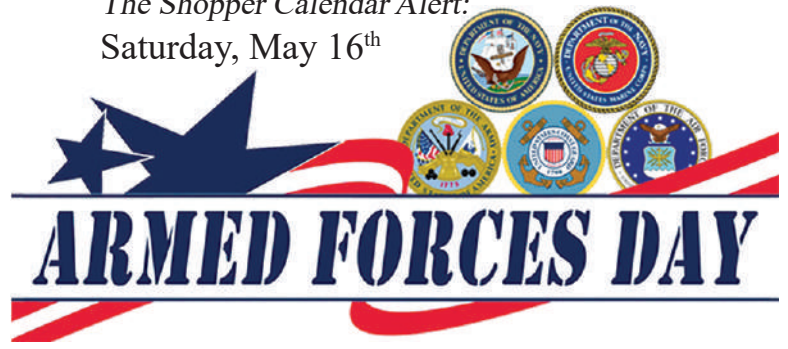
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 Seller(s): Anthony Addy

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All information is believed to be correct but not guaranteed. Sale day announcements take precedence over all advertising.

The Shopper Calendar Alert:
 Saturday, May 16th



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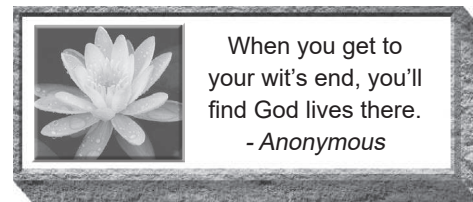


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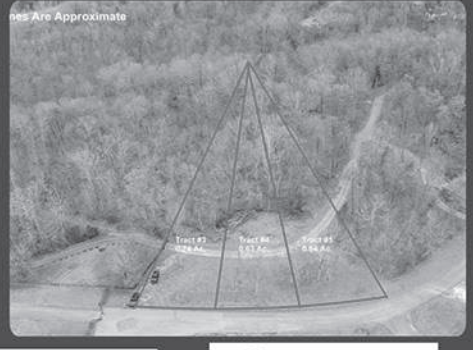


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263 W Taxiway Dr, Albany, KY 42602
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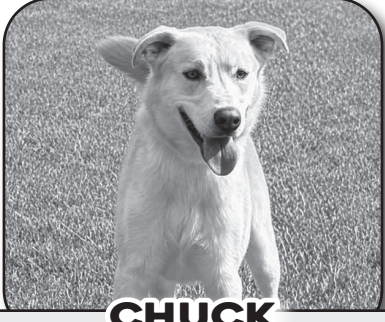
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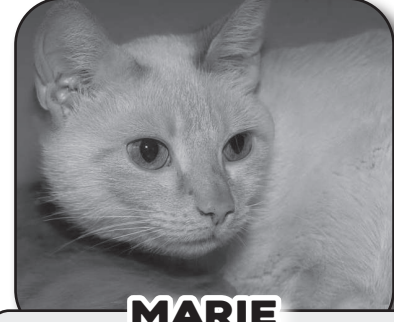
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Money-Saving Ideas

Tips On Saving Money With An HVAC System

(NAPSA)—There's good news for homeowners who want to reduce their energy costs. With a little bit of homework, savings are possible. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), most Americans are paying more for electricity and natural gas than they did four years ago, with the average household utility bill now about \$1,900 each year. And, according to the Department of Energy (DOE), heating and cooling accounts for about 56 percent of the energy use in a typical U.S. home, making it the largest energy expense for most homes.

To reduce these costs, the experts at the Luxaire® brand of heating and air conditioning recommend the following:

- **Adjust your thermostat.** By raising your thermostat just a few degrees in mild temperatures and lowering it in cooler temperatures, you can help your heating and cooling system work less to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature. Programming your thermostat to accommodate your family's time away from home and sleeping schedules will also help to ensure that your system is operating only when you need it.

- **Install a dehumidifier.** Humidity can make the air feel hotter and heavier in warm weather. By removing the humidity, the air will feel drier and cooler and you will be able to rely less heavily on your heating and cooling system to make the air comfortable.

- **Perform regular maintenance.** Clean air filters, seal any

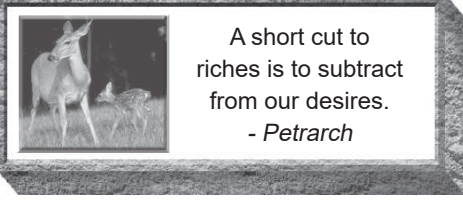


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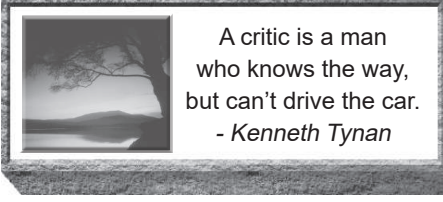
duct leaks and make sure the areas around your system are clear of obstructions. According to the EPA, improper insulation can reduce system efficiency by up to 30 percent.

- **Have your existing home comfort system inspected and serviced by a qualified technician.** The technician will make sure your system is working properly and at peak efficiency. A knowledgeable technician will also be able to recommend a new, more efficient replacement system, such as ENERGY STAR®-qualified equipment that can help you save money on energy bills.

- **Learn more.** To learn more about efficient products that can help you save money and energy, or to find a heating and cooling contractor, visit www.luxaire.com.



A short cut to riches is to subtract from our desires.
 - Petrarck



A critic is a man who knows the way, but can't drive the car.
 - Kenneth Tynan

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2-DAY LATE SPRING EQUIPMENT AUCTION

1234 HWY 68, SWEETWATER, TN 37874

MAY 13 & 14



Check our website regularly for updates

Preview Starts 5/12/2026 8:00 AM and Ends 5/12/2026 3:00 PM



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Some believe that locking the fingers together and pulling on them will stop an owl from hooting.



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Culture is one thing and varnish another.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Pay attention to your enemies, for they are the first to discover your mistakes.
- Antisthenes

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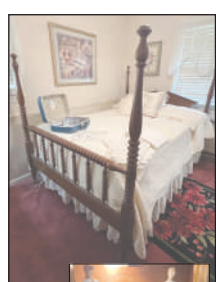
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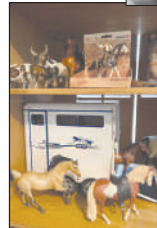
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Hebrews
4: 12 - 16

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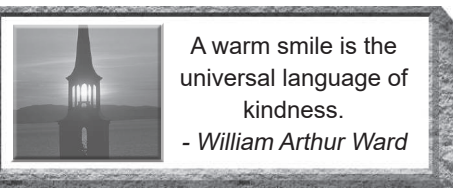
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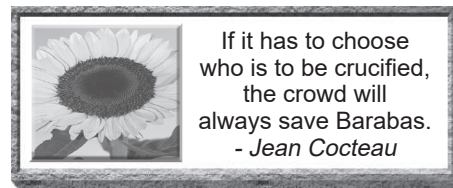
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James 1:5-6



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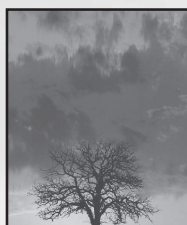


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Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.



1 Thessalonians
4: 15 - 18, 5: 1 - 2

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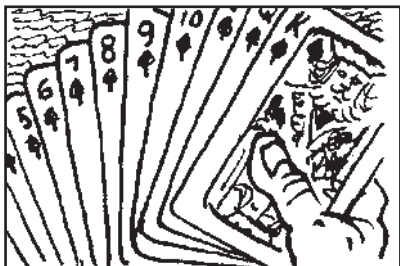
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KING RANCH CHICKEN CASSEROLE

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 medium white onion, diced
- 1 medium red bell pepper, diced
- 1 medium green bell pepper, diced
- 1 (10.5 ounce) can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1 (10.5 ounce) can condensed cream of chicken soup
- 1 (10 ounce) can diced tomatoes with green chile peppers (such as Ro*tel)
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ancho chile powder
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano
- ¼ teaspoon chipotle chile powder
- 1 (3 pound) cooked chicken, torn into shreds or cut into chunks
- 1 (8 ounce) package shredded Cheddar cheese
- 10 (6 inch) corn tortillas, cut into quarters



Directions

Gather the ingredients. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Heat oil in a large skillet over high heat. Add onion and bell peppers; cook until warmed through, about 2 minutes. Transfer to a large bowl.

Stir mushroom and chicken condensed soups, diced tomatoes with chile peppers, chicken broth, sour cream, cumin, ancho chile powder, oregano, and chipotle chile powder into onion mixture until sauce well combined.

Spread a few tablespoons sauce into a 9x13-inch baking dish; layer with ½ each chicken, sauce, Cheddar cheese, and tortillas.

Spread the remaining chicken over tortillas; spread all but ½ cup remaining sauce over chicken. Top with ½ remaining Cheddar and remaining tortillas. Spread remaining ½ cup sauce over top; sprinkle with remaining ½ Cheddar.

Bake casserole in the preheated oven until bubbling, about 40 minutes.

Turn on the broiler; broil until the top is golden, 2 to 3 minutes more.

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Ezekial
36: 24 - 29



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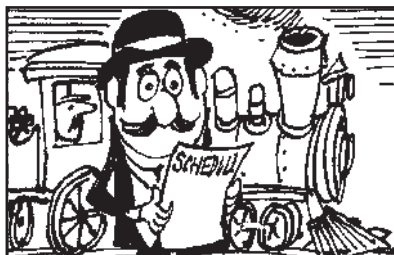
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WATER FACTS & FANCIES

Helping Well Owners Keep Their Water Safe

(NAPSA)—There is good news for homeowners who want to protect the safety and quality of their well water.

There is a new set of information tools designed to help household well owners operate and maintain their wells to provide safe water for their families.

The tools, which are being developed by the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) through assistance from the U.S. EPA, include:

- A series of live webinars
- A series of online lessons
- A Private Well Owner toll-free hotline (855-420-9355)
- A monthly Private Well Owner Tip Sheet.

To access these private well owner information tools and more, visit www.WellOwner.org.

Testing, Treatment And More

“Household water well owners are responsible for monitoring their water quality and taking action when necessary,” said NGWA Public Awareness Director Cliff Treyens. “To help, these new information tools are designed to give well owners next steps and guide them to the help they need.”

Among the specific areas covered by the new information tools are:

- Water testing
- Water treatment
- Well maintenance
- Water testing related to hydraulic fracturing
- Groundwater protection
- Well construction
- Well flooding.

Webinars On Demand

The live webinars will be recorded for viewing at any time. Both the webinars and the online lessons will be added to the collection as they are done, so well own-



There are new information tools designed to help household well owners operate and maintain their wells to provide safe water for their families.

ers are advised to check periodically for new offerings.

Registration links for the webinars and online lessons will be accessible through the Well Owner.org home page, where visitors can also subscribe to the free monthly Tip Sheet.

The telephone hotline is operational Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern Time (except national holidays).

To encourage learning, the online lessons and the webinars will have a short pre-lesson/webinar quiz and a post-lesson/webinar quiz. Those who successfully complete the final quiz will receive a certificate of completion.

“There is no replacement for certified drinking water testing labs and qualified water well system professionals in providing accurate diagnoses and remedies for water quality issues,” Treyens said. “What these tools are intended to do is arm the well owner with important basic information and direction.”

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Our lives are filled with stuff. "What do you mean by stuff?", you ask. Just that - STUFF.

I'm not talking about going to work, spending quality time with our families, or doing all those routine tasks that we have to perform to keep our lives in some type of order. Webster's Dictionary defines STUFF as: "the material out of which something is made; substance; household or personal articles; unspecified material; worthless material." So there you have it. Just about everything that we have which doesn't fit in any particular category is "Stuff" - or Worthless Material!

So what? Well, it's the Stuff in our lives that gets in the way. What's NOT important is- the size of the engine in your new SUV; the dollar value of your bank account; the number of times you can afford to go out to eat during the week. Now we need to really focus on what IS important. The Bible says, "He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him. For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church?"

- 1 Timothy 3:4-5.

Standing Firm

I've discovered that God places tremendous value on the family structure. It's this very structure that has been allowed to disintegrate in our society. Little by little, piece by piece, we have allowed the minority to direct and dictate

what should be of value. It's those very groups that have managed to deceive us into believing that we have selfish desires that must be met. When in reality - it's those very "apples"; those forbidden fruits- that have caused us to fail our families and allow our children to flounder.

We shouldn't need to preach to the choir. It's time to stop being so consumed with what we DON'T have, start looking at what we DO have, and at what we COULD lose. We are the majority. America was founded as a Christian nation. And the last time I looked- a democracy rules! So - Stand Firm! Stop working yourself to death for that fancy car or home that's too big anyway.

STOP! LOOK! LISTEN!

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Food Facts Fancies

Research Study Bites Into "What America Eats"

(NAPSA)—Based on the old expression "You are what you eat," America is a melting pot of cereal, sandwiches, pizza and chocolate.

That's just a morsel of information from *Parade* magazine's biennial "What America Eats" research study. The survey of adults 18 to 65 was designed to identify key trends in the food marketplace and the American kitchen, and the implications for product development.

Among some of the survey's key findings are:

- Over the past 10 years, time spent in the kitchen for meal preparation has dropped from 49 minutes to 29 minutes.
- Nearly one in three American adults (31 percent) claim to be "on a diet" at any given time.
- Italian cuisine remains the most popular ethnic food to cook/eat (85 percent), but Mexican is a very close runner-up (81 percent).
- Today, 91 percent of consumers use "convenience foods," compared to just 69 percent of consumers in 1993.
- Compared to two years ago, 41 percent of consumers are eating more chicken and 29 percent are eating less beef.

Breakfast

The survey found that 66 percent of Americans eat breakfast during the week, compared to 71 percent who eat breakfast on Sunday. An estimated 76 percent of people eat breakfast at home during the week, with cold cereal ranking as the top breakfast choice, following by a bagel, roll, muffin or toast.

Lunch

While the number of options are plentiful, ranging from salad bars and new fast foods to gourmet wraps and convenience foods, the sandwich remains the favorite lunch choice among Americans—more than twice as popular as fast food, the #2 choice.



A new survey gives the complete dish on America's eating habits, from breakfast to dessert.

Snacking

The majority of adults snack in the evening, while kids tend to snack in the afternoon. Chips (either alone, or with salsa or dip) are the favorite snack of both groups—and have been for the past 10 years. However, popcorn is close behind.

Comfort Food

Not surprisingly, pizza ranks as the #1 answer to the question "If you were stranded on a desert island, which one food could you not live without?" However, 'za is only the #3 choice for "favorite comfort food," following chocolate and ice cream. As for guilty pleasures, more adults would head to the bakery for a sweet treat, rather than reaching for the ice cream or chocolate.

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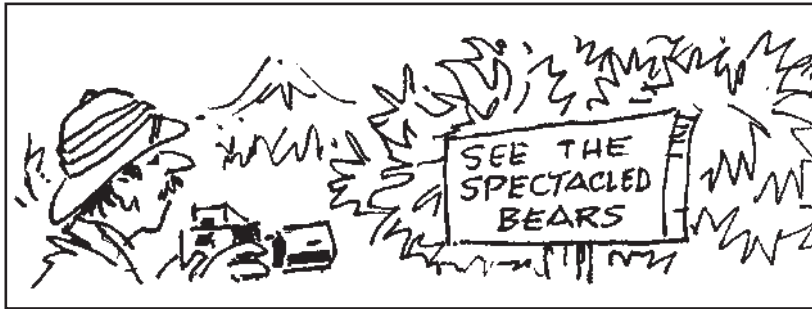


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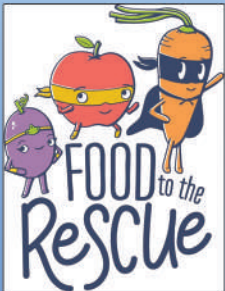


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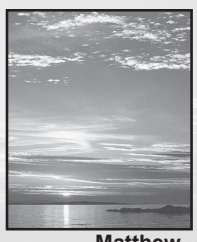
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Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28: 16 - 20



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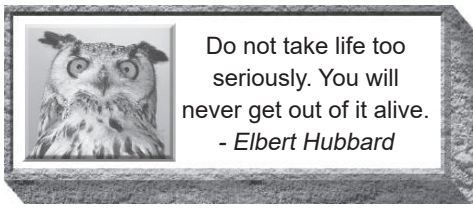
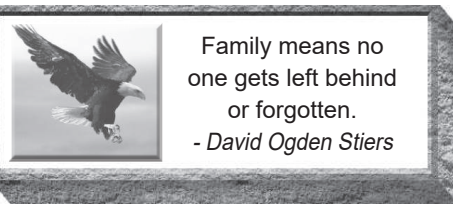
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The Voice Mail



The first voicemail lasted nineteen seconds. "Hi, sweetheart, this is your reminder to take the chicken out of the freezer before church. Also don't trust those grapes in the fridge. They've turned on us." I stood in my kitchen staring at my phone and smiling like an idiot. It had come from an unknown number. Wrong number, obviously. But the voice was warm and Southern and matter-of-fact in exactly the way my mother's had been, and for one little moment, hearing a woman call somebody "sweetheart" and warn her about grapes felt like opening a window in a stuffy room. My mother had been gone three years by then. Long enough that the sharp pain had softened, but not long enough that I didn't still miss her in all the ridiculous little places. At the grocery store when I reached for her favorite canned peaches. In the church pew when the alto line came in. On Sunday afternoons when I made roast chicken and wanted to ask whether she thought the potatoes needed ten more minutes. So that voicemail landed hard. I almost deleted it. Instead, I listened to it twice. The next day, there was another one. "Baby, if you're stopping by the drugstore, can you get the unscented lotion this time? The lavender one smells like a funeral home to me." I laughed out loud. Then, because I am a grown woman with some manners, I called her back. She answered on the second ring. "Well, hello?" "Hi, I said. "I think you may have the wrong number. I'm not... whoever you're trying to reach." There was a little pause. Then she said, "Oh, mercy." Her voice was exactly the same as the voicemails. Soft, sure, and full of the kind of life that notices grapes. "I am so sorry," she said. "My daughter changed her number and I clearly wrote it down wrong because I was distracted by my neighbor's peacock." I laughed. "Your neighbor has a peacock?" "He does, and it has no respect for boundaries," she said. That was how I met Miss Loretta. She was seventy-four, lived two towns over, and had one daughter named Janine, two arthritic knees, and strong opinions about lotion, produce, and doctors who "talk too fast and listen too little." I was fifty-eight, widowed, and still getting used to a house that echoed after dinner. What started as me returning a wrong-number call somehow turned into a conversation that lasted twenty-eight minutes. At one point she asked, "Do you cook?" I said, "Enough to stay alive and comforted" She laughed and said, "Good. Then write this down. If your cornbread tastes dry, you're being too proud with the buttermilk." I wrote it down. That should have been enough. It wasn't. Three days later, another voicemail. This time very clearly intended for me. "Just checking on you. The weather looked gloomy and I thought you might need a nudge to make something warm for supper." I called her back laughing. After that, we settled into the oddest, sweetest routine of my life. Loretta left voicemails. I called her back. Sometimes we talked five minutes. Sometimes forty. Her messages were tiny gifts. "Remember to buy stamps before you run out. Running out makes people feel more isolated than they need to." "Take your vitamins, even if they insult your dignity with how many there are." "I saw strawberries on sale and thought of you, though I don't know if you even like strawberries. That's all." I did like strawberries. I began to look forward to being thought of in such small, specific ways. Especially because my own life, while full in many respects, had gotten terribly quiet in the spaces nobody notices from the outside. My daughter lived in Denver. My son called often but briefly, usually while driving. My friends were dear but busy. And evenings had become the kind of stillness that can feel peaceful one day and too wide the next. Loretta's calls softened that. Then one week she didn't call. Not Monday. Not Tuesday. Not Wednesday. By Thursday afternoon, I realized I was worried. I told myself that was ridiculous. She was a wrong-number woman in another town. I did not know her last name. I had no formal reason to be concerned. Then my phone rang. It was her. "Before you fuss," she said immediately, "I had a little hospital nonsense and forgot where I put my charger." I sat down so fast I nearly missed the chair. "What happened?" "Oh, nothing dramatic" she said in a voice that absolutely meant at least some drama. "A blood pressure scare. They've sent me home with stern instructions and tasteless crackers." That was all I needed to hear. I asked for her address. She said, "Now don't get carried away." I said, "Too late." The next morning, I drove to her town with a grocery bag full of things women know to bring. Real crackers. Chicken soup. Good tea. Fresh fruit. A better lotion than lavender. And a little potted mum because nobody should recover from "hospital nonsense" without something alive nearby. She opened the door in a pale blue robe, looked at me for one second, and said, "Well. I suppose this is what I get for calling strangers sweetheart." I laughed and stepped inside. Her house smelled like lemon oil and books. She had afghans on the couch, framed photos everywhere and one ceramic chicken collection that made me instantly trust her more. We spent the afternoon together. I fixed lunch. She complained about doctors. We folded towels because apparently neither of us can sit with clean laundry nearby without addressing it. She told me stories about Janine as a teenager and about the peacock next door, whose name was apparently Kevin and who had become "emotionally entitled." When I left, she hugged me hard and said, softly, "You can like family." That undid me a little. Because it had been a long time since someone had said something like that and meant it. After that, our odd little friendship became real in every way that mattered. I drove over once a month. We went to lunch sometimes. She mailed me handwritten recipes with notes in the margins like: Needs more pepper if weather is rude. I helped her set up a doctor portal she hated on principle. She taught me how to make coconut cake that didn't dry out. She called when my daughter had surgery. I called when her peacock problem escalated. Then last spring, I had a mammogram callback. Nothing bad in the end, thank God. But those days waiting for the extra imaging felt like walking around with a stone in my chest. I hadn't told many people. I don't know why. Maybe because naming fear makes it louder. The morning of the appointment, there was a knock at my door. A florist delivery. Inside the box was one small bouquet of yellow roses and a card in Loretta's handwriting. For whatever the doctors say, Wear the good bra. Breathe before parking. And remember that waiting is not the same thing as losing. Love, Loretta I sat at my kitchen counter and cried into the flowers. Because how did she know exactly what kind of care I needed? Then again, maybe that's what older women do best. Not solve. Not rescue. Just notice the practical shape of fear and answer it with something useful and tender. Now it's been four years since that first wrong-number voicemail about chicken and traitor grapes. Loretta is eighty now. She still leaves messages. I still save some of them. One says: Take a sweater. Public buildings are run by men with no circulation issues. Another: If soup sounds good, trust that. Soup is wisdom. And my favorite says: You are not bothering the right people. I listen to that one more than I probably should. Because she's right. Sometimes love arrives by blood. Sometimes by marriage. And sometimes by one wrong number, one warm voice, and a woman old enough to know that the world goes easier if we keep checking on each other.

-Author Anonymous

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