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Inside {local} March'24

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FAMILY "STYLE" BUSINESS

Credit union with old fashioned style using high tech opportunities

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MAURY'S BIGGEST EVENT

Mule Day is coming and this year it is better than ever

LOCAL FOCUS

SERVICE DIRECTORY 22, 23, 24 COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS 32 RECIPE 34

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MULE DAY FESTIVAL

PAM WINDSOR

This year's Maury County Bridle and Saddle Club Mule Day's Festival promises to be bigger and better than ever.

"This year marks our 50th anniversary," says Parade Director Mandy Mills," and we're really excited."

The festival celebrates Columbia's heritage as the "Mule Capital of the World" and features mule shows and competitions, live music, food concessions, a parade, and so much more.

Although the actual festival starts Thursday (April 4th) and goes through Sunday (April 7th), things kick off earlier in the week with the much-anticipated wagon train.

"We have a wagon train that starts on Monday, and people come from far and wide to be part of it," Mills says. "They ride through the rural parts of Maury County and surrounding counties and see the beautiful countryside and scenery, and then get here Wednesday and ride into Maury County Park."

Mills says riders with the wagon train send word ahead so people know when they'll arrive and can gather to watch them roll into the park."

Then, it's four days of back-to-back festival events from Thurs-

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< FROM PAGE 8

day to Sunday. There will be food, live music, arts and crafts, and mule shows that include old-fashioned log pulling, jackpot mule races, driving mule shows, a mule pulling contest, and more.

"On Saturday, we have our mule pull, which is a huge event," says Mills. "It draws a huge crowd. These are mules that go all over and pull blocks on sleds. You'll be amazed at how strong they are."

That's also the day of the annual Mule Day Parade. It's fitting for Mills to help with the parade planning. She grew up in Maury County and has gone downtown to watch it almost every year since she was a child.

"The only parade I ever missed was the year I had chicken pox," she says with a laugh. "From the time I was born I've been to every parade, and then started coming out to the park. My husband logs with mules, so he brought mules, and we helped start a couple of events, and it's grown from there. We're thoroughly involved with Mule Day and very thankful to be."

The parade, she says, is always full of creative floats and lots of surprises.

The itinerary for each day is posted on the muleday.com website. Tickets to get into the park are \$10 per day for an adult, while kids under 12 are admitted for free. A four-day pass is available for \$25.00.

Mule Day Festival has something for everyone.





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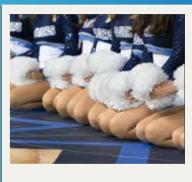






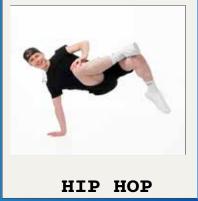
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PART OF THE FAMILY

PAM WINDSOR

At a time when advanced technology can sometimes make doing business feel less personal than ever before, Family Advantage Federal Credit Union is finding new ways to combine high-tech advances with good old-fashioned, one-on-one human contact.

"We pride ourselves on being a blue-collar credit union giving white-collar service to everybody," says Chief Executive Officer John H. Kenley IV.

Here, people are members, not customers. And if you're a member, you're part of a very big family.

"Being part of our family is how we get to know you," Kenley explains. "We want to know everybody's name so when they come in, we can address them personally and ask how they're doing. We want to hear about the grandkids, the new dog, and everything else."

Kenley, his Vice President of Operations, Milly Poplar, and their entire team are dedicated to ensuring people know their motto of "Relax, you've got family" is much more than a marketing tool.

"We're truly a family," says Poplar. "Some of our members have been here since day one. In the 10 years I've been here, I've seen babies born, kids grow up, go to college, and get married. And we do the best we can with our family. It's just like, if your sister were to call in the middle of the night, you'd help her."

Whether it's actual late-night calls, like one she recently took at 10 o'clock on a Sunday night from a member whose card didn't work, to the others she and Kenley have fielded on weekends or during vacations, both want to be accessible.

It's a different approach compared to most other financial institutions.

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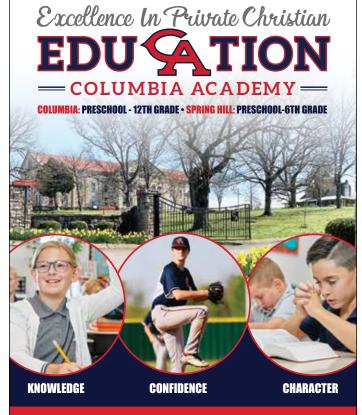
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< FROM PAGE 14

"When I go out and talk with people," Kenley says, "I'll ask them, 'Who is the CEO of Wells Fargo? Do you have his or her number?' And when they say no, I'll say, 'I'm the CEO of Family Advantage. Here's my card with my cell number. If you have a problem, call me."

Family Advantage began in 1997 as a credit union for General Motors workers at the Saturn plant. Eight years later, the charter was changed to welcome anyone residing in Williamson or Maury County. Two years ago, they expanded it even more to allow anyone living in twelve additional surrounding counties to become members.

As it has worked to reach more people, Family Advantage has added new technology, making sure not to replace that personal contact but to enhance it. There is now video banking to allow members to call and talk to someone face-to-face, just like Face-time. And in March, look for a brand-new mobile banking unit to connect with members in outlying areas.

"I got the unit so we can go out into the community and

service folks in some of those counties that can't come all the way up to Maury County," Kenley says. "We want to partner with, let's say, the Parks Department or a car dealership in those different counties. We can set up a schedule so people will know we'll be there on a regular basis, perhaps once a month, and they can set up appointments."

Kenley got the idea during a trip to Europe.

"I was visiting Scotland in 2019, and they had a mobile branch for the Bank of Scotland. I started researching it, COVID hit, and then there were supply chain issues, and it took forever."

It has finally arrived and will be ready to roll March 1st.

Both Kenley and Poplar are excited about one more way to better serve their credit union family with their financial needs.

"We really enjoy helping people," Kenley says. "There's a lot of satisfaction in that."

Family Advantage Federal Credit Union's main office is in Spring Hill, with branch offices in Columbia and Hohenwald, for more information visit **myfafcu.org**. or see their ad on page 25

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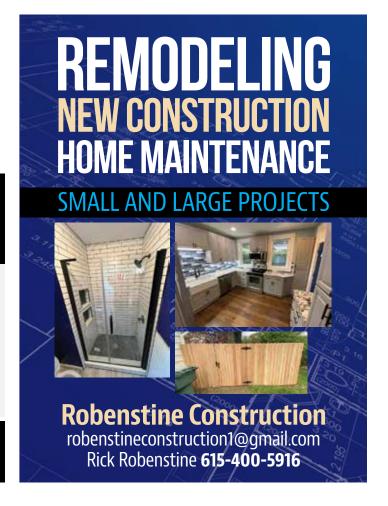


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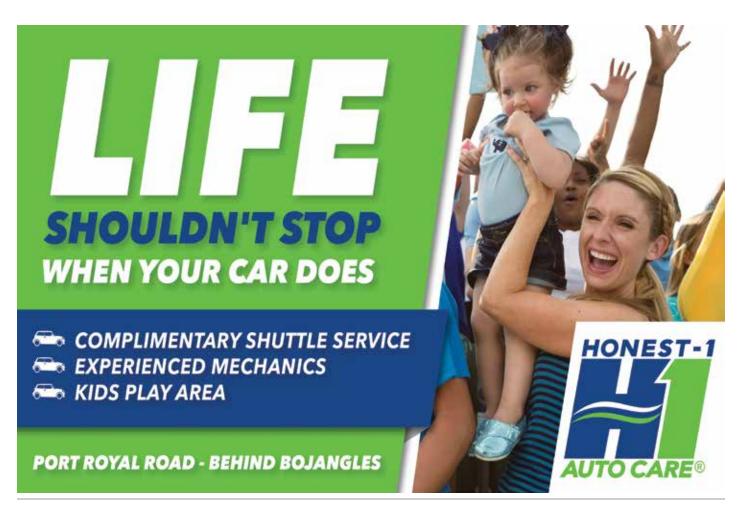
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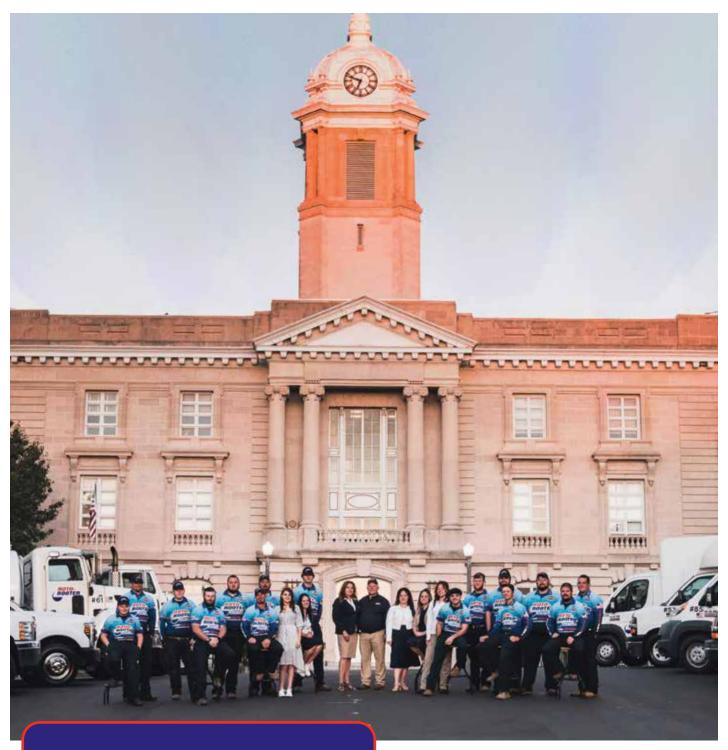






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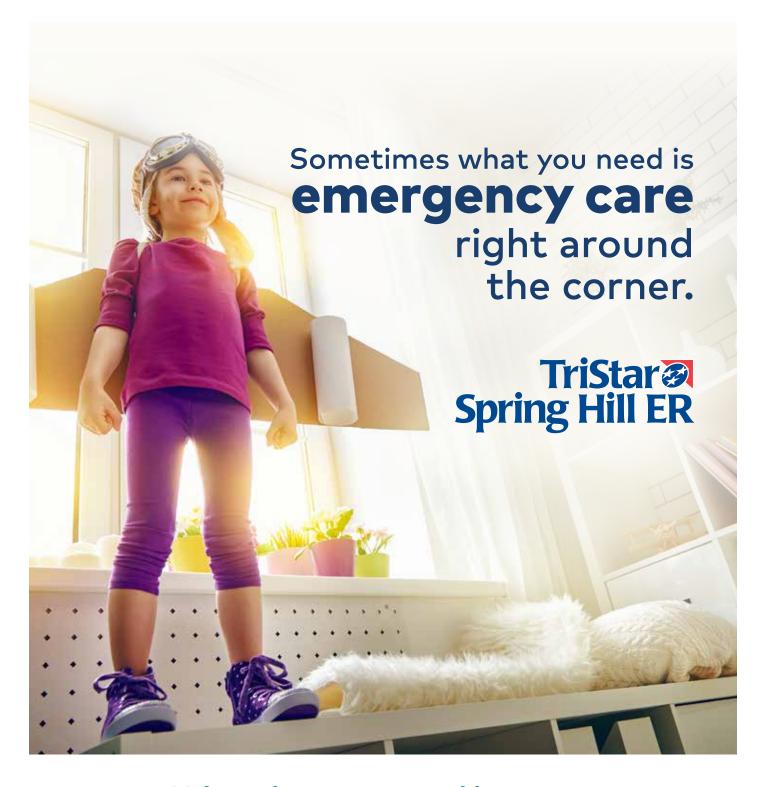


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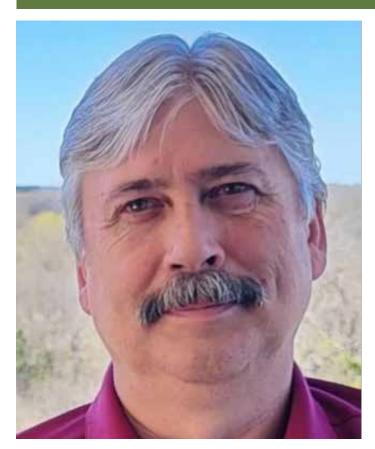


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COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS



TENNESSEE CHILDREN'S HOME NAMES PRESIDENT

The Tennessee Children's Home (TCH) is excited to announce its next President. The Board of Trustees has unanimously selected Mike Yuhas to take over the organization's leadership. The transition of this office will begin on April 1st, 2024, and will commence no later than June 30th, 2024.

"Tennessee Children's Home is a great organization made up of people who are passionate about helping kids. I am thankful and excited for the opportunity to lead these efforts into the future." said Yuhas.

Yuhas has been with TCH since 1995 and has excelled in every facet of childcare. He has served as an Emergency Shelter Shift Worker, Houseparent, Residential Counselor, Principal, and Program Director. Since 2008, Yahas has been Director for the Spring Hill Campus. Mike graduated from Freed-Hardeman University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

Mike will be replacing President Brian King, who will be retiring at the end of June. Brian has served TCH for 42 years.

"I know Mike Yuhas will do a great job. He has an extensive background in childcare and business management. It's a good feeling to know that Tennessee Children's Home is being left in good hands," said King.



MAURY COUNTY RANKED #1

It's not often that you see a quadruple crown winner, but SmartAsset has released its 2024 findings, and Maury County ranks #1 in all four Incoming Investment Categories for the State of Tennessee. The categories include business growth, GDP growth, new building permits, and incoming investment. Maury County also ranked #3 in incoming investment and #7 in business growth nationally. There are over 3,000 counties in the United States. SmartAsset methodology looks at change over a three-year period, which demonstrates sustained performance.

"The report findings serve as a capstone to ten years of sustained growth for Maury County. It is important to note that results like this would not be possible without teamwork and the strong local, regional, state, and TVA economic development partnerships that have been developed.

GARDNER RETIRES

Spring Hill's first fulltime dentist, Dr. Dennis Gardner, celebrated his 40th anniversary/retirement party in January, which was hosted by his family. The event was attended by staff, patients, friends and colleagues. Pictured are Dr. Gardner and his wife, Ginger.



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RECIPES

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GOT A GREAT RECIPE YOU WANT TO SHARE? SEND US YOUR RECIPE AND A COUPLE OF PHOTOS AND YOUR CREATION COULD BE FEATURED HERE! **EMAIL to jbryant@wilcolocal.com**

Celebrate St. Pat's with Traditional Irish Apple Cake

CAKE

3 CUPS SELF-RISING FLOUR
1/2 TABLESPOON CINNAMON
1/4 TEASPOON CLOVES
1/4 TEASPOON NUTMEG
1/4 TEASPOON GINGER
1 STICK BUTTER, CUBED
3/4 CUP SUGAR
4 APPLES OF CHOICE, PEELED AND CUBED

1 CUP HALF-AND-HALF

TOPPING:

2 EGGS

1/2 STICK BUTTER 3/4 CUP FLOUR 1 CUP BROWN SUGAR

CUSTARD:

6 LARGE EGG YOLKS 6 TABLESPOONS SUGAR 11/2 CUPS HALF-AND-HALF 2 TEASPOONS VANILLA



DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 375 F. Grease and flour 9-inch round springform pan.

To make cake: In large bowl, sift flour with cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg and ginger. Using fork, cut butter until mixture resembles crumbs. Add sugar and apples; mix well. Stir in eggs and half-and-half until mixture reaches thick, dough-like batter. Pour batter into prepared pan.

To make topping: In bowl, mix butter, flour and sugar to create crumbled mixture. Sprinkle on top of batter in pan. Bake 1 hour. Check with toothpick to make sure middle is completely done. If not, bake 5-10 minutes. Let cool on rack.

To make custard: Whisk egg yolks and sugar. In saucepan, bring half-and-half to boil. Add one spoonful half-and-half at a time to egg mixture, whisking while adding. Once whisked together, return to saucepan and stir over medium heat until thickened, about 4 minutes. Remove from heat and whisk in vanilla.

Serve custard over cake.

34 Spring Hill *local* March 2024



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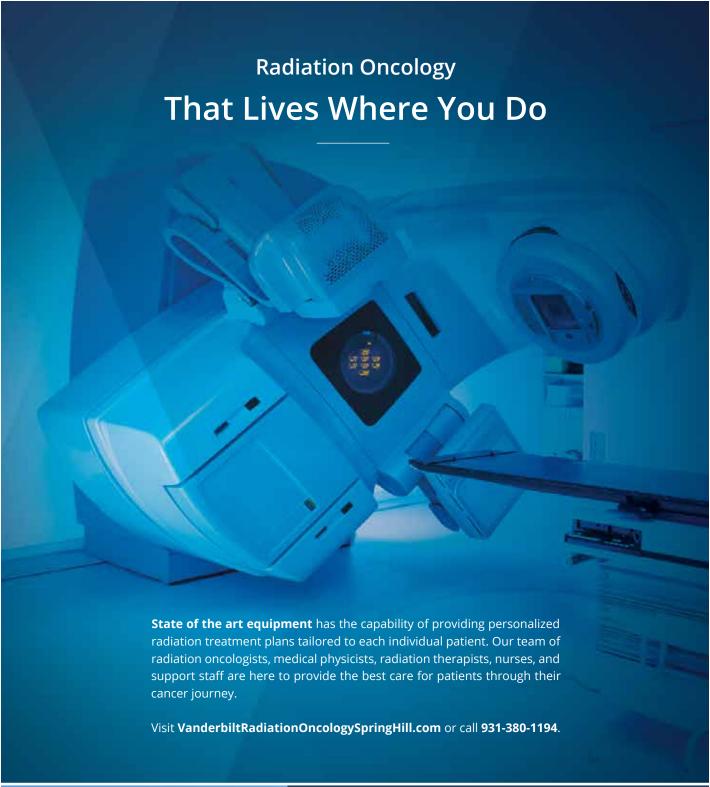
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