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ON THE COVER: Prime apple picking in Tennessee spans from late August to early October.
As the last month of summer approaches, local residents will soon be enjoying the fruits of this year's plentiful rains.

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Designed to educate, engage, and inspire, Columbia 101 offers participants the opportunity to meet City leaders, tour municipal facilities, and experience firsthand how the City's 12 departments work together to serve the community. From public safety and infrastructure to parks, planning, and public services, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the essential work happening every day to make Columbia a great place to live, work, and visit. The Fall 2026 session will take place Tuesday, September 22, and Wednesday, September 23, 2026. Participants will begin each morning at City Hall before visiting City departments and facilities throughout Columbia, with opportunities to ask questions, engage with City staff, and learn about current projects and future initiatives. A \$25 program fee is required for accepted applicants to help cover the cost of meals, transportation, and program materials. Applications are available now at www.ColumbiaTN.gov or at the reception desk on the third floor of City Hall. The application deadline is Friday, August 7, 2026. For questions about Columbia 101, contact Program Director Lexi Dearborn at LDearborn@ColumbiaTN.gov.



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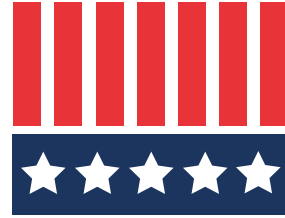
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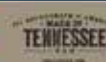
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Brandon McCulloch has had a lifetime passion for tractors. Photography by Michael Tedesco

THE TRACTOR WHISPERER

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“Every tractor has a story, and it’s always interesting when you find someone who knows the story behind a tractor. Including how they acquired it and what they did to it to get it running,” begins Brandon McCulloch, a longtime antique tractor collector who has had a passion for old tractors since he was old enough to ride one.

Today, McCulloch owns nine antique tractors, with a 1939 Ford 9N being the oldest in his collection. He also owns a 1953 Ford Golden Jubilee, thus named because 1953 was the 50th anniversary of Ford’s life as a manufacturing company.

“Usually these tractors are American-made—in the 1930s, 40s, 50s or 60s, but even into the late 70s and early 80s,” relates McCulloch, with brand names like John Deere, Case, Oliver and Allis Chalmers among those you’re most likely to find at antique tractor shows.

“I go to 15-20 shows annually. Most times I am exhibiting, but sometimes I just attend a show,” says McCulloch, who says he regularly travels to Alabama, Florida, and Georgia to go to shows, not to mention Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois.

“Last year we went to West Bend, Wisconsin, for the Classic Green Reunion,” he adds, an event held every other year for John Deere enthusiasts. “And this year we are contemplating doing the Mackinaw Bridge Antique Tractor Crossing,” referring to an annual event to be held September 12-13 in 2026, with hundreds of tractors expected to cross Michigan’s famous Mackinaw Bridge during the ride.

More notably, perhaps, a number of annual events in Spring Hill also feature antique tractors, including Founder’s Day, though “the FFA Tractor Show at Spring Hill High School is probably the biggest show we do,” relates McCulloch.

“Most of the tractors that people show have a pretty cush life.

NEXT PAGE >



Brandon McCulloch sits on one of his 9 antique tractors. Photography by Mchael Tedesco

They don't work anymore because you have so much money tied up in paint and body work and whatnot," he continues, noting that it isn't especially costly to acquire an antique tractor. It's the restoration costs that make the hobby much more taxing.

"The most I've spent to acquire one is twenty-four hundred dollars. And the Golden Jubilee that I restored? I paid fifteen hundred dollars for the tractor, but the paint and everything I did to it cost me close to six thousand. It's housed in an enclosed cargo trailer along with a golf cart, and I take it to tractor shows," he says.

But restoration is a job that the central Georgia native is well-suited for, as he's a master GM tech and master Saturn tech who worked for General Motors in Atlanta for 15 years before moving to Spring Hill to finish out the rest of his career.

"I understand high-tech cars, but antique tractors are so simple they are just easy to work on," says the former Saturn man, who notes that he frequently does restoration work for other enthusiasts.

"One person here in Spring Hill calls me 'The Tractor Whisperer.' He had a 1948 Ferguson that hadn't been started in 30 years. I got it running, and today he's using it to mow," says

McCulloch, who recalls that the job included cleaning out the fuel tank and re-wiring the tractor, among other things.

"The main thing is to make sure the engine turns over. It will usually seize up from sitting a long time, and the engine will lock up," he notes, thankful that he was able to get the Ferguson running again.

One might think McCulloch would have a personal favorite tractor, but if he does, he's not saying.

"The favorite is the one I'm sitting on at the time," he quips, before getting a little sentimental.

"I like that these old tractors were all made in America, by American workers who got paid good wages that provided for American families. We've lost that," he laments. "But every component—when they were built—was made in the United States."

McCulloch says other tractor enthusiasts get similarly sentimental when they attend tractor shows or tractor auctions.

"It always brings back memories when people get a chance to walk around and look at all the different tractors," he concludes.

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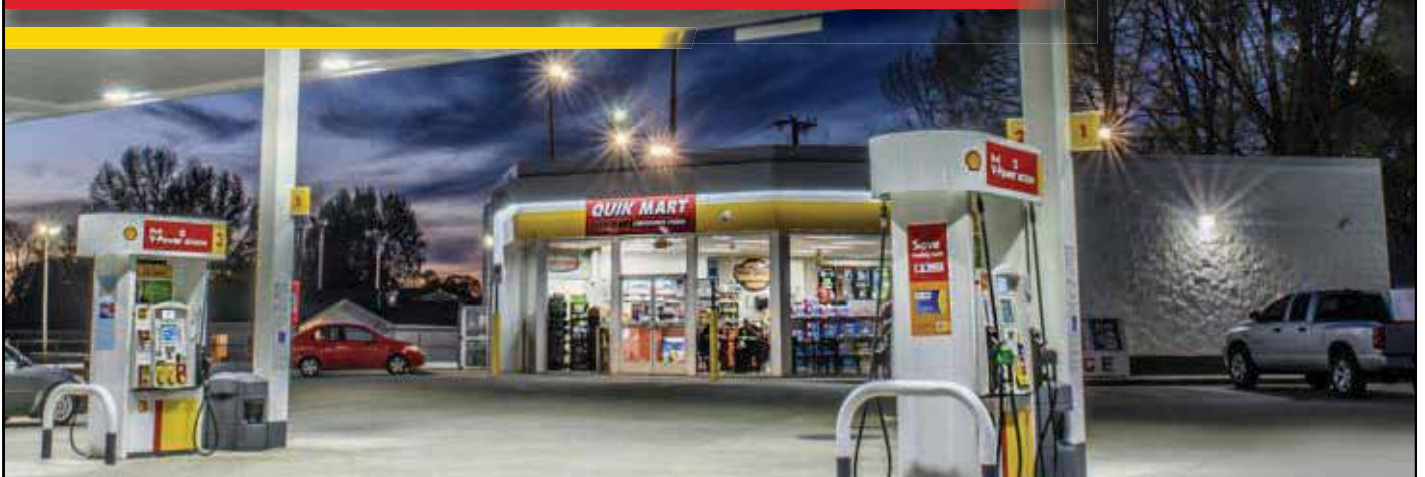
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CHANGING LIVES

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Dr. Elizabeth Welch has worked to help those with hearing loss for nearly three decades.

“I just love being able to change the quality of people’s lives,” she says. “And I love the relationships with our patients. We’re not just here to sell a product or service; when you walk into our office, you feel like you’re walking into a family.”

Welch owns HearTN. For a number of years, it was called Hearing Services of Franklin, but when she began opening offices to serve other communities, it made sense to change the name. HearTN now has offices in Franklin, Spring Hill, Chattanooga, Dickson, Nolensville, Tullahoma, and Trenton, Georgia.

“We saw some of these smaller, more rural communities just didn’t have quality hearing healthcare,” Welch explains. “So, we decided it was a good move for us.”

Welch and her staff offer a wide range of services, all geared toward educating and equipping people with the tools to protect and maintain proper hearing. Often, when you think of hearing loss, the first thing that comes to mind is older patients who might need hearing aids, but HearTN serves people of all ages with a variety of needs.

“I like to tell people hearing loss is not a respecter of age,” Welch says. “Yes, it’s more common as we get older. I think the statistic is one-in-three when you’re 65 years old, but it’s also one-in-twenty in school-age kids. And that doesn’t mean hearing loss can’t be corrected with surgery or with tubes in the ears. So, we deal with all ages.

Welch recommends a baseline hearing test for everyone. While kids usually get tested in school, once people enter adulthood, they can go for decades without having another one.

“A baseline hearing test is always a good idea, no matter how

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Crunchy and Creamy Cold Green Pea and Peanut Salad

Recipe courtesy of The Peanut Institute

Servings: 8



DRESSING:

- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1 1/2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 2 teaspoons apple cider vinegar
- 2 teaspoons sugar

SALAD:

- 1 package (20 ounces) green peas, frozen
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- 1/3 cup red onions, chopped
- 1 cup dry roasted peanuts
- 6 slices thick cut bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 pinch salt, or to taste
- 1 pinch freshly ground black pepper, or to taste

To make dressing: In small mixing bowl, whisk sour cream, mayonnaise, apple cider vinegar and sugar.

To make salad: In large mixing bowl, combine frozen green peas, celery and onion. Pour dressing over salad and toss to combine. Refrigerate at least 2 hours.

Before serving, stir in roasted peanuts and crumbled bacon. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper.

< FROM PAGE 26

old you are. And most insurances cover a hearing test, many of them annually.

For children in school, testing beyond the basic hearing test can determine whether kids who might be struggling in the classroom have auditory processing disorder.

"We see a lot of that in school-age children," says Welch. "It's like, 'I hear everything you're saying, I have completely normal hearing, but it's just processing, it's just not clicking.' So, a lot of times parents think their kids have hearing loss when, in fact, they hear just fine; it's the way they're processing that information. We do that kind of testing, as well."

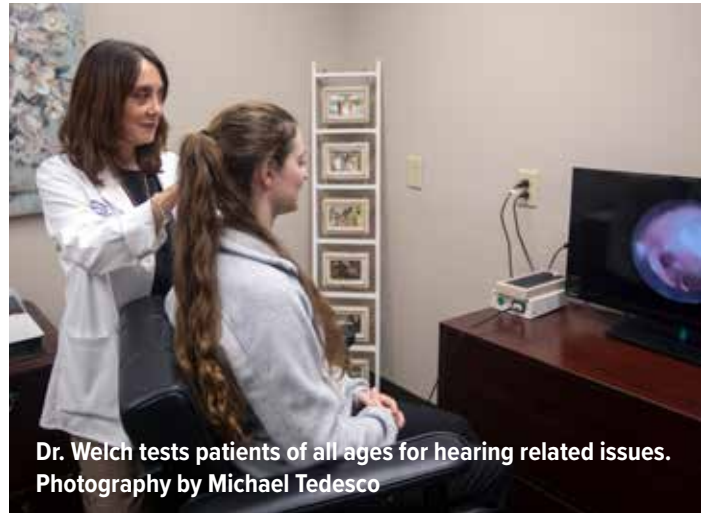
HearTN can help with many other things as well.

"We do management for tinnitus, which is ringing in the head or noises in the head, basically. We see a lot of that with the musician population here in the Nashville area. We do musician monitors to help protect their hearing, we do noise plugs for hunters or spouses who snore, swim plugs for children who have tubes in their ears, and we do balance testing for people who have vertigo, along with treatment."

With regard to the older population, Welch notes there's a strong correlation between hearing loss and cognitive decline. And when you don't treat the hearing loss, the rate of cognitive decline is increased.

And for patients who need hearing aids, technology has come a long way in making them smaller, more efficient, and user-friendly.

"Hearing aids are so tiny now, you can hardly see them," says



Dr. Welch tests patients of all ages for hearing related issues.
Photography by Michael Tedesco

Welch. "And most of them have AI features in them now, deep neural network (we call it DNN), so processing is so much better today than it was even five or six years ago. Almost all of them are rechargeable today, and most of them are Bluetooth compatible, so you can listen to your phone."

Welch is passionate about helping people hear better and doing it with a dedicated, caring staff that feels the same way.

"As a business owner, I couldn't be more blessed with the staff I have. They are 'my people.' I love them and I trust them. I get to go to work every day with people I genuinely enjoy working with."

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit heartn.com/

A large background image of a baseball player in a pinstriped uniform, wearing a cap, and holding a baseball in his right hand. The player's jersey number '25' is visible.

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The logo features a red silhouette of a family (two adults and two children) holding hands, set against a blue circle. To the right of the icon, the text "Family" is in red and "ADVANTAGE" is in blue, both in a sans-serif font. Below this, "FEDERAL CREDIT UNION" is written in a smaller, black, all-caps sans-serif font.

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