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JANUARY 2025



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His interest in Elvis led to a life of collecting music memorabilia

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Step into January 2025 and embrace the opportunity to embark on new projects or adopt new ways of life

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## FINDING THE PERFECT MATCH

Automotive veterans open independent store to help buyers find the cars they really want

## LOCAL FOCUS

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# ALL THINGS ELVIS

## PAM WINDSOR

Franklin resident, Stephen Shutts was very young when he first discovered Elvis.

"I was mesmerized as a young kid and I begged my dad to take me to see him in concert," he recalls. "So, my dad became a fan, and we went to four Elvis concerts in Ohio where I grew up. Then I went to college near Memphis because of the history and that sort of thing."

As he learned more about Elvis, his interest became a passion that evolved into a lifelong business. Shutts became a collector of all things Elvis and began buying, selling, and curating items once owned by the King.

"Things like jumpsuits, jewelry, and other clothing," Shutts

says. "I've had a TV he shot out, I've had several of his vehicles. I have one of his snowmobiles sitting in my living room right now. Elvis gave it to a detective in Denver after a snowmobiling trip. I had a ski boat I found in a barn in Arkansas that's currently on display in Graceland."

He also began collecting Elvis' autographs and became an expert on authenticating Elvis' handwriting.

"Elvis never turned anyone away, so he signed thousands upon thousands of autographs. But there are also a lot of forgeries out there. And because he got immense amounts of mail and couldn't sit down and sign everything, his secretaries would also often sign for him."

Shutts has written a book that delves deeper into Elvis au-

**PAGE 10 >**



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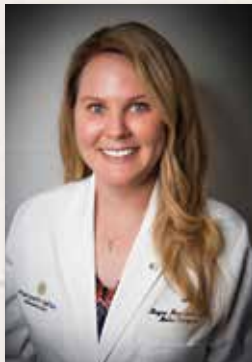
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## < FROM PAGE 8

-tographs in several ways. The book "Yours Elvis Presley" offers guidance in authenticating an Elvis signature, while also sharing personal accounts of people who got his autograph in person.

"The book is all about the encounters and the autographs obtained by people, and the stories they recall having met him. Then there's a study guide, a separate booklet that goes along with it, that breaks down how to analyze Elvis' autograph if you want to collect or study his handwriting."

Nearly 50 years after his death, an Elvis autograph remains extremely valuable. Depending on the type and circumstances surrounding it, one can sell for anywhere between \$1500 and \$30,000.

Shutts, who never got to meet Elvis personally, says he's amazed by what he hears from those who did. Those experiences remain vivid even decades later.

"I've met so many people who were gate gals, people who hung out at the gates, or people who got to meet him backstage, and I wanted to document these stories in the book. Women can remember what he smelled like, what he wore, just everything. And guys recall a lot of things, too, because they thought he was cool."

While Shutts spends a lot of time working with Elvis Memorabilia (he has a pop-up shop offering items for sale on his Rockology Facebook page every weekend), his expertise stretches into other areas, as well.

"I also deal in a lot of historic country," he explains. "Patsy Cline, Johnny Cash, Hank Williams, and then a lot of contem-

porary country as far as personal items and stage clothing. I handled the Charlie Daniels estate recently as far as partial liquidation, Jerry Lee Lewis and B.J Thomas, so I do a lot of celebrity estates and collections."

He also had a show for several years on CMT that dealt with the search for memorabilia.

He enjoys it all, but there's something special about Elvis. "I think because of his undeniable, incredible looks and charisma, he was clearly in his own class."

It's a fascination he shares with many around the world, including those he highlights in the book who actually met him.

"It's like his presence is still here today when you talk to these people," Shutts says. "When people recall having met him, it's never sloughed off; it's like 'I met Elvis, let me tell you about him.' Sadly, it's a dwindling class of people just because of age, but they all have a common thread of adoration and are fascinated with having met him. And a lot of times, he changed their lives in a lot of different ways."

*To learn more or connect with Shutts, check out his Rockology Facebook page or website at [www.rockologyllc.com](http://www.rockologyllc.com).*



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# LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SCHEDULES



## COLUMBIA ACAD.

Nov. 19	Home	Lincoln Cty
Nov. 23	Away	Ezell-Harding
Nov. 25/26	Away	Ravenwood (girls)
Nov. 25/26	Away	Friendship (boys)
Nov. 29/30	Away	Ezell-Harding (girls)
Dec. 3	Away	Marshall Cty
Dec. 6	Away	Middle TN Christian
Dec. 9	Home	Hickman Cty
Dec. 10	Away	University School
Dec. 13	Home	Webb
Dec. 20/21	Away	FRA
Jan. 3	Home	Grace Christian
Jan. 7	Away	Providence Christian
Jan. 9	Home	Fairview
Jan. 10	Away	FRA
Jan. 14	Home	BGA
Jan. 17	Home	Middle TN Christian
Jan. 21	Home	University School
Jan. 24	Away	Webb
Jan. 28	Away	Grace Christian
Feb. 1	Home	FRA
Feb. 4	Home	Providence Christian
Feb. 7	Away	BGA



## BATTLECREEK

Nov. 19	Away	Hickman County
Nov. 23	Away	Murfreesboro Central
Nov. 29	Away	Boys Cascade
Nov. 29	Away Girls	Mt. Pleasant
Nov. 30	Away Boys	Community
Nov. 30	Away Girls	Mt. Pleasant
Dec. 5	Away	Lawrence County
Dec. 12	Away	East Hickman
Dec. 12	Away	Fairview
Dec. 13	Away	Summertown
Dec. 17	Away	Santa Fe
Dec. 20	Away	Boys FCA
Dec. 21	Away Boys	Franklin Classical
Dec. 27	Away Girls	Moore County
Dec. 28	Away Girls	Moore County
Jan. 10	Away	Spring Hill
Jan. 17	Away	Loretto
Jan. 21	Away	Mt. Pleasant
Jan. 27	Away	Forrest
Feb. 7	Away	Lewis County



## SPRING HILL

NOV. 26	Home	Marshall County
Dec. 2	Home	Giles Cty
Dec. 6	Away	Marshall Cty
Dec. 9	Away	Nolensville
Jan. 10	Home	Battle Creek
Jan. 14	Home	Warren Cty
Jan. 17	Away	Lincoln Cty
Jan. 25	Away	Columbia Central
Jan. 31	Home	Warren Cty
Feb. 4	Home	Lincoln Cty
Feb. 7	Home	Columbia Central



\*Schedules may be incomplete due to press deadlines



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## MT. PLEASANT

Nov. 18	Away	Agathos (Girls)
Nov. 19	Away	Franklin Classic
Nov. 26	Away	Forrest
Nov. 29	Home	Hampshire (Girls)
Nov. 30	Home	Forest Vs Battlecreek
Dec. 2	Away	Hampshire
Dec. 3	Home	Grace Christian
Dec. 6	Away	Richland
Dec. 9	Away	East Hickman
Dec. 10	Home	Zion
Dec. 13	Away	Giles Cty
Dec. 16	Away	Frank Hughes
Dec. 20	Home	Christmas Tourney (Boys)
Dec. 21	Home	Christmas Tourney (Boys)
Jan. 3	Home	Community
Jan. 7	Home	Hampshire
Jan. 10	Away	Zion
Jan. 14	Home	Loretto
Jan. 17	Home	Summertown
Jan. 21	Home	BCHS
Jan. 24	Away	Lewis Cty
Jan. 25	Home	Frank Hughes
Jan. 28	Away	BCHS
Jan. 31	Away	Loretto
Feb. 4	Away	Summertown
Feb. 11	Home	Lewis Cty
Feb. 13	Away	Cascade



## ZION CHRISTIAN

Nov. 9	Away	FC Boyd
Nov. 12	Home	Riverside Christian
Nov. 14	Home	Franklin Classical
Nov. 15	Away	Lancaster Christian
Nov. 18	Home	FC Boyd
Nov. 19	Away	Grace Christian
Nov. 21	Home	FRA
Nov. 22	Away	Culleoka
Nov. 25	Away	Hampshire
Nov. 29	Neutral	TBD
Nov. 30	Neutral	TBD
Dec. 3	Away	Riverside Christian
Dec. 6	Home	Franklin Christian
Dec. 10	Away	Mt. Pleasant
Dec. 13	Home	Culleoka
Dec. 17	Away	Franklin Rd Christian
Dec. 20	Away	Dickson Christian
Dec. 27	Neutral	TBD
Dec. 28	Neutral	TBD
Jan. 2	Away	Summertown
Jan. 3	Away	Cornersville
Jan. 7	Away	Franklin Christian
Jan. 10	Home	Mt. Pleasant
Jan. 14	Home	Dickson Christian
Jan. 17	Home	Lancaster Cristian
Jan. 20	Neural	TBD
Jan. 23	Home	Franklin Rd Christian
Jan. 27	Home	Frank Hughes
Jan. 28	Away	Franklin Classical
Jan. 31	Home	Stem Prep Senior Night



## COLUMBIA CENT.

Nov. 21	Away	Oakland
Nov. 22	Away	Whites Creek
Nov. 25	Away	Beech
Nov. 26	Away	Beech
Dec. 3	Home	Lawrence Cty
Dec. 6	Home	Summit
Dec. 10	Away	Brentwood
Dec. 13	Away	Lawrence Cty
Dec. 17	Home	Blackman
Dec. 20	Away	Giles Cty
Dec. 21	Away	Portland
Jan. 3	Away	Summit
Jan. 7	Away	Blackman
Jan. 10	Away	Warren Cty
Jan. 14	Home	Lincoln Cty
Jan. 17	Away	Coffee Cty
Jan. 24	Home	Warren Cty
Jan. 25	Home	Spring Hill
Jan. 28	Home	Shelbyville
Jan. 31	Away	Lincoln Cty
Feb. 4	Home	Coffee Cty
Feb. 7	Away	Spring Hill
Feb. 11	Home	Hickman Cty
Feb. 13	Away	Shelbyville

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*Welcome to 2025—a perfect opportunity for us, as a community, to turn our resolutions and plans into reality. Berry Farms Local, with the support of local businesses, has uncovered valuable strategies to make achieving our goals simpler and more attainable. Dive into the following paragraphs for inspiring ideas and resources designed to elevate our 2025, whether we're focusing on finances, health, or other vital areas of our lives. Let's make this year our best yet, together.*

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Cory Muehlbauer and Justin George of Columbia Motor Company. Photography by Robbie Mathis

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"I have been in the car business a long time and wanted to open my own retail lot," begins Columbia native Cory Muehlbauer, explaining his decision to start Columbia Motor Company in 2022.

"Cory saw a need for a small independent store here in Columbia that treats people right and does good business and keeps things simple," adds Justin George, who became co-owner in 2024 after leaving his upper management job at a Chevrolet/GMC dealership.

"Too many times at the big stores, people get treated like numbers. They make you sit for hours and the sales guy needs to talk to the manager, and he has to talk to his manager, and they (both) have to talk to the used car manager. All the back and forth

takes hours. We cut out the middleman and all the nonsense and present our best deal and if it makes sense, great. If it doesn't make sense that's okay, too," says George.

But it certainly streamlines the buying process for Columbia Motor Company customers.

"We find something they like, we agree on numbers, they sign, and then they say, 'Is that it?' And we say, 'That's it.' And they say, 'Last time I bought a car at a dealership, I was there all day, and I had to take a day off work. But you guys made it so easy,'" relates George.

Another differentiator is the quality of the cars on Columbia Motor Company's lot.

"Cory and I hand select everything, so we can pick and choose good quality (vehicles)," says George, before noting that they have

**PAGE 18 >**





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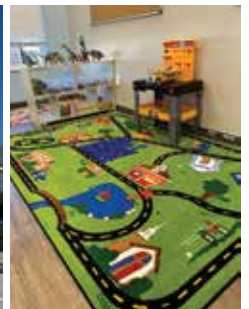
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Photography by Robbie Mathis

#### < FROM PAGE 16

a broad enough selection to fit just about every budget and need. Some of their vehicles are acquired at local auctions. Others are purchased from individuals who want to avoid the hassle of selling a car themselves.

"We have four-thousand-dollar cars and ninety-thousand-dollar cars and everything in between. Every customer's needs and wants are different, and we enjoy helping them through that process. That's why we love this business," he adds.

For his part, George particularly enjoys helping first-time buyers, as well as parents who come in with their kids, when the latter are looking for their first car.

"It's always a dance—Corvette versus minivan, maybe—and we have to find the happy medium between them. And while we're not going to have the perfect car for everybody, if you spend 15-20 minutes here, you might be able to save yourself several days at another store," notes George.

"We understand that we can't help everybody, and that's okay," elaborates Muehlbauer. "But we are simple, easy to deal with, and we are always going to leave you with a smile and a handshake. We recognize the industry has a reputation for not treating people fairly and not standing behind their product, but that is the opposite of what we are. We want to sell a good product, make a little bit of profit, and be your first 'think of' when you need a vehicle."

And if a potential customer wants a specific car that Columbia Motor Company doesn't have in stock, there's a good chance they can find it.

"We have customers who come in and say, 'My wife is looking for this car in this color. Help me find it,'" says George, before relating how Columbia Motor Company has access to auctions nationwide and "aren't limited to what we have here on the lot."

All of the above helps explain why George and Muehlbauer anticipate expanding the business over the next couple of years.

"We want to grow and add several more locations in Middle Tennessee," relates George, as he and his business partner maintain close ties to the local community.

"We are one of the premier sponsors for the big car show that Columbia Cares does every year, and we also sponsor events with The Well (Outreach)," says George, indicating that he and Muehlbauer plan to hire more salespeople in 2025 to help serve the company's customers.

"With all the people moving to Middle Tennessee, everybody needs a vehicle," he concludes.

#### CONTACT

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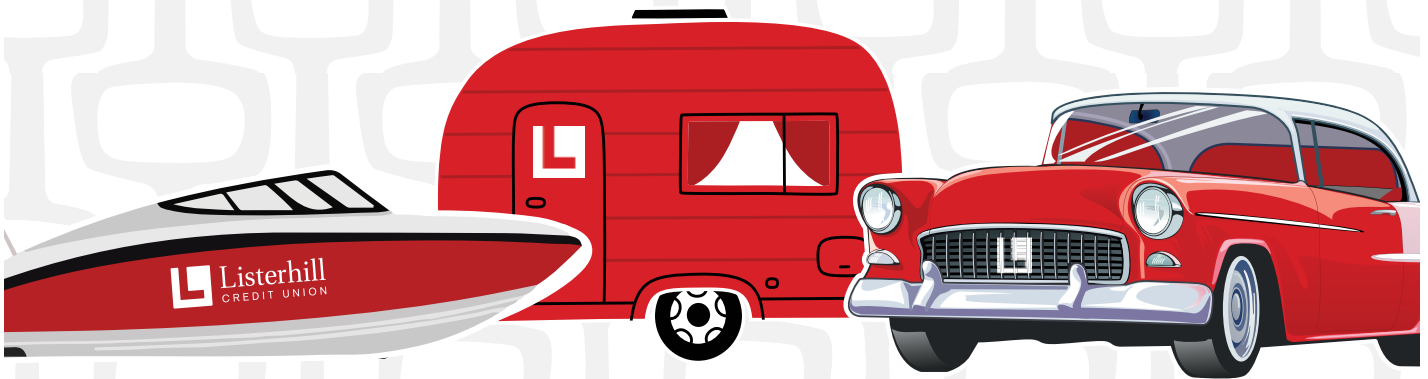


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