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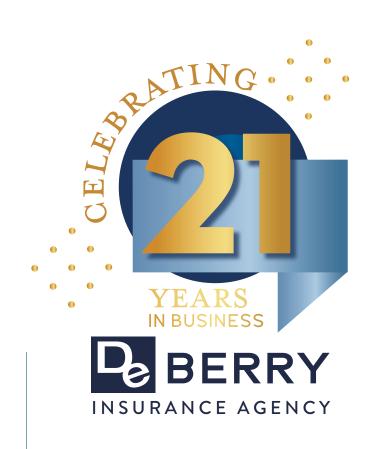
ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH WE'RE CLOSING DOWN THE STREET IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA APRIL THROUGH DECEMBER!

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Inside {local} August'24



10 EVER-MORE AMBITIOUS MILESTONES

Preparing buyers to be homeowners is just the beginning



26 THE NEWEST STATE SONG

Local resident pens song destined for notoriety

LOCAL FOCUS COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS 8 SERVICE DIRECTORY 20, 21, 22

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ON THE COVER: Columbia resident Makky Kaylor wrote the song

"Tennessee In My Dreams". The song was recently announced to be a new official state song for Tennessee.

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Special Census 2024 is Coming Soon to Columbia

Beginning in August through November, the City of Columbia will conduct a special census. Everyone in the city limits of Columbia will receive an invitation to respond online, then home visits will take place after that to make sure everyone has an opportunity to be counted.



An accurate count of our current population may help Columbia qualify for additional funding for services we depend on every day. Businesses may also use U.S. Census Bureau data to choose locations for new stores and create new jobs.

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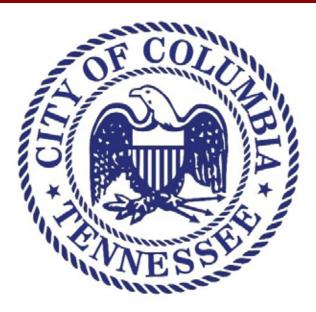


U.S. Department of Commerce U.S. CENSUS BUREAU census.gov





COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS



COLUMBIA ADOPTS BUDGET

The Columbia City Council unanimously adopted the city's fiscal year 2024-2025 budget. The approved budget, totaling \$75,816,451 for all funds, was achieved without a property tax increase and ensures the maintenance and enhancement of core City services.

The 2024-25 budget reflects strategic, plan-driven investments across all departments. A key focus is on continuing to invest in employees, including a 5% salary increase for all personnel, to enhance the city's competitiveness in recruiting and retaining staff.

CITY ANNOUNCES NEW 101 PROGRAM

The City of Columbia is pleased to announce the launch of Columbia 101, an innovative program designed to engage residents with local government and community services. Participants in Columbia 101 will have the unique opportunity to interact closely with city officials and staff, gaining firsthand knowledge of how municipal services are delivered and learning about avenues for community involvement and advocacy.

This consecutive two-day program will be open to all City of Columbia and Maury County residents and offered twice per year, with the official kick-off occurring on September 17th and September 18th.

Columbia 101 applications are available at www.columbiatn. gov or at the reception desk on the 3rd floor of City Hall. Follow the City of Columbia on Facebook and Instagram at "CityofColumbiaTN." For questions, please contact Lexi Dearborn at **Idearborn@columbiatn.gov.**



THE WELL OUTREACH FOOD MINISTRY CELEBRATED THEIR SECOND FOOD PANTRY

The Well Outreach Food Ministry celebrated its second Food Pantry opening in Middle Tennessee with a Ribbon cutting of its new Mt Pleasant facility on Thursday, June 20th. Over 150 businesses, churches, organizations, and community members joined them to celebrate this event and welcome The Well into the community.

The Well Outreach serves local families in need through an open-shop, client-choice grocery store model. Guests can choose the food their families need most. A grocery serving will include meat, fresh local produce, dairy, eggs, shelf-stable canned goods, breads and pastries, and even fresh lettuce grown in the Well's hydroponic lettuce farms.

Currently, The Well serves over 2,000 local families in need each month through its Maury County Food Pantries. For more information, visit: **thewelloutreach.org**



PSORIASIS AWARENESS MONTH: UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING

What is Psoriasis? Psoriasis is a chronic autoimmune condition that causes the rapid buildup of skin cells, leading to scaling on the skin's surface. It can cause discomfort, itching, and emotional distress

KNOW THE SIGNS:

- Red patches of skin covered with thick, silvery scales
- Dry, cracked skin that may bleed
- · Itching, burning, or soreness
- Thickened or ridged nails
- Swollen and stiff joints

LIVING WITH PSORIASIS:

- Seek Treatment: Consult with a healthcare provider to find the right treatment plan for you. Options include topical treatments, phototherapy, and systemic medications.
- Stay Informed: Educate yourself about triggers and management strategies. Stress, infections, and certain medications can exacerbate symptoms.
- Support Networks: Connect with support groups and communities for emotional support and shared experiences.

GET INVOLVED:

- Raise Awareness: Share information about psoriasis to help reduce stigma and increase understanding.
- Advocate for Research: Support organizations and initiatives dedicated to finding better treatments and ultimately a cure.



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A PATHWAY TO HOME OWNERSHIP

JASON ZASKY

In the past three decades, Habitat for Humanity Williamson-Maury (HFHWM) has built upwards of 300 homes in Franklin, Fairview, Spring Hill, and Columbia. But the organization-which partners with donors and local families in need to build new houses-is reaching ever-more ambitious milestones.

For one, HFHWM recently partnered with Atmos Energy and completed its first Zero Net Energy home in Tennessee - designed to produce as much energy as it consumes each year. And in 2025, the non-profit aims to do "critical repairs" on 16 area homes, which would represent an expansion of its Critical Repair Program by at least 25 percent. It's also launching a "Get Ready" initiative, to help candidates for HFHWM's home ownership program position themselves to meet eligibility requirements.

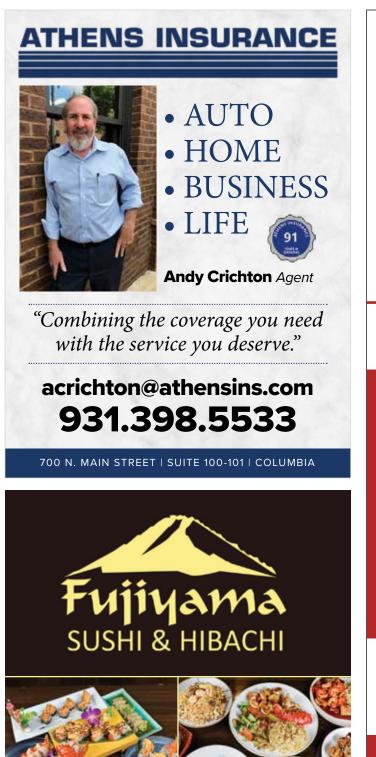
"We don't give the homes away," emphasizes Kim Randell, CEO of HFHWM. "We prepare (prospective) homeowners by putting them through an intensive home buyer education program that includes one-on-one budget coaching, as well as credit coaching. By the time they close on their house, most of our homeowners are debt-free aside from the mortgage they just got from us. We encourage them to pay off as much debt as they can while they are in the program, which they usually get through in about a year."

Notably, the homeowner is also expected to put in some sweat equity during the construction of the house, which is built by a combination of staffers and volunteers.

"We have a general contractor on staff and a construction staff of three, but 75-80 percent of (each) home is built by volunteers," explains Randell. "The way we raise our money, ideally, is a church or an organization will donate funds to us, and in exchange, we have a volunteer build day, where our staff divide up the volunteers to do the project. We'll do painting, siding, and putting in windows and cabinets. It's only the things that have to get inspected — like roofing, electrical, and plumbing — that get contracted out."

Not surprisingly, HFHWM's homeownership program typically transforms lives, including the life of one single mom who was waitressing at Carrabba's when she got her home and mortgage.

"Now she's a banker and has a husband who is a teacher and football coach, and they have added on to the original Habitat home because their family has grown to include four children. And for the first time ever, they were able to go on a family vacation," recounts Breann DeMoss, Marketing and Events Manager for HFHWM.



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< FROM PAGE 10

Similarly, HFHWM's Critical Repair Program can have an outsized impact on lives.

"Originally, the program was started to allow homeowners on a fixed income to be able to repair their homes and age in place," says Randell, with an unsafe roof or floors or lack of heating or cooling among the most common critical repairs. But in one case, the program addressed the needs of a retired firefighter who fell off his porch and became a quadriplegic. "With the help of Goodall Homes, we went in and made the entire home wheelchair accessible," she adds.

As for what it takes to qualify for HFHWM's homeownership program: "You have to make a minimum income to qualify for our program, and you need to have decent credit. You also have to have steady income and to have been working for at least a year, and you can't have any liens against you. Basically, you have to be working hard to get yourself in position because we don't want people to fail," says Randell.

She recommends the Get Ready program for those who "aren't fitting our specific requirements yet but are on the cusp of being eligible. They get some preliminary budget coaching and some tips to help them shape up their finances so they are a better candidate when they apply. The program is also for people who are interested in learning more about Habitat or aren't sure they are ready," concludes Randell, before noting that it's common for families to apply multiple times before they are accepted.

Last but not least, Randell and DeMoss are keen to highlight the Habitat ReStore, "which is like a thrift store for your home," begins Randell. "It's located here in Franklin, and we receive new and used home goods, building materials, cabinets, and appliances, which we re-sell to the community. We have partnerships set up with Macy's and Costco and, receive a lot of brand-new overstock items and have a really cool deconstruction program where we come out for free and remove cabinets for people remodeling their kitchens or bathrooms. The donations really help us raise a lot of revenue to support our building goals."

DeMoss encourages locals to swing by and see all the store offers.

"The last Friday of every month is 30 percent off," she notes. "Being in Williamson County, we get a lot of really good stuff.

Habitat for Humanity Williamson-Maury 109 Noah Dr. Franklin, 615-690-8090 https://hfhwm.org

Habitat ReStore 1725 Columbia Ave. Franklin, 615-690-8094



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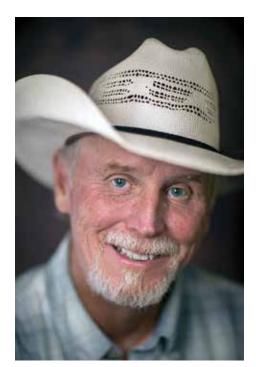
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Michael Dominic Tedesco is a photographer in Nashville, formerly New York City. Clients include: Mutual of America, Farm Bureau Insurance, Penguin Publishing Group, Gotham Books, Avery Books, Bloomberg Markets, Men's Health, Women's Health, Men's Fitness, The Source, CMJ, St. Johns University, Decker Design, Jujamcyn Theaters, Journal Communications, Warner Music Nashville, University of Tennessee, Meharry College, Edge Artist Management and many Departments of Agriculture in the United States. View more work at **www.tedescopictures.com**





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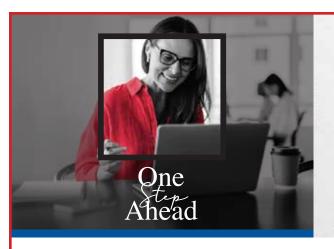
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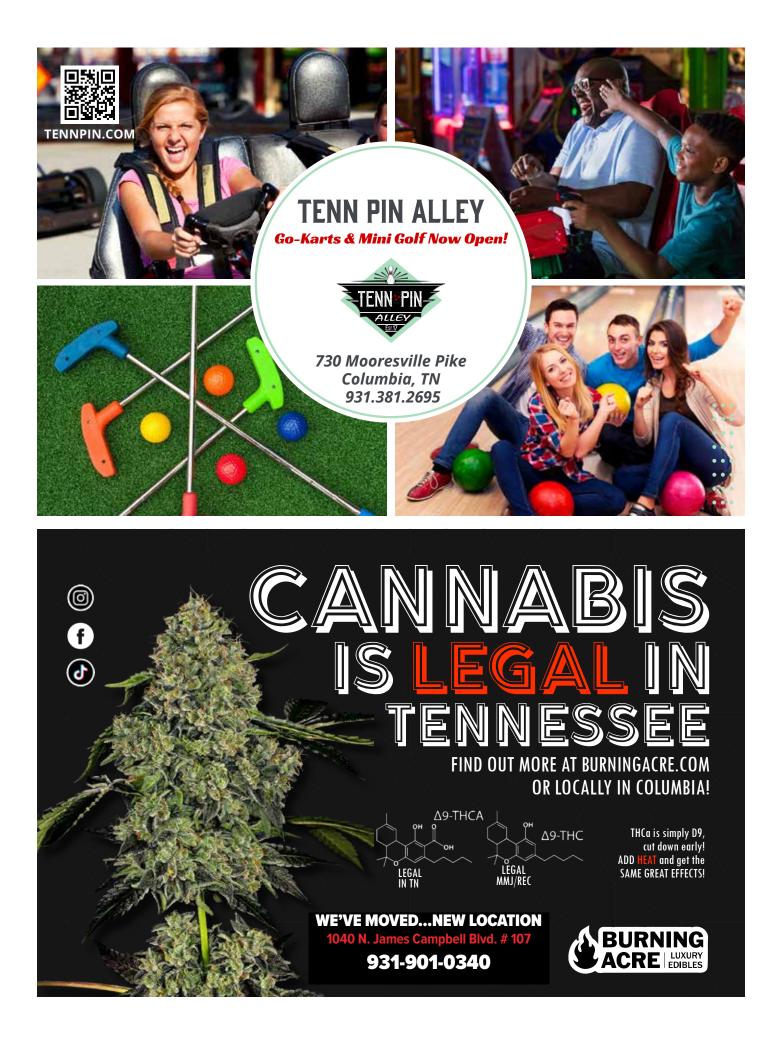
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'TENNESSEE, IN MY DREAMS'

Governor Bill Lee signed a bill designating singer/songwriter Makky Kaylor's 'Tennessee, In My Dreams,' the newest official state song.

A native of Memphis, Kaylor has made Columbia his home for the past 20 years. Various media outlets dub him the 'Mayor of the Muletown Sound', and there is a State Resolution naming him the 'Tennessee Troubadour'. Although he considers himself simply a songwriter, Kaylor began writing songs as a child in Memphis and has worked professionally in the music industry as a songwriter, singer, and entertainer for 45 years.

The idea of having a designated official state song began when Maury County Mayor Sheila Butt heard Kaylor perform 'Tennessee, In My Dreams' at an event. She sent the song to House Representative Mark White of Memphis, who was already very familiar with native Memphian Kaylor's work and the song. Mayor Butt later invited Senator Joey Hensley to hear the song at one of Kaylor's shows. White and Hensley carried 'Tennessee, In My Dreams' forward in legislation for the Governor's signature.

"The first time I ever heard Makky Kaylor perform 'Tennessee, in My Dreams,' I knew it was a heartfelt song for a very special place," stated Maury County Mayor Sheila Butt. "Only a person who has experienced the good life that Tennessee has to offer could have written those words. Placing the song on the list of Tennessee State Songs is not only a well-deserved honor for Makky, but it is a sweet reminder for all of us who live here and



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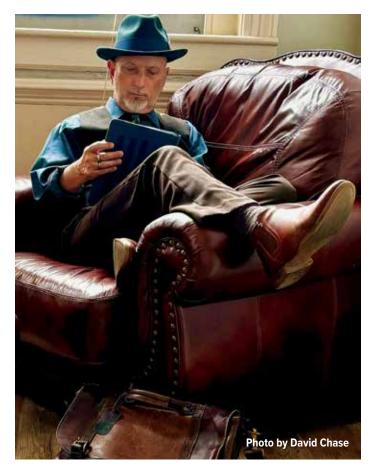
for those who have ever longed for their beautiful home here in Tennessee and how wonderful our state really is!"

"I'm so very humbled and thankful for this blessing and recognition, especially, considering where I've been in my journey in life and music," says Kaylor. "The song was written for anyone who has ever been homesick for 'her' whether called away on business, for personal reasons, or maybe in service to our country. It's for anyone who misses 'her' and dreams of 'her' - of sweet Tennessee."

Columbia Mayor Chaz Molder appreciates that Kaylor is an integral part of the community here in Columbia, not just on the music scene, but in everyday life. "I've known Makky Kaylor for a long time, and to know Makky is to know of his musical talent, his love of others, and his love of his country, state, and community. Now, thanks to "Tennessee, in My Dreams' being recognized as an official state song, the secret is out, and all the world can now know and love Makky Kaylor, just like me. I am proud of Makky, I'm grateful to him for sharing his talents for all of us to enjoy, and, most of all, grateful for his friendship."

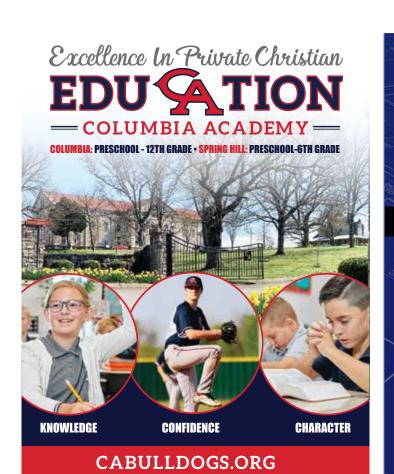
Makky gave a special performance of the brand new State Song with the Grammy Award-winning Time Jumpers at Third and Lindsley in Nashville on June 3rd.

A brand-new studio recording of 'Tennessee, In My Dreams' is now available on all digital platforms. You can reach Makky Kaylor by email for more information: **makkymedia14@gmail.com**





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Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy" Total time: 25 minutes, plus 3 hours refrigeration | Servings: 8

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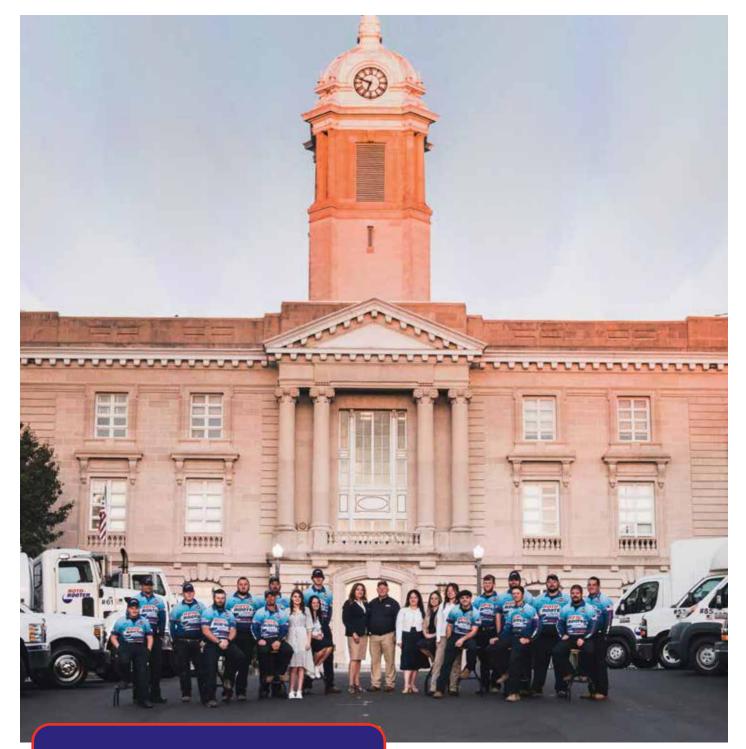


DIRECTIONS:

To make crust: Mix crushed vanilla wafers, melted butter and sugar; press into pie pan or individual pudding cups.

To make whipped cream: In large bowl, using electric mixer, mix heavy cream, sugar and vanilla until thickened into whipped cream.

To make cheesecake: Add softened cream cheese, vanilla and powdered sugar to whipped cream bowl. Using electric mixer, mix until smooth. Pour over vanilla wafer crust and chill 3 hours.



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