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2026 Schedule of Events

1/24/2026: AWARDS NIGHT
2/7/2026: OPEN PRACTICE
2/20/2026: OPEN PRACTICE
2/21/2026: BRING ON THE THUNDER
3/13/2026: OPEN PRACTICE
3/14/2026: WINTERFEST *SLM
3/28/2026: SEASON OPENER
4/10/2026: OPEN PRACTICE
4/11/2026: WEEKLY RACING
4/25/2026: WEEKLY RACING
5/8/2026: OPEN PRACTICE
5/9/2026: MOTHERS DAY SPECIAL
5/16/2026: SOUTHERN ALLSTARS *SLM
5/23/2026: OPEN PRACTICE
5/24/2026: SPRING NATIONALS *SLM

6/6/2026: WEEKLY RACING
6/12/2026: OPEN PRACTICE
6/13/2026: WEEKLY RACING
6/20/2026: FATHERS DAY SPECIAL
7/3/2026: OPEN PRACTICE
7/4/2026: INDEPENDENCE DAY SPECIAL *SLM
7/18/2026: SOUTHERN DIRT FACTORY STOCK
7/24/2026: OPEN PRACTICE
7/25/2026: MID SEASON POINTS
7/30/2026: OPEN PRACTICE
7/31/2026: DEEP FRIED HTF #1 *SLM
8/1/2026: DEEP FRIED HTF #2 *SLM
8/21/2026: OPEN PRACTICE
8/22/2026: WOODS/MARLIN MEMORIAL
9/4/2026: OPEN PRACTICE

9/6/2026: SAM PUGH MEMORIAL & HOMECOMING *SLM
9/12/2026: WEEKLY RACING
9/24/2026: OPEN PRACTICE
9/25/2026: THE BIG DEAL 602 #1
9/26/2026: THE BIG DEAL 602 #2
10/9/2026: OPEN PRACTICE
10/10/2026: SOUTHERN DIRT FACTORY STOCK
10/17/2026: PINK OUT
10/23/2026: OPEN PRACTICE
10/24/2026: RUMBLE ON THE RIVER
10/31/2026: DUCKFEST
11/13/2026: OPEN PRACTICE
11/14/2026: THE GOBBLER *SLM
12/12/2026: CHRISTMAS CLASH
12/28/2026: OPEN PRACTICE

*SLM=SUPER LATE MODEL

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Inside {local} February '26



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SUPPORTING COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Former Congressman and son of a Tennessee Governor visits CSCC



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A SUCCESSFUL MUSIC CAREER

Grammy-winning songwriter/producer—and longtime Maury County resident—offers insights



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ON THE COVER: Keith Stegall has won countless awards as a songwriter and producer, including a Grammy for Country Album of the Year in 2013. Photography by Michael Tedesco.

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FORMER CONGRESSMAN VISITS CLASSROOM

Former U.S. Representative from Tennessee Robert “Bob” Clement and Zacharie Kinslow, executive director of the Clement Railroad Hotel Museum, recently spoke to a Columbia State history class about the legacy of former Governor Frank Clement and his impact on community colleges in the state.

Kinslow, a former Columbia State adjunct instructor of history and a Columbia State alum, began the talk by summarizing how Frank Clement, the 41st governor of Tennessee, moved the once primarily agriculture-driven economy of the state to one driven by industry and manufacturing. With the changing landscape, Clement also believed the state needed to expand access to higher education offerings, especially for adults already in the workforce. This led to him reaching out to then-Education Commissioner J. Howard Warf, who helped to create Tennessee’s community college system, began with Columbia State in 1966.

Both Clement and Warf became the namesake for two buildings on Columbia State’s campus.

During his time in office, Clement also became the first governor in the South to veto a segregation bill, as well as overseeing the integration of public schools statewide, beginning with Clinton High School.

After seeing the need for better access to educational materials in his hometown of Dickson, Clement moved to give free access to textbooks for all K-12 public school students in Tennessee.

Bob Clement spoke about his memories and legacy that his fa-

ther, Frank Clement, who, after first being elected to the governor’s office at 32 years old and serving 10 years, was a driven man. Bob Clement said that drive and determination toward a goal in life are also something students should strive for.

“At age 16, can you imagine, he’d tell his friends, ‘I’m going to be governor of Tennessee one day’,” Clement said. “I’m sure some of them laughed. ‘Sure, that’s not going to happen,’ but he would say that on a regular, continuing basis. And everything he said and did from the time he was age 16, toward that one objective, at 32, was toward that goal. And at age 32, he was elected governor of Tennessee, and that’s why I challenge all of you in this room, if you can, to make a decision on what you want to do in your life. Ask, ‘What difference do I want to make in my life?’ And the better off you will be.”

Clement, who served 15 years in Congress and held roles in the Tennessee Army National Guard and as president of Cumberland University, also offered personal advice for students who are still uncertain about their career paths.

“I know for myself, I’ve had seven career changes in my life,” he said. “Now, I’m not talking about job changes, I’m talking about career changes, and you’re going to have that happen to you as well, but I accepted it as a challenge. I learned a lot of new things.”

For more information on Columbia State’s history and political science programs, please visit our website www.ColumbiaState.edu/academics/humanities-and-social-sciences



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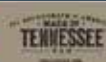
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Songwriter and producer Keith Stegall has spent a lifetime in music. Photography by Michael Tedesco

KEITH STEGALL, LOCAL GRAMMY WINNER

JASON ZASKY

The path to getting started in the music business can be nebulous. But Keith Stegall's upbringing prepared him well for a career as a songwriter and producer.

"My dad was a guitarist who played in a band with Johnny Horton, who was a big country star in the late 1950s. And my mom was a writer who penned short stories," begins Stegall, who says his parents helped him develop the skills that would enable him to write both music and lyrics.

"Also, my uncle had a recording studio, so by the time I was six or seven years old, I was in the studio and learning about the recording process," he continues.

Yet it wasn't until Stegall met country music legend/actor Kris Kristofferson that he considered pursuing his music career in Nashville, rather than moving from Louisiana to the West Coast.

"Kristofferson was doing a show at my college, and I got to speak with him backstage and play him a couple of my songs in a little dressing room. He said, 'You need to get your ass to Nashville,'" Stegall says.

Before long, Stegall did just that, and in three short years, he landed a publishing deal. Then, in 1980, he had his first hit song, called "Sexy Eyes," by Dr. Hook.

"It was the disco era, and if you were at a skating rink in 1980, you would have heard that song, because it was a global hit," he says.

Stegall would go on to record two solo albums—Keith Stegall (1985) and Passages (1996)—, but he has achieved his greatest critical and commercial success writing songs and producing albums for other artists, including Randy Travis, who helped kick-start Stegall's production career.

In the years since, he has won countless awards as a songwriter and producer, including a Grammy for Country Album of the Year in 2013, having produced *Uncaged* by the Zac Brown Band. He also won 1991 ACM Album of the Year for producing *Don't Rock the Jukebox* for Alan Jackson, and 1991 ACM Single of the Year for the album's title track, which he co-wrote with Jackson.

Stegall likens being a music producer to being the director of a movie.

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Clay Walker and Keith Stegall in the studio. They are neighbors in Maury County. Photography by Michael Tedesco

< FROM PAGE 14

“You are responsible for all the moving parts, including giving guidance to the musicians, guidance to the artist, and creating a comfort zone for the artist so they can do their best work,” he explains. “It’s a lot of different things, but it’s a major support role for creative people.”

Stegall cites 2003’s ACM Single of the Year as a representative example of how a producer can shape the creative process.

“I had been pitched a demo for ‘It’s Five O’Clock Somewhere’ by one of the writers, and when we first tracked it, I tried to copy the demo. But it just didn’t fit Alan Jackson,” recalls Stegall. “Jimmy Buffett heard the track and said, ‘Damn, Alan, you’re starting to sound like one of my records,’ at which point Alan said, ‘You need to make it sound like me.’ There was that moment when Alan became sensitive about that and wanted it to be branded as his basic sound and not be chasing what Buffett was doing.”

In that way, being a producer is not unlike being an editor.

“Someone can say one thing that changes the whole direction, so it’s always an open forum for people to contribute. Part of my job is to filter everything and say, ‘You’re right, let’s give that a shot.’ Or ‘No, I don’t hear it that way,’” relates Stegall, before noting that he is as excited as ever about finding a new artist with extraordinary talent—or writing that next hit song.

And while his approach to writing and recording remains much the same as it has for years, Stegall is not opposed to change. For example, he recently acquired Creative Workshop, a historic Nashville recording studio. He’s even learning about AI, trying to ascertain if it can help him do better work.

“We can all bitch and moan about AI, but it’s not going to go away. It’s only going to become more refined and play a bigger part in what we do. I have to learn how to utilize AI, but not let it change the way I make records,” he says, emphasizing that he would never use AI to generate music or lyrics. “I’m just becoming acquainted with what is possible. There are certain things I can use AI for and certain things I would not use it for.”

One thing that doesn’t figure to change, though, is Stegall’s home address.

“I bought property in Maury County 14 years ago, right after Clay Walker, who lives across the road from me,” he offers. Stegall loves that his spread is close enough to Nashville to allow for a reasonable commute, but still decidedly ‘out in the country.’

“I get enough of the buzzsaw that is the music business,” he concludes, “and it’s nice to be able to get away from it and not be saturated by it.”

Keith Stegall will appear at Nashville’s Tin Pan South Musical Festival, March 24-28, 2026. For more info go to keithstegall.com



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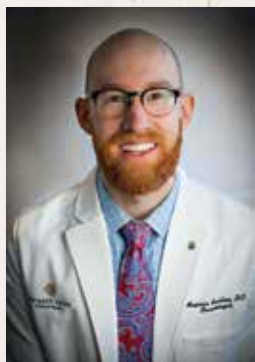
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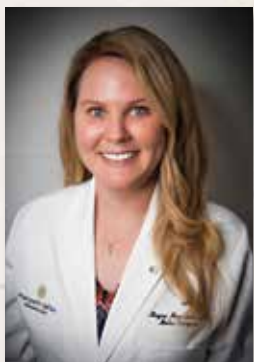
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Easy Lemon Blueberry Bars



INGREDIENTS

- 1 STICK BUTTER, MELTED
- 1 BOX LEMON CAKE MIX
- 2 EGGS
- 1/3 CUP FRESH BLUEBERRIES
- 2/3 CUP WHITE CHOCOLATE CHIPS, DIVIDED
- 1/3 CUP CHOPPED PECANS

DIRECTIONS

- Heat oven to 350 F.
- In bowl, combine butter, cake mix, eggs, blueberries, 1/3 cup white chocolate chips and pecans.
- Butter 7-by-11-inch pan and spread mixture evenly into pan. Bake 30-35 minutes.
- Let cool then melt remaining white chocolate chips and drizzle over bars.
- Tip: If melted white chocolate chips are too thick, add a little oil before drizzling.

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

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A VALENTINE'S TRIBUTE TO THE SOUNDS OF SINATRA

THURSDAY FEB 12, 8PM TO 10:30PM
THE MULEHOUSE, 812 SOUTH HIGH STREET,
COLUMBIA, VISIT: themulehouse.com/home

An enchanting evening celebrating the timeless music of Frank Sinatra in a special Valentine's Day tribute. Featuring the captivating talents of Richard Jacques, Keith Sargent, Kyle Henry and Michelle Murray, this Rat-Pack-style show promises a blend of classic charm and exceptional musicianship.

VALENTINE'S DAY SOCIAL

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1 PM TO 3 PM
SPRING HILL COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER
563 MAURY HILL STREET 931-487-0027

Join the fun the day before Valentine's Day. Treats, drinks, trivia and making cards. The Spring Hill Community Senior Center, located at 563 Maury Hill Street, is a welcoming space where adults age 55 and older can stay active, social, and engaged. The center offers a wide variety of activities designed to encourage fun, connection, and lifelong friendships.

2026 NIGHT OF HOPE FEATURING BIG DADDY WEAVE BENEFITTING THE WELL OUTREACH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 6PM TO 10PM
WORLDWIDE STAGES, 5000 NORTHFIELD LANE
VISIT: thewelloutreach.org/night-of-hope/

The Well Outreach's first fundraiser of the year is the annual gala, which offers guests an opportunity to enjoy dinner, a live auction and a concert. In 2026 the event will take place at Worldwide Stages and welcome Big Daddy Weave to the stage.

MULE DAY 2026

THURSDAY APRIL 9 – SUNDAY APRIL 12

Mule Day has been a popular Columbia tradition since the 1840s. It began as "Breeder's Day", a single day livestock show and mule market event held on the first Monday in April. Over time Mule Day evolved. The first "official" Mule Day was held in 1934, which consisted of the parade, and a mule show in downtown Columbia after the parade. Evolving still, Mule Day went from being a single day event to a multi-day festival, attracting thousands of attendees. Saturday's Mule Day parade is the highlight of the event. If you visit during Mule Day, you might see a square dance, a mule-driving contest, a horse show, a crafts festival, or attend a flea market. Other events include "working mule", "best of breed", or even lumberjack competitions. Traditional Appalachian food, music, dancing, and crafts are featured.

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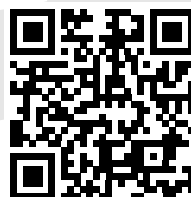
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