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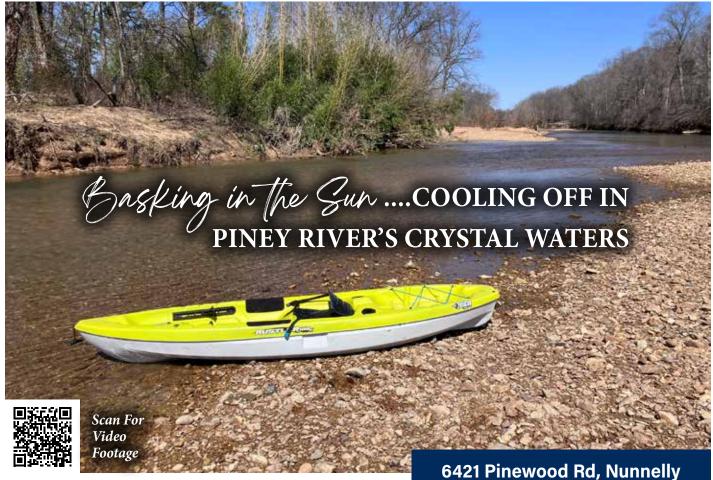
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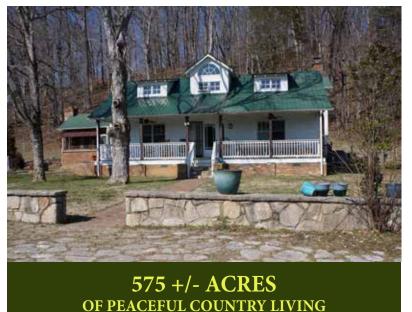


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Inside {local} October'25

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SPRING HILL'S BIGGEST DAY OF THE YEAR

Spring Hill's largest annual festival, The Whole Hog Festival is planned for October 11 10

MORE ABOUT PEOPLE

Local restaurant owner says people come first in her place

18

SMOKEY AND DELICIOUS

This recipe will be the hit of any gathering, fire up the grill



LOCAL FOCUS

HOME & SERVICE DIRECTORY 22

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PAM WINDSOR

Organizers have been working for months, and now everything is ready for the annual John Maher Builders Whole Hog Festival in Spring Hill. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 11th.

Held on the grounds of the historic Oaklawn Mansion, the family-friendly event has become an annual tradition for many. The day-long festival offers something for everyone, and it's all for a good cause. Profits support The Well Outreach, which operates food pantries in Spring Hill and Mount Pleasant to help families in need.

Last year, more than seven thousand people turned out to enjoy a variety of activities, including pork-themed food and contests, a craft fair, a kids' zone with lots of fun things to do, and live bands performing throughout the day. This year's musical line-up will include bluegrass, country, Contemporary Christian, and rock and roll, with a special guest to wrap things up.

"The Well is excited to announce that on the 20th anniversary of our festival, our headline act will be Larry Gatlin of the Gatlin Brothers Band," says Shelly Sassen, Chief Executive Officer for The Well Outreach. "We're super excited to have this legacy artist who is a Grammy Award winner, a member of the Grand Ole Opry, and a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame, be part of our event."

The festival, centered around all things pork-related, is chock full of contests, events, and lots of food.

"We'll be having our Hog Calling Contest as we do every year, and the Bacon Eating Contest will be bigger with more participants," Sassen says. "We've also widened our pork-themed food offerings with some new food trucks. This year we'll have somebody making pork chops, along with all of the other things."

Of course, you can't have a whole hog festival without a whole hog.

"Martin's Bar-B-Que is providing a whole hog, and they'll be offering barbecue pork sandwiches in front of their whole hog," she adds.

The festival serves as a fundraiser for The Well Outreach, enabling it to help feed struggling families throughout Maury County. Sassen says the need has grown even greater this year. They're serving more families than ever before with fewer resources.

Admission is free to children five and under, \$5.00 for students six to eighteen, and \$10.00 for adults. The festival kicks off at 10 am and goes until 5 pm. The John Maher Whole Hog Festival takes place at Oaklawn Mansion on Oct. 11. Oaklawn Mansion is located at 3331 Denning Lane in Spring Hill.

For more information, visit: thewelloutreach.org/

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FOOD FROM THE HEART

PAM WINDSOR

It's the fast-food restaurant known for chicken sandwiches and so much more. Chick-fil-A has a longstanding reputation for making everyone feel welcome.

"Of course, we have great food, but more than that, we have a great heart," says Jeanne Hammontree, who operates a Chickfil-A franchise in Berry Farms and South Franklin. "We love our customers, and we love our employees. We want the business to be more about people than chicken. And that starts from the top on down. Our corporate support is amazing. At Chick-fil-A, we are a family."

She and her husband, Richard, became franchise owners twenty-three years ago and have enjoyed every minute of it.

Founder S. Truett Cathy opened the first Chick-fil-A restaurant in Atlanta in 1967. A man of strong faith, he followed biblical

principles to guide him as the business grew. Nearly six decades later, Chick-fil-A restaurants remain closed on Sunday to allow employees to spend time with their families or worship, should they choose to do so.

Hammontree says someone approached her with the idea of buying a Chick-fil-A franchise.

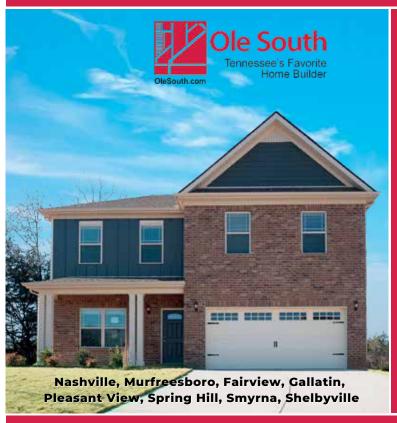
"I'm from Calhoun, Georgia, and I worked in a Christian school. And the people who owned the local Chick-fil-A had a child in our class. They were so insistent, saying you and your husband should do this; you're the perfect couple."

They submitted an application, then happened to run into the founder's son.

"We were at a local event and met Dan Cathy, who was CEO at Chick-fil-A at the time. And he put in a recommendation saying

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< FROM PAGE 14

y'all need to look at them, they're great people. So, Dan Cathy was instrumental in getting us into the company."

But even with a nod from the CEO, getting approval to buy a franchise wasn't easy. The company sets the bar pretty high when approving new franchise owners.

"My interview process took four years," Hammontree says with a laugh. "But you don't give up if you really want a Chick-fil-A. You keep doing what you're doing, but you keep interviewing."

Once you become an owner, Chick-fil-A sets the tone early on about what's expected in every one of its restaurants.

"When we go through training, the first thing we learn is winning hearts. We don't learn how to cook chicken first, we learn how to win hearts, and have a great hospitality atmosphere."

Making sure every customer feels welcome is a top priority. It's the first thing Chick-fil-A teaches its frontline employees.

"We don't come in and start teaching you how to use a register, we teach you how to make eye contact, how to talk to customers, how to speak enthusiastically to people."

While corporate sets the guidelines for the way each restaurant

operates, each franchise owner has the freedom to add his or her own personal touch.

"They set the standards for the way we make chicken and other things, but we're individual operators, so we can do a lot of things the way we want to do them," Hammontree says. "So, we'll decorate the way we want to. And we try to make our atmosphere fun, so you'll see me in the drive-thru dancing in a chicken or cow costume. Or like on April 15th, I ordered a dollar bill outfit and danced in the drive-thru saying you better pay your taxes or they're going to get you."

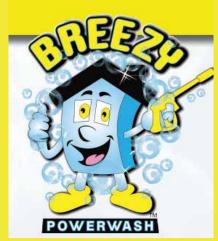
Every day is a new opportunity to make people feel special, whether it's a customer or employee.

"We want everyone to feel welcome. We want it to be a great place to eat, work, and play. If it's a great place for you to come eat, that's wonderful. But we also want the work to be amazing.

The Hammontrees operate the Chick-fil-A franchise in Berry Farms, as well as the one in Franklin at 2016 Columbia Avenue. You'll see Jeanne and Richard moving back and forth between both restaurants.

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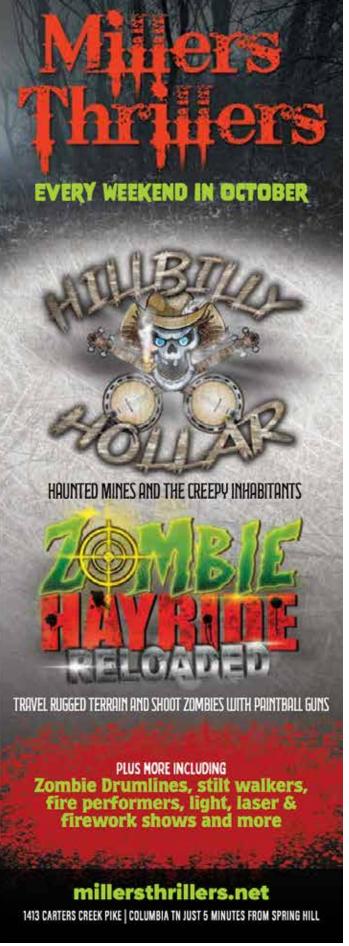


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- Coat pork steaks with olive oil and season well
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- · Add hickory to charcoal
- Place steaks on other side of grill
- Cook (with lid on) 1 hour turning after 30 minutes (275-300 degrees)
- Wrap in aluminum foil and add a splash of apple juice and a few pats of butter
- Place wrapped steaks back on grill and cook another hour
- Remove from grill and let rest for 20 minutes
- Serve



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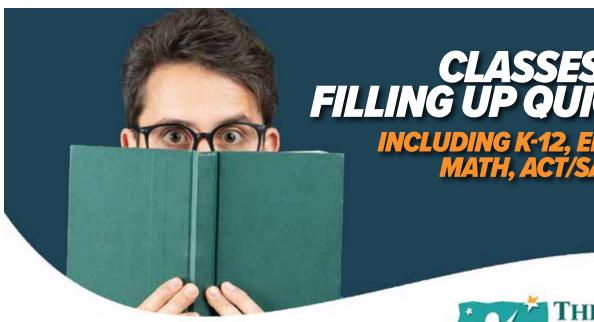
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