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# Inside {local} August 2022



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Annual event cranks up for this favorite event



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Popular building is transformed into fun place for kids to learn



## 14 DAY TRIP

Columbia is just a few minutes down the road and has a lot to offer



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Local residents get together to celebrate the seasons



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**ON THE COVER:** *The Williamson County Fair returns to the Ag Expo Park off Long Lane August 5-13. Photo by Jeff Bryant.*

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Photography provided

# COUNTY GEARS UP FOR ANNUAL FAIR

**BY JEFF BRYANT**

Cotton candy, thrill rides, great entertainment, and fun for everyone are just around the corner. Once again, it's time for the 2022 Williamson County Fair. This annual event is held August 5th through 13th at the Williamson County Agricultural EXPO Park, 4215 Long Lane, Franklin, Tennessee, 37064.

## NEW THIS YEAR

Each year, many animals are highlighted and shown at the fair, but this year the fair is making room for Sea Lions.

“Sea Lion Splash is an entertaining and informative presentation that showcases the relationship between an “adopted family” of rescued sea lions and their handlers. In each presentation, our sea lion stars demonstrate how well they have bonded with their trainers, show off their natural behaviors, and even teach kids how to recycle!” according to the fair’s official website.

Also new this year is the “Megamorph Car.” This full-sized Chevrolet Camaro will transform into a robot before the crowd.

The website states, “as smoke creeps out of the car and luminescent lights accent the interior, the car begins to transform and within moments morphs into a robot standing almost 15’ tall.

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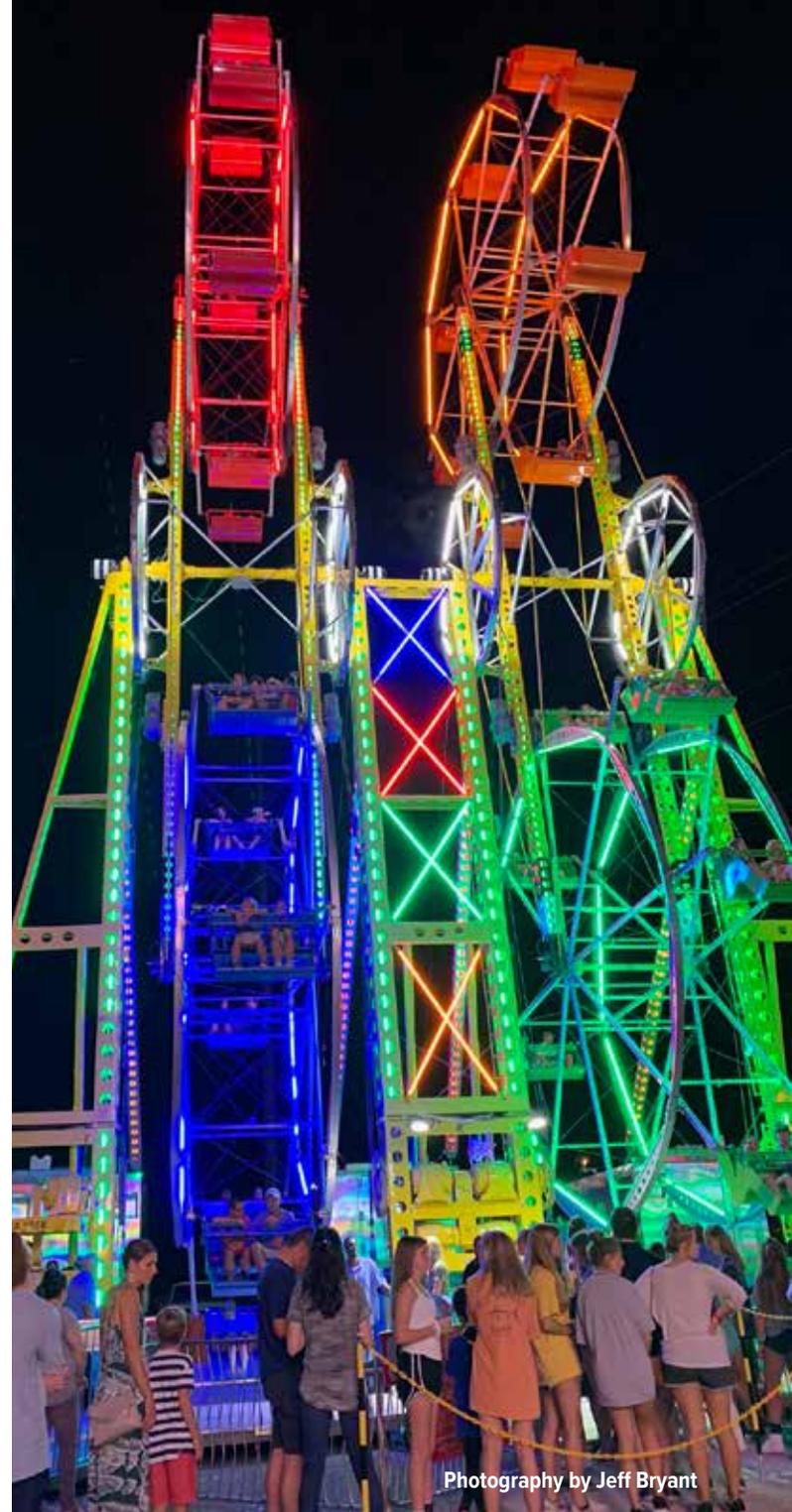


Darryl &  
Linde Myers



READER'S CHOICE AWARD WINNER 2015 - 2022





Photography by Jeff Bryant

**< FROM PAGE 6**

Spectators young and old alike are introduced to Megamorph and insist their friends and neighbors experience this terrifying terrific transformation!”

## **EXCITING EXHIBITS**

Nature lovers will want to visit the Butterfly Garden on the arena floor.

Walk amongst the butterflies in this beautiful botanical garden provided by Riverbend Nurseries. Learn all about a variety of

butterflies and the plants they feed on. Not only are they pretty, but these plants are also grown to attract butterflies, which helps with pollination. You’ll walk away wanting a butterfly garden of your own! Open during fair hours until 9:00 p.m. nightly.

Many other crowd favorites are returning, including chainsaw artist Roark Phillips, Jurassic Kingdom, Little 1’s Farming, and Piccolo Zoppe, just to name a few.

Check the website, [williamsoncountyfair.org](http://williamsoncountyfair.org), for more exciting info, ticket and ride pricing, and all the details to make your trip to the fair more enjoyable.



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Photography by Michael Tedesco



# BRIGHT FUTURES BEGIN AT IVYBROOK ACADEMY

## IN THE ICONIC HENPECK MARKET BUILDING

**BY JASON ZASKY**

For decades the Henpeck Village Market on Lewisburg Pike was home to a restaurant/grocery/gas station. But since 2020, it's been home to Ivybrook Academy (Franklin), a private half-day preschool that incorporates "the best of the Montessori philosophy and the Reggio Emilia approach," says co-owner Dawn Varnedoe.

"I love the curriculum because there is something for every learning style," adds Varnedoe, who started the school with her husband, Howard. "We want to expose children to as much as we can, and we want to try to instill a love of learning that they will carry throughout the rest of their lives."

As for the inspiration for opening Ivybrook Academy, Varnedoe says it was a natural outgrowth of having homeschooled her own kids, four of five of whom have moved out of the house, creating an opportunity for the couple to open their own business.

"Homeschooling my kids made me realize that I loved educating children," offers Varnedoe, and when the pair found out

about Ivybrook Academy (headquartered in Weddington, N.C.), they recognized how much they loved Ivybrook's curriculum and educational philosophy.

That said, there's an emphasis on developing reading, writing, and math skills. There's also a component of the curriculum called collaborative learning, where students explore science and social studies topics.

So, for example, "in the spring, we'll get eggs and watch them hatch into chicks and study animals that hatch," offers Varnedoe. "And we'll talk about the life cycle of butterflies and study different cultures around the world."

Another part of the curriculum focuses on art and music, and movement. "That's an enrichment time where our students get to go and be creative," continues Varnedoe. "We may be studying an artist, and they may be inspired to do their own (artwork). Or we may be talking about music like beats or rhythm and practicing that with our own instruments."

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**“I LOVE THE CURRICULUM BECAUSE THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERY LEARNING STYLE”**

”

Photography by Michael Tedesco

#### < FROM PAGE 10

The program is also child-directed in the sense that kids have the chance to learn about subjects that interest them. So, if a child asks about, say, “pipes underground,” the teacher might spend time explaining how utilities work.

“It’s fun to see their eyes light up when things begin to make sense in their world,” says Varnedoe, and even more gratifying for her to see students arrive at school with smiles on their faces.

As for the educational environment, Varnedoe says the Franklin campus includes classroom space, a gym, and a “very unusual playground area,” unusual in the sense that it doesn’t have slides and swings and other things you might see in a park.

Ivybrook’s playground is designed to encourage kids to be creative and use their imaginations. As such, it features a sand pit, a boat (for imagined boat trips), musical instruments, and a stage on which kids can perform.

With all of the emphasis on making learning fun, it’s no surprise that Ivybrook students look forward to going to school, especially coming out of a period when COVID-19 has restricted the social calendars of children and parents alike.

“Some difficulty with separation anxiety is very normal, but we’ve found that to be very short-lived,” says Varnedoe, especially now that everyone is anxious to get out of the house and parents are more keen than ever to make connections with other parents.

“We want to be able to provide a place for all the new people moving here to be able to have community. More and more, we have families doing playdates together. We want to continue to build on that and do more fun school events,” elaborates Varnedoe, having noted that the school offers preschool for toddlers, as well as preschool for 2-year-olds, 3-year-olds, and kids aged 4-5.

And while there’s a waitlist for all morning classes in the fall of ’22, she says there is still some availability for the afternoon classes, not to mention classes in the spring of ’23 and next year’s summer camp.

“We love giving tours, and we give tours every day. That’s the best way to learn about us,” she concludes. “We’d love to speak to whoever is interested.”

CONTACT: Ivybrook Academy | 1268 Lewisburg Pike  
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Erin Jagers and Kellye Murphy. Photo by Michael Tedesco.



Photo by Robbie Mathis

# OLD SOUTH CHARM, NEW SOUTH PROGRESS

## MAURY COUNTY AND ITS COUNTY SEAT ARE IN THE MIDST OF A RENAISSANCE

**BY JASON ZASKY**

There's no shortage of places to visit and sites to see in Maury County. No one knows this better than Kellye Murphy and Erin Jagers, the two individuals at the forefront of promoting the county—and the county seat—to the visiting public.

For her part, Murphy is Tourism & Marketing Director for Visit Columbia Tennessee, the official tourism entity for the City of Columbia, and has been in her role for the past five years. Jagers has been Director of the Maury County Visitors Bureau since 2012, where she works alongside an assistant director, office manager, and two part-time visitor center assistants to promote and market Columbia, Mount Pleasant, Spring Hill, and all points in between.

“Our focus is promoting the history, adventure, art, music, shopping, dining” and events in the county, says Jagers, includ-

ing the Mid-South Barbecue Festival, held each October in Mount Pleasant, to name but one example.

“Adventure tourism is also big around here,” she adds, with mountain biking, hiking, fishing, and kayaking four of the more popular endeavors. “People come from all over for the antique trail, and we have several Civil War driving tours,” not to mention historic Rippavilla Plantation (Spring Hill), the Maury County Fair (September 1-5 in 2022) and Maury County Rodeo (July 15-16, 2022). Plus, a diverse array of eateries, boutiques, and music venues sprinkled throughout the region.

As for Columbia, one of its premier attractions is the ancestral home of the 11th president of the United States, James K. Polk, located on West 7th St., just a block from the iconic Maury County courthouse square.

In terms of sports & leisure, “Try canoeing the Duck River,

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Photo by Robbie Mathis

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biking the Chickasaw Trace Park trails, watching a softball or soccer tournament at Ridley Sports Complex, or trail walking at Yanahli,” says Murphy. Never mind Columbia’s signature annual events, like Mule Day (April) and the Columbia Main Street Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting each December.

Two monthly events are also becoming increasingly popular among locals and tourists alike.

“We want to invite everyone to come out for First Fridays, a family-friendly event the first Friday of each month in downtown Columbia from 5 to 8 p.m.,” Murphy begins. “Shops stay open a little later, musicians perform on the street corners, there are artisan booths and vendors on the sidewalks, and a variety of food trucks serve up their specialties in and around downtown Columbia.”

There’s also Cars & Coffee, which takes place every third Saturday in downtown Columbia from 7 to 10 a.m., where “people show off their favorite vintage cars, muscle cars, hot rods and exotics in Columbia Motor Alley,” she adds.

And don’t forget all that’s been happening in the Columbia Arts District, which Murphy says will undergo a further transformation in the next year or two.

“This fresh facelift will bring wide sidewalks, benches in gathering spaces, lighting, and opportunities for public art,” she says. “This new streetscape will make the Arts District prime space for arts-related, outdoor events.”

Better yet, what’s happening today seems only the beginning of an ongoing renaissance that promises to continue for many years to come.

“I believe Columbia will continue to be a vibrant, growing community and a destination for people seeking the ideal community to raise a family. Downtown will see more residential options and businesses developing. The Columbia Arts District will continue to grow and blossom into a true artist community. As the business community expands, it makes sense that a conference center is in our future,” she adds.

More than that, Murphy hopes Columbia and the rest of the county come to exemplify all that is great about living in one of the fastest-growing parts of Middle Tennessee.

“I hope to see great strides made in cultural diversity, conversation, and connectivity between Columbia’s varying communities, who each have their unique stories and culture to share.”

*For more information: VisitColumbiaTN.com  
ExperienceMaury.com or the Experience Maury Tennessee app*



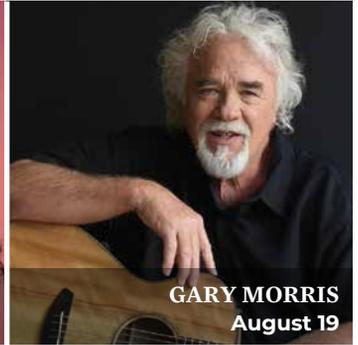
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# COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS



## BERRY FARMS “FOURTH AT THE FOLLY”

Sack races, tossing water balloons and water relays were all part of The second annual Fourth at the Folly in Berry Farms. Resident Dipa DenOudin performed a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem to begin the festivities and all enjoyed ice cold watermelon at the conclusion.

photos submitted by Marta Eynatten



## RESIDENTS CELEBRATE END OF SCHOOL YEAR

Residents of Berry Farms gathered at The Folly on June 4 to celebrate the end of school and start of summer. The Hawaiian-themed event featured kids games, snowcones, cotton candy and the viewing of the movie Moana.

photos submitted by Marta Eynatten



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It is unknown what causes psoriasis, however, there appears to be a genetic predisposition and potential environmental triggers. These triggers can vary from person to person. Psoriasis can first appear on a single area of the body and then evolve into several locations including the scalp, face, skin folds, hands, feet, and nails. Nail involvement is highly correlated to the development of psoriatic arthritis and timely treatment can stop the progression of disease. Therapeutic options are tailored to extent of skin involvement, risk for joint

involvement, as well as patient concerns.

As with other chronic diseases, psoriasis may affect areas of your life other than your physical health. Psoriasis may affect your emotional health, your relationships, and how you handle stress. It can even affect areas of your life that you wouldn't expect, such as the clothes that you choose to wear. For some people, living with psoriasis can be a challenge and at Harpeth Valley Dermatology, one of our board certified dermatologists will help you handle those challenges. Our goal is to address your concerns and find a successful therapeutic approach that you feel comfortable and confident with. We offer topical therapies, phototherapy, oral medications, biologic options, as well as address lifestyle modifications that ultimately lead to therapeutic success.

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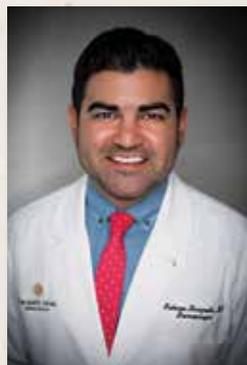
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- 1/2 STICK OF BUTTER, MELTED
- 1 CUP WHOLE SWEET MILK
- 4 EGG YOLKS
- 1 PREPARED PIE CRUST AND PAN

## INSTRUCTIONS

MIX DRY INGREDIENTS TOGETHER IN A BOWL  
ADD EGG YOLKS, SLOWLY ADD MILK AND BUTTER  
POUR INTO PAN PLACE ON STOVETOP AND COOK ON MEDIUM HEAT  
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POUR INTO PIE TIN WITH PREPARED PIE CRUST  
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TAKE ONE EGG WHITE WITH 1 TSP WATER.  
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FORMS A PEAK.  
REPEAT TO GET THE PROPER AMOUNT OF TOPPING



PLACE MIXTURE ON TOP OF PIE

PLACE PIE IN PREHEATED OVEN AND BAKE FOR 6 TO 8 MINUTES  
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Photography by Robbie Mathis

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For many years, the industry norm had been for animal shelters to keep dogs in their kennels with very few opportunities for physical or mental stimulation. Whether for fear of health and safety risks or due to a lack of resources, shelter leaders have been hesitant to allow their dogs to interact. Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to changing what is a typical experience for shelter dogs around the world.

Though DPFL's mission is to redefine the experience, its goal is to get dogs out of the shelter and into homes. "We believe that shelters should be like a summer camp," said Ally Tio, DPFL Director of Outreach. "It's a quick pit stop where dogs are before they find their adoptive home." Thanks to a generous gift from Friends of WCAC, Tio, along with Director of Shelter Programming, Aaron Caldwell, recently spent a week at Williamson County Animal Center (WCAC).

"The biggest thing is dogs going home," said Caldwell. "Dogs are naturally sociable creatures, so we're just trying to get them into playgroups, it is essential. Playgroup gives shelters the ability to use fewer people to attend to more dogs in a more confined period of time while providing enriching experiences for the dogs." Tio and Caldwell taught staff and volunteers about dog behavior, leash handling, and demonstrated techniques used to run safe and beneficial playgroups, the cornerstone of DPFL's lifesaving programs.

According to WCAC Director, Ondrea Johnson, the primary focus was on how to improve the shelter experience for the most vulnerable dogs and those that struggle to thrive while at the center. Johnson said staff and volunteers learned how to better as-

sess and correct behaviors that prevent dogs from being adopted and more effectively match potential adopters with the right dog. All of which decreases the average length of stay.

Johnson, who implemented structured kennel routines at WCAC in 2018 then DPFL programming in 2019, called the impact transformational, "I can't imagine life in the shelter without playgroups." "DPFL has changed our lives here," added Suzanne Asher, an eight-year volunteer. "Dogs get to play, learn from each other, teach each other, and it helps them be more adoptable. Sometimes adopters will just pick a dog right from a playgroup because they get to see exactly who that dog is going to be."

Since 2020, the average length of stay for dogs adopted at WCAC has decreased two days even though intake has remained relatively consistent. Having DPFL onsite for the weeklong training was a dream come true for Johnson, but she also has a vision for WCAC to become a mentorship shelter, "Imagine the impact we could have if shelters from all over the southeast were learning to run playgroups." In fact, personnel from several local shelters attended the final two days of training and have since reported to Johnson that they are re-thinking their views on socialization and playgroups.

"Hearing a quiet kennel filled with dogs exhausted from playing and seeing how enriching DPFL has been for staff and volunteers is the best reward," concluded Johnson.

For more information about Dogs Playing for Life, go to [dogsplayingforlife.com/](https://dogsplayingforlife.com/)

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