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Marty Stuart table by Karmal Skillington

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Great events in the area in November



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ON THE COVER: *Thanksgiving Day is almost here and signals the beginning of the holiday season.*

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Photography by Michael Tedesco.

A PASSION FOR PETS

BY PAM WINDSOR

A passion for pets inspired Shawn Day to open Dee-O-Gee in Berry Farms. The locally-owned pet boutique offers a wide range of services, including professional grooming, dog training, a dog day camp, high quality pet food and more.

With so much growth in this part of Franklin, it was the perfect location for a place that caters to families with pets.

“There are a lot of dog families in this area,” Day says. “Of course, COVID changed the landscape to where so many more people decided to get dogs. So, there’s a big need for both grooming and pet retail in this area.”

The grooming salon uses only natural and organic spa products, suitable for pets with sensitive skin. Customers can choose hypo-

allergenic shampoos ranging from Oatmeal to Honey Vanilla to Lavender.

There’s also a DIY Dog Wash available for those who want to wash their own dog, but not in the bathroom tub at home. Instead, just bring your dog, and Dee-O-Gee provides the tub, the water, shampoo, brushes, and towels.

One of the more popular services is the dog day camp. “A lot of people work from home and can’t get any work done because their dogs are driving them crazy,” Day says with a laugh. “So, it’s great for their little dog to get out and play with his or her little pack at the day camp. We have toys they can play with, we take them on walks, then give them rest time, social time, and lots of fun time.”

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Photography by Michael Tedesco

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Dee-O-Gee also provides dietary consulting and sells a wide range of healthy foods. In addition, Day is a certified pet dietician.

“We’re big fans of mixology,” she explains. “The problem with modern-day feeding is marketing people try to make it out like you need to stay with one brand of dog food. And they do that, so you’ll stay with their brand. But dogs need to mix it up, just like people mix it up. One day you’ll have steak; the next day, you’ll have wings; the next day, pizza; the next day, barbecue, etc. And your digestive system is healthy. If you’re going to take care of a living being, you need to mix up the food.”

And the food, she believes, should be raw, grain-free foods. She says a lot of dog food on the market today contains things that aren’t healthy for dogs.

“A lot of these foods have corn, wheat, and fillers that are bad for dogs. They’re heavy carbs and create a situation where dogs start to develop diseases that previously didn’t exist in the dog population. These are more like human diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and cancer. Dogs in the wild, wolves and animals like that, don’t develop things like diabetes.”

Day enjoys helping educate people to help make their dogs’ lives healthier. She definitely loves what she does.

“It’s such a fun business! I feel like dogs are the most faithful companions you can have, and their sweet spirit just rubs off on you.”

Dee-O-Gee is located at 6001 Hughes Crossing in Berry Farms. To learn more about Dee-O-Gee, see their ad on page 11.



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FINANCIAL FOCUS

SHOULD YOU CONSOLIDATE RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS?



Jeff Good

One of the rewards for working over several decades is the ability to contribute to tax-advantaged retirement accounts, which can help provide needed income for you when you do retire. As the years went by, you may well have accumulated several retirement accounts, such as IRAs and 401(k)s or similar employer-sponsored plans. But you might find it advantageous to consolidate these accounts with a single provider.

Consolidating them can provide you with several potential benefits, including these:

- **Less confusion and clutter** – If you have multiple accounts in different locations, it may be difficult to keep track of tax documents, statements, fees, disclosures and other important information. Consolidating accounts could help provide clear, simplified account maintenance.

- **Less likelihood of “lost accounts”** – It may be hard to believe, but many people abandon their retirement accounts, leaving thousands of dollars behind and unclaimed.

In fact, at the end of 2021, there were nearly 25 million forgotten 401(k) accounts, worth about 20% of all 401(k) assets, according to an estimate by Capitalize, a financial services company that helps individuals roll over retirement plan assets into new accounts. It's possible that employers can even move small, old accounts out of their 401(k) plans and into an IRA on behalf of their former employees, thus increasing the chances that savers will lose track of their money. By consolidating your retirement plans with one provider, you can ensure you don't lose track of your hard-earned money.

- **Ability to follow a unified strategy** – With multiple retirement accounts, and different investment portfolios, you might find it difficult to maintain a unified financial strategy that's appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance. But once you've consolidated accounts with a single provider, you'll find it easier to manage your investment mix and to rebalance your portfolio as needed. The need to rebalance may become more important as you near retirement because you may want to shift some of your assets into investments that aren't as susceptible to swings in the financial markets.

- **Possible improvement in investment options** – Often, 401(k)s may have limited investment selection, so consolidating accounts with a full-service firm may allow for a wider array of products and strategies. This broader exposure can potentially help you improve your overall retirement income strategies.

- **Greater ease in calculating RMDs** – Once you turn 72, you will need to start taking withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — from your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar plan. If you don't take out at least the minimal amount, which is based on your age and account balance, you could face a penalty. If you have several accounts, with different providers, it could be cumbersome and difficult to calculate your RMDs — it will be much easier with all accounts under one roof.

So, if you do have multiple retirement accounts, give some thought to consolidating them. The consolidation process is not difficult, and the end result may save you time and hassles, while also helping you manage your retirement income more effectively.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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Photography provided

ANIMAL CENTER TO OFFER CREATIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Children's Kindness Network (CKN) and Williamson County Animal Center (WCAC) have partnered to offer an after school program for young students. Now through Tuesday through November 15, Middle Tennessee second and third graders are invited to the animal center to engage in fun "Moozie" activities from 4:15p.m. until 5:00p.m.

CKN's Moozie the cow is an inspiring kindness ambassador who comes with evidence-based lessons, songs, and stories. "They listen to her messages of kindness," says Founder Ted Dreier. "Kindness to animals, to Earth, to others and to yourself."

In addition to lessons from Moozie, activities will include animal care education and interactive arts, stories and songs. There is no cost to participate, but pre-registration is required. Those in-

terested should email info@moozie.org with "Moozie After School" in the subject line and provide the parent or guardian's name and cell phone number along with the names and ages of the children they are registering.

Parents and guardians are welcome to participate in the activities and are encouraged to arrive at WCAC with their children at 4:00 pm. Those who are interested can arrive earlier or stay after the program to look around the center.

WCAC is located at 1006 Grigsby Hayes Court in Franklin, near Franklin Christian Academy. The center is open to the public Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.; Saturday 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.; closed Sunday.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Saturday, November 5

Family Day

The Park at Harlinsdale Farm

Franklin Parks' Family Day offers many opportunities for families to have a great time on this historical farm. This free festival features miniature train rides, hay rides, pony rides, and a petting zoo. Festival attendees can also enjoy cane pole fishing in the pond. Don't miss the Touch-a-Tractor area sponsored by Tri Green Equipment, which will consist of small excavators the kids can operate and large tractors the kids can sit on. Food will be offered for purchase by local food vendors. Visitors can also listen to some great music on our entertainment stage. For more information please email Janey.mason@franklintn.gov or call 615-794-2103.

November 13th at 3pm

Williamson County Community Band Fall Concert

Williamson County Enrichment Center
110 Everbright Avenue, Franklin

The Williamson County Community Band is an all-volunteer band of amateur and seasoned musicians. This inter-generational group features approximately 60 musicians ranging in age from pre-teen to upper 80's and is made up of all skill levels. Everyone is welcome to pick up their instrument and join the band. Started in 2000, this band has grown and gained musical recognition and acclaim over the years throughout Williamson County and the surrounding mid-state area.



Thanksgiving Day November 24

Franklin Turkey Trot

Cool Springs Galleria

In its 23rd year as a Thanksgiving Day tradition. Over 3,000 participants run/walk the 10k, 5k, or 1k Kids Turkey Chase through the heart of Cool Springs. Approximately 3,000 of their friends and family stand on the sidelines to cheer them on. Each Trotter crosses the finish line knowing that a local family now has Food, Shelter, and Support because they ran for GraceWorks. 10k is \$50, 5k is \$45, and kids 1k Turkey Chase is \$15. (\$5 off each adult registration if you form a team!) for more info:

hklages@graceworksministries.net 615-503-0058



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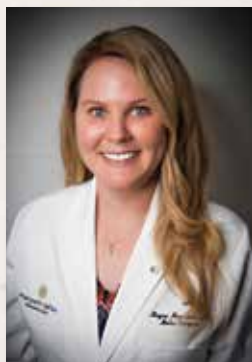
lymphatic system and bloodstream allowing for spread to other parts of the body. When melanoma spreads, it becomes more difficult to treat and can be deadly.

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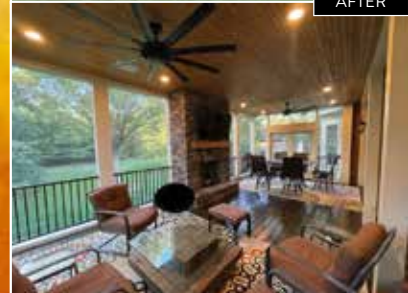
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