

Community news
Bruton Branch



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I see so many festivals scheduled around Tennessee this year.

That is a step in the right direction to feeling somewhat normal again. Our neighbors certainly have found time to be normal. We sat outside Bill and Jan Mansel's home on Friday night for a wonderful bonfire. Several of us brought snacks to share. Fun, food, and stories that brought us laughter and giggles were shared by all. This is just the kind of joy we all need to enjoy more often.

Martha Stricklin sent me a heartwarming letter. It was full of encouragement and joy. That is exactly what I hope my columns do for you. Each of you are so important to The Courier and to me.

I am grateful to Mrs. Stricklin for this delicious recipe for oatmeal muffins. She is right, they are great with a good cup of coffee in the morning.

Oatmeal muffins recipe

Ingredients
1 cup self-rising flour
1 cup, uncooked oats (1-minute oats)
3/4 cup milk
1 egg
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup nuts, raisins or both

Directions
Mix all ingredients in a medium bowl. Spray muffin pan. Fill each muffin cup half full and bake in 350 degree oven for 20 minutes.

Be sure to eat one right out of the pan while it is warm. Save the rest for morning coffee or share with neighbors.

Last Friday, David and I drove to Oakland, Tennessee to visit with our daughter and son-in-law. It was a quick visit since they will be heading back to Virginia this week.

We also stopped by to visit my mom and niece in Somerville. Just a quick visit there too. I dropped off carrot cake cupcakes with cream cheese icing for my mom and Leigh Ann to enjoy. My mom ate one just as I handed the plate to her.

Then she set the plate on the dinning room table. Sofie, my mother's little Bichon Frise dog, grabbed the corner of the

tablecloth and pulled it until the plate of cupcakes slid down and toppled on the floor, upside down. In the blink of an eye, the cupcakes were ruined. But at least we all got a good laugh and a life lesson about how quickly good things can be gone, just like that.

I know my mom was wishing she had eaten more of them faster. My niece didn't even get a taste.

I was thinking that before we let the good things slip through our fingers, we best savor and appreciate them. Not only things, but the people in our lives too.

If you want a delightful book to read and love cupcakes, read "Meet Me at the Cupcake Cafe" by Jenny Colgan. It is an easy read and you just might find yourself wanting to bake. There are some delectable recipes in the book and the story is so cute.

As of the day I am writing this article, I have ridden 71 of the 150 miles on my bicycle for St. Jude's fundraiser, Ride for the Kids Cure for Cancer. September is Childhood Cancer Awareness month. I have raised \$575 so far for St. Jude. I thank everyone who has cheered me on and donated to St. Jude.

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." - C.S. Lewis

Community news
Gillis Mills



Dorothy Stricklin
Community
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Hello to everyone in the Gillis Mills community.

We still have a lot of sick folks, including Leon Baugus, Shelia Collier, Winford Collier, Cliff

Community news
Turkey Creek



Donna Young
Community
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Community news
Double Springs



Esther Godwin
Community
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Everyone enjoyed the good service we had at church Sunday. Maybe it won't be long until everybody will be back, that is our prayer.

Everybody reports a good time at the Bluegrass festival at the Burnt Church Community Center last Saturday. A lot of good music and food was had. I am glad they had a good turn out. I am sure there would have been more if it were not for COVID. They would like to say a big thanks to everyone for

Community news
Walnut Grove



Susan Cordova
Community
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A couple weeks ago I was traveling Holland Creek Road for the scenic view en route to work.

As always, I was taking notice of everything along the way - from a flock of turkeys in a field to the grazing cows that thought the grass was greener on the other side of the fence. I really admire those who take pride in manicuring their yard. Their beautiful landscaping gets my attention every time.

Thinking how glad I was about the declining humidity level prompted me to become anxious about the approaching autumn. Instantly my mind started anticipating fall activities.

Bonfires, s'mores, pumpkin patch and a corn maze were a few of my first thoughts. I could even envision the leaves at the peak of their vibrant season. Colors of red, yellow, orange and brown. Some are waving hello from the trees as if they are welcoming the new season while bidding farewell to summer. Some leaves seem to be dancing as they are whirling and twirling midair, painting the wind like a canvas, while others blanket the ground providing a picturesque setting for lovers of autumn to picnic.

To say that I was enjoying these thoughts on the drive to work was indeed an understatement.

Before I reached the end of Holland Creek, I had even begun to think on fall meal preparations... soups, chili and harvest breads. I was thoroughly enjoying the beginning of day with my morning thoughts and scenery. What could go wrong?

Well... when I came to the end of Holland Creek Road and was attempting to enter Highway 69, my vehicle unfortunately had different plans. Quickly my thoughts changed from anticipation to anxiety.

Thankfully, hometown Grovian Rusty Benson came along just in time to help me push OI Betsy out of the roadway. My neighbor Rhonda Brown also came to the rescue. We had

ford Stricklin and James Robert Brown. Keep them in our prayers as well as the families that have given up loved ones.

Sunday Sept. 19 is Decoration Day at Germany Branch Cemetery beginning at 2 p.m. Daniel Holt is the speaker. All of you with loved ones laid to rest there, try to remember them on this day.

We want to extend sympathy and prayers to all of these families who have given up their loved ones in the past few days. Seems like the Fraizer family

Thanks to all of you that attended the Bluegrass Festival on Saturday at the BCCC. A special thanks to all the bands that were there. The music was great.

Sunday was our pastor, Nick's, last Sunday as our pastor at TCBC. We will miss him and his family, but I wish them the best.

I enjoyed eating lunch in Adamsville on Sunday with Nathan,

their support.

Birthdays are still being celebrated this September. Joyce Pierce celebrated her birthday last Wednesday. All her family came some time during the day and then later Chris brought her a big fish plate. She enjoyed it very much.

Shelia Webb enjoyed another big birthday meal at the Brass Lantern in Lawrenceburg last week. Others there were Fred, Tyler Webb, Janice Smith, Hunter, Autumn, and Harper Webb.

Alice Whitlow, along with several others, enjoyed the gospel singing held at Pickwick on Saturday night. Alice said it was really good.

Those enjoying a meal at the Mexican restaurant on Sunday after church were Fred, Shelia, Tyler Webb, James, Janice, and

has been hard hit - Willie Ellen Frazier Kilburn, Ronald Frazier, Mary Helen Fraizer Franks who passed away about six months ago, and Mark Frazier lost his life in a vehicle accident recently.

Brian Stricklin enjoyed having his daughter Lily Stricklin spend the week end with him.

Martha Stricklin enjoyed supper last Thursday night with Chad and Paula Stricklin.

News is short this week. Hope that everyone will have a blessed week.

Lauren, Layla, Landen, Jackie, Jacquelyn, Blair, Jennifer, Brody, Briar, and Blythe.

Get well wishes to those who are sick and sympathies to those who have lost loved ones.

Rose and Alice of Rocky Point, Va. spent the weekend with James and Suzanne.

It was good to see Tommy and David Shelton at the Bluegrass Festival Saturday.

Jamie Smith.

We sure have had some beautiful weather. Farmers are busy cutting hay and gathering in what they have to feed livestock in the winter. I sure do need a shower of rain on my turnip patch. Maybe this week it will rain. Some things need rain while others don't.

If you don't have something good to say, by Lisa Harper. I read this in a little daily Bible reader that a friend gave me.

The Lord has seven detestables to him: arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that plots wicked schemes, feet eager to run to evil, a lying witness who gives false testimony, and one who stirs up trouble among brothers.

Read Proverbs 6:16-19 I thought this was good and wanted to pass it on.

Have a good week.

Tennessee's landscape changed with the interstate highway system

Bill Carey
Tennessee History for Kids

Most of us, I suspect, don't think much about what life would have been like without the interstate highway system.

But if it weren't for the interstates, most of us wouldn't live where we live and vacation the way we vacation.

The U.S. government began funding the interstate highway system in 1956. The idea was to make it easier to get from one part of the country to another in case of a national military emergency. Designed for speed and with limited access, American interstates were modeled after a German superhighway called the autobahn.

The way the interstate system was paid for is a bit complicated and has changed over the years. Suffice it to say that its main funding mechanism was, and is, gas taxes.

The plan for the interstate system closely followed a U.S. government publication that became known as the "yellow book" (which you can still see on the Internet). The "yellow book" laid out the general routes of the national interstate system and showed where superhighway corridors would be built in every American city.

It took a long time for the interstates to be built. Bridges had to be constructed and routes cleared through mountainous areas such as the Cumberland Plateau.

The first stretches of interstate through Tennessee were opened in 1958, with most of Interstates 40 and 65 through the state completed during the 1960s. The superhighways weren't opened all at once, but one stretch at a time; for many years a driver had to get an updated road map to find out which stretches of new shiny interstate were opened.

Today there are more than 1,100 miles of interstate highway in Tennessee. These highways have dramatically shrunk the time needed to travel from one part of the state to another.

Prior to the creation of Interstate 40, for instance, it might have taken 10 hours to drive from Nashville to Knoxville, through towns such as Lebanon, Sparta, Crossville, Rockwood and Kingston. Now it only takes about three.

Today the interstates make it possible to live in one county and work in another and have turned once-small towns such as Franklin, Farragut and Bartlett into bedroom suburbs.

The freeways also made day trips across the state possible. Before the advent of interstate superhighways, it is hard to imagine 100,000 people going



It took a lot of work and equipment to build Tennessee's interstate system. The idea was to make it easier to get from one part of the country to another in case of a national emergency.



all the way to Knoxville just for a Saturday afternoon event. Now this happens about half a dozen times every fall.

Interstates have also made travel by car much safer than it had been because they were wider and better designed.

Most people view the interstates as positive changes. But commercial activity in towns like Cookeville, Manchester, and Jackson has completely shifted from the town center to the nearest interstate exit. If you drive to these town squares today you can see definite signs that there used to be a lot more happening than there is now.

Interstate construction has also proven to be very controversial in Tennessee's cities.

To this day, some members of the African-American com-

munity in Nashville say that the route chosen by Interstate 40, just west of town, split black Nashville in half. In Memphis, fans of Overton Park organized against the construction of Interstate 40 through that park in the 1960s. Eventually this case went to the U.S. Supreme Court, which, in the case of Citizens to Preserve Overton Park v. Volpe ruled in favor of the group fighting Interstate 40. That's why the interstate loops around Memphis, rather than going through it.

(Bill Carey is the founder and executive director of Tennessee History for Kids, a non-profit organization that helps teachers cover social studies. He's also the author of several history books and a former Capitol Hill reporter.)

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locked the vehicle up and were about the leave when Tommy "Beans" Benson stopped and offered to pull Betsy home. I was happy to accept his offer.

After we got her home, our good friend and church member Jesse Ray volunteered his mechanical knowledge and found Betsy's problem. After a trip to our local parts store, \$40 and a few hours of labor, O! Betsy is on the road again.

Sometimes we have little bumps in the road that lead us to take detours. I could have complained about my misfortune, but I chose to acknowledge the

blessings in the situation.

I was blessed that Betsy went dead in a safe spot instead of 69 highway. I am blessed to have a boss who understands when you cannot make it to work. I am blessed with wonderful friends and neighbors who are willing to take time from their busy schedule to lend me helping hand.

I want to extend special thanks to everyone who played a part in O! Betsy's recovery.

Today, I look at "fall" in a new perspective.

I "fall" on my knees and thank the Lord for my blessings... a harvest of friends.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Board of Commissioners of Hardin Medical Center will meet on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Hospital Board room for the September meeting.

NOTICE
The Hardin County Board of Education will meet on Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Hardin County Board of Education located at 155 Guinn St., Savannah, TN 38372. (Downstairs Board Room) Public is invited.

PUBLIC NOTICE
There will be a meeting of the Hardin County Budget Committee on Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chancery Courtroom at the Hardin County Courthouse. The public is invited to attend.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Due to risks associated with Covid-19, Hardin County Government's monthly planning session meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. followed by the monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Both meetings will be held on this date in the Circuit Courtroom at the Hardin County Courthouse and the public is invited to attend.

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