



## Six players ejected in MCHS game win over West Creek

SPORTS, 1D

# THE LEAF-CHRONICLE

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Anne Rutter, a home care worker who found her calling taking care of elderly patients later in life, sits in her office at Right at Home in Clarksville on Tuesday. PHOTOS BY HENRY TAYLOR/THE LEAF-CHRONICLE



William Bradley, the main cook at Helen's, comes out of the kitchen with a stack of hot meals ready for customers to take home at Helen's Hot Chicken in Clarksville on Thursday.

# Faces of Labor

FIREFIGHTER, COOK, FARMER, TEACHER: THIS IS WHO WE RELY ON EVERY DAY

Henry Taylor Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle | USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

In the late 19th century, the American workforce looked a lot different: child workers were common, farmhands endured grueling conditions, and factory workers spent all day on the line laboring for their family's survival.

Today, our world of assembly lines and automated machines has made a lot of factory jobs irrelevant, and children spend their day in school. We have more service jobs in restaurants and technology, changing our definition of work.

Some experience a calling to their work out of compassion, others started with a love for learning. Others never knew anything else and went into the same work their parents did, and some found that the work they did all their lives, odd jobs here and there, prepared them for something greater.

On this Labor Day, here is a portrait of labor in Clarksville, of the parents, spouses, brothers and sisters we rely on every day.

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Mae Magee, who has owned her own tailor shop for nearly 20 years and what used to be a dry cleaner next door, sits at her work station where she does all her sewing at Mae's Tailor Shop in Clarksville on Tuesday.



John Adkins, a local farmer who bought his first farm at the age of 14, wades through some of the acres of tobacco he and his brother, Russell, farm each season at the Adkins Brothers Farm in Clarksville on Monday.

## Riverfest next weekend features Montgomery Gentry

### From Staff Reports

Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle  
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

The 32nd annual Riverfest is coming up Sept. 5-7, with headliner Montgomery Gentry and an array of other acts, from American Floyd to Fever.

The free, three-day music and arts festival features three stages of local

and national acts and cultural groups.

The festival kicks off Thursday, Sept. 5 with the Riverfest Juried Art Show. This free event will be at 5 p.m. at the Wilma Rudolph Event Center at Liberty Park and feature art from local talent, according to a news release. Appetizers and drinks will be available, courtesy of North Meets South.

Riverfest continues at 5 p.m. Friday,

Sept. 6 at McGregor Park with a performance by Vanessa Williams on the Miller Lite stage, followed by performances by Justin Mobley and American Floyd. The Google stage will host local talent to include Ghost Town Remedy, Music for Mercy, #Stop22Tour leading up to Fever.

The entertainment continues at noon on Saturday, Sept. 7. The Miller Lite Stage will feature local and regional

talent to include Nicole Coley, Leaving Lennox, the 101st Airborne Division Band, Jane Rose & The Deadend Boys, Emmalee, and Ethan Cole.

At the Google Stage, watch as local dance academies strut their stuff, followed by demonstrations by Austin Peay State University's College of

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### Impromptu duet

Army chaplain and daughter wow crowd with song at volleyball game. 2A



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# Labor Day

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## Anne Rutter, home care worker

Anne Rutter worked as a physical therapist early in her career and only found her true calling when she moved to Australia with her husband, who had a teaching opportunity.

Rutter began working in nursing homes, where she found working with dementia patients extremely rewarding. “Mostly what they wanted to do was go out shopping or go have a cup of coffee and just talk and walk, and they would look forward to me coming,” Rutter said.

She and her husband moved back to the United States, and Rutter earned her CNA certification to begin more personal work with home care patients.

“There’s definitely a physical aspect to doing this job, but there’s also an emotional aspect because you’re dealing with people who are struggling and families that are struggling through circumstances,” Rutter said. “And then there’s mental work — planning out your day. If a crisis happens, you’ve got to figure out what you do and who to call.”

Rutter said her husband is jealous of her. “When I come home at the end of the day, I come home with a grin, I could be physically tired, but I have a smile on my face and a gratitude in my heart knowing the difference I make in people’s lives.

“It just doesn’t get any better than feeling so good about what you’ve done and knowing people appreciate what you’re doing too. I mean, who else has a job like that?”

## William Bradley, cook

William Bradley has worked as the cook for Helen’s Hot Chicken for three years. The Chicago native said he loves the South and Clarksville, and many locals who have eaten his chicken can attest to his skills at the grill.

Bradley thinks of physical labor when asked about his job. “Getting your hands dirty, working eight-, 10-hour shifts, just working hard. Going home tired, beat,” is how he described his definition of labor.

He moved here because of family — his brother retired from the military after serving at Fort Campbell. At one point, Bradley worked at Trane from Monday through Friday and spent his weekends at Helen’s.

“Seeing the customers happy, getting a compliment, some customers have my personal number so they can call me and make sure I’m cooking before they come over,” Bradley said. “Stuff like that makes you appreciate what you do.”

## John Adkins, farmer

“We ain’t played no ball,” John Adkins said, picking off leaves from tobacco plants that were withering.

John Adkins and his brother, Russell Adkins, grew up just a field away from where they live and farm now. In the last three years, they bought the old family plot where their grandfather raised tobacco before their father. The family bought all the land they needed to survive, raising cattle and tobacco.

Adkins bought his first farm at the age of 14.

“When other kids were playing ball and doing what kids do, we bought our first farm when I was 14, me and him (Russell) did,” Adkins said.

When asked if they would have done anything differently, Adkins said, “I don’t know. We were never given the option.” He noted that they could have taken different paths, but between tobacco and the other crops, they grew as a family, and going to a job interview wouldn’t have fit in the schedule.

“See, we don’t know what Labor Day is ‘cause we’re all up in this (tobacco), so there’s no Labor Day. We might take off in February, but we can’t take off in September,” Adkins said.

## Jackie Warfield, librarian

Jackie Warfield is a technical services supervisor at Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library, where she helps curate material for readers.

Although she graduated from Austin Peay State University with a business degree, she learned her work on the floor after being a regular at the library as a kid. “I grew up, basically, here at the library. Everything I know I learned on the job,” Warfield said.

“I believe the job is important because it opens up people’s attitudes, experiences, just their knowledge to a variety of things.”

She recalled a conversation she had with her brother about work once. “My brother works at a factory down in Dickson, and they do quite a bit of hard work.



**Kenny York, who founded Manna Cafe Ministries with his wife Vicki York, stands in one of the large storage areas where clothes and other supplies are kept in their new location at Manna Village in Clarksville on Wednesday.** PHOTOS BY HENRY TAYLOR/THE LEAF-CHRONICLE



**Melanie Hazen, who teaches AP Literature and poetry and serves as school librarian at Montgomery Central High School, sits in the library at Montgomery Central in Clarksville on Monday.**



**Technical services supervisor Jackie Warfield is a librarian who curates material presented at the library, stands at Montgomery Public Library in Clarksville on Aug. 17.**



**Clarkville Fire Lt. Billy Castle, who is set to retire later this year after over 30 years of service, stands in front of an engine at the end of his shift at Clarkville Fire Station 6 in Clarksville on Aug. 23.**

We were talking about being tired, and he said, ‘Oh you’re not tired, you don’t even have a real job.’ And I had to tell him it takes all kinds of people, there are different kinds of work; yours is more physical, and mine is more mental.

“I just think we sometimes forget what it takes to make the world go,” Warfield said. “The people that take out garbage are out at 4 or 5 a.m., and then there are those who have to work a late shift at a gas station or convenience store, even doctors.”

## Kenny York, nonprofit founder

Kenny York started out as a musician and wanting to work as a sound guy. He

worked all kinds of odd jobs, from restaurants and warehouses to making cabinets. He did what he could to survive.

Then came ministry, feeding the homeless, and Manna Café after the flood of 2010.

“Now I’ve been in ministry, I’ve used every one of those skills to do ministry, and I didn’t know I was in training,” York said.

His idea of labor is one of service — yes, that includes a lot of physical work, but it should be to serve your fellow man and faith.

“Doing whatever is in front of you to the best of your ability. Because of my faith in God, it’s do as you do unto God,

and so everything I do is a service, whether it’s driving a forklift or cooking a burger, all of it is connected,” York said.

As York walked back to the forklift he was using to organize the new storage they acquired in their move to the larger Manna Village, he thought out loud. “It’s not always about the paycheck.”

“When we think about labor, we think about the paycheck. Well, how about labor for our fellow man? Labor to make our community a better place? Sometimes that’s more important than the paycheck.”

## Melanie Hazen, teacher

Melanie Hazen’s favorite subject in school was always English. She later learned through coaching gymnastics that she loved teaching and helping people learn. Her plans in college quickly changed from becoming a psychiatrist to teaching.

“Teaching is a way to still be connected to that and be creative with it,” Hazen said.

Hazen said that when she shared with her students how teaching is a passion and her life’s work, her students laughed and called her a nerd. Like fellow nerds though, she embraced it.

“It is labor of love, and I think what’s important is that I use my subject matter to teach my students how to be productive and contributing members of the world,” Hazen said. “I try very hard to make them get that whatever material we’re reading isn’t just about the book, it’s about how to be a good human being and how to live a life that you can feel proud of.”

Hazen said her true passion is helping students become better humans, and that a common misconception is that people think teachers just teach math and make kids read books they don’t want to. Her labor is one of love, mental work and a passion for helping others grow.

“In all industries, whether your work is mental or physical, I think we need to recognize the workers,” Hazen said. “The people who are in the classrooms or on the factory floor or whatever kind of work it is are the ones affecting the actual work the most.”

“I think the importance of Labor Day and recognizing laborers is that the people that are doing what would be considered the lowest level of work are doing the most important work,” Hazen said.

## Mae Magee, tailor

Mae Magee has lived in Clarksville for nearly 26 years. Next year will mark her 20th year as owner of Mae’s Tailor Shop, and later down the line maybe a conclusion to her work.

“I have to pay the bills, I’m working, and I enjoy it — I love doing this, it’s my job and my hobby,” Magee said.

What started as work to survive and pay bills turned into something of a hobby she could do on her own time and meet people through.

Her piles of thread stack high on a shelf next to a table strewn with clothing to be hemmed and worked on.

## Billy Castle, firefighter

“With all the other occupations I’ve had in my life, ‘job’ does not describe the fire service. Working in the fire service is not a job, it’s a calling,” Billy Castle said. “You have to work here because you want to be here and have a compassion for your fellow man.”

Castle hadn’t initially considered becoming a firefighter. After a long line of odd jobs and remedial work through his early years, he got a degree at Austin Peay and went to work at ACME Boot.

After falling off the tailgate of a pickup truck and nearly dying, Castle moved in with his parents to start recovering. He had to learn to walk again before going back to work, but eventually he recovered. He married his high school sweetheart and has been with her for 33 years.

Castle recalled his wife asking, “Billy, would you like to be a firefighter?” And Castle replied “I’d never thought about it. I’d never played with fire trucks as a kid.” Done with odd jobs, he told her he needed something steady. “They were hiring 20 people, and after I got picked up and hired, it felt right almost instantly. ‘Well this is it! This is for me!’”

Castle, a lieutenant in Clarkville Fire Rescue, will retire in October. He said Tennessee has a state law that all firefighters have to retire at 60, and it’s the hardest thing he’ll have to do.

“The self-satisfaction and rewards of doing this is worth far more than monetary compensation they can give us,” Castle said. “You can look in the mirror and be proud of yourself every day.”

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