

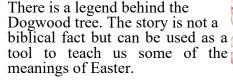
INDIANA STATE ASSOCIATION, INC. OF FAMILY CAMPERS AND RVers, Founded as National Campers & Hikers Association

April 2025 Volume 59 Number 03

"Where strangers become friends, and friends become family!"



The Legend of the Dogwood







The Dogwood tree used to stand tall, straight and strong. It is said to be the timber used to build the cross upon which Jesus was crucified. This made the tree sad, so God promised it would no longer grow tall or strong enough to carry the weight of anything else. This is why you never see a straight branch on a dogwood tree and the branches are weak and fragile.

The blossoms of the Dogwood tree are white to represent purity. They are in the shape of a cross. The outer edges of the petals are brown or red with tiny notches. This represents the nails that were driven through Jesus hands and feet and the blood he shed.

The center of the flower represents the crown of thorns that was worn on Jesus' head.

Though this legend of the dogwood tree is not biblically true, the fact that God sent his only son to die on the cross for you and me, is.

You can read about the crucifixion of Jesus in the books of the Bible. Matthew, Mark ,Luke and John.

Let's remember the true meaning of Easter....



From the **State Director**

Angie Shaneyfelt

It's getting closer to camping season. I see that Harlan and Lori are heading to the Retiree Rally in Dothan, AL. I'm sure that everyone attending will have a very fun time.

For the rest of us the Spring Campout will be here in a month. It will be great to see everyone at Cornerstone Campground. The Spring Campout is always the best to see our camping family that we've missed for many months! As I write this article, I believe our camper is coming out of the pole barn this weekend as we are going the 2nd weekend in April to Lebanon, Tennessee, for the Campvention work weekend. Gotta get it ready!

NATIONAL NOTES:

While we are at Lebanon in April the committee will be finalizing the schedule and all other details that need to be wrapped up. Make sure you are planning to attend in July...it's going to be fun! Make sure you read your Camping Today and following Facebook posts for Campvention events.

VOTE: Did you receive an email to vote for the National Trustees positions? If you need your member number or any other information, please contact me.

CAMPVENTION I will be putting together an "Indiana Basket" for a door prize. If you would like to donate an item or make a cash donation for me to purchase items, I will be asking about this at the spring campout at Cornerstone.

REGIONAL NOTES:

Cl. - - 1 - : - ? - . - - -

Since many of our regional members are "volunteering" for Campvention it was decided to not have a regional campout this year.

What was decided was to ask all our regional members to stay an extra night (Saturday) at Lebanon so we can all visit together and play games/ eat...whatever is decided. Plan on staying one more evening to visit with the Great Lakes Region.



From the **State President**

Ed Shaneyfelt

It is only a few weeks away from the start of our camping season. Our camper is already pulled out of hibernation and we are getting it ready to go. We're looking forward to seeing everyone after all these months of staying home.

Remember to get your reservations in for all the state campouts for the year. Think about next year where you would like to go. Think about finding grounds in that area to host a campout. Everyone would help put it on!

This is election year, so if you want to run for an office in our state association, let Mark Shaneyfelt know which position you are interested in.

Hopefully everyone is going to Lebanon in July. The state is hosting a Campvention hospitality and we will be needing some help to man the booth.

There is a lot planned for the week and a travel day on Wednesday. I can't thank our people enough for always stepping up to help. It is greatly appreciated.

We are in the month of the Easter bunny's visit with good treats and colorful eggs. It also when our Savior died and rose for our sins.

Happy Easter to all Until next time, Ed

STATE NOTES:

The beginning of the camping season is always a good time to review your Chapter Constitutions/ Bylaws. You want to make sure your Chapter is operating as their bylaws state. If you have any corrections/changes, please let me know.

Get your camper ready! See everyone soon at Cornerstone.

Angie Shaneyfelt

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HOOSIER CHATTER

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HOOSIER CHATTER online www.fcrv.org/IN/chatter.php

Collections Coordinator +



Indiana State Association FCRV Ronald McDonald House And Riley Hospital **Collections Coordinator** C.A.M.P. Ladv Patti Thieme

Hi there,

Well, I'm hoping that the warm weather gets here soon, cause I am ready to go camping.

With that being said, don't forget to bring your pop tabs to the state camp out in April. I also hope that you are getting into shape so we can take a walk around the lake or wherever we may wander while we are there. So hopefully will see you all there.

Patti Thieme







CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Harlan Nigh FCRV Indiana State Chaplain

Hello Camp Family,

The season has begun! As I'm writing this, Lori and I are in Dothan, Alabama, at the Retiree Rally. It's a very nice venue with great weather for the event. One day of rain, couple of mornings of heavy fog. But nothing to bad.

We were blessed to have 2 other couples with us for the Indiana photo: Jerry and Pat Rozelle of Fort Wayne and Jim and Paula Kleiber, formerly of the Coffee Pot Chapter.

We are looking forward to the Spring Campout, and regrouping with Y'all. Until we share another

campfire, God Bless.



Indiana was represented at the Retiree Rally by Jim and Paula Harlan and Lori Jerry and Pat Kleiber Řozelle Nigh



Spring is here, and with it comes baby wildlife season. As the warm season progresses, the chance of encountering young animals from baby birds to lone deer fawns to baby squirrels in our backyards and neighborhoods increases.

What should you do—and not do—if you find a baby animal in your yard or neighborhood? First determine if the animal really needs help. When we encounter a baby wild animal, often our first instinct is to try to rescue it, especially if it's alone. Before intervening, make sure it actually needs help. In many cases, it's totally normal for wildlife babies to be on their own. "Rescuing" an animal that doesn't need rescuing actually decreases its chance of survival. Though it might seem harsh, it's normal and natural that not all wild animals survive to adulthood. Letting nature take its course is usually the best thing to do.

The exception is if an animal is injured as the direct result of human activity, such as getting hit by a car, attacked by a pet, striking a window, or falling from a nest during tree work, or if you've witnessed its parent being killed and know for sure that it has been orphaned. In those instances, the ethical thing to do is try to help. Calling a local wildlife rehabilitator should be your first step to provide help for the animal.

If you're unable to locate a wildlife rescue center or rehabilitator directly, contact a local animal shelter, zoo, humane society, animal control department, nature center, state wildlife agency, or veterinarian for advice. Google animal rehabilitation for your county is a good source also. Do not try to take care of a wild animal yourself. Caring for wildlife is a round-the-clock job and requires special training to do properly. In fact, you must have a state-issued license to legally keep and care for wild animals. Unfortunately, well-meaning attempts by untrained people may result in the death of the animal.

Here's are some specific tips on some of the most commonly encountered wildlife in our yards and neighborhoods.

• BIRDS: Baby birds are frequently encountered on

the ground in spring. If the baby bird is featherless or covered in fluffy down, it is called a "nestling" and should be returned to the nest if possible. Listen and look for the parents. This can give you a good indication as to where their nest is located and where you can safely place the nestling. (Don't be alarmed if the parents raise a fuss and dive-bomb you; they are just looking after their young!) Touching a nestling will not make the parents reject it.

If the baby bird is fully feathered, it's called a "fledgling" and it is normal for it to be out of the nest. Fledglings spend several days on the ground hiding in the vegetation until they can fully fly. While this is a dangerous time for young birds, their parents continue to feed and protect them, and your intervention is not necessary. In fact, by taking fledglings out of the wild you decrease their chances of survival. However, if you see a fledgling in the street or otherwise in harm's way, try to move it into dense vegetation close to where you discovered it so the parents can look after it.

- BABY DUCKS AND GEESE are "precocial," meaning shortly after hatching their eyes open and they able to walk, swim and feed themselves immediately, under the watchful eye of their parents who protect them from predators. They leave the nest shortly after hatching and shouldn't be returned to it. If you encounter a lone baby, contact a wildlife rehabilitator.
- DEER AND RABBITS: If you see a deer fawn lying alone in your yard or baby rabbits in a nest in your lawn, they are usually not orphaned. Mother deer and rabbits leave their young alone for most of the day to avoid attracting predators. Fawns and bunnies have fur that camouflages them and they instinctually remain still and quiet. Just observe from a distance and keep domestic animals and people away, chances are quite likely the mother will be back shortly. As with fledgling birds, "rescuing" baby deer and rabbits by removing them from the wild is unnecessary and reduces their chances of survival.

WILD ANIMALS(Continued from page 6)

- SQUIRRELS: Squirrel mothers begin giving birth as early as late winter and can have several litters over the spring and summer. They give birth in a leafy nest built in the branches or inside tree cavities. If you find a baby squirrel on the ground with its eyes closed or that can't move, it's too young to be away from the mother and could be injured, dehydrated or malnourished. Contact a wildlife rehabilitator immediately and do not try to feed or raise it yourself. Baby squirrels require special care and must be fed a specific formula every few hours around the clock.
- <u>REPTILES</u>: Baby snakes, turtles and lizards hatch from their eggs (or are born in the case of some snakes) completely equipped to care for themselves. Leave them right where they are. The best way to help them is to make sure you have plenty of native plants and other sources of cover, such as a brush or rock pile, in your yard to give them places to hide from predators.

If you unearth a nest of eggs in your yard (mulch and compost piles are favorite places for reptiles to lay eggs), leave them where they are or contact a wildlife rehabilitator for help relocating them. Embryos attach to the inside of the eggshell shortly after laying and moving the eggs could result in the death of the embryo if not done properly.

Rescuing any wild animal in need is best left to trained professionals. Moving wildlife is a last resort and should only be attempted if the animal is in clear and imminent danger. If there is no other choice, follow these tips:

• Wear heavy leather gloves, long pants, and long sleeves. Gently place a towel over the animal to

provide an added barrier when you pick it up. This will also minimize stress to the animal. Never attempt to capture mammals such as raccoons, foxes or bats, even their babies.

- If the animal is injured, place it in a secure container, such as a cardboard box with high sides. Close the lid or put a towel over it held in place with binder clips. Place the box in a dark, quiet place away from pets, other people, and noise. Keep the box away from direct sunlight, air conditioning, or heat, and try to avoid bringing the animal into your house.
- Do not try to feed or offer water. Injured or orphaned animals are often in shock and won't eat or drink. Trying to make them could add additional stress or even kill them. Small animals can drown even in a shallow water dish.
- Get the animal to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible. Be prepared to transport the animal to the rescue facility.
- For turtles in the road, only intervene if you can do so safely. Move the turtle to the other side of the road in the direction it was heading.
- If an animal is moving erratically, approaching people without fear or foaming at the mouth, do not get near it as it could be sick and dangerous. Call animal control.

While it may be tempting to keep wild animals as pets, especially ones you've helped, they are meant to live wild and free. In fact, there are laws to protect many species from being taken out of the wild by people.

Information obtained from the National Wildlife Federation's blog at blog.nwf.org/2018/04/what-to-do-if-you-find-baby-wildlife/



RECIPES WORTH SHARING COOKBOOK

A cookbook is available online that includes recipes published in the HOOSIER CHATTER from 2020 through 2024. If you would like to access the cookbook online, use the following link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/174iFdmh3BodfQy4XUk8j1a3eNe2UYZWK/view?usp=sharing

If you would like to print the cookbook as a booklet (caution, it is 92 pages!) you will need a duplex printer, print on both sides flipping pages on the short end using the following link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FvLw-ruhfmnbmtor9p3yeFRrqfxID5Qh/view?usp=sharing

(You could also use this link to take to a printing center like FedEx Office or Office Depot.)



We have seen the devastation that fire can leave when conditions are right. As campers, we need to be responsible in the way we build, control, and extinguish a campfire. Here is a review of some safety tips that may help prevent a pleasant evening from becoming a disaster.

1. Know the rules

Before you strike a match, make sure you know the fire regulations of the campground or wilderness area in which you are planning to build a fire. Fire rules change, and a campground that allowed campfires the last time you visited my have a temporary ban on them if the risk of wildfires is high. Pay attention to posted signs and check the ranger's station for current campfire regulations.

2. Use the pit

Most campgrounds provide a fire pit or fire ring in which to build a campfire. If a pit is provided, this is the only place you should build a campfire. If you're in a remote area where campfires are allowed but a pit is not provided, dig a fire pit in an open area away from overhanging branches, power lines or other hazards that could catch on fire. Once the pit has been dug, circle the pit with rocks, ensuring there is a tenfoot area around the pit that is cleared of anything that could catch on fire.

3. Build a safe campfire

Once your pit is in place, build a safe campfire. Start the fire with dried leaves or grass that will easily catch fire. Next, add kindling, small twigs and sticks that are less than an inch in diameter. As the fire builds, add the largest pieces of wood to the fire. They will keep the fire burning for a longer period of time and provide heat. Keep in mind that your fire does not have to be roaring. A small fire surrounded by rocks will produce plenty of heat for both cooking and warmth.

4. Mind the match

Start your campfire with a match and then make sure it is completely extinguished before disposing of it. Pour water over the match or throw it directly into the fire to burn. Never use lighter fluid, gas, kerosene, or other flammable liquids to start a fire.

5. Use local firewood

Though it may not be apparent to the naked eye, treekilling insects and diseases can live on firewood. If you're going camping six hours down the road and decide to bring firewood from home you could, without knowing it, transport insects and diseases and inadvertently introduce them into the forests where they weren't found before. That's why it's so important to use local firewood. Local is defined as the closest convenient source of firewood that you can find. If possible, pick up firewood from the campground camp store or a nearby location.

6. Keep water handy

Don't start a campfire without having a bucket of water and a shovel nearby. The water can be used to douse any runaway flames and the shovel can be used to throw sand or dirt on any flames that jump the perimeter of your fire ring. It's also smart practice to keep a few feet of ground outside of your fire ring watered down, so if a stray ember or flame jumps outside of your fire pit, it won't gain any traction.

7. Pay attention to the wind

A strong breeze can spread your fire in an instant. To make sure a sudden gust of wind doesn't turn your campfire into a wildfire, keep anything flammable, including unused firewood, upwind and at least 15 feet away from the fire. The 15-foot rule also goes for your tent and clothing hung to dry.

8. Be careful with kids and pets

It's not just the risk of forest fires that you need to be mindful of while camping. Campfires are the leading cause of children's camping injuries in the United States. Teach your kids about the danger of fire and don't allow children or pets around the campfire unless they are on an adult's lap. Teach kids how to stop, drop, and roll in the event that their clothes catch on fire.

9. Never leave a campfire unattended

A campfire should not be left alone, even for one minute. A small breeze can spread fire quickly, so there should be at least one set of eyes monitoring the fire at all times. Even if you're leaving the fire for a short period of time, like to take a quick hike, the fire should be completely extinguished. You'll be able to restart it once you return.

10. Put the fire out properly—every time

When you are done with your campfire make sure it is extinguished properly. Dump water on the fire, stir the ashes with a shovel, then dump more water on the fire. The campfire should be cold before you leave it unattended. If it is too hot to touch, then it is too hot to leave. Large logs will be more difficult to extinguish than smaller logs so make sure they are also soaked with water. Move the stones around the campfire to check for hidden burning embers underneath. And never bury coals from the fire—they can smolder and start to burn again.

Information taken directly from RESERVE AMERICA (https:// www.reserveamerica.com>HOME>Camping.

Recipes worth Sharing EASTER POKE CAKE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 box of white cake mix
- ingredients listed on the box for the cake mix
- (2) 3.3 oz boxes of instant white chocolate pudding
- 3 1/2 cups milk
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Pink, green, blue and yellow food coloring

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Preheat the oven to the temperature that the boxed cake mix directs you to. Spray a 9x13 baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Set aside.
- 2. In a medium sized mixing bowl prepare the cake mix as directed on the back of the box. Once you have the batter, divide the batter into four different bowls and add a few drops of food coloring to each bowl to make each color.
- 3. Stir the batter and food coloring (you can add more drops till you reach the desired shade you'd like.) Using a spoon, scoop the batter up and drop the batter into the prepared baking dish, make small droops of each color all over the baking dish. (the drops are going to spread because of the greased dish, so work quickly)
- 4. Once you've added all the batter lightly tap the bottom of the dish on the counter. Use a toothpick and lightly swirl the colors just a little bit, do not over mix the colors. Bake for however long the box for the cake mix directs you to.
- 5. Once the cake is done take it out and let it sit for about 10 minutes. Then poke all over the top of the cake with the end of a wooden spoon or a large straw, about an inch apart. Let cool completely.
- 6. În a large bowl add the white chocolate pudding mix and milk, whisk together until everything is dissolved. Pour the pudding mixture all over the top of the cake and spread around with a spatula,



trying to get as much pudding into the holes. Spread any remaining pudding all over top of the cake and set in the refrigerator until the pudding is set. Approx. 30 minutes.

7. In a large bowl add the heavy cream and vanilla extract and beat using a hand mixer until soft peaks form. Add in the powdered sugar and mix until stiff peaks form, about 5-6 minutes. Once the pudding is set on the cake, spread the whipped cream over top of the pudding layer.

Add sprinkles to the top of the whipped cream

Credit for recipe and picture: Ashley at "Wishes and Dishes."

Fireflies and Coffee Pots 2025 Camping Schedule

April 25-27, 2025

May 16-18, 2025

June 20-22, 2025

July 20-25, 2025

August 22-24, 2025

October 1-2, 2025

October 3-5, 2025

October 10-12, 2025

Cornerstone Campground New Castle, IN 765-987-8700

White River Campground 11299 E. 234th St, Cicero, IN 317-770-4430

Starve Hollow State Park

CAMPVENTION Lebanon, TN, Fairgrounds

Friends O' Mine Campground 4557 IN-46, Nashville, IN 812-988-0008

Shipshewana North Campgrounds 5970 IN-5, Shipshewana, IN 732-221-5441 (talk with UMA)

Shipshewana North Campgrounds 5970 IN-5, Shipshewana, IN 732-221-5441 (talk with UMA)

Charlestown State Park 3000 State Park Drive Charlesdown State Campout Hosted by Coffee Pots and Fireflies

State Campout Hosted by Glampers

Retiree Campout

Fall Invitational

Happy Glampers 2024 Camping Schedule

Happy Glampers 2025 Camping Schedule

April 10-13, 2025

April 24-27, 2025

May 15-18, 2025

June 19-22, 2025

July 20-26, 2025

July 31- Aug 3, 2025

Aug 21-24, 2025

Sept. 11-14, 2025

Sept 29- Oct 2, 2025

Oct 3-5, 2025

Patoka Pines Campgaround

Cornerstone Campground

White River Campground

Muncie R Journey

Ward Ag Center - Lebanon, TN

Spring Mill State Park

Friends O' Mine- Nashville, IN

Mississinewa SRA

Shipshewana North Campground

Shipshewana North Campground

Oakland City, IN

Spring Campout

Cicero, IN

Anderson, IN

Campvention

Mitchell, IN

Summer Campout

Peru, in

Flea Market & Retiree Rally

Fall Invitational

For further information, contact John or Rose Stock (all12stock@aol.com)

2025 Camping Info

SUMMER CAMPOUT REGISTRATIONS

If you are planning on attending the summer camp out August 22-24, 2025 at Friends o' Mine Campground in Nashville, Indiana, you need to RSVP the campground by April 1st. We have 30-amp and 50-amp spots blocked, but after April 1st they will open them back up to the public. The campground closes the first of November, but they do monitor their phones daily (The owners live at the campground all year round.) **Do not make reservations over the website** because it is a special event, and you need to let them know you are with FCRV. Contact information is on the back page of this CHATTER.

Thanks

John Stock

Happy Glampers

FALL INVITATIONAL INFORMATION

From Ron Cohee:

Camping rates for Shipshewana North Campground:

(Location of 2025 Fall Invitational)

| Tent Site with Water and Electric | 32.00 |
|--|-------|
| Water & Electric back-in site | 36.00 |
| Water & Electric pull-through Site | 42.00 |
| Full (Water, Electric & Sewer (back-in) | 44.00 |
| Full (Water, Electric & Sewer (pull-through) | 46.00 |
| | |

Chapter Campouts

We invite any chapters who have planned their upcoming campouts and would like to invite others to join them to list them here in the CHATTER. Likewise, if you are looking to camp with friends (or people who will become friends), check out these listings!

We also welcome any reports and/or photos from your campouts. What a better way to advertise the heart of Indiana's Family Campers and RVers???

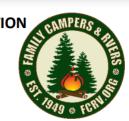
Contact the Editor at hoosierchatter@hotmail.com.



SPIRIT ON TENNES

FAMILY CAMPERS & RVers 2025 CAMPVENTION

"Spirit of Friendship" July 20-26, 2025 James E Ward Agricultural Center 945 E Baddour Pkwy, Lebanon, TN 37087



REGISTRATION:

Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Welcome to Campvention 2025. Everyone must complete a registration form, including second families and camp day passes. Submit payment with the completed form. All funds shall be in US currency, including checks and money orders. There will be room for you if you decide to come at the last minute. Simply bring this registration form with you.

**Refund policy: If you are unable to attend, all except \$25 will be refunded AFTER the conclusion of 2025 Campvention.

At Gate

Registration deadline May 15th - Pay before December 31, 2024, to receive a \$25 discount (\$325.00).

Registration

| One Family in the Unit | \$350.00 | \$385.00 | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Extra Family in the Unit (separate pay) | \$180.00 | \$200.00 | | |
| Week Drive-in Day Pass (June 23-29) | \$175.00 | \$190.00 | | |
| Drive-in Day Pass (per day) | \$30.00 | \$35.00 | | |
| Early Bird Days: July 18 - 19 @ \$30/night Saturday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday 8 a | | | eck). The gates will | be open Friday at 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., |
| Are you an FCRV member: Yes No | Please pr | ovide your M | ember # if known: _ | |
| Last Name:F | irst Name: | | Spouse/Gues | t: |
| Address: | | | | |
| City: | St | ate/Province: | | Zip Code: |
| Phone #: Email: | | | 2ndEmail: | |
| Is this your first Campvention? Yes | No | Are you a \ | eteran and what b | ranch? |
| | | | | Youth: 5 – 8 |
| Total number of people in Unit: | | | | |
| **Please list the names and ages of all yo | uth and teen | s on the back | of this form. | |
| We would like to help with event(s) at Ca | mpvention. S | taff will follow | up with a contact | if yes: Yes No |
| CAMPVENTION PARKING: (There will be | no special ne | eds sites avail | able at the gate.) | |
| Check if you are requesting a special need | - | | | f must be presented upon arrival.) |
| Please note the LENGTH of camping rig b | ehind type: | | | |
| Motorhome5 th Wheel | Travel Tr | railer | Pop-Up | Number of slide outs |
| Electricity: 30 amp 50 amp | (50 | Oamp is limite | d. Handicap first. T | hen first come, first served.) |
| **Bring extension cords. Water available | Bring hoses | and Y connec | tors. | |
| MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FCRV Campv | ention 2025 F | unds | | |
| Mail checks and completed forms to: | | | | |
| FCRV Campvention 2025 | | | | |
| 137 Crandon Blvd. | | | | |

For inquiries please call (716) 668-6242. Confirmations will be sent via Email. Please allow a month for Processing.

RK YOUR CALEND

Indiana State Events

2025 Indiana Spring Campout April 25-27, 2025 Cornerstone Campground 75 W County Road 500 S New Castle, Indiana, 47362 (765) 987-8700 "Celebration of Life" Hosted by Fireflies and Coffeepots

2025 Indiana Summer Campout

August 22-23, 2025 Friends O Mine Campground 4557 IN-46 Nashville, Indiana, 47448 (812) 988-0008 Hosted by the Happy Glampers

(MAKE RESERVATIONS BY APRIL 1, 2025) DO NOT SCHEDULE ON THE WEBSITE. LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE WITH FCRV

2025 Indiana Retiree Rally

October 1-3, 2025 Shipshewana North Campground 5970 IN-5 Shipshewana, IN 46565 260 768-7770 (Reserve before September 15, 2025) Mention that you are part of the FCRV group.

2025 Indiana Fall Invitational

October 3-5, 2025 Shipshewana, IN 46565 260 768-7770 (Reserve before September 15, 2025) Mention that you are part of the FCRV group.

International Events



2025 Campvention "Spirit of Friendship" July 20-26, 2025 James E. Ward Agricultural Center Lebanon, Tennessee



