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Letter FROM THE Editor

jonathan **MOODY**
Southern Lifestyles Editor

Twenty-one counties, 10,650 square miles, and countless adventures. That's West Tennessee. We here at Magic Valley Publishing welcome you to the premier issue of our new magazine Discover-West Tennessee. Our goal is to highlight everything that this beautiful area has to offer, such as good food, amazing adventures, secret fishing holes, football, fashion, nightlife, live music, shopping, weekends on the water, sightseeing, day trips, fairs, festivals, and beauty queens, to name a few. There are many places I would like to visit, but there's no place like home. We welcome you to come along with us for the ride!

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ON THE COVER - WEST TENNESSEE'S OWN,
DARRYL WORLEY





PEEK INSIDE THE NEW PICKWICK LODGE

Combining the perfect location with plenty of things to do, Pickwick Landing State Park offers a great family getaway. This 1,416-acre state park is located at Pickwick Dam in Hardin County, Tennessee, centered around its showpiece- the 43,100-acre Pickwick Lake. Book your stay today and become among the first to experience the newly renovated Lodge literally steps away from the lake.

The Lodge at Pickwick has just completed a full interior renovation, a multimillion-dollar investment from the state. This resort lodge offers a fresh, new look in all 119 guest rooms, a welcoming transformed lobby, gift shop, restaurant and bar,

plus more than 6000 ft. of meeting and event space. The Lodge is now open for guests to enjoy dining, family getaways, and is ready when you are for your family reunions and business conferences.

The renovations make the lodge more sustainable and energy-efficient. Lighting was converted to LEDs and the roof replaced. Within the restaurant, park staff purchased energy-saving kitchen equipment and eliminated the buffet to decrease food waste, opting for menu and family-style dinners. The renovation design concept included modernizing the interior finishes while keeping the natural outdoors motif showcasing

that amazing view of the lake. “We took everything down to the bare floors and put it back brand new,” beamed Park Manager Andy Wright.

When you first walk in, one is struck by how much it has changed. There is a comfortable feel to the main lobby area, which has been updated with new furniture. The front desk is now more open to greet guests and the gift shop is conveniently located adjacent to the front desk.

The most essential improvement is that every single room has been completely redone. Wright shared, “We stripped them all down. I mean repainted, new wall covering, carpeting and all the furniture was

replaced. All the bedding from the mattresses to the frames, everything is new. The wall murals in each room, are of a picture taken in the park. It's an interesting aspect, that you get to look at an old photo and try to figure out where it was taken."

"We are committed to offering our guests a relaxing experience", added Wright, "as well as the resort amenities of outdoor activities such as golfing, swimming, boating, kayaking, fishing, and ranger led programs."

The Park also has a full-service

marina, 48 campsites in the main campground, 33 primitive campsites across the lake, and 17 cabins. Six picnic shelters can be reserved, the largest of which holds 300 people. Near the lodge, are lakeside picnic tables, playground areas, and hiking trails.

Along with the fresh, new face-lift to the Lodge, are recently updated park restrooms, additions to the aviary complex, and enforced COVID safety and cleaning guidelines for watercraft rentals and guest room services. New in the coming months

will be the addition of a dog park, larger courtesy dock at the main boat ramp, and seasonal holiday fun that your family will love. The annual Christmas in the Park and Holiday Mart is scheduled for December 11-12, 2020. All the lights, all the fun, all the shopping will be waiting for you as the new look to the Lodge is being unveiled just in time for your family to enjoy.

Check the Park's Facebook page for details on events and ranger programs. More information can always be found with Hardin County Convention and Visitors Bureau at 731-925-8181.



THE LODGE

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New renovations transforming the guest rooms, bathrooms, conference center and restaurant. A beautiful new restaurant dining area with a new bar ... and you have to try the new menu! All while enjoying all that Pickwick Lake has to offer: Boating, fishing, golfing, exploring to your heart's content.



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We welcome you back for a safe, fun visit!



From left, Hardin County mayor Ken Davis, TN Dept Tourist Development Chief Customer Officer Dennis Tumlin, FLW Vice Chairman Dave Washburn, Pickwick Landing State Park Manager Andy Wright, TWRA Ray Garton, and Beth Pippin, Tour Hardin County Tourism Director.

PICKWICK LAKE NAMED HOST OF 2021 TOYOTA SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP

Tournament to Be Held at Counce's Newly-Renovated Pickwick Landing State Park

FLW and the Hardin County Convention & Visitors Bureau announced Wednesday that Counce, Tennessee, will host the prestigious 2021 Toyota Series Championship, Oct. 28-30, 2021, on Pickwick Lake.

Pickwick Lake is a familiar destination for FLW and its Toyota Series anglers. The fishery has played host to numerous Tackle Warehouse Pro Circuit, Toyota Series, Phoenix Bass Fishing League and Abu Garcia College Fishing events over the years. The 2021 Toyota Series Championship marks the first time that FLW will run a tournament in Counce.

"We are proud that Pickwick Lake

and Hardin County were selected to host the 2021 FLW Toyota Series Championship," said Dennis Tumlin, Chief Customer Officer for the State of Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. "Our partners at the Tennessee State Parks recently cut the ribbon on an \$11 million renovation project at Pickwick Landing State Park in Counce and have created one of the premier fishing tournament destinations anywhere in the Southeastern United States. We're thrilled to have the opportunity to showcase this amazing facility as we host the Toyota Series Championship."

"Pickwick Lake has been the site of

many successful FLW events over the years," said Mark McWha, Director of Tournament Operations for the Toyota Series. "We are thrilled to be working with our partners at the Hardin County Convention and Visitors Bureau to bring the Toyota Series Championship to Tennessee in 2021."

The championship will launch from the Pickwick Landing State Park, located just south of Pickwick Dam, at 120 Playground Loop in Counce, Tennessee. Accommodations in the park include a lodge and restaurant, cabins, and camping. In addition to water sports, guests enjoy golfing, birding, picnicking, disc golf, nature

walks and tennis. The park contains 1,416 acres of forested hills and hollows.

“Pickwick Lake is known for great fishing and scenic beauty that we get to enjoy every day,” said Beth Pippin, Tourism Director, Hardin County Convention and Visitors Bureau. “Hosting this tournament will allow us to showcase our beautiful area with national media exposure. The event will bring dollars into our community for a huge economic impact. Anglers, FLW staff and their families will spend money when they stay, shop and dine the week leading up to the big tournament. It’s a win-win for everyone,”

The 2021 Toyota Series will consist of six divisions – Central, Northern, Plains, Southern, Southwestern and Western – each holding three regular-season events, along with the International division. Anglers who

finish in the top 25 in each division’s Angler of the Year (AOY) standings will qualify for the no-entry-fee Toyota Series Championship for a shot at winning \$200,000 cash, plus lucrative contingency bonuses like the \$35,000 FLW PHOENIX Bonus offered this season. The winning co-angler at the championship earns a \$33,500 Phoenix 518 Pro bass boat (or comparable model) with a 115-horsepower Mercury outboard.

The complete 2021 Toyota Series schedule was announced earlier this month. The full schedule can be found online at FLWFishing.com.

For complete details and updated information visit FLWFishing.com. For regular updates, photos, tournament news and more, follow the Toyota Series on FLW’s social media outlets at Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

About FLW - FLW is the world’s largest tournament-fishing organization, providing anglers of all skill levels the opportunity to compete for millions in prize money across five tournament circuits. Headquartered in Benton, Kentucky, FLW and its partners conduct more than 290 bass-fishing tournaments annually around the world, including the United States, Canada, China, Italy, South Korea, Mexico, Namibia, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, and Zimbabwe.

FLW tournament fishing can be seen on the Emmy-nominated “FLW” television show while Bass Fishing magazine delivers cutting-edge tips from top pros. Acquired by Major League Fishing in late 2019, FLW is expanding its programming in 2020 to the Outdoor Channel and the Sportsman Channel as well as on-demand at MyOutdoorTV (MOTV).



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HARDIN COUNTY NAMED IN INAUGURAL COHORT OF THE TENNESSEE RIVER TOWNS PROGRAM

Hardin County, Tennessee is one of fifteen Tennessee River communities that have been selected for the inaugural cohort of the Tennessee RiverTowns Program, beginning its journey to come an official Tennessee RiverTown and part of the Tennessee RiverLine, North America's next great regional trail system.

"There is no doubt that the Tennessee River is truly special", said Hardin County Mayor Kevin Davis, "and in Hardin County, we have amazing natural beauty. We aim to celebrate and spread the word about our area while connecting with all 652 miles of river."

To celebrate Hardin County joining the Tennessee RiverTowns Program, drop by Tennessee River Museum, 495 Main Street, Savannah, and pick up more information. Congratulate the team on the induction this month and receive a complimentary postcard, and tour the museum FREE of charge.

"Hardin County Convention and Visitors Bureau applied, on behalf of Hardin County, to be a part of the Ten-

nessee RiverTowns Program. Hardin County is the Tennessee re-entry along the river trail. The partnership will enhance the Tennessee RiverLine vision in understanding what the river means to this area, not just what it means to our county alone. The trail users will benefit from a program that welcomes them to an area not as different areas to explore. We all have the same history of early explorers, native American life, steamboats, and New Deals...this program can bring the story into one trail shared by many."

Hardin County offers numerous unique places and stories with three river towns, Savannah being the county seat, Crump and Saltillo. The Tennessee River Museum in Savannah houses the story of the Tennessee Valley from pre-historic life to post-war reconciliation. Shiloh National Park famous for the civil war battle is also famous for Indian mounds where 800 years ago set a town high on the bluff overlooking the Tennessee River. Pickwick Landing State Park is full of wildlife, trails,

resort lodging, golf course, marina, and camping. Today, Hardin County's portion of the river is a nature lover-water-lover's dream location for boating, fishing, and exploring.

"Through participation in the program, Hardin County will be able to benefit from programs that will be developed helping us take action to improve our river life. The river symbolizes connections since they touch everyone", explained Beth Pippin, Hardin County Tourism Director. "Rivers also symbolize human health since fresh water from rivers is essential to our communities. Another value embodied in a river is that of habitat, highlighting the importance of protecting ecosystems for fish and wildlife both in the river itself, and along its banks. The riverbanks are also used for leisure activities such as walking, jogging, and bicycling. We wish to continue growing sports events and festivals along the riverbanks. River cruises, canoeing excursions, wildlife-watching, fishing for sport or for fun...this program will



only expand our marketing efforts.”

By joining the Tennessee River-Towns Program, Hardin County is taking its first step to becoming an official Tennessee RiverTown, part of the Tennessee RiverLine, which is vision for a continuous system of paddling, hiking and biking experiences along the Tennessee River’s 652-mile reach. This transformative initiative is led by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in collaboration with the Tennessee RiverLine Partnership. River communities that are invested as part of the Tennessee RiverLine benefit from economic development and entrepreneurship opportunities, quality of life amenities and increased access to river experiences that improve public health and generations of river advocates that are active participants in its stewardship.

To learn more about the Tennessee River Line, stay up-to-date with programs and initiatives by following on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (@tnriverline) and visiting tnriverline.org frequently.





FOX SPORTS "LET'S FISH" TELEVISION SERIES SPOTLIGHTS PICKWICK LAKE, AND THE HARDIN COUNTY AREA

This summer, host Crispin Powley and the rest of the "Let's Fish" television crew were in Hardin County filming a segment for the nationally televised fishing show which spotlighted Pickwick Lake and the Hardin County area. "Let's Fish" appears on the Fox Sports television Networks. The segment premiered on the network earlier this past summer and can now be viewed online through the shows YouTube channel. This episode was one of the highest

iewed episodes in the shows history. "I get to travel and fish all over

the country with my job. What's really cool is that Pickwick Lake is practically in my own back yard, and it is one of my favorite destinations. I love to fish offshore for bass and this area is as good as it gets whether your talking about the fishing or amenities, dining options, entertainment, or just local sightseeing. There's tons of stuff to do with the family and the Hardin County people are just as friendly as can be. I highly recommend Hardin County for your next fishing adventure." said show host Crispin Powley.



Hardin Counties own Kelly Reidheimer was featured along with host Crispin Powley



FROM CHILI TO CORNHOLE, NOW CHAMPION

jeff IRELAND
MVP Publishing

Five years ago Lynda Oglesby won a cornhole set at a local chili cook off.

She had never played the game, which involves throwing bean bags toward a board with a hole in it.

But Oglesby was willing to give it a try, so she set the boards up in her backyard and started tossing.

"I couldn't hit the boards and when I did they slid off," Oglesby says.

She got a little better as time went on and she decided to enter a tournament.

"I got beat so bad," Oglesby says with a laugh. "It was embarrassing, so I went back to the yard and kept playing and learning."

Now Oglesby is a cornhole world champion and she is trying to grow the sport in Tipton County.

Oglesby and Maggie Geiger won the American Cornhole Organization world doubles competition four months ago in Columbia, S.C. It was her first world title after placing third last year in Las Vegas.

She hosted the first local ACO regional tournament Sept. 12 at the old Brighton High School gym with 84 people competing for titles in juniors, singles and doubles. Players from Mississippi, Arkansas, Kentucky and West Tennessee took part. There were

15 juniors (under 18) who competed, which Oglesby is particularly excited about.

"Eighty-four players, that's big," Oglesby says. "That's like a major event. I'm so excited the sport is growing in our area. To have 15 compete in juniors, that's great. I really want the kids involved."

The second ACO regional at the old BHS gym was held Oct. 17 with just as much participation. She said everybody from pros to those just getting started are welcome to compete in upcoming events. You can email Oglesby at pguglesby@gmail.com for more information.

When Oglesby started getting serious about cornhole, a lot of her friends were surprised to hear the sport is more than just something to do at a tailgate party.

"They used to be real surprised," Oglesby says. "They were like, 'Are you serious? No way.' We are so behind the northern states. Up north and in California, it's huge with lots of big tournaments. We are catching up, though."

In an official cornhole event, the boards are 27 feet apart and

competitors take turns tossing four bags underhanded. Money can be made by the best players. Oglesby won \$600 at a recent event. When she competes at an upcoming event in

Florida, \$3,500 will be up for grabs.

Regional events, like the one at Brighton next Saturday, are more about having fun.

"It's for people who want to play and want to get better," Oglesby says. "If you start playing and you can hit the board and you're pretty decent, when you start playing competitively it only makes you better. You have to step up or you're

going to sit out. These people are stepping up. These young guys and girls, they are slinging the bag. They are fierce and they are good."

Oglesby has plans to contact Tipton County Schools officials in an attempt to get the sport in schools.

"If you've never been to one you need to come see what I'm talking about. It's a blast. It's very competitive, but everyone is laughing and talking. You make good friends. I've met a lot of great people playing this sport. It's just a big family. Everybody gets along."



Lynda Oglesby

THE AMERICAN DREAM WITHOUT AMERICAN CUISINE:

Living Well Celebrates Their Ninth Anniversary

maliSTRONG
contributing writer

As of today, health experts agree that limiting meat products in one's diet is now more than ever, pivotal to better overall health and conservation of the environment. Living Well Vegetarian Restaurant, one of the few vegetarian restaurants in Carroll County, is at the forefront of trying to change the typical "American Diet."

It is located just off the Court Square at 19760 East Main Street, Huntingdon.

Lisa Fraser was born in Saint Vincent, a country in the Caribbean, where she remembers her diet consisting of mainly vegetarian meals. After immigrating to the United States with her parents at age eight, she went on to attend college in New York. During an extended summer break, she decided to visit her boyfriend's hometown of Huntingdon. The small-town atmosphere intrigued her, and she decided to raise her family here.

A couple of years later, she and her children opened up Living Well Vegetarian Restaurant, in order to give the community a taste of the Caribbean cuisine she grew up eating. Lisa, who received her citizenship last year, said she tries to be an example to her children of how the "American Dream" can be accomplished through hard work and culture.

Lisa recounts the current and past challenges of running her restaurant. "



Talisa Fraser (left) and Lisa Fraser (right) work together making Oat Burgers.

what a treat - it's all delicious

"During the opening phase of Living Well, I was cautioned away from opening a vegetarian restaurant in the "baked potato and barbeque" area, but I knew that this was what I was meant to do," she said. "God put me here."

Living Well's menu consists of vegetarian versions of popular American dishes such as lasagna, macaroni and cheese, and pizza. However, her most famous meals are those straight from her culture. Lisa's most popular dish is

her currant roll, similar to a cinnamon roll, except with vegetarian ingredients such as wheat flour, honey, cinnamon, and currants.

Peggy Allen, a frequent customer, outlines her experience:

"Living Well Vegetarian Restaurant has daily prepared fresh food," she said. "I average eating their food three times a week. My cholesterol became within normal limits after eating there over the past year without any medications. Their restaurant is one of the best-kept secrets in Huntingdon!"

If you would like to see their menu or order, please visit Living Well Vegetarian Restaurant - Huntingdon Tennessee Restaurant.



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NATIONAL CHAMPIONS – Turner Tharpe and Blake James from Rhea County, TN show off some of their winning catches during the second day of weigh-ins at the Bassmaster Junior National Championship. Turner and Blake won first place in the tournament.

BASSMASTER JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

54 teams compete at Carroll County 1,000-Acre Lake

ron**PARK**
MVP Publishing

If you were out at the Carroll County 1,000-Acre Recreational Lake early last week, you might have noticed that things were a little busier than usual.

That's because the lake was once again serving as ground zero for the

Bassmaster Junior National Championship, though this was the first time that the event, which is usually held in late July or early August, has taken place this late in the year.

A total of 54 teams from 28 states, each team consisting of two young anglers in grades 2-8 and an adult boat captain, competed in the two-day fishing tournament on Oct. 19-20.

Weigh-ins were held both days at Billy Cary Memorial Park in Huntingdon, and the top winners were honored following weigh-ins on Oct. 20.

Winning first place this year and a 2,500 prize were Turner Tharpe, 12, and Blake James, 13, from Rhea County in the eastern part of Middle Tennessee.

Serving as their boat captain was Turner's dad, Brent Tharpe.

Turner and Blake have only been fishing together for about a year, and this is the first year they've competed in the national championship.

"It feels amazing," said Turner. "I'm not sure if we will be able to do this ever again, but I hope we will."

Together the two reeled in a two-day total of 13 pounds, 15 ounces of fish with 5 pounds and 13 ounces caught on the first day, followed by a big 13-pound, 15-ounce haul on day two.

According to the young fishermen, they started out fishing shallow just offshore throwing a wacky rig on Monday, but they changed tactics on Tuesday, aiming at deeper waters further out in the lake and switching to drop shot.

"We figured out they weren't up shallow, so we moved out and started catching some fish," said Turner.

Taking second place in the tourney with a total of 12 pounds, 8 ounces were

Logan Lopossa and Koby Sollars, both 13, and captain Brandon Lopossa with Southside Anglers from Bloomington, Indiana.

Third place went to Kasen Pember-tonb, 15, and Hunter Prough, 13, with Liberty County Anglers from Chipley, Florida. They reeled in a two-day total of 12 pounds, 3 ounces. Chad Prough served as their boat captain.

No local teams participated in this year's tournament.

The event was hosted by the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce and Bethel University.

"We were clearly excited with so many teams coming in from 28 different states," said Chamber President Brad Hurley, who added that the visiting anglers really enjoyed the hospitality shown by the local community and businesses.

Huntingdon Mayor Dale Kelley and

Hurley presented Bassmaster reps Jon Stewart and Hank Weldon with keys to the city during pre-weigh-in ceremonies on Oct. 19.

The Huntingdon High School Marching Band kicked the event off that day with a parade from the court square to the park and a performance of the national anthem.

Jeruna Cozart of McLemoresville sang the national anthem on the second day.

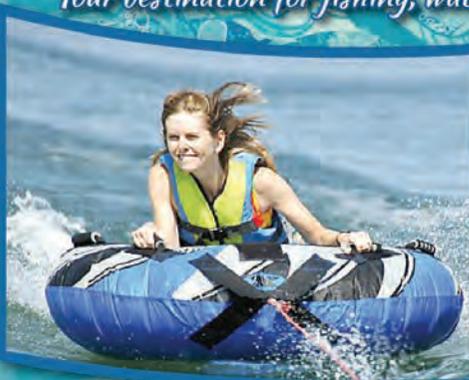
For all the ways they helped out with the event, Hurley thanked Carroll County Civic Center staff, Huntingdon Police and Fire Departments, Huntingdon Public Works, Carroll County Rescue Squad, Carroll County Fire Department, Carroll Bank & Trust, Kent Jones Law Firm, Carroll County Electric Department, Carroll County News-Leader, and his fellow Chamber members.

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2020 Mossy Oak Fishing Bassmaster Junior National Championship
10/19/2020 - 10/20/2020
Carroll County One Thousand Acre Recreational Lake - Carroll County Lake - Huntington, TN

STANDINGS BOATER DAY 2

Name	Today's Activity			Accumulative			PTS
	# Fsh	# Live	Lbs - Oz	# Fsh	# Live	Lbs-Oz	
1 Turner Tharpe - Blake James Rhea County	5	5	8-2	10	10	13-15	0.00
2 Logan Lopossa - Koby Sollars Southside Anglers	4	4	4-13	9	9	12-8	0.00
3 Kasen Pemberton - Hunter Prough Chipleigh High	5	4	6-7	10	9	12-3	0.00
4 Jaylin White - Colden Baker Lugoff-Elgin Middle	5	5	7-4	10	10	11-12	0.00
5 Jack Myers - Lucas Gerlach Denver Jr. Bassmaster	2	1	2-1	6	5	11-2	0.00
6 Pate Anderson - Bobby Miller Susquehanna Valley Fishing Team	5	5	6-4	9	9	10-11	0.00
7 Dakota Carter - Preston Keller OKC Junior Bassmasters	4	4	6-11	8	8	10-7	0.00
8 Zane Parker - Garrett Wilson	5	5	5-11	10	10	10-4	0.00
9 Langston Martin - Coleman Mezick Lee County Anglers	4	4	4-6	9	9	10-3	0.00
10 Carson Harrell - Colton Harrell chapman panthers	5	5	5-3	8	8	9-10	0.00
11 Trent Volz - Carson Volz Indian Creek	3	3	4-8	7	7	8-14	0.00
12 Charles Klug - PJ Jacobs Junior High	4	4	3-15	9	9	8-11	0.00
13 Holten Phillips - Griffin Ralph Lakeside	3	3	2-13	8	8	8-0	0.00
14 Kyle Herrman - Nicholas Herrman Topeka Jr Hawgs	0	0	0-0	4	4	7-15	0.00
15 Annabel Hellum - Ben Lewis Phoenix Junior Bassmasters	3	3	3-12	7	7	7-15	0.00
16 Landon Pierce - Korbin Neat Casey County	5	5	4-0	8	8	7-12	0.00
17 Peter Duffy - Bryce Formsma GR Bass boys Northview	3	3	2-10	8	8	7-10	0.00
18 Mason Dople - Gabryel St John Jellico Middle	4	4	3-14	5	5	7-5	0.00
19 Bo Hollen - Ari Clark Mon Valley Bassmaster's	4	4	3-10	8	8	7-2	0.00
20 Colt Sitton - Ryan Grace North OKC Bassmasters	3	3	5-0	5	5	7-1	0.00
21 Sawyer Knickerbocker - Gage Dowers SWLA Jr Anglers	2	2	1-2	7	7	6-10	0.00
22 Gavin White - Brandon Smith LA Junior Bassmasters	1	1	1-6	5	5	6-5	0.00
23 Jack Meiser - Blake Meiser Eureka	1	1	1-5	5	5	6-3	0.00
24 Brody Kellum - Carson Thompson Franklin County Middle School	1	1	1-0	6	6	6-1	0.00
25 Garret Crow - Brayzon Riddle Lone Star Jr Bassmaster	2	2	2-6	4	4	5-14	0.00
26 Jace Buxton - Ethan Graham Jackson County	3	3	3-10	5	5	5-9	0.00
27 Caleb Roblin - Jackson Landry Jr Southwest Bassmasters- LA	4	4	3-8	6	6	5-9	0.00
28 William Griswold - Seth Schnoebelen Center Point	2	2	3-8	4	4	5-7	0.00
29 Kyle Johnson - Jared Johnson Black Swamp Youth Bass Club	3	3	3-3	5	5	5-7	0.00



ARIZONA TEAM TRAVELS 25 HOURS TO FISH JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

ron**PARK**
MVP Publishing

It took three days and over 26 hours for Phoenix Junior Bassmasters Annabel Hellum, Ben Lewis and their families to make it to Huntingdon, Tenn., but the drive was well worth it.

Annabel and Ben wrapped up their first ever Mossy Oak Fishing Bassmaster Junior Series National Championship with a 15th-place finish with a two-day total of 7 pounds, 15 ounces after weighing in three fish for 3-12 on Day 2.

"It was really awesome (to watch them cross the stage)," Lisa Lewis, Ben's mother said. "The experience they had

and the memories they made, you can't even put it into words. It is so awesome."

Ben said he used a jig to catch fish while Annabel said she used a Green Pumpkin bait on a drop shot to catch her two fish on the final day.

"We are beyond proud of these two kids," Chuck Lewis, Ben's dad, said. "They have worked hard all year to get here. I think they represented Arizona pretty well. They fished their hearts out and looked like they had a lot of fun. I'm so excited, they did great."

Not only were they the team to travel the furthest, Annabel, who is 9 years old, was also the only girl competing in the tournament. Brad Hellum, Anna-

bel's dad and the team's boat captain for the tournament, said Annabel has been fishing since she was 1 year old. Her biggest fish so far is a 5-pounder caught from Lake Havasu.

She sported a unicorn headband on stage during the Day 2 weigh-in and proudly held up her fish, announcing to the crowd that one of her fish spit up a huge shad after she caught it.

"It was my dream to fish," Annabel said. "(Weigh-in was) awesome. Everyone was like, 'Yay!' I want to thank all our sponsors and our parents. And our boat captain who is my dad. He helped us get bites."

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A QUIET PLACE

Nestled deep in Amish country in Carroll County, between Huntingdon and McKenzie, lies a hide-away....a rare jewel that several local residents were able to enjoy the weekend of October 23-25. Students of the Lotus in Bloom Yoga Center, owned and operated by Sheila Pierson, were able to experience a weekend called Relax and Rejuvenate at Somerset Getaway, a beautiful garden retreat and B&B. Most of these guests have been practicing yoga with Sheila and Libby for years, but the COVID-19 pandemic has forced many changes in the way they received training.

Sheila has recently begun online yoga classes at her website [patreon.com/practicalmovementyoga](https://www.patreon.com/practicalmovementyoga). But she saw the retreat as an opportunity for her students to come together and share their passion for this form of exercise in a relaxing and fun environment. The participants, Robin Hatley, Micah Matlock, Melanie Morris, Jana Williams, Debra Stewart, Gayle Gossett, Gail Humphrey, Julie Kuczynski, Linda Segerson and Sheila arrived on Friday afternoon to an itinerary packed with scheduled activities, or they could choose to do nothing but enjoy the amenities available in the

lovely home of Kirsten and Jeff Sass. They swam, practiced yoga, attended educational seminars that centered around the art of yoga, hiked, enjoyed massages or just enjoyed the peace and beauty of the surroundings. And they ate! A lot! Chef Jeff prepared the five gourmet meals to perfection, including delicious home-made desserts, making adjustments for dietary concerns. There was always plenty of appetizers for the between-meal snackers.

The back story of this Retreat is as interesting as the home itself. Kirsten's dad, Volker Winkler, lived in Cana-

da. Kirsten Sass' mom, Tina Haggard, grew up in Saudia Arabia, where her dad worked as a dentist for the Arabian-American Oil Co. After ninth grade, Tina was sent to Kodaikanal International School in India, where she met and befriended Kathrin Winkler, Volker's sister. It was on a visit to Canada with Kathrin that she met Volker. A few years after graduation, she moved to Canada and they married. In 1978, the couple was making their way from Canada to visit a relative in east Tennessee. They ran out of money in Carroll Co. and decided to stay until they saved up enough to move on. They never did. The couple bought a small house and 40 acres and immediately began adding on to make it bigger. The house is a labor of love with too many special touches to name. Hand-cut wooden planks adorn the walls, with much of the work being done by the Amish contractors in the area.



The hosts and owners of Somerset, Jeff and Kirsten Sass



Yogis take a break from their practice to enjoy the scenic grounds of Somerset: Fron left, Linda Segerson, Sheila Pierson, Melanie Morris, Debra Stewart, Jana Williams, Gail Humphrey, Gayle Gossett, Julie Kuczynski, Robin Hatley.

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DISCOVERY PARK OF AMERICA'S 'LET IT GLOW' LIGHT SHOW TO BEGIN A WEEK EARLIER IN 2020

Discovery Park of America has announced that Fri., Nov. 13, 2020 will be the opening night for the popular "Let It Glow" Light Show that is held each year during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season. The drive-through light show allows friends and families to meander through the 50-acre heritage park, never leaving their vehicles, as they experience more than a million twinkling lights synced to the beats of

popular Christmas songs. The biggest fundraiser of the year for the 501(c)(3) non-profit museum and heritage park is one of the most unusual holiday light shows in the world because of the location. Guests get a unique look at a Titan Missile, the outside of the 199-foot-tall Discovery Center museum, an authentic Settlement of mid-1830s log cabins and more, all decorated for Christmas and enhanced with various vignettes of popular and

traditional holiday scenes.

Even though many of the favorite scenes are repeated each year, guests can always count on surprises. "Last year, we added an incredible waterfall of lights that appeared to roll down the hill at Mill Ridge that was very popular," said John Watkins, Discovery Park's director of landscaping who designs and installs the show each year along with Karl Johnson, director of information

technology. "This year, we have some other surprises up our 'Santa Claus sleeve,'" added Watkins.

While one popular Discovery Park event, "The Polar Express," was canceled for 2020 because it could not be held while adhering to social-distancing policies, "Twas the Night Before Christmas at Discovery Park" has been added on Tues., Dec. 22, 2020, 1 - 4 p.m. Like the light show, "Twas the Night Before Christmas at Discovery Park" is an event you can enjoy without ever leaving your vehicle. Guests will drive through the park, stopping along the way to enjoy a series of live performances as the guests read the story aloud. Inspired by the well-known Christmas poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" by Clement Clarke Moore, the experience has been created to inspire a love of reading in a fun and unique way while providing

an excellent beginning to Christmas celebrations.

Although Discovery Park's museum is closed on Tuesdays, Sabin's Café and the Discovery Park Gift Shop will be open from noon to 5 p.m. that day, so guests can purchase a cup of hot cocoa or other refreshments and shop until the "Let it Glow" light show begins at 5 p.m. The Gift Shop has hundreds of unique gift items in stock, as well as locally made soaps, candles and mustard.

The drive-through "Let It Glow" Light Show is sponsored by McDonald's and is open 5-9 p.m., Nov. 13 - Dec. 30, 2020, closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Although Discovery Park closes at 4 p.m., the Gift Shop and Sabin's Café will remain open until 5 p.m. Fri. - Sunday.

"Twas the Night Before Christmas

at Discovery Park" is \$10 per car and is on Tues., Dec. 22, 2020, 1 - 4 p.m. This event is sponsored by ATA.

About Discovery Park of America
The mission of Discovery Park of America, a premier world-class museum and 50-acre heritage park located in Union City, Tennessee, is to inspire children and adults to see beyond. Included is a 100,000-square-foot museum featuring 9 interactive exhibit galleries with additional space for temporary exhibits from around the world and a 50-acre heritage park. Discovery Park of America is a 501(c)(3) public charity funded by generous individuals, corporations and foundations including its principal funder, the Robert E. and Jenny D. Kirkland Foundation. For more information, visit DiscoveryParkofAmerica.com, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



OBION COUNTY COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Trudy's Kids Cafe

brooke**COFFEY**
contributing writer

What better way to start your morning than with the lovely ladies at Trudy's Kids Cafe in downtown Union City!

Trudy's Kids Cafe is an organization that believes no child in Obion County should ever be hungry. Trudy's serves free meals to children up to the age of 18 Monday through Friday. One thing that stood out to me is that they are able to serve breakfast, lunch, AND

dinner to children. The employees deliver meals all across the county for kids to pick up as well as have a full cafe that welcomes you to eat, work on homework, use the computers in the cafe, and feel the love poured into the community each and every day. The hard work and passion present is noticed and appreciated all across the county.

While packing up lunches for the day, I talked to Trudy's founder, Valeria Hyde. She started the cafe and

named it after a dear friend that she met after moving to Obion County years ago. Valeria and her friend Trudy shared a passion for working with local food banks and Valeria felt that naming the cafe after her friend would be a great honor to her after she passed.

Trudy's has a great mission and is an incredible asset to Obion County, TN. The sense of community that the cafe brings does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated.

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Are you looking for something safe and fun to do this holiday season? Get into the spirit of Christmas by taking a road trip to northwest Tennessee.

Spend the day at Discovery Park of America, then stick around to drive through the "Let It Glow" light show, open Nov. 13 - Dec. 30 from 5 to 9 p.m. Three new hotels are right next door for you and your family to enjoy a holiday weekend getaway. Shop in quaint downtown Union City for unique gifts for everyone in the family, and then head to Reelfoot Lake for a delicious catfish dinner at Blue Bank Resort.

discoveryparkofamerica.com
finalflight.net
highergroundcoffee.com
bluebankresort.com
obioncounty.org





DOWNTOWN PARIS: *A Little More Christmas Cheer*

In a collaborative community effort, eight wireless speakers have been installed to light posts surrounding the courthouse and fountain plaza. Spearheaded by the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Paris Association, funds were secured through a grant to cover the cost of the project.

“Shopping in a rural downtown is all about the experience,” commented Travis McLeese, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce. “These speakers will add to the quaint and charming atmosphere that you find in our community. In addition, they will be a great enhancement for our events and concerts that bring several thousand people a year to Paris.”

The Paris Utility Authority made a significant in-kind contribution by installing the units. The City of Paris will allow the use of their light polls and provide power. Ainley & Hoover Attorneys at Law will allow the transmitter and software to be attached to their building. Jarrod Fitzsimmons with DPC provided IT support.

“We had to move quickly to make this happen before Christmas Open House,” McLeese added. “We are very fortunate to live and work in a community where we were able to put people around a table, solve the variables, and pull this project off.”



Luke Millraney of the Paris Utility Authority installs speaker in Fountain Plaza just in time for Paris’s Downtown Christmas weekend



www.VisitDowntownParis.com  

For more information, call 731-642-3431.

Christmas Open House

Nov. 6-8

Browse through Downtown stores during extended hours throughout the weekend. Warm up by the fire as you listen to live acoustic Christmas tunes. Grab a bite from food trucks throughout the day!

Passport to Christmas

Nov. 6 - Dec. 12

Shop and save with your Christmas Passport! Pick yours up at any participating business and collect stamps until Dec. 12. The more stamps you get, the more chances to win \$1,000!

Festival of Trees

Nov. 24 - Dec. 16

Stroll through The Old Paris 5 & 10 Event Center and view dozens of uniquely decorated Christmas trees created by businesses and organizations in our community. Be sure to vote for your favorite!

North Pole Family Fun Day

Nov. 27 • 10am - 2pm

Santa, along with Mrs. Claus and their crew, will roll into Downtown Paris on a big red fire truck at 10am! Stick around for Trackless Train and Reindeer Roundup Scavenger Hunt, too.

Santa's House

Nov. 27 - Dec. 12

Both Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting with the youngsters every Saturday (10am - 2pm) and Sunday (2-4pm) throughout the holiday season at their house on the court square.

Light Up Paris Christmas Lights Tour

Beginning Nov. 27

New to Downtown Unwrapped! Load up your family and take a tour of Paris and Henry County through Christmas lights! Use our easy online map to plan your route!

Advent Candles and Carols

Dec. 2 • 6:30pm

Join us at the north entrance of the Henry County Courthouse on Washington Street for a candlelit devotion and carol singing. We'll walk to a couple of downtown churches, too!

Christmas Festival

Dec. 12

Get ready for a fun-filled day in Downtown Paris! Synthetic ice skating rink... 35 ft. tall inflatable slide... Fire Pits... Wagon Rides... and more!

Holly Jolly Electric Christmas Parade

Dec. 12 • 5pm

Line our Downtown streets as thousands of lights twinkle as floats roll by. Then the big man himself, along with Rudolph and a few favorite elves create an exciting grand finale.





DARRYL WORLEY

Kicks Off Christmas In Downtown Paris

The first weekend of November is a festive time in Paris and Henry County with the kick off of the holiday season. Food trucks, fire pits, and live Christmas music drew a substantial number of people to Downtown Paris for the festivities.

The main attraction to the weekend was Country Music Star Darryl Worley, who played a 90 minute acoustic set of his number one hits with a few Christmas songs in the mix. Worley's three most popular songs, all #1 hits, are "I Miss My Friend", the 9/11 tribute "Have You Forgotten", and "Awful Beautiful

Life."

The day full of music started at 11:00 AM on Saturday with local Henry County High School student Marley Trosper. The Krider Performing Arts Center's vocal ensemble, Harmonix, performed. Local lake favorite, Josh McKee, played at 12:00 PM. Regional favorites Scott Myatt and Steve Short took the "steps" at 1:00 PM. Bethany Ellis, a McKenzie Native, performed at 2:00 PM. The "one and only" Johnny Mac opened for Worley at 5:00 PM.

"We estimate that just over 5,000 people attended the Christmas

Open house festivities throughout the weekend," commented Travis McLeese, CEO of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce. "With the year we have had, we knew we needed to step up and go the extra mile for our small businesses. We worked diligently to provide a festive environment that was as Covid friendly as we possibly could."

Shopping started Friday afternoon and lasted through Sunday evening. Many store owners reported record breaking numbers, despite Covid.

"The atmosphere downtown over the Open House weekend was absolutely



magical! It was great to see such a positive community effort come to life. It was a family-oriented celebration all weekend long,” commented Eliza Griffey, Co-Owner of Bo & Co Boutique in Downtown Paris.

“This project would not be possible without Wells Fargo Financial Advisor, Jamie Orr,” McLeese added. “Jamie stepped up and made a significant investment to make this concert free to the public.”

For more information on upcoming “Downtown Unwrapped” events contact the Chamber of Commerce at (731) 642-3431.



HOLIDAYS ARE SWEETER WITH FROST BAKE SHOP

Frost Bake Shop Goes From Home Kitchen To Nationally Recognized Company



pamela**MIRABELLA**
MVP Publishing

What began with a love for baking in 2004, Bill and Lynne Kloos started with an oven and a table in their kitchen, selling around 18 cakes most days, has turned into a nationally known company turning out more than one thousand cupcakes and 150 cakes per day.

In 2012, the couple's son, Bill Kloos Jr. took over and All American Sweets Corp. became a delicious success. His parents retired.

The following year, the dessert company underwent a name change and Frost Bake Shop was born.

Shortly after, Frost Bake Shop opened two retail stores. Kloos' wife, Kristi Kloos, now oversees the operation of both.

Kloos took his culinary experience and developed flavors and a process where 18 bakers now spend their days in the Bartlett based facility, preparing cupcakes, cookies, pies and cakes.

The retail stores, one in Memphis proper, the other in Collierville offer customers walk-in pastries and opportunities to special order birthday cakes, wedding cakes and other decadent desserts.

Today, Frost Bake Shop is more than just a local bakery. Many restaurants, including Soul Fish and Lucchesi's, feature Frost cakes. Brides flock to the Collierville location where they can sample flavors and order their dream cake for their big day. Classrooms across the area enjoy specially decorated cookies celebrating holidays. The dessert company is even featured online at Williams Sonoma.

Kloos said the backbone of the company are the bakers and preparers that spend their days putting Frost's unique recipes into batter and baking up the tried and true deliciousness the green-boxed desserts have become famous for.

From the humble beginnings of his parent's kitchen more than 16 years ago, Kloos said he loves what he sees ahead for Frost Bake Shop. Whatever the future holds, it will certainly be sweet.



Monica Powers enjoys the joy created with each delicious cookie.



Shown here, Adrienne Griffin prepares mini-turtle cheesecakes.



Hillary Bathe bakes fresh chocolate cupcakes, 35 to a pan.

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BLUE'S STORY IS ONE OF RESILIENCE, HOPE, AND JOY

pamela **MIRABELLA**
MVP Publishing

Every now and again, someone is born that puts the “extra” into ordinary and proceeds to be extraordinary throughout his or her life. World, meet Sean Logan Hanson. Those closest to the now 14-year-old, just call him “Blue.”

Born on Sept. 12, 2006, Blue’s parents, Tim and Debbie Hanson, already knew there was a chance their fourth child would be born with a cleft lip because of the 20-week ultrasound. Debbie explained, “As his mother, the first things that came to my mind were What did I do? and How did this happen?”

From that moment forward, after all the emotions ran through us, his father and I started our research as to how we would care for him, feed him, etc.

Around the 28-week mark, we contacted the local cleft team, which we interviewed and asked a ton of questions. A short time later, I was put on bed rest due to complications.”

Having just relocated to Bartlett from Savannah, Ga., the Hanson family felt out of place and away from the familiarities of home when at only 35-weeks, Debbie went into labor. She said, “Everything happened so fast, big brothers were called at school, we were so not ready, but knew this baby needed us as much as we needed him. The same day he was born, two doctors from the local cleft team came to the hospital to meet our baby and help us figure out what our next step would be.”

Debbie continued, “After leaving the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) and bringing our cleft cutie home, it was

suggested that we look online for information about Shriners Hospitals. Blue’s father was also treated at Shriners Hospital when he was young. To me personally, it seemed way out of reach. I mean why would they want to help us? We had nothing to offer in return. We talked for a couple of hours over travel, the distance, the cost and decided to fill out an application then submit it. Dr. George Burrus, a plastic surgeon here in town on the cleft team was very happy to sign the needed paperwork and refer our newborn to the Shriners Hospitals for Children. In less than two month’s time, we were on our way to Cincinnati, Ohio.”

Poppy, an AL Chymia Shrine clown, took one little look at the radiant-red-haired baby boy and quickly nicknamed him, “Blue.” The name stuck. Since that time, Blue has had a total of



Sean “Blue” Hanson - in 2015, just before surgery number 10, Blue relaxes after doctors gave him “happy juice” prior to a bone graph.

14 surgeries; with his first one, a cleft lip repair, at only 3-months-old in 2007.

Debbie sang the Shriners Hospital's praises, "Even with all these surgeries, we as parents were humbled when told Shriners Hospitals will treat children no matter the family's ability to pay." She smiled, "What a blessing that was to us at that time."

Blue is now a down-to-earth teenager with a zest for life and a contagious joy that spreads to all who know him. The honors freshman is active in DeMolay, a young men's fraternity. Blue said having a cleft actually made him feel special. He said, "A cleft makes me unique in a way that most people cannot notice right away."

Debbie finished with, "The thing about being a cleft parent is you never

really know what to expect or how many surgeries there will be along with not knowing when it will all end. We have a Shriners Hospital family that has helped us so much along this journey. All I can tell you is that we are ready when anything arises and know Blue is always in the best hands, starting with his favorite drivers from our local Shrine Center.

When he is asked to share his story with groups, Blue never hesitates to say a big "yes." Like our other three children, Shelby, Anthony Willard and Alexander, I tell him he can do anything he sets his mind to. He is one amazing young man to his father and me, as he doesn't let anything hold him back."

As a way to "give back" Blue's dad, Tim, has now become a Shriner.



A happy "Blue" at 3-months-old, shares a smile just before his first of many surgeries.



Sean Logan "Blue" Hanson was chosen by the Shriners organization "Portraits of a Soul" to be painted by artist James Williams. Blue's portrait hangs on the third floor of Shriners Hospitals for Children Cincinnati to greet every child before they go into surgery.

For more information on Blue's story, check out bluesleftjourney.com.

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WELCOME TO DARKHORSE LODGE

The evolving retreat hopes to welcome Veterans someday soon

angela**JONES**
MVP Publishing

With Veterans' Day just having come and gone, one cannot help but reflect on those days, nearly 250 years ago, when early patriots came together to stand up for freedom. In 1776, our Founding Fathers declared that we would become a nation of free people, we would demand our independence. As citizens of a new country, we would stand, we would fight, we would not yield. No matter the cost, we would claim our freedom.

Such high ideals led young Alec Catherwood to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps right out of high school, with plans to become a firefighter when he mustered out. Described as a caring, friendly, charming young man, Alec wanted to stand up for his country and do what was right.

"Alec was a good citizen, he really cared about the welfare of those around him," said his father Kirk Catherwood, a Marine Corps veteran and a current deputy with the Benton County Sheriff's Office. "After his death, we learned from many of his friends about all the times he reached out to help someone."

After his death... Choosing to serve his country in a time when many already had forgotten about "the war on terror," Alec was killed in action in Afghanistan on October 14, 2010. Only 19 years old at the time of his death, Alec left a fiancé, a mother, a father, a sister, other family, and countless friends. None have forgotten him.

"When Alec was killed, it felt as if the world had ended for us," said Alec's mom Gretchen Catherwood. "After realizing that we had no choice but to go on, I stayed up nights, wondering what I could do for those combat veterans who did come home - young adults like Alec would



have been, many of whom came home, but no longer felt whole."

A vague notion at first, a plan began to form in the bright, active mind of Alec's mom. These combat survivors deserved so much more than they had received so far - they needed closure, healing, understanding, or according to Kirk, sometimes a loving boot in the shorts. They needed a safe place to retreat.



LCpl Alec E. Catherwood, 19
USMC 3/5, Kilo Co
KIA Afghanistan
5/6/91-10/14/10

"I knew we had to do something. Once I had the basics down, my very smart husband added some improvements to the plan, and the result is Darkhorse Lodge," Gretchen said. "There is such a huge need out there, men and women who have served on the front lines for their coun-

try and came home hurting. They need a peaceful place to heal."

Darkhorse Lodge is a non-profit organization dedicated to completing and operating a retreat facility in Springville for

veterans, all available at no cost to them. When completed, it will be a retreat for combat veterans of all branches to come to relax, fish on Kentucky Lake, enjoy area activities, and communicate with others who have "walked in their boots."

Since the plan for the lodge first sprang to life, Gretchen has dedicated herself to bringing it to fruition, with her husband of 32 years as her biggest supporter. "She is amazing! We have made this progress largely because of her tireless efforts," Kirk said.

Those efforts include gaining 501c3 non-profit status for Darkhorse Lodge in 2013, beginning the "Trek for Troops" fundraiser in 2015, holding fundraisers through Facebook on her birthday, reaching out to and working with corporate and small business donors for building materials and supplies, and giving thousands of hours of her own labor to the project.

"When we first started this, I thought, for a worthy cause like this, sure, we can raise a million dollars in one year," Gretchen said. "I was so naïve! I just had no idea what it would take. Darkhorse Lodge is being created by hundreds of \$5, \$10, \$20 donations - every little bit helps. So far, counting all monetary and mate-



A MOTHER'S LOVE - Looking out the window of her office in the unfinished dining hall of Darkhorse Lodge, Gretchen Catherwood has a vision for the future. The lodge is located in Springville, in the southeast corner of Henry County.

rial donations, we have raised nearly \$1 million. If you added all of the volunteer labor that those who support this mission have contributed, that number would raise to well over \$1 million."

Considering that the Springville site was a completely natural landscape when they started, with no power, water, sewer, or other improvements, the progress they have made with those \$5 and \$10 donations is completely amazing. Through the miracle of caring donors, the buildings are constructed, interiors are nearing completion, and Darkhorse Lodge is really taking shape. "I believe by the end of winter, the buildings will be ready to go,"

Gretchen said. "Then we move on to fundraising for boats, vehicles, and on-going opera-

tional costs to run the lodge."

The facility includes five 5-bedroom guest cabins, with each room named for one of the 25 men lost from their son's Marine Corps 3/5, Darkhorse unit. There is a staff cabin, and a 2-story shower house and dining facility named for U.S. Army National Guard Specialist Tim Bowman, who committed suicide on Thanksgiving Day, 2005, after returning from Iraq. Once complete, all facilities at Darkhorse will be handicapped accessible to accommodate as many veterans as possible.

"We have had some amazing donations of labor and materials," Gretchen said. "For example, a roofing contractor from Illinois volunteered to come down with his crew to put the roofs on these buildings. They did all the work, stayed several days, and did all of this for love of veterans."

Even with all the progress, there have been setbacks, too. Like so many businesses and families, Darkhorse Lodge has been affected by COVID-19 shutdowns and precautions. All of the fundraising events that were planned for April, May, June, and beyond had to be cancelled due to quarantines. Fortunately, the annual "Trek for Troops" fundraiser that is held around Veterans Day in November each year was able to move forward and was a great success.

"There are times that I want to give up. In fact, I quit every night, only to pick it back up the next morning," Gretchen said. "But, if even one veteran comes here feeling that he or she cannot go on, only to find the strength to make a new start, it



Gretchen and Kirk Catherwood
Trek for Troops, Nov. 2017

would all have been worth it."

To learn more about the mission of Darkhorse Lodge, visit their website at darkhorselodge.org, or contact Gretchen at 731-363-3616 or mail@darkhorselodge.org. Any monetary or material donations are welcome, needed, and greatly appreciated. An in memory or in honor donation to Darkhorse Lodge would make a truly meaningful Christmas gift for any patriot.

"Finding my new purpose in life has given me a reason to get up each morning and face the challenges ahead," Gretchen concluded. "We still need a lot of money to finish this, and to keep it in operation. We have a long way to go yet, but I know we will make this happen, because our veterans are so deserving. I am so ready to welcome veterans to this lodge!"





BROOKS SHAW'S OLD COUNTRY STORE

West Tennessee's Landmark Restaurant And Family Attraction For 55 Years

A family-owned business celebrating 55 years of serving West Tennessee, Brooks Shaw's Old Country Store is looking forward to celebrating the Christmas season with guests from throughout West Tennessee, an area they affectionately call the "Tennessee Delta" Region.

The Old Country Store Restaurant serves as the cornerstone of Casey Jones Village that has become one of

Tennessee's most visited family travel attractions over the last 40 plus years. The Village is located right in the heart of the region in Jackson, just off I-40 nearly mid-point between Memphis and Nashville.

In addition to the restaurant guests love to explore the Nostalgia Gift and Confectionery shop surrounded by thousands of southern Country Store antiques, a delightful 1890's Ice Cream

Parlor that includes a Fudge shop where their famous pies and fried pies are made daily.

For guests in a hurry the Old Country Store's Dixie Cafe offers the same great food as the restaurant but served in convenient Take Out Containers, To Go. They can close to dine in as well.

Just across the square from the store families love the experience the days of steam railroading at the historic



Casey Jones Home and Railroad Museum. Kids of all ages love to climb on the original 130 ton steam locomotive engine and ring the bell. Parents and grandparents love to bring their children to play on the Thomas Boards and watch a train movie. You will find great train themed gifts here too at the Casey Jones Train Store, all located at the home of America's Railroad Legend-Casey Jones.

Each growing season families can explore the Farm At Casey Jones Village and see the many historic buildings located here including a 1905 Church, an 1837 antebellum home called Providence House that serves as an event venue, an 1850's log home and other original farm structures located here.

The Shoppes at Casey Jones Village features Art At The Village an amazing artist cooperative featuring art from 25 local artist. Recently added were a number of beautifully appointed Airbnb rooms offering a great weekend getaway.

When it comes to serving up Hospitality, T. Clark Shaw, company owner and CEO, noted that "Offering hospitality to our neighbors and area visitors has been a life long mission for Juanita, our children, Elizabeth and Brooks and me, as it was for my parents. We are excited to welcome every guest that comes and visits us. Here is a place where families have been making memories for several generations now".

Shaw continued "They should know they can gather together safely for our famous southern buffets which we think

offer the most amazing variety of Southern foods, and prices that offer the kind of value you won't find anywhere else in the region. Guests tell us all the time it's well worth the drive".

"During Covid many guests have been concerned about dining out and for a time this summer we served guests Family Style. While our guests loved being served at the table, many more guests spoke loudly and clearly that they wanted our buffets to return and that's exactly what we did," Brooks Shaw, their generation owner and general manager, explained.

"The Buffet and Salad Bar is back with 8 meats, 12 vegetables, 4 breads, 4 desserts and 6 soups, in addition to our popular salad and fruit bar. The bottom line is our buffet is bigger and better than ever! And, because we know everyone is facing challenges this year, we also have actually lowered our prices at select meal periods. Our staff continues wearing masks and thoroughly cleaning and sanitizing the dining and service areas throughout the day, and seating remains at reduced capacity, and we ask our guests to follow social distancing guidelines." Brooks Shaw also noted.

Old Country Store has implemented additional safety precautions, including hand sanitizer stations throughout the restaurant and gloves available for guests who wish to use them while selecting items from the buffet and salad bar.

Buffet hours and prices include:

Lunch — Monday through Wednesday

from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. — \$9.99

Lunch — Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. — \$11.99

Sunday Supper — Sunday all day from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. — \$13.99

Dinner — Thursday through Saturday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. — \$12.99

Breakfast — Friday and Saturday from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. — \$10.99 (includes a hot drink)

Breakfast — Sunday from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. — \$10.99 (includes hot drink)

Breakfast— Monday through Thursday from 6:30 am — 10:30 am. Please Note: Plans call for the Breakfast Buffet to resume Monday thru Thursdays during December. We suggest you call us at 731-668-1223 to confirm the Breakfast Buffet is available during these weekdays. Prices will be \$10.99 and includes a hot beverage.

In addition to employing almost 80 team members, last year the Old Country Store served hundred thousand folks from throughout West Tennessee as well as from across the nation and around the world. Open daily (except Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day) Brooks Shaw's Old Country Store includes the restaurant, authentically recreated 1890's Ice Cream Parlor & Fudge Shoppe, Southern Gift Shop and the Dixie Café Takeout or Dine In and the Historic Casey Jones Museum at 56 Casey Jones Lane in Jackson. Those wanting more information may visit [instagram.com/caseyjonesvillage](https://www.instagram.com/caseyjonesvillage), [facebook.com/oldcountrystore](https://www.facebook.com/oldcountrystore) and www.caseyjones.com.



MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Area Relief Ministries

ARM's mission is to strengthen our community by providing services that alleviate suffering, promote dignity and foster hope for those in need... as an expression of the ongoing ministry of Jesus Christ.

Area Relief Ministries is a long-standing community partner that cares about Jackson, TN and its people. With over 500 homeless in our community we are committed to working with churches, organizations, and individuals across the city to make our community a stronger one.

We have been helping individuals and families for more than 40 years with homeless/housing services, dental/medical, emergency assistance, and vocational training. We are tirelessly fighting against poverty and hopelessness in an effort to care for our neighbors and to make our community a better place for all to live!

In order to help those we are called to serve, we rely on corporate sponsors and

the generosity of our community. We appreciate the ongoing support of our partners and invite you to donate while we continue to assist our community.

We are proud to be a member of the West Tennessee Continuum of Care. We work together with other organizations in our community to ensure that all those in need can find assistance when necessary. To do our part and fulfill our mission, we offer these services:



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THE
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FOR THE LOVE OF TENNESSEE, TRAVEL SAFE

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VisitJacksonTN.com

'FOR THE LOVE OF JACKSON' ENCOURAGES COMMUNITY COMMERCE

'Visit Jackson, Tennessee' Small Business Development Center and the Jackson Chamber of Commerce are encouraging the public to spend their dollars to support the Jackson community during the holiday shopping season.

Shop, dine, and play inside Madison County and you could win a grand prize package! Post a photo of you and your squad shopping to Facebook or Instagram using the hashtag #LoveOfJackson and you will be entered for the \$500 grand prize drawing. The drawing will be held Dec. 19.

Madison County businesses can get in on the fun, too, by sending a short video showing a 'For the Love of Jackson' sign. Grab your co-workers, print a sign from online or pick one up at the Jackson Chamber, located at 197 Auditorium Street in downtown Jackson, and take a

short video or picture.

Video Requirements:

- 10-15 seconds in length
 - 1080p for quality recording
 - Shoot video landscape
 - Hold 'For the Love of Jackson' sign in video
 - Audio will be removed
- Go to VisitJackson.com to download your video or picture and complete the registration.

Businesses, shoppers and visitors are encouraged to stay safe by wearing a mask, social distancing, and using proper hand sanitation.

'For the Love of Jackson' is designed to spread the 'love' to area businesses by keeping the cash flowing inside the community.

A special thank you to these financial institutions for support of the campaign: BancorpSouth, Bank3,

Centennial Bank, Commercial Bank, Community Bank, First Citizens Bank, FirstBank, Foundation Bank, INSOUTH Bank, Leaders Credit Union, Regions Bank, Simmons Bank, and West TN Bank – a Division of Decatur County Bank.



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BENTON COUNTY TO BRING COMMUNITY TOGETHER WITH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Picture a Hallmark-style country Christmas on the Square - families ice skating, children on Santa's lap telling him what they want for Christmas, colorful lights everywhere. Picture parents, grandparents and everyone just walking around drinking hot cocoa with extra marshmallows looking at Christmas goodies vendors are set up selling. That is what we are striving to provide for our amazing community.

Our annual Christmas parade kicks off on Dec. 12. This will be the first big event we have gotten to have since the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Our county's Christmas parade is a big deal! Everyone shows up and loves getting the chance to interact with their fellow Benton Countians, parade floats, the marching band, and of course Santa. We also are well known for having the Grinch show up, too, but he is a nice Grinch. He has a huge heart now!

Our goal this year is to have the parade end on our court square. There everyone will have the chance not only to spend time with their loved ones, but truly have fun. Good, clean family fun is hard to come by nowadays. All the kids will be beyond excited to get to ice skate, where normally that would not even remotely be an option. Our winters usually go from one extreme to another. With a synthetic ice-skating rink, the heat will not affect anything. Kids can still skate, big kids too, and the parents can check out all the amazing vendors. When nighttime rolls around, it will be a beauty to behold!

Another goal is to provide much needed revenue to our community by having vendors sell their goods on the square during this time. This event will run Dec. 12-28. That gives our vendors and community almost three weeks to enjoy our Christmas on the Square.

Most of our volunteers working this

event will be high school students who need volunteer service hours for their college applications. Another issue COVID-19 brought has been the lack of events for these kids to get in their service hours. Their future depends on these hours to get their scholarships and grants towards their tuition. This event will bless them and their families greatly as well.

The overall goal of this event is to bring our community back together, to fight this pandemic as one. Social distancing is still a must; however, we believe that we can still spread holiday cheer and a sense of togetherness through this event despite the pandemic. COVID-19 has taken a huge toll on Benton County. We are ready to do our part to recover and be strong again as a community.

Y'all come join us and be "Blessed in Benton" through our good ole' Christmas on the Square!

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Including our Salad and Soup Bar*

BROOKS SHAW & SON

THE OLD COUNTRY STORE

Casey Jones Village

Jackson, Tennessee

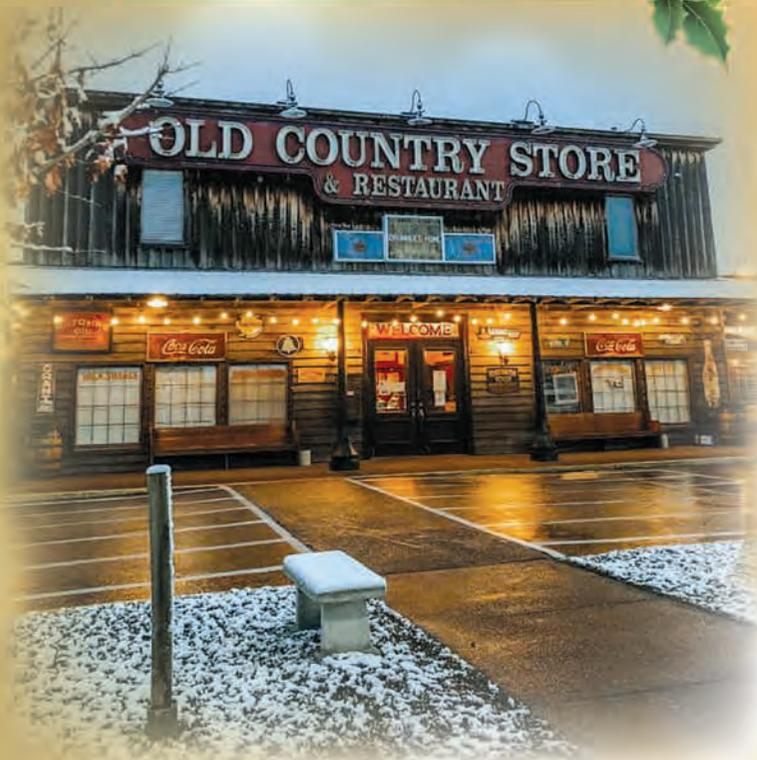
Mon-Wed 6:30-8pm

Thurs-Sat 6:30-9pm and Sun 8-7pm

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