

DISCOVER

West Tennessee

April 2021 - Volume 1 - Issue 5

Spotlighting

**SHELBY
COUNTY**

Getting to Know

FAME

Recording Artist

**CHRISTINA
EASTERDAY**





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**ON THE COVER -
 FAME Recording Artist Christina Easterday.**



“There is a key to living a wonderful life and I know I have found it.”

Christina Easterday before her recording session at Fame studios.

Getting to Know: Memphis Recording Artist *Christina Easterday*

lisaADKINS
DWT Contributor

Indie singer and songwriter, Christina Easterday is an eclectic blend of pop, rock and R&B. Her sweet, yet sultry tone, coupled with lush harmonies, resonates tasteful vibes unique to her. She is on a mission and she is breath of fresh air to those who meet her.

At age 3, she took an interest in piano and was enrolled in dance lessons in ballet, tap, clogging, jazz and hip hop. Her first writings included poems and riddles. She

completed her first song at age 6. She plays the piano, violin, clarinet, and cajon, but the acoustic guitar is her favorite instrument. She performed in multiple talent shows and led the worship music for her church youth group from 2005-2009.

At age 17, she completed Barbizon Modeling and Acting School, won 1st Place for Barbizon's Model Magic Magazine and attended the IMTA National Competition in New York City. She studied broadcasting and music at Liberty University and led worship on her dormitory hall. In her spare time, she created her own demos by mixing

beats and recording her vocals and guitar.

Her first two singles, Snowflakes and Moving To Move On, were recorded at Forty-One Fifteen in East Nashville and mixed by engineer Dewey Boyd Jr. (Front Of House for Ricky Skaggs). She has co-written with Grammy Award winner, Bobby E. Boyd (Bless The Broken Road), Two-time SESAC Songwriter Of The Year winner, Arlos Smith (Mayberry), and Grammy Award nominee, Earl Bud Lee (Friends In Low Places).

She received an honorable mention for her song, The Perfect Time, at the 25th Annual San Diego Songwriter's Guild

songwriting competition. She performed on the boardwalk in the famous beachside community of Ocean Beach, known for its laid back, artistic vibes. In 2019 she played at West Street Market, was interviewed and played live on Carson City's 95.1 KNVC and the Roots, Rednecks and Radicals podcast. Her music made the final round of Reno Nevada's Best Of 2019 for 'Best Local Songwriter' and was featured in the March 2019 edition of Red Hawk Living Magazine.

Currently based in Memphis, Tenn., she was nominated for 'Pop Vocalist Of The Year' for the 2020 Josie Music Awards and 'Songwriting Achievement' for her unreleased work, Soul Baby. She released Soul Baby in December of 2020 and has since recorded a new version to be released on her EP.

January 2021 brought the release of Artist, a chill and vibey single that almost has an Imogen Heap feel and makes the statement that we "haven't seen nothing yet." On the same day as it's release, Christina collaborated with FAME Recording Studios and Publishing Co., in Muscle Shoals, Ala., home of the "Muscle Shoals Sound" known to artists such as Aretha Franklin, Etta James, Candi Staton, Wilson Pickett, Mac Davis and many others. She worked alongside musicians Dewey (Spoooner) Lindon Oldham, Will McFarlane, Kelvin Holly, Justin Holder and Andy Dixon. She was interviewed live on MY 101.5 FM with Hunter Jackson. In The Morning and Soul Baby was added to the station's song rotation. After recording at FAME for a second time, plans to release her first EP in the Spring were mentioned.

Christina shared: "I am absolutely honored to work alongside such legendary musicians in such a legendary studio. My forthcoming EP will include three new songs and a new version of Soul Baby, telling one of the most important stories of my life so far."

She went on to explain a little of why she is a songwriter and her mission behind the music: "I have always loved to write. I love to journal and process my life, get it down on paper and out of my head. I grew up in a musical family and always loved to sing and play instruments. Incorporating all of these aspects, I have found that songwriting is what I am most passionate about creatively. Every song I write is from my personal journey through life. While I value and appreciate other artist's work, I do not feel the same joy from covering songs, like I do from producing my own. My goal is to pave



Laying down vocals inside the sound booth.

my own path and introduce my music as works of art unique to me. If anyone wants to know me, listen to my music. I've been really encouraged by the positive engagement and fan base that I have received. When I get a message or note from someone I have impacted, I make an effort to connect personally and let them know I hear them, they are important and loved. My ultimate mission is inspired from the times in my life that I have felt extreme pain and heartache. I have been in places I would have never imagined. Sometimes, we don't realize how just one decision can lead us to devastation and then leave us wondering if there is a way out. I'm here to tell you that there is and we are not defined by mistakes we have made. Despite it all, I have come to a place of joy and hope that has surpassed all my understanding. I want to shine a light on the path of perseverance and encourage people in overcoming circumstances such as addiction, mental illness and abuse. There is a message in my songs and I will continue to do what I can to open up and share my story. There is a key to living a wonderful life and I know I have found it."

Will McFarlane had this to say about his

recording session at FAME with Christina and his experience meeting her: "It was a delight being in headphones with Christina. She nailed the vocals as the tracks went down and it was a pleasure to hang out with her in general. It was a couple of very musical days. I felt like we were getting to know her. It was obvious she had come through some very dark times. Her vulnerability in her lyrics made us like her."

"Christina was a treat to play piano and organ with, at Fame Studio, in Muscle Shoals, Alabama recently. She is steeped in the Rhythm and Blues mode, with authenticity in her presentation of words and music. May she forever reign in her writing, singing and playing." A quote by Spoooner Oldham

You can find Christina online at:
www.ChristinaEasterday.com
Facebook: @christinaeasterdaymusic
Instagram: @christina.easterday
Twitter: @ckeasterday

Listen on SoundCloud, YouTube and all top streaming platforms, including Spotify and Apple Music.



Blues City kayakers shown moments after launching on the Wolf River at the beginning of the “Introduction to the Urban Wolf River” tour.

Kayakers Turn Love of River into Thriving Business

pamelaMirabella
DWT Contributor

In 2019, while kayaking, avid outdoorsmen, Ande Demetriou and Paul Frye decided to turn their love for exploring waters near and around the Memphis area into a business for others who would enjoy the same. That same year...Blues City Kayaks was opened and the kayakers have been paddling up river ever since.

Demetriou, owner of Blues City Kayaks, is a native Memphian and alum from Germantown High School and The University of Memphis. Co-founder Paul Frye is a master mechanic who is a director at a local automotive school. Both men have similar backgrounds. Demetriou is Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 255 at Bartlett United Methodist Church, while Frye is Assistant Scoutmaster of the same troop. Everything matched up beautifully.

The two men found another guide and fellow kayak enthusiast in Mike Dawkins. Dawkins has lived his entire life around the Wolf River and been a volunteer river guide for Wolf River Conservancy for over 20 years.

The trio is a hit and Blues City kayakers spend breezy Tennessee afternoons cruising down the winding paths of Memphis area waterways, teaching, discovering and learning. Demetriou said, “I’ve been an avid kayaker for years but always traveled other places, like the Spring River in Arkansas, to kayak. I bought my first two kayaks in 2019 and started looking for places close to Memphis to kayak. I found the Wolf River Conservancy’s site and saw recreational kayaking is something lots of people do on the Wolf River. A friend of mine and I paddled the section between Germantown and Walnut Grove Roads. I’m a lifelong Memphian and had always heard the Wolf River was nasty and full of snakes, but neither is true. I also realized there’s a beauty to Wolf



Blues City Kayaks river guides, from left, Paul Frye, Ande Demetriou and Mike Dawkins.

River that I’d never seen, and that many locals likely hadn’t seen either. Getting people in kayaks on the Wolf River, especially in the urban sections, became a passion of mine.” It is a passion that paid off.

While spending time on the water, safety is a priority. All three guides are medical emergency certified. Frye is certified in CPR and wilderness first aid and trained in water rescue. He is also active as a leader in Scouts BSA, and trained in the BSA’s Safe Swim Defense

and Safety Afloat programs. Dawkins is CPR certified, EMT certified for 20 years with the Memphis Fire Department, wilderness first aid certified and trained in water rescue. Demetriou is trained in wilderness first aid, water rescue, and is CPR certified which has come in handy. In 2020 he completed over 500 miles on the Wolf River, rescuing six people and one dog along the way.

Blues City Kayaks offer a number of kayaking trips. Demetriou said, "Our most popular tour is what we call the Introduction to the Urban Wolf River. It's close to two hours long and covers the 3.8 miles section of the Wolf River between Germantown Road and Walnut Grove. We make sure our guest have a good time and learn the history of the Wolf River, as well as its importance to the City of Memphis and the surrounding areas. We also lead trips on the Ghost section in Fayette County. Another popular tour is from Houston Levee Road to Walnut Grove. This tour starts in Collierville, goes all the along the northern border of Germantown, and ends in Memphis. It's roughly 8.5 miles long. Another popular tour is at Wapanocca Lake in Turrell, Ark. Although it's in Arkansas it's not far away. It's about 20 minutes north on I-55 once you cross the Mississippi River."

Sharing his most memorable trip yet, Demetriou recalled, "We took a family on a tour Father's Day afternoon last year. Dad had been pampered all day with lunch from his favorite restaurant, a massage, then our tour. He was a lifelong Memphian and as soon as he got on the main channel of the Wolf River at Germantown Road he was overcome by it's beauty and let out a loud, 'WOOOOO!' The dad then yelled out, I can't believe how beautiful it is out here!"

Demetriou smiled, "The Wolf River is like that."

Wrapping up, Demetriou disclosed a fun fact for locals. He said, "Did you know that after a good rain you can paddle from the middle of Bartlett to anywhere in the world with water access? Harrington Creek, which flows along the northern edge of Freeman Park, ultimately empties into the Wolf River near Kennedy Park in Raleigh. The Wolf River empties into the Mississippi River at the North end of Mud Island. The Mississippi River empties into the Gulf of Mexico in New Orleans. From there you can go anywhere in the world. That's a very little-known fact about Bartlett."

For more information about Blues City Kayaks call 901-762-1133 or check them out at bluescitykayaks.com.



Cypress swamp at Wapanocca Lake in Turrell, Arkansas.

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The 2021 season kicked off on March 6th with the Test N Tune event.

GREEN LIGHT!

2021 Racing Season Kicks Off at Memphis International Raceway

thomasSELLERS
DWT Contributor

After a year of COVID-19 cancellation and slow downs, the longtime racing destination of Shelby County has the green light to bring excitement back to racing fans. Under the guidance of new general manager Sam Martin, the Memphis International Raceway is planning to live up to the reputation as the premier motorsport's destination in the Mid-South with an action-packed schedule slated for 2021.

MIR will feature more than 150 days of

action with new and returning events such as the Tennessee Throwdown, National Auto Sport Association (NASA) Mid-South, SCCA Track Night in America, IHRA Bracket Series presented by COMP Performance Group, Midnight Madness with Traction Optional Drifting, National Association of Diesel Motorsports and more.

Martin arrived in December just in time to help finalize a lot of the 2021 schedule. Martin brings a vast amount of motorsports industry knowledge, facility management, event marketing and drag strip operations experience to the largest motorsports facility in the Mid-South. "I am excited for the

opportunity to lead the Memphis International Raceway team as we prepare for a full 2021 season," Martin said. "I look forward to finalizing our 2021 schedule and meeting our racers and partners."

Martin will oversee the day-to-day operations of the 342-acre multi-use facility which includes a combined quarter and eighth-mile dragstrip, 1.8-mile road course and three-quarter mile, high-banked paved oval. He has spent his career in motorsports, most recently serving as operations director at Route 66 Raceway, Joliet, Ill.

Before joining Route 66 Raceway, Martin was the West Central Services



MIR General Manager Sam Martin

Coordinator for the NHRA (National Hot Rod Association). Prior to joining the NHRA, Martin was the public relations

coordinator at World Racing Group, series director at Chris Duncan Race Cars Pro Mod Series and worked at the drag strip at Worldwide Technology Raceway.

Now Martin hopes to experience a successful first year at MIR. Major spectator events at MIR will include the 34th Annual Memphis Chevy Show, the 2nd Annual SDPC Raceshop Great American Guaranteed Million bracket race presented by Chevrolet Performance and Monster Truckz Extreme Tour.

Test N Tune on the drag strip back on March 6 started the 2021 schedule for the Memphis/Millington venue. The month of March concluded with the IHRA Bracket Series presented by COMP Performance Group kicks on March 27.

A spring tradition at MIR is moving to the late summer with the 34th Annual Memphis Chevy Show, the premier destina-

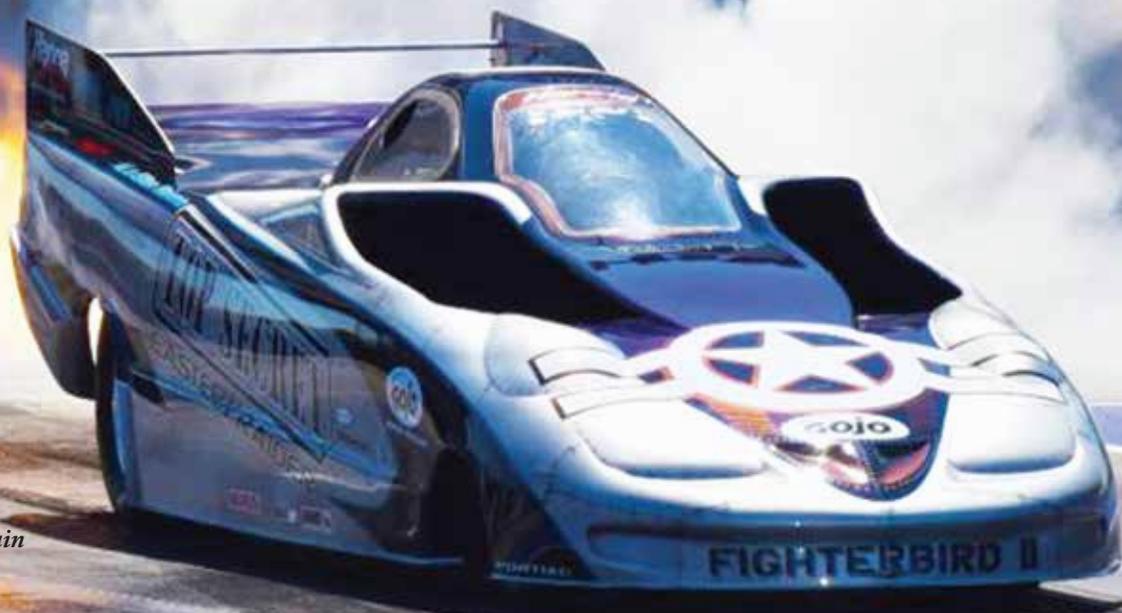
tion for all things Chevrolet, returns to MIR Sept. 10-12.

"You and your family won't want to miss a minute of the excitement of this must-attend event. There is drag racing, vendor midway and a massive swap meet to find those hard-to-locate parts, and a car show featuring the largest collection of Chevrolet vehicles, from modern to classic, in one place."

Champions from all over North America will meet at MIR Oct. 14-16 for the International Hot Rod Association (IHRA) Summit SuperSeries World Finals, the most prestigious grassroots drag racing series championship.

The drag strip, road course and oval track are available for private testing and events. Contact MIR to schedule.

For more information visit RaceMIR.com or call (901) WOW-RACE (969-7223).



The smell of racing fuel and burning rubber will once again fill Memphis International Raceway in 2021.



Arlington Boasts Beautiful Parks with Southern Charm

*pamelaMirabella
DWT Contributor*

Despite its recent growth, Arlington with its 68 acres of parks and quaint charm, could be one of West Tennessee's best-kept secrets. With a population nearing 14,000, this eastern boundary of Shelby County is 30 miles from the Memphis Airport, but worlds away from the hustle-and-bustle of big city life.

Visiting Arlington could require walking shoes for a plethora of outdoor activities. While the city has eight parks, three of them have seen significant improvements over the last year, according to Tonia Howell, Director of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce.

Howell said the Forrest Street Park 10-acre site, includes seven soccer fields, playground, community garden and covered pavilion with restroom facilities.

She said, "The updates were for by a 50/50 matching grant with the Town of Arlington and Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) Grant through the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). This project was completed in three phases over a 5-year period with completion in July 2019."

The newly constructed The Crossing at Depot Square features The Crossing Amphitheater and Farmer's Market and is opening for the 2021 spring/summer season. According to Howell, Arlington's Music on the Square series will move to the new amphitheater. It will run June through September.

Howell said the Tennis Complex facility includes six tennis courts, benches, walking paths, a covered pavilion with restroom facilities and sits adjacent to the Sports Complex. A disc golf course is also part of the complex.

Howell said, "The Playground of Dreams facility includes one of the nicest playgrounds in the area including benches and turf padding with concrete walkways. This site use to house our original Playground of Dreams, which was community built. During construction, we were able to create new signage that includes pieces from the original structures. The playground is at Hughes-College Hill Park, which includes a walking trail, pavilions, and picnic tables."

Howell said it is important to remember that pavilions at all Arlington parks are on a first come, first serve basis.

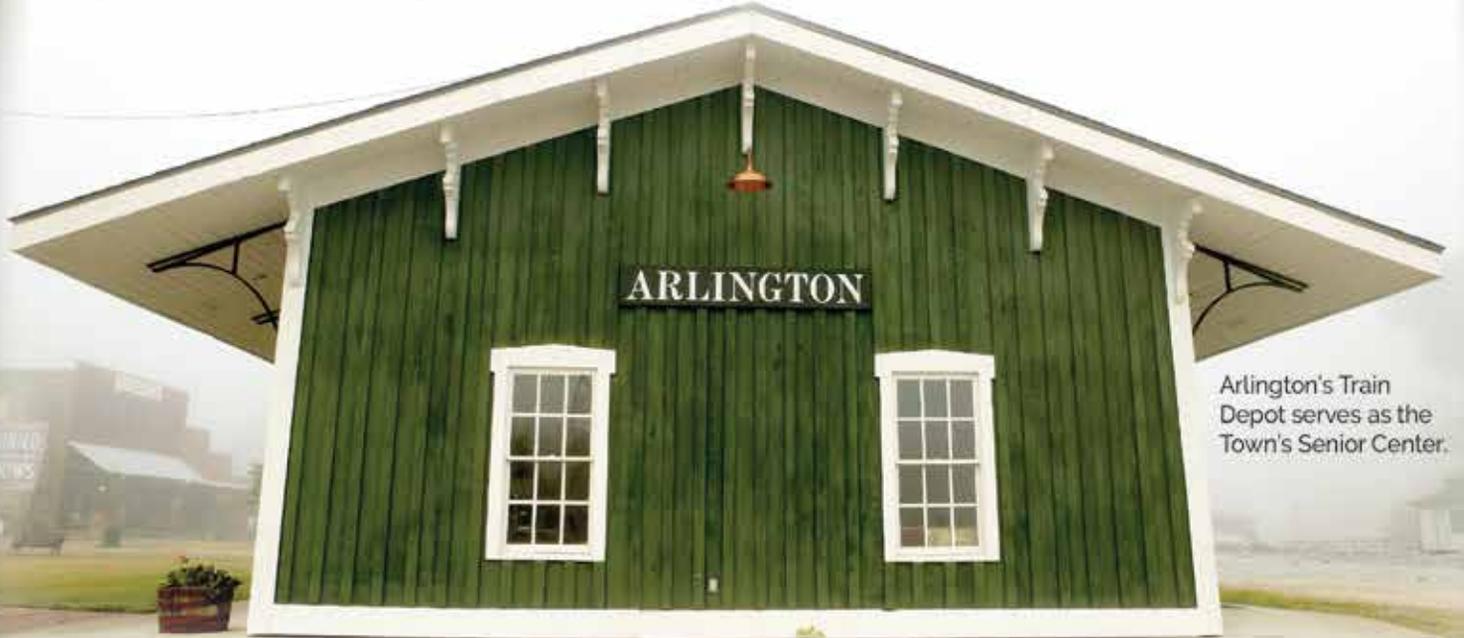
From a recreation standpoint, Arlington is tops when it comes to beautifully maintained parks in the area. Howell said, "Don't just take our word for it, come on by and see for yourself. And while you are here, stay awhile and take in all Arlington has to offer."



You're invited!

COME TO ARLINGTON!

Visit our historic sites, our "new" general store – enjoy our parks and eat in one of our many restaurants. Arlington holds an annual festival in April (Arlington in April), BBQ Fallfest in October, Music on the Square and a Farmer's Market throughout the summer, and Christmas on the Square in November.



Arlington's Train Depot serves as the Town's Senior Center.



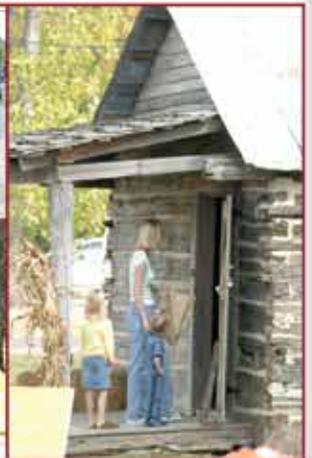
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Music on the Square will have a new home at The Crossing Amphitheater, Summer 2021.



Arlington's Chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities maintains historic sites in Arlington.



The temperatures are on the rise, and another gorgeous—and hot—Tennessee summer is on the way. While it's natural to want to hit the water to cool down, make sure you're practicing water safety when you do. Not sure why that's so important? Well, each day in the United States, 10 people die of unintentional drowning. When boating-related drownings are added in, that number increases. Most of those drownings could have been prevented.

That's why it is important to know the basics of water safety and ensure you're following best practices to keep yourself and others safe.

There are two basic categories of water safety—swimming-related best practices and best practices for boating.

Joshua Whitledge, DO, with West Tennessee Medical Group, wants to share some insight about each. Read on as he takes a dive into the topic.

Water Safety Tips for Swimming

Most drownings while swimming occur in children, so it's especially important to ensure your entire family knows how to protect itself in the water. The biggest thing you can do is to raise your awareness—always be aware of your abilities in the water (and your kids' abilities) and be aware of what's happening around you.

- If you have a pool, install a fence around it that's at least four feet high. It's important that the fence has no gaps that a child could get over, under or through. The gate of the fence should open out from the pool and be at a height that kids can't reach.
- For an added layer of protection, particularly if one side of the fence is against the house, consider installing an alarm that sounds when the gate is opened.
- Keep rescue equipment and a phone in easy reach of the pool at all times.
- Never leave children alone in a pool, spa or other body of water.

Are You in the Know About Water Safety Basics?



- Someone should always be designated as the “watcher” and not be distracted by anything.
- An adult swimmer should provide what's called “touch supervision” for any inexperienced swimmer, staying within arm's length at all times.
- Teach kids to swim at an early age to lower the risk of drowning.
- It's a good idea for everyone to know the basics of CPR and how to perform it in the case of an accident.
- If you're swimming in a body of

water other than a pool, keep an eye out for potential hazards that could cause injury, such as items on the bottom of the lake or river.

Water Safety Tips for Boating

Swimming presents one set of challenges, but boating presents another. If you're headed out on the water, you'll want to take precautions to stay safe:

- Take a boating safety course before spending time out on the river or lake.
- Perform a vessel check before hitting the water to ensure your boat is in working order and safe to operate.
- Check the weather report before boating, and make sure you're checking the forecast for where you're leaving from, any places you will stop and at your destination. Frequently check while boating to ensure inclement weather hasn't popped up.
- Operate the boat at safe speeds at all times, taking special care in areas that are congested.
- Make someone who's not boating with you aware of your plans, especially when you're departing, your route and when you expect to return.
- Do not consume alcohol before or while driving a boat. Driving while intoxicated is a crime and extremely dangerous.
- Make sure there's a properly fitting life jacket on board for every person on the boat & know the rules for when they should be worn.
- Ensure everyone knows to steer clear of the engine & the propellers.



Joshua Whitledge, DO

“Regardless of how experienced of a boater you are, it's important to make sure you're practicing boating safety,” Whitledge says. **“Your best defense against accidents and injuries is to stay focused at all times, avoiding distraction when you're operating a boat. Most accidents can be prevented in that way.”**





Beale Street in downtown Memphis



Beale Street is rocking through the night at popular spots like B.B. King's.



Pamela Mirabella and John Davis visiting Elvis Presley's Graceland. Below inside Graceland.



Memphis is worth the stay

pamelaMirabella
DWT Contributor

Visiting the Memphis area, there is something for all ages to delight the senses. Whether it be delicious Memphis BBQ or the amazing exhibits at the Memphis Zoo, there is a venue for everyone. Exciting as a day trip, but even more fun for those with a few days to tour the sights and sounds from the famous Beale Street to Elvis Presley's Graceland. Shelby County's Memphis is the place to be.

Spend an afternoon at the Museum of Science & History Pink Palace that includes highlights, Autozone Dome Planetarium, CTI Giant Screen Theater, Coon Creek Science Center, Historic House and Lichterman Nature Center.

Spend the evening walking down America's most iconic stretch of road... Beale Street and taking in a night at one of the many cafés and night clubs. From BB King's to Hard Rock Café, plan on dancing the night away.

Plan another day indulging in your inner rock-n-roller. From the Memphis Rock'n'Soul Museum, The Stax

Museum of American Soul Music and Sun Studio, home of rock-and-roll pioneer Sam Phillips to Elvis Presley's Graceland, Memphis is the home of rocking music.

The National Civil Rights Museum is a complex of museums and historic buildings with exhibits that trace the history of the civil rights movement in the United States from the 17th century to the present. The museum is built around the former Lorraine Motel, which was the site of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968.

Mud Island is a small peninsula, surrounded by the Mississippi River to the west and the Wolf River Harbor to the east. In 1960, the Wolf River was diverted so that it flows into the Mississippi River north of Mud Island. Mud Island River Park, located on the south end of the island, opened to the public in 1982. It is located within the Memphis city limits, 1.2 miles from the coast of downtown, and houses a museum, restaurants, and an amphitheater.

Memphis Brooks Museum of Art is an art museum in Memphis, Tennessee. The Brooks Museum, which was founded in 1916, is the oldest and largest art museum in the state of Tennessee.

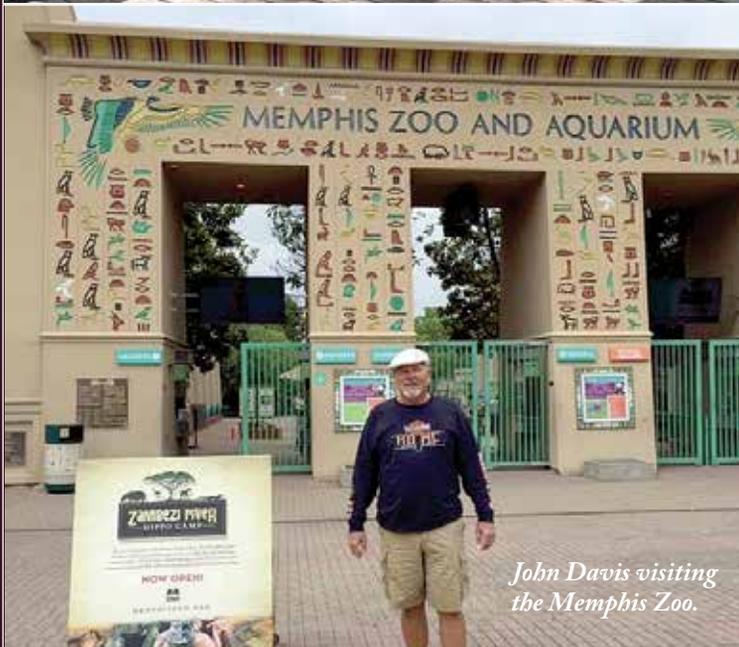
With so much to see and do, a trip to Memphis is an excursion the whole family will enjoy. It's not just a stop-off, Memphis is a destination.



At left, Elvis Presley's Lisa Marie airplane at Graceland



Memphis Zoo exhibits include panda bears and boardwalks, as being enjoyed by Neil McCracken, Kathy McKlemurry and Alesia McCracken



John Davis visiting the Memphis Zoo.

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A 'perfect day' in Collierville

If you're planning a day trip to Collierville, center your visit around historic Collierville Town Square. With antiques shops, quaint boutiques and delicious restaurants, this town center is a must-see attraction. Plus, there are all sorts of events on the square year-round.

YOGA

Start your morning with a yoga class with Collierville Yoga. Whether you're enjoying the views of Town Square with Yoga in the Yard or practicing in the studio, this is a relaxing start to your Collierville adventure.

BREAKFAST

After class, reward yourself with a delicious French pastry from Raven and Lily Restaurant's Baked in Collierville, where you can sample cinnamon rolls, croissants and other delectable goodies. Looking for a heartier breakfast? Raven and Lily also offers weekend brunch with classics like biscuits and gravy, a house omelet and pastrami hash.

SHOPPING

Once you finish up breakfast, explore Town Square's shops and boutiques. At Patricia's on the Square, you can browse

jewelry, women's and children's clothing and home decor. Shop wall art, candles, dishware and all kinds of home accessories and gifts at The Brooks Collection. Bazaar is your one-stop-shop for olive oils, spices, teas and cooking accessories.

LUNCH

Work up an appetite with all that shopping? Grab lunch at the Silver Caboose. Built in 1890, this structure has a storied past as a grocery store-turned-auto shop. Now, you can grab a soda or milkshake to go along with your mouth-watering sandwich, burger or meat-and-two combo at this old-fashioned soda bar.

LANDMARKS AND ATTRACTIONS

Town Square is teeming with landmarks. Visitors love seeing and posing for pictures with the 1351 Frisco steam locomotive and its accompanying vintage train car and caboose. If you're interested in learning more about the train, stop by the Morton Museum. At this free history museum, you can explore the history of the 1351 Frisco, Collierville railroads and more of the town's past. Also on Town Square, you'll find the log cabin Stage Coach Stop. The structure,

original to Collierville, dates back to 1851.

Don't forget to pop over to the Collierville mural, at Washington and N. Main St., for an Instagram-worthy selfie. If you're in town on a Friday night, keep an ear out for bluegrass. Around 6:30 p.m. each Friday, a group of local musicians gathers for the Collierville Town Square Bluegrass Jams a weekly tradition running for over 20 years.

DINNER

If you're looking for more live music, then Highlander Pub is the perfect spot for dinner. This Scottish pub features live musicians and bands almost every weekend. No one playing the night you're in town? No problem. Grab an order of fish and chips or the BBQ Tomahawk pork chop while enjoying a craft cocktail or pint on the pub's patio.

Mensi's Dairy Bar is a must for dessert. Right off of Town Square, this Collierville favorite offers cake, ice cream, milkshakes and coke floats.

2021 Holiday Events

Collierville features must-attend events year-round, but the city really comes alive during the holidays.

The Historic District is continuing its

holiday tradition of A Quarter of a Million Christmas Lights. This extravagant light display is one of the biggest and brightest in the area.

Put on your holiday sweaters and get ready to look your best for the Holiday Photo Stroll. Six stations will be decked out in holiday decorations around Town Square, giving families and friends the perfect backdrops for their holiday photos.

See all of Collierville's holiday spirit on your own personal carriage ride. Families can enjoy free horse-drawn carriage rides around Town Square every Saturday between Thanksgiving and Christmas from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Main Street Collierville is hosting multiple events throughout November. Shop a variety of holiday gifts and decor from local merchants at the Christmas Open House on Nov. 7. Ladies can enjoy a night of shopping and dining with friends at Girls Night Out on Nov. 19. Head to Town Square to vote on your favorite holiday storefront decorations on Nov. 28. in the Christmas Storefront Contest. When you cast your vote inside the Main Street Collierville office (94 N. Main St.), you'll be entered to win a gift

basket with \$500 worth of goods from Town Square boutiques and shops.

LODGING

Hampton Inn, This popular hotel is located right on Poplar Avenue, which is one of Memphis' main thoroughfares. Enjoy complimentary, in-room, wireless internet access, state-of-the-art fitness center and swimming pool during your stay. Hampton Inn also offers free continental breakfast and breakfast bags if you're in a hurry.

Courtyard by Marriott, This hotel is one-stop shopping as part of the Carriage Crossing outdoor mall. Stay in comfort and then walk right out the front door to shop until you drop. Choose from a cozy guestroom or a spacious suite, and make sure to grab breakfast or dinner at the Bistro, the on-site hotel restaurant.

Fairfield Inn & Suites, This new hotel is also located onsite at Carriage Crossing mall, giving you plenty of shopping and dining experiences just steps from your comfortable accommodations.

DINE

Jim's Place Grille, This family-owned restaurant has been a Memphis staple for 85 years. Feast on chargrilled oysters, pe-

can-crusted catfish, New Orleans-style gumbo and classic Greek fare like souflima and moussaka. Jim's Place also serves delicious, juicy steaks.

Square Beans, Stop by the only locally owned coffee shop in Collierville for specialty coffees and delicious breakfast sandwiches and pastries.

Dyers, Cooking up mouth-watering burgers in the Memphis area for over a century, Dyer's Cafe is a must. These world-famous burgers are fried in a skillet using ageless grease from when the burger joint first opened.

SHOP

Carriage Crossing, This luxury outdoor shopping mall houses major department stores like Dillard's and Macy's, as well as popular clothing boutiques like H&M, Forever 21, Francesca's and Loft. You'll also find a massage parlor, nail salon and fantastic dining options.

Collierville Town Square, Quaint and diverse are two words that accurately describe the wares you'll find at the historic Collierville Town Square. Shop clothing, home decor, cooking accessories and more at the shops and boutiques on the square.





On December 9, Austin Mirabella swore into the U.S. Navy ahead of Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. Lieutenant Kevin Banks administered the Oath of Enlistment to Mirabella.

GOD HAD A DIFFERENT PLAN

Graduating Officer Candidate School, a Shelby County Man Fought Hard to Serve His Country

For as far back as he can remember, Austin Mirabella has wanted nothing more than to serve his country. In high school, while his friends made plans for college and technical school, he focused on the U.S. Navy. He had no way of knowing the road into the military would be winding and long.

Mirabella, an avid outdoorsman with a love for exercising, was raised in a patriotic household with a long line of Veterans in his family. His maternal grandfather, John R. Davis, was a Marine during the Vietnam War and his maternal great-grandfather was in the Air Force during the Korean War.

Both men served during combat. It became a dream for Mirabella.

Wrapping up his days at Waverly Central High School in 2014, he had a commendable score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (ASVAB) and passed his physical with flying colors. He even ex-

celled at and won the push-up contest given by the U.S. Marine Corps when they visited his school on a recruitment tour.

Sharing his love for the military with his parents, Steven and Pamela Mirabella, he found out his loved ones weren't as thrilled with his decision as he had hoped. His mom, Pamela, having plenty of experience with military life with her dad and granddad aforementioned, wanted something different for her two children, Austin and his younger brother, Dalton. She told Mirabella that she had first hand witnessed what long deployments can do to a person and to a family. It can be rough as she saw how the remnants of war had torn her own family apart. Although military life can be rewarding and a very positive experience for many, it had not been the case for her family. So, she began to pray. She prayed her son would have a change of heart and a new desire.

Shortly thereafter, his dreams were dashed when he mentioned a football injury while going through the last phase of the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS). The doctor, patting Mirabella on the back, said, "Well, you are just about the perfect specimen for the military." Mirabella smiled, "Yes sir, all except this little football injury that happened recently to my knee." The next thing that happened was a large red stamp across his file: REJECTED!

Although saddened by her son's broken heart, Mirabella's mom felt like her prayers were answered.

So off to college, Mirabella went. At first he studied chemical engineering, like his dad before him. He began his studies at Nashville State in Waverly and eventually transferred to Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville. But still, that tug was there. It gnawed away at him as he tried to find his way through the classes and lectures. For nearly four years, Mirabella majored in chemical engineering, while frequently contacting the Navy recruiter. "The drive was always there. I knew I was meant for more than the normal nine-to-five office job. My desire has always been to fight for my country and defend those I love," he explained.

Mirabella eventually changed majors and focused on farming while studying agriculture and business. His family relocated to Shelby County and there was plenty of farmland nearby. He tried to move on from his lifelong aspiration.

With most of his college behind him, Mirabella felt the calling for the Navy so strongly that unbeknownst to anyone, he



Flying out of Nashville for Officer Candidate School in Rhode Island, Austin Mirabella (far right) enjoyed one last moment saying goodbye to his family that included his dad, Steven Mirabella (far left), mom, Pamela Mirabella second from left, and brother, Dalton Mirabella (in back).

visited the recruiter again. The enlisted recruiter checked his record and retrieved his file. He was medically cleared to join. Blessedly, the recruiter directed Mirabella to finish college so he would go through Officer Candidate School (OCS) and begin his career as an officer. Reluctantly... he agreed. It was still not God's timing.

His file was then forwarded to Lieutenant Kevin Banks in Nashville. He handled the college recruits. Banks got to know Mirabella over the next few months.

It took him another year to trudge through college. He eventually transferred

to Middle Tennessee State University where he graduated in August, but it was smack dab in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic and the military was slow to sign-up recruits.

With ever-changing mandates, OCS was harder than ever to get in.

Mirabella wanted to fly for the Navy. He took the Aviation Selection Test Battery (ASTB), scoring a seven out of nine with the Academic Qualifications Rating (AQR), needed only a three; he scored a six out of nine on the Flight Officer Aptitude Training (FOFAR), needed only a four; and scoring an eight out of nine on the Pilot





Ensign Austin Mirabella

Flight Aptitude Rating (PFAR), needing only a four to qualify. He also scored a 53 on the Officer Aptitude Rating (OAR) test.

Having excelled at the pilot's tests, he knew it was time, but the pandemic restrictions now stood in the way. He knew what to do. He called his mom and asked that she pray that he got picked up and given the opportunity to live out his desire to serve in the Navy. Knowing her son's true heart, she knew the time had come to join together with him so their prayers aligned.

Almost immediately, Mirabella got a text from his recruiting officer. "You are going to be a pilot for the U.S. Navy," his recruiter excitedly explained. "You have been picked up and professionally accepted."

He was given a January date for school. On Dec. 7, he received news that he would leave for OCS on Dec. 19, in order for him to quarantine two weeks prior to the Jan. 3 start date.

He swore-in with the United States Navy on Wednesday, Dec. 9, as his dad and mom looked on through tear-filled eyes. His mom knew that God's plan was always for her son to serve, it was just all in His timing.

Mirabella attended OCS in Newport, Rhode Island. He graduated on April 2, Good Friday.



Ensign Austin Mirabella



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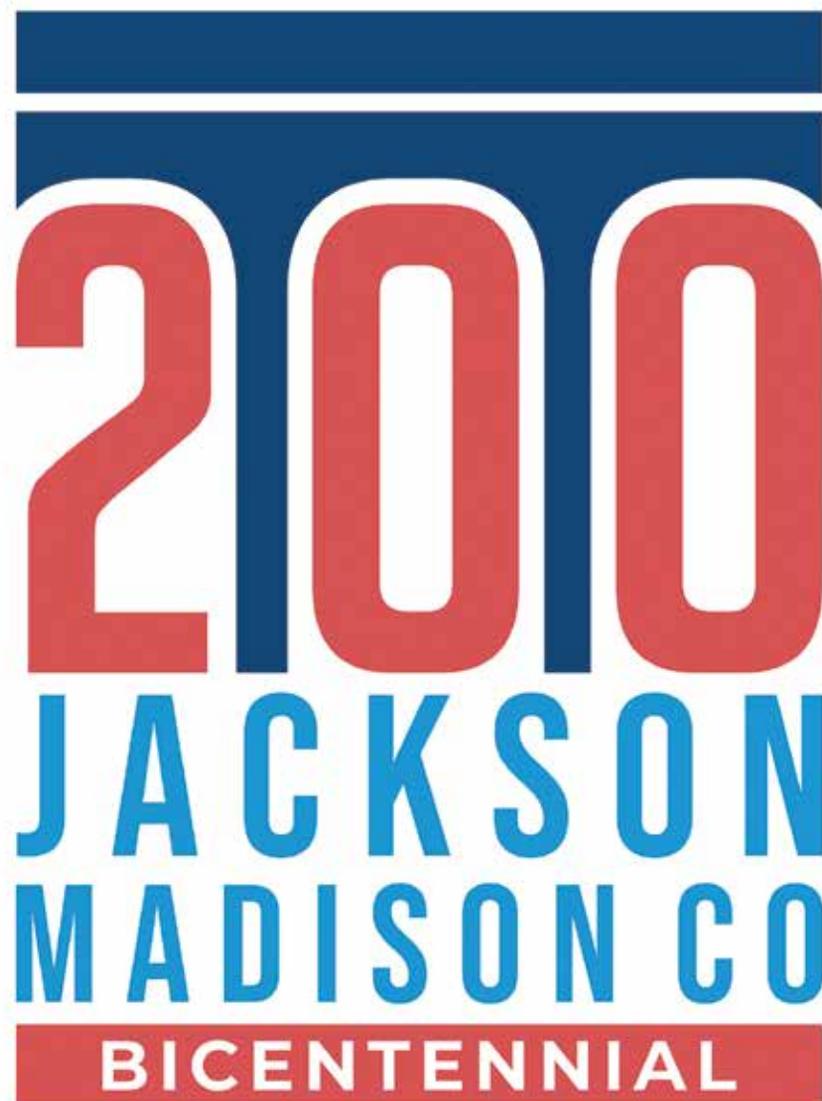
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Bicentennial Commission Unveils 200-Year Celebration Branding and Event Schedule

The Jackson Madison County Bicentennial Commission, along with City of Jackson Mayor Scott Conger and Madison County Mayor Jimmy Harris, has unveiled the anniversary logo and announced key dates for the birthday bash, time capsule, parade and concert.

“Jackson has a rich history and the bicentennial offers us the opportunity to honor our roots while committing ourselves to make a positive impact for future generations,” said Mayor Scott Conger, City of Jackson.

The columns at the top of the logo rep-

resent the many bridges over the Forked Deer River in Madison County. The river has long been a lifeline for the county from the earliest settlers arriving on flat bot-tomed boats to more recently the Middle Fork Bottoms recreational project that will feature biking, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, fishing and wildlife viewing. The bridge also represents the abundant history the county has as a transportation hub connecting people from all over the United States via boat, train, car or plane. Finally, the bridge serves as a representation of connection and the “connect here” tagline that has represented

the city and county throughout recent years.

“The bicentennial is much more than a history lesson,” said Mayor Jimmy Harris, Madison County. “Through stories of the past, the Bicentennial Commission will inspire and encourage others to play an integral part of shaping the future.”

The commission plans to seize the opportunity to celebrate the historical past and build our community into a desirable tourism destination by capitalizing on its history, resources and citizens.

“For our children and grandchildren, the public events and educational programming will instill a love of this community and its place in history for the remainder of their lives and for generations to come,” said Elaine Christian, Jackson Madison County Bicentennial Commission Chair.

Planning is underway for multiple events during the year-long celebration, including a kick-off event in August 2021, Celebration of Madison’s County formation in Novem-

ber 2021, 200 Voice Choir performance, monthly themed educational programs, partnerships with local organizations, as well as a community homecoming celebration. The culmination of the year-long celebration will occur in August 2022 with a dedication of public art project, the creation of a time capsule to be opened in 50 years and a musical celebration with fireworks.

**Birthday Bash – Kick off the start of the Bicentennial Year - The Amp*

August 14, 2021

**Bicentennial Celebration Event: Parade and Concert - Ballpark - November 13, 2021*

**Celebration of the 200th birthday of Madison County - The Ned - June 1, 2022*

**Unveiling of the City of Jackson Time Capsule from 1972 - Muse Park - August 12, 2022*

**200 Voice Choir - Civic Center - August 13, 2022*

About the Jackson Madison County Bicentennial Celebration

The City of Jackson and Madison County will both celebrate bicentennial anniversaries respectively in 2022 and 2021. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime commemoration of 200 years of history, culture and community.

Madison County was established by the Tennessee Legislature on November 7, 1821, and was named after founding father

and fourth President of the United States, James Madison.

The City of Jackson was formerly known as Alexandria but was renamed in honor of Tennessee native and seventh President of the United States Andrew Jackson on August 17, 2022.

City Mayor Scott Conger and County Mayor Jimmy Harris asked local commu-

nity volunteer Elaine Christian to serve as Commission Chair. Other Bicentennial Organizing Commission members include Anita Kay Archer, Ted Austin, Leigh Anne Bentley, Gayle Gilbert, Loni Harris, Dennis Henderson, Judy Renshaw, and Marda Wallace.



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Andrew Jackson Marathon

Seeking Volunteers

Smack in the middle of Memphis and Nashville right in the heart of West Tennessee you will find Jackson, Tennessee, home of the Andrew Jackson Marathon. Known as Tennessee's Oldest Marathon, beginning in 1972, the Andrew Jackson Marathon starts and finishes in historic downtown Jackson, April 3, 2021.

The race benefits the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse. The course takes runners through the renovated downtown area, beside the University of Memphis Lambuth Campus Arboretum, along tree-lined residential neighborhoods and around the medical center area with

challenging hills and great new landscapes. The course offers a half marathon single loop (13.1 miles) and a full marathon double loop (26.2 miles), which makes for an awesome Boston Marathon Qualifier.

Over 120 volunteers are needed to assist with the event. Need community service hours? Need to get outside? Need to see people again? Did we mention a T-shirt? Visit 2021 AJM - Andrew Jackson Marathon - Volunteer Registration and select your area of choice! Click on the "Volunteer now" button and register. Questions? Email Judyrenshaw2@gmail.com

Join us on the course and cheer on the runners! To learn more visit Andrew Jackson Marathon or contact the Center at 731.668.4000.

Please note: COVID safety precautions will be implemented in compliance with Madison County Health Department recommendations. We ask that all involved with the RunAJM Jackson 2021 race adhere to all precautions as directed.

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THE FORD PICKUP THROUGH THE YEARS 1980-2014

The Seventh Generation was between 1980 and 1986.



This generation received the first complete redesign since 1965 from the ground, up. Improved aerodynamics and fuel economy and both interior and exterior modifications were made. In 1983, diesel power was added to the F-Series. In 1984, a new high-output version of the 5.8L Windsor was introduced and 1985 saw the first year of electronic fuel injection for the 5.0L V8. In 1988, all other vehicles switched over to electronic fuel injection. In 1983, the F-100 halted production, placing the F-150 as the lightest pickup on the market. In 1986, the F-150 no longer offered "3-on-the-tree" manual shifting.

This generation was the first to include upscale amenities such as power windows, power door locks, power mirrors, interval windshield wipers, tinted windshield, locking gas cap, inside locking hood release, and so many other options and standards were available during this new, technologically-charged generation.

The Eighth Generation was between 1987 and 1991.

In the first year of this generation better aerodynamics included a rounded front clip and softer lines around fender arches and the rear bed and it sported an all new interior. The first 5-speed manual overdrive transmission was introduced in 1987 and 4-speeds were discontinued.

In 1989, a C6 3-speed automatic was replaced as a base automatic transmission by an E4OD, 4-speed electronically controlled automatic overdrive unit. In 1987, the F-Series 4.9L inline 6 was converted to fuel injection and in 1988, the Ford F-150 became the first pickup truck that was sold as a non-carbureted engine. In 1989, the F-Series had been established as being the nation's best selling vehicle.



The Ninth Generation was between 1992 and 1996.



The F-150 received a new facelift. The FlareSide bed was reintroduced since its retirement in 1987 as an option, and a lower hood line, more advanced aerodynamics, newly designed fenders and grille changes and interior upgrades were notable. This generation marked Ford's 75th anniversary of its 1917 Ford Model TT and Ford offered an anniversary package on its 1992 F-Series that included a 75th Anniversary Special Logo.

The 1994 models offered an updated dashboard with the addition of a driver's side airbag in the F-150. Also, a high mount, third brake stop light was included in the new look. New hi-tech options included remote keyless entry with alarm, power driver's seat, and a compact disc player. By 1996, Ford had overtaken combined sales of Chevrolet and GMC for the first time in a decade by reaching the 800,000 mark.

The Tenth Generation was between 1997 and 2003.

This is where Ford made some major changes to its F-Series lineup and was basically split into two categories: F-150 became a contemporary personal use truck, while the F-250 and F-350 became classified as working class trucks. The 1997 F-150 would be re-introduced with the aerodynamics given to the Ford Taurus of 1986, making it much more streamlined for a better ride and greater fuel economy. The 4.9L inline 6 was replaced by a standard V6 engine.

A fully independent front suspension was added, and a new chassis shared only the transmission from previous years. Greater rear seat access was achieved by adding a rear-hinged (curb-side) door to all models. In 1999, the SuperCab had a fourth door added to it. As another Ford first, in 2001, the F-150 was the first of its size to offer four, full size doors. Motor Trend Magazine named the new F-150 as Truck of the Year in 1997 and sales of the F-150 surged from 750,000 to over 900,000 in 2001.



The Eleventh Generation was between 2004 and 2008.



The F-150 received an all new platform in 2004. Also in this generation, all F-150s were given four doors, regardless of their cab type. The Triton engine was also introduced in this year and a flex-fuel version of the 3-valve 5.4L Triton V8 became available in 2006. A navigation system became available for the first time as an option in 2006 on some models, including the Harley Davidson Special Edition trim.

The Ford F-150s of this generation not only received a "Good" rating from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's Frontal Offset test—they also received "Best Pick." They went on to earn the North America Truck of the Year award for 2004, was Motor Trend magazine's Truck of the Year for 2004, and won Car and Driver magazine's Best Pickup Truck for 2004, and 2005.

The Twelfth Generation was between 2009 and 2014.

Beginning with 2009, there were many new upgrades to the interior and the exterior featured a new three-bar grille, roomier interior, a lighter weight chassis made from high-strength steel and a greater towing capacity. A V8 engine was standard on all F-Series models for the first time in history and no 6-cylinder was available.

In early 2011, a 3.5L direct-injected twin-turbo EcoBoost V6 was offered in the F-150 and all engines came equipped with a new six-speed 6R80 automatic transmission. Other notable changes included the previous generation's short, rear opening doors that were replaced by standard length doors, and electric power-assisted steering became available on all models with the exception of the 6.2.



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Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ

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Who can donate blood?

Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds and be at least 17 years old. There is no upper age limit to donating blood. You must also be feeling well and healthy at the time of your donation—you must wait three days after symptoms have resolved from a cold or fever before donating and 14 days after a COVID-19 diagnosis.

Is filling out the medical questionnaire necessary every time I donate?

Yes, since this helps to ensure the safest possible blood supply. All donors must be asked all the screening questions at each donation. FDA regulations specifically require that all blood donors complete the donor history questionnaire on the day of donation and prior to donating.

Can I donate if I am taking medication?

Most medications do not prevent you from donating blood. Common medications—such as those used to control blood pressure, birth control pills and over-the-counter medications—do not affect your eligibility. If you are taking antibiotics, you must complete the course and wait seven days before donating. Call to ask about a specific medication before donating if you have questions.

Can I donate if I have recently had a vaccination?

Donation is acceptable after most vaccinations, including all current COVID-19 vaccines and the flu shot, as long as you are feeling well. Call to ask about a specific vaccine before donating if you have questions.

Can I donate blood if I am pregnant or have recently given birth?

You may not donate blood if you are pregnant. You may give blood 6 weeks after a vaginal delivery and 6 months after a C-section. You can donate blood while breastfeeding.

Can I donate blood if I have recently gotten a tattoo?

Yes! After your tattoo is healed, you may donate blood as long as it was done at a licensed facility.

Can I donate blood if I have been previously diagnosed with cancer?

Cancer is a permanent deferral, (excluding cervical cancer). However, after being cancer-free for five years, you can have your doctor fill out a form from the blood center and have your case evaluated by our medical director. You could be reinstated as a donor at that time.

LIFELINE

BLOOD SERVICES

LIFELINE Blood Services Challenges First-Time Donors to Step Up

Every single day, LIFELINE Blood Services has a crucial goal to meet—one that literally means life or death for people here in West Tennessee. As the sole supplier of blood to 17 hospitals and 14 air ambulances across 20 counties, the blood bank needs a constant supply of donors to meet demand. While a committed donor can give many gallons over his or her lifetime, it is difficult to find new donors willing to give blood donation a try—something that needs to change sooner than later.

“People who have never donated blood before give a variety of reasons,” said Caitlin Roach, Marketing Manager for LIFELINE. “Some do cite a fear of needles, but more often than that, I hear them saying that they simply haven’t ever thought about it or taken the time to try it.”

While various health issues can lead to both permanent and temporary deferrals for donating blood, statistics show that of those who are eligible, only around 5% donate each year. Donors can only give every eight weeks due to the time needed to replace red cells in their bodies, so many donors are needed to

keep West Tennessee supplied with blood.

“We respect that you might be intimidated at the thought of donating,” said Roach. “But we ask you to think about it a little differently. Take pride in the thought of doing something good—your single blood donation can save as many as three lives.”

One of the best things first-time donors can do to have a good experience is to be prepared. Read about the donation process and fill out your medical questionnaire online the day you donate. Drink plenty of water before you come in, and make sure to have eaten a hearty meal with iron-rich foods such as red meat, beans, or spinach before donating.

“You never know when someone you love will need blood, or even when you may need it yourself,” said Roach. “You will want it to be there, though, when it’s needed, and that only happens from donors stepping up and providing our supply. Give blood donation a try—you’ll feel so rewarded.”

To learn more about LIFELINE Blood Services, call 731.427.4431 or visit lifelinebloodserv.org.



Busy mom Jordan Salmon makes time to donate regularly.

LIFELINE

BLOOD SERVICES



Cottonwood Harvest Grill

brookeCOFFEY
DWT Contributor

Cottonwood Harvest Grill is a local restaurant set right in the heart of downtown Troy, Tennessee. With a menu that is great for the whole family (even if you have picky eaters), you are sure to have a great experience while dining with them.

Cottonwood Harvest opened in February of 2020 with the dream of creating a restaurant that provided a casual dining experience with great quality food for the community to enjoy. There is inside dining as well as a patio that overlooks the Troy town square. They also have a private event room for up to 100 people. This room is perfect for company gatherings or a wedding rehearsal dinner! Needless to say, they offer a

variety of ways to enjoy a meal. On weekends, they are known for their prime rib special that draws a crowd. They have recently started a monthly shrimp boil that can be preordered for pick up or dine-in. On top of the great shrimp and sides, it's so much fun!

While talking to owner Connie Prather, she gave a glimpse into the future for Cottonwood Harvest. She said that they hope to eventually start live music on the patio. The hours of operation are Tuesday-Friday from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. for lunch and 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. for dinner. Saturday hours are 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.. When visiting Troy, it is a MUST to eat at Cottonwood Harvest Grill.

To see the menu for Cottonwood Harvest, visit their website at <https://cottonwoodharvest.com/>.





Dozens of cars such as these participate in the Cruz'n for a Kid's Cure car show each year.

Hardin County Bank to Present 14th Annual Cruz'n for a Kid's Cure Car Show

The Hardin County Bank is excited to host their annual car show, the 14th Annual Cruz'n For A Kid's Cure will be Saturday, April 24th, 2021 at the main bank location, 235 Wayne Road, Savannah, Tenn.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Trophies will be presented at 1 p.m. Special award categories include Mayor's Choice, People's Choice, Best of Show, Ladies Choice, Most Miles Traveled, HCB Employee's Choice & Kid's Choice.

The car show is a great event for car

show enthusiast, as well as spectators who enjoy walking around looking at clean, polished, detailed cars and trucks, old and new. 100% of the proceeds benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This year's theme is PEACE OUT CANCER. We have a fantastic group of HCB employees who volunteer their time each year to make this event "first class", our slogan is "employees banking on a cure."

For lunch, we will have hamburgers and hot dogs fresh off the grill available at concessions along with cold drinks. We

hope you will make plans to join us!

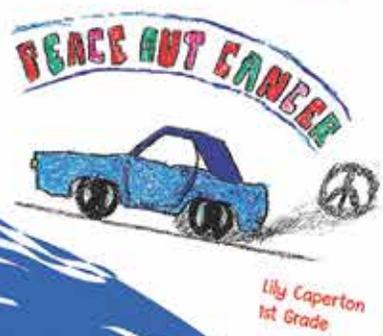
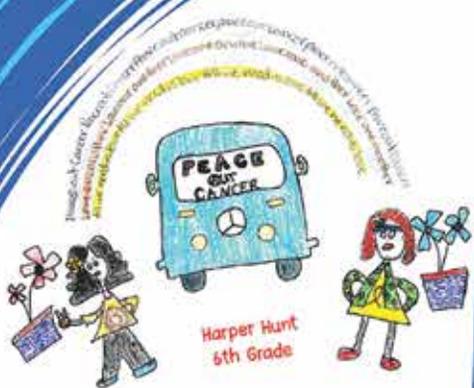
Stop by any branch location to pick up an entry form or for more information call 731-926-7933. Also, visit our website www.hardincountybank.bank or like us on Facebook and Instagram.

In May we will be hosting our 19th Annual Golf Classic. The date for this event is Wednesday, May 19th. This event is also a fundraiser with proceeds given to local charitable organizations in our community. For more information call 731-925-9001.



14th Annual

Cruiz'n for a ^{kid's} Cure



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Milo Petty
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April
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Savannah Farmer's Market

Savannah Farmer's Market in downtown Savannah, TN will be bustling bright and early on April 14.

The market has become a popular place for residents to find healthy, delicious food options, health screenings and summer fun, according to Beth Pippin, Hardin County Tourism Director.

"We are located at the Savannah Market, downtown at the corner of Main and Williams Streets", announced Pippin. Again, this season the market will be stocked with produce fresh from the fields, succulent fruits, country eggs, local meats and cheeses, and the sweetest baked goods. It is also

a great place to pick up local delicacies like home-made jellies, relishes, and honey. You can even grab a bouquet of fresh flowers, which are grown right here in Hardin and our surrounding counties.

Farmers Market days are every Wednesday, April 14 through mid-November. A variety of vendors set up each week; each vendor's wares change as the crops come in and harvestings begin. The hours are 8 a.m. until 2 p.m....or until they sell out each Wednesday. UT Extension also hosts a monthly Second Saturday market for farm vendors and local crafters.

"We are excited to once again bring locally grown healthy food and health resources to our Hardin County families", shared

Pippin, "and to partner with the City of Savannah, Pick Tennessee Products and our local UT Extension Services." Throughout the season, UT Extension will offer food products and information on providing healthy food choices for our area.

Follow Savannah Farmers Market on Facebook. Watch for special event days spotlighting products during the season and announcements for the annual Farm to Table event. To register as a vendor, contact Hardin County Convention and Visitors Bureau located inside the Tennessee River Museum at 495 Main Street, Savannah or call 731-925-8181. To register for Second Saturday, please contact UT Extension services Sondra Thorne at 731-925-3441.



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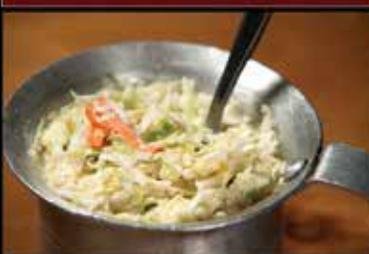


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Discovery Park of America

The Perfect Family Getaway

Discovery Park of America in Union City, Tenn., is a great place to visit year-round, but there is something extra special about the museum and heritage park when the flowers begin to bloom and the grass gets its lush green just in time for spring and summer. When visiting Discovery Park during the warmer seasons, guests will enjoy the sights and smells of the variety of flowers blooming throughout the 50-acre heritage park. Pops of every color of the rainbow can be found along the paths to the different outdoor exhibits.

One exhibit that guests should check out among the gardens and grounds is “The Outdoor Art of John Toras: Man of Stainless Steel” by local artist John Toras that features 20 different sculptures throughout

the 50-acre heritage park. These whimsical pieces reflect the sun, move with the power of the wind and are incredible to see in person. When visiting Discovery Park this season, pick up a map and see if you can find all 20 sculptures.

Once you have found all of the stainless steel sculptures, start walking towards the Simmons Bank Ag Center where the new permanent exhibit on farming innovation is located. “AgriCulture: Innovating for Our Survival” has been billed as a “mind-blowing, myth-busting farming exhibit that will change the world.” As guests explore this high-tech exhibit, they experience how food, fuel and fiber get from the farm to the family. They also learn about the role of innovation

in the field of international agriculture today.

The ag exhibit also includes a “Faces of Farming” section with more than 250 portraits of the men and women working in agriculture today; a social media wall that shows examples of real-time photos and videos farmers are sharing online; and hands-on elements like a brand new Case IH tractor that is next to a 1914 steam engine for guests to compare the size and see how innovation has improved over the years. “AgriCulture: Innovating for Our Survival” is just one of many ways Discovery Park is sharing important information about farming and innovation in agriculture in the past, present—and especially—future. Other agriculture-related initiatives include 10 bluebird boxes through-

out the heritage park that are used to monitor bluebirds in the area, as well as wildflower meadows that have certain plants to attract pollinators.

Another exhibit to check out when visiting is the newly installed “Southern Artist Showcase: The Caldwell Collection, Works by Southern Self-taught Artists.” This collection includes artwork from various Southern artists including Ludie Amos (1935), Jimmy Lee Sudduth (1910-2007) and Burlon Craig (1914-2002). These artists and the others whose works are on display were self-taught, embracing their passion in lieu of any formal training. Each of the artists’ style is unique to their own influences. This exhibit is on loan from the West Tennessee Regional Art Center and is sponsored by The Citizens Bank (TCB).

Not only does Discovery Park have these new pop-up and permanent exhibits, but it also has 10 interactive galleries inside its

100,000-square-foot museum, showcasing a variety of topics such as science, space, transportation, natural history, the military, Native Americans, regional history and more. Plus, the 50-acre outdoor heritage park has multiple exhibits guests can explore, including a charming chapel restored to its original glory; a turn-of-the-century train depot with train cars, a steam engine and a caboose; a reproduction of an entire mid-19th century frontier settlement; a one-of-a-kind playground for the kids and three gardens to explore.

For the history buffs, Discovery Park is hosting the “Military History and Armed Forces Symposium” April 23-25, 2021. All active military and Veterans will receive free general admission throughout the three-day event. This symposium features a variety of programs and interactive activities including experts speaking on an array of topics relevant to the past, present and future of the

military; authors of books on military-related topics; reenactors sharing stories from the history of the military; a pop-up exhibit of portraits by Civil War photographer Matthew Brady; panel discussions and keynote speaker Lt. Gen. John G. Castellaw of the U.S. Marine Corps. All of these events are included with park admission. For a full schedule of events, please visit discoveryparkofamerica.com/militaryhistory.

When making plans to visit Discovery Park this year, guests can purchase tickets online and enjoy saving 15% and also touch-free admission to the park. Right next door, there are three brand new hotels that have opened, including the MainStay/Sleep Inn and the Holiday Inn Express and Suites. Plan a weekend getaway and explore what all Discovery Park of America has to offer for the whole family. For all ticket pricing, hours of operation, lodging options and more, please visit discoveryparkofamerica.com.



See what whimsical stainless steel sculptures can be found throughout the 50 acres of inspiration.



Guests take in the "Faces of Farming" component of the new exhibit on farming innovation.



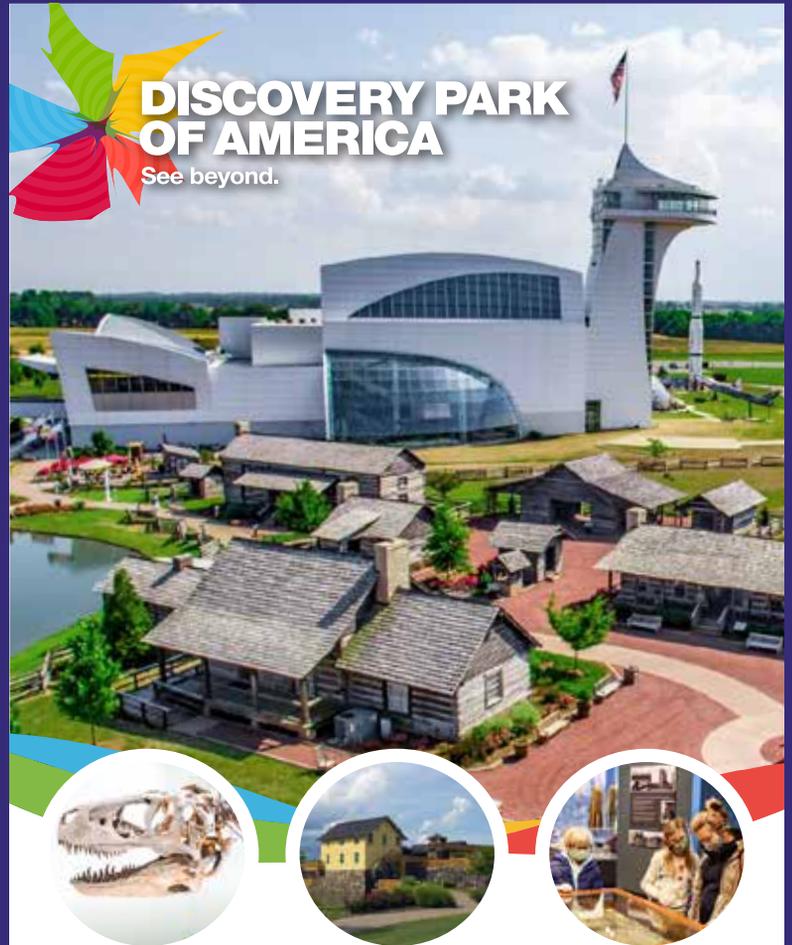
See several pieces of artwork on display by Southern self-taught artists.



Walk through two levels of military vehicles and displays when visiting Discovery Park's Military Gallery.



Explore the beautiful gardens and grounds this season at Discovery Park of America in Union City, Tenn.



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Visit our website for current hours.

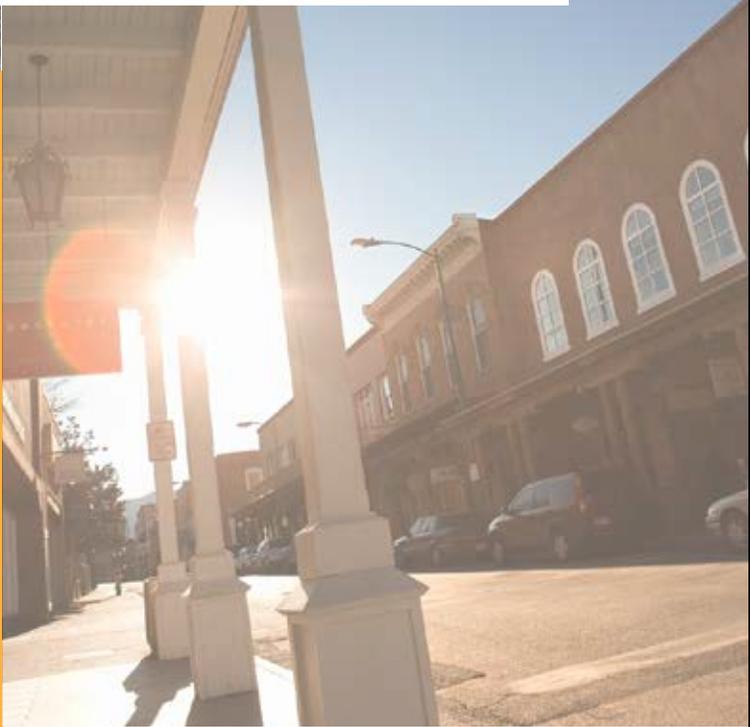
Discovery Park is following all recommended health and safety guidelines. All guests three and older are required to wear masks when visiting.



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McCaleb makes SEC umpiring debut

jimSTEELE
DWT Contributor

Anyone who wishes to be proven wrong, just tell McKenzie's Kelby McCaleb he can't do something.

McCaleb, who was a baseball player at McKenzie High School and had coaching stints at Greenfield and Stewart County, attended the Wendelstedt Umpire School in Daytona Beach, Fla. about six years ago.

He was told, as his time there drew to a close, that he wasn't what they were looking for in the professional leagues. That just stiffened his resolve.

"I had to start over from square one," said McCaleb. "I went the college route."

His first game was Jackson State Community College against McKendree. The coaches were curious about the youngster coming out on the field and calling balls and strikes. He felt like he did okay, but when the game was over, he found out he had critics.

"I was told I needed a better hobby," he said.

Last Wednesday night, he was called to umpire in the Southeastern Conference. Ole Miss played host to Jackson State (Miss.) in a game that was televised on the SEC Network. He was the third base umpire in that game. McCaleb was calling a game at the elite level. Was he nervous? At first, he said he was fine.

"It hit me in the dressing room when the crew chief said, 'let's go,' and we walked out the tunnel on to the field," McCaleb said. "I felt a few butterflies then."

One of his pals at the Wendelstedt School was called up to the Big 12 level and was on the field for Oklahoma's baseball game Tuesday. McCaleb was able to watch his pal that night. The next night, his colleague

watched McCaleb in Oxford. His brother, Branson, who is a student at the University of Tennessee, had a watch party with all his pals in Knoxville.

"That was pretty cool," he said.

It's not like this was McCaleb's first rodeo with the SEC. He was asked to get on the field for fall scrimmages at Ole Miss and Mississippi State during October and November.

"That was the first time we'd been on the field since March because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year, colleges cancelled their spring sports and McCaleb couldn't call any games. Getting on the field for fall season and camps, he says, helped their acuity. McCaleb was set to call a game at Ole Miss last year. He had done a game at Arkansas State the night before and was about to head to Oxford, but the season was cancelled.

When he left the umpire school in Florida, he called games in the New York Collegiate Baseball League and worked in upstate New York that entire summer. He called games in Geneva, N.Y., which was the site of Pete Rose's first minor league appearance.

"Babe Ruth also played there," McCaleb said. "It's an old ballpark with a lot of history and it's still there."

After that, he was picked up by the Ohio Valley League where he calls games at UT-Martin, North Alabama, OVC and Gulf-South venues. He said they capped off the newcomers at about five games. Those five games were sort of an audition for future work. He doesn't really have a set schedule to work in the SEC. He said he is slated to call a game in late March.

"It's really a waiting game," he said. "They see how you do, maybe give you a series later, then, it's sort of like the Major Leagues. If a spot opens up, or somebody retires, you



McCaleb makes the call.

get called up to fill that spot."

McCaleb said calling a game on a Sunday night and then driving back to Dover for our high school game on Monday caused a lot of sleepless nights. He's a teacher and assistant with the Obion Central Middle School team and the school has offered him a lot of latitude as it pertains to his umpiring career.

"They've been very flexible with me when it comes to umpiring," he said. "When I have an assignment, they tell me to go."

McCaleb said he's met some umpiring legends, guys like Jim Joyce, perhaps best known for missing a call that would have given Detroit pitcher Armando Gallaraga a perfect game.

"Jim Joyce is the nicest guy you'll ever meet," McCaleb said. "Joe West is just a normal guy. He'd come up and talk to you, ask you where you were from and things like that. At the end of the day, he gave us all rides home in the van he rented."

Kelby is the son of Murray and Karen McCaleb of McKenzie.

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7-9 pm Downtown (Fairground pavilion if raining)

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

CARNIVAL KISSELL 5-11 pm Fairgrounds
COUNTRY DANCE (\$5) 7-10 pm Fairgrounds



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

FISH TENT All-You-Can-Eat 5-9 pm Fairgrounds
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CARNIVAL KISSELL 5-11 pm Fairgrounds
CHRISTIAN CONCERT (\$5) 7-8:45 pm Fairgrounds
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THURSDAY, APRIL 22

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW 5-8:30 pm Fairgrounds
FISH TENT Sponsor: Holley Credit Union 5-9 pm Fairgrounds
CARNIVAL KISSELL 5-11 pm Fairgrounds



FRIDAY, APRIL 23

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW 10 am - 8:30 pm Fairgrounds
GRAND PARADE 10 am East Wood Street
FISH TENT Sponsor: Holley Credit Union 11 am - 9 pm Fairgrounds
CARNIVAL KISSELL 11 am - midnight Fairgrounds
CHAMPIONSHIP BULLS & BARRELS SHOWDOWN
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SATURDAY, APRIL 24

SMALL FRY PARADE 10 am Downtown
ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW 10 am - 8:30 pm Fairgrounds
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CARNIVAL KISSELL 11 am - midnight Fairgrounds
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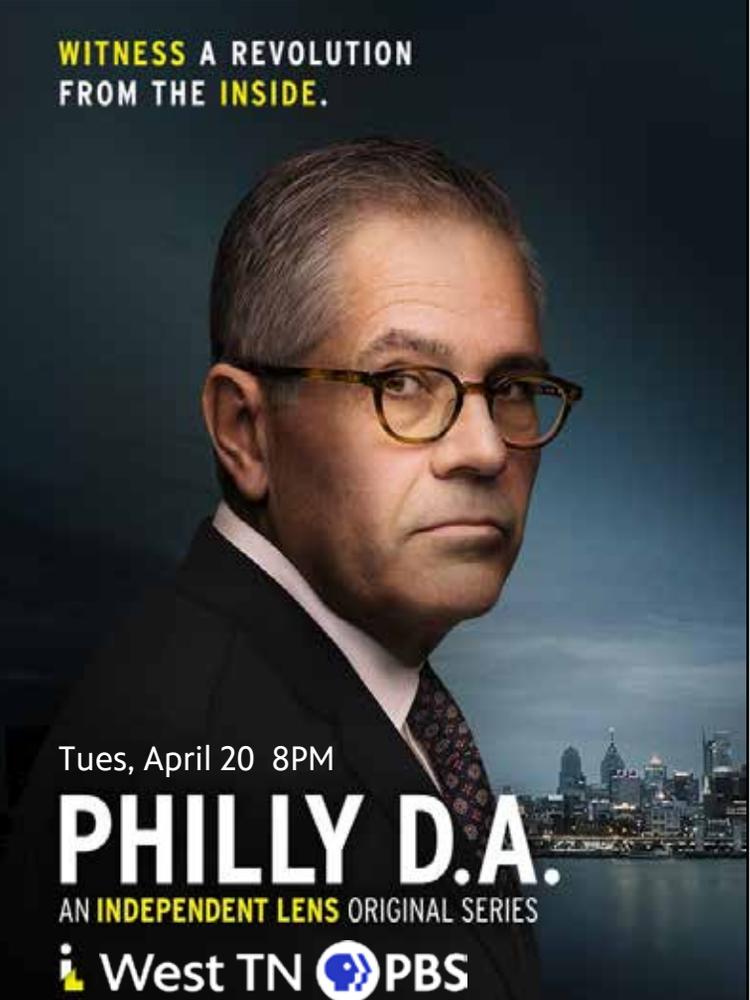
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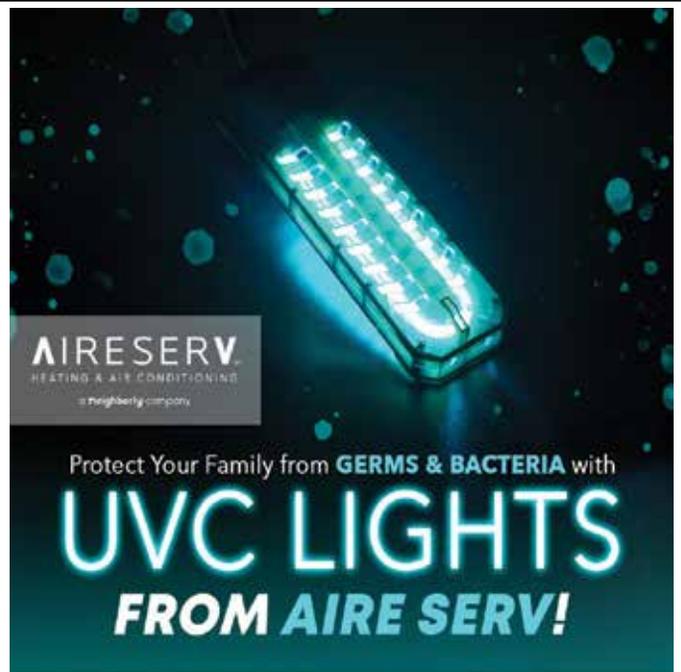
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Left to Right: Henry County Mayor John Penn Ridgeway, Cody Nance, Korie Nance, and Henry County Chamber CEO Travis McLeese

Professional Bull Riding Coming to Henry County

In a press conference Monday, February 22nd the Paris Henry County Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Henry County Tourism Authority announced that the community will host the inaugural “Cody Nance’s PBR in Paris, Tennessee” July 2nd and 3rd of 2021 at the Henry County Fairgrounds. “My wife, Korie, and I would just like to say how excited we are to be producing this event here in my hometown,” commented Cody Nance. “It’s going to be a fun event for the whole family. I have always wanted to do something like this here, so I am glad we are finally able to make it happen.”

The Professional Bull Riding (PBR) Organization features the top 700 bull riders from around the world. As the World’s Premier Bull Riding organization, riders compete in sanctioned events in Brazil, Australia, Canada, Mexico and the United States. “Tourism is a vital piece of our local economy,” commented

John Penn Ridgeway, Henry County Mayor. “Our Chamber of Commerce has done an incredible job producing a diverse list of events like this to help bring people to our community. This one happens to be special because we get to showcase one of our own.”

Nance is currently ranked 58th in the World in the PBR Ranking. In his debut year, Nance claimed the Rookie of the Year title and finished 18th at his first-ever World Finals. He has since qualified for World Finals in each of his 11 subsequent seasons on the elite tour, finishing a career-best fourth in 2013. In 2017, Nance finished No. 17 in the world after recording four Top 5 and nine Top 10 finishes, two of which came at Majors, Last Cowboy Standing and Music City Knockout. His year culminated with a trip to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada where Nance competed as a member of Team USA at the inaugural Global Cup. There, Nance went 1-for-2 helping the USA to

win the first-ever five-nation event. “We have been working on this event for several months now and are excited to see it get to this point,” added Travis McLeese CEO of the Chamber of Commerce. “The event will be a two night bull riding event with some of the best bull riders in the world, right here in Henry County. This event will get national attention and showcase much of what Paris has to offer.”

McLeese noted that “Of course, we have been monitoring the COVID situation closely and believe the results of the vaccination are promising. We believe that if we can get the average daily case rate under 10 new cases daily over a 14 day period, we can offer the event at 75% capacity, still abiding by the state’s recommendations.”

Several details are still being finalized and more information on ticket pricing and vendor opportunities will be released in the coming weeks.



JULY 2 - 3, 2021
Henry County Fairgrounds



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