

DISCOVER

West Tennessee

July 2021 - Volume 1 - Issue 8

Spotlighting
**MADISON
COUNTY**

Getting to Know
GRAMMY-NOMINATED SONGWRITER

**JONATHAN
SINGLETON**

A photograph of a man with a beard and a dog sitting in the back of a convertible car. The dog is a beagle mix with brown and white fur, looking out the side of the car with its tongue out. The man is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and sunlight.

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ON THE COVER -
Grammy Nominated Songwriter
& West Tennessee Native, Jonathan Singleton

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West Tennessee

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Q & A with Grammy-Nominated Singer/Songwriter

JONATHAN SINGLETON

lisaADKINS
DWT Contributor

“Originally from Jackson, Tennessee, Jonathan Singleton has a gritty guitar & blues-saturated vocal drawn heavily from his West Tennessee roots, while the stories and lyrical craft are pure Music City.” (A quote from his website.)

Jonathan Singleton has strong ties to Jackson, along with some of his original band members, but actually grew up in Cedar Grove. He went to Lexington High School but experienced several of the surrounding small towns, while traveling with his father when he was young, a church of Christ preacher. Singleton’s father preached a lot in Wildersville, Scotts Hill, Huntingdon and

Cedar Grove, and it makes him feel like all of West Tennessee is where he grew up.

So many people in Jackson and surrounding towns loved hearing Jonathan Singleton & The Grove play at a lot of venues, but especially Barley’s. What would you like to share about that?

“We played that gig for almost seven years. Jason Fitts and I played acoustic on Tuesdays and full band on Wednesday and Thursday nights. If we did not have gigs where they were playing original music, we also played Barley’s on Friday and Saturday nights. So, actually, sometimes we played five nights straight at Barley’s. I love and miss Barley’s days because we had innocence.

There was no pressure at those gigs, and we were still learning. The guys in the band used to complain about playing cover songs and now we write original songs every day. In the early days we were learning what songs people like, what parts of songs they like, and how to entertain a crowd. Our music turned from a four-hour gig in front of 100 to 30-minute gigs in front of thousands. I don’t miss playing the gigs that were pressure and anxiety-filled, but I miss the Barley days for sure.”

So I heard your mom was a songwriter. What would you like to tell us about that?

“Years and years ago my mom had a band called Rio. Mom was a singer in the band,

and she was also a songwriter. Her band came to Nashville, cut some sides, and started having some success. She had the pressure of being a mom, and the thought of what it would take to be a country artist made her back out and quit. This helped me get through the process. She wrote songs when we were growing up, so songwriting was not strange to us. Mom writing songs was a daily regiment in life for us.”

How would you describe your days in college... driving to Nashville and trying to make it in the music business?

“It was kind of terrifying, but I found out real quick that people coming from rural areas, who had been taught a strong work ethic from their parents, was a benefit in the music business. I found out a lot of people did not have that. I learned real quickly that everyone that was making it to Nashville was on the same talent level, and I had to work harder than the next guy. That is what my parents taught me. If someone asked you to be there, you show up early, and you do the job they are asking you to do. So that’s what I did, and I did not mind doing that. When I was back in Jackson, I had two or three jobs to do to make ends meet. So when it came to Nashville, I would get there early. I would have the idea, and write the song, and work on that song all night long until 9 or 10, because I loved what I was doing. I feel like that is what separated me and a couple of guys that I was working with at the time. The bottom line was the work ethic we had.”

What would you like to share about 50 Egg Music?

“It was formed in 2016. I had about 10-12 years into publishing deals, and I saw how the industry worked. Specifically, I could see as a songwriter what was wrong with those situations. We try to ultra-serve songwriters’ needs, and we have 10 or 11 songwriters now. We really try to help the writer in whatever they need, whether it be with their production or any other needs or ideas they may have. It’s important to me that it feels like a family atmosphere. Most of the time we sign a three-year contract, and we become best friends during that time. We try to lay out what we think the next nine or 10 years will look like for the artist. We want to make long-term relationships with them. Luke Combs is a good example. I signed him when I started the deal with 50

Egg Music and we have maintained our relationship, even though he is not there publishing-wise anymore. We co-own the company together, and I am producing his records. Chip Matthews (co-producer) and myself are small town guys and also business guys. We know how country listeners, country people, and small towns work. I don’t think we all use that enough as a tool in the business. We have found out that when an artist feels like someone is on their side, it makes a big difference. We don’t think of an artist as a number, or in a financial way, but instead think of what is best for the artist or songwriter. This way we can maintain a long relationship with them, instead of trying to get money from them. It’s important to remember you can be great, but you have to have something to back it up.”

There are many artists trying to make it in the music business, what advice would you give them?

“Work ethic is the key. While work is good, I still do the best I can every day. Just imagine everyone is on the same talent level. Ask yourself, what can I do to set myself apart from everyone else? The difference is to WORK HARD!”

What are a couple of things you are passionate about other than music?

“I guess I am like most West Tennessee folks... I love to deer and turkey hunt. I love working on old cars. I have a ‘72 Blazer I tinker with all the time, and I will take the top off and ride around. I also have a Bronco I do that with as well.”

What do you have coming up musically you want the readers to know about?

“We are working on Luke Combs’ new record right now. We are also working with Ashland Craft (be on the lookout for her). Jordan Fletcher has some new music coming out that we have been working on, which is super-exciting, along with Ray Fulcher, who is on Black River Records. I have a Lainey Wilson single out on the radio right now called “Things a Man Oughta Know.” There is a whole new batch of country songs and songwriters coming around. It ebbs and flows for a guy like me, who wants to write a certain kind of song. This is a good time for us.”

If there anything you would like to share with us about partnering with Spirit Music in Nashville?

“Spirit has been great, and Frank Rogers is the head of their Nashville division. Frank is a wonderful producer and songwriter. He has helped me so much. I know if I have a question, I can talk to Frank. We have been talking together for years, and it’s just great to do some things together. Frank produced all of Brad Paisley’s first records.”

Jonathan, you have co-written and produced such a large volume of work, there is no way we could list them all. List a few and some accomplishments for us.

“In 2016, I was nominated for a Grammy for co-writing “Diamond Rings and Old Barstools” (Tim McGraw). I have also had several number one songs including “A Guy Walks Into a Bar” by Tyler Farr, “Why Don’t We Just Dance” by Josh Turner, “Die From A Broken Heart” by Maddie & Tae, “Watching Airplanes” by Gary Allan, Beer Never “Broke My Heart” by Luke Combs, “Yours if You Want It” by Rascal Flatts, “In Between” by Scotty McCreery and a few others. I am also proud to have written songs with/for Blake Shelton, Darius Rucker, Little Big Town, Eric Church, and David Nail to name a few.”

How can readers follow you and find out more about you and what you are doing?

“Well, I drive a 2012 Toyota Tacoma if you “actually” want to follow me!” Singleton laughed, “That’s what I drive. But, seriously, 50 Egg Music has a strong presence online. Tali Canterbury is the head of 50 Egg Music and is my favorite person in Nashville. She works so hard and is caring, but most all, she keeps us creative people straight. She is someone who reins us all in. I am thankful for all the people on my team.”



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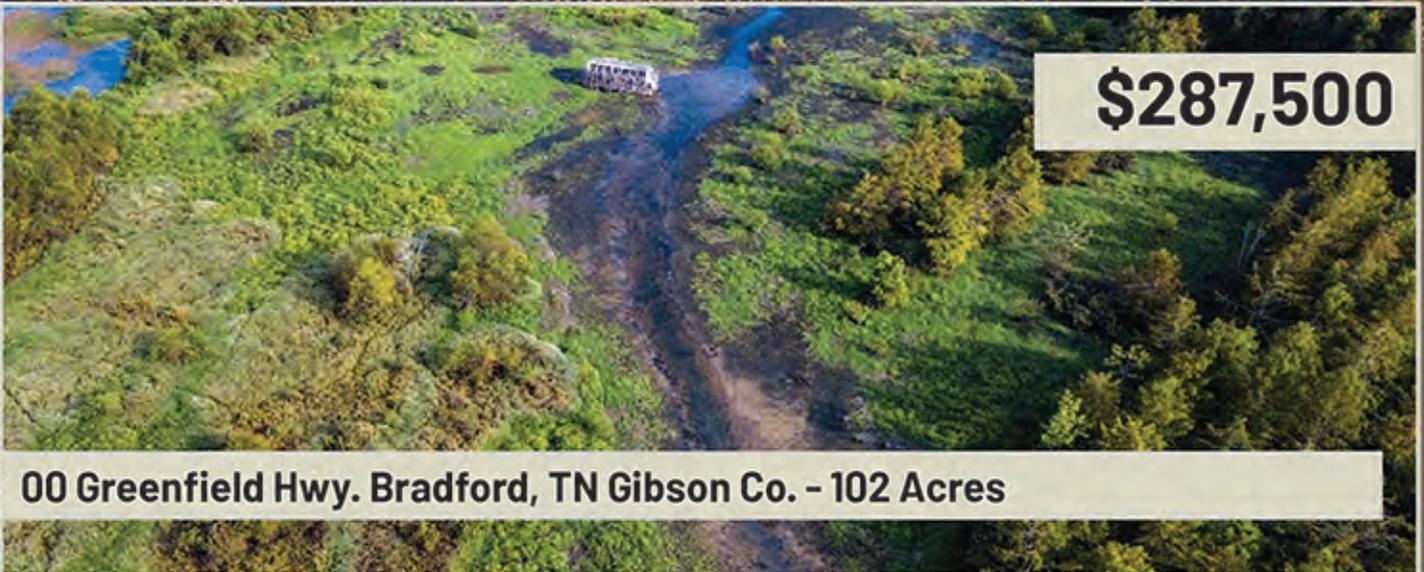
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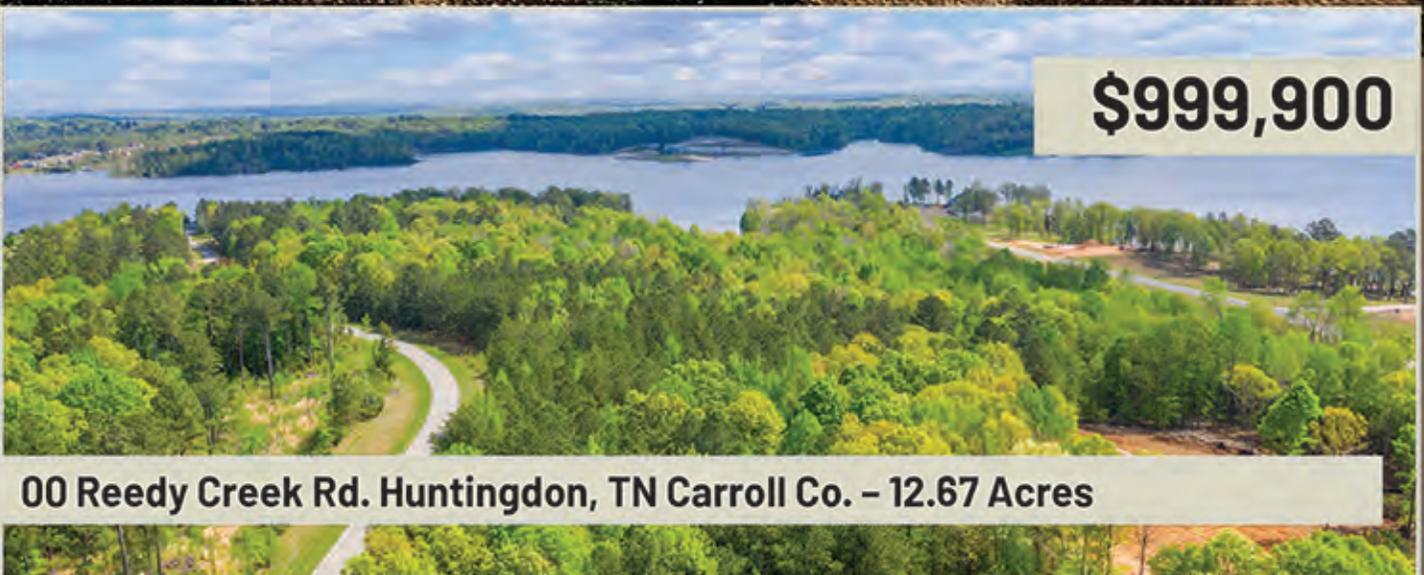
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Welcome to the 61st Season of the Jackson Symphony

lisaADKINS
DWT Contributor

I loved sitting down with Jackson Symphony Executive Director Sherry Freeman to get some valuable information about the symphony. She shared, some people have a possible misconception that maybe they might not enjoy the symphony or they can't afford to come to the symphony.

"I would encourage people to look at this year's upcoming season. The season offers a variety of opportunities. We have full masterworks with world renowned artist coming in to perform with the symphony. We have small Chamber Concerts that are offered on Sunday's. Those are an hour long with guest artists. This season we have a full Pop Series including, Holiday and Valentine Pops, and a salute to Rock. We have family matinees that are at Halloween and Christmas. These hour- long concerts are for the whole family to enjoy."

She shared there are a variety of ways to purchase tickets and it's important to know there is a fit for people. The key is to find one and visit the symphony. You can bring your family, kids, or have a date night. They have so many options that will make it work for you to enjoy the symphony, including the Sunday matinee optioin.

The Symphony on the Move is where ensembles of the symphony go into communities throughout West Tennessee, so it can be enjoyed in neighborhoods. They are currently booking communities for the "Symphony on the Move" for fall events. They currently have three booked and have only four-five openings left for this fall. If you're interested in having your community booked to with the traveling Symphony call contact Freeman.

If you're interested in becoming a symphony member, or looking for a gift for that hard to buy person, a Jackson Symphony option is a great idea. You can gift an indi-

vidual concert, or a season package option. It's also a fun option to get friends together. There are so many options and opportunities Freeman said. She wants people to understand, "The name of the symphony is The Jackson Symphony but its West Tennessee's Symphony for all of West Tennessee. We want everyone to come The success of the symphony is all of West Tennessee and we need everyone's support. We are so appreciative of the people who have bought tickets, ads, and business who have supported us. We have a lot of people who make donations as well. This is how the symphony has stayed around for 60 years."

The 2021-2022 is the 61st season with their kickoff being in September 2021. This September they are happy to have their Starlight Symphony concert and it's free and again open to the public.

*Please check out their website
www.thejacksonsymphony.org*



Sherry Freeman

Executive Director

“Ludwig van Beethoven is quoted as having said, ‘I wish you music to help with the burdens of life, and to help you release your happiness to others.’ ‘What a beautiful way for us to embark upon the opening of the 61st season of The Jackson Symphony. After a year marked with uncertainties, we can now emerge with the Resounding desire to live life fully and without limits. The 61st season was crafted to celebrate the passions of our soul—to gather with friends, to laugh long and loud, and to cheer with vigor as we experience music that moves us. Join us in a new season filled with concerts that are not only entertaining, but also inspiring. In the 61st season, The Jackson Symphony is full of iconic moments. From seeing a 100 member high school and college choir singing Beethoven’s, ‘Ode to Joy,’ enjoying the spooky sounds of Halloween, singing along to the songs at the holiday pops, hearing the powerful sound of world renowned baritone, Dashon Burton, and finally to shimmying down memory lane with the music of The Beatles. This year promises to reenergize and to remind us of what makes life so grand. Because of your continued support through sponsorships, tickets, and yearly donations, your Jackson Symphony is excited to present this ‘Re-sounding’ 61st season. I look forward to seeing you at the symphony.”

Photo credit: Darren Lykes



Peter Shannon

Artistic Director & Conductor

“Re-sound. What a fitting title for our 61st season. After a difficult year, the symphony will fill your ears and hearts with incredible reper-

SEASON AT A GLANCE

Opening Night

Sept. 11 | 7:30 PM | FBC

Winterreise

Sept. 12 | 1:30 PM | FBC

Starlight Symphony

Sept. 18 | 7:30 PM | FPC

Family Spooktacular

Oct. 16 | 11:30 AM | CC

Symphony Spooktacular

Oct. 16 | 7:30 PM | CC

Beethoven 1 and 9

Nov. 6 | 7:30 PM | CC

Resounding Joy

Nov. 7 | 1:30 PM | FBC

Mozart by Candlelight

Nov. 16 | 7:00 PM | NED

Family Christmas

Dec. 4 | 11:30 AM | CC

Holiday Pops

Dec. 4 | 7:30 PM | CC

My Funny Valentine

Feb. 12 | 7:30 PM | CC

Baroque to Broadway

Feb. 13 | 1:30 PM | FBC

Beauty and Passion

Mar. 5 | 7:30 PM | FBC

Just Julian

Mar. 6 | 1:30 PM | FBC

Imagine

The Beatles Solo Years

Apr. 2 | 7:30 PM | CC

toire, including a ‘re-sounding’ of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony, which had to be delayed due to the difficulty of social distancing with the massed choirs singing ‘Ode to Joy.’ This year, the last few measures of this symphony will resound fresher and more poignantly than ever before. Always in awe of Beethoven, Schubert’s C Major Symphony (also his 9th!) even contains a musical quote from Beethoven, and is one of the most positives works I know. I look forward to hearing The Jackson Symphony in full flight! I’m looking forward till the singalongs at the Holiday pops; and with

CLASSICAL



Opening Night

September 11, 2021

7:30 PM

First Baptist Church

Our season opens with Schubert’s “Great” C Major Symphony, full of resounding positivity and energy. Baritone Dashon Burton joins us for Mahler’s dramatic “Songs of a Wayfarer,” and select Schubert songs arranged for orchestra. Sharing the theme of the “wanderer,” Mahler and Schubert take us on a journey through the beauty of German romanticism.



the Halloween and Pops concerts, we promise to pack those evenings full with fun and cheer. As every year in the past, we are joined, yet again, by world-class soloists; so please; hold me to my word on this, and come see and hear for yourself. A special thanks this year is our new Mozart by Candlelight concert; and I can’t think of a better way to breathe in the healing power of music and celebrate the resounding success that all of you, our donors and concert-goers, have made us.”

Photo Credit: Darren Lykes



Getting to Know: Juanita Jones

Founder of Jackson Area Ministry “Keep My Hood Good”

lisaADKINS
DWT Contributor

*Where are you from
and what are is your background?*

“I am from McKenzie, and a graduate of University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM). I was also a dispatcher for the McKenzie Police Department while I was in college. While in McKenzie, I was a volunteer firefighter in the McKenzie Fire Department. I am a United States Marine. I was a court advocate for domestic violence for WRAP (Wo/Men’s Resource and Rape Assistance Program). I was the business owner of Jay & Jai Transportation, which was the brain-storm for starting Keep My Hood Good. In 2007, God placed on my heart to help the children. In 2009-2011, Keep My Hood Good was for boys and girls. In 2011-2013,

the children were just boys; 2013 to present we have both boys and girls.”

*Tell us about starting your
Non-Profit, Keep My Hood Good.*

“In the beginning we had no building, so the children and I would meet in laundry mats when it was cold outside and in car wash bays when it was raining, under trees and awnings for shade during the hot weather. I drove around on a Saturday for hours all over Jackson looking for an abandoned building, which I could use.

*What is a typical day like
when the children are here?*

“Monday-Thursday, I pick up the children from home or school and transport them to

our center. We pray, read scripture, have a hot meal, ice breakers and structured activities.

*What is your relationship
with Shirlene Mercer?*

“When I shared with my mother, I wanted to start Keep My Hood Good, my mother told me to talk to Shirlene Mercer. To this day, I have no idea how those two ladies know each other. I walked down to Mrs. Mercer’s downtown office, and went and shared with her my vision. She told me to join her in the Anti-Crime Marches. Since I am not from Jackson, I was hoping she could help me. I started attending the marches with her, and she taught me a lot. She and I are very close, and I have the ultimate respect for her. She taught me a lot of things, but, one thing that is very important that I needed to remember, has to

do with the children. She said, “Keep them entertained.” I will always remember that. I entertain, educate, and expose. My hook from the very beginning, was the kick-ball contest, because that was entertainment. When I went to Washington Douglas East Pointe in 2011, I entertained again, but this time, it was basketball. It was just boys then.”

Tell us about your community garden and upcoming events.

“This is our second community garden, we have planted in seven years, and we just planted our first crop May 7. We planted corn, squash, okra, two varieties of sweet peppers, and red bell peppers. Our next planting will be June 1 and we will be planting, another four crops, then again... in July. Our garden is located at 701 East Chester Street. Our partnership with UT Agriculture is very important to us. Celeste Luckey teaches the children how to plant using seeds to transplant and has been helping Keep My Hood Good for seven years. The community comes in during harvest time and they pick the vegetables. This summer we will be having some community events at the garden. G.R.O.W.T.H. at The Garden is our first event. At the event, we will have a water park. Fellowship Bible Church will be hosting this event. There will be food at the event, spiritual teachings, and information about the garden. It will be in July at 701 East Chester. Look at our Facebook and website for day and time. It’s a free event open to the community. In the fall, we will be having another event involving pumpkins. We will be having pumpkin carving,



storytelling, a bonfire, and this event is also free and open to the public.”

Recently you had a mural project. Could you tell us about that?

“Last summer, Keep My Hood Good and our graphic designer, Ashley Akerson, and our painter, Wendy Kim, an artist, started with seven Keep My Hood Good children who are artists. We brought them all together to brainstorm the mural. Symbolism was the key for the mural. We worked with children in the summer at 302 Jackson Street, which was an abandoned building. We painted an abstract painting, which are symbols representing, Unity, Love, and Family. If you go the mural, be sure you take your photo and tag #keepmyhoodgood.”

Congratulations on your recent award from Mayor Scott Conger.

“I am honored and humbled to be the recipient of the Hub City Heroes. Thank you to the community and thank you to the mayor.”

What are your needs at this time for your organization?

“For this summer, we are having two things I am focusing on. First is self-identity, which branches out to self-esteem and self-love. I see that as a problem right now with the children. The second focus is connecting to nature. We are doing gardening and anything dealing with being outside. Sports, fishing, horseback riding, and camping are some examples. July 15 will be our

last day, and we will be having a camp -out. I really want to take them fishing this summer. We need poles, tackle, bait and a person helping each child to learn to fish. We want to teach them how to catch the fish, clean the fish and how to cook it. That night we will be having a bonfire and a camp-out. Other needs for the fishing day, are portable tables and cleaning supplies for the fish. I want to have a traditional fish dinner with slaw, hushpuppies and the works for the children! I could use help with those needs. The number of fishermen could be 15-30 for everything. If you would like to volunteer, donate to this summer program reach out to me on our Facebook page or phone number on website. It would be much appreciated.”

Who are your board members and executive committee?

Our board members are: Dr. June Murry, chair; Brian James, vice-chair; Charles Adams, Donna Mason, Kelsea Merriweather, Kortney Simmons and Jonathan Bell.

Our executive committee are: Brandon Jones, Briana Moore, Lauren Kirk, Courtney Searcy, Amy Ragon and Michelle James.

If you are interested in learning more, would like to make a contribution, or help in any way, please reach out to Juanita Jones. She is looking for professional career speakers in the fall when school starts. Speakers come from 3:30-4 p.m. during the structured activities. Any and all career speakers are valuable. Her children range in ages eight years to 18 years.

Website is: www.keepmyhoodgood.org





Rhonda Moubray, owner of The Corner boutique

Where Affordable and Fashion Meet

lisaADKINS
DWT Contributor

The Corner boutique was a dream of Rhonda Moubray's that she wasn't sure would happen.

"I think at some point in every girl's life we think about having our own store," she said. "We think about dressing up and playing in clothes every day." So, she started her own business, but it was after two decades in corporate America.

Moubray's background is in purchasing

and in that arena, she spent everyone else's money, but joked she did not get to buy anything fun. Most of her purchasing work was in the manufacturing business. With that career she spent a lot of time traveling, with her commute daily being three hours round trip. She felt burnt out and she left her job. Taking three part-time jobs she waited tables, cleaned house, and starting working part-time in the clothing-fashion industry. Moubray suddenly realized clothing and fashion were both a love and passion for her.

She found herself in a position where she was not sure what her next move was. She was frustrated and her boyfriend, Jeff, said, "Get in the car and we are going to go find you a building!" He told her he was going to help her open up her own boutique.

When she was doubtful, he asked, "Don't you think you can do that?" Concerned with the financial aspect, he reassured he would help her.

They found a building in Milan, she got insurance, ordered clothes, and within three weeks her boutique was open for

business. That was November 2013. The boutique took off and has been a big success, which she credits to her commitment to affordability, inclusiveness and building relationships with her customers.

“I wanted to be affordable because I felt like boutiques were expensive and sometimes snooty,” Moubray said. “I found a lot of people did not feel welcomed at boutiques. I did not want to be that way, and I really wanted to be affordable. I wanted to be able to dress all the girls in the family. It was important to carry plus-size clothing. One of the biggest things I wanted was for everyone to feel welcomed when they walked into the store. I feel it is important to speak to my customers when they come in and when they leave. It’s so important because it’s not just about selling clothes, it’s about relationships. I have prayed with customers and even put them on my prayer list.”

Her first building in Milan was a 750-square foot store. She outgrew it and moved to a bigger store at the end of the unit, taking over a 2,000-square foot unit. She was there for a year and had to take in another 1,000 square feet, which is where her location is today in Milan.

One of Moubray’s principles is consistent availability to meet the needs of her customers. She credits her work ethic to her father, who was in business for 40 years and he taught her you can’t have a business that you are not willing to work yourself. He also told her that when her business was closed, she was giving her customers an opportunity to shop elsewhere.

She always abides by that advice, but taking a day off for self-care four years ago led to a business expansion.

“I was at Thomsen Farms (in Jackson) to get a pedicure and I saw all these for rent signs. I thought, ‘Wow, this is a Monday afternoon, and where I was getting my pedicure was the only business in the strip mall and I could not find a parking place.’”

She did not know if she could afford the rent, but a week later, in October 2017, she had a contract on a building in the same strip mall in Thomsen Farms.

With two locations, there are some similarities but also some differences. She has different clothes at both of The Corner boutiques locations, because she wants her customers to have a lot of variety, and many of her clients shop both stores. Moubray is proud they carry a couple of American brands like Jess & Jane, Mud Pie Home

ICON
MUSIC THROUGH THE LENS
West TN PBS
TUNE IN OR STREAM
FRIDAY JULY 16 9/8c

Jim Hendrix 1967 © Gerald Moskowitz 2021

Décor and clothing and Avalin.

She has a small children’s line and in Milan she has a kid’s room. During COVID-19, her major kids line folded and she said it’s been hard to find a replacement to replenish the inventory.

Like many business owners, during the pandemic she had to be a little more creative to keep the business going through non-traditional means. She’s had a website since 2015, which really helped keep them afloat.

The Corner boutique also carries a lot of non-domestic brands like Parsley & Sage and Michael Tyler, which is also sold in Nordstrom. She carries a lot of jewelry and one brand, Scooples, handmade out of Marion, Ark. There are also bath bombs with prizes inside and seasonal shoes. Moubray also offers a sale every single day.

“Boutiques are not really known to have

sales. I wanted to offer a sale, because women like sales. All the clothes are 20 percent off every day in both stores. All the jewelry and home décor is 10 percent off every day. I also offer a 30 percent off special every day that changes. We sell ladies S - 3X clothing and girls 4 - 14. We also ship for \$7.95. Spend \$50 and get free shipping.”

She even offers gift cards that never expire, free gift wrap, a rewards program and curbside pickup. On some occasions if you are close to her, she has delivered to help out on her way home. Because, for Moubray, her dream only works with excellent customer service.

The Corner boutique has two brick and mortar locations: 1319 Union University Drive in Jackson and 5120 Telecom Drive, Suite K. in Milan. Shop online at www.cornerboutiqueinmilan.com, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

4 Easy Ways to Increase Your Family Fitness

“The key to getting everyone to participate in family fitness activities is to find activities you all actually enjoy!”



Candice Johnson Jones, DO

You know you need to exercise regularly, but it can be hard to find the motivation and the time. Your kids need exercise, too. So, why not make family fitness a regular occurrence in your house?

The numbers are pretty sobering. The obesity rate is on the rise in the United States, including among our children. In fact, childhood obesity is more than three times more common now than it was in the 1970s.

More than that, though, many of us are overweight or at the least, out of shape, because we live very sedentary lifestyles. We spend more time in front of our computers, tablets and TVs than we do moving around.

That adds up to a significantly increased risk of developing many health conditions. But you can take steps to lower your risk and that of your children. Making family fitness a priority is the best first step.

Read on as Candice Johnson Jones, DO, with West Tennessee Medical Group, shares some tips on getting your family active.

Family Fitness: How Much Is Enough?

Let's start with the basics. How much physical activity should you be regularly fitting into your family's schedule?

There are two different sets of guidelines—one for kids and one for adults. Adults should aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity or 75 minutes of strenuous activity each week. Assuming you're being moderately active, that adds up to just more than 20 minutes per day. Kids, though, need more physical activity each day. The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that kids and teens get at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise daily.

So, if you're working on being active together, you may want to aim for hour-long activities or smaller bursts of activity that add up to an hour a day.

4 Ideas for Family Fitness

The key to getting everyone to participate in family fitness activities is to find activities you all actually enjoy! After all, if something is fun, you're far more likely to want to do it again.

We have a few suggestions:

- Make a family walk or bike ride a part of your normal routine. Habits tend to stick when you do them routinely, so choose some type of activity that can easily be performed in your backyard or around the block.
- Use seasonal activities as a way to mix things up. Doing the same thing over and over again isn't always the most interesting, so look for opportunities to fit seasonal fun into your family fitness!
- Find small moments of family fitness. Exercise doesn't always have to be a formal activity, and it doesn't have to be done in hour-long segments. Being more active as a whole will help keep your entire family healthier.
- Explore the Great Outdoors. We have some gorgeous scenery in Tennessee, and summer is prime time to explore it! Plan out some family activities that let you enjoy being outside and staying physically active, while still practicing social distancing.

Is your child's checkup—or your own—past due? It's still important to keep up-to-date on well-person checkups, so schedule your appointment today!

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- 9:00 Scottie Baugus & Boone Creek

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- 12:30 High Milage
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- 2:00 Holt Family
- 2:30 Sparks Family
- 3:00 Southern Strangers
- 3:30 Joe Garrett & Hatchie Bottom Boys
- 4:00 Billy Wagoner & Red Roosters
- 4:30 Good Time Grass
- 5:00 Court House Pickers
- 5:30 John Few & Providence Rd.
- 6:00 Wayne Jerrolds & Savannah Grass
- 6:30 Buck Dancing Contest
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Savannah Welcomes the 43rd Annual Bluegrass Festival

The 43rd annual Savannah Bluegrass Festival will be held July 2 and 3 in Savannah. Both dates performances will be at the Savannah Market in downtown across from the courthouse.

Friday's lineup beginning at 6 p.m. is 7 Mile Creek, followed by festival creator Wayne Jerrolds & Savannah Grass, with headliner Rhonda Vincent and The Rage performing at 7:30 p.m., and Scottie Baugus & Boone Creek finishing off the evening. Rhonda is known as the Queen of Bluegrass and is the newest member of the Grand Ole Opry.

Saturday's lineup begins at noon with the Fiddlers Roll Call, High Mileage, Southern Sounds, Rudy Moore and Bluegrass Pals, Holt Family, Sparks Family, Southern Strangers, Joe Garrett and the Hatchie Bot-

tom Boys, Billy Wagoner and Red Rooster, Good Time Grass, Courthouse Pickers, John Few and Providence Road, Wayne Jerrolds and Savannah Grass, a 6:30 p.m. Buck Dancing Contest for all ages!, Too Mississippi, and Scottie Baugus and Boone Creek.

This down-home pickin' and singin' extravaganza on the Tennessee River, created by world champion fiddler Wayne Jerrolds, has been packing in audiences since the 1970's. Teaming with the city of Savannah, Jerrolds promises this region's biggest and best bluegrass show ever. The event sponsor is Packaging Corporation of America.

"We are excited to host our very own hometown Fiddle Champion Wayne Jerrolds and his guests in making this a great Bluegrass Festival," said Hardin County Tourism Director Beth Pippin. "Our local economy

thrives on special events and tourism. We welcome this special event each summer and are happy to celebrate the 43rd year."

Fans come from all over the area to enjoy the bluegrass sounds echoing through downtown and the historic district. Bring your lawn chairs to relax and enjoy music, food, downtown shopping, and dining. Clap along or kick up your heels at the Buck Dancing Contest as Wayne dishes out over \$2,000 in prize money.

Friday night fiddles around from 6 - 9 p.m. and Saturday kicks it up from noon until 9 p.m. for this two-day music jubilee.

Admission is free and concessions are available. For the latest information about the 43rd annual Savannah Bluegrass Festival contact Hardin County Convention and Visitors Bureau at 731-925-8181.

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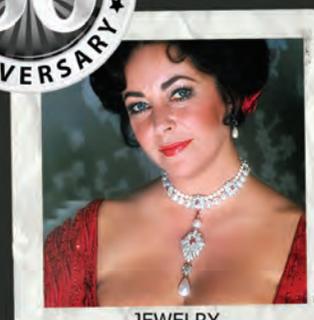
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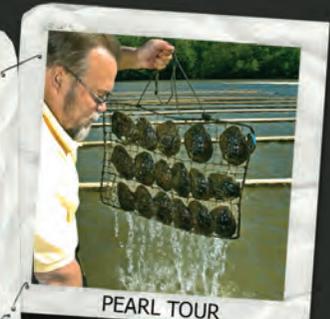
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Ford's New \$20,000 Pickup Will Be a Game Changer

After months of leaks and speculation, Ford has taken the wraps off a new member of their massive pickup family. The all-new 2022 Ford Maverick will be the baby of the family, smaller than the Ford Ranger but still capable enough for many pickup customers.

The new Maverick, which takes its

name from a compact car sold in America during the 1970s, features a unibody design, a standard hybrid powertrain, and a flexible bed design.

Ford hopes that the economical Maverick won't just be a customer's first truck – they hope it will be their first Ford vehicle. With the elimination of

all traditional passenger cars from their lineup, the company sees the Maverick as the brand's new entry-level model.

"We believe it will be compelling to a lot of people who never before considered a truck," says Todd Eckert, the Ford Truck Group marketing manager.

JOE M

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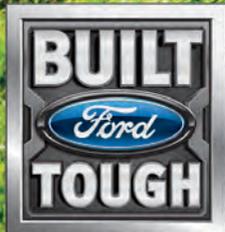


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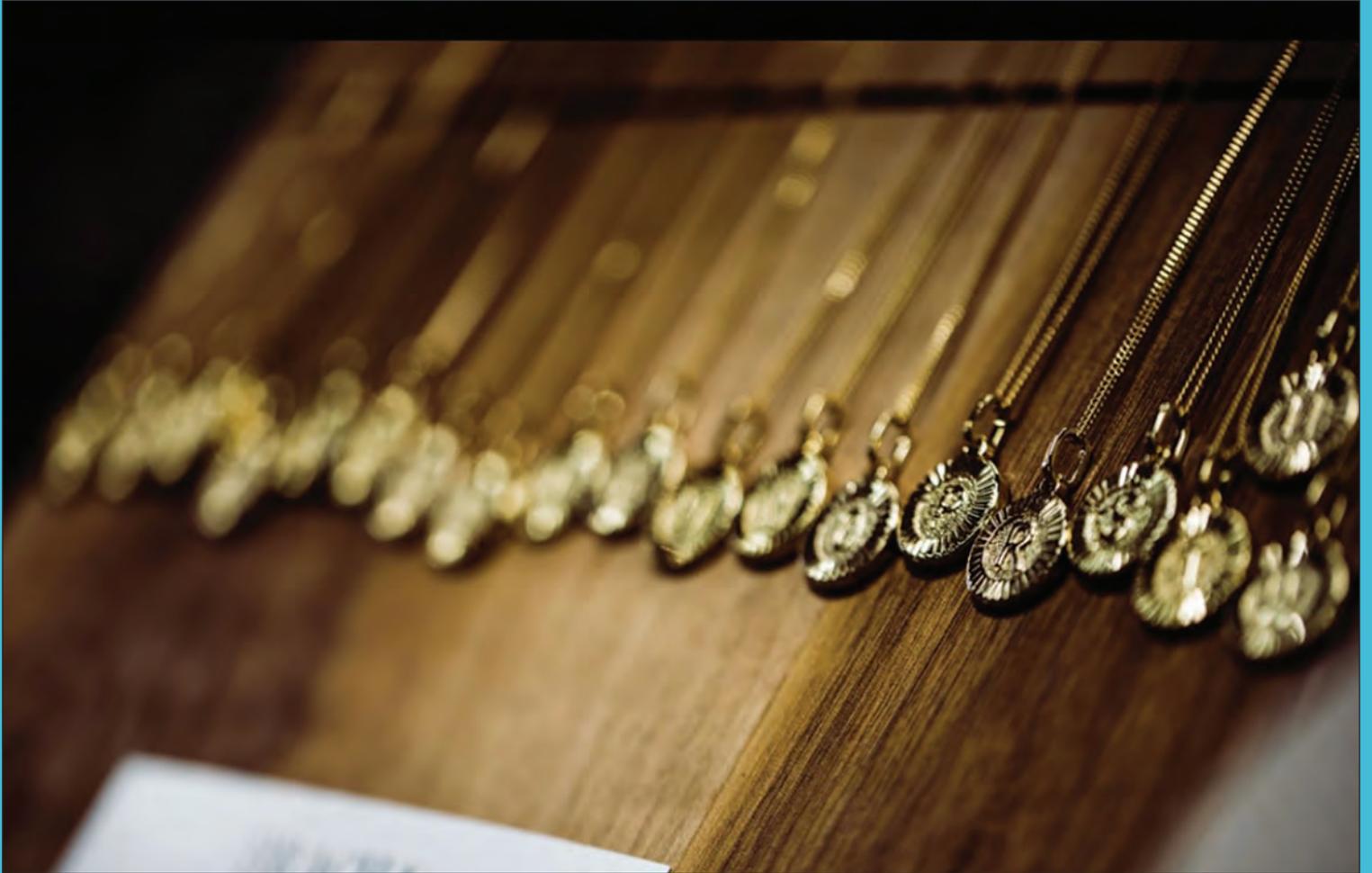
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Pvt. Bill Clark Remembered on D-Day

*Lest We Forget . . . D-Day, June 6, 1944:
Voices from Omaha Beach . . . and a Yellow Rose*

Editor's Note

This article and photos are written and taken by Robert Coe of Gold River, California in reference to the Normandy invasion on June 6, 1944. In this story he includes information and photos of Pvt. Bill Clark, who was from Buena Vista in Carroll County who was killed in that invasion.

Coe visited the American cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach in Normandy, France in 1962 and 2017. He says his purpose was to connect a face with the beautiful, but impersonal grave marker.

robertCOE
DWT Contributor

It was late May 1962. My first year of grad school in Paris, France was now just a memory. I had three weeks to kill before going back home.

Nine months before, I had sailed to France on the *Waterman*, a converted Liberty Ship from World War II. Now it had a new life as a student ship. The fare was cheap, a bottle of beer cost \$0.11 cents, and all the passengers were students like me. What's not to like about that?

The *Waterman's* sister ship, the *Groote Beer*, was my ride back home, so it was almost party time again. I could hardly wait!

On the other hand, three weeks in France, three weeks free from the burden of classes, tests, and papers were a golden opportunity to explore some parts of France I had only heard about. The only downside was that all my classmates had already left. I'd have to travel alone. Bummer!

My first stop would be the invasion beaches of Normandy, where, nearly 18 years before, allied forces had stormed ashore, a first step to retake Europe from the iron grip of Hitler's Third Reich. Adjacent to Omaha on beaches code named Gold, Juno, and Sword, allied forces from Britain, Canada, France,



Pvt. Bill Clark's cross on Omaha Beach in Normandy, France.

and Poland had also been fighting their way ashore.

The French province of Normandy is located in northern France, just across the English Channel from the southern coast of England. It's famous for a number of things: dairy products, especially butter and Camembert cheese, as well as seafood and apples, an essential part of Normandy's renowned apple brandy, Calvados. By the way, speaking from experience, sip your "Calva" in moderation and try to limit yourself to just one. If you don't, you'll likely regret it. Big time!

I was also looking forward to a plate of those famous oysters, thick slices of freshly baked French bread to soak up the juices, and last, but certainly not least, a half bottle of Muscadet to wash it all down. Yum — a tasty treat for anyone partial to shellfish!

(As an aside and with sincere apologies to my French-speaking friends, Muscadet is pronounced something like the English (moose-ka-day). It's a dry white wine and an excellent accompaniment to many seafood dishes.)

And so, with that said, it was on to Normandy, the beaches, and the Muscadet!

That day on Omaha Beach was a beauty — not a cloud in the sky. The warm Norman sun felt like a loving, welcoming embrace. The salty breeze drifting in from the English Channel was refreshing. Life was good — almost! The only thing lacking was a friend or two to share it with.

Back in June 1944, it was right here on this very beach where American forces had chosen to land. Now, 18 years later, the wounded, the dead and the diabolical machinery of war had been taken away.

Little evidence remained of the blood bath that had taken place here — just some strands of rusty barbed wire together with a number of those two-tubed life preservers designed to buoy up the assaulting troops. They were scattered about like refuse left behind by some thoughtless beachgoers.

After picking one up to bring home as a souvenir, it was immediately obvious that those years of sun, sea water and shifting sands had taken their toll. Now, it was hardly fit to be on display in a museum somewhere to serve as a reminder of that awful day.

The old photos I had seen of Omaha Beach showed dozens of obstacles placed strategically along the beach to obstruct or even sink incoming landing craft. One type was known as "hedgehogs," made by welding



Pvt. Bill Clark's dog tags were found on this beach.

together lengths of steel bars that vaguely resembled the frame of a native American tepee.

Anchored deep into the seabed, they created a formidable barrier to both light and medium tanks. At high tide they were invisible and could easily have done serious damage to any landing craft unlucky enough to come in contact with them. They had been dismantled and carried away as scrap. The beach had begun to regain its beauty!

Gone too were the "ramps," logs set at a 45 degree angle pointing out toward the Channel and secured firmly to vertical posts anchored deep into the seabed.

"Belgian Gates," were another danger to incoming landing craft. They were seven by 10 foot steel plates weighing several thousand pounds. The seven-foot ends were firmly supported at the base to survive the ebb and flow of the strong tides. Like the "hedgehogs," they were also invisible at high tide.

Beginning in 1942 German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, his staff, and their troops had designed and constructed these seemingly impenetrable defensive barriers along the coasts of Nazi-occupied Europe to thwart any attempts by the Allied powers, especially England, to halt Hitler's plans to expand his Third Reich throughout Europe. They formed part of what became known as the "Atlantic Wall."

With a copy of Cornelius Ryan's, *The Longest Day* in hand I picked a spot to relax and read his fictional account of the landing. The view of the beach was spectacular. Just imagine! Here was a chance to read about the assault on Omaha right where it had

taken place. It was one of those once-in-a-lifetime very special moments.

To my left, the sky-blue waters of the channel; in front, the wide expanse of beach that seemed to stretch on forever; to the right, the towering bluffs overlooking the beach and the channel. What a view there must be from there!

How was it possible that back in June 1944, this gorgeous sight I'm enjoying right now had been the setting of such utter carnage, mayhem and death? It was the very definition of the term surreal.

The place I had picked out to read Ryan's account was just a stone's throw from a reinforced concrete bunker constructed by the German defenders. The concrete surrounding its narrow openings was pockmarked by bullets and shells fired by the incoming troops.

From that bunker the defending troops had a clear field of fire parallel to the water's edge to send streams of machine gun bullets along the beach into the incoming troops.

Further, machine gun fire originating from positions farther down the beach directed back toward my location would have intersected, creating a crisscross effect known in the military as "interlocking fields of fire," an extremely effective defensive tactic.

There's more: machine gunners and riflemen occupying the fortifications on the bluffs overlooking the beach and firing down at the incoming troops struggling across the sand between the water's edge and the seawall directly below would have turned that area into one huge kill zone.

In addition, incoming rounds from mor-

tars strategically placed just behind the German lines and zeroed in on the beaches, together with artillery shells fired from positions hundreds of yards further back, would have added to that hell.

But the situation gets even worse. Before reaching the beach, the landing craft would have had to deal with those “hedgehogs,” ramps, and Belgian gates, all mined with deadly explosives.

Would you want a loved one to run through that?

In the 1950s, my brother-in-law, Bob, and his good friend, Bill Parker, both worked in New York City and lived near each other. In their spare time after work and on the weekends they would work out and swim at a local fitness club.

Bill was a good swimmer — a *really* good swimmer. Especially under water. While serving in the U.S. Navy he had undergone grueling training to become a member of the Navy Combat Demolition Units (NCDU). They were specialists in many areas including the destruction of underwater obstacles prior to amphibious landings. NCDUs were one of the precursors of today’s elite Navy Seals.

In that fitness club there was an olympic-sized swimming pool. Bob would take bets with anyone around on how many lengths of the pool Bill could swim underwater without coming up for air. I forget the exact number, but the short version of the story is that he won all their bets. Word of Bill’s prowess underwater soon got around and that was the end of the betting fun! His training in the NCDUs had paid off!

Months ahead of the invasion the Allied powers began to formulate plans:

- Prior to the landings on Omaha the NCDUs would clear 16, 50-foot wide lanes for the landing crafts approaching the beaches.

-In the waters off the beaches, the U.S. Navy would bombard the German fortifications.

-From the air more than 450 B-24 heavy bombers would release tons of explosives on the fortifications all along the beach. The success of their mission hinged on dropping the bombs right on target. Pinpoint accuracy was the key.

Buena Vista, Tenn., is a small town in Carroll County, roughly 100 miles west of Nashville. William C. Clark was born there in 1927. By the time Bill was in his late teens there was a war going on, actually two — one in Europe, the other in the Pacific.

Like many of his friends, Bill enlisted in



This is Omaha Beach in Normandy, France where Pvt. Bill Clark died on June 6, 1944.

the army and went through infantry training in Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. Soon after, he was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division. Then it was on to England.

Private George H. Burr, also a member of the 116th, describes the crossing and the training that followed:

“My trip to England from the states was very “eventful” . . . I was on the Queen Mary that had been converted into a troop carrier. There were about 11-12,000 troops on board. We did not travel in a convoy, as we would have been a sitting duck. The Queen was so fast that the ships could not keep up with her. She changed course every 3-5 minutes . . . It took five days to cross . . . My unit was stationed in Tidworth. Life was nice in Tidworth and the people were friendly. A town close by was Andover where we went on occasion for a beer and fish and chips. Then we marched on to Andover where we had all kinds of training with heavy and light machine guns . . . The final training was the invasion trials. We practiced landings in a place called Slapton Sands. We went out on big boats and practiced going down the cargo nets into the landing craft that would carry us to the shore . . .”

The NCDUs had been tasked with clearing sections of the beach for the incoming landing craft. Although the teams succeeded in neutralizing many of those obstacles, some survived. As a result, numerous landing craft were disabled or destroyed and many of the assaulting troops became casu-

alties.

The duration of the naval bombardments was judged to be too short. Although successful in some locations along the beach, they were less effective in others. One of them was Omaha Beach.

That fateful morning there were clouds in the skies above Omaha. In an effort to avoid hitting the troops approaching the beaches, the bombardiers delayed by seconds the release of their deadly bomb loads. Those few seconds proved to be disastrous. All but three of the bombs fell harmlessly behind the German fortifications. They remained intact. The defenders now prepared for an onslaught.

Private Bill Clark and his fellow soldiers were hunkered down in their landing craft heading toward Omaha Beach. In a short time they would attempt to run through those deadly kill zones.

The following narratives are vivid personal accounts of the assault. They are excerpts of After Action Reports and are both graphic and violent, much like the opening scenes of the movie “Saving Private Ryan.” Some readers may want skip ahead to the closing paragraphs.

I have made several minor changes to improve readability. For example, some readers may not understand abbreviations like “HQ,” short for “Headquarters”; otherwise grammar and spelling mistakes remain. Keep in mind that the reports were often hastily written under stressful conditions.

Major Chase R. Cawthorn, Commander of the Headquarters Company of the Second Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, is one of those voices from Omaha:

(We) landed at the right end of Dog Red Beach at exactly H hour plus 30. This was its proper area, but the boats which were supposed



Pvt. Bill Clark

to have landed on this beach 30 minutes earlier had landed elsewhere. Consequently, Hq (Headquarters) was the first group to move into this part of the beach. Looking forward from the boats, the men saw nothing untoward.

They were no troops ahead of them. The sand was perfectly smooth. They

heard few of the sounds of battle. The top of the height was covered by smoke but even this was not particularly alarming. Confidence grew, the nearer that they came to the beach . . .

The ramps were dropped. The men began to move out. Then bullet fire began to cut into them. Those who had already started forward in some cases tried to find refuge behind the tanks, and as with "H," found that they had simply made themselves targets for the artillery. Perhaps 20 to 30 men so refuged; the tanks were standing out in about 2 feet of water, looking for targets on the hill, and were convenient to their purpose. Chaplain Reed, with 7 of the men, got behind one tank. Reed stood between the tank and the trailer. Suddenly the tank started away. Reed's leg was caught under the track of the trailer and badly injured. Before he could move, or the other men break away from where they were standing, an artillery shell burst over them. One large shard from it cut half S/Sgt. Arthur Woods' neck away and he fell flat on his face, killed instantly. Several of the other men were struck. Reed started crawling inshore, dragging the wounded leg. The tide was now racing in. He found that by crawling as fast as possible, he could just keep up with the tide.

Others were dropping as they came off the boats or tried to get across the sands. The Battalion S3, Captain Sherman Burroughs, fell dead from bullet fire as he left his boat. Captain Robert DeWitt, Bn (Battalion) Surgeon, fell with shrapnel wounds in his face and leg. The

ranks were thinned mainly in the interval of passage from the boats to the sands. Major Sydney Bingham, Battalion Comm (Commander), led the main body forward to the sea wall.

(Bingham was already on the beach.) There the CP (command post) was set up, and there the main elements of Headquarters remained all day "pinned by fire". Although automatic and artillery fire harassed them at times, it was the ubiquity of sniper fire which was the chief cause of the immobilization of the personnel. (Five of the medics had been killed getting off the boats.) At about 0900, Captain Cawthorn, commander of Headquarters Company was giving an order to two of his men to move against a sniper whom he had located in a building just off the beach when a piece of shrapnel went through both cheeks. Because he was talking and had his mouth open, the fragment missed his jaw. The blood continued to drip down his face and over his shirt from the wound, but he remained with the Company and continued to lead it. The men moved forward with the rest of the Battalion late in the evening.

Private Harold Baumgarten:

As we approached the beach, bullets started hitting our boat. The Company B boat on our left was hit by a shell and blew up. The splintered wood, metal, and body parts were raining down on us from about fifteen feet above. Our young British sailor wanted to drop the ramp in twenty-foot-deep water and motor away. Lieutenant Donaldson pulled out his Army

Colt 45, pointed it at the frightened seaman, and bellowed, "Take us all the way in." . . . Finally, the boat stopped, and the front ramp went down in neck-deep water. German MG 42 machine guns were trained on our ramp opening as I stepped forward to leave the craft. The water was bright red, from the blood of some of those who had been in front of me. Lieutenant Donaldson was killed immediately, Claris Riggs was machine gunned on the ramp, and then fell headfirst into the bloody water . . . On leaving the ramp a bullet creased the top of my helmet. About 300 yards straight ahead was a 20-25 foot high cobble (shale) stone seawall. There was barbed wire on its top. Looming above this wall was a bluff that rose up another 75 feet, and had enemy positions (trenches) hidden in it. There was about 200 yards of dry sand leading before it with "ramps" and "hedg-hogs," which were all mined.

Private Harold L. Grosser:

The first ramps were dropped at 0630 in water that was waist-deep to over a man's head. As if this had been the signal for which

the enemy had waited, the ramps were instantly enveloped in a crossing of automatic fire which was accurate and in great volume. It came at the boats from both ends the beach . . .

Finally, T/5 Tom Breedin:

Within 20 minutes of striking the beach, "A" company had ceased to be an assault company and had become a forlorn little rescue party bent on survival and the saving of lives. Orders were no longer given by anyone . . .

Bill Clark was in that first wave of troops. He was one of the many soldiers of the 116th Infantry Regiment to die that bloody morning.

Records indicate that during the assault on that heavily defended part of the beach, Bill sustained multiple wounds from machine gun bullets and shrapnel from mortars.

William B. Clark, from Buena Vista, Carroll County, Tennessee, was just 20 years old. He didn't even get into the fight.

In 2002, 58 years after the battle, one of his dog tags was found on the stretch of beach that had been designated "Dog Red," perhaps very close to where he had fallen.

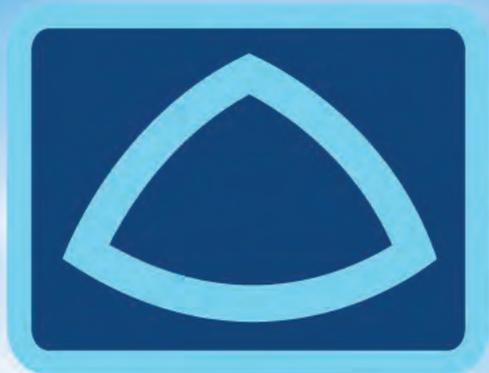
Today many visitors to the American Cemetery on the bluff overlooking Omaha Beach are struck by the beauty and sense of calm that pervades that hallowed ground. Standing perfectly straight in neat rows like soldiers on parade is a sea of pure white Lasa marble crosses and Stars of David, the final resting place of more than 9,300 American men and women who lost their lives during the Battle of Normandy, June 6 to late August 1944.

After the war ended in 1945, families from neighboring towns and villages would come to pay their respects to the fallen Americans, who, at the time of their deaths, may well have been too young to vote or buy a drink in a local bar back home.

During my time in Paris I learned that many of those families had "adopted" one of those soldiers who then became, in spirit at least, one of their very own, a revered and beloved member of their family. On occasion they would return to place a flower on the grave, a gesture of respect and appreciation for their sacrifice.

Here's Bill's last address:

William B. Clark, Pvt, H Company, 2nd Battalion, 116th IR, 29th Infantry Division C/O The Normandy American Cemetery Plot B, Row 12, Grave 45
14710 Colleville-sur-Mer, France



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from "Mastering the Grill: The Owner's Manual for Outdoor Cooking" (Chronicle Books), by Andrew Schloss & David Joachim

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1/2 TEASPOON GROUND BLACK PEPPER
OIL FOR COATING GRILL GRATE
12 SLICES GOOD-QUALITY AMERICAN, PROVOLONE, OR CHEDDAR CHEESE (OPTIONAL)
6 HAMBURGER BUNS, SPLIT

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Heat the grill to 425° for gas grills, or achieve light ash for charcoal or wood. Using your hands, mix the beef, water, ketchup, and pepper in a bowl until well blended; do not overmix. Using a light touch, form into 6 patties no more than 1 inch thick. Refrigerate the burgers until the grill is ready. Brush the grill grate and coat it with oil. Put the burgers on the grill, cover and cook for 7 minutes, flipping after about 4 minutes, for medium-done (slightly pink). Add a minute per side for well-done. If you are making cheeseburgers, put 2 slices of cheese on each burger 1 minute before the burgers are going to be done. To toast the buns, put them cut-side down directly over the fire for the last minute of cooking. If serving the burgers directly from the grill, serve on the buns. If the burgers will sit, even for a few minutes, keep the buns and the burgers separate until just before eating.

The best garnishes for burgers are the classics: a slice of ripe beefsteak tomato, a mound of sautéed onions, a leaf of romaine lettuce, a dollop of coleslaw, or a few slices of dill pickles.



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Local Businesswoman Vowed to Make a Difference

pamelaMIRABELLA
DWT Contributor

Toni Smith, CEO of Premier Health Care in Bartlett, decided to make a difference after witnessing folks lined up outside of a Memphis church waiting to be fed. She knew she had to be the change and decided to do something about it.

Recalling the day vividly, Smith began, "Upon the onset of COVID-19, I witnessed people in the Memphis downtown area standing outside of a local church waiting to be fed. At first I didn't know why there were people outside of the church on a Saturday with grocery baskets and old clothing strewn across them. My husband and I decided to circle back around the area. We later saw those same people get into a single-file line. There were other people who had trays of what appeared to have been food. Still curious, we circled around again and sure enough there were people who came from inside the church carrying bread and other food items and they began to feed those who were in line. At that very moment I turned to my husband and said we needed to make a difference and give back now."

Smith went to work. She started making and baking items on her off time of her home health agency. She said, "The cakes I bake and candles I make are going to

help feed a hungry family. This could be any one of us standing in that line waiting to be fed."

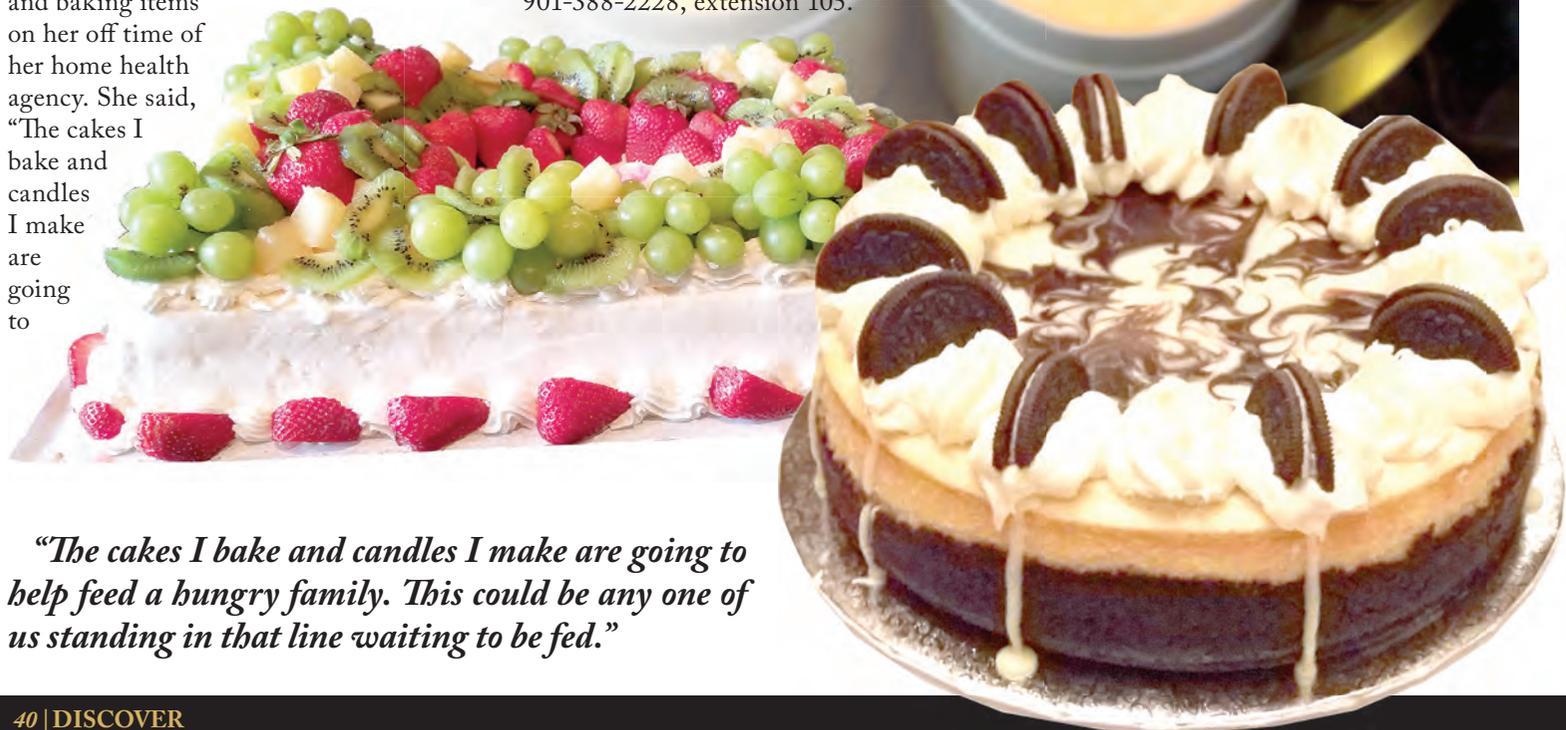
Smith and her husband were moved by the realization that the Pandemic could prove devastating to anyone at anytime.

She explained, "It has no regard for race, ethnic background or financial status. People were losing their jobs and their homes and the lives of their loved ones. I immediately started baking my cakes. Some were specialty cakes and others your run-of-the-mill cakes your grandmother used to bake. We called them *Pattie Cakes* after my mother, Patricia."

Smith furthered, "We donate 100 percent of the proceeds to the Union Mission. This year we have added my candles, body butters and fragrance sprays. The line of candles, body butters and fragrance sprays is T K Collections, which stands for *THANKFUL KIND*. We have now moved the cakes and candles under the same umbrella."

Smith said she just wanted to make a difference. Thanks to her generosity, she did just that.

For more information about T K Collections and how to get involved, reach out to Smith at Premier Health Care, by calling 901-388-2228, extension 105.



"The cakes I bake and candles I make are going to help feed a hungry family. This could be any one of us standing in that line waiting to be fed."



EMS Medical of Bartlett joined The Southern Axe for a team-building event.



The Southern Axe's first axe throwing league

Taking Aim at a Dream

pamelaMIRABELLA
DWT Contributor

Chris Newberry and his wife, Natalie, always dreamed of opening their own business, they were always just looking for the right place and time.

Newberry said, “We were always too scared to pull the trigger on our business, but after relocating to Bartlett, it just seemed to fit.”

Newberry said that after his mother-in-law relocated to Bartlett to be near family, he and Natalie decided to do the same. That was the first step in their dream coming true.

Second step was while in Las Vegas, Nev. for their anniversary, the couple saw an axe throwing place and decided to give it a try.

He recalled, “The very first time we landed the axe in the target we were hooked.”

The final step was a few months after returning home, the Newberrys joined friends at an axe throwing spot in Memphis proper.

“After our second time going we decided to open our own.” “We decided that we wanted something to do out this way, so did the other people on this end of the county. We decided to open *The Southern Axe*, an axe throwing business in Oakland for its close proximity to Arlington, Lakeland, and Bartlett giving those com-

munities something away from downtown as well. We started building our store in the middle of March of 2020, just before COVID-19 was a threat and then opened the doors for business on May 15 of the same year.”

Soon after opening the couple found out they were pregnant with their first child after 12 years of marriage. That gave them another idea: gender reveal axe throwing events. And as of April of this year, *The Southern Axe* is mobile.

Newberry said, “We offer multiple discounts for first responders and group rates for all sizes. Axe throwing isn’t just about competition, it’s about bringing people together in a unique way. Everyone can throw axes with a little help from our AXEperTs. Our mobile axe throwing trailer can be rented for team building events, promotional events, weddings, birthdays, or just this summers BBQ with friends.”

Newberry said they are currently looking to expand into a larger store where they will offer live music, bar style food, and a small bar serving local and domestic beer and wine.

“I recently told my job that I was leaving to pursue my business full time in order to ensure we succeed. I welcome folks to give us a call and get-to-axe-throwing. It is truly a great time.”

For more information, check out thesouthernaxe.com or call 901-644-2948.



Chris and Natalie Newberry



The Southern Axe mobile trailer



Atoka Photographer SaDabrie Taylor Makes Connections and Captures Your Best Memories

echoDAY
DWT Contributor

When he first started shooting weddings, photographer SaDabrie Taylor was surprised by the close relationships between the brides and their fathers.

The fathers' reactions to their daughters is one of the things he enjoys capturing most.

"I've seen it in movies, but to actually see a father cry when he sees his daughter for the first time ... that's something that really surprised me."

Born and raised in Covington, and a member of Covington High School's Class of 2007, Taylor's journey to becoming one of the most promising rising stars in wedding photography began in 2013 with videography.

"In 2017 I started doing it professionally, then in 2018 I went into the photography area ... and I fell in love with it."

Since then he has honed his craft and expertly makes connections with his subjects, so much so that their expressions are clearly understood as genuine, and not for show, when observed.

It's not an easy thing to do and it's not something Taylor takes lightly.

When he shows up to shoot a wedding he isn't there to just snap photos for albums.

"I'm there to capture the day," he said, reiterating his motto. "I'm here to capture your love, laughter and happily ever after."

He didn't hesitate when asked about his favorite part of the weddings he shoots.

"The kiss! Every time I post a picture of

the kiss and the ceremony it gets so much love on social media. There have even been times when the groom or the bride will be too shy to kiss in front of everybody. I ask them to redo it ... and the crowd gets a laugh out of it. They'll kiss, then they'll come down the aisle walking. It's successful."

The bouquet toss is also a fun tradition he loves photographing.

"The women are more energetic than the men when the men throw the garter," he said. "I've had bridesmaids and family just falling out trying to catch the bouquet ..."

Taylor also likes to interact with the bride, groom and their guests for the best results. The photos are better that way and so is the business.

"When I'm at the wedding I kind of



become family,” he said. “After the wedding I probably book clients just based on how I interact with everyone. That’s what makes me stand out.”

Taylor is passionate about capturing big moments and small moments and understands sometimes that’s what’s left after loved ones have died.



SaDabrie Taylor, a native of Covington, is an Atoka-based wedding and portrait photographer.

His parents, Bruce Moore and Jacklyn Moore, passed away in 2019 and 2020, but he’s comforted in knowing they were able to see some of his biggest moments, like living his dreams.

“Before they passed they got

to see me at work doing photography. I got married in 2017; they both were there and they saw some of my special moments.”

Taylor wants to help preserve your memories, like your interactions with family members. Even the ones you don’t realize he’s noticed.

He loves the look on his clients’ faces when they see their photos.

“Seeing the clients’ reaction afterwards with what they receive and me catching the



special moments that they didn’t know I captured.”

Taylor is based in Atoka where he and his wife, Katrena, are raising their children,

Gabriella, Carlos and Zaylen.

To book him, visit <https://www.facebook.com/sadabrietaylorphotography>.



A. Schwab Dry Goods

Memphis's Oldest General Store Still Offering Up Souvenirs, Glimpse Into History

Part souvenir shop and part museum, A. Schwab on Beale Street has something for every tourist and homegrown Memphian. With the maxim, "If you can't find it at Schwab's, you're better off without it," Jewish

immigrant Abraham Schwab opened his store at 163 Beale Street in 1876.

Over its 145-year history, A. Schwab has become a local institution that has been beloved for generations. An "authentic mercan-

tile experience" greets visitors from around the world.

At A. Schwab, customers can find everything ranging from cast iron skillets and stick horses to old-fashioned candy and

ukuleles. The eclectic merchandise reflects the Delta region, music, local culture and history.

A. Schwab even offers a classic soda bar, with syrups that are made in-house. There are also gelatos, shakes, malts, floats, ice cream sodas and sundaes.

A. Schwab's original hardwood floors, antique pine display tables (built in the alley behind Beale Street), vintage merchandise, and family history have always made it one-of-a-kind.

In 1874, Schwab fled Alsace Loraine, France to avoid conscription into the German army after the Franco-Prussian War.

He landed in New Orleans and, after running out of money, joined family in Memphis.

He partnered with the Hirsch family to open a "Boots and Shoe Company" at 66 Beale in 1876. For context, during that same year, Alexander Graham Bell made the first successful telephone call, and Wild Bill Hickok, American gunfighter and entertainer, was shot and killed.

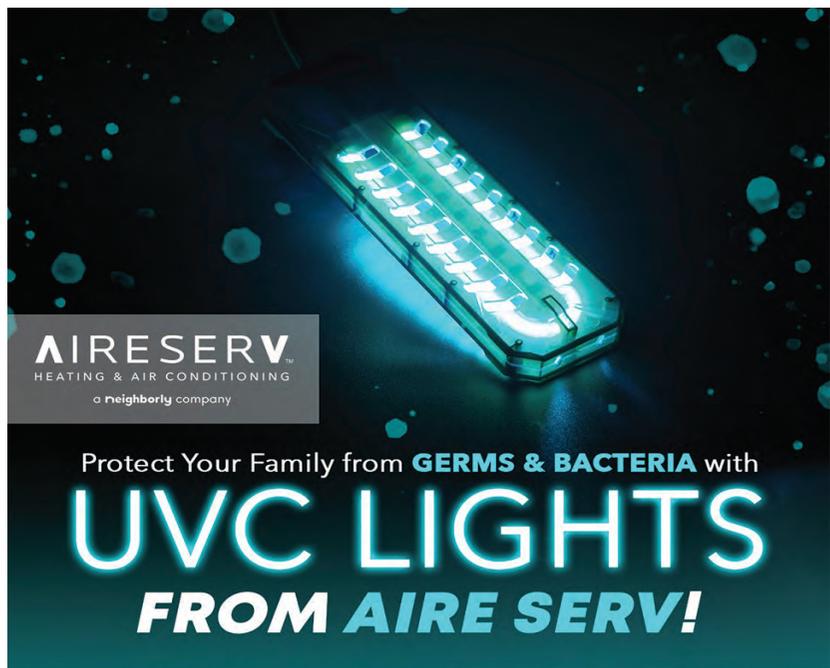
Eventually, the store expanded its offerings to include basic clothing, housewares, and hardware.

The families parted ways, and A. Schwab moved to 149 Beale. In 1911, the store relocated to the first floor of 163 Beale. Abraham's sons Sam, Elias and Leo continued the operation of the store.

Sam's daughter, Eleanor Schwab Braslow, and Elias's son, Abram Schwab, succeeded them in the next generation. From her perch on the mezzanine of the store, Eleanor Braslow served as the buyer for the store, paying close attention and adapting to changes in the marketplace.

Her cousin, Abram Schwab, became the face of the store, leading tours and enthusiastically relaying the store's rich history. Abram's son, Elliott, continued managing the store in the next generation, and his sister, Beverly, worked at the store off and on for years; she remains involved today. Eleanor Braslow's sons, Sam and Marvin, had other careers, but participated in operations on a part-time basis. Sam's son, Joseph, became the fifth generation to join the business. As the street prospered during the first quarter of the century, so did A. Schwab.

The store's footprint expanded to the second floor of 163 Beale and then into the building next door at 165 Beale in 1924. An addition to the rear of the building created the iconic grand staircase and expanded the space by 20 percent.

A photograph of a rectangular UVC light fixture with multiple glowing tubes, set against a dark background with blue bokeh light effects. Below the image is the Aire Serv logo, which includes the text "AIRE SERV HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING a neighborly company". Below the logo, the text reads "Protect Your Family from GERMS & BACTERIA with UVC LIGHTS FROM AIRE SERV!".

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As the century wore on, A. Schwab remained an anchor in a community that experienced much change; ultimately, it was the only business that survived. In 1974, in the face of dismal traffic, the Schwabs launched the Beale Street Museum showcasing the community's rich heritage.

The extensive collection remains today and includes hand farm implements, primitive washing implements, old bottles and jugs, documents from the 1800s, a carriage warmer, newspaper clippings of significant events, old Blues records, a large plantation bell, and a cornucopia of items that provide glimpses into the history of the Delta.

In the 1980s, the Schwab family played a vital role in the re-launch of Beale Street as an entertainment district. They adapted their merchandise to appeal to tourists while continuing to offer an old-fashioned experience.

In 2011, a new family bought the store (two generations are already involved). "They are dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of the store and telling the story of the street and region through historic artifacts and relevant merchandise."

Hours: Monday - Wednesday from noon - 6 p.m. — Thursday from noon - 7 p.m. — Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. — Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.





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