

DISCOVER

June 2021 - Volume 1 - Issue 7

West Tennessee

Spotlighting
**HENRY
COUNTY**

Getting to know

*Laura
Todd*



A photograph of a man with a beard and a dog sitting in the back of a convertible car. The dog is looking out the window with its tongue out. The background is a blurred forest scene.

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ON THE COVER - Graham Muench, 2, cools off last summer at the Eiffel Tower Splash Pad in Paris, Tennessee. Photo by Crove Media.

DISCOVER

West Tennessee

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Located in the City of Paris, Tennessee, a park full of energy, growth, youth and beauty welcomes locals and guests from around the country to enjoy its unique features. The park is centered around a 60 ft. replica of the Eiffel Tower that comes to life at night with a glow of colored lights.

“Through the work of many people, Eiffel Tower Park has become an economic driver that has significantly increased the quality of life in Paris and Henry County,” commented Travis McLeese, CEO of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce. “I love it when we are in the park and see people stopping to take a selfie with the tower. Believe it or not, people will drive hours out of their way to capture that photo!”

Multiple playgrounds welcome children to swing, slide, run and play, including the newly added BlueCross Healthy Place. It provides over 14,000 square feet of state of the art outdoor recreational and fitness space for Paris residents and guests. Surrounded by a parent walking trail, this 100% handicap accessible space includes sensory features, play area, swing sets, free standing and climbing elements, and a thrive fitness station.

“Several years ago our Commissioners realized the potential of Eiffel Tower Park as an economic driver for our community,” commented Kim Foster, City Manager. “To this end a plan was developed to enhance Eiffel Tower Park and make it a true destination, not only for those within our community, but outside our community as well. I am thrilled to see that plan taking shape. To have two new, all-inclusive play areas this year just makes my heart happy.”

With Kentucky Lake just down the road, water features are a must at Eiffel Tower Park. Twist and turn down the dueling slides that dive into the olympic size swimming pool!

The new splash pad features approximately 12,000 square feet of play area with specific zones for family, teen, and youth (ages 2-5) all including aquatic play equipment with spray cannons and ground sprays.

The new attraction also features a 40-foot tidal tank. The park currently has a replica of the Eiffel Tower which has been a stable attraction to the city for decades. The new Eiffel Tower Splash Park is now the largest non-amusement park splash pad in the state.

The process of developing a park with so many features and attractions is complicated and can take years to accomplish. Foster added “When planning projects for the park we look at what will serve the most people, what do people want in the park and, of course, how can we get the most bang for our buck. We also always look for grant opportunities which will make our budget stretch farther.”

Looking for more? Stroll our three quarters of a mile walking trail, wet a line in our trout pond, or sling a frisbee playing disc golf. Concerts, family reunions, birthday parties and more can all be found throughout the year.

Tony Lawrence, Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Paris commented, “We are not done. Once we finish the playground, we will be developing four new pickleball courts. I am thankful for our City Manager, City Commissioners and Parks Board Members for their trust, and investment in these projects.”

Whether it's quiet family walks or romping in the splash park, Eiffel Tower Park has activities for all ages. From the youngest to the oldest, there is something for everyone.



For more information on the park, booking, hours of operation and more...
visit www.paristn.gov, follow us on social media, or call (731) 644-2517.







Kids enjoy the Eiffel Tower Splash Park in Paris.

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Evie Grace



Josh McKee



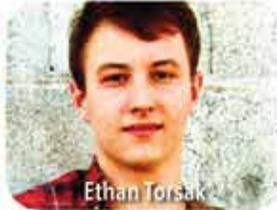
Olivia Faye



The Oak Ridge Boys



Ray Lewis Band



Ethan Torsak



Hotwired



The After Dark Band feat. Nikki Bobo



24 Seven



Darryl Worley



Candi Wilente



Britnee Kellogg



Leight July



Johnny Mac

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THURSDAY.....JUNE 17

6:00PM	The Oak Ridge Boys, <i>Evie Grace</i>	Downtown Paris	Free Admission
7:00PM	Josh McKee	Blues Landing	Free Admission

FRIDAY.....JUNE 18

11:00AM	Ethan Torsak, Ray Lewis Band	Ace's Restaurant	Free Admission
7:00PM	The Paula Bridges Band	Eiffel Tower Park	Free Admission
7:30PM	Songwriters Round: Mark Nesler, Lance Miller, Sydney Mack, Chandler Stephens	Blues Landing	Free Admission
9:00PM	Levon, <i>Olivia Faye</i>	The Breakers	\$10 Cover

SATURDAY.....JUNE 19

2:00PM	Matt Boone	The Breakers	Free Admission
4:00PM	Diamond Rio, Darryl Worley <i>Johnny Mac, 24 Seven</i>	Paris Landing State Park	\$25 GA \$75 VIP
7:00PM	Hotwired, Leight July	Blues Landing	Free Admission
8:00PM	The After Dark Band Feat. Nikki Bobo	The Breakers	\$10 Cover
9:00PM	Candi Wilette	LL's Bar & Grill	\$15 Cover

SUNDAY.....JUNE 20

11:00AM	Britnee Kellogg	Marker 66	Free Admission
4:00PM	The Trace	The Breakers	Free Admission
5:00PM	Bethel Univeristy Alumni: Mandi Thomas, Cherry Avenue, James Mays	Blues Landing	Free Admission

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TENNESSEE RIVER JAM

PARIS, TENNESSEE
JUNE 17-20, 2021



TN
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Meet a West Tennessee Artist:

Evie Grace

Evie Grace, a vibrant 18 year old from Memphis, Tennessee, will kick off the 2021 Tennessee River Jam as she opens for a vocal group with some of the most distinctive harmonies and recognizable songs in the music business, the Oak Ridge Boys.



Heading to Belmont University to study songwriting and music production at the end of the summer, Evie is making her way into the industry with her unique sound and creative lyrics.

Evie is no stranger to Kentucky Lake. Her first single, Lake Days, describes growing up on Kentucky Lake and listening to one of her favorite "lake artists" Johnny Mac, who is also playing during the 2021 Festival.

To hear a recent clip of Evie and learn more about her, follow the Tennessee River Jam Facebook page and find her LIVE video interview with clips of her singing.





KENTUCKY LAKE

SEES SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN FISHING TOURNAMENTS

Fishing is a time honored tradition that is passed down from generation to generation on Kentucky lake. Professional anglers have traveled from all over the country for many years to compete for the top spot. Families have planned vacations, invested in seasonal homes, and made memories that will last a lifetime, all centered around this body of water.

For the past several years, Asian Carp have wreaked havoc on its ecosystem, resulting in significant damage to the fishing industry. Thankfully through the work of many people and organizations the lake is rebounding.

Through a combination of building a commercial market for Asian Carp and restocking the lake with Florida Bass fingerlings, the weights of recent fishing tournaments prove that efforts to improve the ecosystem are working.

Wade Middleton, Director of the Association of Collegiate Anglers and President of CarecoTV, commented "The Association of Collegiate Anglers has hosted two major collegiate events at Kentucky Lake in the past year, and at each tournament the anglers have experienced great fish catching opportunities out on this Tennessee River impoundment. Through each of the big bass format events we weighed in over 400 fish combined with a good quantity of bass in the three to six pound class range. One event was contested in the fall and the other during the spring, and no matter the conditions presented at the time every angler in the field reported getting a lot of bites all across this great fishery."

He added "It's apparent that the eradication efforts to lower the Asian Carp population are starting to gain some traction. Catch rates are starting to bounce back and anglers are not seeing as many Asian Carp as in the past. It's hopeful that the efforts will continue to be a focus so that this fishery can continue to rebound."

The stocking program is a three year project that began in 2020 under the leadership and vision of former Henry County Mayor, Brent Greer. In its entirety, 900,000 fingerlings will be placed in the lake with the hopes that they grow to 12-14 inches at their maturity.

Also commenting on the improvements was James Bryant, owner of American Crappie Trail, "There was a strong positive message from our staff and our anglers concerning the condition of the fishery along with a great showing of healthy fish including a fish on camera at 2.86 pounds."





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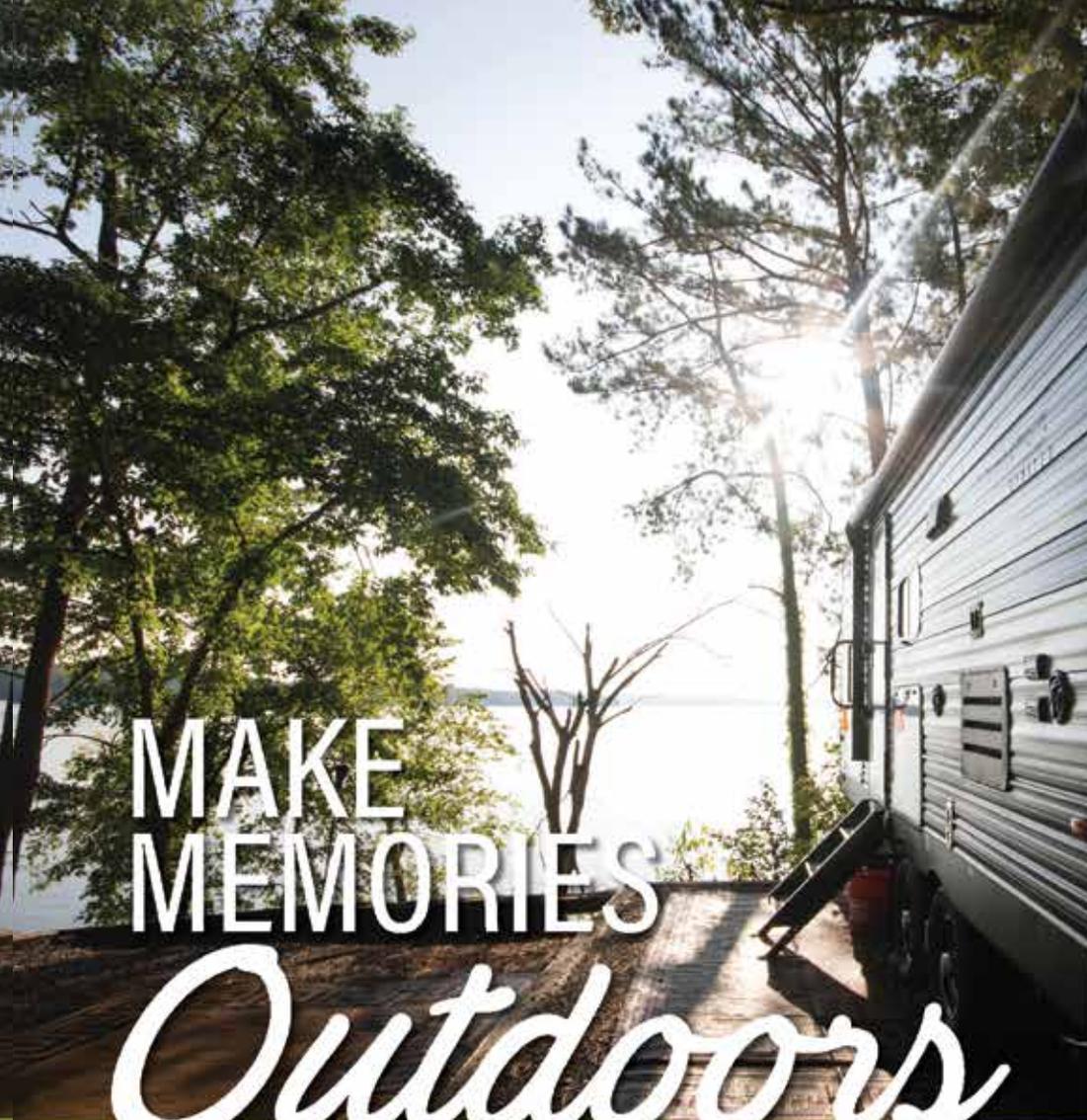
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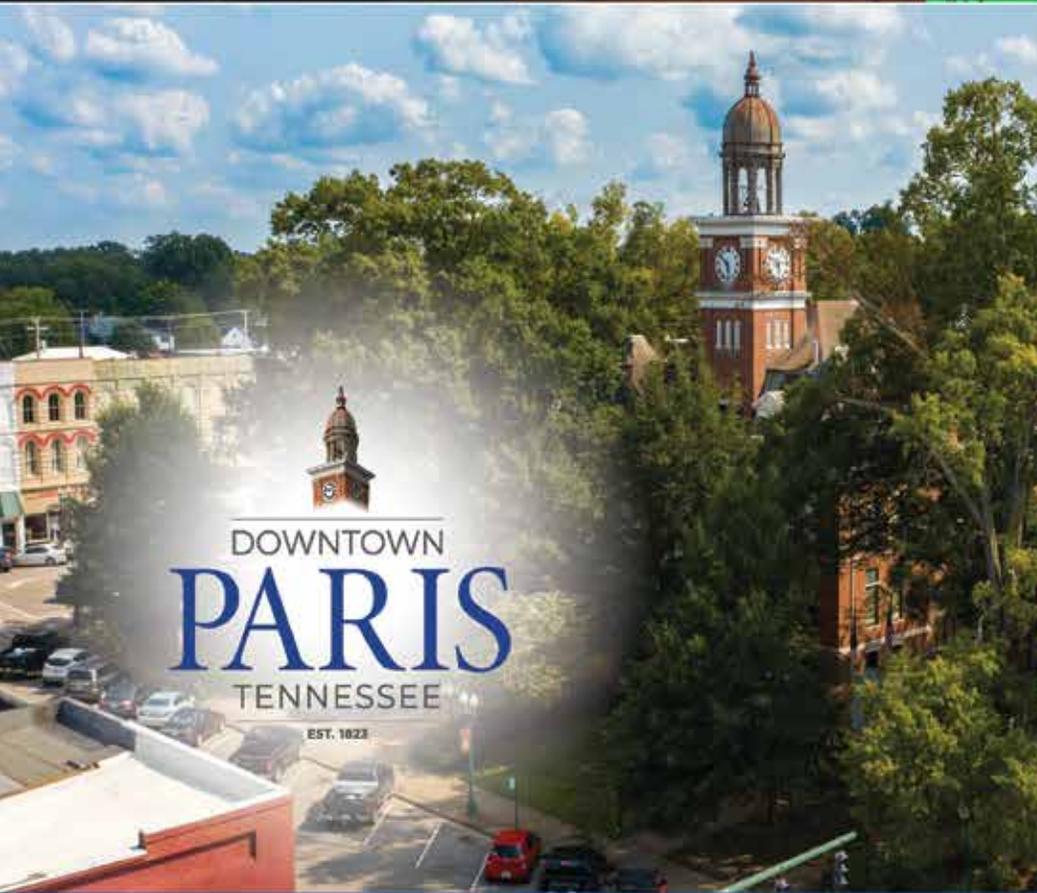
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Historic Downtown Paris

susanCorbin
DWT Contributor

When pioneers first arrived in Paris in 1820 there wasn't any town. It was wild. When a baby would cry in the night, the panthers would answer. The town square you see now was nothing but a bunch of wild pea vines and yellow poplar trees. Pretty soon more people began to show up and started settling down. The next fall Paris was to become a county.

In 1821 The General Assembly in Nashville appointed three of its members as commissioners in charge of selecting county seats for four newly established counties including Henry County. After the land was purchased the county court appointed five local commissioners. Their job was to lay off the town with the necessary streets at least 96 feet wide, reserving the center lots for a public square where a courthouse and stockyard could be built. They laid 104 lots

in the thick forest that would soon become the town. To choose a name for the county seat the five commissioners each scratched his choice on a piece of paper and dropped it in a hat. Paris was the name pulled from that hat.

But then again, another theory as to choosing the name was that James Leeper was one of those commissioners that were chosen to pick a name. James thought a lot of the French General Lafayette for helping our country during the American Revolution and he wanted to honor him somehow, so he put the general's name in the hat. Well, that name got drawn, but no one was for certain if the spelling was correct, so instead of the town's name spelled incorrectly, they settled on Paris, since most likely the General was from somewhere around there anyway.

It was said that no less than 300 intelligent, enterprising, well-dressed and quite sober men were in attendance that spring

day in 1823 when the lots, measuring 112 square feet, were auctioned off. Before the year was out, the little town of Paris had become the first town in West Tennessee to incorporate. It had five stores, four taverns, and a courthouse.

The new courthouse was made of popular logs and consisted of two small rooms divided by a covered opening. Court was held in the north room and some enterprising Parisian sold pies and liquor in the south room. That courthouse only lasted two years. In 1825 the county built a two-story brick courthouse.

The following year the citizens of Paris were treated to one of life's true pleasures, a local newspaper. Paris' first paper, *The West Tennessean* began publication the day after Christmas in 1826.

Two years later, in December of 1828, *The West Tennessean* announced the birth of Dr. and Mrs. Porter's baby, James Davis Porter.

By 1833 there were approximately 800

people living in Paris. They were making a living doing everything from saddle making to ginning cotton to making hats.

That same year, 1833, something special happened when a 15-year-old boy moved to Paris to join his older brother. By the mid 1840's the young man had a successful law practice, a new home just off the square, and a wife who would bear him eight children.

In 1846 Tennessee's Democratic Party was pondering over who would be this area's nominee for the State Senate. The young man, in his late twenties, advised the gentlemen to settle their differences or he would run himself. The boy's name was Isham Green Harris and although he didn't realize it at the time, he was headed for the highest office in the state during the stormiest period in Paris' history.

The first bank in Paris was called the Bank of Paris and citizens were proud of their new financial institution, but times got hard as war clouds gathered and in 1857 the bank closed its doors.

Isham G. Harris was elected Governor of the State of Tennessee. Although Harris and his family had moved to Memphis in 1853, we still claimed him as Paris' own. In those days a governor's term lasted only two years. Harris was elected to his third term in the fall of 1861, just months after Tennessee voted to secede from the Union. The next year the Union Army occupied Middle and West Tennessee, and Harris was forced to flee the state.

He joined the Confederate Army of Tennessee and fought in numerous battles. Then, to keep the Yankees from taking our state treasury, Harris and his wife packed up all the funds (approx. \$60,000 worth) and took them to Mexico in barrels along with boxes of household goods.

There were 2,000 people living in Paris by the time the Civil War broke out in 1861, James Davis Porter was a grown man of 33 and enlisted as an Adjutant General by Governor Harris.

The coming of the Civil War had a tremendous effect upon the local citizens. Calls were made for men to assemble on the courthouse lawn to organize Confederate regiments. The day the Fifth Regiment, Tennessee Infantry was permanently organized was a Monday, May 20, 1861. From every direction the crowds poured into the county seat. The company criers mounted the iron fence around the courthouse and yelled "Oh yes! Oh yes! All that belongs to Captain Caldwell's Company parade here!

Parade here!"

By this time the L&N Railroad was running through Paris, so the troops left by rail atop flat-cars with seats made of crossties. So many of our boys volunteered that our county was given the title: Volunteer County of the Volunteer State.

The fighting reached Paris about a mile west of town on March 11, 1862. Ulysses S. Grant ordered Union soldiers to Paris because so many men were being enlisted in the Confederate army here.

The Battle of Paris lasted only a short time as the Federals retreated back to Paris Landing. But Paris was eventually occupied by the Yankees who took over our courthouse and hotel for their sick and wounded. Finally, in the spring of 1865 the war came to an end.

The entire nation was busy mending its people and their spirits. A new paper had started up titled *The Weekly Intelligencer*. But just as Paris was beginning to get back on its feet, a devastating event occurred.

It was a spring day in 1873, May 7th. The merchants were busy. At Mr. Trevathan's drug store an elderly farmer was purchasing some liniment. His mule and buggy were parked outside.

By nightfall the entire scene was nothing but rubble. The west side of the square had been consumed by a relentless fire that left nothing standing.

As new buildings began to be constructed on the west side of the square good things began to happen. The very next year, the summer of 1874, James D. Porter received the Democratic nomination for governor and won. He was elected to a second two-year term in 1877.

Meanwhile a young man had moved to town and became a clerk and pharmacist in a local drug store. Before the year was over he had talked the owners into selling him the pharmacy. Edwin Wiley Grove was in his mid-twenties when he purchased the pharmacy, and he was just scraping by. But he had an idea. (On the third storefront from the left, on the north side of the square) 118 West Washington St... is the building.)

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At this time Malaria, a disease carried by mosquitoes, was killing and disabling thousands of men, women and children in the South. The disease was rampant worldwide. Although modern science knew that quinine was an effective remedy, it was so bitter tasting that many patients preferred the disease to this medicine.

E.W. knew that if he could concoct tasteless quinine, his fortune would be made. Late into the night he'd work in the basement of the little pharmacy. At times the fumes coming up from there would send a man for cover. But after several years his perseverance paid off and Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic was born.

With the assistance of a few friends on little capital, Grove began the Paris Medicine Company and thanks to his chill tonic the venture was a huge success. People who had purchased just a few dollars of stock made a fortune.

Until 1881 children in Paris who received formal education were taught at home by tutors or governesses while some attended private schools. But in 1881 public education, first through eighth grade, became available to all the youngsters of Paris. No longer did a child have to be born with the silver spoon in their mouth to receive an education.

This all came to pass in time for these youngsters to learn to read the newest newspaper, *The Paris Post Intelligencer*, a combination of two established papers – *The Post* and *The Intelligencer*.

But unfortunately there was no shortage of news for the new paper, especially in 1884 when fire struck the west side of the square, again. Portions of 118 and 116 North Market were burned leaving three victims deceased.

A fellow was caught under some fallen timbers in one of the stores. No one could

get to him and he was destined to die. A big barrel of molasses fell and broke in the flames. When those molasses covered him, it made him slick enough to ease out from under the heavy beams and get to safety.

In 1891 a new railroad line, the PTA, came to town. At 203 North Fentress stands the old depot. The Paducah, Tennessee, and Alabama was bought out by the NC and St.L. (Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad).

Next to the old depot on the corner of Washington and Fentress was a hotel that served Paris for 84 years. It was a showplace with luxurious dining and ballrooms. Built in 1894 it had 32 rooms and was designed to cater to train passengers. There was fierce competition between the two hotels that were diagonal from each other. The one was called the Caldwell, the other the Greystone.

The Greystone building has a secret in that the old hotel it is hidden inside.

Back in 1910 the Colonial House which stood on the site was purchased by the Maxwells, and they changed the name to the Maxwell House. When the hotel changed owners, the white wooden siding was covered with gray stucco, and christened The Greystone Hotel. But the Maxwell House was not really gone ... just hidden from view.

When the Greystone was built, instead of tearing down the old Maxwell House, Mr. Trovillion simply built around it. Later when he enlarged it, he also had it bricked; pretty much doing away with anything that was gray about the Greystone, but the name stuck.

Through the years the Greystone Hotel, with its fine dining room, was the place to see and be seen. Its banquet hall was home to the most elegant parties in Paris. The highest ranking officials in the state were entertained there. Because portraits of Paris' three governors were displayed in this hall, it was named The Governors Room.

Look down to the end of Washington Street and you can see one of Paris' oldest houses, built in 1875. At 213 West Washington you will see a large building. That's the old Crete Opera House.

The Crete opened on October 1, 1899 with a performance performed by a touring group called the Olympia Opera Company. *The Parisian* said in an article that appeared September 28, 1900, two days before its official opening: "To see this ideal theater building is worth the trip and ticket. Com-

ing inside you see aisles covered with rich velvet carpet, soft and elegant. Two elegant private boxes are located left and right of the stage, hung with oriental drapery. A large and commodious pit is arranged for the orchestra. The latest switchboard can turn on 1,000 brilliant lights. The Crete is easily the equal of any opera house in the South."

The sidewalks around town were still wooden for the most part. And the streets, well, paved streets were still 20 years in the future. But the crosswalks were concrete. It was a big improvement considering the streets were still dirt, or mud, depending on the weather.

When the fourth – and so far final – courthouse was finished, a black wrought iron fence surrounded the lawn. Outside the fence were hitching posts for the horses. The building itself was designed by Rubin Harrison Hunt. He was a Chattanooga architect who designed many of the buildings in that city's historical district.

The interior has been remodeled but the original paneled doors and frame staircase are intact. The historical society has been an active force in restoring period lighting and other elements that will give those who enter a turn of the century feeling. This is one of the oldest working courthouses in the state.

In the main hall you will find the three governor's portraits that once hung in the Governor's room at the Greystone. Historical photographs are also on display in this area.

In 1899, just as it had done in 1873 and 1884, fire swept through the buildings on the west side of the square and burned them all to the ground. But these merchants were resilient. Most of them rebuilt so quickly they were open for the Christmas season.

Standing on the west side of the courthouse lawn, looking at the row of buildings, you can see different names on the very top of the buildings. Although Commercial Bank and Trust Company's name is there, the bank was never in that location; they simply helped build back that section of the square. However, the name TREVATHAN at 106 North Market was the building that George H. Trevathan built following the fire.

Now walk over to the southwest side of the courthouse lawn at the corner of Market and Wood Streets. Just to the left of the post office at 101 West Wood was a fine display of 1960s architecture. In 1902 this was the site of Paris' new city hall. It was a sturdy

two-story structure built of pressed brick.

In 1902 a grand opening with the completion of the new city hall, it was also, unfortunately, the mark of a closing. The Crete Opera House, in less than two years, closed its doors to the art lovers of Paris. Since Paris didn't have a resident company here in town, they had depended on traveling performers.

From here look south toward the horizon. Here you will see a tower rising through the trees. The name of that structure is the Grover Tower Building. It stands not only as a monument of education in our community but also as a reminder of this man's increasing generosity for the citizens of Paris and Henry County. To some it's known as 'the school that came from a bottle.'

In 1899, Dr. E.W. Grove's Paris Medicine Co. was generating close to a half a million dollars a year. Remember, this was back when a dollar was still a dollar. To meet this demand, the business had been moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where a modern plant was installed.

But Dr. Grove did not forget about the little town where he had made his fortune. In 1905 he submitted an offer to the Henry County Quarterly Court stating that if the city and county would buy the land build a high school, he would endow it for \$50,000. He advised the court that interest from this money would be enough to maintain and operate the school which would be the first public high school open for students from the entire county. The cornerstone was laid June 26, 1906 and Grove High School became the only privately endowed high school in the state.

It served the county until 1969 when a consolidated high school was built. Grove Tower became offices for the county board of education, but the rest of the campus is still used as a school. Henry County High School still reaps the benefits of Grove's generosity, but today the endowment is spent on computers and the like. These were things that Dr. Grove could never have imagined during the early 20th century.

Two years later, in 1908, downtown Paris had another building going up, the new post office. Built on the site of the former Carter House Hotel, the new post office was erected and furnished at a cost of approximately \$172,000.

In 1913 downtown received its first moving picture show – the Dixie Theatre. It was where the Episcopal annex currently stands.



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Bo's Extravaganza 'On the Road' visits Benton County

Benton County welcomed Bo's Extravaganza to the community for the weekend of May 21-23 when Birdsong Drive-In, Camden Speedway, and Birdsong Resort & Marina joined forces to host this unique event.

John Schneider, known to many as "Bo Duke" from the hit TV series *Dukes of Hazzard*, said the idea for this event began last year after coming to the Birdsong Drive-In on his tour for the movie *Stand On It*. During a time when many actors and performers were forced out of work due to the COVID-19 pandemic, John and his wife Alicia Allain chose to think outside of the box and adjust their plans for their movie tour.

"I've never been one to let my life get cancelled," Schneider said. "When things started shutting down, we looked for new avenues to connect with our fans and found that possible at the drive-in theatres. People now more than ever, need a way to connect."

It was that realization that got Schneider and Allain thinking on how to go about

bringing people together. Allain, a movie producer with a background in Hollywood, helped brainstorm ideas and soon a plan came together. "*Bo on the Road*" was designed to take the best attractions of rural America and bring them together to be a local draw where communities can reconnect.

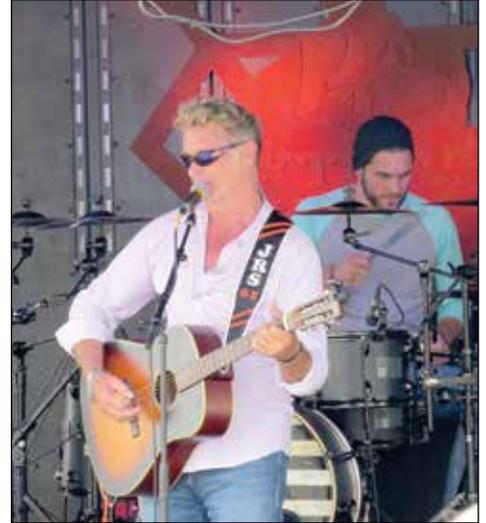
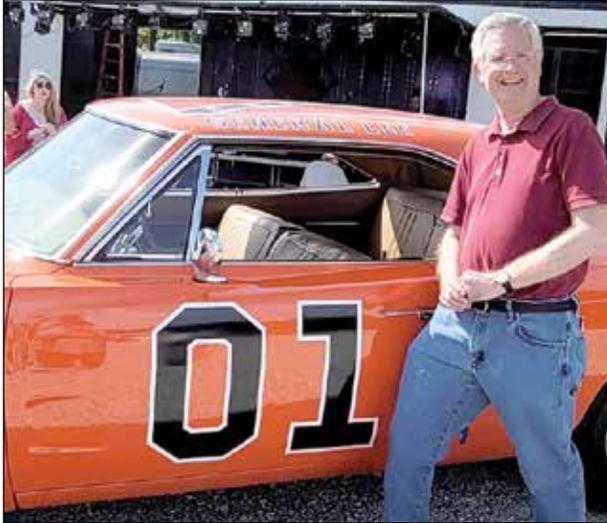
"We travel all across America, and everywhere we go, we see the same thing. Once you get off of the interstate and out of the high-rise cities, folks are still folks, just like they were back in the days of the *Dukes*," Schneider explained. "Deep down, we are all Bo, Luke, and Daisy and all across America you find that we are all living in Hazzard County. We all need each other and depend on family and community to make it through whatever we face."

"When we looked for an area to have this event, Benton County had so much to offer - from the Drive-In, to the Speedway, and the great river activities at Birdsong Resort & Marina! We wanted to connect all these



places, as well as draw in the entire community," Schneider continued. "Bo's Extravaganza was a great weekend full of live music, a drive-in movie, food trucks, carnival rides, racing, boating, and lots of spending for the local economy. Everywhere we go, we want to get people to fall back in love with their home communities - and we knew Benton County is a community worth loving!"

Jon York, owner of Birdsong Drive-In,



worked hard to organize the event, and is excited about how the area benefited from it. “Bo’s Extravaganza was huge for the county, bringing in tourism from all over. Lots of tax dollars came into Benton County just from this one event,” York said. “We plan to do it every year and hope to expand it until it becomes a week-long event that incorporates as many local attractions as possible.”

For those with VIP tickets for the weekend, new RV sites were installed at Birdsong Drive-In so that ticket holders can stay on-site at one of the new 13 sites with electrical hookups. Water is not yet available to these sites.

On Friday, vendors began setting up at 2 p.m., ready for the VIP meet and greet that

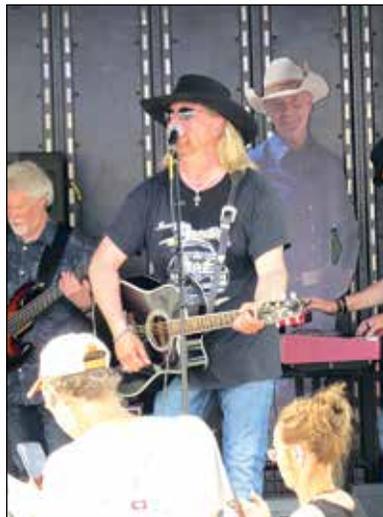
began at 4 p.m. There were opportunities for celebrity autographs, photos, food and craft vendors, and the playing of Schneider’s newest movie, *Stand On It*.

On Saturday, festivities at the Drive-In included a car show in the morning, with a lineup of musical guests starting before lunch. Musicians like Keith Burns, Cody McCarver, John Schneider and the Stars and Bars Band, Clayton Q., Jimmy Dormire, Billy Lord, Cori and Kelly, J. Edwards, and many more took the stage. At 5 p.m. the party moved over to Camden Speedway, where Schneider himself sang the National Anthem and then took part in the dirt track exhibition race in his orange 01 car!

Cowboy Church on Sunday started the day

back at the Drive-In, followed by more live music before the event moved on to Birdsong Resort & Marina for a Boat Parade where Schneider served as Grand Marshall. Many local crafts joined the fun, including the top-ranked Benton County Anglers high school bass fishing team. It was a weekend full of fun for the whole family.

For more information on this event visit www.BosExtravaganza.com. Learn more about what Birdsong Drive-In, Camden Speedway, and Birdsong Resort & Mariana have to offer at their respective websites or Facebook pages. If you visit Benton County, be sure to give one of these great venues a visit.





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Former Huntingdon Mustang, Sadarius Hutcherson

Hutcherson Signs Free Agent Deal with Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Former Huntingdon Mustang and South Carolina Gamecock Sadarius Hutcherson's dream of being drafted by one of the 32 teams in the NFL draft didn't come true last week as seven passed and 259 names were called. Hutcherson, however, can still fulfill the dream of playing in the NFL as the World Champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers signed Hutcherson to an undrafted free agent contract.

It might be déjà vu for Hutcherson, who was not heavily recruited out of high school. But South Carolina and the Gamecocks took a chance, and through hard work Hutcherson became a starter his last three seasons and improved enough to be considered for the NFL draft.

The same opportunity exists for Hutcherson as he will join the Buccaneers for the start of training camp on July 21. NFL

teams traditionally carry eight offensive linemen, and the Buccaneers have one lineman with 11 years of experience and two with seven years in the league. The Buccaneers could decide to go younger if they like what they see in Hutcherson. Also, Hutcherson has shown in college his ability to play more than one position on the offensive line, improving his chances of making the team.



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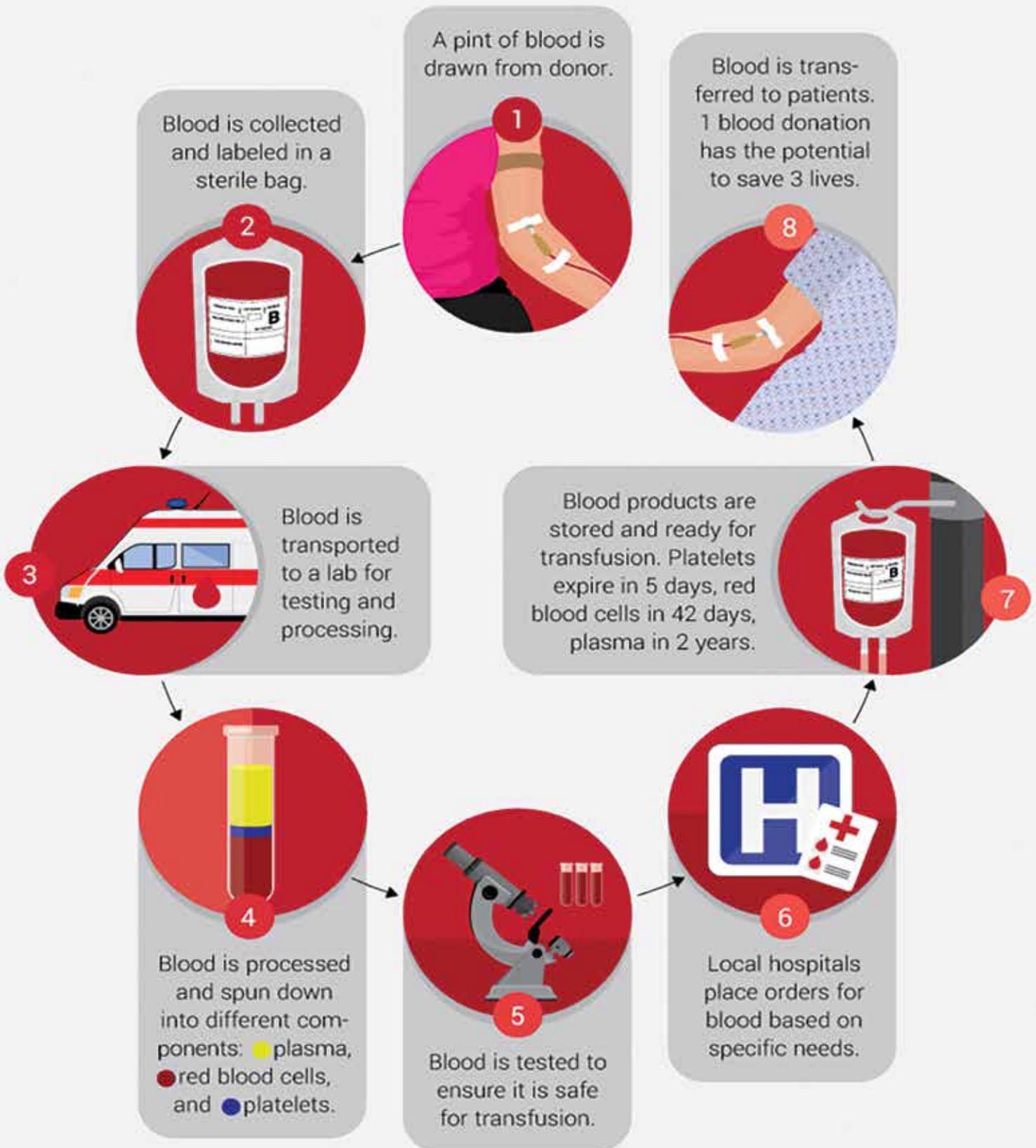
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BLOOD SERVICES

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What Happens to Donated Blood?



Matt Varino Visits LIFELINE Blood Services

LIFELINE Blood Services enjoyed a visit with Matt Varino, Field Representative for Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-TN) on Thursday, April 29. A regular blood donor at LIFELINE, Mr. Varino was curious to learn more about the process of blood banking.

CEO John B. Miller and Marketing Manager Caitlin Roach gave Mr. Varino a tour of the facility, explaining the intricacies of blood banking at LIFELINE. They then discussed various pieces of legislation on track to impact the blood banking industry.

Mr. Varino, who is based in Jackson and has been a donor at LIFELINE for several years, also explained why he feels like donating blood is important.

"Like all of us, I have a lot on my plate," said Mr. Varino. "I work full-time, my wife and I have three daughters, and our family is busy. Donating blood is the easiest way I can think of to volunteer and make a major impact on the lives of people here in West Tennessee."



LIFELINE Blood Services' CEO Named President of America's Blood Centers Board of Directors

LIFELINE Blood Services announced today that president and CEO John B. Miller has been elected president of America's Blood Centers (ABC) Board of Directors for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Mr. Miller holds a Master of Business Administration degree and served on the board of directors of IT Synergistics (ITSY) and the Tennessee Association of Blood Banks (TABB) in addition to the ABC Board, where he has served since 2019. He began his career in blood banking by accepting a summer job delivering blood throughout the eastern part of Texas — something that has turned into a now 27-year career in blood banking.

Founded in 1962, America's Blood Centers is the national organization bringing together community-based, independent blood centers. ABC's member organizations operate more than 600 blood collection sites providing close to 60 percent of the U.S. and a quarter of the Canadian blood supply. These blood centers serve more than 150 million people and provide blood products and services to more than 3,500 hospitals and healthcare facilities across North America. All ABC U.S. members are licensed and regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"It is an honor to be asked to serve in this capacity," said Mr. Miller. "ABC has been a staple in my education and understanding of our industry throughout my career. I have consistently turned to ABC to better understand what is changing and how our industry is evolving. Due to ABC's boisterous presence on



John B. Miller

Capitol Hill, our government better understands the needs of community blood centers and how they [as elected officials] can better help our industry. It is a privilege to be a part of such an important mission." America's Blood Centers provides representation and advocacy on behalf of its member blood centers, ensuring their voices are heard in the development of national health policy and before decisionmakers in federal agencies and the U.S. Congress. ABC also provides its members with a wide variety of resources and programs, including scientific, medical, techni-

cal, quality, and regulatory expertise. Additionally, members receive access to education and networking workshops, publications, sharing of best practices, and benchmarking reports. ABC has been recognized by the U.S. Congress for its critical work in patient care and disaster preparedness and response.

As ABC President, Mr. Miller hopes that "we can continue to communicate our needs to regulators and legislators and provide all community blood centers the opportunities to

grow and prosper while performing our lifesaving missions...We have a more influential and stronger presence when we speak with a united voice."

Mr. Miller is also pleased to represent Jackson, TN and LIFELINE Blood Services at the national blood banking level. "I have come to love the beauty of Jackson, TN more than any other place I have lived," he said. "I am excited to lead America's Blood Centers from here for the next two years."

LIFELINE
BLOOD SERVICES



Getting To Know

Laura Todd

lisaADKINS
DWT Contributor

Laura Todd is a woman who is about making a difference in communities located in West Tennessee. I had the pleasure of interviewing her on the square in Collierville, and she shared, “There are special places in Tennessee, and one of them is right here in Collierville.” She was a local Main Street Director in Collierville, Tennessee for over 15 years. While she was the local Director, Collierville was named the “BEST MAIN STREET IN AMERICA” by *Parade Magazine* in 2014. She shared it was a priceless moment to be very proud of. She also shared “Downtown districts are a special place to enjoy during all the seasons of the calendar year and all the seasons of life.”

One of her fondest projects in Collierville was the development of the grand mural in downtown. Partnerships, along with public

and private investments, made the mural project possible. She gets very excited when she sees the mural in local commercials or in printed ads. Seeing kids or people have their picture made in front of it warms her heart. The mural was not a project that just happened. The mural tells a story. The original vision for the mural was in 2003, but cost was a stumbling block. “It was on the front burner, then the back burner, and I eventually threw it out of the kitchen, but in 2009, I found some funding through a Tennessee Main Street Innovation Grant program. A true partnership was formed with Leadership Collierville and approved by the Town of Collierville Historic District Commission. It happened in 2010 and it’s a great location. The Masonic Lodge was very generous in allowing us to paint on the side of their building. Some private donations were also made to complete the project. Funding from “Pennies for Preservation” was

with the local elementary schools initiative, and contributed as well. It was a great partnership of many efforts. I am so very proud of that mural.”

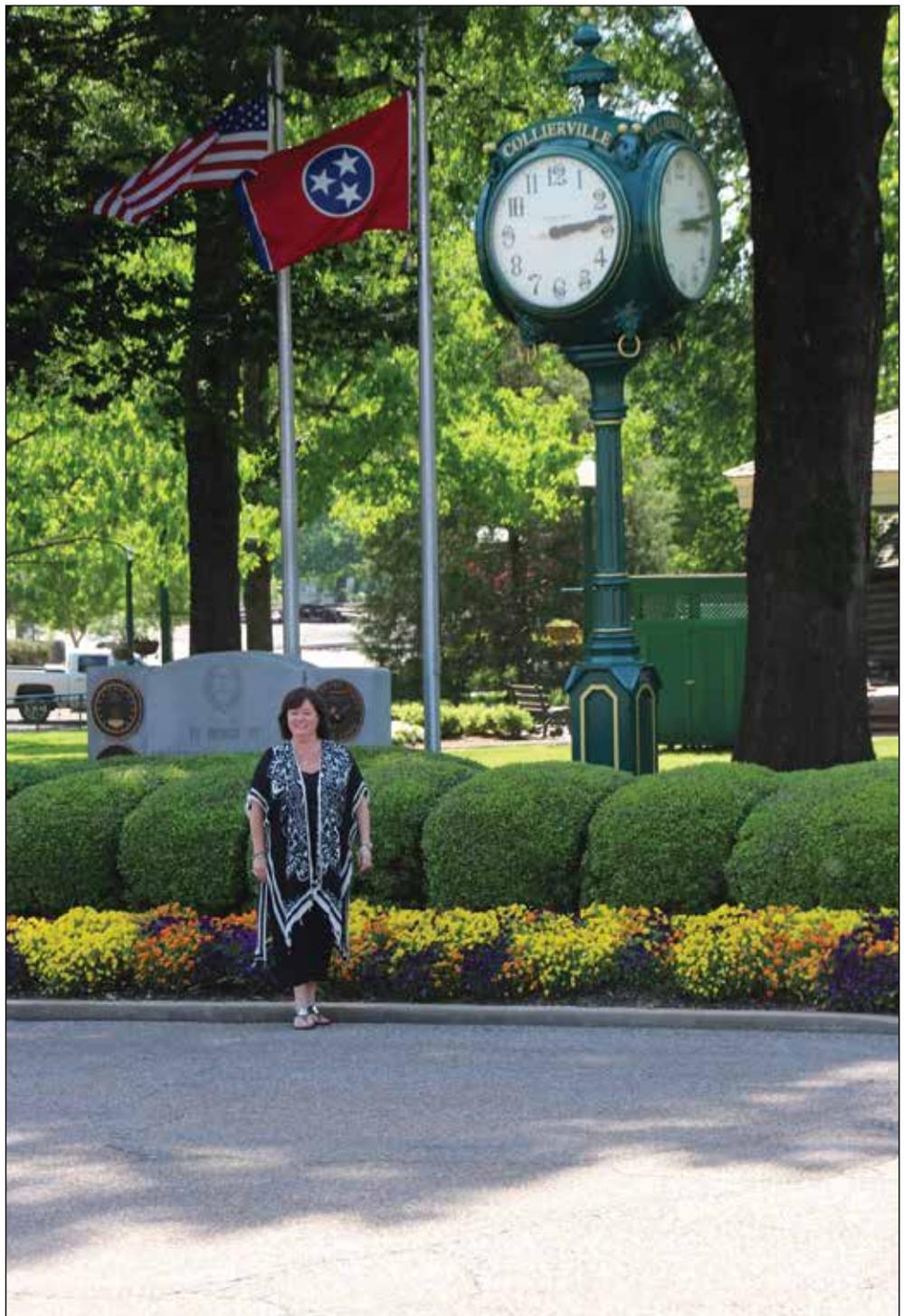
Laura’s next step was a natural role for her Main Street Life when she started consulting for the State of Tennessee Main Street Program Coordinator, Nancy Williams. “I stepped right into it November of 2016 and it’s been a great experience and opportunity to work with great people. Currently she owns her own consulting business where she works with other Tennessee Historical Districts to help guide and grow those districts as well. The name of her business is Downtown District Consulting. Laura serves and is involved in many community programs and service projects. (Actually too many to list) She serves on the Rural Heritage Trust of Southwest Tennessee. (VP of the Board of Directors), past Chair of The Shelby County Historical Commission and Memphis

Legacy Women's Trail through Women of Achievement Group. Which she shared is a great trail. "West Tennessee is full of great downtown talents and unique places and unique daytrip destinations. They all have their own character about them. West Tennessee is just packed with great opportunities for adventure."

"I love working with all these communities because none of them look the same and they all have great stories. We are full of natural and manmade assets for people to enjoy. At the end of the day, it's about economic development. That is really what Main Streets are about. The Historic aspect, and the organization behind it, and small business owners are very important to the economic development of small rural communities." The majority of her work is in West Tennessee. Her 2021 work is deeply rooted in recovery and resiliency efforts as well.

In the last year she feels like Main Streets have been very resilient and she wants to make sure she is assisting with those communities through the National Main Street Center as well as the Tennessee Main Street Program. This gives the communities resources at the right time to assist them in any recovery and needs for their downtowns.

Beside her other efforts, she also is glad to be working with Tennessee Smart Start Program initiative where resources are available to communities to work with small business owners and entrepreneurs. Although Laura is not an employee of the Tennessee Main Street Program, she does have the opportunity to work as a consultant and mentor with all of the Tennessee Main Street Program network. She stated "it was an opportunity that presented itself to me. It was really hard to leave Main Street Collierville when I did. I still live in Collierville and the Historic District of Downtown Collierville is very special to me. At the same time, I was given this great opportunity to work with so many other wonderful Tennessee Main Streets and Tennessee Downtowns. Its two different programs. The Tennessee Downtown Program has been around since 2010, and I worked with over 20 plus communities with that program. Currently I have five communities I am mentoring. The program is a pathway to become a certified Tennessee Main Street. " If you would like to learn more about or have Laura's work with your community or small business, find her on Facebook, LinkedIn or email her at downtowndistrictconsulting@gmail.com.



LAURA TETLEY TODD

901.355.3809

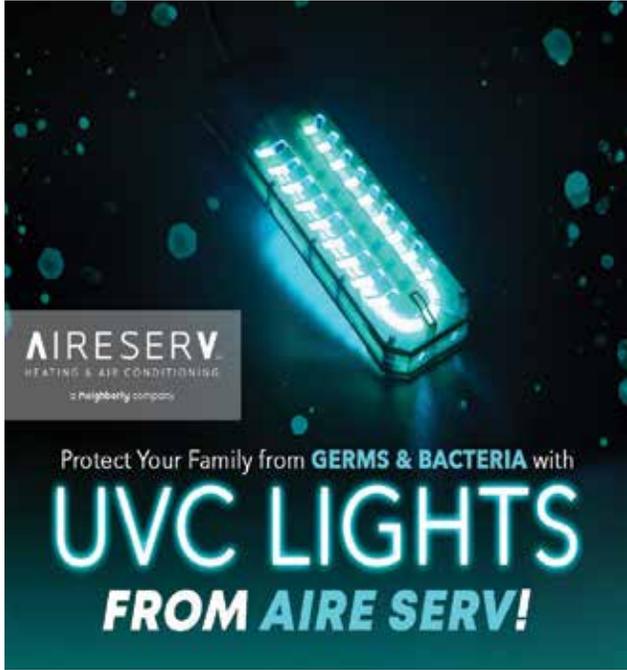
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Scholarship Winners – Leaders Education Foundation Board members and Leadership with 2021 Scholarship winners.

Leaders Education Foundation Gives \$25,000 at 2021 Annual Meeting

Leaders Education Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3), hosted their second annual meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, and gave \$25,000 total. \$15,000 was presented in scholarships to West Tenn. graduating high school seniors. This was a fifty percent increase over last year. The scholarships are of various amounts for high school seniors attending a college or university. Leaders Education Foundation received 43 applications from all across West Tenn., and the Financial Wellness Video Scholarship received six submissions, with their videos viewed over 11,000 times and reached over 20,000 people.

Scholarship winners include:

- \$2,500 Financial Wellness Video Scholarship - Andrew Hilliard - Crockett County High School
- \$2,000 Financial Wellness Video Scholarship - Honorable Mention - Ingram Lickliter- Milan High School
- \$1,000 Leaders Credit Union Martha Britt Scholarship - Madison May - Jackson Central Merry - Early College High School
- \$1,000 Scholarship in honor of Town & Country Realtors - Michael Tankersley - Augustine School
- \$1,000 Scholarship in honor of Ellis In-

surance - McKenna Beaver - South Gibson County High School

- \$1,500 Jackson-Madison County Schools Founder's Scholarship - Elliana McCauley - Madison Academic High School
- \$1,000 Community Scholarship - Gibson County - Blair Mercer - Bradford High School
- \$1,000 Community Scholarship - Obion County - Samantha George - Union City High School
- \$1,000 Community Scholarship - Shelby County - Allison Lampley - Bartlett High School
- \$1,000 Community Scholarship - West Tennessee - Rachel Hellums - University School of Jackson
- \$1,000 Community Scholarship - West Tennessee - Twanisha Hopings - North Side High School
- \$1,000 Community Scholarship - West Tennessee - Alexa Goff - South Side High School

"The scholarship program provides opportunities to students, affecting the trajectory of their entire future," said Eddie Hays, Leaders Education Foundation Board Chair. "We are honored to be a small part of these students' academic journeys toward success."

Leaders Education Foundation also collectively donated \$10,000 to participating Imagination Library Chapters in Madison, Gibson, and Chester counties through an Imagine the Possibilities campaign. This initiative involved the participating Imagination Libraries promoting membership in the Foundation through the Foundation's one-time \$10 membership fee in honor of a participating Imagination Library. For each new membership in their honor, the Foundation pledged to donate \$60 to the participating Imagination Library. Through this campaign, the Foundation provided one book per month for five years to 160 children in West Tenn.

"As the Foundation continues to grow, we will seek new opportunities to support educational initiatives that allow us to fulfill our Mission," Leaders Education Foundation President Leigh Anne Bentley said. "Our partnership with Imagination Library fits well with our mission to Give Forward."

The annual meeting also covered approval of the 2019 annual meeting minutes, the Board Chairman's report, the President's report, the Nominating Committee report, and closing remarks. The membership elected two new board members: Mrs. Eddie Mae



Imagination Library – Leaders Education Foundation Board Chairman Eddie Hayes present a check to local Imagination Library Chapters.

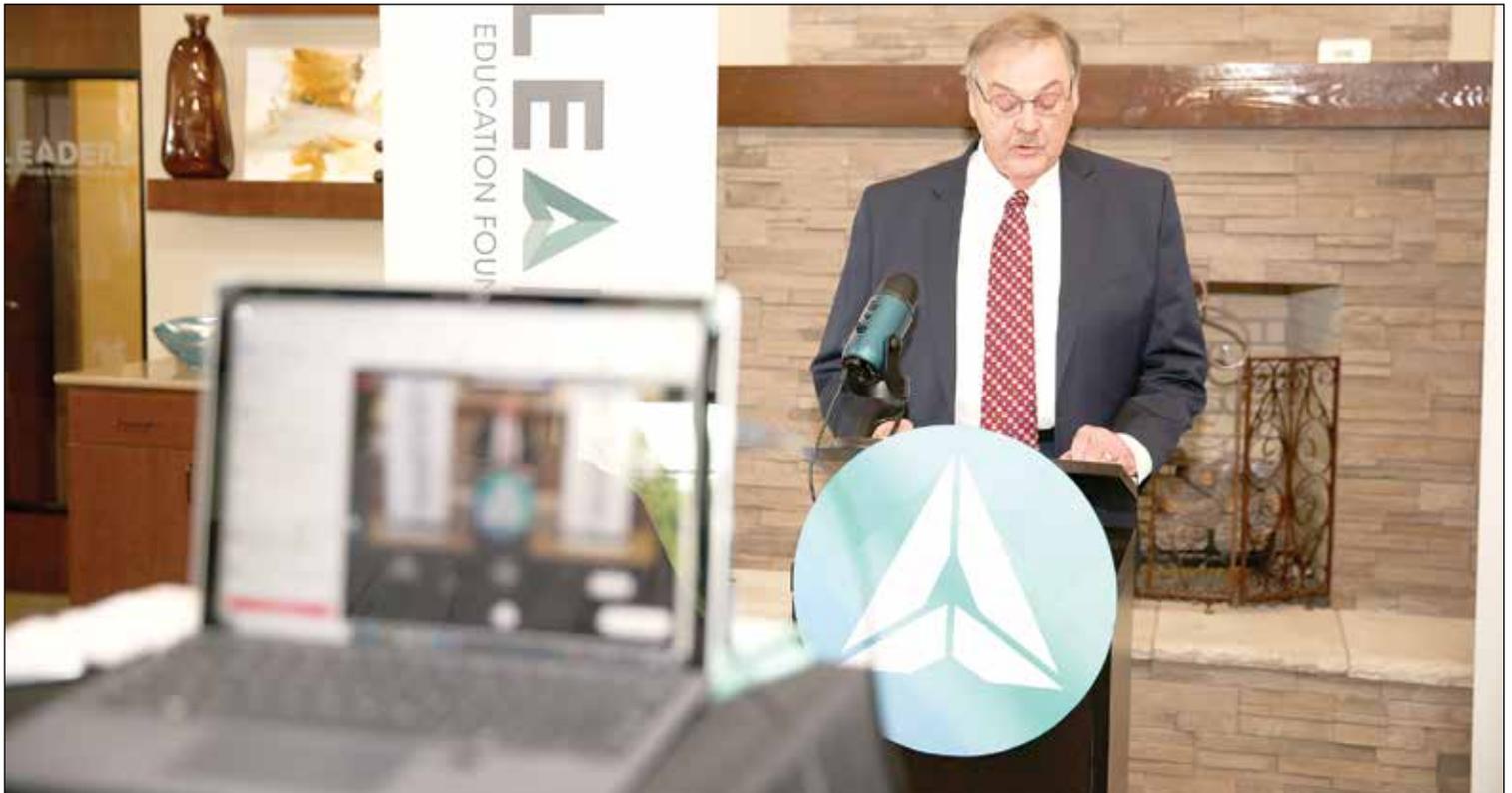
Pirtle and Ms. Yvette Blue, and re-elected Mrs. Mary Lou Adams for a second term. Other board members include Eddie Hays, Ron Hill, Stephanie Riley, and Karen Taylor.

For more information regarding Leaders Education Foundation or to view their 2020 Annual Report, please visit LeadersGives.org.

About Leaders Education Foundation

Leaders Education Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization established in 2019 and based in Jackson, Tenn. The Foundation allows community-minded citizens, members, and organizations to unite to make lives better together. It invests back into its community through scholarships, grants, and

additional resources that provide educational opportunities and promote workforce development, lifelong learning, and training for students, teachers, and its community. For more information about Leaders Education Foundation or to become a member and Give Forward, please visit their website, leaders-gives.org.



Annual Meeting – Leaders Education Foundation Board Chairman Eddie Hayes conducts 2021 Annual Meeting.



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A Day of Inspiration at **Discovery Park of America**

Looking for a family-friendly daytrip that is both fun and transformational? There's always something new to inspire children and adults at Discovery Park of America in Union City, Tennessee. From the moment you pull into the parking lot and get that first glimpse at the state-of-the-art 100,000-square-foot iconic building sitting on a beautifully landscaped heritage park, you know you are about to experience something special.

The museum showcases 10 exhibit galleries focused on topics like science, space, technology, the military, natural history, regional history, art, transportation and more. The 50-acre outdoor heritage park includes a man-made river flowing through the extensively landscaped property, along with waterfalls, bridges and other water features. Summer 2021 you'll also find some fun, temporary and brand-new experiences that will make your experience even more special.

The most recent permanent addition to Discovery Park is, "AgriCulture: Innovating

for Our Survival," located in the Simmons Bank Ag Center. The exhibit tells the story of farming innovation in the past, present—and especially—future. Guests experience how food, fuel and fiber get from the farm to the family as they learn about the role of innovation in the field of international agriculture today.

The "Southern Artist Showcase: The Caldwell Collection, Works by Southern Self-taught Artists" will be on display through Sept. 27, 2021. The exhibit showcases some of the art from the collection of the West Tennessee Regional Art Center. Included will be works of art by Jimmy Lee Sudduth, Helen La France and Sulton Rogers.

"40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World" will be on display July 21 through Sept. 6, 2021. This powerful exhibit features 40 photographs by philanthropist and farmer Howard G. Buffett that document the world hunger crisis. Traveling to more than 137 countries, Buffett turned his camera lens

on the powerful forces that fuel hunger and poverty. Buffett believes that each of us has about 40 chances to accomplish our life goals, just as farmers have about 40 growing seasons to improve their harvests.

On display in the park is "The Outdoor Art of John Toras: Man of Stainless Steel," an outdoor exhibit featuring 20 giant sculptures by John Toras, each with a different look and feel. Toras's primary medium is stainless steel, and much of the material he uses comes from scrapyards in the area. Many of the large-scale pieces in the exhibit feature sculptures that shimmer in the light and move with the wind.

With so much to see and do at Discovery Park, you may want to take some time to plan your family's experience in advance. DiscoveryParkofAmerica.com includes information on each gallery and tips to getting the most out of your visit. If you like a deal, you can save 15% off your tickets when you purchase them in advance online.



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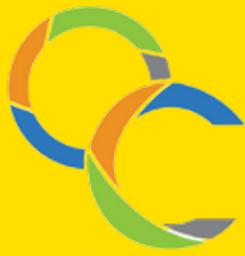


Find inspiration around every corner.

Discovery Park of America in Union City, Tennessee is a world-class interactive museum that sits on 50 acres of extensively landscaped grounds and gardens. Guests of all ages are inspired by the indoor and outdoor exhibits that cover an array of topics, including science, space, history, transportation, the military, art and more. **What will you discover when you visit?**

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Daytrip to Final Flight Outfitters

Are you looking to stock up for the upcoming hunting season? Head to Union City, Tenn. where you will find anything you need in the 25,000 square foot showroom known as Final Flight Outfitters. Founded by brothers, Jon Ed, Tripp, & Kelley Powers, Final Flight Outfitters Inc. is continually expanding and growing rapidly to serve hunters throughout the country. They offer a large selection of outdoor gear including clothes, firearms, ammunition, decoys, footwear, hunting accessories, casual clothing, and much more. Additionally, Final Flight Outfitters Inc. has been the proud host for many nationally recognized events such as the televised Super Retriever Series, the HRC Grand, HRC Hunt Tests, US Open Duck Calling Contest, Grand American Duck Calling Contest, TN State Duck & Goose Calling Contests, and many more. A trip to Final Flight is the perfect way to spend a day.

You can shop with Final Flight Outfitters at their retail store in Union City, shop online at www.finalflight.net or place an order over the phone from their mail-order catalog.



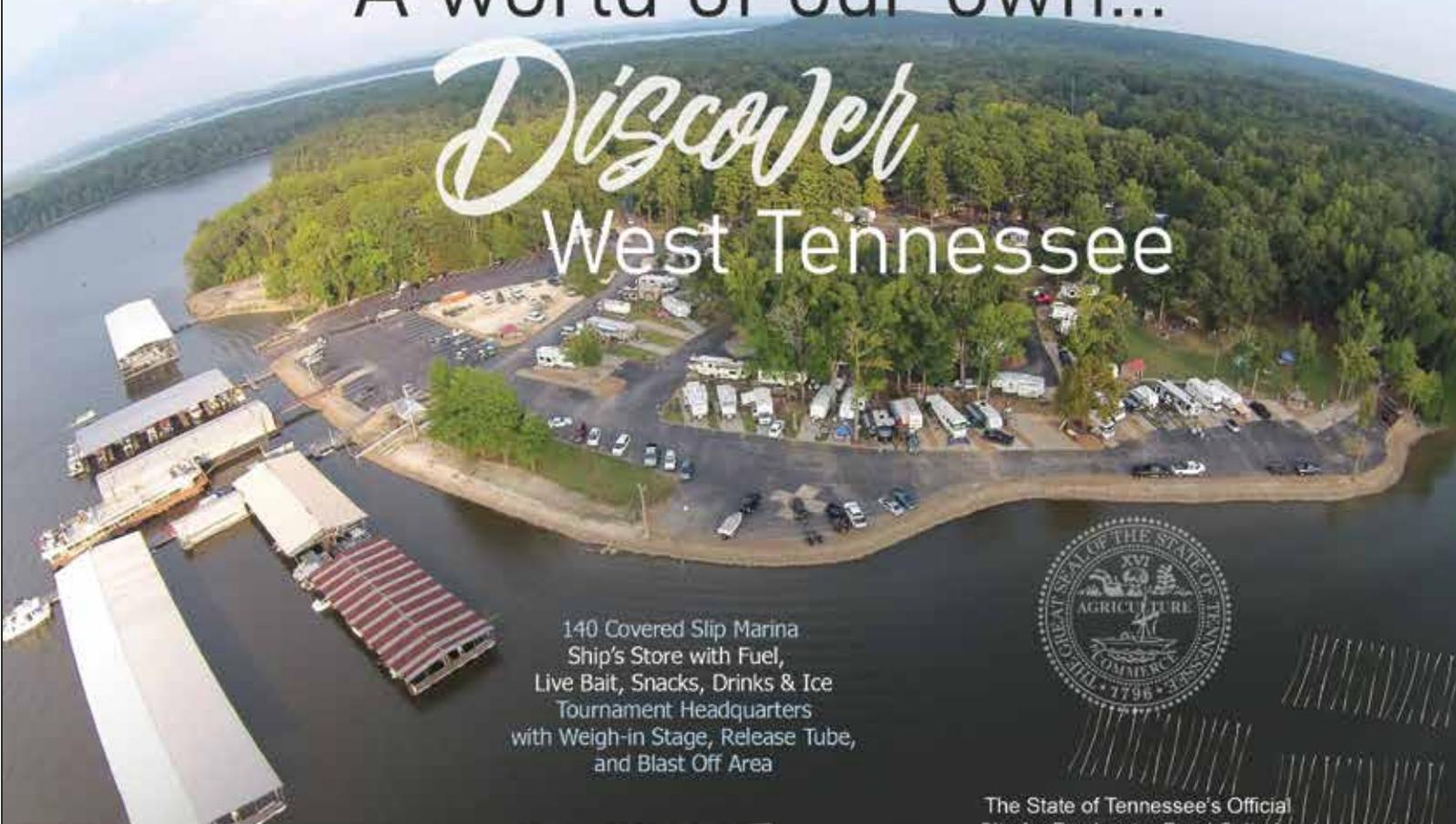


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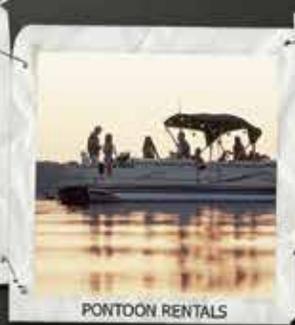


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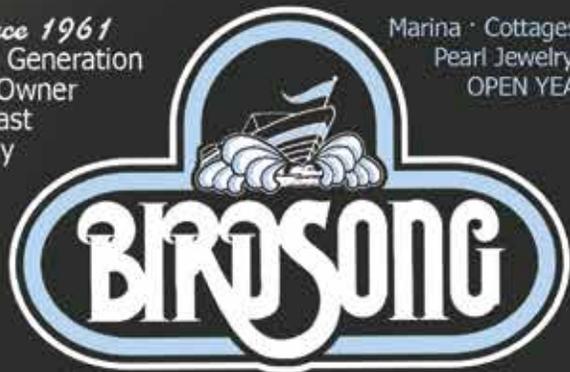


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2019 Miss Tennessee Volunteer, Kerri Arnold poses with students.

Miss Tennessee Volunteer Pageant Returns to Jackson

Join us in Jackson, June 16-19, 2021 for the Miss Tennessee Volunteer scholarship pageant's return! Miss Tennessee Volunteer, a nonprofit organization based in Jackson, Tennessee, is a statewide, service-oriented scholarship program seeking to empower young women through education and opportunity.

Miss Tennessee Volunteer is vital to the education of young women in Tennessee. One of the top providers of scholarships in Tennessee, Miss Tennessee Volunteer awarded our 36 contestants over \$125,000 in college scholarships.

Kerri Arnold was awarded the opportunity of a lifetime when she was crowned Miss Tennessee Volunteer on Saturday, June 22, 2019, at the Carl Perkins Civic Center. As the newly

crowned Miss Tennessee Volunteer, Kerri won \$25,000 in college scholarships and serves as the Governor's Official Spokesperson for Character Education and travels over 80,000 miles speaking to over 70,000 schoolchildren.

For information on the scholarship pageant, tickets and how to become involved, visit the website <https://misstennesseevolunteer.net/>.

Whether it's an annual event or one of our great live music venues, experience the music which could only be "Made in Tennessee" found halfway between Memphis and Nashville in the heart of the Americana Music Triangle! Visit JacksonTN to connect with what is happening in Jackson and West Tennessee. Connect socially on Facebook and Twitter or call 731.425.8333.



18th HWY 70 YARD SALE

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Join treasure hunters, antique collectors and flea market lovers between Memphis and Nashville along Highway 70 for the 18th Annual Highway 70 Yard Sale. The sale kicks off Thursday, June 10 and continues through Saturday, June 12, 2021.

Organizers continue to build upon the success of this longstanding sale featuring items to satisfy the deal seekers! Join Highway 70

Yard Sale-Tenn group on facebook to learn more about the sale.

A map of participating sales is also available on the facebook page.

Folks are encouraged to use social distancing and encouraged to wear masks in response to COVID-19.

Whether it's an annual event or one of our great live music venues, experience the

music which could only be "Made in Tennessee" found halfway between Memphis and Nashville in the heart of the Americana Music Triangle! Visit JacksonTN to connect with what is happening in Jackson and West Tennessee. Connect socially on Facebook and Twitter or call 731.425.8333.





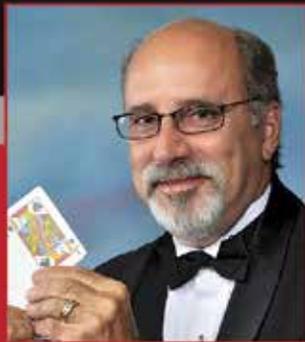
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The 411 on How Many Fruits & Veggies You Need



“Aim to fill up at least half of your plate at every meal with these foods, which are packed with nutrients and vitamins like fiber to promote healthy digestion and optimal health.”



DINA AHMAD, MD

Was one of your 2021 resolutions to change your eating habits? Fruits & veggies play an important part of any healthy diet—but how can you know just how many you need to be eating for optimal health?

It's pretty interesting, really. Most of us know that fruits and vegetables are good for us. But the reality is that, despite that knowledge, we often don't get enough in our diets.

Why Fruits & Veggies Are So Beneficial

If you're new to the “healthy eating” game, you may wonder why we've chosen to focus on fruits and vegetables out of all the different food groups. Well, it's for good reason. Vegetables and fruits contain tons of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants that can keep our bodies functioning at their best.

“One of the best tips I can give to patients is to fill up on fruits and vegetables,” says Dina Ahmad, MD, gastroenterologist with West Tennessee Medical Group. “Aim to fill up at least half of your plate at every meal with these foods, which are packed with nutrients and vitamins like fiber to promote healthy digestion and optimal health.”

There are many benefits to eating more fruits & veggies—doing so has been tied with everything from a healthy immune system to a reduced risk of developing chronic health conditions. But just how many servings should you eat to reap the benefits—and what exactly is a serving size? Let's take a look.

How Many Fruits & Veggies You Should Eat

In general, the rule is: the more, the better. For the most part, these foods are among those that you can eat large quantities of without facing any adverse health effects, such as weight

gain. The better news is that if you're actually eating fruits & veggies, you probably won't need to eat a ton of them! These foods are not only full of nutrition, they'll also help you feel fuller for longer after eating them. But there are some basic recommendations for how many servings you should have each day.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends that older children and most adults eat at least four servings of vegetables each day and at least three servings of fruit. That leads us to another question, though—what makes up a serving?

Determining Serving Size for Fruits & Veggies

What constitutes a serving varies depending on the specific fruit or vegetable, as well as its preparation, such as whether it's juiced, dried or eaten whole. The American Heart Association breaks it down for us. One serving equals:

- One medium apple, pear, orange or peach
- Half of a medium avocado
- One small banana
- 16 grapes
- A half-inch thick slice of watermelon
- 4 large strawberries
- Half of a large bell pepper
- 5 to 8 florets of broccoli or cauliflower
- 1 cup of raw leafy veggies or 1/2 cup cooked
- Half of a medium potato
- 1 small ear of corn or half of a large ear
- 1/4 cup of dried fruit or fruit juice

Eat up! There's no better time than today to start getting in more servings.

Wondering how you can improve your health? A checkup provides an opportunity to learn where your health currently stands and what you can do to boost it. [Find a West Tennessee Medical Group provider online at wth.org/find-a-doctor.](https://www.wth.org/find-a-doctor)



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Nestled in the rolling hills of rural Middle Tennessee, Humphreys County sits on the east side of the Tennessee River. Outdoor activity & beautiful scenery are abundant here! Home of Country Music Legend, Loretta Lynn, and her world-famous Ranch. Whether you are here for day, a week, or plan to relocate, Humphreys County is a must visit. Unique Lodging, Art park, skydiving, marina and water activities, Johnsonville State Historic Park, Shopping, Events, Wildlife Refuge, Hiking and much more!



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Head East to Humphreys County!

Load up the kids, or the significant other for the short trip to Humphreys County, just across the Tennessee River into Middle Tennessee. The kids will not even have the time to say, “are we there yet?”. Do you just need an afternoon away from the hustle and bustle without spending a fortune? Want to get outside without being in a crowd? Bring your bikes if you like or just plan to take a walk. Hop off Interstate 40 at Exit 143 where surprises await you.

Do not be fooled by the few signs on the interstate. Almost immediately, you will find some delicious places to eat. Bar None BBQ, the Log Cabin, Jen’s Steak & Seafood and Loretta Lynn’s Kitchen. Be sure to stop by Gutter Bound Distillery for a tour and a tasting. Canoeing or kayaking adventure on the Buffalo is a bit more challenging than on the creek, so check out Bone’s Canoe & Campground. You may want to get some sandwiches to take with you from Overholt’s Farm Market, a Mennonite shop north on Highway 13. Not just a deli and amazing ice cream shop, but you can find all sorts of other goodies and local hand-made items too. In

a short seven-mile drive on Highway 13, you will arrive at the gem of our region, Loretta Lynn Ranch. They have the largest campground in then region including full hookup sites, primitive camping as well as cabins. There are campfire shows seasonally, a general store and hiking trails from Stagecoach Hill. If you fancy getting in the creek, you might consider renting a tube or kayak. Don’t forget your fishing pole either! Various events take place throughout the year. From spectator events, like the Chuckwagon Races and the AMA National Motocross Championship to participating events such as bring your jeep and climb the hills, Jeep Trail Jams! Looking for something a bit quieter and indoors? Tour the Plantation House and the Coal Miners Daughter Museum, where you can experience the life of the Lady Legend, Loretta Lynn. The Plantation House is a guided tour where you will see the house as it was when Loretta and Mooney raised the kids there as well as hear stories about the family and the ghosts! See the kitchen where the Crisco commercials were filmed and the living room from a scene in the Coal Miner’s Daughter mov-

ie. The Coal Miners Daughter Museum is 18,000 feet of over 50 years of history. From some of the handwritten songs she wrote, to the beautiful gowns that Tim Cobb created for her, to the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award and treasures from friends and family through all those years. Cobb is also the curator of the museum and you are likely to see him as you stroll through the displays. Also, the ranch is still operated by family, so it is likely you will see family members somewhere on the ranch. Anthony Brutto, grandson, is the General Manager, son Ernie and his wife Crystal live nearby and are often working on the ranch, as well as various other family members that are there to work or visit Loretta.

Although difficult to leave the beauty of the Ranch, just a short eight-mile drive north brings you to Waverly. The Court Square has both eclectic shops, such as Vintage Treasures and Made, along with many others, as well as eateries. The Waverly Cafe is more than just a coffee and sandwich shop. You will find locally made items for sale, books and other gifts and artwork from local artists. Who

can resist The Milkshakery. The Baker's Table has fresh-made breakfast and lunches along with delectable baked goods. Samuels on the Square is open for a delectable dinner of chef inspired meals all served in a historic building. After dinner, walk across the street to the Mi-De-Ga theater for a movie. Although this theater has been in the same family for over 80 years, they show new releases. Not all the shopping is right on the square. Go east on Main to find Nature's Design's for flowers and gifts, and a couple other shops. Go west on Main to discover a variety of shops, fast food, and diners.

The Walls Art Park is a unique park with walls and pillars built for artists to showcase their creativity. It contains 82 surfaces of different sizes that are covered in remarkable paintings.

History abounds in Humphreys County. The Humphreys County Museum, only open Saturday and Sunday afternoon from 1 - 4 p.m., is worth a visit. It is housed in the historic Butterfield House and has an earthen civil war fort constructed to protect the railroad. Special arrangements can be made for group tours. The Waverly Train Explosion Museum tells the story of the 1978 disaster when a derailed tank car ignited and caused a massive explosion killing 16 people and injuring over 200.

Traveling west from Waverly about 10 miles is New Johnsonville. If you love the outdoors, we are the perfect place. Johnsonville State Historic Park provides multiple opportunities to enjoy a safe space to hike several trails in the park, while appreciating the breeze blowing off the Tennessee River. Of course, there is the view! If you brought your bikes, the family could take pleasure in cycling in this low-traffic area too. Be sure to always check their calendar as they offer numerous programs throughout the year. Junior Ranger Camp is offered June 15-17 and 22-24. Sunset Paddle Trips and Wildlife Watchers Kayak Trips will be offered throughout the summer. Now that you have seen the park and peeked in the soldiers' huts and the cannons, stop by the Visitor's Center near Highway 70 (two miles from the park). Here you will learn the whole story of the Battle of Johnsonville, a dramatic Civil War battle that took place in November of 1864, and left Navy ships sunk, and the supply depot burned to the ground. Pebble Isle Marina, home to the Grey Heron Grill, is next to the park entrance. You can sit on the dock and experience the sunset while sipping a beverage or having a bite to eat.

Not far from Johnsonville State Historic



Park is the Tennessee Wildlife Refuge Duck River Bottoms Unit. Often overlooked, this is a remarkable place. With a multitude of birds and animals to observe, be sure to bring your binoculars. Both paved and gravel roads are throughout the refuge for you to enjoy, so park your car and take a walk to bike around the area. Some folks like to bring their horses and ride the levee around the lake. Or maybe you are looking for a place to launch your canoe or kayak - welcome. The refuge is usually open during daylight hours.

Specialty shops are tucked in numerous places throughout Humphreys County and while you are in New Johnsonville Sharps Floral & Gifts is one of the places you may want to visit. Tequila Johns, is a family-owned restaurant serving fresh food and known for their Margaritas, and is situated conveniently on Highway 70.

Travel east on Highway 70 from New Johnsonville, continuing through Waverly for about 12 miles to McEwen. Be sure to stop at Memories & Marmalade for their fresh deli sandwiches or find that special gift. Then right down the street is Lola & Sass for ladies clothing, jewelry, and home décor. Main Street (Hwy 231) in McEwen is home to Pickin on Main and Lost and Found Antiques & Collectibles. These shops have antiques and distinctive items you might not find elsewhere.

We are the Land of Three Rivers. Bring your watercraft and visit one of our four marinas, Pebble Isle, Cuba Landing, Mason's Boat Dock or Eagle Bay. Or just check out the access points to get on the Buffalo and Duck Rivers. If you love to fish, you will find bass and crappie and others as well. Check out <https://www.visithumphreys.com/lake-reports-and-blog-posts/> for current lake information. If catfish are your game, then be sure to read what Paula Smith has to say. Her personal best catch was 88 pounds!

Many other outdoor experiences await your discovery. Of course, if you like to plan, www.visithumphreys.com has itineraries you can choose from. Regardless, the journey is always delightful as you traverse the scenic foothills. Golf anyone? Check out our scenic 18-hole Willow Ridge in McEwen. Are you interested in something a bit more exciting? Possibly skydiving? Music City Skydiving, a veteran owned business, has jumps available for those wanting to experience this sport for the first time as well as for the expert. Check out their all-inclusive options at <https://musiccityskydiving.com>. Other events throughout the year can be found at <https://www.visithumphreys.com/event-listings/>. Check out the annual Irish Picnic, in 2021 the 167th annual event! Or the 30-Mile Yard Sale! Pick up a brochure at the Chamber of Commerce about the Quilt Trail or for a map of the county.

As I am sure you have decided, one day is certainly not enough. We have some one-of-a-kind short-term rental properties, some of which are on farms. Rock 'N Refuge is one of those places. They have several facilities you can rent including a Treehouse, a Hobbit Hole, and a Barn Retreat that can accommodate 16 guests, along with a more traditional cabin. Amenities abound! Twin Bridge Farm boasts a beautiful cottage on their family farm where they grow specialty mushrooms, wine grapes, an orchard and lavender. Be sure to say hi to their resident mules, Willie & Waylon. Other short-term rental properties with their own special touches can be found at www.visithumphreys.com. You will also find our hotels listed there!

Whether you are looking for adrenaline pumping sports, shopping, history, or relaxing, Humphreys County has it. If you have questions or are looking for something specific, please visit www.visithumphreys.com.



Day Trippin' in Hardin County

With summertime heading our way, and the kids ready to explore, Hardin County in West Tennessee is the perfect destination for everyone. From historic river towns to a state park and a national park, Hardin County has no shortage of great options for day trips. One person's sunny day on the golf course is another's day exploring trails and museums. Check out these options:

- Spend all day on the water at Pickwick Landing State Park, where 46 miles of the Tennessee River flow and offer wonderful fishing for catfish, bass, and crappie. Or just spend the day lazing about on a pontoon, soaking up the sun on Pickwick Lake.

Pickwick State Park is home to not only championship fishing, but golfing, hiking, canoeing, and a newly renovated Lodge with restaurant, bar and several swimming options of indoor or outdoor pools and sandy beaches.

Overnight stay options include all-lake-view lodge rooms, cabins, villas, and campgrounds to enjoy all the scenery and natural fun.

- Then just up-river is yet another pristine park, historic Shiloh National Military Park. Resting on 4,200 wooded acres of trails and a 12.7 mile

driving tour, Shiloh is known as one of the best preserved Civil War battlefields in the United States. Visitors may drive, hike or bike exploring the national cemetery, visitors center, peach orchard, 156 monuments, 217 cannons, plus explore the 800 year old Shiloh Indian Mounds, a landmark on its own.

- Tennessee River Museum in downtown Savannah is housed with one-of-a-kind artifacts detailing the unique history of the Tennessee River Valley. From pre-historic life to post-war reconciliation, discover the exciting stories of bygone eras with a tour through our educational exhibits.

- Tennessee Street Park in Savannah is a gated family friendly park at the entrance to the historic district. Featuring a towering fountain, splash pads, walking trails, two playgrounds, and outdoor exercise equipment everything for a family to enjoy.

- The Outpost General Store and Restaurant located just north of Pickwick Dam is packed full of good food and unique shopping experiences in this colony-motif destination. Gift boutiques, ice cream parlor, rustic décor there's something around every corner.

- Hungry yet? stop by Tennessee River Museum and pick up a Catfish Dining Trail guide to all the unique eateries that feature catfish. Haggy's Catfish Hotel, Pickwick Smoked Catfish, anyway you like em....fried, grilled, taced, and with all the trimmings.

- Shopping and antiquing! Charming downtown boutiques, swanky lake shops, antique malls and weekend flea markets.

Stop by the Visitor Center at Tennessee River Museum, 495 Main Street in downtown Savannah for directions to any of Hardin County's attractions and for a calendar of upcoming events including:

- Second Saturdays and Music on Main at Savannah Market

- Savannah Bluegrass Festival – July 2-3 at Savannah Market hosted by National Fiddle Champion Wayne Jerrolds. Special guest on Friday night is the Queen of Bluegrass Rhonda Vincent.

- July 4 Fireworks at Pickwick Landing State Park

- July 16-17 PRCA Rodeo at Hardin County Fairgrounds

For information visit us anytime at www.tourhardincounty.org.

tourhardincounty.org

Get Away to Hardin County



Shiloh National Military Park contains a wide array of historic sites. Located within the boundaries of Shiloh Battlefield is a United States National Cemetery and the Shiloh Indian Mounds .

Hardin County
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Tennessee River Museum

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Joey Nania Wins Bassmaster Central Open on Pickwick Lake

An astute observation led Joey Nania to a strategic bait change that delivered a five-bass limit of 18 pounds, 10 ounces and sealed his first B.A.S.S. win at the Basspro.com Bassmaster Central Open on Pickwick Lake.

After placing third on Day 1 with 21-11, the pro from Cropwell, Ala., added 17-13 and held his position. With his Championship Saturday weight, Nania tallied 58-2 and edged Day 2 leader Lonnie Cochran by a pound.

Nania won \$53,750 and a berth in the 2022 Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic presented by Huk on Lake Hartwell.

All week, Nania had been fishing main-river bars between Koger Island and Seven Mile Island, where he focused on a mix of grass and stumps. The latter became an increasingly important element of his game plan and Saturday, he used a forage-appropriate bait to target the hard cover.

"Today, I switched it up and I was throwing a Z-Man Mag FattyZ worm on a 3/16-ounce shaky head," Nania said. "I found them in the carport of the place where we're staying. I had thrown them out of the boat, but I rigged one up last night and caught all five fish on that.

"I saw a lamprey stuck on some of the fish I was catching and they would get thrown off

when the fish jumped. I figure this thing looks like a lamprey; I'm going to throw it."

Nania said the key to his presentations was making precise casts that hit the tops of stumps and triggered reaction bites. The only variation was his biggest Day 3 fish — a 6-pounder that bit when Nania threw beyond a stump and pulled his bait past the structure.

The first two days saw a 3/4-ounce green pumpkin shad Z-Man ChatterBait JackHammer with a smoky shad Z-Man Razor ShadZ trailer producing most of Nania's fish, including the 8-2 that anchored his Day 1 limit and won the \$750 Phoenix Boats Big Bass award.

"I was just honored that that fish decided to eat my bait," Nania chuckled. "It was a freak. It was just so big and so long broad; it was just a beautiful fish."

Prior to switching to the shaky head presentation, he also caught fish pulling a Carolina rig past the stumps.

Nania's 6-pounder bit right after he lost an estimated 5. Had he caught that first fish, he likely would have drifted past the stump where the bigger one was sitting.

"I'm a believer in Jesus and when it's your time, it's your time," Nania said. "If I hadn't caught that 6-pounder, I could have been

within ounces of not winning."

Hailing from Section, Ala., Cochran placed 11th on Day 1 with 18-10 and bolted into the Day 2 lead after posting the tournament's heaviest bag — 25-3. Adding 13-5 Saturday gave Cochran a three-day total of 57-2.

Cochran did most of his work north of Koger Island on a 50-yard stretch of main-river shell bottom in 6 feet of water with scattered milfoil. On Friday, an early boat number allowed him to reach his spot quickly and sack up his big limit by about 7:30 a.m.

Today's postfrontal conditions brought bright skies and still wind. This took a toll on Cochran's fish and he struggled with a slower bite.

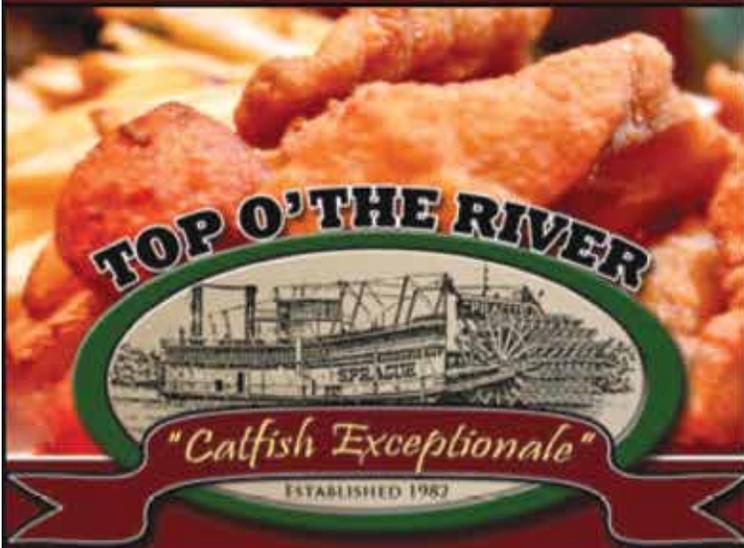
"I caught most of my fish on a 3/4-ounce Scottsboro Hellcat football jig with a creature bait trailer," Cochran said. "When it got tough during the day, I'd catch a few on a spinnerbait in the scattered grass."

John Garrett of Union City, Tenn., finished third with 56-11. With limits of 21-12 and 18-12, Garrett held the second-place spot for Days 1 and 2. On Saturday, Garrett added 16-3.

While a morning shad spawn played a role the first two days, Garrett caught most of his



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better bass on a 16-foot ledge in front of spawning areas. Devoting his final day to this area, he caught all of his fish on a powder blue back chartreuse Strike King 6XD.

"I had a fun week; I honestly didn't want to grab those fish today — I caught so many fish my hands were hurting," Garrett chuckled. "I love (cranking); I just never got a good bite today."

Nania leads the Central Open points standings with 200 points. Cochran is in second with 199, followed by Garrett with 198, Andy Hribar of Lakeville, Minn., with 197 and Joseph Webster of Winfield, Ala., with 196.

Jacob Foutz of Charleston, Tenn., leads the Falcon Rods Bassmaster Opens Angler of the Year overall points standings with 553.

The Hardin County Convention and Visitors Bureau hosted the event.

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Grace Chapel

“Come As You Are”

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DWT Contributor

Grace Chapel's first service was Memorial Day 2017 in Counce, Tennessee. During an interview with Pastor Don Elliott, I discovered he was a retired Pastor from First Presbyterian in Corinth, Mississippi. He served there 31 years and he has had almost 50 years in ministry. He shared “I realized I still had some gas left in his tank.”

He felt lead by the Lord to start a church in Pickwick – Counce area. He said it all started when he approached Marsha Fisher at Freddy T's and proposed the idea if she had ever thought about hosting church on Sunday mornings at her location. He shared “Marsha was genuinely shocked! I will never forget her first reaction because she told him she was not so sure that people will want to come to my church if it's at Freddy T's. I said I am not sure if that was the type

of people who I wanted to come to Grace Chapel. Our motto come as you are is what fits Pickwick because for me you have your Sunday best and you come to church but at Pickwick it's more of a laid back environment because it's at the lake. People come to the lake to get away from a lot of formalities or regular dress of the week or even the regular church process. It's interesting that I have worked with that motto but I have added to the motto. I added come as you are



is how we come to God but by God's grace working in us we become more than we are. With God's grace you will become more than you are."

He said the church started out with no building, no budget, no programs, no denomination and really no membership. It was seeking to be a fellowship that was focusing on worship and the word. "From that beginning we saw the Lord using us first of all in the lives of many people who have a second home at Pickwick. Then beyond that group, we found out very quickly that many from the region started coming to Grace Chapel. They were seeking a church that was different. I believe the target group for Grace Chapel is the "De-Churched" We live in the Bible belt and almost everyone has a church background but not everyone is in church. Those are the de-churched and I have found that many times the de-churched seek God and want to be a part of His kingdom but they have a problem with the church or their previous church experience. Grace Chapel has a distinctive image that is not real churchy but yet where the gospel of

grace is found in Jesus Christ and a loving fellowship. So we are a church in a bar. We have no building expenses, no full time staff, which frees us to handle money differently because we have a goal of giving. Our goal is to give half of our offerings to local needs, to area ministries, and to World Missions. Grace Chapel has become a source of great encouragement to me as the Pastor especially with me seeing the many gifted people who have come our way. It is my privilege to work with David Duncan as worship leader who has put together a tremendous praise band. It's also wonderful to work with Dr. Leonard Pratt, my assistant pastor. Working with Marsha Fisher at Freddy T's has been a blessing that goes beyond anything we have had so far at Grace Chapel."

"It's a church where people of all ages, of all colors and from different backgrounds can come and worship God. Grace Chapel wants people to feel like they are not judged and can come as they are." Due to no expenses, they have been able to give on so many levels. Since 2017 they have been blessed to have received over \$430,000 at

this point. Some of the ways they have given thus far are: Darryl Worley Foundation, Coats for Kids, Living Free Ministry, Home of Grace, Angel Tree, Church in Mexico, hospital beds, paid power bills for people in need and people that needed rehab. There are lots more but too many to list. They are averaging 200 to 250 in worship. This past Easter they experiment with having two services and had 450 attend.

Marsha Fisher, Treasurer shared "Grace Chapel is truly a blessing for Freddy T's and the community we live in. We are very fortunate to have many attendees and followers of Grace Chapel bless our doors weekly. We at Freddy T's, take pride in the ability to provide a building for Grace Chapel and partner with them on so many levels. It means so much to me that we are helping the community and showing our town how great God is. We have witnessed miracles repeated and our partnership has helped so many. We look forward to the many blessings yet to come."

You can check them out on Facebook or their website at gracechapelpickwick.com





Three women joined in prayer during a Grace Chapel service.

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