

DISCOVER

May 2021 - Volume 1 - Issue 6

West Tennessee

Spotlighting

**HARDIN
COUNTY**

Getting to Know

ANTIQUES
ROADSHOW'S

**RAFAEL
ELEDGE**





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ON THE COVER -

Antiques Roadshow's appraiser
& Hardin County native, Rafael Eledge.

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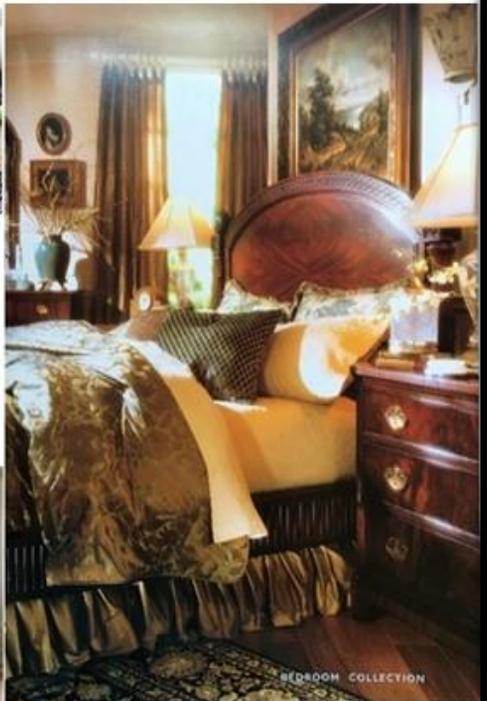
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Clarification- Christina Easterday, who was featured on our cover last month, recorded at FAME Recording Studios, but is not signed to the FAME label.



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A stunning sunset over Pickwick Lake. Photo courtesy of Violet Clark.

Hardin County is an Outdoor Paradise

Located on the Tennessee River where the borders of Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi meet, sits the outdoor paradise of Hardin County, Tennessee. The county is a place removed from the bustle of city-life, but blessed with plenty to see and do.

Rich in history, Hardin County is the site of the pivotal April 1862 Civil War Battle of Shiloh. Shiloh National Military Park has preserved the now monument-dotted battlefield much as it was then, and frequently hosts special "living history" events, hiking and biking trails, as well as outdoor concerts and an occasional wedding or two. Visitors are invited to walk, bike, or drive through the battle sites, discovering the remains of the Indian mounds, and even catching a glimpse of deer, turkey, and the park's own nesting eagles.

The Tennessee River winds its way south to north through the middle of the county, creating a boat lovers' and fishermen's paradise. Hardin County Convention and Visitors Bureau has rolled out the red carpet in recruiting fishing tournaments such as BASSMASTERS and FLW, leaders in the fish-

ing tournament circuit.

On the shore of Pickwick Lake is Pickwick Landing State Resort Park, with its newly \$11-million renovated lodge, convention center, marina, golf course, campground, aviaries, swim beaches, paddling rentals, and its own dog park. There are lots of fishing opportunities year-round whether on the lake, in a secluded cove, on the river, or below thundering Pickwick Dam.

For those looking to retire, the Pickwick area is ideal, with outstanding homes overlooking the lake or perhaps a small farm with rambling creeks. Visit www.Retire-HardinCounty.org for more information.

Sitting idyllically on the banks of the Tennessee is the town of Savannah, boasted to be the catfish capital of the world. This county seat is home to beautiful family friendly parks, historic Cherry Mansion, and a leading national manufacturer of hush-puppies and southern side dishes. Yum!

History buffs are encouraged to drive or walk through the city's Historic District to see the homes, including Cherry Mansion, where General U.S. Grant was staying when

the Battle of Shiloh erupted. Take a stroll along Main Street for the specialty shops, a cup of coffee or some delicious BBQ. While downtown, check out the Savannah Veterans' Park, the farmers market, and the splash pads and fountains at Tennessee Street Park.

Also in Savannah, travelers can stop in at the Tennessee River Museum, one of the best river museums of its kind. Learn about the history of the river through one-of-a-kind artifacts detailing pre-historic times to post-war reconciliation.

Other towns along the river include Crump, home to a bargain hunters paradise with a year-round weekend flea market and antique stores, and Saultillo, where you'll find a mix of swanky retail and bait and tackle shops.

Hardin County is a history-filled, interesting, and festive getaway destination. Come celebrate with the locals and enjoy this paradise outdoors.

Visit www.tourhardincounty.org for the latest information about happenings in Hardin County.

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BASSMASTER

Visits Pickwick Lake in 2021

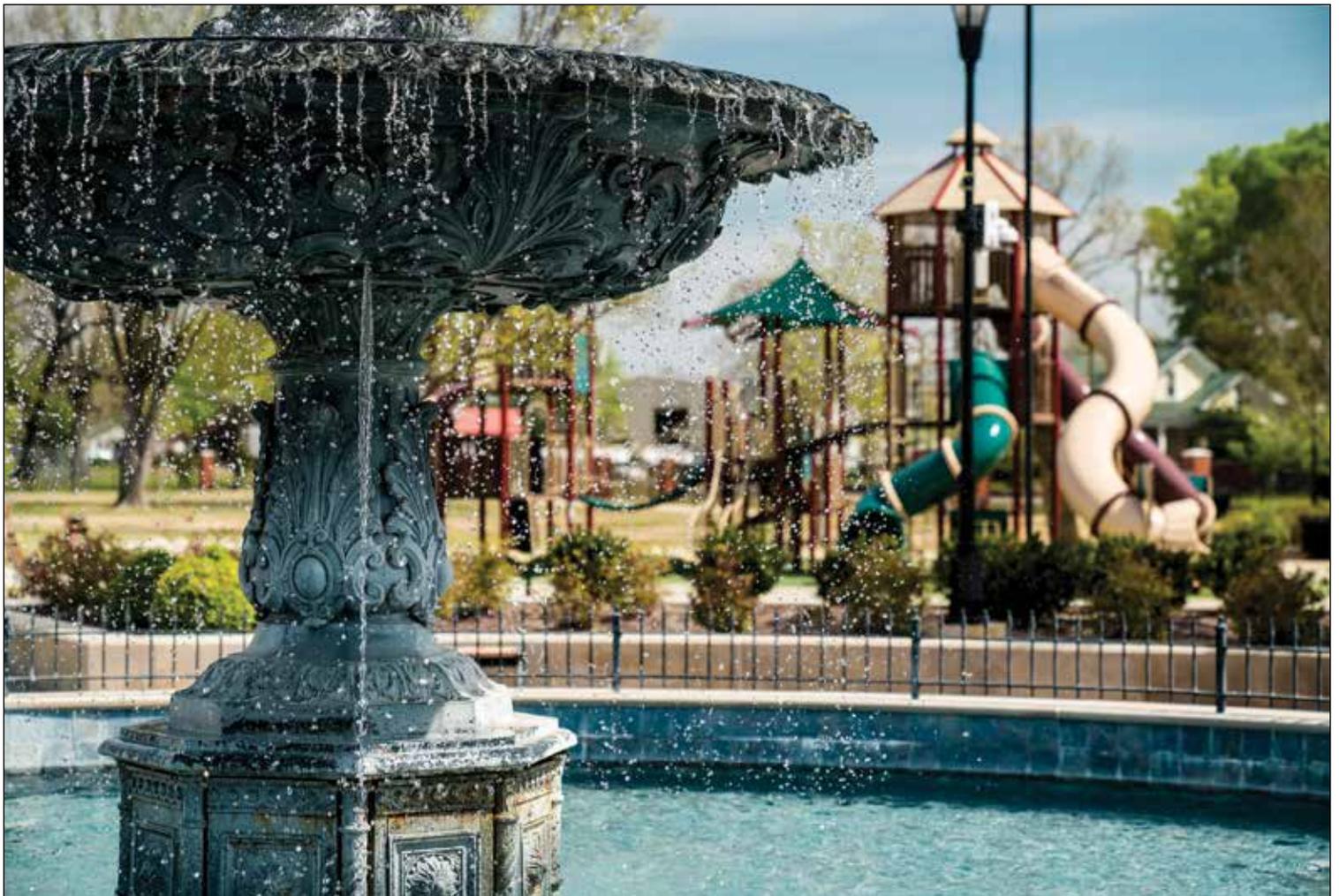
The Central Opens were due to begin April 1-3 with a trip to Lewis Smith Lake in Jasper, Ala., followed by events at Pickwick Lake in Counce, Tenn., April 29-May 1, and a stop at Grand Lake in Grove, Okla., Oct. 21-23. The Smith Lake event was canceled due to flooding. Pickwick offers the typical Tennessee River mixture of largemouth and smallmouth. Grand Lake has been the site of two Bassmaster Classics, most recently in 2016. "You

talk about variety," Bowes said. "The three tournaments we have scheduled for the Central Division will test anglers' versatility about as much as three events can. Anglers who can go from a spotted bass haven to a Tennessee River fishery to a diverse setting like Grand Lake — and do well in all three — will have proven their abilities beyond the shadow of a doubt." This will be the Opens Series' first stop in Pickwick, and the community is

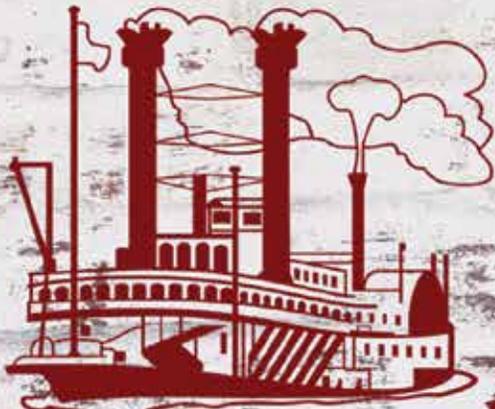
looking forward to welcoming anglers. "We are excited to welcome the Basspro.com Bassmaster Opens to Pickwick and Hardin County," said Beth Pippin, Tourism Director for the Hardin County Convention & Visitors Bureau. "Pickwick Lake is known for great fishing and scenic beauty that we locals get to enjoy every day! Hosting this tournament will allow us to showcase our beautiful area with national media exposure. It's a win-win for everyone."



Overlooking Pickwick Lake, from a balcony of The Lodge.



A fountain and playground inside The Street Park located in Savannah.



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Overlooking the pavilion on the Savannah Court Square.



The entrance gate to The Street Park located in Savannah.



Savannah's Street Park full of visitors.



Concert goers pose for a photo outside the historic Savannah Theater.



Exterior of Savannah's Farmers Market.



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Getting to Know

Rafael Eledge

Antiques Roadshow Appraiser & Hardin County Native

*lisaAdkins
DWT Contributor*

Rafael Eledge grew up in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. He shared that his family was full of love and not money. He recalled that every time he has been around his parents they tell him they love him when he leaves. He has tried his best to make sure that those that he loves know it also. "It embarrasses some folks when you tell them Love ya'll when you leave but I don't

care because if those are the last words they hear out of my mouth, I am good with that."

He grew up in a home where his parents loved antiques and they went to flea markets almost every weekend. When he turned 5, his dad gave him a metal detector. On his very first trip out with his dad they went to Appleton, Tennessee. That was where the last battle in the state of Tennessee during the Civil War happened. He found a pocket knife from the Civil

War. They found it in a hut site and this trip was very fascinating. When he was in college, he asked a young lady out on a date and when he arrived to pick her up, her father was cleaning some bullets he had found. The next day her father took him metal detecting and he said he fell in love with Civil War relics from that day.

Some of his fondest memories were trips he took with Jerry Burrough. One of the first times he went with Jerry, all Rafael found was poison oak! Bobby Mab-

ry from Lawrenceburg was someone he values going out searching for relics with also. That's who he found his first bullet with. The second bullet he found he was just lying on the ground. He laughingly shared he did not even need his metal detector! His favorite metal detecting trip was several years ago Shiloh Military Park. The Park was doing a monument and they let us do a supervised hunt. "That was probably the most exciting time I have ever metal detecting. They satellite mapped everything so you could see exactly where the troops were in line. It was an unbelievable experience and it's always fun when you can work with the Park. There are so many good people there." The Park is a special place to him because of his childhood memories. He thought as a kid cannons were so cool and he loved playing on them. "I tell people not to play on them, but I was that kid that did! That place has always been special to me. There was always something that drew me to Shiloh because Shiloh is just Shiloh and I think it's the best Park in the country."

Rafael remembers that it all started with a childhood trip to an old antique junk shop owned by Clarence. He knew Rafael liked the old army stuff and he reached back behind the counter and brought out a sword and handed it to him. Rafael did not know a lot back then, but he knew Memphis was southern and it said on the sword Memphis Novelty Works. Clarence wanted \$60 for it. His dad gave him the money and he bought it. He took it to a show and got the sword in front of a lot of people. "I got bids from everyone that had legs!" He got \$1,450 for the sword. "That's what primed the pump and I put it all back into relics and that's what started my collection and my business actually!"

A positive influencer in his life was Larry Hicklen. Larry had a shop, Yesterday Relics. They were partners for 10 years. When they were partners, Larry had a vested interest in him because he wanted him to know what he was doing. As a kid, he would go to Larry's shop and admire all his things. Larry had a US Buckle there that was the ugliest thing ever dug. It was broken, battered and beaten and it was \$48. Larry let him make three payments on it. Larry was packing up one day and he asked him where he was going and he said he was going to Richmond to a show. "Larry said you ought to go with me and I said what time are we leaving? Larry looked kind of shocked and prob-



ably thought what I have gotten myself into." Rafael skipped his college test and headed to Richmond with Larry. "There were bigger things on my mind than that test!" While he was on this trip with Larry he felt he needed to prove he was worthwhile. He found a couple of swords Larry could make some money on and realized even though Rafael was a kid he was not too bad to have around. Rafael realized after this trip that he could do something he liked and make a little money too. Larry taught him as they drove to the shows and helped him learn the trade. He loves the artifacts because he shared "you don't have to be a genius...the only two things you have to do are be sure the items are real and don't lie to people. That's the only two things that have built the business that I have been fortunate enough to have and I have been overwhelmed with kindness. Every day is a bonus!"

He met Lori M. Hood Eledge while going to MTSU in Murfreesboro. "I came out of class and at the bus stop there is this hippie looking girl wearing Birkenstocks, a big shirt and looking like she should be at a Pearl Jam concert! The bus was late

and it was never late. I thought this girl is something. He sees her at the bus stop a few days later and she let the bus pass by. It took me a long time to get the nerve to ask her out because she was dating someone. He always asked how it was going with her boyfriend because one day he might screw up and he did. I asked her out and she said yes." They were married 23 years before she passed on. Lori was a licensed optician and she had a good job and that's how they made it the first several years. The first year they were married they started a business, moved to a different town, had a child, and bought a house. He shared they did everything they were supposed to do in the first 10 years of marriage in one year. "That's just kind of been the pace of my life ever since then. One of my friends used to say Lori was metal gear solid. She really got me through those first years."

He started a mail order business before the internet and Larry Hicklen loaned him his list of names! He printed the list and did mail outs and just waited for the phone to ring. "It started ringing and I said this is the greatest thing ever!" Then

the internet came and changed everything. He is the founder of Shiloh Relics which started in October of 1995 which became Shilohrelics.com. This is their 26th year and he has sent relics all over the world. He even sent a confederate veterans metals to Japan. "Times in history fascinates people all over the world so it's been a blessing. The good thing about this hobby is that most hobbies you are in, you are in it for about six months and you have seen everything there is to see. With this there is always something new and always a different angle in history. I hope the best thing I ever have, is the next thing I buy!"

One of his earlier pieces he found is actually in the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. He and his brother were in North Carolina doing a show and a blizzard hit. They could not get home from that show and the next weekend they had another show in Charleston, South Carolina. They stayed with a friend for a week on the couch because he could not afford a hotel room. He loaned them metal detectors to use during the week. Late Thursday, he gets a signal at one of the old Plantations on Johns Island and he dug a piece. He actually found a slave tag dated 1847 from Charleston. It was the first thing he found that was pictured in a book and a magazine. He was young and cash flow was not at its best, so he sold it. It changed hands several times and he got several calls to ask if he dug for it. A man from D.C. called and shared he had the piece and Rafael said "If you ever decide you want to sell it, I would love to buy it back and keep it." He shared with Rafael at a show that his family had given the tag away and donated their image collection and their Civil War Collection to the Library of Congress in the Smithsonian. It was one of the few pieces that they knew where it came from and who found it. Actually the whole history of it. He highly recommends a trip to the African American History Museum at the Smithsonian. He was fortunate to go through the museum with his daughter and he told her pointing to the tag "dad did that!"

He had the pleasure of doing business with Gary Burghoff known as "Radar" on the television series Mash. He was doing a show in Hartford, Connecticut when they met. He saw a whole table of guns for sale. He thought it was a good buy and he called the number on the table, and when they answered he thought their

voice sounded familiar. They met and it was "Radar." "He was such a nice guy and one thing I thought was cool was Radar knew everything about the history of all of his guns. He is also an amazing artist, he paints wildlife."

Rafael became involved with The Antiques Roadshow when they were letting a couple of guys go that were on the show and he said "I thought they were going to have to have somebody to do it. They might as well have me. I started writing them letters. I had customers from all over the country sending them letters about me as well. I was 20 to 30 letters in and in these letters I asked for them to just give me one chance. That is all I wanted was one chance." He received a call from a producer that told him he had two questions for him and the first was could he be in Miami next weekend and he replied, "Hoss, I can be there tonight if you want me to be and I asked what was the other questions." The producer said "If I give you this one chance that you have been saying you wanted, will you stop writing me letters?" Rafael said "You will never hear from me again. I promise." It all began and the next season they invited him down and it was an amazing experience that he was very fortunate to have. This all started with them "when I was young and had hair!" His first Antiques Roadshow assignment was Season 6, Miami, Fla. event in June 2001. "One of the things about being genuine is I honestly don't know what I am going to say next! The folks on the show call them "Raflism's." Once he was on a show and they were appraising a bullet struck sword and the fact that it was bullet struck made it very valuable. He had spent around 15 minutes sharing with the lady on the show "how cool that was and that is what made that sword a \$5,000 sword instead of a \$1,000 sword. I always end my segments with do they have any questions." She said, "Well how do I get it fixed?" She wanted to know how she could fix the bullet strike that made it so special and I said "Lady that would be like spray painting the Mona Lisa and I hear a camera man laugh and I thought.. oh what did I say?" He shared, he looked around and everyone was laughing. This really helped him learn to be himself. I realized that most of the appraisers were from Boston or New York and they were all brilliant people. One thing he noticed is they did not say "Ya'll on the show." He stepped back

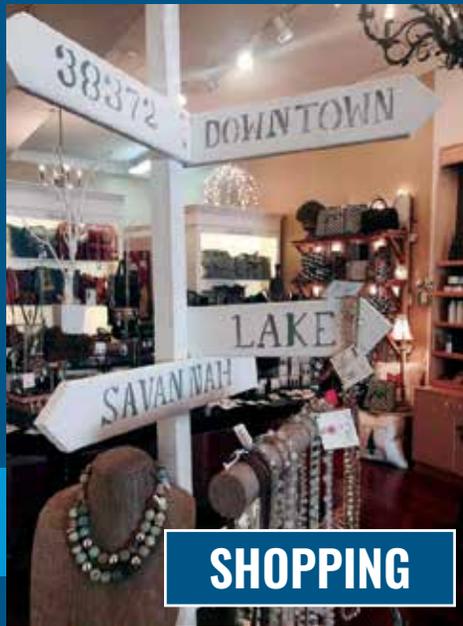
and reflected that when he first started working there, he tried to be someone he was not and it did not work out on the show. Trying to be someone else there caused him to lose the opportunity with Antiques Roadshow. One day one of his friends on the show. Bill Guthman. had a medical issue and could not make the next season on the show. Antiques Roadshow called him and shared about Bill and asked if Rafael could come back and he said yes. "I decided on that plane flight to Minnesota that I am going to be me. They did not like me for who I ain't, let's see if they like me for who I am. Since that day forward I have just been me. I don't ever want to be anyone else, but I would like to be a better version of me and that has worked." Antiques Roadshow Executive Producer, Marsha Bemko, shared this about Rafael "Even bad news sounds good coming out of his mouth".

When the pandemic hit he felt like he did not know what would happen to his business, and he had the same feeling about his. He is the founder of Shilohrelics.com. One of his daughters suggested he try You Tube. He tried his first video and it's been great. He has a website where he can put a write up and pictures but it does not say why he loves a piece and why he buys it. Every piece he buys, he buys for a specific reason and he gets to share in the videos why he likes it. People have told him they enjoy seeing his enthusiasm in the videos. "It's a piece of history and let's say you look at a cannon ball, it's just a hunk of iron but when you add the history of the battle and you put those guys that were on both sides that left their homes fighting for what they believed in and the ball signifies the struggle.....it brings it all together. It's not just a hunk of iron it's a piece of our history." It's allowed him to meet a lot of people. He has around 120 videos you can watch and is blessed he is able to share his passion. The videos are important because he tries to end every one of them with a positive message. What a breath of fresh air to meet someone who wants to touch the lives of others.

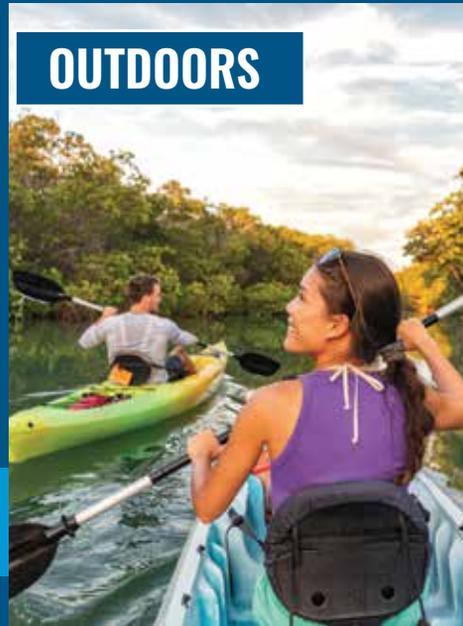
He shared none of this would have happened if had not been for his family and friends and they are the most important thing in his life as well as his lady friend, Catherine McCutchen Brown. He has a virtual presence at Shilohrelics.com only.

Enjoy viewing his videos at Shiloh Relics channel on You Tube.

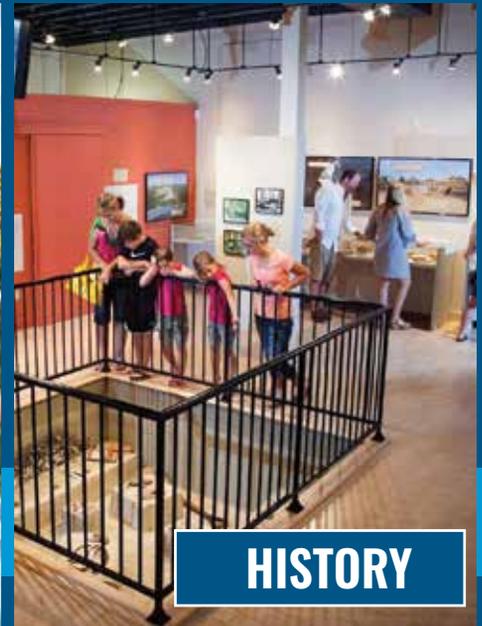
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Enjoy the Trails at Shiloh

Shiloh National Military Park offers more than a celebration of our rich history. Shiloh is also the perfect place to enjoy the outdoors!

Getting out on our trail system affords visitors many opportunities to experience Shiloh National Military Park from a new perspective, with a slower pace and a breath of fresh air. Visitors are invited to enjoy the part from dawn to dusk every day the park is open.

At Shiloh, bicyclists are welcome and encouraged to ride on the paved trails throughout the park. You can follow the auto tour route, a 12.7-mile ride throughout the park, or just pick a section of the park that you enjoy.

Shiloh is also a great location for hiking, walking, and running. Visitors are encouraged to hike the grounds and explore the trails to various monuments and tablets away from the auto

tour roads. You can also hike the 1-mile trail through the Shiloh Indian Mounds village.

For more information about the trails at Shiloh, contact the Hardin County Convention and Visitors Bureau in Savannah at 731-925-8181 visit www.tour-hardincounty.org. Alternately, contact the park at www.nps.gov/shil/ for more information on biking and ranger led runs.



Visitors to Shiloh enjoy a stop to admire the statuary.



One of the bridges traversing a creek at the battlefield.



Wayne Jerrolds poses with a saddle that belonged to legendary bluegrass entertainer Bill Monroe.

Give a listen to Champion Fiddler Wayne Jerrolds

*lisaAdkins
DWT Contributor*

Raised in the Burnt Church area, champion fiddler Wayne Jerrolds is from Hardin County. He has a special love of music that started for him around the age of 8. His family lived out in the country where they didn't have a television. One day his daddy came in and said they were going to have a music playing down at his Uncle Grover's house. Wayne went, and heard beautiful waltz tunes whose melodies pierced his heart. He said to himself, "Man, that is beautiful! I did not even know things like that existed."

That feeling never left him, and he decided he wanted a fiddle. At age 12, though, he just could not afford to get one. "My Daddy got us an old guitar and he tried to play that, but he was slow with it," Wayne said. When his un-

cle R.D. Smith was going in the Army, R.D. told Wayne that if he got killed, he wanted Wayne to have his fiddle. Thankfully Uncle R.D. lived, so when Wayne was 16 his mother bought him a fiddle for \$15.

"I still have that old fiddle, and my daughter Paula plays it when we twin fiddle together. It warms my heart when I get to share the stage with some of my family," Wayne related. Wayne has spent a lot of time as a songwriter as well. He co-wrote a song, Mississippi, and it was recorded on a major label by Bobby Osborne. Jerrolds is known for his compassion and determination and before COVID, he graciously donated a lot of time playing to senior citizen facilities.

Jerrolds competed 17 times for the Tennessee State Championship Fiddlers Trophy, and he won 13 times! He is a 10-time Mississippi State Fiddling Champion and has won three times in

Alabama. Over the years he has won or received numerous awards. In 1984, Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander appointed him Colonel Aide de Camp to the Governor's staff. In 2008, Tennessee State Rep. Randy Rinks recognized him in the Tennessee House of Representatives. In 2009, Alabama Governor Bob Riley recognized him when he won the State Fiddling Championship. In 2019, Tennessee State Rep. David Byrd made a proclamation in his honor. In 2018, he was inducted into the McNairy County Music Hall of Fame. He was very proud to be inducted into the Rockabilly Hall of Fame in 2019.

The fiddler was honored to perform on the Grand Ole Opry more than 50 times. Jerrolds has played and shared the stage with many artists, but he is especially proud of his time with Tammy Wynette, Loretta Lynn, Carl Mann, Carrol Robinson, and Bill Monroe.

"There was a lot of pressure, and I was scared I was going to mess up because I was playing with Bill Monroe, the Father of Blue Grass, but I did it!" Jerrolds said. He played with Monroe from the Dec. of 1988 until April of 1989. Jerrolds was on the Ted Mac Show in 1968, and performed at the World's Fair in Knoxville in 1983. He was honored to perform in A Real American Hero movie about the life of Bufford Pusser.

A musical instrument known as the "fiddolin" was invented by Jerrolds. When asked what made him invent it, he shared that while playing a fiddle in a band all the time it got kind of repetitious. He thought he needed a little mandolin sprinkled in. He would have to bend over to pick up his mandolin and put his bow in the fiddle case. He thought, "This instrument looks like you can turn it over, and you would not have to do all that work." He tried to buy a combination fiddle/mandolin, but found that it did not exist. He reached out to a patent lawyer, and got busy at his kitchen table building a prototype.

A good friend in Mississippi and his niece Sharon Qualls helped him with it, and they have built about 15 fiddolins. In the end, though, he decided it was just such a big job that he did not keep it up, but he has invested about \$11,000 in keeping the patent renewed. "Honestly, I just started out to get one for myself!" Jerrolds said. "I have sold a few, and could sell a bunch more, but I don't want to start another business."

Due to his love of the music, Jerrolds is the founder of the Bluegrass Festival in Savannah, which is now in its 43rd year. When he owned a music store, he and coworker Wayne Whitten both loved music and thought they should have a fiddling contest. They started putting out posters and telling people about it. They even went down to a bluegrass festival in Mississippi to see how people put one on. Someone there told him that a lot of musicians were not interested in a competition or a contest, so he decided not to have a contest because a lot of feelings could be hurt with only one winner. This led to him starting a Bluegrass Festival, where everyone could be a winner.

"Giving everyone a chance to play and not compete was important to me, and we never did have any hard feelings about it," Jerrolds said. "The

second year we had the festival, Mike Snider came over and played and I played the mandolin with him. It was not long until Mike won the National Championship, and I told him, 'Mike you don't need me anymore.' Mike is a regular on the Grand Ole Opry now, and him playing with me in Savannah is just a great part of the history of the Bluegrass Festival.

The beautiful house that Jerrolds calls home was built in 1875 and sits facing the Tennessee River. He was honored to have the American Pickers show up recently at his stately home place, around the first of February. Jerrolds' grandson Clent Martin reached out to the American Pickers and made this all happen, so an episode of American Pickers could be filmed at Jerrolds' place.

"They are the nicest bunch of people you could ever meet," Jerrolds shared. "Danielle and Robbie came in and they had a big team with them. They didn't just drive up in a little van, but it was bus, 5 or 6 cars, and a guard down there pulling in my driveway. It was a lot of fun, and a really great day for me."

They American Pickers showed up around 10:30 that morning, and stayed until 9 that night. In addition to Dan-

ielle and Robbie, there were cameramen, a lighting crew, a soundman, and a big production team that Jerrolds was not expecting. Be on the lookout for the airing of the American Pickers episode filmed at Jerrolds' home on the History Channel. It will be exciting to see what they purchased!

In addition to looking out for this special episode, the old fiddler's band, "The Wayne Jerrolds Songs of Yesterday," currently airs on several television stations where you can see his band perform. They are on several different channels on Spectrum, Dish Network, and Direct TV in several towns.

To get a real feel for the way Jerrolds shows his love of music, mark your calendars and come on down to the Bluegrass Festival this year. It's great family fun and it's free to the public, and they are even having Buck Dancers there again this year. It is a 2-day festival, kicking off at 6 p.m. at the Riverfront Park in Savannah on Friday night, July 2. On Saturday, July 3, the fun begins again at 10 a.m. at the Savannah Market in Savannah. For more information, call 731-727-6848. Keep your eyes out for champion fiddler Wayne Jerrolds - he will be glad to see you and share the music he loves!



Wayne cuts down on his fiddle!

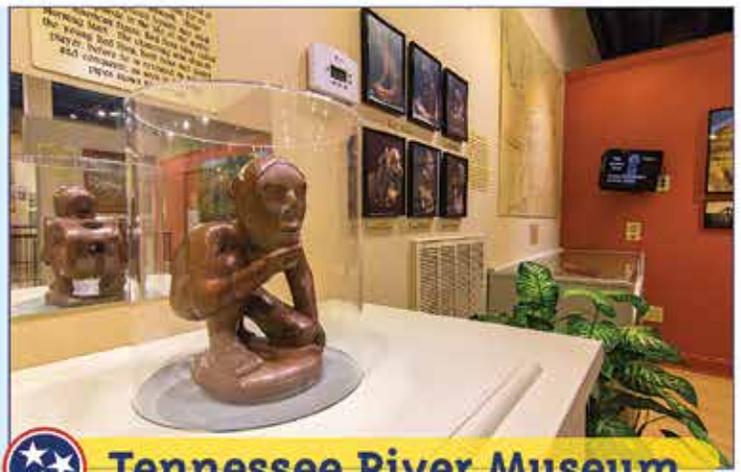


Shiloh National Military Park

Over 5000 acres of Civil War history, 150 monuments, 200 cannons, 650 historic tablets plus Shiloh Indian Mounds, a National Historic Landmark itself, are located within park boundaries. Visitors Center includes museum, bookstore and orientation film.

nps.gov/shil

1055 Pittsburg Landing Road, Shiloh, TN 38372

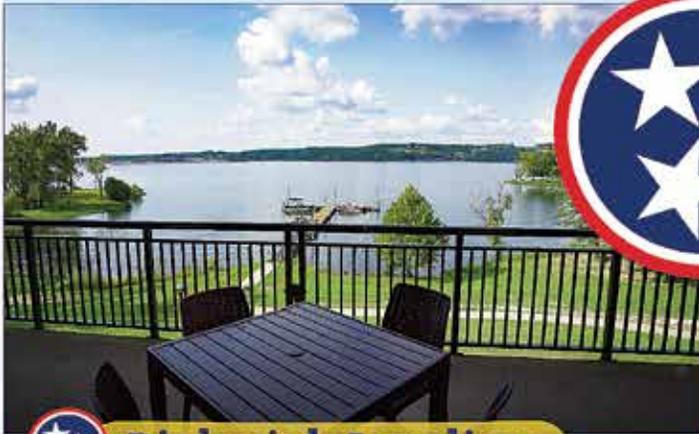


Tennessee River Museum

This historical museum is a tribute to the Tennessee River and its influence on the land, people and the heritage of the Valley. Beginning with the Moundbuilders, visitors can explore Pioneer life, the Trail of Tears, Ironclad ships, Steamboats and life today on the water.

tennesseerivermuseum.org

495 Main Street, Savannah, TN 38372



Pickwick Landing State Park

Noted for its excellent water recreation the lake and river offer fishing, boating, swimming and a marina. Accommodations on the park include a newly remodeled Lodge and restaurant, cabins and camping. Guests can also enjoy golfing, birding, kayaking, disc golf, nature walks and year-round events.

tnstateparks.com/parks/pickwick-landing

120 Playground Loop, Counce, TN 38326



Tennessee Street Park

Gated five-acre park that boasts two splash pads, two playgrounds (ages 5 & under and 12 & under), walking trail, outdoor exercise equipment, pavilions, and a 20-foot tall fountain as the focal point.

cityofsavannah.org/parks-recreation

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- June 12 MC Carl Perkins Center Rockabilly Car Show
- July 4 Freedom Fest, Selmer



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CARL PERKINS PLAYS A HARDWARE STORE OPENING WITH FRIENDS CIRCA 1950. L TO R: RAMSEY NEARNEY (HARDEMAN COUNTY), CARL PERKINS, JAY PERKINS, BENNY COLEY (MCNAIRY COUNTY), LINDSEY PATTERSON (MCNAIRY COUNTY). PHOTO COURTESY THE JIM BAILEY COLLECTION, JACKSON SUN.

Stanton Littlejohn Project

Around 1947 Stanton Littlejohn began making recordings in his Eastview, Tennessee home. He had no way of knowing that we would still be talking about it almost 75 years later.

Home recording was in its infancy in 1947, but Littlejohn was ahead of the game. He maintained a lifelong fascination with emerging technologies—especially those related to music and music reproduction—and he was a talented multi-instrumentalist well known to other musicians in the region. Those attributes insured success with Littlejohn's new recording enterprise, but the good fortune of the timing guaranteed his work would have a lasting impact.

McNairy County was a hotbed of music-making in the postwar years. Local masters who had come of age in the first half of the 20th Century were in their prime and a new crop of emerging musicians were beginning to shake things up.

Legendary old-time musicians such as Elvis Black, Waldo Davis, and Con Crotts entertained thousands on regional radio broadcasts, fiddle contests and community jams, as well as local house parties that were known as "frolics" or "musicals." Younger country and bluegrass artists like Kay Bain, Ernest Whitten, and Arnold English were also on the rise in the late 1940s and early 1950s. All of these, and dozens of other pickers and vocalists, made spectacular recordings at Eastview in the front parlor of Littlejohn's modest home.

As talented as these men and women were, only one artist who visited Littlejohn was destined for international stardom. Carl Perkins made what is believed to be the first recording of his illustrious career with Littlejohn in 1951. He was only 19 years old at the time and he elected





to record an Eddy Arnold tune, "There's Been a Change in Me," backed by the country band Charlie Cox and the Southern Playboys. A second session soon followed—perhaps in 1952 or 1953—but this time, Perkins demonstrated the style that made him a household name.

In his second trip to Eastview, Perkins recorded the R&B classics "Good Rockin' Tonight" and "Drinking Wine Spodee-o-dee." Those two sides offer the clearest and earliest documentation that the young Perkins was among the first white artists to merge country and R&B into what would later be known as rockabilly music. The session occurred long before Elvis Presley released his first Sun Records singles. By sheer coincidence, Presley's second Sun release was "Good Rockin' Tonight," the same tune Perkins had recorded 2-3 years earlier with Littlejohn. In other words, what happened in Memphis happened in McNairy County first.

Perkins would, of course, go on to become one of the founding fathers of rock 'n' roll with the release of his rockabilly anthem "Blue Suede Shoes" in early 1956. But the Littlejohn sessions offer irrefutable evidence that he was no Presley copycat. The style of music that won him fame and made him one of the most influential figures in rock history was as natural to him as breathing.

In October 2019 Littlejohn's historic recordings of Perkins were made publicly available for the first time. The Bear Family Records release, *Discovering Carl Perkins*, was issued first in Europe and subsequently in the US. The preservation and release of the recordings are the product of over 10 years research and documentation by Arts in McNairy's traditional arts committee. Committee chair, Shawn Pitts, acted as coproducer on the Bear Family project which includes a 10 inch vinyl LP, CD and 16 page booklet with exhaustive liner notes. A limited supply is available locally through Arts in McNairy's online store (www.artsinmcnairy.com) or at major online retailers such as Amazon, Target and Best Buy.

STORY BY SHAWN PITTS



The sun's out, the temperature's warming and you want to head outdoors. It's only natural, especially since circumstances have had us spending much of the last couple of months in our homes. But before you head outside, make sure you're practicing the basics of sun safety!

Many people don't think of sun safety until summer, when the temperatures in Tennessee are raging hot and the sun is beating down. The reality, though, is that you should incorporate basic habits to help prevent skin cancer year-round.

Why Sun Safety Is Important

Skin cancer is startlingly common. In fact, more cases of skin cancer are diagnosed each year in the United States than all other cancers combined. One in five Americans will develop some type of skin cancer by age 70.

While we often think of skin cancer as only affecting those who are older and Caucasian, the reality is that it can be diagnosed in any person at any time.

"Skin cancer affects people of all ages, races and genders," says Nicholas Treece, family medicine provider with West Tennessee Medical Group.

Sun Safety Basics

So, how can you keep your skin safe? That's an important question—and the answer is probably more complex than you've previously thought about.



Not Just Sunscreen: What to Know About Sun Safety

Let's step through some basic habits that can help you keep your skin healthy and protected from the sun's harmful UV rays:

- Slather on the sunscreen. The American Academy of Dermatology recommends choosing a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30 and applying it to all skin that will be exposed to the sun.
- Don't forget to reapply. You

should apply your first coat of sunscreen about a half hour before heading outside, and reapply at least every two hours, or more often if you're sweating or swimming.

- Wear sunscreen even when it's cloudy. Why? Because 80% of the sun's harmful UV rays still make it to earth even when it's cloudy. Rethink the "safe" tan. The only safe tan is the kind that comes from a bottle!
- Choose your outdoor time carefully. The sun's rays are hottest and most intense between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., so it's recommended to avoid the outdoors during that time.
- Stay out of direct sunlight when possible. If you're spending time outside, try and stay in a shady area.
- Add some accessories. Protect your scalp, ears, neck and chest by wearing a broad-brimmed hat, and wear sunglasses that block at least 99% of UV light.

Even if you take every precaution against the sun, the Skin Cancer Foundation recommends having a dermatologist perform a skin check on an annual basis.

Find a West Tennessee Medical Group provider online at wth.org/find-a-doctor.



Nicholas Treece, DO

"Skin cancer doesn't discriminate, which is why it's so important for every person to take sun safety seriously and take steps to protect the skin."





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Stop Four: Samuel T. Bryant Distillery

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Dr. Sylvester A. Nwedo

Dr. Nwedo is a Board Certified Psychiatrist who believes in the whole-person approach, considering all aspects of the person's life that may impact their mental health. This includes environmental, psychological, lifestyle and social influences.

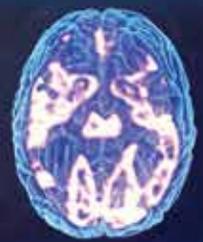
Dr. Nwedo attended graduate school in 1995, and has over 24 years of diverse experience, especially in Psychiatry. Dr. Nwedo currently serves as a clinical assistant professor at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee. He is affiliated with many hospitals including Henry County Medical Center in Paris, Tennessee and Jackson-Madison County General Hospital.

Dr. Nwedo also cooperates with other doctors and physicians in medical groups. He continues to educate himself in all aspects of psychiatric medicine.

He is certified in transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) therapy, which is the most advanced form of treatment for depression, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) and other mental health disorders. He is also certified in Spravato REMS therapy, and addiction and adolescent therapy.



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THE FORD PICKUP THROUGH THE YEARS 1980-2021

The Thirteenth Generation was between 2015 and 2017

Another Ford first was accomplished with the 2015 F-150 model when it became the very first pickup to receive Adaptive Cruise Control. This feature offers radar sensors embedded on the front of the truck that monitors the distance between the vehicle in front of you and yourself. If it senses you are too close, speed will automatically be decreased, forming a safe barrier.

The Ford F-150 also underwent a radical change in 2015 by dropping 750 pounds by switching from a steel body to that of all-aluminum. This was quite an accomplishment, considering nothing "looked" physically changed; however, the bulk of the frame remains high-strength steel.

Along with dropping a few pounds, a more efficient base engine was added to include a 3.5L V6 and also introduced for 2015 was the 2.7L EcoBoost twin-turbo V6 and the 3.5L version. For those wanting more power, the 5.0L V8 is still available. Ford says the 2016 all-aluminum F-150 will be the most fuel-efficient truck ever. See-you can have your truck and drive it, too.





Introducing-The 2021 Ford F-150

The Fourteenth Generation was between 2018 and 2021

Ford, America's truck leader for 40 straight years, has bested all competitors to earn 2018 Motor Trend Truck of the Year honors for the new Ford F-150. This is the fifth win for F-150, and this award follows the all-new Ford Super Duty capturing the award in 2017.

"Back-to-back wins for F-150 and Super Duty reflect what we're also seeing and hearing from customers as we celebrate 40 straight years as America's favorite and best-selling trucks," said Raj Nair, Ford executive vice president and president, North America. "The Ford Truck team stretched further than ever to deliver our toughest, most capable

and smartest trucks."

"This year's competition was fierce, but the vote was unanimous," said Ed Loh, Motor Trend editor in chief. "The newly redesigned 2018 F-150 exceeded our expectations in every category – powertrain, performance, technology and overall execution."

The Ford F-150 line went up against the latest competitive truck offerings in a program that combined empirical and real-world testing to find the truck that best met the award's key criteria: advancement in design, engineering excellence, safety, value, efficiency and performance of intended function.

Motor Trend editors put to the test four vehicles from the Ford pickup lineup: the 2018 F-150 XL with the all-new 3.3-liter V6 engine, F-150 Lariat with the all-new 2.7-liter EcoBoost®, F-150 Platinum with an enhanced 5.0-liter V8, and the high-performance off-road F-150 Raptor.

Judges cited overall towing capability, advanced technology functionality and powertrain performance among their favorite F-150 attributes. They also noted exemplary on- and off-road driving performance, best-in-class fuel economy and innovative cab design as F-150 strengths. (Ford Media Center) - <https://media.ford.com/>

Built FORD Tough



OVC fans will again enjoy the beauty of The Ballpark of Jackson in 2021.

Jackson to Host Ohio Valley Conference Baseball Championship again in 2021

The 2021 Ohio Valley Conference will return to The Ballpark at Jackson from May 27-29. This year's championship will feature the top four teams in the OVC standings competing in a double elimination format with the winner receiving the OVC's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. The OVC Baseball Championship was previously held at The Ballpark at Jackson from 2010 through 2016.

"After a brief hiatus, the Ballpark is excited to welcome the Ohio Valley Conference Baseball Tournament back to Jackson," said General Manager Mar-

cus Sabata. "It gives West Tennessee the opportunity to see high-quality Division 1 baseball in their own backyard. The OVC has been a dream to work with and we thank them for bringing this event back to Jackson. We look forward to hosting a first class event."

"We are excited to have the OVC Baseball Championship back at The Ballpark at Jackson," said OVC Commissioner Beth DeBauche. "There is a level of comfort in going back to a place that has been so good to our league in the past."

The first elimination style OVC Base-

ball Tournament was held in 1980, most usually being played at the site of the regular season champion. Beginning in 2001, the tournament switched to a neutral site for the first time, with nine championships (2001-09) being held at Brooks Stadium in Paducah, Kentucky, followed by seven years (2010-16) at The Ballpark at Jackson, two years (2017-18) at Choccolocco Park in Oxford, Alabama and one year (2019) at Rent One Park in Marion, Illinois. This year will mark the 42nd OVC Baseball Championship. The event was not held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2021 OVC Baseball Championship Schedule

Thursday, May 27

Game 1 - #1 Seed vs. #4 Seed, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

Game 2 - #2 Seed vs. #3 Seed, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

Friday, May 28

Game 3 - Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2, 11:00 a.m. (ESPN+)

Game 4 - Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2, 3:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

Game 5 - Winner Game 4 vs. Loser Game 3, 7:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

Saturday, May 29

Game 6 - Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 5, 12:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

Game 7 (if necessary) - Winner Game 6 vs. Loser Game 6, 4:00 p.m. (ESPN+)



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MOSS ISLAND

Land in Dyer County was part of The Louisiana Purchase

dannyWALDEN
DWT Contributor

Those of us who live in West Tennessee have experienced flooding sometime during our lives. Each spring brings rain along with melting snow from areas north. Streams, creeks and rivers swell and often run over their banks causing issues for residents of our communities. A lot has been done to mitigate the problems throughout the years. Levees, drainage ditches, retaining basins and even bridges have helped West Tennesseans deal with the reoccurring issue of flooding. Historically, there is one inter-

esting aspect of our area that has a long influence on our state and our country. That piece of history is located in Dyer County, on the western boundary of Tennessee. The place is known as Moss Island.

In school, I'm sure we all learned about Napoleon selling territory west of the Mississippi River to the United States. While President Thomas Jefferson was mainly interested in controlling the port at the mouth of the Mighty Mississippi, the purchase nearly doubled the size of the country and set us on the path of "manifest destiny". That's where flooding and the changing banks of the river comes in.

And where disputes over the actual boundaries wind up in the U.S. Supreme Court.

The history of what we call Moss Island dates back before the American Revolution. Spanish surveyors probably followed the earlier route of Hernando DeSoto plotting islands in the Mississippi River. The Moss Island area was on the western side of the big river at that time. In 1682 French explorer Sieur de LaSalle claimed land on the west side of the Mississippi for King Louis XIV. Then in 1762, the French ceded land to Spain.

The United States was founded in 1776 and Tennessee became the 16th state in 1796. In

1800 Spain returned land west of the Mississippi, then known as Louisiana, to the French in exchange for other North American land. That brings us to 1803 when President Jefferson purchased 800,000 square miles of what we know as the Louisiana Purchase. The cost was \$15,000,000. Moss Island was still on the west side of the Mississippi, thus it was part of the Louisiana Purchase.

It remained so until the winter of 1822-23. The main course of the river shifted from the east side of Moss Island to the west side. By 1826 the main course permanently flowed on the west side of Moss Island. Law suits

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were filed over the ownership of the land that was cut off by the river's shift. Litigation occurred between individuals who had staked their claim as part of Tennessee land grants and those who claimed ownership through North Carolina land grants. Additionally, there were questions about ownership dating back to the French, the Spanish, the Chickasaw Indians and the United States. Confused? So was I.

In a February 24, 2008 edition of the Dyersburg State Gazette, Chris Rimel published an article that outlines the early history and legal path concerning Moss Island. The Supreme Court heard the case, The State of Arkansas vs. The State of Tennessee, in 1937. In their 1940 decision, Moss Island was declared Tennessee land. The complicated case cited earlier law suits filed in Dyer County Circuit Court, the treaties signed between Jefferson and Napoleon when the U.S. bought the Louisiana Territory, the Chickasaw Indian secession of 1818 in addition to the fact that Arkansas didn't become a state

until 1836.

On March 3, 1959, the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission purchased the land for \$60,000 and turned it into a wildlife management area. The land in western Dyer County that was once part of the Louisiana Purchase has a huge levee running through it today. There are fields of crops almost as far as the eye can see and hunters and fishermen enjoy the habitat that today's Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency maintain in the area.

Not a farmer, hunter or fisherman? Just like the outdoors and experiencing God's creation while learning about West Tennessee? The next time you're taking that Sunday drive, take exit 1 on Interstate 155 in Dyer County. That's highway 181. Drive south. You can see beautiful scenery while driving across Moss Island. When you cross the Obion River, you'll end up on TN highway 88 in Lauderdale County. That'll take you directly into the lovely town of Halls, Tennessee.

Enjoy the trip!



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Get Outdoors!

brookeCOFFEY
DWT Contributor

Adventure awaits in Obion County. Whether you are looking for an action packed hunting trip, unique outdoor trail, or relaxing afternoon fishing, Obion County has what you are looking for.

To start your outdoor adventure, head to Reelfoot Lake. This 15,000-acre lake was created by a series of violent earthquakes in 1811-1812 that caused the Mississippi River to flow backwards for a short period of time. Fast forward to today, the lake is a popular spot for fishermen, hunters, eagle spotters, and

kayaking enthusiasts. After your day on the lake, check out one of the many dining options available. My personal favorite at any Reelfoot Lake restaurant is the classic catfish dinner!

If you are looking for a unique experience, be sure to head to Discovery Park of America's heritage park. You are sure to see a wide variety of attractions such as beautiful gardens, a children's area, train depot, ag center, and more while there. In the children's garden, Discovery Park's youngest guests will find even more to discover in the one-of-a-kind, nature-inspired playground experience. Featured is a Play Odyssey

Tower, log steppers, log balance beams, hillside climbers, slides, and a mini zip line. A chessboard with 3-foot tall pieces provides an opportunity to spend a little competitive family time. Trust me, you will not leave disappointed.

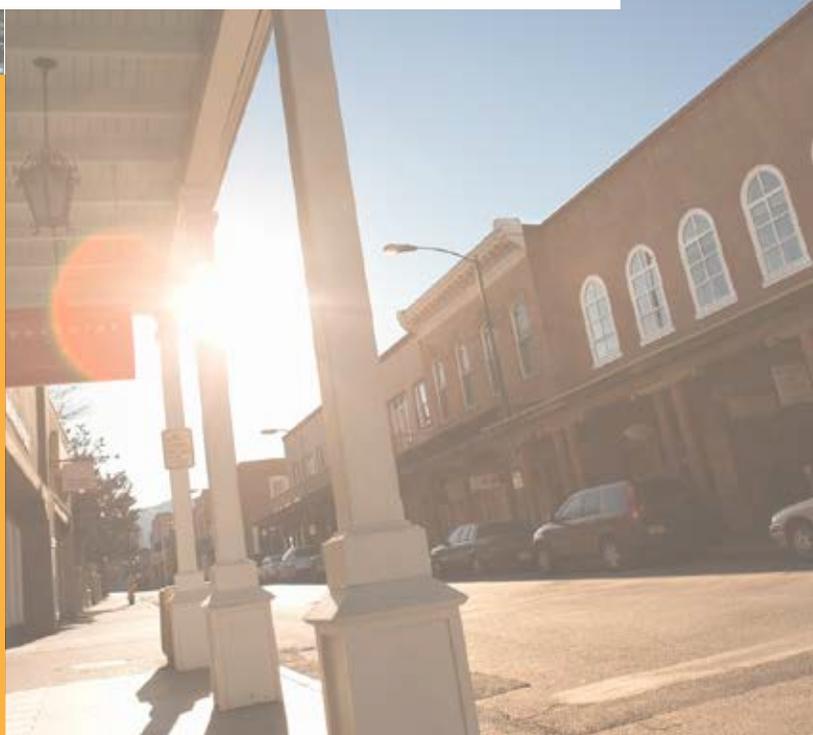
Obion County is home to multiple parks. At Graham Park in Union City, you can enjoy a newly opened splash pad and skate park. In the summer months, the splash pad is a go-to spot for family fun. As the summer heat is approaching, outdoor adventures become more and more exciting. Anyone who chooses to visit is sure to make memories that will last a lifetime (I know I sure have a ton!).





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DISCOVER

West Tennessee

Welcomes Lisa Adkins

Beginning with our May issue, Lisa Adkins has joined the Discover West Tennessee family as a writer, photographer, and Sales Consultant on a full time basis.

Lisa Adkins is a native Tennessean. Lisa is from Hardeman County and also lived in Haywood County (in Nutbush) for 10 years. She lived in Warren County for seven years and she currently resides in Madison County. Adkins graduated from Union University in 2005 with a 3.9 GPA, and she attended Motlow State Community College. She was in the Who's Who Among Students in American

Universities and Colleges, and she was named to the Dean's List. Lisa completed Hardin County's Leadership Program in 2018. Lisa was number five in the nation in sales with a large nationwide respiratory company.

Her passion is to help others and to make a difference in the world and community while using her strengths and talents. She is very passionate about non-profits, helping in her community, promotions, our environment and water safety. Lisa was presented the Environmental Stewardship Awards for an Individual by Mayor Jerry

Gist in 2017 due to her volunteer work for The Tennessee Clean Water Network.

Her work has placed her in many surrounding counties where she has built valuable, strong relationships. Adkins is an accomplished photographer and it all began when she won a camera in the 4th grade in a 4-H contest. While attending high school she was on the annual staff and they had their own black and white darkroom. She currently owns her own photography business. She was the official photographer for the Dottie West Music Fest for several years in McMinnville, Tenn.

In addition, Lisa is also a prolific writer, contributing to several publications. 2019 Lisa was awarded the Excellence for Outstanding Print Media, by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Lisa is blessed with two beautiful successful daughters and four grandchildren. In her spare time she enjoys fishing, gardening, music and cooking.

If you need a story told, a picture made, or want to find out how to advertise your business or event within the pages of Discover West Tennessee magazine, then give Lisa a call at (731) 234-0533 or send an email to: lisa@discoverwtn.com



Lisa Adkins

Photo courtesy of Jaelynn Jarvis-Brueggeman

West TN PBS

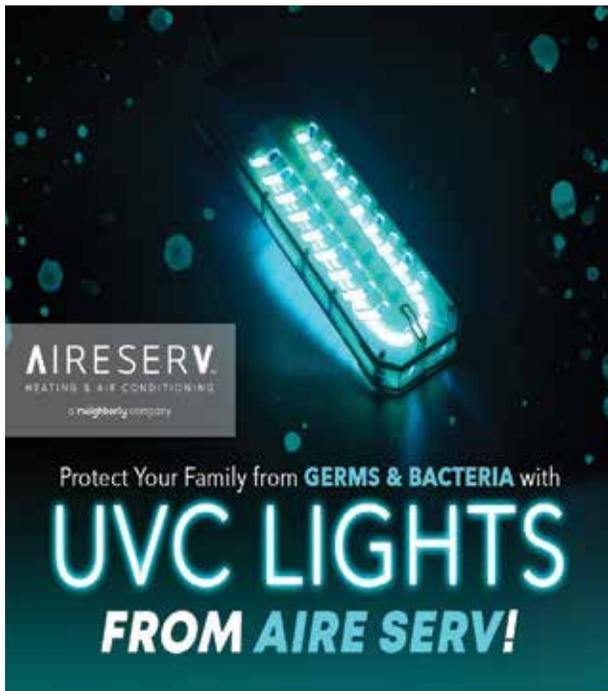
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Carroll County 1,000 Acre Lake to host Bass Nation's State Jr. Championships

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that on May 8, 2021, the Carroll County Thousand Acre Recreational Lake will host the Tennessee Bass Nation State Junior Championship.

The tournament, which is the state championship for juniors, is expected to bring 80 or more three-person teams from across Tennessee to Carroll County. Teams will be in town on May 7 to register for the event. Fishermen are also likely to visit during March and April to

practice on the Lake.

"We are excited to be hosting the Tennessee Junior State Bass Championship," said Brad Hurley, President of the Carroll County Chamber. "Fishing tournaments bring people to our county, and while they are here, they spend money with our local businesses."

Carroll County has been fortunate to have been the only home for Bassmaster Junior National Championship since the Chamber hosted the first Bassmaster tournament in 2013.

The leadership of TN Bass Nation has witnessed firsthand the hospitality of the residents and businesses in Carroll County.

"I have volunteered at the high school and junior nationals for BASS for several years now and have seen first-hand the outstanding work of Carroll County to ensure the junior nationals were top notch each year. While BASS has a great crew it takes a lot of work from the local community for events to run well. I know we can trust Carroll County to help our TN

Bass Nation Junior State Championship to be the best it has ever been" said David Lowrie, TN Bass Nation High School and Youth State Director.

"Young Anglers and their families have faced a variety of challenges in the past few months, and we are thrilled to have them in Carroll County and at our premiere Thousand Acre Recreational Lake," said Joseph Butler, Carroll County Mayor. "It seems fitting to host the Junior Championship here as Carroll County is home to the

top collegiate bass fishing team in the country, our own Bethel University Bass Cats."

Tourism is a key component of the Tennessee and Carroll County economy. Without such an outstanding venue for them to fish, these tournaments would not be happening in Carroll County.

"The Carroll County Thousand Acre Recreational Lake is a beautiful lake and provides our fishermen with exciting experience," said Dale Kelley, Secretary/Treasurer of the Carroll County Watershed Authority (CCWSA) and Mayor of the Town of Huntingdon. "The Town of Huntingdon is excited to be hosting the weigh-in at Billy Cary Park and having parents and families in our town and county."

"The Carroll County Chamber is pleased to be a part of this tourism initiative that brings visitors and dollars to Carroll

County," said Hurley. "The economic activity generated by the tournament will impact convenience stores, hotels, eating establishments, automotive stores, etc. This tournament creates a positive impact across Carroll County."

This will be the eighth major Fishing Tournament to be held at the Carroll County Thousand Acre Recreational Lake since it opened in 2013.

Tourist Activity in Carroll County generates tax dollars. According to the State of Tennessee, tourism generated \$813,350 in Local Tax Revenue and \$1,280,000 in State Tax Revenue. If it were not for state and local taxes generated by tourism, each Carroll County household would pay \$189.68 more in taxes.

If you would like additional information, please contact the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce at 731-986-4664.

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Birdsong delivers recreational fun on Kentucky Lake

pamelaMIRABELLA
DWT Contributor

Folks looking for a simpler way of life, can kick off their shoes and enjoy the more than 50 miles of Kentucky Lake shoreline that meanders through Benton County, or better yet, swim in a pristine pool that sits near its bank at Birdsong Resort, Marina and Campground, where according to owner Bob Keast, "Your pleasure is their business." It is after all, his family legacy.

The complex had humble beginnings. In July of 1961, Bob and Lorraine Keast simply wanted a place where they could live "the good life." Their ambition was to own a resort on a lakefront, a place to raise a family and live the American dream. The Keasts used their life savings and with their three children moved to the 10-acre property that had little more than a few old cottages, a muddy launching ramp and a rambling two-story restaurant overlooking the lake. They had their work cut out for them.

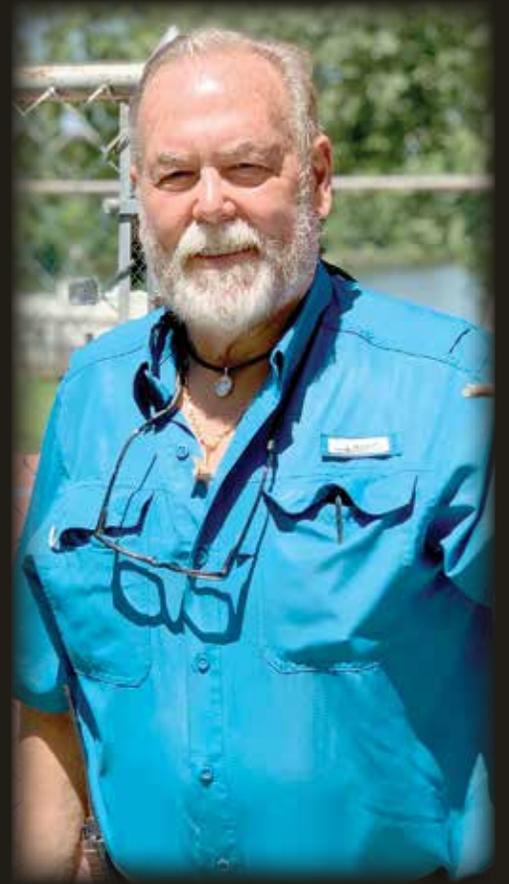
Building Birdsong was a labor of love for the Keast family. The couple retired in 1980 and named Bob Keast, Jr. the President and Chief Executive Officer of the entire recre-

ational complex.

Many years and upgrades later, the resort is a family destination. Birdsong is now a sprawling 58-acre resort featuring 140-slip marina, yacht club, new and used boat sales and service, boat rentals, 26 full housekeeping cottages and mobile homes, more than 200 second-home resident lots, 120-seat community center, playground, RV campground with full hook-ups and The Tennessee River Freshwater Pearl Museum, Farm, Tour and Jewelry Showroom.

Birdsong Resort, Marina and Campground on beautiful Kentucky Lake is the ideal stop for an overnight, a weekend or week stay. Keast said, "The best part of fishing and hunting is the camaraderie...away from the daily grind and enjoying the greatest of the outdoors which is one of God's gifts to man. Relax and enjoy one of the largest man-made lakes in America, Kentucky Lake in western Tennessee. We are sure to make you feel like family."

The drive out to Birdsong is a showcase of natural beauty. So, grab the family and head on out to this recreational playground located at 255 Marina Rd., where folks are sure to have a splashing good time.



Bob Keast

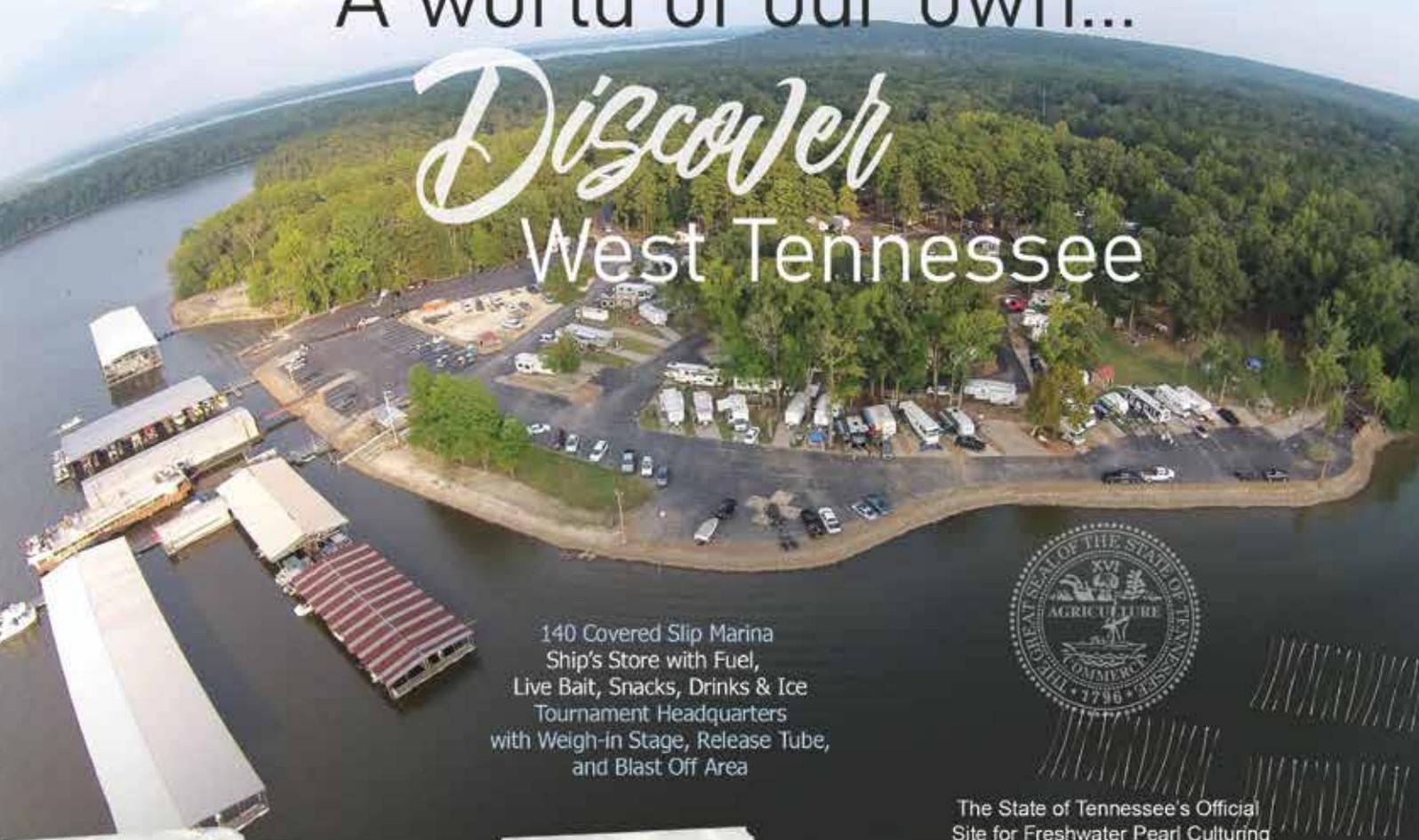


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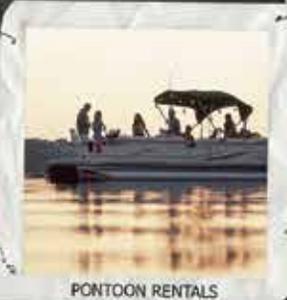


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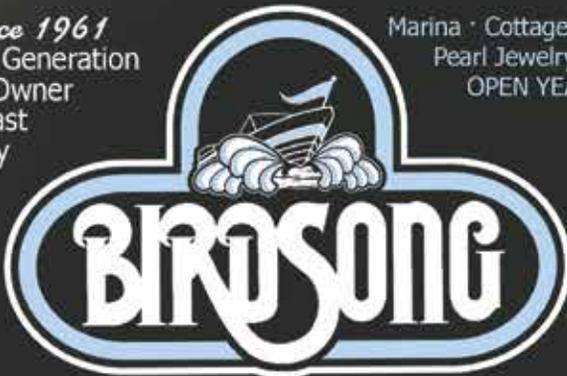
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LIFELINE Blood Services Pleads for Assistance with Mobile Blood Drives

LIFELINE Blood Services has issued a statement about the need for more locations to host mobile blood drives across West Tennessee.

"Due to the pandemic, many educational and industrial locations that would normally host blood drives have not been able to have a mobile drive since early in 2020," said Tonya Johnson, Director of Community Services. "This has caused a huge problem for the community blood supply."

The first quarter is often a tough month for blood banks, as the need for blood increases as people head to hospitals for procedures that they have put off until after the holidays.

Add in the impact of COVID-19, and the supply is at risk of being insufficient for the needs of West Tennessee's hospitals and medical helicopter sites.

"As we near what we hope will be the end of this pandemic, we are asking local

businesses and industries to please schedule a blood drive as soon as possible," said Johnson.

Giving blood is safe. All precautions, such as masks for donors and staff, temperature checks, hand sanitizer, and questions related to COVID symptoms and exposure, are taken at each drive. Blood donations must increase for the safety of healthcare for our local patients.

LIFELINE provides blood services to 20 West Tennessee counties, including 17

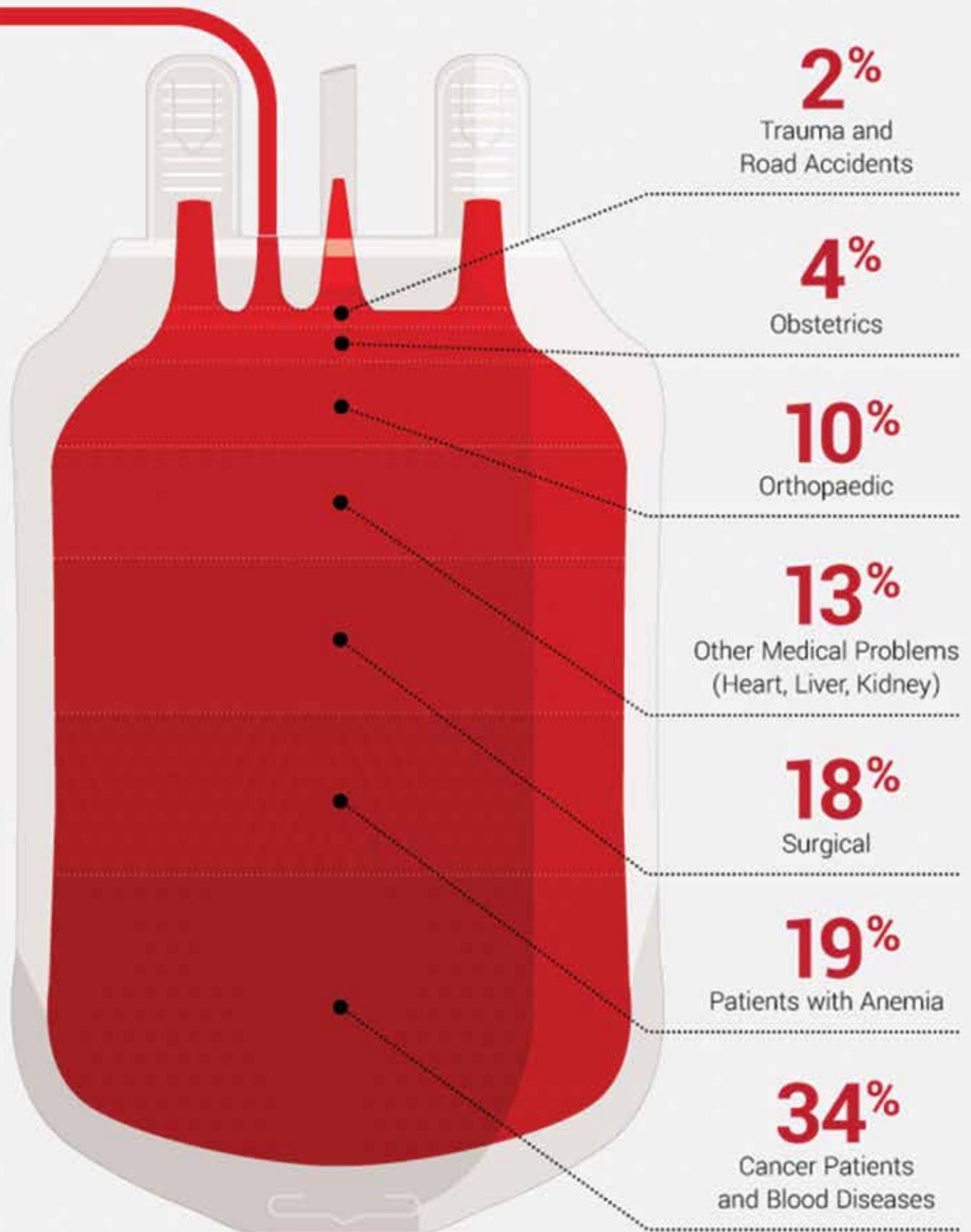
hospitals and 14 emergency helicopter service locations. Annually, the Center collects approximately 26,000 blood products (red cell units, platelets, plasma, etc.) to meet the needs of patients. Of that total, 75% of those products are usually collected on the bloodmobiles across West Tennessee. LIFELINE also provides reference lab and cross-matching services to healthcare facilities.

To learn more about scheduling a drive, please contact Tonya Johnson, Director of Community Services, at 731.427.4431 ex.103 or visit 183 Sterling Drive, Jackson, TN 38305.

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Meet Darryl Worley

caitlynJELKS
Crove Media

If you enjoy beautiful lake views, live music and delicious food, we have just the event for you! The four-day music festival, the Tennessee River Jam in Paris, Tennessee is back June 17-20. With 27 artists and 15 concerts, the schedule is loaded with musical talent including country stars Diamond Rio, The Oak Ridge Boys and West Tennessee native, Darryl Worley.

Worley, a successful country singer/songwriter, is known for tracks, "I Miss My friend", "Have You Forgotten" and "Awful, Beautiful Life." He headlined the 2020 Christmas Open House in Downtown Paris and quickly won the crowd over with his soulful and southern performance. Travis McLeese, CEO of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, stated that, "Darryl's concert on the square was a blast! People of all ages from Henry County and surrounding areas brought their lawn chairs and were moved to tears while listening to him perform "Have You

Forgotten" and other hit tracks."

Raised in Pyburn, Tennessee along the Tennessee River, Worley is no stranger to the small-town life. Growing up on a farm taught him many life lessons including how to work hard and have perseverance. When asked what influences he had to become a musician, he explained that it was simple: family. "I grew up in a very musical family. People on both sides of my family played an instrument or sung a part in the song. Growing up out in the middle of nowhere, we didn't have a lot to do!" Worley laughed. "We had guitars, banjos, harmonicas and there was always a piano in everyone's house."

With family ties so close, it's no surprise that Worley and his family moved back to West Tennessee. "We lived in Nashville but also kept the farm in Pyburn and we had the farmhouse to come back to get away from it at all. About two years ago we moved back out here because Nashville got a little wacky for me," Worley joked. "West Tennessee is a very unique place. People are kind, generous and very willing

to help. I tell people all the time you probably don't need to be out snooping around in somebody's yard in the middle of the night, but outside of that you will be alright."

Every year in Savannah, Worley hosts a charity event, the Tennessee River Run. "It's one of my favorite things in the world to do, so I am excited to get back on the water and play for the Tennessee River Jam this summer!" The Tennessee River Run raises funds for the Darryl Worley Cancer Treatment Center, a facility that aids a region that was previously unserved.

Come see Worley and 26 other talented artists perform live with the best backdrop around at the Tennessee River Jam, June 17-20 in Paris, Tennessee! Tickets go on sale April 15, get them while they last at tnriverjam.com.

Following the music festival there will be a one-hour West Tennessee PBS special airing with Darryl Worley featuring backstage footage, live music and even a sit down at his farm!



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