

DISCOVER

West Tennessee

October 2021 - Volume 1 - Issue 11



Featuring

**FULL
THROTTLE
DISTILLERY**

Spotlighting

WEST TENNESSEE ENTREPRENEUR

**MICHAEL
BALLARD**

Getting to Know

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ON THE COVER - West Tennessee native
and entrepreneur, Michael Ballard.

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Full Throttle Distillery

A Must Visit Destination, Trimble, Tennessee is also Headquarters for a Nationwide Enterprise

jonathanMOODY
DWT Contributor

Nestled in the sleepy little town of Trimble in Northwest Tennessee, the Full Throttle Distillery has quickly become a true local gem. Fashioned after the old Trimble Cotton Gin that previously occupied the property for almost 100 years. Highlighting an authentic and striking all copper pot and thumper still itching to distill another small batch of Tennessee Whiskey.

Full Throttle is an authentic “grain to glass” endeavor. Locally grown Northwest Tennessee corn, freshly milled on site begins the process. Once ground, they mash their grains to create a beautifully deep maze colored mash, ready for fermentation.

Introduction of the yeast then ferments the “grain in” mash in temperature controlled fermenters right underneath one of the visitor windows. They have heard it time and again from the visitors: “It smells like baking bread!”

After several days fermenting it’s time for the first, or strip, distillation through the still, to harvest the alcohol from the fermented mash. A batch of stripped alcohol of between 60-70 proof is collected. This stripped alcohol is then distilled again in a Spirit Run, creating our final twice distilled, small batch, pot Tennessee Whiskey at 125-135 proof. Walking along the wrap-around “self tour” porch of the distillery, you can smell the processes of fermentation and distillation. Cereal, alcohol and natural fruit aromas are wafting through the wall of screened

windows for you to savor. They leave the windows up for you, and will be sure to find a minute to chat and answer any questions you may have!

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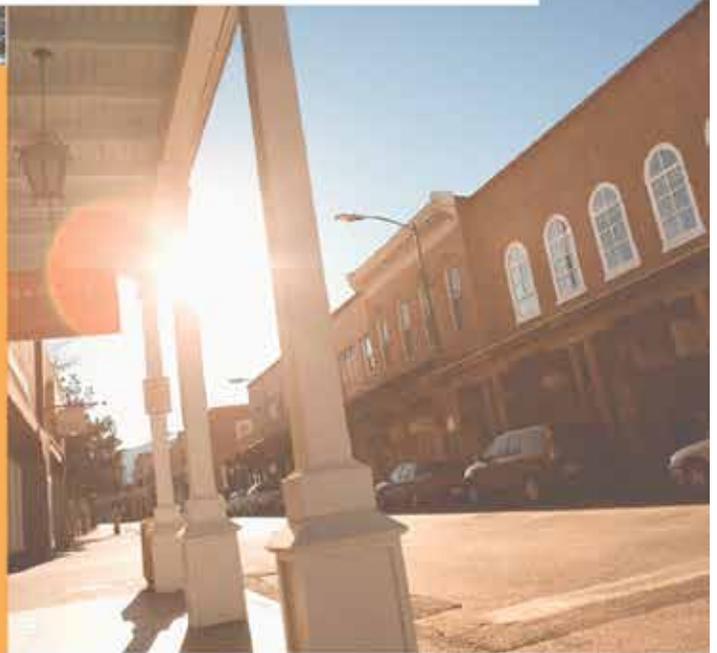


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Michael Ballard Aims to Return Trimble to Former Glory

Have you heard the saying “That guy has got too many irons in the fire?” Michael Ballard’s picture belongs next to this saying. However, I judge that by my energy level and not his. Ballard was born in Trimble, Tennessee and still makes it his home as well as the headquarters for his nationwide operation. “I remember growing up here, there used to be drug stores, banks, gas stations, there were three bars here in Trimble. Diners, groceries and at the center of the town was the cotton gin.

This town was booming and everything you needed you could get right here.”

Michael’s hope is to return the town to its “boom town” glory. He built the Full Throttle Distillery where the old cotton gin used to stand, and in the coming months a microbrewery and a winery are set to open. His wife Angie has just opened Bluehouse Quilting & Crafts there in Trimble, where they not only sell all of the top line brands of sewing and embroidery machines, but also all of the sewing and craft supplies

needed to keep the busiest bee occupied. At Bluehouse they also offer several craft classes for newcomers to the hobby.

As for the distillery itself, they are currently distributing nine different flavors of “Sloonshine” as well as a private label whiskey for Jesse James “American Outlaw” brand to 20 different states. They grow enough corn right there on the Ballard farm to meet their supply needs and the corn is ground in house, fermented, distilled, bottled, labeled, and shipped



around the country, from right here in West Tennessee.

Along with owning the Full Throttle Saloon in Sturgis, South Dakota, which was spotlighted on TrueTV for six seasons, Ballard also owns additional boutique distilleries in Deadwood, South Dakota and Estes Park, Colorado. Two campgrounds, keeping up with souvenir t-shirt and hat sales, concerts and other events, public appearances, and two daughters under 10 years old, and you can see why I think Mike Ballard may have too many irons in the fire. "Staying busy keeps us out of trouble," Michael's wife Angie Ballard told me as I wrapped up my visit to Trimble.



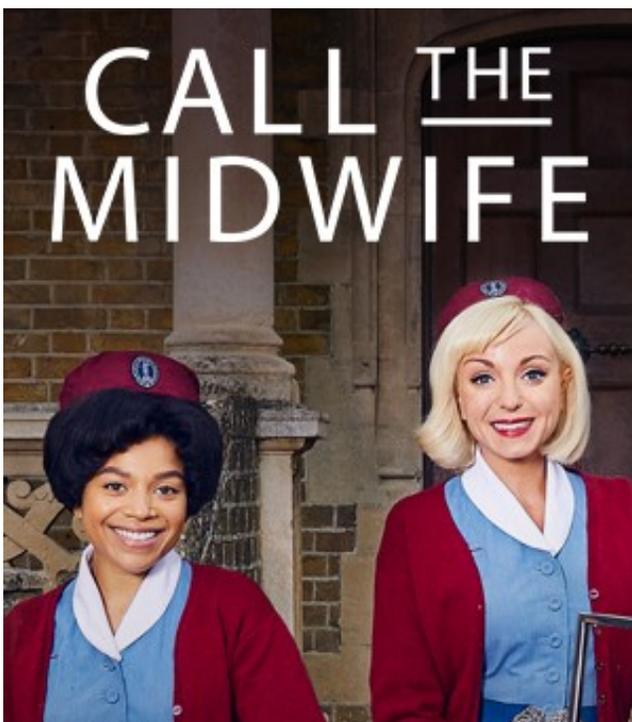
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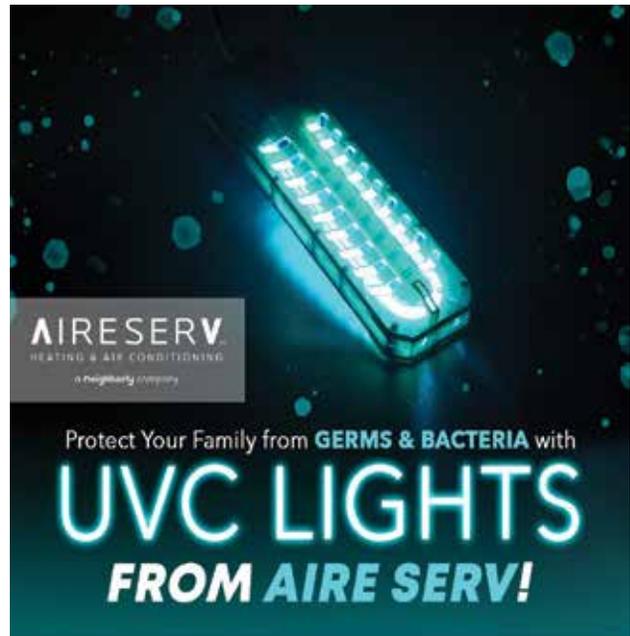


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Dynamix Physical Therapy opened in Jackson, Tennessee on Aug. 26, 2021. This is the 11th clinic to open in West Tennessee. L to R: Heath Ladd, president and co-founder; Ryane Geter, technician; Justine Walker, customer care coordinator; Kathleen Law Ingalls, clinic director for Jackson; and Russ Huffstetler, president and co-founder.

Imagine yourself doing something you love. Planting beautiful flowers in your garden, painting a detailed portrait, running around the neighborhood - and then suddenly you feel a little zing of pain in your hands, shoulders or legs. You work through it, but as the days go by, you are not feeling like your normal self.

A lot of people go to their primary family practitioner to have things checked out, and a lot of times those physicians recommend physical therapy. But did you know that at Dynamix Physical Therapy, you do not need to have a doctor's note to start a therapy program? If you have an injury, one of our many talented physical therapists will give you a free injury assessment and give guidance on whether you should see a doctor or start a physical therapy program.

But let's back up a moment and learn the history of Dynamix Physical Therapy, what makes it different from the compe-

tion and how it has grown to be one of the fastest growing companies in America, making the Inc. 5000 list - twice.

Russ Huffstetler of Greenfield, Tennessee and Heath Ladd of Newbern, Tennessee, reconnected after physical therapy school and wanted to bring a specialized service of physical therapy to West Tennessee. After months of brainstorming, writing a mission statement and discussing the core values of their dream company, the duo opened the first Dynamix Physical Therapy clinic in Milan, Tennessee in 2009.

Now with 12 clinics throughout the West Tennessee region, Dynamix PT has grown from just serving the community of Milan to serving the communities in the rural areas. Access to this elite physical therapy clinic has never been easier, and to receive excellent customer service within the healthcare field is a breath of fresh air.

All Dynamix PT clinics offer specialized hands-on manual therapy unique to

the region, advanced dry needling, work conditioning and sports rehabilitation. Each therapist has gone through the same immersive training program to ensure the best quality care no matter which location you choose to visit. Plus, every team member of Dynamix PT, from the therapists to the techs, greets you with a welcoming smile and an attitude to serve.

So if you are in pain and want to get better and stronger, stop by any of the 12 Dynamix PT clinics and sign up for a free injury assessment. If your therapist recommends a round or two of therapy, our customer care coordinator will be sure to schedule you. Dynamix PT accepts all major insurances, and will be happy to work with you.

Visit dynamix.life for more information on our services. Also, follow us on Facebook and Instagram for behind-the-scenes posts and health-related content.



Kathleen Law Ingalls, clinic director of Dynamix Physical Therapy in Jackson, discusses with one of her patients the progress she sees in her movement.



Union City clinic director Matt Washburn works on a patient.



Our technicians walk each of our clients through their exercises after an evaluation.



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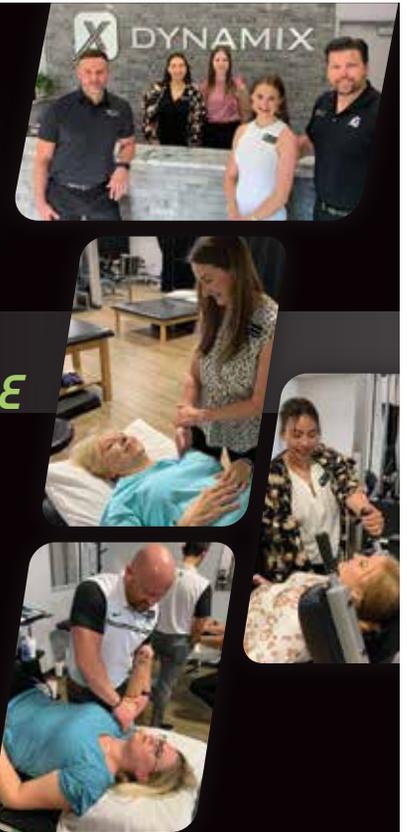
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dynamix.life



Missy Marshall

Executive Director of Keep Tennessee Beautiful

lisaADKINS
DWT Contributor

Missy grew up in Blount County, Tennessee in the Maryville area. After high school, she attended and graduated from Middle Tennessee State University, and began working for the State of Tennessee with the Tennessee Department of Health as a public health educator.

Fortunate to serve under the leadership of three governors and legislative teams, Missy spent most of her career in Middle Tennessee, but now feels at home in West Tennessee. With her parents being deceased, it felt natural to move closer to her family in West Tennessee. Missy and her husband, Barry, made the decision to relocate to Collierville, saying, “We have never regretted it.”

Missy started as executive director for Keep Tennessee Beautiful on July 2, 2013. “When I assumed this role, the first year was really meeting people - our county affiliates, our KTnB Advisory Council members, our partner organizations, volunteers and other stakeholders across the 95 counties in Tennessee. After, I was able to blend the knowledge and experience of my career as a public health educator to then partner and meet the needs of the citizens of Tennessee as executive director of Keep Tennessee Beautiful. My team and I are very blessed and fortunate because we are dedicated to our mission and absolutely love our jobs every day. We all have different responsibilities, yet are willing to pitch in and help each other as needed. So, we carry out that mission, inspiring people through the three E’s: Education, Engagement, and Enforcement. Leading by example, each team member participates in at least three cleanups per year.

We are hoping if we educate people on why they should change their behavior, it will inspire them to be more engaged, and then they will pay it forward and educate other people,” Missy said.

As a Keep America Beautiful state affiliate, Keep Tennessee Beautiful is



Missy Marshall

actually a community improvement organization. Our mission is “To educate and inspire people to take action every day to improve and beautify their community and the environment.”

We (KTnB), along with our 33 Keep America Beautiful certified affiliates in Tennessee, focus on litter prevention, litter pick up, recycling, illegal dump site cleanups, beautification and educating communities on the importance of putting waste in its proper place. We work to inspire all Tennesseans to take action to contribute to a cleaner, greener, and healthier community. “There is no one size fits all; all communities are unique,” Missy states.

Of our 33 KAB certified Tennessee affiliates, eight represent West Tennessee: Memphis City Beautiful, Keep Bartlett Beautiful and Keep Lakeland Beautiful - Shelby County, Keep Jackson Beautiful - Madison County, Keep Paris/Henry County Beautiful, Keep Tipton County Beautiful, Keep Chester County Beautiful, and Keep McNairy County Beautiful. To learn more, visit keptnbeautiful.org/affiliates.

Keep Tennessee Beautiful is a Tennessee Department of Transportation grant-funded program of The University of Memphis. The pioneers started this movement as Clean Tennessee; Edith Heller was the first director and founded the organization. She, along with other leaders, understood that tourism is the 2nd largest industry in Tennessee. “People do not want to spend their money in a dirty, littered environment.

One thing I think people should understand is that the State Department of Transportation spends approximately \$19 million a year addressing littering issues. Much of that money could go towards other goods and services for our citizens, if only we didn't litter. The Tennessee Department of Transportation oversees the TDOT Litter Grant, in which all 95 counties receive from the same grant, as does Keep Tennessee Beautiful. The litter grant coordinators in each of the 95 counties partner with KTnB every March for the Great American Cleanup in Tennessee. In fact, we have won several national awards for 100% state participation in the GAC. Thanks to Governor Haslam and now Governor Lee, March

is designated Keep Tennessee Beautiful month, where we kickoff the Great American Cleanup. This year, “Trashercise Across Tennessee is the theme, encouraging all litter clean-up planners to incorporate the fun aspects of Trashercise. Visit trasherciseacrosstennessee.org for more information. “As of August, I have Trashercised in 14 counties, and am committed to Trashercising in all 95, and further challenge other counties to contact me and organize a Trashercise event,” said Missy.

Amid Missy's myriad of responsibilities, she is happy to serve as an alderman in Shelby County. Missy has always felt led to public service where she would be given the opportunity to serve and educate. From her beginnings of public service with the State of Tennessee and her background, she saw a need when the alderman position came open. “I am a student of leadership and truly believe that some of the problems of our world and country are due to lack of leader-

ship. My mom shared with me that I could have anything in life I wanted if I worked for it really hard. My mom taught us work ethic. She taught us the Golden Rule: Treat people the way you want to be treated. Mom said, ‘you can be one of two people:

You can be a person who helps pull people up, or you can be a person who brings people down,’” Missy shared. “During my campaign, my husband was like a football coach pushing me. My whole family hung door knockers to get the message out on 9,000 doors throughout Collierville. I ran on a servant leadership platform and felt like there was a need in my community. Servant leadership and engagement are very important because the more you are involved and engaged in a community, the more a sense of pride is generated.”

Follow Missy Marshall and Keep Tennessee Beautiful on www.keptnbeautiful.org, Facebook, Twitter and all social media platforms.



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Joyce Carter shows off her creative talents in this replica cake she made of the former Huntingdon High School building. She made it for the 50, 51 class reunion. The class members graduated from this school in 1970.

Cake Replica of Former High School Brings Back Happy Memories

shirleyNANNEY
DWT Contributor

Joyce Carter of Huntingdon is known for her creative talent and skill at baking cakes.

Her latest creation, a replica of

Huntingdon High School where she and her classmates graduated in 1970, received a lot of attention and oohs and aahs at her class' 50, 51 combined reunion on July 31.

"I wanted to do something special because we were returning to the original

school site, although the former building had been torn down and a new middle school built there," said Joyce. "We had to delay our actual 50th reunion due to COVID last year."

For 40 years she has had the idea of creating such a cake, but had never got-



Joyce Carter had to make the brick for the cake all at the same time. Otherwise, they would have been different colors., she said.



The makings of the front of the former Huntingdon High School replica cake can be seen as the windows are added.

ten up the courage to undertake it. She had informed the class that she would bring the dessert to the reunion.

"I thought this was the time if I was ever going to do it," she said. "I could throw it away if it failed and no one would ever know it."

But the outcome surprised her because it proved very recognizable and drew lots of compliments from her classmates.

"I had wondered if I could do it because there were so many details in the building," she said. "It had a lot of windows and many details that I had to deal with."

Since the building was no longer standing, she had to go by photographs alone.

"I enjoyed every little step and watching it come together," she said. "It really surprised me."

It was a three-month undertaking. The front of the building which was the decorative part had to be made and let dry. But that didn't phase Joyce because it allowed her to work at her own pace.

"Everything was editable," she said.

To make it even more authentic she added the bell tower to the grounds and a dogwood tree that had stood at one end of the building.

For the cake portion, she did from scratch various flavors of fresh strawberry, carrot, white velvet, heavenly chocolate, caramel and diabetic. Her own icing recipe of cream cheese and American butter cream added the finishing touch to the cakes.

Getting started was a project in itself. She had to attain photos from yearbooks and cut patterns of each of the four sections of the school that included three from the front and one from the back where the cake layers were located.

The structure side was made of powdered sugar, marshmallows, marshmallow fondant, gum paste, royal icing and marshmallow rice crispy treats. She did the windows and doors in sections. All the brickwork she did at one time because if not, it would have been different colors.

"The front entrance was the most difficult part," she said. "All the details

such as the garlands over the windows, the detail work around them, and the columns with ornate tops made it very tedious work."

She assembled it on a folding table. The front section of the cake wound up weighing 75 pounds with the entire cake weighing in at over 100 pounds with a measurement of six feet in length."

She estimates that she put in at least 100 hours on the project that she calls a labor of love. She actually started it in 2020 and didn't finish it until 2021.

Transporting it to its destination gave some concern, but presented little problem in

the end. Sons Scott and Stanley transported the front section to the school in a SUV with her sitting beside it and balancing it. Getting it in and out of the vehicle did take a little extra precaution.

But the ending results turned out just as she had hoped.

Although she did a castle wedding cake once, the school replica cake was by far the biggest project she has ever undertaken.

"I said, 'I know it's not perfect,' but if people recognize it that's what I worked for. I had people come look at it at the house who couldn't believe it."

Her first ever experience at baking was a train cake for son Steve, now 50, when he was small. She has done some catering and does cakes for events for charities.

"God gave me a talent and I try to give back," she said.

The cake brought about a lot of memories



about the school.

“It touched class members as they stood around the cake and reminisced about the past and told stories about things that had happened there,” said Joyce. “It made the work and the hours I put into it worth it. It was so rewarding to hear the compliments and hear people being so appreciative.”

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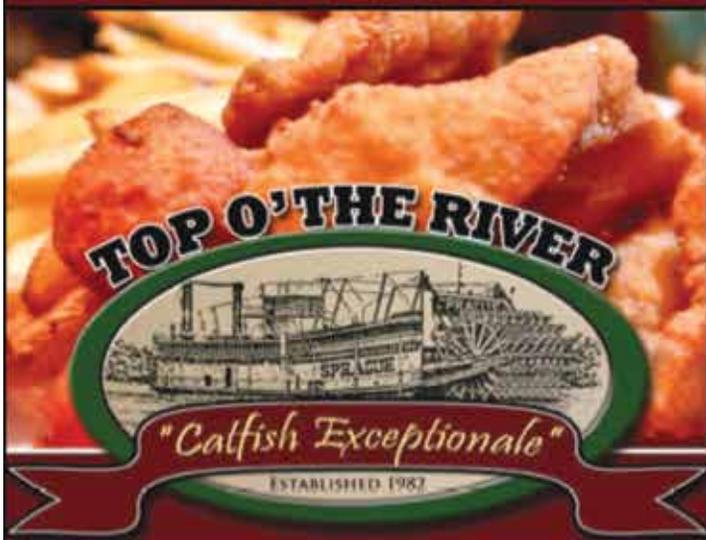
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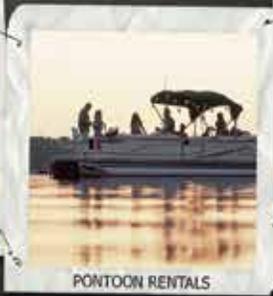
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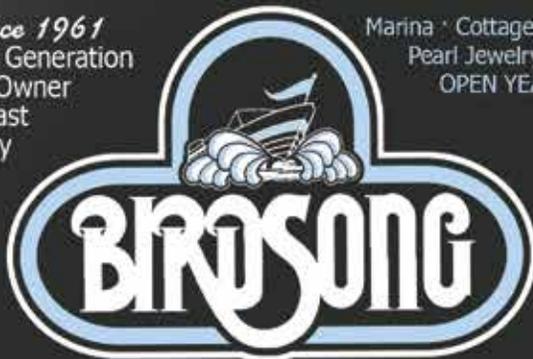


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Bicentennial Launches Creative Expressions Contest

Jackson and Madison County students are invited to participate in the Bicentennial Creative Expressions Contest, which includes an essay contest, poetry contest, and art contest, beginning Tuesday, September 7 and ending Friday, October 29. Students can be in public, private, or homeschool, but they must attend a school based in Madison County. Age requirements range from kindergarten through college.

Students will be divided into grade bands for each of the contests. Each school will select one school winner from each grade band. Those winners' essays, poems, or art pieces will then be judged by a panel of judges to determine overall winners in each contest for each grade band. School-level winners in each contest for each grade band will receive a commemorative Bicentennial Certificate. The

overall winners in each contest for each grade band will receive monetary rewards for first, second, and third place. Those awards are: \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place and \$100 for third place.

The school-level winners' submissions must be dropped off at either Madison County Public Library - Main (downtown Jackson) or North (Stonebridge Blvd) - no later than November 1, 2021. Whitney Norwood at wnorwood@madisoncountyttn.gov is the contact person at the Public Library. If those locations aren't convenient, please contact Ken Newman at knewman@uu.edu to arrange for pick-up.

On February 8, 2022, a special awards presentation will be held at The NED at 6 p.m., to showcase the winners and award the prizes. The overall winning essay, poem, and art piece for each grade band

will be placed in the bicentennial time capsule to be buried in June 2022.

The Bicentennial Creative Expressions contest is sponsored by Leaders Education Foundation, which is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Jackson, Tenn. Since 2019, Foundation members, donors, and sponsors have been fulfilling their Mission of Making Lives Better, Together. The Foundation meets its Mission through scholarships, grants, and financial literacy resources that provide educational opportunities and promote lifelong learning for students, teachers, and our community.

"We are thrilled to help bring the Bicentennial Creative Expressions Contest to all students in Jackson and Madison County," noted Leigh Anne Bentley, president of Leaders Education Foundation. "We cannot wait until the February 8th

awards presentations where we will see the creativity of these students and have the opportunity to celebrate them.”

To learn more and to become involved with the Foundation, visit www.leaders-gives.org or visit the Leaders Education Foundation’s Facebook.

Details for each of the contests:

Essay

The overall theme for the contest is “Jackson–Madison County: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow.” More specific writing prompts are designated for each of the below grade bands.

Grades 3-5: The prompt is “Imagine you were a student your age when the City of Jackson and Madison County were founded in 1821-22. Tell a story about what your life would have been like during that time.” (approximately 200 words) (A narrative rubric will be used to score the essays.)

Grades 6-8: The prompt is “The year is 2072 when the City of Jackson and Madison County celebrate their 250th anniversaries. Write an essay describing what you think Jackson and Madison County will look like in 50 years.” (approximately 500 words) (An informational/explanatory rubric will be used to score the essays.)

Grades 9-12: The prompt is “As a part of the celebration of the City of Jackson and Madison County’s Bicentennial, items will be chosen to be placed in a time capsule to be opened in 2072 at their 250th anniversary celebration. What three items would you choose to place in this capsule to best represent Jackson and Madison County? Write an essay that convinces the Time Capsule Committee to include these three items.” (approximately 750 words) (An opinion rubric will be used to score the essays.)

College: The prompt is “You have chosen to attend college in Jackson, Tennessee. Write an essay encouraging other students to choose a college in Jackson by pointing out Jackson’s historical significance, what Jackson currently offers, and what Jackson will offer in the future.” (approximately 1,000 words) (An expository rubric will be used to score the essays.)

Poetry

The theme for the poetry contest is “Jackson–Madison County: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow.” The following grade bands will be used: Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12, and College.

Students may choose a poetry technique of their choice but must adhere to

the maximum of 100 words. (A poetry rubric will be used to score the poems.)

Art

The theme for the art contest is “Jackson–Madison County: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow.” The following grade bands will be used: Grades K-2, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12, and College.

Guidelines:

- One entry per student
- Artwork must be completed entirely by the student
- Artwork must be original - no copyrighted images allowed
- No digital art will be accepted
- Artwork must be completed in the physical media. Acceptable media would include:
 - Paint (watercolor, tempera, oil, acrylic, etc.)

• Drawing (pencil, charcoal, pastels, oil pastels, colored pencils, pen, etc.)

• Collage (cut and glued papers, tissue paper, aluminum foil, etc.)

• Sculpting materials for 3-D work (clay, Papier-Mache, cardboard, sculpture, etc.)

Sizes:

- K-5 should be no larger than 16 x 20
- 6-College should be no larger than 24 x 36

Criteria for Judging:

- Interpretation and clarity of the theme
- Creativity, uniqueness, and originality of the theme
- Overall appearance of the art

For more information visit jackson-madison200.com or email celebrate@jacksonmadison200.com.



Why Self-Care is Essential for Your Mental Health.



The concept of self-care can be different from person to person, but on a fundamental level, practicing self-care means taking care of yourself physically, mentally and emotionally. Taking care of your mental well-being may not be as cut and dry as attending to the physical needs of food, hydration and hygiene.

For some, simple things that keep our physical health taken care of can make a significant, positive impact on our mental health as well. Finding a personal means of self-care is important in helping you maintain your overall positive mental health.

Self-care is a general term that describes everything you do deliberately for your mental, physical and emotional well-being. As simple as it sounds, many of us pay little attention to self-care but we should as it can affect our mental health.

Self-care relies on increased self-awareness. Practicing self-awareness can help you recognize patterns in your emotions, including situations that can trigger worsened symptoms. It can also help identify what activities or tasks are necessary for your well-being, soothe negative symptoms of a mental illness or stress, or simply bring pleasure or relaxation.

- Identify the things that matter to you. Ask yourself the tough questions to identify the things that mean the most to you. Your answers should determine your approach to living. Keeping an eye on your priorities will help you make decisions about how you spend your time.

- Take a quick mental survey of your body. While breathing deeply, scan your whole body, releasing tension as you find it. Check your posture and adjust as necessary. It only takes a few seconds to do but can provide an immediate change.
- Sleep and rest are important elements of any self-care routine. Practice healthy sleep habits and listen to your body's needs. Too many people are sleep deprived, and it takes a toll on our physical and mental health. Your body needs time to rest and renew.
- Exercise in some form. The body and the mind have a unique connection. Research has shown that regular exercise increases serotonin levels in the body significantly, improving mood and energy. Focus on getting whatever amount of exercise you can, since even a short walk to the mailbox is better than doing nothing.

Other suggestions include setting aside time to talk with a counselor, therapist or a trusted friend regularly. Read, reflect, journal or otherwise engage with your thoughts. Take up an old hobby or start a new one. Even playing with a pet can be very beneficial for your mental well-being.

Your self-care options will depend on what works best for you, what you enjoy, and your energy levels, personality, and other factors. Never feel guilty for taking care of yourself. You deserve it.

When you need care and extra attention for your mental health, Pathways Behavioral Health Services provides the comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services you need. Call 800-587-3854 for an appointment.



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LIFELINE BLOOD SERVICES PLEADS FOR ASSISTANCE WITH MOBILE BLOOD DRIVES



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.

This has caused a huge problem for the community blood supply. January 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.

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 and 13 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 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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BLOOD SERVICES

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Nov 9th

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The Ned



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Emily McGill

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B.A.S.S. Announces Pickwick Lake, Tennessee as Final Piece of 2022 Bassmaster Elite Series Slate

After announcing the bulk of the 2022 Bassmaster Elite Series schedule in late July, B.A.S.S. officials have now revealed the final piece of that puzzle.

The much-talked-about “to be announced” event will be held June 2-5 on Pickwick Lake out of Counce, Tenn. Daily takeoffs and weigh-ins will be held at Pickwick Landing State Park.

With the addition of a second Tennessee-based event, along with a tournament scheduled for Chickamauga Lake on April 7-10, the Elite Series is set to hold nine events in seven states from February to August.

“It feels really good to have our entire 2022 schedule released before the autumn even gets here,” said retiring B.A.S.S. CEO Bruce Akin. “Pickwick Lake, Tennessee is a fabulous addition that has provided some great moments from B.A.S.S. in the past — and now that the entire schedule is set, everyone can make their plans to join us. That includes our anglers, tournament staff and the fans.”

Pickwick has been a good but sporadic destination for B.A.S.S. major events for the past 23 years.

The Bassmaster Tournament Trail first visited the 43,100-acre Tennessee River fishery in 1998 for a Top 100 event that was won by current Elite Series pro Mark Menendez of Paducah, Ky. Then after consecutive stops from 2000 to 2002, the organization didn’t return to Pickwick again until 2010 and 2011 for a pair of Elite Series events. The latter of those tournaments was won by current Bassmaster LIVE host Davy Hite.

After another hiatus, B.A.S.S. returned to Pickwick this year for a Basspro.com Bassmaster Open that was won by Alabama pro Joey Nania and an Elite Series event that featured the first career victory for popular Indiana pro Bill Lowen.

Now, the lake will play an important role in a 2022 Bassmaster Angler of the Year race that will be heading into the homestretch by the time Elite Series pros arrive in Counce.

“We are proud to host the Bassmaster Elite Series on Pickwick Lake in Hardin County, Tennessee,” said Beth Pippin,



tourism director for the Hardin County Convention & Visitors Bureau. “This top-level tournament will market our lake and community on a national level while strengthening our local economy and bringing anglers and their families to eat, sleep, shop and explore our beautiful area.

“We will showcase our newly renovated Pickwick Landing State Park Lodge and Conference Center and treat anglers to the great fishery that Pickwick Lake in Tennessee is known for.”

Pickwick offers vast opportunities for anglers with a good mix of offshore fishing and shallow structure and solid populations of largemouth and smallmouth bass. Beautiful scenery paired with an opportunity to catch a trophy trifecta — smallmouth, largemouth and spotted bass of above-average size — are why the fishery was one of Bassmaster Magazine’s Top 10 Best Bass Lakes for 2021.

After an exciting debut season that reached more than 11.9 million viewers in 2021, once more, all nine Bassmaster Elite Series events as well as the Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic presented by Huk will feature live tele-

vision coverage on the FOX Sports platforms. Visit Bassmaster.com for more details.

Tour Hardin County is hosting the event.

2022 Bassmaster Elite Series schedule
Feb. 10-13, St. Johns River, Palatka, Fla.

Feb. 17-20, Harris Chain of Lakes, Leesburg, Fla.

March 4-6, Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic presented by Huk, Lake Hartwell, Greenville, S.C.

March 17-20, Santee Cooper Lakes, Clarendon County, S.C.

April 7-10, Chickamauga Lake, Dayton, Tenn.

May 19-22, Lake Fork, Quitman, Texas

June 2-5, Pickwick Lake, Counce, Tenn.

July 14-17, St. Lawrence River/1000 Islands, Clayton, N.Y.

Aug. 4-7, Make-up date
Aug. 18-21, Lake Oahe, Mobridge, S.D.

Aug. 26-29, Mississippi River, La Crosse, Wis.

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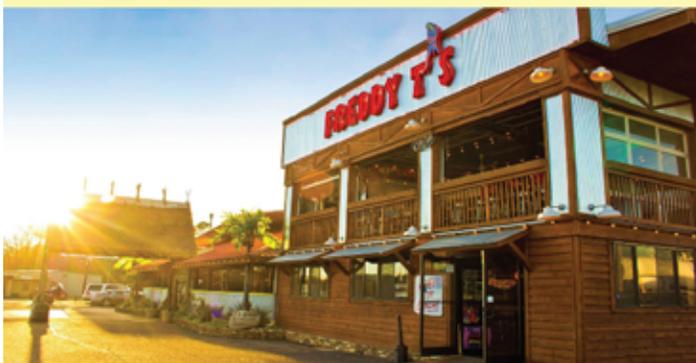
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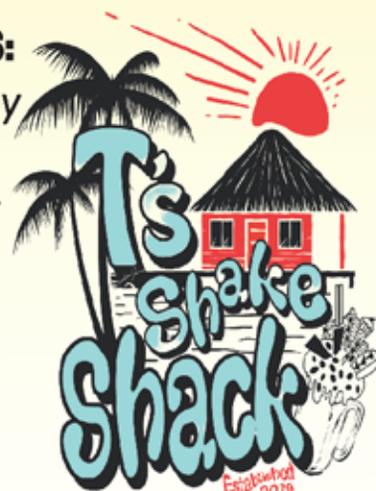
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‘Once Upon a Pumpkin’ at Discovery Park to Feature an Enchanted World of Fairy Tales, Made from Pumpkins, Hay Bales and Fall Flowers

Discovery Park of America has announced “Once Upon a Pumpkin” will be the theme for this year’s Pumpkin Village. Open during the month of October, “Once Upon a Pumpkin” will enchant guests with an entire village of fairy tales created from more than 40,000 pounds of pumpkins enhanced by hay bales and fall flowers like chrysanthemums and pansies.

Sponsors of 2021 Pumpkin Village at Discovery Park are *Allen Searcy Builder Contractor, Commercial Bank and Trust Company and Williams Country Sausage.*

Already under construction are sections featuring the stories of “The Three Little Pigs,” “Jack and the Beanstalk,” “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” and other classic children’s stories.

Another popular activity returning for this year’s event is the Pumpkin Maze.

“Of course, we love keeping Discovery

Park looking beautiful all year round, but Pumpkin Village is a fun opportunity for us to get really creative,” said John Watkins, Discovery Park’s director of grounds and landscaping. “My team has been really excited about this year’s theme, and I think they’ve taken it to a whole new level.”

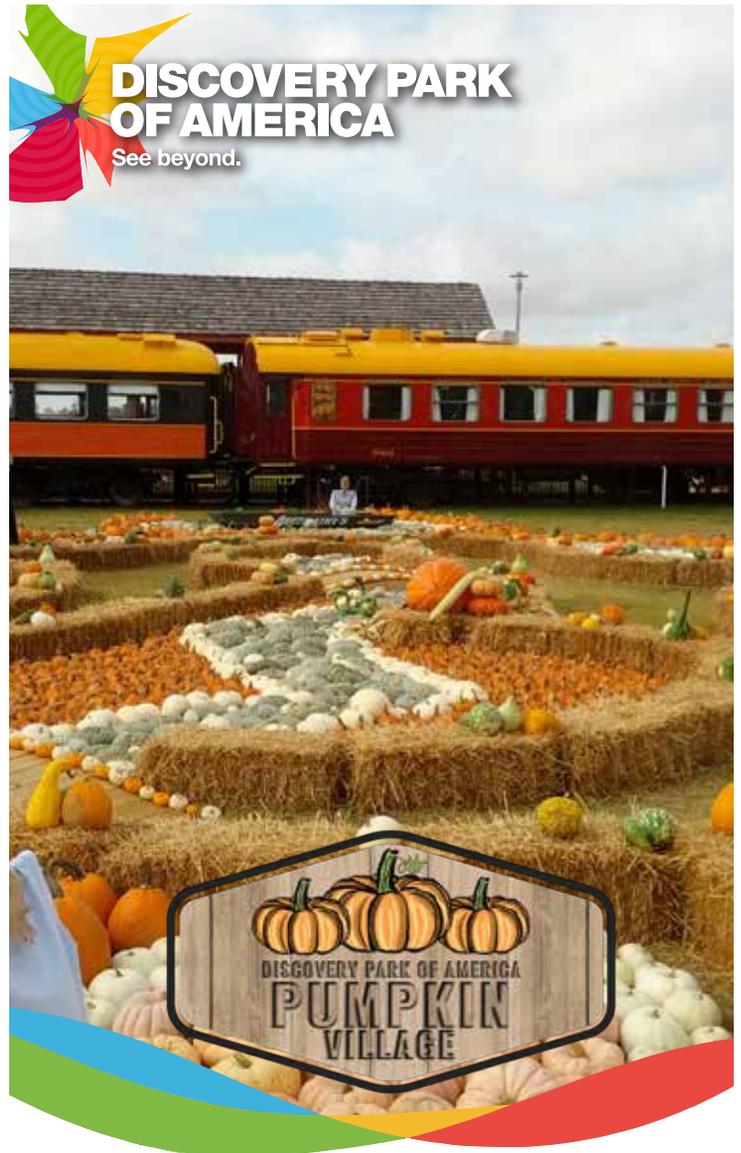
Discovery Park’s pumpkins have been grown by Nanney Farms Pumpkin Patch in Sharon, Tenn. Featured will be many varieties of pumpkins including Jack-O-Lantern, Cannonball, mini pumpkins and an assortment of other specialty pumpkins and gourds.

“Once Upon a Pumpkin” is free with museum admission. In October, Discovery Park and “Once Upon a Pumpkin” are open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday and 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Sunday. Discovery Park and “Once Upon a Pumpkin” are closed

on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in October.

For more information about Discovery Park of America, visit www.discovery-parkofamerica.com.

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



A PUMPKIN-FILLED VILLAGE OF FAIRY TALES FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

“Once Upon a Pumpkin” at Discovery Park features an entire village created from more than 40,000 pounds of pumpkins. Explore this magical land filled with classic children’s stories. “Once Upon a Pumpkin” is open the month of October and is free with museum and park admission.

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The Bridge

“From where you are, to where you need to be”

caroline *Gurton*
DWT Contributor

The above quote lines the front of The Bridge’s annual ministry report from the past year. In 2012, Julie Huggins decided that she wanted to see change in the Obion County area. Every day, she saw single mothers around her struggling to balance their responsibilities, and often getting consumed by all of the baggage that they had to carry. Most of the women in this demographic carry the weight of unsafe relationships, bad family situations, poverty level wages,

and insurmountable debt as a result. She knew that these women needed someone on their team, so she decided to build one – The Bridge.

Housing | Julie began with a small group, which met to pray for these women and formulate plans to provide them with some sort of relief. The idea came into fruition through Phase Two Transitional Housing – a step between independence and oversight. In 2015, they began their first house placement. In exchange for a place to live, women going through the program are still responsible for paying rent through a savings

program. When they graduate out of The Bridge Program, this money is returned to them as a beginning investment for a house of their own. These women also follow other guidelines, attend counseling sessions, and now participate in church programs at The Refuge Church. The mission is to help these women see that they can eventually be free – learn their stories, then allow them to get there in their own time.

The Refuge Church | By 2017, The Bridge had drastically expanded. Eighty women had gone through the program, and wheels were turning at home. Julie

and her husband, Dan, had a vision to leave behind mainline church and create an environment where all people felt welcome to worship. They did not have a cookie cutter family, they had walked through their own valleys, and they wanted others who did not fit every societal mold to feel comfortable at church. Inspired by Dry Bones Denver, a ministry he had visited in Colorado – Dan wanted to build a community that would meet people where they are. They began weekly church services at the Fairgrounds, and since have grown to host several other ministries for the community. Together, The Bridge and The Refuge serve as a parachurch organization: the church helps to fund the nonprofit, and in turn the members of the program participate in church programming.

Programming | After The Refuge began to grow, the couple saw a need to create a transitional department for men that would provide support similar to that given through the Bridge program. Everyone participating in these assistance programs are asked to attend Celebrate Recovery – which is more than just alcohol or drugs. This is a support group for those who are family members of addicts, who struggle with relationships, or have other “addictions” that may prevent them from reaching their fullest potential. Members of the church and programs are also invited to participate in Service Sundays and Prayer Nights (Corner of Nash & College St. on Tuesdays) that are open to the public. These opportunities are used to build relationships, unify the community, and give a glimpse into the lives of others.

Soul Food Café | Another need identified in Obion County is that for fresh food in lower socioeconomic households, and Soul Food Café has been an effort to combat some of that hunger. On the first and third Thursdays of each month, community groups and congregations volunteer to provide free meals distributed from the Fairgrounds. Additionally, The Refuge is able to offer a “Feeding of the Five Thousand” meal each year during the week of Thanksgiving and other occasional grocery distributions throughout the year.

Community Yard Sale | Julie’s most recent endeavor is what she describes as “everything coming full circle.” Several years ago, she hosted a yard sale in her own front yard and allowed participants from The Bridge Program to work it and keep any profits. When others heard about the sale, donations of items and proceeds began to funnel in. It was so successful, that she decided to do it again the next year – and it continued to grow. The year before last, the donation inventory had grown so large that they began to search for a location to keep items and host the sale. With help from the community, The Bridge was able to purchase a warehouse to serve as a permanent physical location for bimonthly sales. These sales now allow The Bridge to pay women in the program as employees while providing affordable items for others in the community, so everyone benefits in the end!

For any questions or to get involved, contact The Bridge at (731) 504-9812 or board@thebridgewesttn.org. You can also visit The Refuge or The Bridge on Facebook.



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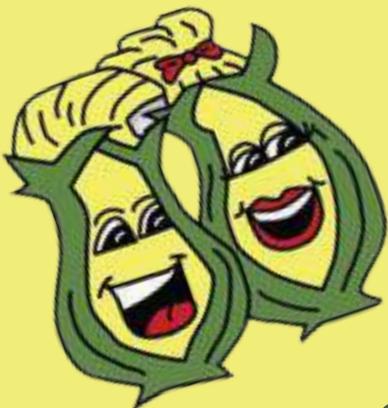


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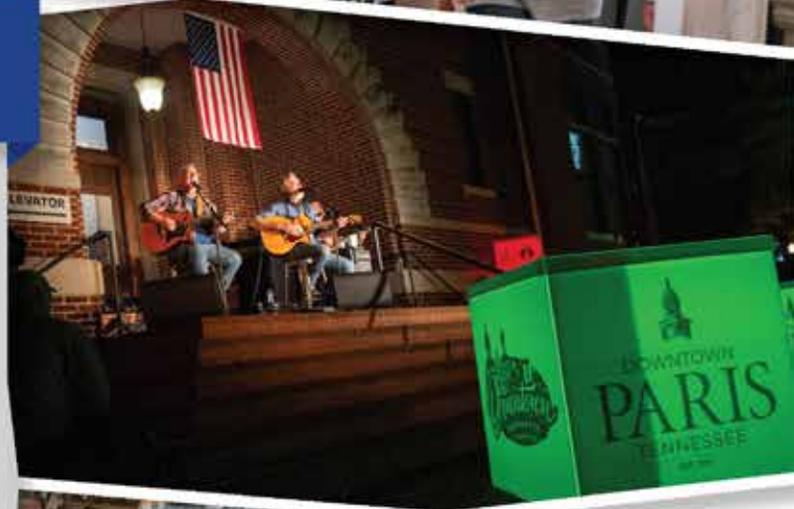
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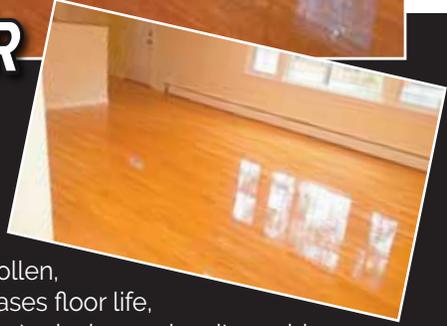
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