YOUTH COUNTRY PLEASURE WORLD GRAND CHAMPION CONTENDERS







Abi Smith, a Owner Amateur Youth Riders on Country Pleasure Walking Horses World Grand Champion Contender, will be showing Diamond at the Ritz, which she co-owns with Kimberly Walden. See the Times-Gazette paper for a story on this youth rider.

Thursday, August 26, 2021
Times-Gazette

A lens eye view: Barr Studios

By ZOË HAGGARI

zhaggard@t-g.com

Photographing a performance horse is as challenging as it gets, according to Marty Barr.

You might see him and his wife, Jennifer, in and around shows and barns throughout the state.

They're there with their Pentax cameras in hand, getting thousands and thousands of shots.

They own Barr Studios, which has been around for nearly a decade, and they're one of the main photographers for the Tennessee Walking Horse industry.

So, what's it like photographing the horses time after time?

"You either can or you can't...You can [get] better at it," said Marty.

It took the Manchester native and Navy veteran several years to be able to look at the horse and get that perfect shot.

It was a little easier for Jennifer, who's been in the horse industry her whole life. Born and raised in Shelbyville and with her grandfather once being a farrier, she began using her "knack" while attending shows with her mother, also a multi-talented horse photographer and artist.

"You know you can always smell roses when you're running with them in your hand," Jennifer recalls her mother quoting from a Garth Brooks song.

When she began in the industry, photographers still used film. Jennifer said she would spin off a roll while attending cowboy shows on Saturdays just to practice.

➤ See **Barr**, Page 4C



Jennifer and Marty Barr met about 10 years ago, married, and began Barr Studios a year later.

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Marty Barr

Barr

(Continued from Page 3)

"I had a knack for it, but I wanted to get better...If you ever stop learning, then what's the point?" Jennifer said.

Eventually she went on to work for the Walking Horse Report before meeting Marty and going full time into their business.

Now, even though in that time the Barrs have mastered the classic Tennessee Walking Horse pose, the couple is looking to bring

more creativity to horse photography.

"We're trying to help people change the way they advertise," said Marty. Their goal is to showcase the versatility and connection of the Tennessee walker.

In addition to the Tennessee walker, they also shoot 12 other breeds a year—like Arabians, saddle breeds, spotted saddle horses, and Gypsy Vanners.

But they say the walking horse industry, especially, is worth preserving for the history and the beauty of the horse.

"It's great...It's actually wonderful—wouldn't trade it for anything," said Jennifer.



Jennifer Barr gives a little direction to Ally Jo Jacobs on her shoot with Heartbeat Counselor.





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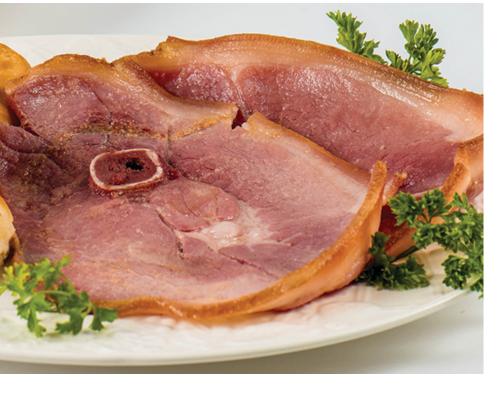
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Times-Gazette 5C

Support Community Lions booth



Serving potato wedges and more!

By ZOË HAGGARD

zhaggard@t-g.com

There's nothing quite like a good ham and biscuit while at the horse show. Those and much more will be readily available at the Community Lions Club food booth, which is easily located on the northwest column under box seats of Calsonic Arena.

For 10 nights, visitors will be able to get country ham sandwiches, New York strip steak, pork tenderloin, hamburgers, BBQ, chicken sandwiches, potato wedges, fired dill pickles—just to name a few.

"We've always looked forward to it and like most people we've always looked forward to when it's over—because it's a lot of hard work," said Ezra Swing, treasurer for the Community Lions Club and a member for 35 years. He said two of his sons-in-law mainly cook the food nightly and on site. They get most of their produce from local companies like Palmer Produce.

But the food booth didn't always offer

such savory favorites. When it started out 40 years ago, the booth just served ice cream. Then, in order to raise profit and meet the demands of the Celebration crowds, the booth expanded its menu.

And it takes a lot to run it—some 20 to 30 volunteers per night with many Community High School students working as well.

And in addition to getting great food, those stopping by the booth will be supporting the Unionville community.

Swing said they raise anywhere from \$15,000 to \$20,000, which is money that goes to the high school and the Lions Club's "sight service."

Swing admitted getting volunteers for the club hasn't been easy the past couple of years as attendance of the Celebration has decreased, especially last year... However, this year holds much promise.

"They do so much for their town of Unionville," said Shelbyville Lions Club president Marc Majors.

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Brent Pewitt

Through the eye of an Optimist donut

The legend lives on

By ZOË HAGGARD

zhaggard@t-g.com

It's safe to say, people just don't understand what all goes into making a donut. Especially an Optimist Club Donut.

"I usually eat one, maybe two. Because if you're there, especially in the kitchen, you get to smell the donuts—and your hair, and your clothes. Everything," said Brent Pewitt, Optimist Club president and secondgeneration donut booth manager.

And on top of the smell, the kitchen gets to be 80 degrees with the deep fryers going and the volunteers running around trying to meet both the early morning and latenight demands.

Not to mention the over \$200 worth of cooking oil and 10,000 pounds of donut mix that goes through the booth over the

course of the Celebrations 10 days.

And you better watch for "misfires," those tricky donuts that don't make a complete circle or break when on the sticks during the icing process. But even those are saved and fed to crowds who come yearly for the same cake donut that's been around for over 60 years.

They get their donut mix from.... some-

"Can't tell you about that..." Pewitt said behind a grin.

Well, it was worth asking anyway.

The Optimist Club began in 1958. Their food booth started a year later, which began selling doughnuts at behest of club member George Baker by 1960. Originally, the club didn't think there was a market for just selling donuts and coffee. But there was.

So much so that the club upgraded to bigger booth in 1974 after outgrowing the

➤ See Optimist, Page 7C





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Thursday, August 26, 2021
Times-Gazette 7C



The same 1930s dough mixer the club received from Whitman's Bakery (now closed) is still up and running here in 2021.

Optimist

(Continued from Page 6C)

Celebration barn.

They're still there today and Pewitt, whose father was around the during the club's inception, has been a part of it since the late 80s.

Even the mixers are traditional as the same 1930s dough mixer the club received from Whitman's Bakery (now closed) are still up and running here in 2021.

Pewitt's background as an engineer comes in handy when working with those machines. But it's the usefulness of his time and the people that keeps him coming back.

"The people . . . the main thing...I see more people there in the booth than I do inside a box...I bet you can see up to 10,000 people easy," he said.

It's also a time to sort of catch up, that is, see people he hasn't seen in a year up to 30 years

But it's all worth it—for the customer satisfaction and the work that can be done with the funds raised, he surmised.

Projects like Stuff-A-Bus, Warm Coats, Imagination Library, donating money to new athletic fields and for school art supplies are all funded in part by the Optimist Club donut money. Pewitt explained.

"We can raise a lot more money with my time than I can just being paid for my time. So, it's a multiplier—makes my time a lot more valuable," Pewitt said.

And social media; he said that's helped a lot. You can follow them on Facebook or tag #optimistdonuts.

The booth opens at 6 a.m. and closes at 11 p.m. This year, a dozen of those famous Optimist donuts-those known world-wide-will sell for \$8.00.



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The club upgraded to their current booth in 1974 after outgrowing the Celebration barn.



Thursday, August 26, 2021
Times-Gazette 9C

Annual TWHNC general information

T-G STAFF REPORTS

The 83rd annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is taking place Aug. 25 through Sept. 4.

Tickets can be purchased by calling (931) 684-5915, Faye Lynn Ext. 104. General admission seating, located in the South Grandstand, will be sold during the show. Morning performances in Calsonic Arena are free.

Box seats are not sold by the night. However, the Celebration does have special packages available for certain nights.

The Celebration also does not sell reserved parking by the night. Reserved parking is sold for the entire show, but cash parking is available by the night. The cost for cash parking is \$5. Parking Permits for all nights are \$87.80.

Children, regardless of age, who sit in a reserved seat must have a ticket as all seats are assigned. In General Admission, where there are no assigned seats, children six and under are free.

Below is pricing for reserved then general seats:

Aug. 26 and 27—\$7.00.....\$5.00

Aug. 28—\$15.00.....\$10.00

Aug. 29 through Sept. 1—\$7.00.....\$5.00

Sept. 2—\$15.00.....\$8.00

Sept. 3—\$18.00.....\$8.00

Sept. 4—\$20.00.....\$12.00

Combination of Sept. 2 to 4—\$50.00

Book of tickets for ALL NIGHTS—\$100.00

Special events

Tune into 89.1 FM for live broadcasts of the morning and evening shows. The first class will begin that Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. The full class schedule can be found at twhnc.com.

TWHNC Vendor Fair: Vendors will be set up on the concourse of the Calsonic Arena and will be open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Aug. 25 to Sept. 4. Outside vendors under the west grandstand area will operate 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Nondenominational Worship Service: service will be held Sunday, Aug. 29, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the north end of the main Celebration Arena.

Annual Stable Decorating Contest: Judging takes place Sunday, Aug. 29, between 1 and 3 p.m. with winners announced in the center ring that evening.

The Walking Horse Trainers Auxiliary Dog Show: This will be on Sunday, Aug. 29 at the Champions Arena beginning at 1 p.m., featuring categories like Children's Costume, Obedience, and "I Look Like My Master." Entries open at noon and will be taken the day of the show only. Admission is free.

Horse Sales: Sales will take place Saturday, Aug. 28, at HWY 43 Auction Co. Celebration Sale at Wiser Farm.

Hats Off to the Celebration: Saturday, Aug. 28, will be hat night at the Celebration's evening performance.

Military Appreciation Night: All veterans and military personnel are asked to wear their uniforms to be recognized

on Friday, Sept. 3. Veterans and one guest will receive free admission and parking. For more information on how to be a part of the ceremony, call (931) 684-5915.

In addition to special events, visitors can also enjoy the Celebration Hall of Fame, the Celebration Plaza and Winner's Circle, and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Museum in Wartrace.

Prohibitions

Cameras are allowed—but only hand-held models. Tripods are not allowed, and filming must be done in your seat.

Individual, tote-size coolers are allowed but subject to inspection. No glass containers allowed.

Umbrellas are allowed in the facility, however, the raising of umbrellas inside is prohibited. Plastic tents are not allowed in the box seats or grandstands.

When walking around barn areas always be aware of horses and attendants and give them the right of way. If you have questions or would like to speak with a trainer, the Celebration suggests waiting until after the show as trainers are known to be very busy. Visitors are advised to not walk into stall areas or onto stable porches.

All guests are prohibited from entering the center ring without credentials.





Newcomers enjoy first Celebration

By ZOË HAGGARD

zhaggard@t-g.com

For Shelbyville City Manager Joshua Ray, Shelbyville is, in many ways, a colt.

It has all the amenities here—strong infrastructure, history, and a unique industry. But now, that colt has to be trained to become a show horse. In other words, the City has to attract and keep people coming back.

And Ray says the key to handling those changes is through identifying the character and identity of Shelbyville. That identity—thought of by South Central Tennessee Tourism Association—is whiskey, history, and walking horses.

Ray emphasizes identity

"Our expectation for the Celebration is to be the focal point for the city of Shelbyville moving forward," Ray said.

"I want to see the city be able to support this effort and put a lot of our marketing dollars into advertising for the Celebration."

This will be Ray's first Celebration. He attended the Fun Show this past spring, but said he wanted to see a higher turnout.

"Our whole balance as a city is always provide services for your citizens from the basic services—of having streets and sanitation, parks and rec, swimming pools—but then also provide opportunities for cultural activities for community enrichment," he said.

Ray said getting more people to the Celebration makes sense as the walking horse industry, much like a sports industry, requires a lot of talent, money, and knowledge. It will fuel the other parts of Shelbyville's tourism industry.

"That's the draw you want to see for all of our events. We want our locals to come out and know they can do something else."

He doesn't expect the branding to blow up immediately this year, but hopefully within a three-year timeline, Shelbyville will expect the changes.

Deeds' high expectations

Like City Manager Ray, the upcoming Celebration will be new Chamber of Commerce CEO Lacey Deed's first Celebration.

"It's new to me. I've been in the horse industry for years. The walking horse side of it, I know nothing about. So, it'll be a learning curve for me," she said.

And where longtime attendees see tradition, Deeds sees potential for the City beyond the industry.

For example, she said she'd liked to create programs such as "Best Foot Forward."

"I'm going to be getting the community involved on a small scale to help this happen. The county and city have amazing plans put together...Let's get this going," she said.

The chamber, along with Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham and Shelbyville Mayor Wallace Cartwright, will be hosting and judging the barn decorating contest. But before those plans are exercised, Deeds' biggest commitment will be community involvement.

"We need to start self-promoting the community," she said.

Having recently moved here from Daytona Beach, Fla., Deeds understands the impact—both economically and culturally—of tourism. She assures she doesn't want Shelbyville to become the next Gatlinburg.

Now leading the Chamber, Deeds says her role will be to execute "tourism development," that is the physical building and infrastructure needed to sustain increased flow of visitors.

Things like public restrooms, a new visitor's center, new restaurants and hotels will be part of the Chamber's plan to keep tourism a 365-day process with the Celebration one of the key focuses.

"Next year, we're going to rock it!" said Deeds.

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Times-Gazette 11C

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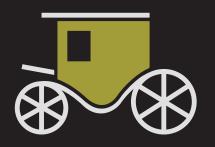
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Times-Gazette 13C

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Thursday, August 26, 2021
Times-Gazette 15C

Mayor Cartwright ready for his 83rd TWHNC

By ZOË HAGGARD

zhaggard@t-g.com

Shelbyville Mayor Wallace B. Cartwright has been going to the Celebration all his life—and all the Celebration's life.

"Oh, I've made them all...I haven't missed a final class since the show started," he said, having never missed the crowning of the grand champion since the beginning in 1939.

Mayor Cartwright is 85 now. He still vividly remembers some of the first Celebration shows he went to as a young kid.

"When I was a kid, we had a house in Unionville. And I'd sit on the steps out there and watch the horse trailers and all come in and see all the car tags and I'd write them down, which state they were from. And it just tickled me because I was ready for the horse show."

Back in the day, people dressed up for the Celebration, suit and tie and all, he said.

"Everybody dressed up...and it poured

down rain and we were out there in a suit and dress shoes," the mayor recalled with a laugh.

But even in a soggy suit and tie, Mayor Cartwright remembers sitting together in the boxes, passing ham and biscuits back and forth, while watching the same shows that go on today—that which all began with the famous Strolling Jim and Mr. Floyd Carothers.

"And I remember Dad setting me up on Strolling Jim. So, I sat up there in the saddle...and we'd ride around Wartrace," he said.

That was back when the Celebration was behind Shelbyville Central High School. And even though the Celebration has changed, at the core, it's still the same tradition, the mayor reveals.

"It's one of the greatest things...and everybody loves animals, especially a beautiful horse all dressed more or less," he said. "I'm still planning on keeping my record...I'm looking for a good show."





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