

WELCOME TWHNC VISITORS!

Come Check Us Out!



Clarabell Collectibles



32

Antiques, Sports & Outdoors



206 East Depot Street, Shelbyville, TN
Open: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 5pm; Saturday 10am - 3pm



Find vintage programs at Clarabell Collectibles

By ZOË HAGGARD
zhaggard@t-g.com

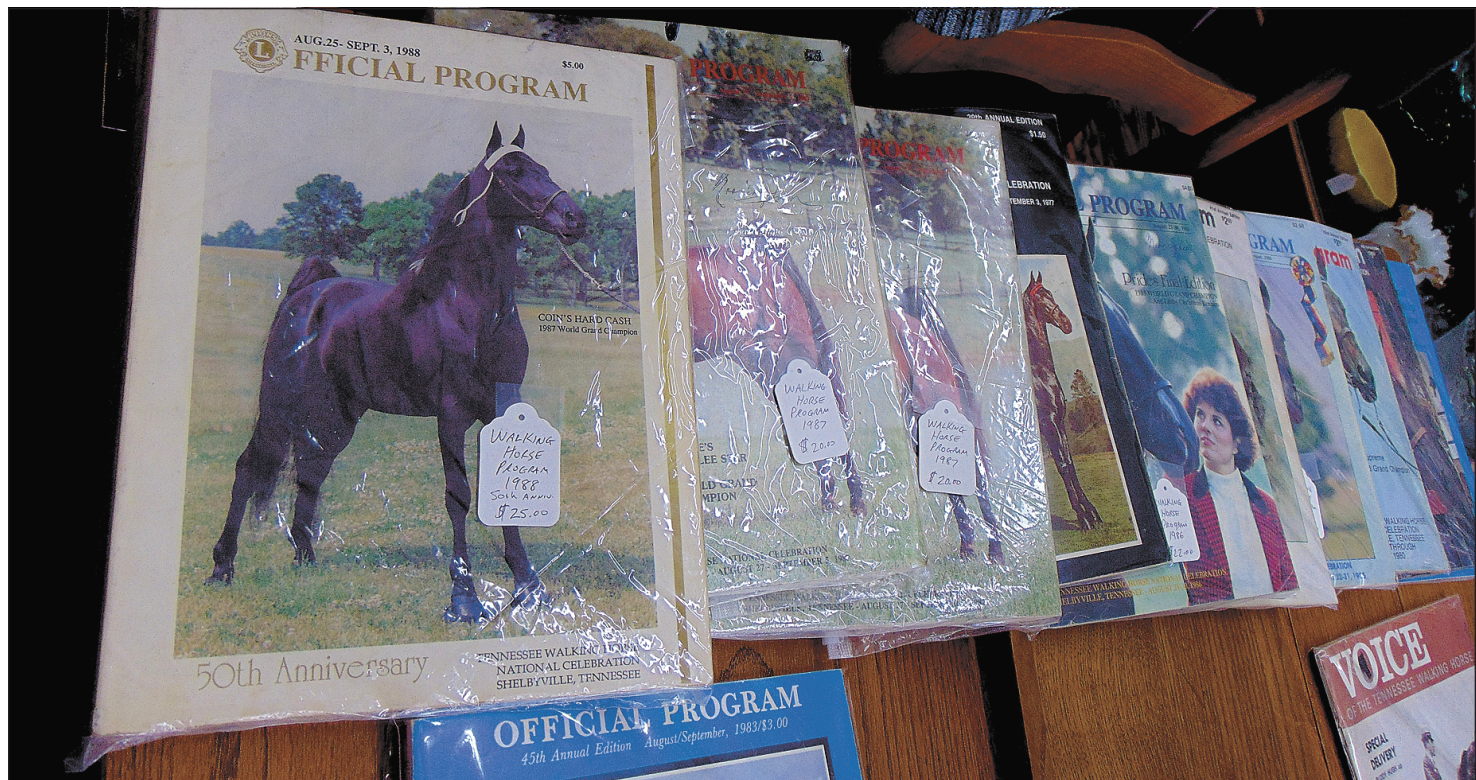
Clarabell Collectibles, which opened in the fall of 2020, will be selling some Walking Horse Celebration memorabilia for the enthusiasts coming to town during the show.

The store was named after owner Kevin Gunter's dad, Sam Gunter, better known in Shelbyville as "Clarabell." Kevin says his dad was a bulldozer operator who "didn't say a lot"—just like Clarabell the clown from Howdy Doody, which became his nickname and name to everyone who knew him.

Gunter sells all kinds of sports memorabilia—an after effect from Gunter's childhood-- as well as antique trinkets, an inspiration from his mother.

Now, he has vintage Celebration programs available from as early as 1969 all the way through the 90s. They were found in an old box at the Celebration and given to Gunter to sell in preparation for the upcoming

► See **Clarabell**, Page 3D



HOMETOWN NEWS. HOMETOWN GIRLS.

**MEET YOUR LOCAL
ADVERTISING TEAM**

SHELBYVILLE
TIMES-GAZETTE

**Tuesday • Thursday
Saturday
t-g.com**

WELCOME
VISITORS



Diandra Womble
Advertising Director/G.M.
dwomble@t-g.com
931-684-1200



Yolanda Flick
Advertising Executive
yflick@t-g.com
931-684-1200 ext. 224



Clarabell

(Continued from Page 2D)

ing show.

And Gunter said they're looking forward

to meeting all kinds of people who may walk through the store's creaking doors and step into their own childhood while experiencing the tradition of the Celebration.

"Just meeting people, hearing them reminisce...you meet all kinds of folks."



HOMETOWN SPECIALISTS

IS THERE A NEW ADDRESS IN YOUR FUTURE?

With this Duo you get one of Coldwell Banker's top Agents Nationwide with 35 years of experience & tech savvy youth eager to work exclusively for you. Whether Buying or selling we will make your needs our first priority



Dianne Arnold & Madison Arnold
Real Estate Dynamic Duo

Farms • Homes • Land

Dianne Arnold 931-703-5104
diannearnold@charter.net

Madison Arnold 615-603-0077
madisonarnoldsales@gmail.com



MLSM

We never
stop moving®.

SEGROVES-NEESE REAL ESTATE
COLDWELL BANKER 1708 North Main St., Shelbyville, TN 37160

Welcome to Shelbyville

SHELBYVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

"Friend of Youth"



VISIT OUR DOUGHNUT BOOTH AT THE CELEBRATION GROUNDS



WE ARE OPEN EVERYDAY AT 6:00 AM DURING THE CELEBRATION

Shelbyville Optimist Club World Famous Horse Show Doughnuts

Like us on Facebook

OPTIMIST  INTERNATIONAL®



James Abernathy

James Abernathy: shoeing for showing



Maleah Claxton - Agent

1301 North Main Street
 Shelbyville, TN 37160-1303
mclaxton@shelterinsurance.com
ShelterInsurance.com/mclaxton
 P 931-680-0064
 F 931-680-0306



By ZOË HAGGARD
zhaggard@t-g.com

Ti-tink, ti-tink, ti-tink...

When James Abernathy is bent on working, he's usually got a horse leg between his knees and a driving hammer in his hand.

Ti-tink, ti-tink, ti-tink...

The work he does below a horse is so those on top a horse can ride smooth, easy, and balanced.

You've probably guessed Abernathy's a farrier. He's been one for over 20 years now. And like most in the Walking Horse industry he's been around horses his whole life.

Originally from Shannon, Miss.—just south of Tupelo—Abernathy, along with his twin brother Joseph, have been in the middle Tennessee area since the early 2000s. Growing up they made frequent trips to Shelbyville for shows as their grandfather raised Tennessee Walkers in Mississippi, saying they've always been "eat up with the Tennessee walking horse."

James showed and trained horses for a while, but his focus turned to shoeing horses from flat shod to performance packages, a focus that began while he worked with Red Umberger, a blacksmith in Mississippi.

The process of shoeing a horse—though

Too Much Stuff... Not Enough Space

SHELBYVILLE
TIMES-GAZETTE
Classifieds
684-1200





James Abernathy shoeing

Get all your refreshing drinks from Celebration Liquors and Riverside Liquors, both of Shelbyville during the TWHNC.



Custom Cabinets,
Entertainment
Centers,
Bookcases and
Vanities

- Marble & Laminate Tops
- Granite
- Quartz



SWING CABINETS

931-684-3576

331 Pinkston Road, Shelbyville

931-703-5599

Abernathy

(Continued from Page 4D)

intimidating to many—is relatively simple, according to Abernathy.

It's just a matter of unclenching the nails, cleaning the hoof, trimming, flattening the foot, and then nailing on the steel shoe.

"It's not as complicated as you would think—but it can be," Abernathy said. Some horses grow differently on one foot than the other. Getting both feet the same is the hard part of being a blacksmith. Well, that and shoeing colts, he added.

But most importantly, in order for all that to happen, one needs to get to know the horse.

"I've been doing it so long I feel like I can talk to them."

"I feel like I'm in a profession that a computer could never take over. They're never going to make a robot that will take my job," he said with a grin.

And specifically within the walking horse industry, there's the challenge of working with shoe sizes that are regulated extensively by SHOW. For example, trail pleasures have to be 3/8 by 3/4 inch, while

lite shod 1/2 by 1 inch.

"I still feel like I get better every day, but took it five or six years to get set in my ways...I quit two or three times...But I'm hard-headed."

The shoes are handmade in middle Tennessee by Iron Craft in Lewisburg and Mark Walling in Bell Buckle. According to Abernathy, horses really need shoes in Middle Tennessee because the ground is hard and rocky.

And even though injuries are just a part of his job, it pays off. Abernathy said he's shod around 150 world champion walking horses, including Led Zeppelin—who won amateur world grand champion four years in a row—and Ghost Walker, the winningest spotted horse he's ever shod.

Abernathy himself owns 13 spotted saddle horses at home and enjoys trail riding whenever he can, which is often. It's one of the reasons he loves being a farrier: he's not "married to the barn," giving him more time to ride and spend time with his 8-year-old daughter—who like father, like daughter-- can "show just about anything."

"I love it...I love the horse more than anything—I mean what better job than to mess with a horse every day, all day. Get horsehair on you. Smell like a horse," he joked.



James Abernathy bending a shoe.



REEVES
STATE SENATE
 Representing State
 Senate District 14

Proud to be
 a Tennessean.

I'm honored to be part of a state senate
 that supports the Celebration.

615.741.1066



sen.shane.reeves@capitol.tn.gov



Chris Bobo carries on family legacy

By ZOË HAGGARD
zhaggard@t-g.com

When people think of the prominent walking horse families, the Bobos certainly come to mind. It's a family legacy that's lasted four generations and walks on today.

And even though Chris Bobo, grandson of the late C.A. Bobo, isn't showing horses, he's serving his fourth time as judge for the upcoming 2021 Celebration.

"Just that opening—when that announcer calls for that first class, I am ready. I still get an adrenaline rush and just really get excited for that show to start," he said.

He remembers his first experience with the waking horse, and it was in his grandfather's lap in the saddle, holding the reins for the first time—with his grandfather's hand guiding him how to maneuver the 1,000 pound animal beneath him. Chris was only four years old at the time.

"It's sort of funny, because my dad tells me the same thing: be careful. I think that's good advice, at any stage of life..." he said.

Chris laughs because he recalls a story where his father, Bill, was at one of his first championship classes to show a horse. Before he went on, he asked grandfather C.A. for some last-minute, top-notch advice.

But the walking horse pro only said, "Be careful," in the simplest manner.

Surprisingly, Chris said he never felt any pressure to enter the walking horse industry. His family, he said, encouraged him to pursue his own passions whatever they may be.

Still, the love for the horse was deep-rooted in Chris.

"I just love horses in general."

In addition to his deep-rooted involvement with the industry, Bobo is postmaster at the Bell Buckle post office. And his only tie to the industry will be his judging.

"I felt like I could get into the judging... and once I did, it really slapped me in the face. It's really not as easy as it looks. You only get a small snapshot of a horse and you do not get to see the whole area... So it really opened my eyes to what a judge does," Bobo said.

So, in order to give it his best, Bobo says he prepares by knowing the rules and attending a lot of shows.



Chris Bobo



Charlie Bobo

"I never want to be satisfied thinking I know it all...You never study as to what horse is good, because all of them change. It's a daily thing—like people," he said.

But the main thing, Bobo added, is studying and knowing your rulebook—knowing all the correct ways in which a horse should be going into each division. And knowing the horses "like the back of your hand," he said.

"I'm just honored and blessed to be doing it...I look forward to this one like I did my first one," he said.

And now the legacy continues as Bobo's son will be told to "be careful" as he endeavors into the walking horse arena as the fourth generation.

Templeton & Associates Insurance



Kay & Jennifer

GET THE
Coverage
YOU NEED!

- Auto
- Home
- Life
- Commercial

108 East Depot Street • 931-684-4380



Clay Sanderson and Nathan Rymer



Clay Sanderson, Charles Coy and Kasie Caldwell

New generation: Kasie Caldwell and Clay Sanderson

By **ZOË HAGGARD**
zhaggard@t-g.com

A person could likely say it was love at first site for Kasie Caldwell and Clay Sanderson. At least, that's what it sounds like.

"Oh, I knew she was the one right then," said Sanderson about the first night they met through their mutual friend.

"He told my mom right that night that he was going to marry me," Caldwell said.

"Told her she better get to know me," he said, and they both shared a laugh.

That was in 2013, and now the wedding is set for October—scheduled around a horse show of course—at Pleasant Valley Farms.

It's safe to say it's all due in part to the horse industry.

Caldwell, a Shelbyville native, works for the Walking Horse Report as a sales representative. She grew up riding and showing Tennessee walkers since she was a little girl and

says this industry is all she's ever known.

Sanderson is originally from Pulaski where he worked at a horse barn. He moved to Shelbyville in 2006 and began working with Nathan Rymer, an Ohio native. Since January, they've been working at Premiere Stables at the Backwards S Ranch off Highway 64 West, owned by Sherrin Pittman and run by Larry George.

Now they work with 40 horses in the stables and have 14 horses entered at the Celebration, which Sanderson says is looking really good this year.

"Even the trainers you compete against, you want to beat them. But when you still win, they're still happy for you. Everybody's happy for everybody," Sanderson said.

That love for the community comes even through the two to three hours of precious sleep the trainers get during the Celebration.

"It's our livelihood," he said.

"The Celebration always was, and still is, the grand finale.

Everybody looks forward to it," said Caldwell. She said she'll always remember the large crowds at the Celebration. She even remembers when Out On Parole was retired. Between the show's spotlight and the standing ovation, Caldwell describes the memory as a sentimental time.

And already the couple's 1-year-old, Charles Coy, is already showing signs of being a natural horse lover, thus carrying on the industry for yet another generation.

It's worth it, in order to carry on the tight-knit community.

Caldwell recalled when her family's home caught fire some years ago and their partners in the industry came about to help them. And even when her son was hospitalized last year, the couple found much-needed support from people within the industry.

"You don't realize the people who care about you until something like that happens. It amazed us—how many people came out," she said.

Welcome Visitors

Southern Fare

SOUTHERN FAVORITES SERVED DAILY

**210 Lane Pkwy
Shelbyville
931-536-5768**

**Breakfast
Mon - Fri 6:00am - 10:30am**

**Lunch
Mon - Fri 10:30am - 2:00pm**

Southern Favorites Served Daily

COLDWELL BANKER

**SEGROVES-NEESE
REAL ESTATE**

931-607-6463 • 931-684-6522
gbaker@realtracs.com

GERALD BAKER 1708 N. MAIN STREET, SHELBYVILLE, TN 37160
Realtor

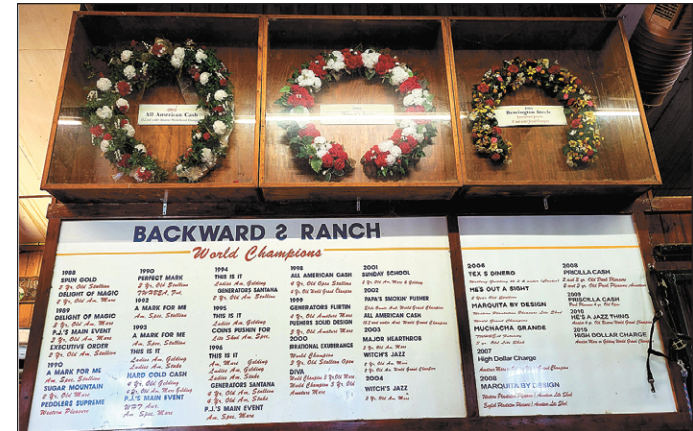
Each Office Is Independently Owned and Operated.



Kasie and Clay at Celebration



Nathan training



The Express[®]
Copies Shipping & More!

408 Madison St. 931.684.3977 or fax 931.684.1056

Business Cards, Flyers, Banners Express Service
(Same day or next day during The Celebration!)

Welcome Visitors!



CHECK US OUT!

- ✓ Full Color Copies
- ✓ Carbonless Forms
- ✓ Stationery
- ✓ Envelopes
- ✓ Rubber Stamps
- ✓ Wedding Announcements
- ✓ Church Bulletins
- ✓ Fax Service
- ✓ Resumes
- ✓ Postal Mailbox Rentals

IT'S YOUR CHOICE!



Owners Tabby & Robert Stem

The Kesselring's Christmas Creek Farm

By **ZOË HAGGARD**
zhaggard@t-g.com

For Kailin Kesselring, owner of K. Ellen Boutique on North Main Street, the Celebration is “bigger than Christmas.”

Having been a part of it since she was a little girl of 4, the industry has served as a bonding experience between her and her father, Kasey Kesselring.

“While serving as the assistant head of School at The Webb School from 1993-1999, I took up horseback riding as a recreational activity with the Howell family of Southridge Farms,” said Kasey. He formerly owned Morgan horses but said he developed a passion for Tennessee Walking Horses while living in the state.”

Today, split between Florida and Tennessee, they own Christmas Creek Farms where they focus on breeding and selling Tennessee Walking Horses. Having just sold a farm off Highway 64 East this past spring, the Kesselrings are in the process of building a brand-new barn and moving their six yearlings into them.

Born and bred

There are several aspects that go into making sure the breeding is done carefully.

“Making sure the mares are properly taken care of is key throughout their term and bringing them up to prepare for foaling and monitoring foaling is important to a successful outcome,” he said.

Also, choosing a stud for the mare is important.

“There are bloodline crosses that have been particularly successful in breeding show horses and knowing and studying those is important,” he said.

He has David Williams from Rising Star Ranch and Dr. Krista Gillam, who does all



5 mares, 6 yearlings (names: Tiger King, Joe Exotic, Carol); four are in training.

the Kesselring's vet work, to thank for the process.

And even though Kasey Kesselring is an accomplished school master, he'll admit when he needs assistance.

“Having a very good vet who is particularly astute with breeding issues and knowing your mares is paramount. Dr. Krista Gilliam is excellent at both!... David Williams and Rising Star Ranch is one of

the most knowledgeable in the business with breeding crosses, and I seek his input regularly,” he said.

The names of the sires: Gin's Black Gin, Jose Jose, Lined With Cash, Hocus Pocus Jazz at Rising Star Ranch and Walk Time Charlie and Dixie Lineman at Fantasy Farm. They even have what they call a “Sun Drop mare,” named Drop Right In, who's produced several grand champions.

For her dad, who has a special love for pleasure horses, the reward comes through seeing a horse he's raised go on to win those ribbons—and being able to say, “I put the first halter on that horse.”

“Just putting that halter on them, leading them—they don't know anything, so they're scared. And then putting a saddle

► See **Kesselring**, Page 11D-12D



Joseph Watson
931-637-0894

Serving Shelbyville & Tullahoma

Quality First



RUSS'S
SEAMLESS GUTTERS
931-637-9795
We make quality!

Licensed & Insured



Front-End Alignment
Brakes
Mufflers

Landers Tire

401 Cannon Blvd. • Shelbyville, TN 37160
684-4743 (684-TIRE)

Tyler Landers

Dwayne Waid

Serving Middle Tennessee Over 60 Years



Kesselring

(Continued from Page 10D)

on, they want to freak out about everything, from those first few steps they take, sights, sounds. Then, you take them to a show and it's a whole other experience," Kailin said.

"It's patience. Things don't happen overnight," she said. And she hopes Christmas Creek Farm will continue for many more of those nights.

Like father, like daughter

Despite the labor-intensive process and hurdles that may come, Kailin said she would like to one day take over Christmas Creek Farm.

Interestingly enough, both Kailin's brother and mother aren't interested in the horse industry like she and her father are.

Kailin recalls winning her first blue rib-

bon at the age of 11, while riding He's Our Duramax, trained by Wayne Dean of Lewisburg.

And even though she doesn't show anymore at the Celebration, Kailin still supports and maintains relationships through her business.

"Through my business, those relationships are very important to me. I know most of the people who come into my store. I know who are showing, what the name of their horse is...it's a social thing for me; I just enjoy the people," she said.

It's why she wants to be a part of keeping this industry going, hoping to make the showing and performance available to the common man through more charitable and community support.

"The industry brings a lot to Shelbyville," she said.

She wants to give back to the Celebration like how the Celebration has contributed to the community. "The contribution goes both ways," she said.

CASE
XX

25 YEARS
AND COUNTING



#38191 TRAPPER

NEW FAMILY

25TH ANNIVERSARY
POCKET WORN® OLIVE GREEN BONE

TESTED
XX

W. Case

This and other quality Case® Knives are available at:

Collectors General Store @ Southern Charm, 24 Railroad Square, Bell Buckle, TN 37020
Phone: 931-813-3300 • Open 7 Days a week, Just 2 doors down from the Bell Buckle Cafe.



CASE, CASE, CASE XX, TESTED XX, XX, and various other marks used herein are registered trademarks of W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery Company. © W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery Company 2021

MICROTEL®
INNS & SUITES
BY WYNDHAM

**Conference Room
for Parties**

Leeann Leversen General Manager

1207 North Main Street
Shelbyville, TN 37160

931-684-8343 • 931-684-7237 fax
gm.shelbyville@gmail.com

VEHICLE UPFITTING

MOBILELIVING

TRUCK • VAN • JEEP • RV

1104 Madison St. Shelbyville TN • (931) 488.4999 Since 1965

TRUCK ACCESSORIES

- SPRAY IN BEDLINERS
- BED COVERS
- CAMPER SHELLS
- LADDER RACKS
- GOOSENECK HITCHES
- SIDE STEPS
- LIFT KITS/WHEELS & TIRES
- LED LIGHTS

AND MUCH MORE!!!**Come Visit Our Showroom**

Raising the colts: Layne Leverette

By ZOË HAGGARD

zhaggard@t-g.com

No two horses can replace wet saddle pads—or in other words, just plain sweat and hard work.

That's a saying Layne Leverette looks to put into his colt-raising business, Layne Leverette Stables, located on Highway 231 North.

He's had the barn for about four years now and it's going strong with 45 colts and 10 yearlings being raised, with as many as 25 colts shown during one of the week-ends leading up to the Celebration.

And something he said people don't realize is that each of those colts has a personality, much like people.

Leverette and his five hands receive colts when "they're wilder than a March hare." That is, when they're around 16 to 17 months old.

"Our job is to start next year's superstars," Leverette said. The future of the walking horse business starts here, he said. Between him and Eric Yokley, Leverette said the majority of the industry's colts begin with them.

It goes without saying it's a difficult industry, especially in the first few months of raising the colts.

A day at Leverette's stables begins at 7:30 a.m. with feeding and watering the horses. Then they ride them, one after another, until the day turns to dusk.

But it pays off—both financially and gratefully.

"When I start seeing colts win grand championships, it's pretty cool," he said.



Layne Leverette

Along the southern wall of his stable is what Leverette refers to as his "Wall of Fame," which is covered with championship-winning horses that were started within the very walls in which their pictures are.

"This is what makes it worth it," he said, motioning to the wall.

And it's the love of the horse that carries Leverette through the work, a love that began with his grandfather.

"My grandfather...I was five, six, seven, eight years old, and I can still remember

► See **Leverette**, Page 14D



Trainer for Layne Leverette and Son Stables.



Leverette

(Continued from Page 13D)

him out there fooling with those mares. And that was the only place I wanted to be. He'd hold me, lead me around on them. Loved the horse," Leverette recalled.

From there, Leverette's owned his business for over 20 years, since he was 26 years old. Now his son, Eli, who's 21, plans to keep at the business along with him

"Walking horses around here—it's our heritage...we were born around these horses," Leverette said.

Even with last year's changes, Leverette said they did better than ever last year. And this year he's expecting to make better sales than last year. Plus, the upcoming Celebration will be a major

part. Leverette started and sold 43 horses that showed at the Celebration last year.

So, the secret to his success?

"You know, you've got to be honest with these customers... We handle a lot of money and a lot of people—people've got to trust you," he said.

He raises colts that are outstanding. But, like people, some horses are more talented than others—and you've got to be honest with customers about the horse's status, Leverette said.

Still, between the connections he's made and the horses he's raised, Leverette says, with confidence, "I've made a pretty good living."

Layne Leverette Stables will be hosting its 5th annual cookout on the first Friday of Celebration from 11 to 2 p.m.



Ride 'em like U stole 'em



Time Webb

Moon's Beauty & Barber Shop

Amy Bobo, Trena Cook, Virgil Cooper, Anita Epperson & Donna Freeman

800 Union Street, Shelbyville, TN 37160

684-3888

Auto, Home, Health & Life

MULLINS
INSURANCE AGENCY

208 N. MAIN
SHELBYVILLE, TN 37160
931-684-7436 phone
931-680-0322 fax
mullins208@yahoo.com





TROTT LUMBER COMPANY INC.

WE SELL SAWDUST- GREAT FOR BEDDING

WE SELL:

Hardwood Lumber • Slab Wood
Sawdust • Wood Fiber

WE BUY:

Hardwood Logs • Cedar Logs

YOUR LUMBER SOURCE FOR
BARNs, OUTBUILDINGS,
FENCES, ETC.
We appreciate your continued patronage.

Owners Sam & Jennifer Trott
270 Card Road, Shelbyville, TN 37160
931-684-0490

Serving Bedford County Since 1995



newsomhvac@gmail.com

931-294-2339

931-703-9580

PROUD TO SUPPORT SHELBYVILLE AND OUR CELEBRATION FRIENDS SINCE 1972

Select Trailer Co. is proud to be your full-service trailer dealer. Located right here in Shelbyville since 1972, we understand the nature of your business and horse pleasure. We boast outstanding service after the sale - rest comfortably on our stability and history!

Our Service Department is second to none! With one of the largest inventories of accessories and parts on hand, the items you need to help you are on the shelf. Our Knowledgeable, full-time service technicians keep your investment in tip-top shape, with over 150 years combined experience in plumbing, electrical, HVAC, welding & fab, mechanical, and more! Our staff will keep you rolling smoothly, efficiently & economically.

No one appreciates your business more than Select Trailer Co. Our business is taking care of great folks like yourself, and we look forward to serving you soon!

Top Dellar for your Trade!

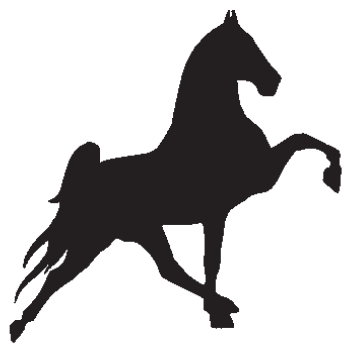


Hwy. 231 N. • Shelbyville, TN

931-685-4040

**Where Great
Service & Personal
Attention is a
TRADITION!**

SelectTrailer.com



Welcome visitors to The 83rd Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration

★
**The 83rd Annual
Tennessee Walking Horse National**

Celebration[®]

August 25th - September 4th

THE CELEBRATION GROUNDS

SHELBYVILLE, TENNESSEE



★ **Stable Decorating Contest**

★ **Vendor Fair**

★ **Food Truck Fair**

8/27-8/29 and 9/2-9/4

★ **Hat Night - Aug. 28th**

★ **Veterans and First**

Responders Appreciation

Night - Sept. 3rd



For more information (931) 684-5915 • twhnc.com