H&R Agri-Power at Tanner is celebrating its seventh year in business with plenty of deals on tractors, lawnmowers and other farm, yard and garden equipment. The entire staff in Tanner is committed to providing customers excellent service in parts, sales, and service. H&R Agri-Power in Tanner is your local Kubota headquarters for all of your lawn equipment needs. Stop in at U.S. 31 South located just north of Calhoun Community College. H&R Agri-Power is open six days a week and can be reached by calling 256-232-9115.
Well, I gave it some thought but I decided to go ahead and plant cantaloupe seeds in my garden again this year. Last year, I had watermelons and cantaloupes, and I knew it was a risk because coyotes have raided my garden in the past. So, that is why no watermelons this time.

The dogs totally wiped out the 2018 watermelon crop, but left most of my cantaloupes. The melons are looking good again this year and as of this writing were beginning to spread and put on fruit. But again, all I’ve got is cantaloupes, and I have my fingers crossed they will survive the coyotes again this time around.

In 2012, I had some great looking watermelons growing, but just overnight it seemed something took the half-grown melons off the vine and rolled them to the side of the garden. Later on, I found out it was coyotes.

When the melons I had growing in 2012 started to ripen, it appeared I was going to have a good patch of them. But one night those wild dogs (we call coyotes) got into the patch and pretty much ate the ones I was about to pick. We did have some to survive that year, though, and those were sweet and delicious. But last year, they ate them all. We had zero watermelons in 2018.

I never did see predators in the watermelon patch but my bulldog always had a barking fit when they showed up in the dark hours of the night. I think he may have scared them off a couple of times and that allowed me to save a few back then.

**Coyote food habits**

According to facts and figures about coyotes, they often include many items in their diet. Rabbits top the list of their dietary components. Carrion, rodents, ungulates (usually fawns), insects (such as grasshoppers), as well as livestock and poultry, are also consumed. Coyotes readily eat fruits such as watermelons, berries, and other vegetative matter when they are available. In some areas coyotes feed on human refuse at dump sites and take pets (cats and small dogs).

Despite their reputation for grabbing small animals, coyotes love juicy watermelons, especially in dry summer weather, just like humans do. The damage to watermelon crops can be extensive, with reports of coyotes eating as many as 20 melons in one night being fairly common. If you have a backyard garden with just a few vines planted, one coyote could destroy your entire crop rather quickly.

Preventing coyotes from eating watermelons is difficult. No repellents seem to work, and frightening devices work on a temporary basis at best - and sometimes not at all. If you have a small yard, exclusion would be a better bet, as well as a safer one. Coyotes have been known to eat pets, and they can be a threat to small children. Adults are not immune either. Keeping coyotes out of your yard is vital for everyone’s safety, but keep in mind these are intelligent animals. Calling landscapers or animal control specialists to erect fences that could prevent coyotes from entering your yard is best. The Humane Society of the United States notes special roller attachments at the top of fences stop coyotes from jumping over.

I’m hoping my melons will survive the coyotes.
Alabama State Law requires you to call the Alabama One Call Center 48 hours prior to any excavation, to have underground utilities located. **811 is the new national three digit call number.**

Athens Gas Department reminds you “MAKE EVERY DIG A SAFE DIG”

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Robbie Tucker is well-known around the community for her yard full of varieties of flowers. She has become known way beyond our community as well for her flowers.

She has a booth annually at the Fiddlers’ Convention and sells many of her plants and seeds to visitors from out-of-state. She recently was awarded Yard of the Month for June by the Limestone County Master Gardeners Association. This award is voted on by the members from nominations.

Robbie said she moved to her current residence in the 1960’s, and began growing her flowers by seeds. They have multiplied from that as well as adding new bulbs. She has accumulated a variety of flowering plants and has about 600 clumps of Daylilies, which seems to be her specialty. She said that from the pollination of bees, new varieties are created. But, you can sustain the true flower by replanting a ‘fan’ from the original plant.

She has around 2000 plants just between her Poppies and Buttercups.

Robbie will have a booth at the upcoming Master Gardener’s Plant Sale June 15th at the greenhouse behind the current Athens Middle School (previously the Athens High School) on Highway 31. This sale is open to the public. This would be a great opportunity for flower lovers to purchase your favorite variety of flowers.
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For Friendly Service and Top Quality Flooring
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Owners, Steve & Wanda Clutts
The Athens Lions Club annual Kiddie Carnival, a treasure of small scale nostalgic carnival rides, will open June 27th. The Carnival has 10 rides for toddlers and young children, including the Sky Fighter rockets which circle with lights flashing and sound effects. Kids and families wait in line for delicious concession favorites including funnel cakes, popcorn and hamburgers. Also available are corn dogs, chicken sandwiches, chicken fries, snow cones, dippin dots and, of course, cotton candy.

The Kiddie Carnival has provided generations of fun for kids and their parents, grandparents and friends from this same site since 1957. The Kiddie Carnival will open June 27th, with an opening ceremony at 6:00pm and rides opening around 6:30pm. Each ride requires just one 50 cent ticket. Families with young children continue to learn about Athens unique, old time kiddie carnival operated by the Athens Lions Club.

A favorite ride of most of the kids attending is a small scale train circling on its track with full size smiles on the kids’ faces riding it. Other rides include small and large swings, a mini ferris wheel, parachute ride and a scrambler. A small scale roller coaster with 5 seats circles while kids hold on as it zips around the track. Enjoyed by toddlers are the old fashion pedal cars that go around and the horses on the carousel, as their parents stand beside them on the ride. For a fun night of family time, older siblings and others of all ages often enjoy playing bingo.

The Kiddie Carnival is operated by Athens Lions Club members and numerous other volunteers. These include spouses of club members, the Leo Club, local high school Sub Deb and Pi Beta sororities and other civic groups, businesses employees and individual volunteers helping to make it possible.

A part of the funds from this year’s Kiddie Carnival will be used to fund 5 scholarships recently awarded to local high school seniors who volunteered at the carnival and met other criteria. Lions International key focus area is sight. The Athens Lions Club supports this by helping those in the Athens who qualify with sight exams or glasses, as well as collecting used eyeglasses to be recycled. In the past year they have supported Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association, Camp ASCCA/Camp Seale Harris, a camp for youth with diabetes. Also, many local causes and organizations through manpower or funding.

The Kiddie Carnival is located at 309 E Forrest Street. It is open every Thursday, Friday & Saturday night June 27th-August 3rd (closed July 4th) from 6:30pm-9:30pm. Additional information about the Kiddie Carnival can be found at http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/athensal/ or their Facebook page: Athens Lions Club Kiddie Carnival.
Garden is looking good

By Debra Johnson

It was a blessing to have the amount of rainfall that we saw last week on the garden.

It had been about 2 weeks since the last rain, and I have had to water the garden by hand at least once, giving it a good soaking that took about 3 hours. When you put the money and time into raising a garden, you have to make sure it doesn’t die. We have been chopping and pulling up weeds and placing straw around the tomatoes and vine plants, such as squash and cucumbers. I think the straw helps support the vines, helps hold the moisture around the plant and helps reduce the growth of weeds.

This year, I purchased some blood meal, which is a source of nitrogen, and have read that tomatoes, onions, cabbage, squash, to name a few, need this nutrient. However, you have to be careful not to place too much around the plant and to be sure it is USDA approved. Some vegetables, like beans, legumes, and peas do not need the blood meal.

The garden is growing in leaps and bounds. Our potatoes plants are showing signs of heat stress. We were late getting them in the ground because of the late winter rains and then we have had a streak of unusually hot temperatures for this time of year. I dug up a plant to see how they looked. We do have potatoes, but they need a few more weeks to grow in size. Maybe they will hold out a little longer. Our corn is tasseling, beans are making runners, squash is blooming, and we have small green tomatoes and peppers.

Our spring cabbage is getting ready to harvest. I have pulled the largest one and even cooked it all-ready with one of the onions from the garden. So good!!

We planted the sweet potatoes, watermelons, and cantaloupes a couple of weeks ago for the fall harvest. All we have left to plant are a few pumpkins that I want for October.

Anytime that the grandkids are at my house, I like to get them involved in the garden so hopefully we can keep the interest alive for future generations. They love to help and always like playing in the dirt!!

Finally, the garden is clean and growing.
The Armored Armadillo

By Danny Johnson
Staff Writer

The last few years the prehistoric animal called the armadillo started to show up in North Alabama.

Armadillos are pretty much nocturnal and do most of their feeding at night. They scavenge for grub worms and the evidence of their activity can be found in your lawn and garden. The mammals have big claws and are great diggers of your soil. They can make a mess out of one’s yard. The armadillo will often dig a burrow near their feeding ground. This hole in the ground resembles a ground hog den.

I can monitor the population of the animals by observing the road kill numbers. The armored beast has a tougher time crossing the road than the opossum. The roads are littered with road kill. These animals, like moles, will do a lot of damage to the yard. Like the armadillo, the moles are in search of grub worms for a food source. Eradicate the grub worm from your yard, and you will see a decrease in the digging.

I don’t know the impact on the environment that may be caused by the armadillo. Some hunters have suggested they might destroy the nests of turkey nesting on the ground. I would think raccoons, opossums, and coyotes do more to disrupt nesting turkeys.

Some folks thing the armadillo are host to different type diseases. I will always wear gloves when removing a dead one killed by a car on my road. The buzzards don’t seem to have a problem cleaning up the carnage.

The armadillos have good hearing, but I don’t think they have very good eyesight. They also are fast when spooked. I saw a coyote attack an armadillo in the woods one day. The armadillo balled up and the coyote saw quickly that he was wasting his time. This creature was armor-plated with no weakness. The wild dog left pretty quickly.

I never have seen the armadillo feed on fire ants. When they first showed up here, folks called them anteaters. They are a complete different species. Regardless of what we call them, they are here to stay.
Elk River Boat Party set for July 6

The annual Elk River Boat Party, hosted by Mike and Bridgett Jackson, will be held on Saturday, July 6, and will go from 3 p.m. until dark. Kozmic Mama will be playing as she has for the past 12 years. “Mama” continues to sing and travel with her music and has been a repeated request by boaters over the years.

“She is amazing and the public seems to really enjoy her traditional style, said Bridgett Jackson. “Mama is a crowd pleaser and loves being on the river with the river crowd.”

During intermission, Mike and Bridgett will pass out free koozies as an effort to thank everyone for coming. The koozies list the sponsors for this event and Jackson said they are so thankful they continue to make this happen for the community each and every year.

“Having so many sponsors really shows us that they care about the community and is really behind this event,” she said.

Mike & Bridgett have tried to count the boats every year and they estimate that close to 300 to 350 boats attend each year. Of course, each year that number goes up with attendance.

“Many of the people that attend this event plan their July 4th holiday around it and stay on the water all weekend. It’s simply amazing to see,” Jackson added.

Kids can go water skiing, ski boarding, and the Alabama Marine Police as well as the rescue squad will be on duty, watching out for everyone.

Directions to the Boat Party:
The only way to get to the party is by boat, and the directions are as follows: From the Tennessee River, go north on the Elk River and under Lee-Hi Bridge (U.S. 72 bridge). Turn left into Anderson Creek and the party is on the right. The nearest boat launch is the Lee-Hi Bridge boat launch.

For more information, go to 13th Annual Elk River Boat Party on Facebook and then get yourself to the celebration, even if you have to hitch a ride!

Sponsors:
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Cajun’s Seafood, Randal Perkins
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SOS Insurance, Sherry McCafferty
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News was slow making its way to the residents of the county communities. Japan’s aircraft had carried out a surprise attack on December 7, 1941 on the US ships staged at Pearl Harbor. The US would enter the war within the next few days. This year is the 75th anniversary of the Normandy invasion that took place in France to give the Americans a staging site for the invasion. Young men from the holler volunteered and were soon drafted to serve in the military. Many young men from Limestone County were part of the European invasion.

D-Day June 6, 1944, as it is called, was a costly battle as our soldiers, wave after wave, came ashore into a strong German presence unleashing machine gun and artillery fire. The battle to take Saipan was another invasion battle against the Japanese. Returning veterans were reluctant to talk about the experience of war. After some time they would tell us about things that they witnessed. We never asked questions or discussed war stories unless the veterans first brought it up.

Soldiers returned home from the war, but the brutal experience would live with them until the day they died. The brave display by our young men fought to preserve the freedom we Americans enjoy every day. When our soldiers returned home on leave they were respected and honored as heroes. The country was united and everybody was contributing to support the war effort. There was farm deferment, which allowed necessary crops to be raise for supplying food to the military and the rest of the country.

Papa said all the scrap metal was picked up and carried to local junkyards to be used in making military equipment. The civilians had rations placed on many products. Gasoline and rubber car tires were very scarce. Some food items were scarce, like coffee and sugar. Papa raised a garden every year and Mama canned vegetables every season. Our young generation has never experienced the sacrifice our ancestors experienced during a war.

Car tires and tubes were patched so they could be re-used during war times. Many jobs were created to support the war machine at Red Stone Arsenal in Huntsville, Al. American car companies converted over their production lines to make air craft, tanks and jeeps.

Evil has a way of raising its head and causing world wars that affect the population throughout the world. It took all Americans pulling together to overcome evil caused by WW2. We don’t live in a perfect world, but it’s the best we have. All Americans need to love our country and fight for the freedom for our future generations to come. Someone coined the saying “freedom is not free.” How true that saying is. America is the best country in the world. The freedom we take for granted came with a price. Many Americans never got to enjoy or have families and the pleasures this country has to offer. Our children need to be taught what a cost others gave so we can be free.
Key Lime Pie from the Pioneer Woman

When the weather starts getting warmer, I start thinking of light, cool things to eat. A variety of salads, fruits, and pastas come to mind. But am thinking of cool desserts, such as Key Lime Pie.

Crust
15 whole graham crackers (4-section rectangles)
4 Tbsp (1/2 stick ) butter, melted
1/4 cup sugar

Filling
One 14 ounce-can sweetened condensed milk
2 egg yolks
1 Tbsp grated lime zest
1/2 cup lime juice

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Break up the graham crackers and grind until they are crumbs. Drizzle the melted butter over the crumbs while stirring and pour in the sugar. Pour the crumbs into a standard pie pan and press the crumbs into the pan to shape the crust.

Bake the crust for 5 minutes, or until lightly crisp and set. Remove it from the oven and set aside to cool. Leave the oven on. While the crust is cooling, make the filling. Drizzle the sweetened condensed milk into the bowl of an electric mixer. Add the egg yolks, lime zest, and lime juice. Mix on high until the filling is smooth and thick, about 2 minutes. Pour the filling into the cooled pie crust. Smooth out the surface and bake the pie for 15 to 18 minutes, until set. Allow the pie to cool, then refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Top with a dollop of whipped cream and a little lime zest or a slice of the lime.
Dust off your cape and pull out your mask for the sixth annual Superhero Day presented by North Alabama Eye Care September 14 at the Athens Big Spring Memorial Park (Duck Pond). YOU can be a part of the fun in a variety of ways! Consider supporting Eli’s Block Party as a Sponsor. To succeed in their mission, they need partners from the business community like Dr. Gregg Moody with North Alabama Eye Care, and Chris and Terry Preston of Preston Builders, so that we can grow our events, and make a bigger impact on childhood cancer funding and awareness.

Childhood cancer affects more than the sick child. When that child misses school for months because of treatment, his classmates miss him. When a mother has to quit a job that she loves because she had to be with her child during treatment, her co-workers miss their friend. Childhood cancer affects the community, so we want to unite the community in the fight against it. Join North Alabama Eye Care in sponsoring Superhero Day 2019. This event draws a crowd of almost 4,000 people from Athens and the surrounding areas, including from across state lines. Demographics are widely varied and participation throughout the day is heavy and steady. They offer a range of sponsorship opportunities to fit any budget. As a well-respected organization in our community, Eli’s Block Party prides itself on being a conscientious community partner.

What about a kids activity booth? Take advantage of this opportunity to engage the community, present your business or organization or school or church by hosting a kids activity booth. This is a high-energy, colorful, fun and all around “Super” day, so get with co-workers or friends and find a way to participate. We have food, activities, contests, music, prizes with all proceeds going to Eli’s Block Party. Our Real Heroes section features law enforcement, military, fire, farmers, utility linemen, and this year we will feature a special teacher to represent teachers as Real Heroes. Don’t miss the Superhero Parade at 10:30 a.m. when the Superheroes arrive. Volunteering as a group to host an activity or fill shifts at our events is a great way to be active in your community and have fun together. They have a variety of opportunities for groups to volunteer, including select slots for teen groups that are part of an organization (like a school organization or church group) that has an adult contact.

Sign up to be a sponsor, volunteer or vendor today! You can get details and sign up at the website: www.elisblockparty.org or for questions email elisblockparty@gmail.com.
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256-232-8811 www.dixieautoparts.com
Remember the 1957 Ford Ranchero?

The Ford Ranchero is a coupe utility that was produced by Ford between 1957 and 1979.

Unlike a pickup truck, the Ranchero was adapted from a two-door station wagon platform that integrated the cab and cargo bed into the body. A total of 508,355 units were produced during the model’s production run. Over its lifespan it was variously derived from full-sized, compact, and intermediate automobiles sold by Ford for the North American market.

During the 1970s, the Ranchero name was used in the South African market on a rebadged Australian Ford Falcon utility. These vehicles were sent to South Africa in complete knock down form, and assembled at the Port Elizabeth plant. In Argentina, a utility version of the locally produced Ford Falcon was also called Ranchero.

The original Ranchero sold well enough to spawn a competitor from General Motors in 1959, the Chevrolet El Camino.

Introduced in December 1956, three months after the traditional September model year start-up, the Ranchero was based on the standard and new-for-1957 full-sized Ford platform, specifically the short-wheelbase Custom sedan, two-door Ranch Wagon station wagon, and utilitarian Courier sedan delivery. Essentially a Courier with an open, reinforced bed, its own unique rear window and integrated cab and cargo box, the Ranchero was initially offered in two trim levels, and throughout the model run, was built on the corresponding automobile assembly line, but sold as a truck through Ford’s truck division.

Countries
from puzzlemaker.com
answers on page 16

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THEVALLEYSTAR.NET
June 14, 2019
Running with Jesus

I was never someone who enjoyed running. There are some people who love to run for exercise and I am definitely not one of them. I love working out, weight lifting, and going on walks with my family, but running is not fun for me. Playing soccer growing up, I was the goalkeeper. It’s the position with the least amount of running, however I still had to run with the team. Long distance runs were the worst. The rest of the team could keep a pretty fast pace while I always struggled in the back. One day, on a five mile run, I was falling behind. One of my best buddies noticed and quickly dropped back to run with me. We talked, cracked jokes, and when I felt like stopping, he would just say, “Almost there… keep going.” Just the simple reminder that someone was there running with me, kept me distracted and made the run seem easier and shorter.

The Hebrew writer tells us life is like a race. We are running toward our finish line of Heaven. Unfortunately, sin has a way of slowing us down and distracting us from our goal. We feel like we are falling behind the group and we are getting slower and slower. Sometimes we just need a reminder that someone is with us. Matthew reminds us that Jesus, after He was baptized, was taken to the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (Matthew 4:1). I always thought that was interesting.

I believe it’s God’s way of showing us we are not alone. By going into the wilderness to purposefully be tempted by the devil, Jesus is showing us that we can overcome sin. We don’t need to grow weary, but we can face temptation head on…and win. It’s like my friend who dropped back and ran alongside me, but instead we have a Savior who came down from Heaven and purposely put Himself in a situation where He would be confronted by the devil? Aren’t we told to flee the devil? Run from evil? Steer clear of temptation? Then why would Jesus run toward him?

I believe it’s God’s way of showing us we are not alone. By going into the wilderness to purposefully be tempted by the devil, Jesus is showing us that we can overcome sin. We don’t need to grow weary, but we can face temptation head on…and win. It’s like my friend who dropped back and ran alongside me, but instead we have a Savior who came down from Heaven and lived alongside us. He has proven we can overcome this world. He has proven we are not alone. He has proven that if we follow Him and follow His example; we can win our race.

Whatever sin you are struggling with today, you can overcome it. Whatever temptation is knocking on your door, know that Jesus is beside you. Keep running your race. Don’t grow weary. I know life is hard and we get tired along the way, but we have a Savior who has shown us the way. He has run straight into battle with the devil and won, proving we overcome temptation too.

I hate running. I always fall behind and I’m really slow. Thankfully Jesus is beside me on the race of life telling me, “Almost there…keep going.” He will help me through. I don’t have to lose this battle. Jesus will help me finish.
Jun 15, 22, 2019 – Athens Saturday Market is a state-certified farmers market. Enjoy fresh produce, baked goods, music, art, and crafts at the Green Street pavilion (409 West Green Street in Athens) from 8:00AM to 12:00PM. athensmainstreet.org

Jun 16, 2019 – Father’s Day

Jun 17, 2019 – Vietnam Veterans Spaghetti Lunch & Dinner (17915 W Elm St, Athens). Lunch is 11:00AM-1:00PM or 5:00PM-7:00PM meal includes Spaghetti, Texas toast, salad or coleslaw, dessert and a beverage for $8.00. Eat in or take out. Shady Grady One Man Band performs at the dinner time. All proceeds go to High School Scholarship.

Jun 18, 2019 – Donnell House Meeting with guest speaker Kenneth Riverbank at the house (601 South Clinton Street in Athens) featuring the topic of preserving household history. Free and open to the public.

Jun 18, 2019 – 4th Annual Pizza for a Cure with Village Pizza of East Limestone (15728 East Limestone Road in Athens/East Limestone AL) from 11:00AM-9:00PM with portion of your dine-in or take out order proceeds going to American Cancer Society. Facebook

Jun 20 - 23, 2019 – Slingshot Homecoming 2019 Rally with Slingshot Owners Group, Club Slingshot, and Polaris Industries (7049 Greenbrier Road in Greenbrier) with meet-ups, after-market vendors, local rides, food, King or Queen of Homecoming Crowning, tour of Polaris. Become a Slingshot Owners Group Member here for free. Reserve you and your guest spot for homecoming at Eventbrite.

Jun 21, 2019 – One Voice at Summer Concert Series: Singing on the Square on the Marion Street side of the Limestone County Courthouse in downtown Athens from 7:00PM-9:00PM. Come early and enjoy the shops and eateries then kick back in your camp or lawn chair for an evening of music hosted by Athens-Limestone County Tourism Association and sponsored by Jimmy Smith Buick GMC. Free and open to the public. For more information: 256-232-5411 or VisitAthensAL.com/singing-on-the-square

Jun 21 - 22, 2019 – Elkmont Lions Club Smokin Railroad Street BBQ Cook-off in downtown Elkmont (18890 Upper Fort Hampton Road in Elkmont) where Backyard Division Teams will come to compete as part of this Kansas City Barbeque sanctioned event. Categories: Chicken, Ribs, Pork. Live music, vendors and more. For more information or request registration: Larry 256-777-3364; Ryan 256-777-6930; Susan 256-431-0277 or email ldpyleant25902@yahoo.com

Jun 23, 2019 – Bloom Stroll and Bouquet Workshop with 1818 Farms (24889 Lauderdale Street in Mooresville) from 4:30PM-6:30PM with tour of the heirloom flowers and herbs. Learn about planting, growing, and seed saving as well as best methods for cutting flowers while gathering arrangements. Then participants will gather under the pavilion and provided a selection of flowers and herbs for a floral arrangement take and make workshop. Fee: $75.00 includes glass container and cuttings. Register at 1818Farms.com


Jun 27, 28 & 29, 2019 – Athens Lions Club Kiddie Carnival opens at 309 East Forrest Street (at the corner of Beaty and Forrest Street across from Athens Middle School) in Athens from 6:30-9:30PM. Tickets are $0.50 each, 1 ticket for each ride. Concessions available.

Jun 28, 2019 – CommUNITY Breakfast: Science Meets Faith with Jim Odum at the Athens State University Center for Lifelong Learning (121 South Marion Street in Athens) from 8:30AM-10:00AM. Free tickets at Eventbrite.com Facebook

Jun 29, 2019 – Athens Saturday Market is a state-certified farmers market. Enjoy fresh produce, baked goods, music, art, and crafts at the Green Street pavilion (409 West Green Street in Athens) from 8:00AM to 12:00PM. athensmainstreet.org

Jun 29, 2019 – J.J. Brindley’s 7th Annual Rock the Dock Boat-Only Party starting at 3:00PM in the cove past the Elk River on norther shore of Wheeler Lake. Free to the public. For more information: 931-309-8754 Facebook
YEARS AGO IN LIMESTONE COUNTY

Bus stop got its start on the corner of Bee Line and Lee

Whether you were heading off to serve your country in Korea or just to visit your Granny in Kansas, you likely had to get on a Greyhound bus to get there if you lived in Athens around the mid-1900s.

Throughout the decades that the Greyhound bus has stopped in Athens, various business have served as the bus stop, but the stops all started on what was, at that time, the busiest corner in Athens: The intersection of Bee Line Highway and Lee Highway, modern-day Clinton and Washington Streets.

In November 1928, the enterprising L.C. Hightower saw that bus travel was quickly becoming the way to go, so he bought a lot from Dr. W.J. Hagan on the busy corner for $16,000 and built a $30,000 building that he then leased to R.A. Chambers & Sons for use as a bus station and garage. The building was designed for buses to enter the building from Clinton Street, circle through and exit on Washington Street.

The Chambers brothers, R.A. and Fred had already been running their own bus service since 1917, starting with a transfer service for passengers and baggage between Athens and Rogersville and soon adding trips to Huntsville. From there they had added a city-wide bus line that charged a 10-cent fare per trip.

Once Chambers & Sons moved into the new bus station, the #7 Greyhound bus line began stopping there. Passengers could pay $1.25 for a ride from Athens to Huntsville, joining the passengers who from Florence who had paid $3.25 to get from their town to Huntsville.

Eventually Wilson White took over management of the bus station, operating that and the restaurant located inside.

In 1956 White built the Rebel Cafeteria on the corner of Market and Beaty Streets, facing the Big Spring, and moved the Greyhound bus terminal to the restaurant. The Rebel remained open for more than 30 years as a bus stop and popular eating place before White closed the restaurant, due partly to his own health issues.

In the late 1990s, the Rebel Cafeteria building was torn down; however, the original bus stop building still stands, currently empty, on the corner of Clinton and Washington Streets.

Both pictures are the Rebel Cafeteria taken around 1936.

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This article will be in two parts. It will be laying out the responsibility of the boarder and also the responsibility of the boarding facility. It will lay out an average cost for the facility and what the boarder is paying for, not only a pasture in which to keep their horse(s). I believe it will open some eyes of the reason for the cost for boarding horses that wasn’t thought of by the boarder and oftentimes the boarding facility neglected to calculate the cost of doing business. Boarding horses cost the facility lots more than you realize...

What’s it Worth?
This is a question you may have to ask yourself. How much are you willing to pay for care of your equine friend when you’re not around? The cost from the boarding facilities stand point may be an eye opener for you.

I will be listing task facility performs and the approximate cost of these task.
“There is no such thing as a perfect boarding barn.” And there is no such thing as a perfect boarder either.

Here are some areas in which boarding barns make horse owner’s lives easier:
1. The most obvious perk is that they don’t have to buy or lease a horse facility
2. They don’t have to pay the utilities
3. They don’t have to pay for liability/care and custody insurance
4. They don’t have to pay for tractors, manure spreaders, drags, manure forks, brooms, wheel barrows, saddle racks, bridle racks, jumps, mats, footing, light bulbs, hoses, driveway gravel
5. They don’t have to keep the facility clean for boarders
6. They don’t have to make improvements
7. They don’t have to repair damage
8. They don’t have to buy bedding, transport and store it
9. They don’t have to dispose of the about 50 pounds of manure and urine produced by each horse each day, if stalled.
10. They don’t have to find horse help just so they can take a vacation
11. They don’t have to go out in inclimate weather checking on horses.

More information coming in the next Valley Star... You will be surprised...

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The Thistle
By: Danny Johnson

I was walking down a path one spring day.
Honey suckle fragrance filled the air along the way.
The sun was warm and birds were singing making me say,
Thanks to God for granting me this bliss on this day.

As I meandered deeper into the woods, a beautiful flower with colors took my breath.
It was a wild thistle with a crimson red color and protected with needles sharp as tacks.
I stopped to enjoy the flower from a distance and knew I had to stand back.
The stickers were there to protect the thistle from being damaged.
As much as I wanted it for my own,
was it worth the pain I could endure by taking it home?

Beauty and pleasure often come with a high price that stings like wine.
What is seen on the surface gives us a visual judgement,
but consequences can only be told by time.
To pluck a flower and carry inside for an arrangement may last a few days.
But, if left outside, will last and be enjoyed by others who pass its way.

Just remember, beauty and kindness are attributes given by God that are good.
The way we are shown love in our path to adulthood.
No matter how impressed one becomes with a flower in our life
Remember the pain of the thorns pierce like a knife.

Enjoy local shops on a Sunday afternoon

Come shop and dine in Downtown Athens on a Sunday afternoon!
This summer, local shops and businesses will be open on the second Sunday of every month in June-August to promote the downtown area during the weekends.
After speaking to local merchants, Athens Main Street believes that this will be a great way to encourage more people to the downtown area to shop and attract the Sunday lunch crowds to stay longer in Downtown Athens.

Athens Main Street Executive Director, Tere Richardson says, “A stroll around the Square, some shopping and a great meal is a perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Come and enjoy Downtown!”

Businesses will be open from 12-4 pm on these Sunday Afternoons for local residents and out-of-towners alike to come enjoy what Downtown Athens has to offer during the weekends!
Rhonda Fisher from Wildwood Deli says, “We are super excited about our Sizzlin’ Summer Sunday menu!” Wildwood will be serving pancakes, steak and eggs, bacon, sausage, hashbrown casserole and other delicious brunch selections.
Our other local restaurants will be open; Lucia’s, Village Pizza and Terranova. Feeling a sweet tooth? Any of the restaurants have that covered, as will Kreme Delite!

Participating businesses for Summer on the Square: Second Sundays are:
• Belles and Beaus
• Crawford’s Gifts
• Pimento’s
• Boneyard Antiques
• High Cotton Antiques: Ice cream social
• Terranova’s: Open till 2 pm and drawing for $25 gift card
• Wildwood Deli: Open form 11 till 2 pm
• Village Pizza
• Kreme Delite
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29085 Stonehenge Drive - Toney - $179,900
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Today’s modern family wants to combine old with new. We love the traditional farmhouse style but want a new and modern twist on the designs. Homes are our retreats, our havens. We want today’s homes to be our sanctuary with as many comforts as we can have. Lonnie Dale Subdivision and CGS Construction homes provide just that.

The contemporary style on the farmhouse design invites warmth, easy living, and tradition to the exterior of the homes. We want to harken back to the simpler days when families gathered in the open kitchen and living room. Yet, we want the modern conveniences of today. Lonnie Dale offers that.

The designs are chic and energy efficient on the outside, but roomy and family centered on the inside. Energy efficient windows and doors, along with natural gas tankless water heaters and hardy board exteriors are just the ticket for today’s energy conscious families.

The easy breezy open floor plans are made for entertaining and family get togethers. Exquisite interiors with custom details are just what modern families with active lifestyles desire. Master bedrooms with exquisite master baths offer you a sanctum from today’s hustle and bustle. Indoor-outdoor living is the ticket with a porch... or two.... Or three, depending on the plan. Attention to detail has always been a staple of the CGS Construction ethic. They bring this attribute to every home they build. Lonnie Dale is excited to partner with CGS Construction to bring beautiful, innovative, and quality homes to our subdivision.