

Perry County

TENNESSEE

It's Just Our Nature!

FREE
2021-22
Edition

*Foggy sunrise
on the Buffalo
River by
RUSS WELLS*

Blooming Arts FESTIVAL

MARCH 26 & 27 · LINDEN TENNESSEE · 2021



The Town of Linden welcomes you to the 13th annual Blooming Arts Festival—our annual signature event and one of the region’s leading outdoor festivals.

“This year, more than ever in our history, we are excited to welcome people to attend our premiere festival,” said Hayley Byrd, executive director, Blooming Arts Festival. “We anticipate our best festival ever, as artists launch their new season and people who have faced the challenges of 2020 are once again ready to enjoy special outdoor events.”

In addition to arts & crafts exhibitors, a full schedule of live music is planned for both days, plus the always-popular Kids Zone, complete with rides and many fun activities.

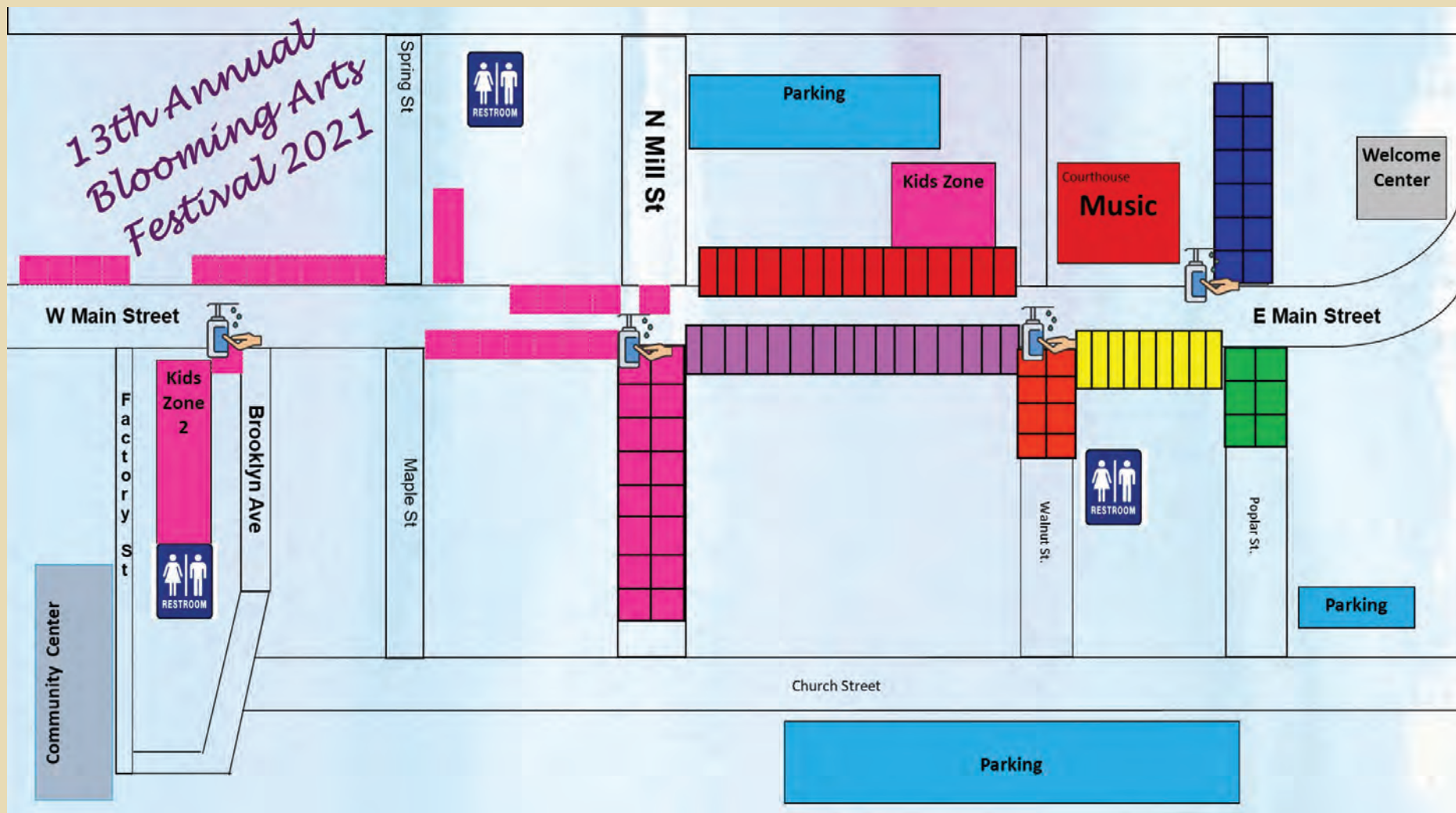
“We are working overtime to ensure this year’s festival is as safe as possible,” Hayley said.

“There are new protocols in place, and a diligent effort on our team’s part to present a state-of-the-art festival, while adhering to COVID safety guidelines.”

Booths for the more than 100 exhibitors are placed at safe distances from each other, and sanitizing stations will be available all along Main Street. Any public space with seating, including the music stage, is set in small, socially-distanced clusters.

Masks are recommended, and social distancing for the gatherers is urged. Zone captains have been assigned to wipe down doorknobs and other high-touch surfaces hourly during the event.

“It’s been a challenging year, and a long winter,” Hayley said. “Blooming Arts is an inspiring way to usher in spring.”





Blooming Arts 2021 Music Line-Up

Friday, March 26th

Noon.....Opening Ceremony
 Flag Raising & Prayer
 "National Anthem," Miss Perry County, Lauren Dickson
 "God Bless America," Miss Perry County
 Outstanding Teen, Jane Marie Franks

12:30..... Showtime Band

1:30..... Liepers Fork Bluegrass

2:30..... Kenny Durham

3:30..... Professor & The Bull

4:30..... American Blonde

Saturday, March 27th

10:00..... Kenny Durham

11:00..... Chloe Belle

Noon..... Grafted Culture

1:00..... Studio M Dancers

1:30..... Liepers Fork Bluegrass

2:30..... Professor & The Bull

3:30..... Jeff Woods

4:30..... Pickin Crows

Hayley Byrd, director of the Blooming Arts Festival, knows how important it is to always have something special to feature in the festival's popular Kid's Zone. Throughout the years the BAF Kid's Zone keeps expanding and improving, to provide great kid-friendly activities.

"They come expecting to have fun," Hayley said. "It's a highlight of the festival to see all of the happy, smiling kids."

One of the most appealing activities for the kids is the creative art of balloon twisting. Jenni Tarrant, balloon twisting artist *extraordinaire*, lives just up the road in Hohenwald and will be creating beautiful sculptures at this year's festival.

The art of balloon twisting can be traced back to the late 1930's, when a man named Herman Bonnert from Scranton, Pennsylvania, started making animals out of balloons at magician's conventions.

And so began balloon art, that fascinating, sleight-of-hand sculpting that captures the attention and curiosity of children of all ages: Just how did they make that giraffe out of balloons?



WELCOME TO PERRY COUNTY

You're Not Just Visitors, You're Honored Guests

ALLYSON DICKEY

Executive Director, Perry County Chamber of Commerce

Spring has finally made her debut in Middle Tennessee, and this year more than ever, it feels like a time of renewal and revival. We are slowly beginning to emerge from one of the most difficult periods in modern history.

While we must still exercise care and caution, we can also begin to glimpse the light at the end of the tunnel. It is in the spirit of both caution and hope that one of the most beloved events in Perry County returns this year.

On behalf of the Blooming Arts Committee, our county and city governments, and, of course, the Perry County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our visitors to the thirteenth year of the Blooming Arts Festival.

We hope you will make plans to stay with us awhile. While you're here, please take full advantage of our gorgeous natural surroundings and the small town charm of Linden and Lobelville.

When you arrive, be sure to stop by the Perry County Welcome Center at 215 East Main Street and pick up a copy of our Historic Driving Tour map. This map was designed in conjunction with 2019's Perry County Bicentennial celebration, and offers a rich glimpse into our 200-year history.

I urge those of you that enjoy the great outdoors to take advantage of the hiking area at Lady's Bluff TVA Small Wildlife Area. The 2.7 mile trail is located at 398 Lady's Bluff Road in Linden, and offers breathtaking, sweeping views of the Tennessee River at its summit.

Not far from Lady's Bluff you'll find Mousetail Landing State Park where you can enjoy camping, cycling, boating, hiking, and so much more.

Fishermen and women are in luck when they visit Perry County. We are home to both the Tennessee and Buffalo Rivers which offer many opportunities for boating, canoeing, or kayaking. The Buffalo is renowned for its world class smallmouth fishing, and the Tennessee offers plentiful opportunities for catching catfish and bass.

If you'd rather spend time shopping, we invite you to explore Linden's Downtown Arts District. From handmade jewelry to original paintings to reclaimed furniture, you are certain to find something unique and different to take home with you.

We boast a variety of eclectic shops and boutiques on our Main Street, and our retailers and artisans invite you to stop in—not only to shop but to visit and learn more about their art and/or merchandise.

Whether you are in town for the Blooming Arts Festival or just passing through, we welcome you. We hope you enjoy your visit, and we encourage you to visit with our residents. Say hello, sit down and stay a spell. In Perry County, Tennessee, you aren't just a visitor—you are our honored guest.





Defending champions (2019) Decatur County-Riverside accepted their trophy from Lobelville Mayor Robby Moore.

The City of Lobelville Welcomes You!

BRUCETON CENTRAL HIGH
CHESTER COUNTY HIGH
FAIRVIEW HIGH
HALLS HIGH
HICKMAN COUNTY HIGH
FRANK HUGHES HIGH
JACKSON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
LEWIS COUNTY HIGH



MCNAIRY CENTRAL HIGH
PERRY COUNTY HIGH
RIPLEY HIGH
RIVERSIDE HIGH
SCOTTS HILL HIGH
TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
WAYNE COUNTY HIGH

PERRY PROUD



Buffalo River Springfest
Welcomes You
To Perry County



Welcome to Springfest XIII

HUGH WADDELL

Buffalo River Springfest Tournament Director

How wonderful that we are here, gathering to enjoy our first Spring weekend—gathering anywhere—and to play softball, or perhaps to take in the sights in Perry County while you are here. How blessed to be able to get outdoors.

Of course, COVID-19 is still a deadly force to be reckoned with and respected, which is why we ask you to please use good, basic common sense, and consider all CDC guidelines regarding masks and social distancing. Please, don't let your guard down.

Several years ago when we were hosting just a few teams, Perry County Mayor John Carroll was amused at our dreaming of sixteen (or more) softball teams coming here annually to play in our invitational tournament

We are almost at our goal, with fifteen teams participating this year. I joke that "if we had more ball fields, we would have more teams now, John."

We are proud to be the only tournament in the state of Tennessee, with no entry fee for our participating teams, and no admission charge for our fans.

At every game, we flip a coin to determine the home team.

And we'll play thirty-six tournament games at only three different ball fields at two towns in only thirty-two hours as we determine our 2021 champion.

If you love softball like we do, then you are at the right place. Know you are welcome here.

Please visit our Buffalo River Springfest Facebook page, for current scores, photos, and past year's highlights—and please "like us" while you're at it.

Thank you so very much for being a part of our thirteenth year.

And a special thanks to all of our hard-working crew, staff, volunteers, and sponsors.



At the end of the 2019 tournament, Parsons Riverside and Tipton-Rosemark Academy teams gathered at the pitcher's mound for a closing prayer.

Schedule of Games

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2021

LOBELVILLE CITY PARK

- 1:30 pm **KICKOFF GAME** LOBELVILLE MIDDLE v. LINDEN MIDDLE
 3:00 pm PERRY COUNTY HIGH v. JACKSON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
 4:30 pm JACKSON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL v. HALLS HIGH
 6:00 pm HALLS HIGH v. CHESTER COUNTY HIGH
 7:30 pm CHESTER COUNTY HIGH v. FAIRVIEW HIGH
 9:00 pm FAIRVIEW HIGH v. PERRY COUNTY HIGH

VETERAN'S PARK – LINDEN

- 3:00 pm TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY v. HICKMAN COUNTY HIGH
 4:30 pm DECATUR COUNTY-RIVERSIDE HIGH v. McNAIRY CENTRAL HIGH
 6:00 pm WAYNE COUNTY HIGH v. TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
 7:30 pm HICKMAN COUNTY HIGH v. DECATUR COUNTY-RIVERSIDE HIGH
 9:00 pm McNAIRY CENTRAL HIGH v. WAYNE COUNTY HIGH

PERRY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL FIELD – LINDEN

- 3:00 pm FRANK HUGHES HIGH v. BRUCETON CENTRAL HIGH
 4:30 pm BRUCETON CENTRAL HIGH v. RIPLEY HIGH
 6:00 pm RIPLEY HIGH v. SCOTTS HILL HIGH
 7:30 pm LEWIS COUNTY HIGH v. FRANK HUGHES HIGH
 9:00 pm SCOTTS HILL HIGH v. LEWIS COUNTY HIGH

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2021

LOBELVILLE CITY PARK

- 9:00 am TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY v. DECATUR COUNTY-RIVERSIDE HIGH
 10:30 am HICKMAN COUNTY HIGH v. McNAIRY CENTRAL HIGH
 Noon DECATUR COUNTY-RIVERSIDE HIGH v. WAYNE COUNTY HIGH
 1:30 pm McNAIRY CENTRAL HIGH v. TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
 3:00 pm WAYNE COUNTY HIGH v. HICKMAN COUNTY HIGH
 5:00 pm **QUALIFYING ROUND** (White Pool Champion v. Blue Pool Runner-Up)
 7:00 pm **CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES GAME #1** (The 3 Qualifying Round Winners)
 8:30 pm **CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES GAME #2** (The 3 Qualifying Round Winners)
 10:00 pm **TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP GAME**

VETERAN'S PARK – LINDEN

- 9:00 am BRUCETON CENTRAL HIGH v. LEWIS COUNTY HIGH
 10:30 am FRANK HUGHES HIGH v. SCOTTS HILL HIGH
 Noon SCOTTS HILL HIGH v. BRUCETON CENTRAL HIGH
 1:30 pm LEWIS COUNTY HIGH v. RIPLEY HIGH
 3:00 pm RIPLEY HIGH v. FRANK HUGHES HIGH
 5:00 pm **QUALIFYING ROUND** (Blue Pool Champion v. Red Pool Runner-Up)

PERRY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL FIELD – LINDEN

- 9:00 am CHESTER COUNTY HIGH v. PERRY COUNTY HIGH
 10:30 am JACKSON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL v. CHESTER COUNTY HIGH
 Noon FAIRVIEW HIGH v. JACKSON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
 1:30 pm HALLS HIGH v. FAIRVIEW HIGH
 3:00 pm PERRY COUNTY HIGH v. HALLS HIGH
 5:00 pm **QUALIFYING ROUND** (Red Pool Champion v. White Pool Runner-Up)



Past Champions

- 2020: No champion, cancelled by pandemic
 2019: Decatur County-Riverside Lady Panthers
 2018: Scotts Hill Lady Lions
 2017: Rain-out, no champ
 2016: Ripley Lady Tigers
 2015: Ripley Lady Tigers
 2014: Wayne County Lady Cats
 2013: Montgomery Central Indians
 2012: Decatur County-Riverside Lady Panthers
 2011: Rain-out, no champ
 2010: Lewis County Lady Panthers
 2009: Perry County Lady Vikings

BUFFALO RIVER SPRINGFEST



How Blessed We Are To Be Country Bumpkins



State Representative KIRK HASTON

When I was selected in the 2001 NBA Draft, basketball Hall of Famer Charles Barkley was one of the TV hosts covering the draft on TNT.

One of the things that Barkley said about me after I was selected was that I was a "country bumpkin."

I don't know whether or not he meant it as a compliment or a slight, but I took it as a compliment.

I think that most of us that have been fortunate enough to live in a rural area like Perry County appreciate the simple pleasures that are found in small town living.

I sometimes laugh at myself if I get a little upset when I'm trying to pull out of the post office because I have to wait for three whole cars to go by.

In my opinion, it's great when you live in a place where that is considered rush hour traffic.

Too often our human nature makes us want to focus on what we don't have, rather than what we do have.

For any of us who have ever walked barefoot through one of our crystal clear creeks, floated our rock bottom Buffalo River, gone to a big basketball game on a Friday night, or had the pleasure to sit on their porch swing on a quiet summer evening, let's always keep in mind how blessed we are to have grown up to be "country bumpkins."



Representative Haston, a Perry County native, was a member of the 1997 State Champion Viking basketball team, played basketball at Indiana University under legendary Coach Bobby Knight, was drafted by the NBA Charlotte Hornets, and is a former Head Coach of the Perry County Vikings. He is now a member of the State House, representing the 72nd District, comprised of Henderson, Decatur, Chester, and his home county of Perry.



Welcome

to the
**13th Annual
Blooming
Arts Festival**



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Linden Valley

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

LOBELVILLE

GLENDA JAMES

Buffalo River Review Columnist
Perry County Historical Society

And here we are, thinking about how various places in Perry County got their names.

It's very evident that many sites were named for a family living nearby. Some families settling here in the early 1800s were very recent immigrants; others were children or grandchildren of immigrants.

They came from places like Scotland, Ireland, France, Belgium, and Germany. Sometimes, the accents of immigrants were difficult to understand, and that resulted, at times, in confusion for those recording information on documents.

For our story, we'll start with the Scots-Irish, who were originally from Scotland. However, for many reasons, a great number of Scots left Scotland and relocated to Northern Ireland. So when those Scots came to America, census takers recorded them as being "from Ireland" or "Irish" because that was where they had lived last. But the Potato Famine in Ireland changed all that.

After the 1840s, those whose ancestors had lived in Ireland for centuries and principally lived in Southern Ireland were identified as "Irish." But those whose ancestors had originally lived in Scotland and then had moved to Northern Ireland were called as "Scots-Irish." And those coming directly to America from Scotland, of course, were called "Scots."

Though some Scots and Scots-Irish immigrants arrived at an eastern coastline farther north, many in the 1700s and 1800s arrived along the North and South Carolina coastlines. Generally, it was those latter immigrants—those arriving along the Carolina coastlines or later, their children or grandchildren—who traveled over the Appalachians into Tennessee.

But many of those new Middle Tennessee landowners still retained a rolling Scots accent with a definite burr, and sometimes, it was a bit difficult to understand what they were saying.

Spelling, too, was also a problem in the recording of names and other information.

And that brings us to the community of McCageville.

In the case of McCageville, both the family name, McCage, and that rolling Scots-Irish burr have a great deal to do with Perry County history. And where, you ask, is McCageville?

Various members of the McCage family came to Tennessee sometime in the very early 1800s. In fact, baby William Bryan McCage was born in this general area about 1805.

Of course, in 1805, Perry County had not yet been formed.

But several in the McCage family appear to have been living in what became northern Perry County when baby William Bryan McCage was born to Samuel and Elizabeth McCage.

On June 23, 1824, William received a land grant—160 acres of land in northern Perry County on the Buffalo River—from the state of Tennessee. The price was 12.5 cents an acre.

But perhaps hearing the Scots burr, someone in state government recorded the new owner of the land grant as "William McCagg."

According to the 1870 census, William couldn't read or write, so he and his family were, in a way, at the mercy of those writing down information and spelling their last name.

William McCage married twice and became the father of about fourteen children, among them, his sons Sam, Aaron, Tom, and Lewis McCage.

Then, apparently, a tiny village, "McCageville," sprang up in their area.

That area needed a post office, so on September 21, 1853, William N. Baker became the first and only postmaster of McCageville (Frazier 636).

But according to the U.S. Post Office, on March 16, 1854, the

name "McCageville" was changed to "Lobelville," but William Baker remained the postmaster of the newly renamed community until 1857 (Frazier 636).

Over the years, census takers and others recording documents heard and spelled the name "McCage" in a variety of ways, such as McCaige, McCag, McCagg, McKeg, and McCaig.

But in the 1800s, most of the McCage family, such as William McCage and his sons—Sam, Aaron, Tom, and Lewis—still spelled their name McCage, and that's how it appears on their tombstones. *Goodspeed's History of Tennessee* includes Aaron McCage's biography (903).

Oral history, as well as *Goodspeed's History of Tennessee* (published in 1886), indicates that the "post-village" of Lobelville was "established" in 1854, but actually, the name "McCageville" predates the name "Lobelville" (Frazier 636; Perry 14).

But it's an oft told story that the village was named for Henry DeLobel, a wealthy landowner, owned property worth \$5,000. His vast farm encompassed 7,125 acres, but only 125 of those acres had been cleared.

Now here is the handed-down history of Henry A. DeLobel and the community of Lobelville, according to the *History and Families of Perry County, 1820-1995* (14-15):

Lobelville "was established in 1854 as a Post Village and named after Henry [A.] DeLobel, a French immigrant, who remained there for seventeen years before returning to France."

Continuing, "It is said that he tried to gather French Colonists to return to the area and envisioned a great commercial center based on river traffic on the Buffalo River."

"It is known that DeLobel did live in the Russell Creek area and his name is carved ... in a cave (known as Jaybird Cave) on Russell Creek with the date of 1854."

"In the same cave, there is an abundance of evidence that the cave was used as a shelter as well as extensive mining of saltpeter."

By 1870, neither Henry A. DeLobel, 76, nor Henry E. DeLobel, 40, was on the census, which seems to indicate that neither was in Perry County. And let's face it: It would've been a huge undertaking for Henry A. DeLobel, at 76, to bring French colonists to the area.

But another record does exist: A person named Henri deLobel died in 1878 in West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Perhaps that was either Henry A. DeLobel, 84, who had lent his name to the town of Lobelville, or perhaps it was Henry E. DeLobel, 48, another former resident.

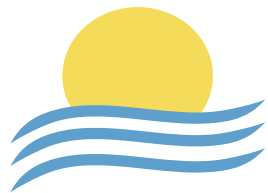
On the other hand, a child, Henry Allen DeLobel, was born here on March 7, 1853, but that seven-year-old child wasn't listed on the 1860 census. Whose son was he?

Though Henry A. DeLobel nor Henry E. DeLobel was on the 1870 census, Henry Allen DeLobel, now 17, was. He was living on John and Annie Lewis' farm and attending school. Had his parents gone back to France and left him here? Had they died? What had happened to them?

By 1881, Henry Allen DeLobel was married and was living in Arkansas. His son, born in December 1881, was named Henry Allen DeLobel, Jr., yet another Henry DeLobel.

But on 1900 and subsequent census records, Henry Allen DeLobel said that his father was born in France and his mother, in Tennessee. Was he was orphaned early and didn't know where his parents had been born? Was he John DeLobel's son? Henry E. DeLobel's son?

Questions, questions. I believe I'll just let somebody else work on all of those unanswered questions.



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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

LINDEN

GLENDA JAMES

Buffalo River Review Columnist
Perry County Historical Society

Names are important, and the choice of names for sites in Perry County is sometimes quite interesting. Take, for instance, our county seat, Linden.

Initially, all of Decatur County was within Perry County, but in November 1845, the legislature made Decatur County a separate county, so the county seat for Perry County was moved to Harrisburg, named in honor of Dr. Wyatt Harris, who was a Perry County resident in 1845 (*History and Families – 1820-1995: Perry County, Tennessee* 11).

But Harrisburg was the seat of Perry County government for only two years.

The Harrisburg Post Office was established on January 7, 1847, but was discontinued on December 23, 1847. F. H. Kimbell was the first and only Harrisburg postmaster.

Meanwhile, also in 1847, Jesse Taylor and Miles Prince built houses three to four miles north of Harrisburg in an unnamed area, according to Goodspeed's *History of Tennessee*.

Also, in 1847, Dr. William C. Moore began operating the first general store in that same area; he was, of course, also the first doctor there.

But then, villagers in that same yet-to-be-officially-named tiny community wanted it to become the county seat.

So an election was held to determine whether Harrisburg or that other community would become the permanent county seat. That other community won the election by six votes. Now it needed an official name.

An article by Samuel Luther Neeley, in the February 26, 1880, *Linden Times* details what happened:

Judge Milton Brown had been a congressman from our district, and his Perry County constituents really liked Judge Brown. So, the new village was going to wear the name of "Milton" as a way of honoring him.

The county commissioners made it official: the name of the new county seat would be Milton.

The name Milton was going to be submitted to the state legislature, but something unexpected happened. Another community in the state was already named Milton, so the locals back in Perry County had to come up with another name.

Major Thomas M. Brashear offered "Linden" as the name of the new county seat.

No, Linden wasn't chosen because of linden trees (basswood trees) in the area.

Rather, Maj. Brashear was apparently someone who greatly appreciated the famous poetry (and patriotic songs) of Thomas Campbell.

So the new community of Linden was named for the town and the poem (song) "Hohenlinden," which suffered a terrible defeat at the hands of Napoleon's army in 1800.

At one time, according to *Bartleby's Great Books* (online), every student learned this stirring, patriotic poem (and song).

And apparently, Maj. Brashear was one of those. So he suggested "Linden" as the name of the new county seat, and that's the name that was accepted.



MELISSA GOODWIN
Fiber Arts



PATRICK BURNS
Knife-Making



TIM EDWARDS
*Painting/Weaving/
Photography*

Perry County's Thriving Artistic Community

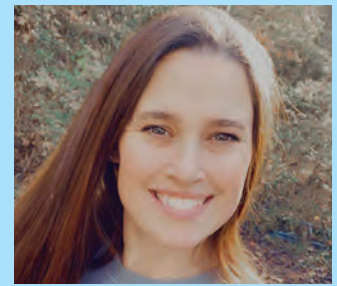
Perry County is home to a thriving artistic community, and the wide-ranging talents are varied and creative.

On this page, meet just some of the artists who call this county home—and watch for them during the Blooming Arts Festival. Please say hello and support their remarkable work.

Many of this area's artisans work independently, have their own shops, or frequent events like Blooming Arts. Others feature their craftsmanship at two local venues: the Buffalo River Artisans Cooperative Gallery and Main Street Marketplace—both in Linden's historic downtown district.



RON & VICKI SIMS
Pottery/Jewelry



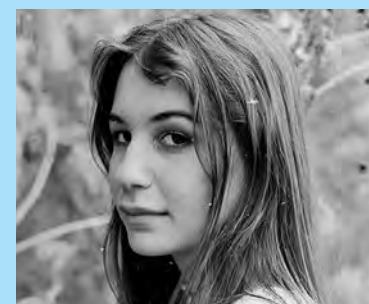
SARA BAILEY
Candle Making



JENNIFER JONES
Jewelry



PATTI HAVLET
Candies



CHRISTINA BROOKS
Woodworking



JENNIFER BROOKS
Woodworking



SUE FRANKS
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021
BLUE & GOLD PARK ' LINDEN

FFA event offers fun for all ages

Mark your calendar for the twelfth annual FFA Open Class Tractor & Truck Pull.

This year, the event will be held on Saturday, October 16, 2021, 8:00 a.m., at the FFA Blue & Gold Park, Highway 13 South of Linden (former saddle club).

All proceeds benefit the Perry County High School FFA Program.

Part old time country fair, the event has offered fun for all age groups, including Corn Hole Tournament, Skillet Throw, Tractor Rides, Kiddy Pull, Kids Power Wheel Derby, live music, and an auction.

The Tractor & Truck Pull features weight classes from 3,500 to 14,500 pounds, street stock and modified trucks in two-wheel drive and 4x4, gas and diesel, turbo and non-turbo. Vehicles compete on a 450+ foot track.

Concessions are available throughout the day—including breakfast. Plenty of parking.

More info closer to the date in the *Buffalo River Review*.

All event photos from the 2020 event on this page are by Sharon McKnight, *Buffalo River Review*.



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Visitors: Welcome to Perry County

Welcome Visitor! We are happy to have you with us in beautiful Perry County! Your adventure here may be peaceful and calming, but it will never be boring.

With so many activities and attractions that allow you to experience the best of a scenic rural community, you'll find much to make your visit to Perry County memorable. But while we have a lot to offer, our greatest tourism asset is our friendly folks.

"It's Just Our Nature" to be welcoming, so if you have questions or need directions, don't hesitate to ask for information. We want you to have an outstanding time.

From arts and agriculture to outdoor activities and unique shops, or whatever you're in the mood for, you'll find it here. Here are a few suggestions to get you started right off the bat. So, take your time and plan to stay awhile.

Hike Lady's Bluff Trail, a National Recreational Trail, to the precipice overlooking the Tennessee River as it passes through "The Narrows." In spring and summer, you'll enjoy outstanding wildflower displays; fall brings vibrant colors while winter offers far-reaching views.

Immerse yourself in history! Grab a brochure at the Welcome Center and head out to explore Perry County's Civil War History. Discover Cedar Grove Iron Furnace, the only remaining double stack charcoal furnace within the Western Highland Rim region of Middle Tennessee.

Or head out to Pinckney's Tomb, an eccentric folk structure thought to be the largest grave house in Tennessee.

If you're interested in Native American artifacts, poke your head into Linden's City Hall to view the archaeological display in the lobby.

Spend a sunny day on the river. Local outfitters Rental can set you up for a fun day on various sections of the scenic Buffalo River. Perhaps you would rather be fishing? The Buffalo River is renowned for its world class small mouth fishing and the Tennessee is famed for bass, catfish, sauger, and stripers.

Mosey around our two downtowns. Check out the beautiful murals on downtown Lobelville and Linden buildings. While you are wandering around, pop into unique shops or savor numerous dining opportunities.



From top: Lady's Bluff Natural Area, Cedar Grove Iron Furnace, Pinckney's Tomb.

...And While You're Here: Suggestions

Lend your ear to "Music on Main Street" for some hot rhythms. Linden and Lobelville alternate weekends hosting this free perennial concert series with cool music on sizzling summer Saturday evenings. Bring a lawn chair and set up for some good listening.

Visit local Mennonite community and find handmade crafts by local artisans, locally produced stuffs such as Perry County honey and baked goods, bulk spices, and foods, and at local farm stands on Cane Creek or Russell Creek, fresh produce and more.

Have a bite to eat. There is a plate full of choices to eat your way from one end of Perry County to the other. Let's start with hand-patted burgers, chow down on some real southern barbecue, or scarf down some delicious Tennessee River catfish. How about hand-tossed pizza or southern-fried chicken? Relish piled high sandwiches or scrumptious vegetarian delights in a casual setting.

Practice your long drive or just putt around Buffalo River Country Club in Lobelville. This 9-hole public course covers 3,185 yards with a par of 36. The clubhouse offers a beautiful view of the river from its deck.

Motorcyclists can rumble down Tennessee State Route 13, one of the top motorcycle roads in the country. Make a beautiful scenic loop without a lot of traffic from Linden, turn down Marsh Creek Road then onto Cedar Creek Road. Continue to Highway 128 to circle back to Linden on 13. Motorcycleroads.com calls this route a "Great 5 star road with everything from winding, hilly, to curving. Just what every biker wants."

Find out how Mousetail Landing State Park got its name. Located on the banks of the Tennessee River, this 1,247-acre treasure offers something for everyone to enjoy.

Camping, boating, day hikes, overnight backpacking, swimming, and picnicking are just a few activities to try in this scenic wonderland.

For more ideas, stop by the Perry County Welcome Center at 215 East Main Street in Linden or call 931-589-2787. Or ask any one of our residents or merchants.

Remember, "It's Just Our Nature" to make you feel welcome.



From top: Mennonite Community, Buffalo River Country Club, "Tennessee 13".



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- Children's Church - 11:00 a.m.
- Church Training - 5:00 p.m.
- Evening Worship - 6:00 p.m.

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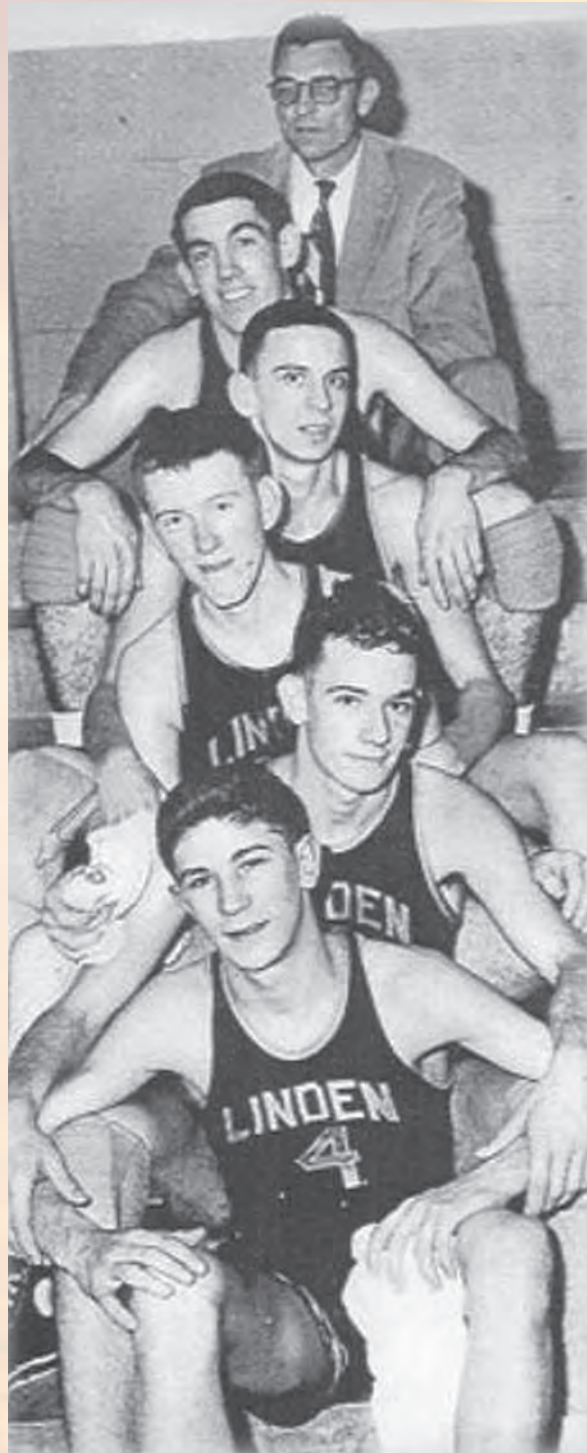
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Basketball: A Tradition of Winning

The Milan, Indiana Indians basketball team, which won a state title in 1954, ain't got nothing on the boys from Linden High School.

Maybe they didn't have a mascot, but "Little Linden," as some bigger schools called us, won the TSSAA title in 1955—and again in 1956—and again in 1957. In fact, Linden is one of only eight teams in Tennessee basketball history to have won three or more consecutive state titles.

And they did it—just like Milan—before teams were classified according to size.



Coach Willie Hudson and his starting five of the 1955 Linden High basketball champions: (from top) Albert Ellison, Ben Rutledge, Eugene Grinder, Gene Paschall, and James "Brother" Cotham.

The Indians, of course, are more famous; the movie Hoosiers was based on their mid-20th century season. But, even Milan didn't pull it off three times in a row.

In 1955, led by Perry County basketball legend Albert Ellison, who scored 35 points, Linden cruised past Treadwell 79-65 for the trophy.

The next year—again led by Ellison (39 points)—Linden outpaced Litton 74-60 for the win.

Then in 1957, without Ellison who had graduated and gone on to Western Kentucky University where he is a Hall of Fame member, Linden squeaked past DeKalb County 45-40 for the third straight title.

The near impossible feat contributed to Linden Coach Willie Hudson's posthumous induction years later (1983) into the TSSAA Hall of Fame.

Jump ahead a couple of decades: the Perry County High School Vikings in 1976 and 1977 were winning again, this time behind the play of Mike Rhodes, and coached by the standout's brother, Dave Rhodes, also a TSSAA Hall of Famer (posthumously in 2006).

The Vikings defeated Knoxville Catholic 68-59 for the first title, then in '77 crushed Bolton 94-76 for another trophy. Rhodes had 46 points in the Bolton game.

Mike still holds the state record for most points scored in a half at a state tourney game: 35. And that was before three-point range was established. He was tournament Class A MVP in both '76 and '77, and went on to set records for the Vanderbilt Commodores.

The Vikings' impressive state tourney performances didn't end in the 70s. Twenty years later, the

PCHS team was back at Murphy Center on the MTSU campus, bringing home another Class A championship in 1997 at the end of a perfect 37-0 season. Only fourteen championship Tennessee teams have gone undefeated.

Led by Kirk Haston and the late Cory Brown (19 points each), the Vikings dominated Columbia Academy 82-47.

Kirk—now a State Representative serving Perry County and the 72nd District in the Tennessee legislature—was Class A MVP in 1996 and 1997, when he also earned Mr. Basketball honors.

Haston was recruited by and played for Coach Bobby Knight at Indiana, and was a first round draft pick by the Charlotte Hornets.

In addition to Linden High's record, men's teams from Perry County High have been to the state tourney fourteen times, and have a 16-11 record: 2012, 2011, 2003, 1997, 1996, 1995, 1994, 1989, 1986, 1985, 1977, 1976, 1975, and 1969. They have had championship game berths eight times, finishing runners-up in 1996 and 2012.

But, it's not all about the boys in black and gold.

The Lady Vikings have earned state tournament appearances five times in 2017, 2016, 2004, 1977, 1976—and the ladies from Linden High competed in 1928.

Odds are, if you tell someone you're from Perry County, they will likely mention basketball—and it's a recognition local athletes deserve and continue to pursue. In Perry County, basketball is not just a sport—it's tradition.

Information for this story compiled from the TSSAA website.



The 1976 Class A Champion Perry County Vikings: (standing) Coach Dave Rhodes, Wilburn Majors, Ricky Richardson, Travis Haymer, David Weatherly, John Phillips, Wally Carroll, Thomas Mercer, and Roger Rhodes; (kneeling) Kerry Shelton, Kenny Tucker, Jacky Graham, Mike Polan, Jimmy Hinson, and Mike Rhodes.

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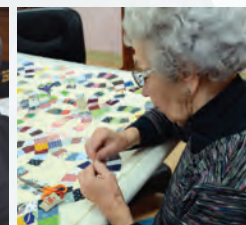
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Maybe you want to take the family out for a lake-side picnic or hold a family reunion in a sheltered pavilion?

If you don't have a boat, you can always fish from the pier, or if you're looking for a convenient launch site, Spring Creek Boat Ramp is a favorite spot for local fishermen.

And when the weather allows, there's a sandy beach and a safe place for kids to cool off after trying the mountain bike trail or archery range.

All these amenities are located right here in Perry County at Mousetail Landing State Park, 1,100 acres of natural beauty on the banks of the Tennessee River.

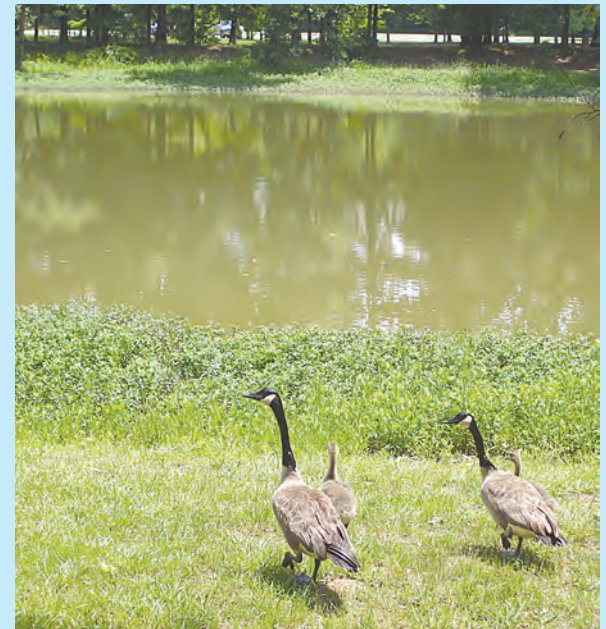
And you can feel good using the park's services knowing that Mousetail is an environmentally-conscious Tennessee Valley Camp-Right Campground.

The park earned this TVA distinction just this year for improving conditions associated with: resource conservation and management; campground siting, design, and maintenance; waste management; and public education.

Mousetail—and all of Tennessee's state parks—have experienced a “marked increase in visitation” since the pandemic began, said Park Manager John Bowen.

Over the years Mousetail has routinely welcomed 250,000 visitors annually; in 2020 the number jumped by 5,000 to 10,000 each month. Almost 42,000 visitors came to Mousetail in October alone.

So, the next time you are looking for that outdoor escape, visit Perry County and the friendly, welcoming staff at Mousetail Landing State Park.



Mousetail Landing State Park Ranger Michael Hudson and Park Manager John Bowen with the recently earned Tennessee Valley Camp-Right Certification.





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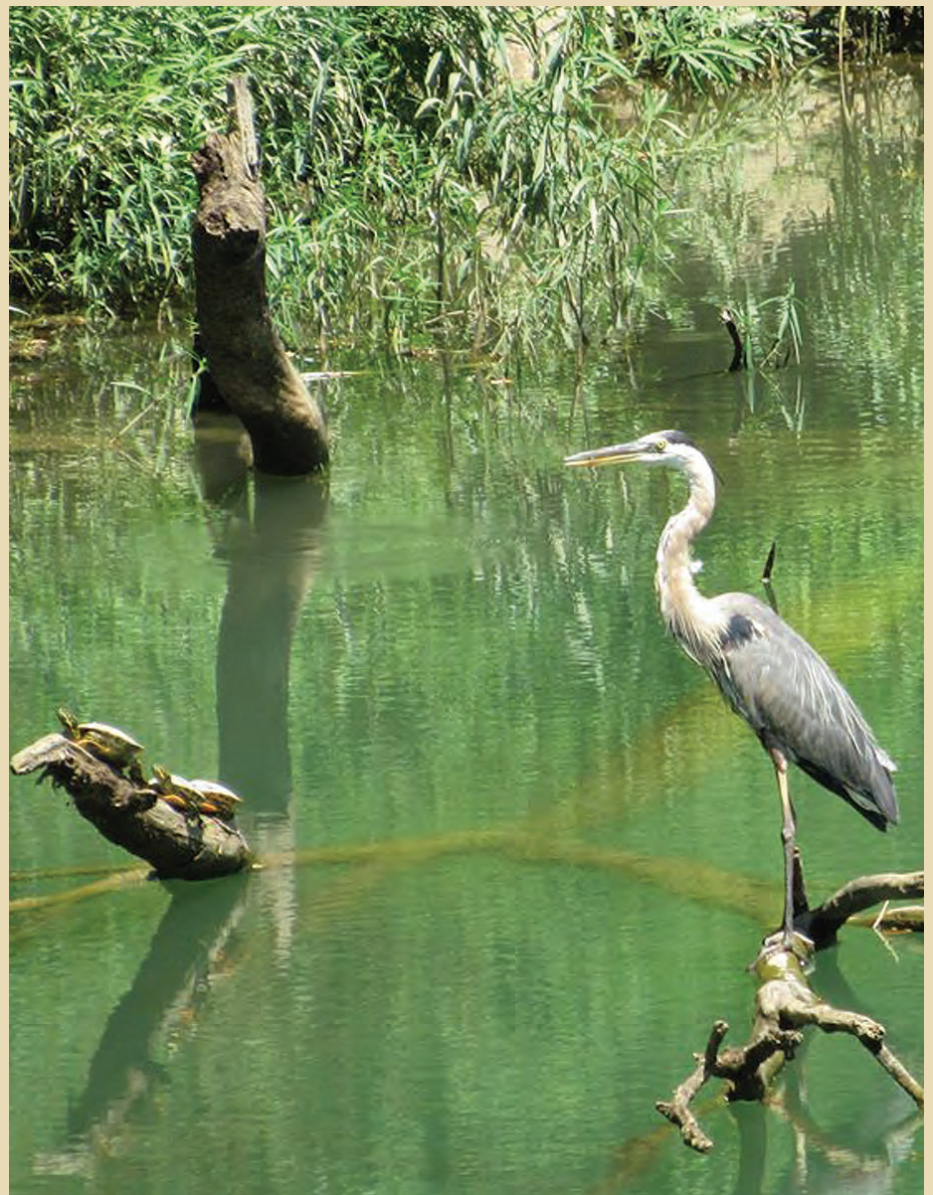
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‘For Everything There Is a Season’

For several years now, Perry County resident Russ Wells has been a contributing nature photographer to the *Buffalo River Review* newspaper. Featured here are four of his impressions of the county’s natural world, each with a distinct seasonal composition.



Music on Main Street Returns for 2021 Season



After a year off due to the pandemic, Perry County's summer weekend concert series returns in 2021, but slightly scaled back.

Complete details were not available when this story was written, but plans are to have two Music on Main Street performances each month, starting in June, and alternating as usual between Lobelville and Linden—this time with a week's break in-between.

The Saturday evening, outdoor shows have proven popular with visitors and locals alike, and feature acts from the region and right here at home in Perry County where musical talent abounds.

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