



November 10, 2023

THE VALLEY STAR

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Zombie Hunt concluding fifth year

Grace Hill Farms Zombie Hunt is now concluding their fifth year. This year the season began on Oct. 6th and is set to finish up on November 11th.

Last weekend the hours will be limited so it is suggested you arrive between 6:30-8 p.m. If you have never been before, this Zombie Hunt is known for being unlike typical haunted houses or other Halloween/Fall events in that it creates an atmosphere the whole family can enjoy.

The Zombie Paintball Thrill Ride is a ride through the woods in a Zombie Assault vehicle where there are live zombies on a two-mile long track through the woods. Riders go in groups of up to 40 per Zombie Assault Vehicle, each of which comes equipped with black lights and paintball guns mounted to the side to ensure hunters are only able to shoot at their targets, not each other.

In addition to the hunt, there is also a Zombie Walking Mission, Shooting Gallery, Mini Escape Room, Glow in the Dark Axe throwing, and movies. Grace Hill Farms Zombie Hunt is intended to be a family fun event.

continued on page 6



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A pool shark Athens embraced

I still remember the day when this chubby kid walked into the drug store, purchased a cherry coke, and then asked directions to the nearest pool hall. He was told it was right across the street from the downtown Gilbert Drug Store.

That was 1966. I remember it just like it was yesterday. The chubby kid was none other than Steve Mizerak, who would later become one of the world's best billard players. At the time, I was an employee at the drug store.

"The Miz," as he was later known, was one of hundreds of students from "up north" in Athens attending Athens College at the time. Little did any of us know back then that this chubby kid would become world famous.

As I played the other day (I never was any good), I recalled how Steve "racked up" in Athens. He wasn't a professional pool player then, but he was mighty good. Little did any of us know at the time, that he would later become one of the best in the world.

They say that Steve strolled on down to the local pool room that day after he left the drug store, and got into a game with the local James boys who at the time were the best in Athens. I think the James boys beat him a time or two, but those close to the pool hall at the time said Steve was just setting them up. Once he started winning, he won all the time.

Steve became a real celebri-

ty around Athens (especially at the pool hall) that year. When he left Athens a year later, everyone around the pool hall knew him and embraced him. He was a good friend to many.

"The Miz" is a hall of fame inductee who began collecting titles in the late 1960's, including four U.S. Open championships.

He is one of the most recognizable faces in the world of pool, appearing in the movie "The Color of Money," and a series of Miller Lite commercials. He was named 5th in the 50 Greatest Players of the Century and currently serves as president of Steve Mizerak, Inc. He left his mark in Athens. It is amazing that the building that

housed the "8-Ball" pool hall in Athens still exists today. It's a part of history we will not soon forget.



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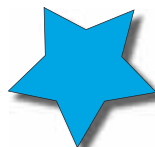


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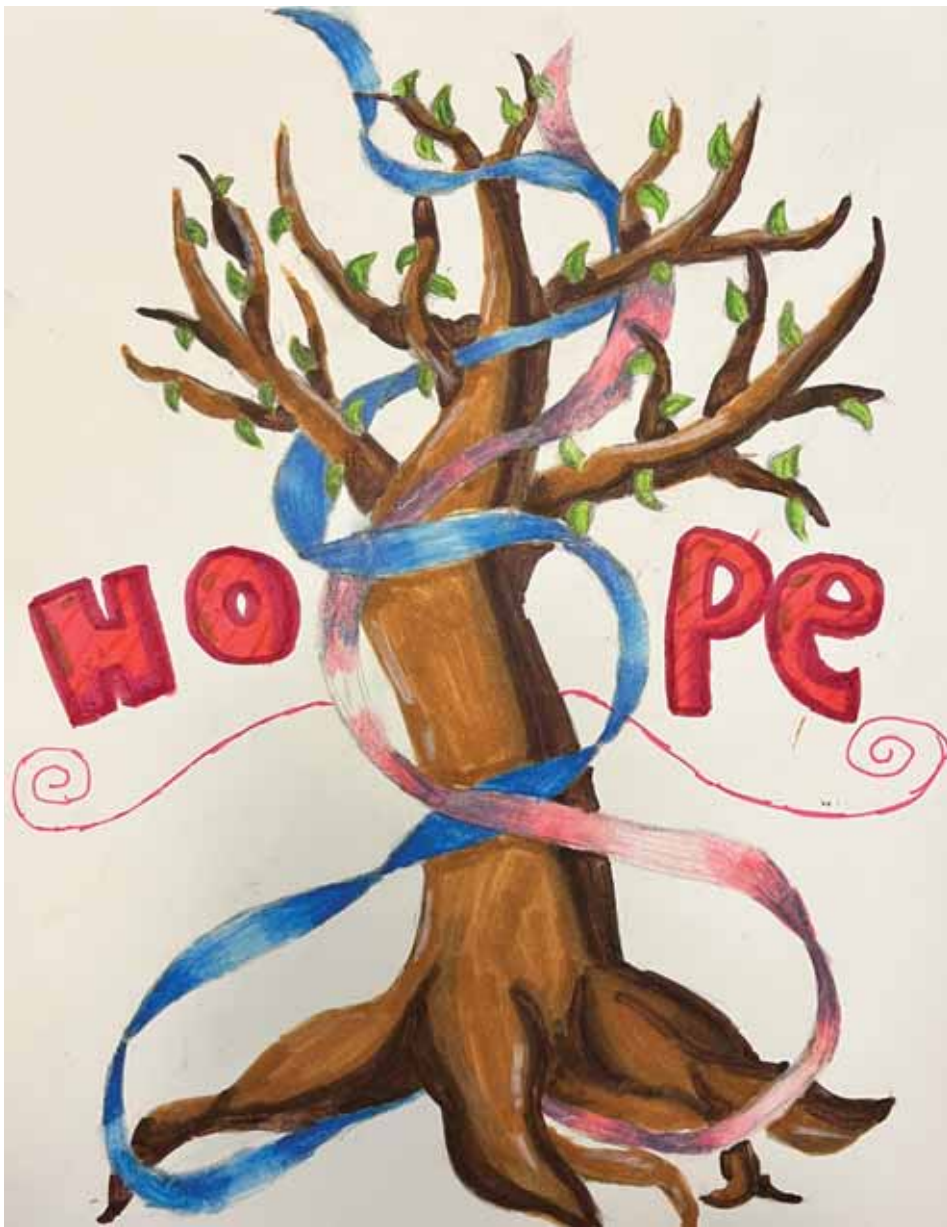
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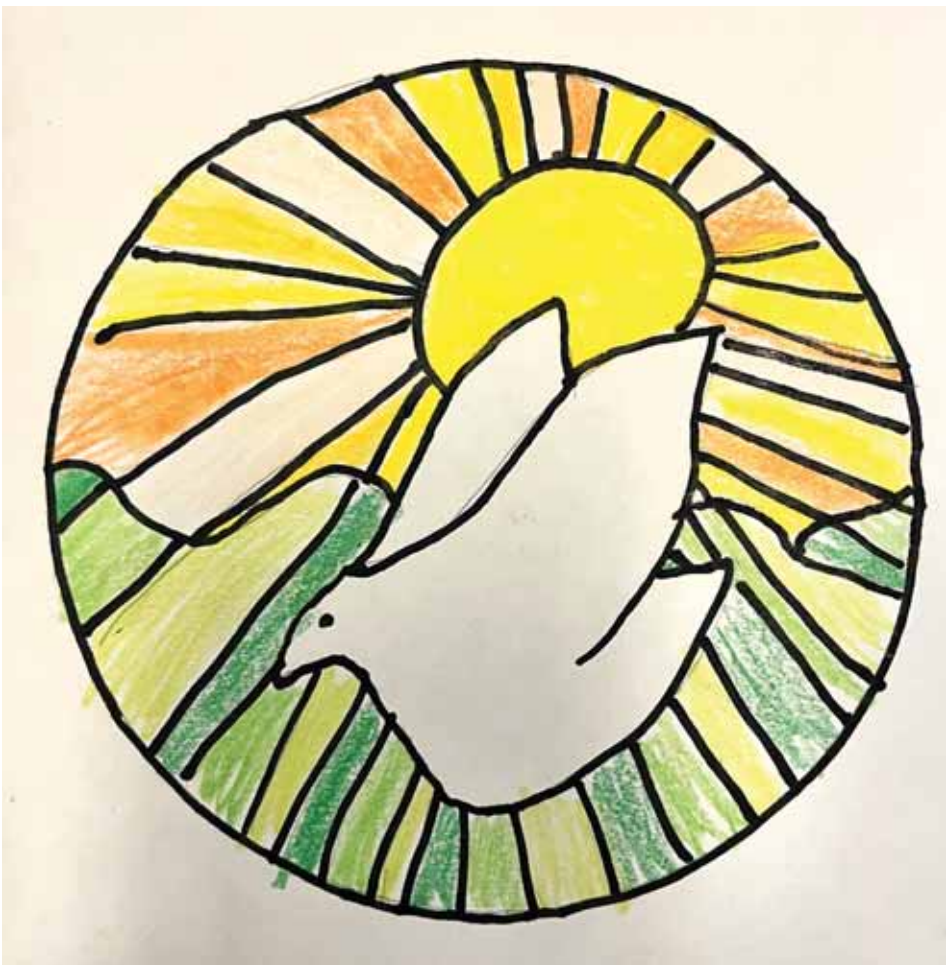
Students create artwork to share hope with those battling cancer



6-12 Grade Division:
• **First, Isabella Adams, 16, Elkmont High**

A budding tree. A dove flying in the sunlight. A pair of hands holding an origami swallow. These are expressions of hope students from local schools created to encourage those battling cancer and to encourage their caregivers. The Athens Mayor's Youth Commission recently accepted art entries based on the theme "Sharing HOPE" for its fall/winter art contest for the City Hall Art Corner. The Youth Commission is composed of students in grades 10-12 from Athens High, Athens Bible, Lindsay Lane Christian and home-schools in Athens. Students learn about civic responsibility and community service.

The first-place winner in the elementary division was Jareth Paz Perez, a third grader from Athens Elementary who submitted the dove piece. The first-place winner in the 6-12 grade division was Isabella Adams, age 16, from Elkmont High School. She created a budding, hopeful tree wrapped in a cancer awareness ribbon. Jareth and Isabella will each receive \$15 from the Youth Commission. Cherry Hammonds, Senior Development Manager II with the American Cancer Society, works with the Relay for Life Teams in Limestone County. She said the artwork and messages from the students highlight the caring they have for those battling cancer and their loved ones.



Elementary Division:
• **First, Jareth Paz Perez, third grade, Athens Elementary**

"Their caring knows no boundaries," Hammonds said. "The gift of hope and kindness is evident in the incredible artwork submitted by these students. I'm thankful for their spirit and energy, and I know they are just beginning to make a difference." In addition to the first-place winners, the second and third place winners and other top scoring pieces will be on display at the City Hall Art Corner from Nov. 6 through February 2024. "The Youth Commissioners had a difficult time choosing the Top 3 in each age group," said Youth Commission mentor and City of Athens Relay for Life Team Captain Holly Hollman. "The student artists each had a unique perspective on how to convey messages of hope through art." The public can view the artwork Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Art Corner is in the front foyer.

The City of Athens Relay Team will have a Hope Chain as part of the art exhibit, where those who want to honor a loved one impacted by cancer can donate \$5 to include the loved one's name on the chain. To donate and submit a name, call Kim Glaze at 256-233-8730 or email Hollman hhollman@athensal.us. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

- List of Top 3 Winners**
- Elementary Division:**
- First, Jareth Paz Perez, third grade, Athens Elementary
 - Second, Willa Gibson, first grade, Athens Elementary
 - Third, Alice Gibson, first grade, Athens Elementary
- 6-12 Grade Division:**
- First, Isabella Adams, 16, Elkmont High
 - Second, Zoey Powers, 14, Athens High
 - Third, Jaxon Williams, 11, Athens Middle

Turkey shooting contest

In November, social groups would take advantage of the upcoming holidays to raise money for their cause.

A turkey shoot was popular among gun owners of the holler. Hunters took pride in bragging rights of winning a turkey for thanksgiving dinner. The competition was fierce and different guns were modified to shoot a tight pattern.

The targets were placed 30 yards from the shooting line. The shooters were allowed one shot and the targets were retrieved and scored by a committee of judges. The most shots that penetrated the bullseye decided the winner

Any gauge shot gun was allowed. The contestant could bring the gun of their choice. You could shoot heavy load shells or light load shells. Mr. Thompson won a lot of birds with his gauge single barrel gun. The 20 gauge had a 30-inch barrel with a full choke. The J.C. Higgins single shot gun held a tight group of shots when fired with little recoil. Mr. Thompson fired heavy loads 6 shot through the gun. Mr. Thompson would boast and say, "Who's shooting for second place today?"

There was a lot of smack talk that went on before the contest



started. The fee to compete was \$5.00 a shot. The winner got a nice big frozen turkey. In early fall, talk began to circulate about a new gun being entered that might retire Mr. Thompson and his 20 gauge. Dalton had lost several shooting contests to Mr. Thompson over the years and was getting tired of the talk. He had ordered a 10-gauge 32-inch Savage shotgun from Sears and Roebuck. He got a

notice the gun had arrived at the Sears store in Athens. The Sears store was located next to Ben Jaffe's department store.

Papa drove Dalton to Athens to pick up his new shotgun. Dalton went into the store and returned with the massive shotgun. Papa laughed and said, "You will need a wheel on that gun to move it around." This was the biggest gun any of the family had ever seen.

Dalton had also ordered a box of 10-gauge number 6 shot and a box of 7 1/2 shot. Dalton couldn't wait until he could test fire the big gun.

When they got back to the holler, he showed the gun off to everybody and went outside to fire it. He put a lard bucket on a fence post about 25 yards away. Nobody had any hearing protection at that time. The yard was full of folks as Dalton shouted, "Fire in the hole!" meaning he was about to pull the trigger. Dalton braced himself, took aim, and squeezed of the shot. The lard bucket was disintegrated and about a foot of the fence post was never found. The lard can had a 6-inch hole through the center.

The blast knocked Dalton to the ground and the noise dampened everybody's hearing for a few days. After Dalton regained his wits, he asked if anybody wanted to shoot the gun. He had no takers. Dalton's hearing returned in a week or so. He knew this 10-gauge would win a lot of turkeys if he could find another shooter. One shot was about all a man could stand. Dalton packed cotton in his ears the next time he shot the 10-gauge.

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Zombie Hunt continued from page 1

It's about going out with your family and friends laughing and having a good time. Also, this is not only for the young ones, our participants range in age from 3-89 years old. Grace Hill Farms would like to also say thank you to

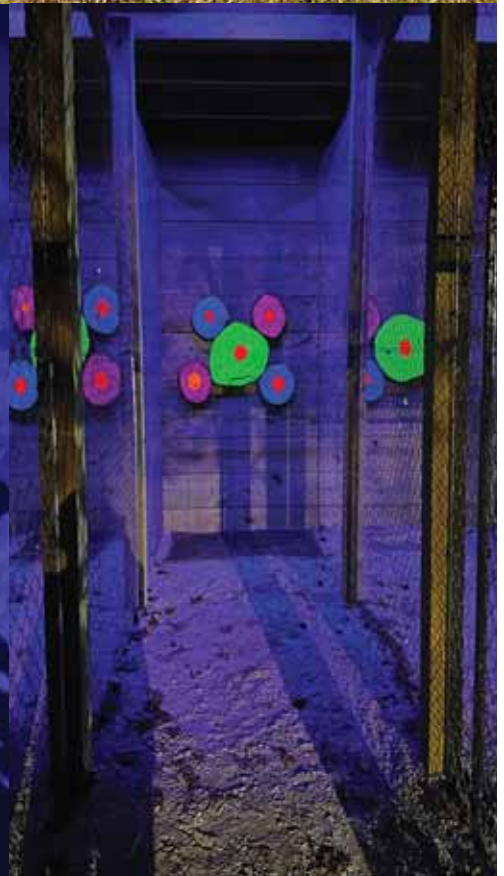
everyone that has made this such a success for the past 5 years. We couldn't do it without our staff.

There are so many people behind the scenes that make this happen each year and we are very thankful for each one of them. We would

also like to say how grateful we are for all our customers. Over the years we have made so many new friends and we have loved seeing all your smiling faces out here.

For more information, please visit www.GraceHillFarmsAL.com

for the latest news and follow us on Facebook at Grace Hill Farms Zombie Hunt. Keep your eye on our Facebook page we will be posting updates on some events we are planning this upcoming spring and summer.



A group photo of the Rainier League baseball team, including players and coaches, posing on a field at night. The players are wearing dark blue uniforms with "Rainier League" and "Astros" visible. Several players are holding trophies.

A group photo of the Steelhead baseball team and their coaches. There are 12 boys in blue and white uniforms, each holding a trophy. Two adult men in red and white shirts stand behind them. The photo is taken at night on a baseball field.

An advertisement for Strickland Dirt Works, LLC. The background is a solid light blue. At the top, the word "Strickland" is written in a large, bold, red, italicized sans-serif font. Below it, "Dirt Works, LLC" is written in a smaller, bold, black, italicized sans-serif font. In the center, the text "Services Include:" is followed by a list of services: "White Gravel • Stone", "Fill Dirt • Top Soil", "Ponds • Basements", and "Property Clearing", all in a bold, black, italicized sans-serif font. On the left side, the text "25 YEARS EXP" is written in a bold, white, italicized sans-serif font. At the bottom, a large red dump truck is shown from a low angle, parked on a dirt surface. Overlaid on the bottom right of the truck is the text "Rusty & Russell Strickland" in a bold, orange, italicized sans-serif font, and below that, the phone number "(256) 771-3857" in a large, bold, white, italicized sans-serif font.

Thanksgiving



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Deer Scouting never been easier

By Danny Johnson
Staff Writer

The long-awaited 2023 hunting season is around the corner, and bow season is underway now. The days of sitting in a tree stand anticipating a giant buck coming by your stand can be exciting. Many properties we hunt don't have that record book buck within a 100 miles. A hunter makes a scouting trip and locates a scrap or two and a few rubs and gets excited about their find. The woods have many more young bucks prowling around than 4- to 5-year-old trophies. Where I am going with this article is- don't set yourself up for disappointment and hunting a big deer that don't exist.

Technology has advanced today and there are many brands of good quality game cameras available under \$100. Place several of these cameras around salt licks, supplement feeding stations, and water holes for a good snapshot of the deer located on your hunting property. The cameras also provide info of the doe/ buck ratio. The advanced cameras of today log the time, date, and moon phase with each photo. A neat feature of some trail cams is the ability to text photos to your cell phone as the event takes place. The infrared feature requires no flash and takes night



Game camera picture of a trophy buck.

pictures. This infrared feature is less likely to spook deer.

When selecting a location for your game cam make sure to not mount it pointing east or west. Facing the rising or setting sun will result in poor quality photos. Also clip branches from the view of the camera. The wind will cause movement resulting in false pics. A good location for early fall is a white oak tree dropping acorns.

Put out the game cameras a

couple of months prior to hunting season and see what really calls your hunting property home. I have gotten photos of deer, feral hogs, bobcats, and coyotes to name a few.

Early scouting indicates this hunting season Mother Nature has blessed us with an abundance of acorns. Deer plots sowed this fall are not coming up because

the lack of rainfall. Many ponds and streams are drying up. I have never seen this long of a drought. I have not had a significant rain since the 21st of July.

Be safe hunting, follow all of the hunting regulations, and wear hunter orange. When climbing be sure to always wear a safety belt harness. Enjoy the fall with friends and neighbors.

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Getting the Correct Response



Have you ever watched a horse do some pretty awesome stuff for its handler? I'm not talking about things like circus tricks and such. I'm talking about things you think you can do.

Ever wonder how these horses are taught to do these things?

Teaching horses does take time, but the primary element is conditioned response.

Conditioning is a process where the behavior response becomes increasingly consistent as a result of reinforcement. Reinforcement occurs following the response to a stimulus. Reinforcement can be comfortable or uncomfortable. The comfort or discomfort can be physical or psychological (emotional).

With horses, physical discomfort includes annoying stimuli such as prodding, tapping or poking. Physical comfort, of course, is as water, food, shelter, rest, and grooming (stroking).

Psychological comfort includes, soothing sounds, pleasantness, and the absence of angered

impatience.

Psychological discomfort is fear, (usually from anger and impatience from the human). It also exists where there may be impending physical discomfort.

A horse has fear (a psychological discomfort) because it is fearful of pain (a physical discomfort).

Every horse is different; we have to choose our method of teaching a horse carefully. We have to understand the horse, read the horse and determining if the horse is a right brained horse of a left brained horse. Right brained horse is a very fearful horse, a horse that wants to get away, an unconfident a horse that is unteachable until it is more left brained.

The left brained horse is the confident horse, the teachable horse, the curious horse and sometimes the dominate horse.

Oftentimes I teach a classroom sitting on this subject at K-I-N Stables. If you have a group that would like to attend such a class, get in touch with me. 256-874-6781



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Staying Motivated

All across north Alabama, staff and students have been getting sick causing a few school systems to move to virtual learning like Marshall County schools where my first cousin attends. At some point, I picked up something because this has been a challenging week for me. I have dealt with the gamut: fever, chills, nausea, coughing, wheezing, lost my voice, etc... Not feeling well can zap the energy clean out of you, but how do you consistently stay motivated regardless of the situation.

If you need some motivation during tough times, there is no better place to turn than the Bible. It is the living word of God. The Bible can speak to people today as much as it did to the people who read it thousands of years ago. Set yourself up for success by opening up your Bible and spending regular time in the Word. The best way to stay motivated is the consistent choice to trust God. The Devil is a roaring lion walking about seeking whom he may devour. I think sometimes we may not be motivated because we follow our own desires instead of the direction that God would choose for us. For example, there are many worldly pleasures that can keep me away from God's Word, and in the end,



those worldly pleasures do not motivate me like God's Word.

Psalm 46:10, "He says, Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." It is easy to lose focus during tough times and make wrong decisions. When we are struggling, it becomes easier than ever to compromise on what we know is right or to justify decisions that we made. However, as Christians, we have peace to help guide us along the way. If you are going through a tough time, start paying attention to when you begin to "lose your peace." This is Christian motivation to stop doing that action and start doing what you know is right. This might mean that you do not feel good about something, you are not comfortable with it, or

you become anxious and worried. God supplies peace that leads to motivation that most of this world does not understand. We all have sinned and come short of His glory. However, when lack of motivation creeps in, be still and know that God has given you a peace of mind and heart to make it through this ole' world.

President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Comparison is the thief of joy." This quote evokes a powerful statement that can be life-changing as I believe Christians lose motivation because of comparing oneself to others. If we tend to compare ourselves to others, we may be left with feelings of inferiority or superiority - and neither creates an emotionally healthy human being. Try to be thankful for the things that God has blessed you with in life.

As Christians, we are not 'obliged' to be happy, positive and motivated every day. To force that belief on anyone would be harmful. But we've got an advantage in the person of God who is our primary motivator and cheerer. Whatever we do, we know we can rely on Him to keep us motivated.

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Pecan Pie Brownies *from the Southern Living*

Ingredients:

You're making two parts for these pecan pie brownies: first, the brownies; then, the pecan pie topping. Here's what you'll need for the bottom layer of brownies:

Brownie Batter:

1/2 cup unsalted butter
2 cups chocolate chips
3/4 cup brown sugar
3/4 cup granulated sugar
4 large eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/2 tsp. Kosher salt
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1/2 cup all purpose flour

Pecan Pie Topping:

1 cup brown sugar
2 large eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/2 tsp. Kosher salt
1/4 cup melted butter
3 cups chopped pecans

Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease 9 X 13 baking dish and line with parchment paper. Set aside.

To make chocolate mixture:

Melt butter in sauce pan over medium heat. When butter begins to boil, remove from heat and add chocolate chips. Stir once, then allow to sit for 5 minutes before whisking thoroughly.

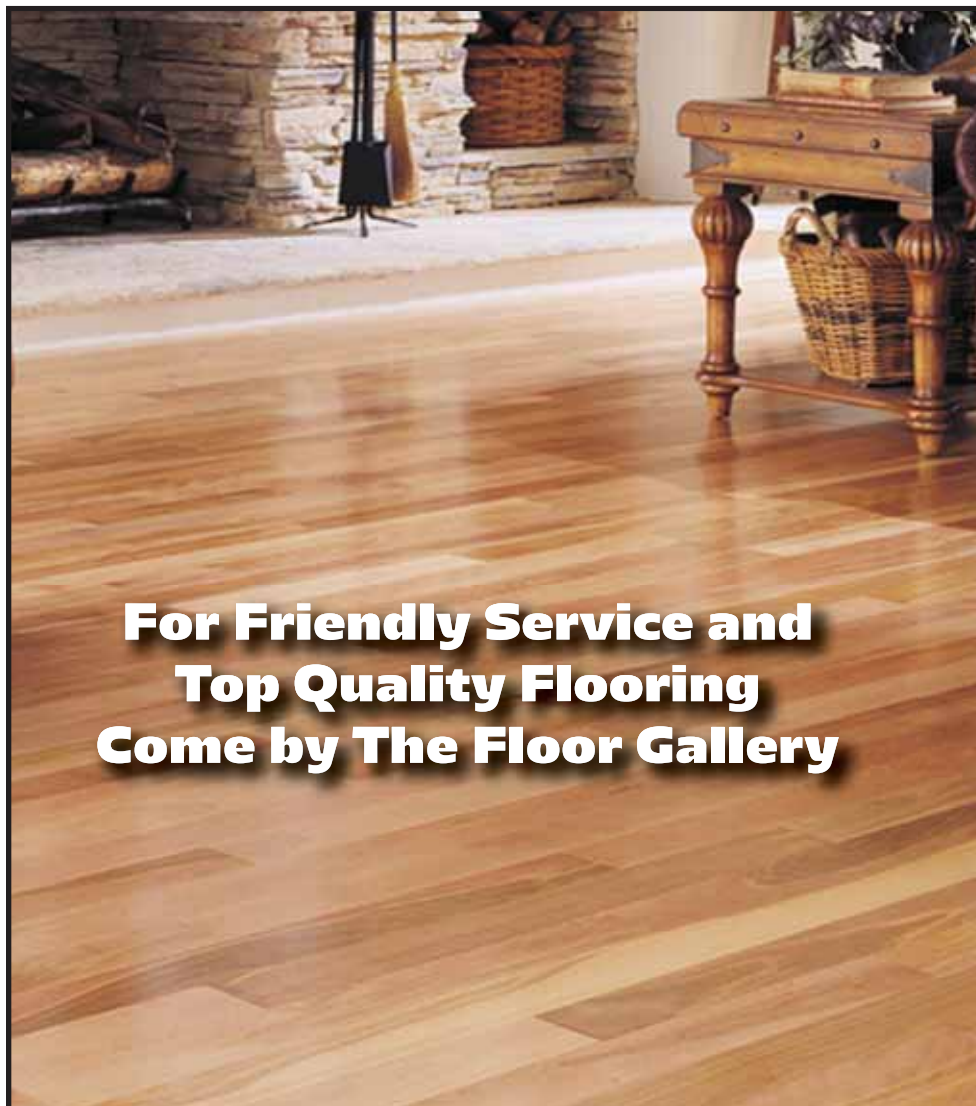
To make brownie batter:

In large mixing bowl, whisk together brown sugar, granulated sugar, eggs, vanilla, and salt. Add chocolate mixture and whisk to combine. Sift cocoa powder and flour into wet mixture and gently stir until combined. Pour batter into prepared pan and bake about 35 minutes, until toothpick inserted into center comes out clean.

Make pecan pie topping: While brownies are baking, whisk together brown sugar, eggs,

vanilla, salt, and melted butter until all are well combined and sugar is dissolved. Stir in pecans and set aside. Once the brownies are baked through, pour the pecan

mixture over the top of brownies and spread evenly with a spoon. Return to the oven until the pecan pie topping is set (about 25 min.). Let cool before slicing.



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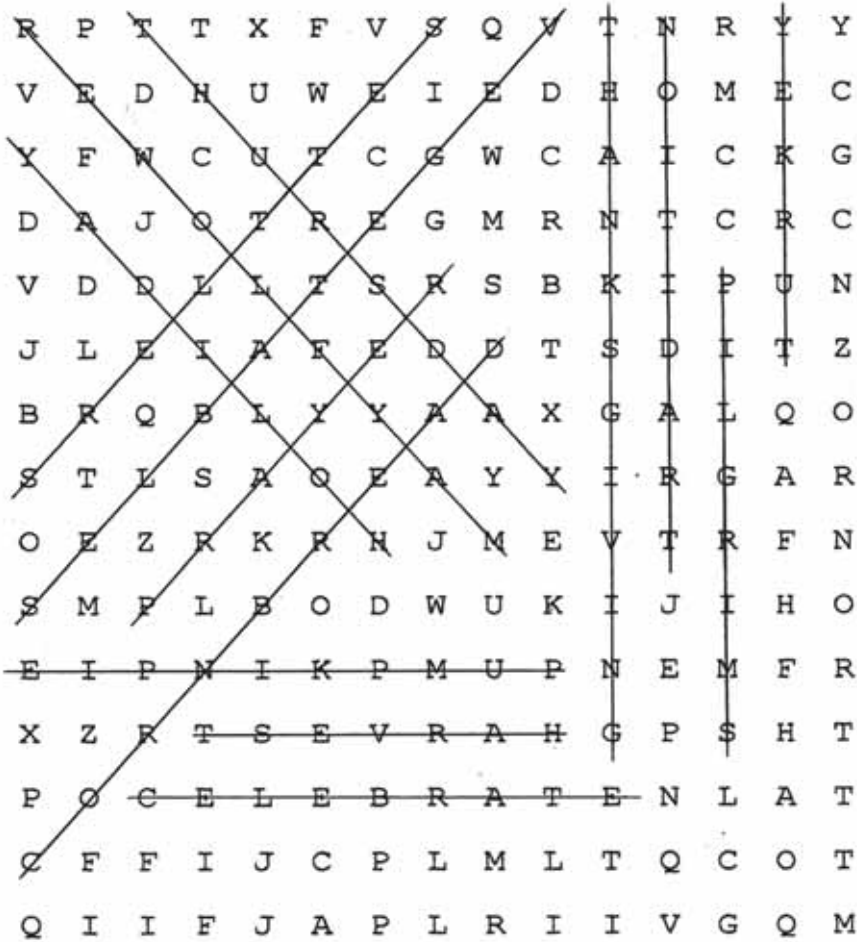


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CALENDAR

Nov. 11, 2023 - Free Breakfast for Veterans and First Responders 7:00am - 9:30am
AM VETS Post 21 22769 Black Rd. Athens Public Welcome. \$8 for guests.

Nov. 16, 2023 - Yesterdays Event Center Senior Lunch Matinee "Inspirational Show" featuring "The Terry Family" Third Thursday Each Month Lunch Shows, Lunch and show \$20. Doors open 10:30am, program including lunch 11am, showtime 12 noon, 1 hr show. 15631 Brownsferry Rd Athens, Al (256) 232-2506

Nov. 17, 2023 - Merchants Alley Happy Hour Music Series Finale Last one of the Fall Season. Time: 5:30 - 7 p.m.
Free to the public

Nov. 17, 2023 - Merchants Alley Tree Lighting: 5 p.m.

Nov. 17-19, 2023 - Christmas Open House 37th Annual

Christmas Open House Presented by Dream Key Real Estate – November 17-19 2023 – Downtown Athens The event is hosted by the Athens-Limestone County Chamber of Commerce and Athens Main Street.

Nov. 20-24 - LIMESTONE COUNTY SCHOOLS THANKSGIVING BREAK

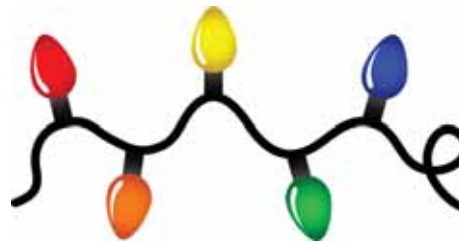


Nov. 20-24 - ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Dec. 1-31, 2023 - Athens-Limestone Tourism Hosts NORTH POLE STROLL

Athens-Limestone Tourism Association once again hosts the ever popular holiday event - The North Pole Stroll. Sponsored by Hughes Properties this year, we will once again light up Athens Big Spring Park with 100 unique and individually sponsored and decorated Christmas Trees. Tree sponsorships will be \$125 each and the event is FREE to the public to enjoy the entire month of December. Check back later for more details or call 256.232.5411. Athens-Limestone Visitors Center, 100 N Beaty St, Athens



Dec. 1, 2023 - Tinsel Trail Lighting 5:30pm - 7:30pm
26461 1st St, Ardmore, AL

Dec. 2, 2023 - Coffee Call Coffee Call Veterans and their families are invited for breakfast and fellowship from 8:00AM-9:30AM at the Alabama Veterans Museum and Archive (100 West Pryor Street in Athens). 256-771-7578

Dec. 9, 2023 - SIPPIN CIDER On Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 4 to 8 p.m., everyone is invited to sip and shop in downtown Athens in celebration of the holiday season. Sippin' Cider is a free event hosted by Athens Main Street.

Dec. 14-15, 2023 - Yesterdays Event Center Senior Lunch Matinees-ELVIS CHRISTMAS Special Christmas Show featuring Kevin Adams "Elvis Christmas" Doors open 10:30am, program including lunch 11am, showtime 12noon, 1 hr show.



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1958 Pontiac Bonneville

For too many years, the entire line of 1958 models from General Motors was looked upon with disdain, and a general disrespect for their “different” design. It seemed that enthusiasts preferred the cleaner, less adorned style of the 1955, ‘56 and ‘57 models, as well as the larger 1959 and ‘60 models. But for those in the know, the ‘58 models represent a turning point in GM’s bold new post-war way of thinking regarding styling and design. Back in the day, Pontiac Motor Division was so proud of their restyled 1958 models that they touted it in their advertising with the slogan, “The Boldest Advance in Fifty Years.”

Aside from a few new high-tech options, like fuel injection and air suspension, the `58 models were anything but advanced;



however, they certainly were bold looking with their shrouded four-headlamp front end, lower stance, and concave-shaped rear quarter panels. When the racy looking `58 Bonneville was fitted with Tri-Power carburetion, it made for a very desirable - and fast - cruiser. For 1958, Pontiac made the

Bonneville - known internally as the Series 58-25 - its own line in lieu of it being designated a single model. It had a 122-inch wheelbase that it shared with the Chieftan, but it was fitted with the more powerful engines that were offered on the Star Chief. Only two body styles were available: the

\$3,481 Custom Sport Coupe and the \$3,586 Custom Convertible.

Today, finding a 1958 Bonneville, or any `58 Pontiac for that matter, to restore is quite difficult as there aren’t that many around. Owners of these distinctive-looking 1950s icons rarely part with them.

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Booth-Atkins-Elliott ca. 1830. Located on the road to Bethel, TN and built by Charles Booth (War of 1812). Sold to William Atkins around 1850, and later to William P. Sims. Then, it was owned by George and Frances Sims Garner and later by Robert and Myrtle Garner Elliott.



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