

WEDNESDAY 8A

Hildreth pursues passion for nature



Parker Hildreth has followed his love of the great outdoors into a career path working with nature.

DUANE SHERRILL
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Smithville, Tennessee

Parker Hildreth, a recent Motlow graduate from Smithville, knows what makes him “tick” when it comes to his passion for the world of nature. Whether it is studying crayfish in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, or researching salmon in the rugged wilderness of Idaho, Hildreth has a fascination with the diversity and complexity of the natural world.

Hildreth’s love for indigenous fauna and its world came at an early age. Instead of watching cartoons or large purple dinosaurs on television like most youngsters, he watched Animal Planet and National Geographic channels. That love led him to study biology at Motlow, and in May of this year he received his associate of science degree. He also received a Motlow Student Excellence Award, and this fall he will attend Tennessee Tech University and intends to develop a career in aquatic research.

His desire to share his passion with fellow students is evidenced by his conducting a carrion beetle study workshop last spring, supervised by Motlow Professors Janet Forde and Chatney Spencer. Hildreth led more than 20 Motlow biology students into the forests surrounding the Moore County campus to set traps to collect carrion beetles. The group returned two weeks later to retrieve the traps, taking them back to the lab for discussion and identification of the collected beetles.

“I designed this workshop to get students involved in an environment that builds fieldwork experience and attempts to create a place where passion for the natural world can be expressed,” said Hildreth. “Collectively, the insect world has a priceless wealth of knowledge seen through the vibrant diversity and numerous niches taken advantage of by carrion beetles.”

Hildreth himself has no trouble expressing his own passion for the natural world. In the summer of 2017 he served as a fisheries intern studying

crayfish with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Fisheries Department. From his fieldwork and research he wrote an article that appeared in the department’s periodic newsletter.

For the summer of 2018 Hildreth is serving as a biological aide for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, studying salmon in the streams of the Idaho outback. The position entails snorkeling in fast moving water, extended work stints, camping, recording accurate data, interacting with the public, and strenuous hiking over rough terrain. He often works eight to 10 days straight followed by four to six days off.

“There are few people that possess as much passion, zeal, and enthusiasm about science as Parker Hildreth,” said Chatney Spencer, Motlow chemistry instructor. “His ability to make relevant connections between seemingly unrelated matters is rivaled by few. If the future of scientific research and discovery is left in the hands of budding scientists like Parker, it truly is a safe place.”

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Congrats, Katherine!

Congratulations to Katherine Pack on her upcoming retirement. She has served our county very well for many year. She enjoyed a nice retirement party given by her friends and family. Many traveled for miles to help celebrate with Katherine. We wish her many years of health to enjoy her dear family and friends.

We were so broken hearted over the death of Greg Ray. Our hopes and prayers had been for his healing, but we are very thankful for Greg’s testimony of faith in God. Please pray for Greg’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Ray, and his wife and children. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

Happy birthday wishes go out to David Reynolds and Tommye Ann Sliger.

We hear about all the food recalls on the news and wonder at how we ever survived the many years of going to the smoke house to cut a piece of bacon for breakfast or milking the cow before work to get our milk. We didn’t have a food thermometer nor did we sanitize with bleach very often. Surely the bacteria and viruses are much more powerful these days than they were back then.



DRY CREEK FLASHES
by LOUISE FRAZIER

Even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear: I will carry and will save. Isaiah 46:4

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