

Afroman to headline Reggae at Smooth Rapids

There's a constant drum-beat to bring tourism dollars into Warren County to make our economy dance.

When it comes to local tourism attractions, Smooth Rapids takes its place on center stage. The kayaking business and popular restaurant overlooking the Barren Fork River just released the lineup for its fourth annual Reggae at Smooth Rapids music festival set for Aug. 3-5.

Among notable information, the festival is adding an extra day and is now a three-day experience. Also of note, rapper Afroman is the festival headliner. Yes, that Afroman.

"Afroman will be the biggest act we've had so far," said Smooth Rapids co-owner Jimmy Barker. "I'm sure there will be people who come just to see him."

Reggae at Smooth Rapids attracted 650 visitors last year. That included about 150 campers at the tree-covered Smooth Rapids campground.

"We had people come from as far away as California and New York and all surrounding states," said Jimmy. "We expect it to grow and keep getting bigger this year. It's good to bring people to Warren County and bring tax dollars to Warren County."

Also in the Reggae at Smooth Rapids lineup are Of Good Nature, The Quasi Kings, Elementree Livity Project, and Whyte Noyse, among other bands. Jimmy says a three-day pass is your best value, although day passes are also available.



Tickets can be purchased at smoothrapids.com/rasr-2018.

STILL KICKING AFTER 40 YEARS

Gary Steele has a fascinating story of how he came to start Gary Steele Karate Studio, which is celebrating its 40th year at Plaza Shopping Center this month.

Gary had been training at the facility under the direction of Jess Betschart for four years when Betschart made the decision to relocate to another town. He offered the karate studio to Gary. That was in April, 1978.

"I had just gotten married, my wife was pregnant, and I had a good factory job at Carrier," said Gary. "But I decided to quit my job out of the blue and buy this karate school. A lot of my family members didn't like what I was doing. My uncle sat me down and asked me what I was thinking. He didn't know why I'd leave a steady job and he told me I should go back to Carrier. I guess I was full of too much youthful enthusiasm. I didn't think too much about it."

Now 40 years later, Gary Steele Karate Studio is still thriving. Carrier is long gone.

When I asked Gary on



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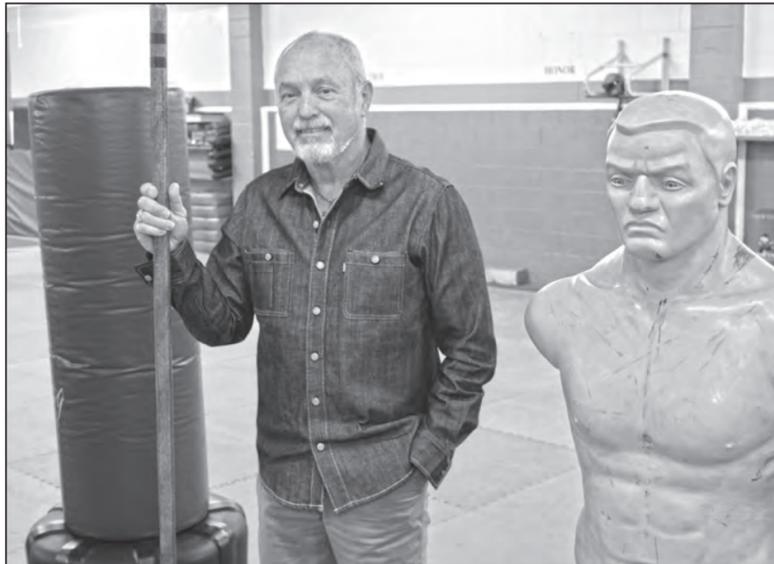
Friday what karate has given him over the years, his answer was straightforward.

"First and foremost, it's given me a career. That has to top the list," said Gary, 63. "It's helped me sustain good health, a positive attitude and a high level of confidence. I hope it's also given me humility, although that's not for me to say."

Karate as we know it today has interesting origins. As Gary explains, it dates back to when Japanese soldiers invaded and conquered the island of Okinawa. To the best of my memory, that was in the early 1600s.

When the Japanese assumed control, they took all the weapons from the Okinawa people. Thus, any defense they mounted would have to be without weapons, or with "empty hands," which is what karate means.

Over the years, Gary says he's been blessed to make an impact on the lives of thou-



Gary Steele is celebrating the 40-year anniversary of Gary Steele Karate Studio with all of those years coming at the lower level of Plaza Shopping Center. The studio can be reached at 473-KICK.

sands of people who have come through his school. Sometimes he is treated to amazing success stories.

He said one of his former students was in St. Louis when he was the target of a strong-armed robbery attempt. Using skills he learned at Gary Steele Karate, the man was able to disarm the robber and hold him until police arrived.

Gary says another one of his former students used his karate skills to survive a knife attack while serving with the U.S. military in Iraq. He said the soldier was ambushed by an Iraqi militant armed with a knife. The soldier suffered several wounds in the fight, but he was able to kill the Iraqi.

While Gary has been an enduring force for 40 years, the business has been filled with obstacles. One of the biggest came just a few years after he bought the karate studio. The United States was engulfed in a fierce recession in the early 1980s which chopped his business in half.

"I just wanted to teach karate, but that downturn in the early '80s forced me to become a businessman," said Gary. "You can be a good technician and a bad businessperson and it won't work out. You have to have both."

Gary says his business is still alive and kicking with a



Justin Shrum has opened Clear Shine Window Cleaners and is available to make your windows sparkle. He can be reached for a free estimate at (931) 224-4531.

strong student headcount. He says the talent of long-time instructor Paul Byars is a big reason for his success.

If you'd like to learn more

about Gary Steele Karate Studio, the phone number is 473-KICK.

Continued on 4C



A sign proclaiming the "Future Home of Hina Retail Center" has led to some confusion in Newtown. The building under construction is the future home of Hina Liquors and Wine, which is scheduled to open in a couple months.

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Berea Church of Christ
8143 Francis Ferry Rd., Rock Island
Cordially invites you to attend our
Gospel Meeting
with guest speaker from Smithville Church of Christ
Bro. Dan Gulley
April 8th - 11th, 2018
Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:15am
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am
Sunday Evening Worship 7:00pm
Monday - Wednesday Evenings 7:00pm
Fellowship Meal to Follow
Sunday Morning Worship

You Are Cordially Invited To Attend
MORRISON
Church of Christ
Gospel Meeting
April 8-12
Speaker
WAYNE MILLER
• Sunday Services •
Bible Study-Combined Class..... 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:00 a.m.
COVERED DISH LUNCH
Afternoon Singing 1:00 p.m.
Afternoon Worship..... 1:30 p.m.
EVENING WORSHIP
Mon. - Thurs. 7:00 pm

You are cordially invited to the
18th Annual Ladies' Day
Saturday, April 28, 2018
at
East End Church of Christ
102 Edison Street
(off Sparta Street)
McMinnville, TN
931-473-2775
Guest speakers will be:
Hannah Giselsbach & Cindy Colley
"The Everlasting Arm"
Registration starts at 8:30 am
Program begins at 9:00 am
Lunch will be served after the program.

GOSPEL MEETING
BONNER CHURCH OF CHRIST
APRIL 8 - 10
SPEAKERS:
SUNDAY - JONATHAN STUBBLEFIELD
MONDAY EVENING - BILL BOYD
TUESDAY EVENING - SAMUEL BAIN
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SUNDAY 9 AM, 10AM & 7PM
MON. & TUES. 7PM
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