

Head to Rock Island to get your summer on

The kids are out of school for the year and the temperature is approaching a sweltering 90 degrees. It's time to seek relaxation on the lake in Rock Island.

If the idea of chilling on the water floats your boat, Cotten's Marina is open seven days a week for boats and the popular Island Grille overlooking the Caney Fork River is now serving food every weekend thru Labor Day. It's time to get your summer on.

Cotten's Marina features 32 boat slips, a gas pump, plenty of deck seating, and three pontoon boats available for rent. As much as it's grown, it's hard to believe the property consisted of one small building when the Cotten family first opened it as a marina in 1987.

Owners Greg and Sherry Cotten bought the property from Greg's mother, Marie, in 2005 and that's when they began to make steady additions with more docks and decks. The restaurant opened in the spring of 2011. "The restaurant makes it a complete marina," said Greg. "People have always been supportive of the restaurant and they love our prices. You're not going to pay \$8 for a hamburger. Nobody gripes about our prices."

Prices start as low as \$4.85 for a burger. Grilled shrimp makes its triumphant return to the menu by popular demand and if you can't settle on one of the many entrees, there's always pizza.

If you're looking to get in the summer groove, live music began this weekend and will continue every Saturday night on the deck. Bass fishing tournaments are held every Saturday morning from 6 a.m. to noon, and every Tuesday night from 6 to 10 p.m. The winner takes home 100 percent of the entry fees.

Greg said it took many years to build the marina to the point where it could be a full-time job.

"I worked for 14 years at Nissan and almost the whole time I was there I worked building docks here for extra money," said Greg. "I've built most of the docks on this lake. It's always been a family business. My boys worked with me and they've



done everything around here. Justin and Greg have gone on and gotten other jobs. Rudy is still here working with us."

Homeowners along the river are an interesting collection. Greg estimates about 50 percent of the people live in the homes on a daily basis or are from this area. He says the other 50 percent are from Nashville, Franklin, Columbia and other nearby cities and primarily visit on weekends.

Greg said the amount of water that's accessible from his marina is impressive. He says boaters can travel 20 miles up the Caney Fork River, eight miles up the Collins River, and several miles on Rocky River.

Since Greg and Sherry live in a house within walking distance, they are constantly involved in the operation. Greg says during hectic times in the summer he might only use a gallon of gas a week in his personal vehicle because he spends so much time at the marina.

As for the wildest thing he's ever seen during his decades on the water, Greg says that goes to an anonymous motorcycle rider who pulled up one day and announced he was going to jump off the nearby railroad bridge. Depending on water level, the bridge is usually 75 to 85 feet above water.

"He climbed up there, then he tossed both his shoes in the water," said Greg. "Then he dove in - and not just any dive but a magnificent swan dive. That guy knew what he was doing. Then he retrieved his shoes and swam back to shore. When he came back, I said I have one question for you. Why did you throw your shoes in the water before you dove? He told me he was having trouble judging the water and the shoes helped him out. Then he got on his motorcycle and drove away."

While laughing at the



Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial start of summer. If you're ready for fun on the lake, Cotten's Marina is open seven days a week in Rock Island. Pictured are owners Greg and Sherry Cotten.



Cotten's Marina is a family business with grandchildren Kelly Bush, left, and Macie Bush helping to stock cold drinks. The marina can be reached at 686-2373.



Draft beer is available at Island Grille at Cotten's Marina, along with plenty of outdoor seating overlooking the water. Pictured is employee Jayden Smith.

story, Greg stressed jumping off nearby bridges and into the water is not legal and could very likely lead to pain and suffering.

If you're anxious to don sunglasses and splash around, Cotten's Marina is located at 1967 Rock Island Road. The phone number is 686-2373.

BRADLEY READY TO GET MOVE ON IT

I am proud to announce a Business Pulse first. In all my years of writing this column, I've never written about a new moving company opening in town.

So let's pause, take a minute to reflect, and appreciate the enormity of what I'm about to say. A new moving company has rolled into McMinnville as Ray Bradley has opened Academy Moving and Storage.

A 22-year veteran of the moving industry, Ray is well known around these parts for being able to move anything, no matter how big or how heavy it is.

"I've been moving McMinnville for 22 years," said Ray. "People know me and they know I do quality work. I just need to get the word out and let people know I've started this company. They need to know where to find me."

Ray says he doesn't have set hours and is available to



Ray Bradley, right, has opened Academy Moving and Storage. He has 22 years of experience in the moving business and says, "I've been a mule my whole life." He's pictured moving a desk with employee Daniel Woodard.

work when needed. He can help with any job, big or small.

"If you have just one big item you need to have moved, like a safe or piano, we can do that," said Ray. "Some people want us to move all their big stuff and they'll handle the rest. Sometimes they want the whole house moved and we can do that too."

Ray says it doesn't matter where you're going, he can get you there. He can move you inside the county from Centertown to Morrison, or

he can move you out of state from McMinnville to Miami. Ray says he's been as far as Los Angeles and Key West moving furniture, although he admits he likes in-town work more than West Coast adventure trips.

As far as time requirements, Rays says a smaller home usually can be moved

in 3-5 hours. Some larger houses can take as long as two days.

Ray says he's in the midst of what he considers his busy season as more people move in the spring and summer than any other time of year.

Continued on 4C



Academy Moving has opened in Warren County for all your moving and storage needs. The business will move one piece of furniture, or an entire house and can be reached at (931) 212-5976.

CEOs earn \$11.7M

NEW YORK (AP) — Chief executives at the biggest public companies got an 8.5 percent raise last year, bringing the median pay package for CEOs to \$11.7 million. Across the S&P 500, compensation for CEOs is often hundreds of times higher than typical workers.

The pay increase matches the bump that CEOs received in 2016, according to compensation data analyzed by Equilar for The Associated Press.

For the first time, the government required companies to show in their annual proxy statements just how much more bosses make than the typical

employee. The typical CEO made 164 times the median pay of their employees, according to Equilar's analysis.

At Yum Brands, CEO Greg Creed's pay of \$12.3 million was 1,358 times higher than the company median of \$9,111. The employee who earned that amount, on an annualized basis, was a part-time employee at a Taco Bell restaurant.

Even at United Rentals, where the median pay was \$77,127 last year, it would take a worker earning that amount 166 years to match the \$12.8 million in compensation CEO Michael Kneeland made last year.

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION at St. Mary's Church of Christ

Sunday, June 3rd
Bible Study: 10:00 AM
Services: 11:00 AM

Fellowship Meal To Follow Services

2183 Hills Creek Rd.
McMinnville, TN



Everyone Is Invited to
Vacation Bible School
June 3-6

7p.m. - 8:30p.m. Nightly
Classes for children - adults

Theme:
EXCAVATE...
Discovering The Treasures of Jesus

Smyrna Church of Christ
552 Myers Cove Rd.