

Business Pulse

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One of the top selling points is the atmosphere with the Smooth Rapids campground nestled along the welcoming waters of the Barren Fork River.

“Most music festivals you’re camping in the middle of a cow pasture,” said Jeremy. “The Smooth Rapids campground is probably 80 percent shade and you’re camping next to a beautiful river. It’s a much more relaxing atmosphere than most music festivals.”

If you’re looking for some great entertainment, you can find it right here in McMinnville next weekend. Remember the annual Reggae at Smooth Rapids this coming Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are available online or at the gate.

STACKED BISTRO GOING MOBILE

Anyone who reads this column regularly, and I would say my primary reader is my mom, has likely noticed I haven’t written about many restaurants opening in recent years. But I’ve written about all sorts of food trucks.

I’ve heard estimates that you can cut your overhead as much as 40 percent with a food truck and, if you don’t like your location, you



Cumberland Biscuit Company, in conjunction with Warren Arts, is offering the second showing of a murder mystery dinner theater Saturday, Aug. 4, at 6 p.m. Pictured, from left, are Allie Dixon, Julie Cantrell, Kaylee Moore and Rachel McGee.

can just move.

Rich Pikarz at Stacked Bistro is beginning to subscribe to that logic. He’s been operating at Plaza Shopping Center for the past 20 months and will be leaving his brick and mortar restaurant in favor of a food trailer.

“Everything will be the same we just won’t have a

dining room,” said Rich. “Probably 80 percent of our business is pickup or delivery so this move makes sense.”

Rich says his phone number will stay the same, 474-2222, and free delivery will still be offered throughout the county. He says the only exception will be on Mondays when he is expect-

ing to set up the food truck in Morrison to give employees at Yorozu, Bridgestone and other factories another option.

On the other days Rich says he will be located on The Strip in the area near Free Bird Bail Bonding. He estimates it will be around three weeks or so before the move is complete.

“I could go tomorrow if I wanted, but I want to make sure our customers are aware of the move,” said Rich. “I don’t want them to show up here and be surprised by a sign on the door.”

Look for the Stacked Bistro food trailer in the coming weeks.

MYSTERY THEATER OFFERED DOWNTOWN

Cumberland Biscuit Company has gained a reputation for its breakfast. Now it’s trying a new twist, a mystery dinner theater in conjunction with Warren Arts.

There has already been

one showing with a second performance scheduled for next weekend, Aug. 4, at 6 p.m. The dinner features an entrée of grilled chicken or crab cakes, but the main course is the murder mystery that has one victim and seven suspects.

“We did a dress rehearsal for four tables and each table thought it was a different suspect,” said Kennette Dixon, who is directing the murder mystery. “It takes place all around the restaurant and involves audience participation so it’s a night people are going to enjoy.”

Kaylee Moore plays the role of Rosemary Saint-John, a loud, annoying hypochondriac convinced she is allergic to water. Celebrating her birthday at a restaurant with her four kooky sisters, Rosemary makes enemies with everyone around her. When she disappears and is presumed murdered, the only objective witnesses in the restaurant are the audience members, who must cast their vote.

Was it one of Rosemary’s sisters? The self-taught detective? The passionate French chef? The sarcastic waiter? No one is above suspicion.

The last time I recall someone in Warren County doing a dinner theater was at Falcon Manor. I went to one of those shows and enjoyed it for the most part.

It’s nice to see Warren Arts expanding its offerings and providing a dinner theater with Cumberland Biscuit Company. The restaurant seats 40 so seating is limited. For more information, call 474-ARTS. To buy tickets, visit warrenarts.ticketleap.com.

UNEMPLOYMENT GOES HIGHER

After months of months of historic lows when it comes to unemployment, the downward trend came to a screeching halt Thursday. According to information reported by the state, unemployment increased in all 95 counties in June.

Overall, the statewide unemployment rate was 3.5 percent. That’s still lower than the national unemployment rate which is 4.0 percent.

In Warren County, the place we all know and love, unemployment climbed from 3.2 percent to 4.9 percent. That mirrors similar increases in neighboring areas.

In Coffee County, unemployment climbed to 4 percent, up from 3 percent the month before. In DeKalb County, the rate rose from 3.8 percent to 5.0 percent.

Only six counties had an unemployment increase of less than 1 percent. Hancock County had the highest increase with unemployment rising 2.7 percent.

THAT’S ALL FOLKS

Activities are flourishing as summer comes to a close. Call 473-2191 with business tips.



Stacked Bistro will be leaving Plaza Shopping Center in the coming weeks and moving to a food trailer. Business owner Rich Pakarz says it will be the same great Stacked Bistro food just without a dining room.



Rich Pikarz and Stacked Bistro have been at Plaza Shopping Center since November 2016.

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