



Margaret Hobbs photos
Siblings, from left, Briley, Emma and Branson Pedigo delight in choosing their favorite donut from the large selection provided by Tina and Darrell Locke at their Green Hill Market.

Locke's Green Hill Market offers free donut day to mark return to school

BY **MARGARET HOBBS**
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It's been said everything is better with donuts, but it gets even better when they are free. Locke's Green Hill Market and Deli recently celebrated students, parents and staff as they headed back to school with a free donut.

"It's our way of showing our appreciation and support of the community," said Tina Locke, owner with husband Darrell. "We just love kids, and this act of kindness makes us feel good. I think this is our third year to do this and it is a big hit."

The gesture makes a lot of people feel good, especially those who were in the dark about free donut day.

"Wow, what an unexpected surprise," said Johnathan Bond. "I just came in for biscuits on my way to drop off the kids at school."

His kids, Avani Fults and Justin Bond, are both students at Dibrell Elementary and they were very happy to be able to add a sweet treat to their morning trip to school.

Employees were busy preparing donuts and handing them out to the children. Many took a second donut for later, with Tina sending a box of treats to Dibrell School's office staff.

"We may not be the best donut deco-

rators, but we have fun doing it," said Tina. "By far, sprinkles is the favorite choice this morning, followed by chocolate."

Mornings start early at the market, located on Smithville Highway, with the business opening at 4:30 a.m. Assorted breakfast items are prepared and ready for customers to grab on the go, or to sit down and enjoy at their leisure.

Cook Eureka Conners stays busy at the grill preparing tenderloin, bacon and sausage to go along with gravy and fried potatoes. She points out they also prepare about 200 biscuits each morning, serving approximately 300 people each day.

Darrell serves as the official greeter, talking with customers and managing the cash register.

"We've been in this business 28 years, and Darrell just loves the people and is always cutting up with the kids," said Tina. "We strive to be a wholesome family-oriented business, and we have folks come in here just to pray."

The Lockes have a huge menu, starting with breakfast and going through lunch and dinner preparing assorted meats and vegetables, as well as pizza.

The business is closed on Sundays, and close at 6 on Wednesday evenings to give employees an opportunity to attend church services. The Lockes can be reached at 931-934-3027.



Donuts put a smile on the faces of Avani Fults and Justin Bond. They both agree sprinkles is the topping of choice.



Dibrell fifth-grader Keagan Thompson takes a bite from his donut, as his sister Kade enjoys hers. Their mom made a quick stop at Locke's Green Hill Market on their way to school.



Ben Horton appreciates the complimentary donut provided to everyone as a sweet back-to-school incentive.



Tina Lock, left, and Adelia Haston prepare hundreds of donuts for the special day, individually decorating them with different flavors of icing, sprinkles and other decorations.



Store owner Darrell Locke, left, makes sure customer Hilton Conger gets a donut to accompany his breakfast order.