

Benefit for Mike Peck Family to be held Saturday, April 29

On September 26, 2022, Mike Peck passed away suddenly due to multiple stab wounds. Mike left behind his wife, Jenny and his son, Zeb. On April 29, family will be putting together a benefit that will not only help Jenny and Zeb, but also in remembrance of Mike.

Mike Peck was born on January 1, 1968 in Decatur, IL to the parents of Georgia and John Peck. Mike was the eldest of 6 siblings. Upon graduating high school, Mike went into the Army National Guard for 4 years as a Lightweight Vehicle Mechanic. After completing his service, he moved on to work in the Construction Industry, eventually moving on to work at Schrock/Masterbrand Cabinets for 29 years.

At Masterbrand in 1994, Mike would meet his future wife, Jenny. Jenny remembered that Mike had another gentleman ask her to ask Mike out on their first date. "We both worked at MasterBrand, I remember seeing Mike everyday walking along our assembly line. He never talked to me. He asked a friend of his to come over and

ask me if I'd ask Mike out on a date. I really thought that was so sweet. It was obvious that Mike was a little embarrassed and didn't know what to say." Jenny recalled fondly.

The couple dated for three months before Jenny went on a vacation to West Virginia. When she returned home, she found a welcome home sign on their apartment, a fig tree, as well as a heartfelt message from Mike. "He took me out to Lake Decatur, at the restaurant, and that's where he made the proposal. He told me that he never wanted me to leave him again, asking me to marry him." Jenny said.

Jenny and Mike were married on August 19, 1995. Mike already had a son, Scottie. The couple's first years of marriage were spent happily with family and friends. Mike enjoyed hunting and fishing with his brother Steve, regularly entering fishing tournaments, and traveling through every nook and cranny of Lake Shelbyville. In his spare time Mike ran a taxidermy business and raised blue tick coon dogs, hunting

with them. Mike and Jenny were both avid Harley enthusiasts and rode together.

At the age of 39, Jenny became pregnant with their son Zeb. From a young age, Mike mentored Zeb with his knowledge and wisdom from his life and shared an interest in the things Mike enjoyed. Mike's Facebook page can be seen with videos of Mike and Zeb hunting with their coon dogs, along with pictures of Zeb's first deer kill, the two fishing countless hours together, as well as Zeb's first dog tournament; showing off the prized coon dogs they were raising and training together.

Jenny had much to say of their father/son relationship: "I am just amazed by everything that Zeb had learned from his dad, even in 13 years. So many kids nowadays just aren't interested in the outdoors, and learning skills from their parents. Those 2 were like 2 peas in a pod, they were inseparable. It also kept Zeb from other environments like spending all his time playing video games and sitting inside all the time."

On September 26, 2022, everything changed for the family. In the early morning hours Mike was found inside the home by Jenny and Zeb, at the kitchen table with multiple stab wounds. He succumbed to his injuries in the ambulance on the way to the hospital.

"I'm not going to lie to you, it's rough. Until you've been in this situation, it's like a different kind of hurt," Jenny said. "It feels like it's just ripping your heart out. The trauma that Zeb and I have endured from something this horrific is unthinkable. I would never want anyone to have to go through this. No matter what you do, that pain will never go away."

"It has been extremely hard. To have a normal life one day, then wake up to have your life turned upside down. Zeb and I have been displaced from our home since that day. You can't go back to your home, it's a slow process that will take some time. Zeb and I will be forever grateful to our families for their continued support, for giving up their lives to help us through ours. We have also

had a lot of the community of Lovington and Masterbrand step up to help us. All that I can do now is pray every day, move forward with all the great memories we shared, and cherish every day with Zeb." Jenny stated.

The family will be putting together a benefit on April 29, 2023, at Jerry's East End in Lovington. The benefit will start with breakfast at the Lovington Firehouse from 7 a.m.-10 a.m. hosted by Mike's siblings and family, taking donations. In a show of remembrance for Mike there will be "The Mike Peck Bike and Jeep Run". Sign-ups will be from 9 a.m.-12:45 p.m. with the run taking place at 1 p.m.-5 p.m. for a \$10 donation. At 9 a.m.-10 a.m. there will be a free Kid's Bike/Trike Show, along with face painting. Additionally, there will be the "Anything With Wheels Show" from 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. for a \$5 donation. A Cornhole Tournament is planned that will start at 2 p.m. for a \$20 donation per team. Food trucks such as Pauly's BBQ, Al's Dawgs, Kona's Ice & Hometown Pretzel will be

there throughout the day. Music throughout the day will be provided by Tigerrrose DJ Production and Shovelhead playing inside Jerry's East End from 6-9. There will be a tent outside with tables and chairs, and a firepit. There will be silent auctions, bake sale, basket raffles, 50/50 drawings, and meat raffle tickets sold. Proceeds are going directly to Jenny and Zeb for funeral costs, displacement from their home, and financial hardship they have endured.

"Mike always thought that he didn't have many friends and didn't have people that cared. I just would like for him up in heaven to see down here how much people cared. He loved riding his motorcycle, he always wanted to be in one of those motorcycle clubs. Having this ride will be great. Just to see that people are coming to celebrate what he wanted, and what he loved." Jenny said.

For more information or questions on the Peck Benefit contact Tina Eades at 217-329-2074 or via email at pteades@gmail.com.



State Grants Available for Creative Arts Businesses through Back to Business (B2B) Program

In order to support ongoing recovery efforts in industries hardest-hit by the pandemic, the State of Illinois has launched \$50 million in grant funding to support creative arts businesses. **Applications will be open from April 5 to May 10, 2023.**

Here's What You Need to Know:

- Application opens on April 5, 2023
- Grant awards range from \$5,000-\$250,000
- Open to businesses and nonprofits that are live venue operators, performing or presenting arts, arts education, museums, movie theaters or cultural heritage organizations

Documents Needed to Apply:

- Business owner or nonprofit leader identification
- Tax documentation for 2019, 2020, and 2021

Learn more about B2B!
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In order to support ongoing recovery efforts in industries hardest-hit by the pandemic, the State of Illinois has launched \$75 million in grant funding to support hotels, motels and inns. **Applications will be open from April 5 to May 10, 2023.**

Here's What You Need to Know:

- Application opens on April 5, 2023
- Grant awards up to \$1,500 per room
- Open to hotels, inns, motels, and other lodging

Documents Needed to Apply:

- Business owner identification
- Business tax forms for 2021

Learn more about B2B!
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State Grants Available for Restaurants through Back to Business (B2B) Program

In order to support ongoing recovery efforts in industries hardest-hit by the pandemic, the State of Illinois has launched \$50 million in grant funding to support restaurants. **Applications will be open from April 5 to May 10, 2023.**

Here's What You Need to Know:

- Application opens on April 5, 2023
- Grant awards between \$5,000-\$50,000 available
- Open to restaurants, taverns, tasting and tap rooms, breweries, wineries, distilleries, food trucks and street vendors

Documents Needed to Apply:

- Business owner identification
- Business tax forms for 2019, 2020, and 2021
- Current license to serve food and/or drink

Learn more about B2B!
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