

Short Rows

Healthy Treats

After spending years working in a corporate environment, business partners Mary Dillon and Mary Jane Glassco of Nashville decided it was time to go into business for themselves – and for dogs everywhere.

The pair started baking homemade dog treats, using only human-grade ingredients and boycotting preservatives and artificial ingredients. Now they have customers in 13 states.

“People are reading labels on food items not only for themselves, but for their dogs, too,” says Dillon, co-owner of M.J. Bones, known for its tasty Canine Crackers. “We use real cheddar cheese and real peanut butter – you could eat these treats if you wanted to.”

M.J. Bones Canine Crackers are attractively packaged and come in four lip-smacking flavors: peanut butter, cheese, garlic and carrot. The latter two are low in fat – great for dogs on a diet.

“They have a thin, unique texture, so they’re perfect for small dogs, older dogs or dogs with dental problems,” Dillon says. “We want to be the Girl Scout cookie makers of the pet industry.”

For more information or to place an order, log on to www.mjbones.com, or call 615-400-6213.



If These Trees Could Talk

Historic trees don’t go unnoticed in Tennessee: The Tennessee Urban Forestry Council recognizes old and unusual trees through the Landmark and Historic Tree Register.

One such tree is the Battle of Nashville Basket Oak, which dates back to 1864. The old oak thrived in the midst of the bloody conflict between the Union and the Confederacy; it now stands in the Battle of Nashville Monument Park.

Also on the register is the Alvin C. York Beech Grove in Fentress County. This small cluster of beech trees is located on family-owned property off U.S. Highway 127 in Pall Mall. It’s best known for providing the backdrop for the 1919 wedding of Sgt. Alvin York to his sweetheart, Miss Gracie Williams.

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Outlaw Horses

Jack Lawrence works wonders at Red Ranch.

Three Cheers for Chocolate!

Tennessee candy makers turn out a trio of tasty favorites.

This Year’s Best Photos

Farm Bureau members show off their winning ways.

Trunks to Treasures

Tattered antiques get a glamorous second life.

Dumplin’ Diva

Try Bea’s recipe – and meet all five finalists.

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To qualify as a Landmark Tree, a specimen must be at least 50 years old and a noteworthy feature of a community or a community's heritage. Historic Trees must be witnesses of historic or cultural events that are significant regionally, nationally or within Tennessee.

To learn about more trees on the Landmark and Historic Tree Register, visit www.turf.com.

Wedding Bells Among the Branches

As fall foliage catches your eye in coming weeks, make a mental note that the University of Tennessee Arboretum is now offering an unusual spot to say "I do."

Just three miles from Oak Ridge hotels, the arboretum offers wedding packages ranging from as little as \$300 during the week to \$800 during peak seasons.

Because the arboretum is a research and education facility and a nature sanctuary, certain accessories like rice, confetti, balloons and candles are strictly prohibited, but items like birdseed and natural flower petals are welcome.

For details, call 865-483-3571 or e-mail utforest@utk.edu.

Fill 'er Up – With Sunshine

Cliff Ricketts' red extended-cab Nissan Frontier may look like any other pickup, but this vehicle is years ahead of its time, technologically speaking.



The truck doesn't run on gasoline– it runs on water and sunshine.


"Ever since I saw gas prices rise up to \$1.80/gallon in 1979, my dream has been to run engines off of water," says Ricketts, a professor at Middle Tennessee State University's School of Agribusiness and Agriscience.

"Solar hydrogen," he says, "is the future of cars."

Since 1979, Ricketts has concocted various methods of fueling engines with hydrogen, soybean oil and the electrolysis process, which produces energy by passing an electric current through liquid.

He began to see the fruits of his labor in 1991, when one of his cars set the world record for speed for hydrogen-powered cars at 108.4 miles per hour.

Ricketts has driven his truck from Scottsville, Ky., to the Alabama state line "on nothing but sun and water."

"Now my goal," he says, "is to make it from East to West Tennessee." 



Pumped for Pumpkins?

Nothing announces the arrival of fall like bright orange pumpkins.

From jack-o'-lanterns to pies, butters to breads, there are countless uses for pumpkins.

In Tennessee, pumpkins contribute approximately \$5 million to the state's economy and are grown primarily for ornamental purposes.

And bigger is better at two statewide pumpkin competitions – the Allardt Great Pumpkin Festival and Weigh-Off the first weekend in October and the Tennessee State Fair Giant Pumpkin and Watermelon Contest the first Wednesday in September.

More pumpkin tidbits:

- Tennessee ranks ninth in the nation for pumpkin production – growing between 4,000 and 4,500 acres of pumpkins annually.
- A typical yield per acre is between 800 and 1,200 harvested pumpkins, depending on the type.
- The largest pumpkin ever grown in Tennessee weighed 716.5 pounds, grown by Jim Asberry of Allardt in 1989.
- Pumpkins are officially fruits – not veggies – composed of 90 percent water.

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