

Tomato Festival ... Continued from previous page

Festival Idol Competition. Bands headline Friday and Saturday nights. The pre-event concert by Dr. Zarr and the Funk Monsters is July 12 in Ripley Court Square.

"The Tomato Festival is important to our area," said Worlds. "It celebrates our history, culture and food."

Tomato Recipes

Tomato Cobbler

2 T. olive oil
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
Sea salt, black pepper, garlic to taste
1 tsp. thyme
2 pints cherry tomatoes
3 T. all purpose flour
1 tube refrigerated biscuits
2 T. melted butter
1/2 C. shredded cheddar cheese
1/2 C. chives

Preheat oven 350 degrees. Heat oil over medium heat. Add onions, salt and pepper. Cook slowly to caramelize the onions (about 10 minutes). Add thyme and garlic. Cook another 30 seconds.

Put tomatoes, onions and flour in a large casserole dish and mix to combine. Bake 20 minutes. Take out of oven and place biscuits on top of tomatoes. Brush top of biscuits with melted butter, sprin-


kle with cheese and chives. Bake 25 minutes or until biscuits are cooked and tomatoes are bursting.

Bacon & Tomato Dip

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1/2 C. Ranch salad dressing
1 medium tomato seeded and diced (about 3/4 cup)
6 slices of cooked bacon chopped or real bacon bits
1/2 C. chopped celery
2 T. chopped onion
1 tsp. sugar

Mix together; it's ready to serve.

(These recipes were favorites from the 2017 Tomato Testing. Recipes for this summer's tasting weren't finalized until after the *Tennessee Connections* went to print.)



How does a heat pump work?

Electric heat pumps keep your home warm in the winter and cool in the summer by transferring heat from one location to another.

In cold weather, a heat pump takes heat from the air outside your home and circulates it inside your home.

The process reverses in the summer, as it takes the hot air from inside your home and pumps it outside, while circulating the cooled, dehumidified air throughout your home. Heat pumps also work extremely efficiently, because they simply transfer heat, rather than burn fuel to create it.



Ripley Power and Light offices will be closed...

- Wednesday, July 4, for Independence Day
- Monday, September 3, for Labor Day.



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Ripley

**POWER AND
LIGHT COMPANY**

Summer 2018



Lynn Kennedy during his time in the U.S. Navy

Our gratitude to all veterans

Morris and Clara Worlds were newlyweds when Morris was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1951. He served in Korea as a cook behind the combat lines.

He returned to his family in 1953 after serving two years.

Morris then spent 55 years working at Ripley Power and Light, retiring as Operations Superintendent. He and Clara have been married 68 years.



Morris Worlds, retired

Mike Demeris was living in the Harvey, Ill., YMCA and working in a factory. When he turned 17, he walked across the street to the U.S. Air Force recruiting office in the post office and enlisted. It was 1959.

After training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss., Demeris spent the next four years working in communications intelligence.

A high school dropout, Demeris earned his GED in the Air Force and today has courses towards a master's degree.



Mike Demeris, Energy Services Specialist

Ripley Power and Light Company thanks all local veterans for their service. This issue of "Tennessee Connections" highlights veterans who are Ripley Power and Light board members, employees and retirees.

Lauderdale County Veterans Services asks all veterans to contact its office at 731-635-3005 or the Chamber with your name, address, phone number and email address so that you can be included in the 2nd Annual Veterans Parade Nov. 10. The parade begins at 9:30 and is followed by a church service and meal at First United Methodist Church.

His stint in the military was during the height of the Cold War. He was stationed in Pakistan and Japan and spent some time in Vietnam. When his four years of military service was extended nine months, he was stationed in Key West, Fla., during the Cuban missile crisis.

Eunice Jenkins, whose father, James L., was a chief warrant officer in the Tennessee National Guard, was strongly encouraged by his father to join his older brother and

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Veterans

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enter the National Guard as he finished high school.

It was 1961 and his father knew that the Vietnam War was escalating, Jenkins said.

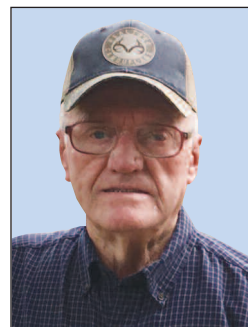
He worked mostly in the Ripley unit's motor pool. He was sent to Memphis to help keep order during the garbage strike in 1968 and was sent back to Memphis after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed that April. He left the guard in 1968.



Eunice Jenkins
Board Member

Bobby Ray joined the Tennessee National Guard around 1960. "A high school buddy and I talked ourselves into joining," Ray said.

He was in the Ripley unit, and like Jenkins, he was sent to Memphis during the garbage strike and again after Dr. King's death. Ray worked for Ripley Power and Light 37 years as a lineman.



Bobby Ray, retired

Alonzo Beard's combat experience in Vietnam ended abruptly one day when he was severely wounded while walking across a field on a mission to find the enemy. It was 1966 and the Vietnam War was in full force.

His U.S. Army unit was bombed the night before, and he and other members of his unit were trying to find the source of the mortar. "The lead man tripped a vine connected to a bomb," Beard said. "The bomb went off, injuring three of us. We were picked up by helicopters."

Wounded in his left shoulder, Beard spent several months in the hospital and, today, is a disabled veteran.

Beard was drafted, but had a deferment to finish his college degree at Tennessee State in Nashville before entering the Armed Forces. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his services.

Lynn Kennedy spent four years on a Navy aircraft carrier, from 1973 to 1977. "I was a flight deck refueler and did whatever else the Navy needed."

His ship, the USS Forrestal CVA-59, was deployed to

the Mediterranean Sea. The work was often dangerous and the days were 20 hours long, he said. "We'd fly for seven to 10 days straight."

The relief came, though, when the carrier went to port. That's when Kennedy visited countries like Spain, Italy, Greece and France. "It was nice," he said. "I told my wife it was all drudgery and hard work."

Another highlight of his service was being part of the Tall Ships event in New York Harbor during the 1976 U. S. Bicentennial. He saw President Gerald Ford and Henry Kissinger up close when they boarded his ship.

"We were not far from the Statue of Liberty," Kennedy said. "That was something really special."

Bill and David Newman, who are distantly related, were Ripley High School buddies. They both enlisted in the U.S. Marines while still in high school and were shipped off to boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., two days after graduation in 1978.

"I wanted to see the world a little bit and get away from home for awhile," David said.

The high school friends parted ways after boot camp. David entered the Marines air wing and spent his three years as a Marine working on jet aircraft. He did travel the world, visiting countries like Denmark, Germany, England and Mexico. "It was a good experience," he said.

Bill, meanwhile, spent four years in the Marines and then joined the Tennessee National Guard. His Ripley military police unit was activated and then sent to Saudi Arabia after the start of Operation Desert Storm in January 1991. The purpose of the first Gulf War was to expel Iraqi forces, which had invaded Kuwait.

His unit escorted convoys and guarded prisoners. He didn't experience combat, but he remembers how easy it was to capture prisoners. "Most prisoners were starving and ready to surrender," he said.



Lynn Kennedy
retired



David Newman
Meter Technician



Bill Newman
Lineman



The staff at the Ripley Family Fitness Center cooks breakfast for the Tomato Festival's Chamber Coffee.

Tomatoes, planes & cotton candy Summer events you won't want to miss!

The 35th Annual Lauderdale County Tomato Festival on July 13 and 14 will highlight the best tomato growers (and eaters) in the United States.

"The Tomato Festival is all about our world-famous Ripley tomatoes," said Susan Worlds, Executive Director at the Lauderdale Chamber/ECD Office and event chairman. "It gives us the opportunity to honor our local growers."

The festival begins with the Chamber Coffee at 7:30 a.m. Friday at the Ripley Fitness Center. Opening ceremonies are at 10 a.m. in City Park.

The Tomato Tasting, hosted by the FCE clubs, follows at Ripley First Baptist Church. The country store opens at 10 a.m. The tasting is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can pre-purchase tickets from any FCE member or at the FCE office, 223 Anthony St., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. (See recipes next page.)

Other activities include the Saturday Salad, the Tomato Contest, an art exhibit, a 5K run/walk, an action pistol shooting contest, a baby crawling contest, Tennessee T's exhibit, a car and bike show, a benefit bike ride, the Methodist Market and a Tomato

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Lauderdale County Fair

For three days as summer ends, the Lauderdale County Fair salutes the area's rural heritage and provides plenty of activities for the whole family.

Events include a petting zoo, kid's zone, pony rides, livestock shows, a mini tractor pull, beauty pageants, exhibits, contests, a 5K run, a barbecue cookoff, the Chamber Coffee, educational workshops, carnival rides, entertainment and more. New this year will be the Torres Family Circus.

The event, which is Aug. 30 to Sept. 1, will be at the fairgrounds in Halls. Admission is free. For more information, visit the Lauderdale County Tennessee page on Facebook.

Air Show Aug. 11

Wings Over Halls returns to the Halls air base on Saturday, Aug. 11. More than 30 different aircraft will perform.

The event includes food vendors, flights for purchase on a variety of aircraft, military vehicles on display, re-enactors, novelty vendors, t-shirts and pedal planes for children.

War birds include the B-17, P-51, T-6, BT-13, CJ-6, T-34, P-47, Steerman Trainer, Corsair, T-28 and P-63. Other aircraft in the show include the RV team, 330 Extra and Cessna 180.

Gates open at 10 a.m. "Come early and enjoy the excitement of WWII brought back to Halls, Tennessee, for the day," said Nancy Holman, event coordinator.

For more information about the event and plane rides or to buy advance tickets, call the Halls Veterans Museum at 731-836-7400 or visit www.dyaab.us.