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ON THE COVER: As the temps break and leaves begin to turn and drop off the trees it is finally beginning to feel like fall in Williamson County.

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Community connection ceremony before the race where they ask everyone to raise their hand based their relationship to sarcoma. Photography submitted.

5K RACE TO CURE SARCOMA ON NOVEMBER 16 IN BERRY FARMS

BY JASON ZASKY

Matt Fornero had just graduated from Page High School in Franklin when a suspicious lump prompted a trip to his physician. “At first we thought he had an infection, but when the lump kept getting bigger we realized it was not something benign,” says his mother, Jayme Fornero. Tests soon revealed that Matt had a rare form of cancer called Rhabdomyosarcoma, which had metastasized and required immediate treatment.

“Vanderbilt got him in right away, where he had surgery and started chemo-

therapy,” adds Fornero, before noting that Matt has now been cancer-free for three years following multiple surgeries, radiation treatment, and a year of chemotherapy.

But during her son’s treatment, Fornero learned that funding for research of sarcomas—that is, cancers of the connective tissues—is lacking, despite the fact that sarcomas make up almost twenty percent of all childhood cancers. Knowing that the Sarcoma Foundation of America helps facilitate charity 5K races in cities with Sarcoma Treatment Centers, she decided to spearhead the launch of a Nashville event, to help raise funds and awareness.

Nashville’s first annual 5K Race to Cure

Sarcoma was held in Berry Farms in the fall of 2017 and raised \$50,000, with the 2018 event raising another \$90,000. Now, thanks to the efforts of Fornero and fellow race founder-organizers like Kristine Huff and Kristen Ivory (both of whom have lost loved ones to sarcoma), the race has a five-person organizing committee and promises to raise even more money in 2019.

“We had 550 people run or walk last year, and we hope to have over 600 this year,” says Fornero. “We already have a dozen teams signed up, which is more than we’ve had at this stage in the past.”

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Fornero family [left to right]: Sydney, Jayme and sarcoma survivor Matt Fornero. Photography submitted.

5K RACE TO CURE SARCOMA

WHAT:

5K Run/Walk

WHERE:

Berry Farms, 5021 Hughes Crossing, Franklin

WHEN:

Sat. Nov. 16, check-in and on-site registration 8-9 am

WHO:

Adults \$35; Children ages 5-13, \$15; Children under five, free.

LIVE MUSIC:

Liv Noelle.

< FROM PAGE 6

Fornero encourages interested runners, walkers, and teams of runners/walkers to register at the Nashville Race to Cure Sarcoma's signup page, which offers further details about the race, as well as information about the Sarcoma Foundation of America, which splits the proceeds with the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center.

Fornero emphasizes that the race isn't merely a lot of fun, it's uplifting for those who are battling the disease or have fought it in the past, as victims and survivors get a visceral reminder that there are countless individuals—including caregivers and

medical professionals—who are supporting them in their fight.

"My favorite part of the event is meeting people who have had a sarcoma diagnosis and have gone through treatment," she says, before pausing and adding, "Well, that and watching the race grow, thanks to the support of Berry Farms and our community."

As for things she thinks the general public should know about sarcomas, Fornero emphasizes the need for greater awareness and more research dollars, as sarcomas can only be cured about half the time, hence the need for new therapeutic approaches.

Part of the challenge is that many sarcomas are hidden deep in the body, so a diagnosis often comes too late for a realistic chance to be cured.

"If you [or a loved one] notices a lump that keeps growing, get to the doctor, don't wait," she concludes. "And if it turns out you or your loved one has sarcoma, get to a Sarcoma Treatment Center [like Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis], because they are the most knowledgeable in terms of treatment. When it comes to sarcoma, it's important how it's treated, and it needs to be treated quickly."

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Photography submitted.

SANTA TO VISIT FRANKLIN ON DEC. 7

JOIN KIWANIS CHRISTMAS PARADE AND MAKE PLANS NOW TO PARTICIPATE

BY JASON ZASKY

This year more than 15,000 people are expected to be on hand to welcome Santa Claus to Williamson County, as his float winds its way through the streets of downtown Franklin during this year's Kiwanis Christmas Parade. Held annually on the first Saturday of December, the parade is presented by the Kiwanis Club of Historic Downtown Franklin, the local chapter of the international civic organization, with this year's theme being "Holiday Heroes."

"Our core focus is helping children in Franklin and Williamson County, and we

do so in a variety of ways," begins Marta Eynatten, President of the Kiwanis Club of Historic Downtown Franklin and co-chair of the Christmas Parade. "The parade is our primary fundraiser each year, and last year we provided ten \$1,000 scholarships to ten high school seniors from Franklin-area high schools."

But Eynatten and parade co-chair Tim Jones anticipate that this year's parade will be bigger and better than ever before, with upwards of a hundred parade entries and at least a half-dozen middle school and high-school bands performing.

Also, the Franklin Volunteer Fire Dept. Auxiliary and their wives will be doing

a toy collection along the route, "so all parade goers will hopefully bring a new, unwrapped toy, which will be collected as the Santa float goes by," offers Eynatten, noting that the firefighters will use the toys for their toy distribution program.

Meanwhile, the Kiwanis Club hopes to increase the number of scholarships it provides in the wake of the event, even as it has already donated a total of \$3,000 this year to a trio of local organizations, namely Saddle Up!, a therapeutic horseback riding program for children; the GraceWorks Ministries' student fuel bags program; and N.O.O.K., an acronym for Needs of Our

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Photography submitted.



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Kids, a PTO-sponsored clothing closet in the Franklin Special School District.

But to add to the number of scholarships, the parade needs more sponsors. “There are a variety of sponsorship levels,” explains Eynatten, who encourages potential sponsors to e-mail her about the available options, which “start at \$100 and go up to two-thousand dollars,” all of which are detailed on the Franklin Kiwanis Christmas Parade’s Eventbrite page, the same place where groups and individuals can register to participate in the proceedings.

In addition, the Kiwanis Club is also looking for volunteers to help carry banners in the parade, and to help with staging in Jim Warren Park before the event gets underway at 2 pm. “Each sponsor has a custom banner that we provide,” says Eynatten, “and we need two or three kids to carry each banner, so we love having middle school and high school students volunteer.”

Naturally, the Kiwanis Club of Historic Downtown Franklin also encourages people to come out to watch the parade, and to consider contacting Eynatten about joining the organization.

Of course, once all the preparation is

done, Eynatten looks forward to enjoying the parade just like everyone else. “It’s always so much fun to see the Santa Claus float and to see the arrival of Santa,” she says, promising that it will be a treat to see the creativity of the floats that are entered. “The floats are [always] fabulous.”

What: Franklin Kiwanis Christmas Parade
When: December 7, 2-4 pm
Where: Jim Warren Park, Franklin

For more information about becoming a parade sponsor or a volunteer, or to join the Kiwanis Club of Historic Downtown Franklin, contact Marta Eynatten at franklntnkiwanis@gmail.com.

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AFTER A STORM, **STORM GUARD OF NASHVILLE** TO THE RESCUE

BY JASON ZASKY

Nashville may not have the reputation of being a windy city, but recent weather data—and the experience of the Nashville franchise of Storm Guard Roofing and Construction—suggests otherwise. In fact, according to research and consulting firm, CoreLogic, Nashville was the windiest of the nation's 279 largest metropolitan areas in 2016, thanks to 21 wind-related events that year and a maximum wind speed of 72 mph.

Notably, too, Storm Guard of Nashville has been doing a brisk business in Music

City's metropolitan area since Andrew Scoggins started his Franklin-based franchise in early 2018. So while Scoggins and his team are more than happy to help update or upgrade the look of a family home or commercial business, much of the company's work involves addressing storm damage—primarily insurance restorations.

"Our focus is on being the kind of contractor we all wish we had," begins Scoggins. "We show up on time and do what we say we are going to do, and if something goes wrong, we come and fix it. And we always give honest assessments and focus on providing great service. [Finally], if it's

an insurance situation, we handle the insurance conversations and take care of the paperwork," all of which helps differentiate Storm Guard from its less service-oriented competition and roofers who refuse to interact with insurance companies.

In effect, Storm Guard's process is designed to make it as painless as possible for a customer to recover from damage suffered in a storm.

"When someone gives us a call, we take them through who we are, what we do, and how we work when we come to their house," offers Scoggins. "We set

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The Gathering @ 840

The Gathering @ 840 is celebrating our second year of ministry in southeast Williamson County this month. We are excited to be part of our community and blessed that so many people in the area have found a home with us. We want to extend an invitation to you to come and find out the good things happening at The Gathering.

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Worship: Meeting in the Gym @ 10:45 AM

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Photography submitted.

< FROM PAGE 14

up an appointment for a time when they are going to be home, where we do a free inspection of the exterior of the house.

We look at everything, including the roof, gutters, siding, paint, and decks. We also document and take photos of every [issue] we find, and we help the homeowner file with their insurance company and handle every single circumstance.”

Of course, Storm Guard is also ready and willing to come out in the midst of a severe weather event.

“We’ve had a number of client projects where the homeowner has had rainwater

pouring into their house, and we’ve gone over during the storm and done emergency tarping,” elaborates Scoggins. “Then we’ve come back to get everything repaired, so it was like-new when we were done.”

Better yet, Storm Guard of Nashville also offers a five-year installation and craftsmanship warranty, in addition to the warranties that typically go along with materials.

According to Scoggins, that’s yet another benefit of working with Storm Guard, which primarily serves southern Davidson County, as well as Williamson, Rutherford, and Wilson counties.

“Not only are you getting the service

and attention you get from a local brand, but you also have the comfort of working with a national brand,” offers Scoggins. “You don’t have to worry about a smaller operation going out of business or not covering a warranty.”

Those are just a few added reasons why Scoggins encourages potential customers to read online reviews about Storm Guard of Nashville. As he puts it, past clients are the “best advocates for our brand and the type of work we’ve done.”

For more information about Storm Guard of Nashville, see their ad on page 22

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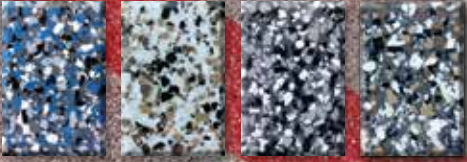
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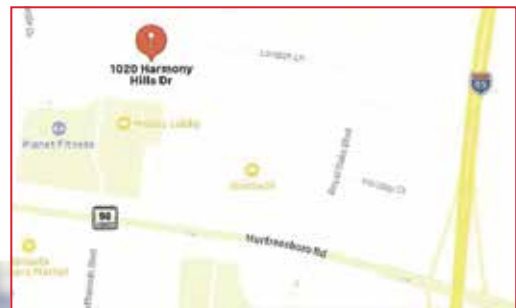
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MILLERS THRILLERS A GREAT LOCAL HAUNT

BY JASON ZASKY

David Miller, owner of Millers Thrillers Haunted Woods, doesn't watch scary movies and long shied away from visiting haunted houses. So it's a little ironic that he now operates a wildly successful local haunt attraction, one that features two different draws—an hour-long trek through the woods of Middle Tennessee and a Zombie Paintball Hayride, the latter of which offers riders the chance to fire on and eradicate a horde of marauding zombies.

Now in its 12th season, Miller says he was inspired to start Millers Thrillers after he noticed the area's distinct lack of haunt attractions. And in the back of his mind, he

knew his family's farmland possessed ideal characteristics for such an endeavor.

"The area was mined for phosphate, and left some really rough terrain that is naturally laid out for super cool trails through the woods, ones that feature rock formations, swamps, and cable bridges," begins Miller. Plus, when you get outside the city, and you don't have the city lights, "you can see the stars, and you feel like you're in the middle of nowhere, which is kind of creepy."

In other words, it's perfect for the Haunted Woods, an attraction that frequently inspires visitors to say, "Wow, I've never seen that before," or "How did they think of this?"

"We don't proclaim to be the scariest

haunt, but we do proclaim to be the most entertaining haunted attraction," offers Miller. "We're not gory, and we don't do witch references or devil-demon references. Instead, we try to be family-friendly, with high production values. We do have startle-scaries, but it's more theatrics and wow-factor moments."

To be sure, Miller—who also owns Extreme Escape Games on Galleria Blvd. in Cool Springs—goes to great lengths to awe Millers Thrillers ticket holders, adding to, tweaking, and improving the attractions each and every year.

"We start planning in the winter and start building sets every March," he says, while also bringing in out-of-state talent to

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help create and construct new sets, not to mention they perform for visitors.

"We are one of the few haunts that do a big stage show for people waiting in line. We have a zombie drum line, fire performers, stilt walkers, jugglers, a light show set to music, professional dancers and various variety acts. We also have a high wire pirate swordfight act that is coming from Florida for the last two weeks of October," he says.

But the main attraction, for many, remains the Zombie Paintball Hayride, which Miller describes as "a concept that took us to another level." That is, paintball guns mounted to the side of a hayride, which allow ticket holders the chance to shoot zombies—who come at passengers from all directions, including high and low—while being driven through spooky, dark woods.

"It's like a video game come to life," describes Miller, who adds that "it's all the fun of paintball without running, without getting shot, and without getting sweaty or dirty. You get all the perks, without all the negatives."

Meanwhile, Millers Thrillers is adding a brand-new attraction this year, one Miller describes as "unlike anything ever done in the haunt industry." That is, "it's a combination of a gladiator arena, flag football, Survivor, an escape game, Amazing Race, The Hunger Games, and a crazy circus. We used all of those for inspiration and put them in a blender and came up with this idea."

In a nutshell, participants in Arena X: Escape from the Clowns, have the option of being competitors or spectators, with the competitors having three minutes to complete an escape game challenge without getting their flag football belts pulled by clowns, "who will also be working the crowd, kind of like professional wrestlers do, talking trash in a family-friendly way," says Miller. He compares the event to the freeze tag you played as a kid but taken to an entirely new level.

As for the audience for the two long-standing attractions, Miller tells us that the hayride is for ages seven and up and the Haunted Woods are for those who are ten or older. "Our attractions aren't just for hardcore haunt fans," he adds. "They are

for anyone who just wants to share some entertainment with friends and family," and also ideal for group outings, including birthday parties and those of church groups.

For his part, Miller believes that this year's visitors are really going to appreciate all the work he and his team have put in to make the 2019 season the most memorable yet.

"It's a lot of work," he concludes, "but it's very rewarding for us when we see the reaction from the crowds."

Where: 1431 Carters Creek Pike, Columbia, Tenn. 38401

When: All Friday and Saturday nights in October, plus opening night Saturday, September 2, as well as November 1-2.

**Ticket Prices: Haunted Woods, \$20.00
Zombie Paintball Hayride, \$20.00
Combo Pass to Both Attractions, \$35.00
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For more information, visit millersthillers.net



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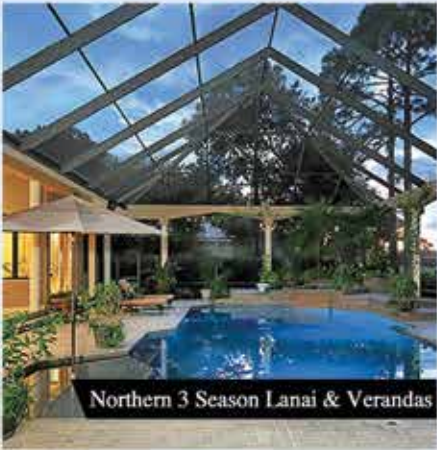
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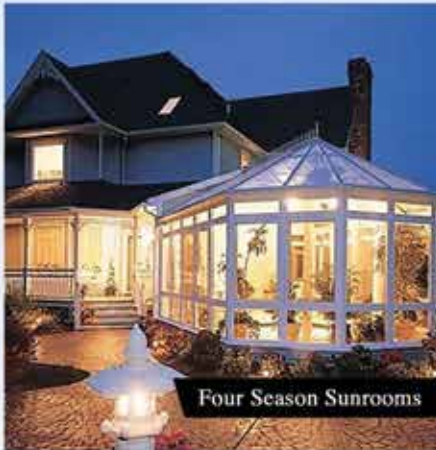
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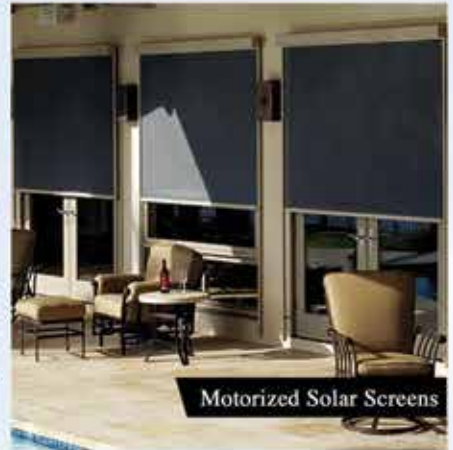
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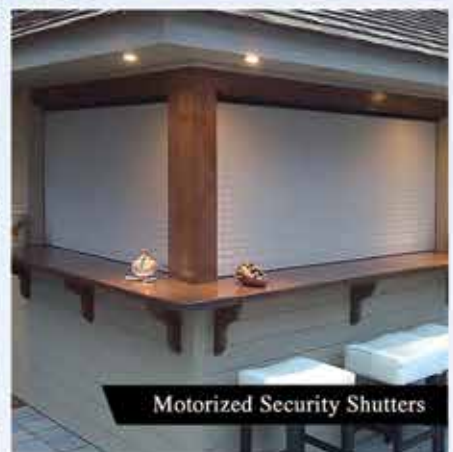
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