

THE '47

August 2023

School: OUT; Jennings-Dill: IN



Food Truck visits Hillcrest High School



Serving in the Shop

When we envision summertime, we often think of the “lazy days.” Life moves a little slower; families take vacations; Saturdays are spent at the pool or the ballfield.

However, if you were to ask many of our Jennings-Dill Field Employees what summer is like for them, they would paint an entirely different picture.



Bruce Henson hands out cold water at West End Elementary

Since June 5, at least sixty-five of our Field Employees have worked six days or more a week, trading summer vacations and those Saturdays at the pool or ballfield for their tool bags and trucks. Due to an earlier start date for the 2023-2024 school year (teachers report back on August 1 and students head back on August 8), our field had eight weeks to button-up projects at numerous upstate schools:

Hillcrest High School, Byrnes High School, Beech Springs Intermediate School, and West End Elementary School.

As Sheet Metal Foreman Mark Penninger says, “Our Lead Guys are definitely under more pressure at this time of year.” While the work is intense and there is a heavy load, our top-notch field employees developed good plans and strategies which helped lessen the chaos of such a demanding schedule: 48,000 hours of manpower in less than two months’ time.



West End Elementary School

To help ease a little bit of the pain, Jennings-Dill pitched shaded tents at the work sites, and our own resident chef Dave Doser grilled hot dogs while chili connoisseur Carl Watkins served his homemade recipe. *Squinchers*, thirst-quenching ice pops, were also delivered to provide a break from the heat and humidity.



Carl's Chili

For our Field Employees, the August hallways full of children will bring a welcome relief to the dogdays of summer school construction work.

Harbor Freight: Fellowship Recipient



Nick Hudgens

Throughout the academic year, Jennings-Dill works closely with Donaldson Career Center in support of their Welding and Construction program. In fact, Donaldson awarded Jennings-Dill their Business Partner of the Year Award for 2023.

This partnership yielded the hiring of WBL Nick Hudgens, who has been working under the guidance of Piping Foreman Josh Brigman and Battle Buddy Joseph Kimbrell since February of 2023. Nick, a rising senior at Woodmont High School, is a go-getter. At the young age of fifteen, he began his own landscaping company, Hudgens Landscaping. In his first year of business, Nick had eleven clients, and by the end of the second year, his client base had risen to fifteen.

Recently, Nick received the honor of becoming a Harbor Freight Fellow. Donaldson Career Center is a pilot school for this program which rewards students who participate in co-ops to deepen their interest, develop hands-on practical skills, and broaden the professional network that will support them as they move through their working lives. To be considered, Nick had to be nominated by teachers and his WBL coordinator, Stella Groves, and he was required to complete a lengthy application. Once the application is evaluated, students are notified of the results. Not only did Nick receive a cash award to go towards tools of the trade, his Jennings-Dill Battle Buddy, Joseph Kimbrell, received a cash award, as well.

To recognize the occasion, Donaldson Career Center's Culinary students prepared a savory luncheon for the honorees and special guest, California resident Charlie Plant, a partner with Harbor Freight Tools for Schools and principal of Big Picture Learning, a 20-year-old public-school reform movement that is striving to elevate respect and support for students who love working with their hands. As Mr. Plant explains, "One of the main goals of this fellowship is to help students and the community understand that the trades are just as viable, valued, and authentic a career pathway as college."



Charlie Plant shakes hands with Nick.



Special meal prepared by Donaldson Culinary students.

Jennings-Dill is honored to be among the first businesses in the upstate to have a Harbor Freight Fellow, and we are proud of Nick Hudgens and Joseph Kimbrell for representing their trade and our company so well.



Nick Hudgens, Joseph Kimbrell, & Josh Brigman



Keith McDonald, before shave



3--year-old Bella

A Beard for Birds Three-year-olds are imaginative creatures, whipping up entire make-believe scenarios with characters and events in abundance. Tricycles can become cars, ambulances, motorcycles, and fire engines. In 2010, Bella, an imaginative three-year-old, took an interest in birds and proposed that her Poppy Goose’s beard would make a fine and comfortable nest for birds to relax and lay their heads after their daily flights.

Who is Poppy Goose and how did he get such a name? As Plumbing Foreman Keith McDonald, aka “Poppy Goose” explains, “It was the imagination of my granddaughter Bella.” Keith’s nickname for Bella was “Little GOOB,” but a defiant Bella, misunderstanding and thinking that her grandfather had called her a “goose,” exclaimed, “I am not a GOOSE, you are. You are Poppy GOOSE.” That name has stuck, and all seven of Keith’s grandchildren call him Poppy Goose to this day.

So, on March 12, 2010, when Bella begged for her Poppy Goose to cut his beard for the birds, he obliged, and a tradition was begun. Even on March 12, 2023, the now fifteen-year-old Bella spread the hair around the feeders and enjoyed watching the birds play and nest amongst her Poppy Goose’s locks.

A clean-shaven Keith McDonald will not be seen again until March 12, 2024, when the clippings of his hair and beard will once again be scattered to the birds, much to the delight of his now teenage granddaughter Bella.



Keith McDonald, close to being clean-shaven.

Save the Date: September 30, 2023!

Jennings-Dill Fall Family Picnics are legendary, and our 2023 Picnic will be no exception.



Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 30, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, and plan to bring your family to *Group Therapy Pub and Playground*, an indoor venue in downtown Greenville offering an 18-hole wacky mini golf course, ice curling, ping pong, axe throwing, and tons of backyard games. A delicious barbecue meal with all the fixings as well as lemonade, tea, and cookies will be served up in Jennings-Dill style. Mark your calendar and look for more details in the coming weeks!

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

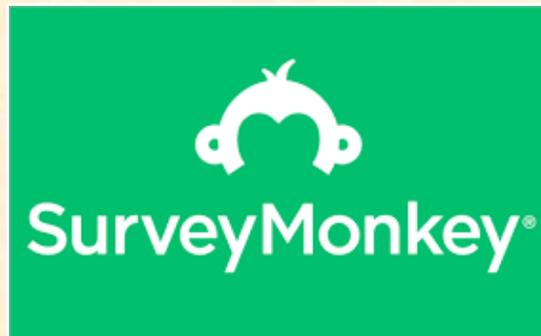
On Sunday, July 9, our Business of Families enjoyed a wonderful time at Greenville Drive compliments of JD.



Announcements

Newsletters Published Quarterly

- Next Newsletter, November 2023



Survey Monkey Quiz

- Answer all questions correctly by August 9, 2023, and your name will be entered in a prize drawing for a Gift Card.
- Linked [HERE](#)

Holiday: Labor Day, Monday, September 4



- Enjoy a well-earned break with family and friends.