

CONVERSATION



Bob Bakken|DTT

23-year-old Austin Hall, who has been involved in gymnastics his entire life, is the main owner of the new Intrepid Gymnastics, located on Nail Road West off U.S. Highway 51 in Horn Lake. The new business teaches tumbling and gymnastics skills to youngsters as young as age three.

A leap into a new business

BY BOB BAKKEN
STAFF WRITER

AUSTIN HALL

BUSINESS: Intrepid Gymnastics

ROLE: Main owner of a new facility that teaches tumbling and gymnastics skills to youngsters as young as age three. Hall was involved in competitive gymnastics but has now turned to coaching and business ownership after graduating with a Health Sciences Administration degree from the University of Memphis.

LOCATION: 1741 Nail Road West, Horn Lake.

graduate in Health Sciences Administration said he had an opportunity for more competitive work, but chose to start teaching others about gymnastics.

"I started at age three and I competed up until my senior year of high school," Hall said. "I had the chance to do college gymnastics but decided against it, so I really started to get into coaching. I started coaching at age 15 and it just turned out to be the best thing for me. I really enjoy it."

Classes at Intrepid Gymnastics are geared for youngsters starting at age three, and even as young as 18 months old with a "Mommy and Me" class.

Hall believes gymnastics can give a youngster an added advantage, regardless of what sport they may be involved in.

"It definitely helped me because I did pretty much every sport imaginable and I knew there were benefits from gymnastics in each one of those," Hall said. "When I was playing soccer, I didn't get as tired or winded as everybody else. I did dirt bike riding and the body control with that helps with the bike, as well. Pretty much every facet of every sport is helped by gymnastics."

tics."

Hall added the youngsters learn from experienced coaches who have also competed at one time or another.

"All of our coaches are USA Gymnastics certified and also CPR certified," Hall said. "That's another thing that is kind of unique about us. A lot of gyms don't do that for all coaches, usually for their competitive coaches, but not for their recreational coaches. We wanted to make sure that all of our coaches were certified."

The location was an important draw for Hall to settle in Horn Lake, seeing the county as a place that needed more opportunities to learn.

"We wanted something central so that people from Tunica and Southaven, from Horn Lake and Hernando could have a place like this," Hall said. "We also draw people from a part of Memphis, as well. We're a 15-20 minute drive from the middle of Memphis and they realize that it's not that far to here and it's convenient for them."

The success of Team USA at the Rio Games, and basically whenever the Summer Olympics are on the world's sport stage, means extra interest in the sport, which led Intrepid Gymnastics to open when it did, on the heels of the America's latest successes in the sport.

"The Olympics are so huge for gymnastics, especially when the United States does well," Hall said. "Men's gymnastics for the U.S. hasn't always been the strongest and it is kind of a rebuilding time for the U.S. team, but the girls team is very dominant so that helps us. The coverage of it just really gets the girls excited about gymnastics and them being a part of it."

You can find out more about Intrepid Gymnastics at its website, www.intrepidgymnastics.com or by phone at 662-985-5400.

BOB BAKKEN is Staff Writer and may be contacted at 662-429-6397, Ext. 240.

ON THE MOVE



Barbara Stewart a Realtor with Crye-Leike, has been named a certified residential specialist and a senior real estate specialist. Stewart, a lifelong resident of DeSoto County, has been a Realtor with Crye-Leike for 11 years.

Send in your submissions

The Business Page of the DeSoto Times-Tribune includes submissions for our On the Move section.

This portion of the weekly page will include announcements about executives and key employees who have recently been promoted or hired.

Recognizing employees is as simple as 1-2-3.

Company officials should:

- Submit employee name
- Submit employer name
- Submit employee photo and title of new position (Please specify if promotion or new hire). Email all submissions to: onthemove@desototimestribune.com

CHAMBER BRIEFS

* The Horn Lake Chamber of Commerce will hold its First Quarterly Luncheon, sponsored by Baptist Memorial Hospital-DeSoto, on Thursday, Jan 19 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at First Choice Catering, 5905 Scott Blvd. in Horn Lake. RSVP by Jan. 16 to info@hornlakechamber.com or call 662-393-9897.

* The Southaven Chamber of Commerce offers an "Improving Your Business Workshop" on Jan. 18 from 8-10 a.m. For more information, contact the Chamber at 662-342-6114.

* The January monthly luncheon of the Olive Branch Chamber of Commerce will be Wednesday, Jan. 11 at Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center in Olive Branch. Networking at 11:30 a.m., meal and program at 12 p.m. Register by email invitation. For more information, contact the Chamber office at 662-895-2600 or email info@olivebranchchms.com

RiverKings announce phone recycle effort

The Mississippi RiverKings, the Mid-South's SPHL professional sports franchise, have announced their cell phone recycling fundraiser with The Wireless Alliance.

Fans will have the chance to recycle their old unused phone at any up and coming RiverKings game or by going to the RiverKings office and by placing them in one of the labeled wireless phone boxes.

All proceeds from the recycling efforts will go to the RiverKings Reach Out Fund.

Originally labeled the Maddox Sports Donor Advised Fund, the RiverKings ReachOut Fund (RKRO) is housed at the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi and serves as the non-profit arm of the Mississippi RiverKings. The Fund has raised and distributed over \$500,000 since its inception in 2004. For more information about the RiverKings ReachOut Fund go to <http://riverkings.com/riverkings-reachout>.