

Watertown resident travels abroad to learn about and help elephants in Thailand

STAFF REPORTS

This summer, Hannah Tienter, 18, of Watertown, TN, spent two weeks in Thailand helping animals, discovering Thai culture, and learning hands-on what it's like to be a veterinarian. Traveling with study-abroad organization Loop Abroad, Hannah was selected as part of a small team that volunteered giving care at a dog shelter and spent a week working directly with rescued elephants at an elephant sanctuary.

The Loop Abroad Veterinary Service program brings students to Thailand for two weeks to volunteer alongside veterinarians from the US and Thailand. For one week, Hannah and her team volunteered at the Elephant Nature Park in northern Thailand to work hands-on with the giant animals and learn about animal rescue and conservation on a larger scale.

The Elephant Nature Park is home to over 60 elephants who have been rescued from trekking, logging, or forced breeding programs. Many of them had been abused and suffer from chronic injuries or blindness. At the Elephant Nature Park, they are cared for by volunteers from all over the world. Hannah helped to feed and care for elephants, as well as learn about their diagnoses alongside an elephant vet. The Elephant Nature Park is also home to over 1,000 animals, including cats, dogs, water buffalo, horses, and cows, and is sustained in huge part by the work of weekly volunteers like Hannah.

For the other week, Hannah learned from teaching veterinarians at the Dog Rescue Clinic in Chiang Mai, Thailand. While she studied under the veterinarians leading her group, Hannah and her team made a difference in the lives of local dogs. By providing check-ups and

cleanings, diagnosing and treating ear and eye problems, taking and testing blood, administering vaccines, cleaning and treating wounds, and helping with sterilization surgeries, the students were able to help support the health and well-being of these dogs while furthering their career goals.

Loop Abroad is the largest pre-veterinary study abroad program in the United States, hosting students in 9 countries on 6 continents throughout the year. Programs range from two weeks in summer to a full semester abroad, and college credit is available through the University of Findlay. Since 2009, Loop Abroad has specialized in pre-veterinary programs and helped students all over the world to pursue their dreams of a veterinary career. Interested participants can inquire or apply at www.LoopAbroad.com. Admission to veterinary programs is selec-

tive and Hannah was selected based on her transcript, admissions essay, and professional references.

By following a study abroad model instead of a voluntourism model, Loop focuses on educating its students so that they can contribute and serve in meaningful ways. It also works with locally run animal welfare organizations so that students contribute to long-term improvement on the ground in the countries they visit. With programs around the globe, Loop Abroad is able to support animal welfare and conservation around the world because of its students and their dedication to helping animals in need.

The program's Managing Director Jane Stine says, "Our students are really an amazing group of people. They are compassionate, flexible, driven, and dedicated, and it is always a wonderful experience."

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Charlene Robin Vance
Robin@VanceLaw.org



615-237-9338
www.VanceLaw.org



224 West Main Street
Watertown, TN 37184

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ience to host them on their study abroad experience. I'm so proud of what they learn each year and the hard work that they do, and that this program allows us to provide important support to so many essential conservation programs around the world."

Of her trip, Hannah says, "This trip was

academically and culturally important. I gained experience in the veterinary field working with shelter dogs, and elephants. I've never thought I would be working with elephants. Never doubt your self and try new things!."

Hannah is a Sophomore at The University of Tennessee at Martin in Martin, TN, majoring in Pre-Veterinary medicine. See her photo on Page 20!

Fiddlers Grove Historic Village Celebrates Neddy Jacobs Heritage Day-"Music Fest"

Most local people have heard of Neddy Jacobs and have seen the replica of his log cabin on the square. When Fiddlers Grove was seeking a name for their annual fundraiser and music festival, they settled on the name Neddy Jacobs Days since the Grove was named for him. It seemed like a fitting title. This year's Neddy Jacobs Heritage Day-"Music Fest", will be Saturday, July 22, 2023 from 9:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m. We will have

music at four locations. You can enjoy a little vendor shopping while the kids get face painting in the cool air conditioned future Music Museum. If you get hungry stop by the General Store for our Signature Bologna sandwich on sourdough bread. For a delight to cool you off, get an ice cream soda or sundae at the General Store. Admission is \$10.00 for adults and 10 and under are free. For more information call 615-547-6111.

**Fiddlers Grove Historic Village
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

NEDDY JACOBS HERITAGE DAY "MUSIC FEST"





**JULY 22, 2023
9AM - 2PM**

DON'T MISS IT...10+ MUSIC ACTS ON 4 STAGES

LOCAL ARTISTS INCLUDE:

- Teea Goans
- Olivia West & Compass Rose
- Old Friends New Friends
- Jam session hosted by John Parrott
- Ty Gregory
- The Luggnuts
- Hard Redemption
- Bethany Luttrell
- Watertown Community Choir
- Marv & Cheri Williams w/Brian Anderson
- Fiddlers Grove Music Group w/Kevin Smith

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For Lodge Information-
Freddie Rivera- (615) 430-8824
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Stated Meeting 7:00 p.m. 2nd Tuesday of Each Month
Masonic Building 122 East Main St Watertown, TN

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