



Parks & Recreation

The magic of moonlight cast a special glow on some new Parks and Recreation programs. Runners from a 90-mile radius headed to Northeast Park after the hot August sun had set to compete in the first-ever “Meridian Moonlight Run.” More than 130 enthusiasts participated in the 5K run, two-mile walk and a “Kids’ Fun Run” that took advantage of the lighting around the entire park area.

Moonlight also bathed the Meridian Symphony League’s first “Night Golf Tournament” at Lakeview Golf Course. This unusual event requires glow-in-the-dark balls and tee markers as well as plenty of flashlights. The first nine holes are played in daylight, followed by a dinner, then the final nine are played in the dark.

Of the many classes offered at the Senior Citizens Center, pine needle baskets and decorations were a big hit last year, along with perennial favorites stained glass and ceramics. A full month of activities in May marked our annual celebration of Senior Citizens Month, focusing on the resources our seniors bring to the community.

Youth programs and athletic leagues continued to grow. Nearly 100 youngsters enjoyed the Velma Young Center’s “Super Summer Shenanigans” that included arts and crafts, skating, bowling, swimming and field trips. Camp High



Opposite page: Attention to detail is important to budding craftsmen at the Senior Citizens Center; above: A blur of runners is captured at the first-ever Meridian Moonlight Run; below: Sliding into base adds to the excitement of Parks and Recreation sports programs; and below right: A young fisherman enjoys going for the big one at the annual Fishing Rodeo.

Hopes, the six-week, summer day camp for mentally and physically challenged children, added a new adaptive swimming program. Also at Highland Park, more than 400 children participated in Red Cross-certified swimming lessons.

A new addition to our adult athletic program is a church league division in the softball program at the Sammie Davidson Complex. In the past, church teams were mixed in with various other leagues, but the growing number of church teams sparked the need for a separate league.

The Rush Classic Soccer Tournament and several other big sporting events during the year showcased the hard work and constant vigilance of the grounds maintenance staff, which keeps our parks, fields and other facilities in top shape throughout the year.

