

The Key to one of the Top Five burgers in Rankin County



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Key family is celebrating its tenth anniversary of their store/restaurant in December. All of the Keys help out at the Cross Roads Store & Grill, even the younger ones are asking to help. Pictured (l to r), front row, are: Aubriana Key, Kessie Key, Bailey Key, Brooks Garletts, Diana Key, and Tommy Key; and second row: Kalai, Thomas, and Drake Key, Collins, Austin, Olivia Key, and Leilani and Dwight Garletts.

By Susie A. Wolfe

"The Lord really blessed us," said Tommy Key, as he described how he prayed at the door of a building for sale on Highway 43 in the Cross Roads Community. "We asked for guidance and feel we had the go-ahead. We are so honored to have the support of the community."

Diana Key quit her job as an office manager at JBHM Architects in Jackson, where she had worked for 12 years, to run Cross Roads Store & Grill in Pelahatchie. She used her talent at making specialty cakes as well as cooking, and Tommy now cooks, too, and is in charge of the annual crawfish they offer. They also offer some groceries as it's at least 5 miles to any of the surrounding towns.

Diana said that the restaurant took off fast and is now 90% of their business. They doubled the seating in 2017 and offered covered dining outside, too. She said they are so thankful for their loyal customers who regularly eat lunch and

dinner. She appreciates that customers were patient during COVID, when they altered their business to make adjustments for carry outs.

She said that being nominated and making it to the Top 5 in the Best Burger category of Rankin's Best of the Best is a big thing for them. It coincides with the store's tenth anniversary, for which they are offering ten percent off all burgers during their anniversary week of December 6-11.

They said it is easy to remember the store's anniversary, as their granddaughter Bailey was born around that time. All the family is involved with the business: their sons, Austin and Drake, and daughter, Leilani, and their spouses, plus the grandchildren, Bailey, Olivia, Thomas, Aubriana, Brooks, and Collins.

If you haven't tried the homemade, hand-pattied hamburger at Cross Roads Store & Grill, it's time to try one of the top burgers around.

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