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FOR THE HOLIDAYS 2019

A young child with light brown hair, wearing a red and black plaid shirt and dark pants, is reaching up to touch a small white and red berry decoration on a Christmas tree. The tree is decorated with white snow, pinecones, and plaid ornaments. The tree is in a red wooden crate that has text on it. In the background, there is a white wooden bench with a plaid cushion and a black reindeer decoration.

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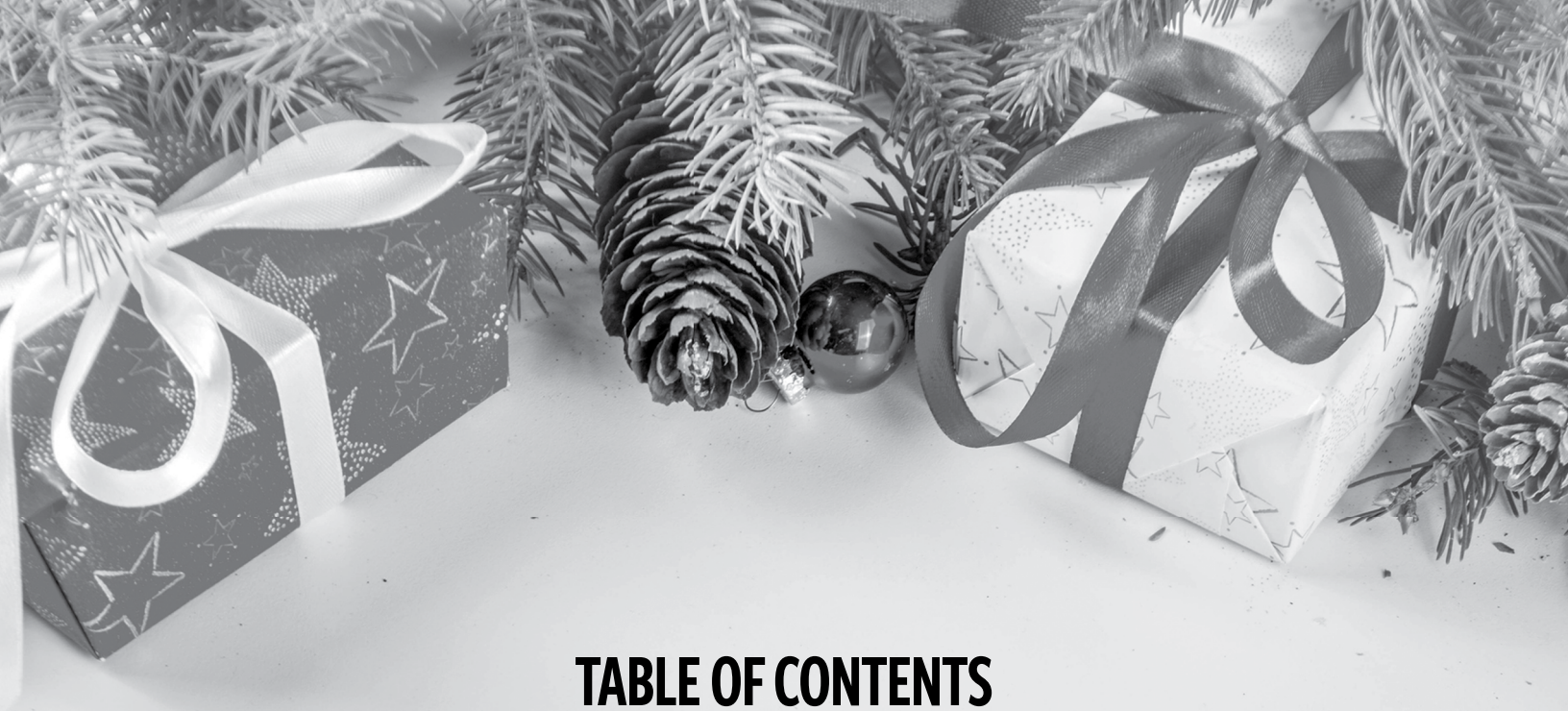


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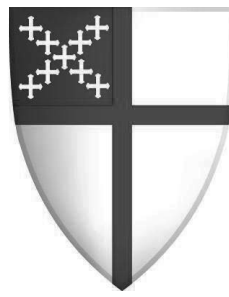
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How do you not have a grateful and joyous feeling this time of year? From the Downtown Paris Candlelight Open Houses and Festival of Trees, to the North Pole Family Fun Day and the Holly Jolly Electric Parade, to Santa's last day in his gingerbread house, our town really gets in the holiday spirit.

And to help our readers, **PARIS!** is here to cover all the great things happening in our community. Even Santa Claus himself found time from making toys to write a story about all the fun events in Downtown Paris during the season. Another guest write, Lilly Geary, passes along advice to pet owners for a less pet-stressful holiday. Travis McLeese provides a guide to party venues, places to relax, and shop local ideas in his article.

Arthur and Mary Lodge along with other local ministers share their fond Christmas memories, and Bill Neese recalls his first toy train set under the tree. The delightful smell of cakes baking brings back remembrances and brightens the spirit this time of the year in Paris Cuisine! Yum!

In other articles, Shannon McFarlin introduces us to the new Madrigals director, Deanna Cook, an alumni of

the program herself. Susan Jones says, "Birds of a feather flock together" and so do bird watchers coming to Wings of Winter Birding Festival. John Watkins is re-gifting some of his holiday poetry for us.

Barry Hart reflects on going back to Vietnam with his son, Nathan, and to the battlefields of his youth. Larry Ray pens his 40th article for **PARIS!** about Asa Cox and his importances to the Battle of Paris. Shannon also has a story about Andrew Jackson visiting the Carter House in Paris.

Yes, **PARIS!** is packed like a present from Santa! Our staff wishes you and yours a Grateful Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

Smantha



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On The Cover

Little Demi Jo Dyer, daughter of Savanna and Jon Dyer of Paris, discovers the wonders of Christmas in this cover photo by Amy Bourne.

Henry County and the Lake Area

PARIS!

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West Tennessee Printing, Paris, TN

PARIS! is published five times annually by Parker Publishing for Paris, Tennessee and the surrounding communities.

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All subscriptions, advertising inquiries, remittances or reader inquiries should be made to the editor:

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This magazine accepts no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, photography or artwork. All submissions may be edited for length, clarity and style.



BACK IN THE DAY

THE CHRISTMAS TRAIN

“Billy, Stop Blowing That Whistle!”

BY BILL NEESE

Bill Neese is a local attorney, a sportsman, a youth shooting team coach and a grandfather. He began writing stories about his family, work, community and coming of age in the South. While composed primarily for his grandsons, his hope is “that these little stories will bring a smile to those who might read them.”

I think most little boys like trains. Those who do, also like electric trains. For those of you who got an electric train set for Christmas, my bet is that you have a clear memory of that train set no matter how many years ago you received it. I do.

While most kids have at least a passing interest in electric trains, some are truly fascinated by them and can spend hours building elaborate train yards and routes, if only in their minds.

To really build a train set, it takes space, permanence and patient parents. I had a pretty strong interest as a kid but lacked the space and permanent location. I clearly remember my train set, seeing it there on Christmas morning. It was a Lionel steamer and a wonder to behold. I got many hours

of joy out of that train. I hauled freight and passengers from coast to coast, fought off robbers and delivered the mail, interrupted by an occasional, “Billy, stop blowing that whistle!”

I loved real trains, too. My grandfather was a railroad man, and I traveled by train often. It turns out that I am a real lightweight when it comes to trains compared to my two grandsons. They know every part of the locomotives and cars, switches and signals. They will play with trains for hours, and their imaginations are vivid.

So, to you grandparents out there, it won't come as a surprise to learn that I have electric trains – lots of electric trains, all kinds of electric trains and accessories, bridges, tunnels, depots, cargo, you name it. It frankly borders

on insanity. What was once my study is now “Granddaddy’s Train Room.” And now that we have the equipment, we are starting to build the railroads!

Oh well, the time I spend with my grandsons is precious and my experience tells me there are a lot worse ways to spend one’s second childhood.

A friend of ours had this hobby for years and decided to get out and pursue other interests. When she saw how the boys loved the trains and how much they knew about them, she made me a deal I couldn’t refuse.

My Christmas shopping is done for a few years, my spare time filled, and now I need to find an expert in train wiring ’cause it’s not that easy the way the boys want to do it. Yes, we still hear, “Billy, y’all stop blowing those

whistles!” It’s a lot more fun this time around and I wouldn’t miss it for the world. Come to think, it wasn’t bad the first time around.

I can’t remember a more exciting Christmas morning than when I was seven and woke up to see that Lionel train set in the middle of my grandparents’ living room. I was there for the day. Nothing, not even my grandmother’s cakes and pies, could pull me away from the train set.

I told my grandsons that my train was lost in a fire, yet every time they see the photo, they ask what happened to the train. They believe, but do not really comprehend, that the little boy lying in the floor in front of the Christmas tree with his electric train is Granddaddy.

That photograph was taken on Christmas morning in 1953 and it seems like yesterday. Someday, they will come to understand generations, age, and the passage of time, but there is no hurry. They will be sharing trains with their grandkids so unbelievably soon, God willing.



“My two grandsons...know every part of the locomotives and cars, switches and signals. They will play with trains for hours, and their imaginations are vivid.”

Happy Holidays

FROM

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Downtown Holiday Fun

BY SANTA CLAUS

I recently unpacked my jolly red suit in anticipation of my upcoming trip to the warmest little gingerbread house on the Courthouse Square in Paris. I slipped it on – or tried – and it looks like I ate a too many cookies this year. Ho, Ho, Ho! Mama's going to have to let it out a little more.

Mrs. Claus and I love our Tennessee Christmas; there's so much to see and do! It goes without saying that I love visiting with all the kiddos. They're always polite and excited to see me and Mrs. Claus. Christmas in Paris has become a tradition for us that we treasure.

Last year, I made a list (and checked it twice) of what my little fans enjoyed. In the spirit of the season, I'm going to share it so you won't miss a thing. Oh, and you don't have to be young to enjoy these events, just young at heart.

NORTH POLE FAMILY FUN DAY

North Pole Family Fun Day is so much fun that I even give Rudolph and some elves time off to come play. After we roll in on the big, red fire truck you can visit with me and then enjoy the 4-H craft tables, pet cool farm animals, ride a train that travels through town, and much more! Plus have your picture made with me!

When: Friday, November 29, 10 am – 2 pm. **Where:** Downtown Paris; **Sponsored by DPA. Cost:** FREE!

And here's a tip from old Santa, if the wait to see me is just too long, enjoy other activities until the line goes down a bit.

Remember, I'm in my house November 30 – December 22; Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Sundays 2 – 4 pm.

ELF ON A SHELF

I'm not sure how that little mischievous elf got to Tennessee from the North Pole, but you can see her live and even have your picture made with her for free.

When: Saturday, November 30, 10 am – 2 pm. **Where:** Lura Lee's Gift Shoppe, just off the Court Square. **Cost:** FREE!

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CLASS

Get ready for the big Gingerbread House Competition or simply make a sweet centerpiece for your coffee table. The library provides everything you need! I wonder if Mama Claus could make me one.

When: Tuesday, December 3, 5-7 pm. **Where:** W.G. Rhea Library. **Sponsored by Friends of the Library. Cost:** FREE! but pre-registration required. Call 642-1702.

SHOPPING, SWEETS & HOLIDAY BAZAAR

I love buying locally made pottery, jewelry, paintings and stained glass at this event, plus they have tasty holiday snacks. Visit phcarts.com for information.

When: Saturday, December 7, 9 am – 4 pm. **Where:** Lee Academy for the Arts. **Sponsored by Lee Academy for the Arts and Paris-Henry County Arts Council. Cost:** FREE!

FESTIVAL OF TREES

I hate to admit it, but I always shed a snowflake tear or two at this event because it's so beautiful and it warms my heart to see all the effort everyone puts forth. The people of Henry County are so creative; I can't wait to see which tree wins!

When: November 26 – December 18 (Monday-Friday, 11 am – 4 pm; Saturday, 10 am – 2 pm; Sunday, 1–4 pm). **Where:** The Old Paris 5 & 10 Event Center. **Sponsored by DPA. Cost:** \$1.00 donation.

DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

If you've never had a real fireman cook you a s'more, here's your chance! If you've never petted a live reindeer goat, here's your chance! Taken a horse drawn carriage ride through downtown?



Look at all these fun activities you and your family can see and do during the holidays in Downtown Paris!

Here's your chance! Rudolph, the elves, Mrs. Claus and I will be there along with crafts, Christmas stories at Jack's Java, face painting, and so much more!

When: Saturday, December 14, 3 - 5 pm. **Where:** Downtown Paris. **Sponsored by DPA. Cost: FREE!**

HOLLY JOLLY ELECTRIC CHRISTMAS PARADE

Your little town is beautiful, but during the Electric Parade, it's almost prettier than the North Pole. Come share the magic as the Marching Patriot Band leads festive floats, boats

and golf carts adorned with millions of lights through downtown.

When: Saturday, December 14, 5 pm. **Where:** Downtown Paris. **Sponsored by DPA. Cost: FREE!**

POLAR EXPRESS

All Aboard! Take a train that lights up the night! Come and watch the movie *The Polar Express*. Enjoy games, snacks, crafts and a visit with a special guest...me!

When: Saturday, December 13, 5:30 - 7:30 pm. **Where:** W.G. Rhea Library. **Sponsored by Friends of the Library. Cost: FREE!**

LAST CHANCE TO SEE SANTA

It's time for us to head back to the North Pole. I sure hope those elves have gotten all the toys made!

When: Saturday, December 21, 10 am - 2 pm; Sunday, December 22, 2 - 4 pm. **Where:** Downtown Paris. **Sponsored by DPA. Cost: FREE!**

Editor's Note:

If you see Kathy Ray at these events, be sure to give her a hug and a big "thank you" for all her hard work and planning that went into making these wonderful memories. Thanks, Kathy! Santa has you on the "Nice" list.

WE WISH YOU A VERY

Happy Holiday Season

AND A

Peaceful and Prosperous New Year!



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THE STUDENT BECOMES THE TEACHER

BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

It takes a great deal of talent, time and toil. Being a member of the Henry County High School Madrigals is hard work, plain and simple. But it's also rewarding, and over the years, it has become a chosen destination for many music-minded students.

The current Madrigals' Director Deanna Cook knows how that feels. She was once one of those students who longed to be a member of the revered group. In fact, she's now the first Madrigals' director who was a former student member.

"I always loved singing," she said. "I was in the choir in school, sang in church, and I looked to the Madrigals when I was growing up. I always hoped to get in The Madrigals one day."

But it never crossed her mind she might be leading the group herself in the future. As director, she's had an impressive legacy to follow. The Madrigal Singers were founded by Linda Sykes, followed by Kenneth Humphreys, Jeremy O'Neal, and Blair Chadwick, all of whom were exacting musical directors.

Cook remembers the audition process to become a Madrigal member as

"nerve-racking. Just to pursue it took a lot of work. It involved a solo aria, singing in a different language, group singing, sight reading, and all that. I had never sung an aria before. But the Madrigals had such a reputation. Only so many are chosen, and it was something I wanted."

For Cook, the fun of The Madrigals was "being able to sing as a group and to sing with other people whose primary passion is music. It's more of an advanced group and you get to sing all the time. Also, you get to be a part of the community, with all the appearances the group makes."

After Cook graduated from Henry County High School in 2013, she earned her degree from Union University. "I knew I wanted to do something involving music, but I wasn't sure what that would look like."

Yet she never considered that she would return to be The Madrigals' director one day. "I never thought that would be what would happen," she said. "Never, never. But I'm loving it!"

The Madrigals was the brainchild of Linda Sykes, who is quick to remind

people that the original name of the group was The Madrigal Singers.

"Over the years it's been shortened to The Madrigals, which isn't really the proper name for it," Sykes said. "A madrigal is a style of music. That's why the group was named The Madrigal Singers."

Sykes said she grew up in the country where she couldn't be as involved in the extracurricular activities at school as a youngster. She was "passionate about music" and wanted all students to be exposed to music as part of the curriculum.

As Henry County High School was opening in 1969, Sykes went to Principal Underwood "and sold him on the idea that they needed to hire a full-time choral director" and she was hired for that position.

In college, Sykes had been part of an Acapella ensemble that had performed Madrigal-type music, and she was interested in establishing that at Henry County High School. "Within two months, people started calling the school asking us to perform at their group meetings," Sykes said.



Past and present directors for The Madrigal Singers, left to right: Linda Sykes, Kenneth Humphreys, Jeremy O'Neil, and Deanna Cook.

In a few years, The Madrigal Singers were included in the curriculum and students began receiving a credit for it. "Our class was over the lunch period, and the Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs started wanting us to sing at their meetings. That was during our class time and it really worked out well for us. That's really how we got going."

She remembered having 28 performances between Thanksgiving and the Christmas break in one of those early years "and we really hit the ground running."

Sykes quit her choral position to begin raising a family and Kenneth Humphreys became the second director. "He had been in the chorus but wasn't in The Madrigal Singers when he was in high school, but he learned quickly as director," she said.

Sykes praises Deanna Cook, noting, "She's the first female director since I was there. I'm really proud for her. She's really good."

Sykes worked in education for 30 years altogether. After she returned, she taught music at the elementary levels at Atkins-Porter, Inman, Paris

Elementary and was "really hands-on. I pushed pianos in and out of a lot of classrooms and I liked to dance and sing with the kids. I really loved it."

Despite how much hard work is involved, Sykes said The Madrigal Singers became popular for students "pretty much immediately. It didn't take long for us to build up a reputation and that reputation continues today."

The group will be busy over the Christmas season with the following events scheduled so far:

- December 3 – McDonald's Burger Bash
- December 4 – Sulphur Well Church of Christ, 7 pm
- December 8 – Maplewood Baptist Church, 6 pm
- December 9 – HCHS Christmas Choral Concert
- December 11 – First United Methodist Church, 6 pm
- December 14 – Christmas with the Madrigals with Madrigal Pals, 7 pm
- The annual appearance at the Festival of Gold, April 4, 2020, in Chicago



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FOND CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

by Local Ministers



BY ARTHUR AND MARY LODGE

For ministers and those who work in the church, the season of Advent and Christmas are a blessed time of the year and an exhausting time, too. But most will tell you the blessings and revelations far outweigh any secular gift they might receive. A few local ministers share with PARIS! some meaningful remembrances from their past.

REV. ARTHUR LODGE

For those in the ministry, Christmas is the busiest time of the year. Many churches prepare for the coming of Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem with Advent. Advent is observed for four Sundays before Christmas as a preparation for the celebration of the nativity of Jesus. The term is a version of the Latin word meaning “coming”.

The Season of Advent is a beautiful time of the year as we decorated our church immediately after Thanksgiving. Volunteers would erect the giant Christmas tree in the front of the

church and decorate it with Chrismon ornaments made by the congregation. “ancient symbols for Christ or some part of Christ’s ministry: the dove descending down, fish, Celtic cross, Jerusalem cross, shepherd’s crook, chalice, shell, and others.”

The Advent Wreath is placed in front of the sanctuary with four volunteers needed to light a candle each Sunday. There is always a children’s Nativity play with kids dressed as shepherds, wise men, and naturally a sheep or two. If the pastor is fortunate, they are given a Sunday off from preaching for a cantata. Every church has parties for the various Sunday school classes as well as a Christmas Eve candlelight service.

When I first came to First Presbyterian Church in Paris as their pastor, the first few Christmas seasons were a whirlwind of activities as everything was new to me. Like most pastor’s, the busyness of the season had seriously drained my energy, and the children

would be up early awaiting the visit of Santa with gifts the next day.

One member had told me how well I had handled all the activities of the church as a novice. “But,” he jokingly said, “with your connection up above, it would be nice if we could get snow on Christmas Eve. That would be perfect.”

We both laughed at the absurdity of snow on Christmas Eve, especially in west Tennessee.

On Christmas Eve, the Christ Candle was lit in the Advent Wreath, the choir had performed exceedingly well, the darkened sanctuary was lit with candles held by the congregation, and the benediction given.

I walked to the front doors as the postlude was sung and opened the doors. My mouth dropped open in surprise; snow was gently coming down forming a fine mist clouding the streetlights of Paris that evening. I was thankful for God’s touch on an exhausted greenhorn pastor.

THE REVEREND JOHN DANDRIDGE

The Reverend John Dandridge, pastor of Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church has a similar story from a service on Christmas day in 2015. A member of the church, Thomas McWherter, brought forward to the platform six vintage owned Bibles after a “stirring worship and praise service” and presented them to Rev. Dandridge.

McWherter wished these precious Bibles be placed in the library of the church. As Rev. Dandridge remembers, “What is not a better day than today to bring gifts than when we in Christendom celebrate Jesus the Christ’s birth. No less gift to give than the Word of God.”

REV. JOY WEATHERSBEE

Amongst the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, some stop and remember their favorite Christmas. The Reverend Joy Weathersbee of Paris First United Methodist Church did just that. She remembers Moon shoes were at the top of her wish list when she was eight years old. Her youthful

fantasy was to catapult over the top of her house, like the animated kids on the TV commercial.

On Christmas morning, there they were – her very own Moon shoes. A shoe consisted two bright red shoe sole-shaped pieces of metal with two heavy duty springs sandwiched in between. On the top side were leather straps that held one’s tennis shoes firmly against the red metal.

Within seconds, she was standing three inches taller wearing those giant springed platforms. Carefully, she navigated her backyard with a literal bounce in her step. She jumped hard to discover she could not clear more than a few inches.

Weathersbee wore them a couple more times before they ended up back in their box on the shelf in her bedroom closet.

She says, “the reality of Moon shoes fell far short of delivering my much anticipated high jump, but the dream unrealized became a formative experience. Just because something looks great in a commercial, doesn’t necessarily mean it will deliver.

Rev. Weathersbee now understands that “the joy one experiences from any gift received is the love of the giver that the gift represents.”

REV. PAMELA HUGHES

Five years ago, the theme for a memorable Christmas at Lakeside Christian Fellowship in Pairs was “We Have Come to Worship Him.” (Matthew 2:3)

Rev. Pamela Hughes, the church’s pastor, recalls the service was beautifully illustrated by the children’s leaders and children who had hosted a play of the Nativity.

The children had delivered the “truest treasures” from their hearts expressing their simple pleasure of the coming of Christ.

She remembers the presentation was such a joy in the journey of our walk with Christ as there was laughter and tears for the congregation as the story was told.

The Rev. Hughes quoted C.S.Lewis, “Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work.”



PASTOR JIMMY CARTER

For Jim Carter, minister of New Hope and Wiley Chapel United Methodist Churches, and his wife, Shari, Christmas is their favorite holiday of the year.

"My wife and I, relish in the fact that people are always loving and caring much more during the Christmas holiday," Carter said. "The hustle, bustle, laughter and anticipation of children everywhere is a beautiful site. The sounds of Christmas music, smell of food baking, love for all humankind, and crispness in the air gives the heart a warm feeling."

Just like most people, the Carters love giving and receiving gifts. However, he encourages and reminds everybody not to put too much of their efforts behind giving gifts. "None of us want to miss the blessing of receiving the greatest gift of all."

"When the world realizes the importance of the greatest gift we get at Christmas, I think the commercial part will lose its meaning," Carter said. "Instead of so much emphasis being placed on what we give, we will come



to the realization of what is given to us. Second Corinthians 9:15 states, *'Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.'* We will realize that Jesus is, indeed, the reason for the Season. We will realize that Jesus is the unspeakable gift. Furthermore, we will realize that Christ is the greatest gift we will ever know."

PASTOR STEVE GALLIMORE

Steve Gallimore, senior pastor at Tennessee Valley Community Church, a reflection on a familiar saying sparked his Christmas memories.

"I know...the saying has been around awhile, yet no longer than its truth: 'What an amazing season it is that draws people together like no other'," Gallimore said.

"A few years ago, several of our TVCC folks were clamoring for a

Christmas Eve service. However, with so much going on already, I had resisted the idea of 'just one more thing' on top of all that was already going on with the busyness and over-stuffed schedules of the Season. But I finally relented and decided to give it a try," Gallimore recalled.

"480 seats were filled with more than 700 people! I learned a valuable truth that day," Gallimore said. "People really do want to pause from the hectic pace of what we all enjoy so much and simply do as our Father said, *'Be still and know that I am God'* (Psalm 46:10.) In that moment, the Wisdom of the ages whispered to us once more, *'For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord'* (Luke 2:11)."

Truly, the wise seek Him still!

This Christmas, amidst all the caroling, gifts, covered dish dinners, Christmas trees, and Nativity plays, stop to thank a pastor for shepherding through the church's myriad of activities. They are just a conduit of the gift of Christmas and bring it to you with love.



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Merry Christmas!

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CHRISTMAS!

Get By With A Little Help From Your Friends

BY TRAVIS MCLEESE

Looking for somewhere to host your holiday party, family reunion, or simply somewhere to escape? Check out a few local destinations that are perfect for any occasion.

HOLIDAY PARTIES

Want to get your friends, coworkers, and family together for a holiday party, but don't want the hassle and stress of planning, shopping, cooking, cleaning... and the list goes on? Let our friends help!

From the upstairs of Stella Nera, to the back room at Moustos, to Soldier Field at Ace's, most of our Chamber members in the restaurant business have rooms that can be reserved for your event. Tom's Restaurant, Perry's BBQ, Blue's Landing, and The House also have private rooms.

Looking for a more personal touch? Uncle Billy's, Mockingbird Catering, Olive Pit and Perry's will all cater to your home for the holidays. Also, Trolinger's is a great place to pick up meat to feed your whole crew.

BIG GROUPS

If you are looking for a space large enough for the entire office, or the extended family, we have friends who can help with that too!

In downtown Paris, our friends at the 5 and 10 Event Center have graciously allowed the Downtown Paris Association to book the Festival of Trees in their space during the end of November through the month of December. It will be available during the New Year party season.

A Paris staple for years, the Paris Convention Center at the Quality Inn offers a variety of room sizes and can be set up to fit your needs. Don't forget about the Paris Winery! They have options, too.

I recently made a visit to a new destination in Paris, the Sandy Creek Event Center. Wow! It will quickly become a top destination for weddings and big events in the West Tennessee Region. With a variety of booking options, overnight accommodations, and breathtaking views, this opportunity is sure to impress your guests.

ESCAPE ZONES

When the house gets crowded and the honey-do list gets long, escape to three of my favorite places.

For a cup of coffee, a smoothie, and more, visit Jack's Java in our beautiful downtown Paris! The backdrop is set perfectly for a Hallmark movie. Stop in and let Jennifer and her staff treat you to some holiday hospitality.

Needing the kids to tag along? Go to Sweet Jordan's and get more than you bargained for. Not only will you find homemade ice cream, a warm cup of coffee, baked goods, and an indoor play area, you will find a team ready to brighten your day. Jordan St. John and his staff of special needs adults have created a unique atmosphere that will get you in the holiday spirit.

How about some adult time? Go spend the afternoon with Randall Perry and Jonathan Lodge at Perrylodgic Brewing on Hwy 79. Their authentic, family-friendly atmosphere, combined with locally brewed beers and a unique menu, makes this destination a go to for a relaxing afternoon.



Sandy Creek Event Center is a new venue for weddings and big events in West Tennessee. It has a variety of booking options and overnight lodging for holiday parties and guests.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING TIP

For years, I have felt guilty buying gift cards for people during the Christmas season. Don't be fooled; people love gift cards. After all, who doesn't love a free meal? Gift cards to our local businesses are a great way to support our local economy.

Shopping local and keeping your money in our local economy is crucial to the growth and success of our community. Not only are you supporting business owners, your tax revenue supports our community infrastructure. So, do it. It's simple... and don't forget, most local businesses offer complimentary gift wrapping. If nothing else, that's a great reason to ring those registers.

RIGHT:

Downtown merchants display the holiday spirit with their merchandise. Shop local!

PREVIOUS PAGE:

Left: The 5 and 10 Event Center is available for the New Year's party season.

Right: Escape to Jack's Java for a holiday reprise.



Merry Christmas

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WHY I HATE THE HOLIDAYS

Advice from a Nervous Little Dog

BY LILLY GEARY

Hi, this is Lilly. My human, Karen, tappy-taps on that blasted computer-thingy of hers, paying absolutely no attention to me when she is working on PARIS! Magazine. I told her to let me have a crack at writing a story for this holiday issue. She replied, “OK, Smarty...have at it.”

So here I am, telling you humans what it’s really like for your pets at the holidays. *I must say, this writing thing is a bit harder than I thought. My little paws can barely reach the keyboard.*

THE HOLIDAYS ARE SCARY

People coming and going, strangers, different smells, the doorbell ringing, the guy in the big, brown truck – BARK, BARK, BARK! Get the idea.

All this commotion can be scary for your four-legged family members. We don’t mean to get overexcited, but when we do, it’s best to find us a quiet place to rest and have our favorite chewy toy. I like my crate, my sleepy-time place. My human puts it in a quiet room with some holiday tunes playing. As long as the other humans leave me alone, I will doze off and be more sociable later.

If the humans are really busy, it may be better to let your pet go the “spa” for the day. That’s what my human calls it, but it’s really doggie daycare at a boarding place or the veterinarian. Sometimes, I spend the night with the other dogs and we have a great time having a bark fest and slumber party.

Another scary thing is people coming in and out of the door. The humans are distracted, not checking to see if their pets ran outdoors. Or their pets are escape artists when they’re excited. Whether playing or frightened, the last thing a human wants at the holidays is a lost pet.

So humans, make sure your pet has proper identification tags on their collar or harness. Better yet, have your dog or cat microchipped by your veterinarian and make sure to keep its registration up to date. Tags and the microchip could help bring your pet home for the holidays.

OH, MY ACHY TUMMY

Turkey, ham, sausage balls, veggies, and GRAVY...*oh, I’m drooling just thinking about it.* But if you want your animal to stay healthy during the holidays, stick to its regular diet. Don’t let those

sad, puppy eyes affect you; stay strong! *Maybe a little kibble of turkey. Shh!...don’t tell, Mom.*

Be sure to secure bones from the Thanksgiving turkey carcass or Christmas ham because they can be a choking hazard. As soon as the meal is finished, put all bones in the trash and make sure the lid is tightly fastened.

Certain foods can be downright dangerous to your dog or cat. Xylitol, a common artificial sweetener in candy, gum and diet foods, is a toxic substance for animals and can cause hypoglycemia, seizures, liver failure, and in some cases, death. If you are not sure what the harmful “people foods” are, visit www.aspc.org or consult with your veterinarian.

Some favorite human holiday decorations around the house – holly and mistletoe – are poisonous to dogs and cats. Keep those out of reach from your pets. And those pretty Poinsettias can cause nausea and vomiting, if eaten. Nobody wants to clean that up when there’s a house full of company!

WHY IS THERE A TREE IN THE HOUSE?

The humans say it’s a tradition to have a Christmas tree in the home, but

do you know what I see? PLAYLAND! Something to crawl under. Something with dangling lights to swat or chew. My personal favorite game with the Christmas tree is to grab the shiny balls in my mouth, run through the house, and play “catch me if you can.”

And male dogs, well, don’t even ask what they can do to a freshly cut tree. How rude!

If you have kitty friends like I do (Chinny, Brillo, Barlow, and that mean ol’ nose-swatting Kit Kat), think about putting your Christmas tree in a corner and wiring it tightly to a curtain rod. Cats just love climbing right up the middle of those beautifully decorated trees and tipping them over. If that isn’t an option, try some type of barrier

around it. This works for the “human puppies,” too.

Be wary of the life-extending chemicals or aspirin in the Christmas tree’s water. If drank, the liquid is poisonous to your cats and dogs.

Dogs eat crazy things. We don’t care – if it looks good, smells good, taste good, we’re eating it! But be careful with Christmas tinsel, wrapping paper, ribbon, pine needles, glass ornaments, hooks, and lights. Any of these things can be eaten, causing discomfort or worse.

Popcorn strings, berries, bread dough ornaments, and cookies for Santa are just an invitation for munching and getting into pet trouble.

So, humans, that’s my advice for a



less pet-stressful holiday. Have a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas and remember during the holidays to relax, sit in front of the cozy fireplace, curled up with your favorite fur pal, and take time to remember the real “Reason for the Season.”

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Holiday Cakes

BY SMANTHA PARKER

It seems there is always a story behind every cake. Well, at least for the ones I make. I consider myself a better baker than cook, but sometimes I'm faced with density problems, bubbles, peaks, or sunken middles. I'm still trying to forget the times I've forgotten to grease the pan and dealing with cake crumbling while

trying to remove it from the pan. However, I've had a few successes.

One of these was the cake I made for my daughter's first birthday which was on Thanksgiving. We had a simple party with homemade decorations and toddler-friendly food. I spent most of the time making her rainbow cake. It's basically just a white cake with cream

cheese icing. I used different food colorings for each layer and baked them separately. Once cooled, I trimmed the peaks so the layers would lie flat, then I stacked, frosted and stacked again. It was really simple, but just took a bit longer to prepare. There wasn't a slice left! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Hummingbird Cake

- 2 cups plain flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 teaspoon butter flavoring
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup oil
- 1 8-ounce can crushed pineapple with juice
- 2 medium bananas, chopped

Mix above ingredients by hand. Bake in a 9x13-inch pan or round pans for a layer cake at 350 degrees until done, about 60 minutes or until golden brown.

ICING

- 3 ounces cream cheese, softened
- ½ stick butter, softened
- 2 cups confectioner's sugar
- ½ cup chopped nuts

Mix cream cheese and butter in a mixing bowl; add confectioner's sugar and blend till smooth. Add chopped nuts and stir. Pour over warm cake when it comes out of oven, or cool cake completely and put on cake.



Popcorn Cake

- 1 16-ounce package regular marshmallows
- ½ stick butter or margarine
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 16 cups popped buttered popcorn
- 1 can (12 oz.) salted peanuts
- ½ cup candy mini-chocolate chips

Optional but good:

Teddy Grahams, M&Ms

In large saucepan over medium heat, combine marshmallows, butter and oil; stir constantly until marshmallows are melted. Place popcorn, candies and peanuts in large bowl; stir in marshmallow mixture. Press popcorn mixture into a greased 10-inch tube or bundt pan, pack firmly. Let set for 30 minutes.

Turtle Cake

1 cup chocolate chips
2 cups pecans
3/4 cup melted butter
1/2 cup evaporated milk
1 14-ounce bag caramels
1 1/3 cups water
1/3 cup oil
3 eggs
1 18-ounce box German chocolate cake mix



First step to prepare this recipe is to use directions to prepare cake mix. Pour half the batter in a 13x9-inch pan and bake at 350 degrees for about 15 minutes. Set aside to cool. In a double boiler, add caramels, milk and butter, stirring constantly until melted. Pour melted caramel over cooling cake. Sprinkle pecans and chocolate chips on the top. Pour remaining batter on top, then bake about 20 minutes or until set. Turtle cake can be made as a sheet cake or a layer cake as shown in photo.

Momma's Christmas Cake

1 box white cake mix
1 1/2 cup broken walnuts
1 bag semi-sweet chocolate morsels
1 bag coconut
1-2 peppermint sticks
3 egg whites
1 1/2 cups of sugar
1/3 cup cold water
1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar



Prepare cake mix as directed. Add 1 cup walnuts and 1 cup chocolate morsels. Bake as directed.

7 MINUTE ICING

In double boiler, mix egg whites, sugar, cold water and cream of tartar. Bring to a boil; use mixer and mix until fluffy and forms peak. Spread 7 minute icing onto cooled cake. Put coconut on top of icing. Crush the peppermint sticks until mostly a powder. Sprinkle the peppermint powder over the cake. Drop or place walnut pieces and chocolate morsels on top of cake, as desired.

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FACES & PLACES



Owen Webb and Jalee Boane were captured out walking at the new Sandy Creek Event Center.



Katie Barnett gives her award-winning performance at Krider Idol. She is the daughter of Dwayne and Laura Barnett and is an eighth grader at Inman Middle School.



Paris Police Sgt. Eric Long dropped by the Princess Party at Sweet Jordan's to present a safety travel kit to Miss Tennessee Brianna Mason for her travels around the state.

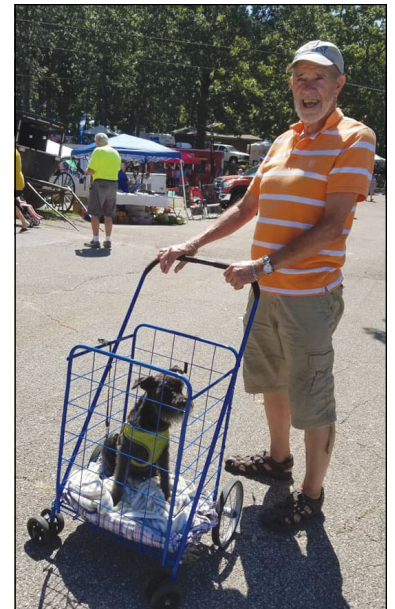
Photo by Katherine Tosh



Emmy and Tony-winning actress Cherry Jones and her former teacher, Linda Miller, share a laugh at the ceremony renaming the Little Theatre at HCHS to the Linda Wilson Miller Theatre in her honor.



Standing at attention at the Henry County High School game are, left to right, Owen Wade, Max Bean, Sam Harrison, Ryder Harrison with Principal Michele Webb standing behind.



At the Paris Landing Lakeway Kiwanis Arts and Crafts Festival, Jerry Maddox found a handy way to carry his dog Marty to events they attend.



Left:
Sam Williams of Paris made his Grand Ole Opry debut to a standing ovation. He is the grandson of Hank Williams Sr. and the son of Hank Jr.

Right:
Mike and Cheryl Wilson were named the "Best Dressed Couple" at this year's Quota Hog Killin' fundraiser.



Boy Scouts from Troop 28 and Cub Scouts from Pack 28 conducted a flag retirement ceremony at the American Legion Post on Antioch Rd. Photo by Matt Hayes



The Henry Co. Marching Patriots have been having an outstanding year, winning tournaments and bringing home a lot of hardware. This shot was taken at the Huntingdon Invitational. Photo by Barbara Cave



Ann Stapp took a moment from her painting to share a laugh with a friend during Arts 'Round the Square. The event was sponsored by the Paris-Henry County Arts Council.



Commercial Bank's Business Development Officer Rod James, center, watches as a cellphone is being readied for shredding at their recent E-Waste Recycling Day.



Season's Greetings
During this holiday season,
we wish you all the best.

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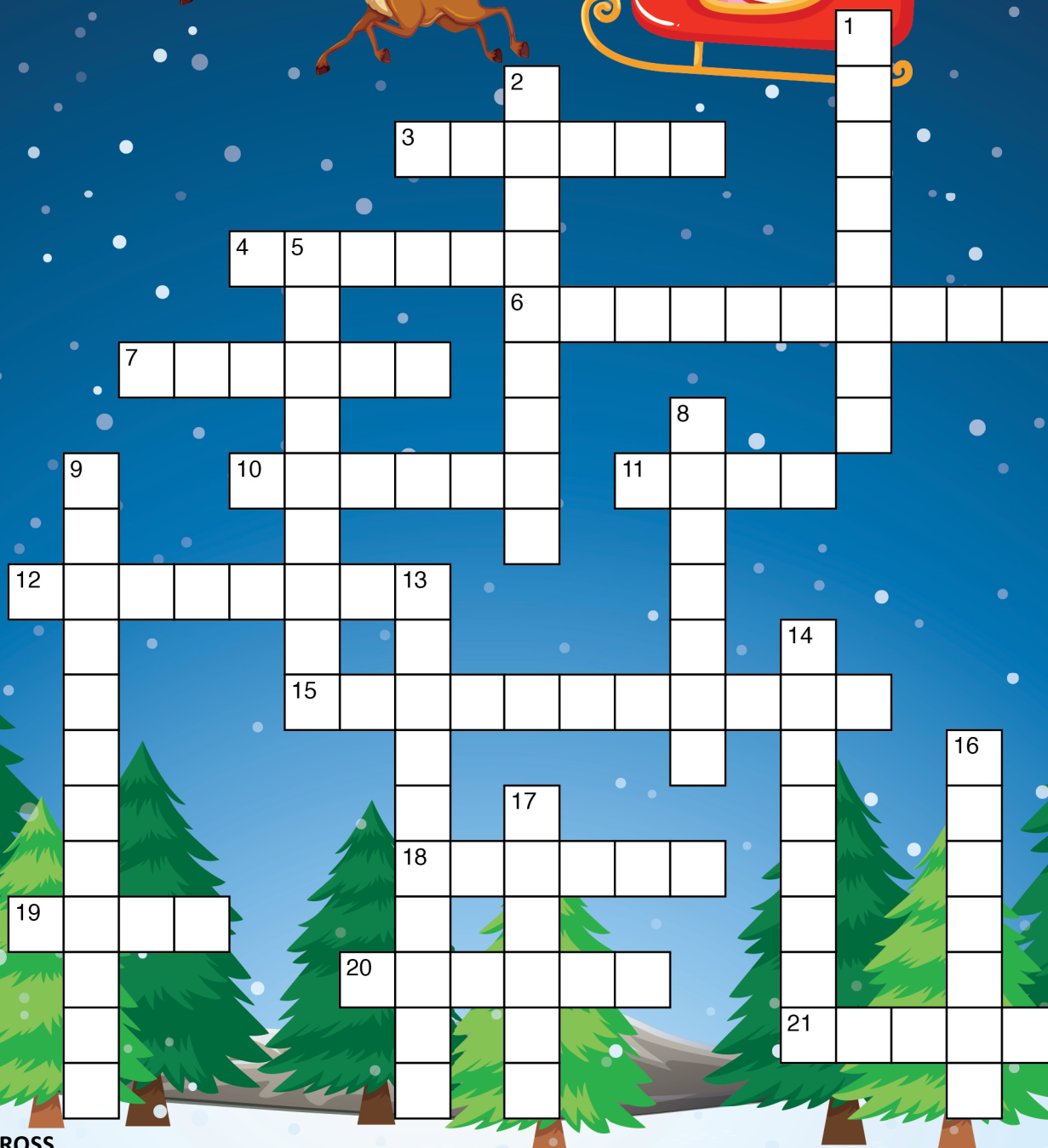
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6. NAME OF EVENT CENTER
7. WATKINS' SONG: "I'M DREAMING OF A _____ CHRISTMAS"
10. _____ OF PARIS
11. MADRIGALS' DIRECTOR
12. _____ FOR THE HUNGRY PROGRAM
15. SPECIAL TYPE OF HOLIDAY HOUSE
18. HOUSE WHERE ANDREW JACKSON STAYED
19. MANY OF THE DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY EVENTS ARE _____.
20. BARRY HART WAS A _____ SERVING IN VIETNAM.
21. DOG THAT HATES THE HOLIDAYS

DOWN

1. HOLLY JOLLY _____ CHRISTMAS PARADE
2. REV. JOY WEATHERSBEE RECEIVED THESE AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT.
5. LURA LEE'S GIFT SHOPPE CAN DO _____ ON WOOD.
8. CHRISTMAS CAKE MADE OF _____
9. FIRST _____ CHURCH GOT SNOW ON CHRISTMAS EVE.
13. VISIT HIM IN HIS HOUSE ON THE COURT SQUARE
14. UTAH COUPLE TRAVELED OVER 1,500 MILES TO SEE THIS BIRD.
16. "BILLY, STOP BLOWING THAT _____!"
17. _____ TRAVEL DOWN RAILROAD TRACKS.

BIRDERS FLOCKING TO PARIS

No Pun Intended!

BY SUSAN JONES

Winter birders are a curious and wonderful bunch. Just when most folks are ready to snuggle in by the fire, winter birdwatchers are ready to head outdoors. Armed with a pair of binoculars and their favorite, dog-eared bird book, they rise well before dawn in search of feathered friends they've yet to meet. These are the people who attend the three-day Wings of Winter Birding Festival headquartered in Paris.

At last year's event, a couple came from Utah in search of a cardinal. They traveled more than 1,500 miles to see a bird that most locals consider to be beautiful, yet so common, they rarely stop to notice it. In birding, as in life, everything is relative. The stunning great blue heron also is common in our region, but on Grand Canyon tours, the species is touted as "the illusive GBH."

"It's easy to take the fantastic birding here in Henry and nearby county's for granted," said Joan Howe, ranger with the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge. "We have the good fortune to be on the Mississippi Fly Way where

more than 150 species of birds pass through our refuge each winter. We give them an opportunity to rest and eat during their migration; that's part of the mission of the refuge."

Already considered the largest, multi-bird birding festival in Tennessee and Kentucky, Wings of Winter is growing by leaps and bounds. This is due to engaging speakers and exciting field trips to birding hot spots that offer one-of-a-kind experiences for both seasoned and beginning birders.

A great example is the pre-festival boat tour on the CQ *Princess* excursion yacht. Birders of all skill levels can view eagles, waterfowl, gulls, and other water-loving birds from inside the comfortable cabin outfitted with large windows and high-definition video of the birds outside.

Passengers also can watch outdoors from the ship's deck. Howe describes it as "a terrific opportunity to gain insight from Scott Weidensaul and Brian Ellis who will help lead this adventure. Both high-caliber birders, they will be speaking at our festival dinners and leading birding trips over the weekend."

Weidensaul is a well-respected, prolific author and researcher. His *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds* was a finalist for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize. His latest book is *Peterson Reference Guide to Owls of North America and the Caribbean*. He will lead a full-day of birding at Duck River on Saturday, as well as a trip to TVA's Harmon Creek on Sunday.

Brian Ellis is making his second appearance at the festival. In a well-researched, interactive performance, he will portray several individuals over the weekend, including a steamboat captain for the boat trip, John James Audubon for the birding walks, and Charles Darwin for the Friday evening presentation. He will also lead "Bird is the Word: Journaling, Poetry, Non-Fiction Writing and Ornithology."

The Wings of Winter's guided trips feature some of the most storied birding locations in the Southeast, as well as local guides who know our area's birds quite well.

Destinations include Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge; Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge's Units at



Duck River, Big Sandy and Britton Ford; Kentucky Dam and Harmon Creek Wildlife Management Area; Paris Landing and Johnsonville State Parks; Land Between the Lakes including the Nature Station, and Ft. Donelson National Battlefield.

"While most of the attendees are from out of town, area residents are welcome to join us for any or all events. It's also the perfect time to invite family or friends to town to experience one of our area's most delightful events, celebrating an incredible resource," says Howe. After the \$30 registration fee, all trips and meals are priced a la carte; some field trips are free.

Wings of Winter Birding Festival is sponsored in part by federal and state agencies, including TVA, LBL, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and state parks. It is also supported by birding organizations, area chambers, and others.

For more information or to make reservations for the Wings of Winter Birding Festival, visit www.friendstnwr.org. Contact the refuge with questions at 731-642-2091 or Joan_Howe@fws.gov.

Don't forget to follow updates on Facebook at Wings of Winter Birding Festival.



Last year's Wings of Winter Birding Festival brought people from all over the country to witness the unique birds that frequent local area refuges. Registration is now open for the event slated for January 24-26, 2020.

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- Luke 2:11



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HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM PARIS!

BY SMANTHA PARKER

There's not a week that goes by that someone doesn't ask PARIS! "Where can I find the magazine?" or "My mother would love a copy of your magazine, but she can't get out like she used to. Do you have subscriptions?"

Yes, we do! We have many readers from out of state, many who grew up here or they have moved away but like to keep up with what's going on in Paris and Henry County.

To subscribe, simply locate the form stapled in the front of the magazine and mail back with your check. The subscription will begin with the next issue.

Can't find a form? Just send us a note with your complete subscription information and your check to PARIS!, 230 B Tyson Avenue, Suite 134, Paris,

TN 38242. The magazines are shipped in a kraft envelope with first-class mail to insure delivery.

Like most, our mailing costs have gone up and we will have to increase our subscription rate to \$30 at the beginning of 2020. But we will continue to honor the current rate until January 1 – that's \$25 for 5 issues of PARIS! delivered to you or a loved one's mailbox.

So, delight someone this Christmas with all the stories and photos from Henry County, Tennessee, with a gift subscription to PARIS!

WHERE CAN I FIND PARIS! MAGAZINE?

In every issue of PARIS!, there is an ad telling where to locate additional copies. Common locations to look for each issue is Coast To Coast Tinting, 301 W. Wood Street; the Paris-Henry

County Chamber of Commerce, 2508 E. Wood Street; Foundation Bank, 1137 E. Wood Street; Moody Realty, 410 Tyson Avenue, Henry County Medical Center, or any location of Edward Jones during regular business hours.

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PARIS! is always looking for great stories. If it interests you, it interests us! It just amazes us how wonderful our area is when we hear some unique family story, a connection with an historical event or current news story that we haven't heard about.

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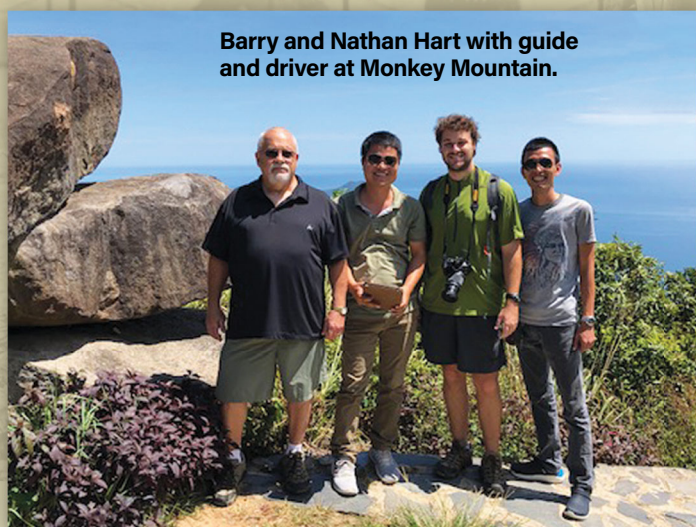
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GOING BACK

A Marine's Reflection on Returning to the Battlefields of His Youth



Barry and Nathan Hart with guide and driver at Monkey Mountain.



Temple in Hanoi



Barry at Hanoi Hilton

BY BARRY HART

The words, “Fly me away on a green helicopter, I’m going back to Vietnam,” kept running through my mind as I boarded Delta Flight #1269 on June 9, 2019, at Nashville’s airport, heading to Vietnam. Fifty years have passed since I first stepped foot on the tarmac at the Danang Air Base, and now I was going back!

This past spring, one of my sons, Nathan Hart, was invited to speak at an international conference on economics in Bangkok, Thailand, and he invited me to accompany him. We had discussed the possibility of taking a few extra days and traveling to Vietnam so that I could check that off my bucket list. I was reluctant at first,

but then considered it an opportunity to have some closure regarding a few events I had experienced.

The Vietnam War has been going on for fifty years, at least for me. Saddled with “survivor’s guilt” and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), I have slogged my way through life trying to avoid people, places, and things that remind me of my time there. Nightmares, flashbacks, and vivid memories have taken me back to places and events that a young lad of 19 should never have to experience.

The Veterans Administration (VA) has provided counseling and medication therapy for those of us who have suffered from PTSD and the countless number of illnesses that have been

brought on by exposure to Agent Orange, a defoliant sprayed to eliminate forest cover and crops for North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops.

I served with the 1st Marine Division, headquartered just northwest of Danang, and part of my duties included traveling out to various fire bases on official business and serving as Platoon Sergeant for a reactionary company, by which we manned the perimeter lines, ran day and night patrols, area sweeps and responded to crisis situations.

I was asked by another Vietnam veteran why I wanted to go back. I had to think about that. It seems that some veterans find it therapeutic, while others find it difficult to return to a place

in their lives where death, destruction and ruination prevailed.

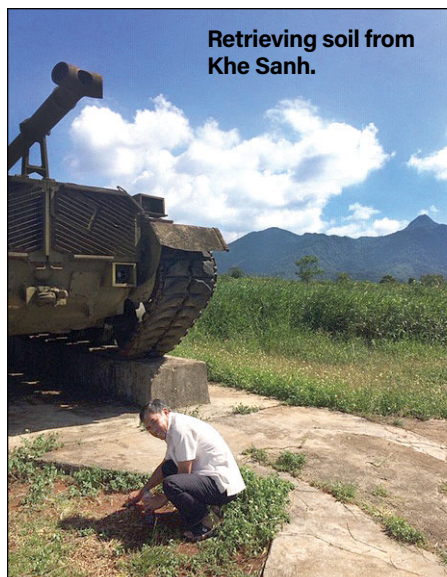
The Wall, a Vietnam Veterans Memorial located in Washington, DC, has 58,276 names of young men and women from different branches of the Armed Forces who were killed in action there – a vivid reminder of the human costs of war.

Our journey initially began with traveling to Bangkok, Thailand, where we spent a week touring the city and prepping my son for his presentation. Afterwards, we flew to Siem Reap, Cambodia, to tour Angkor Wat – the millennium-old temple ruins of the Khmer Empire. After a few days in Cambodia, we flew directly to Danang International Airport where I had first landed 50 years earlier.

We were met by our guide and off we went to the 1st Marine Division area of operation. Every building has been removed, every bunker has been filled with sand, and new construction abounds. I was able to recognize the location of my unit by comparing pictures I had taken of the mountainscape and finding an old cemetery that was just a stone's throw from my bunker.

We traveled to China Beach – now called Danang Beach – where Marines landed in 1965 – and except for the white sands and beautiful blue sea, it was unrecognizable. High-rise apartments, resort hotels, and other commercial developments line the shore for as far as you can see. What a difference 50 years makes!

Our tour took us to the top of Monkey Mountain where an United States Air Force and Marine base



Retrieving soil from Khe Sanh.

was located. It served as an Air Control Radar Station and it was vital to the defense of the area. As we were enjoying a view of Danang and China Beach (oops, I meant Danang Beach), we were introduced to three North Vietnamese Army veterans whose unit fought against my unit in the area.

We had a very poignant conversation through my guide, and we shook hands, hugged, and pointed out respective wounds received in the conflict. Just before we finished our impromptu visit, the NVA veteran leaned over and gave me a kiss on the cheek, bowed his head in respect, and we parted as “friends.”

Another revelation that occurred during our conversation was the NVA soldier's take on the war. He told me through the guide that he and I could have been friends 50 years ago, and that it was the governments of both

our nations that really defined us as enemies. This meeting was a catharsis for me, and I'm quite sure it was for him, as well.

After a few days in Danang, we traveled on to Hoi An – about 30 miles south of Danang – a hot bed for VC activity during the time I was there. We then traveled to Hanoi to tour the Hanoi Hilton where prisoners of war were held and to cruise the infamous Halong Bay.

After we indulged ourselves in the local culture, we traveled back to Bangkok for a few more days. While there, we were able to tour the Grand Palace of the King of Thailand and the Pattaya Elephant Jungle Sanctuary.

Why did I want to go to Vietnam? I didn't at first, but I'm glad that I did. I was able to see beyond the time and place that had robbed me of my innocence. Once my enemies, I was able to see the Vietnamese people as courteous, kind, hard-working, and respectful of their Western visitors. They consider Americans to be “Number One,” and they do everything they can to make your visit a good experience.

No one under 30 years old talks about the war. In fact, I was told they are not taught about that part of their history. The government wants to create a new Vietnam, and they are doing that through the younger generation.

On the flight home, instead of reflecting on my tour of duty as a young Marine as I had on the way over, I recalled all the special moments I had experienced as a tourist in a country that welcomed me and my son with open arms.

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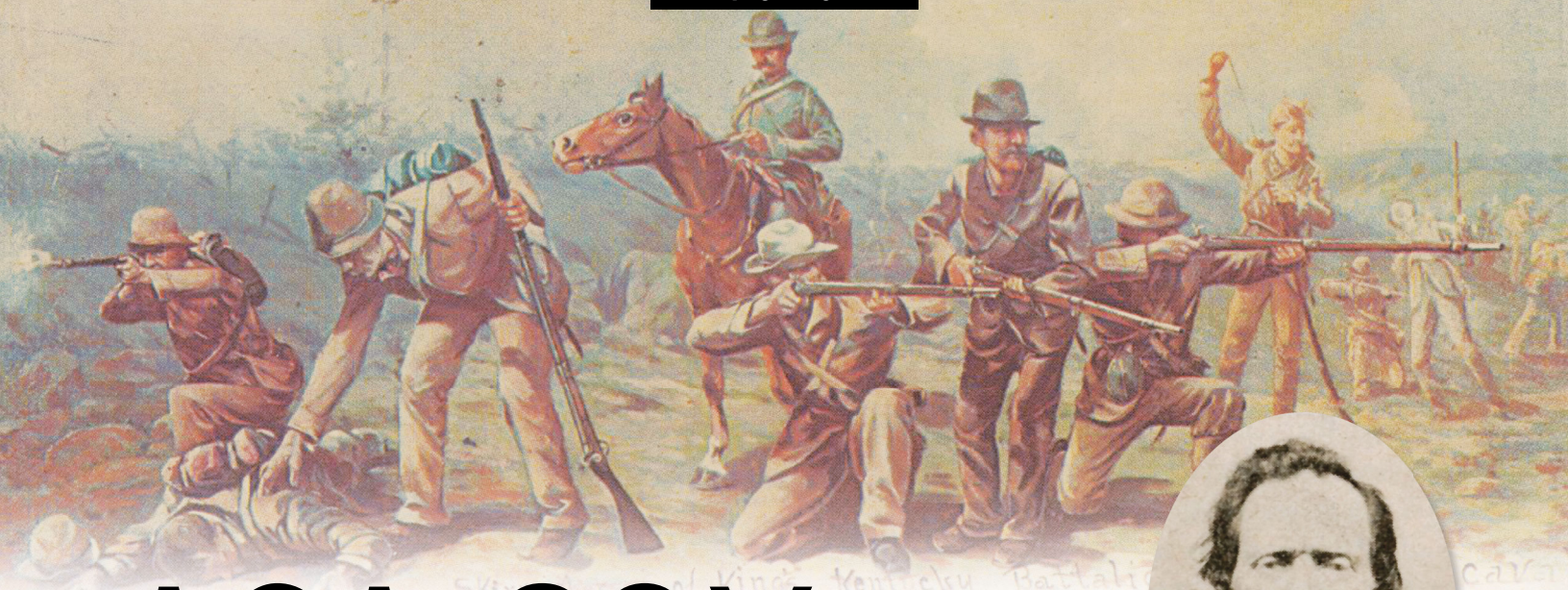
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ASA COX

Cavalry Scout



BY LARRY RAY

As part of his quest to help save our forgotten and often ignored history for future generations, Larry Ray is compiling articles detailing the history of some local families during the Civil War. This is the fortieth in the series.

Previous articles can be read online in the archives of MyParisMagazine.com.

Baptist minister, Asa Cox, a son and grandson of ministers, was born on November 19, 1822, in North Carolina to Gova and Margaret Cox. The Cox family moved to Henry County around 1825 when Asa was about three years old. Except for the Civil War, Asa lived most of his long life in Paris.

He married Martha Ann Street in 1841. Their union was blessed with eleven children. After Martha died in 1897, he married Margaret Bell Aker in 1899. Reverend Cox served as a minister for over sixty years and was active until the last few years of his life.

THE CIVIL WAR

On February 22, 1862, Asa along with several other men from Henry County, enlisted in Company G, 7th Tennessee Cavalry. A few weeks later he played an important role in the "Battle of Paris."

Five battles of the Civil War took place in Henry County. They were Fort

Henry, February 4, 1862; Mt. Carmel Church, February 15, 1862; Paris, March 11, 1862; Mansfield, March 26, 1864, and Paris Landing and Fort Heiman, October 29 to November 3, 1864.

Fort Henry and Fort Heiman on the Tennessee River were on the eastern edge of Henry County and held at different times by both Union and Confederate forces. After the fall of nearby Forts Heiman and Henry, the first major union advance into the interior of Henry County was ordered by General Ulysses S. Grant on March 10, 1862. He planned to keep Henry County men from joining the Confederate army as had been ordered by Tennessee Governor Isham Harris who was from Paris. Grant also wanted to guard these Union controlled Forts from attack by the Confederate army.

THE BATTLE OF PARIS

The Confederate cavalry, under Major King, was ordered to enforce the Confederate conscription law and

to find and ship all available supplies to Memphis by railroad. Around 500 Confederate soldiers under his command were camped on a high wooded hill about 1 mile west of the Court Square where the Henry County jail is now located.

Major King sent his scout, Asa Cox along with C.W. Tandy and two other men, to secure information in the direction of Fort Heiman. They learned that heavily armed federal troops were already in route to Paris. After exchanging fresh horses with a local farmer, Cox and his men quickly returned to camp on March 11, 1862, yelling, "The Yankees are coming!" Major King barely had time to align his troops for battle. He planned to attack the Union troops by surprise and gave strict orders not to fire until the command was given.

But one over-eager drunken soldier, crawled down closer, stood and began firing and yelling, "Here they are boys!" Those were his last words, as

he was immediately killed. Explosions from rifles and cannons could be heard from the court square as the Battle of Paris erupted. Fighting continued for about an hour. It was nearly dark and both sides could not determine friend from foe. The Union troops decided to retreat back toward the Tennessee River with the Confederate troops pursuing them.

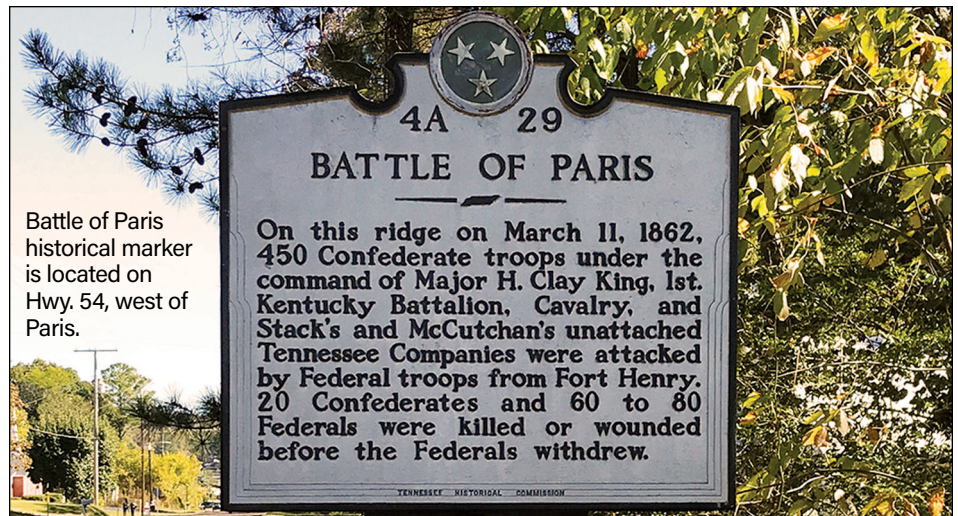
The Battle of Paris is commemorated with a historical marker located on Highway 54, just west of Paris that reads:

On this ridge on March 11, 1862, 450 Confederate troops under the command of Major H. Clay King, 1st Kentucky Battalion, Cavalry, and Stack's and McCutcheon's unattached Tennessee Companies were attacked by Federal troops from Fort Henry. 20 Confederates and 60 to 80 Federals were killed or wounded before the Federals withdrew.

AFTER THE BATTLE

Major King decided that Paris was too close to the union camps, so he moved to Henry, about ten miles west of Paris. From the railroad station there, he continued to collect and ship supplies to Memphis.

The success of Asa Cox as a scout secured for him the confidence of the officers, and many times afterward he was put in charge of scouting parties sent on dangerous missions that required courage and caution. He was considered "the bravest of the brave," yet entirely devoid of foolhardiness.



Battle of Paris historical marker is located on Hwy. 54, west of Paris.

Company F, Fifth Iowa Cavalry soon established the courthouse and the public square as their headquarters and began an uneasy military occupation of Paris. The city remained under martial law during much of the Civil War and little or no court business transpired in the courthouse. Union soldiers occupied the building, led their horses up the stairs to the second floor, and wrote their names in court ledger books.

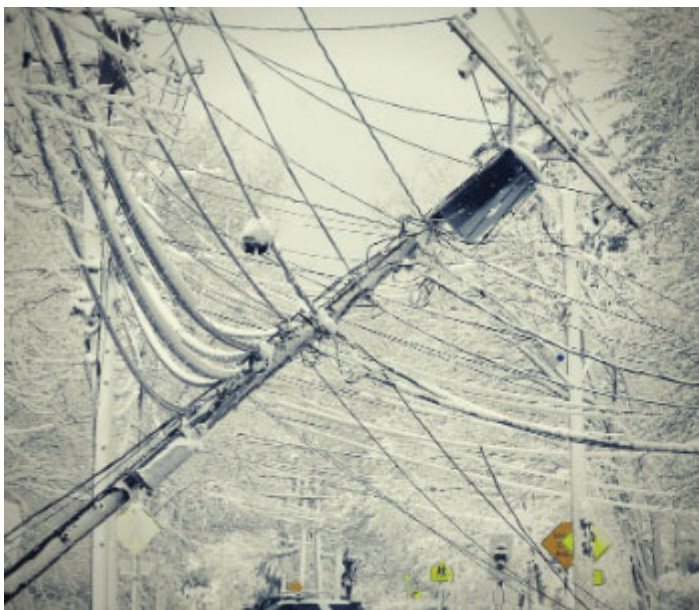
Citizens of Paris were constantly in fear throughout the war. Union and Confederate troops marched into the city numerous times and on occasion set up encampments nearby. During the war, there were several skirmishes in and around Henry County, but the most famous encounter was the Battle of Paris Landing in October 1864, that preceded the Battle of Johnsonville.

DEATH AND LEGACY

Asa Cox died at his home in Paris on July 11, 1911, at 88 years of age and was buried in the Cox Cemetery in Cottage Grove.

His obituary in the local paper read: "He possessed, in an eminent degree, the true elements of a soldier. He fought the good fight, he kept the faith, he finished his course and is now gone to receive the crown which the Lord had laid up for him against that day. He was the oldest minister in the Baptist denomination at the time of his death."

Larry Ray is past Executive Director of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development. He has had a life long interest in the Civil War.



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CARTER HOUSE

Site of Andrew Jackson's Stay
in Henry County

BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

In the 1820s, Paris was little more than a very tiny oasis in the wilderness, but its founders had big dreams and they knew a good opportunity when they saw one.

Major General Andrew Jackson had become a hero after the War of 1812. He was really the only hero to emerge from the war and that came as a result of his leadership in the Battle of New Orleans, which occurred in January of 1815, at the end of the war.

In the years following the battle, Jackson was wined and dined and hailed as a hero everywhere he went in Tennessee. His career took off quickly as he went from soldier to politician where he served on the Supreme Court, was a Senator, a State Representative and then a Congressman.

What he really wanted, though, was to be president and his first attempt in 1824 resulted in failure as he lost resoundingly to John Quincy Adams.

The town of Jackson was named in his honor and prominent men in Paris – many of whom had fought alongside Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans – took that opportunity to extend an invitation to him to visit Paris while he was in west Tennessee.

Jackson was familiar with west Tennessee. He, along with John Overton and James Winchester, was a founder of Memphis. He was a land speculator and actually owned many acres of land in Henry County, as documented in the deed books of 1822 that are stored in the Henry County Archives. Our area of Tennessee and Kentucky is part of the section called “The Jackson Purchase.”

In a newspaper article in *The Nashville Republican* on October 8, 1825, it was noted that the citizens of Paris “at a respectable meeting” had extended an invitation to Jackson to visit Paris on his way home to Nashville from Jackson.

In the overly flowery language of that time period, the citizens at the meeting unanimously adopted a resolution: “*Having understood that our much respected and illustrious fellow citizen Andrew Jackson is about to visit the west district, being deeply penetrated with a sense of his worth and important services to his country, and feeling desirous in common with every part of our union to enjoy the opportunity of personally and collectively pouring a tribute of respect and gratitude into his bosom.*”

It was resolved that Hugh Dunlap, who had fought at the Battle of New Orleans, be requested to prepare suitable accommodations for the reception of General Jackson “and as many as may desire to participate in the festivities of the occasion.”

It was further resolved that Chairman Judge J. C. Hamilton appoint a committee to wait on the General, who was then in Jackson, and “*tender to him the sentiments of the inhabitants of Henry and request that he would honor them with a visit to the town of Paris.*” Judge Hamilton appointed Lucas Kennedy, Henderson Lewis and General Edward H. Tarrant.

It’s interesting to note that General Tarrant was a Henry County Sheriff who later became a prominent figure in the founding of Texas. He fought in the 1836 Texas War for Independence and fought in several Indian wars.

In a formal letter to General Jackson, the County Court noted “*Henry County had filled up with a respectable population in a few years from different sections of the Union, and the wilderness and wild beast have retired before the arm of civilization and industry.*” The letter went on, “*Many of us have had*

the pleasure to enjoy the warmth of your personal friendship and your kindness as a neighbour and would hail a visit from our father and our friend.”

The letter also assured General Jackson that the roads from Jackson to Paris were good “and leading on a direct line.”

General Jackson could be flowery, too. In his response, he wrote, “With much pleasure I accept this kind invitation from the citizens of Henry County and will do myself the honor to dine with my fellow citizens at Mr. Dunlap’s in Paris on Tuesday, 27th. For the flattering manner in which my fellow citizens have been pleased to make mention of me in their resolutions, I pray you to convey to them my heartfelt gratitude.”

Jackson’s beloved wife, Rachel, accompanied him on the trip. It was noted that it was unusual for her to leave The Hermitage, but she was anxious to see the town of Jackson since it was named for her husband.

The Jacksons and their entourage traveled through McLemoresville to Christmasville and then on to Paris. The town of Paris had a brand new

Rare old photo of the Carter House



brick courthouse (not the present one) and while in Paris, the Jacksons stayed at the Carter House Hotel, which was located where the post office is now. According to County Archivist Stephanie Tayloe, General Ulysses Grant was supposed to have stayed at the Carter House as well. The Carter House Hotel was torn down in 1906.

The Jacksons were greeted by the city’s most prominent men along with several of his fellow soldiers.

An extremely popular figure in Tennessee and in our young nation, Jackson had much better luck when he ran for President of the United States again. In 1829, he won the office in a landslide.



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IN THE GARDEN

HOLIDAY GARDEN POETRY

BY JOHN WATKINS

The Garden Before Christmas

'Twas the holiday season, and out in the yard
Not a weed was left standing, I'd been working so hard.
All the leaves had been raked and placed in a pile,
And with all of my trees that took quite a while.

The shrubs and perennials neatly trimmed in their bed,
No more coleus to pinch nor a rose to deadhead.
With a layer of mulch and plenty of moisture on tap,
My garden seemed ready for a long winter's nap.

So what now could I do with all my free time?
Should my thoughts turn to fertilizers or possibly lime?
Surely there's something my mind has forgotten
Since the weather's not fit for transplantin' or pottin'.

But wait, it's all coming back to me now.
Just because the ground is too frozen to plow,
Isn't reason enough not to remember
There's still plenty to do in the month of December.

My thoughts brought me back to a few basic rules
For winterizing your precious gardening tools.
By preparing them now in preparation for Spring
You'll be ready for all of the work they will bring.

So sharpen that shovel as well as the hoe,
A light layer of oil so no rust there will grow.
And as for your loppers and pruners and shears,
Perform the same task and you'll have them for years.

Roll up your hoses, disconnect from the spout,
And make sure all excess water's drained out.
Placed in the shed (if enough room you've got)
And you'll keep them from freezing or getting dry rot.

So, the holidays are here again. By the time this article is printed, Christmas trees and decorations have already been on the shelves for a month or two and many of us may wish the season was over already.

To keep us in the spirit of the holidays I had the bright idea of trying my hand at rewriting some old favorite Christmas melodies. Such classics as "Weedin' Around the Christmas Tree," "I'm Dreaming of a Blight Christmas," "Mulch the Beds with Bales of Pine Straw," or maybe even "Oh Coleus Night." And don't forget "Hark, the Bare Old Yard this Spring," "Weedin' in a Winter Wonderland," or "Here Comes Lantana Claus."

Alas, or more likely relief on your part, that was about as far as I could get before my pun level ran lower than the inhibitions at an office Christmas party. So, being the ever resourceful person that I am, I thought I might reach back a few years and reprint an old favorite that was originally published in 2013. Nothing like regifting before Christmas even gets here!

John Watkins is the grounds director at Discovery Park of America and resides in Henry County.

Your mowers and blowers and gas-powered tools
Should be cleaned (and if possible) drained of all fuels.
And someone once told me I'd be much the wiser
That if I couldn't drain the gas at least add fuel stabilizer.

When finally all of these tasks are complete
And you find yourself feeling quite content and replete,
Don't forget that while winter can be dull and drear
There's no better time to plan your garden for next year.

Make a mental list of what worked and what flopped,
What shrubs really shined, what flowers popped.
Where you need shade, where you could use
a bit more sun,
A little forethought can make yard work more fun.

So there you have it, my attempt at a gardening rhyme.
A few things to think about during this holiday time.
And at the expensive of sounding quite trite,
"Happy gardening to all, and to all a good night!"

My humblest apologies to Clement Clarke Moore
and any other real poets out there I might have offended.

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— ONGOING HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT —

VISIT WITH SANTA – Stop by and let Santa entertain your wee guests at his gingerbread house in Downtown Paris on the Square. November 25-December 17 on Saturdays from 10 am-2 pm and Sundays from 2-4 pm.

PLAY INSIDE – The **Paris Civic Center** has an indoor pool, track, weights, and fitness machines. Pay by the visit or become a member. Located on Volunteer Drive. Call 731-644-2517.

LEARN ABOUT YOUR HEALTH – **Henry County Medical Center** offers monthly seminars including Chronic Disease Management Screenings, Childbirth Education, and many

more. All are free but you must pre-register by calling 731-644-3463.

POPCORN ANYONE? – It's holiday movie time! Enjoy a night out at the **Parisian Theatre** with nightly shows on six screens and matinees on Saturday and Sunday. For more information and movie schedules call 731-642-7171.

WINE, WINE, WINE – Make a day of it and go wine tasting at **Paris Winery**. It will be beautifully decorated for the holidays and pick out a few gift baskets for friends while you're there. For more information call 731-644-9500.

— NOVEMBER —

NOVEMBER 1-3 – It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in festive downtown Paris! **Candle-light Open Houses** are Friday and Saturday, 6-8 pm; Sunday from 1-5 pm. For information, go to VisitDowntownParis.com or call 731-653-PARIS.

NOVEMBER 7 – A tasty, yearly tradition! The **Carl Perkins Center Pancake Day** will be at First Baptist Church, 7 am-2 pm with all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage. Pre-sale tickets: \$8 / \$10 at the door. For information, call 731-642-8455.

NOVEMBER 7 – **Lifeline Blood Mobile** is open from 12-6 pm at First United Methodist Church. Call Tammy Hurst at 1-800-924-6572 extension 310 for more information.

NOVEMBER 8 – **Antioch UMC 14th Annual Bazaar and Bake Sale / Chili, Soup, Hot Dog**

Luncheon at First United Methodist Church on Blythe Street. Enjoy the bazaar and bake sale, 9 am-2 pm; luncheon for only \$7, 11 am- 1:00 pm. For more information, call 731-707-0919.

NOVEMBER 14 – **\$2 Movie Night Food Drive** at The Parisian Theatre. Enjoy a movie and help the community – just bring \$2 and two canned goods. For information, call 731-642-1696.

NOVEMBER 9 – **Veteran's Day Celebration**, 2 pm, at the Krider Performing Arts Center. Music, speaker, and a special presentation to Barry Hart. FREE! For information, call 731-644-2517.

NOVEMBER 9 – **It's a Hot Time in the Ol' Town Tonight Chili Cook-Off** benefiting Henry Co. CASA will be at the Fairground's Enoch Building, 5-7 pm. \$10/adults, \$5 children. Live music, games for kids, door prizes, and lots of fun!

NOVEMBER 9 & 10 – Get a jump on holiday shopping at the **12th Annual Christmas In Paris Shopping Extravaganza**, Paris Convention Center. Saturday, 9 am-5 pm; Sunday, 12-4 pm. Free admission! For information, e-mail christmasin-paristn@yahoo.com

NOVEMBER 11 – **Veterans Day**. Thank a Veteran and remember those who fought for our freedom.

NOVEMBER 16 – SK Dance Studios presents **The Wizard of Oz: A Dancing Adaptation of the Beloved Classic**. Showtimes: 2 pm and 6 pm at KPAC. For information, call 270-293-1206.

NOVEMBER 18-23 – **Operation Christmas Child Collection Week** at First Baptist Church. Begin the holiday season by giving back. For information, contact Pam Moultrie at 731-642-7893 or 731-642-5074.

NOVEMBER 20 & 21 – Henry County FCE Club presents **Homemaker's Holiday** at the Enoch Building at the Fairgrounds. 3-6 pm on the 20th; 10 am-1 pm the 21st. Lots of goodies to buy! For more information, contact Michele Atkins at 731-642-2941.

NOVEMBER 22 – **Paris Lioness Club's Annual Luncheon** will be held at First United Methodist Church, 11 am - 2 pm. There will also be a Country Store and Bake Shop full of unique gifts and goodies. For more information, call 731-697-6747.

NOVEMBER 22 – **Athena Delphians Annual Bake Sale** on the Courthouse lawn. Begins at 8 am; continues until all the goodies are gone. For more information, call 731-653-7274.

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NOVEMBER 23 - Junie B. Jones: The Musical is presented by the KPAC Players in conjunction with the Paris-Henry Co. Arts Council. Tickets on sale now: \$10/adults and \$5/children, 3 pm at KPAC. For more information, call 731-644-2517.

NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 18 – Festival of Trees will be on the square in Downtown Paris again! Located at The Old 5 & 10 Event Center, 110 W. Washington Street. Open Monday-Friday, 11 am-4 pm; Saturdays, 10 am-2 pm; Sundays, 1-4 pm. Call 731-653-7274 for more information.

November 27-29 – Thanksgiving Break for city and county schools.

NOVEMBER 28 - Thanksgiving Day. Celebrate all that we have to be thankful for and spend time with loved ones.

NOVEMBER 29 - Downtown Paris Association hosts **North Pole Family Fun Day**, 10 am-2 pm. Enjoy Santa, Rudolph and the Elves rolling in on a fire truck, craft booths and more. For more information, visit www.VisitDowntownParis.com.

NOVEMBER 30 – Head downtown to Lura Lee's of Paris Gift Shoppe and enjoy an afternoon with the live **Elf on a Shelf** from 12-2 pm. For more information, call 731-407-9400.

— DECEMBER —

DECEMBER 1 - Celebrate the first Sunday of Advent and the traditional "Hanging of the Greens" at Paris First United Methodist Church, 8:30 am and 11 am. For more information, call 642-4764.

DECEMBER 1– Enjoy the **52nd Annual Community Christmas Concert** at First United Methodist Church, 2pm. Sponsored by the Paris-Henry Co. Arts Council. Call 731-642-3955 for information.

DECEMBER 3 – Join the folks at W. G. Rhea Library and **build your own gingerbread house** from 5-7 pm. Call 731-642-1702 for information.

DECEMBER 4 – Worship in downtown Paris churches during the annual **Candlelight Advent Walk** at 6:30 pm. For more information, call 731-653-PARIS.

DECEMBER 5 – Take time out of your busy schedule to give back by visiting the **Lifeline Blood Mobile** at First United Methodist Church, 12pm-6pm.

DECEMBER 6-8 – "Remember the reason for the season" with this beautiful drive-thru community treasure. **Live Nativity** at New Harmony Baptist Church from 6-9 pm nightly. For more information, call 731-593-5276.

DECEMBER 7 - Inman Middle School PAC is hosting the **5th Annual Mistletoe Market**, Inman Gym, 10 am- 4 pm. Over 25 booths from local small businesses and crafters. For more information, call 731-642-8131.

DECEMBER 7- Find an unique gift at the **Lee Academy Holiday Bazaar**, 9 am - 4 pm. For information, call 731-642-3411.

DECEMBER 7 – Come one, come all to the **Southside Cafe Community Appreciation Christmas Party**, 5-10 pm, Henry County Fairgrounds. Free to all! For more information, call 731-407-4694.

DECEMBER 7 – Give yourself a little soul for Christmas and head out to KPAC for **A Temptations Christmas**, 7 pm. Admission: \$20. For information, call 731-644-2517.

DECEMBER 13 – Polar Express at W.G. Rhea Library. So much fun with train rides, crafts,

hot cocoa, snacks, cookie decorating, reindeer games, and SANTA! 5:30-7:30 pm. And it's all FREE! For more information call, 731-642-1702.

DECEMBER 14 – Downtown Paris Association sponsors the **Downtown Christmas Festival**, 3-5 pm; **Holly Jolly Electric Parade**, 5 pm. Awards include Clark Griswold, Golf Cart, Cutest Critter, and Best Decorated. Go to VisitDowntownParis.com for details and entry information.

DECEMBER 22 – Paris First United Methodist Church is observing a **Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service**, 4 pm. This is for anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one, a job, relationship, security, health or other loss. For more information, call 731-642-4764.

DECEMBER 22 – First Baptist Church's **Candlelight Communion Service** in the sanctuary at 6 pm. For more information, call 731-642-5074.

DECEMBER 23- JANUARY 5 – Joyeux Noel! **Winter Break** for all schools.

DECEMBER 24 – Christmas Eve Services are held at many area churches. Programs include carols, special music, Christmas messages and communion. Call local churches for more information.

DECEMBER 25 – Wishing you a blessed Merry Christmas!

— JANUARY —

JANUARY 1 – HAPPY NEW YEAR! Time to make those resolutions for 2019!

JANUARY 1- Take a cold dunk for a great cause! **Shiver on the River** is at Paris Landing Marina's boat launch ramp! Proceeds benefit R.E.A.L. Hope Youth Center. Call 731-333-1320 for more information.

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PRESENTS



Downtown Unwrapped

Family Events, Fun
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for a Lifetime

NOVEMBER

- 1-2 **CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE** 6-8pm
- 3 **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE** 1-5pm
- 7 **CARL PERKINS CENTER PANCAKE DAY**
at First Baptist Church
- 11 **LEGO LEAGUE** at W. G. Rhea Library 3:30-4:30pm
- 14 **PEDDLER ADVANTAGE/94.1 FM WLZK**
MOVIE NIGHT FOOD DRIVE
at The Parisian Theater
- 22 **ATHENA DELPHIANW BAKE SALE** 8am
on the Courthouse Lawn
- 26 **FESTIVAL OF FESTIVAL OF TREES** *Open until Dec. 18*
at The Old Paris 5 & 10 Event Center 110 W. Washington
Mon.-Fri. 11am-4pm, Sat. 10am-2pm, Sun. 1-4pm
- 29 **NORTH POLE FAMILY FUN DAY** 10am-2pm
- 30 **ELF ON A SHELF** at Lura Lee's of Paris 12-2pm

Catch Santa in his Gingerbread House

November 30 through December 22

Saturdays 10am-2pm and Sundays 2-4pm



DECEMBER

- 1 **52ND COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT** 
First United Methodist Church 2pm
- 1-18 **FESTIVAL OF FESTIVAL OF TREES**
at The Old Paris 5 & 10 Event Center 110 W. Washington
Mon.-Fri. 11am-4pm, Sat. 10am-2pm, Sun. 1-4pm
- 3 **GINGERBREAD HOUSES** *Registration required* 
at W. G. Rhea Library 5-7pm
- 4 **CANDLELIGHT ADVENT WALK** 6:30pm
- 7 **HOLIDAY BAZAAR** at Lee Academy of the Arts
9am-4pm
- 9 **LEGO LEAGUE** at W G. Rhea Library 3:30-4:30pm
- 13 **POLAR EXPRESS** at W. G. Rhea Library 5:30-7:30pm
- 14 **DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL** 3-5pm
- 14 **HOLLY JOLLY "ELECTRIC" CHRISTMAS PARADE** 5pm
- 21 **BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**
at First United Methodist Church 6pm
- 21-22 Last weekend that Santa is in his house!
- 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**
Check downtown churches for details



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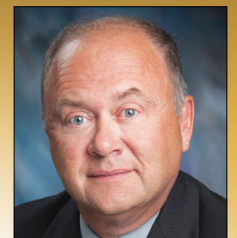
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