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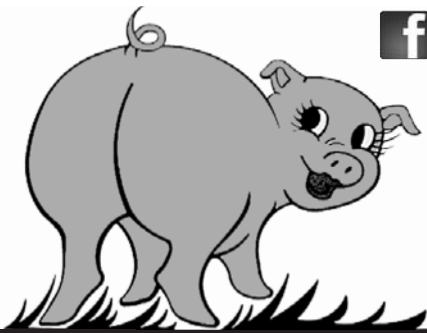
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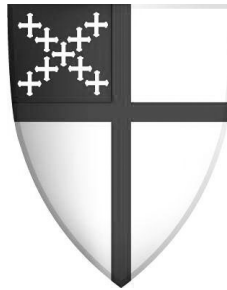
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Leaves Are Falling and Autumn Is Calling

You would be hard pressed to find a magazine with as many “must read articles” as the Autumn issue of **PARIS!**

First, a couple of Henry Countians have risen to prominence recently. Karen Geary shares the story of a Paris youngster whose brilliant smile and stirring message has gone around the world this summer. And Shannon McFarlin keeps us up to speed with a local who is finding fame thanks to his creative prowess and adventurous spirit.

Susan Jones, Bill Neese and Barry Hart will have you either laughing or shaking your head in their features. Jones explains how she almost locked through Kentucky Dam this summer. Neese shares a good one about a homemade go kart, and Hart puts you in the Halloween spirit with a tale of the Chapel Hill ghost.

A few new projects are featured in this issue. The first two were created by a couple of local Boy Scouts with the Little Pantry created and new planters around our courthouse. Another is an ongoing collection of local interviews called Paris Podcast by Drew Wheatley.

Yes, we know it’s hot, but summer is not over, so check out Garden Guru John Watkins as he reveals his favorite beat-the-heat plants and shrubs.

How about some history? It’s been seven decades since Henry County began considering the construction of a county hospital. “Reminiscence” tells us how it happened. And if you’re not familiar with Rosenwald Schools, “School of Thought” explains the incredible project that directly linked Booker T. Washington and the Tuskegee Institute with six local schools.

Finally, if you want to ensure that your children will make delicious dinners for you in your old age, better teach them how to cook and have fun. Find out how in “Paris Cuisine.”

Enjoy the colorful, cool season of autumn, and thanks for reading **PARIS!**

Smantha



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Henry County and the Lake Area

PARIS!

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BACK IN THE DAY

THE GO KART

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.”

About the time I was 12, a man at Dad’s work got into building go karts. My dad was not one to buy me mechanical devices any more extravagant than a single speed bicycle, but one Saturday this fellow showed up at our house in Memphis with a red home-made go kart in the back of his pickup truck. I say it was homemade because I don’t know that there were any factory-made go karts in 1958.

The man had designed this vehicle himself. It had a 7½ HP Briggs & Stratton air-cooled engine and a very rudimentary steering system. The “transmission” and “brake system” were combined and either from, or a

copy of, the system on a Model T Ford. I never understood which.

Once cranked by the pull rope, a pedal on the right side served as accelerator and it also engaged the centrifugal clutch transferring power to one rear wheel. The pedal on the left side served as an engine brake – the only brake. When pressed, the compression from the engine slowed and stopped the go kart, eventually. If you held the left pedal down after you stopped it became the reverse and the go kart would quickly back up at a high rate of speed.

Our driveway was in two sections up a hill. The first section from the street was very steep. The section leading into the carport and ending at the

concrete steps to the back door was not so steep. Dad was anxious to show me the ropes, having ridden it at work the day before. Dad had many good qualities, but quick reflexes were never one of them. I recognized this from an early age.

Anyway, Dad sat on the go kart in his dress shirt and tie, braced himself and mashed the gas pedal as far as it would go. Big mistake! This go kart was nothing if not quick, and the tire squealed as it streaked up the drive slamming into the concrete step. It was only right before impact that Dad stomped the brake pedal.

The combination of the rebound from the impact with the step and

the sudden shift into reverse sent the go kart hurdling back down the drive burning rubber in the opposite direction. Before reaching the street, he realized his error and released the brake pedal and again stomped the gas to keep from driving into the street. That's right, it happened again.

The only thing that saved him from a third such trip was that after he bounced off the step and stomped the brake the second time, the engine died when he hit the gas at the end of the drive to keep out of the street.

It would have been funny, but he was taking a beating, and even at 12 years old, I had enough sense to be scared. No one said anything. After lunch we loaded the go kart in the truck, took it to a friend's nearby farm so I could ride it. After that, we took it to Whitlock. Dad never got on it again. You had to admire a man who recognized his limitations.

My cousin, Chuck, had an even more disastrous episode with the little go kart. The image of Chuck motoring down the middle of the gravel road, engine wide open, big grin frozen on



his face, and with absolutely no idea of how to control the beast is burned in my memory.

I know he had no idea how to drive it because as he motored toward his brother, Rick, and me standing in the middle of the road, awaiting his return, the go kart began to fish tail and Chuck, for no apparent reason, simply drove off the road, never letting up on the throttle. The little go kart, with Chuck gripping the wheel for dear life, smashed through a deep side ditch and

into a brushy field in a bruising crash. Amazingly, that grin never left his face, at least until we lost sight of him as the go kart tumbled across the field. Needless to say, Chuck, like my Dad, had only one go kart ride.

I, on the other hand, had untold adventures on the gravel roads and field lanes of Whitlock, wearing the many resulting bruises, scrapes and punctures as badges of courage – or the stupidity of a 12-year-old, depending on how one looks at it.

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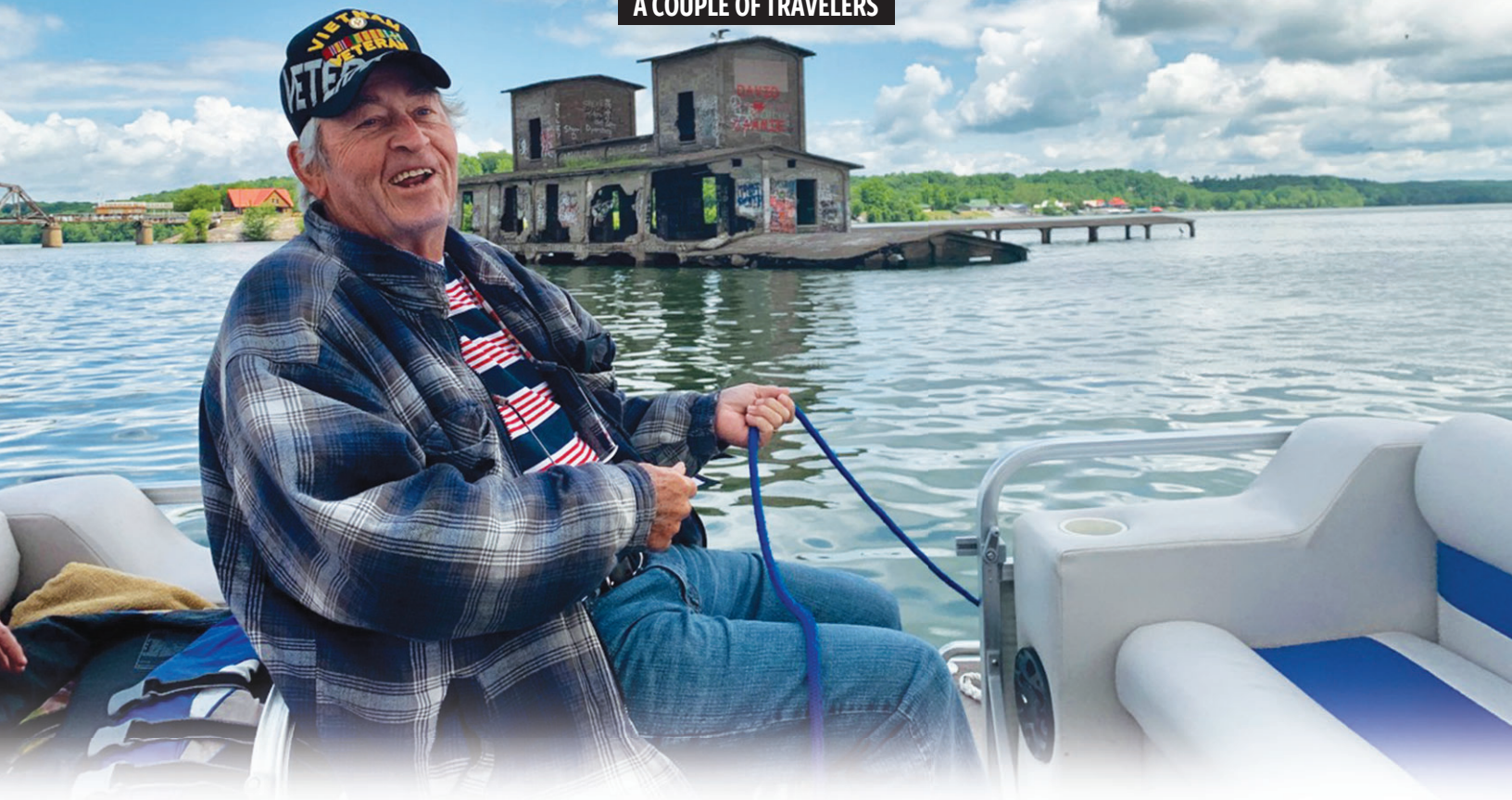
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LOCKING THROUGH KENTUCKY DAM ...ALMOST

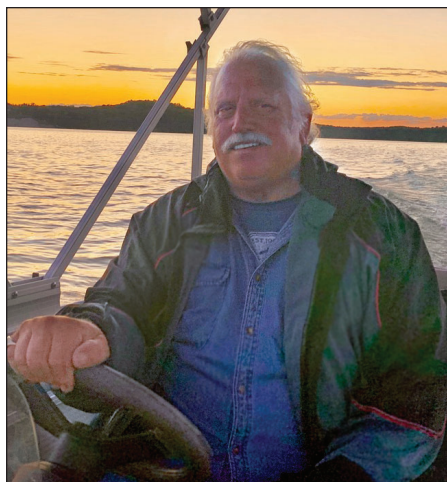
BY SUSAN JONES & JOHN NICHOLS

*Too often, travelers forget about extraordinary attractions that are just down the road.
We hope this series encourages readers to visit some nearby jewels.*

Usually, when the Two Travelers are in the water, we're in kayaks. But recently, I signed on for two days with a couple of self-described river rats traveling the length of the Tennessee River from Knoxville to Paducah by boat.

The journey was dubbed "Any Man's Trip" because the mode of transportation, a pontoon, was neither fancy nor new, but a common boat on the Tennessee.

The men's mission was to encourage boaters to get out of their skiing coves or favorite fishing spots and explore the river.



With the sunset at his back, Capt. Bob heads back to Buchanan Resort from The Breakers.

"Folks forget that the Tennessee River is 652 miles of fascinating history, scenery, music, eateries and more," said Capt. Bob Cherry, a retired merchant marine from Paducah, KY. His first mate and chief cook was fellow-Paducah adventurer, Sterling Edwards.

Pebble Isle Marina in Humphreys County, mile marker 95.5, was where I stepped aboard the pontoon. Only 36 miles from Paris by car, I made a mental note to return with John to kayak this lush, serene spot.

The marina was lovely with plenty of camping, a popular restaurant and a friendly, helpful staff. Additionally, it was a Tennessee Valley Clean Marina,

which speaks volumes about the owner's environmentally friendly approach to running the business.

Thanks to calm waters, the Danville Landing Recreation Area, old L&N Railroad Bridge and Danville grain elevator popped up on the eastern shore of Kentucky Lake much sooner than we had expected. We bobbed around long enough to swap some history about Danville, watch a few ospreys and see the Benton-Houston County Ferry chug by. Soon we were off to friendly Buchanan Resort. That evening we all enjoyed a trip to The Breakers by water. Dinner and a classic Kentucky Lake sunset were capped off with photos by the Eiffel Tower.

The next morning dawned sunny, but choppy and chilly. It was going to be a long, wet pull to the Kentucky Dam and on to Paducah. By mid-afternoon, not long after enjoying the gorgeous, undeveloped shores of Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, the vast dam came into view.

With all of the recreational opportunities on our waters, it's easy to forget that Kentucky Lake, also known as the Tennessee River, is a navigational system which moves more than 50 million tons of goods each year. Not surprisingly, commercial vessels are at the top of the pecking order when it comes to locking through a dam. And that is where my story takes an educational twist.



Above: Ospreys are fond of making their nests and raising their young on Tennessee River mile markers. For them, it's like living at the grocery store.

Previous page: First mate and chef, Sterling Edwards checks out the old Danville grain elevator and the old L & N railroad bridge.

There was a barge locking through and that would take at least an hour and half. After that, it would take us another hour if no other commercial vessels arrived in the meantime. With about 20 miles left to get to Paducah, plenty of wind, white caps and no firm time frame to lock through, it was clear that the dam had damned my trip.

While I had made plans for a ride back to Paris, I hadn't asked enough questions about timing.

I hadn't planned on such slow travel from Buchanan Resort. I had no idea that pleasure boaters were at the bottom of the food chain when it came to locks. On the upside, there was a marina nearby, so I jumped ship to summon my ride and hopefully lock through Kentucky Dam another day.

Oh, and if you're wondering what happened to Capt. Bob and Sterling, they're headed to do the length of the Cumberland. Their Tennessee River trip is chronicled on www.ExploreTRV.org under "Trip Plans." Click on "Any Man's Journey on America's Great Loop - Inner Waterway Cruise."



There is no bigger fan of Clifty Farm Ham than Sterling Edwards.



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Paris podcast

BY ANDREW WHEATLEY

The Krider Performing Arts Center has a special place in the collective memory of the young Wheatley family. At a performance in December of 2018, Alsey Wheatley went into labor while enjoying her child cousin's part in the performance of "The Nutcracker." It is a fair question to ask why a woman, days from her due date, was sitting in a theater, but it's an easy question to answer. It was a requirement for her moving to the sleepy town of Big Sandy, Tennessee, in neighboring Benton County.

For a woman who's daily playlist is a near infinite amount of indie YouTube musical numbers and "Hamilton" pieces, a theater is something she looks for when moving to the area. After moving from Salem, Massachusetts, with a bustling local theater scene and close to Boston, having ac-

cess to her guilty pleasure is important, and Nashville just isn't close enough.

Entering the theater a year later, with healthy baby boy in hand, Alsey Wheatley is back at the next performance of "The Nutcracker" that was the fanfare for her son's birth. Now she has thoughts of him on that stage in a few years as a Sugar Plum Fairy. So, another family is tied to the Krider and plans on continuing its mission of providing a location for any show needing such a stately space or enough seating for all the extended family of every single Sugar Plum Fairy on the stage.

How in the world did Paris end up with this beautiful facility though? And for the younger audience, who are the members of the seminal Krider family for whom the building is dedicated? Recently, Susan Jones Public Relations had a chance to find out through interviews with Bobbie Greer McAdoo

Fazzini, Lee Greer, and Peggy Williams.

The Greer siblings shared stories of "Miss Ruby" and her emotional teaching methods and non-traditional place in the school system. They told of her famous, or infamous, driving record and the memories that were made in the Teen Tavern, where she and her husband were chaperones. Most stunning though is the history of her commitment to ensuring that anyone who wanted her class could receive it. Showing a generous manifesting in bartering for time in her tutelage that could include mowing the lawn or a batch of homegrown, canned veggies.

Peggy Williams shared the history of the Athena Delphians in not only the construction of the center but also its crown jewel, a Steinway piano that she helped choose in New York City. She brought with her a complete portfolio of materials documenting the

early history of the Krider and even told the story of being the first person to suggest its dedication. Williams shared her views on the Krider family and their time spent making sure that the students of Henry County understood that they could be great actors, debaters or just well-schooled lovers of the performing arts.

Anytime a first time actor takes a bow or a teenager delivers her lines to perfection on the stage of the Krider, we can only hope the spirits of “Miss Ruby” and “Daddy Clem” Krider are in attendance, applauding the students of their legacy.

To hear more, join us at susanjone-spr.com/podcast or scan the QR code with your phone.

Previous page:

Right: KPAC promotional brochure encouraged the community to learn more about the project that would soon become the town's premiere performance space. On cover, Cherry Jones and Timmy Williams in Henry County High School's production of *Mame*, early 1970s.

Left: Peggy Williams plays the KPAC Steinway piano. Her son, David, looks on.



It's a rare day to find siblings, Lee Greer and Bobbie McAdoo Greer Fazzini, at Jack's Java holding a piece of driftwood. But this is not just any piece of driftwood – it's a well-loved and well-worn prompt for generations of students who took creative dramatics from Miss Ruby Krider. And now that Miss Ruby is gone, it is one of Bobbie's favorite possessions.

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SHAWN HELTON ALONE

BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

Without knowing it, Shawn Helton had been training for his appearance on the History Channel's intense survival series "Alone" all his life.

Helton was always an outdoors type who was used to fishing, hunting, and camping – the ultimate of Southern wilderness living.

"It was natural to be outside growing up," Helton said. When the History Channel announced it was seeking contestants for the new series, "I knew right away this was something I wanted to be a part of."

So much so that when Helton left the stark but beautiful environment of the Arctic Circle where he had been surviving totally on his own for 10 days – hunting squirrel and porcupine and foraging berries and reindeer moss – he told the series' producers he would

go back again in a heartbeat. "I loved it," he said. "I even told them I would waive the prize. I just thoroughly enjoyed it."

Helton, who lives in Henry, started working on being a contestant for the series from the time he saw the show the first time. "The producers want you to set up a portfolio of your experiences and that took me a year of videotaping and posting things on social media. Along the way, I stumbled across the perfect way to get on the program. I invented a bushcraft tool and my social media 'likes' went from 20 to 20,000 overnight. That seemed to get their attention and I sent in my application."

He invented a "Settlers Wrench" tool, which he has patented, to help create tight bindings in his builds without the use of cordage. Even before being selected as a participant, he had been putting his survival skills to use by producing survival education vid-

eos. His series, "Shawn with the Wild," has become a popular destination on the web.

Helton and other contestants were transported to New York where they lived in a woodsy park for a few nights on their own so that the producers could see what they were capable of doing. "You could take some tools and we built our own shelters with what we had with us," he said.

The History Channel describes the series as the most intense survival series on television. During the first six seasons, the concept was that whichever contestant lasted the longest on their own would win \$500,000.

For the current season seven, the format was changed. Participants were required to survive on their own for 100 days to receive \$1,000,000.

"Achieving this goal will be a struggle, especially when the survivalists have to endure the intense conditions and aggressive predators of the Arctic," according to the program description.

Helton was selected for the program and he had a "good plan all set out for myself, but as I was executing it, I experienced bad luck in that I lost my ferro rod on Day 10 in the Arctic. And there is no way to survive in the Arctic without a heat source."



The Settlers Wrench invented by Helton.

Each contestant was allowed to bring 10 items with them on their Arctic adventure, and for Helton, those items were his ferro rod, sleeping bag, saw, axe, multi-tool, paracord, fishing line and hooks, cooking pot, Scotch-eyed auger, and bow and arrows.

Helton said the locale for the program was the Great Slave Lake at the Arctic Circle. "It was just amazing. When you first land there, you just stand in awe, looking at your surroundings. It's beautiful, but it's harsh."

Contestants were dropped off away from each other. "You're never where you can see or hear anybody," Helton said. Contestants also had packets with safety equipment, including a small medical kit, air horns, and three ways of communicating (two-way radio, sat-

ellite phone and GPS) which was only to be used when absolutely necessary. Producers monitor each contestant to ensure they were not in danger.

Helton got his first taste for how harsh his environment was immediately. He said he set some of his equipment down outside his shelter for the night and found teeth marks on it the next morning. "So, you're definitely not alone out there."

Growing up in the South, a big adjustment was the cold. "I did a lot of research on the cold and had to find clothing that would fit that environment. When we were there, it wasn't the coldest part of the year. It was in the 30's, still cool, but not as cold as it could be. We had 12 hours of sunlight each day," he said.

To prepare, Helton put on an extra 40 pounds "to give myself some insulation. Actually, I was chunky." Once at the Arctic Circle, he lost 20 pounds in 10 days, which he attributed to loss of water weight and the work he was doing building a shelter, hunting and foraging for food.

He caught and ate squirrels and a porcupine and foraged edible berries and reindeer moss. "The porcupine actually lasted four or five days," he said.

For the first few days, he built a make-shift lean-to shelter, which he



Shawn Helton (standing, right) is shown in this promotional photo with the other contestants of History Channel's series, "Alone."

transformed into an A-frame structure and then into a teepee. He said he was building a more permanent shelter when his adventure came to an end.

Helton said his family was nervous for him to participate. "But they knew I was excited to be there."

He was raised in the hills of Kentucky and Tennessee, was schooled in Hollow Rock-Bruceton Schools through high school, and then moved to Paris and Henry afterwards.

His wife, Michelle Helton, is a business owner in Paris and they have five children and several grandkids. "I love them all dearly and that's a lot of people to miss when you're gone that long. It's also a lot of motivation. And most importantly, after all that, anybody would be ready for some 'Alone' time. Never a dull moment" at home.

They live on 11 acres and he said he always finds time to unwind in the wilderness. "It's cheaper than therapy, but just as effective."

For more information, checkout "Shawn With The Wild" on Facebook, YouTube, or Instagram.



After his Arctic adventure, Helton rewards himself with some "alone" time.

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LITTLE GIRL

with a BIG MESSAGE

BY KAREN GEARY

On the hot, humid evening of June 2, an event occurred that is seldom seen on the Paris courthouse square — a protest march. The attendees were multi-racial and multi-generational, from all walks of life, joining in unity to protest the death of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer and the treatment of black, brown, and gay individuals around our country. They carried Black Lives Matter signs, they chanted Floyd's name, they made their concerns known, and they prayed for peace and understanding. And they were photographed.

Sarah Smith-Wills, a local professional photographer and mother of two children, attended the peaceful rally because she was curious and “excited for our community to be fighting

racism.” She brought her camera and posted several photographs from the march on her Facebook page, feeling she had captured a historic time for our community.

One of her photos gained instant attention on social media — an adorable little girl holding a poster with a powerful message that reverberated around the world, literally.

Her subject was six-year-old Armani Williams, daughter of Shalyn Williams and Markia Patton. “She just stood out,” said Smith-Wills, when asked why she chose the girl for her picture. “She was so sweet and approachable with that big smile! And her sign’s message resonated with me. I thought the lighting and setting was good, so I asked her mother if I could take her photo.”

Armani’s homemade sign read: “We Said Black Live Matter → Never Said Only Black Lives Matter → We Know All Lives Matter → We Just Need Your Help With #BlackLivesMatter For Black Lives Are In Danger.”

That photo and message were shared rapidly on social media platforms across the United States and in posts originating in Canada, England, Ecuador, Italy, New Zealand, and beyond. The post was shared by celebrities and influencers such as Kristen Bell, Reese Witherspoon, Carole King, Mariska Hargitay, Cindy Crawford, and Bobby Beck on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Thumblr, and LinkedIn. According to Smith-Wills, her post has been shared approximately 108,000 times from her Facebook site and it has over 1,200 comments.

"I was overwhelmed by the reaction," Smith-Wills said. "I never expected this." Although she recognizes the impact of the photo, she didn't want the attention on herself. "I'm glad it was good for the Black Lives Matter movement." The experience has caused her to self-reflect on the deep-rooted racial problems that exists in the country and community, and she feels people need to educate themselves on the issues.



Armani's mother was equally surprised by the response to the photograph. "It was amazing to see my little sunshine all over social media. I couldn't have been happier," Williams said. "Seeing all the shares and how many celebrities had shared it made me even more amazed. It never crossed my mind that the photo would travel across the world and have an impact on so many other people."

Like Smith-Wills, Williams brought Armani to the protest to support the Black Lives Matter movement, a cause very important to her. The march became a teachable moment for Armani.

"Explaining to a six-year-old about what was going on was very difficult, but I told her that we were going to support ALL people but mostly people of our color who have been treated badly," said Williams. "I even explained to her a little about slavery so she could understand that we (blacks) have been treated differently for years. But I also let her know that we love all skin colors, no matter what. I'm just blessed that the message was seen by so many people who understood it and didn't take offense to it. There were some negative comments (on Facebook), but the positive ones definitely outweighed them."

What did Armani think of her sudden popularity on social media? "It feels wonderful! I'm happy she took my picture."

The Rhea School first grader – who wants to be an astronaut when she grows up – might have been discovered by Earthly stars, but with the national desire for racial equality, Armani just might realize her dream, shoot for the stars, and make an even bigger impact in her world.

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ON MY HONOR I WILL DO MY BEST...

BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

Paris is lucky! Because of the community-minded spirit of two local Eagle Scouts, the citizens of Paris are benefiting greatly from two recent and ongoing projects.

Thanks to Liam McDevitt and his Eagle Scout project, a Little Free Food Pantry has been built and established in the Atkins-Porter Neighborhood. And thanks to Paul Tusa, generations of Parisians will be able to enjoy newly-crafted flower planters around the court square.

Eagle Scout projects are evaluated on the impact they have on local communities, schools or institutions and the leadership provided by the Scout. They must also show evidence of planning and development. All that is certainly true for the projects embarked upon by McDevitt and Tusa. Both belong to Troop 28, which is associated with the First United Methodist Church.

McDevitt's Little Free Food Pantry had been in the works for some time. When the Little Free Library was installed at the entrance of the Atkins-Porter Recreation Center in 2017, it got McDevitt to thinking. His

thoughts turned more and more to creating a Free Food Pantry for people in need.

"Take what you need. Donate what you can." That's the message on the door of the Little Pantry and the philosophy behind it. The pantry is for the community, not just for the A-P Neighborhood.

With help from his father, Scott McDevitt, and other scouts, the local Free Food Pantry took shape. Also helping him out with the project were his brother Riley, Ben Hassel, Brian Tusa and Paul Tusa.

The pantry is well-stocked with a good variety of items, including canned goods, macaroni & cheese mix, hygiene products, baby wipes, diapers, food for pets, condiments and more. Since the pantry was installed, the whole McDevitt family has taken it on as a project, with his mother, Mandy McDevitt, keeping it regularly stocked with items donated from neighbors.

The pantry was built to resemble the Little Free Library, with the pantry painted blue and the Little Library painted red. It was built at his father's shop and materials were donated by McDevitt Construction, Paris Building

Supply, Paint Plus and Tayloe Hancock.

The planter project is still ongoing and is something of a legacy project. Paul's father, Brian Tusa, noted that for his Eagle Scout project some 30 years ago, he built the original planter boxes that were placed around the court-house square.

"It's neat to think my dad was doing this same thing almost 30 years ago. We have such a pretty court square in Paris, and I'm proud to have my project as part of the downtown landscape," said Paul.

"We used treated lumber and after 30 years, they had started to deteriorate," Brian Tusa said. "Paul thought that would be a good project for him to take on and we talked to (County Mayor) Brent Greer about replacing the boxes." Greer said the county had wanted to replace the planter boxes, so the timing was good.

There were 10 boxes total, and Brian said he and Paul drew up plans and designs for how the new planters should look. The plans were then approved by Greer and County Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Charles.

The new boxes are made of composite wood that will not deteriorate or

rot. Removing the current planters was a major part of the project since they were rotting so badly. "At first, we took a dolly and were using that to move them, but some of them were coming apart. Actually six of the ten broke apart. We decided we needed a front-end loader to move them," Tusa said.

The project has become a group activity, with the planters also being constructed at McDevitt's shop and with help from Paul's grandfather, Dr. Vince Tusa, Bobby Marcus, and fellow Scouts Fisher Lawrence and Lee Hayes.

The project is time-consuming, with a lot of man hours involved in the construction. So far, two planters have been completed.

Paris has benefitted from other Eagle Scout projects in the past, with both Scott and Trey Gerrell creating signs for Eiffel Tower Park, Ogburn Park and the Atkins-Porter Dog Park, Will Wardlaw building the ga-ga game at Ogburn Park, Jacob Pooler building the t-ball areas at McNeill Park, and Paul David Lowe creating the prayer garden at First United Methodist Church. Yes sir, Paris is lucky!



Paul Tusa's Eagle Scout project is a family affair. His father built the original ones 30 years ago. Paul is replacing them with help from his grandfather, Dr. Vince Tusa.

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What's the honking about? Turns out Pete Piskos was turning 50 years young and the ladies at Edward Jones wanted everyone to know and wished him well.



Summer and ice cream just go together! Lydia Watson enjoys a scoop of her favorite flavor at Sweet Jordan's. Her parents are Lacy and Dalton Watson.



What's a guy to do when his wife loves chickens? Jeremy Hutson decided to build his wife, Tricia, a "chic-nic" table for her favorite feathered friends.



Will Roberts recently took his son, Liam, out for a walk and stopped to show him the beautiful sunflowers. What a cutie!



Adrianna "Anna" Hefner, a senior at Henry County High School, performed in the role of Amy in the Krider Performing Arts Center's summer production of "Little Women."



Ramay Winchester and Karen Sinn helped pack 8,000 servings of pasta for the Second Harvest Food Bank.



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The Chamber Water Fun Run drew a record-breaking number of boating enthusiasts this year. 800 participated and 70 percent came from out of state. The theme was "Christmas in July" and this group seemed to be really into it. It was called the "Flamingo Express."



Eight-month-old Lawson Coblentz and his rubber ducks found a great way to beat the summer heat while visiting his grandmother, Mary Hickman, of Paris.



No fireworks, no worries. Heather, Reagan and Randy Bastyr, along with the other families of Sunnyside, got together for a socially distanced 4th of July complete with a parade where they all decorated golf carts in red, white and blue and drove around the neighborhood.



While visiting from Michigan, Felicity Brown, age 5, found out what it's like to be an Oakland Volunteer Fire Kid. Her grandmother, Patricia Greer, said the department was kind enough to show her grandchildren around the station and how to use the fire hose.



Cori Hopkins, daughter of Michelle and Brian Hopkins, practices with her heifer, Figgie, for the upcoming Dairy Show at the Henry County Fair. Tri-Springs Jerseys has given her the opportunity to learn about the dairy industry.



Palmer Mason, age 3, pulled in a crappie almost as big as he is while fishing. He is the son of Tyler and Amanda Mason.

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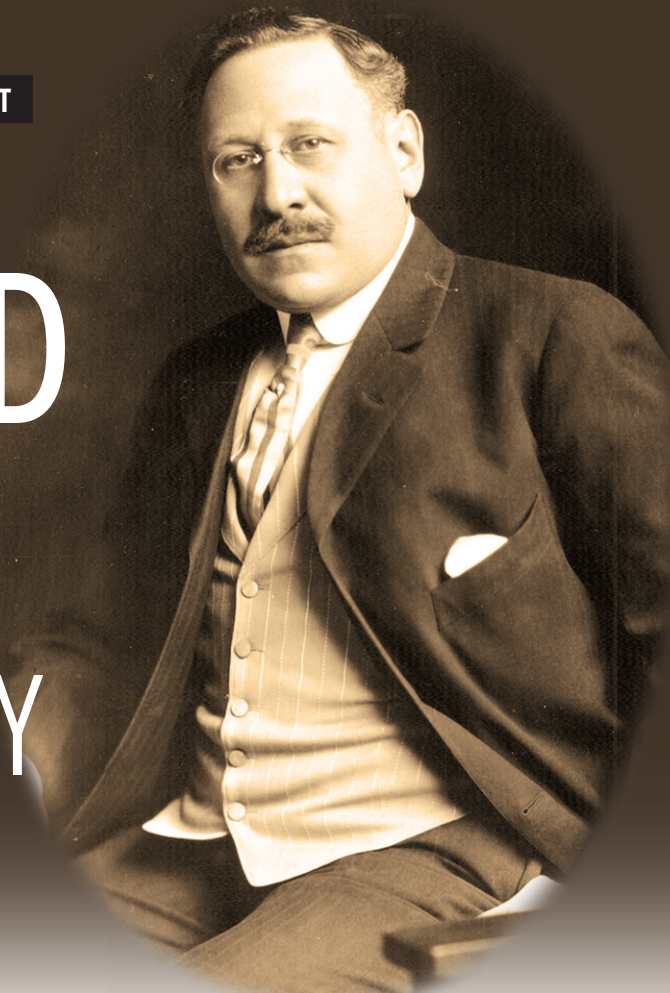


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ROSENWALD SCHOOLS IN HENRY COUNTY



BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

How many among us were aware that Henry County has a direct connection to Booker T. Washington, the Tuskegee Institute and the Rosenwald Schools, which were one of the greatest initiatives for the education of African Americans to be established in the United States?

As most people know, Booker T. Washington was the dominant leader in the African American community in the United States for decades in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He was an educator, author, orator and adviser to several presidents. He was also the founder of the Tuskegee Institute.

Lesser known to most, Julius Rosenwald was a philanthropist and president of the Sears-Roebuck company. He and his family established the Rosenwald Fund for “the well-being of mankind.” During the course of its activism, it donated more than 70 million dollars to public schools, colleges, universities, museums, Jewish charities and black institutions between 1917 and 1948.

Working together, Washington and Rosenwald developed the state-of-the-art Rosenwald Schools for African American children across the South.

Their collaboration produced the construction of some 5,000 schools for African American children in 11 states of the former Confederacy, as well as

Oklahoma, Kentucky, Missouri, and Maryland.

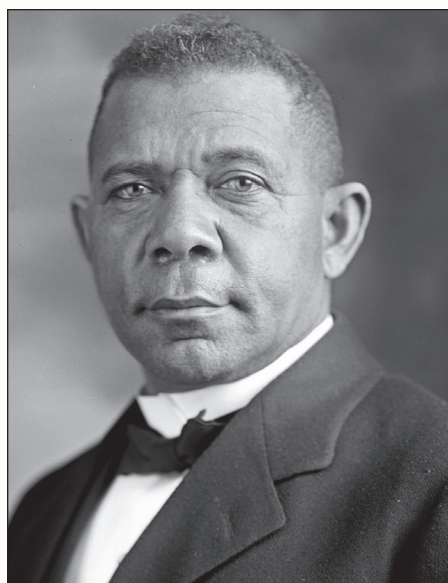
With their program, about one third of all African American children were educated in Rosenwald Schools by 1928, including a significant portion of Henry County’s African American population.

According to the Fisk University archives, there were six Rosenwald Schools in Henry County: the former Central High School (on Rison Street), the Henry County Training School, the New Hope School in Henry, as well as small schools in Cottage Grove, Puryear and Henry.

According to the Fisk archives, the former Central High School is described as a four-teacher school built on four acres at a total cost of \$10,000.

The Henry County Training School, which was located on Church Street, next to the existing Quinn Chapel AME Church, was a seven-teacher school built for \$35,000.

The Cottage Grove School was described as a two-teacher school built on two acres at a cost of \$3,050.



Booker T. Washington

The Henry School was a two-teacher school built for \$1,575.

The Puryear School was a two-teacher school built for \$2,452.

The New Hope school was a three-teacher school built for \$5,106.

The Fisk Archives include photos of the Cottage Grove, Henry and Puryear Schools, and the Henry County Training School. Unfortunately, the descriptions do not include locations for the former schools.

Over the years, several groups in Tennessee have sought to restore the Rosenwald Schools, but none of the former schools in Henry County still exist. The former Central High School on Rison was torn down in 2014 and the former Henry County Training School was demolished decades ago.

A hallmark of the Rosenwald-Washington model required African American communities to buy-in to construction of the schools, both with monetary donations and labor and often donated land. Local communities were also required to contribute money and the Rosenwald Fund



Cottage Grove School (left) and Henry County Training School (right)
Both schools were financed and developed by the Rosenwald Fund. Once, Henry County had six Rosenwald Schools but none of the buildings exists presently.

would then donate seed money and matching funds.

The architecture of the schools was cutting-edged for the time and made a statement as to the equality and importance of the education taking place there.

The schools were built with architectural plans designed by professors at the Tuskegee Institute. In all, almost 5,000 schools were built, along with 217 teacher homes and 163 shop buildings.

The Rosenwald Schools, in the words of the National Trust, represent

the “most important partnership to advance African American education in the early 20th century.”

In 2002, The National Trust named Rosenwald Schools to its list of America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Across Tennessee, at least 375 schools were built between 1912 and 1932.

Attending a Rosenwald School put a student at the vanguard of education for southern African American children, and just think, there were six of those schools in operation here in Henry County.

Jesus left these words for his disciples during troubled times:

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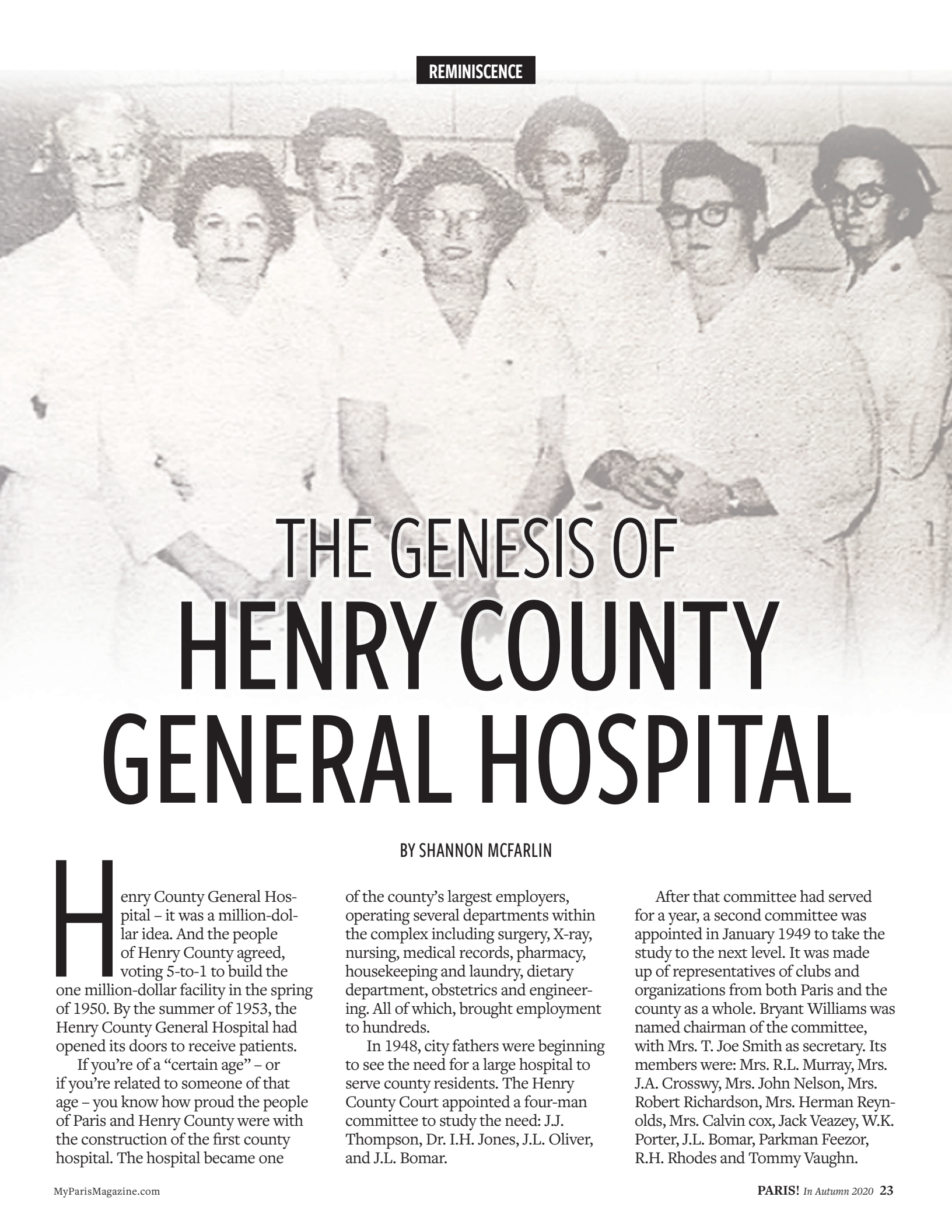
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THE GENESIS OF HENRY COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL

BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

Henry County General Hospital – it was a million-dollar idea. And the people of Henry County agreed, voting 5-to-1 to build the one million-dollar facility in the spring of 1950. By the summer of 1953, the Henry County General Hospital had opened its doors to receive patients.

If you're of a "certain age" – or if you're related to someone of that age – you know how proud the people of Paris and Henry County were with the construction of the first county hospital. The hospital became one

of the county's largest employers, operating several departments within the complex including surgery, X-ray, nursing, medical records, pharmacy, housekeeping and laundry, dietary department, obstetrics and engineering. All of which, brought employment to hundreds.

In 1948, city fathers were beginning to see the need for a large hospital to serve county residents. The Henry County Court appointed a four-man committee to study the need: J.J. Thompson, Dr. I.H. Jones, J.L. Oliver, and J.L. Bomar.

After that committee had served for a year, a second committee was appointed in January 1949 to take the study to the next level. It was made up of representatives of clubs and organizations from both Paris and the county as a whole. Bryant Williams was named chairman of the committee, with Mrs. T. Joe Smith as secretary. Its members were: Mrs. R.L. Murray, Mrs. J.A. Crosswy, Mrs. John Nelson, Mrs. Robert Richardson, Mrs. Herman Reynolds, Mrs. Calvin Cox, Jack Veazey, W.K. Porter, J.L. Bomar, Parkman Feezor, R.H. Rhodes and Tommy Vaughn.

Their recommendation: There indeed was a need for a large hospital to serve the county. They recommended an election for a bond levy be called for, seeking \$240,000 in bonds which would represent the county's portion of the cost of building the million-dollar hospital. The election was held April 1, 1950, and county residents voted overwhelmingly in favor.

Next, the County Court appointed a building committee quickly and a board of trustees was appointed: W.K. Porter, Wayne Cox, Nathan Bowden, John Van Dyck, and A.C. Jackson.

After much of planning and many meetings, Henry County General Hospital opened its doors in August of 1953. On Friday, August 28, formal dedication ceremonies were held. Hundreds of visitors were excited to view the building and the new, modern equipment. The original facility housed 70 patient beds. Everyone was excited about the progress the hospital represented for the county.

Six years had not gone by before patient occupancy exceeded the original facility and the board of trustees decided an addition was needed. Architects put their heads together, first looking at the possibility of adding a fifth

floor to the hospital, but further study showed that expanding horizontally was cheaper.

A new wing was built on the east side of the hospital and included in the new addition was an Intensive Nursing Care unit. The new addition created a 100-bed facility and opening ceremonies were held in September of 1959.

Even with the progress and forward-thinking shown by the construction of the county hospital, this was still a simpler time. Doctors still made house calls, most of the medical staff were born and raised here, the nurses were your friends and hospital stays were longer and seemed to feel more home-like. People still remember the doctors and nursing staff that worked for the Henry County General Hospital with fondness, talking about how much a part of their lives they were.

The Medical Staff at Henry County General Hospital are familiar names: Dr. J. Ray Smith, Dr. A.C. Dunlap, Dr. John Neumann, Dr. J.H. McSwain, Dr. R.G. Fish, Dr. Charles Fitch, Dr. Thomas Wood, Dr. Joe Mobley, Dr. E.B. Paschall, Dr. I.H. Jones, Dr. Leslie Eason, Dr. E.P. Mobley, Dr. Ranel Spence, Dr. W.G. Rhea, Dr. C.D. Wilder, and Dr. K.G. Ross.

The ladies in the business office were familiar, too: Chief Accountant Joy Hunt, Administrative Secretary Shelby Brooks. The switchboard was worked by several young ladies who fielded hundreds of calls every day. Medical Records was a busy place, with Carol Jean Berry serving as Medical Records Librarian and Margaret Weaks serving as Medical Records Stenographer.

The state-of-the-art departments included a modern laboratory under the direction of Joe Claxton and its own pharmacy which was overseen by Noel Fry. The surgical suite was supervised by Helen Scarbrough and they were air conditioned!

The intensive care unit was Tennessee's first to be installed in a 100-bed hospital and was added to the hospital with the opening of the new \$364,000 surgical wing in July 1959.

The X-ray Department operated with a resident radiologist, Dr. Ralph Eslick, and the Nursing Department was supervised by Sarah Johnsonius. Members of the Nursing Supervisory Personnel were Rita Cannon, Maxine Harding, Doris Frazier, Emogene Borg, Rubye Taliaferro, Betty Gooch and Elizabeth Simmons.

These were the days when nurses wore starched white uniforms with caps. At that time, Henry County General Hospital had its own nursing education program, operated along with the Henry County School system.

Housekeeping and laundry required a large staff and were under the supervision of Margaret Caldwell, while the Dietary Department kept busy making meals for patients and staff, as well as operating a cafeteria for visitors. Margaret Evans was the Dietician.

The Engineering Department was under the supervision of Charlie Bennett and worked around the clock maintaining the power for the facility.

The hospital's first Women's Auxiliary was formed in 1954, with Mrs. R.L. Humphrey as its president. By November 1960, 429 new members were added to the auxiliary, bringing the total of its members to a whopping 805 ladies. Mrs. K.B. Humphreys, Sr. was chairman of that membership drive. The ladies of the auxiliary were always busy and met together at the



Henry County General Hospital's first Women's Auxiliary volunteered by serving snacks to patients, distributing books and magazines, and much more. Mrs. R.L. Humphrey was the auxiliary's first president.

hospital regularly to volunteer in the various departments of the hospital, serving snacks to patients, distributing books and magazines to patient rooms, preparing a book, "Baby's First Seven Years" for new mothers, sewing items for patients and much more.

But the most popular spot – and one of the busiest– in the hospital was the maternity ward on the fourth floor. A glass panel was installed through which parents and family could view the newborns.

Who was the first baby born in the hospital? That would be Janet Walker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Walker of Paris.

Henry County General Hospital was a beacon of progress for the local community. It laid the necessary groundwork for the current Henry County Medical Center and still has a special spot in the hearts of many county residents.

Right: Janet Walker, shown with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Charles Walker of Paris, was the first baby born at the Henry County General Hospital.



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The Chapel Hill Ghost

BY BARRY HART

I stood near the outside door of the church gazing over the tops of old tombstones that faded slightly as the hill sloped towards the woods. It was dark, and the moon was just beginning to slip out from behind a cloud that had been slowly drifting towards the east. I took a step or two on a slightly beaten path that led into the woods, and I heard someone say, “Don’t even think about it!” I asked, “Why?”

“Haven’t you heard about the Chapel Hill Ghost?” the elderly lady asked. I said, “No, I haven’t.”

She said, “You will know if you continue down the path into the woods!” Then, without another word, the lady went back inside the church and left me to my thoughts.

What does a 10-year-old boy do when he’s told that he should NOT do something? Well, naturally, he thinks about doing it!

In the 1950s, Lon Chaney, Boris Karloff, and Bela Lugosi brought fear and trembling to television as each of their characters – the Mummy, Frankenstein, and Dracula – took center-

stage during the Halloween season.

I remember times when I would huddle with my brothers and sisters, and a few first cousins, in a dark room, with my back to the wall, and cover myself with a patchwork quilt. It was my last line of defense in the event the monster would somehow escape the confines of the television and invade the sanctity of our room. It was a terrifying thought for a young boy.

The feelings of fear I had experienced in that dark room setting caused me a bit of angst when I was faced with the decision “should I or shouldn’t I” explore the path into the woods. I felt like I needed to face my fears, so I continued along the way.

As I approached the woods, I could hear some rustling in the brush, and it sounded as though it was not too far away. I slowed my pace a bit, and before long, I was standing at the edge of the woods. I had a decision to make, and I made the choice to enter the woods. By this time, the rustling noise I had heard earlier had gotten louder, and it was accompanied by a couple of moans. I turned around to see if

there had been any disturbances in the cemetery. By that, I mean had anyone come forth from their grave.

I was alone. At least, I thought I was. My pace quickened as I navigated through the thick underbrush.

Again, I heard the rustling. It sounded as though it was almost upon me. I was sweating. I was breathing heavy. I was having flashbacks to the 1950s, and I wondered if it could be The Mummy coming for me. All those creepy feelings I experienced were swelling up inside.

My first thought was to retrace my steps so I could be sure to get out of the woods and away from whatever was haunting me. But then I figured the entity was following me. I had to come up with a Plan B.

After a few hurried thoughts, Plan B was to hunker down and wait until someone realized I was missing, and a rescue party would be sent. The noise kept getting closer, so Plan B was out. On to Plan C!

I began to walk faster and with much more determination. Through the trees, I could see a light flickering.

Could it be the search party already?
Could it be the eyes of whatever was
chasing after me?

I picked the latter, and off I ran,
jumping over fallen trees, ducking un-
der low-hanging limbs, and clawing my
way through the blackberry briers.

By this time, I could hear the
breathing. Not mine, but that of the
being pursuing me. I hid behind an old
oak tree. It was big enough that I was
fully hidden from my pursuer. It was
dark inside the woods, and I knew if I
just stayed hidden, the creature would
run past me and find himself chasing
the wind.

I stood by, and for a moment only
silence filled the night air. I left my hid-
ing place and ran down the path that
led me out of the woods. All the while,
and not looking back, I could hear the
creature running fast and hard behind
me. All I could think was "I hope I can
make it. I won't ever do this again."

Finally, I came upon a clearing
ahead, and out I went.

I could see the elderly lady stand-
ing near a tombstone in the cemetery.
She waved to me, and I headed in her
direction. As I approached her, think-
ing that I would hear a "poof" and she
would suddenly vanish, she hollered,
"Did you find Bessie?"

I said, "Is that the name of the
ghost?" She said, "No. That's the name
of my milk cow, and every once in a
while she wanders off into the woods
and can't find her way out. I'll either
go in and get her or wait for one of the
young'uns to go in for me!"

The ghost at the Chapel Hill Meth-
odist Church was Bessie the Milk Cow,
and I was just another young'un un-
knowingly able to help an elderly lady.

To my own amusement, the tale
of the Chapel Hill Ghost is a seasonal
favorite. Whenever the family gathers
around our fire pit on Halloween after
a couple of hours trick-or-treating with
the grandkids, this story is requested.
The older kids laugh when I get down
to the punchline and the young'uns
hear the story for the first time.

Oh, what memories we have to
share.

*Barry Hart is a published author, retired minister
and former U.S. Marine combat veteran. He'd love
to hear from you via email at hartbn@charter.net.*





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When it comes to raising an adventurous eater, it is not just about coaxing kids to eat their veggies. Bringing up a child who can enjoy a cantaloupe as much as a cupcake takes patience and persistence, but it doesn't have to feel like a chore.

Kids may need to have frequent joyful experiences involving food to overcome the anxiety they may have around tasting the unfamiliar. Over time, cooking with your children can help build that confidence – and provide rich sensory experiences. Then sometimes, just finding a few recipes that involve food we already have around but can put together in a new way with our kids, can be the perfect meal.



CHICKEN AND WAFFLES

INGREDIENTS

Box of frozen waffles
1 lb. bag of frozen chicken strips
Bottle of syrup
Optional ½ dozen eggs
Directions

So, we'll take waffles over buns any day! This is so easy that it really needs no explanation. Simply cook your chicken according to package directions and pop your waffles in the toaster. Toss your chicken around in a bowl of syrup and put it between two waffles. We like to spice it up with a little cayenne pepper on our chicken and fry up an egg or two and throw it on there.



CHICKEN PARM SLIDERS

INGREDIENTS

12 Pack of dinner rolls
1 lb. bag frozen of chicken tenders or nuggets
1 jar of spaghetti sauce
6 slices of mozzarella cheese

Just cook the chicken strips according to the package's instructions and stick them on sliced dinner rolls. Top each strip with half a slice of mozzarella, some marinara and a sprinkling of parmesan, then broil until the cheese is gooey. Prepare to soak up everyone's praise.



CHILI CHEESE DOG PIZZA

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. refrigerated pizza dough, divided into 2 pieces
- 2 cups canned chili, divided
- 2 cups shredded cheddar, divided
- 3 hot dogs, sliced ¼" thick, divided
- ½ small red onion, diced
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced

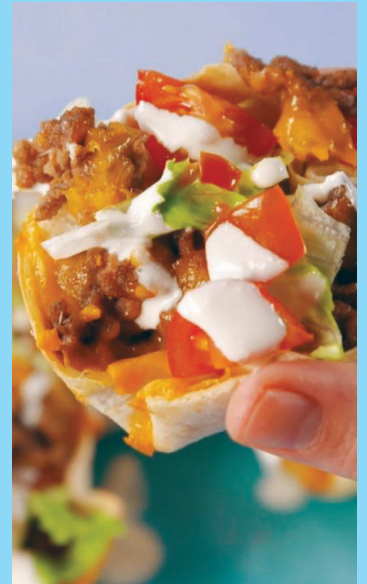
DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 500°. Grease two large baking sheets with cooking spray.
2. On a lightly floured surface, roll out 1 piece of pizza dough into a large circle roughly 8" in diameter. Transfer onto prepared baking sheet, then repeat with other piece of pizza dough.
3. Spread 1 cup of chili on each pizza, leaving a 1" border around the edges of the dough. (This will be your crust!) Divide cheddar evenly between both pizzas, then top with sliced hot dogs.
4. Bake until cheese is melted and dough is cooked through, 20 to 25 minutes, checking on the pizzas and rotating them in the oven halfway through.
5. Top with red and green onions before serving.

HAND-HELD TACOS

INGREDIENTS

- 12 tortillas
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- ½ onion, chopped
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 2 tsp. taco seasoning
- kosher salt
- black pepper
- 1 cup chopped cherry tomatoes
- 2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup shredded lettuce
- Sour cream, for drizzling



DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Grease muffin pan with cooking spray. Stamp out tortillas with a 4" biscuit cutter. Place a tortilla into each cup of muffin pan, folding the edges if necessary. Set aside.
2. In a large skillet over medium heat, heat olive oil. Add onion and cook until softened, about 5 minutes. Add ground beef, breaking up the meat with a wooden spoon. Season with taco seasoning, salt, and pepper and cook until the meat is no longer pink, about 6 minutes. Drain fat.
3. Spoon cooked beef mixture into each tortilla, then top with shredded cheddar. Bake until the tortillas are golden around the edges and the cheese has melted, about 10 minutes.
4. Garnish with tomatoes, cheese, lettuce and sour cream.



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THE RED-HOT GARDENER

BY JOHN WATKINS

So, as I sit here writing this article, the temperatures for the past week or more have been in the 90's with the heat index well above 100! Almost too hot to enjoy even the thought of working outside in the garden. What better time than now to write an article about heat and drought tolerant plants, right?

Most plants can survive the heat stress if you can get enough water to them, but I'm talking about those plants that can walk right up to summer and say, "do your worst!" without blinking an eye. While there are plenty of evergreens that can tolerate the summer heat (think junipers and hollies), you have to be a little more mindful when selecting flowering perennials and shrubs.

Let's start with a few of my favorite perennials that are tough as nails once they get established.

Perovskia or Russian Sage is a late summer blooming perennial that typically grows from 2-3 feet tall and

opens up its long spikes of silvery-blue flowers from July right on through to September, making it one of the longest blooming perennials out there. They are very hardy, and laugh off the heat, drought, and pests, while still looking sharp and fresh.

Want to spice things up a little in your bright, sunny garden? Try Red-Hot Poker or *Kniphofia uvaria*. Try saying that three times real fast! This upright, clump forming perennial is native to South Africa, if that gives any indication as to its heat and drought tolerance. It does like rich, well-drained soils, but other than that, it's better just to leave these guys alone and let them do their thing. The buds and emerging flowers are red but mature to a lemon-yellow, giving each spike a two-toned appearance.

Looking for a nice yellow perennial to offset your summer blues? *Coreopsis* is the plant for you. These plants are very easy to grow, tolerating heat, humidity and drought. Heck, they even

thrive in poor sandy or rocky soils as long as they have good drainage.

The threadleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*) grows in bushy clumps 1-3 feet tall and feature yellow, daisy-like flowers. The stems and foliage are truly "threadlike" and give somewhat of a fern-like appearance.

One of my all-time favorite perennials, *Echinacea*, just happens to be one of the toughest when it comes to tolerating heat and drought. Most people will recognize the purple coneflower by its large, up to 5", daisy-like purple flowers that bloom throughout the summer. The flowers are great to use either fresh cut or as a dried flower in arrangements.

But don't think purple is the only color of coneflower out there. With numerous cultivars to choose from, you could have yellows, pinks, purples, and my personal favorite, red (especially one called "Tomato Soup") filling up your borders, native plant gardens, or in a naturalized area.

The list of heat and drought tolerant perennials can be expansive, and as much as I would like to describe each and every one of them – don't get me started – I think I had better just list a few more and let you do the legwork on them. So, in no particular order:

Agastache (Anise Hyssop), Yarrow, *Allium*, *Artemesia*, Butterfly Weed, *Baptisia*, *Gaillardia*, Penstemon, Sedum, Ornamental Grasses, *Armeria* (Sea Pinks), *Dianthus*, *Helleborus*, Candytuft, Catmint, Creeping Thyme, Vernonia (Ironweed), and last but not least, *Delosperma*, otherwise known as the Hardy Ice Plant. (I know, weird huh?)

Alright, enough with the perennials, what about the heat and drought tolerant shrubs? Again, you could probably find any number of evergreens out there that would fit the bill, but we all appreciate those flowers, don't we. Here are a few of my favorites.

Buddleia davidii is more commonly known as the butterfly bush and for good reason. Once established, it is quite heat and drought tolerant and is known for its densely clustered, 6-12 inch, mildly fragrant flowers that are like magnets for butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees. Its popularity has led to numerous cultivars that vary in sizes (from 2 feet up to 15 feet) and flower colors (blues, lilacs, purples, pinks, yellows, whites and reds) so there's something for everyone.

The American Beautyberry (*Calli-carpa Americana*) is a great native plant that needs minimal care once its roots are established. While certainly not the most "formal" shrub, it is highly valued for the spectacular show of fruits in late summer that last until almost winter. Its loose open form is better suited to naturalized or shrub border areas. The bright violet to magenta berries completely encircle the stems and really put on a show, not to mention being great for wildlife.

I always used to think of hydrangeas as plants needing a lot of water. I mean, the genus name *Hydrangea* literally comes from the Greek "hydor" meaning "water." However, there are a couple of species that handle the heat and dry conditions fairly well.

Oakleaf hydrangeas (*hydrangea quercifolia*) appreciate a little afternoon shade – hey, me too! – but are actually



No Southern garden should be without a Crape myrtle.

quite drought tolerant. The panicle hydrangea (*H. paniculata*) is definitely one of the most sun tolerant of the hydrangeas and with varieties like "Limelight," "Pinky Winky," or "Quick Fire," you have a few to choose from.

One of my new favorite shrubs is the Vitex or Chastetree (*Vitex agnus-castus*). Vitex is usually seen as a vase-shaped shrub, ranging from 3 to 10 feet depending on variety, but can also be trained as a single trunk tree and reach almost 20 feet tall. If you aren't familiar with it, just imagine a butterfly bush on steroids. The panicle flowers bloom from mid to late summer and are every bit as attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds as the butterfly bush.

Lantanas are another great summer performer that everyone should have. However, they frustrate me to no end. I mean, they look like a hardy shrub, grow like a hardy shrub, and get to the size of a hardy shrub, but most vari-

eties just aren't that hardy in our area meaning we have to treat them like annuals. If you have a protected area, you might try a variety called 'Miss Huff' as it is listed as one of the hardiest for our area. Even if it is an "annual," this plant is so heat and drought tolerant and has some of the best flowers out there, that it is worth the attention.

In respect to other heat and drought tolerant flowering shrubs, here's a short list: Peony, Nandina, Abelia, Flowering Quince, Spirea, Cotoneaster, Forsythia, Lilac, Viburnum, and last but not least, Crape myrtles. No respectful Southern garden should be without at least one or two Crape myrtles!

There you have it. It's by no means an exhaustive list, but at least a starting point to help you make it through next year's hot and dry summer.

Happy Gardening!

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

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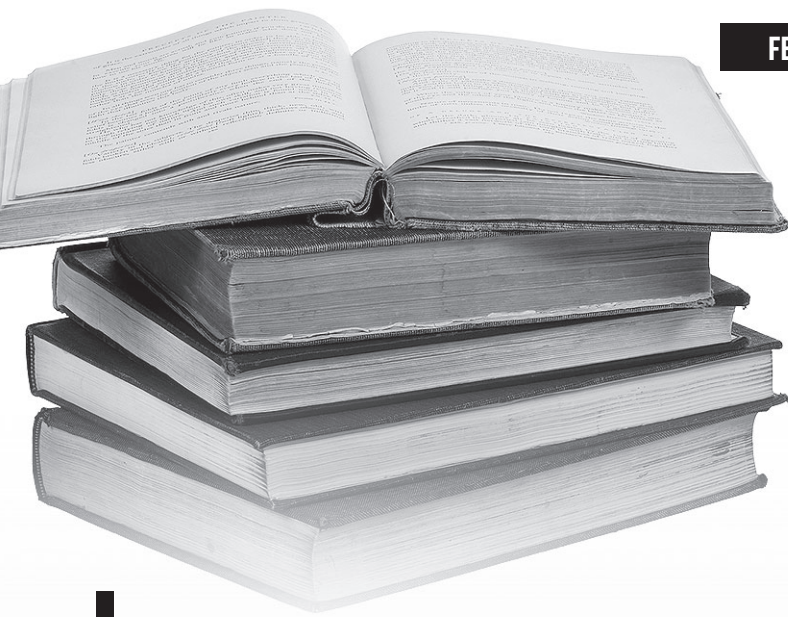
7. Henry County saw a need for this in 1948.
8. First baby born at Henry Co. General Hospital
9. Little girl with big message
10. Hear interviews about KPAC here
13. The Gardener is this.
15. Alsey Wheatley watched her cousin perform in "The _____."
19. Noel Fry headed this up at the new hospital.
20. River that moves 50 million tons of goods
22. Type of bush that attracts hummingbirds.

ACROSS

23. Built food pantry for his Eagle Scout project
24. Name of lost cow

DOWN

1. Founder of the Tuskegee Institute
2. Barry thought he found the Chapel Hill _____
3. Bill Neese's dangerous vehicle
4. Settlers _____
5. Type of sandwich
6. _____ Tuesday
9. Armani Williams wants to grow to be this.
11. Fast, Friendly, _____ !
12. Shawn Helton lost this tool in the Arctic.
14. Brian and Paul _____
16. Popular History Channel show
17. Capt. Bob's last name
18. Every Southern yard should have one of these.
21. He funded schools for African-American children.



LIBRARY BOOKSTORE BENEFITS FROM BOOK COLLECTION

It has been hard work, but good hard work. For the past several weeks, W.G. Rhea Library Bookstore Director Darcy Louer and volunteers have been busy moving, sorting, pricing and shelving thousands of books donated by the family of the late Barton and Regina Robison.

Yes, that's thousands! Louer said, "There were so many, I wasn't counting each one. We were picking them up by the boxes full. My best estimate is that there were between 3,000 to 4,000 books. And they're all high quality."

Louer said she received a call from the Robison's daughter, Becky Allen of Marietta, Georgia, who said the family wanted to donate her parents' books. In fact, both Barton and Regina had talked with the late Library Director Connie McSwain about donating years before. "The Robison's had told Connie long ago that they wanted their books to go to the library," said Louer.

Family members took on the arduous task of boxing up the books at their parents' home and taking them to his last office on East Wood Street, where library volunteers picked them up on different occasions. "It took us three days to pick up all the books, but it was great because they were already organized and boxed up by the family," Louer said. "We rarely go to pick up books, to be honest, but this was such a special case that we made an exception."

The books run the gamut from local and Tennessee history, general

history, classics, and lots of fiction. "I don't even know how many man hours it took us to do all the sorting, pricing, and shelving of the books," she said. "Many, many."

Louer had a good crew helping her, starting with Dennis Melhouse, a local antiquarian who has an expertise for pricing books. He and John Thomas set up the Bookstore some 20 years ago, with Thomas then serving as the Bookstore's first director. Also helping were Peggy Dean, Jennie Askew (long-time volunteer), Miles Louer, and Geri Loumoullou.

The majority of the books have been placed in the store and are flying

off the shelves, Louer said. "People are buying them up. On the days that people knew his books were here, our sales at least doubled." She remembered one customer saw it on Facebook and drove all the way from Union City to buy \$40 worth of history books. Louer said there are so many books that some are still being stored before placement on the shelves.

"It's been worth every man hour that was involved with this," Louer said. "The Robison's wanted to help the library and it certainly has because all of our sales go directly to help library programs. They really did make a difference for us."



W.G. Rhea Library Bookstore Director Darcy Louer sorts through donated books from the Robison Family estate.



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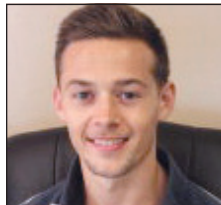
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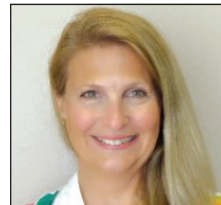
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