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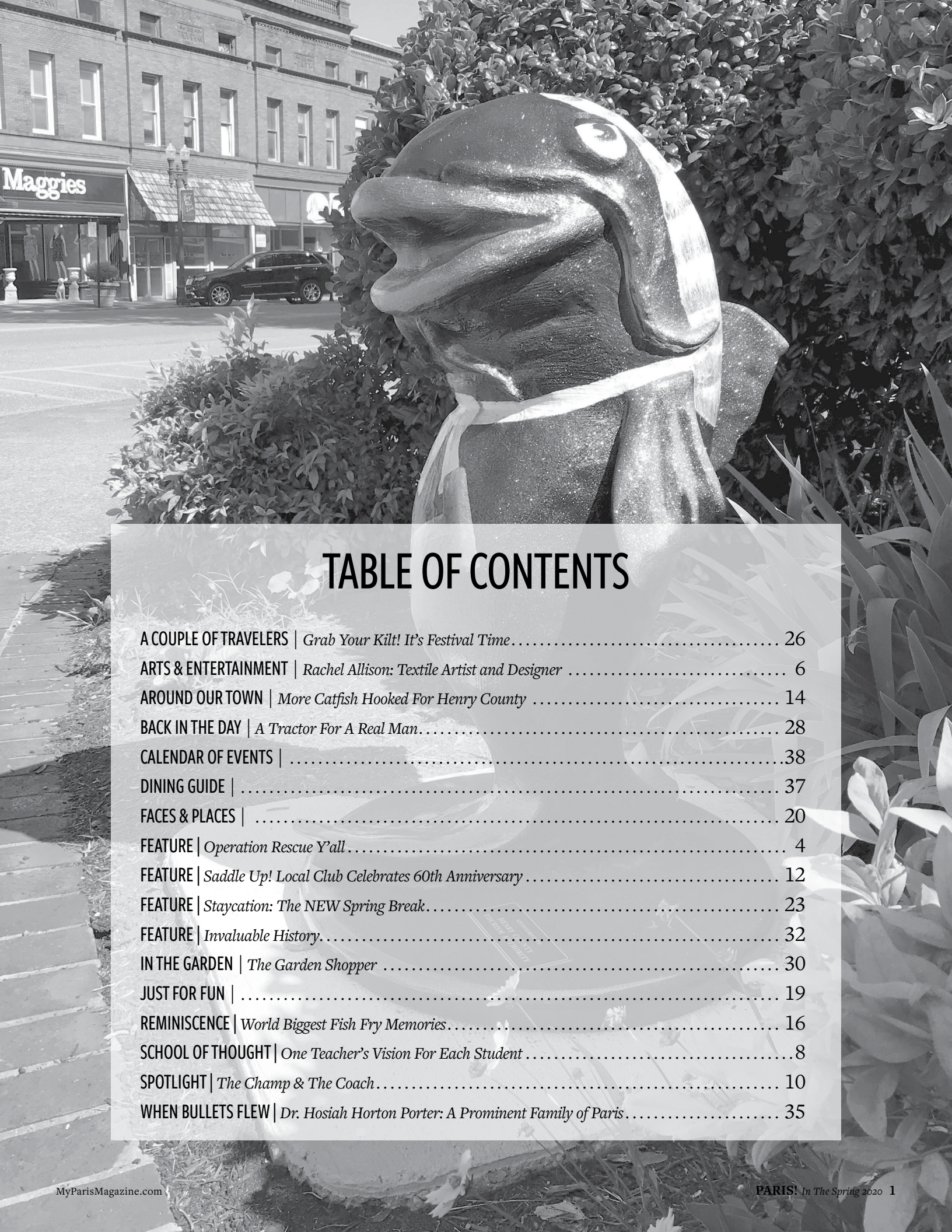


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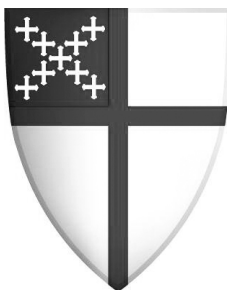
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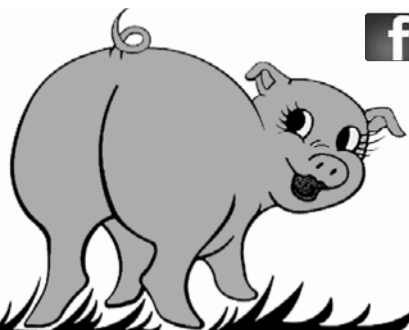
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Happy Hushpuppies, Y'all!

Shelley wrote, "...If winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

I say, "If March comes, can Fish Fry be far behind?" You can't get in line at the Fish Tent until the last week in April, but we have your Fish Fry fix with a fun, two-page pictorial that is sure to bring back memories. Staying with the theme, Shannon McFarlin writes about a new school of artistic fish making a splash in town.

Speaking of making a splash, this issue is filled with several local young people who have been turning heads. The Arts Council's Meredith Vajda introduces us to Henry County native Rachel Allison who has found her passion in costume design. And Dan Jackson puts Cam'ron Patton in the "Spotlight" as this young boxing champion prepares for more competitions and eyes the 2024 Olympic Games.

Itching to dig in the dirt? Garden guru John Watkins says, "Hold onto your shovel and lay a good plan before your spring garden shopping spree."

On The Cover

A girl and her horse – it's a special bond. Photographer Mary Kate Paschall captures this tender moment between Blaine Lamon, daughter of Derek and Heather Lamon, and her 15-year-old pal, Bandit. The photo was taken at Ann Wilson's farm in Cottage Grove.

And if you think you're ready for a bona fide tractor to work your garden, well, wait until you read Bill Neese's piece in "Back in the Day."

Everyone knows that Henry Countians are a generous bunch, but teacher Ashley James wants to go above and beyond for an end of school gift for Rhea School students. Find out more in "School of Thought."

Don't miss Barry Hart's ideas for a spring break staycation, or the Two Travelers' suggestion for a jaunt that involves kilts, music and perhaps a wee dram. Larry Ray covers the history of another special Henry County family and Karen Geary helps celebrate a local club that's been horsing around for 60 years.

We learn why we should all be saying, "y'all" more often, and we also find out about rediscovered court and genealogical records that may surprise you.

Happy Hushpuppies!

Smantha



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Henry County and the Lake Area

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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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OPERATION RESCUE



BY SUSAN JONES

What's more Southern than sweet tea and cornbread? How about that wonderful combo of the words, you and all? The bumping together of "you" and "all" creates the marvelously inclusive y'all – translation: you and your family, friends, everyone, everybody, one and all!

If you're a Southerner, you've used this familiar contraction thousands of times.

"Hey, y'all wanna go to the Fish Fry Parade?"

"Did y'all hear how many people they served at the fish tent last night?"

"Are y'all gonna race a catfish this year downtown?"

"Y'all" is an important part of the lexicon in Tennessee, but sadly, this word is becoming scarce as hen's teeth. This old-timey favorite, used by all races, creeds, colors, and economic strata in the South is in danger of ex-

inction. The cause? The ever popular, "you guys."

There's nothing wrong with the term, you guys, but every time someone says it, it feels like a little bit of what makes the South special slips away like butter off a biscuit.

Tennessee and Henry County have long been known as friendly, hospitable hosts of the World's Biggest Fish Fry, and the gateway to Kentucky Lake, where watersports, dockside music, and fried fish dinners await. But to be greeted by a server who says, "Hi, we'll get you guys seated shortly," sounds as if you're vacationing in Jersey. Nothing against the Garden State, but visitors expect something different here in the Tennessee Valley.

Aside from meeting our visitors' expectations, there's another reason to use y'all – it's incredibly inclusive. Think about it, y'all means all, while you guys immediately excludes half of the world's population. Words mat-

ter. It's why we call people who help us get seated on an airplane "flight attendants" instead of "stewardesses." The same goes for police officers. The women needed something besides policemen.

For decades, linguists have been predicting the demise of the Southern dialect and its various idioms. And maybe their predictions are coming to pass. When is the last time you heard anyone under 50 say, "I reckon," "over yonder," "fixing," or "directly"?

Maybe that sounds a little Hee Hawish to the untrained ear, but what it really sounds like is your granny and her granny before her. It sounds like the Scots Irish saying "ye-all" and a bunch of our ancestors turning it into y'all, a word that drips off of the tongue like honey and sounds like an invitation in the making.

"Y'all wanna come pick our tomatoes while we're visiting our grandbabies in Nashville next week?"

"Y'all come over Friday evening. We're gonna cook out."

Truly, it's a word that qualifies as authentic Southern fare and is deserving of an award, but perhaps an oxygen tank might be more appropriate.

There may be no way to resurrect all the Southern verbiage of yesteryear, but "y'all" is still salvageable, even if the hosts of the *Today Show* said "you guys" 22 times in the first hour this morning.

Here's how OPERATION RESCUE Y'ALL works:

- Try to catch yourself when you say, "you guys" and correct yourself out loud. *"Good gracious, did I just say, you guys? I meant y'all!"*

- Gently correct your friends. *"Can't y'all take a breath without saying, you guys?"*

Count the times the *Today Show* hosts say "you guys" and post "y'all" means all on their Facebook page.

- If you're female, remind everyone who includes you in "you guys" that you are, indeed a gal! And that is perhaps the best reason to drop you guys for y'all. Inclusivity! It's impossible to



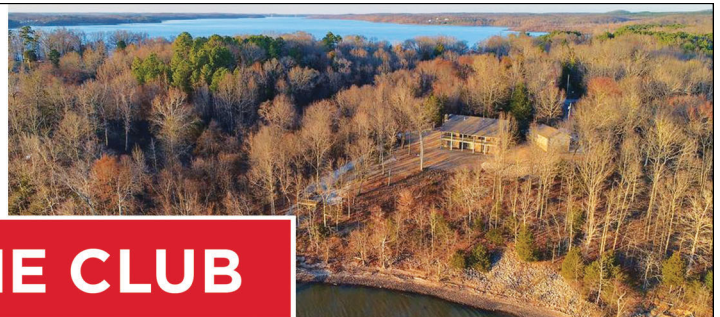
The message is clear on this mural – "Love Y'all" Popular with photographers in Nashville, the sign is located at Pencil & Paper Creative Development Co. and designed by Joseph Ernst.

accidentally exclude half of the world's population when using y'all.

Which brings us full circle. So, this year let's come together over the one little word that says where we're from and what we think about our visitors and each other. We're from the South

and we welcome y'all to come pick tomatoes, come to our cookouts, come to Paris and Kentucky Lake, and come to the World's Biggest Fish Fry.

Y'ALL are welcome as a raindrop and we look forward to seeing all y'all real soon!



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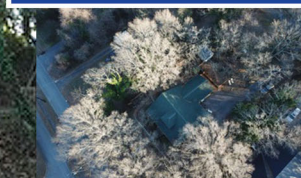
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RACHEL ALLISON

Textile Artist and Designer

BY MEREDITH VAJDA

A few years ago, when award-winning actress and Paris native Cherry Jones was honored at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville, she saluted the culture of “music, performing, and the visual arts” in her hometown, calling it a “haven and hotbed for the performing arts.” She was so right! Many others who used to call Paris home, graduated from the local school systems’ drama and music programs, have gone on to find their niches in the world of theatre and performing arts.

One of those graduates is Rachel Allison, Henry County High School Class of 2012. Her interest in theatre was sparked by a production of *Romeo and Juliet* in middle school.

During college, she was costume designer and wardrobe supervisor for five productions at Krider, one at the Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center in Huntingdon, and she interned at Bard College for two summers. She studied at Bethel University for two years,

majoring in theatre, and was involved with work/study in New York City through the theatre department.

That experience inspired a desire for wider opportunities and Rachel transferred to the Art Institute of New York City, where she graduated with a degree in fashion design. While there, her most cherished internship was with Austin Scarlett, designer on season one of *Project Runway* and now her personal fashion hero.

Fashion design has given her a large umbrella of knowledge, of which costume design is a small part. She

has worked in regional theatres and also on cruise ships. Recently, she was working on the Norwegian Cruise Line’s “Bliss” where she installed the shows and readied costumes for the Broadway shows *Jersey Boys* and *Six*. Her contract with Norwegian Cruise Lines calls for the next trips on the “Escape” and the “Epic” out of Miami and Puerto Rico.

From April to December 2019, she was employed at The Gateway Theatre in Bellport, Long Island, the oldest theatre in New York State, working on a different show every month. One was a regional premiere of *On Your Feet*. Another was *The Bodyguard* with a troupe from London’s West End. It was the show’s first time in the United States as a musical.

Also while at The Gateway, *Kinky Boots* had its first regional premiere. Rachel was excited to discover the Italian hand-made boots from the Broadway show traveled too, with each pair signed inside by the original wearers in the Broadway production.



Rachel Allison's Story Book Village purse with LED lights.

Other Gateway shows were *Elf* and *Frozen*. Another project was working with children, a particular passion of hers, on a production of *Aladdin* at The Gateway Acting School for Children.

Rachel has a deep curiosity about different aspects of art – from painting and film to comic books and cosplay. She maintains her own website for selling her personal designs, and last September marked her first time showing her accessories at New York Fashion Week. Her designs draw on childhood experiences, memories, and dreams while growing up in west Tennessee.

Rachel said “the item in my shop of which I am most proud is my Story Book Village purse. This purse was inspired by my love for reading and how I was captivated by the idea of other worlds and lands as a child. The handbag is wired with LED Lights that light up the windows, and the doors open to reveal the worlds inside them. I love carrying this handbag around and seeing children enchanted by it. Every time it grabs their attention, I open it, turn on the lights, and hand them a miniature book of fairytales to keep.”

Another new piece of wearable art is her 12 berets, each featuring one of the twelve constellations of the astrological calendar. LED lights provide the stars. These are based on her love of using clothing to distinguish herself and are an homage to the self-designed light-up dress she wore to her senior



Left: Allison readied costumes for the musical *Six* on the Norwegian Cruise Line.
Right: Allison's constellation berets with LED lights is modeled.



prom. Rounding out her commercial offerings are Christmas ornaments, cards and stationery.

Rachel's fashion degree is the basis of her career now, and it will help her to transition to a more settled personal life if she decides the gypsy life is not sustainable for a traditional relationship with children. She loves teaching and is well-qualified in sewing and all that is entailed, from pattern drafting to slopers, fitting and embellishing, especially with fabric paints and crystals.

Eventually she hopes to settle in an area where she could continue working in regional theatre, teaching the next generation of artists, and utilizing her artistic desires for personal growth, with the support of

a permanent home and children. In the meantime, she'll take opportunities to expand her resume, which may include relocating to the West Coast at the end of this year.

Rachel's advice to any young person who wants to make the theatre world their future is pragmatic: do all you can to develop your talent in your own environment, and then as soon as possible, move to where your future can be more developed professionally, grabbing every opportunity you can. Rachel is glad for her start in west Tennessee, cherishes what she's learned elsewhere, and is grateful to return here periodically to re-charge.

Meredith Vajda is the treasurer for the Paris-Henry County Arts Council's board of directors.



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ONE TEACHER'S VISION FOR EACH STUDENT

Ashley James, kindergarten teacher at W.G. Rhea Elementary school in Paris, Tennessee, has set an ambitious goal for the end of the 2019-2020 school year – to gift every student at her school with 10 to 20 books to start their home libraries before the summer break. In an announcement by the State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE), James was selected as one of 30 educators to makeup this school year's cohort of the Tennessee Educator Fellowship (TEF). During a one-year term, these teachers, school counselors, and librarians learn about education policy and research and how to advocate for their students beyond the classroom.

As Ashley James reflected on a personal story that helps motivate her to reach her ambitious goal, she remembered, “In the summer, before the school year began, as I typically do, I was visiting one of my students in his home. As I went through my usual dialogue with the child, I asked, ‘Do you have any books?’ You see, I always love to read a book to the child I am visiting, but on that particular day, I thoughtlessly did not bring a book to share. The child’s face lit up and he replied, ‘Yes, I have two,’ and he hurried off to get them. Two books.”

“The child reentered the room holding his books as he smiled from ear to ear. ‘My teacher gave me these.’ In my mind, I pictured the face of this child’s precious teacher from the previous year. The child had two books of his very own and both had been given to him by his teacher. I wrapped my arms around that child and pulled him up onto the couch beside me and we read his books. He smiled, and he

laughed at the parts that were funny. It is a memory I will never forget.”

Children in poverty are less likely to own books and more likely to drop out of high school with poor literacy skills. Research from Scholastic, a popular book distributor for schools and teachers, claims that children with books in their homes are three times more likely to graduate high school and that book ownership for students is more effective than summer school.

James said, “No matter how difficult the work, I have to do my part to make sure our kids have books of their very own.” She has taken many steps to engage the students of W.G. Rhea Elementary School and their families with opportunities for literacy.

She creatively involved all Rhea students in a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month in September and held a reception honoring the Hispanic students and families represented in the school.

In October, families were invited to attend a “Spooky Story” reading

event where students came to school after hours to hear their teachers read Halloween stories and enjoy candy and treats. The fall semester closed with a movie event and pizza party for families. Each of these events was centered around literacy and students in attendance were gifted with books to add to their home libraries.

“To some, gifting nearly 580 students with 10 to 20 books each seems like an unrealistic goal. Yes, I know that is 5,800-11,600 books,” Mrs. James admitted. “But I have no doubt this is a reachable goal considering the supportive community in which we live.”

Many partners have come alongside James in her endeavors. W.G. Rhea Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) has taken an active role in helping organize a Winter Book Drive where families and community members, including Partners In Education, have been invited to donate new and like-new books for the project.

The PTO has also planned a Scholastic Buy-One, Get-One (BOGO)

Book Fair for the spring where shoppers will receive a free book for every book purchased. "The idea is that shoppers will buy one book and have a free book to take home to add to their libraries, or they may choose to donate the free book to our book project," said James. "It is my hope that our school neighbors and community members will come to shop at the book fair even if they do not have ties to our school. I would like to think that we have grandparents, aunts, and uncles with children, not necessarily enrolled in our school, but in other cities and towns for whom they would like to purchase a book as a gift."

When the target number of books is finally collected, before a deadline of April 30, James's vision is for all of the books to be set up in the school cafeteria, just like a book warehouse, and each teacher will be able to shop for the students in his or her class, selecting books for each individual child while taking into consideration their likes and interests.

"Then we will have a school-wide celebration where all of the kids get

to open their gift, a big package of books!" James said. "Improving book access benefits all of us. If students have books of their own, they are more likely to be successful in school and more likely to graduate. Access to books is even an indicator of post-secondary success, which means we will have more young adults who are ready to enter the workforce in our community. Literacy is key to breaking the cycle of generational poverty and I can't help but feel a responsibility for making that happen."

While the TEF concludes in May for James, she noted that she has become a lifelong advocate for students, and she plans to continue student-centered advocacy for the remainder of her career. "I am working to develop a plan to sustain the home libraries that we establish this year, but I know it will take the support of our community to make it happen."

If you would like more information about how you can get involved with the W.G. Rhea Elementary home library project, please contact Mrs. James at ashley.james@parisssd.org.



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SPOTLIGHT
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THE CHAMP & THE COACH

BY DAN JACKSON

Dan Jackson gives his personal reflections of an amazing local athlete and his dedicated coach.

Boxing has taken some punches over the last few years. We don't hear as much from it as we used to. Part of the reason for that is the rise of mixed martial arts fighting and part of the reason is the tremendous murkiness of the boxing business on the international level.

That is set to change because boxing on the amateur and youth level is still alive and, well, punching. It's especially alive here in Paris with Coach Derik Moon and his high school freshman phenom, Cam'ron Patton. They're looking at the year 2024 and something called, the Olympic Games.

Two years ago, Cam stood next to me and helped serve ham and eggs at the Paris Rotary Club ham breakfast. I thought he was 16 then, not 13.

It's not only his physical size, he is a big kid, but his demeanor also leads

you to think he's older. He's a seemingly, calm, cool, collected kid. I suppose that type of mindset comes in handy when you step between the ropes on a Saturday night.

I've had the opportunity to watch Cam fight twice. From underneath that quiet exterior, a ferocity erupted. And when that opponent showed weakness, an unrelenting tiger attacked.

Cam'ron is the third of five children. His mother, Fran Patton has raised them on her own. I think we all can imagine how tough and challenging that has been.

All five of the Patton kids have fought out of Coach Moon's Paris Downtown Boxing. Here in Paris, most parents realize that sports can provide a discipline and structure for kids, that any amount of parenting cannot.

As a result, all five have boxed at the gym and have had success. But Cam,

well, he showed something a little different. According to Coach, he can tell if a kid will have natural talent or if they will have to earn it.

Cam had it. Derik knew it immediately and he told Cam so. He told him he was going to do great things in boxing. Each day, and each week, Coach told him that and told him just how he was going to do it.

Cam has been listening.

The USA Boxing National Championship is in December. In order to get to that big show, boxers must win one of four national qualifying tournaments. Cam'ron won the very first in Reno, Nevada.

He then went to last year's Junior Olympics and won it too! Effectively Cam was sweeping the qualifiers. So, it wasn't exactly a surprise when this past December he won it all – the National Championship.

This, coupled with his other wins throughout the year, also earned him the number one ranking in the United States for his age and weight class. Not a small accomplishment for a small town kid from Paris, Tennessee.

So, what's next for our local National Champion? Well, in March he's headed to his first camp at the US Olympic training facility in Colorado Springs. As the National Champion, he'll get to train at multiple camps throughout the year.

But Cam is also on the Performance Junior Team and that means he will be traveling internationally and fighting for Team USA! He'll be going to Bulgaria later in March. How great is that?

The only thing that's going to be a little different is for the first time Cam will not have Coach Moon in his corner. USA Boxing retains special coaches for both training and international matches. Derik can travel with, and see Cam fight, but he can't physically be in his corner.

Derik and his wife, Miranda, don't have children of their own, but, of course, that's not exactly true. We all understand their investment in the Paris Downtown Boxing Gym is significant financially, but we know what truly makes it special is the emotional caring they both give.

All these kids are their kids. It's more than boxing. It's helping them get from home to school to tutoring to the gym to matches in far-away places.



Coach Derik Moon watches from ringside as Cam'ron Patton practices his boxing moves.

It's about being their mentor, their home away from home, their supporter and their disciplinarian.

Paris Downtown Boxing kids must make their grades. Paris Downtown Boxing kids must behave and be polite.

So, for the last eight years, Cam and Coach have been growing together and succeeding together. Naturally, a bond has formed.

When all the kids are in the gym, things are chaotic. It's very noisy, because everywhere there's kids, either in or out of the ring going through different training mechanisms.

The other day Coach was working with the "Little Peoples" class and explaining to them how important it was to be centered and concentrating while in the ring. To get his point across, he called out a series of shots to Cam'ron, who was across the gym, sparring in the ring. Immediately, without hesi-

tating, and over the din of noise, Cam made them.

Still you might say, Miranda has been fretting over this separation. Don't you suspect she plays the mother hen a little bit with all the kids? It's only natural, with Cam and his upcoming big adventure, she might be just a little bit extra attentive.

So just the other day, in response to that attention, and in response to that worry, Cam'ron turned to her and said, "I can say the same stuff, the same way as Coach does. Just like him. Because I always hear him, no matter what."

How many of us wish our kids always heard us? Isn't that what we all want? Good luck, Cam! You make Paris proud.

Dan Jackson is a local businessman, newspaper editorialist, and internet blogger.

2020 FORD RANGER

JOE MAHAN



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SADDLE UP!

Local Club Celebrates 60th Anniversary

BY KAREN GEARY

To say that the Henry County Saddle Club is riding high would be an understatement. Not many clubs could boast being active after 60 years, but the Saddle Club is celebrating their anniversary this year.

Founded in 1960, the Saddle Club was established by a group of horse enthusiasts to promote equine activities. Since then, the club has been a frequent entry in the Grand Parade during the World's Biggest Fish Fry and other community events.

The club's first meeting place was the Henry County Fairgrounds, but 26 years in to it, they moved to their present location on Park Drive in Henry, Tennessee. At first the club leased the land from the City of Henry, but within the first year, purchased the grounds where the facilities are now.

Each Saturday from the first of May through October, the club holds open horse shows for adults and youth.



In the 1977 World's Biggest Fish Fry's Grand Parade, Henry County Saddle Club president, John McSwain, smiles at the crowd while Marty Evans carried the American flag and Jane Overton carried the club's flag.

This spring, the club will host a Buckle Series on April 4 and May 2 with similar events in June, September, and October. Also, the club will sponsor an obstacle challenge on April 11.

"We are completely revamping our show bill. We have also launched an obstacle challenge show," said Jeanine Rogers, club president. "We also hope to add a barrel race later this summer with money prizes."

"This year we are offering special money classes at our open shows. Some of these money classes are for Halter, Gaited, Ranch, Western Pleasure and Trail to name a few," said Laura Williams, the club's vice president. "Participants have the opportunity to win money in these classes. The more entries the better the payout. A first-place winner may win enough to pay for their costs of showing that day!"

For those that feel that equine competitions are expensive, they might be surprised by the club's offerings. "We have ranch horse riding competitions," said Williams. "It requires no fancy saddle or show clothing. For families with children wanting to be in horse shows, this is a more economical way to compete. Plus, it's fun for everyone. It's a very popular event." Event photos may be seen on the club's Facebook page.

Membership in the Saddle Club includes some other fun activities besides the horse shows. "We will be holding some member's trail rides, such as outings to Land Between the Lakes, Natchez Trace and other good places to trail ride," Williams said. "A chance to win a prize or small raffle will be offered at our trail rides to encourage individuals to join us."

In addition, the club plans learning events this year. "We hope to add some horse training clinics – something we haven't done in the past. Members would have the chance to learn training techniques from top horsemen or horsewomen. As horse owners, we never stop learning," said Williams.

A horse lover doesn't have to own a horse to participate in the Saddle Club activities. "We are always looking for volunteers," Williams said. "They can help out at the show, hand out ribbons, do grounds works, or anything that needs to be done."

Another way to assist the club is to be a sponsor. "A person, organization,



In ranch riding competition, the horse is judged on its ability to work at a forward, working speed while performing required maneuvers with versatility, attitude and movement of a working horse, according to the American Quarter Horse Association.

or company can purchase an ad in our show book," said Williams about their ongoing fundraisers. "Our club would love to have some new signage for the announcer's stand and our road-side sign. The ones we have are old and faded. Our expenses just don't allow for new ones. If anyone would like to donate signage, it would be greatly appreciated. We would proudly display their company sign in exchange for doing so."

The Saddle Club is also in need of tractor repair. Tractor grading of the

show grounds is important for certain events, and presently the club is paying for the work to be done during each show. They are currently seeking help to repair the club's tractor from interested individuals or businesses. To assist with the repairs, message the club through their Facebook page.

For a 60-year-old organization, the Henry County Saddle Club is excited about their future with more activities and events for their members and the public. And that's straight from the horse's mouth!

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MORE CATFISH HOOKED FOR HENRY COUNTY

BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

This sure is fishy, but in a good way. They look like a little catfish army and soon they'll join the other catfish statues that already grace our fair city and county.

The new catfish statues are being prepared by local artists, students at Henry County High School and the residents of Eiffel Gardens.

Last year, we saw the first 15 catfish statues that were designed to promote Paris as the home of the "World's Biggest Fish Fry." The project is sponsored by the Downtown Paris Association.

With local artists taking on the task of decorating them, the statues each have unique personalities. As the statues began appearing outside landmarks like the Paris City Hall, W.G. Rhea Library, McNeill Park, Paris Landing State Park office, Eiffel Tower

Park and more, their popularity grew and the public began asking for more.

The newest round – 10 catfish statues in all – will be placed at visible landmarks and businesses, including Henry County High School, Eiffel Gardens, Forever Communications radio station on Brewer Street, and the World's Biggest Fish Fry.

The new statues are equally unique, with community members helping the artists.

At Eiffel Gardens, artists Dan Knowles and John Monroe took their statue to the assisted living community, where residents dipped their hands in paint and applied their handprints to the statue. Even Goldie, the golden retriever who lives at Eiffel Gardens, put her paw print on the statue.

"That was just the best day," Knowles said. "They really enjoyed it

and so did we." The Eiffel Gardens' catfish statue will be placed at the front entrance.

At Henry County High School, the students in Greg Chandler's advanced



Joanna Bailey painted the Paris FFA catfish.

classes, helped design their statue and worked with Knowles on painting it. The winning designs were made by students Ivy Wang, Alex Tanner and Alyssa Wilson and are based on the Patriots' mascot.

Students involved in painting the statue included Sadie Adams, Trey Crosno, Hoi Ong, Abigail Wynn and Ashton Jordan. The high school catfish statue will be placed by the flagpole in front of the school.

The World's Biggest Fish Fry statue will travel around. Lisa Dicus of the Paris Jaycees said the statue will be in the annual parade as well as move around the fairgrounds while the Fish Fry is ongoing.

The catfish statue for the new radio station for Forever Communications, which will combine WTPR and the former WMUF radio, features a microphone and earphones. The station is in the former WTPR building and the statue will be at the front entrance.

Students at TCAT-Paris also got involved, applying the clear coating for the statues. TCAT Collision Repair Technology students said they were

used to fixing up and clear coating cars, but catfish statues were something new for them. TCAT is involved with a community service partnership with the Downtown Paris Association for the project.

Local artists in addition to Knowles and Monroe involved in painting the new statues are Jane Baars and Joanna Bailey. The catfish statues are made of fiberglass and stand 40 inches tall. The round base is made of a fiberglass concrete mixture.

Because so many families enjoyed traveling around Paris to find all the statues, a map will be distributed showing the latest catfish statues, as was done with the original 15 statues.



Left: Residents' handprints on the Eiffel Gardens catfish statue.

Previous Page: The catfish army at Dan Knowles' art studio is ready to be painted



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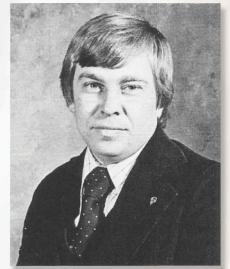
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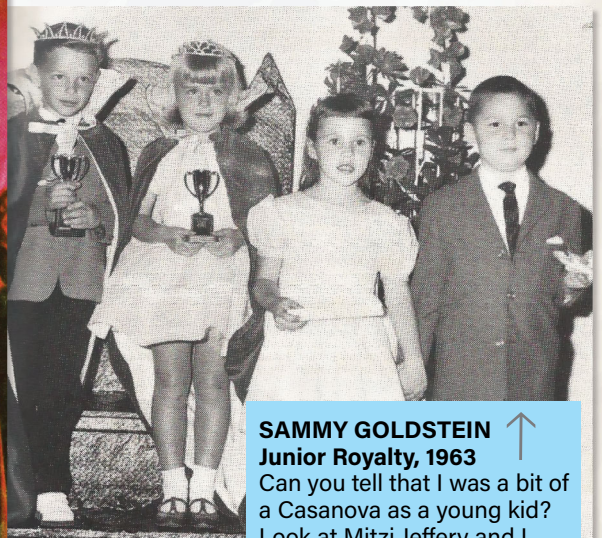
The pages of old Fish Fry books, spanning from 1959 to 1983, give a glimpse into the past of the World's Biggest Fish Fry and its festivities. PARIS! is indebted to the late Don Peale for allowing us to use his collection prior to his death for the layout of these memory pages.



DON PEALE

JACKIE HAYS BICKEL Hostess Princess, 1975

Forty-five years is a lifetime ago. I was a naive 17 year old when I won the Hostess Princess crown in 1975. I wore a borrowed dress. My hair was in a bun on top of my head with so much hairspray I could have been a fire hazard. I never expected to win and was shocked when they called my name. Looking back I'm grateful that I had the chance to represent my hometown and the World's Biggest Fish Fry. It led to my first ever TV interview with Teddy Bart in Nashville promoting the Fish Fry. That interview is probably the first time I ever thought about a career in television. It certainly made this small town girl dare to dream about life's possibilities. Thanks to my friends and family in Paris for always supporting me.



SAMMY GOLDSTEIN Junior Royalty, 1963

Can you tell that I was a bit of a Casanova as a young kid? Look at Mitzi Jeffery and I holding hands! Nevertheless, I love the memory.

BENNIE AKER General Manager, 1971 & 1972; Jaycee President, 1973

At the time I was first general manager we were down to eight Jaycees at the time. We didn't know if we could do it. We didn't have corporate sponsors back then. It rained in '71; again in '72. But we worked hard. We were very busy with all the events, and even some of our wives helped out. But I'm proud we kept it going.



DWAYNE BALDWIN Youngest General Manager, 1978; Current Grand Parade Manager

I call the parade "organized confusion" but I also say it is a once-a-year homecoming for a lot of people. I really get a kick out of seeing people who were on floats when they were young who now have kids and grandkids on the floats. It's what keeps me going. I guess I'll keep doing it as long as they can fit my name in the Fish Fry book.





15th Annual
World's Biggest Fish Fry

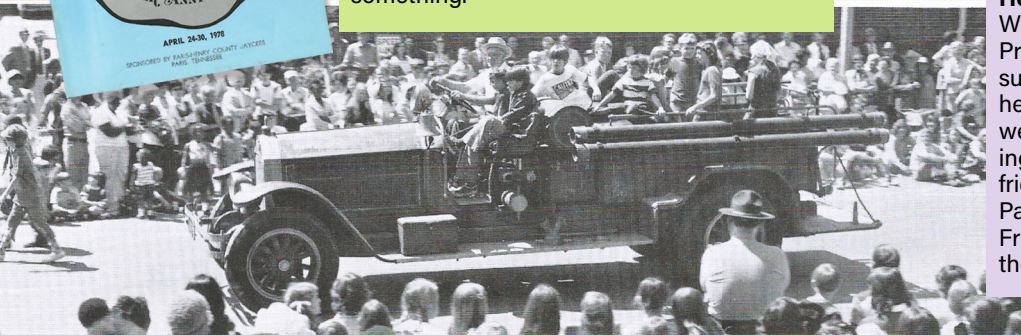


Cathy Wimberley, daughter of the late BOBBIE PASCHALL, ad salesperson for Fish Fry books
I was a kid when Mother began selling ads to promote the Fish Fry. She carried a catalog of items that could be purchased to use in building a parade float. One item was a life-sized lion statue. I couldn't figure out why she was trying to sell lions for the Fish Fry. She was happy when she was selling something.



CHERYL LECROY WILSON
Hostess Princess, 1977

What an honor it was to be chosen as Hostess Princess of the 1977 World's Biggest Fish Fry! It was such a privilege and pleasure to dedicate my time to helping our visitors and community members feel welcome at the festivities that year. I remember having so much fun at the events and making many new friends. It was almost like one big family reunion for Paris and Henry County. I look forward to the Fish Fry every year and will always be grateful that I had the opportunity to serve as Hostess Princess!



EVONNE WILLIAMS
Small Fry Parade, 1968

Growing up in Paris, TN, the World's Biggest Fish Fry was always a big part of our lives. Some of my earliest memories are of being in the Small Fry Parade. My mother, Juanita Freeland, took delight in making costumes for my brother, Dennis, and I to wear. We portrayed several different characters from the comics and television. One year we were Little Abner and Daisy Mae, and I had to run after him while barefooted. That pavement was hot on my little bare feet! After my brother decided he was too old, I went solo. My best solo costume was Cat Woman. Mother took the costume business seriously. She even got temporary hair dye and dyed my hair black so I'd look more like Cat Woman. It was so much fun!



JENNIFER MORRIS
Small Fry Parade, 1966

Following this pageant we rode the float in the parade. I think the float was sponsored by the City of Paris, full circle as I have worked with the City since 1984. The float had big drums, I think it was titled "Toyland". At the end of the parade somehow I got separated from my mother. She was chasing after me down Morton Street and had the people in front of her calling out to me. The more they called me the faster I ran since they were strangers. She finally caught me at Highland Street. Scary day for both of us!





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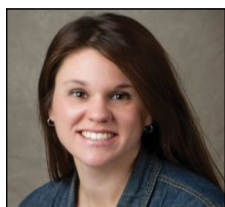
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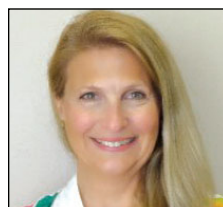
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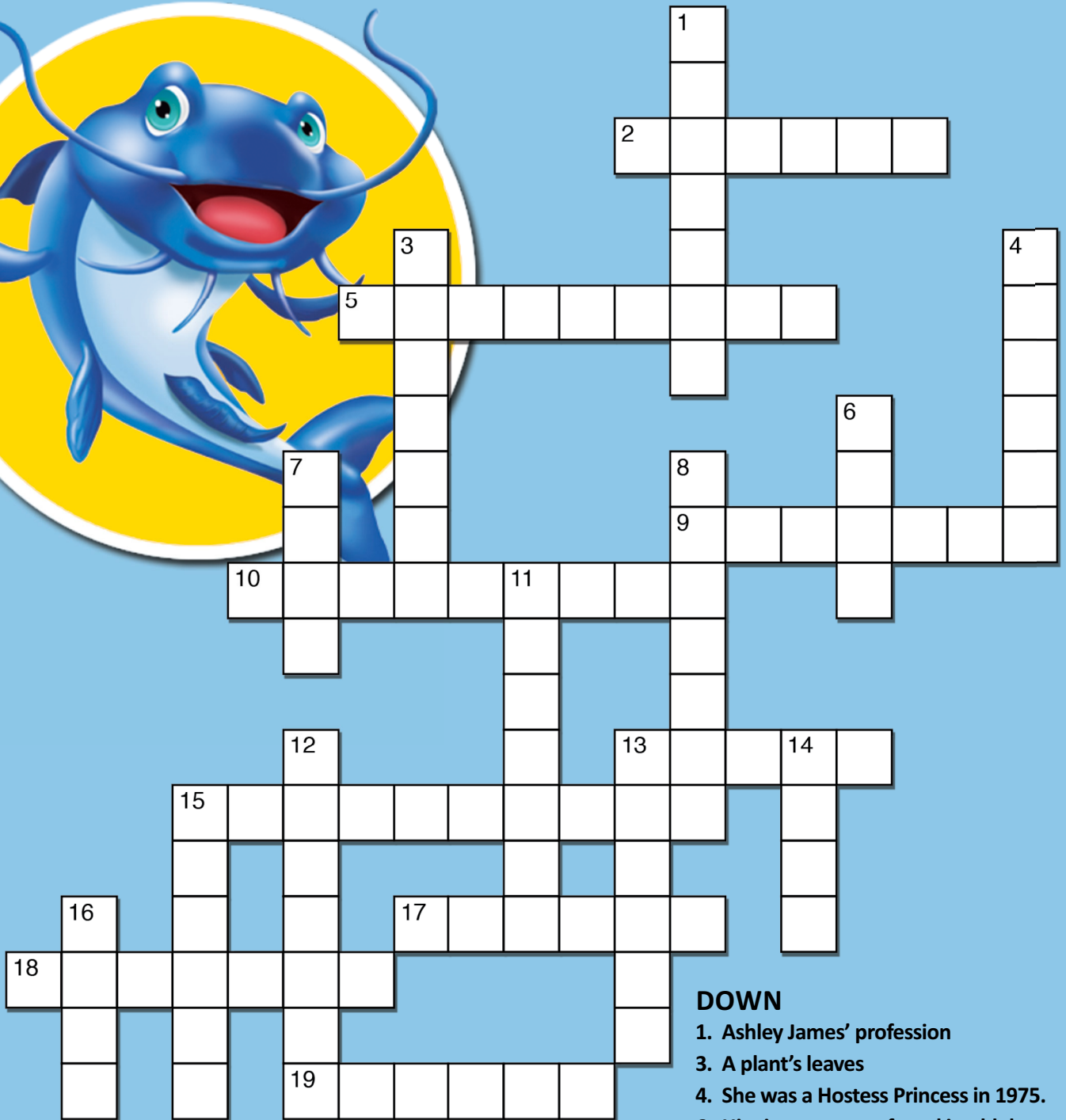
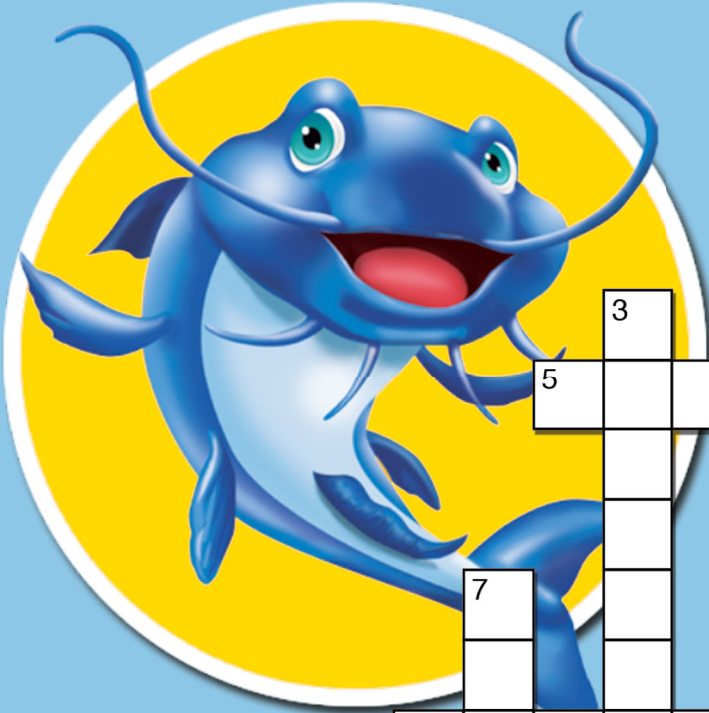


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ACROSS

2. Tennessee _____ Park in Alamo
5. Bill Neese's grandfather used this model of tractor.
9. Rachel Allison's purse has this on it.
10. Emcee and storyteller
13. Teacher wants to give each student these.
15. Vacation close to home
17. She works for the City of Paris.
18. He said the Grand Parade is "organized chaos."
19. Josiah _____ Porter

DOWN

1. Ashley James' profession
3. A plant's leaves
4. She was a Hostess Princess in 1975.
6. His signature was found in old documents at the Henry County Archives.
7. Students at this school are clear coating statues
8. She carries club flag while riding horse.
11. Only for a real man
12. Type of statue
13. Cam'ron Patton's sport
14. Wear your _____ to the Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival & Games.
15. Henry County _____ Club
16. Not "you guys"



Bobbie Baucum celebrated her 90th birthday with family and friends at the Paris Civic Center.



Susan Jones and Andrew Wheatley gave a Geotourism presentation at a recent Grub Club sponsored by the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce.



Aubrey Thomasson and his mother Courtney Thomasson at Family Reading Night at Henry School. PHOTO: HENRY SCHOOL



The Blossomway and Paris Garden Clubs donated handmade woodpecker boxes to Paris Landing State Park. From left, Golf Course Manager Keith Hickman, Helen Wilson, Vice President of the Paris Garden Club, Assistant Park Manager Tim Caldwell, Park Manager Zach Tinkle, and Betty Tusa. PHOTO: TENNESSEE GOLF TRAIL



Elder James Travis received the annual Drum Major for Justice Award during a Martin Luther King Jr. Day program at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Travis is at left, being congratulated by Elder Leon White, Jackie Jones, Mike Wilson and Judge Vicki Snyder.



Whitley Forrest looks beautiful as she sang "Reckless Love" at her church's Sunday morning service.



Lakewood Elementary teacher Amy Steelman was all smiles and braver than most when she let herself get "wrapped" into holding this large snake.



Inman Middle School cheerleader Addy Kate Parker recently found a new addition to the squad. Karis Laine Stutzman, 2-year-old daughter of Justin and Cortney, was dressed up and ready to cheer.

The late Patsy Thompson was one of Henry County Medical Center's most active volunteers and the staff at the Center for Wellness and Rehab wanted to honor her and give back to the organization she dearly loved, the HCMC Volunteer Auxiliary.



Newlyweds Eric and Rebecca Long sneak one more kiss in after recently tying the knot at the Waddell Place.



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STAYCATION

The NEW Spring Break

BY BARRY HART

When I think of planning a trip for spring break, the old song “I’ve Been Everywhere” comes to mind. You may recall the song – it was recorded by Hank Snow in 1962 and Johnny Cash in 1996. In the lyrics, 92 places are mentioned, and I’ve been to most of them!

Having raised six children with 11 grandchildren, I have had my share of Spring Break trips – Gatlinburg, Pensacola Beach, and Disney World have all made the list more than once. Other places I have been during spring break include Helen, Georgia; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Indianapolis, Indiana; Atlanta, Georgia; Albuquerque, New Mexico – the list can go on and on. It seems I have been everywhere!

Spring Break road trips are fun but can be stressful, especially when it comes to planning the trip, finding the money to pay for everything, and working through a vacation checklist. Of course, if you budget funds for the

trip each month leading up to Spring Break, all you have left to worry about is planning the trip and coming to some sort of consensus with a list of activities that considers what everyone else wants to do.

In August 2005, we were introduced to a new word designed to help us find a way to avoid the Spring Break overload. This new word was used by the *Washington Post* in an unhyphenated version, and as Paul Harvey would say, “the rest of the story is history.” The word is “staycation” and according to the newspaper, it is “the perfect time to dig in those heels and enjoy the comforts of home: 300-thread-count sheets, stainless outdoor fire pit, well-stocked fridge.”

In 2010, the word was added to the Oxford English Dictionary and is defined as “a vacation that you spend at or near your home.” This inclusion in the dictionary further validates the concept and makes the practice more in vogue.

Taking a vacation at home isn’t always easy, especially if you don’t go about it intentionally. It’s easy to let a few unplanned days off at home get away from you, especially if signs of stress are beginning to overwhelm you. Adding a little structure and considering a few staycation ideas can help the time away from work and school (and other responsibilities) feel rejuvenating and leave you ready to head back to the office or school on Monday morning!

Before the staycation planning begins, you really need to decide what you want to accomplish with the time. If you want the feeling of going on an adventure but money or other restrictions keep you at home, you can have an exploratory staycation. If you want to tackle those to-do’s that just don’t seem to get done as part of your standard routine, you can make that happen, too. Come up with a plan and stick to it as much as you can but be flexible.



© TENNESSEE SAFARI PARK

Load the family up and head to the Tennessee Safari Park in Alamo for a fun day. The drive-thru park features a myriad of exotic animals, many of which come up to be fed and provide photo opportunities.

Try these staycation ideas and consider how you can make some weekend getaway ideas work at home. Most importantly, commit to unplugging. If you act like you're not on vacation by answering work calls and emails or being as in-touch with neighbors and friends, it won't feel like much of a staycation at all. Make sure everyone knows that you're taking a little trip by putting your staycation on your calendar, telling friends and coworkers you need some time away, and resisting the urge to respond to every message. With that task accomplished, let the staycationing begin.

We have some of the best and most accessible venues right here in West Tennessee: Land Between the Lakes in Tennessee and Kentucky, Paris Landing State Park and Kentucky Lake, Discovery Park of America in Union City, and Ft. Donelson National Battlefield in Dover.

If a day-or-two trip is part of your Spring Break, then these places may be of interest: Mammoth Cave National Park located in Central Ken-

tucky, Graceland in Memphis, Lambert's (home of the "thrown rolls") in Sikeston, Missouri, and The Ark Encounter located in Williamstown, Kentucky.

If I didn't peak your interest in staycationing with these two short lists, then consider spending some quality time with your family: build a birdhouse with your children or grandchildren, sit around a firepit at night and share quality conversation, go to a movie and have some popcorn, or have a walk-about in downtown Paris

You can find something that interests everyone. So put your thinking hat on, check your bank balance, and take notes. Before long, you'll have enough to keep you busy!

Barry Hart is a published author, retired minister, and former U.S. Marine combat veteran. His first publication, Southern Lawman Magazine, was distributed nationwide and his first book, A Path into the Woods, is available online through Amazon. He and his wife Ronda, a retired PSSD teacher, live in Paris. He can be contacted via email at hartbn@charter.net.



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FESTIVAL AND GAMES

GRAB YOUR KILT! IT'S FESTIVAL TIME

BY JOHN NICHOLS & SUSAN JONES

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

They say that in spring, a young man's fancy turns to love, but at the Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival & Games in Maryville, Tennessee, the fellows are more interested in sporting kilts and heaving tall logs end over end. This is just one of the festival's many authentic athletic competitions, but it's only the tip of log, if you will.

For music lovers, this festival is the land of plenty. Last year on the Edinburgh Stage, there were four, alternating groups that wowed audience members, many of whom never strayed from the tent. One fan reclined in camp chair, happily tapping her toe to the music for eight hours straight. As far as we know, she's still there.



BOB VALENTINE
Emcee &
Storyteller

The Edinburgh Stage is where we found fellow Henry Countian and Scotsman Robert Valentine, who emcees Scottish Festivals throughout the Southeast. On this sunny afternoon, he was dressed in his family tartan, introducing the groups and telling tales in his flawless Scottish brogue.

This stage was exactly what we were looking for with bands featuring fiddles, bagpipes, guitars, penny whistles and drums. We enjoyed everyone

from the well-loved, family groups of Scottish musicians and Irish dancers to the Celtic equivalent of a 1980s, heavy metal band. The latter featured fabulously talented young Scots who favored the cast of *Brave Heart* and whose energy level eventually sent us in search of a quieter event. That show was found on the Glasgow Stage.

This area offered more traditional entertainment in a smaller venue. With monikers like "Seven to the Sea" and "Black Market Haggis," the entertainers and their tunes soon felt like old friends. We suggest going online before the festival and giving each group a listen to discover your favorites.

Rousing competitions and demonstrations from pipe and drum to sword

and Irish dance take place on the festival's four fields. These grounds also host the athletic events for both children and adults, as well as the massed bands performances – think piercing pipes, pulsating drums, and magnificent tartans.

For animal lovers, the sheep dog demonstrations are not to be missed. And if you don't fancy a sheep dog, dress up your own pooch for the pet parade and dog show, where even canines don the tartans of their clans.

To get a feel of how important heritage is to Scottish descendants, stop in for a visit with some of the clans at their booths on the Highland Field. Whether you're a MacLeod, a MacDuff or just a run-of-the-mill Jones, these enthusiasts will welcome you into their fold. But be prepared, these Scots get excited about their history, and they expect you to get excited, too!

We understand there was a popular 5K and a half marathon on Sunday, but we make it a habit not to run on a full stomach – and our stomachs were always full at this event. The food was delicious and as authentic as it gets at

a festival. For the best experience, dine at off-times. This affords an opportunity to visit with vendors and avoid long food lines.

This festival is held in mid-May, what should be a temperate, spring month, but last year was surprisingly warm. Mercifully, there was a beer tent, but that's not all.

Those who enjoy a wee dram can take advantage of an education opportunity of the best kind. The Scotch seminars offer a chance to literally drink up knowledge about the finer points of scotch whiskey, also known as the water of life. The event is held at a lovely campus dining room that is rumored to be air conditioned – that's two valid reasons to attend and partake.

With so much to do, consider purchasing a two-day pass. Generous discounts apply for early birds, veterans, students, and children under 16 attend free – true Scots like this idea.

Find out more online at Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival & Games, and tell 'em "A Couple of Travelers" sent you.



© SMOKY MOUNTAIN SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND GAMES

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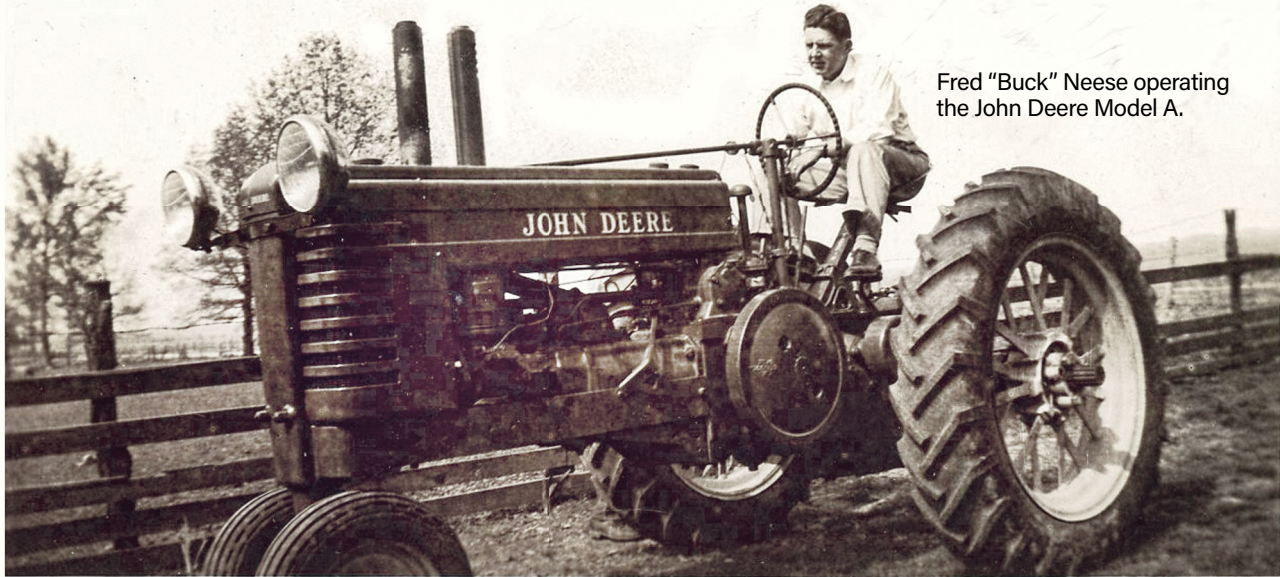
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A TRACTOR FOR A REAL MAN



Fred "Buck" Neese operating the John Deere Model A.

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."

When I was eleven years old, I spent all the time I could on the family farm near Whitlock, Tennessee. I loved to operate farm machinery and, for a kid, got pretty good at it.

There were two tractors on the farm. One was what I considered a giant John Deere Model A of ancient vintage, even in the 1950s and early 1960s. The Model A was, by modern standards, not exactly designed for safety. It was a "tricycle" tractor with two small front wheels very close together and two large rear wheels. Such configuration did not lend itself to stability.

Perhaps worse, it had a "hand clutch." This clutch was a long lever that the driver pushed forward until it snapped into position and engaged. From that point on, the tractor "plowed" ahead until the operator jerked the clutch lever rearward and therein lay the rub. The clutch lever

was always reluctant to release, and as the tractor got older, it was at times darn near impossible even for my grandfather, and he was acknowledged by neighbors and friends to be one of the strongest men in the community. I have seen him perform some amazing feats of strength around the farm.

The second tractor in our fleet was a Ferguson Model 30, still ancient, but with a conventional wheel layout and a foot-operated clutch. The Massey, while less powerful, was safer and easier to operate.

As a typical 11-year-old, I was constantly begging to operate the John Deere. My grandfather, C. B. Morris, steadfastly refused, saying I wasn't "man enough" yet to handle the clutch. I argued that the clutch wasn't working right, that it needed adjusting or repair. "That is just how the John Deere clutches work," my grandfather would say.

So, the Ferguson was "my" tractor though I longed to sit on the high seat of the Model A like a "real man."

Now all this was before the days of "no till" farming. The practice was to plow the field with a turning plow or "bottom plow" and then disk the field to break up the clods and smooth things out. Sometimes, a farmer would pull a harrow behind the disk to do an even better job.

My little Ferguson could only pull two bottoms and pretty slowly. The John Deere looked to me like it was flying with its three bottoms (maybe four, I can't remember). Anyway, I sure longed to operate the John Deere, but as I was reminded every morning, there was nothing wrong with the John Deere clutch – I just "wasn't man enough" to handle it.

Early one Saturday morning, I was plowing my "land" and my grandfather was across the field plowing his. As he approached the end of the row, I could see he wasn't slowing down, but he was pulling on the clutch lever with both hands. All of a sudden, he stood up and started pulling on the clutch as

hard as he could with his left foot on the tractor dash as the whole rig ran right through the fence row and side ditch, and onto the lane. At this point, he apparently thought to cut the throttle and the tractor stalled. There he sat.

Of course, with the engine dead, the clutch disengaged so he could start the tractor and raise the plows, but couldn't back the plows over the side ditch and into the field. Thus, he had no choice but to drive down the lane to re-enter the field and resume plowing knowing all along I had seen the whole disgraceful affair.

Even at 11 years old, I was smart enough to act like I had not seen a thing. I knew when to poke a bear and when to leave it be. Suffice it to say, while I kept my eyes on the furrow, I was shaking with uncontrollable laughter and so glad I was on my tractor way across the field from my grandfather.

The next Saturday, I was assigned a small field to plow with my tractor, and as I serviced it for the day, I noticed boxes outside the garage by the John Deere and my dad and grandfather were busy disassembling the clutch.



Left: Bill driving the John Deere tractor. Right: Bill with Massey Ferguson tractor in 1958.



When I pulled up to the garage at noon, I could see that the boxes contained tractor parts. "What are you doing?" I asked. "Just some service work," my grandfather replied over his shoulder, and we all went into eat. I knew full well they were rebuilding the clutch, but I didn't say a word.

The next year, I was given some work to do with the John Deere. I guess that extra year's growth had made me "man enough" to operate the clutch. After a few hours wrestling with the Model A, I realized my mistake and started to regret my insistence on driving the John Deere. It was a handful,

very difficult to operate and required twice as much work just to steer as the Ferguson. By noon, I was completely exhausted.

That was when I learned the true meaning of "be careful what you wish for."

It was several years before I got the nerve to call my grandfather out on the clutch episode and admit how much I regretted becoming "man enough" to operate the John Deere. After that, we would laugh about it everytime someone mentioned how hard those old Model A's were to drive. It was our little joke.



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THE GARDEN SHOPPER

BY JOHN WATKINS

Welcome to Spring! As I sit here writing this article, in mid-February, the rain is pouring outside and temperatures are supposed to go down to the low teens overnight. Kind of hard for me to imagine that the “future me” will look back and say, “That wasn’t so bad, now was it?” But I’m also sure that “future me” will be itching to get back out and play in the dirt again and for that he’s going to need some plants.

Now if you’re a true gardener, you know that excitement that builds up just thinking about heading out to the nearest garden center to see what bounty Mother Nature has to offer up this year. But before you rush off to spend all that hard earned money you’ve been squirreling away over the winter, I’d like to offer a little advice to help you get the most out of your experience.

The first rule of garden shopping is planning. And no, I don’t mean planning the actual trip like it’s some kind of Black Friday free-for-all. Instead, make a list of the wants and needs for your garden. The sheer number of plants available at most garden centers can be overwhelming, but if you stay focused and come in with a list you’ll have much better success.

Think about the location where plants will be placed: Sun or shade? Soil conditions? How big an area do I need to cover? How much maintenance will they require? All important questions that can be answered with a little research online or asked in person at the nursery.

Don’t make the same mistake I’m usually guilty of when I go shopping, “Look, something shiny and new. How could I possibly live without that!”

Alright, so you have your list in hand, but how do you tell if you’re selecting the best and healthiest plants on the lot? Here’s a few things to look for before you decide to plunk down Junior’s tuition savings on a plant that will expire faster than a forgotten gallon of milk in the trunk on a hot summer day.

FOLIAGE

Take a little time to inspect the leaves. Are they green, shiny, and lush? Stay away from any plants that are wilting or yellow. You might also want to inspect both sides of the leaf for blackened areas, holes, or spots that could indicate disease or insect problems.

ROOTS

Don’t take the roots for granted. After all, this is where the plant gets

its water and nutrients from. If you’re selecting a potted plant, don’t be afraid to slip the plant out of the pot to take a look at what’s under the hood. If the plant is excessively pot bound with roots either massed around the inside or out of the bottom of the pot it could be so stressed or stunted that it may never recover.

On the other hand, if the plant comes out by the roots rather than in a root ball, the plant was more than likely recently transplanted into a larger pot and may not be worthy of the extra money you would spend on it. If you’re buying a balled-and-burlapped tree or shrub, check to see if the root ball feels solid. If it’s broken or crumbled, it will be difficult to plant and has probably been subject to drying out causing some major stress (for you and the plant).

SHAPE

Take a step back and consider the overall shape and structure of the plant. Try to select plants with full and compact branches and stems. Those tall, spindly shrubs were probably grown in low light or were crowded too close together when growing and will either take longer to establish in your garden or may have reduced flowering.

Another tip when it comes to branching and foliage and shrub selection is to think of the iceberg principle: bigger at the base than at the top.

BUDS

This is a hard one, I know, but try to avoid the impulse of buying those potted plants or shrubs that are in complete bloom when they're on the shelf. Yes, I know they're pretty, but it's kind of like comparing your honeymoon to regular married life. Sure it's bright and colorful and probably smells good at the store. But you get it home and about a week or so later, the flowers have either faded or dropped completely and yet it still demands food, water, and attention, leaving you with less than desired expectations. (Sorry honey, of course I wasn't talking about our marriage. You're like a fresh bouquet every day!).

SIZE

Contrary to some beliefs, bigger is not always better. Unless you're going for an immediate impact or are selecting a specimen, smaller plants will



Check the plant's roots before purchase.

transplant and adapt better to their surroundings than their ginormous older siblings. Be sure to look at the plant description for mature size and space accordingly. Another often asked

question is "how many will I need?" It's a pretty accepted rule that odd numbers of plants look more natural than even numbers, so 3's, 5's, etc. are the norm.

BONUS TIPS

Choose a reputable garden center. Those that pay attention to detail, with clean surroundings, no weeds, and well labeled plants generally mean they take good care of their "babies." When buying flowers, try to find a nursery that has regular deliveries and rotates their stock regularly. You can often find better selections by shopping on weekdays rather than weekends, since most deliveries are made during the week. You'll get fresher plants and avoid those long lines at the register.

In summary, take some time to plan and research before heading out to the garden center this spring. You'll come home with some great plants and the confidence that you made some pretty great decisions at the same time.

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

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INVALUABLE HISTORY

BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

When 60 boxes of old Chancery Court records and newspapers found at the courthouse arrived at the Henry County Archives, it felt like Christmas morning to County Archivist Stephanie Tayloe. "I stayed in the office all weekend just looking over them," she said.

The joy she felt has only increased now that she has had time to start poring over them.

The old records' journey began in November when the office of Henry County Chancery Court Clerk and Master Mary Burns began reorganizing. As Burns and Deputy Clerks Whitney Muller and Jennie Sanders began going through the papers stored in the old metal drawers in the office, they couldn't believe what they were finding.

"Once we found what was in the first drawer, we couldn't wait to get to the next and the next after that," she said. "We really enjoyed cataloging it all. It was a great walk through history."

Because the drawers were relatively airtight and the old papers were neatly folded, they contained hundreds of perfectly preserved original records. And the old records were stored in between old local newspapers dating back to the pre-Civil War era.

The newspapers include ones which even long-time local historians had never heard of before: *The Paris Bee*, the *Paris Weekly Patriot*, and *The Constitution*. Other newspapers include the more well-known *Paris Sentinel* and *Paris Republic*. In all, Tayloe said, 125 old newspapers were delivered to the Archives which span from the 1840s to the early 1900s.

"These papers are in amazingly good condition," Tayloe said. "They are full of interesting news stories of the day and many ads from funeral homes to doctors to carriage makers and more. All of these stories help to paint a clear picture of how Henry County was in the past."

Within the old records are these goodies:

- The original court minutes setting the city limits of Paris and setting properties for downtown Paris.
- Land grants, some dating to the Revolutionary War, showing the original owners of local lands.
- The real biggie, the signatures on various land grants of prominent men including former Governors James K. Polk and Andrew Johnson, both of whom went on to become Presidents; Isham Harris of Paris who was Tennessee Governor during the Civil War, John Crockett and others.

Several of the old records include maps drawn to show properties and how they were originally divided, which Tayloe said is invaluable to local history.

Tayloe, Assistant Archivist Linda Dunlap, and volunteers were excited to find the record of the Judge Hamilton Estate which gave land for the Paris Male Academy, the first school in Paris, which later became the Robert E. Lee School. Those papers are signed by Judge Hamilton's son-in-law, John Crockett, who was the son of famed frontiersman David Crockett, and whose family lived here.

Of special importance is a very early land grant issued by Governor William Carroll in 1822 for the heirs of Revolutionary War General Robert Howe. That land grant is written about by the late County Historian W.O. Inman in his book, *Pen Sketches, Henry County History*.

Inman describes it as the largest military warrant issued by North Carolina (which Tennessee originally was a part of) and is for 16,000 acres. Tayloe said it was amazing to come face-to-face with it after having read about it in Inman's book.

Of special interest to Dunlap and the Genealogy Library are the estate settlements which list all of the heirs.



"These are invaluable to families doing their genealogy and invaluable to us, too," Tayloe said. The death notices in the old newspapers have been copied by volunteer Doreen Forrest and passed on to Susan Stewart of the County Cemetery Committee. "Susan has done a tremendous job of adding these death notices to Find-A-Grave, a useful tool for all persons researching their genealogy."

As Tayloe opens each box, the first thing she does is clean each piece of paper. "There's 200 years of dust on these papers and this is the first they've seen the light of day in that time," she said.

Every document is carefully unfolded and put in acid-free folders which are indexed and numbered. The old newspapers have been placed in polyester sleeves. "This is a tedious process and many of our volunteers have been working on it constantly," Tayloe said. "Eventually, we would like to have them microfilmed."

The volunteers have had some surprises while looking through the old records. Tayloe said they've found 400

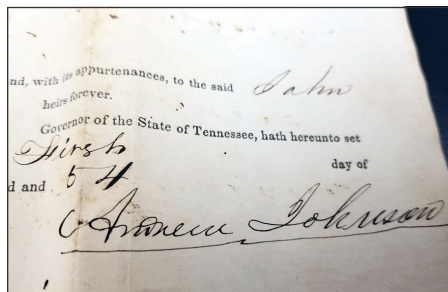
divorces which was a surprisingly high number for Victorian times.

The work the County Archives personnel is doing is difficult, but necessary. "It's not just enough to preserve these records. We have indexed and organized them so that when people come here asking questions about history or about one of their ancestors, we can walk right to it," she said.

The volunteers are an essential help to the process. "We can't say enough

good about the volunteers," she said. Their hard work for years is what has made this Archives and Genealogy Library what it is today."

What they are finding in the records and old newspapers "is really great. I can't tell you how important this is to us and to the history of our county," Tayloe said. "Especially with the bicentennials of Paris and Henry County soon. It was good timing for us to be working on these now."



Above: The signature of Governor Andrew Jackson appears on an old document.

Right: Stephenie Tayloe, Henry County Archivist, studies valuable documents discovered among old files transferred from the Henry County's Chancery Court Clerk and Master office.



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DR. JOSIAH HORTON PORTER

A Prominent Family of Paris

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 42nd in the series. Previous articles can be read online in the archives of MyParisMagazine.com.

Josiah Horton Porter was born in Paris on December 8, 1824, into a family that would become one of the most famous and influential families in Tennessee. He was the son of Dr. Thomas Kennedy Porter, Sr. and Geraldine Horton.

The Porters moved to the newly created Henry County in 1823. Josiah is thought to be the first child born in the new town of Paris. Incorporated in 1823, Paris was the first and is the oldest incorporated town in West Tennessee. Paris is even older than Memphis which was not incorporated until 1826.

Prior to this, West Tennessee and West Kentucky land between the Tennessee and Mississippi rivers was Chickasaw Indian Territory until it was purchased from the Chickasaw nation by the United States in 1818. This region was called the “Jackson Purchase” in honor of President Andrew Jackson, who negotiated the agreement.

EARLY FAMILY LIFE

Josiah Porter had eight younger siblings: four brothers – James Davis

(1828-1912), who would become a famous governor of Tennessee; William L. (1826-1829); Thomas Kennedy (1836-1869), who would become a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and famous Civil War hero in both the Confederate Army and Navy; and William H. (1842-1864), and four sisters: Geraldine C. (1831-1836); Catherine E. Porter Trimble (1834-1862); Geraldine Porter Fowler (1839-1874); and Anna (1845-1868).

Josiah and his siblings received their secondary education in a one-room school on the neighboring plantation of Dr. John Moorman Clark. When Dr. Clark moved to Henry County from Virginia in 1836, he not only brought his family but also a tutor for his children. The tutor was Mr. Cochran who was Irish and had received his Masters of Arts from the University of Belfast. In addition to mathematics and other subjects, Mr. Cochran taught the children Greek, Latin, and the Classics.

Later, Josiah graduated from Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, with a medical degree in

1846. This was unusual because most doctors at this time served in apprenticeships instead of earning a formal medical degree.

Dr. Porter was married to Judith Demaris Clark in 1846 in Paris. They would have 3 daughters: Ellen H. Porter (Pierce) (1849-1930); Mary “Mainie” Porter (Hill) (1851-1888); and Sarah Ann (Sallie) Porter (Waddy) (1871-1952).

THE CIVIL WAR

In 1861, as the war broke out, Dr. Porter and his brothers enlisted in the Confederate Army. The 5th Tennessee Infantry was organized on the Court House lawn on May 20. Josiah was elected captain of Company F.

He was later appointed surgeon of the regiment after the resignation of his brother-in-law, Dr. Robert Clark. According to his war record he resigned in May 1862, probably due to illness. He soon returned to the 5th Tennessee, as records show him again as an army surgeon in 1863 and 1864. His role was to treat camp illnesses

as well as battlefield wounds. Doctors were very important during the Civil War and highly respected. The deadliest thing that faced the soldiers was disease. For every soldier who died in battle, two died of disease.

Josiah Porter became well known during and after the war, but the Porter family became even more famous due to two of Josiah's brothers. James Davis Porter would become a friend of Presidents and Generals, becoming the epitome of a Southern gentleman and the pride of Paris: successful lawyer, Civil War hero, Circuit Court Judge, two-term Governor, Assistant Secretary of State, Minister to Chile and an acclaimed educator.

Another brother, Thomas Kennedy Porter, Jr. would graduate from the United States Naval Academy and later resign his commission to join the Confederacy as a hero of both the Confederate Army and Navy.

Commanding "Porters Battery" at nearby Fort Donelson, he was recognized for his outstanding heroism during the battle, while losing

a leg. After recovering, he joined the Confederate Navy and his ship, the CSS "Florida," was the second most successful Confederate raider after the CSS Alabama. It would become known as the "Prince of Privateers" and the dread of all Union shipping.

Thomas died at sea shortly after the war and his body was brought back and buried next to Governor Porter in downtown Paris at the old Paris City Cemetery.

AFTER THE WAR

After four years of a bloody war, Dr. Porter returned home and resumed his role as a well-known and respected doctor in Paris. He was referred to as one of the leading citizens of Henry County.

According to family history, the community thought highly of Dr. Porter and wanted to honor him by asking him to name a road. Dr. Porter wanted the road to be named for his wife, Judith. But his handwriting was so hard to read that the commissioners thought that he had written "India."

India Road still exist and many have wondered how it got its unusual name.

DEATH AND LEGACY

Dr. Josiah Porter served his family and community well in both war and peace. He died on March 20, 1906, and is buried along with his wife, Judith Clark Porter, granddaughter Mattie Porter Waddy Sinclair and her infant son, John Waddy Sinclair, in Allmond Cemetery on Alman Road outside Paris. There is some confusion in the spelling of the cemetery and road, but the cemetery land was donated by Edmond and Nancy Allmond in the 1840s and his stone clearly says "Allmond."

Many proud decedents of the Porter family still live in and around Henry County. Special thanks to Dr. Porter's great-great grandson, Daniel Stewart, for providing valuable information for this story.

Larry Ray is retired and is a 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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Puzzle Solve

Puzzle on page 19

ACROSS

2. SAFARI
5. JOHN DEERE
9. VILLAGE
10. VALENTINE
13. BOOKS
15. STAYCATION
17. MORRIS
18. BALDWIN
19. HORTON

DOWN

1. TEACHER
3. FOILAGE
4. JACKIE
6. POLK
7. TCAT
8. OVERTON
11. TRACTOR
12. CATFISH
13. BOXING
14. KILT
15. SADDLE
16. Y'ALL



ONGOING EVENTS

Come 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. For more information, call 731-644-2517.

Pickin' n' Grinnin' – Jam with fellow country music lovers or just listen in at the Civic Center every Tuesday (except the second Tuesday) and Friday night at 7 pm. Call 731-641-7577 or 731-641-0562 for information.

Get Artsy - Learn to create pottery, play an instrument, sing, paint, and much more. Visit www.schoolforthearts.com

Latest Films – Enjoy six screens and the latest movie releases at the Parisian Theatre on Jim Adams Drive. Info line is 731-642-7171.

Learn about your health – Henry County Medical Center offers **FREE** monthly seminars/screenings including Cardiac Rehab Nutrition, Shopping Smart, Joint Replacement, Chronic Disease Management, Childbirth, Medicare and more. Participants must pre-register at 731-644-3463 or www.hcmc-tn.org.

Need a good book to read? – Head over to the **W.G. Rhea Public Library**. You can find something to read, check out a DVD, or find something cool for the kiddos to do. Get ready for the summer Reading Program! For more information call 731-642-1702.

Let's Go Fishin' – Paris Landing Marina has lots of **Fishing Tournaments** coming up! So grab a pole and head out to beautiful Kentucky Lake. For more information contact Rob Marcum at 731-641-4474.

— MARCH —

MARCH 8 - APRIL 3 – Paris Henry County Arts Council hosts **Captured Moments: 28th Annual Photography Show** at the W.G. Rhea Library. Admission is free. Call 731-642-3955 for more information.

MARCH 17 – St. Patty's Day Luncheon at First Christian Church. For great food and fellowship, stop by 11 am - 1 pm. For information, call 731-642-3181.

MARCH 17 – St. Patrick's Day Dinner at The Old 5 & 10 Events Center. Starts at 6 pm, but you'll need a reservation. Call 731-336-0278 for more information.

March 21 – What a great way to start off the warmer months! Head out to **Paris Landing State Park** for a **Spring Hike!** Enjoy a moderate 3-mile hike while enjoying breathtaking views. Free for all; fur babies welcome. 9:00-10:30 am. For more information, contact Ranger Lowry at 731-641-4465.

MARCH 23-27 – Spring Break for all the kids in the Henry County School System and the Paris Special School District.

March 28 – Fishing for Beginners at the **Paris Landing State Park**. Meet Ranger Jeff Utey at the Visitor's Center at 10:30 am and find out what all the fuss is about. He'll have you catching catfish in no time! Cost is \$5.00. For information, call 731-641-4425.

— APRIL —

APRIL 2 – Head over to Farm Bureau on Poplar St. and join them as they host Henry County Medical Center with a free **community health screening** from 8:30-10:30 am. For more information, call 731-642-9082.

APRIL 2 – Lie down, give blood, save a life. Lifeline Bloodmobile is at First United Methodist Church from noon – 6:00 pm.

APRIL 3-4 – Downtown Paris Association's **"April in Paris" Spring Open House** in beautiful Downtown Paris. Be on the lookout for special prices and activities at all the unique stores. For information call 731-653-7274.

APRIL 4 – Confederate Railroad will be performing at KPAC at 7 pm. Tickets are on sale for \$35/General Admission or \$50/

Premier Seating. For more information call 731-644-2517.

APRIL 4 – 5th Annual "Light Up The Night" 1 mile glow walk and sky lantern release presented by Easton's Angels. Events kick off at 5pm, Henry County Fairgrounds. Come dressed in your best glow attire and enjoy the bake sale, games, inflatables and raffle, or have your picture made with characters. Also, the Ray Lewis Band will play and there will be plenty of food. For more information check out Easton's Angels on Facebook.

APRIL 4 – Get out to the **2020 Henry County Celebrity Waiter Dinner** at the First United Methodist Church Life Center from 6-9 pm. All proceeds benefit Relay For Life. For more information, call 731-642-4764 or check out the Henry County Relay For Life Facebook page.

APRIL 5-MAY 1 – Paris Henry County Arts Council presents the **35th Annual Artist Showcase** at the Lee School for the Arts. Admission is free. For information, call 731-642-3955.

APRIL 5 – Palm Sunday

APRIL 6-10 – Holy Week Services are held each day at noon at a local church. Brief services followed by a light lunch. For information, call 731-642-4681 or 731-642-5074.

APRIL 9 – Teen Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt at W.G. Rhea Library from 7:30- 8:30 pm. For more information, call 731-642-1702.

APRIL 10 – Good Friday!

April 12 – Happy Easter! Rejoice, He is risen!

APRIL 12 – Easter Sunrise Service is on the front steps of First United Methodist Church. Breakfast, contemporary, and traditional services follow throughout the morning. Call 731-642-4764

APRIL 16 & 17 – Masquerade Jewelry & Accessories Sale all day on the ground floor of Henry County Medical Center to benefit the HCMC Auxiliary. Beautiful jewelry at rock bottom prices. Support a fine group of volunteers that use these funds for scholarships and purchasing items for the hospital.

Every item priced at only \$5. For more information, call 731-644-8531.

APRIL 18 – Carl Perkins Center Cast-N-Blast Fishing/Hunting Event at the Paris Landing State Park Marina. For more information, call 731-642-8455.

APRIL 18-26 – World's Biggest Fish Fry! See events schedule on the inside back cover! Don't forget to hug those hard-working Jaycees!

APRIL 18 – World's Biggest Fish Fry 5K Hushpuppy Dash is at 8 a.m. at Henry County High School. Register at 7 am; entry fee \$20.00 or \$15.00 if preregistered. Call 731-644-1143. See complete events schedule on the inside back cover of magazine.

APRIL 18 – The Henry County Fairgrounds is a happenin' place! Head on out for the **Demolition Derby** at 7pm. For more information call 731-644-1143.

APRIL 22 – Administrative Professional's Day

APRIL 22 – Fish, fish and more fish! The all-you-can-eat **FISH TENT OPENS** at the Henry County Fairgrounds, 5-9 pm. Adults: \$12/ children: \$8. After you eat, head over and check out the carnival!

APRIL 24 – No School! PSSD and Henry County Schools are closed to celebrate the **World's Biggest Fish Fry Parade** that begins at 10:00 am.

APRIL 25 – Small Fry Parade at 10 am in beautiful downtown Paris, followed immediately by the Catfish Races at 10:30 am on the courthouse lawn.

— MAY —

MAY 1 – Spring Gathering Luncheon at First United Methodist Church. 11 am-1 pm in the Christian Life Center. Tickets available at the door; dine in or take out. For more information, call 731-642-4764.

MAY 1 – What's more fun than S'mores on the Shore? Join Hannah Bauman at the Paris Landing State Park's lakeside fire pit from 4-5 pm for food and fun! For more information, call 731-641-4465.

MAY 2 – Antioch United Methodist Church's annual yard sale for missions. Plus enjoy their famous grilled jumbo hotdogs! 7:30 am - 2:00 pm, church located at 3116 West Antioch Rd.

MAY 4-8 – Don't forget to thank a teacher during **Teacher Appreciation Week**.

MAY 5 – Enjoy a Cinco de Mayo Dinner at The Old 5 & 10 at 6 pm. Reservations needed. For information, call 731-336-0278.

MAY 7 – National Day of Prayer

MAY 7 – Don't forget; save a life today! Stop by First United Methodist Church and visit the Lifeline Bloodmobile from noon to 6 pm.

MAY 8 – Dress up those special little girls in your lives and head to W. G. Rhea Public Library for a special evening with **Fancy Nancy**. Registration is required by calling 731-642-1702.

MAY 10 – It's Mother's Day.

MAY 15 – Congratulations grads! Henry County High School graduation. For more information, call 731-642-5232.

MAY 16 – Diane McIntosh sings a tribute to the **Legendary Ladies of Soul** at KPAC at 7 pm. Tickets are \$25 in advance. For more information, call 731-644-2517.

MAY 21 – Summer break begins with an abbreviated day for the kiddos in the **Paris Special School District**.

MAY 22 – Summer break is here! The last day of school for everyone in the **Henry County School System**.

MAY 23 – Start the weekend off with an **Overnight Kayak Tour** to Camp Hazelwood! Meet at the TVA Access at noon; return Sunday around 10 am. Kayaking, tents, dinner, breakfast, water, snacks, hiking...what more could you ask for? For information, contact Ranger Regina Lowry at 731-641-4465.

MAY 25 – Memorial Day! Remember our Veterans. Be sure and attend the various scheduled events for our heroes around town. For more information call 731-642-5212 or 731-653-PARIS.

MAY 28 – Get out and enjoy the beautiful cars at the **Downtown Cruise In** at 5:30pm. For more information call 731-653-PARIS or log onto www.VisitDowntownParis.com.

JUNE 1 – PARIS! In the Summer is out!!! Visit MyParisMagazine.com for distribution locations.



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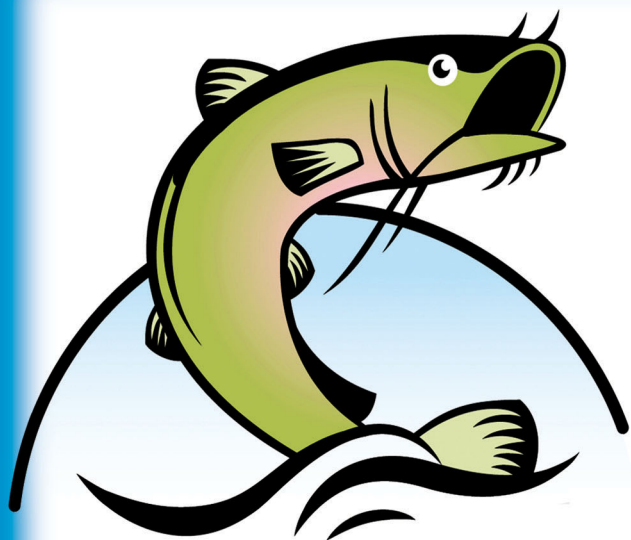


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Welcome!

to the 2020

World's Biggest FISH FRY

* SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

5K HUSHUPPY DASH Sponsor: Hulme's Sporting Goods 7 am registration Henry Co. High School
\$20 entry fee; \$15 pre-registered 8 am race begins

BED RACES Sponsor: Take Me Back Cafe 11:00 am Registration Paris First UMC
Entry fee \$75 or \$50 pre-register 11:30 Bed Judging; 12 pm Race begins

DEMOLITION DERBY Sponsored by Indoor Comfort (\$40 entry fee) 7 pm Fairgrounds
Admission: \$10 / 6-10 \$5 / Under 5 Free

MONDAY, APRIL 20

KICK-OFF STREET DANCE Sponsor: Westfalia Farms 7-9 pm Downtown (Fairground pavilion if raining)

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

CARNIVAL KISSELL 5-11 pm Fairgrounds

COUNTRY DANCE with The Legends (\$5) 7-10 pm Fairgrounds

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

FISH TENT OPENS Sponsor: Holley Credit Union 5-9 pm Fairgrounds
All-You-Can-Eat / Adults \$12, Children 6-12 \$8

CARNIVAL KISSELL 5-11pm Fairgrounds

CHRISTIAN CONCERT with Nathan Shoemaker Band (\$5) 7-8:45 pm Fairgrounds
Sponsor: Western Distrist Baptist Association

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW 5-8:30 pm Fairgrounds

FISH TENT Sponsor: Holley Credit Union 5-9 pm Fairgrounds
All-You-Can-Eat / Adults \$12, Children 6-12 \$8

CARNIVAL KISSELL 5-11 pm Fairgrounds

CHAMPIONSHIP BULLS & BARRELS SHOWDOWN with **PARSONS & MILAM CONTRACTOR** Sponsor: AT&T
FAMILY NIGHT (\$6) 7:30 pm Fairgrounds

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW 10 am - 8:30 pm Fairgrounds

GRAND PARADE Sponsor: ServPro LBL South 10 am East Wood Street

FISH TENT Sponsor: Holley Credit Union 11am - 9 pm Fairgrounds
All-You-Can-Eat / Adults \$12, Children 6-12 \$8

CARNIVAL KISSELL 11 am - midnight Fairgrounds

CHAMPIONSHIP BULLS & BARRELS SHOWDOWN with **PARSONS & MILAM CONTRACTOR** Sponsor: Charter / Spectrum
Advanced tickets: Adults \$8 / Child (6-12) \$6 - At Gate: Adults \$10 / Child \$8 7:30 pm Fairgrounds

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

SMALL FRY PARADE 10 am Downtown

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW 10 am - 8:30 pm Fairgrounds

CATFISH RACES Sponsor: The Paris Post Intelligencer 10:30 am Downtown

JUNIOR FISHING RODEO Sponsors: TWRA, Hulme's & A C S Marine, LLC 11 am - 1 pm Williams Lake
Free for children up to 12 yrs old

CARNIVAL KISSELL 11 am - midnight Fairgrounds

FISH TENT Sponsor: Holley Credit Union 11am - 9 pm Fairgrounds
All-You-Can-Eat / Adults \$12, Children 6-12 \$8

CHAMPIONSHIP BULLS & BARRELS SHOWDOWN with **PARSONS & MILAM CONTRACTOR** Sponsor: Charter / Spectrum
Advanced tickets: Adults \$8 / Child (6-12) \$6 - At Gate: Adults \$10 / Child \$8 7:30 pm Fairgrounds

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

CARNIVAL KISSELL 1-6 pm Fairgrounds



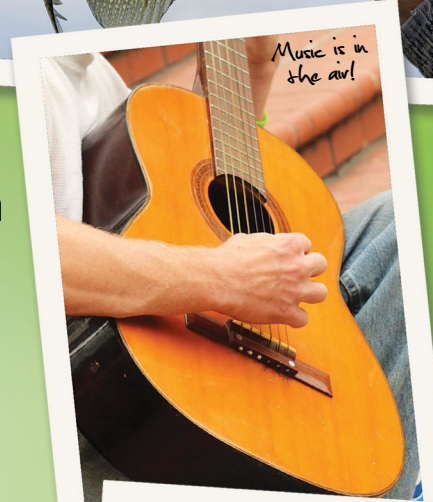
Nothing beats spring and summer in Henry County!

From enjoying the World's Biggest Fish Fry to wetting a line in Kentucky Lake, to listening to music at a Downtown Cruise In, we've got it going on.

While a vibrant community is part of what we love about this area, it's not the core reason we're here. We returned home to serve. After all, Henry Countians and West Tennesseans are the folks who helped educate, mentor and mold us and into dedicated medical professionals.

Our commitment to this and neighboring communities brings new meaning to the familiar phrase, **Be Local, Stay Local.**

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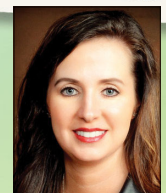
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