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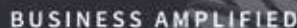


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The Gift of Bill Neese

BY SUSAN JONES

Co-founder and former editor of PARIS!

In the middle of this past July, something curious happened. Bill Neese, our friend and fellow writer, left us. He didn't mean to go, but just the same, here we are without him.

In typical Bill fashion, he had made arrangements. It wasn't a lock box filled with instructions, but rather tidbits from his writing to help us press on when he was gone. The legion of readers who enjoy his column, *Back in the Day*, know what I'm talking about.

Whether Bill was telling a story in person or on paper, he had make-you-laugh-out-loud timing. But what is timing without good material? Fortunately, although he had grown up in Memphis, the draw of extended family in Whitlock was strong, as was his love of hunting and fishing, and it all provided unending fodder.

And so it was that Bill made his writing debut in the 2017, winter edi-

tion of **PARIS!** With titles like "Carload Night," or "Where to Park a Horse in Whitlock", or "Four-Holer in the Road," readers knew they were in for a good time. Yet his articles did more than make us laugh.

After Bill's passing, I reread all of his stories on MyParisMagazine.com and realized he had actually been giving us instructions for living. Bill wrote these stories for his beloved grandsons, but the lessons are there for us all. My favorite is "Quail Hunting," (Autumn 2017), but the text below is from "Jalopy Night."

He wrote: *Incidentally, this article has a moral. Visit with your friends as often as possible, tell the old tales and even take some time to write them down. Pick up the phone occasionally and call the ones who aren't in town. You'll be glad you did.*

Thanks for the guidance, sweet friend. We hear you, and we're on it.

ON THE COVER

Little Vivian Michelle VanDyke, dressed up in her own Patriot's outfit, looks up to junior Henry County High School cheerleader Addy Kate Parker during a football practice last year. Vivian is the daughter of Zach and Alexis VanDyke.



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BACK IN THE DAY

Our hearts grieved when we lost our beloved Bill to a tragic accident on July 15, 2022.

He was 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 was "that these little stories will bring a smile to those who might read them."

Thank you for all the smiles, Bill!

TO CATCH A THIEF

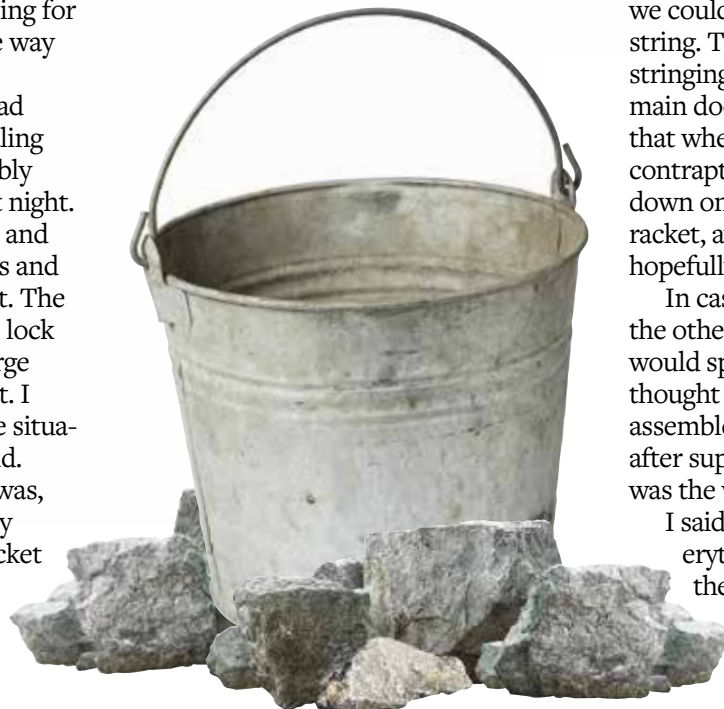
BY BILL NEESE

One summer my cousins, Chuck and Rick Hinson, were visiting at the farm. We were having a great time and always looking for something to get into and some way to "help."

My grandfather, Papa, and Dad thought someone had been stealing milk from the dairy farm, probably while we were away or maybe at night. We listened to their discussions and suspicions as to possible culprits and what could be done to prevent it. The barn had too many entrances to lock them all. They could lock the large cooler but never got around to it. I think Chuck, Rick and I took the situation more seriously than they did.

I do not recall whose idea it was, but we decided that if we "booby trapped" the milk room. The racket would let everyone know that the thief was there, and we would have him. Now, there

were several flaws with that plan, one of which would later become apparent, but we set about our plan in earnest and in secret.



First, we collected cans and half filled them with rocks. We found an old cow bell, some window weights, tobacco sticks, and anything else that we could tie together with baling string. The design of the trap involved stringing all the collected junk over the main door and milk cooler room so that when anyone came in, the whole contraption would come crashing down on their head making a terrible racket, awakening the household and hopefully entangling the thief.

In case the thief came in one of the other doors, we ran trip wires that would spring the trap anyway. We had thought of everything, almost. We assembled our trap that afternoon and after supper, put it in place. No one was the wiser.

I said we had thought of almost everything. What if the thief came in the day while everyone was away? The other thing we didn't think of kept us from ever

finding the first thing out. What if the thief didn't come at all?

Fortunately, comparatively speaking, the first one to the milk barn the next morning was Papa's long-time employee, Paul, and not Papa. Had it been Papa who had a weak heart, he or, had he survived, we three boys, would have been dead.

As Paul entered the dark barn to start milking at about 4:30 a.m., the trap unfortunately worked exactly as planned. In other words, all hell broke loose. Lights went on all over the house. Papa and Dad were running towards the barn as Paul staggered out the door entangled in string, rock-filled cans and cowbells by the harsh glow of the security light.

I quickly realized the shortcoming in our plan, slipped into my jeans and shoes and headed for the smokehouse to let the worst of the tempest pass, leaving my co-conspirators to their fate. I held out hope that with the passage of time Papa and Paul might see some humor in the situation. However, when the subject came up over 20 later, Papa still wasn't smiling.



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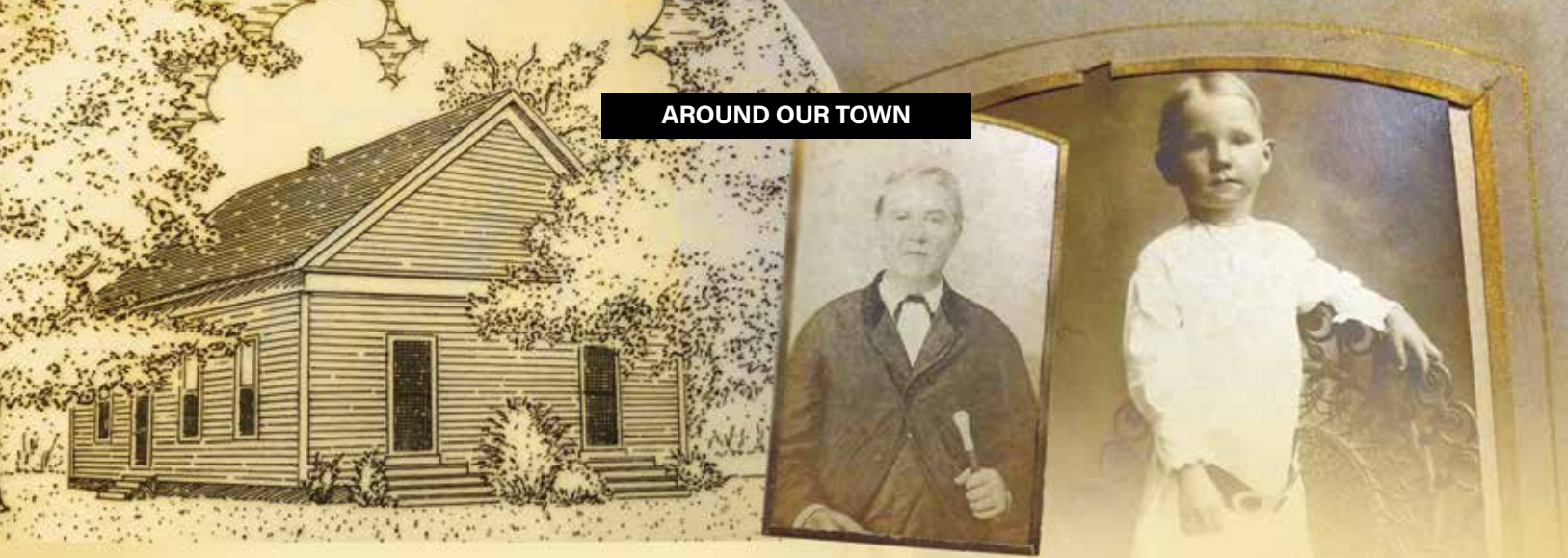
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Early Memories Of Palestine Methodist Church

BY JANE HOWARD

As our community and county celebrate their Bicentennials for the next two years, one church, Palestine United Methodist Church, recognized their own 200 year anniversary last year amid the COVID outbreak. Jane Howard, 84, long-time church member, reminiscences with PARIS! Magazine readers some of her fond memories of the church as it celebrates its 201st anniversary this year.

When I was asked to write some memories for the 201st Celebration of Palestine Methodist Church, I wrote over an hour as many stories as I could remember. Because there were so many, I will just say that the most important thing about my relationship to the church was how it affected my whole life.

First, I had been going there with my family from the time I could walk as my great-grandfather, Mr. Jesse Mathis, had been the founder of the church, the cemetery, and Pleasant Hill, his home nearby. This was all made possible because he had been a veteran of the War of 1812, fighting for the Union.

On his return after the war, the men serving were offered an opportunity to develop land in West Tennessee, and he took up the challenge of leaving his family in Trigg County, Kentucky, and building a new life in the frontier.

As an active member of the community, he felt that a church was necessary for the area and sought to build one. It was located down the hill from the present one and it was probably made of logs. For some reason not known to me, a newer one was built of white clapboard where the present brick church stands.

Every church needed a cemetery. At one time, someone also said the oldest person interred there had seen George Washington. Now many of my relatives lie there including my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Burke, and my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Harris E. Owen. My grandmother, Mrs. Etta Mae Hill, also is there with many of my uncles, aunts and cousins.

Our family attended services, and my Sunday School teacher was Vickterine Owen, who was married to my grandfather's brother, Charlie Owen, a staunch Presbyterian. The children used little picture cards as our lesson

material. And all ages were together.

The inside of the church was warmed by a huge pot belly stove in the center of the room. Mr. Ed Muzzall, a member of the church, would get there early and start a fire so the room would be warm when we arrived. Our choir was led by Mr. Hugh Bomar with people from the congregation singing up front accompanied by a piano that I played for many years until I went away to college.

Many times following a funeral, flowers were taken from the church out to the cemetery by children, including me. All the homes were filled with beautiful, garden-grown flowers, and it fell to the women of the community to bring the flowers to the church, and my mother did that a lot. I always had to go with her.

Sometimes, I was barefoot and to help me remember that I was in a holy place, she would make me kneel down and pray. Later I joined the church at age 12. Another thing we did at the cemetery was to place little American flags on the graves for all the men who had served our country in the past.

At Christmas time a party was held for the community, and a huge Christ-

mas tree was filled with gifts that people brought. No one went home without a gift. The big surprise was the arrival of Santa Claus played by our beloved Joe Looney.

Later I was married in Palestine Church on August 12, 1960, with the Reverend Keith Smith officiating. I also had the honor of attending a celebration of the church with Mrs. Doris Owen, who sang a special song.

In 1996, the church celebrated 125 years. My memories of people there were so much a part of my church life. As a small child I remember Mrs. Johnnie Looney praying so hard that her hat shook. Later I embraced her great faith.

One time our dog followed us to church, and my father put him in the car thinking he would be ok. When the service was over, the interior of our car was in tatters. My dad just laughed and said it was his fault, and the dog really needed some religion.

One of our favorite things was to visit the cemetery after one of our huge meals usually on Sunday after church at the "Old Home Place" just down the road a bit from the church.

At one time, the area behind the church had been part of what was Camp Tyson, a barrage balloon Army camp. One night, probably around 1943, a nighttime revival was being held. Usually, revivals lasted for two weeks with services in the morning and then again in the evening. The preacher and family always went

home with someone for a fried chicken dinner. The church at that time had no electric lights but used coal oil lanterns and the air conditioning consisted of open windows through which bugs sometimes flew. The congregation kept cool by waving McEvoy Funeral Home fans. That night several soldiers went down front for the altar call to pray as they were shipping out to fight in World War II.

One was my cousin, Custis Owen, was wounded 22 times in the invasion of Sicily, but he lived to tell about it and returned home.

On Sundays in the old days, there was an itinerant preacher who rode horseback according to local stories and served a circuit of churches. Palestine had church on third Sunday mornings and first Sunday nights. On the way to the church, he would stop to have a drink of homemade wine with my great-grandfather and then off to church they would go.

Now when I think of Palestine Church, I think of all the good people who worshipped there and the difference everyone made in the world. As I grow older and my precious memories fade, I do hope that this church continues to thrive and it continues for many more years serving this community as Mr. Jesse Mathis wanted.

PREVIOUS PAGE: (l to r) Illustration of Palestine Methodist Church, 1868; Rev. Abner Cooper, church's minister; young Thomas Bomar Taylor, church member.



From the photo collection of the late Mrs. Vernice Crosser

Pictured are workers building the second Palestine Methodist Church after the first one burned. This structure was built where present church sanctuary currently sets.



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A True Account Of An 1859 Killing In Henry County, Tennessee

Our county has just been thrown into the deepest gloom by an occurrence the most melancholy that it has ever been our duty to record.— Day before yesterday morning, (Monday) Dr. F. M. Bunch, of Mt. Vista, in this county, was shot dead by Mr. J. F. Jackson, living one mile from the residence of Dr. Bunch, on the Sandy road. From the evidence before the coroner's jury, it is ascertained that Dr. Bunch, took his seat near the front door, when Bunch came to the store, he entered and the usual civilities were exchanged between him and Jackson. Bunch then walked on through the store, towards the counting-room. Jackson rose from his seat and fired one barrel of a double barrel shot gun, loaded with buck-shot, at Bunch, the shot taking effect in his neck. Bunch fell dead without a groan, or the movement of a muscle. Jackson then walked to a neighbor's about a mile off, and then waited till he was taken before the court of inquiry, which sent him to Paris, where the grand jury is in session. Jackson made no attempt to escape, and is now under the charge of the Sheriff, waiting the action of the grand jury. There are many rumors about as to the cause and provocation of this drama, but we forbear to publish any of them as we are not credibly informed as to any one of them, and as we know it is of a delicate nature we do not wish to forestall public opinion one way or the other; in our next issue we shall be able to enlighten our readers more fully.—*Paris Sentinel.*

Early in the morning on Monday, September 19, 1859, farmer John F. Jackson arrived at Dr. Francis M. Bunch's store in the Mount Vista community. He said he hoped to catch Needham Whitfield before the district collection officer traveled on to Paris. But that was merely a pretext because he had unfinished business with Dr. Bunch.

As Whitfield had not yet passed by, Jackson sat down with store employee A. W. Sidebottom, chit-chatting about building houses. No one gave a second notice to the farmer's double-barrel shotgun. In fairness to the witnesses, this was rural Henry County, Tennessee, in 1859. Carrying rifles and shotguns was a common occurrence. In hindsight, someone should have noticed.

A few minutes later Dr. Bunch arrived at the store and exchanged the “usual civilities” with Jackson. Dr. Bunch walked further into the store, pausing to face the counter. Rising to his feet, John Jackson swiftly approached and fired point-blank into Dr. Bunch’s neck. The doctor fell dead, his brain never processing the sound of the shot that killed him.

Jackson stood at the door for several seconds, staring at the dead man on the floor. He told the witnesses he would give himself up. His final words: Dr. Bunch had ruined his family.

Now John F. Jackson was a well-respected man, with friends all over the county. Later, under oath, a defense witness would affirm that Jackson was “remarkable for his Christian forbearance and submission.” So why would

a respectable, God-fearing person
commit such a heinous act?

Two days after the killing, the *Paris Sentinel* reported that the county was in “deepest gloom.” Rather than speculate on the motive for the shooting, however, the newspaper simply concluded that it was of a “delicate nature.” The following week’s *Louisville Daily Courier* was much less discreet, boldly proclaiming “SEDUCTION - A FATHER’S REVENGE.”

According to the newspaper, Jackson's daughter had been seduced by Dr. Bunch, who had refused to marry the young woman. Newspapers across the country, from Detroit to New Orleans, from Baltimore to California, ran the *Courier* article. The whole nation, it seemed, knew of the Henry County killing.

On the same day as the killing, a court of inquiry concluded that Jackson was guilty as charged. Not surprisingly, three days later the Henry County Grand Jury issued a true bill of indictment, stating that Jackson “feloniously, willfully, maliciously, deliberately, premeditatedly and of his malice aforethought did Kill and Murder to the evil example of all others.”

The following week Judge William Fitzgerald set Jackson’s bail at what today would be \$300,000. Interestingly, 13 men were willing to serve as sureties on the bail bond. Three of them were among the richest men in the county: Harvey Aden, Robert Caldwell, and James McNeill.

It would be almost exactly a year before Jackson’s trial began. Due to the notoriety of the case, it took two and a half days to seat 12 jurors. From Attorney General Lucien Hawkins’ perspective, the case was a no-brainer. He had two eyewitnesses to the cold-blooded murder: A. W. Sidebottom and Pleasant G. Swor.

However, John Jackson had a few points in his favor. There had been the discovery of a fetus buried in Dr. Bunch’s garden. Son-in-law James Drewry would testify that Bunch had confided with him that he had seduced Sue Jackson under a solemn promise to marry her. Finally, Dr. George Conway would testify that at the time of the murder John Jackson was of “unsound mind.” Finally, several of the jurors had daughters about the same age as Sue Jackson.

After testimonies and concluding arguments, the jury debated for a week. On Friday, September 28, 1860, the jury foreman announced, “We

the jury find John F. Jackson guilty as charged in the indictment with mitigating circumstances, to confinement in the State Penitentiary for life.”

Although life in prison was better than a hanging, Jackson had hoped for a verdict of not guilty. There was still one last hope. Jackson requested a new trial, based on the fact that Sheriff Elijah Etheridge was related by marriage to the deceased. And it was the sheriff who chose the jury pool. Based on this technicality Judge Fitzgerald granted a new trial.

The new trial could not be held until September 1861. However, by that time the Civil War was at hand. With his eyewitnesses already in the Tennessee army, the Attorney General was left with no choice but to ask for a continuance. And, thanks to his plethora of sureties, John Jackson once again avoided jail time.

Attempts to re-try John F. Jackson after the War came to naught. The sheriffs in Henry and surrounding counties could not find him. Jackson’s last verified location was in Weakley County in October 1865 when he appointed Lawrence Swift power of attorney to sell his property in Henry County. From there, John Jackson simply disappeared. One possibility is that he went to Texas, as that is where several of his children would eventually live.

Of course, there was another victim in this tragedy besides Dr. Bunch. Bearing the stigma of a “ruined woman,” Sue Jackson remained single all her life. She died of cancer in 1917. Her body was interred in the San Geronimo Cemetery in Sequin, Texas. May she rest in peace.

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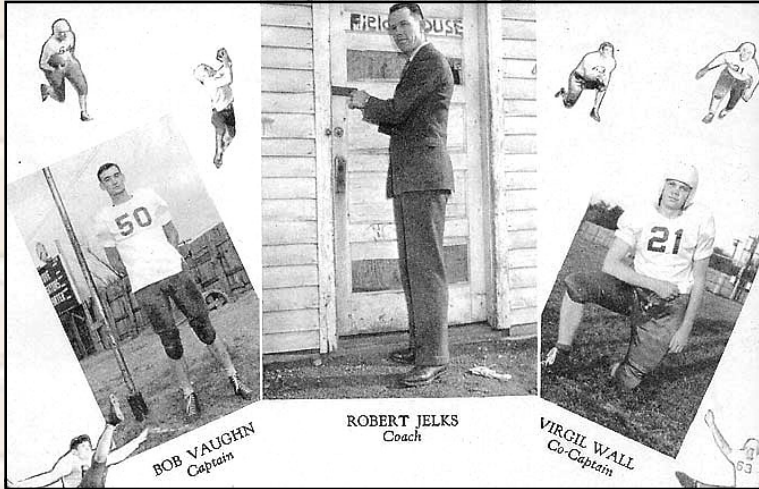
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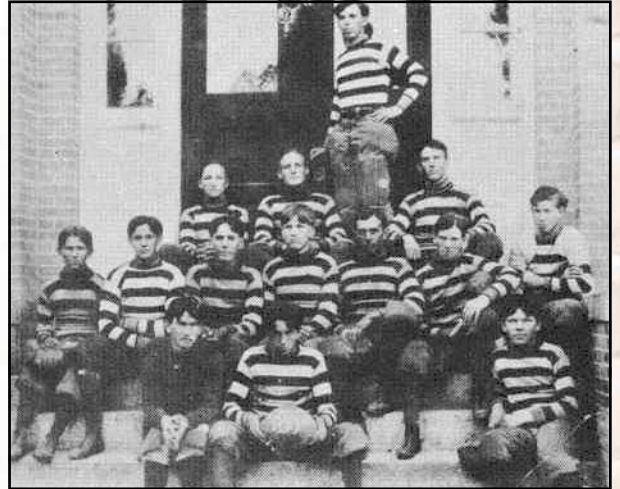
REMEMBER WHEN



For this issue's Remember When section, we're taking a look back at those good ol' school days of our youth, when everyone in Paris rooted for the Grove Blue Devils, kids walked to school and then walked back home, but not without stopping off at the soda fountains downtown on their way back home.



From the Grove Tower yearbook 1946, the "Football Leaders." Coach Jelks, Captain Bob Vaughn, Co-Captain Virgil Wall. The fieldhouse door sure looked a lot different than it does now.



Yes, the original name of the football team at Grove was the Chill Tonics. And this was first Grove football team; photo taken in 1906.



In the eighties, big hair ruled. Pictured here are Jill Hayes, Becky Putney, Michelle Beaver and Darius Hastings.



Andrew Jelks signing autographs for Mary Kate Coley and Rylee Counce at the rally and fundraiser for the team during the 2011 football season. Shannon McFarlin photo



HCHS Class of 1989 Seniors, Julie Morris and Rob Hessing are busy mixing it up in Biology II.



Grove High School Royalty, 1968, when Martha McFadden was crowned Queen. From left: Wendy Leach, sophomore attendant, Queen Martha McFadden, Nancy Ellis, senior attendant, and Jackie Gillespie, junior attendant.



Grove cheerleaders, 1948. Front (l to r): Norma Fay Workman, Beth Mann, Jerry Sue Ridgeway. Back: Mary Louise Hert, Cynthia Hancock



The 1988 HCHS Freshman cheerleaders were getting the students fired up at a pep rally.



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VELVET ARNOLD

Without Cheerleading, It's Just A Game!

BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

It's not your mother's cheer squad. Today, high school cheerleading is on a whole different scale and Velvet Arnold has been right there in the forefront – for 16 years as the cheer coach at Grove School and Henry County High School.

It means a lot of hard work and long hours, but it's been labor of love – and commitment to school pride – for her.

After a long cheer career, Velvet announced to the cheerleaders on July 25 that she is leaving her job at the high school for a position at the Paris Board of Public Utilities.

In her years as coach, Arnold has viewed the cheerleaders as “the Ambassadors of the school.” The cheerleaders “represent the whole school”, she said, “I hold them to a higher standard. I expect them to have self-respect and respect for the school and community as a whole.”

Arnold was a cheerleader herself at Henry County High School, but she said there definitely have been changes in what is expected of cheering since she was a student.

“One big thing is that the cheer squad is more included now,” she said. “They participate in more activities,

such as the Meet the Patriots tailgate event. They are an integral part of that now and it didn't used to be that way.”

There is a “lot more interaction” with the teams and the whole school now, she said. “For one thing, cheerleaders run out on the field with the football team at the beginning of the games and we never used to do that.”



Velvet Arnold, high school cheerleader.

Above: Velvet Arnold with her father, Dell Carter, at a HCHS game.

Stunts are “bigger and more open” than they used to be and require different and more versatile skill sets, she said.

The cheer squad goes to all the football and basketball games, home and away. “It makes for long days, really long days. Sometimes we'll leave school at 2:30 to get to an away game and we're not home until 10:30 or 11 at night. The girls do their homework on the bus a lot of the time so they can keep up, but it is hard.”

During her time as cheer coach, Arnold has had a full-time job as the Henry County High School secretary/receptionist. “And it made for long days for me, too,” she said.

For Arnold, heading the cheer squad was almost a year-round task. “I took one month off from cheerleading and that was in March,” she said. “The rest of the year, I'm planning, coordinating. I spent three to four hours every day thinking about the schedules and the upcoming seasons.”

Cheers and stunts are tailored differently for basketball and football, she said. “We do two different stunts every game and we don't repeat any touchdown stunts, every one of them

is different.” Without an assistant coach, Arnold said she relied on the senior girls a lot.

She looked for at least 16 girls on the squad from sophomores to seniors, and that accommodated four stunt groups. “I look for well-rounded girls who have a lot of versatility and flexibility. Personality is important. Good grades are important, good attendance, ability to work well with others, the ability to project their voice. And smile. The smile is really important.”

The Henry County High School cheer squad performs many stunts, including elevators and extensions, baskets and waterfalls.

The squad hosts a cheer clinic for girls ages 5 through 8, which they love. “The little girls perform at one of the games. Everybody really gets into it.”

One of the biggest challenges that she and the cheer squad faced were the years during the COVID pandemic.

“We did as well as we could during that time,” she said. “We wore masks a lot and we didn’t travel. We just went to home games and we spread everybody out. No group stunting and no close contact.”

Arnold praises the cheer squad members she has coached over the years. “It’s been a great experience and they’ve given their all. It’s a lot of work but it’s worth it.”

SIDELINE FACTS

There have been young men who were members of the cheerleading squads in the past. Looking through the old Grove Tower yearbooks, you’ll find several male cheerleaders during the 1950s.

Leon Ridgeway cheered for several years in the mid to late 1950s, along with Pete Perry, Jackie LeCoy and Jime Seawright. All are included in the photos published in the yearbooks, with Ridgeway being prominent in several photos.

Cheerleading itself wasn’t always a popular activity at the local high school. The first time that cheerleaders are even mentioned was in the 1937-38 school year, and there were only three girls on the squad: Sarah Orr, Sue Akin and Carolyn Haynes.



Grove cheerleaders: Jime Seawright, 1954



Above: Leon Ridgeway with his fellow Grove cheerleaders in 1957: Dian Neese, Leon, Sandra Lee, Belinda Taylor, Patsy McClure, Norma Pierce.



Above: Grove cheerleaders, 1957: Jackie LeCoy and Rosemarie Cheek.

Right: Grove cheerleaders Pete Perry and Linda Adams.



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Across the state and here in Henry County, educators are committed to improving literacy instruction for all students. Tennessee continues to lead the nation in both education gains for students and innovation, most recently the K-12 literacy crisis response to COVID-19. Locally, this means more professional learning opportunities for Henry County educators which, in turn, leads to improved outcomes for Henry County students.

WHAT IS READING 360?

Reading 360, the states federally funded, multi-million dollar initiative, allows Tennessee to support local districts, teachers, and students at no cost to the state or district. In Reading 360's second year of implementation, over 90% of preschool through fifth grade teachers in both Henry County

and the Paris Special School District have completed Early Reading Training (ERT), the course designed for elementary educators to help students develop strong phonics-based reading skills.

The full series has two parts – Course I is completed by teachers through a set of online modules and is required for elementary educator license renewal. Course II is a week-long learning experience that is completed in-person at host districts across the state.

Spring of 2022 brought a new component to Reading 360, Secondary Literacy Training (SLT), with the same course structure as the early reading course but designed for fifth through twelfth grade teachers. A recent report on college readiness has shown that nationwide, only about half of the students who graduate high school are able to meet the reading demands of

college or the workplace. The purpose of the SLT course is to equip educators to leverage complex text in the content areas and to support English Language Arts instruction in every 5-12 grade classroom from math and science subject areas to Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses.

BENEFITS OF READING 360

Teachers from the Henry County School System as well as the Paris Special School District have taken part in either one or both trainings. E.W. Grove School assistant principal, Ashley James, has facilitated both the early reading and secondary literacy courses in Henry County, PSSD, and in other districts across the state.

She reflects, "Reading 360 has brought so much new learning to teachers and in turn, has improved outcomes for our students. It may

take a few years for us to see the full impact of implementation, but the results we have already seen with students are incredible. We are teaching children to read with methods based on scientific evidence, and because of this, we can use our instructional time more wisely. We no longer have to guess the best learning strategies for different students; we know what and how to teach based on cognitive science, and the best part is that it works for all students.”

Reading 360 supports teachers by providing relevant research and preparing them to use evidence-based best practices for literacy instruction. Recently, Henry County hosted Course II of ERT at E.W. Grove School, and over 20 elementary teachers from Henry County as well as Houston and Stewart Counties took part in the training. One participant noted, “Making the shift to phonics-based instruction has been a game-changer for my first-grade students. I can see that when students have learned the basic code of the English language, there is nothing that can stop them from reading, really reading! Students are excited to apply their newly acquired skills to print, and they absolutely love reading for their teachers and their families.”

WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN?

What does all of this mean for Henry County parents and families of K-12 students? Students in grades kindergarten through second will learn through instruction that is heavily grounded in a phonics-based approach. Students will learn sounds first, which requires a shift in thinking. In the past, letter names have been taught either before



Above: Henry teacher, Courtney Thomasson, talks with two other Henry County educators about the principles of strong literacy instruction.

Previous page: Harrelson Preschool teacher Heather French looks on with Ashley James as they review the district's newly adopted curricular materials.

or simultaneously with letter sounds, but going forward, the focus will be on learning sounds to decode words.

Beginning in kindergarten, students will read decodable stories where they can immediately apply their newly learned skills. Tennessee provides these same decodable readers for families' home use free of charge. To order a copy of the books for a kindergarten through second grade student, go to <https://decodablerequests.powerappsportals.com>.

Families of third graders and beyond will begin to see more required reading in all subject areas instead of only English Language Arts classes. After learning advanced phonics skills, students will begin reading a wide variety of complex grade-appropriate text. A 2006 report from ACT states, “the clearest differentiator in reading between students who are

college ready and students who are not is the ability to comprehend complex texts.”

The implication for families is that the best way for parents to help a child prepare for post-secondary opportunities, either college or the workplace, is to ensure they are reading a large volume of material and to push them to read text that is personally challenging.

RECOGNITIONS

Both Henry County Schools and the Paris Special School District were recognized in 2021 as Best for All school districts. Sixty-seven Tennessee school districts were awarded this honor celebrating strategic spending on student achievement.

To follow the Reading 360 journey on social media, search the hashtag #Reading360, or follow Ashley on Twitter @msjamesinkinder.

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CAROLYN RUSSELL

A Heart
For
Teaching

BY SUSAN JONES

Two important events took place in November, 1956 – Dwight Eisenhower was elected as the 34th president of the United States and young Carolyn (Fitzhugh) Russell began her beauty school career in Paris, Tennessee. Ten presidents and 66 years later, the fashionable educator with a head for business and a heart for young people continues to instruct the cosmetologists and nail technicians of tomorrow.

“In the beginning, I wanted to become a hairdresser for more steady work. I worked at Holley Carburetor and layoffs were fairly common,” she explained.

Russell trained to become a cosmetologist at Nestle Beauty School,



CAROLYN RUSSELL

located in a second-floor space on the west side of the Paris Court Square. Soon she was instructing, as well as

styling. She and two classmates eventually purchased the school and moved the businesses to 210 N. Brewer Street. Soon, Russell became the sole owner.

Early on, she met and fell in love with John Russell. A farmer and long-time employee at Holley Carburetor, he passed in 2010. The couple had two children, Kim and Monte, who live in Paris and Nashville, respectively.

“At one point, we thought we’d sell the shop and school and retire,” said Russell. But after her husband passed, she was grateful for the familiar faces and routine of the beauty school.

SOLID SKILL SET

Russell offers a skill set that is constantly in demand. “A cosmetologist

and nail tech can always find work, but they have to treat it like a business.” And many of them have done just that.

Nestle Beauty School has a broad reach. “In most of the salons in town, I’ve trained the owner or at least one of the cosmetologists and/or a nail tech.” In fact, Russell has trained a student whose mother and grandmother both trained at Nestle.

An educator to the core, Russell is a firm believer in the basics and makes certain all of her students receive them. Take “the wave” for example.

In the world of cosmetology, “the wave” is to hairstylists what punctuation is to writers. A cosmetologist has to know how to do a wave, according to Russell, who was dismayed when this fundamental unit was removed from the state’s cosmetology curriculum. “But, I still teach it,” she says. “It’s that important.”

WHAT’S TRENDING

After more than six decades, this cosmetology teacher knows how quickly fashions can change. In the hair world, trends change every six months, thanks to a national committee who redefines the new looks each spring-summer and fall-winter. This makes it imperative for cosmetologists to keep abreast of what’s hitting the magazines and TV screens next

and how to create those looks for their clientele.

“In earlier years there was a local hairdresser association, and we would go to trade shows. The American Hair Dressers Association sent artists to each state to show us what was coming in perms, colors and cuts,” says Russell. “Now we have big trade shows in places like St. Louis, Nashville, Memphis and Atlanta. Artists work the platforms for companies like Redken and Paul Mitchell.”

The one trend that Russell never thought would last was the wide array of hair colors that clients are using today. “We have customers who want their hair done in different colors; some like a rainbow, or to match a special dress.”

FOREVER HER CHILDREN

Russell says she really feels for students who were training during COVID; they didn’t have the opportunity to attend big shows. “But now we try to get them to the annual one in Nashville,” she says.

There are many endearing things about Carolyn Russell, and one of sweetest is the tendency to refer to her students as “children.” When she’s busy and the phone rings, she calls out, “Children, can one of you answer that?” She could be a great-grandmother to most of her class

and feels a sense of responsibility for her students and their futures. “I do feel maternal towards them. I even call their children my grandchildren.”

DOING THE TIME

When it comes to cosmetology instruction, Russell’s students have to have 1,500 hours to get their certification, and nail technicians must have 600 hours. Even after decades of experience, Russell still attends school for state-required continuing education classes.

With Russell’s enthusiasm for teaching and cosmetology, it seems as if there is no down-side to this career.

Russell laughed, but she admitted that clients often view a visit to their cosmetologist or nail technician as an inexpensive therapy session.

“Clients tell them things that they don’t even tell their spouses,” she said. And although her students are well-schooled, they aren’t licensed to dispense psychiatric advice, so Russell teaches them something even better, “We instruct them to listen but to never repeat.”

After all these years, Russell seems lukewarm about retirement. “I love people,” she said. “I think they keep me young. I especially enjoy being with my students. I feel like I’m responsible to them and I enjoy teaching them.”



Previous Page: Carolyn Russell, owner of Nestle Beauty School, gives Sara Champine a new hairstyle while Angelia Pillow, student, and Alicia Pittman, junior instructor, observe. Above: Kay Exum gets advice on the best products for her hair from Russell.

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A VISIT BACK HOME

York, United Kingdom

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BY CATHY BAZAR

It was March 2022 and as I exited the airport at London Heathrow, I was happy to be back home to celebrate my dad's birthday and see family and friends.

Two years before, I had missed my dad's 80th birthday, as the COVID outbreak cut my trip short so I could get back to the United States before the country was locked down.

On my trip, I spent a few days in London with my best and oldest school friend, before I took a train directly from London's Kings Cross to my hometown of York, where my parents and two brothers live. At Kings Cross train station, I had time to revisit Platform 9¾ and the Harry Potter stores.



Using the **train app** (see QR code within photo) in advance, I was able to get a good price on a first-class ticket for the two-hour journey. My first time in first class, and it was wonderful. The ticket included personal service with a snack, meal, drinks (including alcohol), and a quieter carriage.

If you have a day free while in the United Kingdom, I highly recommend a visit to York. Trains run all day until the evening, and the English countryside is an experience not to be missed. York dates back to the Vikings



era, and a visit to the **Jorvik Viking Museum** is a great way to experience the sights, sounds, and smells of that time through an interactive ride. Your children will love it, too. Fair warning, though – the smells are not the best!

Take a walk on some of the remaining Roman walls that surround York and see the city's many historic buildings. Explore cobbled streets like the **Shambles** which is said to be the inspiration for Diagon Alley from the Harry Potter movies.

Browse the many quaint shops in the city, including local arts and crafts retailers and the Chocolate Factory.

If you love a bargain, check out the



Cobblestone streets of the Shambles

local market or the multiple charity shops (known in the States as thrift stores).

Fascinated by ghosts? Take one of the many **ghost tours** as York is one of the most haunted cities in the country or visit one of the most haunted pubs, like the **Golden Fleece**. While there be sure to look for the skeleton at the bar and the clock with hands that go backwards!

Pubs are also a great place to eat, as most are child friendly during the day.

My favorite for adults to have a relaxing lunch is **Plonkers** down by the river, where you can eat inside or out. A good family friendly pub is **Hole in the Wall** but there are so many different choices as well as many restaurants.

Afternoon tea anyone? **Betty's Tea Rooms** is the most popular, with beautiful interiors.



As you can see, I love and miss my hometown of York! It is a popular vacation spot for the British people, too. I had a wonderful month-long visit with my family.

I also went to Northern Ireland near Belfast to visit my Mum's family. The weather was a glorious 60 degrees. Yes, don't forget to pack clothes for

hot and cold weather, as you never know what the weather will be.

Best of all I got to celebrate with my Dad on his 82nd birthday!

So, if you are lucky enough to go to the United Kingdom, I hope you get off the beaten path and visit York and many of the other historical cities outside London. Cheers!!



Celebrating Dad's 82nd birthday.



This is me with my youngest brother and his wife in the local pub.



My dad, cousin, Mum and my dad's sister, Aunty Marie who just turned 90 years young!



My Mum is enjoying lunch outside with some of my Irish cousins.

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On a hot summer day, the Taylor kids – Campbell, Evelynne, Jameson, and Easton – teamed up with their cousins Hadley and Raven Breland to have a lemonade stand on Rabbit Creek Road. They also had a bargain on farm fresh eggs.



Congratulations and best wishes to Willie Ruth Pearson on her recent retirement from Commercial Bank! A great time was had by all at her reception.



Little Roan Robinson, age one, is enjoying his summer at Paris Landing State Park. His parent are Jacinda Bates and Eric Robinson. Grandmother Brook Ray snapped this cute photo.



Recently spotted swimming in Emerald Lake on Volunteer Drive, it seems this alligator came a long way to visit Jane Overton. See the note he brought with him.

WELL, MY FRIEND JANE,
YOU HAVE COME TO FLORIDA SEVERAL TIMES
LOOKING FOR ME.
YOU SEEM LIKE A NICE LADY, SO I DECIDED TO CRAWL
UP AND SEE WHAT IT IS LIKE UP IN TENNESSEE
AND FOUND YOU LIVE ON THIS NICE POND.
IS IT OK IF I JUST REST HERE FOR A WHILE?
WHEN YOU ARE READY FOR ME TO MOVE ON
TO VISIT SOMEONE ELSE JUST GIVE A CALL TO
731-707-0919
AND THE ALLIGATOR RETRIEVER
WILL HELP ME ON MY WAY TO MY NEXT STOP.



Jennifer from Rollin' Snow at the Ogburn Park Block Party for pre-school and Head Start kids.

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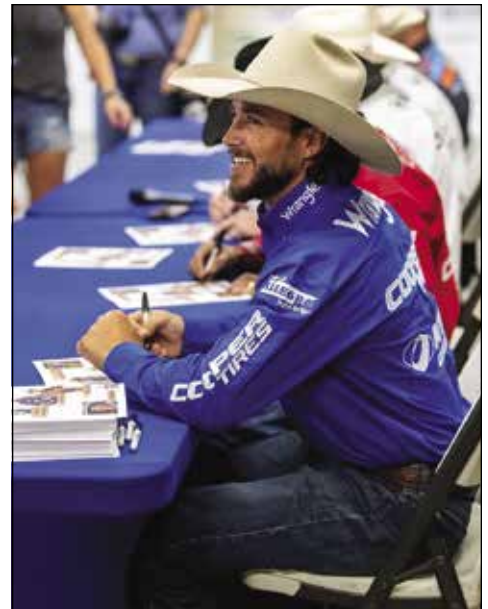
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Little Avalynne Abbott, daughter of Austin and Delaney, was all smiles as she played with a new baby foal at her grandmothers' house.



Mary Kate Paschall adds her creative touch to vegetable table baskets for the Paris-Henry Council Arts Council's Farm To Table Dinner at Westalia Farms.



Professional bull rider Cody Nance greets and signs autographs on the first night of Allegro's PBR in Paris. Mike Grace photo



Leon Ridgeway, J.W. Akers and Don Ridgeway talk things over at the Cottage Grove 4th of July Parade.



Paris artist Chelsea Lodge takes a quick break from her hard work on another colorful mural. This one is at the Henry County Fairgrounds.




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14. She has a heart for teaching
15. Has been a cheer coach for 16 years
17. Cathy Bazar's hometown
19. Not ghosts but _____
20. TN initiative to improve this school subject
21. Creature found in Emerald Lake
22. He was a male cheerleader for several years

DOWN

1. Big October event at Eiffel Tower Park
5. Neese and his cousins _____ the dairy barn
7. Paris _____ for the Arts
9. 201-year-old Methodist Church
11. Type of spider

12. Yells "Go Big Red!" from HCHS football sidelines
13. An autograph signer or a coach
16. If plants are dry, _____ them!
18. Only this in PARIS! Magazine
20. Arts ' _____ The Square

PUZZLE SOLVE ON PAGE 40



ARTS 'ROUND THE SQUARE

An Autumn Tradition for 16 Years

If it is the last Saturday in September, it must be Arts 'Round The Square in Downtown Paris! Often referred to as ARTS by locals, the festival returns on September 24, 2022. The annual one-day arts event is sponsored by the Paris-Henry County Arts Council and made possible by many sponsors and volunteers from the community.

The event began back in 2006, under the direction of Mary Lodge. "I am so pleased to see an event that I started 16 years ago has grown and bringing more arts opportunities to the public."

In the beginning, the Arts Council

wanted to showcase the hard work and imagination of local artists," said Lodge. "I'm proud of all the fresh ideas that current director Chloe Roth has brought to Arts 'Round The Square."

Since then, the festival has grown into what we know today. The event features 50+ artists from all over the region, showcasing and selling their work, in addition to live music, hands-on arts and crafts for children, and food trucks.

The event also coincides with a car show, sponsored by Street Dynamics, ensuring there is truly something for everyone in attendance.

In the past, the event has operated from 9 am to 4 pm, however this year the event will continue later into the night with the McKenzie, Tennessee based band, Flashback, playing from 5-7pm. Local favorites, The Ray Lewis Band and Ethan Torsak, will also be performing earlier in the day.

A few of the food trucks that will be onsite at the festival are Hand Held's Food Truck, Sweet Jordan's Food Truck, and Eaton's Hot Diggity Dogs.

For the past couple of years, the Arts Council paused the hands-on art projects for children due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But this year,

plans have been made to bring the those crafts back, and the Arts Council has reached out to local artists and teachers to help facilitate those crafts.

Additionally, this years festival will feature live art demonstrations from artists, including local artist Amanda Mason, who will be demonstrating her pottery wheel at her booth.

So far, many returning artists, as well as new artists, have signed up to be vendors this year. Local artist Erik Stonebraker said, "Last year was my first year, but I can't wait to come back in September. I couldn't believe how many people came just to shop for art. Arts Council members and volunteers were all very helpful and made sure I knew where to go."

ARTS culminates Chloe Roth's first year as serving as the head of Arts Council. "Being hired on as executive director in late September 2021, last year was my first Arts 'Round the Square. I was blown away by the event, especially by the amount of hard work that so many people put into planning and bringing the event to life," said Roth.

"Volunteers spent days mapping out the booths locations before the event and stay for hours after the event to make sure everything was cleaned up. During the festival, our volunteers help the artists set up their booths, answer any questions vendors

may have, and ensured the vendors had water and snacks throughout the day. Local businesses donated drinks, snacks, and hand sanitizer while the Paris Police walked around keeping everyone safe. The entire event was truly a team effort, and that involvement helps strengthens the entire community."

The Paris-Henry County Arts Council is looking forward to another fabulous ARTS. Mark your calendars, you don't want to miss it!

For more information about the Arts Council, visit their Facebook page or website at www.phcart.com, email phcart@gmail.com, or call/text 731-642-3955.



Newly hired as the PHC Arts Council executive director, Chloe Roth enjoyed her first Arts 'Round The Square last year.



Arts 'Round The Square is a family-friendly event with art, music, food and fun.



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A SPOOKTACULAR TIME

at Eiffel Tower Park



BY RHONDA STANTON

Spooktacular has long been a hauntingly fun time in Paris, Tennessee. For many years a passersby could see ghosts and ghouls running around the Henry County Court House on the Saturday afternoon before Halloween.

The Downtown Paris Association hosted the event annually, and they knocked it out of the park with fabulous fun for all. They did such a wonderful job, however, Spooktacular was outgrowing the courthouse lawn. The solution? Knock that ball right back into the park...Eiffel Tower Park, to be precise.

With playgrounds, trails, fields, and parking (and without the challenge of Hwy. 641 running right beside the courthouse), Eiffel Tower Park is the perfect location for Spooktacular. So the City of Paris picked up the event in 2021 and ran with it. Keeping the tra-

ditions of Spooktacular staples like fall carnival games, the costume contest, and guessing the weight of Pumpkin Pete, the Eiffel Tower Event absolutely pays homage to the fabulous work of the DPA through the years.

The walking trails at Eiffel Tower Park created the perfect location for a Halloween Trail Walk, and Spooktacular 2021 featured a two-part trail with fantasy scenes on the first part and more scary scenes on the second part.

The concept was a huge success with a long line of trail-walkers of all ages, eager to see what was up ahead. The length of the line has prompted the modification that Spooktacular 2022 will feature two trail walks, one more storybook or fantasy in concept and one more scary!

Another new feature of Spooktacular is the carved pumpkin contest for teens and adults and a painted pump-

kin contest for kids. Plan your best pumpkin and display your finished product! Prizes for funniest pumpkin, scariest pumpkin, people's choice and judges' choice will be awarded.

Eiffel Tower Park will also offer two pumpkin painting/decorating workshops shortly before Spooktacular for kids ages 5-8 and kids ages 9-12. Young folks can enjoy a creative experience and then add their finished product to the contest, if desired.

Spooktacular 2022 will add the feature of some Halloween photo ops with backdrops where you and your family can pose for Halloween photos.

Any area individual, group, or business can participate in Spooktacular 2022. One way to show your community spirit is to plan a fall carnival game or activity booth, offering Halloween treats for our young Spooktacular guests to enjoy.



A large crowd couldn't wait to follow the Halloween Trail Walks at last year's Spooktacular at Eiffel Tower Park.

Another fabulous option for community involvement is planning a scene on either of the Halloween trail walks. Plan a fun scene from a story or movie for our Fantasy Trail or dream up something scary for the Fright Trail.

Join all your City of Paris friends and neighbors at Eiffel Tower Park on Saturday, October 29, 1 to 4 pm, for Spooktacular!

Plan now how you or your group might participate, also. Reach out to Alex Hassell, aswayne@cityofparistn.gov or Rhonda Stanton, kriderpac@gmail.com or call Paris Civic Center 731-644-2517 to register your carnival game or trail scene or to get help in planning your entry.

Watch the City of Paris, TN government and Krider Performing Arts

Center Facebook pages for information about the pumpkin painting workshops and more about Spooktacular 2022. We hope to see you there!

Rhonda Stanton is the general manager/arts programming director of Krider Performing Arts Center in Paris, Tennessee. KPAC is administered by the City of Paris Parks and Recreation Department.



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WHEN THINGS GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

BY KAREN GEARY

Valli Kimery is like most in Henry County: she has a family, she has a job, she likes to have fun, and to meet new people. And new people really like to meet her – both the living and the dead.

Along with her normal daily activities, she is the lead investigator for Lost Souls Paranormal Researchers, an independent group that is dedicated to learn more about paranormal occurrences and to help their community.

Paranormal is defined as “not scientifically explainable,” and when dealing with such an unknown, it can be unnerving at first. For Kimery, it was midnight footsteps, unexpected slamming of doors and windows, and the feeling of an unseen presence in her parent’s home in Melvindale, Michigan. At 17 years old, instead of

being fearful, she wanted to learn more about the spirits she cohabitated with and to find the truth about them.

“I went to the library and checked out every book I could find on ghosts and paranormal activity. I read them, studied them, and formed my own opinions,” she said. “What holds one’s imagination is worth the investigation. It has become my passion.”

One memorable experience for Kimery came in 2007 when she was home with a sick child. “I began to feel a presence and became very emotional. As I was sitting on the couch, I felt a kiss or a touch on my face. It was a tingly feeling, like when your arm goes to sleep. My brother had passed and I knew it was him – I could smell his cologne. It was quite a profound experience.”

Kimery has been a paranormal

investigator since 2005, and her team has helped many in the area with their strange happenings. “I really don’t like calling them ghosts. They are spirits of people who have died. I give them that respect, just like if they were alive.”

And don’t call her a “ghostbuster” because, as she puts it, “the spirits were here first. I don’t drive them out. Now if they want to leave a place, I invite them to come out the door with me. They are free to leave, to move on, but most stay.”

Kimery and her team use state-of-the-art equipment in their investigations. They often come to a site with cameras, video camcorders with night vision, EMF (electromagnetic field) meters, EVP (electronic voice phenomena) devices, and trigger objects. “I usually bring a flashlight. Spirits like

to turn it on or off as a way to communicate. And I also like to use little toys like a ball for them to move around.”

She feels like her purpose is to help a homeowner or business owner feel more at ease with the spirits dwelling within their home or other structure. “It’s their home, too. And when you know what you’re facing, it’s easier to adjust and accept.”

When asked if she had ever been scared on an investigation, she confessed she has been. “I’ve seen some really spooky things, like poltergeist activity. If it is something beyond our abilities, I refer cases to others who can help, like a priest or a demonologist.”

Being a paranormal investigator comes with its own pitfalls, especially with other people’s perceptions of her work. “I can’t be bothered with that,” said Kimery. “I don’t let others deter me. I know what I’ve seen and heard.”

She has heard of several haunted places in Henry County, especially Grove Tower and the old Lee School, now the Paris Academy for the Arts. “I’ve heard about a teacher or principal that many have seen at one or both



Some of the tools Valli Kimery uses during an investigation: EMF meter and a flashlight.

schools. I’d love to do an investigation in those buildings at night just to prove the stories are real.”

Why do sessions at night? “Ghosts hang out in the shadows. They’re timid, really. Once you show them some respect and dignity, they tend to come out.”

Her bucket list for spirits would be the Gettysburg Battlefield. “I’ve heard it’s a very active place, but it’s forbidden to be there at night. It’s federal land.” But she has been to Fort Donelson, and she and her son saw an eerie sight in broad daylight.



“We were driving through the park when I looked over and saw disembodied legs walking near the tree line. I thought at first I was imagining what I saw, but my son saw them, too. Legs and feet with no shoes on. We found out many of the soldiers at the end of the war were lacking supplies and they fought with no boots or shoes.”

If you would like to contact Valli Kimery and her team about investigating a possible haunting or unexplained occurrences, leave a message on the “Lost Souls Paranormal Researchers 2020” or her personal Facebook page.

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"Red Hot,"
the
Mexican
Red Knee
Tarantula
is owned
by Susan Ventrice

PETS

With Eight Legs

BY KAREN GEARY

When the word "spider" is mentioned, it often provokes two responses: "eek!" or "how cool!" Reactions include cringing, rapid body movements, or finding the nearest heavy object to flatten the critter. The eight-legged insect even garners its own phobia – *Arachnophobia*, the irrational fear of spiders and other arachnids. And who can forget the 1990 horror movie classic by the same name? Scary!

But for some individuals, they feel spiders have gotten a bad rap, and they find them fascinating enough to make them part of the family.

One such person is Susan Ventrice of Buchanan. Over the past 15 years, she has owned several tarantulas and currently owns three. "I became interested in spiders years ago because, as a child, I had a fear of them. As I grew older, I didn't want to have a fear or phobia about anything so I ended up taking a tarantula my son gave me," said Ventrice. "I researched, read, and

observed everything about it. I found it very interesting and educational."

The tarantulas she owns are a Chilean Rose Hair that is 10 years old, a Mexican Red Knee that's about five years old, and a Curly Hair. "Two of the spiders I have now I have raised from spiderlings (baby spiders). My newest Curly Hair is about the size of a half dollar. I got him in April from a pet shop in Illinois," she said. "I have always had exotic pets, but I have to say tarantulas are my favorite."

Her menagerie also includes two dogs, one cat, and a leopard gecko at this time. "We love them all!"

Ventrice has educated herself about her eight-legged housemates. "There are approximately 850 species of tarantulas. Some females can live up to 25-30 years, while the males live around five to seven years. They can bite, and some species are more aggressive than others. The bite is painful but not harmful. The venom is milder than a honeybee. They all molt to shed their exoskeleton to grow and repair any

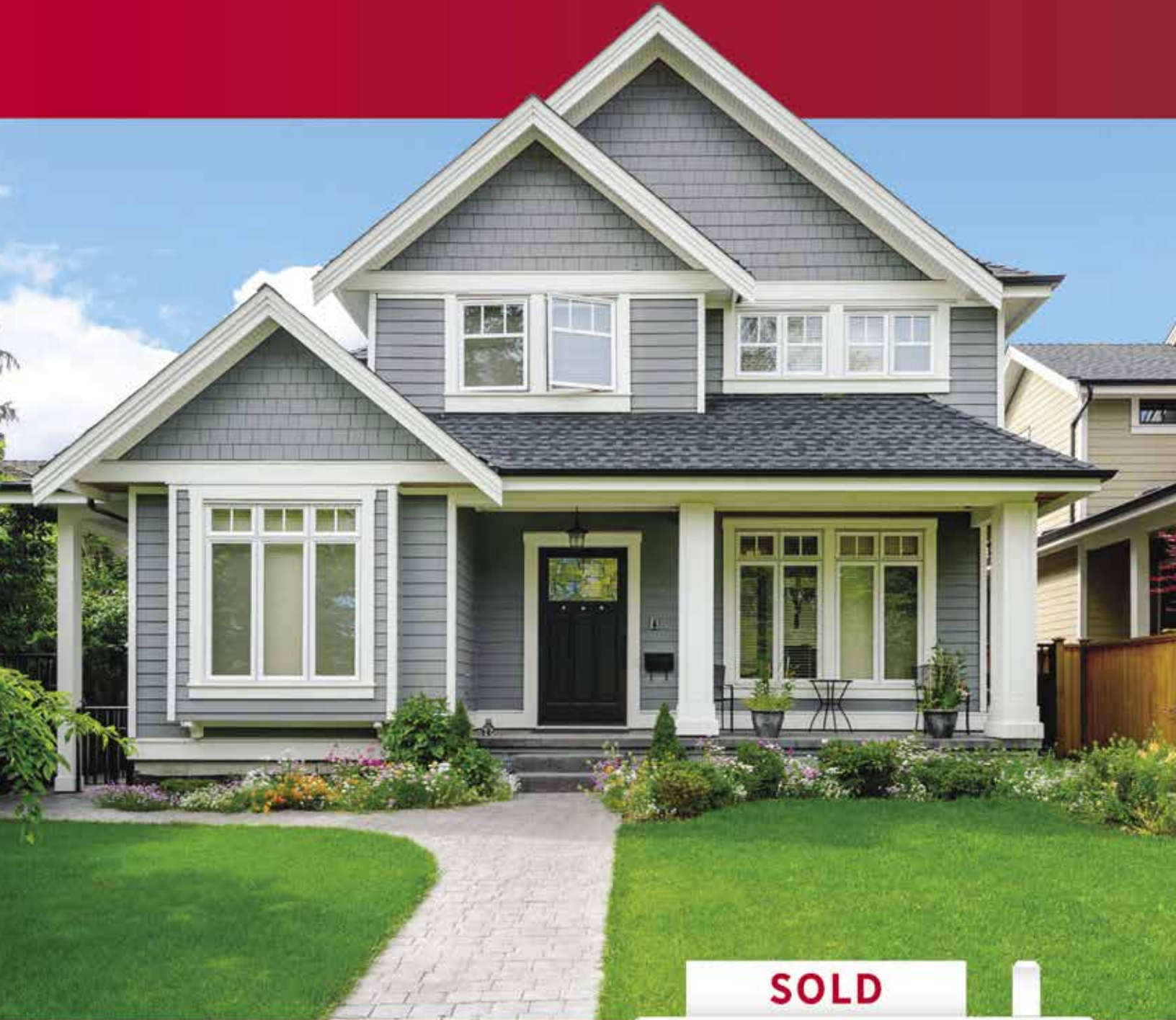
damages inside and out. They can even regenerate broken legs."

Has she been bitten by her pets? "I have never been bitten by any of my spiders. They do give warnings by raising their front legs and moving backwards. They can also flick hairs off with their back legs. The hair gets in your skin and is very itchy. My Mexican Red Knee likes to flick them occasionally."

Does Ventrice really call her tarantulas "pets"? "I call them pets, but I do not pet them. Mostly I observe, clean cages and only handle them occasionally. If they are dropped, it will most likely kill them, they splat."

She offered this advice for anyone thinking about owning a tarantula – or any pet for that matter. "Before getting any pet, I believe you should research its habitat, needs, or anything you can find out about it. It makes for a healthier pet."

When not caring for her tarantulas, Ventrice enjoys nature and the outdoors, bicycling, music, and tattoos.



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Water, Water, EVERYWHERE?

BY JOHN WATKINS

At the time I'm writing this article, we're in the middle of a full-on drought in most areas. A little over four weeks with no measurable rainfall and temperatures in the 90's will tend to do that. So with that in mind, I thought we could at least talk about water even if Mother Nature is being a little stingy.

First of all, let's talk a little about how plants actually use water so we'll have a better idea of how, when, and where you will get the most from watering your garden. We all know that water is essential for plant health and can actually comprise as much as 95% of a plant's mass. You need it to make seeds sprout, you need it to carry nutrients throughout the plant, and it is responsible for several functions within the plant tissues.

Water is required for photosynthesis where the plant uses carbon dioxide from the air and hydrogen from the water to release oxygen back into the air. Water also helps regulate temperatures inside the plant through transpiration in pores (called stomata) in the leaves. During especially hot and windy days, transpiration increases and extra water is required to be pulled up from the roots to compensate.

Nutrients and sugars from photosynthesis are dissolved in water and

then transported throughout the plant. Water is also responsible for cell structural support. When the cells are full, they allow the plant to remain flexible without wilting.

Now on to some more burning questions like: How do I know if my plant needs water? Most of us would assume this is an easy one. If my plant is wilted, it's probably dry!

Not so fast there, Sherlock. There are actually a number of reasons a plant will wilt with overwatering being one of them. So instead of just indiscriminately watering, take some time to look a little closer.

While there are plenty of those fancy soil moisture meters out there on the market, your best water gauge is literally in your hands. Poke your finger into the soil to a depth of 2-3 inches (for those of you afraid to get a little dirt under your nails, a sharp stick or garden trowel is acceptable). If the soil is moist at that depth you're probably okay. While your soil may appear dry on the surface it's more important to have the water where your roots are for the plant to remain healthy.

When is the best time to water? This one also seems pretty easy: water when your plants are dry! But I never did like an easy answer, so a better question might be, "when is the most efficient time to water?"

I like efficiency and when water is concerned, early morning is your best bet. Why you might ask? The main reason is evaporation. Watering early will ensure that the water has a chance to make its way down to the roots before heat and wind and take it away. It also ensures that your plants will have an adequate supply to withstand the heat of a blistering summer day.

How much should I water and how often? This one depends a lot on the plant that you're watering. Obviously a smaller plant, like those annual flowers we all love, don't have as large a root system as larger shrubs and trees.

It is also highly dependent on soil types as well. Good soils with lots of organic matter will hold water better than a sandy soil (where water leaches out readily) or heavy clay soils (where water often just runs off).

So, let's break this down a little more. During the heat of the summer when there's not much natural rainfall, watering your annual flowers could take as much as every 2-3 days. Try to soak them to a depth of 4-6 inches where it will most benefit their shallow root systems.

For newly planted trees and shrubs you'll want to soak the area around the root system slowly and deeply. This means just waving a hose past it won't work. You've got a couple of options

on how to do this. One way might be to place the hose end next to the plant and just barely let water trickle out. Then just walk away and leave it for an hour or so to soak in deeply.

Another good method is to find an old five-gallon bucket, poke a couple of small holes in the bottom, fill with water whenever you are watering your other plants, and let gravity do the work for you.

Mature trees are a different story, and unless we're in an extreme drought, the plant can generally take care of itself. Their root systems can generally spread 2-3 times the radius of the canopy which makes watering a little more difficult. Besides that, some trees can absorb as much as 150 gallons of water in a single day. I don't know about you, but my budget couldn't handle that water bill. (Sorry big oak tree, but I'm not giving up my showers for you!)

Finally, how can I cut down on my watering bill? We've already mentioned one way to reduce the waste of water and that's by watering at the correct times. Early morning will not

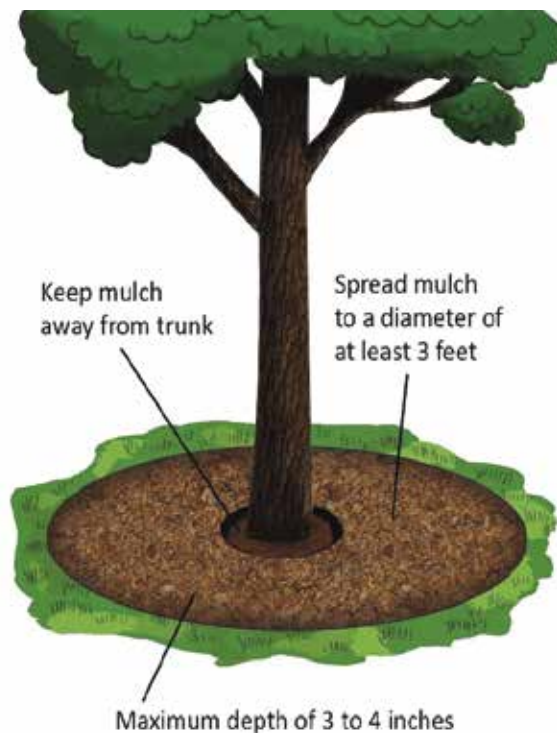
only reduce evaporation and prepare your plants for a hot day but will also reduce disease problems by not allowing water to remain on the leaves for extended periods of time.

For your annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees, one word: Mulch, mulch and more mulch (ok, that's actually five words but you get my point). Mulch does more than just conserve water by keeping it in the root zone, it will actually help cool the soil which greatly affects the water absorption rates. Just don't bury your plants or create those obnoxious "mulch volcanoes" around the trunks.

I have a feeling that by the time you're all reading this we've probably had plenty of rain (at least I sure hope so) and all these tips become a moot point. If so, then just file this away until next year when I'm sure we'll be going through it all over again.

All this talk of water makes me a bit parched. Think I'll go pour myself a big tall glass in honor of my garden!

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



A properly mulched tree will help survive under drought conditions. The diagram shows the correct diameter and depth for mulching. **NO MULCH VOLCANOS!**

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PUMPKIN SOUP

This easy pumpkin soup is savory and comforting. The best pumpkin soup can double as a pasta sauce. Just coat your favorite pasta in it for a unique alternative to alfredo sauce.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large pie pumpkin (about 4 pounds)
- 4 cups water
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup butter, cubed
- 2 tablespoons chicken bouillon cubes
- 6 garlic cloves, peeled and halved
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 can (7.6 ounces) table cream
- Roasted pumpkin seeds, fried sage leaves, optional

DIRECTIONS

- Cut a 4-in. circle around pumpkin stem; remove top and discard. Peel pumpkin; cut in half. Remove strings and seeds; discard seeds or save for roasting. Cut pumpkin into 1-in. cubes. Place in a 6-qt. stockpot; add water.
- Stir in onion, butter, bouillon, garlic, salt, nutmeg and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook, uncovered, 10-12 minutes or until pumpkin is tender.
- Add cream; heat through. Puree soup using an immersion blender. Or, cool soup slightly and puree in batches in a blender; return to pan and heat through. If desired, top with roasted pumpkin seeds and fried sage leaves.



From trail mix to salad dressing, muffins, and more, there are a number of creative ways to incorporate pumpkin seeds into every meal throughout the day. Give this simple recipe a try.

EASY ROASTED PUMPKIN SEEDS

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups of pumpkin seeds
- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1 teaspoon of garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1 teaspoon of black pepper



DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Rinse pepitas in a colander and toss pepitas with olive oil, garlic powder, salt, and pepper.
- Arrange pumpkin seeds in a single layer on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Roast pumpkin seeds in the oven for around 45 minutes, or until golden brown.
- Remove from heat, dry on a paper towel-lined plate, and serve as a healthy snack. Store on the counter in an airtight container for up to 2 weeks.

Short on time? Try these super simple cookies. The cake mix helps give the cookie a nice soft cake like texture, the pumpkin adds the moisture, and chocolate, well everything is just better with chocolate.



PUMPKIN CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

INGREDIENTS

- 1 box of Spice Cake Mix
- 1 can of pumpkin (*not* pumpkin pie filling)
- 2 cups of chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS

- Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and preheat oven to 350°F.
- In a medium bowl, mix the cake mix (just the powder) and pumpkin together until there are no more lumps. Stir in the chocolate chips.
- Drop by rounded tablespoons 2-inches apart on cookie sheet. Bake for 13-15 minutes until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool for 5 minutes on sheet pan before transferring to a rack to cool completely.



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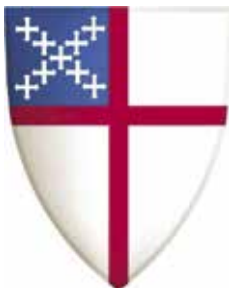
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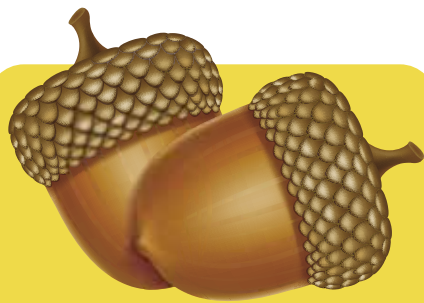
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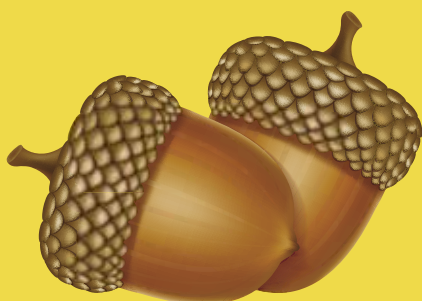
ON-GOING AUTUMN ENTERTAINMENT & CLASSES

GO TEAMS! - Support the PSSD's and Henry County School System's talented sports teams. Call individual schools for up-to-date schedules. Don't forget Saturday mornings are "kicking" with sports too! Paris Soccer at McNeil Park. For more information, call (731) 333-9464.

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.

LEARN ABOUT HEALTH - Henry County Medical Center offers monthly seminars including Chronic Disease Management Screenings, Childbirth Education and many more. All are free but you must pre-register by calling 731-644-3463.

POPCORN ANYONE? - Enjoy a new movie at the Parisian Theatre with nightly shows on six screens and matinees also on Saturday and Sunday. For more information and movie schedules call 731-642-7171.



AUGUST

AUGUST 20 - Kick off the Henry County Fair with an exciting night of **Ultimate Bullfighters** starting at 6:45 pm. For more information, call 731-642-3341.

AUGUST 20-27 - It's **Fair Week in Henry County!** Be sure to check them out at www.henrycountytfair.com for a complete list of events and times.

AUGUST 23 - Test your knowledge and head out to Perrylodgic Brewing Company for **Trivia Night**, sponsored by the PHC Arts Council. There will be food, fun and craft beer. For more information, call 731-642-3955 or visit www.phcart.com.

AUGUST 26 - Show your **BIG RED PRIDE** at the first home football game of the season at Henry County High School. **HCHS vs. Beech** at 7 pm. For more information call, 731-642-9733.

AUGUST 27 - Crash! Head out to the Henry County Fairgrounds to the **Demolition Derby** at 7 pm. For more information call, 731-642-3341.

August 27- Travis LeDoyt performs a Tribute to Elvis at the **Krider Performing Arts Center** at 7 pm. Tickets are on sale for \$27-\$35. For more information call 731-644-2517.

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 1 - Give Blood, Save a Life! **Lifeline Blood Mobile** will visit First United Methodist Church from noon until 6 pm. For more information, call 1-800-924-6572 ex. 310.

SEPTEMBER 2 - It's **Noon on the Square** time sponsored by Commercial Bank, 11:30 am - 1 pm. Concessions available. So bring a lawn chair and a friend to beautiful downtown Paris. For more information, call 731-642-3341.

SEPTEMBER 3 - Take a walk back in time at the Krider Performing Arts Center with the **Dino Encounters**. Starts at 3 pm. For more information, call 731-644-2517.

SEPTEMBER 5 - LABOR DAY! Hats off to our country's workforce. No school for PSSD or Henry County School System.

SEPTEMBER 9 - Enjoy a little music at **Noon on the Square**, 11:30 am - 1 pm, sponsored by Commercial Bank. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy this autumn tradition. Call 731-642-3341 for more information.



SEPTEMBER 10 & 11 - Looking for fun this weekend? Head to the lake for the **Paris Lakeway Kiwanis Club Arts and Crafts Festival** from 10 am to 5 pm both day.

SEPTEMBER 11 - **Grandparent's Day** so hug your Nanny or Papaw!

SEPTEMBER 16 - **Faithfully** will be at KPAC presenting **An Eagles and Journey Experience** at 7 pm. For more information, call 731-642-2517.

SEPTEMBER 16 - **Noon on the Square**, 11:30 am - 1 pm, sponsored by Commercial Bank. Bring a lawn chair and a camera. Call 731-642-3341 for more information.

SEPTEMBER 23 - Come on out for **Noon on the Square** from 11:30 am - 1 pm on the courthouse lawn, sponsored by Commercial Bank. Concessions available. For more information, call 731-642-3341.

SEPTEMBER 24 - **Arts 'Round the Square** is the Courthouse Square from 9 am- 4 pm. This event will fill the lawn with artists creating and selling their pottery, woodcarvings, jewelry, mixed media, fiber art, photographs, sculptures and canvas art. Music throughout the event and into the evening. For more information, log in to www.phcartarts.com.

AUGUST 27 - It's **Trivia Night** at Perrylodgic Brewing Company. There will be food, fun and craft beer. Sponsored by the PHC Arts Council. For more information, call 731-642-3955 or visit www.phcartarts.com

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 1 - Head over to the **Hazel Day Celebration**. Starts at Noon with live music, vendors, a parade, petting zoo, photo contest and sales galore at the local shops. For more information, go to www.hazelcelebration.wixsite.com/hazel.

OCTOBER 1 - **Oktoberfest** is being held at the **Henry County Fairgrounds** from 11 am- 7 pm! Don't miss the booths, games, face painting, funnel cakes, silent auction, petting zoo, bake sale, homestyle German meal, authentic Mexican meals and much more. Brought to you by Holy Cross Catholic Church. For information, call 731-642-4681.

OCTOBER 6 - **Lifeline Blood Mobile** is open from Noon to 6 pm at First United Methodist Church. For more information, contact Tammy Hurst at 1-800-924-6572 ex. 310.

OCTOBER 8 - **Eddie Miles Salute to Music Legends** at the KPAC. It will be an intimate solo performance starting at 7 pm. For more information, call 731-642-2517.

OCTOBER 10-14 - Take a break! It's **Fall Break** for kids in the Henry County School System and the PSSD. For more information, call 731-642-9733 or 731-642-9322, respectively.

AUGUST 25 - Test your knowledge at **Trivia Night** sponsored by the PHC Arts Council. See you at Perrylodgic Brewing Company for food, fun and craft beer. For more information, call 731-642-3955 or log in to www.phcartarts.com.

OCTOBER 31 - Watch out for those little ghosts and goblins on your way home from work...it's **HALLOWEEN!**

DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE!

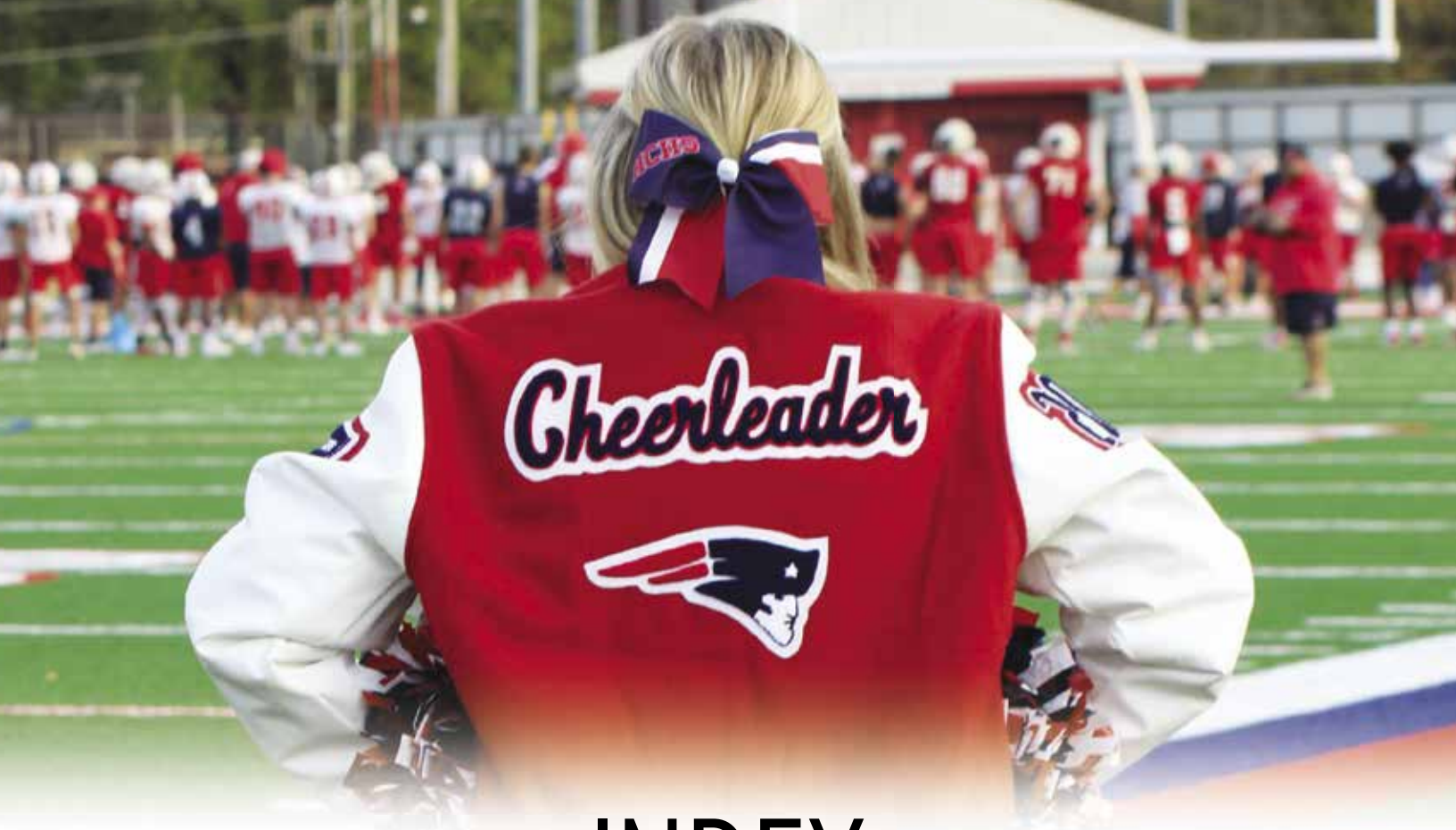
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