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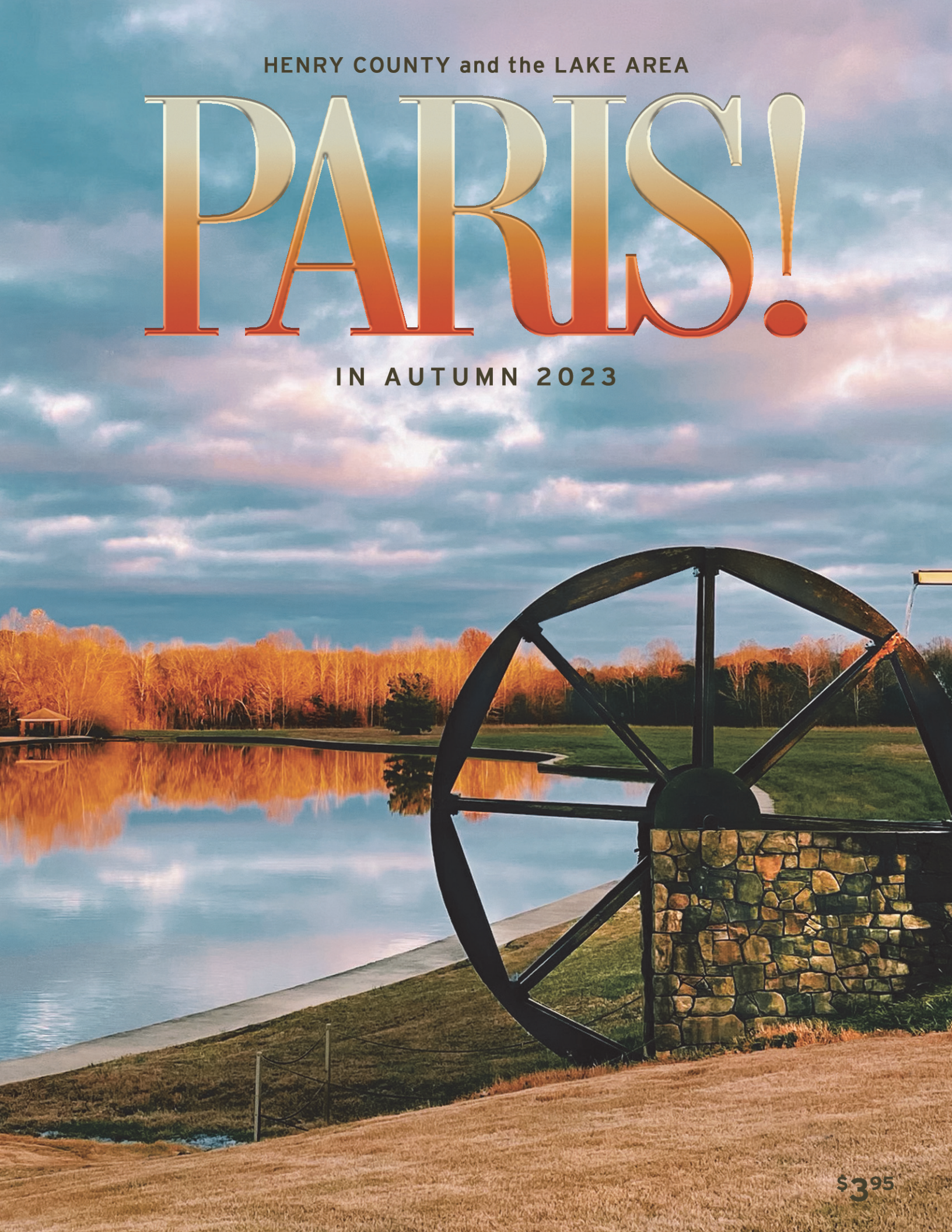

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AUTUMN IS ON IN HENRY COUNTY!

In some places, things begin slowing down when school starts and folks begin storing their boats and laying by their gardens. But in Henry County we're just getting started!

Our Calendar of Events page reveals a variety of happenings including the new "Food Trucks and Tunes" and "Scarecrow Classic 5K" sponsored by the Historic Atkins-Porter Association.

Stories in this issue highlight favorite activities such as the Downtown Paris Association's "Blues, Brews and BBQ," as well as events marking the conclusion of Henry County's Bicentennial. Enjoy playing the odds? Check out the Paris Arts Academy's fabulous raffle and the new Paris Station, slated to open soon. Finally, don't miss the Two Travelers' review from their latest jaunt, "A Change of Pace – Underground."

Our *Remember When* column chronicles the county's first resort. It touted "healing waters" but visitors had to be devoted, as the water smelled of rotten eggs. Find out more about this 19th century resort in "Sulphur Well – Henry County's First Tourist Attraction."

A more current attraction is the subject of *School of Thought*. The "Literacy Van – Bringing the World to Young Readers" explains how books are travelling to readers throughout Henry County. Another current attraction is a Las Vegas painter who's enhancing the Paris art scene.

This issue also highlights a special event that honored a WWII soldier whose life was cut short and whose grave was officially marked for the first time this July, thanks to the Henry County Bicentennial Committee. "Unforgotten: A Soldier's Life Remembered" helps readers understand how a black, Camp Tyson soldier was recently honored, seven decades after his murder.

Finally, gardener and humorist, John Watkins leaves us with a hilarious, yet enlightening look at late summer temps in his article, "Bring on the Heat."

Thank you for reading PARIS! and enjoy autumn in colorful Henry County.

Smantha

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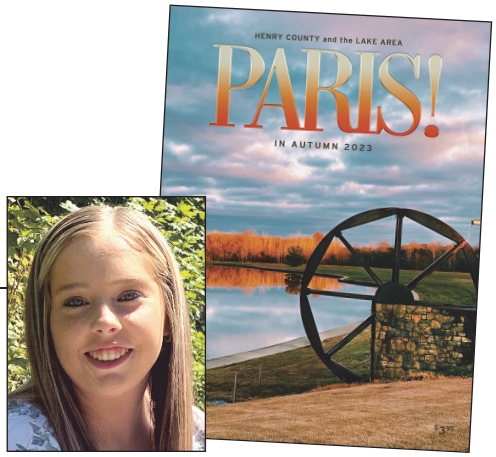

ON THE COVER

Addy Kate Parker, a senior at HCHS, captured this beautiful autumn photo at Emerald Lake last fall while on a walk with her mom.

Henry County and the Lake Area

PARIS!

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REMEMBER WHEN

SULPHUR WELL

Henry County's First Tourist Attraction

COLORIZED PHOTO

By Shannon McFarlin

It's hard to believe now that there once was a resort right here in Henry County that attracted hundreds from all over the area each summer to be rejuvenated by its healing waters. It was called Sulphur Well and it was Henry County's first tourist attraction. Sulphur Well is now under the waters of Kentucky Lake but we are fortunate to have photographs of it that can serve as a time machine to visualize its splendor.

Though some thought it smelled like rotten egg water, that didn't stop the crowds from flocking there to experience the spring waters which were believed to have healing powers. The resort featured a large fountain, clubhouse, a hotel, concession stands, meeting house and beaches. It was especially popular on the 4th of July.

Sulphur Well was created by accident in 1821 when an artesian well of sulphur water was struck in an attempt to locate a large salt bed on

a Chickasaw reservation. Over time, a popular summer resort was erected at the site to accommodate the large numbers of people who came to drink the rotten egg water for its health benefits.

Many sought refuge at Sulphur Well during the 1837 yellow fever epidemic. Unfortunately, with so many people seeking refuge there from urban areas, notably Memphis, they brought yellow fever with them on the railroad cars as they arrived in Paris.

In 1944, Sulphur Well was covered by TVA's Kentucky Lake, the largest man-made lake in the United States and the second largest in the world at the time. If you want to know where Sulphur Well was located, there are markers on the back veranda at the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge headquarters in Springville. The markers tell "The Sulphur Well Story" (see insert) and you can use binoculars to pinpoint the location.

A large group of tourists and families gathered for this photo in front of the two Sulphur Well's resort inns.

Old Sulphur Well, Fourth of July 1937

Wayne Shankle of Berkeley, Missouri, shared this photo which shows Sulphur Well in the early 1920s before the well was topped. The Shankles lived closeby to the well, and several family members are pictured, including his grandfather J.P Shankle (third from the left); Mr. Langford (second from the left); his father Grover Shankle (second from the right), and three of his grandfather's nephews.

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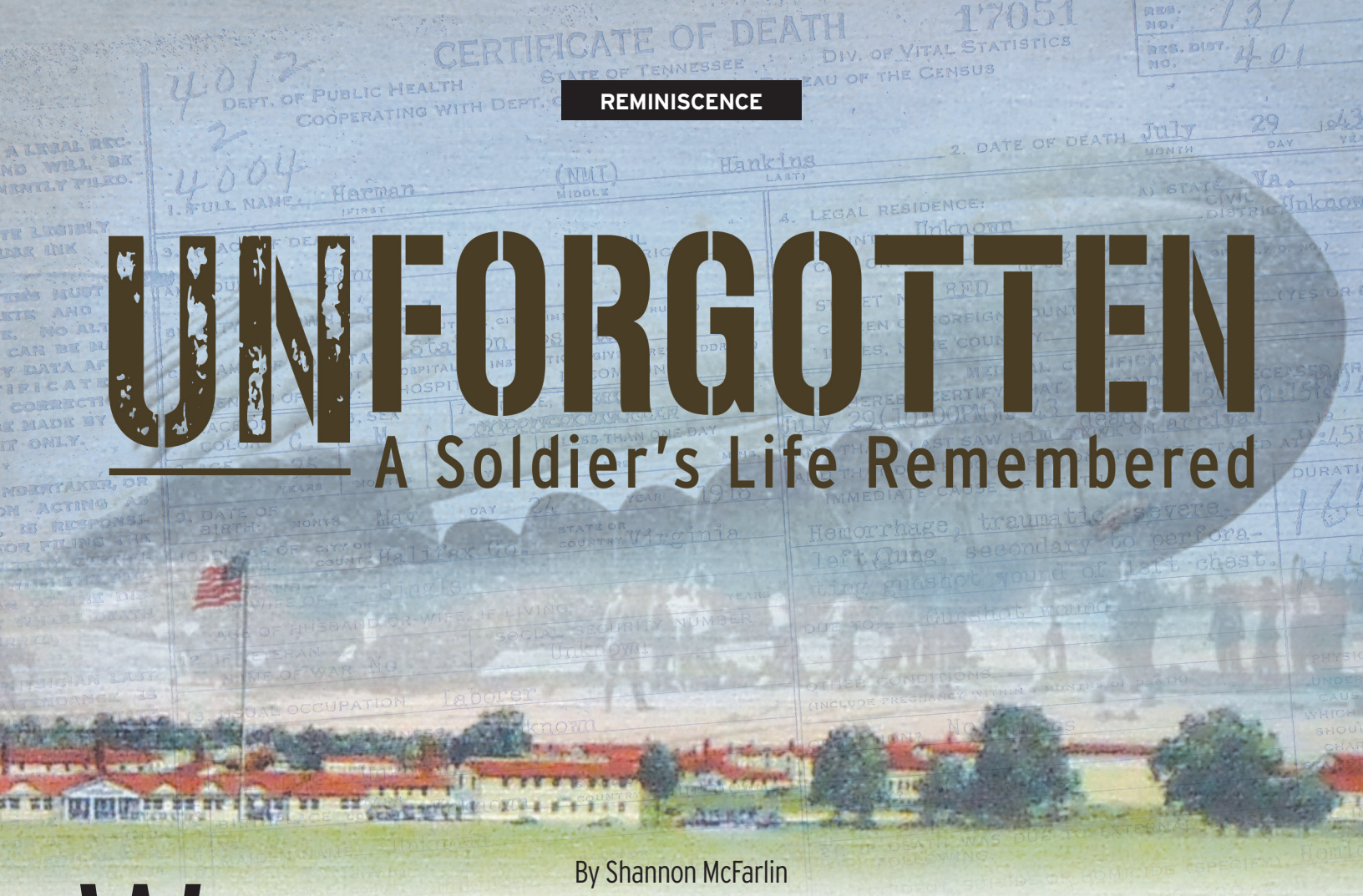

UNFORGOTTEN

A Soldier's Life Remembered

By Shannon McFarlin

We may never know what actually happened in the darkness of the evening on July 29,1943, but we do know the tragic result. A black Camp Tyson soldier was shot and killed by white MPs in a tourist camp, just a few yards away from Camp Tyson in Routon.

For decades he has lain in an unmarked grave in a Paris cemetery. Private Herman Hankins of Danville, Virginia, was a member of the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, which was the only all African American unit to storm the beaches at D-Day.

Thanks to the Paris-Henry County Bicentennial Committee, his grave is unmarked no more. The committee took on the project of supplying a grave marker for Hankins, who is buried in Maplewood Cemetery. A marking ceremony was held July 29, the anniversary of his death, with presentations by local dignitaries and a wreath laid at his grave.

At the time of his death, Camp Tyson gave Hankins a graveside funeral but a marker was never placed on the grave. Wilson "Monk" Caldwell, who was a Master Sergeant in the 320th Battalion along with Hankins said he and a few other fellow black soldiers visited the grave.

He told Shannon McFarlin, author of *As If They Were Ours: The Story of Camp Tyson, America's Only Barrage Balloon Training Facility*, that he couldn't remember whether black soldiers were allowed to attend the funeral, but they did visit the grave afterward. Thankfully, Caldwell took a photo of Hankins' grave with the flowers lain across it as a memento of his fellow soldier's passing.

Pvt. Hankins' death was ruled a homicide by the Station Hospital at Camp Tyson. Manner of death was a gunshot wound to the chest. Woodson Mortuary in Paris handled the arrangements. Hankins was only 25 years old.

The death was made public shortly after the tragedy, with Camp Tyson issuing news releases and articles on it published in both Paris newspapers.

According to Camp Tyson officials' accounts, Hankins had been caught prowling through the group of cottages in Routon. An Army investigation revealed that Hankins had been shot by Pvt. Murphy Price Jr., an MP with the 316th Barrage Balloon regiment. Pvt. Price was on watch along with another MP after receiving reports of a prowler. According to the investigation, one of the women living in the cabins reported black soldiers had walked along the highway in front of her cabin and that a black soldier later was peeping in her window.

But according to what "Monk" Caldwell said in 2010, "I didn't believe what Herman was accused of. He wasn't that kind of guy. He was a very respectable young man and would never do anything like that."

With the grave being unmarked, the incident might have been lost to history were it not for two occurrences. Bill Davison, son of former Camp Tyson soldier George A. Davison, submitted one of the published newspaper accounts of Hankins'

death to McFarlin while the book was being written. At the same time, Don Williams, who worked for the Paris Parks and Recreation Department, found a log of all burials performed at Maplewood Cemetery in Paris from 1927 to 1952. He found a notation for two burial plots purchased by Camp Tyson. According to the notation, the plots were purchased for soldiers of the 320th Battalion.

A search of the burials that have occurred in Henry County –a list that is maintained by the Henry County Archives – revealed a notation of burial for Herman Hankins in Maplewood in the book, *Henry County, Tennessee, Black Funeral Home Records, 1922-2002*. With a 'witching' instrument, Williams was able to determine there was indeed a casket in one of the plots purchased by Camp Tyson, located in a segregated section of Maplewood Cemetery.

So many questions still remain, but one thing is now certain: Pvt. Herman Hankins now has the dignity of a marked grave.

Prior to the July 29 commemoration, Jay Travis, right, owner of Henry County Monument, and employee Ross Norwood, left, inspect Pvt. Herman Hankins headstone before it was engraved.

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THE PAST 200 YEARS

Paris-Henry County Concludes **BICENTENNIAL** With Court Square Events

By Shannon McFarlin

September 30 will be an especially big day in Henry County, with the Paris/Henry County Bicentennial finale, the latest Paris City Cemetery tour, and the annual Arts 'Round The Square scheduled for the same day.

The Bicentennial Committee has been meeting to finalize its plans for that day, with activities centered around the court square and the Paris City Cemetery, all within walking distance of each other.

Plans include booths with Paris and Henry County memorabilia, reading of historic proclamations, judging of a beard contest, old-fashioned music and games, and historic displays about Downtown buildings in the storefronts on the court square.

September 30 is the date that the city of Paris was incorporated and Bicentennial Committee members have been plannng the finale of the two-year Bicentennial celebrations for Paris and Henry for that date.

At the request of Henry County Cemetery Committee members Susan Stewart and Marge Barrows, the Bicentennial Committee is co-sponsoring a Paris City Cemetery tour, set for 1:00 pm that day. It will be a fundraiser for the Cemetery Committee and will include 13 grave sites.

Graves to be recognized that day will include: E.W. Grove, Governor James Porter, the Bunch Brothers, Susan Atkins family, Will Aden, Mordecai Johnson's family, Mayor Frank McNeill, and others. The Cemetery Committee uses the money to refurbish grave markers, for family research and to install signs marking the county's cemeteries.

The Bicentennial Committee also is planning to install a marker on the court square which will recognize the Henry County soldiers who served in the Revolutionary War. County Archivist Stephanie Tayloe has compiled a list of 45 soldiers' names that will be placed on a plaque adjoining the County's Veterans' Monument which already is located on the west side of the courthouse lawn.

Meanwhile, the new *Henry County History Book*, which was compiled for the Bicentennials of Paris and

Beth Fay and Stephanie Tayloe, County Archivist, look over the new history books commissioned for the Paris and Henry County's Bicentennial.

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During one of the last meetings of the Paris/Henry County Bicentennial Committee, plans were discussed for the Bicentennial Finale on September 30. Committee members pictured are, from left to right, Jackie Jones, Carl Holder , Kathy Ray, and Marsha Banasiewicz.

Henry County, has arrived in people's mailboxes and has been very well received. The 250-page book is dedicated to County Archivist Stephanie Tayloe and contains family, community, business, and school histories.

Arts 'Round The Square is sponsored by the Arts Council, and they are planning a day full of activities which include music and plenty of vendors with their artwork and crafts. The event usually draws hundreds of people from all over the region and dozens of artists and artisans from West Tennessee and West Kentucky.

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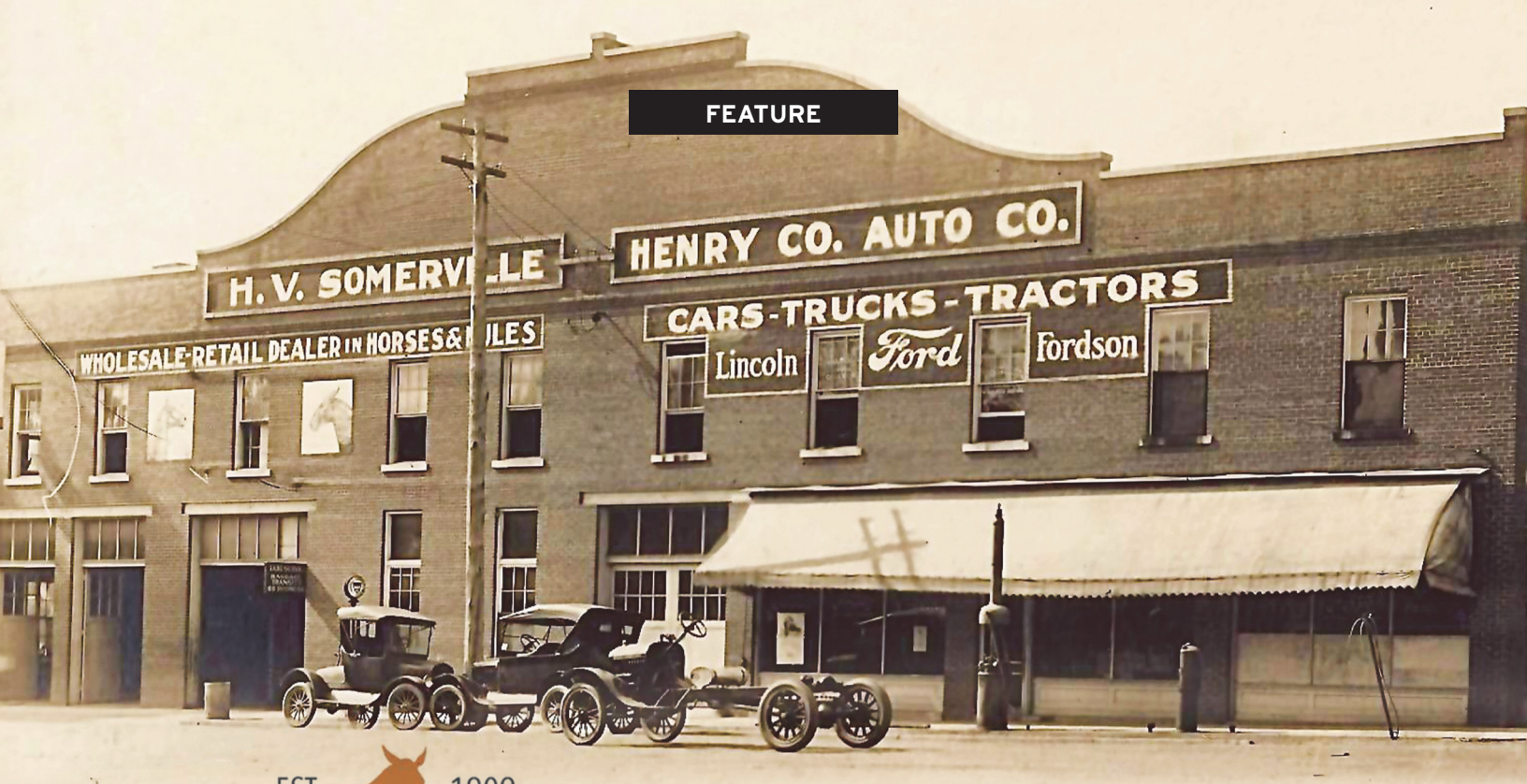

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PARIS STATION

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WHAT WAS OLD IS NEW AGAIN

By Chelsea Bolen

"This building is so big, to remodel it you have to eat it like an elephant – in bites." So says the co-owner of Paris Station, AnneMarie Tanner, and she's not wrong. Development of the new business has been ongoing since the purchase of the building in 2021.

Located at 304 W. Washington Street, this historic structure has an impressive provenance– it has housed a horse and mule dealership, a tractor and tool business, and two furniture stores.

AnneMarie explained the building had been on the market for a long time before they were able to purchase and start development with the aid of a $400K grant from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. Their current plan is to open the business in manageable stages.

PHASE ONE: TAPROOM AND INDOOR LAWN SPACE

Boasting 4,000 square feet of space, the Tanners will open the taproom with the help of Jonathan Lodge, who is using his expertise in management and brewing after co-creating/operating Perrylodgic Brewing Company in Paris. They imagine the use of twinkle lights up high to lend a fantastical air to the room while using astroturf to provide an indoor lawn space. This will be used for traditional yard games such as cornhole and horseshoes.

The area will be modular, with the ability to set up and take down picnic tables, a small stage for live music, and a screen for movie nights.

It's important to the owners to give back to the community, which is why they're committed to providing a shared space. AnneMarie grew up in Murray, Kentucky, and remembers there wasn't always something to do on a rainy day in a small town. She wants the indoor lawn to be used by local youth. The tap room will be separate from the lawn space and family friendly.

PHASE TWO: KITCHEN

With the help of the grant, Paris Station will open a commercial kitchen to be used by the community. Depending on the nature of the

business, the kitchen can be rented for a fee or reserved for free. Examples include farmer's market vendors canning food, a local church wanting to make meals at a large scale, or a small business looking to experiment with commercial equipment.

"If we can give them (small businesses) access to the tools they need to grow, it's only going to benefit the community," said Tanner, who explained they accepted the grant with the understanding they would serve the greater community.

PHASE THREE: EVENT CENTER AND BREWERY TOURS

The event space will host up to 150 people and will be available for weddings, parties and other events.

Since the purchase, the Tanners have been working closely with the local community to tackle the building one part at a time. It's been more than they've anticipated with an incredible amount of potential showing throughout the work. It took over eight months just to clean out the debris from the large building, which is over a century old. The couple drove from Nashville every weekend to dive into the project.

The owners say one of their biggest, ongoing goals is using local labor. They have consistently hired local companies for electrical, plumbing, debris cleanup, and more. An additional goal is to historically renovate the building, keeping the older charm while also updating it with modern amenities.

The structure housing the future Paris Station has served as a a horse and mule dealership (on previous page), a tractor and tool business, and two furniture stores (above). Paris Station will have a tap room, meeting spaces, and event center upon its completion.

Phases to Freedom, a local non-profit dedicated to leading people from addiction to recovery, was instrumental in cleaning out the building. Tanner says they did an incredible job.

"I think all this happened for a reason...God has put these people in our lives and we have the opportunity to give back in a good way."

Her husband, Matt, graduated from the PA program at Bethel University, and the couple spent a few years in Paris before moving to Nashville, but missed the area. "Paris is our kind of town. We missed neighbors helping neighbors," she said. Her ultimate goal was to get back to their roots and be closer to family and friends in Paris, Murray, and Hazel. They enjoyed the opportunities they experienced in the city, but felt strongly about bringing these experiences home, so starting their own business was "a no-brainer."

Tanner encourages readers to keep up to date on Paris Station's development at their website: www.parisstationtn.com and on Facebook at parisstationtn.

OOWEE!

It's Time For BREWS, BLUES & BBQ

By Kathy Ray

Where can you find great music, delicious smoked pork and your favorite brew under a beautiful night sky filled with stars, twinkle lights and street lights surrounded by historic buildings? Well, that occurs at least once a year right here in Downtown Paris, Tennessee.

Over the past 200 years, our downtown has been known as the gathering place for friends and families. The Downtown Paris Association (DPA) has created an event that brings folks back to that area to be entertained, to socialize and dine together.

The event known as Brews, Blues and BBQ is hosted by the DPA and serves as the primary annual fundraiser for the non-profit organization. The proceeds directly benefit efforts during the Christmas season as well as other opportunities throughout the year. From marketing our local businesses to producing events that will draw people both locally and regionally to our town's business area, every dollar raised is essential to supporting the DPA's mission.

The Downtown Paris Association has a long history of supporting businesses by promoting everything that our community has to offer. The organization strives to create an economic impact in Paris, while enhancing the quality of life and encouraging the preservation of our downtown area.

The first Brews, Blues and BBQ event was held in 2017 in the Commercial Building at the Henry County Fairgrounds. There were more than 200 people in attendance, and the band "24 Seven" performed along with Randall French. Perry's BBQ provided the roasted whole hog plus ribs, pork chops, ham, pulled pork with all the fixings and topped off with a dessert.

In 2020, it was decided to postpone the next event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But in 2021, Brews, Blues and BBQ returned with enthusiam. The decision was made to move the event to Downtown Paris where it rightly belonged. What a way to celebrate!

At this point, all the alley improvements were completed and the area was beginning to take on a whole new look with renovations and repairs while maintaining the historical district. The stage was erected at the Washington Street and Market Street intersection. That evening about 200 people danced and dined among the stars and lights of downtown with music by the "Knights of Jazz."

The 2022 event was a magnificent repeat of 2021 with delicious food, brews and spirits. The music of "Soul Dog" was the featured entertainment to another sold-out crowd.

This year's Brews, Blues and BBQ fundraiser is quickly approaching, and plans are now underway. The event will be presented by Security Bank and Trust and held on Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 6:00 to 10:00 pm on the block of West Washington Street between North Market and North Fentress Streets. This block will be closed off to traffic the day of the event.

The event opens at 6:00 pm with a social time. Dinner, sponsored by BOI (Broadband of Indiana), will begin at 6:30 pm featuring Perry BBQ's roasted whole hog, pulled pork and a full buffet of barbeque and trimmings plus dessert. We promise everyone will have plenty to eat.

Our exclusive entertainment sponsor is Total Tech Solutions. From 7:00 to 10:00 pm, enjoy the outstanding music from the band "24 Seven" featuring Brooke Cooper with special guests Kimberlie Helton Hopper, a regionally known artist, along with a well-known local artist, Rockin' Randall French.

DPA hopes to expand the attendance this year by offering more table sponsors and selling individual tickets at $150 each. There will 25 table sponsors with seating for eight.

The ticket is a donation to the Downtown Paris Association, and it includes a fun social time with brews, wine and spirits, a delicious buffet of barbeque and music from a band of great performers.

If anyone is interested in sponsoring a portion of the event or a table sponsorship, please contact Jennifer Morris at 731-644-4539 or email jmorris@cityofparistn.gov for more information.

We are looking forward to another fabulous night in downtown Paris! Hope to see you there!

Sunset over West Washington Street in Downtown Paris made a beautiful setting for last year's Brews, Blues and BBQ.

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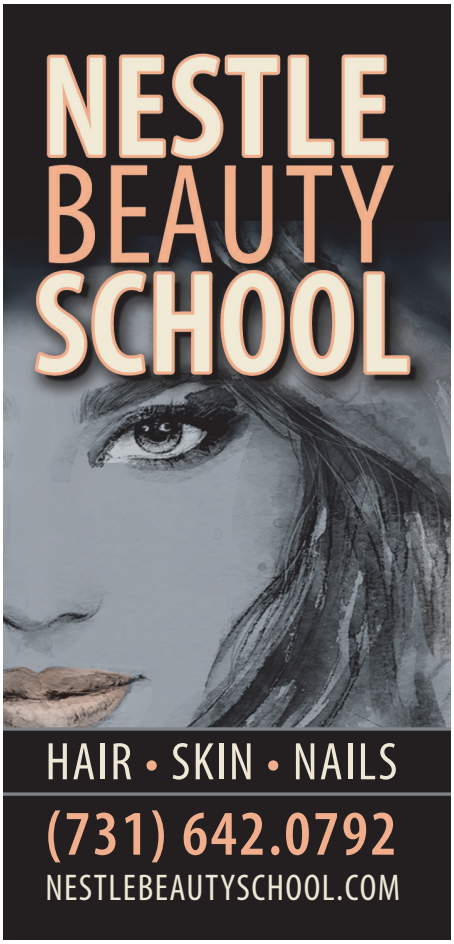

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FUN Paris Academy For The Arts' DRAISER!

Are you busy this Fall? So much is going on this time of the year. Wouldn't it be nice to get away for a couple of days?

Well, look no further. The board of directors at Paris Academy for the Arts (PAA) is announcing its annual fundraiser for the Academy. Are you feeling lucky?

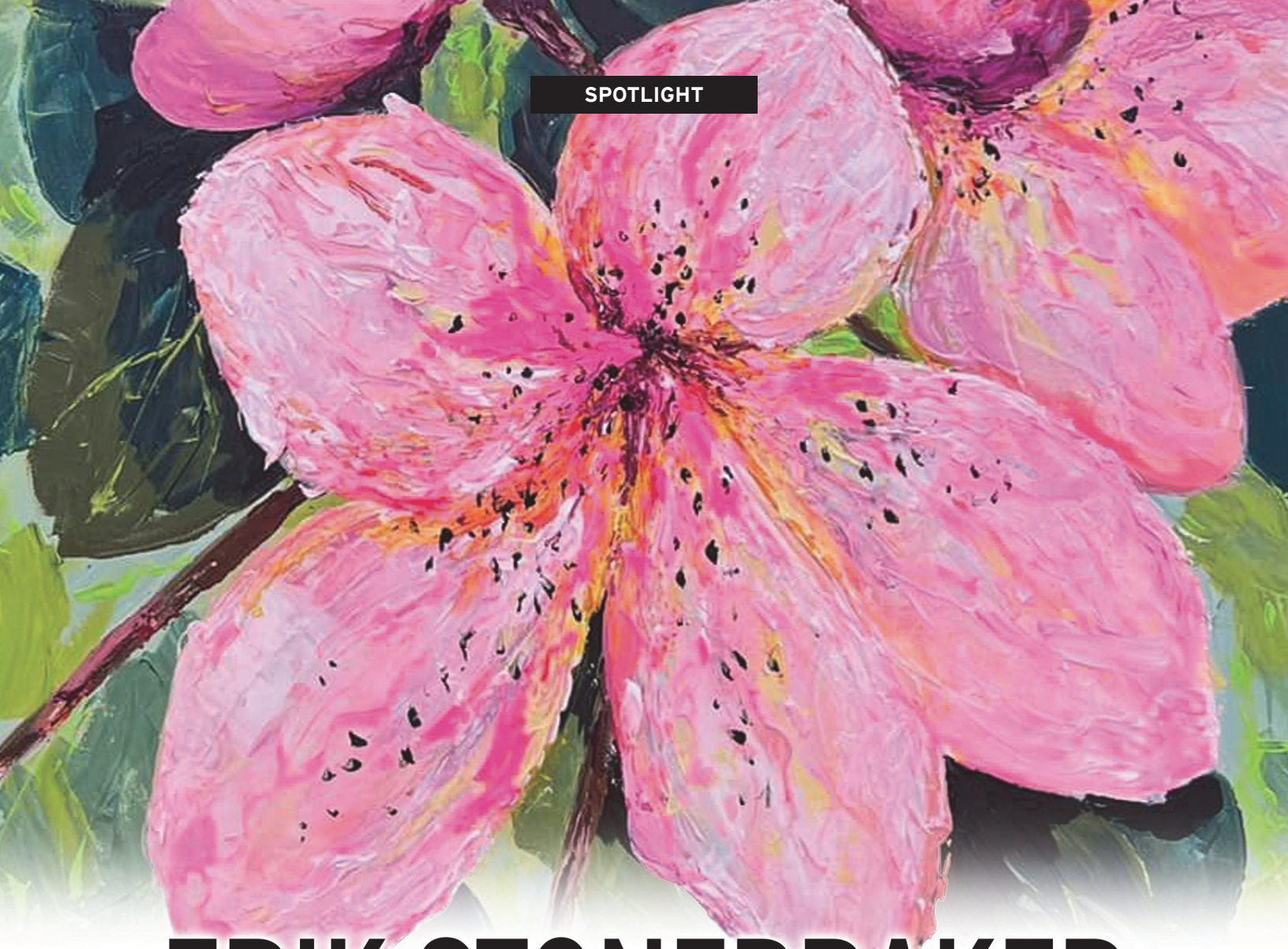
The board has planned a weekend getaway package for one lucky winner and a guest. The "Weekend N' Nashville" prize package, valued at $2,000, includes a two-night stay at the Downtown Hilton Hotel the weekend of October 27, with breakfast, cocktail hour, and valet parking through Sunday afternoon included.

The winner and guest will also receive a $150 gift certificate for Merchant's Restaurant downtown, two tickets for the Saturday evening performance of "Wicked" at Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC), and two tickets situated in the second row of the south end zone for the Sunday noon football game at Nissan Stadium featuring the Tennessee Titans versus the Atlanta Falcons.

Tickets for the raffle are on sale now for $20 each. The drawing for the "Weekend N' Nashville" getaway prize package will take place at the Academy on October 7, 2023 at 1 pm, but you do not have to be present to win.

To purchase tickets, visit www.schoolforarts.org, contact a PAA board member, or stop by one of three ticket locations: Paris Academy for the Arts, My Favorite Things, or The Iron Place. You must be 18 years or older to purchase tickets and to be eligible to win.

Paris Academy for the Arts is a non-profit, community-based arts organization whose dual mission is to preserve and restore the historic school building that is its home, and to offer arts education and events to the community.



ERIK STONEBRAKER

Proclaiming The Love Of Large

By Chelsea Bolen

Inside a white "art shed" in the Atkins-Porter Neighborhood is a workspace devoted to creativity. Paintings of bright pink flowers, serene blue and green ponds, and dark pianos against watercolor-like backgrounds compete to draw the eye. The artist of these creations, Erik Stonebraker has been a Paris resident for only two years and loves the town.

"People here are so friendly," Stonebraker said. "Paris has all your needs." Stonebraker got his start in the art world eight years ago. He was inspired by his mother, who works with textiles. Constantly sewing, crocheting, and knitting, his mother often needed to go to a craft store to get more supplies. Recently diagnosed with severe asthma and tired of sitting on the couch, he wanted to try something creative but worried about affording art supplies. Luckily, his mother was an experienced couponer and taught him how to buy art supplies on a tight budget.

Remembering his love of pastels as a youth, Stonebraker started his experiment there. "I was awful," he laughs. "I was so much worse than in high school."

Dissatisfied at his trial with pastels, then watercolors, he turned to the internet for inspiration. Bob Ross' series of instructional paint lessons, *Joy of Painting*, were available on Netflix. "It's not as easy as he makes it look," he says fondly.

At the time, he was living in Las Vegas, which had other plans for Stonebraker. As his asthma worsened, the heat of the city made daily tasks

difficult. The artist had to look for more suitable places to live, and Paris rewarded him for his trust.

Stonebraker picked our area of the region for the low cost of living and greenery, which he missed while living in the desert. Within a week of moving in, a neighbor brought him a list of things to do in Paris, including information about the Paris Academy for the Arts. After participating in Arts 'Round The Square, he rented a studio downtown until climbing the stairs made him relocate.

By then, he had started taking commissions and was looking to work somewhere closer to home – and with fewer stairs. With help from his son, he built a dedicated art space in his backyard, complete with air conditioning and filtration.

Now, Stonebraker is a happy citizen of the Paris art community. He specializes in acrylic, which he says is more durable than standard paint. "This will be here in a hundred years," he said proudly, nodding at a painting of a dark blue flower against a black background.

When asked about his influences, Stonebraker names Ginger Cook and Cinnamon Coony. Both painters have a series of online lessons, both free and paid. It isn't hard to see their influence on his art, with both artists boasting eye-catching colors.

He says he still hears Cook's voice while working on original work after taking so many of her beginner lessons online. Art is about having fun, he said, and he enjoys going big. "Sixteen by twenty is my smallest."

Erik Stonebraker's great-grandmother, Birdie Cosby-Holmes, was the subject of this stylized portrait he painted.

Large square canvases decorate the interior of his home, proclaiming his love of large. One of his upcoming classes at Paris Academy for the Arts teaches students how to paint wild sunflowers on a 25" x 25" canvas with a pallet knife.

He recommends new artists to take lessons and pointed to the internet for experimenting painters on a budget. Stonebraker believes the people of Paris are more willing to spend money on art than the citizens of other cities he's lived in.

You can find Erik Stonebraker's art at Wood Street Warehouse. Find him on Facebook at Erik's Art Shop and his art is available online at erik-stonebraker.pixels.com. He offers painting courses at the Paris Academy for the Arts as well as private lessons out of a gorgeous art shed in the Atkins-Porter Neighborhood.

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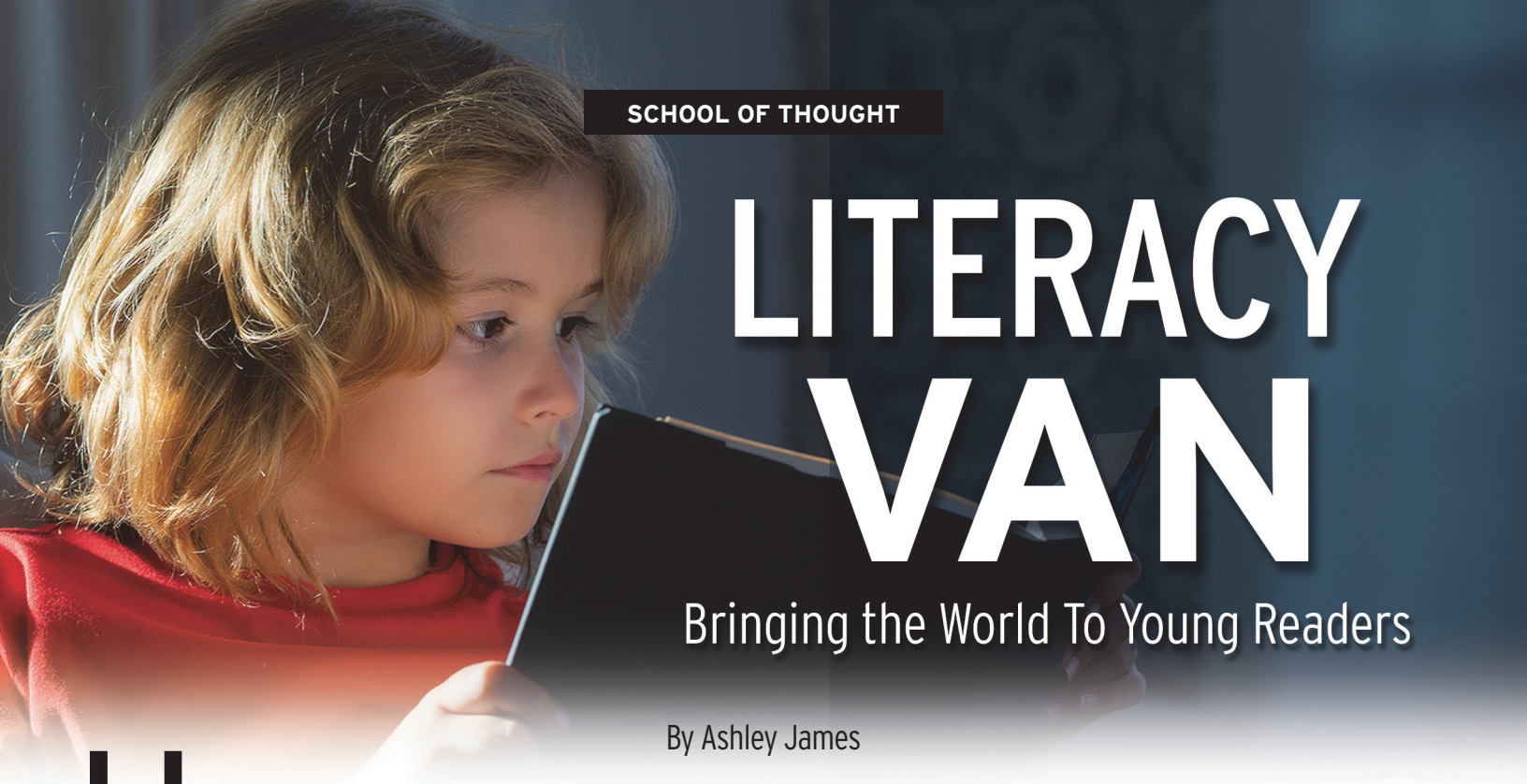


SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

LITERACY VAN

Bringing the World To Young Readers

By Ashley James

Here is what we know. Reading is the key to learning all things, and it is critical for developing empathy and compassion. Research tells us that book ownership is one of the most influential factors when it comes to school success, graduation and even postsecondary success, and children read more and express more enthusiasm for reading when they own books.

Judy Goad, Case Manager for the Family Resource Center, shares books with a young visitor to the Literacy Van. Goad's grandson, Noah, enjoys looking at the books, too.

Children in our community live in book deserts, that is, places where books are scarce and reading material is limited. Without giving kids the book access they need, it is unlikely that we will ever close the widening gap between our most advantaged and least advantaged children. As a community of Henry Countians, we must strive to answer this question: How can we guarantee that every child in our community owns at least a few books?

Research supports the effectiveness of book distribution programs, and the Henry County School System Family Resource Center (FRC) has risen to the challenge to provide book access for all children, especially those in the most rural areas of the county. The idea of a Literacy Van developed when FRC director, Becky Holland, acquired a passenger van for the center and team members began to brainstorm ideas for potential uses for the van.

Holland says, "We just asked ourselves, 'what could we do with a van?' We thought about using it to deliver meals or to complement our weekend Backpack Program, but we really wanted to do something we had never done before." From there, the Literacy Van vision was conceived and a plan began to come together.

"From the beginning, our idea was to partner with W. G. Rhea Library–we knew we didn't want to duplicate services or be in competition with anyone, but instead work together."

The idea was to make the van welcoming for children and families. "Abbott's created a wrap for the van, and not only did that make it visually appealing, it also gave FRC a rolling billboard. We want to spread the word about the good work we are doing with our students and families," says Holland. In addition to the attractive wrap, the large body of the van is lined with custom ordered reinforced shelving units, rugs, decorations, and, most importantly, the shelves are lined with books.

The Literacy Van is like a mobile, free bookstore. Children and families are invited to visit the van when it is in their area of the county, and each family member, child or adult, is encouraged to choose books to own, for free. The van has already made stops in Paris Landing, Cottage Grove, and Henry with more to come this fall in Puryear and Springville. "Our goal is to take the van out into the community, especially into our rural areas, at least once per quarter. We plan to be at the Back to School Bash and as many of the school open houses as we can."

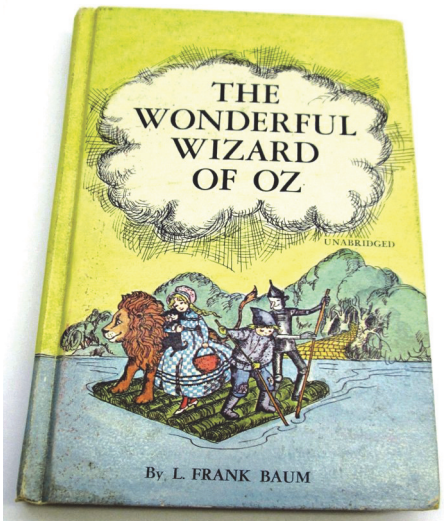
The van and a startup supply of books were purchased with ESSER 2.0 funds; Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds have provided opportunities for students in Paris and Henry County and across the state. The second round of funds, ESSER 2.0, provided over a billion dollars statewide designated to cover the costs of extended learning, remediation, and/or enrichment opportunities for students.

Kayla Nation, Youth Services Librarian at W. G. Rhea Library, reports that the library has organized an ongoing drive to collect new or like new books for the Literacy Van. Going forward, donations for keeping the Literacy Van stocked with new materials will be essential. Nation states, "The Literacy Van has come to some of our Summer Reading Program events, and it's neat because kids get a bag, and then they get to go in and choose some new books to take home, usually 2-3. It makes them so happy."

While the focus is primarily on collecting children's books, adults are encouraged to choose books from a small adult section as well. The young adult section is an area for potential expansion, possibly in partnership with student organizations at E. W. Grove school this fall. The van also includes a small section for home-schooled student resources and materials.

"As Family Resource Center staff, we would enter homes of students on home-visits; we would look and really search for books, and almost all of the time there were none. Everyone always suggests the public library for book access, which is great, but there are just so many barriers like transportation or gas. And too, reading is just not a priority in many families. We want to remove as many barriers as possible," says Holland.

The future of our county lies with students in Paris and Henry County. To improve quality of living and break cycles of generational poverty, literacy must be a top priority. We all must work together to send book floods into the book deserts. If you would like to make monetary donations to FRC designated for the Literacy Van, please make checks payable to Family Resource Center with "Literacy Van" in the memo line and mail to 313 S. Wilson Street, Paris, attention FRC. To donate new or like-new books, contact Becky Holland at 642-2938 or drop items off at 55 Jones Bend Road Extended, room 26.



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Elata Matlock shows off her stuffed frog she made as part of the Summer Reading Program at W.G. Rhea Library.

Joy Greengrass recently celebrated her birthday with cake and friends at Rose-Stone Retirement Community.

Dr. Carter Arnold checks out Kyson's stuffed bear at the AP Botanical Garden's Story Hour Dr. Arnold is a new associate at Mineral Wells Animal Clinic.

Johnny Mac performs for the crowd at Tuesdays at the Park at Eiffel Tower Park.

Merritt Teichmann cools off during her first visit to the Eiffel Tower Park's splash pad.

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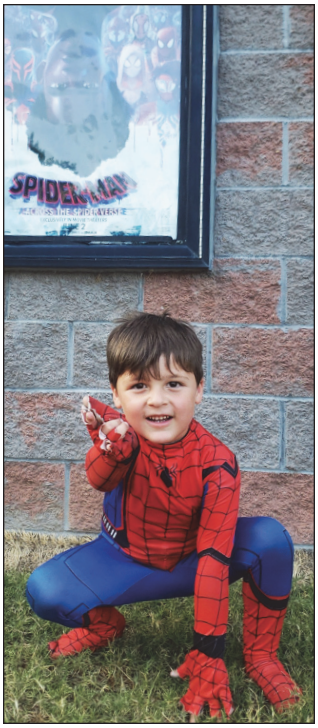

James and Katelyn Deem got engaged in 2017, and they recently returned with little Audrey Kate to visit her "LaLa" Lisa Allen.

Miss Everly Clement enjoyed a recent hike through the LBL with her mom and Gus, her giraffe.

Left: Jordan Hicks celebrated his 5th birthday watching the movie "Spider-man" at the Parisian Theatre. He is the son of Jessica Hicks and Bryan Hicks.

Eli Geary takes a big bite of Sweet Jordan's ice cream while visiting his grandparents, Joe and Karen Geary.

Wolfgang Rackl prepares chickens for the International Firehouse Kitchen at the 2023 Cottage Grove Freedom Fest.

Liam Roberts, son of Will and Heather Roberts, was so excited to hold his new baby sister, Blakely Deshea, for the first time.

County Mayor John Penn Ridgeway waves to the Puryear Day crowd.

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A COUPLE OF TRAVELERS

A Change of Pace... UNDERGROUND

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.

Last month, John and I took a break...not from traveling, but from traditional travel. John headed to Appalachia to work on one of his favorite endeavors, the Christian Appalachian Project. Meanwhile, I headed to Pelham, Tennessee for a far less-noble cause, but a fun one!

It had been decades since I had pulled on a pair of old shorts and a t-shirt and headed out for the weekend with nothing but a long-sleeved shirt, a festival ticket, and a swimsuit.

Summer Rule #1 – Always pack a swimsuit. Even if you're going to the high desert, there will be water along the way.

On our way out of town, the Jeep thermometer read 100 degrees, so why the warm shirt? Because long sleeves are essential apparel when attending a bluegrass festival... *underground.* Our destination was The Caverns, where the live music is fabulous and the summer temps are even better!

My traveling companions were my adventure pals, Kim Martin and her son, Calvin. Kim had been wowed by this venue at an Old Crow Medicine Show concert last year. She wanted to share the experience; Calvin and I were more than willing.

Located in gorgeous Grundy County (just east of I-24) near Monteagle, Tennessee, The Caverns is home to the PBS series, *The Caverns Sessions.* Readers might be familiar with its predecessor, *Bluegrass Underground,* filmed at nearby Cumberland Caverns. Having spent the night a couple of different times in Cumberland Caverns as an Explorer Scout and later as a church youth group leader, the subterranean experience was familiar, but attending a two-day festival underground was completely different for at least three reasons.

First, I expected the acoustics to be mediocre – instead they were stellar. I expected the cave to be a bit damp, and although the floor was a little moist, it was never slick or muddy and the air never felt humid. Finally, I feared the novelty of the cave might wear off, leaving me yearning for a traditional concert experience, but it didn't. Bands like Sister Sadie, Appalachian Road Show and The Grascals were better than ever in the cave.

Although one of the newest additions to The Caverns is an amphitheater with impressive scenic views, it was the cave that not only provided cool temps on a hot, humid weekend, but also shelter and soundproofing from a lengthy thunderstorm. Having worked scorching bluegrass festivals that would make a statue wilt, this girl knows a great thing when she sees it.

Good fortune followed us throughout the weekend, including our lodging, dining and outdoor activities. If it had been cooler, we might have tent-camped on the festival grounds; the Caverns offers RV space and even yurts. But we landed, happily, at Knotty Pine Tiny Cabins, a well-run, clean, cozy Airbnb just a few steps from the festival entrance. With a

little extra time to spare on Friday, we enjoyed a beautiful hike through the lush greenery and rock outcroppings of the Fiery Gizzard Trail. There was even time to do a little wading – *see Summer Rule #1.*

On Saturday morning before showtime, we found ourselves in historic Tracy City enjoying a delicious breakfast at the family-owned Dutch Maid Bakery.

Summer Rule #2 – Always vote in favor of a restaurant that includes the word "bakery", especially one that has been in operation since 1909.

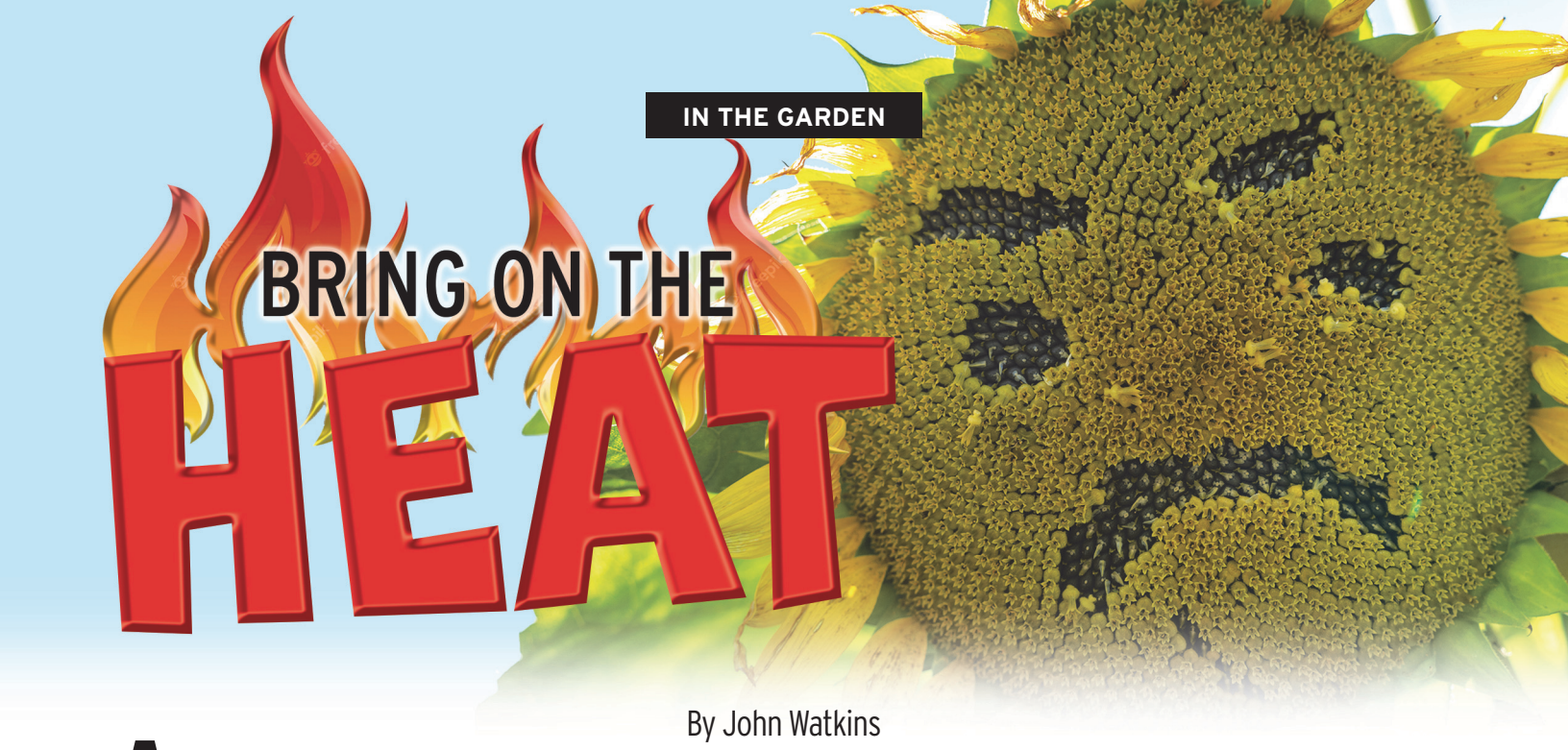
It was a cool morning, so we sat outside at a counter built along the sidewalk. Christian, our waiter, cashier and maybe "other duties as assigned" saw to our every need. We picked up some homemade cinnamon rolls for Sunday morning as The Caverns is not centrally located to any restaurants. However, the on-site vendors provided delicious food and drink throughout the event.

With the event winding down Sunday afternoon, we departed for the easy, three-and-half hour trip home. Our heads were filled with the ringing of banjos, the pull of the fiddle, and the signature high tenor of bluegrass music, but we knew there was still so much to see.

Summer Rule #3 – Always leave something to enjoy next time.

In historic Tracy City, Tennessee, the family-owned Dutch Maid Bakery has been serving customers since 1909.

We've already scheduled our next trip when we hope to explore more of the interesting history of the area, find some new hiking trails and sign up for one of the fascinating cave tours or shows at The Caverns. See you underground!



IN THE GARDEN

BRING ON THE HEAT

By John Watkins

As I'm sitting down to write this article, we are right in the middle of some pretty warm temperatures. We've already had several days above 100 degrees, and last week, we hit a miserable 123 degree heat index. As we're fond of saying here in the south, it's not the heat, it's the humidity that'll getcha!

As hard as it is on us humans, our plants suffer during the heat as well. Besides the obvious wilting that occurs during oppressive heat, temperature influences most plant processes like photosynthesis, transpiration, germination, and flowering. So, what do you look for to know if your plants are under stress and what can you do to relieve that stress?

Let's start by stepping back a little and ask the question, "Why does it seem so much hotter lately than it used to?" The first answer that I'm sure comes to everyone's mind is "global warming." I know this can be a touchy subject and is sure to raise some lively discussions around the dinner table, but facts are facts, and the planet is getting warmer.

Another contributing factor is the return of El Niño. This warming of sea surface temperatures in the Pacific has many scientists warning that unprecedented heat waves may be "off the charts" for the next few years. So, break out the sprinklers and throw on some Bermuda shorts 'cause we may be in this for a while!

Just to clear things up, heat is not the same as drought. Inadequate moisture in the soil will almost always cause plants to wilt. But when temperatures reach into the nineties and higher, some plants will begin to wilt even if there is plenty of water.

Since plants don't have the ability to tell you when they are getting too hot *(unlike my family that is constantly lowering the thermostat while I'm not looking)*, there are some signs you can look for. There are a lot of plants that will simply drop their leaves when they are heat stressed. From trees to annual flowers, this response is due to the fact that plants simply can't take up water fast enough to support the entire canopy.

Another response by plants to long periods of hot weather is the lack of flowering. If you grow tomatoes or peppers you have probably seen this at one time or another. Many times the plants may produce flowers but simply drop them without developing fruit or not produce flowers at all until temperatures cool off again.

Leaf rolling or cupping of plant leaves during hot weather is an attempt by the plant to reduce moisture loss. If you've ever driven by a corn field during extremely hot weather you've probably noticed this response. Intense heat and direct sunlight can cause sunscald, which is basically like you or I not applying enough sunscreen and getting a horrible sunburn. Leaves and fruit can get burned, crack and develop bleached spots.

So, what can you do to relieve all that suffering? It's not like you can bring everything inside to the crisp and cool air-conditioning. *(I've tried and made a horrible mess in my living room with the maples and lilacs!)* The good news is that most plants can manage and cope with moderate heat waves by controlling water loss and achieving a "thermal balance" on their own. Some may be affected for periods from a few days to a few months depending on the severity of the stress.

But sadly, some may not recover at all. The best way to insure your plants recover as fast as possible is to act as soon as symptoms begin to appear and to also practice good preventative measures. Here are a few tips to remember when your plants are showing signs of heat stress.

WATERING

This one seems pretty simple, but a lot of people get it wrong. Take time to check the soil moisture surrounding the plant rather than just watering randomly. Watering during the morning or evening and watering deeply will ensure your plants are prepared for the increased heat

stress and will also avoid unwanted evaporation. Just make sure you are not overwatering as your plants will certainly not appreciate any added stress at this point.

SHADING

Maybe not the easiest task for larger established plants, but one of the best things you can do for your plants is to physically protect them from a harsh and unforgiving sun. For potted plants, this is as simple as moving them to a shady spot on the deck. Shade cloth or other alternatives can drop temperatures and provide a more pleasant environment.

MULCHING

You've heard me preach on this subject before and I still can't express how important it is. Mulching can help lower soil temperatures, retain moisture, and prevent excessive evaporation. Enough said!

PRUNING

This may seem kind of strange but proper pruning can actually benefit your plant's ability to survive extreme heat. Pruning dead flowers or foliage can relieve the plant's burden of having to support excessive material. Just be sure not to get carried away and open up protected or shaded foliage or prune off too much live foliage as this could cause further stress.

FERTILIZING

Avoid fertilizing your plants when they are under any kind of stress, especially heat related stress. Your plant is doing its best to support what it has without trying to produce new growth and support it as well. Since fertilizing promotes new growth, those new leaves and stems just won't be able to keep up and will most likely die off pretty quickly.

Proper pruning can help plants survive in the hot summer heat.

PLANT SELECTION

And finally, another subject I harp on quite often is choosing the right plant for the right place. Since we're expecting warmer temperatures for the next few years, choose plants that have a proven track record for surviving even in inhospitable conditions. This doesn't mean you have to have a garden full of cacti and aloe vera, but there are varieties out there that are bred to withstand heat and drought better than others.

Hopefully by the time you are reading this, temperatures have cooled down a bit and we're getting ready for a much more pleasant fall. But don't get too comfortable. El Niño is still out there waiting to bring the heat next summer as well!

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

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Christa Davidson, Director of the Nature Center of Paris Landing State Park, holds a monofilament bird's nest. With her is Junior Ranger Matthew Fish shows a dockside tube for proper disposal of fishing line.

MONOFILAMENT BIRD NESTS AT PARIS LANDING STATE PARK

Bird nests are tragically recounting stories of "the fish that got away" at Paris Landing State Park in Buchanan, Tennessee. Since the first monofilament nest was found in the park in 2011, park staff have found three more nests this spring.

Birds called Orioles are using carelessly discarded fishing line to weave intricate nests during their April to July breeding season on the park. The nests incorporate monofilament as well as braided fishing line, string from nets, small pieces of plastic trash and sometimes even the hooks themselves. While this sounds like it is ingenious, this behavior harms the birds when adult and nestling birds entangle their feet, causing death. There are reports in other parts of the U.S. of eagles and osprey bringing nesting sticks with fishing line attached, causing issues with fledging birds.

Paris Landing State Park has fishing line disposal tubes at the docks and fishing areas. You can help prevent entanglement of birds as well as turtles, shore birds and even boat propellers and swimmers by collecting all of your snagged, broken or old fishing lines and disposing them in the tubes. Cut the line into smaller pieces before disposing, to make it easier to get into the container. You can also dispose of old brittle line in household garbage – just cut it up into small pieces so that animals do not get tangled in a landfill.

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FEATURE

Lil' Rufous, SO FAR FROM HOME

By Mary Lodge

I first thought my eyes were playing tricks on me that sweltering late August evening in 2021. While sitting on my front porch enjoying the arial acrobats of the abundant hummingbirds that had invaded our feeders, an unusual flash of color caught my eyes. Since hummingbirds move so fast, on average 30 miles per hour, an odd color can almost be lost in the whirl.

Later when I spotted it again out of the corner of my eye, I knew there was something peculiar in the air and I must photograph it. After sending the photograph of the odd hummingbird to my friend, Jean Owens, for her to see, I received a call from Jean's friend, Cynthia Routledge, founder and CEO of Southeastern Avian Research. Cynthia has been banding birds since 2009 and state and federally licensed since 2014. She asked to come and band my hummingbirds, in particular the odd one known as a Rufous Hummingbird.

After much research, I have learned a few things about our little visitor. A Rufous measures about three inches with a long slender bill. Weighing in at about 0.12 ounces, the Rufous hummingbird (*Selasphorus Rufus*) may be small but is a feisty warrior. It will attack birds many times its size, as well as large insects or anything else it perceives as a threat to its domain.

The male glows like coals, bright orange on the back and belly with a vivid iridescent red throat. Females are green above with rufous-washed flanks, rufous patches in the green tail, and often a spot of orange in the throat.

These birds, like the common Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, primarily feed on colorful tubular flowers. They get their protein and fat from eating insects such as gnats, midges, flies as well as aphis found on plants. The oldest recorded Rufous lived to be 8 years, 11 months old.

Amazingly, they fly 3,900 miles (one way) from Alaska, where they live in the summer, to Mexico. This is one of the longest migratory journeys of any bird in the world compared to its body size, according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. They migrate from their wintering grounds in Mexico and the southern United States to their breeding grounds in Oregon, Washington, Western Canada and Alaska. They are able to remember specific places and feeding grounds they've visited before in spite of the long migration.

The Rufous Hummingbird has lost two-thirds of its population since 1970, according to the 2022 State of the Birds Report. The American Breeding Bird Survey reports their population declined across their range by approximately 2% per year, resulting in a cumulative decline of about 67% between 1966 and 2019. They are included on the Yellow Watch List for birds most at risk of extinction without significant conservation actions to reverse declines and reduce threats.

So, when a Rufous appeared at our feeder in the fall of 2022 we were beyond excited. We had to find out

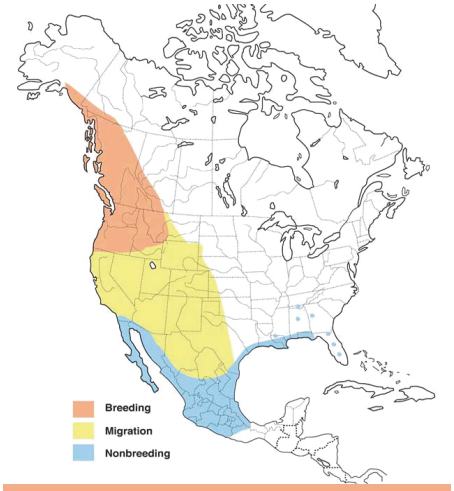
if our tiny visitor was the same one from the previous year.

I immediately called my friend Jean Owens to come and photograph it. With extreme patience and what seemed like hundreds of clicks with the camera, she was able to get an excellent close-up of the band on the bird's leg. She went home and blew up what she felt was the sharpest photo.

With Jean's photo, Cynthia was able to confirm that indeed the leg band numbers the same as the Rufous we had in 2021. What an exciting moment it was for all of us. With Cynthia's instructions, I continued to feed the Rufous well into the winter until one morning it didn't return.

Here are some helpful tips on taking care of our tiny winged friends. Create a garden with plants such as Columbine, Trumpet Honeysuckle, Hosta, Cuphea (Firecracker plant), Fuchsia, Lantana, Salvia, Cardinal Flower, Petunias and Bee Balm.

Be mindful of your hummingbird feeders and attend to them on a regular basis. The recommended mix for your feeder is one part refined white sugar to four parts of water. Heat the tap water and stir until the sugar is dissolved then refrigerate. The batch can be kept in the refrigerator for several weeks. Skip the red dye and don't use honey, brown sugar or substitute sugar.



Rufous Hummingbird Migration Map

hummingbirds-guide.com

Keeping your feeders clean is vital to the health of the birds. Each week, clean with soapy water every two or three days when the weather if hot. Check for mold, as this too can harm hummingbirds. Fill a sink with a mild watery bleach solution to clean the container. Use a tiny brush to clean out the various holes in the feeder. Rinse everything thoroughly with hot water to insure no soap or bleach remains. By August, I am keeping a dozen feeders filled each day.

I had a conversation with Cynthia recently as she was returning from Ecuador where she witnessed 60 species of hummingbirds. "I have banded over 15,000 hummingbirds since 2014. The vast majority are, of course, Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds. But I have banded seven other North American species and one special Mexican Violetear Hummingbird in Clarksville in 2020," stated Cynthia.

In addition to other hummingbirds she said, "Per your Rufous...not only is it a rare occurrence for one to show up in Tennessee, but yours returned for a second season making it all the more rare." Perhaps, it is too much to hope that our Rufous will return this August, but if he does, we will be ready to welcome him.

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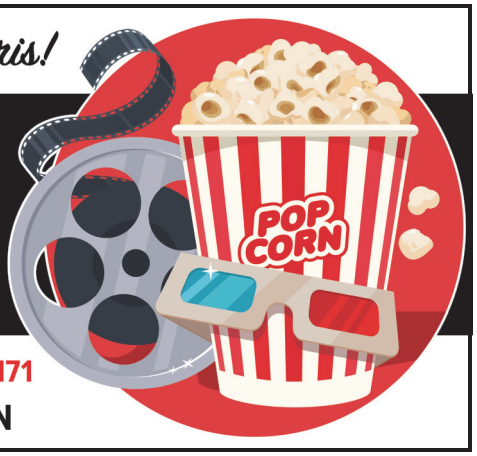

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ACROSS

4. Fiery _____ Trail is beautiful hiking area.
5. Another word for a large cave
6. He received a headstone during a Bicentennial service.
7. Local artist with is own art shed
10. Has the atomic number of 16
16. Henry County's new book covers the _____ of local families, churches, and businesses.
17. 320th Barrage _____ Battalion
19. Created by accident when making rubber substitute.
20. Warming of sea surface temperature in the Pacific
21. The Wonderful _____ Of Oz

DOWN

1. Type of meat served at Brews, Blues & BBQ
2. Another name for flapjacks
3. Name of a Tennessee football team
8. Famous painting instructor on television
9. Type of hummingbird that visited the Lodges.
11. Makes a jack o' lantern or delicious pie
12. Van with books promotes this for children
13. Fundraiser benefiting Little Pantries of Henry Co.
14. New downtown brewery, Paris _____
15. Angry, hot blossom
16. Family Resource Center's director
18. Musical to be performed at TPAC soon

Puzzle Solve on page 39

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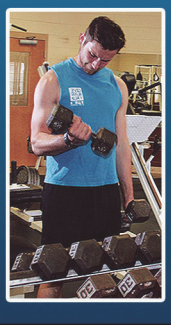

FEATURE

EMPTY BOWLS PROJECT

When Did I See You Hungry?

By Rev. Joy Weathersbee

Local residents literally put the call by Jesus to feed the hungry into action through the ministry of The Little Pantries of Henry Country. Several pantries have been placed across Henry County after the first one was built by Liam McDevitt in the Atkins Porter Neighborhood for his Eagle Scout Project in August of 2020.

"That first pantry showed how large the problem of food insecurity is in Henry County and led to the construction of more pantries and the founding of Little Pantries of Henry County, a non-profit organized in 2021 to help those in our community who have food insecurities," said Janet Camp, speaking for the Little Pantries of Henry County. "We started small, but have grown into an interdenominational group of churches and other organizations supporting 16 pantries, including a pet pantry at the Henry County Animal Shelter location in Paris."

Local attorney Bill Neese was instrumental helping the organization advance by building and maintaining many of the pantries before his untimely death. Through his family's request, his influence has continued through memorials made to the group which has helped stock the pantries throughout the county for the last year.

An Empty Bowls Fundraiser in Neese's honor will be on Sunday, September 27 from noon to 2 pm to raise much-needed funds to continue the work. Empty Bowls is a grassroots movement by artists and craftspeople around the world to raise money for food-related charities to feed the hungry in their communities.

All the proceeds raised in Henry County will benefit the pantries during the coming year. Six local potters, led by Martin Paschall, are creating handmade bowls for the fundraiser. Four churches will also host soup dinners on different days and times in September.

Support for these efforts may come from attendance, but also through donations and sponsorships. Three levels of sponsorship are available and all include placement in advertising, social media, signage, shirts, and event tickets. To make a donation or seek sponsorship, contact the organization through their website at www.littlepantriesofhc.com.

FALLING FOR PANCAKES

There's nothing quite as enticing as a hot stack of buttery pancakes to lure a person out of blurry-eyed slumber and to the breakfast table. With National Pancake Day approaching quickly on September 26, we thought it only appropriate to share this trio of fall favorites.

Whether you prefer your pancakes whisper-thin or tall and pillowy, you'll find a recipe here to love. So, fire up your griddle and get the maple syrup ready.

Light & Fluffy Baked Apple Pancake

Golden Delicious apples hold their shape after they are caramelized with sugar and maple syrup, making them a perfect choice for this clever, giant one-pan pancake.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 Golden Delicious apples, peeled, cored and sliced ½ inch thick
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
- ¼ cup pure maple syrup, plus warmed syrup for serving
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- 4 large eggs, separated
- 1 cup milk

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 375°. In a 10½-inch nonstick ovenproof skillet, melt the butter. Add apples, 1 tablespoon of sugar and lemon juice and cook over moderately high heat, stirring occasionally, until the apples are golden, about 6 minutes. Add ¼ cup of maple syrup and simmer over low heat until thickened, about 1 minute. Spread apples in an even layer and remove the pan from the heat.

2. In a medium bowl, whisk flour with baking powder and salt. In a measuring cup, whisk egg yolks with milk and remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar. Whisk the liquid into the dry ingredients.

3. In a medium bowl, using a handheld electric mixer, beat egg whites at medium speed until firm peaks form, about 2 minutes. Fold beaten whites into the batter and scrape it over apples; spread batter to edge.

4. Bake pancake in the upper third of the oven for about 20 minutes, until it is golden, puffed and set. Let pancake cool for 5 minutes. Run a knife around the edge to loosen the pancake, then invert it onto a serving plate. Replace any apples that may have stuck to the pan. Cut pancake into wedges and serve with the warmed maple syrup.

Pumpkin Pancakes

Pumpkin butter adds a sweet and spicy flavor to these classic pancakes, and a boost of moisture. Cooking them over moderately low heat ensures each pancake cooks through and gets a perfect golden color with lightly crispy bite.

INGREDIENTS

- 1¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ cup pumpkin butter, plus more for serving
- 1½ cups buttermilk
- 3 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon melted unsalted butter, plus more for greasing
- 2 large eggs

DIRECTIONS

1. In a small bowl, whisk together the all-purpose flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. In a medium bowl, whisk together the pumpkin butter with buttermilk, sugar, 1 tablespoon melted butter, and eggs. Combine the flour mixture with pumpkin mixture.

2. Heat a buttered griddle or nonstick skillet over moderately low heat. Ladle ⅓ cup batter per pancake onto the prepared griddle and cook until bubbles appear on surface and flip, cooking 5 to 8 minutes total. Repeat with remaining batter. Serve with pumpkin butter.

S'mores Pancakes

Heat the Marshmallow Fluff up for 5 to 10 seconds in the microwave – no longer, or else it can puff up and create a sticky mess – to make it easier to spread.

INGREDIENTS

Pancakes
- 1½ c. flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1⅓ c. cold milk
- 1 cold egg
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted

S'Mores Topping
- 1 c. semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 sleeve graham crackers, crumbled
- 1 jar marshmallow fluff or marshmallow creme
- ⅓ cup mini marshmallows (optional)

1. Make the pancakes: Mix flour, baking powder, salt and sugar in a large bowl, then add milk, egg and butter, stirring to combine and breaking up any large lumps.

2. Lightly grease a frying pan, then put it over medium-high heat, giving it a minute or so to warm up. Pour about ¼ cup pancake batter onto the pan, spreading it out evenly. When a lip forms around the edge of the pancake and little bubbles appear in the batter, flip. Cook both sides until lightly golden.

3. Make the s'mores stack: Combine chocolate chips and butter in a microwave-safe bowl and heat in microwave in 20-second intervals, stirring in between, until chocolate has fully melted and formed a sauce.

4. Spread chocolate sauce on top of the first pancake, sprinkle with graham cracker bits, then top with another pancake. Spread marshmallow fluff on that, sprinkle with graham cracker crumbs, then top with another pancake.

5. Repeat until you've reached the top. Top the entire stack with more crumbled graham crackers, mini marshmallows and drizzle with syrup just before serving.

FEATURE

WISH BOOK CLASSICS

50s Toys And Their Popularity

By Addy Kate Parker

Travel back in time and take a look at some classic toys of the 1950s. From toy trains to Lincoln Logs, these toys were revolutionary. The 50s changed the entire future of toys and their manufacturing.

With all the new games, books and toys entering the marketplace, everyone wanted the latest gadgets.One of the most popular toys was Silly Putty. It was an interactive toy that children would mess with, throw and shape.

This creative idea came from James Wright, a Scottish inventor, who created Silly Putty by accident while trying to find something to replace rubber due to shortages during World War II. As it was an unsuccessful rubber alternative, Wright began sending it to fellow scientists, friends and family trying to find a use for the unique substance.

No one had an intended use for it, but everyone commented that it was fun to play with. Advertising consultant, Peter Hodgson, decided to place the one-ounce portions of the gobs of "goo" in plastic eggs and marketed it as a toy. Silly Putty could stretch, bounce and also pick up the print from newspapers. Silly Putty cost $1.00 in the 50s and is still sold in stores today for approximately the same amount.

Another toy from this era is Mr. Potato Head. The original was just the parts of the body. You had to purchase the potatoes yourself, and when they got smelly, you threw them out. Did you know that the original Mr. Potato Head was missing a head? The first model didn't come with the familiar brown plastic potato. Eventually, they realized that was not a smart idea and needed to replicate the real potato with plastic ones.

In 1952, Mr. Potato Head became the first toy to ever be advertised on television, and they were flying off the shelves afterwards. In 1953, Mrs. Potato Head made an appearance. People were even more excited because now there was a girl and a boy that had different clothing, shoes, facial expressions and more. At that time, both Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head cost $0.98.

Another popular kids' toy was the Tiny Tears Doll. This baby doll became extremely popular because she cried "real" tears and even wet her diaper. After being filled with water from her baby bottle, the doll shed tears from tiny holes when her stomach was pressed.

Tiny Tears gave expression to the compassionate nature of a child. Tiny Tear Dolls were the most wanted baby doll toy in the 50s. Everyone's little girl begged for one. Stores couldn't put the dolls out fast enough before they were gone. In 1950, these dolls cost $1.50. Now, she's worth anywhere from $75 to $750. These sweet little dolls were a hit!

One of the most infamous toys from the 50s was Lincoln Logs. These stackable logs came with scenery, animals, people and other things. The construction toy, invented by John Lloyd Wright, was inspired by his

famous father, the architect Frank Lloyd Wright and his earthquake-resistant design for the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo.

John apparently began tinkering with the toy idea in 1916 when his father fired him from his architect job. Originally, they were made of wood, which at the time caused splinters with its design. Years went by, John returned to the family business and sold the patent to Playskool in 1943 for a whopping $800. They were still wooden at the time, but in the 1970s, the company decided to make the logs out of plastic. It didn't go over so well. Eventually, the logs returned to wood and their popularity soared as well.

One of the more popular inventions was the Schwinn Black Phantom bicycle. It was the top line bicycle to have. The inventor, Ignaz Schwinn, created one of the most successful kids' bike lines of all time. American bicycle manufacturers relied heavily on the sale of children's bicycles during the mid-1900s.

This 1950 model Schwinn came with whitewall balloon tires, a fake gas tank, red and black trim, a front fender light, rear light and reflector and lots of chrome. What kid wouldn't want a Black Phantom? The cost of this bike was $75. Now, it is worth $1,000 to $3,000.

Silly Putty - from science failure to 50s toy

Toy train sets were also very popular in the 50s. They became the toy every kid wished to have. Most children and households in America owned some type of toy train set, often setting these up around Christmas trees during the holiday season.

The modern emphasis on realism in model railroading started to catch on, creating a more significant difference between toy trains marketed to kids and teens and the model railroading hobby geared towards adults.

One last great invention from the 50s is the electronic football game. This game sparked the nation with excitement. The electronic football game gave kids, and even adults, the chance to play as their favorite team. It also gave people a family-friendly activity to do at home.

Norman Sas based the game on a vibrating car race game made by Tudor. The early #500 Electronic Football models were the first tabletop football game which featured actual moving players as they reacted to the vibrations created by the electromagnet motor under the metal field.

Passing and kicking was another unique feature of its design. Electronic football was an immediate success and maintained popularity throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Tudor has sold 70 million Electric Football games to date.

Overall, the toys that were made in the 1950s formed the future and making of current toys, with many of the originals still as popular today as they ever were.

ONGOING 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 (731-333-9464)

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

Be Inspired – The **Paris Academy For The Arts** has many classes for adults and children. Music, ceramics, painting, drawing, textiles lessons are just some of the offerings. For information and class schedules, visit www.schoolforarts.org.

Hola! - The **W.G. Rhea Libr**ary will be holding **ESL classes** on Fridays, 10-11 am. Features instructions in grammar, vocabulary, speaking, and listening, plus reading and writings. Contact Calvin at 731-642-1702 ext. 104 for information.

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

Put Your Thinking Cap On – The Paris-Henry County Arts Council sponsors **Trivia Night** on the fourth Tuesday of every month at Ace's Restaurant. For more information, visit phcarts.com or their Facebook page.

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 11-19 – It's **Fair Week** in Henry County! Be sure to check them out at www.henrycountytnfair.com for a list of events and times.

AUGUST 19 – Head out to the Henry County Fairgrounds to the **Demolition Derby** at 7 pm. For more information, call 731-642-3341.

AUGUST 25 – **Show BIG RED PRIDE** at the first home football game of the season at Henry County High School. HCHS vs. Riverdale at 7 pm. For more information, call 731-642-9733.

– SEPTEMBER –

SEPTEMBER 4 – **LABOR DAY!** Hats off to our country's workforce. No school for PSSD or Henry County School System.

SEPTEMBER 7 – Give Blood and 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 ext. 310.

SEPTEMBER 9 & 10 – Head to the lake for the **Paris Lakeway Kiwanis Club Arts & Crafts Festival** from 10 am - 5 pm each day.

SEPTEMBER 10 – **Grandparent's Day** so hug your Nanny or Papaw!

SEPTEMBER 16 – Hear the beautiful voices of the **Bethel University Renaissance Choir** at 7 pm, Krider Performing Arts Center. For more information, call 731-644-2517.

SEPTEMBER 27 –Dine at the **Empty Bowls Luncheon** and support the Little Pantries of Henry County! Meal will be at Paris First United Methodist Church, noon-2 pm. Tickets: $20 for the meal/souvenir bowl, $10 for the meal without bowl, $5 for children under 5 without bowl. Tickets available at www.littlepantrieshc.com and on the Little Pantries of Henry County Facebook page. (See story on page 33.)

SEPTEMBER 30 – Celebrate **Paris' 200th Birthday** from 9 am to Noon on the Court Square! Community exhibits and artifacts will be displayed and the Beard Contest will crown the best pioneer facial look. From 1-3 pm, tour the Paris City Cemetery while actors tell the stories of famous and the imfamous residents.

SEPTEMBER 30 – **Arts 'Round the Square** is Downtown from 9 am - 7 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. For more information, visit www.phcarts.com.

– OCTOBER –

OCTOBER 1 — **Atkins-Porter Food Trucks and Tunes**. Join HAPNA for this free, inaugural event. **The Fajita Brothers** will take to the stage on the lawn of the former Atkins-Porter School, corner of Walnut and S. Highland. Bring a friend, a chair, and blanket, and a little money for food. For more information, check @HAPNAofParis on Facebook and Instagram.

OCTOBER 5 – **Lifeline Blood Mobile** is open from 12-6 pm at First United Methodist Church. Call Tammy Hurst at 1-800-924-6572 ext. 310 for more information.

OCTOBER 6, 13, 20, 27 – Mark your calendar for the some of the best musical entertainment around while enjoying a fall day – **Noon On The Square**, sponsored by Commercial Bank & Trust Company. Watch for more information and schedule on social media and local news outlets.

OCTOBER 6 & 7 – Looking for something to do? Head over to the **Hazel Day Celebration**. Starts at Noon on the 6th with live music, vendors, a parade, petting zoo, photo contest and sales galore at the local shops. For information, visit hazelcelebration.wixsite.com/hazel.

OCTOBER 7 – Join the excitement at the **Holly Fork Sporting Clays Tournament** hosted by Puryear Lions Club beginning at 8 am. Gather your squad and form a 3-shooter team to conquer the challenge of 100 targets each. Shooter's Lunch follows. Email PuryearLionsClub@gmail.com or call 731-707-5285 to request details and registration forms.

OCTOBER 7 – Paris Academy for the Arts will be announcing the winner of their **Weekend N' Nashville fundraiser** at 1 pm. (See page 17 for more details.)

OCTOBER 7– It's **Oktoberfest** time at the Henry County Fairgrounds from 11 am- 6 pm! Don't miss the booths, games, face painting, funnel cakes, silent auction, petting zoo, bake sale, homestyle German meal, authentic Mexican food, and much more. Brought to you by Holy Cross Catholic Church. For more information, call 731-642-4681.

OCTOBER 9-13 – 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.

OCTOBER 14 – Are your dogs rockin' their Halloween outfits? Don't miss the **Howl-o-ween Costume Contest** in the Atkins-Porter Dog Park that starts at noon. Sponsored by Jay Odom Design with special thanks to HAPNA and other participating sponsors. For more information, check out @HAPNAofParis on Facebook or Instagram.

OCTOBER 28 – Where can you see spooky ghosts, funny clowns, scary witches, and maybe a few Barbies dressed in pink? **Spooktacular**! The annual Halloween event will be held at Eiffel Tower Park and is sponsored by the City of Paris. Watch for more details on social media and local news outlets.

OCTOBER 28 – **Brews, Blues & BBQ** comes to Downtown Paris, 6-10 pm. Enjoy an evening with Perry's whole hog BBQ with all the fixing and entertainment by 24/7 featuring Brooke Cooper with special guests Kimberlie Helton Hopper and Rockin' Randall French. For more information, contact Jennifer Morris at 731-644-4539 or email jmorris@cityofparistn.gov. (See article on page 14 for additional details.)

OCTOBER 29 – Grab your costume (or just your running clothes) for the **Atkins-Porter Scarecrow Classic 5K Run/Walk**. Proceeds benefit your Historic Atkins-Porter Neighborhood Association. Visit EventBrite.com for registration or stop by Re/Max Cornerstone Real Estate, 1011 Locust Street, Paris. For updates and more information, check out @HAPNAofParis on Facebook and Instagram.

OCTOBER 31 – It's **HALLOWEEN!** Watch for those wee little ghosts and goblins on your way home from work.

OCTOBER 31 – New Harmony Baptist Church, 7050 Highway 69S, Paris, will have their **Fall Festival**, 6-8 pm. Games, free chili, candy, cake walk, fun for all ages. All are invited!

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLVE
(Puzzle on page 31)

ACROSS	DOWN
4. GIZZARD	1. WHOLE HOG
5. CAVERN	2. PANCAKES
6. HANKINS	3. TITANS
7. STONEBRAKER	8. BOB ROSS
10. SULPHUR	9. RUFOUS
16. HISTORY	11. PUMPKIN
17. BALLOON	12. LITERACY
19. SILLY PUTTY	13. EMPTY BOWLS
20. EL NINO	15. SUNFLOWER
18. GIZZARD	18. WICKED
20. EL NINO	
21. WIZARD	

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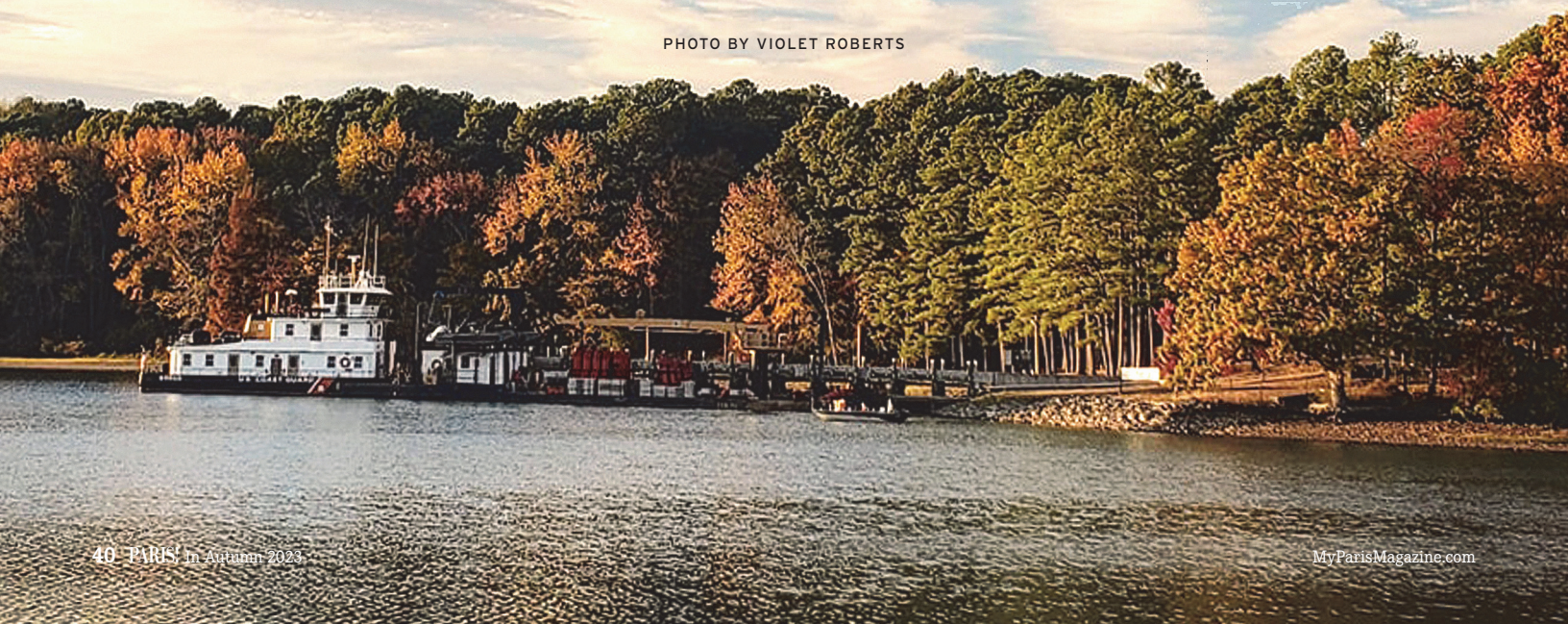

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