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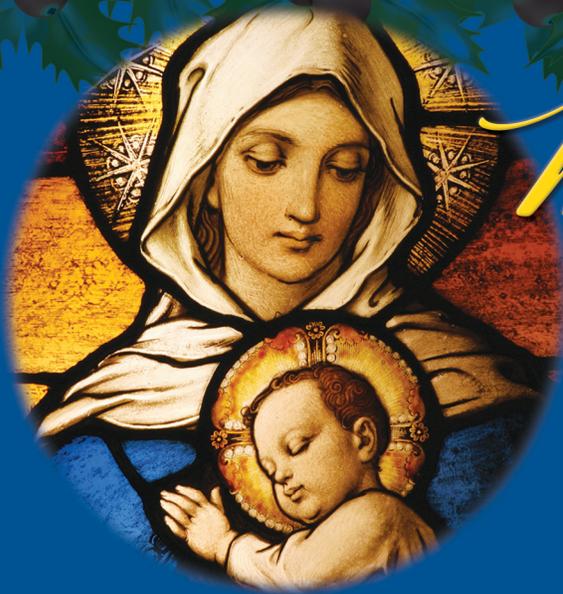
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At last year's Holiday Open House, Santa waved to passerbys from the doorway of Jack Jones Flowers & Gifts.



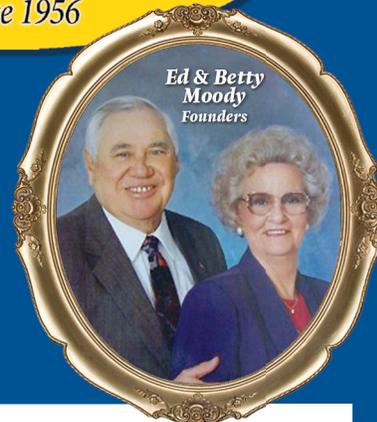
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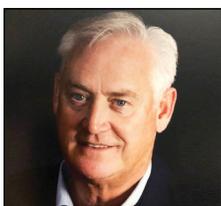
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It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas!

I'm certain that the 2022 Holidays have only been over for a couple of months, and now, as if by magic, they're back! So let me share the gift of PARIS! for the Holidays and be the first to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

This time of year, our little corner of the world seems to overflow with cheer! From festivals to concerts, to open houses, plays and parades, Paris has enough "warmth and fuzziness" to fill this magazine many times over.

In this issue, Rhonda Stanton at the Krider Performing Arts Center fills us in on holiday acts that range from R&B to retro to an old-fashioned sing-a-long. There's plenty of homegrown talent, too, with young musicians, the community band, and holiday entertainment for all!

Karen Geary keeps the cheer going with a profile of the most popular Christmas tree at last year's Trees on the Square and its creator, Tracy Loines. Speaking of Downtown Paris, Chelsea Bolen offers the inside scoop on how shopkeepers create their holiday magic and how a classically trained, local chef spreads the love.

Steve McAdams' makes his PARIS! debut with a story that will take dog lovers back to their childhoods. Building on his own memories of his first pup, *Holidays with the Hounds* is a must-read for all!

For all the frustrated gardeners out there, John Watkins' end of the year tirade, *The Grumpy Gardener*, will make you laugh so hard that you won't even notice the deer pulling up your young nandinas.

And if you're wondering about how the local FB sensation and influencer, Ms. Money got her start, PARIS! Magazine has the scoop.

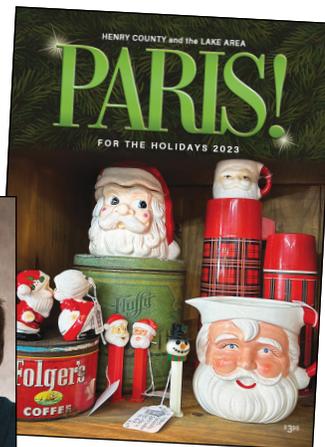
There are more articles, dates for fun activities and Christmas cheer for all!

Enjoy the holidays and PARIS!

Smantha



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ON THE COVER

Becky Hutson made a colorful display of nostalgic and vintage items in her booth, *The She Shed*, at the Wood Street Warehouse. Photo by Karen Geary

Henry County and the Lake Area

PARIS!

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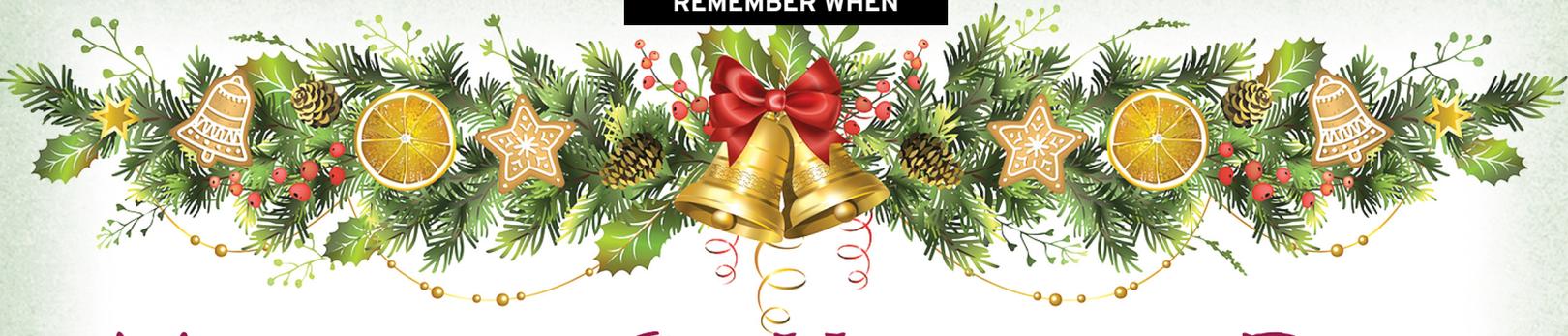
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REMEMBER WHEN



MEMORIES OF HOLIDAYS PAST



Remember when Clifty Farms filmed a Christmas commercial every year? This photo is from 2013 when the family gathered for the camera and the reading of the Christmas story by Dan and Jane Murphey.



Remember when the Quinn Chapel AME Church choir sang Christmas carols during the Advent Walk in 2011?



Remember when the Festival of Trees was held at the Paris-Henry County Heritage Center? Chuck Elizondo posed with his police department's award-winning tree.



Remember when in 2017 Chief Michael Williams of the Paris Fire Department channeled his inner reindeer at a local restaurant function.



Remember when you got your photo taken with Santa? The Foster brothers Nathan, age 4, and Harrison, nearly age 1, sure do! They visited Santa and Mrs. Claus at Opryland before it closed.



Remember when Christmas trees were made of aluminum and had a color wheel? Cousins Kara and Kristin Moffatt with Christopher Claxton were waiting for Christmas photos to end and unwrapping of gifts to begin.



Remember when you couldn't wait for Santa Claus to arrive on the big red fire truck and go into his little house on the courthouse square? In 2014, he was accompanied by Mrs. Claus, Santa's elf, and a New York reindeer.



Remember when kids did Christmas shopping with a cop in local stores? They still do! This program is a tradition with the local FOP organization.



Remember when The Holly Jolly Electric Christmas Parade first began? This colorful entry was a crowd pleaser and award-winner in 2014.



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HOLIDAYS With The HOUNDS

By Steve McCadams

In the wee hours of a drafty dark Christmas morning some 65 or so years ago, I woke up to a cold nose in my face. A wet tongue licked me awake. Four little paws and a wagging tail from a bundle of joy in the form of a black and tan beagle hound signaled this special day's arrival.

Sporting a bright red ribbon around his neck as he lovingly attacked me, as only a young pup can do, was my new canine companion. A package already unwrapped, demanding attention.

Not too sure how ole' Santa pulled it off. How he managed to get this squirming little rascal in his bag and on his sled didn't matter to me. He was mine, and boy, what a Christmas day we had.

Instant bonding took place, and I don't think I even bothered to look

under the tree or inventory any stockings to see if anything else was there. No need. My first dog had just entered my life.

Many more would follow and while all have been special there's nothing quite like your first barking buddy, taking every step of life with you as new trails were blazed.

Within minutes I chose the name "Spot" as it fitted his appearance to a tee. We soon became inseparable.

As Christmas day draws near, I'd like to think some youngster somewhere will be waking up to a similar pooch pal pet story. Maybe even a loveable cat rubbing up against young legs, sharing love and affection one purr at a time.

No doubt all Christmas gifts are special and should be appreciated. However, for the life of me, I can't

remember what else was under the tree or tucked in the stockings. Candy quickly vanished. Most of the toys lose their appeal once the new wears off. You know how it goes.

But not ole' Spot. Bosom buddies we were. Out in the woods or down the street at a friend's house. He was always there, guarding me against any forces of nature using his baritone howl to ward off evil spirits.

Occasionally his rabbit chasing genes would kick in and off he'd go, over hills and through briar thickets in hot pursuit of a freshly jumped cottontail. Howling at the moon with those "there he goes" barks telling me to come as the scent in his nose must have been delightful.

When it comes to reminiscing, I plead guilty. Each Christmas morning since Spot went on to the big briar

thickets in the sky, I sometimes pause and reflect. I find a quiet place out in a woods somewhere where the squirrels swap limbs, blue-jays sound off my intrusion into the forest and the wind gently whistles through the cedars and pines.

Call it childish or whatever you want, but there are moments I swear I hear Spot howling those “come here” serenades from just over the next ridge. As I walk a little further, I think I get a glimpse of a little white tail, somewhat bloody at the tip from encounters with the briars the way beagles do.

In reality it's nothing but a wannabe moment. My first dog is gone and with him went my youth.

Most folks who know me or read my stories know a dog is always going to be an active ingredient in my life. Nowadays, it's Labrador retrievers. I'm on my seventh one and boy, what an example of unconditional love and amazing feats they display.

On average, I get about 12 years or so out of my hunting dogs and usually retire them around the age of 10. That's when a new web footed, boot chewing, water splashing, little mud monster comes on the scene to fill the vacancy of a senior hunting dog who has fallen victim to the ravages of time, arthritis filled hips, and a graying muzzle.

Still left in old dogs are lots of hugs, licks to the face and expressions of loyalty. Even when they can



“Most folks who know me or read my stories know a dog is always going to be an active ingredient in my life.” – Steve McCadams

no longer run and jump or retrieve ducks from the icy waters, they warm your heart by just being there. Resting their head on your lap and napping while reliving a dream of fond times in the field.

I'm sure dogs dream. When they're stretched out on couches or in their chair and start running in their sleep next to a warm fire with a little whimper now and then, I'd like to think they're going back in time, too. Their owner at their side sharing miracle moments out in the wild only known and witnessed by a man and his dog.

You can tell the story to someone, but there's just nothing like being

there when it happens. It's a bond that time giveth and taketh away. Yet sit down with an old timer, and while his mind and memory of names, dates and places may be slipping away, it's the memory of his dogs that vividly remain.

If you're trying to come up with something for that youngster's Christmas list this year give some thought to a pet pal. It might very well produce lifelong memories long after the ribbons and wrappings are gone!

Steve McCadams is an avid sportsman, hunting and fishing guide, and talented outdoors writer. His email address is stevemc@charter.net.

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all winter long



The holidays begin early at My Favorite Things.

DOWNTOWN PARIS MERCHANTS

Year-Round Holiday Planners

By Chelsea Bolen

Months or longer before customers and tourists walk through downtown Paris filled with Christmas cheer, owners, managers and employees of the shops are planning for a busy holiday season. Stocking up on holiday merriment can be an overwhelming but fun challenge.

Mary Beth Puckett, owner of My Favorite Things, starts planning for the holiday season on January 1. She visits a supplier in Atlanta to purchase Christmas cheer in huge quantities. Spreading a “Christmas in July” feeling, her supplies arrive in mid-summer. Along with her staff,

Puckett begins inventorying and planning exactly how to decorate the sales floor.

“We start organizing the Pride of Paris gift baskets around then, and we want those orders completed with enough time to ship before Christmas,” Puckett says.

While she starts adorning the store for Christmas shortly before Thanksgiving, she waits until a week before the Downtown Paris Association’s Christmas Open House to decorate the storefront windows. “It’s like a Hallmark movie. Everyone goes all out,” Puckett enthuses. “Open house weekend is so big people come from all over.”

Kim Counce of Lura Lee’s Gift Shoppe takes pride in her storefront windows, smiling as she describes the transition between turkeys and Christmas. “We like to showpiece one thing and then build around it.” Counce says the transition takes a few hours, but she enjoys being able to show off the staff’s artistic capabilities. “It’s a team effort.”

When asked if displaying holiday gifts is overwhelming, Puckett smiles. She loves making window displays that draw people in and looks forward to it every year. Part of a Paris tradition, the Downtown Paris Association’s Christmas Open House has been going on for more than 50 years.

"I've attended probably 55 of them," says longtime Parisian Susan Jones. "Between the city's festive decorations, the work of the Downtown Paris Association, and the tireless merchants and restaurateurs, Paris is the go-to downtown in Northwest



"We have the best customers," said Mary Beth Puckett, owner of My Favorite Things. "They bring us goodies, too, to help us keep going" during the holidays.

Tennessee for shopping and holiday fun. And, as I like to remind folks, most shops offer free gift wrapping – a holiday lifesaver!"

Even for stores not selling reindeer or elves, every downtown business can take advantage of the shopping rush. Jack's Java's seasonal menu of drinks gives visitors a warm and fuzzy feeling to carry through inviting downtown streets. Non-retail stores also participate in the winter joy.

Regardless of how you spend your holiday dollars, remember to take a walk around the Courthouse Square during November and December. Shopping local helps Paris and Henry County; it generates \$68 in local economic return for every \$100 spent with our small businesses, according to Intuit.

Just your presence on the square helps create a warm and welcoming environment. Invite your loved ones to take part in our annual tradition of Southern hospitality and holiday cheer.



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Last holiday season, Kim Counce of Lura Lee's Gift Shoppe displayed this jolly, Santa approved table setting in her store. The items were definitely customer pleasers.

Happy Holidays!

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A Little Bit of **MAGIC** and a Whole Lot of Yarn!

By Karen Geary



O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree! How lovely are your – crocheted branches? Meticulous crafted and truly unique, this Henry County holiday creation was a labor of love for its stitcher Tracy Loines.

“Crocheting is my passion,” said Loines. “I’m the type of person who can’t stand to be still. My hands need to be busy. I guess it is my therapy. I even have yarn and a hook in both my car and Jeep. If I have yarn and a hook, I’m fine.”

She learned the craft from her grandmother, Luna Ray Wade, at an early age. “I feel a connection to my grandmother when I’m crocheting. The first project I learned from her was the granny square, which was appropriate.”

Loines first got her idea for a crocheted Christmas tree from the social media site Pinterest. “I’m all the time looking on Pinterest for new ideas for my crocheting. I had pinned the idea for the tree and kept it in mind for a future project.” It wasn’t long before the project materialized at the nail technician’s workspace at Escape Salon & Spa.

“I was doing Michelle Hopkins nails one day, and she mentioned she needed a Christmas tree theme idea for the Downtown Paris Association’s Festival of Trees. I showed her a photo of a tree made of granny squares and asked her what she thought. She loved the idea, and I volunteered to crochet it for the (Henry County) Fair Association. Michelle took the idea back to the Fair Board and it was approved.”

Once Loines got the go-ahead for the project, her first big task was constructing the frame for the tree. “It had to be sturdy enough but lightweight for transport. My neighbor John Hendricks knew exactly what to do. He made a wooden frame and put chicken wire on it so I could attach the squares to something.”

With the help of her friend and fellow crocheter, Elaine Walker, the pair created 400 unique granny squares of varying sizes to put on the



nearly eight-foot frame. Most of the squares measured five inches, but smaller ones were stitched for the top of the tree. "It was a great way to use up scrap yarn," Loines said with a laugh. "At one point, I wondered what I got myself into, but it all worked out beautifully."

Once the squares were finished, the real work began. "We had to work from the bottom up, zip-tying each square onto the frame. And we had to be careful not to get too many squares of one color theme in one area. It had to look symmetrical." When all the squares were in place, the top was crowned with a large crocheted star.

"When we loaded the tree up and took it to the Old Five & Dime for display, we didn't think about the door of the building. We thought it was a double door," said Loines. "There was a moment of panic, but the tree barely fit through the door! It was an effort but it made it." All the work and sore fingers paid off when the tree won Best of Show winner at the 2022 festival.

The winning continued after the holidays when the tree went to the Tennessee Association of State Fairs Convention in January. The local Fair Board was allowed to take items to the state convention and compete in 39 separate categories, much like in the Henry County Fair. Tracy's creation was placed in the Unique Crochet division and won honors.

"The tree was a very much discussed item by the other delegates," said Deneicia Gregson, representative to the state convention. "The Henry County Fair appreciates Tracy and Elaine for the use of the tree at the conference." In August, the tree made its last appearance at this year's fair.

What does one do with a Granny Square Christmas tree? "I didn't have a place to store it, so I came to the hard decision to sell it," said Loines. "I really hoped it could go to Patti's Restaurant so it could be seen in their beautiful place. But it wasn't meant to be. But it did go to Patti's after the fair — that is, Patti and Noel Hatman. They bought it for their home where it will be up year-round."

With this year's holidays quickly approaching, Loines is busy crafting for the FCE Homemaker's Holiday event, November 15-16. She is a member of the Pleasant Hill Club and is currently crocheting pumpkins, potholders, and other items. She also made pink pumpkins for a fundraiser at Future Farms. Proceeds from the pumpkin sales will benefit the patients receiving treatment at West Cancer Center.

When asked if she had any advice for someone considering taking up crocheting as a hobby, Loines said, "If I can do it, anyone can. There's lots of videos on YouTube to teach anyone at any level. Crocheting can't be done by machine like knitting. It is best done by hand."



Above: Granny squares were individually attached with zipties to the tree's frame.

Below: Tracy Loines and fellow crocheter, Elaine Walker, pose with their handiwork at last year's Festival of Trees.



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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Meet MS. MONEY

Henry County's Hide & Seek Champ!

In the spirit of Weird Barbie™ and all much-loved dolls in the world, PARIS! Magazine is thrilled to bring an exclusive interview with Ms. Money, the official Henry County scavenger hunt and giveaway doll. Ms. Money was originally found at the city dump by her now “dad” Ricky Ward and his brother Marlon Ward. Finding the doll gave the two brothers the idea to start a game with her and share it with the public.

Once a dirty, discarded baby doll, Ms. Money is now making Christmas miracles for many folks during the month of December. She has also garnered quite a following of searchers on Facebook and beyond. In doing so, Ms. Money humbly believes she is fulfilling her true calling: to “love your neighbor as yourself.”

Q: Thank you, Ms. Money for chatting with PARIS! Magazine. Are you really excited for your annual Holiday prize giveaways?

A: Yes, I'm very excited! This year marks our 10th anniversary, and I can't wait to see all the happy hunters!

Q: Briefly, how many years have you been doing these giveaways and how did they come about?

A: 10 YEARS! The Christmas scavenger hunt known as Ms. Money starts December 1 and continues on through Christmas Day. Each year, we start taking donations via “The Official Ms. Money Info/Donation Page” on Facebook October 1.



Sometimes, it's a family effort to find Ms. Money. Brian and Amber Harris with son Gavin (not shown) found her under the Big Dog at Paris Veterinary Clinic.

The donations we receive come from businesses and or individuals. We don't provide paperwork for tax write-offs or anything. The gifts/cash are all paid forward with no expectation of getting something in return. It's all from the heart!

Q: Where would our readers look for the giveaway clues?

A: Clues and hints can be found on Facebook's “The Official Ms. Money Info/Donation Page.”

Q: How many people follow you on Facebook? We've heard you have out-of-state followers.

A: At this moment, I have around 10,000 followers!

Q: It must be a thrill to give out prizes during the holidays! Do you have any idea how much you have awarded over the years?

A: No, because it's so hard to put a number or value on God's work. Contrary to belief, a huge portion of the “giving” goes on behind the scenes.

Prize-givers never want any recognition, and I just love it!

Q: *Where was the craziest place you have been hiding? What was the longest time it took for someone to find you?*

A: The craziest hiding place was my very first hiding spot! It was on top of the roof of Mr. Yoo's 7-11 located on West Wood Street. It was pretty scary sitting up there! Thanks to Savanna Clark, I was found quickly.

My dad Ricky and Uncle Marlon hid me there with a \$50 prize. Ms. Clark kept \$25 of the prize, purchased a gas card with the other \$25, and told me to hide again. That's when this all got started.

Oh yeah, I hid at LL'S Bar & Grill for six months until I was finally found by Summer and Neveah Davis, a mother and daughter hunting team.



Last December 30, Jason Bucher found Ms. Money under some leaves at the corner of McAdoo and Norman Streets.

Q: *Do you ever get a say where your hiding place is – like some tropical island?*

A: Sure do! My dad is a big softie when it comes to me! I get whatever I want as long as I behave.

Q: *Have you got a new holiday hiding outfit picked out yet?*

A: Usually the hunters hook me up with my gear – HA! They have brought me gloves, masks, earmuffs,



Watch for Ms. Money's clues. You'll never know where she's hanging out next!

umbrellas, hats, coats, blankets, socks, etc. They love me; I love them!

Q: *You must be the most famous 1980's Baby Alive doll around.*

A: Yes, I'm pretty famous around these parts!

Q: *Do you have any parting words for our readers?*

A: My goal is to have Ms. Money dolls in every state. The number of dolls hidden within each state will be based off the population of those states. For instance, Tennessee might have 10 dolls hidden throughout the state whereas a state like Texas might have 20 due to size. There will be a website you can go to and pick your state. On there you will be able to see the clues/ hints matching the Ms. Money doll you're hunting!

I would like to get celebrities or prominent people that represent each state to donate to the hidden dolls. For example, the Tennessee dolls would love a donation from the Titans or Grizzlies! Dedicated scavenger hunters could travel state to state with the hopes of finding a Ms. Money doll. Prizes would be so huge it would be like hitting the lottery each time.

My dad and I know that that's hard to envision, but when you've seen God work within a game for 10 years straight like we've seen, you wholeheartedly know that anything is possible through Him!

Merry Christmas

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FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

"Sometimes Santa Needs A Little Help"

By Susan Jones

Imagine a place with rows of colorful, neatly arranged toys - firetrucks dolls, footballs, board games, and more, much more...all organized by age for ease of shopping. With Christmas lights sparkling from the shelves and carols in the air, this place has a special feel. So much so that shoppers fully expect Santa to lumber through the door with a big, red sack and a "Ho! Ho! Ho!"

The jolly old elf from the North Pole is no stranger to the Henry County School System Family Resource Center (FRC) or to the director and employees who make it all tick. He stays in close touch with his helpers, Becky Holland and Judy Goad, who began this project four years ago.

"Sometimes Santa needs a little help," says Holland, the center's director. "Back in 2019 Family Resource Center staff noticed that due to unforeseen circumstances, some of the county's children were falling through the cracks at Christ-

mas time, which made it difficult for Santa to visit."

There's no denying that Christmas falls at a hard time of year, when heating bills are rising, and there's a greater need for additional warm clothing and shoes for families. It can be stressful on parents and guardians, and hard on their pocketbooks, especially if the proverbial "other shoe" happens to fall during the holiday season.

"Prior to the introduction of The Toy Store, the Family Resource Center would receive heartbreaking calls from parents who realized there would not be enough money to provide anything special for their children," Holland said. "Christmas isn't supposed to be like this. It's supposed to be joyful, but these parents who called were anything but joyful, and their despair left us all feeling helpless."

But Holland and her crew are almost magic in their ability to make

wonderful things happen out of thin air. And they knew something that these parents didn't. "We knew that Henry Countians would help if they were just made aware of the need. So, the first toy drives were established, and the giving began!"

Like those wee elves at the North Pole, the Family Resource Center staff values a little additional help with Project The Toy Store. "It would be impossible to do this type of project without help. What started as a couple of contributors has grown to at least 14 churches and organizations," said Holland.

"It's incredibly moving to watch this community come together at any time of year, but especially at Christmas, when the focus is children. Henry County does not like to see our little ones go without."

But financial contributions were just the beginning. Gifts are purchased and brought to the center where Holland and her band of



Thanks to generosity of Henry Countians, the Family Resource Center resembles Santa's Workshop, with rows and rows of toys for all ages.

merry volunteers sort, organize and assist parents as they shop for the perfect present. As with most projects of this nature, the volunteers say that they are the ones who receive the gift as they work to help everyone enjoy Christmas morning just a little bit more.

To donate to the cause, contact the

Family Resource Center or The Shed at 731-642-2938. Those wishing to shop at the Toy Store must be living in Henry County and must not be on other toy lists. To check your family's eligibility to shop at The Toy Store, call the FRC at 731-642-2938.

Scheduled appointments are required and will begin November 27.



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The Golden Sounds
of the Platters



Santa's Sing-A-Long



Matthew Boyce's
Retro Christmas Spectacular

HAVE YOURSELF A KPAC

Merry Little Christmas!

By Rhonda Stanton

There's always something happening at Krider Performing Arts Center during the Christmas season, and 2023 is no exception. Our holiday schedule actually kicks off on Thursday, November 30, with the first of our school events, Rhea Elementary School's Second Grade Christmas program. KPAC will also be the place to see the Christmas programs for Paris Elementary's Fifth Grade, Inman Middle School's Chorus and Band, and PSSD Strings Programs, as well as TCAT's winter graduation.

An annual highlight for our community is Christmas with the

Madrigals featuring the Madrigal Pals, a program where younger vocalists get to sing with the high school performers under the direction of Deanna Brown.

A native of Paris, Deanna was a Madrigal when she was a student at HCHS, and she also performed in various programs at KPAC as a youngster. Now she shares her gifts with the high school students and the Madrigal Pals, too. Plan to get tickets at the door on Saturday, December 9 for the 7 pm show.

The Paris/Henry County Community Band under the direction of Michael Holden will present

their holiday concert on Monday, December 11. The event will feature the full band as well as some smaller ensembles. While numerous students participate in the community band, the Paris/Henry County area is blessed to have opportunities for adult instrumentalists.

Many fine musicians lack outlets for their talents after high school or college days are gone. Join us at KPAC for some wonderful sounds of the season. Check kridercenter.com for updates as to the concert time.

KPAC Young Artists vocal groups, HarmoniX and Vocal Express, will perform their Christmas repertoire

on Sunday, December 3, at 3:00 pm. HarmoniX was formed in the summer of 2017 as an audition-only opportunity for young vocalists who wanted to take singing a step further. This year's group is composed of 13 talented young vocalists in seventh through twelfth grades, some of whom have been with us since the program began.

Vocal Express was born this past January in response to the growing popularity of KPAC's vocal programming. Featuring 15 fourth to eighth grade singers who are working hard, Vocal Express will deliver some solid and lovely performances. The concert is free.

KPAC's schedule includes three touring artist events in December. "The Golden Sounds of the Platters" will make their second appearance on Friday, December 8 at 7 pm. This Branson-based performing group wowed the audience when they were here before, and folks were asking when they would come back. You won't want to miss all the fabulous R&B favorites, smooth moves, and rich vocals.

On Thursday, December 14 at 7 pm, KPAC is host to "Santa's Sing-A-Long." Santa's coming to town, but "Oh, no!" Santa's reindeer have lost their Christmas spirit and can't fly the sleigh.

Help them get it back by singing Christmas songs with Santa and Mrs. Claus, such as "Jingle Bells," "Deck the Halls," and "Frosty the Snowman"



"Christmas with the Madrigals" featuring the Madrigal Pals, a program where younger vocalists get to sing with the high school performers. The show will be held Saturday, December 9. KPAC's Young Artists vocal groups, HarmoniX and Vocal Express, plus the Paris/Henry County Community Band will also be performing during the month.

so his reindeer can take flight again!

The whole family can be part of the Christmas spirit at "Santa's Sing-A-Long!" With much more than just beautiful ornaments and holiday decorations, this magical event draws you into making long-lasting holiday memories for years to come.

Lastly, performing on Saturday, December 16 at 7 pm, is Matthew Boyce's Retro Christmas Spectacular – a heartwarming and nostalgic production that takes audiences on a journey back in time to the golden era of Christmas entertainment. The family-friendly entertainment production features award-winning vocalist, Matthew Boyce, the MBE show band, the female trio "The Gar-

land Girls," and a special guest from Up-North.

The Retro Christmas Spectacular will deliver classics by Elvis, Bing Crosby, the Andrews Sisters, the Beach Boys, Michael Buble, and many more. Matthew will also share his personal Christmas stories and favorite tunes honoring the true reason for the season.

Get more information about all of these events or find ticket links at kridercenter.com. Be sure to join us at Krider Performing Arts Center this Christmas Season for all the fun!

Rhonda Stanton is the Manager/Arts Programming Director at Krider Performing Arts Center for the City of Paris, TN.




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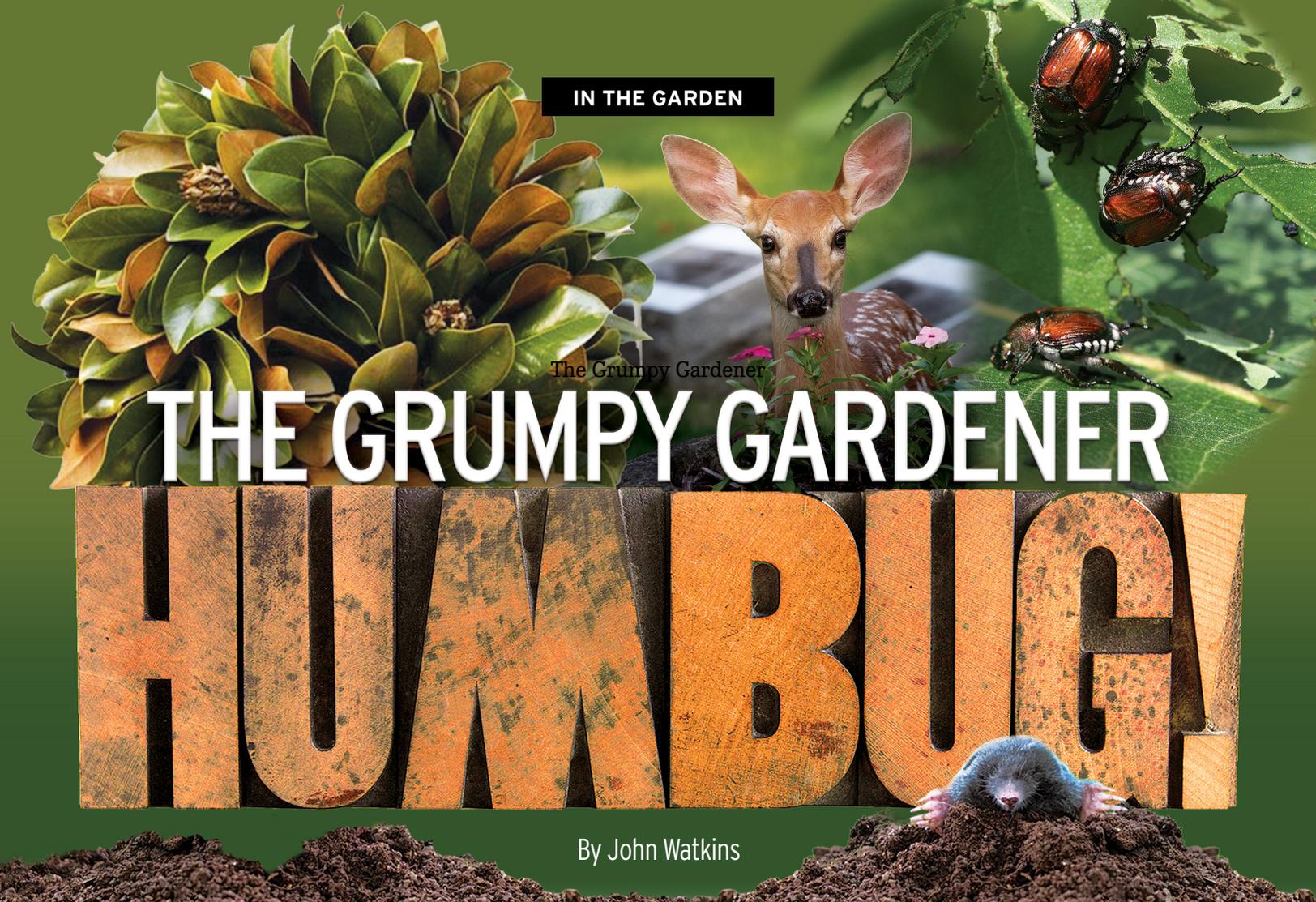
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IN THE GARDEN

The Grumpy Gardener

THE GRUMPY GARDENER

HUMBUG!

By John Watkins

WARNING: Not to be read by the sarcastically impaired!

Well, here we are in the middle of the holiday season with another year of gardening behind us. While most people are busy compiling their lists for Santa and spreading good cheer, I thought I might put on my best Ebenezer Scrooge impression and address a few ghosts from gardens past. I mean it can only be healthy to get these things out in the open so I can move on to the coming year with a clear conscience, right? Auld Lang Syne and all that. So here we go....

First of all, I'm about fed up with all the pests I had to deal with this year (and no, I'm not talking about those pesky telemarketers). To you moles: a curse upon you and your frenzied attack on my poor, defenseless lawn. What did it ever do to you

to deserve those volcanic eruptions in what once used to be a level surface for grass to grow?

I guess no one ever mentioned to you that you're not supposed to make mountains out of mole hills because my yard now resembles the southern Rockies! I mean, just what are you looking for down there? Maybe I can lend you a hand. Let's go Dutch and spring for a big backhoe and be done with it!

Of course, your friends, the deer, have a special place in my heart as well. I know I'm probably going to get bashed for slandering Bambi, but my hostas certainly won't complain. (May they rest in peace!)

Sure, you're cute and furry, but if I want to get up close and personal with nature I'll go to the petting zoo. Can't you guys just go back to woods and be content with eating berries and grass? Since when did the main staple of your diet include impatiens, begonias, and Japanese painted ferns?

I've never seen those things growing in the wild. It seems the only thing you wouldn't eat this past year was the crabgrass that so generously decided to fill in for the flowers you ate!

And don't even get me started on the bugs. Spider mites, bagworms, armyworms, leafhoppers, azalea lacewings, aphids...the list goes on and on. "Bah Humbug" takes on a whole new meaning here.

And to Japan, a special note : thank you for giving us a great many wonderful things like Geisha girls, Godzilla, and sushi, but the Japanese Beetle was not one of your more favorable introductions to the U.S.

To the floral industry as a whole, thanks for trying to make me feel guilty about all the flowers I didn't send when you said I should. Because to me, nothing says "I Love You" or "Get Well Soon" like chopping up a live plant and shoving it in some water just so you can watch it fade, turn brown and be tossed in the trash

a few days later. (Sorry honey, I'll stop by and pick up a dozen roses on the way home!)

And to all of you who have ever given me a house plant, please, for the love of nature, stop! It seems my thumb only stays green when it is outdoors, and I am running out of excuses why I can't keep an indoor plant alive for more than a weekend.

To the magnolia trees in my yard: I know you are a gardening icon in the South, and I can't bear to cut you down, but would it hurt you to stop dropping leaves for at least one or two days out of the year?

I mean, those things are like Twinkies, they never break down and might just outlast us all! And what's up with being so stingy with your surroundings? You've got more than enough room under your branches to share the ground with some companions. But no, you won't spare even the hardiest of plants a square inch to grow.

To all the weeds who invaded my garden this past year (and you know who you are), what makes you feel

so entitled? I worked hard to prepare the soil to provide a safe haven for those expensive and exotic annuals with the big bright flowers and here you come along and just plop down wherever you feel like! And then you have the gall to invite all your friends over even after I kicked them out numerous times. I've got a special present for you next year: can you say "preemergent"?

And finally, a tip of the hat to all the home improvement shows out there who specialize in making the world of landscaping look so easy. For now we all know that that patio project we've been planning for the past five years can easily be accomplished on a Saturday afternoon over a couple of beers!

Whew! I don't know about you, but I feel like a giant weight has been lifted off my shoulders, but maybe that was just that fruitcake I've been lugging around. At any rate, who's up for some eggnog?

Happy Holidays and "God Bless Us Every One"!



SUNDAY, DEC. 3 – Hanging of the Greens at 8:30/11:00 am worship services

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6, 6:00 pm
Community Advent Walk

SUNDAY, DEC. 10
8:30 am – Old Fashioned Carol Singing
11:00 – Worship led by our choirs offering Music of the Season

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13, 6:00 pm
Harmonix and HCHS Madrigals in Concert

SUNDAY, DEC. 17 – Worship at 8:30/11:00 am

THURSDAY, DEC. 21, 5:30pm
Blue Christmas Service in the sanctuary

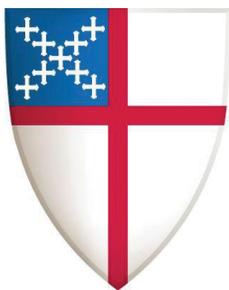
SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 10:00am
One joint worship service in the sanctuary
5:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service of Lessons, Carols and Candlelight Communion

SUNDAY, DEC. 31, 9:00 am – New Year's Eve
Coffee/pot-luck brunch in gym and one joint worship in the sanctuary at 10:00 am

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Some banks give out wall calendars, pens, or rulers for an appreciation gift to their depositors at the end of each year. But for Commercial Bank customers, they anxiously wait for their can of black-eyed peas.

For those not familiar, in the South, eating the black-eyed peas on New Year's Day is considered good fortune for the coming year when coupled with collard greens or cabbage. The tradition dates back to the Civil War era, and the peas represented coins; greens were paper money—thus the theme of luck and prosperity. Add cornbread for some “gold” on your plate.

Commercial Bank is a Partner In Education with Henry School, and the can wrapping is a fun activity that brought the two together on a service project for 15 years.

Each black-eyed peas can is covered with a special Commercial Bank label that covers the manufacturer's label. “Students put on a new label supplied by Commercial Bank wishing

their customers a Happy New Year with the story explaining why black-eyed peas bring good fortune for the



Last year, Cayden Kinley pulled cans of black-eyed peas from their flat before being wrapped with the Commercial Bank New Year's label.

Above: The Commercial Bank's black-eyed peas cans have become an endearing holiday tradition in the community.

New Year,” said Amy Williams, Henry School teacher. “Fifth grade students started and continued this annual ‘pea wrapping’ event until 2019. For the next two years, the project was put on hold due to COVID.” Beta students in grades 7 and 8 took over the can project in December 2022.

“Lakeway IGA normally delivers the canned peas in plastic-wrapped cases to our school. Students then choose their job. They can unpack the cans of peas, tape on new labels before repacking them into the wrapped cases, inspect labels or redo labels that are not quite right,” Williams continued.

“Past students have told me that this day is one of their most fun memories as a Henry Pirate. Current students look forward to it. We play Christmas music, some students sing. It's a festive time!”

Eighth grader Andie Yeomans was involved with the wrapping last year. “My classmates and I took part in a Beta Club activity to help our Partners in Education, Commercial Bank.



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I can say that I, as well as many others, really enjoyed the experience. When we saw the huge stacks of pea cans, we were surprised," she said.

"All of us sat in groups and taped on the preprinted labels. It was tedious, but we all had a ton of fun! We even raced each other to see who could put on the most labels! My friends and I built a wall with all of the cans we finished! When someone came to pick up the cans, we all loaded them up on carts and rolled them down the hallway. Some of the younger Beta kids from down the hall even helped load them into the truck. Seeing everyone work together, even with other grade levels, was truly a sight to see."

Joshua Lancaster, another 8th grade student, echoed the experience as jovial. "My friends and I must have wrapped nearly 100 cans that day. I'm sure everyone in Beta can agree with me when I say that this was one of the most fun things we have done."

As you fork some "good fortune" into your mouth this New Year's Day,

remember this unique Henry County tradition founded by our locally owned Commercial Bank.



When asked about wrapping pea cans, Andie Yeomans said, "It was tedious, but we all had a ton of fun!"



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JUST PLAIN UGLY! PHENOMENON

Tis the season to be jolly, and nothing says “jolly” quite like an ugly Christmas sweater. These festive fashion monstrosities have become a beloved holiday tradition, adorning countless chests and fueling laughter at family gatherings, office parties, and cookie exchanges.

But what’s the deal with these clashing concoctions of wool and whimsy, and why can’t we quit them? Let’s unravel the knotty history of ugly Christmas sweaters, one hideous stitch at a time.

ORIGINS OF UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATERS

To trace the roots of ugly Christmas sweaters, we must venture back to the 1950s and 1960s. Suburban America, where knitting was all the rage, and your grandma was the undisputed queen of it. Back then, it was all about showcasing one’s knitting prowess by creating intricate, cozy sweaters adorned with holiday-themed motifs like snowflakes, reindeer, and holly. It was sweet, simple, and sincerely crafted.

But then, somewhere along the way, good taste took a holiday break.

The charming tradition of making holiday sweaters evolved into a competitive sport. Knitters began incorporating not-so-subtle humor into their designs. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer’s nose grew three sizes too big, and snowmen started looking like they needed therapy. Ugly Christmas sweaters were born, and they haven’t stopped evolving since.

THE RISE OF THE UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER PARTY

Fast forward to the 1980s and 1990s and you’ll find the ugly Christmas sweater craze taking root. Those who thought these fashion faux pas should be confined to the deepest corners of closets were proven wrong. Suddenly, the sweaters weren’t just worn out of sincere admiration for the holiday spirit. They were worn to parties, sometimes with earnest enthusiasm, other times with a smirk and a wink.

Ugly Christmas sweater parties emerged as a way to bring out the competitive nature of partygoers. The goal? To showcase the most horrendous holiday sweater possible. Winning was as sweet as Grandma’s holiday cookies, and losing meant

you had to endure a year of ridicule. No pressure.

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER INDUSTRY

Inevitably, the commercial world seized upon the trend. Nowadays, you can find an entire industry dedicated to churning out the ugliest, most outlandish Christmas sweaters imaginable. Stores, both brick-and-mortar and online, eagerly display their festive atrocities, all vying for your hard-earned dollars.

These sweaters come adorned with bells that jingle obnoxiously, LED lights that could double as runway landing strips, and questionable 3D additions that might be mistaken for modern art. It’s as if the ugly sweater has become a battleground for fashion designers who’ve unleashed their most deranged ideas upon unsuspecting shoppers.

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER PARADOX

One of the most perplexing aspects of the ugly Christmas sweater phenomenon is that they are universally adored for their hideousness. People actively seek out sweaters that, under normal circumstances, they would avoid like the plague.

It's as if the holiday spirit transforms fashion sense into fashion nonsense, and we embrace it wholeheartedly. Perhaps it's the sheer audacity of donning something so dreadful that brings joy during the holiday season. After all, laughter is the best gift you can give and receive, and these sweaters are guaranteed to deliver a hearty dose of humor.

DIY UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER MOVEMENT

If you're the crafty type, making your own ugly Christmas sweater is not only cost-effective but also a way to claim creative ownership of your holiday fashion statement. You can raid your closet for old sweaters, unleash your inner artist, and attach any quirky, holiday-themed decorations you desire. The result is a unique masterpiece, one that proudly showcases your personal brand of weird.

For those who prefer not to DIY, many businesses have sprung up offering DIY ugly Christmas sweater kits. These kits come complete with felt, tinsel, ornaments, and glue –

everything you need to create your sweater abomination.

A GLOBAL PHENOMENON

Ugly Christmas sweaters have transcended borders and cultures. They're now an international sensation. People from all corners of the globe embrace the holiday spirit by partaking in this outlandish tradition. From London to Sydney, Tokyo to Paris, Tennessee, you'll find folks sporting Christmas sweaters so ugly they're beautiful.

LONG LIVE UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATERS!

The ugly Christmas sweater has solidified its place in holiday lore. It's a festive, funny, and oddly heartwarming tradition that brings people together through laughter and shared awkwardness. So, when you don your most garish, obnoxious sweater this holiday season, wear it with pride, knowing that you're not alone. Ugly Christmas sweaters are here to stay, and we wouldn't have it any other way. Happy holidays, you fashion-forward trendsetters!



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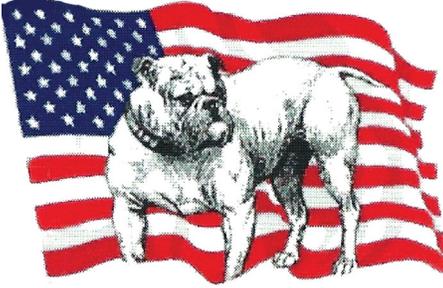
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FACES & PLACES



Either Rick Conger is imitating the skeleton or the skeleton is imitating Rick Conger at the Paris Karate scarecrow on the courthouse lawn.



Refuge Ranger Joan Howe and a big blue friend at the inaugural Walk For The Wild Family Fun Day at the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge at Springville.



Paris City Police Officer, Zac Carper, took time to dress up as Nikki Sixx from Motley Crue to surprise his mom, Kristen Carper, on her 50th birthday.



This pup thought it would be a good idea to try a bribery by jumping on the table during the Spooky Pooch contest at the Atkins-Porter Dog Park. Judges Josh Frey, Kathy Ray and Fisher Lawrence seemed to enjoy it.



The Paris-Henry Co. Bicentennial Longest Beard Contest was won 'by a hair'. The contenders were Josh Wooten and Mark Blankenship with Jackie Jones doing the measurements. The winning beard was that of Josh Wooten, at left.



At the first-ever Henry County Farmers Market Fall Fair, Tonya Nash and Coco were with the Bethel PA students.

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Ray Lewis and Rockin' Randall French entertained the crowd at the community cookout hosted by the Paris BPU.



Kaylee Houston and her little boy Crew visit the hogs in the new hog barn at the Henry County Fair.



Eric Bundy was one of several Second Harvest volunteers who helped distribute food boxes to 84 people at the First United Methodist Church in Paris recently.

Photo by Elyse Bell



Chloe McElroy, 17 year old daughter of John and Gracian McElroy, recently won first place in the 2023 S3DA 3D National Tournament in Rend Lake, Illinois.



Stephanie Dunagan and Dr. Scott Whitby practiced the songs they plan to sing during the Relay for Life event in downtown Paris.



Barry Flood and Cole Edwards of the Paris BPU enjoyed some sweet treats from Sweet Jordan's at the community canned food drive sponsored by BPU and Commercial Bank & Trust. Photo by BPU



Terry Wimberley of BPU cuts the ribbon-cutting for the new electric car charging station in downtown Paris. From left, Mark Finley of TDEC, Butch Powers, Wimberley, Kim Foster, Betsey McCall of 7 States Power, Vickey Roberts, Jeff Mahan, and Kathy Ray.

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Chef

ALSEY WHEATLEY

Sharing Her Talents And Family Recipe

By Chelsea Bolen

Chef Alsey Wheatley looks up from a bowl filled with shredded carrots. “If I’m going to cook for people who are hungry and don’t have the resources to cook, I want to cook what I’d feed my family, not just cheap and easy. You can hide a lot of vegetables in meatloaf or spaghetti sauce. So they’re not just good, but good for you as well.” As she worked on meal preparation for Shepherd’s Table, a monthly feeding ministry, she describes her relationship with food.

Growing up, Wheatley’s father was the cook in the family. He ran a catering business with a friend and she describes him as a gourmand. “He’s always excited to try something new.”

As a child, she would watch the blossoming Food Network’s “Emeril Live!” with her father and grew to love Gordon Ramsey as a culinary influence. “He’s a culinary icon. Everyone knows who he is.” To this day, she’s motivated to keep a tidy walk-in

refrigerator by imagining trying to explain to him why it isn’t orderly.”

Her other culinary influence is not a person, but an unlikely experience. Le Cordon Bleu, a world-famous and international culinary school closed their American schools in 2017.

Wheatley, who was enrolled in the school’s famed pastry course, was a member of the last class to graduate in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

“It was weird being part of that last class. (The staff) didn’t want to order more ingredients but they wanted to get rid of the specialty ingredients.” Part of her experimental coursework consisted of combining expensive ingredients into new dishes. “People compare it to “Chopped” all the time, but it’s a little less intense than that.”

Wheatley used her education as a chef in Boston before moving to Big Sandy. Her husband, Andrew, is a Big Sandy native and wanted to be close to family during the birth of their first child. After moving to Paris, Wheatley was committed to helping her com-

munity with her skills and started a mission branch of downtown’s First Presbyterian Church. “Truthfully, I was roped into it by my husband,” she says with a laugh. Shepherd’s Table is dedicated to serving a free meal the first Thursday of the month out of the church’s fellowship hall located at 105 South Market Street.

“But food is a love language for me, a way to show hospitality as well as love and affection.” She says the mission is about extending God’s love to people who need that kind care. “It’s for anyone who’s hungry in that moment – people just getting out of work, kids getting out of after school programs, anyone who’s hungry.”

For the holidays, Wheatley plans on spending more for Shepherd’s Table. “We try to be economical through the year to do nicer holiday meals.” If the spirit of the season moves you, call First Presbyterian Church at 731-642-2962 for more information on volunteering. All are welcome to dine in or carry out from 4:30-6:30 pm.

Enjoy a holiday gift from this classically trained chef:
a pie crust that can be either savory or sweet.

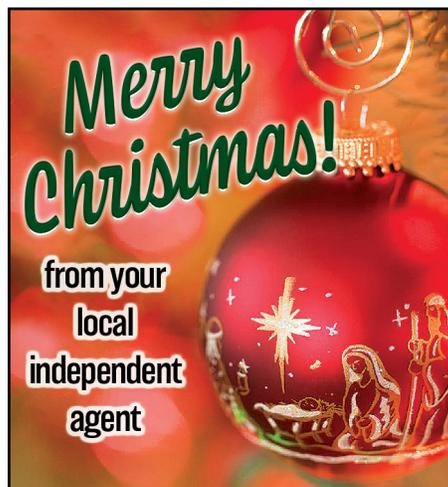
Sweet
//////



Savory
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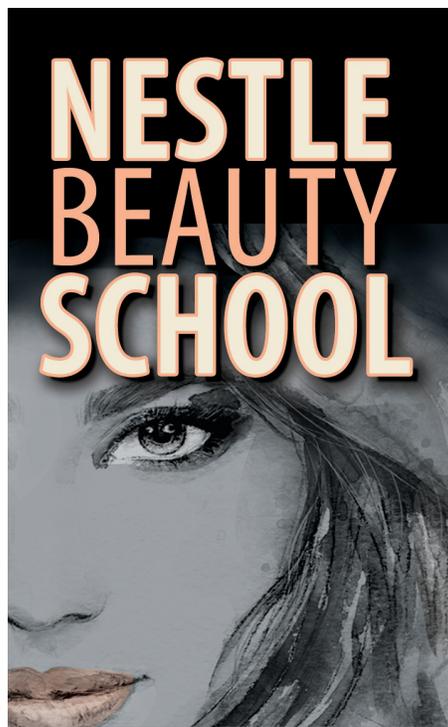
- 4 cups flour
 - 3 sticks of cold butter
 - A big pinch and small pinch of salt & sugar
(Big sugar if it's for sweet pie, big salt if it's savory)
 - Enough cold water to bring the dough together, roughly ½ cup
1. Starting with dry ingredients, combine the flour with the salt and sugar. Cut butter into small pieces and add to flour mixture, rubbing through until it looks like wet sand.
 2. Be careful to not overwork or melt the butter to ensure a truly tender, flaky crust.
 3. Once the butter is incorporated, gradually add small amounts of cold water until a dough forms.
 4. Let chill for ten minutes before rolling out.

Recipe makes four pie crusts and leftover dough can be frozen for later use.



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REELFOOT

Real Nature, Real History, Real Food

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.

It's rare to travel to a place that is like no other. Reelfoot Lake was created more than 200 years ago after a series of earthquakes rocked the region, causing the Mississippi River to flow backwards, creating the only natural lake in Tennessee.

The shoreline is rimmed with majestic bald cypress. This time of year, waterfowl resemble Christmas ornaments, decorating the bare, cypress branches against the winter sky.

Although the Two Travelers visited Reelfoot in autumn, there is plenty to do year-round. Winter camping is a feast for the eyes here. It offers a ring-side seat to view numerous species of waterfowl whose impressive size and numbers make them easy to identify. Visitors include bald eagles, American white pelicans, great blue herons, ducks galore and more. Like the many

anglers who visit this lake, these birds enjoy the exceptional fishing.

Our campsite backed up to the woods, but the lake was in view and was just a few steps from our campfire. At sunrise each day, I walked to the water's edge to enjoy my cup of coffee and watch a busy blue heron



John - the campsite's pancake master

who was waiting patiently to catch his breakfast.

Throughout the year, numerous festivals celebrating everything from migrating birds to native animals to art and photography are held on the grounds. Ranger-led hikes are frequent and occur both in the daylight and evening hours. The staff at Reelfoot make it easy to enjoy this storied body of water.

We rented kayaks and had everyone from a six-year-old to a 73-year-old paddling among the snowy white egrets and the expansive cypress trunks. You also can book a pontoon boat ride hosted by knowledgeable naturalists, but these fill up early. It's best to check the park's website for availability before you go.

On our visit, the weather was so perfect that we decided to save the

visitor center and museum for a winter trip, and headed to the wooden boardwalk instead. With several wee ones on the trip, this turned out to be a smart move.

The enchanting, half-mile stroll put us out on the water and amongst the cypress trees with great opportunities for viewing and photographing the birds, the trees, and each other. I'm not sure, but someone may have even wet a line. There are several longer hiking opportunities at Reelfoot and others on the nearby Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge Grassy Island Unit.

Among the many things I love about a state park campground is that check-out is at generally around 10 am, which means we eat breakfast, pack up, take a short walk to bid the park farewell, and head out. This schedule affords us the opportunity to stop for lunch at a great, local place that one of us has discovered while visiting with folks at the park. But this time, we didn't even need to ask at staff for a recommendation.

For years, I heard Terry Hailey, my



Above: Kayaking proved to be a great outing for all our state park campers. Previous page: The cypress "knees and trees" of Reelfoot Lake form a unique landscape.

friend from radio station WTPR, rave on-air about his dinners at Boyette's Dining Room. It was right on the way home, so we slipped in just before the lunch crowd arrived.

Boyette's has been in business since 1921. It possesses an endearing old-time feel created by mounted fish that decorate the wall, real wooden tables and chairs, friendly Southern waitresses, and a vintage, coin-operat-

ed Bucking Bronco for the kiddos. Oh, and the catfish? It was just as delicious as Haley had described. Delish!

Whether you camp, rent a cabin, or just take an easy day trip – only a 90-minute drive – this spectacular floating forest in the Northeast corner of Tennessee is a must-see for those searching for real nature, real history and real food.

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TEEN DANGERS

Vaping Prevention Program Given To County School Students

By Ashley James

In August, Michael DeLeon, nationally recognized presenter for school assemblies and number one school educator on vaping and fentanyl, spoke to over 1,300 9-12 grade students at E.W. Grove School and Henry County High School about drug and alcohol prevention. After Michael started smoking cigarettes at just 11 years old, he continued to live with drug addiction for many years, ultimately winding up in prison charged for a murder he did not commit but with which he was involved due to his drug abuse.

This was Mr. DeLeon's second visit to the Henry County School System, as he spoke with 9th grade students at Grove in April of the last school year. In recent years, the number of adolescents in our community using tobacco or e-cigarettes has drastically increased, and vaping is a growing problem among youth in our community. The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse services in cooperation with

Tennessee Together (TN Together), an organization aimed at ending the opioid crisis in Tennessee, conducts a biennial research study assessing drug use among 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students.

According to the survey, the average age of Henry County youth when they first used a vaping device



MICHAEL DELEON

to consume nicotine was 13.9 years old. Over 31% of student respondents claimed to have used a vaping device to consume nicotine sometime in their lives and 82% of those claimed to participate in high-frequency use of a vaping device with nicotine.

Equally concerning was survey data around the use of vaping devices used to consume marijuana where nearly 18% of students claimed they had tried it, and 60% of those were high-frequency users. When asked about ease of access, 41% of youth surveyed reported that vaping devices were "very easy" to acquire, and most students reported getting vapes from a sibling or friend, giving someone money to purchase vapes for them, and some students said they were able to walk into a store and buy vaping devices themselves.

Both Henry County and Paris Special school districts have joined forces with the Henry County Prevention Coalition and local law enforcement to counter the marketing approaches of the tobacco industry as well as local shops where vaping devices are sold, many times to underage buyers. The first step in the joint effort was to partner with Grove and Henry County High School to bring a family education program to parents

of 9-12 grade students. After Mr. DeLeon spoke with students during the school day, he stayed in town to meet with parents and educate them on the harmful effects of premature tobacco and e-cigarette use.

Next, the coalition drafted a letter to send to Paris and Henry County businesses that offer the sale of vaping products, begging them to move tobacco and vaping products behind store counters and out of sight of minors. The letter, sent from the coalition as well as directors of schools and local law enforcement officials, also asked business owners to train their employees on the laws surrounding the sale of tobacco and e-cigarettes, especially sale to minors, and it made a clear plea to businesses to simply refuse to sell tobacco or



vaping products to any minors.

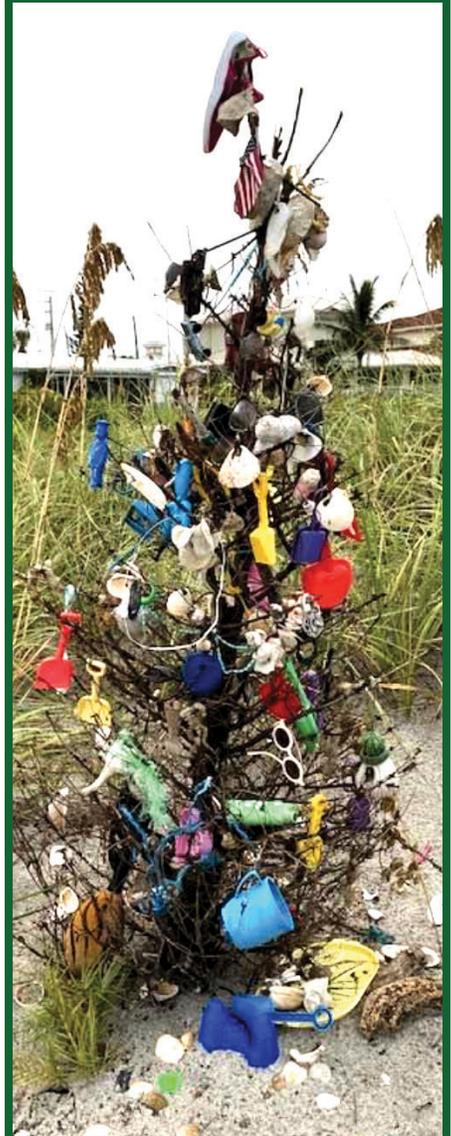
During Mr. DeLeon's school assembly, he shared his story with students and gave them personal examples of how drug and alcohol use can easily change the trajectory of one's life. In his program, "Vaping Me Crazy," Mr. DeLeon gave students statistics from studies on drug use and educational material including ways to quit an addictive behavior like vaping. Students at both schools were able to sign a banner pledging to be drug and alcohol free or pledging to quit.

E-cigarette use is on the rise among all age groups, and local agencies are working to dispel the myth that vaping is safer than smoking cigarettes. Companies are marketing directly to the youth in our community by making vaping products colorful and flavorful, often with cartoon-like images that appeal to children. It is going to take a community effort to end this epidemic that is spreading across our small town, state, and country.

To find out ways you can help, contact Darrah Crawford, Director of the Henry County Prevention Coalition.

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VETERANS DAY

Answering Their Country's Call



In the hustle and bustle of this time of year, there's a special day of remembrance that is often overlooked – Veterans Day on November 11. This federal holiday was set aside to honor former living military service members who were discharged honorably. Some of these individuals fought in wars, some served on bases and embassies around the world, and others tended to medical and spiritual needs. The brothers below were called to serve their country and gave the ultimate cost. During this upcoming holiday season, remember those who protected our freedom and take a moment to express gratitude to all veterans who wore their country's uniform.

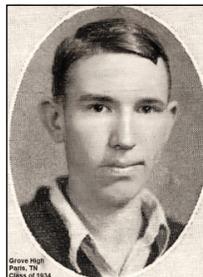
By Shannon McFarlin

One lawn of the Henry County Courthouse, there is a veterans' memorial which lists the names of over 120 men who gave their all for their country during World War II. That tells all you need to know about the dedication of the county's families to their country.

World War II was an especially bleak time in Henry County with its residents uniting in the war effort, collecting scrap metal, and rationing gasoline and other goods. Most profound of all, losing that many of the county's young men over the four years of the war.



David Louis Kibbons



Clarence Vernon Kibbons

It was a pall hanging over students faculty of Grove High School. The 1946 Grove Tower yearbook about their fallen classmates: *"We pause to dedicate the 1946 Tower to the memory of the boys of Grove who have paid*

the supreme sacrifice for their country in World War II."

Of all the sad stories from that period, one of the saddest is that of the Kibbons family. Five of their sons served during the war and two did not return. Their patriotism and dedication is on display everyday at Maplewood Cemetery, with a row of American flags marking the family plot. The two who paid the ultimate sacrifice were Private First Class David Louis Kibbons and Chief Torpedo Mate Clarence Vernon Kibbons.

Also serving in the service from the family: George (Douglas) Kibbons, who was a Fireman 2 serving in the

Navy; Richard Paul Kibbons, who was an Electrician's Mate in the Navy in the Atlantic; Rev. John D. Kibbons, Seaman 2 in the Pacific. Their daughter, Mable Louise Kibbons worked for the Veterans' Administration in Murfreesboro and her husband was a Carpenter's Mate in the Navy.

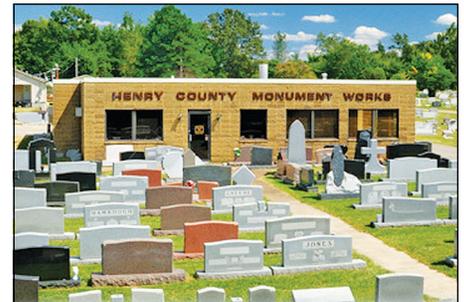
According to the obituary that was published in the *Commercial Appeal* on July 22, 1944, *Pfc. David L. Kibbons, age 20, of the infantry, was killed in action June 11, in France, according to a War Department message received by his parents. He had been in the service three years and was overseas six months.* He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart posthumously.

Chief Torpedoman's Mate Clarence Kibbons was declared missing in action. His death date is listed as November 8, 1945 and his name is included on the monument at Fort William McKinley in Manila, the Philippines. He was age 28 and was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star posthumously.

The Veterans' Monument on the Courthouse lawn contains the names

of all the Henry County veterans who have paid the supreme sacrifice in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, and Iraq. The names of the county's Revolutionary War soldiers will have their own monument at the courthouse in the coming months, thanks to the Paris-Henry County Bicentennial Committee.

As we approach another Veterans' Day, make sure to pause at the monument and remember the county's fallen.



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ONGOING HOLIDAY EVENTS

VISIT WITH SANTA – Stop by and let Santa entertain your wee little guests at his gingerbread house in Downtown Paris on the square November 24-December 17 on Saturdays from 10 am - 2 pm and Sundays from 2-4 pm.

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

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.

QUOTA CLUB ANNUAL PECAN SALE – Beginning in November, these delicious pecans are up for grabs! They also offer specialty pecans such as dark chocolate, milk chocolate, cinnamon and glazed. Stop by Commercial Bank, First Bank, Security Bank or Paris Family Chiropractic to purchase them. For more information call Dr. Elizabeth Craig at 731-642-3761.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

– NOVEMBER –

NOVEMBER 2 – A delicious yearly tradition known as the **Carl Perkins Center Pancake Day** will be at First Baptist Church, 7:30 am-6:30 pm with all-you-can-eat yummy pancakes and sausage. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Call 731-642-8455.

NOVEMBER 2 – **Lifeline Blood Mobile** is open from 12-6 pm at First United Methodist Church. Call Dan Rogers at 731-427-4431 for more information.

NOVEMBER 3-5 – It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in festive Downtown Paris! **Candlelight Open Houses** are Friday and Saturday 5-8 pm and Sunday from 1-5 pm. Call 731-642-3431 for more information.

NOVEMBER 4 – **The Ultimate Oldies Rock & Roll Show** will recreate hits from the 50s, 60s and 70s. The show starts at 7 pm and tickets are \$33 and \$27. For more information call 731-644-2517.

NOVEMBER 11 – **Veterans Day**. Thank a Veteran and remember those who fought for our freedom. Be sure to watch for local celebrations around town.

NOVEMBER 11 – Christmas Craft Bazaar at Puryear Christian Life Center. Starts at 10 am. For more information, contact Fran at 731-336-4672.

NOVEMBER 11-12 – Get a jump on holiday gifts! Stop by the **Christmas In Paris Shopping Extravaganza** that's grown so much that it will be at the Paris Convention Center and also at the Henry County Fairgrounds. Saturday 9 am-5 pm; Sunday 12-4 pm. Admission is free! For more information, email christmasinparistn@yahoo.com or find them on Facebook.

NOVEMBER 12 – **Operation Christmas Child Packing Party** at First Baptist Church starting at 1:30 pm. Kick off the holiday season by giving back. For more information, contact Scott at 731-642-5074.

NOVEMBER 15-16 – Henry County FCE Club presents **Homemaker's Holiday** in the Enoch Building at the fairgrounds from 3-6 pm on the 15th and 10 am-1 pm the 16th. On Thursday, be sure to come hungry! They're serving soup and sandwiches from 11 am - 1 pm. Lots of goodies to buy! For more information, contact Michele Atkins at 731-642-2941.

NOVEMBER 22-24 – **Thanksgiving break** for city and county schools

NOVEMBER 23 – On this **Thanksgiving Day**, spend time with loved ones as you celebrate all that we have to be thankful for.

NOVEMBER 24 – Head to downtown beautiful Paris for the **North Pole Family Fun Day** from 10 am-2 pm. Enjoy Santa, Rudolph and the Elves rolling in on a fire truck, craft booths and more. For more information, call 731-642-3431.

NOVEMBER 24-DECEMBER 17 – It's twinkle time! **Festival of Trees** will be on the square in Downtown Paris! Located at The Old 5 & 10 Event Center at 110 W. Washington Street. Call 731-642-3431 for more information.

– DECEMBER –

DECEMBER 1-3 – **Live Nativity** at **New Harmony Baptist Church** from 6-8 pm each night. Remember the reason for the season and start it off right with a beautiful drive through this community treasure. For more information, call 731-593-5276.



DECEMBER 2 – Art & Movie Night: **The Grinch** will kick off your holiday spirit at First Christian Church, 6-8:30 pm. Sponsored by **The Studio**, this event for ages K-8th grader features a Grinch themed art project followed by a pizza, refreshments, and movie. Wear your pj's or costume and bring a blanket. For information or to reserve your spot, call 731-336-4017 or see Facebook for details.

DECEMBER 3 – Support the youth of Henry County as the **KPAC Young Artists HarmoniX** acapella group and the **Vocal Express** present their Christmas Concert at the KPAC at 7 pm. To learn more, call 731-644-2517.

DECEMBER 3 – Join the fine folks at **Paris First United Methodist Church** for the **1st Sunday of Advent** and the traditional “**Hanging of the Greens**” at 8:30 am and 11 am. For more information, call 642-4764.

DECEMBER 6 – Stroll the **Candlelight Advent Walk** to churches in Downtown Paris starting at 6 pm. For more information, call 731-642-5074 or 731-642-4764.

DECEMBER 7 – Take time out of your busy schedule to give back. Visit the **Lifeline Blood Mobile** at First United Methodist Church, 12 pm-6 pm. For more information, contact Dan Rogers at 731-427-4431.

DECEMBER 9 – Get in the holiday spirit by listening to the elite group of singers from HCHS in **Christmas with the Madrigals**. Starts at 7 pm at the KPAC. Call 731-644-2517 for more information.

DECEMBER 9 – All aboard for **The Poplar Express** at the **W.G. Rhea Library**, 5:30-7:30 pm. Train ride, movie, crafts, snacks, cookie decorating, and of course, Santa! Call 731-642-1702 for more information.

DECEMBER 9 – For fun galore, check out the **Downtown Christmas Festival** from 3-5 pm and the **Holly Jolly Electric Parade** at 5 pm. Awards include Clark Griswold, Golf Cart, Cutest Critter, and Best Decorated. For details and entry information, call 731-642-3431.

DECEMBER 11 – The Paris-Henry County Community Band, under the direction of Mike Holden, will perform their **Christmas Concert** at KPAC. Call 731-644-2517 for more information.

DECEMBER 14 – KPAC will host **Santa's Sing-A-Long** at 7 pm that will have you singing and on your feet, making memories to last a lifetime. For information, call 731-644-2517.

DECEMBER 16 – KPAC will present a night of Christmas nostalgia with **Matthew Boyce's Retro Christmas Spectacular** starting at 7 pm. Go to kridercenter.com for more details

DECEMBER 18- JANUARY 3 – Joyeux Noel! Winter Break for all schools, and if you're in the county school system, you don't go back until the 4th!

DECEMBER 20 – First Baptist Church's Candlelight Communion Service in the sanctuary at 6 pm.

Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 731-642-5074.

DECEMBER 21 – Paris First United Methodist Church is observing a **Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service** at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary. This is for anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one, a job, relationship, security, health or other loss. For more information, call 731-642-4764.

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

DECEMBER 25 – Have a blessed Merry Christmas!

– JANUARY –

JANUARY 1- HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Make those resolutions for 2024.

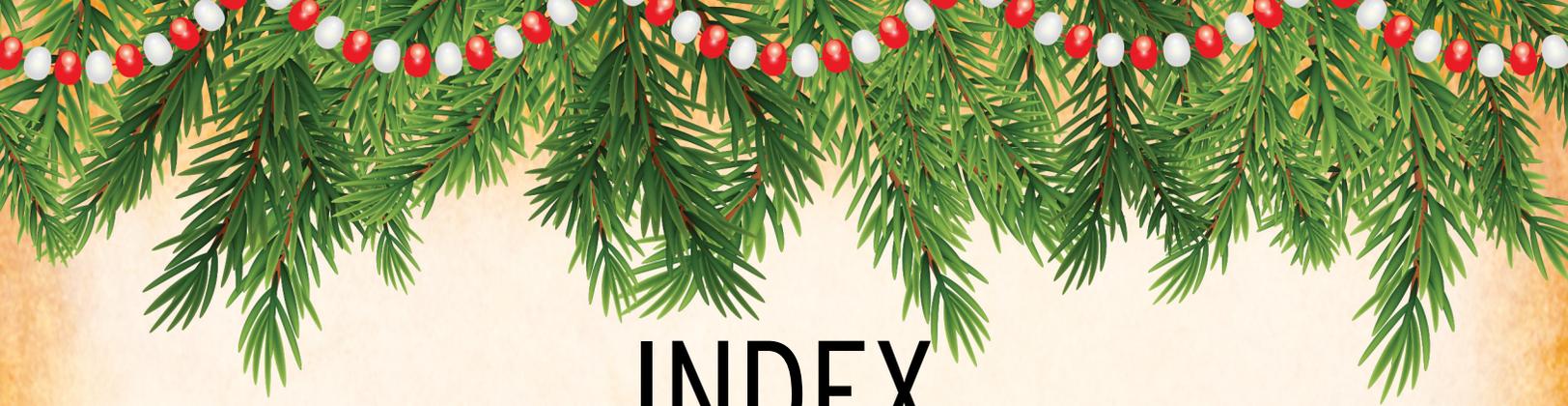
CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLVE Puzzle on page 27
ACROSS: 6. CULINARY, 9. ERIC BUNDY, 10. TOY STORE, 12. SWEATER, 13. CROCHET, 16. LOINES, 17. MS MONEY, 18. PUCKETT, 21. HUMBBUG, 22. GRUMPY, 23. PLATTERS, 24. JINGLE
DOWN
 1. BLACK EYED PEAS, 2. BEAGLE, 3. VAPING, 4. KIBBONS, 5. SOUTHSIDE, 7. BOYETTES, 8. VETERANS DAY, 11. TAKEOUT, 14. REINDEER, 15. COZY, 19. CRUST, 20. CYPRESS

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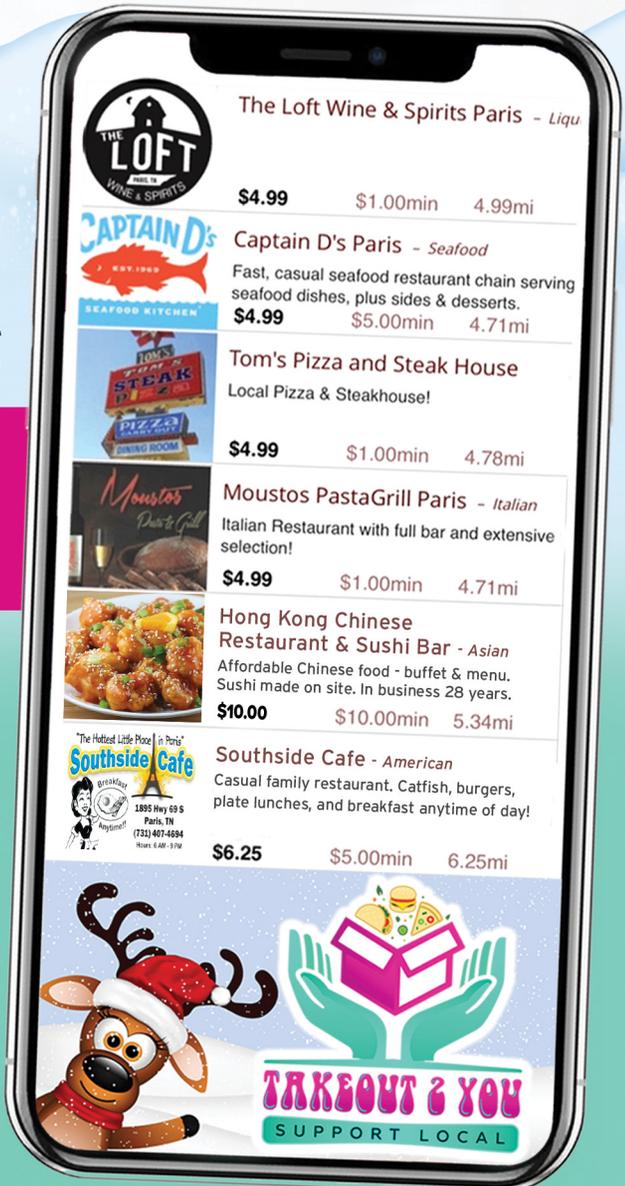
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