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Biscuit the Corgi enjoys his first Henry County's spring amongst the buttercups.

PHOTO BY BISCUIT'S OWNER, CHLOE ROTH

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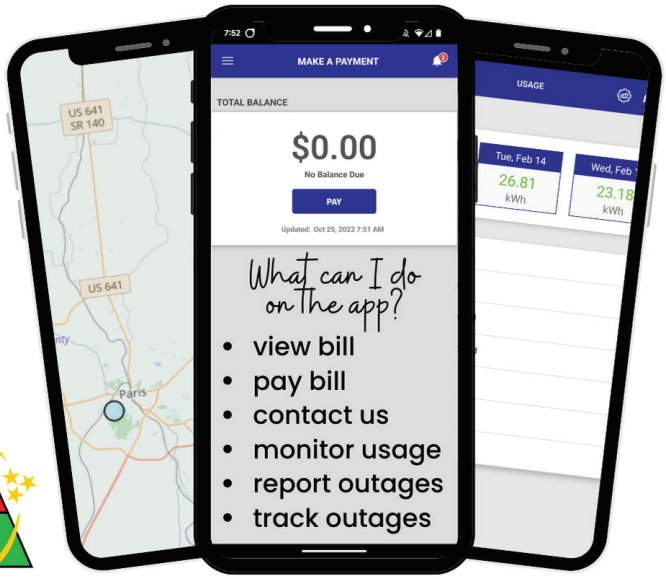

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Out With Winter...Bring On Spring In PARIS!

This spring, PARIS! celebrates how our past has shaped our present, from catfish to an exciting new business, musicians to school reunions, to well-deserved designations, and more.

Our Spotlight shines on Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church and its placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Congratulations on this honor!

Speaking about spotlights, what about Helping Hand's record breaking year! Read about the generous bids and the best volunteers around.

Arts and Entertainment highlights Henry County native and animator, Claire Layne, who received an international award for her short film.

Closer to home, Soundtracks introduces us to a self-proclaimed, river-rat thumbpicker, Josh McKee. His music, his inspiration, and the best advice he ever received are not to be missed.

What else is happening in our own backyard? The vision of the Gulish family's Laurel Hill Cattle Co. is coming to fruition. Check it out in Around Our Town.

It wouldn't be spring without a tip-of-the-hat to Henry County's official mascot, the catfish, but this article is pretty crazy. Hold onto your cutoffs and get ready for Catfish Noodling – Fishing Gone Wild!

Other spring-related stories will get you excited about the growing season. Make Your Bed offers valuable tips for prepping your garden, while Spring Brings out the Honeybees educates us on the life of this beloved pollinator.

Reminisce features an old story about new beginnings that began in Spring 1882. When a young couple decided to wed, the bride's father was not enthused. The solution? Elope in Paris, TN, but that's just half the story!

Finally, School of Thought takes a trip down memory lane using the Henry County High School Alma Mater as its guide. Find out what reunion tours mean to alumni and how your class can schedule one.

Enjoy how our past shapes our present and future and enjoy PARIS!

Smantha

myparismagazine.com

ON THE COVER

Remi Claire Patterson, daughter of Lori Smith and James Patterson, didn't care that she was all dressed up. She decided to jump in the little creek and cool off anyway. Photo by Jamie Mueller of J. Mueller Photography, jmuellerphotography.com

Henry County and the Lake Area

PARIS!

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In Spring, a young person's fancy turns to...climbing a tree? Well, that's what they did at Grove School in 1915.

A photo from 1890 of a baptism at Harmon's Creek in Henry County, Tennessee. Rev. D.T. Spaulding is seen baptizing a group from Spring Hill Church.

The Grove Girls' Basketball Team from 1921 included a future movie star, Eula Love. On the team were: Mae Maxwell, Love Brandon, Thelma Ivie, Mary Poyner, Lorene Summers, Ruby Miller and the substitutes Mary Summers, Eula Love and Exie Maxwell. After graduation from Grove, Eula headed to Hollywood and became a silent film star. She is the second girl from the right.

Young ladies of Paris decked out in their spring attire, ca. 1900. Clockwise, from top: Miss Beulah Dunlap, Miss Sarah Weldon; Miss Maggie Martin and Miss Lovie Leffler.

In 1925, kids at the former Cottage Grove School crowd onto the slide during recess. (Photo from family albums of Shannon McFarlin)

Above: Esco Clifford and his wife with local fishing guide Bill Dye at the Paris Food Market with their great catch.

Right: The "Double V Club" at the historic Barrs Chapel C.M.E. Church on Briarpatch Lake Road outside of Paris. The Double V Club was an organization formed during WWII and stood for "Victory Abroad and Victory at Home for Black citizens." Also in the photo are several soldiers from Camp Tyson. The Barrs Chapel Church was one of the locations in Henry County for black soldiers at Camp Tyson to socialize and congregate.

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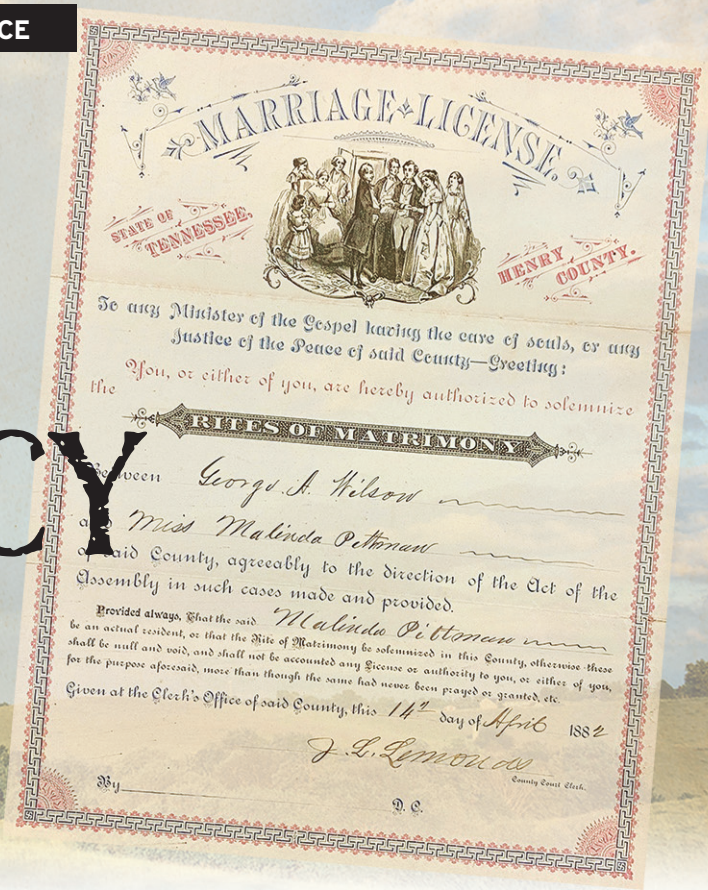
In The Spring A YOUNG MAN'S FANCY



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To any Minister of the Gospel having the care of souls, or any Justice of the Peace of said County—Greeting:

You, or either of you, are hereby authorized to solemnize the

RITES OF MATRIMONY

between George A. Wilson

and Miss Malinda Pittman

of said County, agreeably to the direction of the Act of the Assembly in such cases made and provided.

Provided always, That the said Malinda Pittman be an actual resident, or that the Rite of Matrimony be solemnized in this County, otherwise these shall be null and void, and shall not be accounted any License or authority to you, or either of you, for the purpose aforesaid, more than though the same had never been prayed or granted, etc.

Given at the Clerk's Office of said County, this 14th day of April 1882

J. L. Lemonds
County Court Clerk.

By _____ D. C.

By Thomas "Gary" Wallis

Imagine that it's 1882 and you are a 20-year-old male smitten with love. However, the love of your life is barely 16. In all likelihood her father won't consent to a wedding. Or, fearing the old gentleman would say worse, you're afraid to even mention the possibility of marriage. What's a poor fellow to do?

Now if you and your bride-to-be are Kentuckians and you happen to live close to Tennessee...well, your problems are solved! An elopement in the Volunteer State is the answer for you. And it was, indeed, the answer for George Wilson and Malinda Pittman in April 1882. However, their story was not your typical nuptial affair.

First, though, a bit of geography. George and five of his siblings lived in southeastern Graves County, Kentucky, with their widowed mother. Malinda lived nearby with her parents James and Elizabeth Pittman. Both families lived between Lynnville and Boydsville, the latter lies on the Kentucky-Tennessee line. Henry County would be only a mile or two east of Boydsville.

Getting back to our lovebirds, George and Malinda probably knew each other since childhood. Was theirs a quick decision to get married or had they made that decision long ago? We do not know. We do know that on Friday, April 14, 1882, George went to Paris accompanied by his friend, and fellow Graves Countian, William D. McClain.

Once in Paris the two young men proceeded to the County Court Clerk, Mr. J. L. Lemonds, to procure the necessary marriage license, with William serving as bondsman. Apparently the license was obtained in advance of the actual ceremony to insure the success of the elopement. After paying the necessary fee, George and William still had 75 cents in their possession. It would be a shame to not use the money to celebrate, right? And what better use of the money than to purchase good whisky!

Purchase in hand, they left Paris to return home but as they neared Boydsville, they began to consume said liquor. Naturally, the further they went the more they drank. A newspaper report at the time stated, "The whisky had a strange effect, for it made the imbibers think they were the James boys, and they told people on the road that they were these distinguished gentlemen. It is said that they made things lively on the road. They yelled and whooped, and abused those they met, and created quite a sensation."

Of course, some law-abiding citizen of Henry County complained about the young men's behavior. A warrant was soon issued, but the duo crossed the state line before a constable could make an arrest. So it seems that George and William had outsmarted the Tennessee law, right? But the Henry County officer was smarter than the young fellows thought. He knew that the marriage ceremony had to take place in Henry County. He just did not know what day George and William would return. He would be extra vigilant over the next few days.

One can only wonder how George explained his drunken Henry County shenanigans to Malinda...or if he told her at all!

George and Malinda had secured the services of Henry County Methodist minister John C. Poyner to marry them. The 50-year-old reverend was a resident of District 12 in Henry County, not all that far from where the young folks lived in Graves County.

Perhaps the couple knew Brother Poyner, as he had a relative, Dr. E. B. Poyner, who lived just outside of Boydsville. Perhaps Poyner had even preached at the Boydsville Methodist Church. Or perhaps George and Malinda had only heard of the good reverend, for he was, after all, very popular. Over his lifetime he performed 325 marriages. He was also said to have performed more funeral services perhaps than any man who ever lived in Henry County. But that's a different story.

Two days after obtaining the license – Sunday, April 16 – George, Malinda, and William rode their horses into Henry County, meeting on a road Brother Poyner and two witnesses he brought along (R. P. Cravins and Walter Brown, also District 12 residents).

Imagine the scene: bride, groom and bondsman sitting on their horses by the roadside, ever alert that the constable would soon arrive. Reverend Poyner likely officiated the ceremony much faster than normal.

It's a good thing the "official part" of a marriage ceremony doesn't take long. Just as the job was complete, the officer with the warrant and a posse dashed up, and the groom and his friend took flight, leaving behind the blushing bride and Brother Poyner. Hopefully, the new Mrs. Wilson knew that such a scenario might play out, otherwise, she must have been shocked to see the sudden departure of her husband!

The story has a happy ending, however, for the good reverend was "a gallant knight of the cloth and gallanted the beautiful bride over the state line, and it is presumed that ere this she has found her retreating lord."

POSTSCRIPT

George and Malinda Wilson settled down in Graves County, where George was a farmer and dealer in leaf tobacco. Malinda gave birth to nine children, six of whom were still alive in 1910. In 1920, the couple of 38 years was living on the Mayfield-Dublin Road.

On November 5, 1882, William D. McClain married Miss Martha E. Laws in Henry County. Once again, the services of Reverend John Poyner were utilized. It is not known if William got drunk on November 2, the day he obtained the marriage license.

John C. Poyner passed away on February 7, 1891. On that day the minister went to Cottage Grove "to attend church and was taken suddenly ill with paralysis of the brain and died in five hours."

He was the subject of an excellent obituary in the local paper. Among the phrases used to describe him were "a man full of good words and works, ever taking the lead in all moral questions in his community and always on the right side of all moral questions, true to his friends, who were legion..."

It's likely that the Wilsons and the McClains counted themselves within that circle.

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SPOTLIGHT

QUINN CHAPEL A.M.E. Church

Historically Rooted In Christ

By Shannon McFarlin

To say that the past few months have been eventful for Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Paris would be an understatement.

Since December, members of the historic Quinn Chapel A.M.E. have held a mortgage burning ceremony and have witnessed their church being placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Rev. John Dandridge summed it up this way: "To God be the Glory!"

Both achievements have represented a lot of hard work and determination by the congregants of the church, which has been an important fixture for the local African American community since the early 1900s. And they're only getting stronger.

In December, members of the church held a special service to commemorate burning the mortgage papers, quite an achievement for a small church. Long-time member George Combs had the honor of burning the papers, and there were dignitaries present who included Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield, Presiding Prelate 13th Episcopal District of A.M.E. Churches along with local and area trustees.

Quinn Chapel is one of the most historic churches in Henry County. The current structure was built in 1917 and the parsonage built circa 1910. Both are located at 216 Church Street. The original church building was constructed in 1868 and was located at the intersection of Curtis and Draper Streets. It moved to its current location in 1908.

The parishioners of the church were hands-on in their quest for placement on the National Register. Members helped compile the church history and a contingent of members attended the Tennessee Historical Commission meeting, at which the nomination was considered.

The Quinn Chapel nomination moved steadily through the required phases, from the Paris Historic Zoning Board to the Tennessee Historical Commission Review Board, until its approval in February by the National Park Service.

Quinn Chapel is added to the list of other Paris and Henry County structures which are included on the National Register, including Grove Tower, the White House on Whitehall Circle, Barrs Chapel C.M.E. Church, the Paris Academy for the Arts, Mt. Zion Church and cemetery, Governor James A. Porter home on Dunlap, the West Paris Historic District (including the JDC Atkins home on Hudson Street), Downtown Paris commercial district, and North Poplar Street district in Paris.

At the Tennessee Historic Commission meeting, the church's senior pastor, Rev. John Dandridge, described the group as 'enthusiastic' at the prospect of the historic church being added to the National Register. Quinn Chapel's former pastor, Brother Otto Duncan, was among those in attendance. All were wearing t-shirts that read, "Rooted in Christ" on the front and "Quinn Chapel Est. 1867" on the back.

An emotional Rev. Dandridge said on hearing the church had achieved its goal of placement on the National Register: "I can honestly say that

God has provided us with a GREAT support service and the best 'cheerleaders' ever! It is amazing to see the difference in a situation when you allow God to lead you, instead of you wandering off alone. As the scripture says, *...He will never leave you nor forsake you....* and we're so grateful for Him allowing us to have the strength, will power and wisdom to press forward when it was much easier to just give up, walk away and make excuses."

Rev. Dandridge continued, "We're all smiles 'cause He ain't done just yet...we will get all that He has planned for us and ours! We're grateful for Quinn Chapel's placement on the National Register of Historical places in Tennessee. A special thank you extended overall to the community and all county and city parties, especially Mayors John Ridgeway and Kathy Ray, their staffs, City Manager Kim Foster, and a host of faith leaders and their congregations. They played a pivotal and integral role along with the officers and members of Quinn Chapel AME Church in the nomination and selection process and we'd be remiss not to mention Miss Jessica Baker Historical Preservation Coordinator. To God be the Glory!"

The heart of Quinn Chapel AME has been its choir. From years past, here are some of its members. Back row, from left: Clark Crawford, Chas. Cooper, Nina Wynn, Rev. Coleman, Mary Will Gardner, Oscar Gardner, Eliz. Gillespie, Atkins Porter. Front, Annie Kendall, Tedrow Britt, Nell Porter, Anna McClure, Nellie Warren, Arch Irvin, Edward "Buster" Jones.

HCHS ALMA MATER

Words: Lamar C. Roberts
Music: William F. Crosswy
Arrangement: Jeremy O'Neal

All hail our Alma Mater;
We revere your hallowed halls
And you will be our guiding light
No matter what befalls.

We'll recall our values taught
As a beacon held on high;
For thee we cherish as we ought
As the years go rolling by.

Our hearts are bound by
friendship's tie
For Henry County High!

ALUMNI REUNIONS

A Trip Down Memory Lane

By Michele Webb

Alumni reunions are a fun and exciting – and at times, nerve-racking for Henry County High School graduates! This time of year, former students often begin planning for reunion gatherings to celebrate milestone years of their graduations. Some of these will be timed with fall football homecoming activities, some are scheduled during the summer and other times of year.

Welcoming classes back to campus for tours is one of our favorite activities. Of course, each group plans its own events, from tailgating to family picnics to sitting together in Patriot Stadium and cheering on the Big Red to formal dinners and dancing. Much fun is had! Though some alumni groups have requested tours of their alma mater through the years, the tours have gained popularity in recent years.

"All hail our Alma Mater;
We revere your hallowed halls..."

Tour groups typically include those who live in the area and others now living across our nation. Even those who live nearby enjoy the time walking the halls of HCHS, as they may only come for a ballgame or theatrical performance through the years. HCHS alumni are always welcome home.

As Henry County High School graduates walk the halls of their youth, story after story of reminiscing is heard. Each group has its own special memories, but highlights always include walking into Gamlin Gym where memories of games, pep rallies, and prom (*gasp!*...before air conditioning!) come flooding back. Though the cafeteria has had a more recent facelift, alumni can be heard talking about where they sat, what line they ate from each day, and more.

Other popular spots include the original band room (recently converted to a college-like Socratic Seminar room) and the hallway between the library and theater which held lockers for many years (now the HCHS Art Gallery which displays the work of our talented visual art students).

"And you will be our guiding light no matter what befalls."

Time at Henry County High School for our students provides a foundation for the world our graduates will face. Several years ago, while the HCHS Class of 1977 was touring, Daisie Wheeler Boettner's classmates were excited to see her recognized as they passed the HCHS Theater Wall of Fame. As the Class of 1977 valedictorian, West Point's first female graduate from Tennessee, and a professor at the prestigious military academy, Ms. Boetter credited her "experiences

in high school speech" with the "skills (that) have served me well in every assignment during my career as an Army officer."

"We'll recall our values taught as a beacon held on high..."

Something about walking the halls of your alma mater brings back memories of lessons learned, from former teachers and classmates. As our graduates walk the halls, they often recall the values taught within the walls of our five buildings on this 50-acre campus.

"For thee we cherish as we ought as the years go rolling by."

The years do go rolling by. During the 2022-23 school year, tours have been given to the Henry County High School Classes of 1972, 1982, 1992, 1997, 2000 (whose reunion was delayed due to COVID), and 2002. Several groups have toured together, which makes for a unique comparison between different years.

"Our hearts are bound by friendship's tie for Henry County High!"

It is our goal that the HCHS alma mater hold a special place in the hearts of our alumni and to do so, several traditions have been established over recent years with our current students. After home football games on Friday nights, a seven-year tradition brings our football players, cheerleaders, band and Madrigal members, and the Red Swarm student section together at the end of the game to sing the alma mater song.

Time during the fall is spent teaching our new sophomores the Alma Mater and singing contests between grade levels take place at pep rallies, led by our HCHS Student Ambassadors. Our hearts are, indeed, bound by the tie of friendship from time spent at Henry County High School.

TheGraduation Ceremony each year ends as the senior Madrigals lead their peers in the singing of the school anthem and red caps soar in the air on the final words..."Henry County High!"

If your alumni group is planning a reunion, please feel free to reach out to the school at 731-642-5232 to schedule your tour!

Reliving days gone by, a former basketball player takes a shot in the Gamlin Gym.

Class of 1972 reunion members stop for a photo while touring their old high school.

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CLAIRE LAYNE

Henry County Native Wins Best Animation Award

By Meredith Vajda

Buchanan native and animator Claire Layne was drawn to fantasy films at an early age. She was entranced by Dreamworks and Pixar and Walt Disney films like "Tangled," historically-based but with a bit of fantasy. That, combined with her severe astigmatism and resulting need to see things close-up, led to a love of drawing.

Combining the two, she entered Austin Peay State University in the inaugural class at the newly rebuilt Art Department building, majoring in animation. Her senior thesis, completed during COVID, was a short film called "Sagiso," which recently won the award for Best Animation at Warsaw's 16th Annual Grand OFF World Independent Cinema Awards.

She collected her award in person, as she and her mother were invited to attend at the festival's expense. Claire entered her film in over 200 film festivals around the world. It was accepted into 18. At Grand OFF, it was one of 55 films accepted out of 4,100 submissions. The animation category had five films accepted, and hers was the only one from the United States.

Every artist likes appreciation and recognition. Claire and her family are especially appreciative of the local news articles and television interviews that have prompted an outpouring of community support. She says in all of the publicity that her success received so far is directly attributable to Gene Snowden and the art lessons she took from him at Paris Academy for the Arts.

Claire's story started years before her festival win, growing up as an only child in Buchanan. She attended a private school in Murray, Kentucky, through fourth grade and then was home-schooled from fifth grade through high school. Her parents made extra efforts to connect her with other home-schooled students, and eagerly supplemented her home schooling with lessons outside of that environment.

They encouraged her interest and skill in drawing by enrolling her at age 14 in classes with Gene Snowden at Paris Academy for the Arts in order to learn the basics of painting and drawing. She was sometimes the youngest student in a group class that consisted of adults. Other times she took private lessons with Gene.

Claire credits the Academy's scholarship program with allowing her to advance without concerns about funding. Gene says she had a natural knack and before she left for college she was dabbling in two-dimensional animation.

In her mid-teens, Claire was accepted to a one-month summer course at Governor's School for the Arts on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. Each student was encouraged to nominate one person as their mentor, to accept an award of recognition in a ceremony for them all.

Claire nominated Gene. To her surprise, he was the only nominated

mentor who attended the ceremony. She was pleased he had the spotlight to himself and it cemented their respect and admiration for each other in pursuit of her dreams.

During college, Claire worked on two other animated short films as class projects, "Hangmen's Den" and "Family Bonds." Both were group projects with the latter a challenge to create a 30-second film in 24 hours, working with nothing more than a contest prompt.

The idea for "Sagiso" started with historical research in 2017, moving on to the storyboarding phase where rough sketches, character design, and camera angles are planned. After that, the real art begins, with animating through drawings, followed by adding color.

The film's story grew from Claire's love of folk tales. A young Japanese girl visits a Shinto shrine, and a mysterious spirit follows her home. The spirit morphs into a crane and leaves the girl in the middle of the night, taking with her the several origami cranes, collected on a table, that change from paper to real birds.

The message is finding wonder in the ordinary. The 5½ minute animated short film is enchanting, featuring delicate forms and soft colors, set in a traditional Japanese landscape, with soothing narration and natural character movement. The film may be view on YouTube.

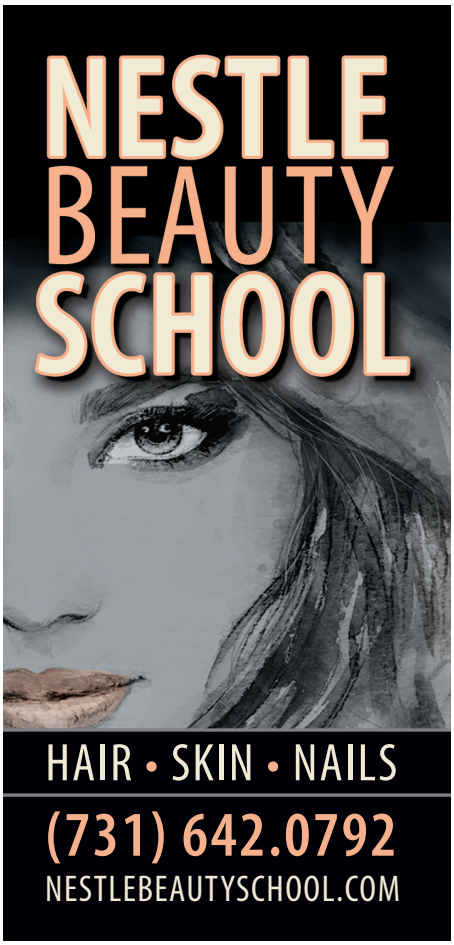
Claire's determination for a career in animation is taking her to Burbank, California, for four days in November to attend Creative Talent Network, a gathering for artists, animators, students, instructors, film-makers, and other people in the trade. Attendees share artwork, concept books for their projects, and schedule one-on-one portfolio reviews with professionals, getting feedback on their work and on possible projects on which to work. Her concept book will be comprised of three short stories, the basis for which she hopes to attract contracts for work.

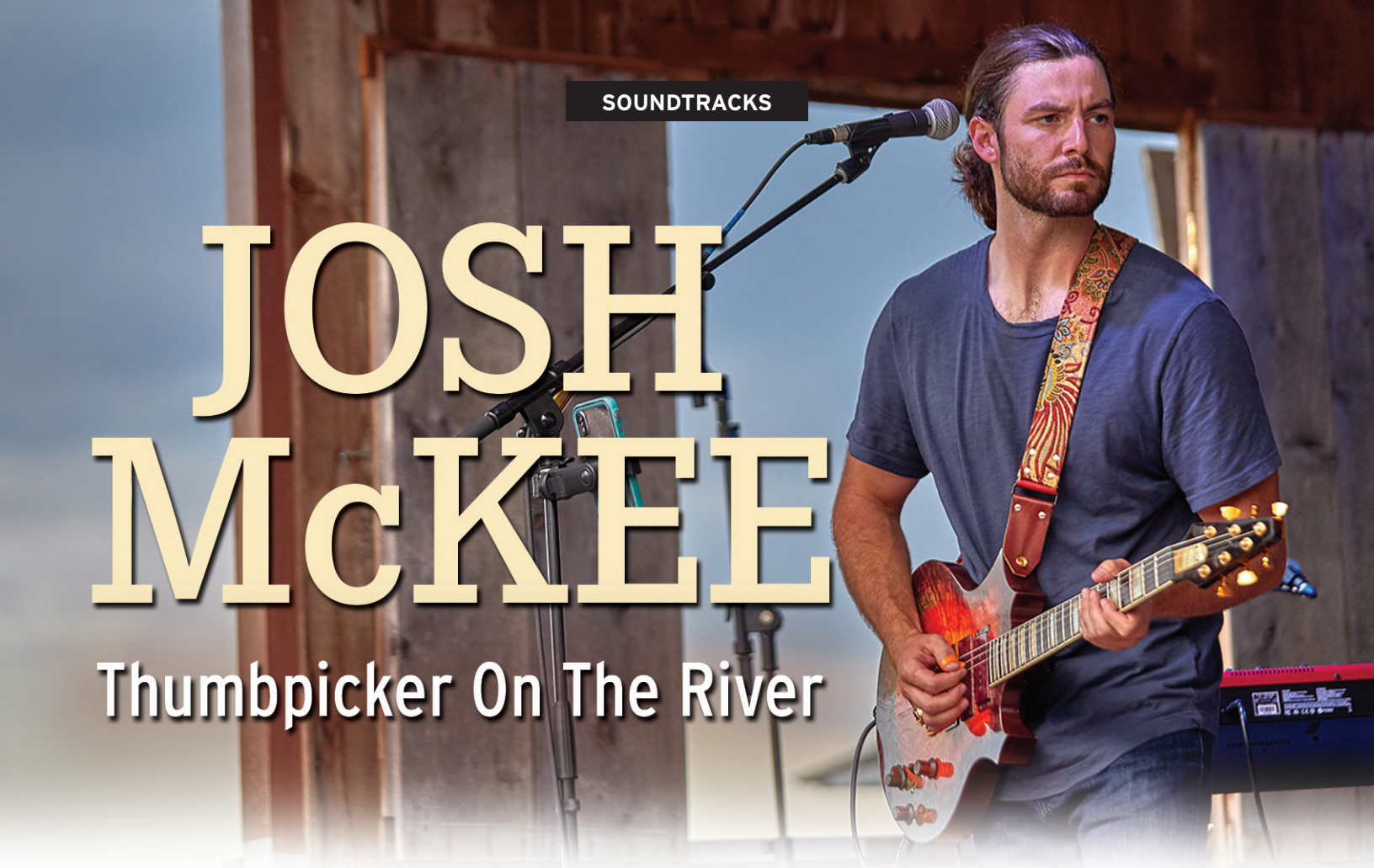
Claire's non-art experiences are varied and impressive. At age 12, she placed second in the regional spelling bee, one of seven Henry County students who had earned spots. She volunteered in the Young Eagles Program with the Civil Air Patrol at the Henry County Airport, which was an introduction to flying and to colleges' ROTC programs. Discipline and physical exercise were hallmarks of the training, which included a two-week encampment at Fort Campbell.

Claire Layne recently won the award for Best Animation at 16th Annual Grand OFF World Independent Cinema Awards. She credits her success to artist Gene Snowden and his classes at Paris Academy for the Arts for her interest in drawing and painting.

She also participated in Alternative Break Trips through Austin Peay's Community Engagement Center, doing volunteer post-hurricane home repair in Florida, rain forest cleanup in Puerto Rico, Mississippi River cleanup in Illinois, environmental work for Tall Grass Prairie in Oklahoma, and a one-week course in communications and organization for non-profits in London, England. In 2019, she was named APSU's Volunteer of the Year.

After graduating in 2021, Claire began working with the AmeriCorps Vista program as a financial literacy coordinator. With that ending in August, Claire's college loans will be paid off and, as she says, a new chapter will begin.





JOSH McKEE

Thumbpicker On The River

The state of Tennessee is home to many genres of music. Nashville might be known as Music City USA, but Henry County is a community filled with talented musicians and songwriters too.

By Kathy Ray

In this article of "Soundtracks," meet local favorite, Josh McKee, a river rat thumbpicker who has spent most of his life on the Big Sandy River, Tennessee River, and Kentucky Lake.

"I often say these waters have fed me all my life. I grew up boat tending for my dad and brother while they were diving for muscle shells. I spent my late teens and 20's playing every marina and bar I could," said McKee. "I have worked at Buchanan Resort & Marina for the past seven years. I can remember boat tending while singing Jim Croce songs as loud as I could without a soul in sight. The only harm done was scaring a few fish."

When asked who inspired him to start playing music, he said, "My late father, Jeff McKee, played piano, guitar, and sang like a bird all while having great control and texture to his voice. He was a preacher, and I grew up playing in our praise and worship band. I learned a lot about music in church. I learned how to play with others and be a part of a band. I sure do miss those times."

Josh started playing drums at the age of three. He picked up guitar around age 12, then bass and piano, and the 5-string banjo at age 27. "I wouldn't call myself a master of any but I do enjoy them all."

Josh started Eagle Creek Sound, an audio recording and sound absorption company in 2018. His home studio is set up mostly for overdubs and songwriting demos. Josh said, "Lately I have enjoyed that side of the fence, so to speak. My father-in-law and I built a computer. I had Dave Wheeler of Wave Audio make my dream microphone, a replica of an M49 Neumann. It was a big learning curve for me, but I have thoroughly enjoyed it. Musicians come to the house, we track their instrument, then email the files to be mixed into the artist's song. The other side to Eagle Creek Sound is that I install acoustic absorption panels in residential and commercial properties."

When asked who's his musical inspiration or influence, he said, "My first and foremost influence was my dad. I truly owe him everything. Jon Hays was a guitar player at our church who taught me rock n' roll licks every Sunday. He was very patient with me and took me under his wing during a very crucial learning period of my life. When you're young, your brain is a sponge and nothing seems impossible."

"I played music every day, hours a day, for years. I attended Middle Tennessee State University where I met Professor Matt Lund. He opened my eyes to jazz and guitar theory. I met Randy Kohrs of Slack Key studio when I was 22. He has been a mentor to me ever since and I cherish our friendship. I had a dream come true

moment around age 17 when I took private lessons with Brent Mason, my favorite guitarist of all time. He made me want to be a better musician."

What is your favorite part of being a musician? Josh replied, "The aspect of personal expression is the most beautiful thing about music. People often say it's the universal language and that is so true. You can make someone feel happy, mad, sad, all with the same note. It's all in how you approach it. A well-written song can take you on a journey, kind of like what reading a book will do."

We talked about his favorite performances. "I got a call from Matt Lund, my guitar instructor from MTSU. He was calling some of his favorite former students to play on his record. He asked if I would play a chicken pickin' solo on a country instrumental that he wrote. It meant a lot to me since he has taught for years and had so many students to choose from.

When asked about his favorite musician to perform with, he said, "Randle Currie, steel guitarist for Brad Paisley, is probably the most gifted musician I have ever played with. His pitch and dynamic control of the steel guitar is unmatched in my opinion. Playing live with my good buddy, John McDaniel, is always an electrifying time! We have a blast from the moment we load up in the van until the time we pull back in the driveway!"

What is the best advice another musician has given you? "I was recording at Slack Key studio in my mid 20's. Randy Kohrs was in the mixing room upstairs," Josh said. "I wasn't nailing the part, and Randy came over the talk back and said 'Hey man, you ain't got it today'. I replied, 'What do you mean?' He replied 'the 5 P's brother – Preparation Prevents P%#s Poor Performance. Let's pack up and try this another time.' This was truly the most humbling experience of my musical life and it changed my perception and respect for music. I never showed up not prepared again."

Josh said the best advice he would give a new musician is practice. "When you think you've practiced enough, practice more. Record yourself. Critique yourself. Everything can be polished."

When asked what he wants folks to remember about him, he said, "I'm just a thumbpicker who has the privilege of doing what I love with the people I love. I enjoy life every day, no matter what is going on around me."

If you have not heard Josh McKee play music, I encourage you to give him a listen. Check out his Facebook page for upcoming performances.

John McKee: "When you think you've practiced enough, practice more."

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RECORD BREAKING HELPING HAND

By Shannon McFarlin

In a year of breaking records for the Henry County Helping Hand Radio Auction, the best was saved for last. Grand total of money raised for 2023 was an astounding $519,630 – much, much higher than ever before.

Records were made and broken several times in the course of the two-month auction this year. It was the earliest that the Auction hit the $100,000 mark. It was the earliest the auction hit the $200,000 and $300,000 marks. And it was the first time ever that the Auction hit the $400,000 mark. The previous all-time record amount raised was $388,460 (set in 2022) and Helping Hand met that goal this year and just kept going.

By February 25, Helping Hand had broken its own record by $4,000 and there were still three more days to go. The next day, the Helping Hand Radio Auction made history again – hitting the $400,000 for the first time ever ($400,913, actually), but no one rested on any laurels. There were still two days to go.

Donated items were still arriving steadily and in big numbers. Even on the usually slower last day, which is "Open to Anyone Day," items kept pouring in and bids were high. The last day's items included 20 gallons of Paris Lions Club chili which were left over from the Lions Club's annual Chili Day the previous day and were a very popular item. After all, it is 'world-famous' chili.

All the volunteers and organizers knew going into the last day that the final tally would be a record, but auctioneer Andy Collins broke the big news on the air: A $100,000 donation had been received from an anonymous donor.

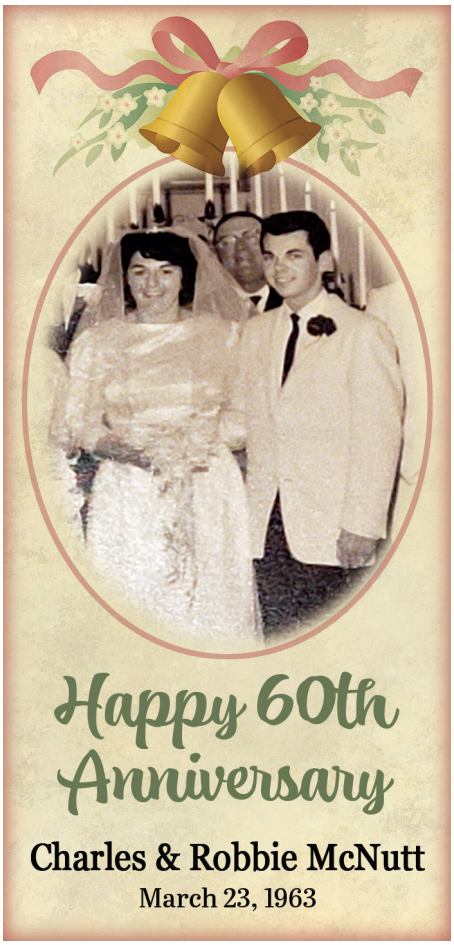
Cheers broke out among the volunteers on hand and the auction just kept on going, with high bids coming in all afternoon, finally reaching the grand total of $519,630 as the final bid was tallied.

With two years of limited auctions due to COVID, people seemed energized to get back into the spirit of Helping Hand from the get-go this year. Large numbers of volunteers were on hand every day, live audiences were big again, record numbers of donations of baked goods, meals, collectibles, quilts, and much more were pouring in. And bids were very, very high.

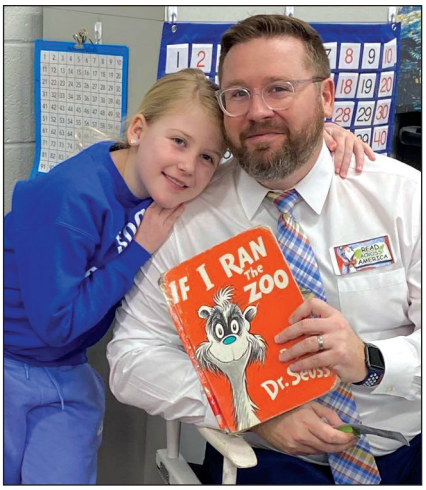
The friendly rivalry between the First Methodist and First Baptist Churches brought forth their own records. First United Methodist members raising $31,626 at their afternoon and evening auctions, only to be bested by First Baptist, which raised a whopping $36,771. Both churches donated hundreds of items, bid high and served lunch on their days.

The Henry County Helping Hand Radio Auction is something the county holds dear as our very own creation. With the auction aired six days a week on local radio stations WTPR or WHNY, it is a tangible way that Henry Countians take care of their own, raising thousands of dollars each year for over 80 local public service and non-profit organizations.

A small army of organizers and volunteers keep it going each year like a well-oiled machine. Raising funds one homemade pie at a time.



Madison Lee Vermillion, daughter of Mike and Misty Vermillion, was crowned the 2023 Hostess Princess for the World's Biggest Fish Fry.



Paris Elementary Principal Dr. Chip Gray and his daughter Laurel reading a favorite Dr. Seuss book as part of the school's lunch time reading program, for which volunteers have been sought.

Donna and Bobby Milam serve up some of Miss D's chili at the Henry County Has Heart Chili Cookoff fundraiser. The event was hosted by Leadership Henry County and raised funds to purchase AEDs for public places in the county.

Anna Evans was sworn in by Scout Leader Kathy Steele at a special ceremony. Anna is the first female Eagle Scout in the Northwest Tennessee area and she is in Troop 3.

Holy Cross Church donated proceeds from its Oktoberfest to the Henry County Helping Hand Radio Auction. Pictured, from left: Vicky Sinclair, Linda Haesler, Joe Mahan and Leila Kackley.
John Berryman photo

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Dan Knowles, Eddie Coffey and Friends perform at a Paris/Henry County Bicentennial fundraiser at the Paris Academy for the Arts.

Scout Troop 40100 had a Valentine's Day surprise for Paris Assistant Police Chief Ean Reed by delivering cookies to him at the police station. Scouts are Stella Policastro, Alexis Dudenhofer, Gracie Colgate-Spicer, Rayna Lewis, and Chloe Cuddeford. *Photo by Brittany Cuddeford*

Rick Conger of Paris Karate visited Rhea School and read to several second grade classes during Read Across America Week.

Retiring Paris Police Sgt. Tony Hutcherson received the Drum Major for Justice Award at this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day program. Pictured with him is his long-time Chief Charles Elizondo.

During the kickoff of the Great American Cleanup during Keep Tennessee Beautiful Month, Diann McGuire was presented with the the 2023 Love Where You Live Award. Presenting were Missy Marshall, KTnB Executive Director, Stine Moss -Copperwood, Community Service Coordinator, and Henry County Mayor John Penn Ridgeway.

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Oaklawn Brick Wall

NOT A ONE HIT WONDER!

Throughout the years, the intersection of East Wood Street and Tyson Avenue in Paris has gained a certain amount of notoriety. The heavily traveled area has been the site of many traffic accidents that have caused parts of the retaining wall to be reduced to rubble repeatedly. Unfortunately, the results has caused the decorative wall to become a local attraction and a bit of a running gag.

PARIS! Magazine was able to obtain this exclusive interview with our favorite long-suffering landmark, the Oaklawn Brick Wall.

PARIS!: Thank you for talking with PARIS! Magazine. How are you doing today?
OBW: I've been better but I'm hanging in there under the circumstances, thank you.

PARIS!: Vehicles have hit you several times. Do you know how many times in recent years?
OBW: I've lost count. It seems I barely get repaired before I'm down again.

PARIS!: I imagine you have quite a headache and feel achy after a crash, but you come back strong. Do you require therapy each time?
OBW: I'm starting to feel the effects of so many hits, but I'm pretty resilient. I haven't received physical therapy but venting on Facebook has been a source of mental therapy. Knowing that so many people are aware of my situation and want the best for me has done a lot for my peace of mind.

PARIS!: Speaking of Facebook, we've noticed you have quite a few followers on social media and you've become quite a hit – no pun intended. Why did you start your Facebook page and do you consider yourself an influencer?

OBW: I started my page because I was bored on a snow day, but I also thought it might be a great way to bring awareness to my seemingly endless plight.

I don't consider myself an influencer, but I'm hoping to influence drivers to turn left or right when they come to the intersection.

PARIS!: You see quite a few drivers at the Tyson Avenue/Wood Street intersection. Do you have any advice for motorists?
OBW: My main advice would be to pay attention and turn your wheel when you come to a spot where you run out of road.

PARIS!: Are you on first name basis with the brick layers and painters who do your repairs?
OBW: I feel I know them well. I'm not sure if it's anything more than job security to them, but they always do a wonderful job repairing me.

PARIS!: On a lighter note, we heard you have a great music playlist. Do you mind sharing some of your favorite songs?
OBW: I really enjoy Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in the Wall" and Conway Twitty's "Hello Walls." I used to like the Dave Matthews Band's song "Crash Into Me" but I don't care for that one anymore, for obvious reasons.

PARIS!: If a movie was made about your life, what actor would you like to portray you?
OBW: Johnny Depp is good at playing different characters. I'd like to see what he could do with the role of an unfortunate wall.

PARIS!: You must see some interesting happenings at that busy intersection. Do you have a story you'd like to share with our readers?

OBW: The one story that comes to mind is the story of the guy who crashed into me because his GPS told him to stay straight. Even I had to laugh at that one.

PARIS!: We must close now. Any last words for our readers?
OBW: I'll leave you with a little poem I wrote to help people remember what to do when they get to the stoplight in front of me: *"Right on red or left instead, but never, never straight ahead."*

DRIVE SAFE, Henry County!

POSTSCRIPT: *The Oaklawn Brick Wall and PARIS! Magazine wish not to trivialize any tragic event that has occurred at the Tyson Avenue/Wood Street intersection. Together, we have taken a lighthearted approach to call attention to a chronic traffic problem.*

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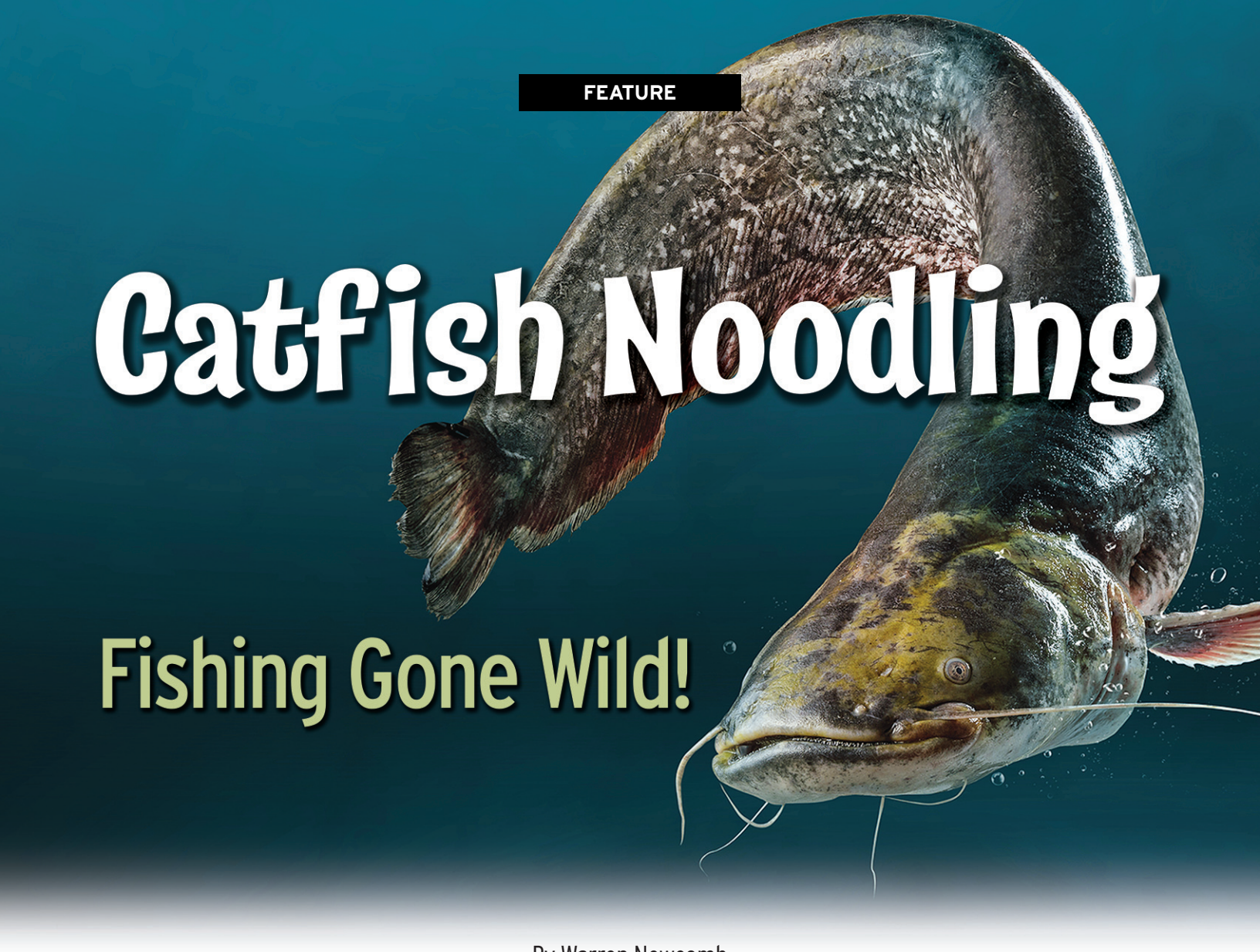
FEATURE

Catfish Noodling

Fishing Gone Wild!



By Warren Newcomb

When you hear the word "fishing," you probably imagine standing knee deep in the water, lazily throwing a line, and hoping to hook a few trout for dinner.

While some people enjoy that kind of fishing, others prefer fishing with an adrenaline rush. Some call it grabbling. Others call it hand fishing or tickling. Most know the sport as "noodling." No matter what you call it, the essentials are the same: dive into murky water, reach into a dark hole, try to get a catfish to attack you, grab it, and hold on with all you've got until you jerk it out of the water, and hoist it over your head for a moment of sweet victory! You just caught yourself a catfish!

You're probably thinking, "Why would anyone want to do that?" The number one reason: it's a ton of FUN. Noodling is a unique kind of experience that you just can't find every day. There's something about the cool water, the thrill and pride that fills you as you realize you caught a flathead catfish with your own two hands, and the messiness of it all that is absolutely thrilling!

Plus, noodling is a group sport, for safety reasons and just for fun, so you'll find yourself laughing and sharing stories with your fishing buddies for years to come!

WHO GOES CATFISH NOODLING?

Noodling is one of the craziest ways to catch a fish that you could imagine! It involves serious strength, a whole lot of mud, and a little bit of crazy. Put all those things together and you get what is quite possibly the most redneck sport in America. Also known as "Hillybillly Handfishing," noodling is most common in the midwestern and southern states.

Surprisingly, noodling is actually illegal in 34 states! Don't let that stop you, though. There are still 16 states where handfishing is legal, and lucky for us, Tennessee is one of them!

While noodling is typically a redneck sport, it's not just for the country boys and girls out there! Noodling is a fantastic sport for anyone who wants to experience nature fully – by getting in and living and breathing it. It gives you the opportunity to spend an afternoon with a group of buddies, laughing and living life, and then enjoy the spoils of your catch in the evening, fresh-caught and delicious catfish. It's also a fantastic opportunity to try something new and challenging.

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Catfish noodling – not for the faint of heart!

So how long has noodling been around? Well, let's find out.

HISTORY OF NOODLING

Noodling just might be the most American thing you could ever do. In *The History of the American Indians*, written in 1775 by James Adair, the author describes a curious method of hunting catfish that was used by Native Americans.

This method involves capturing the fish while they're relaxing by the rocks in the water and pulling them out by hand. That sounds like catfish tickling, for sure.

Since those days, country boys took a lesson from those who knew the New World best. Travelers started snatching fish out of the water as a fascinating method of fishing. It used to be a necessary activity and people relied on it to put food on the table. Now, it's just an adventure junkie's dream.

While the purpose of noodling has changed over the years, the joy and sense of accomplishment is still the same. We encourage you to dig deep into your inner "wild side" and charge out onto Kentucky Lake to capture a big old catfish of your own.

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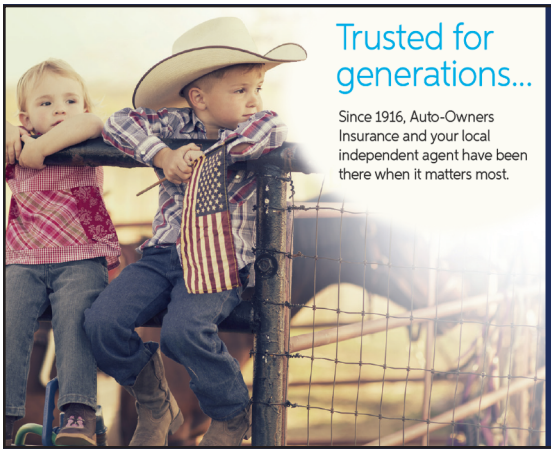

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Celebrating the Importance of Pets!

MEATING THE NEED

By Karen Geary

Building a family business is never easy. It takes hard work, dedication, and love to hold all the pieces together plus develop a vision for the future. For Kris and Amby Gulish, the expansion vision of the family's Laurel Hill Cattle Co. is coming to fruition.

Opening soon is Laurel Hill Processing, and to many meat producers, it is a welcome and needed addition to the county. The project began two years ago and was initially designed to be an extension of the family ranch. Kris' parents, Eugene and Christina Gulish, began their cattle business in 1973 in California. In 1994, they moved their operations to Puryear, Tennessee."We have spent many years building the ranch, its facilities, and the cow herd since our arrival," said Kris.

"We are a cow/calf operation, producing primarily commercial cattle, but we also keep registered herds of Simmental, Angus, Maine Anjou, some show cattle, and a few Herefords. Much of the daily management is handled by the two of us, our son Gatlin, as well as our herdsman, Heath Wrye."

But the patriarch of the family is not far from the minds of Kris and Amby as they walk about their new building. "Although we lost Dad last June, we have carried on his ambitious goal of seeing this though.

Hanging prominently in the Laurel Hill showroom is a photograph of a young Gene Gulish with his prize-winning steer. It was his vision to begin the family ranch.

Throughout Dad's life, he always set high expectations for himself and those around him. This facility represents one of the final achievements he envisioned, among so many that he already accomplished. Mom still holds a deep interest in the cattle operation and has been instrumental in bringing Dad's idea to reality."

The processing facility includes holding pens, live scales, rooms for harvest, aging, and processing, a sausage kitchen, a smokehouse, and plenty of finished product freezers. There is also an attractive retail store in front with product cases and wood paneled walls featuring Amby's photography of the ranch's cattle. The building itself was planned and constructed by local contractors Ed and Luke Cuthbertson, and Kris stated that the two had been "invaluable and a tremendous blessing."

"Amby left her job in town over a year ago to manage the processing business, order equipment, design the layout, deal with regulatory issues, and anything else that went into this undertaking."

Kris still works five days a week as a certified physician assistant for Innovative Orthopedics. The couple met while studying agriculture at Murray State University, but nothing prepared them for what it took to begin a business of this scale.

As their cattle business grew in recent years, Laurel Hill began marketing their own USDA label beef.

"This has proven to be beneficial to our business. But equally important, customers have been able to enjoy locally grown, source-verified beef of high quality and competitive prices," said Kris.

But like many during the COVID pandemic, the meat producing business was hurt. "We have had difficulty getting dates for processing. With the infrequency of dates and length of wait, it has become difficult to inform customers and manage cattle on feed efficiently."

"Although we have great processors in our area, the demand has historically been greater than existing companies can keep up with," stated Kris. "This facility will be able to handle the ranch's needs to get our product to our customers, but it will also be open for other local producers to market their products to the community as well. This is a small-scale business, but in Tennessee, the average cow herd is relatively small. In my opinion, our nation needs more of these facilities to meet the need and allow cattle producers to control their market."

In addition to processing beef, Laurel Hill Processing is equipped to process other meat, such as pork. "We will offer sheep and goat processing for the Henry County Fair, and deer during season. We will close our USDA line and only process deer during the majority of hunting season," Kris said.

Kris Gulish explains some of the equipment in the processing room of Laurel Hill Processing Co.

In an era of more savvy consumers, Kris encourages shoppers to look into local options. "I encourage producers and consumers to build relationships. Within the beef market, there are several avenues – grain fed, grass fed, organic, antibiotic and hormone free. Waygu beef, Angus beef, Hereford beef...it can be endless. But if you know a producer that raises them the way you like, have them grow your beef. Now more than ever, people want to know where their food comes from."

Laurel Hill Processing will offer frozen halves or whole beeves which were raised on the ranch. Also, fresh or frozen select cuts will be available by the pound at their store front located at 7926 Highway 641 North in Puryear. You can also follow the company on Facebook.

A 1910 Hobart meat grinder is on exhibit in the Laurel Hill Processing's showroom. It was owned by Amby Gulish's grandfather, Dannie Edwards.

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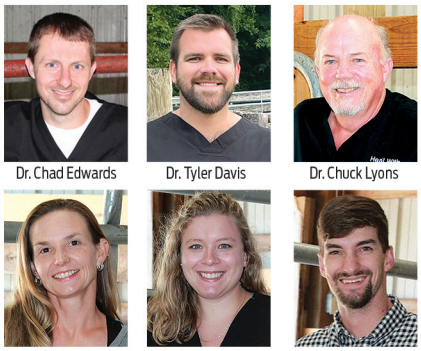
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Egg-cellent EGGS!

When it comes to fan-favorite breakfast ingredients, nothing is more beloved than eggs. Whether you prefer them scrambled, sunny side up, fried or poached, eggs are not only delicious, they're extremely versatile too.

In fact, we can confidently say, there are so many ways to cook eggs that you'll enjoy them for lunch and dinner as well.

You can't beat eggs for their nutritional value. One egg has only 75 calories but 7 grams of high-quality protein, 5 grams of fat, and 1.6 grams of saturated fat, along with iron, vitamins, minerals, and carotenoids.

Enjoy this easy and tasty biscuit egg-in-a-hole recipe that your kids will love to help prepare. The "big kids" will enjoy these yummy bites, too.

And nothing ushers Spring into your menu like creamy egg salad with green olives for sandwiches or crispy crackers. It is also good for a convenient meal on a bed of lettece.

You'll be thanking us for these "egg-cellent" new recipes. They really are all they're "cracked" up to be.

BISCUIT EGG-IN-A-HOLE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 can of homestyle big biscuit
- 8 eggs
- 1 cup diced ham
- 1 cup finely shredded cheddar cheese
- ¼ cup chopped onion
- ¼ cup chopped green peppers

DIRECTIONS

1. Whisk the eggs in a large bowl and add all other ingredients into them. Set aside.
2. Cut a 1 to 2-inch circle out of the center of each biscuit with a cookie cutter. Then place uncooked biscuits in a buttered oven proof skillet over medium heat until toasted on the bottom, 2-3 minutes. Flip them over in the skillet.
3. Evenly pour egg mixture into the hole of each biscuit. Season with a dash of salt and pepper and cook until the egg starts setting up, about 2 minutes.
4. Transfer the skillet to a 375° F and bake 4-8 minutes until desired doneness.

CREAMY EGG SALAD with GREEN OLIVES

INGREDIENTS

- 6 hard boiled eggs
- 2 T. sweet pickle relish
- 2 - 3 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 tsp. dry mustard (or prepared yellow mustard)
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- Dash of cayenne pepper
- 1/2 c. sliced pimiento-stuffed green olives

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Coarsely chop the hard boiled eggs; place in a mixing bowl.
2. Add the sweet salad cubes (or relish), mayonnaise, mustard, salt, and pepper; stir until combined.
3. Gently stir in the sliced olives.
4. Cover and chill for about 20 to 30 minutes before serving

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FEATURE

Spring Brings Out The Honeybees

by Bernard Leslie

A sure sign of Spring is the first spotting of honeybees in our yards, gardens, and orchards. As the earth in our area warms and comes alive and the first flowers emerge and trees blossom, if you look closely, you'll see honeybees working, gathering pollen and nectar.

Being a beekeeper, I watch the bees this time of the year because it is the start of the nectar flow and the bees are busy collecting nectar and pollen. During the winter they are in cluster – bees huddle together in a ball during the winter vibrating their wing muscles to keep warm, keeping the interior of the hive at about 95 degrees year around. They cool the air in the hive during the summer months by beating their wings over open cells filled with water.

As the weather warms up, the bees burst out of the hive and start collecting nectar and pollen. Warmer weather triggers workers to start flying greater distances in their search of nectar and pollen. As the bees bring in pollen, the queen will go from laying a handful of eggs per day to laying up to 1,500 eggs a day. This is called colony buildup. The hive grows from its wintertime number of about 10,000 to 20,000 bees to fifty, 60,000 or even 70,000 thousand bees.

INTERESTING HONEYBEE FACTS

Honeybees, unlike any other insect, continually produce surplus food during the warmer months in the form of honey. There are about 2,500 native bees in North America, but none of which are honeybees. All honeybees come from Europe, Africa, or Asia, brought here by the early colonists.

The honeybee is unique in so many ways. It's a social insect, governed by a queen, who emits pheromones that control, identify and regulate the colony. There is only one queen in a colony, who may live for up to four years. Even though the queen is the top bee there are two things she cannot control: making a new queen and swarming.

The queen determines the sex of each egg she lays – female eggs (workers and potential queens) are fertilized and male eggs (drones) are unfertilized eggs. She mates with drones after she emerges from her queen cell, flying off on mating flights for the first couple of days, mating with as many as 40 drones. She stores enough sperm in her body to last her for about two years.

Swarms consist of about one half of the colony leaving the hive with the old queen and workers in various stages of their lives. After leaving the hive, the swarming bees will generally settle on a low branch or even on the ground for a short time while the scout bees are looking for a proper home. A swarm is the way honeybees reproduce their colony while the queen reproduces individual bees.

Almost the entire colony of honeybees is composed of female workers with a small number of drones. The workers are the only bees that will sting you; the queen will not. She will only sting a queen larva or another queen, and her stinger is straight like a hornet or wasp stinger. The worker's stinger on the other hand has a barb and venom sac that is left behind when she stings, and it pulsates for a while after she stings. She will die shortly after stinging because when she leaves the stinger and venom sac, she literally pulls her body apart.

The workers are the bees we see gathering pollen and nectar in our

gardens and on our lawns and trees. Those bees are in the last stage of their lives and are called foraging bees.

Inside the hive when honeybees emerge from their cocoons, they immediately clean the cell and then spend the next few days caring for the queen, eggs and larva. Her next stage is to build comb to store honey in, taking nectar and pollen from foraging bees and depositing it into honey cells, then capping the honey.

In her last stages of life, she guards the entrance to the hive (where you are most likely to be stung) and forages up to two miles from the hive for nectar and pollen.

In rare cases, workers can lay eggs but only if there is no queen or the queen is very weak. These eggs are all males because the workers have never mated with a drone. Beekeepers can easily tell when a hive has a weak queen or no queen by looking at the brood pattern and seeing only spotty drone brood.

Drones have the life of leisure since the workers feed and groom them. Their only job is to go on mating flights everyday where the drones congregate in a small cloud of bees waiting for a queen to mate with. If they don't mate they come back to the hive. Once a drone mates with a queen, he dies soon afterwards because when he mates with a queen he deposits a sperm packet in her body, much like when a worker stings he leaves behind a part of himself, causing him to die.

LEARNING ABOUT BEEKEEPING

There is so much more left to be said about the honeybee. While you can start learning about beekeeping any time of the year, the spring is the best time to establish new colonies. In Tennessee, new colonies must build up strength and store honey throughout the summer in order to survive the winter months.

You can read up on beekeeping either in books or online. One resource that is free and highly regarded is "Beekeeping in Tennessee." You can download it from the University of Tennessee's website.

Are you interested in becoming a beekeeper? Beekeeping can be enjoyed by almost anyone, whether you live on a farm or have nothing more than a backyard for your new hobby. What's the first step? Find a local beekeeping club, such as the Kentucky Lake Beekeepers Association that meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at the Farm Bureau office on Poplar Street at 7 pm.

While there are plenty of great books and online resources for prospective beekeepers, the best way to learn the craft is through discussion and observation with experienced beekeepers. We'd love for you to join us and see what all the "buzz" is about.

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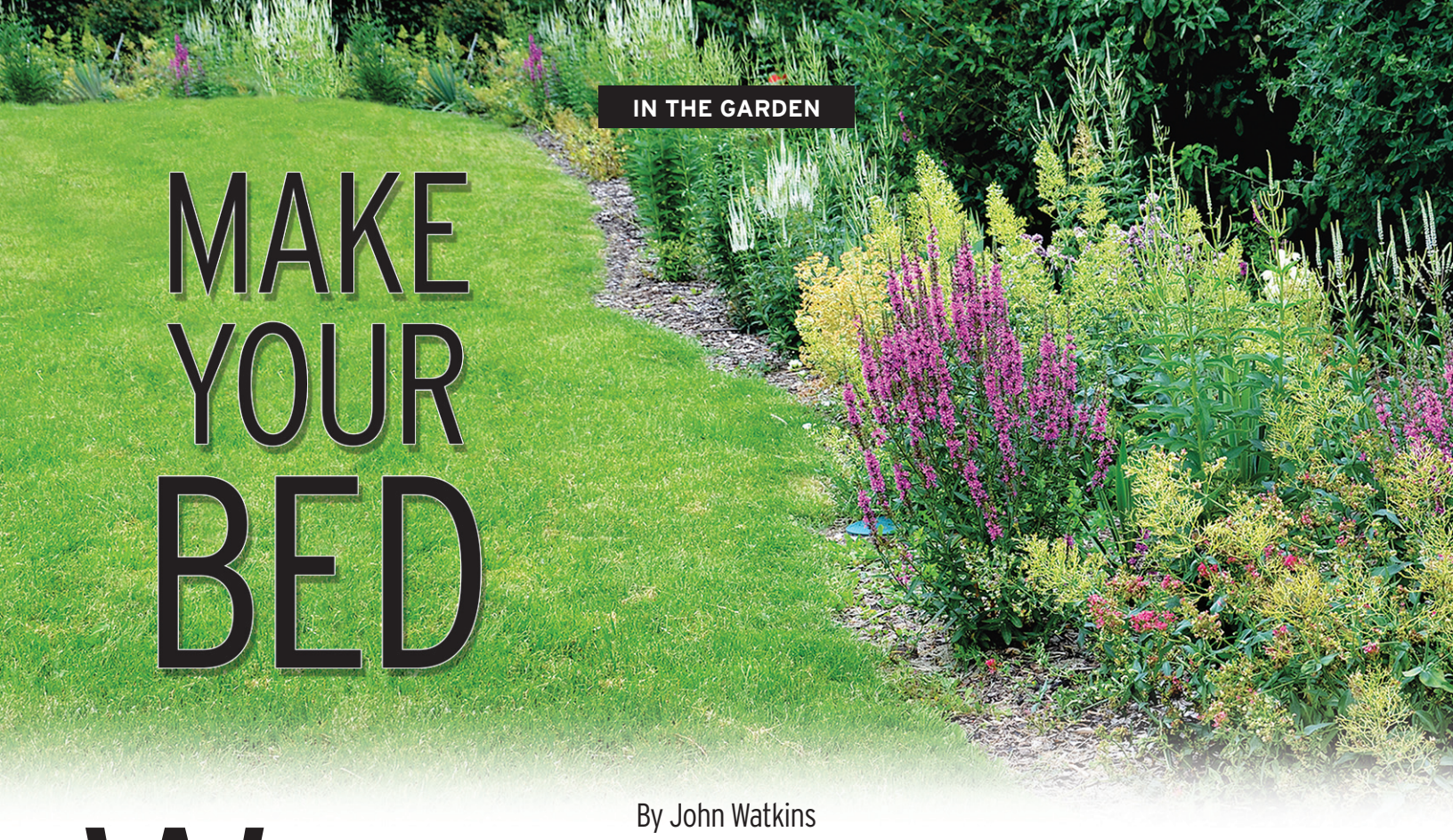

MAKE YOUR BED

By John Watkins

With winter finally passing and the bright promise of a new year in the garden is upon us, many of you may be planning to step up your gardening game by adding some new shrub or flower beds. Kudos to you my green-thumbed friends!

Nothing is more exciting than the thought of starting fresh and adding life to either a bare landscape or an existing garden. But how exactly to go about this task? Never fear, your bed prep answers are here! And with a few simple (but vitally important steps) you'll be out the door and on your way to enjoying the newest addition to your landscape.

GARDEN LOCATION

The first step is to actually choose the appropriate location. Looking to add a really showy patch of color? You'll probably need to pick out an area that receives at least six hours of direct sunlight each day to give you the most options for flowering plants. But if you're dealing with a shady area, don't be dismayed. There are still plenty of options for shade-loving selections that will give you a great display. Be aware that any trees in the area can make bed preparation a little more difficult because of root systems and the fact that trees use a lot of water and nutrients that could otherwise be used by your flowers.

SOIL CONDITION

Take careful note of soil conditions while you are picking out your location. If nothing is growing there at present (and that includes grass or even weeds) you may have a soil problem that will need to be addressed prior to planting. If you are dealing with poor soil or possibly poor drainage conditions, you may want to look at creating a raised bed or bermed garden. Not only will this avoid drainage problems but it will also give a whole new dimension to an otherwise flat landscape.

So, how do I lay out a new garden bed? A lot of this is subjective and very much a personal preference. However, a general rule of landscape design is to avoid straight lines unless you're looking to create a more formal appearance. Soft, gentle curves look more natural and will lend a more informal look. You can lay out the bed by using spray paint, powdered lime, or even a flexible garden hose.

GRASS AND WEEDS

What about getting rid of existing grass or weeds? Obviously, you'll want to start your new bed free of anything that will detract from the beauty of your new plants. So, if you're dealing with an area that currently has grass on it, you'll need to get rid of it.

If you're able, simply dig it out, being sure to go deep enough to get to the roots and rhizomes. Save as much dirt as you can by cutting or shaking off any loose material.

You could also use a herbicide (like glyphosate) that will kill off unwanted plants without having any residual effect on your new flowers. If you want to go organic and have several weeks to wait, placing plastic sheeting over the area (especially when temps get warmer) will effectively "burn" off grass and weeds.

SOIL AMENDENTS

I cannot express enough the importance of adding soil amendments prior to planting. Once your plants are in the ground and growing, it's ex-

tremely difficult go back and fix that problem. Almost all beds will benefit from adding a generous amount of organic matter.

Whether it's compost material, peat moss, or even a healthy dose of decomposed leaf mulch, you'll be increasing the soil's fertility and loosening the soil making it more conducive to root growth and nutrient uptake. You may also want to take a soil test at this time to determine fertility levels and pH so that your plants have the best possible start.

WEED BARRIER

Once the bed is created there comes the much debated question of, "should I put down a weed barrier or not"? I'm scared to even delve too deep into this question because there are good cases for both sides. So I'll weasel out of it by looking at pros and cons and leave it up to you. Using a woven landscape fabric (not the solid, black plastic stuff) will allow water and nutrients to get to plant roots. It will do a decent job of preventing some weeds, but certainly not all.

Remember that after placing the weed barrier you'll be putting down a layer of mulch and weeds can grow in the mulch as well. At least they're a little easier to pull out of the mulch since their roots won't grow as deep. Be aware that having fabric down also makes it a little more difficult to frequently change out annual plantings.

MULCH

And last but certainly not least, don't forget the mulch! Now when I say mulch, I'm talking about any material (organic or inorganic) that will create a soil covering that will help regulate soil temperatures, conserve moisture, and maybe even reduce weeds. Be aware that all mulch will require some maintenance, such as replenishing as the mulch breaks down or washes away.

Organic materials like shredded bark, pine straw, or compost will actually help add nutrients to the soil and increase the quality of soil structure. However, since it does break down, you will have to replenish it on a regular basis. Inorganic mulches like landscape rock or recycled rubber mulch will last almost indefinitely but will migrate, settle, or wash away to some degree. Remember that if you are planning on changing out the bed on a regular basis, inorganic mulches will be a little more difficult to plant.

You might also want to consider whether mulching prior to planting or after planting is best for you. If you are putting in small annuals or perennials, I've always found it easier to mulch first and then plant through the mulch since it's difficult to effectively go around all those small plantings. If you are planting larger shrubs or perennials, planting first and then mulching tends to work better so you don't disturb your nice clean mulch with dirt from digging the holes. But then again, we're all adults here and who am I to tell you how to live your life?

No matter what shape, size, location, or plants you choose for your new bed, just think of how much enjoyment you'll get from your newest additions that will make all that hard work worthwhile! Happy Gardening!

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Puzzle Solve on page 40

ACROSS

8. John Watkins or your mother says " _____ "
9. Young men are seen climbing a tree at this school.
10. Artist or Photography _____
13. Family who are "meating the need"
14. 2023 Hostess Princess
15. She won an award during Keep Tennessee Beautiful Month.
16. He is a financial advisor
19. Catching catfish with your arm
22. Paris' biggest annual event
23. Holy holiday in April
24. He is featured in this issue's Soundtracks.

DOWN

1. Popular Methodist minister
2. Manufacturer of 1910 meat grinder
3. She wrote the lyrics for the HCHS anthem.
4. Big festival beginning June 1
5. Quinn Chapel: _____ In Christ
6. Underaged young couples could come to Tennessee for this.
7. It's been a record breaking year for this organization.
11. Beekeepers need these to make honey.
12. Name of award-winning animated movie.
15. They are celebrating their anniversary.
17. Claire Layne took art classes from him.
18. He has a big string of fish.
20. Ingredient in creamy egg salad
21. Oaklawn _____ Wall

ONGOING EVENTS

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

GET ARTSY - Learn to play an instrument, sing, paint, create pottery and more at **Paris Academy for the Arts**. Visit schoolforarts.org for class schedules and details.

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

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

EIFFEL TOWER PARK – Plan a day of fun at the new pickleball courts, Blue Cross Blue Shield play area, hiking trails, splash pad and swimming pool, and so much more.

NEED A GOOD BOOK TO READ? – Head over to the **W.G. Rhea Public Library**. You can find something to read, check out a DVD, or find something cool for the kiddos to do. Get ready for the Summer Reading Program! For more information, call 731-642-1702.

LET'S GO FISHIN' – **Paris Landing Marina** has lots of Fishing Tournaments coming up! So grab a pole and head out to beautiful Kentucky Lake. For more information, call 731-641-4474.

— MARCH —

MARCH 17 – Happy St. Patrick's Day!

MARCH 17 – Krider Performing Arts Center presents **Jersey Nights - The Hits of Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons** at 7 pm. Tickets are $27-$33. For more information, call 731-644-2517.

MARCH 20-24 – **Spring Break** in Henry County and the PSSD school systems! School's out so make the most of it. Visit our beautiful parks or spend the day at the lake hiking or boating.

MARCH 24 – Head to KPAC for a night of laughter with **Comedian Killer Beaz** at 7:30 pm. Tickets: $35-$50. For information, call 731-644-2517.

— APRIL —

APRIL 1 – The **7th Annual Easton's Angels Fun Walk & Balloon Release** presented by Easton's Angels. Event is from 3-6 pm at the Fairgrounds. Free family friendly fun with music by the Ray Lewis Band. Enjoy cowboy/cowgirl themed activities with a special appearance by Cody Nance. There's also a mechanical bull, pictures with Woody and Jessie, food trucks, inflatables and more! For more information, check out Easton's Angels on Facebook

APRIL 1 – **Easter at the Clay Sheds**, Future Visions Farms, 1910 Whitlock Road, 10 am-4 pm. Hayride Easter egg hunt, photos with the Easter Bunny, petting zoo, pony rides, and much more. $5 admission per person. Follow on Facebook for more information.

APRIL 2- 19 – Paris Henry County Arts Council presents the **37th Annual Artist Showcase** at W.G. Rhea Library. Admission is free. For more information, call 731-642-3955.

APRIL 2 – Palm Sunday

APRIL 3-7 – **Holy Week Services** are held each day at noon at a local church. Brief services are followed by a light lunch. For more information, call 731-642-8445 or 731-642-5074.

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

APRIL 7 – **Good Friday!**

APRIL 8 – Here's comes Peter Cottontail! Bring the kids to the **Easter Egg Hunt** at Eiffel Tower Park. Sponsored by the City of Paris. For more information, call 731-644-2517 .

APRIL 9 – **Happy Easter!** He is risen! **Easter Sunrise Service** is on the front steps of First United Methodist Church; breakfast, contemporary and traditional services follow throughout the morning. Call 731-642-4764 for information.

APRIL 13 – KPAC presents the **Puppy Pals Live** show as seen on America's Got Talent. This comedic stunt dog show will start at 6:30 pm and tickets range from $10-$20. For more information, call 731-644-2517.

APRIL 22 – **Carl Perkins Center Cast-N-Blast Fishing/Hunting Event** at the Paris Landing State Park Marina. For more information, call 731-642-8455.

APRIL 22 - 29 – **World's Biggest Fish Fry** events – See schedule on the inside back cover! Don't forget to hug those hard-working Jaycees!

APRIL 22 – The World's Biggest Fish Fry **5K Hushpuppy Dash** is at 8 am at Henry County Fairgrounds. Register at 7 am; entry fee $20.00 or $15.00 if pre-registered. Call 731-644-1143. See complete Calendar of Events on the inside back cover of magazine.

APRIL 22 – **World's Biggest Fish Fry Car & Bike Show/Cruise In**, 8 am-2pm at KPAC. For information, 731-514-0886.

APRIL 22 – The Henry County Fairgrounds is a happenin' place! Head on out for the **Demolition Derby** at 7pm.

APRIL 23 – MAY 19 – Paris Henry County Arts Council is presenting the **31st Annual Photo Showcase** at W.G. Rhea Library. Admission is free. Call 731-642-3955 for more information.

APRIL 26 – Don't forget **Administrative Professional's Day** today!

APRIL 26 – Fish, fish, and more fish! The all-you-can-eat **FISH TENT OPENS** at the Henry County Fairgrounds from 5-9 pm. Adults eat for $12 and children 6-12 years old eat for $8. After you eat, head over and check out the **Carnival!**

APRIL 27 – KPAC presents Emmy-nominated and best-selling comedian **Chonda Pierce**. Show starts at 7 pm and tickets range from $26.75-$55.75. For more information, call 731-644-2517.

APRIL 28-29 – The Henry County Fairgrounds host the **Bulls & Barrels Rodeo** each night at 7:30 pm.

APRIL 28 – **No School!** PSSD and Henry County Schools are closed to celebrate the **World's Biggest Fish Fry**. Parade starts at 10 am.

APRIL 29 – **Small Fry Parade** at 10 am in beautiful Downtown Paris.

— MAY —

MAY 4 – Help save a life! Stop by First United Methodist Church and visit the **Lifeline Bloodmobile**, noon to 6 pm.

MAY 4 – **National Day of Prayer**

MAY 5 – **Cinco de Mayo!**

MAY 6 – Ladies, put on those beautiful big hats, grab your guy for the **1st Annual Athena Delphian Club Derby Watch Party** at the Paris Country Club. Fun starts at 4 pm and will include food and, of course, a mint julep. Everyone is welcome. Tickets: $45 or $75 per couple and are available from any Delphian member. Call Traci at The Iron Place, 731-644-7500, for more information.

MAY 8 -12- Don't forget to thank a teacher during **Teacher Appreciation Week.**

MAY 12 - **Henry County High School graduation.** Congratulations Class of 2023 grads! For more information, call 731-642-5232.

MAY 14 – Remember your Mom! It's **Mother's Day**.

MAY 19 – **Summer break is here!** It's the last day of school for the PSSD kids and everyone in the Henry County School System.

May 22 – KPAC presents **The Rainey's** in a free concert at 2 pm. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the sounds of gospel, classic country, doo wop, Elvis & more but it was specifically designed with seniors who have daytime transportation in mind. For more information, call 731-644-2517.

MAY 29 – **MEMORIAL DAY!** Remember our Veterans. Be sure and attend the various scheduled events for our heroes around town. For more information, call 731-642-3431.

– JUNE –

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

JUNE 1-4 – **RIVER JAM!** See ad for details on page 23.

PHOTO BY JEAN OWENS

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLVE (Puzzle on page 37)

ACROSS: 8. MAKE YOUR BED, 9. GROVE, 10. SHOWCASE, 13. GULISH, 14. MADISON, 15. McGUIRE, 16. JAMIE ORR, 19, NOODLING, 22. FISH FRY, 23. EASTER, 24. McKEE

DOWN: 1. POYNER, 2. HOBART, 3. LAMAR, 4. RIVER JAM, 5. ROOTED, 6. WEDDING, 7. HELPING HAND, 11. HONEYBEES, 12. SAGISO, 15. McNUTTS, 17. SNOWDEN, 18. CLIFFORD, 20. OLIVES, 21. BRICK

Welcome! to the 70th WORLD'S BIGGEST FISH FRY

APRIL 22-29

* SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

5K HUSHPUPPY DASH
Sponsor: Hosford Electric, Hulme's Sporting Goods
7 am registration ..... 8 am start .....HC Fairgrounds

CAR & BIKE SHOW/CRUISE IN ...8 am-4 pm...KPAC Volunteer Drive
Sponsor: Satterfield Auto

DEMOLITION DERBY .....7 pm .....HC Fairgrounds
Sponsor: Martin Construction

MONDAY, APRIL 24

STREET DANCE .....7-9 pm....Downtown Paris
Sponsor: Chesemore Dental Group, Henry County Monument Works

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

CARNIVAL.....5 -11 pm.... HC Fairgrounds
COUNTRY DANCE Sponsor: Southside Cafe 7-10 pm.... HC Fairgrounds

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

FISH TENT All-You-Can- Eat ... 5 -9 pm .....HC Fairgrounds
Sponsor: Holley Credit Union

CARNIVAL..... 5pm-Midnight.....HC Fairgrounds

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW.....5 -8:30 pm ..... Enoch Bldg
FISH TENT Sponsor: Holley Credit Union ...11 am -9 pm...HC Fairgrounds
CARNIVAL.....5 -11 pm .....HC Fairgrounds

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW.....10 am - 8:30 pm..... Enoch Bldg
GRAND PARADE .....10 am ..... E. Wood Street
Sponsor: TVA
FISH TENT Sponsor: Holley Credit Union....11 am -9 pm ...HC Fairgrounds
CARNIVAL.....11 am - Midnight .....HC Fairgrounds
RODEO, BULLS & BARRELS Sponsor: AT&T .. 7:30 pm....Fairgrounds

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW..... 10 am - 8:30 pm .... Enoch Bldg
SMALL FRY PARADE .....10 am ..... Downtown Paris
Sponsor: Foundation Bank
BILL WILLIAMS CATFISH RACES....11 am..... Downtown Paris
JUNIOR FISHING RODEO .....11 am - 1 pm ... Williams Lake
Sponsor: Hulme Sporting Goods, TWRA, Dicus Disposal
CARNIVAL..... 11 am - Midnight....Fairgrounds
FISH TENT Sponsor: Holley Credit Union .. 11 am -9 pm .....Fairgrounds
RODEO, BULLS & BARRELS Sponsor: AT&T .. 7:30 pm....Fairgrounds

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

CARNIVAL.....1-6 pm .....Fairgrounds

what a pain!

When chronic pain effects your daily life, reduces your mobility, and causes sleepless nights, consult the

INTERVENTIONAL PAIN MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS at

West Tennessee Bone & Joint Clinic

www.wtbjc.com

William Seely III, MD

William Seely III, MD is a double board-certified anesthesiologist and pain medicine physician at West Tennessee Bone & Joint Clinic, P.C. at the Stonebridge office in Jackson, Tennessee.

He received his medical degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center and went on to complete his residency in anesthesiology and a fellowship in interventional pain medicine, both at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Dr. Seely takes a multimodal and balanced approach to treating patients. He utilizes prescription therapies, medications, and minimally invasive procedures to help with patients' recovery and pain management. Treatments include minimally invasive lumbar decompression, spinal cord stimulators, peripheral nerve stimulators, Intracept Via Disc. He also treats fractures of the spine using percutaneous approaches such as kyphoplasty and vertebroplasty.

Dr. Seely holds multiple professional memberships, including the American Society of Pain and Neuroscience, Spine Intervention Society, North American Neuromodulation Society, the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians, American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians, and the Society of Pain Medicine Practice Management.

Crystal Crosser, FNP-C

Family nurse practitioner Crystal Crosser, FNP-C, brings a decade of experience to the team at West Tennessee Bone & Joint Clinic, P.C, working under Dr. William Seely. She provides personalized care for patients from the practice's Stonebridge and Paris locations.

After earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, she worked in the Emergency Department at Huntsville Hospital, Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, and Williamson Medical Center in Franklin.

She decided to further her education and pursue a Master of Science in Nursing from her alma mater, the University of Alabama in Huntsville, graduating in 2009. She then worked in various clinical settings in Florida, where she was able to gain additional experience in patient care.

At West Tennessee Bone & Joint Clinic, P.C., she provides individualized care tailored to each patients' unique needs. She is certified in Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support, which allows her to better support her patients.

WEST TENNESSEE
BONE & JOINT
"Keeping You Active"

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY

1004 CORNERSTONE DRIVE, PARIS, TN
219 STONEBRIDGE BLVD. JACKSON, TN

For information or to schedule an appointment, call

Paris Office: 731-644-0474
Jackson Office: 731-661-9825

Patients may see Dr. Seely in our Jackson office only.

Crystal Crosser, FNP-C will be available to see patients in our Paris and Jackson offices.