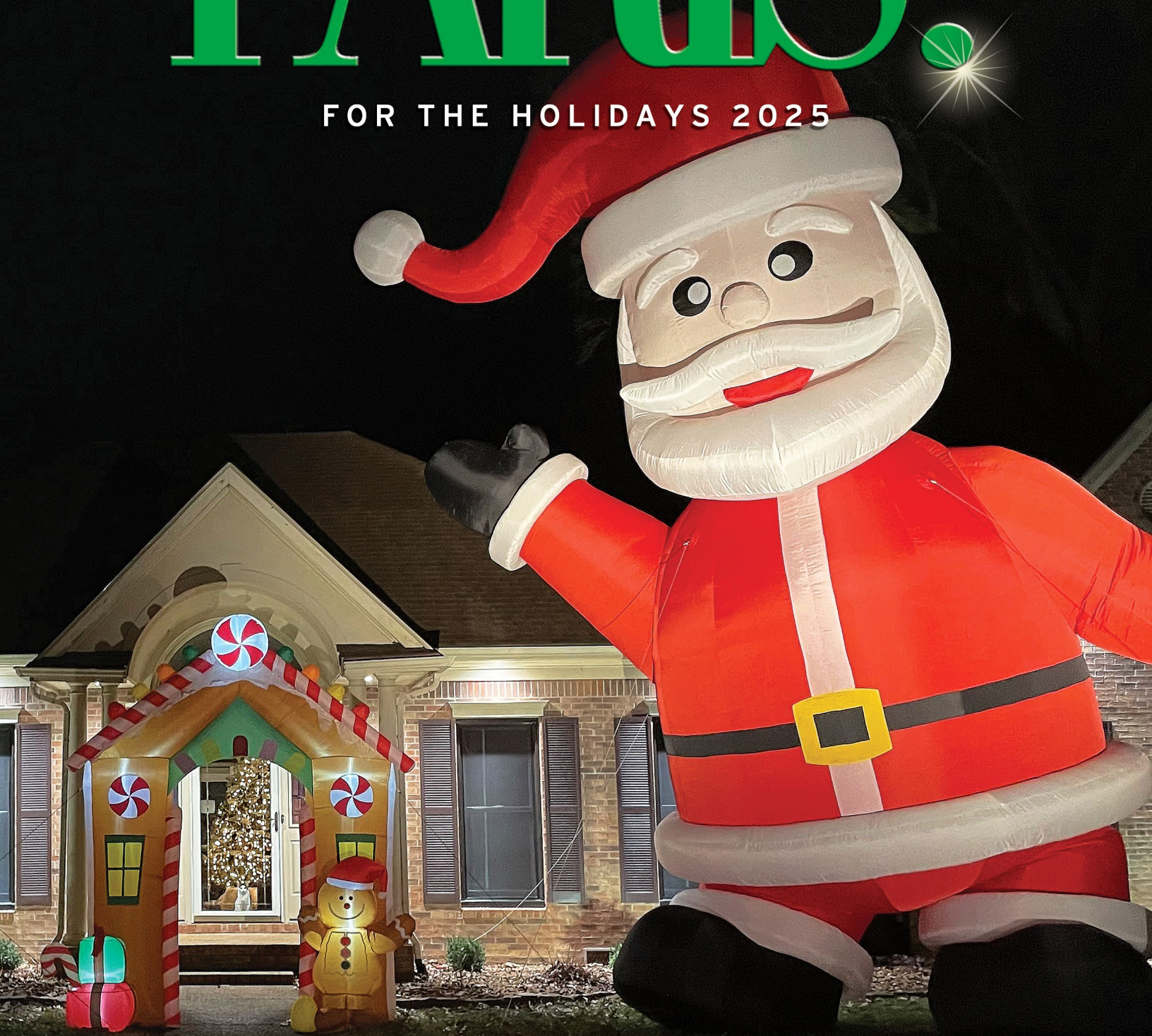


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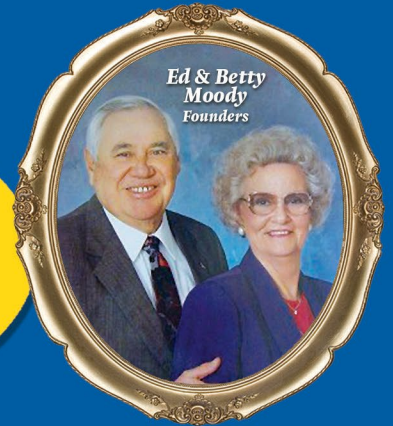


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IT'S THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

Now that the holiday season is upon us, I don't want to miss a single twinkling moment!

Make the most of this magical time of year, starting with Around Our Town, which shines a light on the unique strengths that make every member of our community special and the willingness to help one another.

If you're ready to be amazed, Arts and Entertainment brings a little sparkle to your festivities with REZA's Edge of Illusion, a show sure to leave your family wide-eyed and full of wonder. For those looking to plan their holiday adventures, the Calendar of Events is packed with parades, performances, and plenty of Christmas cheer.

Feeling festive at home? Home Sweet Home highlights the "Best Holiday Decor Trends of 2025", perfect for transforming your space into a winter wonderland. And if you're searching for the perfect present, In the Garden offers creative "Holiday Gifts for the Gardener" in your life as well as the Great Outdoors humorous take on your "Spousal Christmas List."

Then, step inside the magic of the season with "Celebrate the Season at Paris Landing State Park," where the

lights, laughter, and local traditions come alive.

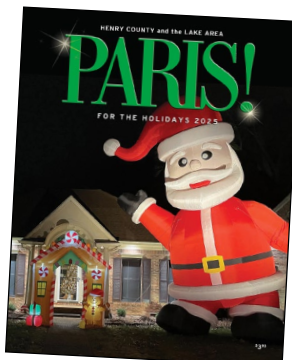
Hungry for something sweet? "Paris Cuisine" by River Byrd shares Wilma's Sweet Christmas Legacy, a recipe story that's as rich as the cookies themselves. Meanwhile, Recollections and Remember When take us back through cherished family memories and vintage Christmas photos – a perfect dose of nostalgia. To top that off, "Reminiscence" by Shannon McFarlin hits a sentimental note with "Our Sounds of Music", celebrating Henry County's numerous musicians from the past.

And don't miss our Spotlight on Sheila Wilson, who stitches memories into keepsake quilts – turning old T-shirts into treasured gifts that truly come from the heart.

Perfect for cozy reading by the tree or fireplace, grab a cup of cocoa, turn on your favorite carols, and enjoy this holiday issue of PARIS! Magazine.

Happy Holidays!

Smantha



ON THE COVER

Everybody celebrates the holidays in their own way. Some have a quiet day; others have big family galas, and then there's this person with a gigantic Santa inflatable in the yard! Merry Christmas from all of us at PARIS! Magazine.

Henry County and the Lake Area

PARIS!

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PARIS! is published five times annually by Parker Publishing for Paris, Tennessee and the surrounding communities.

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Kindergarten pageant, 1949

Memories From Christmases Past

We thank Pete Lackey for the use of his photo collection in this article. Through the years, he has accumulated photo negatives and boxes of old photos, saving them for sake of local history. If you recognize yourself or family member, let us know on our Facebook page.

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Circa 1966

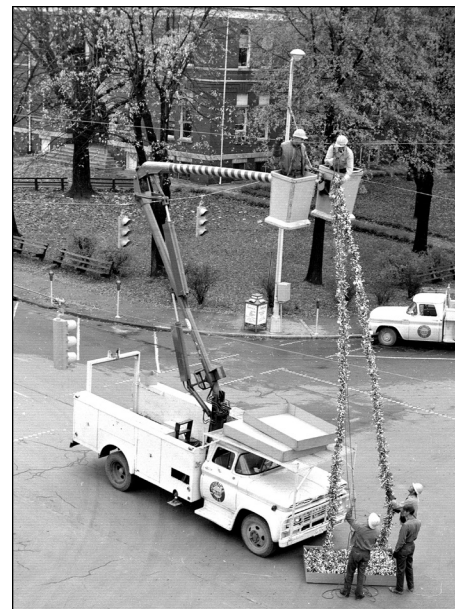


Circa 1969

FIRST IN LINE: Children and adults alike found it exciting to visit Santa in his little house on the courthouse square in Downtown Paris.



The Optimist Club Christmas trees sale was a great place to find the perfect one for your home. In the background is Motor Parts Company on 411 East Wood Street, circa 1969.



Work crews string Christmas decorations at the intersection of North Market and Washington Streets in 1963.



It's hard to say what this little girl asked Santa to bring her for Christmas. It must have been a real doozy!



Choir members fill the Paris First United Methodist Church choir loft to celebrate the birth of Jesus with their annual Christmas cantata.

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Bowden & Parker Family Christmas

By Jesse Parker, Jr.

In previous story installments, Jesse Parker has described his parents leaving California and returning to his father's family farm in Henry County. The family lived in a basement house, built by his father and other relatives, on acreage near the present day shopping area on Highway 79.

All children love Christmas. I think it's even more magical when there are several children to enjoy it with. But I do believe Granddaddy HT, Harvey Bowden, enjoyed it more than all us Parker children combined, especially if it snowed!

HT would take all of the us kids out in the snow to hunt down a Christmas tree. We would pop corn and string it then decorate the tree all together. He was in his sixties in the 1970s and decades later was still chopping down trees every year to find the "perfect" one.

He had a good eye for them. Each year his tree looked exactly the same as the year before. Not too tall, not too

fat, but just right. My older brother would say it looked like a Charlie Brown Christmas tree, just to make us laugh. But it was much better than that. It almost touched the ceiling, but he always left room for an angel with wings to go up top. There was one more item always placed in the tree in my honor. Because I liked to climb everything as a child, even bookshelves and hallway walls, Granddaddy HT would put an elf climbing in the tree that he named Jesse.

HT would have us go into the attic and bring down an old solid wood table and bolt the four legs back on. We put three tables together end to end. But one table was round so HT cut a piece of plywood into a square

shape to make it all fit and then covered them all with two or three table cloths. We had six Parkers and eight Bowdens at that table twice a year from the 1970s well into the 1990s, even more as the family grew.

My youngest brother Sam was born in the 1980s so that made six Parker children. Billy and Anna Bowden would bring their two children, Van and Christy.

Van was like another brother to us Parkers and my sister Kathryn finally had another girl to visit with. Their grandparents, Jimmy and Ruby Bowden, would always attend.

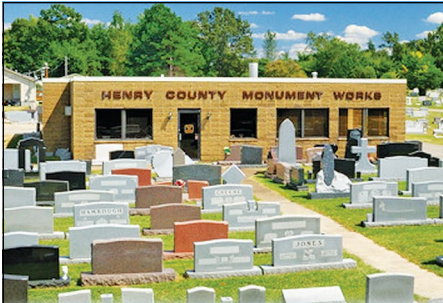
RE cooked a turkey and had so many other dishes that I can't name them all. But I do remember the Hum-

mingbird Cake. The first time I saw it, I was confused and asked Granddaddy, "Did she really use a hummingbird in that cake?" Everyone laughed when he repeated loudly what I'd said. Then he teased my little sister. "Kathryn helped RE make that cake."

Kathryn smiled proudly. HT went on... "Kathryn put the eggs in, then Grandma took them out of the batter and cracked them for her!" Kat turned red and smacked HT on the shoulder lightly and said, "I did not!" The entire family laughed again.



As we grew into teenagers each of us children started buying or making presents for each other and for our parents, grandparents and cousins. The pile of wrapped gifts was huge after that and we began to see the true value of Christmas. It is not about receiving gifts. We learned there is much more joy in giving. I hope you and your family will remember and capture that feeling this holiday season. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas everyone!!



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CELEBRATE THE SEASON

at Paris Landing State Park

As the holidays approach, Paris Landing State Park offers a festive lineup of events for families, friends, and visitors of all ages. Nestled along the scenic shores of Kentucky Lake, the park and The Lodge at Paris Landing provide the perfect setting for making holiday memories. From craft fairs and holiday dinners to hikes and wildlife encounters, there's something for everyone this season.

VENDOR FAIR – November 22 & 23, 9 AM – 6 PM

Kick off the holiday season with the Vendor Fair at The Lodge. Local artisans and vendors will showcase a variety of handmade goods, holiday décor, and unique gifts. Whether you're searching for the perfect gift for a loved one or simply want to enjoy browsing local crafts, this fair is the place to be. Come early and enjoy a full day of shopping, treats, and holiday cheer.

THANKSGIVING DINNER – November 27

Celebrate Thanksgiving with a special feast at The Lodge. Indulge in a traditional Thanksgiving dinner

featuring all the classic favorites, prepared by our talented culinary team. Gather with family and friends in the warm and welcoming atmosphere of The Lodge and enjoy a holiday meal without the stress of cooking and cleanup.



Warm yourself by the firepit at The Lodge while enjoying the scenery of Kentucky Lake.

DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING HIKE – November 28, 9:30 AM – 12 PM at Camp Hazlewood

Burn off those holiday calories with the Day After Thanksgiving Hike at Camp Hazlewood. Guided by park rangers, this moderate hike is suitable for all ages and is a great way

to explore the park's natural beauty. Enjoy the crisp fall air, scenic trails, and a morning of outdoor adventure with family and friends. Don't forget your hiking boots and water bottle!

SANTA NIGHT OF LIGHTS – December 11-14

Get into the holiday spirit at the Santa Night of Lights event. Guests of all ages can enjoy dazzling light displays and festive decorations. Capture memorable family photos, sip on seasonal treats, and embrace the magic of the season under the glow of sparkling lights.

CHRISTMAS DINNER – DECEMBER 25, 1-5 PM

Enjoy a festive Christmas feast at The Lodge. Our holiday dinner offers a menu of seasonal favorites, crafted to delight every palate. Whether you're celebrating with family, friends, or a special someone, The Lodge provides the perfect cozy setting to enjoy good food, warm company, and holiday cheer.

ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH – DECEMBER 31

Ring in the New Year with the Annual New Year's Eve Bash at The Lodge. Celebrate 2026 in style with



Indulge in a traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas meal with family and friends at The Lodge restaurant.

DJ Tom Evans, dancing, and a festive atmosphere. Guests will enjoy a night of entertainment, delicious food, and the perfect way to start the new year with friends and loved ones.

FIRST DAY HIKE – JANUARY 1

Kick off the New Year on the right foot with the First Day Hike at Paris Landing State Park. Join park rangers and fellow nature enthusiasts for a guided hike through the park's scenic trails. This annual tradition

is a great way to start the year with fresh air, exercise, and a connection to nature. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

BIRDS OF PREY FEEDING – Every Saturday, 2 PM

Don't miss the opportunity to see some of the park's majestic birds of prey in action. Every Saturday, visitors can witness these incredible creatures during feeding time and learn fascinating facts from the park's knowledgeable staff. This is a great activity for families, wildlife enthusiasts, and anyone curious about the natural world.

Paris Landing State Park and The Lodge invites guests to explore the full range of holiday and seasonal activities available. Be sure to check the park's website and Facebook page for the latest updates, event details, and additional programs throughout the season.

Make this holiday season unforgettable by celebrating at Paris Landing State Park, where nature, hospitality, and festive experiences come together for memories that last a lifetime.

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Best Holiday Decor Trends Of 2025

By Austin Hopper-Reed

As we unwrap the 2025 holiday season, one thing is clear: festive decorating has never felt more personal, intentional, or artful. This year's biggest design story isn't about excess or minimalism — it's about balance.

Think vintage warmth meets modern polish, or nature's palette with a glamorous twist. The new mood of holiday decorating is all about creating atmosphere — homes that glow, shimmer, and tell a story.

JEWEL TONES TAKE THE LEAD

Classic red and green are taking a graceful step back, making way for rich, romantic jewel tones. Think deep emerald, sapphire, and garnet, which feel luxurious yet grounded, especially when paired with antique gold or warm brass.

I call this palette “quiet opulence.” It's moody without being dark — the

kind of color story that looks right at home under candlelight. For a modern twist, mix in soft neutrals like mocha, olive, or champagne, which add depth without overwhelming the room.

NATURE, ELEVATED

This year, nature-inspired decor is less rustic and more refined. Picture handwoven garlands made from dried citrus and eucalyptus, elegant birch branches, and velvet ribbons tied around freshly cut greenery. The look celebrates imperfection, texture, and the serenity of the natural world. Your home should feel “collected”, not “constructed.”

THE RETURN OF MAXIMALIST MAGIC

Minimalism had its moment — but 2025 invites us to layer, sparkle, and celebrate. Maximalism is back, but in an intentional, edited way. Oversized ornaments, cascading ribbon garlands, and sculptural candleholders

create drama without chaos. I suggest choosing one “statement element” — a bold wreath, a tiered centerpiece, or a dramatic tree topper — and building your decor around it. Balance is key: big gestures grounded by simplicity. It's the art of going big gracefully.

RETRO REVIVAL

There's something comforting about the past, and this season, nostalgia is back in style. Vintage-inspired ornaments, mercury glass, tinsel, and mid-century motifs are being rediscovered in fresh ways.

Picture a tree that feels straight out of a 1950s holiday card, but with a clean, modern edge. Metallic baubles, pastel ribbons, and heirloom figurines are making a comeback, often mixed with new designer pieces to create a “curated nostalgia” look. The best part? These pieces tell stories — sometimes literally, passed down through generations.



THE PERSONAL TOUCH

Holiday decorating in 2025 is about heart as much as style. Customization is everywhere — from monogrammed stockings to hand-painted ornaments. Families are incorporating keepsakes and mementos, making decor deeply personal.

DIY is less about budget and more about creativity: handwritten gift tags, homemade advent calendars, or photos tucked into garlands. Each piece becomes part of your home's story — a reflection of your people and your memories.

LAYERS OF LIGHT AND TEXTURE

Texture is the new luxury. Plush velvets, chunky knits, ribbed glass, and hammered metals add dimension and warmth. Mixing textures creates visual richness that feels inviting and tactile — even before the lights come on.

Speaking of light: smart illumination is the quiet star of 2025. Programmable LED lights are replacing static bulbs, letting you shift from warm candlelight at dinner to sparkling brilliance for parties. You

can find this technology ranging from Christmas light strands, to flameless taper candles.

GRAND ENTRANCES & OUTDOOR GLOW

Curb appeal counts — even in December. This year's exteriors are going grand, with oversized wreaths, glowing arches, and draped garlands framing the front door. Indoors, staircases and mantels are getting the cinematic treatment too, layered with greenery, ribbon, and soft light. It's not about excess; it's about experience. Guests should feel the celebration before they've even stepped inside.

Holiday decorating in 2025 is all about meaningful luxury — a mix of the tactile, the nostalgic, and the new. Homes are cozier, greener, and more personal than ever. Forget perfection. The most beautiful holiday spaces are the ones that feel alive — shimmering with light, layered with history, and filled with joy.

So this season, skip the trends that don't speak to you and let your decor, quite literally, shine.



Picture a tree that feels straight out of a 1950s holiday card, but with a clean, modern edge.

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Shelia Wilson's first T-shirt quilt for granddaughter Caroline Singleton.

The Gift of Memories

ONE STITCH AT A TIME

By Karen Geary

Most people own at least one T-shirt. It's a common staple in daily wardrobes and often commemorate special events like concert tours, destination spots, or charitable causes. But hiding in the bottom of a dresser, sometimes forgotten, are those shirts that are impossible to throw away; the ones that hold special meaning to its wearer.

For six years, Sheila Wilson of Springville has been lovingly fashioning those keepsake shirts and giving them a new life in the form of a memory quilt. It all started when her oldest granddaughter, Caroline Singleton, graduated high school. She wanted to get her a quilt made from all the

shirts her granddaughter wore during her seven years of playing basketball in middle school and high school.

"I set up a time to meet with a lady about making the quilt. When she found out I had already cut the shirts out, she said she couldn't make it. Of course, I am devastated," said Wilson. "I learned a lot about quilting from my mother, so I thought, 'I can make that.' I got on YouTube, found sewing instructions, and made the quilt myself. She and her mother had tears in their eyes when they first saw the quilt. It was priceless."

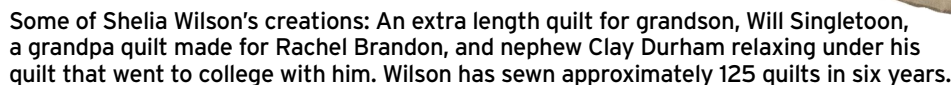
But Wilson didn't stop with the one quilt that year. "There were three girls who played ball with Caroline all through those years, so I wanted

to give them a graduation gift, too. They were all good friends, so I asked their moms to get me their shirts and I made each a quilt, too.

"Then, I had a nephew who was also graduating that year, and I decided to make him one. You wouldn't think a guy would care that much about a quilt, but he was so touched and loved it so that he used it as his bedspread throughout four years of college. He's now in medical school and uses it on his bed there. When he comes home to visit his family, he brings the quilt and sleeps under it. This absolutely warms my heart."

Her daughter Sheri posted photos of all the quilts on Facebook, word spread quickly about her mother's

From simple pieces of cloth from bygone days, Sheila Wilson is stitching together the fabric of each special person's life, one memory at a time.





FULL CIRCLE

A Physician's Journey Through Medicine, Mentorship, and Meaning

By Laura Davis

From 0 to 100, in this case it's not describing the acceleration of a sports car or a quick change in someone's emotional state. This describes the age range of patients Dr. Scott Whitby treats on a daily basis.

For nearly three decades, Dr. Scott Whitby has cared for generations of families, sometimes literally. His path through medicine wasn't conventional, but it was intentional, guided by curiosity, compassion, and a belief that good medicine is as much

about listening as it is about science. When asked about how it all began, Dr. Whitby smiles. "I was drawn to medicine because I loved science, but I also loved people," he says.

"Internal medicine was about adult health. Pediatrics was about children. I found the combined specialty, Med-Peds, and it just clicked." The five-year Med-Peds program alternated between internal medicine and pediatrics every six months, offering the best of both worlds. "It let me do what I wanted, take care of the whole

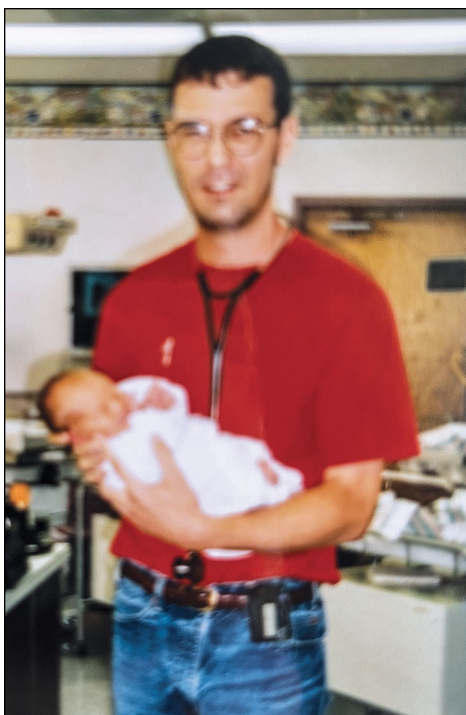
family," he says. "I've been doing that now for 30 years."

Early in his career, Dr. Whitby approached medicine with scientific precision. "Everything was black and white," he admits. "You had a problem, you followed the protocol, and you got a result." But over time, he learned that real life doesn't always fit the textbook.

He tells the story of a 90-year-old woman suffering from hip pain. "By the book, surgery was the wrong answer. But she told me, 'I can't live



"They keep me young, and honest," says Dr. Scott Whitby. Third and fourth-year medical students from Lincoln Memorial University are a part of the Medical Student program at WTH-Henry County Hospital and they find a mentor in Dr. Whitby.



Dr. Whitby was humbled to find out his current student was birthed by him years ago. "I was his doctor at birth, and now he's becoming a doctor himself...That one came full circle. Now I'm caring for the babies of my former patients."

like this.' So, I called our orthopedist, and he operated. She's now pain-free and happy.' The textbook is the easy part. People are the hard part, and the best part."

The third and fourth-year medical students who are a part of the Medical Student program at WTH-Henry County Hospital find a mentor in Dr. Whitby who values honesty over perfection. "They keep me young, and honest," he says. "You can't fake an answer; they'll call you on it. Every class is different, and I love that." He still keeps in touch with many former students, including one who recently reached out from South Carolina. "We talked for two hours about her new job. I'll keep up with her forever," he says. "That's the best part, watching them grow."

Linda Burks is the Director of the Medical Student program at WTH-Henry County Hospital. She coordinates the education program that connects Lincoln Memorial University with WTH-Henry County Hospital, balancing academic rigor with a sense of belonging.

"The curriculum for rotations is set by LMU," she explains. "But the didactics-the lectures and discussions we hold here. I create and adjust each year to fit what works best." Dr.

Whitby leads lectures every Monday for the students.

Asked what lessons he hopes his students take away Dr. Whitby doesn't hesitate. "Meet people where they are. Take their problems seriously. And don't be afraid to say, 'I don't know.' Medicine isn't about pretending to have all the answers, it's about helping people as best you can, together."

Few stories illustrate that philosophy better than the day one of his students, Dylan, showed him a photo. "He told me, 'This is you holding me the day I was born,'"

Dr. Whitby recalls. "I was his doctor at birth, and now he's becoming a doctor himself." It's a moment that still humbles him. "There are probably only three pictures of me ever holding a baby in the nursery. That one came full circle."

That wasn't an isolated case. "Now I'm caring for the babies of my former patients," he says. "I never imagined I'd see that. It's happening all the time now." He laughs, thinking of names and faces that have grown up under his care. "It's wonderful. I knew someday it would happen, but I didn't expect how emotional it would be."

Despite his optimism, Dr. Whitby worries about the changing landscape

of medicine. "The biggest challenge for the next generation is the internet," he says. "People used to come in saying, 'My stomach hurts.' Now they come in saying, 'I have pancreatitis' and they don't. You spend half the visit un-teaching misinformation."

He also sees the rise of vaccine hesitancy as a serious threat. "Until people see diseases like polio again, they won't realize the risk. I just hope it doesn't take that to change minds."

At 60, Dr. Whitby feels a peace he didn't expect. "Technically, I could retire," he says. "But I'm the best I've ever been at what I do. I love my patients, I love teaching, and I like who I am right now." He credits that contentment to both professional growth and personal faith.

"Music, faith, and reflection have given me new purpose. I used to think 17 was the best age, but I think 60 is better." "It's good to be 60. I like who I am, what I do, and where I am." For Dr. Whitby, the full circle of medicine isn't just about longevity, it's about legacy.

From newborns to future physicians, from textbook learning to life's gray areas, his career is a testament to curiosity, compassion, and the courage to say, 'I don't know, but let's figure it out together.'

RECOGNIZING SPECIAL STRENGTHS

Taking The “Dis” Out Of “Disabilities”

By Rhonda Stanton

On Thursday, October 2, of this year, Tara Hargrove, owner of Southside Café was presented a Certificate of Special Recognition signed by Tennessee Governor Bill Lee in conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

This October marked the 80th anniversary of NDEAM, which is described by the U.S. Department of Labor as “an annual recognition of the positive impact of people with disabilities in the American workforce.”

A big part of that is celebrating the businesses who provide employment for individuals with disabilities. Since this past July, Southside Cafe has been the workplace of Kyle Stanton, a 2024 graduate of Henry County High School. Kyle is thriving in a positive and supportive work environment.

But let me back up a bit and provide a unique perspective on Kyle’s journey to employment at Southside Cafe – that of his mother. Somewhere

between 15 and 18 months, Kyle stopped much of the baby chatter we had grown to love. Other behaviors changed, and several developmental milestones came quite later than anticipated. Over time, we grew to understand that Kyle has ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) which created difficulties in learning, coordination, and overall strength. Thankfully, shortly after Kyle’s fifth birthday, his language began to re-emerge.

Kyle’s years at Lakewood School and HCHS were mostly quite happy. A good balance was struck between the expectation of learning and the accommodations needed for his peace and success. Some good friends helped him navigate the challenges of adolescence, and then suddenly, we had a graduate. What do we do now? Enter the TRC.

The Community Services Unit (CSU) at the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center in Paris is part of the State of Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation Services. They help assess abilities

and interests, they help their clients to gain work skills and experience, and they help prepare their clients to navigate a world where being different is hard. Another function of the TRC is reaching out to potential employers to create employment inroads for an individual with a disability. Perhaps we should take the focus off of the “dis” when referring to ability, and say individuals with differing abilities.

Indeed, Kyle has many strengths. We are thankful for a cheerful, empathetic, “will-do” kind of a guy. He likes to communicate with other people, has a good sense of humor, and likes to be helpful. As mom, however, worries about the “can not’s” often loom larger than the hopes of the “can’s.” Again, the TRC worked as an objective and positive force in developing those “cans” into marketable skills.

Through one-on-one communication, experience volunteering at different places, and employability coaching, the CSU staff developed a good idea of Kyle as a potential em-

ployee. When Kyle's marvelous CSU Career Training Coordinator, Molly Harris, reached out to Southside Café about him potentially volunteering to gain experience, the door opened.

Management at Southside was also open to the idea of letting him focus on the things he CAN do, and he took off. A few weeks later, Kyle had a formal job interview at Southside, and he was hired as an assistant server. The CSU then helped Kyle study for and successfully pass his ServSafe Food Handler's examination.

Southside Cafe asks Kyle to submit his availability electronically, clock in and out electronically, and to keep up with his schedule, work clothes, and shift responsibilities. He has developed a great rapport with many customers, and patrons often ask about

him when he is not at work. He is learning many new skills, and he says that Tara and the staff are great. As a young man with ASD, he is again in a position between learning to manage expectations and knowing how to advocate for himself when he needs some support. We are thankful.

I hope as a community we can give special recognition to Southside Cafe and ALL employers who choose to see potential employees for their strengths. I also want to give special recognition to the work of the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center and other community partners who have helped MANY community members with special needs or a disability to find employment.

Blessings! – Rhonda Stanton, a.k.a. Kyle's Mom



Samantha Wainscott, CSU Business Employment Consultant, presents Tara Hargrove, owner of Southside Cafe, with a certificate of appreciation from the state of Tennessee for hiring individuals with disabilities. Molly Harris, CSU Career Training Coordinator, looks on with Kyle Stanton who found employment through Tennessee Rehabilitation Services.

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Wilma's Sweet Christmas Legacy

By River Byrd

Every December, Wilma McLauchlan's kitchen became the heart of Christmas magic. She ties on her apron, gathers her well-worn recipe cards, and begin what her family lovingly called "Wilma's Cookie Marathon." By the time she's done, the counters are lined with trays of sweet creations, ready to delight family and friends.

Last year, Wilma outdid herself. With a twinkle in her eye, she announced to everyone, "I'm officially done for the year!" The final tray was a masterpiece of sugary delights:

- **Snickerdoodles**, golden and warm with their cinnamon-sugar coating brought a comforting sweetness reminiscent of childhood snow days.
- **Mexican Wedding Cookies**, perfectly round and dusted with powdered sugar looked like little snowballs on the tray.
- **Cream Cheese Kolacky Cookies**, with jewel-toned centers of fruit filling were as delicate as they were delicious.
- **Scottish Shortbread Cookies**, buttery and crisp were a nod to her grandmother's heritage and a family favorite.
- **Italian Tea Cakes**, crumbly and nutty were the perfect pairing for steaming cups of coffee served on Christmas morning.
- **Cutout Cookies**, shaped like stars, snowflakes, and Christmas trees were lovingly decorated with icing and sprinkles by her grandchildren.
- **MeeMaw's Everything But The Kitchen Sink Cookies** packed with

chocolate chips, nuts, and a dash of coconut, were a family recipe she had perfected over the years.

• **Cool Whip Cookies**, soft and cloudlike, added a modern twist to her traditional lineup.

Wilma didn't stop at cookies. There were also rich **Buckeyes**, the peanut butter-chocolate confections that never lasted more than a few minutes, and creamy **Chocolate Fudge**, cut into perfect squares that melted in your mouth.

Every cookie and treat carries a story, a memory, or a little piece of her heart. When the trays are ready, Wilma packs them carefully and delivers them to her neighbors, friends, and family. Mrs. Thompson down the street received a box to remind her she wasn't alone during the holidays. Each of her grandchildren each got their favorite cookies to take home, although they may devoured the treats on the spot.

Christmas Eve was the grand finale with everyone gathered around her dining table, sharing laughter, stories, and, of course, Wilma's cookies. As her family reached for seconds or thirds, Wilma smiled knowing that her labor of love wasn't just about baking, it was about bringing people together.

"Next year," she teased, "I might add a new cookie to the mix." The groans and cheers from her family filled the room, only proving that Wilma's cookies aren't just a yearly tradition – they were the essence of Christmas itself.



SHORTBREAD CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Makes 12-15 cookies

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup salted butter, softened to room temperature
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ tsp colored sugar or sprinkles per cookie

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cream the room temperature butter. Gradually add sugar and while mixing on low.
2. Scrape bowl down and add the flour while mixing on low. Scrape down again and mix until combined.
3. Roll out on lightly floured surface to ⅛ inch to ¼ inch thick and cut with cookie cutter.
4. Transfer shapes to prepared cookie sheet and allow 2 inches around each cookie.
5. Preheated oven to 350° F. Bake for 9-11 minutes or until slightly brown, not dark, on edges. (Time may vary due to cookie thickness.) Sprinkle with sugar or decorations immediately upon removing from the oven.
6. Cool cookies on the cookie sheet before moving to rack to cool completely.

Optional: Instead of adding sugars or sprinkles after baking, skip step and frost cookies with your favorite icing and decorate.

MeeMaw's Everything But The Kitchen Sink Cookies

INGREDIENTS

- 3½ cups of all purpose flour
- 1 tsp cream of tarter
- 2 sticks of salted butter
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1 cup of granulated sugar
- 1 cup of vegetable oil
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup of Rice Krispies
- 1 cup of unsweetened coconut
- 1 cup of old fashion oats
- 8 oz. bag of toffee bits
- 12 oz. bag of white chocolate chips
- Peppermint chips (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cream butter until fluffy, add the sugars, vegetable oil, vanilla and egg
2. Sift together flour and cream of tartar.
3. Add 1 cup at a time to butter mixture, fold in and mix after each ingredient: oats, Rice Krispies, coconut and toffee bits.
4. Roll into 1-inch balls. Bake at 350° F for approximately 10 minutes, just until slightly brown.
5. While cookies cool, melt white chocolate and frost half of the cookie and top with peppermint chips (optional).



Wilma's famous Christmas cookie tray

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19. Jesse Parker's grandma baked this type of cake
21. Another name for Jolly St. Nick
22. The _____ at Paris Landing State Park
23. Your father's father, informal

DOWN

2. November holiday to remember our many blessings
4. Big Band musical conductor
5. He works at Southside Cafe
6. John Watkins suggested this as a Christmas gift
7. She bakes lots of Christmas cookies
10. She received a certificate of appreciation recently
12. Shelia Wilson makes a lot of these
13. Prosper _____ Group
15. Wreaths, ornaments, tinsel are all holiday _____
16. Saying "Everything but the _____"
17. Local doctor, Scott _____
20. _____ Edge of Illusion



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COMING TO KRIDER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER:

REZA

EDGE OF ILLUSION

By Rhonda Stanton

It is no secret that one of Branson's top shows for the last several years has been REZA: Edge of Illusion. What a great surprise it was when REZA's team reached out to us at Krider Performing Arts Center and asked if they could bring the show to Paris! After a bit of chatting, the date of Saturday, November 15, was selected.

It just so happened that my family had a scheduled Branson visit in October, so with excitement and curiosity, we attended the show. Wow! This was not a "basic" magic show, and there were no rabbits being

pulled out of hats. From the pre-show music that created a concert-style feel and definitely stirred up excitement to mind-blowing illusions, this fast-paced Las-Vegas level production kept us on the edge of our seats.

How does a young man become such an amazing illusionist? It all started with a magic show at his South Dakota school, when 6-year-old Reza (his real name) became fascinated with the art of magic. He got his first magic kit at age seven, and the rest, as they say, is history.

With his innovative style, REZA has been featured on reality TV

shows in 31 countries, including appearances on A&E's "Duck Dynasty" and The CW's "Penn & Teller: Fool Us." He's toured the world with over 1.5 million tickets sold globally. Audiences can expect to witness incredible feats and unimaginable illusions designed for the best possible use of the KPAC stage!

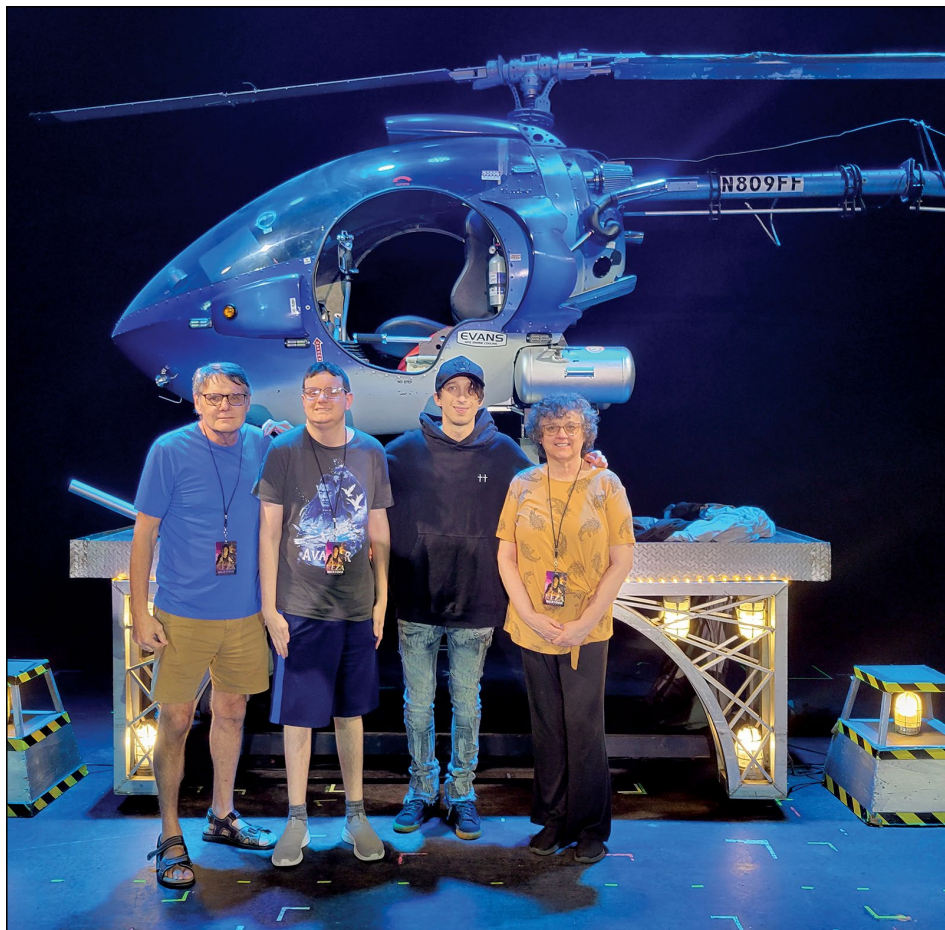
REZA's magic is more than a performance; it's an experience. Blending state-of-the-art production, sharp comedic timing, and countless moments of audience interaction, he creates a show that is immersive and inspiring. His ability to connect

with audiences on a personal level elevates his art to something truly extraordinary.

Fresh, dynamic, and endlessly entertaining, REZA's latest production, Edge of Illusion, has earned him prestigious accolades, including "Magician of the Year." Intriguing and captivating, REZA is not just a magician — he's a world-class entertainer! We hope you see REZA: Edge of Illusion at Krider Performing Arts Center on November 15. Tickets are on sale at KriderCenter.com, but if not, don't miss the opportunity on your next trip to Branson!

Rhonda Stanton is the General Manager of Krider Performing Arts Center.

Right: Rhonda Stanton experienced the outstanding REZA: Edge of Illusion show while on vacation in Branson, Missouri, with her husband, David and son, Kyle.



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PARK STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ORCHESTRA

By Shannon McFarlin

One thing has stayed constant in the history of Henry County: Music has played an integral part of our history since the very beginning. Henry Countians know what it's like to tap our toes and clap our hands. And the coolest cats know how to snap their fingers to the beat.

We've been surrounded by world-class musicians and the sounds that Henry County has heard over the decades has mirrored the changes in music beginning with old-fashioned fiddle music, country and western, the Big Band sounds during World War II when Camp Tyson was located here, blues, gospel, rockabilly, rock and roll – you name it, we've heard it here.

Some of our musicians have been famous, such as Hank Williams, Jr., and Jackie DeShannon. Some have attained regional fame, such as Bun Wilson. Our musicians have also included Sheriff Alvis Wall and his

mean fiddle; Big Band leader, Tom Lonardo, who came to Paris when he was stationed at Camp Tyson; and gospel groups such as the Golden Voices who performed every Sunday on local radio WTPR and which some people still remember.

We had enough musicians to go around that we had community bands in the early 1900s, and in one case, even a little-bitty neighborhood band.

The Cottage Grove Band was one of those community bands, and they were much in demand for picnics, fairs and ice cream suppers. According to a newspaper article, the band's first performance was the Fourth of July Picnic in 1907 in Sedalia, Ky. The event drew some 5,000 people and was sponsored by the Woodmen of the World (That's what the article says, so don't blame us if that's an exaggeration.)

OK Cole was the manager of the band. George Shankle of Gleason

was the band director. Dr. James E. Brady, who just happens to be the great-grandfather of the author of this piece, was in the band, playing alto.

Here is a list of the members and the instruments they played:

Bottom row, left to right: Barton Pullen, snare drums; Will C. Rainey, solo coronet; Ben Hendrix, bass drum absent from the photo because his father had died (according to the caption).

Second row: Yancy Morris, second coronet; Carl Speight, third coronet; OK Cole, solo coronet; Fred Roan, solo coronet. Back row: Clarence Martin, alto; Dr. Brady, alto (my great-grandfather); Rice Bowden, baritone; Will F. Austin, trombone; George Shankle of Gleason, band director; and Bob Williams, E flat bass; and Sid Austin, B flat bass.

There were several venues for local musicians over the years, including the studios of WTPR which

broadcast live performances. This was when WTPR was located on the second floor over the Luckey's Hardware Store. Another popular venue was the old City Auditorium on Rison Street where Elvis and Jerry Lee Lewis once also performed.

Through the years, Henry Countians enjoyed music by the Circle Arrow Ranch Gang, which underwent different name changes, but their talent always remained the same. Ruby Hollingsworth, Bun Wilson, Roe (Slim) Hollingsworth, David Simmons, and Billy Joe Wall. The photo of the 'Gang' shows them performing on WTPR around 1946 in a show sponsored by Western Auto.

Another well-known musician who played for several local groups was Alvis Wall, former sheriff. In the 1940s, he had a string band. The photo of the group was made at the old City Auditorium on Rison Street. In the photo of his band, members are: standing from left Alvis Wall, Bun Wilson and Doc Richardson; seated Bob Pierce and Zera Brannon.

Camp Tyson brought soldiers who

were also musicians to Paris, including Tom Lonardo who was the leader of a Big Band that performed all over. Cal Orris, who was a singer with Lonardo and J.H. Harden, who formed the Golden Voices singing group, was principal of the Henry Co. Training School. The Golden Voices were very popular and also performed live on WTPR Radio.

In photo, taken in 1963, are from left: Harry D. Cowan, Nell Jean Diggs, Elizabeth McClain, Pearlie McClain, Ever Lee Diggs and J.H. Harden.

We have musicians who we've seen marching down the street as band director and who have played for various local groups, such as Martin Paschall, who still has been known to share a tune or two. One of the groups he was in was known as Ken Castleman and the Castleites. In photo are (from left) Alton Doster, Kenneth Castleman, Martin Paschall, Curtis Mayo and Laudell Beasley.

The Parisites were one of West Tennessee's most popular barbershop quartets. In the photograph, from left, is Doug Braden, Carl Orris and Jerald

Sykes; and seated Allen Benson.

We can thank all those people, and more, for the sounds of music that have blessed all of our lives. From fiddlers to dobro players and cloggers, we've had it all and we still do — drop in at the Paris Civic Center every Tuesday around 5 pm and you'll hear good music by local musicians.

And please don't forget the itty-bitty bands, too. If you can indulge the author of this article, she will share with you a photo of her grandmother's Park Street Neighborhood Orchestra, which used to play and sing at the City Auditorium and other local venues.

Ellie B. Snow was a long-time music teacher, and for quite awhile, she had a neighborhood band which consisted of Gerald Small, K.B. Humphreys, Jr., her daughter Jeannette (on drums in photo), Amanda Wright, and Dorothy Small. The group also had talented singers, including her daughter Jeannette and neighbors Mary Alice, John, and Bobbie Jean Burton.

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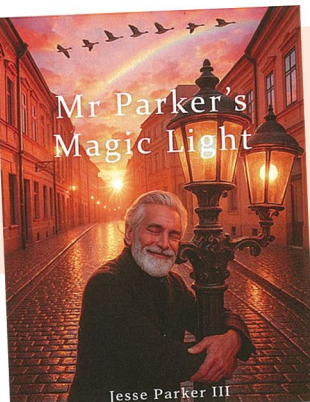
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SPOUSAL CHRISTMAS LIST REQUIRES THOUGHTFUL INPUT

By Steve McCadams

Comprising the annual Christmas list for the lady of the house – hereafter referred to as “Upper Management” – requires a lot of time and careful effort for both recipient and giver. It’s a tedious task. Not meant to be taken lightly.

However, many outdoorsmen I know greatly underestimate the importance of the so called “annual report.” They fail to realize the merits and just how influential said gestures have on long range planning!

Some of the blame is associated with timing. The holidays arrive right

in the middle of duck, deer, and rabbit seasons which are further associated with muddy boots, wet dogs, and sleep deprivation.

That’s no excuse, which Upper Management is quick to point out, but it explains, to some degree, the thought process from my fellow members of the great outdoors. After early wake-up calls in the cold, some of us display that deer in the headlights look during late afternoon arousal attempts.

Gift giving expresses love and appreciation. What’s hidden beneath the tree, disguised behind beautiful

bows and elegant wrapping paper, speaks volumes as to the monumental matrimonial journey.

Once the big day arrives and presents are ripped open to reveal their true identity, the bond is truly revealed between the giver and taker. Months of meticulous shopping sprees, plus thumbing through the endless catalogs pages that arrive in the mail and multiply like dropped off cats, is a tough task. And then there’s the never ending internet search.

It’s a chore not for the faint of heart. Many sportsmen I know fold under the weight and pressure of



You can't ever have too many decoys around during the holidays!

seeing it through to the end. For that reason I've compiled a few helpful hints for my fellow man that might help cushion the blow once the holidays descend and the weight of it all comes crashing down.

Juggling the responsibilities and priority status of the spousal Christmas list has been known to have repercussions requiring repayment throughout the year in weekly and monthly installments. Odds of a balanced budget are unlikely.

After decades of on-the-job-training, I submit a list of items that might extend the marriage and help pave the way for a prosperous year ahead. Wise are the guys who plan ahead, avoiding conflict and endless innuendos that can surface at most anytime.

Upper Management has the reputation of selective memory. The recall mode is always active!

In order to keep my fellow outdoorsmen out of the dog house, which is where Upper Management has threatened to relocate the dog's owner, consider these items on her Christmas list this year:

1. PAIR OF INSULATED CHEST WADERS, Size 11
Mossy Oak camouflage pattern. They will keep her feet warm and dry when working the muddy flower beds. Sometimes it's brutal out there!

2. GORE TEX RAIN SUIT, Size Large
One never knows when it will rain so if she's mowing the yard and those pop-up showers descend out of nowhere best to be prepared. Doubles as jacket that can be worn at

book club. Camouflage is the color of choice these days.

3. 10-FOOT TWO PIECE GRAPHITE ROD, Medium Action

Great for dusting and reaching those high spider webs in the corners of the house. Much safer than ladder. Light and easy to hold. Remember, always be concerned about spousal's safety. When not in cleaning mode, rod doubles as fishing pole and can be used to twitch small feather crappie jig, detecting those light strikes.

4. CASE OF 12-GAUGE STEEL SHOT, Size #4

Good choice for armadillo control as the varmints have dug up the parameters of flower beds far too long and destroyed landscaping. Gift also doubles as good choice for duck shells so owner can shoot something for the spoiled retriever to fetch.

5. NICE GAS OPERATED AUTOMATIC SHOTGUN, 12 or 20-Gauge

Great for ridding the yard of armadillos. Also doubles as a great duck and dove gun. Multiple use is wise use of resources. Preferably in a camouflage non-glare finish.

6. DECOYS!

Ducks or geese will work. They are great for Christmas decorations on mantles and tables when sporting a red ribbon. Never go out of style. Prefer the foam filled ones from Higdon as they double as great additions to any waterfowler's hunting spread. Can't EVER have too many decoys around the plantation house!

7. FISHING TACKLE

There's always room in the tackle box for a few more lures. They also double as nice ornaments on the tree. In the event she wants to go fishing, she needs to have the right lure to catch big fish! This would help address the "not more fishing stuff" conversations when boxes are left on the doorstep from Bass Pro Shop.

8. PAIR OF HIGH TOP MUCK BOOTS

Great for chores around the yard, especially in wet grass or raking leaves. Also doubles for working the retriever around muddy ponds and lakes, rabbit hunts etc. Also, size 11.

9. DUCK AND GOOSE CALLS

Excellent choice for stocking stuffers. Can have further application to signal when supper is ready in case dog's owner (and dog) has succumb to naps out of earshot but near heated fireplace guarding sofa from uninvited intruders.

10. PAIR OF POLARIZED SHOOTING GLASSES

Known to cut the glare during planting of spring shrubs or watering the lawn on hot and humid summer days. Can also double as vital accessory in the duck blind and out on the shooting range.

I could go on, but by now, you've gotten the drift on how to address the daunting quest. And all this time you thought she was hard to shop for! Just remember to purchase top quality stuff. After all, her health and safety are of the utmost importance.

Follow this path and these timely tips for a long and fruitful future. Upper Management will keep you around a few more years due to immeasurable company loyalty!



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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IN THE GARDEN

HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR THE GARDENER



By John Watkins

Holiday time again. You either love it or hate it. For some, it's the most wonderful time of the year with nonstop holiday parties, lots of food and beverages, shopping for that perfect gift, and some much-appreciated rain and cooler weather. For others, it's having to go to all those nonstop parties, absolutely too much food and beverages, having to actually shop and worry whether you be able to find that perfect gift, and all that depressing wet and cooler weather. Like I said, you can either love it or hate it.

Regardless of your take on the season, it's still a great time to celebrate all that we have to be thankful for. And one way of showing your appreciation for the season is in giving gifts to those we love (or maybe just like, or maybe even just those we want

to impress). Now my wife can attest to the fact that I might be the worst gift-giver in the history of gift-giving. It's not that I don't like the "idea" of finding a great gift; it's the fact that I get so caught up and flustered by so many choices that I rarely decide on anything in a timely manner and end up just picking up anything I possibly can a day before the big event.

But fear not, I'm going to give you a cheat sheet on some great gift ideas for that experienced gardener on your list, or maybe those on your list that are just "garden-curious".

Let's start with the obvious garden gift, a great plant. Now I realize that it is late Fall or Winter when you're reading this, but there are still some fantastic choices out there. As long as the ground isn't frozen, there is still plenty of time to plant a tree or shrub. So why not a "legacy" gift of a

shade tree like a beautiful oak or maple or our state tree, the tulip poplar.

Maybe it's a great evergreen like a holly or arborvitae that can double as a Christmas tree before moving it to the yard. If you're looking for a smaller gift, the selection of houseplants is almost endless. I know everyone is probably thinking only of poinsettias or Christmas cacti, but what about a nice bonsai? Or you certainly can't go wrong with a beautiful orchid in a decorative planter!

Now I think most people already know, but I'm a sucker for garden gadgets and tools. And it doesn't always have to be cutting edge technology. Sometimes the tried-and-true tools make the best gifts. Whether it's a quality pair of hand clippers (Felco is still my favorite), a nice hand trowel with a comfortable grip (the Garden Works Soil Scoop tops my list), or

maybe even a new shovel for those bigger planting jobs, having the right tools always makes the job easier.

To be honest, a few years ago I wouldn't have given a plug nickel for a battery-powered garden tool, but technology has come a long way in that department. These days a battery-powered blower, string trimmer, and even some of the mowers have enough "oomph" to power through a day's work. Plus, they're so much better for the environment that you can feel good about yourself while getting the job done.

Finally, let's not forget the importance of looking good and dressing the part for comfort and safety while you're spending the day in the garden. Maybe a nice pair of gardening gloves that can stand up to the rigors of digging in the dirt or pruning back those unruly shrubs.

As I get older, I am coming to the realization that a good garden hat is worth its weight in mulch to protect your skin from those harmful UV rays. (I swear, I don't ever remember the top of my head getting sunburned



A good garden hat is worth its weight in mulch to protect your skin from harmful UV rays.

when I was younger. Must be global warming!)

I'm not even embarrassed anymore by needing either some knee pads or maybe a foam cushion to kneel down on when I'm planting or weeding. I can also highly recommend a good pair of safety glasses if you're going to be string-trimming, mowing, or blowing. And I'm not talking about

those clunky, old-fashioned goggle looking things. I want the designer, wrap-around, polarized models that make you look like the Joe Cool of the neighborhood garden gang.

Sure, there are more garden gadgets out there than I could ever mention in this short list, but even the savviest gardener still needs the basics. So don't be like me and wait until the last minute this year to get the perfect gift for the gardener in your life.

Although I still don't think that the car air freshener with the likeness of Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce is the worst gift I could come up with at the last possible moment!

Happy Holidays to one and all.

Scroll on over to Facebook or Instagram and check out some of my social media posts. You can find me at "jwdigginginthedirt", bringing some wit and wisdom to a garden near you.

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



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THANKSGIVING DINNER – NOVEMBER 27

Indulge in a traditional Thanksgiving dinner featuring all the classic favorites, prepared by our talented culinary team.

DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING HIKE – NOVEMBER 28 • 9 AM to Noon

Guided by Park Rangers, this moderate hike at Camp Hazlewood is suitable for all ages and is a great way to explore the park's natural beauty.

SANTA NIGHT OF LIGHTS – DECEMBER 11-14

Guests of all ages will enjoy the dazzling light displays and festive decorations. Capture memorable family photos, sip on seasonal treats, and embrace the magic of the season.

CHRISTMAS DINNER – DECEMBER 25 • 1-5 PM

Our holiday dinner offers a menu of seasonal favorites, crafted to delight every palate, in a cozy setting perfect for friends and family.

ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH – DECEMBER 31

Ring in the New Year and celebrate in style with DJ Tom Evans, dancing, and a festive atmosphere.

FIRST DAY HIKE – JANUARY 1

Kick off the New Year on the right foot with the First Day Hike led by park rangers and fellow nature enthusiasts through the park's scenic trails. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

BIRDS OF PREY FEEDING – Every Saturday at 2 PM

Visitors can witness these incredible creatures during feeding time and learn fascinating facts from the park's knowledgeable staff.

FACES & PLACES



Paris Lakeway Kiwanis club member, John Selby, is busy handing Elena Craig several carryout orders at their annual Mexican Dinner at the Paris Convention Center.



Eric Long of the Paris Police Department, was honored with gifts and well wishes for his 30 years of service as a police officer. Thank you Officer Long!



Couples Bridgette Huckaba and Warren Newcomb, along with Jared and Kaitlyn Cotton, had the time of their lives traveling through Japan for two weeks.



Pam Conger, the Wicked Witch of Paris, and her evil assistant, Rick Conger, had "wascawwy wabbit" Marsha Banasiewicz by the ears at this year's Spooktacular at Eiffel Tower Park.



Meredith, Misty and Madison Perritt, along with Audrea Abbott had a girls night out in matching pajamas to watch the new release, "Regretting You", at the Parisian Theatre.



Left: Quota president Cheryl Wilson and her husband Mike ham-ed it up at the club's annual hog killin' dinner.



Abby Grace Alton is overjoyed holding her new blessing, Cruz Alton Eddings, born October 7.



It was a sweet moment when Pat McElroy held her first great-granddaughter, Indie Grace McElroy, daughter of Jake and Katie.

Left: Sarah Davenport posed with her sweet pup, Scarlet, at the weiner dog races held at Paris Station. Scarlet was all dressed up for the costume contest.



Right: Inman School has had a new visitor trying to get in and peeking through the classroom windows for a few weeks now. Does that gobbler not know what time of the year it is?



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 28-December 17 on Saturdays from 10am-2pm 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.

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 time for holiday movies! Enjoy a night out at the Parisian Theatre with nightly shows on six screens and matinees on Saturday and Sunday. For more information and movie schedules, call 731-642-7171.



NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 6 - A delicious yearly tradition known as the **Carl Perkins Center Pancake Day** will be at First Baptist Church, 7am-7pm with all-you-can-eat yummy pancakes and sausage. Tickets are \$12 at the door. Call 731-642-8455 for more information.

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

NOVEMBER 7-9 - It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in festive Downtown Paris! **Candlelight Open Houses** are Friday and Saturday 10am-8pm and Sunday from 1-4pm. Call 731-642-3431 for information.

NOVEMBER 8-9 - 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 9am-5pm; Sunday 12-4pm. Free admission! For more information, please email christmasinparisn@yahoo.com or find them on Facebook.

NOVEMBER 11- Veterans Day. Thank a veteran for their military service today. Be sure to watch for local celebrations around town.

NOVEMBER 15 - Head over to KPAC for an exciting night with **REZA** performing the **Edge of Illusion** audience immersive production. For tickets and more information, visit kridercenter.com.

NOVEMBER 16 - 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 19-20 - Henry County FCE Club presents the annual **Home-maker's Holiday** in the Enoch Building at the fairgrounds from 3-6pm on the 16th and 10am-1 pm the 17th. On Thursday, be sure to come hungry. They're serving soup and sandwiches from 11am-1 pm! Lots of goodies to buy. For more information, contact Michele Atkins at 731-642-2941.

NOVEMBER 24-December 14 - The annual **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.

NOVEMBER 26-28 - Thanksgiving Break for city and county schools

NOVEMBER 27- Thanksgiving Day. Spend time with loved ones as you celebrate all that we have to be thankful for.

NOVEMBER 28 - It's North Pole Family Fun Day from 10am-2pm in Downtown Paris today. Enjoy Santa, Rudolph and the Elves rolling in on a fire truck, craft booths and more. For more information, call 731-642-3431.

NOVEMBER 30 - Join the fine folks at Paris First United Methodist Church for the **1st Sunday of Advent** and the traditional "**Hanging of the Greens**" at 8:30am and 10:30am. For more information call, 731-642-4764.



DECEMBER

DECEMBER 3 - Participate in the **Candlelight Advent Walk** to churches in Downtown Paris starting at 6pm. For more information, call 731-642-5074 or 731-642-4764.

DECEMBER 4 - Take time out of your busy schedule to give back. Visit the **Lifeline Blood Mobile** at First United Methodist Church, 12pm-6pm. For more information, contact Dan Rogers at 731-427-4431.

DECEMBER 5-7 - **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 6 - Inman Middle School PAC is hosting the **10th Annual Mistletoe Market** in the Inman gym with over 25 booths with local small businesses and crafters from 10 am-4pm. This would be a great place to do some early Christmas shopping and find those one-of-a-kind gifts. For more information, call 731-642-8131.

DECEMBER 7 - 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. To learn more, call 731-644-2517.

DECEMBER 8 - For fun galore, check out the **Holly Jolly Electric Parade** at 5pm. Awards include Clark Griswold, Golf Cart, Cutest Critter, and Best Decorated. For details and entry information, contact downtown-paristn@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 13 - Get in the holiday spirit by listening to the elite group of singers from HCHS in **Christmas with the Madrigals**. Starts at 7pm at the KPAC. For more information, call 731-644-2517.

DECEMBER 14 - The **Paris - Henry County Community Concert Band** will play at 2:30pm featuring Christmas music and guest artist, Charles Lewis. Tickets: \$8 in advance and can be purchased from a band member or at The Closet Consignment store downtown. \$10 at the door. For more information, contact 731-644-2517.

DECEMBER 17- First Baptist Church's Candlelight Communion Service in the sanctuary at 6pm. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 731-642-5074.

DECEMBER 22- JANUARY 6 - Joyeux Noel! **Winter Break** for the kiddos in all schools!

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

DECEMBER 25 - Wishing you and yours a blessed Merry Christmas!

JANUARY 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR! It's time to make those resolutions for 2026.



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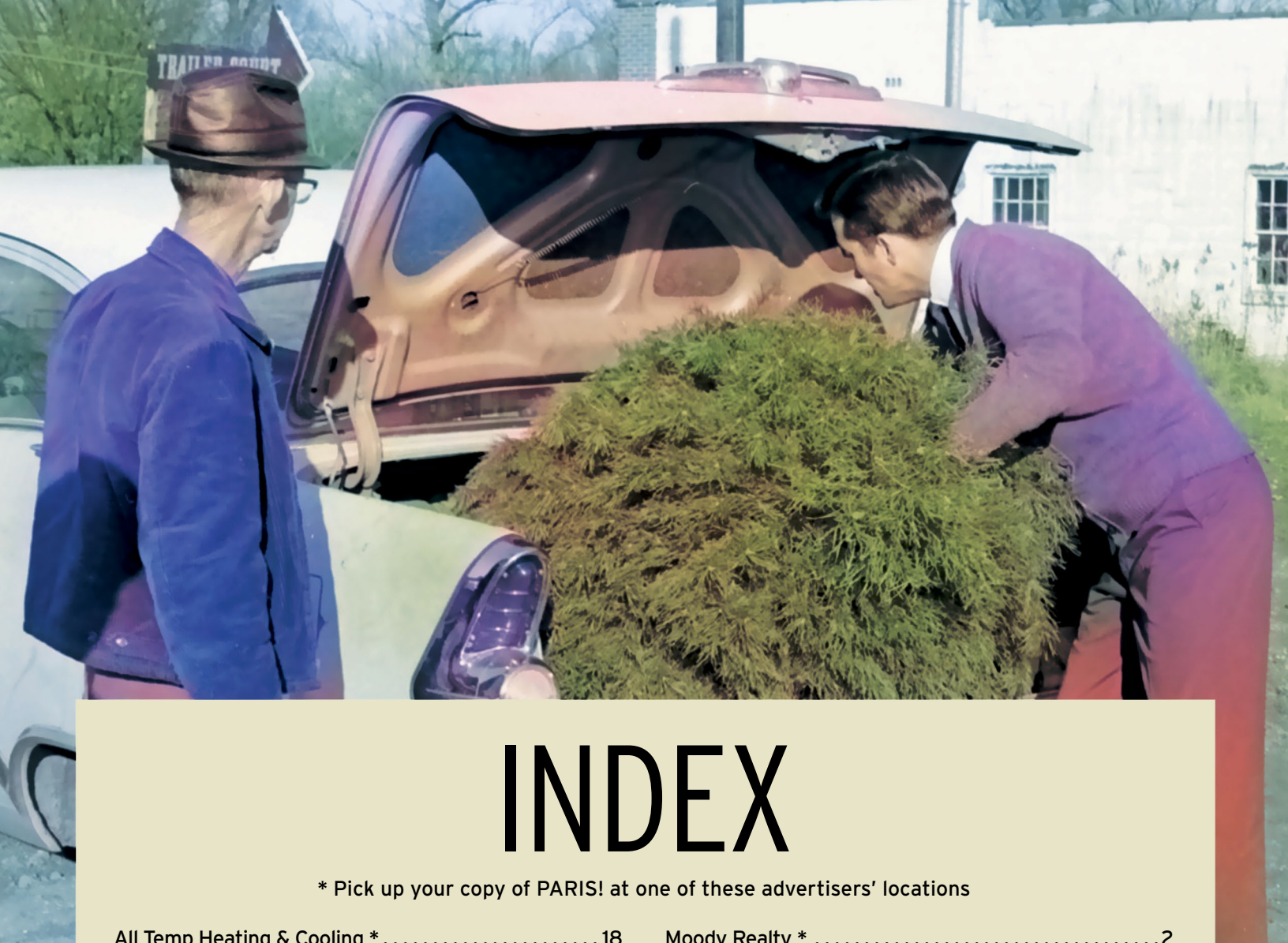


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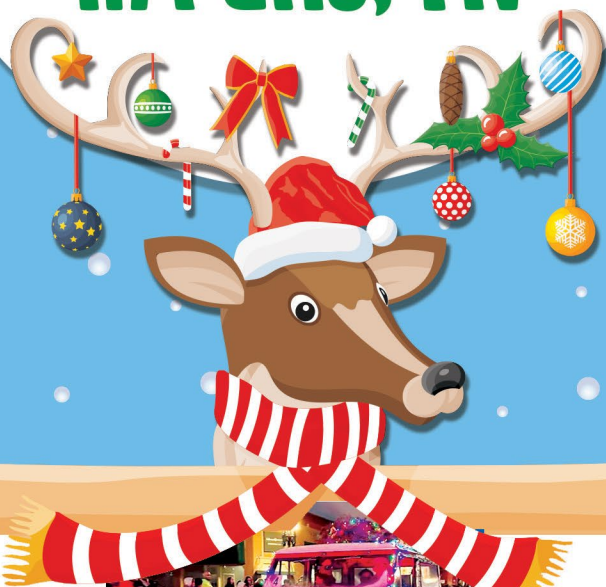
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