HENRY COUNTY and the LAKE AREA

IN AUTUMN 2024

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AUTUMN IS UPON US!

Don't you love Autumn? Cooler weather, less humidity, shorter days causing the trees to turn an array of orange, yellow, and red. It's a special season with its refreshing powers.

Steve McCadams knows that feeling and writes about it in his article about Autumn's arrival and its transition with anticipation.

It's also a season of activities and festivals in the area. Caleb Grissom, director of the Paris-Henry County Arts Council, writes about ARTS 'Round The Square returning in September. Holy Cross Catholic Church invites us all to Oktoberfest at the Henry County Fairgrounds.

Meredith Vajda tells readers about Paris Academy for the Arts selling tickets for a fantastic giveaway to the Opryland Hotel plus a fun show and cruise. Also, there is information about their upcoming Open House.

The Krider Performing Arts Center and the Paris Parks & Recreation has several activities scheduled like chorus for homeschoolers, A Night of Praise community choir, ukulele classes, Fall Projects performances, and the ever popular Spooktacular at Eiffel Tower Park.

Speaking of spooky, be sure to read about the scarecrows that will

ON THE COVER

"Nurse Nora Stitches" checks on her patient's condition before Halloween in Downtown Paris. The pair received an honorable mention for Dyersburg State Community College at last year's Scarecrows On The Square competition. Photo by Karen Geary.

take over the courthouse square in October. Of course, we can't forget Halloween and its invasion of trick-ortreaters into one Paris neighborhood.

Our features stories profile actress Anna Hefner and dance studio owner Kaley Fletcher – two young women with as much talent as they have gumption.

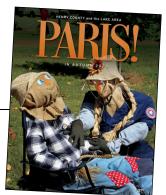
We remember the sacrifice of Smokejumper Richard Bennett and the 75th anniversary of his death. After Shady Grove Baptist Church was destroyed by a tornado, the congregation built back and now celebrating their 200th year of existence.

We can't escape the approaching the political season, and JoÚ Watkins explains in his quippy article why he is backing the Garden Party. In Paris Cuisine, we learn peanut butter isn't only for sandwiches anymore.

Lastly, don't miss our Faces & Places, crossword puzzle, and calendar of events.

Happy Fall, ya'll!

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Henry County and the Lake Area

PARIS!

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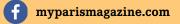
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This magazine accepts no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, photography or artwork. All submissions may be edited for length, clarity and style. REMINISCENCE

SNOKEJUNPER The Death Of Robert Bennett

e was only 22. That's what keeps running through your mind when you think of Robert Bennett and his too-short life. Robert was a "smokejumper" in 1949 and died at the age of 22, fighting the Mann Gulch Fire in Montana. He was among 13 young men who died in the accident, which prompted changes in the way that forest and wildfires are fought.

With this being the 75th anniversary of the tragedy, the National Smokejumpers Association hosted a memorial service for Robert at his graveside in Maplewood Cemetery in Paris and will honor all 13 of the young men in their hometowns with similar services.

Robert was the son of Robert Guy and Annie Louis Moses Bennett and graduated from Grove High School in 1945. He enlisted in the U.S. Army right away after graduation, on May 30 and trained as a Medical TecÚician, was promoted to Staff Sergeant and was stationed at the 29th General Hospital in New Caledonia, an island in the southwest Pacific.

He was discharged a year later and returned to the U.S. Not long after

By Shannon McFarlin

his return, he enrolled as a student at the University of Montana forestry program. Part of his training was working as a smokejumper – an elite group of young men who parachuted into remote areas to provide the initial attack on hard-to-reach wildfires. Smokejumpers carried their heavy equipment with them, including axes and shovels as well as their provisions on their backs. The heavy packs contributed to how dire the situation became for the men as the fire turned into a raging inferno.

Robert and his family lived on Head Street and he had one brother Guy and two sisters, Jeannie and Joyce.

BENNETT'S SAD HOMECOMING

Suzanne Richter spoke about Robert and the Smokejumpers at a program on 'Unsung Heroes' at the Paris-Henry County Heritage Center in 2022. Suzanne, whose maiden name is Looney, was both a neighbor and a friend of Robert and his family.

According to Suzanne, "Mr. Bennett was notified by telegram of the loss of his son and then he had to arrange the funeral and await the arrival of the body. I was 7 years old and I remember all of this because my grandparents lived on Head Street next door to the Bennetts in the home that has been lovingly restored by Sue and JoÚ David Neese. The visitation for Bobby was held at the Bennetts' home, as was the custom, and I remember attending. It was in August and very hot with lots of people in the house and cars lining the street. I could not get it through my child's brain about how Bobby died and why he was jumping into a forest fire in Montana."

TRAGEDY IN MONTANA

Smokejumpers were first used in the 1930s, Suzanne said. "They were specially trained to parachute into an already burning fire and create firebreaks from the inside. Smokejumpers became a reality in the 1940s. The jumpers were usually young men who needed a summer job with an older squad member in charge. In the 1940s, the Forest Service had switched from aerial water drops to experiments with parachute jumping. Prior to Mann Gulch, however, no smokejumper had ever died. In Mann Gulch, 12 plus one fire guard died."

Bennett and his teammates were stationed at Camp Hale in Colorado, and they were dispatched to a wildfire north of Helena, Montana, in August of 1949, where the tragedy unfolded. A memorial to the 13 smokejumpers who died is at Meriwether Campgrounds.

Suzanne said, "Lightning struck and the fire started on August 5 in Helena National Forest. It was spotted by a young college student in a designated wilderness area covered by grass. Efforts to put the fire out were unsuccessful and it continued to spread slowly."

Initially, 16 smokejumpers were flown in, to be dropped four at a time. "Because of turbulent weather, one became air sick and did not jump. Wayne Dodge, 33, was in charge. Their radio and other equipment were smashed in the jump; the plane was flying too low because of the turbulence. That left the 14 smokejumpers very much alone and unsupported," she said.

After landing on the ground a halfmile from the fire, the 15 smokejumpers were met by a fire guard and they headed down the gulch towards the Missouri River for a safer position.

"The dry conditions and high winds caused the fire to suddenly expand cutting off the squad's route. They were forced back uphill while trying to outrun the swiftly advancing fire. During this blow-up stage the fire covered 3,000 acres in 10 minutes," according to Suzanne.

Realizing the danger, the crew's commander "Wag" Dodge, as he was called, told the men to drop any equipment and run with the fire less than 100 yards behind them and closing fast. Dodge set a small escape fire, creating a burned over area that the fire would bypass, and he directed the men to this area. But they continued to flee uphill. Two men hid in a crevice in a rock wall; they and Wag were the only survivors.

Suzanne noted, "The events of Mann Gulch forever changed the world of firefighting. The Forest Service would institute new training tecÚiques and improved safety measures. The agency also would place more emphasis on fire research and the science of fire behavior, resulting in improved tecÚiques and equipment. However, the developments will never overshadow the immense tragedy for this group of firefighters"

ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL SERVICE

At the memorial service held at the gravesite on Sunday, August 4, speakers were Jim Cherry of Iowa represented the National Smokejumpers Association; Fred Haller, originally of Martin, with the Smokejumpers; Paris PI News Editor Glenn Tanner; and various members of the Bennett family. Some 50 people from across the country attended the service.

Sunday's program featured placement of a bronze memorial marker and a presentation of a commemorative booklet for the county.

In a letter to Robert Bennett's mother, survivor Bob Sallee said, "The Smokejumpers are some of the best fellows in the world, and your son was one of the best-liked men in camp...Of the men who died at Mann Gulch, Bob was the only one who showed any sign of using his head and thinking out a way or method that might have meant survival for him...But God had decided it was Bob's time to come. Your son is a hero. All men who die protecting something they love are heroes."

Those who were killed by the fire: • Robert J. Bennett, age 22, from Paris, Tennessee

• Eldon E. Diettert, age 19, from Mis-

soula, Montana – died on his 19th birthday

• James O. Harrison, Helena National Forest Fire Guard, age 20, from Missoula, Montana

• Wiliam J. Hellman, age 24, from Kalispell, Montana

• Philip R. McVey, age 22, from Babb, Montana

• David R. Navon, age 28, from Modesto, California

• Leonard L. Piper, age 23, from

Blairsville, Pennsylvania

• Stanley J. Reba, age 25, from Brooklyn, New York

• Marvin L. Sherman, age 21, from Missoula, Montana

• Joseph B. Sylvia, age 24, from Plymouth, Massachusetts

• Henry J. Thol Jr., age 19, from Kalispell, Montana

• Newton R. Thompson, age 23,

from Alhambra, California

• Silas R. Thompson, age 21, from Charlotte, North Carolina

Those who survived:

• R. Wagner (Wag) Dodge, Missoula, SJ foreman, age 33 at the time of the fire. Dodge died five years after the fire from Hodgkin lymphoma.

• Walter B. Rumsey, age 21 at time of the fire, from Larned, Kansas. Rumsey died in an airplane crash in 1980, age 52.

• Robert W. Sallee, youngest man on the crew, age 17 at time of the fire, from Willow Creek, Montana. Last survivor of the Smokejumpers. He died May 26, 2014, at age 82.



Above: In Maplewood Cemetery, Bennett's grave marker with the bronze Smokejumpers medallion. Previous page, foreground: Portrait of Robert Bennett. Previous page, background: Victims being carried out the day after the Mann Gulch fire.

AUTUMNS ARRIVAL Transition With Anticipation

y health improves once autumn arrives. Something about a jacket morning giving way to a shirt sleeve afternoon that puts pep in my step.

Anticipation of transition. What lies ahead makes it easy to bounce out of bed. Big Orange football, fall fishing, hunting seasons in full swing, food around the fire pit. It's an endless list.

Hikers, campers and all sorts of wildlife enthusiasts feel the rush. And it all occurs in the midst of a colorful parade courtesy of God's paintbrush.

Rolling hills and hollows may seem silent, but their faces yell out with majestic hardwoods sporting brilliant yellows of scaly bark hickories melted in-between the multitude of burnt orange oaks. Fall on display.

All seasons are special but none more so than the arrival of autumn.

By Steve McCadams

Stable weather is the norm. Yet another attribute to a season that seems to offer healing powers for whatever the ailment.

Soak up the amazing autumn outdoors with a late afternoon pontoon ride, cruising along the infinite shorelines of Kentucky Lake. It's a game changer. You may hear geese honking hellos, arriving to their wintering grounds here on the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge.

Might see a big buck strolling in the shadows or owls trading hoots from places unknown. Or you may inherit the sounds of silence, only to hear your conscience asking why you've neglected to pause, reflect, and visit places like this more often.

Such an outing can be the scratch for any itch. Blazing your own trail somewhere off the beaten path in the quiet time of an autumn afternoon getaway is usually well worth the price of admission. Away from the rat race where noise pollution interferes with natural sounds of the backwoods and a rural chorus of mixed critters is where I want to be when autumn descends.

I want to hear the distant whistle of a bobwhite, calling the covey back together before roosting time kicks in.

Out on the lake wetting a line, hearing the splash of a big fish feeling frisky, a direct result of cooler surface temperatures stimulating a feeding spree. I don't have to catch him. Just knowing he's there is reason enough to enter the chase.

Same goes for the hunter out deep in the woods or subdued in the swamp. The moment in time has consumed him, falling under the spell of silence until the rustling of leaves on a dry forest floor signals movement heading in his direction.

Will the big swamp donkey emerge and display a trophy rack? Perhaps stop and sniff the air, detecting an intruder. Could be the two will never meet, leaving each to wonder about the other. It's not all about the harvest. It's more about the hunt.

Sharing the deep confines of the woods where coyotes howl and the sly fox slips undisturbed down a sand ditch, never once stepping on a dead stick and making a sound. Up close and personal with nature. Out where a man can hear himself think.

Far away from the trials and tribulations of everyday life. Taking off the blinders, admiring the efforts of a red-breasted woodpecker's relentless work ethic that went unnoticed on a normal day's fast paced routine.

How he and the flickers remember where they stashed the acorns in the forest jungle of dead snags is yet another entry on the list of nature's mysteries.

Same way the squirrel remembers where he buried his treasures or the wisdom and wit to do it in the first place as winter draws near.

Admiring a harvest moon. Stacking the pumpkins and bundling up cornstalks.



Up close and personal with nature...where a man can hear himself think.

Being "out there" somewhere with my Labrador. The places where you can be alone but never lonely. Cold nose on the back of the hand with a wet lick of love reinforced from a trusted friend.

Watching wildlife and spending time in the outdoors cultivates a better appreciation and understanding of the whole shebang. When autumn sneaks away from summer's grip and sets the stage for winter, I seem to find peace and tranquility in its presence.

Let the leaves fall where they may. Sooner or later we all have to find our quiet place!

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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8 PARIS! In Autumn 2024

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Round Fries

RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER

he picturesque courthouse square in Paris will transform into a vibrant hub of creativity and culture on Saturday, September 28.

From 8 am to 4 pm, the annual Arts 'Round the Square will bring together over 70 exhibitors and is expected to attract more than 5,000 visitors. This free admission event promises a day filled with artistic expression, unique shopping opportunities, and community spirit.

The event will feature an impressive array of artists and craftsmen. Attendees can expect to see a wide variety of art forms, from traditional paintings and sculptures to modern mixed media and digital art. Local painters will showcase their latest works, capturing the essence of Tennessee's landscapes and culture. Sculptors will present their intricate creations, ranging from metalwork, ceramics, to woodcarvings.

For those who appreciate the finer details, there will be booths dedicated to jewelry and fashion accessories. Handmade jewelry crafted from pre-

BY CALEB GRISSOM

cious metals and gemstones will be available, offering unique pieces that are both beautiful and meaningful. Fashion enthusiasts can explore an assortment of handcrafted clothing and accessories, perfect for adding a touch of originality to any wardrobe.

Crafters will offer a wide range of handmade goods. Pottery enthusiasts can purchase beautifully glazed ceramics, each piece a testament to the artist's skill. Textile lovers will find an array of handwoven fabrics and quilts.

Woodworkers will present their meticulously crafted items, from furniture to decorative pieces, highlighting the natural beauty of wood. Attendees can also explore booths featuring homemade candles, soaps, and other personal care items.

No festival is complete without delicious food, and ARTS will not disappoint. A variety of food vendors will be on hand to offer everything from classic fair food to gourmet treats. Visitors can indulge in mouth-watering barbecue, fresh-baked goods, and an assortment of international cuisines. For those with a sweet tooth, there will be plenty of dessert options, including ice cream treats, cookies, and other decadent sweets..

Throughout the day, the courthouse square will be alive with the sounds of music and laughter. Local musicians will perform a variety of genres, providing the perfect soundtrack to your day of exploration. There will be performances by folk bands, ensembles, and solo artists, ensuring there's something for everyone to enjoy.

ARTS is more than just an art fair; it's a celebration of community. This event provides an opportunity for local artists and businesses to connect with the public, fostering a sense of togetherness and mutual support. It's a chance for residents and visitors alike to experience the rich culture and creativity that Henry County has to offer.

For more information, contact the Arts Council at 731-624-3955. Vendor applications will be accepted through the website until September 13 – phcarts.com/arts.

SPOTLIGHT

ANNA HEFNER

Aspirations And Hard Work

Anna Hefner plays Little Red Riding Hood in the musical "Into The Woods".

nna Hefner was born and raised in Paris, with a family larger than most. She has eleven nieces and nephews, and is the second youngest of six siblings, only beating out her twin sister by three minutes.

Anna's father was a prominent figure in the Henry County area from 1997-2006 when he worked for Wal-Mart and oversaw the expansion of the local store into a superstore. In addition to the size of her family, one other uncommon trait sticks out about Anna – her aspirations to be a stage actress.

As a youth, Anna was fixated on doing everything she could to learn and better herself for the sake of her craft – theater. She began her career early, at the age of eight, and later appearing in "Shrek Jr." at the Krider Performing Arts Center.

While many were participating in shows to make friends, socialize or just have a good time, Anna always knew it was more to her than most. She took her rehearsals and perfor-

By Noah Way

mances with the utmost seriousness. With each production Anna put under her belt, she took every iota of information to heart in order to better herself for the next show, to further her skills in acting, singing, and dancing.

Despite the risk and adversities of wanting to grow up and become a full-time artist, Anna was down for the challenge, and she was doing everything she could to make sure she would garner success.

When she was in middle school, she started to volunteer backstage at Henry County High School's theater program and at KPAC. She often spent countless hours helping her director's build and paint sets, accomplish clerical duties, learn tecÚical skills like lighting and sound, or work backstage as a crew member moving sets during the seasonal productions.

Ouickly proving herself, the managing director at KPAC, Rhonda Stanton, took notice of Anna's proficiencies and asked her to direct several of the youth shows over the past few years and become a part of the staff. Not many high schoolers could say they are paid to do what they love, but Anna's hard work clearly paid off.

"Theater is one of the few places you're allowed to be somebody else. It's a well-oiled, organized machine at its best. I wanted to be a part of that machine to create something amazing," Anna remarked when asked what the theater means to her.

With that philosophy, it only made sense that when Anna graduated high school in 2021, she went to formal, collegiate training at the University of Memphis to achieve her Bachelor's in Fine Arts in Musical Theater Performance. Her skills and talents did not go unnoticed by her professors either. She soon got a job in the costume shop and was responsible for designing and creating the costumes for the University's productions.

This was in addition to taking all of her acting, singing and dancing classes, as well as auditioning for each musical production of the semester. Her most recent musical was "Into the Woods" where she played Little Red Riding Hood.

Yet, going into her senior year, many of her cohort members are spending their summer's auditioning for Shakespeare tours, summer stock, and applying for internships. But for the past three summers, Anna has always found time to come back to KPAC's Young Artist's Program and the KPAC Players, where she chose to give back.

Many early 20-somethings spend their days trying to escape where they came from, but Anna holds a much wiser and mature point-ofview. "I come back because so many of those kids are like family to me. I think they're so talented," said Anna. "I want to come back and teach them what I've learned, so they can grow up and learn more about the magic of theater and maybe one day go on to try their hand at this professionally as well. I want to show them that it doesn't matter where you come from. You can always do art, and it will always have a place in your life, even into adulthood."

In July, Anna wrapped up two musicals at KPAC – directing "Dear Edwina Jr." and stage managed "Little Shop of Horrors". The latter, an ineffable catch-all role, includes many responsibilities contributing to the success of a large-scale production.

Despite her busy schedule, she still finds time to audition and make steps towards the career she would like to have for her future, too. She recently auditioned for the National Tour of the Broadway smash, "Beetlejuice," based on the popular film of the same name.

Above all, Anna wants to remember her roots. She understands theater life isn't always cush. In fact, that excites her. Rather than uncertainty, she looks at it as an exciting adventure, with a world full of possibility, because when you are a part of the magic of theater, you know anything can happen if you let it.

After graduation, Anna has no plans to settle down anytime soon. She wants to travel, join artist residencies, and audition for every show she can. Maybe when she gets a little older, she'd like to travel around to smaller towns, like Paris, and teach theater to the locals.

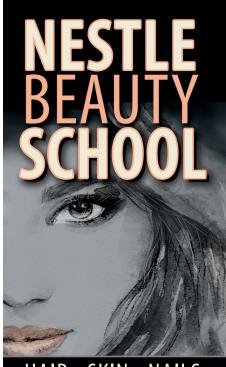
"I believe theater enriches every aspect of your life. I'm glad for the opportunities I had when I was younger, but I think there can always be more. To be a part of something that could help introduce or foster a positive artistic environment to young kids is a dream I plan on making into reality, just like my own career," Anna said, gleaming.

When one day she has a couple of Tony awards under her belt, like one of her inspirations, Cherry Jones, she hopes to open up her own acting conservatory right here in Paris, something no-doubt, will be beneficial to a new group of actors.



Anna Hefner played Annie Jump Cannon in the University of Memphis' production of "Silent Sky."





FEATURE

NEW BEGINNINGS For The New Genesis Dance Company

eing part of a military family, Kaley Fletcher moved around a lot as a child. Despite numerous schools, friends, and geographical locations over the course of her adolescence, there was one thing that remained a constant – dance.

Kaley began dancing at the age of 3. Her family videos are even filled with her dancing along to the radio from the confines of her car seat. Now with close to two decades of experience under her belt, she has quite the resume which includes, but is not limited to, performing for the Harlem Globetrotters, Disney World, World's Dance Competition, and more.

Kaley excelled at dance so much that, in her youth, it was challenging to find companies that were able to cater to her level of skill, dedication, drive and moxie- often commuting up to four hour trips, multiple times a week, to seek out the most compet-

By Noah Way

itive, cutthroat studios that would allow her the room and caliber to grow and flourish as a budding dancer.

Within months of graduating from Henry County High School, Kaley booked one of her first choreography gigs, "Mamma Mia," right back at her alma mater. Her keen eye, prowess and ability to work with even the most novice performers quickly afforded her additional opportunities. Such as Krider Performing Arts Center's "The Spongebob Musical", "Little Shop of Horrors", and teaching a slew of dance classes for the City of Paris, with private coaching on the side.

Kaley's style is often seemingly effortless. It pushes artists to new levels while paying homage to traditional styles of dance whilst simultaneously incorporating new, contemporary elements into her work.

Kailey Starks used to run and own Kailey and Sandra's Dance Studio on Mimosa Drive, which had been a cornerstone of dance in the Henry County area for close to 20 years, until June when the doors abruptly closed. This left over a hundred students without their creative outlet, training, or a studio to call home. Kaley was actually a former student of Stark's from 2016-2019, and when old enough, she worked as an aide in numerous classes to the younger dancers.

When Kaley heard the news, she immediately thought of the surplus of eager students who no longer had a place to practice. With Kailey and Sandra's Studio now closed, this meant there were absolutely no studios in all of Paris for anyone with a passion to dance. This broke her heart.

Being the precocious individual that she is, Kaley decided to fill the shoes left in the wake of the absence. Of all the cities and states she's moved through, the major constant was dance. She would be remiss if that were to be taken away from other artists simply because there was no other company in the local vicinity. "I didn't want to see families struggle to drive further or start from square one when joining a different studio, as often is the case." Kaley reflected.

So, she acted upon her instincts and within a week, had already founded the building blocks of New Genesis Dance Company. She created a class roster, social media campaign, printed posters, and began advertising to the locale.

New Genesis is unique, not only because it's run by someone who isn't like the rest, but their logo is notably a phoenix. Something unorthodox for most studio's which have clipart of ballet flats or ballerinas. This is highly intentional. "New Genesis means new beginning, I was very purposeful with that meaning, and the imagery of the phoenix," Kaley said.

Without being too on the nose, she felt as if the symbolism of a creature rising from ashes was something apropos of her own story; including something others might also relate to, who might have experienced a rebirth themselves. Additionally, "You see so many places use pink, purple, or femininity in their advertising when it comes to dance. I find those places traditionally only attract young girls. New Genesis is a place for everyone, at any level of dance."

She's right. New Genesis Dance Company does not solely offer classes and training for "little girls." There are programs on her roster for the novice or seasoned, there's also for youth and seniors classes. There's adult classes being offered during after-work hours for those that might want to try a new hobby or put on their dance shoes and get back in touch with a lost love.

Kaley even offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity which she dubs the "Tyler Program," a class that specifically caters to those with special needs; which she aptly named after a young boy whom she used to babysit.

Her prices are also highly competitive. "I understand that times are tough. Most studios out there, you have to pay for an entire year upfront. Not only can everyone not always afford that, but sometimes people aren't ready to commit to that length of time," Kaley said. Which is why New Genesis also offers a very distinctive structure, that offers the ability to only commit to a month at a time.

"Sometimes, especially if you're newer to dance, you don't know if you want to do it for months straight. That way, if someone wants to get their toes wet, they're able to try a few weeks of classes first- they can always pick up where they left off.".

New Genesis Dance Co. will run their classes out of Paris Academy for the Arts; with their registration opening soon. To inquire, or follow the journey, they can be found on Instagram at @newgenesisdancecompany or by email at NewGenesis687@gmail. com which lists its roster selection and catalog.



Dancer Kaley Fletcher played Dorothy in a KPAC production of the Wizard of Oz.



Amy Abbott, Owner Hillary Suffern, Robin Hamm, Angela Pickler, Peggy Sydnor, Sandy Bray, Heather Roberts

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FEATURE

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Paris Academy For The Arts To Hold Raffle And Open House



chool has just started and Halloween is yet to come, but it's not too early to be thinking about Christmas. Many people include a visit to Nashville's Gaylord Opryland Hotel in their holiday plans.

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FNERAL

It's a luxurious experience any time of the year, but more so when seeing the magical decorations, skating in the ice rink, and "Ice!", the show featuring carved ice sculptures. What better way to be enveloped in the Christmas spirit and bring out everyone's child-like wonder!

Paris Academy for the Arts is making Opryland the focus of their second annual fundraising raffle. The winner of the raffle receives a package for two that includes Friday and Saturday nights, December 6 and 7, 2024, at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel with valet parking, and tickets to their holiday "Ice! Show." Also included are tickets to the Saturday night cruise on the General Jackson Showboat with dinner at the Captain's table and the Music City Christmas

By Meredith Vadja

show following. Tickets are \$20 each, giving the purchaser one chance to win. There is no limit to the number of tickets that can be purchased by an individual. The winning ticket will be drawn on November 9, 2024, at Paris Academy for the Arts. The winner does not need to be present to win.

Tickets are available now at the PAA website, schoolforarts.org, the PAA office at 402 Lee Street, and from any board member. Complete rules are posted on the PAA website. Ouestions may be emailed to parisacademyforthearts@gmail.com or you may phone PAA at 731-642-3411.

Last year's raffle winners were Tom and Cheryl Snyder. Their prize was two nights at the Hilton Nashville Downtown, two tickets to a performance of "Wicked" at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, and a Sunday afternoon Titans football game in the season ticket seats located in the end zone. They called it "a very enjoyable getaway."

OPEN HOUSE AUGUST 24

Paris Academy for the Arts will hold an Open House on August 24 from 1-4 pm, with instructors present, artist studios open, and refreshments available. A dozen or more instructors will be demonstrating, answering questions, and encouraging registrations for upcoming classes.

It's an opportunity to try your hand at arts like pottery, painting, drawing, weaving, quilting, sewing, stained glass, yoga, dance disciplines and more. Tour the Art Gallery and see works by instructor Tim Pafford's students. Come see what Paris Academy for the Arts has to offer our community. And buy a raffle ticket!

ABOUT PARIS ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

Paris Academy is located in the historic school building that taught many generations of students in grades one through ten from 1881 through 1975. In 2001, the building was saved from demolition by a group gathered for that purpose. The decision was made to form an arts academy as the source of funding to attain and maintain the building's inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Much of the building has been restored to historically accurate condition, but the old building requires constant maintenance and updates.

Today, the Academy offers art classes, workshops, and summer kids' art camps. Studios are rented to individual artists. The Academy Gallery hosts year-round art shows featuring works by local and regional artists.

The Ray Harding Lunchroom is the meeting place for local service clubs, private events including parties and weddings, Academy concerts, as well as the Holiday Bazaar Soup and Sandwich Lunches and Bake Sale.

Financial support comes from classes, fundraisers such as the raffle, memberships, bequests and donations, as well as corporate, government and local grants. PAA is a 501(c)(3) organization with one paid part-time administrator and a handson board of directors. Visitors and volunteers are always welcome.



The Paris Academy for the Arts offers several creative classes for children and adults.



Sandy Winters enjoyed learning weaving techniques during a new class offered at the Academy.



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FEATURE

The Most Wunderbar Time Of The Year!

ost people think about cooler weather, raking leaves, pumpkin spice, and University of Tennessee football when Autumn arrives. But in Henry County, the folks at Holy Cross Catholic Church have one event in mind: Oktoberfest! This year celebrates their 40th time hosting the event, and it will be held on Saturday, October 5, from 11 am to 6 pm at the Henry County Fairgrounds on Royal Oak Drive.

Jennifer and Paul Horton are helping with the logistics of this year's occasion and expects a "wunderbar" time for all who come to dine. "We'll have our traditional German meal of bratwurst, kraut, and potato salad or diners can select a meal prepared by our Mexican congregation. Or they can use their meal ticket for a steak sandwich, hot dog or hamburger from our other food booths," said Jennifer.

Each meal ticket holder will be eligible for door prizes of \$500, \$300, and \$200. The drawing will be held that evening at closing time.

The original Oktoberfest was held on the church grounds on East Wood Street, but several years ago, the event was moved to the fairgrounds. That venue change provided room for larger crowds, more exhibitors, and easier parking. "We'll have our usual games, pony rides, and petting zoo for the kids. And, of course, more food

By Karen Geary

vendors outside. Inside the building, our bake sale is always a favorite and usually sells out by closing time. We added a silent auction a couple of years ago, and it has been a popular event, too," said Jennifer.

At 8 am, the church will host an Oktoberfest 5K Fun Run/Walk at the fairgrounds. Registration is \$20 and includes a t-shirt and gift bag. Last year the event was sponsored by Joe Mahan Ford,West's Wheel & Tire, Patriot Power Washing, Kingsview Partners, TruGreen, Henry County Monuments, Maple Grove Farms, Granges, Ben & Jerry's. For information on the race, or to become a sponsor this year, please contact the church at 731-6424681. Runners may pre-register at the church or by race time.

The Hortons estimates it takes 80-100 parishioners and friends to help put on Oktoberfest. "It's a churchwide effort," said Paul. "From set-up on Friday to take-down on Sunday morning, we rely on the efforts of our volunteers." Proceeds from the event fund the church's community service projects and their youth groups.

Admission and parking are free. Meal tickets are available at www. holycrossparis.org for \$15. Check their website or Facebook page for more information. So, put on your lederhosen and bring the family to this year's fun Oktoberfest.



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The master suite affords nightscapes of moonrise and morning awakenings of sunrise. This is luxury lake living on another level.

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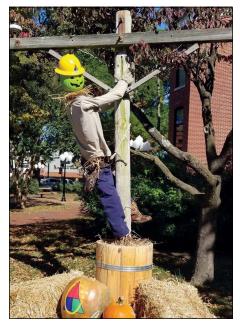
MyParisMagazine.com

Take Over The Courthouse Square!

hen October arrives, you might see some unusual characters around the Henry County Courthouse lawn. Some will make you laugh, and some might even be a little on the creepy side, while others will wow you with their ingenuity.

Scarecrows on the Square in beautiful downtown Paris, Tennessee, is an annual fall festival that transforms the court square into a vibrant display of creativity. Local businesses, schools, and organizations design and showcase unique scarecrows, turning the area into a whimsical outdoor gallery.

The event is sponsored by the Downtown Paris Association, and each scarecrow is vying to be recognized as a award winner such as People's Choice, Most Original, Best Constructed, Best in Show and Honorable Mention. DPA Director Tara Wilson said, "This is the ninth year for this event. It has added a festive, seasonal look to our already beautiful downtown court square. It is a great opportunity to let our businesses and organization's creativity take hold and have some fun! Anyone can participate!" On most any day after the scarecrows are set up, you can see people walking around the courthouse lawn, admiring the work, and taking pictures with the variety of displays. Each year has seen an increase in the entries, bringing life to and decorating the lawn of the Henry County courthouse with last year's entries totalling 33 scarecrows.



Larry The Linesman was a winning entry for the Board of Public Utilities.

The annual event is overseen by Carly Wheat, Director of the Henry County Carl Perkins Center for Child Abuse Prevention. "As Scarecrows on the Square continues to grow in popularity, it is exciting to see what each organization, business or group dreams up and constructs. The overwhelming majority of these groups and organizations go to great lengths to construct a scarecrow that ties into their theme," said Wheat. "No doubt that the Scarecrows on the Square will always be a celebration of creativity, community and the joy of the fall season - and maybe, just maybe, a little competitiveness."

Whether you're a first-time visitor or long-time resident, Scarecrows on the Square offers a enjoyable experience that captures the the season. It's a reminder of the simple pleasures of life and the power of coming together to create something truly special.

The scarecrows will be on display for the entire month of October. Don't miss out on your opportunity to show off your scarecrow constructing skills this year! Entry fee is only \$25. Follow the Downtown Paris Association on Facebook or visit www.visitdowntownparis.com for more information.

oblins and ghouls. Fairy princesses and superheroes. Carved jack-o-lanterns and lots of miniature candies. It must be Halloween in Paris – and that's just the adults!

What was once a simple, fun holiday for children has grown exponentially into a nationwide marketing bonanza. According to the National Retail Federation, last year's Halloween reached a record of \$12.2 billion dollars in revenue from the sale of costumes, treats/food, home yard decor, and party decorations.

That's a lot of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups – which happens to be the #1 best-selling Halloween candy!

Although Henry County is mostly rural with few opportunities for trick-or-treating, there appears to be a few hotspots for costumed children

By Karen Geary

TIS THE SEASON

IN THE

and adults to party the night away. One epicenter is the Atkins-Porter neighborhood in Paris. A few of its residents were willing to shared their experiences with PARIS! readers.

"BEST TIMES" ON JACKSON STREET

Jackson Street resident Shelley Tucker said, "Halloween is always a must at my house. I decorate the yard every year, and we have all of our friends over to help hand out candy. We also have a werewolf battle. Our neighbor likes to compete with my friend's dad to see who's the best werewolf. We really do have the best time!"

Shelley's friend and Halloween cohort, Jennifer Crabtree French, added, "We have so much fun with it on Jackson Street. We start early in October, and last year we made all the tombstones and built the whole fencing system." Her father, Ray Crabtree, gets into the spirit as one of the neighborhood werewolves.

The experience was all new for Elise Myers who lives on Jackson Street. "Last year was our first Halloween back in the 'hood after being away for 48 years, she said. "We had a great Halloween party with family and friends. We had about 400 kids drop by and it was wonderful to see all the creative costumes. All our guests were asked to bring a dish and a bag of candy and every bit was gobbled up by all the goblins! It was a very cold night, but we had two fire pits in the front yard roasting marshmallows and keeping us warm. I love the memories we made and look forward to doing it again this year."

Cindy Hayes Bruton used to live on Jackson Street and had a fond memory of a past Halloween. "I have never seen so many trick or treaters as in that area. One year, I kept running out of candy and my neighbor kept going in her pantry, cleaning out snacks – Little Debbie's and whatever to put in my bucket. I'm not sure why I didn't just go inside and turn out the lights once my supply ran dry."

Longtime residents of Jackson Street, Jon and Laughlin, shared a life-changing event while trick-ortreating with their daughter. "Teresa and I bought our house on Jackson Street in 1978 and still live here. Halloween now pales to years past, but we still participate by handing out fun-size candy bars to the offspring and now even some grandkids of our original customers."

"My most memorable Halloween experience was in 1982. Halloween fell on Sunday that year so the city decided that trick-or-treat would be on Saturday night, the thirtieth. We walked up Jackson Street with our daughter, Michelle, to let her fill her little plastic pumpkin bucket with sweets. Oh, did I mention that Teresa was due to give birth in two weeks?"

"As fate would have it, she went into labor early, near the Dunlap end of Walnut Street. We made our way back home with Teresa stopping as needed for the labor pains. She gave birth the next morning to our healthy baby boy, Alex. I mentioned to Teresa, that at least he wasn't born on Halloween, and she reminded me that Sunday morning WAS October 31."

CREEPY TRAIL ON DUNLAP

Dunlap Street is definitely a Halloween must-see. Randy McCarty, funeral director at McEvoy Funeral Home, knows how to bring out the spooky at his home. Along with his son Carson and friend Lee Ellen Smothers, he creates a haunted trail.

"We have somewhat of a haunted trail through the bushes in my front yard leading up to the porch. My son has a pet boa and sometimes makes an appearance with her. But most of the fun comes from the trail. We have several stuffed dummies, strobe lights, bats, snakes, and skeletons There's also an amplifier and microphone that allows us speak through



Last Halloween, Shelley Tucker channeled her inner Buffy The Vampire Slayer while hunting vampire Jennifer French.

one of the dummies from the porch to scare those on the trail. And of course, there's spooky sounds playing over the stereo out of the upstairs window. We generally give out over 600 pieces of candy."

HALLOWEEN ON A GRAND SCALE

Truly, the most festooned yard in the A-P Neighborhood is Annette Douglas' home on the corner of Dunlap and Jackson Streets. People from all over drive by to see the enormity of the display. When asked how many Halloween inflatables she owns, she replied, "I'm not exactly sure, but one year I had a kid tell me I had 50 in the yard." She likes to decorate a week ahead of Halloween, and during that period, she has parents bring their kids for a photo opportunity. She estimates 1.800 to 2.000 kids and adults roam Dunlap Street on Halloween night, and last year she handed out 1,600 pieces of candy.

"I always have friends and neigh-



The trick-or-treat candy chute has been a popular attraction at Pat and Rachel Terrell's home on Walnut Street.

bors come over Halloween night and help out with handing out the candy. They bring food over and we have a good time while the kids come. One year, I ran out of 3,000 pieces of candy by 8 pm. I didn't know what to do, but I remembered I had a bunch of plastic Hawaiian leis and we passed those out. When those ran out, my neighbor JoÚ Van Dyck said he had some Mardi Gras beads and we handed all those out, too."

Two weeks prior to Halloween, Douglas also dresses up the Akins-Porter Neighborhood Botanical Garden. The walk-through area is family-friendly and a great place for photographs, too.

There's Halloween decorations throughout the A-P neighborhood, so load up the kids and make a drive around the area for a fun time.

Whether you are a hardcore Halloween trickster or a simple candy bowl person, have a safe and hauntingly good time this holiday!



The Atkin-Porter Neighborhood Botanical Garden is a great place to relax during the Halloween season. Bring the family and take some photos of your boos and ghouls!





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FEATURE

FALL FAMILY FUN With Paris Parks & Recreation and Krider Performing Arts Center

By Rhonda Stanton

hen you're planning your family fun, don't forget **SPOOKTACULAR** at Eiffel Tower Park! Our celebration is scheduled for Saturday, October 26, from 1 to 4 pm. There'll be a costume contest, guess the weight of Pumpkin Pete, candy, characters to meet, games and more fun kids and adults!

The **FALL PROJECTS** is a collection of short theatrical performances by KPAC Young Artists and will be presented on Thursday, October 10, at 6 pm. Admission will be \$5 for all. Registration continues through September 4. Young folks are still welcome to register at Paris.RecDesk.com.

With the growing homeschool population, we've been asked to offer some daytime music enrichment. Our new offering, HOMESCHOOL FAMI-LY CHORUS for grades three through adults, rehearses at Paris Civic

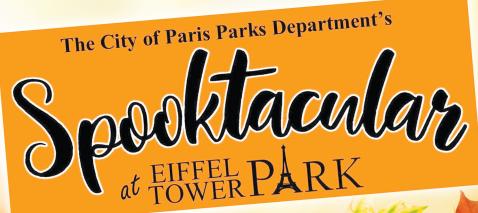
MyParisMagazine.com

Center on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 2:30 pm, September through November. Check it out!

Come to KPAC for "A NIGHT OF PRAISE," a community choir performance on Saturday, September 21, at 7 pm. Area singers and a live band will deliver popular gospel and worship selections from "Peace In The Valley" through "The Goodness of God" and many more.

Lastly, there will be two ukulele opportunities are available. **BEGIN-NING** and **REFRESHER UKULELE** for grade three through adults and **CHRISTMAS UKE** for those who play. More information is available at Paris.RecDesk.com.

Fall Family Fun is around the corner, so make your plans to include Eiffel Tower Park and Krider Performing Arts Center on your calendar!



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Thursday, October 10 - 6 PM Krider Performing Arts Center



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ACROSS

- 3. In October, they will invade the Courthouse lawn.
- 5. Aspiring actress from Paris
- 6. Fall festival held on the Courthouse lawn

16

10

13

15

9. HCHS football team

PUZZLE SOLVE ON PAGE 39

- 12. Seasonal goard
- 13. Suspendered shorts wore at Oktoberfest
- 16. Republican or Democrat
- 17. Robert Bennett was this.
- 19. Street known to be hotspot for Halloween20. Apparition

DOWN

1. Shady Grove _____ Church: 200 years 2. Nashville destination hotel

DOWN

20

18

JUST FOR FUN

11

12

- 4. _____ butter & jelly sandwich
- 7. McCadams: bird with distinctive call
- 8. German word for"wonderful"
- 10. She performed for the Globetrotters.
- 11. Nickname for "neighborhood"
- 14. She learned weaving at the Paris Academy for the Arts.
- 15. John said he's supporting this party.
- 18. You can't have enough of this in a garden.

REMEMBER WHEN

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Standing 200 Years On Solid Ground

hady Grove Baptist Church has reached a milestone very few do. The church celebrated its 200 years as a congregation on July 28th the old-fashioned way: with a homecoming, special services, singing and a revival. It was founded in 1824 and is located in a picturesque spot at 4880 Shady Grove Rd. It stands as a holy beacon to longevity, grit and determination as it was formed when Henry County was not much more than a wilderness.

For its celebration, the congregation conducted a service led by Brother Steve Davis, followed by singing with The Congers. A revival followed, with nightly services featuring Brother Larry Dukes, Brother Randy Kuykendall and Brother Chad Kennedy. Brother Larry Dukes presented

By Shannon McFarlin

a 200 years plaque from the state Baptist Association to Wayne Nanney at the celebration service.

Just think: Shady Grove Baptist Church was established at the same time that Henry County and the city of Paris were being organized: Henry County in 1824 and the city of Paris in 1823. Everything in the county was wild with a few settlers working hard to tame the wilderness and establish their own homes and communities.

In its earliest days, the church was a "primitive" Baptist church with 11 members and Elder Lewis Moore Edgar as its "messenger."

Shady Grove initially joined the Obion Association of Churches in 1845 until a schism developed within the church, causing it to quit the association in late 1845. Some members, including Elder Edgar, formed Nelson Creek Church in the India community, while those members who remained at the Shady Grove Baptist Church became the United Baptist Church of Shady Grove. The church later joined the Western District Baptist Association, which is a familiar

LEWIS MOORE EDGAR

name to most people today. Asa Cox was a pastor at the church for a dozen years while also serving the Friendship, Cottage Grove and North Fork Baptist Churches. He came to Shady Grove in the 1890s and under his leadership several changes took place, including the first female messenger, Mrs. Steve Hart, and Sunday School began in 1897. In 1898, the three-acre plot where the church is now located was donated by the Septimus Ray family.

Church members had a lot to overcome in 1918, when the church was



In 1919, after the tornado devastated their original church building, members of Shady Grove Baptist Church posed in front of their newly rebuilt structure.



At Shady Grove Baptist Church's anniversary celebration, Brother Larry Dukes is presented a commemorative plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Association by Wayne Nanney.

destroyed by a storm believed to be a tornado. Beverly Calloway said the storm swept through, destroying the structure. "It left only the piano still standing and the walls. Everything else was gone."

Members rebuilt the church, and that construction forms the core of the present-day church building. The sanctuary of the present church, using the foundation and the original floor, was built in 1919.

In July 1939, Brother James Farrar and Brother T.L. Cole led one of the most successful revivals for miles around, with 40 people baptized in a local farmer's pond. Almost every family in the local community had members who professed their faith and were baptized in the outdoor ceremony on that hot July afternoon.

And professing their faith is just what members of the Shady Grove Baptist Church have been doing for these past 200 years and will continue doing so for many more.





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FACES & PLACES



At the Atkins-Porter Botanical Garden this summer, Tennessee National Refuge intern Madison Holmes showed children how to use a microscope during a program.



WHOA! Noah Crouch and his dad Greg got to pet a "big horse" at the Henry County Fair's Horse & Mule Pull. Horse belongs to Sharlyn McDaniel.



Dallas Craig, son of Tuffy and Donna Craig, played the voice of Audrey in the "Little Shop of Horrors" production at the Krider Performing Arts Center.



Sue and John David Neese were lucky enough to have their grandchildren Kate Cassini, Caroline Cassini and Larrison Neese visit. Sue dressed up with the kids as Minions for an afternoon at the Parisian Theatre to see "Despicable Me 4."



Rhett Stanton, son of Andrew and Samantha Stanton, is a new Paris resident, having made his debut this past spring!



Yes, that's Goat Yoga. The Henry County Prevention Coalition hosted an afternoon of Goat Yoga, with a large group of interested people of all ages in attendance. In photo, Rachel Matlock and her daughter Elata enjoy the goats who were joining them in their yoga practice.



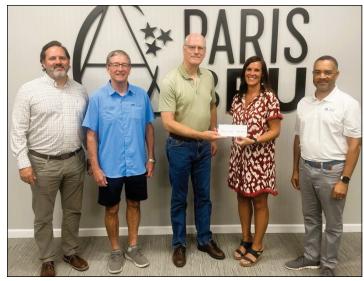
Pro fisherman Jake Lawrence won The Tackle Warehouse Invitational on Lake Eufuala in Alabama. He finished second for the season overall and made it to the Bass Pro Tour! He and his wife Ashley live in Buchanan.



Aden Crawford met Josh Dobbs, former University of Tennessee standout and current San Francisco 49ers quarterback, at the "Night of Champions" event held at First Baptist Church.



Marsha Banasiewicz was in a real pickle at the Paris Olympics Block Party at Eiffel Tower Park. Marsha was leading the way for the Paris Pickleball crew during the parade that evening.



Paris BPU and TVA are proud to give back to our local community. Together, they recently made a donation to Project Help which provides assistance to local families with electric bills. In photo are Brian Smith, TVA; Chip McLean, Dan Dziekonski, Bethany Edwards, and Mark Yates of TVA.



Going to the chapel: Andrew and Kaidence Nickell were all smiles on their way to get married earlier this month.



HCHS junior Lucas Norman, son of Alicia Johnson & Kelly Norman, shows off the new Henry County Marching Patriots band uniform.



Allie Paschall reeled in a huge catfish on Kentucky Lake this summer. She is the daughter of Alan and Amanda Paschall.



Kai Chatman, age 3, was so excited on the first day of pre-school at Paris Central Headstart. He is the son of La'Aniiah Kanyce Sewood.



Olive Mae Hornbrook, right, was crowned 2024 Henry County Fair Little Misss and Ava June Wade, left, was awarded Second Maid. They are the daughters of Jacob & Alaina Hornbrook and Amber & Hunter Wade.



Mallory Collins, daughter of Michael and Heather Collins, tried out her new crossbow while camping with her parents at Piney Campgrounds this summer.



Left to right: Jim Bundy, Vern Steedley, Terry Murphree, Richard Smith teamed up for the Paris Academy for the Art golf tournament fundraiser at Paris Landing State Park Golf Course.



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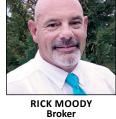
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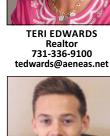
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IN THE GARDEN





SARDEN PARTY

THE POLITICS OF **GARDENING**

ind of like that old Garden Weasel cultivator you haven't used in years, I may not be the sharpest tool in the shed. But if I do know one thing, it's that gardening is a subject best left at the garden gate. However, the fact is that it is indeed an election year, and it's also a fact I could never resist the opportunity to get up on my stump and speak my mind. So just this once, I'll throw caution to the wind and give it the old college try.

But rather than pontificating about the politics of either the Republican Party or the Democratic Party, I have chosen to speak up in support of the grass roots movement known as the Garden Party. Now with only a limited amount of time and space here, I can't touch on every aspect of my party's philosophy, but I do feel it's important to at least give you some insight into the burning issues of the day.

First, let's start with the all-important issue of Climate Change. I think anyone who spent time in the garden this year could agree that, as Bob

By John Watkins

Dylan would put it, "the times, they are a changing." An unrelenting rainy spring seemed to morph straight into an extremely hot and dry summer, and I can only begin to imagine what the winter will look like. In fact, the changes were pronounced enough that the USDA updated its plant hardiness map for the first time in 11 years.

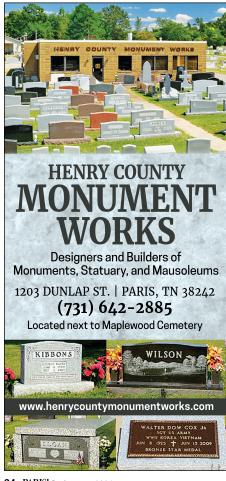
For those of you not familiar with the concept of the Plant Hardiness Zone Map, it has been around for almost 100 years and defines a geographic region based on average annual minimum temperatures which is relevant to the survival of most plants. For about as long as I can remember, our region has been labeled as Zone 7a with the average coldest winter temperatures somewhere between 0 and 5 degrees Fahrenheit.

In 2023, the USDA reclassified our area as Zone 7b. Now the lowest winter temperatures are averaging between 5 and 10 degrees. While you may not be able to plant palm trees around your pool just yet, you now might just be able to plant those borderline hardy perennials you've been eyeballing for years.

Now on to the subject of Immigration. This is a touchy one and there's a lot of debate between the different factions about whether to go native or embrace those new and improved cultivars. The Native Plant backers will be the first to sing the praises of using tried-and-true species that are naturally adapted to our growing area without having to go overboard with supplemental water and fertilization.

They may also point out that these same plants are hardier and resistant to disease and insect infestations, and they would be right. However, a lot of the improved cultivars are specifically bred for specific purposes like dwarf varieties, disease resistance, drought tolerance, or that extra special color you have been craving to make your garden really pop. As for me, I say live it up a little and try a few of both. After all, America is the great melting pot and there should be room for all. Just pick the right plant for the right place!







Mulching will save money by reducing weeds, soil temperatures, and water usage.

Oh my, the ever-popular topic of Inflation! Your home garden and the landscape industry as a whole, are certainly not immune to the issue of inflation. When you combine such factors as increased costs of equipment, supply chain woes, recession concerns, and labor shortages, it's enough to make you want to throw your hands up and just say, "Here you go weeds, it's all yours!"

In some areas, the cost of lawn care has increased by almost 22% compared to the same time last year, and that favorite petunia may well be 10 to 15% higher than you were accustomed to. With that being said, the reality of our post-pandemic world is that people are still willing to spend a little more to make their landscape a beautiful and inviting space since that is where they are spending most of their time.

So, all I can really tell you is to do a little planning, shop those sales, and don't be afraid to get out and get some dirt under your nails.

Education. If some of you are regular readers of this article, you may remember that in the last issue I spent a good amount of time pontificating about the importance of staying educated and realizing the resources available to you in our region about landscaping and gardening in general. From online learning to local garden centers and from extension specialists to public gardens, if you have a question, the answer is just a click, text, or phone call away. Try to learn something new every day and your garden will never get old.

And then there's Health Care. Just how far am I willing to go to have that perfectly healthy lawn and garden? Well, here's a few guidelines to help you navigate the issue of maintaining a healthy garden that won't have you digging up that money you buried under the oak tree at the back of your lot (oops, shouldn't have told you my secret hiding place.)

Choose the right plant for each area of your landscape. The key to a healthy plant is making sure it's happy where you put it. Sun, shade, wet, dry? There's a plant out there that will fit your needs. Mulch, mulch, mulch. I've said it once, and I'll say it again, mulching will save you money over time by reducing weeds, soil temperatures, and the amount of water you'll have to apply.

Diseases and insects? If you choose the right plant you can mitigate the need for pesticides to a great degree. And if you understand the fact you might have to deal with a few imperfections, as long as it's not threatening the life of your plant, you'll sleep a lot better at night.

There's probably a dozen other topics I should include in this article, but the whole subject of politics makes me sweat and I feel like I've done enough of that this summer. So just get out there and spread the word that the Garden Party is alive and well and we appreciate your support! God Bless America.

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PEANUT BUTTER Not Just For Sandwiches

eanut butter has kind of a bad reputation – many people see it as a high fat, kid food. (Crustless PB&Js, anyone?) That's not a fair assessment. There are a lot of nutritional, financial and practical benefits to peanut butter that shouldn't be overlooked.

In addition, while it's yummy on sandwiches and apples, there are many other creative and delicious ways to use peanut butter as an ingredient in your meals. Rich, creamy and just the right amount of sweet: peanut butter is the perfect indulgence.

Why not enjoy it in some of your recipes – from desserts and breads to savory chicken sandwiches and chili. That's right. Who would have thought beans and peanut butter could go together in harmony? They do in our chili!

So, branch out and give these delicious recipes a try. You'll be glad you did.





PEANUT BUTTER CHOCOLATE CHIP BREAD

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ⅓ cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 large egg
- 1 cup whole milk
- ¾ cup creamy peanut butter spread
- 1 cup chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Grease 8×4inch loaf pan.

2. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Add egg, milk and peanut butter; stir until combined, stir in chocolate chips. Pour into prepared pan.

3. Bake 50-60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes before removing from pan to a wire rack.



PEANUT BUTTER BBQ CHICKEN MELT

INGREDIENTS

- 4 slices bread, toasted
- ¹/₃ cup creamy peanut butter spread
- 3 tablespoons barbeque sauce
- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 2 cups shredded cooked chicken
- ¹/₃ cup shredded cheddar cheese

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Heat oven to 400°F.
- 2. Arrange toast on baking sheet.

 In medium bowl, combine peanut butter, barbeque sauce and orange juice; mix well. Reserve half of mixture for dipping in small bowl.
 Stir chicken into remaining mixture. Spread chicken mixture evenly over toast; sprinkle with cheese.
 Bake 5 minutes or until cheese is melted and sandwich is warm. Serve with reserved dipping sauce.



PEANUT BUTTER CHILI

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes
- ½ cup water
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 bay leaves
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper, or to taste
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 (15 ounce) can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (15 ounce) can kidney beans,
- rinsed and drained
- ¹/₃ cup creamy peanut butter
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 2 cups tortilla chips (Optional)

DIRECTIONS

1. Place the diced tomatoes, water, garlic, and bay leaves into a saucepan, and bring to a simmer over high heat. Reduce heat to medium-low, and season with the cayenne pepper, chili powder, garlic powder, and Italian seasoning. Cover and simmer 15 minutes.

 After 15 minutes, pour in the black beans and kidney beans; return to a simmer, and cook for 5 minutes.
 Stir in the peanut butter until dissolved, then remove and discard the bay leaves, and season the chili with salt and pepper to taste. Enjoy with a sprinkle of cheddar cheese, tortilla chips and smile!



PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY BLONDIES

INGREDIENTS

- 1½ cups packed brown sugar
- ¾ cup butter, melted
- ½ cup super chunk peanut butter
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup grape jelly

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Line a 9x13 inch baking pan with foil or parchment paper. Lightly spray with nonstick cooking spray.

2. In mixer bowl, mix together brown sugar, butter and peanut butter. Beat in eggs and vanilla.

3. Add flour, baking powder and salt. Mix to combine. Spread in prepared pan.

4. Top batter with spoonfuls of jelly. Using a knife, swirl jelly through batter for marbled design.

5. Bake 30 to 35 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes

out clean. Cool in pan.



PEANUT BUTTER POPCORN

INGREDIENTS

- ¾ cup syrup
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ¾ cup creamy peanut butter
- ½ tsp salt

• 1 standard size (3.5 oz) microwaveable bag popcorn cooked according to package directions – about 7 cups

DIRECTIONS

1. In small saucepan over medium heat, combine corn syrup and brown sugar.

2. Bring to a boil and boil 3 minutes, stirring constantly, until sugar is dissolved.

3. Remove from heat and add peanut butter and salt.

4. Whisk until smooth.

5. Pour over popcorn. Quickly, but gently stir until coated.

6. Pour onto parchment lined baking

sheet and cool 5 minutes







ON-GOING AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

OR MAYBE FRESH VEGGIES? Make your way to the Henry County Fairgrounds to the Farmers Market and Vendor Fair every Monday and Thursday afternoons from 3-6 pm through October for some local goodies. For more information, call 731-642-1833.

- AUGUST -

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 15 - Head over to HCHS for the **Meet The Patriots Tailgate kickoff event** for the Big Red Football team! Enjoy free food, grab your free game poster and meet the players themselves. Starts at 5 pm. For more information, call 731-642-9733.

AUGUST 17 - It's **National Honeybee Day**! Join Park Ranger Christa Davidson at the Nature Center, located at 150 Bridgeview Road, Buchanan, and learn all about the roles of local honeybees. Take home a fine honey sample from the parks' own bees. It's free from 10 am- 4 pm. For more information, call 731-641-4465.

AUGUST 23 – Show your BIG RED PRIDE at the **first home football** game of the season at Henry County High School. HCHS vs. Brighton at 7 pm. For more information, call 731-642-9733.

AUGUST 23 - Paris Academy for the Arts will host a **Candle Making Experience** from 7-8:30 pm. Bring a friend and join in for a fun, handson candle making class. For more information, call 731-642-3411. AUGUST 24 - Paris Academy for the Arts Open House from 1-4 pm. Meet the instructors, find a new class or learn a new hobby. Refreshments provided and free kids activities. For more information, call 731-642-3411.

AUGUST 24 - Non-Stop Wrestling Alliance comes to the Fairground's Commercial Building. Doors open at 6 pm, bell time 7 pm. Admission \$7 for this family friendly show.



SEPTEMBER 2 - **LABOR DAY**! Hats off to our country's workforce. No school for Henry County School System or PSSD.

SEPTEMBER 5 - Give Blood and Save a Life! **Lifeline Blood Mobile** will visit First United Methodist Church from noon until 6 pm. For more information, call 731-642-4764.

SEPTEMBER 7&8 - Looking for fun this weekend? Head to the lake for the 24th Annual Paris Lakeway Kiwanis Club Arts and Crafts Festival from 10 am-5 pm each day.

SEPTEMBER 8 - Grandparent's Day! Hug your Nanny or Papaw!



SEPTEMBER 14 - Hear your favorite hits from the 50s, 60s, 70s & 80s at the **Ultimate Oldies Rock & Roll Show** at KPAC. Starts at 7 pm; tickets are \$27 & \$33. For more information, call 731-644-2517.

SEPTEMBER 21 - Join your friends at KPAC for **"A Night of Praise"** community choir performance at 7 pm. Area singers and a live band will deliver popular gospel and worship selections. Call 731-644-2517 for more information.

SEPTEMBER 24 - **Non-Stop Wrestling Alliance** comes to the Fairground's Enoch Building. Doors open at 6 pm, bell time 7 pm. Admission: \$7.

SEPTEMBER 28 - Arts 'Round the Square is on the Courthouse Square from 9 am- 4 pm. This event will fill the lawn with artists creating and selling their pottery, woodcarvings, jewelry, mixed media, fiber art, photographs, sculptures and canvas art. For more information, log on to www.VisitDowntownParis.com.

SEPTEMBER 28 - Hope Center Ministries host the **Gala 2024** at 5pm, Henry County Fairgrounds. Join them for a night of delicious food, fellowship and fundraising. All proceeds benefit the Hope Center Ministries, a Christ-centered recovery program. For more information, call 731-924-3784.

- OCTOBER -

OCTOBER 3 - Save a life, give blood. **Lifeline Blood Mobile** is open from 12-6 pm at First United Methodist Church. Call 731-642-4764 for more information. **OCTOBER 4** – It's **Noon on the Square** sponsored by Commercial Bank. 11:30 am-1 pm. Concessions available. Bring a lawn chair and a friend to beautiful Downtown Paris. For information, call 731-642-3341.

OCTOBER 5 - **Oktoberfest** is being held at the Henry County Fairgrounds from 11am- 6pm! Don't miss the booths, games, face painting, funnel cakes, silent auction, petting zoo, bake sale, home-style German meal, authentic Mexican meals and much more. Brought to you by Holy Cross Catholic Church. For more information, call 731-642-4681.

OCTOBER 5 - **Non-Stop Wrestling Alliance** comes to the Fairground's Enoch Building. Doors open at 6 pm, bell time 7 pm. Admission: \$7 for this family-friendly show.

OCTOBER 10 - The Fall Projects

is a collection of short theatrical performances by KPAC Young Artists starting at 6 pm at the Krider Center. Admission is \$5. Call 731-644-2517 for more information.

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

OCTOBER 11&12 - Looking for something to do? Head over to the **34th Annual Hazel Day Cele**bration. Starts at noon on the 11th with live music, vendors, a parade, petting zoo, photo contest and sales galore at the local shops. Go to www.hazelcelebration.wixsite.com/ hazel for more information.

OCTOBER 12 - The 6th Annual Kooky Spooky Extravaganza is at

the KOA Campgrounds. Partake in the many vendors, dance and play games, ride the train and hayride, indulge in the chili cookoff, and of course, trick or treat around the park! For more information, call 731-642-6895.

OCTOBER 14-18 - Take a break! It's **Fall Break** for kids in the Henry County School System and the PSSD. For more information, call 731-642-9733 or 731-642-9322, respectively.

OCTOBER 18 - Noon on the Square sponsored by Commercial Bank. 11:30 am-1 pm. Bring a lawn chair and a camera. For more information, call 731-642-3341.

OCTOBER 25 - Come on out one last time for **Noon on the Square** from 11:30 am -1 pm on the courthouse lawn. Sponsored by Commercial Bank. Concessions available. Call 731-642-3341.

OCTOBER 26 - Spooktacular at Eiffel Tower Park from 1-4. There'll be a costume contest, candy, characters to meet, games, and more.

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLVE Puzzle on page 27

ACROSS: 3. SCARECROWS, 5. HEFNER, 6. ARTS, 9. PATRIOTS, 12. PUMPKIN, 13. LEDERHOSEN, 16. POLITICS, 17. SMOKEJUMPER, 19. DUNLAP

DOWN: 1. BAPTIST, 2. OPRYLAND, 4. PEANUT, 7. BOBWHITE, 8. WUNDERBAR, 10. KALEY, 11. HOOD, 14. WINTERS, 15. GARDEN, 18. MULCH



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