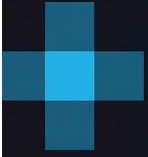


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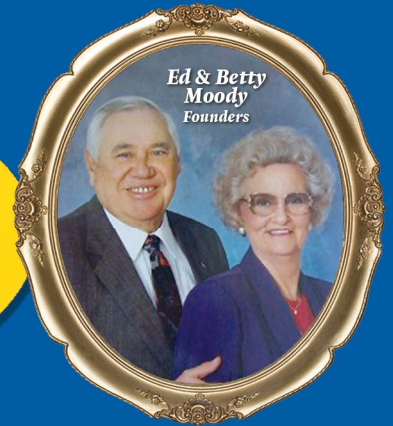


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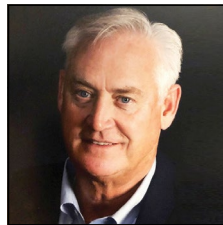
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The Most
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Time
of the
Year!



I love the song, "It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" sung by Andy Williams, and during the hustle and bustle of the season, I catch myself humming it as I go about town.

The streets are decorated with lights and wreaths, storefronts are displaying gift ideas, and people seem a little more friendly than usual. One person responsible to bring holidays cheer is Tara Wilson, DPA director and she is spotlighted in this issue by Shannon McFarlin.

PARIS! for the Holidays highlights several heart-warming stories in this issue. Rhonda Stanton writes about the KPAC Players and their radio play performance based on "It's a Wonderful Life." Steve McCadams invites you to allow the love of a good dog into your heart this season. And who didn't wish for a red wagon as a child? We feature a story on the red wagons at Vanderbilt Children's

ON THE COVER

Bows and glows: Interior designer Austin Hopper-Reed designed this elegant gold Christmas tree for his home. Read about his love for all things Christmas on page 14.

Hospital and their personal connection to folks in Henry County.

Home is the central point for many during the holidays and two stories center on the subject. Habitat for Humanity has built many homes in our community and we focus on the efforts of countless volunteers who construct those homes. In 'Tis The Season, Karen Geary writes about Austin Reed-Hoppers' lifelong love of Christmas. He beautifully decorates homes in our communities, and one of his creations is pictured on this issue's cover!

In Merry & Bright, Christmas isn't complete without Santa, and Henry County not only has Santa Claus, but Santa helpers! Read about the husband and wife team, Biker Claus and Mama Claus, who organize a motorcycle Toy Run to bring Christmas to children in need. Their efforts benefited The Shed this year - va-room, va-room, Rudolph!

Cranberry recipes aren't just for the holiday in Paris Cuisine, and John Watkins brings us a humorous look at gardening related holidays. We finish up the year with a look back in Remember When.

As 2024 comes to a close - and we finish up 20 years of publishing PARIS! Magazine - I'm thankful for all our loyal readers, writers, photographers, advertisers, and subscribers and for the gift that is Henry County, Tennessee.

As the hum-worthy song says, it's "the hap-happiest season of all" and that's our wish for you and yours.

*Happy Thanksgiving and
Merry Christmas!*

Smantha



Henry County and the Lake Area

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CRETE OPERA HOUSE

Henry County Entertainment in the 1900s

By Shannon McFarlin

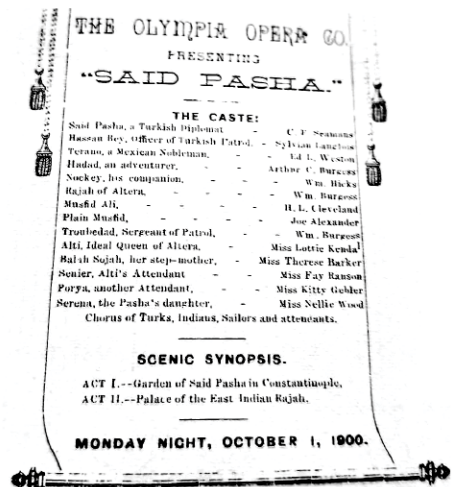
The former Crete Opera House was a glittering beacon of culture in what was still the rough environs of Paris, Tennessee, in the early 1900s. There may have been wooden sidewalks lining the muddy or dusty streets, depending on the weather, with running water being a luxury in most homes. But the Crete Opera House stood tall, bringing a taste of sophistication to the still growing town.

The Romanesque design building, which is still standing for now, is a large, three-story structure built to house offices and a theater on the upper floors. Located on West Washing-

ton Street, it houses the courthouse annex offices presently.

The success of the opera house was rather short-lived. But for a time, it brought troupes of show people to our town on a regular basis. As they mixed with the locals, that had to be an interesting blend of personalities.

Pictured (right) is a program from a performance by The Olympia Opera Co. at the Crete Opera House on Monday night, October 1, 1900. The information says, "The entire fourth floor was used for the opera shows and tradition says that the horses used in the plays were led up all four flights of steps to perform on stage.



Above: Stage program for "Said Pasha" performed at The Olympia Opera Co.'s on October 1, 1900.

The magnificent chandeliers were of brass and crystal measuring nearly ten feet across.”

Horses were not the only animals to be on the stage at the Crete Opera House. A baby elephant used in one of the productions was also taken up to the stage. This might explain why the stairs in the building are still bowed in the middle to this day.

At the Crete, The Olympia Opera Company performed “Said Pasha”, which was a comic romantic opera in three acts with libretto by Scott Marble and Richard Stahl. It originally was produced at the Tivoli Opera House in San Francisco in 1888. Wonder how the people of Paris reacted to that?

An internet search for The Olympia Opera Company located these photos of the company chorus as they appeared in a 1903 performance in Seattle (previous page inset and bottom right). Most likely this is how they appeared at the Crete when they performed here.

There are plenty of photos showing the Crete Opera House’s exterior,



The Olympia Opera Company’s chorus probably appeared at the Crete in costumes like these.

but only one photograph that shows its interior. That photograph (previous page) shows a production of “King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table” taken in the early 1900s. Note the detailed backdrop and the music stands at the front of the stage, which would seem to show that the photo was taken at rehearsal.

After the Opera House closed, the top floor became the headquarters of the National Toilet Company in 1914, and as the years moved forward, the building also housed the county

schools offices and currently houses the county juvenile court, assessor’s office, and trustees’ office. With much structural damage to the building, county officials are currently trying to relocate the county offices and are still contemplating the future of the building itself.

If you’re wondering how the Crete Opera House got its name, it was named for Crete Mitchell, the niece of Yancy Quitman Caldwell who owned the building. It’s easy to see why it was named for her; she was so lovely.

By the way, the photo of Crete was taken by Paris’ first professional photographer Thomas Jenkins, who happened to be the great-uncle of the person who wrote this story.



Crete Mitchell

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

A LIVE RADIO PLAY



KPAC Players Make The Season Bright!

By Rhonda Stanton

It's Christmas time in the 1940s, and radio still rules the airwaves as America's prime source of entertainment. Imagine the excitement of the season as families gather together, listening to Christmas music, news or special broadcasts.

A few lucky entertainment seekers can even sit in the studio audience as their favorite radio personalities portray larger-than-life characters on the air in live broadcasts. A ripple of excitement hums through the studio audience as the players take their places, and silence descends on the crowd as the countdown begins.

The "ON AIR" sign is lit, the announcer sets the scene, and the magic begins. The audience members become part of this momentous broadcast as they laugh and applaud and respond to what they alone can see as the rest of America listens.

Today's broadcast is "It's A Wonderful Life," based on the story "The

Greatest Gift" by Philip Van Doren Stern. Listeners are immersed in the story of George Bailey, whose ambitions and spirit have worn thin through the trials of life.

George is a wonderful man whose ingenuity has brought about change in his community and whose selflessness has allowed his family to flourish; but even the best sort of man can be brought to a sense of defeat. George is contemplating suicide, but Heaven hears the prayers of those who love George.

A little Divine intervention, in the form of guardian angel second class Clarence, is dispatched from Heaven. Clarence earnestly wants to help George, but he's also hoping to get his wings. Through a series of glimpses of what life would have been like in a world without George, a new perspective begins to take root, and George is transformed by renewed hope and purpose. This beloved American

holiday classic hints at the meaning of life, explores the impact that individuals can make, reminds us of the importance of family and community and offers hope.

Come join the "live radio" audience as KPAC Players present "It's a Wonderful Life - A Live Radio Play" on Friday, December 20 at 7 PM or Saturday, December 21 at 3 PM.

Step back in time for a heartwarming Christmas show to set the stage for your own 2024 Christmas celebration. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior adults 60+ and \$8 for youth ages 4-17. Go to KriderPAC.com for advance tickets and check with Paris Civic Center at 731-644-2517 if you need more information. We hope to see you there.

Rhonda Stanton is the general manager and arts programming director for Krider Performing Arts Center, under the administration of the City of Paris Parks and Recreation Department.

MERRY & BRIGHT

Mike and Karen Trippett, also known as “Biker Claus” and “Mama Claus” are joined by Deputy Michelle Brewer at the sixth annual Toy Run sponsored by the Caring Bikers Motorcycle Club.



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BIKER CLAUS & MAMA CLAUS

..... Revved Up For Annual Toy Run

By Karen Geary

Not many folks know that Santa Claus needs special helpers as the Christmas holiday nears. It's true! And some of them live right here in Henry County. Those folks are humble, not seeking attention, but their actions are solely out of love to uplift spirits wherever they go.

There is a local couple who has that special gift, and they enlisted even more helpers. Many of those recruits wear helmets and leather jackets while rumbling down the road on motorcycles. Mike and Karen Trippett, fondly known as “Biker Claus” and “Mama Claus”, are the founders of the Caring Bikers of Henry County, and they have been spreading holiday cheer with their annual Toy Run that benefits The Shed, a community

outreach project sponsored by the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

Mike and Karen have been motorcyclists for years, and they have participated in many rides with Clarksville's Bikers Who Care and their long-running Toy Run & Benefit Party. The couple was so inspired by the large number of bikers at that event that they inquired how they could form a group in Henry County. “The Bikers Who Care told us how they started their toy run and gave us a lot of help. After we organized our first event, we had riders from their group participate in ours. Since then, we have had bikes from Clarksville come every year,” said Karen.

“Bikers get a bad rap,” said Deputy Michelle Brewer, founder of The Shed. “But they are some of the most

caring, generous people out there.”

Matter of fact, Brewer named the Trippett's group. “When Michelle asked me what our biker's group was called, I said I didn't know. We were just a bunch of bikers who cared. Michelle said, “That's it! Caring Bikers' and the rest is history,” said Karen.

In September, the Caring Bikers held their sixth Toy Run, and the event brought in 190 bikers pulling into Sweet Jordan's parking lot. Several riders rode in from Dover, Clarksville and other surrounding cities along with bikers from Kentucky. The ride also included seven Jeeps from Nashville and five cars. That is a far cry from 58 riders in the first year of the event in 2019.

Brewer in her deputy's car, along with two Tennessee State troopers

on motorcycles, lead the Toy Run from the lot on Volunteer Drive to the American Legion Post 89 on East Antioch Road. “I cried all the way,” she said. “Looking back at that long line of bikers, well, I just bawled.” Biker Claus and Mama Claus were leading the pack and agreed with Brewer. “You weren’t the only one. We were crying tears of joy, too,” said Karen.

When asked how many toys were received this year, both Karen and Michelle couldn’t place a number on the amount but they agreed, “A lot! A trailer full and more in a car, and we are still getting toys.” Along with the toys, the Shed also received donations from individuals and from the auction associated with the Toy Run.

Presently, the toys are organized and stored at The Shed. But they could use more. “We see families from what I consider the working poor. Their names aren’t on any charity or church lists. Whatever the circumstances, they just can’t afford Christmas and we’re here to help. And it’s Karen and Mike who get those gifts in here from their Toy Run,” said Brewer.

To participate in the Toy Run, bikers bring a new toy or make a donation to the cause. At the end of the ride, they are greeted with a lunch followed by an auction. “We supply the meat, and Mike’s trucking company donates the chips. Pepsi donates the drinks, and the American



Mike Trippett: “We’re not a motorcycle club; we are family.” Like most families, there’s always one acting out in photos.



Karen Trippett, aka “Mama Claus”, is overjoyed with the number of bikers participating in the annual Toy Run. “Biker Claus” Mike Trippett helps fill Sheriff’s Deputy Michelle Brewer’s vehicle with toys.

Legion members bring the side dishes,” said Karen. “Truck drivers who Mike knows give him really nice and unique items for the auction.”

When asked when she begins planning for the next Toy Run, Karen replied with a laugh, “The next day! Really. We have to set a date for the next one, get permits, notify law enforcement. There’s advertising and talking to other bikers.” Brewer nodded her head in agreement. “This woman is organized, believe me. And it’s not the only activity they plan.”

The Trippetts are active with the Henry County Veterans Council Committee which includes members from the Amvets, American Legion, VFW, Unforgotten Motorcycle Club and the Caring Bikers. They ride in the Veterans Day parade and participate in the Memorial Day ceremony on the courthouse square.

“We ride in honor of Mike’s father who was a Marine gunnery sergeant during the Vietnam War. He spent six

months as a POW in a prison camp,” said Karen.

The group also is a big attraction for kids at the Back-To-School Backpack Giveaway and Spooktacular. “The kids are thrilled to get their backpacks from the bikers and check out their motorcycles,” said Brewer.

All the work that goes into their many activities doesn’t go unnoticed or unappreciated. “One day, I was waiting in line to check out, and a young lady saw my Caring Biker’s shirt,” said Karen. “She told me she had received a Barbie doll one Christmas from us, and that she had donated some Barbie dolls to our cause so other little girl could have a doll.”

But Biker Claus, Mike Trippett, best summed up the true purpose for all their community volunteerism. “We’re not a motorcycle club; we are a family. It’s all about giving back. And if we can put a smile on some kids’ face, a kid in need, that’s all we want. It’s all about the kids.”



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There are many special things about Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University (VCH), but one program stands tall amongst the many. The Red Wagon Project, as it has become known, provides both support and needed items for patients and their families while they are staying at hospital facilities. This project is a joint effort on the part of both ordinary people in surrounding communities and the staff.

The red wagons can be seen on any given day rolling down a hall to retrieve a new patient, transporting a child to some form of hospital treatment for the day, taking a child to a play or activity area or escorting a child to their vehicle upon release from the hospital. Whatever the case may be for the transportation, these red wagons are a portrait of hope and joy for those that they carry.

As children and families encountered these red wagons and were blessed by all they stood for, opportunities came about for additional red wagons to be purchased and donated in honor or memory of someone. The goal was to communicate the blessing of the project by making sure there were more wagons to bring joy to oth-

ers along the way. It has often been said by patients and families alike that the best part of many children's days was the "rolling hope" provided by the Red Wagon Project.

MAYVA'LEIGH EGGERS

In December 2023, Samantha Eggers had to do what no parent should ever have to do. While most parents were making plans for the upcoming Christmas holiday, she was making funeral arrangements for her 3-year-old daughter, Mayva'Leigh. In her mother's own words "Mayva'Leigh was a child that marched to the beat of her own drum. She loved to dance and sing, take wagon rides and play with her brothers and sisters. Her beaming personality brought light and happiness into any room or situation she entered."

Mayva'Leigh Jo Eggers was born August 6, 2020, in Paris, Tennessee. She was born a healthy little girl, never sick until she was 16 months old. What they thought was just the stomach bug, turned out to be multi focal ectopic purkinje, a rare heart condition that stems from the mutation of a person's DNA that relates to premature contractions during a mother's pregnancy.

Eggers was the first pediatric case that Vanderbilt had ever seen, and there have only ever been 30-40 reported cases of this condition. During her initial visit and continued trips to VCH, Mayva'Leigh looked forward to and expected to get to ride in the wagons on the cardiac floor. At times, due to popularity, a shortage of wagons existed.

Through the crossing of paths of Ridgeway Funeral Home, the Ridgeway Family, Easton's Angels, Jess Hedges, and the Eggers Family, an opportunity presented itself for members of the Paris-Henry County community to donate to the "Red Wagon Project" to ensure no child would have to be told no wagons were available for much anticipated rides.

COLSON CONGER

In May 2006, Colson Conger suffered brain bleeding from a ruptured AVM (arteriovenous malformation) requiring him to be flown by helicopter to the Monroe Carell Children's Hospital. After a 16-day stay and many returning visits for several years, the hospital became a special place for Colson and his family, Jess and Candy Hedges. Jess is employed by Ridgeway Funeral Home as a

funeral director, where he works with families making arrangements for their loved ones' final wishes.

"When I sat down with Samantha to discuss arrangements for Mayva'Leigh and heard of her love for the wagon rides, and how sometimes there was a shortage of wagons on the cardiac floor, I knew the perfect way to honor and remember little Mayva'Leigh." said Jess.

ALI RIDGEWAY

As a young 10-year-old girl playing on her school playground, Ali Ridgeway experienced her first-ever heart condition episode. She would later be diagnosed with Super-ventricular Tachycardia at VCH. For the next 2 years, Ali dealt with ongoing heart racing episodes, stopping her in her tracks and using techniques taught to her from her cardiology team to reset it herself.

Ali was a young girl constantly on the move so when an SVT episode occurred during cheer practice or screaming at a Henry County Patriots Football game, episodes began to become extremely inconvenient. After being hospitalized due to an episode at the end of the Patriots state championship game in 2019, and being rushed to VCH from Cookeville, Ali and her family decided it was time for her to have a heart ablation to correct the condition.

RED WAGON PROJECT

On February 15, 2019, Ali underwent her lengthy, all-day operation at VCH to correct her Super-ventricular Tachycardia. "When my mom and Jess told me about the donation of the wagons idea, I knew it was absolutely perfect due to my own VCH experience," Ali said when she was informed of the idea. "I wanted to give back to the hospital that provided me with the healing that allows me to live a normal life and provide insight for my involvement in Sweet Abilities, my personal platform for inclusion of all individuals."

Beginning in 2021, Ali established her personal platform, Sweet Abilities, to pursue during her pageant journey with the Miss Tennessee Volunteer system. Sweet Abilities high-



Ali Ridgeway delivers the red wagons to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital earlier this year.

lights special needs inclusion as well as inclusion for all. Ali works alongside the local, non-profit organization The Levi Miles Foundation, who works in the community by teaching kids with and without disabilities to include, love, and see one another.

Recently, Ali was named the Best Buddies International President of Henry County High School where she will now have monthly clubs and events to bring the special needs department and high school students together with the same mission of inclusion of all. The donation of the wagons was something Ali hoped would show the VCH patients the importance of feeling loved, included and seen.



Ali Ridgeway, Miss Paris Iris Teen 2024, poses in her red wagon. It was given in honor of her previous heart condition and is part of her personal platform to give back to the VCH mission.

To encapsulate this mission, someone needed to handle the donated funds and coordinate the ordering of the wagons. Brittney Green of Easton's Angels, another local non-profit group who helps families in the Henry County community with needs related to the care of children with special needs, was approached for this task. When contacted, Brittney replied, "Easton's Angels will do whatever we need to do in order to honor the memory of Mayva'Leigh, and ensure no child misses a wagon ride, due to a shortage of wagons."

The mission of ensuring that the Cardiac Floor at VCH was never short a red wagon for a patient's much sought after ride was completed on March 5, 2024, when Ali and her parents Brad and Angie Ridgeway, delivered the wagons.

The far-reaching effect that this project has and will have may never be known. It will be found and measured in the smiles it provides to the myriads of children that experience the joy and satisfaction found in something as small as a wagon ride, but that, many days, may give them just the hope they need to face all those days bring.

Call it what you will, be it "Rolling Hope" or "Joy on Wheels." But for children and their families at Monroe Carroll Jr. Hospital, it has proven to provide the courage they need to carry them another day.



A Home For The Holidays!

By Karen Geary

For some, the phrase “home for the holidays” brings warm memories of delightful aromas coming from the kitchen, light-hearted family banter rising from the living room, kids tossing a football in the yard, and joyous laughter emanating around the dinner table. But for some, the dream of a home is just that, a dream. That is where Habitat for Humanity comes in and makes the dream of home ownership a reality.

Habitat for Humanity of Paris/Henry County is an organization that strives for everyone to have a decent place to live and to put God’s love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Each year, the goal is to bring the community together to build one house with a local family that is willing to put in the sweat equity for their new home. All the families aided by the local Habitat chapter share a common hope – a new start full of opportunity and a special place of their own.

The worldwide organization, founded in 1976, believes that everyone, everywhere should have a healthy, affordable place to call home.

When a family helps build or improve a place they can call home, they are also building a better community and a better life for themselves.

Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay a zero percent APR interest mortgage rate. “The program is considered a hand up, not a hand-out,” said Linda Frantom, president of the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity. “The qualifying family must be willing to partner with Habitat for Humanity and complete at least 400 hours of sweat equity towards the building of their Habitat home.”



Albert Kellum welcomes everyone to their new home during its dedication. Jim Robinson, past president of the local Habitat for Humanity chapter, looks on.

Sweat equity helps future homeowners develop skills and knowledge through activities like labor at the build site or taking financial literacy classes aimed at setting up new homeowners for long-term success.

Recently, Habitat for Humanity finished and dedicated its 22nd home built in Henry County. The four bedroom, two bath house on McCampbell Street is now home for the Albert and Louisa Kellum family. The experience “has inspired us in so many ways. I am very thankful for Habitat for Humanity; they really showed me and my family what it is like to help the community. They welcomed us and also showed us how to help one another. Habitat for Humanity also does a financial class that really helped us out a lot,” said Louisa Kellum.

The organization is now turning its attention to their building project on Irvine Street in Paris and the recipient family has been selected. Construction on the structure possibly will begin this fall. However, with the rising cost of construction materials and inflation, the next home of dreams will also be full of challenges.

In 2019, a Henry County Habitat house cost \$47,000 to build with

volunteer labor. The latest home was built for \$82,000. Those increased costs have outpaced the generous support of donations, putting the future projects at risk. Currently, about half of the funds needed to purchase building supplies for the next home are available.

Another challenge is the dwindling number of volunteers offering their time and services. "The Paris and Henry County community has never been one to shrink from a challenge, and it is one of the most generous communities I know. I feel sure if we let this need be known, we can overcome these challenges," said Frantom.

A fundraising campaign has begun to assist in the next home building project. In the next couple of months, the Habitat board is also calling for any new volunteers to assist in the new construction.

"To have four to five volunteers assist from an organization or a church each Saturday morning would be a great start," said Jim Robertson, past president and veteran of several building projects. "We also work on



Construction on Habitat homes continues even in poor weather conditions. Teams of volunteers are needed each Saturday and on weekdays for the building to progress.

weekday mornings and invite anyone to join us. There is no need for prior experience to volunteer, although experience in carpentry and construction is gladly welcomed."

For more information on giving a donation, to volunteer to help with the next construction project or to donate supplies, contact Habitat for Humanity of Paris/Henry County at henrycountyhabitat.tn@gmail.com.



Sunday, Dec. 1 - Advent 1
Worship at 8:30 (gym) and 10:30 (sanctuary)

Wednesday, Dec. 4
6:00 – Community Advent Walk

Sunday, Dec. 8 - Advent 2
Worship at 8:30 – Music of the Season and 10:30 – Special Music Presentations by our Choirs

Wednesday, Dec. 11
6:00 – Gingerbread House Creations in gym

Sunday, Dec. 15 - Advent 3
Worship at 8:30 (gym) and 10:30 (sanctuary)

Wednesday, Dec. 18
6:00 – Harmonix and HCHS Madrigals in Concert in the sanctuary


Sunday, Dec. 22 - Advent 4
Worship at 8:30 (gym) and 10:30 (sanctuary)
3:00 – Blue Christmas Service

Tuesday Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve
5:00 – Worship with Lessons, Carols, and Communion

Sunday, Dec. 29 | First Sunday of Christmas
One joint worship at 9:30 in the sanctuary

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The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year!

Interior Designer Finds Holiday Niche Opportunities Exciting

By Karen Geary

For interior designer Austin Hopper-Reed, this time of the year is truly the most wonderful time of the year. Not only is he an accomplished home and office visionary, he is a holiday decorator. Mention Christmas to him and it's hard to tell the difference between the twinkle lights and the sparkle in Austin's eyes.

Born and raised in Mayfield, Kentucky, Austin received his bachelor's degree in interior design from Murray State University. "It was love at first sight and I never looked back, said Austin. "Under the guidance of my wonderful advisor and mentor Cynthia Tubbs, she brought me to Paris to work in the kitchen and bath industry, where I worked many years while getting to know and fall in love with this amazing community. I couldn't think of anywhere else I'd want to live and raise my family."

Aside from holiday decorating, Austin offers complete interior design services for his clients. "I assist with anything from full remodels and new construction projects to a simple room refresh with new paint and accessories. No project is too large or too small to conquer," said Austin.

"I want to ensure customers I am creating spaces that not only enhance the appearance of their surroundings but improving function to make their lives easier. I love getting to know my clients and determining what appeals to them when it comes to their home and letting them tell their story."

Holiday decorating came at an early age for Austin. He credits his grandmother for nurturing his love for Christmas. "Her home was ALWAYS picture perfect. She had a tree in nearly every room and adorned every doorway with greenery and lights. When I became of age, we would always plan to have me for the weekend after Thanksgiving to "haul out the holly." Just like in the song," he said. "She would cook my all-time favorite comfort food - spaghetti with meat sauce - and play Christmas music on the stereo. I can smell the butter and garlic cooking now just thinking of it!"

"She taught me the tricks of the trade and ensured I fluffed EVERY. SINGLE. BRANCH - that's the key. She also taught me to never forget that this is supposed to be a relaxing time to spend with family and eat all the best foods -which exactly



"The higher the Christmas tree, the more ornaments it needs." Austin Reed-Hopper strategically places an ornament on one of his many Christmas trees in his home.

what the holidays are all about. I am eternally blessed to still have her in my life and look forward to our special day decorating. And yes, I still get my pot of spaghetti, it's tradition after all! She is the absolute best in telling me where all the holes are or which branch needs to stick out just a little further. Her trees were always fabulous and over the top."

Austin stated most of his clients enjoy blending holiday decor with their interior surroundings. Using lots of neutrals and rustic elements are en vogue this season, but the classic red and green is always a crowd pleaser.

In recent years, he learned from his clients there was a need for outdoor holiday decorating assistance. "I'm super excited to add Christmas light installation to Reed-Hopper Design's premium services this year, utilizing professional, commercial grade Christmas lights that are custom fit for each home. Our lighting specialist provides free quotes to new customers and different package options that includes installation, removal, and storage for convenience," said Austin.

When asked what his favorite holiday decoration was, Austin quickly replied, "Obviously, hands down, it's always about the tree! However, if we are talking about one singular item, it would have to be one of my favorite Santa pictures that I place in my living room every year. Fun fact, the print is actually a Christmas card I received from my grandmother many years ago that I had framed. I always think of her when I place it out."

Designers always look ahead to new projects and possibilities, and Austin is no different. His bucket list dream would be to assist in the decorating of the White House for the holidays. "I loved watching the White House Christmas tour specials on HGTV as a young child and have always wanted to take part in decorating the most famous home in America. It would truly be an honor!" He said, "Of course, my schedule does tend to stay filled during the holiday season but I will definitely look forward to accomplishing that feat upon retirement - whenever that may be!"

To customize your home for the holidays or any occasion, contact Hopper-Reed Designs at 731-243-9125 or visit his page on Facebook.

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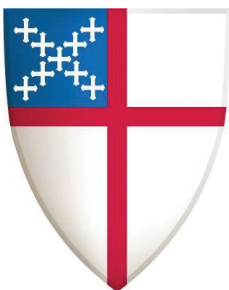
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TARA WILSON

Busy Director Of The Downtown Paris Association



By Shannon McFarlin

Tara Wilson is the new Executive Director for the Downtown Paris Association and chances are, you've seen her – well, just about everywhere. You can find her at most city of Paris meetings, and even before she was named the new DPA director, it's likely you saw her at Downtown Paris events. Wilson clearly enjoys people and is one of those positive sorts who makes others feel good – which is why she was the unanimous choice of the DPA Board of Directors to serve as its Executive Director.

She has served in that capacity since July and said she enjoys the position. “We have a vibrant downtown and I've been getting to know all the business owners there. I've really enjoyed that.” If you can believe it, the DPA position is part-time, and she also continues with her full-time position as Assistant Director for the Paris-Henry County Industrial Committee, a post she has held since 2015.

A graduate of Murray State University, Tara and her husband, Mike have two children, Braxton and Alex. Tara is active in Paris and Henry County serving on multiple boards consisting

of the Paris Henry County Chamber of Commerce, both the Henry County and City of Paris Regional Planning Commissions, Foster Care Review Board, and the Carl Perkins Center for Child Abuse Prevention Board.

At the time of her hiring, Wilson said, “I am honored and excited to be a part of the mission of the Downtown Paris Association. We are so blessed with such a vibrant downtown community, and I look forward to seeing it continue to thrive!”

She's already been at the helm of a couple of DPA activities: a pop-up Downtown Deals event and the annual Brews, Blues and BBQ event. Both were great successes, she said.

The job has not come without challenges, however, with Henry County government embarking on a revitalization project on the court square over the past couple of months. The project has entailed removing the aging trees, removing the corner gardens and revamping the lawn areas, which has limited what could be held on the court square for a time. “That has been a challenge, but in the long run, it will be good for safety as well as good aesthetically,” she said.

The DPA is coming to one of its busiest seasons, with all of the Christmas-related events including the Candlelight Open Houses, North Pole Family Fun Day, the Holly Jolly Electric Parade, Candlelight Advent Walk, the Festival of Trees, and Downtown Christmas Festival. “We've got a lot of good stuff ahead for the last quarter of the year,” Wilson said. “It will be a very busy, very special time.”

Wilson said she has been helped by Interim DPA Director Jennifer Morris, Paris Mayor Kathy Ray, and former Chamber Director Rachel Steedly, all of whom helped her transition into the new position. “Jennifer knows everything about the job and has been sharing her knowledge with me. We all know how positive Kathy is about Downtown Paris, and Rachel has been my go-to person.”

A year ago, Wilson graduated as part of the 17th class through The University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services' Tennessee Certified Economic Developer Program. This brings the total number of Tennessee certified economic developers to 98.

TCED graduates completed a week-long Basic Economic Development

Course in addition to a series of core courses pertinent to economic and community development. The TCED Program gives participants a broad-based knowledge of economic trends, tools and core components required to compete in today's global economy.

DPA Board Chairperson Vickey Roberts, said, "We are beyond excited to have Tara at the helm of the day-to-day operations of the DPA. Her involvement, insight, and love for our community make her an obvious choice for this position. We know that under her leadership the DPA organization will uphold their mission to promote prosperous business activity and community involvement while encouraging preservation of the downtown area. We are excited to experience this next chapter in the life of Downtown Paris!"

The Downtown Paris Association will be moving to the office of the Paris Henry County Industrial Committee at 206 North Poplar Street. You may reach the DPA by phone at 731-707-8740 or by email at downtownparisTN@gmail.com.



It takes a village: Tara Wilson said Paris Mayor Kathy Ray (top) and former Chamber director Rachel Steedly (bottom) have been a great help to her as she transitioned to be the new DPA director.



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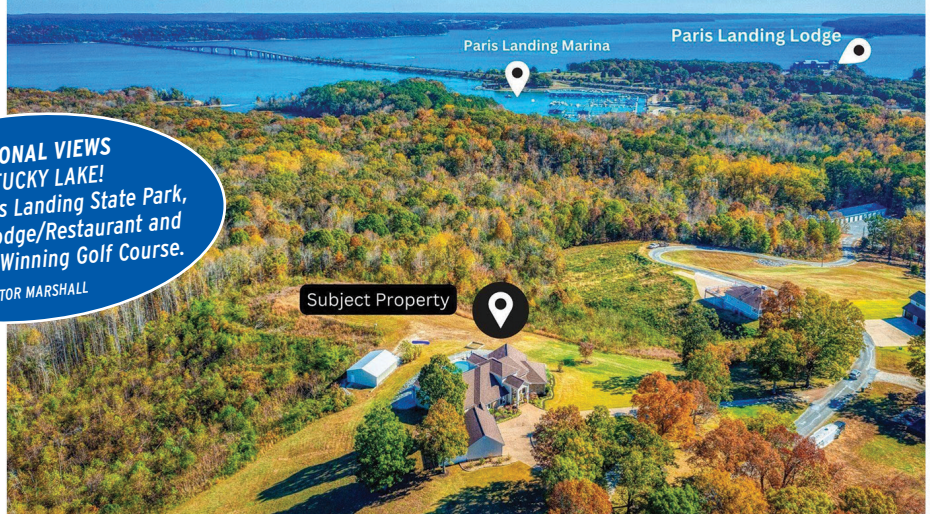
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Allow Your Holiday Heart The Love From A FUZZY FRIEND



By Steve McCadams

Nothing chases away a winter's chill like the recall of warm memories of family, friends, and old dogs snuggled up beside you. With their shivering support of unconditional love they seem to transmit those "I'm here with you through thick and thin" vibes.

A crackling fire may radiate heat even when bone-chilling north winds whistle amongst the treetops, but the power of the pooch is undeniable. With his head in your lap, sprawled out like a bear rug, quivering motions vibrate the whole couch from the deep dream of a sleeping dog.

He's happy just being there with you. Wherever you are is where he wants to be. What seems like crazy fits of uncontrolled running and jerking motions are testimonials of joy and excitement – sprints with squirrels in the yard, racing in the park to see if the rodent could outrun him and make it to the tree of escape.

Occasionally he seems to wake himself up, only to confirm you're still there and his heavenly spot is still intact. A quick return to his soft spot where all is right with the world. From there he returns to the refuge and security of the master. What holiday would be complete without the security blanket of a furry friend, lying there sharing the holiday cheer?

Even a curious cat napping nearby from the back of the couch with that "who cares" look the feline watches over the family setting with approval. After all, he and the dog are indeed family members.

On the mantle are pictures of Christmases past. Uncles, aunts, brothers and sisters, grandparents, and new arrivals that have expanded the family tree. Through the years and through it all have been the passionate pets, clear indications they were part of the love and affection during family gatherings. No doubt

some entered the warmth of the household on a cool crisp Christmas morning, yearning to share their faithful friendship.

For only a tradeoff of a few scratches behind the ear, occasional rubs up and down their spine and installments of a pat on the head now and then they filled a void you didn't know existed. Endless efforts are devoted to making their place at the home front nothing short of utopia. Their comfort and enjoyment rate high on the list.

Feeding time often occurs long before the rest of the family rendezvous at the dinner table. Even before a holiday ham is sliced or a big fat luscious smoked turkey meets up with the cranberry sauce, the precious pets must be fed in order to stave off starvation!

Does the routine sound familiar? A high pitch "meow" reminder of just who's in charge can emerge in the middle of the big family meal, halting

the process. So can a nudge on the arm or perhaps a cold nose from beneath the supper table, followed by a distinct whine and a pair of big brown eyes. Hard to say no. One who will be there in good times and bad is begging for a heaping helping of affection. A slice or two of the main dish is but a bonus.

Within moments, the powerful pet becomes the center of attention. It only takes a brief pass against the leg or side swipe of a wagging tail to pull you under their spell. They exploit feelings of warmth and sympathy. It's a special trait. It can be used on strangers visiting from far away. Also known to work on resident family members pretending to give the cold shoulder. Just a wet tongue across a dry hand usually produces dividends.

I'm betting ole' Saint Nick even stopped his sleigh at times on his journey south from the North Pole. I betcha the pudgy, bearded bundle of joy, even during the peak of his important expedition, had time to pause and offer a scratch or rub of satisfaction to ole' red-nosed Rudolph



Steve's writing partner, Daisy

and all his buddies for a job well done. He knew how sharing his love and affection was contagious. I'm also betting it put pep in their step.

Smarter people than me have proven the companionship of a pet can prolong life and happiness. Even

folks thought to suffer with bouts of dementia in all its nasty forms seem to favorably respond to the kindness and gentle behavior of a loveable canine companion. Bottom line is pets have the power to transcend a powerful vibe that just makes the day or someone's life go better.

It's a bundle of smiles and happiness masked in the furry coats of cats and dogs that we can't always understand. We don't really have to understand the magic of medicine to allow it to work. Same goes for our buddies - big and small - that call us friends and faithful companion. They fill our hearts with joy seems yet another blessing we just can't explain.

During the holiday season be thankful for good health, family and friends...even the four legged ones who adore every breath you take.

Lord, my prayer tonight is to help me be the person my dog thinks I am! Amen.

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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Avelynne Abbott won "Prettiest in Costume" at the Kooky Spooky KOA Paris Landing event. She is the daughter of Austin and Delaney Abbott.



The Good Enough For Free band performed at Relay for Life. A guest musician was Randle Currie, who plays steel guitar with Brad Paisley. Also in the photo are Bo Caldwell and Dr. Scott Whitby.



Lawson Webb passed out programs at the unveiling of the Revolutionary War monument on the courthouse lawn. The son of Cheryl and Darren Webb, Lawson is named for James Lawson, one of the men whose name is etched on the monument.



"I Voted" - Joan and Skip Howe brought Joan's mother, Ann Williams, to the Election Commission Office to vote early in the Presidential election.



Genevieve Hayes and Sophie won Judges' Pick at the Henry County Fair Pet Show.



Joshua Geary and son Elijah cheer "Go Vols!" at Future Farms's Clay Sheds.

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At Paris Landing State Park, Dianne Carlisle, Paris glass artist, shows one of her creations at this year's Lakeway Kiwanis Arts and Crafts show.



Coach John Thrash (boys team) and Coach Mary Thrash (girls team) with their Assistant Coach Bekah Craig had the pleasure of their family showing up to represent some Hawk Pride while the Harrelson Hawks took on the Gleason Bulldogs at home.

City Manager Kim Foster greeted a homeschoolers group when they visited the City Municipal Building to learn more about local government and the essential service provided to the community.






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HOLIDAYS IN THE GARDEN

By John Watkins

What's this? Holiday season already? Seems like we were just enjoying lounging by the pool with a cool beverage and watching our gardens grow. Now we're knee deep in planning celebrations and worrying about what cheap trinkets we can pass off as real presents for the annual Christmas gift swap. By the way, that battery powered hand towel warmer with combo LED flashlight and can opener is still on my shelf waiting to be re-gifted.

While we're all familiar with the Holiday "Biggies" like Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's, there is also a plethora of holidays intended to inspire gardeners and those gardeners at heart. So, since many of you may not be familiar with these special days (and I know several of these slipped right past me as well), here are some dates to mark on your calendars for 2025.

JANUARY

10th - Houseplant Appreciation Day.

A very special day for growing, caring for, and loving houseplants. Give them a little something extra this day like a boost of fertilizer or some light jazz playing in the background.

Last Saturday in January - National Seed Swap Day. Although it's still cold outside, it's never too early to start thinking about the garden and sharing the wealth.

FEBRUARY

14th - Valentines Day. This one seems to overshadow the entire month, because nothing says "I Love You" like severing some flowers, forcing them into a container, and watching them turn brown and be thrown out in a week or so. (Sorry, Honey.)

MARCH

12th - Plant a Flower Day. Now we're talking! A day to actually give something back to nature and make your garden more beautiful.

28th - Weed Appreciation Day. Wait, what? Appreciate a weed? I know, the definition of a weed is any plant growing where it's not wanted. But I just can't bring myself to go out and hug a dandelion or take the crabgrass out for lunch. To each his own, I suppose.

APRIL

All Month - Lawn and Garden Month.

Wow, an entire month to celebrate your landscape!

13th - International Plant Appreciation Day.

This one's going worldwide. Get out and enjoy nature and all the diversity it brings to our gardens!

Last Friday - Arbor Day. Time to plant those trees and appreciate all the benefits we receive in the way of shade, shelter and beauty.

MAY

3rd - Garden Meditation Day. We all know that gardening is good for the mind, body and soul, so here's your official day to celebrate. Roll out that yoga mat and let the chanting begin.

8th - Iris Day. Since the Iris is Tennessee's state flower, let's give a little love to these sturdy and beautiful plants. If the Iris isn't your thing, then the 2nd Sunday of this month is designated as "Lilac Sunday" (another worthy plant to celebrate).

30th - Water a Flower Day. While we should be a little more regular with our irrigation practices, this day serves as a reminder to take good care of your plants. I will admit that I have seen more than a few gardens where it looks like someone might be taking this day a little too literal and only watering the one time.

JUNE

1st Full Week - National Gardening Week.

A whole week to celebrate. Take a trip to a local garden or park, or just appreciate your own landscape.

6th - National Gardening Exercise Day. A day to recognize the physical health benefits of gardening. (I like to pump a little iron into my fertilizer regimen).

13th - National Weed Your Garden Day. Do we really need a designated day to remind us of this? If the weeds would

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just behave a little, we wouldn't even need this holiday.

JULY

1st Saturday - International Cherry Pit Spitting Day. Don't even ask, just get out there and participate!

8th - National Blueberry Day. Because life isn't always a bowl of cherries (to spit out!)

AUGUST

2nd - World Find a Four-Leaf Clover Day. Lucky you! Sprawl on the grass and search for that 1 in 10,000 anomaly that will bring you faith, hope, love and luck.

3rd - National Watermelon Day. Nothing says summer like a watermelon.

8th - Sneak Some Zucchini onto Your Neighbor's Porch Day. While not a "national" holiday, it is a great way to get rid of your extra bounty. (If there was only a "Sneak Some Ribeyes onto Your Neighbor's Grill Day, I'd be all in to receive some.)



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SEPTEMBER

3rd Week - National Indoor Plant Week. Back to the houseplants. I guess we can't all be outdoor plant people.

9th - National Chrysanthemum Day. It's Fall ya'll. Thank goodness for at least something still flowering in the garden.

OCTOBER

12th - Old Farmers Day. A day I can relate to more each year. Say thanks to a farmer (and not just the old ones) for supplying so much to our daily lives.

26th - National Pumpkin Day. Seems to be 5 days early to me, but then again, the 31st was already spoken for.

NOVEMBER

All Month - National Fragrance Month. Odd, but OK, I guess most fragrances come from plants after all.

1st - World Vegan Day. I'm saving all those zucchinis that were snuck onto my porch in August for you guys!

10th - Forget Me Not Day. A great little perennial flower has its own day, how cute.

DECEMBER

5th - World Soil Day. Because we should all remember where our roots come from!

12th - Poinsettia Day. Christmas is right around the corner so celebrate the season by enjoying this Mexican beauty.

WOW, my holiday calendar just got a lot fuller. Now, just how do I go about convincing my employer that I'll be off from work on all those days? Happy Holidays to everyone and remember that every day is a holiday to celebrate in the garden.



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



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CRANBERRY CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS

- 8 oz bottle Catalina salad dressing
- 1 packet dry onion soup mix
- 15 oz can whole-berry cranberry sauce (or homemade cranberry sauce)
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- Salt and pepper
- 2½ pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs, excess fat removed
- Mashed potatoes or cooked rice, for serving

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Coat a 9-by-13-inch glass baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.
2. In a medium bowl, combine the Catalina dressing, onion soup mix, cranberry sauce, and red pepper flakes. Blend well. Pour into the baking dish.
3. Season the chicken thighs on both sides with salt and pepper and place in the baking dish, in a single layer, making sure all the chicken is coated well with the sauce.
4. Bake, uncovered, for 1 hour (or until the chicken has an internal temperature of 165°F.)
5. Serve over mashed potatoes or rice.



CRANBERRY CHRISTMAS CAKE

INGREDIENTS

- 3 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- ¾ cup butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 12 oz fresh cranberries

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. With a mixer, beat the eggs with the sugar until slightly thickened and light in color, about 5-7 minutes. The mixture should almost double in size.
2. Add the butter and vanilla; mix two more minutes. Stir in the flour until just combined. Add the cranberries and stir to mix throughout.
3. Spread in a buttered 9x13 pan. Bake for 40-50 minutes, or until very lightly browned and a toothpick inserted near the center of the cake comes out clean.
4. Let cool completely before cutting into small slices, about 1"x2". Enjoy!

CRANBERRY PEPPER JELLY

INGREDIENTS

- 1½ cups fresh cranberries roughly chopped
- 1½ cups red bell pepper finely chopped
- ¾ cup jalapeno peppers finely minced
- ½ cup serrano peppers finely minced
- 2 cups plain white vinegar
- 6 cups sugar divided
- 1 tablespoon pectin
- 4 teaspoons water



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Combine the cranberries, bell peppers, jalapenos, serranos and vinegar in a large deep pot. Bring to a boil over high heat. In a small bowl, stir together 1 cup of sugar and 1 tablespoon of pectin.
2. When the mixture on the stove is boiling, add the water and sugar/pectin mixture. Stir and bring to a boil again. When the sugar and pectin have dissolved, about a minute of simmering, add in the remaining 5 cups of sugar all at once. Stir to combine and bring to a rolling boil.
3. Allow the mixture to boil for 10 minute and then remove from the heat. Remove from the heat and pour into sterile jars. Process in a hot water bath and then store in a cool dark place for up to a year.
4. Alternatively, this jam may be stored in the refrigerator until ready to use. The jam will keep in the refrigerator for up to a month.

A FEW FUN FACTS ABOUT CRANBERRIES

- *Every year 20 percent of the more than 400 million pounds of cranberries Americans eat are consumed during the week of Thanksgiving.*
- *There's about 4,400 berries to a gallon of juice; about 440 berries per pound.*
- *Cranberries include a high amount of antioxidants that can help protect against heart disease, cancer, and other diseases.*
- *Despite being called "berries," cranberries are technically not berries; they belong to a class of fruits called epigynous or false berries.*
- *Cranberries are low in sugar and high in acidity.*

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REMEMBER WHEN



One of the most popular eateries in Paris, in the 1940s and 1950s, was the Triangle Café. It featured dine-in and curb service, with Pit BBQ and Pizza Pie their specialties. The BBQ take-home packs were 25¢ a pint. Hamburgers and milkshakes were 25¢ as well, while soft drinks came in three sizes selling for 5¢, 10¢ and 15¢ each. The Triangle Café got its name from its location at the triangle of streets Wood, Currier, and Tyson, which is where Commercial Bank & Trust East Wood Branch is today.



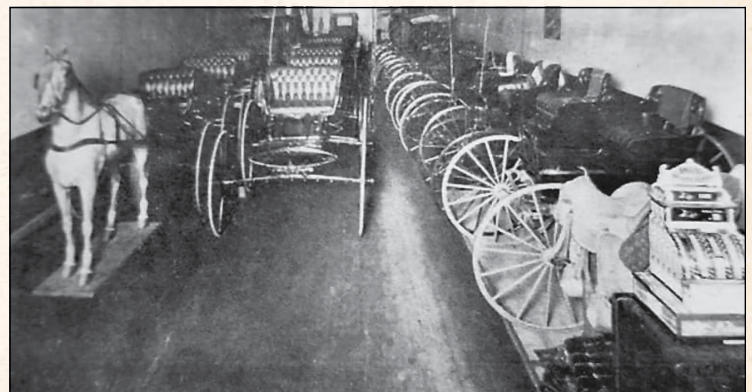
Do you remember the Trevathan Walgreen's Drug Store in downtown Paris. Located on North Market Street, it was open from 7:30 am to 10 pm and always had a registered druggist in charge.



Gibson Seed Company was located on North Market Street. According to the 1957 Paris City Directory, you could get in touch with them by calling their number '42'.



The Troy Steam Laundry building in Paris, turn of the 20th century. This photo was taken around 1900. The laundry was located on West Wood Street near the Fentress Street intersection. In the Paris City Directory of 1959, the Troy Laundry was listed with the phone number '400'.



A.M. Leach & Son, High Grade Buggies, established in 1911 and located on Market Street in the business district of Paris. They carried a "most complete line of buggies, wagons, harnesses, saddles and leather goods of all kinds. Many high grade buggies are always kept in stock." They also had a harness repair department that was "one of the best equipped in the South."



After Tennessee women gained presidential and municipal suffrage in 1919. Mrs. A.E. Rison of Paris said, I think it is a woman's Christian duty to vote. I never sought the vote, but...women have to do it now...If we expect to put reforms through, we must back them up with our vote. Women ought to vote whether they want to or not." This photo is of the Teacher's Institute, Henry County, June 1913, posing on the courthouse steps. During this time when many teachers did not have college degrees, teacher institutes were important training opportunities.

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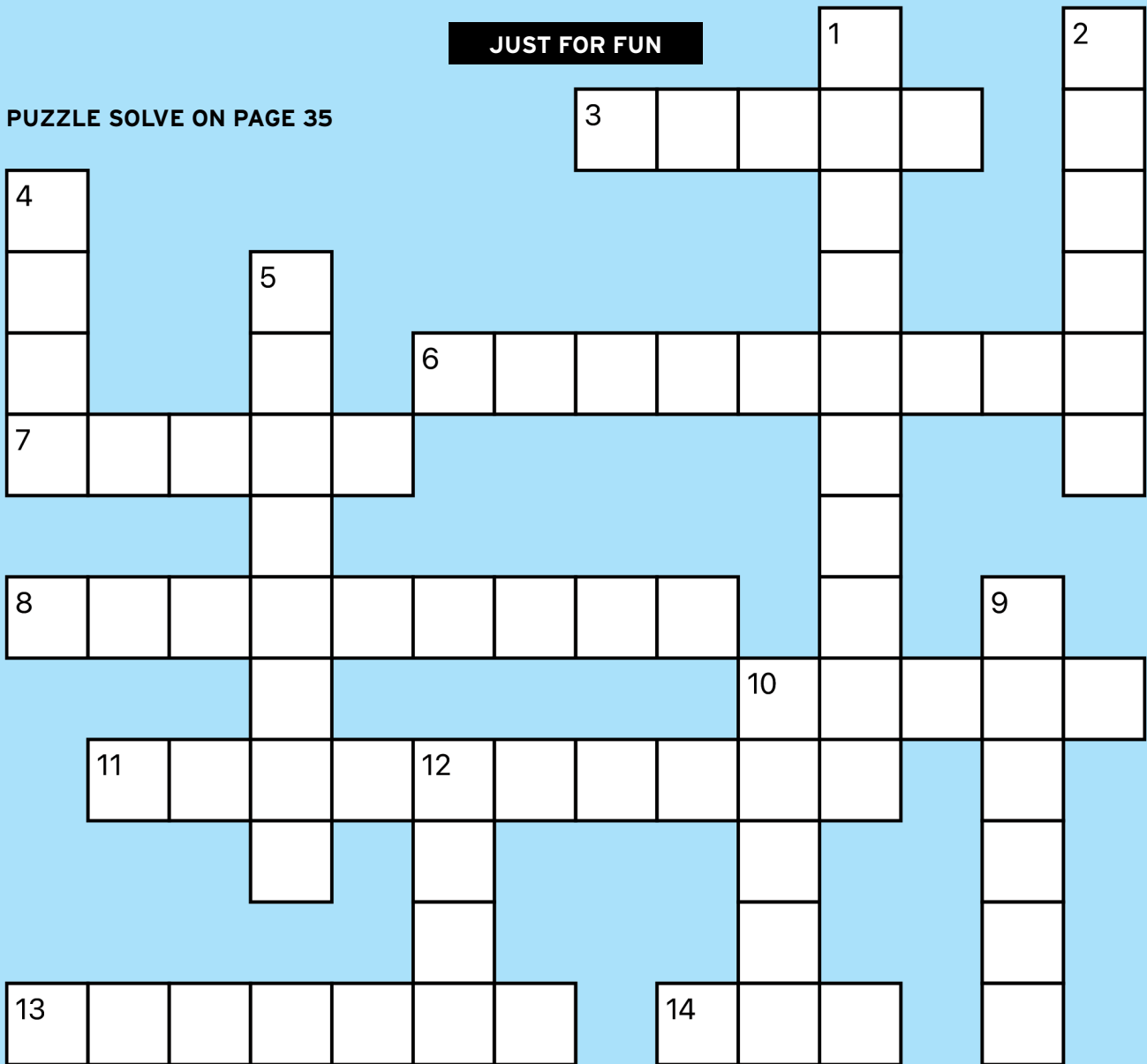
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JUST FOR FUN

PUZZLE SOLVE ON PAGE 35

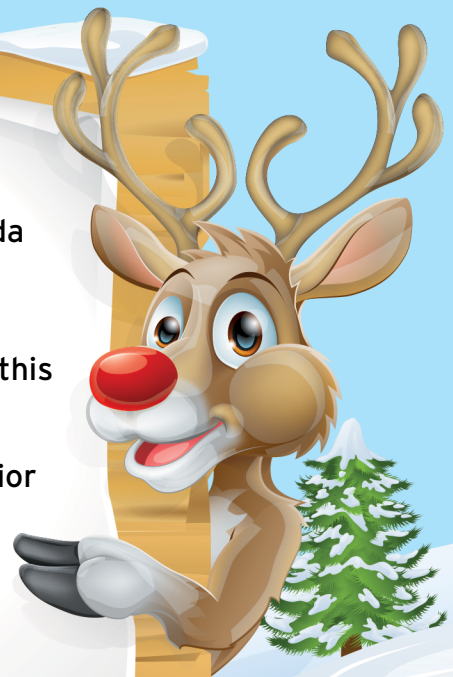


ACROSS

- 3. Children want a ride in these at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital
- 6. It's a _____ Life
- 7. Steve McCadams' fuzzy friend
- 8. On our cover: _____ tree
- 10. Biker & Mama's last name
- 11. West Tennessee _____
- 13. Organization known for building houses
- 14. Type of Christmas lights

DOWN

- 1. Harley, Yamaha, Honda
- 2. UT rally cry
- 4. March 28 has an appreciation day for this
- 5. _____ of Trees
- 9. City in Texas or interior designer's name
- 10. Paris' opera house
- 12. New DPA director





CALENDAR OF EVENTS



••••• NOVEMBER •••••

VISIT WITH SANTA - Stop by and let Santa entertain your wee little guests at his gingerbread house in downtown Paris on the square November 29-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 for more information.

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

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

NOVEMBER 1, 2 and 3 - It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in festive downtown Paris! **Candlelight Open Houses** are Friday and Saturday, 10 am-8 pm, and Sunday from 1-4 pm. Call 731-642-3431 for more information.

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

NOVEMBER 7 - Lifeline Blood Mobile is open from 12-6 pm at First United Methodist Church. Call Dan Rogers at 731-427-4431 for more information.

NOVEMBER 9 & 10 - Get a jump on holiday gifts! Stop by the **Christmas In Paris Shopping Extravaganza** that's grown so much that it will be at both the Paris Convention Center and the Henry County Fairgrounds. Saturday 9am-5 pm; Sunday 12-4 pm. Free admission! Email christmas-inparistn@yahoo.com or find them on Facebook for more information.

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

NOVEMBER 13 & 14- Henry County FCE Club presents **Home-maker's Holiday** in the Enoch Building at the fairgrounds from 3-6 pm on the 15th and 10 am-1 pm the 16th. On Thursday be sure to come hungry, they're serving soup and sandwiches from 11-1 pm. Lots of goodies to buy! For more information contact, Michele Atkins at 731-642-2941

NOVEMBER 16 - Head out to KPAC for an evening with **The Heartbeats**, a Motown, R&B musical extravaganza. Tickets are \$27 general admission; \$33 for reserved. For more information, call 731-644-2517.

NOVEMBER 17 - 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, call 731-642-5074.

NOVEMBER 27-29 - It's **Thanksgiving break** for city and county schools.

NOVEMBER 28 - Thanksgiving Day. Spend time with loved ones as you celebrate all that we have to be thankful for.

NOVEMBER 29 - Head to downtown beautiful Paris for the **North Pole Family Fun Day** from 10 am-2 pm. Enjoy Santa, Rudolph and the Elves rolling in on a fire truck, craft booths and more. For more information, call 731-642-3431.

NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 15 **Festival of Trees** will be on the square in Downtown Paris! Located at The Old 5 & 10 Event Center, 110 W. Washington Street. Hours: Monday-Friday 12 noon-3 pm; Saturday 10 am-2 pm; Sunday 1-4 pm. Call 731-642-3431 for more information.

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●●●●● **DECEMBER** ●●●●●

DECEMBER 1 - Join Paris First United Methodist Church for the first Sunday of Advent at 8:30 am and 11 am. For more information, call 642-4764.

DECEMBER 4 - Take part in the **Candlelight Advent Walk** to downtown Paris churches starting at 6 pm. For information, call 731-642-5074 or 731-642-4764.

DECEMBER 5 - Take time out of your busy schedule to give back. Visit the **Lifeline Blood Mobile** at First United Methodist Church, 12 pm-6 pm. For more information contact Dan Rogers at 731-427-4431.

DECEMBER 6-8 - Remember the reason for the season with the New Harmony Baptist Church's **Live Nativity** from 6-8 pm nightly. This beautiful drive-through event is a community treasure. For more information, call 731-593-5276.

DECEMBER 7- Inman Middle School PAC is hosting the **9th Annual Mistletoe Market** in the Inman gym with over 25 booths with local small businesses and crafters from 10 am- 4 pm. This would be a great place to do some early Christmas shopping and find those one-of-a-kind gifts. For information, call 731-642-8131.

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

DECEMBER 8 - At KPAC, the **Paris -Henry County Community Concert Band** will play at 3 pm featuring Christmas music and a guest artist, Dr. Christa Frye. Tick-

ets are \$5 in advance and can be purchased from a band member or at Jack's Java & Wood Street Warehouse. At the door cost is \$8. For more information, contact 731-644-2517.

DECEMBER 9 - For fun galore, check out the **Holly Jolly Electric Parade** at 5 pm. Awards include Clark Griswold, Golf Cart, Cutest Critter, and Best Decorated. For details and entry information, call 731-642-3431 or email downtownparistn@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 14 - Get in the holiday spirit by listening to the elite group of singers from HCHS in **Christmas with the Madrigals**. Starts at 7 pm at the KPAC. Call 731-644-2517 for information.

DECEMBER 18 - First Baptist Church's **Candlelight Communion Service** in the sanctuary at 6 pm. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 731-642-5074.

DECEMBER 18- KPAC's talented singing group, the **Harmonix**, followed by the **HCHS Madrigals** will perform at Paris First United Methodist Church at 6 pm. For information, call 731-642-4764.

DECEMBER 20-January 7 - Joyeux Noel! **Winter Break** for all schools!

DECEMBER 20-21 - The KPAC Players will be presenting **"It's A Wonderful Life - A Live Radio Play"** on Friday the 20th at 7 pm and on Saturday the 21st at 3 pm. For tickets and more information, call 731-644-2517.

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

December 25 - Wishing you a blessed **Christmas!**

●●●●● **JANUARY** ●●●●●

JANUARY 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR! Time to make those resolutions for 2025.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLVE

Puzzle on page 33

ACROSS:

- 3. WAGON, 6. WONDERFUL,
- 7. DAISY, 8. CHRISTMAS, 10. CLAUS,
- 11. HEALTHCARE, 13. HABITAT,
- 14. LED

DOWN:

- 1. MOTORCYCLE, 2. GO VOLTS,
- 4. WEED, 5. FESTIVAL, 9. AUSTIN,
- 10. CRETE, 12. TARA



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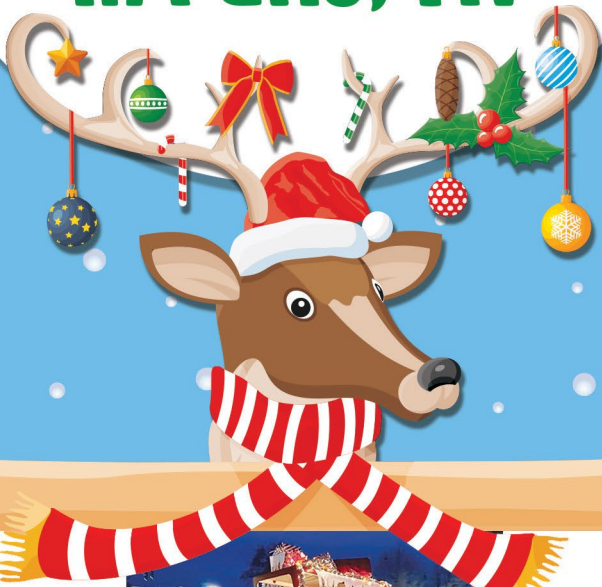
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it's CHRISTMAS time in Paris, TN



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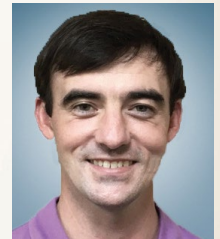
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