

The Paris Post-Intelligencer

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KEN WALKER/P-I

Waylon Dowdy can't hide the fun he's having as he swims in the Paris Civic Center pool with the help of a paddle board

and Sarah Luffman, Paris Swim Team coach who was helping with the swim camp Monday hosted by The Levi Miles

Foundation. The foundation plans to hold additional camps in the future.

Foundation a passionate ally for disabled kids

BY KEN WALKER
POST-INTELLIGENCER

The smiles tell the whole story. As a group of children took their turns getting into the swimming pool at Paris Civic Center, some hesitant at first, their demeanor was almost universal — sheer joy at being in the water. The first swim camp hosted by The Levi Miles Foundation is what brought this splashing good time to the children Monday. And, those children, some for perhaps the first time, were able to feel what other children feel when they go swimming.

“Our whole idea is to make things accessible for all,” said Shayna Miles, who, along with her husband David, have formed the foundation to provide support and resources to children with disabilities and rare diseases, and to promote acceptance and inclusion of those children. The Mileses formed the foundation after the death of their young son Levi, who died from a very rare disease known as Aicardi-Goutieres syndrome (AGS). For the first year of his life, Levi was perfectly healthy, but when he was diagnosed with the disease, his happy young life

was cut short, and he died May 1, 2021, at the age of 2. His death partially spurred his parents into forming the foundation, but it was something they had had on their minds for awhile even before that. Shayna Miles is a teacher at Rhea Elementary School, where she teaches special education for students in grades K-2. She also teaches the gifted children's classes. With her background in special ed, she had long wanted to get some kind of program going to help those disabled children. About half of the participants in foundation events

so far have been students she knows from Rhea. “And we know that Levi was different from them. He had a disease, which is why we include those with rare diseases along with the children who are disabled,” she said. **MAKING THE FOUNDATION GROW** Once the Mileses had made the decision to launch the foundation, it had a very promising beginning on Jan. 22 with a banquet that helped raise funds. That was just one day after what would have been Levi's 3rd birthday. Since then, The Levi Miles

Foundation conducted an art camp in the spring. The swim camp Monday was the second of what they plan as annual events. There will be fall and winter camps coming, too, but the couple plans to announce the theme of those camps in the near future. Those camps are designed to give the children confidence in doing certain activities that some people think might be beyond their reach. They're also a lot of fun because the kids have other kids to play with. Another banquet will also be coming up next January. The camps are for children ages 2-18. The participants

don't have to be from Henry County. In fact, there have been campers from Kentucky and even from southwest Obion County, as well as surrounding counties Calloway, Weakley and Benton. Many adults and teens are helping the foundation by volunteering to help out at camps. “It's been great to have them here to help. I think they, and the kids and their parents, have a trust in us and know that we'll do things the right way,” Shayna Miles said. SEE, MILES PAGE 8A

Victim treated after being shot

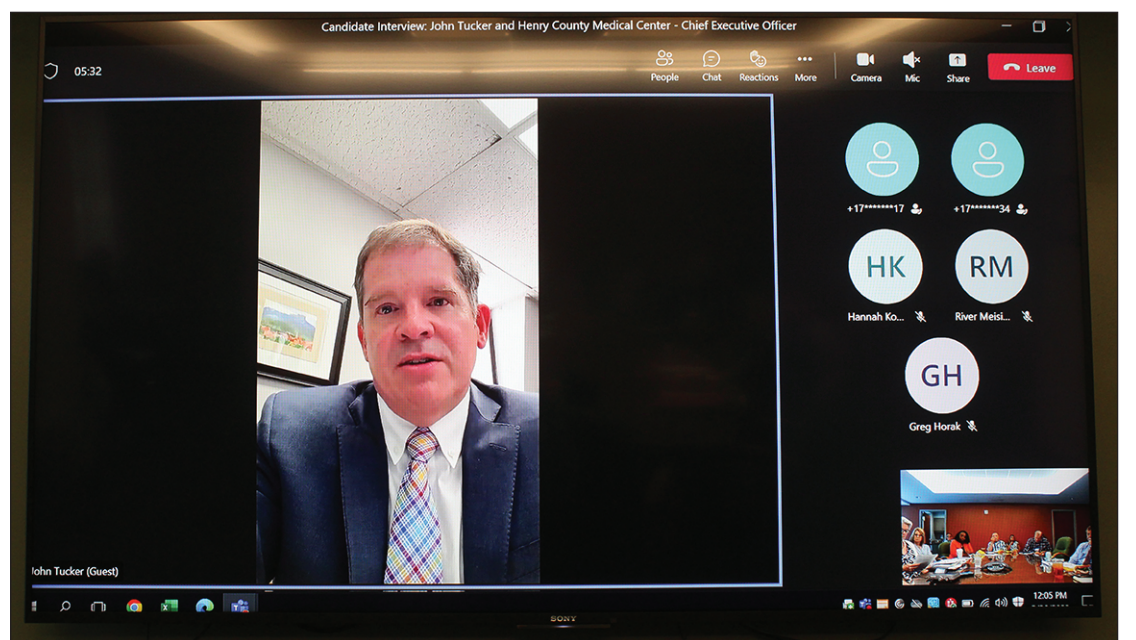
One person was treated at a local hospital after a Wednesday afternoon shooting in Paris. According to Asst. Paris Police Chief Ean Reed, the shooting took place late afternoon on Williams Street. The victim was treated for non-life-threatening injuries at Henry County Medical Center. The shooting is still under investigation and no additional information was available at press-time.

Hospital votes to enter negotiations with CEO candidate

BY GLENN TANNER
POST-INTELLIGENCER

A Colorado hospital administrator with 20 years of CEO experience will be offered the job as the next CEO of Henry County Medical Center. The board voted unanimously to make an offer for employment to John Tucker of Trinidad, Colo. to become the hospital's new CEO. The offer is subject to negotiating a contract with Tucker, which must then be approved by the board. Tucker, who is currently CEO of Mt. San Rafael Hospital in

Trinidad, was one of two finalists set to be interviewed by the board Thursday afternoon. Tucker was the sole interview conducted Thursday after the second candidate withdrew his name from consideration Wednesday night, according to Scott Whitby, board chairman. During the regular board meeting that night, each board member gave a favorable review to Tucker's answers during the interview, with each one agreeing he seemed the right person for the job. “I think he's a rising star,” Whitby said. “I think he's got a lot of good years ahead of



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GLENN TANNER | P-I

John Tucker (left), CEO of Mt. San Rafael Hospital in Trinidad, Colo., addresses the Henry County Medical Center Board of Trustees (right) Thursday afternoon during a telecon-

ference interview for the HCMC CEO position. The board voted unanimously to offer Tucker the position after discussion during its regular meeting later that night.

him. I think he's at the peak of his career, and I think that's good.”

If negotiations are successful, Tucker could relocate to Paris within 60 days.

A detailed account of Tucker's interview will be published in Tuesday's P-I.

Memorial Day ceremony set

Henry Countians can remember those military veterans who gave their lives for their countries during a holiday ceremony for Veterans Day Monday. The program will begin at 8 a.m. on the courthouse lawn in downtown Paris. It's sponsored by the Henry County Veterans Council Committee. Ann Smith of the council said commanders and other guests will be introduced during the program. Mike Rob-

ertson of Spring Creek Baptist Church in Springville will say the opening prayer. Commanders and other officials to be introduced will include Julie Samuelson, Disabled American Veterans; Steve Erffmeyer, American Legion Post 89; Michael Williams, American Legion Post 164; Ronnie Norwood, VFW Post 1889; Kathi Duncan, AMVETS Post 45; Ron Tyler, Unforgotten MCs; Karen Trippett, Caring Bikers; and Jona-

than Bolding, Henry County veterans service officer. The Tennessee State Color Guard will present military honors and retiring of the colors. **MONDAY'S CLOSINGS** Government offices in Paris and Henry County will be closed Monday in observance of Memorial Day. Monday and Tuesday's sanitation routes will be run on Tuesday.

Monday's P-I to be delivered Tuesday

The Post-Intelligencer office will be closed Monday for the Memorial Day holiday, and to fulfill the three days per week delivery schedule, the paper that would normally be delivered Monday will be delivered Tuesday. The week's schedule will include papers being delivered by carriers and

arriving by mail on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Although the paper's offices will be closed Monday, Tuesday's paper will include coverage of Monday's Memorial Day ceremony. The normal publishing schedule of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday will return the following week.

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