HENRY COUNTY and the LAKE AREA



#### FOR WINTER 2023



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Above: Carson Braham, Isabella Braham, and Alice Roberts turn Browns Lane in Paris into their sledding slope. They are the grandchildren of Violet Roberts.

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Reading through this issue, I'm reminded that our community has produced wonderfully interesting people with fascinating goals and careers. These articles also remind us that "others often benefit when we put ourselves out there."

David and Shayna Miles, founders of The Levi Miles Foundation, are terrific examples. The couple's foundation works to provide resources for children with disabilities and rare diseases, and to promote acceptance and inclusion of all individuals within our communities. Check out their inspiring story in Around Our Town.

Just as their son's experience changed the Miles' trajectory, a musical with KPAC's Young Artists Theatre changed the direction of Noah Reilly's future. A HCHS graduate, Reilly was bound for a career in psychology when there was "a plot twist." Find out more about Reilly in Arts and Entertainment.

John Austin McDaniel's amazing career has enabled him to jam with many musical greats. Read about him and what it feels like to be "riding the lightning" in Soundtracks. Also, entertaining and informative is our story on Mike Weatherford's podcast.

Ernest Willis, our Spotlight for this issue, is another instance of a local individual who strives to help others

#### ON THE COVER

For a golden retriever, any snow day is a fun day! June, our frosty coverdog, is the family pet of Hunter and Ashley Brogdon. Neighbor Sara Sargent, owner of Lele and Beane Photography, captured June in a brief moment of rest before romping again. through his talents. Whether he's singing or wrestling, his motto is, "If I come up, you come up." That could easily be the thought behind the Henry County School System's Grow Your Own and their New Teacher Academy programs. Don't miss their article in School of Thought.

As we find ourselves in Helping Hand Radio Auction season, Shannon McFarlin's remembrance of the late Fred McLean brings to light how much one person can mean to a community. Also find the Helping Hand calendar within our pages and some delicious recipes that come from the famous Helping Hand cookbook.

Kathy Ray, the first female mayor in the history of Paris gets it. In a piece on her hopes for the future of Paris, Mayor Ray says that "each of us can improve the town we call home and make it the best it can be." I second that emotion!

Enjoy a fabulous 2023 and thank you for supporting PARIS!

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Henry County and the Lake Area

PARIS!

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# MAKING HISTORY

PHOTO © CROVE MEDIA

n November 2022, Paris elected two new city commissioners, Kathy Ray and Vickey Roberts, and re-elected long-time Commissioner and former Mayor Sam Tharpe. They joined sitting Commissioners Jackie Jones and John Etheridge. During the first meeting, Ray and Roberts were elected Mayor and Vice-Mayor, respectively.

PARIS! caught up with the new mayor to discover more about her role in city government as the first female mayor in our town's history.

**PARIS!:** In a social media post, your daughter-in-law wrote, "Proud of my mother-in-law, Kathy Callicott Ray for breaking the glass ceiling and living her purpose and passion.

**Ray:** I'm proud of Wendy Ray, a strong woman with purpose and passion. My passion is to make Paris an extraordinary place to live, work, and play. My purpose has always been to continue to improve the town we call home to make it the best it can be.

**PARIS!:** You have a long history in Memphis as an executive with Maybelline, the largest cosmetics brand in the world. What take-aways from that job will serve you well as mayor?

**Ray:** At Maybelline, I was known for being resourceful, looking for ways to turn challenges in to advantages and getting the best from what was available. Thinking outside the box is key, as is flexibility and adaptability.

**PARIS!** In 2007, you began serving as a vice president with FirstBank and then as the executive director of the Downtown Paris Association. Tell us about those relationships.

**Ray:** As manager FirstBank in Downtown Paris, I worked with businesses and individuals and was involved in many Paris endeavors including the Downtown Paris Association. I became a DPA officer and served as president for several years.

In 2013, I retired from banking to become DPA's first, executive director.

By that point, the organization had changed from a business association to the non-profit, Downtown Paris Association, emphasizing the fact that downtown belongs to everyone in Paris and Henry County.

During this time, Paris became a Tennessee Mainstreet Community. As a Main Street director, I learned what other Tennessee communities were accomplishing.

Working together and helping each other is an important ingredient. My goal was to keep people and businesses as involved as possible. Partners were vital. Businesses and friends of the DPA made financial contributions, and many volunteers participated in our activities. People working together make the difference.

**PARIS!:** Per the city's website, the mayor and commissioners "serve as a catalyst for developing community-wide goals and mobilizing the resources to attain them." What goals would you like to accomplish?



Sam Tharpe, Kathy Ray and Vickey Roberts were sworn in as elected City Commissioners by Paris Finance Director Traci Shannon. Sitting Commissioners John Etheridge and Jackie Jones look on. Photo: Shannon McFarlin

**Ray:** Paris is known as a progressive community. Working with our commission, I want to improve our economic vitality by supporting the needs of our existing businesses and industries. We are preparing for the possibility of Tier 2 and Tier 3 suppliers for Blue Oval City, as well as other companies that may have an interest in our area.

Tourism also is key. "Experience Paris" is the unique brand that helps make Paris a destination. I hope to continue to build this brand that includes all aspects of tourism from downtown to the Lake area.

**PARIS!:** Your husband, Larry Ray, has always been an incredible supporter of yours.

**Ray:** Larry and I have loved and supported each other in all we've done for the past 45 years. He has always been supportive of my projects and is always ready to help.

**PARIS!:** Your late father, Dr. Ted Callicott was a well-known and well-

loved dentist and community leader in Paris. What influence did he have on your view of service?

**Ray:** Dad was my hero and mentor. He cared about people and had a service heart. As a child, I remember him bringing home bags of peas, corn, tomatoes, and potatoes. He would say, "Not everyone can pay for services they need."

In later years, he provided dental work at a low cost to those who could not afford it. It was his mission. My dad was a man who made a difference, loved the Lord, and loved his family, community, and world. I know he would be proud of my commitment to serve our community.

**PARIS!:** How can newcomers and other citizens of Paris help their city government be as successful as possible?

**Ray:** Get involved. Be an advocate, a volunteer, and a resource for our community.





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# DON'T. BE. LATE.

SHOW

Mike Weatherford

itting down to talk with Mike Weatherford is like being with an old friend, discussing whatever comes up, and having a good laugh. And that's exactly what Weatherford wants for his podcast, "The Mike Weatherford Show," on Facebook Live.

f LIVE

"The show is all about keeping it real. That's important to me," he said. "I want it (the show) to have subject matters that the average person would understand. I mean, who really knows what the county mayor does or the city manager. That's what we do. We get them on the show, have them talk about their jobs, and about themselves. We just had the Carl Perkins Center on the show. Do you know what they do? I didn't, but it turned out to be a really good show."

But the show's subjects don't end with local government or organizations. "We also had the unusual on. we've had someone who claimed to be abducted by aliens, we've talked

#### By Karen Geary

about Bigfoot, and we've discussed conspiracy theories with an FBI agent who investigates them."

The longtime local auto mechanic and business owner, Weatherford has his Brewer Street Mafia/Red Dog Fred Production Studio set up near his shop and talking on camera comes natural to him. As a promoter for demolition derbies across the United States, Weatherford became the subject of a 2009 documentary, "Derby Madness! The Movie."

On his podcasts, he feels it's important for him to be genuine. "I'm just being Mike, the same Mike at my shop. We talk; I get to know you. I want my guests to be comfortable and trust me. I want them to feel free to speak their minds. I've had people come on the show who are scared to death, shaking like a leaf, before airtime. But I talk to them, find out something about their life, their family, and we'd have a conversation about those things. We just chat, have a laugh. Most the time, the guests are at ease by the time we begin."

"The guests are really the show, not me," he continued. "I'm just the facilitator; I keep it moving. If I see the conversation is slowing down or the subject is getting stale, I might jump in with my warped sense of humor. Or I may ask another question or take a question from a viewer and send the dialogue in a different direction. That's my job."

Weatherford is quick to acknowledge the people behind the scene that keeps the weekly show running smoothly — Kevin Buie, producer/ director; Chad Howard, technical manager; Dana Allen, media manager; and Dakota Weatherford, audio. "I couldn't do it without them," he said.

"The Podfather" as he is affectionately known at the studio has continued to educate himself on what it takes to keep his show current and interesting. "I have studied other podcasts, what works and what doesn't, and I have learned from their mistakes. Sometimes the best way to learn is from mistakes. And the biggest thing I've learned - it's not about me! It's about the guests and the topics."

Weatherford weaves each show's theme with guests from different backgrounds to discuss a chosen topic. For example, if the show is about law enforcement, he might invite the sheriff, the police chief, and an attorney to discuss what's involved in their work. Or on a light note, he might have the World's Biggest Fish Fry general manager and the Hostess Princess to talk about the county's largest annual event.

"Sometimes, we take a hard-hitting approach; sometimes we don't. But whatever we are talking about, we want our average listeners to understand what we're presenting," he said.

Bringing out his phone and pulling up Facebook, Weatherford proudly showed some statistics on the podcast's demographics. Presently, the one-hour show has between 30,000 to 45,000 viewers a month, and one current show had 4,500 responses in a week. "We're growing; people are talking about us," he said. "Can you believe these figures? In a seven-day period, with 1,200 viewers on one show, the average age watching are in the 30-55 age bracket – 64% are female; 36% male. More women are watching than men, go figure! But those numbers are fantastic. Most viewers are from Paris, but many are from surrounding areas, too. I'm just flabbergasted."

Currently, Weatherford has other podcasts being produced from his Red Dog Fred Production Studio with more to come. But he stressed, "If I had to quit tomorrow, it's OK. It's been fun. I'm not looking to stop, but I'm content with what we've done. The show has sponsors, and I'm appreciative to them. There are people watching who keep coming back, and they are telling their friends about the show. People are suggesting show ideas. It's all good."

The Mike Weatherford Show can be seen on Tuesday nights at 7 pm on Facebook Live. And as Mike says as he signs off every podcast: "And. Don't. Be. Late!"



Host Mike Weatherford shares a studio moment with his podcast's guests from the Carl Perkins Center, Carly Wheat and Nikki Klopfenstein.



PARIS! For The Winter 2023 7



# ERNEST WILLIS Singer, Wrestler, CHARACTER!

f you ask Ernest Willis to describe himself, he'll say, "Oh, I'm a character alright." Shaped by the hardworking values of a family heavily involved in the ministry and in the military, Ernest approaches whatever he does with all his might. And he does a lot!

Although he has deep Tennessee roots, he was born in Kansas. His military family moved again to Germany before settling back in West Tennessee. His dad was also a preacher, so no matter where they lived, the church

#### By Rhonda Stanton

was a constant. Musical ability runs in the family, and Ernest started playing drums at church when he was just six years old. His older brother played bass and keyboards. His younger sisters sang.

As the siblings started going in separate directions, he didn't have his sisters around to do the singing. It was time to step up and be bolder about singing. As a teen, Swing Choir with Mr. Kenneth Humphreys was a wonderful outlet. He's continued singing, and he still plays drums and sings at Paris Church of God in Christ, where he attends regularly.

One of Ernest's goals is to sing on television, and he has auditioned for *The Voice*, and he plans to audition again this year. Ernest believes you need to let your light shine so you can uplift and inspire others.

During Ernest's high school years, his cousin Marcus Bennett was training and wrestling for Power Pro, affiliated with Memphis Wrestling. He was intrigued by the physical feats and performance aspects of getting the crowd charged up. His cousin invited him to come along when Ernest shared his interest.

"I went with him to a training session thinking I wanted to be a wrestling manager, but the great Bill Dundee told me that I didn't need to be a manager – that with the way I moved in the ring, I needed to be a wrestler." So, Ernest began his training (in earnest) with his cousin, and soon he was participating in local wrestling matches.

Don Bass, "The Singing Cowboy," took Ernest under his wing for a time, then First Class Championship Wrestling, run by "Big Jim Business" became his long-time wrestling home.

Wrestlers adopt a persona to engage their audiences. At one point, he and his training partner came up with a gag to play identical twins. Their wrestling names were "Brad and Chad Badd," but their identical twin status was a bit sketchy as Ernest "Brad," is African American and his training partner, "Chad," is Caucasion. The crowd ate the comedy gimmick up, and the referees were frequently befuddled as they each randomly answered to the other's name.

Ernest considers Bill Dundee as a mentor that he could look up to. Bill took the time to help him learn the ins and outs of the business and to give honest critique along the way.

He also appeared on A&E's *Strange Days* in 2011, hosted by the late Bob Saget. The episode focused on the behind-the-scenes lives of wrestlers, exploring the commitment, sacrifices, and efforts to stay level-headed needed to make it as a wrestler.

After easing back from the wrestling scene for a while to focus on family, Ernest is getting back in business. Wrestling once a month now with the Non-Stop Wrestling Alliance, led by Jamie Phillips of Paris, he keeps things hopping – going from a goofball comedy moment to a "I wanna chop his head off" moment at the flip of a switch. He says, "I'm gonna put on a show and make sure the crowd gets its money's worth." When asked about what's next in wrestling, Ernest smiles and says that he has some things in the works.

To sum it up, whether singing or wrestling Ernest likes to see people happy. "I'm usually an 'up' person, and I feel like I'm supposed to be a light. There are many ways to do that."

He hopes in the future to possibly get into inspirational speaking with the message that you can get it right no matter where you've been. He may be preaching, he'll still be playing the drums and singing, and he will be using whatever gifts God has given him to bless others.

"If I come up, you come up." May we all take notes from Ernest.

Rhonda Stanton is Manager and Arts Director for Krider Performing Arts Center for the City of Paris.



Ernest Willis with wrestling great Bill Dundee.





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#### **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

# NOAH REILLY

Best Laid Plans ...Then A Plot Twist

aris native Noah Reilly knew from the time he was in middle school that he wanted to be a psychologist. Through high school he kept that goal and was accepted to Northern Illinois University's psychology program. In high school, he also joined the speech and debate team. That lead to high school theatre and Krider Performing Arts Center's Young Artists Theatre, but he viewed theatre as a hobby. His career path was psychology.

The summer before he went to college, he volunteered to work with the Young Artists Theatre's production of Disney's *The Little Mermaid Jr.* Brooke McCord Callahan, another HCHS Theatre and KPAC Young Artists Theatre alumni, was directing. Noah had an "Aha!" moment, and thought, "This is what I want to do with my life."

#### By Rhonda Stanton

Having already been accepted to Northern Illinois University, he called about changing his major to theatre. The situation heated up when he learned there was only one spot left, and he would have to audition for it. Four other people wanted that spot as well. Noah was not nervous about the actual audition.

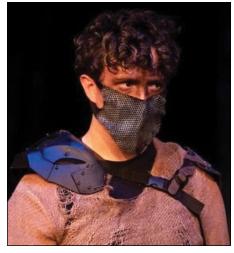
He credits Linda Miller and David Weatherly for excellent teaching and contest experiences. However, he was nervous about having only a one-infive chance of being accepted.

Pleased that he arrived at auditions with 10 minutes to spare, he saw that the others were already there. His heart sank. When the head of the program scanned the waiting area, Noah was called first. After the audition, he was told he had the position and would start the following Monday. Noah was stunned. He asked, "You have four other people waiting....why me?"

The reply was, "I think we have a lot to work with here." Then Noah was led back to the waiting area, and the announcement was made to the four others, "Here's the newest member of the Class of 2022." The others were still asked to stay and audition. Noah is not sure what happened after that. He just knew he needed to get out of there.

Noah's professor was a huge Shakespeare person. Like most high school students, *Hamlet* was required reading at Henry County High School. And like most high school students, Noah may or may not have really read it. Auditions for university shows began, and of the five shows available Noah was cast in Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida*. At first, the older language was confusing,

a. Jamaal Murray



Reilly appeared in Shakespeare's drama *Troilus and Cressida* while attending Northern Illinois University.

however getting to learn stage combat and to die on stage was pretty great. Noah's high school self would never have thought, "I'm going to go to college and do Shakespeare."

Nonetheless, Noah's path had begun. His classical theatre credits also include Christopher Marlowe's *Edward II*, and he is currently completing an online class on Shakespeare and Marlowe from Harvard University.

It was a summer internship between his junior and senior years of college that added another dimension to his acting skill set. He accepted an internship in Los Angeles that opened doors in film and television. Noah will always enjoy theatre, but he is very much hoping for more experience in film and on television.

One of his first experiences was on the set of *Animal Kingdom* where he appeared as a beachgoer. He was so excited at this grown-up acting opportunity, and then a staff member approached and asked if he had a parent on set. Noah was confused, but eventually he understood that they thought he was a minor.

Since then, he's had a recurring role on the reboot of *Saved by the Bell* and he has appeared on *Blackish*. In September 2021, he was called to Paramount to work on the film *Babylon*, which was released on December 23, 2022. He played the role of a bellhop and had scenes with Brad Pitt.

Recently, he returned to the KPAC stage in the play, *Murmurs of the Heart*, written and directed by Noah Way. A representative from Broadway World's Nashville region attended one of the performances. The play garnered several nominations including Best Play, Best Director for Noah Way, and Best Performer for Noah Reilly, Ayla Rector, and Noah Way.

These are all fabulous credits for a guy who was destined for psychology until just a little over four years ago. Noah is grateful for the influences of his family, Linda Miller, David Weatherly, the KPAC Young Artists Theatre, and Noah Way.

When asked what comes next, he says that it's all in a day's work: improving his craft, working on new projects, watching for auditions, and just seeing where life takes him.

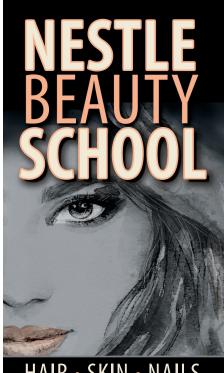
Hmmm, maybe there's a bit of a philosopher in there too.

Rhonda Stanton is Manager and Arts Director for Krider Performing Arts Center for the City of Paris.



Reilly plays a bellhop in the recent movie Babylon and shares a scene with Brad Pitt.





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# ALSO KNOWN AS JOHNNIY MAQC

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

n this article of "Soundtracks," meet a local favorite, Johnny Mac. John Austin McDaniel, aka "Johnny Mac," is a man who was born to be a musician.

"From the time I could talk, I've been singing and by the time I could walk, I was tapping my toe to the beat," said Johnny Mac. "Music is not a hobby for me. It's my life. God made me this way and blessed me with this incredible gift to touch people with my voice and instrument.

#### By Kathy Ray

I've constantly got music in my head, and when I'm not playing or listening to music, I'm reading about music or listening to talk radio about music. I'm a serious student of music history and I take pride in my knowledge of it. Aside from music, I'm also a dedicated son, brother, and Christian, who is far from perfect, but one that prays every day and is a work in progress.

My father, Buddy McDaniel, was an amazing singer and guitarist and

I naturally gravitated towards music, with it being a constant in my house. My dad loved real country music and instilled that love into me. My mother loved Elvis, and early rock and roll, and that was also something I gravitated to, naturally. My older sisters had records and tapes of bands like Lynyrd Skynyrd, Van Halen, KISS & Aerosmith which also excited something inside of me. I had the talent and love for music in me from birth, so I just let it happen." Johnny Mac can play and sing most any genre and style. He is known for being a country traditionalist, and he loves singing Merle, Waylon & Willie. He also plays rock and roll. He is just as comfortable playing Ted Nugent's "Stranglehold." He writes original music in various styles. If you go to a Johnny Mac show, don't be surprised if he goes from Haggard to Hendrix, and everywhere in between.

He is predominantly a guitar player, but he has also been hired for recording sessions as a bassist. He said, "I can't read any music. I play by ear, so I can pick out a tune on most anything. When I get a crowd that really wants to listen, every song is a joy to play. I love playing my original songs for people that know and enjoy them. As far as covers go, I have so many favorites, but one I never grow tired of is "Can't You See" by Marshall Tucker Band. It was a thrill to open for them at last year's Tennessee River Jam."

When asked who has been a musical influence and inspiration, undoubtedly, his first influence was his dad. After him, he drew major inspiration from Merle Haggard in his singing. "I didn't start playing guitar until I was 14. I went to a KISS concert and came home and told my dad that I wanted a guitar. So, I'd say that I cut my teeth on KISS guitarist Ace Frehley licks, and then I found the perfect blend of rock and country in Eddy Shaver's playing. I consider him to be a big influence on my style to this day," he said.

We talked about his favorite performances. "I've done so many amazing shows that it's hard to narrow it down to one. Singing with Loretta Lynn and getting a standing ovation from her sold-out crowd. Being honored twice with my own "Musician Spotlight" at the Country Music Hall of Fame. Playing with Bobby Keys, of the Rolling Stones at Nashville's Mercy Lounge, with Steve Gorman of the Black Crowes on drums. Singing "Lean On Me" with Bill Withers and Mark Farner of Grand Funk Railroad, and 'Janet' from Three's Company, onstage at the West Virginia Music Hall Of Fame. Recording a live album at the Breakers with Waymore's Outlaw. Playing with Wayne Moss, as a member of Barefoot Jerry at a soldout Exit/In. Those are a just a few off the top of my head."

What is his favorite part about being a musician? "I love the way I feel when the crowd is getting into the music, and the band is clicking, and in the moment, together, and I'm playing and singing straight from the heart, tapping into a higher power, and it flows out, effortlessly. It does not happen every night, but when it does, it's the greatest feeling in the world," said Johnny Mac.

"I mean, there are great moments at every show, but those special moments, like I mentioned, are what I call 'riding the lightning," he chuckled. "Once you become conscious that it's happening, it's over. I also love all the wonderful fans and lifelong friends that I have made during all these years of playing. Folks that I would consider a blessing to my life. There are so many wonderful people that I would have never met had it not been for music."

When asked about his favorite musician to perform with, he said, "I've been blessed to perform with so many great players and legends. Members of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and Musicians Hall of Fame, as well as tons of awesome shows with some of my best friends like Josh McKee and Randall French. If I could pick only one to play with again, though, it would be my dad.



Johnny Mac is "riding the lightning" during this outdoor performance.



When asked what is the best advice another musician has given you and what advice would you give a new musician?

He said, "Richie Albright, legendary drummer for Waylon Jennings, was one of my best friends and someone I had a strong connection with onstage. He told me not to change my image and just be myself, whatever that may be. It's normal to grow and change, but just stay true to yourself, no matter what."

"My advice for a new musician is to find out who your favorite players looked up to, then listen to them. Find out who influenced those guys and listen to them. Get back to the roots and borrow licks from all of them."

Acting has become a recent venture for Johnny Mac. "Acting is something that I didn't see coming, but I've really enjoyed trying something new. I've finished two movies that are both in post-production now, and I have a script for a third that will be filmed Summer of '23. I'm excited to have the opportunity to keep honing my acting skills." Johnny Mac is also a songwriter. "When writing songs, I draw from personal experiences, but also use my imagination or experiences of others to form scenarios. The songs that I consider my best, usually came to me quickly, on walks or while driving. I don't like to labor over it. It needs to come naturally, and it doesn't have to be true, as long as it rhymes."

When asked what he wants folks to remember about him, he said, "I'm someone who always showed up and tried to play and sing to the best of my ability. Someone who always wanted the businesses that I played for to do well. Someone who cared about my true fans. Someone who lived and breathed music every day of his life. Someone who was the real deal.

As a loyal fan, Johnny Mac performances are filled with all types of great music and a great time. From acoustic guitar to a stage filled with "Friends" or "the Heart Attacks," I encourage you to give him a listen.

For his upcoming performances, check out John McDaniel's Facebook page for dates and venues.



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### To New Beginnings!

As the calendar turns the page, we wish you the very best in the year ahead.



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#### REMEMBER WHEN

# Remembering

t's time for the Henry County Helping Hand Radio Auction, and we wanted to remember the late Fred McLean and his reign as a long-time auctioneer and volunteer for Helping Hand.

For many years, Fred was an integral part of Helping Hand, which raises thousands of dollars for dozens of non-profit organizations in Henry County each year. He had served since 1988 as an auctioneer, volunteer and board member. Fred passed away in July 2022 at the age of 72.

Fred was always the first auctioneer each year, opening the auction in style with his unique delivery. He had "Fred-isms." The key "Fred-ism" probably would be his use of the word *larrupin*. Yes, *larrupin* is a word – a Southern word of long-standing – and Fred used it whenever something especially delicious would come across

#### By Shannon McFarlin

the auction block. As in, "I haven't gotten into this pie yet, but I can already tell it's larrupin."

For those who are unaware of the word and its meaning, the Dictionary of American Regional English defines *larrupin* as: *"If something's larrupin good, it's spanking good or thumpin' good".* Some people even pronounce it thus: *"This pie is larpin' good."* 

Fred was the facilitator, the one who brought the auctioneers together before the first day so that they could sit down and work out the schedule the auctioneers would be working. He wore many hats besides that and auctioneer. He also served as President and a board member through the years.

You never knew which Fred would show up on his appointed days -would it be "Southern Lawyer Fred" wearing a suit and vest with one of his dozens of fancy bowties? Or would it be "Down Home Fred" wearing overalls?

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Then there was Fred's cadence, especially in the way that he would repeat the phone number of Helping Hand in a sing-song way: "This is your Helping Hand phone number: 644-1695," that made it easy for listeners on the radio to remember.

Helping Hand went through rough times the last couple years with the COVID pandemic prompting changes in the way the auction was conducted, with much less in-person contact. But that didn't stop the people of Henry County from still raising \$300,000 each year.

This year, the Henry County Helping Hand Radio Auction is back in full force, live on WTPR from the Paris Convention Center, and Fred would be oh, so happy to see that.



Fred at the microphone in 2016, surrounded by onlookers from Paris First United Methodist Church intently watching the auction bids coming in.



Fred opening the Helping Hand auction on the first day in 2018, stylin' in his bowtie.



Fred on the last auction day in 2017, wearing overalls, waiting to hear the grand total.

#### CROSSWORD SOLVE PUZZLE ON PAGE 25

ACROSS: 1. BABY, 5. GROW YOUR OWN, 7. BILL DUNDEE, 10. NATURE, 11. LEVI, 12. LAURRUPIN, 14. PENGUIN, 16. POTTERS, 17. WRITING, 18. FACEBOOK, 20. VEHICLE, 21. ERNEST

**DOWN:** 2. BOWTIE, 3. ROWLETT, 4. JOHNNY MAC, 6. MERINGUE, 7. BRAD PITT, 8. CALDWELL, 9. MCLEAN, 12. LIGHTNING, 13. RED DOG FRED, 15. KATHY RAY, 19. CHICKEN

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# HELPING HAND RADIO AUCTION 2023

### **January 9 - March 1, 2023**

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#### \* NEW RADIO CHANNEL! \* Broadcast daily over 104.7 FM/AM 1000 WHNY "Big Henry" Livestream on radionwtn.com

Saturday Night Auctions: 104.7FM & livestream on radionwtn.com (Check calendar for times) • OFFICE HOURS: 7 AM - 30 minutes after auction ends



- DONATED ITEMS ACCEPTED UNTIL 9:00 AM -

Label all items with Community or Group, Name of Donor, and a description of each item!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY 16 W. G. RHEA LIBRARY KAYLA NATION 642-1702 ARTS COUNCIL CHLOE ROTH 642-3955 TRINITY UNITED METHODIST EMILY WALKER 642-3427 MASTER GARDENERS DAN DZIEKONSKI 642-1860	JANUARY 17 SECURITY BANK WHITE & ASSOCIATES, WIMBERLEY AGENCY TRACI TEMPLETON 642-6644	JANUARY 18 KROGER TERESA SHEPHERD 336-9063 HC PREVENTION COALITION SARA THOMAS 336-2250 JONES MILL / HICO COMMUNITY BOBBY/BRENDA OWENS 694-8711 REGINA VEAZEY 247-5581 CHARTER SENIOR LIVING KIMBERLY HAZELWOOD 271-5496 HENRY CO. EMPLOYEES TREVA KELLEHER 642-5212	JANUARY 19 OAKLAND COMMUNITY RANDI FRENCH 642-6633 GENNY PARTRIDGE 336-1939 KIM MCCLAIN 363-7061 DEBBIE WYNN 336-0660 JUNIOR LIVESTOCK BRENDA ABLES 782-3244 LATTER DAY SAINTS JUDY DENTON 901-487-5641	JANUARY 20 PALESTINE COMMUNITY CENTRAL POINT COMMUNITY MELANIE TOWNSEND 336-0859 ELIZABETH CRAIG 642-4986 PEGGY VEAZEY 642-6095 BRIDGE OF HOPE CHURCH ERIC KELLEHER 336-9686 TN VALLEY HIGH BASS CLUB SHAWN BARKER 514-3325	JANUARY 21 AUCTION BEGINS AT 12 NOON EDUCATOR'S DAY REBECCA PEALE 642-0961 LYNETE SMITH 642-3675 ROBIN PIERCE 642-8131 LYNNE GREEN 642-4586 DENAY KIBBLER 644-1600 HARRELSON SCHOOL 247-3152 RADIO NIGHT AUCTION BEGINS AT 6:30 PM
JANUARY 23 OUINN CHAPEL AME JOHN DANDRIDGE 642-8445 615-512-6807 ST. JOHN'S - CDS CHERRY WEBB 819-2036 HCHS MADRIGALS AMY JONES 642-5232 IMMAN BETA CLUB ALEX EDGIN LORIE MCCLAIN 642-8131	JANUARY 24 COTTAGE GROVE COMMUNITY DUSTIN INGHAM 706-835-7415 CENTER COMMUNITY ANDY/BECKY PASCHALL 782-3606 MIKE/PAM HUTSON 707-0164 INTERRAIL SIGNAL PAM HUTSON 707-0164	JANUARY 25 COMMERCIAL BANK JENNIFER STARKS 642-3341 CARROLL BANK & TRUST JUSTIN OLIVER 642-6363 FOUNDATION BANK NICOLE NORWOOD 642-8958 REGIONS BANK FIRST BANK JUSTIN MILLER 641-6400	JANUARY 26 HARRELSON BETA CLUB HOLLY THOMPSON 247-3152 PURYEAR COMMUNITY BETH TAYLOR 247-3784 BEV ZORN 247-3387 NORTHWEST NORTHWEST NUTTION BARBARA PEARSON 642-3139 OFFICE ON AGING BARBARA PEARSON 642-2919	JANUARY 27 CLIFTY COMMUNITY CLIFTY VILLAGE STEPHEN/KIM WATSON 644-2074 JIM/ANITA BREEDING 363-3803 RESCUE SQUAD TABITA COLE 241-7413 KELLY CORBITT 227-4517 RELAY FOR LIFE ALONNA TOSH 243-2231 HENRY COUNTY CASA TAS SMITH 363-7940	JANUARY 28 AUCTION BEGINS AT 12 NOON WHITLOCK COMMUNITY MARSHA ALDREDGE 336-9545 MICHELLE WADE 333-1127
JANUARY 30 NEW HARMONY BAPTIST LORI SNOW 593-5276 HERITAGE CENTER SUZY HERRON 642-1030 HC HISTORICAL SOCIETY DAVID WEBB 336-8920 HCHS BAND BOOSTERS / COLOR GUARD BERET ILKO 363-8112 INMAN BAND BERET ILKO 363-8112	JANUARY 31 JOE MAHAN FORD BRITTNEY VANDYKE 642-4711 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DIANE McDOWELL 642-2962 NEW BOSTON COMMUNITY KATHY STILES 782-3161 ANGIE LEACH 363-5231 THE JOLLY WOMENS CLUB GEORGIA CAWTHON 642-2740	FEBRUARY 1 MANSFIELD COMMUNITY LINDA FAYE NEAL 336-9379 CHRIST LUTHERAN LORI TAYLOR 642-6620 JOHNSON CHAPEL RENAE PEALE 642-1081 CARL PERKINS CENTER CARLY WHEAT 642-8455	FEBRUARY 2 BUCHANAN COMMUNITY BETTY WHITE 234-0116 LAKEWOOD BETA CLUB MARY ASHLOCK 644-1600	FEBRUARY 3 CHAPEL HILL / GUTHRIE ROAD MARY JUNE SINNEMA 642-1794 HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH LEILA KACKLEY 642-4681 T.A.R.P. CENTER FOR IND. LIVING DENISE WARDLE 644-0026	FEBRUARY 4 AUCTION BEGINS AT 12 NOON HENRY COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER TORY DAUGHRITY 644-8266 RADIO NIGHT AUCTION BEGINS AT 6:30 PM

18 PARIS! For The Winter 2023

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 6 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH GAIL MULLER 336-0621 PAM/RICK CONGER 621-7424 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY JOAN HOWE 333-1036 LITERACY COUNCIL SUE QUINN 641-0345	FEBRUARY 7 VFW POST 1889 & LADIES AUX. RONNIE NORWOOD 225-2664 AMVETS POST 45 KATHY DUNCAN 937-238-5016 DARKHORSE LODGE GRETCHEN CATHERWOOD 363-3616 AMERICAN LEGION POST 89 CINDI COLGROVE 644-1922 PARIS ELKS LODGE CHRISTY ALEXANDER 571-3034	FEBRUARY 8 WAL-MART SUPERCENTER LYNN HOLMES 644-0290 COVENANT RANCH JON PAUL MOODY 336-4617 / 642-6419 NEW WAVE BUDDY BALL JEANNIE HUNTER 407-7282 PLUS ENDOWMENT SUSAN HAYES 243-3906 CHHAMPS PAULETTE H. DUNLAP 210-241-4267 TN VALLEY BOARD OF REALTORS TERI EDWARDS 336-9100	FEBRUARY 9 FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH BETTY CHRISMAN 642-3147 HCHS SPEECH TEAM WENDY BREEDLOVE 642-5232 LINDA MILLER HCHS SWIM TEAM MIRANDA MILLER 336-4557 HISTORIC ATKINS-PORTER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC. SUSAN JONES 693-2696	FEBRUARY 10 PARIS SOCCER CLUB SAM McDANIEL 571-5946 HENRY COUNTY CEMETERY COM. SUSAN STEWART 336-9764 HENRY COUNTY ARCHIVES STEPHANIE TAYLOE 644-3489 HENRY CO. GENEALOGICAL SOC. JEAN PETERSON 642-3638 HENRY COUNTY CHAMBER MUSIC SOC. MIKE HOLDEN 676-2772	FEBRUARY 11 AUCTION BEGINS AT 12 NOON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH JIM & JACKIE BUNDY 336-0455 IN HOUSE NIGHT AUCTION BEGINS AT 6:00 PM
FEBRUARY 13 HENRY/BUNNS COMMUNITY ALONNA TOSH 676-4551 DEDE WYATT 363-0568 SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER JOAN THOMPSON 270-293-2705 POINT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH CANDY WIGGINS 642-6947 OPEN DOORS CHURCH TRISH McCLURE 731-514-0020	FEBRUARY 14 SUNNYSIDE SARA PACK 336-7925 COUNTRYWOOD ESTATES RHONDA COMPTON 336-1047 SCENIC HILLS/ CASTLETON COVE TOM/ROSE CUNNINGHAM 336-0220 FOOD BANK DAVID FLOWERS 676-0156 CARLTON GERRELL 693-3333 HCHS FISHING TEAM STACIA PUCKETT 336-8323 TCAT SHERRY WILSON 644-7365	FEBRUARY 15 COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES/ MELSON/SHADY GROVE TERESA BARNHILL 642-6618 BETTYE PASCHALL 676-0145 PARIS LANDING COMMUNITY & RESORT AREAS REGGIE COLES/KATHY MADISON 444-1364 / 644-9360 HCHS CROSS COUNTRY STEPHANIE WINDERS 336-0792 PHASES TO FREEDOM JANE ETHERIDGE 707-0930 AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS CAELY WHEAT 901-493-4065	FEBRUARY 16 ELKHORN COMMUNITY DOTTIE/BAKER KENDALL 642-7238 JOSH/ERIN COLEMAN 336-3468 / 642-7007 FRIENDS OF TN WILDLIFE REFUGE LINDA FIELDS 363-2856	FEBRUARY 17 EASTON'S ANGELS BRITTNEY GREEN 363-2156 A PLACE CALLED HOME CHRISTY LONG 407-9051 SALVATION ARMY BOBBI JO FRENCH 642-4105 HCHS BASEBALL HEATHER TOWNSEND 336-5888 REAL HOPE YOUTH CENTER CARL ANDERSON 227-4689	FEBRUARY 18 AUCTION BEGINS AT 12 NOON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH DAVE & ANNE CULLEN 333-2904 641-0097 IN HOUSE NIGHT AUCTION BEGINS AT 6:00 PM
FEBRUARY 20 FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA LAURA MOSS 336-8304 YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS TREY JONES 363-4566 4-H CLUBS OF HENRY CO. STACI FOY 642-2941 HCHS NO FLY ZONE LEE WHITEHEAD 336-6732 EIFFEL GARDENS MELISSA GARNER 642-7545 HC BASKETBALL BOOSTERS MICKIE CARTER 903-724-4266	FEBRUARY 21 PARIS CITY EMPLOYEES JESSICA CROUCH 641-1402 PARIS BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TERRY WIMBERLEY 642-1322 / 336-9326 COMO COMMUNITY LINDA CRAWFORD 819-1038 TOM WINCHESTER 642-7231 PROJECT HELP DAN DZIEKONSKI 642-1860	FEBRUARY 22 VAN DYKE / ROUTON COMMUNITIES ASHLEY MILLER 694-8992 SPRING HILL BAPTIST CHURCH JOHNNY/KAY FOUST 336-4525	FEBRUARY 23 MAPLEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH JIMMY BARRETT 642-5860 CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP JESSICA MATHIS 363-7468 PEPPERS AUTOMOTIVE NOEL HATMAN 642-5661 GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH TRACI SMITH 571-0052	FEBRUARY 24 SPRINGVILLE COMMUNITY BOB McDOWELL 336-5989 NEIL THOMPSON 731-986-2266 / 415-4822 WORLD'S BIGGEST FISH FRY MONTE STARKS 676-1303 AHC HEALTHCARE PAULA POOLE 642-2535 DOGHOUSE RESCUE FERN THOMPSON 644-9216	FEBRUARY 25 AUCTION BEGINS AT 12 NOON TENNESSEE VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH CARLTON GERELL 693-3333
FEBRUARY 27 INDIA COMMUNITY LINDA MCCADAMS 642-0360 KARLA A. GURTON 336-9933 JIMMY/LINDA GREEN 642-3055 HENRY COUNTY GIRL SCOUTS WENDY WRATTEN 363-7456 HENRY CO. SADDLE CLUB JEANINE ROGERS 363-8691 WRAP LAURA WINSTON 343-5217	FEBRUARY 28 LAKEWAY VILLAGE JEREMY LINDSEY 642-1252 MINERAL WELLS ANIMAL CLINIC MICHELLE HOPKINS 642-5699	MARCH 1 OPEN TO ANYONE DAY CINDY SNYDER 336-5362 PLEASE CALL TO BE ADDED TO THIS DAY	BID HIG and BID OFTE		

### THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS!

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5

2

#### FACES & PLACES



Maddie Wilson and Navonte Byars Byars recently spent their first family Christmas with their new baby son, Miles.



Austin Abbott and fiancé Delaney, enjoyed one last outing at Piney with their daughter, Avelynne.

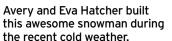


Jackie Mann and Darcy Louer were elves helping with cookie decorating at the W.G. Rhea Library's Polar Express event.



Best of Show winner at this year's Festival of Trees: the Henry County Fair, with Michelle Hopkins, Tracy Loines, and Deneicia Gregson.







The Grinch visited with Becky Jackson at RoseStone Retirement Community.





PLUS Endowment presented a MEGA grant big check for \$5,000 to Angela Binkley and the first grade at Rhea Elementary to construct a greenhouse. Rhea Principal Chris Hudgins and first graders joined in the ceremony. Photo by Stacy Hayes



Henry Co. Juvenile Court Judge Vicki Snyder swears in the newest advocates for the county's CASA program: Missy Hamilton and Robin Walker.



At the Holly Jolly Electric Christmas Parade, Khadijah Yvette Combs of Henry County Schools and Alec Jones of BPU are all smiles.



William Latham from Lakewood Elementary and Teaching Assistant Julie Abbott watch his bowling ball make its way down the alley at the Special Olympics field day at The Bowling Alley.



It was a warm day when Joel Crosno, Clayton Lee, and Alexandria Hassell worked to erect the beautiful holiday decorations on the Downtown Plaza.





# ENPOWERING TEACHERS

With New Educational Programs

elationships matter. Educator to student to family, strong relationships are the foundation for social emotional learning, academic achievement, and college and career success. The Henry County School System's vision, as stated in the five-year plan reads, *Henry County Schools will be a distinguished trailblazer in public education for empowering the whole child.* 

The vision is further defined by explaining the importance of relationships – connecting all students with an extracurricular activity, a club, athletics or a work-based learning experience.

Two of the HCSS's goals in the five-year-plan focus on building and cultivating relationships. Goal 2 states that HCSS will attract and retain highly-qualified educators and support staff. The school district has innovative plans in place to help meet the objectives of that goal.

First, the New Teacher Academy, led by coordinator, lead learner and district leader, Dr. Melissa Rowlett, serves as a primary level of support for new hires who are new to the profession and experienced educators

#### By Ashley James

who are new to the district. The level of support each educator receives depends on factors such as teaching experience and specific areas of strength and growth.

The goal of New Teacher Academy is to retain excellent educators by giving them all the tools and knowledge they need to succeed. The academy begins with acclimating participants to the district's long-term and shortterm goals as well as the core values in EXCELLENCE, an acronym that contains ten non-negotiable standards of excellence.

Throughout the year, participants meet monthly; all administrators in the district have a hand in providing training to help achieve the district's vision of excellence. Dr. Rowlett is responsible for coordinating and facilitating excellent professional learning opportunities and following up with individualized support for educators. The 2022-23 New Teacher Academy educators are participating in a yearlong book study of "Kids Deserve It! Pushing Boundaries and Challenging Conventional Thinking," by Todd Nesloney, former school principal and award-winning author.

Nesloney has taken a radical approach in his work and challenges educators to think differently about how we prepare students for success in college and the workforce through building positive relationships. This is the kind of innovation leaders in HCSS are cultivating with New Teacher Academy.

Each monthly session of the academy focuses on one topic, chapter, or set of chapters that participants read beforehand and come prepared to discuss or engage with in some way. Topics of monthly study have included classroom management, building relationships, parent communication, meeting the needs of diverse learners, using data for instructional decision-making. Professional goal setting makes up a large part of the new educator's plan for growth, and progress toward goals is assessed regularly.

"Our kids deserve the very best we have to offer," says Dr. Rowlett. "Goal setting is a huge part of professional learning...It helps us reflect and consider things we want to continue to do well and areas where we want to continue to grow as professionals in education. Providing dedicated time to reflect allows us to think about what we hope to accomplish for ourselves and our students."

Dr. Rowlett goes on to explain that our new hires were "brought on board because we thought they were the best, and we want to retain the best because our kids deserve it."

Going forward beyond year one of New Teacher Academy, Dr. Rowlett and the district leadership team are developing a plan for the 22-23 cohort of educators. We plan to expand topics and they may change slightly next year. "As we bring in a new cohort and onboard new teachers, we will continue to do the "Kids Deserve It" study for inspiration and reflection.

When asked to reflect on the new teacher experience in HCSS, Katie Long, educator at Henry County High School, stated, "New teacher academy has been very beneficial for me this year. Despite not being a 'first year' teacher, being in a new system came with questions and challenges. Having a specific person to go to with questions other than just administrators in my building has been nice. Also, topics we cover may be things I wouldn't even think to ask. I would tell new hires that HCSS truly sets you



Above: Tara Littleton, Jeanna Owens, and Kelsey Hudson, Grow Your Own candidates, were recognized at the November school board meeting. Not pictured: John Norwood.

Previous Page: First year teacher, Sheldon Baringer finds innovative ways to instruct his geometry students at HCHS. up for success as an educator. There is always someone to talk to and ask for ideas, help, etc. It is the best!"

Another initiative gaining momentum state-wide is the idea of "Grow Your Own" programs for districts. HCSS is participating in this innovative work with the first cohort of Grow Your Own educators made up of paraprofessionals currently employed by the district serving in various roles. Ideally, these candidates may have earned some college credits but have not completed a program.

The district is partnering with UT Martin to provide a pathway to certification for these employees, and their program and coursework will begin in January. The goal of this program is to increase opportunities for outstanding paraprofessionals, and each candidate will be assigned a mentor in the district with licensure similar to the license the candidate is seeking. While the program provides flexibility in completion of requirements, there is no compromise in the quality or rigor of the coursework required for licensure.

Kelsey Hudson, Patriot Playschool Director, is one of four HCSS Grow Your Own cohort candidates. Ms. Hudson stated, "The Grow Your Own program has opened an incredible door to further my education in the field of teaching. This opportunity will allow me to grow in an area I love and take the next step in my career."

According to Dr. Leah Watkins, Director of Schools, "The Henry County School System is fortunate to have an outstanding group of educational assistants interested in pursuing teaching licensure. The Grow Your Own Program has given us the opportunity to cultivate teaching capacity in some of our existing outstanding staff into future HCSS teachers. We are able to continue to keep these educational assistants with our students as they participate in coursework required to obtain a teaching license! It is a benefit to our system, community, the employee...and most importantly, our students."

Ashley James is the assistant vice-principal at *E.W. Grove School.* 





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JUST FOR FUN Welcome 2 1 3 4 5 6 7 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 **Puzzle Solve** 21 on page 17

#### ACROSS

- 1. Content of Miles' stocking
- 5. Teacher's program partnered with UT Martin
- 7. Famous wrestler
- 10. John Watkin's favorite Mother
- 11. Foundation is named after him.
- 12. Regional word used for "delicious"

- 14. Arctic bird
- 16. Type of burial field
- 17. Type of contest sponsored by the PHC Arts Council
- 18. Social media platform
- 20. Foundation Bank makes this type of loan easy.
- 21. He's a real character!

#### DOWN

- 2. Man's clothing apparel for neck
- 3. District leader of New Teacher Academy.

- 4. He performed at Tennessee River Jam.
- 6. Type of topping on chocolate pie
- 7. Noah Reilly is in the movie *Babylon* with this famous actor.
- 8. Henry County Sheriff in 1936
- 9. He was a longtime auctioneer and volunteer for Helping Hand.
- 12. "Ridin' the \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Name of Mike Weatherford's production studios
- 15. She is making history in Paris, TN.
- 19. \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetable Pasta Casserole



avid and Shayna Miles had two rules when making difficult decisions with their son, Levi. Those two rules were: 1) quality over quantity, and 2) he would be included as any other child, making sure he was around his friends and family as much as possible.

They lived by these rules day in and day out. They challenged doctors, nurses, specialists, and therapists in every action that was taken with Levi. They fought with passion for the achievements that stemmed from these two rules.

Out of the inspiration of Levi's love for life and others, reinforced by the rules established for Levi's life, arose The Levi Miles Foundation. David and Shayna have implemented the same passion for loving others within this Foundation. When God laid on their hearts to start a non-profit organization to serve kids with disabilities and rare diseases, they simultaneously agreed on Love Like Levi as its brand. Just like Levi's love, their love for others is to be unconditional and without stipulation, just as Jesus commands of us.

The Levi Miles Foundation strives to break down the barriers, divided by ability, so that all children can experience the best quality and inclusive life possible. The Foundation's mission is their journey towards their vision. It is their core work. Their mission statement reads: *Together we can inspire quality of life and inclusivity for children with disabilities and rare diseases. The knowledge and support we offer enhances a child's development and well-being. Partnerships are forged within communities to allow all children to be included and flourish.* 

The Foundation's vision is the future they intend to create. It is how they are going to change the world. Essentially, their vision is their destination. The Miles relayed that "our vision is a world where beliefs and mindsets are altered to promote the diversity of children of all ability levels through celebration and acceptance to enhance quality of life."

The Foundation employs their mission and vision statements in every aspect of the services they provide. Children do not see the differences that adults do. Everyone is equal in their eyes, and their love portrays that! This provides a picture of what inclusion looks like.

The Foundation provides services to children using a multi-tiered platform. This service platform has afforded the Foundation to provide services on all four levels in under a year's time. This was intended to be a three-year initiative, but God had a different plan for them.

Level One services are ongoing projects that the Foundation funds and delivers year-round. Level Two services are projects that require a little more funding and volunteer efforts and are delivered at certain times of the year.

Level Three services are projects that require a referral and voting from the board of directors on an as-needed basis. Level Four services are projects that require a substantial amount of funding and planning over a longer duration of time. These projects require voting and significant planning with the board.

Examples of these leveled services include, but are not limited to, the following:

#### LEVEL ONE

As advocates for children with disabilities and rare diseases, TLMF provides care packages to children based on their needs in areas of hospitalization, feeding tubes, occupational therapy, and academic readiness. All of Levi's adaptive equipment was donated to the HCMC Center for Wellness and Rehabilitation, where it is being loaned out to children of Henry County that need specialized adaptive equipment.

#### LEVEL TWO

In an ongoing effort to promote inclusion in our communities, TLMF provides seasonal Kids Camps. Each Kid Camp is intentionally designed to offer services and events so that ALL children can participate together. The Foundation also conducts Parent Connection Clinics throughout the year.

The Parent Connection Clinics are designed to offer support to parents of children with disabilities and/or rare diseases and bereaved parents. There are other opportunities for parents, too, through their clinics. Some topics that have already been covered by the Foundation include emotion regulation and IEP 101.

The Levi Miles Foundation provides support and leadership for an inclusive "buddy/peer" program called Best Buddies. This program was piloted at W.G. Rhea Elementary School in PSSD last school year and is being fully developed into all county and city school systems over the next year. Best Buddies chapters not only build lifelong friendships, but also foster an inclusive atmosphere within the school. There are countless testimonies from parents, students, teachers, and faculty of how this program is life changing.

#### LEVEL THREE

Children often require medication funding, specialized adaptive equipment funding, and/or an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device to improve quality of



Shayna, Levi, and David Miles

life. Such items are not always covered by private insurance companies, and even if it is covered, it can take months to get the appropriate authorizations needed for approval. The Levi Miles Foundation works with medical equipment suppliers and families to provide medication proper equipment to promote better quality of life.

#### LEVEL FOUR

Many families of children with life-threatening diseases rarely leave the confines of their own home. TLMF provides these children, as well as their family, an opportunity to explore life outside the walls of their home. This is accomplished by granting an experience to children of life-threatening diseases under the age of three. TLMF strives to provide fully inclusive playgrounds at local schools, so that children with disabilities can play side-by-side with their peers.

January, 2023 marks the one-year anniversary of the launch of this Foundation. Moving forward into the new year, TLMF will hold their Second Annual Fundraising Banquet on January 21. This date is very special to David and Shayna, for it is also Levi's 4th birthday. The banquet is a ticketed event with limited seating. However, if you wish to support this foundation, donations can me made through their website.

David, Shayna, and the Board of Directors of The Levi Miles Foundation are humbled and overwhelmed by the support and acceptance by the community. Contributions made to this organization will continue to be used in loving the children of the community by promoting inclusivity and providing the best quality of life for children with disabilities and rare diseases.

To stay up to date with the The Love Like Levi Foundation, follow their Facebook and Instagram pages, sign up for their newsletter, and visit their website at www.thelevimilesfoundation.org.

> Remember to always: Love Like Levi.

The Levi Miles Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization created in memory of Levi Michael Miles, son of David and Shayna Miles of Paris, Tennessee.



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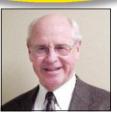
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#### IN THE GARDEN

# **GARDEN RESOLUTIONS**

ell, we did it. We made it through another year – and what a year! While the summer temperatures weren't nearly as oppressive as years past, Mother Nature certainly compensated by withholding our rainfall allowance, and I've got the dead trees and shrubs to prove it! All in all though, I'll take the drought over the pandemic any day.

So with a new year upon us, it's time to carry on the time-honored tradition of setting some New Year's resolutions. Like most of you, making a list of resolutions is the easy part, following through on them is another story. But with at least some good intentions, I'll set these down on paper so I can look back later to see how miserably I failed at keeping my own word.

1. Let's start with procrastination. I am notoriously bad at waiting until the last minute to get things done. This year my resolution is to do my best to be prepared ahead of time and "act" rather than "react". But since I don't really have any specifics right now, I'll put that off until later.

#### By John Watkins

2. Keeping ahead of the weeds. My second resolution is to not wait until my garden looks like the Amazon rainforest before I decide to get my lazy self out there and spend an entire day cleaning up. Instead, I'm going to try and spend a few minutes a day (or every other day) when I can still tell the good plants from the bad. This way my plants can reap all the benefits of water and fertilizer without having to share the wealth with their ugly cousins.

Which leads me to one of my secret weapons on the war with weeds: pre-emergent herbicides. I'm sure you've all seen at least some form of these on the garden center shelves (like Preen, Barricade, or Simazine). These chemical formulations are a real time saver in that they prevent the weed seeds from ever germinating in the first place. thus removing the need to pull them later. A word of caution however: as most pre-emergent herbicides won't know the difference between a zinnia seed and a crabgrass seed. So, if you are planning on starting all of your annual flowers from seed, you might

want to skip this application.

3. Fertilizer. I hereby set forth a resolution to do my best not to starve my plants this year. I realize that most plants will do ok on their own without applying fertilizer (Mother Nature does a pretty good job in that respect). But I want my garden to be a little more than just "OK".

If I'm going to go to the effort of planning, laying out, buying, and planting a nice landscape, the least I can do is give the plants a little extra incentive by providing some essential nutrients. A little touch of nitrogen here for healthy foliage, a smidge of phosphorous there to increase blooms and root growth, and just a dash of potassium to ensure overall plant health and disease resistance.

4. My next resolution, and this is going to be a tough one, is to be a little more patient and understanding when it comes to those four-legged pests out there. I realize that the deer and moles have to eat too, but could they possibly leave my hostas alone for at least a week or so after they emerge from the ground so I can enjoy them for a hot minute!

I mean, jeesh! It's not like there isn't other food around. How about that nice chickweed or henbit that literally covers my beds in the spring? Or maybe a huge helping of bittercress to curb your appetite? I mean, it's not like I live on a game preserve or anything. I'm right in the middle of town, but Bambi seems to have no problem making himself at home on my patio and eating right out of my pots on the deck like it's some endless salad bowl at Olive Garden. What's next? Are they going to start letting themselves into the kitchen, rummaging through the crisper drawer and leaving dirty dishes in the sink? Okay, okay, deep breaths...

5. Finally, for the coming year I'm going to try and avoid the overwhelming urge to buy all the latest and greatest garden gadgets that they show on late night infomercials. Do I really need that 30-in-one multi-tool that will till the ground, chop roots, prune dead limbs, detect moisture levels, sing to my plants, and so much more?

Or that solar powered garden gnome that casts an eerie glow as I



"I'm right in the middle of town, but Bambi seems to have no problem making himself at home on my patio and eating right out of my pots on the deck like it's some endless salad bowl at Olive Garden."

stroll the garden at night? Probably not, but how can I resist with a limited time offer that allows me to get not one, but two, by simply paying a separate fee? Oh, the temptation!

Well, enough of these well intentioned aspirations. What I really want for the coming year is simply to take more time to enjoy what Mother Nature provides and appreciate the beauty of the landscape.

At least this is one resolution I think I will actually be able to follow through with.

John Watkins is the Discovery Park of America's grounds director and resides in Henry County.

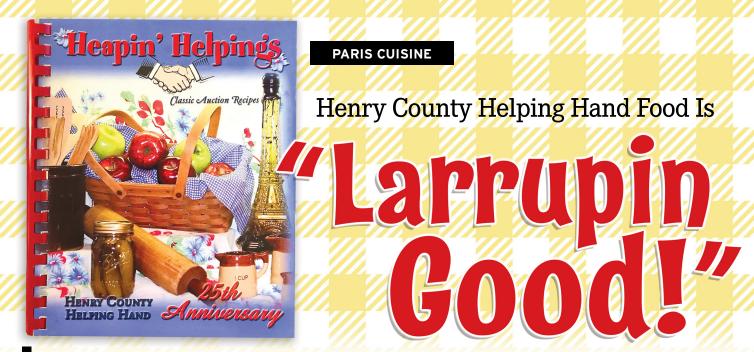




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t was the tail end of 1978 when six men met in the basement of the Paris Post Office. It was the office of one of the six, the late John Caldwell, then county agricultural extension agent. The six had two things in common. For one, all had been active in the annual March of Dimes Radio Auction which had been initiated years earlier by Paris Lions Club. For another, they all thought it was time for a change.

The others in the group included the man who had called the meeting, Bill McCutcheon, then a radio announcer for station WTPR. For several years, he had been the auctioneer. In those days, the daily sale had only one person at the microphone for the weeks that the auction lasted. Also at the meeting were Bill Davis, auction treasurer; Bill Williams, a substitute auctioneer; William T. Looney, whose advice as an attorney was sought for the meeting, and Bob Jelks, a leader in the Lions Club and in the auction.

Their concern was that all of the thousands of dollars raised each year went out of town, and only a portion returned. Although the March of Dimes was a worthy and recognized cause, the group felt that the money could be better used at home by people familiar with local needs.

Out of the meeting came the proposal for a unique, all-local organization that would continue and expand on the annual auction but use the proceeds solely to benefit Henry

1/2 cup green stuffed olives

8 oz. can mushrooms, drained

4 oz. Velveeta cheese, cut up

2½ cups chicken, cooked & chopped

2 cans cream of mushroom soup

County charities. The group even proposed a temporary name: Henry County Helping Hand. The name stuck and so did the cause. And it has grown...my, how it has grown. The first Helping Hand radio auction, held in 1979, raised \$11,519.78. Today, it raises over \$300,000 each year.

Bids for many of the items can get very exciting. All with good intentions of raising more money for Henry County, many bidding wars have broken out over a casserole, a five-layer homemade cake, or a mile high meringue pie.

Here's a few of the Helping Hand cookbook recipes to try. In the words of the late Fred McLean, a longtime volunteer and auctioneer for Helping Hand, "They're larrupin good!"

#### CHICKEN VEGETABLE PASTA CASSEROLE By Cindy Snyder

#### **INGREDIENTS:**

cup celery, chopped
cup onion, chopped
cup green or red pepper, chopped
tablespoons butter
oz. garden rotini pasta or your favorite pasta
Slivered almonds or Parmesan cheese, optional

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. Sauté celery, onion, and green pepper in butter.
- 2. In separate bowl, combine cream of mushroom soup, cheese, olives, and mushrooms. Add chicken.
- 3. Cook noodles and drain. Mix noodles with sautéed vegetables, cream mixture, and chicken.
- 4. (Top with slivered almonds and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese, optional.)
- 5. Put in lightly sprayed or buttered 9x13 casserole dish and bake at 350°F for 30 minutes until bubbly.





CORN LIGHT BREAD By Hannah Crosser

#### **INGREDIENTS:**

2 cups plain meal <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup plain flour <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup sugar 2 cups buttermilk 3 tablespoons bacon drippings (or Wesson oil) <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> teaspoon soda 1 teaspoon salt

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Mix dry ingredients.

2. Add milk and blend. Add drippings; blend.

3. Pour into a sprayed loaf pan and put in a cold oven. Turn oven to bake at 350°F and bake 1 hour.

4. Turn out onto heavy duty foil and rub one stick of margarine into bread (top, bottoms, and sides). Wrap immediately in foil and let stand.



#### CHOCOLATE PIE By Martha Callicott

#### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 1½ cup sugar 1½ cups milk 3 egg yolks 1½ tablespoons butter 3 tablespoons flour, level 3 tablespoons cocoa, level 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 pie shell, baked

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Mix sugar, flour, and cocoa in a saucepan or skillet. Stir in milk. Cook over medium heat until it begins to thicken.

2. Beat egg yolks in a bowl until tick and yellow. Whisk a little hot cocoa mixture into yolks. Whisk yolks mixture back into cocoa mixture and cook until thick.

3. Stir in butter and vanilla. Pour into baked pie shell.

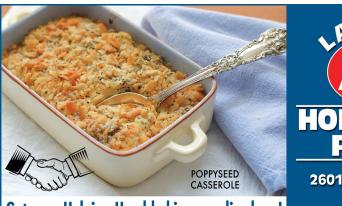
#### **MERINGUE:**

3 egg whites 2-3 tablespoons sugar ¼ teaspoons cream of tartar

Beat egg whites and cream of tartar until soft peaks form. Gradually add sugar. Spread meringue on pie and brown in oven.

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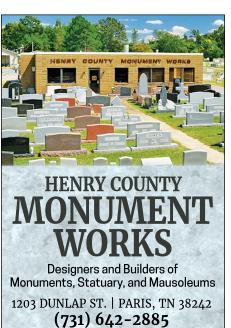
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#### DINING GUIDE

### There's no shortage of delicious local dining in our area

Please peruse our restaurant guide and drop in for a meal. \*Beer and/or other alcohol available.

Ace's Restaurant \* 1516 E. Wood Street, 731-644-0558

Blues Landing Restaurant\* 130 Tate Drive, Buchanan, 731-407-4926

Carmelita's Comida Mexicana \* 15575 Hwy. 79N, Buchanan, 731-407-9173

Dairy Delight 1324 E. Wood Street, 731-642-1795

Dew Drop In Grocery \* 125 Cypress Road, Buchanan, 731-232-8300

El Vallarta Mexican Restaurant \* 1113 Mineral Wells Avenue, 731-642-3626

El Vaguero Mexican Restaurant \* 600 Spruce Street, 731-641-0404

**Esha Country Kitchen** 14300 Hwy 79N, Buchanan, 731-642-4111

Fourmans 3615 Hwy. 79N, 731-407-7191

**4-Way Grill** 6121 E. Antioch Road, Springville, 731-641-0100

Golden Dragon Chinese Restaurant 114 W. Washington Street, 731-644-3288

Hong Kong Chinese Restaurant \* 1021 Mineral Wells Avenue, 731-644-1810

Jack's Java Urban Cafe 210 N. Poplar Street, 731-407-4410

Kenny's Meat Market Highway 79S, 731-644-1123 LL's Bar & Grill\* 334 E. Washington Street, 731-644-1888

Laird'S BBQ 77 W. Main Street, Puryear, 731-247-3060

Meo Mio's Sportsman Grill \* 14275 Hwy. 79N, Buchanan, 731-924-5060

Miso Japanese Restaurant\* 915 Mineral Wells Avenue, 731-704-6030 / 731-407-6029

Moustos Pasta-Grill\* 1305 E. Wood Street, 731-407-9155

Old West Steakhouse 1122 E. Wood Street, 731-924-5180

Oishii Japanese Hibachi Steakhouse \* 1055 Mineral Wells Avenue, 731-642-7778

The Olive Pit \* 905 Mineral Wells Avenue, 731-642-5030

Perry's BBQ and Catering 1055 Mineral Wells Avenue, 731-407-9040

Prater's Taters 1055 Mineral Wells Avenue, 731-642-7224

Southside Cafe 1875 Highway 69S, 731-407-4694

Spanky's Country Kitchen 9505 Hwy 641N, Puryear, 731-247-5527

**Sweet Jordan's** 849 Volunteer Drive, Ste. 123, 731-642-0161

Take Me Back Cafe 302 W. Wood Street, 731-642-1952 The Breakers Marina & Grill \* (Seasonal) 526 Shamrock Road, Buchanan, 731-232-8299

The Family Table 9 Dogwood Street, Henry, 731-243-5117

The Fresh Market Restaurant \* 2255 E. Wood Street, 731-644-1900

The Lodge at Paris Landing \* 400 Lodge Rd, Buchanan, (731) 924-4300

The Point BBQ 510 Pleasant Grove Road, Springville, 731-225-4488

The Spot Bar & Grill 11180 Hwy. 79N, Springville, 731-227-2134

Tickled Tummy 206B Tyson Avenue, 731-407-9012

**T-N-T Pizza** 14244 Hwy. 79N., Buchanan, 731-642-2246

Tom's Pizza & Steak House \* 2501 E. Wood Street, 731-642-8842

Trolinger's BBQ 2305 E. Wood Street, 731-642-8667

Uncle Billy's Downtown Eatery 200 S Market Street, 731-407-9277

Westside Market & Restaurant 45 Hwy 69, 731-642-7796

Woody's Hand-Tossed Pizza \* 849 Volunteer Drive, 731-641-2222

Yoder's Country Store 75 Anderson Rd, (731) 644-7535

## Ode To Litter

We are traveling here, we are traveling there Scattering our litter everywhere. We throw out our twist ties and bags without a care. Leaving behind dirty diapers that pollute the air.

What do you mean, it is not fair? You need to say this with a little less flair. We are traveling here, We are traveling there. Scattering our trash just every ole' where.

Our trash feeds a raccoon, our debris feeds a bear. Our trash stinks up the meadow with a glare.

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What is that new smell in the country air? Oops! I must have left a fire there. I did not cover it up, on a dare. Don't blame me. Blame my cousin, Jer.

A forest fire is here, that we all share. A few sparks here, a few sparks there. I have to go, traveling here and traveling there. This new development gives me a scare.

- By Caren Krutsinger

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Below: Dani Cole loved catching snowflakes on her tongue during last year's snow. She is the daughter of Lisa Daniel.

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- Slow and steady wins the race, especially in winter. Don't get in a hurry.
- For increased balance, keep your hands free and out of your pockets.
- Keep rock salt and some sand or cat litter on hand. Salt helps melt ice and cat litter or sand can offer temporary traction.
- Plan your steps to the car, office and elsewhere to avoid snowy, icy walkways.
- Look at the bottom of your footwear. Make sure your shoes/boots have good tread.









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