

ISLAND NEWS

Celebrating birthdays this week are Sue Carol Howard, Whitney Parker, Ashten Morris and Gibson Dame. Happy birthday and I wish you all a very special day!

Well, I can't believe it's been as quiet as it has been in and around Island, but there's not much news to speak of. My contact info is almost always at the bottom of each column, so if you want a mention put in about something, whether that's a birthday, anniversary or an



VICKI VENTURA

upcoming event, please text, call or email me.

The gas station catty-corner from Island Cycle Workz was finally demolished this past week. From comments on Facebook, I know that many people hold fond memories of the businesses that were there over the past several decades. Now we look forward to a new gas station and convenience store at that location. That is probably the number one thing that people always say that

we need in Island, and so that means that whenever the new business opens, we all need to patronize it.

With Easter being later this year, the Easter Egg Hunt is set up for 3 p.m., Saturday, April 19, at Wooden Bridge Park. The hunt is for children ages 0 through, and including, age 12. That's still another five weeks away, but if you're interested in attending, please save the date.

Reminiscing 45 years ago (March 27, 1980) — "Attendance at the 1980 4-H Jamboree Friday evening, March 21, totaled 1115, as the

Calhoun Middle School gymnasium was filled to capacity." In the club act division, "Second place was awarded to Island 4-6 grade club with their award winning 'Klassic Komic Kids,' which featured a musical revue starring a group of newsstand kids and comic characters. 'Klassic Komic Kids' received two special awards—Best Costumes and Most Entertaining — plus \$20 in cash and blue ribbons."

"Mr. and Mrs. Jim Parham gave a birthday party for their sons, Jim Jr. and Robbie, Saturday. Their guests were Richard Whittaker,

Wayne Smith, Tim Taylor, Steve Willoughby, John Willoughby, Eric Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Adcock and Mrs. Etha Penrod. After the party all the boys attended a movie."

"The bridge over the L & N Railroad in Island was the subject of a recent design public hearing conducted by the Dept. of Transportation Bureau of Highways. On March 17 representatives from the bureau's District II Office in Madisonville explained a proposed project which includes replacing the substandard railroad bridge located on Highway 85 in Island."

It's hard to believe that they were already looking at replacing the bridge in 1980. It was dismantled in 1997.

I wish everyone a blessed week ahead!

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

To share any news, call or text me at 850-543-6772 or email me at IslandKYNews@gmail.com.

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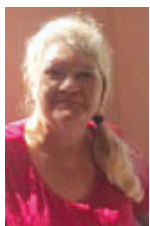
POPLAR GROVE NEWS

We were traveling on the Pack Road over a week ago, bypassing the flooded Hwy 1155 road, when I noticed something in someone's yard, standing very still. It was a Robin! I guess he was listening to see if he could hear a worm wiggling in the ground. It was the first Robin I've seen this year. Spring is coming!

I'm glad to say that the backwater is now off the roads!

A treat awaits skygazers on Thursday night, March 13, and Friday morning, the 14. The moon will take on a deep, reddish hue as it goes into the Earth's shadow during this total lunar eclipse, at 10:57 p.m. on the 13. The shadow of the Earth starts to cover the Moon. The entire eclipse ends at 5 a.m.

The totality, or total darkness part of it, which I think is the best time, will be when the Earth's shadow completely covers the moon. This total darkness will last almost an hour, from 1:26 a.m. our time, until 2:31 a.m. on the morning of the 14. It finally starts coming out from behind the Earth, and two hours later the entire eclipse ends as the Earth seems to separate



GLEND WILLIS

from the moon at 5 a.m. our time. It is easy to understand why the people from long before the telescope thought the moon was being eaten up and it was the end of everything.

"When Gabriel toots, we're gonna scoot!" St. Patrick's Day, the 17, is this Monday. Be sure and wear your green! I always told my class to have Mama buy you green clothes for Christmas so you could be in the Christmas spirit and you would also be ready for St. Patrick's Day. One year, one of my mothers, a mother of my student, and her sister knitted 29 green scarves, one for each one of my students, and one for me. Each one was made of four different shades of green. They gave them to the students at her son's February birthday party. Each student was told to keep them clean and safe and to wear them for St. Patrick's Day. So none of my students got pinched by the other students, and I didn't either.

"Cloudy with a chance of love...full forecast inside!" This was seen on a Baptist Church sign outside of Dallas, Texas.

Happy birthday wishes to David Miller! He's celebrating his birthday on

March 14. David married my cousin who comes from my Willis line. That makes him my cousin, too.

"Have you got the blues? Jesus can get you into rhythm and save your soul!" This was seen on a Church of Christ outside of Nashville, Tennessee.

I guess everyone saw or heard the news about butterflies disappearing across the United States, mainly because of insecticide and the disappearance of habitats for them. I used to order Painted Lady caterpillars and have them delivered to the post office. I would pick them up there so they wouldn't be sitting for hours in my hot mailbox. I kept them in a large three-foot tall, one-foot diameter net habitat for butterflies and other bugs that I found at WalMart. I kept them in it to keep birds from eating the caterpillars. I would watch each of them grow and eat leaves and foliage that I put in for them. One day one of them made a chrysalis and it hung from the top of the habitat. The others would soon follow!

They would sometimes wiggle, especially if I moved the habitat or talked to them. One day one of them would start really moving, and it would open and as it wiggled, it would scoot the chrysalis

down its body and push it off with its feet. Then, suddenly there would be a butterfly. They would move their wings and legs until they were dry. I would then take the habitat to my flower beds and leave the top open. They would fly out or sometimes I would help them out, and they would get busy drinking nectar from the flowers. They were amazing to watch. They stopped selling them during Covid. I need to find another company that still sells them.

"Everytime I pass a church, I pay a little visit. So when at last I'm carried in, The Lord won't say, 'Who is it?'"

Happy birthday wishes to my sister, Barbara Daugherty! She is celebrating her birthday today, March 13!

"Adultery is a sin: You can't have your Kate and Edith, too." This was seen on the Fairhaven United Methodist Church outside of Las Vegas, Nevada.

The price of toys and all kinds of stuff that come from China are predicted to jump in price this year, and the price increases will continue until Christmas at least. Trump is putting tariffs on China, which means anything that comes from China will have a high price increase for everyone in the United

States. One day maybe Trump will figure that out.

"Adam and Eve — the first people to not read the Apple terms and conditions!" This was seen on a church sign close to Smyrna Beach in Virginia.

Some of us on the Sacramento High School Reunion Committee have been talking about a reunion at the Sacramento High School. But some others say that we have lost so many people and others have moved and we don't have addresses for them, so we wouldn't get very many attending. Please let me know what you think. You can email or text me.

"If we are not hungry for Christ, we are probably too full of ourselves!" This was seen at the Smithville Church of Christ.

Thanks to Susan Muster who invited my sister and me to the Women's Bible Study at the fellowship hall at Calhoun Baptist Church. We really enjoy it. We attended the Women's Bible Study last year and were glad to be invited again. We are studying the book of Philippians which talks about Paul and Timothy's journey to spread the Gospel. It also names the first person in Europe to accept and believe the news of Jesus. She was called Lydia. I

have several people in my family tree who were named Lydia. One of them, Lydia Duncan, was married to a Revolutionary War hero. I wonder if she was named for the Lydia in Philippians? If you are from my mother's Sandefur line from the Beech Grove area, you are also a descendant of Lydia and Joseph Duncan.

"For the first time in his life, he started to see that faith could be more than just a last resort in dire circumstances. Faith in the Lord could be a guiding light in both the good times and the bad." This was seen in Nashville, Tennessee on a Church of Christ Youth Center sign. The lady who sent this said she had her husband circle around the block a couple of times before she got it all copied down.

Thanks to everyone who sends me the church signs!

Everyone is invited to join us at the Poplar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church at 9:45 a.m. this Sunday morning. Come as you are! Are you ready if today was the last day of your life? Where would you be going for the rest of eternity?

You can reach me at gwillistree@yahoo.com or text or call me at 279-875-5317.

PIZZA

FROM **PAGE A1**

they aren't looking to change what the community loves about the eatery.

"Geno's really is such a fixture in the community, and we are the most excited about being able to continue to carry on that legacy for the future," said Carey Huff.

"Giving these kids in the community a safe place to come and play pool and hang out and have a bite to eat, just like I had growing up, is very important for me," Matt Huff said.

Carey Huff said that there have been rumors circulating in the community that the new owners were wanting to transition the restaurant into being more of a sports bar, but she wants to assure the Livermore community that, though they do want to make some changes to make the restaurant better, they aren't interested in changing what people know and love about Geno's.

"Yes, we're working on getting our liquor license, so we can serve alcoholic beverages, but, I promise, that alcohol is not going to be the focus of the business," Carey Huff said. "Beer can be a good accompaniment for a pizza, so we're just trying to enhance what we already have here. Geno's famous pizza sauce isn't going anywhere. That's for certain!"

Carey Huff said that they haven't made any menu changes yet because they wanted to get into the restaurant to see what sells and what's popular, so they could get a better vision on what changes they might



Photo by Michele Ruxer | McLean County News

Kaitlin Frasure takes an order our of the pizza oven at Geno's Pizza, located on Highway 136 in Livermore, on Monday night.

need to make.

"So far, we've been surprised with some of the best sellers," she said. "Like I wouldn't have thought that the spaghetti would be as popular, but it's some customer's favorite item."

Matt Huff agreed.

"I wouldn't think a fried shrimp basket would be a popular choice at a pizza place, but we're selling a bit of it, too," he said. "Maybe the varied menu is so popular because there's not a lot of restaurant options in the area."

The Huffs have also brought in their son Parker, who has previous restaurant experience, to act as a day-to-day manager of the shop.

"I spent some time working at Buffalo Wild Wings, so I am familiar with aspects of the restaurant business," Parker Huff said.

The Huffs have been grateful for the staff that they inherited from the previous owners, too.

"We're lucky to have

some great, helpful staff members that stayed from the previous ownership. If it weren't for them, we would be completely lost. They all know the ins and outs of the business and what sells and how to place food orders, so we've been incredibly thankful for their help during this transition," Carey Huff said. "We've only been in here a month, but the girls have already become members of our extended family and we just love that this is the atmosphere here, where everyone is family, including our customers."

Matt Huff said that he's excited to be able to reconnect with former students.

"I've been surprised at how many former students have already seen me here in Geno's, so it's been great to be able to see everyone again," he said.

The Huffs said that they've noticed that business has started picking up in recent weeks, too.

"I think that means that the community is excited about the refresh," Carey Huff said. "And we're excited to help give Geno's a bit of a face lift, so that the community can enjoy it for years to come."

So far, the Huffs have added some additional TVs and lighting to make the restaurant more visible, along with upgrading to a new POS system.

"We want to be known as a place where the community can come and watch the game, have a pizza and some ice cream and hang out and enjoy each other's company," Matt Huf said.

They are planning some additional decor updates including adding in more UK blue as a tribute to the

Huffs' favorite Kentucky team.

"We also want to acknowledge the history of Geno's by putting older, framed photos around the restaurant," Carey Huff said. "Plus, we've got to add more local memorabilia for the Livermore Yellow Jackets and McLean County Cougars."

They also want to upgrade the physical menus when they finalize whatever changes or additions they'd like to make.

Geno's Pizza is currently open from 4 to 9 p.m. Sunday through Saturday, but the Huffs have even considered expanding those hours depending on what's going on in the community or in the world of sports.

"It's too short notice for this year, but being open all day during March Madness is definitely something that we are considering, just to give locals a place in the community where they can go eat, drink a couple of beers and watch the games," Matt Huff said.

As a lifelong McLean

County resident, Matt Huff said that Geno's is part of a group of four community restaurants, along with the Island Dairy Freeze, J's in Calhoun and the former Circle B's, with a legacy to the county, and he's happy to play a role in continuing to keep one of those staple county eateries thriving into the future.


Parker Huff pointed out that the purchase of the restaurant has also brought the family closer together.

"We're all up here working and hanging out, so we're getting to spend more time together as a family, so that's been great, too," he said.


"It's nice to be able to work, but be social as well," Matt Huff added. "They've already designated me as the face and spokesperson of the restaurant and I'm definitely fit for that role."

BLOOD WATCH

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