

# McLeansboro **NOW**

M A G A Z I N E

April 2015



**Braves scout speaks  
at local Rotary**

**A life of community  
dedication**

**Foxes “spring” into  
spring sports**

**Scouting for  
the future**

**The Big Red Barn:  
A place for family**



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## McLeansboro **NOW** MAGAZINE

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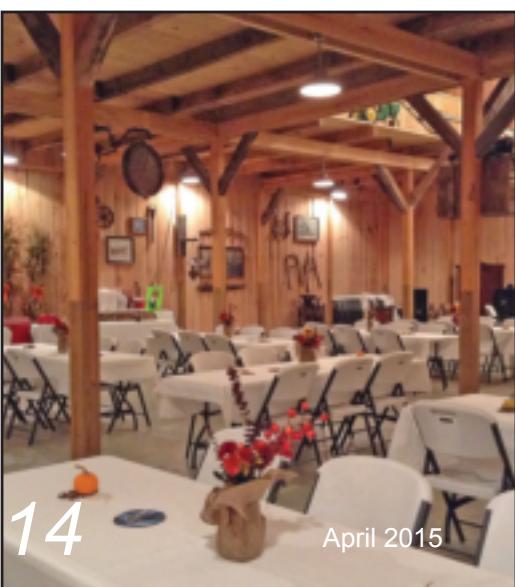
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*Foxes spring sports  
are underway.*



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# Braves scout speaks at local Rotary

Story by Travis Morse

Hamilton County Rotarians received a special treat at their weekly meeting Dec. 19 when they got a visit from Atlanta Braves scout Terry Tripp.

Tripp, who is in his 16th year as a scout, discussed a broad range of issues with the Rotary Club, but mainly focused on the process of signing new talent for the team.

Even so, his presentation was informal and he left a lot of time for audience questions. About 15 to 20 people attended the meeting.

Tripp said he participates in four to five speaking engagements every winter and enjoys meeting new people.

He added he also likes to clear up some of the confusion out there about what scouts really do.

"They don't realize all the travel and the behind-the-scenes stuff that goes along with it," Tripp said.

Tripp currently lives in Norris City but grew up in Harrisburg. He was invited to speak to the Hamilton County Rotary Club by his former pastor Alan Monroe, who belongs to the club.

Monroe and Tripp used to belong to



File photos



the Bankston Fork Baptist Church in Harrisburg.

"It was excellent," Monroe said of Tripp's presentation. "I think everybody really enjoyed it. It was something different."

As a scout, Tripp travels constantly across the country and sometimes beyond to evaluate high school, junior college and college athletes.

He said he's especially busy in the three-and-a-half months leading up to the June amateur draft, since that is when most of the high schools and junior colleges are playing baseball.

Tripp has scouted some notable players in his time, including Jason Heyward and Michael Broadway. Heyward was recently traded by the Braves to the Cardinals, and Broadway plays for the Giants.

Still, just because Tripp signs an athlete doesn't mean they will end up playing in the majors.

"I sign lots of guys who don't play in the major leagues," Tripp said.

Tripp said he loves evaluating younger athletes to determine if they have the goods to play professional baseball.

"I like baseball and I like trying to figure out the kids, if they've got the make-up to survive it," Tripp said. "I like the ones you've got to try and figure out."

But perhaps Tripp's favorite

part of the job is that he gets the winter off, he said laughing. Tripp is an avid bow hunter and enjoys his recreation time.

When scoping new talent, Tripp looks at a number of factors. Many times, he is measuring how fast a pitcher throws or if the athlete can throw a good curveball. He also uses a stopwatch to time how fast prospects can run the bases.

Tripp played short stop for the Padres in the minor league for two years before becoming a scout. He is married and has two children. His father is also a scout for the Braves.

Paula Hatfield, Hamilton County Rotary president, said she was impressed by Tripp's wealth of knowledge and learned a great deal from the presentation.

She said she gained real insight into what scouts do to sign a prospect, how they work with the athlete's family and parents during the whole process.

"He talked about the protocol on what they do," Hatfield said. "I thought it was beneficial. I didn't realize we had a scout right here in the community."

Founded in 1987, the Hamilton County Rotary meets weekly, usually at Farris Family Restaurant in McLeansboro. The club tries to have a speaker at every week's meeting to educate the members on a variety of issues, Monroe said.

"It's just to let us know things that are going on in our communities, in the area, (to) keep us up to date," Monroe said.

The club's current membership is 32 and the group is always looking for new members.

Monroe added the club is involved in many local activities. They include: supporting the Interact Club at Hamilton County Jr./Sr. High School, hosting fundraisers and a golf outing, setting up a stand at the Fall Festival, organizing a Fun Run, and more.

If you are interested in joining the Rotary, speak to a current member, Monroe said.



L-R: Cindy Russell, Leesa Schuster, Miranda Cross (back row) Dan Chapman and John Chapman. Not available for picture, Wesley Chapman.

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# A life of community dedication

**Story by Robbie Edwards**

When it comes to wearing many hats Bill Reed certainly has worn a few.

Reed has been active in the Hamilton County Community for 37 years.

Reed's wife Denita said "Bill loves being involved in the community and takes his roles very serious."

Denita said Reed grew up as an only child to parents who were strong in their belief in God so he learned at young age that giving back was important.

"He doesn't like to talk about himself or his accomplishments, would rather celebrate others. I believe that God gave him the gift of a caring heart," Denita said.

Denita and Reed have been married for almost 27 years.

"As a husband, I thank God every day that he is a part of my life. I am truly blessed with such a Godly person to share my life with, and to have had this wonderful man be a part of my children's lives," Denita said

Denita said they have blended family of four children, each with a daughter and a son. Amy Boner (Joe) who have 3 sons, Ryan, Troy, Jordan (Brittany) Dan Reed (Paige), one son Matt, three daughters, Morgan, Peyton, Ashton... Michele Plunk (Brian),



**Submitted photos**



2 sons, Joe, Will, Three daughters Jayda, Aysia and Adyson.

Boner said he is probably most known for emceeing the Little Miss Fall Festival.

This year marks the 30th year Reed has been a part of the Kiwanis. Reed also served nine years on the Hamilton Memorial Hospital Board and serves as president of the McCoy Memorial Library Board. Boner said Reed is "very passionate" about the position on the library board and loves being a part of a historical part of the community.

"You usually will see him during the holidays putting up greenery and bows on the fencing, even it's 10 degrees, because remember, he doesn't know the word 'no,'" Boner said.

Reed doesn't look at his service as a burden, saying, "It's been a real privileged to be part of all those things."

Reed has been recognized by the Hamilton County Chamber of Commerce with the annual Satterfield Award.

Reed received the E.A. "Ted" Satterfield Award during the Chamber annual dinner, held Feb. 21 at St. John Catholic Church.

Randy Kirsch, president of the Hamilton County Chamber of Commerce, said the award is presented to a person who exemplifies community service through efforts

to make Hamilton County a better place to live.

"Historically, the recipient of the Ted Satterfield Award has been an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to the betterment of Hamilton County," Kirsch explained.

Reed said he and his wife, Denita, went to the Chamber Dinner with friends but had no idea of the award that was in store. His wife kept the information a secret until they arrived for the dinner.

"In our 27 years of marriage, that's the first secret I have kept from him and I had to very discretely ask things I didn't know for sure," Denita said. Reed said he was surprised and honored to be presented the award.

Reed said he was surprised and honored to be presented the award.

"I was really kind of humbled to even be considered for the award," Reed said. Reed said he appreciates to be thought of enough for the E.A. Satterfield award. He is an advocate not only of McLeansboro and Hamilton

County, but said living in a small community has advantages. "In a small town you feel more a part of it and a lot of the things that go on; they wouldn't without a whole lot of people pitching in to see it come together," Reed said. Reed said he feels lucky to be able to work with the people in the community all these years.



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# Foxes "spring" in

Story by Phillip Hamerski

The chilly, snow-filled winds of winter came to its end, now we look forward to the sunshine, birds chirping, and green fields of springtime that's just around the corner.

Kids have discarded their stocking hats and gloves and traded them for a different kind of hat and a different kind of glove — a baseball glove.

Whether it be throwing on a baseball glove to go play some catch, or lacing up a pair of running shoes to go for a run, the springtime offers many different activities or sports beyond the confines of a gymnasium.

Basketball season is over and now we look forward to the spring sports season.

The sun shine and the smell of freshly cut grass leaves an excitement in the air because as every fan knows, baseball season is here.

The Foxes are gearing up for the 2015 season and are coached by Jeff Gray.



The Foxes finished with a 9-14 record and finished tied for last in the Black Diamond Conference last season and are looking to improve that mark this season.

"We're pretty excited about the season," said Gray. "We only lost two

kids from last year's team, so we've got all our pitchers back, all of our players back except for those two."

Practices began in early

March for the upcoming season.

"We've been practicing live hitting, we let our pitchers go in the cage and throw so our batters can see some live pitching," said Gray. "We do a lot of mechanical work, and a lot of fundamental work with our swings. Then we'll divide up outfield and infield and do footwork drills.

"You can do a lot in the gym and you can simulate a lot of things, but we've got to go out and do it on the ball diamond," he added.

The Foxes have been working hard to improve their game.

"With what we've got coming back, our greatest strength this season is pitching and defense, and our hitting is right behind," Gray said.

There is one major key to



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# into Spring sports

having a successful season this year, Gray emphasized.

"Confidence is the biggest key," he said. "Baseball is a crazy sport. You can be up for six innings and then have one bad inning, our kids have to have confidence for seven innings."

Gray has high hopes for this season's squad.

"Our kids want to win 20 games; they want to win their Regional and they want to win the conference."

The Foxes played their first game against Crab Orchard on Friday March, 20 at home.

The Lady Foxes are also getting geared up for the 2015 softball season.

The Lady Foxes are coached by Jessica Varner.

The Lady Foxes are set to make a splash this season.

"I think we're going to be really good," Varner said. "We've got three girls going to play college ball so we should be pretty good."

Tryouts were held early in March, at a time when students were out of school due to weather and conditions kept the athletes inside.

Even with the limited practice time, the Lady Foxes still have found ways to improve their game.

"We're working on a lot of fielding,

and a lot of hitting," Varner said.

There are many qualities that make the team formidable, but Varner believes the teams' hitting will be a real strength.

"I think we have strong hitting," she said. "Our pitching will be better

than it has been, but hitting will be our strong point this season."

The Lady Foxes have their aims set high for this season.

"I have five seniors so I would love to see them win a Regional championship," Varner said. "But even .500 would be good."

The Lady Foxes opened their schedule against Crab Orchard on March 20 at home.

But not all spring sports are played with a ball and a bat. Although track and field does indeed involve a field, most events are held on the

running track.

Both the boys and the girls track teams are also getting set for the 2015 season.

The boys and the girls track teams are coached by Sam Wilson. This is Wilson's first season as head coach.

"This season should be interesting," Wilson said. "We have talent on our team. The boys team looks good, but we need more girls."



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Cold, winter weather also affected the practices for track, Wilson said.

"We were going to start a week earlier, but due to the cold weather and the cancelation of school we pushed it back," Wilson said.

The teams' practices currently consist of conditioning and preparation.

"Right now, we're just running and making sure everyone is physically ready," Wilson said.

There are many things to look forward to this season for the Foxes.

Wilson said both teams have many strengths.

"The boys have good middle-distance runners and I'm looking forward to some good pole-vaulting," Wilson said. "The girls



team has decent relay teams, and last year we had a girl go to state,"

As Coach Wilson mentioned, the Lady Foxes did have a girl go to state last year for the one and the two mile runs.

Senior runner Leslie Drone comes back for another "run" at the state title.

"I think she can get back to state again," Wilson added.

Wilson also believes each event is important and he relays that to his teams.

"I want all our kids to respect each other's events so kids realize each event is important," Wilson explained. "I want them to know even if you're a sprinter, then it's still important what the long distance runners do,"

Wilson has many goals for his teams this season and the program itself. He wants the athletes to be competitive in Sectionals, but even beyond on the track, his goal is to get more kids involved in track.

"My goal for the program is to get more kids involved that maybe have never ran before," he said.

The Foxes first meet was a co-ed meet Tuesday, March 24, at West Frankfort.

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# Scouting for the future

Generations of young ladies have been active in Girl Scouts and in Hamilton County girl power is the name of the game.

Susanah Mills, Service Director/Girl Scout Troop leader, said she has been involved with the organization since her daughter Glenda was a Girl Scout and the tradition continues with her granddaughter.

"Talk about a full circle my daughter is now old enough that her daughter is in the Girls Scouts," Mills said.

Mills said being involved in the Girls Scout has been a big thing for them as a family.

Rebecca Irvin, a former Girl Scout and volunteer said her family has



Submitted photos

four generations of Girl Scouts.

"My mother was my troop leader when I was a junior scouts," Irvin said.

Irvin said she has been active in Girl Scouts for 50 years, her mother, Irvin's daughter and granddaughter have all followed in the local scout's foot prints.

In the beginning Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, for a local Girl Scout meeting.

Low believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally,



and spiritually.

Low's goal was to bring girls out of the home environment and into community service into the open air and get the Girl Scouts hiking, playing basketball, on camping trips, learning how to tell time by the stars, and studying first aid.

Within a few years, Low's dream for a girl-centered organization was realized.

Today's Girl Scouts are doing so much more than the average person would think, the group is not just a way to get your Girl Scout cookie fix.

They are programming robots, learning about financial literacy, developing healthy living habits and participating in community services projects.

Each troop is in partnership with committed adults that help the girls develop qualities that will serve them throughout their lives even as adults.

Most girls join a local troop or group for fun and friendship but a lot of the time benefit from it more than they realize.

Building character and self-esteem while serving their communities is the core qualities that the young ladies of Girl Scouting gain.

In Girl Scouts, girls find a safe place to grow and share new experiences, learn to relate to others, develop values, and contribute to society.

The program focuses on the needs and interests of girls and according to the Girl Scout website Girl Scout is the largest girl serving organization in the United States.

Although many girls join Girl Scouts to be part of a troop, to attend camp, be part of a series, or to travel the world with Scout sisters from around the United States.

The Scout group of this area is a Tri County Service Unit and includes Hamilton County, White



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County and Wayne County.

"I am the service unit director and I oversee Wayne, Hamilton and White County Girl Scouts as far as our numbers Hamilton County area I know we should have probably have about 20 girls," Mills said.

Hamilton County has four troops and their leaders include Mills, Christina Parr and Amy Parr.

"Because we are such a small county and we have such an array of girls we actually have mixed groups which is unusual," Mills said.

Mills said for the most part the ages that are in the group range from kindergarten as well as high school aged girls.

Mills encourages more people to get involved whether it is signing up a young lady to join a troop or if someone simply wants to volunteer in some way.

Mills said she has seen girl scouts and adults join the group as shy individuals and after being in the group the begin to open up.

"The benefits the girls and adults is it actually helps a lot with self esteem and self confidence," Mills said.

Mills said the Girl Scouts also provides the young ladies with opportunities that they might not otherwise get to experience.

Today, Girl Scouts of the USA has a membership of over 3.2 million girls and adults, a significant growth from its modest beginnings over a century ago.

It has been stated that by Girl Scout officials that more than 59 million women in the U.S. today are Girl Scout alumnae.

Girl Scouting is for every girl, everywhere - where today's girls can become tomorrow's leaders.

For further information on the Girl Scouts contact Mills at 214-2167 or the Girl Scout website at [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org).



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# The Big Red Barn: A place for family

*Story by Robbie Edwards*

Mike Harre has brought everything he loves about the country to right out side his front door when he built the Big Red Barn.

"Every morning I can get up and look out the window and I can see the barn, the bridge and the mill house," Harre said.

Harre has spent the last 35 years as a funeral home director/owner for Harre's Funeral Home and Ambulance Services and in the line of work Harre is in he said it has always been hard for him and his family to travel to far away from McLeansboro.

Haree said he likes water falls, mill houses, covered bridges and old barns.

"Anytime I do get to go out and travel those are the things I want to go and see," Haree said.

"My profession has never allowed me to leave much, so I had to build the things I love here since I couldn't get away to go see it," Haree said.

Haree said he has had the idea for building his own barn all



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## KIRK'S AUTO AND SPEED

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his life but the actual building of the structure itself began three years ago.

"The barn has come a long way and I am still working on it and it is a working process and I will probably work on it till the day I die," Harre said.

With the love Harre has for old barns and stories he remembers hearing about his grandfather, Doc Harre's big red barn it was only natural for him to bring to life is own Big Red Barn.

"I always heard stories of his big red barn which was behind what is now Bantera Bank," Harre said.

Harre said with growing up in the county and living on or near a farm

"I like old stuff and I always wanted to build a barn not a new one but one that resembles an old barn," Harre said.

Harre said The Big Red Barn looks old but is all new.

"I have tried to make it as useable as possible and I didn't attend to use it for what it has become," Harre explained.

Harre said he planed to build the barn to accommodate his large family and grandkids.

Haree said he and his family use the venue for all sorts of things including Christmas, Thanksgiving and even a place to have a movie night on the big screen

The barn also house all of Haree's vintage and antique he has collected over his lifetime.

On the property surrounding the Big Red Barn there is a covered bridge, a mill house, a pond, small wooded area vintage cars and tractors.

The barn is three stories and his

filled from wall to wall of rustic decor with a stunning view of a pond.

"Before I could even get the barn built people started come up to us and saying 'Oh we have always had dreams of getting married in a barn' and I'd say we don't even have a concrete floor in it," Harre

said.

Harre said no matter how much he tried to explain the barn wasn't in a real working

order people still wanted the chance to say "I do" in the Big Red Barn.

"They wouldn't take no for an answer even though I never said no I just tried to discourage it," Harre said with a grin.

Harre said one thing led to another and now it has not only became a place for his family but for others looking for a special place to be with their family and friends as well.



Submitted photos

# Farris Family Restaurant

**SPECIALS DAILY  
OPEN DAILY FROM 5 AM-8 PM**

**BUFFET FRIDAY  
All You Can Eat Catfish  
4:30-8 PM**

**BUFFET SUNDAY  
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