



Mchaney Monuments, Inc.

A DIVISION OF WHITENER MONUMENTS, INC.

940 So. Division
Blytheville, Arkansas 72315

Manufacturer of fine monuments, markers and mausoleums

in the Midsouth for 80 years.



1/12/2009

To: Monument Builders of North America

Re: Aspire Award

Greetings:

Attached are news paper articles describing some events and business practices of Whitener Monuments, Inc.

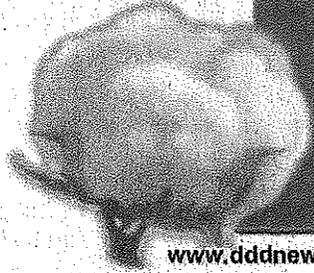
The article marked "B" was probably our best public relations of the year. A small cemetery was vandalized a we did a complete repair of the cemetery at no charge. We received many phone calls from people thanking us for doing the project; most who had no one buried in the cemetery. The story was picked up by some other regional papers. There were many positive internet messages and as recently as last week someone walked up to me and thanked me for being so kind. It was a great project for Whitener Monuments.

The articles "C and D" are about a two year project completed in June 2008 and are two different publications. This was an Eagle Scout project in which we became very involved. Dustin Strube's grandfather was in WW II and Dustin noticed that there was not a WW II memorial on "Veteran's Square". Against the advice of his scoutmaster, who said the project was "to big" Dustin started his project. Whitener Monuments was first on board. Eventually Dustin involved nearly every segment of the community. We met with other groups that either provided work or money and we helped with final design and layout. Besides providing a very "competitive price" we donated the time capsule marker that has Whitener Monuments and Glen Whitener names engraved on the stone and this will be in place for the next 50 years in front of the monument at the county court house. We also donated a miniature granite monument that is the exact duplicate of the large memorial and on this stone is engraved and Eagle Scout badge and lettering saying this is Dustin Strube's Eagle Scout project. Dustin will compete nation wide as Boy Scout of the Year, thanks to his successful completion of this project. We received front page coverage in two good size publications in West Tennessee. Whitener Monuments has erected three veterans memorials at this county seat and exhibit "D" shows a photo contest winner that includes two of these memorials. Although this project was not a money maker for Whitener Monuments we are hoping to have another opportunity to participate in such a worthwhile project. Although our main locations are in Missouri and Arkansas we are the best known and most sought after monument company for West Tennessee.


Glen Whitener CM, AICA
(Certified Memorialist)

Phone 870-762-2601

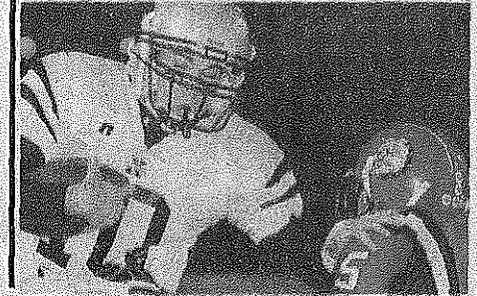
Fax 870-763-1265



www.ddnews.com

DEMOCRAT

Kennett, Mo.; 50 cents



A grave matter

◆ *Headstones at
Gibson Cemetery
vandalized*

AMENDA ALEXANDER
Daily Dunklin Democrat

The Gibson Cemetery was recently vandalized, resulting in damage to several headstones.

The cemetery has many old headstones dating back to the late 1800's and the early 1900's and is like many older cemeteries, in that it is taken care of by a few people and by donations from private citizens.

Gerald Matthews of Gibson, volunteer caretaker, discovered the damaged and overturned headstones on the property.



The Gibson Cemetery was recently struck by vandals, doing damage to several headstones.

Photos Provided

The Dunklin County Sheriff's department was notified when the destruction was found.

According to Chief Deputy Wallace Poyner, of the sheriff's department, there is an ongoing investigation into the destruction of the Gibson Cemetery monuments.

Matthews said he talked to Whitener Monument asking what it

would cost to have all of the monuments repaired and they told him nothing.

Glen Whitener of Whitener Monuments had his employees Tommy Clark and John Massey repair the monuments at the Gibson Cemetery free of charge.

According to Whitener, we have a skill and talent to work on the

materials used in making headstones.

"I feel we should give back to the surrounding communities. We owe it to the cemeteries to take care of them, they are our history," Whitener said.

"I really appreciated them doing the repair and they really did a great job," Matthews noted.



Whitener Monument employees, Tommy Clark and John Massey repair the broken headstones at Gibson Cemetery.

The Travelin' Teddy

Story By Gary Figgins

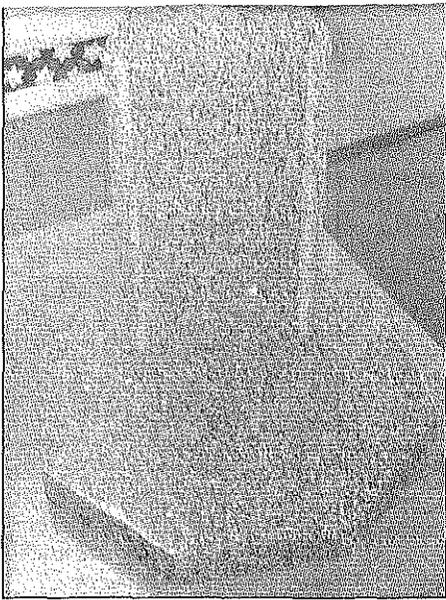
Ginny Smith's Fourth Grade class at South Elementary School in Kennett bid farewell Friday to a classmate who will

cards, photos, e-mails and souvenirs to the classroom throughout the year. Moe will provide information about his travels in a manner that can be easily incorporated into the class' curriculum. He will

Gary Figgins, who introduced the bear to the class. "This will allow the students to learn about different areas of Missouri, the United States and the world."

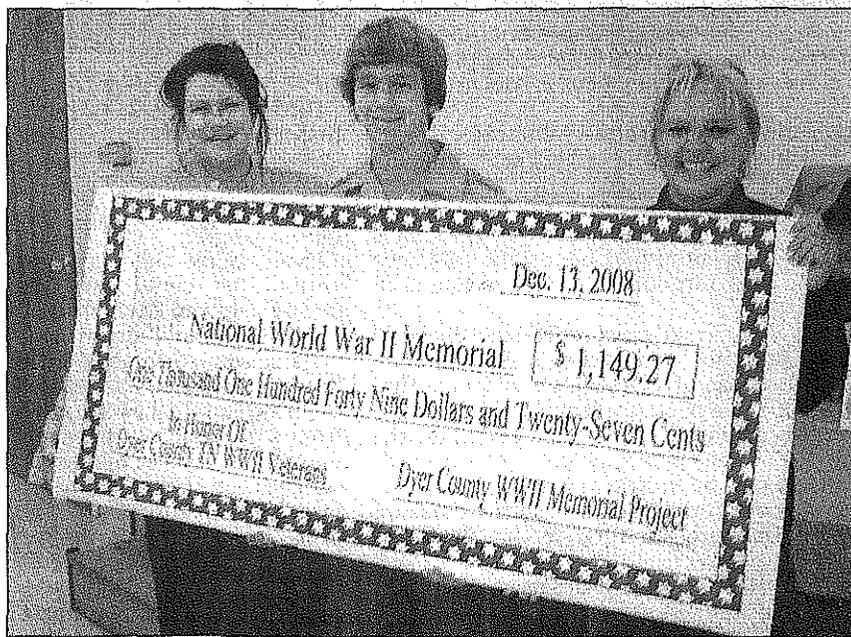
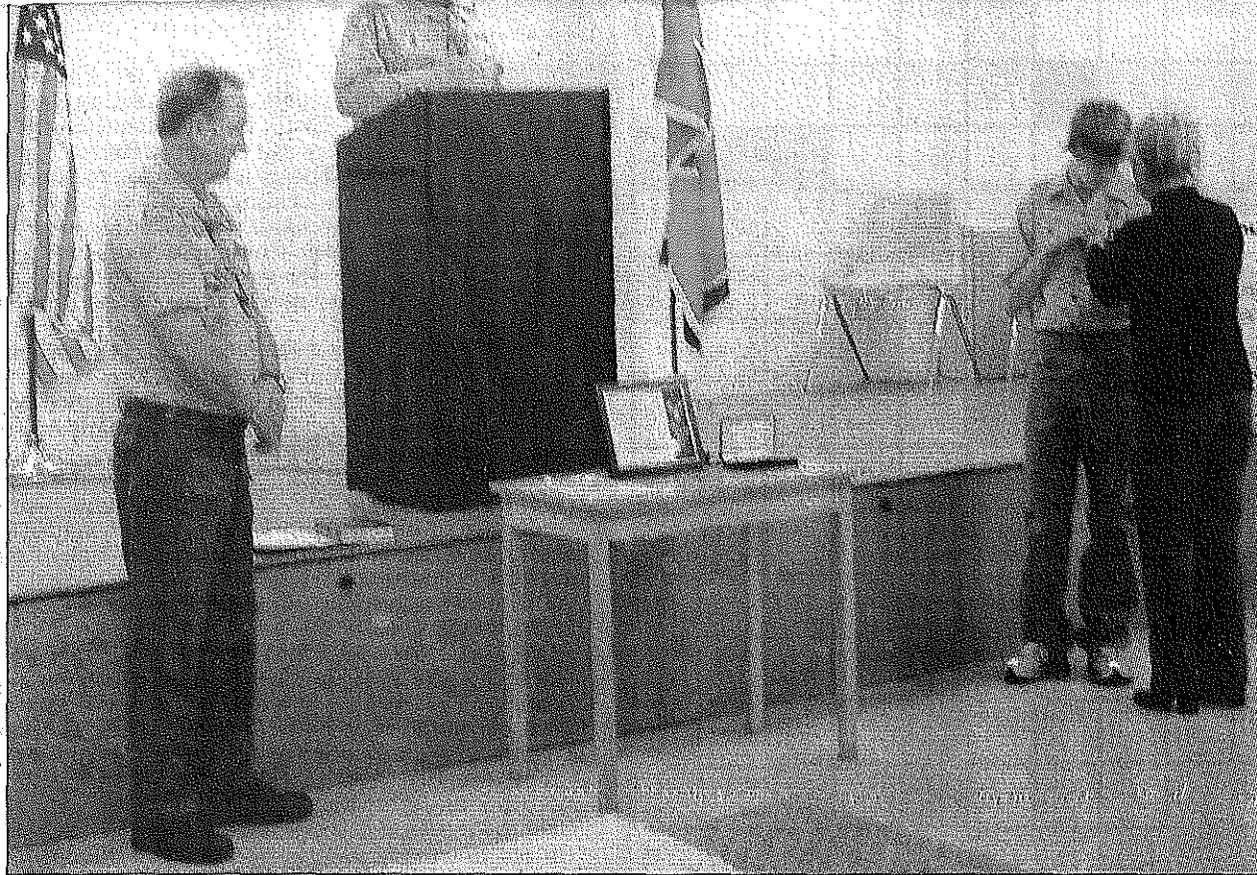
Moe will primarily travel





State Gazette photos

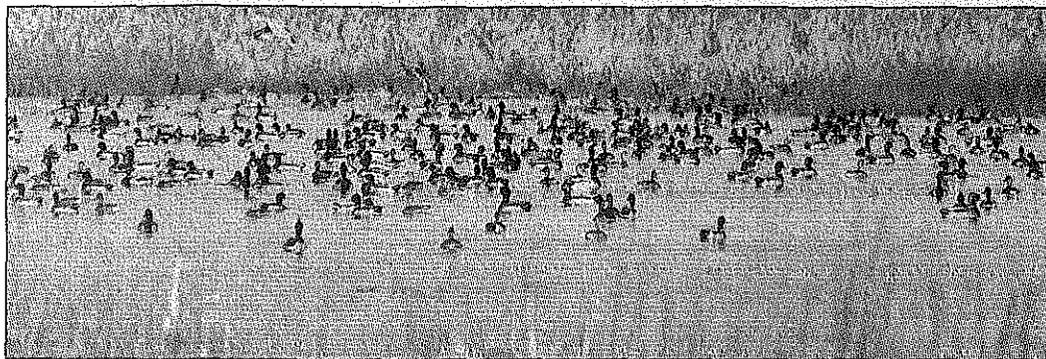
Above: Whitener Monument, from Missouri, presented Strube with a miniature version of the Dyer County World War II Memorial. Right: Scoutmaster Edgar Shults (at podium) and Brodie Cupples (standing) watch as Rhonda Strube pins the Eagle Scout badge onto her son, Dustin Strube.



DEDICATED TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF DYER COUNTY WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR II, MAY WE FOREVER HONOR THEM WITH TRIBUTE AND RESPECT.
DUSTIN STRUBE, EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT 2008
EDGAR SHULTS, TROOP 88 SCOUT MASTER - HELEN ENOCHS, MENTOR
GLEYN EYMLIA AND COURTNEY MAYOR, RICHARD HILL, SPONSORS
DYER COUNTY ADULT LEADERSHIP CLASS 2007 PROVIDED MONUMENT FOOTING
GRANITE WORK BY GLEN WHITENER, WHITENER MONUMENTS, INC.
THE TIME CAPSULE BURIED BELOW THIS GRANITE MARKER WILL BE OPENED JUNE 7, 2058.
I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE COURSE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.

State Gazette photos

Left: Strube stands between his project mentor Helen Enochs and his mother, Rhonda Strube, as they hold a check for the remaining funds of the World War II memorial that will be sent to the National World War II Monument in Washington D.C. Above: This granite marker displays the names of those who made the monument possible and denotes a time capsule buried underneath.



State Gazette photo/Barron Crawford

Large flocks of ducks are a common site during the bald eagle/waterfowl tour at Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge. This year's tour will be held 2-5 p.m. Jan. 10.

Tenn. refuge hosts annual bald eagle/waterfowl tour

Special to the State Gazette

When it's cold and wintry weather, not many people think of doing outdoor activities, but mid-winter is the perfect time for a drive down to Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge.

It is the time of year when wildlife, especially waterfowl, are present in large numbers. Once again, the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge at Duck River Bottoms will open up closed areas for one afternoon only. The public is invited to get a glimpse into the heart of the refuge at the height of waterfowl migration.

■ Please see REFUGE, 4

and video footage, in the Eastern and Midwestern states.

They have been featured on the History Channel's "Monster Quest" series, Animal Planet, ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox TV networks.

The final verdict on the track is that it is not a cougar track. It is actually that of a canine or a dog track.

"A cougar's track is oval in shape and gets larger in size from left to right," said Eastern Puma Research Network Director and Founder John A. Lutz. "Whereas, dog and coyote tracks are elongated, larger from top to bottom and narrow from left to right."

■ Please see TRACK, 4

Frist decides against running for Tennessee governor

ERIK SCHELZIG
Associated Press Writer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist announced Sunday he won't run for Tennessee governor in 2010 because it would require him to immediately curtail his education and health care commitments.

Frist, 56, said he will concentrate on teaching at Vanderbilt University, his global health initiatives and his private investment work. The Nashville Republican said he will also launch an initiative to improve K-12 education in Tennessee, though he declined to elaborate.

"If I had run, I would have started running next week," Frist told The Associated Press in a phone interview from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where he had gathered with his family to discuss his decision. "Having a two year campaign would mean I would have to move all those passions totally aside."

The decision clears the way for what is already shaping up to be a crowded field of Republican candidates for governor.

U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp of Chattanooga and prosecutor

■ Please see FRIST, 4



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DYERSBURG, TENNESSEE

75 CENTS



State Gazette photo

Dyersburg Mayor John Holden and Dyer County Mayor Richard Hill stand with Dustin Strube at his induction into the ranks of the Eagle Scouts.

Strube attains rank of Eagle Scout after two-year project

JASON CANNON
jcannon@stategazette.com

Every once in a while an ordinary individual will take on an extraordinary task.

Some meet with failure while others are embraced by success. And Dustin Strube is one of those that was successful in what many, even close peers, thought was too much for this teenager to try to tackle.

The plan to build a World War II Memorial, on the court square, was his community service project for his Eagle Scout rank.

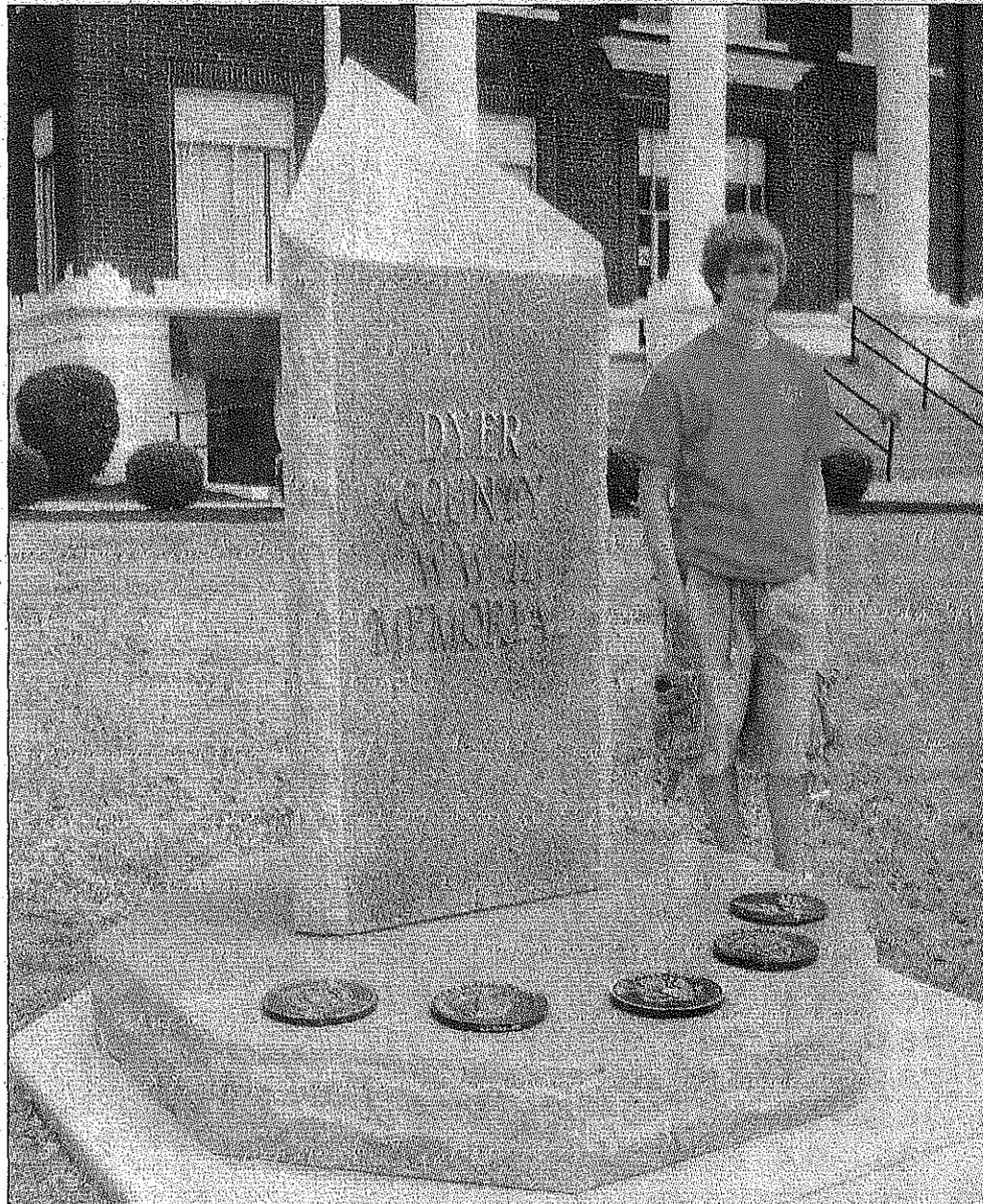
However, he elected to take

on the project knowing it would postpone his achieving Eagle Scout for a couple of years.

Now that the project is completed (two years after its original conception) Strube was finally awarded his Eagle Scout rank in a Court of Honor in December.

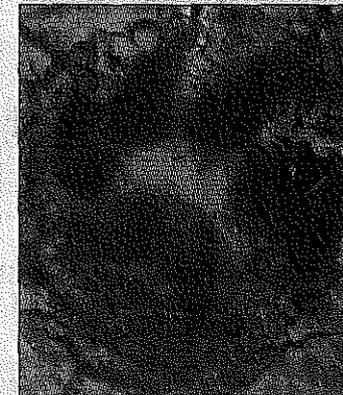
Although Strube did most of the work, he did have some guidance from the likes of his Scoutmaster Edgar Schults, his project mentor Helen Enochs and his sponsors Gleya Twilla and Mayor Richard Hill,

■ Please see STRUBE, 4



State Gazette photo

Dustin Strube stands next to the Dyer County World War II Monument. The monument was part of his community service project for his Eagle Scout rank. A full listing of Dyer County World War II veterans along with photos and other mementos are encased in a buried time capsule.



State Gazette photo/courtesy Tom Perkins

An animal identification specialist believes this photo, taken by a Dyer County resident, is of a canine track rather than a cougar.

Possible cougar track doubted by professional

JASON CANNON
jcannon@stategazette.com

On Nov. 3, 2008, the State Gazette ran an article on a possible cougar (puma) track that was found by Tom and Mary Perkins, in the Cloverdale area close to Elbridge.

A photo of the track was sent to a professional animal identification specialist with the Eastern Puma Wildlife Research Network headquartered in Grant County, West Virginia.

The EPWRN has gathered over 12,000 sightings from the general public and trained observers with wildlife and forestry management backgrounds since 1965.

Over the years, the organiza-

The DYERSBURG

For the week of
January 7, 2009

NEWS

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State Gazette photo

Dustin Strube stands next to the Dyer County World War II Monument. The monument was part of his community service project for his Eagle Scout rank. A full listing of Dyer County World War II veterans along with photos and other mementos are encased in a buried time capsule.

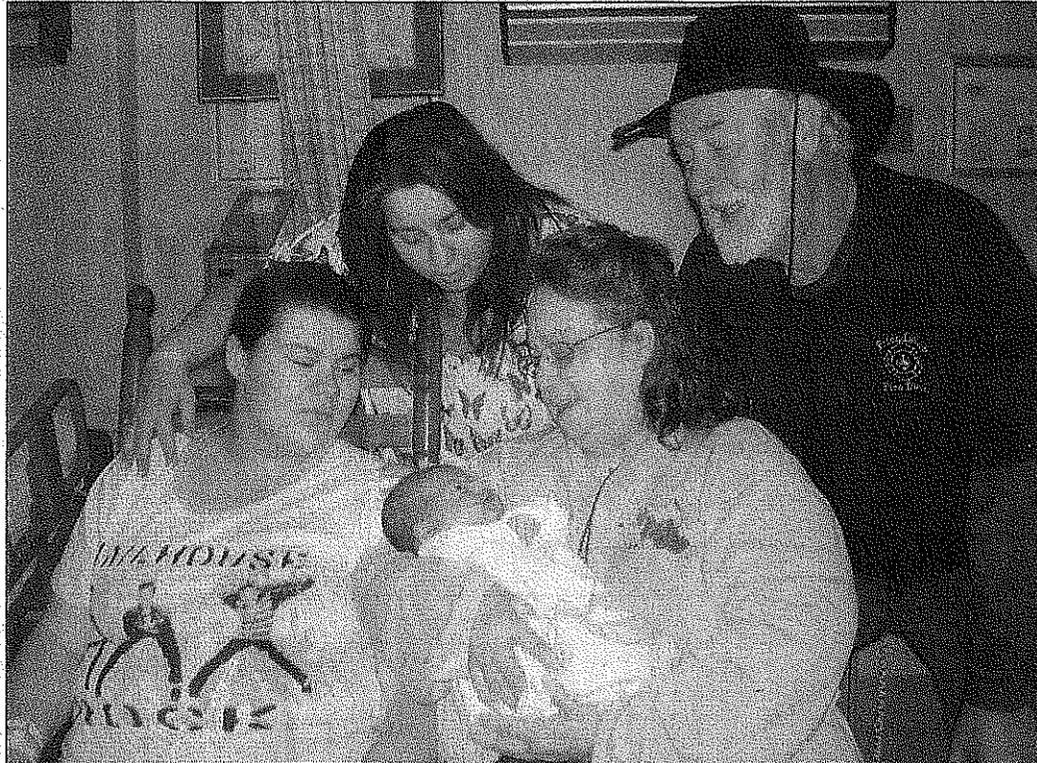
Strube attains Eagle Scout rank after two-year project

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State Gazette photo/Kathy Krone

Four generations came together to welcome Jasmin Lynn Roberson Whitley into the world on Friday, Jan. 2. Admiring the first baby of the new year are Keri Whitley and her mother, Tammy Whitley; Jasmin; and Keri's grandparents, Peggy and Nat Roberson. Jasmin's step-great-grandmother, Peggy Patton of Dyersburg Manor, couldn't join the family on Friday. They planned to take Jasmin to visit her.

Jasmin Whitley becomes first baby of the year

KATHY KRONE
kkrone@stategazette.com

Jasmin Lynn Roberson Whitley is the first baby born at Dyersburg Regional Medical Center in 2009.

She arrived at 2:28 a.m. Friday, Jan. 2, after putting her mother through a long and exhausting labor.

Whitley was one of five women who thought they might give birth on the first day of the new year. One by one, the women were sent home and only Whitley remained.

When little Jasmin's heart began slowing, Dr. Williams Fitts encouraged Keri Whitley to push. With three strong

Sweet Peace swing that has multiple settings to rock the baby as if it were in its mother's arms. The swing's sound system can recreate sounds from the womb, play its own pre-recorded music or access tunes on an iPod. She also received a silver spoon, a diaper bag with lotions and disposable diapers, a bath set, a

Heckethorn announces layoffs

JASON CANNON
jcannon@stategazette.com

Heckethorn Manufacturing Co., a division of BHM Technologies, announced recently that it would be laying off approximately 100 of its employees and adjusting its work schedule.

The layoffs are due to a sluggish automotive industry, as well as the shape of the national economy. "If they are not building vehicles, they don't need our parts," said President and CEO of Heckethorn Manufacturing Co. Jon Walter. "The whole economy is in bad shape and people are not making big purchases."

Heckethorn has been in operation since 1939, and specializes in tube and solid-rod forming and hangers that attach automotive exhaust systems. It normally has 230 workers that it employs.

The workers affected, by what Walter termed as a "temporary layoff", are production operators as well as supportive skill trades. Some were offered the opportunity of a voluntary layoff. As of this week, 60 or 70 people were already laid off, with 25-30 more to be notified this week.

"Hopefully it won't be long term," said Walter. "We have to do what business dictates. When the automotive field starts jumping back up, people will be called back."

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on the project knowing it would postpone his achieving Eagle Scout for a couple of
See STRUBE | 5

said she began labor contractions on New Year's Eve. By 10:30 a.m. on New Year's Day, she was ready to go to the hospital.

world.
 She weighed 9 pounds and was 20 inches long.
 As the hospital's first baby of the year, Jasmin received a

Shaklee non-toxic household cleaner and five cases of Enfamil baby formula.
See BABY | 2

LOCAL residents report pecan thefts

JASON CANNON
 jcannon@stategazette.com

Most people think a thief will usually break into a house and steal valuables. However, some local residents have discovered that a thief is not particular in the type of loot he takes.

Lou Etta Brown and Billie Permenter were victims of a pecan bandit this past month.

Brown, who lives in the Four Points community, had 175 lbs. of Stuart pecans stolen from her on Monday night. "They cleaned me out," said Brown. "My granddaughter was going to pick some pecans and she went out back and couldn't find the picker and that's when we discovered they (pecans) were gone."

Brown filed a report with the Dyer County Sheriff's Department after the incident was discovered. She believes it may have been a person asking permission to pick up pecans at her house, but she is not sure. "I've been upset all day," said Brown. "I had a deal to sell them. I had sold 200 lbs. before Christmas, for \$1 a pound to a family in Trenton."

Brown is not the only person to be the victim of a pecan bandit.

Billie Permenter had approximately 100 lbs. stolen on Christmas Eve. "They even got my picker," said Permenter. "I think it was somebody who was not an ordinary thief. They were in and swooped them up like a thief in the night. I hope they had a good Christmas."

Brown also knows of another person that had their pecans stolen in Dyer County. "I just want to warn people not to leave their pecans outside where people can steal them," said Brown.

Brown was asked what she suggested people do to avoid their pecans from being stolen. "They need to keep them inside or behind locked doors," said Brown.



Photo by David Hayes

This photo of a dog competing in the Super Retriever Series won first place in the Pets category.



Photo by Doris Robison

Doris Robison won Best of Show for her photo 'Layla Loves Brady.'



Photo by Robert White

Robert White's entry 'Remembered' won in the Photoshop

'Shoot Dyer County' contest winners announced

JASON CANNON
 jcannon@stategazette.com

The results of the Shoot Dyer County Photo Contest were recently announced in an awards ceremony at the Dyersburg Mall.

divided into six categories.

The winners are as follows:

Landscapes
 1st Place - David Gruesser - "The Long Winding Road"
 2nd Place - Chris Ann Palmer - "Wasp"
 3rd Place - Kaitlin Cowart -

Agriculture

1st Place - Patrick Heckethorne - "Sunset On a Farm"
 2nd Place - Kelley Seaton
 3rd Place - Callye Norsworthy

SEE PHOTOS | 2