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# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2011

THE YEAR  
IN REVIEW  
Beginning on  
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Serving the Mebane Community Since 1908

# MEBANE ENTERPRISE

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## Coming home for Christmas

*Surprises in store for Mebane soldiers and their families*



Karen Carter/Mebane Enterprise

Sergeant Ryan Redner (left) and his father, John, share a moment together at the father's work place, Lowes Home Improvement, last Thursday, after the Mebane soldier surprises his dad, coming home for Christmas.



Stephen Mills/Mebane Enterprise

Mebane soldier John Hogg steps into his Chevrolet Cavalier repaired for him by the students in the fall automotive mechanic classes at Eastern Alamance High School.

### Surprise visit to dad: best Christmas present ever

By KAREN CARTER  
Enterprise Editor

Army sergeant Ryan Redner, along with his wife Misty and two-year-old daughter Isabella (Bella), spent over 20 hours on the road last week to come home to Mebane for Christmas. On Wednesday, they left Fort Hood, Texas, where Redner is stationed and drove through the night. They made the trip just in time on Thursday to surprise the soldier's dad, John Redner, at 2 p.m. at Lowes Home Improvement, where he works. Everyone

*"All my military experience has taught me - family is your backbone ..."*

— Sergeant Ryan Redner  
Mebane soldier

kept the surprise, including Ryan's mother, Chris (John's wife) and Ryan's sister, Holly.

John teared up when he saw his son. "This is the best Christmas present I've ever gotten," said Ryan's father.

John said, "Since Ryan's been in the military, this is the fourth time of us getting together. We'll enjoy our time together, get reacquainted as a family, catch up on things."

Ryan Redner has been in the military for three years. Sergeant Redner said that he enjoyed pulling off the surprise and coming home to family.

"It felt good," said Ryan. "I haven't seen my dad in over a year. We saw him in January of 2010."

Ryan added, "The next couple of months I'm going to see my dad."

See **SOLDIER**, page 2

### A Christmas present from school and community

By STEPHEN MILLS  
Enterprise Staff Writer

It was just getting into the spring and summer-like weather in 2010 when Airman First Class John Hogg and his unit left for Balad Air Force Base in Iraq.

For Jonathan, who goes by John, the old car he had bought to fix up to have around Pope Air Force Base near Fayetteville was the last thing on his mind.

When he was deployed, he let his father Jeff Hogg know where the car was and the keys, and he was

*"It's a great Christmas surprise. I don't know how to thank everyone ..."*

— Airman First Class  
John Hogg  
Mebane soldier

then off to the other side of the world where his security specialist job was a critical duty in a combat zone.

His father, Jeff said, "He purchased the car from someone else who was deployed earlier and then didn't get time to do

anything to it. So after he was deployed we went down and towed the car back. It wouldn't start and had no brakes. We were thinking about how we could get the car fixed up for him."

Terry Drumond is the automotive instructor at Eastern Alamance and thought that the car might be a good project for the fall automotive mechanic classes at Eastern.

"We did various repairs on the car. The brake system has been rebuilt entirely, from the front of the car."

See **GIFT**, page 2



Karen Carter/Mebane Enterprise

Lamyral Gonzalez, age 4, Toccara Davis, age 4, and Troy Anderson, age 5, hold up their Christmas bags last Wednesday.

## Gifts come for West End children

By KAREN CARTER  
Enterprise Editor

The Male Chorus Missions Inc. is known throughout Mebane for their singing, their inspiring vocal performances and worship at churches here in town and in the area. But this organization also does something every year that folks in the West End community anticipate with gratitude: bringing an annual community Christmas party to seniors and children.

Under the direction of Richard Crawford, the Male Chorus Missions



Sister Rachel Hester

gives a party where everyone is invited to share in the celebration of God's gift to humankind: Christ's birth. The community gathered last Wednesday at church New Life Tabernacle – the

old Johnson Chapel church on West Holt Street for festivities.

Plenty of singing and sharing stories, lots of visiting among adults, gift bags stacked on a long table for the children, worship, and a festive meal with covered dish homemade food, books for the kids, bags of fruit for seniors, and the party lasted on into the late afternoon.

Crawford said that Wal-Mart, Sheetz, and Dollar General gave donations.

Parents and community leaders

See **WEST END**, page 7

### Office Closing

The Mebane Enterprise newspaper office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 31 for New Year's Day. The office will re-open on Monday. The staff wishes everyone a Happy New Year!

## Mebane's keeper of animals talks care at Conservators Center Inc.

By KAREN CARTER  
Enterprise Editor

Janine Tokarczyk, of Mebane, takes care of animals everyday, keeping them clean and healthy. Her engineering background, with a master's degree in structural engineering, even helps her be able to build cages. She and her husband, John, who works

for an architect, have been instrumental too in getting an educational and visitors building on the grounds at Conservators Center, located just off Highway North 119.

For four and a half years, since Tokarczyk moved to Mebane, she has worked at Conservators Center as director of animal care and lead keeper. She also

runs an internship program that attracts students from various colleges and universities as well as local volunteers. A retired farmer in the area helps out once a week, someone she describes as very dependable and willing to do whatever is necessary.

For Tokarczyk, the work

See **KEEPER**, page 6

Photo submitted  
Janine Tokarczyk holds a lion cub, Hannah, she raised. The Center does not breed big cats, but after a rescue mission in 2004, two cubs were born at the Center, Hannah and her brother Enoch. They are now fully grown and as director of animal care and lead keeper, Tokarczyk takes care of all the animals at the Center.



### Today in the Mebane Enterprise

**Weekend Weather**  
Friday: Cloudy; High 54°  
Saturday: Cloudy; High 59°  
Sunday: Rain; High 56°

Today's Inserts  
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# PEOPLE & PLACES

## A Look Back In Time



*We don't know where we are going if we don't know where we have been*

### The Fourth Week in December

#### 5 years ago

- Betty Smith, a new Kiwanis member in 2005, was voted Kiwanian of the Year by her fellow club members.
- Debbie Robinson, a 17-year veteran of the Eastern Alamance High School dance program, announced she would retire from teaching in January.

#### 10 years ago

- J. Patrick Flippin was promoted to president and chief operating officer of Kingsdown Inc., beginning Jan. 1, 2001. He would report to Eric Hinshaw, who would remain chairman of the board and chief executive officer.

#### 15 years ago

- Rev. Jesse Staton, pastor of Hebron United Methodist Church, baptized three sets of twins and one set of triplets on Dec. 17, and a photograph was taken with their families for the Dec. 27, 1995 edition of the newspaper. Caroline, Kristen, and Timothy Phelps, age 18 months, received the rite of baptism. Parents of the triplets were Karen and Tim Phelps. For the twins: Stacey and Kelly Bruno, twin daughters of Donna and Tim Bruno; Taylor Reece and Timothy Reid Wilson, twin sons of Alan and Robin Wilson; and twins Philip Gregory and Ashley Lynn Martin, of parents Greg and Susan Martin, were baptized.

#### 35 years ago

- The Dixie Yarns No. 2 Bowling Team of the Wednesday Morning Men's League put together a hot streak and emerged as the champion of the first half of the season.
- Talmadge Jobe, of Tyson-Malone Hardware, said that sales were "pretty good" and better in 1975 than in 1974 when the nation experienced a recession. Manager Morine Mills, of the Mebane Rose's Store, said sales were up for December 1975. Mills said that sales began increasing in October of this year and continued through December. Manager Phil Minton, of Carolina Rexall Drugs, said that he had not had a bad year for 1975.
- Joe Vincent played golf last Thursday at Arrowhead Golf Course despite a 10-degree temperature.
- The Mebane Public Library received six 25-year-old azalea plants, planted by and courtesy of the Mebane Garden Clubs. Mrs. William Tate and Mrs. Glendel Stephenson oversaw the operation.

#### 40 years ago

- SP5 Donald C. Efland, of Efland, received the Army Commendation Medal for exceptionally meritorious service in the Republic of Vietnam during the period March 1969 to March 1970. Colonel William C. McMullin pinned the medal on Efland at the Awards Ceremony at Post Headquarters, Camp Pickett, Virginia, on Dec. 17, 1970.
- The Mebane Town Board annexed 63.24 acres of land on both sides of South Fifth Street and South Eighth Street and parts of Nicholson Street, McPherson Road, and Cedar Lane. The effective date of annexation was Dec. 22, 1970 and the reason the town officials voted for the annexation was "for the orderly growth and development of the Town of Mebane."

#### 45 years ago

- The spotlight centered on Rick Caviness, Eagle of the Week.
- Cliff Thomas, #22, scored 22 points in the Eagles' basketball game Monday night when Eastern won 71-44 against N.E. Guilford.
- The Mebane Exchange Club installed new officers: president, Guy Wilkinson; vice president, Bill Lynch; secretary, Fred Brady; and treasurer, Elmer Wilkinson.
- The Mebane Enterprise sold for 10 cents.

## Beyond Mebane

### Writer's Club meets Jan. 8th

GRAHAM - January 8th Burlington Writers Club first meeting of the new year at 10 a.m. at the Capt. White House. Mardell Griffin, member, award winning journalist, editor and writer will be guest speaker. She will give the ins and outs from both sides of the desk and share anecdotes about her travels and adventures in writing and give pointers on getting into print. For more information you may call 919- 475- 7510.

### AARP meets Jan. 4th

BURLINGTON - The January meeting of the local chapter of Alamance County AARP will meet at Kernodle senior center, Mebane Street, Burlington, at 1:30 p.m. on January 4th. The speaker will be local favorite, pharmacist Jack Watts. All members and guests and those interested in joining us are invited to attend.



Karen Carter/Mebane Enterprise  
(Left) Ruffian, a binturong, (right) comes out of his den last Wednesday to eat a banana and visit with Janine Tokarczyk, lead keeper.

(Below) Tokarczyk (left) feeds Ra a treat last Wednesday, some meat on a stick. He and the other big cats, tigers, lions, and wolves will come out again on Jan. 8 and 15 to be around humans at the annual tree toss. See the details in the Mebane Calendar on page 5.



## KEEPER

Continued from page 1

of the Center towards conservation, preservation, and education takes on a concrete meaning: getting dirty.

Over 200 to 300 applicants sought the job that Tokarczyk got, many with degrees but few with experience. Hands-on volunteer work put Tokarczyk at the top of the list.

"Animal care is a dirty job, not for the faint of heart," Tokarczyk said.

A typical day for the keeper goes like this: In the morning, she makes sure the animals are present and happy with plenty of water and no issues from the night. She prepares food for the large compound where lions, tigers, and leopards live. Then she feeds them and cleans them and cleans their abode.

After a break for lunch, she prepares food for the small compound of 17 different species. She feeds them, cleans them, and cleans their surroundings.

Then she cleans up dishes, bins, and walks the grounds again and goes home—keeping up with e-mails there.

If this sounds boring, for the girl who grew up on a dairy farm in New Hampshire, moved to Connecticut, and went to school in upstate New York, it is a dream come true.

Six months out of master's degree and college, Tokarczyk began volunteering one day a week taking care of animals while she worked her

full-time job of engineering. She said she found out that she was always looking forward to that one day when she could be with the big cats.

That sense of loving and caring for animals she instills into the 40 some interns to go back to their schools in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, and countries such as England and Ireland, as well as those locally from Elon and North Carolina State who tell about their "wonderful experience" at Conservators Center.

On the day of this interview last Thursday, Tokarczyk feeds Ruffian, a binturong, who is warm and cozy in his den on a cold morning. But he will come out to Tokarczyk and eat a banana plus his meal of every kind of fruit, a nice fruit salad of sorts, a muffin, and meat (chicken).

Jeremiah, a lemur, with sharp teeth, and his female companion, Cookie, take a treat from a food stick. Tokarczyk said these primates will do funny things like humans, such as spreading their legs to get their bellies warm in the sun.

In 2004, the Conservators Center took in a number of big cats from a rescue mission. A pregnant lion gave birth to Hannah and her brother Enoch. Tokarczyk raised them, which she said also taught her a lot about big cats. (The Center does not breed big cats.)

"I was cleaning a cage, and I heard

a sound, something like a fart," said Tokarczyk. "It was a kitten, later named Hannah. Tokarczyk took the little creature into her arms, fed her, loved on her, and gave her the morning bottles. Now Hannah is grown but "she still loves to talk to me and tell me what happened in the night," said Tokarczyk.

Among the big cats, Thomas and his brother Ra take enrichment: spices, cinammon, nutmeg. "They love to smell cheap perfume," said Tokarczyk. "The smellier, the better. They will roll over in it and play in it. It's like catnip for cats."

Enrichment also comes with some cardboard boxes, things that can be used as toys.

But the biggest enrichment experience for the animals is right around the corner, coming on Jan. 8 and 15, when Christmas trees will be brought to them and tossed to them for entertainment. They will eat and chew on the trees. They will play with them. Some of the big cats, wolves, and tigers will use the trees to make a bed to sleep in, and some will keep the trees for months. Others will be rid of them in a week. But the sight is glorious to see. (See the details for the public in the Mebane Calendar on page 5).

If you are interested in volunteering at Conservators Center, e-mail [keeper@conservatorscenter.org](mailto:keeper@conservatorscenter.org).

## Classes offered

BURLINGTON - Piedmont Job Club Series, sponsored by The Women's Resource Center, Thursday Nights 5:30-7:30 p.m. Learn how to identify your employment strengths, craft a professional resume, "Ace the interview", and improve your job search strategies. Women's Resource Center Conference Room 411 West Fifth Street.

## Seedlings available through Feb.

BURLINGTON - The Alamance Soil and Water Conservation District is selling tree seedlings now through the end of February. Call 336-228-1753, ext. 3 to place your order or come by Agriculture Bldg., 209 N. Graham Hopedale Rd.

## BURLINGTON

All seminars and classes (except Facebook) held at ACC Burlington Center, 1304 Plaza Drive. Call to sign up 336 506-4311. January small business classes include: Small Business Roundtables, QuickBooksPro Class(6 classes), Facebook Beyond the Basics, WebPage Design for Business Owners Class (5 classes), How to Start and Finance a Small Business, Body Language The Silent Sales Killer and REAL Business Planning Class(8 classes).

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