

The Dailey Weekly

Ryan P.C. McQuen:
-technology proponent-

*An elephant to remember
*Auction house disaster
*Storefront fires in Conway



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Ryan P.C. McQuen:

Student focused on technology



Ryan will graduate this semester from UALR

Weekly Staff

My name is Ryan Patrick Clayborn McQuen. I am 27, a Journalism Major with a Music Minor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and I will be graduating this May.

I grew up in a suburb of Chicago named Elgin. I went to Larkin High School and graduated.

I will be pursuing computer engineering at (fingers crossed) the University of Washington after graduating from the University of Arkansas at



Ryan with fiancée Alicia at the Old Mill in North Little Rock. Photo by Matt Johnson

Little Rock in May.

Through most of my 20s, I worked as a professional musician, playing and teaching music in the Chicago-land area. I played guitar on and produced an album with one of my bands (The Warbird Quartet) that has sold in over 30 countries. Though music is one of my strong loves, I think technology is capable of having a more positive change on the world.

While reading "In The Plex" by Steven Levy, I realized the power of tech-

nology, and the impact it has and would have on the world, an impact capable of great positive and negative changes. It was then that I realized that working in the field of technology--an interest I always had on the back burner--was what I was meant to do.

After graduating in May I will be moving back to the Chicago-land area to marry my love, Alicia Schock, in May she will complete her Masters in Epidemiology. We'll see where we end up after that.

Many Conway stores suffer fire

Indigo Outlaw - Weekly Staff

CONWAY – An early-morning blaze Tuesday destroyed a row of stores in downtown Conway.

No one was injured, but three businesses burned to the ground on the same Oak Street block ravaged by flames six months ago.

Conway Fire Marshall Randy Freeman, who said he would start investigating the cause of the fire this morning, said he could not yet provide an estimate for the damage.

However, merchants who have just begun to recover from the electrical fire in early November believe that the damage this time will be more costly and enduring.

Officials said Tuesday's fire started at Premiere Tuxedo and Bridal at Oak and Chestnut streets and spread halfway down

the block to a carpet store, a boutique and an empty storefront.

Shortly before 2 a.m., a patrolling state trooper spotted the smoke and called the city's fire department.

Firefighters responded within minutes. Fire Chief Bart Castleberry said high winds made battling the flames doubly difficult.

In less than an hour, business owners and concerned residents congregated in a parking lot across the street from the back of the block.

Paula Duran, owner of Bob's Grill & Cafeteria, which is sandwiched between the two fire scenes, recounted seeing flames licking the east side of her restaurant.

"We thought it would be a total loss," Duran said. It's not often buildings survive two fires, she noted. By 4:30 a.m., the blaze was contained.

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North Little Rock woman dies right after birthday

Geneva Jones, 69, of North Little Rock, died Sunday, April 29, 2012.

Born April 24, 1943 in Winchester (Drew County), a daughter of the late Jesse "Bob" and Rachel Smith, she was a home maker and a member of First United Methodist Church in North Little Rock.

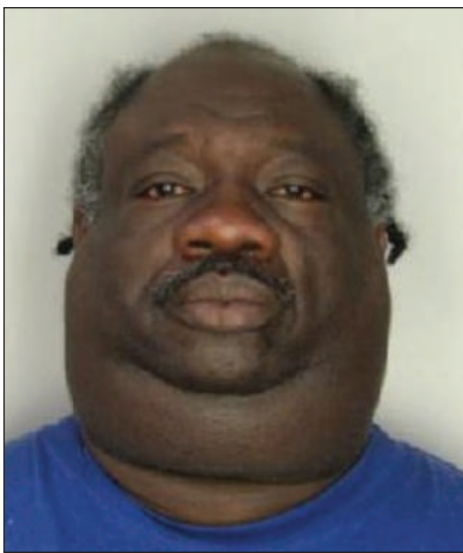
She was also preceded in death by her husband, Joe W. Jones.

Survivors are three sons, Cecil Jones of Atlanta, Alvin Jones of Prattsville,

and Clyde Jones of North Little Rock; a daughter, Debbie Wuppertal of Little Rock; a sister, Mary Doe of Jacksonville; two brothers, Ray Johnson of North Little Rock and Michael Johnson of Benton; and 8 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Friday at North Little Rock Funeral Home. Burial will be 2 p.m. in Black Cemetery in Cleveland County.

Visitation will be 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.



Arkansas store planner dies at 67

Jimmy Dale "Jim" Smith, age 67, of Conway died Monday, April 30, 2012.

He was born Dec. 15, 1944, in Fort Worth, Texas, the son of Royal and Buena Vista Evans Smith. He was a store planner, having worked for many large retail names including Dillard's and Stage. He was a member of the Bethel Heights Baptist Church and sang in the adult choir.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Barbara; 2 sons, Joe and John, both of Conway; his sister, Alice Jones of Rendon, Texas; and his

brother, David Smith of Kennedale, Texas.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, May 4, 2012, at the Woodland Heights Baptist Church officiated by the Rev. David Hatfield.

Visitation will be 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Roller-Derby Funeral Home of Little Rock. Burial will be 2 p.m. Saturday at Emerald Hills Cemetery in Kennedale, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Bethel Heights Baptist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 10677, Conway, Ark., 72034.

Conway World War I veteran and educator dies

Dallas W. Houston, 91, of Benton, passed away Thursday, April 26, 2012, at Baptist Health Medical Center in Little Rock.

He was born November 20, 1920, in Jacksonville to the late Don and Betty Houston.

After serving in the United States Army Air Corps during World War I, he attended Arkansas State Teachers College in Conway (now the University of Central Arkansas). He earned a doctorate in education at the University of Arkansas. He was a public school teacher, principal and a super-

intendent.

Survivors include his wife, Lydia; two sons, Don Houston and wife, Tanya, Darrell Houston and wife, daughter Cynthia, Dotie James and husband, Jim, all of Conway.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at the First Baptist Church in Conway. Burial, by Roller-Derby Funeral Home, will be in Oak Grove Cemetery in Conway.

Memorials may be made to the UCA Foundation/College of Education Fund, 201 Donaghey Ave., Conway, Ark., 72035.



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AP photo

Beloved elephant dies soon after calf

Clives Staples Murphey - Weekly Staff

GREENBRIER — Mary's mournful story requires trunk-sized tissues. The elephant at Riddle's Elephant and Wildlife Sanctuary who lost her calf earlier this month died earlier this week.

A longtime resident of the Riddle farm, Mary, 29, will be missed by pachyderms and humans alike.

"We will remember Mary for her gentle dignity and heroism during this last phase of her life," said Scott Riddle, who owns the sanctuary with his wife. "This is not just the death of an elephant. It's the passing of a family member that has lived with us for 19 years."

Riddle called Mary's death a "heart breaker" for him and his wife, Heidi, who is returning from India today. He said the sanctuary's remaining 12 elephants are confused and distressed by Mary's absence.

"They've been looking for her," he said.

Mary arrived at the sanctuary in 1989 after a decade of giving rides and performances at a casino in Reno, Nevada. She was known by many as an artist, because she used her trunk to slap paint onto canvases.

Kathy Hinson, a volunteer and supporter of the sanctuary, said it has been painful to watch the Riddles mourn Mary, a founding resident of the sanctuary, which is operated by an Arkansas nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Asian and African elephants.

"The first time I met Scott, I saw him with Mary" Hinson said. "That was 15 years ago. She just had an easy way about her, and Scott's voice was always low. I thought, 'How can he have such control over an elephant when I can't even control my kids or my dog?'"

Hinson, a professional photographer, has taken dozens of photographs of Mary painting. One of her photos is displayed alongside Mary's "Rocket's Red Glare" painting at former President George Bush's presidential library in Texas.

Mary was sometimes moody about her art, Hinson recalled. Once, she said, Mary refused to use the color yellow on one of her masterpieces.

"She has used yellow on other paintings, but she kept handing Scott back the brush when he put yellow on there," Hinson marveled. "People had always told me elephants were stupid and color-blind."



Mary died one week before her calf. Mary was well known for her paintings, and came to Riddle's Sanctuary in 1989. AP photo

Auto Auction suffers crash

S. Ken Head - Weekly Staff

JONESBORO — At least 15 people were injured, some critically, Monday evening when a car sped through a crowded automobile auction house and plowed into a row of bleachers in Jonesboro.

"People looked like bowling pins," said Rocky Rorie of Jonesboro, who was at the auction. "They were flying everywhere."

The accident occurred at 8 p.m. at the Jonesboro Auto Auction at U.S. 63 and Gee St., a longtime Wednesday night venue where car dealers and customers buy and swap vehicles.

Lt. Roy Coleman of the Jonesboro Police Department, said a young male drove a Kia Sephia through an open garage door at the east end of the auction. Police estimated the car was traveling 40 to 50 mph. The Kia Sephia is a compact sedan.

Witnesses said the driver appeared to swerve to the right, avoiding a parked car, and into a set of bleachers full of people. The car stopped when it hit a wall alongside the bleachers.

Coleman said 15 to 20 people were injured, none fatally.

"We have injuries ranging from critical to cuts and bruises," he said.

"Paramedics worked for several minutes to free a young boy from beneath the car. He was not injured seriously," Coleman said.