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Anderson Forest Products celebrates 50 years



JOSHUA CONGRATULATES BILLY JOE on 50 years while Kerry looks on.

By **ANNE PYBURN CRAIG** Anne.craig@jpinews.com

Back in 1967, a young lumber grader named Billy Joe Anderson bought a sawmill in Munfordville and served buyers from both the United States and Japan. Five years later, he opened a 14,000 square foot pallet factory in Tompkinsville with 15 employees -- and the rest, as the saying goes, is history.

Last Friday, March 17, employees and guests gathered in a vast warehouse amidst the delicious smell of fresh-cut pine and celebrated a 50th birthday party for Anderson Forest Products, which now maintains three facilities and employs 108 people at its Tompkinsville plant, adding \$3.2 million in wages to the local economy last year and spending another 2.2 million with 90 local yendors

"I see a lot of familiar faces, and remember a lot of others I wish I could still see," said company vice president Kerry Anderson. "I've grown up right here. I started working here the summer between 7th and 8th grade, and it turned me from a boy into a man real quick. It means a lot to me and to all of us that you're here celebrating with us today."

As everyone lunched on barbecue provided by Jamie Tooley and cake and cupcakes provided by Tonya Hammer, human resources manager Ina Graves recounted some of the highlights of the company's 50-year journey from a simple sawmill to a company offering wooden crates, cable spools and other highly specialized products to clients from all over the US and Canada, Russia and India, with Turkey soon to be added to the list. "This is a big deal, just like a golden wedding anniversary," Graves observed, "and in fact, this year is the 60th for Billy Joe and Joan. Good job, Joan!"

Very little, Graves said, goes to waste; scraps and sawdust are used by poultry farmers within a 100 mile radius, and larger scraps are sold as heating fuel. And while remaining true to its essentials, the company has often been on the cutting edge in its field. "Anderson was the first pallet maker in the county, and the first to start using automated

See **ANDERSON** continued on page **2**

Curious Savage

Holbrook's last curtain call with MYT



STUDENTS Baylee Ray, Dylan Serrano, Ally Graves, Eli Pitcock, Dannica Gosser, and Gracie Taylor rehearsing for this week's production.

By JENNIFER MOONSONG
Pagional Foatures

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This weekend the Monroe Youth Theatre will give a rousing, comedic performance of The Curious Savage.

The Curious Savage was penned by playwright John Patrick, who put a witty twist on a not-sofunny situation.

The main character, Mrs. Savage has been left \$10 million dollars by her husband and wants to make the best use of it, in spite of her grown-up stepchildren's efforts to get their hands on it. Knowing that the widow's wealth is now in negotiable securities,

and seeing they cannot get hold of the fortune, the stepchildren commit her to a sanatorium hoping to "bring her to her senses," but the new millionaire feels safe

See **CURIOUS SAVAGE** continued on page **3**

Burroughs and Stephens Gatton Academy, here they come!

By **ANNE PYBURN CRAIG** anne.craig@jpinews.com

Students, faculty, and proud family and friends gathered in the Monroe County High School Library last Friday to congratulate sophomores William Burroughs and Graham Stephens, who

will be heading off to the highly selective Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in August. Located in Bowling Green, the Gatton Academy enables students to finish high school and complete their first two

uating with 60 college credits already under their belts. William is the son of Kenny and Cyndi Burroughs; Graham is the son of Wesley and Loralee Stephens.

years of college, grad-

"We often gather here

to celebrate our athletes, but academics are still the most important part of what we do here," said Principal Max Petett. "And it makes me very happy to

See **GATTON** continued on page **10**



THE HONOREES at the celebration, from left to right: Kenny, Cyndi and William Burroughs; Graham, Loralee and Wes-

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