

## Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session April 4th, 2022

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Monday, April 4th, 2022 at the Ceredo City Hall. The Mayor, Paul A. Billups, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present included the Mayor, Paul A. Billups; the Recorder, Stanley E. Fink; and Councilmen, Steve Diamond, Ron Jarrell, Robert Leslie and Joe Ratcliff. Councilman Oscar Adkins was absent due to a work conflict.

### Reading and Approval of the Minutes

The Mayor asked if Council had any additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 7th, 2022 Regular Session. None being heard and on a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Bob Leslie, Council voted to accept the March 7th, 2022 Regular Session minutes as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Robert Leslie, presented Council with the account balances for each account and the expenditures for the month of March, 2022. The Mayor asked if Council had any questions on the Treasurer's Report. None being heard, on a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Joe Ratcliff, Council voted to accept the Treasurer's report for March, 2022 as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

### Cogan's Wrecker Service

Kenny Cogan of Cogan's Wrecker Service requested information concerning a building permit for property located on the 1500 Block of B Street. Mr. Cogan was informed that a sketch or diagram of the proposed building would be required for council review and approval.

The Mayor addressed Mr. Cogan concerning current use of the property as a junk yard. Mr. Cogan agreed to rid the property of junk cars, trucks, and other objects, and to be considerate of neighbors.

### B Street Floodwall

The Mayor informed Council that the flood gate on B Street was installed during March for demonstration purposes as required

by the Corps of Engineers, and that the alley gate on B Street would be installed in the near future.

### Sixth Street Sewer Project

The Mayor informed Council that William Trembly has not returned the original Easement Agreement which is required to bid the project. In cooperation with Potesta & Associates and Attorney Jon Nicol, efforts are being made to contact counsel for Trembly concerning the delay.

### Police Protective Vests

At the request of the Mayor, Chief Tony Poston provided Council with a summary of costs for replacement body armor for the town constabulary. On Motion by Steve Diamond, with Second by Ron Jarrell, council voted unanimously to authorize the purchase of new body armor and vests at a cost of \$3,400.

### High Street Paving

Councilman Ron Jarrell informed Council that High Street between Main Street and Second Street West is in need of paving. The Mayor presented a bid from Paving Solutions in the sum of \$29,400 to pave the entire street. Following discussion, Councilman Joe Ratcliff made a Motion to accept the bid. A Second was made by Councilman Bob Leslie, and all voted in favor.

### Handicap Parking

The Mayor presented a request by Charles Eastham for a handicap parking space designation on the northeast corner of Second Street West and A Street. Justification was that the area is crowded for parking and that a person requiring handicap parking resides on the street. On Motion by Steve Diamond and Second by Ron Jarrell, with unanimous approval, the request was granted.

### Adjournment

No further business was brought before the Council. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BILLUPS, MAYOR

I must begin this article with an apology for the delayed publication of the New Crescent. Medical issues kept the editor away from the keyboard for a couple of months, but we will do everything possible to publish an extra issue or two in the upcoming months. I would like to extend a very personal thanks for the prayers and well-wishes received following my February surgery, and am pleased to report that I am feeling well and looking forward to an active summer.

Several projects are underway in Ceredo. The outdoor pickleball and basketball court renovations should be completed by May 10, providing two additional pickleball courts (bringing the total to five) and a new basketball court located near the C-K Middle School. By moving the basketball court, we were able to provide an outdoor court for school use along with an improved court for recreational players. With pickleball continuing to grow at unprecedented levels both locally and nationally, the improved courts will allow more people to play plus giving us the ability to host tournaments.

Two significant sewer projects are scheduled to start in early June. The storm sewer that runs from Greenwood Drive to Jordan Branch will be replaced with a larger line. The original installation, done by the developer in the 1970's, is not large enough to handle the current stormwater flow. The current 8-inch line will be replaced with a 24-inch line that should alleviate the local area flooding that has followed heavy rains for the past several years.

A larger project involves the installation of a new sanitary sewer line extending from the Town Shoppes on 6th Street West to the main-line sanitary sewer at 4th Street. This project is a joint funding venture at a fifty-fifty rate between the town and the state. The project has been temporarily delayed due to difficulties in obtaining an easement from one property

owner, but should be moving forward in the near future.

Efforts continue to breathe some life into the Ceredo Plaza, although the recent news that Harbor Freight will be relocating to the old Kenova Elementary property is disheartening. The Plaza is owned by a Dublin, Ohio based developer, and we continue to push for more tenants and site renovations that would make the Plaza more inviting. On the bright side, the Animal ER has moved from its small 2nd Street location to the former BB&T Bank location on Rt.60. This move will clear the parking problem on 2nd Street.

With warm weather approaching I would be remiss without asking each of you to continue your good work in maintaining the beauty and cleanliness of the town. We are so very fortunate to have so many residents that take extraordinary care of their property, and in a time when in many towns people no longer even know their neighbors, in Ceredo we still help our neighbors by cleaning a neighborhood curb, picking up litter, trimming vegetation and the like. We have long taken care of each other in Ceredo, and I certainly know that will continue in 2022.

Issues that have been presented to Town Hall in recent weeks include inquiries about dilapidated houses and vehicles parked in yards. To quote the late Cobb McFann, "We're agin both of 'em." Surrounding cities have been facing the dilapidated house issue for a number of years, while we have been fortunate in Ceredo to stay a bit ahead of the curve. Still, we have a few old structures that need to be demolished. The Unsafe Building Committee will be issuing inspection notices and conducting inspections this Spring, and we will exercise best efforts to keep this from becoming a bigger problem.

As for yard parking, I always refer to an article I read several years ago in a

Charlotte newspaper. In quick summary, the article stated that cars parked in front yards is one of the first signs of a deteriorating neighborhood. I believe this to be true, as the practice ruins the aesthetics of a neighborhood and certainly decreases property values. Ceredo has an ordinance prohibiting the practice, and I ask that each resident be considerate of your neighbors by not parking in unauthorized places.

The annual hanging flower baskets should be in place by mid-May, and although our outstanding "Flower Lady", Delcie Elkins, has retired, the flower gardens throughout town will be planted as usual. We have a number of essential employees, and Delcie has been one since 2012. Her services and green thumb will be missed.



I encourage you to visit Town Hall with any ideas that may enhance life in Ceredo, and as always volunteers are welcome! I trust you will all enjoy the upcoming summer season and help keep Ceredo as "West Virginia's Most Livable Small Town".



# Summer Reminders

As summer approaches we should all be reminded of a few town regulations that keep Ceredo the wonderful place to live that we have come to enjoy. By following these regulations, we will be enhancing the town as well as being considerate of our neighbors.

### Yard Sales

By ordinance, residents must obtain a permit from the City Clerk to conduct a yard sale or rummage sale. The first such permit is issued without a fee, and any additional permits may be obtained after paying the fee of \$25 per day.

### Cutting Grass

Persons cutting grass are prohibited from leaving grass clippings on town streets or sidewalks. Grass clippings must be swept or blown onto grassy areas. By ordinance, grass that exceeds 12 inches in height is in violation.

### Dog Waste

The town has provided waste baskets on most intersections for the placement of

dog waste. We encourage you to walk your animals, but please clean all waste and place it in the convenient baskets.

### Open Burning

As a general rule, open burning is prohibited within the town limits. There are exceptions for outdoor grilling appliances and fireplaces, but rubbish, brush, papers, or construction materials may not be burned in the town.

### Swimming Pools

Please keep in mind that swimming pools left in a winter condition become mosquito breeding grounds in the summer. Small above ground pools with stagnant water must be emptied, as must in-ground pools that are not filled and filtered for use. Persons wishing to fill large pools with town water should contact Doug Adkins of the water department prior to filling.

HONOR ROLL	
Eleanor Terry.....	11/22
In Memory Pat & Jim Billups.....	02/23
Paul and Kathy Billups.....	10/23
Mike and Susan Watts.....	10/22
Leigh Ann Johnson.....	04/22
Jack & Ann Riggs.....	10/22
Connie & Mark Beford.....	10/24
Dinah and Dale Ledbetter.....	10/22
Katrina Childers.....	07/22
In Memory of Alberta "Dossie" & Sherman Medley.....	04/22
Karin & Mike Dawson.....	02/23
In Memory of Anagene Wooten Gibbs.....	08/22
In Memory of Kathleen Wooten Marcum.....	08/22
In Memory of Herm Wooten Matney.....	08/22
In Memory of Larry Cole.....	08/22
George & Brenda Keigley.....	09/22
Roberta and Charlie Mitchell.....	03/23
In Memory of Larry Jack Heck.....	10/22
Mike & Karen Skeens.....	08/22
Dr. Ron & Lucenda Akers.....	07/22
Marlene Simmons.....	07/22
Brother Otis Adkins.....	01/22
Brother Mose & Sister June Napier.....	01/22
Robert & Mary Lee Leslie.....	01/22
Taylor Booth.....	03/24
Michael & Debby Hibbard.....	04/22
Susan & Stephen Woolwine.....	04/22
Gary & Marsha Adkins.....	04/22
John Hall.....	04/22
Tyler Dawson, DDS.....	10/22
In Memory of Esther Adkins.....	10/23
Donna Jones.....	10/23
Dr. Daniel & Suzanne Brody.....	10/22
Cindy & Vern Eagleston-Blaine.....	11/22
Glenn Stotts.....	11/22
In Memory of Charles & Bet Pratt.....	12/22
Greg & Joy Jarrell.....	12/22
Tim & Debra Lucas.....	02/23
Suzanne & Doug Woods.....	02/23
Kelly & Lisa Higgins-Flanagan.....	09/25
Chester & Margaret Mathis.....	02/23
George E. & Rebecca M. McCoy.....	02/23
Keith & Freda Chadwick.....	02/24
In Memory of JJ, Gail, & John Billups.....	03/23

The New Crescent Honor Roll is intended to be a way we give special recognition to those persons who donate at least \$50.00 during the year to support our publication. **Since the Honor Roll is a twelve-month feature, you will need to renew your contribution every twelve months to remain on the Roll. Your name not appearing indicates your year had expired.** A very special "Thank You!" to all of you who have helped us to continue the paper with your gifts. With your help, we have been able to publish and deliver The New Crescent to every home in Ceredo since February 1990! If you would like to add your name or a loved one's name, please contact Town Hall at (304) 453-1041 or email: info@ceredowv.gov.

## Jack Riggs Day

In celebration of his ninetieth birthday, April 11, 2022 was proclaimed "Jack Riggs Day" in Ceredo. A well-attended birthday celebration was held at the Ceredo Wellness Center where Jack pitches cornhole with the Ceredo Cornhole Society.

Jack was raised in Ceredo and although he and his lovely wife Ann raised their daughters, Donna and Natalie, in Kenova, Jack and Ann moved back to Ceredo several years ago. Jack spent his career at Kenova Box and was an avid golfer before turning his athletic talents to cornhole.

"I don't think we have ever had a more kind, genteel, dignified man in Ceredo", said Mayor Billups. "Mr. Riggs is probably the most respected man in town, and we are proud to claim him as a native son of Ceredo."



Jack Riggs, Ann Riggs, Donna Jones, Natalie Hemann

## Town Payment Options

As the world has become more computerized many of our residents are seeking ways to make municipal payments online as opposed to the traditional check or cash payment methods. The town still accepts payment for utility services at the utility office by check or cash, or by check in the convenient drop-box located in front of Town Hall (please do not pay by cash in the drop box – the box is secure and security cameras are in place, but as an extra precaution we prefer checks-only in the box).

In addition to the traditional methods, the town accepts payments by Visa, Master Card, American Express, and Discover. Payment by credit card may be made in person at Town Hall, by telephone during regular business hours by providing credit card information directly to a clerk, or by using an automated system after business hours by calling the utility office at 304-453-4675 and choosing the prompt for making a utility payment.

Payments may also be made through the Town of Ceredo website – [www.ceredowv.gov](http://www.ceredowv.gov). At the top of the home page, click on "make a payment" and follow the prompts.

The town discourages the use of "third-party services" such as DOXO and others. These services have agreements with some major utilities, such as Mountaineer Gas, to process payments. The town is not directly affiliated with third-party payees, and while the third parties will accept your payment, they do not guarantee that the payment will be forwarded to the town in a timely manner. In short, the third-party cashes your check or credit card payment, causing you to believe that the town has been paid, and it is frequently days, if not weeks later that the town actually receives payment.

The town does eventually receive your payment, but the third-party payee makes their money on the "float" by using the funds for the time between when they cash your payment and forward it to the town utility.

Hopefully, we are providing sufficient ways for our residents and customers to conveniently make payments. Questions about payments should be directed to the utility office at 304-453-4675 or by email to [utilities@ceredowv.gov](mailto:utilities@ceredowv.gov).

## Newest Resident

Ceredo's newest resident came into this world on February 22, 2022. Olive Nicole Branch, at 19 ½ inches and weighing all of 6 lbs. and 9 oz., is now residing with her parents, Alexandria and Micaiah Branch, on B Street.

Olive Nicole is the granddaughter of Rev. Ron and Terry Branch of Mason, WV, and Frances and Jimmy Bloss and Larry Skeens. If the newborn takes after her great-grandfather, Buck Lykins, she will be a fine ball-player.

In honor of her birth, Mayor Paul Billups proclaimed February 22nd to be "Olive Nicole Branch Day" in Ceredo. Congratulations to the family on this wonderful occasion!

## Connie Still Cares...

After enjoying our relationships and providing service to many, many Ceredo and Kenova area friends since 1999 at our Ford dealerships in South Point and Washington Court House, Mark and I have decided to retire.

It would be impossible to personally thank each of you that have given us your trust and business over the past 22 years, but please know that while we will no longer be in business, we remain residents of Ceredo and hope to serve the community in other ways as we enter retirement.

We are proud to have provided "Connie Cares" service, because the driving force of Connie truly did care about each of you, and we will continue to care as we endeavor to make Ceredo - Kenova a better place for our residents and future generations.

Thank you again for your business and trust.

*Connie and Mark Beford*



# Origins of the C-K High School Songs - “Football Medley”

Charles M. Clarkson, Contributing Columnist

The doors were closed in 1997, but the memories of the “Wonder”ful years at Ceredo-Kenova High School will not long be forgotten. This includes the songs played by the Green and White C-K High School Band who enthusiastically played them at sporting events and other occasions as warranted. In this publication of the Ceredo New Crescent we revisit another song and its origin, “Football Medley”.

**C-K High School, hats off to thee.  
To our colors true we will ever be.  
Firm and Strong, united are we,  
C-K High School, fight, fight, fight.  
C-K High School, win tonight,  
Hurrah! For C-K High.  
(Repeat 1st Stanza)**

**Oh, when the C-K Wonders fall in line,  
We’re gonna win this game another time.  
And for the dear old team we love so well,  
We’re gonna yell, and yell, and yell and yell and yell.**

**We’re gonna fight, fight, fight for every score.**

**We’re gonna circle round and win some more.**

**We’re gonna roll those Bisons on the ground, round and round,  
Rah, Rah, Rah.  
(Repeat 2nd Stanza)**

## The Melody

The melody to Football Medley comes from the official fight song of Washington and Lee University. For a more comprehensive look at this melody we visit Wikipedia:

**Come cheer for Washington and Lee,  
We’re going to win another victory!  
The White and Blue we will ever wave in triumph  
For the University. RAH! RAH! RAH!  
Fight to the finish we are with you,  
Break through the line on every play;**

**Rush the ball on down the field  
And we will win this game today.  
When Washington and Lee’s men fall in line,  
We’re going to win again another time;  
For W&L I yell, I yell, I yell,  
And for the University, I yell, like hell!  
And we will fight! fight! fight! for every yard;  
Circle the ends and hit that line right hard!  
And we will roll those Wahoos on the sod!  
Yes, by God! RAH! RAH! RAH!  
HEY!**

“Washington and Lee Swing”, also know as “The Swing” is the official fight song of Washington and Lee University. It was written in 1910 by Mark W. Sheafe, Clarence A. (Tod) Robbins, and Thornton W. Allen. It is widely used as the primary school song by other universities and high schools within the United States, with varying degrees of attribution to the original. The song is also used as a standard in swing music, dixieland, and bluegrass repertoire. Artists such as Glenn Miller, Tex Beneke, Louis Armstrong, Kay Kyser, Hal Kemp and the Dukes of Dixieland have recorded popular versions of the song. It was featured in movies such as “The Five Pennies” and “You’ve Got Mail”. “Washington and Lee Swing” may have been influenced by “Zacatecas March” an earlier Mexican patriotic march written in 1891 by Genaro Codina which served as the regional anthem of the Mexican state of Zacatecas.

## The Words

The words were composed by our own Mr. Charles M. Oshel who directed the C-K High School bands from 1952-1977 and well as the C-K Alumni Band.

# Austin’s Opens For 75th Season



One of Ceredo’s landmark businesses, Austin’s Homemade Ice Cream, has opened for it’s 75th season. The iconic ice cream shop, nationally recognized for excellence, was established in 1947 at its current location on Route 60 in Ceredo. Between the original opening and 1983, Austin’s was a good local business serving an excellent product. In 1983 the business was purchased by Ceredo’s “Ice Cream Lady Extraordinaire”, Joyce Snyder, and under the direction of Ms. Snyder and her ability to produce new and unique flavors the shop became a regional attraction.

When Joyce Snyder purchased the business Austin’s offered 13 flavors of ice cream. Today, the shop has the ability to produce literally hundreds of flavors, but limits the menu to around 40 flavors at any given time. Joyce developed flavors and made ice cream until she reached her 80th birthday, then turned the business over to her daughter, son, and two grandchildren.

With the advent of social media, word of the extraordinary ice cream shop in Ceredo quickly spread. Customers from Charleston to Portsmouth visit the shop daily, and ice cream aficionados from even greater distances are drawn to experience true homemade ice cream that has garnered national awards.

In the last two years, Austin’s has been awarded ribbons from the National Ice Cream Producers Association for its hand made vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry ice creams. Last year the business won “Best New Flavor in the Southeast” for its S’more Than A Feeling ice cream, a toasted marshmallow base with a graham cracker variegated, chocolate chip pieces, and s’mores candy. Master ice cream chef Tim Ruff, one of Joyce Snyder’s grandchildren, is in charge of developing new flavors and overseeing daily production. According to Ruff, the secret to Austin’s great taste is that the ice cream is variegated by hand. “This is a method that we are committed to,” said Ruff. “There is an art to variegating ice cream by hand. Only by using this method can you achieve the ribbon effect that makes Austin’s unique.”

Austin’s is committed to quality and the methods developed by Joyce Snyder. “I will never change anything that my grandmother did,” said Ruff. “It was her hard work and ingenuity that made Austin’s famous, and the family will follow her traditions. We have also been fortunate to have had great employees over the years, persons that understood how unique the business is and have treated it like their own.”

In addition to the original Ceredo location, Austin’s now has a location at The Market in downtown Huntington. While the Ceredo location closes during winter months, the Huntington location is indoors and remains open year-round. Having eaten more than my share of what I believe to be the world’s finest homemade ice cream, I encourage all of you to visit the Ceredo location this summer and try the best-selling flavor for the last twenty years, grape pineapple, developed by Joyce Snyder and available only at one place in the world, Austin’s.

# Plymale Elected to Soccer Hall of Fame



Ceredo resident Tom Plymale was inducted into the West Virginia Soccer Hall of Fame during a ceremony held March 12, 2022. A Ceredo native, Tom should hold the moniker of “Mr. High

was named the first head coach and led the Wonder team until 1980, when he resigned to attend law school. Superintendent Napier’s son developed under Tom’s tutelage and later played on the newly formed Marshall varsity soccer team.

Following law school, Tom resumed his affiliation with soccer, serving in virtually every capacity over the following forty years. Tom coached in the Huntington YMCA Youth Soccer League until 1985, then helped found the Wayne County Youth Soccer League, where he coached and officiated until 1997, while serving as league president from 1994 to 2000.

In 1996 Tom founded the Ceredo-Kenova Middle School soccer program and coached that team for five seasons. While coaching the middle school team, Tom revived the CKHS soccer program in 1997 for one season, in order to prepare the C-K lads to play at the new Spring Valley High School.

As Spring Valley High School was under construction, Tom became a member of the Spring Valley soccer committee, and along with his brother, state senator Robert “Bob” Plymale, Tom designed and developed Spring Valley’s soccer complex, the first on-campus soccer-specific high school facility in West Virginia. Tom later served as a volunteer assistant boys soccer coach at Spring Valley from 2001-2003, and served as head coach of the Timberwolves from 2004-2006.

Over the past forty years Tom has officiated soccer at virtually every level in West Virginia, continuing in retirement to referee youth soccer in Wayne and Cabell counties.

There has not been a more dedicated soccer coach, administrator, or official in West Virginia. Tom Plymale’s soccer obligations were a full-time vocation, and he dedicated thousands of hours to youth soccer while holding a full-time professional position as Prosecuting Attorney of Wayne County.

The New Crescent and the residents of Ceredo salute Tom Plymale for his induction into the Hall of Fame, and we are proud to call Tom a true Native Son of Ceredo. The next time you watch your children or grandchildren play soccer, stop to thank Tom Plymale. Without Tom’s efforts our children likely would not be participating in the world’s largest participant sport.

School Soccer” in West Virginia.

Prior to 1970, soccer was a game that we occasionally watched on Wide World of Sports with absolutely no understanding of the rules, much less how to play. After graduation from C-K in 1970 where he was a track athlete, Tom spent a year of study abroad in Denmark. In the words of Judge Tom Smith, late of Beech Street and a lifelong friend of Plymale’s, “Tom returned from a year in Denmark with two things theretofore unseen in C-K, a knowledge of soccer and long hair. Fortunately, Tom maintained his knowledge of soccer.”

Between 1973 and 1975, Tom played on the Marshall University Soccer Club, and after graduation took a job as a teacher at Ceredo-Kenova High School. It was then that a series of fortunate circumstances led to the establishment of high school soccer in West Virginia. At that time former Ceredo Mayor Mose Napier was Superintendent of Schools in Wayne County. Superintendent Napier’s son, Philip, was a student at C-K and had developed an interest in soccer. Tom Plymale’s father, Chud, was a member of the Wayne County Board of Education. By circumstance, the county thus had a willing participant and a knowledgeable coach, with fathers capable of making sanctioned soccer a reality.

Plymale, along with Jack DeFazio, Sam Hood, Sam Broh and Tom Proctor, set about to convince Huntington-area high schools to form varsity soccer programs. The table being set in Wayne County, the BOE quickly authorized county schools to establish programs and Ceredo-Kenova was the first to consent to form a team. Tom

# ROCCOS

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- Spaghetti
- Rigatoni
- Ravioli
- Fettucini
- Fresh Veal
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- Cacciatore
- Linguine with Clam Sauce (Red & White)

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FRI SAT 5PM to 10:30 PM

252 MAIN ST CEREDO  
453-3000



# Jones Qualifies for PGA

Randy Maynard, Sports Editor

For Kenova native Jared Jones, a lifelong dream came true on Wednesday, April 13th. On that glorious day Jones finished second in the PGA Professional Golfers Championship held in Austin, Texas. His four-day total of 278 strokes, which was five under par, enabled him to pocket \$41,000 and as crazy as it sounds, more noteworthy than this vast amount of money he won, Jones now will tee it up with the likes of Tiger Woods, current Masters Champion Scottie Scheffler, Rory McIlroy, Jordan Spieth, Phil Michelson, and a host of other world-class golfers in the PGA Championship set for May 19-May 22 at Southern Oaks Country Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This will be Jones first PGA Tour event and it happens to be one of the four major championships conducted in golf each year.

Jones, who will turn 37 on May 29th, had qualified for another PGA Tour tournament, the Valero Texas Open which was scheduled to be played in the spring of 2020. Then, COVID-19 struck. No, Jones was not infected but the 2020 Valero Texas Open was cancelled because of the pandemic. Unfortunately, due to the nature of Jones' exemption, he was not qualified to play in that same event when it was resumed in the spring of 2021.

However, that's all immaterial now as Jones was one of 20 golfers who qualified in the Austin event for a coveted spot into the PGA Tournament field. "It's always been a dream of mine to play in a PGA Tour event and now I have that opportunity," Jones stated in a recent phone interview from his home in Houston, Texas.

It was an inauspicious beginning for Jones in the Austin event. Jones started bogey-bogey on the easier of the two courses that were used for the 72-hole tournament. When asked what he was thinking after his less than stellar start, Jones replied, "I didn't play those two holes poorly. I three-putted the first hole and then missed a short par putt on the next one. However, I knew there was a lot of golf left to be played and I felt if I stuck with my game plan, then I would be fine." On his third hole of the day his game plan paid dividends as he recorded an eagle on his way to firing a 65 which - at the end of the first round - left him tied for second among the 312 golfers entered.

When the Austin tournament had concluded Jones was tied for second place five shots behind winner, Jesse Mueller. Jones said that his lofty placement in the tournament was made possible due in large part to his scorecard being void of double bogeys. "In past years when I've played in this tournament it was usually a couple of bad shots that led to a double bogey or two and that made it harder to recover, so definitely not having any high numbers helped tremendously in my good scoring," Jones commented.

Jones has been a resident for a few years in Houston and due to that fact, it meant that Jones was ready for the windy conditions that prevailed during most of the event. "I was accustomed to the weather conditions that we had and that really aided me," Jones stated.

Another professional with local ties made the top 20 in the Austin event and qualified for the PGA Championship as well. Shawn Warren was a four-year captain at Marshall University, from 2004-2007. Jones said that in the past that he'd played a good bit of golf with Warren. "In Austin, we were rooting for each other, and it was remarkable that Shawn shot a 66 on the final day to make the PGA Tournament field. Given the very windy conditions, Shawn's round was probably the best of the tournament," Jones exclaimed.

Jones said that he hopes to be able to go to Tulsa and play one or two practice rounds at least a couple of weeks before the tournament begins. Then, he will arrive on the Sunday before the Thursday start of the PGA Championship. Jones said that his immediate goal was to have fun and focus on striving to make the 36-hole cut. "I'm really looking forward to this experience, it's going to be a thrill to play against the best golfers in the world and of course I wouldn't mind it if I could play a practice round with one of the top golfers."

Jones gives a huge deal of credit for his stellar play in Austin to his caddie, Tyler Seymour. Seymour was recommended to Jones by the caddie master, Shawn Kosty, at Jones' home course, River Oaks Country Club. "Tyler and I hit it off immediately. He was most adept at reading the greens in addition to him being a good player in his own right. Tyler kept me loose and he immediately accepted my offer for him to caddie for me in the PGA Championship," Jones said.

Jones' high finish in the PGA Professional Championship means that he can skip local qualifying for the United States Open and go straight to the Sectional qualifying which is the last step to make the U.S. Open field. This will be Jones third attempt at trying to play in the U.S. Open.

Jones stated that he was not overly nervous with Golf Channel televising a number of Jones' shots during the Austin event. He said what really helped to calm his nerves was to have a number of his family members with him and a good number of friends who walked the course as well. "It was most special to have all that support during the tournament but especially on my 18th hole of the final round. Then to cap off the entire tournament with that long birdie putt on that last hole made it even more special. It definitely was a team effort," Jones stated.

Jones said that he was excited that most of his family, along with good friends Steve Ross and Steve Thacker, two Huntington firemen, also will be in Tulsa in May. "It's always nice to have those you know at an event like the PGA Tournament," Jones commented.

"I'll have to admit that it didn't really hit me until I was driving back to Houston how I was able to compete so well against so many stellar golfers," Jones added. "Now, I'm going to get some time to practice and strive to do my best in Tulsa but I'll be ready to go come May 19th."

Local fans of Jones are expecting him to fare well in Tulsa. "I've known Jared his entire life and he's such a fine young man. I had the opportunity to follow Jared for a number of rounds when he competed in the West Virginia Amateur Tournament. I know that he will acquire himself well in the PGA Championship," Ceredo's Stan Hanson commented.

For Kenova resident Sharon Sparks, it's especially meaningful that Jones will play in one of golf's premiere events. "Jared grew up down the street from us on Walnut Street," Sparks said. "He was thrown in with three for four other girls but he was always a good sport about it. He had a great sense of humor and he

was very funny. My daughter, Elizabeth (who is now married to Jack Streets) and Jared are a month apart in age. I took care of Jared for three years while his mother and dad were working. Even though I don't follow golf all that much, Bob (Sharon's husband, Bob Sparks) does and both of us desire for Jared to do really well in Tulsa. He's such a fine person."

When Jones finished second in the 2003 West Virginia Amateur Tournament, Ceredo native, Jad Adkins was his caddie. "I'd never caddied before but I had played golf with Jared and he asked me to caddie for him during a couple of the West Virginia Amateur events and I was thankful for the opportunity," Adkins said in a phone interview from his home in Durham, North Carolina. "Now, I didn't try to help him with his club selection or with reading greens but I did try to keep it light. We joked and laughed a lot. Jared was mild mannered but he had a killer instinct on the golf course. To me, he was always 'The Man,' due to his golfing prowess. I couldn't fathom playing the golf game he played."

Back in the middle of March, Jones, along with fellow River Oaks pro, Jimmy Anderson won the Southern Texas Section PGA Pro-Pro Championship title, prevailing by five strokes over their nearest competitors. They also teamed up to win this same tournament in 2021. Jones stated, "It's certainly exciting to come back into the event as defending champions, but there was maybe a little bit of added pressure. It was a great test of golf and certainly a lot of fun for the two days." That win allowed the team of Jones-Anderson to evenly split first-place prize money of \$5,500.

Jones is the son of Jeff and Donna Jones. He is also the grandson of Jack and Ann Riggs and the late Charles and Geneva Jones. Jeff Jones was a stellar golfer in his own right. He was a standout golfer at Marshall University playing on some of coach Roy Vernon "Buddy" Graham's stellar teams. Current West Virginia Governor, Jim Justice was a 1972 teammate of the elder Jones. Jones was a senior in 1972. Playing out of the old Rolling Meadows Golf Course in Catlettsburg, the senior Jones was the runner-up in the Kentucky Amateur in both 1971 and 1972 being edged out by five-time Kentucky Amateur Champion Bill Musselman, in each of those years.

"My dad got me started by putting a club in my hand at a very early age teaching me the fundamentals. However, it was not only my dad but my grandfather Jack and my grandfather Charles who also gave me excellent tutelage along the way," Jones noted. "When I was young, both my grandfathers, my dad, and I would frequently play golf together, mainly at Deer Creek Golf Club in Barboursville (where Jeff Jones was part-owner). We always had a great time," Jones stated.

Jones admitted that early on in his life golf was not the sport in which he displayed the most passion. "I loved playing basketball and I played it growing up and even in my freshman and sophomore years in high school before I decided to just concentrate on golf," Jones stated.

Jones was a standout scholar and golfer at Spring Valley High School. He played four years for the Timberwolves and along with his teammates he participated in two state championships. In 2001, the T-Wolves won the Class AAA WV State Championship and Jones was the low individual scorer out of all the competitors. In 2002, SVHS finished fifth overall in Class AAA and Jones placed second individually.

By participating on the prestigious American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) Tour, Jones was able to play competitively against some of the best junior golfers in the United States and each summer he was afforded the opportunity to travel extensively as he continued to hone his game. He won a highly touted AJGA event at historic The Homestead in Virginia. That course was where Sam Snead began his storied career.

Jones' stellar play at Spring Valley earned him a golf scholarship to Ohio State University where he helped the Buckeyes to win the 2004 Big Ten Championship. He was heavily recruited by schools such as Marshall, the University of Kentucky, Virginia Tech, and Xavier, just to name a few of the colleges who desired Jones' golf talents.

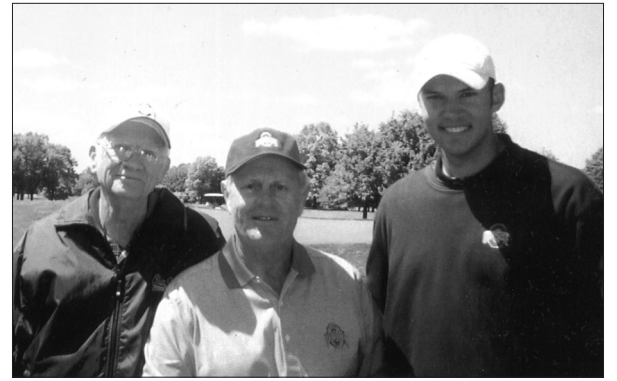
The West Virginia Amateur Golf Tournament was an event in which Jones particularly excelled. He qualified for his first state amateur competition at the tender age of 13 as he competed against golfers who were four times his age. Jones appeared in a dozen WV Amateur Tournaments. His exemplary play in 2003 earned him a runner-up finish being edged out by 13-time WV Amateur Champion, Pat Carter.

When asked if he had ever had the opportunity to play golf with legendary Huntington amateur Bill Campbell, who was a 15-time winner of the WV Amateur, along with winning the United States Amateur title in 1964, Jones said, "I did play a round once with Mr. Campbell. Nathan Kinker, (former Marshall University golfer) was in the group as well and we were playing at Guyan Country Club (in Huntington). Mr. Campbell had a lovely swing and played a nice round for someone in his late 70's. I'll never forget that after the round was over we were sitting on the patio and he told me that I had a beautiful swing but my short game needed a lot of work, especially my wedge play. I tried to focus more on my short game going forward and his words were very encouraging to me. I truly enjoyed getting the opportunity to meet Mr. Campbell."

Ironically enough, Jones, who is the Director of Instruction at River Oaks Country Club in Houston, now works extensively helping members to improve their own short game. He holds many short game clinics along with Junior Golf clinics which Jones really enjoys conducting. "I am excited every morning that I come into the club because I will do something different almost every day. It's the variety that motivates me on a regular basis. Also, I love seeing individual golfers improve."

One of Jones' fondest memories came a few years ago when his former Ohio State golf coach Jim Brown, called him and asked him if he would like to caddie for Jack Nicklaus. As you can imagine, without hesitation Jones excitedly said, "What time should I be there!" Pictured in this edition of the New Crescent is a picture of Jones, Nicklaus and Jones' grandfather, Jack Riggs. "It's a very special picture that I will always cherish," Jones shared.

In catching up with Coach Brown via phone, he said, "We were very fortunate to have Jared come to Ohio State because he was heavily recruited by a



Jack Riggs, Jack Nicklaus, Jared Jones

number of fine schools," Brown who coached for 35 years at OSU said. "He helped to lead us to a Big Ten Conference title."

Brown went on to add, "When Jared was playing at OSU nothing seemed to bother him and he really helped the team because he always had a calming demeanor which would assist his other teammates stay calm as well. Nothing seemed to upset him."

Brown, who led the Buckeyes to 11 top ten finishes in the NCAA Tournament as well as leading OSU to 17 Big Ten championships said, "Jared was a delight to coach, he was a fine driver of the golf ball and an above average ball striker." However, Coach Brown saved his best comment about Jones for last when he stated, "Jared was a true gentleman. I can't tell you the number of opposing players who came to me during Jared's four years on the team and exclaimed to me that Jared was the nicest golfer from another team that they had ever played with. That says so much about Jared's character."

Jones worked as an Assistant Golf Professional at both the Belle Meade Country Club in Nashville, Tennessee and at storied Muirfield Village Golf Club, the course that Nicklaus designed and where The PGA Tour's Memorial Golf Tournament is held each year. He also served a brief time as the Head Golf Professional at Andover Golf & Country Club in Lexington, Kentucky. He then took a huge promotion by accepting his current position where he has been for the last five years.

Matt Swarts, the Director of Golf at River Oaks Country Club where Jones is currently employed remarked it was quite serendipitous that he was able to hire Jones. Swarts said, "I had worked with Jared at Belle Meade and I called him when he was working at Andover and I asked him if he could give me a reference for someone I was thinking of hiring. We talked for a while and then I had an epiphany and it dawned on me that Jared would be perfect for the current position he now holds here at River Oaks." The rest is history.

In talking with Swarts via phone, he echoed what Coach Brown exuded, "I call Jared the 'Gentleman Golf Pro'. There is no nicer person on the face of the planet than Jared Jones. He is well liked by everybody here and he is as good as they come."

Swarts pointed out that Jones worked for one of the top teachers in the country in Jim McLean. "Jared learned a great deal under the watchful eye of McLean and what McLean taught Jared helped him to become an excellent teacher. You know, a whole lot of golf teachers just love to hear themselves talk but not Jared. He always thinks before he speaks so what he says is most meaningful to the person he is instructing. He just doesn't talk to be talking as he wants to see the individual he is working with improve and he takes measures to enhance his pupil's development. So, he listens as much as he talks." Swarts added, "Jared knows his roots and those roots are an important part of who he is. His family laid a great foundation for who he has become today."

Jones is married to Cincinnati native Courtney Harmon who is employed by General Electric. Jones met his wife through mutual friends while they both attended Ohio State. They have one son, Jack who is two years old. "It was Courtney's idea to name him Jack, in honor of my grandfather," Jones noted. Asked if young Jack was swinging a golf club, his dad said he was just learning but having a great time playing at his novice skill level.

When asked about his grandfather Jack, who celebrated his 90th birthday on April 11, Jones became very emotional and exceptionally poignant. He paused for a moment to compose himself and then he stated, "My grandfather is the nicest, kindest man I have ever met. He has been so very caring and extremely supportive throughout my entire life," Jones warmly relayed.

Jones continued by sharing thoughts about other family members. "My dad taught me that a good work ethic is important. He was certainly tough in a way that has truly helped me throughout my life. He said that I needed to put in the time if I wanted to excel concerning anywhere my career path might take me."

"When I was younger and when it came to my summer golf adventures, it was usually my mom who would drive me to various tournaments. She always was positive and tremendously patient, and she was invariably smiling. She would walk each of the holes as a spectator during the tournaments where I participated, even on the hottest of days. I owe a great deal to both of my parents," Jones commented.

"My grandmother Geneva was the happiest person on earth. She was always smiling, she was really nice to everyone and all who knew her were aware of how caring she was," Jones recalled.

It was Jones' grandfather Charles who enjoyed getting up and playing early in the morning. "My dad, both of my grandfathers and me played many 8:00 a.m. scramble events together. My grandfather Charles absolutely loved the game of golf."

Asked about insights that he could share about his grandmother Ann, Jones stated, "She's a hoot. She is so quick-witted which you wouldn't imagine because she is pretty reserved, but she says the funniest things. When she does speak, she speaks with a purpose. I could not have been blessed with any better sets of grandparents," Jones exclaimed.

Jones' sister Jaelyn and her husband Jason Karakehian have been staunch advocates for Jones throughout his golfing career. "Jaelyn and Jason are just kind, thoughtful and smart people who have a great marriage. I'm very fortunate to have them in my life and the efforts they've always made to spend time together with our family. I love them both so much," Jones stated.

*Continued on Pg. 5  
Jones PGA*



Continued from Pg. 4  
Jones PGA

Jones' aunt, Natalie Hemann, writes a cooking column each month for the New Crescent entitled The Crescent Kitchen. Jones stated that his aunt and his Uncle Rick Hemann have given him great inspiration. "Both of them have always been very encouraging in all of my endeavors down throughout the years. As a matter of fact, it's been a group effort from all my family and I'm so thankful for all their loyal support."

Yes, Jones will soon be playing in the PGA Championship in Tulsa but maybe one year Jones can come back and participate in an equally prestigious event, the "Ott Open" and strive to dethrone perennial champion, David Pennington. (As an aside, the author of this article might not have the notoriety of Pen-

nington's caddie, Tom Chenault, but the writer is ready to be a looper at any time that Jones decides to try to take back to Texas the Ott Open Trophy! Now that Jones has qualified for the PGA Championship, maybe he will seek the local knowledge advice of Oklahoma resident and Ceredo native, Mike Watts by both men playing a pre-PGA Championship Tournament practice round at Southern Hills Country Club! Watts intends to attend the PGA event to follow Jared's quest.)

All of the New Crescent family wish Jared the best as he is the first Ceredo-Kenova area golfer to compete in a PGA event and not just any event but the PGA Championship!

## The Crescent Kitchen

**The Crescent Kitchen**  
by Natalie Hemann



You have probably seen (and heard) the commercials on TV advertising the frozen treat "Hot Pockets." I always thought they looked like a tasty and convenient snack. I was going to try them until I looked at the nutritional content and decided I better give them a pass. When I found this recipe I thought this might be a good substitute. You could have these as a snack, for lunch, or serve with a salad for dinner. Give them a try and see what you think. (Now if I could only get that "Hot Pocket" jingle out of my head!)

**Ingredients:**  
2 medium cooked chicken breasts, chopped  
2 strips of cooked bacon  
½ cup shredded cheddar cheese  
1/3 cup prepared Ranch dressing  
1 (8 oz.) can refrigerated crescent rolls

**Directions:**  
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside. Combine chicken, bacon, cheddar cheese, and Ranch dressing. Unroll crescent rolls and pinch the perforation together of two rolls to form one square. You will have four rolls. Spoon chicken mixture onto squares. Bring the 4 corners of the rolls up over the filling. Place on baking sheet and bake for 18 to 20 minutes or until golden brown.

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# Sundays At Donk's

Paul Billups, Editor

With apologies to Robert Fulghum, author of the 1986 best-selling book "All I Really Need to Know I Learned In Kindergarten", most of what I really needed to know I learned during four years of Sundays working at Donk McFann's Pure Oil in South Ceredo.

Looking back, it was a series of fortunate circumstances that provided me the opportunity to learn most things a young teenager should know, and several things a young teenager shouldn't know, during my tenure at Donk's. Someone asked me recently just what I did at Donk's, and my answer was that I was a manager. Since Donk's was a one-man operation, and I was the only person there on Sundays, I suppose that qualified me as the manager. My employment started when I was thirteen, in 1966, and lasted until I graduated from high school.

For clarification to benefit younger readers, until the 1960's people had gathering places. In the days before working two jobs, the internet, and not knowing your neighbors, men tended to gather and talk. Gas stations, barber shops, and pool halls were common venues. Such was the case at McFann's Pure Oil. Every day men stopped by to talk, a wonderfully diverse group of men of all ages and all backgrounds. There could not have been a better place for young ears to learn about the real world.

So just what did I learn from my initial foray into the working world? The first thing was that neither Donk nor my parents gave much thought to child labor laws. Pay at the beginning of my term was four dollars a day, the day being ten hours, six in the morning until four in the afternoon. I'm sure my dad thought I was overpaid, believing the experience gained was worth more than any pay. He was correct.

I learned many basic things about cars – how to check the oil and transmission fluid levels (seems cars used much more oil in those days), how to use an air pressure gauge and properly fill tires, and that bicycle tires will certainly blow-out if too much air is added. I learned that a hot radiator cap should be handled with care. I learned that, according to one of our vendors, there is a proper way to wash a windshield. The fellow drove a nice Buick, never bought gas, but always requested his windshield be cleaned. Invariably, he would remind me of the proper way to wipe the glass clean. I smiled, wiped the glass, and figured either the man or me probably wasn't as smart as we thought we were.

I learned how to change quickly, those being days before credit cards. I learned that "big bills", such as twenties, should be hidden under the cash register drawer to protect them in case of a robbery. I learned that older men generally smoked unfiltered Camel, Chesterfield, or Pall Mall cigarettes, that younger fellows mostly smoked filtered Winstons or Marlboros, and that ladies preferred menthol Salems. They all coughed a lot. I learned that a five-cent King Edward cigar was worth about five cents, maybe less, but the cigar boxes were pretty handy for storing fishing lures and shotgun shells.

I learned that a half-dozen bottles of Pepsi, three or four lunch cakes, and a couple bags of Snyder's Potato Chips during a ten-hour shift would leave even a young man a bit sick. I learned that a great deal of knowledge can be gained by reading a Sunday paper cover-to-cover, and by reading the by-lines on the sports section I learned the location of most major universities.

I may have learned that the gas that forms in the neck of a soft drink bottle when it is opened will kill you. I say I may have learned that, since Harold Ray Perdue claimed it would kill you, and I never mustered the nerve to try and see. To combat this potentially lethal situation I learned to blow across the bottle neck to disperse the gas. That action was usually followed by dumping a five-cent package to Tom's peanuts into the bottle before drinking, a great treat. I learned that RC Cola and Moon Pies really do go together.

I learned that orthopedic treatment was primitive in the 1960's. Local resident Bill Hardwick suffered a knee injury while working for the gas company and his treatment included permanently locking his knee joint. Sure enough, Bill's left leg was as stiff and straight as a board until (and I suppose after) his death. Bill would visit most Sundays, take a seat on the bench located in the station, and while his right foot was on the floor, his left leg stood pointing directly east, stiff as could be. At least, Bill claimed, it didn't hurt. I decided I would accept the pain if that treatment modality was ever suggested to me.

My venture into the gas and oil business being before gambling was legalized in West Virginia, I learned to gamble on the local level – sometimes called pitching pennies. The assembled crowd would toss pennies at a crack in the floor, with the penny closest to the crack winning the three or four other pennies that had been pitched. We operated under the assumption that this gambling was illegal, and if anyone saw Oscar Adkins drive by in a police car we quickly cleaned-up any evidence of our wrongdoing.

I learned that humans are creatures of

habit. Over my four years the same people would come to the station around the same time every Sunday, to buy the same merchandise or get the same amount of gas. My financial acumen increased by watching which customers paid with cash, which customers maintained a "tab", and which of those that were extended credit returned on pay day to clear the tab. From this I left with the knowledge that most people, at least in Ceredo at the time, were very appreciative of being extended credit and returned as promised. I also learned that a manager, such as myself at 14 or 15 years of age, shouldn't presume the authority to extend credit to friends. I spent more than a few Sundays nervously waiting for my friends to come in and take care of charges, but they always did.

There were other things I learned that my parents likely didn't intend for me to learn. I learned that moonshine is distilled to be sipped, and that a first drink can stop your heart as it passes by. I recall the day, now some 55 years later, when a southside fellow proudly came in with a Mason jar of moonshine. Everyone in the station took a sip, youthful ignorance prevailed, and I shortly thought death would be a viable alternative to how I felt. That drink may be one of the reasons that I never developed a desire for alcohol.

I learned that some "men's magazines", while perhaps tame by today's standards for pornography, shouldn't be viewed by teenage boys. One regular customer, a then thirty-something married fellow with a handful of children, would occasionally stop to loaf at Donk's, with a "gentleman's magazine". To fully understand, there were always three or four grown men sitting around in the gas station at any given time, and such viewing probably didn't violate community standards for grown men. There are, however, some things that a fourteen-year-old lad just doesn't need exposed to, with accompanying comments from a group of older fellows. I will write that off as a hazard of the job, and to this day when I see the magazine subscriber around town I chuckle about those memories.

I learned that Jimmy Lee McCoy was the bravest man I ever knew. When the gas tank of his beautiful red Ford Galaxie 500 caught fire while being filled with gas, Jimmy had the courage and good sense to close the gas cap to deprive the fire of oxygen. I know this only by being told after the fact, since when the fire started, I ran at top speed for my life, believing an explosion was imminent and that if the explosion didn't kill me, Donk would. Thanks, Jimmy, for saving me.

I learned that fishermen lie. Every southside fisherman and hunter stopped at Donk's to regale about their success, and even at my tender age I knew much of what I heard simply couldn't have happened. Dealing with these boys did cause me to develop a lifelong interest in the outdoors, and I wish today that we could still spend hours talking about great outdoor adventures. By the way, Junior Akers was probably the best squirrel hunter around, based on the number of squirrel tails attached to his car's radio antenna.

I learned that alcohol breaks things, mostly hearts and noses. At a time when Dr. Phil was still playing linebacker at Wichita State, I spent my teen years offering advice much as Dr. Phil does on television these days (I think Dr. Phil is better paid). Sundays follow Saturday nights, and I quite often found myself listening to stories of loves lost or fights lost or won the night before, with alcohol being the common denominator. I learned that not much good happens in bars. Each week I listened to tales of woe, grown men asking me for advice or confirmation on a myriad of issues, mostly involving domestic relationships. I suppose I listened well, learned a lot, and dispensed the best advice a fourteen-year-old boy that had never been on a date, much less married, could offer. The customers/clients appeared to appreciate my wisdom, such as it was. In retrospect, a lot of southside men needed to complain to someone, and I was handy. That's how life was, and they educated me in the process.

I learned that most people will reciprocate a smile and courteous treatment. I learned that doing one extra thing a day, something not required by the employer but helpful to the business, will make you feel better. I learned that it may not take a town to raise a young man, but a young man's raising will be expedited by exposure to a diverse mix of older fellows every Sunday for four years. There were surely things my parents were proud that I learned, and just as surely there were things my parents didn't need to know that I learned.

I thank every customer that spent time with me at Donk's. I hope my listening helped you, and I hope my advice didn't make your problems worse. I trust you all knew I had absolutely no idea what I was talking about. To those that are still alive, I truly know that each of you tried to help me, in your own way, as I progressed toward manhood. The education was wonderful, and the memories I shall cherish until death. I would do it all again today, if only we could.

# Huff Sees Bright Future

Randy Maynard, Sports Editor

*Editor's Note: (The New Crescent was granted an exclusive one-on-one interview with Marshall University football coach, Charles Huff.*

Coach Charles Huff is eager to begin his second spring practice as the head coach of the Marshall University football team. He believes he has a better grasp of what it will take to mark a sharp improvement from the mediocre 7-6 record his 2021 squad recorded.

"No one was happy with the final record from last season. We just aren't there yet when it comes to a championship culture," Coach Huff stated. "Most of last year's team had not experienced winning a championship, even in high school and since they had not experienced that type of atmosphere it was difficult to instill that winning spirit without the sense of doom and gloom."

As an example, the coach cited the lack of good nutrition. "One of the main reasons we sort of faded in the fourth quarter of games was because we just weren't eating correctly. We saw too many players who made a habit of going to Chipotle's and not eating nutritionally. We had players who shopped at Kroger's but really didn't know what food would be best to fuel their body. Too many on the team bought M & M's instead of a good chicken breast. We are striving to correct that for the coming season by investing the resources needed to bring someone on board to address nutritional needs. For instance, we need to teach the players how to prepare healthy foods properly and not be so dependent on their George Foreman grills." He stated that many of the team's injuries occurred due to poor nutrition. He added, "So, this year, hopefully, we'll have less injuries and in the latter stages of games, due to proper eating habits, our endurance will be much improved."

Coach Huff exclaimed how this year's squad needs to learn to fight through adversity. He said that in almost every game there will come a point where toughness and conditioning is going to matter. "Again, many of our players have not consistently learned how to be tough in adverse moments of games."

Coach Huff was asked about new offensive coordinator Clint Trickett. He likened the transition from former Marshall offensive coordinator, Tim Cramsey, to Trickett, as going from Papa John's Pizza to Domino's Pizza. "It's still pizza just with a little twist from one brand to the other. Coach Trickett will be implementing the offense we basically ran last season but with a few more wrinkles added this year. Due to Coach Trickett's vast offensive experience you'll see more variety offensively. Last year, some of the teams were able to guess the play calling from past experiences they had when they played Marshall. With Coach Trickett, our previous offensive tendencies won't be as prevalent."

What really has Huff excited is the fact that Trickett has not been far removed from playing quarterback in college. Trickett began his playing career at Florida State University before moving on to West Virginia University. He threw for almost 4,000 yards during his college career. "Coach Trickett is close in age to our quarterbacks and I think he will relate well to each of them. Since he played the quarterback position, I know our quarterbacks will have high quality instruction. Plus, another key is the fact that he's had a year on our staff and that can only help."

Speaking of quarterbacks, Coach Huff is excited about the quality of quarterbacks who will be vying for the starting job. Two year starting quarterback, Grant Wells, entered the transfer portal and will suit up for Virginia Tech in the coming season. Coach Huff emphasized that no one quarterback now has an edge. "We'll take a look at all of them during spring ball and have a better idea of what we have."

He emphatically stated that he is looking for a certain individual to be this year's quarterback. "We need someone who will command the team as a leader as leadership matters. Players have to feel like the quarterback is our leader. The right guard might try to lead but ultimately the leader of the team has to be the quarterback."

Coach Huff explained what he was looking for in a leader. "He must have command of the playbook, he must be comfortable in duress situations, he has

to have the physical tools, and the skill set to lead. Coach Huff then made this profound statement, "We have to have a leader of the team not just a leader on the team."

When asked about the possibility of Cole Pennington, the son of former Marshall great Chad Pennington, taking the quarterback reins this year, Coach Huff did not rule out that possibility. "Unlike with other teams, our quarterbacks get equal reps and they are getting multiple reps during each practice. So, yes, Cole, has just as good a chance as anyone else to be our starter this year."

Marshall University Head Football Coach Charles Huff didn't hesitate when he was asked if there was any possibility of having Marshall eventually being a football program in the mode of the University of Cincinnati. You'll recall that last year Cincinnati was included in the four-team National Championship playoff. Although the Bearcats didn't win their semi-final game against Alabama they certainly gained a lot of national respect and proved that a so called "Group of Five" team belonged on the same field as one of the "Blue Bloods" of college football.

"Sure, it's within the realm of possibility we can be there in five years," Coach Huff stated. "However, you have to balance excitement with reality. I can see with the commitment of President Smith (Marshall University President and Kenova native, Brad Smith) and with the new athletic director's (at the time of this interview, new Athletic Director Christian Spears had not yet been hired) full-fledged commitment, there is no reason to think Marshall can't be at least, in five years' time, on the cusp of being ready to compete for a berth in the playoffs." Huff went on to add that it was going to take a total commitment by the players, the coaching staff and the administration but he stressed that it could be done. "There is no doubt in my mind that in five years we should at least be mirroring what the University of Louisiana has done recently." Louisiana defeated Marshall in the R & L Carriers New Orleans Bowl this past December. Louisiana finished the season 13-1 and was ranked Number 16 in the final Associated Press Poll, with its lone defeat at the hands of the University of Texas. "That's a realistic goal and one I hope to achieve and even surpass," Huff said.

When asked about finding in-state talent that could help his squad, Huff point out that it was a daunting task. "In reality, the best football players in the state are dreaming about playing for WVU and that's the main reason WVU tends to get the state's best high school recruits," Huff stated. However, he was quick to add that Marshall had their fair share of local talent on last year's team as he mentioned the development of Logan Osburn, from Cabell-Midland High School and Owen Porter of Spring Valley High School. "Both have become very nice players for us because of their work ethic and commitment to get better," Huff exclaimed.

Coach Huff was quizzed about his always stepping on the gas when it came to his offensive philosophy. "It's tough to slow down the offense even when situations call for the offense to slow down. Our team executes in rhythm and if we slow it down it gets us out of rhythm and that can be disastrous," Huff noted"

Having said all of this Coach Huff recognized that last year in certain situations late in games when some things should have been changed and it could have led to victories instead of defeats. "You can change the tempo without changing the rhythm. For instance there were occasions when we should have sent the play in a little slower, we could have manipulated the clock in a better fashion and still maintained our rhythm, stated Huff."

Coach Huff would not offer a prediction on the number of wins and losses his team would have this season, he did say that his squad should be improved. "We getting to where we need to be, it's just going to take a little more time," Huff exclaimed.

There were more questions to be raised but Coach Huff had graciously extended our allotted interview time with the New Crescent by fifteen minutes, so the interview session ended.

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