

## **Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session September 7, 2021**

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 7th, 2021 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 Oscar Adkins, Steve Diamond, Ron Jarrell, Robert Leslie and Joe Ratcliff.

### **Reading and Approval of the Minutes**

The Mayor asked if Council had any additions or corrections to the minutes of the August 2nd, 2021 Regular Session. None being heard and on a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Oscar Adkins, Council voted to accept the minutes of the August 2nd, 2021 Regular Session 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 August 2021. The Mayor asked if Council had any questions on the Treasurer's Report. None being heard and on a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Joe Ratcliff, Council voted to accept the Treasurer's report for August 2021 as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

### **Main Street Sanitary Sewer Project**

A discussion was held on the status of the sanitary sewer project located in the 500 block of Main Street, with work to continue by the sewer department.

### **Terence Moran, Potesta and Associates**

Mr. Terence Moran of Potesta and Associates provided a status report on the proposed 6th Street West Sanitary Sewer Project.

Discussions were also held regarding the long-standing storm sewer issue along Greenwood Drive and Fairwood Lane. The sewer department is in the process of doing camera inspections of all lines in anticipation of engineering work.

### **Walkers' Branch Pump Station**

A discussion was held regarding the Walkers' Branch Pump Station and the steps that can be taken to identify problem areas.

### **C-K AutumnFest Donation**

The Mayor advised Council the Town had received a request for the annual \$1,000 donation to the C-K AutumnFest. On a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Ron Jarrell, Council voted to provide the annual \$1,000 donation to the C-K AutumnFest. All were in favor, motion carried.

### **Tri-State Airport**

The Mayor informed Council the annual \$5,000 donation to the Tri-State Airport was due. On a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Oscar Adkins, Council voted to pay the annual \$5,000 donation to the Tri-State Airport. All were in favor, motion carried.

### **Cafeteria Roof**

The Mayor reported to Council that the cafeteria roof at the Wellness Center was in need of repair and that the Town had received an estimated cost for the repairs in the amount of \$46,758.

The matter was tabled until the October 2021 meeting.

### **Veterans' Day Parade**

The Mayor advised Council of a letter the Town had received from the American Legion, in which they were requesting a permit to hold the annual Veterans' Day Parade on November 6, 2021. The permit was granted.

### **City of Kenova Dedication**

The Mayor advised Council they had been invited by the City of Kenova to attend the dedication of a newly renovated municipal building, which would serve to house the police and fire department offices. The dedication ceremony had been scheduled for September 11th, 2021 at 3:00p.m.

### **Sweet Gum Tree Removal**

The Mayor reported that six (6) sweet gum trees had been removed, which would help alleviate the tree debris from collecting in the storm sewer and creating a hazard for cyclists.

### **Beautification Building Rebuild**

A discussion was held regarding the re-building of the beautification building that burned earlier this year. The matter was tabled until the regular meeting in October, 2021.

### **Canoe/Kayak Access at 12-Pole Creek**

The Mayor recommended the Town purchase a 16-foot boat from David Patrick at a cost of \$1,200 to be used in the development of a Canoe/Kayak Access along 12-Pole Creek. On a motion by Oscar Adkins and a second by Joe Ratcliff, Council voted to approve the purchase of the pontoon boat from David Patrick at a cost of \$1,200. All were in favor, motion carried.

### **Repair of Garbage Truck**

The Mayor presented Council with an estimate in the amount of \$7,200 to repair the hydraulics in the backup garbage truck. On a motion by Oscar Adkins and a second by Steve Diamond, Council voted to approve the \$7,200 expenditure for the hydraulic repairs to the backup garbage truck. All were in favor, motion carried.

### **Church of Christ**

The Church of Christ had approached Council about placing a roof over 4-1/2 alley, which would help with the loading and unloading of parishioners during foul weather. Council agreed to revisit the request once the plans have been submitted.

### **Unsafe Housing Notices**

The Mayor reported on properties to be evaluated by the Unsafe Housing Committee.

### **UTV for Floodwall Use**

The Mayor presented Council with an estimate for a John Deere Gator UTV to be used during maintenance of the floodwall. The cost is \$11,200.

Council approved the purchase of the John Deere Gator UTV at a cost of \$11,200. All were in favor, motion carried.

### **Stipend for COVID Vaccines**

Council approved an incentive payment to all full-time employees who have been fully vaccinated against the COVID virus. Funds for this incentive will come from the CARES Act monies received by the Town for use in mitigating the spread of the virus.

### **Police Department Report**

Chief of Police, Tony Poston, reported on the upcoming training scheduled for the police officers in 2022.

### **Adjournment**

The Mayor adjourned the regular session and took the meeting into executive session.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BILLUPS, MAYOR**

A new term, "Learnability Quotient", is now in vogue for professional headhunters and search groups paid to identify the best candidates to lead national or international corporations. In today's world, companies realize that a leader's ability to learn and adapt to our changing world are as important as IQ and prior education.

Pondering this idea caused me to consider just what I have learned over the past four years as Mayor of Ceredo. Much, it seems.

I accepted this position knowing that water, and sewage, runs downhill. I have confirmed that knowledge, but have learned that those liquids will indeed run uphill when a water or sewer line is clogged, uphill all the way into a resident's garage, basement toilet, or any other path of least resistance.

I have learned that when C.B. Hoard laid out the house sites in Ceredo, a twenty-five-foot-wide lot was apparently wide enough to accommodate a house, and since no-one owned a car at the time, Mr. Hoard obviously didn't worry about on-street parking. Since 1857, cars were invented and people in Ceredo love them, every household owning two or three. Being a relatively quick learner, with the first parking complaint I grasped that three cars won't fit in front of a twenty-five-foot lot. I also learned that neighbors aren't happy sharing their twenty-five feet of curb space.

Within six months on the job, I learned

that the Department of Environmental Protection makes random inspections of municipal sewer systems. Indeed, the DEP randomly appears on the same day that we have a sewer line break that releases sanitary sewage into Twelve Pole or the Ohio River.

Being an outdoorsman of sorts, I came to this position with a fair knowledge of trees, especially those that produce mast for wildlife. It was only after sitting in the mayor's chair that I learned that as pretty as acorns falling from Pin Oak trees may be in the woods, they aren't nearly so endearing when they are falling on top of those three cars parked in front of a twenty-five-foot residential lot.

I didn't know much about the concept of grinder pumps in sewer systems until I became Mayor. Exercising my Learnability Quotient, I have learned that by using a grinder pump inside a sewage collection cannister, sewage can be forced uphill and eventually to a gravity line for treatment. The engineer that invented this system, undoubtedly very intelligent and now very wealthy, created a way for persons living on the outskirts of town to connect to a modern sewage system and do away with septic tanks. I then learned that the engineer failed to inform purchasers that these grinder pumps have a shelf life of around twenty years, and most of those on Ceredo's system were installed around twenty years ago. I suppose I adapted by

finding the most reasonably priced dealer for replacement grinder pumps.

I took this job knowing that most water and sewer lines are underground. I have learned that these lines are difficult to locate without a map, and that if a map exists the lines remain difficult to locate if the hundred maps possessed by the town aren't filed or labeled or maintained in some orderly fashion. The real spark of knowledge in this regard was learning that Doug Adkins has a divining rod, some would say a bent coat hanger, that actually works, sometimes, to locate underground lines. I will withhold comment as to whether it is the instrument actually working, or whether Doug has some supernatural power.

These four years have been a learning experience indeed. I may not score high on the "Learnability Quotient" scale, but as is evident from this tongue-in-cheek review, I have been forced to look at many things with a closer eye. Common, every day occurrences, like a beautiful summer rainstorm, now jump start my LQ and send me directly to where I have learned that storm drains may be blocked or garages flooded. I can only hope that I will continue my education, adapt as required, and still be able to chuckle at all the things I didn't know when I became your mayor.



## Employee of the Month



Neilie Carroll

Ceredo Senior Wellness Center employee Neilie Carroll is the Employee of the Month for October, 2021. Neilie is a 2002 graduate of Spring Valley High School, and recently moved from Kenova to her new home in Park Terrace.

At the Fitness Center, Neilie works at the main desk where she maintains the registration book and assists clients. Through her friendship with the regular members of the Fitness Center, Neilie was a natural hire for the town and her work has been exemplary.

In addition to her work for the town, Neilie enjoys babysitting and is active with the Kenova Church of Christ. “Neilie is a perfect person for this job,” said Fitness Center manager Jeanetta Ferrell. “Every member loves her, and she performs her work very diligently. Neilie is really a ‘people person,’ and is proving to be a great town employee.”



The annual Trick or Treat celebration in Ceredo, cancelled in 2020 due to COVID restrictions, will return this year on Thursday, October 28. Ceredo’s streets will be open to ghosts, ghouls, and goblins from 5 to 7 p.m. that evening. The date is in conjunction with the celebration in Kenova and Catlettsburg.

The Ceredo Halloween Street Party, a long-running celebration usually held on B Street in front of Town Hall, has once again been cancelled due to COVID. “The Town is simply worried about bringing a crowd of several hundred persons together in close proximity at the Street Party,” said Mayor Paul Billups. “We certainly don’t like cancelling this event, but in the interests of safety this is a necessary action. Given that the Street Party involves numerous food items being passed to the attendees, the risk of transmission is too

great. The party will return in 2022, hopefully bigger and better than ever.”

Ceredo residents are urged to exercise caution and common sense during the Trick or Treat celebration. Our elderly or at-risk residents should avoid contact with the several hundred children walking door-to-door. Please consider having a younger relative hand out candy, or simply turn off your porch light and don’t participate in the event this year. While we want our children to enjoy the experience of Trick or Treat, we don’t want to place any of our at-risk residents in harm’s way. Please make well-reasoned decisions regarding participation this year.

The Ceredo Police Department will have extra staff on hand to control traffic and protect our children during the evening of this celebration.

## Parades

Two of Ceredo’s largest parades are scheduled to take place in the upcoming weeks. The Autumnfest Parade will be held on Tuesday, October 26, beginning at 6 p.m. The Veteran’s Day Parade, sponsored by American Legion Post 93, will be held on Saturday, November 6, with a noon start time.

The routes for both parades will be as follows: participants will form on B Street in Ceredo, starting at the intersection of Main Street and lining-up to the East on B Street; the actual parades will start at Ceredo Town Hall and travel West on B Street to 6th Street, turn left on 6th Street to Route 60, then turn right of Route 60 to the ending

point at 14th Street in Kenova.

Persons interested in participation in the Autumnfest Parade may contact the committee at [info@ckautumnfest.com](mailto:info@ckautumnfest.com) or C-K Autumnfest, P.O. Box 442, Kenova, WV 25530. Persons interested in the Veteran’s Day Parade may contact the American Legion Post 93 at 304-453-6722.

Due to the recent spike in COVID activity, all participants and parade onlookers are urged to exercise common sense with regard to social distancing.

## New Golden Girl Facility Opens

Golden Girl Group Home is preparing for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Golden Minds Center for Learning & Development and the Golden Treasures Resale Shop on Friday, October 15th at 2pm. Located just five minutes from its main campus in Ceredo, WV, this new construction at 725 Main Street has been three years in the making.

The Golden Minds Center for Learning & Development will provide teachers specializing in the education of traumatized children to help residents of Golden Girl close the educational gap created by abuse and neglect. Statistics show that foster youth are generally one to two years behind in school. The Center for Learning will provide the residents of Golden Girl with supplemental education to successfully earn their high school diploma on time. A second classroom at the Center will be used to provide entrepreneurial skills and workforce development training to residents over 17. When not in use by Golden Girl, this room will be a training room/event venue available to be used by the public for a suggested donation.

The Golden Treasures Resale Shop will sell donated and consigned items and will be marketed as a destination for the local community and constituents of Golden Girl to provide additional



Before

assistance. The shop will create revenue to help provide recreational therapy and other needs of Golden Girl residents. Golden Girls over 18 seeking supplemental income while they obtain a post-secondary degree will have the opportunity to be employed there as well.

“This may be our greatest project yet!” said Nikki Thomas, Development Director. “We can’t wait to show the community and everyone who has donated their time and resources to this Learning Center. It will be life-changing for our girls!” The Golden Minds Center for Learning & Development and Golden Treasures Resale Shop will provide Golden Girl residents with the education and skills needed to be successful as they transition to adult life. Mrs. Thomas expects all of the girls enrolled in the program to complete high-school and be able to earn gainful employment. Anyone interested in learning how they can contribute to this worthy endeavor can contact



After

Nikki Thomas at 304-939-5726 or [nthomas@gggh.org](mailto:nthomas@gggh.org).

The ribbon cutting is set for Friday, October 15th at 2:00 pm, and Golden Girl expects many of its most valuable supporters, including state and county officials, to be in attendance.

This project was completed in conjunction with the Town of Ceredo’s urban restoration program. Two dilapidated houses that had become eyesores in South Ceredo were demolished to make room for the new structure.

### About Golden Girl Group Home:

Founded in 1983, Golden Girl is a home for abused, neglected and abandoned girls from WV between the ages of 12-18. They also provide transitional living apartments for girls over 18 who need help transitioning into adult life. Golden Girl is a non-profit and relies on donations from corporations, foundations, and private donors around the U.S.



David “The Clock Man” Grizzle with the Ceredo Town Clock

## Town Clock Refurbished

The Ceredo town clock, located in front of Town Hall since 2002, has been completely refurbished and is once again a showpiece for the town. For many years the light function of the clock did not work, and for the past several years the time function of the clock had been inoperable.

With the assistance of master clockmaker David Grizzell of Ashton, WV, the entire clockworks were removed and repaired with new motors, new wiring was installed, the original neon lighting inside the clock faces was replaced with LED lights that can be color-changed, and the exterior of the clock was refreshed with new black and gold paint.

Ceredo residents can once again be proud of the municipal clock, and the changing colors for special occasions and seasonal celebrations should be enjoyed by all. Our thanks to the “The Clock Man” for his professional work on this project.

## ROCCOS RESTORANTE

“Fine Foods with a Personal Touch”

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

SUN TUES WED THUR  
5PM to 10PM

FRI SAT 5PM to 10:30 PM

252 MAIN ST CEREDO  
453-3000



## Obituaries



**Thomas Edward Kendrick**  
Thomas Kendrick, 72, formerly of Ceredo, passed from this life on September 13, 2021, while residing in Gadsden, Alabama. Born June 1, 1949, Tom was the son of Clarence and Eloise Ken-

drick and grandson of Jay and Maude Perdue Kendrick, former proprietors of Kendrick's Grocery in South Ceredo. A graduate of Buffalo High School, Tom was involved with the Buffalo Valley FFA and for many years in his youth played sandlot baseball and football in the old pony pasture. Prior to moving to Alabama, Tom worked in the health care industry in Huntington. A kind and gentle person, Tom spent his retirement in Alabama building puzzles, listening to old-time music and watching old television shows. Always happy, Tom could brighten

a room with his personality and never forgot his roots in Ceredo, maintaining his subscription to the New Crescent and providing information about South Ceredo from time to time.

### Wilson "Blackie" Stowers

Blackie Stowers, 95, died on October 13, 2021, following a brief illness. One of Ceredo's most favored sons, Blackie was a life-long resident and proud veteran of the United States Navy, serving in WWII. A man of remarkable resilience and character, Blackie

visited American Legion Post 93 on a daily basis until days before his passing. Blackie played golf, well, until he was 93 years of age, and when he became unable to drive his car at age 94, he walked every day from his South Ceredo residence to the American Legion. David McComas and members of Post 93 are commended for the care and assistance they provided to Blackie in his waning days. Preceded in death by his wife, Azile, and son, Little Blackie, this man was a community hero and one of our last members of the "Greatest Generation."

## Around Town

Special thanks to the Beautification Committee for the seasonal decorations on our municipal buildings and common areas. The corn-stalk horse and wagon that was used on Route 60 for several years was out of commission this year, the wagon having been destroyed in the Beautification Building fire last February. Community volunteer Tom Jarrell provided technical assistance in building frames for several of the new decorations. The Committee also purchased new banners that are now on display around town, these being replacements of older banners that were destroyed in the fire.

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The annual Water Sanitary Survey of our water system was conducted by the state in September. Congratulations to Water Company superintendent Doug Adkins, as the survey found no serious violations. Doug has done a great job for over forty years in maintaining our water utility.

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The nationally famous Pumpkin House, sometimes known as the residence of Sandi and Ric Griffith, will again be open for tourists this year. In addition to the 3,000 carved and lighted pumpkins, the house this year will display a pumpkin weighing 1,800 pounds and change, grown in Ft. Gay. Ric has enlisted a sculptor to assist in the carving of the monstrous gourd, which promises to be one of the more unique items ever displayed. During the Autumnfest celebration on October 29-30, celebrity guests will also be in attendance at the Pumpkin House.



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The Ceredo Senior Fitness Center will honor our local veterans with a luncheon at the Center on November 10. The fitness group does an excellent job of recognizing members, and has developed into not only a fitness center but also a community gathering place. Jeanetta Ferrell, Neilie Carroll, and volunteers headed by Karin Dawson at the Center should be commended for their service to the town.

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The Ceredo Crescent Hill Cemetery Board, in conjunction with the Daughters of the American Revolution and Blue Star Mothers, are again participating in the Wreaths Across America program. The organization hopes to place a wreath on the grave of every veteran buried at Crescent Hill, a number of around 170 graves. The wreaths, purchased through the national organization, cost \$10 each. To offset the costs, the Board will be sending letters to families of interred veterans, asking for donations. Residents wishing to help this most worthy program may send donations to the Cemetery Board at Town Hall, PO Box 691, Ceredo, WV 25507.

On a December date to be announced, a short ceremony will be held at Crescent Hill prior to community volunteers placing the wreaths on each veteran's grave. Family members are urged to attend the ceremony and assist with the placing of the wreaths.

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Former Ceredo resident Don Perdue recently had an article published in the Herald Dispatch concerning his days at Mitch Stadium and lifelong loyalty to the New York Yankees. Hopefully, the New Crescent will be able to reprint this article which speaks volumes about our loyalties established when baseball was truly "America's National Pastime."

### HONOR ROLL

Eleanor Terry.....	10/21
Jim Billups.....	02/22
Paul and Kathy Billups.....	10/21
Mike and Susan Watts.....	10/22
Leigh Ann Johnson.....	04/22
Connie & Mark Beford.....	10/21
Dinah and Dale Ledbetter.....	10/22
Katrina Childers.....	07/22
In Memory of Alberta "Dossie" & Sherman Medley ..	04/22
In Memory of Charles & Dorothy Watts.....	10/21
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
CUMC.....	12/21
Roberta and Charlie Mitchell.....	03/22
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
Susann Meurer.....	12/21
Robert & Mary Lee Leslie.....	01/22
Taylor Booth.....	03/22
Michael & Debby Hibbard.....	04/22
Susan & Stephen Woolwine.....	04/22
Gary & Marsha Adkins.....	04/22
John Hall.....	04/22
Tyler Dawson, DDS.....	10/22

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](mailto:info@ceredowv.gov).

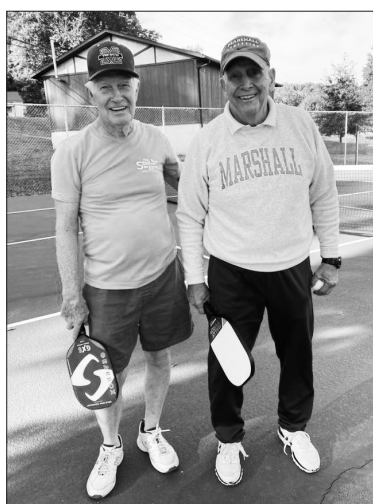
## Pickleball Tournament

C-K Autumnfest is sponsoring the first annual Autumnfest Pickleball Tournament, being held on Friday evening, October 22 and Saturday, October 23. In the event of weather delays the tournament will extend to Sunday afternoon, October 24. Elimination round games are scheduled for the Ceredo outdoor courts in Paul T. Billups Park. Semi and final rounds will take place at the Ceredo indoor pickleball facility at the Senior Wellness Center.

The event will consist of doubles competition in two classes, novice and open, to accommodate players of varying skill levels. Registration is limited to the first 40 novice players, with partners being assigned by blind draw, and the first 20 open division teams, where players enter as a doubles team.

Persons wanting to enter may obtain an application on the Autumnfest website at "[info@ckautumnfest.com](mailto:info@ckautumnfest.com)" or by picking up an application at Ceredo Town Hall or the Senior Wellness Center. Registrations must be received by the Autumnfest Committee by October 15.

Awards to the winners and runners-up in each division will be provided by the Ceredo Pickleball Club. Each participant will receive a t-shirt provided by the Autumnfest Committee. This should be an exciting event with many local players. Interested persons are invited to watch the competition at either venue. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America, and participation at the Ceredo facilities has been excellent. The growth of the sport is due in large part to the fact that the game may be played equally well by persons of all ages. Persons interested in trying the sport may contact Ceredo Town Hall to arrange a free introductory lesson. No equipment is required.



Bo Evans and Tom Castle preparing for the tournament

# PUMPKINBALL Tournament

**Early Rounds: October 22nd-23rd**

**Semi-Finals & Finals: October 28th**

**Ceredo PickleBall Courts | 399 High St.**

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**Entry Fee:**

**\$25/Team (Open Division)**

**\$15/Person (Novice Division)**

*Proceeds benefit C-K Ministerial Association's Good Samaritan Center*

*View/Print Registration Form at:*

**[www.CKAutumnFest.com](http://www.CKAutumnFest.com)**

**Deadline for registration is October 15, 2021**

**WHO DO YOU THINK WILL WIN?**



## Red River Ryder Cup

The 2021 Red River Ryder Cup matches took place on October 2-3, 2021 at The Oak Hills Country Club in Ada, Oklahoma. The 2020 match was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and this year's event had to be moved from its normal venue at The Dornick Hills Golf & Country Club in Ardmore, Oklahoma, which is closed for the next twelve months for a major renovation. This nationally known course was designed by the very well-known and respected golf course architect - Perry Maxwell, who designed and built The Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Maxwell is also credited with doing revision work on Augusta National Golf Club and Pine Valley Golf Club.

The Red River Ryder Cup (RRRC) is an annual invitational event held annually between 30 two-man teams from Texas and Oklahoma. These matches are patterned after the Ryder Cup matches run by PGA and Royal & Ancient golf organizations. The format consists of three nine hole two-man team matches and an individual singles match by each team member – a total of five points per team is at stake. Day One – has a 2-man scramble and a best ball match. Day Two – has an alternate shot match with an individual singles match by each team member – that being the last match of the tournament. The team accumulating the most total team points wins or in case of a tie, retains the Red River Ryder Cup for the next twelve months.

As The New Crescent readers may remember, the organizers of the Red River Ryder Cup, as a way of honoring the contributions to golf made by the well-known all-around athlete and sportsman, Elba Gene “Hush Puppy” Cox, had extended a special and unprecedented “at large” invitation to the winners of the 2020 Hal McFann Pure Oil Cup to participate in the 2020 Red River Ryder Cup. This year's match had special meaning

to Cox, coming just a few months after the Summer Olympic games in Tokyo. The Tokyo games brought back bitter-sweet memories to Cox. Many older Ceredo residents will remember that Cox was a favorite to make the 1960 Olympic team as a member of the USA table tennis team, but an injury suffered while pitching an exhibition fast pitch softball game against Eddie Feigner's The King and His Court, prevented “The Pup” from securing a spot on the 1960 Olympic team – a spot he was almost certain to earn.

Due to 2020 RRRC event being cancelled the invitation to the Ceredo team was intended to be carried forward to the 2021 event. Unfortunately, due to the passing of key team member Clarence Pratt in April of 2021 (due to the Covid-19 virus) along with health issues and travel considerations of some other key team members, Cox was reluctant to send his team to the Oklahoma event. The team was originally meant to consist of Cox (as playing captain), Pratt, David Pennington and Gary Runyon. Cox said, “the safety of my team is paramount to me and this is just not the right time to travel. As much as I want to represent Ceredo and the McFann Pure Oil franchise, I can't risk the health of our remaining team members. Hal, Thelma, and Jon would surely understand.”

With that in mind and with the approval of the RRRC organizers, Cox designated his vice -captain, Mike Watts, a former Ceredo resident and CKHS graduate and who now resides in Edmond, Oklahoma, to select a team to represent Ceredo and Cox's Hal McFann Pure Oil Cup team in this year's RRRC competition. Watts, who acted as a playing vice-captain, was able to get approval for three two-man teams to compete in this year's event. Watts said that this would hopefully be a way to honor Cox and the Town of Ceredo.



Harley Cobb, Jr. and Mike Watts with Red River Ryder Cup

Play concluded at 2:30pm Sunday afternoon on October 3rd. The scores were quickly tabulated and Watts was proud to report that the Oklahoma teams defeated the men from Texas 78 points to 75 ½ points and retained the cup won at the 2019 competition. The three teams selected by Watts to represent Ceredo in the matches were major contributors in the victory by the Oklahoma team – they won 10 ½ points of a possible 15 points in play. The Edmond, Oklahoma teams selected to represent Ceredo and “The Pup's” Hal McFann Pure Oil Cup team were honored to be part of Ceredo golfing history.

*“I couldn't be more proud of Mike and the fellows that represented Ceredo. I'm certain that if our original team would have been able to make the trip the match wouldn't have been so close, but we appreciate the efforts of the stand-in team and hope that by next year our boys will be able to compete,” said Cox. “With this event now behind us, I intend to concentrate on pickleball and plan to win the C-K Autumnfest Pickleball Tournament later this month.”*

## Lessons from a Keurig – Pastor Jeffrey F. Canterbury, First Baptist Church of Ceredo.

If you're like me, one of the first things you do when you get up in the morning is make a cup of coffee. Or as Dolly Parton says in the song “9 to 5,” a “cup of ambition.” Since I'm the only one in my house at the time who drinks coffee, I don't use a “traditional” coffee pot; I use a Keurig. One of the distinguishing features of a Keurig, if you've ever seen or used one, is the water tank on the side that must be filled for you to make that cup of java. If it doesn't have water in it, then (like mine) a little light will flash and a message will appear on the little touch screen saying, “Please Add Water.” That happened to me (again) the other morning. Still with only one eye open, just enough to put the coffee grounds in the pod, I saw the flashing light with the on-screen reminder. I couldn't make coffee until I put more water in the tank.

Instantly, the Lord gave me a thought through that experience. How many times in life do I try to “make coffee,” so to speak, without “water” in my tank? To use another analogy, how far down the road do you think you would be able to drive on an empty gas tank? Unfortunately, there are lots of people who live their lives just like that. I would count myself in that number at

times. We go through life “running on fumes” at best, or on “empty” at worst. And we don't take the time to “refill the tank.” If we're not careful, we'll come to the time when, like the Keurig, as much as we might push the button to make the coffee, without the water in the tank, it's just not going to happen. We can “hit the wall,” so to speak, and reality just slaps us in the face. The fact of the matter is, we ALL live our lives too busy. Between jobs, sports, school, social events, and even (I hope) church, we don't have what many psychologists call “margin.” And if we do have some, it's probably razor thin.

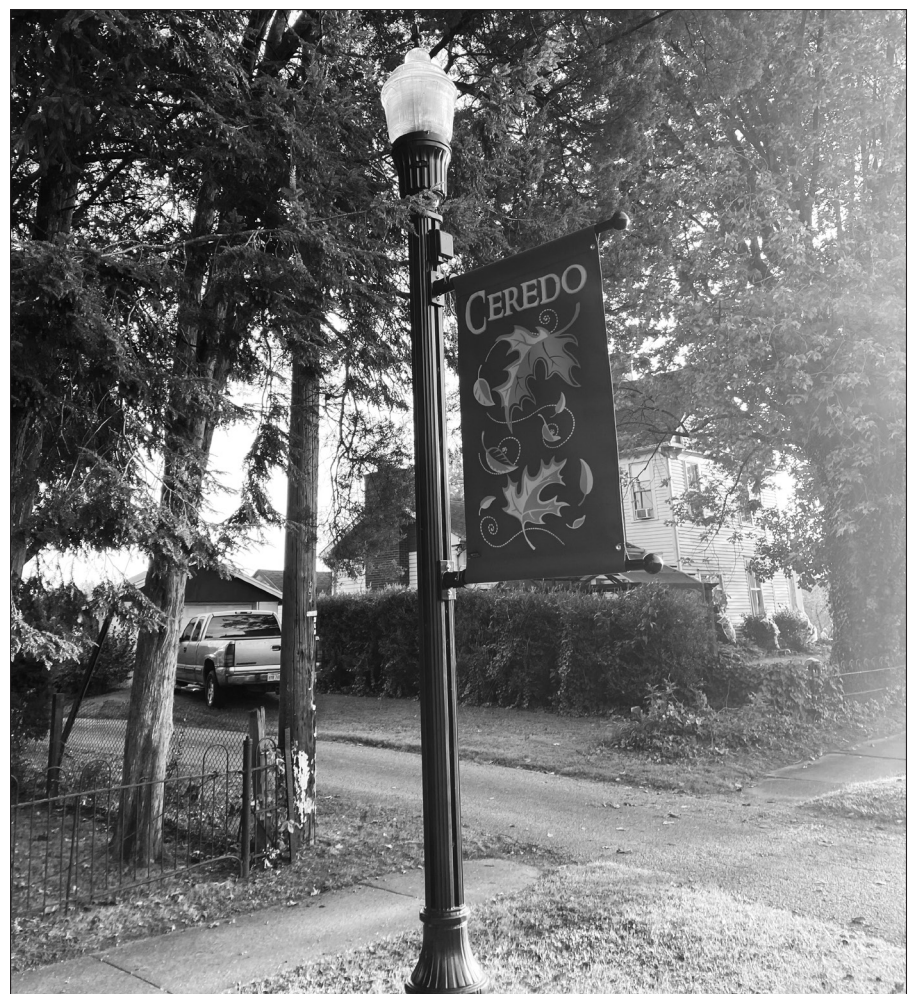
While space in this small column doesn't allow for an extensive list of ways to “refill the tank,” I would like to share one verse from the Bible that I believe speaks to this. Jesus said in Matthew 11:28, “Come unto me, all you are a weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” He recognizes our work and the weariness that often comes from it. But then, he also promises that IN HIM, we can “find rest for our souls.” Why not take a little time out of your day and “come to Jesus”? Take a moment just to breathe in his presence and grace. Rest, replenish, and refill your soul with the Savior. I guar-

antee to you, Jesus can fill you with himself, and you will find the spiritual resources you need to not “run on empty.” Why not “fill your tank” today?

*Jeffrey F. Canterbury is the pastor of the First Baptist Church, 448 Main Street, Ceredo, WV. For more information about the church, including service times and archived messages, please*

*visit the church's website at [www.fbcceredo.com](http://www.fbcceredo.com). Or you can call the church at 304-453-2092. All Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version of the Bible. If you have any questions related to the Bible you would like answered, please send them to [Pastor Jeff at fbcceredo.com](mailto:PastorJeff@fbcceredo.com) or mail them to P.O. Box 967, Ceredo, WV 25507.*

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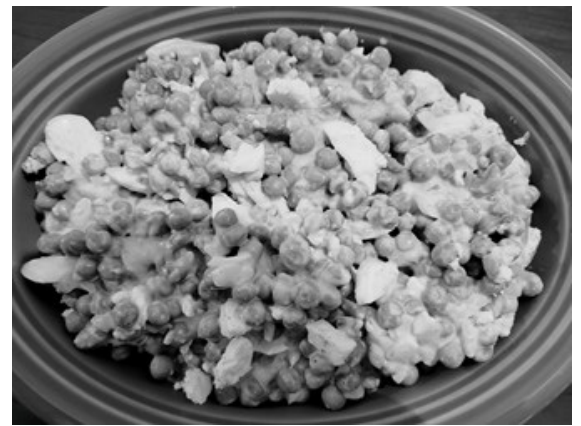
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## The Crescent Kitchen

### Pea-tato Salad by Natalie Hemann



I am not one who watches their carb intake....as you can tell by my recipes! I made this one day because I didn't know what to have for lunch and I had peas leftover from dinner the night before. I started adding mayonnaise, onions, etc. and by the time I had finished, I had made potato salad, but with peas. I was surprised how close I thought it tasted to REAL potato salad. If you are watching your carb intake and crave potato salad, try pea-tato salad!

**Ingredients:**  
2 - 16 oz. cans of peas  
2/3 cup mayo  
1/3 cup mustard  
2/3 cup onions  
1/3 cup sweet pickle relish  
2 hard boiled eggs, chopped  
cayenne pepper or paprika

**Directions:**  
Mix first five ingredients together and top with boiled eggs; top with paprika or for a little heat, use cayenne pepper.

### \*September Correction Seven Minute Frosting

**Ingredients:**  
1 1/2 cups Sugar  
1/3 cup Cold Water  
2 Large Egg Whites  
1/4 tsp. Cream of Tartar  
Pinch of Salt  
1 tsp. Vanilla Extract

**Directions:**  
In the top of a double boiler, combine the sugar, water, egg whites, cream of tartar, and the pinch of salt. Beat with an electric mixer at low speed for 1 minute, then set the pan over, but not touching, the simmering water. Continue beating at high speed for about 7 minutes or until it's stiff and glossy. Remove from the heat; add the vanilla and beat for another 2 minutes. Use right away, as the frosting will set quickly.



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## Sundays at Donk's

The first gasoline service station in Wayne County was located on the northeast corner of Main and High Streets in Ceredo. When the station was built by Ceredo's first-family of gas and oil entrepreneurs, the McFann family, the station sat hard beside the James River Turnpike, then the major roadway between Huntington and points east to Kentucky. Route 60 didn't exist, and if a person was traveling by paved road from Huntington or going to Wayne, the person by necessity passed McFann's Pure Oil.

The longest continuous proprietor of South Ceredo's filling station was Clyde "Donk" McFann, thus the station was simply known to locals as "Donk's," likely so that it wouldn't be confused with a later-built Pure Oil station located at the intersection of Route 60 and B Street operated by Hal McFann, appropriately known locally as "Hal's." Those of us in Ceredo certainly knew how to identify our Pure Oil stations!

Donk's Pure Oil was open six days a week from the 1920's until the mid-1950's when the prevalence of vehicles caused an exception to Blue Laws, or Sunday Closing Laws, in most states. Realizing that a business must adapt to changing times, Donk's decision to open on Sundays was tempered only by his decision not to work seven days a week. Donk's, you see, was a one-man operation until this time.

Times being different than they are today, Donk had a waiting line of young men and experienced service station attendants alike wanting the Sunday job. For reasons long since lost with Donk's passing, he decided to employ young men from South Ceredo to man the station on Sunday. I was fortunate enough to land this position in 1965, at the age of fourteen. The hours were six in the morning until four in the afternoon, the pay was four dollars a day, cash, plus two 12-ounce bottle of Pepsi per shift. I suppose my parents, Donk, and whoever enforced child labor laws figured any detriment or risk of harm was outweighed by the benefit that would come to me by holding a responsible job and earning pocket money. Little did they know that much of what I learned about the world would come from four years of Sundays at Donk's.

The station proper was a white stucco one-room building, trimmed in Pure Oil royal blue, with two traffic lanes on the north side, one covered, one not, on either side of two gas pumps. Across the traffic lanes was a small wooden building where cans of 10W-40 oil were stored. There were small patches of grass on the east and west sides of the building, each with a maple tree. On the far east side was a water pump, the kind that goes to a well and must literally be pumped by a handle. Water was free, and many folks came by every Sunday to fill jugs for home use. On the west side of the property was an air pump, free to anyone needing to fill a car tire, bicycle tire, or basketball. Outside the station, on the west wall, a "Western Union" sign was attached. By the time of my employment Donk's had no telegraph machine, or telephone for that matter.

Inside the station was an oak counter on which sat an old manual cash register, two glass jars with red metal tops provided by Tom's Peanuts, one holding five-cent packages of peanuts, the other holding ten-cent packages of peanut butter crackers, or "nabs." Nearest the north door on the counter was a Snyder's Potato Chip display, the metal kind with a clamp for each nickel bag of chips. Behind the cash register was a spiral notebook that served as Donk's credit department. It was not uncommon for locals to "put it on the tab" and settle their accounts on pay day.

There was a cigarette rack behind the glass candy display case, holding most every brand of cigarettes. Pall Mall, Camel, and Winston were the best sellers of the time, at thirty-two cents a pack. Cigars, the best a man could buy for five cents, were in a wooden King Edward box on top of the candy display case, space shared by the selection of lunch cakes and pies. With first the glass plant, then ANR located on adjoining property, there was a demand for these items by hungry workers. The Boston Cream Pie lunch cakes were particularly good, that coming from a person that ate one nearly every Sunday as he read the Herald-Advertiser cover to cover while waiting on the next customer.

The candy case was something to behold, an oak case with a curved-glass front. The bottom shelf held "penny candy," every

type imaginable, at a time when extra pennies were actually used to buy candy for children. Single pieces of bubble gum were the best-selling item, followed by small Tootsie Rolls. The top shelf inside the case held candy bars at five cents each. The case was always filled with major brands, Mallo Cups and Pay Days being most often purchased.

A single wooden chair with a soft cushion sat beside an old wooden desk on the south wall, beneath the largest set of deer antlers anyone in Ceredo had ever seen at the time. Deer had not yet been introduced to Wayne County, and the old antlers of unknown origin were an attraction for fifty years. A mirror-fronted cabinet was directly below the antlers, and inside the cabinet were road maps, the type every gas station once provided at no cost, showing the United States in all its glory. Only a partial interstate highway system existed, but these maps showed the geographic location of every major city and every small burg in the land. More on these maps in the next issue when I discuss what I learned from four years of Sundays at Donk's.

History has largely neglected to recognize that Donk McFann was the creator of the first "convenience store." Modern service stations are more "store" than "service station," but Donk was ahead of the game. On the west side of the station three stair-stepping shelves held food items. To be fair, we in South Ceredo in those days were apparently not finicky eaters, based on the offerings at Donk's. We had the standard Heiner's Bread, and I heard many people explain that you don't really need hot dog buns when white bread works fine. Thus, we didn't bother with buns.

The remaining items were canned goods. Sardines, potted meat, deviled ham, Spam, Vienna Sausages, and canned whole chickens. Yes, that's correct, canned whole chickens. When I started at Donk's we had a quantity of two canned whole chickens. When I retired from Donk's, we had the same two canned whole chickens. I suppose they never went out of date, and while I always wanted someone to buy one just so I could ask how it was, I'm equally glad that as tough as times may have been in South Ceredo, no one ventured to try a canned whole chicken.

The bottom shelf was undoubtedly the most important place in the station to me. It was on the bottom shelf that visitors sat when they came to loaf, old men telling stories to a young boy, and allowing the young boy to become the Dr. Phil of South Ceredo, a listening ear and a few suggestions about matters of which I had no understanding.

The convenience store concept was solidified by the sundry case, located above the pop cooler. Donk offered medicines to cure most any ailment – small metal boxes of Aspirin, Tums, Roloids, Alka-Seltzer, and some kind of headache powder I can't recall that was fronted by Richard Petty. Goody's, I believe. Seems most ailments in South Ceredo may have been contracted at Ray's Pool Room the night before.

The pop cooler. Every old store had one. Donk's was a chest-type cooler, about waist high and opening on the top, holding bottles on sliding rails with around six inches of cold water surrounding twelve-ounce bottles. The strange thing is that the cooler was built by RC Cola, yellow and blue, with the script "RC COLA" on the front. This was strange to me since we only handled Pepsi Cola. I guess I could have asked Donk, but I wasn't willing to jeopardize the four dollars a day.

The iconic white and blue Pure Oil sign that stood fifty years on the corner of Main and High came down in 1976 when ANR expanded their property. Donk enjoyed a few years of retirement before his death, and for the first time since automobiles came to Ceredo, a person couldn't buy gas on the south side.

I trust this gives readers that never experienced a visit to Donk's a fair understanding of the place. Most vintage service stations were similar, but few had a fourteen-year-old attendant, working alone, providing full-service to cars and soaking every bit of worldly education possible from listening to the men of South Ceredo describe the world as they knew it between 1965 and 1969. Next issue, I will look at how Sundays at Donk's taught me most everything I really needed to know about life.



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