



Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session September 6th, 2022

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Monday, September 6th, 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, via teleconference; Councilmen, Steve Diamond, Ron Jarrell, Robert Leslie, Oscar Adkins and Joe Ratcliff.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes

The Mayor inquired if Council had any additions or corrections to the minutes of the August 1st, 2022 Regular Session. None being heard and on a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Robert Leslie, Council voted to accept the August 1st, 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 August, 2022. The Mayor asked if Council had any questions on the Treasurer's Report. None being heard, on a motion by Joe Ratcliff and second by Oscar Adkins, Council voted to accept the Treasurer's report for August, 2022 as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

Sixth Street Sewer Easement

Terry Moran of Potesta Engineering presented council with an update off the Sixth Street Sewer Project. Projected cost of the project increased approximately \$44,000 due to pandemic-related material price increases, increasing the town's match portion by \$22,000. On motion by Steve Diamond and second by Oscar Adkins, the increase was approved. The project is expected to go to bid within sixty days.

Region II Payment Request

The Mayor presented council with a request from Region II Planning and Development for payment in the sum of \$1,100.91 for services rendered on the Sixth Street Sewer Project. On motion by Joe Ratcliff and second by Robert Leslie, the request was unanimously approved.

Greenwood Storm Sewer

Terry Moran of Potesta Engineering addressed council concerning the Greenwood Storm Sewer Project. The initial cost estimate on the project is expected to be around \$400,000. The mayor expressed concern about the amount, and suggested that the project may be done internally or that the installation route may be changed. It was agreed that the town will seek an easement that would allow the project cost to decrease, and

the matter will be considered in September.

Beautification Building

The Mayor reported that work on replacement of the Beautification Building that was destroyed by fire in February, 2021, is substantially complete. The work was performed by Miller Construction at a cost of \$62,800.

Building Demolition Projects

The Mayor reported that demolition agreements have been signed to allow unsafe houses at 142 2nd Street East, 274 2nd Street East, 1446 B Street, and 531 Broad Hollow Road to be demolished. The projects are currently being advertised for bid.

CVFD Levy Funds Request

Chief Rob Robson of the Ceredo Volunteer Fire Department appeared to request that Special Levy Funds in the amount of \$5,700 be released to pay for renovation work at the main station. Receipts having been presented and funds being available in the account, on motion by Steve Diamond and second by Oscar Adkins, the request was approved by unanimous vote.

Special Levy Election Date

The Mayor advised council that during the last legislative session a bill was passed mandating that municipal special levy elections shall be held in conjunction with either the national primary, national general, or town regular elections. Special levy elections may no longer be held as a separate election. The town historically has held special levy votes as a separate election. After discussion, a consensus was taken that the next special levy election will be held in conjunction with the 2024 national primary election.

Recorder Fink Resignation

The Mayor read to council a resignation letter from Recorder Stanley Fink. Recorder Fink offered the resignation for retirement purposes, citing health concerns. The Mayor offered a summary of the many years of public service performed by Mr. Fink, beginning when he joined the Fire Department as a junior member and continuing unbroken with the exception of his time serving in the Navy. With reluctance, the resignation was accepted and Mr. Fink will later be recognized for his dedication and service to the town.

Adjournment

No further business was brought before the Council. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BILLUPS, MAYOR

I had occasion last week to provide a tour of the Ramsdell House to a couple from Houston, Texas. The vacationing couple was passing through the tri-state and became aware of the Ramsdell House and the Pumpkin House on social media, thus made a detour from I-64 to visit. I was most pleased when the couple immediately complimented our town for having neat yards, beautiful seasonal decorations, and clean streets.

I explained that our maintenance staff takes extreme pride in going the extra step to keep the town pristine, but the real difference in Ceredo and most other cities is our residents. The Houston visitors were surprised when I explained how many of our residents not only care for their property, but also assist in keeping their block clean or help our elderly residents with grass cutting and general home maintenance. Ceredo has always been recognized as a town of volunteers, and I thank each of you for doing more than your share.

A few residents took on tasks this year that have significantly improved the look of the town. Briarcliff resident Barry

Mosser has continued to sweep the High Street Bridge on a regular basis. Suzanne Woods agreed to be the town flag monitor, checking our 13 American flags on display in town and replacing any that are worn or frayed. South Ceredo resident Debbie Adkins has undertaken to monitor restrooms in the Town Park along with general upkeep of park facilities. These volunteer acts are what sets Ceredo apart.

The town has looked great all summer, and autumn decorations are in place. Many homes are preparing for the Autumnfest Decoration Contest, and I suggest you look at the job Colleen and Tom Jarrell have done at their B Street home. The Autumnfest Committee will have a tough judging job this year, as several other Ceredo residents have gone all-out to give our town a great Fall look. As we move toward the Christmas holiday season, I urge you to decorate our town so that we will remain a "must see" for those evening drivers looking for Christmas lights.

Thinking of community volunteers as I write this column, I would be remiss in

not mentioning that Ceredo has recently lost several residents that were important to our volunteer base for many years. Mike Boshell, Jim Smith, Pastor James Lucas, and Gary Runyon all recently passed away. Mike served on the Unsafe Housing Committee and volunteered to assist several other committees over the years. Jim was a tour guide at the Ramsdell House, where he did an outstanding job. Pastor Lucas, a South Ceredo resident, volunteered to walk in the park daily and pick up litter and fallen branches. Gary assisted many in his neighborhood by removing snow from sidewalks and driveways each winter. These men will be difficult to replace, and we need our next generation to step forward and fill the void. I trust they will.

Let's all do our part to keep the town as clean and neat as possible through the upcoming winter months. If we all do our share and just one more act for the common good, Ceredo will remain "West Virginia's Most Livable Small Town."

UPCOMING EVENTS

10/27/2022 – 10/31/2022

- Pumpkin House - Food Vendors on site 10/27-10/30 5pm-10pm

10/28/2022

- Arts & Craft Show C-K Community Center 4pm – 9pm

10/29/2022

- Arts & Craft Show C-K Community Center 10am – 7pm
- Bake Off C-K Community Center - 10am
- Canning Competition C-K Community Center - 10am

10/30/2022

- CVFD Rocco's Spaghetti Dinner - 11:00am – 5:00pm

11/9/2022

- Veteran's Luncheon Ceredo Wellness Center - 12pm

11/12/2022

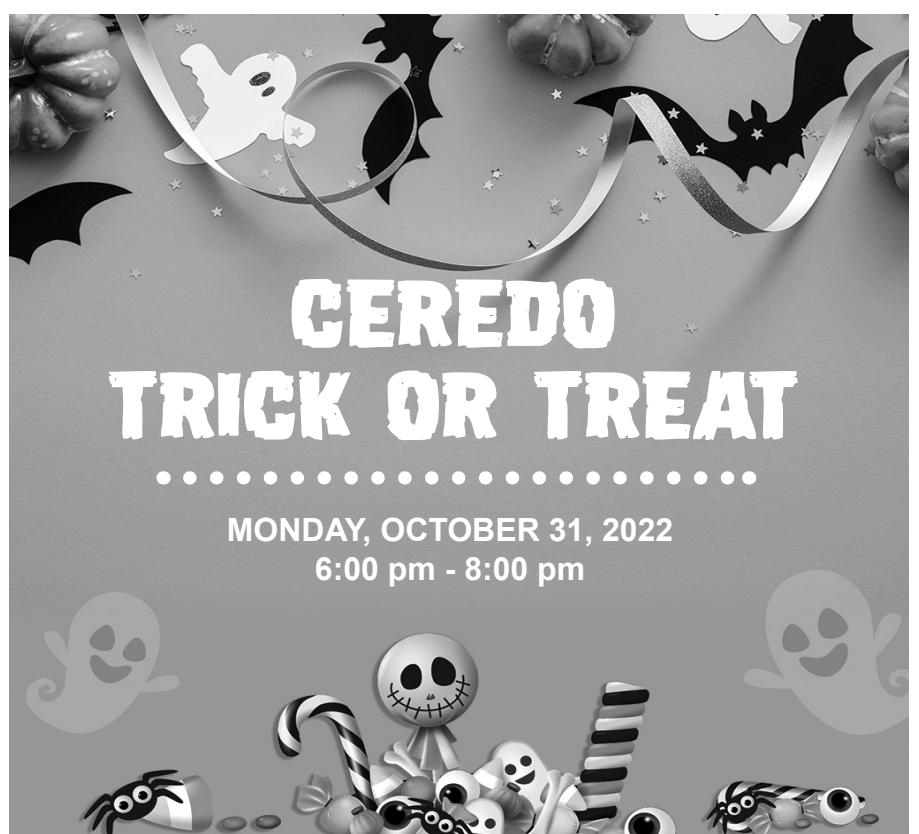
- Veteran's Day Parade - 12pm

12/5/2022

- Kenova Tree Lighting Kenova United Methodist Church - 7pm

12/17/2022

- Alumni Band Christmas Concert Ceredo Wellness Center - 7pm



Two Officers Hired

The Ceredo Police Department has operated below authorized strength for several months after Sgt. Matthew Thompson resigned to take employment with the railroad and Officer Steven Adams was deployed with his National Guard unit. The shortage was complicated by a new West Virginia law that requires newly hired officers to complete training at the West Virginia State Police Academy before to working alone. Prior to passage of this law, newly hired officers could work at full duty for up to one year while awaiting an opening to enter the academy.

The Department has hired Jared Eplion and Zach Lackey as Probationary Police Officers. Lackey, a graduate of Spring Valley High School and a Lavalette resident, previously graduated from the acad-

emy and is thus a certified officer. Lackey will be assigned to regular duties following a short indoctrination period.

Jared Eplion, a graduate of South Point High School, began employment on September 19, 2022, in a training capacity. Eplion will assist with clerical duties, court functions, and work in the company of a certified officer until January, 2023, when he is scheduled to begin the sixteen-week training course at the State Police Academy.

These hires will bring the department to authorized strength when Officer Adams returns from active military duty. During the last several months, the Kenova Police Department assisted Ceredo pending the new officers completion of the hiring process.

Donation to the Ramsdell House

By Kitty McDowell

Several pieces of furniture have recently been donated to the historic Z.D. Ramsdell House located on B Street in Ceredo. The antique furniture came from the home of James H. Williamson, a former Union Army Captain from Jackson County, West Virginia. The items have fittingly been placed in the former home of Ramsdell, who also served as a Captain in the Union Army.

Surprisingly, even though both men served in different regiments (5th WV and 11th WV) during the Civil War and likely were never acquainted, they both fought in the Battle of Cedar Creek, near Strasburg, Virginia, on October 19, 1864. The 5th and 11th regiments were camped within a quarter of a mile of each other prior to the battle, thus

the possibility exists that these two officers were fighting side-by-side as the battle progressed.

To learn more about Ceredo's 5th WV Infantry and the Battle of Cedar Creek, visit the Ceredo Museum located at 501 Main Street. The museum is open every Tuesday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. You may also watch for the next issue of The New Crescent for more information about the battle.

Editor's Note: The items referenced above were donated through the generosity of Ceredo resident and Wall of Fame honoree Kitty McDowell, a longtime and dedicated volunteer for many town projects.

Damron Wins Again

Ceredo's All-American trap shooter, Doug Damron, recently won the Singles Championship at the Dixie Grand Trap Shooting tournament held in Bostic, North Carolina. Approximately 200 't had shooters from across the United States took part in the four-day event.

Damron got off to a rough start in the championship round, missing two of his first of twenty-five shots. After changing glasses to better accommodate weather conditions, Damron consecutively hit his next 175 targets to finish with 198 of a possible 200 points. One other shooter completed his round with the same score, forcing a shoot-off with Damron for the championship. In the shoot-off, Damron hit 25 of 25 targets while his competitor finished

with 24 of 25 possible points, giving Damron the championship.

Damron earned All-American honors several years ago and has competed on an abbreviated schedule during the last three years. "Between the pandemic, some minor illnesses, and my work schedule I just haven't had the time to travel to every meet or to practice as I would like. Several the competitors are professional shooters and are able to travel from meet to meet, so I feel very fortunate to have won the Dixie Grand."

Damron hopes to continue his trap shooting career for a few more years, health permitting. "Brenda and I enjoy traveling and seeing friends we have made over the years. As much as I enjoy shooting, I enjoy the camara-



derie equally as much." For now, Doug is back on his excavator in Ceredo, moving dirt to keep the family business, Damron Enterprises, going while he undoubtedly is thinking about the two of two-hundred clay pigeons he missed at the Dixie Grand. "Perfect scores are rare, and I'm lucky

to have had a few. It usually takes a perfect score to win at a meet as large as the Dixie Grand, so I consider myself fortunate."

The residents of Ceredo are proud of Damron's accomplishments, and wish him continued success as he competes against the best shooters in America.

Museum Musings

The Ceredo Museum is a great place to explore. While recently reading miscellaneous papers from years past on a rainy afternoon at the Museum the following discoveries were made.

Shortly after Eli Thayer met with an editor of the New Your Herald in 1857 to announce his plans to establish an abolitionist community in Ceredo, the paper published that Thayer intended to form a "Northern Emigrant Aid Society" with capital of perhaps "three or four millions" to purchase worn out land in western Virginia.

Southern newspapers erupted with fiery editorials about the proposed abolitionist community. One said Virginia would "receive the immigrants with hospitality and would then give them the opportunity to choose between hanging with a rope or a grapevine". Another paper suggested the immigrants be put to work at hard labor in the penitentiary, while the Norfolk Argus said the immigrants were welcome if they were "disposed to obey the laws and institutions of Virginia", institutions in this case meaning slavery.

With narratives such as these appearing in every southern paper, it is truly a wonder that Thayer was able to attract roughly 500 persons to leave the relative safety of Massachusetts, Maine, and Connecticut to start a new life in Ceredo.

One of the earliest settlers in Ceredo was Thomas Jordan. Jordan farmed most of the land that is present day Ceredo and operated a roadhouse near the present location of 4th Street East and Route 60. Much of the land bought by Eli Thayer came from Jordan, who moved his farming operation to South Ceredo ... Sabine P. Pond assisted Jordan with the original layout of the town ... Ceredo was chartered as a town in 1866 with Richard Brown serving as the first mayor ... Work was completed on the first paved streets in Ceredo in 1920, the same year natural gas became available to residents ... the town's first water supply was a deep well located on the southeast corner of B and First Street East ... The first school not held in a home was held at the Crescent Building on B Street in 1871. Ceredo-Kenova High School was built in 1922 ... The first railroad through Ceredo was the Chesapeake & Ohio, in 1878 ... Ceredo was victim to the smallpox epidemic in 1904, and was hit equally hard by influenza in 1918 ... The first jail was a wooden structure near the bank of Jordan Branch, east of Main Street. It was a one-room building with facilities for men only ... The first Ceredo newspaper was the Ceredo Crescent, published in 1857, and owned by W.B. Wilson.

The West Virginia pavilion at the 1964 World's Fair held in New York featured the theme "Land of Relaxation". The West Virginia exhibit occupied over 34,000 square feet and had five main areas, one of which was an Industrial Park, depicting several state industries, including glass. Pilgrim Glass of Ceredo participated in this exhibit, sending several glass artisans to New York to perform daily exhibitions of glass blowing and shaping.

The State Department of Commerce had industrial development personnel at the Pavilion to advise out-of-state business executives of the "almost limitless opportunities and facilities for establishing new plants in West Virginia." This apparently didn't go over to well.

Veteran's Recognition Luncheon

The Ceredo Wellness Center will hold the annual veteran's recognition and appreciation luncheon on November 9, 2022. The luncheon will take place at noon in the cafeteria at the Wellness Center (the former Ceredo Graded School) on Main Street.

All military veterans from the Ceredo-Kenova area are invited to attend. The Fitness Center members have held this luncheon for several years, it is free to all that attend, it is always well attended.

If you or a member of your family is a military veteran, please join this celebration of your service to our country.

Wellness Center News

Free pickleball instruction for beginners is now being offered every Monday evening from 6 to 8 at the indoor court, located at the Senior Wellness Center. All ages are welcome and no equipment or reservation is necessary. This is a great program to introduce beginners to the fastest growing sport in America.

The Ceredo Pickleball Club currently has players from age 14 to age 82. Persons wanting to try the game don't have to bring a playing partner or have any athletic experience. Instruction is being provided by Dallas Adkins and Karin Dawson. Again, no experience or equipment is required. Please stop by any Monday evening and give pickleball a shot.

The senior lunch program is going well. Residents of Ceredo, Kenova, and Westmoreland can register to have lunch delivered on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday by contacting the Senior Lunch Program at 304-908-9400, or by visiting the Senior Center. Residents desiring to eat on-site may do so, and various programs for senior citizens are offered each afternoon. Persons 60 and older are eligible and there is no income requirement.

The Alumni Band is in the process of placing pictures of Ceredo and Kenova groups, teams, events and businesses from our past on the hallway walls of the Wellness Center. Charles Clarkson is overseeing this endeavor that will make the hallway more inviting and spark memories for Center visitors.

Residents eligible to participate in the Silver Sneakers program are encouraged to contact the Wellness Center for information about exercise programs geared toward more mature residents. Those interested may visit the Fitness Center, open daily from 8 to noon and 4 to 7 in the evening or call 304-908-9400.

The Fitness Center continues to be a busy place for those seeking to exercise and socialize. The Center has a full line of cardio machines along with Nautilus equipment for muscle toning. The morning group is a wonderful mix of persons 40 to 80, and it seems that birthday parties and other reasons to bring treats are very common. This is a great place to visit to maintain your health and socialize with the community.

If music is your thing, the Tuesday Night Pickers will entertain you. Ceredo's country music group performs every Tuesday night from 6 to 9, free of charge. This weekly show draws a crowd of around eighty fans each week, mostly of retirement age, to enjoy picking and singing. The group performs in the former school cafeteria.

CHARACTERS OF CEREDO

Ozzie Hawes, Columnist

EDITOR'S NOTE: There was a time in America when every small burg had a handful of "characters," people that marched to the beat of a different drummer, lived life their way, and had no desire to conform to societal expectations. From every social, financial, and political class, these characters could bring a smile to your face, cause you to shake your head in wonderment, and often make those living in the social norm to vicariously enjoy the personal freedoms expressed by a character. Ceredo has had its share.

Unfortunately, characters are a vanishing breed. Perhaps because characters stood out in situations of social interaction, and today we have become a Facebook, Twitter, and cell phone society where social interaction is less valued and less used, we just don't see the characters. It's safe to say that none of the characters of Ceredo would have had much use for social tools, preferring to exhibit their traits in a brutally honest, "what you see is what I am" fashion.

This is another column in a series about the characters of Ceredo, hoping to create a record of their existence and an appreciation for the drummer, whatever his beat may be.

Ceredo has been home to a number of barbers over the years, including town historian Ed Adkins, Dave Jolly, John Walters, Paul Nelson, Jon McFann – and the unforgettable Buck Combs. Buck operated a shop located in a wooden structure on Route 60, just behind Flanagan's Pharmacy. In busi-

ness between 1954 and 1972, Buck became a barbering legend, one drink at a time.

Buck took over the Ceredo shop from Jerry Ratliff, at a time when haircuts were short and barber visits were frequent. Barber shops were a gathering place for men to share stories and time, and in towns such as Ceredo the menfolk often spent time in Buck's barbershop, then moved down a block to loaf in the shop of Ed Adkins. With a brief foray into the Ceredo Pool Room, which was located between the shops, a local fellow could pretty much kill a day, be freshly coifed, a bit tipsy, and well-versed on local gossip.

The barber chair in Buck's shop faced west, giving the customer a view of the Main Street intersection and most of the goings-on in town. There was always a radio playing with

country music, and the place had a lasting aroma, probably emanating from scented hair tonic. At various times Buck would allow young entrepreneurs to set up shoe shine boxes in the shop, but from interviews with several of those independent contractors it doesn't appear to have been a profitable sideline.

As with a number of barbers of the day, Buck had a taste for spirits. It has often been said that the first few haircuts of the day were perhaps not Buck's best, but after visiting the back room a few times Buck's hands steadied and he could cut a nice head of hair.

In the early 1970s, Buck and his wife Becky became proprietors of a restaurant on Main Street that was originally owned and operated by Dick Methax. Small-town restaurant business

was slow, and gradually the restaurant morphed into becoming the Hillbilly Haven bar. As with many bars of the day, fights between patrons were not uncommon, but the darndest fight in the early days of the Hillbilly Haven was between the owners, Buck and Becky. For several days following their bout, locals stopped in just to see the broken tables and blood on the walls.

The fight signaled the end of Buck's business in Ceredo. The barbershop soon closed, the restaurant changed hands, and Buck had a short retirement before passing away.

No history of Ceredo could be complete without a mention of Buck Combs, a true character of Ceredo and a man remembered by anyone that visited his barber chair, especially for an early morning haircut.

Origins of the C-K High School Songs - "C-K Alma Mater!"

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, "*C-K Alma Mater*".

*Our Alma Mater, we thine own,
Do give thee honor; praise thy name.
May through us thy strength be known,
And in our rev'rence, be thy fame.
May thy spirit grow and soar,
In our mem'ries evermore.
Honor, truth, and loyalty,
Ceredo-Kenova praise to thee.*

The Melody

The melody to Football Medley comes The early days of "The Game" between Ohio State and "That Team Up North" did not favor the Buckeyes. Their meeting in 1902 in Ann Arbor was particularly painful, with that other team prevailing by a humiliating final score of 86-0. There may have been a silver lining to this painful loss, however. As the story goes, Fred Cornell – a freshman at Ohio State, a backup defensive end, and a member of the Ohio State Glee Club – poured his heart into the lyrics of Carmen Ohio on the train back to Columbus following that devastating loss and the insult of experiencing That Team Up North's crowd halting their post-game celebration abruptly to solemnly and reverently sing The Yellow and Blue. On the back of an envelope Cornell scribbled lyrics of affection for Ohio State – lyrics to a song that would become an Ohio State football tradition that has endured for more than a century. It's the stuff of storybooks, right? Well, it may not be entirely true. It's entirely possible that Cornell really wrote the lyrics in 1903, when the Glee Club was actively seeking an alma mater for Ohio State. Carmen Ohio was performed publicly by the Glee Club for the first time in 1903 for an audience that included then-Ohio gover-

nor Judson Harmon. A few weeks later, the Glee Club shared the song with a small crowd in Lima Ohio. It took a while for the tune to actually gain traction. The lyrics for Carmen Ohio appeared in The Lantern on October 10th, 1906, and on October 16th, 1906 the lyrics appeared in the program for The Game against That Team Up North. Since that date the song has been sung at every home football game.

Carmen is Latin for "song," and the title literally means "Ohio's song" or "song of Ohio." Cornell borrowed elements of Yale's alma mater when penning Carmen Ohio. The lyrics emphasize all that is good about The Ohio State University, and they resonate with current students, alumni and fans alike.

Carmen Ohio was adapted for brass for the band in 1955 by then-director Jack Evans, and arranged by Richard Heine, and it was at that point that the chimes at the beginning were incorporated into the arrangement. The Orton Hall chimes were installed in 1915 and are a campus tradition unto themselves.

Former Buckeyes coach Jim Tressel started a new tradition in 2001. Following every game, win or lose, the team gathers in front of their fans and joins the band (when available) and cheerleaders in honoring Ohio State by singing Carmen Ohio. It is a tradition that current head coach Urban Meyer, along with his family, has continued during his tenure.

The Words

The words were composed by Martha "Marty" Lacock Rollins who was a school teacher at C-K High School, Kenova Elementary, and Marshall University where she educated students in art, drama, and speech. She also sponsored numerous thespian, debate, art, and scholastic competitions as well as student leadership programs during her time in the Ceredo-Kenova communities. C-K High School student Dorothy Jane Griffith was the first person to sing the song at a C-K High School event.

HONOR ROLL

Eleanor Terry	03/23
In Memory Pat & Jim Billups	05/23
Paul and Kathy Billups	01/24
Mike and Susan Watts	01/23
Leigh Ann Johnson.....	10/22
Jack & Ann Riggs.....	01/23
Connie & Mark Beford.....	01/25
Dinah and Dale Ledbetter	01/23
Katrina Childers.....	10/23
In Memory of Alberta "Dossie" & Sherman Medley	08/23
Karin & Mike Dawson.....	05/23
In Memory of Anagene Wooten Gibbs	11/22
In Memory of Kathleen Wooten Marcum	11/22
In Memory of Herm Wooten Matney.....	11/22
In Memory of Larry Cole.....	11/22
George & Brenda Keigley	12/22
Roberta and Charlie Mitchell	06/23
In Memory of Larry Jack Heck.....	01/23
Mike & Karen Skeens	11/22
Dr. Ron & Lucenda Akers	10/22
Marlene Simmons	10/22
Brother Otis Adkins.....	10/22
Brother Mose & Sister June Napier	10/22
Robert & Mary Lee Leslie.....	10/22
Taylor Booth.....	06/24
Michael & Debby Hibbard	10/22
In Memory of Houston & Gladys Woolwine	08/23
Gary & Marsha Adkins	07/23
Tyler Dawson, DDS	01/23
In Memory of Esther Adkins.....	01/24
Donna Jones.....	01/24
Dr. Daniel & Suzanne Brody.....	01/23
Cindy & Vern Eagleston-Blaine.....	02/23
Glenn Stotts	02/23
In Memory of Charles & Bet Pratt.....	03/23
Greg & Joy Jarrell.....	03/23
Tim & Debra Lucas	05/23
Suzanne & Doug Woods.....	05/23
Kelly & Lisa Higgins-Flanagan.....	12/25
Chester & Margaret Mathis	05/23
George E. & Rebecca M. Mccoy	05/23
Keith & Freda Chadwick.....	05/24
In Memory of JJ, Gail, & John Billups	06/23
In Memory of W.W. Mills, MD	09/23
Jennifer Ferguson.....	09/23

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.

THE NEW CRESCENT

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He Was Billy To Us

By Paul Billups, Editor

The obituary that appeared in the Herald-Dispatch on September 25, 2022, was impressive. Dr. William E. Evans, Jr. of Exeter, New Hampshire, passed away unexpectedly on September 17, 2022. The obituary went on to list the accomplishments of Dr. Evans, which were many. All-State high school athlete in two sports, scholarship to play football at Ohio State, medical degree from WVU and a distinguished career practicing psychiatry in several states. An obituary, however, cannot fully tell the story of Billy Evans, one of the finest men ever to mature in Ceredo.

Bill spent his first eighteen years on Ceredo's southside. By the time Bill entered Ceredo Graded School in 1956, he was already different. Charming, polite, well-mannered, intelligent, and handsome is probably the way his teachers would have described him. To his young friends, Billy was the boy you always wanted on your team in the many football games that were played on top of the grass flood levee across the street from his house. Sharing those games with his brother Steve, Jerry Workman, Don and Harold Ray Perdue, Reo and Steve Hatfield, Bobby Harmon, Mike Webb and many others, Bill was simply the best player, even at elementary age. He never flaunted his ability but looking back it is clear that even in sandlot games Billy always gave the rest of us a chance, but if he wanted to win, he did.

Organized youth sports in C-K coincided with Billy's age. Little League Baseball was ongoing by the time Bill was 9, and while he never had the same passion for baseball that he later developed for football and basketball, he was the best player on his Little League and Babe Ruth teams. Organized youth football came to C-K when Bill was in the seventh grade, and playing for the "Blue" team, it was quickly obvious that Billy was going to be a star. Coached by his father, Bill played offensive end and defensive linebacker, positions he held through high school. The blocking and tackling battles between Bill and his brother Steve during practices at the old golf course became of legend.

Bill's basketball career began on the nine-foot basket bolted to the cafeteria wall at Ceredo Graded School. Every recess and every lunch period, Bill was playing basketball. At about the time Bill entered junior high, Floyd Stark built a basketball court on the Ceredo Bank parking lot. The outdoor court with regulation baskets drew a crowd of boys every evening, and in the loosely formed league Billy was once again the star. If there was a particular shot or move that he had trouble with, Billy would be at the court long after everyone else was gone, perfecting his play before the next day.

Bill's younger brother Steve later became a two-time state champion boxer following his own All-State high school football career. The sport of boxing was not foreign to Billy. When the elder boy of the Evans family was around 13, his father started training amateur boxers in a makeshift gym at the old Ceredo Bank on Main Street. Several top boxers, all at least three years older than

Billy, trained at that facility and it was not uncommon to see the thirteen-year-old Billy in the ring with good, experienced fighters, always holding his own.

Many have compared Ceredo-Kenova High School in the 1960's with Camelot, and if that were so, Billy Evans would have been King Arthur. Hollywood good looks, extremely intelligent, a star at everything he did, yet the most common of students. If any student in the school had been asked, from seventh grade to twelfth, they would have claimed Billy Evans to be a friend ... and he was. The heartthrob of every teenage girl, the favorite student of every teacher, Billy never considered himself to be more than "one of us." It would have been easy to be envious of Bill, but he simply wouldn't allow it.

I have been asked many times to name the best football player I played with. The answer has always been the same – Billy Evans. Billy was an All-State end and middle linebacker, but if he had played center or quarterback, he would have been the best in the state at those positions as well. I was fortunate to have recently found the original C-K basketball scorebook from Bill's senior season, 1967-68, the year the year the school won its first state basketball championship. The scorebook pretty well tells the story of Billy Evans. Against teams the Wonders handily beat, Billy had a handful of points to go with more assists and rebounds. Against teams that challenged the Wonders, Bill would score twenty-odd points. He clearly met the challenge when required, but otherwise he helped others score. It was that way through sports and life.

Bill left Ceredo to play football at Ohio State, and even though a series of injuries ended his playing career, the legendary Woody Hayes thought highly enough of Bill to continue his scholarship and allowed Bill to serve as a student-coach while he completed his pre-med work. Following graduation from med school at WVU, Bill moved to the northeast and didn't often return to Ceredo due to the demands of his profession. To those of us that didn't see him much since 1968, our memory of Bill will always be as he was when he graduated from high school, vibrant, full of life, the man everyone wanted to be.

Perhaps the reason the obituary struck many of Bill's friends so hard is that the Billy Evans we knew was destined to live forever. We remember him as young, and that never changed. Whatever the challenge, we expected Bill to overcome it, as he had always done during his time as "one of the boys" at C-K. We watched each other age and suffer the expected illnesses, but Billy's absence kept him, in our minds, as we first knew him.

The next time I am asked to name the best athlete I ever played with, I will expand the answer. Billy Evans was not only the best athlete I played with, but he was also one of the best persons I had the pleasure and privilege of knowing. A part of everyone that Billy touched during his eighteen years in Ceredo and Kenova will forever be missing with his passing.

Congregational Gets New Roof

Many of us have looked at the steeple of the Ceredo Congregational Church over the years and wondered just how the shingles would ever be replaced on the church steeple. An integral part of Ceredo's landscape since 1887, the church has a most beautiful, and architecturally interesting, steeple rising high above the town.

While most of the church roof has a steep pitch with multiple angles, the four-sided steeple narrows as it rises and is so steep that it is impossible to climb. To replace shingles on the steeple, the roofing contractor used a large extension boom and the process, still looking a bit frightful, appeared to have gone fine. The remainder of the church was reroofed with green shingles, similar to the shingles that have been in place for many years.

It was interesting to watch as the old shingles came off the church, exposing the wood beneath. The immediate thought of onlookers was that the roof was constructed of what appeared to be 1x12 boards, instead of the plywood or fiberboard so common today. It took a little thought before the onlookers figured that the church was constructed before plywood was invented. The new roof construction included plywood over the 1x12 boards, but the 1887 construction was something to admire.

Hopefully, the Congregational Church will remain Ceredo's architectural masterpiece for another 135 years, and it appears that the construction methods of 1887 will hold the building strong for at least that much longer.



★★★★★ FIRST AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.



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The Crescent Kitchen

by Natalie Hemann

PECAN PIE BARS



Thanksgiving will be here before you know it! Where did the summer go?!!! I love pecan pie, which is a staple in most households at Thanksgiving dinner. I changed it up last year and made these bars instead. I think they are a cross between pecan pie, pecan tassies, and pecan cookies. If you want something different besides pecan pie this year, you might want to try these. By the way, my mother makes the best pecan pie I have ever had. I asked her for her secret recipe and she told me she uses the old standby recipe off of the Karo syrup bottle... no secret recipe. I find that a little hard to believe. I think she is holding out on me!

Ingredients:
Non Stick Cooking Spray
1 ¼ cup All Purpose Flour
½ cup Brown Sugar, Divided
½ cup Butter, Melted
1 Large Egg, Beaten
1 (14 oz.) Can Sweetened Condensed Milk
1 tsp. Vanilla Extract
1 cup Chopped Pecans
(add another ½ cup if you do not want the filling so "goeey")

Directions:
Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray bottom of 8 x 8 baking pan with non-stick cooking spray. Combine flour, ¼ cup brown sugar, and melted butter in large bowl. Spread on bottom of prepared pan. Bake 20 minutes or until lightly brown. Beat together egg, sweetened condensed milk, vanilla, and remaining brown sugar. Stir in pecans and pour on top of baked cookie layer. Bake 30 minutes or until set. Cool and cut into bars.

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C-K Football 1921-1997

Shortly after the consolidation of Ceredo-Kenova High School following the 1997-98 school year, 1975 C-K graduate Bobby Dickerson took it upon himself to chronicle the 77 years of Wonders football. Bobby spent the better part of a year in the archives of the Herald-Dispatch to compile the line-scores of all 813 games played by the green and white. Undaunted, Bobby continued his work to include “all-time” lists of coaching records, scoring, and the Wonders’ record against every opponent. This compilation, titled “Wonderstruck”, is available for review in the Ceredo Museum.

The 1928 Wonders were unscored upon in the first three quarters for the season (the Wonders shared the state championship that year with Huntington) * Byron Morris is the all-time leader in punt returns for touchdowns with five between 1926-1928 * Until around 1950, the Wonders travelled to some away games by train. The 1925 squad likely earned the most “frequent rail” points, having a schedule that included Morris Harvey College Reserves; Covington Catholic; Logan, Ohio; Pikeville; Paintsville; Greenbrier Military; Kentucky Wesleyan Reserves; Morehead; and finally a walk across the Big Sandy to Catlettsburg * Of their 813 games, the Wonders won 522, lost 254, and tied 37 * Ceredo-Kenova had nine full-time head coaches (O.E. Roberts, C.E. Webb, Tom Dandele, Frank Porter, Babe Mazza, Dick Treadway, Carl Ward, Larry Heck and Don Money) and three interim coaches (Guy Smith, Barry Scragg, and Ed Jenkins) * Over the 77 years, C-K scored 14,853 points and gave up 9,641 points * Clinton Borders led the first Wonders team in scoring with 60 points in 1921 * All-time scoring leaders without playoff games are Ted Smith (240), Mike Smith (233), Mike Murphy (214), Larry Canterbury (205), and Bub Taylor (203) * With playoff games included, Taylor is the leader with 263 points * The record for most rushing touchdowns in one game is 5, shared by Leland Daniels against Paintsville in 1929; Larry Canterbury against Russell in 1962; and Mike Smith against Man in 1966 * C-K was shutout in 123 games, and shutout opponents in 193 games * The 1967 team holds the record for first downs with 166 and total offense with 3,450 yards * The 1926 team holds the record for most points in one game, a 83-0 victory over Paintsville, while the most points surrendered is 84, suffered at the hands of Parkersburg in 1943 * 58 times in 77 seasons the Wonders finished with a winning record * C-K played county rival Buffalo 52 times between 1934 and 1997, winning 40, losing 11, with one tie * The all-time leading scorer against Buffalo is Mike Murphy with 32 points * The Wonders played 45 games against Huntington Vinson between 1934 and 1977, winning 33 and losing 11, with one tie * Mike Smith led all scorers against Vinson with 38 points * The longest run from scrimmage for a touchdown is 92 yards, by Charles Caperton against Louisa in 1970 * The longest pass reception for a touchdown was by Hank Stark, 91 yards against St. Albans in 1965 * The longest punt return for a touchdown was by Byron Morris, 93 yards against Paintsville in 1927 * The longest kickoff return for a touchdown was by John Reyburn, 102 yards against Rock Hill in 1979.

Wonders Transfer Portal

By Paul Billups, Editor

The face of college athletics recently changed when the NCAA introduced the Transfer Portal, a means through which college athletes may transfer from one school to another and be immediately eligible to play. Many may be surprised to learn that the NCAA actually copied a practice that began, kind of, at Ceredo-Kenova High School in 1968.

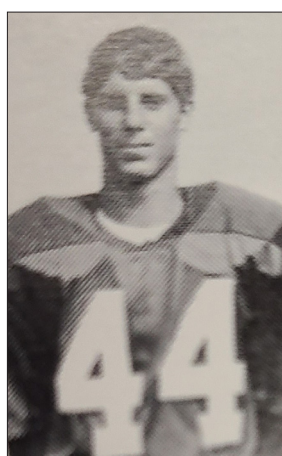
The glory days of Ceredo-Kenova football started in 1962, and by the Fall of 1968 the Wonders had compiled a record of 58 wins against only six defeats, including three state championships, one state runner-up, and two third-place finishes. Just as we are seeing college players today looking to transfer to dynasty schools, such became the practice at C-K.

The late Sam Johnson was a Ceredo native and stellar player for the Wonders, being the 1945 season scoring leader. Following school, Sam’s employment required that he move to Pt. Pleasant, and it was there that he started a family, including his son Larry. Sam maintained his ties with Ceredo, always following the Wonders’ scores and discussing the rising success on Beech Street. By the summer of 1968, Larry was preparing for his sophomore year and Sam couldn’t tolerate the thought of Larry not wearing the green and white.

Sam negotiated with his employer, moved back to Ceredo, and when pre-season practice started the Wonders had a new and talented running back on the team. Just as his father had done twenty-five seasons earlier, Larry led the Wonders in scoring his senior season of 1970 and earned All-State honors as a halfback. In addition to his football talent, Larry was also a fine baseball player, catching for the 1971 C-K team that made the school’s first ever appearance in the West Virginia state tournament.

The Huntington Herald-Dispatch regularly published articles about the forming dynasty in Ceredo-Kenova, and the parents of a second rising sophomore made the move to Kenova so their son could be part of the Wonders program. The parents of Mike Bias, both employed at the Veterans Hospital, made the move from West Huntington to Kenova. A strong running back, Mike earned a spot with the starting eleven by his senior year and joined Larry Johnson as a starting lefthanded pitcher on the baseball team as well.

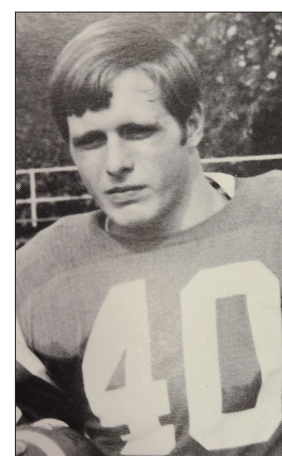
That same summer of 1968, C-K fans were worried about who would replace the graduated Mike Gibson as fullback for the Wonders when a picture-book fullback appeared the first day of practice. Bill Young was raised in Lebanon, Indiana, where he participated in a very good youth sports program before his father’s employment forced a move to Mason-town, WV. Shortly after arriving at that



Mike Bias



Larry Johnson



Bill Young

Preston County town, Bill’s grandmother became ill and the family was forced to look at relocating near Huntington so Bill’s parents could assist his grandmother.

While the family was house-hunting, Bill’s father took him to meet Huntington East football coach Bob Sang. The East staff was apparently too busy or too satisfied with their current roster to show much interest, so Bill’s father decided to look elsewhere for a suitable athletic fit for his son. Once the Young family looked at the C-K athletic program it didn’t take Mr. Young long to find a house in Kenova, and it didn’t take Bill long to assimilate into his new school.

Young earned the starting fullback position during two-a-day practices, and during his time at C-K the Wonders won 18 and lost 2, both losses coming to then-Kentucky 4A power Boyd County. The Wonders finished third both seasons in the WV rating system by one-hundredth of a point. Young scored 30 points during his junior campaign and followed with a team-leading 60 points his senior year. For his career, Young’s 90-point total places him 23rd on the all-time C-K scoring list. Young earned All-State and All-South honors and received a full scholarship to the University of Akron where he continued to carry the ball for the Zips.

Johnson and Young were both, simply put, tough boys that enjoyed blocking as much as they did running the ball. Teammate Tom Smith perhaps best described Young: “Some backs run with a compact form, looking to evade tacklers. Bill Young looked like a windmill moving toward the line, arms flailing, eyes flaring, focusing on the next defender that he might run over.”

As it was with Bias and Johnson, Bill Young quickly fit into the community and became “one of the boys” as if he had spent his entire life here. Next to his football ability, Bill is best remembered for his classic car, a 1956 Buick that would be worth a small fortune today. C-K was indeed fortunate that the “transfer portal” was in full effect here, some fifty years before the NCAA saw fit to allow it at the college level.

While Bill Young, Larry Johnson and Mike Bias have moved on, they certainly earned the right and will forever be considered “C-K Boys” in respect not only for their contributions to the athletic program but also for the way they fit into the community and the friendships they developed while living here.



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