



Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session October 4th, 2021

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Monday October 4th, 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 September 7th, 2021 regular session. None being heard and on a motion by Oscar Adkins and a second by Steve Diamond, Council voted to accept the September 7th, 2021 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 expenditures for the month of September 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 Ron Jarrell, Council voted to accept the Treasurer's report and the expenditures for September 2021 as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

Playmates Pre-School and Child Development Center

Mr. Roger Barker, representing the Playmates Pre-School and Child Development Center, approached Council regarding the erection of an additional storage building on Route 60, East, in the area of the floodwall. Discussions were held on the placement and color of the new building. See attached drawings.

The Mayor advised Mr. Barker to ensure the distance from the concrete pad, on which the new structure will be placed, to the floodwall remain in the 15' clearance as required by the Corps of Engineers.

On a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Steve Diamond, Council voted to approve the building permit for a 30'x24' metal building to be located directly west of the existing structure on Route 60, East. All were in favor, motion carried.

Tyler Smith

Mr. Tyler Smith approached Council regarding the erection of an air-crete dome on his Crescent Hill property.

Mr. Smith presented Council with schematic drawings of the structure and a sample of the materials from which the dome will be comprised. He indicated the dome would house his food truck and car and that he would reside in the loft of the structure.

The Mayor advised Mr. Smith that since there was no current water or sewer located in the area where the structure would be located, that he (Mr. Smith) would be required to extend the water and sewer to the main city lines adjacent to Crescent Drive.

On a motion by Ron Jarrell and a second by Joe Ratcliff, Council voted to approve the building permit for a dome structure to be erected on Crescent Drive as presented by Mr. Tyler Smith. All were in favor, motion carried. See attached drawings.

The Mayor advised Mr. Smith that during phases of construction an electrical and plumbing inspection of the dome structure would also be required.

A discussion was also held reference a shipping container being used to house tools during the construction of the dome, but that would later be upgraded and become a permanent part of a carport.

The Mayor informed Mr. Smith that he would need to report back to Council with the plans for upgrading the shipping container to serve as a permanent structure on the property.

Town Clock

The Mayor reported on the status of the refurbishment of the Town clock.

Water Works/Sanitary Survey

The Mayor informed Council that the water works/sanitary survey was completed on September 23rd, 2021. The survey found the systems were in excellent condition except for two (2) minor issues: 1) On Crescent Hill, 8-10 paint chips were discovered where the water reservoir had been painted; and 2) The anticipated retirement of Mr. Doug Adkins and the concern to have a qualified person in place to assume his position at the time of his retirement.

Golden Girls Retail Outlet and Training Facility

The Mayor reported the ceremony for the grand opening of the Golden Girls Retail Outlet and Training Center had been scheduled for Friday, October 15th, 2021.

The Mayor instructed Police Chief Tony Poston to contact Ms. Nikki Thomas regarding the securing of the appropriate traffic control devices for the detour of the traffic around that portion of the street during the ceremony.

A discussion was held regarding parking in the area of the complex adjacent to the fire hydrant.

C-K AutumnFest Parade

The Mayor informed Council the C-K AutumnFest parade had been scheduled for Tuesday, October 26th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Veterans' Day Parade

The Mayor reported the Veterans' Day Parade would be held on Saturday, November 6th, 2021 beginning at 12:00 noon.

Unsafe Housing Notices

The Mayor provided the following updates regarding the unsafe housing notices that had been sent to the property owners:

- 1) 241 2nd Street East – The building is not currently habitable; however, the owner plans to renovate the structure. The Mayor added this is the same gentleman who owns the building located at 3rd Street East and Route 60 that is being renovated to sale.
- 2) 310 1st Street East – The property owner claimed to be working with former employee Dustin Long to rehabilitate the property; however, the Town will be sending the owner a notice for a hearing, at which time she can explain the plans for the property.
- 3) 758 1st Street West – The owner lives in Virginia and the home is in an estate. The Administrator has been contacted and a hearing date will be set.

#6 Greenwood Drive

The Mayor informed Council of a complaint that had been received from Mr. Bryant at #6 Greenwood Drive concerning a utility easement behind the houses and a tree where the roots could possibly invade the underground power lines. The Mayor also reported that Doug Adkins was looking into the situation and would be reporting back to him.

Trick or Treat/Street Party

The Mayor informed Council that the cities of Kenova and Catlettsburg had scheduled their trick or treat for October 28th between 5 and 7 p.m. He recommended the Town of Ceredo continue the tradition of trick or treat along with Kenova and Catlettsburg and hold the Town's trick or treat on October 28th during the same hours. He also advised Council that due to the COVID-19 risks, it would be in the best interests of the Town to cancel the street party this year. All were in agreement.

Crescent Hill Cemetery Board

The Mayor reported that Charles Clarkson had indicated the Crescent Hill Cemetery Board would be supporting the Wreaths Across America Program again this year. He added this is a program where volunteers place wreaths on the graves of veterans interred at cemeteries all over America. The Mayor also advised Council that the cemetery board had expressed an interest in erecting a message board at the cemetery that would list the names of the veterans interred at Crescent Hill.

Electrical Inspections

The Mayor reported on the electrical inspections required at residences before the power can be turned on. He advised that AEP requires an inspection be performed by a certified inspector and that there were only three (3) certified inspectors in Wayne County. The Mayor also informed Council that one of the certified inspectors had been secured for the Town inspections at a cost of \$105 per residence, which would need to be paid by the home owner.

On a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Oscar Adkins, Council approved a resolution requiring the collection of \$105 for electrical inspections that will be conducted for the Town by an AEP-Certified inspector. All were in favor, motion carried.

6th Street Sewer Project

The Mayor reported he had spoken with Mr. Terence Moran of Potesta and Associates reference the conversation he had with Mr. Trimble of Ceredo Plaza regarding an easement for the 6th Street sewer project. He advised Council Mr. Trimble had agreed to execute the easement.

The Mayor also informed Council that Mr. Moran had suggested the Town contact an engineering firm to prepare an elevation map of the area where a new storm line is being considered along Greenwood Drive and Fairwood Drive.

Underground Internet Project

A discussion was held regarding the installation of an underground internet line through the Route 60 floodwall, and a request by the contractor to install temporary poles on either side of the floodwall until approval is obtained from the Corps of Engineers to install the line beneath the floodwall.

Debt Collection Company

Mr. Jacob Skeens, Town Clerk, addressed Council regarding the use of a debt collection company to collect past due accounts for the Town.

On a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Joe Ratcliff, Council voted to contract with Data Max for collection of delinquent accounts for the Town. All were in favor, motion carried.

Police Report

Police Chief, Tony Poston, updated Council on the grant monies the department had received and the training scheduled for the police officers.

Ceredo Fire and Rescue Report

The Mayor reported the annual Rocco dinner at the Ceredo Fire Department had been scheduled for Sunday October 31st, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and added that, because of COVID risks, the food would be take-out only.

The Mayor also informed Council the department had been able to order another ambulance through a USDA 75-25 grant.

Adjournment

No further business was brought before the Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BILLUPS, MAYOR

Winter weather is upon us! Our street department has worked overtime during the last month to complete final summer projects before "leaf season" arrives and we spend the next 45 days or so clearing leaves from our streets. People often inquire as to why we perform this service while most cities simply ignore leaves. The answer is that leaves clog our storm drains, create hazardous road conditions, and your yard and town streets simply look better not being covered by dead leaves. We do it as a service because we can, and doing service for our residents is a mission of your town administration.

A few late-summer projects are yet to be completed. Alley paving repairs are contracted for three alley-ways that were disturbed this summer. This will be completed before Thanksgiving. The Corps of Engineers will be conducting the annual floodwall inspection in mid-November and some crew hours are being spent to ensure that our flood system is in good order. The only other warm weather project is to patch and seal a few spots in the flat-roof of the Senior Wellness Center, and that work as well is expected to be complete before Thanksgiving.

As we move into winter, the staff will be pre-

paring snow removal equipment and starting the annual preventive maintenance of the fleet. All mowers and vegetation removal equipment will be fully serviced before Spring, this being good inside work on very cold or wintry days. Mayor Napier once stated that we cut more grass in Ceredo than does the maintenance department in New York City. He was close to being correct, but the town takes great pride in maintaining public spaces, thus keeping Ceredo as a "weedless town." It takes time, but it certainly makes the town pretty.

Projects slated for next Spring include completion of the 6th Street sewer extension, completion of the Greenwood stormwater pipe replacement, and installation of our remaining nine new street lights. Funds for these projects have been reserved over the past eighteen months, thus we should be able to move directly forward as quickly as warm weather returns. We are working with the new DOH supervisor in an attempt to have Crescent Hill fully repaved. That roadway has needed a complete paving job, as opposed to patching, for several years. Since it is owned by the state, the town is prohibited from doing work on it, although we continue to do snow removal

on the hill as a service to our residents.

I am certain that there are projects some residents have thought of that would improve the town. If you have such a project in mind, please see me and give me your thoughts. Try as I might, I won't see every need and surely, I don't have a monopoly on ideas. Please share yours and have a part in making Ceredo an even better town. We continue to need a new generation of volunteers. For many years in Ceredo, the banker, the journalist, and the accountant could be seen planting trees, picking-up litter, and developing beautification ideas. We truly need the current generation to step forward and volunteer a few hours of community service for the good of the town.

I trust that each of you will have a meaningful and joyous Thanksgiving holiday. With inflation hitting us in different ways, if you are aware of a family that could use Thanksgiving assistance, please let me know. There is no reason that everyone in Ceredo can't have a good meal and an opportunity to reflect on our many blessings. Ceredo residents have a strong history of helping each other, and that tradition will continue.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Senior Center Veterans Salute



Members of the Ceredo Senior Wellness Center hosted a luncheon on November 10, 2021 to honor military veterans in our area. This annual event started several years ago, and with the new Ceredo facilities it was a wonderful tribute to veterans that attend the Center. In the opinion of several attendees, the event was one of the best and most appreciated events in our town's history.

While many such tributes are held in major cities across America, an event

such as this in a small community where we actually know the veterans has a very special meaning. Pastor Jeff Canterbury of First Baptist Ceredo sang several patriotic numbers that received a well-deserved standing ovation. The preacher can sing.

Veterans in attendance were recognized by Mayor Paul Billups and afterward the group was treated to lunch prepared by the Wellness Center members. The food was plentiful and tasty, the community pride in those that served in the armed

forces was evident throughout the room, and every attendee left with a bit of emotion. Events such as this are simply more meaningful in small towns, and with many thanks to those that made this event possible, we will plan to make it an even bigger tribute next year in honor of our servicemen and women.

There are those few times that you walk away from a event and think "this was great", and the veterans salute was certainly such an event.

Austin's Wins Again

Ceredo's world-famous Austin's Homemade Ice Cream has once again been recognized by the North American Ice Cream Association. At the annual awards banquet held in Orlando, Florida this month, Austin's was awarded first place in the Southern Region and third nationally in the 2021 Best New Flavor category. The Austin's entry, created by Tim Ruff, is sold locally as "Campfire S'mores" and was entered under the name of "S'more Than a Feeling."

Austin's also entered flavors of Chocolate, Madagascar Vanilla Bean, and Strawberry in the Ice Cream Clinic competition and received one white ribbon and two red ribbons for excellence. These flavors were created by the matriarch of the Austin's group, Joyce Snyder. These awards follow the Gold Medal awarded to Austin's in the 2020 national competition as the best chocolate ice cream in America.

The iconic business has been located in Ceredo since 1946, and recently opened a retail shop in downtown Huntington. Many

of us that grew up with the taste of Austin's have perhaps taken great ice cream for granted, but as is evidenced by the national awards, we have something special in Ceredo.

The Ceredo business once again had a busy summer season with long lines and customers from miles around travelling for a dip of Austin's goodness. The business once again celebrated National Ice Cream Day with a "dollar dip" special at the Ceredo location, followed by a community fire works show that drew thousands.

In addition to making the best ice cream in America, Austin's has been a great corporate neighbor to the town, always willing to assist with town functions and maintaining their property in an excellent manner. The New Crescent salutes Austin's as one of the things that make Ceredo a great place to live.

CVFD Dinner With Rocco

The annual Ceredo Volunteer Fire Department "Dinner With Rocco" was held on Sunday, October 31. With the assistance of Ceredo's master chef, Rocco Muriale, the department served 1,616 spaghetti dinners which, combined with donations that day, raised approximately \$12,000 for the department. Funds raised this year will go toward replacement of the department's 1993 model rescue truck with a new fire engine.

We are fortunate to have a businessman such as Rocco, his wife Joannie, and son Rocco, Jr. in Ceredo. Their contributions to the CVFD over the years have been most instrumental in allowing our volunteers to update equipment and maintain an excellent insurance rating for our residents.

The event was again limited to "drive-thru" service due to COVID concerns, but good planning by the department allowed the pick-up line that averaged three blocks to move rapidly. It was an "all hands-on deck" event for department members, and they certainly performed well. Our thanks go to the Muriale family and all of our residents that took part in this event.

Railroad Closing Confusion

Ceredo residents and the town administration were rather upset in October when CSX Railroad announced that the rail crossings on Main and First Street West would be closed for one week during a rail maintenance project. We were all in agreement that the crossings were in need of repair, but as residents we were upset that CSX was closing both crossings at the same time, leaving us with a detour through Kenova and Broad Hollow to travel between downtown Ceredo and South Ceredo.

The town immediately contacted CSX and attempted to negotiate repairing one tract at a time, thus leaving a travel route to and from South Ceredo, particularly to the middle school and Ceredo Manor. Negotiating with the railroad, the most powerful industry in America as recognized by Congress, is not an easy thing, particularly when the railroad owns the crossings and the town was left to negotiate from a position of "favor and pity" instead of strength.

While fielding several hundred calls from residents that, like the town administration, felt some common sense should enter the equation, the town was able to obtain a concession that the Main Street crossing would be reopened as a temporary crossing over the weekend. Operating with that mild concession from the CSX corporate office, the next step was to visit the actual track gang and plead our case — appeal to a different court if you will.

The actual track workers were much more sympathetic to our concerns and by working a few extra hours between Wednesday and Friday the track gang was able to complete work on the Main Street crossing and by Friday eve-



ning work on that crossing was complete. The First Street crossing was completed early the following week, and luckily the town survived the closures without a major incident.

The main question from residents was why the town would allow CSX to close both crossings. The answer flows from a series of actions and legal cases that concluded in 1878. In short, the railroad owns the rail line property and in a series of events aimed at keeping the new C&O Railroad, then being constructed as the major rail line between the Chesapeake Bay region and Chicago, coming through Ceredo.

The then owner of most of Ceredo, C.B. Hoard, had negotiated with Collis P. Huntington, owner of the C&O (now CSX) to bring his railroad into Ceredo on what is now A Street. At some point after executing this agreement, Huntington decided to found the City of Huntington and run his line south of Ceredo on its current location. Hoard balked and a series of legal cases ensued, one of which eventually found its way to the United State Supreme Court.

The legal process then, as now, can much slower than can two industrialists trying to build a railroad and make money. As the legal

cases languished on various appeals, Hoard and the Ceredo Town Council entered into an agreement with Collis P. Huntington, allowing Huntington's railroad to proceed west through Ceredo at its current location, and granting the railroad rights to cross town streets at Main, First Street West, and other locations.

It is from this agreement that the CSX has authority to do as they wish, when they wish, on the crossings. The town will continue to battle, but as you can see, dealing with the railroad when they hold the rights is not an easy endeavor. Having the railroad run through Ceredo was important in 1878, and Hoard had the foresight to know that without the railroad Ceredo would have soon died. Had Huntington chosen to buy Ceredo and build his city here, certainly things would be different today. Still, having the railroad allowed Ceredo to have a freight depot in days when most freight was delivered by rail, and later to land the coal terminal that has supported Ceredo financially for the past 75 years. We won some of the fights, we lost some of the fights, but the headache of a few days of crossing closure is probably worth the benefit the railroad has been to our town.

Why The New Crescent?

At a time when the local newspaper industry in a state of steady decline, why do we continue publishing The New Crescent? The simple answer is that we feel the paper is meaningful to our community, and without the Crescent many of our residents would not receive much, if any, true “local” information.

Small towns and mid-sized cities are losing their newspapers at an alarming rate. A report released by the University of North Carolina reveals that 25% of the roughly 9,000 local papers published in 2004 have vanished. That translates to 1,800 communities that had local papers 15 years ago are, today, without local reporting. The North Carolina report was published prior to the coronavirus pandemic, thus it reasonable to believe that the decline has accelerated over the past six months.

The New Crescent first went to press over thirty years ago, with a primary mission of providing Ceredo residents a monthly report of news about the town. By publishing the Minutes of monthly Town Council meetings, our residents are kept

abreast of official governmental actions. We attempt to report other workings of Town Hall, a summary of police and fire department activity, and other projects and programs that are of general public interest. Without the New Crescent, these things wouldn't be reported. With a few historical and local personal pieces, we have a paper.

Several changes have been made over the years, the most recent being our method of distribution. For the first thirty years, the New Crescent was distributed by the town staff, leaving a copy on each doorstep in town. It became apparent that during rainy or windy weather, many copies didn't reach the reader. To cure this, we recently started local distribution through the Post Office – every person having a postal box at the Ceredo Post Office receives a copy in the box.

For residents living in parts of South Ceredo that are on rural mail routes, delivery is made by town employees. In addition to local delivery, the New Crescent has approximately 100 subscribers that live outside the area, mostly former residents or

persons with ties to the town that want to keep up with local happenings. The Crescent is a life-line home for these folks.

Publishing a newspaper, even a monthly six-page journal, is not a simple undertaking. The Crescent is almost entirely written by the publisher. The publisher writes the paper on nights and weekends, as finding volunteers willing to contribute toward six pages of newsprint isn't easy. Layout and printing are contracted to HD Media, at a cost of \$450 per issue. The cost is offset by local advertisers and our “Honor Roll” donors that subsidize the paper with annual donations of \$50. We couldn't continue to operate without these donors.

It is our belief that a local paper such as the New Crescent remains important to the community, and we will continue our attempts to keep you informed about the town. For any aspiring journalists out there, please contact the New Crescent at mayor@ceredovv.gov. We will welcome guest articles and will happily assist with editorial duties prior to print.

“FIRST THINGS FIRST”

– Devotional thoughts from Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ceredo.

“Seek *FIRST* the kingdom of God...” (Matt. 6:33)

The Colors of Fall

I grew up in the southern mountains of West Virginia in a little community called “Jumping Branch,” near Hinton (you know where it is, don't you?). One of the things I loved the most about living there was the Fall of the year, when the leaves would begin to turn. The hillsides would burst out with yellow, brown, and golden hues, painting breathtaking sights all around. The same happens around here. But I must admit, it's not quite the same. I'm a big believer

in the truth that our great Creator God has built spiritual truth into every fiber of his creation, if we would only have the spiritual eyes to see it. This is even true with the changing colors of the leaves that we enjoy so much. Let me illustrate what I mean by that. In James 1:2, we are told, “My brethren [written to Christians], count it all joy when you fall into various trials.” Talk about a hard command to obey! None of us (and I do mean, NONE) enjoys going through hard times. And we've seen plenty of hard times during this time of Covid, haven't we? Yet, the biblical command is not blunted. Even in these times, we can

still “count it all joy.” Now, before you think that either God or I are sadistic, please understand what James is saying. Our trials help produce godly qualities in us that probably would not be cultivated in our lives had it not been for the trials. James calls it the trials' “perfect work” (verse 4).

But what does this have to do with the changing color of leaves? When James speaks of “various trials,” the word “various” in the original language of the New Testament can be interpreted as “many-colored.” In fact, it's the same word used in Genesis to describe Joseph's “coat of many colors” (sorry, Dolly Parton wasn't

the only one to have one of those). Trials come in all shapes and sizes, and they are not in a “one-size-fits-all” category. But just as the trials come in a multi-faceted way, so does the resource God provides to make our endurance in trials possible: his grace. Or, as the apostle Peter described it, “the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10). The word “manifold” in that verse translates the same original word as the one for “various” in James 1:2. We might say it's “the multi-colored grace of God.”

What does all this mean? As we seek to put it all together, I believe we can say this. Yes, our trials (difficulties, hard-

ships, etc.) may come in a lot of different shapes and sizes. But so does the grace of God. There is a “color” of grace that can match the “color” of your trial. And God will take the brush of his mercy and paint that color of grace over the color of your trial. He may not remove the trial, but he will grace for the moment, or as Hebrews 4:16 says, “grace to help in time of need.”

So, as you enjoy the fall colors, just remember, God's grace is just like that. But unlike the leaves, God's grace won't fall and die. It will always be here, just when you need it most. HAPPY FALL, Y'ALL!!

Jeffrey F. Canterbury is the pastor of the First Baptist Church, 448 Main St., Ceredo WV. For more information about the church, including service times and archived messages, please visit the church's website at 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 fbccsecretary@zoominternet.net or mail them to P.O. Box 967, Ceredo, WV 25507.

Autumnfest Review

Once again, the C-K Autumnfest Committee has made Ceredo-Kenova a fall destination. Hindered by rain on two days, the committee still managed to put on a great show. The Autumnfest Parade was again a spectacular event with crowds lining the streets of Ceredo and Kenova. The car and tractor show had to move from prime-time Saturday to Sunday afternoon to avoid the rain, and still had a great turnout.

The main attraction, the world-famous Pumpkin House, drew record crowds in spite of two rainy evenings. Proprietors Ric and Sandi Griffith added a new attraction, a 1,803 pound pumpkin grown in Ft. Gay, to the usual 3,000 carved and lighted gourds in their front yard. The large pumpkin was sculpted by a Cabell County artist, and was the star of the show.

The importance of the Pumpkin House to our communities is highlighted by the visitor's book of those attending. This year the book was not used during the two rainy evenings, but still lists visitors from 11 countries, 32 states, and 54 cities in West Virginia. Read that again – 11 foreign countries, 32 states, and 54 cities. Outstanding!

The beauty pageant, baking competition, pumpkinball tournament, and craft shows were all well attended. The committee is now in the review process to start planning for next year, and those of us that know Ric Griffith know that he is pondering ways to make the Pumpkin House more enjoyable for visitors from 10 or 20 more foreign countries nest year!

Ceredo Coffee and Corn Hole Society

A group of mature residents, each of whom appear to have celebrated Christmas 75 or 80 times, are now playing Corn Hole each morning beginning at 8 in the Wellness Center. The group played for several years at a church in Kenova, and when a temporary home was needed the Center stepped forward with space, Corn Hole boards, and daily coffee.

It appears that requirements for participation would be free time, a like of coffee, and a good disposition for receiving kidding from other members. The current group, led by the patriarch Jack Riggs, include Larry Wellman, George Keigley, Donnie Fannin, Jim Spence, Wally Ferguson, Bob Moses, Buck Lykins, and apprentice thrower Ronnie Jarrell. The group will happily accept new members, just show up and be a man of good spirits.

As long as this group wants a home, they will have one at the Senior Wellness Center as this is exactly the target group for use of the facility. We welcome the Ceredo Coffee and Corn Hole Society.



Larry Wellman, Jack Riggs, Donnie Fannin, Jim Spence, Wally Ferguson, George Keigley. Absent: Bob Moses, Buck Lykins

HONOR ROLL

Eleanor Terry.....	11/22
Jim Billups.....	02/22
Paul and Kathy Billups.....	10/23
Mike and Susan Watts.....	10/22
Leigh Ann Johnson.....	04/22
Jack & Ann Riggs.....	10/22
Connie & Mark Beford.....	10/24
Dinah and Dale Ledbetter.....	10/22
Katrina Childers.....	07/22
In Memory of Alberta “Dossie” & Sherman Medley	04/22
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
George & Brenda Keigley.....	09/22
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
In Memory of Esther Adkins.....	10/22
Donna Jones.....	10/23
Dr. Daniel & Suzanne Brody.....	10/22
Cindy & Vern Eagleston-Blaine.....	11/22
Hon. Thomas M. Smith.....	11/22

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@ceredovv.gov.

Maynard Named Sports Editor



The Editorial Board of the New Crescent is pleased to announce the appointment of Randy Maynard as Sports Editor of the paper. A Kenova native now residing in Lexington, Maynard

had a stellar career in youth and high school athletics in Ceredo-Kenova. Randy played first base on the 1966 state champion C-K Little League squad, and followed in the position on the first C-K baseball team to earn a state tournament berth in 1971. Doubling on the gridiron, Maynard was the starting center

for the 1970 Wonders football team.

“Randy has been groomed for this position most of his life,” said New Crescent publisher Paul Billups. “Starting at an early age Randy served as an apprentice for his father, the late Grey Maynard, himself a publisher. The editorial staff looks forward to Randy’s excellent writing contributions and leadership of the sports department.”

Maynard’s first action with the New Crescent was to appoint Boone Chaffin as head of sports research for the paper. “With Boone, we won’t need to do a lot of archival research as he has the best historical knowledge of youth and high school sports in the area. He will be a most valuable asset in allowing the New Crescent to bring meaningful stories of

past games, teams, and athletes to our readers,” said Maynard.

During the news conference announcing his appointment, Maynard stated “I owe this honor to my dad, Grey Maynard, for leading me through my apprenticeship, Mrs. Ruth Sutherland’s guidance at C-K, Paul Billups for his patience with me as Assistance Sports Editor of the 1970 Heraldus, and many years of reading the work of Ernie Salvatore and Jack Hardin. Add around thirty years of writing church bulletins, and I am hopefully ready for this position.”

Suggestions for article topics can be directed to “New Crescent Sports Editor, PO Box 691, Ceredo, WV 25507” or by email to “newcrescent@ceredowv.gov.”

Batting Cages In Ceredo

by Randy Maynard, Sports Editor

The excitement was palpable among the young people of the Ceredo-Kenova area. The year was 1960 when two novice entrepreneurs, Carl Little and Max Lewis, partnered to bring the L & L Batting Range to a portion of the land that formerly comprised the third hole and fourth tee box of the Wayside Golf Course. The property now is part of the Park Terrace subdivision.

“It was Maxie’s idea,” Little stated, on the phone, from his home in Texas. “We really had no idea what we were doing but it was surely fun while it lasted.”

Little and Lewis were both 1952 graduates of Ceredo-Kenova High School and they wanted to especially assist the youth in the area to sharpen their baseball hitting skills. “Carl and I noticed other batting ranges and it seemed like a low cost investment. We talked to Floyd Stark and he agreed to float us a loan and allow us to use the property where our batting range would be located,” Lewis stated in a recent phone interview. “We asked Bill Evans to weld us some batting cages, we purchased some mechanical pitching machines, and before the 1960 season we were in business.”

Rubber coated baseballs flew out of the pitching machines which could be set to three different speeds. Even though the batting cages proved to be most popular with the Little League and Babe Ruth players, any age was welcome to come and take a few swings. Since both Lewis and Little had played for the Marshall University baseball team, on many occasions, one would find some Marshall players utilizing the facility.

L & L was a low budget endeavor. “We kept the grass cut with small mowers because we could not afford those fancy mowers that golf courses used,” Lewis said. “We had teenagers

involved with collecting money, selling snacks, and picking up balls that would be hit all over the place.”

Even though not yet a teenager at the time, Max’ son, Mike, was one who remembers picking up some of the balls that were hit. “I’d find the balls everywhere,” Mike Lewis stated on the phone from his home near Charleston, South Carolina. “I didn’t particularly like what I was doing. I didn’t get paid, except for being able to take as many swings in the batting cages as I wanted to take, and I could do it for free.”

The batting range was in existence for three years. “One of the problems we had in growing the business was the fact that it was located a good ways from Route 60,” Lewis, who now resides in Stockbridge, Georgia, relayed. “We put a big sign on the highway but it didn’t really attract customers like we thought it might.”

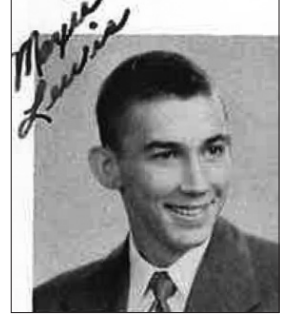
The two tried their best to lure as many as they could to utilize their facility. “We went to the C-K Little League, talked to the managers, as well as the players and we encouraged them to come to L & L,” Little stated. “We did fairly well on the weekends but during the week it was lean sometimes,” Lewis mused. He also said, “We just didn’t have the expertise to advertise in the proper way. We were young and inexperienced but our brief time owning L & L helped us both as we moved forward with our careers.”

Lewis retired from the United States Navy, having reached the rank of Captain. He relocated to Stockbridge, Georgia and ran the Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corp (JROTC) at Stockbridge High School. “I worked 12 years there and I was fortunate to receive another retirement,” Lewis said.

Little had brief stints of teaching and coaching at Chesapeake (Ohio) High School and at



Carl Little



Max Lewis

Ceredo-Kenova High School. He also held positions at the West Virginia Convention and Visitors Bureau where he was in charge of the West Virginia Arts & Crafts Fair. He then went on to become the chairman of the Arlington, Texas Convention and Visitors Bureau. He helped to land the Texas Rangers, a major league baseball team, to Arlington. Little retired as the Vice-President of the Salt Lake City, Utah Convention & Visitors Bureau in 2004. He worked extensively on the 2002 Winter Olympics and said, “It was one of the biggest thrills of my life.”

1963 was the last year for L & L. “Ceredo Bank was wanting to use the property for houses on the property we occupied,” Little remarked. “We didn’t lose money but we didn’t make any money either,” Lewis chuckled.

It is of note that the L&L range coincided with the rise of youth baseball in Ceredo-Kenova. The Little League won state championships in two of the years the range was open, and many members of the 1966 state championship teams spent hours pounding balls at L&L between 1960 and 1963. For several years after Max and Carl moved on with life, the rubber-coated range baseballs would turn up in a Little League manager’s bag or in a Saturday sandlot game in the old golf course, so the benefits brought to Ceredo-Kenova by the L&L owners, while perhaps not monetarily successful, left a positive impact on our youth for several years.

Mr. Dilly Dally

A South Ceredo lad, Jerry began his athletic career playing sandlot games in the Pony Pasture League with the Evans brothers, the Perdue brothers and cousins, Bobby Harmon, Mike Webb, Tommy Kendrick and other southside boys. As his age a talent increased, Jerry advanced to the Golf Course League where downtown Ceredo boys like the Stephens brothers, Mike Watts and an occasional Kenova boy joined the sandlot games.

In 1962, on the advice of Coach Carl Ward, a group of Ceredo-Kenova athletic boosters formed a Buddy League football program. The league consisted of four teams comprised of 5th, 6th, and 7th grade boys, playing only each other on Tuesday evenings. This was organized football, albeit with some restrictions, the main of which being that every team would use only the C-K varsity offensive plays designed by Coach Ward. Flea-flicker double reverses, forget it. Half-back off right tackle was the league play dejour. Jerry was selected to play for the Red team (in a move about as inventive as Coach Ward’s offense, the teams were simply named Red, Blue, Gold, and Green).

Coached by the late JJ Billups, a true evaluator of talent, with one look at Jerry’s height he was designated as an end. As JJ recalled in his later years, “Jerry was raw-boned, skinny, didn’t run particularly fast, but had a heart the size of two Big Macs. Any coach worth his salt would have played him in a position requiring a tough man.”

Moving on to the Junior High

team in the 8th and 9th grade, where player’s abilities became a bit more defined, the number 88 worn by Workman as an end soon became an interior line number. Joining the varsity as a junior in 1966, Workman’s days as a “skill player” were definitely over as he became a starting inside linebacker on a team that played for the state championship. Playing inside linebacker for Carl Ward as an underclassman was not common, but neither was Workman’s work ethic or toughness. It was during that 1966 state championship game against a very good Gary team that Workman first dislocated his right shoulder.

By his senior season in 1967, Workman was a very recognizable figure, starting at guard and inside linebacker. His height and number 88 as an interior lineman would have been enough to identify him, but old-school Workman also wore high-top black cleats during a time when low-cut cleats were all the rage, and a faded fiberglass helmet from the early 60’s when the remaining 70 players wore shiny-white helmets of recent manufacture. When Jerry took the field, the opposition noticed. As teams mingled during warm-up for one regular season game an opposing player shouted that he “wanted a piece of Dilly Dally.” A C-K player responded “By the second quarter that will be ‘Mr. Dilly Dally’ to you.” Workman had established himself as another in a long line of South Ceredo tough boys that Ward would play in his most important positions, guard and linebacker.



Workman had a great season in 1967, playing for what is generally recognized as one of the best-ever C-K teams. Between the state championship game in 1966 and the state championship game in 1967, Workman dislocated his shoulder a state record 70 times. To put this in perspective, we often see college players dislocate a shoulder on television and watch them roll, wallow, scream and kick until the cameras move away from such a painful event. Workman dislocated his shoulder 70 times, and didn’t miss a game.

Most everyone living in Ceredo-Kenova at the time claims to have witnessed “the event” that will forever remain part of C-K lore. As the C-K team warmed-up on a beautiful field in Parkersburg to take on a highly touted Monongah team led by Nick Saban and Kerry Marbury, a collective yell went out from the C-K side of the field. As the players looked around and the crowd of 5,000 gasped at the sight, Jerry Workman’s right

arm was dangling from its socket. Those were days before the advent of high school trainers or even trained EMT’s at games. The C-K trainer, ball boy, and equipment manager was Bo Bo Caines, fan extraordinaire, medical trainer, not so much. Bo started toward the call for a trainer, saw Jerry’s dangling arm, and decided his services were more needed in cleaning the footballs.

The C-K players stood in shock for a couple of minutes, knowing the importance of Workman to the team’s chances of winning. Somewhat in a story that still resonates around C-K, the staff got Workman’s shoulder back in socket, added a little tape, and pronounced Jerry as fit to play. And play he did, leading the Wonders to a resounding 47-13 victory over the Monongah team. If you talk football with anyone in C-K for over five minutes you will hear this story, and it is absolutely true. Any lesser player would have watched from the sideline.

Workman didn’t miss a play.

It is often overlooked that in addition to being an All-State football player, Workman was an All-State basketball player, playing an integral role in the Wonders state basketball championship run in 1968, dislocated shoulder and all. Jerry missed several basketball games due to the continued dislocations, but when his services were needed during the tournament he always rose to the occasion, often playing with one arm.

Following graduation, Workman received a scholarship to play football at West Virginia State. Jerry earned a starting position at right guard for the first four games of his freshman year before the pesky right shoulder again became an issue. The medical staff at State suggested that continued dislocations would have a permanent impact on Jerry’s quality of life, and that Jerry should consider concentrating on academics and call his football career to an end. Jerry followed this advice, transferred to Marshall the following year and later graduated with a degree in education. It is unknown whether the State medical staff consulted with Bo Bo.

During his professional career, Jerry served as a coach, classroom teacher, in various administrative positions and finally as an Assistant Superintendent in the Wayne County school system. Retired today, Jerry continues to play golf and pickleball along with maintaining his farm, still with a heart as big as two Big Macs.

A true C-K athletic great and unquestionably one of the toughest of all time, Jerry Workman.

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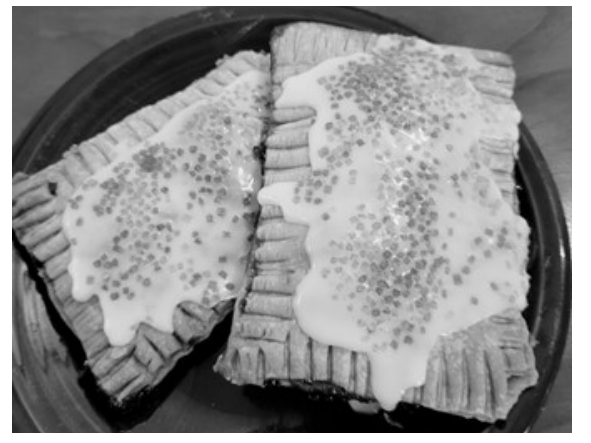
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The Crescent Kitchen

**HOMEMADE
 POP-TARTS**
 by Natalie Hemann


I haven't had a Pop-Tart in probably over 30 years, but for some reason I have been craving them lately. I think the commercials on TV for them got to me! Homemade Pop-Tarts must be pretty popular because I found all kinds of recipes online for them, and they are all basically the same. They could not be simpler! The recipe calls for so few ingredients and I already had all of them so I didn't have to make a trip to the store. I used red and green sprinkles on the ones I made. I think these would make a special treat for Christmas breakfast for your children or grandchildren, or even us old folks!



Ingredients:
 1 Box - store bought pie crust (I used Pillsbury)
 ½ Cup Preserves (I used strawberry)
Icing:
 ½ Cup Confectioners Sugar
 2 Tbs. Milk
 ¼ tsp. Vanilla extract
 ¼ tsp. Almond extract (Optional)
 Your Favorite Sprinkles

Directions:
 Preheat oven to 425°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.
 Flour a large work surface and lay both pie crusts out on it. Roll the circles to 11 inches across. Use a knife or pizza cutter to cut the edges off, about 1 inch off all sides, to create two 9-inch squares. Then cut each square into three 3-inch stripes, or 6 total. (You can make mini Pop-Tarts by cutting smaller squares.)
 Spoon 1-2 tablespoons of preserves in the center of 3 strips, spreading to ½ inch from the edge, and top with remaining 3 strips. Use a fork to crimp the edges together on all sides. Repeat with remaining pie crust. Move the pop tarts to the prepared baking sheet. Bake for approximately 10 minutes, until golden. Cool.

After the pop tarts have cooled for several minutes, whisk powdered sugar, milk, and extracts together to create an icing glaze. Spoon over the top of each pop tart and immediately sprinkle with sugar sprinkles. Let the icing dry, either on the baking sheets or on a dry rack.
 (With the leftover strips of dough you cut to make squares, I formed them together to create a flat surface and put butter, cinnamon, and sugar on them to make a little tasty treat!)



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Wreaths Across America

The Ceredo Crescent Hill Cemetery Board, in conjunction with the Westmoreland Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the West Virginia Chapter of the Gold Star Mothers, is again sponsoring a Wreaths Across America dedication at Crescent Hill Cemetery. The ceremony, followed by the placing of a wreath on the grave of each of the 174 military veterans interred at Crescent Hill, will take place at noon on December 18, 2021.

The dedication ceremony will include the Presentation of Colors, prayer, remarks concerning the meaning of the Wreaths Across America event, a rifle salute by the Ceredo Police Department, and placing of the wreaths by families of the interred veterans and community volunteers. Coffee, hot chocolate, and pastries will be served by the DAR, under the direction of Marilyn Oppenheimer.

The cost of fresh cut wreaths for this program is \$10 per wreath, meaning the Cemetery Board will be paying \$1,740 for the wreaths. The Board and the DAR are currently raising funds

to cover this expense, and they ask that families with a veteran relative buried at the cemetery consider making a donation to cover the \$10 cost for each grave. Donations may be sent to "Wreaths Across America, PO Box 691, Ceredo, WV 25507" or dropped at Town Hall.

In addition to the wreaths project, the groups are also attempting to assist families with obtaining the bronze veteran foot markers for those graves not having one. If you have a relative buried at Crescent Hill that is a veteran and does not have a government-issued foot marker, please contact Town Hall and you will be connected with persons that will assist in obtaining a marker.

This is a most worthy project and a meaningful way to recognize the service of those veterans buried at Crescent Hill. Please consider a small donation to offset the cost of wreaths, and more importantly please plan to attend the short dedication ceremony and placement of wreaths at noon on December 18, 2021. Questions may be directed to Town Hall at 304-453-1041.

Senior Center Overview

The Ceredo Senior Wellness Center, located on the site of the former Ceredo Elementary School, has been in operation for nearly a year. It seems an appropriate time to look at the progress of the Center and determine the benefits, so far, to our residents. Perhaps the most accurate was to look at this is to first look at usage, how many residents a day or week are using the facility. The numbers, at least to the town administration, are far better than expected at this point.

Presently operating at the Center are the following activities:

- Fitness Center** – M-F, 8 to noon and 4 to 7 pm, Saturdays 8 to noon – average daily usage 36
- Indoor Pickleball** – by reservation, 8 am to 9 pm, Monday-Saturday – average daily usage 24
- Zumba and Silver Sneakers exercise** – weekly schedule – average daily usage 16
- Daughters of the Revolution** – monthly meeting
- Quilting Guild** – monthly meeting
- Alumni Band** – Monday evenings (cafeteria) average weekly 40
- Tuesday Night Pickers** – Tuesday evenings 6 to 9 (cafeteria) – average weekly attendance 75
- Coffee and Corn Hole Society** – M-F 8am to 10 am – average daily 8
- Golden Girl Exercise Room** (private) daily usage 12
- Police Training (private)** – as

needed
Fire Training (private) – as needed

The average weekly number of persons using the facility totals around 587, a remarkable number for a small-town facility constructed on-the-go, and a number that indicates great benefit to our residents. In addition to regular daily operations, the facility has also hosted luncheons for various groups, a fund-raising venture for the Masonic Lodge, and a covid vaccine and flu shot clinic for our residents.

More activities and uses will undoubtedly be developed in the next year. Residents are encouraged to visit the Center, take a tour, and take advantage of this facility to improve your health and quality of life. To quote Center member Virgil Blake, "we exercise a little and socialize a lot. This is a way for my wife and I to remain active and visit with our friends at the same time." Gathering at places such as this allow us to remain a close-knit community. We likely won't develop any Olympic athletes, but we will develop great friendships and a sense of community that benefits us all.

From the town's perspective, we have achieved a lot with little investment. As we move into the second year we will be looking at additional uses, and we certainly appreciate any suggestions of other facility uses as we move forward.

The Three Wooten Sisters

by Tommy Gibbs, Contributing Columnist

Sometime in early 1937, three young Ceredo girls and their mother were collected into a row boat from their second-floor window as the flood waters of the Ohio grew higher and higher. The two-story house was located on Main Street, just behind the First National Bank of Ceredo. The three young girls were the three Wooten sisters, daughters of E.L. and Lillian Ward Wooten.

Anagene, the oldest, was fifteen, Kathleen was thirteen, and Hermalee was only ten. Where Mr. Wooten got the row boat is lost, like so many details, to the mists of time and the steady loss, over the years, of those who might still remember that ordeal shared by all the people of Ceredo. Whoever did provide the boat was certainly a friend or neighbor. Though frightening at the time, in hindsight the three girls, as they grew into women, came to look upon the experience as both a miracle and an adventure. That experience, and the fact that it happened in the loving, close-knit community of Ceredo, helped shape all three women throughout their lives.

Although the sisters were often separated from each other by time, geography, and life's many twists and turns over the decades of their lives, they retained a closeness and



Anagene, Kathleen, Hermalee

respect for each other throughout. Anagene, Kathleen, and Hermalee got together whenever they could and always enjoyed being together, sharing their stories and seeing all the children and grandchildren in one place.

Not one of the sisters achieved fame or celebrity ... they achieved something much more valuable. They became ordinary, good, strong women who took care of their families and were loved deeply by friends as well as family.

In July, 2021, Hermalee, the youngest of the three, passed away in Wilmington, North Carolina, at the age of ninety-four. Kathleen passed in Ceredo in November, 2016, at the age of ninety-three, and Anagene, at ninety-five, passed in Huntington in May, 2017. All three women lived good lives as devoted sisters and wives and mothers and

grandmothers, always putting family first and always remembering that family doesn't stop at blood lines but extends to friends and neighbors in their community. If asked about their longevity, it's likely all three would give credit to growing up in Ceredo among loving friends and family and growing up on good Ceredo water.

Today, with so much attention paid to celebrity, fame, and notoriety, we should all pause now and then to reflect on and remember those who might be seen as ordinary, or even go unnoticed. When we do that, we come to see that there are more ordinary folks than celebrities and that is it, ultimately, all of us ordinary folks that keep the lights on, the water running, and our communities healthy and nurturing. It was good, ordinary people, neighbors and family, who were there to help each other in 1937 when the flood waters of the Ohio River endangered towns all along its course.

There were the kinds of people in Ceredo, like the three Wooten sisters, Anagene, Kathleen, and Hermalee, who helped each other be less afraid and more helpful in such dire straits. The sisters never forgot that, and passed those values on to their children and grandchildren.

The three Wooten sisters may have had quiet, ordinary lives, but they were good lives and loving lives and their foundation was growing up in Ceredo.

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