



Ellen Zornes shares information about the Chamber Crawl to take place on April 26.

First Chamber Crawl

By Cathy Hoots Abell, Contributor

Do not forget to register for the Columbia-Adair County Chamber of Commerce's first "Chamber Crawl" set for Saturday, April 26. This activity will begin at the Adair County Elementary School at 8:00 a.m. Ellen Zornes, Chamber Executive Director, said the event is a 5K Fun Run and is open to everyone. Children age 10 and under must have a parent/guardian present at the event. Strollers will be allowed but dogs will not be permitted.

Individuals can run or walk and they do not have to do the entire route. According to Ms. Zornes, the "Chamber Crawl" will take place on the Adair County School District roads and be a "closed course," with some traffic around 10:00 a.m. due to a scheduled ballgame. The

road will be mostly paved - but does have a small area of gravel.

Ms. Zornes said registration is through RunSignUp and is open now. For more information regarding registration, visit the Columbia-Adair County Chamber of Commerce Facebook page. The cost for the event is \$25.00 and participants registered by April 11 will receive a T-shirt, goodie bag and bib number. Ms. Zornes said the proceeds from the event will assist the local chamber with various community events.

The cost to assist with sponsoring the event is \$50.00; names of sponsors will be placed on the back of the event T-shirt. If interested, contact the chamber before April 11.

Mark your calendar for this event and spend a Saturday morning running or walking around the Adair County School campus.

Local Author to Compete in MMA Tournament

By Dennis Crump, Editor

On April 1, a Columbia man known as Phu'o'ng Phu'o'c on the mixed martial arts (MMA) circuit announced his intention to compete in the Blood Torrent MMA Tournament to be held in Da Nang, Vietnam at the Harvest Moon Festival this fall. It will be his debut in the international MMA arena and he is widely favored for a devastating loss.

Phu'o'ng, known locally as Dennis Crump, became nominally famous a few years ago as the Nuclear Power Plant Operator

turned Methodist minister turned college professor - and more recently, the editor of the Adair Progress. He is married to the beautiful and demure Kathryn Crump, also of Columbia.

MMA fans around the world wait with baited breath (that is, with worms on their tongues) for the debut of this master of mixed martial arts and author of numerous books and articles. Phu'o'ng also plays guitar and saxophone and has written songs such as GK10 and Burning Through the Clouds. He enjoys a good balated April Fools' Day joke, too.



Local author Phu'o'ng Phu'o'c will compete in an Asian MMA tournament this fall. (Photo was altered using the Reface App)

Columbia Nights Event Coming Soon

By Cathy Hoots Abell, Contributor

The first "Columbia Nights," formerly referred to as "To the Nines," for 2025 will be April 4. As in previous years, merchants will have extended hours, staying open until 8:00 p.m. Jessica Hatcher, owner of Gypsy JoLee, said Columbia has many "unique" shops and this event encourages people to shop locally and explore the many stores present in our community.

As people visit each shop, they will note special events/activities. Ms. Hatcher said that at Gypsy JoLee, customers will see Easter-themed items and a sale on fall/winter items. Leslie Hadley, owner of Fifty & Five South, said those visiting the store for this event will have the opportunity to register to win an Easter Basket containing a gift card and spring theme items.

According to Luci Irvin, co-owner of Nanwood Market, said customers will see new merchandise

and apparel. This event coincides with the Spring Open House at Trendy Farmhouse. Brenda Bardin said they will have refreshments and be drawing for gift certificates throughout the day. These are just a few of the many individual store activities that will be available for everyone's enjoyment.

Ms. Hatcher said local businesses support each other by referring customers and working together in planning events for the community. The participating businesses

for "Columbia Nights" are Gypsy JoLee, Trendy Farmhouse, Nanwood Market, 313 Maple, Old Columbia, Monkey Business, GameDay Sports, The Local Dwelling Co., Fifty & Five South, New Beginnings, and Gathering 66. Live music will be provided by Jack Fishback who will be set up in front of the Russell & Co. Building. Charcoal Charm BBQ, Hooligan Burger and Cindy's Diner food trucks will be located in the City Park lot.



Lucy Irvin and daughter, Estelle "Esti" Irvin standing in front of the Spring drink menu that will be available at Nanwood Market.



Preparations for Columbia Nights is underway at Gypsy JoLee.

Fiscal Court Convenes Special Meeting

By Dennis Crump, Editor

The Adair County Fiscal Court convened a special called meeting on Monday, March 31 at 9:00 a.m. After the pledge of allegiance and prayer, the meeting was called to order. The board began by voting to approve the agenda. The disbursements were addressed and they approved seven line-to-line transfers. There were no fund-to-fund transfers.

The first issue discussed was the Waste Connection

contract. Some of the magistrates were confused as to what to do since they had made a motion previously to go with a contract with some amendments. This issue was tabled until County Attorney Hutchinson

Corbin could be present to answer questions. The court discussed a possible raise for fiscal court employees and ultimately voted yes on the motion, approving a 5 percent across-the-board, cost-of-living raise for all the county employees that are hourly. The sheriff

presented his excess fees presentation for 2024 and presented a check for \$67,554.50.

Next was a discussion of permission and all motions necessary for the sheriff's department to get back the excess fees they turned over so they will not have to borrow money from the fiscal court. The court voted "no" on this because they have spoken with Department of Local Government and they cannot turn that back over to them. It has to be invoiced to show a need for cost.

The fiscal court approved permission for the judge to sign the credit application to Broken Tractor for skid steer windshields. They also voted to renew the court's CD and the jail generator contract.

A motion was made to allow the second-shift employees who work at IMO to use the Jim Blair Center to play basketball after 10 p.m. This measure was also approved on a case-by-case basis as long as there is no foul play or vandalism. Following this, the court was adjourned.

Genealogical Society Meeting on April 7 - Solomon Baker and His Long Rifle

Survival in the early years of settlement on the American continent was dependent upon the ability to protect one's self and family and to successfully hunt for food for the table. The long-rifle, as it became known, was the best and most accurate weapon to do both these vital tasks.

The Long-Hunters were some of the first to penetrate the dense forests

of Kentucky Territory of Western Virginia and the long-rifle made the first trek with them. Makers of each unique firearm were prized citizens and much sought after. There were several gun makers in early Kentucky and their handiwork can still be seen in museums and private collections.

Early settlers in Adair County were impacted by

the same needs and threats and the need for defense was just as real as ever.

Richard Phelps will bring this period of our history to life with a program on gun maker Solomon Baker of Adair County. Learn more about the influence of the Baker Rifle at the next meeting of the Adair County Genealogical Society—Monday, April 7 at 5 p.m. CT at the Adair Genealogy

& History Research Center.

Sponsored by the Adair County Genealogical Society and the Adair Genealogy & History Research Center of the Adair County Public Library. For more information: adairgenealogy@gmail.com or 270.380.1024; or follow our FaceBook history pages.

Fourth Annual Adair Student Art Show

By Cathy Hoots Abell, Contributor

The 4th Annual Adair Student Art Show will open Tuesday, April 15 and run through Sunday, April 19. On Tuesday through Friday, you may visit the exhibit at the Trabue-Russell House (201 Jamestown St.) between 2:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. and on Saturday the exhibit will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to this free community event.

Mary Anne Loy who spends a great amount of time volunteering at the Trabue-Russell House was eager to share information about the Student Art Show. She said this is an event that recognizes youth art and how important it is. This event also serves as an opportunity for the community to learn more about the Trabue-Russell House and the history of the site to Columbia and Adair County.

Ms. Loy said youth through grade 12 are encouraged to submit their

artwork for inclusion in the Art Show. She said all mediums of artwork are welcome. Artwork is already being accepted but must be submitted by Monday, April 14. For further information, contact Ms. Loy at 270-378-0351.

Ms. Loy said when she was in school, she "was blessed with having many teachers who appreciated student art." She reflected on a class project she was involved in as a fourth-grader. Her teacher incorporated an active learning experience as she was teaching the history of Harrodsburg. Ms. Loy and her classmates completed a mural which was the length of the classroom that depicted the "then and now" of Harrodsburg. After being on display in the classroom, it was placed in the library. This was just one of many memories she shared of teachers demonstrating their appreciation of students' art work. Ms. Loy said she is hopeful that students who participate in the Student Art Show



This quilt, which is on display at the Trabue-Russell House, was completed by ACHS students in Ms. Henrietta Scott's art class during the 1976-1977 school year.

will look back later and remember the time they displayed their artwork at the Trabue-Russell House in Columbia, Kentucky.

The Art Show is funded by the Jim Blair Memorial Fund which is administered by the City of Columbia, who owns the historic Trabue-Russell House. Ms. Loy said the original brick

portion of the home was built in 1821-23 by Daniel Trabue, one of Columbia's founders. Ms. Loy said the Trabue-Russell House offers a unique setting for the displaying of students' artwork. She encourages everyone to visit the historic site during this time and see the creativity of the youth of Adair County.