

KAYS BRANCH AND BEYOND

BY WANDA NEW

And the heat continues, much to our discomfort. But it is summer, so we have to put up with it. I just looked at the next weeks weather and it doesn't look any better with a lot of rain chances and high temperatures. My hope is that it will get through this now and give us a good week for the 127 yard sale. Trina Schimmoeller had another rain delay on getting her house footer poured. Maybe this week it will happen. Meanwhile the grass and weeds keep coming as quick as we cut it. My gauge read almost 6 inches over this week. But—we didn't have to water the garden. Barbara has canned 56 quarts of green beans so far and is making pickles. Mother helps her break up the beans so that is a big help. Fay and Jennifer canned beans last week too and her neighbor Calvin gave her some of his abundance of cucumbers,

so she is making 14-day sweet pickles too. She said the corn is already making ears, so she is looking forward to that, she loves corn on the cob in season like i do. Ann Spicer said she did not get out of the house all week except to get her mail, so she has been doing a lot of reading. John Harrod said he and Tona also have been fighting the heat and humidity, trying to work in the garden and flowerbeds. They haven't canned but are enjoying beans and kale from their garden. They went to a party over the weekend at New Albany for some friends who had moved away. They played some music of course, had good food and saw a lot of old friends and still got home "fairly early." I saw John on KET when Ray was watching TV. He was picking and singing with a group of pickers. He was interviewed earlier this year talking about the singing duo, Local Honeys but I missed it when it was on Ky

Life. Patrick finally got his cell phone to get better service in our dead zone area when he set a post and hooked up a booster so now, he can talk without going out in the heat or cold like he had to. I may have to try that if his continues to be successful. Patrick spent a good bit of time this week on writing reports for Yew Dell Gardens and got it mailed off, happy to get that finished. He and Dara had three couples of friends to dinner Thursday evening. He said on Sunday they were going Nowhere in the heat. Good idea. I walked to my lake just before dark and still got very hot coming up the 2 hills. Beth Conway said they went to a birthday-graduation party on sunday for Christian Dempsey. Brock is doing horse lessons one day a week and he starts soccer this week and Brayden got back from FFA camp. Hannah is still trying to catch

up at home after 3 weeks on the road trip. It was on the trip that she had a rock hit her windshield so when she got home, she went to Lexington and got it replaced. Bud picked her up while it was being fixed and they went to eat at Halls on the River. On Sunday she was cooking dinner for her nephew and other family members. One evening she did go to Pioneer Playhouse in Danville with friends to see "Walking across Egypt", a fun comedy. They have some great plays and are in their 76th year doing plays, wow!! Bryan and Joyce News boy Haze came in 12th of 47 kids his age in sporting clays competition last week and 19th in skeet shooting out of 43 his age group. This was his first year competing so who knows what he could do next year. The family was camping this week at Margaritaville in Pigeon Forge, along with Paul and Louann, David and Gina, Kara

and Nathan. He said it was the nicest campground they had ever stayed in with a pool, lazy river, live music every night and DJ by the pool in afternoons plus other great amenities. Sounds like a fun place. I went to the library on Thursday evening to the monthly Chef Gordon's demonstration where he made some tasty summertime fruity drinks that were enjoyed by 20 people, a great group. On Tuesday Barbara and I went to the visitation at funeral home for Mike Figgins. He will be missed in our community. My class of '68 has lost another member, Jimmy Wilson passed last Sunday. He was a brother of Sherry Ayres. He and his wife Mary were at our last reunion at Butler Park and enjoyed it. We need to get together more often. Enjoy every moment of your life because one day you will wish you had more time. Make every day the best you can.

OWEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Circuses, Wild West shows embedded in Owen County history

Most countians don't realize it, but in the early 1900's circuses and Wild West shows were part of the Owen County scene. One famous Wild West Show made a yearly stop on the Owen County side of Sparta. While some residents in Old Sparta might think of themselves as Owen County's red-headed stepchildren, the community embraces an early rich history of the area. The original settlement, established around 1800 on the Owen County side of Eagle Creek and known as "Ross's Mill" and later "Brock's Station," became what is now known as Old Sparta. In 1869 Sparta divided into two towns with Old Sparta remaining in Owen County. By 1900 this Owen County community had grown exponentially; and perhaps one of the best times experienced by locals was when the W.E. Black's Wild West Show came to town. The show's star was Colorado Grant; and though no one knew where this cowboy grew up or how he got his



name, Colorado traveled in the show throughout Kentucky, making a yearly stop on a farm opposite the red schoolhouse located in Old Sparta. Colorado was over six feet tall, and beneath his cowboy hat his long brown hair flowed to his shoulders. He wore cowboy boots, had pistols in holsters strapped to his hips, and his kindness to children was well-known. Unable to afford tickets to the show, children in Sparta were invited to watch the show as it was rehearsed in the huge main tent. In 1907 rain kept Colorado's show from traveling much, and with time to spare, he wandered around Sparta. Impressed by its beauty, Colorado decided to buy land in the area. One of his farms was on the Owen County side and the other, across the road, was in Gallatin County. In 1911 while the show was performing in Taylorsville, Ky, a man who had consumed too much alcohol created a disturbance and was evicted from the show. He returned later that evening and shot Col-

orado through the heart. Colorado Grant's body was brought back to Sparta and he was buried in the Owenton Cemetery. Perhaps one of the greatest tributes to Colorado Grant was written in the 1950's by eighty-year-old J.L. Samuel who lived in Sparta as a child. He wrote, "Colorado's body was brought back to Sparta and buried in the Owenton Cemetery without a marker. There is a movement in Sparta to buy a marker for his grave. It is hoped the public will finance the project. "Everyone who witnessed the return of the show to Sparta would never forget the little ponies walking along with their heads down as if knowing their master had gone. People could not hold back their tears and everyone was weeping. At the time of this terrible tragedy, I was 13 years old, and it made an impression on me that I will never forget." Although it took several years, Sparta citizens raised money for a marker to be placed upon the gravesite of the star cowboy who provided exciting unforgettable

memories for folks who lived along Eagle Creek in the small town of Sparta, Kentucky; and thanks to J.L. Samuel the story of Colorado Grant remains a cherished piece of Owen County history to be passed onto future generations. However, Sparta wasn't the only Owen County town to host a Wild West Show. According to a 1979 News-Herald article in 1914 Owenton boasted roadshow skating rinks and a circus; and that same year the famous



Cowboy Grant

Buffalo Bill Cody Wild West Show came to town. Stories of these events are recorded in old copies of the News-Herald. These newspapers are are bound in books housed in the Owen County Historical Society Museum. Everyone is welcome to visit and browse through this collection. The weather forecast for last Saturday was dismal with lots of rain predicted, which, of course, didn't happen. With this forecast in mind, the board decided to move our annual River Day celebration to this Saturday, July 26, same

time 10-2. At 11:00 stories will be shared of the Kentucky River floods in Monterey and Gratz. The calliope will be featured in the backyard at 11:30 and Tyler Mullins will be offering a wide variety of music on the banjo and guitar at noon and 1:00. Games and prizes for young and old alike will add to the festivities. Bring the whole family for a fun-filled day. We would like to thank all of you who have sent donations to help us with the expense of a new furnace and a roof repair. We are greatly appreciative of your kindness.

Lake Jericho future uncertain after Watershed votes to accept lease bids

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

The future of Lake Jericho, a 137-acre recreational lake located at 1317 Lake Access Road in Smithfield, is uncertain following a unanimous vote made by the Little Kentucky River Watershed Conservancy District Board at their packed monthly meeting held Thursday. Board member Butch Foree made the motion stating, "The Watershed will advertise and accept sealed bids containing proposals to lease the campground and park facilities at Lake Jericho." Over 20 full-time and seasonal residents were in attendance at the July 17 meeting and shared their concern about the decision. Board chairman Tommy Webb was asked by the residents during the meeting if they could get a commitment to be able to stay during the winter. "I can't do that right now," Webb responded. "Because I don't know what, if we have a bid that suits the board, then I don't know what's that's going to be." A resident asked if they could have them keep the



Photo by Joe Durbin

Full-time resident Thomas Gillies and several neighbors share concern over the uncertain future of the Lake Jericho campgrounds during the Watershed board meeting on July 17. same dynamic. "I can't have them do anything," Webb said. "Once we're out of it, they can do whatever they want." "I came to the lake last summer from Arizona. When they closed for the winter, I went back to Arizona," Thomas Gillies said after the meeting. "I came back in March of this year and was able to get into a permanent spot. I have grandkids that live in Crestwood. My granddaughter spends a lot of time with me in my motorhome.

"The lake is a great place and most of the people are very nice. Actually, I have the best neighbors that I have ever had in my life. I really am not happy about what the board has done. "I really hope that someone will take over the lake who is for community. I've met some great people here." Webb confirmed to the Local that there are eight to 10 full-time families, and 25 to 30 seasonal families

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Absolute Auction

Sat. Aug. 2nd @ 10:00 a.m.

Robert Nixon Estate



222 South Main Street, Owenton Ky

3 BDR, 1 1/2 Bath House Garage

House: 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, living room, dining room, Office, detached garage all located on nice lot being 222 South Main Street, Owenton, Ky. This property has endless opportunities. Call our office for more details or private showing.

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