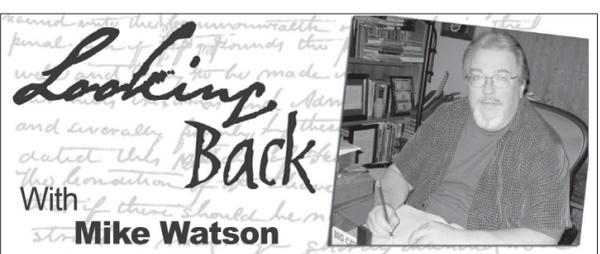


EDITORIAL



JUDGE'S CORNER
By: Judge Executive Larry Russell Bryant



One local story, related here by Judge Rollin T. Hurt in his Sketches of Adair County, concerned Captain John Butler...

Captain John Butler's Argument with an Entire Family—

Mention has, heretofore, been made in these notes of the ability and skill to take care of himself in a personal encounter which Captain John Butler possessed. But nature, very strong and agile, and the life in the woods which he had led, made his muscles as hard as though of steel. Furthermore, his judgment was never at fault about the thing to do in order to best his adversary, and this is the thing which makes a successful fist-i-cuffer as well as a great general.

In those days, when courts sat at great distance from communities, and their power to regulate the affairs of men were feeble, the strong fist and the good right arm of a just man was often the protection which the feeble and weak in a community had against wrongs of overbearing and tyrannous men. Though Butler's powers of pugilism were great, it is to his [credit] having never used them in either an overbearing or tyrannous manner. Neither is there a record or tradition of his ever [having] declined the wager of battle with anyone who sought a contest with him. He was willing to meet and try conclusions with any and all who sought such character of satisfaction.

The result was that oftentimes, as was the custom of that day, men who either had or thought they had great fist-i-cuff abilities sought out Butler and challenged him to fist-i-cuff encounters, and he never declined one, and the tradition is that he never came out second best in such an argument. One instance of his fighting ability, which tradition has preserved, is most remarkable. It seems that there was a feud between Butler and a family, the members of which were very numerous, and which at that time resided in the northern end of the county. The cause of the animosity has not been preserved. Upon an occasion, there was some character of a social gathering in the community at which the members of this family and their friends were present.

Butler also came to the function, but it being at some distance from his neighborhood there were at first none of his friends in attendance. The members of the family which were antagonistic to Butler and their friends immediately

set about the bringing on of a personal trouble with him. He, recognizing the fact that he was alone, with no one present who would ensure him a fair deal, and that he had no chance against the odds, withdrew and left the place, followed by the jeers of his enemies. Within a short distance, however, he met Major Nathan Montgomery and Alexander Miller, who were old and tried friends, and who were on their way to the function.

Upon requesting to know the cause of his early departure from the gathering, Butler made known to them his predicament, when they at once assured him that if he would return with them to the function, that they would assure him to have a square deal and an equal chance. Returning with them, Montgomery, when they had arrived at the place of the gathering, made a public announcement to the effect that Butler had returned to face his enemies, and was willing and ready to fight as many of them as might desire to try conclusions with him, and the only condition to be imposed was that only one should fight him at a time.

The challenge, of course, could not be refused or declined, and at once Butler and one of his adversaries stripped for a battle. The stripping for a fight, as it was then practiced, meant that the combatants removed their shoes or moccasins and all of their wearing apparel, except the pantaloons. To make assurance double sure that the fighting should be fairly done, and that no foul play should be indulged in by the friends of either of the combatants, Montgomery drew from his belt a huge hunting knife which he stuck into the top of a post with the declaration that he would use the knife upon any man who attempted, by any act, to give to either adversary an unfair advantage.

The fighting them began in terrible earnest, but resulted in Butler's adversary becoming hors-du-combat in a very few minutes. When this adversary was finished, another came forward to the lists, and this continued until Butler had whipped seven of his adversaries, one of whom he knocked out with the first blow and as he fell to the ground, caught him and bit off both of his eyebrows. The last of the seven was reputed to be a very handsome fellow, so much so that he was usually called as a Christian name, "Pretty Jim."

When "Pretty Jim" entered the lists, he was quickly done for and fell limp upon the ground, but Butler did not strike him in the face, but turned him upon his face and proceeded to bite pieces of flesh from his back and to spit them upon the ground. While this manner of punishment was proceeding, a young lady, who was a cousin of "Pretty Jim" and a member of the family, the male members of which had suffered such disastrous consequences from the fight which they had imposed, said "Just look yonder at that d--n Choctaw Injun eatin' up cousin Jim."

The significance of this exclamation will be understood when it is stated that Butler was reputed to have been of Indian blood to the extent of one-fourth.

Mike Watson

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"I wanted to talk about it. I wanted to scream. I wanted to yell. I wanted to shout about it. But all I could do was whisper, 'I'm fine.'" -Unknown

A Garden's Quiet Promise

Yesterday I stepped outside to do a little Spring cleaning in my herb garden. Winter had left its usual mess behind—dry stems, scattered leaves, and that tired look gardens often have before spring fully arrives. I pulled away the old growth and began tidying the beds. And then I noticed them.

Tiny green shoots were already pushing through

the soil. The chives had returned first, their thin blades standing proudly in the cool air. Nearby, tarragon was quietly making its appearance. Oregano and thyme were tucked low to the ground, and the faithful sage was right where it has always been. I stood there for a moment just looking at them.

After months of cold,

snow, and gray skies, life was already beginning again beneath the soil. No announcement. No fanfare. Just quiet, steady renewal.

I came back into the house smiling. Gardeners understand this kind of joy. There is something deeply reassuring about perennial herbs. Year after year they endure winter's harshness. The ground freezes, the wind blows, and everything appears lifeless. Yet beneath the surface, the roots are waiting. And when the season is right, they return as if to say, "We were here all along."

There is a lesson in that. Life often has its winters too. Seasons when things feel uncertain, heavy, or still. During those times it can be easy to believe that growth has stopped or that hope has disappeared. But much like those herbs in the garden, important

things are often happening beneath the surface where we cannot see them.

Strength is growing. Faith is deepening. Hope is quietly taking root. Then one day, almost unexpectedly, something new begins to rise. The garden reminds us that renewal is part of life's design. Even after the longest winter, the earth knows exactly what to do.

And sometimes, all it takes is stepping outside and paying attention to see that promise unfolding right in front of us. And yesterday, in my little herb garden, I was reminded that the season of renewal is already beginning.

Remember, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." —Ecclesiastes 3:1

And above all, Love God and People.

Sugarfoot Farm Rescue
Happy tails
By Peg Schaeffer

HAPPY TAIL – SENIORS

I've been working on the dogs' records this week. I didn't realize how many seniors we have. I'm talking about dogs over ten years old. As I mentioned last week, Lion Heart will be sixteen this month. He's blind but other than that he's in good shape. He's not underweight and he has a good appetite. Sixteen years in human age is eighty

years in dog age. Over one third of our dogs are over ten years old. The oldest is J.B. He is nineteen years, five months old. He is a Greyhound mix who came to us when he was twelve years old. Who surrenders a twelve-year-old dog? And just who do you think will adopt a dog that is almost twenty years old.

Jake, our Dachshund, is sixteen years, four months

old. He is a character. For the longest time he was only Keight's dog. He would curl his lips up at me. But I found the way to his heart – treats. Now, I'm his best friend in the whole world. Problem is he is very demanding. He will bark and bark until he gets a cookie. A few minutes later he's back for more. And again and again. Now the other dogs have caught on. When Jake barks they line up for treats too. So, one treat for Jake turns into a dozen for everyone else.

Gabby is a wiry haired Terrier mix. Her owners moved and abandoned her in their apartment. I adopted her out to a gentleman who spoiled her rotten. He returned her

though because he said she kept running out into the road and he was afraid she would get hurt. She's been with us ever since. She sleeps with me on the pillow. She is never far. She's going to be fifteen.

We have a Chihuahua named Paco. He was Thumbelina's boyfriend. He was dropped off in front of the rescue one night with two other dogs and some cats. We didn't find them until the morning. Paco was scared to death. He ran from me across the horse pasture. One of the big dogs ran after him and knocked him down. Luckily, I got there before

See Seniors, Cont. on Page A5



Judge Executive Larry Russell Bryant is pictured with Commissioner Bobbi Jo Lewis at the Lake Cumberland Area Development District (ADD) meeting on March 5, 2026.

Judge Bryant stated, "It is always an honor to meet with Commissioner Lewis to represent Adair County. Roads are important to most Adair Countians, and she is the one who helps make it happen at the state level. She works hard to help Adair County secure as much funding as possible for our rural and secondary roads. From the first time I met Commissioner Lewis, we hit it off immediately, these relationships make a huge difference when it comes to moving Adair County forward."

Judge Bryant also shared that "Adair County received very promising news yesterday regarding 7 county road projects that were submitted by his office last year for District 3, District 6, and District 1.

Basketball Contest Results Week 18

By Renee Reeves

It's time to celebrate our weekly basketball contest champs! Big congratulations to this week's top three winners:

- 1st Place: Kimberly Bryant — Takes home \$25 in cash!
- 2nd Place: Allen Loy — Scores a refreshing six-pack of Ski!
- 3rd Place: Jeff Bryant — Enjoys a large one-topping Pizza Hut pizza!

Thanks to everyone who joined the fun this week — we love seeing your picks roll in! Don't forget, next week could be your turn to win, so grab a form, make your picks, and good luck!

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