

# First Baptist Church to host Fall Revival

The First Baptist Church of Pleasant Hill will host a Fall Revival Sunday, Sept. 9 through Wednesday, Sept. 12. Sunday services start at 10:45 a.m. and evening services will happen each day at 7 p.m.

Guest speaker at the revival services will be Ronnie Smith of Dothan, Alabama. Ronnie spent the first 27 years of his life in Pike County Illinois. Ronnie was saved in 1993 at the age of 22 and surrendered to the call to preach in 1997, traveling to Graceville, FL for training. He became an itinerate evangelist in January 1999, and in 2000 he formed Ronnie Smith Ministries, Inc (RSM). He graduated from the Baptist College of Florida in

December 2001 and also studied at South Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has done ministry in 6 foreign countries and 16 states in the USA. He has 3 years of Senior Pastor experience and 11 years as an evangelist. RSM has an orphanage in India, an outreach to the Meiti-Hindu people, and a pastor-training ministry there. Ronnie does conferences, revivals, sportsman banquets and pulpit supply.

In 1998, he married Delana Cave, who is from Savannah, GA. He and his wife have one girl and three boys. They reside in Dothan, AL and are members at Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Dothan.



Ronnie Smith

## Audit consumes most of village board meeting

By BETH ZUMWALT

Pike Press

The Pleasant Hill village board accepted the audit for the current financial year at last week's meeting.

"Other than that, we didn't do much of anything," Wyvetta Menke, clerk said. "That took almost an hour."

Menke said there was no business discussed from any of the committee reports.

"If it hadn't been for the audit, it would have been a short one," she said.

There were no visitors at the meeting and no closed session was held.

# John Wood Community College offering free GED classes

John Wood Community College's will offer free GED (General Educational Development) preparation classes in Quincy, Pittsfield and Mt. Sterling.

A free class in English as a second language (ESL) will also be offered in Quincy.

Adult residents of the JWCC District who are interested may call 217.641.4951 for details.

GED preparation is offered in Quincy at two locations: the JWCC Kinscherff Adult Education Learning Center at 122 North 5th and also at the JWCC campus at 48th and Harrison. Classes are also available at the JWCC Pittsfield Education Center and the Mt. Sterling Learning Center. Days and times of the classes are as follows:

Quincy - Kinscherff Adult Education Learning Center, 122 North 5th

Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon, 1 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m.

Quincy - JWCC campus, 1301 South 48th

Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1 to 4 p.m.

Pittsfield - 1308 West Washington, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Mt. Sterling - Buckhorn Road, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Students receive instruction to prepare for the GED exam and receive soft skills job training to help find, keep or improve employment opportunities. The soft skills training is made possible in part by a grant from the Community Foundation of the Quincy Area Community Works Endowment Fund, created with funds from the Grand Victoria Foundation.

The classes are free to adult residents of the JWCC District. A GED diploma is the nationally accepted equivalent of a high school diploma.

English as a second language is open to all adult residents of the JWCC District who are not native-English speakers. ESL classes are held Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5 to 8 p.m. at the JWCC Main Campus, 1301 S 48th St. The class and books are provided at no cost.

## Johnson graduates from basic training

Air Force Airman Patrick T. Johnson graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military

discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science

degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Johnson is the son of Mike and Jinger Johnson of North Maine Street, Baylis.

He is a 2011 graduate of Pittsfield High School.

## CSB holding benefit for co-worker

By BETH ZUMWALT

Pike Press

The employees of Central State Bank are holding a bake sale for their co-worker, Sue Holcomb, to help offset medical

costs. The sale will be held at the bank in Pleasant Hill from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. or until sold out.

Anyone interested in donating baked goods is asked to call

Central State Bank by 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30.

If anyone is interested in making a cash donation, please send to Central State Bank, benefit for Sue Holcomb, P.O. Box 217, Pleasant Hill, 62366.

# Western ready to wrap up Health Life Safety Project

The Western Board of Education met Wednesday, Aug. 15, and announced that Health Life Safety Projects would be finishing up.

In the committee reports, it was announced that the Health Life Safety Projects will be completed this month. At the Barry facility, the updated intercom and fire alarms have been installed and new front doors will be installed this week at the McDonough Street entrance.

The board also recognized CARE Recognition recipients who attend Skyward training and new teacher orientation.

The transportation committee reported that updated bus and handheld radios were in place and operating well for the first day of school.

Western handbooks for the 2012-2013 school year were distributed to students and reviewed on the first day of

school. The Policy Committee presented Policy 1:20 District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements and Policy 7:320 Heat Related Illness Prevention for first reading.

In the administrative reports, principals reported excellent attendance at Open House Monday, Aug. 13. It was also reported that the Western Wildcat Pride assembly held on the first day of school, Aug. 15, was a huge success. Western faculty were introduced to the student body. The Western marching band members were introduced and performed the Star Spangled Banner and Sweet Caroline. The Western High School and Western Junior High School cheer team members were introduced and performed dance and cheer routines. The WJHS softball and baseball team members were introduced by their

coaches. The WHS golf and volleyball team members were also introduced by their coaches. The WHS and WJHS football players who participate in the Pleasant Hill Cooperative program were introduced by Marty Hull, Athletic Director.

In old business, The Race To The Top Scope of Work and Budget will be revised to reflect up to 50 percent of the RTTT budget to be spent in the 2012-2013 school year.

In new business, The 2012-2013 budget was presented for review until September 19, 2012.

The board also approved completion of the NCLB Consolidation Grant Application for Title I and Title II funding.

The board hired Mikhail Tsukerman as the WHS Math teacher.

## Three Pike Countians receive nursing recognition

By BETH ZUMWALT

Pike Press

Three Pike County residents were honored at John Wood Community College's recognition ceremony held in the Mary Ellen Orr Auditorium on the JWCC campus in Quincy. Receiving honors were Diana Harris and Shelly Syrcle

both of Barry and Neil Thornton of Pittsfield.

Presentation of JWCC School of Nursing pins to 32 graduates highlighted the ceremony. Worn as part of a nurse's uniform and unique to each school of nursing, the pin is designed to emphasize key characteristics of a particular program.

### Clarification

An article in last week's Pike Press should have said the Rachel Shonhart family believes in body modification. Shonhart, her husband and son, Kyler, have piercings and tattoos. Her younger children do not.

# Miller-Boren receives honor from Kellogg Institute

Joyce Miller-Boren, John Wood Community College department chair and professor of developmental education, recently received certification as a developmental education specialist from the Kellogg Institute for the training and certification of developmental educators.

Miller-Boren was one of 43 educators selected from across the United States to participate in the Kellogg Institute and its certification process during the 2011-2012 academic year.

The Kellogg Institute, now

in its 34th year, offers a unique month-long living/learning experience for the training and certification of educational professionals who work with academically underprepared students on college campuses.

Each year 45 individuals participate in a summer training program, followed by a semester's practicum in which participants implement new techniques on their home campuses.

Miller-Boren was awarded certification as a result of her participation in the training pro-

gram and completion of an implementation project at JWCC. The certification as developmental education specialist is awarded through the Kellogg Institute, in conjunction with Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C.

Miller-Boren has instructed developmental education courses at JWCC's Quincy campus and Pittsfield Education Center for 33 years and holds an education/reading specialist master's degree from Western Illinois University.

She resides in Pittsfield.



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PIKE PRESS  
**OP-ED**

Wednesday, September 5, 2012, Pittsfield, Illinois

The Coonridge Digest: *Freida Marie Crump*

# Please remember, 'Family are family'

## GREETINGS FROM THE RIDGE

When Uncle Harvey would pull his old Oldsmobile into the Coonridge Park for our family reunions, small children would scatter. He was the family's premiere backslapper, cheek squeezer and knee pincher. Harvey redefined the word "gregarious." Loud, brash, a bit off color and a self-proclaimed expert on all things vegetable, mineral, and philosophical, the man could bend your ear for hours and if you were one of the slower members of the family you'd be stuck in the Harvey-blast for the rest of the afternoon.

Harvey might have been colorblind or perhaps he just didn't give any thought to what he wore. Some people shouldn't wear shorts. Harvey did. Checkered polyester pants were his favored legwear in the cool weather and I doubt that he ever owned a shirt that had been tucked in. Harvey would top this off with the most recent version of what he deemed to be a humorous hat and his T-shirts displayed sayings that made even my more liberal aunts blush. Others may have made fashion statements. Uncle Harvey's were all-out screams.

But the loudness of his clothing was no match for the man's voice. You didn't have to be near Uncle Harvey to know what he was talking about. Anywhere in the half-acre park would do. My little brother and I once hid behind a picnic table to see if we could catch him breath-

ing. To my knowledge no one had ever seen him snatch a breath . . . it was all output. My mother said he was the only man she'd ever met who could eat while exhaling. He might start a conversation with a friendly, "How are you doin'!" but you'd better tell him fast for that would be your last chance to get in a word.

Before the family would sit down to attack the fried chicken and potato salad, we'd pray. My mom once made the mistake of saying, "Would anyone like to lead us in a word of prayer?" She'd forgotten about Uncle Harvey who piped up with "Sure!" and we then had to suffer through a 12-minute lecture that my Harvey had prepared for God, covering the ills of the world, the blessings of American agriculture, and a short rehashing of the New Testament. If anyone died of food poisoning at one of our family picnics, Uncle Harvey should have been billed for the funeral flowers. Mayonnaise-laden potato salad, 100-degree heat, and long-winded pray-ers can be a fatal combination.

But the strangest thing to me as a youngster was the fact that although Harvey was the wart on our family's bum, he remained one of us. We could secretly laugh at him all we wanted but we'd not tolerate anyone outside our family poking fun at the guy. Mom would sigh and say, "Family are family." That settled it. You don't criticize your own.

I couldn't help but think of Uncle Harvey as I watched the Republican convention last week and I'm sure he'll come to mind when the Democrats take the stage in North

**“ But the strangest thing to me as a youngster was the fact that although Harvey was the wart on our family's bum, he remained one of us. We could secretly laugh at him all we wanted but we'd not tolerate anyone outside our family poking fun at the guy. . . . You don't criticize your own. ”**

Carolina. Yes, politics are a nasty business and this isn't the first season that's seen repulsive displays of name-calling and mud throwing, but this business of messing our own national nest is truly an embarrassment. When General MacArthur met with President Truman at Wake Island then purposely held his plane in the air for 45 minutes to make the President wait, Truman dressed him down, telling him he might not respect Harry Truman, but he'd "damn well better respect the President of the United States." And the same should be said for respecting the former Governor of Massachusetts. Both parties claim this is a campaign of ideas, but so far the philosophy and plans have taken a back seat to character assassination and sleaze.

Herb and I recently attended a meeting in one of our neighboring communities. It was not a political gathering. In fact, I assume that all political philosophies were gathered that night for an evening of baked ham and enlight-

ened discussion, but at the end of the meeting something remarkable happened. The chairwoman asked if anyone had anything further to bring up before we went home for the night. An elderly lady two tables over started to softly sing. This wasn't on the agenda. Then slowly, one by one people began to join her in an impromptu chorus of "God Bless America." Republicans, Democrats, Whatever's, standing together and singing for what I assume was a relief from a bitter campaign season. If we live in a representative democracy, then I prayed that my fellow singers and not the politicians were the true representatives of the democracy.

You ever in Coonridge, stop by. We may not answer the door but you'll enjoy the trip.

■ *The imaginative commentary of Freida Marie Crump comes to us from Coonridge – a town that's a lot like your own.*

## PICKINGS (CONTINUED FROM A4)

The Baylis community will hold its 25<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Festival Saturday Sept. 8. Leading queen candidates are Martha Griggs and Karen Dean. Dick Stauffer and Leonard Wilson are the leading candidates for king.

Mr. and Mrs. James D. Jackson of Nebo will observe their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary Sept. 12. Mrs. Jackson is the former Thurstia Jane Applegate. They are the parents of 10 children, seven of whom are living. There are eight grand children and seven great-grandchildren.

The annual Neese reunion was held at King Park with 74 present. The oldest present was David Neese of Pleasant Hill. The youngest person present was Deborah

Lynne Neese, three and one-half months, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Neese of Pittsfield.

**25 Years Ago  
Sept. 2, 1987**

After a delay of several days, work began Monday on widening West Washington Street from Archer Street to Shetland Drive.

The Pittsfield audit report recommends that the city go to a computer system so that everyone may receive their gas, water and sewer bills faster. It is estimated that such a computer system might cost as much as \$20,000.

Eleven Boy Scouts of Pittsfield Troop 18 and their families, 37 in all, attended the Cardinals-Atlanta baseball game Friday night. Dennis Neese is Scoutmaster.

LaDon and Jennie Lee Johnson will be closing the Country Pumpkin restaurant in Milton September 12, 1987.

The Illini Hospital board voted on August 25 to purchase a new X-ray machine at an approximate cost of \$120,000.

**10 Years Ago  
Sept. 4, 2002**

Pike County now has a 911 telephone system, but it is not as smooth as a regu-

lar 911 system. Sheriff Paul Petty says a true 911 system is needed by the county and hopes the voters will approve the \$2.95 surcharge on their phone bill in November.

Amy Brokaw is the 2002 winner of the Roger Hannant scholarship. Brokaw is majoring in education at the University of Illinois. Hannant was a teacher at Pikeland Community School until his unexpected death in 2000.

Oral Bethard, 89, of Pittsfield and formerly of Barry, died Sept. 1 2002 at the Pittsfield Manor. He was a Barry resident for 60 years, and spent many years in civic and volunteer activities. He married Mildred McKee in 1935. She died in 1973. He

married Erma Main in 1974, and she survives.

Mike and Becky Lightle of Pittsfield celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary Aug. 27. The Lightles were married at the Pittsfield United Methodist Church by Dr. John C. Wilkey.

Pittsfield High School lost its opening game to Carthage by a score of 42-7 and Pleasant Hill lost its opener 19-0 to Jacksonville Routt.

*Pickings from Pike's Past is compiled by Michael Boren.*



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REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

District 83 will be seeking state assistance through an OSLAD grant. This grant is administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

schedule over from Tuesday, July 17, 2008 7:00 PM to Wednesday, July 18, 2008