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# Jeffersonian Democrat

Thursday, September 24, 2015

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Judge John H. Foradora officiates as the third and final judicial portrait was revealed Thursday. Court Administrator Chad Weaver removed the cover from the portrait of Judge Charles Corbett. The portraits of Judge Elija Heath Clark, John W. Reed and Judge Corbett were missing from the judicial ring lining the courtroom in the Jefferson County Courthouse. (Photo by Randy Bartley)

## Closing the judicial circle

By Randy Bartley

BROOKVILLE — Three Jefferson County Judges were revealed last week. Their portraits are hanging on the wall of the large courtroom of the Jefferson County Courthouse.

But who these three jurists who presided over the legal affairs of the county?

According to a brochure produced by the Jefferson County Historical Society, the Jefferson County Bar Association and the office of Sen. Joe Scarnati, Jefferson County was formed in 1804 and Judge Thomas Burnside presided

over court that year in the new jail. Jefferson County became the 54th Judicial District in 1895.

Judge Elijah Heath Clark was born in Brookville, attended school here and at academies in Saltsburg and New Bethlehem. He read law under George Zeigler and W. P. and G. A. Jenks. He was admitted to the bar in 1866. He was elected president judge of the 18th Judicial District (Clarion and Jefferson counties) in 1891 and served until 1895 when Jefferson County became the 54th Judicial District. He continued on as president judge

of Clarion County. Since then president judges have been residents of the county.

Judge John Reed was born an educated in Clarion. While teaching school he studied law under James Campbell and, after being admitted to the bar in 1875, began his practice in Brookville. Gov. Hastings appointed him president judge in 1895. He became the Republican candidate and was successful that fall and again in the election of 1905. Renowned in criminal justice, he ran an "economical administration."

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## Without state money, BASD takes a close look at spending

By Patti Slaughter

BROOKVILLE — Budget woes are causing the Brookville Area School Board to take a closer look at spending, but this time the budget belongs to the state.

With the failure of the state legislature to pass a budget starting to affect schools across the commonwealth, the board expressed concerns about how much longer the district can operate without state funds.

At its monthly meeting Monday night, board members discussed reports that some schools are considering closing their doors or asking teachers to work without pay until the budget is passed.

Ellen Neyman, business administrator, said that the district "is monitoring very closely the cash flows of the district. We currently have investments maturing as well as tax collection comes in that we can use to weather the short-term funding."

Board member Fred Park said "two things about this have really sent me off the edge" — cyber school and PS-ERS. "I think that is one area where we should be able to not send money. They ought to understand where we are coming from."

Neyman said the district has received notification "that we do not have to pay the state portion of the PSERS (retire-

ment), and therefore we did hold off on paying that. I believe the amount was a little over \$800,000 that we normally would have paid for the April, May, June quarter, which was due this month, and we did not pay almost half a million of it. The state hasn't paid us and they are giving us that option. That keeps a half million dollars under local control, as allowed during this time of no state budget."

She also addressed his concerns about the cyber school payments. "We had one cyber school that owed us a refund from last year and they refuse to pay us until the state budget passes." She said that after back-and-forth discussions it was determined that "I will pay anything over the balance of what they owe us. We are watching those things and we are paying as we go."

Throughout the board's meeting, the necessity of routine line items was questioned.

A list of professional development requests, tentatively approved by the administrative team, was examined closely. "Several districts are changing the way they are paying charter school as well as the PSERS," said Mike Smith. "There are also school districts that are putting a freeze on professional development until the state budget is approved. I think we need to really be looking at

freezing and cutting back expenses until we see what is going to go on with the budget."

Superintendent Robin Fillman said, "I have looked over this list and nothing is frivolous. It's really about staying up with the regulations that we are needed to do. We are trying so hard to keep up with the new mandates that are coming from the state that it is keeping us busy enough right now."

Board members asked if there could not be "in-house training" that would be less costly.

Members Marjorie McKnight and Carol Schindler suggested that the individuals involved should be paying their own costs. "They are making a good salary. Great. Give them time off and let them pay for it themselves," McKnight said.

"I agree. I am a professional person and Margie is a profession person as well and we each pay for our own training. I agree with Mike that it is really something we have to look at," Schindler added.

New board member Don Gill said that "if we are going to be the best possible teachers that we can be, I think people should be seeking out professional help. I'm not saying it should be granted every time, but people need to have professional development to have

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## Main St. paving may end soon

BROOKVILLE -- Brookville's extended Main Street paving project may end by the end of this month.

Brookville Manager Dana Shick said the contractor had been working on repairing storm drains on East Main and West Main which delayed the completion of the project.

The paving project began

almost a month ago when the borough issued overnight parking restrictions that began on August 13.

PennDot recently communicated a new paving schedule with the Borough as follows:

Paving will remain in effect in the evenings.

Wednesday, September 23rd paving from Valley

Street/Main Street intersection to Sheetz

Thursday, September 24th paving Main Street

Sunday, September 27th finishing Main Street and extending all the way out to I-80 Hazen (2 paving crews will be onsite this day).

All paving is weather permitting.

## Brookville High begins new homecoming traditions

By Patti Slaughter

BROOKVILLE — A new Homecoming tradition at Brookville Area High School will begin this weekend when not only is a Homecoming queen crowned, but a Homecoming king will also be crowned.

The 2015 Homecoming queen will be crowned during halftime ceremonies at the Brookville-Redbank football game Friday night. Members of the queen's court include Kayla Bruner, Cait Chavez, Madi Davie, Hali Olson, Elaina Powell and Kara Wonderling.

They will be escorted by "a significant male role model in her life, like her dad or a brother, with a grand entry for the girls. There will be a parade starting on Cemetery Road, with the girls riding on golf carts driven by their escorts," said Ruthanne Barbazzeni, K-12 principal of student services.

"When the girls are escorted to the football field, they will have a parade around the field to a special section at the end of the visitors' bleachers, where they will sit in a tent facing the home team. When they are announced, they will walk across the field," she said.

Because several members of the court are on the foot-

ball team, the Homecoming king will be announced at the Homecoming dance on Saturday night. Members of the king's court are Cole Aaron, Hayden Burdge, Zachary Carpenter, Tyler Gotwald, Wyatt Shaffer and Logan Thrush.

The 2015 Homecoming king and queen "will come back next year to escort the 2016 Homecoming court," she said.

Prior to the game, the fifth annual Homecoming Tailgate Party will be held in front of the high school cafeteria, beginning at 5 p.m. and continuing until kick-off. "We are blowing it out of the water this year," said Barbazzeni. "We are having a bigger, better event than we had in the past."

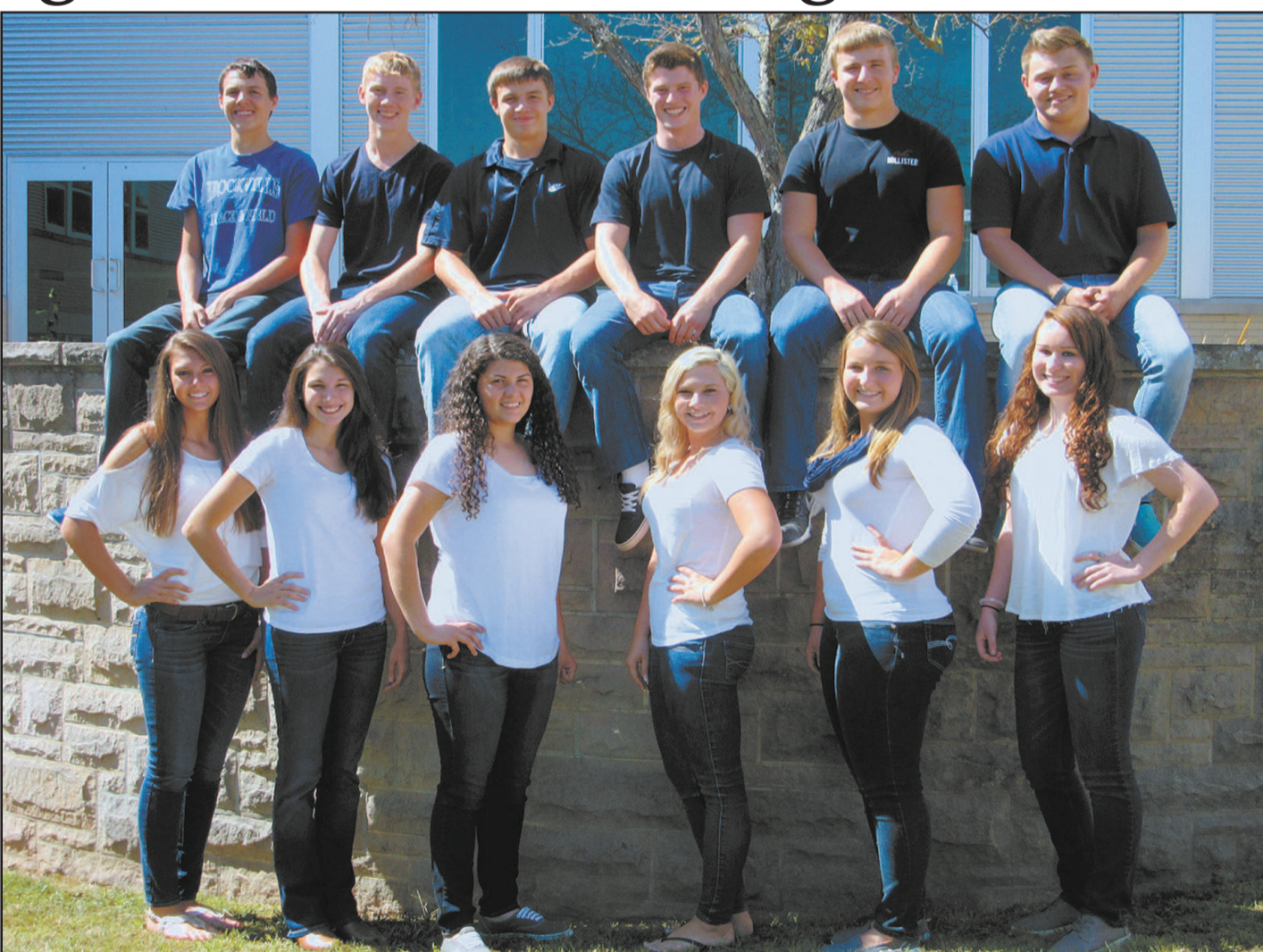
Along with hotdogs, popcorn and drinks, new activities will be added to the traditional games and activities.

"We are having a dunking booth, with a select group of faculty volunteers. Kids will pay \$1 for two balls to throw at their favorite teacher," she said.

There will also be a cornhole tournament for the students, with a \$2 entry fee.

"To have the community more involved in the event we

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**HOMECOMING COURT** — The Brookville Area High School 2015 Homecoming queen and king will be crowned this weekend. Members of the court are (front row, l-r) Hali Olson, Kara Wonderling, Cait Chavez, Madi Davie, Elaina Powell and Kayla Bruner; (back row, l-r) Hayden Burdge, Tyler Gotwald, Cole Aaron, Logan Thrush, Wyatt Shaffer and Zachary Carpenter. (Photo by Patti Slaughter)



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