



THE NEWS TIMES

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31st Civil War Reenactment activities this weekend

By Judith A. Smith, Treasurer
Blackford County Civil War Reenactment Club, Inc.

The Blackford County Civil War Reenactment Club is having their 31st reenactment on October 8-10 at 304 S 075 E, Hartford City, and as you travel State Road 26 or 75 S you will see that area transformed into a small community. The white tents, the campfires, the cannons, and suddenly you are transported back in time to a very different way of life. Admission prices are: Age 5 and under- free; age 6 and up will be \$7. Education Day will be on Friday with students arriving around 9 am and they will then be able to move through the site at their leisure. They will be stopping to listen to 10-15 minute presentations from living historians like President Davis and his lovely wife Varina and Indiana's General Lew Wallace who later wrote the great novel Ben Hur. You can converse with Generals Grant, Lee, Hood, McPherson and Hardee just to name a few and, of course,

President Abraham Lincoln will be present to answer your questions about his decisions.

There is a fundraising dinner on Friday, October 8 at 6 p.m. and the food will be prepared at the Civil War site over campfires by Jim & Shannon Cable. If you've never experienced food cooked in iron kettles over open fires it is something you need to try. The Cables are experienced in preparing food for large numbers and we hope people will join us for beef & noodles (homemade by Shannon), real mashed potatoes, pole beans plus many other delicious dishes. The food will be served buffet-style and guests will be able to enjoy their meal seated at tables in our large tent. There will be a speech by President Abraham Lincoln (aka Fritz Klein from the Lincoln Institute in Springfield, Illinois) and you never know what other famous person from the 1860's may show up to enjoy the good food and friendly conversation. Guests are able to come prior to the 6 p.m. dinner and stroll the grounds or stay after to experi-



ence night camp fires. Tickets are \$20. and may be purchased from Blackford County Civil War Reenactment Club members or by calling 765-348-9253. This year's Grande Ball will

be in downtown Hartford City at the Weiler Plaza inside the large white tent. There is no admission charge and everyone is welcome to come enjoy the experience. Tri-County Revelers will provide

the music while the Caller, Carol Baker guides dancers through the various steps. No experience in Civil War dancing is needed as in-

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Half a Century of Memories

By Scott Shaffer,
News Times Writer

Fifty years ago, things were quite different. Richard Nixon was President, platform shoes and flared pant legs were the height of fashion. Walt Disney World in Florida opened to the public. The first Starbucks opened in Seattle. The 26th Amendment to the Constitution lowered the voting age to 18, and Federal Express delivered their first packages. Audiences were flocking to movie theaters to watch Clint Eastwood in "Dirty Harry" and Gene Hackman in "The French Connection."

On the radio, John Denver sang "Country Roads, Take Me Home," and John Lennon urged us all to "Imagine." Ike and Tina Turner were burning up the airwaves with their version of the Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Proud Mary." Sonny and Cher came into our homes on television. We were also watching shows like "All in the Family," "The Waltons," "Soul Train," and "The Electric Company."

Last weekend, members of Blackford High School's class of 1971 gathered in Hartford City to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their high school graduation. The class of 1971 was the second class to graduate from the new school that was formed by the consolidation of the high schools in Montpelier and Hartford City. 1971 was also the first Homecoming celebration at the recently completed Blackford High School.

At the time the school boasted five bands with 150 students par-



The Blackford High School Class of 1971 poses for a class photo at their 50th reunion dinner on Saturday night at the Elk's Lodge in Hartford City. Photo by Scott Shaffer.

icipating. Marching Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Stage Band, and Pep Band. These bands won several Division One trophies in various contests. The Basketball team also had its second winning season, winning their sectional before falling to Carmel in the regional.

The gatherings began on Friday evening as the class of 1971 held a cookout at the home of Rick and Sally Willman. On Saturday morning, class members met at the South entrance of Blackford High for a tour of the school guided by Lisa Musselman.

The highlight of the weekend was the reunion dinner held Saturday evening at the Elk's Lodge just down the road from the school. The classmates gathered to reminisce on their memories of their time at BHS. They

enjoyed a meal catered by the ladies of the Elk's with several types of desserts prepared by class Secretary Judy Jones Commers. There was even bottled water with labels commemorating the occasion.

Following the dinner, the classmates gathered for a photo by professional photographer and Blackford graduate Don Rogers. After the photo, there was a solemn memorial for the 40 members of the class of 1971 that have since passed. Following the memorial Dennis Pratt led a few fun games for the classmates giving prizes for those that traveled the farthest to attend, those with the most grandchildren, those with the most pets and other fun categories. He also spoke with one of their teachers

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A Busy Weekend of Activities in Blackford County

By Scott Shaffer,
News Times Writer

Along with the crisp Autumn air, this weekend brings a flourish of activity to Blackford County. Not only will it see the return of Civil War Days to Hartford City, it will also see the Annual Montpelier Jamboree. These events will offer up a frenzy of Fall activities that is sure to be fun for the entire family.

The Montpelier Jamboree has been an Annual event in Montpelier for nearly three quarters of a century. Every year there are carnival rides and games, a parade, baby and queen contests, delicious fair foods, car shows, bike shows, and live music of several types. The event often even features a nationally known act as well as several local bands. This year's Jamboree will take place from October 7 through October 10 in Montpelier. The midway will be presented by Chicketti Family Amusements of Ohio. Wristbands for rides will be available every day for \$20.00. The parade will take place on Saturday at 12:30 PM.

Headlining this year's Jamboree is the band Saliva, a rock band formed in Memphis, Tennessee in 1996. The band was nominated for a Grammy in 2002, and is perhaps best known for the song "Click Click Boom" that was featured in the movie "The Fast and the Furious." They have also opened for bands such as Aerosmith and Kiss. Saliva will rock the Jamboree beginning at 6:00 PM on Sunday. Admission will be \$5.00 at the gate. Tantric, a band formed in Louisville, Kentucky will open for Saliva at 4:45 PM.

On Friday, October 8, free wristbands will be handed out to the first 200 kids under the age of 15 who bring any paper item to be donated to the Montpelier Food Pantry. These wristbands will be handed out beginning at 5:00 PM. Children must be present and in line to receive a wristband.

After a year off due to Covid, Civil War Days will return to the Civil War Days Site in Hartford City on October 8 through October 10.

There are many things happening in Blackford County this fall weekend. Whatever it is that you enjoy, there is sure to be an event to your liking at one of these fun multi-day events. There are Facebook pages and websites available online with further details on the schedules of both the Montpelier Jamboree, and Hartford City's Civil War Days. If you are looking for something to do this weekend, there are no shortage of events happening right here in Blackford County.

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DAILY DEVOTION

Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame..

—Psalm 34:5

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door.

—Milton Berle

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