

Whittle Me This



MELISSA GARRISON
-DOWN HOME WITH MELISSA

A hobby that has been around for many many years, is one that I have always been impressed with.

Whittling. For as long as I can remember, men have been seen standing or sitting around with a pile of shavings beneath them. Whittling dates back to around 1865.

It may be used to carve shapes out of raw wood. My husband told me a story about a man named Ted that would carve a monkey out of peach seeds. It was the prettiest little monkey, he says. Whittling is also used as a time occupying process, repeatedly shaving slivers of wood.

That is what I think of when I think of Willie Tick Sizemore. Watching him whittle at the park with a huge pile of shavings on the ground.

Which leads me to my next theory and question. When did men and boys stop this tradition? I don't see many at all picking up a sharp knife and whittling the day away. I do see them with their phones and earbuds. What happened to wanting to just sit and talk and whittle?

A lot of people whittle cedar wood. But silver birch, willow, sycamore or alder will also work. Pocket knives and boys go hand in hand. A short blade is said to be the best for whittling. I, myself have a little Case toothpick knife that I've had in my purse for probably 15 years.

I have never whittled, but I do believe it would be a good hobby for our boys, going into men. To give them something productive to do.

These days, boys aren't learning to work with their hands as much. Not the kind of work our grandparents knew. Slowly the traditions are leaving us. It's up to us to keep them going. And if you're a young boy reading this, get you a knife and give whittling a try. Find you an old pro and ask them to teach you how to whittle. I don't think you'd be sorry.

"You can't let a youngun' decide for himself. He'll grab at the first flashy-with-shiny-ribbons-on-it-thing he sees. It's difficult for him to tell the difference between right and wrong. When he finds out there's a hook in it, it's too late. The wrong kinds of things come packaged in so much glitter, it's hard to convince him that the other thing might be better in the long run. All a parent can do is say, "Wait...trust me"...and try to keep temptation away."

-Andy Griffith



County, City continue collaboration to bring new funds to Clay County, City of Manchester

On Friday, February 3 Judge Executive, Tommy Harmon, Mayor Steve Collins, and Grant Specialist Deann Allen welcomed Senator Stivers along with Jim Bonduarnt and Jennifer Rowe from the Senate President's Budget office to discuss new funding opportunites for the city of Manchester and Clay County.

CCHS SENIOR NIGHT



JADA REID AND FAMILY



HALEY JONES AND FAMILY



BROOKE MATHIS
SENIOR CHEERLEADER

Manchester/Clay Co. Chamber of Commerce spotlight.



This week's business spotlight is the Clay Community Foundation! Do you know someone that has a developmental and/or intellectual disabilities and struggles with day to day tasks? The Clay Community Foundation may be able to help them. They Provide, quality services to individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities through the Supports for Community Living and Michelle P waiver programs. For more information and assistance give them a call at (606)-596-0110



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Extension Notes



Family and Consumer Sciences Agent

Emily Boggs
Clay County Extension Office

Wisely use your tax refunds

It's that time of year when we get excited about our tax refunds. By responsibly using this one-time infusion of cash, you can improve your financial standing.

You could wisely use your tax refund to add to your emergency savings account. Most of us do not have enough money saved in the event of job loss, illness or another unexpected event that prevents us from working. Most financial experts recommend having at least six months of income saved to help you work through financial hardship. This fund can also help cover unexpected or emergency household repairs.

You could also choose to reduce your debt with your tax refund. Paying off high-interest debt as quickly as possible is a financial win-win because it reduces the principal on your loan and lowers future interest payments.

Make an extra mortgage payment toward the principal. Much of a mortgage loan goes toward interest and not the principal itself.

Investing in your family's future is always a wise move as it will continue to guarantee future financial stability. You could use your return to start or add a college savings fund for your children or to start or add to your retirement account.

JUDGE CONDUCTS WEDDING



On February 16th, County Judge-Executive Tommy Harmon married Lauren Smith and Trent Ritchie. Congratulations to the happy couple.

Lady Tigers snap losing streak

(MANCHESTER, Ky.) – The Lady Tigers (12-18) snapped a four-game losing streak with a 71-57 win on the road over Barbourville, marking their 11th win of the year. Highlighted by a blistering shooting effort, Clay County shot 10-18 (55%) from behind the arc, with leading scorer Sidney Jones nailing 5-7 for a team high 21 points.

The Lady Tigers got out ahead early, leading 23-8 after the first quarter. Clay County would hold that lead throughout, holding a steady 41-18 lead, however Barbourville did explode for 25 points in the third quarter. Jones wasn't the only Lady Tiger with a hot hand, as senior guard Jaylen Combs went off for 20 points as well, highlighted by going 2-4 from three, and leading the team with an 8-10 performance at the free throw stripe. Mackenzie Sizemore poured in 12 points, and Lauryn Sizemore added 11 as well.

Clay County closed this contest out with a strong 4th quarter, outscoring Barbourville 19-14 in the final period. The strong, efficient shooting performance combined with forcing 27 turnovers led to a solid win for the Lady Tigers.

Sidney Jones – 21; Jaylen Combs – 20; Mackenzie Sizemore – 12; Lauryn Sizemore – 11; Julia Collins – five; Daisy Samples – two.

The Lady Tigers also hosted Middlesboro on Friday night, while honoring our cheerleading seniors as well. Clay County handily defeated the Yellow Jackets, 63-39 for the last victory of the regular season. The win gave the Lady Tigers a 12-18 record, and now they are back to 0-0 as district play begins.

Lauryn Sizemore led the Lady Tigers with 17 points over the Yellow Jackets, also grabbing four assists. Sidney Jones and Jaylen Combs scored 14 points each, and Mackenzie Sizemroe added 10 points as well. Daisy Samples and Julia Collins each added four points also. Clay County got out ahead 14-9 in the 1st, and never looked back.

The Lady Tiger defense stifled Middlesboro in the 2nd quarter, holding them to a mere three points. The lead had been built, all that Clay County had to do was maintain from there on out. They did just that, outscoring Middlesboro for the remainder of the contest while also shooting a strong 42% from the field. Could Clay County be finding it's stride ahead of the district tournament? Time will tell.

Lauryn Sizemore – 17; Jaylen Combs – 14; Sidney Jones – 14; Mackenzie Sizemore – 10; Julia Collins – four; Daisy Samples – four.