



Just Hunting

by Steve Brewer

You know, I ask myself each morning that I get up, for another morning. I will tell the people of this new county that we have settled in and now call home. If you woke every morning with a smile on your face thinking today is the day we are going to all get along, it would be a better world. My seventy-five plus years on this world stage has been a life bigger than a dream; yours could be also, with some work. Just trust me, one day I will go into detail, and I hope it helps you get through this journey we call life. But now, it is back to hunting.

When I first moved here, I met a family of the Hardys -- Rick, Mrs. G., Ms. Emily, Holden, Rick Jr, and Michael. Bought the house next door to them that had been all but riddled with bullet holes from the people of this county that live after the sun goes down. I soon

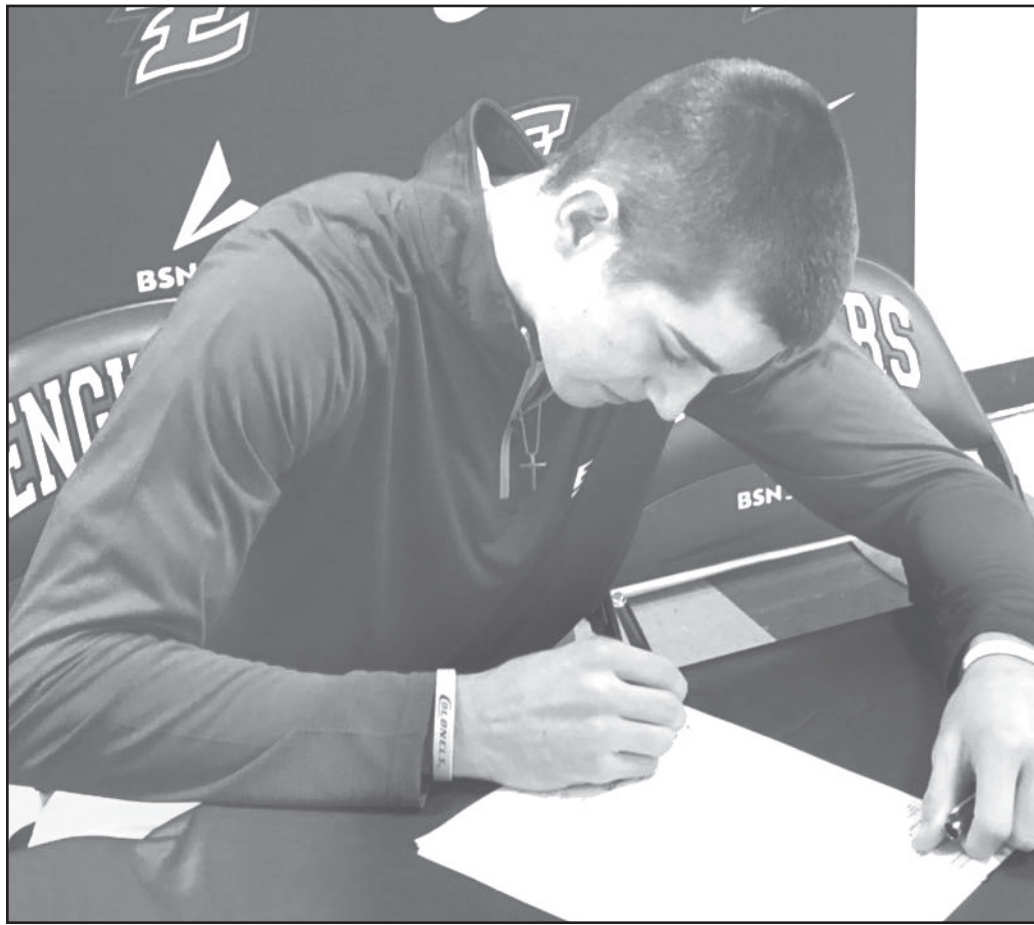
learned of Rick's love to hunt. I have traveled the world over, and can honestly say, I have never met anyone that loves to squirrel hunt better than Rick. During season, you can find him almost any day in the woods, hunting squirrels. He eats all his kills. Rick and myself had another passion we shared, turkey hunting. About the time I moved here, my desire for deer hunting was in their fading stages. I have and still do hunt several states for turkey. I am the proud owner of twenty plus "Grand Slams". With Rick's burning desire for turkey hunting, I was stunned to learn, he loved the sport but had only harvested Eastern turkey. As the years have slipped by, I have come to find out, that is the thinking of most of this county. Rick Hardy, loaded up with me, in pursuit of his "Slam," within two years that was in his rear view.

When I first came here, Rick asked me, why do you think we don't have more deer around here, I knew the answer and told him, there are too many dogs running here all the time. Unless some of these neighbors put their dogs up, you will never have any game. Over the years, things have gotten better, some of the people have moved; some just stopped bringing dogs here just to let them run wild. Rick is now enjoying hunting for deer in our area since most, not all, of the dogs have gone. He connected this year, on a freezer full of deer meat. Although it was not the "Big Buck" he was hoping for; remember, you can't eat horns, and a trophy is in the eye of the beholder. To my hunting buddy and friend, Rick Hardy, stay the course, the dogs running the deer, although not

stopped, has slowed down; now to work on all the noise from vehicles without mufflers and trying to race on the road. I am sure we might live long enough. Till next week.



Estill County hunter Rick Hardy



Joe Benton signing a letter of intent to play golf with ECU

Estill star golfer Joe Benton signs to play for Eastern Ky.

Estill County High School's star senior golfer Joe Benton signed his letter of intent last Thursday, December 5, 2019, at the school to play golf for Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond.

Friends and family were in attendance to support Joe in his future career. Joe is definitely from a golfing family with his dad, Ricky Joe being head coach and brother and sister Kade and Maddie also being outstanding golfers for the Estill County Engineers and Lady Engineers team. Family members are excited that Joe will be playing close to home at ECU so they can accompany him when possible.

Benton has won 10 high school events and is a four-time region player of the year. The Irvine native had a 71.4 stroke average in 2019. During his high school career he made six appearances in KHSAA State Championships.

A full list of his golfing credits include: 4-time 11th Region Boys Golfer of the year (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019); 6-time All-Region Team; Individual Region Tournament Champion 2018; Placed Top 4 in all six Regional Tournaments played in (2014-2019); 4-Time 11 Regional Tournament Team Champion; 6 KHSAA State Tournament appearances.

Also, 2017 2nd Team All State; 2019 3rd Team All State; 2-Time Southeast Ky. Junior Tour Player of the Year

(2016, 2017); 5-Time Estill Boys Golf Team Player of the Year (2015-2019); 10 High School Varsity Golf tournament wins; Record of 10-2 in playoffs (champion and runner-up); 6-Year Career Stroke Average 74.4; and Season Best Stroke Average 71.4 (2019).

Benton is the fourth Kentucky native that has signed a National Letter of Intent (NLI) to play collegiate golf at Eastern Kentucky with head coach Mike Whitson announcing the addition of the ECHS student-athlete to the program for the 2020-21 season.

"The addition of Joe to our 2020 recruiting class makes me even more excited about our 2020-21 year and beyond," Whitson said. "Joe's athleticism and his solid fundamentals as a young player will lead to a great ECU career. I am looking forward to Joe arriving on campus next August and joining our team."

Lexington native Henry Lane, Monticello native Reese Sexton and Eminence native Alex Hadden signed with ECU in November.

Eastern Kentucky has concluded the fall portion of the 2019-20 schedule. The Colonels will return to action on Feb. 17-18 at the President's Day Match Play hosted by George Washington University at Weston Hills golf Club in Weston, Florida.

See signing photo on Page 15.



The courthouse was busy on Saturday morning as shoppers enjoyed the booths that were set up. The event is organized by members of the FBLA from the Estill County High School. (Estill Tribune photo by Cathy Dawes)

Estill County Engineers 2019-20 Boys Basketball

Dec 13	Bell County H	7:30
Bill Smallwood Classic at Berea			
Dec 14	Bluegrass United A	2:00
(Lexington homeschool)			
Dec 17	Owsley County A	8:00

Estill Lady Engineers 2019-20 Girls Basketball

Dec 12	East Jessamine A	7:30
Peggy Moore Classic at Breathitt			
Dec 14	Somerset A	3:00
Dec 17	Owsley County A	6:00
Dec 20	Bath County H	7:30

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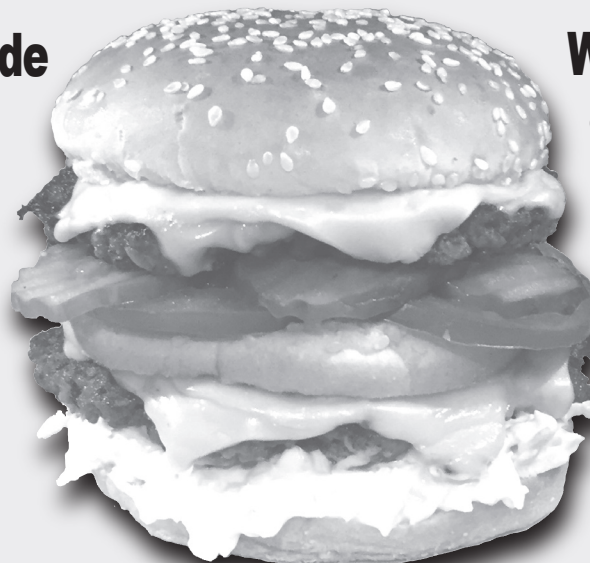
Homemade Desserts

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