

Motorcycle club distributes food, toys to underserved

Several benevolent groups have been helping the underserved of this area with toys and food boxes during this Christmas season.

Among those is the Peacemakers Motorcycle Club of Richmond which has been collecting toys and food for several weeks through many area businesses.

Sunday morning, December 22, 2019, club members began assembling at their club house near Drowning Creek in Madison County for a Christmas dinner and to deliver what they had collected. Boxes and baskets of food were lined up in order to accommodate 25 area families. In addition, a collection of toys sat on the other side of their lodge hall.

Bruce Tipton, a 45-year member, said the Peacemakers Club was started in 1967 after Earl Powell who operated a motorcycle shop, got acquainted with a motorcycle group in Tennessee. They organized the local group which is called the Richmond Chapter which is one of three chapters, including Tennessee, and Ohio.

The local group currently has around a hundred members and 42 have passed on including Tipton's brother, Jerry. Their photos are enshrined on the wall of the lodge.

Tim Casey is currently the president of the local

club and Tommy Hayes is the vice-president.

Their lodge is situated on about a 25-acre tract wedged between KY-52 and old KY-52 which is now known as Bybee Loop.

The campground has their lodge house and campsites for various campers, along with a race track where they stage races two times a year including Memorial Day.

Tipton said the group faced a lot of resistance when they first tried to buy land for a campground because of the reputation of motorcycle clubs. Some farmers did not want to sell to them.

They bought their site in the 1980's. Even when they bought the tract on Drowning Creek, there were people in the community who did not want them there, but Tipton said later on they were glad the club was there because the crime rate and amount of stealing in the community went down because of the club.

"We worked hard to get this place," said Tipton. "We are proud of what we have done and how we have done it."

The local Peacemakers have worked for years with food drives and other causes. Some groups they have worked with are police and fire departments and Wounded Warriors. They have contributed to cancer research through their poker run which has gone on for 18 years.



Members of the Peacemakers Motorcycle Club show off some of the toys they have collected for distribution to the underserved of this area. They also had 25 baskets and 25 boxes of food to distribute. Left to right above are, Steve Hall, Bruce Tipton, Patrick Olson, Gary Hall, president Tim Casey, and Thurman Hicks. Below are pictured members of the group (courtesy of Patrick Olson).



Casey and Tipton said they wanted to thank all the sponsors who helped them with this drive including Dollar General stores, Wendell Combs and Save-a-Lot, and other businesses including

Inner Beauty.

Tipton called their group a "brotherhood," saying they "love each other like a big family." Their motto is "Peacemakers Forever, Forever Peacemakers."

As for the reputation the club got in its early years, one member said, "We were restless." Members now come from all walks of life including teachers and medical professionals. Many are

Christians like Tipton who attends Friendship Baptist Church.

Casey added that "they try to help out in the community, anytime somebody needs a helping hand."

Construction on Estill Public Library is in final stages

Construction on the new Estill County Public Library is in the final stages according to Children's Librarian Shannon Horn. The new building which is being built on Broadway will contain over 12,000 square feet and will have several different meeting areas along with its own café where patrons can enjoy a snack and a drink while visiting the library. Other added amenities will include a podcast room, a computer lab, and a large area for teens.

One room in the library will be the Kentucky room completely decorated with Paul Sawyer prints and will house art, artifacts, and books on the state of

Kentucky. The library will also feature a room called the "Maker's Room." This room will be utilized for sewing classes as well as easy cooking classes.

Not only will the library contain much room for meetings and gatherings, the children's area will be much bigger and will have adequate space to accommodate the little ones who attend Storytime each week. There will be ample parking in and around the library and there will also be an elevator for those who need assistance maneuvering the two floors of the library.

Horn said that the new library has been in the works for several years and

it is much needed as the patrons to the current building have grown. Horn said that on Wednesday the library held the "Nutcracker Sweet" and 153 people visited the library on that day alone. Parking is very limited at the current location as well.

The library will be set to open sometime in late February or early March. One added feature to the front of the building that patrons will notice as they make their way to the front door is an area that will be filled with memorial bricks. The bricks were available for anyone to purchase in memory of a loved one and Horn said that all 180 bricks had been sold.



Shannon Horn

7-3 Estill Engineers finish 3rd place in Berea Holiday Classic

Some may have expected the 2019-20 Estill County Engineers to be in a rebuilding year after losing some key players after graduation off a team that took Estill County to its first-ever state tournament appearance in Rupp Arena last year.

However, Estill fans may get some pleasant surprises this year from a team that is 7-3 and is loaded with some talented underclassmen, led by talented, veteran senior Joe Benton.

The Engineers dropped their season opener to the Wolfe County Wolves, 56-53, and then lost to a second 14th Region opponent, Letcher

County Central in a low scoring contest, 45-38.

But Estill got a big win over Madison Southern, 64-53, followed by another win over Bell County, 57-55, and a 61-56 win over Bluegrass United at Berea, which was topped off by an overtime victory over 56th District opponent Owsley County, 57-47, at Booneville.

That put the Engineers at 4-2 going into the Berea Invitational which was played over the weekend.

Estill won over Menifee County, 67-56, to open the tournament but was set back with a 50-48 overtime loss to

Lexington Sayre.

But that didn't stop the Engineers as they battled back to win 71-49 over 14th Region team Cordia; then stopped Richmond Model in the second half, 59-42, for a 3rd place finish in the tournament.

In earlier games, Estill senior Joe Benton, who recently signed a letter-of-intent to play golf at EKU, has been the mainstay for the Engineers. He led Estill in several games in points and rebounding.

The senior scored 29 points including the two that really mattered, a shot in the last seconds that broke a 55-55 tie

with Bell County to give Estill a 2-point victory, 57-55.

Junior Dyllon Long has been a key player on offense and defense and led Estill in points against Wolfe County with 17 and has pulled in several rebounds.

Sophomore Landon Napier has continued the strong play he showed in middle school by being one of the top scorers in several games. He put in 20 against Bluegrass United, 22 to lead over Madison Southern, and scored 26 points in the key overtime district win over Owsley County.

Others getting points for

the Engineers in their first ten games include juniors Cobbe Click, who got a dozen against Bluegrass United, Dustin Beeler (ten at Madison Southern), Will Isfort, and senior Ethan Webb.

The Engineers continue their tradition of playing in tournaments over the Christmas holidays and will be at Owingsville in Bath County on December 26-28, playing in the Dan Swartz Classic.

The eight-team tournament consists of Louisville Iroquois; Bath, Fleming, Elliott, Estill, Menifee, Powell and Shelby Counties.

Young but talented Lady Engineers improve to 3-4

The Estill County Lady Engineers are 3-4 after picking up a hard-fought win last Friday night at Estill against the Bath County Lady Cats, 56-42.

Bath County jumped on Estill early and scored seven points before the Lady Engineers finally got started with a free throw at 5:03 in the first.

Estill's ladies cut the lead to 4, 7-3 at 3:40 but junior Macy Reed entered the game and

quickly scored another basket to cut the lead to two, 9-7. Estill tied the game 9-9 on a shot by 7th grader Jayci Long; then went up 10-9 on a free throw by Reed.

Bath got back on track with some good defense and went back up by three, 15-12 to end the quarter.

The teams stayed close in the second but the Lady Cats hit one at the buzzer to go into

the locker room, 27-23.

The teams were close throughout the third quarter but Estill pulled away by 7, 42-35, on a shot by Reed. Kaylee McIntosh scored another for Estill that gave them a 44-37 lead.

The Lady Engineers slowly pulled away despite strong Bath County defense and picked up their third win of the season, 56-42.

Sophomore Mia Hale led the Lady Engineers with 25 and Long dropped in 15. Freshman Haley Angel got 11 rebounds.

Hale had also gotten 25 points plus 11 rebounds in the Lady Engineers' losing effort against the Lady Owls of Owsley County. Angel had 10 points, Long had 9 and Sara Baker put in 6. Reed had ten rebounds against Owsley.

Estill plays three seniors but

key scoring comes from players who are sophomores or lower grades including two 7th graders and two 8th graders.

Coach Ruth Hughes' Lady Engineers will be playing in Mount Sterling at Montgomery County's Gateway Holiday Classic on December 27, 28 & 29th.

Their first game of 2020 will be away against the Powell County Lady Pirates.