



Front
Porch
Music

Ron Isbell
Publisher

Move over, David Allen Coe. We're writing the perfect country song

David Allen Coe, step aside. If anybody is going to write "the perfect country western song" it's gonna be me. I've already penned the lyrics for a couple: "I'm Tired of Bangin' My Head Against the Writing on the Wall" and "I Carry My Family Portrait on My Driver's License".

The first because I like mixing metaphors almost as much as I like puns.

The second came from an old motorcycle riding and camping friend. He had been divorced for more years than he had been married but was still in love with his ex, and he rarely saw his daughter. He felt like his drivers license photo was his family portrait. In his last months as he dealt with cancer he found out how wrong he was. His daughter cared for him and hundreds of friends cared about him.

Still, it's a great country song, don't ya think?

I'm working on another one now for all you smokers out there that are having a hard time finding a place to light up. It goes like this...

Tobacco's become a mortal sin.
Now it's against the law.
Soft pack or hard. carton or tin.
Or a wad tucked in your jaw.
They've taken all our rights away.
They search us in places ain't meant to be seen.
We have to protect the other guy.
But who's looking out for me.

Joe Camel ain't Kool no more
Winston's name ain't on the Cup
Nobody's callin' for Phillip Morris
Nobody's lightin' up.

Then I've got a few more that I can't keep from rattlin' around in my brain...

She's hot. I'm not. Think I've got a chance?
More beer. No fear. Gonna ask her to dance.

Or how about...

Martinis and Manhattans
Wine from the right year.
Or Jack and Coke,
Pretzels and beer.

Or maybe this one...

It's against the law to eat anything fat.
Burger gets you 5 to 10. Want fries with that?

Coming up soon The Herald is going to have a contest to write "the perfect country western song." Unlike David Allen Coe's version it won't necessarily have to be about momma and trains and getting drunk. It could be about daffodils and frilly doilies and a cup of herbal tea.

No it couldn't! I'm yankin' your chain. Not even Tom T. Hall could write a song about frilly things and tea and call it a country song. And he's good.

But it could be about our heroes, whoever they may be, or about love, or love lost, or about spin the bottle or a nickel Coke or penny candy. It could be a waltz or a two-step or a beat so off-the-wall the cast of Dancing With The Stars couldn't find it even if they had directions and a Garmin.

And we're going to want all of you to help us write it. Who knows; we may write the song that will convince Garth Brooks to come out of retirement. And you won't be able to play (and win) if you aren't reading The Herald.

But you can put it down long enough to drop another quarter in the jukebox.

Bethware Fair starts Tuesday

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

For 63 years now Bethware Progressive Club members have shown that they can throw a great party... and they're about to do it again.

The 63rd annual Bethware Fair will liven up the otherwise quiet summertime school grounds (Bethware School) August 3-7 with the sights, sounds and smells that have become so familiar on the campus this time of year.



Miss Bethware Fair Queen Jada Roberts

But the sights, sounds and smells will be amplified with more rides, more entertainment and more vendors this year, according to Jason Falls, publicity chairman of the 2010 fair.

At least 20 rides, provided by Smokey Mountain Amusements, will line the midway. Live music and entertainment will fill the air each night.

The inviting smells of cotton candy and candied apples will drift from concession stands and hot dogs, hamburgers, fries and Bethware Progressive's famous ham biscuits will be sold at the club house.

On Friday night, the Class of 1961 - the last class to graduate from Bethware School (before it became an elementary academy) - will be holding its reunion on the fairgrounds.

Canned fruits, jams and jellies, farm displays, crops, meats and pickled beets, juices, bread, cookies and cakes, clothing, needlework, ceramics, crafts, flowers, and antiques will all be featured in the exhibit hall.

And somewhere, walking about in a crown and a sash will be the Miss Bethware Fair Queen, nine-year-old Jada Roberts.

Born Jada Renee Roberts on Sept. 21, 2000 to Sarah and John Roberts in Salem, Ohio, she moved to Kings Mountain with her family when she was two years old. She started kindergarten at Bethware Elementary and just finished up fourth grade at the school. Her favorite teacher at Bethware is

"every teacher she's ever known".

In addition to being voted Bethware Fair Queen, Jada also received awards this year for perfect attendance, the A Honor Roll and accelerated reading. She will start fifth grade at Kings Mountain Intermediate next month.

Entries in the various departments for the exhibit hall will be accepted 9 a.m.-8 p.m. on Aug. 2, and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on Aug. 3. All entries will be judged Wednesday, Aug. 4. The displays will be released Saturday, Aug. 7, at 7 p.m.

The manager for this year's fair is Chuck Dover. This year's board of directors of the Bethware Progressive Club are Mitchell McKinney, president; Jason Falls, 1st vice president; Chuck Dover, 2nd vice president; Mark Wyte, secretary; and, Craig Mayes, treasurer.

Falls said that in 63 years, the Bethware Progressive Club has yet to miss a fair. The club started it on the school grounds, off of David Baptist Church Rd., in the late 1940s.

"We've had the same mission since we started to support the community and the school," he added. Proceeds, raised from the fair, benefit Bethware school and a deserving Kings Mountain



Riding the mini-cars is fun at Bethware Fair.

High School senior, who receives a scholarship from the club each year.

Falls said that the club meets every month to plan the fair.

"We go to conventions and seminars to get prepared," he added, and to learn new ideas, new rides or new performers the club can incorporate in the future. "We try to use as many local people as we can."

The club contracts with

Smokey Mountain Amusements, out of Robbinsville, NC, for the midway rides.

Bethware Fair is considered the "oldest community agricultural fair in the state," Falls said.

Last year, attendance exceeded 12,000 people. "We're hoping this year to have around 15,000 visitors," he added.

Animal exhibits will be provided this year by Josh Bridges. Antique tractors, hit-and-miss engines and new tractors will also be on display. The support from volunteers, sponsors and the city, which Falls says helps them spread the word, "enable us to put the fair on every year."

Last year, the club mourned the loss of one of its charter members - Floyd Lamar Herndon - and long-time member, Jonas Bridges, remembered as "the Voice of Kings Mountain". This year's fair book is dedicated in their memory.



Kids of all ages enjoy the merry-go-round at the Bethware Fair.

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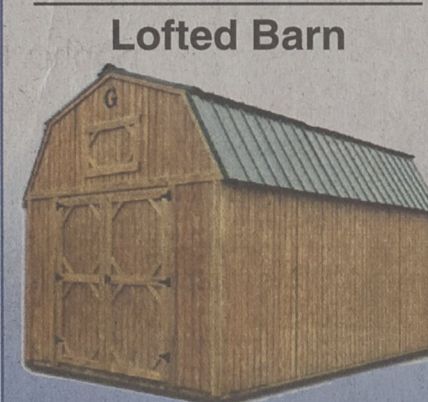
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