



# SPRING 2017

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 4

## HAPPENINGS IN THE HILLS

Entertainment • Recreation • Lodging • Points of Interest  
Highland County • Pike County • Ross County



Fallsville Wildlife Area is a popular hiking location which has Clear Creek meandering throughout the entire area and creating this beautiful waterfall on the cover of this edition of the Happenings in the Hills. Folks will want to bring their cameras to capture not only the waterfall, but also the wildlife which abounds there, especially the birds! This little known spot is a delightful venue for family walks, nature study, and more!

Additional information can be found at [wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/fallsville](http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/fallsville)

PHOTO BY MIKE SEELY

## YOU ARE AT HOME AT BRISTOL VILLAGE

One of the nation's finest retirement villages is located in Waverly, Ohio.

Residents of Bristol Village live in their own homes within this delightful retirement community. The village provides a wealth of activities for the residents! Whew, a visit to the facility could wear you out seeing all that is going on!

Limited assistance is available to the residents in their own homes, but should it be necessary for them to have further help in living, Bristol Village has a Continuum of Care Plan. Please visit the Bristol Village web page where



this plan is explained in detail. [www.bristolvillage.com](http://www.bristolvillage.com) (Just the help

needed at each step along the way.) Of course many residents are able to spend the rest of their lives in their own Bristol Village home, but it is nice

to know that further assistance is available if and when needed.

Everyone should know about Bristol Village!... (folks considering retirement themselves, as well as people concerned for their older loved ones.)

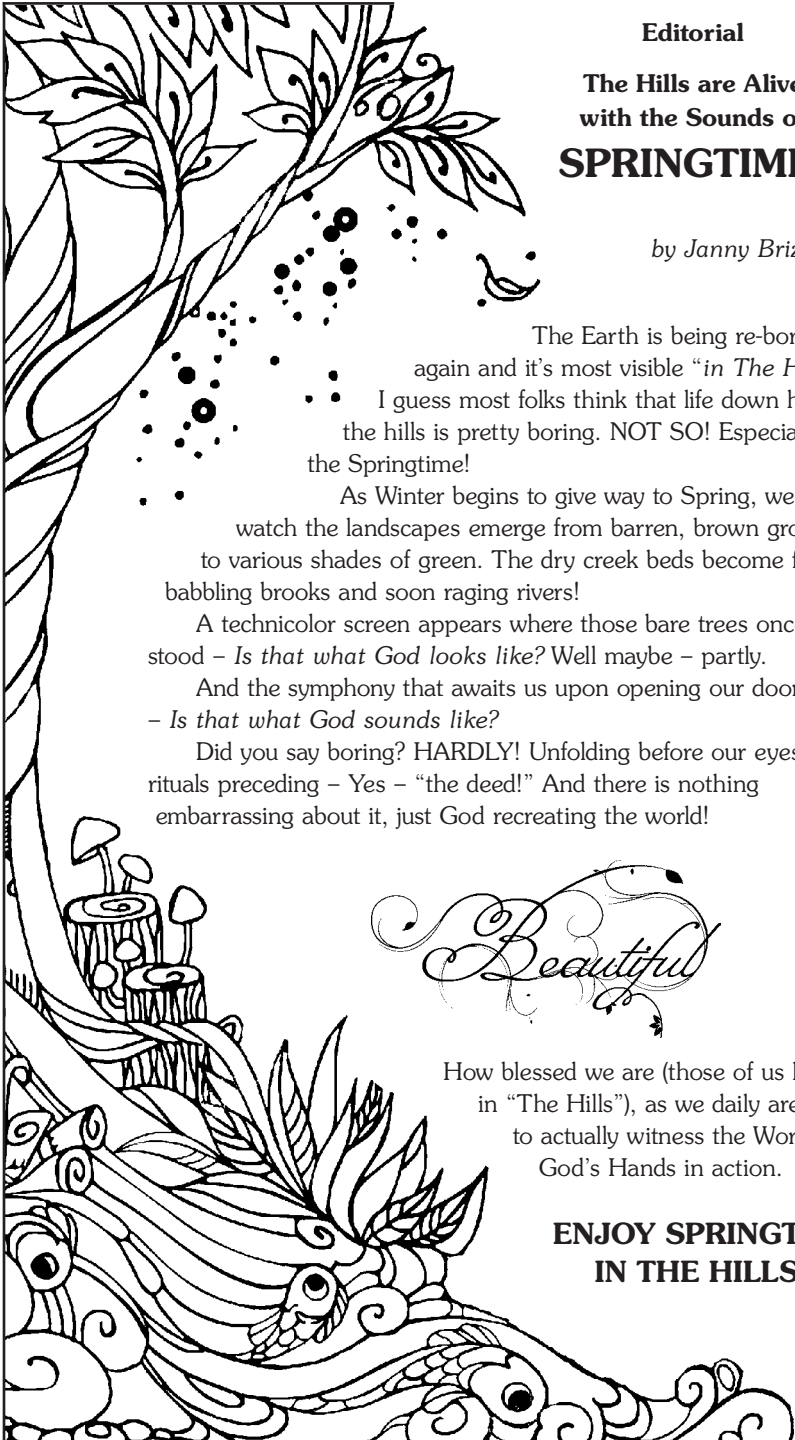
Dignity is the guideline by which Bristol Village operates.



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Editorial

The Hills are Alive  
with the Sounds of  
**SPRINGTIME!**

by Janny Brizius

The Earth is being re-born once again and it's most visible "in *The Hills*"!

I guess most folks think that life down here in the hills is pretty boring. NOT SO! Especially in the Springtime!

As Winter begins to give way to Spring, we watch the landscapes emerge from barren, brown ground to various shades of green. The dry creek beds become first babbling brooks and soon raging rivers!

A technicolor screen appears where those bare trees once stood – *Is that what God looks like?* Well maybe – partly.

And the symphony that awaits us upon opening our doors! – *Is that what God sounds like?*

Did you say boring? **HARDLY!** Unfolding before our eyes are rituals preceding – Yes – "the deed!" And there is nothing embarrassing about it, just God recreating the world!

*Beautiful*

How blessed we are (those of us living in "The Hills"), as we daily are able to actually witness the Work of God's Hands in action.

**ENJOY SPRINGTIME  
IN THE HILLS!**

# ENJOY OUR AREA STATE AND NATIONAL PARKS!

Our tri-county "Happenings' area" abounds with wonderful recreational opportunities. I guess most folks know about Rocky Fork State Park; Paint Creek Lake State Park; and Pike Lake State Park. When I was a teenager Pike Lake was considered "The Place to BE!", featuring a delightful little swimming beach, great camping including fabulous cabins! However back then we called it Lake Pike – Don't know why or when it got changed.

Also, the year I graduated from High School (1953), the first water spilled over the new Rocky Fork Lake Dam. I was helping with the "The Dragon", the McClain High School year book, and for a "Look what's Happening" page, I had found a fabulous photo of them building that dam, and I submitted it along with the caption, "Man, Dig That Crazy Hole!" Miss Blake, the advisor was not amused. (The photo appeared, but minus the caption). Rocky Fork has turned out to be a great Summertime playground with boating of all size boats, fishing, camping, and swimming all available. It annually hosts a world-class Power Boat Regatta, as well.

Closest of all to my home in Cave Holler, is Paint Creek Lake State Park. Perhaps that's the reason it's my favorite. In addition to all of the expected features Paint Creek also abounds with wild life, both winged and four legged, and there are many wonderful places designated to see same. There are also hiking trails throughout the park and even horseback riding trails!

While these are the most widely known parks in our area, just look at a partial list of some of the others:

*Lake White (Pike Co.); Ross County Lake State Wildlife Area (Ross Co); Seip Mound (Ross Co); Story Mound (Ross Co.); Tar Hollow State Park (Ross, Hocking & Vinton Counties); Hopewell Culture National Historic Park (Ross Co) Great Seal State Park (Ross Co.); Adena State Memorial (Ross Co.)*

Get out and enjoy our great parks in the "Happenings Area"! See God's marvelous Spring flower show!

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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT CAMP

## **Q. I have never heard of it...Is it new?**

A. CAMP has operated annually since 1956. Dave "Boonie" & Janny Brizius directed CAMP at its inception. Today their son and daughter-in-law, David & Tina Brizius, run the program. In 2010 the financials of CAMP were taken over by SFA (Staff Friends & Alumni of CAMP) a 501c3.

## **Q. I'm skeptical about camps. What credentials can be provided?**

A. The camp is accredited by the ACA (American Camp Association) & has received commendations from Parents Magazine, two Ohio Governors, three mayors of Gahanna, Successful Meetings Magazine and former President George Bush.

## **Q. Where is CAMP?**

A. CAMP is located at the group camping facility of Tar Hollow State Park in southern Ohio, where Ross, Hocking and Vinton counties come together.

## **Q. Why is it just one week?**

A. Because all of our staff are volunteers taking their vacations and leave from military service, etc., to serve. Included in our staff make up are business executives, PHD's, firefighters, doctors, nurses, teachers, truck drivers & ministers - individuals from many different walks of life. Many of our staff have been serving for over 30 years! All our Staff are background checked and go through training.

## **Q. Can you tell me about the facilities?**

A. Campers and staff sleep in log cabins, with at least 1 staff member per 7 campers. They boat, swim and fish in a small lake well-attended by certified life guards and instructors. Meals and certain activities take place in a large, rustic lodge. The Camp includes: An Amphitheater, Ball Fields, Archery Course, Basketball/Volleyball Courts, and much more.

## **Q. What types of programs are offered?**

A. CAMP is a "traditional camping program" that has over 20 different classes to choose from both week long and daily. There is everything from rappelling to drama, art, crafts, sports, boating, swimming, archery, air rifle, photography, choir camp "rock" band, etc. all taught by experienced skilled staff.

## **Q. Is this a church camp?**

A. We are a faith based camp and as such are not a traditional church camp, but we are very much spiritually oriented. It is completely interdenominational /interfaith, and no church affiliation is required to attend.

## **Q. Who can attend?**

A. Any young people grades 6 through spring high school grads are welcome.

## **Q. What makes this camp different from any other camp?**

A. The philosophy, dedication and vision of those in charge makes all the difference.

In asking this question to former campers, the answers were often: "Love", "Spiritual unity", "A place where you can be yourself", "A place where you can grow", "It's like a family", "I can't describe it - you've got to find out yourself"

**Visit [www.sfacamp.org](http://www.sfacamp.org) for more information or for registration blanks.**

**The 2017 CAMP, August 6 – August 12, is the 62nd Annual Session.**

## **Tecumseh!**

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# THE STORY OF “THE JIGGER”

by Dave Shoemaker

Before I begin, you should know that I love old gymnasiums. When I go to towns in other states I've been known to walk into random high schools and ask to see their gymnasium. I love to look at the photos on the walls, learn the history of their teams, everything. Weird? Maybe. I love old gyms, man. But let us begin . . .

For those of you who don't know, “The Jigger” is the name of the gymnasium in which I coach. How it got that name will be told shortly, but let's start at the beginning . . .

Back in the late 1950's, two local high schools, Twin and Bainbridge, decided to consolidate into one high school. Twin's athletic teams were the Tigers and wore the colors blue and gold. Bainbridge? They were the Polar Bears and wore orange and black. The two schools were heated rivals, so the consolidation had to be handled delicately. In fact, much discussion took place as to where the new school would even be built. It was finally decided, wisely, that the school would be built halfway between the towns where Twin and Bainbridge schools were located: Bourneville (home of Twin High School) and Bainbridge (the home of Bainbridge High School). As for the school name and the school colors, a combination was decided upon. The new school would be called Paint Valley (after the beautiful valley in which it was located), black would be borrowed from Bainbridge's black and orange, and gold would be taken from Twin's blue and gold. Thus was born Paint Valley's black and gold. But what about a mascot? Bainbridge was the Polar Bears and Twin was the Tigers. Bears and cats. Ah. Somewhere, a light went on in somebody's head, and the PAINT VALLEY BEARCATS were born.

And you know what? It was perfect.

Soon after, a gymnasium was built, and it was not an ordinary gymnasium. In an era of small, 300-400 seat gyms, Paint Valley's sparkling new gym was a crown jewel among Southern Ohio gyms. It seated 1,300 people, a rarity for its time. For years, many post-season tournaments were held there.

As a kid, I attended many events in this amazing gymnasium. My father took me to games, and I have distinct memories of watching Coach Oral Crabtree's great teams play there. Legendary players like Stacey Thompson, Mike Everhart, Mike Haas, and Mike Kinnamon all played there. SVC and Ross County League championships were won.

I even remember watching my sister's boyfriend play there, a player by the name of Donald Anderson. His nickname? Jigger. But more on that later as well.

I recall attending sectional and district basketball games there too, and I loved it. My Dad and I always sat in the top section on the home side, dead center, and I was mesmerized by the place. The smell, the sounds, everything about it fascinated me.

Later, when I attended Paint Valley, I had the honor of playing in that same gymnasium in which I had sat years before. Even then I felt I was playing in a special place, the coolest gym in our league. There was something about the feel of the place. It actually seemed to have a personality of its own, ya know?

Later I ended up becoming a teacher and basketball coach, and the very first game in which I coached took place in the very gym I loved so much. It was just junior high basketball, but it meant so much to me to be coaching in that facility. After that first year I left to coach and teach at another school, and for 7-years I never set foot in the gymnasium I'd grown to love so much.

As fate would have it, however, I was hired to coach at my former school and in the gym I loved dearly. I remember my first game back, in the Fall of 1988, and I immediately knew I was home. It felt so comfortable to be there, so . . . right.

For the next 8-years I coached in that gym, and no matter where we played I always thought our gym was better than any other. And by the way, the man who hired me to be the head basketball coach was Donald “Jigger” Anderson, now my sister’s husband and the same guy I watched play back in the late 60’s. And during all my years coaching at Paint Valley, there had been no bigger supporter of Paint Valley basketball than Jigger.

I resigned from my coaching job after the 1996 season, and a couple months later our school suffered a major blow – Jigger passed away. He was such an integral part of our school that his death affected everyone. He meant that much to everybody affiliated with Paint Valley High School, and it was a difficult time for all of us.

In the Fall of 1997 I was hired as Athletic Director at Paint Valley, and in 2001 our school underwent a major renovation. A junior high and elementary building was built beside our existing high school, and my beloved gymnasium was to undergo a complete renovation as well.

The original plans called for new plastic bleachers to replace the old wooden ones, plexiglass to replace the old iron railings, and the red brick on each side of our stage to be painted white to match the walls.

Nah, that wouldn’t do, now would it? I felt our gym somehow had to be renovated, but in a way that kept its old school feel. Its integrity if you will. Hell, it’s personality. It’s character.

Luckily, we had a Superintendent who felt the same way. As it turned out, we opted for wooden bleachers, wrought iron railings, and we kept the red brick on each side of our stage. A balcony on the visitor’s side was added, and somehow, someway, we kept the feel of the original gymnasium. Old school, baby, and it looked fantastic.

On January 12th, 2002, in a special ceremony, we officially dedicated our newly renovated gymnasium. It was named Donald “Jigger” Anderson gymnasium, after the man who meant so much to our school, our teachers, our students and our sports teams.

“The Jigger” was born.

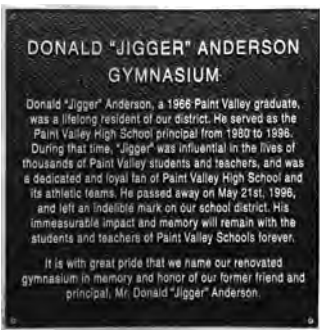
And today, 15-years later and in an era of new, antiseptic, lifeless, and cookie-cutter gyms without character, I believe ours still stands out. We maintained the integrity of the original, and it was worth it.

On the wall next to the place where Jigger used to stand at every game, there hangs a plaque. It explains why our gym carries his name, and I touch it every time I walk past it. I know he’d be proud that we kept the integrity of the gym he loved so much.

To this day, on any given morning, I take a long look around as I walk into the empty gym. I take it all in. I do the same when I’m the last to leave at night. I have so many great memories of games, teams, moments, and players there. And yes, memories of

Jigger. It’s an amazing feeling really, a feeling that I can’t get anywhere else.

And I don’t think that feeling will ever go away.



# LONG'S RETREAT

## A Camping Resort!

Long's Retreat in Pike County is called a camping resort for good reason. This fine camping facility offers something (or many somethings) for everyone in the family. Whether you are a tent, trailer or cabin type camper they've got you covered with activities galore! Swimming, water slides, fishing, paddle boating, canoeing, miniature golf, tennis, kiddie go-carts, game room, and much more! It seems that every year as I stop by for a visit at Long's Retreat, they're building a new facility of some sort! I actually believe their store has provisions to last an entire Summer! A visit to their web page at [www.longsretreat.com](http://www.longsretreat.com) will give you a mini-view of all they have to offer. You may want to call to ask about their special vacation package. (937) 588-3725. Don't wait too long! This is a very popular place!



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## THE LAZY H

### Fun And Relaxing!

The most asked question I receive at the Happenings is, "Where can we stay in the area?" Well, while there are many nice motels in the area, if you are looking for something a bit different, I recommend The Lazy H Cabins on Old Route 50 west of Bainbridge. Twenty beautiful log cabins located adjacent to Paint Creek Lake offer a relaxing but fun kind of overnight stay for you and your family and, oh yes, your horses! This camping facility is specially designed to also overnight your horses!

Visit [www.lazyhcabins.com](http://www.lazyhcabins.com) for a look both inside and outside of the cabins and decide which option of cabins you would like to reserve. These cabins are in a great location to enjoy the facilities of Rocky Fork, Paint Creek, or Pike Lake, and very close-by for folks who enjoy festivals such as the Hillsboro's Festival of the Bells in early July, Greenfield's Greene Countrie Towne Festival in mid July, or Bainbridge's Fall Festival of the Leaves in October. Check them out. I think you might just find the Lazy H meets your needs for a different kind of overnight housing!

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# TECUMSEH!

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How blessed we are to have "Tecumseh!" returning for a 45th season at the Sugarloaf Mountain Amphitheatre June 9 – September 3. This is the true life story of the legendary Shawnee leader, Tecumseh, as he struggles to defend his homeland from the encroaching white man in the late 1700's. A visit to this marvelous production will be a lifetime memory for your family. (One year we were able to take



our entire senior campers from CAMP to see Tecumseh! Though this was perhaps more than 25 years ago, I still have people stop me to thank me for that experience!) Your family will thank you, too! Visit [www.tecumsehndrama.com](http://www.tecumsehndrama.com) for ticket ordering instructions and for more information about this great production. Also see their AD elsewhere in the Happenings.

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## PRINTEX

Printex, with print shops in both Chillicothe and Waverly, continues on in their tradition of excellence. Whether you are in need of a printer for your personal business card or for a corporate brochure or anything in between, Printex will present you with a product of which you can be proud!

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## MIKE SEELY'S PHOTOGRAPHY



Our beautiful cover photo is again courtesy of Mike Seely of Seely Portraits in Greenfield. You may see more of his beautiful photography at his web page: [www.seelyportraits.com](http://www.seelyportraits.com). Mike does drone photos of area farms and businesses and he makes himself available when possible to photograph your next big event, too. Of course, he does portrait photos by appointment at his studio on Jefferson Street in Greenfield. Call (937) 981-3013 to talk to him about any of the above.

## UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

**Memorial Day Weekend** Annual Opening, Long's Retreat, Latham

**June 9th** Opening Weekend For "Tecumseh!", Chillicothe

**July-14-15-16** Greene Countrie Towne Festival, Greenfield

**Aug.6-12** CAMP - Tar Hollow State Park Resident Camping Facility (937) 304-0818

### Below is a list of the upcoming events for the camping season for the campground at Paint Creek State Park

**May 13th** - Family Birdhouse Building

**May 27th** - VIP Breakfast

**May 28th** - Memorial Day Ceremony

**June 10th** - Family Birdhouse Building

**June 17th** - Family Fun Day

**July 1st** - VIP Breakfast & Bike

Decorating Contest

**July 15th** - Splash Party

**August 4th & 5th** - Camper Yard Sale

**August 12th** - Family Birdhouse Building

**September 2nd** - VIP Breakfast

**October 13th/14th** - Halloween Campout

**October 21st** - VIP Breakfast

For more information about the events, visitors may stop in or call the camp store at (937) 981-7061.

Information about your events will be listed in the next issue free of charge, if you send it to Happenings in the Hills, 7757 Cave Road, Bainbridge, Ohio 45612 or [dbbjbb@gmail.com](mailto:dbbjbb@gmail.com)

Find us online at [magicwaterstheatre.com](http://magicwaterstheatre.com) and [coffeyweb.com](http://coffeyweb.com) and

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Thanks to Dave Shoemaker for another entertaining article in this issue of the "Happenings in the Hills". Dave is well known in this area to many reading this because of his years of teaching and coaching at both Greenfield McClain and at Paint Valley. He is a clever writer, and do not be surprised to see his words again in future issues of the Happenings. I am happy to have him as part of my "Happenings team!"

# BOONIE The Magician

Looking for something to add some fun to your next special occasion? Think about BOONIE, THE MAGICIAN! From birthday parties to corporate events, Boonie can handle it – has many times and will again!

Here, see Boonie as he entertained at all of the Dakotas Restaurants (Corporate-wide) for their Kid's Nights.

Call (937) 304-0818 to check availability for your events.



# (937) 304-0818

# CAMP

**AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup> –  
AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup>**



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**[www.sfacamp.org](http://www.sfacamp.org)**