

# JOHNSON

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Left to right is Otis' niece Donna Blankenship, Great Great Nephew Isaiah Bennett, Niece Charlene Johnson, Nephew James Johnson, Niece Sharon York, Karen Waddell, Nephew Jerry Johnson, Nieces Debra Smith & Amanda Johnson. Pictured with RC Honor Guard.

Korea on July 20, 1950.

Frank Irvin, Commander of Russell County Honor Guard, shared Johnson's story.

Sharon Stephens York, a niece of Otis B. Johnson, reached out to Mr. Irvin asking about medals that were never received in the veteran's honor. Mr. Irvin began to do his research and contacted the necessary people so that Johnson's family would be able to obtain his medals or awards.

One medal Sharon York accepted on Otis B. Johnson behalf was the Korean Ambassador Peace Medal. However, the main medal accepted by his niece Sharon Johnson was the Purple Heart.

The Purple Heart is awarded to veterans who were wounded in combat and treated by a medic or were killed in the line of duty. The medal dates all the way back to 1782, formally known as the Merit Medal named by George Washington. In 1932, the medal name and some regulations in or to obtain was changed to The Purple Heart.

Commander Irvin said that August 7 is National Purple Heart Day. If you are someone or if you know someone who is a Purple Heart recipient and wish to be honored on this day, please reach out to The Times Journal and ask for Chyenne Popplewell for a possible feature at the correct time. Also, Mr.



Ret Air Force LTC Larry Rogers speaks about the Forgotten War



Otis B. Johnson

Irvin also said that if you or a loved one has medals yet to be received, please reach out to him

to start the steps to begin gaining information about the medals.

# BOARD

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more, which was at 50 or more just the day before. Also, according to the Centers for Disease Control and prevention recommended on Sunday to "Social Distance", put simply, the idea is to maintain a distance between you and other people- in this case, at least 6 feet. All these criteria were met at the meeting as there were only 9 in attendance, and each of us were 6 feet apart. At this point, readers should know by now that Russell County Schools have been closed until March 16th-March 27th, and if time is to be extended it will be announced! Due to COVID19, schools are being closed for social distancing purposes.

Board Member Joy Wilson opened the meeting up in prayer, asking God to watch over our kids and the schools, all the staff, everyone in Russell County and in the Nation.

Kevin Williams with "Kevin's Kids" originally was on the agenda but will be scheduled for a future date. He was coming to speak to the board of his upcoming concert held at First Baptist Church in Russell Springs. However, with the COVID19 pandemic the concert has been postponed, therefore speaking before the board has been also.

Superintendent Michael Ford read the February financial update for the district. The total of all receipts and beginning balance \$13,204,647.59, disbursements \$2,446,472.76, with the balance at the close of the month \$10,758,174.83. General Fund Balance consisted of Fund 1: \$5,736,109.11, Special Projects \$-300,526.94, District Activity Fund \$2,064.59, Capital Outlay Fund \$138,330.00, FSPK Building

Fund \$167,950.43, Construction Fund \$4,701,424.58, Debt Service Fund \$0.00, Food Service Fund \$308,820.36, Fiduciary Fund \$4,002.70 with a total cash in bank of \$10,758,174.83.

In other school board news, Superintendent Michael Ford talked on Capital Funds Request for the 2019-2020 school year. The Commissioner of Education grants the request for the usage of the remaining capital funds- which was the amount of 217,495. Mr. Ford said the money will be used for Kiss the Bus Payment and the purchase of other buses. The buses being purchased with this money was voted on by the board members back in the fall. Ford also stated a portion of the money will go towards a bond payment as well.

The public always has a chance for comment. Mr. Dale Onyon- asks about librarians being able to offer the AR reading and testing to students online, while they are out of school. He said he had a niece from another county doing this and thought it would be beneficial to our students here. After the meeting ended, Mr. Ford was on the phone almost immediately to get an answer for Mr. Onyon, but to also see if our schools could offer something so beneficial during their time off.

Mr. Ford stated like many others is the outcome of this changes very quickly. He and his staff must take the information as it is directed toward them and then move forward. He said he really appreciated everyone, so many people have come together and want to help even among all the chaos.



## Cup Series Put on Hold

Once the cancellations of major sporting events started to be announced last week, it was only a matter of time before NASCAR would have to pull the plug on its schedule beginning at Atlanta and the following week at Homestead-Miami. Some would say the sanctioning body was slow to react as it first announced that the races would go on as planned but no fans would be allowed inside the track.

While NASCAR was continuing to move forward with its plans of racing without fans, every other professional league or major sporting event was announcing that they were either postponing part of their schedule or cancelling an event. NASCAR followed suit on Friday when it announced that the races at Atlanta and Homestead-Miami were being postponed.

Government officials have no timetable on how long it may take to control the spread of the coronavirus in this country but they have initiated the necessary steps to begin what could be a lengthy period of time to get it under control. Every sport is having to deal with the idea of cancelling more events and NASCAR is no different.

Texas Motor Speedway and Bristol Motor Speedway are now in the crosshairs of what to do moving forward but both tracks have said that they are preparing as if their races would go on as scheduled. Unlike Atlanta and the rest of the sporting events that fell victim to late cancellations and postponements over the last week, Texas, Bristol and the rest of the series will know well in advance of what is going to take place.

Following what was to be a race at Homestead-Miami this weekend, the schedule is set to take the series to Texas and then on to the first short track race of the young season at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Following Bristol, the first of only three open dates on the schedule takes place which coincides with the Easter weekend.

The Cup Series rules state that the playoff portion of the season begins with the 27th race but if the canceled races are not rescheduled that leaves NASCAR with having to make a decision concerning the length of the regular season in order to keep the 10-race playoff portion of the schedule intact. Those decisions to be made are on down the road for the sanctioning body but for now it has shown that it will make the right decision for all of those involved in the sport.

Races are not the only part of the sport that has been canceled as the vast majority of the individual race teams have announced that they would be closing their doors to fans who want to tour their facility or visit their gift shop. The NASCAR Hall of Fame in Charlotte has also announced that it would be closing its doors until further notice.

PIT NOTES: The television schedule for the weekend did not have any racing for fans from Atlanta Motor Speedway but the quick thinking of some individuals that work in the Cup Series provided the opportunity to watch some virtual racing. IRacing set up a 100-lap race Sunday afternoon on a virtual Atlanta Motor Speedway. The race was called The Replacements 100 and it featured a field of thirty-five drivers made up of drivers from various series, crew chiefs and spotters. Ryan Blaney's spotter, Josh Williams took the checkered flag with Hendrick Motorsports driver William Byron coming in second. There is no word yet if there will be another such race at a virtual Homestead-Miami this coming weekend but you have to admit it was a good idea to fill the void and keep everyone at home.

# South Kentucky RECC Closes Lobbies:

South Kentucky RECC, acting in accordance with the measures that are being taken across the state, will be closing all co-op office lobbies, effective Tuesday, March 17 until further notice, or we are given a defined timeline and restrictions are lifted by national/world health organizations. We understand and realize the inconvenience for this measure. However, the safety, health and well-being of our members and employees are always paramount. Please note that the drive-thru at each office will remain open.

South Kentucky RECC has several alternative methods for paying your bills. In addition to the drive-thru at each office, bills can be paid by telephone-(800) 264-5112, online at www.skrecc.com, by smart phone app (search SKRECC in App or Play stores) or at the Somerset kiosk. Members simply need their member number, located on their bill, to navigate these options. We also offer direct withdrawal and have a PrePay program, which allows members the option to pay for their electric before they use it or as they use it. Members can call their local offices or (800) 264-5112 with

questions about or assistance with any of these options.

SKRECC cautions members that is the type of opportunity that scammers tend to try to take advantage of, and South Kentucky RECC wants members to beware of anyone posing as a co-op employee, particularly by telephone. Should you receive a phone call from someone claiming to be a representative of our organization, making threats of disconnection or demanding payments, please hang up and call your local office or (800) 264-5112. Never give any personal or financial information to someone who calls and claims to be from the co-op. If a member initiates the call to South Kentucky RECC to pay their bill or for some other business transaction, then it is safe to tell employees such information.

Currently, there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in our area, and South Kentucky RECC is trying to be proactive in its response. To stay up-to-date on any changes to South Kentucky RECC's operations, please follow us on social media: SKRECC on Facebook and Twitter and SoKyRECC on Ins-

tagram; or visit our website at www.skrecc.com.

## Bowlerettes Bowling Standings



Submitted by Linda Johnson Sec/Treas. February 13, 2020

Week 27	Win	Losses
Team		
1. Alley Cats	80.0	28.0
2. Do-Betters	65.5	42.5
3. Pin Pals	65.0	43.0
4. Lo-Rollers	60.0	48.0
5. Dale's Diesel	58.0	50.0
6. Bowl "N" Bawl	51.0	57.0
7. Lucky Strikes	49.0	59.0
8. Pin Spinners	48.5	55.5
9. Gutter Girls	44.0	64.0
Team		
High Hcp Series		
Alley Cats	2463	
High Scratch Series		
Alley Cats	2106	
High Hcp Game		
Alley Cats	856	
High Scratch Game		
Alley Cats	737	
Individual		
High Hcp Series		
Kathy Burton	769	
High Scratch Series		
Kathy Burton	715	
High Hcp Game		
Kathy Burton	287	
High Scratch Game		
Kathy Burton	269	

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