

SALEM,

“We sure were glad she was able to make the trip!” Bradshaw said.

Along with enjoying food and fellowship, participants also took care of some “official business” by electing new leaders.

Martina Hopper

— Continued from Page One

Haydon was elected president, JoAnn Ooten, vice-president, and Lyda Hopper Foster chosen as treasurer for 2023.

The next reunion is scheduled for Saturday, October 7, 2023, at the Salem Elementary Cafeteria.

The gathering is meaningful to the former classmates.

“It’s been a great pleasure to be a part of this wonderful group through the years,” Bradshaw said. “I hope we can continue having these reunions for many years to come.”

WILSON,

— Continued from Page One

NWS “Weather Ready Nation Ambassador of Excellence Award.”

Brian Schoettmer, a Meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Louisville, said Wilson received the award because the NWS wished to “give Daniel the recognition he deserves.”

Schoettmer said Wilson “was chosen out of over 150-plus ambassadors in our region for the work he is doing in helping to make residents in the area more weather ready.”

Wilson now stands with such entities as AccuWeather - another recipient of the NWS “Weather Ready Nation (WRN) Ambassador of Excellence Award.”

For the sixth year, NOAA and the National Weather Service have honored a select number of WRN Ambassador organizations who have made significant contributions to building a Weather-Ready Nation.

By serving as change agents and leaders in their communities, Ambassadors of Excellence have:

- Inspired others to take action and become ready, responsive, and resilient
  - Created innovative ways to engage their community, their workforce, and/or their social network
  - Formed unique collaborations with NOAA and/or other ambassador organizations to achieve goals they alone could not meet
  - Embraced building “a Weather-Ready Nation for All” by addressing vulnerable populations’ needs.
- “The Storm Alert Center in Russell County has quickly become an Ambassador

of Excellence in and around the Lake Cumberland region of Kentucky,” Schoettmer said.

Schoettmer and Mike Kochasic, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the NWS in Louisville, travelled to Russell Springs to visit Wilson’s Storm Alert Center, and present him with the award.

During a Facebook Live broadcast of the ceremony, Koshasic and Schoettmer praised Wilson not only for his weather work, but also his philanthropic efforts.

Wilson spearheaded efforts to raise over \$10,000 for a single mother in western Kentucky who lost her home to a tornado-then a fire, and most recently helped gather over \$11,000 for an eastern Kentucky family whose home was washed away by a catastrophic flood.

“The Storm Alert Center is more than a weather center,” Wilson said. “We (Wilson and Storm Anchor Keith Richardson) work hard to bring severe weather coverage. We have our on-site, live storm tracking system as well as radar.”

The Storm Alert Center has been considered a true trendsetter.

“After the storm, we go to where the damage is,” Wilson said. “We report to our followers as well as the National Weather Service. Since I began this business, we have responded to hurricane disasters with aid and supplies. When the generational tornadoes came thru western Kentucky and the floods ravaged eastern Kentucky, we were there making a difference.”

Wilson and the Storm

Alert Center team is appreciative “to the 30,000 people who like or follow us on Facebook.”

“But for those who may not do social media, we can be found at stormalertcenter.com,” he said. “When the big storms roll in, we want people to be prepared and proactive because the next disaster may see us standing in need.”

The Storm Alert Center’s setup, service and outreach was praised by the NWS.

“A term we use in the weather service is ‘force multiplier,’” Schoettmer said. “The fact you are getting message out to that many people... that’s amazing. You’re expanding the message and getting it out there.”

“That’s kind of the whole sphere of the Weather-Ready Nation,” Kochasic said. “At the weather service in Louisville, we’re only about 20 folks. We can talk about safety, and preaching where people should go during severe weather as much as we can. We need folks like Daniel...to help out by spreading the word when severe weather strikes. And it will.”

“Your setup you have here is very impressive,” he said. “I think it’s a model to follow. Anybody interested in weather...or anybody who has a weather interest in their local community, Daniel would be the guy to talk to.”

“Most of it came piece-by-piece,” Wilson humbly said. “It’s fell together when it was supposed to.”

“Thanks for the confidence over the years,” he said. “We truly appreciate it.”

Team Turkey vs. Team Tinsel

**By MARY BETH SALLEE**  
**Jobe Publishing Reporter**  
[marybeth@jpinews.com](mailto:marybeth@jpinews.com)

It’s that time of year again, folks. The time of year for the great debate: when is the appropriate time to begin decorating for Christmas?

It’s a classic case of Team Turkey versus Team Tinsel. One side says if you decorate early, you’re forgetting to be thankful. The other side says that decorating early means enjoying Christmas longer.

To decorate early or not to decorate early, that is the question.

Christmas is my favorite holiday. I love the tree lights being

the only glow in the room, and I also love the spirit of giving to others. But I was, at one time, one of those that couldn’t believe people would have Christmas decorations up before Thanksgiving. I mean, who does that?

But flash forward a few years and a child later, and I totally get it. The holidays often seem rushed already, and time goes by so fast. Why not enjoy it a bit longer? Why not enjoy Christmas lights while eating turkey?

So, I did it...or at least on a small scale. I bought another Christmas tree, and I let my boy put it up this past Wednesday

in my home office. I fixed the tree and put on the lights, and then I brought out the ornaments of his and let him decorate as he pleased. To say he was ecstatic would be an understatement, and to see him happy to decorate a tree now made my heart happy also.

To sum it all up, whether you’re Team Turkey or Team Tinsel, you do you. Enjoy what makes you happy in whichever holiday spirit you choose.

Mary Beth Sallee resides in Hart County with her husband and son. She works as a reporter for Jobe Publishing.

MEAL,

— Continued from Page One

“There’s people over there who are still without a place to live,” he said, “and we started making plans to at least be able to give them a hot meal during the holidays.”

So, with a lot prayer, and hopefully some donations, Young will head east next month with a goal to feed even more people.

“Happy Hawg BBQ - with the help of Justin Burris, and other people in Russell and Adair Counties - will be going back to Jackson, KY with another free meal for the flood victims on December 3,” Young said.

“We’re hoping to feed 2,500 this time,” he said.

Young admits it’s an ambitious project, but

“the Lord provides.”

At presstime, “105 gallons of green beans, 104 gallons of corn...enough mashed potatoes to feed 2,500 people...enough gravy for 2,500 meals...2,500 bottles of water” have been secured for the trip.

“The ladies at the Church Of God, in Jackson (Where Young will set up), are going to make enough banana pudding to feed 2,500 people,” Young said.

But there are additional needs...

“We only have 15 turkeys and hams,” he said. “We will need 85 more. We’re going with pre-cooked...because it would take so much time to prepare otherwise. I’m gonna throw them on my smoker,

though...to give them that good taste.”

During this giving season, Young said he is thankful for support already received, and for future assistance.


“I’ve had like, \$200 given so far and Justin had \$400 given from his Sunday School class that he used to buy items,” he said.

In the midst of the holiday, “pre-cooked turkeys are hard to find right now at a reasonable price,” Young said.

Donations can be left at the Happy Hawg BBQ (at the intersection of U.S. 127 and KY. 80) or Justin Burris can be contacted at (270) 250 3528.

“It’s truly going to be a blessing to help those in need,” Young said.

**Reading the Newspaper Helps Your Brain Grow!**



**Metal Roofing**

*Free Estimates*

**270-590-0250**

**HAGAN'S CONSTRUCTION**

**ROOFING \* SIDING \* WINDOWS**



**SHOP Local THIS Christmas**

**SHOP AT HOME WEEK ONE**

- Campbell’s Creelsboro Country Store
- Citizens National Bank
- Lawless & smith True Value
- McKinney & Blair Insurance
- Montgomery Furniture
- Lindsey W. Gosser State Farm Insurance
- The Pretty Creekside Boutique
- Three Daughters Coffee & Sweets

Two winners will be randomly selected each week to receive \$100 CASH! Winners will be announced on the Chamber's Facebook page on Wednesday, November 30!

**SPONSORED BY**

**RUSSELL COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**