Back to school...

By Shelley Bishop
R-H Writer

Today marks my 43rd first day of school. Twelve years as a student in Russell County. Five and a half years of college (do not judge, I transferred schools and changed my major). Twenty-five years as an educator.

Every year, I am anxious to get back into a routine, but dread it at the same time. As of this writing-Friday morning, July 29-I have actually been back to work three days this week, but everything is different that first day with students.

There is nothing quite like getting a fresh start with a new group of kiddos! I dread trying to remember names; that gets harder for me each year. But I absolutely cannot wait to see them grow and learn throughout the year! I teach mostly sophomores and that age group probably matures more throughout the school year than any other.

This is a time of year that I mourn the time being over that I have gotten to be at home more with my family over the summer. My own daughter will be leaving again for college in a couple of weeks. I will apologize to our dog, Remi, often over the course of the next few weeks because she has grown accustomed to at least one of us being at home most of the time. I feel like I am deserting her!

School photo, 1st grade, 1976. Salem Elementary.

Summer is over. Time to go to work.

During Professional Development last Thursday at GCHS, we talked about reflecting on previous years and how to improve. When I think about becoming a better teacher, I usually reflect on my own teaching, but I also reflect on those teachers that I had who impacted me the most. After forty-two years, that is a lot of reflection!

Education has changed since I was a student. Teaching methods have changed. Teaching standards have changed. State assessment did not exist when I was a public school student. Technology has drastically changed! Two things that have not changed are kids are still kids and teachers care about their students.

Not every teacher will be able to make a strong connection with every student. People are different. Everyone's personality and experiences are different. But I have no doubt that each student who shows up at Green County High School will find someone who really, really "gets" them.

I am looking forward to getting to know my students, surprising them by how much fun geometry can be (I know, I'm a nerd), and fall sports. I am excited for our students and the opportunities that await each one. If you have a high school student that does not have me in class, tell them to come by and say, "Hi!" It may take a few times for me to remember their name, but I will be working on that!

Have a great year!

History: Husband's Heinous Crime

Green County Public Library Genealogy Laura Johnson

Henry Shoffner was found guilty of murder and given the penalty of life in prison on July 2, 1925. At the time, it was one of the worst crimes committed in Green County in many years and his subsequent trial was the shortest on record for a major crime in the county.

Residents were horrified on the morning of Sunday, June 7 by reports that Henry Shoffner, of Summersville, had murdered his wife. When the news reached Greensburg, several citizens, including Sheriff J. M. Howell and County Judge C. E. Graham, quickly made their way to the scene of the crime where they learned Henry had escaped. The group searched the immediate area for Henry but did not find him and decided to return to Greensburg in order to organize a larger search party. Much to their surprise, Henry had already made his way to town and was waiting for the officers. He turned himself in without incident.

Henry married Nancy E. Purvis about six months prior to the murder. The young couple lived with Nancy's foster mother, Susan Ella Price Hall. Susan and her husband, John E. Hall, had raised Nancy since she was a small child. John, who was Nancy's great uncle, passed away in February, 1924.

Apparently Henry and Nancy's marriage was problematic from the start. On June 4, she had reported him to authorities for assault and battery and a warrant was issued for his arrest. Henry was taken in but released on bond which was signed by Susan E. Hall.

Because things were undoubtedly tense at home, especially since the arrest, Nancy chose to stay elsewhere. She spent several days with Melvin and Bettie Milby and with Wes and Sally Price.

On the morning of the murder, Wes and Sally Price went with Nancy back to her home so she could get some clothes and personal items. Nancy went in the house and upstairs to gather her things. That's when Henry secured a pistol, went up the stairs, and shot his wife to death. Three bullets struck her in the chest, killing her almost instantly. It was also reported that Henry pointed the gun at Mr. Price and pulled the trigger, but thankfully the gun failed to fire.

The next morning, June 8, 1925, Henry Shoffner was brought before Judge Graham. He waived his right to an examining trial and was held without bail until the grand jury could hear the case.

On June 25, Susan E. Hall was also arrested and lodged in the jail. The grand jury had passed an indictment on her for the charge of being complicit in the murder of Nancy Shoffner.

Henry and Susan were both arraigned the following day. The court appointed the law firms of Milby & Henderson and Noggle & Graham as counsel for the accused. Prosecutors were Commonwealth Attorney, J. R. Sanders, assisted by J. H. Woodward and Abel Harding.

On the morning of July 2, Henry and Susan were brought before the Green County Circuit Court with Judge Thurman presiding. They were granted separate trials. Susan was returned to the jail while Henry's trial began right away.

Once a jury was selected, witnesses were called, and testimony given on details surrounding the shooting. Henry made a plea of self-defense which was utterly denied by the prosecution.

Jurors deliberated for only 20 minutes before they announced the guilty verdict and penalty of life in prison for Henry Shoffner.

Susan's trial was continued and she was released on a $1 bail. The outcome of her court date is unknown, however, in 1930, she was listed on the census still living near Summersville. If she did serve any jail time, it was less than five years.

Nancy E. Purvis Shoffner was laid to rest at the Hall Cemetery located at the end of Farley Lane near Summersville. Her tombstone says she was born in 1900, but all other records indicate Nancy was born about 1906 and was age 18 when murdered by her husband.

SUDOKU

2	7						1	8
			4					
1		9		6				
					3		7	
								9
		4		8	2	6	3	
	2				8	7		
	3							5
5		8	6					

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

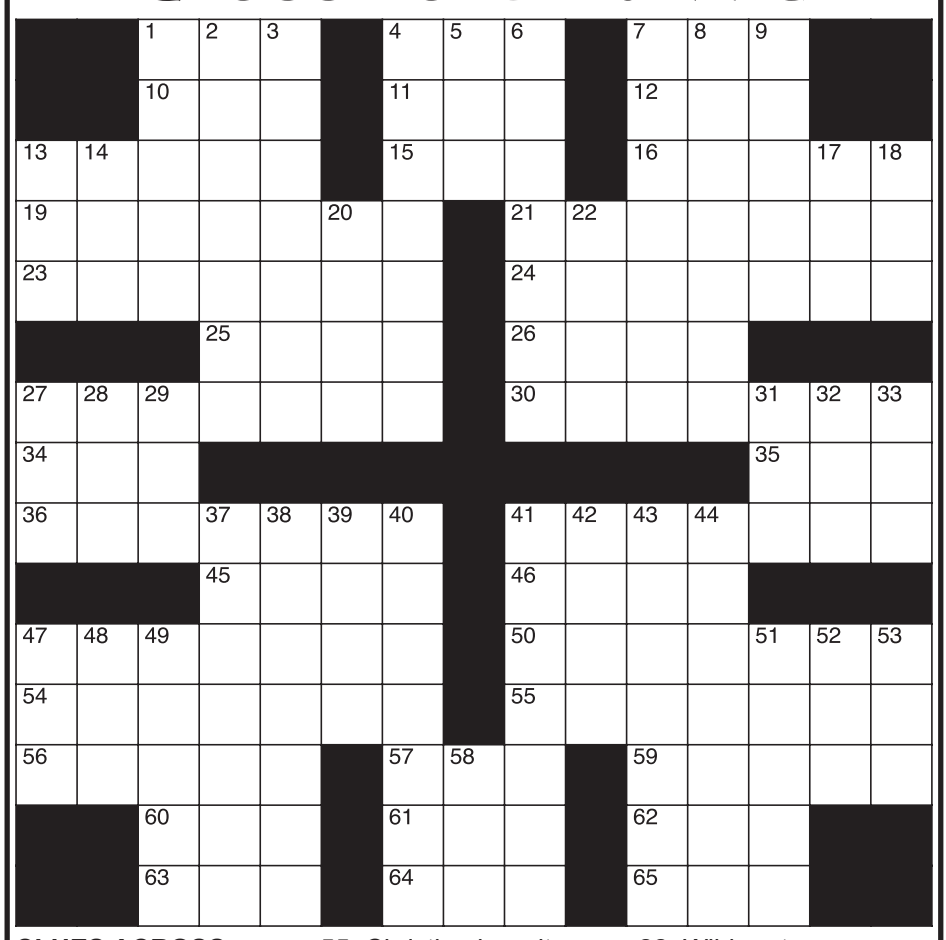
Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

ANSWER:

3	2	1	4	7	6	8	9	5
5	4	8	6	1	2	7	3	6
6	9	7	8	5	3	1	2	4
1	3	6	2	8	7	4	5	9
9	8	2	6	4	5	3	1	7
4	7	5	3	9	1	2	6	8
2	5	3	7	6	8	9	4	1
7	6	9	1	2	4	5	8	3
8	1	4	5	3	9	6	7	2

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS
1. America's WW2 President
4. Move earth
7. Insecticide
10. Naturally occurring solid material
11. State of fuss
12. Bhutanese wine
13. Greek island
15. Taxi
16. Tanzanian ethnic group
19. Metrical foot
21. Boasted
23. Eel-like vertebrate
24. Small freshwater lakes
25. Morally base
26. Not odd
27. Where you live
30. Fixed in place
34. A very large body of water
35. Moved quickly
36. Winged horse
41. Small waterfall
45. Hoopster Gasol
46. One who mimics
47. Tropical plant
50. Used of walls
54. A citizen of Iran
55. Christian hermit
56. She marries the groom
57. American patriotic society
59. Wine grape
60. School of Buddhism
61. A team's best pitcher
62. Consumed
63. Time zone
64. Part of a company name
65. Type of bulb

CLUES DOWN
1. Marine protozoan
2. You use it for your eyes
3. Set aside for a later time
4. Metrical foot
5. Famed journalist Tarbell
6. Consumes quickly
7. Rewards in a civil suit
8. Kamodo are some
9. Ballroom dance
13. Chum
14. Comedienne Gasteyer
17. A room to relax
18. Commercials
20. Six (Spanish)
22. Wild party
27. Small European viper
28. Baseballer Gordon
29. Eccentric person
31. A way to save for your future
32. Young boy
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Changed
38. Prominent
39. Genus of seabirds
40. Event regarded as wrong
41. Skipped in a lively way
42. Multi-function radar (abbr.)
43. A country in W. Africa
44. Burn a corpse
47. Women's __ movement
48. NHL great Bobby
49. Coarse, green material
51. Treated with calcium oxide
52. When you hope to get there
53. "Partridge" actress Susan
58. What thespians do

Answers found on page 9A