



Jerry McClure leads the ceremony at the monument.



Leslie Regenold and the Cooter High School Band were hitting all the right notes.

# Annual Cooter Fall Festival honors Armed Forces

By STEVE HARRIS  
Pemiscot Press

For the past 17 years, the Cooter Fall Festival has perhaps been the biggest day of the year for Cooter, Mo., and this year was certainly no exception. This past Saturday, Oct. 7, both past and present Cooter residents, as well as many alumni and friends of the school and city, converged on the town to enjoy the day's festivities.

The festival kicked off at 10 a.m. with the traditional march of the Osceola High School JROTC and the Cooter High School Marching Band down Main Street to the Cooter Area Veteran's Memorial, the site of the festival's annual tribute to America, its armed forces and local veterans, both living and deceased. Jerry McClure once again served as master of ceremonies, and Glenda O'Kane led the assembly in the "The Star-Spangled Banner," America's National Anthem. Pastor Dave Lewelling of Holland Baptist Church offered up the invocation, and McClure led memorial service attendees in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Another part of the annual memorial service is the lowering of the flag by members of Osceola's

JROTC. As the flag ceremony was being conducted, Tatum Riggs of Cooter's band played "Taps." Leading Cooter band members in a couple of patriotic numbers was Leslie Regenold – always a very moving part of the service.

As fate would have it and for the first time in the festival's 17-year history, a rain shower settled in over Cooter as the reading of the monument's names commenced. Unfortunately, those from the south county who served our country were not audibly recognized this year. However, many family and friends made their way to the Memorial to personally read the names.

After the ceremony at the monument, the crowd made its way down to Cooter High School's parking lot where many booths were already set up and open for business. Numerous community, civic, church and school groups and clubs had their spaces reserved and were offering food, crafts and public service information for festivalgoers to enjoy.

A special guest in attendance this year was Scotty Robertson of rural Steele. Robertson has won numerous national awards for building motorcycles and has appeared in four national motorcycle publications over the past year alone. Four of his na-



Working the class of 2019's booth are juniors Kennedy Howard and Sydney Chidester.

tionally recognized motorcycles were on display for viewing, with a few of the smaller guests getting to hop aboard for a pretend ride! But, as usual, there was something for everybody at the 2017 Cooter Fall Festival.



At this year's Cooter Fall Festival, Pemiscot County Republicans were in attendance: (from left) Steven Stubblefield, Teresa McCulloch, Lacey McCulloch, Brenda Sides, Fydraia Davis and Matt Davis.



The Osceola High School JROTC marches down Main Street.

## Area Animal Shelter reaching out for help

CHS-PAWS, the no-kill animal shelter in Hayti, MO is reaching out to the public for help and support.

"We have taken in over 18 animals that needed care in the last week, and our Helping Hands program has had many requests," Karol Wilcox, Humane Society President said, "Our area has been hard it by more lay-offs and there seems to be an unusual up-take in puppy and kitten season along with abandoned animals."

Wilcox says that the shelter has handled a large number of medical cases in the last several months. "We have seen severe mange, starvation, systematic infections, broken bones, and all sorts of parasites," Wilcox said, "These animals that require extensive treatment have to stay at the shelter longer before adoption. Every intake is vaccinated, wormed and treated for fleas upon intake and when you have a large number of intakes that cost adds up quickly."

"We always have operated in a high poverty county, but with losing our Wal-Mart and the recent Trinity lay-offs, we are taking a hit," Wilcox said, "The data showed our unemployment rate at 8.7 percent in February of this year and that also expands the cases we call "Helping Hands." According to Wilcox, the Helping Hands program provides temporary assistance with food and emergency vetting to the region so that animals can remain in their own

home. She says the need for the program has jumped "dramatically" in the last year. She says the low cost spay and neuter program has been tapped out for this year unless more help comes in.

"We work hard to provide for every animal we can in the area," Wilcox said, "We operate under a state license and continue to see our intakes and adoptions grow annually."

Wilcox says it is usually a struggle this time of year, but this year the situation has been compounded by the economy and number of intakes, mostly all needing medical help.

Wilcox says there are several ways that someone can help the shelter. "We are having a 'Virtual 5K' in October that goes all month," she said, "Details can be found on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Caruthersvillehumaneociety/>. We will also be on the square in Hayti on October 28th participating in the Fall Fest." Wilcox says donation can be dropped off at the shelter at 204 S. 4th St in Hayti, MO 63851. Donations can also be made on PayPal at [cvhumsoc@hotmail.com](mailto:cvhumsoc@hotmail.com).

"We are one of the few brick and mortar shelters in our area," Wilcox says, "With the increase in medical cases and some downturns in our county economy we are truly asking for the public's help."

## Atnip Family Reunion has date change for '18

Descendants of Orley and Eva Mae Davis Atnip will be holding their biennial family reunion July 23-28, 2018, at Tottens Lakeside Resort, at Lake Wapapello, Mo.

"The Davis and Atnip families have a deep relationship with the Missouri Bootheel," said Steve Holland, a member of the family. "The Davis family arrived in Wayne County around 1830, while the Atnips arrived 20 years later around 1850. Our great-great-grandfather, William Armstrong Davis, served as Lost Creek's first postmaster.

"Family members will be traveling from Arkansas, California, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia, as well as many other places. Family and friends in the local area are invited to attend or just drop by to say hi."

Holland and his siblings are Caruthersville High School alumni, Michael (1971), Debbie (1974) and Steve (1978).

For more information, contact Bobby Atnip at [bobby.gatnip@aol.com](mailto:bobby.gatnip@aol.com), or Steve Holland at [dolphnut@comcast.net](mailto:dolphnut@comcast.net) or visit [www.orleyandevaatnip.com](http://www.orleyandevaatnip.com).

## Wesleyan Baptist Church to hold fun day

The Caruthersville Wesleyan Church will be having a Fun Day at England Park at 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 15. Everyone is invited to meet at the park and gather under the pavilion for a worship service. Pastor Kenny and Teresa Lee will also be honored for Pastor Appreciation Day. After the worship service, there will be a potluck dinner. There will also be an inflatable bounce house for the kids, and the adults will have a kick-ball game. Everyone is asked to dress casual! Pastor Kenny Lee and congregation cordially invite everyone to join them on this special day of fun and fellowship!

## Octoberfest is Oct. 28

The annual Hayti Chamber of Commerce's Octoberfest will be held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28 on the Square in Hayti. The event will feature a chili cook-off, vendors crafts/food - \$10 for booth space - and games for kids.

For more information, contact Ashley Horne at (573) 724-1663 or Bobby Watkins at (573) 724-0615.

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