

**Banana Pudding
deadline July 18**
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**Counted your
blessings?**
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**Best
Cheeseburger**
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County Population 24,690 -- Centerville Population 3,644
(2010 Census)

**18 PAGES
2 Sections
Monday, July 11, 2011**

Aetna, Bon Aqua, Brushy, Bucksnort, Coble, Farmer's Exchange, Gray's Bend, Grinders Switch, Little Lot, Locust Creek, Lyles, Nunnally, Only, Pinewood, Pleasantville, Primm Springs, Shady Grove, Shipp's Bend, Spot, Swan, Totty's Bend, Vernon, Wrigley

Two cited for homicide

3 charged in murder, dismemberment

By SKYLER SWISHER
The Daily Herald
Columbia

Two people accused of beating a man to death with a sledgehammer, dismembering him, stashing his parts in a freezer and then burying his remains in a ravine were after \$15,000 in cash, the victim's twin

brother said.

Brent L. Frazier, 27, and Jessica M. Dotson, 25, both of Centerville, were charged on June 30 with homicide and abuse of a corpse. Another man, Devin T. Simpson, 22, of Hohenwald, was charged with abuse of a corpse and accessory after the fact.

The body of 19-year-old Alphonso Waters was discovered June 29 after authorities were tipped off by an informant. Investigators believe Waters was killed inside Dotson and Frazier's residence at 324 Columbia Avenue.

Alonzo Waters, the victim's brother, said he does-

n't know why his brother was carrying such a large sum of cash with him, but he is certain that his killers wanted to rob him of his money.

He wants his brother's killers to receive the death penalty, but he said he also forgives them.

"I forgive them because I

am a Christian and that is what the Lord wants," he said.

Court affidavits, filed by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, sheds light on what took place at the Columbia Avenue home. In the affidavit, investigators allege Waters was struck in the face with a sledgeham-

mer while he slept on the couch June 18.

Frazier and Dotson accused each other of delivering the fatal blow, according to the affidavit. Investigators allege the two took Waters to the bathtub, and Frazier cut off the victim's legs.

(Continued on page A5)

Flat tire, then crash injures 11

2 go to VU;
5 in back end

A pick-up truck blew a tire on I-40 last Wednesday morning, overturning and injuring its 11 riders, all from Centerville, the Tennessee Highway Patrol reported.

Two of those were flown to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, while the other nine were carried to Horizon Medical Center.

Trooper Bryant Campbell reported that the 10:37 a.m. accident on July 6 occurred at the 178-mile marker on the east-bound side. Anna Eaton, 45, was the driver. She lost control after the tire went flat and the vehicle began to sway. The Ford F-150 crew cab pickup, which was hauling a Coleman camper, hit a guardrail and rolled over.

Five of the 11 people were riding in the bed of the truck and were thrown out, as was one of the riders in the truck.

Taken to Vanderbilt by helicopter were Charity Goodwin, 13, who was riding inside, and Harvey Eaton, 42, who was among those riding in the bed. Both were in stable condition on Thursday.

Carried to Horizon were Nicole Goodwin, 20; Virginia Goodwin, 44; Becky Buchler, 16; Bert Buchler, 15; David Eaton, 43; Joe Eaton, 40; Elton Buchler and David Goodwin, 19.

Dalya Qualls, information officer for the Department of Safety, reported that all the occupants were from a family residence that is home to several mentally handicapped persons.

Beat the heat with a cool creek



Jumping in is the thing at the J.H. Barber Bridge over Beaverdam Creek, at Coble.

Where's the coldest hole?

County's abundance of water pays off in summertime

Take the creek tour

see pages A6, A7

By BRADLEY A. MARTIN

If you have access to an air-conditioning unit, then you know the most comfortable way to avoid the otherwise inescapable heat of July and August.

But there's one other way to stay cool:

Find a shady creek and jump in.

Unlike air conditioning, though, creeks are free, if you can find one. Many folks already have enjoyed a lot of wading, floating, splashing, even napping during the 90-degree days that have passed here so far this summer.

Given the amount of fun that creeks can provide, and realizing that few places — if any — in Tennessee have as many creeks as does

Hickman County, what follows here is . . . well, a guide to local creeks, sure.

But the inquiring, overheated weekend back-floater really needs to know the answer to this:

Where is the coldest swimming hole in Hickman County?

Only one of our citizens is fully qualified to explore that question, and the editor of this newspaper asked him to conduct a tour of some of our coolest places.

David Anderson grew up right here, pretty much outdoors, earned a wildlife biology degree, then spent

30 years as an officer of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. His knowledge of all those hidden getaways is unmatched; he knows how to get to them -- and he has an unbreakable stream thermometer.

So, are there other places with more natural water than Hickman?

"If there is," he said, "it'd probably be by volume in one of the lakes, some of these big lakes, but as far as free-running surface water, I don't know; there may be. This is just the one I am really familiar with.

"They'd probably be hard-pressed to find one with this much free-running surface water that is as good a quality."

We spent four hours touring southern streams on July 1, then spent another four hours toward the north side of the county on July 2.

Results — not overly scientific — are here.

If you want to know whether this survey is definitive, the answer is No. In fact, we are sure that there are other holes that are colder, other creeks that we may have missed — and that we'll be hearing

about all of those very soon.

But that will be a controversy that's fun.

A note on the rules we observed:

— Creeks with public access points were all we were looking for; many a site along our route was fenced off or featured "No Trespassing" signs. There was, however, one exception to the rule.

— The temperature was taken in a shady spot, if possible, and only read after a five-minute submergence.

— We stayed out of the water, avoiding all types of temptation (like quitting the survey on the spot to enjoy the peace and coolness).

Playwright turns out the lights

Playwright Clay Harris has decided to leave the theatre business and pursue other interests, he told members of the local performing troupe last week.

"How hard was the decision," he said in an e-mail, responding to a question. "Like watching my father die. Once resolved to the event, numb, empty, hurt, sad, like burying my mother . . . gone."

Harris and his wife, Judy, will devote their time to making sure their granddaughter, Eames, has the finances she needs to attend college in a few years.

Harris has created original drama, comedy and children's works here for



CLAY HARRIS

more than 20 years. More recently, the Clay Harris Theatre has presented 23 original plays and musicals in four years.

The most recent production was "Beth," about Goodrich songwriter Beth Slater Whitson. It was staged at the Tennessee

Performing Arts Center in mid-June. The troupe also went to Nashville to present "Obituary," a musical based on newspaper death notices.

Harris would not cite one production as the most shining theatrical moment here.

"The whole thing. In a small town in America a

theatre was created and attended by the most wonderful human kinds. A rare happening to be treasured in memory."

Whether the local theatre troupe, which numbers about 25, will decide to continue or disband is unclear.

Interlocal pact exists

A 2004 agreement between county and town governments spells out how the two entities will share responsibilities and costs for the emergency communications center.

"That's all right for now," said Centerville Mayor Bob Bohn, who had considered ending service to the county, due to liability reasons, because he believed there

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At Fairfield Church of Christ

Blood Mobile

Monday; See page B2



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Looking for a creek?



Mill Creek, far out Bell Branch, offers a flat, wide place.

A tour of swimming holes

A Hickman County creek survey report, taken July 1-2, in order of travel:

Beaverdam Creek

The J.H. Barber Bridge on Highway 438, about a mile from Coble Country Store, may be the most popular swimming hole in the county, given that it is accessible directly from the highway.

About 15 folks, most of them young people, were enjoying the summer fun late on a Friday afternoon. Note that the popularity is related to this fact: You can jump 15 feet or more into a deep hole, climb out and up and do it again. All day. Alternatively, you can jump in, float under the bridge and come up on a gravel bar, where a strategically positioned chair would allow the sun to really soak in.

David took two temperature readings. The thermometer read 72 degrees after three minutes; we agreed at that point to make five minutes the standard length. The second reading reported 74 degrees.

Officially: 74.

Blue Water

In formulating this survey, a certain resident of Blue Water Road, known during the week as the attorney Allston Vander Horst, theorized that Blue Water Creek, which feeds Beaverdam, certainly is the coldest water available.

The temperature we observed bears him out — 71 degrees, coldest of the tour — but it's not quite that simple.

David was not familiar with a way for the creeking public to easily enjoy some of this blue-skin coldness. Our temperature sample was obtained by standing on a very short bridge that carries

Backside Beaverdam Road over the creek. The spot where we paused could have been entered by humans, but not easily, and the road was thin, and there really was no bank to climb up, and jumping was pretty much out of the question, due to rocks and debris.

Coldest, but like Roger Maris' 61st homer, it gets an asterisk.

Joe's Branch

Also a tributary to Beaverdam, this creek is easily entered from a very long gravel bar. On the day we visited, there was no swimming — just a chap who was collecting five-gallon buckets of creek rock. He had several buckets, though no noticeable dent in the supply was being made.

The temperature here was 76 — a result, David surmised, of a long-sunny stretch of water, which tends to add some warmth.

"I'm just saying, when you're talking about cool, it's a relative thing," he said. "The hotter it gets out here in the summer, the cooler

that water feels. . . ."

Cane Creek

Goshen Creek Road, off DePriest Lane at Pleasantville, runs alongside the creek and into Lewis County, offering a long piece of roadside parking. Late on a Friday afternoon, there was no one there but us and the rushing water; two small falls were within sight. Had we chairs, we might have sat here awhile.

"I don't understand it," says David, though we agreed it was supertime. "You come here at midday tomorrow and you'll get plenty of people."

Glad they're not here today.

The thermometer reads 76 degrees — same as Joe's Branch.

Though we didn't jump in, we noticed all along the way that tree-lined road along creeks were significantly cooler than . . . well, the concrete of the county seat's Public Square.

If most gauges were showing 96 on these late afternoons (and it probably was), we didn't know about it.

Swan Creek

You should know that Swan is my personal favorite, though I did not report that to the thermometer. We stopped just off the Swan Creek Road at the Mayfield Road Bridge, from where we could see a

(Continued on page A7)

COLDEST

Swimming Holes

Sugar Creek --Bucksnot Rd.	72°
Beaverdam --at Coble	74°
Mill Creek, 1 --old water intake	74°
Mill Creek, 2 --off Bell Branch Rd.	75°
Joe's Branch --at Beaverdam	76°
Cane Creek --Pleasantville	76°
Swan Creek --Mayfield Bridge	76°
Lick Creek, 1 --Tom Patten Rd.	79°
Lick Creek, 2 --Beech Valley Rd.	80°
Blue Water	71°*

*No easy public access



Near the Lewis County line, Cane Creek is full of relaxng water.



More than one can take a dive at Coble's Barber Bridge.



Mill Creek on Old Mill Creek Road is a popular jumping-off spot.

Cold creeks

(cont. from page A6)

ter. We stopped just off the Swan Creek Road at the Mayfield Road Bridge, from where we could see a campfire wafting into the canopy just downstream.

"They're setting up camp for the weekend," said David.

Nice place for it.

This stretch of Swan Creek was along the area where the growth known as Milfoil was, just a few years ago, preparing to clog the whole creek, heating the flow to temperatures that would damage the life there now. TWRA was charged with trying to fix the problem, which consisted of waiting on Mother Nature to do her job.

She did.

Temperature: 76, for the third stop in a row, in three different creeks. I was wondering what was going on. David wasn't.

"You figure it's 22 degrees cooler than your body temperature," he says. That's cold enough.

Lick Creek, 1

This picturesque stream was our initial destination on Saturday afternoon's run, and our first of two stops along it was on Tom Patten Road, currently not open to through traffic due to the 2010 flood.

From the Primm Springs Road side, there's a road-side stretch with a pretty good hole where we found a family of four passing a slow afternoon.

"You're really doing that?" asked the Dad, who wondered what we were up to.

The spot, which looked invitingly deep, was pretty sunny, too, and David said that contributed to the 79-degree reading.

Lick Creek, 2

This second stop was on an unnamed bridge after a sharp bend on Beech Valley Road, which heads up to Highway 7. The wide, flat vista was another spot made for an inner tube . . . or a beach chair set straight down in a little shade on a slight bend. A lady downstream — we saw each other, but we were well apart — was doing just that.

The thermometer reached its highest number here: 80 degrees, though the beauty of the spot should be good for three or four degrees.



Swan Creek has several access points.



Get to this Lick Creek bridge, and view, from Beech Valley Road, off Highway 7.

Mill Creek, 1

Back down to the center of the county and a ride along Old Mill Creek, on Washer Road, where we pulled off in the lot that used to lead to the old Bon Aqua-Lyles Utility District intake site, where the water-works has been removed, though the base of the old building remains.

This is a real swimming hole, up against a bluff with a rope and plenty of places to park. The young people on hand were having a blast, though the obviously popular site draws more than just folks seeking to cool off:

Recent visitors had left a party's worth of beer bottles and other trash; the young people we met in the water pledged to pick it all up.

The water was worth the effort, measuring 74 degrees, according to David's thermometer.

Mill Creek, 2

Our second stop on this winding creek was far out Bell Branch Road, down a hill that opened out to a wide, low place with creek-rock parking and several ways to reach the water.

On the lower side was a swing, and a hole made for younger kids. We stayed up a ways at the bridge across, and enjoyed the sound of some mini-rapids. Unlike the earlier Mill Creek stop, trash was rarer, though still visible; this one was farther



This big Lick Creek hole is alongside Tom Patten Road.

off the popular path.

The temperature was a fine 75 degrees.

Sugar Creek

This was a bit of a time stretch — as befits both of our careers, David and I have wives who are tremendously understanding of our jobs (though this particular assignment was pretty far away from actual work). But we had a tip that this particular creek had some cold water, so . . .

As usual, David knew the spot, going from Mill Creek to Graham and then out the now-sparingly-used

Highway 230 to Bucksnot, crossing the interstate and turning left on Bucksnot Road.

Another mile or so and we reached a clearing and the creek, which was so fine that the sound of passing I-40 traffic became an afterthought very quickly.

The bridge bisected a couple of holes that would provide plenty of cooling on a hot day. But the downstream site was restricted: barbed wire and a couple of "No Trespassing" signs provided the deterrent.

Upstream, near the bridge? Not a bad hole — clear enough that you could see the stump snagged in the middle of it.

And the verdict on the temperature? A chilly 72 degrees.

"That's cold water," David said.

Lot of that around Hickman County.



Retired TWRA officer David Anderson has been taking stream samples, and temperatures, for quite a few years.



This mirror can be found on Sugar Creek, on Bucksnot Road.