

# What On Earth

## Is Happening in the Clearfork Valley

Comments and suggestions to What On Earth P.O. Box 81 Eagan TN. 37730  
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December 2015

Volume 15 Issue 12

The Annual Christmas Parade was a great success. There were numerous emergency vehicles and lots of old cars, but I did miss the floats this year, and this beautiful dog.

It was such a delight to see all the kids standing up and down the



Valley waiting for the parade to begin. The children were thrilled with the gifts they received, plus all that candy that comes with parades. Those who helped organize and participated in the parade had a dinner that lasted far into the day giving the folks from other parts of the county a little taste of the love that goes into the preparations. A big THANK YOU to all those who helped make it such a great day.

If you happen to be in Clairfield in early December, you might have saw a great looking Santa and his beautiful wife Mrs. Claus passing through handing out toys to the long line of children waiting their turn. Along with Santa and Mrs. Claus was their many helpers, the elves, The Grinch, Mr. Snowman and a Reindeer too. Much appreciation to all who helped



As the year ends and a new one begins I want to take this opportunity to say Thank You to all those who supported us throughout the year. Whether it be through monetary, volunteering, or donating, we could not move forward without the support of friends such as you. We especially want to thank the Bonner Foundation, and The Safety Foundation who have been partners since our beginning; The many organizations that have given donations for events, and mostly the volunteers who have given their time to help in many different ways and you our faithful readers. May each and everyone of you have a Blessed Holiday that continues right into the new year.



# Bad Bridge Could Bring New Opportunities

Gary L. Garrett

The bridge across the **Clearfork River** that leads into **Y-Hollow** in **Eagan**, Tennessee, is known to the locals as the **dam of a bridge** because it is just that; a dam built in 1977. This bridge is the only way to safely get to the other side. **Marie Webster**, Director of **The Clearfork Community Institute**, a non-profit organization, which is located across the bridge, and serves residents of both **Campbell and Claiborne** Counties, stated, "Last year a family had planned a Christmas party and due to heavy rains (a flooded bridge) they had to walk across the railroad bridge with waters raging below." Pictured below is what the bridge looked like the last time it flooded which was March of this year.



This picture was taken before **Claiborne County Highway Department** pushed the cracks back together. The last inspection (2013) gave it a weight bearing capacity of 13 tons. Many residents doubt that it would support seven tons at present. It still has **no** weight limit sign posted. People ask, "Will it last through the winter?" "How will we get to the other side?" "Will we have to **try** to drive up and around the dangerous, steep, one lane, Eagan Mountain pass or walk across the trestle?"

The **Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)** gave the bridge a passing score in 2013 of 68.7. A second inspection was requested because the bridge received a higher score than the previous one despite nothing being done to improve the bridge between inspections. The second inspection gave it a sufficiency score of 54.6 and these were done before the March flood which almost washed it out. At present it's like riding a roller coaster across a cracked egg shell with the uncertainty that one will get to the other side. Certified letters were mailed to all the commissioners of Claiborne County and only two responded.

Bonnie Terry, a long time resident of Eagan (Rose's Creek area) raised an interesting question? **Do we really need a bridge or can an alternative be found-** one that is **less expensive: low maintenance with no major replacement costs?** The estimated replacement cost (2013) of the bridge from one source was \$350,000.00. Can the counties (both Claiborne and Campbell) afford not to talk with Bonnie and others that may have a better solution(s) than replacing the bridge?

New solutions could bring new opportunities for this small, rural, old mining camp that was built about 1900 by a financier from Atlanta, Georgia, by the last name- you guessed it- **Eagan**.

New solution(s) or vision (opportunities) that needs to be shared; one that would:

- Increase property tax revenue for both counties.

- Strengthen the local economy (some local jobs).

- Invigorate the local community.

- Make the community more livable/inviting for locals and businesses.

- Include a comprehensive vision or plan that could be beneficial to the locals, the county and the state; a plan that could be used as a model for other communities.

- Save the county and state about \$250,000.00.

- Bring more tourism into the area.

Can government (state, county, and federal agencies) work together with the locals to answer the question: "How do we get to the other side?" And by helping to answer the question- Can the vision for a better community (one without a bridge) be turned into a reality?

## Union and Clearfork Institute partner for Bonner Institute

Published in Union College Newsletter  
Published on: December 07, 2015

### Mrs. Jodi Carroll

Jodi Carroll, Director of Union College's Center for Civic Engagement and Marie Webster, Executive of Clearfork Community Institute, presented a workshop at the fall Bonner Directors and Coordinators Meeting & Assessment Institute. The Institute was hosted by the Corella & Bertram F. Bonner Foundation. The workshop was titled "Rural Disadvantage; Bonner Impact" and was inspired by the noticeable and disproportionate lack of resources for individuals living in extremely rural locations.

William P. O'Hare of the Carsey Institute describes this issue in "The Forgotten Fifth; Child Poverty in Rural America."

O'Hare says, "Poor children living in rural America face significant educational, social, and economic challenges; but many of these problems are exacerbated by the isolation and limited access to support services common in rural areas. The urban focus of welfare programs means policy makers shortchange needy rural families when designing and implementing the safety net."

Union College and Clearfork Community Institute have partnered with the Bonner Foundation to develop programming in which Bonner students will address the socio-economic problems associated with rural America. Participants in the workshop represented colleges and universities across the United States at which Bonner students receive community service scholarships.

Participants contributed to the early discussion of ideas to increase high school graduation and college attendance among the children most disadvantaged by this phenomenon. Development is underway for a year round mentoring program that will include Union College Bonner Leader students. The program will also include other Bonner students from around the country.

Faculty from Union College, as well as other institutions, will have an opportunity to develop and oversee research and other academic work of students involved in this project. One of the first communities to receive this programming will be the Clearfork Valley of Tennessee which is near the birthplace of Mrs. Corella Bonner.

To learn more about Union's Bonner Leader program, visit [www.unionky.edu/service](http://www.unionky.edu/service) or contact Jodi Carroll at [jcarroll@unionky.edu](mailto:jcarroll@unionky.edu).



Comments and Suggestions

Addressed TO;

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Email Woe.CCI@hotmail.com

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## Obituaries

**Mr. Orvil Lee (Joeboy) Marlow**

*Age 73 of Eagan, Tennessee passed away Tuesday, December 01, 2015 at the Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Burial: Bowman Cemetery (Clairfield), Tennessee*

**Mr. Lawrence Edmond Marlow, Jr.**

*Age 54 of Oak Ridge, Tennessee passed away Tuesday, December 08, 2015 at his home.*

*Burial: Johnson Cemetery (Straight Creek) Military Honors: The American Legion Honor Guard Post #154*

**Mr. Michael Danny Mozingo**

*Age 51 of Clairfield, Tennessee passed away Thursday, December 10, 2015 at the U.T. Medical Center in Knoxville, Tennessee. Burial: Rogerston Cemetery*

**Mr. Eugene Terry**

*Age 77 of Eagan, Tennessee passed away at home on Sunday, December 13, 2015. Burial: Terry Family Cemetery*

*Military Honors: The American Legion Honor Guard Post #154*

## Public Meetings

### COMMISSIONER MEETINGS

**Claiborne County:** 3rd Monday of the month in large courtroom located on Main Street in Tazewell at 6:30 p.m.

**Campbell County :** Regular Business meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month.

### CLEARFORK UTILITY BOARD MEETING

3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00p.m

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY:** meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Parent Resource Center.

**CLAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:** meets on the 1st Monday of the month.

## PARADE RIDEERS

