

April 2016

Winter's last gasp: Snow Terrapin created as a joint effort...



The Gap Gazer



...by Judge Ralph out of snow pile plowed by Ray Paul.

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And the Beat Goes On....

The Gap Tap Owner Chris Anderson, his lawyer, David Stanford and an official court reporter appeared before the Cumberland Gap Beer Board on Monday March 7th. According to Stanford, the meeting was a 'public hearing' though it had not been declared such or posted as such. Stanford disallowed all complaints which were not accompanied by the presence of the complainant. According to the sole representative of those who filed multiple complaints and brought them to the beer board on Feb. 1st, no one had informed the group that they needed to be present after they had complied with all the requests of the board in filing their duly delivered paper work. Anderson's lawyer tried to force the board to make a decision before that beer board adjourned. A board member moved to continue the Beer Board meeting and not adjourn it until April 4th so that a decision could be made based on all complaints (some more had also arrived too late for this meeting). The multiple issues still on the table are suspicions of service to minors, the business being open after mandated closure time, crude drunken behavior outside the bar, excessive noise and trash issues. A newly hired part time Gap Policeman will be monitoring (and arresting, if warranted) those who are out of compliance with the law as they leave the establishment. All concerned residents should attend the two Beer Board meetings on April 4th as the one from March 7th will be continued before the Aldermen meeting. The scheduled Beer Board meeting will convene after the April Aldermen Meeting and address issues presented to Anderson too late for the March 7th meeting. Proof of claims will be needed to censure Anderson. According to Mayor McGaffee, other decisions could be discussed in the absence of concrete evidence supporting the citizens' issues. The town may have to raise funds to support more patrolling local officers or the general elimination of all beer licenses in the Gap could be considered.

Aunt Sadie's New and Improved Garage Sale, 2016

Saturday, April 30 ; 7 am-3 pm. Downtown will be cordoned off for up to 60 booths. Call 423 869 3860 for booths (\$15 for non residents, \$10 for residents), benefiting the C.G. Fire Department.. Pancake Breakfast served and music provided.

Matthews Musings: Johnny Adams

The Gap again feels emptier. Johnny Adams left the town on Feb. 23, 2016. During his 59 years in the Gap, everyone got to know of him. Most people had a definite opinion about him because Johnny was a definite man who spoke what he meant without subterfuge or tact. People knew where they stood with him. When Walt and I moved here seven years ago, we ran afoul of Fire Department Chief Johnny in our innocence. We asked to collect money for the town's ailing budget on Halloween, not knowing the fire department collected at their now defunct hotdog buffet. We didn't quite know what hit us as Johnny protested loudly, assuming we knew more than we did. Throughout our years here, Johnny became a good friend and by the time he apologized for his original reaction, he wouldn't have needed to because we learned to appreciate him for his directness and passion for his hometown. Johnny lived through every undertaking with this same fervor. His fire department became his life while he headed it; his ability to raise funds was legendary and when we arrived, the fire department funds were higher than that in the town's checking account! When he moved on from the fire department, he became equally immersed in the history and genealogy of the area and in planning the Genealogy Jamboree each June. Johnny had an endless bank of stories about the area which he readily shared. He furnished the railroad tracks for the Matthews' caboose project and yellow locust for Walt's wood projects. The Johnny we learned to love was a volatile marshmallow who enriched our lives with his wit and wisdom. He was a loving family man who kept his family out of the limelight and loved them so.

When Walt called me in Arizona to tell me about Johnny's death, I was just about to embark on a solo hike in the White Tank Mountains. I then dedicated this hike to Johnny, praying for his family, and thanking God for knowing him. Johnny's unexpected death reminded me to live life fully today and I ended up hiking 10 miles in his honor, exhausting myself with the same determination that Johnny put into his life. Thank you for all the memories you left us, Johnny. We and the Gap will miss you so.

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Volume 7, Issue 4



John Oliver Adams 1957-2016 You are missed!

New Boutique In the Gap

Cumberland Gap Boutique on Brooklyn across from the LMU Art Center, just opened in the downtown district further making the Gap a shopping destination. The boutique is open Monday through Saturday from 10-7 and Sundays 10-4. Owner Lynne Evans is not in business to make a huge profit. She has a business goal which includes training women to be successful in the business world. There will be a longer article explaining her selfless convictions and nature of her business model in next month's Gap Gazer. Meanwhile, enjoy shopping for her unique wares which are almost all priced under \$40!

Upcoming Events

- Cumberland Mountain Music Show featuring the "music and heritage of the mountain people" Mar. 19 & Apr. 23 7:30-9:30 LMU Convention Center \$12 at the door.
- Launch of 2016 Cumberland Gap National Historic Park Quarter Apr. 11th: Celebration Apr. 9,10,11. Meet George Washington and the National Park Bison!
- Art Extravaganza May 21 A fundraiser, sponsored by the CGAC and Pineapple Tea-room; benefitting the Harrogate Public Library Reading Program. 7 pm until 9 pm More information next Gazer or contact the Artist' Co-op.
- White Lightning Festival New Date! June 3 & 4th. Downtown Gap Sponsored by Claiborne County Tourism
- 2nd Annual Summer Art Festival Cumberland Gap Artists' Co-op. June 3 & 4 Bigger, Better! Festival Park. *Schedule your booth today!*
- Genealogy Festival Nationally Renowned! June 9, 10 and 11th. Downtown Gap & three state area.

The most recent Gap Gazer is now posted online at: <http://www.cumberlandgapartistscoop.com/>