

Judge Ralph McClanahan fills in during vacancy

by **JOE P ASHER**
Harlan Daily Enterprise

Election will seat new District Judge

One of the most talked-about races coming up on the ballot for Harlan County on Election Day is the office of District Judge for the 26th Judicial District, a position left vacant by the passing of Harlan District Judge Jeff Brock on April 22. Judge Ralph E. McClanahan II has shouldered the bulk of the work in Harlan District Court since that time.

"Judge Brock was my friend," McClanahan said. "I think he graduated from (Salmon P.) Chase Law School about six months before I did."

McClanahan reported to work in the Harlan District Courtroom at the end of May and worked several days in June and July. He presided the full months of August, September and October, and he will continue in his current position until the new judge takes the bench.

According to McClanahan, the newly elected judge — whoever that may be — will take the bench upon certification of the election results. The election will be certified no earlier than Nov. 21 or later than Nov. 28, provided there are no challenges or litigation.

McClanahan was born in Estill County, "where Station Camp Creek empties into the Kentucky." He graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in 1984. He received a law degree from the Salmon P.

Chase Law School in 1988 and opened a private practice from 1988 until 1994.

McClanahan explained he didn't focus on any particular area of law in private practice, instead opting for a variety of legal work.

"I took anything that walked through the door," McClanahan said. "I think law school teaches you to pass law school exams...If you don't owe any money and you don't have any expenses, you don't have to make a lot of money. I was fortunate enough to own a building, I made everybody in my family a member of the staff."

He was elected District Judge for the 23rd Judicial District in 1994.

"I've always tried to treat people like I was on the other side of the bench," McClanahan said.

He became a Senior Status Judge in 2009.

"The Senior Status program is if your age and years of service on the bench equal 75, then you can retire and sign up for 600 (work) days," McClanahan explained. "Upon completion of that 600 days, then this will elevate your retirement."

He said during his time as a Senior Status Judge, he presided over courts all over the state, but he never strayed far from his Appalachian roots.

"I always felt at home in Appalachia," McClanahan said.

Currently, McClanahan is working as a retired judge on assignment at the discretion of Chief Justice John D.

Minton Jr.

McClanahan only had good things to say about the folks he has worked with here in Harlan, commending the professionalism of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, members of the Harlan County Bar, the Harlan County Attorney, and the Circuit Court Clerk and staff for keeping everything so organized.

He also pointed out some good things about the community itself.

"I was really impressed with Harlan yesterday (Halloween)," McClanahan said, referencing the hundreds of trick or treaters which turned out downtown. "This whole town was full of goblins and little ghosts and princesses, you don't see that kind of unity in a community. Even though Harlan folks have their problems just like everybody else, there seems to be a unity here that you don't see in a lot of counties. That's something to hold close to your heart, that you live in a community like this. The school systems are in good shape from the standpoint they have good teachers, they have arts and humanities, it's all good stuff."

The Harlan County Bar Association will be showing their appreciation for McClanahan with a party in his honor on Nov. 10.

Reach Joe P. Asher at 606-909-4132 or on Twitter @joe_hde

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story was written prior to the November 8 election day.



Judge Ralph McClanahan has been presiding over the Harlan District Court for the majority of the time since the passing of Harlan District Judge Jeff Brock. His tenure in Harlan will end once the upcoming election is over and a new district judge takes the bench. (Joe P. Asher|Harlan Daily Enterprise)

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The Estill County High School class of 1976 held their 40th reunion on October 29th at Gillum's Sports Lounge/Restaurant in Richmond. Two teachers and 48 former classmates attended and had a wonderful time seeing old friends and reminiscing about the good times during their four years at Estill County High School from August 1972 until May 1976. We would like to thank the two teachers who attended: Geraldine Cain and Joedy Ohr. A special thanks to the Class of '76 reunion committee members of Cheryl Chaney Carlton, Gail Graham Freeman, Rhonda Horn Gould, Jayne Spicer Crawford, Jeff G. Tate, Terrie Abney Tate, and Glenna Tipton Powell who put in a lot of hard work to make this event happen. We look forward to seeing everyone again at our 50th reunion or maybe our 45th. Who knows????

ESTILL COUNTY SCHOOLS MENUS				
Milk is included with every meal; plus assorted juices included with breakfast				
MONDAY Nov. 28	TUESDAY Nov. 29	WEDNESDAY Nov. 30	THURSDAY Dec. 1	FRIDAY Dec. 2
SOUTH IRVINE, ESTILL SPRINGS BREAKFASTS				
Cereal & N.G. Bar Peaches	Yogurt/Cheese/Cracker Tray, A-sauce	Biscuit, Gravy Oranges	Sausage Biscuit Pineapple Tidbits	Muffins Strawberry Cup
SOUTH IRVINE & ESTILL SPRINGS LUNCHES				
Chicken Nuggets Roll Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Apple	Round Cheese Pizza Corn Grape Tomatoes Orange Milk	Cheese Breadsticks Marinara Sauce Steamed Broccoli Celery Sticks/Dip Pears	Chili, Crackers Grilled Cheese Carrots w/Dip Oranges Milk	Hot Dog/Bun Tater Tots Baby Carrots/Dip Apple Slices Milk
WEST IRVINE BREAKFASTS				
Breakfast Pizza or Cereal, Peaches Juice, Milk	Donuts or Yogurt, Cheese, Crackers or Cereal, Pineapples	Dutch Waffle or Ce- real, Applesauce Juice, Milk	Donuts or Maple Pancakes or Cereal Banana	Muffins or Pop tart or Cereal Applesauce
WEST IRVINE LUNCHES				
Chicken Nuggets Roll Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Apple	Pizza or Bologna Sand., Corn Grape Tomatoes/dip Orange Milk	Bosco Cheese Sticks, Marinara Steamed Broccoli Celery Sticks/Dip Cantaloupe	Hamburger/Bun Potato Wedges Lett./Tom./Pickles Pork & Beans Peaches	ENERGY DAY Pizza Munchable Marinara Sauce Carrots, Raisins Milk
ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST				
Dutch Waffles Honey Nut Cheerios Cereal Bars Assorted Pop Tarts Apple Fruit Juices, Milk	Sausage Biscuit Lucky Charms Cereal Bars Assorted Pop Tarts Pineapples Milk Choice	Biscuit & Gravy Raisin Bran Cereal Cereal Bars Assorted Pop Tarts Applesauce Fruit Juices, Milk	Trix Yogurt Scooby Snacks Frosted Flakes Reese Puff Cereal Pop Tarts, Peaches Fruit Juices, Milk	Donut, Apple Cin- namon Cheerios Cereal Bars Pop Tarts Tropical Fruit Fruit Juices, Milk
ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL LUNCH				
Popcorn Chicken WG Biscuit Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Apple Mixed Fruit	Bosco w/Marinara or Chicken Quesadilla Broccoli Bites/Dip Pears/Cantaloupe Ice Cream Sandwich Milk or Juice	BBQ or Spicy Chicken on Bun Baked Beans Pickle Spear Potato Smiles Fruit	Meatball Sub w/ Cheese or Corn Dog Baked Beans Romaine Salad Assorted Peppers Peaches/Pineapples	Chili w/Crackers Grilled Cheese Carrot Sticks Broccoli & Cauli- flower Bits Fruit
ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST				
Cereal, Pop Tarts Yogurt Orange or Apple Juices/Milk	Dutch Waffle Cereal Pop Tarts, Yogurt Orange or Apple	Bacon/Egg/Cheese Biscuit, Cereal Pop Tart, Yogurt Banana or Apple	Chicken Biscuit Cereal, Pop Tart Yogurt Banana or Apple	Breakfast Pizza Cereal, Pop Tart Yogurt Banana or Apple
Offered Daily: Pizza Line Sandwich Box, Salad Box				
ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH				
Calzone w/Marinara Mr. Rib on Bun Tater Tots Carrot Sticks w/dip Baked Beans Pineapples/Peaches	Beef Taco Chicken Fajita Mexican Rice Black Beans Lett./Tom./Cheese Salsa, Fruit	Chicken Patty or Fish on Bun Lett./Tom./Pickles Mashed Potatoes Steamed Broccoli Pears/S-berry Cups	Hamburger on Bun Hot Dog on Bun Lett./Tom./Pickle Normandy Blend Potato Wedges Pineapples/Peaches	Asian Chicken Pork Chop Stir Fry Vegetables Asian Rice Egg Rolls Glazed Carrots

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