



Sumthin's A-Startin' at the Showdown

Even though it were a Monday, it were long before sunup when the kinfolk was a-stirrin'. There was werrrd that Billy Bob and Bubba Dean Wittdim was a needin' help with some chores at the family mountain. And so, in a variety of karts, haulers, trailers and a great big charter wagin, they all headed far North for a week of provin' theyselves the worthiest in competishun for late Pa Jethro Wittdim's prized Golden Banjer.

After the long journey, the kinfolk started off their sprucin' with some **Household Chores**. There were violent rounds of *Roach Stompin'* (smashin' balloons) with each team pulling for the lead and leavin' the few remaining critters scatterin' fer cover. There were some creative *Washin' the Walls* ("Pictionary," for you edjucated folk.) Uncle Nathan Dion's shack wins the award for the most persistent group to try to guess a werd. Took 'em awhile, but they got it....eventually. After all that work, thankfully, we had us some *Showerin' the Kin* and gave select members of the clans the opportunity to provide the correct answers to some trivia. Or, for them whut had to think a little too long, they got theyselves a water balloon on their slow noggin'. Finally, the Hillbilly Hicks and Kountry Kousins put their book larnin' to good use and tried some *Arrangin' the Pantry*, or makin' werrrds out of a random assortment of letters. Though some of the competitor's might need some more practice, the competishun was close, and the orange and green clans have their wurk cut out for them.



Safety Record Shattered

Mr. Peter Labadorf decided to fall off his bunk and give himself an impressive abrasion only THREE MINUTES into the Appalachian Showdown of 2016. Doctor Dan was surprised to be summoned already, before the busses had a'hardly parked. We hope we got them injuries out of the way now, but will be a'watchin' Peter fer sure.

Weather Report

They expectation' Tuesday to be Sunny.



High of 81



First Catch

Caleb Wright caught hissself the first fish. Pretty impressive size, too. Almost as big as Laaaaw Officer Rodgers' white sock.





How was the trip? “Long,” declared Sarah Howell. “Loud,” said Aunt Ashley Rush. “Fine,” reported Caleb Skaggs. “except for the bad smell.” We heard that the guys in the van found themselves without a Rook deck; they had to resort to—of all things—talking. Iffin’ that’s the cause of lots of talkin’ on a long trek, maybe we should get the girls some more Rook decks for the way home.

The Mountain Meetings Begin

For a special focus this week on Undivided Love for Our Loving God, Pastor Greg Baker opened God’s Word and pointed our attention to the Church at Ephesus. They were in an idolatrous culture; they suffered from intense persecution, and had incredible preachers. And while God had good praise for the church, He had a huge protest: the Ephesian Christians *left their first love*. They deliberately turned their back and abandoned God for something else. They needed to remember (deliberately the opposite: rehearsing, bringing back to mind where they were before they had fallen.) God pleaded with the church to repent: not just forsaking their sin, but going the other way and returning to doing the works they had at first.



To return to your first love, you need a fresh taste of how marvelous God’s love is in cleansing you of your sins. THEN you will remember the works you did at first. You will respond, with Jesus as your love: not your reputation, good works, or anything else.

If you have never known Jesus as your first love, then this week, ask God to show you the way.

If there is something right now between you and Jesus, you already know what it is. A choice that turned your back on Jesus toward that thing. Today, ask the Lord to reveal to you the riches of His grace, that you may compare Him to this thing in the way.

If you are seeking Christ but battling every day to live in His grace, then bask this week in God’s goodness and feast. Partake plentifully in the spiritual riches of Christ and be built up. Reader, are you willing to set aside all else this week and value the unspeakable riches of knowing God?

Just Chill Fer a Second

There ain’t no ice cream at the Snack Shop this year, so don’t even ask. But...Mrs. Rush reports that there be a few new treats to cool yer digestitatin’ after sweaty chores: Chillers, Shakes, Smoothies and Snow Cones. Stop by to try the new cool treats. But wait ‘til the Snack Shop opens when the clock points to the big “2”.

Our Special Staffatators

You might want to consider makin’ friends with folks like Lydia Vincent, Mrs. Farnsworth, Eliza Wartak and Mrs. Foster (she whut be in charge.) They’re fixing some special treats fer you hungry competitors, and friendliness might pay off, fer yer energy levels this week.

