

Elly

from 1D

swinging from vines and playing softball. I was getting ready for Jethro long before we ever met! I still adore Elly and we

Maze

from 1D

She went on to observe that the simulation gave her a new appreciation for the “people who deal with this everyday.”

“Even though it was fake, it really opens your eyes (and reminds you) that you’re not invincible,” added Mountain Education Charter High School student Derek Williams who was one of over 80 people to come to the community preview night for the maze Tuesday, Sept. 24.

Talking about tough issues

The simulated auto accident was only the sobering beginning of the Teen Maze, which was held at the Lions Club Fairgrounds and was designed to show teens the consequences of their decisions.

After viewing the car crash scenario, participants were randomly assigned life choices that dictated how they proceeded through the interactive maze. Along the way they learned about such topics as sexually transmitted infections, dating violence, teen pregnancy and drug and alcohol abuse. While some participants got a taste of the consequences that can come from bad decisions, others experienced the success of reaching a goal by donning graduation robes and receiving a mock high school diploma.

“Through the Teen Maze we can address tough issues,” observed volunteer Bill Leinmiller, adding it was a “relevant and potentially life changing” experience for area teens.

“To me it’s planting seeds,” added event organizer and Family Connection Merle Howell Naylor.

Gwen Calhoun, another organizer and counselor at GHS, echoed these thoughts as she discussed the conversations that have been inspired by the maze.

“Sometimes parents have a hard time broaching subjects (with their teens),” she observed, adding her hope that the event has helped to “open up a lot of communication in homes” about difficult subjects.

As she went on to state, some of the things students encountered in the maze may “stay lodged in their brains” and impact the conversations they have with their own children in the future.

have a lot in common, with the same interests and values.”

After “The Beverly Hillbillies” ended, Douglas was offered many roles. She accepted just a handful which she felt wouldn’t compromise her

standards. “I’ve got no regrets about anything I turned down. I sold real estate for a while, made a couple of record albums and speak at churches, ladies groups and schools around the country. My days are full and I’m very happy!”

This year, she also published a nostalgic cookbook, “Southern Favorites with a Taste of Hollywood,” a collection of recipes gathered over the years from friends including Debbie Reynolds, Buddy Ebsen, Phyllis Diller and Valerie Harper.

“The cookbook came about as a way to share my favorite recipes,” said Douglas, who recalls home cooked meals prepared in the rich, Southern tradition that many will also remember from their childhood.

“Homemade dishes are almost unheard of today,” she lamented. “They’re all pre-made in a box or from a drive-thru. That’s today’s way. But there was something about the

way your mom made dishes with a special touch – with a bit of this and a pinch of that.” Although Douglas’ own mother never cooked with Granny’s “possum fat,” her childhood meals weren’t exactly lean. “Lard and bacon grease, especially in the South, were cooking essentials,” she said.

In an effort to remind readers of the long lost art of good manners, there’s a quaint section in the book called Hollywood Social Graces. Advice includes never using your fork as a toothpick, never chewing gum in someone else’s home and never answering a cell phone while a dinner guest.

“Etiquette was taught in the South, but I’m afraid it’s a thing of the past now,” Douglas said. “Social graces are lacking all around us. People are rushing all the time and no one sits and visits any longer.”

Not a big fan of today’s television programming, Douglas says she likes to

watch the classics in reruns, shows such as “Touched by an Angel,” as well as the occasional “Hillbillies” episode which brings back memories.

“Elly may not have kissed many fellows during the show’s run, but she sure did kiss a heap of animals,” recalled Douglas. “Somewhere around 500 were used during the series, provided by Hollywood animal trainer Frank Inn.”

Today, she shows little sign of slowing down.

Students’ perspectives

Owen Cochran, a freshman at GHS, has taken to heart the motto for the maze — “Your choice, your future.”

As he spoke with the *Times-Courier*, he displayed the half-dozen maze commemorative armbands bearing that phrase, which he has collected from his friends since the event.

“When you make your choice, you make your future. Make a bad choice and you make a bad future,” he stated.

Fellow ninth-grader Morgan Aaron has also been collecting armbands because she wants to remember the event and have “a reminder to avoid certain things.”

She got a taste of the juvenile justice system as part of her trip through the maze, recalling how she had to wear an orange jumpsuit, get her mug shot taken and perform community service.

Throughout the experience, she kept thinking, “I never want this to happen to me.”

“It was as close to real life as you’re going to get without it really happening, she went on to say, adding most of her peers “took it seriously.”

Nunn agreed, noting she particularly liked the hands-on format of

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standards.

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Family

from 1D

because Marilyn was still leaning toward the Soul. It had all the features we wanted and then some.

The only problem was that the color selection was limited to black, white, gray or red. Suzi was gray and about 90 percent of our test vehicles are gray. We didn’t want gray. Marilyn even threatened the salesman if he suggested a gray vehicle again. We finally

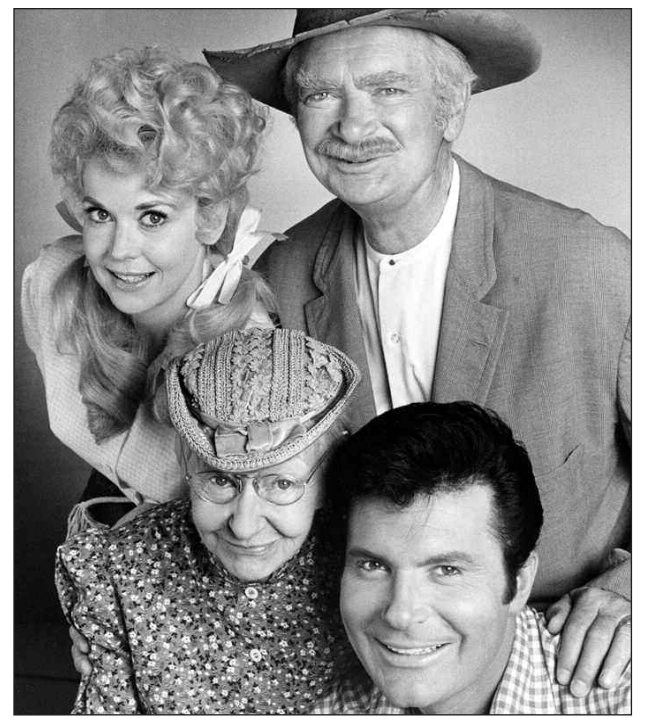
settled on crimson red.

As we handed over the keys to Suzi last Wednesday, we kidded Tom that he wouldn’t have had a place to live or sleep or a car to drive without our influence.

But that’s what you do for good friends. You help them out even if it’s not in your total best interest.

We’re happy with our new car and Tom is pleased with his new ride, so both sides won.

And, once again, our families have been linked together.



Contributed photo

Douglas, back left, with fellow “Beverly Hillbillies” cast members, clockwise from back right, Buddy Ebsen, Max Baer Jr. and Irene Ryan.

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Today, she shows little sign of slowing down.

“I seldom really rest,” she admitted. “I travel all over the U.S. and Canada and have a very busy schedule. But I have to turn down a lot of requests. I also garden, spend time with family and friends and still get quite a bit of fan mail. My days are full and then some, so I’m always playing catch-up. Life has been very good to me and full of blessings for a little backwoods girl from Louisiana who never had any thoughts of a career in showbiz.”

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