



Tam's Front Porch Ponderings
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It Was One Of Those Days . . .

It was one of those days when everything was stacked against me, no matter how hard I tried, nothing was going right. We had planned to visit our daughter Sarah Beth, in DeRidder, Louisiana over Fall Break and our "intentions" were to drive the Tahoe. With all that room in the back, I was taking along several things she wanted from home with plenty of space leftover for my Mom and my Aunt Shirley, but as I said...things weren't going my way!

It started out with a simple oil change, that led to the discovery of an oil leak, that led to a leak in the cover of something else and then a water pump and catalytic converter and on and on and on and ON it went from there. I won't go into great detail about the small "meltdown" I had, but when it was all said and done, we left for DeRidder at 3:30 in the afternoon on Monday, in Aunt Shirley's Buick without the things Sarah wanted from home. I wasn't even sure I had packed everything, I more or less just threw things in a bag and left. I didn't make the bed, I didn't wipe off the kitchen counter, I just LEFT! I was riding along trying to calm down from the hectic weekend of packing everything to take to Sarah Beth (that I wasn't able to take) and making my nest for the long, LONG drive to DeRidder when---it began to rain! Now I've never been 'officially' diagnosed with

panic attacks but I'm here to tell you, I have them! I don't know why and I have absolutely no control over it, but I simply cannot drive or ride in a vehicle when it is raining without freaking out, so for the next six hours, I freaked out! We made it as far as Chattanooga before finally giving up and spending the night. The torrential rain was making it very difficult to see and I wasn't helping matters any by uncontrollably wringing my hands and trying to focus on breathing so I wouldn't hyperventilate. I don't know who was happier to hit the hotel room, me or Corky. I drive him insane with this phobia I have! Sleep came quickly and the next morning I was ready to complete our journey and anxious to see our daughter.

It was still raining after breakfast and I tried to focus on keeping my head down and not looking out the window. Just after crossing into Alabama though, the sun came out and it was smooth sailing until our arrival around 8:00 p.m. at Sarah and Jake's house. I was more than ready to get out of the car and we stayed up until the wee hours of the morning trying to get caught up with everything that was going on in our lives. Mom and Aunt Shirley settled in nicely, and when I finally fell into bed I was too excited to sleep. There were so many things to see and do and say before our visit was over and I feared I would forget something I was supposed to discuss with her. I know with cell phones, we are able to talk to each other every day or face time one another so I can see the work they are doing on their new home, but it's just not the same as being together.

In the light of day, she was able to show us around the property and give us a grand tour of their new neighborhood. We met the neighbors and enjoyed sitting on Sarah's porch drinking coffee and admiring the banana tree blooms in her

back yard. In the early afternoon, we were joined by our son Dylan and his girlfriend, Alyssa. By Wednesday evening's church service, we were all together once again, just like when they were little. It was a great feeling to be in Church with our whole gang and I smiled to myself as I watched Sarah Beth and Jake with their Church family. They had planned a housewarming shower for them and laughter, food and fellowship was in abundance that night in the little Church on the hill. As I carried gifts to Sarah's car, the evening sky was the most beautiful shade of deep blue and pink, swirled across the sky as if by the Master's hand, laying my fears to rest about our children being so far from home. They were happy here, with a wonderful Church family and good friends, I came to the realization that our girl was all grown up now and doing just fine without me. My job was done!

All too soon, it was time for us to make the journey back to Kentucky. The week had been busy seeing the sights, visiting the quaint antique stores and shops of historic DeRidder and eating delicious Louisiana cuisine. The weather had been wonderful and we were able to enjoy our mornings on the front porch with coffee and our evenings on the back patio by the Koi pond. As I watched the sunset Friday evening, I wanted to stop time and make the moment last forever. With everyone under one roof, it was a satisfying feeling and I wasn't ready to get back to the everyday routine of work, cook, clean and sleep. But as the old saying goes, 'time waits for no one' and Saturday morning found us back on the road, enjoying the cotton fields that stretched for miles into the distance, giving the landscape a 'new fallen snow' appearance. We made a brief stop in Monroe to visit the headquarters of Duck Dynasty, hoping to catch a

glimpse of one of the bearded boys, but no such luck! It was an interesting place and I'm glad we made the detour. We crossed the Mighty Mississippi, made our way deep into Alabama, stopping in Ft. Payne, (Home of the country group Alabama) and called it a night. Even though the storm prediction center had called for nasty storms all day, we'd had beautiful weather for traveling.

Sunday morning the final stretch of our journey was in view, but with one, last detour in Cleveland, Tennessee. Mom and Aunt Shirley guided us to Harrison Pike to revisit days gone by. As we sat in the driveway of my great-uncle J's home, I recalled how fun it was to visit them. His wife was Irish and I loved listening to her talk. Great-Aunt Sarah, a talented pianist, lived on the neighboring hill and in my youth, I would sit on the old stone wall, listening as beautiful music poured from every window and door of her house. The houses seemed almost abandoned now, with only a cat to greet us. The rock wall was crumbling from the effects of time and ivy covered the steps, hiding them from view, yes...time marched on turning a young girl, old and silencing the music that once filled the valley. A gas station now stood where Great Grandpa

Hicks house had been and the hillside above it showed no signs of its former glory. It was bittersweet leaving Harrison Pike, but traveling on we shared memories of our visits there, making our journey home seem short.

I've learned that sometimes, when the odds are stacked against you and things aren't working out

as planned, you just have to follow your heart. And when you do, listen very closely, you might just hear the sounds of a distant piano and from the corner of your eye, see a wisp of a girl dancing atop a long abandoned stone wall, beaconing you to come play once more.

Ed. Note: She's back . . .

Adult Ed. News

Estill County Adult Learning Center

Starting Week of Monday, Oct. 13th

Special Interest Classes Offered

The Estill County Adult Learning Center is now offering the following special interest classes:

Online Banking

Tuesdays and Thursdays – 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Presented by Carmy Jordan and our local banks

Adventure Reading Club

Thursdays – 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Presented by Patti Reese

Ghosts: Fact and Fiction

Mondays and Wednesdays – 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Presented by Charlene Haggard

Paraeducator Classes

Mondays and Tuesdays – 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

The Paraeducator Class Schedule is as follows:

Date	Time	Topic(s)
Mon., Oct. 20	4-7	Language Arts
Tues., Oct. 21	4-7	Math Review/Paraeducator Exam

Presented by Donald Norton

If you know that you cannot attend the paraeducator class, do not allow this to prevent you from signing up. Tutors are available to help you make up time lost in class.

These classes will continue through the month of October. While the classes are free, the center does request that you call to pre-register at 723-7323.

ESTILL LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

246 Main Street, Irvine, KY – Call 723-3030

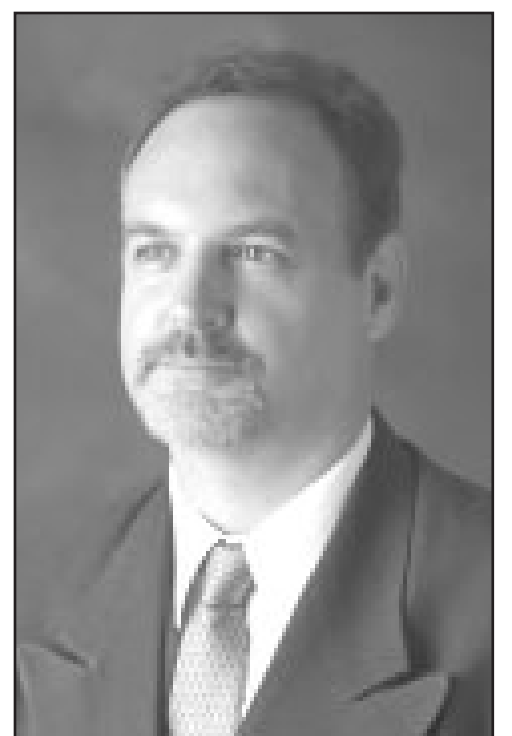
October 13-17, 2014

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Northwood Apts Winchester Rd Edgewater Dr Crestview Ct	Stacy Lane Rice Station West Irvine	Horizon Daycare Ravenna Drip Rock Wagersville Angel Keepers	Sugar Hollow Road Buck Creek Doe Creek Barnes Mtn	West Irvine Elementary

"Mommie & Me" and Storytime Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. & Fridays, 10:30 a.m.

The Change We Need . . . The Voice We Deserve

I believe in Estill County, and I am confident that we can overcome the challenges Estill County faces. Please join me in this campaign because this is more than a time for choosing new leaders.



This is the hour when we choose our future and I believe it is not our destiny to meet the standard, but to set the standard for small communities.

Elect Jim Thacker

Estill County Judge Executive

Paid for by Jim Thacker

ESTILL COUNTY SCHOOLS MENUS

Milk is included with every meal; plus assorted juices included with breakfast

MONDAY October 20	TUESDAY October 21	WEDNESDAY October 22	THURSDAY October 23	FRIDAY October 24
BREAKFASTS - SOUTH IRVINE - ESTILL SPRINGS - WEST IRVINE				
Breakfast Pizza Apple, Juice, Milk	Strawberry Yogurt Scooby Doo Snacks	Mini Maple Pancakes, Applesauce	Toast, Peaches Lucky Charms	Brown Sugar Cinn. Popart, Fruit Loops
SOUTH IRVINE LUNCHES				
Chicken Patty/Bun Mashed Potatoes Peas Peaches Milk	Cheese Pizza Corn Steamed Broccoli Pineapple Tidbits Milk	Chili w/Crackers PB&J Sandwich Carrot Sticks w/dip Oranges Milk	Turkey on Bun Pork and Beans California Blend Vegetables Pears, Milk	Pizza Munchable Marinara Sauce Carrots w/Dip Mozza. Cheese Raisins, Milk
ESTILL SPRINGS LUNCHES				
Chicken Patty/Bun Mashed Potatoes Peas Peaches Milk	Cheese Pizza Corn Steamed Broccoli Pineapple Tidbits Milk	Chili w/Crackers PB&J Sandwich Carrot Sticks w/dip Oranges Milk	Turkey on Bun Pork and Beans California Blend Vegetables Pears, Milk	Pizza Munchable Marinara Sauce Carrots w/Dip Mozza. Cheese Raisins, Milk
WEST IRVINE LUNCHES				
Chicken Patty/Bun Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Applesauce Milk	Individual Cheese Pizza Steamed Broccoli Corn, Grapes Milk	Taco w/Shell or Deli Turkey Wrap Refried Beans Lett./Cheese/Tom. Sidekicks, Milk	Mini Corn Dogs or Mr. Rib on Bun Potato Wedges Cooked Carrots Peach Cup, Milk	Pepperoni Pizza Munchable, Raisins Marinara Sauce Carrots w/Dip Mozza. Cheese
ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST				
Mini Cinnis or Cinnamon Toast Crunch Cereal Brown Sugar Pop Tart, Apple, Juice, Milk	Scrambled Eggs & toast or Cocoa Puffs Cereal, Strawberry Pop Tart Grapes Asst. Juice, Milk	Pancakes Porky w/ Syrup or Lucky Charms Cereal, Brown Sugar Cinnamon Pop Tart Applesauce, Juice	Blueberry Waffles w/syrup or Frosted Flakes Cereal, Strawberry Pop Tart, Oranges Asst. Juice, Milk	Chocolate or Cinnamon Muffins or Apple Cinnamon Cheerios, Brown Sugar Cinn. Pop Tart, Pineapples
ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL LUNCH				
Chicken or Buffalo Tenders, Texas Toast Sweet Potatoes Green Beans Mandarin Oranges Banana, Milk, Juice	Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza or Taco Snax Romaine Salad Corn, Grapes Pineapple Tidbits Milk or Juice	Hamburger or Mr. Rib on Bun Lettuce & Tomato Potato Wedges Diced Peaches Apples, Milk	Hot Dog or Deli Turkey on Bun, WG Popped Crisp Chips Pork & Beans Red Pepper Slices Oranges, Trop. Fruit	BBQ Pork on Bun or Fish Sticks Mashed Potatoes Steamed Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Pineapple Tidbits
ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST				
Cereal, Pop Tarts Yogurt Assorted Juices Banana or Apple Milk	Sausage & Biscuit Cereal, Yogurt Assorted Juices Banana or Apple Milk Choice	Chicken Biscuit Cereal, Pop Tarts Yogurt, Asst. Juice Banana or Apple Milk Choices	Egg/Cheese Biscuit Cereal, Pop Tarts Yogurt, Asst. Juice Oranges or Apples Milk Choices	Breakfast Pizza Cereal, Pop Tarts Yogurt, Asst. Juice Oranges or Apples Milk Choices
ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH				
Hamburger or Chicken Pattie on bun, Let./Tomato Potato Wedges Peaches Tropical Fruit Juice or Milk	Taco or Chicken Fajita /Shell Let./Tom./Cheese Refried Beans, Salsa Pineapple Grapes Juice or Milk	Popcorn Chicken w/Roll or Corn Dog Potato Wedges Slaw, Oranges Tropical Fruit Juice or Milk	Bosco or Pepperoni Calzone Marinara Sauce Corn Carrots w/Dip Pears, Apples Juice or Milk	Chicken or Buffalo Chicken Tenders, Roll, Green Beans Mashed Potatoes Tropical Fruit Mandarin Oranges Juice or Milk.