



Tam's Front Porch Ponderings
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I Suppose . . . It's A Mom Thing!

It is late, very late, and as we approach the city of Birmingham, Alabama I feel as if I'm in a dream. The city engulfs us with twinkling lights and what I consider to be late is actually the early morning hours somewhere between midnight and 6:00 a.m. - traffic is minimal. We

have been traveling since 10:00 a.m. and Corky and I are quiet as we head towards the city. I gaze out my window fighting back tears. I am weary. The trip has been a long one, (going and coming), to DeRidder, Louisiana where both our children now reside. The lights of the city begin to blur into a watercolor canvas when mixed with my tears. Blinking my eyelids like a butterfly wings, I try hard not to be sad but I suppose...it's a Mom thing.

Corky breaks the silence, "You okay?" he asks softly as he reaches out to touch my arm. I put on a brave face and try desperately to keep my voice from cracking. Without looking at him I lightheartedly reply, "I'm fine, just admiring the lights", and quietly sigh. He knows better, he

knows me too well, he pats my arm and continues towards Birmingham. The greatness of it all makes me feel very small, like a tiny star lost in a Heavenly, Milky Way. It seems we are driving into the mountainside, not over it, but actually into it and the lights grow brighter and brighter while the distance between me and my children grows greater and greater. We've passed through so many towns, drank so many cups of coffee and still I feel their warm embrace, the beating of their hearts as I held them close and told them goodbye.

Our son-in-law is packed and ready for his flight to Milan, Italy where he is stationed for the next two years. He will be fine and Sarah will too, with the help of her brother Dylan. I'm just not so sure about

me! So I continue to gaze out the window and pretend my heart isn't breaking. I try to focus on the lights of the city but there are too many. Figures and shapes dance and swirl before my heavy eyelids, I must be hallucinating! I've never done very well without sleep. The city goes on and on and we drive for an eternity into the kaleidoscope of colors, then it is black again. We are through Birmingham

and headed to whatever the next city is on the map. I lean my head against the coolness of the window and picture my children's faces in the dark. "How far to home?", I think to myself, "how far 'till my heart stops breaking?" and I close my eyes wishing the miles away.

Sensing my despair, Corky turns up the radio. Gladys Knight and The Pips are singing about 'that midnight train to Georgia'

and Corky asks, "If you'll be Gladys, I'll be The Pips?" I grin and break into song. Somewhere in the darkness of an Alabama Interstate, we sang our way to 'Georgia' and I pushed past the heartache. In trips to come, I know the lights of Birmingham will always make me a little sad but I suppose...it's a Mom thing.

Tam

25th Mountain Mushroom Festival Scheduled For April 25-26 in downtown Irvine, Ky.

Make plans to celebrate spring at the 25th annual Mountain Mushroom Festival to be held in Irvine, April 25-26.

"For 25 years local citizens have organized the festival. This year we are proud to again showcase our local heritage and cultural traditions by providing a platform for artists, mushroom/agate hunters, and performers to share their talents." Francine Bonny, Chairman, said. "The festival also helps the local economy, attracts tourists from many states, and allows non-profit groups to raise money for their organizations," she added. Other benefits of the festival are the fun and entertainment that it provides.

A new activity this year will be the Speedy Spore River Run which is canoe/kayak races on the KY River. The races will be Sunday, April 26 and start under the Irvine bridge. The 6 mile race will start at 12:30 p.m. and finish at the KY River Park. The 12 mile race will start at 1 p.m. Paddlers will go to the KY River Park, turn around and finish at the Irvine bridge.

An event that will be returning this year is the Miss Mushroom Festival pageant. It will be Fri., April 18,

7 p.m. at the ECHS auditorium. A new addition to the pageant will be baby divisions up to 2 years of age.

Mushroom theme activities include a market, cook-off, educational panels on local mushroom hunting, interviews with hunters on the narrative stage, natural habitat terrarium for displaying the native morel, morel/shiitake/oyster cooking demonstrations, hunting contest for most and largest mushroom, fungus 5K & 2K run/walk, parade, and sale of festival souvenirs (t-shirts/hats).

Arts and crafts will be promoted through vendor booths, Estill Arts Council's display, Irvine-Ravenna Woman's Club middle school/high school art show, and Bicentennial locomotives.

The local heritage will be highlighted through the Fitchburg Furnace display, Estill County's Historical & Genealogical Society's museum displays, quilt trail display, and cultural demonstrations. Other activities will be the Masonic Lodge pancake breakfast, cake decorating contest, Marcum & Wallace Hospital health screenings, Lions Club vision screening and food court.

Agate activities include

agate hunts in the creeks of Estill County and the Agate, Gem & Mineral Show held in partnership with the Southeast KY Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Club. The show will feature gem, mineral, and rock displays, and sales of agate/gem jewelry.

Entertainment at the grandstand stage will include Moron Brothers, Velvet Blue, Thyrsy Thyrsday, Still Water, Jenkins Twins, Appalachian Troubadours, Waco Elementary line dance team, Estill Elite Jump Rope team, Sunshine Cloggers, and Richard McHargue Cloggers. Inflatables, games, and rock climbing wall will be part of the entertainment too.

Admission to the festival is free. All events are handicapped accessible and open to the public.

The schedule and entry forms for the Speedy Spore River Run, arts & crafts booths, fungus 5K & 2K run/walk, Gem & Mineral Show, agate hunts, parade, mushroom cook-off, and cake decorating contest are available in Irvine City Hall and on the website: www.mountainmushroomfestival.org. For more information contact the Mountain Mushroom Festival at 606 723-1233.

Scholarship helps high school students take dual credit classes

Kentucky high school juniors and seniors have until May 15 to apply for a scholarship to help pay for dual credit classes taken at a Kentucky college or university.

The Mary Jo Young Scholarship, named for a former member of the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), provides assistance with tuition and textbook expenses for up to two classes each semester. Scholarships can only be used in the fall and

spring semesters.

To be considered, students must be in grades 11 or 12 during the 2015-2016 academic year. They must have at least an 18 ACT composite or earn at least a 2.5 GPA during the 2014-2015 academic year. Priority is given to students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch.

The application is available on www.kheaa.com. Students must apply through their www.kheaa.com account. KHEAA is the state agen-

cy that administers the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES), need-based grants and other programs to help students pay their higher education expenses.

To learn how to plan and prepare for higher education, go to www.gotocollege.ky.gov. For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com; write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call (800) 928-8926, ext. 6-7372.

ESTILL LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

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

March 16-20, 2015

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mountain Crest Old Fox Road Furnace Jct. Millers Creek Cow Creek	No Bookmobile Service	Wisemantown No Bookmobile Service	Spout Springs Hudson Mill Rd New Fox Road Hargett-Parvin Road	South Irvine P/K Center

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

ESTILL COUNTY SCHOOLS MENUS

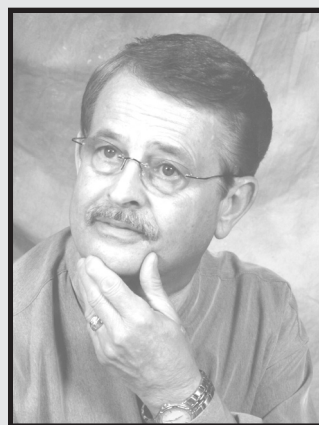
Milk is included with every meal; plus assorted juices included with breakfast

MONDAY March 16	TUESDAY March 17	WEDNESDAY March 18	THURSDAY March 19	FRIDAY March 20
ELEMENTARY BREAKFASTS				
Breakfast Pizza Apple, Asst. Juice	Strawberry Yogurt Scooby Doo Snacks	Mini Maple Pancakes Syrup, Applesauce	Funnel Cake Orange Slices	Muffins, Pineapple Assorted Juices
SOUTH IRVINE LUNCHES				
Chicken Pattie on Bun Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Tropical Fruit	Pepperoni Pizza Romaine Salad Corn Apple Milk Choices	Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Gr. Beans Cooked Carrots Tropical Fruit Ice Cream Sandwich	Cheese Bread Sticks Grape Tomatoes Marinara Sauce Pork & Beans Grapes	Hamburger on Bun Lettuce, Tomato Potato Smites Cole Slaw Oranges
ESTILL SPRINGS LUNCHES				
Chicken Pattie on Bun, Green Beans Mashed Potatoes Tropical Fruit	Cheese Pizza Steamed Broccoli Corn Pineapple Tidbits Milk Choices	Taco w/Shell Lettuce, Tomato Cheese, Salsa Refried Beans Banana	Turkey on Sub Roll Doritos Cauliflower Bites Cucumber Slices Pineapple Tidbits	Pizza Munchable Marinara Sauce Baby Carrots Raisins Milk Choices
WEST IRVINE LUNCHES				
Popcorn Chicken Roll Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Tropical Fruit	Cheese Pizza Corn Steamed Broccoli Pineapple Tidbits Milk Choices	Chicken Noodle Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwich Cucumber Slices Carrots/Dip	Corn Dog or Pork Chop on Bun Baked Beans Baby Bakers Apple	Pizza Munchable w/Marinara Sauce Carrots/Dip Raisins Mozzarella Cheese
ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST				
Breakfast Pizza or Fruit Loops Cereal Strawberry Pop Tart Apple Assorted Juice Milk	Triz Yogurt Strawberry Multi- grain bar Raisin Bran Cereal Brown Sugar Cinn. Pop Tart, Pears	Mini Maple Pan- cakes w/syrup Strawberry Multi- grain bar, pear Brown Sugar Cinnamon Pop tart	Toast w/Jelly Lucky Charms Frosted Flakes Brown Sugar Cin- namon Pop Tart Diced Peaches	Fruit Loops Cereal Reese Puff Cereal Brown Sugar Cinnamon pop tart Strawberry pop tart Mandarin Oranges
ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL LUNCH				
Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Normandy Veg- etables, Biscuit Tropical Fruit Apples	Chicken Quesadilla Gibaldi Cheesesticks Marinara Sauce Steamed Broccoli Corn, Fruit Ice Cream Sandwich	Deli Turkey or Grilled Chicken on Bun Potato Wedges Lettuce, Tomato Mixed Fruit Applesauce	Corn Dog or Mr. Rib on Bun Red Pepper Slices Baked Beans Peaches Pineapple	Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, or Ravioli Breadstick Romaine Salad Glazed Carrots Mandarin Oranges
ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST				
Lucky Charms Cinnamon Toast Crunch, apple Cinnamon Cheerios Pop Tarts Cereal Bars, Yogurt Apples & Oranges	Trix Cereal Fruit Loops Pop Tarts Cereal Barnes Dutch Waffle, Cherry or Raspberry Yogurt Apples & Oranges	Cocoa Puff Cereal Fruit Loops Pop Tarts Cereal Bars Sunrise Hot Bread Yogurt Apples & Oranges	Lucky Charms Cinn. Toast Crunch Pop Tarts Cereal Bars Sausage & Biscuit Yogurt Apples & Oranges	Honeynut Cheerios Reese Puffs Pop Tarts, Yogurt Cereal Bars Mini Blueberry or Chocolate Muffins Apples & Oranges
ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH				
Hot Dog or Mr. Rib on Bun Baked Beans French Fries Applesauce Peaches Juice, Milk Choices	Bosco or Chicken Quesadilla Marinara Sauce Peas, Corn Grape & Strawberry Cup, Juice Milk Choices	Taco or Chicken Fa- jita w/Shell Let./Tom./Cheese Refried Beans Salsa, Pears Side Kicks Juice, Milk Choice	Meat Ball Sub w/ Mozz. Cheese or Chicken Pattie/Bun Lettuce, Tomato Steamed Broccoli Sliced Carrots Fruit	Grilled or Spicy Chicken on Bun Green Beans Mashed Potatoes Lettuce, Tomato Peaches Mandarin Oranges

Academic Scholarship Available for Graduating Estill Seniors

The Estill County Conservation District is currently taking applications for academic scholarships. Any Estill County resident who is a graduating high school senior and interested in an agriculture/natural resources related field of study and planning on becoming a full time student may apply. Applications must be returned to the Estill County Conservation District and/or postmarked by April 1, 2015. Please contact the Conservation District Office at 1505 Richmond Road or 723-5104 for a complete list of required guidelines and application packet.

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