

Whispering Woods Resident Sees Estill County Black Squirrel

Nora Helton of Irvine writes:

I'm sending you a picture of a squirrel I saw in the back yard, walking the electric line, like the gray squirrels do.

I did not know there were black squirrels until I saw one for myself. I never knew of black squirrels. I knew there were gray ones and red ones (called Fox Squirrels).

I've done some research on the black ones, with my daughter Wanda's help. She sent me information about these little black fellows.

I'm sending you a picture of one of them. You may already know about them, but I didn't, and the one I saw is not the only one in Estill County. It has a mama and a papa around here somewhere. I saw this one on March 22, 2015.

The black squirrel is not a separate species but is a melanistic subgroup of the eastern gray squirrel. This means that an individual has an excessive amount of melanin, or dark pigmentation. Melanism is the opposite of albinism, or the absence of melanin.

Black or melanistic squirrels can exist anywhere that gray squirrels are found. However,

they are generally more common in the northern areas of the eastern gray squirrel's range. This is because melanistic squirrels are better adapted to tolerate cold weather; as the black coloring of the fur helps them to better retain body heat.

There are certain regions where melanistic squirrels are particularly common. These include parts of the midwestern and northeastern United States, Quebec and Ontario in Canada, and some parts of Great Britain. There are also more localized populations of melanistic squirrels that are probably made up of the descendants of introduced individuals. These include colonies in Washington DC and northern Virginia; Kent, Ohio; Battle Creek and the Michigan State University campus in Michigan; Vancouver, BC; Fort Mitchell, Kentucky; and the Quad Cities area along the Iowa-Illinois border.

The Black Squirrel is the mascot of the varsity athletic teams of Haverford College, which is near Philadelphia, PA. And Kent State University in Ohio has an annual Black Squirrel Festival every September.



A black squirrel in Santa Clara, California

Arrests made by IPD

A Paint Lick man was arrested May 1 on a warrant obtained by Irvine Police Chief Brad Smith.

The warrant says on April 27, Matthew L. Pratt, 20, entered Liquor World of Irvine and took two fifths of Wild Turkey Kentucky Spirit valued at \$120.00.

The police chief says that Pratt left the store without paying for the liquor.

Pratt was charged with theft by unlawful taking or disposition/shoplifting and underage person in possession of alcoholic beverages.

A felony warrant over two years old was served on a Lexington man last Monday. The warrant had been obtained by KSP Trooper Jason Carpenter for William Shane Addison, 39.

A traffic stop was made on Addison on February 18, 2013 in Estill County, for operating on a suspended or revoked operators license, speeding 11 mph over limit, failure to produce insurance card, giving officer a false name or address, and license to be in possession.

The warrant says that to avoid being served warrants from Lee County, Addison gave false information during the traffic stop.

The warrant adds that Trooper Carpenter was contacted by a cousin of Addison's, who said that Addison had used his information during the traffic stop. The cousin's name is William Emery Addison.

Trooper Carpenter said that William Shane Addison had given false information during the traffic stop. As a result, he was charged with the felony of identity theft.

William Shane Addison appeared in Estill District Court on April 28 where he pleaded not-guilty to the charges made against him. A preliminary hearing was set for May 6.

Two arrest warrants were served May 3 on Natasha A. Rogers, 27, of Irvine. The bench warrant from Estill District Court was signed because Rogers had failed to pay a fine of \$158.00. She was found guilty of leaving the scene of an accident/failure to render aid. A charge of failure of owner to maintain required insurance was merged.

District Judge William Leach set a bond of \$158.00 cash for Rogers on this warrant.

IPD makes drug arrests

Continued from Page 1
Bail for Coffey has been set at \$50,000 cash.

The citation states that Coffey was arrested for a new offense while a case is pending.

Coffey was arrested by the Irvine Police Department on Dec. 18, 2014 on drug related charges.

During the execution of the search warrant at Coffey's residence, Irvine Police seized Coffey's phone. A warrant was obtained to search the phone.

The second bench warrant was from Fayette District Court for non-payment of fine. Judge J. Goodman had found Rogers guilty of theft by unlawful taking or shoplifting under \$500 on November 14, 2014. He said that Rogers could pay \$654 in cash or serve her time out.

Two bench warrants were served on Kimberly P. Hockensmith of Lawrenceburg, Ky. on May 3.

Franklin District Court Judge K. Mangeot issued a bench warrant for Higginbotham on Oct. 5, 2011. The warrant states that Higginbotham was found guilty May 30, 2011 of theft by deception, including cold checks. The warrant says that Higginbotham failed to pay \$111.30 which was due by Nov. 17, 2000.

The second bench warrant was issued by Anderson District Judge L. Armstrong. Higginbotham was found guilty on August 17, 2000 of two counts of theft by deception, including cold checks. The warrant says that Higginbotham failed to pay \$141.85.

Jeffrey L. Gross, 50, of North Plum Street, Irvine was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol on April 30. The arrest was made by Officer John Sturniolo on Cherry Street.

James Bradley Tipton, 43, of Cantrill Street, was charged May 1 with theft by unlawful taking under \$300 by Officer Sturniolo. Tipton is accused of taking tools from N. Plum Street and selling them for \$25.

Douglas C. Adams, 71, of Reges Road, was cited by Officer Sturniolo on May 1 for leaving the scene of an accident. Adams said he was unaware that his vehicle had made contact with the other vehicle.

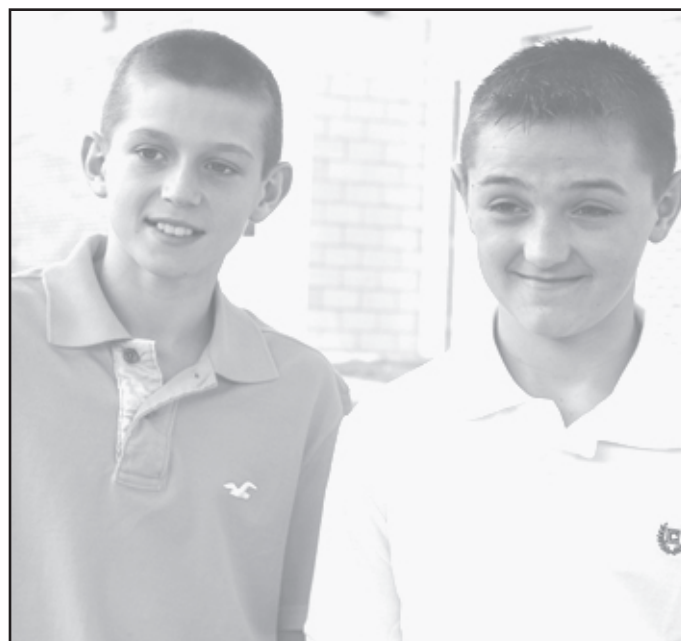
Thomas W. Estes, 26, of Sandhill Road was arrested by IPD Officer Aaron Curtis on May 1. Curtis charged him with public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia (spoons), and possession of a controlled substance, second degree (suboxone strip).

A bench warrant was also served on Estes. Judge William Leach said Estes had failed to pay \$258 after being found guilty of possession of marijuana and public intoxication on June 11, 2014.



Cousins Scarlett O'Hair and Alexis Hall, who are both 8th graders at the Estill County Middle School, attended their last Spring Fling on Friday night.

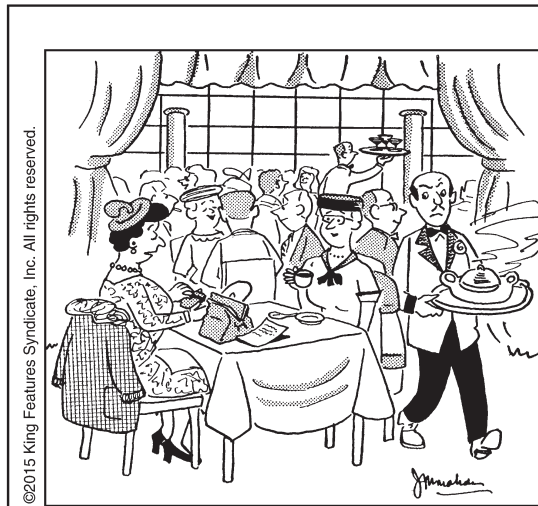
Photo Cathy Dawes/Estill Tribune



Joe Benton and Dustin Beeler checked out the female students at the ECMS Spring Fling on Friday.

Photo Cathy Dawes/Estill Tribune

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"A _____ isn't much good for anything these days ... except for a tip."

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Demand

DORRE

Decline

PLUMS

Wait

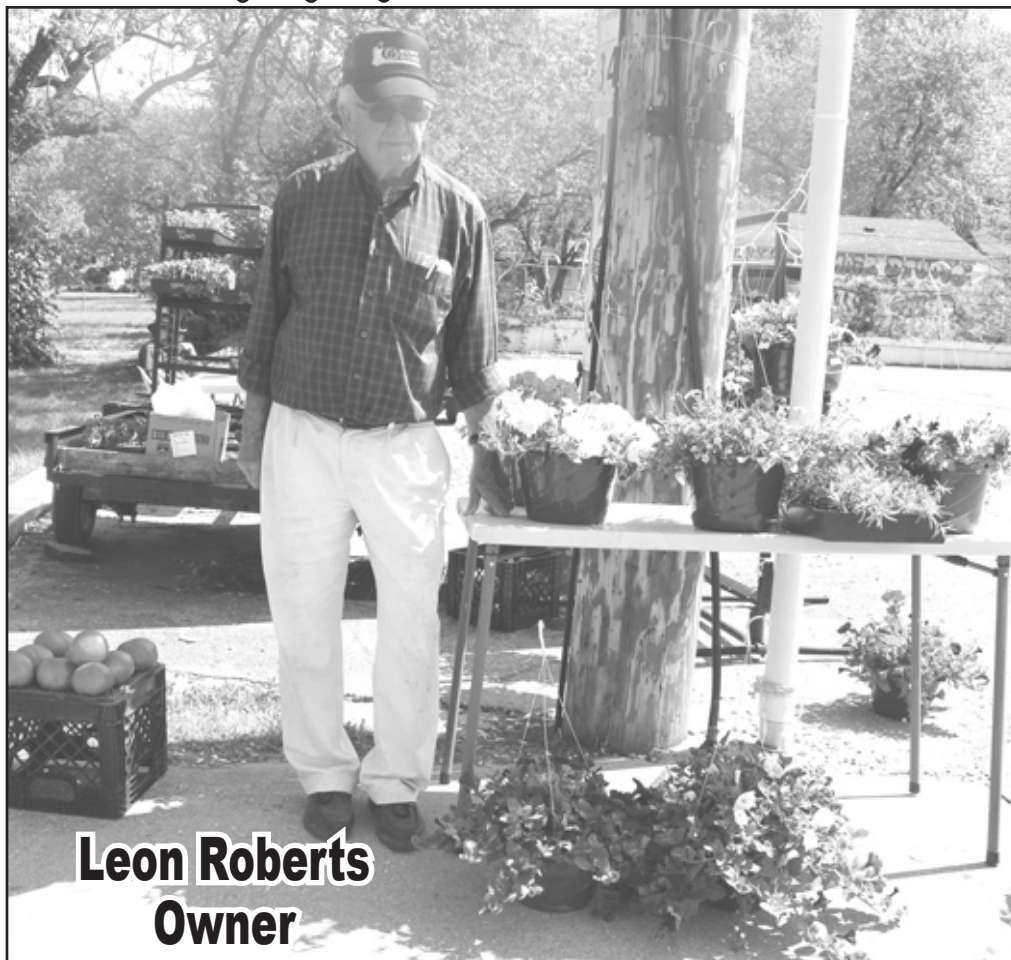
LAYED

Mood

EARLOM

TODAY'S WORD

Happy Mother's Day!



Leon Roberts
Owner



Get Your Locally Grown Flowers & Vegetables, at
Leon's Garden Center
Located in Tobacco Barn Lot on River Drive, Irvine