

**Wanderings
from the
Woods
& Water
by Jay
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**Wounded Warrior Hunt
Part II -- Community**

Before I get started I want apologize for missing a couple of weeks. The last couple of weeks has been a little crazy!

If you have not heard, I have my sixth child on the way in September. I know what you are thinking, we're CRAZY! My pregnant wife had a kidney stone that caused contractions. She had to spend a few days in the hospital. So with that being said I am going to blame her for me not writing a column the last two weeks! We do want to think everyone for their prayers! By the way we are having a boy (Joel Preston Bicknell). So, soon the Bicknell clan will be tied 3 girls and 3 boys.

On with the column now! With all that is going on in America it just about makes me lose hope in the American people. Communities all across the country are divided. We see people destroying property of other people in their community.

I met the Wounded Warriors at the Waco Post office upon their arrival. The parking lot was also filled with Twin City Cruisers, police, and fire departments. All these folks were ready to escort the soldiers into Irvine.

I was in the line that got escorted. It was awesome to see

the community support for the event. It was awesome to see the community pride that went into this event. Without the Estill County Community this event would never be a success.

Everything from the escort to the guides to the people who prepared food made the 5th Wounded Warrior hunt a success. The Estill County Community is one of the finest in America! I want to thank all who helped.

I have said it before and I will say it again, I live in the best small town in the world! This is where I was born and this is where they will plant me! Yes we've got our problems, but the folks here truly care about each other. I am so proud that I live here. The way everyone pulls together for the Wounded Warrior hunt restores my hope for America. Some people might not see it the way I do but I am blessed to have spent my life in Estill!

THANKS! THANKS! THANKS for all the help on the Wounded Warrior Hunt. Next year's hunt is already scheduled for the Wednesday after opening weekend of Turkey Season.

Until next week, get out and enjoy God's creation!

Abby Winkle is named Rogers Scholar

Estill County student Abby Winkle has been selected by The Center for Rural Development to attend the 2015 Rogers Scholars program.

Abby, a sophomore at Estill County High School, will join 63 high school students from Southern and Eastern Kentucky this summer for the 18th annual Rogers Scholars youth leadership program.

Rogers Scholars—The Center's flagship youth program—is an intensive one-week summer program that provides leadership and college scholarship opportunities for high school students in 45 Kentucky communities to build their skills as the region's next generation of business and entrepreneurial leaders.

"The Rogers Scholars program gives high school students an experience of a lifetime to grow their leadership skills while learning how to become more community-minded," said youth programs coordinator Delaney Stephens. "Each graduate earns access to exclusive college scholarship offers from some of the state's top-ranked colleges and universities upon completion of a required community service project."

The 2015 Rogers Scholars program will be held June 21-26 and July 12-17 on the campus of Lindsey Wilson College in Adair County. There is no tuition charge to attend the program and lodging and food are provided free

of charge to participants.

Abby is the daughter of Jamie and Michelle Winkle of Irvine.

Since 1998, 996 high school students have graduated from Rogers Scholars, and potential scholarships valued at more than \$7.2 million have been offered to graduates by 17 partner colleges and universities.

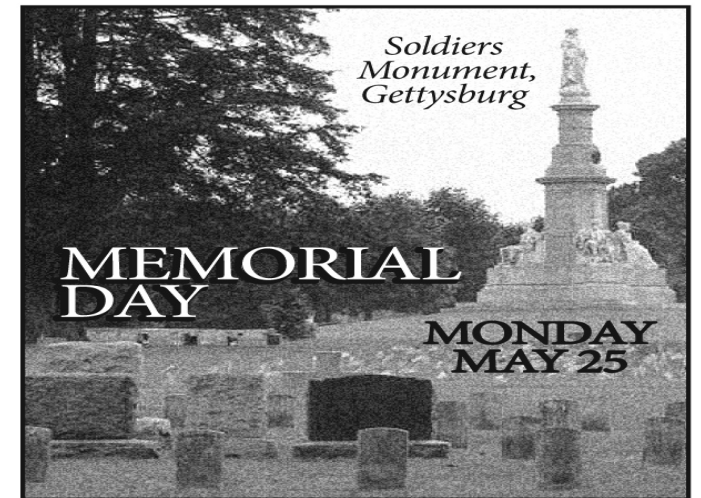
For more information about the Rogers Scholars program, visit www.centeryouthprograms.com or call youth programs coordinator Delaney Stephens at 606-677-6000.

Established in 1996 through the vision of U.S. Congressman Harold "Hal"

Rogers, (KY-05), and other leaders, The Center for Rural Development is a non-profit organization fueled by a mission to provide leadership that stimulates innovative and sustainable economic development solutions and a better way of life in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. In its 45-county primary service region, The Center provides innovative programs in leadership, public safety, technology, and arts and culture. The Center is committed to constantly expanding its capabilities in order to deliver a range of key services throughout Kentucky and the nation.



**Nifty, Nifty, Look Who's 50
Guess who? We love you!**



**Community Service
By: Kayla McKinney**

When I think of community service, I think of helping, I think of volunteering, I think of making an effort to contribute to your community. I first started to understand community service when I actually started participating. I knew community service looked good on applications, and that racking up these hours could really benefit me, but I wanted to get more out of it than just that. I wanted to make a difference and feel good for trying to. I joined clubs at school that focused on community service projects, and on my own time, I helped teachers tutor after school, and I helped coach for the middle school track team. I was as busy as a bee, but as happy as a clam. I had found a sense of self accomplishment, just by making a few peoples' work load a little bit lighter. When you're helping someone, whether it be helping a teacher file papers after school, teaching a little kid how to jump in some sand, or helping down at your local food bank, it feels good. Community service isn't about getting noticed and people seeing you do good deeds, it's about giving back and helping out, and that's the best feeling anyone could ever have.

**Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky
From Mousie in Knott County, Everyman knows his basketball**



Bob Watkins

Tribute this week, to a Kentucky *Everyman* fan.

"Born and raised in a house full of basketball talk," an e-mail said.

William Sparkman is among those who have lived longer, witnessed the parade of winning teams at Kentucky longer and watched from a special place on our map.

"I was born and raised in Mousie, Kentucky (Knott County)," Sparkman wrote.

Typical citizen in Big Blue Nation. Expertise honed by experience, common sense and time, his brand is higher quality than all who have sold out to one and done.

Sparkman's affection for UK hoops seems not measured by money, celebrity and hype, but style, priorities, and skilled team men dating to his favorite coach, Adolph Rupp.

And this: "My dad would turn the game on (teevee), then listen to Cawood Ledford on radio," he said. "Cawood would tell it like it was. ... I miss those days."

The pause from the man from Mousie, reminded me our game has changed so dramatically an NCAA official said the other day, "we've got to make some changes to make our game

watchable again."

Watchable again? In Kentucky such words smack of sacrilege.

Sparkman's UK favorites tell a story too: Dan Issel, Anthony Davis, Kenny Walker, Mike Casey, Tony Delk, Pat Riley, Kyle Macy, Jamal Mashburn, Sam Bowie and John Wall. Dedicated team men.

"I could go on forever with this list," he said, "But if I coached a team I would want these 10."

Finally, Sparkman had an issue to air. "... of all the great players at UK only one has been player of the year. (Anthony) Davis. ...

This year Willie (Cauley-Stein) was the best player in the nation. No question!"

Ironically, Sparkman's view is supported by best-there-ever-was Larry Bird. The Indiana Pacers exec told Cauley-Stein last week, he believes the ex-UK star is a \$100 million player.

Sparkman is *Everyman*. From Mousie in Knott County, we can almost hear Sparkman's amen to that.

PLUG IN APPROACH

For Kentucky, and to more a wait-and-see for Louisville, our state's college basketball powers are projected among rankings' high flyers again in 2015-16.

Considering UK sent half his roster into the job market last month, and came up zero-for-seven on 5-star recruits in the spring, how can Kentucky be a top five team in preseason polls?

Name recognition aside, it's the plug-in factor.

Having lost recruits Cheick Diallo and Carlton Bragg (to Kansas), Jaylen Brown (California), Malik Newman (Mississippi State), and Steve Zimmer-

man (UNLV), Kentucky can plug in Skal Labissiere at center, Mychal Mulder at shooting guard, and Isaiah Briscoe anywhere and a promising nucleus - Alex Poythress, Marcus Lee and Tyler Ulis - merits a top ranking for the Wildcats again.

One certainty, after not winning an NCAA title with this list," he said, "But if I coached a team I would want these 10."

Louisville. A mostly (new) team that could crash and burn, more likely will rise again under its Hall of Fame coach. If the Cardinals succeed, Rick Pitino will be back in demand to write another how-to book.

SIGN OF THE APOCALYPSE?

University of Kentucky and its men's basketball coach are discussing a one-year, \$8 million contract extension.

Through 2022, it would pay the ball coach \$54 million and replace a seven-year \$52.5 million contract signed last June. Additionally, five weeks from now a longevity bonus kicks in at \$1.6 million.

Odd, how media herd types report with enthusiasm gargantuan amounts of money going into pockets of athletes, administrators and ball coaches, but never an investigative look into how they spend it.

KANSAS 'HAUL'

When Kentucky suits up at Lawrence, Kansas, January 30, Wildcat coaches will see familiar faces wearing Jayhawk whites. Decisions of three prime recruits came down to UK and KU. And KU signed all three - power

forwards Cheick Diallo and Carlton Bragg and guard LeGerald Vick who picked Kansas over Kentucky last weekend.

Why would 6-4, 180-pound Vick choose Kansas over Kentucky? Maybe four reasons - shootist Mychal Mulder, and Dominique Hawkins, Charles Mathews and Isaiah Briscoe who will earn time taking pride in playing defense.

KENTUCKY FANS

Always interesting how Kentucky fans hasten to over-react at any hint of slight against the Wildcats.

Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim, in a fund raiser speech last week put tongue-in-cheek and said, "... If you have to coach in Kentucky, they should pay you eight million dollars."

Whereupon, an internet fan web site posted a headline: Boeheim Trashes State of Kentucky in Speech.

Trash a state? Here came the reactions, predicated first to discredit the messenger.

"Boeheim's a cheater!" ... "Boeheim is a loser." ... "Everybody hates us because we're UK" ... "it's jealousy!"

But, there is sanity and reason in Big Blue Nation too.

Boeheim's joke brought these reactions also.

√ "(Kentucky's coach) was in attendance. It was a JOKE! Nobody was trashing Kentucky."

And this one, that should be chiseled in marble.

√ "I think y'all are wound too tight. It was said in good fun. Lighten up BBN."

And so it goes.

You can reach me at **<Bob.Watkins24@aol.com>**

**10 Community Service Ideas for Teens
By: Abby Winkle**

If you're like most teens you're probably worried about getting community service hours in for college, but you're not sure how. There are so many things from trash pick-up to volunteering at a nursing home, you're sure to find something that interests you!

Trash pick-up:

You can gather up a group of friends and family and clean up alongside rivers, around parks, and by the roads. You can also make a game out of it by seeing who can fill up the most trash bags!

Volunteer as a coach:

Have a favorite sport? Volunteer to teach it to a youth league! You'll have fun while getting tons of service hours in!

Free Rice:

Have a little extra time? Like answering trivia questions? If so, you can go to www.freerice.com and answer questions! They will send 10 pieces of rice every time you answer a question to somewhere in an attempt to end world hunger.

Donate books to the library:

Gather a group of people and start collecting unused books to send to your local library. Not only will the library be happy to have them, you will have cleaned out a place for more books!

Have a bake sale:

If you love to cook, have a bake sale and donate all the proceeds to your favorite charity!

Offer your help to a non-profit organization:

Non-profits aren't making money for themselves to pay workers, so volunteering to help out would be more than greatly appreciated.

Thanksgiving dinner:

Some people don't have anywhere to go for Thanksgiving. In order to help out, organize a group of people to cook a Thanksgiving dinner for those people in the community! After all, it is a time to be thankful for what you have, why not share that with others?

Volunteer at the nursing home:

The nursing home is always looking for help. They are sure to have something for you to do, whether it be cleaning, helping people get around, cooking, or just giving company to the people there.

Send care packages to deployed troops:

Gather a group of people and send care packages to deployed troops. You can send cards, gum, non-perishable food, etc. Not only will they love it, you will be supporting your country as well!

Start a recycling program at your school:

You'll find that a recycling program will not only help the environment, but your school as well. All it takes is a group of people who are willing to help and a couple of recycling bins!

Out of these ten ideas, you're sure to find something that inspires you! If you're looking for something a little different, you can go to <https://www.teenlife.com/blogs/articles/50-community-service-ideas-teen-volunteers> for more amazing ideas.