

Kentucky softball's biggest promoter passes away

Jim McAlister, one of Kentucky's biggest promoters of high school fastpitch softball, passed away last Tuesday afternoon, June 15, 2021, at his home. Jim was a sports writer for the London Sentinel Echo, Corbin Times Tribune and most recently the Corbin News Journal where he retired.

Girls high school softball in Kentucky switched from slow pitch to fastpitch in 1995. Jim McAlister started the website Kentucky Prep Softball around that time. He started and has continued all these years: the coaches Top 25 poll, the East West All Stars, the Kentucky Tennessee All Stars, and the Kentucky Prep Softball Hall of Fame.

Jim started the Top 25 Poll around 1997. He started the East West Softball Series around that time.

"There have been others that have helped along the way," according to the webpage, "but without Jim's leadership, we do not have any of this in the magnitude that it is today. We all owe him a big debt of gratitude."

His wife Cathy has always helped and been involved, but in more recent years, she has taken on a huge role with

keeping this going.

Six years ago, Jim was on a ventilator and was not expected to live then. Somehow, through the grace of God, he survived. Most believe that his family and Kentucky Prep Softball gave him such a strong will to live his last 6 years with such dedication and passion.

In those last years, he had multiple visits to doctors (some were regular scheduled visits, while some were visits because he was not doing so well). In those years, his eyesight progressively got worse, so Cathy had to drive him everywhere. Cathy took him to all of his doctor and hospital visits, and many many softball games and tournaments while she also worked full time. I have no idea how many days of work she had to miss due to doctors visits, but I know it had to be many!

Cathy took on a much bigger role with KY Prep in recent years due to Jim's eyesight and physical limitations. Both Cathy and Jim have been so resilient. Their dedication and desire to keep KY Prep Softball going through these last few years is admirable.

Kentucky Prep Softball made it pos-

sible for state softball teams like the Estill County Lady Engineers to continue a tradition of high academics along with a high level of athletic play. Since 2003, nearly every junior and senior Estill Lady Engineer has been named Academic All-State.

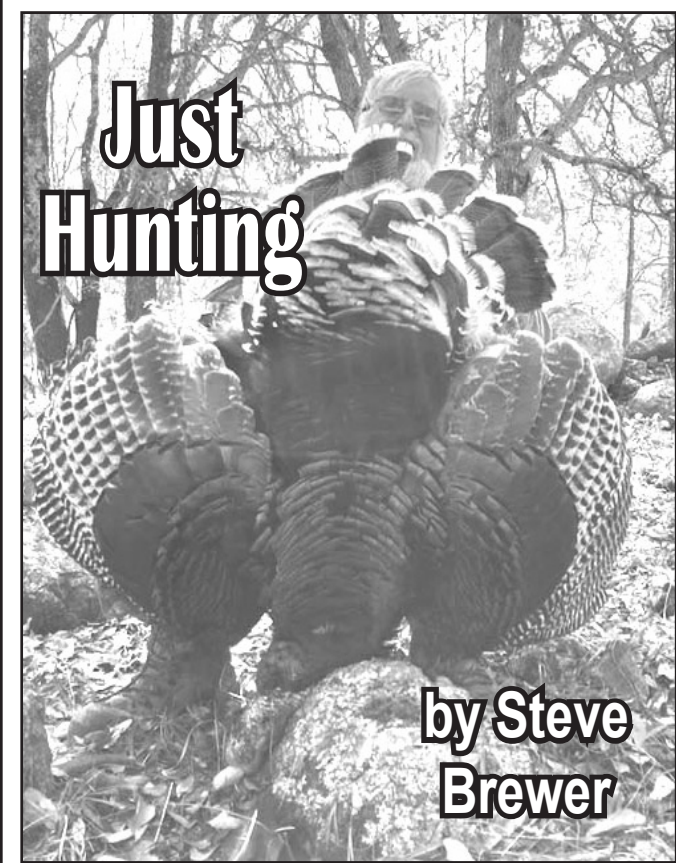
Kentucky Prep Softball and the Kentucky Softball Coaches Association continue to support fastpitch softball in the state. Estill coaches and assistants have continued to hold membership in this group, including present coach Lynn West; and one Estill coach, Shirley Beard, and one Estill County native, Bart Rison who coached Montgomery County, have been named to the Kentucky Prep Softball Hall of Fame.

Jim has had such an impact on softball, the players, and the coaches in the state of Kentucky. Please consider a donation to the Jim McAlister Memorial Fund to help Cathy and her family during this difficult time. The family has requested memorial donations be sent to Bowling Funeral Home, 1704 North Main Street in London, Kentucky 40741, to assist with funeral and medical expenses. If the memorial amount exceeds

the funeral expenses, the funeral home will donate the extra money to Cathy McAlister.



James "Jim" McAlister
August 4, 1953 to June 15, 2021



Just Hunting

by **Steve Brewer**

We have talked much about thinking out side of the box lately. I am starting to think my box is nowhere big enough.

Let me make this clear, very clear, I have never wanted to hunt African big game animals. I have

Bridgett Holbrook - A "Wildlife Woman"

been and still are friends with many hunters that have hunted the plains of Africa. It is not that I could not hunt those animals, I just never had the get up and go. Those friends of mine, in my opinion have a very big box to look outside of.

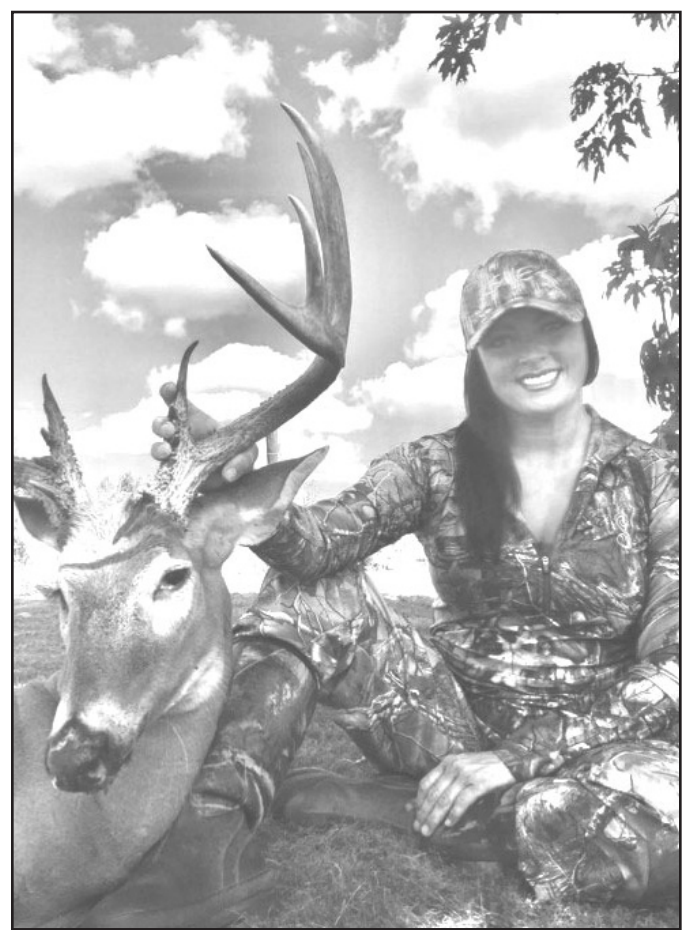
For the next few weeks, we will explore the life and times of a dear friend of mine, her name is Bridgett Holbrook. Her dad was a very good friend of mine, he was blown up in one of our coal mines, in March of 1976. Her mother worked for me and was still a friend when she passed away.

Bridgett is an avid hunter, and is the founder and president of "Wild Life Women". They do it all, from sewing to hunting and fishing. For you women who love the outdoors, I would highly recommend your joining this organization; you will have a blast, I am sure.

Bridgett hunts it all, mostly with a bow and arrow, but she breaks over and takes up firearms. When I heard she was taking a hunt to South Africa to hunt plains animals, I was not shocked. If it is there to legally hunt, she is all in.

In the next few weeks, we will travel with her as she hunts the plains of South Africa. You will leave our journey with a smile on your face, and maybe with the desire to join us, and think outside the box.

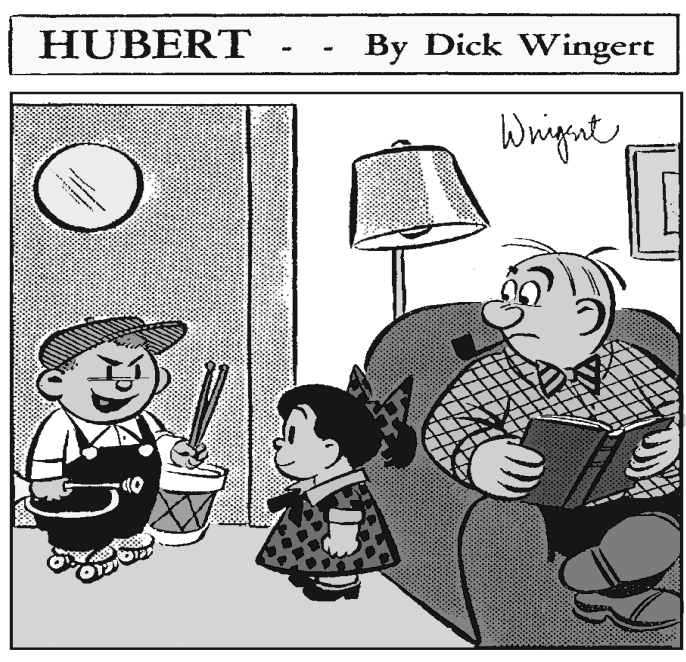
Here is one of her pictures, she is a awesome hunter. Till next week, enjoy the picture.



Bridgett Holbrook



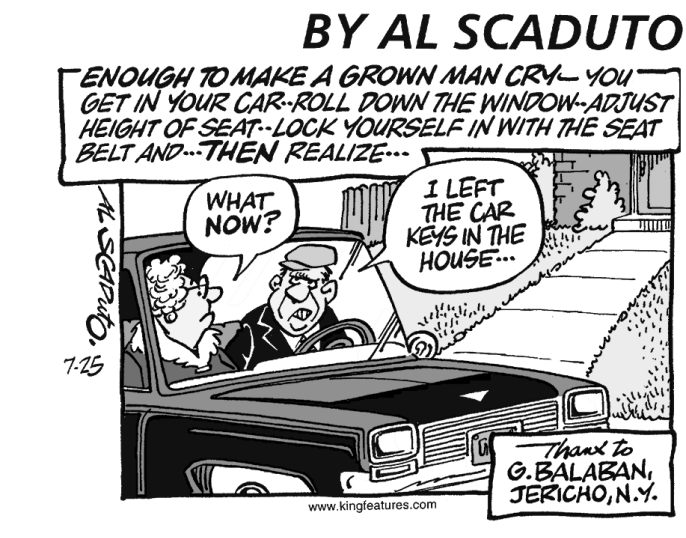
"Can't you go a little faster? We're getting bug splatters on the back windshield."



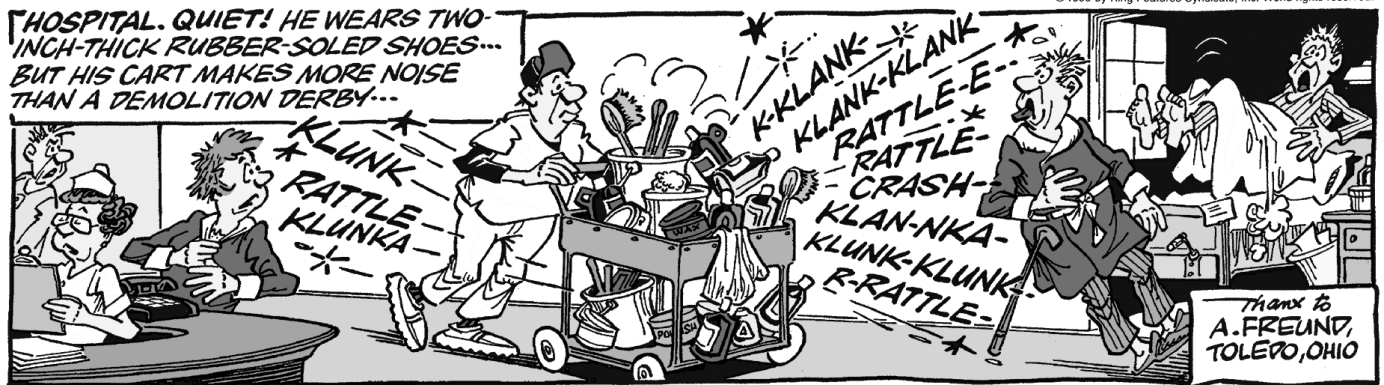
"Momma sent me over to play while she takes a nap."



THANK TO CAROL STUMPF, INDIANAPOLIS, IND.



THANK TO G. BALABAN, JERICHO, N.Y.



THANK TO A. FREUND, TOLEDO, OHIO



Ivory Hill Baptist Church honored all the men of the church on Sunday with gifts. Left to right are Keygon Baxter, Chris Greene and son, and Johnnie Lee Patrick. (Photo by Rhonda Woosley)

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