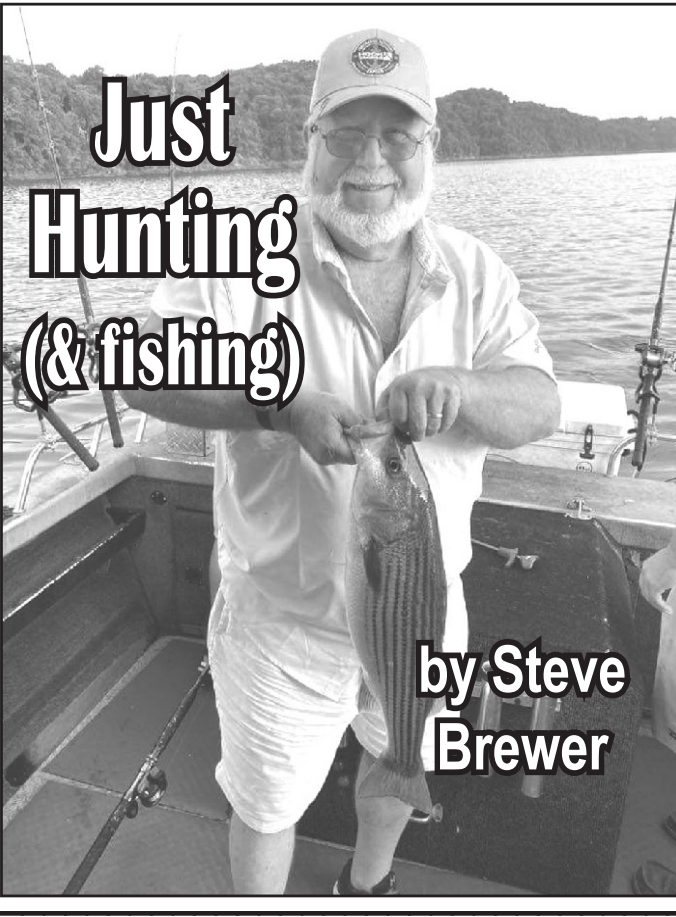


When it comes to snakes -- 'feet, don't fail me now'



by Steve Brewer

I have friends almost every month asking me to hunt their property, to get rid of the wild animals that cause them problems; such as, "Steve will you please come and kill these black bear that are in my garbage." Or "how about coming here and kill some deer, they are eating my corn." These friends live in Letcher County, I have known them a lifetime and would help them if I could. I can't. Those animals are protected by law until their hunting season opens.

I have a mountain friend, Glenda Fields Elswick, that has moved to Estill County, and she asked me to come squirrel hunt on her property last year, they were driving her nuts. I went, and sure enough, squirrels were carrying her off. In one trip, her dog Molly, which I love, and myself got four squirrels in about ten minutes. Yep, she had a squirrel problem. But squirrels also have a season, and the season closed before I got back.

A few days ago my lifelong friend sent me a message and said, "please come to me, the squirrels are here again." I told her I would see her on August 22nd, that I was hunting another farm on opening day. She said, "great, and I could get rid of the big snake that is living in her yard." I went into a state of panic, I hate any snake; little, big; poison, not poison; alive, not alive. I just can't stand a snake. Glenda was also shocked, shocked to learn I don't hunt snakes. My battle cry when it comes to snakes is, "Lord, feet don't fail me now."

My dislike for snakes started in 1970, while hunting the

Daniel Boone National Forest. I came upon a "Bridle Trail" one morning and decided to follow it. The weeds were cut on both sides, and it made for an easy walk. I saw a grape harbor and started to walk around it. But the grass was cut under the grape canopy, so I decided to just walk under it.

About half way through, I felt something fall on my shoulders, I figured it was a branch from the canopy. WRONG. It was a green snake, about three foot long. It looked me in my eyes, I looked it in his eyes, I threw my shotgun about 20 feet, and slung the snake. There I was; me, snake and shotgun. My heart was running wide open, I thought it was about to bust. The snake finally left, and I got myself together. There was not enough Charmin®¹ to clean up, so the first stream I came to, I jumped in. If I see a snake while hunting, my trip is ruined.

Then in 1979, again hunting the Daniel Boone, I decided that morning to hunt under the cliffs, problem was, the squirrels were on top of the cliffs, cutting. I backed out and that evening went to the top of the cliffs. I was a little early, so I took me a little nap. I had not been napping long, 'till I felt a strange feeling. I looked the trees over real good, nothing. Then I heard the sound of a snake rattling. I looked and on my right side lay a big timber rattler. I shot his head off, and found myself another stream. Have I ever told you, I hate snakes?

¹Registered trademark of The Procter & Gamble Company

Baisden Represents ETS & Estill at 32nd NALC

The Educational Talent Search (ETS) Program at Eastern Kentucky University is proud to recognize four ETS Scholars who participated in the 32nd Annual National Student Leadership Congress (NSLC). The NSLC is hosted annually by the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) for selected students in pre-college TRIO programs from across the nation. The all-expense paid conference was originally slated to take place in Washington D.C, but the Covid-19 pandemic changed up all arrangements to an online, virtual only format. Students representing the Educational Talent Search Program hosted at Eastern Kentucky University in-

cluded Mark Baisden of Irvine, Heather Friend, Brandy Moore, both of Richmond, and Jaren Vessel of Berea.

Over 200 high school students were tasked with finding innovative solutions to societal issues. They served as representatives in the intensive 5-day leadership experience where they participated in a simulated Congress Challenge, had the opportunity to develop a bill that provided solutions to current issues. The students also participated in interactive learning labs, had sessions with policy makers, Congressional members, TRIO alumni. In addition, the students experienced some virtual tours of historic, cultural

sites in Washington, DC, a virtual college fair.

Baisden is the son of Crystal Ross, Joe Alexander; the grandson of Shirley, Jerry Collett. He is an honor roll student, senior at Estill High School, in Irvine. In addition to ETS Scholar, he is also a Robinson Scholar. Mark's interests include robots, Dungeons & Dragons, the P7 Club. These interests support his career goal of becoming an engineer someday.

Mark says he wants to make "cool stuff that will help people." When asked about his experience at the NSLC, he said, "I really enjoyed NSLC, it taught me more about myself, showed me how to be a better leader. I also made some new friends

I'll never forget! The most impactful highlight of the event was hearing some awesome stories, speeches, presentations."

The Educational Talent Search (ETS) Program hosted at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU), is a federal TRIO Program, grant-funded through the U.S. Department of Education. ETS is funded to serve 765, (6th-12th grade students), who have the interest, ability to continue their education beyond high school. ETS provides guidance, resources, opportunities that focus on academic enhancement, personal skills, college & career information, financial literacy, financial aid & scholarship information, exposure to college, ca-



Clockwise: Mark Baisden, Heather Friend, Brandy Moore and Jaren Vessel

reer, cultural sites,, more. ETS serves in Estill, Garrard, Jackson, Lee, Madison Counties, all ETS services/activities are FREE of charge.

If interested in more information, check out the ETS website: www.

ets.eku.edu. The ETS Application is available at: <https://bottom.compansonline.com/201727748630054> or one can request a hard-copy application mailed to you by calling: 859-622-5425.

Morehead's Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics welcomes the class of 2023

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics welcomed the class of 2023 to campus Sunday, Aug. 8. This is the largest incoming class in the Academy's history.

Students moved into Grote-Thompson Hall and were inducted into the Academy in a ceremony held in the Adron

Doran University Center (ADUC) ballrooms. Craft Academy Director Dr. Carol Christian and MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan addressed the students, and each received an induction pin and certificate.

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics is a dual-credit academy for academically exceptional

Kentucky students. Craft Academy provides students with a postsecondary residential experience to complete their junior and senior years of high school by enrolling in college courses. The Craft Academy's purpose is to meet the unique educational needs of academically gifted and talented high school juniors and

seniors in the Commonwealth. The academic rigor of the Craft Academy challenges students to excel at their highest level through project-based STEM+X courses and hands-on learning experiences, with emphasis on innovation, design and creativity, and civic and regional engagement.



Left to right, front: Caroline Fish of Boone, Jillian Wallshield of Jefferson, Allison Hall of Pendleton, Taylor Horsfall of Fayette, Mahathi Siripurapu of Fayette, Bethany Lucio of Franklin, Faith Carney of Bullitt, Cai Helms of Boyd, Madison Ford of Fayette, Riley Hicks of Floyd, Abigail Grzynkovicz of Anderson, Hannah Barrett of Lee. Second row: Camryn Banbel of Morgan, Chloe Gallagher of Pendleton, Sydney Sebastian of Owsley, Abigayle Caldwell of Lawrence, Megan Pennington of Elliott, Lauren Bordeaux of Mercer, Hannah Stanley of Kenton, Alexa Cunningham of Oldham, Kelsey Sowders of Franklin, Naomi Wiegand of Oldham. Third row: Logan Lee of Lewis, Raul Sierra of Anderson, Khloe Schwaniger of Franklin, Hayley Milner of Boone, Kirston Kelley of Estill, Kayla Hanvey of Bourbon, Kendall Mayes of Greenup, Kaylee Bow of Knox, Hanah Whisenant of Lawrence. Fourth row: Alyssa Patel of Bullitt, Sarah Robinson of Spencer, Lauren Beasley of Montgomery, Kiera Fehr of Fayette, Muriel Tipton of Montgomery, Brenya Allred of Calloway, Autumn Davidson of Owsley, Sara Hassan of Rowan, Harrison Adkins of Rowan, Laci Davis of Harrison, Bryce Watkins of Bourbon, Landon Hodge of Fayette. Fifth row: Savannah Reed of Daviess, Alyssa Turner of Pendleton, Sagar Patel of Knox, Brianna Kayatin of Breathitt, Andrew Dorn of Boone, Victoria Pintha of Pendleton, Ava Ashley of Franklin, Mallory Baker of Oldham, Canyon Thomas of Franklin, Ezrie Justice of Perry, Alexander Neal of Fayette, Anakin Slone of Johnson, Joshua Day of Jessamine. Sixth row: Bailey Bullock of Rockcastle, Jude Hall of Pendleton, Braden Bickers of Campbell, LeBraun Hamilton of Hart, Taylor Fryman of Harrison, Derek Gill of Powell, James Bandy of Meade, Shawn Nelson of Jefferson, Paul Brooks of Henry, Sawyer Putnam of Garrard, Kaleb Trent of Perry, Miles Saunders of Bath. Seventh row: Cameron Perry of Harrison, Levi Shoemaker of Rowan, Curtis Bair of Carter, Brady Sammons of Carter, Jacob Winkler of Estill.

Baptist Health Richmond receives million-dollar grant to fund three-year opioid, substance abuse program

Baptist Health Richmond, in partnership with the Baptist Health Foundations of Corbin and Richmond, has received a \$1 million grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to combat opioid and substance abuse in Madison, Estill, Garrard, Rockcastle and Jackson Counties.

"It is an exciting day for Baptist Health Richmond as this grant will assist us in our efforts to reduce the substance and opioid abuse crisis plaguing the communities we serve,"

said Greg D. Gerard, Baptist Health Richmond President. "We are committed to increasing and improving the behavioral health services available to those in need."

The grant team responsible for overseeing the implementation and success of the grant, known as the Baptist Health Richmond Integrated Care Consortium, includes Baptist Health Richmond, Baptist Health Corbin, Baptist Health Richmond Pharmacy, Baptist Health Richmond Behavioral Health, Baptist

Health Medical Group and Stepworks Recovery Centers.

Baptist Health Richmond Behavioral Health services include psychotherapy, family sessions, medication management, addiction and substance abuse treatment and a chemical dependency intensive outpatient program. Behavioral health – specifically curbing opioid abuse – is a major focus for the nine-hospital Baptist Health system. System-wide efforts include integrating care to

provide holistic treatment.

For more information about Baptist Health Richmond Behavioral Health, call 859.544.8171 or visit BaptistHealth.com/Richmond. The Behavioral Health team also provides a 24 hour/7 days a week helpline to assist in providing support. To contact the helpline, call 1.800.395.4435.

To learn more about the Baptist Health Foundation of Richmond, visit supportbaptisthealth.org/richmond or call 859.625.3939.