

A dancing duck? Oh, the things you see at carnivals



America's Heartland

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A circus owner was strolling through a carnival one day when he saw a crowd gathered around a small table watching a duck tap dance on an upside-down pot.

The circus owner had never seen anything like it, and, after some haggling, bought the tap-dancing duck and the pot for \$10,000.

It wasn't long before the circus owner was back demanding a refund.

"You cheated me," he complained. "That duck won't dance at all for me."

"So," asked the duck's former owner, "did you remember to light the candle under the pot?"

We generally equate dancing with happiness. That's why, in most parts of the world, it's a part of wedding celebrations. In the Old Testament, dancing is described as a part of worship.

We're told that "David danced before the Lord with all his might" in 2 Samuel 6:14.

"Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to Him with tambourine and Lyre" (Psalm 149:3).

And God's word tells us there's "a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance" (Ecclesiastes 3:4).

Every once in a long while, I get to catch a bit of "The Price Is Right," the TV gameshow in which people can win fabulous prizes, including vehicles, boats, trips, even cash. And when the contestants win, they often cut a jig right there on the stage in front of all of America. They just can't help it; they're thrilled with what is now theirs.

That perhaps is the best explanation I can provide for

the happiness the world sees in God's people. They're thrilled with what is theirs: eternal life, a peace of mind that passes all understanding, a joy that shines in their very faces because of their personal relationships with Jesus.

That's why I'm always delighted when I see Christians who are excited about all that God has given them and all that God will give them in the future. After all, "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for those who love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

So, it's not difficult to cause God's people to feel like dancing.

That tap-dancing duck might have needed a flame under his feet to cause him to dance, but David danced out of a heart filled with gratitude for all that God had done for him, like a guy who has just come out of the "Show Case Showdown" with the greatest prize of all time.

Roger Alford offers words of encouragements to residents of America's heartland. Reach him at rogeralford1@gmail.com.

Holiday Basketball Tournament



Times Remembered

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Again this year we accompanied our kids, Tara and Steve, to the out of state holiday girls' basketball tournament. This year we traveled to Duncanville, Texas, (a suburb of Dallas), to participate in the Sandra Meadows Memorial Classic.

The tournament is held as a tribute to Coach Meadows for her outstanding years of coaching at Duncanville High School. Her teams won 25 consecutive district championships, reached regional tournament 17 times and 4 final fours as well as winning the state 4 times. She also coached Tamika Catchings who played for Pat Head Summit at the University of Tennessee.

The 66th annual tournament was held on 28-30 December that had six new teams participating in the tournament for the first time. 14 teams that participated were ranked nationally in the top 100. Duncanville was ranked #1 in the nation before the tournament.

The competition in this year's tournament was stronger than ever as there were two State Champions trying

to defeat Duncanville, the defending 2015 winner.

According to the tournament director, the tournament's goal was not to make money but simply continue building a great tradition and showcasing the best talent in girls' basketball.

Attending this prestigious tournament enabled the girls to be exposed to many talent scouts from various Division I colleges and universities. There were 87 scouts watching the games.

After a fifteen hour ride on the "big blue bus," (Bluegrass Tours), we finally began to prepare for the first game on Wednesday night, the 28th of December against the Westside Lady Wolves from Houston, Texas.

The game started good for Scott County, they held a fifteen point lead over the Lady Wolves at half-time. Gradually, the Lady Wolves came back and the final score was 64-63, with Scott County barely winning. The win placed Scott County in the winner's bracket facing even more difficult teams.

Thursday night saw Scott County facing a very talented team, also from Houston. Westbury Christian Lady Wildcats. They were phenomenal three point shooters and had a 6'5 center who was very strong and athletic. She has signed a letter of intent to play for Texas A&M.

Westbury's two guards were the best 3 point shooters I've ever seen; they didn't miss. They must have shot 100%. At least I don't remember them missing. The game was tied at half time with the aggressive and talented play by shooting guard Peyton Riddle with twenty-five points and the rebounding by center Lauren Boehm. But after half time it was a different story; the

girls couldn't seem to buy a basket. Scott County fell behind and lost by 15.

On Thursday they faced the Liberty Lady Redhawks from Frisco, Texas. Scott County dominated the first half with a 15 point lead. They were rolling; then as before they allowed the opponent to begin gaining points on them. Liberty kept outscoring the girls until they took the lead and defeated Scott County. They need to finish the game; but to their defense . . . three of their starters were sick all night before with a stomach virus and they just ran out of gas; had no legs the second half.

The eventual tournament winner was Fayetteville High School from Fayetteville, Arkansas. Second went to McEachern High School, from Powder Springs, Georgia. Duncanville High School came in third.

While in Dallas, we toured the AT&T Football Stadium, Dallas Cowboy Stadium, and had dinner at the Stadium Club that was very nice. We also saw the Texas Rangers Baseball Field and Stadium and went shopping at the North Park Center Mall in Arlington.

It was a great experience for the girls to compete against nationally ranked teams and be exposed to talent scouts from all over.

Currently, the Scott County Girls are ranked #8 in the state this week. Their three losses were: two losses in Texas to nationally ranked teams and one loss to Louisville Mercy. Their record is 7-3. I am very proud of them and their coaching staff who work very diligently to help them become better players in order obtain college scholarships.

GOOD LUCK LADY CARDS!

Two die in Jackson Co. wreck

The Kentucky State Police, Richmond Post is investigating a fatal collision that occurred early Sunday morning on US 421 at the intersection of KY 3447 in Jackson County.

The initial investigation indicates that a 2004 Chevy Blazer, operated by Sarah Shields, 34 years old of McKee, KY, was traveling

south on US 421. Shields lost control of her vehicle, and crossed the centerline, colliding with a 1997 Chevy Lumina that was traveling north on US 421, operated by Josephine Sparks, 54 years old of Berea KY.

As a result of the collision, Randall L. Sparks, 51 years old of Berea, and Lloyd W. Sparks, 58 years old of Berea,

both passengers in the Chevy Lumina were pronounced deceased at the scene by the Jackson County Coroner. Sarah Shields, Josephine Sparks, and a juvenile were transported to the University of Kentucky Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The ongoing investigation is being conducted by KSP Trooper Scott Townsley.

ESTILL LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

246 Main Street Irvine, KY – Call 723-3030

JANUARY 9-12, 2016

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mountain Crest Millers Creek Cow Creek Furnace Jct.	Winston Trotting Ridge Sandhill Opossum Run	Horizon Daycare Ravenna Drip Rock	Spout Springs Hudson Mill Rd. New/Old Fox Road Hargett	South Irvine P-K

"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	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Jan. 9	Jan. 10	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 13

SOUTH IRVINE, ESTILL SPRINGS BREAKFASTS

Breakfast Pizza Peaches	Donuts Pineapple Tidbits	Cereal & NG Grain Apple Slices	Pancakes Strawberry Cup	Cereal/Toast Pears
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SOUTH IRVINE & ESTILL SPRINGS LUNCHES

Hamburger/Bun Tater Tots Let./Tom./Pickles Cauliflower/Dip Peaches	TACO TUESDAY Taco/Wrap, Orange Cheese/Let./Tom. Salsa/Taco Sauce Refried Beans	Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Side Kicks Milk	Stuffed Crust Pizza Corn Baby Carrots/Dip Pineapple Tidbits Milk	Mini Corn Dog Potato Smiles Steamed Broccoli Apple Milk
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WEST IRVINE BREAKFASTS

Mini Cinni Rolls or Cereal Pears	Bacon, Egg Biscuit or Cereal Peaches	Pancakes or Cereal Applesauce	Toast & Jelly or Cereal Banana	Muffins or Cereal Apple Slices
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WEST IRVINE LUNCHES

Hamburger/Bun Let./Tom./Pickles Potato Wedges Cauliflower Bits/Dip Peaches	TACO TUESDAY Taco/Wrap, Orange Cheese/Let./Tom. Salsa/Taco Sauce Refried Beans	Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Green Beans, Roll Mandarin Oranges Milk	Cheese Pizza Corn Fresh Carrots/Dip Pineapple Tidbits	Mini Corn Dogs or Deli Turkey Wrap Potato Smiles Steamed Broccoli Apple
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ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST

Pancake Porky/ Syrup, Mini Wheats Cereal Bars Assorted Pop Tarts Apple Fruit Juices, Milk	Oatmeal & Toast Frosted Flakes Reese Puffs Cereal Cereal Bars Assorted Pop Tarts Pineapples	Cream Cheese Bagels, Lucky Charms Cereal Bars Assorted Pop Tarts Applesauce Fruit Juices, Milk	Bacon, Egg, and Cheese Biscuit Cereal Bars Pop Tarts Pineapples Fruit Juices, Milk	Chocolate or Cinnamon Muffins Cocoa Puffs Cereal Cereal Bar Assorted Pop Tarts Sidekicks
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ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL LUNCH

Chicken Nuggets WG Roll Mashed Potatoes CA Blend Veggies Apple Mixed Fruit	Pepperoni Pizza or Calzone Romaine Salad Corn Pineapples Grapes	Cheeseburger/Bun or Pork Chop/Bun Potato Wedges Lettuce & Tomato Peaches Sidekicks	Chicken Noodle Soup, Crackers Grilled Cheese or Chicken pattie/bun Peas, Carrot Sticks Fruit, Milk	Taco w/Shell or Fajita w/Shell Let./Tom./Cheese Refried Beans Salsa, Watermelon Pineapples
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ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST

Cereal, Pop Tarts Yogurt Orange or Apple Juices/Milk	Dutch Waffle Cereal Pop Tarts, Yogurt Orange or Apple	Bacon/Egg/Cheese Biscuit, Cereal Pop Tart, Yogurt Banana or Apple	Sausage Biscuit Cereal, Pop Tart Yogurt Banana or Apple	Donuts Cereal, Pop Tart Yogurt Banana or Apple
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ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH

Bosco w/Marinara Chicken Quesadilla w/Salsa, Corn Normandy Blend Applesauce Pineapples	Chicken Patty Grilled Chicken Baked Beans Potato Wedges Cooked Apples Mandarin Oranges	SW Chicken Alfredo Pork Chop Steamed Broccoli Glazed Carrots Breadstick Milk/OJ Varieties	BBQ on Bun Mini Corn Dogs Tater Tots Carrots w/dip Apples/Peach Cup Milk/OJ Varieties	Chicken Pot Pie Chicken Patty/WG Bun, Green Beans Mashed Potatoes Mandarin Oranges Pears
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Offered Daily: Pizza Line

Sandwich Box, Salad Box

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