



Times Remembered

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I made it through Thanksgiving, but it was busy. Now it is the beginning of the Christmas season. Thankfully, I have a husband who doesn't mind helping me with anything I need to do, whether it's cooking, decorating or cleaning, he's great at all those things.

I was home from Tuesday until Saturday cleaning and cooking. As my mom used to say, "I just can't turn the work off like I used to." Back then, I thought, what's she talking about, but now I know, it takes me much longer to accomplish things now than when I was 30. Oh! Well! That's the golden years I suppose. I'm thankful that I just got it done.

Beginning of the Holiday

On Friday we started decorating the house inside and out and put up the Christmas tree. My, it seems like more work every year. Our knees, hands and back have hurt all week-end from climbing on ladders taking things out of storage, cooking, and cleaning.

It's the holiday season once again, my favorite time of the year. Even though it's hard work I love the decorations, the music, the church services and the search for the perfect gift for each person on my list.

There are valuable lessons to be learned in the gift-giving (and gift-receiving) process. I was always taught to be happy with anything I received and to be thankful for whatever I received. On the other hand, be a cheerful giver, and give from the heart.

My Dad was a farmer and our main cash crop was tobacco, therefore if the tobacco didn't do well, Christmas gifts weren't as plentiful. I can't remember not ever receiving some type of presents at Christmas, I know my parents scrimped and saved; they always made a way. The gifts my parents saved for, gave me renewed

faith and respect for the sacrifices they made in order to provide those gifts.

Surprise gifts were always welcome; I remember one particular Christmas I received a record player that played 45's and it changed the records automatically. I thought that was big time. I didn't expect to receive it that Christmas because it was so expensive. Music meant a lot to me in those days; after all there were the Beatles and Elvis to listen to every waking hour. Rock'n 'Roll music was great!

The experiences of love and family togetherness meant so much to me. I wouldn't trade those times for all the presents in the world. I wish my parents were still here; it has never been the same since they passed. Families drift apart and are so busy with their own children that sometimes brother and sisters fail to get together on holidays.

If I could spend one Christmas in my life over again it would be the above Christmas I spoke about. The family closeness and the love we shared was of greater value than anything I could wish for.

Bragging about \$7 haircuts may not be good idea



America's Heartland

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Maybe you heard about the hair salon that opened right across the street from an old established barbershop.

They put up a big sign that read: "WE GIVE SEVEN DOLLAR HAIR CUTS!"

Not to be outdone, the old barber put up his own sign: "WE FIX SEVEN DOLLAR HAIR CUTS!"

Competition among businesses has always been good for customers. Generally, it means lower prices and friendlier service. But, competition between friends, rela-

tives and neighbors is another story altogether. That kind of competition is frowned upon in the scriptures.

"Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3). In fact, Jesus commanded us to love one another, just as He has loved us. As we know, Jesus loved us so much that he gave his very life for us. There's no greater love than that.

The Bible also calls for us to be "kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love," "preferring one another" (Romans 12:10). "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32).

I'm glad we live in a place where those scriptures are considered second nature. In a world where the common philosophy tends to be to win no matter the cost and no

matter who gets hurt, our corner of the world is different. We understand that the Bible calls us to be better than that.

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God" (1 John 4:7).

I'm glad to live in an area where I get to see these scriptures modeled by so many good people every day. If one of our neighbors has a need, we'll be there. If we can help someone in our families, we're on it in a flash. If a friend is down, we lift him up, no questions asked.

So, what would happen if we were barbers and a new hair salon tried to undercut our business? The truth is, if we were barbers who loved our customers the way Jesus calls us to, there's no new hair salon that could pull them away, even for \$7 haircuts.

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



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!

Equate
KILNE

Harken
TENSIL

Compel
BEGOIL

Marry
THROBET

TODAY'S WORD

ESTILL LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

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NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 1, 2017				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
No Bookmobile Service	Winston Trotting Ridge Sandhill Rice Station	Nursing Home Horizon Daycare Ravenna Wagersville Drip Rock	Spout Springs Hudson Mill Rd. Old/New Fox Hargett	South Irvine Early Learning Center

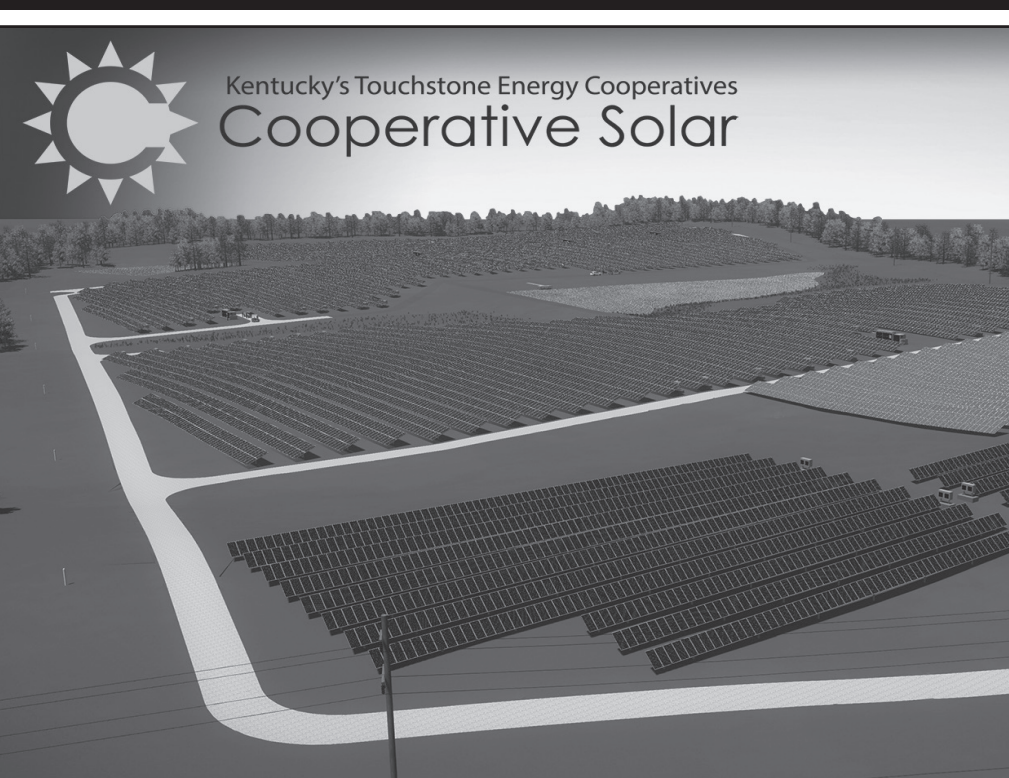
"Mommie & Me" and Storytime Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. & Fridays, 10:30 a.m.

ESTILL COUNTY SCHOOLS MENUS

Milk is included with every meal; plus assorted juices included with breakfast

MONDAY Dec. 4	TUESDAY Dec. 5	WEDNESDAY Dec. 6	THURSDAY Dec. 7	FRIDAY Dec. 8
SOUTH IRVINE EARLY LEARNING CENTER BREAKFASTS				
Toast Cheerios Pears, Milk	Pancake Porky Apples Milk	Maple Waffles Bananas Milk	Biscuit, Gravy Cooked Apples Milk	Muffin Mandarin Oranges Juice, Milk
SOUTH IRVINE EARLY LEARNING CENTER LUNCHES				
Chicken Nuggets Roll Green Beans Applesauce Milk	Round Cheese Pizza Corn Oranges Milk	Chicken Noodle Soup Grilled Cheese Carrot Sticks Applesauce	Cheese Breadstick Marinara Sauce Peas Side Kicks Milk	Hot Dog on Bun Potato Rounds Apples Milk
ESTILL SPRINGS BREAKFASTS				
Cocoa Puffs Toast Pears Asst. Juice Milk	Pancake Porky with syrup or Cin. Toast Crunch, Graham Snacks, Apple Juice, Milk	Yogurt, Cheese Sticks or Frosted Flakes, Graham Snacks, Applesauce Asst. Juice, Milk	Biscuit/Gravy Lucky Charms Biscuit, Oranges Asst. Milk	Asst. Muffins Trix Cereal Peaches Asst. Juice Milk
ESTILL SPRINGS LUNCHES				
Popcorn Chicken Roll, Green Beans Mashed Potatoes Milk	Taco/Wrap Shredded Cheese Lettuce/Tomato Refried Beans, Salsa Grapes, Milk	Chicken Noodle Soup, Crackers Grilled Cheese Cauliflower Bites/Dip Grape Tomatoes	Cheese Pizza Corn Baby Carrots, Dip Pineapple Fudge Bar	Mini Corn Dogs Potato Smiles Steamed Broccoli Applesauce Milk
WEST IRVINE BREAKFASTS				
Breakfast Pizza or Cin. Toast Crunch Graham Snacks	Mini Pancakes or Yogurt, Cheese, Crackers, Cocoa Puffs	Mini Cinni Rolls or Donut or Trix/Graham Snacks, Juice, Grapes	Scrambled Eggs Toast or Cocoa Krisp- ies/Graham Snacks	Assorted Muffins or Lucky Charms Strawberry Cup
WEST IRVINE LUNCHES				
Chicken Pattie/Bun Potato Smiles Baked Beans Pears Milk	Round Cheese Pizza Grape Tomatoes/Dip Corn, Ice Cream Mandarin Oranges Milk	Chicken Nuggets Roll, Green Beans Mashed Potatoes Applesauce Milk	Chili, Crackers Grilled Cheese Cauliflower & Broc- coli./Dip Orange, Milk	Hot Dog/Bun Potato Wedges Carrots/Dip Apple, Cookie Milk
ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST				
Breakfast Pizza Fruit Loops, Pop Tart, Apples Juice, Milk	Sausage & Biscuit Lucky Charms Pop Tart, Pineapples Juice, Milk	Pancake Porky Cocoa Puffs Pop Tart, Applesauce	Yogurt & Scooby Snacks, Frosted Flakes, Pop Tart Mixed Fruit	Donuts Cinn. Toast Crunch Reese Puffs, Pop Tarts, Pe
ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL LUNCH				
Asian Chicken/Roll Stir Fry Vegetables Asian Rice Carrot Sticks Apples, Pears Milk or Juice	Bosco w/Marinara Sauce Chicken Quesadilla Broccoli Bites, Corn Cantaloupe, Apple- sauce, Push-up	Grilled Chicken/Bun Spicy Chicken/Bun Potato Smiles Let./Tom./Pickles Mandarin Oranges Bananas	Meatball Sub w/Cheese Deli Turkey Wrap Garden Salad Asst. Peppers Fruit, Sidekicks	Mini Corn Dogs Mr. Rib on Bun Chips Red Pepper Slices Baked Beans Peaches, P-apples
ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST				
Cereal, Pop Tarts Yogurt Oranges/Apples Juices/Milk	Dutch Waffles Cereal Pop Tarts, Yogurt Oranges/Apples	Bacon/Egg/Cheese Biscuit, Cereal Pop Tart, Yogurt Ban., Apple, Orange	Breakfast Pizza Cereal, Pop Tart Yogurt, Banana, Apple or Orange	Gravy & Biscuit Cereal, Pop Tart Yogurt, Banana, Orange or Apple
ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH				
Bosco Pepperoni Calzone Marinara Sauce Corn, Grapes Normandy Blend Tropical Fruit	Hot Ham & Cheese Chicken Patty/Bun Let./Tom./Pickles Carrot Sticks Baby Bakers Grapes, Trop.Fruit	Cheeseburger or Hamburger on Bun Let./Tom./Pickles Potato/Wedges Baked Beans P-apples, Peaches	Asian Chicken w/Egg Roll, Rice Mr. Rib on Bun Stir Fry Veggies Sweet Potatoes M-Oranges, Pears	Chicken Rings/Roll Spicy Chicken/Bun Scalloped Potatoes Steamed Broccoli Peaches Pineapples

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renewable energy

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