

**Wanderings
from the
Woods
& Water
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A Lesson from a Homeless Person

No hunting this week! Just a lesson I learned from a homeless person.

This past Friday the boys and I decided to eat at a restaurant. While we were waiting for our food a homeless guy came in.

The person told the waitress he was homeless and hungry. She was very kind and seated him. Then the waitress got him something to drink. Then she asked him what he wanted to eat. It was refreshing to see the kindness and I got to see it.

Then another lady gave the homeless person 20 dollars. She talked with him for a while. I couldn't hear what she was saying, but it looked like she was encouraging him. It was another great act of kindness and I got to see it.

I sat with my boys watching everything go down. I thought to myself, what can I do to help. What could I do to maybe make this guy's life better. So, I got up and walked over to him and offered him a job.

I asked him if he needed some work because we are hiring. Replied, I might be. I said we need people to plant tree seedlings. We've got about 200,000 trees to plant on a job starting real soon. He then replied, no I don't want to plant trees. I was stunned at his answer. I thought about what

happened a lot. Here is a homeless guy who didn't have money to eat. He accepted the kindness of people. Taking the food and money offered by good people. He then turned down help that could help him get out of the situation he was in.

This got me to thinking. The lesson I learned might not be what you are thinking. I got to thinking about God and the help He offers. When we are down, and out, God is always there with open arms to help. God is always there for you when no else is.

How many times has God offered help and you turned it down. How many times has God asked you to do something and you said, no I don't want to do that.

We all must go through valleys to make it to the mountain tops. Sometimes the valley might be dark and rough going. When you find yourself in a valley, God has His hand out wanting to help you to the mountain top. If you don't take God's hand you might find yourself stuck in a dark valley.

Hey, God talks to us daily. We've just got to listen. The Good Lord can use some crazy things to teach us lessons. Keep your ears open every day for His Word!

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

Engineers, Lady Engineers Off To A Rocky Start

The Estill County High School Engineers and Lady Engineers Basketball season has gotten off to a rough start for both teams. The Boys team has dropped their opening two games, both on the road, to two impressive teams in Madison Southern and Somerset. The Lady Engineers got an excellent season opening win at home over Model, but have lost two straight on the road as well.

Poor shooting has plagued the Engineers in the early season with the team not hitting above 36% in either loss. But the season is young and one of the preseason favorites in the 14th Region will surely find their shooting eye. The Engineers will

continue to battle on the road as they travel to Rockcastle County on Tuesday night before participating in the PRTC Classic at Jackson County. They will take on the hosts on Friday night and battle Harlan County on Saturday.

Engineers 41 Somerset 46
J. Benton 4 pts 5 reb, C. Bonny 18 pts, A. Doty 6 pts 5 reb, D. Long 2 pts, J. O'Hair 9 pts 6 reb

Engineers 44 Madison So. 53
J. Benton 7 pts 7 reb, C. Bonny 18 pts 6 reb, A. Doty 8 pts, J. O'Hair 2 pts, K. Richardson 9 pts.

The Lady Engineers continue to try and mesh their team together under first year head coach, Ruth Hughes.

The Lady Engineers welcome two transfers, Amy Brewer and Makayla McIntosh, along with returning sophomore Kaylee Riddell who missed last season with an injury.

Junior Amelia Farmer, who also missed last season with a knee injury, continues to battle the balky knee and has yet to see the floor this season.

Senior point guard Savannah Brewer, sharp shooting junior Meagan Bellamy and hard nosed junior guard Kiely Flynn will need to use their experience to lead this team.

The Lady Engineers will stay on the road as well with games at Rockcastle County

on Tuesday night and they will also play the host on Friday night in the PRTC Classic at Jackson County.

Lady Engineers 65 Model 42
M. Bellamy 11 pts, A. Brewer 10 pts 13 reb, K. Flynn 10 pts, M. Hale 14 pts, M. McIntosh 6 pts, K. Riddell 6 pts 6 reb, M. Riddell 2 pts, S. Brewer 4 pts, S. Danyeur 2 pts

Lady Engineers 51 Menifee 69
A. Brewer 13 pts 5 reb, S. Brewer 10 pts 6 reb, M. McIntosh 10 pts, M. Bellamy 9 pts, K. Flynn 4 pts, M. Hale 3 pts, K. Riddell 2 pts 5 reb

Lady Engineers 59 Hazard 73
A. Brewer 16 pts 11 reb, S. Brewer 10 pts, M. Hale 18 pts 7 reb, K. Riddell 4 pts 7 reb, K. Flynn 2 pts, M. Bellamy 4 pts.



A group of 18 (6 youth and 12 adults) traveled to Boone, North Carolina on Dec. 1st and 2nd to volunteer at the Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Processing Center. They had the wonderful opportunity to volunteer by working in a warehouse/assembly line type setting to process and package up boxes for the shoebox ministry. OCC is a project of Samaritan's Purse that collects shoebox gifts filled with school supplies, hygiene items, and fun toys that are delivered to children in need around the world to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way. Also this past November, Salem served again as a Drop-Off location during National Collection Week and collected over 600 boxes from Estill and Powell Counties. It is projected that 12 million shoe box filled gifts will be collected and distributed to over 100 different countries. We would like to encourage other churches and organizations to get involved in this wonderful ministry. For more information on how to get started in 2018 please visit Operation Christmas Child or contact April Stone at <april.stone33@yahoo.com>.

The choir and guests of Irvine First Christian Church, under the direction of Becky Snowden, will be presenting the Christmas Cantata "The Greatest Story Ever Told" by Dennis and Nan Allen. There will be two performances, one during the morning worship service on December 17th, beginning at 10:45 a.m. and again on the evening of December 21st at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Kyle Conrad with a nice doe. Congrats!

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