



Times Remembered

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There has been sightings of bears in several counties across Kentucky lately. I haven't seen a bear in our neck of the woods, but we do have several other critters.

When we do encounter these animals they are stand-offish. But we need to resist the urge to make friends. In case you haven't guessed I'm talking about furred and feathered friends. One of the thrills of living in the woods is watching animals graze on clover or observe bright yellow finches at the bird feeder. Watching deer graze at the edge of the woods as you sip your morning coffee makes you appreciate nature.

But when the varmints munch on your prize hostas; or a raptor suddenly swoops down and flies off with your pet; that doesn't sit too well with me. When

Critters in The Woods

deer eat your hostas it is a different story. Last summer, sometime in the night they ate nearly all my hostas. Expensive to say the least. The deer had never touched them in 18 years. Why now? We have replaced the hostas with several different kinds of perennials than are supposed to be deer-resistant. But who knows, they eat what their hearts desire.

Gardens are a problem too; most everyone has a fence enclosing their garden. I don't have a garden; the soil contains slate and vegetables don't flourish well on our land that is cleared. Most of the acreage is woods. I do some container gardening and that's about it.

Over the years, I suppose we all have heard many a wildlife story. Whether the conflict involves deer crashing through glass store windows, flying squirrels invading attics or bats getting in the Christmas tree. We have to learn to deal with them if we are living in their environment. (Oh! Here's another good one.....the pileated wood peckers ate our cedar fascia board on the front porch)! Talk about expensive...you ever ordered western cedar boards? The cost is astronomical.

The raccoons are plentiful also; last night one was under the bird feeder out

back eating the seeds that have dropped on the ground. Surprisingly, our cat, Si was sitting next to the raccoon just watching him! I was hoping Si didn't decide to attack him; it would be no contest because the raccoon was so big.

Always keep a safe distance no matter how cuddly a critter seems, never attempt to touch it. Wildlife is unpredictable. Most species are afraid of humans, and will avoid you if possible. But if an animal is startled or feels threatened, it might bite and claw to defend itself.

Don't rescue baby birds that fall out the nest; because according to the Audubon Society many young birds spend up to five days on the ground before they can fly. Most likely, mamma bird is close by and feeding it.

You should never feed the animals or leave pet bowls with food setting out. And of course you wouldn't leave garbage where critters can get into it. Cans with lids need to be securely fastened; this foils the intruders.

I keep a bell on Si to warn the birds when he is around. Also keep pets vaccinated; they need their rabies and other shots regularly.

Following these rules may help us co-exist with our winged and furry friends living in nature.

Lost? Don't waste time asking Bubba for directions



America's Heartland

Roger Alford
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A tourist had gotten a bit turned around and stopped in a small town to ask directions.

"What is the quickest way to the lake?" he asked a local fellow.

"Are you walking or driving?"

"I'm driving," the tourist said.

"Well," said the local,

"that's the quickest way."

If we'd admit it, we have all been lost at some point in our travels. And, when it happens, it's a great benefit to find someone who can point the way. Even in a day of Smart Phones and GPS guidance and Rand McNally

maps, we still can become misdirected.

That's especially true in a spiritual sense. Fortunately, the Lord is always available to us, no matter the circumstances.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3:4-6).

I also love Psalm 32:8 in which the Lord says: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go."

We, as people, tend to want to go our own way without interference, but when that way gets hard, we tend to call out for help. Country music star Carrie Underwood sings a song about this tendency. That song, "Jesus Take the Wheel," catapulted the Oklahoma native to stardom.

The song is about a woman traveling with her child on a snowy Christmas Eve. Here are some of the lyrics:

"She had a lot on her mind and she didn't pay attention. She was going way too fast. Before she knew it she was spinning on a thin black sheet of glass. She saw both their lives flash before her eyes. She didn't even have time to cry. She was so scared. She threw her hands up in the air."

Then she goes into the familiar chorus:

"Jesus take the wheel. Take it from my hands cause I can't do this on my own. I'm letting go, so give me one more chance. Save me from this road I'm on. Jesus take the wheel"

The lyrics pick back up with: "It was still getting colder when she made it to the shoulder, and the car came to a stop. She cried when she saw that baby in the backseat sleeping like a rock. And for the first time in a long time she bowed her head to pray. She said I'm sorry for the way I've been living my life. I know I've got to change. So, from now on tonight, Jesus take the wheel..."

Christians, whether they've been walking with the Lord for decades or for a relatively short while, will tell you that their lives became much easier when they entrusted them to the Lord. And there's a scriptural reason for that: because He has plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).

If you're looking for that hope, the quickest way to find it is not by driving. It's by walking with the Lord.

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

ESTILL LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

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JUNE 19 - JUNE 23, 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Richmond Rd. Northwood Crestview Ct. Wall Street	Race Track Rd. Harris Ferry Cressy Stacy Lane	No Bookmobile Service	Old Landing Doe Creek Barnes Mtn. South Irvine	Mt. Crest Summer Reading

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

Miss Estill County Fair Beauty Pageants

Starting on June 2 applications will be taken for:

Miss Estill County Open Beauty Contest – Ages 16-21

Miss Estill County Open Teen Beauty Contest – Ages 13-15

Miss Estill County Pre-Teen Pageant (Closed) – Ages 8-12

Date for all three (3) pageants is Saturday, July 1, 2017

Pageant entry deadline for all 3 pageants – Friday, June 30, 2017, 4:00 p.m.

For more information or an application call or email Gina Flynn (606) 975-5851, gina.flynn@estill.kyschools.us or Cheryl Stepp (606) 723-8546, cjstepp@windstream.net Applications will also be available at the Farmers Market located at the fairgrounds starting June 2nd.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation; nor will the Arab pitch his tent there, nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there. But desert creatures will lie down there, and their houses will be full of owls...

Isaiah 13:19-21

Americanisms



"The greatest gift I ever had came from God; I call him Dad!"
— Author unknown

11th Annual Holes for Hoops Golf Scramble

Saturday, June 17, 2017
Estill County Golf Club

The 11th Annual Holes for Hoops Golf Scramble will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2017, at the Estill County Golf Club. This is sponsored by and all proceeds are given to the Estill County High School boys basketball team.

Scramble format will be played from four-somes with a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$50.00 per player; \$200.00 per team. Fee includes 18 holes of golf, use of cart, lunch, excellent prizes, and an opportunity to support the young men of ECHS. Extras include: mulligans \$5.00 each (2 maximum).

For additional information contact Coach Bentley at (859) 200-3704 <Jon.Bentley@Estill.KySchools.us> or Coach Benton at (859) 248-7335 <Rick.Benton@Estill.KySchools.us>.

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