



Times Remembered
Betty A. Young

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Critters

This summer we have more than our share of critters. We have been bombarded with raccoons and deer. We have seen two large coons and five babies. They are cute, but so destructive. They eat the cat's food if any is left in their dish. They turn over buckets, vases, flower pots and anything else they get into. Everyone I've talked to this summer has a problem with coons destroying their corn, tomatoes and anything else they get their paws on. I haven't seen any of them for a week or so; maybe the little ones have grown up and left.

The deer are even worse. They never came in our yard until last summer, when they ate six of my hostas and chewed several boxwoods. We are now becoming over populated with deer. Hopefully, we have a longer season to hunt to thin out the herd. Again

this summer they have destroyed the same hostas. It is very expensive to replace them and I don't know the answer. But I'm beginning to detest them!

I also hear snakes are plentiful too. My friends on Crooked Creek killed a rattle snake this summer. At least we can kill those. I hate snakes, even the ones that eats insects and mice.

When we lived on Stacy Lane down at West Irvine, I remember when Tara was at home after school riding the exercise bike. She was recovering from ACL knee surgery and required physical therapy daily.

She was working hard riding the bike and listening to music when she said she saw movement toward the kitchen out of the corner of her eye. Our kitchen and living room was open that enabled her to see into the kitchen. She thought, no it wasn't anything, so she begin riding the bike again and turned the music back on. Then she peered again toward the kitchen; transfixed, she stopped the bike and immediately seen a huge snake slither out of the oven door on the stove. It was coiled up on one of the burners. She exclaimed to herself, "Oh! No" . . . She couldn't believe her eyes . . . there was a snake in the house!

Bob and I weren't home yet; what must she do? She ran out the back door and hurriedly raced to our neighbor's house to get Everett to come kill it. He was home and came

with her to our house. When they got back to our house, the snake was not on the stove. They searched everywhere in the house, but no snake. Finally, they figured out it had to be close to the stove and they pulled the stove out from the wall, but no snake, then as they started to pull the refrigerator away from the wall, Tara spied a big snake curled up on top of the refrigerator. She screamed, "The snake, the snake, it's on top of the refrigerator." Everett just non-chalantly reached up and caught it; it was a non-poisonous cow snake. He carried it to the back yard and let it go. (I wished he had killed it). But it was gone now. But we were puzzled how it got into the house.

We started looking where the snake might have entered the house. We finally figured out that it probably came in through the dryer vent located in Tara's bedroom closet that backs up to the kitchen wall. A hole had been cut last winter when we had some frozen pipes, which gave Mr. Snake entrance into the back of the stove into the kitchen. I still don't know how he got into the oven. They can flatten out and come in under most doors; I guess he just flattened out and ended up on the stove burner via the oven.

I know we live in the woods now and have to share the environment with critters of all kinds, but sometimes they sure can become a nuisance.

The best dad ever? Little boys love to brag on their fathers



America's Heartland

Roger Alford
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Three boys were standing around the schoolyard bragging about their fathers, as little boys are prone to do.

"My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a poem, and they give him \$50 for it," the first boy said.

"That's nothing," said the second boy. "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a song, and they give him \$500."

"I've got you both beat," said the third. "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a ser-

mon, and it takes eight men to collect all the money."

I love to see and hear kids singing the praises of their parents. It's biblical, you know.

"Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12).

The late great Erma Bombeck, who was a humorist and newspaper columnist, once wrote a heart-wrenching column about the day her dad didn't get up and go to work. Instead, he went to the hospital and died the next day. Bombeck was but a little girl at the time, and she didn't fully appreciate her father until he was gone.

"He opened the jar of pickles when no one else could. He was the only one in the house who wasn't afraid to go into the basement by himself."

"He cut himself shaving, but no one kissed it or got excited about it. It was understood when it rained, he got the car and brought it around to the door. When anyone was sick, he went out to get the prescription

filled. He took lots of pictures, but he was never in them.

"Whenever I played house, the mother doll had a lot to do. I never knew what to do with the daddy doll, so I had him say, 'I'm going off to work now,' and threw him under the bed."

"The funeral was in our living room and a lot of people came and brought all kinds of good food and cakes. We had never had so much company before. I went to my room and felt under the bed for the daddy doll. When I found him, I dusted him off and put him on my bed. He never did anything. I didn't know his leaving would hurt so much."

In our culture, fathers truly don't always get the respect they deserve. Their role is an important one, so important, in fact, that it shouldn't just be little boys in a schoolyard bragging on them.

We all should.

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

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ESTILL COUNTY SCHOOLS MENUS

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| MONDAY August 27 | TUESDAY August 27 | WEDNESDAY August 27 | THURSDAY August 27 | FRIDAY August 27 |
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SOUTH IRVINE EARLY LEARNING CENTER BREAKFASTS

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Toast Cheerios Pears, Milk | Yogurt Animal Crackers Apples, Milk | Maple Waffles Peaches Milk | Biscuit, Gravy Cooked Apples Milk | Muffin Mandarin Oranges Juice, Milk |
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SOUTH IRVINE EARLY LEARNING CENTER LUNCHES

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| Chicken Nuggets Roll, Green Beans Mashed Potatoes Apple, Milk | Turkey Sandwich Potato Smiles Strawberry Cups Milk | Spaghetti, Breadstick, Garden Salad Mandarin Oranges Milk | Pizza Hut Pizza Corn Sidekicks Milk | Hamburger on Bun French Fries Peaches Milk |
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ESTILL SPRINGS BREAKFASTS

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| Cocoa Puffs or Cinnamon Poptart Toast, Pears Asst. Juice Milk Choices | Pancake Porky/Syrup or Cinn. Toast Crunch/Graham Snacks, Applesauce Asst. Juice, Milk | Yogurt/Cheese Sticks/Graham Snacks or Trix/ Strawberry Poptart, Mandarin Oranges | Biscuit/Gravy/Sausage or Biscuit/ Lucky Charms Apple Asst. Juice, Milk | Asst. Muffins Fruit Loops Peaches Asst. Juice Milk Choices |
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ESTILL SPRINGS LUNCHES

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|--|--|--|---|--|
| Chicken Nuggets, Roll Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Apple Milk | Deli Turkey & Cheese on bun, Chips Pork and Beans Romaine Salad/Ranch Peaches, Milk | Beef 'n Mach Steamed Broccoli Fresh Cauliflower/Dip Pears Milk | Pizza Hut Pizza Corn Grape Tomatoes/Dip Orange Milk | Pizza Munchable Pepperoni/Loche Bread Mozz. Cheese, Marinara, Raisins Baby Carrots/Dip |
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WEST IRVINE BREAKFASTS

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| Breakfast Pizza or Cinn. Toast Crunch Pineapple Tidbits Juice, Milk | Biscuit & Gravy or Lucky Charms Grapes Juice, Milk | Mini Pancakes/Syrup or Cocoa Puffs Mandarin Oranges Juice, Milk | Scrambled Egg Extravaganza/Toast or Cinn. Toast Crunch/ Toast, Peach Cup | Assorted Muffins or Cocoa Krispies Apple Juice, Milk |
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WEST IRVINE LUNCHES

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| Fried Chicken, Roll Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Apple Milk | Deli Turkey Wrap Shred. Cheese Stir Fry Vegetables Carrot & Cucumbers/Dip, A-sauce | Baked Spaghetti Bread, Corn Romaine Salad Side Kick or Apple Milk | Hot Dog/Bun Potato Smiles Baked Beans Peaches Milk | Pizza Hut Pizza Corn Grape Tomatoes/Dip Strawberry Cup Milk, Ice Cream |
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ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST

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| Breakfast Pizza Frosted Flakes Cereal Bars Poptarts, Fruit | Sausage & Biscuit Fruit Loots, Cereal Bars, Poptarts Pineapples | Mini Pancakes/syrup Cocoa Puffs, Cereal Bars, Poptarts Applesauce | Breakfast Bun Trix Cereal, Cereal Bars, Poptarts Banana | Egg Sliders, Cinn. Toast Crunch Cereal Bars, Poptart Mandarin Oranges |
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ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL LUNCH

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| Chicken Tenders Buffalo Ch. Tenders Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Mandarin Oranges Apples | Sausage Link Biscuit & Gravy Hash Brown Grape Tomatoes Cooked Apples, Peaches, Milk | Pizza Hut Pizza Broccoli w/dip Corn, Mixed Fruit, Pineapples Fudge Bar Milk or Juice | Chicken Pot Pie or Chicken Pattie/Bun Roasted Broccoli Baked Beans Bananas/Sidekicks Milk or Juice | Fiestada Mexican Pizza or Taco Snax Garden Salad Carrot Sticks/Dip Mandarin Oranges Strawberry Cup |
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ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST

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| Sausage, Egg & Cheese Slider Cereal, Cereal Bars Pop Tarts, Mini Choc. Donuts, Fruit | Breakfast Pizza Pop Tarts Powdered Donuts Yogurt Parfait Oranges or Apples | Bacon, Egg, & Cheese Biscuit Pop Tarts, Yogurt Parfait, Mini Choc. Donuts, Fruit | Sausage Biscuit Pop Tarts Yogurt Parfait Mini Choc. Donuts Oranges or Apples | Extravaganza Wrap-Pop Tarts, Cereal Cereal Bars Mini Choc. Donuts Oranges or Apples |
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ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH

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| Bosco, Calzone Marinara Sauce, Green Beans Corn Sidekicks Tropical Fruit Juice Assorted Milk | Chicken Pattie/Bun Pizza Hut Pizza Let./Tom./Pickles Mashed Potatoes Watermelon Blueberry Apple-sauce | Hamburger/Bun Mini Corn Dogs Let./Tom./Pickles Garden Salad Potato Wedges Baked Beans Pineapples, Peaches Juice, Asst. Milk | Roasted Chicken, Roll, Mr. Rib/Bun Let./Tom./Pickles Broccoli & Cheese Baked Potato Bar Pears Applesauce Juice, Asst. Milk | Hamburger Helper Roll, Fish on Bun Scalloped Potatoes Peas Mandarin Oranges Pineapples Juice Asst. Milk |
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