

OPINIONS

The opinion page does not reflect the views of the KyNewsGroup.



Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

By Charles Mattox

I recently got caught up in a movement that seems to be growing faster than I can keep up with in the world of collections and collectors. I'm known as a Native American/ Pioneer his-

tory, kind of a guy, and I know more than a little about most kinds of artifacts a person might stumble across around here, so I thought my collecting habits were confined to the world of the Indian.

About two months ago, I got on a kick of collecting toys and comic books.

No, really.... Action figures, and ... comic books... about action heroes lol.

I didn't have a lot of toys when I was growing up, but this column isn't devoted to my attempt to "out-poor" anybody. I mean; compared to my three older brothers and my older sister, I came out like a fat rat at Christmas every year growing up, so I can' complain

about sad Christmases as a child. They were lavish in my memories!

No, with the action figures and comic books it seems to be a pure, attention to detail, old school collecting bug that has bitten me.

I like that you can buy cool, Hotwheels cars at the local dollar stores for \$1.25.

Some of those bad boys we all slung around as children in the mid 70s are worth a small fortune now, as are many items which were very common items in my youth.

Of course, that was when people actually laughed out loud at the notion of some poor soul trying to make a living by selling bottled wa-

ter! Unheard of!

I'm drawn to Spiderman, dear reader; and Batman more so.

And yes, Obi-Wan-Kenobi and crew.

The beauty of the comic book art is astounding and rare copies fetch good money, although I'm not in it for the money.

I wish I had got on the Star Wars kick back in the day, when it first hit the big screen and then the action figures hit the store shelves'.

A rocket-launcher Boba Fett figure brought in just over \$200,000 in March of 2022 and similar numbers for early action figures are equally as expensive, as are collector cards of the

same.

Comic books and baseball cards seem to be on the rise now but they have always caught the attention of the public in years past; peaking and waning in different seasons.

Joe Public Consumer is way past just having the Star Trek conventions to go to now, and it's hard to see where the trend is going.

My ten-year-old son, Cassidy has a little interest in my new collection but his keen urge to walk the fields and look for Native American artifacts continues to grow with each outing, He, I and his Mom, Amber, go on.

He actually gave me a

Daredevil figure he had the other day, and with a big old grin, said I could add it to my collection.

He's the best and had it not have been for that dreadful 21-pound tumor that was removed from one of Amber's ovaries (along with ovary) three years ago, Cassidy would be collecting little brothers, if I had my way.

But enough of the fantasizing for now.

There are Spiderman's to collect.

May the Force Be with you, dear reader..



By Cecil Lawson

I took some time after work earlier this week to plant some raspberry starts in our little berry garden. As I was weeding, I watched a few birds visited our set of feeders – a purple finch, titmice, cardinals, a mockingbird, and some bluejays. Later in the evening, I consulted a couple of field guides to

birds to confirm my identifications, and I immediately thought of my mother.

She took up birdwatching later in life. She had a bird feeder hanging from one of the maple trees in the front yard, and she would watch them from the kitchen table through the large sliding glass door. I got her a nice pair of binoculars for Christmas one year, and she made good use of them. She also kept a tattered copy of Peterson's Field Guide to Eastern Birds on top of the refrigerator.

Mom was not a fan of the colder months, which brought out a deep mel-

ancholy in her, but she seemed to enjoy the winter birds, especially the little juncos. I remember that she would call me to the kitchen to see those little gray birds when they returned to the feeder each year. In the spring, it was the rufous towhee that got her excited, and the occasional meadowlark. She fussed about the mockingbird, who parked himself on the utility pole in the front yard in the later spring and repeated his lovelorn 30-plus songs at all hours of the day and night.

She delved deeper into birds after I bought her

a Kindle. She was never interested in owning a laptop, but she indulged her interests by surfing the internet and keeping a Pinterest board. She learned the hummingbird forecasts for Kentucky, and sure enough, there they were, zipping and swarming at incredible speeds around the red feeder on the porch all summer.

When my parents and I traveled out west a couple of decades ago, some of the first books we bought were field guides to the Midwestern prairie, and there was Mom, noting all the bewildering variety of prairie grasses and bird

species. It's the only time I ever noticed her keeping a journal of everything she saw along the way. She was in awe of a line of cottonwood trees along a roadside stop in southern Idaho that was full of American bald eagles.

She was not interested in exotic or rare species, only taking time to appreciate the local birds in their splendid ordinariness. She appreciated getting to see other critters, the local mother deer and her fauns each year passing through the yard during the early morning hours; well-fed ground hogs shambling through the neighbor's

garden; and the occasional box turtle passing through the back field.

I've held on to her binoculars, bird book, and travel journal. We both shared a deep appreciation for nature. She's been gone just over two years now, and I have felt her loss more deeply this spring than last year. I miss calling her up during the day at work to share a funny encounter, and I miss her telling me about her latest bird sightings. All the more reason to keep the feeder filled and my eyes peeled to the field's edge.

From the Table

By Tim Bailey

Well, on another late-night ride on the big yellow Greyhound I got to talking with the bus driver. I usually fall asleep, not because of my age but to keep from getting bus sick. In this case it wasn't a very long ride, and we were on the straight and narrow (I-64). We talked mostly about how people have changed

over the years. She was a student when I first started teaching, but we will not say much more about that though.

One of the things brought up besides how people have changed was, of all things, home remodeling. I had said that I had just got back into my place after a lot of things that had been going on with life and that I need to do a few things to it. She then brought up one she knew who had to get out of the house so that she could have a trailer brought in.

So, in place of staying with someone, she just did a makeover of the stripping room and stayed there till her place was ready.

That got me to thinking back to the Bachelor's Flat. I don't know why I named it that, but the best I can recall back in the 60's the Beatles had a cartoon series on TV and they talked about their flat. One day while the boys were up (Doug, Deweese, JT, and Oscar) I said I wanted to go to the bachelor's flat and it stuck. I stayed many nights at the flat. The small

house where the four lived at the time probably felt like a castle compared to only a few years before when 11 lived there. Anyway, this is leading up to the renovation story.

The four, well at least two, thought more room was needed, so along with the building of a new cistern, an extra room was planned. Although before work could be started, something like the lady earlier had to be made. So off to the barn they went. I thought it was fun, but I am sure it was a little aggravation for those involved having to set up a new sleeping quarters and walking to your bedroom every night, but they did work it out, to be in the summer again I thought it was fun. During those weekends at the flat I was involved with many fun things. Good thing mom never found out, or she may have she had ways. We will not go in to detail now, but in later episodes of the Bachelor's Flats we may.

That said take care of yourself, mother nature and ALWAYS BE KIND.

Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)
Plan and Budget Available for Public Inspection

Gateway Community Action's Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Annual Plan and Budget Proposal for the 2025-2026 fiscal year will be available for public review on Gateway Community Action's Facebook page and agency website: <http://gatewaycaa.org/reports> on **Friday, April 18, 2025** For more information, or to leave comments you can email shelva.rowe@gatewaycaa.org or contact our office at 606-743-3133 or 1-800-927-1833. You can also review the Plan and Budget in Person at any of the outreach locations on Friday, **April 25, 2025**.

CSBG is a statewide initiative sponsored by Community Action Kentucky partnership with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. These funds are in whole or in part under contract with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services through the CSBG Act of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Published in the Bath County News Outlook, Menifee County News Outlook, & Rowan County News on 04.24 & 05.01 of 2025

INVITATION TO BID
MENIFEE COUNTY FISCAL COURT
FRENCHBURG, KENTUCKY

The Menifee County Fiscal Court will receive sealed bids for the Softball and Baseball Field Improvements in Frenchburg, Kentucky. Bids will be opened on May 22, 2025 at 2:00 pm (local time), at a public bid opening at the Menifee County Fiscal Court Room on the 2nd floor of the courthouse. Bids must be received by the designated date and time and none will be considered thereafter. Bidders are invited to be present for the opening of the bids submitted.

The PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held on May 7, 2025 at 2:00 pm at the existing baseball field located at 820 County Park Baseball Road, Frenchburg, KY.

Project Description: The project will consist of turf field upgrades, new press boxes, field lighting, and chain link fencing. Alternate bids will be as described in the bidding documents and section 01800 Alternates. The detailed language specific to each bid package is located in section 01900 of the project manual.

Bids Packages:
BP 010 Site
BP 020 Concrete
BP 030 General Trades
BP 260 Electric
BP 320 Fencing

Packs + Walker LLC is the Construction Manager for this project, acting as an agent for the Menifee County Fiscal Court, and acting on the owner's behalf in soliciting your proposal. Each successful bidder shall execute a contract directly with the Construction Manager.

A FREE digital downloadable set of plans and specifications are available at Lynn Imaging in Lexington, KY (contact www.lynnimaging.com or call (800) 888-0693). A complete set of hard copy bid documents are also available at Lynn Imaging. Contractors may purchase hardcopy sets at their own expense and only complete sets of bid documents will be issued.

Plans and specifications may also be examined at the following locations:

- Office of the Architect: CMW Inc, 249 East Main Street, Lexington, KY
- Office of the Construction Manager: Packs + Walker LLC, 200 Apperson Heights Suite 200, Mt. Sterling, KY and 75 Baldridge Road, Morehead, KY
- Owner: Menifee County Fiscal Court, 12 Main Street, Frenchburg, KY
- McGraw-Hill Construction Dodge (requires log-in) – www.construction.com
- Builders Exchange, 961 Beasley St #240, Lexington, KY 40509
- Construction Data Document Processing (CMD): www.cmdgroup.com

Proposal forms must be properly filled out and submitted as one original copy. No qualifying letters or statements will be considered. Submitted bids may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the bid opening date.

All bidders must complete the form of proposal (FOP) from the project manual and label as indicated in Section 01900. Each proposal form must be properly filled out and submitted as one original copy. No qualifying letters or statements will be considered. Submitted bids may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the bid opening date. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a cashier's or certified check (to the Menifee County Fiscal Court), or bid bond, executed by the bidder and surety company, IN THE SUM OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE AMOUNT OF THE BID PROPOSAL. The bid security is required as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted a contract will be immediately entered into and the performance of it properly secured. In the event the bidder to whom the contract is awarded fails to execute a satisfactory contract and bond, he shall be eliminated and shall forfeit his certified check, cash or his bid bond and shall be liable for the loss occasioned by the owner by such failure. Any bid which is not received on a timely basis or in the proper form shall be returned unopened. The Owner may also elect to waive the Performance and Payment Bond requirement. The P&P Bond breakout shall be provided on the form of proposal (see Deductive Alternate #4).

The owner reserves the right to waive informalities, and to reject any and all bids received, and to select that bid which it determines to be in its best interest. The award for this bid will be made on the basis of the lowest bid price as permitted in KRS 45A.365.

Published in the Flemingsburg Gazette 05.09.25

Gateway Plumbing
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

Andrew Ferrell
Master Plumber

(606)768-2730
330 Tower Road,
Frenchburg, KY 40322
Commercial & Residential Service

Service Area:
Bath, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Powell, Rowan and Wolfe County

CITY OF SHARPSBURG
PAST DUE TAX-2024

Gallagher, David & Rosemary	74.11
Gallagher, David & Rosemary	32.19
Haney, Wenford	175.75
Sah Anita Kumari	501.45
Stop N Shop, LLC	1397.55
\$ 2,181.05	

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LEGAL NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID

The Bath County Fiscal Court will be accepting bids for asphalt pave milling and texturing from Highway 36 through the City of Sharpsburg, to the stoplight, starting at 3.24 miles and ending at 4.552 miles.

All bids must be received by the Bath County Fiscal Court no later than Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 4 p.m.

Bids will be opened on Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 10 a.m.

Bids may be mailed to:
Bath County Fiscal Court
P.O. Box 39
Owingsville, KY 40360

Or dropped off at:
Bath County Courthouse Annex - Judge/Executive's Office
19 East Main Street
Owingsville, KY 40360

Bids should be sealed and marked as SEALED BID on outside of envelope.

The Bath County Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Forrest McKenzie
Judge/Executive

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Cooperative Extension Service

Custodian
Bath County
RE48952
Deadline: 5/14/2025

Apply on-line at: <https://ukjobs.uky.edu/postings/568581>

For assistance call:
606-674-6121

The University of Kentucky is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The address of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment EEO Officer is Room S-105 Agricultural Science Building North, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0091.