



## “Stories of My Life”

By Shelby Roy Hopkins

### What If Your Dreams Came True?

Last night my good friend Kevin and I went to Rockcastle County to see the Rockets play basketball. He invited me to go to the game with him and I gladly accepted. My season of announcing for the Garrard County Golden Lions concluded last Friday evening when the boys closed out their regular season at home. I have been to Rockcastle County on numerous occasions to watch both basketball and football, so this trip wasn't unusual in the slightest. I have always been a basketball fan and have remained involved with it throughout my life.

As Kevin and I sat there and enjoyed the game, the atmosphere was pleasant, and the people were friendly. As often happens, my mind soon hearkened back to the days of my youth. In 1973, while watching the Crab Orchard Cubs play the Rockcastle County Rockets (in a different gymnasium), I remember vividly a pretty young cheerleader for the Cubs who seemed to be giv-

ing me an unusual bit of attention. I spent more of that evening nearly 50 years ago paying attention to the young lady than I did the basketball game. I kept glancing at her, trying not to be noticed. When you're 16 years old, it's highly important to not "send the wrong signal."

I started school at Crab Orchard in the fall of 1972. I was a Junior and had gone to Garrard County my first two years of high school. My family's move to Lincoln County necessitated my changing schools. I quickly became acquainted with many of my new classmates. At the time, I didn't realize I was either somewhat or distantly related to many of these new friends. I found my new environment to be exciting and fun. Making acquaintance with the people in Broughtontown over the previous summer had given me an opportunity to at least know a few of these new boys and girls I was now making daily contact with. My mind was full of cheer-

ful thoughts as I laid down to rest that evening. The pretty young girl who had flirted with me earlier kept appearing to me as I tried to get to sleep. I wondered, "Was she just being friendly?" "Maybe she acts that way to everyone." "Maybe my overactive imagination has sabotaged my rational thinking." Or, "Maybe, just maybe, this pretty little girl really did like me." A conflicted mind sometimes makes sleep very elusive.

Crab Orchard High School was much smaller than Garrard County had been, and it was easy to meet nearly every high school student throughout the day. I was glad whenever I met this girl during my daily pilgrimage. Each time I saw her, I smiled, and she always smiled back at me. I never had the courage to say anything to her. I passed it off in my mind as not appearing overanxious. In reality, I don't know if I had ever actually "talked" with a member of the opposite sex in the realm of this "boyfriend/girlfriend" construct.

By the end of March, the school was going to host a dance for the students. I was anxious to go although I didn't know how to dance, nor had I ever been to a dance. I was just anxious to

be around this pretty girl who seemed to like me just a bit. If I remember correctly, she and I spent some time together when some of us helped decorate the cafeteria for the big event. These hurried moments with her accelerated my desire to get to know her better. In my mind's eye, this young lady seemed perfect to me.

The night of the dance arrived, and there I met the girl of my dreams. Sleep had been elusive for me in the nights leading up to the dance. I was always supremely confident in any of my endeavors, but this challenge was imposing. I was overwhelmed emotionally and unfit psychologically as I entered this new stage of my life.

I got up the nerve to ask her for a dance and she readily accepted. I apologized for my feeble attempts at dancing. I was awkward, backward, and pathetic. She just smiled and lied to me when she said, "You're doing just fine." I appreciated her kindness but wondered a bit about her truthfulness. I guess we danced together three or four times. Still as unsure as I could be, we sat down at a table and took a break. The crowded dance floor patrons breathed a sigh

of relief as I exited the floor, glad to see this perfectly incapable young man not embarrass himself any longer.

In just a bit, the band began to play a slow song. Deb and I got up to dance. It was my first attempt at slow dancing. I thought to myself, "I can't do any worse than I did on the fast dances." As I hugged this young lady for the very first time, I couldn't help but notice she wasn't trying to break loose and run screaming out the door. I took that to be a positive sign and held her just a bit closer.

Swaying slowly back and forth with a minimum of movement as I held her in my arms, I thought to myself, "This slow dancing is fun, and seemingly much less dangerous than the faster variety. I'm not sensing anything abhorrently wrong with the situation at hand. Maybe this dancing thing isn't so bad after all."

Just a few seconds later, she looked up at me as I looked at her. Without my brain being fully engaged, I bent down to kiss her. Magically, she kissed me back. This uncharted territory was so foreign to me, yet somehow we clicked. I held her tighter until the dance was over, and we returned to our seats. This evening turned out to be very special and we both hated to see it end.

Deb and I began "going steady" a few days later. After dating for 4½ years, we were married. Now, after over 45 years of marriage, two children, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, and a most fabulous grandchild, we are still together and love one another more than we ever have.

Today is Valentine's Day. Deb and I spent most of the day together updating and refreshing Deb's mom's house. Her 90-year-old mother has been staying with us after suffering a broken hip a couple of months ago. Our desire is to eliminate any tripping hazards and such like from her surroundings as well as freshen up her house just a bit. She is recovering nicely and is expected to make a full recovery.

Defying every bit of "Valentine Day's etiquette," our day was far different than most on this special lover's holiday. Deb and I didn't go to fancy restaurant to eat. We didn't give one another a Valentine's Day card. I didn't buy her any flowers. I did kiss her (several times) and tell her I love her, just as I do every day. Today was an absolutely perfect day. I believe with all my heart that God sent Deb to me, and I give him all the glory. With Deb by my side, every one of my dreams has come true.

## Noise

### From Front

Elleman presented a request to the court seeking a variance to the existing noise ordinance. The proposal would extend the permitted noise hours on weekends from 11:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. The request applies specifically to all lake marinas within the county during

the late season of 2026 and includes areas around Sunset Marina.

Judge Executive Elleman explained that the intent of the request was to provide consistency for marina operations during the late season while still maintaining defined limits on noise levels. The proposed variance would temporarily adjust the current ordinance rather than permanently amend it.

Following the presentation, a motion to approve the variance was made by Magistrate Glendan Barker and seconded by Magistrate Wayne Day. The court then proceeded to a roll call vote.

Magistrate Barker voted in favor of the motion. Magistrate Preston initially voiced opposition but ultimately voted in favor. Magistrate Butner and Davis also voted yes. With a major-

ity of affirmative votes, the motion carried.

As a result of the court's action, lake marinas in Garrard County will be permitted to operate under the extended noise allowance on weekends until midnight during the late season of 2026, subject to the terms of the approved variance.



206 LEXINGTON ST.  
LANCASTER KY 40444  
859 304-3057  
GARRARDARTS.ORG

### Valentine Painting Class on Saturday, February 14

Register now for our Valentine Painting Class with Bobbie Gayle on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Romantic couples

OR friend couples can register together for just \$30. Class fee is \$25 for individual members and \$30 for individual non-members. All supplies are included. Pre-registration required for class. Call 859-304-3057 to reserve your spot.

**NEW!! Acting & Drama Classes for Children, Teens and Adults**  
Learn acting skills with trained actress Allyson Stathers. We hope to create a community theatre group! Bring notebook, water and a positive attitude. Call 859-304-3057 to register.

- Adult Acting class: ages 18 and up, \$20 per person - First class on Monday, February 23 - 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- Teen Acting class: ages 12-17, \$15 per person - First class on Thursday, February 27 - 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Child acting class: ages 5-11, \$10 per person. First class on Tuesday, March 3 - 4:30-5:30 p.m.

### DEADLINE EXTENDED - Enter Pet Photo and Art Exhibit to Raise Funds for Garrard County Animal Shelter

Enter your pet art and photography in our February exhibit - "Pets: Art's Best Friend." Open to all ages and all forms of art. Garrard Arts Exhibits are FREE to enter. NEW deadline is Tuesday, February 17, 2026. Rules at garrardarts.org.

All entries will be exhibited at Garrard Public Library. For \$1, you can vote for your favorite and all proceeds will be donated to the Garrard County Animal Shelter.

### Garrard Arts Kentucky History & Heritage Photo Contest

Celebrate America's 250th Birthday by showcasing your photographs. Entries are due Tuesday, March 10th at Garrard Arts, 206 Lexington St, Lancaster Ky. Photos must depict Kentucky history or heritage. Full contest rules here

<https://garrardarts.org/exhibits-%26-contests>

What is the difference between history and heritage? History is what happened in the past. Heritage is what it means to us, how we remember and commemorate, the stories we tell. Heritage is happening now; history occurred in the past. A photo of a historical site or building is history; a photo of the commemoration of a historical event is heritage.

### Information About Joining Garrard Arts

To learn more information about joining Garrard Arts and the many opportunities to make art, support the arts, or teach art, visit our website at garrardarts.org or visit the Garrard Arts Center at the historical Wherritt House at 206 Lexington Street in Lancaster. The Garrard Arts Center is open Tuesday through Saturday.

Follow our Facebook page @garrardcountyartscouncil and Instagram @garrard\_arts

## Jail Budget

### From Front

ditions were tracking favorably seven months into the current fiscal year, noting that careful daily reviews of inmate-related line items had contributed to improved cost control. He explained that the previous year's jail budget totaled \$538,500, but collaboration with County Treasurer Jennifer Seagraves resulted in a proposed reduction while still leaving what officials believe is sufficient

flexibility to address unforeseen expenses.

Elleman emphasized that medical costs remain the most unpredictable component of the jail budget, even though expenses related to housing inmates from other counties can generally be averaged based on existing contracts. Despite an increase in the per-inmate rate paid to Jessamine County—from \$32 to \$40 during the current fiscal year—overall spending trends remained positive, according to the judge

executive.

Additional savings were achieved through reductions in several areas, including contracts with other counties, jail gasoline expenses, conference costs, and adjustments to Social Security and retirement contributions. Elleman said these shifts helped support the proposed lower budget figure without compromising operations.

County Treasurer Jennifer Seagraves explained that changes to Social Security and retirement line items

were influenced by incentive payments and routine annual increases, while base salary figures already accounted for those adjustments.

Following the discussion, a motion to approve the \$525,000 jail budget for fiscal years 2026–2027 was made and seconded, passing unanimously, with all members voting in favor.

# Treasurer Metcalf Announces 2026 Updates To STABLE Kentucky As Program Reaches \$23 Million In Assets

Kentucky State Treasurer Mark H. Metcalf on January 29, 2026 announced major updates to STABLE Kentucky that will make the program more accessible and affordable for individuals with disabilities and their families.

"These updates strengthen an already powerful program," said Treasurer Metcalf. "By lowering costs, expanding eligibility, and building on the success we've already seen, we're helping more Kentuckians with disabilities achieve financial security and indepen-

dence."

Since Treasurer Metcalf took office, STABLE Kentucky has experienced significant growth. Today, the program manages more than \$23 million in assets and serves families in 102 of Kentucky's 120 counties — reflecting strong statewide demand and trust in the program.

STABLE Kentucky is the Commonwealth's version of the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) program, allowing eligible individuals to save and invest without losing access to criti-

cal benefits.

Key changes beginning in 2026 include:

Elimination of the account maintenance fee for partner-state account holders.

\$25 enrollment incentive for new accounts once funded.

Expanded eligibility for individuals whose disability began before age 46.

"These improvements remove barriers and put more control in the hands of families," said Jordyn Pennington, Director of STABLE Kentucky. "With STABLE now in nearly every county,

more families are building real financial independence."

Funds in STABLE accounts grow tax-free and can be used for qualified disability expenses such as housing, healthcare, education, and transportation — without affecting eligibility for programs like Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

To learn more or open an account, visit [www.stablekentucky.com](http://www.stablekentucky.com) or call 1-800-439-1653.

Garrard Central Record  
**Classifieds**

**FOR RENT**  
FOR RENT: 2 bedroom, 1 bath house; 2 bedroom 1-1/2 bath duplex; and 1 bedroom apartment, utilities furnished. Call 606-669-1020 or 859-339-0452. (03-14-tfc)

**CLASSIC CARS**  
BUYING CLASSIC CARS - Cash paid for 1930's, 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's - running or not. We will be in your area. CALL NOW 513-403-7386. (1-15-26tp)

**FAMILY MINISTRY**  
GCCP/FAMILY MINISTRY CENTER is open for shopping on Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. We have clothing for the entire family, household good, and antiques, etc. We are closed the second week of every month. Call 792-3300 if you need anything.

**FLEA MARKET**  
New and used items arriving weekly at COUNTY LINE FLEA MARKET, locally owned and operated, 2794 Stanford Road, Lancaster. Booths \$125 per month. More booths and new vendors. See Tom or Shirley, Peggy, Eddie and Ernie or call 859-792-6853 or 502-370-8777. NOW OPEN seven days a week! (6-12-tfc)

**STORAGE UNITS**  
859-792-3562 859-339-9584  
**SOUTHSIDE STORAGE**  
Climate Controlled • Well Lighted • 24-7 Surveillance  
Stanford Road - Hwy. 27 South • Lancaster

**U-LOCK-EM Storage Units**  
US 27 In North Garrard  
8 Miles From Lancaster.  
10 ft. x 24 ft. With 8 Ft. Doors  
GREAT FOR BOATS, RECREATIONAL VEHICLES AND ALL YOUR STORAGE NEEDS.  
859-339-1122 (8-17-tfc)

**PRECISION STORAGE**  
Climate Controlled  
5 x 8 • 8 x 10  
10 x 10 • 10 x 12  
24/7 Security Surveillance  
Call 859-792-1455 or 859-339-0840

**LEGAL NOTICE**

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
GARRARD DISTRICT COURT  
PROBATE NO. 26-P-0005  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMY HARRISON DECEASED

All claims against the estate of Jimmy Harrison, deceased, must be presented to Nancy Camel, 4540 KY Hwy. 39 W., Crab Orchard, KY 40419, Executrix of the Estate of Jimmy Harrison or to the attorney Jonathan Baker, P.O. Box 225, Stanford, KY 40484 within 6 months after February 9, 2026.

/s/Dana Hensley, Circuit Clerk  
Garrard District Court  
Garrard Justice Center  
54 Stanford Street  
Lancaster, KY 40444  
(2-12-11c)

**REQUEST FOR PURCHASE**  
Bluegrass 911 Central Communications is seeking bids to replace/upgrade the current radio communications console that has been in operation for over ten years. The system will include up to ten positions with components be compatible with current 24 channels used in radio systems in four service county area utilizing, VHF-P25, VHF Analog, UHF Analog and VHF Digital.

Please contact Director Russ Clark, 278 Precision Court, Lancaster, KY. 40444 for information 859-792-7124 russ.clark@bluegrass911.gov  
Bids must be received by March 1, 2026 at 4 P.M. (2-12-21c)

**POSTED**  
We positively will not permit fixed hunting of any character, fishing, dogs or trespassing on our farms. Any violations will be prosecuted. \$2.00 per week or \$51 per year for posted list.

• Michael & Dana Carrier, 2539 Kelly Ridge Road.....	5-26	• The Brenda Farms 4870 Harmons Lick Road & Hamilton Valley Road.....	10-26
• Danny & Judy Browning's property at end of Conn's Lane.....	10-26	• Vockery property on Polly's Bend Road.....	10-26
• Carolyn Sparks property at 5252 Lexington Road.....	7-26	• Noah Waggoner and Kelsey Perkins, 10997 Buckeye Road.....	11-25
• Paul Black Farms, Hwy. 1355 (Sugar Creek Road).....	10-26	• Mary and George Watkins property at 2961 Gabbard Road.....	11-25
• Paul and Suzanne Wells at 4129 White Lick Road, Paint Lick.....	10-26	• Hugh and Amy Johnson, 6198 Lexington Road.....	6-26
• Tammy Fowler, 749 Nina Ridge Road.....	10-26	• Dale Marie Hellard - Barbara French & William Randall Causey Farms at 2178 Hamilton Valley Road, 2636 Hamilton Valley Road And 1454 Hamilton Valley Road.....	8-26
• Mike and Pam Fathergill, 111 Lynnwood Drive.....	6-26	• Frank and Althea Rice, 390 Leavell Ridge Road, 372 Leavell Ridge Road and Rice Farm at Three Forks, all of Lancaster, KY.....	10-26
• Chris and Joy Fathergill, 317 Richmond Street.....	6-26		
• Mary Alice (Paul) Drew, 810 Carry Nation Road Property.....	6-26		
• Kathy Tuggle & Paula Tudor - Jim Clark Road.....	11-26		
• David M. and Rose Walker, 1163 Wolf Trail Road.....	2-26		
• The Kenton Property, 795 and 719 C Valley Drive, Berea.....	7-26		
• Grover Drew Farm, Carry Nation Road.....	3-26		
• Doug and Anna Graves, 319 Richmond Road, Loop 2.....	8-26		

Rates For Posted List - \$2 Per Week, First Property \$51 Per Year - \$10 Each Additional Property