In memory of our Dad, Daniel Reis

By Tammy Reis Brown

It's been thirty years since Dad took his last breath, half of my life lived without

We think about Dad and miss him everyday. Our hearts will never be the same. Throughout his life, Dad taught my sisters and I how to live through his actions. Dad was a kind soul who would give the shirt off his back; he taught us to give to

He worked in construction and was proud of his projects; he taught us work ethic. Gardening, cooking and taking 4 girls fishing were some of his favorite things; he taught us to have patience.

He loved our Mom and his 4 "brown-eyed girls"; he taught us to love unconditionally.

His time in the military was a source of pride; he taught us to respect our country. He had a humorous personality and loved a good joke; he taught us to

He understood the importance of paying your bills; he taught us about saving money (and opened savings accounts for us).

We didn't know he was teaching us, he just modeled these things for us to see. He left us way too soon, but he showed us how to live by his actions.

Mom continues to teach us, and for that, we are thankful. We love Dad and will miss him for the rest of our lives.

> Sadly missed by daughters, Kim, Tammy, Kerri, Wendy and grandchildren

Treasures by Wilma Erwin

wisdom.

Some of you may remember one of Clint Eastwood's old movies in which he made the statement: "A man's got to know his limitations." The implication of those words leads us to believe, if we don't "know", there might be dire consequences. If care is not exercised, an area that can become quite troubling is "over-commitment." It is not uncommon for us to assume more and more responsibilities and duties, while making promises along with the onerous expectations from others; to the degree that we allow everyone else's obligations to become our own. If we do that, soon we will be living as frustrated as they

We may well confess that we like to please people by being the go-to-person, the loyal-team-player, the super mom or dad, the ideal can't seem to say, "No." I lost buoyancy. Plimsoll de-

excess. What life can bring weighty burdens others, may not be to our was full to capacity. well-being; even our "actslimitations.

pleasures and so much lost at sea from being overnothing to determine load much weight could be carmulti-tasker, the one who ried on each vessel before it

Today I have a treat from truly appreciate the good vised a system of drawing Rev. Ron Reese, a man I heartedness of well-mean- two parallel lines on the truly admire for his life and ing people, but even the best sides of the ship. The botintentions can be taken to tom line marked the water surface level of the ship bemay prove to be very fore being loaded. His secto ond line marked how deep a carry. Our own problems, ship was allowed to go along with the struggles of down into the water when it

It is not difficult to see the of-kindness" must have its similarities of Plimsoll and what we often do in trying Let me illustrate this by to carry too big of a introducing you to Samuel load. For safety's sake, we Plimsoll, a British politician need to know when to in 1898. He is credited for Back-off, Back-down or legislation in shipping that even Back-out. We are the has impacted the world. ones who must determine Shipping has been vital for when we are becoming centuries. It provides for overloaded. God never cargo, travel, military, made us to carry the world. I cannot do everymore. Before Plimsoll's leg-thing and neither can islation, there were no stan- you. Clint was right, "A dardized regulations of any man's got to know his limikind for watercraft. Unfor- tations." So, men, go out tunately, many vessels were and purchase that fishing license, which you have negloaded with cargo. With lected doing the last three years. Ladies, schedule that limitations, it was left for long over-due outing with a someone to guess how friend. Life can be more enjoyable and less stressful!

Blessings Upon Thee!

Reading is in my blood

By Tommy Druen

column before, my mother reading Bible passages, and is not a matter of access or was a school librarian. But by kindergarten, my teacher, resources—it is cultural. my lineage on this subject Mrs. Gail Miller, would And that realization troubles runs even deeper. Two of my often ask me to read the me even more. What does it grandparents served on the class stories aloud. local library board, and my Still, my greatest inspiration for reading may have come from a family member I never even met.

Clem Coomer, my second great-grandfather, was born in rural Adair County in 1877. Like so many of his generation, formal education was a luxury. The demands of the family farm precedence over school, and as a result, Clem it's about comprehension, spent much of his life not knowing how to read.

That changed when he met Miss Bertha Hamilton. Bertha was among the first graduates of Lindsey Wilson College and soon taught at a one-room schoolhouse in the community where Clem lived. Despite their vastly different backgrounds, the two fell in love and soon married. Already in his thirties, Clem learned to read under the patient instruction of his wife.

Naturally, I never knew Clem personally. But he lived to the age of 95, and both my mother and grandmother knew him well. Through their stories, I gathered a sense of who he was—a kind and compassionate man with a remarkable gift for storytelling. Yet what resonated with me most was his devotion to reading the Bible daily. For a man of deep faith who had been denied literacy for so long, the ability to read the Bible for himself was a est GDP in the world treasure, not just a skill.

I can't recall a time when I didn't know how to read. My parents undoubtedly played a role in teaching me, as did Nannie Bennett, who education has been the law cared for me as a child. I also credit my preschool since 1929, and we spend friends for assisting—pri- more per student on public marily the ones I found on education than almost every in Nashville: other country, exceeded

Sesame Street, The Letter only by Luxembourg, Nor-Reading is in my blood. People, and Read All About way, and Iceland. As I've mentioned in this It! By the age of four, I was

I cannot fathom life withuncle was a book dealer. out the ability to read. Be- Ray Bradbury once warned, yond the joy of literature, literacy is fundamental to learning. Every class I ever took—regardless of subject—demanded reading. And, in adulthood, I can't the choir, because you are imagine trying to function reading this yourself. But without understanding how to read books, newspapers, internet sources or manuals. But literacy is not merely about recognizing words; read to your children or critical thinking, and the ability to build upon knowledge. It is the most essential of all essential skills.

Given its importance, I was pleasantly surprised to need to read more, if no learn that the global adult literacy rate now stands at 86.3%. That figure exceeded my expectations. But any optimism I had quickly vanished when I discovered that the United States lags behind at just 86.0%. That's right—our nation below the global average.

A deeper dive into the data only worsened my dismay. The U.S. has the lowest literacy rate among industrial-Every ized nations. European country surpasses us—our closest Greece, stands at 97.9%. Even within the Americas, we rank below every nation except Belize, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, where access to education remains a

significant challenge. How did we get here? The United States has the highnearly double that of China, our closest competitor. Our total national wealth and median per capita income lead the globe. Compulsory of the land in all 50 states

For Americans, illiteracy say about our values? What does it mean for our future? "You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop read-

ing them." I realize I'm preaching to take note of how much time you spend reading versus scrolling through your phone. How often do you grandchildren? Do people see you putting value towards literacy? It doesn't have to be a literary classic. It doesn't even have to be of high quality. People just other reason than to practice, and appreciate the skill that so many wish they had.

I have no doubt Clem Coomer would agree.

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Black Oak Community Cemetery

Notice to the people who have family buried in the Black Oak Community Cemetery. It is that time of year again when we need donations to help with the upkeep of the cemetery. In order to keep it mowed and trimmed it takes donations from you and everyone with family buried there. This also helps with improvenents that need to be made to keep the cemetery looking nice all year round. Telephone 606-532-8097. Please make check to: Black Oak Community Cemetery, c/o Roy Chinn, 124 Red Barn Lane, Vanceburg, KY 41179.

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An Encouraging Word

By Tom Cox



The Cornerstone

of their ways.

man planting a vineyard, failed to do so. He sent his Jesus, we build to no avail. renting it to some farmers and then going on a long journey. At harvest time the sponsibilities to be fruitful. vineyard owner sent a series However, the prophets were of servants to collect the routinely ignored, misrent, but the tenants shame- treated and even killed. Fifully treated the servants nally, God would send his with violence and even beloved Son Jesus. Alas, killed some of them. Fi- Jesus too would be rejected, nally, the vineyard owner mistreated and put to death sent his beloved son, think- on a cross. Therefore, God ing the tenants would re- will pour out his ultimate spect him. But they killed wrath on those who reject him too, reasoning that they Jesus. would then get the vineyard all for themselves. Jesus Jesus then referred his lis- reject Jesus, the cornerconcluded the story by say- teners to Psalm 118:22-23, ing that the owner would re- which says, "The stone the turn and kill the wicked builders rejected has betenants and give the vine- come the cornerstone; the yard to others.

yard is God. The vineyard the parable of the tenants; a nation of Israel. The tenants story Jesus told to his oppo- are the Israelite people, esnents to point out the error pecially the leaders. God expected the nation to pro-The story begins with a duce spiritual fruit, but they servants, the prophets, to remind the people of their re-

After telling this story, The owner of the vine- marvelous in our eyes."

The Bible often depicts In Mark 12:1-12 we read he planted represents the Jesus Christ as the cornerstone. Without Jesus there would be no kingdom of God, no church, and no salvation. Unless we build our lives on the cornerstone,

> At the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says that we have a choice to build our lives on the sand or on the rock. Foolish people build on the sand, and when the storms come, all they have built will be destroyed. On the other hand, wise people build on the rock, and when the storms come, what they have built will endure (Matthew 7:24-27).

Don't be foolish. Don't stone. Build your life upon the rock of our salvation.

For more inspirational writings by Tom Cox, go to Lord has done this, and it is www.jesustrek.wordpress.

Coyote sightings increase

rural and urban areas across Kentucky as coyotes roam more to search for mates, establish territories and raise outside lights and check the

Coyote pup rearing takes place in spring and early sum-

"People may worry when they think there are coyotes living near them, but there's usually no cause for alarm if you see one," said Laura Palmer, wildlife biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "Like other wildlife that live in and around neighborhoods and farms, and even in urban areas, coyotes are shy and will typi-

cally avoid humans." family, coyotes are mostly monogamous and form lasting pair bonds to raise their pups in established territories. Although coyotes are generally timid and wary of people, encounters with people and pets ing routes in the future to avoid can arise as they go about foraging, protecting their dens and feeding their pups.

many unfortunate misconceptions about coyotes, but conflicts can be easily avoided by having a basic understating of these wild animals."

Coyotes have been common in Kentucky for at least the past 50 years after spreading out across North America from the interior plains. Found in every state except Hawaii, and in every Kentucky county, most coyotes do not bother people, livestock or pets and most people do not even know coyotes are living near their homes.

Coyotes can live in any habitat from Alaska to Mexico, and have a varied diet consisting mostly of rodents, insects and fruit. They help maintain a natural balance in the ecosystem by providing natural rodent and insect control, scavenging and removing carrion from the environment, seed dispersal and more.

Coyotes are also opportunists and may take advantage of food around homes if an easy meal is available. A sick or injured coyote that is not able to forage on wild foods as efficiently, or young that have not learned to hunt effectively, may also sniff out food sources provided by humans.

"Do not feed coyotes - intentionally or unintentionally," Palmer said. "Don't leave your pet's food outside and don't feed feral cats, raccoons, deer or other wildlife. Be mindful that bird feeders may attract mice and squirrels, which could attract coyotes. Compost piles may also attract coyotes. Share this information with your neighbors - a united community approach is more effective at preventing issues in the first place."

As with any wild animal, coyotes can lose their fear of people if conditioned to depend on us for food, which can lead to conflict. Remove all potential food sources, clean grills and remove grease traps, secure garbage, and be extra vigilant with pets that may be

seen as prey or competition. Increased sightings of coy- Plug holes under fences, block otes may occur this spring in access to crawl spaces, and fence around yards and gardens. Pet owners should turn on

> yard for unwanted animals before letting pets outside. Pets should be kenneled or supervised when outside. When walking a dog, use a short, non-retractable leash that

> is highly visible and vary your walking routine. Do not let a dog chase or "play" with a coyote. Never feed or approach any wild animal to take pictures or

video. Observe and enjoy wildlife from a distance. "If someone sees a coyote when out for a stroll or while walking their dog, just know A member of the canine that coyotes are curious by nature," Palmer said. "Sometimes they follow people or dogs just to see what they are doing, or they may be guarding their pups that may be in an unnoticed den nearby. Alter walk-

> suspected den sites." Den sites may be in hollow trees or logs, rock crevices, abandoned buildings or junk piles.

> Coyotes are protective of their pups, born in spring or early summer, which stay in the den with the mother for about 3 weeks and learn to hunt when they are 8 to 12 weeks old. Family groups typically break up and disperse in late summer and early fall.

While coyotes are usually more afraid of people, some tips to keep in mind if approached by a coyote include: • Try to scare it away immediately. Don't stand and watch

• Shout, whistle, clap your holidays.



hands, stomp your feet and make some loud noise.

- Make yourself appear larger by waving your arms, widening your stance or wave a walking stick.
- Establish dominance. Take a step or lunge toward the coyote. Throw a rock or stick in its direction, but not directly at it.
- Pick up dogs and small • Keep scaring the coyote
- until it is out of sight. • Stay away from any known or potential dens. If you sus-

pect a den is nearby, slowly

back away from the area and

do not haze the coyote. Share these solutions with neighbors so everyone can work together.

Most coyotes do not cause "Don't be afraid and don't brush piles, abandoned conflict, but the ones that do panic," Palmer said. "There are groundhog burrows, or even may be removed individually by a licensed nuisance wildlife control operator, when necessary. Coyotes may also be hunted year-round, with no limit, with the appropriate hunting license and as allowed by local ordinances. Information and resources are available on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Coyotes webpage.

More information about coyotes and simple tips to avoid conflict may be found at the Urban Coyote Research Project or by calling Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Eastern) weekdays, excluding

Commonwealth of Kentucky Lewis CIRCUIT COURT Civil Action No. 17-CI-00114

KENTUCKY PROPERTY TAX SERVICE

PLAINTIFF

TAX EASE LIEN INVESTMENTS 1, LLC; BRIAN POPE: VONNIE POPE; PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC; APEX FUND SERVICES CUSTODIAN FOR CERES TAX RECEIVABLES, LLC; COUNTY OF LEWIS, KENTUCKY TOWN SQUARE BANK F/K/A HOME FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION: COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION CABINET NOTICE OF MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE

By virtue of a Summary Judgment, Default Judgment, and Order of Sale, enered in the Lewis Circuit Court on March 28, 2025, to raise the sum of \$8,824.87, plus interest, fees and costs, I will expose for sale to the highest and best bidder, at the Lewis County Courthouse, 112 Second Street, Vanceburg, Kentucky, 41179, on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., the fol lowing property:

A tract of land located at 184 Tin Can Alley, South Portsmouth, Kentucky 41174, and identified as Lewis Co. P.V.A. Parcel No.: 138-00-00-031.01. The land is more particularly described in the record of this action located in the office of the Lewis Circuit Court Clerk, where it can be reviewed upon request

Terms of the sale are as follows: (A) At the time of sale, the successful bidder shall either pay cash or make a deposit of 10% of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. In the event the successful bidder elects to credit the balance, said bidder shall post bond with surety acceptable to the Master Commissioner and pre-approved by the Master Commissioner at least by noon, two (2) business days before the sale date, as security for the unpaid purchase price, bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of the sale. The surety must be present at the sale and must own real estate in Kentucky, but may not be the successful bidder's spouse. A lien shall be retained by the Commissioner as security for the purchase price; (B) The purchaser shall assume and pay all taxes and assessments for the current fiscal year. (C) All other delinquent taxes and assessments for previous years shall be paid from the sale proceeds if properly claimed in writing and filed of record by the purchaser within ten (10) days from the date of sale; (D) If a successful bid is less than two-thirds of the appraised value, the defendant shall retain a right of redemption for six months from the date of sale; the purchaser shall receive an immediate writ of possession and a deed containing a lien in favor. receive an immediate writ of possession and a deed containing a lien in favor of the defendant reflecting the defendant's right of redemption. KRS 426.530; (E) The property shall otherwise be sold free and clear of any right, title and interest of all parties to the action and of their liens and encumbrances thereon excepting easements and restrictions of record in the Lewis County Clerk's Office, and such right of redemption as may exist in favor of the United States of America or the Defendant(s); (F) For more particulars, reference is made to the records of the Lewis Circuit Clerk; (G) Bidders are advised to obtain a title examination; (H) Exceptions must be filed not later than ten (10) days following the filing of the Commissioner's Report of Sale; (I) Risk of loss for the subject property shall pass to the purchaser on the date of sale, and possession of the premises shall pass to the purchaser upon payment of the purchase price and delivery of deed.

> CLAYTON G. LYKINS, JR., MASTER COMMISSIONER 21 SECOND STREET, VANCEBURG, KY 41179 TELEPHONE: 606-796-2531

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