



By MARK REESE Estill Tribune Columnist

## Bittersweet

The word bittersweet refers to a plant associated with the autumn season when the world is ablaze and its dual orange color is often found in trips to the uplands. It is definitely a plant that I associate with happy times in the woods and fields with my dogs through the years. Yet, the term bittersweet evokes another feeling, one that in the context of life refers to experiences that evoke both happiness and sadness simultaneously. It captures the complexity of emotions where joy is intertwined with a sense of loss or longing.

My second excursion to western Kentucky this year certainly brought the emotions of the word bittersweet to my mind. Mostly to find upland birds now the necessity to travel is of paramount importance. Travels to this part of Kentucky have been a part of my life for well over twenty years. This year's purpose of the second trip west was to expose my

new companion, Sal, to wild coveys of quail. Of course, Rayna and Andy made the trip as well, sort of as mentors. Sal has done well on released quail on other excursions but has not had a lot of contact with wild coveys which certainly are much more difficult to handle than their city cousins.

It's always a joy to hunt different types of country and the area that I hunt around Webster County is certainly different than the terrain around here. Seeing the deep red sunsets across vast fields of harvested grain is certainly a spiritual experience. It definitely lets you know your place in the vastness of this world, sort of like looking out over an endless ocean.

This journey was successful as the dogs did find five coveys of birds. One bunch was small but the others held 15-18 birds which is a pretty good size covey these days. Sal did just fine but still needs the experience that Rayna and Andy have gained from their many hunts.

But the hunts and subsequent finding of coveys of wild quail was certainly bittersweet. The joy of seeing the dogs coursing the fields and suddenly locking up on a solid point brought joy to both my heart and my mind. One day of the trip was spent hunting with the owner of some of the land I hunted where birds were found and was a pleasant experience as well. It's been quite a while since I hunted with someone younger than me and while not a youngster, he was certainly younger than me. His uncle and grandfather took him bird hunting and at one time he had his own English pointers. This was his first bird hunt in quite a while and his enjoyment with the dogs was apparent. It was a joy to me to have someone appreciate the beauty, power, and stamina of a bird dog.

One statement from him and others in the areas that I hunt was that I was the first person that they had seen bird hunting in years. Quite a statement from an area that used to be the mecca for quail hunting in Kentucky. As the last day drew

to a close a last point was made by Andy with Sal backing on a group of birds that had been flushed previously. One bird was taken from the encounter and dry conditions made hunting the downed bird a little difficult but finally Sal picked the bird up and it was returned to hand. The point and the day are etched in my mind in a very good way but it is also where bittersweet thoughts crossed my mind. For it is scenes like this that have been imprinted in my memory for over fifty years. Days were when I lived in Scott County that six to eight coveys could be found in a day's hunt. Alas, those days exist no more. I guess it is better to have loved and lost than to have never loved at all. Scenes such as Andy and Sal on point are now a thing of the past for me.

There are many things that are hard to comprehend in today's upland Kentucky. Biologists say bird decline is due to habitat loss. And I have certainly seen this occur through the years both at home and in western Kentucky. Yet the coveys located on this trip were in bare minimum cover and the habitat around what I find in my home country would seem to be much more conducive to coveys than what was experienced on this western Kentucky trip. It's hard to comprehend the vanishing act around here.

Nostalgic memories were created on this trek through the acres of grain. And it brought back nostalgic memories of various dogs and their hunts through the years. Bittersweet, it means that life encompasses both pleasure and pain. Thankfully, the mind being what it is those pleasurable memories far outweigh the bad. Yet the bittersweet complexities of life allow for the sadness of loss to make the joy of the point that much more of a joy to my soul. When my prayer begins: Now I lay me down to sleep.... the bright light of all my dogs through the years and happy times we spent together encompasses my being and the pleasure definitely outweighs the pain. Bittersweet is a part of life.

## Cumberlands Announces Fall 2025 President's List

Williamsburg, KY -- In recognition of academic performance, the Office of Academic Affairs at University of the Cumberlands has announced the following students were named to the President's List for the fall 2025 semester.

Amanda Baker, Michaela Cole, Landon Campbell, Elizabeth Conrad, Kamryn Courtney, Kaitlyn Fouch, Lynetta Lindon, and Luke Thornberry, all of Irvine, Kentucky.

Melissa Begley Smith, Rachael Childers, Jon Cox, Robert Noe, Benjamin Turner and Kayla Turner, all of Beattyville, Kentucky.

Alexis Chaney of Stanton, Kentucky.

James Mullins of Stanton, Kentucky.

Edna Raleigh of Clay City, Kentucky.

Timothy Robinson of Clay City, Kentucky.

Bobbie Sivley-Kemper of Waco, Kentucky.

Kimberly Sparks of Stanton, Kentucky.

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## Public Notice of Master Commissioner Sale

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
ESTILL CIRCUIT COURT  
CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-CI-00176

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC

PLAINTIFF

VS.

AL L. COVEY, et al.

DEFENDANTS

### NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to and in compliance with the Judgment and Order of Sale of the Estill Circuit Court, the Master Commissioner will offer for Sale at public outcry the following described property located in Estill County, Kentucky:

**Property Address: 307 Cardinal Court, Irvine, Kentucky  
PVA Parcel No: 071-30-04-029.00**

Said sale shall take place on the following date and at the following location:

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.  
AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE ESTILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
130 MAIN STREET, IRVINE, KENTUCKY**

Said property shall be sold to raise the amounts hereinafter set forth, together with interest and the costs of the action, and the following terms and conditions:

1. At the time of the sale, the successful bidder shall either pay cash or make a deposit of at least ten (10%) percent of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. In the event of default by the purchaser the ten percent (10%) deposit made by the purchaser shall be applied to any costs and/or expenses of this action. In the event the successful bidder elects to credit the balance, he or she will be required to post bond and furnish an acceptable surety or sureties thereon. Said bond shall be for the unpaid purchase price and bear the interest rate of five and sixty-four hundredths percent (3.375%) per annum from the date of sale until paid. Any purchaser or purchasers shall have the privilege of paying said bond before maturity by paying the principal together with all accrued interest. The bond shall have the force and effect of a judgment in order to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price and said bond shall constitute a prior and superior lien on the property until paid. No bond or earnest money shall be required if the Plaintiffs are the purchasers and the bid is less than their adjudged lien.

2. All delinquent property taxes shall be paid from the proceeds of the sale. The purchaser shall be required to assume and pay all ad valorem taxes assessed by the county of Estill and State of Kentucky for the current year and all subsequent years. The property shall further be sold subject to any delinquent State, County and/or city real estate taxes sold pursuant to the provisions of KRS Chapter 134 to any private purchaser during the pendency of this action.

3. 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, and all existing liens recorded after the recording of the Plaintiff's Lis Pendens Notice, excepting and subject to, however, easements, restrictions, stipulations and covenants of record in the Estill County Clerk's office, any facts which an inspection and accurate survey of the property may disclose and any assessments for public improvements levied against the properties.

4. The risk of loss and the right of possession of the real estate and any improvements thereon shall pass to the purchaser upon confirmation of sale by the Estill Circuit Court.

**FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROPERTIES AND/OR SALES THEREOF CAN BE FOUND IN THE ESTILL CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE BY THE FILE NAME AND NUMBER FOR EACH SALE, THE ESTILL COUNTY PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE, AND THE ESTILL COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE. PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE ADVISED AND ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AT THESE LOCATIONS FOR MORE DETAILS OF THE PROPERTIES OR SALE, AS THE MASTER COMMISSIONER HAS NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DOES NOT WARRANT TITLE TO THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD. THE PROPERTY SALES, IF MORE THAN ONE IS SCHEDULED FOR A PARTICULAR DAY, WILL OCCUR SEQUENTIALLY AT THE APPOINTED HOUR.**

This the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.

*/s/ Patrick E. O'Neill*  
PATRICK E. O'NEILL  
MASTER COMMISSIONER  
ESTILL CIRCUIT COURT