

Treasures by Wilma Erwin

Tres Kentucky Squirrel

Have you noticed the homes built high in the trees in your neighborhood or area? Living next to the Kinney creek must be an elite neighborhood because there are area along our road filled with high rise condos. On our Rt. 1306 there are areas that catch your eye as you drive the road. About forty feet or so in the air the trees accommodate several homes. It seems they like oaks and maples especially.

Our Kentucky squirrel builds his nest, or drey, with care. First, they retrieve green twigs and lay the platform, making it stable to hold the home. Much like we humans.

Next they get soft materials: grass, leaves or moss to name a few. They pack this onto the

platform for various reasons including warmth from colder temperatures.

After the platform is made livable, they build the house framework. Twigs, vines and such are built into somewhat of a sphere. You would be surprised how strong this house is becoming. The winds, rain, snow and cold have to be dealt with in time. The squirrel knows to be prepared. They will even search our trash for items that insulate and waterproof. Up the tree they scurry with our trash, their treasure, in mouth and paw, ready to put finishing touches on their home.

Since predators often search for the squirrel and their caches they have to build strong. Sometimes they find a cavity in

the tree and den in there. If they can, they will invade your attic or siding and den in your home.

The humble squirrel might have more than one home and move from one to the other as conditions warrant. They may not read the Bible and know Ecclesiastes 4:11, "Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?" But they have God's input into their nature and often share quarters in the extreme cold.

As times get rough from the events of life and its struggle I look at things like the Kentucky squirrel and how he has been cared for by God's hand. I know The Lord will take care of me and mine.

Blessings on following the God part in you.

Governor Beshear Provides Team Kentucky Update

Herald Report

Gov. Andy Beshear provided updates on medical cannabis, tourism, law enforcement basic training, justice in a decades-old cold case, and Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Dr. Steven Stack, secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, joined the Governor to provide an update on the Our Healthy Kentucky Home initiative. The Governor named Lexington's and Louisville's respective tourism and film communities as this week's Team Kentucky All-Stars, following Lexington being voted the No. 1 Most Tourist-Friendly City in the U.S in the Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards, and Louisville being recognized by Movie Maker Magazine as one of the best places to live and work as a movie maker.

Medical Cannabis

Gov. Beshear helped cut the ribbon on Natural State GreenGrass CannaCo, a tier 3 cultivator in Madison County, and Speakeasy Dispensary, a medical cannabis dispensary in Lexington. Eligible Kentuckians are now able to purchase medical cannabis at this Lexington dispensary. Speakeasy is the second dispensary to open, following the Post Dispensary in Beaver Dam, which opened in December.

"Medical cannabis will help people in need live fuller lives with less pain. It will help our economy. It will help create more jobs. It's truly a win-win for everyone," said Gov. Beshear. "We kept our promise to deliver safe medical cannabis to eligible Kentuckians - and Team Kentucky is going to keep seeing through that commitment."

Tourism

After three record-breaking years for Kentucky Tourism, the Governor announced more good news for this important industry. The Governor recapped five new tourism development projects announced in 2025 generating an estimated \$118 million in economic investment. These projects are expected to create approximately 298 jobs when operational.

The Governor announced that Barren River Lake State Resort Park will receive \$9.5 million in upgrades to enhance the visitor experience

and attract new travelers.

The Governor also announced that 112 nonprofit arts organizations across the commonwealth will benefit from more than \$1.2 million in funding in the 2026 fiscal year through the Kentucky Arts Council's Kentucky Arts Partnership grant.

Finally, the Governor unveiled the 2026 Official Kentucky Visitor's Guide. The publication is the official visitor's guide for travel across our New Kentucky Home and serves as the state's primary tourism advertising and promotional piece.

Second Class of Officers Graduate From Western Kentucky Basic Training Academy

Gov. Beshear announced that 16 law enforcement officers from agencies across the commonwealth graduated from the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training's (DOCJT) basic training academy in Madisonville on Jan. 8. These law enforcement officers have returned home to serve, protect and create a safer New Kentucky Home.

Class 564 is the second to graduate from the Western Kentucky Law Enforcement Training Facility since it opened last February. DOCJT is training officers in a building provided by the Madisonville Police Department while Team Kentucky constructs a \$50 million multipurpose training facility in Madisonville. The Governor is also requesting \$64.8 million in his final budget proposal to get this project completed.

Administration Secures Justice in Cold Case

The Governor announced that his administration has obtained justice in a cold case investigation dating back to 1991. Thanks to the Office of the State Medical Examiner, Kentucky State Police detectives and the forensic lab, an arrest has been made in a case relating to the death of an unidentified female infant.

Because of the nearly 3,000 examinations the Office of the State Medical Examiner conducts each year, Kentucky is safer, and more

families have the closure they deserve.

Our Health Kentucky Home

Dr. Stack provided an update on Our Healthy Kentucky Home, an initiative to promote simple, positive and attainable goals to inspire and motivate Kentuckians on a journey to health and wellness. For January, the initiative is focusing on children with special health-care needs, including neurologic diseases, autism, orthopedic conditions, hearing loss and more.

Dr. Stack highlighted important resources: the Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs, which helps families schedule appointments, connect with specialists, and coordinate with local providers; the Kentucky Early Intervention System, which provides early intervention and developmental services focused on communication, functional skills, and healthy development; and Kentucky's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program, which ensures newborns receive hearing screenings, timely follow-up testing, and early intervention services when needed.

Team Kentucky All-Stars

The Governor named Lexington and Louisville as last week's Team Kentucky All-Stars. Lexington was recently voted the No. 1 Most Tourist-Friendly City in the U.S in the Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards. The city was also recognized as the 6th Best Food City in the U.S. and ranked 8th Best Small City in the U.S. Louisville was recently recognized by Movie Maker Magazine as one of the best places to live and work as a movie maker.

"Any Kentuckian can tell you about the warmth and kindness of our people, but now, the rest of the world knows it too," said Gov. Beshear. "These are incredible accomplishments, and I want to congratulate the cities of Lexington and Louisville. Kentucky is no longer a flyover state - we are the destination. And all these efforts make a difference."

COMMUNITY EVENTS

BEGINNING AGAIN GROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - Sunday at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 239 KY 59, Vanceburg.

BENCHMARK FAMILY SERVICES - Benchmark Family Services is taking applications for foster parenting. As the largest private foster care agency in the state of Kentucky, we are able to provide our foster parents with an unmatched level of training, support, and financial reimbursement. To learn more about becoming a foster parent, please call 606-783-0268 or go to www.benchmarkfs.org.

It makes sense to list local, having your listing agent close to your property is a real positive.

With my office being located on Main St. in Vanceburg, I specialize in Lewis County Properties whether homes, acreages, or businesses.

Licensed Agent, Licensed Drone Operator, and I work with local Contractors.

I also partner locally with Auctions By Cooper, Stacy Cooper when auctioning Real Estate.

**RICHARD WALJE SALES AGENT, PHONE 606-262-0822
STORY REALTY & AUCTION LLC**



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THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD
187 Main Street,
Vanceburg, KY 41179
606-796-2331 • 800-572-2685

Area Obituary

Mr. Willis

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Zachary Douglas Willis on December 26, 2025. Zachary was the son of Doug and Kellie Willis and Tammy and Tom Oakley. Besides his parents, he is survived by his brothers, Zane, Nick and Ryan.

Zachary blessed our lives with his kindness, love, and compassion. He was laid to rest on January 10, 2026 at Willis/Cooper Cemetery in Garrison, KY. The family would like to thank everyone for their love, support, and kindness during this very trying time. It warms our hearts to know he was loved by so many.



E-mail: heraldadvertising@yahoo.com

An Encouraging Word

By Tom Cox



The Model Prayer

Right in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives us what many Christians call "The Lord's Prayer". Many scholars refer to it as "The Model Prayer", because it is an outline for how we should properly pray. Some have memorized it and quote it verbatim, often praying it together in a worship assembly. This is a fine practice, but the prayer can also be used as an outline to guide us through specific areas of prayer. Luke 11 has a shorter version of this prayer, but I want to follow the longer, more familiar version found in Matt.6:9-13.

Jesus starts out by saying that we can address God as our Father in heaven. What a marvelous privilege! Only Christians can pray in this manner. Those outside of Christ have no right to call on God in such a way. John 1:11 says, "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." Only

through Jesus can we become God's children and be able to refer to him as our Father.

Then Jesus says that we should pray that God's name be hallowed, or honored. The world uses God's name as a swear word. Far be it from us to do such a thing! Even slang G-words and J-words must be avoided at all costs. The name of God must never be trivialized! Instead, it must be revered. And it is not just our words that honor or dishonor God's name. Our actions are important too. For a person to wear the name "Christian" and engage in behavior that is not Christlike is to dishonor the name of God.

Jesus then says that we ought to pray for God's kingdom to come and his will to be done. The kingdom of God is everything that is under his authority. We should pray that more and more people submit to his authority. Coinciding with his advancing kingdom is his will being done, that is, people obeying the principles laid out in the Bible.

Then we should pray for our daily bread. When the Israelites travelled through the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land, God gave them manna from heaven. Remember how much he gave them? One day's supply at a time.

Notice of the Filing of a Final Settlement

Pursuant to KRS 395.625, notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of January 2026, a final settlement was filed by Amy Adams, Executrix of the Estate of Thomas E. Russell, deceased.

A hearing will be held on said final settlement at 9:00 a.m. on February 24, 2026. Exceptions to said final settlement must be filed before said hearing.

**Teresa Callahan, Clerk
Lewis Circuit & District Courts**

Notice of the Filing of a Final Settlement

Pursuant to KRS 395.625, notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of January 2026, a final settlement was filed by Jeani Thomas, Executrix of the Estate of Mary S. Ginn, deceased.

A hearing will be held on said final settlement at 9:00 a.m. on February 10, 2026. Exceptions to said final settlement must be filed before said hearing.

**Teresa Callahan, Clerk
Lewis Circuit & District Courts**

Commonwealth of Kentucky Court of Justice LEWIS CIRCUIT COURT Civil Action No. 21-CI-00084	
T & C PROPERTIES OF KY, LLC and STEVEN K. REIS, ET AL.	PLAINTIFF DEFENDANTS
NOTICE OF MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE	
By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Lewis Circuit Court on November 24, 2025, to raise the sum of \$7,689.48, 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, January 29, 2026 at the hour of 11:00 a.m., the following property:	
Real Estate located at, 149 Manley Hollow Road, Vanceburg, KY 41179 and identified as Lewis Co. P.V.A. Parcel No.: 039-00-00-012.03. 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 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 rights, 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	

God wants us to trust him for our daily needs.

Next we see that we are to pray for forgiveness, but only based on how we have forgiven those who have sinned against us. This is a very dangerous prayer indeed! Those who harbor grudges cannot expect to have their prayers answered, nor their sins forgiven. Each of us have been forgiven much, and it cost the precious blood of Jesus to make that possible. It is only fitting that we extend to others the grace of forgiveness that God has so lovingly extended to us.

Then we are to pray that we are not led into temptation. Dennis the Menace once told his preacher, "I'm not led into temptation. I go there all by myself!" We all can find temptation quite easily. How necessary it is to pray that we are not led there, but are instead delivered from evil.

The prayer closes out on a worshipful note, giving him the glory and honor that only he deserves.

Let's continue to follow the model that Jesus gave us to pray.

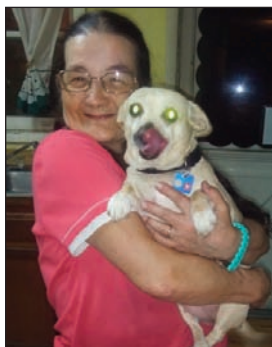
For more inspirational writings by Tom Cox, go to www.jesustrek.wordpress.com.

Public Notice

Starr's Spirits and Stogies LLC dba: Back Alley Liquors hereby declares its intention to apply for a NQ2 By the Drink license no later than January 15, 2026. The licensed premises will be located at 1008 Fairlane Dr., Vanceburg, KY 41179. The sole owner and president is Kristol Owens, 561 Hickory Dr., Morehead, KY 40351. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero St. 2NE33, Frankfort, KY 40601, within (30) days of the date of legal publication.

Public Notice 03c

In Memory of Our Mother Venita Kay Lawhun 1949-2022



Author Unknown

A Light went out on Earth for me,
The day we said goodbye
And on that day a star was born,
The brightest in the sky
Reaching through the darkness
With its rays of purest white
Lighting up the Heavens
As it once lit up my life
With beams of love to heal
The broken heart you left behind
Where always in my memory
Your lovely star will shine.
Deeply Missed and Forever in Our Hearts, Your children, Tom, Shell, & Jeff

Public Notice

Starr's Spirits and Stogies LLC d/b/a Back Alley Spirits, hereby declares its intention(s) to apply for a tobacco, nicotine, or vapor product license no later than 1/15/2026. The licensed premises will be located at 1008 Fairlane Dr., Vanceburg KY 41179. The owner and president is Kristol Owens, 128 E KY 8, Vanceburg, KY 41179. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.

Public Notice 03c