

# 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 areas 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.

## 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

## 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

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.

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

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# 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

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