Where The Tree Falls

By Van Yandell

We've heard the question asked for years, "When a tree falls in the woods and there's no one there to hear it, does it make a sound?" If there are birds, squirrels or other wildlife, do they receive the sound waves? Of course they do.

The basic motive of that question is, if there's not an eardrum close for the sound waves to land on, is there actually a sound produced?

It seems to me the obvious answer is "who cares?" Some of life's most philosophical or scientific questions do not really matter and have nothing to do with our lives, well-being or even more importantly, eternity.

Over the years, I've spent a lot of time in the woods with a chainsaw, cutting dead trees for firewood in the fireplace and wood stove in the basement.

Dead trees, especially the big ones are often called "widow-makers." We never know when a big limb from high up is going to break off and come crashing down.

When teaching industrial arts, I cut ash trees, took them to a saw mill and had them sawed into 3x3's for students to lathe turn into ball bats. Walnut and cherry trees were cut to make lamps, bed foot and head boards, tables and many other furniture pieces.

An even more important consideration by the timber cutter than the sound made by a falling tree is, where is a tree going when it falls?

I've seen trees literally jump off stumps and go in the most unexpected places. I've felt the ground shake when a big tree hit the ground. Trees two-thirds cut have split from the stump twenty feet up the trunk and the split off part kicked back hard enough to launch a satellite.

Every trip to the woods offers surprises. Cutting into a yellow-jackets nest offers a new experience.

All in all, I love being in the forests. I still enjoy a walk in the woods of a few miles. We live in an area in Western Kentucky near the Land Between the Lakes. The LBL is a 170 thousand acre national recreation area.

There are miles of hiking trails just waiting for a good leg and lung work-out. It's a great feeling to come home after a hike, totally exhausted, have a PBJ and glass of water and hit the mattress for 7 hours of rejuvenating sleep.

For the Christian, the mission field is like an experience in the forest. Like a cut tree, we never know where our words are going to fall. Like the sound of our voices, we never know if the listener is going to be receptive or not.

I have gotten emails from readers in places where I had no idea these articles had been published. I love hearing from readers even if they disagree.

Writing has become an obsession. Actually, truth be known, the obsession is seeing non-believers in Christ Jesus come to Him in confession and repentance.

Christians use the term "saved" to indicate a spiritual, faith based belief in our Creator God Jesus. The Bible teaches there is an afterlife. Saved means "saved from our sin."

Romans 3: 23 "For all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God." All means all; every one of us, all eight billion plus of us; no one is exempt! Being a sinner does not mean one is a mean, evil person; just human.

The Glory of God is His righteousness. We humans do not have that. We do things, say things and often think things that are an affront to God and for those, we need forgiveness.

The only forgiveness of our sin is to confess (simply be willing to admit we are sinners), repent (change), believe in Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior and ask Him in a prayer to save us.

1 John 1: 9 "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

It's really quite simple and eternally determining. John 3: 16 Jesus said "Whosoever (that's you and me) believes in Me, shall not perish but have everlasting life." Those are not just words; that is an absolute promise from God Himself (John 1: 1-3).

Our mission field is wherever we are at the time. Experience both here in the U.S. and other countries have taught me there are spiritually lost people everywhere.

The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

Most of us will cross paths with someone today that needs Christ Jesus. I have come to believe there are many words that are NOT said. For the disciple of Christ, our admonition from Him is to tell others (Matthew 28: 19-20, Acts 1: 8).

I read a statement lately that said men on average speak 7,000 words each day and women speak 21,000 words. I told wife Margie and she said "That's because we have to repeat everything twice."

We must realize there are trillions of wasted words spoken ever minute on this earth. Perhaps we need to speak the words, "Christ Jesus died for the remission sin. If you believe this, you will have eternal life!"

As in "when a tree falls' and no one hears it," We must speak the name of Jesus so someone will hear.

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and missionary. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com

Fall Kentucky Cook Wild Recipe Series: Venison Stew

By Vicki Shadrick
Extension Agent
for Agriculture
and Natural Resources

Cook Wild Kentucky promotes the use of Kentucky wild game and fish. The program is a partnership between the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

The program builds on Field to Fork and Hook and Cook programs and highlights the nutritional benefits of wild game and fish. It also encourages future hunters and anglers. Each year, Cook Wild Kentucky adds at least 10 recipes featuring game and fish that can be harvested in Kentucky. The program also trains county Extension agents to offer learning opportunities across the state.

Over the next several weeks, I will share Cook Wild Kentucky recipes. I would enjoy hearing from you if you try one. Contact me at vicki.shadrick@uky.edu or call the Webster County Extension Office at 270-639-9011.

Venison Stew
Ingredients

* 1 teaspoon black pepper
* 1 teaspoon salt
* 1 teaspoon garlic powder
* 4 tablespoons flour, divided
* 1 pound venison, cubed
* 1 tablespoon oil
* 3 cups water
* 1 onion, chopped
* 2 bay leaves
* 4 potatoes, cubed
* 3 carrots, sliced
* 3 celery stalks, chopped
* 1 tablespoon dried parsley

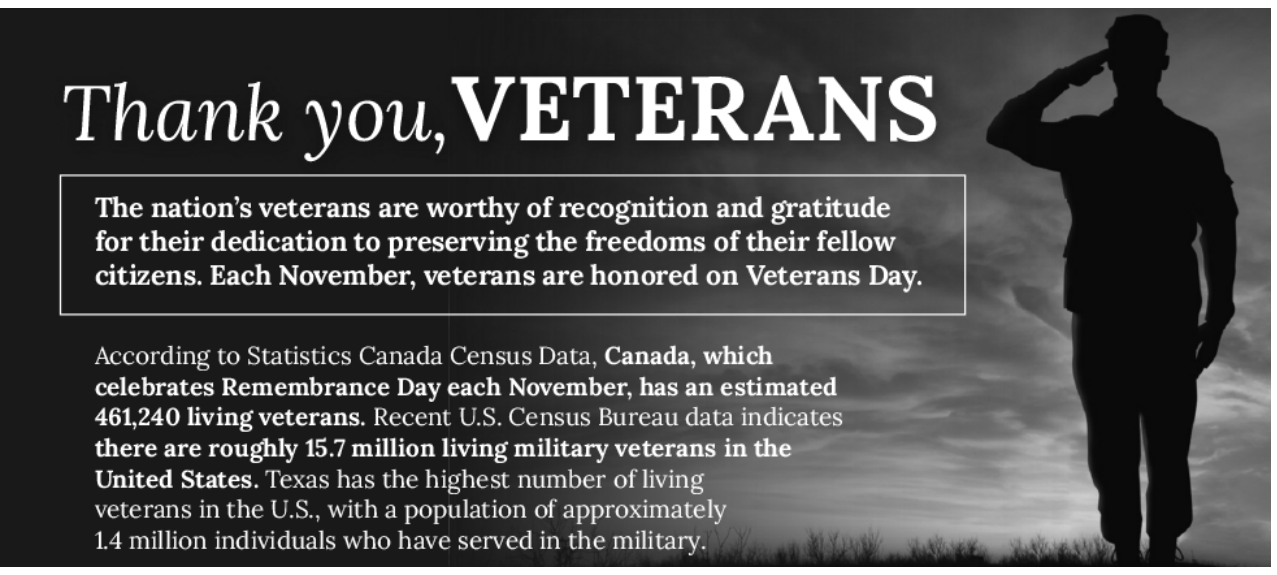
Combine the pepper, salt, garlic powder, and 2 tablespoons flour in a plastic bag or large bowl. Add the venison and shake or toss to coat.

Heat the oil in a large, heavy saucepan. Add the venison and brown on all sides. Stir in 3 cups water. Add the onion, potatoes, carrots, celery, bay leaves, and parsley. Bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 1 hour.

In a small bowl, stir the remaining 2 tablespoons flour into ? cup warm water. Add the mixture to the stew and stir until thickened and bubbly. Cook for 30 minutes more or until the meat and vegetables are tender.

Slow-cooker option: Brown the coated venison in oil before placing it in the slow cooker. Add 3 cups water and the remaining ingredients. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours. Add the flour-and-water mixture near the end of the cooking time and stir until the stew thickens.

Yield: 6 servings



GRADD Senior Menu Listed For November

Green River Area Development has announced the November senior nutrition program menu. Following are the menus for the month.

Wednesday, November 4-salisbury steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, oatmeal cream cookie, dinner roll, margarine

Thursday, November 5-roasted turkey, baked potato, glazed carrots, berry, applesauce, dinner roll, margarine

Friday, November 6-herbed pork chop, scalloped potatoes, lime beans, ambrosia salad, dinner roll

Monday, November 9-turkey with gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, carrots, applesauce, pumpkin pie

Tuesday, November 10-breaded chicken, brussels sprouts, scalloped potatoes, diced pears, sugar cookie, hamburger bun

Wednesday, November 11-Closed for Veterans Day

Thursday, November 12-chunky vegetable soup, diced chicken with salad mix, oat meal cream cookie, dinner roll, margarine

Friday, November 13-chicken alfredo, broccoli, pineapple, breadstick, margarine

Monday, November 16-bean soup, collard greens, tropical fruit, cornbread, margarine

Tuesday, November 17-pizza casserole, broccoli, banana, breadstick, margarine

Wednesday, November 18-pork chop, green beans, sweet potatoes, apple slices, corn bread, chocolate pudding, margarine

Thursday, November 19, chicken salad, marinated tomatoes and cucumbers, baked chips, fruit cocktail, wheat bread

Friday, November 20-meatloaf with ketchup, mashed potatoes, peas, vanilla pudding, dinner roll

Monday, November 23-breaded fish, cole slaw, galzed carrots, mixed fruit, hamburger bun

Tuesday, November 24-hamburger steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, succotash, fresh clementine, dinner roll

Wednesday, November 25-grilled chicken zucchini and squash, roasted sweet potatoes, brownie with peanut butter, hamburger bun

Thursday, November 26-closed for Thanksgiving

Friday, November 27-closed for Thanksgiving

Monday, November 30-BBQ pork chop, augratin potatoes, peas, apple slices, dinner roll, margarine



God Knows You

By Dr. Bob Hardison

Why Did They Get All The Talent?

Q: In my church, I hear talented singers and speakers doing extraordinary things. I can't do either. I have no special abilities to speak or sing in public. Is my seemingly insignificant work in the church important?

A: In Christ's church, there is no place for envy or comparison of one's ability to serve to that of another's. Wanting someone else's ability and role in your church is quietly questioning the Holy Spirit's wisdom in giving gifts to different people. He placed you where He did for this specific time and for a specific purpose.

God has empowered and equipped you to serve in His church. If you feel a "tug on your heart," it is likely the Holy Spirit's way of nudging you to use the spiritual gifts (abilities) He has given you. Embrace your gift and serve with renewed vigor. When we compare ourselves with another, we always come up short. God equips each of us as needed. It's our duty—and our joy—to serve Him in just the way He gifted us.

The Apostle Paul reminded the Corinthians, "Those parts of the body (church) that are weaker are indispensable. And those parts of the body that we consider less honorable, we clothe these with greater honor, and our unrespectable parts are treated with greater respect, which our respectable parts do no need. Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable" (1 Cor. 12:23, 24). Every believer is an essential part of the body of Christ.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ROADSIDE FUNDRAISING ORDINANCE

The City Council of Sebree, Kentucky, adopted an ordinance on October 19th, 2026, to establish a permit requirement for roadside fundraising, bucket brigades, and other collections activities within the city limits. A copy of the full ordinance may be viewed at the Municipal Building of the City of Sebree, Kentucky, located at 36 Veterans Way, Sebree, Kentucky 42409.

1/26/27c

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Dixon is accepting sealed bids for the property located at 118 N Stegal St, Dixon KY. The property consists of 0.776 acres with existing connections to water, sewer and electric. Deed may be viewed at Webster County Clerk's office, Book 331, Page 234. Seller has set a reserve amount of **$10,000**, but retains the option to accept or reject any bid, whether under or over the reserve amount. Bids will be opened, reviewed, and possible awarding at the regular meeting of the Dixon City Commission November 9, 6pm. Bids may be delivered to Dixon City Hall at 10 US Hwy 41A N, Dixon KY (a drop box is available), or mailed to PO Box 197, Dixon KY 42409, and are due no later than 4pm on November 9, 2026.

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