

COMMUNITY

A Tribute to Charles Mattox - Heaven is a lot like Kentucky
CAPTAIN BOONE MEETS THE HAIR BUYER

Editor’s Note: At the suggestion of many readers, we will be periodically re-running Charles Mattox’s columns within our publications.

Detroit, March 10, 1778.

It wasn’t the fact that British Lieutenant Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs Henry Hamilton had scalps in his office that disturbed Captain Daniel Boone.

It was the fact that he had so many.

There were hundreds of them.

Wooden barrels were filled with them.

Worse yet, some of them were the scalps of infants and children.

Each scalp had been stretched over a willow hoop and color coded for easy identifications for the British officers to properly record and keep track of.

There was a certain be-aurocracy of war that the British were fanatical at, especially when it came to keeping track of supplies.

The British paid \$100 for colonial prisoners.

They paid \$50 for scalps.

Seldom did any actual money trade hands, but rather the payment was made in goods at various British trading posts, especially Detroit.

Chief Blackfish had allowed Captain Boone to meet with Governor Hamilton while he and other clan leaders of the Shawnee nation negotiated trade items for the prisoners they delivered.

Besides Boone, several other of the salt makers that had been taken prisoner at the sacred Kentucky blue water pememo (Lower Blue Licks Spring), were brought to Detroit.

Daniel Asbury, Samuel Brooks and his brother William Brooks, John Brown, Nathaniel Bullock, James Callaway, Jesse Copher, George Hendricks, William Humphries, Benjamin Kelly, John Morton, Bartlett Searcy, William Tracey and Richard Wade were along.

Chief Blackfish oversaw the bartering of these men to British officers and they were quickly hustled off to the prison, but Blackfish would not trade Boone, as he

was sure Boone would be necessary to keep, in order to eventually compel the survivors at Fort

Boonesboro to surrender as he had promised they would.

Captain Boone had even produced an old parchment document of his oath of allegiance to the British Empire and displayed an old British officers commission granted him several years earlier before the outbreak of hostilities that would become known as the Revolutionary War.

Indeed there was a revolution, or ‘turning round’ of the entire British American colonial empire.

Gov. Hamilton had been ordered by his British superiors to enlist the aid of certain Native American Tribes to bring a new war of terror to the frontier, to stop this ‘turnin’ round,’ or ‘revolution.’

This was most efficiently executed with the scalp trading business.

Hamilton was known far and wide along the frontiers of Kentucky, Virginia and Pennsylvania as “The Hair Buyer.”

And now Captain Boone found himself drinking tea with Hamilton and Chief Blackfish in Hamilton’s office, surrounded by barrels of scalps. It was a most surreal experience.

For ten days the negotiations between the British and the Shawnee clan leaders continued.

There were council meetings, dinners, singing of the war songs, the exchange of wampum, and finally the distribution of trade goods for exchange of the prisoners.

In the end, after being offered over 400 pounds of sterling silver for Captain Boone alone, Blackfish merely smiled and said through his interpreter Pompey “No. Sheltowee belongs to us and he will help bring the King’s children from Fort Boonesboro to our British fathers at Detroit in the future.”

In spite of the morbid surroundings, the British officers at Detroit treated Boone with complete respect and civility.

He was a particular object of compassion by Gov. Hamilton, and the two men spent many long hours engaged in forthright conversation discussing topics that

ranged from their families, to the insanity of the war they found themselves now engaged in.

Hamilton had been born in Dublin, Ireland, the son of an Irish Member of Parliament.

He came to America as a British soldier eventually becoming a recognized British war hero during the French and Indian War, during which he rose to the rank of General.

In 1775 he had been appointed to his current position.

Boone was making the best of a bad situation and there can be little doubt that when he rode out of Detroit on a fine horse, carrying a nice musket, with saddlebags filled with British trade goods in the company of the 40 or so Shawnee clan leaders, he was heckled by the men he had arrived with and who were now locked away in the dark and dreary confines of the Detroit prison.

Captain Boone was both a survivor and visionary at heart.

He was determined to survive by whatever means necessary and return to his family in Kentucky.

Little did he know that they were already planning to go back to the Carolinas to the Bryan (Bryant) family plantation and would depart in May.

All would go, except his 15-year-old daughter, Jemima, her husband Flanders Callaway, and the Boone family cat.

Conditions at Fort Boonesboro were declining rapidly.

We have only to examine the words of then 21-year-old Josiah Collins, who arrived in March, 1778, with a group of approximately 80 Virginians that came to Kentucky by way of the Wilderness Trail. Collins and some others proceeded to Fort Boonesboro and this is what he saw when he arrived.

“We found a poor, distressed, half naked, half starved people, daily surrounded by savages, which made it so dangerous the hunters were afraid to go out to get buffalo meat.”

The fascinating testimony of Josiah Collins

can be found in volume 12 CC of the Lyman Draper Manuscripts. Collins would live a long, industrious and adventurous existence along the Kentucky frontier, later fighting side by side with many frontier legends, including Captain Daniel Boone, who would eventually return to Kentucky.

Collins was interviewed at his Bath County home along Flat Creek in 1841, when he was 84 years old.

Ah, but these are other stories, dear reader, and worthy of closer examination than can be offered today. But, if the Good Lord is willing, we will join Josiah Collins, Captain Daniel Boone and his many companions in the weeks and months to come, within the confines of this column.

We will also learn the fate of the other captured Salt makers. Ranging from those now jailed in the prison at Detroit, to those still being held prisoner at Chillicothe Village.

Boone would become an adopted Shawnee, and for months would become totally immersed into Shawnee society.

There was a strong and undeniable appeal to Shawnee life and their sacred existence, which harmonized, with the vibrancy of the landscape and all of the forces and faces of nature along the frontier. So much so that at least two of the captured salt makers that we know of, Micajah Callaway and Joseph Jackson, would become adopted Shawnee warriors and devote their lives to protecting their new Shawnee families, eventually joining in battle against their former Kentucky family members and friends.

NOTICE

The Rowan County Board of Education will host a Public Forum regarding the District Facility Plan on Tuesday, October 27th at 5:30 PM. This Forum will be followed immediately by a meeting of the Local Planning Committee at 6:00 PM. Both meetings will be held at the Central Office at 551 Viking Drive, Morehead, KY 40351.

Published in the Rowan County News on 10.22.26

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Morehead Board of Zoning Adjustments will conduct a Public Hearing followed by a regular meeting at the City of Morehead Administrative Offices, 314 Bridge Street, Morehead, Kentucky, on Wednesday, November 11, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive comments regarding a conditional use request at 102 West Main Street. Property owner is asking for a conditional use request to allow a mural on the southwest face of the building. All interested persons and/or organizations are invited to attend this public hearing and address the Board. Any person(s) who cannot attend may submit written comments to Rodney Fouch, City Planner, 314 Bridge Street, Morehead, KY 40351 or call City Hall at 784-4376 so that arrangements can be made to secure their comments.

Published in the Rowan County News on 10.22.26

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

October 27th

The Gateway Area Development District will hold a Board of Directors’ Executive Committee Meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 9:00 AM EDT.

October 24

11:30 AM Ancient skies ancient mysteries
1:30 pm Violent Universe
3:30 pm Laser: Frite Lite

Area

Gateway Area Development District will hold a Board of Directors’ Meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 10:30 AM EDT.

Gateway Area Development District will hold a regularly scheduled Regional Transportation Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 12:30 PM EDT.

The Post Clinic, 15 Sterling Ave., Mt. Sterling, KY, offers free medical and dental healthcare services to all uninsured, under-insured, unemployed, and under-employed persons from all areas. To schedule an appointment or for more information call 859-498-0231. Check out their website at www.postclinic.org

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 143 Serving Bath, Fleming, Menifee, Montgomery, and Rowan Counties Meeting every 3rd Saturday of the months at 1 p.m. at the Salt Lick Fire Department

Star Theater Events

Buckmaster cont. from pg. 9

officers’ commands as he was brought to the ground, according to Deputy Middleton.

Middleton said he noted the strong odor of alcohol on Buckmaster, and he appeared to be under the influence of narcotics, as he observed his pupils were pinpoint.

Officers later discovered that Buckmaster had also damaged the rear fence of the property before he entered the residence.

Buckmaster was transported to UK St. Claire for treatment, where “he continued to be loud, disorderly, and yell profanities inside the hospital” and continued to refuse to follow officers’ commands. Middleton noted that Buckmaster “continued in disorderly behavior” until he was lodged in the Rowan County Detention Center.

A search of Buckmaster’s items included a cross-body bag where Deputy Middleton located a pill bottle with

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Notice is hereby given that the City of Morehead Board of Zoning Adjustments will conduct a Public Hearing followed by a regular meeting at the City of Morehead Administrative Offices, 314 Bridge Street, Morehead, Kentucky, on Wednesday, November 11, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive comments regarding a dimensional variance request at 212 North Wilson Avenue to allow a 2’ fence height variance. Property owner is requesting a 2 foot height variance allowing an 8’ tall fence. All interested persons and/or organizations are invited to attend this public hearing and address the Board. Any person(s) who cannot attend may submit written comments to Rodney Fouch, City Planner, 314 Bridge Street, Morehead, KY 40351 or call City Hall at 784-4376 so that arrangements can be made to secure their comments.

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Legal Notice

Waltz Towing located at 6765 Cranston Rd, Morehead, KY 40351, will be auctioning off the following vehicles listed below.

Aaron Lee Guinn
Lein Holder: Eagle Financial Services
2014 Ford Focus
Vin #1EADP3F28E1L228766

The auction will be held on October 26, 2026 at 10:00 am.

If you have any questions you can call 606-776-4829.
Published in the Rowan County News on 10.08, 10.15, & 10.22 of 2026

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
21st JUDICIAL DISTRICT
ROWAN CIRCUIT COURT
DIVISION I

File No. 26-CI-90048

U.S. BANK

PLAINTIFF

VS:

NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE

DOUGLAS STONE, ET AL

DEFENDANT

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Rowan Circuit Court on June 16, 2026, to raise the sum of \$90,809.63, plus interest, fees and costs, I will expose for sale to the highest and best bidder, at the Rowan County Judicial Center, 700 West Main Street, Morehead, Kentucky, 40351, on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., the following property:

A tract of land commonly known as 275 Campbell Branch, Morehead, KY, 40351, bearing PVA ID NO. 121-00 00 015.01, containing an estimated 2.0 acres, more or less, and being the same land conveyed to Douglas Stone by deed dated September 16, 2021, and recorded in Deed Book 215, Page 592, of the Rowan County Records.

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, he shall post bond with acceptable surety for the unpaid purchase price bearing interest at the judgment rate from the date of the sale. The surety may be an individual who owns real estate in Kentucky who must be present at the sale, or an alternative type of surety. Alternative types of acceptable surety may be obtained by an email request to budsalyer4@gmail.com. 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 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 Rowan 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 Rowan 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; (J) Announcements made at the time of sale take precedence over any statement contained herein; (K) Purchaser is responsible for the current year's taxes.

Anyone wishing to be added to a mailing list of future sales should send a request to budsalyer4@gmail.com.

B. R. Salyer
B. R. Salyer
Rowan County Master Commissioner
210 Big Brushy Road
Morehead, KY, 40351
606-776-0119
budsalyer4@gmail.com

Published in the Rowan County News on 10.22 & 10.29 of 2026

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
21st JUDICIAL DISTRICT
ROWAN CIRCUIT COURT
DIVISION I

File No. 24-CI-90049

ARCPE 1 LLC

PLAINTIFF

VS:

NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE

REBECCA PRICE, ET AL

DEFENDANT

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Rowan Circuit Court on February 12, 2026, to raise the sum of \$69,051.02 plus interest, fees and costs, I will expose for sale to the highest and best bidder, at the Rowan County Judicial Center, 700 West Main Street, Morehead, Kentucky, 40351, on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., the following property:

Three tracts of land commonly known as 762 Dry Creek Road, Clearfield, KY 40313, bearing PVA ID No. 081-30-00-083.00, containing approximately 13 acres, more or less, and being the same land conveyed to Roy Price, et ux, by deed dated May 4, 2006, and recorded in Deed Book 221, Page 119, of the Rowan County Records, the same to be sold as one tract.

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, he shall post bond with acceptable surety for the unpaid purchase price bearing interest at the judgment rate from the date of the sale. The surety may be an individual who owns real estate in Kentucky who must be present at the sale, or an alternative type of surety. Alternative types of acceptable surety may be obtained by an email request to budsalyer4@gmail.com. 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 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 Rowan 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 Rowan 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; (J) Announcements made at the time of sale take precedence over any statement contained herein; (K) Purchaser is responsible for the current year's taxes.

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