

Not your normal Days of Our Lives Recap

That deranged lunatic Sophia Choi has been instructed by Kristen DiMera to shoot EJs son Johnny to make EJ suffer because he made Kristen's mother disappear.

Anyway, now that Sophia has purpose, her eyes quit twirling like one of those yard spinners. She goes to Johnny's house and instead of shooting him, sprays him with mace, klunks him on the head with the gun and ties him to a chair. Then, informing all unstable viewers with a step by step guide using fingernail polish remover, a candle, and a gas leak, she prepares to make a time-release bomb. She leaves.

EMT Javi finds out there is a gas leak and breaks in and saves Johnny and puts out Sophia's ramshackle would-be bomb craft. Javi is overcome from the gas fumes and later faints at the hospital.

Sophia meets with Kristen near the river and tells her the deed is done and tosses the gun in the river. Kristen had promised Sophia a new life with money and passport but instead klunks her on the head with a big ole rock and rolls her in the river as payback for involving her own mentally demented daughter Rachel in her schemes. Little Rachel only tried to kill four or five people. It's not like it was 10 or 11.

Kristen goes to a bar after a stressful day of attempted murders. Cat Greene walks around the bar with her mouth hanging open. She tells Kristen her nephew Johnny was involved in an accident. Kristen pretends she does not know he is dead, which she thinks he is, and Cat Greene tells her he is ok, just hospitalized. Kristen is quiet a moment realizing her plan was foiled. She grabs her head and says she must go check on him.

Cat Greene saunters around Horton square wearing a teeny sweater dress that drew up in the dryer. Naturally, her mouth is hanging open, Salem's own skeeter zapping machine of sorts.

Commissioner Jada said they found a suicide note written by Sophia, which was part of Sophia's plan as a start to her new life. She didn't realize at the time that Kristen meant her new *afterlife*.

Paulina Price wheels Johnny and Chanel's baby Trey into Johnny's hospital room and you can tell the cute little fellow is wondering how he wound up in a town full of freaks.

EJ and Kristen berate each other in front of police commissioner Jada, trying to pin the Sophia mess on each other.

Detective Jada gets a call that Sophia's back pack was found near a bridge at the river.

Kristen squints her steely blue eyes.

Dramatic music plays

To be continued

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BID NOTICE
 The Hickman County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids for any paving project(s) on county roads in Hickman County for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027.
 1. Bids should include price for –
 Bituminous Class surface – per ton
 Bituminous Class 1 Base – per ton
 Total price /ton for laid asphalt.
 Bids should be submitted no later than Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. and should be marked SEALED BID, HICKMAN COUNTY PAVING. Bids will be opened and considered by the Hickman County Fiscal Court at its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 21st at 8:00 a.m. in the office of the Hickman County Judge Executive.
 Hickman County reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

BID NOTICE
 Hickman County Fiscal Court is accepting bids on the following:
 1. Sealed bids for corrugated pipe and double wall HDPE, 12 inches and up to 60 inches (for individual pipe if required) and such price to include delivery to Hickman County. Delivery to Hickman County Road Department or work site location anywhere in Hickman County. Bidder also agrees to sell the product to any landowner upon whom the county is conducting the pipe installation at the same price the county would be required to pay.
 2. Sealed bids for:
 Red gravel
 # 9M crushed limestone
 Dense grade aggregate
 # 3 rock
 Rip rap – 50#, 150# and 400#
 *Bids must be furnished with the following information:
 a. Price per ton of rock picked up at terminal
 b. Price per ton for rock delivered to Hickman County- if fuel charge is additional, MUST be included in price/ton.
 c. Hauling price of gravel or limestone should be quoted separately from price of material.
 Bids are for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027.
 Sealed bids will be received in the office of the Hickman County Judge/Executive up to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 116 S. Jefferson Street, Clinton, Ky. 42031, and bids will be opened and read at the fiscal court meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 8:00 A.M.
 PLEASE MARK "SEALED BID" ON OUTSIDE OF ENVELOPE.
 According to KRS 45A.365, the said award will go to the lowest and best evaluated bid price received.
 Hickman County Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
 Hickman County Fiscal Court

Stephens Lake

By DANNY WHITLOCK

When I was a teenager, a new entertainment venue opened a few miles from my home in Fulgham. It was known as Stephens Lake and was located south of Fulgham on 307 past Beelerton to Rose Road where you would take a left and then to Hicks Road for another left. The lake was down a driveway off of Hicks Road. If you access Google Maps, you can see an aerial view of the lake.

Jimmy Stephens and James (Butch) Stephens whose parents owned the lake have served as my information source for many of the details referencing the lake. In the early 1950's, it was primarily a fishing spot. The owners pushed up several levies and as a result the spring fed lake covered many acres and had dying trees covering part of the lake. The owners were Melvin and Mary Stephens. Melvin and Jimmy's father, Ernestine Stephens, stocked the lake with fish caught on the Mississippi River.

After the lake starting drawing customers, the owners decided to add a swimming hole to draw more kids out to their business. It was not a finished swimming pool, but rather a one-acre pond complete with sand banks and a sand bottom. It had a one-story tower that we could climb and then jump off the top. Unfortunately, swimmers could also jump off the bottom floor, and you had to be wary in case a jumper from the top might land on you if you jumped from the bottom floor at the same time. Lifeguards were present as a safety measure.

I remember a picnic shelter with a kitchen that supplied drinks, burgers and hot dogs for the hungry crowd. The shelter had a concrete floor, and several pinball machines were available if you had a nickel to play. If you were wet from swimming and decided to play a pinball machine, you might get a mild shock. Probably a minor grounding issue. I think I remember changing rooms for those who needed to get into or out of their bathing suits. Suits were required...no skinny dipping allowed.



Two swimmers at the lake. On the left, Butch Stephens and on the right, John Moore.

Stephen's Lake was a busy spot, especially on weekends.

My experiences with the lake were mostly positive. I had a good time while swimming there. The only negative experience I can remember came at a time when it was too cold for swimming. I was one of the boys from Jackson's Chapel Church that gathered after church and roamed the area looking for something to do or trouble to get into.

On this particular Sunday the group followed the railroad that ran in front of the church south for a few miles. The railroad also ran right past Stephens Lake. We crossed a trestle that spanned Bayou de Chien Creek, down the embankment, and into the lake area. Someone had brought a pocket full of firecrackers and it didn't take long for us to start setting them off.

We heard someone shouting at us and saw a man running toward us. That was all the motivation we needed to abandon Stephens Lake. We crossed a fence and had a choice to make. Wade across the creek or climb the embankment up to the railroad and then run across the trestle. All but one went for the creek. I was wearing a brand-new pair of shoes and had been directed to not "mess them up." The creek was not an option for me so up the em-



With the string of fish caught at Stephen's Lake: Melvin and Mary Stephens.

bankment I climbed.

The man was right on my heels. He shouted, "Stop...I just want to ask you a question." I stopped and faced him. "Why are you shooting guns at my cows?" he asked. "What guns?" I said. "We don't have guns. We were shooting firecrackers." I reached into my jacket pocket and pulled out several for him to look at. "Oh," he said. "Then never mind." He turned and headed down the embankment. I completed my climb and walked

the railroad back to the church. I didn't encounter my friends anywhere while heading home. Later, it occurred to me that I could have pulled my shoes off and waded barefoot across the creek. 20-20 hindsight is not always helpful.

The man who chased me up the railroad embankment was Ralph Allen, a local farmer and public worker who lived on the farm. I got to know Ralph when his three sons passed through the high school where I taught. He was a courteous, friendly man who would bring up our encounter every time our paths crossed. He always laughed about it.

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