

Not your normal Days of Our Lives Recap

Here we go. Sure enough the lab rat, Miracle Max, wasn't too miraculous and klunked over and expired as a side effect of the same miracle drug that was used to bring Lexie Carver back to life.

Dr. Rolf is studying "things" under a microscope to see what killed a Miracle Max. E.J. DiMera is very unhappy with this latest happening.

Now, it's not looking good for Lexie. She's already had a catch in her hip just walking across the room. A tooth or eyeball could fall out any second, or her ear could drop and fall on the coffee table next to a coaster.

Kate Brady is working in the Brady Pub in a white and floral pant suit. Who does that, really? Anybody who has worked in food service knows you sweat and get food on your clothes. She realizes this and leaves.

Dr Sarah Horton Kiriakis is down in the dumps because one of her patients died. What did that patient expect, seeking healthcare at the free clinic connected to the most pathetic hospital on planet earth where they juggle DNA tubes in the air for kicks while the labels pop off in the floor?

Dr Sarah enlists boyfriend Brady Black, newest private investigator with Black Patch Detective Services, to find out why her patient died. He gets out his pen and pad and asks her how she died. Dr. Sarah responds, "I don't know." So, they're not off to a very good start.

Chanel DiMera has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is expecting a baby. Her doctor had the bedside manner of a cold rock, but instead of ditching him and finding another doctor, she screams dramatically at everybody she comes in contact with, lashing out in anger in a way that rivals Sophia Choi's rage rants. Even the rabid dogs of Salem don't want to be around them.

Dr Rolf reassures E.J. that even though Miracle Max the lab rat kicked the bucket, the spare rat is still holding on, and he needs to examine Lexie ASAP, so E.J. goes to find Lexie in the DiMera living room.

Lexie tells E.J. she thinks something is wrong. She's feeling kinda weird.

Dramatic music plays as he expects her head to start spinning any second and fly across the DiMera living room, smacking into the framed print of Stefano.

She said she felt dizzy and her knees felt weak. E.J. reassures her all will be fine and smiles as he mentally pictures Miracle Max in a teeny casket with other rats gathered around him sobbing uncontrollably.

Lexie goes to see Dr Rolf and he gives her a grip test with a hand gripper meter, kind of like you'd test a battery, and she's weak. Super weak.

Getting her to open a jar of pickles is not gonna be an option.

*Dramatic music plays
To be continued*

Poison hemlock killed Socrates. It can kill you, too.

Editor's note:
This is a follow-up to last week's article on Poison hemlock:

By BERRY CRAIG

Remember when poison ivy was the only toxic plant we had to worry about? Contact with its three leaves--"leaves of three let them be" -- and stems can cause itching, swelling and blisters. The smoke can make it hard to breathe if you burn it. But Poison Ivy is rarely fatal.

Poison Hemlock can kill people and animals. Don't let its pretty white flowers fool you. Don't touch the plant.

The potentially lethal weed is blooming in profusion along roadsides and in fence rows all over western Kentucky. If you steer clear of poison ivy, steer clearer of poison hemlock.

From UK's Kentucky Forage News-Keeping Forage-Livestock producers in Kentucky informed Poison Hemlock - A Growing Concern Posted on February 2, 2024

Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) has become widespread throughout most of Kentucky. Although this plant is often seen along roadways, fence rows, and other non-cropland sites, it has expanded out into grazed pasture lands and hay fields. It has also become an increasing concern in residential locations when it is observed in areas that are not frequently mowed such as vacant and abandoned lots. The concern not only stems from its invasive nature, but the fact that it is one of the most toxic plants in the world. Throughout history, the toxicity of poison hemlock is well known for accidental deaths of humans and other animals.

Description- Poison hemlock is classified as a biennial that reproduces only by seed. It is capable, however, of completing its lifecycle as a winter annual in Kentucky if it germinates during the fall months. New plants emerge in the fall or late winter forming a cluster

of leaves that are arranged as a rosette on the ground (Figure 1). The individual leaves are shiny green and triangular in appearance. Although poison hemlock is most noticeable in late May and June during the flowering stage of growth, the vegetative growth stage is readily observed during the cooler months of the year (Figure 2) with its parsley-like leaves which are highly dissected or fern-like.

As the plant begins to send up flower stalks in the spring, the leaves are alternately arranged on the main stem. Each individual leaf is pinnately compound with several pairs of leaflets that appear along opposite sides of the main petiole. As the plant matures, poison hemlock creates a taproot and grows upwards to about 6 to 8 feet tall. At maturity the plant is erect, often with multi-branched stems (Figure 3). Poison hemlock has hollow stems which are smooth with purple spots randomly seen along the stem and on leaf petioles. There are no hairs on the plant that helps distinguish it from other plants similar in appearance. The flowers, when mature, are white and form a series of compound umbels (an umbrella-shaped cluster of small flowers) at the end of each terminal stalk. Poison hemlock can be associated with areas having adequate moisture throughout the year, as well as, drier environments.

Toxicity - The risk of exposure to poison hemlock toxicity is primarily through ingestion. Just small amounts of ingestion can result in possible death to all mammals. The principal toxin in poison hemlock is coniine and a few other toxic alkaloids, which are present in all parts of the plant, including the seeds and roots. A well known case of human toxicity was the death of Socrates, a Greek philosopher, who was sentenced to death in 399 BC by ingestion of a poison hemlock potion. There have been some concerns expressed that toxicity such as dermal



reactions may occur by simply being in proximity of poison hemlock plants. However, it is unlikely that most people will experience skin rashes who come in direct contact with poison hemlock as opposed to exposure to other plants such as wild parsnip or other potentially toxic plants within the carrot plant family Apiaceae.

If consumed, all classes of livestock are known to be affected by poison hemlock. Cattle, horses, and goats are considered to be the most susceptible domestic animals although other animals can be affected as well. Symptoms of poisoning can occur rapidly anywhere within 30 minutes to 2 hours depending on the animal, quantity consumed, and other factors. Initial symptoms can include nervousness, trembling, muscular weakness and loss of coordination, dilation of pupils, coma, and eventually death from respiratory paralysis. Lethal doses for cattle are considered to be in the range of 0.2 to 0.5% of the animal's body weight. Poison hemlock is also known to cause fetal deformation when pregnant animals consume the plant.

Fortunately, most animals tend to avoid grazing poison hemlock if other forage is readily available. However, animals may be more prone to consume green plants during the late winter and early spring when other forage species are more limited. Toxicity may be somewhat reduced in dried plants, but the potential for toxicity still exists, particularly when a sufficient quantity is consumed in dried hay. Therefore, extreme caution should be considered before feeding animals hay known

to contain large quantities of poison hemlock. Also, animals may be attracted to consume poison hemlock when plants are treated with a herbicide. Control -The principle strategy for poison hemlock control is to prevent seed production, which can be a challenge since a fully mature plant is capable of producing over 35,000 new seeds. Once plants have produced flowers it is generally too late to utilize herbicide control methods. Whereas, mechanical control efforts (where it is feasible), such as mowing or cutting down individual plants should be initiated just before peak flower production to avoid or reduce the amount of new seed being produced.

As an overall strategy, make note of areas known to contain populations of poison hemlock and begin to look for emergence of new plants in the fall and during the winter months. Throughout the fall (October/November) or early spring (late February/March) is the best time of year for herbicide treatment. Herbicide products containing 2,4-D can be effective when applied to actively growing plants that are still in the younger rosette stage of growth. As plant rosettes become more mature, premixtures of products containing dicamba + 2,4-D (eg. Weedmaster, Brash, Rifle-D, etc.), triclopyr + 2,4-D (eg. Crossbow, Crossroad, etc.), or aminopyralid (eg. Duracor, etc.) are needed for best results. Always consult product labels for approved sites of application and for precautions that should be considered when applying herbicides. ~Dr. J. D. Green, UK Extension Weed Scientist

Local historian John K. Ross Jr. We wish you a speedy recovery!

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Budget Hearing regarding proposed use of County Road Aid and Local Government Economic Assistance (LGEA) Funds. A public hearing will be held by the Hickman County Fiscal Court at the Judge Executive's office on Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. for the purpose of obtaining citizens' comments regarding the possible uses of the County Road Aid and LGEA funds.

All interested persons in Hickman County are invited to the hearing to submit verbal or written comments on possible uses of the CRA or LGEA funds. Any person(s) who cannot submit written comments or attend the public hearing but wish to submit comments for presentation to the court, should call the office of the County Judge Executive at (270) 653-4369 by 4:00 p.m. on June 24, 2026 so the arrangements can be made to secure their comments.

Jackson Purchase Historical Society to meet June 13 at the Tilghman House in Paducah

The Jackson Purchase Historical Society will meet on Saturday, June 13 at the Lloyd Tilghman House & Civil War Museum, 631 Kentucky Avenue in Paducah. The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. The program is free and all are welcome.

The program will focus on the life and times of Henry County, Tennessee native Pud Diggs who fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War and was hung on the courthouse lawn in Murray in 1867 for murdering a sheriff. It was the last legal hanging in Callo-

way County. Diggs' life and death offer a number of insights into life in the Jackson Purchase region during and immediately after the Civil War, especially the experience of those who fought in it.

Our speaker is well known to those interested in the history of western Kentucky. After nearly 30 years serving communities through the Kentucky League of Cities, Bobbie Smith Bryant embraced her deepest calling in retirement: sharing her faith and love for Kentucky history through storytelling. Her

works have earned award recognition from the Acclaim Press, Bluegrass Literacy, Kentucky Farm Bureau, Kentucky Historical Society, and *Kentucky Monthly* magazine.

Her articles are featured regularly in a variety of statewide and regional publications including the Jackson Purchase Historical Society's *Journal*. She has also published several books about her family, and served as editor for *Calloway County, Kentucky: The First Two Hundred Years 1822-2022* and *Bygone Churches of Calloway County*.

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