

Comforts snatched from gloomy prospects

Things that are immutable bring us human beings such comfort at every stage of our lives.

In the midst of a great upheaval politically, it feels good when we stumble upon one of our old friends that have not changed at all. The sky this morning lit up red and my erstwhile sailor daddy’s mantra, “Red in the morning, sailors’ warning,” popped up in my head.

Since I have been around for lo these many years I have seen, know about and have lived through other upheavals that seemed at the time to be as threatening as gathering storm clouds looming in the western sky and here I once again revert to what I learned growing up in the Appalachian mountains.

Springtime, that eternal beacon of renewal and new life, in Eastern Kentucky back then and even today has a way of preparing the Earth and its inhabitants for change. Winters are hard, challenging and many times punishing and folks naturally hunker down, throw another lump of coal on the fire and wait quietly like the sleeping earth; and then, in a parade as lively as hopping toads, one morning there it is.

Across the valley sprinkled sparsely across Black Mountain you can spot tiny touches of white. Not snow, not frost and not even



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the glint of dew. No, it is Sarvice bloom and in a blink that touch of white will spread itself not just in that first tiny patch but in a grand sweep across that majestic mountain.

And if that was not enough, that same mountain view will next sprout a touch of color. Not too much really; just a suggestion, but in a day or two that touch explodes in pinks and reds as redbud makes her grand appearance.

When she arrives we then can see, if we are sharp-eyed and willing, just a bit of green here and there. Sure enough before we can blink once or twice crocus, daffodils, and flags begin to pop up to join the parade.

Truth be told, these signs of newness that imbedded themselves in my brain are not my personal gifts. Just a few days ago, a dear friend said she felt gifted by those folks who had planted months, or even years before, and now she could revel in the delight of seeing the crocus and daffodils as they begin to decorate our fence lines, borders and paths.

I am sure you have noticed that

this year, for some reason, all our tulip poplars have been spared that killing frost that too many times steals their grand burst of pink. Here they are practically singing a loud ‘Spring is Here’ chorus.

In times past the early bloom would be accompanied by the drift of smoke that would rise above the seed beds of the new crops soon to be planted. We don’t burn off the last of winter anymore in our seed beds; we have found more modern ways to defeat weeds, but the memory lingers and even if it is just a fire pit for marshmallows the bloom and scent are still there triggering the knowledge that this stint of winter is passing.

In the dark witching hours, I often find myself fretting over the threat of changes I have almost no control over. Then, counting those many things that will not and do not change brings great comfort.

Babies gurgle, mothers smile, little girls giggle, little boys play brave, flowers bloom, birds sing ... As Betsy pointed out to us last week, spring is fickle, but fun and her advice for us to snatch every bit of enjoyment where we find it was another bit of solid footing for us.

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TURNING BACK THE CLOCK

10 YEARS AGO ... MARCH 26, 2015

- Births announced this week: Chase Taylor Beagle was born to Scott and Mary Beagle of Berry on Jan. 14; Riley Leeann Currier was born to Nick and Marybeth Currier of Dry Ridge on Dec. 12, 2014.
- Grant County Winter Guard won their competition at Montgomery County and are ranked first in their class in the regular season standing for the second time running. They are currently ranked ahead of such schools as Lafayette, Ryle, Campbell and North Hardin.

25 YEARS AGO ... MARCH 30, 2000

- Births announced this week: Tyler Jonathon Andrew Davis was born to John Davis and Amanda Herald of Dry Ridge on Jan. 14; Marshall Austin Smith was born to William and Marsha Smith of Crittenden on Nov. 15, 2014.
- On April 1 (no fooling!) the area code for northern and central Kentucky will switch from 606 to 859. A Cincinnati

Bell spokesperson said they had “simply run out of numbers.”

- Longtime Grant County Circuit Clerk Betty Lawrence will be stepping down at the end of the year. She was elected to the position in 1987 after having working for the county since the 1970s.
- The Dry Ridge City Council approved the second reading of an ordinance establishing a 0.5% occupational tax on those working inside the city limits.

50 YEARS AGO ... MARCH 28, 1975

- Jerry Stith won a trophy for having the champion 4-H tobacco crop of 1974.
- The Jr. Beta Club of Crittenden-Mt. Zion Elementary held a bake sale in Williamstown that brought in \$51.50. The students were Alan Loney Rick Wind, Carol Atha, Lauren Isarel, Trina Rider, Lynn Simpson, Jim Peace, Ricky Peace, Daren Peace, David Harris, Harold Price, Lisa Ferner, Tommy McClore, Cathy Morgan, Anthony Beach and Sheila Roland.

TAX

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FISCAL MATTERS

- The first reading of “Ordinance #912-2025 establishing a new ABC regulatory tax rate on alcohol” was conducted. Gatlin noted the City had originally established the maximum 5% tax on alcohol. This revenue can only be used for Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC).

This apparently had been “quite successful” in bringing in revenue. Gatlin said with that success, they could now lower the rates to 2.5%. Such reduction, he said, will “help entice businesses” to come to Dry Ridge. The second reading will

be conducted at the April meeting.

- A Request for Proposal for the “paving of Business Boulevard and Ruthman Drive” was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Kenny Edmondson questioned whether IMI should repair some of the damage on Ruthman Drive, but it was clarified this was simply a request for proposals, not the final decision.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Fire Department Chief Alan Cammack reported the Dry Ridge Ambulance made 300 runs, up 51 from the same month in 2024; this makes year-to-date runs of 556. Both Cammack and Little noted the increase could be due to the

weather conditions this winter. Cammack said the fire department made a total of 46 runs with 23 in-city and 23 county with 120 year-to-date.

- Police officer Matt Hicks reported the police department had “revamped” their reports to make them clearer and more detailed, splitting out the current month and year-to-date. He said in February, there had been “142 dispatched” runs and “319 security” checks. He said there were 876 total year-to-date.

Also, the police department is looking to add a part time officer to “fill in” when neither Hicks nor Police Chief Rick Kells is available. He said they can either share existing vehicles, or they could possibly

purchase a used vehicle until the approved new-purchased vehicles are received.

Hicks updated Council on the vehicles, saying the Explorer is “in Chicago” and the truck is “in production” and should be in by the “end of the month,” ready to be equipped for police duty, which will take an additional “30 to 45 days.”

They are proposing to hire Bobby Webb as the part-time employee to work a maximum of 100 hours per month.

- Little said the Water/Sewer Department had two lift stations to upgrade at “Gibson” and “Dana.” Four water meters have been replaced across the city.
- Little reported on Planning and Zoning, saying two more

“AirBnB’s” were added, bringing the total to 56 Short Term Rentals (STRs) in Dry Ridge.

- Little reported the maintenance department had all potholes “rendered and patched.” Also, the City has used 85 tons of salt so far and have “added to” in order to have 150 tons on hand while the prices are “low.”
- Party in the Park will be on August 30. Little said all performers have been asked back.


Park bathrooms will be opened April 1.

The next meeting will be Monday April 21, at 6 p.m. at the Dry Ridge City Building, 31 Broadway. For questions or more information, contact the City at (859) 824-3335.

April 2025

Daily Services

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| - General Information | - Patron Accounts Help | - Notary Public (M-F) |
| - Reader's Advisory | - Material Requests | - Tech Help |
| - Reference/Research | - Inter-Library Loans | - Genealogy |

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|---|--|------------------------------|---|
| C - Children T - Teen A - Adult/All Ages * (reservation required) | | 1 10am A - Tech Help Drop-In 11am C - Baby Bookworms Infant Story Time 12:30pm A - Yoga 1:30pm A - Chair Yoga | 2 11am C - Toddler Tales Toddler Story Time | 3 11am C - Little Learners Preschool Story Time 1pm C - Little Learners Preschool Story Time | 4 | 5 |
| 6 201 Barnes Rd. Williamstown, KY 41097 859-824-2080 info@grantlib.org | 7 10am A - Tech Help Drop-In | 8 10am A - Tech Help Drop-In 11am C - Baby Bookworms Infant Story Time 12:30pm A - Yoga 1:30pm A - Chair Yoga | 9 11am C - Toddler Tales Toddler Story Time | 10 ***Hoxworth Blood Drive*** 11am C - Little Learners Preschool Story Time 1pm C - Little Learners Preschool Story Time 6pm A - 2nd Thursday Medicare | 11 | 12 10am A - Crochet & Knitting |
| 13 Library Hours M-Th: 10am-8pm F: 10am-6pm Sa: 10am-4pm | 14 10am A - Tech Help Drop-In 6pm C - How Does Your Garden Grow?*(ages 3-5) 7pm - GCPL Board | 15 10am A - Tech Help Drop-In 11am C - Baby Bookworms Infant Story Time 12:30pm A - Yoga 1:30pm A - Chair Yoga | 16 11am C - Toddler Tales Toddler Story Time | 17 11am C - Little Learners Preschool Story Time 12pm C - Tales to Tails w/Lark the Reading Dog 1pm C - Little Learners Preschool Story Time 6:30pm T - Teen Acting (ages 11-18) | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 10am A - Tech Help Drop-In 6pm T - Archaeology of Ohio, Valley Native People*(ages 7-13) | 22 10am A - Tech Help Drop-In 11am C - Baby Bookworms Infant Story Time 12:30pm A - Yoga 1pm A - Tech Basics 101 1:30pm A - Chair Yoga | 23 11am C - Toddler Tales Toddler Story Time | 24 11am C - Little Learners Preschool Story Time 1pm C - Little Learners Preschool Story Time | 25 10am A - Sit & Sew | 26 Spring Book Sale Begins April 26 - May 10 |
| 27 | 28 10am A - Tech Help Drop-In 6pm C - Family Story Time The Bakery Dragon | 29 10am A - Tech Help Drop-In 11am C - Baby Bookworms Infant Story Time 12:30pm A - Yoga 1:30pm A - Chair Yoga | 30 11am C - Toddler Tales Toddler Story Time |  | | |