

# When does it stop? The continuing adventures of Vivian

**BETSY SMITH**  
EDITOR

As I write this, Vivian, a.k.a. 12 Dogs, is standing on the kitchen table for the second time in less than 10 minutes. It's not a banner day at the Smith house.

We've recently come back from an emergency visit to the vet due to caffeine overload.

She was up and down all night, pacing, after having gnawed open an Amazon package containing a two-pound bag of Ghiardelli hot chocolate powder and eating or stirring half of it through the froyer.

I wasn't too alarmed at first. All my mutts have gotten hold of some chocolate from time to time, and it never phased them. Skipper, on different occasions, ate a tray of chocolate chip cookies, a bowl of M&M's, a good chunk of Derby pie and licked the icing off the back side of my cousin Jan's birthday cake. He was fine.

Vivian's always been extra, but this morning she was off



Betsy Smith

**Radar, Ruthie and Vivian hope a treat is forthcoming.**

her chain, so I called the vet and was told to bring her straight in to check her heart. After it was determined her

heart sounded fine, we went home and hit the sidewalk. I hoped to tire her out and take the edge off her alarmingly

increasing crazy. No dice.

Viv is about the last dog on earth you want jacked up on caffeine, but I'm so happy she's ok. She keeps life interesting. Her heart is as big as her personality. She loves as hard as she plays.

But today? Katie bar the door; she's turned up to 11.

It's been awhile since I've written about her escapades. I think I mentioned in an earlier column that she ate six pastries from the Dailey Grind at one time. Another day I saw something weird on the floor that looked like some kind of chicken bone-only we hadn't had chicken.

Looking on the counter I realized the bananas were gone. She'd eaten, them peel and all, just leaving the stem behind.

Let's see ... what else? Ed made himself a protein shake the other day. He put it down on the middle of the kitchen table and left it for a minute to help my dad unload something from his truck. Upon return-

ing, all he found was an empty cup. 12 Dogs had managed to slurp it down without spilling a drop or upending the cup. Good dog.

For a hound as food-motivated as she is, it's amazing to watch her with our other two dogs when there's something to be shared. There's no aggression there. She'll wait her turn for something, if necessary, but she'll just as happily join the other two in jointly licking a plate clean. Somehow, they can all three lick the same peanut butter spoon without so much as a growl.

She's finally wound down now and nodded off in Ed's chair, looking as innocent as a little black lamb. I'm sure she's just storing up energy for the next round of zoomies.

The fact that she seems none the worse for the wear is cause enough for thanksgiving, even if we do wish she'd chill out.

And next time we order anything food-related from Amazon, it's immediately going out of Viv's reach.

## Big Blue without old time loyalties

**BY BRUCE FLORENCE**  
COLUMNIST

One of Kentuckians' favorite winter entertainments is following basketball teams. We pick our favorites and settle in to keep up with their wins and losses.

Even the very little kids play the sport, and the stands are filled with devoted parents who encourage, cheer and brag about the outcome on the ride home.

But alas something seems somewhat off the rails in the last few years with our much loved Cats.

We old timers remember when the SEC championship belonged solely to Kentucky year after year. We didn't always win the NCAA tournament, but we were there very near the top almost every year.

These seasons of Rupp, Hall- and Pitino-led successes managed to spoil us. We felt that there were very few programs as sterling as ours, and we were very nearly right. In fact we even got to the place where U.K. football successes, or lack of, just didn't create much fuss, because after all we are a basketball powerhouse.

Then, as they always do, things began to change.

Other SEC schools began to place stronger emphasis on their basketball efforts and slowly it paid off. Wow! Did it ever—Florida, Tennessee, LSU, Alabama, Vanderbilt, to name a few, began to win important games.

While we kept winning our share it was quite evident that we no longer could wear the crown as the most singular team in the south. It was almost unbelievable to those of us who had been around seemingly forever, but we lost games.

Rupp was forced to retire and Joe B. did a masterful job of righting the ship.

Today things have taken a huge turn in college sports. It's almost unbelievable but these youngsters are now paid lots and lots of money to do what they at one time did on scholarship. The young people can move from team to team every year if they wish.

The coaching carousel is bewildering, too. More and more money is waved in front of the men and women, and there are even higher stakes for winning tournaments and first place trophies. These goals are almost impossible to reach.

Gone are the days when most players felt real loyalty to their school and thus their team. Today it is a hired position, and the time it takes to develop loyalty went out the door with school songs and tennis shoes.

If we were back in the good old days right now we could have five Kentucky youngsters starting. No guessing where their loyalties might be, but one left for the pros, the other a school in the SEC leaving Moreno, Noah and Johnson. They mostly come off the bench.

The recent Gonzaga loss and the boo's from the mostly partisan crowd leave most of us older fans saddened. If you play you will sometimes lose and there is no excuse for booing a bunch of young people who need more coaching, fan support and less NIL temptations.

A quick glance at today's roster leaves the very strong impression that most of the kids are planning on a portal escape to greener pastures. What if you had four years to develop and prove your abilities? It used to work, and you also got a good education as well. Oh for the good old days!

## Holiday memories made in unlikely circumstances

**BY SHAWN SORRELL**  
COLUMNIST

We all have holidays that are forever memorable in all the good ways, whether it is a loved one coming home from serving our country, a new baby or families who have traveled the distance to be together.

Some of my most loving Christmas memories were between the years 2003 and 2007 when I was a resident physician at the University of Wisconsin. At the time I was not married, nor did I have children, so working made the most sense when our small group of pediatric residents completed the holiday work schedule.

I would like to write that I was altruistic and excited to work, but the truth was I felt lonely. Little did I know those few days each year would change me.

We hung lights in the halls and in hospital rooms. I participated in all the potluck meals, and by "participate" I mean my single thirty-something self brought all the paper goods. I needed a few years under my belt before any dish I made was even slightly worthy of sharing.

I still have tears when I think of walking the halls of the pediatric oncology wing in the middle of the night checking charts, hearing the familiar cacophony of beeps, alarms and buzzing of fluorescent lights.

As the hours and days ticked by, I became overwhelmed with humility and gratitude. I was healthy, and I was fed. Unlike some events in my life, these memories have not faded. They are

sharp and I can still recall the names of many patients then.

I am not walking the halls of hospitals anymore, but am grateful to those who are. It goes without saying holidays, while joyful for many, can be difficult. Grief can come heavier. There are

so many people and organizations who need extra help this time of year.

Our community is one of the most loving places I have ever lived, and I am grateful still to be making new friends. I can even bring a dish to share.



### MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE

The Master Commissioner of the Harrison Circuit Court will sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder(s) at the Harrison County Justice Center, in Cynthiana, Kentucky, on Friday, December 19, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., the following properties listed below:

Pursuant to a Judgment and Order of Sale entered by the Harrison Circuit Court on August 25, 2025, in Civil Action No. 24-CI-00027 styled **Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, not in its individual or banking capacity, but solely as Trustee on behalf of the Lake Country Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-HE1, Plaintiff, vs. Unknown Heirs/Devises/Legatees/Beneficiaries of Donald Jackson (Deceased), Harrison County, City of Cynthiana, Kentucky, Donald Jackson, Jr., Erin Dan aka Erin Connors aka Erin Jackson, Kevin Jackson, Newrez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing successor by merger to New Residential Investment Corp. fka Ditech Financial LLC SBM to Green Tree Servicing LLC fka Conesco Finance Servicing Corp fka Green Tree Financial Servicing Corporation, United States of America Internal Revenue Service, Unknown Heirs/Devises/Legatees/Beneficiaries of Donna Jean Hiten Gonzales (Deceased), Unknown Spouse of Donald Jackson, Unknown Spouse of Donald Jackson, Jr., Unknown Spouse of Donna Jean Hiten Gonzales (Deceased) and Unknown Spouse of Kevin Jackson, Defendants: 103 Fourth St., Cynthiana, KY 41031 Parcel ID# 089-3007-005-00-000 See Deed Book 227, Page 623.**

The property is being sold to produce a sum sufficient to satisfy the judgments and liens as follows: (a) The costs of this action, including the Master Commissioner's fee, appraiser's fee and advertising costs; (b) Judgment for Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, not in its individual or banking capacity, but solely as Trustee on behalf of the Lake Country Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-HE1, Plaintiff, in the amount of \$22,508.97 from July 1, 2023, interest in the amount of \$5,781.43 as of September 24, 2025 with interest accruing at the rate of 10.75% per annum from September 24, 2025 until paid, (c) Real estate taxes, plus interest and penalties, if any, for taxes assessed for the year 2024 and previous years. (d) Plaintiff Court costs and attorney fees. Attorney for Plaintiff: Hon. John Mark T. Arcilla

#### Terms of Sale:

All properties shall be sold upon the following terms and conditions unless otherwise noted: (1) The property shall be sold free and clear of all liens and claims of the parties to this action; (2) The purchaser shall be required to pay the sum of 10% of the purchase price in cash, certified funds or by other immediately verifiable collectable medium of exchange acceptable to the Commissioner, on the day of sale to apply on the purchase price; (3) The balance of the purchase price shall be due and payable within thirty (30) days after the day of sale; (4) The purchaser shall be required to execute a bond with good and sufficient surety thereon as approved by the Commissioner to secure the unpaid portion of the purchase price, the bond to bear interest at the rate the judgment bears, from the day of sale until paid, the bond to have the same force and effect as a judgment and shall remain a lien on the property as additional security until the purchase price is paid in full; (5) The purchaser shall have the privilege of paying all or any part of the purchase price or paying the bond before maturity by paying the balance of the principal together with all accrued interest thereon until the date of payment; (6) The purchaser shall obtain possession of the property upon confirmation of the sale by the Court and payment of the purchase price in full; (7) All ad valorem taxes on the property for calendar year 2025 and all subsequent years shall be assumed and paid by the purchaser. All real property taxes due and owing to Harrison County or the City of Cynthiana or City of Berry, if applicable, for 2024 and prior years will be paid from the proceeds of sale. (8) The property shall be sold subject to any assessment for public improvements levied against the property and subject to all rules and regulations enforced by the Cynthiana-Harrison County-Berry Joint Planning and Zoning Commission, all applicable health and safety regulations, all restrictions and easements thereon appearing of record in the Harrison County Court Clerk's Office, governmental laws and regulations affecting the property, and shall be subject to any unrecorded easements, discrepancies or conflicts in boundary lines, shortage in area and encroachments, if any there be, which an accurate and complete survey or an inspection of the property would disclose; (9) The purchaser shall bear the risk of loss on the improvements on the property and the risk of loss shall pass to the purchaser as of the day and time of sale; (10) The property shall be sold with any improvements thereon "as is"; and (11) The property shall be sold subject to such right of redemption as may exist in favor of the United States of America pursuant to 28 USC Section 2410, and the right of redemption of the Defendants. All bidders will be prepared to comply with these terms.

Hon. John Lair  
Master Commissioner  
Harrison Circuit Court

## VERAX

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predicting they would serve him well on the bench.

Lair bookended his remarks with another story. He gave a brief history of the old covered bridge that long ago led into Cynthiana on U.S. 27, the one in the iconic painting by Herbert Allen Moore that hangs in so many local offices and homes.

He spoke of the bridge as a focal point during the first battle of Cynthiana in the Civil War and of the concrete span that was erected near it in the 1920s, putting it out of service.

When the bridge was dismantled in 1948, James Whitt, who owned the land on which the bridge's southern abutment stood, kept some of the wood.

About 1985, Whitt visited Lair's office saying he'd made some things from that wood. One of the things he made was a gavel, and he presented it to Lair saying, "John, some day you're going to need that gavel."

It sat on a credenza in his office for 40 years.

"It turns out that I never did need the gavel in the way Mr. Whitt was exactly thinking, probably, but I sure do need it today."

Pulling out the gavel, Lair asked Verax to stand and passed it to the almost-judge.

Verax was then sworn in by Judge Fryman, who signed the document making it official at 3:23 p.m.

When it was his turn to speak, Judge Verax talked of his upbringing in Pendleton County and of his parents, Bill and Rose, who "gave me everything in life." He credited

his high school and college coaches with instilling in him qualities that will serve him on the bench.

"I feel that my whole life has led me to this point to where that I feel I'm a decent human being. I'm compassionate but I have conviction. I'll strive to be a judge that will be fair but will also make the tough decisions when needed."

He credited Lair with shaping him as an attorney. "The things that John has instilled in me over the last 13 years are unimaginable."

Looking around the crowded courtroom, he finished his remarks by saying, "After seeing the love and support today that everyone has shown me, I can honestly say that I now truly do believe in myself."

## POSTED!

All persons are hereby notified not to trespass, fish or shoot upon the lands of the undersigned. Any person caught trespassing in violation of this notice will be reported to the sheriff and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. It is necessary that we take this step to protect our property and wildlife.

**No Trespassing** on Fisher Farm or Fisher Estate property in Harrison Co., Berry KY. Owned by Gary & Patricia Earle without written permission from Patricia Earle agent.

**Posted No Farm Trespassing** at 13027 Ky Hwy 356 Sadieville Ky, Harrison Co

**No Hunting or Trespassing** on the property belonging to Billie Grob lots 1, 4, 5, 6 and 41 of Maric Lane.

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