



Tam's Front Porch Ponderings
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Greatest Christmas Shopping Day

The house is upside down, not because of the wild winds that blew through over the weekend, it's just me, as always, a day late and a dollar short. I must confess, Friday night when I fell into bed, it dawned on me that the tree still wasn't up, no Christmas shopping had been done, Dylan was in Chicago, Sarah Beth and Jake were in Louisiana and I... was in a mess!

I rolled out of bed at 6:00 Saturday morning with a list of things to do a mile long, only to find my coffee pot

wouldn't work. Amazingly enough, I didn't have a melt down, just jumped in the truck and headed for McDonald's. Back home, with a large cup of coffee in hand, I got down to business and before long the washer and dryer were going strong and a sink full of hot, sudsy water waited to tackle the sticky leftovers of Bethel's Spice Tea. By 9:00 I felt it best to begin shopping. I called Mom, "You wanna go shopping with me?"

"Sure, give me thirty minutes," she said, "and have me home in time for Kentucky's ball game."

I gave my list the once over and resisted the urge to wear flip flops. No Christmas sweater today, it was the warmest, first day of Winter I could ever recall. As I pulled into Mom's driveway, the truck's thermometer flashed 65 degrees at me. At least we wouldn't have to battle bitter cold along with the Christmas crowd. Then we were off!

About halfway to Richmond Mom asked, "How many more do you need to buy for?"

"Hmmm... ALL of them!" I replied.

"The game comes on at noon," she reminded me.

"We'll be okay," I said, but as we began stopping at all the places on my list, I feared I wouldn't make it in time. We didn't waste any time looking around, I knew exactly what I needed, but we found ourselves running into one long, lost friend after another, and, you know us, we DO love to talk!

At 11:30 we were headed to another stop on the list when I realized the time, "Mom! We've got to head home, look!" and I pointed to the dash clock.

"Nah, we'll listen to it on the radio," she replied, so off we went again.

It was the greatest day of Christmas shopping I can ever recall. The next most memorable, was the Christmas Eve that Jenny Hardy and I decided to tackle Wal-Mart. Can you say nightmare? At one point, we became separated by the massive crowd and thankfully above the roar of crazed,

last minute shoppers, I heard a voice cry out, "Sugar Plum Fairy? Sugar Plum Fairy? Where are you?" It was Jenny! We vowed NEVER to do THAT again, but as luck would have it, my final stop was Wal-Mart!

When we entered the store, I advised Mom, "If we become separated, remember to call out 'Sugar Plum Fairy' and I'll find you!" I headed for deer corn (for Santa's reindeer), she headed for groceries and at 4:30 we headed for home. We'd visited with sooooo many friends, called out 'Merry Christmas' until our throats were sore and checked everything off my list. It had been a wonderful day spent with my Mom and as we pulled into her driveway, I glanced at the clock, "Glad our goal wasn't 7:00 p.m." I said with a grin.

"Me too!" Mom laughed, "We'd be getting home at midnight!"

Then she heard me exclaim as I drove out of sight...

Merry Christmas to all and to ALL a goodnight!



Dr. Jennifer Hunter, University of Kentucky State Extension Specialist for Family Financial Management, presented a comprehensive overview of estate planning and reverse mortgage facts last Monday evening. The meeting was hosted and sponsored by the Estill County Cooperative Extension Service. If you have questions, call 723-4557. (photo by Eric Baker)

Estill School News

January 6th through January 24, 2014

Pennies For Patients at ECMS

Estill County Middle School students are participating in a service learning project to help raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Students are encouraged to bring in coins and participate in activities over a three-week period, January 6-24, 2014. Classrooms will collect coins daily during this time. Each student will receive a collection box to use to collect coins and transport to their classroom.

Leukemia is a blood cancer that is the most common cancer in children under 20 years old and causes more deaths than any other cancer in this age group. The school's goal for this project is \$1,000.

2014 Estill Senior Calendar

Condensed from Information prepared by Estill High School Counselor Melissa Neal

Friday, December 27th

• SAT Postmark Registration Deadline for the Jan. 25 Test Date

Tuesday, December 31st

• POW/MIA Scholarship Application Deadline (for anyone who has had a parent, spouse, sister, brother, grandparent, uncle, aunt who has served in the military who was a POW/MIA or a KY veteran)

Free Computer Classes! @ Estill County Library

January 23rd - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Windows 8**

Contact us at (606) 723-3030 to register for classes.

**Please bring your own laptop or device.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

A time to weep,
 And a time to laugh;
 A time to mourn,
 And a time to dance...

ECCLESIASTES 3:4



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"It's not easy being married to an expert."

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Fold CARESE

Lost RAFTID

Cover CAYPON

Exact TIFINE

TODAY'S WORD

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment...

2 PETER 2:9

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ESTILL COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

BENEFIT BLUEGRASS CONCERT

JANUARY 10, 2014 - 8PM
 ESTILL COUNTY FAIR BARN

Tickets are \$15.00 each and may be purchased at the door. All Seating is General Admission.
 Advanced tickets can be purchased at the Estill County Animal Shelter, Monday through Friday from 8am to 2pm. See Tommy Mullen.

FEATURING THE MORON BROTHERS AND THE VELVET BLUE

With a Special Performance by the Southern Pride Cloggers






Welcome a **cat** into your home

Estill County Animal Shelter
 50 Ginter Road, Ravenna, KY 40472
 606-723-3587

CONCESSIONS FOR SALE

SILENT AUCTION

LOTS OF GREAT MUSIC

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE ESTILL COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

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