

FRANK.

The Magazine for Frankfort-Franklin County
JANUARY 2018



Kentucky distilled

A movement blossoms
in Frankfort

Small soldiers

Stewart's rare collection
finds home in Louisville
museum

Rollercoaster ride

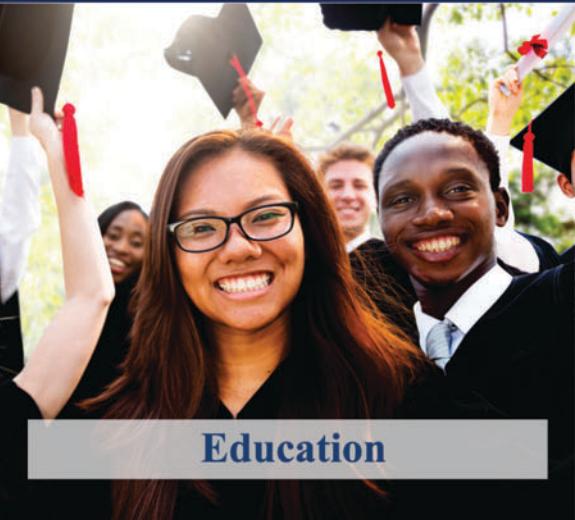
Lynes' journey made him a leader in hat fashion





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Famed hat maker Eric Lynes shares his compelling life story, which began in Louisville, wrapped around the world and ended up right back here in Frankfort's McClure building.
by CHARLES PEARL

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Frankfort's new brandprint "Kentucky Distilled" is more than a logo. It's offering visitors and Frankfortians a shared experience. It's telling the stories of the Frankfort community.
by KRISTIN CANTRELL

40 **Time-honored toys**

Since a young child, Charles Stewart of Stewart Home and School, has been collecting historic miniatures and toy soldiers. He recently donated the collection to the Frazier Museum of History.
by JOSH BERGERON

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FOREWORD



From the banks of the Kentucky River to the Louisville metro, the stories FRANK. seeks to tell aren't constrained by the boundaries of Franklin County. From a quaint cottage retreat in northern Woodford County to a massive collection of toy soldiers and historic miniatures housed in Louisville's Frazier History Museum, the January edition of FRANK. tells interesting, local stories regardless of where they lead.

This issue tells the compelling story of Eric Lynes' who overcame early troubles to purchase a hatmaking company, sell it and continue to run it after its sale. (pg. 32) Kristin Cantrell tells the story of Frankfort's "Kentucky Distilled" brand and encourages locals to "Be an ambassador for Frankfort and Franklin County every day of the year, everywhere you go." (pg. 38) We also write about Charles Stewart's collection of toy soldiers donated over a period of years to the Frazier Museum, which calls it the second-most important collection of its kind in the world. (pg. 40)

In this edition of FRANK., you'll also read about the transformation of a one-room cabin into a cottage with modern amenities on Watts Ferry Road. (pg. 19) Our restaurant feature takes your tastebuds on a trip to Honduras and Mami Monchita's, a new addition to Frankfort's culinary scene. (pg. 15) Our travel feature takes readers to nearby Lawrenceburg, the home of a recently rejuvenated downtown. (pg. 46)

We hope you enjoy the first edition of FRANK. in 2018.
Best Regards,

Josh Bergeron, editor

The Grand Theatre logo is at the top, featuring the word "GRAND" in large white letters with "THEATRE" and "1911" below it. Below the logo is a collage of five images: a man with glasses, a woman in a red dress dancing, a man with a guitar, a group of musicians, and a poster for "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald, adapted for the stage by Simon Levy.

SEASON

2017-2018

FLAMENCO vivo • national PLAYERS - the GREAT gatsby
george WINSTON • ASLEEP at the WHEEL • sam BUSH

Two images on the left show men smiling: one in a blue baseball cap and another in a red baseball cap. To the right is a large, close-up portrait of Delbert McClinton. Below the images are the names and dates of the performances: "HALFWAY TO HAZARD APRIL 20", "EMI SUNSHINE APRIL 7", "DELBERT McCLINTON February 2", and "COLTER WALL May 18".



Web exclusive: Photo gallery of Paul and Lindy Huber's cottage, farm

Go online to view a full gallery of Paul and Lindy Huber's recently renovated cottage, which has been outfitted with modern amenities and welcomes guests to the Bluegrass region. The farm is 450 acres and contains one mile of river frontage. The Hubers have been offering The Cottage at Seldom Scene Farm, mostly through Airbnb, for a year and have been pleasantly surprised by the number of visitors who have chosen to stay there. View the gallery for a look at how the Hubers turned a one-room cabin into a popular retreat at www.frankthemagazine.com. An article about the home can be found on page 19. 



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What are you looking forward to most in the new year?



New business ventures and more time with the people I love!

Brittany Drieci
Frankfort



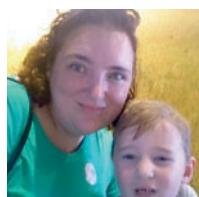
I am looking forward to the possibility of peace on earth and good will to all mankind. That would provide a multitude of blessings and joy.

Peggy Bryant
Frankfort



In 2018, I want to find peace within myself, as well as for this drug addiction epidemic to come to a screeching halt.

Bonnie Carpenter
Frankfort



New beginnings. Every new year is a new chapter in life. Some years turn out better than others, but it's an adventure regardless.

Miche Branscum
Frankfort



More stories on volunteers in the community.

Susan Pilling Preston
Frankfort

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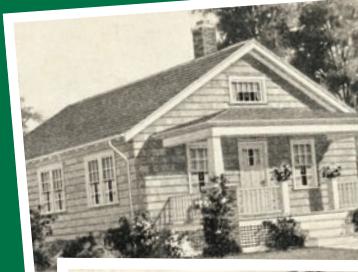
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the EATER

THE BEST OF FOOD & DRINK IN FRANKFORT



Take your tastebuds on a trip

Mami Monchita's offering Frankfortians a taste of Honduras

by PHILIP CASE



Chismol with corn chips or plantain chips is an appetizer that features a fresh and healthy mix of green peppers, tomatoes, red onions and a taste of cilantro.

Chismol is described in the menu as

“Honduran pico” — pico is served in Mexican restaurants. Monchita’s chismol has finely-diced tomatoes, lemon, cilantro and is marinated in lime juice. Plantain chips resemble thinly-sliced bananas that have been baked. 

Chismol

INGREDIENTS

Tomatoes
Green bell peppers
Red onions
Cilantro
Lime juice
Ground cumin
Salt

PREPARATION

Finely chop tomatoes, green peppers, onions and cilantro. Add lime juice, cumin and salt to taste.

Serve with plantain or corn chips and enjoy!

Sweet taste of Honduras

Honduran Calambre features a shot of gin, red wine and Bacardi rum for about two ounces of liquor.

This drink is very common in Honduras and, because sugar is added, the sweet taste masks the liquor, not unlike the mint julep popular at Kentucky Derby time. **F**

Honduran Calambre

INGREDIENTS

- 1 shot of gin
- 1 shot of red wine
- 1 shot of Bacardi
- 1 shot of lime
- 4 spoons of sugar

PREPARATION

Add ice and shake well.





Patrons enjoy their
meal at Mami
Monchita's.

A lesson from Mami

Owners of Mami Monchita's sharing mother's recipes, spirit of giving

by PHILIP CASE

The name of the restaurant, and the inspiration behind it are the same. "Mami Monchita's, a taste of Honduras" remembers the late Monchita de Diaz and features many of her recipes.

Located at 610 Ridgeview Drive, just off Schenkel Lane, the restaurant opened in late December, offering authentic Honduran dishes served with lots of love and enthusiasm.

"We wanted to bring something different to Frankfort," said Reina Diaz-Dempsey of the dream she and her sister, Alda Diaz, have nurtured for 30 years. "Mami means mother in Spanish and we wanted that to be a part the name."

Reina's husband, Gary Dempsey, is a partner in the business, too.

"Our mother instilled in us a spirit of giving," Reina said. "She said to just be yourself and to give yourself."

In that spirit of giving, a portion of the restaurant's profits will go to Greenhouse of Love — or Viveros de Amor — a project to benefit children in the sisters' coffee-producing town of El Paraiso, Honduras.

"So," Reina summarized, "we have three reasons for being here: to honor our mother's memory and recipes, to help support Greenhouse, and to bring some Honduran culture to Frankfort."

"Reina and Alda have made Frankfort their community," Greg Dempsey said. "They wanted to bring some of their culture here."

The restaurant is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. It's closed on Sundays and Mondays. The owners hope to expand the hours of operation in the future.

Perfect location'

The location, which they believe is perfect, is on the edge of a residential area but close to a main thoroughfare. "In the past it's been a convenience store, a bar and a couple of other things," Greg said. "We thought it had a lot of potential."

"About the only thing we kept was the physical bar itself — at least most of it — since we have a full bar. We did over all the rest."

"We wanted our place to have character and personality," said Reina. "It needed to have a homely feeling, a neighborhood feeling — and here we are in a neighborhood!"

Alda Diaz has restaurant experience having most recently been a partner at Havana Dunbar in Louisville. "I sold my part and decided to come here," she said. "It just felt right."

She's in charge of the kitchen, which she says is small but designed to be very efficient. The chef is from Mexico and Alda calls him simply "Mr. Vicente."

"He was a culinary student in Mexico and he embraced our mission," she says. "Before coming here, he was selling tacos in Lexington."

The most expensive item on the menu is a \$17.99 skewer featuring vegetables and filet mignon. All offerings are prepared with a distinctive Honduran flair.

"We've been working to teach the servers — who are mostly American — how to explain the menu items to the customers," said Magalia "Maggie" Galindo, a longtime friend of the family. "We'll help customers find what they want — and educate them to Honduran cuisine, too." 

Right, owners of Mami Monchita's Reina Diaz-Dempsey and husband, Greg Dempsey pose for a picture next to Reina's mother, Monchita de Diaz.

Below, the Mami Monchita's Family Sampler consists of one nacatamal, one taco de pollo, one beef pastelito and one chicharron and aquesillo pupusa.





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The Dining Guide

Frankfort restaurants offering tastes from Kentucky to around the world

Bourbon on Main

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bourbononmain.com

No choice is a bad one on this menu, especially if you've snagged a spot on one of the best patios in Frankfort. Watch the Kentucky River flow while sipping a cocktail from the restaurant's growing and ever changing bourbon selection. New bourbons come in almost every week. Be sure to ask for recommendations. Bourbon on Main is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Fridays and 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturdays.

Capital Cellars

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Casa Fiesta

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Ginza Japanese Steakhouse

111 Westridge Drive

502.875.7578

ginzajpgrill.com

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Mami Monchita's

610 Ridgeview Drive

502.699.2380

Find us on Facebook at @MamiMonchitas

Mami Monchita's is Frankfort's newest restaurant, and the only one serving up a taste of Honduras. Stop by to savor delicious pupusas, nacatamal and pinchos (skewers). The restaurant will officially opened its doors in December. Mami Monchita's is open for lunch and dinner from Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 7a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 7a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mi Fiesta

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"In Mi Fiesta, we celebrate 'your fiesta'!" The fiesta is far from over in downtown Frankfort! Mi Fiesta reopened this summer in Downtown Frankfort with customer favorites such as Buffalo Chicken Fajitas and Homemade Sangria.

With live entertainment and a patio for the warmer months, Mi Fiesta is destined to become one of your favorite spots in town.

Serving lunch and dinner, Mi Fiesta is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday noon to 11 p.m. **F**



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A cozy country get-a-way

Millville couple rehabilitates 1800s cabin,
opens up as an authentic Bluegrass retreat

by SUSAN L. MOORE

photographs by HANNAH BROWN



Top left: Paul and Lindy Huber pose for a picture in front of their cabin at Seldom Scene Farm. Top right: One of the kitchen countertops is made of copper. Bottom right, the cottage at Seldom Scene Farm before it was renovated by the Hubers. (photos submitted)

More than two hundred years ago, the Watts family arrived on land deeded to them from a Virginia Land Grant. It was in the young state of Kentucky, in an area with rich soil and grazing lands nestled along the palisades of the Kentucky River.

Here, the Watts built their lives for generations in a place situated at the end of what would become Watts Ferry Road. For shelter, they first built a simple, one-room cabin, using axes to chop and hew the logs.

Through time, the cabin was enlarged to accommodate the growing family. Members of the family lived in the house as late as the 1970s, after which it eventually fell into disrepair.

A story written in the May 1974 issue of National Geographic Magazine featured the Bluegrass region and included an interview with brothers G. M. Watts, 85, and Bird Watts, 83, who lived in the log house at the time.

An excerpt from the article gives a glimpse into concerns of the area from days past. “The family has always owned the log house. ‘I guess maybe some of ‘em sat right here and worried about the Shawnee,’” said G. M. Watts.

From cabin to cottage

The little log cabin that sheltered so many has been given a new purpose through Lindy and Paul Huber, the second owners of the secluded farm.

“Paul and a couple of friends bought the land in 1987 — initially to ride dirt bikes,” Lindy says with a chuckle.

Now, after an amazing renovation, the former one-room cabin has been transformed and welcomes visitors to the Bluegrass region.

“He really never expected to do anything with this place,” Lindy explains. “But, he sold his house in Lexington more quickly than he thought. So, he ended up adding a little tiny bathroom and indoor plumbing for a kitchen so he could live there. I remember it being so cold that he wrapped the whole back of the house in plastic.”

A few years after Paul and Lindy married, they built a larger home for their family on the property. Paul continued his work with Central Equipment in Lexington and Lindy, who was a teacher at the time, began raising a large herd of champion alpacas and grew it into a full time business.

As the alpaca business prospered, they hired a farm manager who lived in the cabin. Later, Lindy’s friend who temporarily lived in the cabin and had traveled extensively, gave her an idea.

She said, “You really should do something with this place.

“

... he ended up adding a little tiny bathroom and indoor plumbing for a kitchen so he could live there. I remember it being so cold that he wrapped the whole back of the house in plastic.

—Lindy Huber

“

Would you like to see your home featured in FRANK. magazine? To be considered, please email us with a brief description of your home at frank@frankthemagazine.com.



It has so much potential and a neat history and people would love to come and stay here.” The couple decided to take the plunge and have it renovated.

Two years ago, the log cabin, which the Hubers eventually named “The Cottage at Seldom Scene Farm,” began a year-long, massive renovation and reconstruction. They employed Tim Klarer, a master carpenter specializing in historic property renovations, to oversee the project.

“Tim did such a great job. It was his idea to try to repurpose as much as possible from the original cabin,” Lindy said.

The new design is built around the one-room cabin, with modern amenities such as Wi-Fi, air conditioning, a fully equipped kitchen and heated floors wherever there is tile.

Throughout the 1,100 square foot, two bedroom, one-bath cottage, care has been taken to create a modern, yet rustic space with touches from the original cabin. The front door is handcrafted from rich heart pine, sourced from the cabin’s original walls and floors.

Above, beams from a barn on the farm stretch across a







The original log wall is exposed in one of the bedrooms in the cabin.

cathedral ceiling in the light-filled sitting area that used to be a “dogtrot.” Several walls are the rough-hewn logs from the original home.

The kitchen cabinets are of reclaimed heart pine and topped with unique copper counters. Marbles found on site during the renovation are embedded in several walls. They tell a little snippet of life at the cabin. It’s easy to imagine the Watts children laughing while on their knees around a dirt-drawn circle playing a game of marbles.

Visitors to The Cottage at Seldom Scene Farm are treated with comfortable, simple decor. Alpaca fiber pillows made by Lindy dot the couches and fiber wall art along with bourbon and horse accessories can be found throughout the space.

Outside the kitchen door is a patio and 360 degrees of beautiful Bluegrass views — and an outhouse.

“We left the outhouse just because we thought it was interesting,” Lindy explains. “It’s a two seater!”

The Cottage at Seldom Scene Farm holds two centuries of life from two families, the Watts and now the Hubers.

“We really did this as a labor of love and are proud of the history,” Lindy said of the cottage renovation. “And it’s been fun to share the farm with people!”

The farm

At Seldom Scene Farm, it’s easy to step back to a simpler time, though there are just a few miles of country road between the farm and the city of Frankfort.

Upon pulling up to the cottage, a gaggle of curious chickens and a few proud peacocks may come into the yard to investigate. The sheep pasture is out the front door of the cottage. Tinker Bell, a pet llama, usually comes running to greet visitors, as well.

The Hubers keep an animal menagerie — llamas, peacocks, three Rocky Mountain horses, chickens for eggs, a flock of long wool sheep, which give wool for Lindy’s fiber art, a few alpacas, several friendly dogs and a sweet barn cat.

Most of the 450-acre farm has been left wooded and natural for wildlife, and there are several conservation projects with native grasses and wild-flowers.

“We have a mile of river frontage,” Lindy says. “And a pretty hiking trail along the river and a dock where people can sit or fish.”

A getaway with history

The Hubers have been offering The Cottage at Seldom Scene Farm, mostly through Airbnb, for a year and have been pleasantly surprised by the number of visitors who have chosen to stay there.

“We have had triple the number of guests than we had projected, and probably 80 or 90 percent of them are visiting the Bourbon Trail while in the area,” Lindy comments. “We’ve had people from 25 states and from around Kentucky. It’s mind boggling,” she added.

A review written in December 2017 on Airbnb shares one guest’s stay was even better than expected:

“Lindy and Paul’s Cottage is absolutely phenomenal. Sparkling clean, decorated to capture the heart of the Bluegrass, and steeped in history. The amenities provided are everything you would ever need, and then some. And the location...WOW! The Cottage is set in the middle of Lindy and Paul’s huge farm, acres and acres of meticulously maintained grounds with a river running through it. You can explore for hours without ever leaving the property; and enjoy the best of media and technology when you settle in for the night. Very private and conveniently located to the best sightseeing, bourbon tours and restaurants that Kentucky has to offer. We absolutely loved this place and can’t wait to return!”

For information about The Cottage at Seldom Scene Farm, email Lindy at Alpacalinda@gmail.com or give her a call at 859-873-1622. 

Start planning your vegetable garden now

by PHILIP CASE

While the weather outside may be — or may not be — frightful, there are still things we can do to prepare for the upcoming gardening season.

• **Planning:** What size garden are you planning to have — assuming you're going to have one of some size? Remember, "gardens" don't have to be a huge plot in the country. They can, of course, be that or they can be as little as a few buckets on the deck or a built-up bed in the backyard.

The size of the plot — or pot — is entirely up to you. Now's a good time to ponder if you want to have a garden of whatever size and how you plan to prepare for it.

• **Prepare:** This step is important if you're planning a garden that requires plowing with either a tractor and breaking plow or a roto-tiller. I say it often in my weekly column in the newspaper that you may tire of hearing it, but plowing in January and February pays off because your garden is ready to go when it's time to plant — especially if you're into early gardening.

Remember, gardens can be plowed in January and February even if the ground is wet. I know that defies logic. You just must trust me on this one.

• **Decide** if you want to raise any of your own plants because those seedlings must be started about six weeks before they go in the ground. While they can't be started yet, that doesn't mean you can't decide if you're going to grow your own and plan when to start them.

For instance, for tomato plants to go in the ground between Derby Day and Mother's Day when the danger of frost has passed, the seeds need to be sown by the first week in April. That is just a bit over three months away.

• **Covenant** with me to try your best to plant everything from seeds to transplants according to the phases of the moon and signs of the zodiac. I will tell you every week in the newspaper what to plant and when and, unless you want to know more, that is all you need to know.

You don't have to understand this system, just promise to give it a try. Following it really helps make your good garden even better. In addition to the column in the newspaper, you will be able to check information on my Facebook page, plantingbythesigns.net and on my Twitter feed, Planting By Signs. 

“

Remember

“gardens” don’t have to be a huge plot in the country. They can, of course, be that or they can be as little as a few buckets on the deck or a built-up bed in the backyard.



”

Right, for tomato plants to go in the ground between Derby Day and Mother's Day when the danger of frost has passed, the seeds need to be sown by the first week in April.





Signature details

Homeowners add their stamps on a newly purchased home

by **TERRI BENNETT**, *Terri Bennett interior Design*

The home at 210 Old Country Lane held a unique draw for its new owners. Will and Shari Thompson relocated to Frankfort from Port Washington (Long Island), New York — a cozy, harborside community a short train ride from all the amenities of New York City.

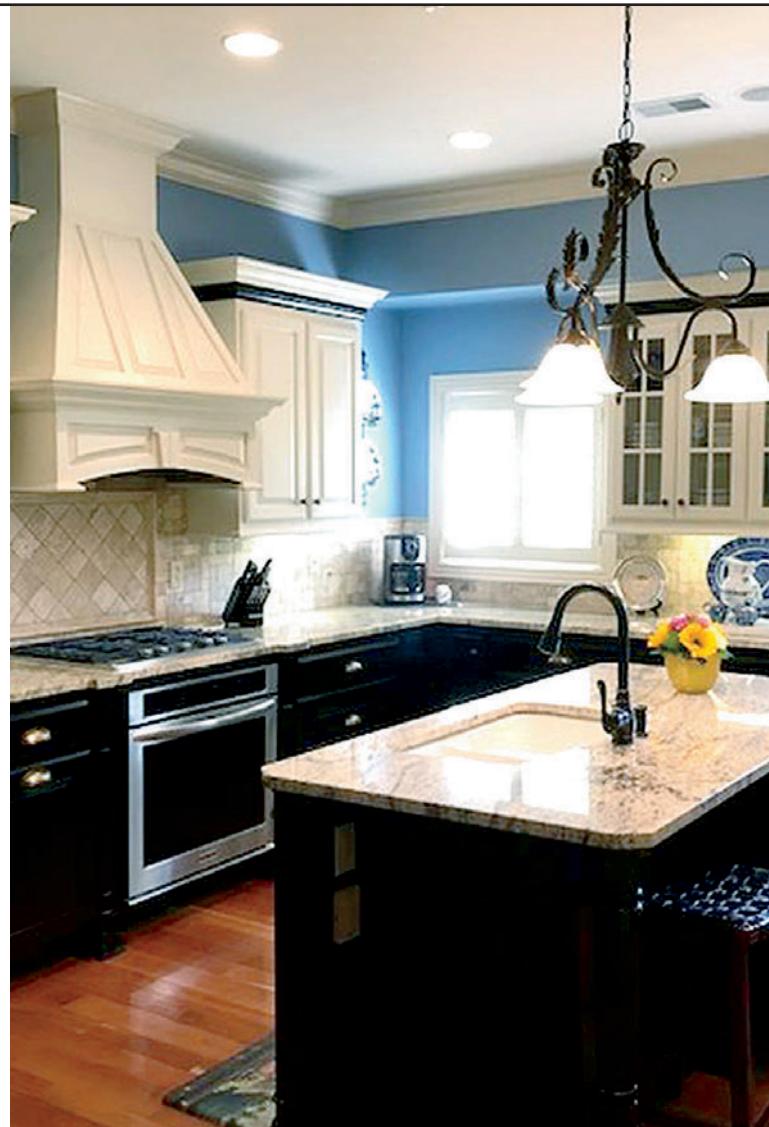
Their home in Port Washington, a classic English Tudor, was steeped in character. Their new Frankfort home needed to match the livability that the Thompsons built into its predecessor — tasteful, well built, and designed for comfortable entertaining.

As smart, savvy buyers, they knew to look beyond cosmetic elements, which often displays overly personal seller choices. The key is to look at the potential of a home, as your home, with your signature details.

After viewing a dozen homes, including a townhome near downtown Lexington and an estate home on a Versailles horse farm, instinct lead them back to a house with potential. They knew with a few signature details, they could envision themselves — at home.

The home, featured in the November 2017 issue of FRANK as "A Georgian Beauty," is one of Frankfort's standout estate homes. It was renovated and enlarged in 2005 by the previous owners.

While there was a genuine appreciation for the formal, classical style incorporated into the home, the Thompsons added their personal touch.



CABINETRY

The two-tone kitchen with off white perimeter upper cabinet and black lower cabinets are custom cabinets from Barber Cabinet Company. The high contrast black stripe detail on the crown molding of the wall cabinets was a popular kitchen trend incorporated with the initial 2005 renovation. Two-tone kitchens are still trending, but the stripe detail added a busy, complexity to the kitchen. By removing the black stripe, the cabinetry was immediately updated.

COLOR

The kitchen walls were previously a vibrant, youthful blue. By painting the walls a soulful light French gray, the kitchen suddenly became calm and modern. The existing earth tone granite countertops and light travertine tiles are now a focal point, where they were previously lost behind the color saturated walls. By reverting to a neutral color palette, the kitchen appears larger, more casual, and purposefully coordinated with adjacent rooms.

LIGHTING

The lighting was updated from a highly traditional island centered chandelier to a modern five-glass pendant fixture. The original chandelier, with its opaque glass and bronze filigreed structure worked well with a very traditional space; but the new, neutral theme of the kitchen required a simpler approach. The clear glass pendants of the new fixture add a whimsical element. Transformed from overly traditional to a shiny, modern flair.

LIFESTYLE

While the layout of the kitchen did not change, the neutral palette provides a comfortable backdrop for family dinners and drinks with friends. It coordinates well with the adjacent, well-appointed great room. By modernizing the style of the kitchen, the Thompsons now have two options for indoor entertaining. With the formal dining room, living room, and library/bar area located away from the kitchen, great room and casual dining area, formal dinner parties are still welcome.

ZONES

The Thompson's recognized the potential in the overall configuration of the home. Their two adult children and out of town guests appreciate the separation of the guest wing from the formal and casual living areas. The master suite includes a large bedroom and large ensuite bathroom. All of the living areas remain neutral and by design coordinate with adjacent areas. The personal, signature details make this house a welcoming home for the Thompsons. 





The Bulls and Bears in the Market

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John Hibbard is a Financial Advisor with Edwards Jones.

Helping goals come to life

Hibbard and his team at Edward Jones are assisting Frankfortians in planning for their futures

by TORI WAITS

John Hibbard, a Financial Advisor with Edwards Jones in Frankfort knows there are few things in life as daunting as preparing for your financial future. People from all walks and every stage of life can and should take steps to prepare financially for years to come, whether you're considering purchasing real estate in the future or planning for retirement. Fortunately, Frankfortians are blessed with the team at Edward Jones as they navigate the many options in preparing for our financial futures.

Stocks, bonds, mutual funds and life insurance — these are just some of the financial products that are available today. Many people have a basic working knowledge of the differences in these products. A lot of people aren't aware of the functional differences between these products. Trying to understand where to invest your income can be overwhelming and stressful.

Hibbard and his team at Edward Jones are there for you — whether you know the difference between stocks and mutual funds or not. The goal is to steer clients toward their financial goals by giving them a blueprint to investing.

As your neighborhood investor, the process at Edwards Jones is simple. You will come in, meet with Hibbard and his team and talk. Whether you are investing a few dollars for the first time or millions, each client receives the same individual and friendly treatment.

When you leave the Edward Jones office, you will have the information and assistance you need to achieve your goals. Hibbard and his team make investing as easy as possible for clients. At the end of the day, they want to see their clients succeed.

Hibbard has more than 15 years of experience as a financial advisor helping clients reach their financial goals. He began his

career at Wells Fargo before acquiring the necessary licenses to become a financial advisor with MetLife in 2002.

Hibbard has multiple licenses, including his Series 7, 6, 63, 65 and 66, as well as Life and Health licenses. His vast array of experience makes him uniquely suited to advise on any of the available products Edward Jones offers. He opened Edward Jones in Frankfort in 2007 in order to serve a need he saw in the community.

Since moving here permanently in 2011, Hibbard has been a very active member of the Frankfort community. He is Vice president of member development for the Frankfort Chamber of Commerce. He was chairman for Relay for Life for four years. He sits on the board of directors for Lady Vets Connect. Hibbard is also the vice president and board member of the Franklin County Humane Society, and he has his own pet, a two-year-old chocolate lab named Juno.

When he's not working or serving with nonprofit organizations, Hibbard spends his time golfing, hunting and cheering on the University of Kentucky Wildcats. He even found time to coach football for 12 years and took a team all the way to fourth in the country one year.

Whether you are just beginning the process of investing in your financial future, planning for a specific goal, such as buying your first home, or you want to ensure you're investing your money wisely, John and his team at Edward Jones are there to see your goals come to life.

Right, Natalie Goodpasture, John Hibbard, Sandra Lee and Juno pose for a picture in the Edward Jones office located at 76 C. Michael Davenport Blvd., suite 3.



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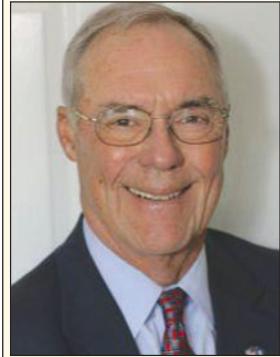
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John Hibbard made Frankfort his home in 2011 and started his career with Edward Jones in 2007. As an Edward Jones financial advisor, it's important to invest my time to understand what you're working toward before you invest your money. Working closely with you and your CPA, attorney and other professionals, I can help determine the most appropriate financial strategy for you and your family. At Edward Jones we're focused on you. We have thousands of people and advanced technology supporting our office so that we can help you reach your long-term financial goals.

Melissa Johnson

Vice President
Secondary Market Residential Mortgage Lender, Bourbon Region
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Frankfort KY 40601

As Vice President of Secondary Market Mortgage Lending, Melissa Johnson brings over 25 years of commercial and mortgage lending to her clients. She and her team ensure that your experience in applying for a home loan and beginning the adventure of home ownership is as seamless and convenient as possible. At United Bank, they truly make the experience one of personal guidance and assistance that can only be found in a community bank, ensuring all your needs are taken care of.

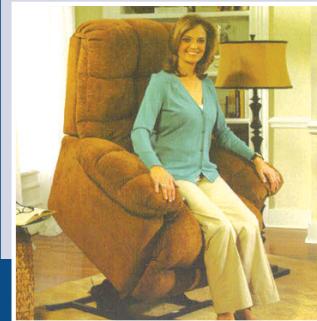
Charles Geveden

Century 21 Commonwealth Real Estate (KY 75105)
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Charlie and his wife Pat moved to Frankfort 12 years ago.

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Charlie retired from his attorney position with state government at the end of 2011. After retiring, Charlie wanted to stay busy as well as active in the Frankfort community and decided to pursue a second career in real estate. Upon receiving his realtor's license, he associated with Century 21 Commonwealth Real Estate and is now working to make your home ownership dreams come true. "It's a real pleasure meeting people and helping them in their real estate issues, whether buying or selling."

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Audrey Marshall

Shelter Insurance Agency Owner
Pine Hill Plaza, 1121 Louisville Rd, Ste 401, Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone: 502.223.2196, email: amarshall@shelterinsurance.com
Audrey is a lifelong resident of Frankfort. She has been with Shelter Insurance for five years, but she has a lifelong career invested in helping people. She is experienced in auto, home, and life insurance. She is sincere and honest in her desire to ensure that her clients have the best coverage for their needs. Life is precious, and preparing for the unexpected is important. There's no need to leave things to chance. Spend a little more time planning and it will be worth it.

Robby Osborne

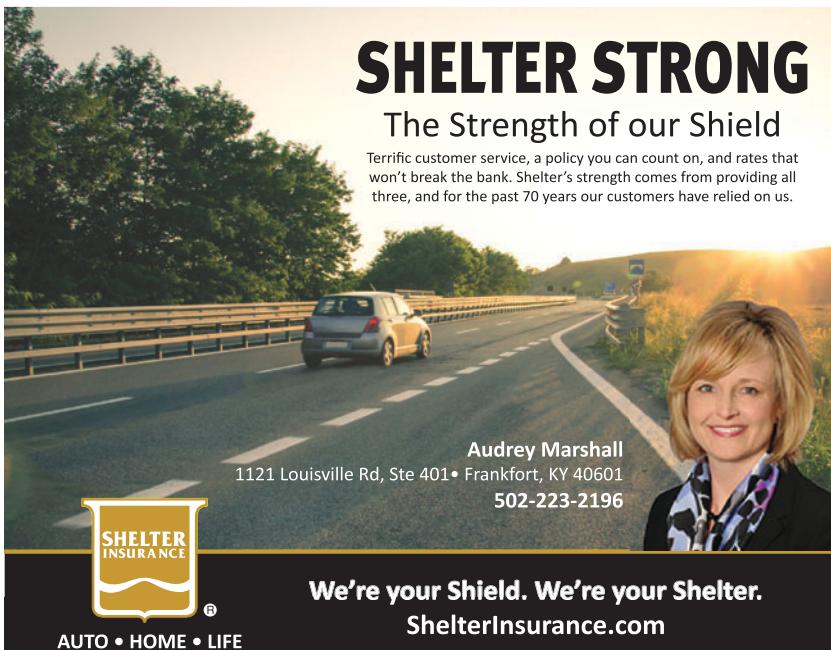
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Stockton's longest standing Loan Officer; Robby's knowledge of loan products including; FHA, VA, RHS and Conventional and his ability to smoothly guide home buyers through the mortgage process has been invaluable to the Frankfort community, especially for first time home buyers. Born and raised in Kentucky and now a Kentucky Colonel, he loves everything Kentucky; from horses to UK basketball and of course, fine bourbon. He loves helping people plant roots in Kentucky (even Cardinal fans). When this graduate of EKU isn't working, he enjoys spending time with his son, Evan, watching sports or camping at Red River Gorge. 

Photograph by Hannah Brown

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MAN IN CHARGE

Eric Lynes is the former CEO of Biltmore Hats. Currently he is the president of Prowess Uniform Solutions Inc.



Journey to the top

Frankfort man's rollercoaster lifestyle has
led him to the forefront of hat fashion

by **CHARLES PEARL**
photographs by **HANNAH BROWN**



Franklin County Sheriff Pat Melton and Eric Lynes pose for a photo holding one of the hats that Melton purchased from Lynes.

As a Louisville teenager, he tried it all: marijuana, mescaline, LSD, cocaine, heroin and angel dust. He sold drugs and at 15 was arrested for armed robbery and locked up in the city's juvenile delinquent center.

In 2018, Eric Lynes, 61, hopes to talk about his roller-coaster life story at churches, schools, community meetings and bookstores. He also wants to sign and sell his new book. He's been alcohol and drug-free for many years, and won't even take aspirin.



On the back cover of his autobiography, titled "Ghetto Prince: A journey from hoodlum to CEO," Penny Estes Wheeler, bestselling author of "The Appearing," says Lynes book has "more twists and turns than an Agatha Christie mystery."

The back cover also says, "From the hood to the Andes Mountains of South America, this is the riveting true story of a young black man who had the vision to become a hat designer and manufacturer. It is the story of a man who single-handedly resurrected hats to the forefront of fashion."

"As a young man Eric was determined not to be destroyed by the 'project culture' of urban America. He prayerfully and methodically worked his way up from drugs and crime in the hood to realize his dream and to seize the reins as president of the world-renowned Biltmore Hats of Canada. Biltmore is the maker of the world's most famous hat — The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Hat."

Lynes acquired Biltmore Hats in 2005 and sold

the company to Dorfman Pacific in 2010. After selling it, Lynes ran the Biltmore brand division for six years in Dallas.

Today, Lynes is president of Prowess Uniform Solutions Inc. His office is in Suite 301 of the McClure Building in downtown Frankfort.

The website says Prowess is a small business "that aspires to be the most successful comprehensive uniform supplier in North America. Our core competency is providing specialized uniform garments, headwear, footwear and accessories required by commercial industries, law enforcement, medical, military and educational institutions."

"Eric has a passion for quality, service and style, whether it is with the foods he eats (he's been a vegetarian for decades) or the garments he wears and manufactures. These attributes are uniquely woven into the fabric of his being. While working in the headwear industry, Eric was known as the walking-talking billboard of the highest quality



Eric Lynes, right, when he was 19 years old, poses for a picture with his brother Percy.

hats in the industry."

One of his Prowess customers is Popz Topz hat designer Ron Stephens, father of award-winning singer John Legend.

Background

Lynes was born in Springfield, Ohio, in 1956 but grew up in Louisville. He hardly knew his father, who served 10 years in the Indiana State Penitentiary for armed robbery.

"He was an alcoholic," Lynes said. "I heard he was a good person, but when he drank, he was like someone possessed with demons."

After his release from prison, "I was always hoping he would get his act together and come home to my mom and our family (six children), and be the father of my dreams," Lynes says in his book.

It didn't happen. His father was shot to death in a domestic dispute shortly after being released.

Later, Eric was expelled from Louisville Central High School in his sophomore year after "mouthing off" to the principal.

"Then I went to Kentucky's first-ever alternative high school in Louisville," Lynes said. "My mom, who went to Kentucky State University three years and was a substitute teacher at some schools I attended, got me enrolled. But I got kicked out of there when I got busted for selling marijuana."

"Mom then somehow found Hope Academy, where teenage mothers were working on getting their GEDs, and I got my GED there."

His mother died Oct. 27 in Phoenix, Arizona. She was 90.

In his book, Eric said his mother, Frances Louise Smith Lynes, "is one of the true saints to walk this earth. That's not to say she didn't have her problems, because a saint is a sinner saved by grace. Her tenacious attitude for excellence, her courage in danger and discouraging circumstances, her hope and faith in God to deliver and rescue in the time of adversity and need, was instilled and woven throughout every fiber of our being."

"She's responsible for our spirit to fight back, our 'put family first' mentality, and the never give up attitude that enabled us to make it out of the hood and through the tough times of life."

After earning his GED, "passing the exam with flying colors," he was offered a full scholarship to Jefferson Community College.

"I felt grateful, but I wanted to travel the world, and Louisville was not the world," he said.

He followed in the footsteps of his older brother Percy and joined the Navy.

On the USS Forrestal Naval aircraft carrier, Lynes was caught smoking pot and spent 28 days in jail on the ship. One week after his release, he got in a fight that erupted into a "full-blown" race riot involving about 60 men.

He was upset about going to jail, "after being



Eric Lynes joined the Navy when he was a young man. He served on the USS Forrestal in 1975.

framed on a drug-possession charge by a crooked naval police officer." He also was angry after hearing two black sailors were "brutally beaten by a group of white guys, and nothing was done about it."

After the brawl, Lynes was flown back to the U.S. to stand trial for inciting the riot. He was never convicted, and eventually received an honorable discharge.

In his book he says, "In 1975, racial tensions ran high on board the USS Forrestal. One reason was the war-alert situation of our being at sea for extended periods because the Turkey and Cyprus Dispute was still ongoing in the Mediterranean. This dispute had an adverse effect on young black and white sailors who seemed to get along fine as long as we were passing the peace pipe — the social weed and hashish, which was so prevalent in the Mediterranean coastal areas. Our 6,000-man naval operations in the Med depleted the hashish and marijuana stashes on board and around the local coastal towns," and that's when racial tensions increased.

A retired Navy chaplain told Lynes the Taranto, Italy, incident (riot) was instrumental in creating awareness, which helped bring about a positive change of culture concerning race relations in the Navy.

After serving in the Navy, Lynes attended

Oakwood College, now a historically black Seventh-day Adventist university in Huntsville, Alabama.

Lynes' paternal grandfather, Carlos Alexander Lynes, was pastor of Magazine Street SDA Church in Louisville. During all of Eric's "foolishness" growing up, he had many prayers coming his way and knew he was "Bilt 4 More," as he puts it repeatedly in his autobiography.

Through genealogy research, Lynes learned his great-grandfather was a "royal ruler from South America" — thus the book title "Ghetto Prince." It's a story of how, "against all odds, I broke the cycle of circumstances in my life . . . because of my faith in God and His plan for my life. I know my life is the result of providence and divine intervention.

"I also believe this same God is willing to lead and guide any other willing soul. That's the sole reason I'm telling my story."

A lifetime love of hats

Eric's wife, Tezeta Gabriel, an Ethiopian woman he met in 1983 at the SDA Church in Frankfort, gave him a book, "The Panama Hat Trail" by Tom Miller. A retired librarian who worked at KSU and the state Department for Libraries and Archives, Tezeta "has been my 'rock in a hard place'" and has supported me every step of the way, through thick and thin, for richer or poorer.

"She was the one who vicariously opened the door to my research, traveling and exploring Ecuador," Lynes said.

Eric and Tezeta have a daughter, Rahel Danielle, who was a National Merit Scholar at Western Hills High School and has a master's in environmental health. Their second daughter, Astaire Birhan, was a "very special child who taught me many lessons of love and determination as she struggled with Down Syndrome and a defective heart from birth." She died of heart failure when she was 2.

Lynes came to Frankfort in 1983 and studied accounting at KSU. He worked in the electronic data processing section of State Auditor Bob Babbage's office. He also worked as gift shop manager at Ancient Age Distillery and at Toyota in Georgetown.

"The pain of assembly line work at Toyota is the real deal," Eric says. He eventually had to undergo spinal surgery from a work-related injury. "Toyota was my last stepping stone en route to Biltmore Hats. After surgery and extended time away from work, I decided I would pursue my dream to manufacture specialty caps."

While healing from surgery, Eric made his third trip to Ecuador. In the Andes Mountains he awoke early one morning with the vision "to scrap the idea of making specialty premium Panama caps for the fresh new idea of breaking into the hat industry with the small-brimmed hats known as stingy brims (anything under 2 inches wide)."

"The stingy brim was what I was wearing at

that time. It was my preferred style and choice of hats. That morning, God made it crystal clear that the stingy brim was our new product. Never before had I had such conviction of the path I should pursue."

As soon as he returned home, he started exploring how to make the small brimmed hats. He worked on creating styles that would sell online and began looking for a manufacturer to make his designs. In 2002, he formed Stingy Brim Hat Co. He went to Florence, Italy, to get sample molds. Then, he delivered the molds to the Biltmore factory in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. The master hatters at Biltmore created beautiful samples.

In 2004, Eric found out Biltmore was in bankruptcy, and told his partner, "We're going to buy that company." Initially, they put in an unsuccessful bid, but after a long, difficult process, Lynes took all of his savings and managed to buy the company in 2005, he said.

Why a fascination with hats?

"I've always worn hats," Lynes says. "It was in my blood from Louisville — the Kentucky Derby, and my uncles, my mother and aunts always wore beautiful hats to church. An aunt bought me a dress hat when I was 8. I wanted to look sharp like my uncle, and he wore a stingy."

W. Nick Taliaferro, a Philadelphia radio broadcaster, wrote the foreword to Eric's book. They met at Oakwood College. On campus, "there was something about the way Eric carried himself — almost regal-like — that suggested he might be cut out for an embassy, or a boardroom," Taliaferro writes.

"And then there was the look. Eric Lynes seemed custom-ordered from Central Casting's leading-man division. Tall, athletically lean, and with a glowing complexion that suggested health and exuberance, he looked like a model... Added to that was the bonus of likability. Eric was, and is, a nice guy."

Today, if there was a category for best-dressed adult man in Frankfort, Eric Lynes would be a top competitor any day of the year.

When asked recently if he's wealthy, he responded, "I'm wealthy in happiness. I'm happier than I've ever been. My wife underwent successful ovarian cancer surgery in 2017, and I'm so thankful she's doing well. I have a loving family and a few good friends.

"When I owned Biltmore Hats, my net assets were over \$1 million. Now, I don't have much disposable income, but I'm comfortable. I have less stress. I'm very content and blessed. I hope my book will help young people understand there's a better way than what I went through. My goal is to turn the book into a film."

And Eric Lynes is living proof that anything is possible. 



Ron Stephens, father of award-winning singer John Legend, is one of Eric Lynes customers.



Eric Lynes poses for a picture at Manta Beach in Ecuador.



FRANKFORT KENTUCKY DISTILLED

A story of community

by **KRISTIN CANTRELL**, Co-chair Frankfort KY Distilled Branding Committee





Communities grow when we work together with one vision and tell others our story with one voice. We tell stories about our community every day to people everywhere, so it is our job as citizens to tell stories about our city that attract visitors and new residents. We must invite them to share the experience of “Kentucky Distilled.” All the best of Kentucky, perfectly located in our capital city.

My husband and I travel quite a bit for work. We burn up the roads through Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and southern New York. We have family and friends in South Carolina, North Carolina, Ohio and Georgia. We travel for pleasure just about anywhere else.

Everywhere we go, we tell the story of Frankfort and people tell us their stories of Frankfort.

Most recently, we went on a cruise from New York City to Halifax, Nova Scotia. During an excursion at a port of call, we sat next to a couple from Indianapolis. After a few pleasantries, we learned they owned a boat, and they told us how much they enjoyed coming down the Ohio River to visit Frankfort and other ports of call since the locks opened up. We said, keep on coming, and we'll continue to find more reasons for you to visit.

Several years ago, a number of your fellow citizens pulled together to make thoughtful decisions of how to tell our story to people near and far. We want to attract people to live here in a vibrant and healthy economy. It was important to develop an umbrella under which we could communicate all the wonderful things about our area so that every dollar invested to attract businesses and visitors would have maximum impact. After years of research and collaboration, the brandprint named “Kentucky Distilled” was born. Now, the real work begins.

Yes, we use the logos, taglines and copy in marketing materials to promote Frankfort and Franklin County. It will take years to explore every avenue. Your area organizations — such as Frankfort/Franklin County Tourism, Downtown Frankfort, city of Frankfort, Franklin County Fiscal Court, Kentucky Capital Development Corporation and Frankfort Area Chamber of Commerce — will carry out their mission to promote the area and attract visitors, citizens and jobs to our area.

But what can you do to support this effort?

You can be an ambassador for Frankfort and Franklin County every day of the year, everywhere you go. Get involved in our community to the greatest extent of your ability and resources. Don’t know where to start? Let us make some suggestions.

Join a local civic group or non-profit organization. Communities with a higher rate of civic engagement are happier communities. Happy people

are great ambassadors. Our local civic groups such as Rotary, Kiwanis, The Odd Fellows and others are looking for people who want to give back to their town. These groups need new members to continue their good work or they dissolve and disappear. Find the group that matches your goals for making a difference and join now.

There is a movement blossoming in Franklin County between our school systems and the business community. Collaboration is key, and a pilot program is launching in January 2018 to connect students to work opportunities in our area with direct input from our employers. Educators are listening to the needs of our employers and a program is currently underway to give qualified students access to guaranteed job interviews as a result of this process. You can help facilitate and support this effort to match employer needs with education needs.

Our downtown area is poised for a massive renaissance. We should seize the moment to reinvent our town, to accentuate the assets we already have and fill the defined needs that can take us to the next level. There will be many forums for input. Make sure that you are present and your voice is heard during this process.

On March 28, our community will participate in our first “On the Table” community conversation. It is our goal that every facet of our community will be reflected in this event and that information gathered on that day will be incorporated into our community vision moving forward. Anyone and everyone can participate, in groups of three to 300 or more. You can host a group or just attend one of the sessions, but this is the crucial time for you to contribute to the vision of our future.

“Frankfort, Kentucky Distilled” isn’t just a logo, a brand or a clever tagline. It is designed to give all of our citizens a place to tell their story and build our future together with one voice and one vision. You are invited to the party where we define our future and join the Frankfort Renaissance. You can be part of this unfolding story.

To find out how you can get involved, call the Frankfort Area Chamber of Commerce at 502-223-8261 and get connected in moving Frankfort forward. Visit www.FrankfortKYDistilled.com for branding guidelines and our new video. 

Toying with history

Charles Stewart donates large collection of toy soldiers, historic miniatures to Frazier Museum of History

story and photographs by
JOSH BERGERON







Charles Stewart, of Frankfort, shows off a piece of his toy soldier and historic miniatures exhibit in a storage room of the Frazier Museum in Louisville.

As Charles Stewart moved rapidly between exhibits at the Frazier Museum of History, he brimmed with excitement about the massive collection of soldiers on display. Stewart effortlessly recalled details about each item as if he had memorized the gallery guide.

"Here's Teddy Roosevelt. This was made probably in about 1903, just after the Spanish-American War. It's Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders," Stewart said as he examined a display.

Walking across the museum, he paused at another exhibit depicting soldiers from the Boston Massacre.

"Now, this is really one of my favorites," he said. "This is a Lorenz 1770. The Boston Massacre was in March of 1770, they got the news and this was probably made in June."

His expertise is expected. In more than two decades of collecting, Stewart amassed a rare assortment of toy soldiers and historic miniatures.

The Frazier History Museum in Louisville calls his collection the most important collection in North America and the second most important in the world — only behind a much larger one in Spain. Following multiple donations by Stewart, the Frazier Museum is now the home of the entire collection — about 25,000 figures from about 150 makers, or companies, from the mid-1700s to today.

"What makes the collection so unique is the rarity," Stewart said.

"You probably have 50 figures or sets that are unique in the world."

Put another way, there are 50 figures that are the only one of their kind.

"You have so many world-famous rarities in the collection that make it so valuable, and then the other thing that makes it so unique is its diversity," he said. "You have figures from 1760 all the way to 2017."

Frazier History Museum President and CEO Penny Peavler said neither she nor Stewart could speak about the value of the collection, but per piece its figures are worth several times the Spanish collection.

Born in Frankfort and raised on the grounds of the Stewart Home and School, which his family runs, Stewart collected plastic soldiers and other figures — G.I. Joes, for example — like many children at the time. His collection, however, grew larger than a typical child's. Stewart estimates he amassed several hundred such figures.

That casual collection became a serious pursuit in the early 1990s, after Stewart graduated from Centre College and took a job as an administrator at Stewart Home and School. Since the 1980s, his parents had regularly traveled to Naples, Florida, for vacation, and on one trip in January 1994 Stewart chose to drive to a well-known store in Palm Beach. By traveling to that store — called Grand Army — Stewart, a new collector, hoped to bolster his assortment of toy soldiers. At the store, Stewart met New York financier and toy soldier collector Peter Werner, and in the ensuing years the pair became friends.





The friendship with Werner started Stewart on a path that would create his impressive collection.

"He's been a mentor and adviser ever since," Stewart said. "Through Mr. Werner, he's so well-liked and respected, I was really so fortunate to be able to meet some of the top collectors in the world."

Among the luminaries of toy-soldier collecting are the late American entrepreneur and *Forbes Magazine* publisher Malcolm Forbes, the late British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and writer H.G. Wells. Author George R.R. Martin, best known for his series of books adapted into the "Game of Thrones" TV series, is a modern-day collector of toy soldiers.

"A lot of interesting people have or currently collect these figures," Pearler said.

With price tags that can exceed the average yearly salary of a typical Frankfort resident, the words "toy soldier," when used by collectors, don't refer to the green, plastic figures purchased by parents for their children.

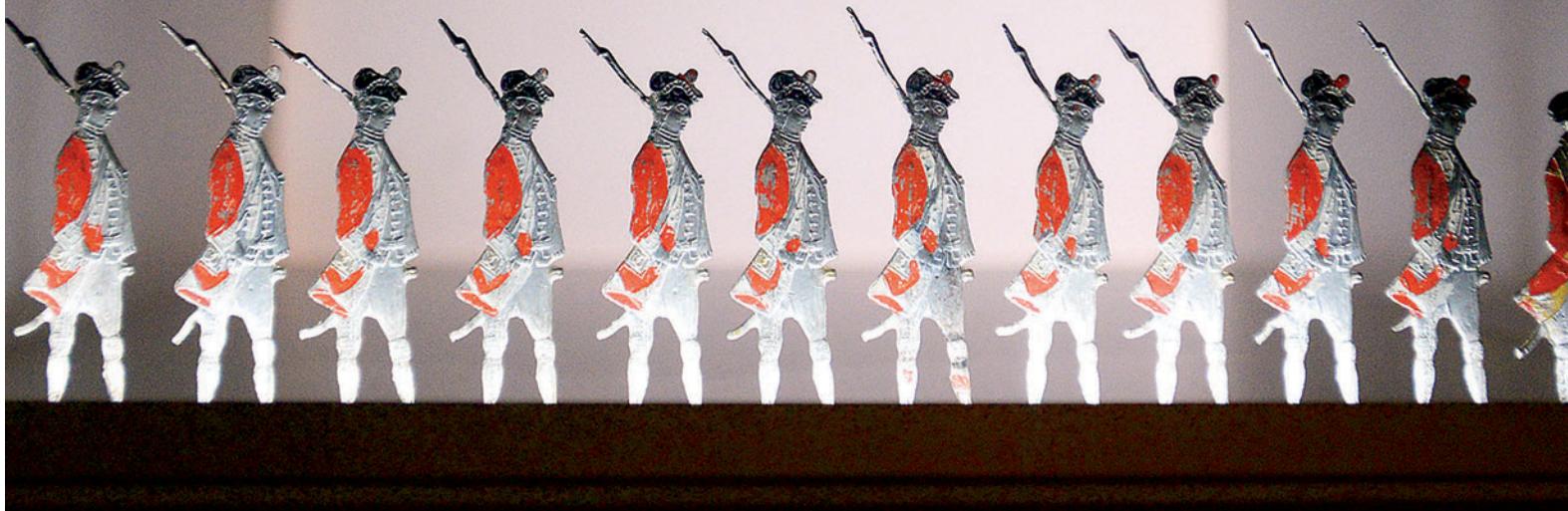
CHARITABLE ADVICE

Above left, dozens of rows of toy soldiers and historic miniatures sit in a storage room at the Frazier Museum of History. Above right, a portrait of John P. Stewart II hangs in the museum near the collection of miniatures. The portrait has been loaned to the museum by Farmers Capital Bank Corp. Charles Stewart, son of John P. Stewart II, donated the collection to the museum on the advice of his father John.

The soldiers are composed of materials that include lead, composition, paper and wood. Some are plastic, and many are hand-painted. In Stewart's collection, makers of the soldiers hail from more than a dozen countries — Japan to the United States. Many items in the collection are housed in their original boxes — worn but still usable.

Among the makers in Stewart's collection is the W. Britain Company, which started in the 1800s and continues to operate today. It started when a man named William Britain "cracked the German process of hollow casting" — filling a mold with molten lead, its website states. No longer family-owned, the company is operated by Holland, Ohio-based The Good Soldier LLC. The company plans to host a 125th anniversary event at the Frazier Museum on Feb. 23.

Stewart's collection took more than two decades to build. In his early collecting years, he bought a number of toy soldiers from Werner and Grand Army. In 1997, he added a number of pieces to his lot when Forbes' col-



lection was sold. He purchased other portions of the collection through dealers. One such dealer was Ray Haradin, introduced to Stewart by Werner. Peavler and Stewart said Haradin is among the best toy dealers in the world.

Eventually, Stewart's collection began to grow so large that it "was taking over the house," Stewart said.

"It was taking over the garage, the attic. I mean it was just taking over," he said.

Stewart said he considered selling his collection at an auction, similar to Forbes.

Convinced, in part, by his father, Dr. John P. Stewart II, who served as board chairman of Farmers Capital Bank Corp. in Frankfort for 18 years, Stewart decided to donate the collection to the Frazier Museum — founded in 2004 by Owsley Brown Frazier, who donated 900 firearms he had collected throughout his life.

"He said you've got to keep it in Kentucky," Stewart said, recalling his father's advice.

Donations started in 2010. With the latest contribution from Stewart, the museum contains his entire collection. The gallery first opened in September 2016, and at the time historic miniatures expert Norman Joplin wrote in a report that "every major

and well-known toy soldier company is represented in the collection."

"The diversity of the collection, the uniqueness of its content, and the care and diligent way that it has been assembled, put it near the top as toy soldier displays go," Joplin wrote.

Following another donation from Stewart, the museum held a ribbon-cutting on Dec. 8 to celebrate an expansion. Now, about half of the 25,000 figures are on display on multiple floors, and the remainder are in storage.

Donations from others add to those by Stewart. Orson Mun, a friend of Werner, donated about 2,700 figures. Gifts from various others bring the total to about 28,000.

But the collection doesn't just sit on shelves on the wall, Peavler said. There are school tours based around the collection. It helps tell historical tales, and there are performances that use the collection.

Staff have also created dioramas for some of the toy-soldier exhibits.

"We wanted to share the collection in ways that people could understand, in ways that would engage them and in ways that would delight them," Peavler said. 

the CULTURIST

THE ARTS, TRAVEL AND CULTURE OF FRANKFORT

Destination Lawrenceburg

Sleepy country town quietly rejuvenating downtown for bourbon seekers

photographs and story by CHANDA VENO



A WILD TIME
A day trip to Lawrenceburg
should include a stop at Wild
Turkey Distillery.





Flags at the Healing Field blow in the breeze. The Healing Field is located at the American Legion Post 34 Fairgrounds, 725 W. Broadway, in Lawrenceburg.

Lawrenceburg, known for years as a sleepy bedroom community, has quietly been rejuvenating its downtown area and is quickly becoming a destination for bourbon tourists from across the globe.

Located less than 15 miles south of the Capital City, cradled between Louisville and Lexington, Anderson County is a microcosm of the Bluegrass State — a mix of rural farmland with the benefit of close proximity to larger cities.

Nearly 11,000 residents, many of whom are state employees who commute to Frankfort, call Lawrenceburg home, according to 2010 U.S. Census data.

A short drive down U.S. 127 South, an excursion to Lawrenceburg makes for an enjoyable day trip on Kentucky's popular Bourbon Trail.

Past the gigantic American flag in front of Hill of Beans BBQ on the right, the “welcome home” water tower on the left and a handful of traffic lights, Four Roses — one of two world-renown bourbon distilleries in Anderson County — is located at 1224 Bonds Mill Road, about two miles off U.S. 127.

Built in 1910 and situated among lush, green foothills, Four Roses Distillery, with its Spanish-style architecture, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The distillery offers tours seven days a week on the hour and compli-

mentary tastings for patrons 21 and older.

Next door to Four Roses is Elements Clay Studio, a local shop with a unique flavor that offers classes, parties, paint-your-own pottery and one-of-a-kind gifts.

Wild Turkey Distillery, home of world-famous Kentucky straight bourbon, also calls Lawrenceburg home. While the history and heritage at the distillery is rich, perhaps its greatest asset is Master Distiller Jimmy Russell.

Russell, nicknamed the “Buddah of bourbon,” has been honing his craft for more than 60 years, making him the longest-tenured, active spirits master distiller in the world.

Raised only five miles from the distillery, Russell got his start sweeping the floors of the distillery. Since being promoted to master distiller in the 1960s, he has immersed himself in all aspects of the distillation and aging process of Wild Turkey Bourbon.

The distillery also offers tours on the hour Mondays through Saturday and on Sundays (from March to December) and a visitor’s center.

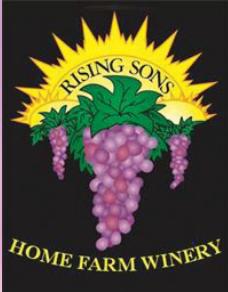
Recently, the downtown Lawrenceburg area has begun to capitalize on the benefits of having the pair of famous bourbon makers in their backyard. Local bourbonism-inspired (bourbon + tourism) shops have opened downtown, including Tastefully Kentucky, Chick A Dees, and Sweet Mash, to name a few.



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Tastefully Kentucky, at 126 S. Main St., is a specialty grocery and gift shop, offering Kentucky Proud products — which are raised, grown or processed in the Commonwealth by Kentuckians. They carry a wide variety of gift baskets for all occasions.

Across the street, at 127 S. Main St., Chick A Dees sells fashionable apparel, jewelry, home décor and more in a “shabby-chic environment.”

Sweet Mash, located a few doors down at 101 S. Main St., features bourbon-themed gifts and grab-and-go foods.

Downtown also boasts a variety of dining options.

Bluegrass Sabor, 115 S. Main St., has lunch, dinner and children's menus. Sandwiches, burgers, soup and salad are featured for lunch, while steaks, seafood and the traditional Kentucky Hot Brown spotlight the dinnertime meal.

Heavens to Betsy! Bakery and Deli, across the street at 116 S. Main St., is a tasty lunch spot, which offers downhome comfort food, along with sandwiches — including “the best Reuben in the area” and a variety of salads. The bakery, which boasts freshly-baked cakes, pies, muffins and more, is sure to satisfy any sweet tooth.

Bourbon Street on Main, about a 200-yard stroll from the Betsy's!, at 204 S. Main St., is a great place to sip a late afternoon bourbon or nightcap. In addition to standard bar fare, the restaurant specializes in “New Orleans cuisine with a

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Empty bourbon barrels line the roadway on Bonds Mill Road en route to Four Roses Distillery in Lawrenceburg.

Southern twist." Entrees include bourbon-glazed chicken, bayou-fried shrimp platter, New Orleans red beans and rice, and various seafood dishes.

If bourbon's not your drink of choice, Lawrenceburg is also home to two wineries — Rising Sons Home Farm and Lovers Leap Vineyards.

A family-run business, Rising Sons, located at 975 Frankfort Road, is nestled among 10 acres of grapes in seven varieties. The winery, owned by Francine and Joe Sloan, is named for the couple's "rising sons" — Peyton, Logan and Jordan.

Located at 1180 Lanes Mill Road, Lovers Leap Vineyards and Winery is a working vineyard that offers tourists the experience of the entire winemaking process from vine to bottle. The tasting room is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

No trip to Lawrenceburg is complete without a stop at the Healing Field on the American Legion Post 34 Fairgrounds, at 725 W. Broadway St.. The field, at which 118 American flags proudly wave, is a tribute honoring the Kentucky servicemen and women who have fallen in the War on Terrorism.

The memorial, developed and funded by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Kentucky, is a patriotic marvel presented to all and the perfect place to reflect on a day spent in Lawrenceburg. 



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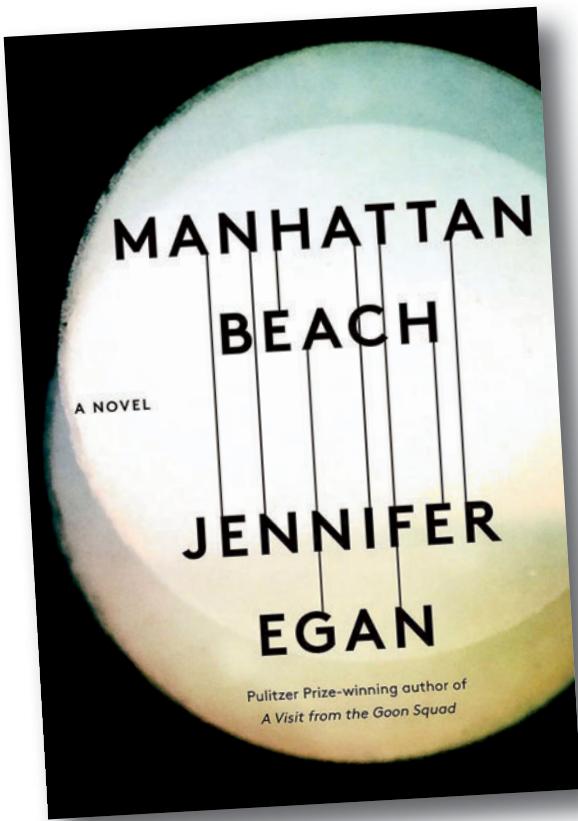
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Take a journey through American history in ‘Manhattan Beach’

‘Manhattan Beach’ is a gripping portrayal of early American feminism set against the backdrop of New York in World War II.

“

”

“We’re going to see the sea.”

“Manhattan Beach” is a gripping portrayal of early American feminism set against the backdrop of New York in World War II. Filled with pop culture and history, Egan truly takes readers on a journey through one of the most intriguing eras of American history.

“Manhattan Beach” begins as Anna Kerrigan, nearly 12-years-old, accompanies her father to visit the home of Dexter Styles, a man who, she gleans, is crucial to the survival of her family. She is mesmerized by the sea beyond the house and by some charged mystery between the two men. As her father and Styles walk ahead of her on Manhattan Beach, Anna takes a moment to plunge her feet into the icy water of the Pacific Ocean in December. When Styles reappears, their conversation sets the tone for the rest of this fascinating story:

Mr. Styles crouched beside her on the sand and looked directly into her face. “Why the bare feet?” he asked. “Don’t you feel the cold, or are you showing off?” ... “It only hurts at first,” she said. “After a while you can’t feel anything.”

Mr. Styles grinned as if her reply were a ball he’d taken physical pleasure in catching. “Words to live by,” he said, then rose again to his immense height. “She’s strong,” he remarked to Anna’s father.

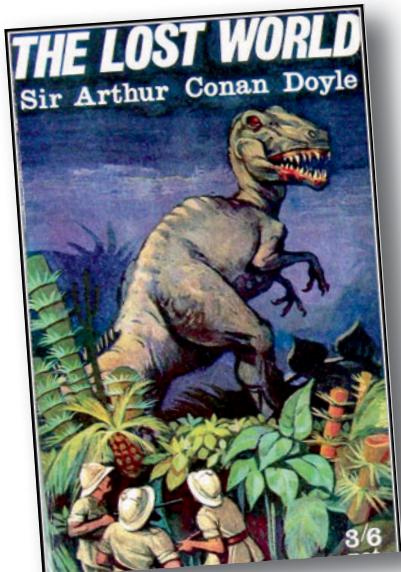
Years later, her father has disappeared and the country is at war. Anna works at the Brooklyn Naval Yard, where women are allowed to hold jobs that once belonged to men, now soldiers abroad. She sets her sights on diving. Anna meets with Lieutenant Axel, who sends her out to the docks to complete the same tests all male divers must pass, which she crushes thanks to her ingenuity and fierce determination. She returns to the lieutenant’s office prepared to begin training, but instead:

“I’ll tell you that there was never any chance of your diving, but I wore the dress, Anna said. “And I walked. And I untied the knot.”

“You surprised me, I’ll admit that,” he said. “But your diving was never a possibility, so it isn’t one now. I’m sorry; I can well imagine that this is frustrating. But those are the facts.”

Despite Lieutenant Axel’s assertion, Anna becomes the first female diver — the most dangerous and exclusive of occupations — repairing the ships that will help America win the war. One evening at a nightclub, she meets Dexter Styles again and begins to understand the complexity of her father’s life, the reasons he might have vanished.

With the atmosphere of a noir thriller, Jennifer Egan’s first historical novel follows Anna and Styles into a world populated by gangsters, sailors, divers, bankers and union men. Manhattan Beach is a deft, dazzling, propulsive exploration of a transformative moment in the lives and identities of women and men, of America and the world. It is a magnificent novel by the author of “A Visit from the Goon Squad,” one of the great writers of our time. 



THE LOST
WORLD
by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

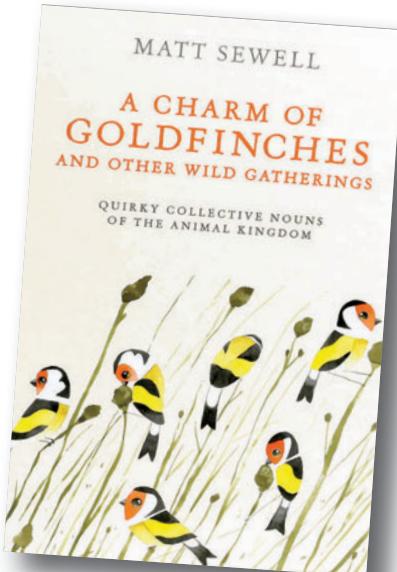
Before *Jurassic Park*, there was "The Lost World." This classic terror-adventure novel has set the standard for today's popular entertainment as followed by Michael Crichton and Steven Spielberg.

Featuring the bold Professor Challenger, "The Lost World" is the account of a scientific expedition by four high-spirited Englishmen — two scientists, a big-game hunter and a journalist — deep into the Amazon jungle.

In this region, cut off from the outside world by unscalable vertical cliffs and fetid swamps, they encounter a world where dinosaurs roam free and natives fight a murderous war with their fierce neighbors — the ape-men.

Trapped on the isolated plateau with only hunting rifles as protection, the four must use savvy and intellect to escape from this primeval terror.

It's highly entertaining and great fun. Set aside your modern beliefs, especially as this was written in 1912, and enjoy this adventurous engaging tale.



A CHARM OF GOLDFINCHES AND
OTHER WILD GATHERINGS
by Matt Sewell

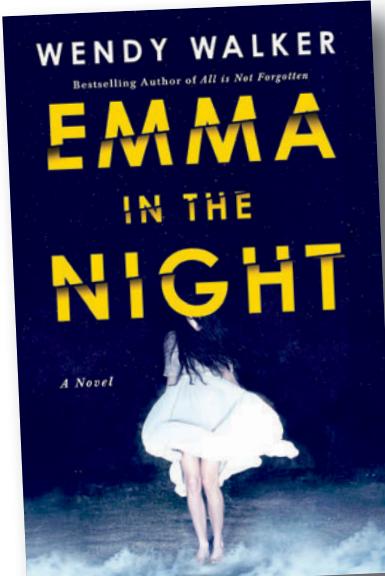
Artist Matt Sewell is also an avid ornithologist, and has done many collections of bird illustrations exhibited in New York, Paris and London. Now he has combined his new illustrations of air, land and sea animals with his interest in etymology in a quirky medley of collective nouns from the animal kingdom.

We have all heard of a "gaggle of geese," but Sewell informs us that when they are in flight they become a "skein of geese." Skein comes from an old French word for "V formation."

Thinking of our local critters, have you seen a "trip of rabbits" or a "gaze of raccoons?" One can easily imagine a "plague of rats" being quite appropriately named or a "nest of snakes" coiled together to keep warm.

Sewell excels with his bird illustrations — lovely watercolors that also display the social characteristics of the species.

Put your bird feeder outside and notice which species you attract. Then, check with Sewell to find the collective noun and the history behind it.



EMMA IN THE
NIGHT
by Wendy Walker

Clear your schedule ladies and gentlemen, and settle in for a dark and twisted ride.

One night, 15 year old Cass and her 17-year-old sister, Emma, disappear. The family car is found deserted at a nearby beach, but the authorities are baffled by what could have become of them.

Three years later, with just the clothes on her back and no evidence or credibility to back up her claims of what happened, Cass returns home . . . without her sister. Her tale is one of kidnapping and isolation, and the mysterious island where the two were held.

But Cass' story has holes, and to forensic psychologist Dr. Abby Winter, something about it just doesn't add up. Dr. Winter looks deeply into Cass' family to uncover the truth. She looks at the mother . . . she looks at the stepfather and the stepbrother . . . and she looks at Cass herself. What she finds will shock those searching for Emma and reveal a twisted story of a deeply dysfunctional family and the lengths to which Cass has gone to bring about redemption. **F**

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From the White House to Frankfort?

Justice Todd House has quite a story to tell

by ROGER BARLOW

It's true. Albeit, not in the typical sense you may be thinking.

No, I haven't completely lost my mind, although that may be debatable. Let's put it in story form from our childhood: just more adult and somewhat twisted.

Once upon a time, long, long ago, our first president had a name-sake nephew. Said nephew passed away, which in turn left his wife a widow.

Said widow was also the sister of a first lady. The first lady was at that time married to her second husband, who just so happened to be our fourth president.

The widow was then introduced to a handsome justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Romance ensued, followed by the first documented wedding in the White House.

The happy couple then made their home in Frankfort, where they lived happily ever after.

Please, pardon my wretched attempt at being witty.

The Justice Todd House, built a federal-style home in 1812, is just one of many structures in downtown Frankfort that has quite a story to tell.

Currently owned by First United Methodist Church, the



QUITE A HISTORY

Above, the Justice Thomas Todd House is located at the corner of Wapping and Washington streets in downtown Frankfort. Todd shared the home with his second wife Lucy Payne Washington Todd. The house was built in 1812.

now-Victorian edifice has experienced virtually as many architectural alterations as residents. Good Shepherd Church owned the structure for many decades prior, providing shelter and a small chapel for the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in their service to the local Roman Catholic community.

At one time, as many as 16 nuns resided simultaneously within the structure, all coming from different localities. Incidentally, the 1812 founder of that religious order in Bardstown, Mother Catherine Spalding, is a distant relative of this writer.

It is, however, the resident of 1818-1826 who lends his name to its official designation.

Thomas Todd, born in 1765, was instrumental in Kentucky's achieving statehood. He was the chief justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals when President Thomas Jefferson appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1807. While he was important in his own right, let's focus for a moment on his second wife, Lucy Ann Payne Washington Todd.

Lucy Ann Payne was born in 1769 to John and Mary Coles Payne, who also were the parents of future first lady Dolley Payne Todd Madison. Lucy had first been married to George Steptoe Washington, son of our first president's brother Samuel and his fourth of five wives, Ann Steptoe.

Samuel Washington had been quite the collector — horses, dogs and wives. Lucy was then introduced to the handsome U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thomas Todd, himself a widower.

Dolley herself was no stranger to widowhood — her first husband, John Todd, and 3-month-old son dying the same day from yellow fever.

Historical trivia: The title of "first lady" only achieved common use after President Zachary Taylor used the term in de-



Lucy Payne Washington Todd



Justice Thomas Todd

livering a eulogy for Dolley Madison during her state funeral in 1849. Before this, Mrs. President, Presidentress and Martha Washington herself was known as Lady Washington.

Dolley Madison, the consummate hostess, invited the happy couple to marry in the President's House (only later referred to as the White House) on March 29, 1812. It was only fitting, after all, Dolley and James Madison had married at Harewood the home of Lucy and George Steptoe Washington.

Harewood, formerly in Virginia, is now located across the state line in West Virginia and privately owned by a descendant.

Lucy and Justice Todd then settled in the small but bustling young town of Frankfort, living at the home until his death. Together, the couple had three children.

Dorothea Madisonia (Dorothea was Dolley's true given name) in 1813 and married a Charles Quinn; William Johnston in 1815 who married a Miss Sawyer; and James Madison in 1817 who married Allisonia Bibb Rennick.

Justice Todd took his last breath on Feb. 7, 1826, and was eventually interred in the Frankfort Cemetery. Twenty years later, on Jan. 29, 1846, Lucy joined her husband in eternal rest.

For two centuries, many Frankfort residents have strolled by, possibly taking the time to read the historical marker. The next time you have an opportunity, pause for a moment, enjoy this striking house and remember the souls that have called it home. 

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Emma Hedden, 1



Katlin Hisle, 14, Rylee Hisle, 7, Ashley Hisle, and Levi Hisle, 4



Arabella Pardi, 9, and Zachery Pardi, 8



Aubrey Studler, 2, Calen Studler, Elizabeth Gullion, 3, Paige Rogers and Leigha Studler, 5



Brandon Tingle, Remington Tingle and Elizabeth Tingle



Jayla Widener, Bella Widener and Effie Carpenter



Abby Sanderson, Meshia Sanderson and Joe Sanderson



Brady Trent, Alex Trent, Heather Trent and Joey Trent



Santa and Connor Villanueva



Krystal Cammuse, Autumn Wardlow and April Wardlow

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Megan Eggemeier, Jack Eggemeir and Patrick Eggemeier



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Chelse Payne, Hazel Edwards and Greg Adkins



Lee Watts, Santa, Landon Watts, Sarah Watts and Lily Watts



Sandy Kremer, Vicky Parker and Shelly Young



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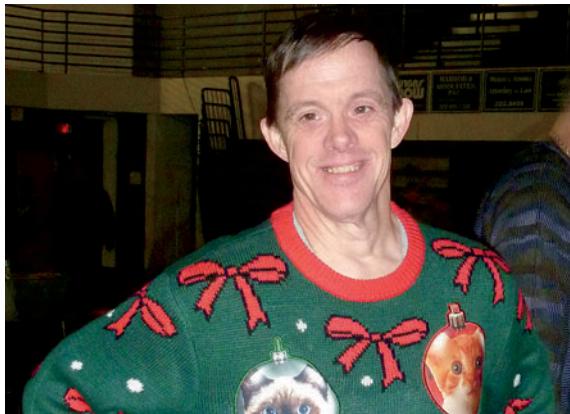
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Bill Coggeshall



Austin Gullet, 17, and Sabrina Miller, 17



John Yodnik and Lisa Southworth

The Frankfort YMCA's Christmas Ball took place Dec. 9 at Western Hills High School.
(Photos by Chanda Veno)



Harper Heffley and Jane Goldman



Jennifer Miller



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*The Frankfort Area Chamber of Commerce held its Holiday Celebration Dec. 12 at Glen Willis House.
(Photos by Shannon Griffith)*



Cindy and Bob Steinhauser



Matt Friere and JD Moore



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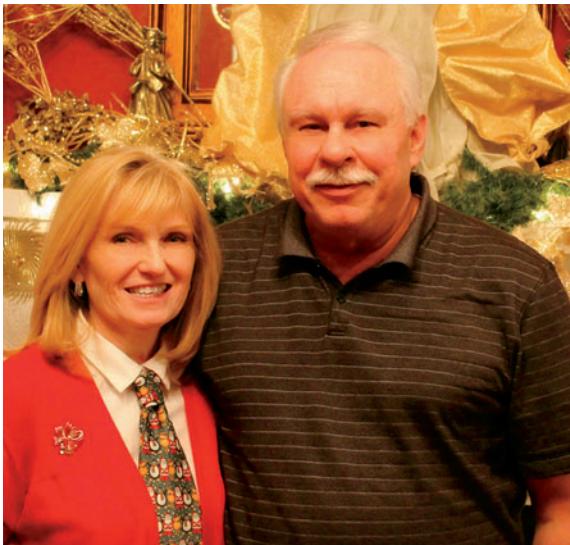
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Dan Bruning, Carmen Inman and Nocomis Miner



Lisa Darby and Brad Smither



Olivia Leathers and Cody Stanton



JD Osborne and Carmen Inman

the CALENDAR

WHAT'S GOING ON IN FRANKFORT



JANUARY 28

Get ready for wedding season

Bridal Bliss Frankfort Classic will be noon-3 p.m. Jan. 28 at The Lancaster at St. Clair located at 306 Wapping St. The bridal show will offer more than 100 wedding professionals from the Lexington-area. Cake, catering, photographers, DJ's, venues, dresses, tuxes and more vendors will be available. Admission is free.

JANUARY 19**Learn about Sazerac**

Buffalo Trace Distillery will host its annual Legendary Craftsmen Dinner Series: Sazerac Dinner from 6-9 p.m. Jan. 19 at the distillery located at 113 Great Buffalo Trace. The one-of-a-kind dinner series features hard-to-find tastings of our award-winning spirits, and cuisine from renowned chefs of Dickie Brennan's Bourbon House in New Orleans. An optional tour will begin at 6 p.m. with the dinner beginning at 7 p.m. The event is \$75 per person. For reservations, email events@buffalotrace.com or call 502-6965930.

JANUARY 20**Adult board game day**

Drop in at the Paul Sawyier Public Library from 1-4 p.m. for some tabletop fun. Play board games from their collection, or feel free to bring your own. Available games include Dominion, Love Letter, Twilight Struggle, Evolution, and many more. The event will take place in the community room.

JANUARY 25**Lunch and Learn**

The Frankfort Area Chamber of Commerce will host Lunch and Learn: How You Can Benefit from the 2018 Tax Code at noon at the office located at 100 Capital Ave. Scott Kline, President of Advanced Financial Solutions, will give the presentation. Kline will discuss the 2018 tax code, which contains three "secret" deductions that offer significant advantages to small business owners and high net worth individuals. Learn how to take advantage of the "secrets," and how you can save 17 percent or more in taxes.

JANUARY 26**Learn about the legendary E.H. Taylor**

Buffalo Trace Distillery will host its annual Legendary Craftsmen Dinner Series: E.H. Taylor Dinner from 6-9 p.m. Jan. 26 at the distillery located at 113 Great Buffalo Trace. The one-of-a-kind dinner series features hard-to-find tastings of our award-winning spirits, and cuisine from three renowned chefs at some of America's top restaurants. The dinner will feature chef Annie Pettry of Decca in Louisville. An optional tour will begin at 6 p.m. with the dinner beginning at 7 p.m. The event is \$75 per person. For reservations, email events@buffalotrace.com or call 502-6965930.

**JANUARY 20****Enjoy a horse show**

The Oldham County Saddle Club will host the open breed/all breed Horse show Snowbird beginning at 10 a.m. Jan. 20 at Lakeside Arena located at 1385 Duncan Road. For more information visit www.kyhorseshows.com.



FEBRUARY 20

Book sale

The Friends of the Library will host a book sale during regular business hours Feb. 20-24 at the Paul Sawyier Public Library located on Wapping Street. The library is open 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

JANUARY 29

Genealogy conversations

The Paul Sawyier Public Library will host Genealogy Conversations from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Jan. 29. Participants will be able to discuss their genealogy research. Mark Kinnaird will lead the conversation. For more information, contact Kinnaird at 502-352-2665 ext. 107 or email him at mark@pspl.org. No registration is required.

FEBRUARY 3

Attend a bazaar

The Capital City Activity Center will host an indoor bazaar 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Feb. 3 at the center located at 202 Medical Heights Drive. The bazaar occurs the first Saturday of every month. Table reservations are available. Concessions will also be available during the bazaar. For more information call 502-223-5794.

FEBRUARY 10

Enjoy a chocolate stroll

The merchants of Midway will celebrate Valentine's Day with a Chocolate Stroll from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Main Street in historic downtown Midway. Participants can pick up a free ticket at the Historic Midway Museum Store and have it stamped inside 10 business locations. The ticket can be entered into a raffle. The prize will be composed of items from all the Chocolate Stroll business participants.

FEBRUARY 10

Buffalo love

Celebrate Valentine's Day with Buffalo Love, a unique dinner featuring Buffalo Trace's award-winning bourbons and sumptuous cuisine from 6-9 p.m. Feb. 10 at the distillery located at 113 Great Buffalo Trace. An optional tour will begin at 6 p.m. with the dinner beginning at 7 p.m. Cost of the dinner is \$100 per person. For reservations, email events@buffalotrace.com or call 502.696.5930

FEBRUARY 17

Breakfast with a book

The Paul Sawyier Public Library will host Breakfast with a Book from 9:30-11 a.m. Feb. 17 at the library located on Wapping Street. The book discussion group is for people who enjoy reading a variety of books in both fiction and nonfiction. The group meets every five weeks on Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Community Room for a continental breakfast and book discussion.

Running to give back

by HANNAH BROWN

When it comes to being active and promoting a healthy lifestyle, Debbie Brown may be Frankfort's original cheerleader.

In 2007, after her children were all in school, Brown decided to do something for herself—and the community. She decided to sign up her husband's business, Pro.Active Therapy, to participate in the Longest Day of Play. She organized a 5K race for the event.

"We decided to do a 5K, but make it different," Brown said. "We gave out free training programs and created a school challenge."

"We organized running groups and held educational classes in the evenings. Speakers would talk to runners about healthy eating and give them tips for staying motivated."

The next year, they decided to move the race to the spring, and on May 11 the race celebrates its 12th anniversary.

However, this year, Brown will be stepping aside, and We-WannaPlay and United Way are teaming up to organize the race.

FRANK.: Why did you decide to start the 5K?

Brown: My husband and daughter and I did a triathlon that had educational components and endurance events. It was such a good model and I thought so many people don't get out and do shorter-distance races because they think they're not an athlete.

I thought with my background as a physical therapist, I thought this would be a great opportunity to encourage people like that to do it.

The race is very successful. We had 200 runners the first year, and we've had 1,100 at its peak.

When we first started, it was only one of a few races. Now, there are more than 22 races here in Frankfort each year.

FRANK.: When did the Pro.Active race begin to merge with the other organizations?

Brown: About seven or eight years ago, Pro.Active joined forces with Run for the Gold and the YMCA's 6-mile race, when it was a trifecta. I go to a race director symposium every year. There's a race series in eastern Kentucky where they have one race a month with different incentives.

I met with Lisa Unger and Sarah Jackson with Frankfort Striders and we talked about different ways it could be done here. They've spearheaded the whole Frankfort Striders series. They've done an amazing job with getting people motivated.

FRANK.: Why did you decide to stop organizing the Pro. Active for Life 5K?

Brown: Turning that over gave me more time to focus on the Frankfort Frosty 5K. We just had it the beginning of Decem-



ber. It's a fundraiser for a mission trip to Honduras I go on with Good Shepherd Catholic Church. My husband has been going for 13 years. We're going again in January.

This will be my fifth time to go. It's a medical, dental and vision mission. I'm a physical therapist, so if a patient needs physical therapy, I'll do that, or I'll help the other doctors with whatever they need. I've done vision screenings, taken blood pressure.

We're there for a full week. We leave on a Friday. We set up in a church or school and Monday through Friday we see hundreds of patients.

FRANK.: What do you walk away with after having participated in the mission?

Brown: It makes me appreciate how much we have here in the U.S. and how easy it is to take for granted the health care we do have and access to clean water and healthy food, and comfortable dentist offices and doctors offices.

The main thing I feel is gratitude. Even though circumstances and life situations are so different, you can tell that parents there want exactly the same thing for their children as we want for our children.

They strive to make things better for their children.

FRANK.: What kind of advice do you give people who are just starting to get into running/walking?

Brown: I tell them to start small. You don't have to go out and run a marathon or a mile; you don't even have to run. Set a goal for yourself. Go walk up the street. If you feel like you can't do 30 minutes, do seven minutes. Do something you can do and gradually add to that. It's also very motivating if you have a partner to do things with. Join a running group around town. I have met some wonderful people in the racing community. 

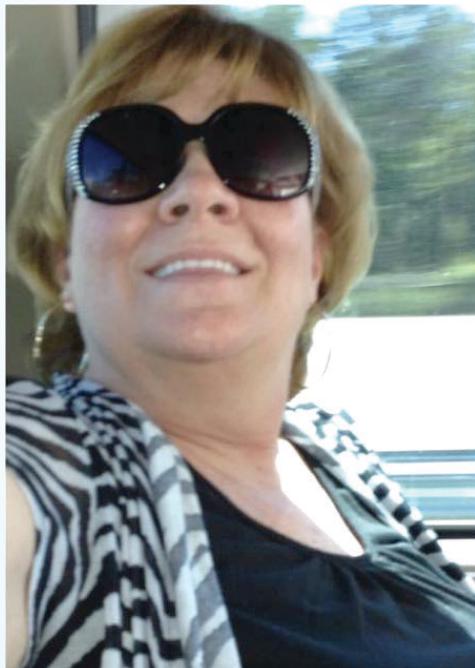
LEADING THE RACE
Frankfort's Debbie Brown has been organizing races in Frankfort since 2007.

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