

Notes to Consider...

Woodcraft: Signalling (Ham Radios)

By G.S. Morris — 18 March 2019



Were our immigration laws only enforced as strictly as our (silly) gun restrictions and licensing requirements for shortwave radios? For the past month we've discussed methods for signalling for our rescue in case of emergency, with particular attention paid to manually operated, low-tech items. This week, we make a suggestion for an affordable, handheld ham radio for your signalling kit: the BaoFeng UV-5R.

Ham radios got their name from the initials of the last names of three young men who were plank holders in the Harvard College Wireless

Club (est. 1909). As alluded to above, legally one must be licensed to operate ham radios. However, no license is required to monitor ham radio stations or operate one during times of *emergency*.

Once you have obtained your handheld ham radio, easy to access on-line programming sources exist. Once programmed, your UV-5R connects your family with pertinent weather forecast channels and local police/fire communications channels during periods in which TV, internet, and cell service are all down.

With two of these handheld radios, you may stay in touch with your family for up to a ten mile range. Combine your radio(s) charging station with a foldable solar recharger, and you've gone a long way toward taking care of your (necessary) electronic needs when things all go sideways.

Next Week: Current Events

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**This Week at the State Capitol
March 12-14**

FRANKFORT -- Taxes, felony expungement, and election laws were among the high-profile issues under the spotlight this week as the General Assembly's 2019 session neared its final day.

This week was the busiest of the year at the State Capitol as lawmakers worked into the evening to put the final touches on bills that they wanted to get across the finish line by the end of the night on March 14, their final working day before the start of a veto recess. The recess runs to March 28, when lawmakers will return to the Capitol for the session's final day.

Bills that took steps closer to becoming law between March 12 and March 14 include measures on the following topics:

Felony expungement. Legislation to expand the number of Kentuckians eligible to have low-level felonies expunged from their criminal records was delivered to the governor's office after a 36-1 final vote in the Senate. Senate Bill 57 would expand discretionary expungement to all Class D felonies, except those that involve a breach of public trust, sex offenses, crimes against children and violent crimes that may cause serious bodily injury or even death. The bill also outlines how the state would handle expungement requests for crimes committed before 1975 when Kentucky changed its penal code.

Abortion. Senate Bill 9, known as the "fetal heartbeat bill," is ready to be delivered to the governor following a 71-19 House vote. The legislation would prohibit abortion once an unborn child's heartbeat is detectable.

Another measure, known as the "Human Life Protection Act" was delivered to the governor's office following its 32-5 approval in the Senate. House Bill 148 would outlaw abortion in Kentucky in most cases if the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Roe v. Wade* is reversed. The bill would allow exceptions to save the life of a mother.

Student vaping. A Senate panel gave its approval to a bill that would ban the use of tobacco and e-cigarettes by students, school personnel, and visitors at Kentucky's schools. The legislation, House Bill 11, would give local boards of education three years to opt out of the ban if they choose. The measure now goes to the full Senate to see if that chamber wants to consider the legislation on March 28, the final day of the legislative session.

Taxes. House Bill 354 would change a number of tax laws and includes measures to provide relief to Kentucky banks and nonprofit organizations. The measure started off as a proposal to clarify that nonprofits and charitable organizations do not owe taxes on charitable admissions sales. Along the way, it was amended to include banking tax reforms meant to help the state's smaller community banks by removing the banks' franchise tax and instead require payment of the state corporate income tax. The legislation would also exempt income earned by National Guard members while in training, lower the property tax on heavy equipment rental, allow taxation of remote sales by online retailers, and exclude poultry from a sales tax on veterinary services. The measure has been delivered to the governor's office following the Senate's and House's agreement to a final version of the legislation proposed by a free conference committee.

Crime. A bill has been delivered to the governor that would increase penalties against strangulation by making it a felony. Senate Bill 70 received final approval in the Senate on a 35-1 vote. If the measure becomes law, Kentucky would join 47 other states with such laws.

Midwives. Legislation is on the way to the governor after the Senate accepted amendments to a proposal to create recognize, certify and regulate home-birth midwives. Senate Bill 84 would create a council to advise the state Board of Nursing on the creation of regulations regarding qualifications, standards for training, competency, any necessary statutory changes and all other matters relating to certified professional midwives.

Elections. House Bill 114, approved by the House on a 56-39 vote, would require candidates for state offices and most local offices to officially declare their candidacies via "statement-of-candidacy" forms no later than the last Tuesday in January preceding the general election. The current deadline is April 1. With amendments that were added to the bill, the measure would also remove the Secretary of State as a voting member of the State Board of Elections and would make it a misdemeanor if an election official willfully misuses the state's voter registration roster. Since the bill contains an emergency clause, it would take effect immediately upon being signed into law.

Citizens can share feedback with state lawmakers on the issues confronting Kentucky by calling the General Assembly's toll-free message line at 1-800-372-7181



**Happy 90th
Birthday
to Nancy
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Jackson.
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and hope
you have a
blessed day!
Love, All of Your
Friends and Family**

Inspirational Thoughts Into God's Word

By Lynetta Hunter

"The best things in life are free" is a proverb, song lyric, and phrase. It's only a matter of opinion and not proven to be factual collectively, except for in one case, which is the universal free gift of salvation. The proof that it is the best thing in life can be found in authoritative scripture, the quality of life experienced by a saint, or the peaceful passing of someone who based their life on the fact.

The proverb was given as a way to say that things that cost money shouldn't be prioritized over free things like time with family and friends. Yet, another proverb says that money can buy happiness. Both are true statements when strategically balanced out. Family, friends, and money are blessings from God that are freely given, (Ja. 1:17) for He is the source of all good things and proportionally gives as needed.

The song lyric denotes that the best things in life are free once the value and meaning of them is discovered. The value of salvation is the price that Jesus paid (Gal. 3:13) to free humanity from the curse of sin and death, so that redemption, blessings of life, and eternal life would come to all the people of the world, through faith.

The phrase includes a wide variety of free things, and often selfishness is a reason for it. But in the case of free gifts from God, whether spiritual or tangible, His grace or provision never runs out. Therefore, selfishness doesn't matter, because there's more than enough for everyone.

Yards to Paradise

How to Welcome Birds to a Yard

By Max Phelps

Many a home has a bird feeder; you don't have to tour town or take my word for it, just notice the aisle stuffed with birdseeds at the supermarket and you will know it's a regular part of the trip for many shoppers. But is a smorgasboard for birds all it takes to welcome birds to your place?

Three things are necessary to welcome and fulfill the needs of birds. As with us humans, food, water, and shelter are essentials of life for birds.

To some extent nature takes care of the birds. They get by just fine in remote areas where there are no humans.

Plants, shrubs, trees generally provide the food, the shelter, and sap and dew and rain supplement streams and creeks as sources of water. Truth be told, the birds don't need us. (And those birds that have come to need us? It's because we've destroyed their food sources and their habitat. From absence of hollow logs to killing the bugs with a lawn care service, we have made it hard on birds. Feeding them with sunflower seeds and a bowl of stale water is a poor substitute, in reality.)

So, since many of us WANT to entice songbirds to our yards, how best to do it?

Food. Learn what the birds you want to see like to eat, then furnish it.

Shelter. Study up to see where your favorite birds live in the wild. In an evergreen tree or hedge? In a deciduous tree? A hollow tree or stump? Under a rocky cliff or in a barn or under the eaves of a building? Safety from cats, snakes, hawks and the like is also a consideration.

Water. Just as eating and a bed aren't enough for humans, something to drink is essential for birds.

If a bird searches far and wide it can probably find enough water to get by in most areas. But if you can offer a source at your place of clean water for drinking and bathing, your yard will be a big hit with the birds!

If your objective is to watch birds drink and bathe, be sure to place the water feature or the bird bath where you can view it easily. Running water attracts many more species of birds than does a large concrete or plastic bowl of water. A small shallow stream with gravels and rocks and a waterfall is the "Cadillac" of water sources for your feathered friends.

Happy birding!

The author is a landscaper. Phone (859) 684-0642 or (865) 360-6951 to speak with Max.

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