

Smells of summer envelop my I-75 trip

often tell you that I think that the scenery along I-75 south, especially from Berea to the Tennessee line, is among the most spectacular of any of our Kentucky roads. As you know I drive this road often going between Georgetown and Webster, N.C., so I certainly should know. I drive it in all kinds of weather and in all seasons.

In the spring you drive through a world of pink and white clouds when the redbud and the dogwood come out to herald their season.

And in the fall I often find that the colors of the Kentucky hardwoods mixed with the greens of the pines turn the road into a drive through a technicolor movie.

But on just my last trip, in fact the last two made within a week of each other, I have discovered that summer is now just as beautiful and this season is not just visual, but it is aromatic as well. I don't know why I have not been aware of summer on I-75 before. It may have something to do with a wetter than usual beginning, but this year the roadsides are blanketed with honeysuckle. Its pale orange blooms cover the hills, and if you forget for a while that you have air conditioning, not only does the sight astonish you, but the smell of that sweet, beautifully named vine comes right into your car.

Growing up, when I would be on an early morning tramp through the woods with my grandmother, and it seems that honeysuckle smells even greater when it is damp, she taught me to pull off the tiny trumpet shaped flower and suck out a drop of sweetness. It was fascinating to run from vine to vine pulling off the flowers.

This recent day, in fact, it was only on Wednesday, and the sight and smell were so pungent that I was tempted to stop on the roadside and again become that little 6-, 7- or 8-year-old boy who had been delighted in the tales of the woods from his grandmother.

Instead, I settled for another memory. I kept having the sounds of this old country music song run through my mind.

"Honeysuckle Rose."
Do you remember it?
I hardly did, but it and a movie of the same name stuck in my mind until I got home, and then, like so many things that I want to remember, I go to the computer. And there are the words:

*"Every honey bee fills with jealousy
When they see you out with me
I don't blame them
Goodness knows
Honeysuckle rose.
"Well don't buy sugar
You just have to touch my cup
You're my sugar
And it's oh so sweet when you stir it up.
"When I'm takin' sips
From your tasty lips
Seems the honey fairly drips
You're confection
Goodness knows
Honeysuckle rose."*

As with everything on the computer one thing just lead to another, and before I knew it I could hear Willie Nelson singing the song.

And then this surprise:
I have long been a fan of Django Reinhardt, the jazz guitar player, not because of the name, they are spelled differently as you can see, even though that is the way — Reinhardt — that my Revolutionary War great-great-great-great-grandfather, Jacob, spelled it, and it remained that way until my great-grandfather changed it to Reinhart, and my grandfather changed it again to Rhinehart.

When I typed in "Honeysuckle Rose," and you can try this if you want to hear the song and the music, the first note that came up was Django playing the song on his electric guitar. He was an artist on the guitar and with his birth as a gypsy in Belgium and after a disastrous fire that almost kept him from fame, he became known over the world and "Honeysuckle Rose" was one of his theme songs. I also found out that he had a brother named Joseph. If you don't want to listen to just the music, and I must say that the music is prettier than the lyrics, you can also tune in to Willie Nelson's rendition from the movie of the same name.

While honeysuckle may be sweet and may be beautiful, it is an invasive plant, so be careful if you plan to cultivate it. It is almost a beautiful, but all consuming, kudzu.

It will be much safer to just take your girl (or boy) — that sounds old fashioned doesn't it — for a Sunday drive (again old fashioned) south or even out into northern Scott County, and just stop and "smell the honeysuckle" (more old fashioned) and maybe take a sip, because it "seems the honey fairly drips, you're confection, goodness knows, Honeysuckle roses."

JOE RHINEHART would appreciate your comments and suggestions on Kentucky Table and can be reached through the News-Graphic or by e-mail at stmagnusbay@msn.com.



Kentucky Table

Joe Rhinehart

Oh baby!



Shauna McDonald, shown above with her second son Gabriel, and her husband, Josh, discovered that having a baby did not have to be as expensive as the experts try to make new parents believe.

Couple shares bargains with new parents

By Ashley Sorrell
Georgetown News-Graphic

Josh and Shauna McDonald were preparing to welcome their first child when they were suddenly faced with the threat of Josh losing his sales job.

Immediately, the couple began instituting emergency financial measures including a search to find baby bargains, which led to the creation of mommydaddysavers.com, a Web site that features the compilation of their research in Ultimate Baby Bargain Guide.

With Josh McDonald's job in limbo and Ezekiel just a few months from being born, the search for baby bargains began as the young couple realized there was no way they could afford thousands of dollars buying everything experts recommend for babies.

"The majority of information out there focused on the physical and health related changes facing new moms," Josh McDonald wrote in the introduction to the guide. "There was very little focused on helping new parents, both moms and dads, on preparing financially for a baby."

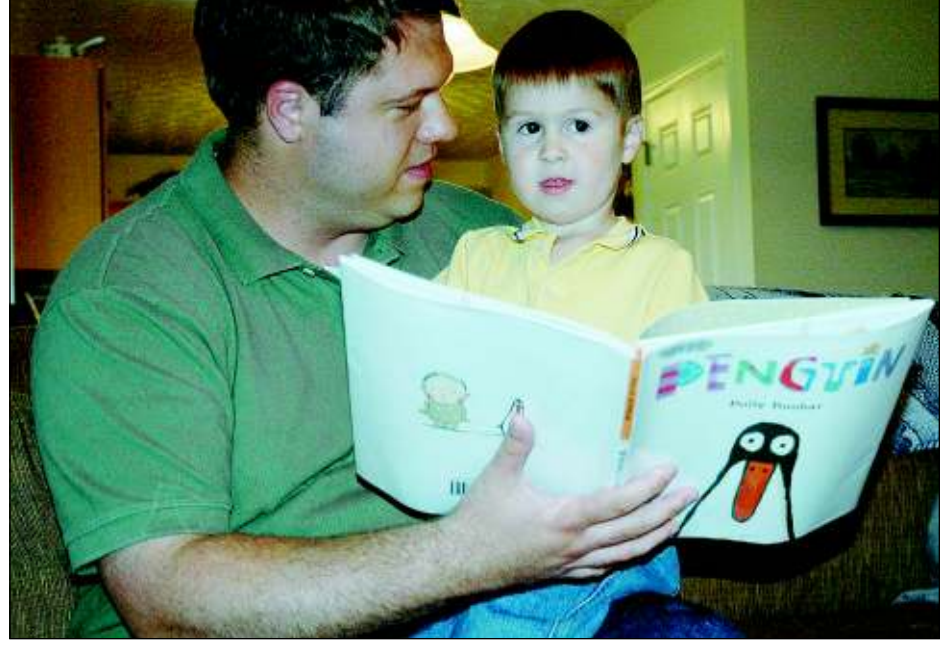
This did not stop the Georgetown couple from continuing their search for what they knew had to be bargains on most everything they needed for Ezekiel, who is now 3.

And they were right. Gathering bits and pieces of information from magazines, books and talking to friends and family, the couple created what Josh McDonald said is the "bad" B-word — budget.

"I found you don't need half the stuff experts recommend," Shauna McDonald said. "And you don't need everything at once. You can space out expenditures."

One of the driving forces for Josh McDonald was finding bargains was something he could do to get involved in the pregnancy rather than standing by watching his wife get more and more uncomfortable.

"This is a great way for helpless dad's to feel helpful," Josh McDonald said.



Josh McDonald wanted to find ways to save before son Ezekiel's birth three years ago, leading him and his wife, Shauna, to start the Web site www.mommydaddysavers.com.

The new parents were able to prepare for Ezekiel's birth for less than \$300. They began sharing what they learned among their friends and decided this information should also be available for other moms and dads.

"One thing led to the next and we wanted to help others," Josh McDonald said. "We found ways to save on every day items."

The savings and bargain hunting would continue after Ezekiel was born in July 2006. Josh McDonald lost his job in January 2007 and almost two years later, the couple welcomed a second child, Gabriel, in October 2008.

"It was easier with Gabriel. They are both boys so we saved all of Ezekiel's clothes and toys," Shauna McDonald said. "I also trade maternity clothes with a group in my church. It's kind of like a maternity clothes community."

The McDonalds launched their Web site in April with the idea being that in the current economic times, new parents, now more than ever, are looking

for ultimate bargains.

Ultimate Baby Bargain Guide, an online manuscript, covers creating a budget as well as how and where to find bargains throughout its 11 chapters. Chapters focus on bargains from conception to delivery, bargains for nursing, formula and solids along with bargains for baby furniture, clothes, toys and diapers.

The McDonalds have a few favorite finds such as Freecycle, which is a group of people who give away unwanted and no longer needed items to help reduce landfill waste.

"We really like making our own baby food as well," Josh McDonald said. "It saves a lot of money and is a lot healthier."

With the purchase of the book, buyers get bonuses like "The Quick Start Guide to Homemade Baby Food and the "Ultimate Baby Shower Guide."

To check out the first three chapters of Ultimate Baby Bargain Guide, visit www.mommydaddysavers.com.

Adoption corner



Kayla's favorite sport is cheerleading.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Kayla enjoys art

EDITOR'S NOTE Adoption Corner will be published every Saturday. If you would like more information about adoptions call Jill Morris at 859-525-6783.

Kayla is a young girl who enjoys art, singing and playing board games. Her favorite sport is cheerleading. Kayla also enjoys playing outside. She has some learning disabilities and as a result requires a lot of one-on-one work and encouragement.

Kayla needs a patient family to help her be more positive with her environment and peers and to set clear limits.

Could you be the family to provide a positive example for Kayla?

Please call SNAP today to learn more about this young girl and the services available to assist with adopting her.