Weather



**ALL-AREA FOOTBALL** Red Devils' Yantae Williams, Yorel Shemwell are selected as players of the year/B1



### **BLACK FRIDAY**

See the advertisements and inserts inside today's paper to be prepared for Friday's deals/Inside



# MESSENGER-INQUIRER

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\$1.75

### **HOMES BY BENNY CLARK**

### Clark eyes downtown project Developer considers building 25 to 50 residential units that have existed in the past. In October, Clark debuted his first



**Benny Clark** 

By Keith Lawrence

Benny Clark, the Owensboro home builder who pioneered residential redevelopment of the Owensboro riverfront in 1994 with Sycamore Square, has his eyes on downtown.

The Gateway Planning Group's new master plan for downtown rec- long time." ommends \$80 million worth of pub-

### Wash day

my, a "market square plaza," a parking garage and improvements to Smothers Park as well as Frederica

and Second streets. 'We're a firm believer in what they're doing," Clark said Tuesday. "This is the best shot we've had in a

indoor events center, an arts acade- dential units downtown, he said.

"We've been working along the river for 15 years with no help from the government," he said. "I'm excited about the possibilities. We've been pushing this for so long. We're excit-

ed to finally be moving forward." Sycamore Square, a 24-unit development bordered by the riverbank Clark's Homes by Benny Clark is and First, Sycamore and Poplar lic improvements, including an considering building 25 to 50 resi- streets, took seven years to put ing with banks to alleviate problems See Clark/Page A2

together because it involved 27 pieces of property in that area.

Residential development downtown faces the same challenge with several property owners in one block.

But Nick Brake, president of the Greater Owensboro Economic Develgoing to work with developers in property acquisition. We're also work"universal design" home at 4588 Foun-tain View Trace in Lake Forest.

The concept, he said, was designed to allow owners to "age in place." The house has no steps, no thresholds, wide door openings, microwave and dishwasher drawers, hand-held shower heads and knee space beneath cooktops and sinks.

'One big reason we're excited opment Corp., said this time, "We're about our universal design is that it will work in condos and townhomes."

# At least 82 killed in rampage

INDIA

Gunmen storm luxury hotels, other targets at financial capital





facade Wednesday at 222 St. Elizabeth St. Paulin works for the sub- the general contractor for the new parking structure with offices.

John Dunham, Messenger-Inquirer/jdunham@messenger-inquirer.com, 926-0123 Ted Paulin uses a hot-pressure washer to remove wax from the brick contractor, de-AM-RON Building Systems. Hartz Construction Corp. is

# **County working on drainage issues**

### Resident: Worthington Road efforts may create problems

#### **By James Mayse** ier-Inquir

Daviess County officials are working to alleviate flooding problems along Worthington Road but are faced with larger drainage issues in the area.

Worthington Road, which is between Kentucky 56 and the or is near several subdivisions, including Maple Ridge, Pecan Ridge and Audubon Estates.

At a Fiscal Court meeting Tuesday, county officials heard concerns from a Wyndcrest Drive resident, who said

yards along Worthington Road land to slow water drainage, could exacerbate flooding on Wyndcrest Drive, which intersects Worthington Road.

But County Engineer Sinan Ravvan disputed the claim Wednesday. He said the issue isn't work along Worthington Road, but rather that Wyndcrest Audubon Parkway, connects to Drive is near Rhodes Creek, which is flat and drains slowly after large rains.

'Water tends to back up into the road and street and eventually fills up into yards," Ravyan said.

Bridges and culverts that might not have been designed attempts to prevent flooding in properly combine with the flat in the neighborhood objected and See Drainage/Page A2

Rayyan said.

More than 250 acres drain toward Wyndcrest Drive, Rayyan said. Wyndcrest Drive is "acting like a detention basin," Rayyan said

"It's an old problem," Rayyan said. "It was there before and got worse over time - not with changes immediately around it, but with changes in the creek itself.'

At Tuesday's meeting, County Commissioner Mike Riney said officials presented a potential solution to Wyndcrest residents at one time, but some property owners

wouldn't grant easements for the work to proceed.

But Riney said the county has taken steps to improve drainage, such as cleaning out Rhodes Creek.

Water in the area naturally drains toward Rhodes Creek, Riney said. But construction in the area took up land that otherwise would have absorbed water.

Everything built in the area was in compliance with zoning regulations, Riney said.

Judge-Executive Reid Haire said Wednesday that part of the problem is that buildings were constructed with inadequate drainage plans.

#### By Ramola Talwar Badam ciated Pres

MUMBAI, India — Teams of gunmen stormed luxury hotels, a popular restaurant, hospitals and a crowded train station in coordinated attacks across India's financial capital, killing at least 82 people, taking Westerners hostage and leaving parts of the city under siege today, police said. A group of suspected Muslim militants claimed responsibility.

Police and gunmen were exchanging occasional gunfire near dawn at two luxury hotels, and an unknown number of people were still held hostage, said A.N. Roy, a top police official.

A raging fire and explosions struck the landmark Taj Mahal hotel shortly after midnight. Screams could be heard as black smoke billowed from the century-old edifice on Mumbai's waterfront. Firefighters sprayed water at the blaze and plucked people from windows and balconies with extension ladders. By dawn, the fire was still burning but had calmed considerably.

The attackers specifically targeted Britons and Americans at the hotels and restaurant, witnesses said. Officials said at least that killed 187 people. 120 people were wounded.

Ба of Bengal Gunmen opened fire in several attacks SOURCE · ESBI

izen who was dining at the upscale Oberoi hotel, told Sky News television that a gunman ushered 30 to 40 people from the restaurant into a stairway and, speaking in Hindi or Urdu, ordered everyone to put up their hands

'They were talking about British and Americans specifically. There was an Italian guy, who, you know, they said: 'Where are you from?' and he said he's from Italy and they said 'fine,' and they left him alone. And I thought: 'Fine, they're going to shoot me if they ask me anything' — and thank God they didn't," he said.

Chamberlain said he managed to slip away as the patrons were forced to walk up stairs, but he thought much of the group was being held hostage.

The motive for the onslaught was not immediately clear, but Mumbai has frequently been targeted in terrorist attacks blamed on Islamic extremists, including a series of bombings in July 2006

Alex Chamberlain, a British cit- See Rampage/Page A2

### On a bleak Thanksgiving, some sharing the bounty

### By Todd Lewan Associated Press

A Thanksgiving ago, many of us were fretting over delays at the airport, our holiday season shopping lists, even things like whether to get another Botox injection or a new set of wheels.

Now, we worry about keeping gas in the car. Or just keeping the car.

This Thanksgiving, a slumping economy is making many Americans more fearful than thankful.

See Thanksgiving/Page A4



Janet Mares and her daughter Monica, 9, receive food Tuesday at the Grace Resource Center in Lancaster, Calif.

INDEX Astrology/D3 Classified/ D5-8 Comics/B7 Crossword/D7

Turkey gets presidential pardon/A8





### **On a mission: Grieving mother** urging people to use seat belts

#### By Dariush Shafa

Since 2006, Mischelle Miller has carried on a crusade.

She uses money from her own pocket. She uses stories told in her own words.

Not a day goes by that she doesn't remember the daughter she lost, whose death was an inspiration to her mother's mission.

Megan Miller was 16 when she wrecked the car she was driving, rolling it five times. Damage to the car wasn't overly severe, and Miller's other daughter survived the crash. But Megan was ejected from the car and thrown several dozen feet; she later died at the hospital.

### **Buckle Up**

To support Mischelle Miller and her campaign to encourage people to wear seat belts, contact her at 314-2848. A Beef O'Brady's fundraiser is from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, and 10 percent of the proceeds go to help Miller's cause in memory of her daughter. T-shirts will be available at the event for \$10. To learn more, visit Megan Miller's Myspace page, which is now an informational/memorial site, at www.myspace.com/ bigblues65.

Markets/A6 Movies/D2 Opinion/A7 Records/C2 Television/B6 Dear Abby/D3



### **Clark**

#### From the Front Page

Clark said. "It will work downtown. We have to build for the aging market, and we want to use that concept downtown."

Brake said the universal design concept could help attract retirees as well as young professional to live downtown.

Although downtown doesn't have a supermarket or department store, Brake said, "if you have an electric streetcar running to Wesleyan Park Plaza, you won't even need a car to live downtown."

The streetcar, however, is not part of the original \$80 million plan. It's scheduled for a later phase.

"We have people who would move downtown tomorrow if we had the housing," Clark said. 'We need townhomes, condos, lofts, affordable apartments and detached houses downtown. We probably can't support a lot of high-rises right now. We may in the future, but not right now."

There's a need for 300 to 350 housing units downtown now, he said.

Single-family housing, Clark said, would probably need to be in neighborhoods east and west of downtown, rather than in downtown proper.

The Executive Inn property is so devalued now." he said. "If it were sold tomorrow, I think you'd see housing there is six months."

Clark's latest riverfront project was River Crest, a \$2.5 million-plus townhome development beside English Park.

"We presold all 10 townhomes," he said earlier. "They ranged from \$245,000 to \$350,000. I never thought the Owensboro market would go to that level.'

The two-story homes have a view of both bends of the Ohio River as well as English Park. Private decks on the second floor and big windows in the second-floor master bedrooms both offer river views.

"People love that river," Clark said. "There's no way townhomes would sell for these prices anywhere else in town.

"We've done about 40 units on our own along the river,<sup>2</sup> Clark said. "I think 25 to 50 units downtown are very doable for us. We're absolutely interested."

The idea of downtown redevelopment, Brake said, is "being able to leverage public projects with private development."

Keith Lawrence, 691-7301, klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com

### Mother

From the Front Page

From the Front Page

Early today, State Home Secretary Bipin Shrimali said four suspects had been killed in two incidents when they tried to flee in cars, and Roy said two more gunmen were killed at the Taj Mahal. State Home Minister R.R. Patil said nine more were arrested. They declined to provide any further details.

"We're gong to catch them dead or alive," Patil told reporters. "An attack on Mumbai is an attack on the rest of the country."

An Indian media report said a previously unknown group calling itself the Deccan Mujahideen had claimed responsibility for the attacks in e-mails to several media outlets. There was no way to verify that claim.

Police reported hostages being held at the Taj Mahal and Oberoi hotels, two of the bestknown upscale destinations in this crowded but wealthy city.

Gunmen who burst into the Taj Mahal hotel "were targeting foreigners. They kept shouting: 'Who has U.S. or U.K. passports?' " said Ashok Patel, a British citizen who fled from the hotel.

Authorities believed seven to 15 foreigners were hostages at the Taj Mahal hotel, said Anees Ahmed, a top state official. It was also unclear where the hostages were in the Taj Mahal, which is divided into an older wing, which was in flames, and a modern tower that was not on fire.

U.S. State Department spokesman Robert Wood said officials were not aware of any American casualties but were still checking. He said he could not address reports that Westerners might be among the hostages.

"We condemn these attacks and the loss of innocent life," White House spokesman Tony Fratto said.

Johnny Joseph, chief secretary for Maharashtra state, of which Mumbai is the capital, said 82 people had been killed and 120 had been wounded.

Officials at Bombay Hospital, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a Japanese man had died there and nine Europeans had been admitted, three of them in critical condition with gunshots. All had come from the Taj Mahal, the officials said.

At least three top Indian police officers - including the chief of the anti-terror squad - were among those killed, Roy said.

Blood smeared the floor of the Chhatrapati Shivaji rail station, where attackers sprayed bullets into the crowded terminal.

Nasim Inam's hands shook when he spoke of seeing four attackers gunning down commuters as they walked to catch late trains home.

"They wore black T-shirts and blue jeans. They were carrying big guns," Inam said. "They just fired randomly at people and then ran away. In seconds, peo-

## **Rampage:** No Americans are known dead



Employees of the landmark Taj Mahal hotel comfort each other after they were rescued from the hotel early today in Mumbai, India.

#### Coordinated attacks in Mumbai

Teams of gunmen opened fire in a series of attacks that began late Wednesday, in Mumbai, India, leaving scores of people dead and many more injured.



SOURCES: GeoEye 2000 satellite picture; AND, Europa Technologies via Google; Times of India

attacked Cama and Albless Hos- just turned and ran in the oppopital and G.T. Hospital, though it site direction," he told The Assowas not immediately clear if any- ciated Press over his mobile one was killed

Early today, several European lawmakers were among people holed up in a hotel restaurant, who barricaded themselves inside unsure if it was safe to come out.

phone.

AP

Hours later, Karim remained

### **National/World Briefs**

From wire reports

#### Woman convicted in hoax linked to suicide

LOS ANGELES - A Missouri mother on trial in a landmark cyberbullying case was convicted Wednesday of only three minor offenses for her role in a mean-spirited Internet hoax that apparently drove a 13-year-old girl to suicide. The federal jury could not reach a verdict



Lori Drew



Megan Meier

Associated Press

Tina Meier, the mother of the dead girl, said Drew deserves the maximum of three years behind bars. "For me it's never been

about vengeance," she said. "This is about justice." Prosecutors said Drew and two others created a fictitious 16year-old boy on MySpace and sent flirtatious messages from him to teenage neighbor Megan Meier. The "boy" then dumped Megan in 2006, saying, "The world would be a better place without you." Megan promptly hanged herself with a belt in her bedroom closet.

Prosecutors said Drew wanted to humiliate Megan for saying mean things about Drew's teenage daughter. They said Drew knew Megan suffered from depression and was emotionally fragile.

#### Thailand shuts down second airport

BANGKOK, Thailand - Thai authorities shut down Bangkok's second airport today after it was overrun by antigovernment protesters, completely cutting off the capital from air traffic as the prime minister rejected their demands to resign, deepening the country's crisis.

Thailand's powerful army commander, who has remained neutral in the conflict, stepped into the fray Wednesday, urging Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat to step down.

He also asked thousands of protesters to end their siege of the main international Suwarnabhumi airport since Tuesday night, which has forced authorities to shut down the facility and cancel hundreds of flights, drawing world attention to a turmoil that has reduced Thailand to a dysfunctional nation.

The anti-government protests, which gathered pace four months ago, have paralyzed the government, battered the stock market, spooked foreign investors and dealt a serious blow to the tourism industry.

The crisis worsened early today as authorities shut down the Don Muang domestic airport, which had been receiving some diverted flights from Suwarnabhumi.

#### Calls grow for FDA to recall infant formula

Disclosure that laboratory tests have detected traces of contamination in several major brands of infant formula generated concern and confusion Wednesday, with a national consumer's group and the Illinois attorney general demanding a Food and Drug Administration recall and the federal agency saying it had released inaccurate information on what chemicals were found in which products.

As worried parents called manufacturers looking for guidance about the presence of melamine and a key byproduct in U.S.-made formula, the FDA reiterated its position that the baby food is safe and parents should continue feeding it to their babies, contending the extremely low levels of contamination do not present a health danger.

Also, a spokesman for one major manufacturer criticized the FDA for its release of the inaccurate information.

on the main charge against 49-year-old Lori Drew — conspiracy — and rejected three other felony counts of accessing computers without authorization to inflict emotional harm. Instead, the panel found Drew guilty of three misdemeanor offenses of accessing

computers without authorization. Each count is punishable by up to a year in prison and a \$100,000 fine. Drew could have gotten 20 years if convicted of the four original charges.

U.S. District Judge George Wu declared a mistrial on the conspiracy count. There was no immediate word on whether prosecutors would retry her.

"I don't have any satisfaction in the jury's decision," said Drew's lawyer, Dean Steward. "I don't think these charges should have ever been brought."

ness," Miller said.

Since then, Miller has done all she can to encourage people to take the extra few seconds it takes to buckle up.

"You can't know the empti-

Even strangers, Miller said, hear about why they should buckle up. "It's become a big pet peeve of mine, just knowing that if she was wearing her seat belt she'd be alive.

A month after her daughter's death, Miller took action.

She began speaking to students at her daughter's school. Soon, she began speaking at other schools. Then came the billboards, more than a dozen of them that showed Megan's smiling face and encouraged people to buckle up.

"I just haven't stopped," Miller said. "It's just my message."

Now, Miller is hoping help for the community can maintain the billboards project. On Dec. 1, a fundraiser will be at Beef O'Brady's on East Parrish Avenue, with 10 percent of proceeds going to help fund the buckle-up message. T-shirts will be sold for \$10 each, with the money going to support Miller's message.

"It's just an effort to keep this up, but if I want to go bigger, I'm going to need (help)," Miller said. "You make all these efforts because you want to save lives."

Miller said while her daughter is the reason she keeps going, she also does it because she knows the losses other families have felt.

"It's not my kid; it's anybody's family who's lost someone,' Miller said.

Friends of Megan's and other students are helping Miller realize the mission is making a difference. Miller recounted the story of a young woman who started wearing her seat belt after Megan's death. Later, that young woman was in an accident but was kept safe by her seat belt after the car overturned.

I know it's working. I know the message is getting out to people," Miller said. "I'm not going to stop.

"There's not one day that goes by that (Megan's) not on my mind," Miller said. "You just don't forget it."

Dariush Shafa, 691-7302, dshafa@messenger-inquirer.com

ple fell to the ground.' Other gunmen attacked Leopold's restaurant, a landmark popular with foreigners, and the police headquarters in southern Mumbai, the area where most of the attacks took place. The restaurant was riddled with bullet holes and there were blood on the floor and shoes left by flee-

### Drainage

#### From the Front Page

"There are too many houses there, considering the flow of the water and the volume of the water," Haire said.

Drainage plans are reviewed by the county engineer. When the properties were built, before Rayyan became engineer, the engineer at the time approved the drainage plans, Haire said.

The Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission receives the plans after they are approved by the county engineer but does not have the technical expertise to evaluate if a drainage plan is inaccurate, Haire said.

"Planning and zoning are not hydrologists," Haire said.

The goal is to find solutions to the area's drainage issues, Haire said. "Now, we're trying to alleviate the problems without creating problems for the adjoining neighbors," Haire said.

Rayyan said the drainage proj-ect along Worthington Road will not "have any adverse impact (on) flooding on Wyndcrest.'

The county is looking for options to assist Wyndcrest Drive. "We're going to have to look at their situation as a separate issue," Rayyan said.

James Mayse, 691-7303, jmayse@messenger-inquirer.com

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the Taj Mahal, a century-old sea-

"I was in the main lobby, and there was all of a sudden a lot of firing outside," said Sajjad Karim, part of a delegation of European lawmakers visiting Mumbai ahead of a European Union-India summit.

As he turned to get away, "all of a sudden another gunmen appeared in front of us, carrying machine gun-type weapons. And ing customers. Gunmen also he just started firing at us ... I try. Nearly 700 people have died.

Britain's foreign secretary, side hotel complex and one of the citv's best-known destinations. David Miliband, strongly con-demned the attacks. "Today's attacks in Mumbai which have claimed many innocent victims remind us, yet again, of the threat we face from violent extremists," Miliband said in a statement.

> India has been wracked by bomb attacks the past three years, which police blame on Muslim militants intent on destabilizing this largely Hindu coun-

### **Messenger-Inquirer**

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We're getting inundated by calls from moms confused about the situation," said Pete Paradossi, a spokesman for Mead Johnson, one of the three major manufacturers of U.S.made formula involved in the problem detections.

Melamine is the industrial chemical found in Chinese infant formula - in far larger concentrations - that has been blamed for killing at least three babies and making at least 50,000 others ill.



Bob Morris...691-7210 Matt Francis...691-7292 Faye Murry...691-7240 Mike Weafer...691-7285 Barry Carden...691-7252 Angie York...691-7218

# Officials warn of possible transit system plot

#### By Eileen Sullivan

iated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities are warning police of a possible terror plot against the New York City subway and train systems during the holiday season, prompting officials to beef up security at stations.

An internal memo obtained by The Associated Press says the FBI has received a "plausible but unsubstantiated" report that al-Qaida terrorists in late September may have discussed

attacking the subway system. A person briefed on the mat-

ter, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the intelligence-gathering work, said the threat may also be directed at the passenger rail lines running through New York, such as Amtrak and the Long Island Rail Road, which are particularly busy with holiday travelers.

A U.S. counterterror official, also speaking on condition of

authorized to do so publicly, said senior government officials have been briefed because the FBI very recently received credible information about possible attacks over the holiday season, and authorities are particularly concerned about this long holiday weekend.

FBI spokesman Richard Kolko confirmed only that his agency and the Homeland Security Department issued a bulletin Tuesday night to state and local anonymity because he was not authorities, and the information

AFTER THANKSGIVING

is being reviewed. Department of Homeland

Security spokesman Russ Knocke said the warning was issued as a routine matter but added that there may be an increased police presence in New York and other large cities.

The internal bulletin says al-Qaida terrorists "in late September may have discussed targeting transit systems in and around New York City. These discussions reportedly involved the use of suicide bombers or explosives placed

on subway/passenger rail sys- target for would-be terrorists. tems," according to the document.

"We have no specific details to confirm that this plot has developed beyond aspirational planning, but we are issuing this warning out of concern that such an attack could possibly be conducted during the forthcoming holiday season," according to the warning dated Tuesday.

The Big Apple's tightly packed passenger trains and subway cars have long been a source of con- broken up in 2006 by several cern for police — and a tempting arrests overseas.

A Pakistani immigrant was arrested and convicted for a scheme to blow up the subway station at Herald Square in 2004. There was also a planned cyanide attack on the subways by al-Qaida operatives that authorities say was called off in 2002; another aborted al-Qaida plot to destroy the Brooklyn Bridge in 2003; and a plot to bomb underwater train tunnels to flood lower Manhattan, which was



Associated Press

Former first lady Barbara Bush speaks Oct. 3 at a dedication ceremony for the George and Barbara Bush Center at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine.

### Former first lady is resting after surgery for ulcer

#### **Associated Press**

HOUSTON — Former first lady Barbara Bush was resting and in good spirits in a Houston hospital Wednesday following surgery for a perforated ulcer, a family spokesman said.

Bush, who was visiting with family members, probably will remain in Methodist Hospital until next week, family spokesman Jim McGrath said.

The laparoscopic surgery, a minimally invasive procedure involving a small incision in the abdomen, was Tuesday night. Surgeons cleansed her abdominal area and closed a one-centimeter hole caused by the ulcer, McGrath said.

Bush went to the hospital as a precaution Tuesday night after experiencing abdominal pains. Former President George H.W. Bush was with her.

"She's feeling great, and he is feeling very good," said Jim Appleby, a spokesman for the Office of George Bush. "The surgery went just fine, and she is

# GET HERE EARLY FRIDAY AT AND SHOP LATE 'TIL 11PM

DOWNTOWN AND FURNITURE GALLERY HOURS MAY VARY. ALL STORES CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY.

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recovering nicely.

Current first lady Laura Bush, Barbara Bush's daughter-in-law, said Wednesday: "She's doing great. George and I talked to both President Bush and Barbara Bush last night while they were in the hospital, and they were both doing very well then.'

Interviewed on ABC's "Good Morning America," Laura Bush said the White House doctor had spoken to Barbara Bush's doctor Wednesday morning and "she's doing very well."

Barbara Bush is 83.

The former Barbara Pierce, daughter of the publisher of McCall's magazine, married George H.W. Bush in January 1945 when he returned a hero from World War II.

She was the girl who, swept off her feet by a handsome Navy aviator, dropped out of college to marry him, "the first man I ever kissed.

They had their first child, George, while still at Yale in 1946. A daughter, Robin, died in 1953 of leukemia a few weeks before her fourth birthday. The other Bush children are sons Jeb, Neil and Marvin and daughter Dorothy.

Barbara Bush disclosed she was suffering from an overactive thyroid ailment known as Graves' disease when she lived at the White House. The disease causes teary eyes and double vision, according to her doctors.

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### **Thanksgiving:** Laid off from \$90,000-a-year job, man worries about mortgage, debt

#### From the Front Page

And yet, as grim as these days are, millions of Americans are still preparing to turn a meal into a celebration — to find joy in the midst of hardship.

You could see glimmers of it everywhere — from the suburbs north of Los Angeles, where families who once lived in new homes lined up for free food, to Denver, where dozens down on their luck answered an Internet ad for Thanksgiving dinner, to a church on Wall Street, where a clergyman repeatedly struggled to answer the question of the moment: Will the hard times ever end?

#### WE HAVE ROOM AT OUR TABLE"

At turkey time last year, Monique White was unemployed, living in a cramped motel room and pining for the Thanksgivings of her childhood, when dozens of people would gather for a holiday feast.

Today a receptionist at a dentist's office, she has a townhouse in Littleton, Colo. And, thanks to an Internet posting, a list of Thanksgiving dinner guests strangers all — who will help her eat nine turkeys, four hams, 16 Brenden's favorite, and peanut boxes of stuffing and a

dozen or so pies.

How did it happen? White, 36, was feeling a bit lonesome a week ago; her two sons were planning to spend the holiday with their father. And though her longtime partner, Doug White, would be there for her on Thanksgiv-Monique ing, she longed to be White surrounded by many more people.

So she posted invitations on Craigslist, the Internet classifieds site. In part, one read: "Mavbe you are someone who is new in town and doesn't have anywhere to go. Maybe you are a small family that wouldn't be able to afford Thanksgiving dinner otherwise. Maybe you are just looking to change up your normal Thanksgiving tradition. ... We have room at our table this year."

She figured four folks, maybe five would answer. But then the replies poured in: People laid off from work. People with no family. People ashamed to bring their children to a Thanksgiving dinner at a soup kitchen.

"I thought: There's was no way I can judge who is worthy of sitting at my table. I have to invite them all," Monique White says. In all, 32 people are expected

for dinner.

heard what she was doing, he neighborhood called Prairie Rose, offered to pay for the food. Then, and see this: families, some of a notel offered to provide tables and chairs. Then, a professional magician said he would like to perform for the kids. Doug White has been busy baking turkeys, putting one in the oven as soon as another comes out. "People need to stop being so worried about me, me, me, my bills, my life," he says. "You stop worrying, and look what happens?"



Associated Press

In this image rendered from video and provided by KOMO-TV, Brenden Foster, 11, reacts while being interviewed in his Bothell, Wash., home. Three years ago, doctors diagnosed Brenden with leukemia, and his dying wish was to help the homeless. Brenden died Friday.

#### was startling.

Rescue Mission, a nonprofit shelter, served 2,500 meals this month to the homeless in Brenden's honor. When it distributed sack lunches to the needy, two words were written on the front

of each pouch: "Love Brenden." In Seattle, near the suburb of Bothell, where the slight, curlyhaired boy lived, volunteers prepared hundreds of sandwiches to give away — ham and cheese,

butter and jelly. (The boy wanted to make sure vegetarian homeless people had something to eat.)

By Thanksgiving, a Seattle campaign collected more than 60,000 pounds of donated food to be distributed among the state's food banks for the holiday. "I don't have much myself," read one note, attached to a dona-

tion, "but your wish touched me and I'm going to do what I can."

Brenden died Friday at home. He told his family he wasn't afraid of death, just sad that he didn't have more time on Earth to do more, says Patricia McMorrow, his grandmother.

The boy's other wishes: To save honeybees and clean up Seattle's Puget Sound.

#### "THEY'RE BROKE

#### ... EMBARRASSED"

Turn down nearly any street in Lancaster, Calif., a former military town that entered the 21st century as one of the nation's fastest-growing suburbs, and behold: Almost-new houses with boarded-up windows, for sale signs in the yards and moving trucks in the driveways.

Stop at the Grace Resource When Monique White's boss Center, a couple of miles from a whom used to live in these house es, waiting in line for free food. Among them this week was Randy McClure, who lost his job as a school custodian a year ago and has yet to find another. He has a wife, two kids and a home of 14 years that is in foreclosure. In better times, he used to volunteer at Grace Resource. 'I helped people who needed help — like we need help now," McClure, 48, says with a chuckle. He gestures to the scores of people waiting in line with him Tuesday for their food allotment. It will be more than enough to get them through the holidays, but some will return on Thursday for a Thanksgiving dinner.

Steve Baker, an amiable man of In Los Angeles, the Union 56 with the girth of a small bear and a graying goatee, knows McClure, as he does many of those lined up for food. Some went to his high school, 40 years ago.

"This year more than ever it's emotionally draining, because we're seeing more middle-class folks coming in than ever before," says Baker, who has run Grace Resource since its opening in 1991. "They're broke. They're embarrassed. Some of them are mad."

He saw this cactus-and-sagebrush-studded town in the Mojave Desert, 70 miles north of Los Angeles, fill up with tileroofed houses with swimming pools and four-car garages. He watched the population mush-room from 10,000 to 145,000.

He is now too invested in Lancaster emotionally to be anywhere but this food bank on Thanksgiving Day, particularly since a fundraiser earlier this year that was expected to bring in \$25,000 cleared just \$14,000.

"A lot of very generous people have been very honest with us and are saying, 'You know, we just don't have it to give this year.' And we understand that," he says.

One donor, who had no money to give, knitted a hundred winter caps instead. Others who turned up for food ended up helping distribute it, embarrassed, perhaps, that they had nothing to give.

#### "THERE DEFINITELY

#### WILL BE LESS FOOD"

Here's how Michael Savu, a 48-year-old former data analyst for an American automaker, generally celebrates Thanksgiving:

He drives out to a turkey farm, selects a big, \$40 bird. He hauls it home to the Detroit suburb of Novi, ices it. When Thanksgiving arrives, he fries his 16-pounder in the backyard of his house, while his wife, Julie, prepares her signature stuffing, cranberry sauce and pies.

There's typically so much bounty that Savu provides not only for his two daughters but for his two brothers-in-law, who always drive up from Dearborn, Mich., to share a meal and catch the Detroit Lions Thanksgiving Day football game on television.

This is no typical holiday, though.

After 29 years working for one of Detroit's Big Three, Savu lost his \$90,000-a-year job in September. Money is suddenly tight.

"Every Thanksgiving we paid for everything," Savu says. This year, "we are still going to have them over. The difference is they are bringing the turkey and most of the other stuff."

He adds: "There definitely will be less food."

Savu is receiving severance pay. But that will run out in about a year. He is not sure he will be able to find an equivalentpaying job, and he is worrying about his mortgage and his credit card debt.

'I'm paranoid about saving every cent. I'm spending almost nothing on Christmas, almost zero," he says.

"THEY ASK US IF THE DOWNTURN WILL EVER END"

From Trinity Church at the end of Wall Street, it's easy for the Rev. James Cooper to see one effect of the devastating layoffs in the financial district.

"There are simply fewer peo-ple on the street," Trinity's rec-



#### tor says.

He knows those missing people have lost their jobs, and he knows that layoffs in New York and elsewhere — and the tril-lions of dollars gone from Americans' personal wealth — mean stressful Thanksgivings in millions of homes.

As the historic Episcopal church prepared for its traditionlunchtime Wednesday designed for business people, and one other."

today for parishioners - Cooper and his staff found themselves struggling to counsel many Wall Streeters threatened with losing their jobs.

They ask us if the downturn will ever end, and we say, 'It always has,' Cooper says. "And they ask, 'Will life be different after?' And I think of 9/11, a horrible and horrendous day, but it al holiday services — one at led to new life and vitality — volunteerism, respect for each



#### "I'm going to do WHAT I CAN"

Before dying of leukemia last week, 11-year-old Brenden Foster had put together his very own "bucket list." Item No. 1 on the boy's things-to-do-before-I-die list?

Feed the homeless.

Brenden, as it turned out, was too sick to handle that one on his own. Diagnosed with blood cancer in August 2005, he suffered a relapse last December. By this summer, doctors told the fifthgrader he hadn't long to live.

Then, earlier this month, KOMO-TV in Seattle aired a report about the boy's wish list. Within days, the word had spread all the way down the Pacific Coast, and the response







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### IRAQ

# Iraqis postpone vote on pact

#### Bv Hamza Hendawi

BAGHDAD — Iraq delayed until today a crucial vote in parliament on a pact that would keep U.S. troops in Iraq through 2011 after lawmakers, many of them Sunni Arabs, demanded concessions from the Shiite-led government in return for supporting the deal.

The one-day delay and Wednesday's backroom haggling highlighted Iraq's deep divisions, as well as the fluid and often chaotic nature of its politics nearly six years after the U.S.-led invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein.

In the past, sectarian-based disputes and other quarrels among Iraqi politicians have stalled efforts to achieve national reconciliation, although some key compromises have been achieved. While the country appears to be emerging from vears of intense violence, mistrust among key factions that seek to preserve or advance their own interests has slowed political progress.

This time, a longtime Iraqi goal — a clear plan for the departure of forcign forces — is at stake.

The proposed security agreement provides for the first time since the 2003 invasion a timeline for the withdrawal of U.S. troops and offers what Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki describes as a path toward full sovereignty for Iraq. Under the deal, U.S. forces

will withdraw from Iraqi cities by June 30 and the entire country by Jan. 1, 2012. Iraq will also have strict oversight over U.S. forces. The U.N. mandate that currently governs the conduct of American troops gives them freer rein, leading to Iraqi complaints that they are an occupying force intent on preserving U.S. interests in the Middle East.

Lawmakers arrived at parliament for the planned vote Wednesday, but Speaker Mahmoud al-Mashhadani said political leaders were working toward a settlement that will clear the way for a rescheduled vote today.

We have just been told that the general climate is definitely moving toward a solution," said the speaker, adding that all but one of the issues preventing a vote from occurring were settled.

He did not identify the issue. But senior lawmaker Ayad al-Samarraie said it was a demand by his Sunni Arab bloc to remove all restrictions on the reinstate- options if parliament doesn't pass



Associated Press

A U.S. soldier leads an Iraqi man who was detained at the scene of a roadside bomb blast Wednesday that targeted a minibus in Baghdad. The attack killed two civilians and wounded four others, Iragi officials said.

ment of former members of Sad- the deal: renew the U.N. mandam's now-outlawed Baath Party in government jobs, and the dissolution of a special criminal court that tried Saddam and sentenced him to death along with several top officials of his regime.

Al-Maliki's ruling coalition appears to be assured of a slim majority in the 275-seat legisla-ture — about 140 seats — if the security agreement is put to a vote, but he is seeking a bigger win that transcends religious and sectarian divisions and reinforc-es the legitimacy of the pact.

Al-Maliki's dilemma has been deepened by the concerns of the country's most influential Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, who has indicated that the deal would be acceptable only if passed by a comfortable majority. The cleric is revered by Iraq's majority Shiites and he could sink the deal if he publicly speaks against it.

Iraq's government has two

date governing the presence of U.S. troops in Iraq that expires Dec. 31, or ask them to leave immediately. Al-Maliki and top Cabinet ministers say neither

option is good for Iraq. Already, the ruling Shiite and Kurdish blocs appear ready to grant the Sunni Arabs and smaller groups their demand for a nationwide referendum on the pact to be held no later than July 30 in exchange for their support. If that happens, the deal could be approved by parliament, but torpedoed by a "no" vote in the referendum.

In Washington, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the proposed referendum did not necessarily mean the pact will be put off. She said she had spoken to U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and that her understanding is that the referendum process would not delay implementation of the security pact.

White House spokesman

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Tony Fratto said Washington remained hopeful that parliament would pass the agreement.

"They're going to keep work-ing at it," he said. "It's a very good agreement. It's good for both Iraq and the United States. And so we'll keep an eye on what they're doing and hopefully they'll be able to get it across the goal line.'

One of al-Maliki's deputies, Barham Saleh, said late Wednesday that parliamentary blocs were finalizing a political deal ahead of

"We hope that ... the agree-ment will be presented to parliament as well as an agreement on a package of political reforms that the government and parliament will undertake," Saleh, a Kurd, told AP Television News late Wednesday.

If parliament approves the pact, it must be ratified by the Presidential Council, whose three members each have veto power. Two members support the deal. The third, Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi, is a Sunni Arab who could support it if he believes that parliament's biggest Sunni Arab bloc, the Iraqi Accordance Front, has secured enough political gains in pre-vote dealmaking.





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### U.S., NATO aren't succeeding

Afghan leader Karzai claims

### By Jason Straziuso

KABUL, Afghanistan -Afghanistan's president sharply critiqued the Afghan war Wednesday, complaining that U.S. and NATO troops haven't made life better. The criticism came a day after he accused foreign forces of undermining him.

The back-to-back barbs aimed at the international community's handling of the fight with the Taliban and the rebuilding of Afghanistan underlined President Hamid Karzai's increasing frustration with a conflict that has gotten bloodier each year.

We haven't accepted the international community so our lives would get worse. We accepted them so our lives would get better," Karzai said Wednesday. "We can accept some destruction — even some civilian casualties — if we have hope for a future of security and peace ... but this (style of) fighting can't be the only way forever."

During a meeting Tuesday with a U.N. Security Council delegation, Karzai called for the international community to set a timeline for ending the war, although

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he didn't mention a specific date. The president expanded on that idea Wednesday during a joint news conference with NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, saying he was not asking for a withdrawal date, but rather a "date for your success."

In Washington, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice acknowledged there are difficulties in Afghanistan, but said she has assured Karzai "that we, too, are concerned about what he's concerned about, which is civilian casualties." She noted the Taliban often attack in civilian areas, making it difficult to avoid the deaths of bystanders.



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+0.83 +1.61	Nike	53.25 2.06	+3.96 +0.19	Target Corp	35.13 5.30
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	Wal-Mart		56.69 28.37	+2.01	
	Waste Mgt. Wellpoint		20.37 34.62	-1.29 +0.69	I
	Wendy's Int		4.04	+0.24	١
	Weyerhaeu		38.17	+2.86	
	Whirlpool C Williams Co		39.15 16.73	+1.50 +1.70	t
	Xerox		7.30	+1.08	Ū
	Yahoo		10.58	+0.51	В
	Yum Brands	\$	26.74	+1.15	A
	NYSE lead				
	NEW YORK of the 15 mo	<ul> <li>Sales, closin st active New</li> </ul>	g price and York Stock	net change	В
	issues, trading	nationally.			tł
	Name Citigroup	Volume 374,748,499	Last 7.05	<b>Chg.</b> + .97	s
	FordMot ProUltFin	172,047,197 136,308,993	2.15 6.03	+ .49 + .48	n
	SPDR Fncl Bank of Am	135,982,241 117,070,291	12.35 15.43	+ .55 + .63	s
	iShEMkt s	116,557,632	23.40	+ 1.66	ir
	FannieMae GenMotors	111,505,712 101,066,315	.71 4.81	+ .24 + 1.25	
	ProUltraS&P GenlElec	90,403,902 81,908,558	26.01 16.19	+ 1.64 + .42	c ir
	iShRus2K	81,895,210	46.87	+ 2.65	F
	iShsChin25 s AmIntlGp	61,065,614 57,642,975	27.23 1.95	+ 2.82 + .18	г 0
	WellsFargo JPMorgChse	56,194,346 55,228,688	28.65 30.62	+ 1.70 + .85	h
	AMEX lead		30.02	+ .05	a
	NEW YORK of the 10 mos	<ul> <li>Sales, closin</li> <li>st active Ame</li> </ul>			u
	issues, trading	nationally.		-	k
	Name SPDR	Volume 323,798,452	Last 88.97	Chg. + 3.31	tı
	SP MidCap GreyWolf	11,490,464 8,606,225	92.50 5.68	+ 5.57	iı
	PwŚCrudeDL r	4,378,182	3.93	+ .58	S
	iShsSilver s BarcIndiaTR	3,107,717 2,247,266	10.19 28.73	+ 1.12	fc
	NTR Acquis GoldenStar g	2,203,800 1,982,637	9.78 .77	01 + .02	
	EldoradoGld g	1,775,581	5.65	+ .22	S
	NovaGold g Nasdaq le	1,615,482 aders	.57	+ .01	a
	NEW YÖRK Name	<ul> <li>Most active</li> <li>Volume</li> </ul>	Nasdaq issu Last	ies. Chg.	n
	PwShs QQQ	154,157,198	29.35	+ 1.18	n
	Microsoft Intel	68,715,537 68,537,593	20.49 13.97	+ .50 + .84	Р
	Cisco Oracle	54,184,574 52,564,260	16.39 16.14	+ .97 + .16	+
	Apple Inc RschMotn	31,826,541 26,427,406	95.00 44.70	+ 4.20 + 3.20	to
	ApldMatl	26,275,976	9.73	+ 1.02	g C
	Dell Inc Comcast	22,455,872 19,246,206	11.05 16.65	+ .63 + .95	ta
	Advanced 2,26 Declined 586	66			tł
1 00	Unchanged 12				W
).02 ).23	Total issues 2, New highs 6	960			b
).33	New lows 125 Total sales 1,9	41.793.243			C
).63	Gold price	S			is
).03 ).59		orld gold price rning fixing: \$8			n
1.26		rnoon fixing: \$ Harman: \$81			
).78	NY Handy	& Harman fa	bricated: \$	877.50 off	S
3.20 ).06		rd: \$814.53 of			0
0.86	NY Engelha NY Merc. or	rd fabricated: old Nov Wed. \$	\$875.62 off 808.50 off \$	\$8.62. \$10.00.	g a
).28	NY HSBC E \$5.00.	old Nov Wed. \$ Bank USA 4 p	.m. Wed. \$	815.00 off	a lı
).54 3.76		es			a
2.75	Silver pric NEW YORK day \$10.255 o	- Handy & H	Harman silve	er Wednes-	u
).54	H&H fabrica	ated \$12.306 c			Р
029 ).65	\$10.300 off \$0	ng bullion pric 1.030.	e for silver	in London	А
).34		\$10.490 up \$0 abricated \$12		186	S
).17	NY Merc si	ver spot mon			b
).23 ).57	off \$0.050. Nonferrou	s metals			e
).47		— Spot nor	nferrous m	etal prices	
0.05	Aluminum -	\$0.8285 per l			n
3.12 ).39	Copper -\$1 nations.	.7210 Cathod	e full plate,	U.S. desti-	u
0.30	Copper \$1.6	6680 N.Y. Mero 95.00 metric to		Vetal Exch	to
0.59	Zinc - \$0.5	788 per lb., de	livered.		e e
).85 ).79	Gold - \$81 quote).	2.50 Handy	& Harman	(only daily	n e
).79 ).73	Gold - \$808	8.50 troy oz., N 0.255 Handy			ir
0.66	quote).				p
).96 1.23	Mercury - \$	.220 troy oz., 650.00 per 76	6 lb flask, N.	Υ.	P S
2.33	Platinum -\$	872.00 troy o 869.70 troy o	z., N.Y. (cont	ract).	tł
	naunum -⊅			opor mou.	

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+2.33

U.S. Bancorp..

### **FINANCIAL CRISIS Obama reassures nation**, promises help is coming

### Former Fed chief Volcker will lead team of advisers

By Sara Kugler ociated Pre

CHICAGO - President-electBarack Obama sought to reassure he nation and nervous holiday shoppers about the ailing econony Wednesday as beleaguered stores braced for their most mportant month of the year.

"Help is on the way," he proclaimed at his third news briefng on the economy this week. Fifty-five days away from taking office, he declared he would nave an economic plan ready for ction "starting day one."

Investors' improved spirits ept pace. The Dow Jones indusrials climbed 247 points, markng the first time since last spring that the average had risen or four straight sessions.

To help with ideas from outside the White House, Obama innounced he was forming a new team of advisers with forner Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker as the head.

There is no doubt that during ough economic times family budgets are going to be pinched,' Obama said. "I think it is important for the American people, hough, to have confidence that we've gone through recessions before, we've gone through difficult times before, that my adminstration intends to get this econony back on track.

The crucial holiday shopping eason gets under way in earnest on Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, with deep discounts lready in place as stores try to ure buyers who are worried bout their jobs and homes.

Volcker, 81, will head the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board. The board's top staff official will be Austan Goolsbee, a University of Chicago conomist, Obama said.

Volcker is no stranger to economic crises, having led the Fed inder two presidents from 1979 to 1987. Volcker is a legendary entral banker who raised interest rates and restricted the noney supply to tame raging nflation in the 1980s. It was a painful prescription that helped send the economy into one of the nation's worst recessions.

ed with ushering in nearly three nomic times in our history who



Associated Press

President-elect Barack Obama stands with former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, chairman-designate of the Economic Recovery Advisory Board, left, during a news conference Wednesday in Chicago.

Obama said of Volcker. "He foremost, it comes from me. seems to be fairly opinionated."

Obama spoke as businesses were preparing for what many fear could be a disastrous month. And there was more bad news on the economy's current state.

The government reported Wednesday that jobless claims had remained at recessionary levels, consumers had cut back on their spending by the largest amount since the 2001 terrorist attacks, orders to U.S. factories had plunged anew and home sales had fallen to the lowest level in nearly 18 years.

Still, investors produced the Dow's fourth straight day of gains.

Fresh government bailout programs this week were given much of the credit. But Obama's encouraging words seemed to help as well.

People should understand that help is on the way. And as they think about this Thanksgiving shopping weekend, and as they think about the Christmas season that is coming up, I hope that everybody understands that we are going to be able to get through these difficult times," Obama said. "We're just going to have to make

some good choices. As for his own choices for top officials, he defended his selection of former Clinton officials to

help run his administration. The American people would be troubled if I selected a treasury secretary or a chairman of the National Economic Council However, he is largely credit- at one of the most critical ecoThat's my job."

Obama said he will announce the remaining members of his new economic panel in the coming weeks. He already has named New York Federal Reserve President Tim Geithner as his treasury secretary and Congressional Budget Office Director Peter Orszag as his candidate to run the White House Office of Management and Budget.

Geithner was a Treasury Department official during the Clinton administration, and Lawrence Summers, who will head Obama's National Economic Council, was Clinton's treasury secretary. Other Clinton administration names include Eric Holder, who will be Obama's attorney general, and Rahm Emanuel, the president-elect's chief of staff.

"What I don't want to do is to somehow suggest that because you served in the last Democratic administration, that you're somehow barred from serving again," Obama said. "Because we need people who are going to be able to hit the ground running.'

His economic team largely complete, Obama is expected to introduce national security officials next week.



### Gustav, Ike destroyed 60 energy platforms

+0.26 U.S. Bance +0.24 U.S. Steel

52.41

#### **Associated Press**

Johns. & Johns. ..... 58.27

Hurricanes Gustav and Ike destroyed 60 drilling platforms that drew about 1 percent of the oil and natural gas from the Gulf of Mexico, the Interior Department said Wednesday in a final damage assessment of the two September storms.

The platforms produced 13,657 barrels, or 1.05 percent, of the oil and nearly 94.5 cubic feet, or 1.3 percent, of the natural gas taken daily from the Gulf of Mexico, said Interior's Minerals Management Service, which oversees the federal offshore oil and gas leasing program.

The agency also reported an additional 31 platforms were extensively damaged by the two storms. The damaged platforms were in waters from 37 feet to 477 feet deep. They are estimated to take three to six months to repair, the agency said. An additional 93 platforms sustained moderate damage that could be repaired within three months.

The agency said 2,127 oil and gas production platforms in the Gulf of Mexico were exposed to Gustav's hurricane-force winds on Sept. 1. Ike followed 12 days

later. There are 3,800 production interest rate cut in China and platforms in Gulf waters, from news of a possible Russian outsingle wells in 10 feet of water to put cut appeared to counter huge, multiwell platforms in another round of dour economic water more than 7,000 feet deep.

Katrina destroyed 44 platforms, and soon after Hurricane Rita destroyed 64.

sharply Wednesday as a large

news and larger-than-expected Three years ago, Hurricane crude stockpiles in the U.S.

In New York Mercantile Exchange trading, light, sweet crude for January delivery Meanwhile, oil prices rose jumped more than 7 percent, or \$3.67 to settle at \$54.44 a barrel.

+.77 +.53 +.80 +1.00 +.90

+.80 +.67 +.95 +.93 +.80 +.60 +.15 +.05

an unthinkable feat in the ment whatsoever," Obama said. 1970s, when the country was grappling with high unemployment, high interest rates and ever-rising prices.

"He pulls no punches,"

decades of relatively low inflation had no experience in govern-"What we are going to do is

combine experience with fresh thinking," he said. "But understand where the vision for change comes from. First and

ascular Endoscopic Owensboro, KY 42303 Iding B Suite 203 2200 East P.



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Bonding with Baby

Tue.'s open int 19,549, up 358 IOGS, LEAN 
 Houss John Im 15/04, op 300

 40,000 lbs; cents per lb.

 Dec 58,40 55,90

 Dec 58,40 55,90

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 Dec 58,40

 Applot 22,55

 Applot 22,50

 Applot 22,50

 Applot 22,50

 Applot 75,00

 Applot 76,00

 Applot 76,00

 Applot 76,00

 Applot 74,54, up 142

 PORK BELLES

 Applot 20,500

 Applot 20,500
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# PUNK DELLIC3 04000 lbs;; cents per lb. Feb 92.40 93.60 91.00 93.50 +1.45 Mar 91.00 92.50 91.00 92.00 +1.60 May 90.90 92.90 90.90 92.00 +1.60 Jul 92.70 93.00 91.00 91.50 +1.50

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### LIVESTOCK/GRAIN

	cago B					Jul	2921/2	-6¾	
				Nednesc	lay on the	Sep	3021/2	-63/4	
Chica	go Board					Dec	3171/2	-63/4	
	Open	High	Low	Settle	Chg.	Jul	3401/2	-63/4	
WHE/						Sep	3501/2	-63/4	
	) bu mini					Est. s	ales 1,6	16. Tue.'s	sales 1
Dec	5341/2		5251/2				s open in		
Mar	5523/4		5431/2		+11/4	SOYB		. , .	
May		578	560	5673/4			bu mini	mum: ce	ents per
Jul	5801/4	590	5721/4			Jan	8871/4		8811/4
Sep	603		5961/4			Mar	895	9071/2	8891/2
Dec	622		614			May	9041/2	916	900
Mar	6341/2		6341/2			Jul	9123/4		9091/2
Jul	635	635		6341/4		Aua	9151/4		915
Dec	6571/2	665	653¾	659¼	-2	Sep	911	+4	0.0
Jul	6641/4					Nov	9091/4	9171/2	901
	sales 71,1			/1,144		Jan	9131/2	9131/2	
	s open in	t 265,98	6			Mar	9171/2		010/2
CORN						Mav	9211/2		
	) bu mini					Jul	9231/2	+5	
Dec	351	358	3501/4		+ 1/2	Aug			
Mar	368	375	367	371	+ 1/2	Sep			
May		386	379	3821/4	+ 1/2	Nov	9213/4	9223/4	015
Jul	390¾		389¾			Jan	923	+31/2	515
Sep	4021/2		4011/4			Mar	927	+31/2	
Dec	416		4141/4			Jul	928	+31/2	
Mar	430		4291/2	432	+ 3⁄4	Nov	928	+41/2	
May	4391/2	+ 1/2			1/		ales 90.7		'e caloe
Jul	4451/2		443¾	444 1/4	+ 1/4		s open in		
Sep	4363/4	+13/4		4001/	01/		EAN OIL	1313,00	0, up 1,1
Dec	428	4333/4	426	4291/4	+31/4		0 lbs; ce	nte nor	lh
Jul	452	+3			•	Dec	32.67	32.93	
Dec	445	446	445		+3	Jan	33.06	33.33	32.22
	sales 282			282,66	2	Mar	33.49		32.67
	s open in	1 892,90	5				33.96		33.20
OATS				h		May Jul	33.90	34.10	33.20
	) bu mini				02/		34.27		33.50
Dec	203	205	1953/4			Aug	34.57 34.63		
Mar	2161/2		2111/4	215	-41/2	Sep			34.38
May	227	227	223	224	-7	Oct	34.80	35.05 35.20	34.58
Jul	2341/2	2381/2	234	2341/2	-1	Dec	35.00 35.53		34.75
Sep		-7	0011/	0011/	02/	Jan			35.07
Dec	2651/4	266	2011/2	2611/2	-0%	Mar	35.32		
Mar	2731/2					May	35.57	+.21	
May	2831/2	-6¾				Jul	35.77	+.21	

	Jeh	302/2					00		30.01	T.21
h	Dec	3171/2	-6¾				00		36.13	+.21
hg.	Jul	3401/2	-6¾				De		36.32	+.21
	Sep	3501/2	-6¾				Ja		36.32	+.21
11/2		sales 1,61			616		Ma		36.32	+.21
11/2		s open in	t 14,478	, up 17			Ju		36.32	+.21
11/4		BEANS					00		36.32	+.21
174		) bu mini							ales 69,2	
1/4	Jan	887¼	899	881¼		+3			s open int	
1/2	Mar	895	9071/2	8891/2	894	+21/2			EAN MEA	
1	May	9041/2	916	900	903¾	+3¼			ons; dolla	
i	Jul	912¾		9091/2		+3	De		260.80	
2	Aug	9151/4	9151/4	915	915	+3	Ja		259.70	
<u>-</u>	Sep	911	+4				M		261.30	
	Nov	9091/4	917½	901	907	+5	Ma		263.80	
	Jan	9131/2	913½	<b>913</b> ½	9131⁄2	+5	Ju		267.30	
	Mar	9171/2	+5				Au		272.70	
	May	<b>921</b> ½	+5				Se		270.20	
1/2	Jul	9231/2	+5				00		265.20	
1/2	Aug	9231/2	+5				De		265.00	
1/2	Sep	9231/2	+5				Ja		267.40	
3/4	Nov	921¾	922¾	915	918	+31/2	Ma		266.40	
1/2	Jan	923	+31/2					ay		
3/4	Mar	927	+31/2				Ju		266.40	
3/4	Jul	928	+31/2				Au		266.40	
	Nov	928	+41/2				Se		266.40	
1/4		sales 90,7					00		266.40	
		s open in	t 315,60	6, up 1,1	38		De		266.40	
31/4		EAN OIL					Ja		266.40	
		)0 lbs; ce					Ma		266.40	
3	Dec	32.67		31.82	32.50		Ju Oc		266.40 266.40	
	Jan	33.06	33.33	32.22	32.86					
	Mar	33.49	33.75	32.67	33.28				ales 71,3 s open int	
	May	33.96	34.10	33.20	33.68					
	Jul	34.27	34.49	33.50	34.05				ago M	
33/4	Aug	34.57	34.68	34.18	34.24				GO – Fut	
41/2	Sep	34.63	34.88	34.38			Ch	lica	go Merca	
7	Oct	34.80	35.05	34.58					Open	High
7	Dec	35.00	35.20	34.75	34.82			ATTI		
	Jan	35.53	35.56	35.07	35.07	+.21			0 lbs.; ce	
63/4	Mar	35.32	+.21				De		87.35	87.95
	May	35 57	+ 21				Fo	h	88 20	88 62

	Mar	36.32	+.21				Apr	91.50			
	Jul	36.32	+.21					sales 24,	701. Tue	's sales	33,79
	Oct	36.32	+.21				Tue	.'s open ir	nt 213.83	3	,
	Est. s	ales 69,2	98. Tue.	's sales	98,302			DER CATT			
3	Tue.'s	s open int	242,19	2, up 3,6	97		50,0	)00 lbs.; c	ents per	r Ib.	
21/2		ean mea					Jan		92.40		92.2
31/4	100 to	ons; dolla	ars per t	ton			Mar	93.00	93.10	91.75	92.9
3	Dec			260.00			Apr	93.30	93.65	92.17	93.3
3	Jan			259.00			May	93.62	94.10	93.00	94.0
	Mar			260.60			Aug	95.60	96.00	94.80	96.0
5	May			262.40			Sep	95.45	96.00	95.45	96.0
5	Jul			266.80			Oct	95.30	95.40	95.30	95.4
	Aug	272.70					Nov	95.05	95.05	95.05	95.0
	Sep	270.20					Est	. sales 1,8	51. Tue.'	s sales 2	2,220
	Oct			264.90			Tue	's open ir	nt 19,549	, up 358	
	Dec	265.00		264.00	267.40	)+.50	HOG	IS, LEAN			
	Jan	267.40					40,0	)00 lbs.; c	ents per	r Ib.	
31/2	Mar	266.40					Dec		58.92	57.90	58.6
	May	266.40					Feb	65.90	66.45	64.95	65.7
	Jul	266.40					Apr	72.55	73.00	71.70	72.5
	Aug	266.40					May	79.40	80.25	79.25	80.1
	Sep	266.40					Jun	82.55	82.75	81.77	82.4
	Oct	266.40					Jul	81.40	81.70	80.40	81.3
	Dec	266.40					Aug			78.90	
	Jan	266.40					Oct	74.37	74.70	73.70	74.1
	Mar	266.40					Dec	71.85	71.90	71.50	71.8
26	Jul	266.40					Feb	74.00	75.00	74.00	74.6
22	Oct	266.40					Apr	76.00	76.00	76.00	76.0
21		ales 71,3					Ést	. sales 1,7	49. Tue.'	s sales 1	8,213
20		s open int					Tue	's open ir	nt 167,45	4, up 14	2
19	Chic	ago M	ercan	tile Ex	chang	je		K BELLIE			
19	CHICA	.GO – Fut	ures tra	ding Wed	inesday	on the	40,0	)00 lbs.; c	ents per	r Ib.	
20	Chica	go Merca	ntile Exc	change:			Feb	92.40	93.60	91.00	93.5
20		Open	High	Low	Settle	Chg.	Mar	91.00	92.50	91.00	92.0
21	CATTI	E					May		92.90		92.0
21	40,00	0 lbs.; ce					Jul	92.70	93.00	91.00	91.5
	Dec		87.95		87.42		Aug				
	Feb	88.20	88.62		88.15	+.83		sales 3. 1		es 99	
	Apr	89.97	90.25	88.75	89.70	+.55	Tue	.'s open ir	nt 1,131		

### Jun 85.80 86.10 84.60 85.67 Aug 85.20 85.35 84.15 85.10 Oct 88.50 88.50 87.60 88.50 Dec 89.00 89.70 88.90 89.70 Peb 90.10 90.70 90.00 90.70 Apr 91.50 Est. sales 24.701. Tue.'s sales 33.799 Tue.'s open int 213,833 FEEDER CATTLE 50.001 bis.; cents per lb. 86.1084.6085.6785.3584.1585.1088.5087.6088.5089.7088.9089.7090.7090.0090.70 Aug 35.89 +.21 Sep 36.01 +.21 FEEDER CATTLE 50,000 lbs;;cents per lb. jan 92:22 92.40 90.80 92.20 Mar 93.00 93.10 91.75 92.92 Apr 93.30 93.10 91.75 92.92 Apr 93.30 93.65 91.77 93.35 May 93.62 94.10 93.00 94.05 Aug 95.60 96.00 94.80 96.00 Oct 95.30 95.44 95.30 95.40 Nov 95.05 95.05 95.05 95.05 Pet cales 184 Tup by cales 220 20.01

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#### EDITORIAL

Opinion

# Give thanks for what community offers

eltdown. Bailout. Recession. Crisis. Those are the words that will be forever associated with 2008, the year the U.S. economy lurched headlong into the ditch. And as families all over the country gather for Thanksgiving dinner today, no one really knows when things will start to turn around.

For those who have lost jobs or seen their hours cut or who are worried that one or the other will happen to them or to someone close to them, feeling grateful today will require a little more work, a little more optimism than usual.

What will be required for most

of us will be a certain determination to look beyond pocketbook issues and our shrinking retirement savings and appreciate those things that actually matter more ---supportive and loving spouses and Daviess County is poised to take a significant others, family members, wonderful friends, great neighbors, good health and enriching, uplifting experiences that so often make ordinary days special.

Here in Owensboro and the surrounding area, one doesn't have to look far to find plenty to be grateful for. We've said it before and say it again now: This a quality place to live, work and raise families. This community and

others nearby are focused on the right things: Quality education, responsive and progressive government and increasing the quality of life for everyone.

As 2008 draws to a close, giant step in post secondary education opportunities with the construction of the first building on the new Western Kentucky University-Owensboro campus soon to begin. Also next year, work will begin on a Owensboro river wall project sure to bring new energy and excitement to downtown. We are also fortunate to live in a community that isn't satisfied with a lackluster downtown. The downtown master plan recently unveiled is dynamic Owensboro Medical Health and actually doable.

We are convinced that **Owensboro-Daviess County** residents are exemplary in their care and compassion for one another. A prime example and one that we never tire of holding up is the Goodfellows Club, which begins anew today raising money for needy children. There are many, many other examples, including services provided to the homeless by the Boulware Mission, Daniel Pitino Shelter and the seasonal but necessary St. Benedict Joseph shelter.

Local and area residents can be thankful that construction will begin late next year on a new

System hospital. When it opens in 2012, health care in this region will rival that of much larger communities. Actually, it already does in many ways, thankfully.

For a city of its size, Owensboro offers outstanding opportunities in the areas of culture and entertainment and more are on the way.

So, as we gather at our bountiful tables today, smiling faces all around, lets remind ourselves of the good things we have in such abundance and all the things we have to look forward to in our communities.

Here's wishing a happy and joyous Thanksgiving to everyone.

### **READERS WRITE**

#### **Don't blame workers** when companies fall

In response to Louis L. Clements Nov. 14 letter blaming organized labor for the auto industry's financial failures: Mr. Clements clearly believes that when a company or industry starts having financial problems the hourly wages and benefits of the working class employees must be the problem. Unfortunately, this is the way management for most of the companies in our nation and across the world operate.

A company's lowest paid employees are the last to receive a raise or praise for the company's success and the first to take a cut whenever a financial crisis occurs. His letter mentioned nothing about the executive compensation and some of the golden parachutes that corporate executives give themselves when all is going well or in some cases, not so well.

Where would this great nation be if not for organized labor? Things like living wages, 40-hour work week, eight-hour day, overtime, holiday pay, lunch periods, breaks, vacations, sick leave, health care coverage and retirement savings are just a few

#### **About The Opinion Page**

The opinions expressed in the Messenger-Inquirer editorials represent the consensus of the editorial board of the Messenger-Inquirer, on behalf of the newspaper. Articles by named authors and letters to the editor contain the opinions solely of the writer.

privileges we enjoy because workers of the past organized in the work place.

Blaming hourly employees for the collapse of the big three and the auto industry in general is a joke. It's the corporate executives and executive board members that are bleeding companies dry with their millions in salaries and compensation.

I strongly support bailing out the auto industry along with all the financial institutions, but not without restrictions on corporate executive salaries and compensation.

> Michael Autry Horse Branch



# Lack of civic literacy in U.S. troublesome trend

o much for the wisdom of The People.

A new report from the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI) on the nation's civic literacy finds that most Americans are too ignorant to vote.

Out of 2,500 American quiztakers, including college students, elected officials and other randomly selected citizens, nearly 1,800 flunked a 33-question test on basic civics. In fact, elected officials scored slightly lower than the general public with an average score of 44 percent compared to 49 percent.

Only 0.8 percent of all testtakers scored an "A."

America's report card may come as little surprise to fans of Jay Leno's man-on-the-street interviews, which reveal that most people don't know diddly about

wake of a populist-driven election celebrating joes-of-all-trades to be reminded that the voting public is dumber than ever.

> The multiple-choice ISI quiz wouldn't deepen the creases in most brains, but the questions do require a basic knowledge of how the U.S. government works. Think fast: In what document do the words "government of the people, by the people, for the people" appear? More than twice as many people (56 percent) knew that Paula Abdul was a judge on

Parker "American Idol" than knew Washington that those words come from Post Writers Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (21 percent). Group

In good news, more than 80

percent of college graduates gave correct answers about Susan B. Anthony, the identity of the commander doohickey. Still, it's disheartening in the in chief of the U.S. military, and the

content of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

But don't pop the cork yet. Only 17 percent of college grads understood the difference between free markets and centralized planning.

Then again, we can't blame the children for what they haven't been taught. Civics courses, once a staple of junior and high school education, are no longer considered important in our quantitative, leave-no-child-behind world. And college adds little civic knowledge, the ISI study found. The average grade for those holding a bachelor's degree was just 57 percent — only 13 points higher than the average score of those with only a high school diploma.

Most bracing: Only 27 percent of elected officeholders in the survey could identify a right or freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment. Forty-three percent didn't know what the Electoral College does. And 46 percent didn't know that the Constitution gives Congress power to declare war.

What's behind the dumbing down of America?

The ISI found that passive activities, such as watching television (including TV news) and talking on the phone, diminish civic literacy. Actively pursuing information through print media and participating in high-level conversations - even, potentially, blogging — makes one smarter.

The ISI insists that higher-education reforms aimed at civic literacy are urgently needed. Who could argue otherwise? But historian Rick Shenkman, author of "Just How Stupid Are We?" thinks reform needs to start in high school. His strategy is both poetic (to certain ears) and pragmatic: Require students to read newspapers, and give college freshman weekly quizzes on current events.

Did he say newspapers?! Shenkman even suggests government subsidies for newspaper subscriptions, as well as federal tuition subsidies for students who perform well on civics tests. They

could be paid from a special fund created by, say, a "Too Many Stupid Voters Act.'

In his book, Shenkman, founder of George Mason University's History News Network, is tough on everyday Americans. Why, he asks, do we value polls when clearly The People don't know enough to make a reasoned judgment?

The founding fathers, Shenkman points out, weren't so enamored of The People, whom they distrusted. Hence a Republic, not a Democracy. They understood that an ignorant electorate was susceptible to emotional manipulation and feared the tyranny of the masses.

Both Shenkman and the ISI pose a bedeviling question, as crucial as any to the nation's health: Who will govern a free nation if no one understands the mechanics and instruments of that freedom?

Answer: Maybe one day, a demagogue.

# For whatever has been left, be thankful today

hanksgiving is upon us. This is the time for expressing gratitude. But what does one do on Thanksgiving this year, smack in the middle of perhaps the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression? You give thanks, dummy.

And you marvel that while stocks have crashed, home values tanked and unemployment lines grown, no one is going hungry for lack of available food. The poorest among us can still turn to food banks, soup kitchens and Food Stamps. Most American families, even those suffering serious economic



Kathleen

Froma Harrop Providence (R.I.) Journal

setbacks, will sit down for the sort of turkey dinner that peasants in hard times past would have considered unimaginable feasts.

We moderns are good at counting our losses, but not appreciating the leftovers. And that's what Thanksgiving is about, showing gratitude for whatever has been left us.

In that regard, Thanksgiving is almost un-American. It is a day opposed to striving, to getting more. It's time to stop adding up the numbers on the scorecard of

life, to freeze in place, look around and give thanks for whatever is there.

Let's summon up some Thanksgiving spirit. Thanksgiving is a full-glass holiday. It is not a time to bemoan what one's house was worth last year. To be healthy, educated and living in this land of plenty is to have one's cup running over.

Our culture does not encourage contentment with what we already have. This is the land of the upgrade. One can always do better, be it with house or spouse. Every generation is supposed to live on a posher level than the one before. Some years ago, an investment company ran an advertisement showing a young woman sitting pensively on a front porch. The ad read: "Your father did better

than his father. Are you prepared to

carry on the tradition?"

Note how the warm word "tradition" is used to cover a not-very-laudable activity: intergenerational competition.

Such thinking would have been wholly foreign to the Pilgrims who celebrated the first Thanksgiving. The events leading up to that dinner help us understand the very different mindset that inspired this holiday.

The Pilgrims were Puritans who had seceded from the Church of England. They made a grueling trek to North American so that they could worship as they chose. Their ship, the Mayflower, landed at what was to become Plymouth, Mass., on Dec. 16, 1620

Mid-December is an awful time to

establish quarters in the New England wilderness. Disease immediately carried off more than half of the 102 colonists. They were buried on Coles Hill, right across the street from Plymouth Rock. (Scholars now believe that the Mayflower really did land there.) Without the help of friendly Indians, the colony would have vanished before spring.

In 1625, the colony's governor, William Bradford, wrote that the Pilgrims "never felt the sweetness of the country till this year." But that didn't stop them from giving thanks four years earlier.

So put down that 401(k) statement. Even if it says "zero," there is much to be thankful for.

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#### With a smile, Bush gives a final turkey pardon

WASHINGTON — **President George W. Bush** is on his way out the door.

So you just knew this final pardon was coming.

With a smile and some nostalgic words, Bush spared the national Thanksgiving turkey on Wednesday, honoring a tradition that dates to **Harry Truman**'s presidency. The 45-pound bird, named "Pumpkin" through an online vote, behaved quietly while the president presided over a Rose Garden ceremony.

The other name on the ticket, a backup bird with the chosen name of "Pecan," was nowhere to be seen. Undisclosed location, Bush joked.

"Pumpkin will be the honorary grand marshal of Disneyland's Thanksgiving Day Parade," the president said. "Together, these birds will gobble the rest of their days in the happiest place on Earth. I just hope they stay humble there."

Leaders at PETA, who advocate the ethical treatment of animals, objected. They urged Bush to send the turkeys to an area

### PEOPLE

sanctuary instead. "You might be a lame duck," PETA President **Ingrid Newkirk** said in a letter to Bush, "but you still have the power to help lame turkeys."

Bush always reflects a bit at Thanksgiving time, but he went further this year as the end of his presidency looms.

He gave thanks to troops and volunteers, to teachers and pastors, to all the American people. Then he got personal about his wife and daughters.

"I'm thankful for the wonderful and supporting family that I have been blessed with," Bush said. "I'm grateful to Laura for her love. I am grateful for two Thanksgiving miracles whom we were blessed with 27 years ago, Barbara and Jenna."

**President George W. Bush** stands Wednesday as Nathan Hill of Circle Hill Farms from Ellsworth, Iowa, holds "Pumpkin" the turkey in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington.



Associated Press

### Now you've got these doctors right where you want them.



#### HOSPITALISTS

Methodist hospitalists and assistants are (l-r) Stephanie Krampe, R.N., Jennifer Boes, R.N., Dr. Lee Newberry, Dr. William Devine, Dr. Eluojo Okonji and Carol Owens, R.N. Not pictured is Dr. Bassam Yousef. METHODIST HOSPITAL IS PROUD to introduce a team of doctors known as hospitalists. They're skilled physicians who specialize in treating the many serious medical conditions of hospitalized patients. At Methodist, each one is assisted by a nurse whose experience makes her uniquely qualified for her responsibilities.

Hospitalists and assistants treat a range of Methodist Hospital patients. For example, let's say a person arrives at our Emergency Room and requires a hospital stay. If there's no physician already in charge of that patient, the hospitalists step in. A patient's personal physician may make a referral to the hospitalists for the duration of that patient's stay. In fact, your own doctor may refer you to one. Our hospitalists also consult at the request of other physicians. They ensure that each and every patient has a doctor's care.

When you come to Methodist Hospital, you can be certain there's a team in place to care for you, no matter what the circumstance.

And we've got the living proof.



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