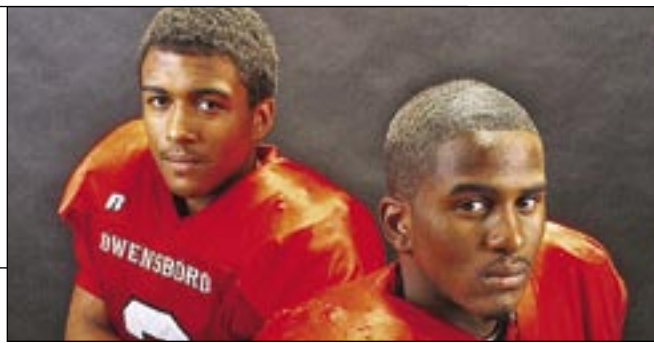


Mostly sunny; high 56

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

© Vol. 134, No. 332

OWENSBORO • THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2008 • www.messenger-inquirer.com

\$1.75

HOMES BY BENNY CLARK

Clark eyes downtown project

Developer considers building 25 to 50 residential units



Benny Clark

By Keith Lawrence
Messenger-Inquirer

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 recommends \$80 million worth of public improvements, including an

indoor events center, an arts academy, 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 long time."

Clark's Homes by Benny Clark is considering building 25 to 50 resi-

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 excited to finally be moving forward."

Sycamore Square, a 24-unit development bordered by the riverbank and First, Sycamore and Poplar streets, took seven years to put

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 Development Corp., said this time, "We're going to work with developers in property acquisition. We're also working with banks to alleviate problems

that have existed in the past."

In October, Clark debuted his first "universal design" home at 4588 Fountain 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 about our universal design is that it will work in condos and townhomes,"

See Clark/Page A2

Wash day



Ted Paulin uses a hot-pressure washer to remove wax from the brick facade Wednesday at 222 St. Elizabeth St. Paulin works for the sub-

contractor, de-AM-RON Building Systems. Hartz Construction Corp. is the general contractor for the new parking structure with offices.

John Dunham, Messenger-Inquirer/dunham@messenger-inquirer.com, 926-0123

INDIA

At least 82 killed in rampage

Gunmen storm luxury hotels, other targets at financial capital

By Ramola Talwar Badam
Associated Press

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 120 people were wounded.

Alex Chamberlain, a British citizen 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 that killed 187 people.



SOURCE: ESRI

Gunmen opened fire in several attacks

County working on drainage issues

Resident: Worthington Road efforts may create problems

By James Mayse
Messenger-Inquirer

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 Audubon Parkway, connects to 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 attempts to prevent flooding in

yards along Worthington Road could exacerbate flooding on Wyndcrest Drive, which intersects Worthington Road.

But County Engineer Sinan Rayyan disputed the claim Wednesday. He said the issue isn't work along Worthington Road, but rather that Wyndcrest 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," Rayyan said.

Bridges and culverts that might not have been designed properly combine with the flat

land to slow water drainage, 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 in the neighborhood objected and

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.

See Drainage/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
Dear Abby/D3

Markets/A6
Movies/D2
Opinion/A7
Records/C2
Television/B6

Turkey gets presidential pardon/A8



Printed with soy ink



6 57211 55555 5

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

By Dariush Shafa
Messenger-Inquirer

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.

See Mother/Page A2

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.

Officials warn of possible transit system plot

By Eileen Sullivan
Associated 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 matter, 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 anonymity because he was not

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 authorities, and the information

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 systems," 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 concern for police — and a tempting

target for would-be terrorists.

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 broken up in 2006 by several arrests overseas.



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 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.

www.davisfuneralhome.com
Visit Our Online Guest Book
James H. Davis

- Funeral Home
- On-site Crematory
- Preplanning Services

The New...
Blossoms
Apparel & Gifts

Women's & Children's Apparel & Gifts

2800 Yale Place
270-689-2229
Mon.-Fri. 10-5 • Sat. 10-4

AFTER THANKSGIVING SALE

GET HERE EARLY FRIDAY AT
5AM
AND SHOP LATE 'TIL 11PM

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

FIND OVER
200
MORNING SPECIALS
FRIDAY 5AM-1PM

SEE MACY'S INSERT FOR DETAILS. MACY'S CARD/PASS/COUPON DISCOUNT DOESN'T APPLY TO SPECIALS.



SEE
MACY'S
INSERT
IN MOST OF TODAY'S
PAPERS FILLED WITH
STOREWIDE SAVINGS
& SPECIALS.



REG./ORIG. PRICES REFLECT OFFERING PRICES IN EFFECT DURING THE 90 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THIS SALE EVENT, BUT NOT NECESSARILY DURING THE PAST 30 DAYS. SAVINGS MAY NOT BE BASED ON ACTUAL SALES. SOME ORIGINAL PRICES MAY NOT HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT DURING THE PAST 90 DAYS. INTERMEDIATE PRICE REDUCTIONS MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN. SALE PRICES IN PROGRESS THROUGH SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2008, EXCEPT AS NOTED. SPECIALS PRICES IN EFFECT FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28 AND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2008 ONLY. This advertisement applies only to Macy's stores in AL, GA, IL (excluding Chicago area and Rockford), IN (excluding Merrillville), KS, KY, LA, MO, NC, NY: Binghamton & Horseheads, OH (excluding Toledo), OK, PA (excluding Allentown, Harrisburg, York & Philadelphia area) SC, TN, TX (excluding El Paso), VA: Chesapeake, Hampton, Lynchburg, Newport News, Norfolk, Richmond, Roanoke & Virginia Beach and WV. We are not responsible for typographical errors. **N8100022**

ⓄSPECIAL HOURS ALL STORES
CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY, SHOP FRIDAY 5AM-11PM,
SATURDAY 8AM-10PM.
Downtown and Furniture Showroom hours may vary.

★EXTRA 15% OFF Get a Macy's credit card** today & save
15%* today & tomorrow on approved express credit... *10% on
cosmetics, fragrances, home, intimate apparel, ladies outerwear, swimwear,
shoes, suits, sportcoats & fine jewelry bridal collection. 10% on furniture,
rugs & mattresses, up to \$100 off. Restrictions apply. **Subject to approval.

📷THE GIFT CARD
Always the perfect gift, in any amount from \$10 up.
Available at any register, call 1-800-45-MACY'S
(1.800.456.2297) or online at macys.com

EARLY MORNING
COUPON
\$10 OFF
YOUR \$25 PURCHASE
use it 5am to 1pm Friday

EARLY MORNING
AFTER THANKSGIVING
SAVINGS COUPON
Valid for one-time use only on
Friday or Saturday, November 28 or 29, until 1pm
\$10 OFF \$25
regular, sale or clearance-priced purchase

EXCLUDES ALL: super buys, specials, everyday value items, Macy's gift cards, macys.com, macysweddingchannel.com, gift registry kiosks, eSpot, FAO Schwarz, services, select licensed departments, special orders, previous purchases, cosmetics, fragrances, watches, American Rag, Levi's, Dockers, Lacoste, Impulse, I-N-C International Concepts, Burton Snowboarding, North Face, Sunglass Hut, designer intimate apparel, bridge/designer shoes, Merrell shoes, ladies clearance shoes; ACCESSORIES: bridge/fashion jewelry, bridge/designer handbags, Coach, Dooney & Bourke, Michael Kors; LADIES: bridge sportswear, designer collections, Charter Club cashmere, juniors denim & twill; LADIES REGULAR-PRICE: misses and juniors swimwear; FINE JEWELRY: bridal collection, trunk shows; MEN'S: electronic gifts, Club Room cashmere, designer collections; KIDS: designer collections; HOME: furniture & accessories, mattresses, rugs, Holiday Lane Department, All-Clad, Henckels, Wusthof, electrics & electronics, regular-price china, silver & crystal, Lladro, Waterford, Lalique, Baccarat, Vera Wang, Kate Spade, Tommy Hilfinger, Lauren/Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein, Tumi, sterling flatware, William Yeoward, Michael Kors bedding, Barbara Barry bedding, Natori bedding. Cannot be combined with another coupon or offer. Valid for one time use only. Only one coupon per transaction. EXCLUDES EMPLOYEES OF MACY'S INC. PRESENT SHOPPING PASS AT REGISTER.

★macy's

00033402007729023114

PLUS, ALL DAY PASS FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY

15% OFF
OR **10% OFF**

Use this pass or your Macy's credit card for the same great offer.

AFTER THANKSGIVING SALE
ALL-DAY SHOPPING PASS
use it as often as you like
Friday thru Sunday, November 28-30
15% OFF
storewide sale & clearance merchandise
20% OFF FINE JEWELRY
10% OFF home, ladies suits, ladies & men's outerwear,
intimate apparel, ladies & men's shoes & men's tailored clothing

EXCLUDES ALL: super buys, specials, everyday value items, Macy's gift cards, macys.com, macysweddingchannel.com, gift registry kiosks, eSpot, FAO Schwarz, services, select licensed departments, special orders, previous purchases, cosmetics, fragrances, watches, American Rag, Levi's, Dockers, Lacoste, Impulse, I-N-C International Concepts, Burton Snowboarding, North Face, Sunglass Hut, designer intimate apparel, bridge/designer shoes, Merrell shoes, ladies clearance shoes; ACCESSORIES: bridge/fashion jewelry, bridge/designer handbags, Coach, Dooney & Bourke, Michael Kors; LADIES: bridge sportswear, designer collections, Charter Club cashmere, juniors denim & twill; FINE JEWELRY: bridal collection, trunk shows; MEN'S: electronic gifts, Club Room cashmere, designer collections; KIDS: designer collections; HOME: furniture & accessories, mattresses, rugs, Holiday Lane Department, All-Clad, Henckels, Wusthof, electrics & electronics, Lladro, Waterford, Lalique, Baccarat, Vera Wang, Kate Spade, Tommy Hilfinger, Lauren/Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein, Tumi, sterling flatware, William Yeoward, Michael Kors bedding, Barbara Barry bedding, Natori bedding. Cannot be combined with another coupon or offer. EXCLUDES EMPLOYEES OF MACY'S INC. PRESENT SHOPPING PASS AT REGISTER.

★macy's

00033503101328113119

FREE
DIGITAL PHOTO
KEYCHAIN GIFT
WITH ANY \$75
PURCHASE

1.5" diagonal CSTN screen. 128 x128 pixel resolution. Built-in memory can store up to 52 pictures. Comes with a lithium battery or USB 5V supply. Also has time and calendar functions and is compatible with Mac and Windows. Available in store. While supplies last.



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?



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.

In Los Angeles, the Union 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, curly-haired boy lived, volunteers prepared hundreds of sandwiches to give away — ham and cheese, Brenden's favorite, and peanut 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 donation, "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 McMorro, 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 Center, a couple of miles from a neighborhood called Prairie Rose, and see this: families, some of whom used to live in these houses, 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.

BEST PRICE EVER!

FREE Singer Machine with Pre-Pay

10,000 FREE Accessories

Singer Sewing Center

4 Buildings South of Parrish Ave. 1308 Triplett • 684-4415

Steve Baker, an amiable man of 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 tiled-roofed houses with swimming pools and four-car garages. He watched the population mushroom 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, gen-

erally 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 equivalent-paying 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 people 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 trillions of dollars gone from Americans' personal wealth — mean stressful Thanksgivings in millions of homes.

As the historic Episcopal church prepared for its traditional holiday services — one at lunchtime Wednesday designed for business people, and one

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 led to new life and vitality — volunteerism, respect for each other."

Absolute Beauty & Day Spa Inc.

Exclusive bareMinerals Makeup

- Massage
- Makeovers
- Facial
- Pedicure
- Manicure

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Evansville 812.477.1367	Owensboro 270.691.1007
--	---

absolutebeautyboutique.com

"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 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 Thanksgiving, she longed to be surrounded by many more people.

So she posted invitations on Craigslist, the Internet classifieds site. In part, one read: "Maybe 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. When Monique White's boss heard what she was doing, he offered to pay for the food. Then, a hotel 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?"

"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 fifth-grader 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

Need Remodeling?

Residential Commercial

Miles & Thomas

Construction, Inc.

www.milesandthomas.com • 771-4924

BRINKER'S JEWELERS

Exclusive one of a kind Brinker's Bracelet Collection!

Each piece is hand selected to be as special as the person giving the gift. Let our certified staff help you make your dreams come true!

Wesleyan Park Plaza
2730 Frederica St., Owensboro, Ky • 270.686.0001

CHANNEL GUIDE

MESSENGER-INQUIRER & Channel Guide magazine

In print and online

have teamed up to offer you a special deal:

Channel Guide Magazine

FOR LESS THAN **10¢ A DAY!**

Know What's Good On TV With:

- ▶ Daily listings for over 120 channels in your area
- ▶ Over 3,000 movie listings with ratings, descriptions and more
- ▶ HD listings and program picks
- ▶ Exclusive interviews and stories about your favorite TV stars
- ▶ Plus, much more!

WATCH SMARTER ORDER TODAY!

Call 684-5261 or 1-800-633-2008 Now and get your FIRST ISSUE FREE!

Then pay just \$29.95 for a whole year of TV listings (that's less than 10¢ a day!). Cancel at any time.

IRAQ

Iraqis postpone vote on pact

By Hamza Hendawi
Associated Press

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 years 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 foreign 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 reinstatement of former members of Saddam'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 legislature — 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 reinforces 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 options if parliament doesn't pass the deal: renew the U.N. mandate 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 Tony Fratto said Washington remained hopeful that parliament would pass the agreement. "They're going to keep working 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 the vote on the security pact. "We hope that ... the agreement 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.



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, Iraqi officials said.

ment of former members of Saddam'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 legislature — 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 reinforces 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 options if parliament doesn't pass

Afghan leader Karzai claims U.S., NATO aren't succeeding

By Jason Straziuo
Associated Press

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

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.

Investments Retirement Planning
Specializing in 401K Rollovers

ROBERT F. KUPHAL, CPA
3520 New Hartford Rd., Ste. 301
Owensboro, KY
270-684-5158

Securities offered through H.D. Vest Investment Services, a non-bank subsidiary of Wells Fargo & Company, Member: SIPC

The Hines Fitness Center

One Wellness Drive - Philpot, KY
270-729-3030
www.thehinescenter.com

Gift Certificates... Give The Gift Of Health This Holiday Season.

Our Gift To You - 7 DAYS FREE!

NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

This state of the art fitness facility includes, Fitness Center, Banquet Hall, Indoor Pool, Water Fitness, Racquetball, Picnic Area & more.

Nautilis Equipment is connected to Fitlinx, a computer program that can track & motivate users through each exercise.

8 Lane Competitive Pool - Celebrate any event in the pool area.

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

"They're going to keep working 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 the vote on the security pact.

"We hope that ... the agreement 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.

Layaway Now for Christmas
1/3 Deposit Required

Upper Room Music
www.URGuitars.com

2500 Frederica St., Owensboro • 270-683-7575
Mon 1-6 • Tues-Fri 10-6 • Sat 10-5

Need Gifts?

The Crowne

at 107

Gifts and Events

Downtown
107 E. 2nd • 685-2288

\$5 Off Purchase of \$50
\$10 Off Purchase of \$100

Special Events by Appointment

Tues-Sat. 10-5

www.messenger-inquirer.com

Gospel On The River

is happy to take part in the
Winter Wonderland Festivities

Nov. 28th - 7:00 p.m.

(Doors Open 6:00 p.m.)

RiverPark Center - Cannon Hall
Owensboro, KY

Appearing:

Terry G. Hall, The Conquerors, Stateline Quartet

Winter
Wonderland
2008



Sponsored by:



G·L·E·N·N
FAMILY SERVICES



Admission is
FREE

For more information,
call 687-2787 or
riverparkcenter.org



Parking across street from RiverPark entrance - \$2.00

We regret to inform our customers that a printing error has occurred in our After Thanksgiving Sale circular, valid Friday, November 28 & Saturday, November 29, 2008. On page 18, the Accent, area & kitchen rugs and doormats should have a sale price range of \$4.49-\$159.99, not \$4.49-\$59.99 as printed.

We are sorry for any inconvenience that may have been caused.

KOHL'S
expect great things™

Santa, I'm Ready!

(Pet Photos With Santa)

PawsAndClaus!

Sunday, November 30 5 pm - 7 pm **Monday, December 1 5 pm - 8 pm** **Tuesday, December 2 5 pm - 8 pm**

All pets on leash or in carrier. Enter thru front entrance. Leave immediately after photo. No vicious animals. Pictures start at \$12.99

TOWNE SQUARE

5000 Frederica Street,
Owensboro, Kentucky

Purchase \$100 in Towne Square Mall Gift Certificates and receive a FREE Tote Bag! (Limit 1 to a customer please.)

Make a stocking with S.P.A.R.K.Y FOR \$5 Donation!

Inside, Instyle shoptownsquare.com

Markets

STOCK PRICES

Prices of stocks of local interest and widely held stocks at the 3 p.m. close Wednesday. DOW JONES AVERAGES

Table with columns: Stock name, Close, Change. Includes Adv. Auto Parts, Aegon, Aetna, AK Steel, Alcatel Lucent, Alcoa, Allstate, Altria, Amazon.com, Amer. Elec. Power, American Express, American General, Apple, Ashland Oil, AT&T, Atmos Energy, Avon, Baidu, Bank of America, BB&T Corp., BCE Inc., Best Buy, Big Lots, Boardwalk Pipeline, Boeing, BP-Amoco, Bristol Myers, Brown-Forman, Burger King, Capital One, Century Aluminum, ChevronTexaco, Cisco, Citigroup, Coca-Cola, ConocoPhillips, Constellation, Cracker Barrel, CSX, Dana Corp., Deere, Dell Computers, Dillard's, DineEquity, DirecTV, Disney, Domtar, Dow Chemical, Duff and Phelps, DuPont, Eastman Kodak, eBay, EchoStar Comm., EMC Corp., Erickson Co., ExxonMobil, Fannie Mae, FedEx, Fifth Third Banc., Ford Motor, Fortune Brands, Freddie Mac, General Dynamics, General Electric, General Motors, Goldman Sachs, Goodyear, Google, W.R. Grace, Halliburton Co., HealthSouth, Hewlett-Packard, Home Depot, Honeywell, Hon Industries, Humana, IBM, Intel, J.C. Penney, Johns. & Johns., J.P. Morgan Chase.

Market watch

Nov. 26, 2008. Dow Jones industrials: +247.14 (8,726.61). Nasdaq composite: +67.37 (1,532.10). Standard & Poor's 500: +30.29 (887.68). Russell 2000: +25.68 (468.86).

NYSE diary

Advanced: 2,693

Declined: 463

Unchanged: 64

Volume: 5.79 b

Nasdaq diary

Advanced: 2,007

Declined: 435

Unchanged: 78

Volume: 1.99 b

SOURCE: SunGard AP

Table with columns: Name, Volume, Last, Chg. Includes Verizon, Viacom, Wachovia, Walgreen, Wal-Mart, Waste Mgt., Wellpoint, Wendy's Intl, Weyerhaeuser, Whirlpool Corp., Williams Co., Xerox, Yahoo, Yum Brands.

NYSE leaders. NEW YORK - Sales, closing price and net change of the 15 most active New York Stock Exchange issues, trading nationally. Includes Citigroup, FordMot, Procter&G, SPDR Fund, Bank of Am, iSHEMkt, FannieMae, GenMotors, ProUltraSP, GenElec, iShus2k, iSChin25, AmIntLp, WellsFargo, JPMorganCh.

AMEX leaders. NEW YORK - Sales, closing price and net change of the 10 most active American Stock Exchange issues, trading nationally. Includes SPDR, SP MidCap, GreyWol, PwvCrudeD, iShSilver, BarcIndiaR, NTR Acquis, GoldenStar, EldoradoGold, NovaGold.

Nasdaq leaders. NEW YORK - Most active Nasdaq issues. Includes PwvSis QQQ, Microsoft, Intel, Cisco, Oracle, Apple Inc, BchMott, ApplMati, Dell Inc, Comcast, Advanced 226, Declined 588, Unchanged 128.

Gold prices. Declined world gold prices Wednesday. London morning fixing: \$817.00 off \$3.50. London afternoon fixing: \$812.50 off \$8.00. NY Handy & Harman: \$812.50 off \$8.00. NY Handy & Harman fabricated: \$877.50 off \$8.00. NY Engelhard: \$814.53 off \$8.01. NY Merc fabricated: \$875.62 off \$8.62. NY gold Nov Fed: \$808.50 off \$10.00. NY HSBC Bank USA 4 p.m. Wed: \$815.00 off \$5.00.

Nonferrous metals. NEW YORK - Spot nonferrous metal prices Wednesday. Aluminum -\$0.8285 per lb., N.Y. Merc spot Wed. Copper -\$1.7210 Cathode full plate, U.S. destinations. Lead -\$1.1950 metric ton, London Metal Exch. Zinc -\$0.5788 per lb., delivered. Gold -\$812.50 Handy & Harman (only daily quote). Silver -\$808.50 tray oz., NY Merc spot Wed. Silver -\$10.255 Handy & Harman (only daily quote). Platinum -\$869.70 tray oz., N.Y. Merc spot Wed.

Table with columns: Name, Volume, Last, Chg. Includes Juniper Networks, Procter & Gamble, DuPont, Radio Shack, Regency Comm., Regions Financial, Rent-A-Center, Republic Bancorp, Research In Motion, Rite Aid, R/J Nabisco, Sara Lee, Ruby Tuesday, Sherwin Williams, Shoe Carnival, Sirius, Sonic, Southern Co., Sprint Nextel, Staples, Starbucks, Steak 'N Shake, Sun Microsystems, Target Corp., Texas Roadhouse, Time Warner, Toyota Motor Corp., Tyco, Tyson Foods, UniFirst, Unilever, UPS, U.S. Bancorp, U.S. Steel.

Obama reassures nation, promises help is coming

Former Fed chief Volcker will lead team of advisers

By Sara Kugler Associated Press



Associated Press

CHICAGO — President-elect Barack Obama sought to reassure the nation and nervous holiday shoppers about the ailing economy Wednesday as beleaguered stores braced for their most important month of the year.

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

Investors' improved spirits kept pace. The Dow Jones industrials climbed 247 points, marking the first time since last spring that the average had risen for four straight sessions.

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

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

The crucial holiday shopping season gets under way in earnest on Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, with deep discounts already in place as stores try to lure buyers who are worried about 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 economist, Obama said.

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

However, he is largely credited with ushering in nearly three decades of relatively low inflation — an unthinkable feat in the 1970s, when the country was grappling with high unemployment, high interest rates and ever-rising prices.

"He pulls no punches,"

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 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.

"The American people would be troubled if I selected a treasury secretary or a chairman of the National Economic Council at one of the most critical economic times in our history who had no experience in government whatsoever," Obama said.

"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 foremost, it comes from me. That'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.

Obama said of Volcker. "He 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.

"The American people would be troubled if I selected a treasury secretary or a chairman of the National Economic Council at one of the most critical economic times in our history who had no experience in government whatsoever," Obama said.

"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 foremost, it comes from me. That'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.

Gustav, Ike destroyed 60 energy platforms

Associated Press

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 platforms in Gulf waters, from single wells in 10 feet of water to huge, multiwell platforms in water more than 7,000 feet deep.

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

Meanwhile, oil prices rose sharply Wednesday as a large

interest rate cut in China and news of a possible Russian output cut appeared to counter another round of dour economic news and larger-than-expected crude stockpiles in the U.S.

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

GREAT SAVE. Switch to new Business Class Phone from Time Warner Cable and take advantage of terrific savings. Call Richard Haycox TODAY for a FREE Quote! 270-925-1330. TIME WARNER CABLE Business Class. Sharing Your Passion. With You.

LIVESTOCK/GRAIN. Chicago Board of Trade. WHEAT 5,000 bu minimum, cents per bushel. CORN 5,000 bu minimum, cents per bushel. OATS 5,000 bu minimum, cents per bushel. SOYBEAN MEAL 100 lbs, dollars per ton. SOYBEAN OIL 60,000 lbs, cents per lb. CHICAGO MERCANTILE EXCHANGE. CATTLE 40,000 lbs, cents per lb. PORK BELLIES 40,000 lbs, cents per lb.

Baby's First Christmas. Show off your pride and joy in the Messenger-Inquirer Christmas Day. See our ad in the Classified pages for details.

Your Holidays Will Be Merry & Bright — When You Give HealthPark Gift Certificates. HealthPark Gift Certificates - available in any amount for any service or amenity: Health and Fitness Center Membership, Massage, Cornerstone Cafe, Speciality Fitness Classes, Wellness Classes, Golden Partners Membership & Travel Opportunities, Personal Training, Pilates Reformer Training, MetaCheck Metabolism Measurement, Heart of a Woman Screening, Bonding with Baby. HealthPark Owensboro Medical Health System. Call (270) 688-LIFE • 1106 Ford Ave. • Owensboro, KY

Contact Us

To make your opinion known:
 ■ Readers Write, P.O. Box 1480, Owensboro, KY 42302;
 ■ E-mail us at ReadersWrite@messenger-inquirer.com
 ■ Send your letter by fax at 686-7868.
 Include your name, address and a telephone number where you can be reached during the day. Letters should be no more than 250 words and will be edited for clarity.

Opinion

MESSENGER-INQUIRER
 EDITORIAL BOARD

Bob Morris
 Publisher
Matt Francis
 Executive Editor
Steve Vied
 Editorial Page Editor
Suzi Bartholomy
 Editorial Assistant

EDITORIAL

Give thanks for what community offers

Meltdown. 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 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, Daviess County is poised to take a 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 riverwall 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 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

Owensboro Medical Health 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 fail

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

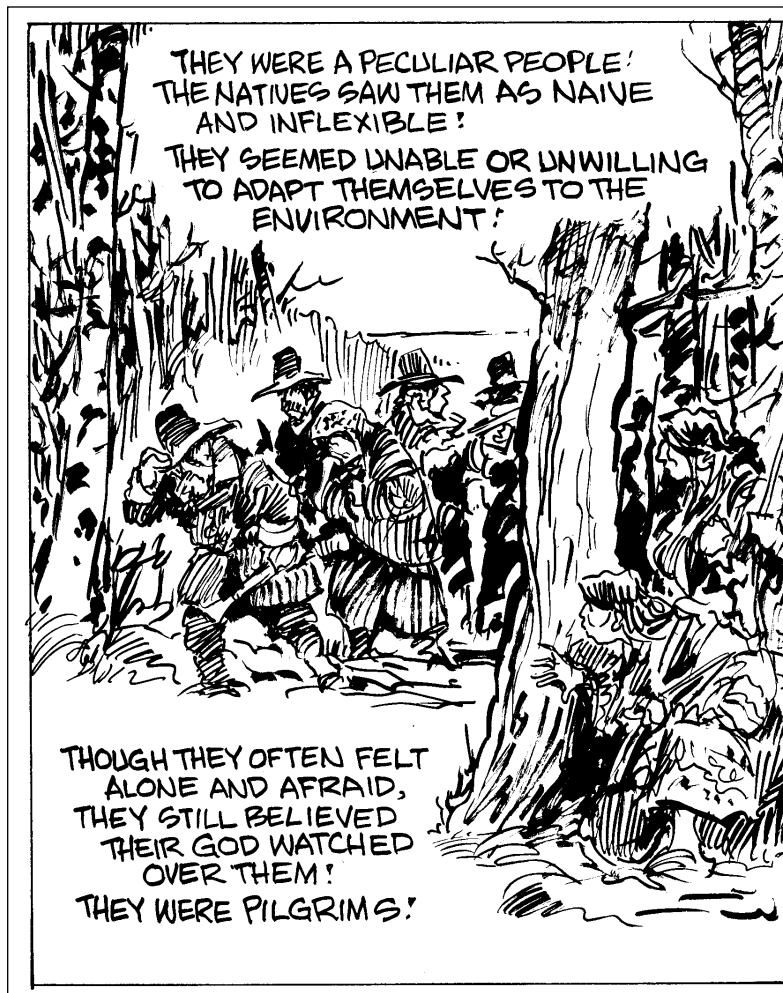
The opinions expressed in the Messenger-Inquirer editorials represent the consensus of the editorial board of the Messenger-Inquirer, on behalf of the newspaper. Articles by named authors and letters to the editor contain the opinions solely of the writer.

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

So 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 quiz-takers, 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 test-takers 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 doohickey. Still, it's disheartening in the



Kathleen Parker
 Washington Post Writers Group

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

In good news, more than 80 percent of college graduates gave correct answers about Susan B. Anthony, the identity of the commander 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

Thanksgiving 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



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 scoreboard 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 America 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.

The Opinion page featured commentary lineup

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ellen Goodman Thomas Sowell	David Broder Kathleen Parker	Leonard Pitts Jr. Larry Dale Keeling	Paul Greenberg Board of Contributors	Froma Harrop Kathleen Parker	Leonard Pitts Jr. Garrison Keillor	Robert Samuelson Cal Thomas



Coming Friday

Garrison Keillor says even a columnist feels the effect of a bad economy.

Messenger-Inquirer Weather



Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Mostly Sunny 56°	Increasing Clouds 34°	Gradual Clearing Cooler 48° 28°	Increasing Clouds 48° 33°	Mostly Cloudy Rain/Snow Shower Possible 42° 32°	Some Clearing Early Flurries? Windy 43° 29°

Area Forecast

Pollen Forecast

Today: Low

Local Discussion

We'll enjoy a beautiful Thanksgiving as the warming trend continues for one more day. Some clouds will return tomorrow, and temperatures will begin to drop. A few scattered rain and/or snow showers will develop Saturday night through Sunday.

Almanac

Temperatures (Yesterday)	Precipitation (Yesterday)
High53	24 hours through 6 p.m. . . .0.00"
Low24	Month to Date1.85"
Normal High54	Normal Month to Date3.54"
Normal Low34	Year to Date28.05"
Record High71 in 1965	Normal Year to Date42.06"
Record Low12 in 1977	Statistics through 6 p.m. yesterday at Owensboro

Lake Levels

Lake and river levels are in feet. Change is over the past 24 hrs.

Lake	Full Pool	Current	Change
Lake Barkley	361	355.10	+0.10
Kentucky Lake (Above)	361	354.95	+0.05
Kentucky Lake (Below)	---	302.98	+0.48

River Stages

River	Flood Stage	Current	Change
Ohio River/Cannelton	42	10.00	-0.20
Upper Lower	42	11.70	+0.10
Ohio River/Newburgh	38	10.90	+0.10
Upper Lower	38	14.10	+0.40
Green River/Calhoun	23	11.00	+0.06
Upper Lower	23	11.50	0.00

Sun and Moon

Sunrise	6:41 a.m.
Sunset	4:31 p.m.
Moonrise	6:51 a.m.
Moonset	4:14 p.m.

Moon Phases

New 11/27 First 12/5 Full 12/12 Last 12/19

National Extremes

High: 82° in North Island, Calif.
Low: 1° in Crane Lake, Minn.
(For the 48 contiguous states)

UV Index

UV Index for 3 periods of the day.

8 a.m.	2
Noon	4
4 p.m.	3

0-2: Low
3-5: Moderate
6-7: High
8-10: Very High
11+: Extreme

The higher the UV index, the higher the need for eye and skin protection.

Regional Weather

Indiana: Partly to mostly sunny skies.
Kentucky: Mostly sunny skies.

Regional Cities

City	Today	Fri.	City	Today	Fri.
Akron, OH	41/31 pc	39/27 sn	Evansville, IN	51/33 s	46/29 s
Ashland, KY	46/31 s	47/34 s	Frankfort, KY	50/31 s	43/26 pc
Bellefonte, IL	54/31 s	46/28 pc	Indianapolis, IN	47/33 s	42/26 pc
Bowling Grn, KY	54/34 s	46/28 pc	Lawrenceville, IL	50/31 s	44/29 pc
Champaign, IL	49/29 s	40/26 pc	Lexington, KY	50/32 s	43/27 pc
Chicago, IL	46/31 s	39/28 pc	London, KY	53/38 s	50/30 pc
Cincinnati, OH	49/32 s	43/27 pc	Louisville, KY	50/31 s	43/27 pc
Cleveland, OH	43/34 pc	41/30 sn	Marion, OH	44/30 s	40/26 mc
Columbus, OH	45/31 s	42/27 pc	Nashville, TN	61/40 s	52/33 mc
Dayton, OH	46/30 s	41/26 pc	Paducah, KY	54/36 s	48/29 s
Defiance, OH	42/27 s	37/26 mc	Peoria, IL	49/28 s	40/26 pc
Detroit, MI	42/31 pc	37/30 sn	Rockford, IL	47/26 s	37/25 pc

International Cities

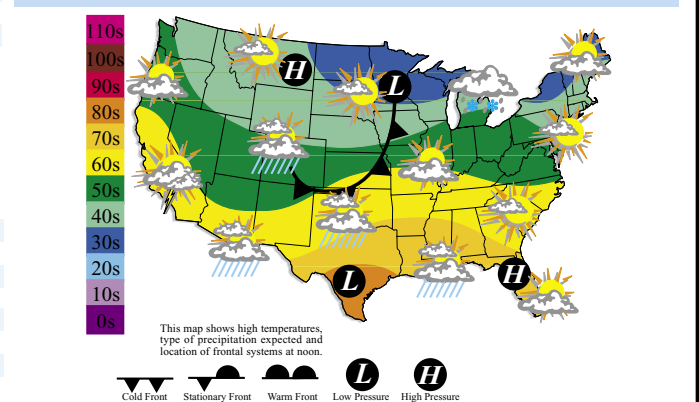
City	Today	Fri.	City	Today	Fri.
Athens	62/49 s	59/50 mc	Mexico City	74/45 pc	75/45 pc
Beijing	46/25 s	51/25 s	Moscow	34/33 sn	38/33 rs
Berlin	41/31 pc	37/29 pc	Paris	43/34 pc	41/30 mc
Buenos Aires	93/76 s	77/70 ra	Rome	56/46 sh	58/47 ra
Cairo	80/60 s	77/59 s	Seoul	42/37 ra	47/36 sh
Hong Kong	70/54 s	69/45 s	Sydney	78/66 sh	76/67 sh
Jerusalem	66/51 s	62/49 pc	Tokyo	56/53 cl	62/50 ra
London	52/43 pc	46/41 ra	Warsaw	38/33 rs	38/30 pc

National Cities

City	Today	Fri.	City	Today	Fri.
Atlanta	64/42 s	61/36 mc	Fairbanks	-2/-10 pc	10/2 pc
Atlantic City	52/40 s	55/37 pc	Honolulu	83/69 s	81/69 s
Baltimore	50/36 s	52/34 pc	Kansas City	51/32 s	46/30 s
Billings	41/25 s	47/27 s	Las Vegas	61/49 sh	67/48 s
Boise	50/26 s	45/30 pc	Los Angeles	66/50 sh	69/49 s
Boston	45/36 s	48/35 sh	Miami	76/58 s	79/62 s
Charleston, SC	66/50 s	64/52 sh	New Orleans	73/62 t	73/54 t
Chicago	46/31 s	39/28 pc	New York	48/37 s	51/37 mc
Cleveland	43/34 pc	41/30 sn	Philadelphia	49/36 s	51/36 pc
Dallas	74/46 pc	58/42 mc	San Francisco	64/49 pc	65/50 s
Denver	39/23 sn	46/22 s	St. Louis	55/31 s	46/31 pc
Detroit	42/31 pc	37/30 sn	Washington, DC	51/34 s	53/34 pc

Weather (Wx): cl/cloudy; fl/flurries; pc/partly cloudy; ra/rain; rs/rain & snow; s/sunny; sh/showers; sn/snow; t/thunderstorms; w/windy

National Weather



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

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

PEOPLE

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. Eluajo 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.



1305 North Elm Street • Henderson, KY 42420
270-827-7700 • www.methodisthospital.net