



See who made the cut

HIGH SCHOOLS HONOR ROLL | NEWS A8

Kids search for small fossils at LBL PENNYRILE B4

KNE PRESS PASS: PERKS PLUS VALID: 11-25-13 SHELL SHOP FREE TAX W/ PURCHASE OF A GUN 101 Hammond Drive, Hopkinsville 3 DAY DEAL CAST ON PAGE A2

COMMUNITY EDITION

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Modern-day pen pals



ZIRCONIA ALLEYNE | KENTUCKY NEW ERA

Kindergarten teacher Lainey Crown (right) talks with Andrea Racine, a first-grade teacher in Bolivia, during a Skype session Friday with their classes. The students plan to send Christmas cards to each other.

Skype brings Bolivia to kindergartners

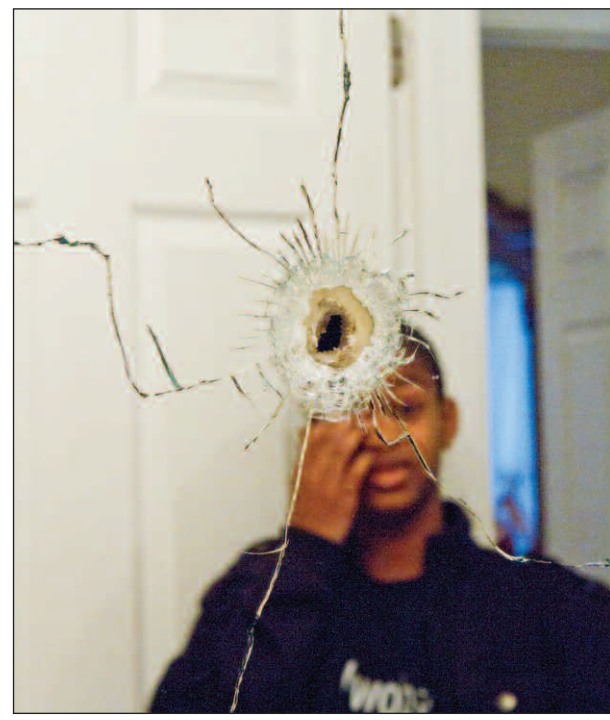
BY ZIRCONIA ALLEYNE NEW ERA COMMUNITY WRITER

Kindergarten teacher Lainey Crown, 24, has introduced pen pals with a twist to her class at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School. The students have used Skype, to communicate with Andrea Racine's first-grade class at the American Cooperative School in La Paz, Bolivia. Racine and Crown were in an honor society at the University of Kentucky together. Crown, a first-year teacher, thought of the idea after she landed the job and Racine started teaching abroad. "When we started, we thought it would be fun, but it became a gateway for (the students) to tell each other what they're doing," Crown said. Friday, the students had their fifth

Skype session and talked about the weather, holidays and sports. They plan to chat with each other periodically as the school year progresses. So far, Reniya Kay, 5, has learned that students in Bolivia get two days off for Thanksgiving rather than the three-day break here in Hopkinsville. Zairrius Chester, 6, found out that it's summer there while it's fall here, and Hunter Davidson, 6, was surprised they have three recesses in one day. The American Cooperative School has students from not only Bolivia, but also America, Argentina, Denmark and Peru. Students at the school speak both English and Spanish, Crown mentioned. Although the local students haven't learned any Spanish yet, she is hoping they will soon.

Curriculum specialist Melissa Adams sat in on the student's Tuesday chat session and was impressed with Crown's achievement. "She is the soul behind this project," she said. Crown said some teachers have expressed interest in having their own Skype pals and she thinks it's a great learning tool for students. "They'll know that everybody is not like them," she said. "It's something different and it gives these kids experience that a lot don't get, especially for kids that don't get to travel a lot." Without getting on a plane or crossing the seas, Crown said she can see their "borders being expanded."

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KAT RUSSELL | KENTUCKY NEW ERA

The nephew of a man who was shot in the head early Sunday morning is shown in the reflection of a mirror that was struck by one of many shots fired at the home on the 2300 block of Greenville Road. Antonio Cross, 21, died at the scene. Cross' mother, nephew and niece were all inside the home during the shooting but were not hit.

Shots spray house; man dies in bed

Woman, 2 children uninjured; sheriff's office looking for shooter

BY KAT RUSSELL NEW ERA PHOTOJOURNALIST

A 21-year-old Hopkinsville man was shot to death early Sunday morning as he slept in a front bedroom at his mother's home on the 2300 block of Greenville Road. Known to his family as "Tony," Antonio Cross was lying in bed when someone outside sprayed the home with bullets. Cross' mother, Etta Henderson, and her two grandchildren, who are Cross' niece and nephew, were laying in her bed watching TV in the back of the house when they heard gunfire. "I heard three shots — boom, boom, boom — but I didn't see anything," she told the New Era on Sunday afternoon.

SEE MURDER, PAGE A5

Listen up — this family story is worth the wait

WKMS, the public radio station at Murray State University, cast a big net this fall when a crew from the station carried recording equipment to four Western Kentucky towns and asked people to sit down and tell some stories. It turned out to be a beautiful catch, said Station Manager Kate Lochte and News Director Chad Lampe. The recordings in Hopkinsville, Murray, Paducah and Madisonville hauled in war stories and family narratives. There were accounts of immigration, adoption and hunger. Love and Elvis. Cuba and Russia. And then there was the

tale of Uncle Charlie's leg. I almost couldn't believe it myself when I heard Hilda Howard, a Hopkinsville woman I've known for more than 30 years, telling the story to her neighbor, Ginny Lawson. I was sitting in an upstairs meeting room at the public library, trying to be silent, as Chad worked the audio equipment and listened to Lawson pulling stories from Howard. Shortly they arrived at one of



JENNIFER P. BROWN

Howard's most colorful childhood memories of an uncle who lost his leg in an accident but decided he should save that limb so that he'd eventually leave this earth just as he had entered it. Now I could tell more about this story. Right here in this column, I could tell what became of Uncle Charlie's leg and why Hilda knew about it. I want to tell. I do. But then I'd be depriving Kentucky New Era readers of the pleasure of hearing this account straight from Howard. And here's the thing. Howard knows how to tell a story. She knows about the rhythm of words, of lingering over certain de-

tails, of an artful pause — and of laughter. So, wait a few more days. Howard's story is the first segment in an hour-long program called "Preserving Our Voices" that will be broadcast at noon Friday on WKMS. The station is 91.3 FM. The signal is strong in Hopkinsville and miles beyond. Friday is the National Day of Listening, observed on the day after Thanksgiving to remind us of the opportunity to tell stories and hear stories in our own families during the holiday. Several weeks ago, when I told Lochte that I'd help

SEE LISTEN, PAGE A5

101st soldier's arrest brings peace to mom of homicide victim

BY ELI PACE NEW ERA EDITOR

The mother of a Lindseyville man beaten and shot to death in October 2012 is relieved Kentucky State Police have the person who she believes is responsible locked up at the Christian County Jail. Jeremy Priddy was slain Oct. 9, 2012, in his Edmonson County home. He was 28. A joint investigation of detectives at KSP Post 3 and the U.S. Army's Criminal Investigation Division led to charges being filed against Spc. Robbie Knight,



Priddy

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WHO WE ARE: Jennifer Mosier, 41, Hopkinsville

Jennifer Mosier has been working at Christian County Animal Shelter as the social media coordinator and photographer for about three months. "It's exhausting to take pictures and to keep the numbers up on Facebook, but at the same time it is so rewarding to see... when they go (to a new home). It's my way of giving back," she said. In addition to working at

the shelter, Mosier is a student at Murray State University, Hopkinsville, where she is studying for a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and probation and parole. When she graduates, Mosier thinks she wants to



work as a parole officer, but that since she started at the shelter, she's been thinking about opening her own animal rescue. Mosier is also a single mom with three children — ages 19, 15 and 10. "They're my whole world," she said. Is there someone you know who deserves attention? We'd like to know. Contact us at 270-887-3238 or visit kentuckynewera.com.

MORE INSIDE

Book signing on Main Former HCC administrator releases, signs book. Local/State A4

Gifts at Broadbent's Cadiz shop hosts author and Christmas sales. News A7



KAT RUSSELL | KENTUCKY NEWERA

Police were called to this home on Greenville Road early Sunday morning. Antonio Cross was shot and died in the home.

MURDER

FROM PAGE A1

Based on the number of bullet holes in the house, many more than three shots were fired.

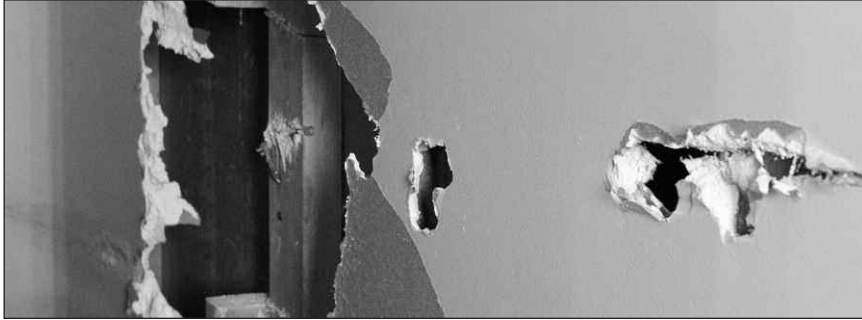
Bullets tore through the front walls, front door, front windows and went through the rooms inside. They went through Cross' bedroom, through the bathroom and then through the walls to Henderson's bedroom before becoming lodged in her closet doors, her mattress and the bathroom wall on the other side of her room.

When the shooting stopped, Henderson went to her son's room and found him lying on his bed gasping. He had been hit in the back of the head, she said.

"He laid there looking at me and then he laid his head back down and that was it."

Christian County Coroner Dorris Lamb pronounced Cross dead at the scene.

The Christian County Sheriff's Department and paramedics responded to a 911 call from the home around 2:15 Sunday morning, said Deputy Ed Stokes.



KAT RUSSELL | KENTUCKY NEWERA

Bullet holes were found throughout the home. Police had to tear through walls to retrieve bullets.

Police blocked off the road surrounding the duplex for several hours as deputies investigated the homicide.

"They shot my son like he was a dog," Henderson cried. "I thought he was going to be the one to bury me — but to bury my own child, I never thought I was going to do that. Never."

Police have not released a motive for the shooting, but Henderson has her own theory.

She said her son got into a fight over a woman with another man on Saturday. She said the man gathered a group of friends and went to four different places on the west side of town looking for her son. She believes the

man her son fought with is responsible for his death.

"He must have found out where Tony lives," she said.

Family members gathered in Henderson's bullet-riddled home Sunday afternoon to comfort the mother who remembered her son, Tony, as a "sweet, sweet person," the kind of man who would give away his last penny.

"My heart hurts for my son," she wept. "I should be angry, but I'm so hurt. I'm so hurt."

REACH KAT RUSSELL at 270-887-3241 or krussell@kentuckynewera.com.



PHOTO FROM WKMS

Hilda Howard's conversation was recorded in October as part of WKMS's National Day of Listening project.

LISTEN

FROM PAGE A1

her set up interviews in Hopkinsville, I pretty quickly thought of Howard. I love the sound of her voice and her infectious good humor. Mostly, I love her storytelling abilities. I suspect she doesn't believe this. She probably doesn't think about technique and story structure. But it's in her. It must be part of her DNA.

I told Lochte that I had no idea what Howard and Lawson would talk about in the interview, but I promised her it would be wonderful. It was.

I participated in two other interviews when WKMS came to Hopkinsville. I did one interview with Marvin Denison, the upper school director at University Heights Academy and my high school his-

tory teacher. I did another interview with Rolf Pitsch, who is best known in this area for the letters to the editor he writes to the New Era. Pitsch has a great story about leaving Germany as a child shortly after World War II.

A portion of the Pitsch interview is included in the program that will run Friday. It will be repeated at 9 a.m. Sunday and at 11 a.m. Dec. 26.

The National Day of Listening grew out of StoryCorps, which helps people record and save stories. In the past 10 years, more than 88,000 people have shared stories that were recorded by StoryCorps.

To learn more about recording and saving stories, go to www.storycorps.org.

JENNIFER P. BROWN is the New Era's opinion editor. Reach her at 270-887-3236 or jpbrown@kentuckynewera.com.

HOMICIDE

FROM PAGE A1

33, Fort Campbell, according to Kentucky State Police.

"There is such a peace knowing that he is gonna pay for what he's done to our family, to our child," said Vonnie Priddy, Jeremy's mother. "(Robbie Knight) stole a part of our heart, and seeing him behind bars is rewarding for us. We're just happy that they've finally arrested him. This is what we've been waiting and working so hard for a year."

Vonnie Priddy, 52, confirmed her son had been dating Makalla Knight for about a year before his death and said Makalla and Robbie Knight were in the process of getting a divorce.

Vonnie Priddy also said she has always believed Robbie Knight murdered her son.

"He had verbally threatened to kill Jeremy more than once and it was known. We warned our son that it was dangerous, and he told us not to worry, he had it taken care of. By that, meaning he always carried a gun because he was prepared, but not this time."

According to reports from The Daily News in Bowling Green, Priddy was beaten and shot to death in his home. Makalla Knight found her boyfriend's body in the living room after she, her daughter and his 6-year-old sister came back from a gymnastics class.

Since then, Vonnie Priddy has been on a mission to bring her son's killer, or killers, to justice. She said the family hired a private investigator, put up a \$10,000 reward for information and even paid for a billboard in Murfreesboro, Tenn., where Robbie

Knight and his family live.

"From the beginning from when Jeremy died, our first comment was we would never stop working until there was justice, and this (arrest) has put us on a new road," Vonnie Priddy said.

According to a KSP news release, Robbie Knight was ordered into pretrial confinement and the court-martial process has been initiated. He is being held at the Christian County Jail until an investigating officer assigns a date for an Article 32 hearing, similar to a grand jury in civilian courts.

A Fort Campbell spokesperson confirmed Robbie Knight is assigned to a unit within the 716th Military Police Battalion, and he is charged with three specifications of murder, robbery, maiming and housebreaking, and one specification of aggravated sexual contact.

For Vonnie Priddy, she will be able to rest easier at night knowing Robbie Knight has been charged with murder.

"It has been terrifying," she said of the last year. "Our children have been afraid to even be in the house. We have been terrified. We carry guns because we didn't know who was out there, or if he was going to come back for us."

Although none of the authorities involved in the investigation have even hinted at it, Vonnie Priddy also believes more arrests are coming.

"We feel like there will be more arrests," she said. "We haven't been told that by anyone, but we feel like there will be more arrests. My son was a pretty good-sized boy, and not one person could have done that to him."

REACH ELI PACE at 270-887-3235 or epace@kentuckynewera.com.

Police investigate fatal shooting of Kroger employee

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Police are investigating the fatal shooting of a Kroger employee who was shot as he left the store in a Louisville suburb.

The Courier-Journal reports 34-year-old Jack Combs of Louisville was walking to his car at the end of his shift Saturday night in St. Matthews when he was shot. According to police, Combs was able to get to the front of the store where he collapsed and was found by another employee. He was taken to a local hospital where he died.

KENTUCKY BRIEF

City council votes to remove mayor

LANCASTER, Ky. (AP) — The Lancaster City Council voted unanimously to remove the city's mayor following allegations that she has created a hostile work environment at city hall.

The Lexington Herald-Leader reports that several city hall workers testified against Mayor Brenda Powers at a public hearing on Saturday.

The hearing was called after Powers and City Clerk Shari Lane had a heated discussion last month that had to be broken up by two officers.

Lane claimed Powers has harassed and "bullied" her over the last three years that Powers has been in office. Two utility clerks also testified that Powers has created a hostile work environment.

However, Powers said the testimony failed to demonstrate misconduct on her part.

The council has 30 days to appoint a new mayor.

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