

Eric Baker
Estill County Extension
Agent for Agriculture
& Natural Resources

Cut Christmas Tree Care

When purchasing a cut Christmas tree, remember the following points: 1) a fresh tree is green, although some growers may spray dyes on their trees to tint them and reduce water loss, 2) fresh needles are hard to pull from branches, 3) when bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break, 4) the trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and 5) when the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that tree is too dry.

The fresher the tree, the longer it will retain its needles. The freshest trees are locally grown.

In order to keep your cut Christmas tree looking good longer and decrease needle drop, consider the following tips. After you get the tree home, remove another 1 or 2 inches of the cut end of the stem to allow the sap to flow. Place the tree in a bucket of warm water (the heat will help get the sap flowing and open the water conducting channels in the wood) until you're ready to move it into the house. Select a spot in the home away from any heat sources - stoves, registers, fireplaces, etc. Limit the hours that electric lights are lit on the tree because each light is a hot spot on the needles.

Keep the cut tree watered. Use the following solution: 1 cup of corn syrup and 3 table-

spoons of liquid bleach added to 1 gallon of water (The bleach tends to thin out the sticky pitch from the tree's water conducting channels and allows water to get into the tree. The corn syrup provides the tree with a source of simple carbohydrates for food.) Continue adding the solution to the reservoir as long as the tree remains in the house.

A listing of Kentucky Christmas tree farms is at the website kychristmastreefarms.com. We hope each of you have a healthy and joyous holiday season! The Estill County Extension office will be closed December 25th through January 2nd for the holidays.

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

The Garden Bug

A gift idea for someone who cooks and gardens is a kitchen composter. The key to keeping a tabletop compost bin from smelling is keeping "green" nitrogen-rich ingredients (like green leaves, fruits, veggies without seeds, eggshells, grass clippings and houseplants) alternated with "brown" carbon-loaded ingredients (such as straw, brown leaves, coffee grounds, cotton rags, dryer lint, tea bags and nut shells).

- Brenda Weaver
Source: homeguides.sfgate.com

Stickeler's Puzzle



What is the value of the Roman numerals below?

MLXVCIX

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 11

Estill County Toys For Tots To Begin Accepting Applications

Welcome to the Toys for Tots Program. We hope this program will benefit as many people as possible this Christmas season. Participation in the Toys for Tots program is as simple as completing a participation sheet. You will need to bring in the child's birth certificate and a utility bill to confirm your address.

The Ravenna Police Department will accept applications through Wednesday, December 10, 2014. No names will be accepted after the cutoff date.

If you have any questions, please contact Chief Ken White of the Ravenna Police Department at 606 723-3332 after 6 p.m.

Thank you, Chief Ken White

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

Why(s) Willie Cauley-Stein is The Man; Cards & Toppers goin' bowling



Bob Watkins

The Man.
Tribute to central character in Kentucky's perfect season so far, Willie Cauley-Stein, calls for context. When WCS signed with Kentucky there was more *Willie Who?* than McDonald's ballyhoo. No press conference at Olathe Northwest High School in Olathe, Kansas, and no schmaltzy put-on-college-cap prima donna moment.

High school ratings experts(?) hurriedly labeled Cauley-Stein a basketball project who was a 7-foot wide receiver with 57 passes caught and 14 touchdowns scored his senior year.

Year I at Kentucky: Part flake, Part Cool Willie (black rimmed glasses, lopsided bleach blond hair and head band), he was relief for Nerlens Noel. WCS could block shots, but couldn't throw a free throw off the bridge at Clay's Ferry into the Kentucky River.

Year II: WCS was enjoying college, would stay in Lexington, he said. This, while his coaches recruited over him (Julius Randle, Dakari Johnson, then Karl Anthony-Towns).

Year III: Nine wins in, Kentucky's three-year-college-man is *The Man*. While his coach characteristically takes the bows and issues one-liners, WCS's team is like one not seen here in half a century. In 1965 Rupp's Runts steamrolled nine pre-SEC foes, added 14 more wins in-a-row. They did it with the qualities that define Cauley-Stein - work, work,

teamness, patience, seize opportunity.

Year III Extended: Cauley-Stein, *The Man*, is the heart of a No. 1 ranked team because, beyond the obvious - attitude, expand skills, stamina and staying power - his maturity and patience have flowered into a coach's dream guy, selfless leader-by-example.

Bottom line? Come June, Cauley-Stein will be, if not a college graduate, then close. *Then* he projects to be hottest name in the NBA lottery. What *The Man* can take to the bank, along with his first six-digit check from professional basketball, is this: "Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is, not a preparation for life; education is life itself."

I believe Willie Cauley-Stein understands the words of John Dewey, American philosopher.

NOW, FOR CAROLINA

Why Kentucky is top ranked in college hoops 10 games in? In sports parlance "it sure ain't the shootin'", but it is a sure thing - defense."

Best in the nation, defense is relentlessly and in waves."

Of UK's first 10 victims, Texas shot best, 29.8 percent.

Next to the altar, North Carolina.

Once believed to be squeaky clean, Tar Heels Hoops Inc. is an embattled program under NCAA investigation for major rules violations. The Heels come to Lexington this week and deserves, well, to "have the tar beat out of 'em."

Carolina is for Kentucky Step Three in a five point march. After Carolina, UCLA is Step 4, then on to December 27 at Yum Center.

A Commonwealth's Super Bowl.

LOUISVILLE

Eight games in, Rick Pitino's Cardinals (ranked 27 RPI, 129th strength-of-

schedule) played somebody-to-build-on last week. Ohio State at Yum Center was perfect - high profile program in rebuild mode in front of a full house.

To date, UofL's offense, 44 percent is adequate when coupled with a defense growing from very good to fearsome. Opponents are shooting 31.2 percent.

An eye on December 27's Super Bowl, the drama thickens - Kentucky (ranked 2 RPI) allows opponents less than 30 percent, best in the land, while the Wildcats shooters can't shoot straight. Yet.

Christmas aside, UK and UofL statisticals make for lively conversation at the local cafe.

PLAYER OF YEAR SINDELAR

When Caldwell County High quarterback Elijah Sindelar was named Gatorade Player of the Year for Kentucky last week the criteria that earned him the honor is perfect for choosing Mr. Football 2014.

Statistically, Sindelar passed for a state-best 3,600-plus yards, 49 touchdowns, and just four interceptions. Here's the best part: The Purdue-bound senior has a 4.0 grade point average; he tutors other students; and belongs to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

'REMEMBER WHEN' DEPT.

Point making. Jack Taylor of Grinnell College holds the NCAA record for points scored in a game. Two seasons ago the 5-10, 170 guard made 52 of 108 shots (27 3-pointers) and seven of 10 free-throws, 138 points.

Comparison: Six decades ago Furman University, Paladins All-American Frank Selvy was let loose on Newberry College.

With family and friends from his hometown, Corbin in the stands on Frank Selvy Night and first college game ever televised in South Carolina, Selvy became the first college player to score

triple figures.

Interestingly, while Taylor put up 108 shots, Selvy shot 66 times, made 41 (no 3-pointers in 1954), and added 18 of 22 free throws. Selvy's last field goal came from near mid-court at the final horn. Frank Selvy Night indeed.

Epilogue: What's happened with Jack Taylor? In November 2013, D-III Grinnell defeated Crossroads College 173-123. Taylor, now a junior, scored 109.

BOWL BOUND: UofL, WKU

Beyond the solid-for-entertainment 4-team playoff matches, the blatant chi-ching matches abound.

Among the "ain't-worth-my-timers": Arkansas and Texas are 6-6 in the Texas Bowl; Bowling Green 7-6 and South Alabama 6-6 in the Camelia.

Among best matches: Georgia and Louisville are 9-3 in Belk Bowl. And, my favorite: Western Kentucky (7-5) and Central Michigan exiled south for a change, the Bahamas Bowl in Nassau, Christmas Eve.

WORTH REPEATING DEPT.

"A 13-year, \$325 million contract means Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton will 'earn' \$68,493 per day, year round, before taxes. That's \$2,854 per hour, non-stop, around the clock. \$48 a minute. In the time it took you to read the preceding, I think Stanton just made enough money to buy the Bahamas." - Greg Cote, Miami Herald.

PARTING SHOT

Dick Vitale has been on the air for ESPN for three decades. An internet story last week was headlined: Dick Vitale, 75, Says He Wants To Continue To Call CBB Games Until He's At Least 100 Years Old.

And so it goes. You can reach me at bob.Watkins24@aol.com

Wishing Well®

4	3	2	4	5	2	7	4	5	2	8	5	7
B	Y	R	O	A	E	Y	S	S	F	A	S	O
6	3	2	7	4	2	8	2	4	5	3	7	5
S	O	O	U	S	R	B	M	S	I	U	T	S
2	8	5	7	5	2	5	4	5	4	6	5	6
A	E	T	H	O	T	T	A	H	Y	H	E	A
8	3	8	3	5	2	8	5	8	3	8	4	6
T	A	T	R	I	E	S	R	E	L	S	R	
8	2	8	2	4	3	7	3	4	6	3	2	3
I	O	F	N	Y	A	R	P	E	E	P	O	R
7	4	8	6	7	2	7	3	2	3	2	3	2
I	S	E	I	V	F	E	E	T	C	H	I	O
6	2	3	2	3	2	6	2	6	3	2	3	6
D	U	A	G	T	H	E	T	A	E	S	D	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: F equals L

XNSD JT GWTGFW RSFF SZ

SDTFF XNWIW

RNTFWLDWITF-FTXWIQZK JIMKL

SIW GITJMRWJ? LDSDQZ QLFSZJ.

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

VG'R VIPYZEVUQZ SKN OFPS

VIGZQQVWZIPZ VR FRZE VI

GSVR NKYQE GK LYKMZ

IKIRZIRZ.

- DYVZEYVPS SZUUZQ

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Puzzle Answers

December 10, 2014

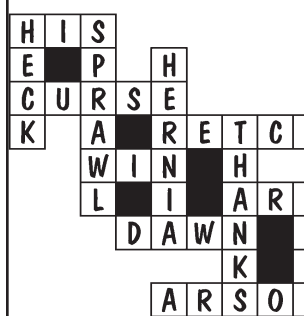
Puzzles4Kids

Answer



FEAR OF THE KNIGHT

answer

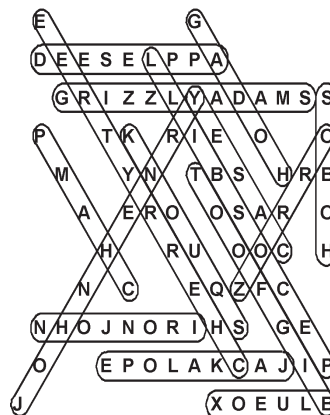


Letter Box

Solution

I	F	E	R	U	P	D	O	W
U	O	D	E	W	F	P	I	R
W	P	R	I	O	D	E	U	F
R	D	F	O	P	U	W	E	I
E	U	P	W	F	I	O	R	D
O	W	I	D	E	R	F	P	U
D	E	U	F	I	O	R	W	P
P	R	O	U	D	W	I	F	E
F	I	W	P	R	E	U	D	O

FOLKLORE



CryptoQuip

answer

What do people call an atoll where cholesterol-lowering drugs are produced? Statin Island.

CryptoQuote

answer

It's incredible how much intelligence is used in this world to prove nonsense.

- Friedrich Hebbel

Even Exchange

answers

- Baron, Bacon
- Delour, Devour
- Alike, Alive
- Hurdle, Huddle
- Finale, Finals
- Pitch, Pinch
- Latter, Lather
- Rhine, Rhone
- Click, Chick
- Grease, Crease

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

4	5	2	8	6	9	1	7	3
8	3	7	1	5	2	4	9	6
6	9	1	4	7	3	5	8	2
5	1	8	2	3	7	9	6	4
9	7	3	5	4	6	2	1	8
2	4	6	9	8	1	7	3	5
7	6	4	3	9	5	8	2	1
1	8	9	6	2	4	3	5	7
3	2	5	7	1	8	6	4	9

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

C	A	S	T	S	E	L	S	T	S	P		
C	H	L	O	E	A	U	K	E	T	A		
C	A	T	I	R	N	S	K	I	M	M	E	R
M	I	N	U	T	E	A	R	O	S	E		
H	U	M	A	T	E	A	R	O	S	E		
O	R	E	S	T	R	A	L	A				
E	N	R	A	G	E	L	E	S	S	E	N	
D	O	R	A	L	S	H	O	O				
C	U	R	I	O	L	O	P	I	N	N		
O	N	E	S	J	E	T	S	A	M			
S	W	I	M	M	E	R	H	U	M	O	R	
T	E	N	P	E	T	A	D	E	L	E		
A	D	S	H	R	S	W	I	R	E	D		

Bible Trivia Answers
Casey's trivia book "Know It? ... or Not?" is available from BearManorMedia.com

(4) Shepherds, (5) House, (6) Micah, (3) Heavenly host, ANSWERS (1) New, (2)