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The American holly (Ilex opaca) tree is a common component of the American Christmas holiday decorations. Its bright red berries and unique glossy green leaves make it a popular addition to landscapes as well. Legend says when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, the native holly reminded them of the European holly which had been a symbol of Christmas for centuries. Early in the 20th century, American holly's popularity caused it to become so scarce that Delaware and Maryland passed a law banning the sale of fresh American holly.

Boughs of Holly

American holly is a native evergreen tree common from Massachusetts to Florida westward to Texas. It is a slow growing tree, reaching heights of 35-50 feet and trunk circumference from 30-50 inches. The Kentucky's state champion American holly tree is located in Bath County and measures 54 feet in height and an astounding 7.5 feet around.

American holly prefers a moist, slightly acid soil and grows well in full sun to partial shade. Both male and female trees must be in the same area to produce berries. While both produce creamy white flowers in late spring, only the females produce fruit. One male plant is required for pollinating up to eight female trees. A ratio of 1:3 male to female trees is about the optimum number for pollination and production of berries. The berries appear in mid-autumn and serve as a major food source for migrating small birds such as cedar waxwings and goldfinches as well as deer, squirrel, and turkeys. The berries are poisonous to humans.

There are over 1,000 cul-

tivars of American holly. Some varieties produce yellow berries so check the label or buy when the berries are on the plant to be sure of their color and if it is a female plant. Unpruned, their natural form is a pleasing pyramidal shape, but if you must prune, note that berries appear on the current year's growth. Pruning is best done in December; pruning after

flowers form in the spring will mean fewer berries. For more home landscape plant information, contact the Estill County Extension Service at 606-723-4557.

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

Farm News

Apply by January 1, 2015

Ky. Hemp Pilot Applications Available

Kentucky farmers and processors interested in participating in the 2015 round of industrial hemp pilot projects must apply by January 1st, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture has announced.

According to Agriculture Commissioner Comer, 2014 pilot projects with the universities and individual farmers yielded a tremendous amount of data about production methods, seed varieties, harvesting and processing techniques, and uses for the harvested hemp. The department is looking to conduct a wide scope of pilot projects in 2015.

If a farmer is interested in participating, they must send in an application. They have to provide a physical address of the location for the production fields to be used to grow, process, or store industrial hemp must be submitted with the application. Applicants are asked to provide global positioning coordinates for the property if possible. Applicants who are selected will undergo background checks and site visits. A person with a felony drug conviction within 10 years of submitting an application shall not be eligible to participate in any pilot project.

The application is available for download on the department's website at www.kyagr.com/hemp. Applications may be completed electronically and submitted to doris.hamilton@ky.gov. Applications also may be printed, filled out, and mailed to Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Industrial Hemp Program, 111 Corporate Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601. Applicants may attach a business plan or other supporting documents. Applications expire Dec. 31, 2015. Successful applicants will be notified in late January. For more information on Kentucky's industrial hemp program, go to www.kyagr.com/hemp

Wishing Well®

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

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: C equals A

LBI C ZQCWWSZ ONQSZSBRW

FNCQ, FSDTG CA

SAWNZG-QBYSAD ZINCGRIN TCYN

WBFN FCZCIBAS CAO LQNCW?

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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.

VMYCDKDW JYTDL QGW

XDYZEOU VECM GCMDWL

DRMEZYWYCDL; VMYCDKDW

JYTDL QGW XDYZEOU VECM

GODLDZQ XDIWDLDDL.

— PGLDIM PGNHDWC

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Stickeler's Puzzle



by Terry Stickels

What number comes next in this mathematical sequence? It may be expressed in one of two ways.

HINT: The powers that be.

1, 8, 81, 1024, 15,625, 279,936 ?

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 11

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

Pageantry in Philly to Poythress and UK students... Christmas spirit glows



Bob Watkins

Across the map, Christmas spirit.

Demonstrations in American cities aside, there was joy in the land last Saturday. A trifecta of bring-out-the-best-in-us sporting events.

√ IN PHILADELPHIA, they came from Annapolis, Maryland and West Point, New York, marched together, cheered mightily against one another, then, at the end, sang together.

Army-Navy is the essence of us: My fellow man first, no-I-in-team, no look-at-ME show-off and no place for "show me the money" either.

The theme and pageantry combine to stir our better angels. We see America's best. Best discipline, best character and genuine scholarship men to remind us again of our good fortune thanks to their pledge: duty, honor, country.

The football game was entertaining enough. Navy won, Army didn't, but showed us how to handle both. Then they all sang together.

√ IN NEW YORK CITY, Aflac jokes aside, a Duck won the Heisman. Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota became the 80th college

man and first Hawaiian to win The Trophy.

Fascinating, a college quarterback whose coach calls "an absolute perfectionist" is accustomed to stepping to a line of scrimmage, reading defenses, barking signals in front of thousands of fans every weekend, then, stands at a podium for a Heisman ceremony ... is scared to death.

Footnote. I was heartened to see the media herd got it right this time after last year's shameful sham. Florida State's Jameis Winston didn't make the list this year. His name was not on my ballot either time.

√ IN LEXINGTON, No. 1 ranked Kentucky brought out the best in North Carolina (defense), but the Tar Heels took their December whuppin' and seemed to signal "maybe we'll see you again."

The star of this show however was outside the lines. University of Kentucky students. With CBS-TV in Rupp Arena, they pulled on "Roar For 22" t-shirts in a thoughtful nod to Alex Poythress. Endearing and refreshing too, the departure from paint-faced loons jostling to "get me on teevee!" The Poythress salute was classy.

Willie Cauley-Stein, roommate to Poythress, was classy and thoughtful too. To keep his out-for-the-season teammate engaged, Cauley-Stein will acknowledge Poythress at the bench each time he substitutes out. An act that promises to impress kids everywhere and embrace Poythress as a rally point.

Team leader Cauley-Stein's decision does this

also — shows he understands what educator/writer Edith Hamilton had in mind when she wrote:

"It has always seemed strange to me that in our endless discussions about education so little stress is laid on the pleasure of becoming an educated person, the enormous interest it adds to life. To be able to be caught up in the world of thought, that is to be educated."

This week, Kentucky is 11-0, ranked No. 1 in America. With Louisville close behind in the rankings, Kentuckians stand a little taller this week.

And, by their collective concern for an injured ball player, Cauley-Stein's support for a teammate (and decision to stay in school), UK students make all Kentuckians proud too.

ALEX POYTHRESS

The compassion shown Alex Poythress at Rupp Arena last week was inspiring. What we saw from fans, students and Cauley-Stein constitutes, I believe, a quiet repudiation of John Calipari's money-based logic, "... I am about making dreams come true." I think students and fans recognize one-and-done for what it is, self promotion and exploitation.

Poythress's knee injury ought to be seen as tragic than a delay or even re-direction in life of a 21-year-old.

It is opportunity to step back and realize that greatest among his natural gifts is not ball-in-hand, but between his ears, a mind educated. Could be providential that Poythress will become rich on a different plain, farther into his life than Calipari and his ilk can

comprehend.

ROY WILLIAMS ON UK

North Carolina coach Roy Williams was rightly impressed with Kentucky after the Wildcats gave his good team a whuppin' last week. Skipping the accolades, the under-an-NCAA-cloud coach got to the heart of why.

"(Kentucky) had 19 assists and 15 turnovers in an up-and-down game. ... Their defense was so much stronger and I think that was the dominating thing in the game. And Willie was the spearhead."

LOUISVILLE AT WESTERN

As Western Kentucky prepares to host Louisville this week and a fascinating array of questions may find answers.

√ How will Rick Pitino's team (9-0) handle a hostile crowd? The Cardinals have played no ranked opponents on the road and none overall worthy of UofL beyond Ohio State and Indiana.

√ WKU. Which Ray Harper team will show up for what can be the biggest opportunity game (momentum and recruiting) since WKU football team defeated Marshall last month. Will it be the Toppers who won on the road against St. Joseph's and Ole Miss?

PARTING SHOT

Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota was asked what he thought the award would mean back home.

"In Hawaii, if one person is successful the entire state is successful," he replied. "It's family."

And so it goes.

You can reach me at bob.Watkins24@aol.com.

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

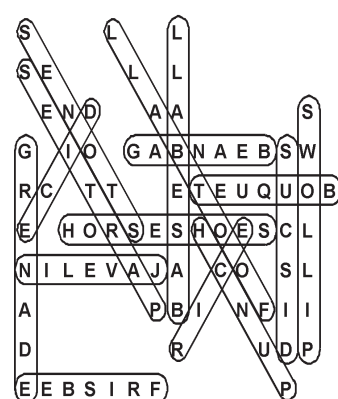
SEARCH	H	RACES
PIRATE	A	TRIBE
GRAVEL	V	GLARE
MOBILE	E	LIMBO
STAPLE	A	PELTS
PARENT	N	TAPER
SAILED	I	LEADS
SCRAPE	C	REAPS
CAROLE	E	CAROL
MISLED	D	SMILE
EASTER	A	RESET
YIELDS	Y	SLIDE

Letter Box

Solution

P	I	T	C	H	F	O	R	K
O	K	C	P	T	R	I	H	F
H	R	F	O	K	I	C	T	P
R	O	I	H	P	K	T	C	F
K	C	H	T	F	O	R	P	I
F	T	P	R	I	C	K	O	H
C	H	K	F	R	T	P	I	O
T	P	R	I	O	H	F	K	C
I	F	O	K	C	P	H	T	R

THINGS THROWN



CryptoQuip

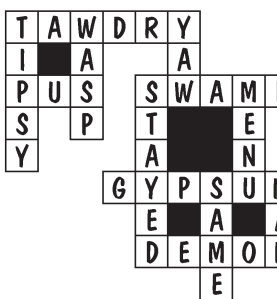
answer For a classic delicious meal, might an insect-loving creature have some macaroni and fleas?

CryptoQuote

answer Whatever makes for dealing with others exhilarates; whatever makes for dealing with oneself depresses. — Joseph Joubert

FEAR & KNIGHT

answer



Even Exchange

answers

1. Arcade, Arcane
2. Oasis, Basis
3. Canter, Center
4. Peony, Phony
5. Sheer, Sheen
6. Bikini, Biking
7. Sally, Silly
8. Quilt, Quill
9. Tryst, Trust
10. Outlet, Outset

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	C	O	T	T	D	U	K	A	S				
C	L	O	C	H	E	E	R	I	C	A	S		
A	U	S	T	I	N	M	A	R	T	I	N		
R	I	M	S	T	E	E	L	I	L	O			
I	C	O	N	H	R	S	A	V	O	W			
B	E	S	O	T	A	N	G	L	E	R	S		
B	U	T	E	E	L								
A	M	A	L	G	A	M	T	O	R	S	I		
L	O	N	E	L	A	C	W	E	E	D			
P	H	D	L	L	O	Y	D	N	A	Y			
H	A	R	V	E	I	G	H	C	A	R	E	L	L
A	W	E	I	V	E	H	L	I	E	G	E	S	
K	A	Z	O	O	E	S	T	E	R				

Bible Trivia Answers

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

Herod: (5) Nazareth; (6) Silver; not specific: (3) Engaged; (4) ANSWERS (1) New; (2) Bible