



## Coming Monday in Wellness section

Three-year-old 'princess' struggling through trials, tribulations of cancer.



## Tops lose to UT

Tennessee's stellar shooting, Western's lack of consistent play leads to 93-79 loss on Volunteers' home court. Page 1B

SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 17, 2006



# Park City DAILY NEWS



Today  
Unseasonably warm; a mix of sun, clouds.



72/50

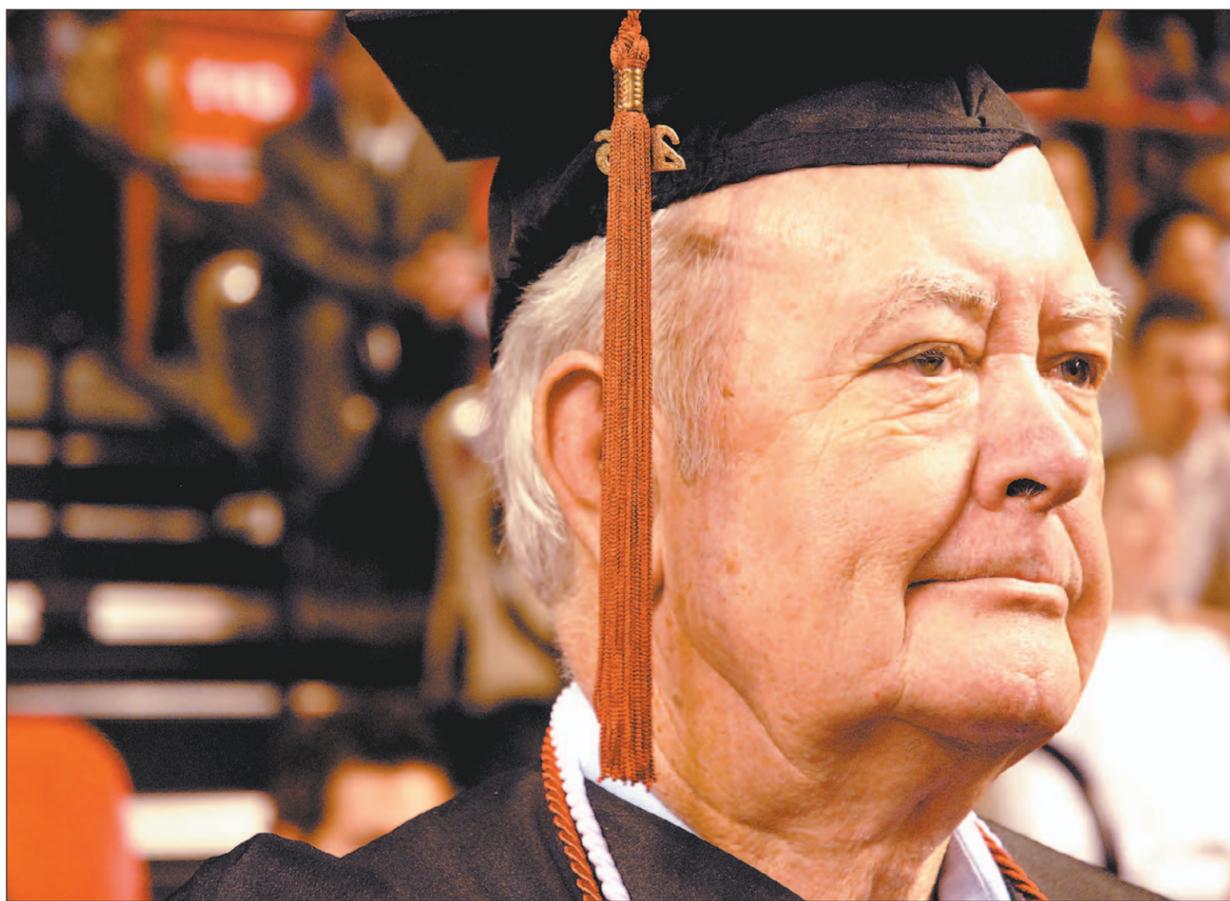
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Bowling Green, Kentucky

## A banner night for young and old



Photos by Lara Cooper/Daily News

Albert Skees graduated Saturday during fall commencement in E.A. Diddle Arena at Western Kentucky University. Leaving with Magna Cum Laude honors in interdisciplinary studies, the 71-year-old has attended classes with his daughter and six of his grandchildren. Yet he was far from the oldest of Saturday's graduates - that honor belonged to Elliott Stevens, who celebrated his 90th birthday with a bachelor's degree.

## WKU honors its latest graduates

By NATALIE JORDAN  
The Daily News

njordan@bgdailynews.com/783-3243

In 1936, he started his college career. On Saturday at E.A. Diddle Arena, he finished it.

"The first graduate I will call is Dr. Elliott Stevens," said Luther Hughes Jr., associate vice president for academic affairs, as students under the University College were making their way to the stage. "He started in 1936, but soon left to receive his medical degree. And after 50 years of prac-

He decided to come back for his bachelor's on his 90th birthday."

Stevens was one of the 750 participating Western Kentucky University students, soon to be deemed alumni, Saturday during the university's 160th commencement. At 10 a.m., with faculty leading the way, students draped in caps and gowns found their way to their designated seats while under the watch of family and friends.

"This commencement is a special because it is at the conclusion of our centennial year," said Gary



Some 750 students turned their tassels and received their diplomas during Saturday's fall commencement ceremonies at WKU.

Ransdell, the university's president. "You all are heirs to a legacy of academic excellence. And this year, your diplomas will bear the centennial logo and you all will have a lifetime WKU e-mail address."

Ransdell said the university has sustained as the fastest-growing

university in the commonwealth of Kentucky for the past nine years, and that its impact is strengthened every day by the students who graduate.

"We've become a leading university with international reach ...

See GRADUATES, 7A

## Iraq's leader courts Sunnis

Prime minister uses conference to urge Saddam-era officers to join new army; key figures shun much-touted meeting

By KIM GAMEL  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's prime minister reached out to Sunni Arabs at a national reconciliation conference on Saturday, urging Saddam Hussein-era officers to join the new army and a review of the ban against members of the former dictator's ruling party.

But key players on both ends of the Sunni-Shiite divide skipped the meeting, raising doubt that the conference will succeed in healing the country's wounds.

"We firmly believe that national reconciliation is the only guaranteed path toward security, stability and prosperity. The alternative, God forbid, is death and destruction and the loss of Iraq," Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said in his opening remarks.

The long-awaited gathering was touted by the Iraqi government and the White House as a chance to rally ethnic, religious and political groups around a common strategy for ending the country's violence.

At least 23 people were killed Saturday in Iraq, including a Sunni cleric and a Sunni politician who were shot to death in Iskandariyah, south of Baghdad. Police also found the bodies of 53 men who had been bound and blindfolded before they were shot to

See IRAQ, 7A



NOURI AL-MALIKI  
Iraqi prime minister

## Eateries rid fare of trans-fats

Some area restaurants making move toward healthier cooking oils

By AMEERAH CETAWAYO  
The Daily News

acetawayo@bgdailynews.com/783-3246

Partially hydrogenated oil, shortening, and hydrogenated vegetable oil are words greasing the national discussion about trans-fatty acids. And two months after area food-service distributors began offering a non trans-fat oil to local restaurants and eateries, the discussion has made its way to south-central Kentucky.

Found in common foods like cookies, baked goods, most snack foods and even salad dressings, trans-fatty acids are made through a process called hydrogenation, in which hydrogen is added to vegetable oil to make it more solid and to extend shelf life, according to the Kentucky Department of Health.

But a diet high in trans-fats can increase one's risks for heart disease, the leading cause of death in the United States.

As national restaurant chains like Wendy's, Panera Bread and others abandon trans-fats, some locally owned restaurants have already jumped on the bandwagon, even though the costs are higher.

Kristie Hudson, owner of Kristie's Kitchen on

See TRANS-FAT, 7A

## Little ladies sip with Santa

By DOUG WATERS  
The Daily News

dwaters@bgdailynews.com/783-3276

More than a dozen giggly girls decorated ornaments, sipped tea and hung out with Santa on Saturday at the Sloan Convention Center under the snugly supervision of their favorite teddies.

The annual Teddy Bear Tea Party is a reminder that Christmas is a time for families to bond, said Doug Eberhart, president of the United Way of Southern Kentucky, which organized the event as part of its month-long Festival of Trees, where more than 30 Christmas trees are on display until Dec. 26.

Saturday was Family Fun Day - before the afternoon tea party, children ate breakfast with

Santa, participated in a crafts workshop and gathered for a book-reading session with Mrs. Claus.

"I will never outgrow Santa Claus," said Linda Lay as she watched her daughter, Lilly, make magnets with her playmates Brianna Hills, 7, and Lillie Hills, 3.

"She's got her fingers glued together two or three times," pointing toward 3-year-old Lilly, who glued both sides of a picture-frame magnet and wiped excess glue on her shirt - all while maintaining a smile.

Fortunately, Santa stopped by their table to help correct her sticky mistakes.

"You almost have a red nose like Rudolph," Santa told her older sister, Brianna, who had

See LITTLE LADIES, 6A



Lara Cooper/Daily News

Lillie Hills, 3, of Bowling Green watches as Santa hooks candy canes onto his glasses Saturday during the Teddy Bear Tea Party, part of the month-long Festival of Trees at the Sloan Convention Center.



### Opinion

People of Bowling Green should take time to attend forums on city growth.  
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### Gambling

As lawmakers file bills to expand gaming, many skeptical of any action.  
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States' preparedness for massive outbreak of flu varies widely.  
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