

LIFE + NEIGHBORS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2009

THURSDAY IN LIFE + FOOD PIECES OF THE THANKSGIVING DINNER PUZZLE



ON KENTUCKY.COM

TURKEY TALENT: Download instructions and a PDF for our turkey contest at Kentucky.com/turkeys.

PUBLIC RECORDS: Search lawsuits, restaurant inspections and more at Kentucky.com/infocenter.

New plan for a small space



PHOTO PROVIDED

An architect's rendering shows what the Esplanade in Lexington might look like if proponents succeed with their proposal.

Esplanade idea has potential for success



**TOM
EBLEN**
HERALD-LEADER
COLUMNIST

Maybe creating a vibrant downtown isn't so much about grand plans as small spaces.

One small space with potential is the block of North Mill Street between West Main and Short streets. It retains most of its old buildings, which now house places to eat, drink and work. Developer Nick Ebbitt is converting the upstairs of several buildings into loft condos.

The block is in the middle of downtown's emerging action: Galleries, restaurants

and bars have sprouted along Short and in Victorian Square; Dudley's is moving there; Cheapside is alive with the farmers market and other events that will only increase in popularity when a market house is built.

But plans for Mill Street are controversial because developers want to close the street to traffic and eliminate a handful of parking spaces.

I don't see a big problem with that, but several people, whose opinions on these matters I respect, do. They think it's important to keep that block as a regular street, at least during the day. Pedestrian malls have been successful

See **EBLEN, B5**



PABLO ALCALÁ | palcala@herald-leader.com

Lexington's Longest Short Story is displayed at the Carnegie Center. The last paragraph was written by first lady Jane Beshear.

What were all those people writing? It's a long story ...

By Amy Wilson

awilson1@herald-leader.com

"I found her sitting on a bench in Woodland Park. She looked up when my shadow fell on the letter she was writing."

These are the words that launched a tale that warps and weaves through the imaginations of 136 people, ages 6 to 85, to become *Lexington's Longest Short Story*.

Written in a day that was designed for writers, it's a story that doesn't quite hang together (if you read too closely) but, heavens, does it drape. From the second floor of the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning down to the information desk where the luckiest of staffers get to camp out under the words of the inspired.

The writers joined the center in celebrating writing on the National Day of Writing, something the National Council of Teachers of English dreamed up when they weren't assigning homework.

Because this was anything but.

Neil Chethik, writer-in-residence at the Carnegie Center, says the idea was to remind writers that while much of their work can be hard, tedious and time-consuming, a lot of it is pure joy. This is the pure joy part.

The Longest Short Story is actually four different versions of a story that all began with words written by Lexington author Ed McClanahan. One version stayed at the Carnegie Center on Oct. 20, and three

See **STORY, B3**



PHOTOS BY MATT GOINS

Paloma Paulin, 13, rehearsed last week for her role in Bluegrass Youth Ballet's *Dia de los Muertos*.

SHE DANCED INTO THE LIMELIGHT

Eighth-grader has lead role in 'Dia de los Muertos'

By Jim Warren

jwarren@herald-leader.com

Paloma Paulin, 13, knew little about ballet until taking a three-week introductory course at Cardinal Valley Elementary School in 2005.

She has come a long way since then: Now an eighth-grader at Lexington's School for the Creative and Performing Arts, she will dance the lead role in the Bluegrass Youth Ballet's signature ballet, *Dia de los Muertos*, at the Lexington Opera House on Wednesday night.

Paloma said she was surprised and thrilled to get the part — her first opportunity to be in a "big" ballet — particularly because she almost didn't even try out.

Paloma, who is "shy," according to Youth Ballet director Adalhi Corn, said she really didn't want to audition for a part.

"I just came because one of my teachers told me that I had to come," she said. "But once I actually started auditioning, I thought, 'This isn't so bad.' And then, when I actually got the role, I was really, really happy."

In the ballet, Paloma will portray Estelita, a Mexican farm girl who slips away from her work in the field to play and is bitten by a poisonous snake. The girl dies, becomes an angel and returns, invisible, to dance with her mother one last time.

"It's both a happy story and a sad story," Paloma says.

Corn, the Youth Ballet director, said Paloma immediately caught her eye during the summer ballet course at Cardinal Valley four years ago. Paloma was 9 then.

"She was very well coordi-



Paloma, 13, took an introductory ballet course in 2005, and her dancing led to a spot with Bluegrass Youth Ballet, and then a lead role.

IF YOU GO

'Dia de los Muertos'

When: 6:30 p.m. Nov. 4.

Where: Lexington Opera House, 401 W. Short St.

Tickets: \$12.50 students and children, \$15.50 for adults. Call (859) 233-3535 or go to www.ticketmaster.com.

nated," Corn said. "But her way of dancing was not what you normally see in young children who copy what they have seen. Her dancing seemed to come from within. She needed to learn technique, but the facility was already there."

Corn approached Paloma's mom, Cecilia Paulin, about having Paloma become a student at Bluegrass Youth Ballet. But Cecilia Paulin said the family simply didn't have the money. Paloma's

father, Jorge Paulin, drives a school bus.

Unwilling to give up and wanting to reach out to Lexington's Latino community, Corn arranged for Paloma's parents to do some part-time work for the Youth Ballet in lieu of tuition, so Paloma could continue studying. Now, all the hard work she has put in during the past four years has paid off.

"When we had the auditions for Estelita, it was clear to me that she was right for the role," Corn said.

There's also a family connection with the role — Paloma was born in California, but her mother is from the area in Mexico where the ballet is set.

Reach Jim Warren at (859) 231-3255 or 1-800-950-6397, Ext. 3255.