

NEIGHBORS



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Walter Tunis' critic's pick: Neil Finn, 'Dizzy Heights'

Near the midway point of his first solo album in 13 years, *Dizzy Heights*, Neil Finn offers an affirmation that is both earthy and spiritual. It's as though the pop strategies that so beautifully populated the music he has crafted over the decades with Crowded House were tossed in a washing machine so colors would purposely bleed into one another. [Read the full review at LexGo.com.](#)



LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

SECTION C

OUR UNCOMMONWEALTH
WHAT MAKES KENTUCKY UNIQUE, INTRIGUING AND FUN



FARRIERS SET TO VIE FOR BEST IN SHOE

COMPETITION DRAWS TEAMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO RICHMOND



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PHOTOS BY MARK CORNELISON | [mccornelison@herald-leader.com](#)

Ellen Staples, a student from Portland, Ore., hammered out a shoe Wednesday during her course at the Kentucky Horseshoeing School in Richmond.

By Cheryl Truman

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RICHMOND – The winning four-person team in the World Horseshoeing Classic, to be held Feb. 19-22 in Madison County, takes home \$10,000 and a set of belt buckles proclaiming its superiority in equine foot care.

The event draws teams from all over the world — including Wales, Denmark, England and Canada and, stateside, Texas, Wisconsin and California — but given travel costs for four people and the \$10,000 prize, winning may be more about the belt buckle than the cash.



Taylor

The World Horseshoeing Classic is put on by the Kentucky Horseshoeing School, the only training center of its kind in Kentucky. There, students take courses including equine anatomy — in which a cadaver horse leg is dissected, with school owner Mitch Taylor poking at cartilage around the hoof area — and also work, initially, with shoeing legs from cadaver horses and finally, working with the real, living, four-legged thing.

Students at the school “have



Tuvia Smotrich, a student from Israel, worked on his shoe Wednesday as students learned the art of horseshoeing.

to know what it (the leg) is doing, and how to deal with it,” Taylor said. “You have to understand anatomy. You have to have some blacksmithing work to shoe your horse correctly.”

The 16 teams in the three-day competition have to shoe three different types of horses: draft, hunter and roadster. The teams are evaluated on a system of 40 points per competitor, with 10

“It’s a love of the craft and skill of horseshoeing. These men and women are artists.”

Joe Police,
Kentucky Horseshoeing School
director of marketing



Will Freeman worked on a shoe at the school. Students also take courses on equine anatomy.

points each being given to trim, fit, shoe making and overall job and finish.

Taylor said that the hunter shoeing is the most difficult of the three, with “penny on a penny” standards meaning there’s no room for error.

“This fit is an extension of the hoof wall,” he said, emphasizing the exactness that’s required.

There is no licensing for horseshoeing specialists, no required minimum standards for training and demonstration of competence, said Taylor, adding

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More information about the 2014 World Horseshoeing Classic: [Facebook.com/worldhorseshoeingclassic](#). On [Kentucky.com](#): See a photo gallery.

FAYETTE COUNTY

Legends to hold national anthem tryouts at mall

The Lexington Legends will hold its annual national anthem tryouts at Fayette Mall on Saturday and Sunday in the wing of the mall near Dick’s Sporting Goods. Individual, group and instrumental auditions will run from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Participants will sing or play the anthem, and those selected by the judges will perform the anthem before one of the Legends’ 70 home

games during the 2014 season.

For more information, or to reserve an audition time, call (859) 422-7855. All participants must complete a registration form, which is available at [Lexingtonlegends.com](#).

Program helps parents help kids

Urban Family Engagement Network works with parents, caregivers, administrators, policy makers, and community stakeholders to ensure urban students reach their fullest potential.

In the UFEN, parents attend several weekly workshops to learn how to collaborate with schools to support their children’s education — and how to address issues that

preclude urban families from taking a more active role.

The next UFEN Lexington session meets 5:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays from Feb. 19 through April 23 on the Newtown Campus of Bluegrass Community & Technical College, 500 Newtown Pike. Dinner and childcare will be provided and transportation, too, if needed. The Police Activities League will be on hand to provide mentoring and homework help. Call (859) 381-4176 to sign up. (Space is limited to 30 participants.)

Looking for Public Health Heroes

The Lexington-Fayette County Health Department is accepting

nominations for its Public Health Heroes Award, now in its 11th year, for individuals who have demonstrated their dedication to improving the health of Lexington residents.

Criteria for the selection of the Public Health Heroes Award include: exemplary leadership and diligence in promoting public health; remarkable contributions and support in fostering public health programs; and work or actions that have impacted the community’s health in a positive way and would not have occurred without the activities of the nominee.

To nominate a hero, please pro-

See **FAYETTE, C2**



MERLENE DAVIS
HERALD-LEADER COLUMNIST

Goal of PTA program is to make schools less intimidating

SESSIONS TO EMPOWER PARENTS, GUARDIANS

I dreaded parent-teacher conferences, especially when they involved my boys.

Sometimes it seemed the teacher and I weren’t talking about the same child. Behavior allowed in the teacher’s classroom was not behavior accepted at home.

And when the meetings started to involve a team of teachers seemingly versus just me, all I wanted was out of there.

“We are trying to reach parents like you,” said Jessica Berry, family and community liaison for Fayette County Public Schools. Berry is a part of the public schools’ partnership with the 16th District PTA to make our schools less intimidating to parents and other community members.

The National PTA created a program to facilitate that process called Urban Family Engagement Network, and the local district was awarded a \$20,000 grant to implement it over a two-year period.

“It is to be used to educate the parents and to get

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MATT GOINS

Lang Lang greeted the crowd Sunday before performing with the UK Symphony Orchestra at the Singletary Center.

CONCERT REVIEW

Lang Lang astounds in his pairing with UK Symphony

By Rich Copley

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For most of Sunday night’s performance of Richard Strauss’s *Burleske*, pianist Lang Lang was watching the University of Kentucky Symphony Orchestra and conductor John Nardolillo, trading phrases with the musicians like they were chatting, dancing in his seat during his rests, even making a few conducting gestures and overall looking nothing like a superstar soloist who thought he was doing the kids a favor just by showing up.

But then, Strauss gave the pianist a moment alone in the spotlight, and he grabbed it.

His fingers flew across the keyboard in a thrilling display that had you half

See **REVIEW, C3**