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Here are 10 questions you should ask when choosing a day-care provider.

In today's paper **SPORTS:** A look at Kentucky basketball roster decisions and options. 1B



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LIBKOS AP

Smoke rises Sunday from burning buildings in Bakhmut, the site of heavy battles with Russian troops in the Donetsk region, Ukraine.

Scams at an 'all-time high' in Kentucky, state says

BY MEREDITH HOWARD
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Have you been receiving scam calls recently? Lexington residents got an average of 11.6 robocalls per person last month, according to one site, and federal agencies offer advice on identifying and stopping them.

"Scams have reached an all-time high in Kentucky, and the Office of the Attorney General is constantly working to stay ahead of con artists," Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron's website reads.

Robocall-blocking software company YouMail estimates Kentucky residents received 51.39 million robocalls in February. More than 22 million robocalls have been made in Lexington alone so far this year, YouMail reports.

"The index works by extrapolating the data collected from the many tens of millions of calls made each month to YouMail users," YouMail's website reads.

The website estimates alerts and reminders make up 28% of the calls, while 30% are telemarketing, 17% are payment reminders and 25% are scams.

HOW TO REPORT SCAM CALLS IN KENTUCKY

Kentucky residents are en-

SEE SCAMS, 4A

Ukraine demands emergency UN meeting over Putin nuke plan

BY KARL RITTER
Associated Press

KYIV, UKRAINE

Ukraine's government on Sunday called for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council to "counter the Kremlin's nuclear blackmail" after Russian President Vladimir Putin revealed plans to station tactical atomic weapons in Belarus.

One Ukrainian official said that Russia "took Belarus as a nuclear hostage."

But Moscow said it was making the move in response to the West's increasing military support for Ukraine. Putin announced the plan in a television interview that aired on Saturday, saying it was triggered by a U.K. decision this past week to provide Ukraine with armor-piercing rounds containing depleted uranium.

Putin argued that by deploying its tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, Russia was following the lead of the United States. He noted that Washington has nuclear weapons based in Bel-

gium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey.

"We are doing what they have been doing for decades, stationing them in certain allied countries, preparing the launch platforms and training their crews," he said.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry condemned the move in a statement Sunday and demanded the emergency meeting.

"Ukraine expects effective action to counter the Kremlin's nuclear blackmail by the U.K., China, the U.S. and France, including as permanent mem-

bers of the U.N. Security Council, which have a special responsibility to prevent threats of aggression using nuclear weapons," the statement read. "The world must be united against someone who endangers the future of human civilization."

Oleksiy Danilov, secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, tweeted Sunday that Putin's announcement was "a step towards internal destabilization" of Belarus that

SEE UKRAINE, 4A

Retired police sergeant spreads 'hope and joy' with pizza

BY VALARIE HONEYCUTT SPEARS
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Retired Lexington police Sgt. Joan Root has traveled to Ukraine three times since the Russian invasion, joining a volunteer group that provides pizza food trucks and a few hours of music, games and dancing to families displaced inside the country.

"It's... just a little break to give them hope and joy and let them know there's people all over the world that have not forgotten them," said Root.

Root's work as a police detective included burglary, the Vice Unit and the Crimes Against Children division. She was a Lexington police officer for 23 years before she retired in 2005. Root then went back to

school to get a Catholic Studies degree and became a director of youth and young adult ministry for the Catholic Diocese of Lexington.

When the war started, Root said she was horrified.

Her father had been a child refugee in World War II. When bombing started in London, he and his sister were sent on a ship to the United States.

Watching news reports about the refugees struck a chord with her.

"I just really felt a call to do something beyond just praying for the situation, something tangible," she said. "And I said, 'Lord, if you want me to do this, open a door and I'll walk through it, but I'm not gonna kick a door open.'"

SEE PIZZA, 4A



Provided by Joan Root

Joan Root of Lexington, wearing sunglasses, has been volunteering in the Ukraine to help families displaced by the war. She is serving Ukrainian families pizza as part of an international volunteer effort in 2023.

Cafe expanding to include bakery in former office building

BY BETH MUSGRAVE
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A popular outdoor cafe in downtown Lexington won initial approval Thursday for a new bakery space.

On Thursday, the Urban County Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve a zone change for the Kentucky Native Cafe to remodel a two-story office building on High Street for a bakery that will serve the restaurant.

The zone change from a professional zone to a business zone will now go to the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council for final approval.

The Kentucky Native Cafe parking lot is adjacent to the two-story office building.

The owners of Kentucky Native Cafe purchased the office building at 446 E. High Street more than a year ago, according to city records.

Kentucky Native Cafe has become a favorite downtown spot especially in the warmer months. Its outdoor space will re-open April 1.

The cafe also operates inside the Michler's Florist, Greenhouse and Garden Design dur-

SEE BAKERY, 4A



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