

KNOCKOUT SAVINGS!

Mattresses starting at **\$37** twin
Limit 2 per household

LAST CHANCE to buy a Perfect Sleeper at this price!

Serta Perfect Sleeper Jumbo Plush or SertaPedic w/memory foam **\$599** Queen set

Save \$500

Twin ... \$499 • Full ... \$549 • King ... \$899

1/2 OFF '08 Floor Model Clearance all models

Serta Perfect Sleeper

Save Up To \$920

Help us meet the need!

Whether it is the devastating aftermath of a hurricane, tornado or flood, or the loss of a home due to a house fire, the Red Cross is there to help. They have been running at a deficit due in part to a record number of home fire clients, expansion of its service area and cuts in funding. The need is clear — your local Red Cross Chapter is experiencing an emergency of its own.



MATTRESS OUTLET

- CHATTANOOGA • 2271 Gunbarrel Rd • 296-8115
Between Rooms to Go & Macaroni Grill
 - CHATTANOOGA • Lee Hwy at 153 in R&R Plaza • 499-2775
Next to Quality Lighting
 - HIXSON • 5108 Hwy 153 • 876-0388
Near Chickamauga Dam
 - RED BANK • 2100 Dayton Blvd • 877-6241
1 mile from Signal Mt. Blvd. Closed Sundays
 - TIFONIA • 3450 Cummings Hwy • 821-0544
New Walmart SuperCenter
 - CLEVELAND • 800 Stuart Rd. • 472-7062
In Stuart Pl. Shopping Center
 - CLEVELAND • 107 Keith St. • 559-0043
Keith Street Plaza. Closed Sundays
 - FT OGLETHORPE, GA • 1126 Battlefield Pkwy • 706-858-9065
Across from Chick-fil-A. Closed Sundays
 - DALTON, GA • 1401D Cleveland Hwy • 706-272-0197
- Monday-Friday 10-7 | Saturday 10-6 | Sunday 1-5

Mother charged in fire on base pleads not guilty

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
PADUCAH, Ky. — A soldier's wife has pleaded not guilty to charges of setting a fire that killed her two young children at their home on a Kentucky military base.

A judge's order shows Billi Jo Smallwood, 35, also pleaded not guilty Wednesday to a federal charge of attempting to destroy a residential facility for members of the U.S. Army that caused the death of two minors.

The May 2007 fire at Fort Campbell killed Sam Fagan, 9, and Rebekah Smallwood, 2, and injured her husband, Army Spc. Wayne Smallwood. The Smallwoods' toddler daughter,

Nevaeh, was not injured. Billi Jo Smallwood could face execution or life in prison if convicted. U.S. Magistrate Judge W. David King appointed a federal public defender for Smallwood, who listed no income since being charged.

Smallwood was arrested last month in Georgia, where her husband lived and was transported to Kentucky on Tuesday, where she is being held in federal custody.

Smallwood listed \$1,270 in monthly expenses on a financial affidavit, but noted that she currently has no job.

"I no longer have a house or food expenses due to my situation," Smallwood wrote. "These

would be my normal expenses. I am no longer employed."

The fire broke out in a two-story housing unit where six families lived in a housing development called Lee Village that dates to the 1940s and was in the process of being torn down. About 10,000 family members live in housing on the sprawling base that straddles the Tennessee-Kentucky state line, according to the most recent Fort Campbell fiscal report.

The unsealed federal grand jury indictment said Smallwood planned to set the fire with the intention of causing a person's death and her motive was to receive money.

Whiskey bottle collector avoids sentence in possession case

BY JOE EDWARDS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
NASHVILLE — Just in time for a holiday toast, a Nashville-area plumber has avoided a jail sentence and fine on charges he illegally possessed up to \$1 million worth of Jack Daniel's whiskey.

Now Randy Piper, who says he's been collecting Jack Daniel bottles for six years, is working to get the confiscated whiskey back. If not, it could be disposed of or sold in an online auction.

Piper, 47, was indicted in Moore County last January after state liquor officials seized 2,400 bottles in October 2007. Acting on a tip that someone was selling alcohol without a license, they raided two warehouses owned by the Goodlettsville man and a home in Lynchburg, a secluded small town about 65 miles southeast of Nashville where the famous whiskey is distilled.

Piper, who had been free on \$25,000 bond, had claimed all along that he was merely collecting the whiskey for the value of the vintage glass bottles.

"He wasn't bootlegging it or stealing it," said Raymond Fraley Jr., his attorney.

The confiscated whiskey is being stored in an Alcoholic Beverage Commission vault in Nashville.

Under a court order signed Nov. 21 granting him pretrial diversion, Piper is banned from selling alcohol and must stay out of trouble. Those restrictions are in place for one year, and his record will be expunged



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Boxes of bottles of Jack Daniel's whiskey are shown in a storage room in Nashville. The whiskey may be destroyed because authorities suspect it was being sold by someone without a license. Officials seized 2,400 bottles in October during raids in Nashville and Lynchburg.

if he complies. ABC officials have said the value of the seized liquor possibly has been driven up by the value of the antique bottles, which range from 3-liters to half-pints.

One seized bottle with its unbroken seal dates to 1914. ABC agents have estimated its value at about \$10,000.

Fraley, of Fayetteville, had claimed Piper was singled out for selling one bottle for approximately \$350, and charged with illegally possessing the others.

He said an ABC hearing would be held early next year to determine the fate of the confiscated whiskey.

"We'll have to give up something to get it settled," Fraley predicted.

He described Piper as very knowledgeable about Jack Dan-

iel collectibles. "It's no different than collecting art," Fraley said.

District Attorney General Charles Crawford said Tuesday that Piper did not conduct business "in strict compliance with the law. But he was not a criminal, and he's been given this chance to get his house in order."

Crawford repeated earlier statements that he hoped no future bottles would be destroyed.

Piper was to have gone on trial Jan. 8. He faced possible probation, Crawford said, and a fine of several thousand dollars.

ABC executive director Danielle Elks did not return a phone call for comment.

Moore County Circuit Court Judge Robert Crigler signed off on the pretrial diversion.

Space heater apparent cause of day care fire

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
ALAMO, Tenn. — A fire at a rural Tennessee day care center apparently was caused by a space heater, authorities said Thursday as child welfare agencies joined the investigations into the incident.

A 3-year-old boy who suffered smoke inhalation and burns to his face in the fire Wednesday remained in a critical care unit at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville. Two girls, ages 22 months and 2 years, were

treated at a hospital in Jackson, near Alamo, and sent home Wednesday night.

A day care worker and an off-duty police officer who first reported the fire and helped rescue the children also were hospitalized briefly.

While local authorities continued the fire investigation, the state Department of Children's Services and the Tennessee Department of Human Services were trying to deter-

mine if the injured youngsters had been properly supervised and if Heavenly Angels day care was operating without a license.

Heavenly Angels lost its state operating license after a 10-month-old child died there of natural causes in October.

The center operated out of a small, one-story building behind a residence on the outskirts of Alamo, about 70 miles northeast of Memphis.

A Colonial Christmas?



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
St. Luke's Episcopal School third-grader John St. Cyr, 9, spends time in a "stockade" during the school's ninth annual Colonial Christmas in Mobile, Ala. About 50 third-graders participated in the living history lesson as they learned about what it was like to be a child during colonial times.

Officers team with truckers to monitor state highways

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Two nurses on their way home to Walker County on Wednesday morning got more than a surprise on Interstate 65. The driver got a ticket for going 80 mph and a second ticket for failing to signal a lane change.

The ticket was courtesy of Alabama's latest twist to catch bad drivers — spying them from the cab of an 18-wheeler.

"By the number of lane changes, I consider she is driving somewhat aggressively," state trooper Scott Stratton said.

The motorist told Stratton she thought it was OK to go 80 and didn't know she had to signal a lane change.

The effort launched as part of the state's latest traffic blitz was the result of cooperation between state truck inspectors and the Alabama Trucking Association. Bad driving was spotted by a trooper riding in a tractor-trailer who then radioed to four state trooper truck inspectors on the ground to nab the offenders. It's all part of a federal program called Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks.

So far this year, there have been eight such one-day patrols across the state and two in the Birmingham area, said ATA Safety Director Gene Vonderau.

The current patrol was the first participation for the Floyd & Beasley trucking firm out of Sycamore in Talladega County, said General Manager Steve Persons. Cpl. Whit Capps rode in the cab of a Floyd & Beasley 18-wheeler traveling in front of the troopers.

The troopers targeted an 11-mile stretch of I-65 from Gardendale north, but the aggressive drivers came to them.

The female driver ticketed by Stratton, as well as numerous others, had only scowls for him.

"I never say 'have a nice day' after I've given a ticket," Stratton said.

His driving pet peeves are illegal license plates and no use of seat belts. He had lots of fodder Wednesday.

He calls the tag-applied-for signs on some cars "really infuriating" and he said it's easy to spot those who don't use seat belts.

"I had one guy tell me he doesn't use a seat belt because he would be the only one hurt if he had a wreck. I asked him if he were seriously injured in the wreck, wouldn't it affect his family and emergency services?"

A flatbed-truck driver was stopped for tailgating two different vehicles within minutes of each other — all while Stratton

watched from the right lane.

All the troopers rode the right lane until an offender was reported, because the only insignia on their gray SUVs is the Alabama Department of Public Safety seal on the passenger-side door.

When stopped for tailgating, the truck driver argued that he was not that close to the vehicles.

Stratton said his method of determining tailgating is to pull up next to the offending vehicle.

"If there is room for me to go safely through in this SUV, I don't consider it tailgating," he said.

Not all troopers use Stratton's method. State law says motorists must stay back 20 feet for every 10 mph they are driving.

One 18-wheeler driver being pulled over for tailgating and improper lane-changing sped up when Stratton turned on his blue light. He eventually stopped and maintained he had not seen the trooper. He was ticketed for speeding, improper lane change, no proof of trailer registration and tailgating, plus his truck was inspected.

Stratton said that, during a chase, he turns on his siren only if a vehicle doesn't stop.

Within three hours Wednesday, the troopers had issued more than 40 tickets.

Rep. Davis eyeing run for governor in Alabama

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
MONTGOMERY, Ala. — U.S. Rep. Artur Davis visited the state Capitol on Wednesday to talk about job creation, and he made it clear he wants the top job in the Capitol.

The Democratic congressman from Birmingham has been eyeing the 2010 governor's race while serving as Barack Obama's Alabama campaign chairman. Those plans became firmer when Obama did not pick Davis to become secretary of education.

On Wednesday, he outlined a scenario for the governor's race.

"I think there are going to be eight or nine of us who are

going to be getting in the governor's race. And I think the eight or nine of us will be making announcements between January and March," he told reporters.

As for himself, he said, "I am going to save the formal announcement until early February."

Davis said he will follow the announcement with a tour of the state.

Republican Gov. Bob Riley has served two terms and can't run again in 2010. No Democrat has formally announced a candidacy, but Lt. Gov. Jim Folsom Jr., state Agriculture Commissioner Ron Sparks, and House

Speaker Seth Hammett have said they are considering it.

Before Davis makes an announcement in February, he's got another big event coming up. On Jan. 1, he will marry Tara Johnson of Montgomery. Davis, 41, said their wedding will be at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Montgomery.

Davis grew up in Montgomery, but the city is not in his 7th Congressional District, which stretches from Birmingham to Selma. Davis held his news conference in the Capitol's Old House Chamber, where the governor often holds official functions, including his annual "State of the State" address to the Legislature.

TKO MARKDOWNS!

MurMaid Direct **\$97** Plush Euro Top Twin Mattress

Full Mattress ... \$147

Feather Touch Plush Euro Top **\$499** Queen Set

Your Choice Any Comfort

Twin \$379 ... • Full ... \$479 • King ... \$799

Compare at **\$1,500**

MurMaid's Best Lookout Euro Top **\$799** Queen Set

Full Set \$699 ... • King Set ... \$1,099

Help us meet the need!

Starting today not only do you get drastically reduced mattress sale prices at both companies, plus proceeds* from your purchase can help save the Greater Chattanooga Red Cross.



Better Mattress. Better Price.

- CHATTANOOGA • 7177 Lee Highway • 423-899-6841
 - HIXSON • 5741 Hwy 153 • 423-870-8227
 - RED BANK • 2100 Dayton Blvd. • 423-877-6241
 - CLEVELAND • 2401 Georgetown Rd. • 423-472-2486
 - DALTON, GA • 101 W. Walnut Ave. • 706-217-2519
 - CALHOUN, GA • 440 E. Highway 53 SE • 706-625-1440
- Monday-Friday 10-7 | Saturday 10-6 | Sunday 1-5

When we compete ... YOU SAVE and the American Red Cross WINS!



American Red Cross
Greater Chattanooga Area Chapter

\$10

Shop these two stores and we will donate \$10 in your name. No purchase necessary.



BATTLE OF THE BRANDS