**LEXINGTON --** A LEXINGTON MOTHER WHO LOST HER SON TO GUN VIOLENCE AND BECAME AND ACTIVIST TO TRY TO CREATE A SAFER COMMUNITY HAS DIED. ANITA FRANKLIN’S SON ANTONIO WAS AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER IN DUNCAN PARK WHEN HE WAS SHOT BY FLYING BULLETS AND KILLED IN 2014. HE WAS JUST 21. AFTER HIS DEATH, ANITA FRANKLIN DEDICATED HER LIFE TO INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE EFFECTS OF GUN VIOLENCE.

FRANKLIN GAVE PUBLIC SPEECHES, ORGANIZED MARCHES AND WORKED ALONGSIDE MOMS DEMAND ACTION KENTUCKY. OVER THE LAST YEAR SHE WORKED WITH THE [FAYETTE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE](http://www.fayettesheriff.com/) IN COMMUNITY OUTREACH. FRANKLIN ALSO WAS A MEMBER OF THE

“[SURVIVORS COUNCIL](https://ag.ky.gov/Priorities/Justice-for-Crime-Victims/survivors-council/Pages/default.aspx),” WHICH ADVISES THE KENTUCKY OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

HER FAMILY RELEASED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT THROUGH THE FAYETTE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE:

“WE APPRECIATE ALL THE KINDNESS AND SUPPORT FROM EVERYONE. OUR MOTHER WAS LOVED AND RESPECTED BY MANY. SHE WANTED TO GIVE BACK TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE AND SHE LOVED THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN WHICH SHE GREW UP. SHE MADE IT HER RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE IT BETTER FOR EVERYONE. PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF THE FAMILY AT THIS TIME.”

THE CAUSE OF FRANKLIN’S DEATH HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED.

**WASHINGTON --** ENERGY DRINKS CAN POSE A REAL PROBLEM FOR CHILDREN, ACCORDING TO [A NEW STUDY](http://newsroom.heart.org/news/poison-control-data-show-energy-drinks-and-young-kids-dont-mix?preview=505b) FROM THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION.

RESEARCHERS FOUND THAT 40% OF THE 5,156 CALLS LAST YEAR TO POISON CENTERS FOR "ENERGY DRINK EXPOSURE" INVOLVED CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6. IN MOST OF THE CASES, THE PARENTS DIDN'T KNOW THE CHILDREN HAD OBTAINED AN ENERGY DRINK. MANY OF THE CALLS REPORTED THE CHILDREN WERE EXPERIENCING SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, SUCH AS AN ABNORMAL HEART RHYTHM, OR THEY WERE HAVING A SEIZURE.

STUDY AUTHOR DR. STEVEN LIPSHULTZ SAID ADOLESCENTS CAN EXPERIENCE SERIOUS PROBLEMS AFTER DRINKING ONLY 100 MG OF CAFFEINE. [SOME ENERGY DRINKS](http://www.caffeineinformer.com/the-caffeine-database) CONTAIN MORE THAN 300 MG OF [CAFFEINE](http://www.drugfree.org/drug-guide/caffeine/).

**LONDON** — THE COMPANY THAT OPERATES PASSENGER TRAINS THROUGH THE CHANNEL TUNNEL ENDED WEEKS OF DISPUTE WITH TWO WOMEN EMPLOYEES WEDNESDAY BY AGREEING THAT THEY COULD WEAR TROUSERS TO WORK.

SECURITY GUARDS DEBBIE SHEEN, 37, AND LYNN MCKAY, 35, WERE THREATENED WITH DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND SENT HOME FROM WORK LAST MONTH WHEN THEY REFUSED TO WEAR SKIRTS DURING THEIR SHIFT AT THE EUROSTAR TERMINAL AT LONDON'S WATERLOO STATION.

THE WOMEN SAID TROUSERS WERE BOTH MORE COMFORTABLE AND MORE APPROPRIATE, BUT EUROSTAR COUNTERED THAT FEMALE SECURITY GUARDS SHOULD WEAR SKIRTS IN THE PASSENGER SECURITY AREA ``FOR EASE OF RECOGNITION AS MUCH AS SMARTNESS.''

BOTH EUROSTAR, WHICH RUNS HIGH SPEED RAIL SERVICES BETWEEN LONDON, PARIS AND BRUSSELS, AND ITS SECURITY CONTRACTOR, SECURITAS, SAID WEDNESDAY THAT SUBSEQUENT SURVEYS OF STAFF AND PASSENGERS SHOWED THAT MANY SUPPORTED OFFERING WOMEN THE OPTION OF WEARING TROUSERS.

EUROSTAR SAID IT HAD INSTRUCTED SECURITAS TO AMEND ITS UNIFORM CODE AND SAID THE TWO WOMEN WERE FREE TO RETURN TO WORK.

**NAIROBI, KENYA** - SOMALI PIRATES ATTACKED THE MAERSK ALABAMA ON WEDNESDAY FOR THE SECOND TIME IN SEVEN MONTHS AND WERE THWARTED BY PRIVATE GUARDS ON BOARD THE U.S.-FLAGGED SHIP WHO FIRED OFF GUNS AND A HIGH-DECIBEL NOISE DEVICE.

A U.S. SURVEILLANCE PLANE WAS MONITORING THE SHIP AS IT CONTINUED TO ITS DESTINATION ON THE KENYAN COAST, WHILE A PIRATE SAID THAT THE CAPTAIN OF A SHIP HIJACKED MONDAY WITH 28 NORTH KOREAN CREW MEMBERS ON BOARD HAD DIED OF WOUNDS.

PIRATES HIJACKED THE MAERSK ALABAMA LAST APRIL AND TOOK SHIP CAPTAIN RICHARD PHILLIPS HOSTAGE, HOLDING HIM AT GUNPOINT IN A LIFEBOAT FOR FIVE DAYS. NAVY SEAL SHARPSHOOTERS FREED PHILLIPS WHILE KILLING THREE PIRATES IN A DARING NIGHTTIME ATTACK.

FOUR SUSPECTED PIRATES IN A SKIFF ATTACKED THE SHIP AGAIN ON WEDNESDAY AROUND 6:30 A.M. LOCAL TIME, FIRING ON THE SHIP WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FROM ABOUT 300 YARDS AWAY, A STATEMENT FROM THE U.S. FIFTH FLEET IN BAHRAIN SAID.

AN ON-BOARD SECURITY TEAM REPELLED THE ATTACK BY USING EVASIVE MANEUVERS, SMALL-ARMS FIRE AND A LONG RANGE ACOUSTIC DEVICE, WHICH CAN BEAM EARSPLITTING ALARM TONES, THE FLEET SAID.

VICE ADM. BILL GORTNEY OF THE U.S. NAVAL FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND, SAID THE MAERSK ALABAMA HAD FOLLOWED THE MARITIME INDUSTRY'S "BEST PRACTICES" IN HAVING A SECURITY TEAM ON BOARD.

**COMMERCIAL PROMPT**

* HASBRO’S THE CHILD ANIMONTRONIC
* FROM *THE MANDALORIAN,* OFTEN CALLED “BABY YODA”
* ANIMATRONIC VERSION MOVES AND COOS
* WILL LAUNCH FROM HASBRO DECEMBER 15.
* PRE-ORDERS AVAILABLE NOW ON AMAZON.COM
* $59.99
* POWERED BY TWO AAA BATTERIES (INCLUDED)
* HAS SPEAKERS INSIDE SO YOU CAN HEAR HIM BABBLING LIKE A BABY. MORE THAN 25 SOUNDS AND MOTION COMBINATIONS THAT COME FROM *THE MANDALORIAN.* EYES WILL OPEN AND CLOSE, EARS WILL PERK, AND THE ARMS AND HEAD WILL MOVE.

**EL PASO, TEXAS** – BLIZZARD CONDITIONS HAMPERED EFFORTS EARLY FRIDAY TO REOPEN LARGE SECTIONS OF INTERSTATE 10 IN WEST TEXAS THAT WERE CLOSED FOLLOWING CRASHES.

PORTIONS OF A 240-MILE STRETCH OF THE INTERSTATE WERE CLOSED IN BOTH DIRECTIONS FROM EL PASO TO FORT STOCKTON CITY THURSDAY EVENING, SAID VERONICA BEYER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

SHE URGED MOTORISTS TO "AVOID" THE AREA.

THE INTERSTATE WILL LIKELY REMAIN CLOSED THROUGH THE MORNING HOURS BECAUSE OF A "TRUCK WRECK AND BLIZZARD CONDITIONS," BEYER SAID.

THERE WERE SEVERAL OTHER ACCIDENTS, INCLUDING A POLICE OFFICER WHO WAS HIT BY A CAR WHILE TRYING TO GET TO ANOTHER ACCIDENT ON INTERSTATE 10.

THAT OFFICER WAS HOSPITALIZED THURSDAY EVENING WITH MINOR INJURIES, CNN AFFILIATE KDBC REPORTED. HEAVY SNOW ALSO CAUSED THE CLOSURE OF U.S. HIGHWAY 62/180, ALSO FROM EAST OF EL PASO WEST TO THE NEW MEXICO STATE LINE.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PREDICTED THAT SOME MOUNTAIN AREAS IN WEST TEXAS COULD SEE UP TO 8 INCHES OF SNOW BY MIDDAY FRIDAY. OTHER AREAS ARE EXPECTING BETWEEN 4 AND 6 INCHES, FORECASTERS SAID.

**WEATHER –**

SATURDAY: PARTLY CLOUDY WITH A HIGH OF 42 DEGREES AND A LOW OF 27.

SUNDAY: PARTLY CLOUDY WITH A HIGH 37 DEGREES AND A LOW OF 25.

**LEXINGTON --** FIDDLER, A FORMER 4 PAWS FOR ABILITY GOLDEN RETRIEVER, HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE FIRST DOG IN UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY HISTORY TO BE PICKED FOR THE ADVANCED TRAINING ALASKA PROGRAM.

FIDDLER STARTED HIS JOURNEY TO BECOMING A SERVICE DOG AT A PRISON PROGRAM IN OHIO WHERE AN INMATE TAUGHT HIM BASIC OBEDIENCE. WHEN FIDDLER CAME TO UK, AFTER HE WAS “PAROLED,” HE WAS THE RUNT OF HIS LITTER WEIGHING ONLY 24 POUNDS AT 16 WEEKS OLD.

FIDDLER BECAME A 4 PAWS FOR ABILITY DOG, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT BREEDS, TRAINS AND PLACES SERVICE DOGS WITH CHILDREN AND VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES.

THE STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY INVOLVED IN THE 4 PAWS FOR ABILITY PROGRAM VOLUNTEER

TO TRAIN THE DOGS UNTIL THEY ARE READY TO MOVE ON TO ADVANCED TRAINING. THEY RECEIVE THE PUPPIES AS YOUNG AS 10 WEEKS OLD AND TYPICALLY KEEP THEM UNTIL THEY ARE A YEAR OLD. THE DOGS GO EVERYWHERE WITH THEIR STUDENT HANDLERS WHETHER IT IS A LECTURE, A TRIP TO THE MALL OR A SPORTING EVENT. THEY ARE EVENTUALLY PLACED WITH CHILDREN AND VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES. HOWEVER, BECAUSE FIDDLER DID SO WELL IN THE TRAINING AT UK, THE DOG LEFT TRAINER STUDENT PAULA AMES IN JANUARY TO TRAVEL TO ALASKA TO TRAIN FOR HIS SPECIALIZATION.— A FIRST FOR UK SERVICE DOGS IN

AMES STILL GETS UPDATES AND PHOTOS OF FIDDLER FROM THE TRAINER OF THE ALASKA PROGRAM. SHE BELIEVES HE WAS CHOSEN BASED ON HIS CALM DEMEANOR AND LOVE OF WORKING.