

The Daily News Journal

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IN SPORTS, C1



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278TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT



TAYLOR LOYAL/ DNJ

Connor White walks past a group of National Guardsmen as they are briefed after they returned home from Iraq Thursday at Smyrna Airport. Connor's older brother, Spc. Sean White, spent six months in the Middle East with the Tennessee National Guard's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Vietnam veteran greets son on return from Iraq

'I'm glad to have them back,' he says

BY TAYLOR LOYAL
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SMYRNA — John White had some words of advice for his son six months ago when he watched him head off to war for the first time.

The highly decorated Vietnam veteran spoke from experience, but not without emotion, when he instructed Spc. Sean White.

"I just told him to rely on his

training," said John White, 68. He paused, fought back tears and added, "And pray."

The two continued to talk, and pray, as often as possible via phone calls and e-mail throughout Sean White's deployment in Iraq.

Thursday, the pair were reunited at Smyrna Airport.

Sean White, 21, was among soldiers in the Tennessee National Guard's 278th Armored Cavalry

Regiment, which has been drawing down for the past few weeks and will continue to do so throughout August. More than 1,000 Guardsmen from the 278th ACR have returned from Iraq since mid-June, according to a press release from the Guard.

The Knoxville-based regiment of approximately 3,400 is coming home six months earlier than expected, and all of its units are scheduled to be back in Tennessee by the end of August.

SEE RETURN, PAGE A3

ELECTION 2010

Early voting begins today

County offices, state primaries on ballot

BY SCOTT BRODEN
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Early voting starts today for folks ready to choose their party's nominees for Congress, governor and the Tennessee General Assembly seats, as well as many county offices.

Rutherford County has 144,497 registered voters eligible to cast ballots for the Aug. 5 state primary and county election.

County Election Administrator Hooper Penuel hopes early voting will improve on the 20 percent turnout in the 2006 gubernatorial election.

"About 58 percent of registered voters in 2008 in Tennessee took advantage of early voting, which is convenient and has become very popular in our state," Penuel said. "It gives you a time during a 14-day period to cast your ballots."

In the 2006 election, Gov. Phil Bredesen and U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon easily won re-election.

SEE ELECTION, PAGE A4

INSIDE
Ballot and everything you need to know about voting, **A4**

Online
Check out dnj.com for more coverage of the election.

Murfreesboro named 20th most affordable

Money Magazine ranks cities on homes

BY MELINDA HUDGINS
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Murfreesboro has made its mark on a national level once again.

Earlier this week, the city was listed as one of the best in the country for affordable homes by Money Magazine.

With a population of over 101,000, Murfreesboro was ranked No. 20 in Money's 2010 Best Places to Live list

for the nation's small cities.

"One way to interpret that is that we're still a place that people want to migrate to," said David Penn, director of the Business and Economic Research Center at MTSU.

"Even though the number of people moving in is a lot lower than it used to be, they're still moving in," he said.

Money looked at 25 U.S. cities with a population between 50,000 and 300,000 that sold more than 100 homes in 2009 and continued to experience job

SEE AFFORDABLE, PAGE A5



JIM DAVIS/DNJ

Dave and Paul Allen stop for a short break during their daily walk along Lytle Street in Murfreesboro with their dog, Fred. Murfreesboro has been named one of the top 20 most affordable cities for homes among the nation's small cities.

INDEX • ADVICE B2 • CLASSIFIED G1 • COMICS B5 • SPORTS C1 • OBITUARIES A6 • OPINION A7 • PUZZLES B2 • WEATHER B4

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