

1-31-2006

## Murray Ledger and Times, January 31, 2006

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Tuesday, January 31, 2006

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# Caution signal placement goes 'by the book'

By TOM BERRY  
Staff Writer

Complaints concerning traffic safety at the intersection of U.S. 641 and Ky. 80 have prompted city, county, and state officials to request placement of a yellow warning beacon at the site. But placement of a three-way traffic signal will have to wait until the opening of the Murray-Mayfield section of the Kentucky 80 extension.

Keith Todd, a spokesman for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Department of Highways office in Paducah, said Monday that, according to federal guidelines used by the state for placement of traffic signals and signage, there is currently no need for a traffic light.

Todd said state transportation engineers have studied traffic flow at the intersection and concluded, based on traffic density at peak periods and the amount of time needed to make a left turn from Ky. 80 onto U.S. 641, that a traffic signal is not needed at this time.

"We'll not be putting a traffic signal up there until the next section of Ky. 80 has been opened as far as Brinn Road," he said. "The placement of traffic safety devices is based on the 'Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.' That's the national standard and, so far as I know, all of the states use that. The reason we do is so that, if you go to Tennessee or Missouri or Indiana or Illinois, that drivers should be facing the same circumstances at similar intersections nationwide."

Todd noted that he has also heard complaints from drivers about how

much time it takes to make a left turn from Ky. 80 onto U.S. 641 at peak periods of the day and have investigated the situation.

"Our guys looked at that and the timing is within the parameters for an intersection of that type," he said.

Calloway County Judge-Executive Larry Elkins said he requested the placement of a flashing, yellow light following complaints from drivers and his own concerns about the safety of the intersection.

"I have made a request for some help at that intersection, but I've more or less left it up to the engineers to decide what's best," he said. "Hopefully the caution light will work."

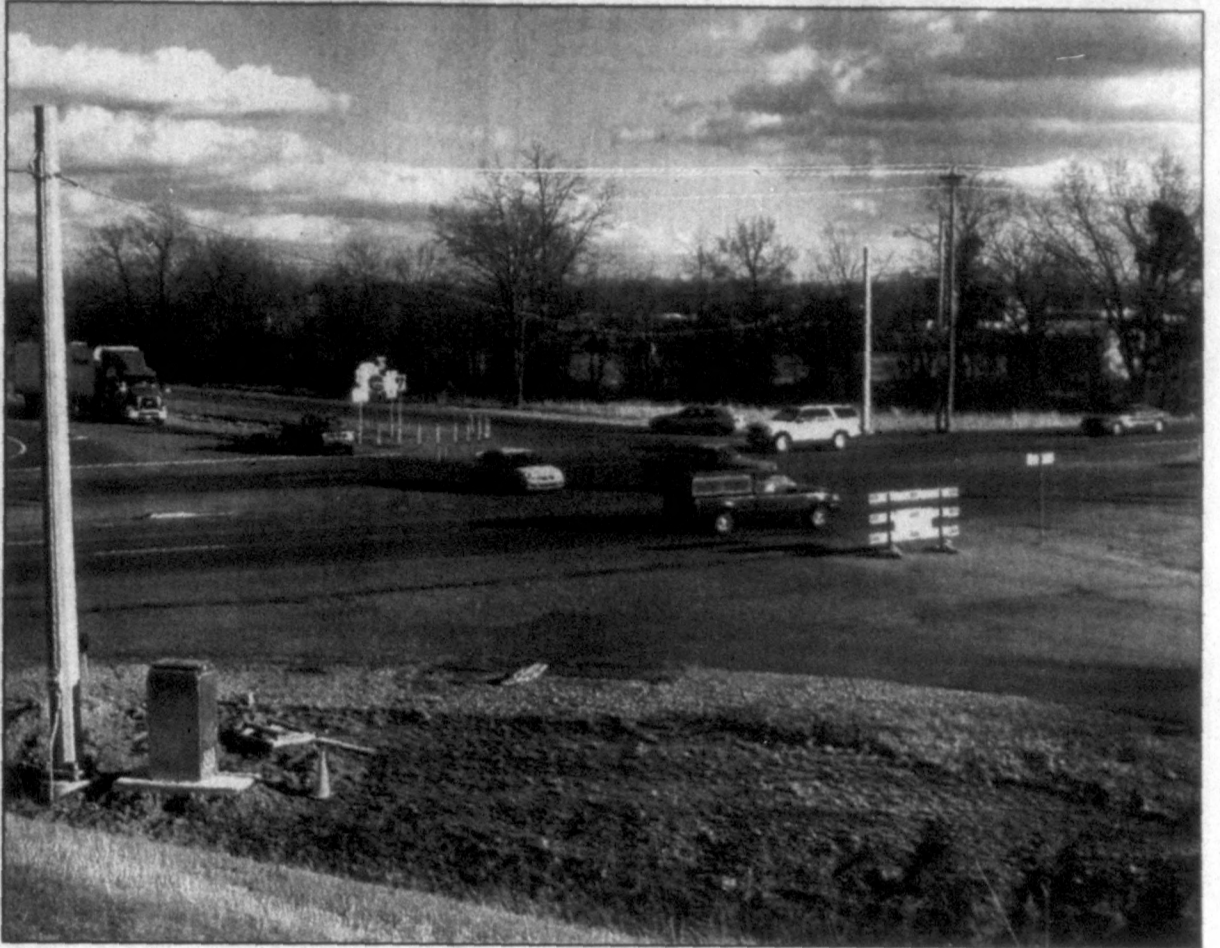
Elkins said he hopes the state will soon install ruffle-strips that will further alert drivers that they are approaching the intersection and need to take care.

"Sometimes we drive so much that we don't think about what we're doing sometimes and those ruffle strips really help," he said. "They're inexpensive and they can really wake you up."

However Todd said Tuesday that the placement of the strips is unlikely since the highway extension is expected to be continued within a year or two.

Todd said drivers are reminded to remember the rules of the road printed in the state's drivers manual.

"Everybody has to learn that to get a driver's license," he said. "When you see a flashing beacon, that's an indication that you need to slow down and be careful because there's probably going to be crossing traffic."



GREG TRAVIS/Ledger & Times Photo  
The three-way intersection of U.S. 641 and Ky. 80 has a yellow caution light, though residents have complained that there needs to be a three-light stop device there. However, state transportation officials say the traffic flow only warrants the caution light at this time.

## Paris man faces more charges

By KRISTIN TAYLOR  
Staff Writer

The Paris, Tenn., man charged in high-speed tractor-trailer chase through five counties, including Calloway, nearly a year ago faces additional offenses stemming from the theft of the vehicle he was driving. Phillip Jackson, 33, was indicted Friday on receiving stolen property more than \$300 and obscuring the identity of a machine. Both offenses are Class D felonies, which are each punishable by one to five years in prison.

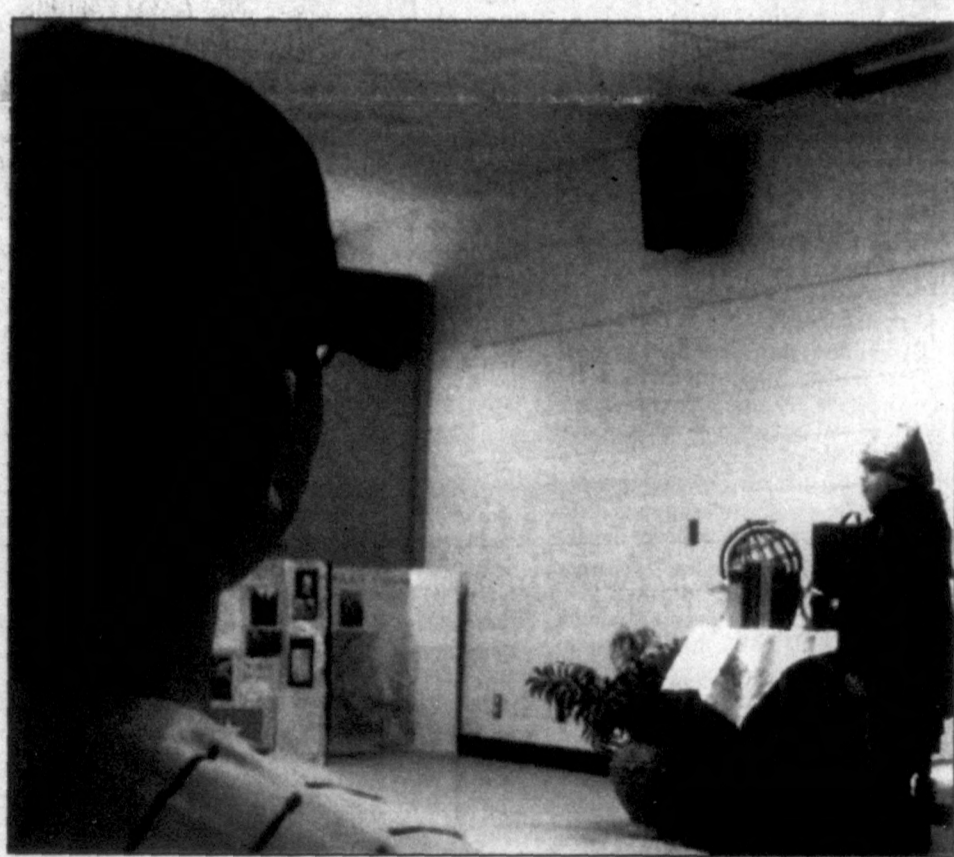
Jackson is accused for being in possession of a tractor-trailer knowing it had been stolen from Don Bush, of Huntingdon, Tenn., according to this indictment. In an affidavit, Kentucky State Police Detective Sam Steger said an investigation revealed the vehicle identification number had been removed from the trailer, which was stolen from Fort Campbell.

Jackson was in possession of the tractor-trailer when he drove it through five counties in western Kentucky and western Tennessee on Feb. 14, 2005, after it was suspected stolen from a Fulton County location. During the chase, another Puryear, Tenn., man, Levi Alexander, was shot by a former Calloway County Sheriff's deputy and died.

Steger originally charged Jackson with the additional offenses Jan. 3 at the Calloway County jail.



Jackson



## Historically Speaking

ERIC WALKER/Ledger &amp; Times Photos

The LAMP Christian Homeschool group presented its annual social studies event for the 2005-06 school year, titled "Historically Speaking," Monday night at the Calloway County Public Library. During the program, students gave oral reports on historic figures and even played the parts, which ranged from King Narmer (right, portrayed by Nathan Ward), who united Egypt in 3100 BC, to Mother Teresa. Above, Babe Ruth (aka Joseph Roso) listens to the report given by Seth Stevens, in viking garb to represent Leif Ericsson.



## Yonts posts bond after re-arrest

By KRISTIN TAYLOR  
Staff Writer

Now facing a murder charge, Harrison Yonts posted bond less than three hours after being re-arrested Monday.

Murray Police Department Detective Kendra Smith served Yonts, 20, with the indictment warrant at the police station on Poplar Street at 10:15 a.m. Monday. Yonts' father, state Rep. Brent Yonts, D-Greenville, posted \$16,000 at 12:50 p.m.

Calloway Circuit Judge Dennis Foust set Yonts' bond at a \$41,000 after the grand jury handed down an indictment Friday charging him with murder, tampering with physical evidence, driving under the influence as a minor and leaving the scene of an accident in the November hit-and-run death of 62-year-old Nadia Shaheen.

Shaheen's body was found in a ditch on Coldwater Road on the morning of Nov. 11. Yonts was arrested later that day.



Yonts

Because Yonts had posted \$25,000 cash after Calloway District Judge Jeanné Carroll reduced his \$500,000 cash bond Nov. 14, he only had to post the difference. He has surrendered his passport and is required to remain in Kentucky. His other release conditions include no drugs, no alcohol or no new arrests.

Yonts is scheduled to be arraigned in Calloway Circuit Court at 9 a.m. Feb. 13.

## The Murray Bank buys remaining Civitas ownership

Special to the Ledger

Ronnie Gibson, president of BancKentucky, Inc., The Murray Banc Holding Company, LLC and The Murray Bank, on behalf of the Board of Directors, has announced that BancKentucky, Inc., a Murray holding company, has entered into a formal agreement to purchase the remaining ownership in The Murray Banc Holding Company, LLC, from Civitas Banking Group. The proposed

purchase, pending regulatory approval, would give BancKentucky, Inc., 100 percent ownership of The Murray Banc Holding Company and The Murray Bank.

"This is something we have wanted to do for some time now, and we are excited to have 100 percent local ownership," Gibson said. "In today's environment of mergers and acquisitions,

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Tomorrow's Forecast



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## FireSheriff's logs

### Calloway County Fire-Rescue

- A brush fire was reported on Wells Purdom Drive at 1:15 p.m. Friday. Less than an acre burned during the fire between Coles Campground and Lincoln roads. Five firefighters were on the scene less than an hour.
- Twenty-one firemen responded to a mobile home fire at 291 Tearose Drive at 10:53 a.m. Saturday. Upon arrival, the residence was fully engulfed. The origin of the fire remains undetermined.
- A brush fire was reported in the back yard at a Redwater Drive residence at 11:21 a.m. Saturday.

### Calloway County Sheriff's Department

- Damage was reported to a fence on Ky. 94 East at 12:48 p.m. Friday.
- Medicine was reported stolen from Plum Lane at 5:40 p.m. Friday.
- A burglary was reported on Alford Drive at 11:59 a.m. Sunday. The mail box was reported stolen and the residence was possible entered.

— Information is obtained from reports, logs and citations from various agencies.

## Memorial fund established for MHS student Thomas

Staff Report  
Murray Ledger & Times

A memorial fund has been established for the Murray High School student killed over the weekend when the dirt bike he was riding was struck by an oncoming Jeep.

The Sean Thomas Memorial Fund was set up at the Murray-Calloway Area Technology Center Automotive Department. Gifts can be made on behalf of his mother and stepfather, Georgie and Pete Peterson, and sent to the school at 1800 Sycamore St., Murray, Ky., 42071.

For more information, call ATC Director Dennis Harper at 753-1870.

## Ky. 464 to close Wednesday

Special to the Ledger

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Department of Highways will be closing Ky. 464 in Calloway County on Wednesday. The closure is to allow the Calloway County highway maintenance crew to replace a cross-drain.

Almo Road will be closed at the 12.9 mile point in the Almo community. The road will close at approximately 7:30 a.m. after the school bus run in the morning hours.

If all goes as planned the road will be reopened by the time the bus runs in the afternoon. There will be no marked detour.

Motorists are advised to be aware of the closure and plan an alternate route. Approximately 1100 vehicles a day travel this section of Ky. 464.

## Heating assistance passes

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Some of the state's poorest residents would receive help paying their heating bills under a measure that has cleared both chambers and now heads to Gov. Ernie Fletcher to be signed into law.

The Kentucky House approved a bill Monday that would funnel \$10 million in heating aid to needy families from severance taxes on natural gas. The Senate had passed the legislation last week. Fletcher's office said he would sign the bill Tuesday.

The state funding will supplement federal emergency heating assistance being distributed to tens of thousands of needy Kentuckians this winter. The funding would flow to community action agencies across Kentucky that help the poor pay to heat their homes.

The House passed the measure 96-0 on Monday. The measure passed the Senate 36-0.

Natural gas bills in Kentucky are up about 30 percent to 50 percent this winter over a year ago, based on comparable consumption, said Andrew Melnykovych, spokesman for the Kentucky Public Service Commission. Electric rate increases generally have been in the single digits, reflecting rising coal prices, he said.

Fletcher said passage of the bill "is proof that helping our fellow citizens is not a political issue, but a public policy issue."

The bill's lead sponsor, Rep. Darryl Owens, D-Louisville, said he hopes the bipartisanship shown on the heating assistance bill continues through the remainder of the legislative session.

## Bank ...

From Front

tions, it is very important to have full control of your future and this transaction would give us that.

"From day one, we've been able to provide Murray and Calloway County with the only local independent bank that is headquartered right here and no doubt, our community as well as our customers, have benefited because of it."

Gibson said this would definitely be important for the future of the bank and its customers. "It's exciting for us to be the only, locally independent bank. We're here and no where else, but here. That's important for our institution and our customers."

"If it's customer services or problem solving, our whole business is located within our walls. Customers can deal with, and talk to, local people face to face," he added.

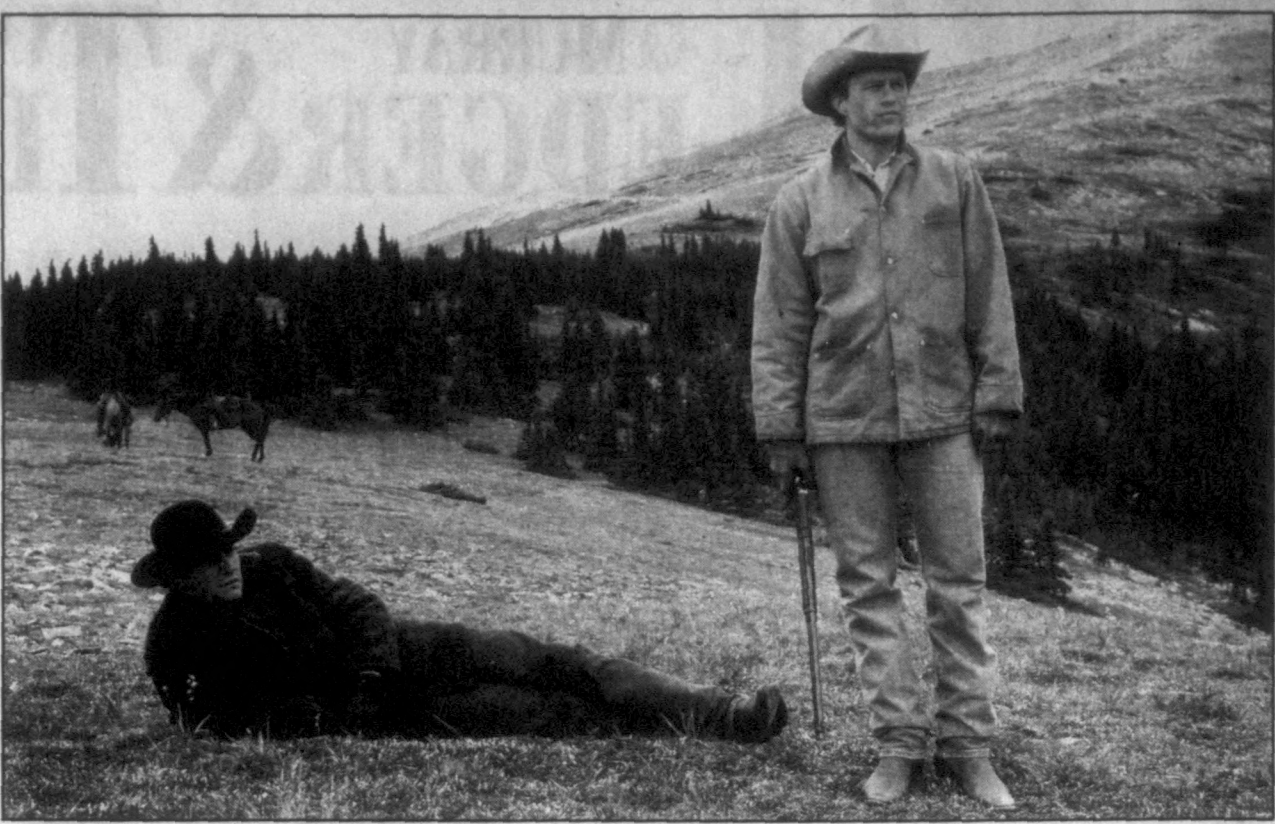
Gibson said this was certainly setting a course for the bank's

future. The proposed transaction is estimated to be worth \$8.5 million and is scheduled to be closed early in the second quarter of this year, pending regulatory approval.

The Murray Bank has offices at 405 S. 12th Street and 701 N. 12th Street. A new two-story, 7,000 square-foot facility for the North Office is presently under construction and is expected to be completed this summer. Gibson said work is currently under way, but that it would be the middle of next month before the public actually noticed the work.

"That's when some steel work will be taking shape and residents will be able to see where the vault will be housed." He said, when finished, each facility would resemble the other. "There won't be any doubt. They will favor one another."

Gibson said officials were hoping to be in the new facility by this summer.



This undated photo provided by Focus Features shows actors Jake Gyllenhaal (left) and Heath Ledger, in a scene from "Brokeback Mountain." The cowboy love story led the Academy Awards field today with eight nominations, among them best picture and honors for actors Heath Ledger, Michelle Williams, Jake Gyllenhaal and director Ang Lee.

# 'Brokeback' leads Oscar list

By DAVID GERMAIN  
AP Movie Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — The cowboy love story "Brokeback Mountain" led the Academy Awards field this morning with eight nominations, among them best picture and honors for actor Heath Ledger and director Ang Lee.

Also nominated for best picture were the Truman Capote story "Capote"; the ensemble drama "Crash"; the Edward R. Murrow chronicle "Good Night, and Good Luck"; and the assassination thriller "Munich."

The Johnny Cash biography "Walk the Line," considered a likely best-picture nominee, was shut out of that category, though Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon earned acting nominations.

Three films were tied with six nominations each — "Crash," "Good Night, and Good Luck" and "Memoirs of a Geisha," though "Geisha" was shut out in the top categories.

"Munich," which had fallen off many awards analysts' best-picture picks after a lukewarm reception, scored well with five nominations, including director for Steven Spielberg.

"King Kong," directed by "Lord of the Rings" creator Peter Jackson, earned only technical nominations, losing out in the major categories.

George Clooney picked up three nominations: as supporting actor for his role as a steadfast CIA undercover agent in "Syriana" and best director and co-writer for "Good Night."

It was the first time ever that a contender was honored with acting and directing nominations for two different movies.

Along with best-actor contender Ledger, and directing nominee Lee, "Brokeback Mountain" scored nominations for Michelle Williams as supporting actress, Jake Gyllenhaal as supporting actor and Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana for their screenplay adaptation of Annie Proulx's short story.

The acting categories were a mix of familiar Oscar faces such as past winners Judi Dench and Charlize Theron, veterans like Clooney, Witherspoon, Rachel Weisz, David Strathairn and Felicity Huffman gaining their first academy attention, and young performers such as Williams and Amy Adams.

Philip Seymour Hoffman, the best-actor favorite for his remarkable embodiment of Capote, joined Ledger in the best-actor category. Hoffman has triumphed at earlier film honors, including the Golden Globes.

Along with Hoffman, Ledger and Phoenix, the other nominees were Terrence Howard as a small-time hood turned rap singer in "Hustle & Flow" and Strathairn as newsmen Murrow in "Good Night, and Good Luck."

The best-actress race presumably will shape up as a two-woman contest between Huffman in a gender-bending role as a man about to undergo sex-change surgery in "Transamerica" and Witherspoon as singer June Carter, Cash's musical companion and future wife, in "Walk the Line."

Huffman won the Golden Globe for best dramatic actress, while Witherspoon



Oscar-winning actress Mira Sorvino, left, and Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences President Sid Ganis announce the nominations for best actor for the 78th annual Academy Awards during a televised ceremony in Beverly Hills, Calif., today. The nominees are, (from bottom left) Philip Seymour Hoffman for "Capote," Terrence Howard for "Hustle and Flow," Heath Ledger for "Brokeback Mountain," Joaquin Phoenix for "Walk the Line," and David Strathairn for "Good Night, and Good Luck."

earned the Globe for best actress in a musical or comedy. Witherspoon beat Huffman on Sunday for the best-actress prize at the Screen Actors Guild Awards.

Also nominated for the best-actress Oscar: Dench as a society dame who starts a nude stage revue in 1930s London in "Mrs. Henderson Presents"; Keira Knightley as the romantic heroine of the Jane Austen adaptation "Pride & Prejudice"; Charlize Theron as a mine worker who leads a sexual-harassment lawsuit against male co-workers in "North Country."

"Brokeback Mountain" led a wave of independent films that scored big in the nominations, instead of the studio fare that normally dominates the Oscars. Other than "Munich," most bigger budget movies that had been on the best-picture radar, such as "Walk the Line," "Memoirs of a Geisha" and "Cinderella Man," were overlooked in the top Oscar category.

The year's biggest hit, "Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith," earned only one nomination (for makeup) — but was shut out otherwise — including the visual-effects category, a blow to George Lucas and his Industrial Light & Magic outfit that has pioneered special effects. The visual effects nominees were "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe," "King Kong," and Spielberg's "War of the Worlds."

With key prizes at earlier Hollywood honors, "Brokeback Mountain" heads into the March 5 awards as the best-picture front-runner, potentially the first film with explicit homosexual themes to claim the grand prize at the Oscars.

The film stars Ledger and Gyllenhaal as Western roughnecks who share a summer of love while tending sheep together in the 1960s, then carry on a lifelong romance they conceal from their families. Williams co-stars as Ledger's wife, who overlooks her husband's affair to try to hold her family together.

Weisz, playing a humanitarian-aid worker in "The Constant Gardener," won the supporting-actress prize at the Golden

Globes and SAG awards, giving her the inside track for the same honor at the Oscars.

Along with Weisz and Williams, supporting-actress bids went to newcomer Adams as a big-hearted Southern waif in "Junebug"; Catherine Keener as "To Kill a Mockingbird" author Harper Lee in "Capote"; and Frances McDormand as a miner coping with debilitating disease in "North Country."

Besides Gyllenhaal and Clooney as a bullheaded CIA agent in "Syriana," nominees for supporting actor were Matt Dillon as a racist cop in "Crash"; Paul Giamatti as a boxing manager in "Cinderella Man"; and William Hurt as a ruthless mobster in "A History of Violence."

Hurt was a bit of surprise since he only appears for a few minutes at the end of the film in scene-stealing role.

Lee, who won the Directors Guild of America honor Saturday for "Brokeback Mountain," is the clear favorite to win the best-director Oscar.

Along with him, Spielberg and Clooney, other directing nominees were Paul Haggis for "Crash" and Bennett Miller for "Capote."

It was the first time since 1981 that the same five movies were nominated for directing and best picture.

And for the first time since the animated feature film category was added in 2001 that no nominees were made using computer-generated imagery. The nominees: the hand-drawn "Howl's Moving Castle," and the stop-motion films "Tim Burton's Corpse Bride" and "Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit."

Oscar nominees in most categories are chosen by specific branches of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, such as directors, actors and writers. The full academy membership of about 5,800 is eligible to vote in all categories for the Oscars themselves.

ABC will broadcast the Oscars live March 5 from Hollywood's Kodak Theatre, with Jon Stewart as host.

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# Alito on his way to being confirmed as S.C. justice

WASHINGTON (AP) — Samuel Anthony Alito Jr., the son of an Italian immigrant and a longtime lawyer, prosecutor and judge, is poised to take his place as the 110th Supreme Court justice behind what is expected to be the most partisan victory for a high court nominee in modern history.



Alito

Alito planned to watch his confirmation from a television in the White House's Roosevelt Room, as at least 58 senators in the GOP-controlled Senate have stated their intention to back him for retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's seat on the bench.

The 55-year-old U.S. appeals court

judge was then to be quickly sworn in at the Supreme Court before his expected appearance at Bush's annual State of the Union speech this evening with the White House's other new Supreme Court judge, Chief Justice John

Roberts. Alito will be ceremonially sworn in a second time at a White House East Room appearance on Wednesday.

Alito and Roberts are expected to lead the nine-member Supreme Court into a new conservative era following the retirement of O'Connor, the court's first female justice and a key moderate swing vote on issues like assisted suicide, campaign finance law, the death penalty and abortion.

Democrats were using Alito's confirmation vote to focus on, in this election year, Bush's decision to replace O'Connor with a former Reagan administration lawyer who worked to get the Supreme Court's landmark abortion rights decision *Roe v. Wade* overturned.

At most, six or seven Democrats were likely to vote for Alito's confirmation, the lowest number of senators not in the president's party to support a Supreme Court nominee in modern history. By comparison, Justice Clarence Thomas was confirmed in 1991 with a 52-48 vote behind the support of 11 Democrats who broke party ranks and voted for President George H.W. Bush's nominee.

Liberal Democrats even tried to rally support to filibuster Alito on Monday. "It is the only way we can stop a confirmation that we feel certain will cause irreversible damage to our country,"

said Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, the Democrats' 2004 presidential nominee.

But a bipartisan majority in the Senate blocked the effort. Thirteen Democrats who planned to vote against Alito on Tuesday said he shouldn't be filibustered, even though they worried about the direction he would take the court.

Alito "would tilt that court in a direction that will restrict personal freedoms, strengthen the role of government and corporations in our lives and allow the expansion of power of the presidency," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D.

## In fifth State of the Union address, Bush to seek to rescue presidency from a bad year

■ WKMS will air radio broadcast of Bush's speech tonight at 8 o'clock

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, in his State of the Union speech Tuesday, will offer ideas for dealing with domestic problems like high energy prices and health care and international troubles like Iran's suspected nuclear ambitions.

The unspoken agenda underpinning the address, Bush's fifth, is the rescue of his presidency from arguably its worst year.

His poll numbers fell to the lowest point of his presidency under the weight of missteps following Hurricane Katrina, soaring energy costs, the withdrawal of a Supreme Court nominee, the failure of his high-profile effort to drive a Social Security overhaul, and increasing scrutiny from the public and Congress of the unpopular Iraq war.

While Bush's approval rating has recovered slightly, it remains in the still-anemic low 40s. It is a matter of concern for Republicans as they worry about maintaining control of Congress in this fall's midterm elections.

"I can't tell you how upbeat I am about our future, so long as we're willing to lead," Bush said at a photo opportunity Monday with his Cabinet. Referring to the bitter political tone in Washington, Bush said, "I'll do my best to elevate the tone here in Washington, D.C., so we can work together to achieve big things for the American people."

Unlike last year's focus on Social Security, an initiative that failed, Bush's emphasis will be more diffuse, with proposals aimed at taming health care costs, moving America away from its dependence on foreign energy sources, remaining competitive in the global economy, and getting the ballooning federal deficit under control.

Those four areas also are driving Bush's post-speech travel. The White House says Bush will give one major speech per week for the next four weeks and in each lay out one domestic initiative he introduces on Tuesday.

Bush travels Thursday to Maplewood, Minn., to talk about competitiveness agenda. He also is traveling this week to Nashville, Tenn., Albuquerque, N.M., and Dallas.

McClellan said the State of

the Union address has now gone through about two dozen drafts. The president had what was likely be his final two practice sessions with the remarks Monday morning in the White House's Family Theater.

Bush is expected to propose expanding health saving accounts, the high-deductible health care plan that allows Americans to contribute money tax-free to 401 (k)-like health savings plans, as well as greater tax deductions for out-of-pocket medical expenses.

On the global front, Bush said Monday that the United States and its allies were united in saying Iran must not be allowed to possess a nuclear weapon.

"We're working on the tactics necessary to continue putting a united front out," Bush told reporters. "The other thing is that we want the people of Iran to be able to live in a free society. And so tomorrow night, I am going to talk about this issue and make clear the policy of the United States."

Democrats offered advance criticism of Bush's speech.

The chairmen of the Democratic campaign committees — New York Sen. Charles Schumer and Illinois Rep. Rahm Emanuel — dismissed the idea of health savings accounts and Bush's expected talk of bipartisanship.

"Each year he talks about bipartisanship and he is the most partisan president we've had," said Schumer, arguing that President Reagan worked with Democrats and President

Clinton did the same with Republicans.

"He may say it, but the rhetoric will never match with the reality," Emanuel said.

On health savings accounts, Schumer said: "We believe that health savings accounts don't solve any of the health care problems. The uninsured are not going to be helped." He vowed to fight the president's proposal.

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., took to the floor of the Senate to criticize Bush.

"Americans know our country can do better than today, and after the year we just had — a year of Katrina, unending violence in Iraq, Terri Schiavo, Social Security privatization, Harriet Meirs, the Medicare mess — Americans will no longer be willing to blindly accept the president's promises and give him the benefit of the doubt," Reid said.

"Empty promises will no longer cut it," Reid said. "We need a credible roadmap for our future. And we need the president to tell us how, together, we can achieve the better America that we all envision."

Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine was chosen to deliver the State of the Union response for Democrats. Previewing his remarks, he told The Associated Press, "I want to contrast what I consider to be an administration that is super partisan and not really able to deliver results with a different model, a better way, which is what we've been doing in Virginia and other states."

## Looking Back



KRISTIN TAYLOR/Ledger & Times

Murray Fire Chief Ricky Stewart (center) retires today after being with the department since 1978. During his reception Monday, he looked through photo albums with fellow firefighters (from left) Tim Bradshaw, Johnnie Yarborough, Steven Lax and Kevin Munsey.

## Forecast

Tonight will be partly cloudy with lows in the mid 30s.

Wednesday will be mostly cloudy with highs in the mid 50s. Wednesday night will have a 20% chance of rain and lows in the lower 40s.

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## Talkin' 'bout Revolution

Why did John Hancock sign the Declaration of Independence with a bold flourish? What role did Nancy Morgan Hart play in the American Revolution? Who actually completed Paul Revere's midnight ride?



**Main Street**  
By Constance Alexander  
Ledger & Times  
Columnist

While many adults are at a loss in the face of such questions, 5th graders at Paducah's Clark Elementary can reel off the answers with ease, thanks to teacher Julie Sheffer's unit integrating social studies and writing.

The activity began with the history text and a study of the American Revolution. After that, kids chose topics they wanted to learn more about. Next was a session in the computer lab to find additional information. Then they rolled up their sleeves and really got to work. Writing involved making sure they got the facts straight at the same time they found ways to create an informative piece that would keep a reader's interest.

Last Friday, the students presented their final drafts. One by one, they stood in the front of the room and read their work to an appreciative audience.

Alex kicked off with his title, "How It Started," and proceeded to describe events leading up to the Boston Tea Party. In the next presentation, Victoria revealed that John Hancock's distinctive signature on the Declaration of Independence was intended to make sure King George could read it without having to put on his spectacles.

Shelby and Bobby read their work next, followed by Isaac, who itemized the reasons Thomas Jefferson was chosen as the main writer of the Declaration. "He had tons of political connections," he reported.

Meredith, whose ponytail bobbed cheerfully while she talked, chronicled the high points from the life of George Washington. "Aw, he's so cute," were the words she imagined spoken at the birth of the first president.

The events of April 18, 1775, were recounted by Belle. Her detailed account revealed that

William Dawes and Samuel Prescott actually finished the appointed route when Paul Revere was stopped by British soldiers.

Soft-spoken Josie titled her report, "What Really Happened in 1776." She presented overlooked details such as the fact that there were six George's who signed the Declaration of Independence, but G. Washington was not one of them.

The roles of minorities and women in the Revolution were also highlighted. William talked about former slave Crispus Attucks, killed in the Boston Massacre. Caroline provided information about three courageous women of the time, including Nancy Morgan Hart, a six foot tall, flaming redhead who was said to be a crack shot with a musket when she aimed at a Tory.

In his narrative about the major battles of the American Revolution, Kyler imagined "blood splattered in every direction," during Bunker Hill. With a blue bow in her ponytail, Susannah talked about the five men responsible for authoring the Declaration of Independence - Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston and Roger Sherman.

Taylor's writing focused on the Stamp Act, and Kayla's divulged the little-known fact that George was Martha Washington's second husband. Molly Pitcher was one of the notable women mentioned in Jordan's research project and Sarah, last but not least, explained that one of Thomas Jefferson's many accomplishments was to found University of Virginia.

It was an hour well-spent, 60 minutes devoted to an important epoch in early America. While no standardized test could claim to capture the kids' new-found knowledge, years from now some of them are likely to recall the day they celebrated the American Revolution in Ms. Julie Sheffer's classroom.

Two Websites that contain U.S. History in child-size portions are: [www.socialstudiesforkids.com](http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com) and [www.kidinfo.com](http://www.kidinfo.com).

Read Main Street online at [www.murrayledger.com](http://www.murrayledger.com). Contact the columnist directly at [constancealexander@charter.net](mailto:constancealexander@charter.net).

## THE JACY ABRAMOFF Corruption SCANDAL EXPLAINED



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## Fletcher weighs in on Murray State budget issue

Lately, I have read with disappointment and disbelief some of the accusations hurled at my administration, particularly my Finance Secretary Robbie Rudolph, in response to funding included for Murray State University in my budget proposal.



**Governor's Report**  
By Ernie Fletcher  
Kentucky Governor

First, let me make it abundantly clear that as your governor, I am responsible for the budget I present to the General Assembly. My budget saves taxpayers by reducing the cost of operating government, and it sets goals to move us from the bottom of national ratings in four areas to the national average or higher in the next decade. Why? Because Kentuckians deserve better than being at the bottom.

My budget will help move Kentucky from 45th in the number of citizens with high school diplomas to the national average or higher in the next decade. Toward this goal, I have fully funded preschool, increased teacher compensation by 6.5 percent and added \$59 million to bring our schools up to date in technology. In total, I added over \$500 million in new funding to primary and secondary education that will markedly improve student achievement.

The budget will go through many changes before its final passage by the General Assembly and my signing it into law. But first, I would like to clarify how funding for western Kentucky projects was developed and respond to false allegations directed at my staff.

The funding formula attributed to Secretary Robbie Rudolph by Murray State University Interim President Kern Alexander was in actuality accomplished under the guidance of Dr. Tom Layzell, president of the Council on Postsecondary Education, as required by HB 1. The benchmarks used to allocate that funding were agreed upon by Murray State's then-President, King Alexander. In other words, the portion of all higher education funding

that was included in my budget proposal was agreed upon in advance by Murray State's leadership.

As budget discussions focused on the specific projects for higher education, Secretary Rudolph recused himself from any discussions related to Murray State funding because of his affirmative bias toward his alma mater. The notion that Secretary Rudolph had anything to do with the funding demonstrates a lack of understanding for the state procedures involved in the budget preparation process.

It is interesting that both of the Alexanders have chosen to express their distaste with my budget proposal after it was presented rather than bringing their priorities personally to me or the budget office during its preparation.

Most university presidents regularly visit Frankfort to personally meet with my staff and lobby for their schools' priorities, but neither of the Alexanders chose to do so.

I don't know interim President Kern Alexander. He never visited me while I served in congress, unlike most other university presidents, including those of private colleges, nor has he visited me since I became Governor. I cannot speak for his character. I can, however, speak volumes for Secretary Robbie Rudolph's character, and it is impeccable.

From his mission work in Brazil, to his generosity to his community, Robbie's actions speak well of his integrity and his compassion for people. He has always emphasized that we must do things right and he has been a champion in my administration for western Kentucky and for Murray State.

Robbie has made tremendous personal sacrifices to serve my administration in Frankfort. He has done so because of his strong commitment to make Kentucky a better place.

During his tenure, he has saved the taxpayers literally millions of dollars that will be used for health care and education, including higher education. In fact, his cabinet has increased the collection of delinquent taxes by \$80 million over the last two years. That additional money allowed us to increase funding to higher education,

including Murray State, without raising taxes, to a level that is 10th highest in the nation.

It has been wisely stated that where your treasure is, so is your heart. I know and I believe the local community knows where Robbie's heart is. He has regularly and generously donated his time and talent to Murray State and is consistently one of the top private donors.

In my budget address, I stated that I would like to do more for higher education. In fact, I could do more if the General Assembly approves our plan for the Master Settlement Tobacco Agreement (MSA) that would yield about \$150 million in additional funds each year for Kentucky. In my budget address, I committed \$40 million of that settlement to higher education, much of which would increase funding to Murray State.

We have and will continue to work to bring more jobs and opportunity to western Kentucky. In fact, our support of the new Technical Center in Paducah will give us an immediate return on investment preparing a workforce and bringing jobs to Kentucky, while we are also breaking ground on Phase II of Murray State's science building, which I funded last year, and beginning the student dorm, which is in my current budget.

Many more higher education projects were requested than could be responsibly funded and I had to make tough choices that would benefit the commonwealth as a whole. Other university presidents who didn't get all their requests fulfilled have personally expressed their concern and I have pledged to work toward funding these projects as soon as possible.

President Alexander has made no such contact or request. I believe that Murray State would be better served if its president focused his attention on constructive legislation rather than personal attacks that have little to do with furthering Murray State's ability to grow and improve.

As with all of our universities, I will continue to support Murray State's efforts to excel. I hope that the Murray State's future leadership will partner with Robbie and me to accomplish that goal.

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- Alice Rouse, Publisher .....arouse@murrayledger.com
- Eric Walker, Editor .....editor@murrayledger.com
- Sloane Cansler, Advertising Mgr. ....ads@murrayledger.com
- Jill Stephens, Classifieds Mgr. ....classified@murrayledger.com
- Circulation .....circulation@murrayledger.com
- Tammy Thompson, Office Mgr. ....thompson@murrayledger.com
- Rita Boggess, Business Mgr. ....rboggess@murrayledger.com
- Tom Bell, Production Mgr. ....mlt@murrayledger.com

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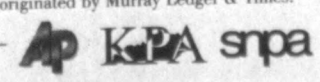
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**Obituaries**

**Mrs. Veleta Nell Walston**

Mrs. Veleta Nell Walston, 82, Flint Road, Murray, died Monday, Jan. 30, 2006, at 2 p.m. at Murray-Calloway County Hospital. Blalock-Coleman & York Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

**Sean Michael Thomas**

The funeral for Sean Michael Thomas will be today (Tuesday) at 2 p.m. in the chapel of J.H. Churchill Funeral Home. Garry Vacca will officiate. Music will be by the choir of Liberty Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Pallbearers will be Hal Kemp, Will Kemp, Megan Furgerson, Drew Furgerson, Wes Furgerson, Jeff Thomas, J.J. Webb and Drew Stephens. Burial will follow in the Murray City Cemetery. Visitation is now at the funeral home.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to Murray-Calloway County Area Technology Center, Att. Mitchell McNutt, 1800 Sycamore St., Murray, KY 42071.

Mr. Thomas, 16, St. Line Rd. West, Puryear, Tenn., died Saturday, Jan. 28, 2006, at 6:40 p.m. from injuries sustained in a motorcycle-automobile accident.

A student at Murray High School, he was a member of Liberty Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Preceding him in death was his grandfather, Ed Thomas.

Survivors include his mother and stepfather, Georgie and Pete Peterson, Puryear; his father and stepmother, Ken and Diane Thomas, and one brother, Jeff Thomas, all of Summerville, S.C.; grandparents, Bill and Hazel Furgerson and Dale and Geraldine Cunningham, all of Murray; several aunts, uncles and cousins.

**Mrs. Geneva Giles**

The funeral for Mrs. Geneva Giles was Monday at 2 p.m. in the chapel of J.H. Churchill Funeral Home. The Rev. Terry Garvin officiated.

Active pallbearers were Hulon Giles, Corden Giles, Wayne Powell, David Powell, Matt Smiley, Nick Meriwether and Daniel Pitts. An honorary group was members of the Adam and Eve Sunday School Class of First Baptist Church. Burial was in the Murray City Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to Dr. Howard Giles Scholarship Fund, 106 Development and Alumni Affairs Center, Murray State University, Murray, KY 42071, or Angels Attic, 972 Chestnut St., Murray, KY 42071.

Mrs. Giles, 75, Oxford Drive, Murray, died Saturday, Jan. 28, 2006, at 9:55 a.m. at her home.

She had received her bachelor of science degree from Austin Peay University, Clarksville, Tenn., and her master of science degree

from Murray State University. A former associate home demonstration agent for Christian County and a former home demonstration agent for Bourbon County, she had also been a home management specialist for Purdue University. She was a volunteer at Angels Attic and an avid quilter.

Mrs. Giles was a member of First Baptist Church and of the Adam and Eve Sunday School Class at the church.

One son, Howard C. Giles, and one brother, Ralph Powell, both preceded her in death. Born Sept. 13, 1950, in Sango, Tenn., she was the daughter of the late Jessie Powell and Mable Hunter Powell.

Survivors include her husband, Dr. Howard Giles; one son, Tim Giles and wife, Kay, Elizabethtown; two brothers, Winfred Powell and wife, Zola, and Billy Powell and wife, Betty, all of Sango, Tenn.; four grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

**Mrs. Dortha M. Cope**

A graveside service for Mrs. Dortha M. Cope will be today (Tuesday) at 1 p.m. at the Stewart Cemetery. The Rev. David Allbritten will officiate.

Visitation is now at Imes-Miller Funeral Home of Murray.

Mrs. Cope, 80, North Sixth Street, Murray, died Sunday, Jan. 29, 2006, at 5:35 a.m. at Murray-Calloway County Hospital.

She was a member of Spring Creek Baptist Church.

Her husband, Galen Cope, and one son, David Lee Cope, both preceded her in death. Born May 9, 1925, she was the daughter of the late Louis Butler and Ola Goheen Butler.

Survivors include one daughter, Mrs. Pauletta Donelson, Murray; three sisters, Mrs. Betty Blagg and Mrs. Virginia Stroud, both of Murray, and Mrs. Rosemary Herdman, Clarksville, Tenn.; four grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

**Mrs. Linda Carol Thweatt**

The funeral for Mrs. Linda Carol Thweatt will be today (Tuesday) at 1 p.m. in the chapel of Collier Funeral Home, Benton. The Rev. Chris Coty will officiate. Burial will follow in the Edwards Cemetery, Benton.

Visitation is now at the funeral home.

Mrs. Thweatt, 46, Murray Highway, Benton, died Sunday, Jan. 29, 2006, at 1:30 a.m. at her home.

An optician for Lense Crafters of Paducah, she was a former real estate agent. She was a member of Grace International Church, Paducah.

Her father, Charles McGregor, preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband, Jimmy Thweatt; one son, Jake Thweatt, Benton; two stepsons, Jon Thweatt, Paducah, and Gary Thweatt, Sturgis; her mother, Mrs. Martha Cothran Hopper, and stepfather, Bill Hopper, Benton; one sister, Mrs. Joyce Thompson, North Carolina; four grandchildren; one niece.

**Charles Richard Hollandsworth**

Visitation and services for Charles Richard Hollandsworth will be held at a later date at the Glenn Haven Memorial Park, Donaldsville, Ohio. Collier Funeral Home of Benton is in charge of arrangements.



Expressions of sympathy may be made to DAV Memorial Program, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301 or Hardin Baptist Church, 6867 U.S. Hwy. 641 North, Hardin, KY 42048.

Mr. Hollandsworth, 76, Walnut Grove Road, Benton, died Friday, Jan. 27, 2006, at 4:35 p.m. at Brithaven of Benton.

A Navy veteran of the Korean Conflict, he was a truck driver for Railway Express. He was a member of Hardin Baptist Church.

One great-granddaughter, Abigail Ramirez, preceded him in death. He was the son of the late Charles Roy Hollandsworth and Edna Estella Stultz Hollandsworth.

Survivors include one daughter, Mrs. Karen Barton, Dayton, Ohio; two grandchildren, Rev. Eric Wright, Kansas, and Loretta Ramirez, Dayton; two sisters, Mrs. Ruth Dorles Bowling, Benton, and Mrs. Roberta Setters, Fairborn, Ohio; two great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

**Mrs. Teresa Michele (Terri) Grace**

The funeral for Mrs. Teresa Michele (Terri) Grace will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Trigg County Baptist Church, Cadiz. The Rev. Larry Nichols and the Rev. Mike Rust will officiate. Burial will follow in the New Salem Cemetery, Nortonville.

Visitation will be at King's Funeral Home, Cadiz, after 4 p.m. today (Tuesday) and 6 to 9:30 a.m. Wednesday and at the church after 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to Trigg County Baptist Church, P.O. Box 395, Cadiz, KY 42211 or to The Gideons International, P.O. Box 65, Cadiz, KY 42211.

Mrs. Grace, 45, Bay Lane, Cadiz, died Saturday, Jan. 28, 2006, at 5:15 p.m. Her death was from injuries sustained in an automobile accident at Clarksville, Tenn. A homemaker, she was a member of Trigg County Baptist Church. She was born Sept. 12, 1960, in Hopkinsville. Her stepfather, Louis Gamblin, preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband, Barry Grace, to whom she had been married for 24 years; one daughter, Cayce Grace, Murray; father, Edward Elmo Hancock, Princeton; mother, Mrs. Barbara Ann Gamblin, Madisonville; two sisters, Mrs. Vicki Harrell, Owensboro, and Ms. Kimberli Gamblin, Madisonville; three brothers, Michael Hancock, Providence, Kevin Gamblin, Madisonville, and Brent Hancock, Princeton.

**Coretta Scott King, wife of MLK, dies at 78**

ATLANTA (AP) — Coretta Scott King, who turned a life shattered by her husband's assassination into one devoted to enshrining his legacy of human rights and equality, has died, former mayor Andrew Young told NBC Tuesday morning. She was 78.

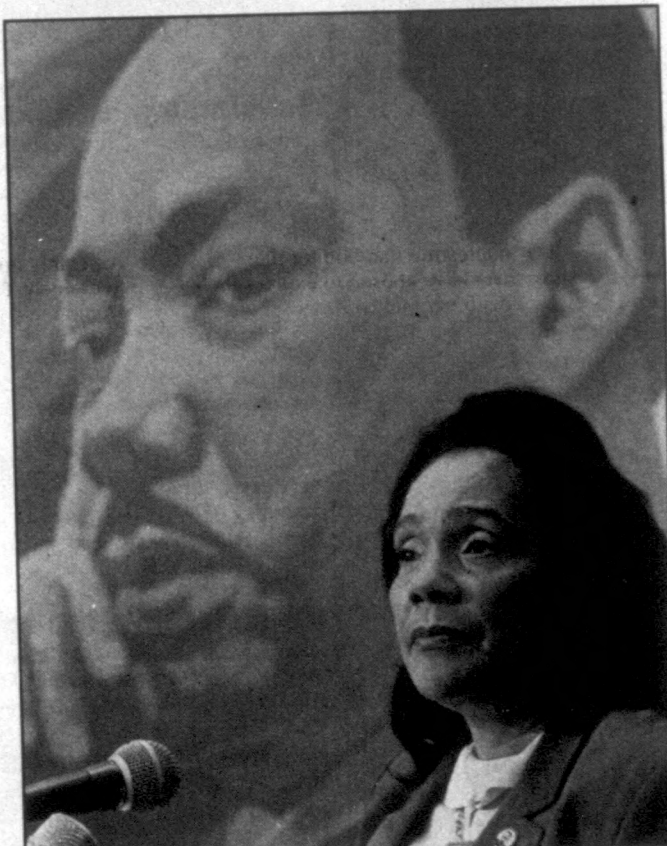
Young, who was a former civil rights activist and was close to the King family, broke the news during a phone call he made to the "Today" show. "I was not expecting it. She has been ill for last few months. My first reaction was she was ready to cross on over."

Asked how he found out about her death, Young said: "I understand she was asleep last night and her daughter tried to wake her up."

Markel Hutchins, a close family friend of the Kings, told The Associated Press he spoke early this morning with Bernice King, who confirmed her mother's passing.

Efforts by The Associated Press to reach the family were unsuccessful. They did not immediately return phone calls, but flags at the King Center were lowered to half-staff Tuesday morning.

King suffered a serious



Coretta Scott King, widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., is shown at a news conference in Atlanta announcing 10 days of events for the first federal holiday honoring the slain civil rights leader in this Jan. 11, 1986, file photo. Coretta Scott King has died, former ambassador Andrew Young told NBC Tuesday. She was 78.

stroke and heart attack in 2005.

She was a supportive lieutenant to her husband, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., during the most tumultuous days of the American civil rights movement. She had married him in 1953.

After her husband's assassination in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968, she kept his dream alive while also raising their four children.

She worked to keep his ideology of equality for all people at the forefront of the nation's agenda. She goaded and pulled for more than a decade to have her husband's birthday observed as a national holiday, then watched with pride in 1983 as President Reagan signed the bill into law. The first federal holiday was celebrated in 1986.

King became a symbol, in her own right, of her husband's struggle for peace and brotherhood, presiding with a quiet, steady, stoic presence over seminars and conferences on global issues.

"I'm more determined than ever that my husband's dream will become a reality," King said soon after his slaying, a demonstration of the strong will that lay beneath the placid calm and

**"I understand she was asleep last night and her daughter tried to wake her up."**

**— Andrew Young  
Former mayor of Atlanta to  
NBC news**

dignity of her character.

She was devoted to her children and considered them her first responsibility. But she also wrote a book, "My Life With Martin Luther King Jr.," and, in 1969, founded the multimillion-dollar Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

King saw to it that the center became deeply involved with the issues she said breed violence — hunger, unemployment, voting rights and racism.

"The center enables us to go

out and struggle against the evils in our society," she often said.

After her stroke, King missed the annual King holiday celebration in Atlanta in January 2006, but she did appear with her children at an awards dinner a couple of days earlier, smiling from her wheelchair but not speaking. The crowd gave her a standing ovation.

At the same time, the King Center's board of directors was considering selling the site to the National Park Service to let the family focus less on grounds maintenance and more on King's message. But two of the four children were strongly against such a move.

Coretta Scott was studying voice at the New England Conservatory of Music and planning on a singing career when a friend introduced her to Martin Luther King, a young Baptist minister working toward a Ph.D. at Boston University.

"She said she wanted me to meet a very promising young minister from Atlanta," King once said, adding with a laugh, "I wasn't interested in meeting a young minister at that time."

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| AT&T, Inc.           | 26.01 - 0.04     | Kroger             | 18.29 - 0.06  |
| BB&T                 | 39.11 - 0.47     | Mattel             | 16.11 + 0.31  |
| Bell South           | 28.76 - 0.05     | McDonalds          | 35.12 + 0.10  |
| Briggs & Stratton    | 34.71 - 0.27     | Merck              | 34.77 + 0.31  |
| Bristol Myers Squibb | 22.78 - 0.05     | Microsoft          | 27.93 - 0.07  |
| Caterpillar          | 66.89 - 0.12     | J.C. Penney        | 55.71 - 0.43  |
| Chevron Texaco Corp  | 60.00 - 0.75     | Pepsico, Inc.      | 57.22 - 0.42  |
| Daimler Chrysler     | 57.06 - 0.25     | Pfizer, Inc.       | 25.85 - 0.09  |
| Dean Foods           | 37.68 + 0.38     | Regions Financial  | 33.38 - 0.01  |
| Exxon-Mobil          | 63.29 + 0.18     | Schering-Plough    | 19.47 - 0.10  |
| Ford Motor           | 8.63 - 0.05      | Sears Holding Corp | 119.91 - 1.53 |
| General Electric     | 32.91 - 0.02     | Time Warner        | 17.34 - 0.21  |
| General Motors       | 24.01 - 0.33     | US Bancorp         | 29.65 - 0.04  |
| GlaxoSmithKline ADR  | 51.15 - 0.04     | UST                | 39.25 - 0.10  |
| Goodyear             | 39.47 - 0.11     | WellPoint Inc.     | 75.51 + 0.05  |
| HopFed Bank*         | 15.98 B 16.19 A  | Wal-Mart           | 46.29 - 0.12  |

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## 100th birthday celebration held at local nursing home

Novella Kenley of Murray was honored at a birthday reception held in celebration of her 100th birthday on Jan. 15 at 3 p.m. at West View Nursing Home.

Hosting the event were members of her family.

Ms. Kenley is one of 12 children born to Charlie and Alice Kenley of Calloway County.

A sister is Louise Guess, a resident of Fern Terrace Lodge, Murray. A brother is Author Kenley of Detroit, Mich.

Nieces include Florence Kenley Hudspeth and nephews include J.L. Kenley and Glenn Kenley.

She has many great and great-great nieces and nephews.



Novella Kenley

## Jones receives award for the second year

Megan De-Mae Jones has been notified of her acceptance into the publication, "Who's Who Among American High School Students" for the second year in a row.

Since she is a multi-year honoree, Jones has been inducted into the "Who's Who Honor Society of Gifted Students."

Jones has also received the National Honor Roll award for the second time and has been invited to attend the 2006 National Youth Leadership Forum of Medicine.

A sophomore at Calloway County High School, Jones is a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Future Business Leaders of America. She attends Bethel United Methodist Church.

She is the daughter of Terry and Tresa Jones and sister of Tiffany Jones.

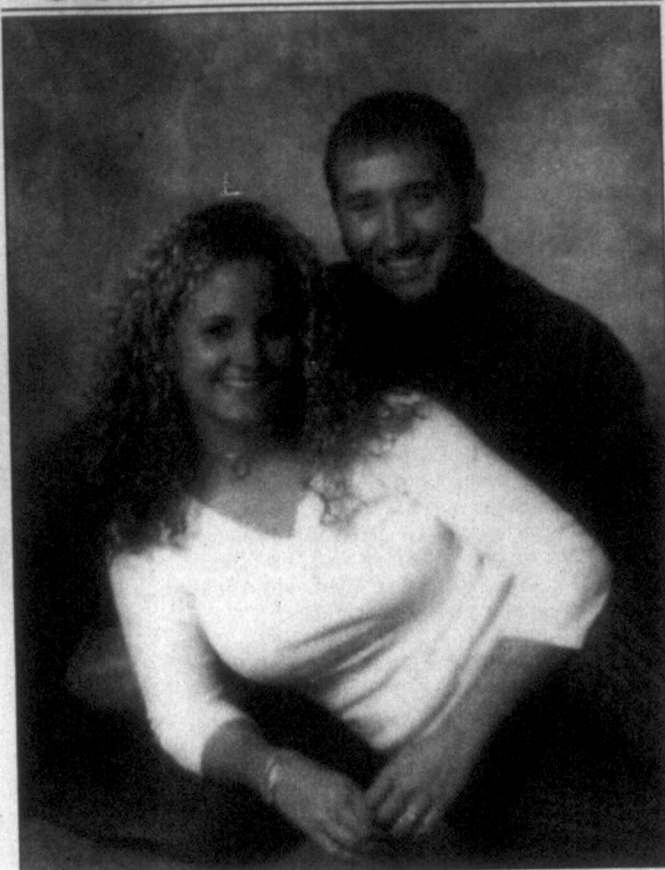
Her grandparents are William



Megan De-Mae Jones

Dee and Fronie Eldridge, Alton Jones and Sue Turner. Her great-grandmother is Dora Ann Jones of Murray.

## Engagement



## McCuiston and McClure

Mr. and Mrs. Terry McCuiston of Murray announce the engagement of their daughter, Britany Raye McCuiston, to Jonathan Nicholas McClure, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nick McClure of Murray.

Miss McCuiston is the granddaughter of Ms. Cozy McCuiston and the late Guy McCuiston of Murray and of Charles Copeland and the late Ms. Patsy Alexander of Graves County.

Mr. McClure is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Higgins of Murray.

The bride-elect, a 2004 graduate of Calloway County High School, is currently attending West Kentucky Community Tech College majoring in nursing. She is currently employed as a medication assistant at West View Nursing Home.

The groom-elect, a 2000 graduate of Calloway County High School, is a 2002 graduate of Paducah Technical School with an associate degree in electronics. He is employed as a CI Tech at Pella Corporation in Murray.

Wedding plans will be announced later.

## PolICASTRI receives recognition by society

Murray-Calloway County Hospital is pleased to announce that Anne Policastri, associate vice president of support services, was recently named a Fellow of the Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists

at their fall meeting held in Lexington, KY in November.

The award recognizes excellence in pharmacy practice and grants recognition to Kentucky pharmacists who have distinguished themselves in pharmacy practice. Criteria for this award includes:

- Must have practiced in a concentrated area of pharmacy for at least 10 years.
- Must have demonstrated sustained practice excellence.
- Must have contributed to the total body of knowledge in pharmacy practice.
- Must have demonstrated ongoing involvement in and commitment to educating practitioners.

■ Must support the profession through active membership and participation in KSHP.

Policastri came to MCCH in 2005, assuming the position of associate vice president of Support Services. She has also served as director of pharmacy at the Trover Foundation Regional Medical Center, Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator at Owensboro-Mercy Health Systems, Clinical Pharmacist at Baptist Regional Medical Center, and pharmacist at Central Baptist Hospital. Policastri received her doctor of pharmacy from the University of Kentucky and recently received her MBA from Murray State University.

Policastri is a frequent speaker for the Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists and is involved in other societies including the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and the Kentucky Pharmacists Association. Additionally, Policastri has received many awards including the Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmacy Leadership Award, the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy Preceptor of the Year, Merck Pharmacists Achievement Award, and the McKesson Drug Company Leadership Award.



Anne Policastri

"It is an honor to be recognized by your peers for your career performance," said Anne Policastri.

## Kentucky Public Retirees to meet at Paducah Thursday



Jo's Datebook  
By Jo Burkeen  
Community Editor

The Purchase Area Chapter of Kentucky Public Retirees will meet Thursday at 11 a.m. at Pizza Inn, 1001 Joe Clifton Dr., Paducah, for a combined luncheon and business meeting.

Crystal Williams will be speaker discussing Medicare Part D.

All retirees of the Kentucky Retirement System from Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Marshall and McCracken County Retirement Systems and Kentucky State Police Retirement System are encouraged to attend.

For more information call 1-270-488-3365 or 1-270-444-7335.

## Glory Bound will be Thursday

Chris Allen and The Smith Glory will be the featured artists at Glory Bound Christian Entertainment Ministry on Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the new Goshen Family Fellowship Center, 4726 Ky. Hwy. 121 North at Stella. The public is invited and there is no charge. Items for Need Line will be taken. For more information call Joe Lawrence at 753-5643, Renee Taylor at 753-8124 or Patrick Lea at 761-2666.

## MHS Fastpitch Club will meet

Murray High School Fastpitch Club will meet Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Schedules, fundraisers and field work will be on the agenda. All members are encouraged to attend. All persons interested in the girls softball program at Murray High and Murray Middle Schools are invited and welcomed to attend.

## Blood Drive will be Wednesday

The Blood Bank of Murray-Calloway County Hospital will have a blood drive on Wednesday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Poplar Spring Baptist Church. For information call 762-1119.

## Grandparents group will meet

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group for Murray and Calloway County will meet Wednesday at noon at the Murray Resource Center, located in the Murray Board of Education building, 208 South 13th St., Murray. Darlene Cronin, MSW, will lead the group in an "Ask the Counselor" question and answer session. Lunch will be served. All grandparents or relatives raising grandchildren are encouraged to attend. For free transportation call the center at 759-9592.

## Scholarship deadline Wednesday

The deadline to file for scholarships for the 2006-07 school year at Murray State University will be Wednesday. Applications are available online at [www.murraystate.edu/scholarships](http://www.murraystate.edu/scholarships). For more information call the scholarship office at 762-5346.

## Martin's Chapel UMW will meet

The United Methodist Women of Martin's Chapel United Methodist Church will meet Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at the guest. The guest speaker will be Rhea Flannery who will discuss her mission trip to London, England and The Bahamas. All interested persons are invited.

## Shrine Club will meet

Murray Shrine Club and Ladies of The Nile will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the club building on Ky. Hwy. 121 North. All members and prospective members are encouraged to attend. A meal will be served.

## Russell Chapel plans promotion

The youth of Russell Chapel United Methodist Church will have a rebate day at Captain D's on first Thursday. Customers are asked to tell the cashier they are there for the youth group.

## Health Express lists stop

Health Express will offer lipid profiles and blood pressure and pulse checks on Thursday from 7 to 11 a.m. and noon to 2 p.m. at Office Depot, Murray.

## CCHS Laker Band plans event

Calloway County High School Laker Band will have a chili supper and auction on Friday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. This will include chili, hot dog, baked potato, dessert and drink for \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance from any of the band students.

## Republicans will meet tonight

Calloway County Republicans will gather at 7 p.m. tonight at the party headquarters on Ky. Hwy. 121 North to celebrate President Bush's State of the Union Address to the nation. Refreshments will be served as the group watches and celebrates the nation's leadership on big screen TV. All Republicans and Conservative Democrats are invited to attend.

## MES Council will meet

Murray Elementary School Site-based Decision Making Council will meet today at 4 p.m. in the conference room of the school. All interested persons are invited.

## Singles will meet tonight

Murray Singles (SOS) will meet tonight at 7 p.m. in the annex of Calloway Public Library. Plans will be discussed for the Singles Valentine Dance to be Feb. 10 from 7:30 to 1:1 p.m. at Joe Creason Building at city park at Benton. This is open to all singles. For information call Mike at 759-3180 or Pat at 489-2909.

## Al-Anon meeting tonight

Al-Anon will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. Please enter from the southside rear door located near the playground. The only requirement is that there be a problem of alcoholism or addiction in a relative or friend.

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Looking Back

10 years ago
The United Way of Murray and Calloway County held its victory celebration and annual meeting last night to celebrate the end of the 1995-96 campaign exceeding the goal of \$280,000.

20 years ago
Published is a picture of State Superintendent of Instruction Alice McDonald announcing two pilot adult basic education courses at Kenlake and Lake Barkley State Resort Parks at a news conference on Jan. 30 at Murray State University.

30 years ago
Charles Hale, property valuation administrator for Calloway County was elected president of the Kentucky PVA Association and has assumed his duties as a member of the directors.

with Jesse Williams as high scorer for Murray.

In high school basketball games, Murray High Tigers won 101-76 over Sedalia Lions with high scorers being Raymond Sims for Murray and Mike Flent for Sedalia; Calloway Lakers lost 83-74 to Carlisle County Comets with high scorers being David Williams for Calloway and Randy DeJarnett for Carlisle.

40 years ago
The Murray Tobacco Market has suspended sales because of the weather conditions.

50 years ago
Published is a feature story about "Coasting on Christian Church Hill in the late 1890s in Murray," written by Dr. Hugh M. McElrath.

Getting out to mingle increases chances of finding Mr. Right

DEAR ABBY: As promised, I'm continuing yesterday's topic about finding Mr. (or Ms.) Right. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I would like to offer some suggestions to the successful career woman who asked if she and her friends should "dumb themselves down" in order to find a man:

When people let frustration and putting get the best of them, they give off a bad vibe that no one finds attractive. She needs to continue with her success. She should get out of the house, do things she enjoys, go to parties, parks, sporting events, church, art classes, wine tastings -- whatever! Mr. Right won't magically show up on her doorstep, and she'll be happier in the meantime doing what makes her happy.

It's OK to talk with friends and co-workers about her single status. Do they know she's available and open for suggestions and blind dates? The person she meets may not be Mr. Right, but he may have a friend who could be. Has she tried online dating sites? There's one for just about every-

one.

Instead of looking for "Mr. Perfect," look for "Mr. Perfect-for-YOU." Make a list of the qualities that you can't live without and then stick to it. And, last but not least, she should list all the great qualities she has to offer, and post it where she can see it every day. If she keeps reminding herself that she is a catch, she'll get caught! -- HAVE FAITH, COLUMBIA, S.C.

DEAR HAVE FAITH: Your comments are terrific, and I hope the woman who wrote me (and others!) take them to heart. That so many people identified with that letter and reached out is heartwarming. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: In my area of about 150,000 people, there's a shortage of women. Many single, successful straight men find it hard to thrive amidst all the noise, pollution and crime of a big city.

Look at the statistics -- the new exurbia is where to find a lot of single engineers, scientists, financial and insurance executives. I know smart women who have moved here just to meet men and have promptly gotten married. (And if they absolutely, positively want to be married, they should consider moving to Alaska!) -- STEVE IN RICHLAND, WASH.

DEAR STEVE: It would certainly be worth an exploratory vacation trip to find out.

DEAR ABBY: Instead of bemoaning their situation, those women should level in it as I did. I moved my career forward, took up off-road cycling, traveled the world, took classes, went to plays -- you name it. I married for the first time at 36. But I'm glad I can look back at my single years with so many fond memories of the adventures I had. -- BEEN THERE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR ABBY: She needs to "broaden her customer base." Someone from a completely different background might be less likely to be threatened by her success in her field. The bonus is twofold. She'll meet a whole new crowd and discover new interests. Nothing is more attractive than a person enjoying herself. -- TRENT IN CATHEDRAL CITY, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: Smart women who have trouble finding men for relationships should join Mensa. Mensa members come from every demographic and have one thing in common: They are in the top 2 percent of the population intelligence-wise. -- HELPFUL READER IN THE U.S.A.

DEAR HELPFUL: Good suggestion. Not everyone finds love in Mensa, but it's a wonderful way to meet others.

Ear problem might require surgery

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am 74 years old, and about two months ago I started having pulsating and constant beating in my left ear.

Assuming it was a hearing problem, I went to see an ENT doctor, who diagnosed a vascular problem. I had an imaging test of my neck done. The test revealed some blockage, and I am scheduled to see a surgeon next week.

I would appreciate your advice on what type of doctor to see and what kind of surgery the problem would entail. Also, could medication clear up the problem?

DEAR READER: Pulsations in the ear can have many causes. To your ENT's credit, he or she chose to focus on your vascular system, ordering what I assume was a carotid-artery ultrasound. The test showed "some blockage," not surprising in a person your age. Before advising you, I'd have to know the extent of the blockages and their precise locations.

Minor arteriosclerotic carotid blockages (up to about 30 percent) can be ignored safely, even though they might be the cause of your pulsations. Blockages in the 60 percent range should be monitored and treated with surgery, if necessary, and a daily aspirin (81 milligrams). Blockages over 90 percent must be considered for an operation to ream out the arteriosclerotic plaque before it causes stroke or fully blocks the carotid blood flow to the brain.

I suggest that you review the test results with your primary-care

physician and express your willingness to be examined by a vascular surgeon. Although I cannot judge from your brief review whether you are a surgical candidate, a specialist should assess your problem. To my knowledge, aspirin is appropriate initial therapy. However, depending on your degree of blockage, anticoagulant drugs (Plavix or Coumadin) might be necessary to prevent complications.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Coronary Artery Disease." Other readers who would like a copy should send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and \$2 to Newsletter, PO Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I recently had a Pap smear, and the results were negative. However, I was told there were small cysts growing, but as they were not causing bleeding, I was not to worry. Well, I am worried. Should I get a second opinion?

DEAR READER: During a Pap smear, the doctor customarily feels the uterus and ovaries, and examines the cervix. Harmless cysts are common in the cervix and ordinarily need no treatment or follow up, because from month to month, they might appear and disappear.

Because your Pap smear for cancer was normal, I doubt that you need a second opinion, unless, of course, you are experiencing symptoms, such as abnormal vaginal bleeding, pain or a heavy discharge. Ask your gynecologist about this.

If readers would like to contact Dr. Gott, they may write him directly at Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th fl., New York, NY 10016. Copyright 2006, Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Contract Bridge

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH: 82, A93, J6, J109753. WEST: K105, J8754, 2, K842. EAST: Q7643, 102, K10985, 6. SOUTH: AJ9, KQ6, AQ743, AQ.

The bidding: East Pass, South 2 NT, West Pass, North 3 NT. Opening lead -- five of hearts.

There's surely something paradoxical about the statement that bridge is a relaxing game, when the fact is that you can't ever afford to relax -- if you want to do well.

Take this hand, for example, where West leads a heart against three notrump. Declarer plays low from dummy and wins East's ten with the king. He then cashes the ace of clubs and continues with the queen, but West plays low, and East shows out.

This is a disappointing development to South, because if West had taken the king, everything would have been under control and a minimum of 10 tricks would have been

assured. But South sees there is still a chance to make the contract, so he leads a low heart and, after West plays low, fineses the nine. When the nine wins, he leads the jack of clubs, forcing West to take the king either now or on the next trick, and South's troubles are over.

The finesse of the nine is certainly unusual, since South starts with three sure heart tricks and appears to be jeopardizing one of them. However, it is necessary because he needs an extra entry to dummy to establish the clubs and be able to cash them later. So South has to be credited with a good play.

However, the fact is that West was asleep at the switch at the critical point in the play. Having smartly refused to take his club king at trick three, he allowed himself to relax at trick four -- and, as we said at the start, you just can't afford to do that in bridge. When South led the low heart toward dummy, West should have put up the jack. Had he done that, nothing could have saved declarer.

West knows from East's play of the ten at trick one that South has the king and queen of hearts. West should therefore try to prevent declarer from gaining an extra entry to dummy by inserting the jack when South leads the six. It can cost West nothing to make this play, while it can gain him a great deal.

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Tuesday, Jan. 31, the 31st day of 2006. There are 334 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
Four hundred years ago, on Jan. 31, 1606, Guy Fawkes, convicted of treason for his part in the "Gunpowder Plot" against the English Parliament and King James I, was executed.

On this date:
In 1797, composer Franz Schubert was born in Vienna, Austria.

In 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee was named General-in-Chief of all the Confederate armies.

In 1917, Germany served notice it was beginning a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.

In 1934, President Roosevelt devalued the dollar in relation to gold.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. forces began invading Kwajalein Atoll and other parts of the

Japanese-held Marshall Islands.

In 1945, Private Eddie Slovik became the only U.S. soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion as he was shot by an American firing squad in France.

In 1956, the creator of "Winnie-the-Pooh," British author A.A. Milne, died at age 74.

In 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with its first successful launch of a satellite into orbit, Explorer 1.

BABY BLUES



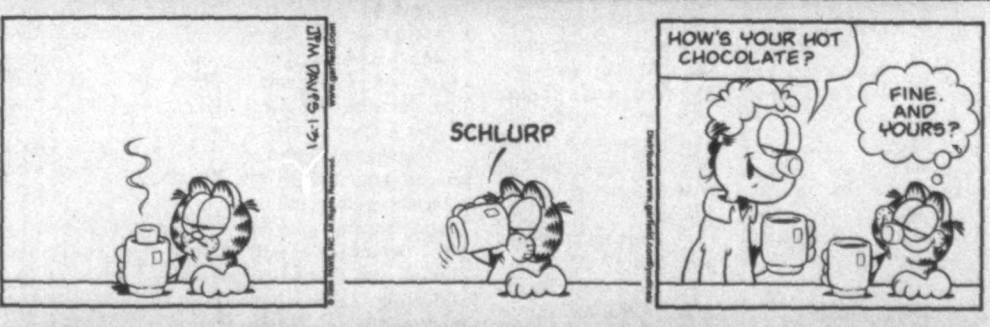
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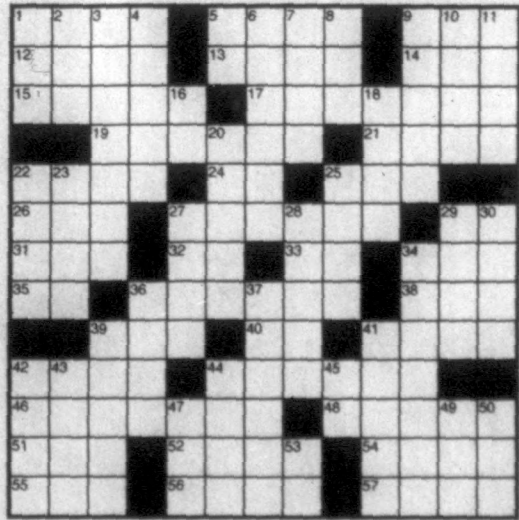


- ACROSS: 1 Athena's father, 5 First James Bond, 9 March 2 flier, 12 Certain something, 13 Boo and hiss, 14 Cosmic force, 15 Rough-mannered, 17 Decimal fraction, 19 Equipped, 21 Proposals, 22 Blame, 24 Appliance label letters, 25 Hubbies, 26 RV haven, 27 Solution, 29 Quicksilver, in chem., 31 Singer -- Orbison, 32 Twice, in combos, 33 Alt., 34 Osaka yes, 35 Juneau's st., 36 Daddy's sister, 38 Internet suffix, 39 Expertise, 40 Word in a threat, 41 Brewery supply, 42 Apple leftover, 44 Pouted, 46 Fact book, 48 Farm machine, 51 Grant foe, 52 Seafood entree, 54 Occasion for less, 55 In style, 56 Ape a pig, 57 Self-satisfied

Answer to Previous Puzzle

PAPA ELLE ALP
OGEE DOOM HUB
DOER GAPE ERS
GRACED NAME
TIS IDA
LINEN NL HELD
ORE ERRED VIN
GATE EA AMEBA
HOC ELI
TOSS EXILED
URL CAPE ALIE
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# LEARNING

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## MMS SuperQuiz Team



Photo Provided

Students from Murray Middle School attended a day of friendly academic competition at the 2006 Annual Scholars' Bowl held at Murray State University on Friday. This event is sponsored by Educational Talent Search. The following students placed first in the SuperQuiz team competition: Latasha Martin, Trevor Saucier, Lonnie Martin, Jessica Rudolph, Erin Sanders, and Deidre Peoples. This team also placed third in the overall competition. Saucier and Lonnie Martin qualified to compete at KAEOPP (KY Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel) ETS Academic Bowl, to be held in Louisville in March. Pictured are (front, from left) Rudolph, Saucier, Peoples, (back from left) Latasha Martin, Lonnie Martin, and Sanders.

## Realtors' contest 'draws' interest

By GREG TRAVIS  
Staff Writer

The Murray-Calloway County Board of Realtors in cooperation with the Kentucky Association of Realtors (KAR) recently sponsored a Fair Housing Calendar contest. Entries were sought from fourth and fifth grade students from throughout the community to be considered for inclusion in the 2007 calendar.

"We have been looking at some of the entries that have come in, and more entries are expected to be brought into the office soon," said Twilla Williams, executive officer, of the local board of Realtors. "We usually have local affiliate members of our board look at the drawings that have been submitted. From the ones they look at, they will pick the top three."

She said local Realtors would then take those three with them to Frankfort for the February meeting of the Kentucky Association of Realtors. While at the meeting the final cut will be made for use in the 2007 calendar.

"The top local winner will be used in the calendar and that student will receive a \$250 United States Savings Bond. Although the second and third place finishers won't be used in the calendar, those two students will each receive a \$50 Savings bond," Williams said.

She said the artwork used on the cover of the calendar would come from those selected as winners in Frankfort. "You can't vote on entries from your own area, which helps to make the selection more objective."

The calendar entries come from all across Kentucky and are submitted through the local boards of Realtors, of which



GREG TRAVIS/Ledger & Times Photo

Twilla Williams, executive officer of the Murray-Calloway County Board of Realtors, looks at some of the students' drawings that will be considered for use in a 2007 Fair Housing Calendar.

there are approximately 26 in the Commonwealth, Williams said. However, only the first 12 boards responding get to participate in the calendar process.

She said the 2007 calendar will be the third year for the contest.

"Each drawing must include the Realtors logo, the Fair Housing logo and the theme 'Fair Housing for Everyone in 2007,'" Williams noted.

The local contest was not

limited to students in the Murray and Calloway County school system, but private schools and home schoolers, too, she said.

The 2007 calendars should be printed and ready for delivery to Kentucky Realtors at the June KAR meeting at Lake Barkley.

Last year's top winner was Jay Green of Calloway County's North Elementary School and his drawing was featured during the summer section of the calendar.

## PJ Party



GREG TRAVIS/Ledger & Times Photo

Students at Calloway County's Southwest Elementary School like those in Kathy Nelson's kindergarten class (from left Jonathan Kuykendall, Katie Allen, Nelson, Erick dela Cruz, Savannah Farmer, and Cameron Parks) participated in a "PJs Day" Wednesday that was designed to encourage reading and parental involvement in reading. An afternoon program called "PJs, Popcorn and Pillows" allowed parents to come to the school and join their children in reading a book.

# BIG DOG MYSTERY

**CHAPTER 2**  
Hi Friends! I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that it's been a week and I still haven't heard from Blue to the Bone. The good news is that I received calls and letters from so many of you saying you were looking for Blue! (Other good news is mommy is cooking stew for dinner, but dad says there are more important things than my tummy!) Though I wanted to hear from Blue, I haven't given up. What's the saying? "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again?" Anyway, let me share with you another letter the mail carrier brought this week.

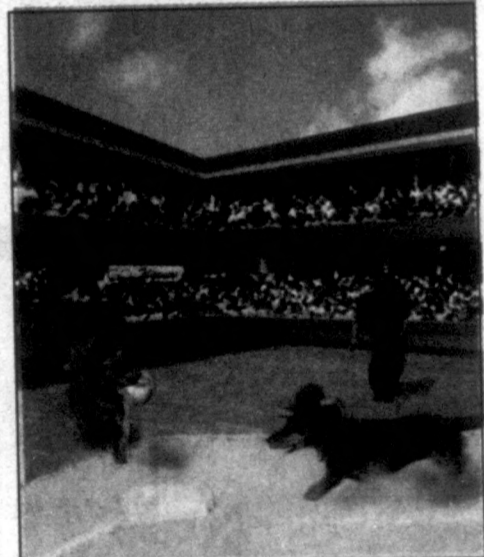
**Dear Woody,**  
I read your letter in the newspaper. I liked the advice you gave Blue to the Bone and was wondering whether you could help me. I am a fifth-grader who hates school. Mom and I argue about why I have to go. She says school is important, but I think I'm wasting my time. Besides, I want to play baseball when I grow up. My little league coach thinks I have a great future! Please help me convince mom I don't need school.

**Sluggo**  
When I read this, I couldn't pick up my Scooby pen fast enough! WASTING YOUR TIME IN SCHOOL?

**Dear Sluggo,**  
Can't help you, buddy. I agree with your mom. In fact, I could talk all day about

why school is important. Everyone needs to know math skills, the history of our country, proper English; the list goes on. If you don't know these things, Sluggo, how will you be able to calculate your batting average or read about your game-winning home run in the newspaper? School prepares you for life. It teaches responsibility. It isn't fun getting up early to arrive at school on time, or working all afternoon on a project when we would rather be reading, but that's how life works. (I'm certain your coach will expect you to arrive at practice on time.) Also, school teaches you how to work with others who are different from you. Everyone has different ideas and beliefs. We don't always have to agree with others, but we do need to know how to work with others and treat them with respect. If you play major league baseball, you will have teammates from around the world. Working with your classmates who live in your community will prepare you to work with teammates from all over the country. And don't forget, everyone needs to know common sense facts. See if you can answer these questions, Sluggo:

1. How many weeks are in a year?
2. How many quarts make a gallon?
3. What direction does the sun rise and set?
4. Who are the gov-



ernor and lieutenant governor in your state?  
5. Who is the mayor of your town?

One more thing, it may seem now that you will play major league baseball, but it could be too early to tell what you will do with your life. You could change your mind a hundred times. Many people dream of doing one thing, but end up doing something else. Ronald Reagan began his career as a sportscaster, then became an actor. He appeared in 53 films before becoming governor of California, then the 40th President of the United States.

**Sluggo**, you can be an astronaut, a surgeon, a farmer, even a major league baseball player, but whatever you choose, you'll need an education. One last piece of advice - moms always know best! Sometimes I think my mom doesn't know what she's talking

about, but she always ends up being right. (Just like when she told me if I ate too many doggie treats that my tummy would hurt. I assured her I would be fine, but after the third one, oooowwww!)

Thanks for the letter Sluggo! Keep in touch. Listen to your mom and get excited about school. Work and dream like a big dog!

**Woody**  
Wow! Am I exhausted after all that advice giving! I think I'll see whether Chloe wants to share some milk and cookies (only one this time) and watch One Hundred and One Dalmatians.

Work and dream like a big dog!  
Thanks to Kentucky Press Association for making this project possible. For online questions and learning activities go to [www.kypress.com](http://www.kypress.com).  
**Woody** ([www.woodybooks.com](http://www.woodybooks.com))

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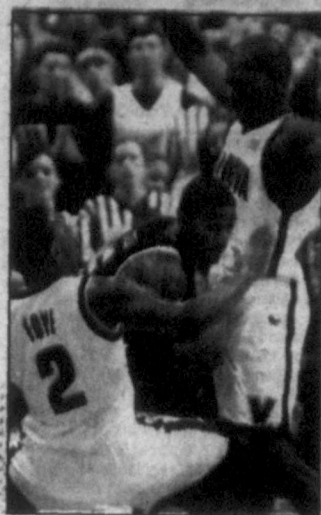
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VILLANOVA 79,  
LOUISVILLE 73



AP  
Louisville's Taquan Dean is surrounded by Villanova's Randy Foye (2) and Jason Fraser, right, in the first half Monday during their college basketball game in Philadelphia.

## 'Nova tops reeling Louisville

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Allan Ray had rarely seen a 3-point shootout like this, certainly not since he's been at Villanova.

"Maybe AAU. I don't think anybody plays defense in AAU," Ray said. "Definitely not in college. This is one of those crazy games."

The No. 4 Wildcats finished with two more 3-pointers than Louisville in a game in which the long ball ruled and those six points turned out to be the difference in Villanova's 79-73 victory Monday night.

Ray matched his season high with 26 points and hit five 3s. Mike Nardi celebrated his 21st birthday with 20 points and five 3s, and Randy Foye had 19 points and four 3s as the three guards accounted for all the 3-pointers — and all but 14 points.

"We hit a lot of shots early and once you hit shots early, you get a lot of confidence as a team," Ray said as Villanova ran off to a 7-1 start in the Big East for the first time since 1982-83.

In the only other game involving a ranked team, No. 20 Ohio St. routed Florida A&M 95-53.

The Wildcats (16-2) twice seemed to have control of the game with a double-digit lead, but the Cardinals (14-7, 2-6) pulled close twice before losing for the fifth time in six games.

CALLOWAY CO. 61,  
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CENTRAL 44

## Calloway clips Lady Cardinals

### Staff Report

Murray Ledger & Times  
SMITHLAND, Ky. — Playing in its third game in the past four days, the Calloway County girls' basketball team has shown no signs of slowing down, despite the beat-down they took Friday at Marshall County.

The Lady Lakers have rattled off two straight wins, including Monday night's 61-44 victory over Livingston Central in Smithland.

Kayla Cunningham led all Calloway County scorers with 18 points, while senior guard Chelsea Morris dropped down 14 and Rachel Adams added 12 for the Lady Lakers.

Beth Ross added nine points for (12-9) Calloway County who were 12-of-19 from the foul line and forced the Lady Cardinals into 15 first half turnovers.

The Lady Lakers also out-rebounded Livingston Central (7-11) 28-20.

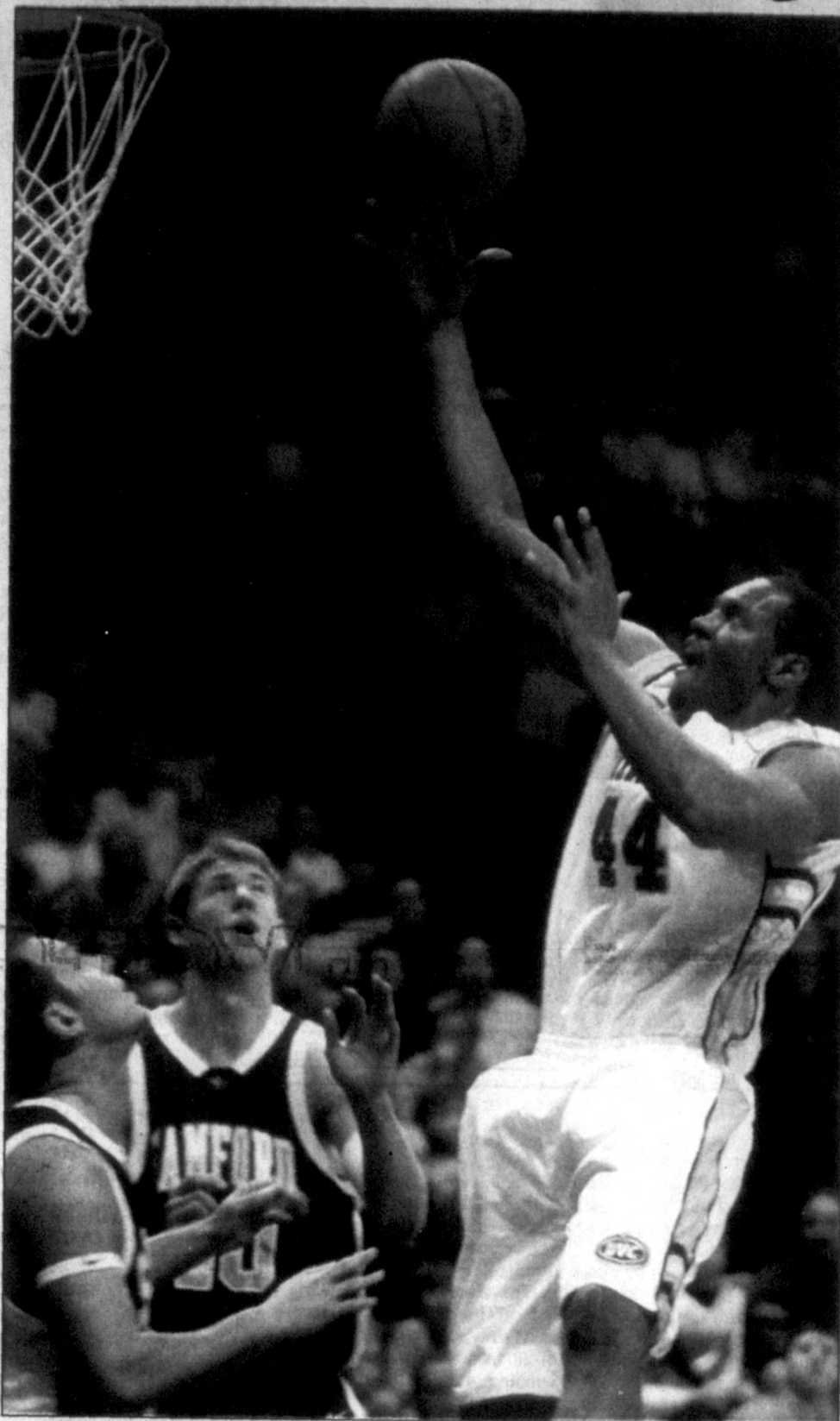
Calloway will play crosstown rival Murray High Friday night at Jeffrey Gymnasium.

### RACER HOOPS

# Lone ~~Rangers~~ Racers

## Racers riding all alone atop the OVC Standings

A win that would make the 'Letter People' proud



SCOTT NANNEY/Ledger & Times  
Murray State center Pearson Griffith (44) shoots in the lane over two Samford defenders for two of his 11 points during the Racers' 59-38 triumph over the Bulldogs. Griffith also had 10 rebounds in the contest as the Racers won the battle of the boards 40-22.

By SCOTT NANNEY  
Sports Editor

The words zone and Mick Cronin are not normally found in the same sentence.

However, it was that unlikely combination that proved key to the Murray State Racers' fortunes during Monday's pivotal Ohio Valley Conference clash with co-league leader Samford.

Normally a stickler for tight man-to-man defense, the third-year MSU head coach showed a willingness to thank outside the box in helping both himself and the Racers clear their biggest hurdle: a pesky Bulldogs' squad that had previously befuddled and confounded its OVC rivals during a spell-bounding three-game winning streak over Murray State.

Murray's active array of zones and zone presses were enough to frustrate and confuse the normally sharp-shooting Bulldogs into 28.3-percent shooting during a potentially season-defining 59-38 triumph in front of an energized crowd of 6,089 at the Regional Special Events Center.

The thrilling victory broke the Bulldogs' hex on the Racers and allowed Murray State (14-5, 11-2 OVC) to claim sole possession of first place in the conference standings with just seven league games to play.

"Our effort was unbelievable," said a delighted Cronin, who earned his first win over Samford since taking over the MSU helm in 2003. "We played with tremendous humility. All our guys cared about was winning that game and hustling. Coaching did not win this game."

Coaching may not have ultimately decided the outcome of this contest. But it was Cronin's



SCOTT NANNEY/Ledger & Times  
Freshman guard Tyler Holloway (4) tries a reverse layup against a Samford defender during the first-half of Monday's matchup between the OVC's top two teams.

willingness to finally pull the trigger on the move to a zone defensive scheme that he'd considered over two years ago when preparing for the same Samford ball club.

"I had wanted to do it before against them, but I backed off," Cronin admitted. "Two years ago, we worked on our zone in every practice leading up to that game, but coaches usually like to stick with what they know best, and we've had a lot of success with the man-to-man."

However, it was a short videotape finally convinced both Cronin and his players to try the new look.

"The first thing I did on Sunday before

X and O are the two letters most commonly associated with basketball.

But the letter "H" — as in hustle and heart — proved to be the most important in the Racers' alpha-

bet during Monday's key 59-38 trouncing of nemesis Samford, which had defeated Murray State in its three previous contests as a member of the Ohio Valley Conference.

Make no mistake. Last night's matchup for first place in the league standings was no spelling bee. However, all those letters did add up to the only word that 6,089 raucous Racer fans really cared about — W-I-N!

The two Hs proved to be the biggest factors in the Racers' ability to exorcise their demons against the Bulldogs, whose methodical Princeton-style offense has often given MSU head coach Mick Cronin's charges a headache trying to unscramble the words to the Samford spell.

Forget the vast array of zones and zone presses that the Racers implored to disrupt the Bulldogs' offensive rhythm, or Murray's ability to knock down the shots that always seem to miss their mark against coach Jimmy Tillette's crew. This night was all about hustle and heart.

That trademark hustle, which Cronin admits hasn't always been present in past games against the Bulldogs, was there from the opening tip as the Racers jumped out to a 17-5 lead. And it showed in the final statistics, where the ultimate hustle stat — rebounding — was controlled by the men in blue and gold.

Murray dominated the boards by a 40-22 count, including a 15-8 edge on the offensive glass. That resulted in a 17-4 advantage in second-chance points.

It was also there in the Racers' active defense, which harassed Samford into 16 turnovers and an uncharacteristic 7-of-28 effort from 3-point range.

"I told the guys that our zone wouldn't work if we continued to get out-hustled by Samford," Cronin said. "In our three losses to them, that has been the common factor: We've been out-hustled by them. But we decided to go out there and take it to them."

That led the head coach to another "H" word. "We played with a lot of humility," he added.

Even Tillette got into the act, saying the Racers "were hungrier" than his team.

Heart was also in Murray's play on Monday, as the Racers refused to back down in the waning minutes — continuing to apply defensive pressure to the Bulldogs long after securing the 21-point victory, which featured a season-low point total for a Racer opponent.

"I tried to get them to back off there at the end, but they didn't want in part

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See CRONIN Page 2B

## UK Hoops new toast of town

Kentucky women's basketball program cracks Top 25 for first time in 13 years

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — On a day the Kentucky men's basketball team squeaked out a victory over Arkansas, the loudest roars at Rupp Arena came when the women's team was paraded onto the court during a timeout.

Those Wildcats, who cracked the Top 25 Monday for the first time since 1993, have been the talk of the town since their stunning victory Thursday over then-No. 1 Tennessee.

The next day, construction workers outside Memorial Coliseum, where the men's team made so much history, were discussing basketball — women's basketball.

Indeed, at a university accustomed to checking the polls every Monday, this is the first time since January 1990 the women are ranked and the men are not.

"Everybody's talking about it," said Arvel Collins, a senior agriculture communications major. "I'm happy to see them do well. The women live in the dorm and the men get to live in lodges. It kind of knocks them off their pedestal."

But Mickie DeMoss' No. 21 Wildcats insist there is no rivalry between the programs. Several of the men were at Rupp Arena for the team's upset over the Lady Vols, and the women were there Sunday for the men's comeback victory against Arkansas.

Seven-foot-3 men's center Shegari Alleyne called 6-foot-6 women's center Sarah Elliot "screaming" and "hyped," Elliot said.

Although she knows the team will probably never supplant Tubby Smith's Wildcats as Lexington's prime attraction, Elliot says it's nice to finally get some attention. Friends told her people stopped working out at the student gym to watch the game, she said.

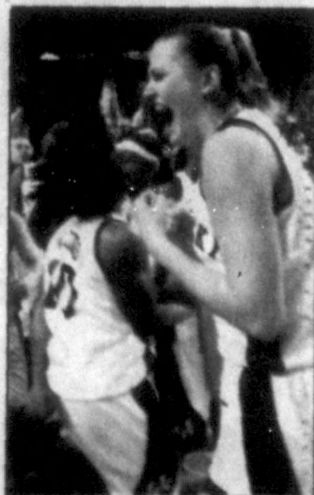
"Can you imagine a bunch of people crowded around the TV just to watch us?" Elliot said. "It's a great feeling, a great sense of support."

Thursday's 66-63 victory wasn't just an upset but the first time Kentucky (15-4, 4-2 Southeastern Conference) had ever beaten a No. 1 team and the first time in almost four years Tennessee had fallen to an unranked one. A Kentucky women's basketball record 13,689 fans showed up.

"Our motto this year has been to earn respect," DeMoss said. "It's earned. It's never just given to you. It's just another way of validating the fact that we have made some progress at Kentucky."

There was also the story line between DeMoss and Tennessee coach Pat Summitt, the

See DEMOSS Page 2B



AP  
Kentucky's Sarah Elliot celebrates at mid-court after upsetting then top-ranked Tennessee last Thursday. The Kentucky team has cracked the Top 25 for the first time in 13 years and has proven that Kentucky has more than one basketball program representing it.

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See CRONIN Page 2B



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Sealed bids will be received by the Department of Highways in the Division of Construction Procurement on the 3rd Floor and/or the Auditorium located on the 1st Floor of the Transportation Cabinet Office Building, Frankfort, Kentucky until 10:00 A.M. EASTERN STANDARD TIME on the 17 DAY of FEBRUARY, 2006. at which time bids will be publicly opened and read for the improvement of:

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**RESOLUTION OF THE CALLOWAY COUNTY FISCAL COURT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 06-0127-A**

**WHEREAS**, the Calloway County Fiscal Court's constitutional obligation demands that it protect, enhance, and maintain the general welfare of its citizens, and

**WHEREAS**, Murray State University is Calloway County's largest employer and provides outstanding educational, cultural, and economic benefits for all the citizens of the county, and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Calloway County take pride in the University located in their county for its continuous superior academic performance and most recently, by being designated by *Kiplinger Magazine* as one of America's top 100 best values in public education, ranking as the number one public university in Kentucky and number 52 nationwide, and

**WHEREAS**, despite this and countless other outstanding accomplishments, budget recommendations by the Office of the Governor of the Commonwealth have deprived Murray State University and the citizens of Western Kentucky of 15 million dollars in promised funding for a science building, and

**WHEREAS**, the same recent budget recommendations by the Office of the Governor of the Commonwealth recommended for Murray State University the lowest percentage increase of recurring state educational funding of any public university in the state of Kentucky resulting in the university and the citizens of this county being deprived of hundreds of thousands of dollars over time, and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Calloway County deserve to be treated fairly by their state political leaders which have made provisions in the Governor's education budget for massive sums to go for projects in other more populous areas.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fiscal Court of Calloway County, Kentucky does hereby request that our State Legislators, Budget Director, Brad Cowgill, and Budget Advisor to the Governor, Secretary Robbie Rudolph, take appropriate actions to:

1. Assure that the government of the Commonwealth of Kentucky treats Murray State University and the citizens of Calloway County justly and fairly by restoring the 15 million dollars promised for the science building at Murray State University.
2. Assure further that the percentage in funding, to be received by Murray State University for its budget is increased by a minimum of 3.5% annually which represents the current national cost of living increase.
3. Assure that other worthwhile projects in Western Kentucky, including but not limited to, the completion of Kentucky Highway 80, funding for Highway 641, and the planning for new bridges over Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers be given just and prompt consideration.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Fiscal Court pledges its cooperation with its elected state legislators and budget makers to assist in any way necessary to assure fair and equal treatment for its citizens, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this court, forwarded to the appropriate state officials, and furnished to the media covering the public affairs of Calloway County, Kentucky.

Executed this 27th day of January, 2006.

Larry Elkins  
Calloway County Judge Executive

Attest:  
Ray Coursey, Jr.  
Calloway County Clerk

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