

11-16-2006

Murray Ledger and Times, November 16, 2006

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Wildcats Swat Away Miami (Ohio) In Season Opener

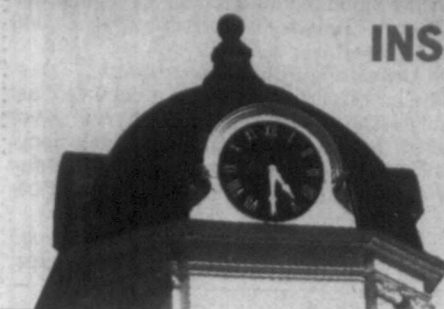
— See Sports



Alabama, Southern States Recovering From Storms

— See Page 3B

INSIDE: Three Murray Residents Injured In Chain-Reaction Wreck Wednesday



MURRAY LEDGER & TIMES

Vol. 127, No. 272

www.murrayledger.com

Thursday, November 16, 2006

Murray, KY 42071

75¢

RIDE 'EM COWBOYS (& GIRLS)



GREG TRAVIS/Ledger & Times

Elementary and middle school students from Murray and Calloway County found plenty of fun and excitement awaiting them Wednesday at a morning rodeo designed just for them. Members of the Murray State University Rodeo team sponsored the event as a kick-off to MSU's Rodeo Week. Students participated in horse rides, roping, barrel racing and more. Approximately 40 students participated in the annual event. Pictured above, Kris Robinson, a fourth-grade student at Murray Middle School, enjoys a barrel ride. Looking on are MSU students, from left, Paul Skaggs, Cody Odom and Joe Schneider.

STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT RIGORS OF RODEO

By TOM BERRY
Staff Writer

There were a lot of smiles on the faces of Calloway County and Murray Independent elementary and middle students Wednesday morning as they rode ponies, roped a "bull," and tamed a bucking bronco during a special event planned just for them by Murray State University's Rodeo Club at the William "Bill" Cherry Expo Center.

Murray Middle School student Kris Robinson seemed particularly happy and excited after leaping off a bucking bronco ride — a barrel-shaped simulation that looks and acts as a virtual bucking horse or bull. He had already made the rounds of most all of the attractions, but was ready to do it all again.

"I ran with my friend Hannah and ...

and I won," Robinson said about running the barrel race earlier in the day on a stick horse. "I also rode this bull. I didn't fall off. It was fun."

The event was just a preview of the upcoming 31st Annual Murray State University College Rodeo, scheduled to take place at 7 p.m., beginning today and running through Saturday at the Expo Center on College Farm Road. The main event will feature bull riding, cattle roping, and barrel racing by members of the college team.

Coach J.D. Van Hooser said the MSU men and women who make up the team were unanimous in their enthusiasm to put on a special early performance for the youngsters for the first time in years.

"We did this some years ago, but the students were so enthused about it that

we thought we would start it back up," Van Hooser said. "It's probably been about 10 to 12 years."

Calvert Johnson, a student at Calloway County Middle School, was all smiles after stepping down off a horse with some assistance from several "cow-girls."

"It was fun," he said. "I rode the horse and I lassoed a bull and I ran around the barrels."

Later they had lunch on-site and took part in some dummy roping, more pony rides and special rodeo performance put on the MSU Rodeo Team. A mock bull was set up in the corner of the Expo to simulate roping a bull.

■ See Page 2A

MFD cited for asbestos violations

By KRISTIN TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Although the situation has been corrected, the Murray Fire Department was issued 16 violations by state officials for improperly removing flooring that contained asbestos during renovations this summer at the department's Station 2.

The citations carry a total fine of \$17,500. Murray Fire Chief Michael Skinner said the department was notified of the violation in a letter Monday from the Kentucky Office of Occupational Safety and Health.

Although a process is in place to contest the violations, Skinner said the department is going to pay the fine and move forward.

Specifically, OSH issued 14 serious violations and two "other than serious" violations, according to Chuck Wolfe, spokesman for the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, in which

“ The Murray Fire Department has taken the appropriate steps to correct the situation and is looking forward to moving in a positive direction. ”

— MFD Chief
Michael Skinner

OSH is an agency.

The violations include dealing with asbestos removal without establishing a regulated area; not demarcating regulated area; not ensuring asbestos removal was supervised by a competent person; no monitoring to determine airborne concentration of asbestos to which employees may have been exposed; failure to notify employees of the presence; failure to utilize wet methods to

■ See Page 2A

Report says Fletcher OK'd GOP hiring plan

By JOE BIESK
Associated Press Writer

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Gov. Ernie Fletcher approved a "widespread and coordinated plan" to skirt state hiring laws so political supporters could be rewarded with jobs, according to a special grand jury report released Wednesday.

The scheme, dubbed the "Governor's Personnel Initiative," was designed by Fletcher administration officials and approved by the governor himself, the Franklin County special grand jury said in its report. Those within the administration who interfered were either "fired or moved," the report said.

"We find the evidence shows a systematic abuse of the merit system by engaging in widespread political patronage through the appointment, promotion, demotion, transfer and dismissal of merit employees based on politics," the grand jury found.

Fletcher, in Japan on an economic development mission, released a statement shortly after the grand jury report became pub-

■ See Page 3A

MSU faculty hear from regent candidates at forum

By KRISTIN TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Murray State faculty regent candidates Jay Morgan and Ray Conklin both touted their varied experience during a forum Wednesday afternoon in which they answered their colleagues' questions.

Vying for the last six months Terry Strieter's expired term, the candidates presented themselves and some of their views on issues to about 20 faculty members during the forum in the Freed Curd Auditorium.

"We feel very fortunate, I think, that we have two well-qualified candidates," said Faculty Senate Vice President Peggy Pittman-Munke.

Online voting opened following the forum and will continue through 5 p.m. Friday.

An associate agricultural science professor, Morgan has been at the university for 11 years. In his opening statement, he defined himself

as a listener and touched on a number of issues he sees as important: tweaking the tenure process, increasing operating budgets for departments, supporting residential colleges and international programs, refer-

encing the faculty handbook in contracts, adjusting salaries and dealing with concerns about the two retirement plans.

"I say all of that to say this:

There aren't one or two issues that will solve everyone's problems," Morgan said. "I'm not a one-issue person. There is a time and place to fix issues."

Morgan also called himself a relationships builder and later cited an exam-



Morgan



Conklin

■ See Page 2A

Entries are being accepted for annual Rotary Christmas Parade

Special to the Ledger

Entries are currently being accepted for the 2006 Annual Rotary Christmas Parade on Dec. 2. Clubs, businesses, civic groups, churches, sports teams, cheerleaders and organizations of all sorts are encouraged to take advantage of three ways to enter this year's parade.

Interested parties may use the two traditional parade entry methods of complete the entry forms from the Murray Ledger & Times; or stop by the Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce office to pick up a form.

The third method can be completed by visiting www.murrayrotary.org and clicking on "parade entry" on the Web page.

The deadline for entry is Monday, Nov. 27, at 5 p.m.

The theme for the 2006 parade event is "An Old-Fashioned Murray Christmas."

The parade lineup will begin at 9 a.m. and will move east on Main Street at 10 a.m.



Ledger file photo

Mrs. Claus rocks and rolls along the Rotary Parade route last year.

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6A	Community
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8B	Television

3-DAY FORECAST		
Tonight	Friday	Saturday
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30s	30s	30s

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Carlos Farmer, an eighth-grade student at Calloway County Middle School ropes a steer with one throw. Cheering him on are fellow classmates.

GREG TRAVIS/Ledger & Times

SheriffPoliceLogs

Calloway County Sheriff's Department
 • A caller from Taylor Store Road reported a male trying to break into his house at 9:23 p.m. Tuesday. A terroristic threatening case was opened and an arrest was made.
Murray State University Police Department
 • At 9:53 a.m. Tuesday, an officer was told a fire occurred last Thursday night in Winslow Dining Hall. Public Safety was never notified. Winslow staff members extinguished the fire without damage to the surrounding area. The staff was advised Tuesday of the reporting policy and the state fire marshal office was notified.
 — Information is obtained from reports, logs and citations from various agencies.

Four people injured in chain-reaction wreck near Benton

Staff Report
 BENTON, Ky. — Four people, including three from Murray, were injured after five vehicles struck each other in a chain-reaction of events after another vehicle had rolled over on the Purchase Parkway.
 Marshall County Sheriff's Department deputy Steven Oakley responded to a wreck at 7:20 a.m. Wednesday on the parkway near the Benton exit. He was assisted by several other officers and Benton Police Department Capt. Nicky Knight ended up investigating the crash.
 Oakley investigated the following series of events, according to a sheriff's department release. Michael Tyler, 29, of Mayfield, stopped for the rolled over vehicle when a second vehicle — driven by Jessica M. McCallum, 28, of Murray — was unable to stop and struck his vehicle. A third vehicle — driven by Alberta W. Akin, 49, of Murray — was unable to stop and stuck McCallum's vehicle.
 A fourth vehicle — driven by Donna R. Hahs, 46, of Almo — then struck Akin's and a fifth — driven by Nicole Toon, 18, of Murray — came behind and struck Hahs' vehicle.
 EMS transported McCallum and a passenger in Tyler's vehicle — Jonathan Garber, 40, of Fancy Farm — to Marshall County Hospital. Akin and Toon were slightly injured but were not transported by EMS.
 The other drivers and passengers were uninjured.
 In addition to Capt. Knight, Oakley was assisted by Detective Kevin Byars and Chief Deputy David Maddox of the sheriff's department, Benton Police Chief Gary West and Sgt. Tracy Watwood, Benton Fire Department, Kentucky Department of Highways, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife officer Lee Cope, Kentucky State Police Trooper Steve Glenn and other firefighters.

Rodeo ...

From Front

Diane Basiak, a teacher at MMS, said she appreciated the rodeo team putting on the event for the students because it gave them a chance to experience a unique brand of fun and learning and they could do it in a more personal way than just coming to the rodeo, itself.
 "The children always do things better

when they are broken up into smaller groups," she said. "You kind of have to restructure things for them. It works better that way and this is just wonderful for the children."

MSU senior Matt Boyers, president of the 45-member Rodeo Club, said he had contacted the schools concerning the event and was able to work out an arrangement to get the students in for a special show.

"We're trying to give these kids an opportunity to do something that they may never have done before and may never get a chance to do again," he said.

Advance tickets for the main events are available by calling the Expo Center at 809-3125. General Admission is \$8. MSU student will be charged \$5 and all children under 5 will be admitted free. Tickets may also be purchased at the gate each evening.

Faculty ...

From Front

ple of helping smooth relations between the campus and the city during his two terms on the Murray City Council.

Using a music stand instead of the traditional podium, Conklin followed with his opening statements. A music professor, he also provided the audience with an outline of his experience in the 34 years he's worked on campus — including time on the Faculty Senate and former chairman of the music department.

He also touched on the need to improve the retirement system and department budgets as well as increase scholarships and financial aid for students as tuition rises, and improve relations with both state and federal legislators.
 "Cooperation is better than command," Conklin said. "I would work very, very hard to make the regents aware of the faculty voice."
 Questions from the faculty were about salary equity, hiring minorities, campus growth, working with incoming President Randy Dunn and the

interpretation of a liberal arts education.

Strieter raised the idea of lobbying for a place in new president Randy Dunn's cabinet — the group of vice presidents and other administrations key in the budget-making process.

"I think it would be superb because, like you said, that's where all the decisions are made," Conklin responded to Strieter. "... I was electing not to bring that bullet forward but rather move behind the scenes once Dunn gets here."

In two brief meetings with Dunn, Morgan said he has heard the incoming president talk about expanding his executive committee.

"I think that poses a very unique opportunity for the newly elected faculty regent to speak with Dr. Dunn and capitalize on the openness," Morgan said.

Twelve faculty members have represented their col-

leagues on the Board of Regents since 1968. Incumbent Strieter is resigning his position in January to chair the history department.

Strieter was first elected in 2001 and then ran unopposed for a second term in 2004. Whoever wins this week's election will serve until June 30.

"I would hope whoever would win this interim race would have the opportunity to serve three more years. Six months isn't enough time to build relationships with the board," Morgan said. "... I would hope we'd respect the winner. That's not to say someone else can't challenge. I would pledge that between Ray and I that if I don't win, I won't run again."

Conklin took a different approach with his pledge.

"I pledge to you," he said, "if I should win now, I will seek the three-year term."

Correction

The number of shoes contaminated by possible mercury exposure at Calloway County Middle School is larger than the initial 21 mentioned in Wednesday's story. Shoes were also taken during Tuesday and Wednesday operations at the field house. A more approximate number would be 50 bags of items.

The Murray Ledger & Times strives to ensure accurate and fair reporting; however mistakes occasionally occur. It is the Ledger's policy to correct errors. To report a news mistake or error, please call 753-1916.

Town Crier

NOTICE

■ The Murray-Calloway County Park Board will meet Monday at 6 p.m. in the Chamber of Commerce conference room.

■ To report a Town Crier item, call 753-1916.

Sanitation Dept. notes changes for holiday week

Staff Report

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, city garbage pickup will run one day in advance in some areas.

During the week of Nov. 20-24, the Murray Sanitation Department is asking customers scheduled for garbage pickup on Thursday, Nov. 23, to set their garbage out Wednesday, Nov. 22.

Customers should have their containers at the curb no later than 7:30 a.m.

For additional information, call 762-0380.

THANK YOU

Dear Family and Friends,

Thank you for your support and encouragement in my campaign for City Council. I am looking forward to representing you and want to hear your concerns.

Special thanks to Brenda, G.T., Beauton, Howard, Ruth, Faye, Sue, Billy, Marcia and Larry, I love you.

Paid for by Jane Brandon

Jane Brandon

Violations ...

From Front

minimize employee exposure; and failure to promptly clean and dispose of asbestos waste.

Wolfe said the fire department also did not provide or require protective clothing to be used during asbestos removal.

The Murray Fire Department has 15 working days to respond to OSH. The city could contest the violations and work with state officials toward a settlement, but Skinner said he doesn't plan to do so.

"The Murray Fire Department has taken the appropriate steps to correct the situation and is looking forward to moving in a positive direction," Skinner said.

The violations stemmed from a renovation project at the 16th Street station, which was built in

the 1960s, that the firefighters completed themselves in July. Firefighters removed vinyl flooring and replaced it with ceramic tile.

An employee complaint prompted the investigation, according to information from Wolfe. The case was opened Aug. 1 even though the removal occurred July 20-21.

The renovation — which also involved painting some walls — was complete prior to Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet officials testing a floor sample.

Skinner said MFD was unaware the flooring in the station's living quarters contained asbestos and would not have put employees in harm's way had they known. Firefighters often perform work around the stations to save money the city generates through tax dollars.

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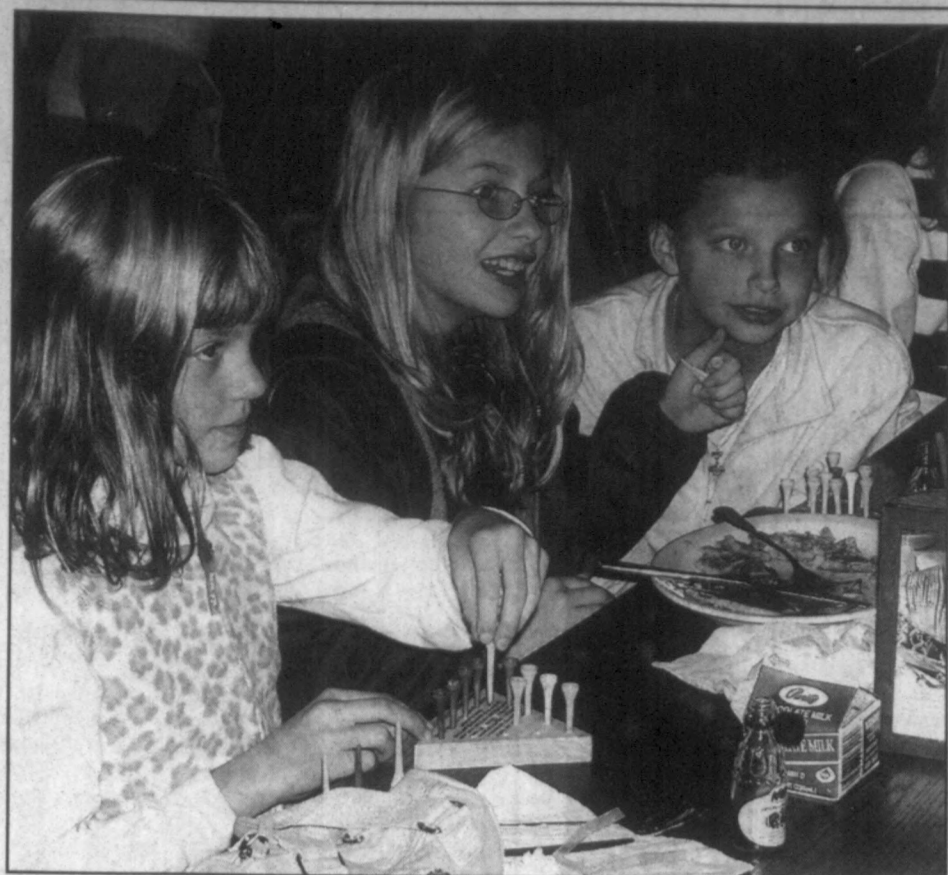
All money must accompany orders unless for a business or a church. They will be invoiced.

Orders due in to the Extension Office or to Judy Stahler by Nov. 18. Plants can be picked up or delivered on November 30 at the First United Methodist Church Family Life Center, South 5th St.

To place order by phone contact Calloway County Extension Office at 753-1452 or Judy Stahler at 753-7387 or contact Calloway County Band Boosters

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TOM BERRY/Ledger & Times

EARLY THANKSGIVING: A small group of about 100 or more Eastwood Christian Academy students round out an early Thanksgiving feast at Cracker Barrel Old Country Store Wednesday morning by testing their gaming skills. Principal Libby Conley said the annual event is just one way the school rewards its students for their hard work and academic achievement.

Fletcher ...

From Front

lic, saying it contained "the same old stuff." Spokeswoman Jodi Whitaker said Fletcher had not seen the report but had discussed it with his lawyers.

Whitaker read a prepared statement on Fletcher's behalf.

"Given that the prosecutors have dropped all charges, the document reads more like a savvy litany of political sound bites rather than a legal document of purported evidence," Fletcher said in the statement. "Under normal circumstances, I would vigorously object. However, it is best for the commonwealth that this chapter is concluded."

Franklin County Circuit Judge Reed Rhorer released the report following a closed-door meeting with Fletcher's attorneys and prosecutors. Prosecutor Scott Crawford-Sutherland said the special grand jury's term ended on Wednesday.

During its investigation, which began in June 2005, the grand jury returned 29 indictments and charged Fletcher with criminal conspiracy, official misconduct and political discrimination. Fletcher's charges were later dropped after an agreement with prosecutors. Fletcher issued a blanket pardon for everyone in his administration, other than himself, who could have faced charges stemming from the investigation.

Attorney General Greg Stumbo, whose office assisted the grand jury with the probe, has said prosecutors agreed to the dismissal of Fletcher's charges because they did not believe he would have ever stood trial. A court order had declared Fletcher could not be tried while in office.

"He has the power to pardon himself and we felt like that he would do so before he left office," Stumbo said at the time. Stumbo was unavailable for comment.

Fletcher, who has announced he is seeking re-election next year, has maintained the investigation was politically motivated. Fletcher has blamed the investigation on Stumbo, one of his potential Democratic gubernatorial challengers. Stumbo has said he expects to make a decision by December on whether he will run for governor.

However, the grand jury disputed the notion it was motivated by politics.

"We heard several times that this investigation was 'political,'" the grand jury said. "It was only political to the extent that Governor Fletcher took something that should remain non-political (the merit system) and created his own political patronage machine."

The grand jury said candidates seeking new jobs or promotions were hurt by the scheme.

"People were wrongfully fired and demoted. Others were transferred to distant locations to pressure them to retire or resign. People less qualified were hired simply because they supported Governor Fletcher financially or politically," the report said.

Kentucky's Merit System was created in 1960, designed to insulate state civil service employees from politics. State law says personnel decisions within the system are supposed to be based on job candidates' qualifications, not politics.

But, certain administration officials were told to ensure Fletcher's political supporters were hired for such jobs, according to the report. That would ensure that if Fletcher was not re-elected "there wouldn't be as many Democrats in state government," the report said.

Many times, Fletcher's supporters were put in jobs and paid more than what was normal, the

grand jury found.

"In some cases, the administration had to raise the pay of other state workers because of salaries given to political supporters," the report said. "We view this as waste, fraud and abuse of the highest order."

Charles Wells, executive director of the Kentucky Association of State Employees, called the report "dead on."

"In the 18 years that I have been on this job, I have never seen the blatant abuses of the merit system laws that I have seen with this administration," Wells said. "And the worst part was it wasn't that they didn't know the law. They ignored the law."

Administration officials ignored internal warnings about the legality of what they were doing, the report said. Those who raised questions were told to "get on the same team or if they didn't like it they could leave," according to the report.

Crawford-Sutherland said the grand jury report "speaks for itself."

"This report is not the attorney general's report. It's not the court's report. It's not the governor's report," he said. "It is the people's report, and they will now have an opportunity — and they have a right — to know what has been going in their government and today they will have that opportunity."

KentuckyInBrief

Ex-city clerk found guilty of money laundering, embezzlement

OWENSBORO, Ky. (AP) — A federal jury found a western Kentucky city clerk guilty of money laundering and embezzling more than \$900,000 in city funds over three years, a U.S. attorney said.

Sara B. Stevens, 46, of Clay was found guilty Tuesday after a six-day trial in U.S. District Court in Owensboro, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber said in a statement.

Stevens had worked as Providence's city clerk from 2001 until she was placed on administrative leave in April 2004. One of her duties was to supervise the collection of millions of dollars in utility payments received from Providence residents each year.

She was accused of embezzling more than \$900,000 of utility payments between January 2001 and April 2004, and laundering a portion of those funds by buying a car for Eric Smith, a former city police officer. She concealed the source of stolen funds by giving Smith \$10,000 in cash and told him to deposit it into his own bank account, and then to write a \$10,000 check to the city as repayment for the car, Huber said.

Smith previously pleaded guilty and is expected to be sentenced Friday in Owensboro.

A review of Providence's utility fund records revealed that between 2001 and April 2004, more than \$900,000 in utility payments were credited as received without any corresponding bank deposit. The investigation also revealed that Stevens wrote herself at least five city checks totaling more than \$18,000, without authorization, Huber said.

Three other clerks who worked for Stevens

testified that they had each counted their own cash drawers every day in the past, but that Stevens changed the procedures and essentially took over counting the cash drawers herself. After this change was implemented, large shortages were noticed in the cash drawers, and resident complaints of uncredited payments increased, Huber said.

Stevens faces up to 70 years imprisonment, a \$1,750,000 fine, and supervised release for five years.

Stevens is set to be sentenced before Judge Joseph McKinley Jr. on Feb. 13, 2007.

Baptist convention elects African-American first vice president

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — A Louisville pastor became the first African-American to be named a first vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention on Wednesday.

Kevin Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville, received 423 votes during the convention's meeting in Bowling Green.

Charles King, a pastor from Frankfort, is the only other African-American officer elected by the convention. King served as the convention's second vice president in 1971 according to spokesman Robert Reeves.

Smith is an assistant professor of church history at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville in addition to his work at Watson Memorial Baptist.

Skip Alexander, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, was the runner-up with 208 votes.

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FORUM

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Bringing back Lott

Did the Republican leadership learn anything on Election Day? Did they finally get it that voters are fed up with politicians who use their office to raise money and get perks?

Will the GOP return to the lean, ascetic, committed politics that animated its 1994 surge to power or will it resist change and choose leaders who skate on the edge of corruption in their bid for privilege?



Morris Advisory
By Dick Morris
Syndicated Columnist

And, in the Senate, will the Republicans realize that they need a mechanic who can make the trains run on time to tie the Democrats in knots?

And do the Democrats realize that their surge to the top was not due to the outpouring of true leftist believers but because centrist, moderate candidates won swing states and districts, just as Clinton did in 1996?

The answer to these questions will be apparent in the leadership elections coming soon in both houses of Congress.

In the House, Majority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio) will try to take Dennis Hastert's place at the head of the diminished ranks of Republicans. This is the same John Boehner who took to the House floor a few years back and distributed checks from tobacco PACs to those congressmen who put their desire for cigarette money ahead of the health of their constituents and voted against government regulation of this hideous industry.

This kind of self-serving, money-focused politics is just what landed the GOP in sufficient trouble to lose the House in the first place. Letting the escalator move up one notch and inviting Boehner to head the party's House delegation will send a clear signal that House Republicans have, like the Bourbon kings of France, in Talleyrand's words, "learned nothing and forgotten nothing."

Rep. Mike Pence (R-Ind.) represents the kind of politics that puts ideas ahead of cash and privilege. Electing a man with his kind of conservative principles would show that the Republican minority understands the frustration of their base voters who ejected them from the leadership.

By the same token, Rep. John Shadegg (R-Ariz.) also stands for principled politics and deserves the support of those who understand what hit them on Nov. 7. Not so of his opponent, Majority Whip Roy Blunt's (R-Mo.) wife, Abigail Perlman, and his son, Andrew, both lobby

for Altria, which is the newly sanitized name for Philip Morris. If Blunt is limited to the standard congressional salary of \$165,500, there is no reason why he shouldn't take care of his family finances by letting lobbying firms that represent this death-dealing industry hire his son.

Blunt and Boehner deserve to be thrown out of leadership.

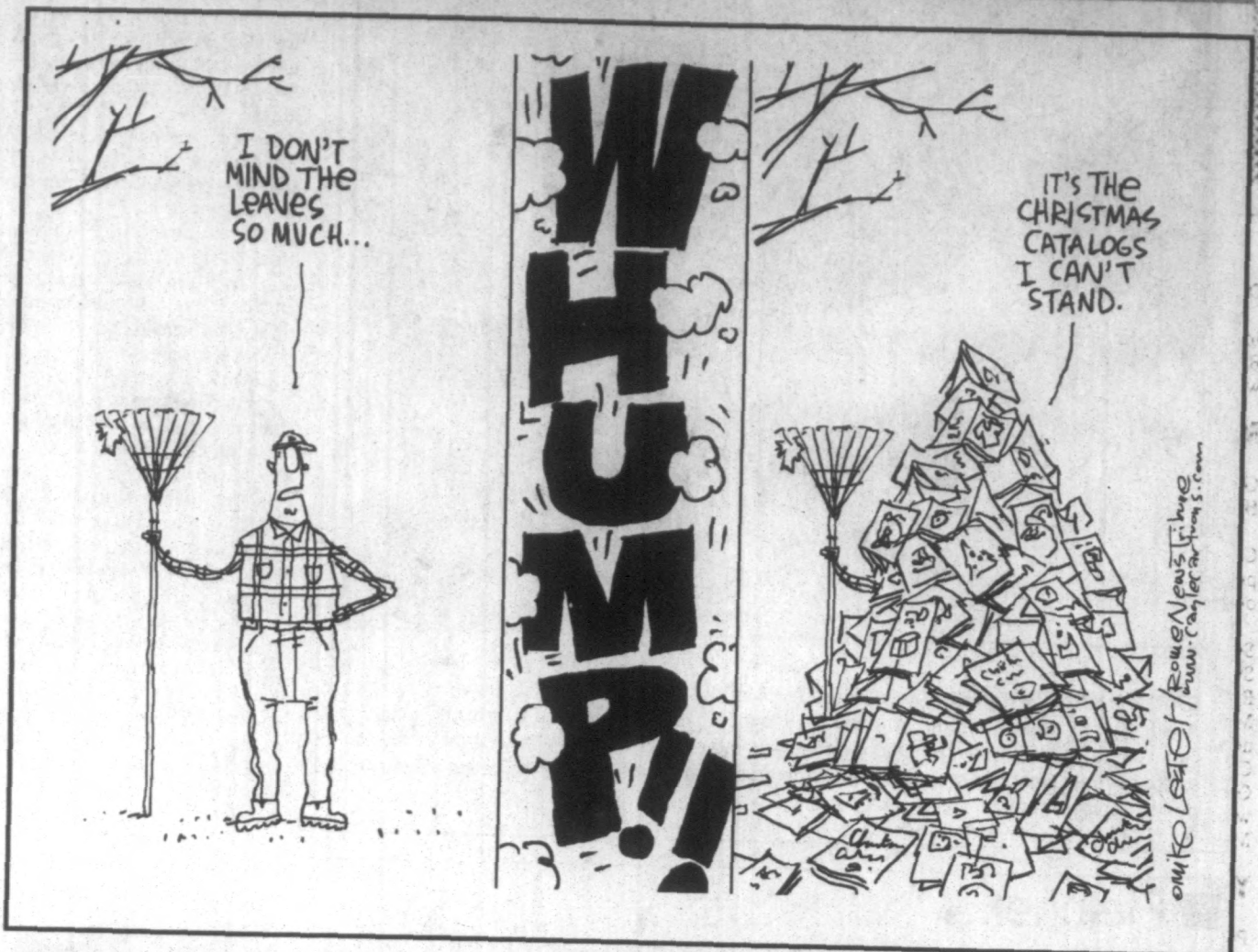
In the Senate, Republicans must realize that they lost power because Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) couldn't find the men's room, much less understand how to run the floor. He just never understood how to use the arcane rules and traditions of the Senate to get things done. The consensus that the 109th Congress passed almost nothing was not the fault of the House but of the Senate. The lack of a skilled Senate practitioner undermined the Republican Party badly.

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) will be a vast improvement over Frist. At least he is a politician, not a misplaced doctor. But McConnell will be Mr. Outside, the party's face to the media. Like former Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Texas), he will be an aggressive partisan who will shape the Republican case to the voters and the press. McConnell and the Republicans need to bring back the man who is their answer to Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.): Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.). Lott is a Lyndon Johnson/Richard Russell kind of character who knows how to use the Senate to get things done and enjoys twisting the Democrats into a pretzel.

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), Lott's opponent for minority whip, just got to the Senate four years ago after a disastrous run for president. He would make a fine Mr. Outside, but to give him the task of running the vote counts and making the trains run on time is to minimize the importance of this vital function. Lott has been in the Senate 18 years and knows how to implement the wishes of the Republican conference and McConnell, the minority leader.

House Speaker-to-be Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) showed that she is determined to hijack an election won by Democratic moderates and interpret it as a mandate for the extreme left. Her support of Rep. John Murtha (D-Pa.) for majority leader signals that she values ideology over cohesiveness.

Murtha's rival, Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) is a moderate who can work to smooth out Pelosi's rough edges. But Pelosi apparently doesn't want to be smoothed. She would rather be the Madame Lafarge of the House, knitting an extra stitch for each swipe of the guillotine as it slices off the heads of the very moderates who made her Speaker.



What Labor wants, Labor gets

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unions spent more than \$100 million getting out the vote, knocked on millions of doors and delivered Election Day support to Democrats running for the House by a more than 2-to-1 margin.

Now organized labor is spelling out what it wants from the new Democratic Congress.

The priorities include raising the minimum wage, expanding health care and improving pension protections.

Union workers voted Democratic in the House races, 67 percent to 30 percent. And others in union households voted almost as strongly Democratic, according to exit polls conducted for The Associated Press and the networks.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney sees the elections as a "mandate for a union agenda."

Likewise, says Bill Samuel, legislative director for the AFL-CIO, "we have an opportunity to push our agenda for working families."

Organized labor will press for an increase in the minimum wage — the most likely item to be passed because President Bush may go along with it if certain benefits are included for small businesses.

Labor also: —Wants changes in the Medicare prescription drug program to introduce price negotiations with pharmaceutical companies.

—Seeks to change bankruptcy laws that allow companies to abandon pension and health care commitments to workers.

—Opposes trade agreements that don't protect workers' rights.

WASHINGTON TODAY

By Will Lester

The unions also will push for improved mining safety laws, increased retirement protections and expanded health care.

"One of the best ways we can address stagnating wages and lost pensions and health care is to restore the bargaining power of workers," Samuel said.

The most effective way to restore that bargaining power, he said, is passage of the Employee Free Choice Act, which would allow formation of a union once there is majority support and increase penalties for management violations of efforts to organize. Current procedures that call for an election can be drawn out by managers to allow time to campaign aggressively against formation of a union, he said.

The AFL-CIO executive council meets Tuesday to discuss various issues, including the legislative agenda.

The aggressive stance is a sharp turnaround from the past few years.

"There were days during the last six years when we were in a defensive crouch protecting 60 years of workplace advances," Samuel said.

Organized labor clearly expects the Democratic Congress to help pass pro-worker legislation after an unprecedented get-out-the-vote effort.

Organized labor spent an unprecedented amount of money for midterm elections on its get-out-the-vote effort — \$40 million by the AFL-CIO alone — with 187,000 union volunteers in the AFL-

many close races. And Democratic lawmakers acknowledge that pro-worker legislation will be a priority.

"American workers have been losing ground over the last several years despite the nation's economic growth, and we are eager to change that by promoting economic policies that benefit everyone," said Rep. George Miller, the California Democrat likely to be chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

"First and foremost, we are going to raise the minimum wage. Through oversight, we are going to make sure that laws already on the books to protect workers are being enforced. And we are going to work to strengthen labor laws in order to improve the living standards of middle-class families," Miller said.

Organized labor will be able to push for hearings and get congressional support for the passage of some legislation, but it may face difficulties getting pro-worker bills signed into law because of the threat of Senate filibusters and presidential vetoes.

One of the biggest changes for labor, however, is not having to fend off attacks from a Republican Congress and administration, say veteran observers of labor.

"Labor is in a good position," said congressional analyst Norm Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute. "They were a major player in the turnout effort in an election with many close races. When they weigh in, they're going to be listened to."

MURRAY LEDGER & TIMES

1001 Whitnell Ave. • Murray, KY 42071-1040
Phone (270) 753-1916 • Fax (270) 753-1927
Mon. - Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Closed Sat. & Sun.

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3 mos \$26
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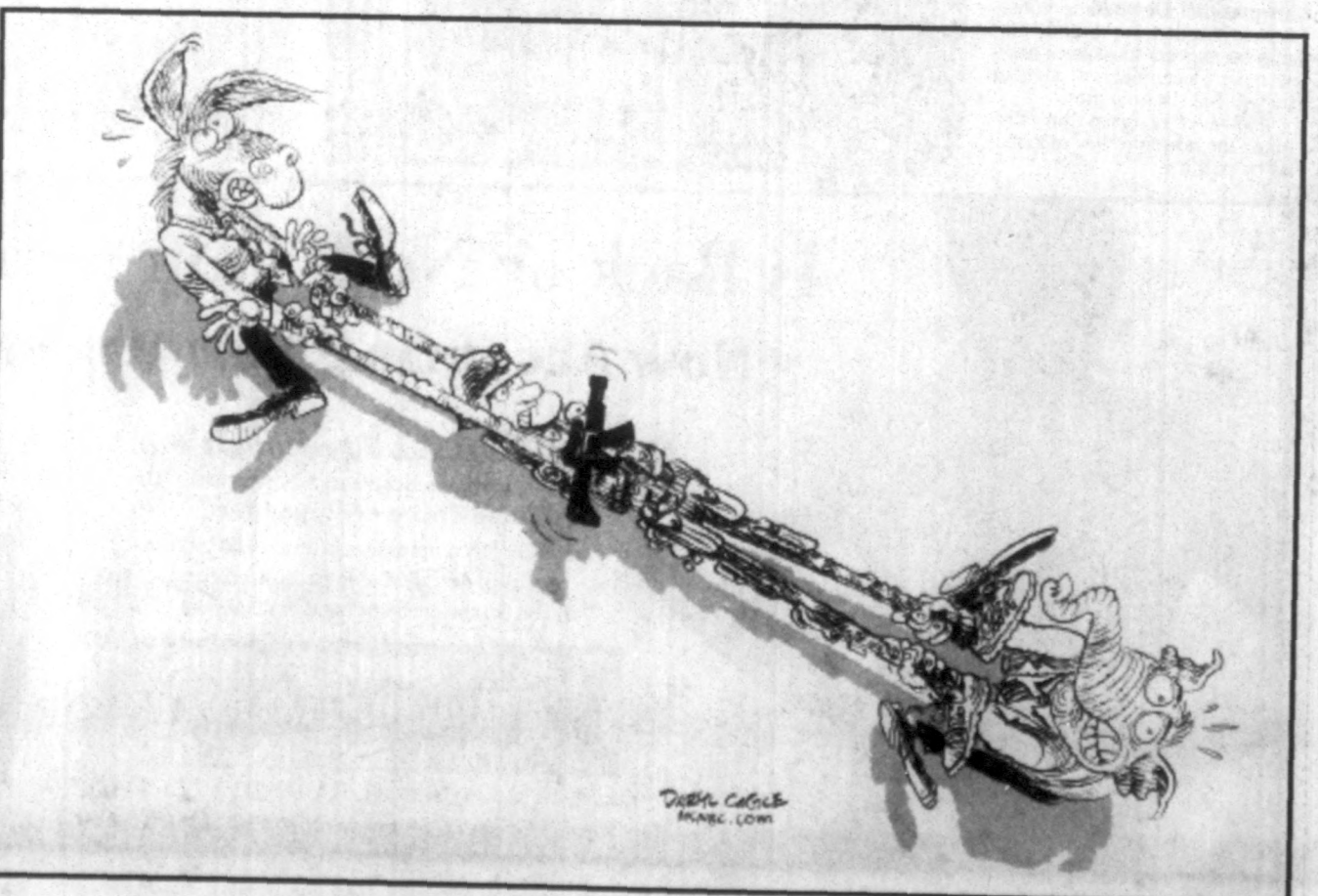
Mailed in Calloway Co., Benton, Hardin, Mayfield, Sedalia and Farmington, KY, \$91. By mail to rest of KY/TN - \$116, other mail subscriptions - \$136.

Published Monday through Saturday every afternoon, except Sundays, July 4, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day. Periodicals postage paid at Murray, KY. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE MURRAY LEDGER & TIMES, P.O. Box 1040, Murray, KY 42071-1040

MISS YOUR PAPER? Call the circulation department between 5 and 6 p.m. Mon. - Fri. or between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Saturday at 753-1916.

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AP KRA spa



Obituaries

Mrs. Mary Evins Crawford

Mrs. Mary Evins Crawford, 96, Auburn Health Care Center, Auburn, died Sunday, Nov. 12, 2006, at 1:13 p.m. at the center.



Crawford

Born July 17, 1910, in Calloway County, she was the daughter of the late Joel Evins and Olive Bazzell Evins. Also preceding her in death were her son and daughter-in-law, Iris Evins Crawford and Patricia Tift Crawford; three sisters, Nellie Evins McCallon, Novice Evins and Alline Evins, and one brother, Porter Bazzell Evins.

Survivors include four grandchildren, Ms. Mary Alice Crawford, Evansville, Ind., Mrs. Patsy Carruthers and husband, Jeff, Ludlow, Darrell Crawford and wife, Anne, Auburn, and

Dennis Crawford and wife, Jean, Murray; eight great-grandchildren. The funeral will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Churchill-Imes Family Funeral Home. Rev. Mark Earheart will officiate. Burial will follow in the Maplewood Cemetery, Mayfield. Visitation will be at the funeral home from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday.

Ms. Vollie O. Morris

Ms. Vollie O. Morris, 52, Metropolis, Ill., formerly of the Shady Grove community, died Monday, Nov. 13, 2006, at noon at Baptist Hospital, Knoxville, Tenn.

She was a public administrator and a member of Crockett St. Church of Christ, Brookport, Ill. A native of Paducah, Ky., she was preceded in death by her father, Warner Morris Sr., one sister and one brother.

Survivors include her mother, Mrs. Martha Murray Morris, Shady Grove community; two sisters, Mrs. Sharon Morris-Hall, Shady Grove, and Mrs. Gail Woolridge, Murray, Ky.; three brothers, Robert Daughtery, Detroit, John Morris, Matteson, Ill., and Larry Morris, Paducah, Ky.; three aunts; one uncle; several nieces, nephews and cousins. The funeral will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at Crockett St. Church of Christ. William Hensley, Graham McGill and Garry Hoyt will officiate. A private burial will be held. Visitation will be at the church after 9 a.m. Saturday. Jackson Funeral Home, Metropolis, Ill., is in charge of arrangements.

Yoshiki Sato

A memorial service for Yoshiki Sato will be Saturday at 4 p.m. at Poplar Spring Baptist Church. Bro. Dennis Norvell will officiate. Visitation will be at the church from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday. J.H. Churchill Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Sato, 62, Murray, died Sunday, Nov. 12, 2006, at 2:39 p.m. in the emergency room of Murray-Calloway County Hospital.

Employed by Jakel Corp., Murray, he also worked as an adjunct instructor with Murray State University in Japanese communication and continuing education. He was a member of Poplar Spring Baptist Church.

Born Jan. 3, 1944, in Seoul, South Korea, he was the son of the late Sadami Sato and Masa Kubota Sato. One brother, Haruki Sato, also preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Doris Turner Sato, and one son, Kristopher Sato, both of Murray; one sister, Kimie Suwa, Tokyo, Japan.

Mrs. Helen Faye Tomlin Bristoe

A graveside service for Mrs. Helen Faye Tomlin Bristoe was today (Thursday) at 11 a.m. at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens, Paducah. Rev. Harold Council officiated.

The Lone Oak Chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to American Cancer Society, 3140 Parisa Dr., Paducah, KY 42003, or Lourdes Hospice, 2855 Jackson St., P.O. Box 7100, Paducah, KY 42002-7100.

Mrs. Bristoe, 57, Lone Oak, formerly of Calloway County, died Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006, at 4:45 a.m. at her home.

An independent insurance agent, she was a member of Lovelaceville Baptist Church. She was the daughter of the late James Bismarck Tomlin and Dorothy Mae Austin Tomlin. Survivors include one daughter, Mrs. Alisa Bogges Williams, one sister, Mrs. Kathy Maness, and two nephews, Michael Maness and Matthew Maness, all of Murray.

Deer killed after plowing through furniture store

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. (AP) — An unwelcome visitor to a western Kentucky furniture store got a full-barreled reception from the store's owner.

Furniture Savings owner Dallas Brawner found himself in a strange predicament Tuesday afternoon when a four-point buck leapt through the front window of his store in downtown Hopkinsville and into his showroom.

"It was totally confused," Brawner told the Kentucky New Era of Hopkinsville.

Brawner got his first look at the beast after hearing the glass shatter. He rushed out of his office and watched while the

buck crashed into queen-sized beds, marble top end tables and rocking chairs.

After regaining his wits, Brawner hurried to the gun safe and pulled out his .38-caliber pistol.

"I got off a couple shots, but it didn't kill him," Brawner said.

A deep bullet mark was visible in a safety deposit box that was behind the deer when Brawner fired. The buck made its way through a 50-yard aisle of Brawner's inventory and disappeared in the rear of the store.

Brawner then called Hopkinsville police. Officers eventually shot and killed the deer in the rear of the store.

McConnell elected to top Republican leadership post in Democratic Senate

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell sounded conciliatory after his election Wednesday as the top Senate Republican leader, offering a "hand of friendship" to majority Democrats and suggesting a chance for accomplishments on such weighty issues as immigration and Social Security.

McConnell, ever the tough partisan fighter, added a warning to Democrats — if they are unwilling to cooperate, Republicans will have a "robust" minority to block Democratic initiatives.

McConnell completed his rise to power within Senate Republican ranks when his GOP colleagues unanimously selected him as their minority leader in the next Congress. He was relegated to the job after last week's election gave Democrats a slim majority. McConnell has been No. 2 Republican leader in the GOP-led Senate.

Having barely missed out on becoming majority leader and the chance to set the Senate's agenda, McConnell insisted he would remain influential in matters affecting the country and Kentucky.

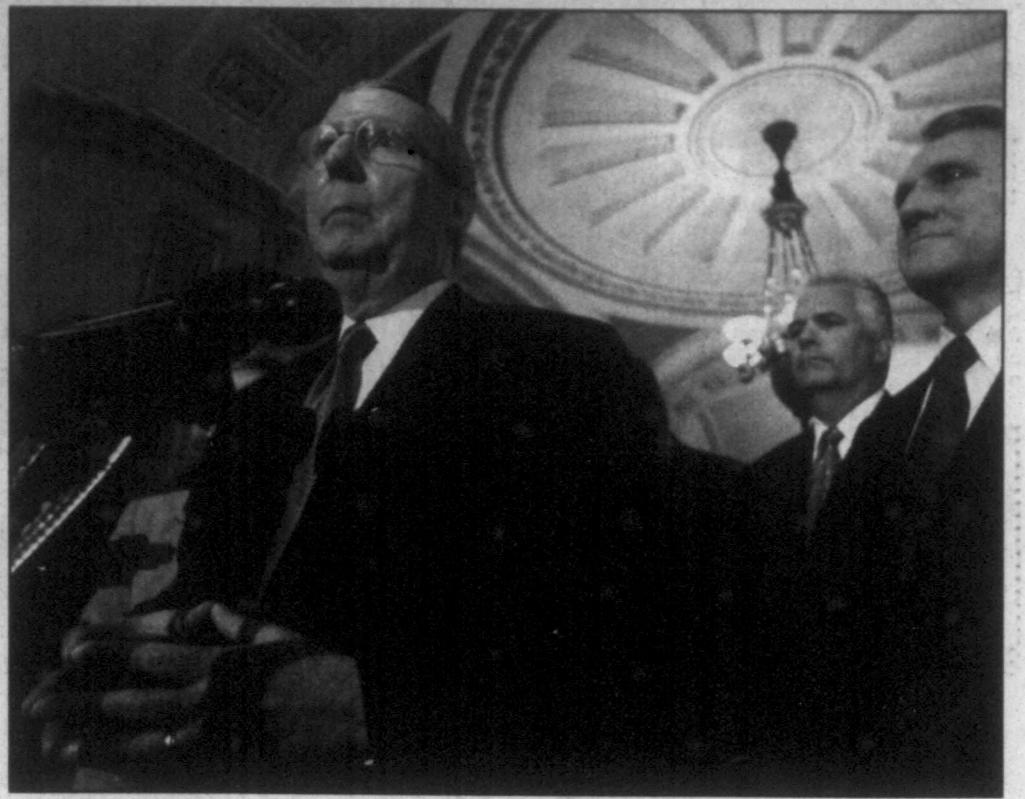
"I'll have just as much influence certainly as I've ever had, if not more, on those issues that are directly related to Kentucky," he said in a conference call with reporters.

McConnell met later with Sen. Harry Reid, soon to become Democratic majority leader.

"Our hand of friendship is out to them," McConnell said of his Democratic colleagues. "We look forward to cooperating with them where possible."

With Democrats soon to lead Congress and Republicans still in control of the White House, McConnell noted that "sometimes good things will come out of divided government."

McConnell mentioned immi-



Incoming Senate Minority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell of Ky., left, speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday. From left are, McConnell, Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., and Jon Kyl, R-Ariz.

gration legislation as one issue "ripe for bipartisan accomplishment."

Another issue that Congress should tackle is the looming insolvency in Social Security, he said.

He cited a precedent for such action during a time of divided government, noting changes to Social Security that were orchestrated by President Reagan, a Republican, and Democratic House Speaker Tip O'Neill.

"This would be a good time with divided government to see if we couldn't grapple with some of the serious, large issues confronting the next generation, and I would put Social Security right at the top of the list,"

McConnell said.

Kentucky's other GOP senator, Jim Bunning, hailed McConnell's selection as minority leader.

"Mitch is the right man for the job and I look forward to working closely with him and all the members of our new leadership team," Bunning said.

David Adkisson, president/CEO of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, said McConnell's new status "clearly puts Kentucky in an enviable position" in the Senate.

"I don't doubt that Sen. McConnell will utilize his leadership position for maximum benefit to Kentucky," he said.

Michael Baranowski, a political scientist at Northern

Kentucky University, said that McConnell's new role is good for Kentucky. But Baranowski said Republicans' loss of Congress could affect the flow of federal money to Kentucky, which has strongly leaned toward Republicans in recent federal elections.

Baranowski said McConnell will be a "strong proponent" of the GOP agenda in the Senate. But after a stint as a majority party powerbroker, serving in the minority will require "a different skill set," he said.

"We're going to find out ... how skilled Sen. McConnell is at playing not from a position of strength but from the minority spot," Baranowski said.

GOP senator considering gubernatorial run

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — A Louisville Republican who helped shift the balance in the state Senate when he left the Democratic Party in 1999 is considering a run for governor next year, he said Wednesday.

Sen. Dan Seum, R-Louisville, said a "considerable amount of people" have contacted him about possibly challenging Gov. Ernie Fletcher in next year's governor's race. And, he's in the "very early stages" of consideration, Seum said.

"There are people in the commonwealth that are looking for a true Republican conservative that understands that government should be about helping the working men and women of the commonwealth," Seum said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

A spokeswoman for Fletcher's campaign did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

With his election in 2003,

Fletcher became the state's first GOP governor in more than 30 years. However, Fletcher was politically weakened in the aftermath of a 15-month investigation into allegations his administration steered protected state jobs to political supporters.

Fletcher was charged with three misdemeanors stemming from the probe, but the charges were dismissed after an agreement with prosecutors. A final grand jury report on its investigation has been filed under seal with the court, and its release was pending.

Various Republican leaders throughout the state have questioned Fletcher's chances of winning a second term in office. They include Senate President David Williams, Secretary of State Trey Grayson and Jack Richardson IV, head of the state GOP's Louisville chapter.

Lt. Gov. Steve Pence left Fletcher's re-election ticket this past summer, and rebuffed

Fletcher's call for him to resign his election post.

The state Republican Party rebuffed Fletcher on at least two occasions when it ignored his call for the ouster of chairman Darrell Brock. In August, state GOP leaders subsequently rejected Fletcher's choice for the party's top committee, Larry Forgy, and instead installed Stephen Huffman, Pence's chief of staff.

Billy Harper, a western Kentucky businessman and

Fletcher's former political ally, has said he also intends to challenge Fletcher. Harper said he believed Fletcher squandered his chance at re-election.

Seum said he did not want to criticize Fletcher, and that his intentions were to "do a reality check" on whether he should challenge Fletcher. Seum acknowledged that Fletcher already had a substantial lead in fundraising, making a gubernatorial run against him more challenging.



Pete Lancaster



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STOCK MARKET REPORT

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Birth Announcements

Macy Jay Todd

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Todd of Camelot Drive, Murray, are the parents of a daughter, Macy Jay Todd, born on Friday, Nov. 10, 2006, at Jackson Purchase Medical Center, Mayfield.

The baby weighed 7 pounds 12 ounces and measured 21 inches. The mother is the former Kimberly McNeely. A sister is Mia Brienne Todd, 4.

Maternal grandparents are Steve and Donna McNeely and paternal grandparents are Myles and Linda Todd, all of Calloway County.

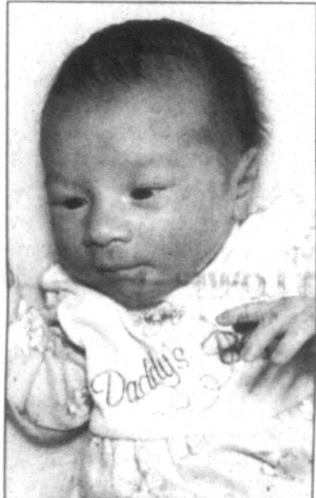
Maternal great-grandparents are David and Pat McMullin of Calloway County and Elena Pittman of Wickliffe.

Jayden Robert Oldham

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Oldham of Cardinal Drive, Murray, are the parents of a son, Jayden Robert Oldham, born on Monday, Oct. 23, 2006, at 4:18 p.m. at Murray-Calloway County Hospital.

The baby weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches. The mother is the former Rita Cook. Two sisters are Cheyenne and Sierra Robinson.

Grandparents are Elbridge and Stella Cook of Corinth, Ky., and Jesse and Sarah Oldham of Shawneetown, Ill.



Jayden Robert Oldham



HERITAGE BALL: The public is invited to attend the Heritage Ball on Saturday from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Murray State University Curris center ballroom. Members of the Murray Woman's Club finance committee making final preparations for the Heritage Ball in the recently renovated club house are clockwise from left, Karen Olson, Sue White, Sara Fineman and Kathy Stanfa. Tickets are available at the Gallery or by contacting Kay Hays at 809-2234 or e-mail kay.hays@murraystate.edu.

Department hears Kuai

Gabriel Ake Kuai, Murray State University student from Africa, was the speaker at the last meeting of the Alpha Department of the Murray Woman's Club.

Ake Kuai was separated from his family at the age of 4 1/2 years. His father died in prison and he has not seen his mother since that time, but he does know where she is and sends her support. After his graduation from MSU, he will visit his family in Africa.

Hostesses for the brunch meeting were Claire Resig, Alice Koenecke and Melissa Sladd.

The department will meet Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the club house. The meeting time has been changed as several members will be decorating for the Heritage Ball at the MSU Curris Center earlier that morning.

Belle Raj from India will speak about "India Through a Native's Eyes." Hostesses will be Kathy Stubblefield, Dottie Lyons and Sue Smith.



Gabriel Ake Kuai, left, is pictured with Lois Pharris at the meeting of the Alpha Department of the Murray Woman's Club.

Murray High graduate will receive community service award

The Austin Board of Realtors will hold its annual installation and award gala at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin, Texas, on Dec. 1.

Each year ABoR recognizes the achievements and contributions of a few distinguished members.

Daffney (D.A.) Henry, broker/owner of The Aldion Group



Daffney (D.A.) Henry
Realty will receive the 2006 Community Service Award.
A 20-year ABoR member.

Henry has been a fierce advocate for both the association and the Austin-area community.

In addition to donating 10 percent of her company's proceeds to clients' churches, Henry has helped disadvantaged Austinites attend college, secure employment and buy homes.

As an ABoR member, Henry has served on several committees and task forces including Diversity and Grievance. She currently serves on the Professional Standards committee and executive board of the Women's Council of Realtors. She holds the ABR, GRI, and CRS Realtor Designations.

ABoR congratulates this deserving winner and thanks her for outstanding service. Henry is a 1969 graduate

of Murray High School and a 1972 and 1974 graduate of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky., where she received her bachelor of arts and a master in public service degrees. She is a retired State of Texas Executive and the daughter of Adelle Dunlap who resides in Murray.

Turkey Trot will be held Saturday

The Murray State University chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity will hold its second annual turkey Trot on Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Carr health building.

Open to MSU personnel and people in the surrounding area, the event will feature a 5-K Run and a 5-K Fun Walk. Prizes will be given to the first three places in the male and female divisions of each age group.

In addition, a Spirit Award will be given to one campus organization.

A \$5 donation per runner/walker is desired, but donations are not mandatory. All proceeds will go to the American Diabetes Association. November is National Diabetes Awareness Month.

For more information, contact Justin Burkeen at 270-293-3120.

Marine Corps League will meet on Saturday



Jo's Datebook
By Jo Burkeen
Community Editor

The Billie Ray Walston Detachment of the Marine Corps League will meet Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Pagliai's Pizza on Chestnut Street, Murray.

League members will collect new Christmas toys and cash donations for the Marine Corps' "Toys for Tots" program from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. at Pagliai's. Anyone with donations can bring them to the rear dining room.

All Marines and their families are invited and are encouraged to join the local Marine Corps League Detachment.

Green Plain Singing Friday

The 24th annual singing at the Green Plain Church of Christ, located on the corner of Green Plain and Murray Paris Roads, southeast of Murray, will be Friday starting at 7 p.m. A refreshment break will be at 9 p.m. The public is invited.

NARFE Chapter to meet Friday

Kentucky Lake Chapter #0853 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees will meet Friday at 11 a.m. at Holmes Family Restaurant. The wrong day was released previously as to earlier date this month.

'Meet the Lakers' on Saturday

Calloway County High School will have its "Meet the Basketball Lakers" on Saturday. Introduced will be the CCHS Dance Team, CCMS Cheerleaders, CCMS and CCHS basketball teams and Laker Little Dribblers. All activities and promotions will begin at 5 p.m. Admission is \$2 and the public is invited.

CCHS Diamond Club will meet

Calloway County High School Diamond Club will meet Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce. All members and interested parties are urged to attend.

Magazine Club will meet

Magazine Club will meet Friday at 2 p.m. at Tom's Grill with Betty Lowry as hostess.

Martin's Chapel plans bazaar

Martin's Chapel United Methodist Church have a bazaar on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church. Also breakfast and lunch will be served.

Holiday Bazaar at library

The annual Holiday Bazaar, sponsored by South Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, will be Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Calloway County Public Library.

Hardin Baptist plans event

Hardin Baptist Church will have an Upward Basketball and Cheerleading Program at the church. Registration deadline is Saturday. Call 437-4868 for information.

Bell ringers are needed

The Calloway County Unit of The Salvation Army is looking for bell ringers for their opening weekend on Nov. 24 and 25. All ringing will take place outside the entrances to Walmart. Individuals or groups may sign up for one hour or more time slots. The hours will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on both days. Those interested are asked to call Kerry Lambert, unit chairman, at 753-7265 and leave a message.

College Rodeo starts tonight

The 31st annual Murray State University College Rodeo will be tonight, Friday and Saturday starting at 7 each night at the William (Bill) Cherry Expo Center, College Farm Road. Border town will be appearing nightly from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 general, \$5 students and children under 5 free. For more information call 809-3125.

Glory Bound Entertainment Friday

Glory Bound Christian Entertainment Ministry will feature Brotherly Love, Judith Lamb and Elaine Reid on Friday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Goshen United Methodist Church, Ky. 121 North at Stella. The public is invited and there is no charge. For more information call Joe Lawrence at 753-5643, Renee Taylor at 753-8124 or Patrick Lea at 761-2666.

Reformers Unanimous to meet Friday

Reformers Unanimous, a Christ-centered addictions program, meets each Friday from 7 to 9 p.m. at Eastwood Baptist Church. For information or for a ride call 753-1834.

Legion Post meeting changed

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, American Legion Post #73 will meet tonight at 7 in the conference room of Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce. The agenda will focus on continued planning for the new Legion Hall. All members and veterans are encouraged to attend. For more information call Post Commander Don Adcock at 227-7939 or 489-2844.

Twin Lakes Car Club will meet

Twin Lakes Region, Antique Automobile Club of America will have its monthly dinner meeting at Majestic Steak House, Draffenville, tonight at 6. The club is open to anyone with an interest in antique automobiles and visitors are welcome. For more information call Howard Brandon at 753-4389 or Terry Ridgley at 753-1829.

Hazel Woman's Club will meet

Hazel Woman's Club will meet tonight at 7 at the Hazel Community Center with Iuta Hutson and Delpha Taylor as speakers. Hostesses will be Elaine Paschall and Carolyn Parks.

Our Registered Bridal Couples:

- Julie Bartlett & James Hammack III
- Keisha Darnell & Jeff Kinsley
- Lindsay McNutt & Edwin Orange
- Kacee Stonecipher & Landon Barrow
- Kelley Travis & Allen Sullivan
- Amberly Paschall & Matt Houser
- Kimberly Howard & Andrew Willson
- Callie Gannaway & Matthew Harris
- Ashley Powell & Aaron Grant
- Melanie Steiger & Bryan Furches
- Hillary Hulse & Chris O'Neal
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24th Annual Singing
at the
Green Plain Church of Christ
3980 Murray Paris Road
Hazel, KY 42049
Friday, Nov. 17, 2006
From 7:00 p.m. until ???
There will be a refreshment break at 9:00 p.m.
The church building is located southeast of Murray - One mile off Hwy. 641 - On the corner of the Green Plain and Murray Paris Roads

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
November 19th, 2006
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Hardin Community Center
Featuring: Home Interiors, Tupperware, Pampered Chef, Creative Memories, Carol Gift Baskets, Axxon, Homemade Gourmet, Crafty Frames & More, Lia Sophia, Body Shop at Home, Thomas the Train, Florals with Senior Citizens, Hardin Homemakers Bake Sale, Stampin Up, Langerberger Baskets, Home & Garden, Arbonne, Mary Kay, House of Style, Handmade Purses, Polish Pottery, and MORE!
For more information call: Sherri Neaty at 437-3878 or Debbie Guthrie at 527-3676

Know The Full Story
Read the
MURRAY LEDGER & TIMES

Recipe calls for 2 bricks to be in oven with other ingredients

Yes, go out and get two bricks. The first time I fixed this my wife thought I had lost it! Picture this, you look up and see your husband walking into the kitchen with two red bricks and he tells you he is cooking with them. My children always asked, when they were little, why I had bricks in the kitchen cabinet.



Tried & True Recipes

By Mr. Mom - Mark Anderson

Well first you put the bricks in the dishwasher or wash and boil them. I always cover them with foil also. I have also used two cast iron skillets, and a cast iron griddle to cook with.

Now you will need:
 — Two fryer chicken halves
 — One stick of butter
 — Two cloves of garlic
 — Salt and pepper

I always ask the butcher to cut the chicken in half at the store as it saves so much time. I will never forget the time there was a young butcher in the meat department and had given him three or four chickens and asked, "Will you please cut them in half for me while I shop?"

After a while I stopped to talk to the store manager near the meat department, when the young butcher brought the chickens out. Yes, you are right, he had cut them width wise, not length wise. Thinking quickly, as the store manager looked on, I said, "That's great for my dumplings, now will you cut these four chickens long ways for tonight's dinner." I was later thanked by the young butcher for sparing him the humiliation and I told him, when people ask you to cut a chicken in half, I would ask them which way they want it cut.

Take your two halves and rinse them on both sides and let drain. While they are draining, melt your butter and add the two crushed cloves. Simmer the butter and garlic until garlic clears and set aside, but do not let it cool. Take the two chicken halves and brush the garlic butter on both sides. Salt and pepper the halves to your liking.

Pre-heat your oven to 375 degrees with the brick or cast iron in the oven. Now after 10 minutes take your casserole dish and place the chickens skins side up and give them another brush of garlic butter. Place the bricks on the chickens and place in the oven for 25 minutes. Now forget the chicken and let's work on old friends Oyster Dressing:

- 1 cup of self-raising cornmeal
- 1/2 cup self-raising flour
- 3/4 cup of buttermilk (not low fat)
- 2 large eggs
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil

Dressing
 — 7 slices of white bread, dried in a warm oven

Applications being taken for Food Basket program

Need Line of Murray and Calloway County is accepting applications for the annual Need Line Christmas Food Basket program. These may be made at the office at 638 S. Fourth St., Murray, between the hours of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Each one should bring proof of income and food stamps for all members in the household. This program is first come first serve, all other factors permitting, according to Tonia Casey, executive director of Need Line.

Food items are needed for the baskets. An organizations or congregations willing to donate items should call during office hours at 753-6333.

- Cornbread
 — 1 sleeve saltine crackers
 — 2 cups chopped celery
 — 1 large onion, chopped
 — 8 tablespoons butter
 — 7 cups of chicken stock
 — 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
 — 1 pinch of salt
 — 1 teaspoon dried sage
 — 1 tablespoon poultry seasoning
 — 2 pints of oysters drained (1 more if your

family loves oysters like mine)
 The cornbread goes as combined all ingredients and pour into a baking dish or cast iron skillet. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 25 minutes. Remove from oven and cool.
 To make the dressing take out a large bowl, crumble dried white bread slices, cornbread and the crackers. Mix together and set aside. Sauté the celery, and onion in butter until transparent.

Pour over the bread mixture and add stock, salt, pepper, sage, and poultry seasoning. Add beaten eggs, oysters and mix.
 Pour the mixture into a greased seasoned cast iron dutch oven or a casserole pan and cover. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes and uncover, continue baking for 20 minutes. To finish the meal let's add Cranberry Salad:
 — 1 3 oz. package of orange gelatin

- 1 cup hot water
- 1/2 cup cold water
- 1/2 pound cranberries
- 3 apples
- 2 oranges
- 1/2 cup crushed pineapple
- 1/4 chopped nuts
- 3/4 cup sugar (or Splenda)

Dissolve the gelatin in hot water, then add cold water. Cool mixture and set aside. Wash and grind cranberries. Pare and chop apples and oranges into small chunks. Stir together ground cranberries, chopped apples, oranges, pineapple, nuts, and sugar. Add thickened gelatin mixture, and chill in serving dish until firm. As my middle daughter said, "This is a keeper!"
 Happy Thanksgiving from Mr. MOM and the Anderson's. If you have a recipe you want us to try write Murray Ledger & Times, Attn: Mr. Mom, and we will give it a try.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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'HANSEL AND GRETEL': As part of our service learning grant Market House Theatre recently performed "Hansel and Gretel" for all Murray Elementary School students. Students recognized the elements of performance as each character played their role and identified the technical elements of the play to include set design, costume design, sound/music, and props. Several students were invited to join the performance as a character. It was a rewarding drama experience for everyone.

Photo provided

'Greater Tuna' performed at Mayfield-Graves County Community Performing Arts Center

MAYFIELD, Ky. — Purchase Players and Badgett Playhouse of Grand Rivers are proud to jointly present "Greater Tuna" next week at the Mayfield-Graves County Community Performing Arts Center.

"Greater Tuna" is slated for 7 p.m. on November 20-22 at the Mayfield-Graves County Community Performing Arts Center located at 302 West Water Street in Mayfield. Reserved tickets for "Greater Tuna" are currently on sale for \$12 and may be purchased through Badgett Playhouse of Grand Rivers by calling their toll-free hotline at 1-888-362-4223. Tickets may be purchased at the Community Performing Arts Center each night of the play starting at 6 p.m.

More than 20 years ago, the show was born as a simple party skit based on a political cartoon. "Greater Tuna" is comedy about the third smallest town in Texas where Patsy Cline never dies and the Lion's Club is too liberal.

By 1985, "Greater Tuna" was the most produced play in the United States with schools, colleges, professional and community theaters all anxious to add the hit comedy to their repertoire. The Marines Memorial Theater in San Francisco began a local production of the play that spanned a record-breaking seven consecutive years.

The satire on rural life in America has 20 characters that are portrayed by only two performers - Bill Minihan and Steve Sherling.



Shown are Bill Minihan and Steve Sherling in a scene from "Greater Tuna."

Photo provided

"It has been performed all over the country," Minihan said. "The guys that wrote it back in 1985 are still performing it today. It has been so successful. There's 'Red, White and Tuna' and we're bringing 'Tuna Christmas' to Mayfield next month."

Minihan has performed in numerous Branson shows and heads the Badgett Playhouse in Grand Rivers. Sherling brings an extensive resume from New York that includes stage, television and comedy clubs.

"Steve has done it all," Minihan said. "He's been on Saturday Night Live and in some

soap operas." Minihan said that "Greater Tuna" will be a performance for the young and old.

"We've cleaned it up," Minihan said. "There's no profanity or nothing raunchy. It's family friendly. You can bring your kids or your grandma to watch it."

"It has been fun and it has been a real challenge," Minihan said. "There are 43 costume changes in the two-hour performance. We might be wearing four costumes at one time. We might be off stage and have to play two characters at the same time."

Comic Relief returns after 8-year hiatus

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Comic Relief, the celebrity-studded fundraising telethon for the homeless, is back, after an 8-year hiatus.

Robin Williams, Billy Crystal and Whoopi Goldberg were to take the stage Saturday to raise funds for Hurricane Katrina victims, capping a week-long Comedy Festival that began Tuesday in Las Vegas.

Comic Relief founder and President Bob Zmuda said the decision to revive the telethon came after he narrowly escaped the wrath of the 2004 Asian tsunami while vacationing in Thailand.

"I got severe survivor's guilt," he said. He returned to Thailand to volunteer in a morgue with thousands of bodies. "It was the worst experience in my life and yet it became the best."

Then Katrina smashed into the Gulf Coast last year, leaving thousands homeless — and giving Comic Relief a new cause.

"We decided we had this great brand name and comedians were still willing to do it," Zmuda said.

The show marks the ninth major telecast of Comic Relief.

a 20-year-old institution that held its last major event in 1998. Participating this year are Bill Maher, Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert, George Lopez and Sarah Silverman. Wayne

Brady will host the show's satellite location in New Orleans. It will be broadcast live from Caesars Palace on HBO and, with an 8-second delay for content, on TBS.

Murray State to host GAC Country Christmas Tour

Special to the Ledger

Murray State University's Lovett Auditorium will be one of many sites across the nation to host the 2006 GAC Country Christmas Tour presented by StubHub.

The musical event brings festive cheer and some of the biggest names in country to town this year. Join five of country music's favorites, including Deana Carter, Julie Roberts; Blue County, Steve Azar and Buddy Jewell as they sing in the holiday spirit with Christmas classics and their well-known hits. The show at Lovett Auditorium is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 3. A time has not yet been determined.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit World Vision Storehouse Project, a community store that helps meet basic needs for children and families by offering donated, high-quality goods to revitalize neighborhoods and sustain families for a hope-filled future. Local churches, schools, and community groups distribute the items to families in need. So, gather your family and celebrate the season with great country music for a great cause!

"We are thrilled to be able

to present such an exciting line-up," explains Mitchell Solarek, tour producer. "With some of country music's most talented performers on the roster this is sure to be an awesome show packed with unforgettable moments that the entire family can appreciate this holiday."

"StubHub is very excited to present the GAC Country Christmas Tour this year while supporting the World Vision charity," said Colin Evans, VP of Sales and Business Development for StubHub. "With country music's brightest stars on the bill, we look forward to introducing the StubHub brand to country music fans while raising money for charity."

"This is a great opportunity for GAC to bring the holiday spirit of country music to the fans and GAC viewers in a family-friendly setting at an affordable price," said Ed Hardy, GAC president.

Award-winning vocalist Deana Carter will perform hits like "Strawberry Wine" as well as her take on some of today's holiday favorites from her latest release Father Christmas. Country music's Cinderella and fan favorite, Julie Roberts is

sure to win over the crowd with her deep, blues-soaked voice. Roberts' sophomore release Men and Mascara solidified her spot as one of country music's most sultry sirens.

Country music powerhouse Blue County is also on the line-up, this dynamic duo took country radio air waves by storm with their debut single, "Good Little Girls" and will stun the audience with their smokin' live performance. If that isn't enough to satisfy your country music craving, soulful singer-songwriter Steve Azar is sure to be the cure with his radio hits "I Don't Have to Be Me Till Monday" and "You Don't Know A Thing."

To top it all off, world-class singer and Nashville Star winner, Buddy Jewell will give you more wonderful music with his warm, expressive voice and well known hits "Help Pour Out the Rain" and "Sweet Southern Comfort." In addition to their celebrated hits, each artist will perform favorite holiday tunes; this is one event that you don't want to miss.

For more information about ticketing, prices and points of purchase please visit www.gac-countrychristmas.com.

Open House, Members Exhibit planned at Murray Art Guild's new location

The Murray Art Guild invites the community to the opening of its annual Members Exhibit and reception, Sunday, Dec. 3, from 2-4 p.m., featuring 2- and 3-dimensional artwork by Guild members, entitled "MAG Minis."

Join the members in celebrating the Guild's new location at 500 N. 4th St. Those attending will be given materials to create a "mini" of their own.

The exhibit will remain on display through Dec. 18, during regular guild hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 753-4059 for more information.



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Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

2006

"An Old Fashioned Murray Christmas Parade"

The Murray Rotary Club invites you and your group to participate in our annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2nd. Community participation and support is what makes this such a unique and wonderful event. Please decorate your float or unit with a traditional, old-fashioned Christmas theme in mind.

School groups, church groups, civic organizations, bands, and music groups are invited to enter this parade. Over \$1,000 in cash prizes will be awarded to the first three places in three separate divisions — Church/Religious Division, Clubs/Civic Organizations, and Commercial Division.

The Rotary Christmas Parade offers your organization an excellent way to have some Christmas fun and maybe raise some money at the same time. First place prize in each division will receive \$150.

Parade entrants should report for line-up at 9:00 a.m. The primary unit feeder route onto Main Street is 10th Street. However, your group will be contacted by Nov. 30 with a unit number and line-up instructions. The parade begins at 10 a.m.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Group & Entry Description: _____

PARADE ENTRY DEADLINE WED. NOV. 29 AT 5 P.M.

Mail Entries To:
"Murray Rotary Club"
 P.O. Box 411, Murray, KY 42071
 or call Chamber of Commerce at 753-5171

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KENTUCKY 57, MIAMI (OH) 46

'Rough' around the edges



UK's Ramel Bradley (3) and Carl Richburg of Miami (Ohio) vie for a loose ball during the second half Wednesday in Lexington. Kentucky won the game 57-46.

PERRY CALLS SEASON-OPENER ROUGH; WHILE CATS HAVE HARD TIME PUTTING AWAY REDHAWKS

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Miami of Ohio did its best to help Kentucky realize the exhibition season is over and now the games count.

The RedHawks gave the 22nd-ranked Wildcats all they could handle Wednesday night, pulling to within one with just four minutes left before Kentucky scored the last 10 points to salvage a 57-46 victory in its season opener.

"It was rough," forward Bobby Perry said.

"We have to learn how to come out fired up." Kentucky got off to a sluggish start, making only two of its first 11 shots while Miami (0-2) hit six of its first 11, including four from 3-point range.

An open 3 by center Monty St. Clair midway through the half capped a 13-3 run for the RedHawks, who took their biggest lead at 16-6.

"It was a real nail-biter there," Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said. "Certainly we knew Miami would come in ready to play. They've got a really scrappy bunch, a very experienced team, and it showed."

Although the victory wasn't pretty, Kentucky found plenty to like — including a young, bona fide shot-blocker.

Freshman forward Perry Stevenson started his first career game, swatting seven shots.

"The stats speak for themselves," center Randolph Morris said. "He has great athleti-

cism and a unique ability to block shots."

Despite Stevenson's play, things got uncomfortable for the Wildcats late. Two free throws by Nathan Peavy cut the Kentucky edge to 47-46 with four minutes left — leaving the Rupp Arena crowd a little nervous.

"You always have that going through your mind," said junior Ramel Bradley, who made his first career regular season start at point guard. "This is college basketball and a lot of crazy things happen."

But Bradley hit a jumper in traffic and Randolph Morris made two free throws, then scored from the post to stretch it back to a seven-point deficit.

Peavy, who led Miami with 18 points, said nothing about the Wildcats really surprised him.

"I knew they had a lot of talent and they

■ See KENTUCKY, 2B

MAJOR LEAGUE MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Superlative skippers

GIRARDI, LEYLAND WIN AWARDS

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Girardi is the NL Manager of the Year. Oh, by the way — he's available.

Six weeks after he was fired by Florida, Girardi won the award Wednesday for keeping the rookie-laden Marlins in contention nearly all season. Jim Leyland took home AL honors after a quick turnaround with the Detroit Tigers.

A rookie skipper himself, Girardi beat out Willie Randolph of the New York Mets by a comfortable margin to become the first Manager of the Year with a losing record.

"I got my opportunity and I made the most of it," Girardi said. "I don't know if vindication is a good word, just because as a manager, you want to manage."

He received 18 of 32 first-place votes and totaled 111 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Randolph got eight first-place votes and 81 points.

"It's nice that people who watch the game every day understood what we accomplished," Girardi said, adding he

wasn't particularly surprised to win the award. "We had a lot of good things happen."

Leyland turned around the long-moribund Tigers in his first year with the team, leading them to the World Series and their first winning season since 1993. He received 19 of 28 first-place votes and 118 points to top Minnesota's Ron Gardenhire, who was listed first on nine ballots and totaled 93 points.

"I knew that we had something here. I thought it would take longer than it did. This team started believing," Leyland said. "We had good players going into spring training, but we didn't have a very good team. We made ourselves a good team and that's something I'm very proud of."

Playing 22 rookies, Girardi guided the Marlins to a 78-84 finish and had them in the play-off race until a late-September fade — a surprisingly competitive performance for a team that was expected to lose at least 100 games.

Florida had a \$15 million opening day payroll, the lowest in the major leagues by more

than \$20 million.

"They superseded everyone's expectations — not mine," Girardi said. "I told them when we went to spring training that I expected them to win, and they won."

Still, he was fired two days after the season ended following a rift with owner Jeffrey Loria. Girardi has since agreed to return to the New York Yankees' broadcast booth, rather than seek another managing job.

"I don't believe in this case perception is reality," he said. "I wanted it to work out but it never got worked out, for whatever reason."

"I didn't want to leave Florida," he added. "We move on to bigger and better things."

After the announcement, the Marlins were ready with a statement.

"We are pleased for Joe and we wish him well," the team said.

Girardi, who succeeded Randolph as Joe Torre's bench coach with the Yankees in 2005, is the first Manager of the Year

■ See GIRARDI, 2B

RACER VOLLEYBALL

Norris named Defensive Player of the Year

FOUR PLAYERS RECEIVE OVC ACCOLADES

By MSU Media Relations

Four Murray State volleyball players have recently earned All-Ohio Valley Conference accolades, headed by sophomore libero Heather Norris, who was named OVC Defensive Player of the Year.

Norris was also named to the All-OVC Second Team, leading the conference and ranking fifth nationally with 6.41 digs per game. She had 30 or more digs seven times this season, with a career-high of 39 coming at Eastern Illinois. She was named OVC Defensive Player of the Week five times, four of those on unanimous ballots.

Senior middle blocker Katie Kemezys was named to the All-OVC First Team. Kemezys ranks second in the OVC with an attack percentage of .319, third in the conference with 4.61 points per game, third in

the league with 3.85 kills per game and ninth in the OVC with 0.90 blocks per game.

She was the MVP of the Kent State Invitational and was named to the all-tournament teams at North Florida and Memphis. She had a career-high 28 kills this season against Southeast Missouri State and had a season-high six blocks five times this year.

Kemezys is the first First-Team honoree from Murray State since Sarah Ernst was so honored in 1999.

Also named to the All-OVC Second Team was senior middle blocker Holly Jansen. Jansen ranks fourth in the OVC with 3.78 kills per game and fourth in the league with 4.25 points per game. She was named to the all-tournament team at Kent State. She hit .283 in all matches and .300 in OVC matches.

Freshman Cassie Chesney was named to the OVC All-Newcomer Team. Chesney ranks second in the OVC with 12.89 assists per game and was among the top 30 in the nation three times. She claimed 20 double-doubles this season, ranking third on the team with 3.89 digs per game. She had a season-high 73 assists twice and repelled a season-high 25 digs at North Florida.

"I am very excited for our athletes," said MSU head coach David Schwepker. "This is a big honor for our team and our players. It shows that they have been dedicated all year."

Murray State (19-7) was scheduled to open play in the OVC Championship Tournament in Jacksonville, Ala., today at 3:30 p.m. against No. 6 Southeast Missouri State (14-17). The winner is slated to meet No. 2 Tennessee State (20-13) on Friday at 3:30 p.m.



Norris

COLLEGE HOOPS ROUNDUP

Oral Roberts stuns No. 3 Kansas

VEALY'S 3-POINT ARSENAL LIFTS ORU TO UPSET

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — It's party time at Oral Roberts, the religion-based school in Tulsa that gave Bill Self his first job as a head coach.

The lightly regarded Golden Eagles came into Lawrence as double-digit underdogs to a mighty Kansas team ranked No. 3 in the country, victorious in 165 of its last 175 home games. What they went home with Wednesday night was a surprising 78-71 victory over the Jayhawks, Self's current team.

"It may be the biggest regular-season win in school history," Oral Roberts coach Scott Sutton said. "Our trainer has been here over 30 years and said it was the highest-ranked team we've ever beat."

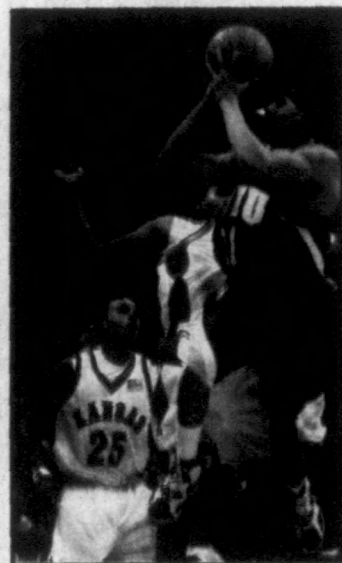
No doubt, the Jayhawks had a bad night. They were a miserable 11-for-21 from the foul line and spent most of the night missing easy shots and playing bad defense.

Nevertheless, led by Mid-Continent player of the year Caleb Green and unheralded sophomore Marchello Vealy, the Golden Eagles looked, acted and played like the best team on the court.

"When you beat the No. 3 team in the country, you have to feel well," said Green, who had 20 points and 11 rebounds. "This is a big day for our university."

Kansas' loss was nearly overshadowed by No. 2 North Carolina, which rallied to beat Winthrop 73-66 in the NIT Season Tip-Off at Charlotte, N.C. Tyler Hansbrough had 20 points and 10 rebounds, Wayne Ellington added 13 points and Brandon Wright scored 12 for the Tar Heels, who overcame 25 points from the Eagles' Torrell Martin to advance to the semifinals next week in New York against Gonzaga.

In other games involving ranked teams Wednesday, it was: No. 6 UCLA 82, BYU 69; No. 8 Georgetown 86, Vanderbilt 70; No. 9 Wisconsin 79, Wis.-Green Bay 62; No. 15 Arizona 101, N. Arizona 79; No. 18 Syracuse 81, Northeastern 58; and No. 24 Nevada 75, Oregon St. 47.



AP Oral Roberts' Adam Liberty (11) shoots while covered by Kansas defenders Russell Robinson, back, and Brandon Rush (25) in Lawrence, Kan., Wednesday.

Leyland, Girardi named top managers

Jim Leyland, who led the Tigers to their first winning season since 1993 and Joe Girardi, fired by the Marlins just two days after the end of the regular season, were named AL and NL managers of the Year.

Led the Tigers to baseball's best record in the first half of the season and their best start since Detroit's last world championship in 1984. Ended team's string of 12 losing seasons.



Leyland

	1st	2nd	3rd	TOT
Leyland	19	7	2	118
Gardenhire, MIN	9	15	3	93
Macha, OAK	-	5	11	26
Torre, NYY	-	1	12	15

As a rookie manager with a \$15 million payroll, took a Marlins team that started the season 11-31 to a 78-84 finish and had them in the playoff race deep into September.



Girardi

	1st	2nd	3rd	TOT
Girardi	18	6	3	111
Randolph, NYM	8	11	8	81
Bochy, SD	5	6	7	50
Little, LAD	1	5	10	30
Manuel, PHI	-	3	-	9
Narron, CIN	-	1	3	6
Gamer, HOU	-	-	1	1

SOURCE: Major League Baseball AP

Storms wreck Ala. skate rink filled with preschoolers

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Lines of thunderstorms hammered the South on Wednesday, turning a skating rink into a hulk of twisted metal soon after 31 preschoolers and four adults fled to the only part of the building that turned out to be safe.

One child suffered a broken bone and another a cut to the head, but everyone else emerged unharmed from the crumpled wreck of the Fun Zone Skate Center, which doubled as a day-care facility.

"I'm amazed that anyone got out of there," said Montgomery Mayor Bobby Bright. Several states were battered by the storms, which unleashed tornadoes and straight-line winds that overturned mobile homes and tractor-trailers, uprooted trees and knocked down power lines. At least one person was killed and several injured.

Authorities were unsure whether it was a tornado that hit the skate center about 10:15 a.m.

Jon Slaughter, who owns two nearby businesses, arrived at the skating center with two employees about five minutes after the building was ripped apart.

"What I saw was just utter destruction," said Slaughter.

"The children were scared, they were cold and dirty. They were crying and upset, but really they were calmer than I thought they would be."

The manager of the day-care center operating inside the building had made everyone get into the section of the building that survived the high winds.

"She may have saved many of these children's lives," the mayor said.

Two people crawled under the beams and wreckage looking for kids, apparently in disbelief that everyone inside could have walked out.

"I wasn't panicked until I saw the building," said Russell Grant, who showed up to take home his 5-year-old son, Justin, after hearing what had happened.

Dozens of buildings were damaged in four southwestern Mississippi counties and across the state line in three Louisiana parishes.

At least one tornado cut a path about two miles wide and three or four miles long in Greensburg, La., north of New Orleans, toppling trees and damaging buildings and power lines, said Maj. Michael Martin of the St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Office. A 43-year-old man was killed when the trailer he was

in was destroyed, he said. "That home just exploded," said Gordon Burgess, president of neighboring Tangipahoa Parish.

In Mississippi's Lamar County, emergency operations center director James Smith said a possible tornado struck a subdivision outside Sumrall around 2:50 a.m., damaging or destroying 11 homes.

Smith said six people were taken to hospitals from the Sumrall area, and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency said two other people were injured in Greene County.

Along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, devastated last year by Hurricane Katrina, rain flooded streets and closed some schools. City Hall in Biloxi suffered roof and water damage, and Mayor A.J. Holloway told The Sun Herald it appeared that a small tornado had touched down in the area.

As much as 4 inches of rain fell in southern Alabama, flooding some homes, authorities reported. A tornado in rural Pike County destroyed a volunteer fire department and knocked down a water tower, flooding the area, a sheriff's official said.

A possible tornado tore through a community south of

Montgomery, toppling trees, overturning a mobile home and knocking out power at a school. Storms overturned trailers in the southeast Alabama town of Elba, injuring several people, police investigator Tony Harrison said.

In Arkansas, the thunderstorms toppled tractor-trailer

rigs along Interstate 40 in Arkansas, and police said at least four people were hospitalized. Authorities said a hotel near Wheatley had structural damage.

The storms caused flash flooding in Arkansas, including the Little Rock area, where police said they rescued two

people who escaped high water by climbing trees.

More than 3.5 inches of rain fell at Little Rock, including more than an inch in 20 minutes at the city's airport, the weather service said. Hail the diameter of quarters pounded areas west of the city.

The Grave and the Figure Eight

by Kenneth Tucker

Author of *A Wilderness of Tigers*, a novel about the Harpe Brothers and Frontier Violence and *A Kentucky Colonel in King Arthur's Court and The Swamp Maiden of Venus*



At the end of the First World War, young Terence Garth, ailing in body and soul, returns to Western Kentucky to learn that his wealthy uncle and benefactor has married Isabel Fletcher, a much younger woman. Despite better intentions, Terence and Isabel give into to their mutual longings and find themselves reenacting a classic myth of lust, betrayal, outlawry, alcoholism, violence, murder, and possible redemption.

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Lewis Harrison wipes his face after pulling over 30 children from the Fun Zone after a storm destroyed the building and a possible tornado moved through the area in Montgomery, Ala., Wednesday.

Govt. made \$2.8B in improper farm payments

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agriculture Department on Wednesday acknowledged making improper payments to farmers worth more than \$2.8 billion last year.

Officials explained that most of the payments involved missing or incomplete paperwork. "We take this very seriously," said Chuck Christopher, the department's chief financial officer. "We know this is something that we can address and that we can fix."

Federal law requires agencies to track erroneous payments, such as checks sent to farmers who were not eligible for a particular program, or payments for the wrong amount of money.

The amount of improper payments in fiscal 2006 was about 11 percent of farm program payments, the department said. The fiscal year ended on Sept. 30.

Officials said nearly all of that, 10 percent, was because of missing or incomplete paperwork. As of last year, officials included in their tracking pay-

ments for which paperwork was missing or incomplete, such as a farm that went unsigned.

"While I certainly take seriously our jobs to ensure that every T is crossed and every I is dotted, I believe it's noteworthy to distinguish between the two types of errors here," said Teresa Lasseter, administrator of the Farm Service Agency, which runs most farm programs.

FSA is pursuing a plan to consolidate more than 2,300 county offices in an effort to modernize a Depression-era network with too few trained employees and some computers so old they can't connect to the Internet.

The local offices are where farmers sign up for government payments and loans.

"We can't really tell you that smaller-staffed offices or larger-staffed offices fared any better" at preventing improper payments, Lasseter said. "But certainly, better-trained staff with more tools to do their jobs would help us."

The department found fewer

than 1 percent of improper payments in its farm programs in 2005, but it tracked fewer programs, reviewing about \$38 billion in payments, versus \$65 billion in 2006.

Separately, the department found \$1.6 billion in improper payments made through the food stamp program.

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Looking Back

10 years ago
Murray Board of Education has approved its final working budget for the 1996-97 school year. The budget totals close to \$5 million, an increase of about \$40,000 from last year. The costliest area is instruction which totals \$3,025,022.
Holiday Open House for the businesses in Murray and Calloway County will be on Nov. 17.
Mr. and Mrs. Bud H. Manning will be married 50 years Nov. 23.
Births reported include a boy to Tammy and Scott Coleman and a boy to Lisa and Danny Sholar, Nov. 11; a girl to Danette and Tony Page, Nov. 12.
20 years ago
Published is a picture of Everett Nanney raking leaves in his yard at 411 S. Eighth St. in anticipation of the city-wide leaf pick up conducted through Dec. 20. The photo was by Staff Photographer David Tuck.
Named as members of West Kentucky Conference Football Team from Murray High School were James Payne, Ed Hendon, Mark Wallace, Jon Wilson, Tony Wilson, Rodney Skinner, Mark Miller, Jim Alexander, Keith Tyler, Troy Underwood and Chris Radgett.
Births reported include a girl to Jane and Joe McKendree and a boy to Kathy and Kenneth Herndon, Nov. 13.
30 years ago
Murray Chamber of Commerce will have its golden anniversary meeting on Nov. 20 at Colonial House Smorgasbord, according to Dr. Harry Sparks, chamber president, Jim Vernon, commissioner of Kentucky

Playing the choking game can end in deadly loss

DEAR ABBY: "Worried Sister" (10/4), who asked if she should inform her parents that her sister, "Cindy," is playing the choking game, may feel it is a betrayal if she breaks the confidence. But imagine how she'll feel if her



Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren
I'm a high school English teacher, and one of my students accidentally killed himself this way. It is a misnomer to call it a "game." You were correct, Abby - it is playing Russian roulette with one's life.
"Worried Sister" must intervene and alert her parents now. Cindy's addiction to the high produced through oxygen deprivation may indicate an addictive personality, something therapy can help. I watched one of my dearest friends repeatedly play the "game" when we were in seventh grade. As he grew older, he progressed to greater highs -- ultimately resulting in his death from a heroin overdose.
PAMELA IN GREENVILLE, S.C.
DEAR PAMELA: You are obviously a caring and dedicated teacher, and you were generous to offer your expertise. The mail I received in

response to "Worried Sister's" letter was chilling. Read on:
DEAR ABBY: I work with people with brain injuries. Each and every time "Cindy" chokes herself, she's causing brain damage, and it's only a matter of time until she's a client of mine.
Signs of her brain damage will start out with gaps in memory, short-term memory loss, slurred speech and sudden outbursts of anger. The more advanced stages of brain damage include disorientation, loss of coordination and balance, and seizures.
People who choke themselves to get high should visit the nursing homes in their area, as one of them will someday wind up in one. I speak from experience. I care for many people who said it would never happen to them. This is serious. That girl needs help, and she needs it now. -- ED IN SNOHOMISH, WASH.
DEAR ABBY: I lost my 13-year-old son to the "choking game." It's NOT a game. "Worried's" sister can only be mad at her for so long. Please urge her to talk to her parents. It's the only way to save her sister. If she waits, it could be too late. -- MOM WITH-OUT A SON IN VIRGINIA
DEAR ABBY: As a school counselor, I can confirm the widespread familiarity of kids 9 to 15 years old with this "game" and how often parents and other adults are clueless. (I was.) After an 11-year-old died at a nearby school, I polled several middle and elementary school classes to see if they had tried it or knew somebody who had. The percentage was 75 percent! It doesn't receive the news coverage it should because medical examiners often mistake it for suicide. Knowing about it is the key to stopping it. -- CONCERNED COUNSELOR IN OREGON
DEAR ABBY: I teach in an elementary school. One of our students died from playing the choking game. Children as young as 6 and 7 have told me they know what to do. We warn students never to put anything around their necks, and talk about "safe" games they can play. We also encourage them to tell an adult if they know someone who is playing the game. Sadly, we didn't learn that children were doing it here until it was too late. -- AMY IN INDIANA
DEAR ABBY: My grandson, "Braden," died from participating in this activity in May 2005. Since then, a nonprofit organization, Stop the Choking Game Association, has been formed to promote education about this dreadful activity. Many parents know nothing about it. Thank you for publishing that letter. -- LYNDI T., BRADEN'S GRAND-MOTHER

Soap trick gets first negative review

DEAR DR. GOTT: Around June 2005, I put a bar of soap under my sheet because I got cramps during the night from time to time. Nothing really bad. A few months after that, around August or September,



Dr. Gott

By Dr. Peter Gott
I developed arthritis of both legs, the right more than the left. As time went on, it got worse. I could not squat down or get down on the floor with my grandchildren. Let me add that I am 72 years old. I couldn't get over the fact that it came on so fast. I socialize with people in their late 70s and early 80s. They have no arthritis. I wondered why I had it so bad. I had to brace myself before getting off a chair and steady myself before walking. My doctor took tests to see if I had rheumatoid arthritis. I didn't. Then it dawned on me that it started right after I put soap under my sheet. I took the soap out. It's been three weeks. My arthritis is gone. I still have some pain sometimes in the right knee, but nothing like I had before. It's completely gone in my left leg. I explained this to my doctor, and he had no answers for me. He said I do have extreme arthritis of my back, but I have no pain. He wanted the article on the soap under the sheet for cramps. I sent it to him.
I know this is far out, but so is putting the soap under

the sheet for cramps. I don't know if you received any other letters about this, but I thought you would be interested.
DEAR READER: And interested I am.
Yours is the first antisoup correspondence I have received. I am publishing it because I said I would explore every aspect of alternative therapy, and to do that I need negative feedback as well as positive feedback. Thanks for writing.
DEAR DR. GOTT: I have experienced three attacks of gastric reflux. Each time, I was at a restaurant. Friends suggest I drink water, but I am afraid it will increase the pain to where I can't handle it. Is there any aid?
DEAR READER: Acid reflux causes heartburn and abdominal discomfort because the condition is marked by backwash of acidic gastric juice up into the esophagus, the lining of which is unprotected. Acute attacks of reflux can be treated successfully with antacids. Because plain water dilutes the acid, a few gulps of fluid may also relieve the heartburn.
Chronic management with drugs, such as Pepcid AC, is usually successful, although in severe cases, prescription medication, including Protonix, Prevacid and others, may be necessary.
In your case, however, you've had only three attacks, so over-the-counter antacids such as Tums should be sufficient.
Check with your primary care physician and follow his or her advice.

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Nov. 16, the 320th day of 2006. There are 45 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
Two hundred years ago, on Nov. 16, 1806, Moses Cleveland, the land surveyor for whom the city of Cleveland is named, died in Canterbury, Conn., at age 52.
On this date:
In 1776, British troops captured Fort Washington during the American Revolution.
In 1907, Oklahoma became the 46th state of the union.
In 1933, the United States and the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations.
In 1959, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The Sound of Music" opened on Broadway.
In 1961, House Speaker Samuel T. Rayburn died in Bonham, Texas, having served as speaker since 1940 except for two terms.
In 1966, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard was acquitted in his second

trial of charges he'd murdered his pregnant wife, Marilyn, in 1954.
In 1973, Skylab 4, carrying a crew of three astronauts, was launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla., on an 84-day mission.
In 1975, President Nixon signed the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act.
In 1981, actor William Holden was found dead in his apartment in Santa Monica, Calif.; he was 63.

Contract Bridge

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
87
654
AKQ6
QJ103
WEST
J10954
K32
J982
7
EAST
KQ632
J1098
104
42
SOUTH
A
AQ7
753
AK9865
The bidding:
South West North East
1 Pass 1 Pass
3 Pass 5 Pass
6
Opening lead — jack of spades.
In general, a slam should be bid whenever there appears to be a better-than-even chance of fulfillment. It is in this area that a partnership's bidding skill is most severely tested.
Most slams should be reached by natural bidding methods and not through the use of artificial conventions. The trouble with ace-asking conventions such as Blackwood is that in the search for the number of aces held by the partnership, other critical features are often neglected.
The main question to be resolved in bidding a slam is whether there will be a good chance to make at least 12 tricks. Bids devoted to finding out the number of aces held in the

combined hands all too frequently bypass this basic question.
South's three-club rebid in today's deal announces a hand containing at least 16 points. It asks North to continue bidding unless his first response was a real minimum (six or seven points). A four-club response by North would indicate a hand such as the one he has, less the ace of diamonds. The five-club response selected by North, on the heels of his initial one-diamond response, described his values very precisely.
South's six-club bid is automatic. North is bound to have diamond strength and club support for the two bids he made, and South has excellent control of the unbid side suits.
Twelve tricks can be made by taking ordinary care, even though West has the king of hearts. South has two potential heart losers. He can avoid one of them in three possible ways: The diamonds may break 3-3; the heart finesse may succeed; an endplay may be arranged.
After winning the opening spade lead, declarer cashes the Q-J of trumps. Dummy's remaining spade is then ruffed. The A-K-Q of diamonds are taken, revealing that West started with four.
The six of diamonds is now led, on which South discards a low heart. West wins the trick, but has no satisfactory exit. A heart return would be into declarer's A-Q, while a spade return allows declarer to trump in dummy as he discards the queen of hearts.

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Crosswords

Crossword puzzle grid with clues:
ACROSS
1 Came down with
4 Sharp turn
7 Cry like a baby
11 Egad!
12 Ostrich cousin
13 Chocolate cookie
14 Smooth and level
15 NATO turf
16 Golfer's tap
17 Far from relaxed
19 Attracted
21 Connections
22 Formation fliers
23 Annoy
27 Citadel
28 Put in the attic
29 Satisfy
32 Address
34 Ape
35 Waugh or Baldwin
36 — chi ch'uan
37 Hunts for meat
39 Cohort of Boris and Bela
42 Type of vinegar
44 Uniform color
46 Commend
48 Kept secret
50 Russian mountains
51 Trim
52 Help-wanted abbr.
53 Teen hangout
54 Mets' ballpark
55 Chow mein additive
56 Mac n'vals
DOWN
1 Assumed as fact
2 Spreads out, as a map
3 Gymnasts' goals
4 Mark of Zorro
5 Lucky charm
6 Meditation guides
7 Brood
8 Scholarly note
9 Moist
10 Parking — humanoid
18 Self-images
20 Musical scale note
23 Before
25 FOX comedy
26 Elec. measure
27 Wray of "King Kong"
28 Dry, as champagne
29 Interest amt.
30 Hawaii's Mauna —
31 Gourmet
32 Crafty
33 Senor's coin
35 Eagle's lairs
37 Cop show HQ
38 Adjust the length
39 Fragrant shrub
40 Ellipse
41 Sedaka or Diamond
43 Suggestion
45 Reading aid
46 DJ's platters
47 Sigh of content
49 Popular pet

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Football great Emmitt Smith wins ABC's 'Dancing with the Stars'

NEW YORK (AP) — Emmitt Smith danced off with the mirror ball.

The three-time Super Bowl champion, who proved to be as nimble on his feet in the ballroom as on the football field, was named the winner of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" Wednesday night. With the victory came the glittering trophy.

The NFL's all-time leading rusher beat out actor Mario Lopez.

The hunky, dimpled Lopez was generally regarded as the series' most dynamic celebrity dancer, but the public's vote, the deciding factor after the contestants had tied in the judges' tally at Tuesday's final dance-off, brought Smith the victory.

"It is awesome! It is awesome!" declared Smith, after hugging his professional dance partner Cheryl Burke. "We came a long way, we really have." Burke won last season, too, on the arm of singer Drew Lachey.

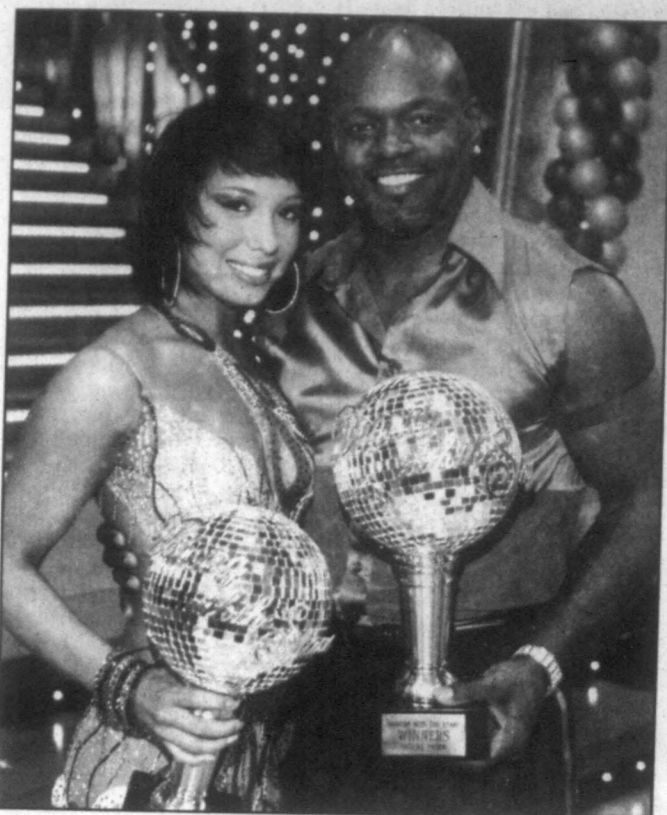
Smith had kind words for Lopez, who was gracious in his defeat. He called the former "Saved by the Bell" star a "true gentleman" and said he and partner Karina Smirnoff "raised the bar" during the competition.

"This whole journey was unbelievable ... And Karina, most unbelievable person," Lopez gushed. "It's something I'll never forget."

Smith and Burke wowed judges on Tuesday with a spirited samba, to the tune of Stevie Wonder's "Sir Duke."

"What's so great about you is you are the everyday man who became a dancer in our eyes in the past 10 weeks," judge Carrie Ann Inaba told Smith, who's been dubbed "The Big Easy" for his laid-back elegance and charm.

In the closing segment of Wednesday's decision show, Burke, in a video clip, praised



In this handout photo made available by ABC, Emmitt Smith and Cheryl Burke, celebrate their win and display the mirror-ball trophy on "Dancing with the Stars the Results Show," in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

Smith's work ethic.

"From the beginning, he just wanted to be the best possible dancer he can be," she said.

Smith, ever the competitor, was determined to win, just as he had done so many times with the Dallas Cowboys. "You don't get into a competition unless you think you can win," he told AP Radio after Tuesday's dance finale.

During Wednesday's program, all nine of the previously rejected celebrities — Vivica A. Fox, Harry Hamlin, Joey Lawrence, Sara Evans, Willa Ford, Monique Coleman, Jerry Springer, Tucker Carlson and former beauty queen Shanna Moakler — returned for a last dance with their partners.

"Dancing with the Stars" was a surprise hit when it debuted in the summer of 2005.

Now in its third edition, the show was a ratings juggernaut week after week and, last week, the dance-off show was No. 2 to ABC's "Desperate Housewives" with 22 million viewers, according to Nielsen. And the results show was No. 4, with 20.7 million viewers.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones issued a statement soon after the show ended, saying how proud he was of Smith. "Although we are all thrilled," Jones said, "we should not be surprised. ... If Emmitt Smith is on your team, there is a good chance you are going to win."

TV Listings Friday, November 17, 2006

Table with columns for TV channels (A, B, C, D) and time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30). Includes programs like News, Good Morning America, Regis and Kelly, The View, and various reality shows.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Table with columns for TV channels (A, B, C, D) and time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30). Includes programs like All My Children, General Hospital, Dr. Phil, and various movies.

FRIDAY EVENING

Table with columns for TV channels (A, B, C, D) and time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30). Includes programs like Jeff Fisher, Men in Trees, News, Nightline, and various movies.

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