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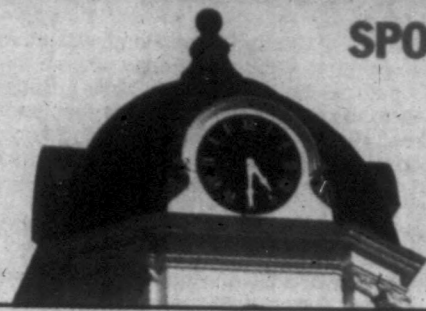


**Racers Seek More Improvement During Break**  
— See Sports



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**SPORTS: Calloway's Starks Signs Baseball Scholarship To Attend Union University**



MURRAY  
**LEDGER & TIMES**

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Murray, KY 42071

75¢

# House GOP seeks to repeal '05 business tax

By **JOE BIESK**

Associated Press Writer

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — House lawmakers are planning to seek a repeal of a 2005 business tax during the upcoming legislative session because it is "killing" smaller companies, members of the 100-member body said Monday.

Joined by other House Republicans, Minority Floor Leader Jeff Hoover, R-Jamestown, said his caucus would focus efforts on eliminating the alternative minimum tax, also known as the

"AMC" tax.

"Businesses believe ... that the AMC is killing them, and they want a repeal of that," Hoover said. "Small businesses in Kentucky are the backbone of our economy, they create jobs, manufacturing jobs, they provide to this state's economy like no other sector of our commerce and we are committed to trying to provide them some relief."

House Speaker Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, said he has not been a fan of the AMC tax and wants it repealed.

"You pay whether you make money or not — and to me, that's un-American," Richards said.

The AMC was added as part of the 2005 tax code overhaul proposed by Gov. Ernie Fletcher, which imposed an "alternative minimum tax" calculation on the gross receipts of businesses. But business owners with low profit margins said their tax bills increased even when they made little or no net profit.

Fletcher called the General Assembly into a special session in June to alter the provision, and lawmakers

gave some tax relief to businesses, but Hoover said more is needed.

Fletcher's budget office has been predicting a \$279 million surplus, and has suggested different possibilities that lawmakers could consider — including a tax rebate or depositing some in the state's "rainy day" fund.

Economic Development Secretary Gene Strong said "no one from the business or economic development communities" had mentioned the AMC as a concern since it was dealt with during the special session.

"We have received no calls about it," Strong said in a statement.

Fletcher Chief of Staff Stan Cave noted the governor has made appearances throughout the state seeking input from taxpayers on how to spend the possible surplus.

"Needs like school facility construction, the rainy day fund, underfunded pension liability and even individual taxpayer rebates seem to be attracting the greatest attention," Cave said. "This

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TOM BERRY/Ledger & Times

**BATTLING BRUSH FIRE:** Calloway County Fire-Rescue personnel help a local homeowner extinguish a brush fire on Post Oak Road Monday afternoon. The unidentified homeowner said he took precautions to ensure the fire didn't get out of control, but that strong winds blew the fire into a wooded area littered with dry leaves.

## DRA funds are announced for rail line

Staff Report

The Murray-Calloway County Economic Development Corporation has received \$250,000 in Delta Regional Authority funding to assist in the purchase and rehabilitation of a 15-mile Hardin Southern rail line that now serves the Murray Industrial Park.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher and officials of the Governor's Office of Local Development (GOLD) announced the allocation in a news release Monday.

"The Delta Regional Authority covers 240 counties and parishes in the United States, including 21 counties in western Kentucky," Fletcher said.

"Their mission is focused on improving the quality of life in those areas. I recommended these projects to the DRA because the projects are a reflection of DRA's mission as well as that of my administration and am pleased to see them awarded."

The EDC purchased the rail spur in the Murray Industrial Park after Webasto Roof Systems Inc. committed to locating a new facility in the area.

The spur ties into the Hardin Southern Railroad Line, but the company was reportedly unable to spend the funds necessary to make the track usable. The spur will serve the existing industrial park and a possible expansion to the north.

The continued use of the rail line by Webasto Roof Systems will allow the company to ship raw materials and finished products more expeditiously.

EDC President Mark Manning was in a meeting and unable to be reached for comments before press time this morning.

Delta Regional Authority funds are used to help economically-distressed communities

■ See Page 2A

## Fletcher won't appear at personnel hearing

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Gov. Ernie Fletcher is away from Kentucky and won't appear this week at a personnel hearing, where he was subpoenaed as a possible witness in the case of a Transportation Cabinet worker who claims he was fired for political reasons.

But while Fletcher won't appear before the state Personnel Board on Wednesday, a letter from his general counsel said his office will cooperate and is ready to "bring this matter to a prompt conclusion."

General counsel James L. Deckard's letter to lawyers for Mike Duncan doesn't guarantee Fletcher will testify in person.

Duncan, a Democrat with ties to U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler, is appealing his dismissal before the board. He alleged he was fired in May 2005 as the top investigator for the Transportation Cabinet's inspector general as part of the Fletcher administration's plan to replace some workers with political supporters.

Thomas Clay, one of Duncan's lawyers, said the Jefferson County sheriff's office served Fletcher the subpoena Friday while he was in Louisville to give a speech. Clay provided The

■ See Page 3A

## CCHS seniors express their 'Voices'

By **TOM BERRY**  
Staff Writer

Two Calloway County High School students have excelled in the Veterans of Foreign Wars local Voice of Democracy scholarship competition by writing prize-winning essays concerning American freedom.

Seniors Crystal Eldridge and Travis Taylor were honored Monday afternoon by VFW Commander Dave Foley and Post 6291 officers Dean Walter and Greg Miller for winning first and third places, respectively, among Murray and Calloway County High School students.

Voice of Democracy is a VFW-sponsored youth competition that gives students an opportunity to write a short essay expressing their view on American democracy, patriotism and citizenship.

Eldridge will be awarded about \$200 in savings bonds and will go on to compete with other local winners across the state in Louisville where she could win \$50,000 in scholarships and a free trip to Washington DC.

Eldridge said the focus of her essay concerned the challenges to democracy. "Basically I talked about what I deem as the three most important challenges



TOM BERRY/Ledger & Times

Calloway County High School students Crystal Eldridge and Travis Taylor, second and fourth from left, are honored by VFW Post 6291 officers Dean-Walter, right, and Greg Miller, left, for winning first and third place in the VFW's local Voice of Democracy contest. Joining them is CCHS Principal Yvette Pyle, center.

to freedom," she said. "Those are changes in society, the limitations of freedom and security. I got my ideas from some of the political science classes that I have taken."

In her essay titled, "Freedom's Challenges," Eldridge writes: "Freedom's

challenges are many in number, but there are three that stand out. When society changes so does the concept of freedom. This means a lot of old laws don't necessarily apply while new ones must be established. Freedom must be moderated. Too much freedom leads society

to chaos, but too little freedom brings rebellion. A balance must be wrought between the two.

"Freedom's greatest threat is security. One must be sacrificed to obtain the other, but someone must decide where to draw the

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<b>INDEX</b>	<b>3-DAY FORECAST</b>		
TWO SECTIONS 14 PAGES	<b>Tonight</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
4B Classifieds			
6A Community	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
8A Learning		60s	60s
5A Obituaries	40s	40s	40s
1B Sports			
6B Television			

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# MCCH in need of O-Negative blood

Special to the Ledger

The Blood Bank at Murray-Calloway County Hospital is experiencing a blood shortage of O-Negative Blood.

MCCH Blood Bank has new hours for drawing blood: Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The MCCH Blood Bank is

offering a new promotion to encourage blood donation. During a donor's birthday month, donors who make a blood donation will receive a free t-shirt especially for the Birthday Club.

The constant supply of blood provided locally to the MCCH Blood Bank provides the gift of life to many people. From a

convenience perspective, it only takes less than an hour to make a blood donation and donations of all blood types are greatly needed.

The blood received by MCCH Blood Bank stays in the community to serve the needs of patients within the area.

A blood donor must be at least 18 years of age (or 17 with

parental consent), be in good health, weigh at least 110 pounds, and pass the brief physical and health history exams given prior to collecting the donation.

To make an appointment to donate blood or to find out where the next blood drive will be held, contact the Blood Bank at 762-1119.

## SheriffFireLogs

Calloway County Sheriff's Department

- A cell phone was reported stolen from Calloway County Middle School at 4:23 p.m. Friday.
  - Christopher P. Henson, 20, of Cherry Corner Road, was traveling east on Old Salem Road at 10:56 p.m. Friday when a deer ran into his vehicle's path as he approached Rattling Bridge. Henson swerved to avoid the animal and ran off the road into a ditch and struck a tree. Henson was admitted to the Murray-Calloway County Hospital for the night because he hit his head during the crash and was having problems remembering what happened.
  - Children vandalized Christmas lights on State Street at 9:33 p.m. Saturday. A case was opened.
  - A subject made forced entry at a Doran Road South residence and left at 3:06 a.m. Sunday. A case was opened.
- Calloway County Fire-Rescue**
- A burning pile of leaves was out of control at 2:20 p.m. Sunday on Harbor Hill Lane.

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

## Work to close Ky. 280 Wednesday

Special to the Ledger

The Kentucky Department of Highways plans to close Ky. 280/Pottertown Road in Calloway County on Wednesday. The closure at mile point 4.4 is to allow the replacement of a cross drain.

Ky. 280 is expected to be closed just after the morning school bus run and should be

reopened to traffic in-time for the afternoon bus run.

There will be no signed detour. All project schedules are tentative and subject to change due to weather conditions and other factors.

Motorists are asked to take note of this closure on Ky. 280 in Calloway County and make advance alternate travel plans.

## Boil Water Notice

A boil water notice has been issued for the Dexter-Alm Water District due to repair work on a water line.

Customers on Almo Road east of the caution light to Ok Almo are asked to boil their water until further notice.

For more information, please call the office at 753-9101 or after hours call 753-5297 or 753-1591.



TOM BERRY/Ledger & Times

**WALL INSTALLATION:** Department of Parks program director William Rasinen, left, and director Matt Martin, not pictured, grab some shovels to help a department work crew, right, construct a 30-by-8 foot, simulated-rock climbing wall at Murray-Calloway County Central Park Monday afternoon. The department is also resurfacing the fields at the park's two baseball diamonds and installing additional playground equipment.

## Voices ...

From Front

line. As society progresses, so will freedom change. We must continually face the challenges of freedom."

The second place winner is Murray High School senior Darlene Kipphut, who was honored by the VFW last week and awarded a \$75 savings bonds for her paper. Kipphut wrote about the conflicts and benefits of living in freedom in a nation composed of diverse races, religions, customs and ideologies.

Taylor, who won third prize

and a \$50 savings bond for his essay titled "Challenges of Freedom," says it's a shame that Americans take for granted their many hard-won freedoms; particularly the right to vote.

"It's the same with freedom of speech. A lot of people just take that for granted," he said. "I also talked about how, in the 2000 election, it was just ridiculous how many people didn't vote and how people just aren't taking advantage of their freedom."

In his essay, he also criticizes the media for going too far with

the freedom of the press.

"The media has come a long way since the advent of cable television. In fact the media has come too far to my liking. No matter what channel you tune in to, you will almost undoubtedly see the mainstream media fill America with slanted news reports, false documents and inappropriate news stories. It is an ongoing challenge to recognize the limitations of the freedom of the press."

Marshall Ward, a political science and government teacher at CCHS who has taught both

students, said he was proud of their accomplishment and expects them to continue that success long after their high school graduation.

"There are two things that I always talk about with my students," he said. "Number one, they are motivated, they are determined, they're self-starters and they will do well in life no matter what they do."

Foley commended both students on their effort and said he hopes Eldridge will do well during state competition. Only first

place winners at the county level go on to the state competition.

"I'm not really sure how much she will win at the state level, but you can win \$50,000 (in scholarships)," he said.

Created in 1947, the Voice of Democracy scholarship program is an audio-essay contest for high school students that annually provides more than \$3 million in scholarships. The first-place winner, who competes with all the first-place VFW department winners, receives a \$50,000 scholarship that is paid

directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school.

Beside competing for the top scholarship prize, as well as other national scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$16,000, each department's first-place winner receives an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., according to the VFW's national Web site at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

## DRA ...

From Front

leverage other federal, state and local dollars for community development projects that focus on infrastructure development, business development, entrepreneurship and job training services.

The Calloway County funding was one of three DRA funds announced Monday for western Kentucky. The other two were in Webster and Lyon counties.

## Town Crier

NOTICE

■ The Calloway County Board of Education will hold a public forum at the preschool on Thursday at 6:15 p.m. to discuss a health and wellness policy. This will be before its monthly board meeting.

■ The Murray Independent Board of Education is scheduled to meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday at the Carter Administration Building. On the agenda for the meeting is first reading of the district's food service no-charge policy, attendance and various other reports, consideration of a revised salary schedule and a budget work session to take place at the end of the meeting. A special-called dinner meeting and training session with district Head Start personnel is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the same location.

■ The Housing Authority of Murray has developed an agency plan in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 and is available for review at 716 Nash Dr., through Jan. 16 from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. A public hearing is planned for Jan. 16 at noon at the Authority's office.

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



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**Kentucky in Brief**

**Beshear, Mongiardo making announcement on governor's race**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Democrat Steve Beshear, who made an unsuccessful bid for governor 20 years ago, will make an announcement with state Sen. Dan Mongiardo next week concerning next year's governor's race, Beshear said Monday.

He scheduled a news conference for next Monday in Frankfort but declined to describe the announcement.

"If I wasn't seriously interested in running for governor, I wouldn't be holding a press conference next week," Beshear told the Courier-Journal.

Beshear, 62, of Lexington, ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1987 and for U.S. Senate in 1996. He has served as a state representative, attorney general and lieutenant governor.

Other potential contenders for the Democratic nomination include Attorney General Greg Stumbo, House Speaker Jody Richards, former Lt. Gov. Steve Henry, state Treasurer Jonathan Miller, Louisville lawyer Jack Conway and Louisville businessmen Bruce Lundergan and Charlie Owen.

U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler, state Auditor Crit Luallen, Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson and former Gov. Brereton Jones have all said they would not seek the Democratic nomination.

**Daviess County official proposes WKU campus**

OWENSBORO, Ky. (AP) — The judge-executive in Daviess County has proposed a satellite Western Kentucky University campus to be built in Owensboro.

The campus could be built on 29 acres across from the Owensboro Community & Technical College and could house four-year bachelor's programs and advanced degree programs, Daviess County Judge-Executive Reid Haire said.

Under Haire's proposal, students would attend classes at the community college for two years and would finish their degrees at the Western campus.

"Community growth depends upon an educated work force," Haire said in announcing his proposal last week. "Make no mistake, if we fail to (create) an educated work force, we'll be left behind and will die as a community. We must act now to increase our baccalaureate degrees dramatically."

Haire said he hopes to raise the number of people receiving bachelor's degrees in the county to 1,000 by 2010 and to 2,000 by 2015.

The main campus of Western Kentucky University is in Bowling Green, about 70 miles southeast of Owensboro.

WKU President Gary Ransdell said he didn't know the specifics of the proposal but the effort is "most encouraging."

The plan "keeps WKU and OCTC together, which is really important," Ransdell said. If the campus is built, Western "will fill the space promptly, expand the (degree) programs and address the declining numbers (of college graduates) in Daviess County," Ransdell said.

Other agencies, including the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and the Council on Postsecondary Education, would have to come to an agreement before the campus would be built.

**Third female Kentucky Supreme Court justice sworn in**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — The Kentucky Supreme Court installed the court's third female justice in its history on Monday, breaking up the monotony of what was previously an all-male panel.

Friends and colleagues hailed the ascension of Justice Mary C. Noble of Lexington to the court as a historic moment for women. She was elected to the state's high court last month.

"This is a step, a small step, but it is a step forward for civilization," former Justice John Palmore said during the ceremony. "It's a big moment in Kentucky in terms of what civilization stands for."

Noble follows former Justices Sara Combs and Janet Stumbo, who also served on the seven-member court.

Former Gov. Brereton Jones appointed Combs to the court in July 1993. Combs lost her seat on the court to Stumbo the following November.

Noble defeated John Roach in the November election by more than 30,000 votes. Gov. Ernie Fletcher appointed Roach, his one-time general counsel, to the court in 2005.

**After ordinance, nearly 26 percent quit smoking**

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — If the air in Lexington seems clearer, there's a reason for it. In the first 20 months after a citywide indoor smoking ban took effect, an estimated 16,467 Lexington adults put out their cigarettes for good.

Lexington's percentage of adult smokers dropped by nearly one-third since the city's indoor smoking ban was implemented in April 2004, according to UK College of Nursing researchers, who released their study Monday.

Researchers analyzed information gathered in federal health interviews with 3,457 Kentuckians in six counties between 2001 and 2005 in an effort to determine how much adult smoking rates changed. Federal health surveys found that 25.7 percent of Fayette County adults smoked before the ban, but in the months after the smoking ban was implemented, just 17.5 percent of Fayette County adults reported being smokers.

Before the ban, federal data estimated that 53,444 Fayette County adults smoked. After the ban, it was 36,977.

Researchers compared federal health data from Lexington to that of five other counties with similar education levels, but without smoke-free laws at the time: Boone, Hardin, Kenton, Oldham and Woodford. While the smoking rate plummeted in Lexington, the percentage of smokers in the five comparison counties was unchanged during the time before and after implementation of Lexington's smoke-free law, averaging 27.6 percent in those counties.

**Business tax ...**

**From Front**

is another idea that could be considered as well."

Still, Rep. Bill Farmer, R-Lexington, said he was planning to sponsor legislation that would eliminate the alternative minimum tax altogether on Jan. 1, 2008.

"It's becoming apparent that this regressive tax is not really needed," Farmer said.

Other bills on the matter, sponsored by Republican and Democrat lawmakers, are anticipated during the General Assembly's next session.

By abolishing the tax, state government would lose an estimated \$190 million or more per year, Hoover said. The loss, however, would be offset by economic growth, Hoover said.

"It will be an incentive and it will provide — for small businesses and manufacturers — it will provide additional money for them to create jobs and do the things that this economy relies upon them to do," Hoover said about the effects of abolishing the AMC.

A similar version sponsored by a House Democrat would retroactively eliminate the tax back to the beginning of the

year, Richards said. That bill would likely have a better chance of passage, Richards said.

When the legislature convenes next month, Democrats will hold a 61-39 lead in the House.

The cost of such a move was uncertain, Richards said, but he thought it would cost \$70 million to \$100 million.

Martin Kish, a spokesman for the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, said the state should drop the tax to help lower the cost of doing business in Kentucky.

"It's difficult enough for Kentucky manufacturers to compete against low-labor costs in nations like China, India and Mexico," Kish said. "But then, on top of that, we have to pay the AMC tax even if we lose money."

**FDA can't confirm green onions are culprit in outbreak**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal testing has failed to confirm green onions as the source of an outbreak of E. coli that sickened 64 people who ate in Taco Bell restaurants in the Northeast, health officials said Monday.

Over the weekend, Taco Bell officials said they determined that scallions were the likely source of the bacteria. But follow-up federal testing of those samples were negative for E. coli.

"In that context, we have not ruled out any food items," said Dr. David Acheson, chief medical officer for the FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.

Meanwhile, health officials in New York said a sample of white onions taken from a Taco Bell restaurant tested positive for E. coli. However, that strain

of bacteria hasn't been linked to any cases of illness in the United States anytime in the previous 30 days. The positive sample initially was mistakenly identified as being green onion, Acheson said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed 64 E. coli cases in five states, most in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania plus two in Delaware and one in South Carolina. The South Carolina patient had eaten at a Pennsylvania Taco Bell.

Meanwhile, nearly three dozen people have fallen ill with symptoms consistent with E. coli infection after eating at a Taco John's restaurant in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

There is no indication the outbreaks are linked, but the CDC has not ruled out a connection.

**Fletcher ...**

**From Front**

Courier-Journal with the letter.

The governor and other constitutional officers may provide testimony through depositions under Kentucky rules that govern civil procedures, including court hearings and administrative proceedings.

Clay said he wants to question Fletcher about what he knew about Duncan's dismissal and whether the governor knew about a so-called "hit list" of people supposedly targeted for dismissal or demotion by his administration. Duncan's name appears on the list.



**FIRST DISTRICT HONORS FOR LAKER BAND:** Pictured are Calloway County High band members who were selected to perform in the First District Honors Band at Lovett Auditorium. They were selected by audition from over 350 students district wide. They will rehearse on Jan. 4-5, and present at concert at 2 p.m. on Jan. 6. They are, front from left, Amanda Duncan, Shanna Todd, Jason Jones, Jonathan Downs, Emily Ashby, Jonathan Higgins, Derrick Christopher, Heather Davis, back from left, Sarah Orsborn, Brittany Trites, Nathaniel Beam, Cory Mullins, Brandon Orr, Kim Hagan, Johnathan Torsak, and Mary Coleman.

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# FORUM

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## It's not about you ...

"One of the good things about getting older," I tell my husband as we shuttle from one weekend errand to another, "is that you finally realize it's not about you."

We have been married long enough that there is no need to define "it" any further. We are talking about life, maturity, the realization that we wasted some time in our youth worrying about what other people thought of us. Anyone with divorce papers from an earlier marriage knows exactly what I'm talking about.

Those were the days when we secretly thought that the world — or at least our part of it — revolved around us. Everything mattered. Choices were made not because they were right for us, but because they were expected by parents, friends, employers.

This morning, we talked with my stepson, Noah, who lives in Australia. He has been there nearly two years, an arrangement that suited him and his Aussie wife. Both of them have been able to go to school and complete programs that will lead to careers they have chosen for themselves. As a result, Noah has gotten a job teaching; wife Danika has completed a program in sports medicine and therapeutic massage. In June, they had a baby girl, Petunia Rose Davis. They are truly a family now.

For months, we have been preparing for Noah and family to return stateside. Initially, they were to move back to the USA in January and settle down somewhere in Colorado, where the two had first met.

My husband and I were thrilled. With one son in California and the other back in Colorado, visiting kids and grandkids would be a little easier than trekking through so many time zones that the concept of jet lag takes on an entirely new meaning.

Recently, plans changed. Noah and Danika are remaining in Australia. They have evaluated their options and decided it makes sense to stay put for the time being. My husband and I made lists of all the reasons they should come back home, citing the benefits of living here rather than there, but of course home is a relative term. They are already there.

This is not about us but them, so we have been getting used to the idea, or trying to.

Meanwhile, Australia is in the grip of a long-term drought, and raging brush fires have scorched\*\* thousands of acres of public and private property. According to today's account on www.theage.com.au, "potential for devastation is enormous." In addition, the fires are described as "unlike any before, having arrived months ahead of the normal fire season and continuing to burn wild through the night."

It is summer in Australia: hot, dry and ferociously windy. Noah calls this morning. It is 3 a.m., their time. He sounds groggy and far away. Wife and baby were packed off to Melbourne yesterday. Even in the city, hours away, acrid smog stains blue skies to a yellowish gray.

Noah has stayed behind to try and secure the house, chop back brush, water down the roof. He can track the progress of various fires on government-sponsored Web sites. There are so many, the fires have names. The one most threatening to Omeo, the rural community in the state of Victoria where Noah and Danika live, is called Heyfield Complex.

The car is packed for a quick getaway, and his exit strategy has a couple of alternative routes, depending on how the wind blows. The neighbor across the road is still there, battering down the hatches and having a beer when the smoke and the heat get to him.

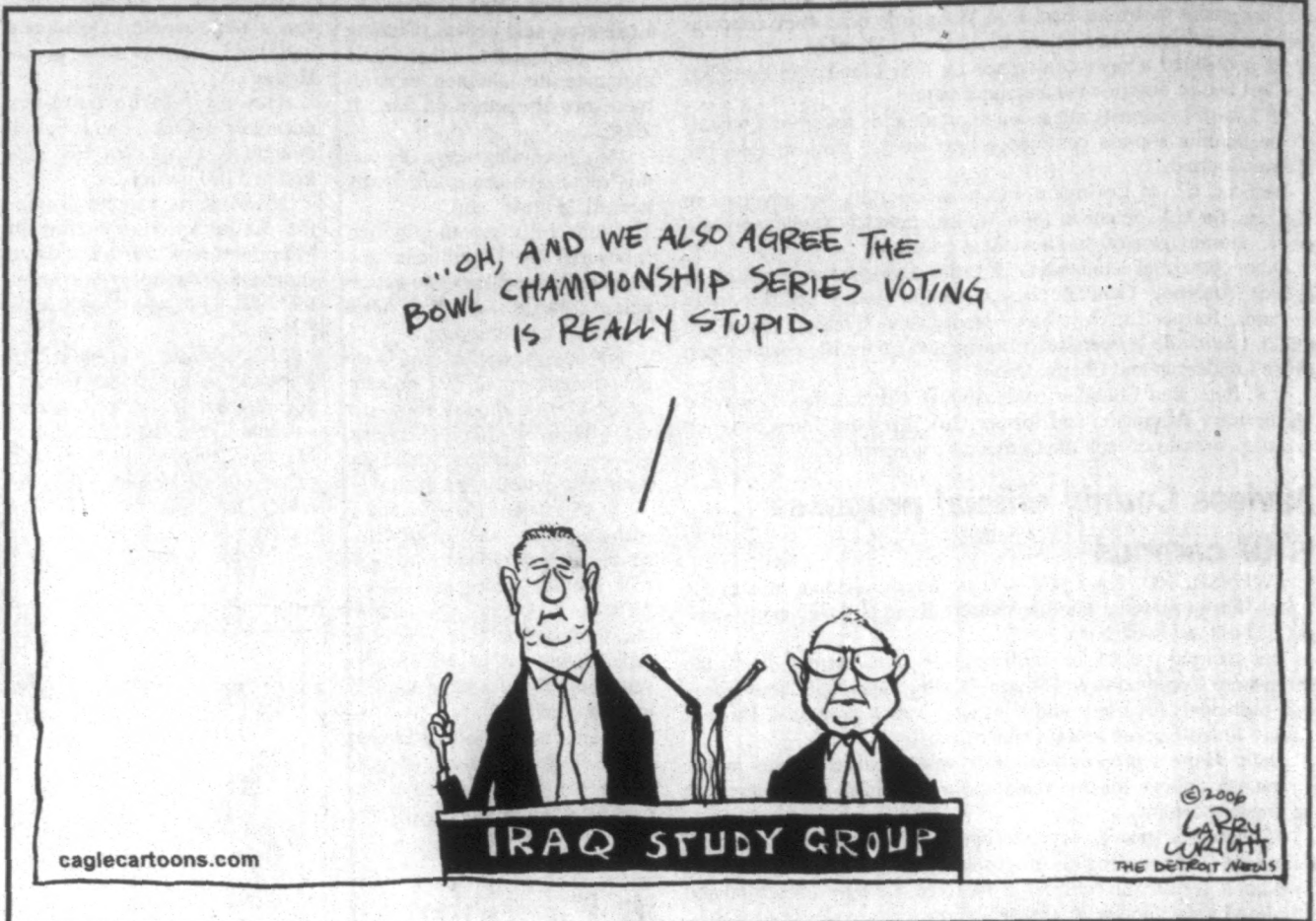
"It helps you see how different people deal with fear," Noah says calmly, though he admits to being cowed himself.

He can take care of himself. He doesn't need us, but he has called to say that the sound of our voices is reassuring. We hope we remind him of home.

For additional information, go to <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/dse/nrenfoe.nsf/Home+Page/DSE+Fire+Home+Page?open>



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Columnist



## Dems slow to embrace Iraq study

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats aren't scrambling to endorse recommendations of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group, a tactic that largely leaves President Bush alone to salvage the war.

Instead, the party that will control Congress in January plans to focus on stepped-up oversight of Bush's plans for the war.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., who will take over the Armed Services Committee, says he'll hold three hearings on Bush's plans for Iraq and is prepared to subpoena documents to review past missteps.

Democrats also are eyeing ways to attach conditions to war funds that won't hurt troops and may even attract Republican support. Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., the next chairman of the Appropriations Committee, is considering a plan to amend the 2002 legislation that authorized the war by adding to it an exit strategy.

To gain bipartisan support, Byrd is expected to identify only broad conditions under which troops should come home rather than set firm dates or issue specific demands.

In the House, members are considering attaching conditions to the next war spending bill, expected to be at least \$100 billion and perhaps as much as \$160 billion.

"The Congress should not, nor do the American public expect us, to have \$160 billion spent without a very substantial oversight and involvement by the Congress in how that money is spent,"

### WASHINGTON TODAY

By ANNE PLUMMER FLAHERTY

said incoming House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md.

The Iraq Study Group on Wednesday concluded the U.S. could be out of Iraq by early 2008 if it dramatically increased the number of troops advising Iraqi units and threatened to cut off aid to the Iraqi government unless it met certain milestones.

The panel also suggested asking Iran and Syria to pressure militias inside Iraq to stop sectarian killings.

Comprised of five Republicans and five Democrats — "gray beards" who advised past presidents or sat on the Supreme Court — the panel received a standing ovation after briefing senators.

But lawmakers from both parties have taken aim at the recommendations. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said the report's rejection of his idea to increase troop levels in Iraq runs counter to the advice of many uniformed officers. Likewise, Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., said he was reluctant to embrace the report because it doesn't recommend pulling out troops fast enough.

Murtha, who next month takes over the House panel that oversees defense spending, said he doesn't want to cut off funding for troops but will use the next war spending bill to press for more oversight.

Murtha said he wants to reinforce a ban on torture, bar the president from building permanent bases in Iraq

and establish a congressional committee to investigate misuse of Iraq reconstruction spending.

"I think they'll pass and I think we'll put them in strong enough terms to send a signal" to the president that Congress opposes his Iraq policy, Murtha said.

Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., who will chair the House Armed Services Committee, said he was most interested in conducting tough oversight hearings.

"They can do a great deal toward influencing administrations — plural — and future actions based upon what they have or have not done in the past," he said in an interview on C-SPAN's "Newsmakers" program.

The lack of immediate action on the Iraq Study Group's 79 recommendations underscores two realities in Washington.

First, Congress' power over the president's foreign policy is somewhat limited. Lawmakers control the war budget and some Democrats, including Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, have advocated cutting funding for it. But Democratic leaders have dismissed choking off military funds because it could hurt troops.

Also, Democrats — like Republicans — remain divided on exactly how to end the war, dimming hopes they would find consensus among themselves, let alone agree on a bipartisan plan.

Leaving a course of

action up to Bush also allows Democrats to sidestep the political land mines associated with failure. Foreign policy experts agree any path taken to end the war is fraught with risk and that increased casualties are unavoidable.

Former Rep. Lee Hamilton, co-chair of the study group, told lawmakers this week he recognized their power was limited.

"The fact of the matter is that the report that we put before you must largely be implemented by the executive branch," Hamilton said. "You cannot dodge that fact."

However, Hamilton and co-chair James Baker III said Congress' ability to strike a bipartisan accord would influence the White House.

"This is an extraordinarily difficult problem. And unless the country comes together behind a unified approach, we're going to have a tough time dealing with it," said Baker, a Bush family friend and former secretary of state.

Levin said he is interested in putting Congress on the record in support of the panel's efforts, even if members cannot agree on the specifics. In particular, Levin said he envisions lawmakers rallying behind the notion that a political settlement in Iraq is necessary for success.

"I think it's very possible there could be an effort that generally supports the recommendations," he said. "Most of us do."

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Alice Rouse, Publisher .....arouse@murrayledger.com  
Eric Walker, Editor .....editor@murrayledger.com  
Stone Cansler, Advertising Mgr. ....ads@murrayledger.com  
Jill Stephens, Classifieds Mgr. ....classified@murrayledger.com  
Circulation .....circulation@murrayledger.com  
Tammy Thompson, Office Mgr. ....thompson@murrayledger.com  
Rita Boggess, Business Mgr. ....rboggess@murrayledger.com  
Tom Bell, Production Mgr. ....mlt@murrayledger.com  
Jo Burkeen, Community News .....jo.burkeen@murrayledger.com  
Scott Nanney, Sports Editor .....sports@murrayledger.com  
Michael Dann, Sports Writer .....sports@murrayledger.com  
Greg Travis, Reporter .....gtravis@murrayledger.com  
Tom Berry, Reporter .....tberry@murrayledger.com  
Kristin Taylor, Reporter .....ktaylor@murrayledger.com

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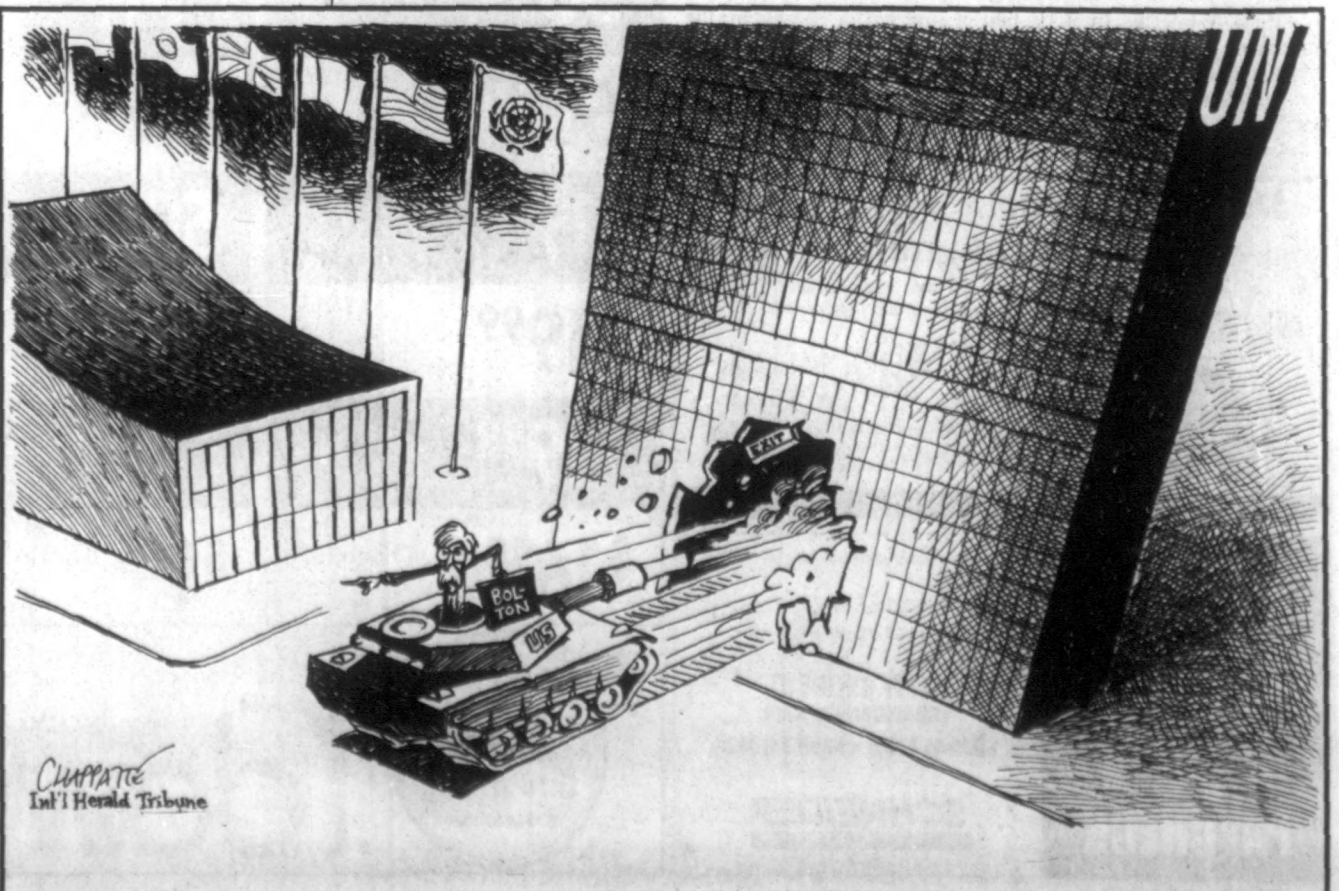
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Obituaries

Mrs. Sylvia Dill

Mrs. Sylvia Dill, 87, Murray, died today, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2006, at 6:45 a.m. at Spring Creek Health Care. Imes-Miller Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Helen Electa Fulkerson

The funeral for Mrs. Helen Electa Fulkerson will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the chapel of Imes-Miller Funeral Home. Dr. Todd Buck and Rev. Calvin Wilkins will officiate. Music will be by Nelson Key, soloist, and Emma Dean Clayton, pianist.

Active pallbearers will be Jerry Brantley, Jim Kelly, Jimmy Bell, Eddie Hale, James Holland, Bill Stinson, Bill Outland and Dale Barnett. An honorary group will be members of the Golden Circle Sunday School Class of Elm Grove Baptist Church. Burial will follow in the Elm Grove Cemetery.

Visitation will be at the funeral home from 5 to 9 p.m. today (Tuesday).

Expressions of sympathy may be made to Murray-Calloway County Hospital Hospice, 803 Poplar St., Murray, Ky., 42071.

Mrs. Fulkerson, 83, Elm Grove Road, Murray, died Monday, Dec. 11, 2006, at 5:30 a.m. at her home.

Born Oct. 6, 1923, in Ohio County, she was the daughter of the late Marion Matthews and Elizabeth Cox Matthews. A sister, Gladys Matthews, also preceded her in death.

She was a member of Elm Grove Baptist Church, where she was active in the WMU at Elm Grove and with the Blood River Baptist Association WMU. She taught Sunday School for 50 years and was active in the Parent-Teacher Association.

Survivors include her husband, Matthew Walton Fulkerson, a Navy veteran, to whom she was married during World War II in 1943; one son, Dwayne Fulkerson and wife, Karen, Chicago, Ill.; three daughters, Mrs. Ruth Rogers and husband, Bill, Murray, Mrs. Gwen Lewis, Almo, and Mrs. Melinda Kennedy and husband, Jack, Princeton; two grandchildren, Kelly Stover and husband, Jeremy, Dyersburg, Tenn., and Matthew Kennedy, Murray; one brother, Ed Matthews and wife, Pat, Dayton, Ohio; three stepgrandchildren; five stepgreat-grandchildren.

Frank Hill

The funeral for Frank Hill will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the chapel of J.H. Churchill Funeral Home. John Dale will officiate. Burial will follow in the Murray Memorial Gardens.

Visitation will be at the funeral home from 5 to 8 p.m. today (Tuesday).

Expressions of sympathy may be made to American Cancer Society, Attn.: Pat Latimer, P.O. Box 1080, Murray, Ky., 42071.

Mr. Hill, 74, Strawberry Lane, Murray, died Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006, at 4:55 p.m. in Murray-Calloway County Hospital's emergency room.

A lifelong farmer in dairy, row crops and beef cattle, he was an avid fisherman. An Army veteran of peace time, he was a graduate of the 1950 Class of Hazel High School and received his bachelor of science degree in agriculture from Murray State University.

Born June 10, 1932, in Murray, he was the son of the late Marvin Hill and Lois Tidwell Hill.

Survivors include one sister, Betty Lou Hill, and one aunt, Lucy Tidwell, both of Murray; first cousins, Patsy Rogers and husband, Lenith, and Sammy Tidwell and wife, Barbara, all of Murray, and Wanda Fisher and husband, Johnny, Chattanooga, Tenn.; second cousins, Beverly Wylie, Susan Brandon, Eddie Rogers, Mitch Tidwell and Sandra Emmóns.

Mrs. Opal Norman Heath

Mrs. Opal Norman Heath, 85, Paducah, died Sunday, Dec. 10, 2006, at 3:30 p.m. at Lourdes Hospital, Paducah.

She was a member of Lone Oak First Baptist Church.

Preceding her in death were her parents, W.A. Norman and Bertha Jackson Norman; two sisters; six brothers; two half sisters; and two half brothers.

Survivors include her husband, Clarence W. Heath, to whom she had been married for 66 years; one son, Joe Max Heath and wife, Dana, Lebanon, Tenn.; several nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in the Lone Oak Chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Home. Rev. Stan Reid and Rev. Mike Williams will officiate. Burial will follow in the Hicks Cemetery in Calloway County.

Visitation will be at the funeral home after 5 p.m. Wednesday. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Lone Oak First Baptist Church, 3601 Lone Oak Road, Paducah, Ky., 42003.

Mrs. Kathryn McKinnon Kolb

Mrs. Kathryn McKinnon Kolb, 96, Dyersburg, Tenn., died Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006, at Reelfoot Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation.

She was a member of Cumberland Presbyterian Church, former owner of City Drug in Dyersburg, former operator of Boyette's Dining Room, and former receptionist for Dr. Tom Banks.

Preceding her in death were her husband, A.R. Kolb, and one son, James Wallace Holloway Sr.

Survivors include one daughter, Mrs. Patricia Holloway Burrus, Tiptonville, Tenn.; one brother, James Thomas McKinnon, Hot Springs Village, Ark.; four grandchildren, James Wallace Holloway Jr., Brian Holloway, Adam Holloway and Gloria Brown; and six great-grandchildren.

The funeral was today (Tuesday) at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Curry Funeral Home, Dyersburg. Dr. Larry Blakeburn officiated. Burial was in the Dyer County Memorial Gardens, Dyersburg.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to a favorite organization of the donor's choice.

Mrs. Wanda L. Williams

The funeral for Mrs. Wanda L. Williams will be today (Tuesday) at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Collier Funeral Home, Benton. Rev. Robert Saywell will officiate. Burial will follow in the Maple Springs Cemetery, Benton.

Visitation is now at the funeral home. Mrs. Williams, 73, Walnut Street, Benton, died Sunday, Dec. 10, 2006, at 12:35 a.m. at Calvert City Convalescent Center.

A homemaker, she was a member of Maple Spring United Methodist Church.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Prentice Williams, and her mother, Lora Walker Clark.

Survivors include one daughter, Mrs. Penny Williams Roberts, one son, Craig Williams, her father, Franklin Clark, one sister, Mrs. Judy McCallon, and one brother, Donnie Clark, all of Benton; two grandchildren; one stepgrandchild; two great-grandchildren; two stepgreat-grandchildren.

Paul T. (Tom) Grammer

Paul T. (Tom) Grammer, 67, Benton, died Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006, at 8:45 p.m. at Marshall County Hospital.

He was a dental sales representative for Sullivan Schein Dental Products and was of Christian faith.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Paul Thomas Grammer Sr. and Lillian Marguerite Edwards Grammer, and one stepson, Craig Faith.

Survivors include his wife of 14 years, Mrs. Marilyn Wallace Grammer; two sons, Paul Thomas Grammer III, Jasper, Ind., and Steven Charles Grammer, Fort Wayne, Ind.; one stepdaughter, Sherry Castleberry, Gilbertsville; one stepson, Chad Faith, Murray; one sister, Mrs. Nancy Calvert, Madisonville; one brother, Ed Grammer, Evansville, Ind.; six grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Filbeck-Cann & King Funeral Home, Benton. Rev. Tommy Woodruff will officiate. Burial will follow in the Bethel Cemetery.

Visitation will be at the funeral home after 5 p.m. today (Tuesday).

World's oldest woman dies at 116

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Elizabeth "Lizzie" Bolden, recognized as the world's oldest person, died Monday at a Memphis nursing home, not far from the Tennessee fields she and her husband farmed as teenagers almost 100 years ago.

Bolden, the daughter of former slaves, was 116. She was born Aug. 15, 1890 in rural Fayette County, east of Memphis, while Benjamin Harrison was still in the White House.

"She lived a full life and we are very, very proud of her. She had a good life," said grandson James W. Bolden, 69. "She was a dutiful Christian."

Guinness World Records recognized Bolden as the world's oldest person after the August death of Maria Esther de Capovilla of Ecuador, also 116 but 11 months older.

Emiliano Mercado del Toro, 115, of Puerto Rico is now expected assume the title of world's oldest person, said Robert Young, a Guinness researcher. The Gerontology Research Group, an organization that tracks the ages of the world's oldest people, lists Toro's date of birth as Aug. 21, 1891.

Bolden died shortly before 1 a.m. CST at the Mid-South Health and Rehabilitation Center, a nursing home where she had lived since 1999. She suffered a stroke in 2004 and had been bedridden for several years, family members said.

But James Bolden said he remembered the grandmother he called "Mamma Lizzie" as a robust farm woman who worked beside her husband, Lewis, in the fields they began farming together in Fayette County in 1908.

"They were both 19 years old when they started," Bolden said.



John Louis "Jack" Bolden, 74, talks with his grandmother, Elizabeth Bolden, 114, in Memphis, Tenn., in this April 27, 2005, file photo. Bolden, recognized as the world's oldest person in August 2006 by the Guinness Book of World Records, died early Monday, the administrator of the nursing home where she lived said. She was 116.

Elizabeth and Lewis Bolden had seven children and raised cotton and subsistence crops on farmland near Memphis until the 1950s, James Bolden said.

Lewis Bolden died in the early 1950s and "Mamma Lizzie" moved in with relatives nearer Memphis in the 1960s, Bolden said.

"She was a strong woman," he said. "I never knew Mamma Lizzie to be sickly."

But Elizabeth Bolden's health worsened in recent years, and as she moved up on the list of oldest people, family members grew protective of her privacy and kept the news media

Mrs. Mary Humphreys Finch

The funeral for Mrs. Mary Humphreys Finch will be today (Tuesday) at 1:30 p.m. in the chapel of J.H. Churchill Funeral Home. B.J. Clarke and Kirk Samms will officiate.

Pallbearers will be Bill Holtzman, Carl Dalton, Jerry Morris, Daniel Clarke, Caleb Samms and Michael Clarke, active; Michael Albertson, Sadie Finney, Emma Albertson, Abby Peake, Hillary Samms and Holly Clarke, honorary. Burial will follow in the Oak Grove Cemetery.

Visitation is now at the funeral home. Expressions of sympathy may be made to First Baptist Church, 203 South Fourth St., Murray, Ky., 42071 in memory of Mary Humphreys Finch.

Mrs. Finch, 89, Sycamore Street, Murray, died Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006, at 4:05 a.m. at Spring Creek Health Care.

She had worked in the tooling office department with McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Company in St. Louis, Mo., before retiring. She was a member of First Baptist Church, Murray.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Woodrow Key, in 1957, one daughter, Linda Key, and two brothers, Dorris and Doyle Humphreys. Born May 23, 1917, in Calloway County, she was the daughter of the late Fred Humphreys and Pearl Smotherman Humphreys.

Survivors include one daughter, Mrs. Susanne Bowers and husband, David, Lansing, Mich.; one sister, Mrs. Volene Young, Murray; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

Report: Kentucky public schools getting safer

RICHMOND, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky's public school students are learning in safer schools, where disciplinary actions for law violations have declined over the past five years, a new report says.

The annual survey by the Kentucky Center for School Safety reported a decline in drug-abuse incidents, disciplinary actions for serious criminal violations and a drop in the total number of days public school students were suspended from school in 2005-2006.

The report also said there have been no criminal homicides or forcible rapes at the state's public schools over the past five years.

"If the kids don't feel safe and secure in their learning environment, they're not going to learn as well as they would if they have a safe and secure feeling at that school," said Jon Akers, executive director of the school safety center, a state agency headquartered at Eastern Kentucky University.

The annual report showed, in similar numbers to last year, that black students were disproportionately disciplined compared

to their white schoolmates. More than 22 percent of the students expelled or suspended during the 2005-06 school year were black, even though they made up just 10.5 percent of the state's 633,241 public students.

About 48,345 of the total number of students, or 7.63 percent, committed an offense that resulted in a suspension, corporal punishment or expulsion, the numbers showed.

Schools reported slight drops in disciplinary actions for several school board violations including disturbing class, fighting and threatening or intimidation.

Ann Ferriell, Jefferson County Public Schools' director of Safe and Drug Free Schools, said a zero tolerance policy in the state's largest school district has worked effectively.

Additionally, there are 21 school resource officers posted at Jefferson County schools to address safety concerns. Ferriell said the data in Monday's report helps school administrators find out which policies are working.

"We're constantly analyzing the data to see if there are overall concerns either with the

entire district or individual schools," she said.

For the five-year period, the survey showed a 77 percent decrease in disciplinary actions for serious criminal offenses, such as burglary, assault and theft.

family tree and she gave me all the names, including some people that were back in slavery."

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## Zeta Department hears Wilson speak at meeting

Mike Wilson of Wilson's Florist was the guest speaker at the November meeting of the Zeta Department of the Murray Woman's Club.

Wilson presented ideas for holiday decorating.

The thought for the day was given by Thelma Bailey.

Hostesses were Janet Kirk, Frances Matarazzo and Maurine Hopson.

The department will meet

Thursday at 2 p.m. at the club house. The program will be a Chinese auction with each member to bring a wrapped gift to exchange. Also members are asked to bring reports of their volunteer service and recycling.

Hostesses will be Norma Frank, Bettie Lou Farris and Helen Foley. Betty Sue Vinson will give the thought for the day.



Photo provided

Mike Wilson, second right, is pictured with hostesses, from left, Frances Matarazzo, Maurine Hopson and Janet Kirk, at a meeting of the Zeta Department of Murray Woman's Club.



Photo provided

Pictured are Jeff Morehead, left, secretary, Camp 11313, and Brad McWherter in front of the WATCH sign.

## Local Modern Woodmen plans WATCH fundraiser

Members of Murray Modern Woodmen of American, Camp 11313 will hold a fundraiser for program operation and supplies needed at WATCH through Dec. 20.

Plans for the fundraiser include collecting aluminum cans from area businesses and residents. The money raised will be matched by Modern Woodmen's home office, up to \$2,500 through the fraternal benefit society's Matching Fund program and will be used for equipment and needed supplies for daily operation of WATCH.

This matching fund program offers Modern Woodmen members nationwide the chance to show their support of a com-

munity cause, organization or individual in need by holding fundraisers. These fundraising projects contribute more than \$5 million to community needs nationwide each year.

For more information or for pick-up, contact Peggy Williams, executive director of WATCH at 759-1965, ext. 100.

Donations of aluminum cans can be made 24 hours a day by driving through from 702 Main St., to the cotton wagon located in the WATCH parking lot.

The organization's Murray camp provides a number of volunteer service and social activities for local members.

## Need Line has nearly 500 applications for Christmas food baskets

Tonia Casey, executive director of Murray-Calloway County Need Line, said "492 applications have been made for the annual Christmas food basket program."

Items still needed are bread or bread mix, canned sweet potatoes and a few more frostings. These Christmas food baskets will be distributed Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Need Line building at 638 South Fourth St., Murray. Volunteers are needed.

Distribution of the baskets to the 187 seniors will be when these seniors come for the Senior Commodity Food Program pick up on Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Need Line office.

Casey said "I have been overwhelmed at the large amount of food donated for the Christmas food baskets and for the general program of Need Line that continues throughout the year."

Casey said the following items are low for the regular

preparation of clients at the office:

Soup for the pantry; eggs for the cooler/freezer; dish liquid, bath tissue and bleach for personal hygiene and cleaning supplies; large brown paper bags.

During the month of November, Need Line received 846 applications for help.

These were 750 for food, 79 for utilities, 12 for rent, 22 for medication and medical transportation, 356 for personal and hygiene products, 80 for unemployed, 757 for low income; three for attending Money Management Class; two for homeless; 21 referrals made.

The Need Line Board will meet Monday at noon at Sirloin Stockade.

The Need Line office is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Need Line is a United Way agency. For more information call 753-6333.



Photo provided

**TIGER TRAIT SLIPS:** Murray Middle School students receive tiger trait slips for making good choices and exhibiting respect and responsibility. Lou Carter, principal, collects the slips and has a drawing during lunch every Friday. Students may choose from a variety of items when their name is drawn. "I think we should reward the students for good behavior," Carter said. "It is a fun time for students and they know the more times they have their name in the basket, the better chance of having it drawn." Pictured, from left, are Aisha Fields; Kayla Little; Carter; and Coreysha Alexander.

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## Murray Middle School Bands will present concert tonight



**Jo's Datebook**  
By Jo Burkeen  
Community Editor

Murray Middle School Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Bands will present their annual winter concert tonight at 7 in the school gym.

Also performing will be the Murray Flute Choir, some sixth grade ensembles and the MMS Jazz Band.

The public is invited. There is no admission charge; however the band students will be accepting donations of canned goods and staple items at the door for Murray-Calloway County Need Line.

## SS representative here

Thursday

A representative of the Social Security Administration will be at the Calloway Public Library Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to assist persons in filing forms. For information call 1-800-772-1213.

## Delta Department will meet

Delta Department of the Murray Woman's Club is scheduled to meet Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the club house. Dr. Matt Wiggins of Murray State University will speak about "Exercise and Cancer Recovery." Hostesses will be Alice Koenecke, Mayrelle Clark and Susan O'Neill.

## Christmas Caroling Wednesday

All ages are invited to join in for Christmas Caroling at private homes and nursing facilities on Wednesday at 5 p.m. at First United Methodist Church.

## CCHS Committee will meet

The Assessment Committee of Calloway County High School Based Decision Making Council will meet Wednesday at 3:15 p.m. in the Library/Media Center. All interested persons are invited.

## Club will judge homes Wednesday

Hazel Woman's Club will have its annual contest for decorations of homes for Christmas this year. The judging will take place on Wednesday. Residents of the homes in the city limits of Hazel are asked to have their lights turned on or before 6:30 p.m. First, second and third winning prizes will be given by the club.

## CCHS Council will meet

Calloway County High School Based Decision Making Council will have a special called meeting today at 3:45 in the media center.

## WOW Lodge 592 will not meet

Woodmen of the World Lodge 592 will not have a meeting Thursday for this month.

## Coldwater Youth Group will meet

Youth Group of Coldwater United Methodist Church will meet Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the church.

## WOW Lodges plan dinner

Woodmen of the world Lodges 170 and 970 will have a catered Christmas dinner tonight at 6 at the WOW Harmon building. Each one is asked to bring a \$5 gift for the Chinese auction. If possible call 753-4741 for dinner reservations.

## Calloway Band Boosters to meet

Calloway County Laker Band Booster meeting will be today at 5:30 p.m. in the Calloway County High school band room. The boosters support both the high school and middle school band programs. Middle and high school parents and all interested persons are invited.

## Southwest Council will meet

Southwest Elementary School Based Decision Making Council will meet today at 4 p.m. at Tom's Grille, according to Janet Byassee Johnson, principal.

## CCMS Council will meet

Calloway County Middle School Based Decision Making Council will have a special called meeting today at 3:30 p.m. in the media center.

## MMS Council will meet

Murray Middle School Based Decision Making Council will meet today at 4 p.m. in the media center. All interested persons are invited.

## Senior center selling calendars

Murray-Calloway County Senior Citizens Center is selling an historical calendar of Murray with the cost being only \$5 which would be an excellent Christmas gift. All profits will go to help fund the services offered at the center.

## Bingo play at Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus sponsor Bingo each Tuesday from 6:30 to 9 at the building at 332 Squire Rd., Murray, KY 42071. Funds from the Bingo help support local, national and international charities. For more information call 293-7061.

## Al-Anon meeting is tonight

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

## Singles will meet tonight

Murray Singles (SOS) will meet tonight at 7 in the annex of Calloway Public Library. This is open to all singles. For information call Mike at 759-3180 or Pat at 489-2909.

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Photo provided  
Pictured, from left, are Jackie Helm, Shirley Robinson and Lillian Robertson, hostesses for the November meeting of the Home Department of the Murray Woman's Club.

## Auction held at meeting of Home Department

Jackie Helm was auctioneer for the annual auction held at the November meeting of the Home Department of the Murray Woman's Club.

A potluck lunch was served with Helm, Shirley Robinson and Lillian Robertson as hostesses.

The club will meet Thursday at 11 a.m. for a luncheon at the Garden Gate. Members are asked to bring a \$5 to \$10 ornament for exchange.

Lynda Cooper will give the devotion. Helen Dunn, department chairman, urges all members to attend.

## New Beginnings Transition Home Project

There will be a fund-raiser jewelry show with independent jewelry consultant, Alison Weaver, on Sat., Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. COOK-IE LEE jewelry will be on display in Murray at 200 S. 6th and Maple. (white house on corner) 50 % of the proceeds will go to the New Beginnings Transition Home

Project sponsored by Westside Jail/Prison Ministry. Come and see the lovely, affordable jewelry on display and take some home for yourself, or for a friend for Christmas. For more information call Alison Weaver at 753-7384 or Sharon Adams at 767-1800 or Linda Wright at 753-0156.



GREG TRAVIS/Ledger & Times  
**CANNED GOODS FOR A GOOD CAUSE:** Students in Andy Davenport's third grade class at Calloway County's Southwest Elementary School were among those at the school collecting canned good to be donated to the Murray-Calloway County Need Line. The school surpassed its goal by collecting double the number of canned goods it had hoped to get. Of the 1,982 cans collected Davenport's class brought in 430 canned good items. Davenport is pictured (back right) with his class.

## CCHS takes 7th in WKU tournament

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Calloway County High School placed seventh at the Western Kentucky University Hilltopper Senior Tournament on Saturday, December 9th. The team won two awards at the meet. Junior Valerie Crowder placed second in Broadcasting and Freshman Austin Ramsey took fifth place in Humorous Interpretation. Graves County took

first place at the tournament, followed by Danville, Lafayette, Bethlehem, and Paul Lawrence Dunbar rounding out the top five schools.

Team members contributing to the effort include Karson Crass, Aaron Clayton, Nathan Erwin, Holly Christensen, Arista Underhill, Danielle Pritchett, Allyson

Miller, Jaimie Murdock, Seth Fortenbery, Will Blackford, Elizabeth Hillman, Emily Alton, and Patti White.

The team will next travel to the Henry Clay "Speak of the Devil" Classic at Henry Clay High School on Jan. 6.

The Calloway County Speech Team is coached by Michael Robinson.

## AH group at MSU passes \$1M mark

Students, faculty, staff and American Humanics (AH) advisory committee members at Murray State University recently moved past the \$1 million mark in funds generated for the university and the community. Working together, the group has raised over \$645,000 in grant funds to develop initiatives such as the Service Learning Scholars program and the MSU Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement.

Students have incorporated fund raising strategies developed in financial development classes to bring in more than \$220,000 in scholarship money for AH students to attend special leadership conferences. These same strategies have been helpful in organizing community members to total up more than \$135,000 for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program through the Buddy Campaign and a classroom activity referred to as "Silly Willy." Another \$4,500 was brought in through classroom activities for the annual Angel Fund and \$5,000 for the Christmas Gift Market.

The American Humanics/Youth and Nonprofit Leadership program at MSU is the program at Murray is the largest in the country and has received seven national awards and 21 local awards for excellence in academics, leadership, service and research.



Photo provided  
Pictured above, Rachel Morgan (Monte Mouse) helps fellow cast member Quellie Allen (Joy) with her costume.

## MMS fourth graders write, perform own play

Donna Keller, librarian at Murray Middle School, encouraged her fourth grade arts and humanities students to write their own play and put on a performance for their family and friends. The students were up for the challenge and not only wrote the play entitled "The Hidden Christmas" but cast the play and directed as well.

The students came up with their own characters and made their costumes and props. Script writers were Ettan Danielson, Rachel Morgan, Hannah Clark and Sarah Whitney. The play included a narrator Sabrina Jackson and continued with a large family begging for all kinds of gifts for Christmas.

Daddy Pete (Brendan Parker) turns out his pockets to show there is no money for Christmas gifts this year. The children search for coins, and finding none, they think there will be no gifts at all for Christmas. Of course they find out

that it is not all the things you get as gifts but how you spend the holiday season - with the help of an angel pig who twirls into their life (Meredith Mullins) with family and friends that really matters.

They end up outside decorating a huge tree with homemade decorations and singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Other cast members were Grandma Peggy, Hannah Clark; Momma Jane, Etta Danielson; Monte Mouse, Rachel Morgan; Lily, Quellie Allen; Destiny, Jordan Nagy; Casey, Abby Franklin; Joy, Sarah Whitney; Olivia, Beth Graham; Oliver, John Ryne Winchester; and Peter, Bethany Vogt. The performance was taped by John Gibson, Murray Electric, and will be aired during the holiday season.



Photo provided  
Pictured are, from left, Robbie Blalock, Spring Creek resident, and Missy Neir, unit clerk, during Spring Creek's Thanksgiving holiday celebration dinner.

## Spring Creek Health Care celebrates Thanksgiving

Spring Creek Health Care celebrated Thanksgiving with residents, family, staff, and friends during Thanksgiving potlucks.

During the week of November 13, there were four Thanksgiving potluck dinners for the family and friends of residents. There were a total of 350 people in attendance on all four nights. Roughly 125 residents attended and 100 families, plus staff came to the event. This is the 22nd year for Spring Creek to do the Thanksgiving potluck event.

"It was great to see the families and residents being able to eat a meal together and share in the fellowship," said JoAnna Thomas,

Activities Director at Spring Creek Health Care. "Everyone looks forward to the event each year and there is always good support from families and friends."

Cindy Ragsdale, Director of Social Services, began the Thanksgiving potluck event in 1984 and it has become an annual event every year since. Entertainment was provided and was enjoyed by all. Family members also receive a photo opportunity with their loved ones at the event.

The event was very rewarding to all as noted by the smiles on everyone's faces," said JoAnna Thomas.

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Photo provided

**CHRISTMAS FUN AT MMS:** It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Murray Middle School. The student council members at MMS have been working hard to decorate the atrium for the students and staff to enjoy. "Ms. Butler showed us how to make our own bows so we've enjoyed making bows for the wreaths this year," said Lauren Bierbaum, student council officer. Pictured are Katrina Olson (left) and Bierbaum displaying the wreaths before hanging them in the atrium at MMS.



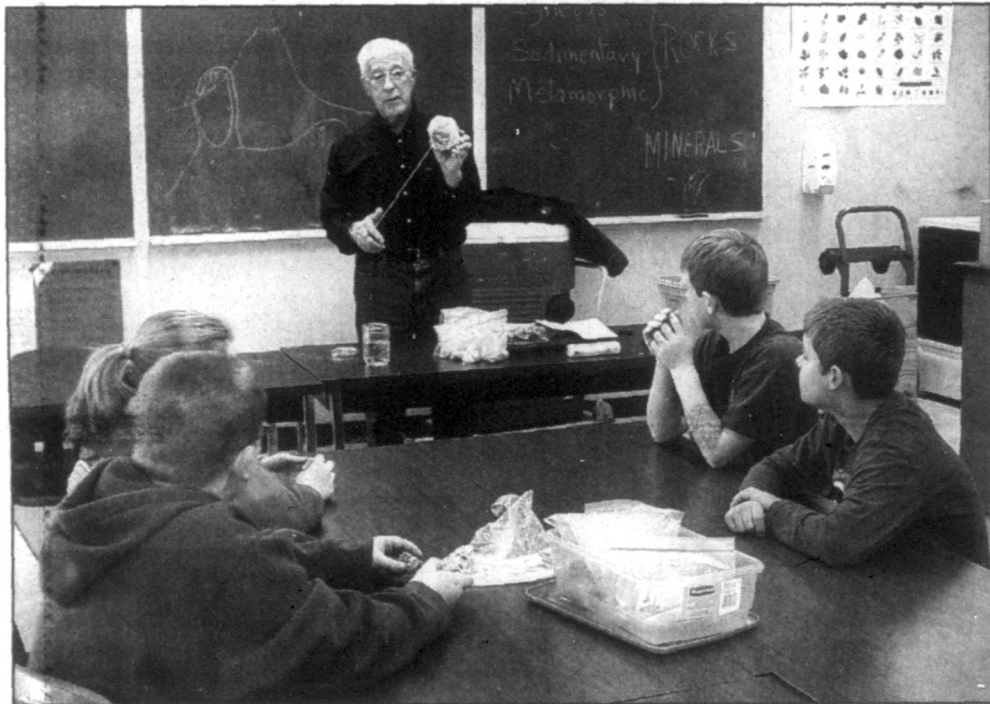
GREG TRAVIS/Ledger & Times

**QUICK RECALL VICTORIES:** Calloway County's North Elementary School's Quick Recall Academic Team is pictured above after recent wins in matches against Southwest Elementary School, Murray Middle School and South Marshall Middle School. Pictured above, front row from left, are: Hudson Elliott; Landon Fike; Daniel Yoo; Mark Tyler; and Marlee Baret. Back row: Vicki Pierce (coach); Destiny Wendling; Dillon Housden; Alex Gullixon; Kaitlyn Burkeen; Wade Griggs; and Susan Earheart (coach). Not pictured is team member Justin Wilhelm.



GREG TRAVIS/Ledger & Times

**WORKING HARD FOR SOLUTIONS:** Calloway County's North Elementary School's Future Problem Solving team members work hard to sharpen their skills. Pictured above, from left, are: Elizabeth Chadwick; Adrianna Buhler; Joshua Betts; Logan Palmer; and Jennifer McCafferty, coach. Not pictured is team member Emily Wood.



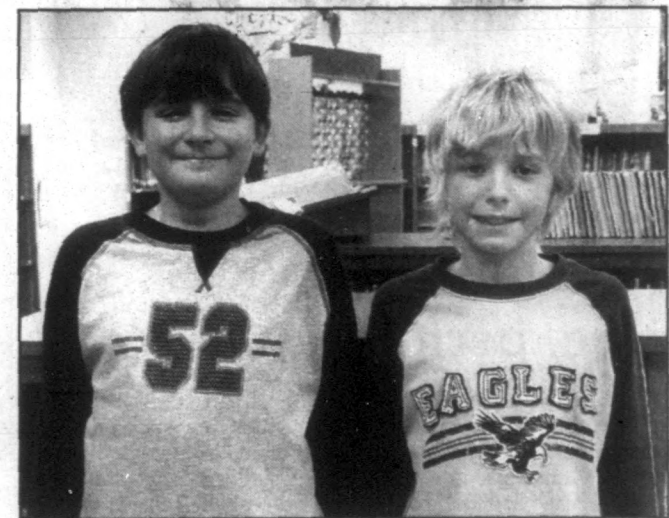
GREG TRAVIS/Ledger & Times

**A 'ROCK' STAR VISITS SOUTHWEST:** Retired Murray State University professor Dr. DuWood Beatty recently spoke to students in Gina Crider's fourth grade class at Calloway County's Southwest Elementary School. Crider said Beatty, who works with the 4-H young geologists club, has spoken to her class for several years.



Photo provided

**DANCE PERFORMANCE:** Murray Elementary students recently enjoyed the performance of the Nutcracker at MSU's Lovett Auditorium. Several of Murray Elementary School's students were dancers in the ballet produced by Karen Balzer and the Jackson Purchase Dance Company. Murray Elementary P-4 students were also featured in the "Chinese Dance" as the culmination of a five-week dance project. Kim Black, music teacher, received a grant to fund the project from Ronald McDonald House Charities and the Murray Tourism Commission.



GREG TRAVIS/Ledger & Times

**TOPS IN ESSAY COMPETITION:** Cody Bergman (left) and Tyler Stone, fifth grade students at Calloway County's North Elementary School, recently tied for first place in the Pat Brockenborough River Heritage Challenge Essay Contest.



Photo provided

**WATER POLLUTION EXPERIMENT:** Pictured above, from left, Aaron Collie, Jesse Vaught and Tyler Schanbacher, seventh grade students at Calloway County Middle School, simulate water pollution in a recent experiment conducted in a presentation by Jennie Frazier of the Environmental Education Department at Murray State University.



Photo provided

**THE DANCING GAME:** Calloway County's North Elementary School fourth grader Lauren Simmons enjoyed the Dancing Game at the school's recent Fall Festival. The night's festivities had the theme of Fall Harvest 2006 and students and parents participated in a night filled with food, games and prizes. Watching Lauren do the Dancing Game is her mother, North Elementary Special Education teacher Keri Simmons.



Photo provided

**FAMILY NIGHT FUN AT MES:** Murray Elementary School families recently enjoyed a Family Night Fun and Book Fair. The theme for this year's event was "Travel Through Time." The evening featured decorations and costumes used to depict the various periods of history. Students also enjoyed shopping in the Book Fair.

## Murray Elementary Chess Team wins trophy at Central City

The Murray Elementary Chess Team competed recently in a chess tournament in Central City. The team placed second in the elementary division.

Members of the team include Ashlin McKinney, Dillon Balthrop and Kevin Wann.

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## MURRAY STATE BASKETBALL

## Kennedy, Racers still looking to improve

By SCOTT NANNEY  
Sports Editor

Just a month into the 2006-07 season, the Murray State Racers and first-year head coach Billy Kennedy have come to a crossroads of sorts.

With 11 games already under their belts and more than a week left before their next game, Kennedy and the Racers won't rest on their laurels heading into a two-game, pre-Christmas homestand against Samford and Jacksonville State.

"I'm willing to do whatever it takes to win, and that's what we're going to try to find out in these next (few) days,"

said Kennedy on Monday, just two days removed from a 70-67 victory at Morehead State that has left his ballclub at 4-7 overall and 2-1 in Ohio Valley Conference play.

According to Kennedy, the young and inexperienced Racers have shown some improvement in the first month of the season. Yet, there are admittedly miles to go before MSU can live up to its status as the defending conference champions.

And the long road begins with more overall consistency and better rebounding, which has been an Achilles heel for the Racers in recent games.

Despite the win at Morehead, Murray was pounded on the glass by a 38-26 margin, including a 19-9 deficit on the offensive boards. Junior guard Bruce Carter was the Racers' top rebounder against the Eagles with 11. No other player had

## Carter earns OVC honor

By MSU Media Relations

Murray State guard Bruce Carter was named the Newcomer of the Week by the Ohio Valley Conference after he turned in two solid performances last week, when the Racers split a pair of games at Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State.

Carter, a junior from Detroit, Mich. averaged 14.5 points, 7.0 rebounds in the two games and hit 52 percent (13-of-25) from the field. He turned in a double-double in MSU's 70-67 win at Morehead State (14 points, 11 rebounds) and played a big role in the Racers' win. On Thursday at EKV, he scored 14 points on 6-of-11 shooting.

Carter joined the Racers this season after helping Fort Smith, Ark. win the National Junior College Championship last March. He was named the tournament title game MVP. He is currently leading the Racers in scoring at 11.3 points per game and is second on the team with 5.0 rebounds per outing.

more than three.

On the season, MSU is out-rebounding its opponents by an average of just 2.4 boards per game. Senior forward Shawn Witherspoon is the

team's leading rebounder at 5.6 per outing. Carter follows closely behind at 5.0.

The lack of rebounding — especially by post players — has irked Kennedy.

"We're going to start charting missed blockouts and penalize our guys in some kind of conditioning for not doing it," he explained. "We're just doing a poor job of making physical contact with our opponent on either end (of the court)."

"We've got to continue to emphasize (rebounding) and play guys who are going to do it. If that means a 6-3 guard blocking out a 6-8 forward, we're going to play them. The frustrating thing is, that's something you can get better at. ... We're going to get better at it because we're going to work on it."

The Racers have also failed to show a killer instinct, failing to close out what looked to be a sure victory at Eastern Kentucky last Thursday night before falling to the Colonels in overtime.

That same scenario almost repeated itself on Saturday at

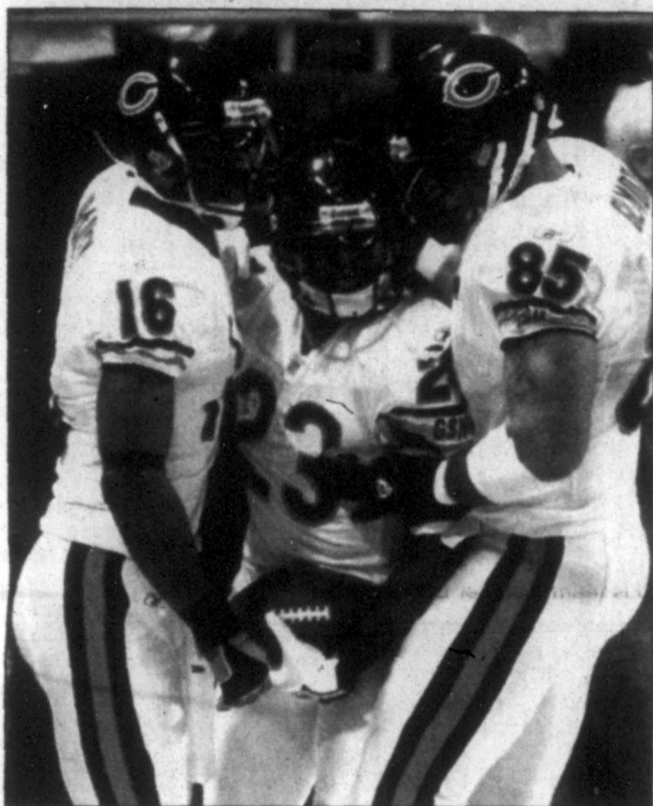
Morehead before Murray held off the Eagles in the waning seconds, avoiding a potentially disastrous sweep on the annual "Death Valley" trip — something that hasn't happened to an MSU team since 2003.

"We're getting better, but we can't sustain (our play)," Kennedy noted. "We can play a great (first) half, but we can't sustain it in the second half. That's why you see a lot of different guys playing. ... We still have guys playing with that deer-in-the-headlights look. Until they can take that next step, they're not going to be able to help us."

Kennedy hinted that the Racers — who experimented with a three-guard lineup at times during the EKV-Morehead trip — could potentially field a new lineup in the coming weeks, particularly considering the

■ See RACERS, 10A

## CHICAGO 42, ST. LOUIS 27



Chicago's Devin Hester, center, is congratulated by teammates Mark Bradley, left, and John Gilmore, right, after running a kickoff back 96-yards for a touchdown during the fourth quarter of Monday's game against the St. Louis Rams. The return was Hester's sixth touchdown of the season, an NFL record.

## Bears run over Rams

## HESTER'S TWO TDs SET NEW RECORD FOR KICKOFF RETURNS IN A SEASON

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Devin Hester is just a rookie, yet he's already been dubbed "The Man" by teammates. He certainly was the Chicago Bears' main man in St. Louis, where he set an NFL record for kick return touchdowns.

The high-stepping youngster got his fifth and sixth returns for touchdowns this season, a 94-yard kickoff runback in the second quarter and a 96-yarder in the final period of Chicago's 42-27 victory Monday night. With the win, the NFC North champions (11-2) earned a bye for the first week of the playoffs.

"He's spectacular, man. He's prime time, baby," running back Cedric Benson said. "He's been doing that in college. I was a fan of his in college."

Added linebacker Lance Briggs: "I guess you can call him 'The Man.' Give him the status and all that goes with that. He's an impact player in this league. He's something special."

■ See BEARS, 10A

## MAYFIELD 53, MURRAY HIGH 30

## Tigers fall to Cardinals

## MURRAY LOSES SECOND IN ROW AFTER 3-0 START

Staff Report

MAYFIELD, Ky. — Home-standing Mayfield used a big first quarter to pull away from the visiting Murray High Tigers in a 53-30 final in prep boys' basketball action on Monday night at Mayfield High School.

The Cardinals (2-2) raced out to a 19-6 lead by the end of the first period of play before doubling up the Tigers (3-2) by a 12-6 count in the second quarter to take a commanding 31-12 lead heading into the halftime break.

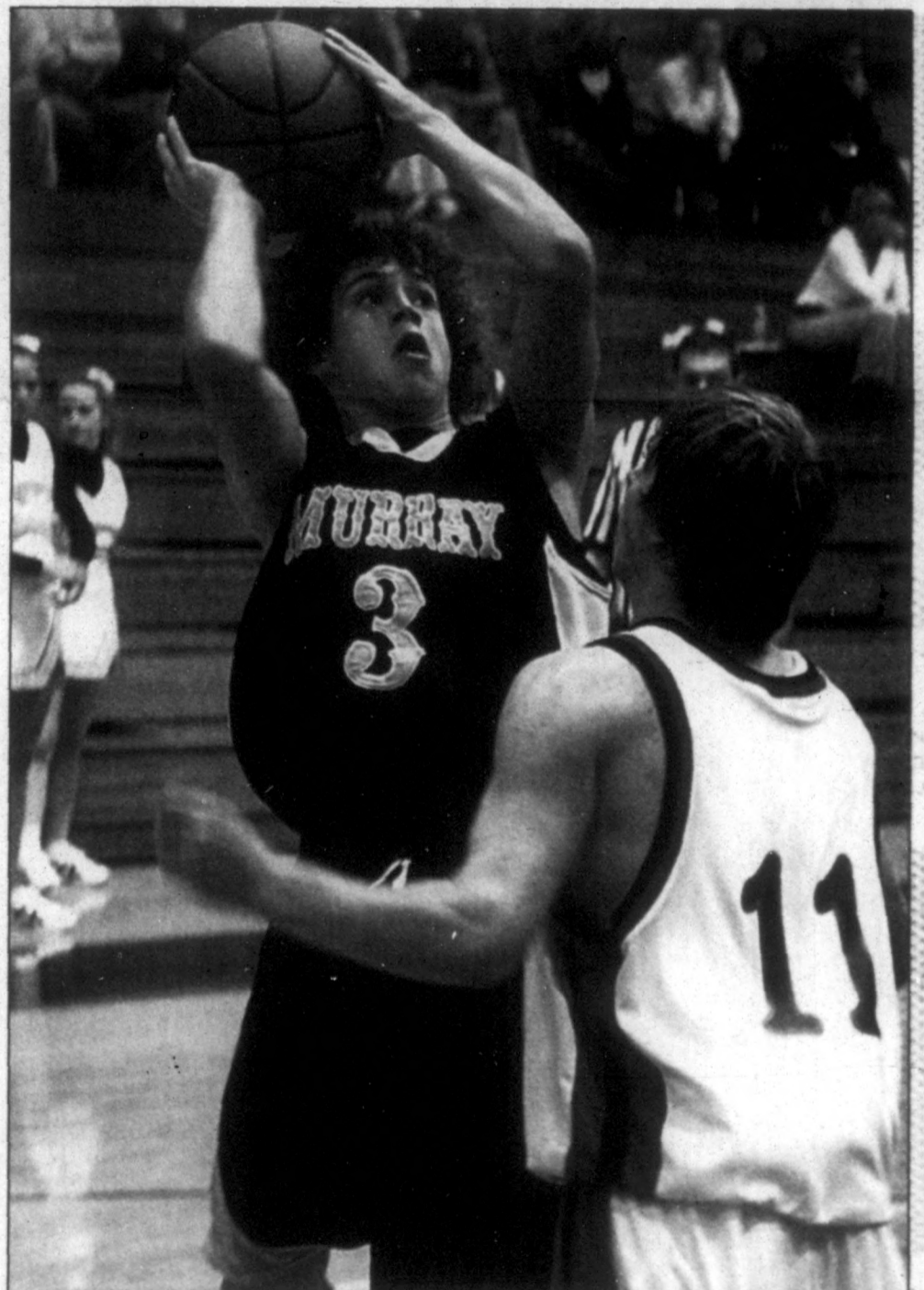
Mayfield finished off the decisive victory by outscoring Murray 11-8 in the third quarter and 11-10 in the final eight minutes in sending the Tigers to their second straight loss after opening the season 3-0.

Jared McCuiston paced the Mayfield attack with 12 points, while Tony Hockett added 11. The Cardinals were 17-of-34 shooting from the floor, including 6-of-16 from 3-point range, and 1-of-4 from the free throw line. Mayfield out-rebounded the Tigers 32-23.

Leading the way for Murray High was Chess Volp, who tossed in 10 points. Blake McCuiston followed with eight, Blake Darnall and Joey Moehler had three apiece and Brett Gibson and Cole Hurt two each.

The Tigers connected on just 7-of-24 shot attempts from the field, including a 2-of-12 effort from behind the arc. MHS knocked down 10-of-16 attempts from the foul line.

Murray High returns to action on Thursday against host Paducah Tilghman in the Paducah Tilghman Christmas Tournament. Game time is set for 7:45 p.m.



Kevin Weaks/The Mayfield Messenger  
Murray High's Brett Gibson (3) shoots over the top of a Mayfield defender during Monday night's prep action at Mayfield. The Cardinals defeated the Tigers 53-30.

## CALLOWAY COUNTY BASEBALL

## Starks will continue baseball career at Union University

By SCOTT NANNEY  
Sports Editor

Be it fate or just plain luck, Colby Starks and Union University found each other at just the right time.

Union head baseball coach Brent Fronabarger was in need of a catcher, and Starks was looking for the right place to continue his playing career.

The two officially agreed to meet each other's needs on Monday, when the Calloway County High School senior signed scholarship papers to attend the Jackson, Tenn., school and play for the Bulldogs.

"I was just kind of in the right place at the right time," said Starks, who will be playing in his final

season as the Lakers' backstop when the 2007 prep season gets underway in the spring. "They were looking for a freshman catcher, and I was looking for a place that would be a good fit for me where I could come in and play right off the bat."

Only by chance did Fronabarger become acquainted with his newest player.

"I actually just heard about him over the summer," said the Union coach, who will begin his second full season at the Bulldogs' helm early in 2007. "I was in Kentucky recruiting another kid, and somebody ask me if I knew about (Starks). I came over here to work him out, and it was one of those things that

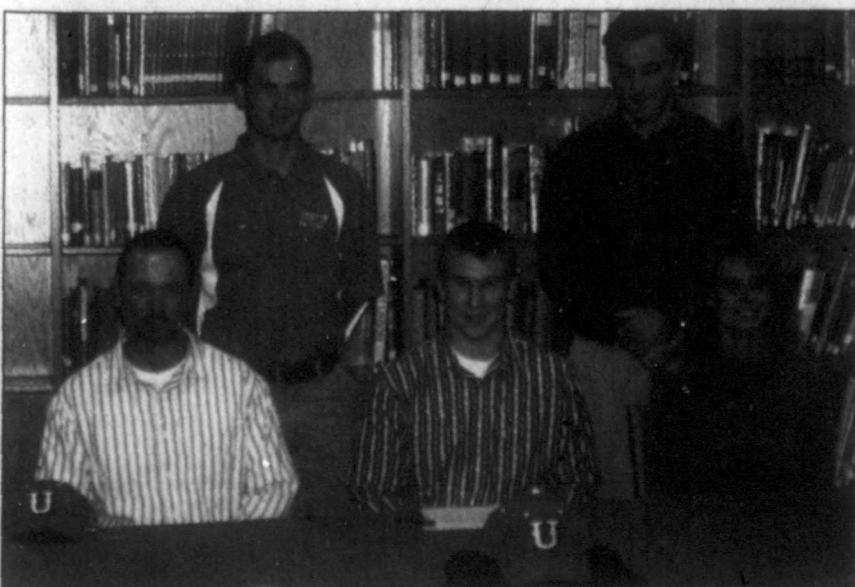
just took off from there. We needed to sign a high school catcher, and he fit that need for us."

Starks has been a key cog in the Lakers' recent ascension to contenders for the First Region championship.

Over the past two seasons, Calloway has compiled a 56-14 record while falling just short of winning that elusive regional title, finishing as the runner-up to Heath in the 2005 tournament before losing to Graves County in semifinal action last spring.

In 2006, Starks batted leadoff for CCHS, leading the team with a .393 average while blasting four homers to finish with 29 runs bat-

■ See STARKS, 10A



SCOTT NANNEY/Ledger & Times

Calloway County senior Colby Starks, center, signs scholarship papers on Monday to continue his baseball career at Union University in Jackson, Tenn. Pictured with Starks are his parents, Kirk and Gay Starks, Union head coach Brent Fronabarger and Laker head coach Steve Smith.

## COLLEGE HOOPS Air Force flies into Top 25 IRISH, OREGON ALSO JOIN POLL

By JIM O'CONNELL  
AP Basketball Writer

Air Force hopes its appearance in The Associated Press' Top 25 lasts longer than its previous one.

The Falcons — along with Notre Dame and Oregon — moved into the rankings Monday for the first time this season. The only other time Air Force made the rankings was in the poll of March 9, 2004. The Falcons were gone the next week after losing to Colorado State in the quarterfinals of the Mountain West tournament.

"It's nothing we aimed for," said second-year coach Jeff Bzdelik, the former head man of the NBA's Denver Nuggets. "The most important thing to us is now that we're in it is to stay in it."

"I'd be lying if I said we weren't excited. We are. The most important thing is to get better and continue to stay in. Consistency is the key."

The Falcons (10-1), who have won six straight since losing to Duke in the CBE Classic semifinals, moved in at No. 24.

UCLA and Pittsburgh held the top two spots in the poll for the third straight week, and North Carolina stayed No. 3 from last week's voting. Ohio State moved up one spot to No. 4, while Florida and Duke, tied for seventh last week, were fifth and sixth, respectively.

Air Force has had early success away from home, registering road wins over Stanford and Colorado and beating Long Beach State and Texas Tech on neutral courts. The Falcons handed Wake Forest its first loss of the season in a rare home game.

"Six of our first eight games were outside Clune Arena and that was by design," Bzdelik said. "We knew we couldn't get big schools to come into Clune, so we had to go find them if not for any other reason than to see where we stood against the bigger schools."

The wins over Stanford and Colorado were by 34 and 38 points, respectively, while the Falcons beat Wake Forest 94-58.



**GUEST SPEAKER:** Murray Police Department officer Mike Robinson recently spoke to the A+ Karate's Little Dragons Class. Class members pictured with Robinson include (from left) Christian Bobo, Clayton Bobo, Michael Johnson, Jacob Garland, Will Robertson, Emily Gallimore, Andy Hardt and Luke Gallimore.

## MURRAY MIDDLE BASKETBALL

### Tigers drop twinbill to Hickman

#### Staff Report

Murray Middle School's seventh and eighth grade boys' basketball teams were swept in Monday night's doubleheader against Hickman County.

Hickman defeated the Murray seventh graders by a 37-33 score, while the Tiger eighth graders fell 41-30.

In the seventh grade contest, the Falcons opened a 15-7 lead after one quarter of play, led 24-16 at halftime and secured the win with an 11-6 run in the third period.

Kendall Deese and Zac Maley shared team scoring honors for Murray with nine apiece.

Austin Adams followed with eight, Blake Graham tossed in five and Deandre Fields added two.

The Tiger eighth graders fell behind 10-7 in the first quarter of their game and trailed just 18-14 at the intermission. But Hickman used a 10-4 scoring run in the third quarter to build a commanding 28-18 advantage that Murray was not able to overcome.

Alex Stephens led the Tigers with seven points. Matt Deese and Robert Olive had six apiece, while Cedric Cherry dropped in five. Ryan Kelly, Shaquille Day and Aron Tuck completed the scoring with two each.

## BASEBALL

### Red Sox have plane waiting to take Matsuzaka to Boston

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP) — The Red Sox want Daisuke Matsuzaka to be a guest on the plane of team owner John Henry.

"It's here in Southern California and it will leave on Wednesday morning," general manager Theo Epstein said Monday night. "We hope Matsuzaka-san will be on it so that we can complete the physical in Boston in time to get a contract done."

Epstein and team president Larry Lucchino traveled to California on Monday in a final attempt to sign Matsuzaka, and the pair planned to meet Tuesday with the Japanese pitcher and his agent, Scott Boras.

"We're on Scott Boras' doorstep because he hasn't negotiated with us thus far and

we're taking the fight directly to him, the fight to have a negotiation here," Henry said.

The deadline for Boston to reach an agreement with Matsuzaka is midnight EST Thursday, but because the Red Sox insist that the pitcher have a physical prior to a deal, the team says Matsuzaka must travel to Boston on Wednesday morning in time to have the necessary medical tests.

"We flew out unsolicited and called immediately upon landing and asked for a meeting not only with Scott but also with Daisuke," Epstein said in a telephone conference call late Monday. "We do have plans to meet tomorrow and at that time will present a second offer, an improved offer. We're not frustrated. We're just

doing everything possible under the sun to get a deal done."

Boras earlier held a news conference at his office some 45 miles south of Los Angeles.

"Free agent pitchers who are 26 and have Matsuzaka-like ability receive salaries in excess of \$100 million over five or six years in free agency," he said.

Boston also said it plans to sign Masumi Kuwata, a 38-year-old right-hander who has spent 21 seasons with the Yomiuri Giants. He'll be at spring training with "an opportunity to show what he's still got" Epstein said.

"We'll give him every opportunity to come and make an impact in the organization," he added.

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Miami	6	7	0	.462	Washington	4	9	0	.308
South					South				
W	L	T	Pct	W	L	T	Pct		
Indianapolis	10	3	0	.769	New Orleans	9	4	0	.692
Jacksonville	8	5	0	.615	Atlanta	7	6	0	.538
Tennessee	6	7	0	.462	Carolina	6	7	0	.462
Houston	4	9	0	.308	Tampa Bay	3	10	0	.231
North					North				
W	L	T	Pct	W	L	T	Pct		
Baltimore	10	3	0	.769	x-Chicago	11	2	0	.846
Cincinnati	8	5	0	.615	Minnesota	6	7	0	.462
Pittsburgh	6	7	0	.462	Green Bay	5	8	0	.385
Cleveland	4	9	0	.308	Detroit	2	11	0	.154
West					West				
W	L	T	Pct	W	L	T	Pct		
x-San Diego	11	2	0	.846	Seattle	8	5	0	.615
Kansas City	7	6	0	.538	San Francisco	5	8	0	.385
Denver	7	6	0	.538	St. Louis	5	8	0	.385
Oakland	2	11	0	.154	Arizona	4	9	0	.308

*x-clinched division*  
**Last Thursday's Score**  
 Pittsburgh 27, Cleveland 7  
**Sunday's Scores**  
 Minnesota 30, Detroit 20  
 Tennessee 26, Houston 20, OT  
 Miami 21, New England 0  
 Cincinnati 27, Oakland 10  
 Philadelphia 21, Washington 19  
 Baltimore 20, Kansas City 10  
 Atlanta 17, Tampa Bay 6  
 N.Y. Giants 27, Carolina 13  
 Jacksonville 44, Indianapolis 17  
 Green Bay 30, San Francisco 19  
 Arizona 27, Seattle 21  
 Buffalo 31, N.Y. Jets 13  
 San Diego 48, Denver 20  
 New Orleans 42, Dallas 17  
**Monday's Score**  
 Chicago 42, St. Louis 27

**Thursday's Game**  
 San Francisco at Seattle, 7 p.m.  
**Saturday's Game**  
 Dallas at Atlanta, 7 p.m.  
**Sunday's Games**  
 Miami at Buffalo, noon  
 N.Y. Jets at Minnesota, noon  
 Detroit at Green Bay, noon  
 Tampa Bay at Chicago, noon  
 Jacksonville at Tennessee, noon  
 Cleveland at Baltimore, noon  
 Washington at New Orleans, noon  
 Houston at New England, noon  
 Pittsburgh at Carolina, noon  
 Denver at Arizona, 3:05 p.m.  
 Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 3:15 p.m.  
 St. Louis at Oakland, 3:15 p.m.  
 Kansas City at San Diego, 7:15 p.m.  
**Monday's Game**  
 Cincinnati at Indianapolis, 7:30 p.m.

## Racers

From Page 9A

health of Witherspoon and the much-anticipated availability of point guard Kevin Thomas.

Witherspoon has been trying to play through the pain in his left foot, which he injured in last March's NCAA Tournament game against North Carolina and had surgery on during the offseason. He played 27 minutes on Saturday at Morehead after playing 42 against the Colonels in the Thursday's overtime contest.

"It's a major concern," Kennedy said of Witherspoon's continued struggles. "We've got to figure out a way to limit his minutes, and he's got to be a little smarter in the way he plays."

"I want to get him re-evaluated and figure it out this week while we have some downtime. ... He's struggling to guard out on the floor. He can help, but he has a hard time recovering. That's a concern against Samford and Jacksonville State, because they're coming in with perimeter 4-men who can really play."

Thomas, a 6-1 junior who has been out of action since suffering a knee injury in the

offseason, is expected to be cleared to play in next Tuesday's matchup with Jacksonville State.

The addition of Thomas to the lineup should give the Racers better direction on the court.

"He's a (true) point guard. We can call a timeout and draw something up, and he can get us into it," Kennedy said of Thomas. "And he can recognize when guys are not in the right spots. We're still dealing with that, unfortunately."

Despite their early struggles, the Racers are still very much in the thick of the early OVC race, which features Tennessee State at 2-0 and preseason favorite Samford at 1-0 after last week's win over rival Jacksonville State. Murray and Austin Peay are in close pursuit at 2-1.

"It's a balanced league," said Kennedy. "The worst thing about it is we should be 3-0. But we're getting better."

"I still think Samford will be the toughest team we'll play in our league. Tennessee Tech and Tennessee State have a few more weapons than everybody else. But this league is balanced, and that's good for us."

## Bears

From Page 9A

Get your popcorn ready, you know he's going to put on a show."

Many of the Bears put on a show in all but eliminating the Rams (5-8) from playoff contention. Thomas Jones keyed the running game that dominated the decisive third quarter and Muhsin Muhammad made several clutch catches. So did Bernard Berrian as belea-

guered quarterback Rex Grossman silenced the critics — for now.

But Hester was the most spectacular, and he doesn't expect his heroics to end anytime soon.

"It's the NFL and a team is not going to bow down to one player," Hester said. "They'll continue to kick to me."

They're fools if they do. "It's like the gates of Heaven opening up for me," he added.

A second-round draft pick, Hester also has three punt return touchdowns and ran back a missed field goal 108 yards against the Giants to tie the longest play in NFL history. But he'd returned only six kick-offs all year before his historic romps.

"The story of the game is Devin Hester," Bears coach Lovie Smith said. "It's time we start looking at him as an offensive player."

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VERSUS — Buffalo at New Jersey  
Wednesday  
NBA  
8 p.m.

ESPN — Phoenix at Miami  
8:30 p.m.

ESPN — L.A. Lakers at Dallas

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020 Notice 020 Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE This notice is intended to inform the residents of Murray, Kentucky that the Murray City Council is in the process of closing out the Calloway County Renaissance Center (Old Post Office) Project.

SITE Coordinator, GEAR UP Kentucky, College of Education, Murray State University. This is a 200-day per year, non-tenured track position with the GEAR UP Kentucky program.

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Photos provided  
**MURRAY-CALLOWAY COUNTY BOARD OF REALTORS DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS:** The Murray Calloway County Board of Realtors held its annual banquet and awards presentation at the Murray Country Club on Dec. 1. Carl Tackett, 2007 Kentucky Association of Realtors President was present to install the 2007 Officers and Directors. Installed as Officers for 2007 were: President Elect- Mary Jane Roberson; Secretary- Loretta Jobs; Treasurer- Lynda Houck; and State Delegate- Earleene Woods. 2007 Directors are: Lori Sweeney, Tish Sloan, Renee Wynn, Bonnie Byerly, and Rich Dunn, Kathy Kopperud. Vicki Moore was installed as President. Above, officers and directors are pictured being installed by KAR President Carl Tackett (in back): (Left to right) Rich Dunn, Mary Jane Roberson, Earleene Woods, Bonnie Byerly, Kathy Kopperud, Lynda Houck, and Renee Wynn. At left, Vicki Moore is shown being installed as President by KAR President Carl Tackett.

**Horoscope**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2006:**  
 You have a way about you that draws in many people this birthday year. Your personality and attitude toss obstacles to the wayside. You might need to let others know how expressive and direct you can be. Your strength lies in groups, not individuals. Meetings, people and causes star this year. Extremes mark your life. A sweet tooth, or perhaps some other indulgence, could plague you. You have high energy and a sense of direction. If you are single, you will meet someone through a friendship. The quality of this tie will make a difference in your life. If you are attached, working together as a team will create a new bond. Togetherness will create greater happiness. You might go to extremes, loving a lot but also fighting a lot. As a couple, look at this behavior. LIBRA is always a pal.

**Have:** 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Finally, you can and will mellow out. Others seem receptive. You are able to clear your desk and understand key people, and they you. Where there was tension, good humor returns. You feel much more at ease in this environment. Tonight: Listen to a pal and share options.  
**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Your sense of accomplishment allows you to take great pride in what you do. A partner or associate clearly supports you. Consider alternatives carefully, even if others are saying it is OK. Tonight: Slow your pace.  
**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Creativity spins from you. You don't need to have all the answers - please understand that. Caring comes forth from a partner or someone you clearly care a lot about. Flow with the give-and-take of a situation. Tonight: Have a good time wherever you are.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Basics do count. Understand that you are coming from a strong foundation and perhaps might not see the complete issue. Listen to suggestions, knowing everyone's perceptions are different. Don't worry so much. Tonight: Easy does it.  
**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* How you approach someone could determine the end result. You know what to do. Right now, the unpredictable element in your life could be tough to work with. Your ability to integrate and understand others could be a landmark. Tonight: Easy does it.  
**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Your perceptions as to how to make money and what your assets are could change substantially given time and discussion. New perceptions occur because of a vibrant talk. Listen more carefully. Tonight: Easy does it.  
**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Your words fall on others like magic, drawing strong reactions

and changes. Your charisma somehow comes through in your words, drawing nods all around. Want to plug a new idea? Now is the moment. Tonight: Ask for what you want.  
**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Stepping back will help you understand what is happening. Many opportunities stem from your innate resourcefulness. Centering and applying your energy appropriately could make a big difference. Tonight: Some time to yourself.  
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Your ability to zoom in on what you need might be very important. Meetings, groups of people and interactions in general point the way to success. Do nothing halfway, for your sake. Talk turkey. Tonight: Venture out.  
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Step into the limelight knowing what you want and expect. Sometimes people need to see their options presented through action, not concepts. Keep this fact in mind when chat-

ting with those in power. Tonight: Out and about.  
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Where your friends are is where you want to be. Aim for what you want, yet, at the same time, know that you need to enlist a partner's support. Friendship takes you in a new direction. Be more forthright with a key partner or associate. Tonight: Quality time with a quality person.  
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Others present you with options that, up till now, you haven't thought of. Listen to this person and see if his or her rationale works. Looking at the big picture makes all the difference in your attitude, and others' as well! Tonight: Accept an invitation.

**BORN TODAY**  
 Singer Ted Nugent (1948), actor Dick Van Dyke (1925), actor Jamie Foxx (1967)  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
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Looking Back

10 years ago
Published is a picture of Jim Thompson, Murray Optimist Club member, straightening out a tree while he waits for customers at the sale on North 17th Street.

Births reported include a girl to Tonya and Kevin West, Dec. 4; a boy to Christina and Michael Parrish and a girl to Michelle and Brian Allen, Dec. 5.

Mr. and Mrs. Doyce Morris were married 50 years Nov. 16. Murray State University Racers lost 31-3 in the Football Division I-AA playoff game with Troy State at Troy, Ala.

20 years ago
The Kappa Department of the Murray Woman's Club will have its annual tour of homes for the holiday season on Dec. 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the homes of Dwayne and Becky Smith, Maxine Cunningham, and J.D. and Ann Williams.

John Ed Johnson of Murray was named district winner for the 1986 Tom Wallace Farm Forestry Award.

In high school basketball games, Murray Lady Tigers won 58-47 over Lone Oak Purple Flash with Julie Bazzell as high scorer for Murray; Calloway Lady Tigers lost 49-46 to Marshall County Marshals with Mary Taylor high scorer for Calloway.

Murray State University Racers lost 54-53 in overtime to Southern California in a basketball game at Wendy's Classic held at Bowling Green. Don Mann was high scorer for Murray.

30 years ago
Published is a picture of Sen. Wendell Ford talking with Calloway County Judge Robert O. Miller at the opening of his field

office in Murray on Dec. 10. The photo was by Staff Photographer David Hill.

About 900 pounds of tobacco were stolen from the farm of Monroe Hester in the Kirksey community, according to the Calloway County Sheriff's office.

Calloway County High School Lady Lakers lost 38-49 to Mayfield Cardinals in a basketball game. High scorers were Ross for the Lakers and Shelton for the Cardinals.

40 years ago
The homes of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Garland and Mr. and Mrs. Tommye D. Taylor will be homes to be toured in the Holiday Home Tour, sponsored by the Murray Woman's Club on Dec. 15.

The new 3-bedroom trailer of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Felts in the Penny community was destroyed by fire on Dec. 9 about 9:30 a.m.

In high school basketball games, Calloway Lakers lost 65-64 to Mayfield Cardinals with high scorers being Ralph Sliker for Lakers and Keith Hill for Cardinals; Murray Tigers lost 65-48 to Paducah Tilghman with high scorers being Vic Dunn for Murray and Hamilton for Tilghman.

50 years ago
An electric organ for use in the new gym at Murray State College has been donated by Ed Settle of Belk-Settle Co.

Mrs. Ollie Brown presented a program on "Making Christmas Arrangements" at a meeting of the Delta Department of the Murray Woman's Club.

In two basketball games, Murray State College Thorobreds won 74-65 and 88-66 over West Texas at Murray. High scorers for Murray were Fran Watrous and Quitman Sullins. Rex Alexander was the head basketball coach for MSC.

Other man's overture puts couple's romance in doubt

DEAR ABBY: I am a 35-year-old man, deeply and madly in love with a 36-year-old woman who has two kids. I'll call her Whitney. We would both like our relationship to lead to marriage and more kids, but something -- or rather someone -- has put a damper on things.



Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

did not tell him she's involved with anyone else.

When we discussed it, and when I told Whitney he has crossed the line by asking her out, she argued that she is not attracted to him and he's gay, and then she accused me of not trusting her.

I am not a controlling person. I never minded her talking to him before he asked her out. But the fact that he did, and they talk to each other daily and she does nothing to avoid talking to him, makes me uncomfortable. It has shaken my trust in her. This has seriously affected our relationship, although she doesn't realize it.

I don't want to see Whitney get hurt by some guy who may

be looking for just one thing. Does this look innocent to you? Can a gay man be attracted to a woman? And more important, can a woman be attracted to a gay man? - CON-FUSED IN LANCASTER, PA.

DEAR CONFUSED: Let me answer your questions in reverse order. Can a woman be attracted to a gay man? Absolutely! I can think of quite a few "out" gay men whom women find attractive. Among them are Rupert Everett, George Michael, Lance Bass, Richard Chamberlain and Neil Patrick Harris.

And gay men can be attracted to -- and have a lot in common with -- women. I know that firsthand. But the attraction has everything to do with common interests, a similar sense of humor and a mutual understanding. It is not sexual. As a good (gay) friend once told me, "Never try to change a queen. It won't work."

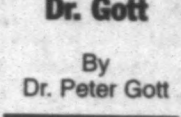
Although you say you are not a controlling person, you appear to be insecure in your relationship with Whitney. For heaven's sake, your lady friend has not tried to hide anything from you. She has told you she talks to this man, and how often, and what she has and has not told him. Even if she had a ring on her finger, she has a right to spend time with whomever she wishes.

So calm down and let this play out. The "one thing" he may be looking for may be friendship, and it's something that eventually you could offer him, too.

Antiviral therapy needed for shingles

DEAR DR. GOTT: My problem is shingles on my wife, who is 78 years old.

She's had them now for six weeks. The first four weeks she endured sudden, sharp pain at intervals from 30 minutes to 12 hours. She is no longer bothered with those, but her back has scabs that won't fall off. They burn, and she is in terrible pain. She can't bear to have someone



Dr. Gott

even touch her back. She aches all over. She usually knows how to maintain a healthy life, but this has her stumped. Do you have any thoughts on her situation?

DEAR READER: Your wife needs to have antiviral therapy, such as Zovirax, because it's likely that she has persisting infection. She should see her doctor. I don't believe that she is a candidate for topical clear fingernail polish (which I recently reported on) because she is not in the acute phase.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: We

have a well with hard water. When our water softener wore out and I got tired of dragging those heavy bags of salt to our basement, we elected to not replace it. Soon after, the water heater also wore out! The new heater gave off cloudy, smelly water until it was readjusted for this hardness factor. Also, I noticed my ice-cube trays either need replacing monthly or need to be soaked in white vinegar to prevent lime deposits. Now I am wondering, what, if any, harm could this water, either in cooking or drinking, be doing to us physically?

DEAR READER: Before answering your question, I'd have to know the cause of the well's contamination. If the lime is to blame, you might consider reinstalling the water softener. On the other hand, if your well water contains other minerals (such as lead) or bacteria, your health could be affected.

If you haven't already, have your well checked by your municipal health department. This analysis should give you the information you require, as well as suggestions about how to decontaminate your water system.

If your only problem is the lime and you still do not wish to use the water softener, it will cause you no ill effects. You will, however, need to take precautions, because the lime can build up and may ruin some appliances, such as coffee makers and dishwashers, unless they are cleaned and "delimed" regularly.

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Tuesday, Dec. 12, the 346th day of 2006. There are 19 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 12, 1906, the Senate confirmed Oscar Straus to be President Theodore Roosevelt's Secretary of Commerce and Labor; Straus became the first Jewish member of a presidential cabinet.

On this date:
In 1787, Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the U.S.

Constitution.

In 1870, Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina became the first black lawmaker sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1897, "The Katzenjammer Kids," the pioneering comic strip created by Rudolph Dirks, made its debut in the New York Journal.

In 1913, authorities in Florence, Italy, announced that the "Mona Lisa," stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris in 1911, had

been recovered.

In 1917, Father Edward Flanagan founded Boys Town outside Omaha, Neb.

In 1925, the first motel -- the Motel Inn -- opened in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

In 1937, Japanese aircraft sank the U.S. gunboat Panay on China's Yangtze River. (Japan apologized, and paid \$2.2 million in reparations.)

In 1963, Kenya gained its independence from Britain.

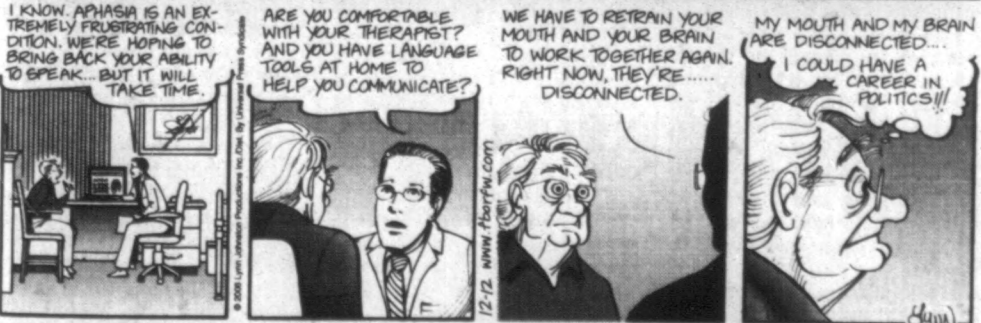
BABY BLUES



BLONDIE



FOR BETTER or WORSE



GARFIELD



PEANUTS



DEAR ABBY: My teenage daughters went to a birthday party for a friend. It was a slumber party, and on the spur of the moment, one of the girls suggested they play "strip poker."

Abby, the host girl's mother not only allowed it, but actually joined the game! The mother is a single parent, and only females were present in the home.

The girls found the game great fun and plan on doing it in the future at slumber parties. I told them that I do not feel this was appropriate, but they reminded me that I have always told them there was no reason to be shy about their bodies with other girls, so I was stumped to explain why I disapprove. I am still not comfortable with the idea of such an activity. Please tell me what you think. -- APPALLED IN CARMICHAEL, CALIF.

DEAR APPALLED: I see no harm in a group of young women playing strip poker at an all-girl slumber party. However, for the host girl's mother to abdicate her role as a parent in an attempt to act like their contemporary was, in my opinion, a lapse of judgment. Tempting as it may have been for this single mother to try to be "one of the girls," she should have refrained because she's not one of the peers.

Contract Bridge

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
AKQ4
Q107
765
843

WEST
873
8643
109
1975

EAST
J105
AJ9
QJ832
Q10

SOUTH
962
K52
AK4
AK62

The bidding: South West North East

1 NT Pass 3 NT All Pass

Opening lead -- ten of diamonds.

If you look at all four hands, it isn't easy to see how declarer can possibly go down in three notrump.

He seems certain to score two clubs, two diamonds, a heart and, because of the lucky 3-3 spade division, four spades for a total of nine tricks.

Yet, as reported by the great Australian star Tim Seres, South failed to make the contract. Not only that, but in winding up with only eight tricks, it's hard to prove that declarer did anything really wrong!

West started by leading the diamond ten from his virtually worthless

partner's long suit. As it happened, West was successful in his aim, but this was not the real cause of South's undoing.

Declarer took the diamond lead with the ace and tested the spades by cashing the A-K. Had East woodenly followed suit, there would have been no tale to tell. But when the two top spades were cashed, East followed with the ten and jack!

South naturally assumed that West had both missing spades, so he next led the four of spades to his nine. He then played the king of hearts, hoping the opponent with the ace would win the trick and thereby provide him with an entry to the queen of spades.

But East had not come this far to make things easy for declarer. He did not take his ace, leaving South with no choice but to lead a second round of hearts toward the Q-10. When West followed low, South finessed the ten, losing to East's jack. Not long after that, declarer finished down one.

In summarizing the deal, Seres cited the basic principle of defense that East had followed: When you see that declarer is bound to succeed by normal play, you should look for a way to present him with a losing alternative.

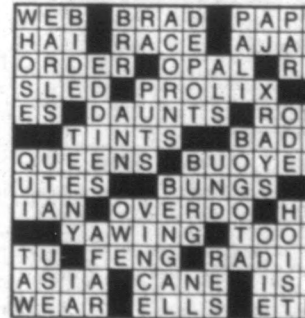
Tomorrow: Win a lot, lose a little.

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Crosswords

- ACROSS
1 Journal
4 Tibetan monk
8 Football
12 Luau music
13 Thermometer
14 type
15 Eggplant color
15 S&L offering
16 Groundbreaker
18 Food wrap
20 Easier said -- done
21 "Sign here" mark
22 Distinct period
23 Robin beaks
27 Do sums
29 Genetic strand
30 "Moll Flanders" author
31 Niagara Falls loc.
32 Mag execs
33 Wk. day
34 L.A. locale
35 Stagecoach pullers
37 Folk-song mule
38 Pit stop buy
39 This, in Spain
40 Help out
41 Popular princess
42 DEA operative
44 Bumkins
47 Suit material
51 Pen brand
52 What Hamlet smelled (2 wds.)
53 Norwegian monarch
54 Galleon cargo
55 It may be spliced
56 Hearty loaves
57 Table-tennis divider
DOWN
1 Nobelist -- Alvarez
2 Slimy vegetable
3 -- up (got ready)
4 Kind of roast
5 Prince Valiant's son
6 Meditation chant
7 Kauai hello
8 Bridged
9 Well-known Pharaoh
10 Kind of system
11 Part of mpg
17 Mount Vernon loc.
19 Fireman's tool
22 Naval off.
24 Weather
25 -- Raton, Fla.
26 Wave makers
27 Feed the kitty
28 Does Easter eggs
29 Hwy's
30 PC key
32 Issue forth
33 Bankroll
36 Love -- first sight
37 Etna's island
38 Small ape
40 Deep devotion
41 Ford -- Lac
43 Argon symbol
44 Sports "zebra"
45 Blarney Stone site
46 Highlander
47 Judicial order
48 Is, for them
49 Make taboo
50 Dundee refusal

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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TV Listings Wednesday, December 13, 2006

Fire marshal for Murray featured on TV show

Special to the Ledger

This week Roundabout Murray will feature Dickie Walls, fire marshal for the city of Murray, with tips on how to keep homes safe this holiday season.

David Balthrop, chair for the Murray State University Department of Theatre and Dance, will speak of the Broadway and Off-Broadway series of shows that MSU will be presenting, or have presented for the 2006-2007 season.

Some of the upcoming shows include: Pocahontas, Dr. Faustus, Spring Dance Event, Betrayal, and Miss Julie. Ticket prices are \$10 a show, except for Pocahontas, which the price is \$5.

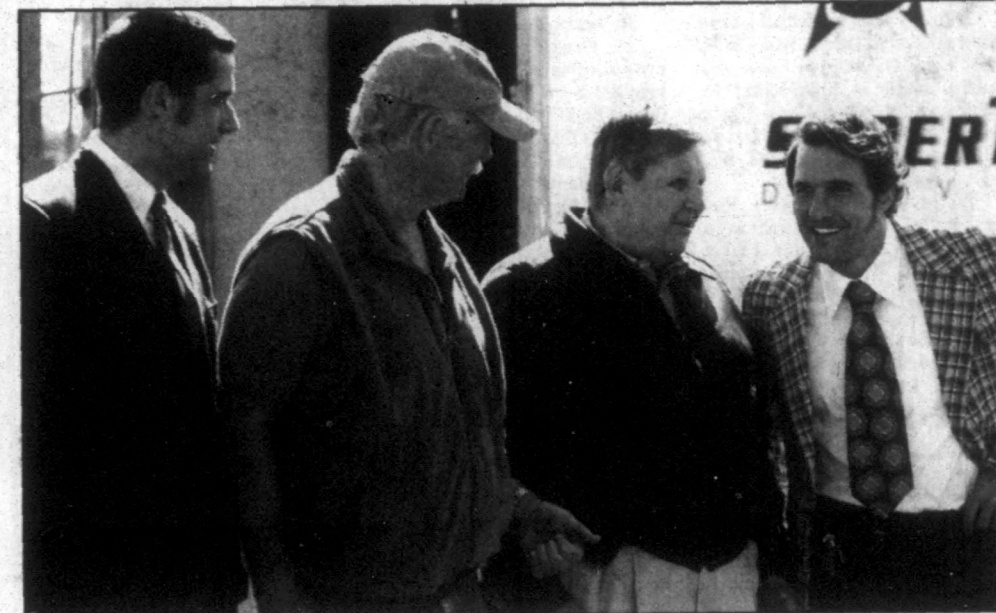
Mark Welch, WKMS programming director, will also appear on the show. He will be speaking about the Music from the Front Porch concert that will feature Bawn in the Mash and The McKendrees. The concert is Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. at the Robert E. Johnson Theatre in MSU's Price

Doyle Fine Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 at the door only.

Murray State student Phill Dishon will also be on the show this week featuring stories on campus life. He will focus on what is happening around campus along with upcoming events.

Roundabout Murray is a weekly 30-minute video magazine of Murray State University that brings the community up-to-date with area events. Every week Roundabout Murray exhibits the accomplishments of the community with guest from the local region.

"Roundabout Murray" is a 30-minute video magazine hosted by Jim Carter and produced by Murray State University. It updates viewers on area events and informs them of the accomplishments of the community with guests from around the region. It airs Tuesdays at 6 p.m. on MSU TV-11 and Wednesday nights at 11:30 p.m. on The CW (WQWQ), as well as on Murray Electric System (channel 15) Wednesdays at 6 p.m., and Sundays at 8 a.m. and noon on NewWave (channel 19) in Murray, Mayfield, Benton, Calvert City, and Fulton.



In this file photo, Actors Matthew McConaughey, right, and Matthew Fox, left, speak to former Marshall football coaches Jack Lengyel, second from right, and Red Dawson during a break in the filming of "We Are Marshall" on Marshall's campus in Huntington, W.Va.

'We Are Marshall' chronicles football team's tragedy, triumph

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP) — Some call it the greatest sports story never told, a forgotten tale of tragedy and triumph that never got the attention it deserved.

Marshall University's rise from the ashes of a 1970 plane crash that killed most of its football team, half the coaching staff and several prominent members of the Huntington community never caught the attention of Hollywood — or anyone in the national entertainment industry for that matter.

Until now. Screenwriter Jamie Linden's interest was piqued a few years ago when the then-Florida State marketing major read about the tragedy in his school newspaper.

The story stuck with him. It also stuck with Mary Viola, vice president of Thunder Road Productions in Los Angeles.

She'd heard the story as a child, and after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, she thought America was in need of "a tale of people overcoming great tragedy and continuing on with their lives."

In 2004, Viola and Linden successfully pitched the idea to Warner Bros. and Linden and writing partner Cory Helms started writing the screenplay for "We Are Marshall" the following spring. Part of the movie was filmed this year in Huntington, where it premieres Tuesday. It opens nationwide on Dec. 22.

"It's just such an amazing, incredible story. All I did is sort of write it down," Linden said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "It's one of those things that just deserved to be a movie and that should have happened a long time ago."

But the story "slipped through the cracks," possibly because of the location, he said.

"I think part of it is it happened in West Virginia, which is a state that gets overlooked, and it happened to Marshall, which is a school in a state that gets overlooked."

Had this happened at a more well-known school, "there would have been five movies and seven books," Linden said.

Director McG says it's fortunate for him that the story "eluded the Hollywood group."

"In a strange way I'm happy because that created a tremendous opportunity for all of us to come together and tell the story now."

"And it's a timely story now with Katrina and 9/11 and everything else that's going on in the world and how people

need to manage grief and move forward — so it makes as much sense in 2006 as it did in '71."

On Nov. 14, 1970, a chartered jet carrying a five-member flight crew, 36 football players, five coaches, the athletic director, four other members of the athletic department and 24 fans crashed into a hillside near Tri-State Airport while returning from a game at East Carolina University.

There were no survivors in what remains the worst sports-related disaster in American history.

Despite concerns that rebuilding the program would be too painful and impractical, acting university President Donald Dedmon announced that football would continue at Marshall.

The movie follows the 1971 "Young Thundering Herd," so named because the team was given special permission from the NCAA to play freshmen. With very few experienced players, the team won two of its 10 games that year — including an upset win over Xavier on the last play of the game.

"The whole thing was unbelievable," said Red Dawson, the assistant coach who called in the winning play — a 213 bootleg screen pass from Reggie Oliver to Terry Gardner.

"The last play of the game, the first home game, nobody would have predicted that in a million years," said Dawson, who was not on the plane because of a recruiting trip.

While the play is slightly different in the movie, Dawson said, "the 213 bootleg screen will always be a part of the legacy of Marshall University."

And the 1970 and 1971 teams "laid the groundwork" for Marshall's future football successes, he said.

Those successes include 20 consecutive winning seasons, two of them undefeated; eight conference crowns; two I-AA national championships; five bowl wins; and multiple players who went on to the NFL, including Randy Moss of the Oakland Raiders, Chad Pennington of the New York Jets, and Byron Leftwich of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Marshall finished the 1990s with 114 victories, more than any other team in I-A or I-AA in a single decade.

Many in Huntington, an Ohio River town with a population of about 50,000, don't understand why the story of Marshall's climb to prominence in the decades after the crash wasn't

picked up on sooner. Jack Lengyel, who coached the 1971 team, tried for years to drum up interest in a movie.

While athletic director at Navy from 1988 to 2001, Lengyel came to know people at the three major television networks as well as at ESPN and HBO.

"Everybody would express some interest, but it would never rise to the occasion to say 'Well, yes, let's make a movie.'"

Marshall spokesman Keith Spears says that over the years various production companies had approached him about doing a film, but none had the experience or budget necessary to do the project justice.

Then, last summer, two came to Marshall at the same time.

Ultimately it was Thunder Road, with the backing of Warner Bros., that won out.

"They were absolutely committed to telling the story in a way that was respectful to the families, to the community and also in a way that was hardly maudlin but invigorating and revitalizing," said Marshall President Stephen Kopp.

Despite the production company's promises, there was still wariness among those closest to the tragedy.

When Keith Morehouse was first approached about the movie he was a bit guarded and kept the production officials at arm's length. Morehouse was 9 when he lost his father, Gene, Marshall's sports information director and radio play-by-play announcer, in the crash.

But Linden, Viola and others associated with the film spent a great deal of time with Morehouse and other family members to make sure the movie upheld the dignity of the victims.

"I think they went above and beyond to try to accommodate everybody and to make a good movie as well," said Morehouse, who followed in his father's footsteps as a sports announcer and is now sports director at WSAZ-TV.

Oliver was also wary, saying he "didn't want to be a part of somebody coming in pimping Marshall, trying to gain their fame and fortune on the heels of people that have given their lives for the program."

But after seeing the movie, he believes people will think, "That was pretty good and those people persevered." And if you know anything about Marshall now, you'll know it was worth it.

Table with columns for TV channels (WKRN-ABC, WSL-ABC, WSMY-HBC, etc.) and time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, etc.). It lists various programs like 'Good Morning America', 'The View', 'Jeopardy!', and 'The Price is Right'.

Table with columns for TV channels and time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, etc.). It lists various programs like 'All My Children', 'General Hospital', 'Judge Judy', and 'The Price is Right'.

Table with columns for TV channels and time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, etc.). It lists various programs like 'Show Me the Money', 'The Price is Right', 'Jeopardy!', and 'The View'.