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SPORTS: Racers Enter Challenging Showdown With Samford For 1st Place In OVC GER & TMES

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Thursday, December 21, 2006



TOM BERRY/Ledger & Times

Murray resident Jimmie Joyce, a Salvation Army volunteer, rings the bell to collect donations for the needy in Murray and Calloway County at Wal-Mart Wednesday evening. To the surprise of SA officials, an anonymous donor placed two silver and gold coins wrapped in a \$100 bill

Bell ringers, Need Line get quite a Christmas gift

Staff Writer

It wasn't the gift of the Magi, but Salvation Army volunteers in Murray were recently pleased and very surprised when two authentic silver and gold coins wrapped in a \$100 bill were found inside one of the organization's donation kettles.

Kerry Lambert, a Salvation Army representative in Murray who is also director of pastoral care at Murray-Calloway County Hospital, said Wednesday afternoon that the gift was found while Pat Latimer, Barbara Hendon and other volunteers were counting the day's collections at Murray's Need Line office.

"I didn't see it because I wasn't counting money that particular night, but what somebody had done was take a \$100 bill and wrap it around the two coins that were inside those coin protectors that collectors use and dropped it into the bucket," Lambert said.

Latimer later called a coin shop in Paducah and discovered that the \$5 Canadian gold Maple Leaf coin was worth about \$150 and the silver coin,

which was actually a one troy-ounce silver piece and not a coin, was worth about \$12 to \$13.

"That's a gift in the \$250 to \$275 range. It's meaningful for us," Lambert said, pointing out that it was one of the most unexpected gifts he has ever encountered in the years he has been involved Salvation Army collections.

"I've done this for 14 years and that's really the most unusual gift we have ever received," Lambert said. "We get a lot of foreign coins from time to time that that people drop in and probably aren't worth much, but as long as I've been doing it this has been the most meaningful."

It is not certain exactly when or where the donation was made, but Lambert and Latimer said the volunteers would like for the donor to know that their gift was received with thanksgiving.

"We were very excited with the donation and the unique way it was given," Latimer said. 'Obviously the donor wanted to remain anonymous, but I thought he or she might like to know

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Dr. Jones honored by ICCH for dedication

By KRISTIN TAYLOR Staff Writer

Rushing Mayor summed up Dr. Conrad Jones' medical career as the Murray-Calloway County Hospital Board of Trustees recognized the physician for his dedication to the community.

"When we mention babies being born, we mention Dr. Jones," Rushing said.

And the hospital board wants the community to continuing thinking like that.

The trustees unanimously approved honoring Jones by naming the name new labor and delivery suite in the Women's

expected to open at the beginning of February in what used to be the hospital's long-term care unit, after the founder of Murray Women's Clinic.

"This has caught me completely flabbergasted," Jones said. "... I thank you for a honor I question whether I deserve, but I appreciate it."

Jones started the clinic after coming to Murray in January 1950 with a vision he's now seeing fulfilled. The clinic is the state's largest obstetrics/gynecology practice outside the university groups in Louisville and Lexington. With the hospital

ed area for health, Jones said his dream is being furthered even

An open house of the Women's

being planned for next month. "I came to Murray with a dream, and I think a few of us live to realize their dream com-

■ See Page 8A

pletely fulfilled," Jones said.

Hospital board addresses Stark Law violations, issues

By KRISTIN TAYLOR Staff Writer

Twenty-one months after violations of federal law that governs financial relationships between physicians and a healthcare organization became Murray-Calloway County Hospital is moving forward with what is a minimum

Hospital CEO Keith Bailey and MCCH Board of Trustees chairman Jack Rose executed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and

Human Service's Office of Inspector General regarding the hospital's self-reported Stark Law violations and other federal compliance issues. The board authorized them to do so at its November meeting.

The lack of lease agreements with physicians in the Medical Arts Building and the shortage of documentation of business transactions violated the Stark Law, which aims to prevent fraud and abuse.

Bailey was brief with updating the Board of Trustees on the issue during Wednesday's meet-

'We have executed that agreement, so that's what I'd like to report," Bailey said. " We'll just move ahead with implementation of the requirements of that agreement."

In an interview with the Ledger & Times after the meeting, Bailey said requirements of the agreement included paying a \$175,000 fine - which is far less than what could have been

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GREG TRAVIS/Ledger & Times

TOPS IN THEIR LINE OF WORK: A crew from Whit-Cor Masonry, Industrial Road in Murray, carefully works at the top of a new brick column at Main and 15th streets. The intersection at the southeast corner of the Murray State University campus was recently reworked and the new column has now been added. Above, Randy Evans (left) and Bobby Colson lay brick in preparation for the final cap.

Murray BZA hear, rule on pair of conditional use permits at meeting

By KRISTIN TAYLOR Staff Writer

Conditional use permits pertain to a variety of business and situations. Just as the Murray Board of Zoning Adjustments that spent a great deal of time discussing a couple during its meeting Wednesday.

The BZA reviewed an existing permit to allow outdoor storage at Orschein Farm and Home Store then considered granting

permission for Chong Kim to operate an on-site seamstress business and an off-site permanent make-up from her 1502 Sycamore St. house.

The board outlined a plan for Orscheln's to continue cleaning up its outdoor storage that has expanded beyond what is permitted and then approved Kim's request as long as she doesn't

put up a business sign. Both items were approved unanimously by chairman Bill Whitaker and members Michael Jordan, Scott Seiber and Helen Spann. Members Andy Dunn, Darren Jones and Ed Davis were absent.

Kim's businesses would have limited traffic as customers dropped for clothing for alterations or other items related to her seamstress work. She would also use her home as an office for her permanent make-up

business that would take her to clients' homes to perform the

In July 2004, Kim applied for a similar home occupation permit, but that request involved performing the permanent make-up on clients in her home.

One of the points Kim made to the board was that on Sundays she cooks for 20-30 international college students who come to her house -

something that creates more traffic than her seamstress business would.

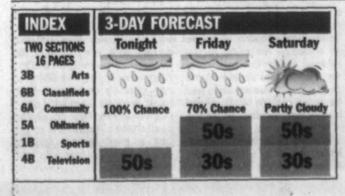
Mary Ann Russell, who lives across the street at 1503 Sycamore St., expressed concerns that having one business in the neighborhood would create a domino effect.

"It was our feeling that one sign placed in the yard would open it up to other businesses and our neighborhood would be gone," Russell said on behalf a few neighbors. "One sign affects the integrity of our neighborhood."

Seiber asked Russell if not allowing Kim to have a sign designating the residential property as including a business would help the situation.

"That's something that could

■ See Page 2A

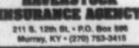












lizzard shuts down Denver

DENVER (AP) - The Denver area was motionless for a second day today. City streets were empty, nothing but stranded travelers moved at the airport, long stretches of highway were impassable, even the mail couldn't get through after a powerful blizzard dumped 2 feet of snow on the region.

"It feels like I'm a refugee," said Lisa Maurer, a University of Wyoming student who was stuck at the Denver airport as she tried to make her way home to Germany.

Some 4,700 people hunkered down with her overnight at Denver International Airport after all flights there were canceled. The runways weren't likely to reopen until Thursday night, airport spokesman Steve Snyder said.

More than 30 inches of snow fell in the mountains and up to 2 feet fell in the Denver metro area Wednesday and early Thursday.

Denver, Colorado Springs and other cities along the Rocky Mountain Front Range were virtual ghost towns after workers slipped and slid their way home on Wednesday and stayed there.

The wind-whipped snow was finally expected to taper off in Colorado on Thursday afternoon. To the east, warmer temperatures meant even Chicago was only forecast to get heavy rain as the storm moved through.

In Colorado's socked-in eastern half, though, few travelers were going anywhere Thursday morning. The Colorado Springs airport reopened and some airlines were flying, but getting there was nearly impossible.

Bus and light rail service in a six-county region around Denver was suspended. The State Patrol reported a rash of collisions but no fatalities.

Gov. Bill Owens declared a state of emergency and activated the National Guard, which assisted dozens of motorists on the highways around Denver and delivered diapers, formula and bottled water to the airport.

Long stretches of Interstates 70 and 25, the main east-west



John, left, and Summer Cox, of Wilmington, Ill., rest on a Denver International Airport baggage carousel while they wait out the storm that closed the airport Wednesday in Denver.

and north-south routes through the Mountain West, were closed. Interstate 76 was closed from Denver to Nebraska.

"They pulled everyone off the highway," said Leon Medina, manager of a truck stop on Interstate 25 in Walsenburg, about 130 miles south of Denver. "Cars are all around the building. Trucks are all over, trucks and cars pulled into ditches.

At least 270 people took refuge at seven American Red Cross shelters in the Denver area and the number was expected to rise as motorists arrived by the busload early Thursday, said Robert Thompson, spokesman for the Mile High chapter.

"It's just amazing how many people are still out there,' Thompson said.

Shelters also opened in Fort Collins and Colorado Springs, and the Red Cross provided 140 cots for nearly 350 people stranded at a Greyhound bus station in downtown Denver, Thompson said.

Weather Service program manager Byron Louis said it was the most powerful storm to hit Colorado since March 2003,

a massive blizzard dumped up to 11 feet of snow and was blamed for at least six deaths.

Major malls closed early Wednesday. One, Flatirons Crossing Mall in Broomfield, northwest of Denver, offered warmth for motorists stranded along U.S. 36, the major link between Denver and Boulder.

Mail service was canceled in the eastern half of the state because roads were impassable for mail carriers getting to work and for trucks delivering mail four days before Christmas.

'We don't want to take the risk of clogging up the system just by being out there," said Al DeSarro, a U.S. Postal Service spokesman in Denver. "We're considering delivering on Sunday to make up for what's sure to be a backlog of mail."

Denver International Airport closed to all flights at mid-afternoon Wednesday. More than 1,000 flights were canceled through Thursday. United Airlines canceled more than 670 flights into Denver, plus 160 that had been scheduled to take off before noon on Thursday. Frontier Airlines canceled up to 190 flights.

"I'm just happy to be alive. It was a terrifying drive," Sara Kelton said of her two-hour crawl over slick, snow-clogged roads to get to the airport.

Thirteen hours after he left his Denver office for a bus ride home to Boulder, Alan Barr was stuck at a Red Cross shelter in Denver, barely closer to home than when he left for work.

His bus left hours late and then had to turn back. He trudged into the shelter at about 12:25 a.m. Thursday with other discouraged riders but said he had not given up on the bus sys-

"Days like today are an exception," he said. "I believe in public transportation.

Commuters on several buses had similar experiences, said Scott Reed, spokesman for the Regional Transportation District, which operates the buses and light rail system for the six-county Denver metro area. "Most of the buses weren't stuck in snow, there was just no traffic moving," Reed said. "It was absolute gridlock."

Public transit service, which was suspended Wednesday, was not expected to resume until late today at the earliest.

SheriffPoliceFireLogs

Calloway County Sheriff's Department

· Extra patrol was requested at 7:39 a.m. Tuesday after a caller from Swift Road reported a possible prowler the day

· Pella had a gas leak that it reported to Murray Police Department at 7:21 p.m. Tuesday. MPD requested Calloway County Fire-Rescue check the building for gas. Murray Municipal Utilities also was notified and approved allowing employees to return to the building.

Murray Police Department

Four Murray residents were arrested after officers searched a Michelle Drive apartment on Monday afternoon. Officers responded to 1410-A Michelle Dr. after a caller reported a subject passed out at 1:58 p.m. Nickelle Rosenberg, 21; Jonathan Frank, 21; Joe Ferguson, 25; and Lettie Peek, 21, were each charged with trafficking within 1,000 yards of a school and possession of drug paraphernalia. The charges are enhanced because they also were in possession of firearms.

The Tanglewood Apartments office was reported burglarized

at 5:49 p.m. Tuesday. Information is obtained from reports, logs and citations from various agencies.

KSP says travel with caution

Special to the Ledger FRANKFORT, Ky. - The Kentucky State Police advise motorists traveling during the upcoming Christmas weekend to expect increased traffic on the state's roadways. They can also expect the increased presence of state troopers and their local law enforcement partners beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday and continuing through 11:59 p.m. on

Monday. "In addition to thousands of residents making in-state trips, there will be large numbers of out-of-state visitors and motorists travelling through the state," KSP Commissioner Jack Adams said. "This situation will bring crowded conditions that could potentially have a dangerous impact on highway travel."

During last year's three-day Christmas holiday period, there were 922 motor vehicle crashes in Kentucky resulting in eight deaths and 377 injuries. Ninetyfive of those crashes involved alcohol-impaired drivers.

"The real tragedy of these statistics is that they are preventable," Adams said. "Road safety is no accident. As responsible citizens, we have a duty to act in a manner that protects our fellow citizens as well as visitors traveling through the state. No one wants the holidays to be a time of family tragedy and suffering."

According to KSP Lt. Phil Crumpton following proven safety procedures and behaviors can greatly increase the chances of avoiding or surviving a vehicle crash. "Speed, visibility, inattention, not using seat belts, impaired driving and bad judgement are some of the major factors contributing to fatalities and injuries resulting from vehicle there are specific actions drivers can take to reduce their risk."

The KSP recommends the fol-

-Wear a seat belt and make sure all passengers do as well, including children. It's your best defense in a vehicle crash. Infants should be secured in a child safety restraint seat that meets federal standards. As of Dec. 17, 872 people have lost their lives on Kentucky highways during 2006. Four-hundred-andsixty-eight of those fatalities were not wearing seat belts.

During a crash, violent forces of deceleration are created. Seat belts distribute these forces over larger and stronger parts of the body such as the chest, hips and shoulders. The seat belt also stretches slightly to slow the body down and increase its stopping distance. The difference in stopping distances for a belted person and an unbelted person is significant. It's often the distance between life and death.

-Slow down and obey speed limits. The higher the speed of the vehicle, the less time the driver has to stop and avoid a crash. Excessive speed also contributes to severity of impact when a collision does occur.

-Don't drive after using alcohol or drugs. Kentucky has a zero tolerance policy regarding driving while impaired by alcohol. Operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol level of .08 will result in an immediate arrest even for first time offenders. There are no warnings. According to the National Safety Council, someone dies in an alcohol-related crash every 30 minutes. It's a factor in six percent of all vehicle crashes and more than 40 percent of all fatal crashes.

-Wear a protective helmet when operating a motorcycle. According to the World Health

Organization, not wearing a helmet makes the odds of suffering a head injury three times more

-Don't follow a vehicle too closely. Keep a safe following distance. Allow yourself room to maneuver or brake by keeping a safety cushion on all sides of the

-Turn on your lights. This makes it easier for other drivers to see you. Being seen is just as important as seeing.

-When stopped at a traffic light, take one more look before proceeding when the light turns green. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, red light running is on the rise nationwide. Many drivers consider a yellow light as a last chance to get through an intersection rather than a caution signal.

-Take extra care when driving at night. Traffic deaths are three times greater at night than during the day. Ninety percent of a driver's reaction depends on vision and vision is severely limited at night. Reduce your speed and increase your following dis-

-Drive defensively. Steer clear of trouble - expect bad decisions by other drivers. Never assume that other drivers will make the right decision. Be ready to react. Always expect the worst-case scenario and have a plan or escape route in mind.

Watch out for other drivers who weave, straddle the center line, make wide turns, stop suddenly or respond slowly to traffic signals. They may be impaired by drugs or alcohol. Notify police immediately if you see a motorist driving suspiciously. (You can contact the Kentucky State Police toll free at 1-800-

—Use good judgement-just because you can, doesn't mean you should. Every day thousands of drivers do things on the road simply because they can, even though they shouldn't. More than 90 percent of crashes are caused by driver error. The most common traffic violations include exceeding the speed limit, rolling through stop signs, failing to use signals, running red lights, making illegal Uturns, passing on the right, failing to yield to pedestrians and driving while impaired by alco-

-Get plenty of rest before a long trip. Fatigue can be a killer. Don't start a long trip late in the day. Don't drive alone. Adjust temperature controls to keep yourself awake and alert. Watch your posture. Drive with your head up and shoulders back. Take frequent breaks, at least every two hours.

-Anticipate. Look far down the road, Learn to spot problems and avoid them before they happen. Roadway clues can often help to avoid a crash. Keep your windows, mirrors and lights clean and free from snow, ice, dew and frost. Check your mirrors frequently. Watch for brake, reverse and hazard lights. Be aware of emergency vehicle flashing lights and listen for sirens. All of these can indicate

trouble ahead. -Stay alert and focused-no one is crash-proof. Drowsy driving causes more than 100,000 crashes each year, resulting in 40,000 injuries and 1,500 deaths. Aggressive driving is a factor in approximately 66 percent of all traffic fatalities. Distracted driving accounts for 25 to 30 percent of all crashes. Be attentive to the task at hand-driving. Staying alert and focused can help you avoid a crash.

Conditional

From Front

change my mind," Russell said. What goes on in that house when there's no sign is none of my business. It's the placement of a sign that could inspire other people."

With the approval, customers visiting Kim's house have to pull out onto 15th Street rather than onto the busy Sycamore Street from the circle driveway.

"If this application weren't being made, you'd be hard pressed to tell it was going on. A car pulls up, someone goes in,

this year.

they talk about sewing," Seiber

Meanwhile, the board reviewed the conditional use permit Orscheln Farm and Home Store was granted in

said. "... I'm a not a seamstress, but I don't think you can generate enough traffic (to have a problem).

"That was really something for them to do it

Casey said the Salvation Army Board of

"We usually buy the meat with that money, but

Directors provided Need Line with about \$2,500

this year we bought certificates to help the fami-

like that. That was so exciting," she said.

lies during Christmas," she said.

February 1998 for outdoor storage to occupy 20 parking places. The requirements included expanding fencing to 69 feet to the south and designate a 20 1/2foot fire lane. Fabric screening also was placed on top of the front wall and the outdoor storage was to be kept in an organized manner.

But since then, the merchandise has expanded beyond the permitted section and sometimes into the fire lane on the south side of the building.

Manager Eric Mitchuson wasn't at the meeting, but Planning Assistant Peyton Mastera said City Planner Candace Dowdy had talked with him a few times in the last couple of months. "It was supposed to be sea-

sonal, and it's gotten to be a year-around usage," said David Roberts, the city's planning and engineering director. "We've been working with them so long .. it was time to address it from a formal standpoint outside our office to go back to the board for review. They seem to be coming into compliance, but they still have a ways to go.'

The board decided to write Mitchuson a letter outlining the original agreement and telling him about the process to change the conditional use permit.

Bell ringers ...

how much the generous gift was appreciated."

The two coins will be sold and the cash will be used by the Salvation Army in its effort to assist the needy in Murray-Calloway County this Christmas season.

Tonia Casey, executive director of Need Line, said she was excited by the gift.

City sanitation dept. adjusts pickup schedule for Christmas, New Year's

Special to the Ledger

With the upcoming holidays, the City of Murray sanitation department will be closed Dec. 25 for Christmas and Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.

During those two holiday weeks, sanitation officials are asking customers who are scheduled for garbage pickup on those Mondays to set their trash out on the Tuesday mornings. All other customers should set out their curbside containers on their normal pickup day.

Some pickup routes may run later than usual.

Murray The Transfer Station will be closed both Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Any residents with questions should call 762-0380.

Iown Crier

NOTICE

Calloway County Fiscal Court meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. the Weaks today at Community Center. The agenda includes consideration of an agreement regarding an electronic waste collection project, appointments and public comment among regular monthly business. ■ To report a Town Crier

item, call 753-1916.



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Boy, 7, shot by cousin, 9, who mistook gun for a toy

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — A 7-year-old central Kentucky boy was accidentally shot by a cousin Wednesday, authorities said.

Caleb Arnold, 7, and Andrew Seat, 9, were playing at their grandparents' house in Jeffersonville, about 35 miles east of Lexington, when they found a gun under the bed, Montgomery County Sheriff's Deputy Robbie Miles told the Lexington Herald-

"They were playing cops and robbers," Miles said.

Andrew pointed a handgun at Caleb and pulled the trigger, Miles said. The bullet tore through the right side of Caleb's neck and out the middle of his back.

Their grandmother, who was in another area of the home and heard the shot, came running into the bedroom and rushed Arnold to a Mount Sterling hospital just after noon. He was flown to the University of Kentucky Hospital, where he was in critical condition Wednesday night, a hospital spokeswoman said.

No charges were expected to be filed, Miles said. He did not release the names of the boys' grandparents.

Miles said the grandparents typically keep the gun in a secure place, but had taken it out the night before because of the suspicious behavior of a stranger who knocked on their door.

When he went to work Wednesday, he forgot to put the gun back, Miles said.

"It was a mistake that happened," Miles said.

Panel appointed to investigate destruction of court records

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) - A five-member panel will investigate the destruction of court records in Jefferson County that prosecutors and judges say could harm the administration of justice.

The panel is charged with finding out why the records were destroyed and whether any of the information is salvageable, said Kentucky Supreme Court Chief Justice Joseph Lambert. On Wednesday, Lambert appointed the group, headed by Kentucky Court of Appeals Judge Thomas Wine.

"It may well have been that significant mistakes were made," Lambert said. "At this point, we don't know how big the problem is. Once we know, we'll fix it."

The misdemeanor records, paper, microfilm and microfiche, were all at least five years old and were hauled away from the Jefferson County Courthouse on Nov. 29. All the records have since been destroyed. Electronic records of old misdemeanor convictions also have been purged from the state court computer system.

Prosecutors said the purge wipes clean the slate of many people. Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorney David Stengel said the destruction leaves prosecutors without key pieces of information for use at sentencing and bond hearings, as well as trials.

The records were destroyed under a statewide document-retention policy that was amended last year to include electronic records. The policy is designed to free up space and save money on storage costs, but previously it only called for paper court files to be destroyed after five years.

Eastern Kentucky man charged with dumping sewage in river

HAGERHILL, Ky. (AP) - An eastern Kentucky man was indicted by a Franklin County grand jury Wednesday on a charge of dumping untreated sewage into the Big Sandy River.

The Kentucky Bureau of Investigation arrested Dave Bowling, 59, of Hagerhill, on Tuesday on a felony charge of dumping a load of sewage into the river less than a mile away from the Paintsville water intake. Vicki Glass, spokeswoman for the state attorney general's office, said in a press release that agents from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Kentucky Cabinet for Environmental and Public Protection assisted in a six-month investigation that preceded the arrest.

Bowling is accused of collecting raw sewage from commercial and private septic systems in Johnson, Floyd and Martin counties and dumping it into the stream.

Glass alleged that agents saw Bowling dumping sewage from an 8,500-gallon tanker into a drain leading to the stream.

Dumping sewage is a felony punishable by one to five years in prison and a \$25,000 fine, she said.

Kentucky, other coal producing

states to get funding boon
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush signed legislation Wednesday that gives billions of dollars to coal-producing states to clean up hazardous abandoned coal mines and pay for health care for retired miners.

His signature ends a long fight that has pitted coal-producing states against each other over the best use of funds collected for the nation's coal mine reclamation program.

Coal-producing states, including Kentucky, will get an estimated \$6.3 billion for abandoned mine cleanup and another \$1.6 billion to pay for health care for retired miners who worked for coal companies that no longer exist, according to the federal Office of Surface Mining. The money will be distributed from 2007 to 2025.

The bill, part of a sweeping tax bill, renews the abandoned mines land reclamation program that was created in 1977.

The program is based on a per-ton fee that coal companies pay into a fund. The bill makes spending for the reclamation program mandatory, which means it would not be controlled through the annual congressional appropriations process.

Martin dies from injuries related to cycling accident 3 years ago

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) - Kentucky civil rights leader Galen Martin, who for nearly three decades led the state's Commission on Human Rights, has died. He was 79.

Martin led the commission from 1960, when it was formed, until 1989. He was also credited with helping to push for the passage of Kentucky's civil rights law.

"Galen Martin greatly served our commonwealth and our nation with his steadfast commitment to the principles of equality," Linda Strite Murnane, the commission's current executive director, said.

Martin died Tuesday at his home from complications suffered in a bicycle crash about three years ago.

Audit: City of Manchester misused tax dollars

MANCHESTER, Ky. (AP) - Officials in the this eastern Kentucky city misused taxpayers' money to pave driveways for nearly three dozen homeowners, state Auditor Crit Luallen said

An audit of the Manchester's finances revealed that the city authorized the paving of private driveways as part of November 2005 contract to pave certain city streets.

The issue was addressed at a City Council meeting that month, with Mayor Daugh White stating that the owners of the driveways agreed to pay the city prior to receiving the service.

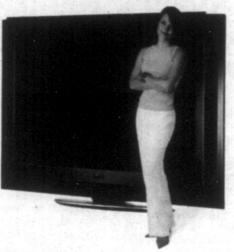
In interviews with the White and other city officials, auditors were told that "six or seven" driveways were paved based upon verbal arrangements with the citizens, according to the audit.

However, auditors found no documentation for property owners being billed or the city being reimbursed.



DRIVE-BY SHOT: Vince Wunderlich, 17, braces for his flu shot, administered by Franklin County Health Department registered nurse Jenny Owens at the health department's drive-through fiu shot clinic Tuesday. Wunderlich's employer paid the \$15 fee for his vaccination.

The best gifts come in small packages — right?





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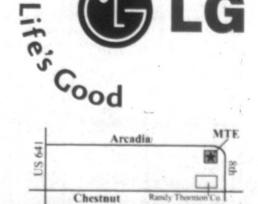


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www.LGusa.com

mail: editor@murrayledger.com

FORUM

www.murrayledger.com

What kids REALLY want for Christmas

I feel bad for most kids these days. Every Christmas, they get way too much stuff when memories are all they

I'm 44 and barely remember most of the gifts I got for Christmas as a kid. I do remember the extraordinary blessings I was given.

I remember an unusually warm December when I was 6. Dozens of kids were out in the street playing, while their dads hung Christmas lights. I was looking out the window when my father, the Big Guy, pulled into the driveway, a tree strapped to the roof of our 1970 Plymouth Fury.

He opened the garage door and walked inside. He came out carrying a large Christmas tree platform he'd kept strapped to the garage wall. The Big Guy liked his platforms sturdy, and he built ours from a sheet of 4-footby-8-foot plywood and 2inch-by-6-inch studs. It was heavy as lead, but he made it look light as a feather.

The Big Guy was only 34 then, his hair black as coal. He was youthful and powerful and madly in love with my mother. They had four children with two more yet to come. And as he toiled to get the tree straight on the platform, he had no idea his work would elicit powerful memories in his son 40 years later.

For years, our Christmas Eve ritual was the same. Our next-door neighbors, the Kriegers, visited. Tremendous festivity filled the air. The party lasted two or three hours before we were carted off to bed.

The Big Guy would stack the old stereo console in the dining room with every Christmas record we had -Mitch Miller, A Chipmunk Christmas, Snoopy and the Red Barron and Bing Crosby. Sleeping was near impossible until Crosby came on. Not even the most hyper kid could stay awake when the needle danced over that melodious tune.

And suddenly it was morning. I'd jump out of my bed and run around waking my sisters. We'd rush down to the living room. As we opened our gifts, our dog Jingles dived into the piles of wrapping paper.

And when we were done swapping gifts with each other, we gave our gifts to Jingles — six hunks of rawhide. Her tail went wild with excitement, and she'd spend the rest of the day chewing it in total content-



Humor Column By Tom Purcell Syndicated

Columnist

Guy always made a massive breakfast on Christmas morning eggs, bacon,

ham, pancakes. French toast and English muffins smattered with jelly. We'd sit

around

laughing and talking an hour or more.

Until the Big Guy began

getting antsy. 'You kids have to get ready for Mass or we'll end up standing in the aisles like we did last year," he'd say.

All the stragglers went to church on Christmas, you see - even the atheists must have - because we regulars had to get there extra early to claim our usual seats. But when you have five sisters. each sporting the "Farrah Fawcett" big hair of the era, and ONE full bathroom, it took us HOURS to get

Their big hair prompted the Big Guy's second major Christmas morning concern: "For God's sakes, don't run your blow driers at the same time or you'll burn the house down!"

But every Christmas morning my sisters ran their hair driers at the same time - they didn't burn the house down, but did blow several fuses. And every year we were late for Mass. We stood in the aisles EVERY

My sisters and I are in our 30s and 40s now and we laugh about these memories. The memories, in fact, are all we really wanted for Christmas, but we were too young to know it then.

I know it now. Gifts don't mean much, but people do and our health does and our love for each other does. For most of the Christmases of my life, everybody has been healthy and blessed.

That's all I want for Christmas this year. More good memories. That's what every kid really wants, too, and we ought to give it to

Instead of a bunch of

Tom Purcell is a humor columnist syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons. For comments to Tom, e-mail him at TomPurcell@aol.com.

40, 40, HO ...

08, it's Hillary's race to lose

caught in a

messy

divorce

The battle for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination will come down to two candidates: Hillary vs. the Un-

Sen. Clinton is so polarizing and a female candidacy is so novel, that the race for the nomination must revolve around her. Who will the Un-Hillary be?

The early front-runner is Illinois Sen. Barack Obama. As a new African-American face, he has the same sort of first-of-a-kind credentials as Hillary and boasts genuine outsider status as well.

But Obama is very, very inexperienced. He was elected to Illinois' state Senate in a one-party district, then won the Democratic U.S. Senate primary because his wealthy, spend-it-all opponent was



Morris Advisory By Dick Morris Syndicated Columnist

be his adversary dissolved in a marital scandal of his own, whereupon the talent-poor local GOP opted to import the aburdist candidate Alan Keyes - making Obama's victory a foregone conclusion.

and

Republican

who was to

In his book "The Audacity

scandal just as his candidacy was him for breakfast. peaking. He won in the of Hope," he confesses that in general elechis Senate campaign "no cantion of '06 didate ran a negative TV ad because Illiabout me." That's as close as nois is a you get to a political equivablue state

lent of virginity. Can Obama weather a presidential race? He better ramp up his learning curve if he is going to try. His book is filled with feature-story fluff about his background, eloquent philosophizing on the state of our nation and its history, and freshly scrubbed naiveté about the political process.

But it lacks any substan-

ter ramp up his learning curve if he is going to try. ... Unless he can step beyond such Oprahlevel content, the national press corps will have tive ideas, policy innovations or even any insightful analy-

Can Obama weather a presidential race? He bet-

sis of public issues. Unless he can step beyond such Oprahlevel content, the national press corps will have him for break-The bottom line? He could grow into the role of a nation-

al candidate, but don't count

on it happening this year. Dick Morris was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years. Look for Dick's new book "Condi vs.

Hillary" available now.

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters may be sent to P.O. Box 1040, Murray, KY

42071, faxed to 270-753-1927, or e-mailed to editor@murrayledger.com.

Letters mailed or faxed must be signed and have address.

and phone number. E-mailed letters must have address and

Letters should be kept between 300-400 words and must be typed or legible.

✓ The Murray Ledger & Times reserves the right to edit or

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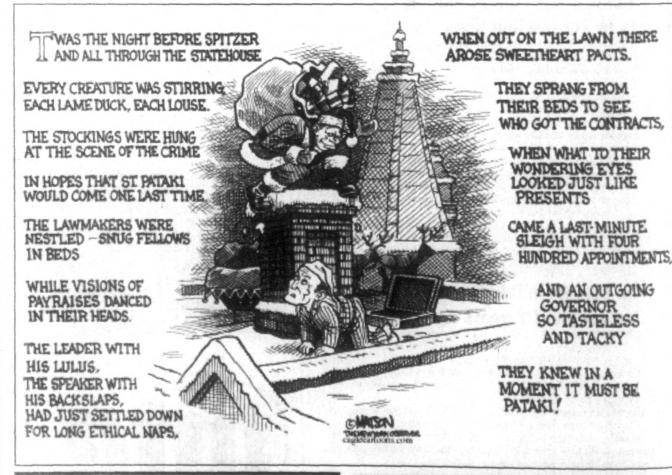
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Mrs. Mary Ruth McCuiston

The funeral for Mrs. Mary Ruth McCuiston will be Friday at 1 p.m. in the chapel of Blalock-Coleman & York Funeral Home. Rev. Kerry Lambert will officiate. Music will be by Darrell Gibson, vocalist, and Oneida White, pianist.

Pallbearers will be David McCuiston, Tripp McCuiston, Josh Hill, Timmy Adams, Tony Adams, Jeffrey Adams and Michael Adams. Burial will follow in the Hicks Cemetery. Visitation will be at the funeral home after 4 p.m. today (Thursday). Expressions of sympathy may be made to Hospice of Murray-Calloway County Hospital, 803 Poplar St., Murray, Ky., 42071.

Mrs. McCuiston, 65, Murray, died Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2006, at 2:40 a.m. at Spring Creek Health Care. She taught school for 27 years in the Calloway County School District, including Hazel, Southwest, East and Calloway County Middle schools. She was a member of First Baptist Church and of the Order of the Eastern Star.

On Sept. 1, 1956, she was married to Bobby T. McCuiston, who died Jan. 18, 1998. Also preceding her in death were one daughter, Christine Murdock, and two brothers, Joe Emerine and Mark Emerine. Born Oct. 8, 1941, in Joy, Ky., she was the daughter of the late Joseph Emerine and Opal Parker Emerine.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Linda Wray and Mrs. Susan Miller and husband, Ronnie, two sons, Bobby McCuiston and wife, Beth, and Dr. Steve McCuiston and wife, Jill, and one brother, Ralph Emerine and wife, Alice, all of Murray; 10 grandchildren, Shawna and Derrik Edwards, Tripp McCuiston, Whitley McCuiston, Wesley McCuiston, Andrew McCuiston, Anna Hill, Josh Hill, Paige Miller and Will Miller; one great-grandchild, Makena Grace Edwards; two brothers-in-law, Charles McCuiston and Ronald Adams.

Mrs. Marion (Kay) Filbeck

The funeral for Mrs. Marion (Kay) Filbeck will be today (Thursday) at 1 p.m. in the chapel of Collier Funeral Home, Benton. Rev. Randy Lowe and Rev. Jimmy Fulton will officiate. Burial will follow in the Brewers Cemetery.

Visitation is now at the funeral home. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Oak Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church Building Fund, c/o Carolyn Collins, 190 Cascade Hill Road, Benton,

Mrs. Filbeck, 67, Oak Grove Church Road, Benton, died Monday, Dec. 18, 2006, at 6:40 p.m. at Murray-Calloway County Hospital. A homemaker, she was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Dearborn, Mich., but attended Oak Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church.Preceding her in death were one daughter, Debbie Tripplitt; one sister, Betty Jacobs; and her parents, Clarence King and Eva Morris King. Survivors include her husband, Gilbert Wayne Filbeck; one daughter, Mrs. Eva Hubbard, Benton; two sons, Darrell Filbeck, Benton, and Hoye Filbeck, Smithland; one brother, Jack King, Florida; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

Blood bank seeks O-negative donors

The Blood Bank at Murray-Calloway County Hospital is experiencing a blood shortage of O Negative blood and is looking for individuals who are willing

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 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 our 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 270-762-1119.



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Kentucky state trooper killed in crash while responding to non-emergency call

PIKEVILLE, Ky. (AP) - A Kentucky State Police trooper killed in a collision along an eastern Kentucky highway Tuesday night was turning onto a median and didn't see the other vehicle, authorities said Wednesday.

Jonathan K. Leonard, 28, died almost 18 years to the day from the last death of a Kentucky state trooper in the line of duty, state police said.

The driver of the other vehicle, Eugene Sisco Jr., 45, was in serious condition at University of Kentucky Medical Center, said Trooper Scott Hopkins, spokesman for the Kentucky State Police in Pikeville

State Police Commissioner Jack Adams said Leonard was responding to a non-emergency call and was turning to meet another trooper on the median when the crash occurred. Adams said details of the accident were still under investigation, and no citations had been issued.

"Without getting into specifics, it's obvious he didn't see the other vehicle," Adams said. "It was a tragic accident."

Adams spoke to reporters after laying a wreath in memory of Leonard at the Fallen Trooper Memorial in Frankfort.

Leonard was pronounced dead at the scene of the 6:20 p.m. EST crash on U.S. 119 in Sidney in Pike County.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher directed that flags at all state office buildings remain at half-staff in honor



Sec. of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Gen. Norman Arflack (left), Kentucky State Police Commissioner Jack Adams (center) and Sec.of the Governor's Executive Cabinet Robbie Rudolph (right) laid a wreath at the Fallen Trooper's Memorial at KSP headquarters in Frankfort Wednesday in honor of Trooper Jonathan Leonard, who died Tuesday in a motor vehicle crash while on duty in Pike County.

of Leonard. Flags were at halfstaff for Staff Sgt. Thomas W. Kentucky a Guardsman who died of a heart attack on Dec. 11 while preparing to go on patrol with his team near Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq.

"This is a tragic loss for the Kentucky State Police and we will keep the family, friends and colleagues of Trooper Leonard

in our thoughts and prayers," Fletcher said. "This tragedy is a stark reminder of the tremendous sacrifice made on a daily basis by those who protect us and enforce laws."

agency for three years, all at the Pikeville post.

He was the 24th trooper killed in the line of duty in the

agency's 58-year history and the first since Trooper Johnny Edrington was killed Dec. 21, 1988 in Laurel County, police

Visitation is set for 5-9 p.m. Leonard had worked for the Friday at Hatfield Funeral Home in Toler. Funeral services are set for 11 a.m. Saturday at New Belfry High School in Goody.

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Announcement

Harley Wightman-Dale Mehr

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Edward Mehr of 835 Burcham Rd., Clinton, Ky., are the parents of a son, Harley Wightman-Dale Mehr, born on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2006, at 2 a.m. at Saint Frances Medical Center, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

The baby weighed 7 pounds 8 ounces and measured 17 inches. The mother is the former Celisa Ann Garland. He has one sister.

Maternal grandparents are Dale and Ann Garland of Mur-

Paternal grandparents are Nancy Burcham and Walter Mehr, both of Murray.

Purchase Area Chapter of Kentucky Retirees will meet Jan. 4

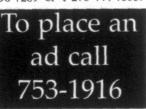
PADUCAH, Ky. - The Purchase Area Chapter of Kentucky Public Retirees will meet Thursday, Jan. 4, at 10:30 a.m. at Pizza Inn, 1001 Joe Clifton Dr., Paducah.

This will be a combined luncheon and business meet-

Rita Bailey, dietitian at Lourdes Hospital, Paducah, will be the speaker.

All retirees of the Kentucky Retirement System in Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Hickman, graves, Marschall and Cracken County Retirement Systems and Kentucky State Police Retirement System are encouraged to attend.

For information call 1-270-898-7289 or 1-270-444-7335.





IAAP PROJECT: Pictured left is Imogene Kimbro and second right is Marjorie Butler, residents of Spring Creek Health Care, with Jennifer Dixon, community service chair of Murray Chapter of International Association of Administrative Professionals, and Ashley Butler. Jennifer and Ashley distributed Christmas cards to the residents at Spring Creek as the IAAP Murray Chapter members had signed as the December Community Project for the organization. The two residents are great-grandmothers to Ashley. For more information on IAAP Murray Chapter call Marion Hale, president, at 809-2387.

Murray woman will be honored at 90th birthday party Tuesday

Mrs. Mae Waters of 813 South Ninth St., Murray, will turn 90 years old on Christmas day. She was born Dec. 25, 1916, in Huron, Tenn., to the late Lonnie H. and Eva McCarter Rogers.

She has three living sisters, Mrs. Nadine Garner and Mrs. Lavelle Page of Tennessee and Mrs. Sue Blankenship of Virginia, and one living brother, Lloyd Rogers of Fulton. Three deceased brothers are Otis, Wilbur and Gilbert Rogers.

Mrs. Waters moved from Tennessee in 1952 to Plymouth, Mich., where she worked at Burroughs Corporation, Kroger Stores and Michigan Bell Telephone Company. It was at Michigan Bell that she met and married Sidney Waters, a native of Murray, Ky. Upon their retirement, they moved to Lakeland, Fla., in 1974. After 14 years in Lakeland, they decided to return to Sidney's hometown in Murray



Mae Waters

where Mae has resided since 1987

In November 1997, Mr. Roberts died, and 10 days later in December Mrs. Roberts lost her daughter. Jeanne, of Lansing, Mich., from breast cancer. Mrs. Roberts continues to reside in her long-time home on South Ninth Street and has her membership at Grace Baptist Church, Murray.

Her three grandchildren are David Brandon and wife, Sharee, and their two sons, Drew and Jared, of Lubbock, Texas, Dana Balan of Sebastopol, Calif., and Susie Breaugh of San Jose, Calif.

On Tuesday, Dec. 26, Mrs. Waters will be honored at a special 90th birthday celebration at Sirloin Stockade Family Restaurant in the Bell Air Plaza, Murray.

Those attending, in addition to family and friends from Murray, will include family from Tennessee, California and Florida.

"Throughout her life, Mrs. Waters has always exemplified her Baptist belief through her generosity, her faith and her caring for others," a family member said.



Photo provided

DONATION GIVEN: Pictured is Jennifer Dixon, member of the Calloway County Homemaker Friendship Club, right, presenting a donation to Roger Polo for the Calloway County Pre School Christmas Program. The donation will help the children from the pre school have a nice holiday. For more information on the CCHM Friendship Club contact Brenda Kimbro, president, at 436-5216 or the Calloway County Extension office at 753-1452.

Mary Jane Roberson Murray Calloway County Board of Realtors Realtor of the Year 2006 from your friends at Kopperud Realty.

Congratulations to

you many repetitions of good feelings and holiday spirit.

Thank you, again and again, for letting us serve you.

Happy Holidays from...



Mary Jane Roberson

WATCH needs cans

St., Murray, needs aluminum cans for an on-going fund-rais-

Peggy Williams, director, said "these may be taken to the center during regular hours; Day."

WATCH Center at 702 Main or persons may drive through the driveway on the west side of the center and place them in the cotton wagon there anytime day or night; or may be donated at Make A Difference



'Family' is name of poem written for Christmas season



Datebook

By Jo Burkeen Community Editor

Saresa Davis has written a special poem about family being truly a Christmas gift, and her mother, Tonia Casey, wanted to share it with our readers. It is as follows: **FAMILY**

Taking your family for granted Is one thing we all have done In the past or the present Our loved ones we have shunned. You must be cautious with criticism And generous with praise Because one family is all you will ever

On this earth with you day by day. Families need to give support From one to another

Your age doesn't matter. Families are the everlasting union Of beauty, perfection and love Each of us hand picked by God And sent from above. Affection and consideration Is what family is about To be polite and courteous to one another And to never have any doubts. Families are to cherish Every night and day So pray for this family That God has sent your way.

Whether you are young or old

Need Line to close two days

Murray-Calloway County Need Line will be closed Monday and Tuesday in observance of the Christmas holidays.

Library will be closed for holidays Calloway County Public Library will be closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday in observance of the Christmas holidays.

Glory Bound will not meet Friday

Glory Bound Entertainment at Goshen United Methodist Church will not be held on Fridays, Dec. 22 and 29, because of the Christmas and New Year's holidays. For information call Joe Lawrence at 753-5643, Renee Taylor at 753-8124 or Patrick Lea at 761-2666.

Murray Singles plan dance

Murray Singles Organization will sponsor a New Year's Eve Dance on Sunday, Dec. 31, from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Joe Creason building, Benton. The cost will be \$7 per person and music will be by Brad Huntley. Each one is asked to bring a snack to share. Soft drinks and coffee will be provided. The public is invited. For information call Mike at 759-3180 or Pat at 489-2909.

Oaks Country Club plans party

A New Year's Eve party will be Sunday, Dec. 31, from 8
p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Oaks Country Club. The cost will be \$10 per person. Music will be a D-J. Members and nonmembers are welcome. For reservations call the pro shop, 753-6454, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday TOPS Club will meet

Thursday TOPS (take off pounds sensibly) Club will meet today at 5:15 in the annex of Calloway Public Library. The meeting is open to the public. For information call Marge Andrews at 753-7732.

Hazel club plans dinner meeting

Hazel Woman's Club will have its Christmas dinner tonight at 6:30 at the Hazel Community Center. The meal will be catered by Cindy's of Paris. Tenn. Janice Wilkinson will give the devotion. All members are urged to attend.

Bell ringers are needed

The Calloway County Unit of The Salvation Army is looking for bell ringers. All ringing will take place outside the entrances to Wal-Mart. Individuals or groups may sign up for one hour or more time slots. Ringers are needed today from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 9 p.m. Those interested are asked to call Kerry Lambert, unit chairman, at 753-7265 and leave a message.

Good Life group plans trip

The Murray Bank Good Life will host a seven-night vacation to a resort in Riviera Maya, Mexico, April 20-28, 2007. Deposits should be made as soon as possible and the balance must be paid by Jan. 12, 2007. For more information or to become a Good Life member, contact Brenda Sykes at 767-338 or e-mail bsykes@themurraybank.com.

Laker Band cards available

Laker Band cards are still available at the cost of \$10 each and can be purchased by calling Wendy Collins at 293-2932 or at the Calloway County Board office.

Special course will be offered

A person can make difference in the lives of people in the community and receive three hours credit from Murray State University by signing up for YNL (Youth & Nonprofit Leadership) 290 for the spring semester. A major part of this class is providing service to one of over 50 nonprofit organizations in and around Murray, including the local Big Brothers Big Sisters program and Need Line to mention a few. For more information contact by e-mail to roger.weis@murraystate.edu or call him at 809-3808.

Relay for Life team plans promotion

The Relay for Life team of McKinney Insurance Services, Inc., will have a rebate week at Pizza Hut in Murray through Saturday. Customers are asked to tell the cashier they are there for the team.

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.

Health Express lists stops

Health Express of Murray-Calloway County Hospital will offer vision/glaucoma and blood pressure screenings from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 3 p.m. Friday at Wal-Mart, Paris,

Engagements

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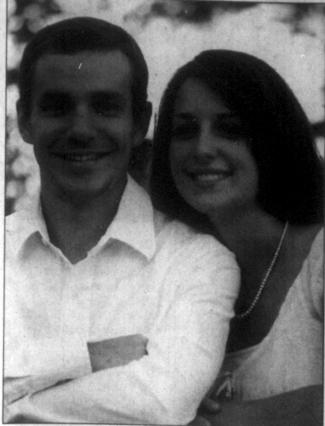
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Hulse and O'Neal

Hillary Ann Hulse and Christopher Iles O'Neal announce their approaching marriage.

The vows will be said on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007, at 4:30 p.m. at Coldwater United Methodist Church.

All relatives and friends are invited.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Malcolm and Ginny Hulse of Murray.

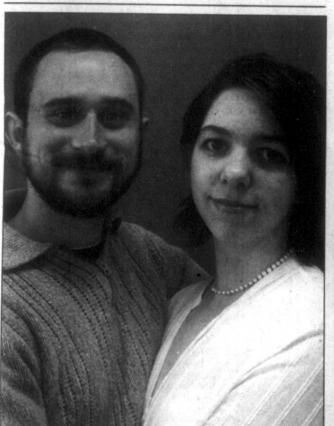
Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Locke of Murray, Mrs. Margaret Hulse of Spanish Fort, Ala., and the late Malcolm Carter and Alice Hulse.

The groom-elect is the son of Steve and Jean O'Neal of Owensboro.

His grandparents are Dr. and Mrs. Charles O'Neal, Mrs. Helen Rayburn and the late Eugene Davis.

Miss Hulse attended Calloway County High School and is currently attending Murray State University where she pursuing a degree in pre-medicine. She is employed by Murray-Calloway County Hospital.

Mr. O'Neal attended Christian County High School and is majoring in music education at Murray State University. He is employed by Pilgrim's Pride.



Sasso and Jones

Paul and Sandy Sasso of Murray announce the engagement of their daughter, Maggie M. Sasso, to Ben Jones, son of Ralph and Fay Jones of Manchester, Tenn.

Miss Sasso is the granddaughter of Rose Miller and the late William F. Miller of Laurel Springs, N.C., and the late Victor and Dorothy Sasso of Windsor, Ontario.

Mr. Jones is the grandson of the late Thomas and Edith Whitchurch and Raymond and Nancy Jones of Newport News, Va.

The bride-elect is a 2006 graduate of Murray State University and is now pursuing a master of fine arts degree.

The groom-elect is a 2006 graduate of Murray State University and is now pursuing a master of science in mechanical engineering.

A July wedding is planned in Manchester, Tenn.

GREETINGS

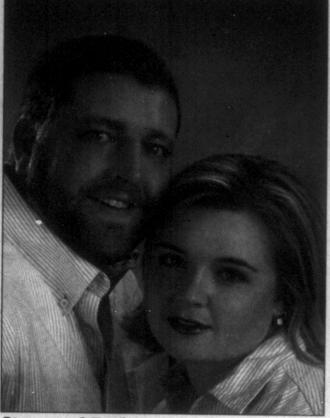


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Story and Barker

Greg and Karen Story of Puryear, Tenn., announce the engagment and approaching marriage of their daughter, Autumn Leighann Story, to Jarod Carl Barker, son of Don and Pat Barker of Buchanan, Tenn.

Miss Story is the granddaughter of June Cole of Murray, Kenneth Wilson of Paris, Tenn., and Tommy and Linda Story of Murray and the late Janie Story.

A 2004 graduate of Murray State University, she is a member of North Fork Baptist Church and is self-employed.

The groom-elect is self employed.

The wedding will be Saturday, Feb. 3, 2007, at 2 p.m. at North Fork Baptist Church, Jones Mill, Tenn.

North Fork Baptist Church, Jones Mill, Tenn.
All relatives and friends are invited.

Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Holt, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Holt, Sr. of Dexter will celebrate their 72nd wedding anniversary on Dec. 26, 2006.

They were married on that date in 1934 in Granite City,

Ill.

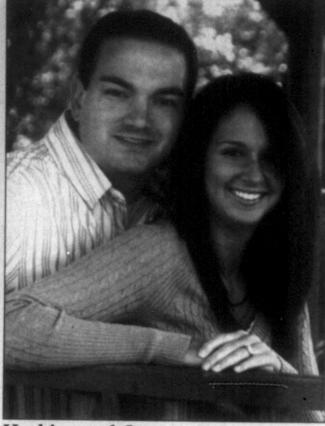
Mrs. Holt, the former Nellie McKinney, is the daughter of

the late Charles and Maude McKinney.

Mr. Holt is the son of the late Leo and Cora Holt.

They have 10 living children and five children deceased; 27 grandchildren living and three grandchildren deceased; 38 greatgrandchildren and one deceased great-grandchild; one greatgreat-granddaughter; several stepgrandchildren and stepgreatgrandchildren.

No special celebration is planned.



Hocking and Opp

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Douglas Hocking of Debary, Fla., announce the engagement of their daughter, Lacy Hopson Hocking, to Kevin Layne Opp Jr., son of Mrs. Lynne Vincent of Bremen, Ky., and Kevin L. Opp of Madisonville, Ky.

Miss Hocking is the granddaughter of Mrs. Maurine Jones Hopson and the late Dr. J. Lacy Hopson of Murray, Ky., and Max D. Hocking and the late Margaret and Eagleson Hocking of Dundas, Ill.

Mr. Opp Jr. is the grandson of Mrs. Ruth H. Smith and the late Hobert Moore of Murray and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Opp of Huntsville, Ala.

The bride-elect is a 2003 graduate of Calloway County High School and is attending Murray State University. She is employed by Copy Express and as girls junior varsity soccer coach for Calloway County Schools.

The groom-elect is a 2006 graduate of Murray State University and is employed by Pella Corporation.

The wedding will be Saturday, May 19, 2007, at 5:30 p.m. at Elm Grove Baptist Church, Murray.

All relatives and friends are invited

I don't care how poor a man is; if he has family, he's rich.

-Dan Wilcox and Thad Mumford, "Identity Crisis," M*A*S*H

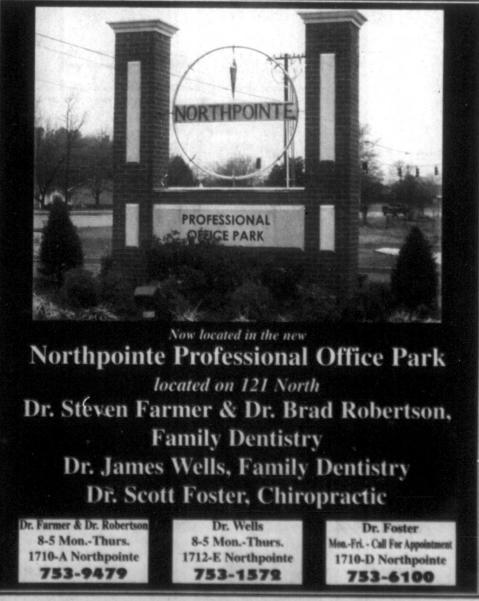


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Jones ...

From Front

"My objective in life was to increase the quality of care in obstetrics and gynecology in this community. I haven't done that alone. With Dr. (Gene) Cook joining me, we established a clinic."

Cook was quick to eliminate Jones' questions about whether he deserves the recognition.

"He very much does deserve it. What he has done for this community — there is no way to express," Cook told the board. "I appreciate very much the fact we've been shown this honor."

Hospital board chairman Jack Rose said Jones' impact on the community is evident.

"I think all of us who have lived here all or most of our lives have a great appreciation as we've gotten to observe your contributions," Rose said.

Other Murray Women's Clinic physicians also joined in the praise for their veteran colleague. The youngest of the bunch — Dr. Jason Hunt — thanked Jones for the opportunity to return to his hometown to practice.

"He has a lot of ability from the standpoint of medicine, but

he has a lot of insights every office needs to hold it together," fellow obstetrician/gynecologist Dr. Tom Green said.

Dr. Dawn Deeter said she has been most impressed with how Jones has kept himself updated with medical news and research after practicing for more than five decades.

"For me, he's been an inspiration," Deeter said. "I just think it's amazing what he's been able to do, still practicing all these years."

In other business, the board:

—Approved unanimously
using a construction manager atrisk approach to the \$40 million
expansion project that is in the
design phase. Only board mem-

ber David Taylor was absent.

Rose and MCCH Director of Plant Operations Bud Byars explained the approach to the board as using a construction manager to deal with all the subcontractors, thus locking in a bid, avoiding sales tax on many purchases and allowing a sooner start date. Once the bid is locked in, the construction manager is responsible for making the project cost doesn't exceed the projection. Should the project be more costly than expected, the

construction manager is responsible for the loss rather than the hospital.

"The construction manager assumes full liability of the project, locks us into a price and fast tracks the project," Byars told the board. "... We certainly try to incorporate all the local people we can."

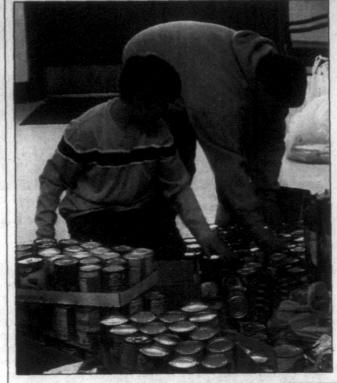
Byars said he'll take proposals from firms experienced in healthcare construction. His research has shown firms' fees range from 2.5 to 3.75 percent of the project.

Mayor Rushing also told fellow board members that he's had some questions about the scope of the project cost. Of the \$40 million estimated for the new facility with more than 170,000 square feet that will face Vine Street, only \$30 million is being bonded. The other \$10 million is be funded through MCCH's existing cash.

Also related to the construction project, the board approved the contract with JRA Architects. The agreement includes the flat 5 percent fee.

"Everything they've done so far rolls into that price," CEO Keith Bailey said.





FOOD DRIVE: Calloway County Middle School recently held a Food Drive coordinated by the Youth Service Center and the Student Council. The student body collected 3,975 items of food. Faith Burkeen's 6th grade homeroom, top photo, collected 975 cans. Three other homerooms also made a significant contribution to the effort. These were the 6th grade homerooms of Mickey Garrison and Kevin Suiter with 872 and 566 respec-Jennife and tively Dunnaway's 7th grade class with 438 cans. All of the food items were donated to Need Line. Pictured at left are 6thh graders Nick Betts and Matthew Gore assisting in the organization of food items at CCMS.

Stark Law ...

assessed. The other major requirement involves using a company that conducts independent reviews of the hospital to ensure its administrators are complying with regulations.

Specifically, public accounting and consulting firm Crowe Chizek will monitor the compliance over the required three-year period. "They will make sure we are paying attention to all the details," Bailey said.

MCCH Vice President for Financial Services Brad Bloemer told the board that Crowe was awarded the bid even though its cost was slightly higher because the other bidder, BKD, already prepares the hospital's cost reports. Bloemer said Crowe will conduct an annual, on-site review but may evaluate hospital data more frequently.

"I don't think you ought to review your own work," Bloemer said. "If we are going to do this, we need to do it right."

The federal Stark Law says if physicians have financial relationships with an organization, those relationships must meet certain criteria. Otherwise, those physicians are not permitted to refer patients to the hospital for Medicare services. Also, the hospital can't bill for the service, and would be subject to penalties if it did.

The U.S. Congress enacted the Ethics in Patient Referrals Act in 1988 after recognizing a health care-related anti-kick-back statute was difficult to apply to financial arrangements.

Former hospital CEO Jon O'Shaughnessy publicly announced the federal violations in March 2005.

Not long after he was hired a year earlier, O'Shaughnessy started looking into the financial relationships between MCCH and physicians and learned previous hospital management failed to properly document business transactions with doctors who provided consulting services and neglected to assess Medical Arts Building space at fair market value for lease agreements.

The violations were self-reported to the Office of Inspector General and the U.S. attorney's office in Louisville. Hospital attorney Chip Adams said the disclosure likely helped the parties come to a favorable resolution.

The investigation included going through records, assessing Medical Arts Building space to



determine a fair market value, drafting lease agreements with doctors, adjusting rent prices, and training staff and board members on compliance issues.

The key for Bailey is resolu-

"This is a dead issue," he said.



Racers vs. Samford

(153-117

Kennedy (5-7, first season), Murray State.
Radio/Television: Froggy 103.7 FM, with Neal Bradley & Nathan Higdon.
Probable Starting Lineupa:
Samford (4-4, 2-0 OVC): C-Travis Peterson, 11.8 ppg, 5.4 rpg; G-Jerry Smith, 13.8 ppg, 6.0 rpg; G-Jason Black, 2.4 ppg, 2.1 rpg; G-Randall Gulina, 20.0 ppg, 3.6 rpg; G-Joe Ross Merritt, 11.8 ppg, 5.4 rpg.
Murray State (5-7, 3-1): C-Rob Kennedy, 6.1 ppg, 2.2 rpg; G-Bruce Carler, 11.7 ppg, 4.8 rpg; G-Danero Thomas, 4.6 ppg, 2.8 rpg; G-Ed Horton, 7.6 ppg, 3.9 apg; G-Tyler Holloway, 10.1 ppg, 2.5 apg.

PREP BASKETBALL

ROUNDUP

CCHS breaks

two-game skid

with win over

Lady Scotties

3 PLAYERS LEAD LADY

LAKERS AT

BEREA TOURNAMENT

BEREA, Ky. - Calloway County

put three players in double figures as it

up-ended Mercer County 54-46 in the

first round of the Berea Holiday

Lakers with 19 points and finished with

10 rebounds. Rachel Adams also notched a double-double with 14 points

and 15 boards, while Beth Ross added

"We used our size advantage, and

After trailing Mercer County 24-20

"In the second half, we were much

The difference for Calloway, which

went 15-of-39 from the field, might

have been that it shot just as many free

throws, going 23-of-34 from the chari-

free throws and 14 turnovers.

Calloway held Mercer to just nine

Sam Butts added four points, while

The Lady Lakers play St. Henry

Karra Jones netted three. Shelby Webb

and Whitney Jones each finished with

today at noon at the Berea tournament.

Parker T'd up

LADY VOLS' STAR GETS

5TH DUNK IN WIN

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)

Tennessee's Candace Parker dunked

again but with a twist. For the first

time, she was whistled for a technical.

third this season with 12:56 left in the

first half against West Virginia on

Wednesday night. She stole the ball at

one end and jammed it in with one

This time Parker's dunk was more

emphatic with the rim making a louder

thud, and she finished by popping her

hand at the end of a fast break.

Parker had her fifth career dunk and

they couldn't guard us in the post," said

at the break, the Lady Lakers played

the Lady Scotties to a 35-all tie at the

more patient with our offense and ran it

a lot better. This was a big win for us,

we really needed it," Sivills added.

Calloway coach Scott Sivills.

end of the third quarter.

ty stripe.

Calloway, which

Kayla Cunningham led all Lady

Tournament on Wednesday night.

Staff Report

12 points for

improved to 5-2.

RACER BASKETBALL

March-like Madness

RACERS, SAMFORD SQUARE OFF WITH FIRST-PLACE ON THE LINE AT THE RSEC

By SCOTT NANNEY Sports Editor

In may only be late December, but the Murray State Racers are facing one of their biggest games of the season in tonight's Ohio Valley Conference showdown with league co-leader Samford. The Bulldogs (4-4, 2-0 OVC), the pre-

season pick to win the conference after falling to the Racers in last season's tournament championship game at Nashville, look the part of a contender after starting league action with two straight wins albeit narrow victories over Jacksonville State (54-53) and Southeast Missouri State (65-64).

Head coach Jimmy Tillette's squad enters tonight's 7 o'clock tip-off at the Regional Special Events Center on a high

after guard Jerry Smith's coast-to-coast drive in the waning seconds produced the game-winning layup at SEMO on Tuesday night.

Samford has every starter back from last year's 20-11 finish except reigning OVC Player of the Year J. Robert Merritt. The roster includes the stellar backcourt duo of Smith and senior Randall Gulina.

Entering today's play, Gulina leads the OVC in scoring at 20.0 points per game while shooting 36 percent from 3-point

■ See OVC 2B

IN WIN OVER

TIGERS

Rick Pitino wasn't asking for

dominance or perfection, just

effort from his players after

little bit of all three during the

Cardinals' 71-45 win over

Savannah State at Freedom

hardly sparkled. They played

with the kind of confidence and

energy they lacked during a

frustrating loss to Kentucky

last weekend. And for a young

team still trying to find itself, it

"We were hungry to show

Instead, the Cardinals did

everybody we're not going to

what they expected to do

against the weary Tigers (5-10).

Louisville forced the tempo,

pressured Savannah State into

25 turnovers and seemed eager

to put a tumultuous week in the

Juan Palacios scored a sea-

son-high 20 points and grabbed

eight rebounds, thanks in part

to solid shooting at the free

throw line and a trimmer frame.

much lighter than he was last

year," Pitino said. "We think

(the extra weight) took away

from his jumping ability, his

quickness (but) he came in just

as heavy, if not a few pounds

heavier. Now he's lost 12

pounds in the last month, so he

looks better. He's more active:

nothing to do with Palacios' 10-

of-12 effort from the free throw

line, an area he'd struggled

working on a lot, staying after

practice," Palacios said. "It was

a normal game. Anyone can get

played and 10 scored, though

freshman center Derrick

Caracter wasn't one of them.

Pitino suspended Caracter for

the game for violating team

20 points in a game like that." Nearly everyone got their chance. Fifteen Cardinals

It's something I've been

Quickness, however, had

he's quicker."

with all season.

"We asked him to come in

hang our heads," Pitino said.

While the Cardinals (6-4)

Hall on Wednesday.

was enough.

rearview mirror.

The Louisville coach got a

back-to-back losses at home.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) -

KENTUCKY **FOOTBALL**



No, business isn't Rich Brooks' game. Football is. And, while some of his players say saving their coach's job was a motivating factor during their breakout season, they insist that didn't come from Brooks.

One rung at a time

WILDCATS CONTINUE TO CLIMB LADDER OF SUCCESS UNDER BROOKS

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) Kentucky football coach Rich Brooks is happy to discuss blitz schemes or the I formation, but he prefers to leave the X's and O's of business to other people even when it involves his own job.

Brooks says he didn't mingle in the behind-the-scenes maneuvering that placed the Wildcats (7-5) in next week's Music City Bowl against Clemson (8-4). Nor does he seem overly concerned about finalizing the details of the contract extension promised by Athletic Director Mitch Barnhart.

"I would assume something would be resolved," he said Wednesday.

No, business isn't Brooks' game. Football is.

And, while

some of his

players say

saving their

coach's job

was a moti-

vating fac-

tor during

their break-

MUSIC CITY BOWL Kentucky vs. Clemson When: Noon on Friday, Dec

Records: Kentucky 7-5; Where: LP Field in Nashville Tickets: Sold Out TV: ESPN Bowl Payout: \$3.2 million Bowl web site: musiccitybowl.com

out season. they insist that didn't come from Brooks.

One day after practice last year, during the doldrums of yet another losing season, offensive lineman Michael Aitcheson recalls Brooks addressing his own job situation for the first and only time. The mention came shortly after Barnhart informed the team Brooks would be back for another try.

"He said, 'This is one of the down sides of the game - the business aspect," Aitcheson said.

Although Brooks insisted his team not play for him this year, tight end Jacob Tamme said he still took tremendous pride in what was accomplished - lifting the program from mediocrity and probation and landing the first bowl appearance since 1999.

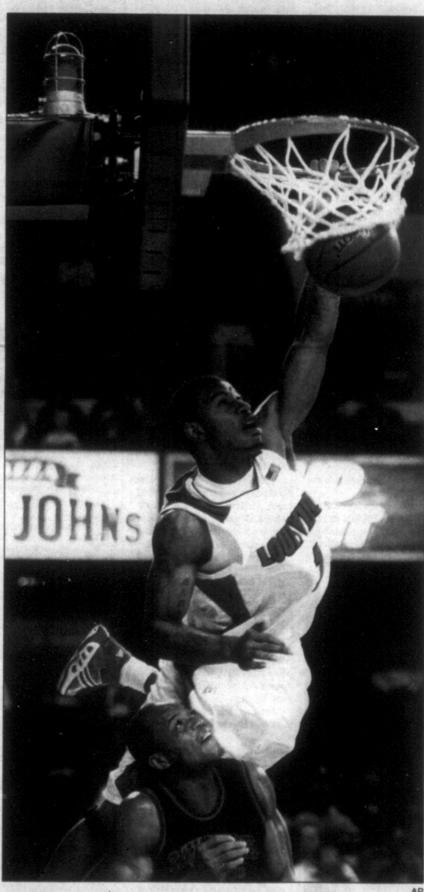
"He's a humble guy," Tamme said. "He's coached at a lot of different places, done a lot of different things and he knows what he's doing. Sometimes it's hard to get people to accept that and not a young guy that's always coming in with all that hoopla. He'd rather stay under the radar and build a quiet winner."

The players say the quiet part is just Brooks' public persona. They tell stories of their mild-mannered coach getting fired up about missed tackles or dropped catches. In fact, when linebacker Wesley Woodyard played word

See BOWL 2B

LOUISVILLE 71, SAVANNAH STATE 45

E for Effort



Obiajunwa during the second half Wednesday in Louisville.

PITINO GETS COMBINATION

Louisville's Terrence Williams dunks the ball over Savannah State's Joshua

TOP 25 ROUNDUP

Arizona handles first ranked opponent this season

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) - It took four years, but Mustafa Shakur is becoming the player Arizona coach Lute Olson thought he could be.

Shakur had 23 points, six rebounds and five assists Wednesday night to lead the ninth-ranked Wildcats to a 78-71 victory over No. 18 Memphis in the Fiesta Bowl Classic.

"He just is so different a player this year than he's been before for us," Olson said. "This is his team, it's his leadership. He does a great job of breaking the defense down. It's the difference between night and day, in my opinion, the way he's playing."

Freshman Chase Budinger, who scored 15 of his 18 points in the second half for Arizona (9-1), gave Shakur the

"Mustafa played a heck of a game," Budinger said. "He was unbelievable out there. He was just a leader out there. That's what we need of him."

Shakur was the game's most valuable player.

"I'm obviously still looking for my teammates a lot," he said. "I want to get them the ball. I feed off them. When people start doubling them, I am ready to shoot."

In other games involving ranked teams on Wednesday, it was: No. 5 Florida 88, Stetson 67; No. 10 Alabama 82, North Carolina State 75; No. 17 Washington 88, No. 12 LSU 72; and No. 14 Connecticut 88, Pepperdine 66.

Arizona erased a five-point halftime deficit to win its ninth straight game in its first matchup with a nationally

ranked team this season. It was the final preconference tuneup for the Wildcats, who open Pac-10 play Thursday at home against California.

"This is not a team that's going to plateau," Olson said. "I think they're going to be a team that will keep getting better because they play hard, they practice hard and they really enjoy playing together."

Jeremy Hunt led the Tigers (8-3) with 21 points, including 4-of-9 from 3-point range. Andre Allen added 15 points and Kareem Cooper had 11 for Memphis.

Memphis coach John Calipari was critical of the effort shown by some of his players but said the game was a learning experience.

No, 5 Florida 88, Stetson 67

Joakim Noah was 7-for-10 from the field and scored 16 points for the Gators (10-2), who improved to 8-0 at home and gave coach Billy Donovan his 236th victory at Florida. Garfield Blair led the Hatters (3-8) with 18

No. 10 Alabama 82, North Carolina St. 75

Richard Hendrix had 23 points and 12 rebounds and Ronald Steele returned to the Alabama lineup and added 14 points. Steele, a first-team preseason all-America, missed two games and played only 4 minutes of a third while battling a sprained right ankle and tendinitis in his left knee. His status for this game was in question until shortly before tipoff.



Tennessee's Candace Parker (3) dunks the ball against West Virginia's Lateefah Joye (31) during the first half Wednesday in Knoxville, Tenn.

OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE ROUNDUP

Reed leads Peay to win over MTSU

EKU, MOREHEAD POST VICTORIES ON THE ROAD

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Drake Reed scored 21 points, including a layup and free throw with 18 seconds left in overtime, to lead Austin Peay to a 64-63 victory Wednesday over visiting Middle Tennessee State.

Drake's layup tied the game at 63 and his free throw provided the winning margin for the Governors (4-6).

Kevin Kanaskie missed a jumper with 6 seconds left for Middle Tennessee (4-6). He had sent the game into overtime by hitting a 3-pointer with 1:15 left to make it 56-56.

Fernandez Lockett scored 17 points for Austin Peay and had a game-high 13 rebounds. Landon Shipley added 12 points for the Governors, who trailed 31-26 at

E. Kentucky 82, Tenn.-Martin 69

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) -Mike Rose hit 7-of-9 3-pointers for 26 points to lead hot-shooting Eastern Kentucky over 82-69 Tennessee-Martin Wednesday night.

Rose was 9-of-14 from the field for the Colonels (8-3, 3-1 Ohio Valley Conference), who never trailed. His seven 3-point-

ers tied a school record.

Darnell Dialls added 15 points for the Colonels and was 7-of-8 from the field. Julian Mascoll scored 13 and Adam Leonard 11.

Robinson Tennessee-Martin with points, including 6-of-9 3-pointers, and McClenon Tolliver had

Morehead St. 71, E. Illinois 63

CHARLESTON, III. (AP) -Shaun Williams scored 27 points and Morehead State came back after trailing at halftime to defeat Eastern Illinois 71-63 Wednesday night.

Cordaryl Ballard chipped in another 13 points for the Eagles Ohio Valley (6-4, 3-1 Conference).

Morehead State fell behind by as much as 15 points with less than 5 minutes left in the first half before clawing its way

Eastern Illinois (4-8, 1-4) led 29-28 at halftime and was lead in scoring by Romain Martin, who had 18 points. The only other player in double digits for the Panthers was Jon'Tee Willhite, with 12.

CONFERENCE STANDINGS

School	OVC (Overall
Samford	2-0 (4-4)
Tennessee St.	2-0 (4-5)
Eastern Ky.	3-0 (8-3)
Morehead State	3-0 (6-4)
Murray State	3-1 (5-7)
Austin Peay	2-1 (4-6)
Tennessee Tech	1-2 (5-5)
Jacksonville St.	1-3 (3-7)
UT-Martin	1-3 (3-10)
Eastern Illinois	1-4 (4-8)
Southeast Mo.	1-4 (3-9)

Vanderbilt 75,

Tennessee Tech 62

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Ted Skuchas scored 16 points to lead Vanderbilt to a 75-62 win Wednesday against Tennessee Tech in a San Juan Shootout semifinal.

One of eight players to score in double figures, Skuchas was 7-for-9 from the field and added rebounds for Commodores. Alex Gordon added 15 points.

Belton Rivers led Tennessee Tech (5-5) with 14 points. Anthony Fisher added 13, and Amadi McKenzie had 11.

OVC

From Page 1B

range. The 6-foot-1 Baton Rouge, La., native is even better inside the arc, shooting 62.7 percent from two-point range.

Smith, meanwhile, is 10th in the league in scoring at 13.8 ppg., and leads the Bulldogs in assists at almost five per outing. The 6-2 senior is shooting 54 percent from the floor.

Despite the exploits of Gulina and Smith, Samford ranks just ninth in the 11-team OVC in scoring with an average of just 63.6 ppg. However, the Bulldogs rank fourth in the league in points allowed, giving up only 66.9 per contest.

Converting offensively against the methodical Bulldogs, who typically slow the game down with their Princeton-style offense, is a concern of firstyear Murray head coach Billy Kennedy.

Everybody gets enamored with their offense. But they're a pretty good defensive team," Kennedy said of Samford. "My biggest concern is scoring against them. They play a different style defensively - a lot like Boston College, where they just kind of pack it in, switch everything and make you beat them from the outside.

'We've got to push it and score in transition, and we've got to make open shots because they're going to give you open shots," he added.

Scoring has been somewhat of a problem for the Racers at times during their 5-7 start, which has produced a 3-1 mark in OVC play. MSU is fifth in the conference in scoring (65.6 ppg.), but has been prone to long scoring droughts as it continues to seek some continuity in its lineup.

The Racer roster is currently in flux as it tries to adjust to the recent additions of guards Kevin Thomas and Ray George, and prepares for the possibility of being without forward Shawn Witherspoon, its most experienced player, for a substantial amount of time.

Witherspoon, who is averaging 9.8 ppg., and leads the team in rebounding (5.3 boards per game), left Tuesday's win over Jacksonville State with 9:36 left in the second half after re-aggrivating his left foot, which was broken in last March's NCAA Tournament game against North Carolina.

The 6-5 senior has been laboring with the injury all season since having surgery on the foot in the offseason. Kennedy said the team's medical personnel will re-evaluate Witherspoon's foot to determine the next course of action.

"Shawn's been playing hurt all year, and he's doing the best he can," Kennedy claimed. "It's been almost eight months (since the injury). I've never seen anything like it. But we've got to get him to a doctor and see why it's not healed. ... We've got to do what's best for him.'

Following tonight's game, the Racers will take off for the remainder of the holiday season before returning to action on Jan. 2 at Eastern Illinois. MSU, which will also be on the road on Jan. 4 at Tennessee State, will not play another home game until Jan. 8, when it hosts rival Southeast Missouri

According to Kennedy, the Racers will use the time off wisely.

'We'll have a good week of practice after (Christmas) and try to find out who needs to play for us and who can help us win," he explained. "We may have another group with a different look. just don't know how it will turn out, but we've got to figure it out."

12" Bicycle **Work Gloves** 9620 w\Dual 24" Radio Contro 7420 with MFWD 9520 4WD Tractor Lantern 8420 Tractor w 9420 w/ Duals

SWIMMING ROUNDUP Wellness Center hosts first local meet

SIMMONS PLACES FIRST IN BUTTERFLY

Staff Report

The Calloway High School swim team participated in its first local meet last Friday at the Murray Wellness Center.

Murray High School hosted the meet, which also included teams from Trigg County and Marshall County.

Senior Kayla Simmons placed first in the 100-yard butterfly and second the 100-yard backstroke. Sophomore Dylan Fry placed fifth in the 100-yard freestyle and third in the 100vard breaststroke.

Calloway Middle School swimmer Robbie Canning placed second in the 200-yard freestyle and third in the 100yard freestyle. Seventh grade swimmer Kristen Dennis placed seventh in the 50-yard freestyle and ninth in the 100-yard

Haley Dodd placed eighth in the 50-yard freestyle and 10th in the 100-freestyle, and Katlyn Cook placed eighth in both the 100-yard backstroke and 100vard breaststroke. Sixth grader Peyton Mays placed 13th in the 50-yard freestyle and 10th in the 100 backstroke.

The Lakers will be back in action at the MSU Wellness Center on Dec. 28 before competing at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital Wellness Center on Jan. 11.

KENTUCKY ROUNDUP

UK Hoops ends homestand with Southern

WILDCATS MEET JAGUARS AT 6

TONIGHT IN MEMORIAL COLISEUM

By UK Sports Information

LEXINGTON, Ky. - The Kentucky women's basketball team closes out a four-game homestand tonight when it plays host to Southern in its third game in five days.

It also will mark UK's final home game before the new year. Tip-off in Memorial Coliseum is set for 6 p.m. The game will be carried live on the Big Blue Sports Network.

Kentucky (7-3) is coming off an 84-37 win over Mississippi Valley State on Tuesday. The Wildcats will be looking for their fourth consecutive win when they face the Jaguars.

Junior center Sarah Elliott led a strong inside presence for the Cats against MVSU with a game-high 21 points, while freshman forward Lydia Watkins brought down 10 rebounds. Senior guard Jenny Pfeiffer added 15 points. She has combined for 30 points and seven 3pointers in her last two games.

Junior guard Samantha Mahoney leads three Wildcats scoring in double figures with 13.1 ppg. Elliott and sophomore point guard Carly Ormerod follow with 12.6 and 10.9 ppg, respectively.

Ormerod is currently on a streak of 16 made free-throws. Senior forward/center Jennifer Humphrey leads the team in rebounding with 8.9 rpg, while Elliott is second with 8.6 rpg.

Today's game marks the firstever meeting between Kentucky and Southern University (Baton Rouge, La.). The Wildcats are 3-0 against members of Southern's Southwestern Athletic Conference. UK has faced Alabama State, Arkansas-Pine Bluff and Mississippi Valley State in its three previous games.

Southern is 0-7 on the season, having dropped a 61-46 decision in its first home game of the year against South Alabama on Dec. 9. Junior center Frederika Lewis leads the team in scoring, averaging 11.3 ppg with a team-high 11 blocks on the year. Junior forward Krystal Huggins is the squad's leading rebounder with

SCOREB



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NATIONAL SPORTS SCOREBOARD

Wednesday's scores
By The Associated Press
PREP BASKETBALL BOYS BASKETBALL George Rogers Clark 66, Cov.

Lou. St. Xavier 62, Floyd Central, Ind.

Paintsville 60, Rutherford High School, Union Co. 50, Princeton, Ind. 47

Bethlehem Eagles Classic Consolation Bracket Bethlehem 58, McCreary Central 50 John Hardin 57, Nelson Co. 43 Consolation Bracket
Campbellsville 60, Lou. Southern 51

Lou. Western 76, Lou. Atherton 73 **Bowling Green Tourna** Apollo 34, Adair Co. 24 Apollo 40, Franklin-Simpson 38

Barren Co. 58, Rossview, Tenn. 57 Christian Co. 64, Lou. Moore 44 Colquitt, GA 67, Adair Co. 61 Franklin-Simpson 48, Oakland County,

Hopkinsville 40, Barren Co. 39 Lou. Eastern 68, Rossview, Tenn. 50 Muhlenberg South 62, North Hardin 53 Muhlenberg South 62, Spring Hill, Tenn.

North Hardin 57, Todd Co. Central 49 Bryan Station Tournament Round 1 Allen Co.-Scottsville 91, Pike Co.

Hazard 55, Ryle 52 Lex. Bryan Station 81, Lou. Seneca 61 Lex. Henry Clay 77, Wayne Co. 33 Lex. Lafayette 91, Woodford Co. 65 Lex. Paul Dunbar 88, Lou. Shawnee 50 Lex. Tates Creek 89, Scott 61 Madison Central 80, Lee Co. 49

Cookeville, Tenn. Tournament Clinton Co. 47, Jackson County, Tenn. **Edmonson County Caveland Classic**

7th Place Monroe Co. 67, Whitley Co. 65 Metcalfe Co. 53, LaRue Co. 43

3rd Place Hart Co. 56, Edmonson Co. 50 Grayson Co. 62, Ohio Co. 54 Glenn Academy Tournament Lou. DuPont Manual 100, Long County,

Hatfield and McCoy Shoot Out Henry County Invitationa Oldham Co. 66, Frankfort 45 Losers Bracket Frankfort 51, Campbell Co. 50

Lou. Waggener 85, Harrison Co. 51 North Oldham 56, Henry Co. 38 Jeffersontown Gaslight Holiday

Classic Round 1 Barberton, OH 52, Lou. Butler 46 Holmes 53, Belmont, OH 47

Lou. Jeffersontown 75, Fulton Co. 35 Siegel, TN 70, Bullitt East 66 Johnson Central Tourn Session 1

Ashland Blazer 80, Belfry 71 Powell Co. 72, Johnson Central 70 Logan County/Russelville Logan Co. 63, Community Christian (Paducah) 32

McClean County Fast Fuel Classic Fort Knox 95, Ballard Memorial 43 McLean Co. 61, Livingston Central 47 lebster Co. 70. Lou. Christia Whitesville Trinity 83, Dawson Springs

Madison Southern Tournament

Round 2 East Ridge 77, Berea 61 Garrard Co. 73, Rowan Co. 64 Lloyd Memorial 59, Rowan Co. 50 Madison Southern 58, Garrard Co. 54 Madison Southern 86, Lloyd Memorial

Taylor Co. 76, Estill Co. 62 Montgomery County Classic Montgomery Co. 67, Bracken Co. 51 North/South Laurel Holiday Classic

Round 2 Clarksville Northeast, Tenn. 62, Lou Trinity 60 South Laurel 67, Clay Co. 52 Consolation Bracket

Greenwood 55, West Jessamine 41 Lou. Valley 79, Whitefield Academy 62 Raceland Derby Classic Boone Co. 70, West Carter 52 Fairview 56, Green Co. 40 Pool B Raceland 68, Model 42 Russell 68, Warren East 58 Whitaker Invitation ncer Co. 96, Owsley Co. 69

Wolfe Co. 95, Riverside Christian GIRLS BASKETBALL Ludlow 33, Scott 28 Bath County Tournament Morgan Co. 58, Lewis Co. 51

South Oldham Tourn 7th Place Lou. Southern 48, Lou. Seneca 33 5th Place

Lou. Wagge Park 34 er 49, Lou. Pleasure Ridge 3rd Place East Jessamine 61, North Oldham 54

Championship South Oldham 43, Lou. Male 30 **Grant County Tourn** Round 1

Dayton 55, Beechwood 23 Williamstown 53, Campbellsville 46 Adair County Invitational Adair Co. 47, Bowling Green 30 Boyle Co. 82, Buckhorn 47 Fifth Third Bank Classic

Apollo 59, Elizabethtown 50 rue 45, Lincoln Co. 43 Clay Co. 36, Lou. Fairdale 33 Harpeth 64, Highlands 53 Lex. Christian 57, Graves Co. 40 Lex. Henry Clay 70, Southwestern 34 Pulaski Lou. Butler 51, Wayne Co. 48 Lou. Christian Academy Montgomery Co. 59 Lou. DuPont Manual 58, Barren Co. 40 Lou. Mercy 53, George Rogers Clark 52 Lou. Sacred Heart 61, Pike Co. Central Mason Co. 64, Muhlenberg North 53

Newport Central Catholic 43, Andersor Warren East 56, Lou. Assumption 53

Trigg County Tournament Semifinals Fulton Co. 57, University Heights 54 **Consolation Bracket** Logan Co. 49, McLean Co. 35 Murray 68, Trigg Co. 63

Queens City Classic Caldwell Co. 57, Butler Co. 30 Letcher County Central 63, Pulaski Co.

Somerset 59, Burgin 29 Berea Holiday Classic Tournament A Round 1 Deming 58, Berea 38

Jackson Co. 57, West Jessamine 39 Lex. Paul Dunbar 64, Allen Co. Scottsville 39 Sheldon Clark 63, Cordia 29 White County, TN 43, Hopkins Co. Central 39

Berea Holiday Classic Tournament B Round 1

Calloway Co. 54, Mercer Co. 46 Christian Co. 73, Casey Co. 53 St. Henry 45, Lex. Bryan Station 32 Boone County Classic Round 1

Boone Co. 44, Holmes 34 Notre Dame 60, Simon Kenton 27 Rockcastle Co. 56, Lou. Presentation

Shelby Co. 67, Hart Co. 60 **Washington County Holiday Classic** Round 1 50. Bullitt East 46

Grayson Co. 75, Webster Co. 26 Marion Co. 56, Danville 42 Washington Co. 49, Lex. Tates Creek 41 Johnson Central Country Music Classic

Round 1 Belfry 62, Johnson Central 57 Fleming Co. 66, Bell Co. 61 Russell 94, Magoffin Co. 82 Russellville 52, Grundy, VA 40 Louisville Doss Holiday Tourn Daviess Co. 47 Ashland Blazer 33 Elliott Co. 53, Lou. Ky. Country Day 32 John Hardin 87, Lou. Valley 27 Scott County Classic

Lawrence Co. 62, Dixie Heights 47 Lou. Holy Cross 47, Lovett, GA 30 Shively Sports Invitational Central Hardin 85, Lou. Eastern 40 Smith County, Tenn. 53, St. Mary 36 North Bullitt Tournament Lou. Jeffersontown 45, Oldham Co. 44

Bowl

From Page 1B

association with his coach's name, the first that came to his mind was "excitement."

"A lot of people don't see it, but he gets worked up,' Woodyard said. "Sometimes you need it." Brooks says what resonates

with this Kentucky team isn't tone but pride. After LSU steamrolled the Wildcats 49-0 on Oct. 14, the coach had a heart-toheart with his players that apparently got through. They won four straight before losing narrowly at Tennessee in the season

"I was very disturbed and upset after that game," Brooks said of the LSU loss. "I went in on Sunday, basically got up in front of the team and told them we were soft. We weren't tough enough, not physical enough.

Brooks knows the bowl challenge won't be easy. Clemson has a more dominant running back than any Southeastern Conference foe other than perhaps Arkansas, he says, and a defense among the nation's best.

But, win or lose, Brooks is

talking about postseason football at Kentucky. His players are getting a few extra weeks of practice. Would-be recruits get to watch the team play on national television.



COLLEGE FOOTBALL 7 p.m. ESPN — Las Vegas Bowl, BYU vs.

Oregon
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL 3:30 p.m. sa vs. Oklaho

6 p.m. ESPN2 — Pittsburgh vs. Oklahoma

at Oklahoma City 8 p.m. ga vs. Duke, at Ner

NBA BASKETBALL 7:15 p.m. 9:30 p.m

Ashington at Sacra
NFL FOOTBALL 7 p.m. NFL — Minnesota at Green Bay

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Photo provided

Pictured standing from left are Hannah Cochran, Alexis Lowdermilk, Addey Griffo, Claire Pitman, Brooke Salley, Chelsea Campbell and Claire Barnett. Pictured seated from left are Courtney Billington, Alexandra Horrobin, Catherine Crass and LaShae Brown. The MHS Dance Team (MHS Golden Girls) is coached by Kara Byrn Dowdy and Jennifer Jones.

MHS Dance Team finishes fourth in UDA hip hop competition

Special to the Ledger

GATLINBURG, Tenn. -The Murray High Dance Team recently claimed fourth place overall in the Varsity Hip Hop division in in the UDA Smoky Mountain Classic Competition in Gatlinburg, Tenn. The MHS Golden Girls competed against nine other team in that particular division, the largest category in dance. Warren County Central (Ky., and a 2005 national top ten recipient),

claimed first and Farragaut (Tenn., national 2005 top ten recipient) captured second place. Wayne Co, Tenn., (third), Wilson Central, Tenn., (fifth), Tullahoma, Tenn., (sixth), Ooltewah, Tenn., (seventh), Dade Co., Tenn., (eighth), and Berea Community, Ky., (ninth), were the other winning recipients during the weekend tour-

Jennifer Jones, MHS co-head dance coach, said the girls have

Murray Art Guild activities announced

put in many hours of practice.

Participation limited. Call 270-753-4059

Both workshops will be held at the guild's

or e-mail murrayartguild@murray-ky.net for

new location at 500 N. 4th St., Murray.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

Also, check out www.murrayartguild.org and

Regular hours of operation are 10 a.m. 3 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday and

including Saturday, Dec. 23, afterwhich, the

stop by to browse the new gift gallery.

registration and more information.

"Their hard work is paying off," she said. "They are a truly gifted and dedicated group of young ladies."

Kara Byrn Dowdy, MHS cohead dance coach, said now it is time to prepare for the AmeriDance Internationals in March. "If you have not seen the girls perform this year, you should come watch them," she said. "They are amazing."

WKMS Presents Music From the Front Porch, Live and In Concert Jan. 20

The listener supported public radio service of Murray State University, WKMS-FM, presents the 2007 Music From the Front Porch Concert, Saturday, Jan. 20. The concert offers live bluegrass music in an intimate acoustical setting. This concert is also being produced as a one-hour feature program for KET. Murray State's Broadcast Media Services Department is responsible for the video production.

Seating begins at 6 p.m. and music begins at 7 p.m. at Robert E. Johnson Theatre, near the corner of 15th & Olive Streets on the campus of Murray State University. This year's event features the bluegrass rhythms of Kentucky favorites Bawn in the Mash and The McKendrees.

Bawn in the Mash is an acoustic string band that hails from our own western Kentucky region. Formed in 2004, The Mash consists of Josh

Coffey on violin and mandolin, Nathan Lynn on guitar and bass, Tommy Oliverio on mandolin, and harmonica, Alex Faught on banjo, and Eddie Coffey on bass and resophonic guitar.

The McKendrees are a western Kentucky bluegrass family band based in Marshall County. The group includes Jason McKendree on banjo, Jessalyn McKendree on vocals and fiddle, Justin McKendree on vocals and mandolin, Ricky McKendree on guitar, and Ron Barnett on bass.

Front Porch hosts John McMillen and Mark Welch are emcees for the concert.

They alternate producing, Music From the Front Porch, Saturdays at 10 a.m. on WKMS. The show has entertained listeners throughout the Four Rivers region for nearly 30 years with a mix of folk, bluegrass, acoustic and western

Also that evening beginning at 6 p.m., the station hosts a silent auction featuring items ranging from hand-designed jewelry to lawn mower engines donated by area businesses.

All proceeds from the auction benefit WKMS.

Tickets are \$10 at the door only. Seating is limited and by general admission.

You can learn more about Music From the Front Porch. and see the entire WKMS schedule at www.wkms.org.

WKMS is Murray State University's listener supported public radio service and NPR affiliate at 91.3 FM. The station also airs on 92.1 FM, Paducah; 99.5 FM, Paris, Tennessee; and 101.5 FM, Madisonville, and online at wkms.org, where the station offers extensive web resources regarding its programming and more.

For further information call 800-599-4737.

KET's WinterPledge 2006 raised more than \$468,000 to post record amount

Special to the Ledger

WinterPledge 2006, KET's on-air membership drive held Nov. 25-26 and Dec. 2-7, far exceeded its goal this year with more than \$468,000 in pledges the highest WinterPledge total to date. A record number of Kentuckians pledged their financial support of KET programs and services, and more than 51 percent of this year's WinterPledge donors are new members of KET.

Three of the programs receiving the most viewer response during this drive were "Celtic Woman"; "American" Soundtrack 'Doo Wop's Best on PBS"; and "A Kentucky Life Special, Dr. Clark's Kentucky Treasures.'

'We extend a heartfelt thank you to KET's 29,000-member family," said Michele Ripley, president of the Commonwealth Fund for KET. "Their support, together with that of our phone volunteers, sponsors and in-kind donors, is a direct reflection of the values they find on KET quality programs that inform and inspire and are safe

for the whole family." The private funds raised during WinterPledge advance the mission and services of KET. They enable KET to continue delivering programs for and about Kentucky as well as national PBS favorites.

More information about KET programming and education services, as well as how to support KET, can be found at www.ket.org.



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noon. Instructor Beverly Kietzke will introguild will be closed for the holidays and duce participants to the basics of making reopening for an exciting new season on Jan. wire jewelry with beads using special tools to create their own wearable art.

Promotional clips from 'The Nativity Story' air at holiday bazaar

Beginning Oil Painting - Monday thru

Thursday, Jan. 29 - Feb. 1, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Local artist Mary Fuhrmann will focus on

the basic materials and techniques of oil

painting. A great opportunity for beginners

Participation is limited. Call 270-753-

Basic Jewelry Techniques - Saturday, Feb. 10 and Saturday Feb. 17, 10 a.m. -

4059 or e-mail murrayartguild@murray-ky.net

for registration and more information.

or a good refresher for others.

er for a movie depicting the

birth of Jesus played at a hol-

iday bazaar Wednesday after-

noon but went largely unno-

ticed by the lunch-going crowd,

despite early city concerns that

it represented paid advertising

that could offend non-Chris-

the clips from "The Nativity

Story" at the traditional Ger-

man Christkindlmarket after the

city dropped an objection to

on anything fancy; the TV

looked like one a teacher might

turn on for a class of third-

graders. The television had no

sound, so viewers could only

watch images flash across the

The few passersby who did

pause to watch dismissed the

trailer as advertising and moved

Joe Kessler called the dis-

"They're doing it to try to

play "a marketing ploy."

The trailer wasn't displayed

A religious group showed

tians.

the display.

Kessler, 25, said. "As you could say, that's the American way

making money." New Line Cinema had agreed to pay \$12,000 to Christkindlmarket organizers to continuously play the movie trailer at the bazaar.

Responding to the city's concerns, the organizers and movie studio canceled their deal.

But an organization called Civil Liberties for Urban Believers, representing a group of Chicago churches, obtained a city permit Tuesday to show the movie trailer at its own display at the bazaar, said the group's spokesman, Thomas Ciesielka.

Ciesielka said his group was able to secure a permit because its display isn't commercial. The city risked violating religious speech statutes if they denied the request, he said.

Cindy Gatziolis, a spokeswoman for the city's office of special events, said she could provide no information on the

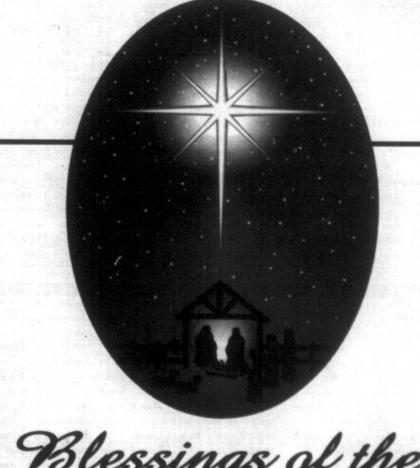
New Line Cinema, a unit of Time Warner Inc., has provided no money to the church group or the bazaar, said Christina Kounelias, executive vice president of the film compa-

She said the original decision to cancel the trailer was

"probably well-intentioned." "In an effort to be politically correct they behaved incorrectly," she said Tuesday.

Around the country, Christmas displays on public property have become an annual source of contention, forcing elected officials to approach them cautiously.

Last week, 14 plastic Christmas trees were restored at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport after officials received assurances they wouldn't be brought in to court. The trees had been removed because a Jewish rabbi threatened to sue over the lack of a menorah in the airport's holiday display.



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'Potter' author dreams she's boy wizard what will happen in the book,

LONDON (AP) - Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling says she has dreamed that she was the boy wizard as she writes the seven-book series' final installment - work she says has left her feeling both "elated and overwrought."

Rowling said in a message posted Tuesday on her official

Web site this week that she has been hard at work writing scenes, some of which she planned more than 12 years

"I am alternately elated and overwrought. I both want and don't want to finish this book (don't worry, I will)," she wrote.

She gave no new clues about

which is expected to be published next year. Previously she said two characters will die, and hinted Harry might not survive.

Rowling said she has been asked for years if she ever dreams she is in the boy wizard's world.

Actress who played Zuzu still thinks 'It's a Wonderful Life'

- Zuzu has a cold again. She sniffles and sucks on a cold pill as she signs autographs for fans lined up to the door in a coffee shop.

Karolyn Grimes jokes that she left her coat open, like her character Zuzu Bailey in "It's a Wonderful Life." But a more likely culprit is the holiday crunch of appearances by the former child actress from a Victorian festival in Puyallup, Wash., to the Colorado Country Christmas Show and now to Seneca Falls, which claims to be the inspiration for director Frank Capra's mythical Bedford Falls.

Around Christmas, this Finger Lakes village is gussied up like the snowy movie town with white lights and wreaths strung across the main street. And the 66-year-old Grimes has come for a weekend celebration.

Everyone who saw the movie remembers Zuzu. She gets to say, "Every time a bell rings an angel gets his wings." And the petals from Zuzu's rose stuffed into a pants pocket by Jimmy Stewart's George Bailey as he comforts his sickly daughter - become a symbol of life. Grimes laughs about the

petals getting more screentime than she did. But she has parlayed her six minutes in the beloved 1946 film into a latelife career. After enduring heartaches that make George Bailey's troubles look small, she has become a feel-good ambassador for the film and one of its last living links.

"I'm that little girl and I stand

doodle of a bell. She usually adds a message like, "Enjoy life, it's wonderful.'

Grimes lives near Seattle, but retains a Midwestern cheeriness. She holds her smile for hours and laughs as she pops up for snapshots. She has a gold "Z" pinned to her blue velveteen

She lost her nest egg in the 2001 economic downturn and relies on these appearances. As she signs, her husband sits beside her and asks, "Cash or credit card?" It's a job, but she clearly loves being Zuzu. After signing autographs all afternoon, she bumps into a fan at a diner who talks on her cell phone to her father.

Grimes happily accepts the

"Do you know who you're talking to?" she says to woman's father. "You're talking to Zuzu!" Grimes had already worked

with Bing Crosby and Fred MacMurray when she appeared in "It's a Wonderful Life." She grew up in Hollywood and was nudged into the business by her mother. Capra picked her to play Zuzu.

Grimes retains kid-centric memories of the movie: Capra kindly squatted to give her directions. "Mr. Stewart" held her in his arms, take after take, for the end scene and always put her down gently. She loved the Baileys' big Christmas tree.

At the time though, even to a 5-year-old, "it was just another job." Grimes' movie career waned

as her mother became ill. She lost her at age 14. Her father died in a car accident a year later. A court shipped the teenage orphan to Osceola, Mo., to live in a "bad home" with an aunt and uncle.

and he sneaks the wilted petals into his pocket.

What do you think? Did I see it?" she asks the audience Grimes is giving a crowd at the community center a tour of the movie with bits of triv-

Zuzu's name was inspired by an old brand of ginger snaps, she says. The snow coating Bedford Falls was made of soap flakes and chemicals: that's why it looks sudsy sometimes. Reviewing the flower scene, she suggests Zuzu saw through her father's heartfelt ruse and loves him all the more for it.

"I think what Frank Capra is trying to say is she knows her father isn't perfect," she

The film about a suicidal, small-town money lender was a bit of a dud after its December 1946 release. "Wonderful Life" got a second life in the mid-'70s when a lapsed copyright allowed television stations to show the movie for free. The movie gathered iconic status through constant show-

After the reporter's story, Grimes did local Zuzu events in the '80s and branched out by the '90s.

This was a difficult stretch personally; she knows angels don't always save people. Her 18-year-old son killed himself in 1989 and her second husband died of cancer in 1994 (her first husband was killed in a hunting accident). She kept on.

'You have a choice," she says. "You can drown in your sorrows, be the grumpy old Mr. Potter and be hurt and be in pain ... but I think you need to put that behind you because, my gosh, life is a wonderful

the 10

Grimes, one of about seven surviving actors from the movie, says she's had troubled souls approach her sobbing at her appearances. She inspires smiles when she passes out a rose petal.

"I really feel like Zuzu is kind of a mission maybe, I don't know," Grimes says. "I think that there is a higher power at work and that I had to go through a lot of adverse situations in my life to understand other people's pain."

If it sounds like a corny sentiment out of a Capra movie, consider that after a day of "It's a Wonderful Life" autographs and interviews she becomes excited - really excited - by a small cutout of a bell stuck to a linoleum floor

It has meaning, she explains as she walks out to the snowy sidewalks of Seneca Falls, past the decorated windows, the oldfashioned street lights and the wreaths hanging overhead.

"I really feel at home here,"

People here argue about the Bedford Falls connection, though it's a circumstantial case. Both places have a "Falls" suffix, and characters in the film mention nearby cities like Rochester and Elmira. Both places have classic American main streets, and the bridge here resembles the one where George Bailey pondered his mortality.

Capra, whose movie village was a set built near Los Angeles, left no evidence to rule out other candidates, like Bedford, N.Y.

And yet the director could have passed through Seneca Falls while visiting an aunt in nearby Auburn. Retired local barber Tommy Bellissima even claims he cut Capra's hair before the movie came out. Bellissima recalls a friendly guy whose name stuck in his head: capra means goat in Ital-

"Sometimes Christmas is what you believe," says county tourism director Maureen Koch at the Zuzu Cafe, "and



4B • Thursday, December 21, 2006 TV Listings Friday, December 22, 2006 A- CHARTER, B- MURRAY ELECTRIC, C- MEDIACOM, D- GALAXY **FRIDAY MORNING** ABCD 6:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 WKRN-ABC 2 2 (5:00) News Good Morning America 🗷 Regis and Kelly Tyra Banks Show The View (N) VSIL-ABC 3 3 3 Good Morning America 🗷 Rachael Ray E WSMV-NBC 4 4 Today (In Stereo) @ The 700 Club 🗷 Ellen Show News WTVF-CBS 5 5 News @ News 🖭 The Early Show
Montel Williams The Price is Right Talk- Y & R WPSD-NBC 6 6 6 6 News E Today (In Stereo) I Martha (N) E News E The View (N) VBBJ-ABC 7 7 7 Good Morning Good Morning America (E) Regis and Kelly Jeop-Rogers Caillou Lions Arthur Couch Teletub Sesame Street @ Myster- Myster- Court Court Judge A. Judge A Paid Judge Mathis
People's Court 9 9 2 3 Paid Breakfast Show Nanny Mad Abt. Megan Mulially Chris-WQTV-CW 10 17 11 30 Paid Eye Eye Eye Eye Regis and Kelly The Price Is Right Young-Restless KFVS-CBS 12 12 12 12 Breakfast Show The Early Show (In Stereo) (E Believ-Magnum, P.I. Homicide: Life Hillbil- Rockford Files Da Vinci's Inquesi 16 38 9 10 Van Meyer Truths Scudder For Today Hagee Life Tod Your 17 83 28 Tom /KMU-PBS 21 21 5 11 Noddy Arthur Curious Clifford Dragon Big Sesame Street I Caillou Teletub Rogers Paid Paid Believ- Paid Girl-One My Wife My Wife VDKA-MNT 22 16 10 Chapel Griffith Libertys Paid SportsCenter SportsCenter 24 29 26 8 SportsCenter E SportsCenter E SportsCenter 🖾 SportsCenter E 25 30 25 (5:00) Mike and Mike in the Morning (Live) 🖭 Cold Pizza (In Stereo Live) @ Cold Pizza ® Laguna Laguna Laguna Laguna Laguna 26 49 27 24 Video Wake-Up TRL E The Big Ten 28 27 39 14 Angel "Billy" @ Charmed [#] Charmed E ER "Blizzard" ER "The Gift" 29 41 41 Hi-5 E Bus Baby Bigfoot Peep Baby Baby Little Golden Golden Frasier Frasier Will LIFE 30 52 31 31 Fit Lite Workout Nanny Nanny 32 51 49 5 JAG "Jaggie Bells" Texas Ranger Texas Ranger Movie: **1/2 "Beethoven's 2nd" (1993) | Christmas Crl USA 34 58 29 Movie Island in Sky Movie: *** "The High and the Mighty" (1954) John Wayne. "The St. Valentine's Day Massacre" "NR 35 35 44 27 The District "Pilot" CSI: Miami E CSI: Miami E CSI: Miami E CSI: Miami E A&E FAM 36 53 36 2 Movie: "Once Upon a Christmas" (2000) Movie: "Twice Upon a Christmas" (2001) Gilmore Girls 🗷 37 22 24 4 Phan- OddPar- Sponge Sponge Dora Go Blues-Back- Pets NICK 43 36 18 Design- Painted Painted Quilts Duvall Duvall Room Scrapb- Knitty Creative B HGTV Paid Paid Star Trek: Voyager Star Trek: Voyager Star Trek: Voyager Star Trek: Voyager SPIKE Dawson's Creek E National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation Home Im Home Im 52 26 21 13 Saved- Saved- Saved- Saved-Legend of Frosty Looney Tunes 65 32 50 Save Christmas Olive-Reindeer Powerpuff Girls TOON COURT 66 61 Paid Paid Paid Paid Bloom & Politan: Open Court Wayans Wayans Jamie F. Jamie F. 106 & Park: Top 10 Live (5:00) BET Morning Inspiration CMTV CMT Music (In Stereo) (5:45) Movie: ** "U.S. Marshals" (1998) Do You Believe Dream- Movie: **1/2 "The Island" (2005) "PG-13" Pride HBO Movie Sweet Rosie Movie: ★★½ "True Grit" (1969) 'G' @ Movie: ★★½ "Roll Bounce" (2005) @ "Simply Irresistible Movie: ★½ "Troll 2" (1992) ® Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow Movie: ★★ "Cold Dog Soup" He's My SHOW Wiggles Higgly Ein-Mickey Handy Dood- Charlie The Wiggles Higgly Lilo DISN Movie Lone Wolf Movie: *** "Head" (1968) IE Movie: *** "Eight Men Out" (1968) "PG" "Curse of the Pink Panther" FLIX (5:35) Movie: "Small Soldiers" Movie: "As Good as Dead" (E) Movie: *** "Losing Isaiah" (1995) 'R' Movie: "Elizabeth I" HBO₂ A- CHARTER, B- MURRAY ELECTRIC, C- MEDIACOM, D- GALAXY FRIDAY AFTERNOON 12:00 | 12:30 | 1:00 | 1:30 | 2:00 | 2:30 | 3:00 | 3:30 | 4:00 | 4:30 | 5:00 | 5:30 WKRN-ABC All My Children (One Life to Live General Hospital Judge J. Judge J. News News WSIL-ABC All My Children
One Life to Live General Hospital Dr. Keith Ablow Montel Williams News @ ABC WSMY-NBC News News Passions (N) I Days of our Lives Dr. Phil (In Stereo) Oprah Winfrey I News Guiding Light
Rachael Ray
News
Inside News
News WTVF-CBS Y & R Bold As World Turns Inside Insider Dr. Phil (In Stereo) Jeop-Million- News @ News WPSD-NBC Days of our Lives Passions (N) Fortune WBBJ-ABC All My Children @ One Life to Live General Hospital Dr. Phil (In Stereo) Oprah Winfrey E News Fetch News-Lehrer Berens- Lions Reading Cyber-Shrinks Zoboo Dragon Clifford Curious Maya King King Hill Simp-70s Judge The 700 Club @ Paid Cops
Maury 70s Reba @ Greg Behrendt Holly-Geraldo House Animal What I What I Enter-Holly-News Ray-Guiding Light @ Ellen Show Oprah Winfrey @ News News As World Turns Lizzie Home Videos Home Moesha Cosby Even WGN Greg Behrendt Home Videos Cerullo Paid Passion Mass Bed Discov-Life Tod Fellow- Paid Maya News-Lehrer Arthur Fetch Cyber-Clifford Dragon Math Busi-Danger Reading Lions Feud Divorce Divorce Judge Mathis E People's Court Bernie Jerry Springer @ Feud Burning Horn Inter-Madden 1st and Lines NFL NFL's Greatest Game @ Inter-Bowl (11:00) Cold Pizza Timber Timber Timbersport Paintball Series of Poker Series of Poker ESPN2 Laguna Laguna Laguna Laguna Laguna Laguna Laguna Laguna Beach 24/7 Tell MTV TNT Judging Amy 🖾 Law & Order 🖾 Law & Order @ Law & Order E Baby Baby Chef TLC Baby Trading Spaces Chef While You Out Chef Reba @ Reba @ Still Movie: "A Town Without Christmas" Golden Golden Still Still LIFE Movie Christmas | Movie: "Three Wise Guys" (2005) | Movie: "12 Days of Christmas Eve" | Law Order: Cl Monk E Movie: **½ "Hidalgo" (2004) Viggo Mortensen. 'PG-13' 图 AMC Movie: ★★★ "The Godfather, Part III" (1990, Crime Drama) Al Pacino. "R' III CSI: Miami @ CSI: Miami @ CSI: Miami @ A&E CSI: Miami @ CSI: Miami [#] CSI: Miami @ FullHse FullHse Sabrina Sabrina Gilmore Girls E FAM Step Step Family Family NICK Neutron Neutron OddPar- OddPar- Sponge Drake School Avatar Nick-Sponge Sponge Get Design- First Free-Design Design Warm-Cmas **HGTV** Decorat- Sensi-Mission De-Trek: Voyager CSI: Crime Scn CSI: Crime Scn Trek: Voyager Trek: Voyager Trek: Voyager King King Seinfeld Seinfeld Ray-News- Cosby Harvey Harvey Home Home Yes Yes Movie: "Casper's Haunted Christmas" Juniper Cartoon Ben 10 Juniper Poké-Poke-Xiaolin Foster Ed Edd Coden-OURT Nancy Grace: Clo Wayans Wayans Rap City 🗷 The Center @ 106 & Park: Top 10 Live BET Char- Dukes of Hazzard (11:00) Top 20 Countdown (in Stereo) CMT Power Picks CMT Giants: Reba (in Stereo) CMTV (11:45) Movie: "Pride & Prejudice" "PG" Movie: "Tsunami, the Aftermath" "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York" "PG" It is de the NFL E Movie: ** "Monster-in-Law" Movie: ** "Switch" (1991) 'R' Movie: "License to Drive" Movie: "Who's the Man?" 'R' Movie He's My Girl Movie: "Swimming Upstream" (2001) Movie: "Enduring Love" "R' Movie: "Duane Hopwood" "R' Sky Captain-World SHOW Timon Buzz Whis- Proud Dragon Kim Sister Sister Raven Raven Life Suite Mon- Raven Movie: "Lone Wolf McQuade" (1983) Movie: "Wonderwall" (1969)

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Fire destroyed the home of George Catlett on North Fourth Street on Dec. 19. This fire was contained after four hours by the Murray Fire Department with the assistance of Calloway County Fire-Rescue and off duty MFD fire-

Births reported include a boy to Greg and Keisha McKendree, Dec. 10; a boy to Amy and Scott Svebakken, Dec. 14.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry (Gene) Hinze are today observing their 50th wedding anniversary. Murray State University Rac-

ers lost 61-54 to St. Louis in a basketball game at St. Louis, Mo. High scorer for Murray was Vincent Rainey.

20 years ago

The Murray City Council approved the purchase of about nine acres of land on the north and northeast side of the Murray City Cemetery from Howard and G.T. Brandon for \$30,000 and from Bob Melugin for \$40,000.

Births reported include a boy to Mr. and Mrs. Terry Pickens, Nov. 24; a girl to Theresa and Billy Harris, Dec. 18.

In high school basketball games, Calloway Lakers won 59-57 over Murray Tigers and Calloway Lady Lakers won 65-26 over Murray Lady Tigers. High team scorers were Corey Wells and Joanna Gibbs for the Lakers and Mark West and Amy Long for the Tigers.

30 years ago

Fire leveled a warehouse-apartment building at 312 North Fourth St., last night with damages estimating at well over \$120,000. The building, owned by Hafford James, provided 10 apartments on the top floor for students and storage space for inventory and

other items connected with T.V. Service Center in the Central Center, also owned by James.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rayburn will be married 50 years Dec.

In the Calloway County High School Invitational Basketball Tournament, Calloway Lakers won 59-46 and Calloway Lady Lakers won 54-29 over the Hickman County Falcons teams. High scorers for the Lakers were Jimmy Lamb and Mina Todd and for the Falcons were Dixon and Betts.

40 years ago General Carbon and Graphite, Inc. will locate in Murray, according to a telephone message to Ledger & Times from Joe Wallace, Louisville, president of the company. William Harvey and Richard Margeson will be the managers for the firm in Mur-

The patients at West View Nursing Home have been working since October making Christmas gifts for 53 boys and girls at the Paradise Friendly Home near Tri-

Lt. Robert Francis (Bob) Shaffer of Cumberland, Md., made a forced landing at 8 p.m. on Dec. 21 in his TV-2 jet trainer on the farm of Paul Blalock about three miles north of Hazel. He was not injured and the plane suffered little visible damage. He was returning to his base at Jacksonviille, Fla., when the incident occurred.

Mrs. Bill Edwards, Mrs. Vernon Roberts, Mrs. Brooks Lawrence and Mrs. Clifton Harrell presented a special program at a meeting of the Women's Society of Christian Service of Martin's Chapel United Methodist Church.

Parents who try to be friends with kids often lose control

DEAR ABBY: Here I go, sounding like an old fogy, but 'Feeling Lost and Guilty" (11/5), who said she and her loudmouthed, snotty son are "best friends," has brought her problem on herself. The No. I problem of parents today is

that they try

to be friends

with their

children

rather than

parents.

Back when I

was his age,

parents were

parents to

their chil-

Dear Abby

dren -- not friends. By Abigail There is a Van Buren difference!

She asked how to undo what she has done. She now knows there is a difference between being a parent and being a friend, something she should have realized 14 years

I see that all too often in parents today, including my own daughter, whose teenage daughters walk all over her because "it's easier and less stressful" to allow it than provide guidance. In cases like this, the cart is down the path and the horse is still in the barn. - DISAPPOINTED GRAND-FATHER, EASTON, PA.

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: You are correct in saying that some parents shirk their responsibility by refusing to be firm with their children as well as responsible role models. However, before painting all parents of children with social problems with the same broad brush, please read on:

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for advising the mother of 'Todd," the teen who doesn't know how to keep his mouth shut, to seek an evaluation. If the boy has a problem with empathy, it could be that he has Asperger's syndrome, an increasingly more common form of mild autism. This is a social disability, often more noticeable in the teenage years, when social expectations are more sophisticated. I should know -- I am a school psychologist and also the mother of a 13-year-old with Asperger's. -- MOM IN BERKELEY,

DEAR ABBY: It's time that mother, whose son hasn't learned that "discretion is the better part of valor," teach her son "active listening" skills. These include reading body language and nonverbal cues, withholding opinions until all facts are in, and learning to discern when someone actually wants to hear our opinion vs. just wanting to vent. (I have had some really bad employers who could have benefited from that last one.)

I learned active listening skills more than 30 years ago as a peer counselor in junior high school, and while I was able to adapt some of the skills immediately, others have taken literally decades to sink in. However, this is why we plant seeds. Some bloom right away, while others take time to germinate. -- HAPPY ACTIVE LISTENER

DEAR ABBY: My son has Asperger's, and one of the traits of this condition is the person is very literal in his or her speech and usually says whatever comes to mind. These young people do not understand the social taboo of being brutally honest. (I am not saying that her child has Asperger's syndrome.) We have to try to teach our kids to not say everything that comes to mind in public as well.

One method that I have found helpful is social role playing. That mother can make up situations and role-play how her son might respond so that the other person's feelings are not hurt. We have to practice with our kids. This is not a "common sense" that is learned just by mimicking what others do.

These children often do not understand the "little white lies" that we tell in polite society. On the other hand, if you want an honest answer as to whether you look fat, just ask an Aspie! - PROUD MOTHER OF AN ASPIE IN MONTANA

Did Mexican treatments cure woman's cancer?

al weeks ago, you printed a letter from a gentleman whose wife had terminal cancer and he was wondering what to do. You mentioned (in a very unfavorable manner) the possibility of seekning alterna-

comments.

all, you mention that the treatments unproven. I

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First of

Dr. Peter Gott personally have seen many, many successful treatments. You certainly have to admit that not all treatments here in the United States are successful, either. I do understand that they have not met our standards as far as testing is concerned.

You also mention they are expensive. Let me tell you my experience. My first nine treatments (spread over a period of three years) cost approximately the same as my last chemo treatment (of which there were a total of six). Now which seems expensive to you? Unfortunately, because these treatments are not allowed here, there are always travel, lodging and food expenses to add, which is what makes it expensive!

As far as being uncomfortable - this is the area where you are completely off base. I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 1996 and did the regular chemo routine. It made me so ill I nearly died and said I would never do that again. When it reoccurred in 1998, I decid-

ContractBridge

North dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Sever- ed (after lots of prayers) to go to Mexico. I have never felt bad in any way from my treat-ments there. Before I started there, I was told by my doctor here that I would feel fairly well for six to nine months, and then it would be downhill. In July it was seven years, so I feel that is a pretty good response, and I am very thankful for it.

Unfortunately, I think there is another reason this is not pursued, and this one causes me great grief. Why would our oncologists, cardiac surgeons, internists and especially the pharmaceutical companies be interested in safe, easy, cheap treatments that would threaten their incomes? This does not just apply to cancer. I have seen fantastic results in cardiovascular disease, Parkinson's disease, lupus and diabetes.

I'm sure by now you think I am a fruitcake, but I am a registered nurse, and I feel I can judge quite fairly what I see. I truly feel God led me to go down there, because, until I did, I felt anyone who even considered it had lost their mind.

DEAR READER: It's difficult for me to make a judgment in your case because you had some standard chemotherapy in the United States. This might have been curative. Or you may simply be one of the lucky patients whose cancer went into spontaneous remission. Without knowing the drugs you were given in Mexico, I cannot comment on their effectiveness:

It is my understanding that patients who rely on unproved 'cures" tend to die somewhat earlier than do patients who receive standard therapy. Therefore, in many respects you were fortunate, and I am glad that your outcome was positive.

TodayinHistory

By The Associated Press Today is Thursday, Dec. 21, the 355th day of 2006. There are 10 days left in the year. Winter arrives at 7:22 p.m. EST.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 21, 1620, Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower went ashore for the first time at present-day Plymouth, Mass.

On this date: In 1804, British statesman Benjamin Disraeli was born in Lon- eral.

In 1913, the first crossword puzzle was published, in the New York World.

In 1942, the Supreme Court ruled all states had to recognize divorces granted in Nevada.

In 1948, the state of Eire, or Ireland (formerly the Irish Free State), declared its independence. In 1971, the U.N. Security

Council chose Kurt Waldheim to succeed U Thant as Secretary Gen-In 1976, the Liberian-registered

tanker Argo Merchant broke apart near Nantucket Island almost a week after running aground, spilling 7.5 million gallons of oil into the North Atlantic.

In 1988, 270 people were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a Pan Am Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, sending wreckage crashing to the ground.

In 1995, the city of Bethlehem passed from Israeli to Palestinian control.

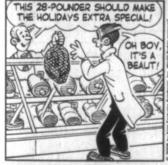
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♦53 ♥J983 *AQ *AQ1084 WEST

EAST ♦98742 ♥54 ♦KQ106 ♦ K J 8 7 3 ♦ K ♦ 109542 SOUTH ♦AJ ♥AKQ1062

41973 The bidding: West South Pass 4 NT Pass

Opening lead — king of spades.

Declarer is not expected to play every hand as though all 52 cards are exposed, but, despite this, he should only rarely fail to get the most out of

a hand. The nature of the game is such that sound reasoning is usually well-rewarded. If declarer realizes after a hand is over that he went down in a contract he could have made, he should review his plays objectively to see whether he could reasonably have found the winning line of play.

Take this case where South failed in a slam after winning the spade lead with the ace, drawing trumps and finessing the jack of clubs. East took the king and returned a spade to put a quick end to the proceedings.

It might seem unfair to condemn declarer for having lost a trick to East's singleton king, but, just the same, South should have made all the tricks!

As soon as dummy comes down, declarer can see that a successful finesse in either diamonds or clubs would permit him to discard his spade loser and make the slam.

Choosing one finesse over the other is not just a matter of luck, even though theoretically West has a 50-50 chance of having either king. The deciding factor is that opting for the diamond finesse is better

because it can be preceded by the play of the ace of clubs, which has a hance of catching the singleton king

in either opponent's hand.

This possibility should not be ignored because, mathematically, when four to the king of a suit are missing, the king will be singleton one time out of eight.

Of course, if the king does not fall on the ace, declarer has the diamond finesse in reserve, and in that way he instead of just one.

...give a gift *

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Tomorrow: Test your play C2006 King Features Syndicate Inc

Crosswords

ACROSS

- "We try harder
- folk 8 Rollover subj.
- Ms. Falco Payment option
- 14 Make an offer 15 Fortune 17 Inexpensive
- 19 More feasible 21 Thole filler
- 22 Woman's shoe
- 24 "Aye, aye"
- 26 Sizzle 31 Rev the engine
- 33 "I knew it!" 34 Consequently
- 35 Many millennia
- 40 Paulo 42 Distress signal 44 Theater cheer 46 Write on glass
- 3 Swamp gases 4 Needs an aspirin
 - 6 Dogma 7 Drive away

1 Lawn cover? 2 Citrus drink

48 - tai cocktail

Greenspan 51 Sushi morsel 53 Main idea

55 Tusked animal

61 Freud topic

65 Perched 66 Ballard and

Moss 67 007

DOWN

62 Ms. McEntire

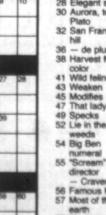
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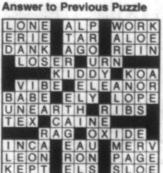
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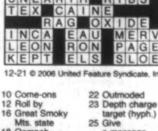
Roanoke loc.

18 Oompah-20 Big truck





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a massage

27 Vishnu's

color Wild feline 45 Modifies 47 That lady 49 Specks 52 Lie in the

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\$26.50 \$53.00 \$91.00 \$66.50 .\$116.00 \$71.50 \$136.00 Money Orde Visa Name St. Address City State Daytime Ph. Mail this coupon with payment to: Murray Ledger & Time P.O. Box 1040 Murray, KY 42071 Or call (270) 753-1916

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VISA

Due to the Christmas holiday some of our classified deadlines have changed:

Friday December 22nd is Thursday December 21st at 10:00AM

Saturday December 23rd is Thursday December 21st at 11:00AM

Tuesday December 26th is Friday December 22nd at 11:00AM

Wednesday December 27th is Friday December 22nd at 5:00PM

Smart Saver for December 27th is Thursday December 21st at 12:00

A paper will NOT be printed on Monday December 25th.

If you have any questions, please call Jill or Julie at 753-1916 **Murray Ledger & Times**

Notice

010 Legal Notice

CHILD care center is Sealed bid offer: The Calloway County Jail now accepting applicaoffers a 1992 Ford 15-passenger van for sale. tions for child care Sealed bids must be received at the Calloway County Jail before 3:00 p.m. on 12/22/06. Bids providers to guide children birth through 12 will be opened at 3:15 p.m. on 12/22/06 at the Jail. Minimum bid of \$1500, Van can be seen at years. Apply at 109 South

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Overview of Duties: Prepare monthly journal entries and financial statements. Reconcile bank statements and balance sheet accounts. Prepare sales and utility tax returns. Oversee payroll operations and

Educational Requirement

Must have obtained Bachelors Degree in

Department:

Finance

POSITION ADVERTISED IS FOR FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT.

City of Murray benefit package includes health insurance, life insurance, state retirement plan, wellness plan, sick, vacation and personal days.

Job applications and full job descriptions for the above listed position are available at the City Clerk's office located in City Hall at 104 N. 5th Street, Murray, Kentucky 42071. If you have questions concerning this position, please contact the Personnel Office at 270-762-0330 ext. 103. Applications can be obtained on-line at www.murrayky.gov and then mailed to 104 N. 5th Street, Murray, KY 42071.

Deadline for accepting applications - 5:00 p.m. Friday, January 5, 2007 Drug screening will be required of successful applicant. The City of Murray is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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Preferred Skills:

Bachelor's degree or 2-4 years

product sales/marketing Advanced computer skills,

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tion. If you are pleas-

career-minded, ambi-

with good work habits,

please send resume to

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Wages and benefits

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required. Please sub-

McKinney Construction

Company, 317 East

State Line Rd, South

Fulton, TN 38257

general contractor.

Construction exp.

mit resume to:

Murray, KY

negotiable.

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Mayfield, KY 42066 person who would like to work a few days a month for extra

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is looking for 2 success oriented individuals. Sales

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WILL assist with elderly in home or facility Companionship, light housecleaning, cooking, errands, etc. Reliable caring, exp'd. Call Nancy

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NAME OF CHILD

Date of Birth: _ Weight:

Parents: Name: Phone:

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LEARNING ABOUT FRICTION: Murray Middle School's fourth grade teacher Megan Jones taught the concept of friction by using everyday objects and letting her students experiment. Sabrina Jackson (left) and Isaac Hansen check to see which had the most friction: rolling a marble on a slick table or rolling a marble on a jacket on a table.

Horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Friday, Dec. 22, 2006:

This year more than usual, you have a lot going for you. Increase your security and add to your savings and investments. You know what you are doing. Trust your judgment, though getting feedback wouldn't hurt. You will be creating a safer space for you to launch a new life cycle your next birthday. Get rid of what isn't working and make room for new and better. If you are single, your instincts about potential suitors run high. Listen to them. You also might need to curb a possessive streak. If you are attached, you are heading down a new path together. Share more of your vulnerabilities. AQUARIUS might cost you!

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** Zero in on what you want. For many, this might mean surrounding yourself with those very special people in your life. You easily could be in the convivial frame of mind where you let go and enjoy. Touch base with someone at a distance. Tonight: Where the action is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) *** Take charge and don't back down. Others, especially an

older relative, might need to hear from you. Someone could feel as f no one is there for him or her You can change how this person feels. Make that your business. Tonight: A force to be dealt with. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) **** Be willing to reach out for someone at a distance. You

can turn a situation around before you know it. Taking an overview and being optimistic add a flurry of social activity and emotional warmth to your life. Tonight: Listen to holiday music. CANCER (June 21-July 22)

**** You might want to move past a hassle with a loved one or associate. Use timing when initiating a conversation. Your listening skills must come forward if you are to be successful. Funnel some of your high energy. Tonight: Work with a friend or loved one. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** Others are passionate about you, what they want and life in general. How nice! Romantic twinges occur for both single and attached Lions. Whether you act on them is your

call. Let happiness bubble forth.

by Jacqueline Bigar

Tonight: Say "yes." VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) *** Don't get upset about running around with so much to do. Know that you have everything under control, even if you don't think so. Someone will pitch in at the last minute, adding to the fun of this holiday. Tonight: Wind down at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** You have a jovial way and a bounce in your step. You might feel as if finally life is working. A relationship gains in importance, be it with a child or a new friend. Honor your feelings, and don't walk away from intensity. Tonight: Very playful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) *** As soon as you can head home, all the better. If possible, take a day off or work from home. You will accomplish more in your own environment. Others respond to your inquiries later in

the day. Tonight: Order in. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

**** Your newfound optimism flows through, no matter what you do or say. Others smile because you are so affable and friendly. Check out a new item to add zip to your communication.

Tonight: Just be available. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) *** Always concerned about your finances, you could be taken aback by what you learn. Be positive, and you'll discover that the end results are excellent. No one has the financial intuition that you do. Use it. Tonight: Finish up any last-

minute details or shopping. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) **** You are all smiles with the Moon beaming you into the limelight. You could feel overwhelmed and tired if you stop. Don't. You are on a roll. Your magnetism draws many. You might want to take some time to spice up your life. Tonight: What

would make you happy's PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** You have a sense of mystery enveloping you. A secret might put a smile on your face but have other people very curious as to what is going on. You don't have to share. Keeping mum is your best bet. Tonight: Take some private time while

BORN TODAY

Bee Gees singer Maurice Gibb (1949), Bee Gees singer Robin Gibb (1949), actor Ralph Fiennes (1962)

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LEDGER & TIMES

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From: The staff of the Murray Ledger & Times



Retailers try to curb, handle angry Christmas shoppers

By LAUREN VILLAGRAN AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - 'Tis the sea-

son to be ... angry?

The countdown to Christmas has dwindled to the single digits: As the mall crowds have worsened, so has the stress on shoppers faced with a creeping deadline to buy gifts - and they're increasingly taking that stress out on salespeople.

Now merchants from toy sellers to electronics chains have buckled down to deal with irate shoppers. Their strategies vary but the goal is generally the same: to keep customers happy (and from wrestling each other

in the aisles) and employees safe. "We've all done it: I know I've lost my temper, and everyone else has probably done it," said Ernest Speranza, chief marketing officer of KB Toys. "At this time of year, people start out with all the best intentions. They're busy buying toys for a young child. They're happy about doing that. Then they get caught up in the frenzy ... and a nice experience now starts to spiral out of control."

With shoppers procrastinating even more this year than last year, according to reports, retailers are bracing for an even bigger rush this weekend — and doing what they can to manage the mad multitudes. Stores have beefed up security and coached their employees in anger management. They're taking the hottest items off the shelves to avoid fights in the aisles. While retailers are reluctant to say how much they're spending to manage the mayhem, they do say the measures are worth it to keep their customers happy, employees sane and stores safe during the busiest time of the year.

Shoppers have become angrier, suggests a recent study by ComPsych Corp., a provider of employee assistance programs. This year, ComPsych has seen a marked increase in the number of acute-stress counseling sessions it provides to retailers related to customer abuse. The number rose 13 percent in 2006 following a 65

percent jump last year.

"During the holiday season, (retailers) bring on people who are less familiar with where products are, how stores operate," said Richard A. Chaifetz, chairman and chief executive of ComPsych. "Shoppers are agitated. Put those together and you create a combustible environment."

On the corner of 34th Street and 7th Avenue in New York, Melanie Marquez took a deep breath as she set down two handfuls of red and white Macy's shopping bags. She had just been shopping at the flagship store of Federated Department Stores

Marquez, 47, said she made her way to the front of the Macy's checkout line only to find that the register didn't recognize the discounts she expected on a set of towels. After leaving the line to search for the proper sales ticket, Marquez waited another hour to save about \$14 on a receipt that totaled \$450 - that, after putting up a fight.

"Poor Macy's," she said. "You

have to be mean to them." People are "pushy and rude," said 18-year-old Cheryl Warshauer, while shopping in New York. "I try not to be. But they're all so pushy, you

have to be pushy back." This season, fewer retail workers will bear the increased aggression. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of people employed in the retail sector slipped in November, compared to the same month last year. Meanwhile, workers employed by general merchandise stores has dropped to the lowest number since 2002.

To diffuse an incendiary situation before it sparks, KB Toys' Speranza said the chain has stopped putting the year's hottest toys on the shelves altogether. Fisher-Price's T.M.X. Elmo - one of this season's most foughtover items - didn't make it onto shelves until just this week, he said. Instead, KB Toys created a waiting list and called customers one by one as shipments arrived.



Shoppers pass Macy's in New York. As stressed-out shoppers enter the home stretch of the holiday shopping season, retailers are bracing for the rush, and doing what they can to manage the mad multitudes.

Meanwhile, Toys "R" Us Inc. said it puts hot products on display but tries to be sure supply meets demand, said Ron Boire, president of Toys "R" Us in the U.S. Still, there have been periodic shortages of T.M.X. Elmo, Nintendo's new Wii gaming console and Sony's Playstation3, he said.

To keep customers under control lest a stressed-out shopper become a violent shopper - Boire said the chain beefs up security during the holidays, including hiring plainclothes officers to police its aisles and checkout lines.

Electronics retailer Best Buy Co. preps its employees for the holiday rush with preseason rehearsals.

Customers who normally come to

browse or toy with Best Buy's interactive displays, "during the holidays, they come with a purpose," said Ryan Seymour, general manager of a Best Buy store in Alexandria, Va. "They're aggressive."

So a few days before Black Friday - the day after Thanksgiving that marks the start of the holiday shopping season — Best Buy stores do a "dry run" of the frenzy. Seasonal employees are made to wait in their respective departments when, at once, the other employees bully their way toward the department with a flood of questions. Employees are "armed with a strategy" for organization and

inventory, Seymour said. And the crowds won't be going away after Dec. 25. The nation's

retailers are set to expand hours next week to accommodate the post-Christmas shopper rush, which has been increasing in recent years with the popularity of gift cards. That means the stress on employees continues, and retailers are keeping holiday season measures intact.

At a street vendor's table in New York, Lourdes Maria Gonzalez haggled for a bottle of perfume. After settling for the \$10 price, she hurriedly stashed the canister in a stroller where her 3-month-old son slept and slung a large bag of wrapped presents over her shoulder.

"Everything is a rush," she said. 'I'm behind. After Christmas, I'll still be doing Christmas shopping.'