

7-5-2005

## The Murray Ledger and Times, July 5, 2005

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SPORTS: Cardinals Light Up Diamondbacks 10-3

# MURRAY LEDGER & TIMES

Tuesday, July 5, 2005

Vol. 126, No. 152

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JOHN WRIGHT & ERIC WALKER/Ledger & Times photos

The Freedom Fest fireworks display, at right, painted a colorful picture against the Sunday night sky for onlookers gathered at Reagan Field at Murray State University. The fireworks capped a full weekend of festivities in Murray that included a street fair, gospel singing, parade, which this patriotic girl was watching, above, as well as countless other events to honor America. More pictures are on page 8A.



## Pagentry, celebration mark Fourth throughout America

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) - Millions of people gazed skyward from waterfront spots and rooftops throughout New York City for a Fourth of July fireworks show billed as the nation's largest.

The 30-minute display, sponsored by Macy's, featured 35,000 shells launched from several barges Monday night. In honor of the city's pending bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games, the display included symbolic gold, silver and bronze waterfalls and red apples representing the Big Apple. New York will find out on Wednesday

whether it will host the Olympics. The show also featured a tribute to U.S. armed forces.

"Absolutely fantastic," was how tourist Karen Price, 39, of Best, Holland, described the event.

This year marked the 229th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and patriotic observances filled the day across the country.

In Philadelphia, singer Elton John smiled approvingly as a group of youngsters from the First Philadelphia Charter School for Literacy sang a rendition of his song, "Philadelphia

Freedom."

Later, John, joined by Patti LaBelle, Bryan Adams and singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright, performed before thousands crowding the Benjamin Franklin Parkway for the second time in three days. The concert was held in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the same place as Saturday's Live 8 concert.

The day held special meaning for 80 men, women and children from 36 countries who were sworn in Monday as citizens at Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home in Virginia.

"This is a great day for me to be an

American citizen," said Darya Salih Askari, originally from Iraq. "This is a great country."

Far from loved ones, troops serving in Iraq marked the holiday as best they could. At Al Asad Air Base, Marine Cpl. Traben Pleasant, 24, of Long Beach, Calif., quaffed a nonalcoholic beer and thought of home.

"This is my third July Fourth in Iraq," Pleasant said. "I miss my family and friends. At home, I'd be barbecuing on the beach with my girlfriend."

In Boston, state police said an estimated 500,000 revelers dashed to the

banks of the Charles River to get prime viewing spots for the annual Boston Pops concert and fireworks show.

"It's nerve-racking until you get your tarp down," said Sarah Broughton, 31, of Somerville, Mass., who nailed down a front-row spot by getting in line at 10:30 p.m. Sunday to wait for the gates to open Monday morning.

Molly Sheedy, 55, and her husband had driven to Boston from Albany, N.Y., undaunted by this summer's

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## Military wives honored at memorial service

By TOM BERRY  
Staff Writer

While noting the sacrifices of the county's war dead during patriotic services Monday at Murray Middle School, U.S. Army Spc. H. James Turley chose to honor the contributions of one of the most forgotten of

TOM BERRY/Ledger & Times photo  
**U.S. Army Spc. H. James Turley, a 101st Airborne veteran of Desert Storm, reads selections of poetry honoring the sacrifices of military wives during patriotic services Monday morning before the Murray School's War Dead monument at Murray Middle School. The event was sponsored by VFW Post 6291.**

American's warriors — the military wife.

Turley, who is with the 11th Combat Engineering Battalion stationed in Sikeston, Mo., but also served with the 101st Airborne Division during Desert Storm, was keynote speaker at the Fourth of July memorial event sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6291. The memorial attracted a crowd of about 50 residents including veterans and their families.

He read three selections of poetry by unknown authors honoring the sacrifices of wives left behind by soldiers fighting for American freedom before a large concrete monument inscribed with the names of the war dead in the front lawn of the school.

"A woman for all seasons, a woman for today, she rises to

meet the challenge and grows along the way; her life is not an easy one with many loads to bear, but she proudly serves her husband, and the uniform he wears," Turley read from "The Silent Patriot."

Murray Mayor Tom Rushing spoke briefly on the significance of the event.

"I'm blessed and honored to be part of this, this morning," Rushing said. "I'm just so proud of our local Veterans of Foreign Wars and am glad to be here to honor those from this area that have died for our freedom. It makes us proud to be Americans...and we want to keep them in our prayers and our thoughts at all times."

Following the placing of a red, white, and blue wreath at

■ See Page 2A



## Lawmakers sponsor amendment aimed at religious symbols

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) - Four Kentucky congressmen upset over a recent Supreme Court ruling on the public display of the Ten Commandments have signed on to a constitutional amendment that would allow religious symbols on public property.

"As a conservative Christian, I do feel it's gone too far," Rep. Ed Whitfield, a Republican from Kentucky's 1st District, said of the high court's ruling on two Ten Commandments displays in Kentucky.

In addition to Whitfield, the amendment has more than 100 co-sponsors, including Kentucky Republican Reps. Ron Lewis, Geoff Davis, and Hal Rogers.

The constitutional amendment, dubbed the "Religious Freedom Amendment," would include allowing religious displays in schools. But it must first receive a two-thirds majority vote in each chamber of Congress and be ratified by two-thirds of the states.

Last week, the Supreme Court ordered officials in McCreary and Pulaski counties to remove Ten Commandments displays because their purpose was primarily religious. The justices let stand a monument of the tablets at the Texas Capitol, saying they were part of a secular display.

Rep. Ben Chandler, a Democrat from Lexington, has not reviewed the proposal, said spokeswoman Jennifer Spalding. Rep. Anne Northup, a Louisville Republican, is not a co-sponsor.

"I voted against a similar amendment in 1998," Northup said

■ See Page 2A



Whitfield

## Veteran trip organizer seeks sponsors for books

By JOHN WRIGHT  
Staff Writer

When Ballard County's Sandy Hart was in the midst of raising the funds that financed a bus vacation to Washington, D.C. for Kentucky veterans last year, she also was thinking of another idea simultaneously.

She knew a book about the journey to

visit the National World War II Memorial she organized for the 500-plus people that made the journey was going to be written. Her biggest concern about that, though, was making sure area schools had the best chance of all to obtain copies.

Now, a year later, the book — "WWII DC...The Long Overdue Journey" — has

been in circulation for quite some time, but many campuses still have not received copies.

"We need those books to be sponsored," Hart said Tuesday, noting how schools in her home area of Ballard County, along with

■ See Page 2A

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**PoliceLog**

**Murray Police Department**

- Christa W. Al-Mestarihi, 62, of Murray, was served with a warrant Friday at Murray-Calloway County Hospital charging her with being a fugitive from justice in another state.
  - A juvenile was charged Friday with criminal possession of a forged instrument and shoplifting.
  - A burglary was reported at 11:37 p.m. Friday at 1608-2W College Farm Road.
  - A theft was reported at 3:11 p.m. Saturday at 1227 Dogwood Drive West.
  - An injury accident was reported at 4:20 p.m. Saturday at Circus Skate on U.S. 641 North. EMS and Murray Fire Department also responded.
  - An assault was reported at Central Park at 7:11 p.m. Saturday.
  - Nickie Brown, 24, of Mayfield, was arrested for first-degree burglary, second-degree assault and first-degree criminal mischief at 4:29 a.m. Sunday. Officers responded at 4:05 a.m. to an apartment at 1628 West Main St., where a female broke in and assaulted a resident. Mayfield Police Department located Brown and transported her to the county line into Murray's custody.
  - A burglary was reported at 2:48 p.m. Sunday at an apartment at 1611 Wiswell Road.
  - Criminal mischief was reported to vehicles at Burl's Wrecker Service at 4:23 p.m. Sunday.
  - Plants were stolen from 601 Ellis St. at 9:02 a.m. Monday.
  - Extra patrol was requested after someone came into the garage at 1300 Sycamore St. and stole gasoline.
- Information is obtained from reports, logs and citations from various agencies.

**Missing boy's body may have been found**

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (AP) - Seven weeks to the day after Shasta and Dylan Groene were reported missing, Shasta was seen cuddling in the arms of her father, while authorities said they had found human remains that might be her missing 9-year-old brother.

Kootenai County Sheriff Rocky Watson said Monday that "possible" human remains had been found at a site in western Montana, and would be sent to the FBI crime lab in Virginia for DNA analysis. That is expected to take three days.

Watson declined to answer questions, but the fact that he called a press conference at the place where reporters were following the Groene story indicated officials believe the remains were related.

"Unfortunately we believe Dylan to be deceased," Sheriff's Capt. Ben Wolfinger said after

Watson's announcement. But until the remains are identified, they could not be certain, he said.

Dylan and Shasta, 8, had been missing since May 16, when the bound and bludgeoned bodies of their mother, older brother and mother's boyfriend were found at their rural home near here. Shasta was spotted by employees and customers early Saturday morning eating breakfast with a man at a Denny's restaurant in Coeur d'Alene.

Officers arrested the man, Joseph Edward Duncan III, 42, on suspicion of kidnapping and other charges. Duncan, from Fargo, N.D., is a violent sexual predator who has spent much of his adult life in prison.

Authorities planned to formally charge Duncan with kidnapping and being a fugitive from justice, and have said more charges were possible. A judge ruled Monday that there was probable cause to keep Duncan in jail until an initial court appearance today.

The sheriff's office released a photograph showing a smiling Shasta hugging her father Steve



Duncan



AP Photo

In this photo released by the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department, Steve Groene, left, is shown with his daughter 8-year-old Shasta Groene on Monday at the Kootenai Medical Center in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. More than six weeks after she disappeared from a home where family members were bludgeoned to death, Shasta Groene was found safe Saturday sharing a meal with a registered sex offender at a Denny's restaurant in her hometown. Her brother Dylan, remains missing and is feared dead, Kootenai County Sheriff's Capt. Ben Wolfinger said.

at Kootenai Medical Center. Another photo showed her holding a doll. The photos do not show any apparent injuries from her nearly six weeks of captivity.

"She's a much happier little

girl right now," Wolfinger said, adding she was listed in good condition.

Officers have interviewed the girl a couple of times, but details of what happened to the children are agonizingly slow in coming.



AP Photo

Fireworks explode near the Brooklyn Bridge as part of a July Fourth celebration in New York, Monday.

**Fourth ...**

**From Front**

high gasoline prices and expensive hotels. "There's no better place to be," Sheedy said as she took in the city's historic sites dressed in flag-print apparel. While the Fourth of July

means picnics and family cook-outs for many people, the tradition at New York's oceanside Coney Island is competitive gluttony.

For the fifth straight year, 144-pound Takeru Kobayashi won the Nathan's Famous hot dog-eating contest. Kobayashi,

27, of Nagano, Japan, gobbled 49 dogs in 12 minutes.

The runner-up was 105-pound Sonya Thomas of Alexandria, Va., who set an American record by downing 37 hot dogs in the same 12 minutes. "My stomach doesn't hurt but my jaw is tired," she said.

**Service ...**

**From Front**

the Murray School's War Dead monument by VFW members Larry Stone and Bob McAllister,

**Clarification**

The man charged with first-degree assault for shooting his Hazel neighbor is out of jail a \$50,000 surety bond. Wesley G. Sheridan, 23, is due back in Calloway District Court at 10 a.m. July 12 for a preliminary hearing.

The bond was posted Friday afternoon after a story was written for Saturday's Ledger & Times.

Sheridan is accused of shooting Joseph Thorn, 30, after a dispute erupted Thursday night between the neighbors and two other men. Sheridan had parked his vehicle — which was suspected in a Tennessee hit-and-run collision — on Thorn's property and became angry the car was towed, according to affidavits from Thorn's brother and friend who also were involved in the argument.

and the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner," and "God Bless America," seven members of the Aging Veterans of America rifle team, comprised of military veterans now working for the U.S. Postal Service, rendered a 21-gun salute with World War II vintage weapons. A flag was raised to half mast.

The names of all the county's war dead, dating back to World War I, were read as a brass bell was rung one time for each of them.

The ceremony ended with the playing of taps. Daythel Turley, commander of the post and organizer of the event, said he hopes the services are recognized for honoring those that have given the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom by their neighbors.

"We do this for the deceased veterans that lived in this area every year. It's not much, but we all get together to recognize them," Turley said.

**Hart ...**

**From Front**

neighboring McCracken County, have taken advantage of the opportunity, thanks largely to community businesses footing the bill for the \$25 books. "To me, though, it's just not fair for some to have to pay for them and others to get them for free."

So, she is asking businesses in the various communities of the Jackson Purchase, Pennyroyal and Western Coal Field regions, the three from where the most amount of veterans for last year's D.C. venture hailed, to take the lead in this matter for not only schools, but libraries and historical societies as well.

"At one of these schools, three teachers all coordinate their efforts and use World War II as study material at the same time. So, that school has had three books given to them, so

that those teachers can all check them out at the same time. That's the kind of thing we're looking for," Hart said, noting that such an opportunity for the schools may dwindle by the end of the year.

She has been asked to supply several copies of the book for the annual book fair at West Kentucky Technical and Community College in Paducah this November, an event known for heavy attendance.

"We've heard other places tell us, 'Why aren't you selling this for \$50 or \$60? You could get that easily for these,'" she said. "That's because I wanted everybody to be able to afford it."

Hart can be reached by calling 270-335-3128 or, by mail, at 4177 Bethlehem Church Rd. Wickliffe, Ky. 42087. Checks should be made to WWII DC.

**Lawmakers ...**

**From Front**

in a statement. "Since then, efforts to strip all references to God out of our public life have become more extreme.

Constitutional amendments should be a last resort. My hope is that we are not nearing a time when one will become necessary."

Opponents of the amendment say religious freedom is not in jeopardy in the United States.

"...Anyone is absolutely free to express their religion or non-religion in public places," said David Howe of Parkers Lake, a plaintiff in the McCreary County case.


Experts said the chances of the amendment passing are small.

"The likelihood of getting any constitutional amendment (passed) is virtually nil," said Marci Hamilton, professor of law at Yeshiva University's Cardozo School of Law in New York.

When the House took up a similar proposal in 1998, it won majority support, but not two-thirds.

Whitfield said the amendment reflects what most people in his western Kentucky district are concerned about.


"There isn't anything I receive more mail about, more e-mail about, more phone calls about, than about the Pledge of Allegiance, the Ten Commandments, voluntary school prayer and prayer in public places," he said.



## West Kentucky Rural Electric

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The regular Annual Meeting of Members of West Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation will be held Saturday, July 9, 2 p.m. at Graves County Middle School at Mayfield, Kentucky. Registration, snack lunch and activities will begin at 12 noon. Members please check your July issue of *Kentucky Living* magazine for you annual meeting notice.



In Mayfield, exit from the Purchase Parkway at Exit 24 (Hwy 121) go approximately one block north, turn right at the light at the entrance of Graves County High School. Go past the high school to the middle school.

**WEATHER**

Tonight will be partly cloudy.

**HIGH: 89** Wednesday will be partly cloudy with highs in the upper 80s.

**LOW: 66** Wednesday night will be partly cloudy with lows in the mid 60s.



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## Responding to House Fire



JOHN WRIGHT/Ledger & Times photo

A Sunday morning fire left a house on South Ninth Street badly damaged. The Murray Fire Department received the call at around 9 a.m. to respond to 618 S. Ninth and arrived to find smoke pouring from the structure. MFD utilized five of its units and off-duty manpower in bringing the fire under control within around half an hour of receiving the call. No cause was known and an investigation is continuing.

## Tropical storm warning issued for Louisiana and Mississippi coasts

MIAMI (AP) - A tropical depression in the Gulf of Mexico developed early today into the third named storm of the season.

Tropical Storm Cindy could strengthen before reaching Louisiana Tuesday night or Wednesday morning, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

"We expect it to make landfall along the Louisiana coast Tuesday night... but we are not expecting it to make hurricane," said meteorologist Trisha Wallace.

A tropical storm warning was issued for 220 miles of the northern Gulf Coast from

Intracoastal City, La., to Pascagoula, Miss., including New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain.

A watch, meaning tropical storm conditions are possible within 36 hours, was issued for the entire Alabama coast and areas east to Destin, Fla. A watch for areas west of Intracoastal City, La., was discontinued.

At 5 a.m. EDT, Cindy was about 255 miles south-southwest of the mouth of the Mississippi River and moving north-northwest at 14 mph. It had maximum sustained winds of 40 mph, with wind and rain extending up to 85 miles to the

north and east from its center.

Meanwhile, a second tropical depression in the southeast Caribbean was gaining strength and becoming better organized.

## Kentucky boy burned after falling into thermal pool

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP) - A 9-year-old Kentucky boy fell into a hot spring pool in Yellowstone National Park Sunday morning, suffering second-degree burns over 40 percent of his body.

Park officials said Matthew Luke Hoang of Lawrenceburg, Ky., was being treated at the

burn center in Salt Lake City. He was stabilized at Lake Clinic in the park and then flown to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls, before being flown to Salt Lake.

Officials said the boy and his family had stopped at a small thermal area at about 9 a.m. The boy was playing with his dog

and somehow fell into the pool, suffering second- and possibly some third-degree burns. His father immediately pulled him out of the hot water and called 911.

Park officials did not immediately know the temperature of the hot spring.

## Bush heads to Europe, G-8 conference

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush begins his fourth trip to Europe this year in Denmark, dining with royalty and saying thanks to a wartime ally. He ends his visit in Scotland, where rich nations are being asked to do more to ease poverty in Africa.

Bush and the other leaders were holding three days of talks at the Group of Eight summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, where British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who set the agenda as this year's host, wants to achieve breakthroughs not only in African aid but also on climate change.

Bush and his wife, Laura, and daughter Jenna walked across the South Lawn on Tuesday morning to a helicopter waiting to whisk them to Air Force One.

The first lady and Jenna are traveling to Africa after the Scotland summit to join the Bush's other daughter Barbara for about a

week. Barbara has been involved in an AIDS project.

The summit follows this past Saturday's Live 8 concerts that featured hundreds of top musicians performing at free rock concerts in 10 cities around the world to raise awareness about Africa's plight and bring pressure on G-8 leaders to act.

The leaders are expected to agree on billions of dollars in new support for Africa, the world's poorest continent.

Beyond Africa, Blair has made climate change a central issue of Britain's G-8 presidency, describing it as "probably the most serious threat we face."

He wants an agreement among G-8 leaders on the scientific threat posed by global warming and the urgent need for action.

The United States is the only G-8 country that has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol on climate change. Bush declared last week

on Danish television that meeting the Kyoto emission reduction targets would have "wrecked" the U.S. economy.

Environmentalists would like to see a strong statement on the issue coming out of the G-8 meeting, even without Bush's concurrence.

French President Jacques Chirac on Sunday called for a statement to include specific mention of Kyoto, which took effect in February and obliges participating industrialized nations to reduce their combined greenhouse gas emissions.

Bush, in an interview with Britain's ITV television Monday, renewed his insistence that Washington would not sign Kyoto or any similar deals limiting gas emissions. Still, he described climate change as "a significant, long-term issue that we've got to deal with" and acknowledged that human activity is "to some extent" to blame.

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NOAA/AP Photo  
The NOAA satellite picture taken at 5 a.m. EDT shows thunderstorms pushing across the central Plains. Showers and thunderstorms are moving across the Midwest and Ohio Valley. Tropical Depression 3 is churning across the Gulf of Mexico.

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## Political Science 101

FRANKFORT — Of the legion of GOP heavyweights newly-elected Gov. Ernie Fletcher brought to Frankfort in early 2004 to work on the transition and advise the first Republican administration in three decades, it's now clear there was one gaping oversight: a lawyer with a deep familiarity with state personnel laws.



**Agree Or Not**  
By Todd Duvall  
Syndicated Columnist

How else do you explain the bumbling way the Fletcher administration has fallen into the political quagmire that is daily unfolding from the investigation by Attorney General Greg Stumbo and a special grand jury here into charges of political misuse of the state Merit System?

There are a handful of attorneys in the capital city who can recite the Merit System statutes in their sleep. They have maintained lucrative law practices over the years by representing state employees wrongfully fired, transferred or otherwise abused illegally - and that was by a succession of Democratic governors.

A few months of their hourly billing early on would have been a wise expense, since the legal bills for attorneys representing state agencies in the grand jury investigation are mounting into the hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars.

And what would those attorneys have told the fledgling administration? Probably something along these lines:

There are two types of state employees, Merit and non-Merit. Merit System employees give up certain rights to be politically active in exchange for being protected from political abuse. Non-Merit System employees, largely management level and above, serve at the pleasure of the governor or their top bosses who are appointed by the governor.

Although non-Merit employees can be fired for wearing the wrong color tie to the office or for being a Democrat, it usually is wise to have a solid reason for letting them go.

Do not keep a "hit list" of Merit and non-Merit employees to be fired, as was discovered in the Fletcher Transportation Cabinet.

It's a public relations fiasco that also looks very bad behind a grand jury door and in open court.

There is nothing wrong with wanting to fill Merit System jobs with Republicans - as long as they are qualified for those jobs and agree to stop being politically active in exchange.

If Republicans cannot qualify for those Merit System jobs, either through experience or scores on tests, do not change the rules to put them on the payroll anyway. That directly undermines the concept that state jobs are earned on merit, not party affiliation. It alienates the entire workforce as a result, something no administration wants to contemplate.

And when you do change the rules, do not do it without reading the statutory fine print. If the statute says to report the rules changes to the State Personnel Board, which decides challenges to job actions, report and don't make lame excuses for not reporting in a timely fashion. If the statute says military veterans are to be given an advantage in securing Merit System jobs, don't say they will continue getting an advantage when the rules changes don't bear that out.

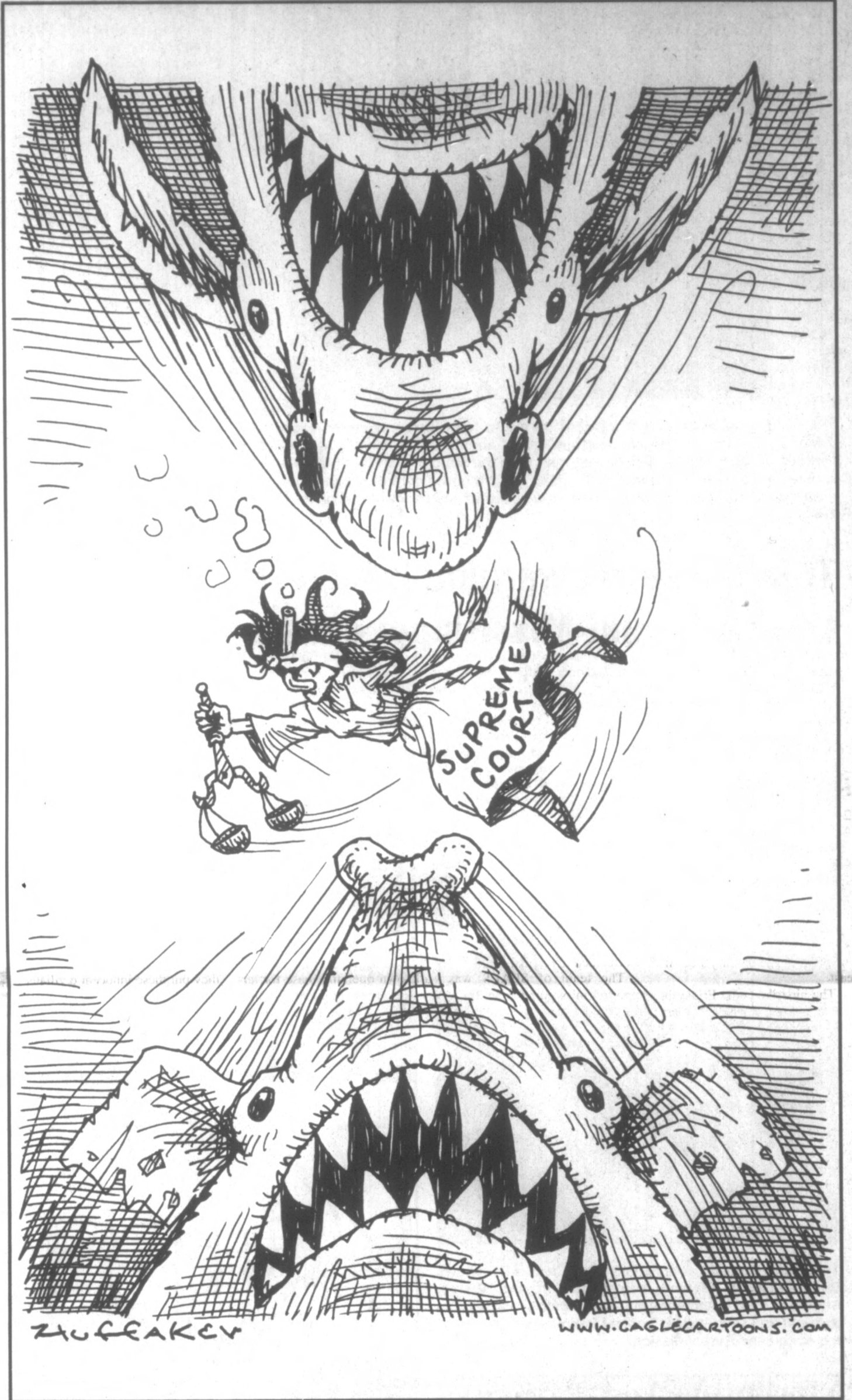
In other words, do not do something to the Merit System to get some Republicans on the payroll that will succeed only in making thousands of veterans mad at you. That is especially true when thousands of Kentucky soldiers - regular, reserve and National Guard - are moving in and out of Iraq and Afghanistan and too often coming home in caskets.

But that's not personnel law; it's Political Science 101 first semester.

So, too, is the basic tenet that you do not give the treasurer of the Republican Party a free office and state-paid secretary in the Governor's Office. You do not let that treasurer's relative win a lucrative state contract without being the lowest and best bidder. And you do not let that party treasurer approve state grants of federal funds. Not under any circumstances.

Unless, of course, you want to be buried under subpoenas, a grand jury at work, and your political opponents laughing all the way to the next election.

Todd Duvall is editorial page editor for The State Journal in Frankfort.



## Remembering Dr. Clark

Dr. Thomas Clark was 89 when he addressed the opening session of Leadership Kentucky in 1991. The state historian's talk was an annual highlight for incoming classes, a way of providing participants with an overview of the commonwealth's history and heritage.



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

Dr. Clark was the after-dinner speaker that May night, not an enviable position in a day crammed with activity, from early morning through the evening meal. All fifty members of the class of '91 (myself included) were exhilarated to have been chosen for the honor, but it was like the first day of camp. We were wilted, ready to skip the metaphorical campfire.

Nevertheless, because we were supposed to be leaders, and leaders are gracious and respectful to noted citizens like Thomas Clark, we squared our shoulders and headed to the chairs set up around the podium.

Most of us knew a scant two facts about Dr. Clark: He'd recently been named the historian laureate by the legislature, and he was old.

When we entered the room, it was as if our worst fears were confirmed. Dr. Clark sat next to the fireplace, head tilted back against the wall, eyes closed. He appeared to be napping.

We applauded politely when he was

introduced, but did not expect much.

He rose slowly, allowing time for his crooks and pains to loosen up. Once on his feet, he was surprisingly tall, even though he kind of leaned to one side, like he was on the deck of a listing ship.

But when he surveyed our group with penetrating blue eyes, we all sat up straighter in our chairs.

Any doubts about Dr. Clark's mental acuity were dispelled as soon as he began to talk. In a strong, confident voice, he reviewed Kentucky history. Citing major milestones from 1792 to 1991, he never hesitated as he reeled off dates and named names. He pointed out damaging patterns of legislative inaction and exploitation by outsiders who plundered natural resources and then took the profits out of state, leaving poverty in their wake.

He lauded education reform but warned that it was an ongoing process, requiring full funding and relentless commitment. He mentioned the state economy and joked about Kentucky's sinful trinity, of bourbon, coal and tobacco.

Describing preparations for the celebration of state's bi-centennial, he expressed hopes that a couple of amendments to the constitution - including one that would allow the governor to succeed himself - would be passed within his lifetime. Several years later, that wish came true.

Though a native of Mississippi, Thomas Clark's passion for Kentucky's history set standards that few states have been able to reach. In 1935, he laid the foundation for the state archives by encouraging then-governor Happy Chandler to rescue irreplace-

able documents slated for the shredder. A teacher first and foremost, he devoted much of his career to organizing and preserving records and to writing more than 30 books, including *The History of Kentucky*.

Around the state and across the nation, Dr. Thomas Clark's death was noted with profound respect for the man and sadness for his passing. Kentucky has lost an honorable scholar and humanitarian who did not hesitate to lecture politicians for failing to step up to the plate on a range of issues, most recently the state budget fiasco.

Terry Birdwhistell, University of Kentucky's dean of libraries, declared about Dr. Clark, "He was always talking to governors about what they ought to do. He had sort of a bully pulpit because of his knowledge and experience, and he was not hesitant to use it to try and move the state forward."

Thomas Clark would have been 102 on July 14. On July 9, 2005, the State Historical Society is officially renaming the history museum and research center in Frankfort the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History. The day of celebration will be called, "Hats Off to Kentucky History," and an array of activities for all ages is planned.

For more information about Dr. Thomas Clark and the July 9 festivities in Frankfort, log onto the Kentucky Historical Society site at <http://history.ky.gov>.

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

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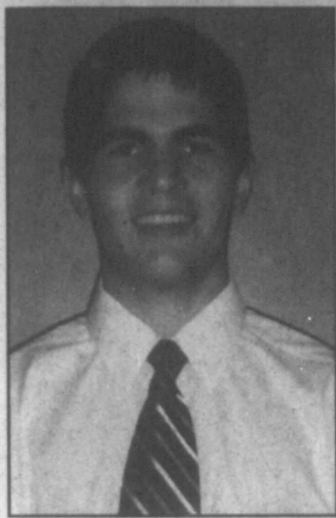




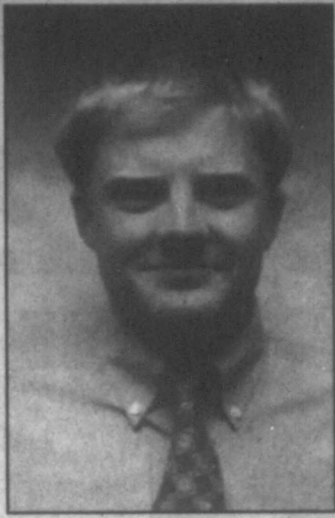
# FARM

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Jameson Wade



Josh Sykes



David Crouch

## Jackson Purchase ACA announces local scholarship recipients

In an effort to recognize the importance of a college education and to provide opportunities for the children of its borrowers, Jackson Purchase ACA continues their scholarship program established in 1998. This program annually awards four \$1,000 scholarships to children of members enrolled in an accredited university and majoring in agriculture. This year the scholarship committee chose to award four \$1,000 scholarships and four \$250 honorary scholarships. Jameson Wade is a recipient of a Jackson Purchase ACA scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Josh Sykes and David Crouch are the recipients of the Murray State University-Jackson Purchase ACA scholarship in the amount of \$250 each. Wade, a native of Calloway

County, is a senior agronomy major at Murray State University. He is currently president of the Agronomy Club, and is also an active member of the Agriculture Leadership Council as well as the Murray State Soil Judging Team. Wade has been on the Dean's List at Murray State and has had experience as an intern and assistant with Pioneer Hi. Bred International. He is currently working at Wade Farms. He is the son of Bruce and Jamie Wade. Sykes, also a native of Calloway County, is a senior agriculture economics major at Murray State University. He operates and manages his own small production agriculture operation on his father's farm, and also had experience working for the Calloway County

Farm Service Agency. Sykes is an active member at New Concord Church of Christ where he has a leadership role during worship service. He is the son of Shea and Brenda Sykes. Crouch, another native of Calloway County, is a graduate of Calloway County High School where he was a four-year honor roll student. He will be attending Murray State University as a freshman in the fall. His major is agronomy and minor is agriculture. He was the president of FFA and the Senior Parliamentary Procedure Team. He was also a member of the Dark Fired Tobacco Judging Team, Agriculture Team, Sales Team and the Envirothon Team. He is the son of Ricky and Tammy Crouch.

## Farmers banking on new role for co-op

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Like thousands of tobacco farmers, Chandler Worley has lost his safety net. Worley, who has farmed his whole life in southeastern North Carolina, can no longer rely on a guaranteed price for his crop after the government ended seven decades of price supports this fall. Now he's among some 3,300 flue-cured tobacco growers — about a third of all such growers from Virginia to Florida — who plan to stay with the cooperative that once helped maintain stable prices under the government program but is now going private. The Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corp. is reinventing itself as a leaf-dealer, marketer and cigarette maker. "I hope it works out for everyone," Worley said. Worley and other growers are willing to give the co-op a chance to prove itself outside the government program, despite concerns by other growers about how the co-op has handled millions of dollars in farmers' assets built up over the years. The revamped cooperative has exclusive deals with about half its members who cannot or do not contract to sell their crop to major cigarette-makers or leaf dealers directly. Cooperative officials say they will offer members a chance to earn profits from its dealings while offering competitive prices for their crop — about \$1.40 a pound, said Lamar DeLoach, a Metter, Ga., grower and member of the co-op's board of directors. Experts say they believe keeping the cooperative alive may help growers compete in a much more independent market place and open doors for farmers who can't get a contract directly with cigarette makers. "I think there's clearly a potential and a possible place in the market for them," said Blake Brown, an agriculture and economics professor at North Carolina State University. The biggest concern is that only a portion of a farmer's crop will get a guaranteed price from the co-op, with the balance sold at auction. Under the old system, the cooperative founded in 1942 removed billions of pounds of farmers' tobacco from the market when it did not get the government support price at auction. They later sold the crop to international leaf dealers or cig-

arette-makers. The \$10.1 billion buyout of the price support system will pay farmers and quota holders for their stake in the old system and has removed government control of how much tobacco they can grow. With no limit on the amount of tobacco or a promised price,

some farmers have sued to dissolve the co-op, saying it's no longer needed. Another lawsuit seeking class-action status claims the co-op owes dividends to members from more than \$240 million in stockholder equity accumulated over the years.

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## High-tech marketing makes old-fashioned farming profitable

SMITHS GROVE, Ky. (AP) — The couple that owns Au Naturel Farm near Smiths Grove uses high-tech marketing to sell their grass-fed beef, pasture-raised chickens and year-round crops. In addition to sending a weekly e-mail of produce available from their farm to regular customers, Paul and Alison Wiediger take e-mail orders so if a family likes mesclun, but not lettuce, they can order that. "From 7 to 12 they can pick up their order at the farmers' market," Paul Wiediger said. "They know we'll have what they wanted waiting for them." It is just one way the couple makes a living from their farm. In the winter, they offer home delivery of produce. That personal touch is an outgrowth of the connection they have with

their customers. "One of the important things to come from this way of farming is how we connect with our customers," Alison Wiediger said. "They know us by name and we know them." When their beef and chickens are ready for a trip to the slaughterhouse, that also goes out via e-mail to their customers. "Many times we sell out in 48 hours," Paul Wiediger said. In order to offer produce year-round, the couple uses plastic tunnels that look like greenhouses. The roof consists of two layers of clear plastic and there is a small fan that pumps air between them, providing an insulation layer. Most vegetable farms can produce for 20 to 26 weeks, Alison Wiediger said. She said they started working with the

tunnels to raise early tomatoes, but heard a farmer in Maine was raising some winter crops in the tunnels and figured it could be done in Kentucky too. "I think you're born to farm," Alison Wiediger said. "The only good reason to farm is you have to." Although the couple said they use organic methods, they have opted out of the "organic" name because of the cost involved in the program. Alison Wiediger and her husband have more of a pragmatic than spiritual approach to sustainable agriculture. "We're about making a living," Alison Wiediger said. "People talk about sustainable agriculture like it's some kind of lofty ideal. If it isn't profitable, it isn't sustainable."

## New York measure would raise fines for riding ATVs on posted farmland

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — A measure awaiting Gov. George Pataki's signature would raise the penalties for riding all-terrain vehicles on farmland posted against trespassing. The amendment to state vehicle and traffic law sets graduated fines up to \$550 for the third violation within 18 months and up to 90 days in jail. It was backed by the New York Farm Bureau and passed the Senate 60-1 and the Assembly 134-0 last month. In his sponsor's memo, Sen. William Larkin Jr. said unauthorized ATV use is "very prevalent" on New York agricultural lands, damaging orchards, vineyards, croplands and pasture, eroding soil and leaving access roads rutted. Farmers also are concerned about liability for ATV accidents on their land, and the penalties are meant to discourage unauthorized riding, said Stephen Cascales, counsel to Larkin. "It's not a Draconian penalty. It's something for a kid or young adult who ... 500 bucks will kind of curtail their desire to do this. ... It's for their protection, too." The bill hasn't reached the governor's office yet, Pataki spokeswoman Jennifer Meicht said

Friday. "We'll certainly take a look at it once it's sent to us for review." It would take effect Nov. 1. Under the amendment, the fine for a first offense would be up to \$250 and 15 days in jail, rising to a possible \$400 fine and 45 days in jail for a second offense within 18 months, and up to 90 days and \$550 for subsequent infractions in that period. Traffic violations are often pleaded down to lesser offenses in court, Cascales said. The new measure sets up a framework where repeat offenders pleading down will at least face a fine, he said. State Sen. Thomas Duane, a Manhattan Democrat, voted against the bill. He said the jail penalties for second and third offenses are too harsh. "I think that a rider could make mistakes. In open spaces it's difficult to tell who owns what property," he said. John McGraw, president of the Tug Hill Wheelers, an ATV club in Lewis County, said he doesn't have a problem with the measure. "The farmer's got to be able to raise his crops. Somebody riding up and down, tearing up his crops, he's not going to be able to."

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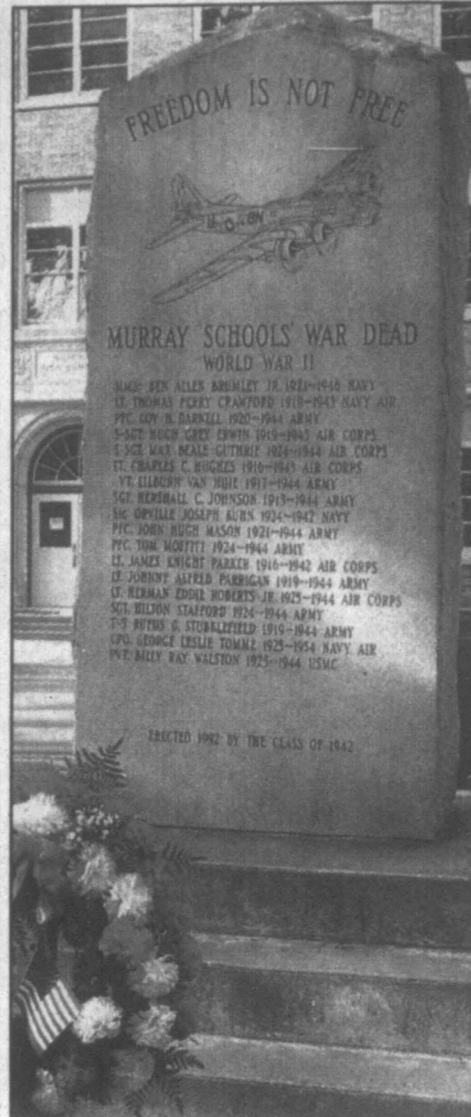
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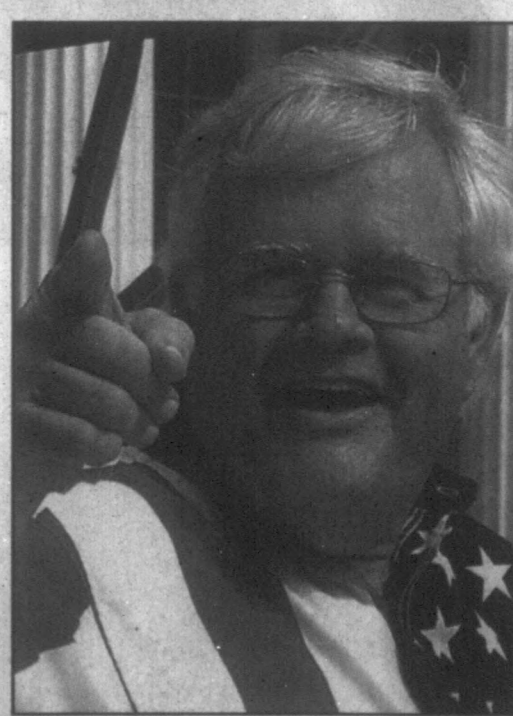
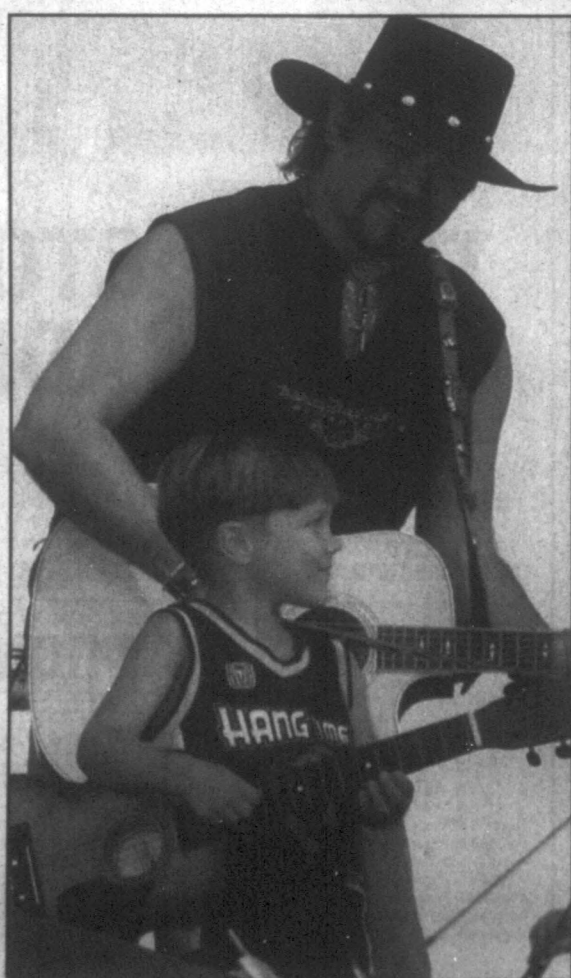
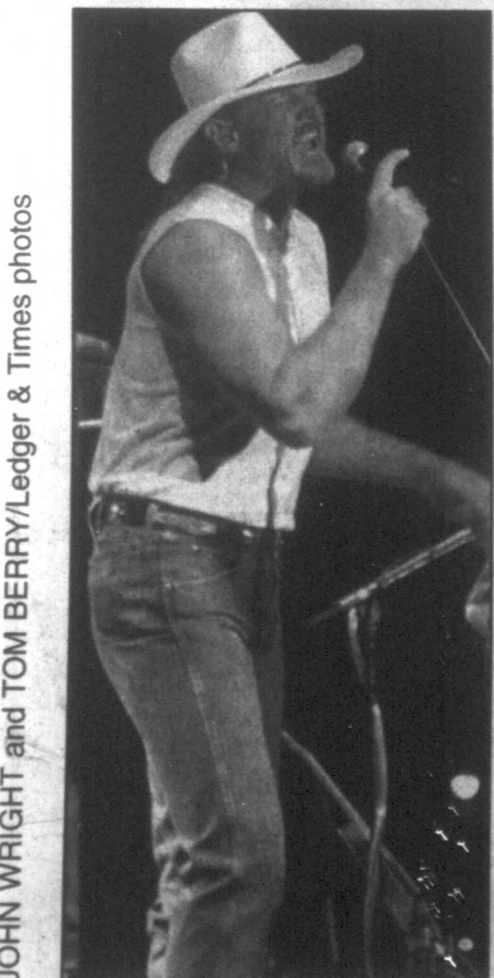
# FREEDOM FEST 2005



JOHN WRIGHT/PageDesign



From head to toe, Murray's Lilli Ross, pictured below, was showing her patriotic pride during Saturday's Pella's Family Reunion Parade down Main Street. Clockwise: this customer nearly got a flag's pole view of Chestnut Park while trying the Trampoline Thing during Friday evening's Family Day in the Park festivities; always a popular feature, the two Jima float, as it is commonly called, was present from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5408 of Bardwell; the color guard from the 101st Airborne Division based out of Ft. Campbell makes his way into the court square with the bell tower of First Christian Church set in the background; Uncle Sam made an appropriate sign as he held an American flag aboard the Kroger float during Saturday's parade and a stark reminder of the price so many have paid for their country was given to those attending Monday's memorial service that is held every July 4 on the front lawn of Murray Middle School and conducted by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6291.

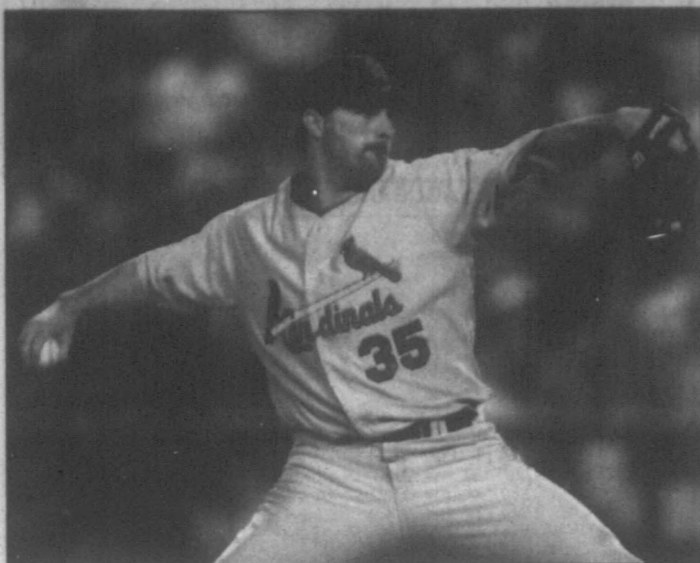


JOHN WRIGHT and TOM BERRY/Ledger & Times photos

From left: Saturday's Froggy 103 Country Music Concert featured country heart throb Trace Adkins, who is shown while performing his hit "I'm Trying," while his friend and rising star Buddy Jewell was joined by his youngest child, Joshua, for a version of "Times Like These"; John Dale, pulpit pastor at Glendale Road Church of Christ had his stars and stripes on display for his stint as parade grand marshal and Jay Sanders, 2, got a bite of scrambled eggs from his grandmother, Denise Boaz, while his mother Allison held onto him at the O.B. Boone Memorial Country Ham Breakfast at First United Methodist Church Saturday morning.

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AP Photo  
St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Matt Morris winds up to deliver a pitch against Arizona Diamondbacks batter Craig Counsell in the first inning Monday at Bank One Ballpark in Phoenix.

ST. LOUIS 10, ARIZONA 3

## Matty mows down D-backs

PHOENIX (AP) — Matt Morris is pitching like an All-Star, and it doesn't bother him that he didn't get selected to validate his performance.

"I don't think about the All-Star game and I should be on it, or I shouldn't," Morris said Monday after earning his 10th win. "That's not my concern. I'm beyond that. We've got a bunch of representatives from this team, and they all deserve it."

Scott Rolen hit a two-run double, helping Morris and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 10-3.

John Mabry and pinch-hitters Abraham Nunez and So Taguchi also drove in two runs. Albert Pujols had an RBI and extended his hitting streak to 16 games for the

Cardinals, who will send six players to the All-Star game, more than any team in the majors.

Rolen, David Eckstein and Jim Edmonds will start, and Pujols, 12-game winner Chris Carpenter and closer Jason Isringhausen were picked to round out the National League squad under manager Tony La Russa. Despite a stellar season, Morris (10-1) didn't make it.

"It's not because he wasn't capable," La Russa said. "It's more because six Cardinals is a lot of representation already."

A day after he was left off the NL roster, Morris allowed one run and six hits in seven innings as St. Louis won for the seventh time in 10 games following a three-game losing streak.

"He pitched a little differently — he threw a lot of breaking balls today," Arizona manager Bob Melvin said. "But he was getting ahead. You get ahead, you open yourself up, with the repertoire of pitches that he has, to do some things. He was throwing the ball where he wanted to, and they're very aware of strengths and weaknesses."

"They go right after your weaknesses."

Troy Glaus had an RBI single off Morris and a two-run homer — the 200th of his career — in the eighth against St. Louis reliever Brad Thompson.

The Cardinals scored five runs — four earned — against Brandon Webb (8-5).

■ See **CARDINALS** Page 2B



AP Photo  
Six-time Tour de France winner and leader of the Discovery Channel cycling team, Lance Armstrong, rides to the start line prior to the third stage of the Tour de France cycling race, Monday between La Chataigneraie and Tours, western France.

TOUR DE FRANCE

## Armstrong eyeing yellow jersey

TOURS, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong wants to wear the yellow jersey again as soon as possible.

The six-time Tour de France winner's wait might not be long.

Armstrong is just 2 seconds behind leader David Zabriskie of the United States and will be looking to gain more ground on his rivals during Tuesday's team time trial — and perhaps move in front again.

"We all know it's 2 seconds to take the yellow jersey," Armstrong said. "I'll be pedaling hard (Tuesday)."

Armstrong was content to ride safely in the main pack again Monday, finishing in 87th place in the third stage while Belgium's Tom Boonen sprinted to victory for the second straight day.

For the past two years, Armstrong's team won the team time trial for the U.S. Postal Service squad. Now he wants to win for new sponsor Discovery Channel in the nine-man discipline — a 41.9-mile ride from Tours to Blois.

"It's critical in that you can gain time and every second counts," Armstrong said. "It's good for the morale and good for the team to show they are strong. We've been lucky enough to win the last two years and we'd like to try again."

Almost exactly a year ago, Armstrong's team rode the third-fastest time trial in Tour history, clocking an average speed of 33.3 mph despite lash-

“It's flat and fast at the beginning, which will tire some guys out”

— Lance Armstrong on scouting the Tour de France route and knowing what to expect in the upcoming race

ing rain and slippery roads which cost other teams vital seconds. The Texan has already scouted out the route and knows what to expect.

"It's flat and fast at the beginning, which will tire some guys out," he said. "Then you have some rollers at the end. It's critical at the end to ride steady because the course will be going up and down."

Armstrong does not need to make up any time on his rivals — he leads Jan Ullrich by 66 seconds, Alexandre Vinokourov by 51 and Ivan Basso by 84. But the prospect of winning the time trial for a third straight year, and winning the jersey he's worn more than 60 times are inviting prospects.

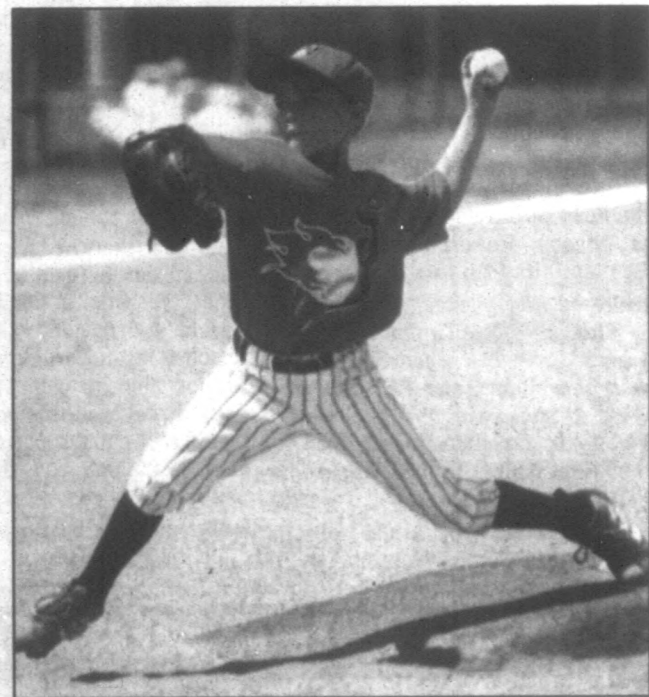
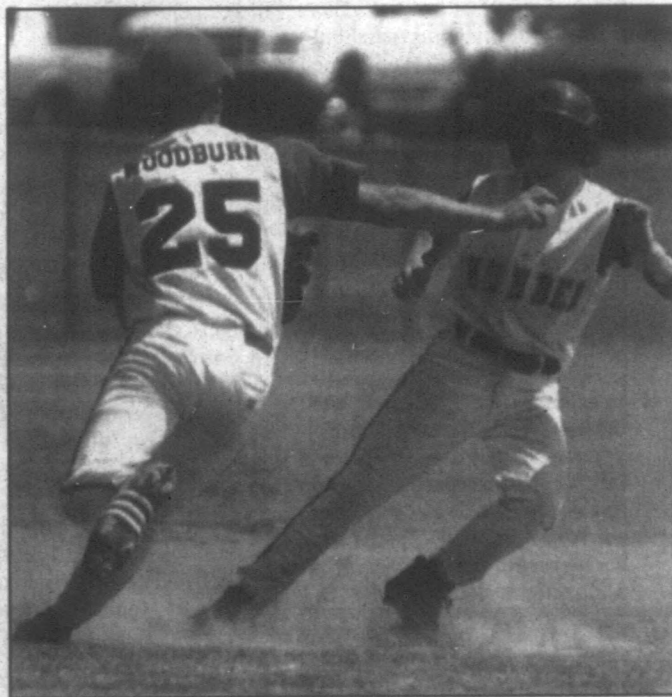
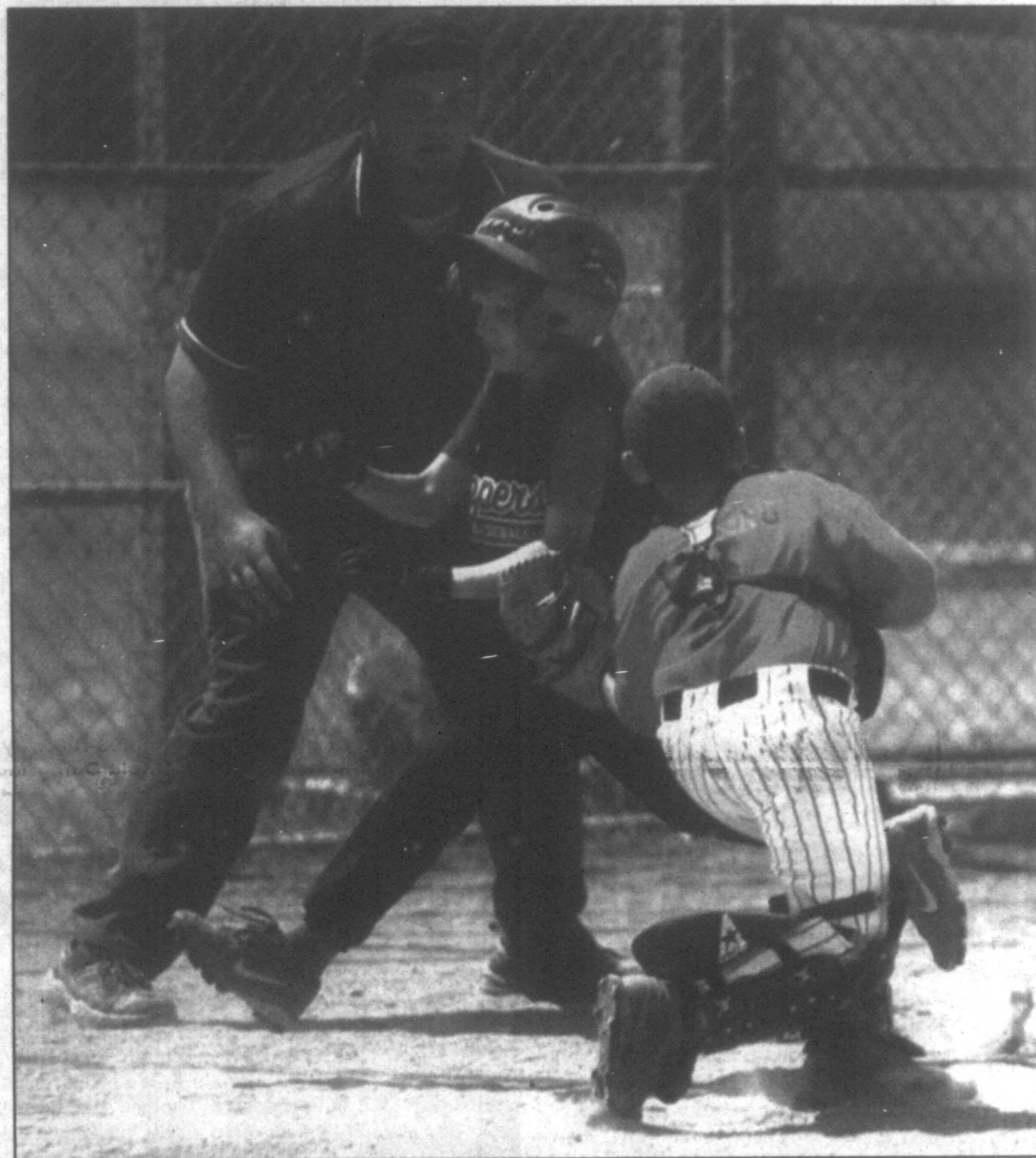
"Regardless of how many I've had in my day, it's still a jersey I cherish," Armstrong said.

Armstrong is taking a different approach this year, dividing his emotions between a steely determination to bow out at the top and a sentimental need to enjoy himself on his last Tour.

"I'm trying to keep it light

■ See **ARMSTRONG** Page 2B

## 2005 FREEDOM FEST INVITATIONAL



SCOTT NANNEY/Ledger & Times photos  
Youth baseball teams from several U.S. states and Canada played games in Murray, Mayfield and Draffenville during the fifth annual Freedom Fest Invitational, held over the Fourth of July weekend. (Top) Hopkinsville Hoppers' baserunner Taylor Saltsman avoids the tag of the Team Blaze catcher during a 9-under division game Sunday at the Murray-Calloway County Park. (Bottom left) Murray Thunder baserunner Austin Hargrove gets caught in a rundown between second and third base during the championship game of the 13-under division. (Bottom right) A Team Blaze pitcher delivers a pitch to home plate during action on Sunday.

## Hall of Fame coach Hank Stram dead at 82

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Even in declining health, Hank Stram was able to inspire his former players.

During his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2003, the former

Kansas City Chiefs coach was so weak he had to be pushed onto the stage in a wheelchair. But a video montage of his career and a prerecorded speech offered powerful reminders of Stram's passion for football, moving many in the crowd to tears.

"His whole life was football — that's what he was born for, I think. He had a passion for it, not just a liking," Chiefs Hall of Fame quar-

terback Len Dawson said Monday. "He was really sincere when he talked about the team being a family. Everybody really loved him."

The Chiefs' first and winningest coach, who took them to two Super Bowls and was known for his inventive game plans and exuberance on the sideline, died Monday, his family said. He was 82.

Stram had been in declining health for several years.

Dale Stram attributed his father's death to complications from diabetes. He died at St. Tammany Parish Hospital, near his home in Covington, across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans. He had built a home in the area during his brief stint as coach of the Saints from 1975-77 and retired there.

"He was responsible for doing a lot of the things in the '60s that teams are still using now," said Dawson.



Stram









