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SPORTS: Lakers Continue Streak With Classic Title

MURRAY LEDGER & TIMES

Wednesday, December 21, 2005

Realtor of the Week

Lindy Van Sickle



Million Dollar Producer

Vol. 126, No. 293

www.murrayledger.com

75 Cents

Rushing in running for re-election

By KRISTIN TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Mayor Tom Rushing brings varied experience to the City of Murray, but among all of that is one quality that always shows through: His love of Murray.



Rushing

Rushing, 68, grew up playing baseball at all levels through Murray. He went to school here. He raised his family here. He worked different jobs at schools and banks through Calloway County. He has served on countless boards and worked with different organizations.

"I tried retirement, but this just pushed on me as a chance to continue to serve," Rushing said. "We have so many things going that are good for our city—and I'm only a small part of the wheel here. Whoever is here has a big responsibility to carry things out."

Rushing, who ran unopposed in 2002, wants to carry out what he started by leading the city for another four-year term.

So far, he's the only Murray resident to file to run for mayor. The non-partisan race is only on

Tom Rushing
BIRTHDATE: Sept. 14, 1937
FAMILY: Married to Lita; two daughters, Lori and LeeAnn "Wege"; three granddaughters
EDUCATION: 1956 Murray High School graduate; 1960 Murray State graduate
EXPERIENCE: Elected mayor in 2002; 12 years on Murray City Council (1972-76, 1994-2002); 14 years on Murray Board of Education (1976-1990); 30 years as banker; 10 years as teacher and school principal; Army veteran.

the May primary ballot if three or more people decide to run; otherwise a two-person race can just be on the November ballot.

"I've enjoyed these three years and if I hadn't and my health hadn't been good, I wouldn't want to do it again," he said.

Annexation is a current issue that Rushing expects to continue to affect existing and future city residents. He supports cautious growth, he said, and believes the right people within city government are in place to expand the infrastructure and services associated with annexing nearby

■ See Page 2A

Public to hear sign compromise

By KRISTIN TAYLOR
Staff Writer

After several local business owners voiced how proposed changes in the city's sign regulations would affect them during last month's public hearing, the Murray Planning Commission approved a compromise that will again go before the public.

The commission unanimously voted Tuesday to approve new recommendations from the sign committee, which is made up of planning commission, Murray Board of Zoning Adjustments, Murray City Council and staff representatives.

Marc Peebles, who is one of two plan-

ning commission representatives on the committee, said the group did what it could to reach a compromise with business owners, which told the commission last month specifics about their own signs but didn't offer much about the total vision for the city.

"We tried to come up with what we think will work and will help the city in the long run," Peebles said.

The biggest change from the proposals the public heard is the decision to eliminate the 10-year time frame for removing non-conforming, free-standing signs along 12th Street throughout the city lim-

■ See Page 10A

Rider hurt in ATV crash

Staff Report
Murray Ledger & Times

One boy was hurt in an all-terrain vehicle collision north of Kirksey on Tuesday.

Calloway County Sheriff Larry Roberts said two ATVs collided on Mount Carmel Drive. A call about the crash came at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, according to the sheriff's department log.

Roberts said the investigating officer, Deputy Mark Balentine, hadn't finished his report so few details were available. The boy driving one of the ATVs was apparently seriously injured, but Roberts didn't have any details on his condition.

The sheriff said he thought the two boys involved in the collision were either juveniles or teenagers.

Playing Field



GREG TRAVIS/Ledger & Times Photo

Jonathan Mathis of Murray and his son, Quinn, 2, didn't let Tuesday's cold temperatures stop them from enjoying a few playful minutes at the Murray State University soccer field. While other family members shopped for art supplies at the MSU Bookstore, the two laughed and chased each other around in the brisk afternoon air. Quinn was thrilled knowing it will soon be time for Santa Claus.

Avery to run for circuit clerk post

By KRISTIN TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Linda Avery is hoping her 27 years working in the legal profession will help her become the first Republican county official in Calloway County.



Avery

Avery, 47, announced Tuesday she's running for circuit court clerk. She'll at least face incumbent Vicki Wilson, a Democrat, although candidates who passed the required statewide exam have until the end of January to file their candidacy papers.

As far as she knows, Avery said, none of the other potential

Linda Avery
PARTY: Republican
BIRTHDATE: Feb. 1, 1958
FAMILY: Daughter of the late C.R. and Rebecca Avery; sister, Martha Norsworthy, is her campaign treasurer
EDUCATION: 1976 Calloway County High School; completed office management and business courses at Murray State
EXPERIENCE: Worked the past 27 years with Overbey & Adams law firm and its predecessors; Calloway County Board of Education member since 2000; Main Street Youth Center original incorporator; Murray-Calloway County Character Counts Coalition vice president.

candidates are Republicans. Any other Democrats who file as

■ See Page 2A

Holiday Closings Announced

There is the holiday itself then the other definition of "holiday," according to Merriam-Webster: A day on which one is exempt from work.

Christmas and New Year's are officially the next two Sundays, but workers entitled to "holidays" are generally getting that benefit the next days — Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. Murray City Hall, Calloway County Courthouse, Calloway County Judicial Building and U.S. Post Office are all closed both Mondays.

The county offices both at the courthouse, which contains offices for Calloway County Judge-Executive Larry Elkins and other county officials, and the nearby judicial building, which houses district and circuit courts as well as drivers' licensing, are also closed on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve — or Dec. 23 and Dec. 30.

Here at the Ledger & Times, the day-after-holiday trend remains. The newspaper office will be closed both Mondays following the actual holidays. Typically, there's no local newspaper published on Christmas and New Year's Day, but because the Ledger & Times doesn't run on Sundays anyway, that day off was pushed to the two Mondays.

Papers will be printed, though, for both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Calloway County Public Library will be closed Friday through Monday for Christmas and again Dec. 31 to Jan. 2 to ring in the new year.

Youth home issues discussed by sheriff, court

By TOM BERRY
Staff Writer

At the request of Sheriff Larry Roberts, Calloway Fiscal Court is considering the creation of a county ordinance that would require group homes serving troubled teens to obtain a permit when locating in the area and require better supervision and more responsibility from those who oversee the homes and youth.

Roberts told County Judge-Executive Larry Elkins and magistrates Steve Lax, Johnny Gingles and Bobby Stubblefield during a meeting of the court Tuesday night that the sheriff's department and Murray police has received several calls concerning the youths trespassing on neighboring homes and creating problems in neighborhoods.

"I'm just concerned that some of the people living around one of these homes might encounter one of these kids in the

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Commandments to become political issue again

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Government display of the Ten Commandments on public property — a subject that has prompted two U.S. Supreme Court orders to Kentucky to stop it — is likely back on the agenda for the 2006 General Assembly.

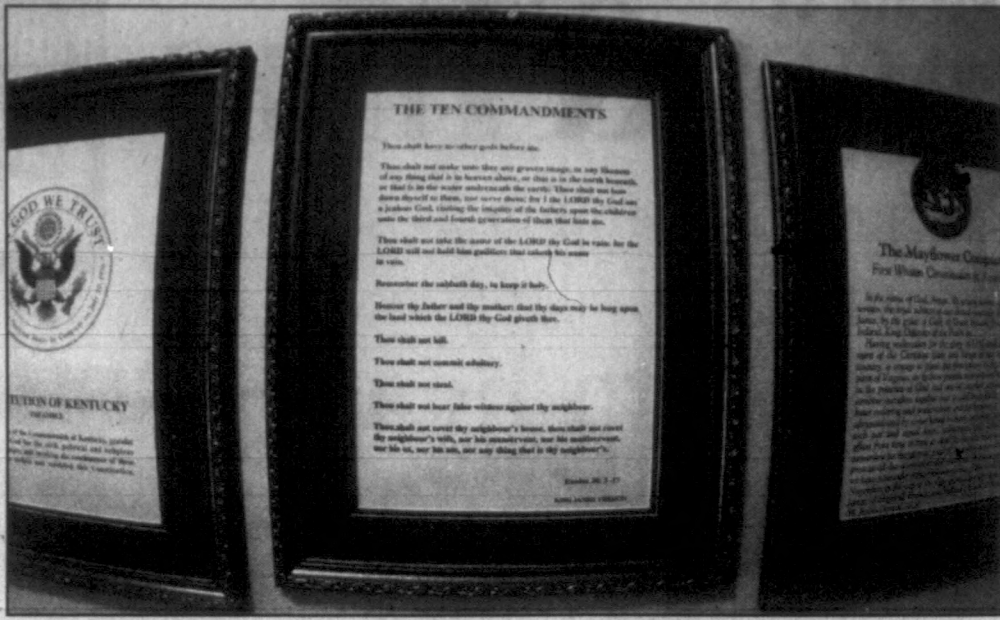
Two proposals have been prefiled for consideration by the 2006 session, one each by a Democrat and a Republican.

The approach of Rep. Stan Lee, R-Lexington, would authorize the posting of the Ten Commandments at the state Capitol, as part of a broader display that includes other historical markers.

The other bill, offered by Rep. Rick Nelson, D-Middlesboro, proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the Ten Commandments in any public building, but Nelson is rewriting it to add the provision about other historical markers.

The topic may turn into one of the moral issues that the political parties have used to try to appeal to religious conservative voters.

State Republican Party chairman Darrell Brock said the issue



This display of the Ten Commandments, seen amid seven historic documents displayed alongside them in the Mercer County courthouse is shown in a Nov. 27, 2001, file photo in Harrodsburg, Ky. A federal appeals court ruled Tuesday that a Kentucky courthouse can keep its display of the Ten Commandments because other historic documents also are included.

would show whether Kentucky Democrats can separate themselves from the national Democratic Party, which he per-

ceives as too liberal for most Kentuckians.

"I believe this will be one of the first tests of the liberal wing of the Democratic Party, who seems to be running the state House," he said.

But Kentucky Democratic Chairman Jerry Lundergan said the Ten Commandments belong in public places and said the "golden rules" shouldn't be the subject of political partisanship.

Lundergan said the "days are over" when Democrats allow themselves to be painted as lacking in moral values. "We will no longer allow the Republican

Party to identify themselves as the only political party that is considered to be a party of people of faith," Lundergan said.

He accused Republicans of using religion as a "wedge to win elections."

Brock denied Lundergan's charge that Republicans are using the issue as a way to mobilize voter support.

The proposed bills follow this summer's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that courthouse displays of the Ten Commandments in Pulaski and McCreary counties were unconstitutional.

In a separate ruling, the court said an exhibit in Texas could remain because it included other historical markers and had been in place for about 40 years.

A federal appeals court used the same reasoning in an opinion issued Tuesday that allows a historical display including the Commandments to stand in Mercer County.

PoliceSheriffsLogs

Murray Police Department

- Thomas Matthew Kirks, 26, of Murray, was arrested Tuesday for theft by unlawful taking less than \$300. He also was served at the jail with a warrant charging him with fourth-degree assault.
- Someone came into the station to report a theft at 3:42 p.m. Tuesday.
- Jamie Parrish, 20, of Murray, was arrested for first-offense driving under the influence after his vehicle was stopped at Chestnut Street and Waldrop Drive at 11:54 p.m. Tuesday. He also was served with warrants charging him with third-degree unlawful transaction, third-degree burglary, three counts of theft by unlawful taking, no insurance, two counts of theft from an auto.
- Someone came into the station to report a stolen credit card at 12:15 a.m. Wednesday.

Marshall County Sheriff's Department

- Deputy Dan Melone stopped Jason J. Roberts, 23, of Murray, for speeding at 1:11 a.m. Saturday on Ky. 80 near Aurora and the Calloway County line. During the investigation, Melone noticed the odor of burned marijuana coming from the vehicle. As a result, Roberts was charged with first-offense driving under the influence and possession of marijuana. He was lodged in the Marshall County Detention Center.

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

Judge: 'Intelligent design' can't be taught in Penn. public schools

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A Pennsylvania public school district will abandon its practice of teaching "intelligent design" before lessons on evolution after a federal judge ruled that the concept is "the progeny of creationism."

U.S. District Judge John E. Jones denounced the Dover Area School Board in a ruling Tuesday, saying its first-in-the-nation decision to introduce intelligent design into the science curriculum violates the constitutional separation of church and state.

The ruling was a major setback to the intelligent design movement, which is also waging battles in Georgia and Kansas. Intelligent design, or ID, holds that living organisms are so complex that a higher force must have created them.

"It was an effort to include intelligent design and treat it as science, disparaging evolution along the way," said Barry Lynn,

executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. "That will not stand."

The dispute was one of the biggest courtroom clashes between faith and evolution since the 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial. It also divided Dover and surrounding Dover Township, a rural area of nearly 20,000 residents about 20 miles south of Harrisburg.

The policy's supporters on the board displayed "striking ignorance" about intelligent design, said Jones, a Republican and a churchgoer appointed to the federal bench in 2002. Several board members lied to conceal religious motives, he added.

Intelligent-design supporters were ousted in November's school board elections and replaced with a new slate opposed to the policy. The new school board president, Bernadette Reinking, said the board wants to place intelligent design in an elective social studies class instead.

"There is no intent to appeal," she said.

The policy required students to hear a statement about intelligent design before ninth-grade evolution lessons. The statement said Darwin's theory is "not a fact" and has inexplicable "gaps." It referred students to an intelligent-design textbook, "Of Pandas and People."

But the judge said: "We find that the secular purposes claimed by the board amount to a pretext for the board's real purpose, which was to promote religion in the public school classroom."

The decision could impact school systems across the country.

Mayor ...

From Front

county property into the city limits.

"When I ran for mayor before, I said I supported cautious expansion that ensures services," Rushing said. "I know we have the people who can get things done. My dream is to have the best."

Other topics Rushing sees on the city's table include aiding in industrial growth, continue quality routine services, construct more sidewalks along city streets, plan for the future and maintain competitive benefits and salaries for the city's employees.

Town Crier

NOTICE

■ The Murray Board of Zoning Adjustments will meet at 4:30 today at city hall. The agenda includes variance requests for University Shops, 2000 Melrose Drive and Singer Sewing Center.

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

Avery ...

From Front

candidates will run in the primary election in May against Wilson.

In addition to serving as a paralegal at Overbey & Adams law firm, Avery is the office manager for the firm. She supervises the firm's staff and handles its escrow and trust accounts.

"I graduated in 1976 as valedictorian at Calloway County High School. After that I started to work just like all of you did," Avery told a crowd of 16 supporters during a brief announcement in front of the Calloway County Judicial Building. "I carved out a career in the legal field."

Forecast

Tonight will become clear with lows in the lower 20s, while Thursday will be mostly sunny with highs in the lower 50s.

Thursday night will be mostly clear with lows in the 30s.

Avery said throughout her career she has maintained positive working relationships with Calloway County attorneys, various court employees and the general public. She also is certified professional secretary, a credential she received from Professional Secretaries International in 1984.

Should Avery be elected, she said she will resign from her Calloway County Board of Education seat.



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State's placement of some young offenders is breaking the law

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — A judge has ruled that Kentucky's Juvenile Justice Department is breaking the law by sending some young offenders to live in state-run centers.

The ruling forces the department to reassess about 400 youths in its 11 centers to determine whether they should be in "less-restrictive" settings, according to an order by Franklin Circuit Judge William L. Graham.

An attorney who represented two defendants in a class-action lawsuit brought against the state said some minors are serving time in facilities that are locked and surrounded by fences.

"They committed low-level offenses and ended up in high-level facilities," said public defender Gail Robinson. Robinson filed the lawsuit in 2004 on behalf of teens she believes were wrongly placed.

The case initially involved 15 juveniles but later was expanded by Graham as a

class-action lawsuit on behalf of all youths in state centers.

The Juvenile Justice Department is planning to appeal Graham's ruling.

"We very strongly disagree with the judge's ruling, and we are going to pursue this as far as we can to try to do the right thing," Commissioner Bridget Skaggs Brown said.

Graham issued the order on Nov. 1 but delayed enforcing it until Monday, when he heard the state's request that it be suspended while the state appeals. He refused that request.

Brown said the ruling could lead to the release of some dangerous youths.

"We believe there will be irreparable harm to the community if we are going to be forced to release some youths out in the community who have committed very serious criminal acts," she said.

Robinson said that fear is overblown. Instead, the ruling might force the state to

release youths such as a teenage girl from Jefferson County she represented, Robinson said. That girl had expected to end up in a group home after a misdemeanor assault conviction for fighting, but instead was sent to the Morehead Youth Development Center in eastern Kentucky because the state ignored its rules, Robinson said.

Robinson challenged the placement and a Jefferson juvenile court judge ordered the girl's release.

But before she was let out, the girl became one of 13 with whom a former youth worker had inappropriate sexual contact, state investigators determined.

The worker was fired in December 2003 and is facing two felony counts of sexual abuse involving two of the girls.

Robinson said she and her associate, Timothy D. Shull, filed suit after they noticed that an increasing number of youths were being held for relatively minor offenses.

Group ...

From Front

dark and not be aware that they may be dealing with someone that may have mental problems," Roberts said. "We might not be able to keep them from moving in, but I do think we should be notified about where they are and the people running them take some responsibility for what the kids do."

Roberts pointed out responding to calls involving group homes is expensive since deputies are then required to transport juveniles to a facility in Paducah. There are at least two group homes serving emotionally and mentally troubled teens located in Murray-Calloway County, according to Roberts and county attorney David Harrington. Youth living at the sites are most often assigned to the programs by the state Cabinet for Families and Children or by the courts.

Harrington told Roberts that he didn't believe the homes could be prevented from moving into the area, but that the county could possibly improve the situation with an ordinance requiring a permit and would work with him on the issue.

"We'll definitely look into that and come up with something that is legal," Harrington said.

In other business, magistrates approved a \$6.79 million budget submitted by County Clerk Ray Coursey Jr. The budget listed receipts of \$6,794,700 with year-to-date disbursements reported at \$6,631,250. Book balance and excess fees were listed at \$163,450.

Noting some changes in the law that has resulted in the loss of income from some taxes and user fees, Coursey told the court that it may be necessary to raise some fees, such as licensing fees, during the coming year to keep the budget balanced. "It may be necessary to raise some fees, but it will be all user fees...no tax increases," he said.

Coursey estimated that the county would collect about \$3 million in usage taxes for the year, \$2.3 million from the collection of personal property taxes, and about \$795,000 in licensing and transfer fees. Disbursements to the state include \$2.9 million in usage taxes, \$740,000 in personal property taxes and \$585,000 in licensing and transfer fees. Gross salaries for the office's deputy clerks was listed at \$415,000, overtime listed at \$33,000 and employees Social Security, \$36,000. The clerk's salary was listed at \$79,500.

Also, magistrates approved the Calloway County Sheriff's budget for the 2006 fiscal year that includes the request for an advancement of \$213,000 from the state to fund department operations until October. The action also included the approval of a county bond guaranteeing payment to the state for the year.

Roberts pointed out the procedure is customary for the sheriff's department that must partially operate on loans from the state for the

first nine months of the year until tax collections begin in October. However all the money must be repaid by Jan. 15 of the following year. Based on last year's figures, Roberts estimated the department's expenses for 2006 at \$1,364,500 with receipts estimated at 1,365,000. The budget includes a 3 percent increase in salaries for department employees.

"This is the best estimate we can come up with based on last year," Roberts said, noting that increases in the price of gasoline and other expenses have hit the department hard.

Some of the department expenses include \$680,000 in gross deputies salaries, \$115,000 for county dispatch salaries, \$36,000 in equipment expenses, \$52,000 in vehicle expenses. The sheriff's salary was listed at \$76,000 as set by the state. The department expects to collect about \$410,000 from a commission on tax collections, an \$87,000 advancement from the county, \$116,000 on dispatch reimbursement, and \$106,000 from the state Finance and Administration Cabinet among other sources.

In other actions, magistrates: ■ approved the reappointment of Gingles to the Calloway County Board of Health and the appointment of Stubblefield to the Weaks Center and the Senior Citizens board of directors. Also, Larry Ryan was appointed to the Murray-Calloway County Transit Authority Board of Directors. Florence Hudspeth, Bob Ragan, Lax, and Warren Hopkins were reappointed to the Senior Citizens Board of Directors while Lax was also reappointed to the Weaks Center board.

■ approved a 2-year, \$9,800 lease agreement with state Secretary, Finance and Administration Cabinet officials for the use of office space in the Calloway County Judicial Building. The offices are utilized by parole officers working in Calloway County. The agreement is based on a rental rate of \$10 per square foot for 980 rentable square feet.

■ heard a report from Elkins that an update on the county's litigation against Calloway County District Court would be presented by attorney Randy Hutchens during a court meeting in January. Hutchens was scheduled to give the report during Tuesday's meeting, but could not attend. Elkins pointed out that a temporary agreement between fiscal court and district court over court-ordered fees for the assessment of disabled or indigent litigants is still in place until a decision from Calloway Circuit Court is published.

Three Murrayans among KSP graduate cadets

Staff Report

Murray Ledger & Times

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Three Murray residents were among the 88 state trooper cadets who received diplomas during Kentucky State Police Academy graduation ceremony Tuesday in Frankfort. With their addition to the force, the agency strength reaches a total of 1,013 sworn officers serving Kentucky.

"Their dedication to endure the many weeks of training that is required to attain this status is commendable in and of itself," Gov. Ernie Fletcher said in his address to the new troopers. The dedication that it will take to come to perpetuate the image and professionalism is immeasurable. They will serve as an example for their communities as they exhibit those intangible characteristics of fairness, integrity, pride and honor."

Murray's Bradley Haley was the salutatorian of Class 84. Other Murray residents who graduated in that class are Donald R. Bowman and James H. Green III. They all will serve at KSP Post 1 in Mayfield.

Other new Post 1 troopers from that class are Mayfield residents Thomas M. Clifton, Brett S. Miller and Kyle J. Nall; Donald G. Crawford, of Salem; and John Gabbard, of Jackson, Ky.

The 88 graduates are the largest number of KSP cadets to graduate at one time. He also noted that a total of 124 troopers have graduated from training this year, the most in one year since 1975.

Sixty-six of the cadets comprised Class 84, which started 22 weeks of training on July 17. Twenty two of the cadets made up Class 85, an accelerated program for individuals with previous law enforcement experience. Their 11-week training period started on Oct. 2.

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Our office will be closed and no paper will be printed Monday, Dec. 26th.

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Trading Places

A year ago this week, I found myself in Oxford, England. I spent twenty days at Oxford's Regent's Park College, conducting research, writing, and exploring Matthew Arnold's



Home and Away
By James Duane Bolin
Ledger & Times Columnist

"city of dreaming spires." Although I came back to Murray five days before Christmas, I missed many of the advent activities back home: the Christmas parade, my children's various Christmas programs, and other festive occasions at my church, at the university, and in my community. Of course, Oxford had a charm of its own.

I visited Blenheim Palace, the birthplace of Winston Churchill, all done up for Christmas, and Oxford's Wadham College chapel served as the site for what promised to be a memorable Christmas program. It was indeed a program that I will not forget.

The college's "Candlelit Christmas Concert" featured four accomplished singers: a soprano, countertenor, tenor, and bass, all accompanied by an excellent pianist. The program included "Flocks in Pastures Green Abiding" from Bach's Cantata No. 208, "The Lamb" by John Tavener, Mendelssohn's "When Jesu, our Lord," more Bach numbers, and Witold Lutoslawski's "The Holly and the Ivy." Interspersed between the musical selections, readings from the works of G. K. Chesterton, Dylan Thomas, Kipling, O. Henry, Raymond Chandler, John Betjeman, and Thomas Hardy, provided a nice complement to the beautiful music.

Candlelight flickered in the stone and wood Gothic chapel, a soaring stained glass window hinted at dark hues of blue and green at one end of the room, and majestic organ pipes dominated the other end in the chan-

cel. Decorated for the season, the chapel presented a picture perfect Christmas scene. Such sights and sounds of Christmas I had before only read about in books or imagined in my dreams.

After the first Bach number, a distinguished reader, indeed a famous Oxford writer and personality, rose to read from Fanthorpe and Chesterton. It was Colin Dexter, the author of the Inspector Morse mysteries, set in Oxford and read around the world.

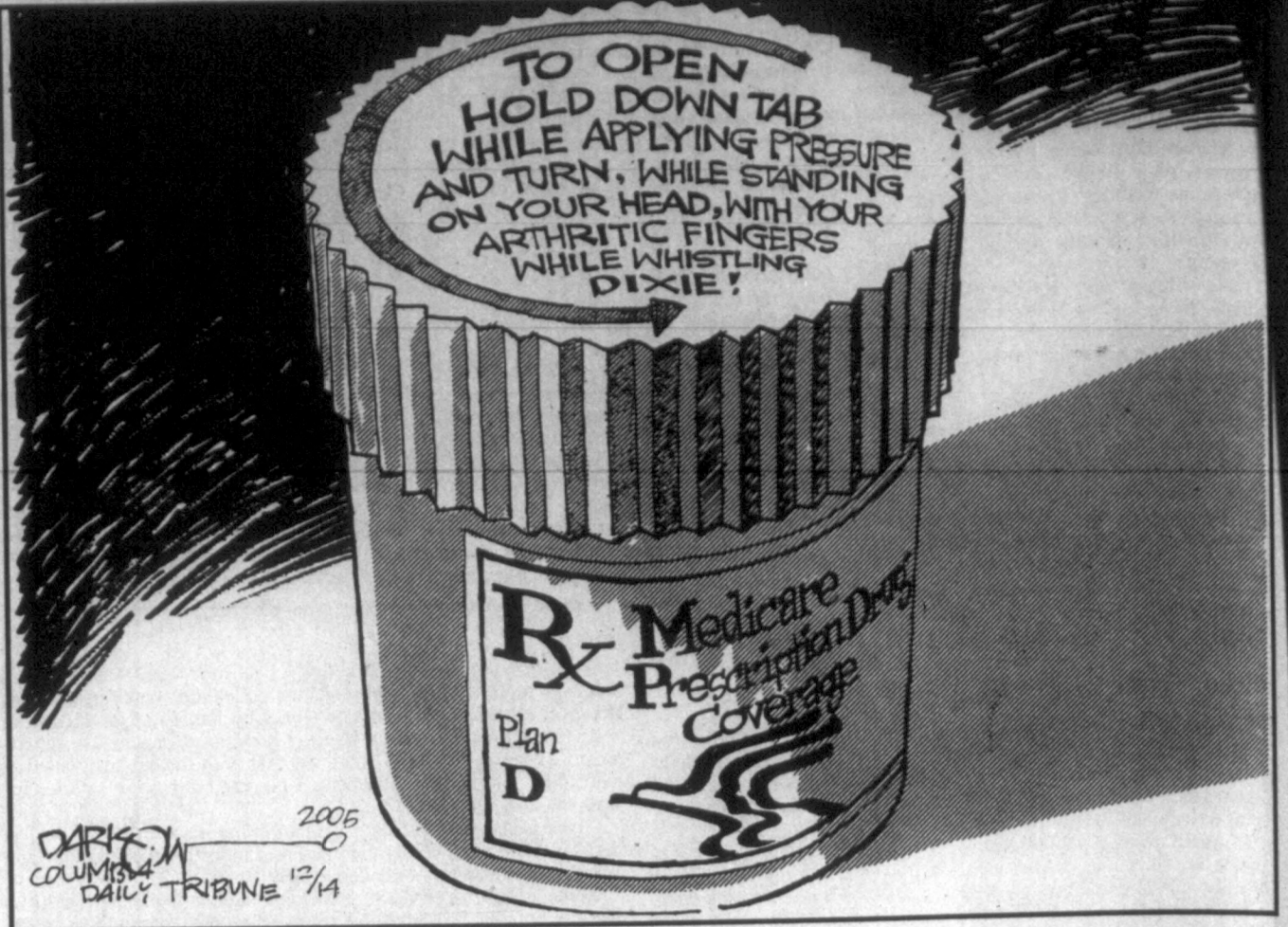
The diminutive writer prefaced his reading from the chosen poetry about the Christmas story with, "Though I am not a believer myself, I am moved by the beauty of the story."

While I appreciated his candor, and his rich English voice, I found the writer's words unutterably sad and ironic. As a believer in the Christmas story, I too am moved by its beauty, but not just the beauty of the words.

After the first reading, the singers continued the program with Tomas Luis de Victoria's "O Magnum Mysterium." "How great and wonderful a mystery," the translation begins. Rarely if ever have I heard voices like that!

But back home in Kentucky the night before, our son played his saxophone and sang with his usual excellence and verve in a high school Christmas performance, and our once-shy daughter sang and read with a crystal clear voice at a church program. Even though I was in England at the time, I knew these things; my wife and my mother called to tell me.

I learned a great deal during my Oxford sojourn. I learned from research in rare books and I learned from visits to what were to me exotic places. I also learned more about myself. I learned, for example, that while the "Candlelit Christmas Concert" at Oxford, 4,000 miles away from my Kentucky home, was unlike any Christmas program I had yet seen or heard, I would trade it for a family room fireplace, a simple, but elegant Christmas tree in a front parlor, and the advent performances of my son and daughter in Murray, Kentucky any day.



Transforming Kentucky's medicaid system

In a very few days, the 2006 Kentucky Legislature will convene. The first session day will be Jan. 3 and many of us look forward to this date with mixed feelings.



A Capitol View
By Rep. Melvin Henley R-Murray

bit about my fellow legislators, whose word I can trust and whose word needs a grain or two of salt when proposed legislation is discussed prior to a vote.

During the last session, there were many bills on which I did not cast a vote, either yes or no. Many times a piece of legislation might seem to be good, but there sometimes were lingering doubts about its effect on the constituents back home. When in total doubt, being new and green as grass and having little experience in which legislators to believe, I would simply pass and not vote on the proposed bill. Hopefully with more experience under my belt, this will not happen as often during the 2006 session.

One of the many problems facing our state is that of Medicaid, the free health insur-

ance program for low income Kentuckians. This program is jointly funded by the state and the federal government, but faces a \$425 million budget shortfall during the next fiscal year. This is health insurance so good that no one carrying their own plan, nor any employer furnishing a plan, can afford such luxury coverage. To put things in perspective, we have more people on Medicaid than we have enrolled in our K-12 schools.

The state has applied for a waiver from the federal government in order to transform the Kentucky Medicaid program into one which would be more cost effective and more in line with what the ordinary working citizen has available. The following is a summary of what is proposed to be done if the federal government approves the requested waiver:

Pharmacy utilization

■ There are 60,000 individuals (non long-term care) who are taking more than four prescriptions per month. The vast majority of these are allergy and stomach medicines for which there is an over-the-counter option.

■ Action: A limit of four prescriptions unless documented as necessary by a physician.

■ Savings \$96 million annually

Emergency Room

■ In the last fiscal year, we spent \$100 million on ER visits.

■ Every year, 200,000 individuals access the emergency room. of this group, 21,000 go to the ER five or more times

per year at a cost of \$30 million.

■ The top three diagnoses in the emergency room frequency counts are upper respiratory infections, ear aches and back pain. All of these can be addressed in physician's offices at a fraction of the cost. Cost for a physician visit is \$40 vs. \$185 minimum for ER.

A snapshot of the "Frequent Flyer"

■ Forty-nine people visited the ER 50 or more times during the year. Almost every one of these was there each and every month of the year.

■ Almost half of these individuals are being managed under Medicaid program to assign abusing recipients to a particular hospital and/or pharmacy (It apparently is not working so well).

■ Contrary to the perception that these are typically moms and young children, 80 percent of this group is over the age of 30.

■ A very important observation is that Medicaid is paying for 10 or more prescriptions per month for 33 percent of these individuals.

■ Additionally, the drugs they are taking are: narcotics and steroids to treat migraine headaches and other pain; diuretic for hypertension; antidepressants; gastric reflux.

■ The most common scripts are for diagnosis of: migraine/headaches; back pain; abdominal ache and reflux.

Summary

■ Top diagnosis among most

frequent ER users was migraine.

■ Many of the frequent ER utilizers appear to be drug seeking.

■ Second highest county of high ER use was Fayette County — contradicting the belief that the ER is used because of the rural setting, with no access to primary care (Johnson County is No. 1).

■ 30 percent of top ER utilizers are male.

■ High ER use and high prescription drug use is closely linked.

■ More than 5,000 recipients were identified as having more than 10 prescriptions from more than three prescribers and filled at more than three pharmacies.

■ Claims paid on this group of 5,000 are more than \$6 million each year.

■ Action: Discontinued Medicaid coverage for non-emergent emergency room visits

■ Savings approximately \$35 million-\$40 million annually.

We can no longer afford to furnish luxury health insurance paid for by the working taxpayers who cannot afford such plans for themselves, if they can afford any plan. It is my hope that the federal government will have the sense to allow Kentucky to enact rules that will help to bring this monster under control. If not, in a very few years there will be no money for increases in school funding, cost of living increases for state retirees, or the many other programs that we deem essential to our state.

OUR READERS WRITE

To the Editor,
William Shakespeare titled one of his plays "Much Ado About Nothing." As a Christian, that title describes my feelings concerning the publicity regarding how to greet people during this time of year.

The publicity seems so useless. All of the media coverage cannot take away the fact that Christ the Savior was born. When was He born? We don't know for sure; but the birth of Christ has been celebrated on December 25th for centuries.

Wishing family and friends "Merry Christmas" will continue to be my greeting while celebrating the birth of Christ. Why change now?

All of this publicity about this greeting is pretty "much ado about nothing."

Janice McCuiston
Murray, Ky.

Democrats Terror

Anyone who wonders whether the Democratic Party in general and Sen. Hillary Clinton in particular are really tough on terror — or are just posing for the cameras — needs to look at the vote by the entire Democratic Senate delegation (excepting only Nebraska's Ben Nelson and South Dakota's Tim Johnson) to prevent closure of their filibuster against the Patriot Act extension.

While the legislation President Bush proposed extends the entire act, certain key provisions are set to expire at year's end. (The rest of the act is good until September 2007.) By voting to allow these provisions to lapse, the Democrats have shown a total disregard for national security.

It is particularly galling that Sens. Clinton and Chuck Schumer — whose New York constituents are in the terrorists' bull's-eye — voted to let these vital protections expire.

How galling? One of the key provisions due to expire in two weeks is one that President Bill Clinton presented as the cornerstone of his response to the escalation of terrorism in the wake of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

The measure allows "roving wiretaps" — so that the FBI can tap all phones a suspect uses, rather than just one specific number. Hillary's vote to let this provision expire is incredible.

Back in the '90s, the Republican-controlled Congress refused to enact the legislation promptly — and the Clintons excoriated the GOP for dragging its feet on this vital proposal.

After 9/11, the measure became law in the Patriot Act; it remains a centerpiece

of the War on Terror. Yet now Hillary Clinton, Chuck Schumer and the rest of the Democratic Party in the Senate are voting to kill it, by preventing a vote on the measure to extend it.

As a further Christmas anti-present to New Yorkers, Clinton, Schumer & Co. are also killing the Patriot Act provision that demolishes the infamous wall — erected by Clinton-era Deputy Attorney General Jamie S. Gorelick — between those who investigate terrorism and those who prosecute suspects.

The goal was to avoid tainting criminal prosecutions, by avoiding the collection of evidence without a full search warrant. But the result was to keep the left hand from knowing what the right hand was doing when it came to preventing acts of terrorism.

Like the 9/11 attacks. As a result of the wall, the FBI was unable to access the personal computer of Zacarias Moussaoui when it had him in custody before 9/11; that laptop reportedly contained the names of other hijackers.

The feds seized Moussaoui a full month before 9/11 — but could not follow up on the leads his laptop would have highlighted because of the pernicious wall that Senate Democrats are now fighting to restore.

Equally irresponsible is the criticism Democrats are leveling at President Bush for his use of National Security Agency wiretaps to catch terrorists. Before Clinton and Schumer criticize this policy, they'd do well to reflect on the fact that the Brooklyn Bridge might well be rubble, with thousands dead, if Bush did not use these wiretaps.

In 2002, the feds (presumably the NSA) picked up random cellphone chatter using the words "Brooklyn Bridge" (which apparently didn't translate well into Arabic). They notified the New York Police Department, which flooded the bridge with cops. Then the feds overheard a phone call in which a man said things were "too hot" on the bridge to pull off an operation. Later, an interrogation of a terrorist allowed by the Patriot Act led cops to the doorstep of this would-be bridge bomber. (His plans would definitely have brought down the bridge, NYPD sources told me.)

Why didn't Bush get a warrant? On who? For what? The NSA wasn't looking for a man who might blow up the bridge. It had no idea what it was looking for. It just intercepted random phone calls from people in the United States to those outside — and so heard the allusions to the bridge that tipped them off.

In criminal investigations, one can target a suspect and get a warrant to investigate him. But this deductive approach is a limited instrument in fighting terror. An inductive approach, in which one gathers a mass of evidence and looks for patterns, is far more useful.

But, if the Democrats are to be heeded, it will no longer be possible.

Bye-bye, bridge.



Morris Advisory
By Dick Morris
Syndicated Columnist

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Obituaries

Leslie W. Parish Jr.

Leslie W. Parish Jr., 41, Pottertown Road, Murray, died Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2005, at 1:30 a.m. at his home. He was a limousine driver for Premier VIP Charters in Paducah. He was born Feb. 13, 1964, in Ayer, Mass. Survivors include one daughter, Julie Parish, his parents, Leslie and Patricia Agnew Parish, and one sister, Pamela Parish, all of Murray.

The funeral will be Thursday at 7 p.m. in the chapel of Imes-Miller Funeral Home of Murray. The Rev. Bob Saywell will officiate.

Visitation will be at the funeral home after 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

Tim Pace

Tim Pace, 19, Hardin, died Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2005, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tenn.

Pace had been a Vanderbilt patient since he was injured in a car-truck collision at the intersection of Charlie Miller Road and U.S. 641 North near Dexter on Dec. 9.

Collier Funeral Home of Benton is in charge of arrangements.

NTSB: plane that crashed near Miami had cracks in main support beam

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The wing that fell off a sea-plane before it crashed, killing everyone on board, had cracks in the main support beam that had probably gone unseen for a long time, federal investigators said Wednesday.

Mark Rosenker, acting chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, stopped short of saying the cracking was the sole reason the right wing fell off the 58-year-old plane Monday shortly after it took for the Bahamas.

But Rosenker told a news conference that the cracking should have been found and repaired, although it would have taken "a very serious" inspection to find it.

The Chalk's Ocean Airways plane plummeted into the Government Cut channel off the southern tip of Miami Beach on Monday in front of horrified beachgoers.

The cracks were in the main support beam that connected the wing to the fuselage. Rosenker said that if Chalk's Ocean Airways officials had known about the cracking "they would have repaired it and we wouldn't be here today. I don't think they knew it."

He said the plane's age could have been a factor in the cracking. The plane was retrofitted in the 1980s with more powerful engines, but it wasn't clear what role if any that played in the cracking, Rosenker said.

Chalk's Ocean Airways officials had no immediate comment Wednesday.

Rosenker said the NTSB will have discussions with the Federal Aviation Administration and Chalk's about whether to ground its remaining four Grumman G-73T Turbine Mallards. He said other U.S. and foreign operators also fly the

plane, but he wasn't sure how many are still in operation.

The propeller and engine were still attached when salvage crews raised the right wing from the channel Tuesday. Investigators also hope to recover the cockpit voice recorder and plan to scour maintenance and flight records to see if they provide other clues.

Crews planned to raise the rest of the plane from 35 feet of water Wednesday. Rosenker said the process would be slow and cautious because moving the plane too quickly could cause it to break under the weight of the water.

It could take nine months to a year to report on the probable cause of the crash, Rosenker said.

Older airplanes have been a concern for federal safety officials since 1988, when fatigue cracking caused the roof of an Aloha Airlines Boeing 737 to peel off over Maui. A flight attendant was sucked out of the airplane and lost at sea. The Aloha 737 was 19 years old when the accident occurred, but it had taken off and landed more than 80,000 times. That accident, and a subsequent law passed by Congress in 1991, prompted the Federal Aviation Administration to step up its requirements for inspections and maintenance of aging aircraft.

Eighteen passengers — including three infants — and two crew members were on the flight. At least 11 of the victims were returning home to the island of Bimini, many of them after Christmas shopping jaunts. Weeping islanders went house to house Tuesday to grieve.

"The island at this time is in an uproar," said Walter Stuart of Miami, who lost 11 family members in the crash.

New York transit strike forces bone-chilling commute, MTA officials and union disagree on pension plan

NEW YORK (AP) — Millions of New Yorkers trudged to work Wednesday in another bone-chilling commute without subways and buses as a transit strike entered its second day, wearing both patience and shoe leather thin.

With contract talks still stalled, a judge fined the Transport Workers Union \$1 million for each day of the strike, and lawyers were due back in court Wednesday.

The sanction was levied against workers for violating a state law that bars public employees from striking. The union said it would immediately appeal, calling the penalty excessive.

Crowds of pedestrians, including Mayor Michael Bloomberg, braced themselves against the 24-degree temperature and hiked across the Brooklyn Bridge into lower Manhattan on Wednesday. Volunteers waited for them with hot chocolate.

Some people had to walk miles. Others, bundled up in heavy coats and hats, shared cabs and car pools, caught water taxis, biked, skated or hitchhiked.

Bloomberg urged the union to end the strike.

"All the transit workers have to do is listen to their international (union) that's urged them to go back to work, listen to the judge who ordered them back to work, and look at their families and their own economic interests," he said. "They should go back to work. Nobody's above the law, and everyone should obey the law."



Dawn breaks over Manhattan as early morning commuters walk over the Brooklyn bridge. The New York City transit strike entered its second day Wednesday as lawyers for the city and state looked to the courts to dole out more punishment against union leaders, and commuters piled into cabs and walked the streets in the blistering cold.

The strike over wages and pensions began Tuesday morning, during the height of the Christmas shopping and tourist season.

Wednesday's headlines on the city's tabloid newspapers reflected the attitude of some commuters. "Mad as Hell," proclaimed the Daily News. "You Rats," the New York Post said of the striking transit workers.

"It's too cold for this," said Jose Cespedes, 55, a hotel maintenance manager who planned to walk 25 blocks home Tuesday with the temperature at 24 degrees and a biting wind. "I'm

very disappointed that neither side thought enough about the community."

The mayor put into effect a sweeping emergency plan, including a requirement that cars entering Manhattan below 96th Street have at least four occupants.

Crowds were thick at both Pennsylvania Station and Grand Central Terminal as commuters waited for trains on the two sub-

urban rail lines, where the number of riders soared.

On the picket lines, transit workers expressed outrage at management.

"We're tired of being treated like we're the garbage of the city," said Angel Ortiz, 32, standing on the Bronx-Manhattan line with hundreds of other striking transit workers beneath an idle elevated rail line.

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Scholarship applications due at office Thursday

HARDIN, Ky. — Applications for scholarships of Blood River Baptist Association are due at the office by Thursday if hand delivered, or postmarked by Dec. 28, 2005, according to the Rev. Harlan Williams, director of missions for the association.

Hart participates in Crimson Christmas at Transylvania

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Murray High School graduate and

scholarships are to be a member of an associational church; preparing to be a Baptist minister; having a 2.5 GPA.

Applications are available at the office. For information call 437-4203. The office will be closed from Dec. 23 to Jan. 2.

Qualifications for the schol-

Transylvania University sophomore Haley Hart, a resident assistant, recently helped to organize her residents in the participation of Crimson Christmas, an annual philanthropic event at Transylvania.

Transylvania's Department of Residence Life and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the bluegrass sponsored Crimson Christmas to provide 53 underprivileged children with a holiday-filled afternoon.

Children paired up with student escorts from each residence hall to attend a carnival with booths hosted by a variety of Transylvania organizations. Activities included face painting, arts and crafts, basketball, karaoke and other carnival games.

The children also enjoyed a Christmas dinner complete with presents and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Hart is the daughter of Terry and Leah Hart of Murray.



Pictured (from left) are Austin Harvey Whitley, older brother, with the Whitley triplets and Santa.

Whitley triplets born Sept. 26. now at home

Lynne and Cliff Whitley of Grayson, Ga., are the parents of triplets, born at 29 weeks at the Northside Hospital, Atlanta, Ga., on Sept. 26, 2005.

John Clifton weighed 2 pounds 13 ounces; Tyler Calvin weighed 2 pounds 3 ounces; and Lauren Taylor weighed 1 pound six ounces. By Dec. 3, they had all arrived home one by one to join their older brother, Austin Harvey, 22 months old. Their weights are now 8 pounds, 7 pounds and 6 pounds respectively.

Their grandparents are Bill and Marcia Koenecke of Murray and Carroll Whitley, Tucker, Ga.

Great-grandmothers are Alice Koenecke and Mildred Burpoe, both of Murray.

Photo provided

FUN & FASHION

By D.K. Kelley



Four days and counting to finish your shopping. We have some great suggestions for you. With all the bling bling this season why not get that person on your list a little bit of the bling? We have some beautiful sequined scarves and gloves to match, also cashmere scarves with rhinestones that are very pretty.

A beautiful embellished Christmas sweater is always appreciated.

A chic fur scarf or sequined sash are enduring pieces that add zing to your evening wear.

14 kt. gold hoop earrings are a wonderful gift, or sterling silver hoops. It seems hoops never go out of style, whether they're small or large, they're always in.

A sequined or beaded evening bag is something she'll use over and over again.

Faux fur wraps are perfect as a gift, they add glamour to your evening wear.

Bangles, bangles and more bangles, you can never have too many. Try some of our new wooden ones, they are very in now.

Chandelier earrings and layers of necklaces look terrific and everyone loves them.

We have some makeup bags with cute sayings on them like "Men and chocolate can never be too rich!" or "mirror, mirror on the wall I am mother after all." These are cute, fun and less than \$10.00.

We also have leather coats marked down from \$199 to \$49.50, fur and suede jackets for \$89 and all of our shoes are 25% off including our new sequined bronze and gold ones.

Brighton has some cute compacts, pill boxes, bookmarks, night lights and business card holders.

Neven Morgan cologne, body wash, lotion, hand cream and candles are wonderful for ladies of all ages.

Congratulations to Kay Dalton who won the jewelry last Friday.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and all your wishes come true. Let's remember the reason for Christmas and pray for peace in the world. Let's also bless our troops and their families as well as our leaders of the nation.

Quote of the Week: "Happiness is not having what you want, it is wanting what you have."

Anonymous Stay tuned to next week's Fun & Fashion report.....

P.S. We will be open Monday the 26th.

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"I must do something" always solves more problems than "Something must be done."

-Author Unknown



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Creative Arts Holds Meeting



Linda Patterson (left) and Freda Steely were hostesses for the recent meeting of the Creative Arts Department of the Murray Woman's Club. The next meeting will be Jan. 23 at 9:30 a.m. at the club house with Lillian Robertson to present a program on "Painting."

Photo provided

Center to open afternoons

The Main Street Youth Center will be open Monday through Thursday afternoons. The center, located at 513 South Fourth St., Murray, will be

open from 3 to 5:30 p.m. on those days during the school year. For information call 753-8336 or 753-1820.

Narcotics Anonymous will meet

Narcotics Anonymous will meet each Tuesday and Thursday at 8 p.m. at 1628 West Main St., Murray, next to St. John's Episcopal Church. For information call 753-8419 or 1-877-447-2004.

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Calloway County Public Library will be closed for four days



Calloway County Public Library, 710 Main St., Murray, will be closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday in observance of the Christmas holidays, according to Ben Graves, director.

The library will reopen on Tuesday. Hours of the library are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Jo's Santa will be at bank
Santa will be in the lobby of Heritage Bank, 210 North 12th St., Murray on Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. Free pictures of children with Santa will be taken, but donations will be accepted for Relay for Life.

Fastpitch Club selling shirts

The Murray High School Fastpitch Club is selling non-sports specified shirts to raise money for the softball team. Shirts are available in gray and pre-orders are being taken. This is a new design that was just developed and this will be the only place that a shirt can be purchased. For more information call Jana Barnett at 753-0137 or Tami Winchester at 753-2808.

Glory Bound will be Thursday

Gospel 3 and Sisters of Faith will be featured at Glory Bound Entertainment Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Weaks Community Center. This weekly event is sponsored by Goshen United Methodist Church. The public is invited and there is no charge. Items for Need Line will be taken. Beginning Jan. 5, Glory Bound will be held in the Goshen Family Fellowship Center at Stella. For more information call Joe Lawrence at 753-5643 or Renee Taylor at 753-1824.

Volunteers are needed

The local unit of The Salvation Army is continuing with the annual Christmas Bell Ringing for donations to help provide for the needy in the city and county. Volunteer bell ringers are still needed to fill a few hours on Dec. 23 and 24. To volunteer call Mike or Joann Fahst at 756-9676 for times and details. Kerry Lambert, unit chairman, said after three weekends of ringing, approximately \$7,500 has been raised.

Church retirees plan promotion

Retirees of Martin's Chapel United Methodist Church are selling Country Collection Calendars. Proceeds will go to local charities. Orders can be made with Doris Robertson at the church from 3 to 6 p.m. today and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday. For information call 753-5048.

Health Express lists stops

Health Express of Murray-Calloway County Hospital will offer Osteo heel scans and blood pressure and pulse checks on Thursday from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Duncan's Market, Murray, and from 1 to 3 p.m. at East Y Grocery, Murray.

SS representative here Thursday

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

WATCH needs aluminum cans

WATCH Center at 702 Main St., Murray, needs aluminum cans for an on-going fund-raising project. These may be taken to the center during regular hours; 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 Day.

Need Line has promotion

Back Yard Burgers at Hwy. 121 Bypass, Murray, has a promotion for Need Line. A customer buying one burger will get one free with a donation of a non-perishable food item from now through Jan. 15. All food will be donated to Need Line to help fill the needs of the community.

Realtors sponsoring contest

The Murray Calloway County Board of Realtors in cooperation with the Kentucky Association of Realtors (KAR) is sponsoring a Fair Housing Calendar Contest. Entries are being sought from fourth and fifth grade students to be included in the selection process from which illustrations will be chosen for the 2007 calendar. Anyone interested should contact the Board of Realtors at 759-1177 for entry requirements and particulars. The deadline for submissions is Jan. 13, 2006.

Singles plan dance Dec. 31

Murray Singles (SOS) will sponsor a New Year's Eve Dance on Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Joe Creason Building, Benton. Music will be by Gary Long, DJ. The cost will be \$7 per person. Each one is asked to bring a snack to share. Soft drinks and coffee will be provided. This is open to all persons. For information call Mike at 759-3180 or Pat at 489-2909.

Laker Band has promotion

Calloway County High School Laker Band is selling cookbooks at \$10 each. This is another promotion to raise funds for the band's trip to perform in the Citrus Bowl Parade. Anyone interested may purchase a cookbook from Nyle Torsak at 753-4529, Linda Avery at 753-1292 or any band booster. Books can also be purchased at New Life Christian Bookstore and Cornerstone Coffee House -Campus Edition.

Ministry will provide gifts

Westside Jail/Prison Ministry in conjunction with Prison Fellowship will provide Christmas gifts for children who have a parent in jail or prison. If you would like to help, call Linda Wright at 753-0156.

AA meeting at new location

Murray Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is now meeting at 615-1 South 12th St. in the Southside Shopping Center behind Regions Branch Bank. Meetings are as follows: Monday, closed, non-smoking 6 p.m. and open, 8 p.m.; Tuesday, AA closed, non-smoking, 8 p.m.; Wednesday, closed, non-smoking, at 11 a.m., Women's closed non-smoking, 6 p.m. and Big Book Study meeting, closed smoking, 8 p.m.; Thursday - 8 p.m. open smoking; Friday, New Comers meeting open at 8 p.m.; Saturday - open, non-smoking 10 a.m. and speaker meeting open smoking, 8 p.m.; Sunday, closed, non-smoking 4 p.m.

New Year's Eve Celebration!

6 p.m.-Midnight
\$25/person • \$40/Couple • \$60/Family of 4

Price Includes: Catered BBQ Meal, Unlimited Drinks, Party Favors & Participation in all activities.

- Football Tournament
- Texas Hold-Em Tournament
- DDR & Karaoke Competition
- Trophies Awarded for Each Activity

Campus Location at 1506 Chestnut St. (Near 5 Points)

Please Make Reservations by Dec. 28th
753-1157 or 759-5648

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MWC Donates to Merryman House



SUSAN O'NEILL/guest photo
Tracey Wortham (left) first vice president, and Pat Harrington, president, of the Murray Woman's Club are pictured with presents donated by MWC board members. The presents were taken to Merryman House Domestic Crisis Center in Murray.

Degrees are conferred at Mid-Continent

MAYFIELD, Ky. — Dr. Robert Imhoff, president of Mid-Continent University, conferred 64 bachelor degrees and 49 associate degrees during a ceremony held at Lone Oak First Baptist Church on Dec. 17.

Mid-Continent Board of Trustees, led the graduates and guests in singing "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and Lt. Comm. Don Taylor, U.S. Navy (retired), led the pledge of allegiance.

The Paducah Tilghman High School Junior Navy ROTC Detachment provided the Color Guard under the direction of Lt. Com. Taylor.

Mid-Continent University graduates from the Dr. James W. Cecil Baptist College of the Bible earning a bachelor of science degree in Biblical Studies included Dale Bradley Taylor of Murray.

Calloway County Pictorial & Family Histories

Collector books compiled by the Alpha Department of Murray Woman's Club

Calloway County Family History \$74.20

and back by popular demand in its third printing

Calloway County Pictorial History \$53.00

For additional information, call 759-4938 or 753-2350

Girl Scout Cookie sales help with program for local Girl Scouts

BY SALLY LaBAUGH
Communications director

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — For nearly 90 years, the Girl Scout Cookie® Program has helped girls foster a sense of personal and collective empowerment by promoting skills they will use throughout their entire lives.

Through this annual activity, girls, aged 6-17 years, learn how to set goals, develop action plans to reach those goals, work together as a team and cultivate a sense of business ethics.

Additionally they build confidence by developing public speaking and interpersonal communications skills. Girls also acquire knowledge in money management, marketing and customer service; thereby making the Girl Scout Cookie Program the nation's premier financial literacy and entrepreneurship program.

"Each and every year I know we're training girls to fill all sorts of roles in the future," says Fran Fach, CEO of Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana. "One of these young ladies may some day become secretary of state, CEO of a Fortune 500 company, a local business owner, or my future replacement."

Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana boasts over 23,500 girl members, and its jurisdiction includes central and western Kentucky and six southern Indiana counties, as well as part of Obion County, Tenn.

Girl Scouts is introducing a new cookie this year: The Cafe cookie. It is a gourmet-style cookie made with caramelized brown sugar and a hint of cinnamon spice. The

cafe's flavor and texture should impress many local cookie connoisseurs, who will enjoy it with their favorite warm beverages.

Returning to the cookie lineup this year are perennial favorites: Samoas, Thin Mints, and the two peanut butter cookies. The Trefoil shortbreads, the Lemons Coolers and All Abouts round out the eight varieties to be offered in 2006.

Girl Scouts will begin taking orders on Jan. 13. The cookies will be delivered in late February with booth sales held in front of many retail shops March 1-19.

All proceeds, after paying the baker, remain in the council's jurisdiction. A portion of the money stays at the council level to support training, programs, financial assistance and other necessary Girl Scout services.

A share of what remains goes to the troop, where girls decide how to spend it; thus further encouraging goal-setting and leadership abilities.

In Madison, Ind., and the Kentucky counties of Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Graves, Hopkins, McCracken and in Calvert City in Marshall County, Girls Scouts of Kentuckiana is funded in part by United Way funds.



Toastmasters Club being formed

PADUCAH, Ky. — A new Toastmasters Club is being formed in Paducah.

The first meeting will be Friday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, corner of South 21st Street and Kentucky Avenue.

Toastmasters can help persons develop talents and qualities, through communication and leadership training, which enable persons to make positive changes in their personal and professional life.

For more information contact Tim Hopwood at pd@willieradio.com or 1-270-331-6204.



Merry Christmas

to all our friends and neighbors.

HOLIDAY HOURS:
Closed
Dec. 23, 24, 25, 26
Dec. 31, Jan. 1 & 2

Calloway County Public Library
710 Main Street • 753-2288

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Amy Sevilla, Tori Stone, Jana Mason.
Not pictured Krystal Taylor

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HEALTH

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Americans play less, watch more

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans are watching more sports but playing less, according to a report released today.

Participation in almost every recreational sport, from golf and tennis to bowling and snow skiing, was down in 2004, while attendance at professional sporting events was up.

Television viewing also increased, continuing an eight-year trend.

Those and many other facts were included in this year's Statistical Abstract, a 1,023-page book of numbers quantifying just about every aspect of American life.

The Census Bureau assembles the statistics from a myriad of government and private sources, so researchers, academics and businesses can find them in one place.

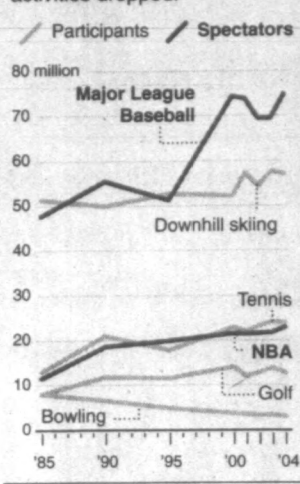
"It reflects the changing nature of the country," said Lars Johanson, a statistician at the Census Bureau.

Norman Chad said he didn't need a government report to tell him that people are watching more TV and playing fewer sports.

"We all have televisions. They are relatively inexpen-

Watching more, playing less

While the number of Americans attending professional sporting events climbed in 2004 compared to the year before, participation in some recreational activities dropped.



SOURCE: Census Bureau AP

Chad also does color commentary for the World Series of Poker on ESPN. Card playing increased slightly in 2004, but was still down from five years earlier.

Skiing, tennis and other recreational activities enjoyed increased popularity until 2004, when participation slipped.

Andrew Yiannakis, a sports sociologist at the University of Connecticut, said there are several potential reasons for the decline.

"During times of security and abundance, people feel more inclined to spend money and enjoy themselves," said Yiannakis, who teaches a course called, "Defining Leisure: A Sociological Perspective."

"During times of, say, political unrest, insecurity, economic downturns, people feel insecure, and their mood shifts into a negative state," Yiannakis said. "People don't feel as good, so they shrink away from spending money and engaging in activities."

Yiannakis also said children are taught, intentionally or not, that they shouldn't play sports if they are not good at them. It happens when kids get cut from

sports teams, or when coaches bench them for poor play.

"It is an elitist system that encourages the best to play and in a sense teaches the rest to be fans and spectators," Yiannakis said.

Among professional sports, baseball is still the national pastime when it comes to attendance, in part because there are 162 games in the regular season.

Nearly 75 million people attended Major League baseball games in 2004, compared with 23 million who went to National Basketball Association games and the 22 million people who attended National Football League games.

The National Hockey League's 2004-2005 season was canceled because of a labor dispute.

Among those who play, exercise walking was the number-one sports activity, followed by camping and exercising with equipment.

The number-one leisure activity was dining out, followed by entertaining friends and family at home and reading books.

Blood Bank announces drives for next month

The Blood Bank at Murray-Calloway County Hospital will conduct one blood drive open to the public during the month of January. This drive is in addition to routine appointments that can be scheduled during the regular hours of Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., at the Blood Bank.

During the first week of January, there will be a blood drive at the MCCCH Blood Bank open to the community. Those interested in giving can stop by on January 3 between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. or January 4 or Thursday, January 5 between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A blood drive is scheduled for January 18 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Kenlake Foods for employees only. Additionally, there will be a blood drive on January 24 and January 25 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Briggs and Stratton for employees only.

The constant supply of blood provided locally to the MCCCH 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 MCCCH 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.

Forgiveness, mental and physical well-being

Ernest Hemingway, in a short story, tells of a father and his teenage son, from whom he had become estranged. The teenage son had run away, and in a desperate attempt to find him, the father placed an ad in a

Madrid newspaper hoping it might reach his son. The ad read: "Dear Paco, meet me tomorrow in front of the Hotel Montana at noon. I love you. All is forgiven." At noon the next day eight hundred Pacos showed up.

For most of us, forgiveness is not a new concept. Parents, teachers, and religious leaders encourage us to "turn the other

cheek," "forgive and forget," "let it go," and "forgive our enemies." Whereas most of us would agree that forgiving an offender is taking the high road, very often the prospect of actually working through the process and forgiving those who caused us real pain may seem to be an insurmountable task. If forgiving were easy, we would be more willing to do it;

but because it can be a very frightening proposition, justifying hanging on to grudges, resentments, and bitterness may appear to be an emotionally safer alternative.

Unfortunately, current research refutes this perception. It is now a well-established fact that our thoughts and emotions significantly affect the physical body. Some studies suggest that up to 90% of the physical complaints of patients in doctors' offices are stress related. These are often rooted in attachments to unhealthy habitual thoughts and patterns of behavior. Even when it is hidden from consciousness, emotional pain takes its toll. It can be experienced in the aches and pains of what we call aging, eruptions of anger that destroy relationships, headaches and body aches, degenerative diseases and the thousand irritations that detract from the quality of life otherwise available to us.

Further evidence that poor mental health can undermine physical well-being is revealed in research indicating that patients who experience a major depressive episode following a heart attack have an increased risk of early cardiac death. The pain of cancer and other severe illnesses is known to be adversely affected by emotions such as fear, anxiety, and depression. In this context, the Biblical admonition "not to let the sun go down on your anger" takes on new meaning. It appears that the negative consequences of holding on to emotions such as anger were known a long time ago. Rather than holding on, we are encouraged to "let go," "to release," "to forgive."

The dictionary defines for-

giveness as pardoning; canceling a debt; giving up claim to revenge against or retribution upon an offender.

Many people fear they will become weaklings or doormats if they forgive. Therefore, they are hesitant about taking the first step. True forgiveness, however, is grounded in mental wholeness. It frees the mind from hostility and allows us to love one another. It has been said that love is what one feels when he/she has truly forgiven. And love, in this sense, is evidence of a sound mind. Practicing forgiveness as a habit paves the way for bodily health as well. In the absence of forgiveness, a person has limited response options. Festering unforgiveness is like a wound that will not heal; it can lead to insecurity, suspicion, lack of peace, fault finding and criticism resulting in bitterness. Because bitterness creates a type of emotional poison, it can also lead to a host of physical problems. The Apostle Paul clearly understood the defiling nature of bitterness when he admonished his listeners not to let a "root of bitterness" spring up among them.

How is forgiveness accomplished? The first thing we must realize is that forgiveness is a process that may take some time to work through. It always begins with a realistic assessment of one's own and the other person's accountability. Feeling sad, betrayed, angry, and resentful are natural when one has been injured. Integral

to the process of forgiving is understanding, accepting, and expressing feelings of sadness, betrayal, anger, and resentment. Pushing them below the surface, commonly called "stuffing," only means they will erupt in another place, at another time. Confronting those who have hurt you, telling them how you feel may be profitable in some cases but not in all.

What many people may not understand is that forgiveness does not mean accepting further abuse or continuing in destructive relationships, and reconciliation may not always be possible or advisable. At some point, forgiveness does require the consent or willingness on the part of the offended one to release resentment, hate, and bitterness against the offender, to give up one's "right to revenge." Incentive to forgive can come from recalling times when we were in need, and another forgave us for a transgression, and cancelled our debt.

Forgiveness results in emotional freedom. It allows us options. Ultimately, forgiveness is the only real prescription for the pain we feel over someone else's hurtful behavior. The healing choice is ours to make. Through it we can choose to become affirmers of life, willing to forgive those who do not seem to deserve it. In doing so, we testify to the goodness of God instilled within us. Maybe we could start with those "Pacos" closest to us: our spouses and our children, perhaps even ourselves. Bible teaching tells us to "love our neighbor as ourselves." In fact, this concept is part of the greatest commandment. Without a forgiving spirit the application becomes an impossibility.

Debbie Sparks, EdS, LPCA is a mental health counselor in Murray.



Your Mental Health
By Debbie Sparks, EdS, LPCA

Back To Good Health



Scott Foster
Doctor of Chiropractic

Does the holiday season stress you out?

If you find yourself tired, tense, and increasingly sick during the early winter months, you are not alone. The holiday season beginning with Thanksgiving and ending after New Years places huge amounts of stress on our bodies. It's no wonder that we find ourselves having colds, flu-like symptoms, and frequent headaches during this fast paced time of year.

Between rushing from home to home to eat Thanksgiving dinner two or three times, attending numerous Christmas parties throughout the entire month of December, and the late night involved with New Year's Eve, our bodies endure over a month of intense wear and tear. Not to mention the financial stresses you encounter when trying to buy gifts for everyone throughout the holidays. Considering what we put ourselves through for these intense 30 days, it is no wonder that our bodies begin to break down this time of year.

We add so much sugar to our diets between all the meal time desserts and holiday treats like cookies, fudge, and candy. Fueling our bodies with these foods makes us increasingly tired, causing us to stay indoors more and exercise less. This begins a chain reaction in our bodies where our immune systems weaken and we notice the symptoms like colds and headaches.

To combat these chain reactions this holiday season, consider making an effort to eat healthier, exercise, and get plenty of rest. Try to plan your holidays in advance to cut down on some of the stress and tension that you place on your body.

If you still feel tense, tired, and stressed, chiropractic care can help you find relief. Dr. Foster can perform many stress relieving techniques in our office and would be more than happy to discuss those opportunities with you. Just give us a call!

For more information, visit our website at: www.callowaycountychiropractic.com.

This column is brought to you by Dr. Scott Foster and the Staff at Calloway County Chiropractic.

Calloway County Chiropractic

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Peace on Earth

With Best Wishes

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Dr. Blalock and Staff
would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

And say Thank You Again for choosing us as Murray's Favorite Family Practitioner.

We would also like to take this time to let all of our patients know that we will be closed, December 22nd, 23rd, 26th, and 30th for the holiday season. We will reopen January 2nd, 2006.

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Santa Project Toy Drive



Photo provided
Kopperud Realty held a toy drive for the local family resource centers' Santa Project. In addition to toy donations, individual realtors with Kopperud sponsored families on their own or through church projects. Bill and Kathy Kopperud also contribute an average of 1,000 books each year to the Santa Project in memory of Joe Nell Rayburn and Dr. A.H. Kopperud.

Calloway County awarded funds for storage program

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, chaired by Gov. Ernie Fletcher, mailed a check for \$21,050 in support of the Hay, Straw and Commodity Storage program in Calloway County. The Jackson Purchase RC&D Foundation, Inc. submitted a proposal for cost-share assistance to the Calloway County Agricultural Development Council and the Agricultural Development Board.

The purpose of the Hay, Straw and Commodity Storage program is to improve net farm income through employing the best practices related to hay, straw and commodity storage

and the utilization of these practices, thus improving feed and straw quality. Eligible investment areas include: Hay, and Straw storage [new or converted], and grain and feed storage [new, used, or upgraded].

The Kentucky Legislature continues to make great strides towards lessening Kentucky's dependence on tobacco production while revitalizing the farm economy by investing 50 percent of Kentucky's Master Settlement Agreement into the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.

To date Kentucky has invested over \$195 million to an array of county, regional, and state

projects designed to increase net farm income and create sustainable new farm-based business enterprises. The Calloway County storage program represents just one of the over 2,280 projects that have been funded through Agricultural Development Fund, since the inception of the program in January 2001.

For more information about the sign-up period and the guidelines for this program, contact the Jackson Purchase RC&D Foundation, Inc. at (270) 534-8054.

Revenue forecast modest for coming budget

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — The official forecast for revenue for the coming two-year state budget produced Tuesday was not as good as legislators or the Fletcher administration might like, but not as bad as projected even two months ago.

If the forecasts pan out, there could be a surplus approaching \$400 million for the current fiscal year that ends June 30, 2006. That should help ease the difficulty of putting together spending plans for fiscal 2007, when revenue growth of only \$125 million is expected. Fiscal year 2008 should be better, with additional revenue of \$325 million predicted.

The gathering of the panel of economists who are charged with making the forecasts — known collectively as the Consensus Forecasting Group — is one of the first official steps toward produc-

tion of the biennial budget that will be considered during the General Assembly session that starts in January.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher uses the numbers to propose his own spending plan, which legislators use to create their own budget, at least in theory. The legislature failed to enact a budget in each of the last two even-year sessions when it is supposed to do so.

"It's not as much as they'd like to have, I'm certain," said Transylvania University economist Larry Lynch, chairman of the group.

Merl Hackbart, a University of Kentucky finance professor and former state budget director, said putting the spending plan together is more than just adding up the numbers and subtracting the spending.

Public alerted to student loan scam

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) has issued an alert to advise the public of a phone scam involving student loans. Callers representing themselves as employees of a company called "Wachovia Direct Lending" are offering student loans with an application fee.

Individuals are asked to send

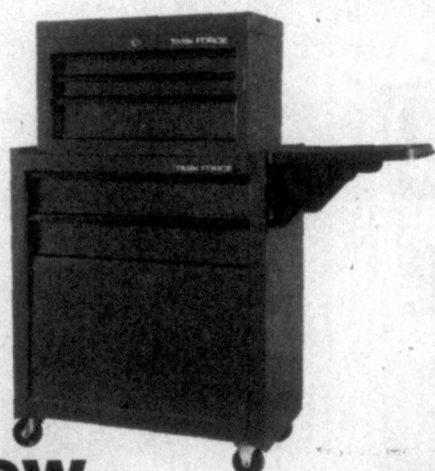
the application fee to an address in Toronto, Canada. As of Dec. 1, the company has failed to provide any student loans and has not refunded any application fees.

Wachovia Direct Lending is not affiliated with Wachovia Corporation, Charlotte, N.C., or any of its subsidiaries, including Wachovia Bank, N.A.

Members of the public who

have any additional information concerning this matter are asked to contact info@phonebusters.com or www.phonebusters.com/english/index.html and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency Enforcement & Compliance Division at occalertresponses@occ.treas.gov.

Photo provided
The Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation recently made a contribution to Murray/Calloway County Area Technology Center. A check for \$2,000 is presented to Dennis Harper, principal (left) by Rodney Bohannon, Briggs & Stratton plant manager. These funds will be directed to the Machine Tool and Welding Program.



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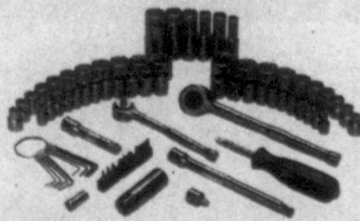
\$1496
- \$10 mail-in rebate
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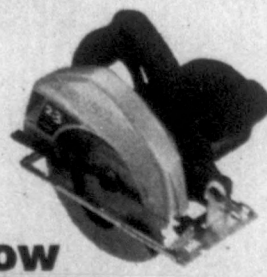
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■ Sign ...

From Front

its. The committee also recommends adding language in the ordinance to explain non-conforming signs along 12th Street would be grandfathered in as long as the business didn't have any modifications or name changes.

Also in relation to monument-style signs, Ky. 121 North Bypass from the U.S. 641 to the city limits would be included in the corridor in which these shorter signs are required.

The committee stuck with some size requirements for monument signs in their revised set of recommendations. In the current ordinance, no businesses' sign can be greater than 55 square feet, although shopping centers with at least four businesses are allowed a total of 80 square feet. But the recommendations include limiting columns accompanying signs to 30 inches in width and depth and restricting the overall height to no more than 10 feet.

Other recommendations in the revised list allow balloons only as temporary signage, which has permit and frequency requirements, and emphasize the staff will enforce the removal of abandoned signs and maintenance to existing signs.

Several other proposals from the slate the public heard last week also remain in the new set of recommendations: limiting temporary signs for special events to 6.25 square feet; restricting temporary signs at construction sites to the time between a building permit being issued and the end of construction; removing temporary real estate signs upon sale of 80 percent of the lots in a new subdivision; and exempting residential zones from the two-sign restriction on temporary signs for community events.

Another public hearing will have to be held for the sign regulations proposals. City Planner Candace Dowdy said that will likely be held sometime in the next few months, and it will be properly advertised. Following a public hearing, the planning commissioners can vote to send

the recommendations to the city council, which has to approve any ordinance change with two votes, or send the document back to the committee for more discussion, as it did in November.

In other business, the commission:

■ Voted unanimously to rezone just more than 2 acres at the back of 807 and 809 Coldwater Road. The two properties, which total about 4 acres, share a driveway and are currently being used for residential rental. The front portion of the tracts have been zoned commercial while the back portions were residential.

Tung and Giao Dinh approached the city about rezoning the back portion so they can develop the land with possible gym and daycare facilities. The commission decided, at the staff's recommendation, to rezone the back portion to a neighborhood business district, which is a more restrictive zone than the front portion.

Still, having the entire two properties some type of commercial will allow the Dinh to properly develop the land.

Two neighbors spoke against the rezoning during the public hearing Tuesday. The type of business allowed there and the affect on the current stormwater flow were the biggest concerns expressed.

Kim Oatman, an engineer who represented the Dinh, has worked on several city stormwater projects and said a detention basin would be constructed to keep runoff from the property from increasing the current stormwater flow, which goes northeast toward Dodson Street.

■ Approved the preliminary plat for Summerfield Estates off Ky. 121 South on Neale Trail in the county. The city ensure developments within a four-mile radius outside the city limits meet subdivision guidelines. Summerfield, which is being developed by Dale and Carolyn Dunlap, will have 23 lots on 19.524 acres. Private sewer, including septic tanks for each residence, and water service will be available for each lot.

Former presidential candidate says White House spying unconstitutional

BOSTON (AP) — Domestic spying authorized by the White House "doesn't uphold our Constitution" and President Bush's defense of the practice is "lame," Sen. John Kerry said Tuesday.

The Massachusetts Democrat also said the alleged White House leak of a CIA agent's identity was more serious than the media's disclosure of the spying program.

Bush said Monday it was "a shameful act" for someone to have leaked details of the spying program that he authorized shortly after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The program allows the National Security Agency to eavesdrop — without warrants — on international calls and e-



Sen. John Kerry D-Mass. mails of Americans and others inside the U.S. with suspected

ties to al-Qaida.

Kerry, talking with reporters after addressing ironworkers at a local labor hall, contrasted the media's disclosure of the spy program with the White House leak involving Valerie Plame.

Her identity as a CIA analyst was exposed in July 2003 after her husband, former ambassador Joe Wilson, challenged an administration justification for the Iraqi war.

"The leak in the White House was an effort to destroy somebody and his family and attack them for telling the truth," the senator said.

"The leak that took place in this case is a leak that — I'm not excusing it — is to tell the truth about something that violates the rights of Americans and

doesn't uphold our Constitution," Kerry said.

Bush has said Congress gave him the power to authorize the spying under a mandate to protect the country "by all means necessary."

Kerry called the explanation "lame" and said "there is no wording whatsoever in the law that permits what he engaged in."

The Republican National Committee batted away the criticism.

"While President Bush remains focused on defending Americans against those intent on doing us harm, John Kerry remains focused on attacking President Bush," RNC spokeswoman Tracey Schmitt said.

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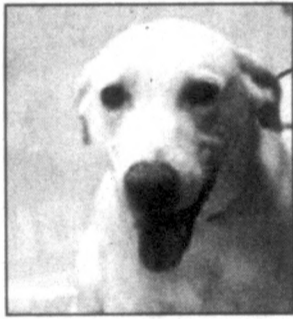
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Available Animals



Photos provided

Numerous animals are available at the Calloway County Animal Shelter including these dogs. Hershey (left) is a 4-year-old Chocolate Lab mix male, while Thunder (right) is a 6-month-old male yellow Lab mix. For additional information, contact the shelter at animalshelter@murray-ky.net.



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At Christmas

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**Farmers
preparing
for higher
'06 costs**

PRINCETON, Ky. — As farmers begin planning for 2006, making careful spending decisions should be a part of the process as costs for everything from nitrogen to health care continue to escalate.

"Costs have gone up so that 2006 costs look to be substantially higher," said Craig Gibson, farm management specialist with the University of Kentucky Farm Business Management Program. "Producers need to think about cutting spending as margins are going to narrow."

Gibson said his reason for issuing caution to farmers is that spending has been increasing since 1998, and farmers should carefully consider cost-cutting measures in light of escalating costs. If spending isn't adjusted, projections for expenditures in 2006 for interest, farm operating expenses and family living could increase as much as \$47 per acre or \$30,000 per family farm.

Since 1999, combined farm and non-farm incomes for sole proprietorships in the farm analysis program have increased. However, so has indebtedness as additional purchases were made rather than paying down existing debt. Debt has been increasing \$12,271 on average since 1998 with the exception of one year — 1999.

Unless spending patterns change or farmers realize additional income, Gibson said, by the end of 2006 indebtedness could increase by about \$42,000 for sole proprietorships. Added income is unlikely given the current supply situation for crops. While many farmers won't sell at least a portion of their 2005 crops until 2006 to take advantage of possible higher markets, higher costs could absorb any financial gain.

Gibson said it is doubtful farm profit margins are sufficient to maintain current spending patterns. Profit margins likely will tighten due to higher energy costs. Those higher costs will also result in higher fertilizer costs especially for nitrogen, which is a major cost in corn production. It is unclear yet how high nitrogen prices may rise, he said. Pesticide costs and seed costs are also likely to creep up.

In addition, many farm families are struggling with the high costs of health insurance. Sole proprietorships with supplemental health insurance coverage paid an average of \$3,438.97 in 2004 and where neither spouse has medical insurance from off-farm employment, premiums averaged \$7,555.67, which was 16.8 percent higher than 2003. The increases came even though many individuals increased their deductibles to try to maintain affordability, Gibson said.

Gibson said he isn't trying to sound an alarm, but wants farmers to consider their spending choices carefully because some are just that — choices. There is a difference between someone with a 25-year-old combine that is becoming problematic buying another combine compared to someone who trades frequently but is still spending \$30,000 to \$35,000 in the trade. If they are borrowing money to do purchases, they are digging a hole, he said.

Gibson said that some farmers who are already making plans for 2006 have contacted him.

Some possible cost-cutting measures to consider are adjusting inputs based on soil type, testing the soil and discussing the results with county Extension agents or state agronomists, carefully timing pesticide applications, eliminating cosmetic spraying, using variety trial recommendations for seed selection, adjusting plant populations for soil type, purchasing necessary items and only tilling where necessary, such as in compacted areas.

Winter blahs? Pity the Alaskans

By RACHEL D'ORO
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Lloyd Leavitt shrugs off the subzero freeze that blankets the Arctic town of Barrow each winter. It's the weeks of endless night that get to him, filling him with insatiable cravings for carbohydrates and sleep and natural light.

"There comes a time when you don't know if it's morning or evening. You get confused," said Leavitt, who has lived all his 49 years in the nation's highest-latitude community.

No wonder residents here eagerly anticipate the passing of Wednesday's winter solstice, the shortest day of the year and the psychological turning point toward spring.

Leavitt has plenty of company when it comes to dealing with Alaska's dark side. Yes, winter brings shorter days in other states as well, along with extreme cold. But Alaska is the U.S. vortex of seasonal blues.

The sun won't rise again in Barrow for another month after the solstice. For Leavitt and others in the largely Inupiat Eskimo town of 4,500, it marks the countdown to daylight.

In the meantime, Leavitt floods his home with rainbow-colored Christmas lights.

"They keep the spirits up," he said.

Winter is a drag to some extent for one out of five Americans, studies suggest. A smaller fraction — mostly women and young adults — suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder, a type of depression stemming from decreased daylight.

Nearly 10 percent of Alaskans suffer from SAD to some degree, according to a 1992 study published in the American Journal of Psychiatry; in sunny Florida, it's only about 1 percent.

SAD symptoms include lethargy, a heightened desire for sleep, cravings for carbohydrates, feelings of melancholy, fuzzy thinking and loss of libido or sociability, said Suzanne Womack Strisik, an assistant psychology professor at the University of Alaska at Anchorage. She's also a practicing psychologist in the state's largest city, where daylight dwindles to 5 1/2 hours by the solstice.

"There's a feeling like you should be hibernating and carbs are very appealing," Strisik said. "It can be really hard to get up even after eight hours of sleep."

Of course, the majority of Alaskans don't feel any different, no matter what time of year.

Barbara Bowden, a real estate broker who has lived in Anchorage more than 50 years, said she never gets the winter blahs other than complaining about the cold. Only the first two years here did she feel down, a condition she attributes to being homesick for Texarkana, Ark.

Her remedy now for coping with winter: Stay active rather than merging with the sofa. Until a few years ago, she raced sports cars. There's no shortage of other activities: skiing, snowmobiling, ice skating, dog mushing, snowshoe hikes, even running and power-walking.

"I tell people coming up here to get up, get out and do some-

thing," Bowden said. "Just take advantage of living here."

While some Alaskans defy winter by embracing it, others cope by exposing themselves to bright-light therapy, which doctors say can be highly effective. Others install full-spectrum lighting in their homes and offices. Some people frequent tanning booths. Some take anti-depressant medications. Some self-medicate with drugs or alcohol.

Then there are those who flee the state.

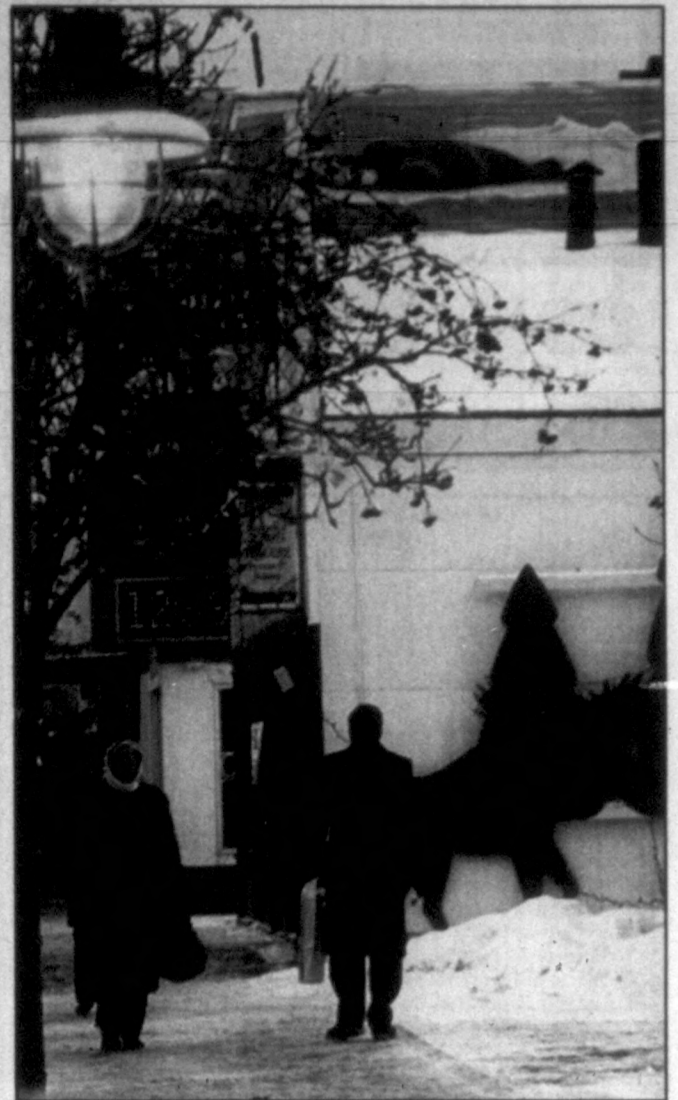
Hawaii is the top choice, followed by Mexico, then Las Vegas, said Brenda La Sane, owner of a travel agency in Fairbanks, where the sun will scrape the horizon for three hours and 42 minutes on Wednesday. It's not unusual for La Sane's clients to run into other Alaskans on their winter vacations abroad.

"I try to get away as much as possible," she said following a trip to California. "The darkness gets to me terribly. I just got back from Anaheim and it made a huge difference visiting for 10 days. I felt so much more energetic."

"Two days after I got back, I was pushing myself to get out of bed."

That's not surprising to Kelly Rohan, an assistant psychology professor at the University of Vermont in Burlington. The travel strategy can backfire, she said.

"The problem is re-entry," she said. "It's like going to sleep on the Fourth of July and waking up on the 24th of December. That can be very jarring."



AP
Street and Christmas lights shine around 12:30 p.m. as people walk around downtown Anchorage, Alaska as the winter solstice approaches. Alaska experiences short days, the flip side of the state's famous midnight sun.

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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY COURT OF JUSTICE CALLOWAY CIRCUIT COURT Civil Action No. 04-CI-00357

MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR MERITAGE MORTGAGE CORPORATION, PLAINTIFF,
VS. NOTICE OF SALE
DONNIE HUTSON, LISA HUTSON, DEFENDANTS.

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered by the Calloway Circuit Court on November 18, 2005, in the above cause, I shall proceed to offer for sale at the Courthouse door in the City of Murray, Calloway County, Kentucky, to the highest bidder, at public auction on Monday, January 9, 2006, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., c.s.t., or thereabout, the following described property located in Calloway County, Kentucky, with its address being 105 Gilbert Street, hazel, KY 42049, and more particularly described as follows:

Situated in the City of Hazel, County of Calloway and State of Kentucky and known as beginning at a point in the South edge of the right of way of Gilbert Street (a 60 foot right of way), said beginning point being 24.50 feet East of the centerline of First Street if it were extended straight South to an intersection with said South edge of the right of way of Gilbert Street;

thence, North 70 deg. 06' East along the South edge of the right of way of Gilbert Street for a distance of 144.00 feet to an iron pin;

thence, South 12 deg. 39' East for a distance of 194.70 feet to an iron pin in the center of a ditch;

thence, South 59 deg. 09' West along the centerline of said ditch for a distance of 143.00 feet to an iron pin;

thence, North 14 deg. 15' West for a distance of 223.10 feet to the point of beginning.

Being the same property conveyed to Donnie Hutson and wife, Lisa Hutson, by Deed dated April 27, 2001, recorded in Deed Book 379, Page 469, in the office of the Clerk of the Calloway County Court.

The aforementioned property shall be sold on a cash or credit basis of 30 days, but if sold on a credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall be required to deposit with the commissioner ten percent of the purchase price in cash together with bonds (for the remainder of the purchase price) with good and sufficient surety, said amount bearing interest at 12% per annum from the date of sale until paid, and fully due and payable in thirty (30) days. A lien shall be retained on the property as additional security. All delinquent taxes shall be ascertained and paid.

This 12th day of December, 2005.
 Respectfully submitted,

MAX W. PARKER
 Master Commissioner
 Calloway Circuit Court

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY COURT OF JUSTICE CALLOWAY CIRCUIT COURT Civil Action No. 05-CI-00020

WACHOVIA BANK OF DELAWARE, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, f/k/a UNION NATIONAL BANK OF DELAWARE, PLAINTIFF,
VS. NOTICE OF SALE
LINDA KAYE TURNER, f/k/a LINDA KAYE JONES, CITIFINANCIAL, INC., CAPITAL ONE BANK, DEFENDANTS.

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered by the Calloway Circuit Court on July 12, 2005, in the above cause, I shall proceed to offer for sale at the Courthouse door in the City of Murray, Calloway County, Kentucky, to the highest bidder, at public auction on Monday, January 9, 2006, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., c.s.t., or thereabout, the following described property located in Calloway County, Kentucky, with its address being 4611 Faxon Road, Murray, KY 42071, and more particularly described as follows:

Legal description of a tract of land situated in the County of Calloway, State of Kentucky, and being a part of the Northwest Quarter Section 33, Township 3, Range 6 East, and being further described as follows:

Beginning at a 2" diameter rebar in the centerline of the Faxon-Newburg Road, 1.4 miles east of Kentucky Highway 1346, corner to Ralph Slow (Deed Book 150, Card 804) and Jerry Vance (Deed Book 124, Page 382); thence, from said point of beginning and with the centerline of said Faxon-Newburg Road the following calls: North 68 deg. 52'48" east 127.99' to a 20d nail; north 54 deg. 07'55" east 112.49 feet to a 20d nail north 49 deg. 57'31" east 118.76 feet to a 20d nail; north 50 deg. 37'30" east 100.16' to a 2" diameter rebar corner to Robert Peebles (see Deed Book 167, Card 1324); thence, leaving said road south 38 deg. 12'16" east 35.35' to a 2" diameter rebar; thence generally along an old fence line south 0 deg. 29'29" east 314.40' to a 2" diameter rebar in the north line of the Ralph Slow property (See Deed Book 150, Cards 785 and 804); thence, with Slow's north line north 85 deg. 00'19" west 381.72' to a 2" diameter rebar; thence, north 18 deg. 20'46" west 34.90 feet to the point of beginning.

This tract contains 1.6739 acres.

Being in all respects the same property conveyed to Linda Kaye Jones, n/k/a Linda Kaye Turner, by Quitclaim Deed from Johnny Jones, Jr. dated March 6, 2000, and filed March 22, 2000 of record in Deed Book 341, Page 690 in the office of the Calloway County Clerk. See Trustee's Deed dated April 14, 2000 and filed April 20, 2000 of record in Deed Book 344, page 341, in the office of the Calloway County Court Clerk.

The aforementioned property shall be sold on a cash or credit basis of 30 days, but if sold on a credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall be required to deposit with the commissioner ten percent of the purchase price in cash together with bonds (for the remainder of the purchase price) with good and sufficient surety, said amount bearing interest at 12% per annum from the date of sale until paid, and fully due and payable in thirty (30) days. A lien shall be retained on the property as additional security. All delinquent taxes shall be ascertained and paid, but shall be subject to the current ad valorem taxes.

This 8th day of December, 2005.
 Respectfully submitted,

MAX W. PARKER
 Master Commissioner
 Calloway Circuit Court

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY COURT OF JUSTICE CALLOWAY CIRCUIT COURT Civil Action No. 04-CI-00436

DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS, AS TRUSTEE AND CUSTODIAN FOR EQUIFIRST MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2004-2 BY: SAXON MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC. AS ITS ATTORNEY-IN-FACT PLAINTIFF,
VS. NOTICE OF SALE
MICHAEL W. MCCOY, SUSAN E. MCCOY CREDIT ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION, COUNTY OF CALLOWAY, DEFENDANTS.

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered by the Calloway Circuit Court on November 14 2005, in the above cause, I shall proceed to offer for sale at the Courthouse door in the City of Murray, Calloway County, Kentucky, to the highest bidder, at public auction on Monday, January 9, 2006, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., c.s.t., or thereabout, the following described property located in Calloway County, Kentucky, with its address being 12201 State Route 94 East, Murray, Kentucky, and more particularly described as follows:

A part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 18, Township 3, Range 6 East. Beginning at a corner rock on East side of State Highway 94, corner to Viva Jones; thence East with her line 10-1/2 poles to a rock corner to Viva Jones and Glenn Morrid; thence South with Morris line 12-1/2 poles to a rock corner to Roy Balentine; thence West with its line 14 poles to an iron stake in East edge of State Highway 94; thence North with said highway 12-1/2 poles to the point of beginning.

Being the same property conveyed to Michael W. McCoy and wife, Susan E. McCoy by deed from Michael D. McCoy, et al., dated February 18, 2004, recorded in Deed Book 534, Page 25, in the office of the Clerk of the Calloway County Court.

The aforementioned property shall be sold on a cash or credit basis of 30 days, but if sold on a credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall be required to deposit with the commissioner ten percent of the purchase price in cash together with bonds (for the remainder of the purchase price) with good and sufficient surety, said amount bearing interest at 12% per annum from the date of sale until paid, and fully due and payable in thirty (30) days. A lien shall be retained on the property as additional security. All delinquent taxes shall be ascertained and paid.

This 8th day of December, 2005.
 Respectfully submitted,

MAX W. PARKER
 Master Commissioner
 Calloway Circuit Court

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY COURT OF JUSTICE CALLOWAY CIRCUIT COURT Civil Action No. 05-CI-00352

CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC successor by merger to Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corporation PLAINTIFF,
VS. NOTICE OF SALE
CHARLES W. THOMPSON, ELLEN M. THOMPSON, et al., DEFENDANTS.

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered by the Calloway Circuit Court on November 28, 2005, in the above cause, I shall proceed to offer for sale at the Courthouse door in the City of Murray, Calloway County, Kentucky, to the highest bidder, at public auction on Monday, January 9, 2006, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., c.s.t., or thereabout, the following described property located in Calloway County, Kentucky, and more particularly described as follows:

Lot No. 5 in the Burr Waldrop Subdivision the plat of said subdivision being of record in the office of the Clerk of the Calloway County Court in Deed Book 109, Page 5, the lot being conveyed is a tract 75 feet north and south by 224 east and west lying east of and adjacent to the street designated as North 17th Street Extended, on said plat.

Being the same real estate conveyed to Charles W. Thompson and wife, Ellen M. Thompson, by deed from Mary Ellen Smith, dated July 30, 2003, of record in Deed Book 504, Page 727, Calloway County Clerk's Office.

The aforementioned property shall be sold on a cash or credit basis of 30 days, but if sold on a credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall be required to deposit with the commissioner one-third of the purchase price in cash together with bonds (for the remainder of the purchase price) in two equal installments with good and sufficient surety, said amount bearing interest at 12% per annum from the date of sale until paid, and fully due and payable in thirty (30) days. A lien shall be retained on the property as additional security. All delinquent taxes shall be ascertained and paid.

This 8th day of December, 2005.
 Respectfully submitted,

MAX W. PARKER
 Master Commissioner
 Calloway Circuit Court

NOTICE
 Due to Christmas and New Year's, some of the classified deadlines will change.

PUBLICATION	DEADLINE
Shopping Guide for wk. of 12/26	Thurs., Dec. 22 at 5PM
Tues., Dec. 27	Fri., Dec. 23 at 11AM
Wed., Dec. 28	Fri., Dec. 23 at 5PM
Shopping Guide for wk. of 1/2	Thurs., Dec. 29 at 5PM
Tues., Jan 3	Fri., Dec. 30 at 11AM
Wed., Jan 4	Fri., Dec. 30 at 5PM

A paper will NOT be printed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2.
 If you have any questions, please call Jill or Julie at 753-1916.

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050 Lost and Found JUST give us a call, we'll be glad to help. Your loved one we'll try to find. 'Cause we all have Furry or Feathered Friends, Here at the Ledger & Times.	POSTAL JOBS \$15.22 to \$21.62/hr, now hiring. For application and free government job info, call American Association of Labor 1-913-599-8042, 24 hours. Employment service.	

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LookingBack

10 years ago Published is a picture of Pedro Robes, migrant farm worker, loading his belongings on a truck as he prepares for his first day of a two-day journey to his home in Mexico.

Mr. and Mrs. Maybern Key will be married 60 years Dec. 24.

Calloway County High School Lakers won 67-46 over Fulton County in the opening night of Tilghman High School Christmas Basketball Tournament.

20 years ago Published are a feature story and pictures about "Persons Recalling Their Most Favorite Christmas" featuring Erin Reed, Clifton Mason, Ola Underwood, Marion Coulton and Verezanla Higgins.

Mr. and Mrs. Maybern Key will be married 50 years Dec. 24.

Quint T. Guier of Murray will celebrate his 103rd birthday on Dec. 22. A reception is planned by his daughter, Martha Guier, at the University Branch of the Bank of Murray.

30 years ago The home of O.D. Parrish on Highway 444 near New Concord was destroyed by fire about 1:45 a.m. on Dec. 20.

Published is a picture of O.C. McLemore and Paul Maggard of Murray Lions Club displaying one of the many poinsettia arrangements

ments the club will distribute to shut-ins in the Murray area.

In high school basketball games, Murray Tigers won 65-56 over Symsonia at Murray with Raymond Sims high scorer for Murray; Calloway Lakers lost 54-90 to Trigg county Wildcats at Cadiz with David Williams high scorer for Calloway.

40 years ago Ernest Wayne Williams, student at Murray High School, was winner and Shawn Underwood, student at Hazel Elementary School, was second in the 1965 Soil Conservation Essay Contest, sponsored by The Courier-Journal and Louisville Times.

Mr. and Mrs. John Nannev will be married 67 years Dec. 25.

Recent births reported at Murray Hospital include a girl to Mr. and Mrs. Leon Farris.

Carlisle County Comets won 64-56 over Murray Tigers to win the championship of the Calloway County High School Christmas Basketball Tournament. Jerry Caldwell was high scorer for the Tigers.

50 years ago Frank Lancaster, manager of Varsity and Capitol Theatres in Murray, announced a free movie for all children of Murray and Calloway County will be shown Dec. 23 at 9:30 a.m. at the Varsity Theatre, located in the 500 block of Main Street, Murray.

Recent births reported at Murray Hospital include a boy to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burkeen and a boy to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Horn.

Murray State College Racers won 101-76 over West Texas in a basketball game. Joe Mikez was high scorer for Murray.

Letter to serviceman overseas leads to love and marriage

DEAR ABBY: Some years ago, I responded to your Operation Dear Abby program. I thought it would be neat to have a pen pal while I was in high school.



Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

we both felt an immediate attraction to each other -- but as fate would have it, he was stationed overseas again and I was leaving for college.

To make a long story short, we recently celebrated our 15th wedding anniversary. We are each other's best friend and feel blessed to have three beautiful children.

DEAR KATHY K.: Thank you for an upper of a letter. Many love stories began with Operation Dear Abby, and continue to be created through OperationDearAbby.net -- the online version that now operates 24/7 year round. I'm pleased

that writing to a member of the armed services was not only rewarding for you, but also became the pathway to your future.

Readers, as I am sure you already know, this is a time of year when our young men and women in the military feel most poignantly their separation from their families and the people they love.

Go to www.OperationDearAbby.net and send a message of support. It'll mean the world to them.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is an attractive, well-educated, single, professional woman in her early 40s. She is gay. I have known about her sexual orientation since she was in high school and have always been supportive.

I have been friendly to my daughter's same gender friends in the past, until she moved into the home of a divorced woman who claims she is also gay. Abby, this woman is in her mid-40s. She has two children, ages 5 and 12, from her previous marriage to a man.

Between you and me, I don't believe that she is really gay. Is it possible for a woman to become gay after many years of marriage that produced two children? Thanks for your help.

DEAR PERPLEXED: Yes, it is possible for a person to discover that she (or he) is gay after having been married and having children.

Usually, the person felt a same-sex attraction much earlier, but denied it and married, hoping the feeling would go away. Many years -- sometimes decades -- later, the man or woman realizes that something is "missing," meets someone, and the feelings return stronger than ever.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

With blood pressure, there's no need to choose sides

DEAR DR. GOTT: Approximately one month ago, at my regularly scheduled physical exam, my doctor measured my blood pressure using my right arm and stated that it was moderately high (142/75).



Dr. Gott

By Dr. Peter Gott

The instructions that came with it showed the cuff being used on the left arm. The readings I got were approximately 122/67. Question: Is there usually a difference in blood pressure readings according to which arm is used?

DEAR READER: As a hydraulic system, your blood pressure should be equal in all parts of your body, more or less. In your case, the difference between 142 and 122 is probably insignificant.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Have you published any books for the general public concerning general health problems? DEAR READER: Early this year, I published "Live Longer, Live Better."

ContractBridge

East dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH ♦652 ♥73 ♦52 ♠KQJ874 WEST ♠AQ74 ♥AJ8 ♦103 ♣A965 SOUTH ♦KJ109 ♥KQ10954 ♠A8 ♣3

The bidding: East 3♦ South Dble West Pass North 4♦

Opening lead -- ten of diamonds. The chief purpose of a pre-emptive bid is to make things difficult for the opponents.

Consider this deal where East opened three diamonds and South doubled for takeout. West passed, and North responded, four clubs.

Some people are born with a vascular abnormality called subclavian steal syndrome. In simple terms, the artery on the left arm is congenitally blocked and the one on the right is normal.

Neither of these conditions necessarily needs surgical correction, but you should certainly check this out with your physician.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: Have you published any books for the general public concerning general health problems?

DEAR READER: Early this year, I published "Live Longer, Live Better." The book is available in select bookstores, through Amazon.com (www.amazon.com) or directly from the publisher (Quill Driver Books, 1254 Commerce Ave., Sanger, CA 93657; 800-605-7176; www.quilldriverbooks.com).

Also, keep an eye out for updates about a book on my no-flour, no-sugar diet. It is due to be published in spring 2006.

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TodayInHistory

By The Associated Press Today is Wednesday, Dec. 21, the 355th day of 2005. There are 10 days left in the year.

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

In 1804, British statesman Benjamin Disraeli was born in London.

In 1914, the first feature-length silent film comedy, "Tillie's Punctured Romance," was released.

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

In 1945, Gen. George S. Patton died in Heidelberg, Germany, of injuries from a car accident.

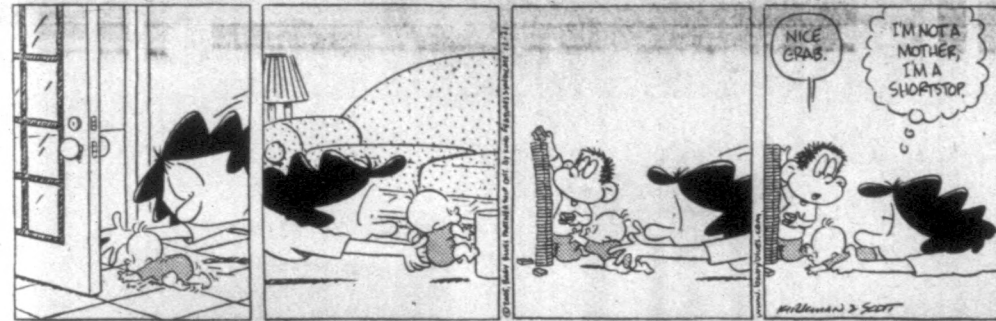
In 1948, the state of Eire (formerly the Irish Free State) declared its independence.

In 1968, Apollo 8 was launched on a mission to orbit the moon.

In 1978, police in Des Plaines, Ill., arrested John W. Gacy Jr. and began unearthing the remains of 33 men and boys that Gacy was later convicted of murdering.

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

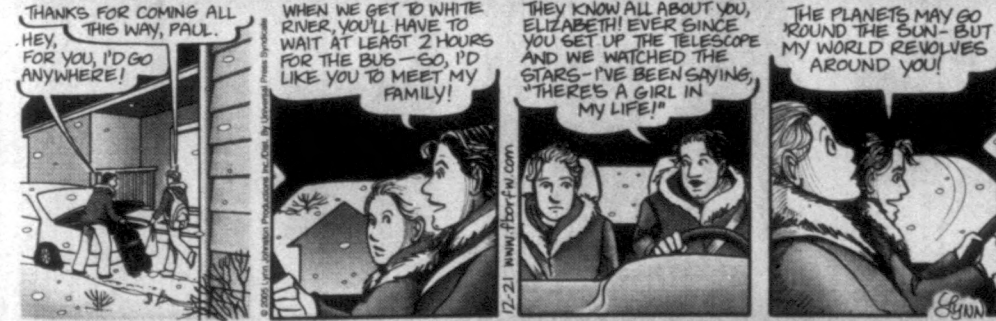
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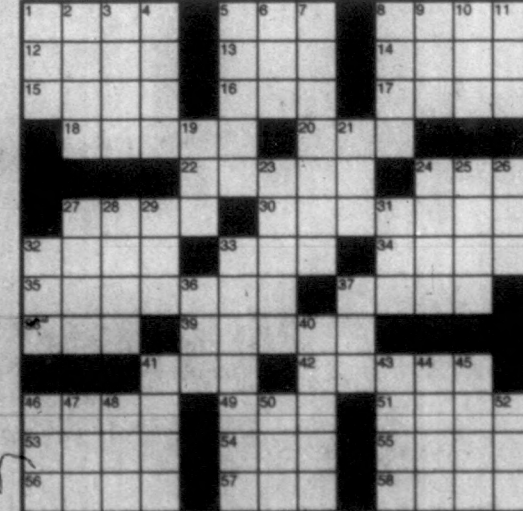
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Crosswords

- ACROSS 1 Plumbing need 5 Family nickname 8 Athena's father 12 Deep black 13 Big fuss 14 Technical sch. 15 Breezy 16 Shrill bark 17 Monster's loch 18 Wild guesses 20 Garden hose plastic 22 Column type 24 Female sheep 27 Person, place or thing 30 Solve 32 Metallic sound 33 Co. 34 Have confidence in 35 Stops the ship 37 Heal, as a bone 38 -- kwon do 39 Pesky plants 41 Math subj.

- DOWN 1 "Snow" veggie 2 Egret cousin 3 Seaside town 4 New Age singer 5 Final word (hyph.) 6 Potato st. 7 Dripping wet 8 Metal for galvanizing 9 Hydrocarbon suffix 10 -- Nimitz 11 Ave. crossers 19 Storage container 21 Rec-room gear 23 Clinic staffer 24 Two to two 25 Use a blowtorch 26 Famous cathedral town 27 Ms. Foch 28 Almost never 29 Yech! 31 Still exist 32 Reassure Rover 33 Spaghetti sauce herb 36 Harry Potter's messenger 37 Chow main additive 40 In concealment 41 Love, to Claudius 43 Sell cheap 44 Is very thrifty 45 Volleyball needs 46 -- Magnon man 47 Garment edge 48 Ms. Merkel 50 Delivery truck 52 Treat fractures



Answer to Previous Puzzle



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Bible Belters more generous about charitable giving

U.S.'s New Englanders rate as most stingy

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — New Englanders remain among the most tightfisted in the country when it comes to charitable giving while Bible Belt residents are among the most generous, according to an annual index.

For the fourth year running, New Hampshire was the most miserly state, according to the Catalogue of Philanthropy's Generosity Index. Mississippi remained at the top for generos-

ity. The index, released to The Associated Press last week, takes into account both "having" and "giving." It is based on average adjusted gross incomes and the value of itemized charitable donations reported to the Internal Revenue Service on 2003 tax returns, the latest available.

However, its methodology has been criticized and has helped give rise to new studies of charitable giving.

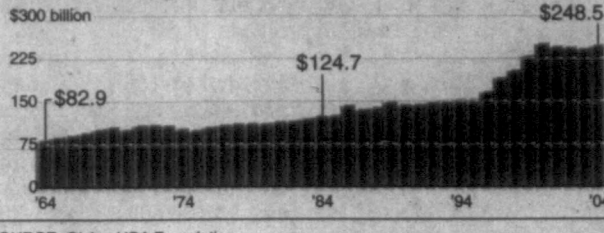
"We believe that generosity is a function of how much one gives to the ability one has to give," said Martin Cohn, a spokesman for the Catalogue of Philanthropy, a Boston-based nonprofit that publishes a directory of nonprofit organizations.

Using that standard, the 10 most generous states were, in descending order, Mississippi,

Charitable giving highest since 2000

In 2004, U.S. charitable giving totaled \$248.5 billion. That figure could be surpassed in 2005.

U.S. charitable giving, inflation adjusted, 1964-2004



SOURCE: Giving USA Foundation

Arkansas, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Utah, South Carolina and West Virginia.

The 10 stingiest, starting from the bottom, were New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Minnesota, Colorado, Hawaii

and Michigan.

But a study by the Boston Foundation concluded that the index presents an undeserved image of New England as a region made up of Yankee skinflints.

"If everyone in Massachusetts gave 100 times as much to charity as we do

today and everything else remains the same, we wouldn't get above the bottom half of the chart," said David Trueblood, a spokesman for the foundation. "And no matter what Mississippi did, it couldn't fall below 22nd or 23rd."

The foundation proposed an alternate measure of generosity based on each state's share of overall charitable contributions and income, adjusted for differences in taxes and living costs. Using that methodology, Massachusetts' generosity ranking last year would be 11th, instead of 49th.

Another new study, conducted by The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University on behalf of a group of New England sponsors, also boosts the case for residents of the six-state region.

That study, which supple-

ments IRS data with a survey of representative households, found that individuals in New England give less, on average, to charity than people in other regions, but that the percentage of New Englanders who do contribute is higher than the national average. It also found that contributors in New England tend to favor secular, rather than religious, causes.

Cohn said he was disappointed that the Boston Foundation chose to attack the index without understanding that its purpose is to promote discussion about philanthropy and that it never sought to hang a label on any state.

Trueblood said he wanted to move the discussion away from rankings and toward ways to get people to be more generous.

The Salvation Army sees simultaneous expansions, declines

By RICHARD N. OSTLING
AP Religion Writer

Renowned for Christmastime bell-ringers with red kettles, thrift shops, skid row missions and efficient canteens that served 4.8 million meals after Hurricane Katrina, the Salvation Army enjoys a kind of respect accorded few American charities.

Yet the Army is not a charity. Rather, it's a rather small, distinctly conservative Protestant denomination that sponsors a massive and expanding philanthropic empire even as its membership declines.

Last year, the organization spent \$2.6 billion and aided 34.5 million people through every imaginable form of social service; about 11 percent of its income came from the government. In the future, the Army's impact will be enhanced by 30 or more community centers funded by America's biggest one-time charity gift — \$1.5 billion from the estate of Joan Kroc, widow of the McDonald's founder.

While the fact that devout evangelicals are managing social services partly with government money has provoked protests from civil libertarians and gay activists, it apparently hasn't undercut public support. Last December's kettle proceeds set a record and contributions to Katrina relief, the Army's biggest disaster effort ever, were triple those after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Still, the Army faces internal trouble.

Its 62,000 employees and 3.5 million volunteers are led by a mere 3,684 "officers" (the equivalent of clergy) whose ranks have declined nearly a third the past five years. "Cadets" enrolled at the four U.S. officer training schools are down 18 percent since 1997, to 284, and membership is also sliding.

National Commander W. Todd Bassett of Alexandria, Va., said in a telephone interview that the Army has been hit with a cultural undertow that has hurt participation in other churches and that officer careers require an unusual degree of "dedicated devotion." That includes financial sacrifice. For example, 42-year veteran Bassett and his wife, Carol, (all officers' spouses must also be officers) together receive a \$33,000 stipend plus housing, expenses and benefits.

"I'm a man of faith so I know we can turn it around," Bassett said, speaking about the drop in officers. "Our recruiting in the past has been within our own ranks. We're reaching beyond that" to present the vision of Army service to more non-Salvationist youths.

The Army originated in 19th century England with founder William Booth's mission to help the downtrodden. Its doctrines, defined in a 144-page handbook, are orthodox Christian with one oddity: baptism and communion are never celebrated.

In many ways a product of its time, the Army is saturated with Victorian traditions: brass bands, distinctive men's and women's uniforms, street meetings and numerous military metaphors.

Today, the Army is a closely knit international organization based in London with 1.4 million followers in 109 countries. The United States has the largest national contingent, now celebrating its 125th anniversary, but today's growth is found in Africa and India.

The 113,500 U.S. "soldiers," the core group among 427,000 members, have taken covenant vows, once known as the "Articles of War." They cover doctrine, loyalty to leaders, generosity, willingness to evangelize and help the needy, and clean living (no alcohol, tobacco, drugs, gambling, pornography or profanity).

The Army's belief that "the full expression of sexual love" should be restricted to heterosexual marriage caused dustups in recent years with Portland, Maine, and San Francisco, which required charities receiving public funds to provide benefits to employees' unmarried domestic partners.

And an ongoing dispute involves 19 current and former employees, backed by the New York Civil Liberties Union, who have accused the Army of religious discrimination in employment. In October, a federal

judge ruled that the Army has the legal right to use religious criteria in hiring but allowed other allegations to proceed.

Executive Director Donna Lieberman said the civil liberties union will appeal on the hiring issue, saying that "when a religious entity is engaged in the provision of government-funded services it can't be involved in promoting religion." The Army's lawyer said the organization complies with federal, state and city employment rules under its social-service contracts and doesn't use public funding for religious activities.

Service contracts signed by the Army include its 1991 self-definition as an evangelical Christian body whose "mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in his name without discrimination."

Bassett says that the Army doesn't discriminate in hiring

but believes its social service employees should not "act or promote something contrary to what the Salvation Army is and stands for."

R. David Rightmire, a fifth generation Salvationist and faculty adviser to Army youths attending Kentucky's Asbury College, thinks "there will be only increasing problems like this" because the Army is seeking closer coordination between its religious and charitable operations and such ties are politically sensitive now.

Diane Winston, a University of Southern California professor and author of the Army history "Red-Hot and Righteous," says that despite the conflicts the Army's operations are "exemplary" when it comes to those who receive its services.

"They truly care about people, without regard to sexual orientation or religion or race," she says.



Pedestrians pass Emilio Cardenas, a bell-ringer for the Salvation Army, in Rockefeller Plaza in New York. The small, distinctly conservative Protestant denomination sponsors a massive and expanding philanthropic empire even as its membership declines.

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The Calloway County High School Cross Country team recently held a season-ending banquet to recognize award winners for its 2005 season. Award winners pictured include Jenny Vincent, Most Improved and Academic awards; Tatum Dale, Coaches and Academic awards; Amy Winkler, Academic award; Karra Jones, Academic award; Daniel Hopkins, Academic award; Brandon Phillips, Academic award; Ben Hart, Leadership and Academic awards; Joseph Suiter, Coaches and Academic awards; Steven Hart, MVP and Academic awards; Jacob Wade, Academic award; and Jonathan Washborn, Most Improved award. Not pictured are Megan Summers, MVP award; and Kelsey Gray, Most Promising award.

Lakers ...

From Page 1C

hole midway through the second quarter.

Jeremi Bumpus also reached double figures with 13 points, while Chase Futrell added 10. Brett Welter finished with six, Wes Adams had six and Eric Berberich finished with one.

The one Achilles heel for Calloway through its first nine games of the season has been its inability to shut the door on an opponent by not putting together four good quarters.

"That's something that I keep eluding back to the beginning of the season, where we were struggling a little bit," Birdsong said. "It just seems like a whole new team. Our chemistry is better about moving the basketball; we seem to be getting better looks. The worst feeling we could have right now is if we were playing our best basketball in December."

"I'll take a win it when it's like that because we made our free throws. Part of putting it together is when you get to the foul line, you have to make them."

Calloway, which is shooting around 75 percent from the foul line this season, made good on 20-of-25 shots from the charity stripe for 80 percent and limited Owensboro to just 3-of-7 from the foul stripe, all coming in the second half.

The Lakers jumped out to an 8-0 lead and built a 10-point cushion (15-5) after a Bumpus bucket with 2:34 to play. Sloppy turnovers led to a 17-12 Calloway lead at the end of one period of play.

Owensboro, starting to catch fire, chipped away at Calloway's lead in the second quarter, getting to within one-point (19-18) after back-to-back baskets by Lee Skinner.

Birdsong went to his bench, bringing in Streetman, who scored nine points in the period, including three straight buckets that put the Lakers up 26-21 after his trey with 4:30 remaining.

Streetman, a 6-3, 165-pound senior forward, was referred to by Birdsong as a player who's very good about extending his arms, who has a solid floor game and has gotten to the point

in his career where he is beginning to understand his role. He finished with three rebounds and two blocks.

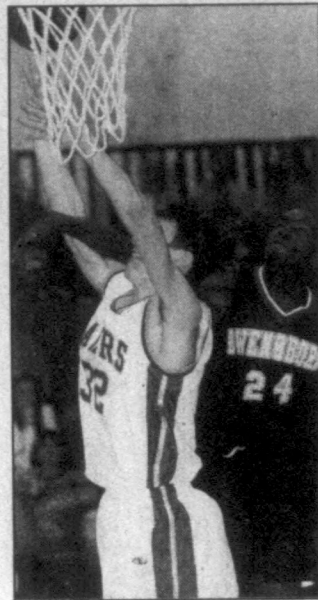
"It's always been more mental than anything with him," Birdsong said. "His biggest problem over the year has been consistency. We've seen flashes of what you saw tonight in practice the last two or three years, but it hasn't been put together consistently."

"That's what he's doing now. He's got a good role. He comes off the bench, so he's not so tentative. If we get that kind of performance out of him every night, we're going to be hard to beat."

After closing out the first half up 36-26, Birdsong talked to his squad about how important the next three minutes would be.

To the delight of the seventh-year head coach, his team heeded his game plan.

Perry opened the third quarter with a 3-pointer. That bucket led to a pair of free throws from Welter, a basket by Futrell and scores from Adams and Streetman as the Lakers went up 49-28 with 2:52 to play.



Calloway County's Wes Perry is fouled by Owensboro's Walter Shemwell (24) as Perry goes in for a layup Tuesday at Jeffrey Gymnasium. Perry was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

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East					East				
W	L	T	Pct	W	L	T	Pct		
x-New England	9	5	0	.643	N.Y. Giants	10	4	0	.714
Miami	7	7	0	.500	Washington	8	6	0	.571
Buffalo	4	10	0	.286	Dallas	8	6	0	.571
N.Y. Jets	3	11	0	.214	Philadelphia	6	8	0	.429
South					South				
W	L	T	Pct	W	L	T	Pct		
x-Indianapolis	13	1	0	.929	Carolina	10	4	0	.714
Jacksonville	10	4	0	.714	Tampa Bay	9	5	0	.643
Tennessee	4	10	0	.286	Atlanta	8	6	0	.571
Houston	2	12	0	.143	New Orleans	3	11	0	.214
North					North				
W	L	T	Pct	W	L	T	Pct		
x-Cincinnati	11	3	0	.786	Chicago	10	4	0	.714
Pittsburgh	9	5	0	.643	Minnesota	8	6	0	.571
Baltimore	5	9	0	.357	Detroit	4	10	0	.286
Cleveland	5	9	0	.357	Green Bay	3	11	0	.214
West					West				
W	L	T	Pct	W	L	T	Pct		
y-Denver	11	3	0	.786	x-Seattle	12	2	0	.857
San Diego	9	5	0	.643	St. Louis	5	9	0	.357
Kansas City	8	6	0	.571	Arizona	4	10	0	.286
Oakland	4	10	0	.286	San Francisco	2	12	0	.143

Last Saturday's Games
 New England 28, Tampa Bay 0
 N.Y. Giants 27, Kansas City 17
 Denver 28, Buffalo 17

Last Sunday's Games
 Miami 24, N.Y. Jets 20
 Houston 30, Arizona 19
 Seattle 28, Tennessee 24
 San Diego 26, Indianapolis 17
 Philadelphia 17, St. Louis 16
 Carolina 27, New Orleans 10
 Jacksonville 10, San Francisco 9
 Pittsburgh 18, Minnesota 3
 Cincinnati 41, Detroit 17
 Cleveland 9, Oakland 7
 Washington 35, Dallas 7
 Chicago 16, Atlanta 3

Monday's Game
 Baltimore 48, Green Bay 3

x-clinched division
 y-clinched playoff spot

Saturday
 Tennessee at Miami, Noon
 Detroit vs. New Orleans at San Antonio, Noon
 N.Y. Giants at Washington, Noon
 Buffalo at Cincinnati, Noon
 Dallas at Carolina, Noon
 Jacksonville at Houston, Noon
 San Francisco at St. Louis, Noon
 San Diego at Kansas City, Noon
 Atlanta at Tampa Bay, Noon
 Pittsburgh at Cleveland, Noon
 Philadelphia at Arizona, 3:05 p.m.
 Indianapolis at Seattle, 3:15 p.m.
 Oakland at Denver, 3:15 p.m.

Sunday
 Chicago at Green Bay, 4 p.m.
 Minnesota at Baltimore, 7:30 p.m.
 Monday, Dec. 26
 New England at N.Y. Jets, 8 p.m.

Franklin hired as offensive coordinator of Troy Trojans

From staff and wire reports

Former University of Kentucky assistant coach Tony Franklin has been hired as the offensive coordinator at Troy University in Troy, Ala.

A former head coach at both Murray and Calloway County high schools, Franklin was one of two assistants — joining new offensive line coach Matt Moore — recently added to the Troy staff by Trojans' head coach Larry Blakeney.

Franklin will return to the college ranks as a coach for the

first time since serving as Kentucky's offensive coordinator from 1998-2000. Since then, he has primarily worked as an offensive consultant for a number of high school programs, mostly in the southeast region of the country. He also served as head coach and general manager of the Lexington Horsemen, a National Indoor Football League team, in 2003.

Troy went 4-7 under Blakeney during the 2005 season. In 15 years as the Trojans' head coach, Blakeney is 119-70-1.

Southern Miss wins New Orleans Bowl

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP) — Arkansas State's improbable season is finally over, and coach Steve Roberts can look back on it with pride.

"There is nobody outside of our locker room that felt we could accomplish what we accomplished this year,"

Roberts said after the Indians' 31-19 loss to Southern Mississippi in the New Orleans Bowl — the first of the season's 28 bowl games.

"There's nobody outside of our locker room that predicted that we could be in the situation that we were in," he said.

Shawn Nelson caught two second-half touchdowns, and Cody Hull added 161 yards rushing Tuesday night to lead Southern Mississippi. But Arkansas State performed admirably, preventing the Golden Eagles from taking control until the second half.

Arkansas State (6-6) was in its first bowl since moving back up from Division I-AA before the 1992 season. The Indians tied for the Sun Belt Conference title and became the first team besides North Texas to represent the league in the New Orleans Bowl. North Texas went the last four years, winning once.

"I am proud to be a football coach of champions," Roberts said.

Racers ...

From Page 1C

"Their matchup zone has confused our guys. What we have to do is limit our turnovers and get shots off. We have to get the shots that we want against them."

Samford enters tonight's contest off a 68-53 triumph over Southeast Missouri State on Monday night. The Bulldogs lost their first conference game, falling to in-state rival Jacksonville State 62-61 on Dec. 8.

Senior forward J. Robert Merritt is Samford's top scorer at 13.8 ppg. He is hitting 41.2 percent of his field goal tries this season, including a 35.4 percent clip from 3-point range. Guard Joe Ross Merritt is knocking down 48.6 percent of his shots from the floor, including a 44.4 percent effort from beyond the arc. As a team, the Bulldogs are hitting 37.1 percent (62-of-167) of their 3-point attempts while averaging 56.9 points per outing.

Following tonight's contest, the Racers will break to observe the Christmas holiday before stepping out of conference play to take on regional rival Southern Illinois next Wednesday at the Regional Special Events Center. MSU will also host Rice on Dec. 30 before returning to OVC play on Jan. 5 against Tennessee State.

The SIU game will begin a six-game homestand for Murray State.

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MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
 5 p.m.
 ESPN2 — St. John's at Duke
 7 p.m.
 ESPN2 — Illinois at Missouri
 9 p.m.
 ESPN2 — Arkansas at Texas Tech
 9:30 p.m.
 FSN — North Carolina at Southern Cal
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
 7 p.m.
 FSN — Michigan St. at Oklahoma

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Paterno gets honor

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Paterno doesn't have to say "I told you so."

JoePa, who turns 79 on Wednesday, got an early birthday present Tuesday when he was an overwhelming choice as The Associated Press college football coach of the year.

So much for critics who said the game had passed him by.

Not that he's gloating about Penn State's resurgence.

"The only thing I wanted to do is try to get us back to where we were a good football team and we could be very competitive and make some plays we hadn't made," he said. "We got that done and I feel good about that."

After four losing seasons in the last five years, Paterno and the Nittany Lions rebounded in 2005 to go 10-1, share the Big Ten title and earn a spot in the Bowl Championship Series.

For that, Paterno received 45 of 65 votes from media members on AP's college football poll board. Texas' Mack Brown was second with eight votes after leading the Longhorns to a perfect regular season and a spot in the Rose Bowl. Notre Dame's Charlie Weis and Southern California's Pete Carroll, whose Trojans will face Brown's Longhorns for the national title, got three votes each.

West Virginia's Rich Rodriguez received two votes. Les Miles of LSU, Steve Spurrier of South Carolina, George O'Leary of Central Florida and Tommy Tuberville of Auburn, last year's winner, each received one vote.

"It's very flattering," Paterno said. "I think anytime, regardless of whether it be my first year or my 50th year, to have people recognize what's been done is very, very ... uplifting. The only thing I feel sometimes is that the head coach gets too much credit. I think sometimes it ought to be coaching staff of the year."

Despite going 4-7 in 2004, Paterno was convinced that the Nittany Lions were on the verge of good things.

In search of playmakers, he landed two of the nation's top recruits in speedy receivers Derrick Williams and Justin



Penn State coach Joe Paterno was named AP Coach of the Year after guiding the Nittany Lions to a 10-1 record and a share of the Big 10 title in 2005.

King. By doing so, Paterno showed that he and his staff, led by recruiting coordinator and former Penn State quarterback Mike McQueary, were still capable of bringing in blue-

CCMS boys defeat Graves

Staff Report

Murray Ledger & Times

The seventh grade boys' basketball team at Calloway County Middle School defeated Graves County 48-43 on Dec. 15.

Shawn Thompson paced the Laker attack with career-high 15 points, while Jeremy Pruitt tossed in 12. Brock Simmons had 10, Blake Maness seven and Joe Futrell and Tyler Morton two each to round out the CCMS attack. The effort by Thompson, Pruitt and Simmons marked the first time this season that the Lakers have produced three double-figure scorers.

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TV Listings Thursday, December 22, 2005

Table of TV listings for Thursday, December 22, 2005, morning and afternoon slots. Includes channels like WKRNBC, WSL-ABC, WSMV-NBC, etc.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Table of TV listings for Thursday, December 22, 2005, afternoon slots. Includes channels like WKRNBC, WSL-ABC, WSMV-NBC, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING

Table of TV listings for Thursday, December 22, 2005, evening slots. Includes channels like WKRNBC, WSL-ABC, WSMV-NBC, etc.

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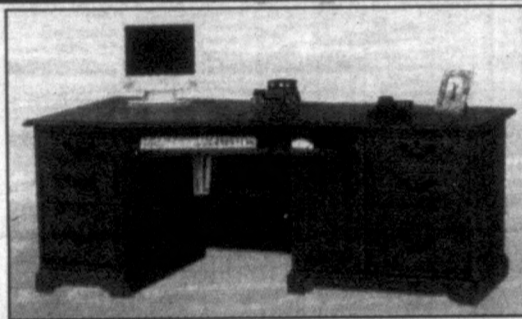
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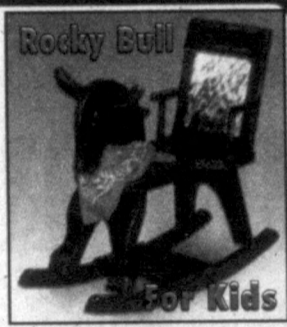
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