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Murray Ledger and Times, December 22, 2003

Murray Ledger and Times

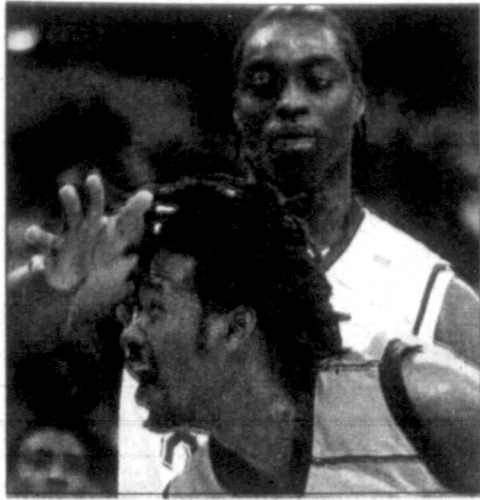
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MSU BASKETBALL: Racers Suffer First Loss; Face Georgetown, Page 8

MURRAY LEDGER & TIMES

Home of Murray State University



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Monday, December 22, 2003

50 CENTS

Terrorist attack warning issued for holidays

By The Associated Press

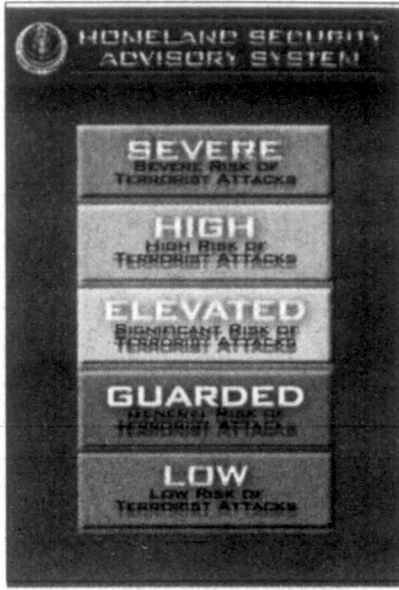
WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the Department of Homeland Security today urged people to "just go about your business" despite the decision to raise the national terror-attack warning to its second-highest level.

"I think it's very, very important to send a message to the terrorists of goodwill and resolve," said Tom Ridge, making the rounds of nationally broadcast morning news shows. He said the Bush administration wants people to "be vigilant and have a good communications plan under way."

Ridge's comments came a day after he announced that the government was elevating the national terror alert warning to "Code Orange." The upgrade from "Code Yellow," or "elevated" status, followed warnings that the terrorist organization al-Qaida may be plotting attacks against the United States during the holidays. The new designation indicates a high risk.

"The information we have indicates that extremists abroad are anticipating near-term attacks that they believe will either rival or exceed" the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, Ridge had said in announcing the upgraded alert status on Sunday.

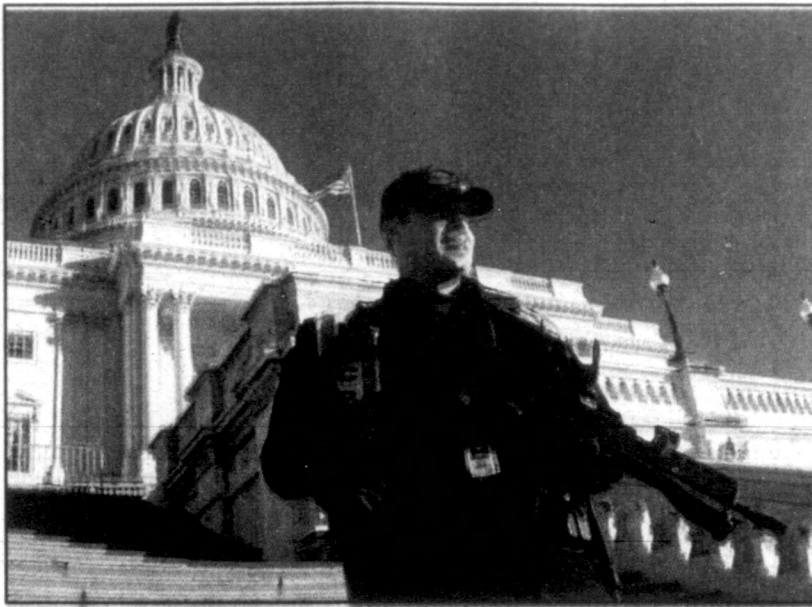
Appearing on ABC's "Good Morning America," Ridge was



Source: Department of Homeland Security

asked if the host of warnings and changes in warning status over the past two years had made the public somewhat nonchalant about such alerts.

He replied that it has been six months since the terror alert was changed, saying "I don't think we've got to worry about threat fatigue. We need to be on the alert and America needs to know that those who need to do things are doing them, that their government is



AP Photo

Officer Aaron Brodsky of the Capitol Police guards the Capitol Building Sunday in Washington, as the terror threat was raised from code yellow to code orange. The U.S. government on Sunday raised the national threat level to orange, the second-highest, saying attacks were possible during the holidays and that threat indicators are "perhaps greater now than at any point" since Sept. 11, 2001.

working 24-7 to protect them against terrorist attack."

Some of the intelligence information gathered indicates that Osama bin Laden's terrorist net-

work, al-Qaida, is seeking again to use planes as weapons, he said. Ridge said the terrorists are "con-

See Page 2

Americans mostly shrug off terrorism warning

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Americans continued to check items off their holiday lists and mostly shrugged off new terror warnings as security tightened at the nation's airports, bridges and major facilities.

"They're like earthquakes. You learn to deal with it," said 42-year-old Jeff Shaw, of Reno, Nev., at the San Francisco Shopping Mall. "If it's going to happen, it's going to happen."

Airports and transit hubs across the nation, already crowded with the traditional holiday travel rush, began Sunday to ratchet up security measures in the wake of the raised alert from Washington, D.C.

Governors across the country offered the same basic message: Although residents should be vigilant, there was no specific threat against their communities and they should stick to their holiday plans.

"We encourage people to go about their lives. I hope this is yet another false alarm, but we have to be prepared," said Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. He returned to Boston from a family vacation in Utah to deal with the heightened alert, but planned to fly back Monday.

The alert prompted heavier security at buildings ranging from nuclear plants to shopping malls. Checkpoints for trucks were heightened at bridges including the Golden Gate Bridge and spans into New York City.

"Some Americans have been kind of lulled back into complacency," said Inspector Kriste Etue of the Michigan State Police's emergency management division.

New York mobilized hundreds of extra police officers to patrol in and around locations considered susceptible to attack — places of worship, landmarks, tourist attractions, Wall Street, subway stations among them.

At the U.S.-Mexico border, the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection said it would be conducting more thorough inspections of the

See Page 2

Fletcher's experience in Washington could be major asset for Ky.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gov. Ernie Fletcher's experience in Washington could be a major asset to him now.

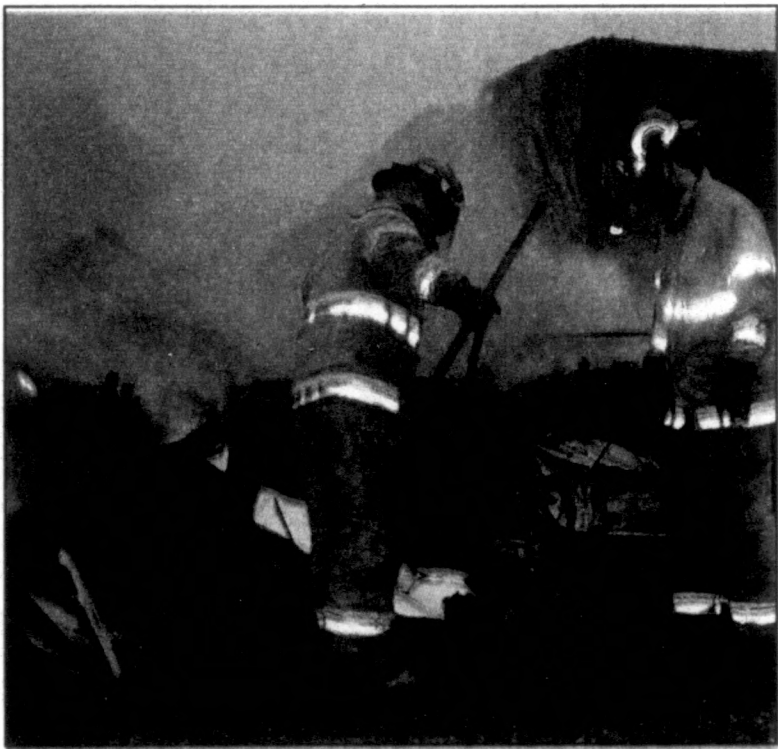
Fletcher, a Republican who took office as governor earlier this month, will

know where to go and who to talk to if the state needs help from the federal government, said other politicians who have made similar moves.

Hugh Carey, for example, became New York's governor in 1975 after 14 years as a member of the House. When he took office, New York City was out of money

See Page 2

Lost to Fire



KRISTIN TAYLOR/Ledger & Times photo

Murray firefighters responded to a trailer fire in Riviera Courts a little before 7 this morning after a neighbor noticed flames and smoke coming from the residence. The trailer was destroyed in the blaze. Additional information was expected later today, according to the MFD officials.

Local church makes annual shoe collection

By BRANDI WILLIAMS Staff Writer

The members of First United Methodist Church are in the spirit of giving. On Sunday, members gave pairs of shoes and packages of cloth diapers to send to the people of Nicaragua.

Members of the church, and other churches, donated 625 pairs of shoes and 175 dozen cloth diapers.

Effie Kemp, organizer of Celebration of Giving, started making these collections five years ago after traveling to Central America and having people there request shoes. She asked her pastor, Dr. Larry Daniel, to help with a collection of used shoes, but he thought the church could do better than that.

"My pastor said, 'That is an insult. Why can't we give them new shoes?'" Kemp recalled.

She also decided cloth diapers would make a good collectable item when, on one of her mission trips, she saw a woman dig through a garbage can and take a bread bag to make a diaper.

"She didn't have a thing to put on that baby's bottom," Kemp said. "Wal-Mart has been good enough to special order diapers."

She said Wal-Mart stocked the cloth diapers — something many mothers don't use anymore — so people could buy them for the donation.

Kemp has been collecting shoes all year and estimates there will be close to 800 shoes to send. The shoes collected were generally sandals, tennis shoes, some outdoor work shoes and 32 pairs of soccer shoes which were requested. She said the group distributes cards and those cards are valid for one pair of shoes.

Shoes and diapers are still being collected for anyone who wants to give. Kemp said donations can be dropped off at First Methodist, located off the Court Square downtown. Some who couldn't



BRANDI WILLIAMS/Ledger & Times photo

Effie Kemp displays some donations that were given for the First United Methodist Church's annual Celebration of Giving. Donations of shoes and cloth diapers are sent to Nicaragua.

make the shoe or diaper donation can also give money to pay for the shipping, she said.

Six weeks before the church makes its mission trip to Nicaragua the items will be crated, shipped and sent to full-time missionaries already there. "They will have it ready and waiting for us," she said.

Kemp has been traveling to other countries on

mission work for several years. She said seeing the people in these other countries is eye opening.

"We see the need," she said.

She said even the children were longing to have a pair of shoes for their own.

"They don't even think about a toy," she said. "They wanted shoes like we have on our feet."

Bomb kills two U.S. soldiers; former Iraqi general nabbed

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A roadside bomb exploded near a U.S. military convoy Monday, killing two American soldiers and an Iraqi translator, the military said. U.S. troops overnight arrested a former Iraqi intelligence officer suspected of directing anti-American attacks and raided a Baghdad mosque.

L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator of Iraq, told NBC's "Today"

show that "there's been a suggestion of high terror threats" in Iraq in the last weeks unrelated to Saddam Hussein's capture on Dec. 13.

Two other soldiers from the 1st Armored Division were wounded in the attack at about 11:45 a.m. in Baghdad. The soldiers' names were being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Three American soldiers have now been killed in combat in the

past week, raising the toll to 317 soldiers killed in combat since military operations began in March.

Also Monday, Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski paid an unannounced visit to the headquarters of Polish-led peacekeepers in Iraq, the PAP news agency reported.

Kwasniewski, accompanied by Defense Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski and presidential defense aide Marek Siwicz, landed

at the Camp Babylon Base on Monday afternoon, the Polish news agency said.

On Sunday night, U.S. troops detained ex-army Gen. Mumtaz al-Taji at a house in Baqouba, about 30 miles north of Baghdad.

"Tonight, we were on a mission to capture a former Iraqi intelligence service general who we believe is

See Page 2

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INDEX

ONE SECTION — 14 PAGES

Classifieds	11, 12
Comics	13
Community	6, 7
Crossword	13
Dear Abby	13
Deaths	5
Farm	10
Forum	4
Horoscope	12
Sports	8, 9
TV Data	14

■ Fletcher ...

From Front

and needed federal help.

"Because I'd been there, I knew what it took to bail the city out," recalled Carey, now 84. "I knew everybody in every delegation, every committee and so forth. ... I had picked up a lot of (political) coupons, so I went back to my colleagues and asked them and pleaded with them and begged them, and I cashed in all my coupons."

When Fletcher, a physician, turns his attention to Kentucky's Medicaid crisis and his goal of

bringing a federal research laboratory to the state, he knows which doors to knock on — and his former colleagues in the Kentucky delegation will serve as key partners, Fletcher spokesman Wes Irvin said.

"He's worked closely with the entire delegation, knows what they do, where their talents are, where their effectiveness lies," Irvin said. "He can go to them and talk to them very comfortably about issues facing Kentucky."

And Fletcher can count on what Irvin described as an "outstanding relationship" with President Bush.

Plus, a governor who has spent time on Capitol Hill knows the lawmakers, the key congressional aides and some of the president's Cabinet, Carey said.

Fletcher plans to put his Washington experience and contacts to good use, Irvin said. With five years that included service on the House Budget Committee and the House Agriculture Committee, Fletcher was a leading sponsor of a buyout for tobacco growers and was a key advocate for giving states more flexibility in spending on education.

"For someone who was in Congress for a relatively short period of time, he has an enormous support network here in Washington in the legal and lobbying community," said Charlie Grizzle, a former Kentuckian who is a Washington lobbyist representing, among others, the University of Louisville and Louisville International Airport.

Fletcher's Washington connection "certainly can't hurt as far as bringing home some more of what (Arizona Sen.) John McCain calls pork but down here we call beef," said former Democratic Sen. Wendell Ford, who served as Kentucky governor from 1971 to 1974 before going to Washington.

Two priorities for Fletcher that will have Washington components are reforming the state's Medicaid program and trying to bring a major federal research laboratory to Kentucky, Irvin said.

The state Medicaid program is projecting a \$530 million shortfall in the fiscal year that starts July 1, and a shortfall of nearly \$900 million in the fiscal year after that. The program serves 673,126 Kentuckians, but has made cuts that have denied coverage to hundreds of people. Fletcher has said he wants to restore services to the elderly.

Lybia expected to open nuclear program to inspections next week

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Libya has agreed to open its nuclear activities to pervasive inspection by the U.N. atomic agency as early as next week, a key step toward honoring a promise to scrap its nuclear weapons program, the agency's chief said Monday.

Also Monday, Pakistan acknowledged that some scientists participating in its nuclear program may have been involved in the proliferation of sensitive technology.



Gadhafi
Agency. The session came after Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi's

Libya's decision followed a meeting its delegation had Saturday with Mohamed ElBaradei, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy

Agency. The session came after surprise announcement Friday that his country would give up nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

ElBaradei said he would lead the first inspection mission, which he described as a positive step on the part of Libya "to rid itself of all programs or activities that are relevant or could lead to the production of weapons of mass destruction."

"We will start as early as ... next week," ElBaradei said.

Libya has admitted to nuclear fuel projects, including the possession of centrifuges and centrifuge parts used in uranium enrichment — a nuclear effort more advanced than previously thought. It also agreed to tell the IAEA about current nuclear programs and to adhere to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

During Saturday's meeting, the Libyan delegation also agreed that it was in breach of its safeguard obligations.

■ Iraq ...

From Front

recruiting former military members of the Iraqi army to conduct attacks against U.S. forces," Maj. Paul Owen of the 588th Engineer Battalion told Associated Press Television News.

"He runs a very active cell in our sector, and hopefully, what we have done tonight is to stall some of his efforts," Owen said.

More than 30 soldiers took part in the raid, in which a rifle, pistol and ammunition were seized.

Al-Taji is not on the U.S. list of the 55 most wanted Iraqis. Thirteen fugitives from that list remain at large.

Bremer said information gleaned from Saddam's capture has led to the arrests of insurgents like the ex-general.

"We have been arresting quite a number of his cronies and colleagues, including one last night," Bremer said. "We are getting some very useful opportunities in the last week or 10 days now to try to wrap up the leaders of the troops that are attacking our soldiers."

Saddam, however, "has not been particularly cooperative," Bremer said. "But we have been able to exploit some of the information and materials we have uncovered in the course of the last week in this battle to see down these insurgents."

Saddam was arrested near his hometown of Tikrit, and the U.S. military has said soldiers also seized

a briefcase containing documents that shed light on the anti-U.S. insurgency. The CIA is interrogating him in Iraq; Iraqi officials say the former dictator is in the Baghdad area.

In southern Baghdad on Sunday, soldiers backed by helicopter gunships surrounded the Atika mosque, ordered everyone out and searched it until early Monday, a worker at the mosque told APTN.

He said troops used a blowtorch to break through a metal door into a secure area where they found one assault rifle. The mosque is used by Muslims of the Sunni tradition, a minority that dominated Iraq under Saddam, a Sunni.

In other towns, troops in tanks, Humvees and Bradley armored vehicles imposed curfews and roadblocks and went house to house, smashing through doors in the search for guerrillas and weapons.

Among targeted towns are Fallujah, a center of resistance west of Baghdad; Samarra, 75 miles north of Baghdad; Jalulah, northwest of the capital; and Rawah near the western border with Syria, where troops dubbed the raids "Operation Santa Claws."

In Samarra, a 70-year-old man died when U.S. troops put a bag over his head and prepared to detain him Sunday night, Iraqis said. Neighbors said Mehdi al-Jamal died of a heart attack.

One person was killed during an airborne raid Sunday in Jalulah, on



A U.S. soldier of 1st Battalion, 22nd Regiment, (1-22) of the 4th Infantry Division, and an Iraqi man greet each other during a daily patrol in Tikrit, Iraq today.

the house of a sheik suspected of directing local resistance, said spokeswoman Maj. Josslyn Aberle of the 4th Infantry Division.

A 60-year-old woman was killed Sunday when soldiers blasted open the reinforced steel door of her home, said Lt. Col. Henry Kievenaar, who was directing the Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in raids in Rawah.

In Baghdad, the military put out flyers threatening to jail people who sell gasoline on the black market. The flyers cited new laws providing for confiscation of the goods, fines

of double the value of the goods and jail sentences of three to 10 years.

Iraq is suffering severe fuel shortages caused by distribution problems, dilapidated equipment and sabotage by insurgents targeting the oil infrastructure in an apparent attempt to undermine the U.S.-led occupation.

In northeast Iraq on Monday, thousands of Kurds rallied in Kirkuk to demand that the oil-rich city be made part of an autonomous territory for Kurds, a Sunni Muslim minority who comprise 20 percent of Iraq's population of 25 million.

■ Terrorist ...

From Front

stantly evaluating procedures ... to find gaps in our security posture that could be exploited."

The country's alert level had stood at yellow, an elevated risk and in the middle of the five-color scale, since May. Today, Ridge said the change in the alert status was the result of information from "many sources," but said he could not be more specific.

An official speaking on condition of anonymity had said Sunday that some of the intercepted communications and other intelligence mentioned New York, Washington and unspecified cities on the West Coast. Authorities also are concerned about dams, bridges, nuclear plants, chemical facilities and other public works.

Thousands of state and local law

enforcement agencies have received an FBI advisory urging special notice of sites that could be a conceivable target and potential security upgrades, the official said.

Interviewed on CBS's "The Early Show," Ridge said of the intelligence reports: "The volume is up. The quality of the reporting is up. The credibility is there." Earlier, he contacted counterparts in Canada and Mexico about increasing border security.

At a hastily arranged news conference Sunday, Ridge said credible intelligence sources "suggest the possibility of attacks against the homeland around the holiday season and beyond" and said it was decided to raise the alert level after U.S. intelligence agencies "received a substantial increase in the volume of threat-related intelligence reports."

Hours after Ridge's announce-

ment, the State Department issued a worldwide caution warning U.S. citizens overseas that they may be terrorist targets.

Ridge said officials did not see a connection between the recent capture of ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and the heightened security alert, and L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator in Iraq, backed that up Monday, telling NBC he saw no connection.

"There's been a suggestion of high terror threats certainly in Iraq where we are on the front of the war on terror over the last weeks, unrelated to Saddam's capture," Bremer said.

Ridge tried to reassure Americans traveling by plane for the holidays. "Make no mistake about

it, aviation is far more secure than it's ever been in the history of the country," he said. At the same time, he said security at airports can be ramped up a bit more.

As a result of the change in threat level, all federal departments and agencies were putting action plans in place and stepping up security at airports, border crossings and ports, Ridge said.

And he urged Americans not to disrupt holiday plans. "If you've got travel plans, travel," he said.

The lowest two levels of the alert system — green and blue, and the highest — red, indicating an imminent threat — have not been used since the system was put in place in March 2002.

■ Americans ...

From Front

55,000 vehicles that cross from Tijuana, Mexico, to San Diego each day. Agents were paying close attention to pedestrians, documents and merchandise, and carefully examining trunks and cargo.

Officials also increased security in the waters surrounding the Port of Los Angeles and began random inspections of ships entering the port, Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn said.

At Macy's in downtown Los Angeles, 59-year-old Gilbert Carrasco wasn't troubled by the warning as he did some last-minute shopping for his brother and sister.

"I feel very comfortable. I'm not thinking about that at all," Carrasco said. "The United States hasn't had a major terrorist attack on our soil since Sept. 11."

The FBI's Joint Terrorist Task Force in Philadelphia set up a command post to check out tips, said FBI spokeswoman Linda Vizi. Residents who hear or see something suspicious should call 911 if they think a threat is imminent or the FBI if it's something that can wait, she said.

"People shouldn't determine in their own mind whether they think it's significant, they should let us take a look at it," Vizi said.

Patrols were increased immediately at Florida's Port Everglades at Fort Lauderdale, where some 50,000 passengers were on 15 cruise ships, port spokeswoman Ellen Kennedy said.

Many airports resumed or were planning to resume random vehicle searches, including those for Dallas-Fort Worth, Miami, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Philadelphia and San Francisco. Travelers were advised to arrive at airports an hour earlier than usual to get through the additional security.

At Boston's Logan Airport, where the two hijacked planes that hit the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, originated, officials added more state police at curbs, terminals and along perimeter roads Sunday, Logan spokesman Phil Orlandella said.

Many people said they didn't see what they could do differently.

"I'm scared because they proved two years ago that they can do evil things," said Curtiss Jacobs, who was meeting up with friends for lunch in San Francisco. "But the odds are that it won't happen where I'm standing. You just have to live your life."

Denver Police Chief Gerry Whitman said that his officers will watch large events this week in Denver, including Christmas shows at the Denver Center of the Performing Arts and the Denver Nuggets at the Pepsi Center.

The alert came at a bad time for the nation's retailers, who are hoping for a strong end to what has been an uneven holiday shopping season. Now the fear is that shoppers will stay home.

John Courtney, a Bostonian standing by the Christmas tree in New York's Rockefeller Center on Sunday, said the alert made him "maybe just a little more cautious."

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Power fully restored after San Francisco blackout

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Power was restored to all parts of the city after a major power blackout snarled traffic, shut down two transit stations and left downtown stores in the dark at the height of the holiday shopping season.

At its peak, the outage cut electricity to 125,000 Pacific Gas & Electric Co. customers — about a third of the city. Power was fully restored just before midnight Sunday, said Jonathan Franks, a spokesman for the utility.

A fire at a PG&E substation started the outage about 6 p.m. Saturday, but the disruptions to the city's holiday season continued throughout the day Sunday.

"Today could have been a \$10,000 day," said Fatima Kioskoi, manager of Jeffrey's Toys that was forced to close. "Little children have been pressing their noses up to the glass wanting to buy toys. It's been very hard."

At the city's ornate War Memorial Opera House, the San Francisco Ballet canceled a matinee performance of the Nutcracker. "All this afternoon, there were little kids weeping on the steps," said ballet General Manager Lesley Koenig.

Later Sunday, PG&E provided two generators that allowed the ballet to go on with a scheduled 5:30 p.m. performance, although it was delayed about 30 minutes while technicians made sure the machines were working.

Environmental concerns contributed to the delay in restoring power. Workers going into the substation had to don protective clothing to guard against particles and fumes stirred up by the fire.

The cause of the fire and the power outage was still being investigated, Franks said. "There's no indication that it was vandalism or sabotage. As far as the exact cause, we just don't know yet," he said.

On Saturday night, the power outage forced early closures and evacuations at theaters, restaurants and shopping centers, including the Metreon complex on Mission Street.

Street lights stopped working, causing traffic problems throughout the city. The San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District closed two stations, but trains continued to run as usual, BART officials said.

Emergency dispatch officials said they did not receive an increase in reported incidents related to the blackout.

Hanukkah gains significance by proximity to Christmas

BY RACHEL ZOLL
AP Religion Writer

Only one other Jewish family lives in Wendy Grosser's Minneapolis neighborhood, where the Christmas season arrived in twinkling lights and Nativity scenes on front lawns.

Her son and two daughters, all under age 8, know their friends will soon gather with their families, ripping red-and-green ribbon from piles of gifts. But Grosser, a Conservative Jew, won't compete by giving a bundle of toys to her own children as Hanukkah begins this weekend.

Like many American Jews, she is resisting the pull of the holidays' close timing — an annual occurrence that has spread a misperception about Hanukkah, that it has near equivalent religious significance as Christmas.

"We are trying to emphasize its unimportance," Grosser said, of the Jewish holiday, also known as the "Festival of Lights." "I didn't want to do a big party because it glorifies it too much."

Hanukkah is the third-most observed Jewish holiday in the United States behind Passover and Yom Kippur, according to surveys, but it is less significant under Jewish law than those two holidays and four others, including the weekly Sabbath and Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year.

Hanukkah commemorates how Jews reclaimed the defiled Jerusalem Temple from a Syrian despot in 165 B.C., and how one-day's worth of ritual oil that the Jews found miraculously burned for eight days.

The holiday is celebrated by lighting a menorah, or candelabra, for eight nights. Gift-giving is traditionally part of Hanukkah, too, but the custom is for children to receive coins — real or chocolate — called gelt.

That changed in the United States when Jewish immigrants, eager to adapt to American culture, took notice of secular Christmas traditions and began incorporating them into their own celebrations.

Terri Bernsohn, a religious school administrator, remembered being told as a child that Hanukkah gifts were from a Santa equivalent called "Hanukkah Herman." Her parents even put up a small, white Christmas tree with blue ornaments. (Blue is a color associated with Jewish observance.)

"I don't remember it being called a Hanukkah bush, but many families had them," said Bernsohn, of the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston, Ill.

Americans of other faiths have also played a role in the holiday hype, promoting Hanukkah in an effort to honor religious diversity, said Samuel Heilman, a sociologist at the City University of New York and an expert on American Judaism.

"There was a recognition that

December might not just be the Christmas season," Heilman said. (Determined by a lunar calendar, the Jewish festival usually falls between late November and December.)

Advertisers took note and began promoting the holiday, and Hanukkah started looking a bit more like a visit from St. Nick.

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, a scholar and author, said that his father once worked for a company that produced Hanukkah toys and candles, and the closer the two holidays fell, the more business the company did.

"It's become part of the American economy," said Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, executive vice president of the Orthodox Union, which represents more than 1,000 North American synagogues.

Weinreb said "tasteful" gift giving does not violate the religious message of the holiday, but decried the "crassness" and "commercialism" that characterized some celebrations.

Certainly, exchanging presents other than chocolate coins has become the norm at Hanukkah, mimicking Christmas gift giving.

The Wordsworth bookstore in Cambridge, Mass., has steadily increased its stock of Hanukkah items in the past several years. Their products range from plastic dreidls — the four-sided tops that are used to play Hanukkah games — to menorahs styled like choo-choo trains.

"We're finding there's more of a demand for it," said Colby Cedar Smith, a store spokeswoman.

Items inspired by Christmas decorations are among the traditional silver menorahs and chocolate coins for sale on jewishsource.com, said Rabbi Herschel Strauss, who founded the mail-order business 32 years ago.

One example is a Hanukkah banner similar to "Merry Christmas" banners people post in windows. One of his best-selling items years ago was a Star of David decoration with "Christmas-like lights," he said.

While Strauss occasionally hears complaints about these products from some of his more religious customers, he sees no danger in Jews buying the decorations.

"They want the spirit, the fun and the joy of it," said Strauss, who is Orthodox. "Jews have always, historically, from my perspective, taken and adapted from local cultures — and vice versa."

Bernsohn, a mother of three teenagers, said her family tries to avoid playing up the holiday by limiting the number of gifts they exchange and incorporating charity into the celebration, either by donating money or bringing her children to work in a soup kitchen.

Deborah Freeman, who is Jewish and married to a Roman Catholic, celebrates both holidays with their 17-year-old daughter, but gives only



Jewish worshippers walk away from the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, on the first of eight nights of Hanukkah, the Jewish holiday, in Jerusalem's Old City, Friday.

BRENNAN LINSLEY/AP Photo

small gifts each night of the Jewish festival in keeping with tradition.

because, when I was a kid, it was very low key. All I got was chocolate," said Freeman, of Brooklyn,

N.Y. "Just because it happens to fall in December, doesn't give it more significance than it deserves."



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Forum

Monday, December 22, 2003

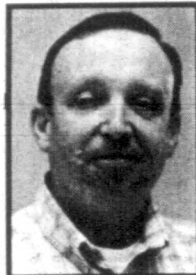
MURRAY LEDGER & TIMES

ALICE ROUSE ERIC WALKER
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'Where there is no vision, the people perish.'
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Fletcher is focused on state budget

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Two weeks before his first session of the General Assembly, Gov. Ernie Fletcher is focused mainly on the budget he must present by Jan. 27.



Capitol Ideas

By Charles Wolfe
 AP Writer

Money is tight. Fletcher doesn't dispute that. But he promised in his campaign to cut the size of government and to root out "waste, fraud and abuse" instead of raising taxes.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Fletcher said he was determined to stay that course. He said his transition team constantly sought suggestions for saving money as it went through every cabinet of the executive branch.

"What we found is that, at all levels, people feel like there are a lot of efficiencies that can be realized, and we do have a lot of waste," Fletcher said.

Last week, cabinet secretaries were told to find ways to trim spending by another 2 1/2 percent. Fletcher said that was done not only to keep out of the red in the current fiscal year but also to get a modest jump on the following fiscal year.

"We can balance this budget more easily by just saying let's not deal with next year," Fletcher said. But it is hoped a further 2 1/2 percent reduction will "lower the baseline so that there's less structural imbalance next year, in the '05 fiscal year. Our cabinet secretaries feel like that's very doable," he said.

Other things on the governor's mind:

■ Taking a hard look at political appointees who "burrowed in" to the state's personnel merit system in the waning days of former Gov. Paul Patton's administration but

who have not yet cleared their six-month probationary period.

The question for each: "Are they capable, and were they a right fit for their job? Or was it simply a political decision?"

■ Deciding the future of the Kentucky Racing Commission, all of whose members were reappointed by Patton before he left office.

Might Fletcher try to abolish the commission and create another? "We're not here to kick things down," he said. His priority is to bolster the racing industry, and he will have to decide how the racing commission fits into it, he said.

"It's not that I have an agenda particularly for the racing commission. I have an agenda for the horse industry," he said.

■ Sprucing up gubernatorial offices inside the Capitol. New carpeting was laid for the governor's outer office and the former press secretary's office, now used by the first lady.

Before money dried up, a plan was on the board for new buildings for the executive and judicial branches and the General Assembly. As a result, less attention was paid to the upkeep of Capitol offices, Fletcher surmises.

"This ought to be a building, the offices ought to be in such appearance that we could be proud of it," Fletcher said. "We're doing that first, and it's a small thing, but I think it sends a real clear message."

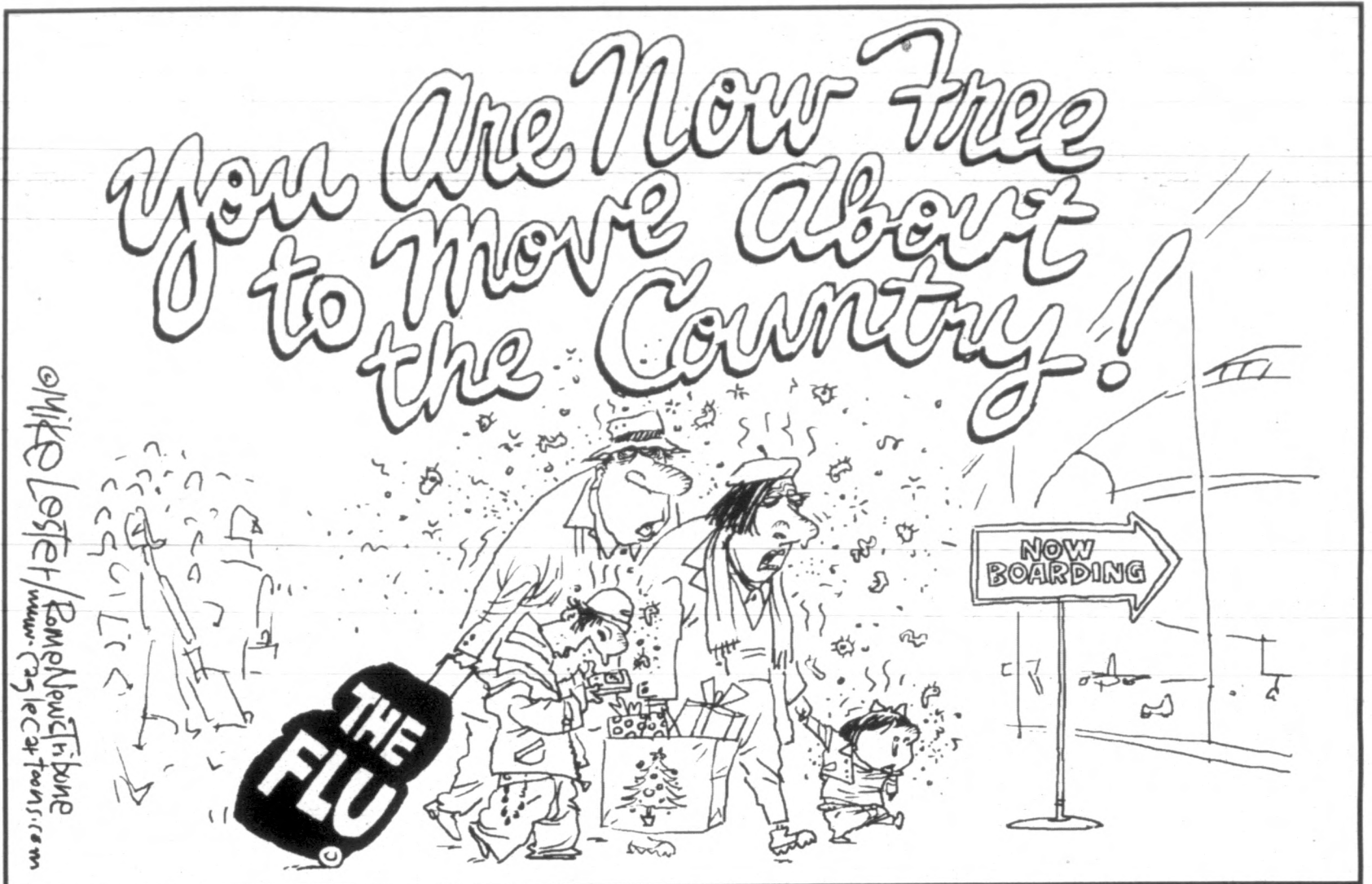
■ His education initiative, "Read to Achieve," for early grades: "It's going to be pushed very hard" in the upcoming legislature.

■ Expanded gambling: "I have no plan at this time to take the lead on that issue."

■ The historic significance of his election as the first Republican governor since Louie Nunn's administration ended in 1971.

"I just happened to step on the scene at the right time, when I think people of Kentucky realized they were ready for change," Fletcher said. "If anybody thought the reason for this was Paul Patton, they didn't see the big picture."

Charles Wolfe is a statehouse reporter for The Associated Press.



Tax modernization

FRANKFORT — Of the multiple tasks confronting Gov. Ernie Fletcher and his new administration, the most important for the state's future economic well being is his pledge to reform - or modernize — Kentucky's tax system.

Fletcher said last week he would like to get that job accomplished "as soon as possible," but "timing is very important."

The question that Fletcher must answer first is whether the General Assembly, which meets in regular session beginning next month, is prepared to tackle a major tax-reform initiative at the same time it is going through the process of balancing the current state budget and preparing a new one for 2004-2006 that will contain sharply less money than the last budget legislators approved.

Fletcher's definition of "tax modernization" is that some taxes may go up, some may go down, but the overall result will be revenue neutral - meaning that the changes produce no more tax revenue than the old system produced.

Of course, the old system has been producing hundreds of millions of dollars a year less over the last three years, and the result is a looming deficit this fiscal year of more than \$260 million, and a further shortfall next fiscal year of perhaps \$700 million or more. And those figures don't account for expected shortages of revenue to fund all Medicaid programs.

Fletcher said the changes he envisions in the tax structure will be more business friendly, more elastic and more likely to help the state's

AgreeOrNot

by Todd Duvall

economy grow. In time, then, the revenue-neutral tax reform will translate into revenue growth for state government.

That's why time is so important, because the longer tax reforms are delayed, the longer it will take for the new system to spur growth in state revenues.

And Fletcher does not want to spend the first year or two of his administration simply cutting state programs and services to balance tax receipts with expenditures. Every cut represents a voter somewhere who will not receive expected benefits or services. Already, advocates for the poor and elderly have been to the Capitol to lobby Fletcher to restore Medicaid programs that have been cut in the last year even as the new administration looks for ways to stop the flow of red ink in the total Medicaid program.

Fletcher also wants to be able to go before the voters seeking a second term with concrete achievements he can point to during his first term. Concrete achievements are hard to accomplish when you have little or no new revenues available to pay for them.

So Fletcher needs to get on with his tax modernization plan as soon as practicable.

A regular legislative session, however, may not be the best time, because if Fletcher's tax proposals truly represent a break with the past, he and legislators will be subjected to enormous pressures from interests who don't want to break

with the past. And the worst that could happen would be tax legislation becoming hostage to all the other legislation that gets introduced in a regular session as a matter of course, including the biennial state budget.

An alternative for a major tax reform is to lay out the details for legislators to study after the regular session adjourns in April and then call a special session in early summer with tax reform as the only item on the agenda.

That focuses lawmakers' attention on tax reform and nothing more. It relieves some of the pressure that comes naturally during the hectic regular session, and it allows the public to study and digest what Fletcher proposes without the distractions that are inevitable during regular meetings of the General Assembly.

Comprehensive tax reform has been a topic of debate and discussion for years. Everyone - Democrats and Republicans - knows it is needed. Economists say without reform, the state won't be able to meet its basic service obligations in the decades ahead.

So this is Fletcher's opportunity to do what so many have talked about, some have tried and all have failed in the past — to give Kentucky a fair and modern system of taxes.

Todd Duvall is an editorial writer for The State Journal in Frankfort.

Our Elected Officials

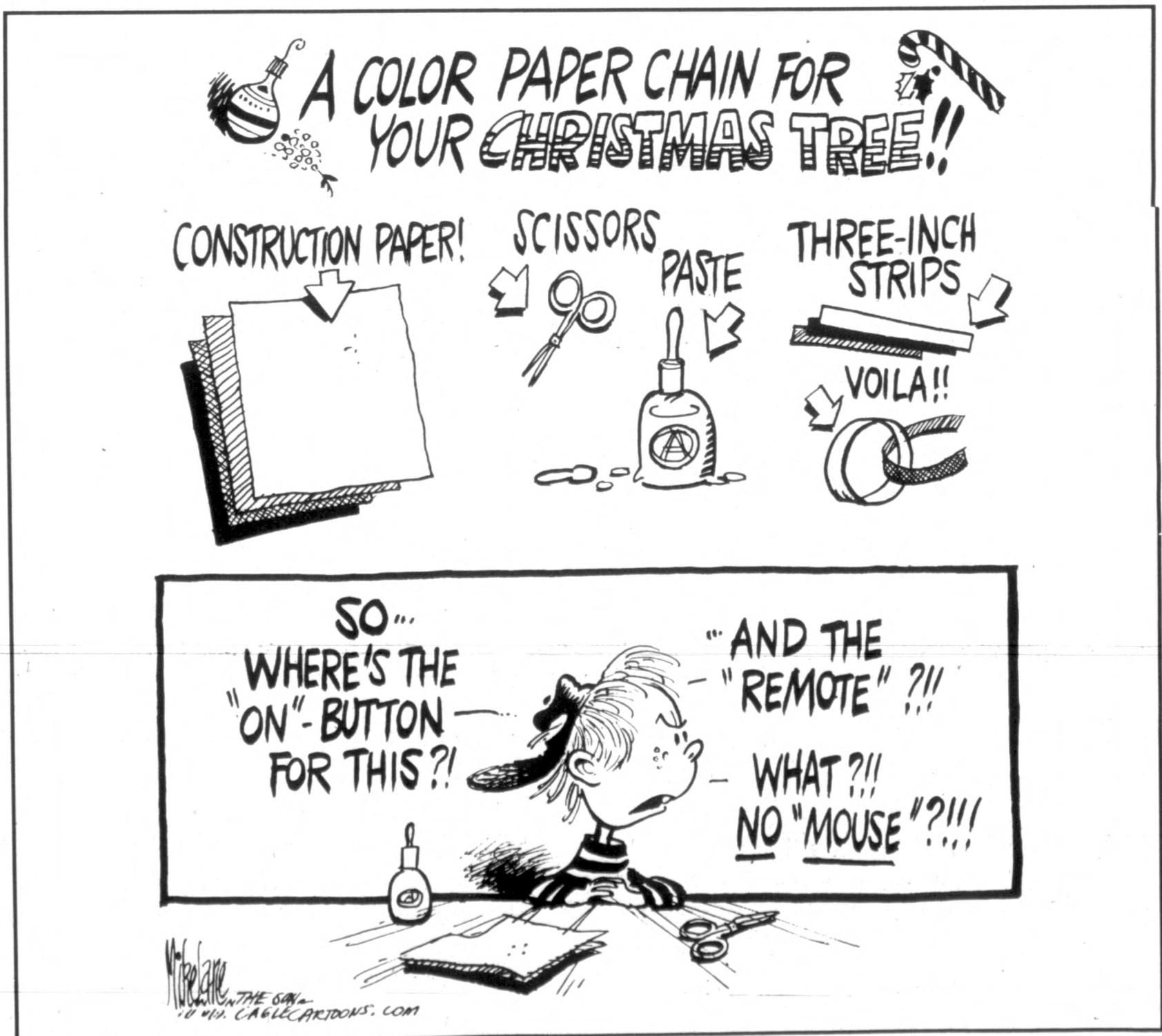
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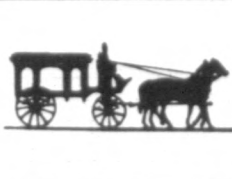
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Obituaries

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Mrs. Eula A. Hoffman

Mrs. Eula A. Hoffman, 94, died Saturday, Dec. 20, 2003, at 4:44 p.m. at West View Nursing Home.

Her husband, Russell R. Hoffman, two daughters, Thelma Beale and Ruby Hoffman, one son, Ronald Hoffman, one sister, Lula Smith Tagle, and one brother, Mois Ray Smith, all preceded her in death. Born Oct. 18, 1909, in Arlington, she was the daughter of the late Robert Jones and Orpha Edwards Smith Jones.

Mrs. Hoffman was a member of Dexter-Hardin United Methodist Church.

Survivors include her son-in-law, Edsel Beale, grandson, Brandon Beale, and great-grandson, Robert Hollis, all of Dexter; two nieces, Mrs. Janette Walker, Almo, and Mrs. Martha Adams, Murray; one nephew, Rayford Smith, Benton.

The funeral will be Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the chapel of Imes-Miller Funeral Home. The Rev. Kerry Lambert will officiate. Burial will follow in the Curd Cemetery.

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

Robert (Bob) P. Burnham

Robert (Bob) P. Burnham, 88, Hightide Lane, Hamlin, died Sunday, Dec. 21, 2003, at 2:55 a.m. at Arbor Place, Puryear, Tenn.

Mr. Burnham had owned and operated his own radio and TV repair business for 37 years in Lowell, Ind. He had moved to Hamlin in 1973.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Anita Manter Burnham, to whom he was married May 1, 1941; two sons, Michael Burnham and wife, Lilda, Murray, and Patrick Burnham and wife, Sandi, Houston, Texas; one cousin, Frances Handesty, St. Anne, Ill.; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; 26 foster children.

Born July 3, 1915, in Schneider, Ind., he was the son of the late Perry Burnham and Lorada Brammell Burnham. One sister, Merle Novak, and two brothers, Everett and Ernest Burnham, also preceded him in death.

Imes-Miller Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Cordie Lee Wall Hamrick

The funeral for Mrs. Cordie Lee Wall Hamrick will be Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the chapel of J.H. Churchill Funeral Home. The Rev. Steven W. Hamrick and the Rev. David Allbritten will officiate. Burial will follow in the Murray City Cemetery.

Visitation will be at the funeral home from 2 to 6 p.m. today (Monday).

Mrs. Hamrick, 83, Whitnell Avenue, Murray, died Friday, Dec. 19, 2003, at 4 p.m. at Jennie Stuart Medical Center, Hopkinsville.

A homemaker, she was also a local singer and song writer. She was a member of Martin's Chapel United Methodist Church and was a Kentucky Colonel.

Her husband, William (Bill) David Hamrick Jr. preceded her in death. Born July 19, 1920, in Puryear, Tenn., she was the daughter of the late Lorenzo Dow Wall and Lola Victoria Alexander Wall.

Survivors include one daughter, Mrs. Sandra Hamrick Ferony, Alexandria, Va.; one son, Rev. Steven W. Hamrick, Hopkinsville; two sisters, Mrs. Margie Wall Brandon, Murray, and Mrs. Wanda Allbritten Barnhill, Clarksville, Tenn.; one brother, Johnny Wall, Nashville, Tenn.; seven grandchildren; four stepgrandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Allison Deanne Pritchett

Mrs. Allison Deanne Pritchett, 27, Phoenix, Ariz., formerly of Murray, died Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003, at her home.

A graduate of Murray High School and Murray State University, she worked at a vocational tech school. She was of Church of Christ faith.

Her father, Sidney Pritchett, and grandparents, Marion Bailey and Joe and Lovie Pritchett, all preceded her in death. She was born June 29, 1976, in Paducah.

Survivors include her mother, Mrs. Becky Smith, stepfather, Dewayne Smith, and grandfather, Paul Bailey, all of Murray; several aunts, uncles and cousins.

The funeral will be Saturday, Dec. 27, at 2 p.m. in the chapel of J.H. Churchill Funeral Home. Burial will follow in the Murray City Cemetery.

Visitation will be at the funeral home after 5 p.m. Friday.

Ewin Grover Estes

Ewin Grover (Cherry Blossom) Estes, 71, Benton, father of Ronald Ewin Estes of Murray, died Friday, Dec. 19, 2003, at 2 p.m. at Western Baptist Hospital, Paducah.

Retired from Marco Paving, he was a member of Trinity Full Gospel Church. An Army veteran, he served during the Korean Conflict. His wife, Patsy M. Boaz Estes, and one son, Kenneth Wayne Estes, both preceded him in death. He was the son of the late Wilson Estes and Lalah Higgins Estes.

Survivors include one daughter, Mrs. Patsy Gail Brown, Paducah; two sons, Ronald Ewin Estes, Murray, and Terry Hayse Estes, Beaumont, Texas; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the chapel of Filbeck-Cann & King Funeral Home, Benton. The Rev. Willard Beasley will officiate. Burial will follow in the McDaniel Cemetery in Calloway County.

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

Mrs. Vivian Parsons Rendleman

Mrs. Vivian Parsons Rendleman, 82, Lone Oak, mother of Mrs. Holly Rudolph of Murray, died Saturday, Dec. 20, 2003, at 5:40 p.m. at Lourdes Hospital, Paducah.

Her husband, Howard Jacob Rendleman, one sister and one brother all preceded her in death. She was the daughter of the late Thomas Lloyd Parsons and Maude Will Parsons.

Mrs. Rendleman was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church, Paducah.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Holly Rendleman Rudolph and husband, Jim, Murray, and Mrs. Debra Rendleman Gammon and husband, Tommy Smith, Jefferson, Ga.; one son, Richard Rendleman and wife, Pamela, Brentwood, Tenn.; one granddaughter, Shelly Gilliam, Cadiz; two grandsons, Brian Rudolph, Birmingham, Ala., and Jake Gammon, Jefferson, Ga.; one brother, Max Parsons, Midland, Texas; primary care giver, Sharon Miller, Benton.

The funeral will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Home, Paducah. The Rev. Jamie Broome will officiate. Burial will follow in the Mt. Kenton Cemetery.

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

Expressions of sympathy may be made to Immanuel Baptist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 7067, Paducah, Ky., 42002-7067.

Mrs. Dorothy Griffith

Mrs. Dorothy Griffith, 82, Mayfield, sister of Gene Peal of Hazel, died Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003, at 2:42 p.m. at Lourdes Hospital, Paducah.

Her husband, Lonzo Griffith Sr., one granddaughter, one sister and one brother all preceded her in death. She was the daughter of the late Homer Lee Peal and Iva M. Downs Peal.

Survivors include four sons, Jerry, John and Jackie Griffith, all of Mayfield, and Lonzo Griffith Jr., Clewiston, Fla.; two sisters, Mrs. Robbie McReynolds, Mayfield and Mrs. Virginia (Polly) Cottrell, Clarksville, Tenn.; four brothers, Marcus and Bill Peal, both of Sedalia, Gene Peal, Hazel, and Bobby Peal, Martin, Tenn.; nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was Sunday at 3:30 p.m. in the chapel of Byrn Funeral Home, Mayfield. The Rev. Glynn Copeland, the Rev. Spencer Pate and the Rev. Tony Steele officiated. Burial was in the Highland Park Cemetery, Mayfield.

Mrs. Effie Reaves Robinson

Mrs. Effie Reaves Robinson, 75, Manchester, died Saturday, Dec. 20, 2003, at St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington.

Survivors include her husband, Donald E. Robinson; two stepdaughters, Susi Hall and Patty McCuiston, and one stepson, Danny Robinson, all of Murray; three stepgrandchildren; three sisters, Mrs. Ann Howard, Manchester, Mrs. Norma Jean Morgan, London, and Mrs. Uvalene Childress, Vista, Calif.; two brothers, Larry Day and Carl Day, both of Manchester.

The funeral will be today (Monday) at noon in the chapel of Britton Funeral Home, Manchester. Ken Bolin will officiate. Burial will follow in Manchester.

Billy G. Haneline

Billy G. Haneline, 58, Mayfield, died Sunday, Dec. 21, 2003, at 8:30 a.m. at his home.

He was a disabled Army veteran. His mother, Virginia Sue Dick Haneline, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his father, Cratus Haneline, and one brother, Bobby Haneline, both of Mayfield.

The funeral will be Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the chapel of Brown Funeral Home, Mayfield. The Rev. Phillip Reed will officiate. Burial will follow in the Bazzell Cemetery in Calloway County.

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

American women waiting longer to have first child

ATLANTA (AP) — The average age at which American women are having their first child has climbed to an all-time high of 25.1, the government said Wednesday.

The rise reflects a drop in teen births and an increase in the number of women who are putting off motherhood until their 30s and 40s.

The age of first-time American moms has risen steadily during the past three decades, from an average of 21.4 in 1970. The latest figure, for 2002, was released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Women contemplating motherhood "are more likely to wait," said CDC statistician Joyce Martin. "It's good overall for infant health, because birth outcomes for teen moms are problematic."

The teen birth rate has dropped 30 percent in the past decade to a historic low of 43 births per 1,000

women in 2002. The CDC also said births among women ages 20 and 24 had dropped to 104 per 1,000 women, from a high of 109.7 in 2000.

The government attributed the drop in the teen birth rate to health campaigns by public and private agencies that discourage teen pregnancies and promote abstinence.

The overall birth rates among women 35 to 39 (41 births per 1,000 women) and those ages 40 to 44 (8 per 1,000) were at the highest levels for those age groups in three decades.

"It's certainly reflective of continued postponement of childbearing," Martin said. "But there are some health consequences — older moms are at risk of multiple births, which have a risk of poorer outcomes" such as being born with low birthweight.

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Community

Monday, December 19, 2003

Students recognized for excellence from tech center

KY Tech. Murray/Calloway County Area Technology Center has recognized seven students for excellence. The students have been awarded "Outstanding Student of the Semester" for the program they are enrolled in.

Meagan Parrish, a senior at Murray High School, and the daughter of Cindy Dunn and Terry Parrish, has been named as the Health Sciences outstanding student. Meagan was chosen because of her leadership, extra effort and positive attitude.

Cory Trenholm, a senior at Murray High School, and the son of Robert and Cindy Trenholm of Murray, has been named as Auto Technology outstanding student. Mitch McNutt, Auto Technology instructor commended Cory's dependability, skills and good grade point average when choosing him for this honor.

Chad Pickard, Machine Tool Technology instructor, chose Ben Ray as the outstanding machine tool technology student. Ben is a Calloway County High School sophomore and the son of Trecia and Gary Ray of Murray. Ben was chosen for this honor because of motivation, attendance and good behavior.

Roger Jones, son of Debi Ross-Jones of Murray, and a senior at Calloway County High School is the outstanding student in the welding program. "Roger has shown a great deal of improvement in his welding skills, and he always stays busy with shop work assigned. He is cooperative and is a good worker" according to his instructor.

James Scott, son of Pam and Rodney Scott of Murray, and a senior at Calloway County High School is the Carpentry program's outstanding student. Steve Arant, carpentry instructor, said that James is willing to take responsibility, likes to do things correctly, has a great attendance record and excellent attitude.

Ashley Benningfield, daughter of Jeanna and Wendell Benningfield of Murray, a Murray High School senior, has been chosen as the outstanding student in Culinary Arts. She has excellent attendance, a positive attitude, and is willing to do whatever task is asked of her, as well as having excellent grades in Culinary Arts.

The outstanding student in Marketing is **Ashley Bogard**, a Calloway County High School junior. She is the daughter of Steve and Jeanne Bogard of Murray. Cindy Adams, instructor, stated; "Ashley is very interested in whatever we are studying. She is always willing to spend additional time needed to complete her duties as secretary of DEGA, which is An Association of Marketing Students. Ashley has excellent attendance and gradepoint average in her marketing classes."

WATCH Center



Santa Claus and his helpers passed out gifts at the annual Christmas party held Dec. 12 at the WATCH Center, 702 Main St., Murray.

Family Fun Fest



Murray State University's department of wellness and therapeutic sciences focused on several activities during the month of November to raise funds and collect canned goods for the local Need Line organization. Emma Watkins, daughter of Mark and Kathy Watkins of the South Hazel, Tenn., area, was one of several area children who attended the Racer Family Fun Fest and got some special assistance at the duck pond from Kenny Conklin, senior radio/television major from Elizabethtown. While at Murray State, Conklin has been employed as a videographer assistant in Broadcast Media Services, a unit of the university's department of marketing and public relations.

Cheesecake recipe good for your Christmas dessert



Jo's Datebook
By Jo Burkeen
Community Editor

Judy Stahler who caters the luncheons for the Christian Women of Murray each month served a special dessert, Chilled Cranberry Cheesecake, on Friday. She gave each one present a copy of the recipe. It was delicious and would make a good Christmas dessert. It is as follows:

- 1-1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs (about 24 squares)
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons grated orange peel, divided
- 1/3 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1 can (16 ounces) whole-berry cranberry sauce
- 1-1/2 cups heavy whipping cream

In a bowl, combine the cracker crumbs, sugar and 1 teaspoon orange peel; stir in butter. Press onto the bottom of a greased 9-inch springform pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Cool completely.

In a small saucepan, sprinkle gelatin over orange juice and let stand for 1 minute. Cook over low heat, stirring until gelatin is completely dissolved; cook slightly.

Meanwhile, in a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and remaining orange peel until blended. Beat in cranberry sauce until smooth. Beat in cooled gelatin mixture; mix well.

In a mixing bowl, beat cream until stiff peaks form. Fold into cream cheese mixture. Pour over crust. Refrigerate for 3-4 hours before serving. Carefully run knife around the edge of pan to loosen. Remove sides of pan. Refrigerate leftovers. Yield: 12 servings.

Murray Singles will meet Tuesday

Murray Singles (S.O.S.) will meet Tuesday, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. at Weak's Community Center. This is a group for all singles whether divorced, widowed or never married. For more information call Vicky at 753-3128 or Shirley at 753-6224.

Lutherans plan services

Immanuel Lutheran Church will have a Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. Dec. 24, and a Christmas Festival Communion Service at 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 25.

Baseball camp scheduled

A Baseball Camp for youth between the ages of 9 to 18, led by Mitch and Rick Grogan, will be Saturday, Jan. 3, from 10 a.m. to noon in the gym at Elm Grove Baptist Church, Highway 94 East, Murray. For more information contact Joetta Kelly at 753-1854.

Laker Band Boosters plans promotion

Calloway Laker Band Boosters will have a rebate night from 4 p.m. to close at Pizza Pro, phone 767-1199, located on South 12th Street, behind Union Planters Bank South Branch, Murray, each Monday in December. Persons are asked to tell the counter person or delivery person you are with the boosters so 10 percent of the sales will be received by the boosters.

Parent Support Group to meet

Parent Support Group, formerly called Parents Anonymous, will meet tonight, Dec. 22, from 6 to 8 p.m. Peggy Pittman-Munke, Murray State faculty member, is Parent Support board chair. For information call 753-7004.

Bell ringers needed for the season

Kerry Lambert, chairman of Calloway County Service Unit of The Salvation Army, has issued a need for volunteers to be at the kettle and ring the bell at Wal-Mart. Needed are ringers for Dec. 22 and 23 from 3 to 9 p.m. and Dec. 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Workers can decide how many hours they can ring. To volunteer call Lambert at 762-1274, days, or 753-7265, nights.

Health Express lists stop

Health Express of Murray-Calloway County Hospital will offer blood pressure checks, pulse and osteoporosis screenings on Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. at Center for Health & Wellness, Murray. For information call 762-1348.

Gift certificates for books available

Gift certificates for the book, "Lynn Grove-Harris Grove Family History," are now available for those who would like to give them for Christmas. The books, being published by the Calloway County Genealogical Society, will arrive at a later date. For information call Ruth Cole at 753-2718.

Pictorial History books available

The Alpha Department of the Murray Woman's Club has received a shipment of the book, "Calloway County Pictorial History." For information call Lois Pharris at 759-4938.

AA meetings scheduled

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) will meet at 8 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Wednesday, at 10 a.m. on Saturday and 4 p.m. on Sunday at the American Legion Hall, Maple and South Sixth Streets, Murray. The only requirement for attendance is a desire to stop drinking. For information call 436-5675 or 759-4539.

Festival of Lights continues at local park

"A Festival of Lights" will continue through Monday, Dec. 29, beginning at 6 p.m. each night by Murray-Calloway County Park Parks and Recreation, along with Murray-Calloway County United Way. "Christmas in the Park, showcasing local groups singing Christmas carols will be from 6 to 7 p.m. for "12 Days of Christmas" through Dec. 17. Donations of \$2 per carload or four to six non-perishable food items will be collected at Christmas in the Park. All proceeds will go to Need Line and Parks Department. For information call 762-0325.

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Lord of the Rings
The Return of the King
PG13 - 12:25 - 1:45 - 4:15 - 7:05 - 8:15
(showing on 2 screens)

Mona Lisa Smile
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Stuck On You
PG13 - 1:05 - 3:30 - 7:10 - 9:30

Some Things Gotta Give
PG13 - 1:15 - 3:45 - 7:15 - 9:45

Haunted Mansion
PG - 1:20 - 7:30

Bad Santa
R - 3:20 - 9:35

The Last Samurai
R - 12:55 - 3:55 - 7:00 - 9:55

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Free screenings in January

Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness in the United States, with approximately 2 million people having some degree of visual loss from glaucoma. Osteoporosis is responsible for more than 1.5 million fractures annually in the United States including 300,000 hip fractures, 700,000 vertebral fractures, and 250,000 wrist fractures.

It is important to be screened for glaucoma and osteoporosis so you do not become one of these statistics. To make these screenings more accessible to the community, the Center for Health and Wellness will be offering them monthly.

The center will be offering the osteoporosis heel scans every third Tuesday of each month in the classroom and vision and glaucoma screenings will be offered every fourth Tuesday of each month in the classroom.

The screenings are free, but those participating in the screenings must make an appointment by calling the Center for Health & Wellness.

The screenings will be Tuesday, Jan. 20 for the heel scans and Tuesday, Jan. 27 for the vision/glaucoma screenings. Both screenings will be available from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment for the screenings, contact Allison Lancaster, health promotions coordinator at Murray-Calloway County Hospital, at 1-270-762-1348.

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Helping Hand



Photo provided

Andrea Morris of The Murray Bank delivers a shopping cart full of food to Tonia Casey, executive director of Need Line. Morris coordinated the food drive among her fellow employees of The Murray Bank.

December degrees earned at college

MAYFIELD, Ky. — Dr. Robert Imhoff, President of Mid-Continent College conferred 75 bachelor degrees on Saturday, December 13, 2003. Commencement services were held at Lone Oak First Baptist Church, followed by a reception honoring the graduates.

Dr. James Cecil, who was awarded Dean Emeritus of the Baptist College of the Bible during the service, delivered the commencement address. Dr. Cecil played an instrumental role with the International Mission Board for 28 years before coming to Mid-Continent ten years ago. His wife, Kay, of fifty years also attended the ceremony.

Mid-Continent College conferred bachelor degrees for the following students. Graduates' honors also are noted.

Murray area residents earning the Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership were: Cheryl P. Erwin; Monty F. Ray; and Michelle Stovall, cum laude.

Students earning the Certificate in Christian Ministry are: Loyren L. AmericanHorse, Hal T. Barrow, Jeffrey Burnett, Larry Dodson, Bob Dowdy, Alan Jaster, Charles E. Lovins, Eugene McDonald, Terry Mullenax, James Robertson, Butch Seargent, Hulon Warren, Matthew Wright, and Michael J. White.

Graduates earning cum laude honors maintained cumulative GPAs between 3.5 and 3.74 during their college careers. Magna cum laude status is conferred upon those maintaining a cumulative college career GPA between 3.75 and 3.89. Summa cum laude honors indicate the individual earned a cumulative GPA of 3.9 or above on the 4.0 scale.

Mid-Continent College is accredited to confer bachelor's degrees by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the official accrediting agency in the Southeastern United States.



Photo provided

Margaret Vaughn, left, and Lisa Underhill received volunteer awards at a meet of Angels Attic Volunteers.

Attic volunteers meet at store

Angels Attic held its first volunteer meeting on Dec. 3.

Pat Osborn, assistant manager, gave a presentation about the store.

Awards for the month were given out. Margaret Vaughn and Lisa Underhill were the monthly winners.

Refreshments were served. Angels Attic, located at 912

Chestnut St., Murray, next to Pagliani's, is open from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Because of the holidays the Angels Attic will be closed after Dec. 24 and reopen again on Jan. 2.

Funds from the attic go toward the operation of Angels Clinic.

Inducted



Photo provided

Stacey Robertson with a grade point average of 3.8 has recently been inducted into the local chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at West Kentucky Community and Technical College. She is the granddaughter of Helen Uzzle of Murray.

Ladies of the Oaks

The Ladies of the Oaks Country Club played their regularly scheduled Bridge on Wednesday, Dec. 17.

Ellen Miltner won first, and Jo Anne Auer won second. Bridge will not be played on

Wednesdays, Dec. 24 and 31 because of the holidays.

The next Bridge play will be Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 9:15 a.m. If you have not signed up for play, call Martha Broach, hostess, at 753-9164.

Course offered by authority

Housing Authority of Murray has announced another round of the C-Tech Prep Course and is looking for students to enroll for the February 2004 class.

This course involves phone line, coaxial cable, computer network cable and fiber optic termination, installation and troubleshooting.

Entry-level jobs with the telephone company, Internet service providers, cable companies or even local electric companies can be expected with this type of certifications. For more information call Faye Dodd at 753-5000 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Hoffman fund established at BB&T bank

An account has been established at BB&T bank to benefit Andrea Nesbitt Hoffman and Jason Hoffman who were involved in an

automobile accident on Sunday, Sept. 28, on Highway 68 in Land Between the Lakes.

Donations may be made at any

BB&T location and other collection points at various locations throughout Calloway County.

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Sale prices effective through 12/24/03 unless otherwise noted. Percentages off regular prices or original prices, as shown. Actual savings may exceed stated percentage off. "Regular" and "Original" prices reflect offering prices which may not have resulted in actual sales. Any event designated as a "sale" excludes Value Right merchandise and items sold everyday with discounts if purchased in multiples of "2 or more". Intermediate markdowns may have been taken on original-priced merchandise. Clearance items are available while supplies last. Merchandise selection may vary from one JCPenney store to another.

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Sports

Monday, December 22, 2003

No. 18 Panthers too much for Racers

Defending Big East champs still unbeaten

Staff Report

Murray Ledger & Times

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — The Murray State Racers dropped their first game of the season Saturday night, falling to No. 18 Pittsburgh 70-49 in front of 9,112 fans at the Pittsburgh Holiday Hoops Classic at the Petersen Events Center.

MSU moves to 8-1 on the season under first-year head coach Mick Cronin, while Pittsburgh, the reigning Big East champions, improves to 10-0 and extends the nation's third-longest home winning streak to 30 games with the victory.

The Panthers are now a perfect 24-0 in the newly-opened Petersen Events Center.

"I've got to give Pittsburgh a lot of credit," said Racer head coach Mick Cronin. "There's a reason they've won two-straight Big East titles. They're a strong basketball team, and we just didn't have the answers for them today."

"Obviously, we knew we weren't going to go undefeated this season. We're more interested in the long run and playing well in March than what happens in one game in December. This game should prepare us for later in the season and where we want to go," he added.

Senior forward Antione Whelchel led the way with eight points for MSU, while senior forward Cuthbert Victor, the nation's leading rebounder at 11.8 per outing entering the game, finished with a game-high 11 caroms to go with his seven points.

After a 3-pointer by senior guard Rick Jones gave the Racers an early 14-13 lead, Pittsburgh countered with back-to-back treys by Levon Kendall and Carl Krauser to spark a 10-0 run, giving the Panthers a 23-14 lead with 7:59 left in the half.

MSU meets Georgetown

Staff Report

Murray Ledger & Times

The Murray State Racers were scheduled to play their final game of the Pittsburgh Holiday Hoops Classic today against in-state foe Georgetown College.

The contest was slated to be played at 3 p.m. (CST) at the Petersen Events Center in Pittsburgh.

Georgetown, an NAIA school, is 8-3 on the season after suffering a 63-60 loss to Wagner on Saturday. The Tigers led the Seahawks 60-57 with 1:27 remaining, but went cold on the offensive end in an attempt to defeat their first NCAA Division I opponent.

Murray — now 8-1 after Saturday night's 70-49 loss to

tournament host Pittsburgh — has faced Georgetown five times, winning all five meetings. The two teams haven't met since 1939.

Pittsburgh outmanned the Racers with its size. However, the Tigers are a much smaller team. The tallest player in Georgetown's regular rotation is 6-foot-8.

Freshman Brian Silverhorn paces the Georgetown attack, averaging 17.9 points per game. He scored 21 against Wagner. Senior Marshall Williams, a transfer who has played at North Carolina State and Wisconsin-Green Bay, averages 17 ppg.

The Tigers' roster also includes a local product — former Paducah Tilghman standout Orlando Hill. MSU returns home following today's action before traveling to Delaware on Sunday.

Kendall made a layup four seconds before halftime to make it 36-23 heading into the locker room.

MSU junior forward Kelvin Brown cut the deficit to nine when his jumper made it 55-46 with 6:18 remaining. A Mark McCarroll jump shot was followed by a Chris Taft dunk just 10 seconds later to get the Panthers' lead back to 59-46.

Pittsburgh put the game away with a 15-3 run over the final 5:44 after MSU had pulled to within nine with just over six minutes left in the game.

"I'm proud of the way the kids battled all the way end," Cronin said. "We could've called off our press and made the score a little more respectable, but I wanted our guys to keep attacking them and

play our game."

The Racers were held to their worst offensive output of the season by the stingy Panthers' defense. MSU was just 18-of-62 from the field for 29 percent, while Pittsburgh was 26-of-50 for 52 percent.

"When a team is as big and physical as Pittsburgh is, you've got to make shots to win. We didn't do that today," Cronin noted.

Murray was outrebounced by Pittsburgh 39-34, and the Racers were just 4-of-24 from beyond the 3-point line on the night.

MSU closes out the Pittsburgh Holiday Classic against NAIA powerhouse Georgetown College today at 3 p.m. at the Petersen Events Center in Pittsburgh, Pa.



Murray State's Kelvin Brown, left, tries to slap the ball away from Pittsburgh's Chris Taft (23) during Saturday night's contest at the Petersen Events Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. The Racers suffered their first loss of the season with the 70-49 decision.

MATT FREED/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Lady Racers earn win over visiting Chicago St.

Staff Report

Murray Ledger & Times

The Murray State Lady Racers used solid defense in the second half to overcome a nine-point half-time deficit, defeating Chicago State 67-63 Saturday night at the Regional Special Events Center.

MSU (4-4) trailed by as many as 11 points late in the first half, trailing 41-32 at halftime.

Chicago State (5-3) shot 66.7 percent (18-for-27) from the field in the first 20 minutes to Murray State's 36.1 percent (13-for-36).

In the second half, the Lady Racers used a zone defense to quash the quick-shooting Lady Cougars, forcing 14 second-half turnovers while committing only six. Murray held CSU to 26.7 percent (8-for-30) shooting in the latter period.

"In the second half, we played almost all zone defense," said MSU head coach Joi Williams. "We did a better job in the zone, and (Chicago State) didn't shoot the ball well in the second half, so we were keeping them off-balance."

Trailing 59-58 with 2:24 remaining, MSU made its move when junior guard Rebecca Remington hit two free throws for a 60-59 lead, then junior guard Brittany Park sank two to push the lead to 62-59 with 1:02 left.

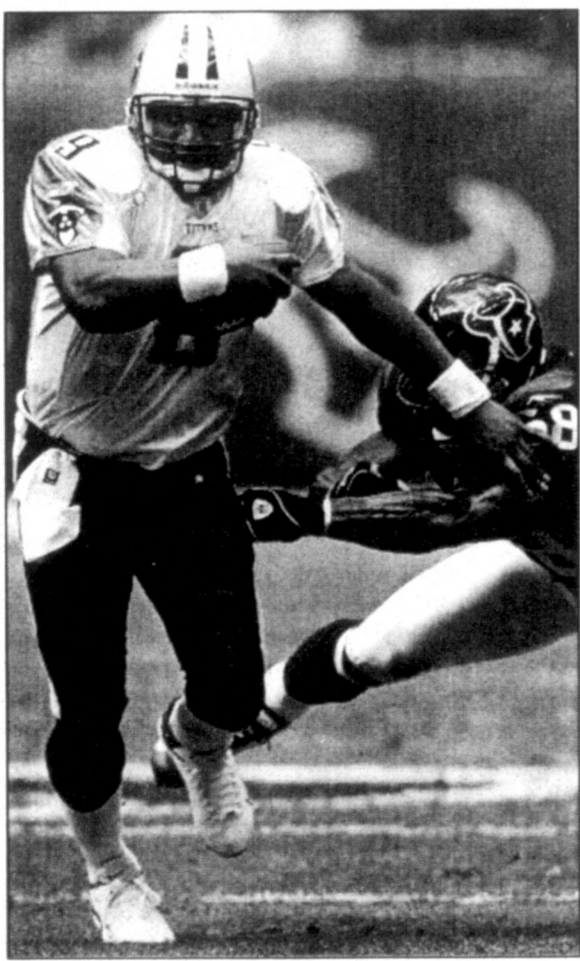
CSU's Lachelle Lyles hit one of two free-throw shots with 44 seconds left, but the Lady Racers scored five unanswered points to ice the game.

Murray State was led by Park, who had a season-high 21 points on 7-for-14 shooting from the field and a 7-for-9 night from the line. Park also had five rebounds, three assists and a co-game-high three steals.

Senior guard Megan Fuqua added 15 points, hitting three of her seven three-point attempts, while Remington put in 11 points, grabbed five rebounds, handed out a team-high four assists and swiped a career-high three steals.

Chicago State was paced by 17 points from Kafayat Davies.

The Lady Racers committed only 11 turnovers while forcing 25.



Hobbled McNair leads winning drive

HOUSTON (AP) — It's December and Steve McNair is ailing.

Look out. The Titans quarterback, playing with a cracked bone spur in his left ankle and a sore right calf, hit Drew Bennett for a 23-yard touchdown pass on fourth down with 17 seconds left to lead the Tennessee Titans into the playoffs with a 27-24 victory Sunday over the Houston Texans.

Titans coach Jeff Fisher waited until after pregame warmups to choose McNair over veteran Neil O'Donnell, signed Thursday after backup Billy Volek went down last weekend with a lacerated spleen. Volek started last week's victory over Buffalo to end McNair's consecutive game streak at 43.

"(McNair) was the difference," defen-

DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Titans quarterback Steve McNair (9) tries to scramble out of the reach of Houston's Steve Foley (58) during the second quarter Sunday in Houston. McNair was stopped short of a first down.

sive end Jevon Kearse said. "If he hadn't been out there, I don't think the result would have been the same."

Tennessee (11-4) fell behind with 1:48 remaining when Domanick Davis capped a four-play drive with a 5-yard touchdown run around the left end.

That put the ball back into the hands of McNair, who got the starting nod despite a noticeable limp. He drove the Titans 75 yards in the waning seconds, completing passes to Bennett for 20 and 24 yards before hitting him in stride over cornerback Marcus Coleman in the end zone on fourth-and-10.

"It's always tough, but that's what I get paid for," Coleman said. "I'll forget about it as soon as I leave here. You've got to have amnesia and a short-term memory to play defensive back in this league."

Samari Rolle cinched it for the Titans with four seconds left by intercepting David Carr, who returned after missing four starts with a sprained right shoulder.

McNair, who led the Titans to five straight wins at the end of last season despite not practicing because of injuries, was 17-of-36 for 268 yards and two touchdowns.

The Titans qualified for postseason play

when Cincinnati lost at St. Louis a few minutes before Tennessee's victory. And Denver's victory at Indianapolis on Sunday night meant the Titans could win the AFC South next weekend with a win over Tampa Bay and a Colts loss at Houston.

"I didn't feel that I needed to play, but I felt I wanted to go out there and get something started even if I didn't finish," said McNair, adding it was "50-50" on which leg hurt worse.

It was the sixth straight home game decided by less than a touchdown for the Texans (5-10), the expansion team formed to replace the Oilers after they moved to Tennessee in 1997. Houston fell to 0-4 against the Titans, in the playoffs for the fourth time in five years.

"Today is one of the most disappointing losses I've been involved with," Texans coach Dom Capers said. "It's disappointing to me as a head coach because of the way our guys fought."

Things looked promising for Houston when Carr, 17-of-34 for 242 yards, hit Andre Johnson for a 42-yard pass play late in the game to get the Texans within striking distance. Davis, an offensive rookie of the year contender, did the rest with a 15-yard run followed by his scoring trot.

Lady Tigers win Trigg tourney; Tigers fall at Heath

Staff Report

Murray Ledger & Times

CADIZ, Ky. — The Murray High Lady Tigers placed three players in double figures in rolling to a 56-45 victory over Trigg County Friday night.

In the process, the Lady Tigers picked up the top prize at the 12 Days of Christmas tournament at Trigg County.

In the championship game, Brandi Vincent scored a double-double, netting 15 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. The 5-foot-10 senior center was joined by Lisa

Thurman, who also finished with 15 points. Jordan Huston added 12 for the Lady Tigers.

Breanna Volp and Katie Garland scored six points apiece, while Mallory Cunningham finished with two.

The contributions from Vincent and Huston, along with the other MHS players, that head coach Rechelle Turner said helped the Lady Tigers get the win.

"When (Lisa) Thurman comes out and scores 23-29 points a night, it's not going to take long for teams to realize what they need to key on," Turner noted. "It was great to see the other girls contributing. For us to be successful this year, we have to have

contributions from the other girls."

Murray (5-2) found themselves tied with the Lady Wildcats at 11-11 after the first period. But a second quarter surge saw the Lady Tigers take a commanding 33-18 lead at halftime.

"We really started pulling away in that third quarter," Turner said. "We picked up the defensive intensity. Our offense was clicking when we could get in our transition scoring."

The Lady Tigers led 41-30 after the end of three quarters.

Murray High out-rebounded Trigg 32-33 and was 23-of-61 from the field. The Lady Tigers connected on 9-of-18 shots from the free throw

line, but only nailed one 3-pointer — that coming from Thurman.

The Lady Wildcats were 16-of-48 from the floor and shot 12-of-12 from the charity stripe.

Heath 47, Tigers 46

PADUCAH, Ky. — Murray High led for most of its Saturday matchup with Heath in the First Kentucky Bank Shootout, but could not hold on in a 47-46 loss.

The Tigers (1-5) overcame a 12-8 first-quarter deficit to post a 23-17 advantage at the halftime break. The Pirates (3-4) outscored MHS 13-11 in the third quarter, but the Tigers still led 34-30 entering the final eight minutes.

However, the lead would evapo-

rate as Heath won the fourth-quarter scoring battle by a 17-12 count to complete the come-from-behind victory. Brandon Austin's free throw with three seconds left provided the final margin.

Heath's Jayce Long led all scorers with 20 points, while Mark Daniel paced Murray with 14. Corey Zirbel and Kyle Erwin added 11 points apiece for the Tigers.

MHS was 16-of-31 from the floor, and was just 2-of-6 from 3-point range. The Tigers hit 12-of-16 free throw attempts. Heath went 16-of-49 from the field, hitting 5-of-19 from beyond the 3-point line. The Pirates knocked down 10-of-14 foul shots.

Wildcats make strong push for nation's No. 1 ranking

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Kentucky had the most first-place votes last week.

This week, the voters must decide whether the Wildcats are the nation's best team after a resounding 80-41 blowout of Indiana.

"It says we're still hungry," forward Erik Daniels said. "We've got a lot of goals."

The Wildcats (6-0) have now won 26 straight regular-season games and during

Saturday's thrashing in Indianapolis demonstrated why they are one of the best teams in the country.

Daniels and Chuck Hayes dominated the middle. The Wildcats' suffocating defense never gave Indiana an opening, and they had more rebounds (54) than Indiana did points.

Kentucky, ranked No. 2 entering the game, also produced its most lopsided victory over

the Hoosiers in the 47-game series, despite getting only a minor contribution from its leading scorer, Gerald Fitch. He took just six shots and finished with six points, 14 fewer than his average.

But with Connecticut winning 104-54 over Iowa, there may not be an opening. Last week, Kentucky fell 67 points short of becoming the fourth No. 1 team in four weeks. They could

make it five in five weeks this week, but the Wildcats aren't campaigning.

"We're not trying to compare ourselves to the previous No. 1 teams," Fitch said.

"We're not worried about the hype and so forth."

— Instead, this Kentucky squad has concentrated on the thing it does better than most — winning.

■ Detroit sets road loss record

Dallas, Tennessee and Denver in playoffs

By The Associated Press

Dallas, Tennessee and Denver punched their tickets to the playoffs with a week to go in the regular season, while Detroit made history — the negative kind.

The NFL's playoff picture took shape on a Sunday during which the Saints and Jaguars had one of the most bizarre finishes ever, and Jamal Lewis closed in on the NFL's single-season rushing record. And the Lions lost their NFL-record 24th straight road game.

"It eats me alive and makes me absolutely sick to my stomach to think about it," Lions guard Ray Brown said. "Everybody on the team is part of the streak and it's nothing to be proud of."

In the AFC, the postseason lineup is clear.

New England (13-2) has at least a first-round bye and can secure home-field advantage throughout the playoffs by beating Buffalo at home next week.

Kansas City (13-3) has clinched the West. Indianapolis and Tennessee (both 11-4) and Denver (10-5) are also in. Either the Colts or Titans will win the South, with the Colts holding the tiebreaker because they beat Tennessee twice.

The final spot goes to the winner of the North, where Baltimore (9-6) is a game ahead of Cincinnati (8-7).

In the NFC, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Carolina and Dallas are in. The other spots will go to the winner of the North — Minnesota or Green Bay — with Seattle and the Packers alive for a wildcard spot.

Bill Parcells' Cowboys, 5-11 a year ago, clinched at least a wildcard berth in the NFC with a 19-3 win over the New York Giants that left them at 10-5. They could

still win the NFC East because Philadelphia lost 31-28 in overtime to San Francisco, meaning a loss by the Eagles in Washington next week and a Dallas win in New Orleans would give the Cowboys its first NFC East title since 1998.

"It feels good to know we're in the playoffs, but we've still got to get better," said safety Darren Woodson, the last player remaining from the Dallas teams that won three Super Bowls in the early '90s.

"The hottest team in December usually wins it, so we're trying to get better," Woodson said.

Broncos 31, Colts 17

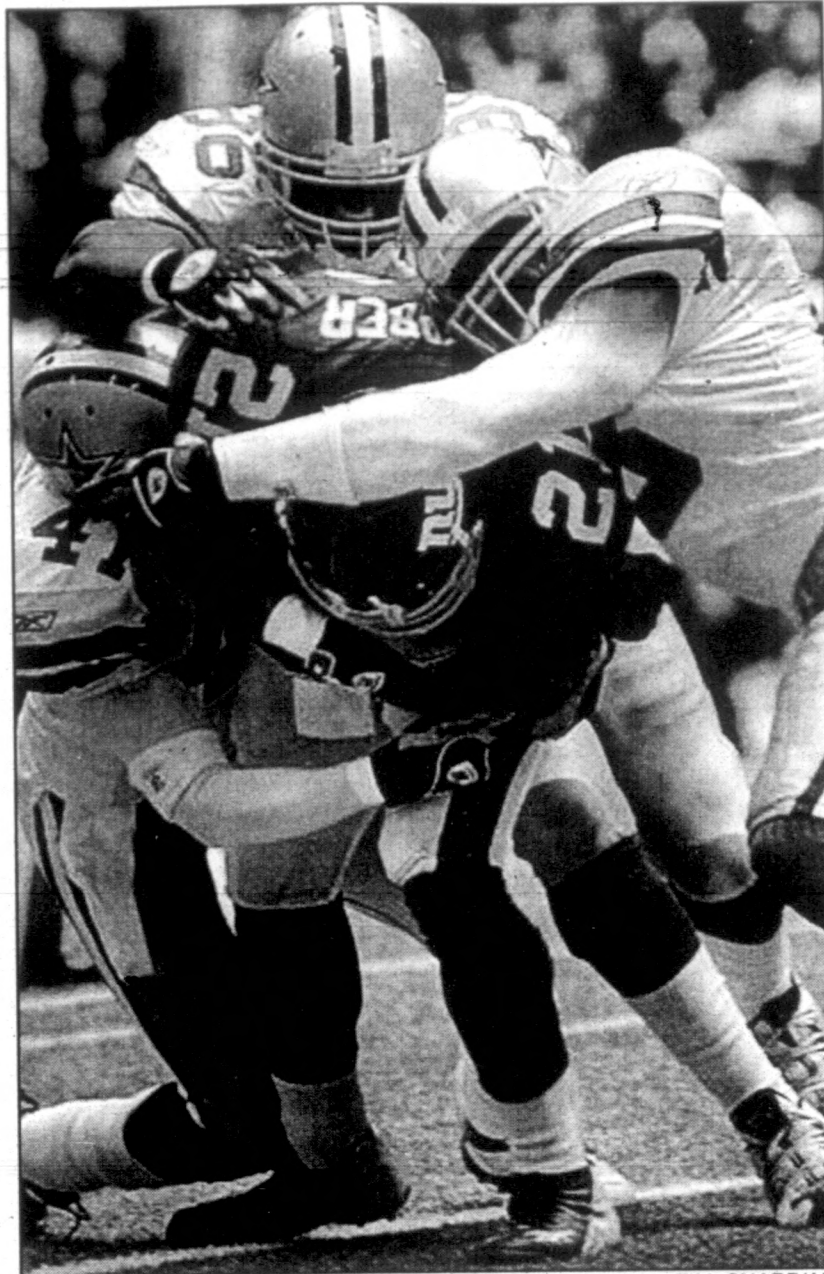
At Indianapolis, with Clinton Portis out with a knee injury, Quentin Griffin ran for 136 yards, Mike Anderson added 56 more and Jake Plummer ran for two scores.

Denver (10-5) won its fourth straight, clinched its first playoff spot since the 2000 season and earned only its second postseason berth since John Elway retired following the 1998 season. The Broncos also prevented the Colts (11-4) from wrapping up the AFC South title and moving into position for a first-round bye.

Indianapolis still could win the division title with a win next week at Houston, or a Tennessee loss. But New England (13-2) would have a better overall record and Kansas City (12-3) would have a better conference record.

Rams 27, Bengals 10

At St. Louis, Marshall Faulk scored two touchdowns, Torry Holt had his 10th 100-yard receiving game and Grant Wistrom added 2 1/2 sacks to help the Rams knock the Bengals from a first-place tie in the AFC North.



Giants running back Tiki Barber is swarmed by Dallas' Terence Newman (41), Dan Campbell (86) and Darren Woodson (28) after picking up eight yards in the first quarter Sunday in Irving, Texas.

Three local gridiron stars receive more accolades

By MICHAEL DANN
Sports Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The accolades keep rolling in for some local prep gridiron players.

Calloway County's Seth Barrow and Murray High's Corey Zirbel and Tim Masthay were named over the weekend to the Louisville Courier-Journal All-State Football Team.

All three were named to the Honorable Mention team. Barrow, a 6-foot-3, 191 pound senior wide-out for the Lakers, was the state's leading receiver during the regular season with 82 catches for 1,109 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Zirbel had 32 tackles, eight for a loss, in 11 games this past season. He also finished with two sacks. Zirbel was named to the squad as an offensive lineman.

Masthay, who represents the Tigers as a place-kicker, was also a standout soccer player in the fall. Masthay connected on 46-of-47 PATs this year and put 42-of-71 kickoffs in the end zone, while averaging 32 yards per punt.

Paducah Tilghman put nine players on the team. Joe Casey received first team recognition as a running back. Chris Grimm, a 6-1, 250-pound sophomore center, made

the second team, while Blue Tornado quarterback Hunter Cantwell wound up on the third team.

Wide receiver Anthony Barton and offensive lineman Tone Woods made the honorable mention team. Defensive Lineman Marvin Burns was named to the second team, while defensive back Chris Fountain and punter Barkley Carr were named to the third team.

D.J. Wilson was named honorable mention as a linebacker to round out the roster of Tilghman players.

The top vote-getter was Mayfield offensive lineman Micah Jones, who was named on ballots from 50 coaches.

Jarod Lester, a defensive end for the Cardinals, was named to the honorable mention squad, while punter Adam Ivey was named to the second team.

Hopkinsville QB Curtis Pulley was named as an honorable mention selection. Brock Wright, a running back from Heath, was also named on the honorable mention team.

Defensively, Ballard Memorial's Brandon Fitzgerald, a 6-0 255-pound senior, was named to the third team as a defensive end.

Nevada knocks out Kansas

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Kirk Snyder outplayed Kansas' star trio of Keith Langford, Aaron Miles and Wayne Simien.

Snyder had 29 points and nine rebounds and Nevada used sharp foul shooting down the stretch to upset No. 6 Kansas 75-61 on Sunday night at the Wolf Pack Holiday Classic.

"It's just a blessing that this happened," Snyder said. "It was a team effort. We came out and we know our roles."

Snyder scored inside and out and sparked a 12-2 run to open the game. Todd Okeson, a senior guard from Weskan, Kan., had 12 points for Nevada and the Wolf Pack made 19 of 21 free throws over the final 10 minutes to hold off the Jayhawks.

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Garcia leads Cards past Peay

By CHRIS DUNCAN
AP Sports Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The Louisville Cardinals were in a giving mood against Austin Peay on Saturday.

Francisco Garcia scored 21 and matched a career-high with eight assists in the 20th-ranked Cardinals' 80-63 victory. The Cardinals had 23 assists in the game, one shy of a season high.

"The more we pass, the better we look," said Louisville coach Rick Pitino.

Luke Whitehead added 17 points and seven rebounds as Louisville

(5-1) won its fifth straight game.

The Cardinals' full-court pressure defense also shined, generating 24 points off 17 Austin Peay turnovers. But if the overall performance had a flaw, Pitino said he found it in his team's 3-point defense.

"People forgot to defend the 3. You don't put your hands up like a mannequin. That drives me crazy," he said.

The Governors (3-5) shot 34 percent (20-of-59) from the field, but 37.5 percent (9-of-24) from 3-point range.

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Oakland	4	10	0	San Francisco	7	8	0
San Diego	3	12	0	Arizona	3	12	0

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Lakers pick up dual wins over weekend at Daviess County

Staff Report

Murray Ledger & Times

OWENSBORO, Ky. — The Calloway County Lakers picked up wins over Warren East and Butler County during the Daviess County Invitational Saturday in Owensboro.

Calloway rolled past the Raiders 59-49 in Game 1.

Terry Adams and Aitor Salinas led the way with 13 points apiece. Chase Futrell added 10 points, while handing out seven assists. Seth Barrow was good for 10 rebounds, while adding four points.

In Game 2, Adams again was the top man with 21 points as the Lakers beat the Bears 71-45.

Futrell tossed in 14 points with another seven assists, and Roger Jones finished with 11 points and five rebounds.

According to Calloway head coach Terry Birdsong, Butler County was the better of the two teams

that his Lakers faced over the weekend.

"Against Warren East, we just didn't play that well," Birdsong explained. "We had too many turnovers (19). For us, that's quite a bit; they were silly turnovers."

Birdsong said his squad played much better against Butler County, forcing several bad shots.

The Lakers out-rebounded the Bowling Green school 30-12 and shot 63 percent (26-of-41) from the field. The Raiders shot just 39 percent.

Calloway County held both opponents to under 40 percent shooting.

The tournament at Daviess County High School is a pool-play format. The Lakers return to action tonight at 6:15 when they take on McLean County. A win would put them in the overall championship game tomorrow night against the winner of the other pool.

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Farm

Monday, December 22, 2003

Winter solstice signals seasonal change

The seasons provide us with variety. Not only is that variety found in temperature, storm development and other weather changes but also in day length and alterations in plant growth and productivity. Summer sun shines high in the sky. Daylight extends well into evening providing warmth and ample time for outdoor activities.

As summer progresses into fall, daylight gradually lessens until the autumnal equinox provides equal amounts of daylight and darkness. That happened September 23. Since then daylight hours are less and less until today when we receive the least amount of daylight for the year. Today, December 22, 2003 is the winter solstice. Wintertime is officially here.

Because of the earth's elliptical orbit, the earth is actually over 3 million miles closer to the sun in January than July but our coldest weather in the northern hemisphere is in January.

At the summer solstice in western Kentucky at latitude 36.6 degrees the sun angle is about 76.9 Degrees. At the winter solstice the angle is about 29.9 degrees. Sun rays strike the northern hemisphere more directly in summer than winter producing more heat. The tilt of the earth's rotational axis is responsible for our seasons, not the distance from earth to sun.

The sun lies closer to the horizon this time of year. Long shadows projected by trees cross roads and interrupted light from numerous branches flashes quickly across faces as drivers steer cars and trucks



Agriculture Update
By Lloyd Weatherly
Calloway County Agriculture Extension Agent

through the wooded countryside. Daylight sleeps in and daybreak arises later.

Afternoon brightness fades quickly and the sinking sun reveals brilliant oranges, reds and blues above the cooling landscape. It's a gradual occurrence, the approach to the solstice that slips up on us like age. Cooler weather combines with and amplifies shorter days surrounding the solstice, appropriately so, and early darkness encompasses the countryside.

As wintertime progresses cold Canadian air invades the Ohio Valley. Nighttime temperatures dip into the twenties, teens and single digits. Woodburning stoves send puffs of smoke into the frigid darkness. Daylight reveals the sparkling icy countryside and birds darting back and forth to the feeder. Morning footsteps crunch frozen turfgrass until the rising sun melts the ice, leaving shiny blades absorbing the warmth.

Occasional daytime winter clouds thicken with accumulating moisture. Fragile

snowflakes descend cautiously at first only to gain confidence and size until they tumble down in a steady white shower that continues into darkness. Outside lights reflect the beauty of the snowfall as bare tree limbs, frosted evergreens and roadsides accumulate a white coating as nature creates another piece of art.

Days will progressively lengthen as the New Year approaches and gets under way, until the vernal equinox on March 20, 2004 when daylight and darkness are again equal. Days will continue to lengthen until the summer solstice on June 20, 2004, which brings the longest day. Shorter days follow until the next autumnal equinox on September 22, 2004. Longer nights will again dominate until a year from now, December 21, 2004, the next winter solstice.

The cycle continues year after year. Barren wintertime trees and short daylight

hours give rise to warmer weather, planting and new growth in springtime. Long days, moisture and summertime heat provide continued growth that gives way to cooling maturity, harvest and fall coloration in preparation for dormancy, for repose.

The winter solstice is at hand. Cooler weather of December and shorter days are appropriate as holidays approach and the year draws to a close. Families gather during a season of sharing and thanks. It's a time to appreciate accomplishments and blessings of the year past and make preparations for the New Year ahead.

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Horse farms get creative to peddle pedigrees

By JANET PATTON

Lexington Herald-Leader

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — HOT YOUNG STUD SEEKS MATURE LADY LOOKING TO GET LUCKY.

Before thoroughbred stallions can make a name for themselves in the breeding shed, they have to get the attention of potential customers.

That's not so easy. Consider: In 2002 the Jockey Club registered 4,323 thoroughbred stallions in North America, including 378 in Kentucky; 575 (35 in Kentucky) were standing their first year at stud.

What makes one stallion stand out while another with similar credentials waits by the phone?

In a word: marketing. Farms take out billboards, send out CD-ROMs and DVDs, and give away hats to draw attention to their stallions.

Stallion marketing is more than an equine Dating Game. Breeding is a billion-dollar business.

Stud fees can be \$5,000 — or \$500,000, depending on the horse. And there are more than 58,000 mares out there.

The average number of mares that Kentucky stallions covered last year was 52, but most service many more. Last year's busiest stallion

was Coolmore's Grand Slam, who bred 197 mares. His stud fee was \$25,000, giving him possible earnings of \$4,925,000.

"It used to be people opened their gates and waited for people to come in," said Benny Bell Williams of The Bell Group, which helps farms market their moneymakers with brochures, videos and Web sites.

"Now, you've got to go out and get them," she said. "There's a lot of clutter; it's hard to break through."

The trick is to create brand loyalty, either for the horse or for the farm, stallion-marketing insiders say.

Some farms build an image. Mill Ridge Farm, for instance, emphasizes its historical ties. In a recent ad in Keeneland magazine, Mill Ridge branded itself as the "steward of the heritage" of the Bluegrass. At Three Chimneys Farm, "the idea is excellence."

Farms try to capitalize on a horse's race record as well as his pedigree. A win in any of the Triple Crown races or in the annual Breeders' Cup championships can vault a stallion into a bracket that means a high profile and a high stud fee.

Farms are increasingly using the latest technology to convince breed-

ers that their stallion is "the one."

Web sites offer statistics on hypothetical mating, automatic progeny updates, streaming audio and video of races, and flash animation, said Lara Levine, manager of equine development for the Hammond Communications Group, which helps farms develop Internet-based advertising.

Judging by the number of hits on the Web site, the hypothetical-matings feature has proven popular, she said.

"The problem with a lot of marketing is you really can't quantify" how well it works, Levine said. Most farms cannot measure success by sales from campaigns, so "a lot of farms do it more because it's an image-type thing," she said.

Levine summarized her rule of thumb on stallion marketing costs: "If you could pay for what you're doing with one or two seasons, it's a no-brainer."

Still, for all the bells and whistles of marketing in the electronic age, sometimes the personal touch carries the most weight.

Repeat customers might receive little "thank-yous" such as framed photos of foals, engraved julep cups, or steaks at the holidays.

One of the most popular ways to tout a particular stallion is on a cap.

Hats are a staple of stallion promotion, and farms hand out hundreds. Lots of farms pass out merchandise, but few on the scale of John Sikura's Hill 'n' Dale.

For the second year, Sikura will reward favored customers with an

enviable perk: a "letter" jacket from Canadian outdoor clothier Roots, emblazoned with a stallion's name. This year it's Vindication.

The jackets, which he says cost \$300 each, are high-quality and subtle, he said, a classy way to introduce a new stallion.

"Right now, the only thing you're dealing with is perception," he said.

A stallion's name is a decidedly low-tech marketing tool. But Ric Waldman, stallion adviser for Overbrook Farm, says the name can be a brand in itself.

Most breeders use sophisticated statistical analysis to guide their choices, said Waldman.

"Buzz comes into play," he said, "but buzz has to be based on something more substantive than 'Psst, pass it on.'"

And a good name can help with that buzz.

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Many of his progeny are either Storms or Cats: Tabasco Cat, Sharp Cat, Desert Stormer, just to name a few.

"It doesn't hurt to have that name plastered out there every time one of them wins," Waldman said.

Fiona Craig, a bloodstock adviser with Thoroughbreds International in Lexington, said vogue definitely plays into breeders' choices.

"Every year a new horse is the fashion," she said. "This year it's Distorted Humor," sire of Kentucky Derby-winning gelding Funny Cide.

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Personal shopper knows what her customers like

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Breezing amiably through a seasonal ritual many dread, Carol Mercer wafts through the crowded aisles of holiday shoppers, juggling her customers' cell-phone calls with an armful of clothing and accessories she's pulled for one of them.

Mercer has come to know this customer, a regular, so well that she instinctively knows which rack to waltz to, pulling a color and style she knows from experience the patron will just love.

She's Lazarus-Macy's personal shopper, a free service for customers too busy or too fashion-challenged to shop themselves. She works year-round, through the spring and fall fashion rush and into December, where the holiday shopping season peaks.

"Time probably is the biggest thing, and a lot of people, if, for instance, they're going on a cruise for the first time ... they're not really sure what to wear," Mercer said of her customers. "Sometimes they'll bring their itineraries for me even if they're going on a business trip."

Over 18 years as the personal shopper at the Oxmoor Center store — her 25-year career there dates to when it was known as Shillito's — Mercer has acquired about 150 regular customers, many of whom go back to her first year.

Personal shoppers once were more numerous in Louisville — Bacons and Jacobson's had them here before those chains closed their doors. Mercer is the only one Lazarus-Macy has in its Louisville stores. Economic forces and changing retail strategies over the years have thinned their numbers in Louisville and many parts of the country.

Even so, Lazarus-Macy's parent company, Federated Department Stores Inc., still employs about 200 personal shoppers in its 466 nationwide stores, most of them concentrated in Macy's and Bloomingdale's stores. The 44-store Lazarus-Macy chain has four personal shoppers: Mercer, two in Columbus and one in Cincinnati.

"We are looking to expand to more stores," said Amy Baenen, vice president of customer services for Federated. "We basically restarted the program from scratch. While we've had personal shoppers in the past, we hadn't spent a great deal of capital giving them a nice, professional environment and the

Horoscopes

by Jacqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2003:
Your creativity earmarks your year, making "possibility" your middle name. Knowing when to stop and think of another could separate happiness from depression during this period of tremendous creativity. Listen to your feelings, but also listen to those of others. Sometimes you will need to deal with depressed people or a sad partner. Don't walk away; instead, pitch in and use your dynamic energy to make others happy. Your ability to read people comes through this year, helping you gain in the professional world. If single, you will meet many people this year. "The one" might be a year away. If you are attached, consider a home office so you can participate more in your family life. CAPRICORN is a soul mate.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
*** Step up and do what is required of you. You might not want to, but unfortunately, you are the best qualified. You have a way of steaming through work that others admire. Do not take a family member's criticism too personally. This person could be jealous. Tonight: Check in on an older relative.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
***** Deal with others in your customary nice manner, even if you might want to hit someone on the head with a frying pan. Once you complete what you need to, you will feel good about yourself. At the same time, you might need to establish limits. Tonight: Put on some Christmas music.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
**** If interfered with, you could lose your temper. Don't, if you can help it, because you could alienate a close friend. The season might be getting to you more than you realize. Be positive about the possibilities that surround you. Tonight: Make nice with a partner.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
***** Others might challenge you, though on some level, they really don't mean to. The holiday could be getting the best of those you care about, as well as those in your work life. Keep communication flowing. Tonight: Go along with another's plans.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
*** Pitch right in — you might not have a choice. Still, your mood could make or break a situation. Use care with others when selecting gifts. You might want to get an extra gift or two for

those who might surprise you. Relax as much as you can. Tonight: Clean up any last-minute details.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
***** You're in the pink and ready to celebrate. You might wonder what is going on with a partner who appears to be on the warpath. Remember the tension the holidays can create and be more indulgent. You are the one who will make the difference right now. Tonight: Add more spunk to a relationship.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
**** Head on home, where you might have to deal with a bit of unpleasantness, but nothing you cannot handle. Be indulgent and understanding about the tension that can build around the holidays. Help others remember the true meaning of the holidays. Tonight: Pitch in wherever you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
***** What you say might have a lot to do with what happens right now. Use your charm and help an irate associate work through a problem or gain perspective. Take off early and finish up holiday errands or do something ultimately cheery. Tonight: Share the holiday spirit. Ignore a Scrooge-like person in your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
**** Think of the person who might have been left out and take action toward him or her. Often people are left out. You might upset a spoiled loved one by your efforts, but ultimately, it all works out. Teach a child that gifts are not everything. Tonight: Share last-minute details.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
***** Someone might not see you the way you see him or her. Remember, right now, you might be more upbeat than you realize, drawing a strong reaction from someone who really might not be so upbeat. Express your caring. Tonight: As you like it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
** You might be a bit out of sorts with what is going on in the next few days. Rather than impact others in your life, work through your feelings. You just might be too tired for your own good. Tonight: Vanish; get some extra sleep.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
***** You might be hearing Christmas bells and caroling wherever you are, putting you in the frame of mind for the holiday. Do remember a special friend. You could be pulling everything together for those around you. Tonight: Make it your pleasure.

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Cortisone allergy is unusual

DEAR DR. GOTT: I appear to be allergic to cortisone. I've been given this medicine for allergies and developed headaches at the base of my skull.



Dr. Gott

By Dr. Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR READER: An allergy to cortisone, although not impossible, is certainly rare, because all of us manufacture cortisone in our adrenal glands; also, the drug is universally used to block allergic reactions.

From your brief description, I cannot conclude that you are allergic to cortisone. Perhaps you are

having adverse reactions to the vehicle in which the drug is marketed — for example, the preservative in liquid cortisone or the stabilizer in the inhaled product.

The use of steroid injections for a sinus infection is not standard therapy; antibiotics are preferable. Perhaps you misunderstood your physician, who may have diagnosed an acute allergic reaction as a cause of your sinus congestion.

Because the nature of your allergies and your presumed reaction to cortisone remain a mystery, I urge you to see an allergist, who will test you to discover the cause(s) of your symptoms.

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

DEAR DR. GOTT: My son, in his early 40s, is gradually losing the use of his arms and legs because of progressive weakness. Tests for Lyme disease and multiple sclerosis have come back negative.

DEAR READER: Your son appears to have a neurological affliction that defies diagnosis. In such an instance, an examination and testing should be performed by super-specialized neurologists.

Ask his doctor to refer him to a university hospital or teaching center. In such a setting, specialists are particularly trained to diagnose puzzling ailments and should be able to clarify and treat your son's progressive weakness.

Send some holiday cheer to our military overseas

DEAR READERS: Carols fill the air, our halls have been decked with boughs of holly and the Christmas trees are decorated.



Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

This is also the time of year that's hardest for our young men and women in the military, stationed far from home — many for the first time.

So, please, dear readers, you are the most generous people in the world. Remember our troops. They need our support. Go to your computer, type in www.OperationDearAbby.net, and send these brave, dedicated young people heartfelt holiday greetings today.

DEAR ABBY: After 30 years of marriage, my husband, "Allan," began an affair with a young woman in his office. I was devastated, and our three children and two grandchildren were all affected.

I made up my mind not to become revengeful or bitter. I realized that Allan no longer loved me or he wouldn't have left.

I am now working full time and loving it. I have met some nice men

at church, but I now have serious trust issues, so I prefer to go it alone.

The children's relationship with Allan is still strained. He now has Alzheimer's and needs them, but they cannot forgive him for destroying our family.

Abby, do people who have affairs with married men or women ever consider the pain that is left in their wake? — STILL RECOVERING IN HOUSTON

DEAR STILL RECOVERING: Rarely, I think it's safe to say that there's a distinct lack of empathy. They justify or rationalize their behavior by convincing themselves that the injured party somehow deserves the pain.

DEAR ABBY: A good friend of mine, "Robert," recently returned from a three-week vacation. When he left, he had hardly any hair. When he returned, he had a full head of hair.

Would it be rude to compliment him on his "new" hair? If he had gotten new glasses we would all compliment him on those.

DEAR FRIEND: It is an extremely delicate subject. You might want to approach it as if you're hugging a porcupine — very gently. Say, "Gee, you look rested. You look great."

LookingBack

10 years ago After 32 years of service in the Calloway County School System which included serving under three superintendents, Jim Feltner, currently principal at East Elementary School, is retiring June 30, 1994.

In figures released by the 1993 Kids Count Data Book, 20.5 percent of children in Calloway County live in poverty.

Births reported include a boy to Kimberly and Charles Pardue, Dec. 15; a girl to Margaret and Keith Taylor and a boy to Sandra and Kenneth Craig, Dec. 16.

20 years ago Published is a picture of Jim Cook of Louisville receiving the oath of office as a member of Murray State University Board of Regents from Patsy Dyer, board secretary.

Some 50 antique and classic automobiles were on display Dec. 17 and 18 at the West Kentucky Livestock and Exposition Center. The show was sanctioned by both Murray Tourism Commission and Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce.

Births reported include a girl to Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Bryan Bailey, Dec. 9.

30 years ago New officers of the Murray-Calloway County Board of Realtors are Edna Knight, John Neubauer and Loretta Jobs.

Births reported include a boy to Mr. and Mrs. Danny Irvan Pittman, Dec. 4; a girl to Mr. and Mrs. Larry McClain, Dec. 10.

Kelly Ford, Jay Pitman, Gene

Parker, Marc Peebles, Debbie Henry, Julia Billington, Ashley Smock and Ricky Wagner placed in the Swim Meet at Nashville East YMCA. The Murray Swimming Team is coached by Vance Rose and Mike Cayce.

40 years ago Bill Furgerson of Murray State College has been named track and cross country coach of the year by the Ohio Valley Conference.

Recent births reported at Murray Hospital include a girl to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Slaughter, a boy to Mr. and Mrs. Norman P. Dennis, a girl to Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. McCoart, a boy to Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Bell, a boy to Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Ray, a girl to Mr. and Mrs. Terry Housden and a boy to Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Garner.

Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Hughes were married for 50 years Dec. 7.

50 years ago Needy residents of Calloway County received \$17,937 during November. This was for old age assistance, aid to dependent children and for aid to needy blind, according to Kentucky Division of Public Assistance.

Recent births reported at Murray Hospital include a boy to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Higgins, a girl to Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Harbuck, a girl to Mr. and Mrs. Max Walker, a boy to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Smith Adams and a girl to Mr. and Mrs. Owen Morris.

Murray High School Tigers won over Trigg County Wildcats in a basketball game. High team scorers were Dale Alexander, Murray, and Simpson, Trigg.

TodayInHistory

By The Associated Press Today is Monday, Dec. 22, the 356th day of 2003. There are nine days left in the year. Winter arrives at 2:04 a.m. Eastern time.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 22, 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe reportedly replied "Nuts!" when the Germans demanded that the Americans surrender.

On this date: In 1775, a Continental naval fleet was organized in the rebellious American colonies.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Gen. William T. Sherman sent a message to President Lincoln: "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah."

In 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived in Washington for a wartime conference with President Franklin Roosevelt.

In 1963, an official 30-day mourning period following the assassination of President Kennedy came to an end.

Five years ago: A third Chinese dissident was sentenced to prison for trying to organize an opposition party.

One year ago: A defiant North Korea said that it had begun removing U.N. seals and surveillance cameras from nuclear facilities that U.S. officials said could yield weapons within months.

Advertisement for Bob Cornelison and Stuart Alexander, featuring KFB Farm Bureau Insurance and contact information.

DailyComics

BLONDIE comic strip panels showing a character talking about winter and a dog's reaction.

CATHY comic strip panels showing a character listing various electronic chargers.

FOR BETTER or WORSE comic strip panels showing a character talking about Christmas gifts.

GARFIELD comic strip panels showing Garfield sniffing something.

PEANUTS comic strip panels showing characters talking about Monday football.

ContractBridge

Famous Hand

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable. NORTH: 7, 543, A987542, 108. WEST: J4, QJ1072, K6, K973. EAST: Q986532, K8, 3, J54. SOUTH: AK10, A96, QJ10, AQ62.

The bidding: South 1, West 1, North Pass, East 1. Dble Pass, 3, Pass. 3 NT. Opening lead — queen of hearts.

This deal was played in a tournament many years ago by John Moran, California expert. It features an unusual situation where Moran, the declarer, had to hope that a critical finesse would lose, because if it won, the contract could not be made!

Crosswords

- ACROSS: 1 Corroded, as acid; 4 Semesters; 9 - Wiedersehen; 12 "My gal" of song; 13 Fantastic; 14 Glide downhill; 15 Flower child; 17 More curious; 19 Kennel sound; 20 Principle; 21 Lhasa -; 23 Grand Canyon st.; 24 Walk heavily; 27 Reoart, in combos; 28 Herr s spouse; 30 Noted lithographer; 31 All-purpose MD; 32 Did patchwork; 34 Londoner s bye; 35 Genesis hunter; 37 Darling; 38 "Mad Max" - Gibson; 39 Carnival attractions; 41 Sigh of relief; 42 Yardstick; 43 Clues; 45 Duck s foot; 46 Flake; 48 Dangerous bear; 51 Moon, poetically; 52 See eye-to-eye; 54 Strong soap; 55 New World alliance; 56 Michener novel; 57 High school subj.; DOWN: 1 Fire residue; 2 Mai - (rum drink); 3 Border town (2 wds.); 4 Week-ending cheer; 5 Prior to; 6 Concerning; 7 Tailless cat; 8 Unflinching; 9 Isaac - of sci-fi; 10 Hawaiian guitar; 11 Cone bearer; 16 Major leaguer; 18 Firm; 20 Flowering shrubs; 21 Tick off; 22 Coke rival; 23 Desertlike; 25 Parking nuisance; 26 Choir selection; 28 Dr. - Manchu; 29 Four Corners state; 32 Odd; 33 Uh s cousin; 36 Improvises (hyph.); 38 Portable; 40 Anwar el- of Egypt; 42 Beatty or Sparks; 44 Ruler of Venice; 45 Troubles; 46 Go courting; 47 NOW cause; 48 Large parrot; 49 Author - Rand; 50 Barbecue extra; 53 Prescription letters.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

FAX OAF UNIT AURA UMA GATE TEAK NEB APES LYRICS INERT ODE HOD BWANA MANAGED ROD OAS ERE ROOSTED SPEAR ERR VEE FORAY HOCKEY ARES WOW OLAF LENO ALE EIRE LOON DEL ANN

12x12 crossword puzzle grid with numbers in the starting squares.

Subscription form for Murray Ledger & Times, including rates for home delivery, local mail, and other mail subscriptions.

TV Listings published daily

MONDAY EVENING TV listings for Dec 22, 2003. Includes channels like WKRN-ABC, WSMV-NBC, and various programs such as Monday Night Live, NFL Football, and Law & Order.

TUESDAY MORNING TV listings for Dec 23, 2003. Includes channels like WKRN-ABC, WSMV-NBC, and various programs such as News, Good Morning America, and Sesame Street.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON TV listings for Dec 23, 2003. Includes channels like WKRN-ABC, WSMV-NBC, and various programs such as All My Children, General Hospital, and Days of Our Lives.

The American soldier named Time magazine's Person of the Year

By The Associated Press NEW YORK (AP) — Time magazine's Person of the Year for 2003 is actually many people — the 1.4 million men and women in the U.S. military, which invaded Iraq and captured deposed leader Saddam Hussein.

Regiment, based in Giessen, Germany.

The magazine glorifies the soldiers but not the Bush administration for putting them in Iraq, calling troops "the bright sharp instrument of a blunt policy," and leaving it to scholars to debate "whether the Bush doctrine is the most muscular expression of national interest in a half-century."

Buxton, one of those who graced the magazine's cover, called his stepmother Sunday afternoon to discuss the big news. Though the connection was bad, it was clear the soldier was proud, Dana Buxton said.

"He felt it was an honor for the troops," she said, "and he was very pleased the troops were being honored on the cover."

The selection echoes 1950, the year the Korean War began, when the magazine's editors picked the American GI for the cover, writing that "it was not a role the American had sought, either as an individual or as a nation. The U.S. fighting-man was not civilization's crusader, but destiny's draftee."

Time magazine knows the risks that the soldiers face first hand. On the evening of Dec. 10, Time writer

Michael Weisskopf's right hand was blown off and photographer James Nachtwey was hit with shrapnel when a grenade landed on their humvee as the same soldiers honored by Time were stuck in Baghdad traffic.

Grimes, the platoon's medic, treated the two journalists along with injured members of her unit. Weisskopf is recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and Nachtwey is back in New York.

Kelly said Saddam Hussein was not considered for Person of the Year in 2003 because "he was on the losing side of this conflict," and it was unclear how much he was leading the insurgency.

In 2001, then-New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani was picked as Time's Person of the Year for leading the city's response to the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Last year, Time editors selected Coleen Rowley, the FBI agent who wrote a scathing memo on FBI intelligence failures, and Cynthia Cooper and Sherron Watkins, who blew the whistle on corruption at corporate giants Enron and WorldCom.

Holiday Greetings From All Of Us. A large decorative advertisement for local businesses including insurance, rentals, auctioneering, and travel services, all framed in a festive border.