

12-24-2011

The Murray Ledger and Times, December 24, 2011

The Murray Ledger and Times

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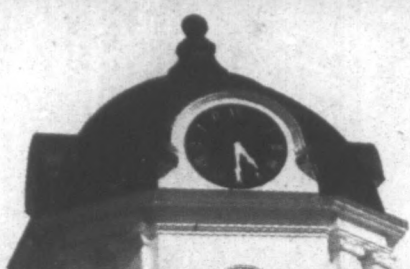
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Home of The Week
See Page 5A For Details.



MURRAY LEDGER & TIMES

Vol. 132, No. 303

www.murrayledger.com

Saturday, December 24, 2011

Murray, KY 42071

75¢

A Sweet HOMECOMING



Photo provided
DeAndra Herndon welcomes home her husband this past Tuesday afternoon in Benton, just in time for Christmas. Specialist Aaron Herndon is part of Alpha Company, 149th Brigade Support Battalion, that was the last group of U.S. soldier to leave Iraq.

Murray soldier among those home from war in Iraq

— See story on Page 3A

WEATHER

TODAY	TOMORROW
40s	40s
30s	30s

Daily Forecast

The National Weather Service

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 45.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 46.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 30.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 46.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 33.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49.

INDEX

Three Sections - 20 Pages

Business5A

Classifieds3B, 4B

Comics5B

Community6A

Obituaries4A

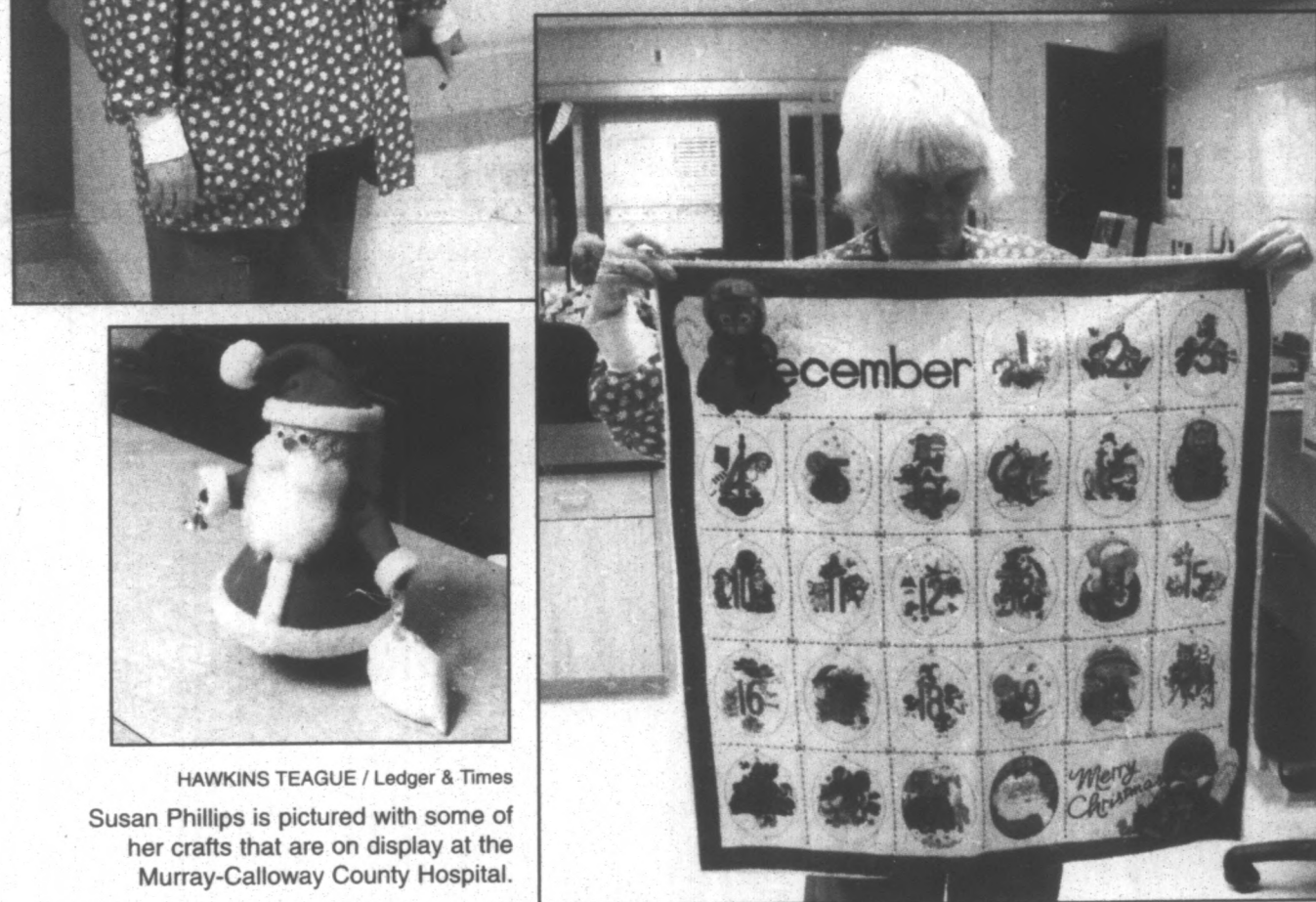
Sports9A, 10A

TV Week4 Pages



Merry Christmas

~ A mother's inspiration ~



HAWKINS TEAGUE / Ledger & Times
Susan Phillips is pictured with some of her crafts that are on display at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital.

Phillips', mother's crafts on display at MCCH

Local woman shares joy of holiday season through her creations

By HAWKINS TEAGUE
Staff Writer

Christmas can sometimes be bittersweet because many people can't help but focus on the family members who are no longer here to celebrate with them. Still, there are many ways of keeping the

■ See Page 4A

Ledger & Times holiday hours

The Murray Ledger & Times office will be closed Monday, Dec. 26. A newspaper will not be published on that day.

The office will also close on Monday, Jan. 2, 2012. A newspaper will not be published on that day.

The Ledger & Times will resume its normal deadlines and publishing schedule on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012.

Fiber-optic Christmas trees light Lochte home

MSU professor's home features collection of more than 2 dozen trees

By ANGIE HATTON
Staff Writer

Each year on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, Bob Lochte, chair of the department of journalism and mass communication at Murray State University, sets up what has become his holiday tradition, a multiple room display of more than two dozen fiber-optic Christmas trees.

The collection started in 1990 when Lochte was living near Panorama Shores.

"My wife Kate and I didn't really have any Christmas traditions or decorations. We'd been married quite a while, but we'd always spent Christmas with relatives. We'd go to her parents' house in Maine or my parents' house in

Tennessee, so we didn't decorate much, and didn't have a bunch of heirloom ornaments or anything like that," said Lochte. "When we moved to Murray we began spending Christmas at home."

Lochte said investing in decorations would take a lot of time, and a lot of money. As a simple solution to holiday decorating, he took two fiber optic trees he came across at the local Big Lots, and plugged them in on either side of the fireplace.

In the early 90s, fiber optics were a new part of the market.

"It was hot stuff. The cable systems, for example, were just starting to put in fiber-optic trunks. So I thought it was kind of neat, kind of techie," said Lochte.

In the years following his first purchase, Lochte began to see a variety of sizes and colors of trees each season.

■ See Page 4A



ANGIE HATTON / Ledger & Times
Murray State University professor Bob Lochte, chair of the department of journalism and mass communication, fills his house each holiday season with the glow of fiber-optic Christmas trees.

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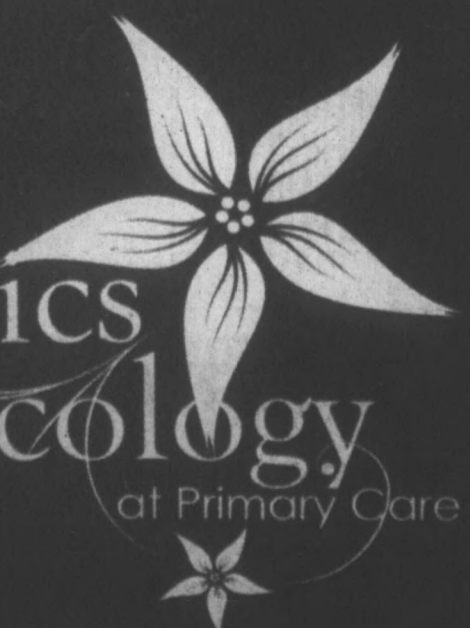
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A Sweet HOMECOMING

Murray soldier among those home from war in Iraq



Spc. Aaron Herndon, who has spent the past seven month in Iraq, is greeted by family and friends at Benton's Church of Christ earlier this week, above, as he and members of the Army National Guard's 149th BSB returned home from Iraq. At right, Herndon is the center of celebration at the home of his parents in Murray. He and his wife, DeAndra, will be spending Christmas in Murray after a short vacation to Gatlinburg, Tenn. He says he's glad to be home.



Photos provided



Photo provided

Army National Guard Spc. Aaron Herndon, left, helps his father, Randy Herndon, right, remove a yellow ribbon from the front porch of the Herndon home in Murray. The ribbon was posted as part of a welcome home celebration for the soldier returning from deployment to Iraq the past seven months.

'It's like a dream,' Herndon says of returning to Murray

By TOM BERRY
Staff Writer

Army National Guard Specialist Aaron Brett Herndon returned home to Murray Tuesday after spending several months in Iraq deployed with the 149th Brigade Support Battalion based in Benton.

Herndon is celebrating the Christmas season with family and friends this weekend, including a few days with his wife, DeAndra, in Gatlinburg, Tenn. - a world away from war-torn Iraq.

He's happy to be home.

"It's like a dream," he said.

Herndon, 25, is attached to Alpha Company 149th BSB. He was one of 117 members of the unit welcomed home earlier this week during a celebration at Benton Church of Christ. The unit was one of the last to leave Iraq during a drawdown that has officially ended the conflict for the U.S. after nine years of war.

Herndon is the son of Judy and Ricky Stewart and Randy and Jill Herndon of Murray. He talked to the Murray Ledger & Times by telephone from Gatlinburg. He says he's grateful for the support he received from his family and the commu-

nity while he was away.

"I thank my family and appreciate my family for their support through the whole thing. And of course, my wife, who made the whole thing easier."

DeAndra Herndon, 23, says she has him back home again after seven months or more and she couldn't be happier.

"I'm very proud of him for what he has done, the man that he is and for the support he has given me," she said. "Even while he was gone he was great."

A get-a-way to Gatlinburg is giving the couple time to reconnect, she said.

"We have only been married for a little over a year, so time alone is very important to us," she said. "It's wonderful having him home. It's been rough because I've been in school in Atlanta without my family. So just the fact that I have him now and we are able to be back together is wonderful."

Herndon gave special thanks to members of Poplar Spring Baptist Church for care packages sent to him and the unit in Iraq.

"It wasn't just for me it was for all of us," he said. "We got several."

Herndon has been with the 149th for more than two years. His duties in Iraq included serving as a "quick response force," entry control point and other security duties in and around Baghdad.

The unit was in an area of some conflict, but suffered no casualties or injury to personnel.

"There were some incidents, but it wasn't with our unit," he said.

The 149th left Baghdad for Kuwait by convoy; stopping about twice at a southern Iraqi city and a U.S. Army camp before entering Kuwait for a long plane ride home.

"(The trip) took maybe nine days and we were in Indiana for like 11 before we could actually come home," he said.

Herndon has three years remaining on his contract with the Guard. He will soon shift duty stations to Georgia where he now lives and DeAndra is going to school.

"We moved to Atlanta about eight months before this deployment," he said.

He said he and DeAndra will be back in Murray on Christmas day to spend the holiday with family.

Winters: RTTT3 grant boon to education reform

By ANGIE HATTON
Staff Writer

Kentucky First District State Senator Ken Winters, of Murray, says \$17 million in funds from the federal "Race to the Top" program will help Kentucky implement Senate Bill 1 education reforms and move forward with the AdvanceKentucky initiative.

The Kentucky Department of Education announced Thursday that the commonwealth was one of seven states to win a share of \$200 million in federal "Race to the Top" (RTTT) funds from the third round of allocations. Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, New Jersey and Pennsylvania will also receive funding.

Kentucky's original RTTT request was for \$175 million.

Winters, chair of the Senate education committee, said the grant is well-timed as Kentucky works to implement new assessment and accountability systems mandated by SB-1, which passed in the 2009 session of the



Winters

General Assembly.

"We're trying to implement Senate Bill 1 across the state right now on an incremental basis, and it has created some financial

difficulties for us with the times like they are, so I hope this will add some relief to the efforts to get Senate Bill 1 up and operational in all areas," said Winters.

KDE is plans to use the funding to increase the number of sites in the AdvanceKentucky initiative, a statewide math-science partnership between Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation (KSTC) and the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI). AdvanceKentucky expands access to, preparation for and participation in academically rigorous coursework.

Winters was influential in the

beginning stages of the program, and said he is "elated" to see AdvanceKentucky move forward.


"We believe that with minimal investment on the part of the state over the next decade, bringing on new schools as they desire ... we can every school in Kentucky that wants to participate online," stated Winters.


The announcement comes on the heels of a 2 percent mid-year cut to state education, and plans for additional cuts in the 2012-13 school year.


While the federal money is something to be proud of, Winters said he hopes the legislature does not use it as an excuse for further slashes to the education budget.

"I hope we don't use that (grant) to displace funds that would legitimately be placing in the public schools, especially in light of the fact that the budget request that we received two years ago (underestimated) the number of students by 10,000," he said. "That cost each of the schools over the biennium significant dollars."

"I hope we can at least attempt to restore that, and as near as possible hold education harmless in the upcoming budget."

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Mayfield's Nesler says he won't run again

PADUCAH, Ky. (AP) - Democratic Rep. Fred Nesler has become the third veteran lawmaker from western Kentucky to say he won't seek another term in the legislature.

Nesler, of Mayfield, will have served 20 years in the position when his current term ends next

year and told the Paducah Sun that "it's time to elect somebody else to serve in that seat."

Two other lawmakers in the area - Rep. Mike Cherry of Princeton and Rep. Melvin Henley of Murray - have also said they won't run again for their seats. Both are Democrats.




Dec. 24
1 shopping day to Christmas

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Obituaries

Wilbert Frederick Boehmer

Funeral services for Wilbert Frederick Boehmer, 90, of Murray, Ky., were held Friday, Dec. 23, 2011, at 11 a.m. at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Murray with the Rev. Dr. Chad Foster officiating. Burial will be held in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Waterloo, Iowa. Visitation was held from 9 a.m. until funeral hour at the church on Friday.



Boehmer

Mr. Boehmer died Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2011, at Spring Creek Health Care in Murray.

He was born in Alta Vista, Iowa on Oct. 25, 1921, to late Alex Joseph Boehmer and Hazel Augusta Ross Boehmer. He was a retired machinist for the Viking Pump Company in Cedar Falls, Iowa. He was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Murray; there he was also a member of the Golden Agers. He was a member of the AMVETS as well.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Thelma Ptacek; one brother, Milton Boehmer; and by one great-grandchild, Justin.

Mr. Boehmer is survived by his wife, Darline Tibbals Boehmer, of Murray, to whom he married on Nov. 27, 1944, in Alta Vista, Iowa; one daughter, Ruth Ann Westcott and husband, James, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; two sons, Victor Boehmer and wife, Mary, of Kensett, Iowa and Rodney Boehmer and wife, Sondra, of Waterloo, Iowa; two sisters, MaDonna Baethke, of Waterloo and Lois Miller, of Denver, Iowa; one brother, Linus Boehmer and wife, Camillia, of New Concord; seven grandchildren, Zachary, Troy, Kathryn, Kristine, Brian, Kayla and Nick; 16 great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

Expressions of sympathy can be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 100 South 15th St., Murray, KY 42071. Online condolences can be made at www.thejchchurchillfuneralhome.com. Arrangements are being handled by The J.H. Churchill Funeral Home.

Robert 'Bob' Singleton

Graveside services for Robert "Bob" Singleton, 94, of Murray, Ky., were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 24, 2011, at the Murray Memorial Gardens with Pastor Ruth Ragovin officiating.



Singleton

Visitation was held Saturday at 9 a.m. until funeral hour at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home.

Mr. Singleton died Thursday, Dec. 22, 2011, at the Spring Creek Health Care in Murray.

He was born in Calloway County on Feb. 21, 1917, to the late John R. and Ollie M. Douglass Singleton. He was an Army veteran of WWII. He was the first band director of Calloway County High School and also served as band director for Shelbyville High School and Lone Oak High School. He was retired from the McCracken County School Board. Singleton was a graduate of Murray State University with his masters in music education and was a member of the Phi Mu Alpha music Fraternity. He was a member of the First Christian Church of Murray.

In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his wife, Edrie Singleton; one sister, Mary Rowland; and one brother, Barber Singleton.

He is survived by his daughter, Vicki Singleton, of Murray. Expressions of sympathy should take the form of contributions to the First Christian Church Choir, 111 North 5th St., Murray, KY 42071. Online condolences may be made to the www.thejchchurchillfuneralhome.com. Arrangements are being handled by The J.H. Churchill Funeral Home.

Deborah Thomas

Deborah Thomas, 53, of formerly of Murray, died Friday, Dec. 23, 2011 at the Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah, Ky.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time at J.H. Churchill Funeral Home.

Murray man charged with burglary at Briggs & Stratton

Staff Report

Murray Police arrested a Murray man Thursday for allegedly burglarizing Briggs & Stratton.

According to Sgt. Scott Svebakken, Kyle Harper, 24, of Murray, was arrested Thursday and charged with third-degree burglary for allegedly breaking into offices at Briggs and Stratton. After MPD received a call from Briggs and Stratton saying they had someone in their ceiling, Sgt. Todd Clere and Officer Dave Howe located Harper hiding in the ceiling, Svebakken said. He said Briggs

& Stratton

complained that this had been an ongoing problem and that items had been stolen from offices there, leading them to set up a video camera. Svebakken said that on Dec. 17, the camera captured video of Harper entering through a ceiling tile and stealing from the office. Harper was arrested and lodged in the Calloway County Jail.



Harper

2 centuries after New Madrid quakes, what's next?

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - The United States was still a young nation when three major earthquakes rocked the central Mississippi River valley in the winter of 1811-1812.

Chimneys fell, the earth heaved and church bells rang hundreds of miles away, set off by the powerful vibrations from what is now called the New Madrid Seismic Zone. As farmland rolled and shuddered, the shock waves spread as far as New York and the Carolinas.

Now on the 200th anniversary of those devastating quakes, some seismologists are warning that the region should be on guard because of the risk that another "Big One" could strike the region within the next 50 years.

"There have been past big earthquakes, there will be future big earthquakes," said California-based seismologist Mary Lou Zoback, who released a report Dec. 7 on the "seismic hazard" inherent in the New Madrid fault. "It's a reminder that we need to keep this in mind and do what we can to prepare."

The quakes on Dec. 16, 1811, and Jan. 23 and Feb. 7 of 1812 were among the strongest in U.S. history. Their magnitudes have been estimated to have ranged from 7.7 to 8.1, though some seismologists have suggested the magnitudes should be lower, closer to the 7 to 7.6 range.

They centered around the New Madrid Seismic Zone, a 150-mile stretch of land between Memphis and St. Louis that crosses parts of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee. The zone produced major earthquakes dating to around 1450 A.D., 900 A.D., 300 A.D. and even further back.

Seismologists agree that predicting precisely when an earthquake will strike is next to impossible. But some experts suggest there is anywhere from a 28 percent to a 46 percent likelihood of a magnitude 6 or greater earthquake occurring around the New Madrid fault within a half century.

Some seismologists believe

the large earthquakes of past centuries warrant precaution. Still others are skeptical, saying quakes don't follow set patterns and basing predictions on historical data isn't the answer.

Northwestern University seismology professor Seth Stein thinks another powerful quake is unlikely anytime soon and nothing to get "really concerned about." Stein contends the many small earthquakes that occur today in the New Madrid zone are mere aftershocks of the past large quakes - not harbingers of future ones.

Some officials in the region aren't taking chances.

The U.S. Geological Survey has estimated that a hundred people could die and thousands could be injured should a magnitude 7.7 earthquake strike along the 150-mile long fault.

Haiti's deadly 2010 quake was around a magnitude 7 and the East Coast quake of Aug. 23 measured magnitude 5.8, enough to crack the Washington Monument.

In 1811 and 1812, the damage was documented widely along the Mississippi River and up the Ohio River Valley. A witness report printed in the American Statesman newspaper in Lexington, Ky., said the "earth burst open and discharged quick sand" about 18 miles from New Madrid, Mo., on Dec. 16, 1811.

Seismologist Susan Hough, who compiled the accounts, said New Madrid suffered the brunt of it.

Gas smelling like sulfur wafted skyward. Trees fell. The Mississippi River receded, then overflowed its banks in spots. Vibrations to the St. Phillips church steeple in distant Charleston, S.C., set the church bell ringing for about 10 seconds. Even Zachary Taylor - then an Army officer in Kentucky years before becoming president - wrote a letter home about the "tremendous shake" and how someone jumped frightened from a window.

"You didn't really have seismology in 1811 and 1812," Hough said. "But you had very keen observers."

Hough used the witness accounts in a study released earlier this year suggesting the magnitudes of the three quakes should be lower, near magnitude 7. Since 2002, other seismologists have released reports saying the earthquakes should be closer to the 7 to 7.6 range. Still, Hough notes that magnitude 7 quakes can cause serious damage, as in last year's Haiti earthquake.

Phillips' crafts...

From Front

memory of them alive, as Susan Phillips can attest.

Phillips is the secretary and scheduler for Murray-Calloway County Hospital's operating room, and honors her late mother all year long by continuing her tradition of making and displaying holiday crafts. Two years after the death of her mother, Roszella Williams, she continues to delight patients and co-workers by decorating the reception area and halls with the homemade crafts the two of them created together.

Among the decorations currently on display on the second floor of the MCCH South Tower are a 3-foot tall angel made from a tomato cage, on which Williams sewed and glued lace and paper; smaller angels with 2-liter plastic soda bottles for a base; even smaller angels with lace on top of a plastic comb; other angels made more than 30 years ago from wire light bulbs that aren't manufactured anymore; still another angel made from an upside-down champagne glass covered with cheesecloth; angels made from paper sacks and a Santa Claus with a painted floodlight body and polystyrene head. Williams also made many Christmas-themed cloth wall hangings and ornaments from light bulbs, including penguins, reindeer and snow men.

"We actually made them together," Phillips said of the

angels. "She is more creative - I still say 'is' because she's still with me even though she's not. She had a lot of back surgeries in her lifetime - about 15 back surgeries - and doing crafts kind of took her mind off the pain, and it was kind of her release. Actually, years ago, I got into the craft part of it, and when I was going through a financial rough time, we would do a lot of them and sell them to make extra money. She also got to where she was giving away (crafts) for some of her friends as Christmas presents and different things like that."

The stationary decorations set around the hospital aren't the only festive crafts that are a continual reminder of Williams' generous spirit. Phillips said her mother made the Christmas-themed scrubs she wears, and one of her co-workers this week was wearing a Christmas vest that Williams made.

While the crafts had a therapeutic purpose in helping Williams cope with her back pain, Phillips said they provide a similar effect in the OR wing.

"I bring this in to give the patients and families something to keep their minds off of their anticipation and not be so scared coming in to surgery," Phillips said.

Phillips said she brings in crafts for several holidays each year, including pilgrims for Thanksgiving and witches and spiders for Halloween.

Tax cut lives: Congress gives last-minute approval

WASHINGTON (AP) -

After weeks of bickering and doubt, Congress delivered a last-minute holiday tax cut extension to 160 million workers Friday along with further unemployment benefits for millions laid off in the nation's fierce recession and weak economic recovery. It was a convincing victory for President Barack Obama, a humbling retreat for House Republicans. Back-to-back voice vote approvals of the two-month special measure by the Senate and House came in mere seconds with no debate, just days after House Republican leaders had insisted that full-blown negotiations on a full-year bill were the only way to prevent an immediate tax increase on Jan. 1.

Most members of Congress were already gone for the holidays, leaving behind just a few legislators to take formal action. Obama was leaving in the afternoon for a delayed vacation in

Hawaii.

The measure passed despite lingering grumbling from tea party Republicans. It buys time for talks early next year on how to finance the year-long extensions.

It will keep in place a 2 percentage point cut in the payroll tax - a salary boost of about \$20 a week for an average worker making \$50,000 a year - and prevent almost 2 million unemployed people from losing jobless benefits averaging \$300 a week.

Senate and House Republican leaders did gain a major win last week, winning a provision that would require Obama to make a swift decision on whether to approve construction of the Canada-to-Texas Keystone XL oil pipeline. To stop construction, Obama, who had wanted to put the decision off until after the 2012 election, would have to declare that it was not in the nation's interest.

Christmas trees...

From Front

Some were tinsel silver. Some were table-top size. The larger ones stood about two or three feet high. Lochte added each new variation to his collection as it came out.

Lochte said at the beginning of each holiday season, he and his wife will turn off all the house lights, and sit and watch the fiber-optic trees.

"And because we have a lot of glass, you get reflections from all of these trees, and it looks like, if you're looking through our sliding glass door, like there are (fiber-optic) trees in the woods," said Lochte.

Lochte likes the trees for their convenience as much as for their color.

"I've got 29 of the things, and I can put them all up in about two hours, and I can take them all down in two hours," said

Lochte.

Each tree has one 12 volt bulb, which puts out less than 10 watts of power. Lochte said all together the trees use around 300 watts. It is more energy output than a traditional tree, he said. But it is less than 29 Christmas trees, he added.

"I think the effect of having the multiple tree installation is quite visually impressive," Lochte said. "Everyone who comes to visit for Christmas says they've never seen anything like it."

Lochte typically peruses the holiday decorations when they come out in early October. Over the years, the supply of fiber-optic trees has been dwindling. He said this season was the first year since 1990 that he saw none.

"Who knows? In a few years, maybe they'll be collectors' items," said Lochte.

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Business

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e-mail: ahatton@murrayledger.com

Chamber board wishes all Merry Christmas, New Year

Did you know ... The Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce, its board and staff would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and prosperous 2012. The organization would also like to remind residents to enjoy the activities throughout the community including Festival of Lights which concludes Christmas night. Also remember to spend your Chamber Checks at local Chamber merchants within one year. Visit www.mymurray.com for a listing of members and more Chamber money saving coupons.

- Coming Up Around Town:**
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, First United Methodist Church, tonight, Services at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Communion at 7 p.m.
 - Festival of Lights, Christmas in the Park, MCC Central Park, through Dec. 25.
 - Poplar Spring Baptist Church presents: Celebrate the Day - Youth Choir, Dec. 28, 7 p.m., call 436-2564 for more info.
 - Free Warming Center, St. John's Episcopal Church, 1620 West Main St., Jan. 1 to Mar. 3, 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.
 - Make A Difference Day, Stewart Stadium, Jan. 7, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (accepting usual recyclables and shoes).

- Bonsai Origami, Beans to Blossoms, Jan. 7, 1-2 p.m., \$5.
- Red Cross Blood Drive, Wal-Mart, Jan. 13, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- The Marvelous W o n - d e r e t t e s, Playhouse in the Park, Jan. 13-22, call 759-1752 for tickets.



Chamber Chat
By Lisa Farris Satterwhite
Murray/Calloway County Chamber of Commerce

- Welcome New Chamber Members:**
- G's Comics, book store, Garrick Crump, 605 B South 12th St., Murray, KY 42071, 759-4896.
 - Legal Shield, legal services, Ed Howard, 560 Clifty Village Lane, Paris, TN 38242, (731) 707-2763.
 - Strawberry Hills Pharmacy, medical, Daniel Jones, PharmD, PO Box 9245, Paducah, KY 42002, 270-444-7070.
- Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings/Events:**
- G's Comics, 605 B South 12th St., Jan. 12, 11 a.m. (new member).



Photo provided

BRIGGS & STRATTON FOUNDATION: Rodney Bohannon, right, Briggs & Stratton plant manager, is pictured as he congratulates Ken Bargo, superintendent of the Calloway County Schools, for being a recipient of the Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation. The funds are directed toward the enhancement of technology programs to high school students with an emphasis on robotics, and also scholarships to students to take job certification exams.



Photo provided

CHIROPRACTIC CLAUS: Santa recently stopped by Heskett Chiropractic Center before his busy time ahead. Pictured are Dr. Dennis Heskett, left, and Mike Nutter as Santa.



Photo provided

PACKAGE DELIVERY: The Crye-Leike Realty team in Murray is pictured as they prepare to deliver Christmas packages and food items to the Calloway County Family Resource Center in support of the 2011 Santa Project. Donations came from Crye-Leike realtors, clients, friends and neighbors. "We chose to spend our Holiday energy and Open House funds this year in an effort to give back to the community and help provide a special Christmas to deserving families," stated Vicki Moore, owner and broker of Crye-Leike.

HopFed declares quarterly cash dividend

Special to the Ledger

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - HopFed Bancorp, Inc. (NASDAQ: HFBC) has announced that its Board of Directors has declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.02 per share. The cash dividend will be paid on Jan. 20, 2012, to stockholders of record as of Jan. 2, 2012.

HopFed Bancorp, Inc. is a holding company of Heritage Bank head-quartered in Hopkinsville. The Bank has 18 offices in western Kentucky and middle Tennessee as well as Fall & Fall Insurance of Fulton, Heritage Solutions of Murray, Hopkinsville, Kentucky, Kingston Springs, Tenn., and Pleasant View, Tenn., and Heritage Mortgage Services of Clarksville, Tenn. The Bank offers a broad line of banking and financial products and services with the personalized focus of a community banking organization.

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May you have a wonderful, safe and happy holiday season.

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Love Your Campbell Realty Family,

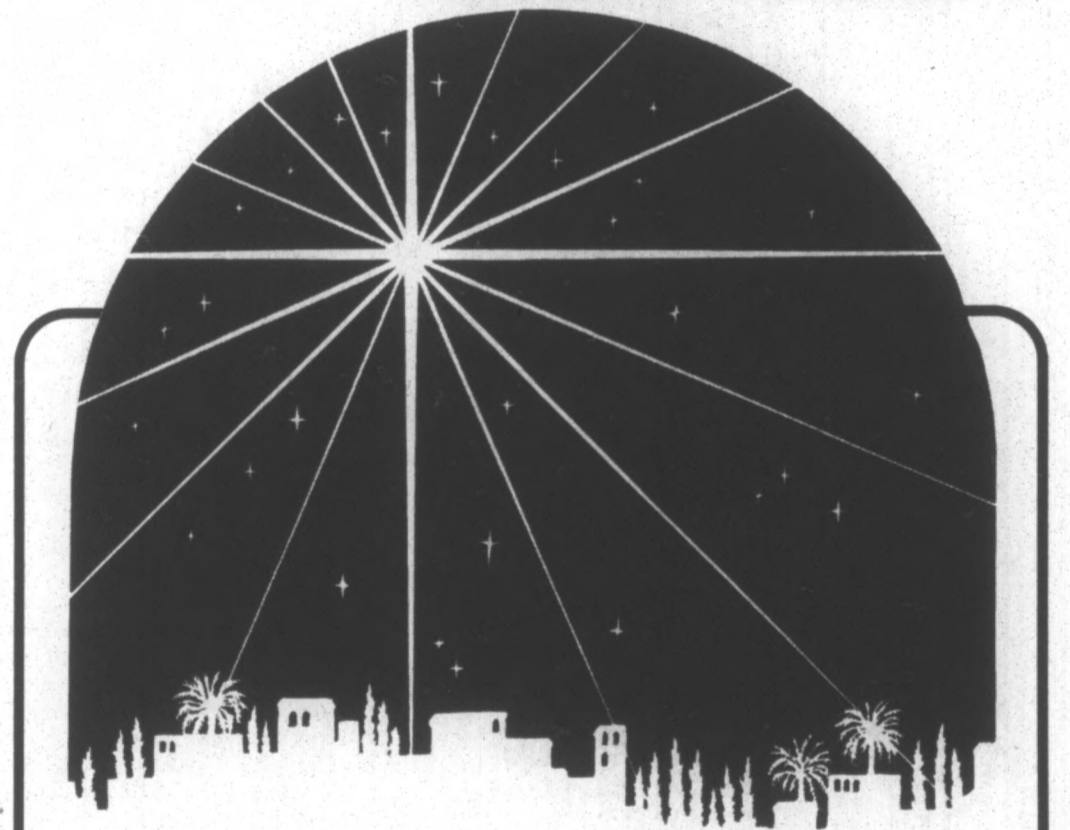
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Senior Activities

By **TERI COBB**

Activities director

Activities for the week of Dec. 26-30 have been released as follows:

The Center will be closed **Monday**.

Tuesday events include Strength & Stretch Class at 8 a.m., Men's basketball starts at 9 a.m. Chair Volleyball follows at 10:15 a.m. Ping Pong begins at 12:30 p.m. ZUMBA® Gold Fitness begins at 2:30 p.m. On the menu is pork cutlet, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, buttered spinach, whole wheat roll and fruit cobbler.

Wednesday events include Strength & Stretch at 8 a.m., followed by Armchair Aerobics at 9 a.m. Powder Puff Pool is from 10-11:30 a.m., Pinochle Club begins at noon. Chair Yoga meets at 12:30 p.m. On the menu is baked chicken, buttered noodles, mushroom gravy, green beans w/almonds, whole wheat roll and fresh fruit cup.

Thursday events include Strength & Stretch class at 8 a.m. Blood pressures will be taken from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Shuffleboard will begin at 9:30 a.m. ZUMBA® Gold will begin at 12:30 p.m. On the menu is meat loaf, baked potato, seasoned cabbage, whole wheat roll and peach slices w/granola.

Friday events include Armchair Aerobics at 9 a.m. as well as Wii Bowling. Open Bridge begins play at 10 a.m. Hand in Foot Club begins play at 12:30 p.m. On the menu is beef pot roast, roasted potatoes and carrots, confetti slaw, whole wheat roll and bananas.

Murray-Calloway County Senior Citizens Center is located at 607 Poplar St., Murray. Lunch will be served Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. for a suggested donation of \$2.

Transportation is offered on a daily basis from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If you live in the city limits and need a ride to the center, the doctor, grocery store, bank or pharmacy, call one day ahead of time to schedule your ride.

The exercise room is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Those who are 60 and older are invited to exercise at no cost, as well as take advantage of other activities and services offered. Contact the center at 753-0929 for more details.

Murray-Calloway Senior Citizens Center is a United Way Agency.



Photo provided

OUTLAND CELEBRATES 70th BIRTHDAY: Pictured is Jan Outland, Human Resources assistant at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital, celebrating her 70th birthday recently in the lobby of MCCH. Outland worked in the business office at Spring Creek Health Care for 24 years before transferring to MCCH, where she has worked for the past seven years.

Hospital Menus

"Heart Smart" is the program for the menus in the cafeteria of Murray-Calloway County Hospital.

Anne Newberry, dietitian, said "the menus are designed to help those restricting saturated fats and sodium in their diets and are those marked with an *. For café catering, call 762-1112. Menus are subject to change without notice.

Menus for the week of Dec. 26-Jan. 1 have been released as follows:

Monday - chicken strips, Caesar salad, Italian turkey panini, *crumb topped fish filet, *new red potatoes, *cooked cabbage, apple fritters, macaroni and cheese, *tomato Florentine soup.

Tuesday - "Italian Spaghetti Festival" - spaghetti w/meatballs, fettucini alfredo, *shrimp marinara, chicken and broccoli, breaded cheese sticks, *baby carrots, *Italian green beans, redskin potato casserole, garlic toast, *vegetable and lentil stew.

Wednesday - chili dog, stuffed peppers, *open faced turkey sandwich, *green bean carrot blend, mashed potatoes w/gravy, fried squash, *broccoli spears, *chicken noodle soup, "Breakfast for Supper Special."

Thursday - prime rib on fresh baked bun, *dirty rice w/shrimp, pan fried chicken w/roasted peppers and onions, *Malibu blend vegetables, seasoned white beans, *whole kernel corn, fried okra, cream of broccoli soup.

Friday - sour cream baked chicken, tender pork loin, Swiss steak, *steamed yellow squash, broccoli cheese bites, spicy potato wedges, *baked sweet potato, *chicken noodle soup.

Saturday - BBQ beef brisket, *crispy baked chicken, *parslied new potatoes, green bean-casserole, *tender baked apples, soup of the day.

Sunday - "HAPPY NEW YEAR" oven baked ham, *breaded fish filet, *seasoned black-eyed peas, tender collard greens, steamed baby carrots, mashed potatoes with gravy, soup of the day, "Breakfast for Supper Special."

Alcoholics Anonymous lists schedule

Murray Alcoholics Anonymous holds meetings at 615 South 12th St., in the Southside Shopping Center. The regular schedule is as follows: Sunday, 8 p.m., closed, no smoking, 12x12 study; Monday, noon, open, no smoking, 8 p.m. open, smoking; Tuesday, 8 p.m. closed, no smoking; Wednesday, 11 a.m. closed, no smoking, good old timers meeting, 6 p.m., closed, ladies meeting, smoking, 8 p.m., open, smoking; Thursday, 8 p.m. closed, smoking, big book meet-

ing; Friday, 12 noon, open, no smoking, 8 p.m. open, smoking, newcomers meeting; Saturday, 10 a.m., open, no-smoking, breakfast of champions meeting; 8 p.m. open, no-smoking, speaker meeting.

Closed meetings are for people who think they have a problem and want to give it up. Open meetings are for anyone who wants to attend an AA meeting.

For information, call Mitch at 753-9320 or Dixie at (270) 978-7138.

DATEBOOK

Local robotics team looking for new members



Datebook
Jessica Morris,
Community
editor

All high school students from Murray and Calloway County are encouraged to join the Murray-Calloway County Robotics Team. The team's objectives include to reach out to all children in the community by sharing an excitement for science, technology, engineering and math, to use robotics to create attention and provide hands-on opportunities and advanced skills to team members. The next team meeting will be held Tuesday, Dec. 27, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Area Technology Center (beside Murray High School on Sycamore Street). Parent's night will be held Friday, Jan. 13, at Calloway County High School (rear entrance near CCMS) and the regional competition will be held March 1-2, at the Convention Center in Knoxville, Tenn. For more information, visit www.team3843.com.

Christmas Eve service to be held

First Presbyterian Church will have a Christmas Eve service Saturday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery will speak about "Reflect The Light" with scripture from *Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 2:1-12*. Liturgist will be Rev. David Montgomery. Also assisting will be Donald Fleming, Patsy Chaney, Lloyd Lewis and Bev Reuter, ushers. Carol and Elizabeth Allen will light the Advent wreath. Todd Hill is choir director and organist, and Kala Dunn-Hill is accompanist.

Mason's Chapel to host special service

Mason's Chapel United Methodist Church will host a Christmas Eve service of scripture, carols and communion beginning at 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24. The church is located on Old Murray-Paris Rd. The public is invited to attend.

FCC to hold Christmas Eve service

The Christmas Eve Service of Lessons, Carols, and Candlelighting will be held Saturday, Dec. 24, at 8 p.m. at First Christian Church, 111 North Fifth St., Murray. The public is invited to attend. For more information, call 753-3824.

Salem Baptist Christmas services set

Salem Baptist Church, 1034 Browns Grove Road, Murray, will have a 10 a.m. candlelight service Sunday, Dec. 25. There will be no Sunday School classes or evening service. Bro. Philip Bazzell is pastor. For information, call 489-2627.

Elm Grove Baptist Christmas services set

Elm Grove Baptist's Christmas services will begin at 9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 25, with a continental breakfast served in the fellowship building. A worship service will follow at 10 a.m. with Pastor Brad Burns speaking on "The Christmas Story: Who He Was, He Still Is." There will be no evening services this week.

Al-Anon support group will meet

Have you been affected by someone else's drinking? Al-Anon is a support group for friends and family members of alcoholics. This group meets Monday night from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at University Church of Christ. For more information, contact Diana at (270) 227-0951 or Candy at (417) 294-5292.

TOPS meeting Tuesday at FCC

Murray Chapter #616 of TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) will meet Tuesday from 9-10 a.m. at First Christian Church. Visitors are welcome. For information, call Sheila at (270) 227-1723.

Bingo to be held Tuesdays at KoC

The public is invited to Bingo Night, held every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 332 Squire Rd., Murray. Please note the building is a non-smoking facility. For more information, contact Kevin at (270) 293-7061.

Lake Chem accepting memberships

Lake Chem Community Federal Credit Union is now accepting memberships to anyone who lives, works, worships or attends schools in Calloway or Graves Counties. For more information, call 761-5228 or visit www.lakechemfcu.org. Lake Chem is located at 112 North 12th St., Suite A, Murray.

WKRECC to offer gift certificates

West Ky. Rural Electric, Mayfield, will offer "Give the Light" gift certificates that can be used for a credit on the receivers' electric bill. Certificates can be redeemed at any time during the year and may be applied to any current account. Amounts of \$10, \$25, \$50 or \$100 can be purchased. For more information, call (877) 495-7322, (270) 247-1321 or visit www.wkrecc.com.

Bank of Cadiz announces trip

The Bank of Cadiz Travel Club is planning a day trip to Paducah to see John Mueller's "Winter Dance Party" at the Carson Center on Friday, Feb. 10, 2012. At over two hours, "Winter Dance Party" is an authentic re-creation of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper's final tour. The trip includes tickets to the performance, Deluxe Motorcoach transportation and a snack supper. Deadline to register for the trip is Friday, Jan. 6. For information, call 759-4852.

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Santa Claus still flying high in new poll

By **CONNIE CASS**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Why do kids believe a chubby guy in a flying sleigh can deliver joy across America? Because their parents do. A whopping 84 percent of grown-ups were once children who trusted in Santa's magic, and lots cling to it still.

Things are changing fast these days, with toddlers wishing for iPads, grade schoolers emailing their Christmas lists and moms wrestling over bargain toys at midnight sales. Despite all the pressures on the rituals of the season, an AP-GfK poll confirms that families are sticking by old St. Nick.

"It's important for kids to have something to believe in," says great-grandmother Wanda Smith of Norman, Okla.

And so they do. Year after year, Santa Claus survives the scoffers and the Scrooges and the 6-year-old playground skeptics. He endures belittling commercials that portray him shopping at Target or taking directions from an iPhone. He shrugs off scolds who say his bagful of toys overshadows the reason for the season.

Two-thirds of parents with kids under 18 say Santa's an important part of their celebrations this year. Moms, especially, have a soft spot for the man in red — 71 percent of them say he's important, and that's a big jump from 58 percent just five years ago.

His overall popularity is up slightly from an AP-AOL poll in 2006, before the recession hit. In these bleaker times of homes lost to foreclosure and parents sweating out their next paychecks, the poll shows Santa riding high with families both wealthy and poor.

Maybe that's because the big guy's always known how to stretch a dollar to make a kid smile.

Smith, whose childhood gifts were mostly handmade by her mother — things like cookies and knit scarves — remembers that every year Santa Claus managed to put one present under the tree for her to share



AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes, File

In this Dec. 13, 2011, file photo, Grace Young, 5, of Costa Mesa, Calif. asks Santa Claus for a pair of skates at the lighting of the "Snoopy House" display in Costa Mesa, Calif. Despite all the pressures on the rituals of the season, an AP-GfK poll confirms that families are sticking by old St. Nick.

with her two brothers (four more siblings came later).

"One year it was a bicycle, one year we had a sled. One year we got a puppy — his name was Jack and he was a border collie," recalls Smith, now 70.

"We didn't have a lot," she said, "but we didn't know it. Our mother and daddy made it a wonderful time for us."

In multicultural America, Father Christmas isn't just for Christians any more. Three-fourths of non-Christian adults say they believed in Santa when they were children. And half feel he's important to their holiday celebrations now.

Developmental psychologist Cyndy Scheibe, who's been interviewing kids about Santa since 1986, said lots of Jewish children told her that Santa Claus was real, even though he didn't stop at their houses on Christmas Eve.

And many non-Christian parents embrace Santa because they

see Christmas serving as a secular as well as religious holiday in the U.S., she said.

"Santa Claus is more than someone who just comes and gives you a present, it's this whole spirit of giving and magic that you get to be a part of and celebrate," said Scheibe, an associate professor at Ithaca College in New York.

That's what keeps Santa going over the decades and across cultures, she said. "That, and there's almost nothing as much fun as getting to see your kid's face so completely excited."

Scheibe knows firsthand. She used to climb a ladder to the roof every Christmas, her daughter watching, to leave a key tied to a big red bow, because they didn't have a fireplace.

It's not all snowflakes and mistletoe in Santaland, however. Even among Christians, there's tension about how big a role, if any, a jolly old elf deserves in

the celebration of Christ's birth.

Almost half of Americans polled said Santa detracts from the religious significance of Christmas more than he enhances it.

When she was growing up, Naomi Stenberg's fundamentalist Baptist parents didn't want her mixed up with Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny or Halloween trick-or-treating.

"I didn't understand why everybody else got to believe in Santa, and me and my brother didn't," says Stenberg, 32, now a stay-at-home mom in Baxter, Minn. "I felt left out."

Her own three children have gotten the full Kris Kringle experience, but sometimes she feels ill-equipped to handle the tough queries from her youngest, 6-year-old Rylen.

"She's been asking questions like how does Santa fit through the chimney," she said. "I don't know how to answer things like that."

Matt Hoyt vividly remembers seeing Santa's black boots peeking out from behind his bedroom curtains when he was a boy. He froze. "I was just trying to pretend to be asleep," Hoyt said, "so I'd get my presents."

Only much later did he realize those were probably the black shoes of his dad, hanging his new "Star Wars" drapes. Now Hoyt, a 35-year-old computer engineer from Houston, is awaiting the birth of his first child in April, and wondering how long that child will believe.

In the poll, the median age when adults said they outgrew Santa was 8. Hoyt suspects his child's generation will turn away even earlier. After all, "They've got Google at their fingertips."

But Santa needn't worry. They'll come back someday ... when they're parents.

The Associated Press-GfK Poll was conducted Dec. 8-12 by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications. It involved landline and cell-phone interviews with 1,000 adults nationwide and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Kentucky News in Brief

Most high school graduates enrolling in college

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Last year's public school graduates have enrolled in college in record numbers.

A report released Thursday by the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet showed 63 percent of the 43,000 graduates in college or some other form of higher education. That's the highest percentage on record.

The Kentucky High School Feedback Report looked at college attendance from each of the state's 228 public high schools. It found that about 92 percent of the graduates are enrolled at in-state colleges or universities.

The University of Kentucky accounts for 2,638 of the graduates, followed by Western Kentucky University with 2,391 of them.

Contract awarded for mine cleanup in western Ky.

DRAKESBORO, Ky. (AP) — The Kentucky Department for Natural Resources has awarded a \$3 million contract for the cleanup of an old western Kentucky mine that is polluting nearby waterways.

Pollard & Son Excavating of Madisonville won the contract with a low bid of \$3.04 million. The company will begin the cleanup project in January at the site of a site with 45 acres of coal slurry and 16 acres of highly acidic coarse refuse material. The waste was created during Caney Creek Mine's operation in Muhlenberg County in the 1950s.

The state says acid drainage leaving the site has "severely degraded the water quality and aquatic life" downstream in Pond Creek.

The project will include the construction of about 2.3 miles of limestone ditches and one mile of erosion control devices.

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AP-GfK Poll: Nearly 8 in 10 adults believe in angels

By **JENNIFER AGIESTA**
Associated Press

Angels don't just sing at Christmastime. For most Americans, they're a year-round presence. A new Associated Press-GfK poll shows that 77 percent of adults believe these ethereal beings are real.

Belief is primarily tied to religion, with 88 percent of Christians, 95 percent of evangelical Christians and 94 percent of those who attend weekly religious services of any sort saying they believe in angels.

But belief in angels is fairly widespread even among the less religious. A majority of non-Christians think angels exist, as do more than 4 in 10 of those who never attend religious services.

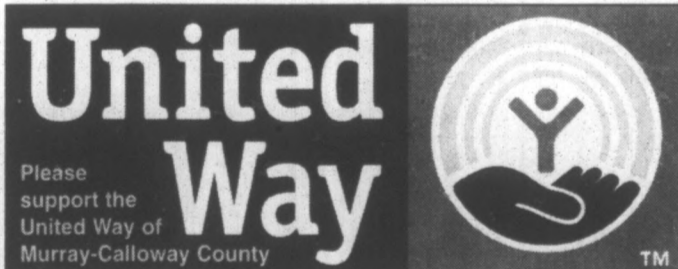
Beyond the religious gap, women are more likely than men to believe angels are real, and those over 30 are more apt than younger adults to think they exist.

The finding mirrors a 2006 AP-AOL poll, which found 81 percent believed in angels.

Previous polling has found the public a bit more likely to believe in God, but far less likely to believe in other other-

worldly beings. In May, 92 percent of adults told Gallup pollsters they believed in God. But just 34 percent in an AP-Ipsos poll in 2007 said they believed in ghosts or UFOs.

The AP-GfK Poll was conducted Dec. 8-12 and is based on interviews with 1,000 adults nationally. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
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OUTDOORS

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Cypress Creek, Blood River best bets now

The weather has been a toss up this week but the temperature has been decent enough that a light jacket was very comfortable. However, you know that you better have that rain gear in the boat at all times. Do not tempt nature. The winds have been the major problem by swirling enough to cause large waves at times that can get your soaked. My sug-



Fishing Line

By Jerry Maupin
Outdoors Columnist

gestion is to fish areas such as Cypress Creek, Blood River and many of the larger bays along the eastern side of the lake. Keep in mind always that, there are sunken trees and man made piles of rocks which at this time of the year are pretty shallow so be careful where you run.

We know that the shad population isn't as large as it normally is but there is such a huge area of the lake which could possibly be in better shape as far as numbers of the shad. Hopefully that is the case because wintertime is almost upon us and there is usually some bays or coves which freeze over and thousands of

the young shad freeze and die. We have been covered with thick clouds for days and that could help cool the waters more than we would like to see happen.

The larger mature bass will hang out in many of the deeper bays, slowly but surely feeding as the shad come by to visit their neighbors. The water temperature will probably cool off more each day the rain falls and cause most species of fish to move deeper into the brush-piles, logs or even rockpiles until the sunshine becomes more visible. We have been fortunate to receive the temperatures that we have.

There are several miles of super fishing areas which can and do attract many different species of fish which are all very good eating. We have noticed the numbers are down at certain times, such as with the flooding we experienced in the early spring. It must have been the drawdown the dams had to deal with to prevent super flooding which we had anyway.

There are thousands of brush-piles, rockpiles, cement block piles and no telling what else, that has been placed in all the lakes to enhance the fishes to stay around or near these obstructions and even worn out truck and automobile tires

which work very well. As long as it doesn't contain toxic waste materials a fish will be attracted to visit the area.

I expect this spring will be a prime time to sink most of the fallen trees which have fallen along the washed out shorelines. All of this is good for keeping the fish in the area where there was total waste from the floods and several storms last year.

Fish and wildlife wardens have to curtail the fishermen who constantly use illegal gill nets to catch the crappie, which can be caught by the hundreds. Many out of state persons come to our lakes to catch the

crappie and sell them to their Tennessee buddies for enormous prices which can be sold to restaurants.

It is unreal, the pounds of crappie we lose in these nets each night and even in the daytime since we never see an officer of Fish and Wildlife. Maybe someone will take charge and help stop the slaughter of our crappie.

If you see illegal nets or other activity please call the Fish and Wildlife personal in Frankfort and report the activity you see happening.

Happy Fishing!

Vital gift-buying tips for diehard hunters

Let's face the facts, guys. We are hunters - not gatherers and certainly not shoppers. We are hardwired to go to the most inhospitable places, face the most life-threatening situations, and shoot the biggest and best and most dangerous of whatever it is we are hunting. Nothing, I repeat, nothing can ever prepare us to face the onslaught of desperate shoppers in a retail mall to mull over, contemplate, and otherwise come away with the most perfect Christmas gift for our wives or significant others.

But it has to be done, especially if we wish to continue to enjoy the company of our shotguns, bows, rifles, hunting gear, and/or hunting dogs. After all, you may be planning a trip to an exotic place to hunt exotic game this year (note: the "exotic" place referred to in



In The Field

By Kenny Darnell
Outdoors Columnist

this paragraph does not have a casino attached) or you may need to "invest" in a nice over/under or one of those space-age design compound bows. At the very least, we will be away from home somewhere between 8.6 and 75.2 days this year and will spend enough on coffee, beef-jerky, moon pies, and other hunting necessities to bring a third-world country into the second world.

A word of caution, however, right out of the gate: Although you may welcome any and all gift cards from sporting goods stores and mail-order outlets, your wife or significant other will not - regardless of how fancy the store. Gifts cards do have a place in the Christmas gift-giving scheme, though. If you plan to buy 100 gifts for the missus this year, 99 can be gift cards (assuming they are not from sporting goods stores), but gift number 100 had better be something spectacular - and real.

Real, in a woman's world, begins with gold. Gold, after all, was the preferred gift of the wise men at the first Christmas. You would do well to be so

wise even to the point of riding a camel halfway around the world. Gold is a known commodity and believe me, she knows all about it. There are things made from gold, things covered with gold, and things that look like gold. If your gift just looks like gold, you'll be shot and left for the coyotes.

If you shop for a gift where they sell funnel cakes and personalized belts with enormous buckles, the stuff you find there will probably just be covered with gold - thinly at best. This is doubly true for "gold" chain that comes on a roll and sells by the foot. She will see though this little ruse faster than you can say "Neiman Marcus." You'll have to sell your dog and pawn the guns to get out of this pickle. In other words, think in terms of "solid gold."

Next in line are diamonds which often are found in the company of solid gold. Diamonds are made in two ways: By squeezing the crap out of a lump of coal for billions of years, or by plunking down a bank card with a generous limit. Since you don't have billions of years, go ahead and surrender the plastic.

Diamonds have but one function in this world and that is to be seen. Remember this when buying diamonds: If you can't see the diamond then she won't see the diamond. Worst yet, her friends will not be able to see the diamond and you can kiss your hunting trips goodbye.

Diamonds are measured in carats and whole numbers make a big splash. If you have to squint to see the stone and the sales clerk snickers when you ask about the size, it's probably not the kind of gift that will make up for the duck hunting trip you scheduled for Christmas Day. Where the rock comes from is just as important. It may be OK to buy a gun that belonged to your sister-in-law's ex-husband, but it's never a good idea to buy a second-hand ring from your wife's best friend's broken engagement - regardless of the price.

So take it from me, if you want to hunt the late deer season or have a successful duck season, don't wimp-out on Christmas giving for your wife or significant other. After all, anyone that would put up with the likes of a die-hard hunter deserves to be adorned with the

finest. That's why I take no chances. Many of the items in the Chairman's jewelry collection came from the estates of a

couple of billionaires - a Sam Walton and some guy named Penney, I believe. Happy hunting!

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Progress being made on construction of new bike/walk trail at LBL

Special to the Ledger
GOLDEN POND, KY - Land Between The Lakes (LBL) National Recreation Area recently welcomed a crew from Trails Unlimited to carry on construction of the new biking and hiking trail that parallels US68/KY80. The continuation of this new trail is a mitigation project for the newly constructed four-lane highway through LBL.

The new 8.5 miles of trail will include 12 bridges and 6,000 tons of surfacing stone made of manufactured sand from the Canton Quarry. LBL invites everyone to enjoy the 3 miles of paved trail already completed from Lake Barkley west to Road 160. Completion of the new trail is tentatively planned for March of 2012 (weather permitting).

"We are eager to complete this new trail since we've been involved with the project from the design stages," stated Jerry Barrow, a civil Engineer with Trails Unlimited. "Our team has built trails from Florida to Alaska; this new, centrally located trail will provide a great outdoor recreation opportunity for local families and visitors."

Trails Unlimited provides trail consultation, design, construction and engineering services, and training. The team, whose motto is "taking trails where they have never gone before," is one of the USDA

Forest Service's 17 Enterprise Units. These independent teams of Forest Service employees travel around the

nation completing projects. "We are very excited to have Trails Unlimited working on this project," said LBL's Trails

Manager, Bill Ryan. "A lot of thought went into designing a family-friendly trail for both biking and hiking."

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Racer Sports in Brief Pyron hires former SEC Player of the Year Bruder

From MSU Athletics

Murray State softball coach Jay Pyron has announced the addition of Kelsey Bruder to the MSU coaching staff for the 2012 season.

Bruder joins the Racers after a stellar playing career at the University of Florida. The 2011 SEC Player of the Year, she was a two-time All-American and Academic All-American. She helped lead the Gators to the 2011 Women's College World Series where they competed for the national championship for the second time in three years.

She was named the 2011 Honda Award winner for softball, naming her the nation's top collegiate athlete in the sport. Bruder was also selected as an NCAA Today's Top VIII Award winner. The award is given each year to eight NCAA student-athletes for their successes in athletics, in the classroom and in the community.

"We are really fortunate to have Kelsey joining our program," Pyron said. "She brings a lot to the table. She first of all is incredibly knowledgeable about the game and is a good teacher of skills. She is an incredible competitor as well who will bring valuable experience to our players about what it takes to be the best and how to win."

Bruder is the all-time leader at Florida for total bases in a season (152) and runs scored in a season (79). She was a member of the winningest team in NCAA history (70 wins) her freshman year in 2008.

She was drafted fifth overall in the 2011 National Pro Fastpitch Senior Draft to the USSSA Florida Pride.

With the Racers, Bruder will spend a majority of her time on the field working with the squad's outfielders and pitchers and will also assist with hitting. She will be in charge of scouting opponents and will help in the execution of team camps and clinics.

"Kelsey will make a significant impact on every area of what we do and has a bright future as a collegiate coach," added Pyron.

She graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Behavior degree in December of 2011.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL MURRAY HIGH DEFEATS CRITTENDEN TO EARN SECOND PLACE AT TRIGG CO. TIGERS LED BY BOONE'S 19

Staff Report

After a slow start to the 2011-2012 season, the Murray High Tigers seem to finally be settling in under first-year head coach Joey Adair, as the Tigers

■ See TIGERS, 10A

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL: MASSAC CO. 43, CALLOWAY CO. 31

Line change

POOR FREE THROW SHOOTING ALLOWS MASSAC COUNTY TO TAKE DOWN LADY LAKERS

By RICKY MARTIN
Sports Editor

Scott Sivills isn't sure exactly what happened to his Calloway County Lady Lakers Friday night.

The only thing he knows, is that the team that showed up at the free throw line against Massac County in the championship of the Heritage Bank Hardwood Classic, wasn't the same team he's been coaching this season.

"The free throw line has been one of our brightest spots all year," Sivills said. "I don't know if it was fatigue, I don't know what it was. But we didn't do a very good job there tonight."

The first time the Lady Lakers saw Massac County this season, the Lady Patriots went to the free throw line 40 times on the night, defeating Calloway County 51-44.

Friday night, it was a different form of the same problem, as the Lady Lakers shot just 12-for-22 from the charity stripe, falling once again to Massac County by a score of 43-31.

The loss snaps Calloway County's 16-game home winning streak, which dated back to Feb. 25, 2010.

"This is a tough one," Sivills said. "We left a whole bunch of stuff out there on the floor tonight. We left chances all over the place."

Massac County got on the board first Friday night, getting one of two free throws from Karsen Smith to open the contest.

The Lady Lakers responded quickly with an offensive rebound and put-back from senior forward Alyssa Cunningham, and from then, each team would continue to match each other blow for blow for the remainder of the half.

After Calloway County claimed a 13-11 lead at the end of the first quarter, thanks to two Darien Maness free throws, Massac County tied the game quickly with a basket from Taylor Klankey just 30 seconds into the second.

Neither team would muster much offense during the second period, however, and the two squads would enter the half knot-

KHSAA 4TH DISTRICT STANDINGS (6)

School	Dist. (Overall)
Marshall Co.	1-0 (9-1)
Calloway County	1-0 (7-3)
Murray	1-1 (6-3)
Community Christ.	0-2 (2-6)

ted at 17-17.

Out of the break, the Lady Patriots opened the half on a 7-0 run, extending their lead to 24-17 with 5:37 left in the third.

After a Calloway County timeout, the Lady Lakers went on a small 5-2 run to cut the lead to just four at 26-22 with 1:18 left in the quarter after a pair of free throws from senior point guard Taylor Futrell.

Even though the Lady Lakers were able to go into the fourth quarter trailing by only four points, Sivills said his squad missed a huge opportunity to seize control of the ballgame during the third period.

After Massac County's hot start, Sivills said his team had a chance to get back in it.

"They gave us a chance to win the game in the third quarter," Sivills said. "We were within striking distance, and we didn't do a very good job of capitalizing."

Most of that had to do with Calloway's struggles from not only the free throw line, but from the field as well.

On the night the Lady Lakers shot 9-for-35 (25.7 percent) from the field. They also missed five free throws from the 2:34 mark of the third quarter till the 7:25 mark of the fourth, two of which were the front ends of one-and-one opportunities.

Heading into the fourth quarter down just four, however, Calloway County never could right the ship from their shooting woes, and watched as the Lady Patriots outscored them 17-9 in the final frame.

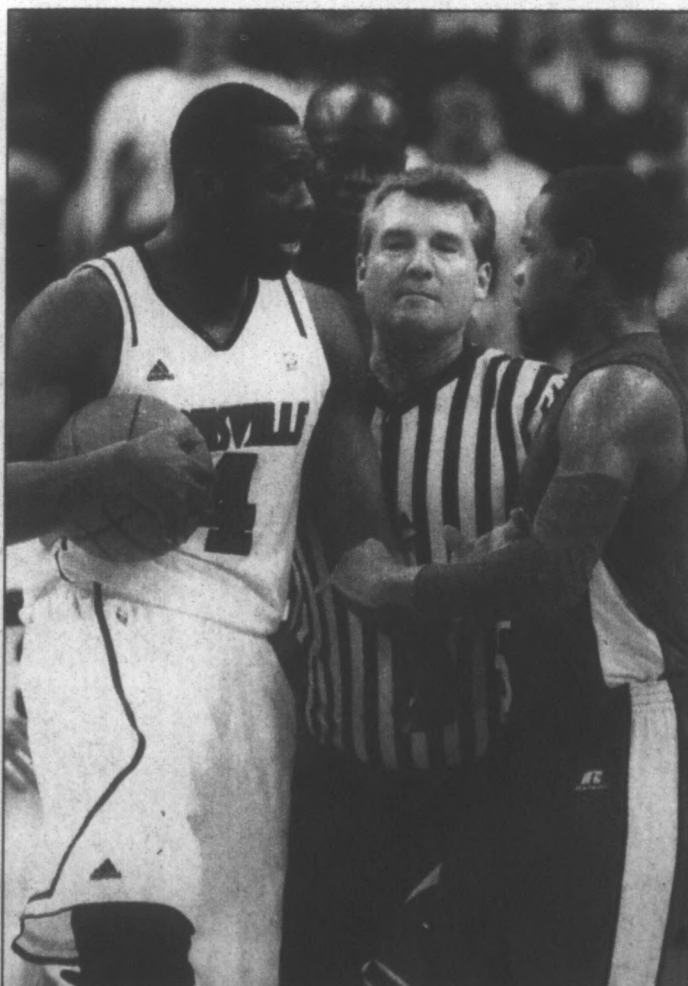
"We just didn't do a good job of executing," Sivills said. "In the game of basketball you have to execute on both ends of the floor and your defense can only

■ See LADY LAKERS, 10A



RICKY MARTIN / Ledger & Times
Calloway County senior guard Taylor Futrell watches as the ball flies out of her hands after a foul from a Massac County player Friday night in the championship of the Heritage Bank Hardwood Classic inside Jeffrey Gymnasium.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL: NO. 4 LOUISVILLE 70, WESTERN KENTUCKY 60



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY / AP
Referee Doug Shows, center, gets between Louisville's Rakeem Buckles, left, and Western Kentucky's Derrick Gordon during the second half of their NCAA college basketball game on Friday, Dec. 23, 2011 in Louisville, Ky. Louisville defeated Western Ky. 70-60.

Louisville rallies back late to beat Western

CARDINALS TRAILED BY AS MANY AS EIGHT WITH TWELVE MINUTES LEFT

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — No. 4 Louisville is finding a way to remain unbeaten thanks to Russ Smith.

"I don't have to tell you guys we didn't play good basketball tonight," coach Rick Pitino said following his Cardinals' 70-60 victory over Western Kentucky on Friday night. "But we haven't been playing good basketball the last three games."

Louisville (12-0) trailed the Hilltoppers (4-9) by eight points with 12 minutes remaining, but the Cardinals reeled off 14 straight points, half from Smith. He finished with 23 points and his 3-pointer from the left corner off an inbounds pass gave Louisville the lead for good at 52-50 with 6:53 remaining.

"He's winning us games on just pure intensity, pure heart," Pitino said of the 6-foot sophomore guard. "He's the reason we're winning but we've got to get the rest of the guys playing like that."

Smith's 23 points was just one

off his career-high that came in Louisville's 95-87 win over Memphis on Dec. 17. That performance earned Big East player of the week honors for Smith, who appeared in just 17 games in his first season.

"Russ Smith saved us again," teammate Peyton Siva said. "He makes some mistakes coming off the bench but his energy and his hard work are paying off."

Gorgui Dieng had 13 points and 15 rebounds — his fifth straight double-double — for the Cardinals, who entered the game as one of the nation's six unbeaten Division I teams. Kyle Kuric added 15 points, 12 coming in the first half.

Derrick Gordon and Jamal Crook had 13 points each for the Hilltoppers (4-9).

Trailing 50-47 following a layup by Jamal Crook with 8:49 remaining, Louisville reeled off 14 straight points, half from Smith. Western Kentucky went scoreless until Crook's layup made it 61-52 with 2:21 to play.

That started a 7-0 run as Nigel Snipes' 3-pointer from the right corner made it 61-57 at the 1:14 mark. Western Kentucky would draw no closer as Louisville scored its last nine points on free throws.

Smith's 3 from the corner off an inbounds pass gave Louisville a 52-50 lead with 6:53 remaining.

Louisville managed only nine points in the game's opening 10 minutes. The Cardinals faced their largest deficit of the season at 22-9 following a two-handed dunk by George Fant with 9:57 left.

Louisville then sprung a 10-2 run, capped by Kuric's four-point play after being fouled by Fant. But WKU responded with 3s from Kevin Kaspar on consecutive possessions to push the Hilltoppers' lead to 30-19 with 6:43 in the first half.

The Cardinals gained their first lead of the game at 33-32 with 2:40 remaining as part of an 18-4 run to close the half, highlighted by three straight Louisville 3-pointers. Dieng's up-and-under layup finished the half

■ See STATE, 10A

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

Fiddler sends Stars to 6-3 win over Preds

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Stars got off to a fast start, then held off Nashville's latest comeback bid.

Vernon Fiddler, Loui Eriksson and Steve Ott scored during a span of 3:05 in the first period and Dallas went on to beat the Predators 6-3 on Friday night.

"One of the keys was getting on them right away," Fiddler said.

Dallas rookie Richard

Bachman stopped 34 shots in his seventh consecutive start in place of Kari Lehtonen, who is out with a groin injury but is expected back within a week.

Bachman was perfect in the first period while Nashville had 17 shots on goal, and good enough the rest of the way to improve his record to 5-2.

"He's had tough times in that we're playing him in just about every game," Stars coach Glen Gulutzan said. "I thought he

made some key saves tonight. He left a couple of rebounds that we cleaned up, and that's not like him."

Mike Ribeiro and Jamie Benn also scored for the Stars. Michael Ryder had an empty-net goal and two assists.

The Predators were coming off a 6-5 home win over Columbus on Thursday night, when they rallied from a three-goal deficit. This time, their comeback bid fell short.

Lady Lakers

From Page 9A

hold for so long.

"Eventually, you have to be able to put the ball in the basket to win against good, quality teams."

The Lady Lakers won't have much time to recover from the loss.

They will get two days off for Christmas before leaving on Dec. 26 for Mercer County, where they will play four games in four days to round out the year.

Sivills said his team has a whole lot to fix before that time.

"We have to find a way to rebound from this," he said. "I always say that when there's a setback, there's always a comeback, and we have to come back from this and get better as a team."

"We will, though."

Futrell led the Lady Lakers with 11 points, while Massac was led in scoring by forward Kristina Henley, who earned the game's MVP honors after her 20-point performance.

Calloway Co. 13 4 5 9 - 31
Massac Co. 11 6 9 17 - 43

Calloway County (7-3) — T. Futrell 11, Cunningham 6, Simmons 6, Wilson 5, Maness 2, Spann 1.
FG: 9-35. 3-pt.: 1-7. FT: 12-22.
Rebounds: 26. Turnovers: 14.

Massac County — Henley 20, Childers 7, Bunting 6, Smith 5, Morgan 4, Hoard 1.
FG: 13-38. 3-pt.: 3-9. FT: 14-20.
Rebounds: 32. Turnovers: 17.



RICKY MARTIN / Ledger & Times
Calloway County senior forward Alyssa Cunningham takes a shot Friday night.

State

From Page 9A

for the Cardinals, giving them a 37-34 lead.

The Cardinals started the second half much as they did the first, surrendering the lead to the Hilltoppers off 10 straight points. The Cardinals failed to score until Siva's scoop shot in the lane dropped at the 14:16 mark to cut the WKU lead to 44-39.

Pitino said forward Rakeem

Buckles pulled a groin in the game. Louisville hosts No. 16 Georgetown in its Big East opener on Dec. 28.

The 12-0 start for Louisville is its best in 37 years and puts it one game off the school record set by three teams, most recently in 1974-75. The victory was Louisville's 20th straight at home.

The Cardinals' performance Friday was markedly different

from last year's effort. In their final game before Christmas, Louisville shot a season-high 64.6 percent from the field and throttled the Hilltoppers 114-82.

Friday's game was played as the 10th annual Billy Minardi Classic, honoring Pitino's brother-in-law who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

Tigers

From Page 9A

grabbed a second place finish in the Kentucky Machine and Engineering Christmas Classic Friday night, defeating Crittenden County 65-53.

Sophomore guard Dylan Boone led the Tigers with a career-high 19 points, while senior guard Kendall Deese added 18 in the victory, as the Tigers fought back from an

early deficit to take down the Rockets.

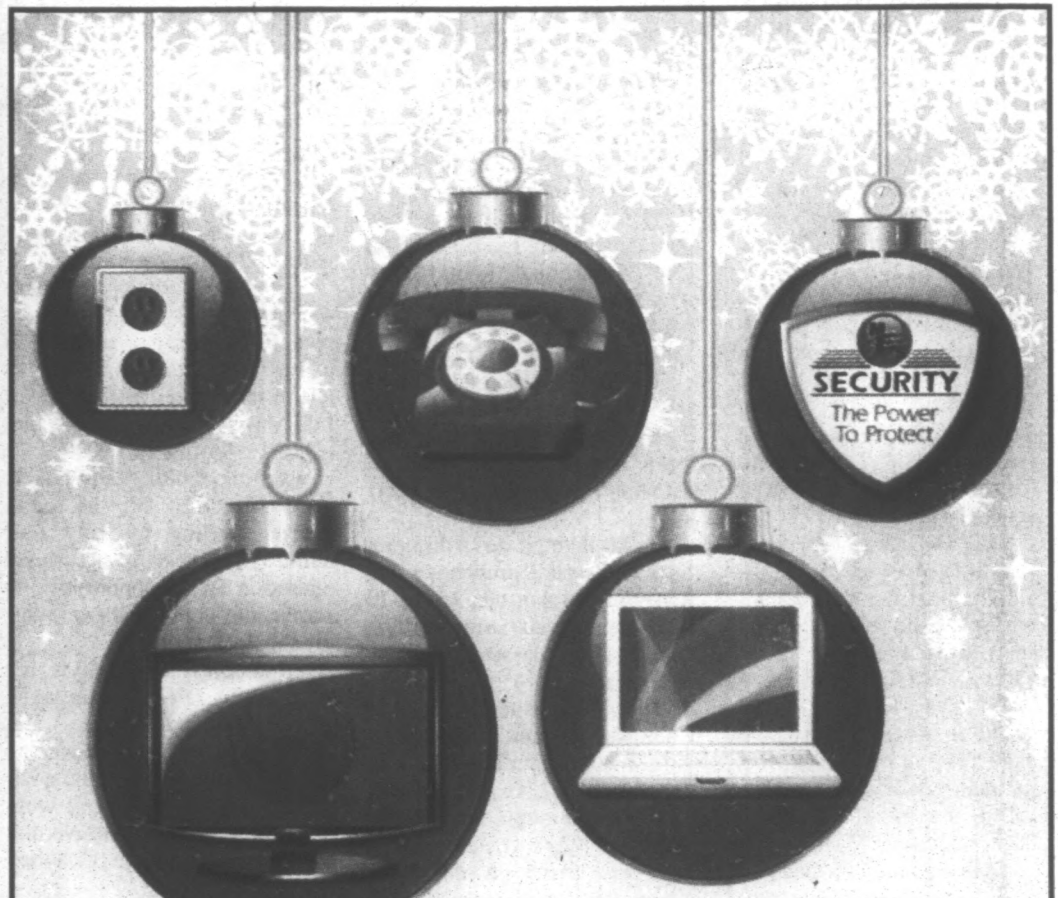
Murray High trailed by four at the end of the first quarter, then took the lead going into halftime 35-31.

Out of the break, the Tigers were relentless against Crittenden County, outscoring the Rockets 20-8 in the third quarter, putting the game out of reach.

Dante Howard also reached double-digits for Murray High with 13, and also got help from brother Deon, who scored 8 for the cause.

Daniel Nisbet had the only three for the night for the Tigers, while James Boone and Eric Wann each added two.

Crittenden County was led by Thomas Scott, who scored a game-high 21 points.



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KHSAA Sports Prep Boys Basketball Friday KME Christmas Classic at Trigg Co. Murray High 65, Crittenden Co. 53 Trigg Co. 60, Stewart Co., Tenn. 51 Hancock Bank/Brand 40 Classic at Madisonville-NH Marshall Co. 62, Warren Central 45 Paducah Tilghman Christmas Classic at Paducah Tilghman Hickman Co. 69, Reidland 60 Hardee's Classic at Warren East Lone Oak 64, Leslie Co. 61	KHSAA Sports Prep Girls Basketball Friday Heritage Bank Hardwood Classic at Calloway Co. Massac Co., Ill. 43, Calloway Co. 31 Republic Bank Holiday Classic at Lexington Catholic Monroe Co. 53, Murray High 31 KME Christmas Classic at Trigg Co. Caldwell Co. 77, Hickman Co. 54 Hickman Co. 45, Dawson Springs 43 Trigg Co. 51, Heath 46
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MOVIE TIME



The North Elementary School second-grade classes of Mrs. Bouland and Mrs. Fuqua enjoyed wearing pajamas and drinking hot chocolate while watching "The Polar Express" after completing a unit on the topic.

Photo provided

WINTER BAND CONCERT



A group of seventh-grade students enjoy a fun time together in the band room immediately following their winter band concert, held recently at Murray Middle School. The band director is Beth Stripling.

Photo provided

A LONG DAY



Amanda Peiffer and Grandpa Norm nodded off in the doctor's office at the end of a long school day.

Photo provided

LET'S GO PINK



Becca Paluso and Hannah Cain-Hill, cheerleaders at Murray Middle School, sold pink pom poms to support breast cancer awareness at a home basketball game. During the game, cheerleaders also wore pink bows in their hair and pink socks and the basketball players wore pink socks and wristbands.

Photo provided

PLAYHOUSE FUN



Christian Underhill and his friend, Kaitlyn Thorn, fifth-grade students at Murray Middle School, enjoy exploring the train at Playhouse in the Park after watching The Sound of Music. Underhill said he thought it was awesome that cats live at the old depot and get to enjoy all the performances and rehearsals since that is their home.

Photo provided

STORY TIME ENTERTAINMENT



HAWKINS TEAGUE / Ledger & Times
Kimberly Willet accompanies her 3-year-old daughter, Ayamei, on a violin rendition of "Jingle Bells" recently at the Calloway County Public Library story time.

HAWKINS TEAGUE / Ledger & Times

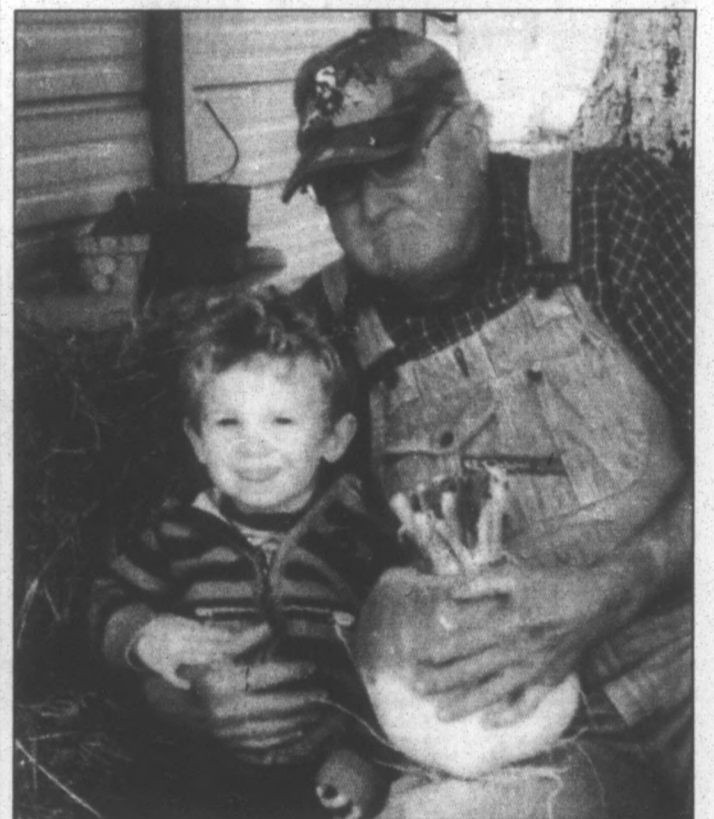
SANTA PROJECT DONATION



The Calloway County Lady Laker Basketball Team recently sponsored a high school girl for the Santa Project through the Harbor with Barbara Hendon at CCHS. Senior members pictured are Taylor Futrell and Lauren Benson, kneeling, and Karlee Wilson, Alyssa Cunningham and Abby Futrell, standing, along with Hendon.

Photo provided

NOW THAT'S A TURNIP



Don Patterson, along with his grandson, Mark Ayden, of Hazel, pose with a turnip that weighed nine and 1/2 pounds. The turnip was weighed at Southern States Cooperative in Murray.

Photo provided

CREATING HOLIDAY CHEER



Mrs. Alvizo's first grade class at North Elementary created holiday cheer by decorating Kroger shopping bags to be used in the local grocery store.

Photo provided

A PICTURE WITH SANTA



Pictured are members of American Legion Post 73 and Auxiliary Unit 73 pose with Santa during their recently held Christmas party at Post 73. Attendees enjoyed fellowship, food and received a present from Santa as part of an auction. Anyone interested in joining the Legion or Auxiliary can stop by the Post, located at 310 Bee Creek Drive, Murray, any Wednesday from 1-4 p.m.

Photo provided

Israeli Arabs enter Jewish classrooms

By JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

YOKNEAM, Israel (AP) — In an educational revolution of sorts, a growing number of Israeli schools are taking a novel approach to the instruction of Arabic: They're hiring Arab teachers.

The initiative is about far more than teaching children a new language. Educators say they hope to break down barriers in a society where Jewish and Arab citizens have little day-to-day interaction and often view each other with suspicion.

"It is very important to get past the stigmas. We have a chance to get closer," said Shlomit Vazel, principal of the Tidhar elementary school in Yokneam, a picturesque town in the rolling hills of Israel's northern Galilee region.

In a country where 20 percent of citizens are Arab, enlisting native Arabic speakers for the classroom would seem obvious. But a mix of politics and cultural differences over the decades have left Israeli students over-

whelmingly separated between Jewish and Arab educational systems. With few exceptions, Jewish teachers teach Jewish students, and Arab teachers teach Arab students.

The "Ya Salam," or "O Peace," program is trying to change this trend with a new approach to Arabic, which is considered an official language in Israel and in theory is a required subject for all students. In reality, few Jews speak it well.

First, the program starts Arabic teaching in the 5th grade, two years earlier than normal. It also teaches colloquial spoken Arabic, instead of the formal literary Arabic that is traditionally taught. This is meant to allow students to converse, rather than just read. Most critically, it is bringing Arab teachers into Jewish classrooms.

Maram Faour, a young teacher from the Arab town of Kabul, is on the front lines of this effort.

The 29-year-old is now in her second year at Tidhar, where she says she is supported by her co-

workers, embraced by her students and welcomed by parents. "I feel like a regular teacher. I'm not a foreign teacher," she said.

This was not always the case. When she started, Faour was terrified about how she would be accepted. She struggled with the rambunctious and informal atmosphere of the classroom and was surprised to be addressed by her first name — something unheard of in the more hierarchical Arab school system. She sometimes went home in tears.

But then something clicked. Backed by her colleagues, she stopped worrying about the formal curriculum and began to forge a relationship with the kids. She played games with the students, encouraged conversations with them, and taught them about Muslim holidays.

Her kids were surprised to see that she dressed like them, not in the traditional robe and head covering they had imagined. They learned that she vacations in Eilat, a popular Israeli tourist

spot on the Red Sea, and that she uses e-mail and a laptop.

She brought in an Arabic storyteller one day. On another occasion, a musician taught the class how to play the darbuka, a Middle Eastern drum. She brought in her three young daughters to meet the class.

"I want them to learn as much as possible about Arabs in a positive light," she said.

Today, Faour is in firm control of her classroom. Dressed in jeans and a black shirt, she peppered her students with questions on a recent day, picking someone to answer by playfully throwing a yellow sponge ball to them. Nearly all of the students raised their hands to answer, and the lesson was conducted almost entirely in Arabic.

"My name is Adir. I live in Yokneam. I go to Tidhar School. I am 11 years old. I'm in 6th grade," said one boy. The class sang the alphabet song, and students eagerly came to the board to write letters in Arabic.

Pentagon sees smooth change so far in North Korea

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — All signs out of North Korea suggest the transition of power to Kim Jong Il's son is going smoothly, with no unusual troop movements and no buildup around the heavily fortified border, U.S. and South Korean defense officials said Thursday.

Pentagon press secretary George Little said that as of Wednesday the U.S. military has not seen any unusual military movements by the North Koreans.

"This appears to be a relatively smooth transition on the peninsula, and we hope it stays that way," he said, adding that there have been no increases in force protection levels for U.S. troops in South Korea.

U.S. Navy Capt. John Kirby, a Pentagon spokesman, also said the situation appeared to be under control.

"Things are calm there across the DMZ right now. And that's the way we'd like to see it," Kirby said, referring to the Demilitarized Zone that divides the two Koreas.

South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman Yoon Won-sik said North Korea's military isn't showing any particular movement and that the South's troops are operating normally.

Ratcheting up its propaganda machine, meanwhile, North Korea claimed Kim's death generated a series of spectacular natural phenomena, creating a mysterious glow atop a revered mountain, cracking a sheet of ice on a lake with a loud roar and inspiring a crane to circle a statue of the nation's founder before perching in a tree and drooping its head in sorrow.

North Korean media have presented a steady flow of dramatic scenes of mourning since Kim's death, which Pyongyang says happened on Saturday after he suffered a massive heart attack while on a train.

Tens of thousands of mourners packed Pyongyang's snowy main square Wednesday to pay respects to him. Women held handkerchiefs to their faces as they wept and filed past a huge portrait of a smiling Kim hanging on the Grand People's Study House, in the spot where a photograph of Kim Il Sung, Kim's deceased father and the country's founder, usually hangs.

A report late Wednesday by the North's official Korean Central News Agency said the odd occurrences began when Kim's death was announced on Monday and the nation went into mourning. State-run media have since the announcement run nonstop eulogies to Kim, who was the center of an intense cult of personality.

"Peculiar natural wonders were observed on Mt. Paektu, Jong Il Peak and Tonghung Hill in Hamhung City, where the statue of President Kim Il Sung is standing at a time when all Korean people are mourning the demise of leader Kim Jong Il in bitterest sorrow," the report said.

It said that on Tuesday a Manchurian crane was seen flying around a statue of Kim Il Sung three times before alighting on a tree. It said the crane stayed there for quite a long while with its head drooped before flying away in the direction of Pyongyang.

"Observing this, the director of the Management Office for the Hamhung Revolutionary Site, and others said in union that even the crane seemed to mourn the demise of Kim Jong Il born of heaven after flying down there at dead of cold night, unable to forget him," it said.

Behind the scenes, South Korean intelligence reports suggest North Korea is consolidating power behind Kim's untested, 20-something son, Kim Jong Un.

But concerns about possible instability in a country with a 1.2-million troop military, ballistic missiles and an advanced nuclear weapons development program remain high across the region.

South Korea has its military on high alert, and Chinese boatmen along a river separating North Korea and China told the AP that North Korean police have ordered them to stop giving rides to tourists, saying they will fire on the boats if they see anyone with cameras.

Kim Jong Il ruled the country for 17 years after inheriting power from his father, who died in 1994. Kim Jong Un only entered the public view last year and remains a mystery to most of the world.

South Korean military officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of office policies that restrict comment on intelligence matters, confirmed that North Korea has ordered its troops to be vigilant but said that doesn't mean they're being moved.

South Korea's intelligence agency has told Parliament members that an ad hoc committee headed by the Workers' Party's Central Military Commission, in which Kim Jong Un is a vice chairman, is expected to handle key state affairs before he formally becomes the country's leader.

The agency predicts Kim Jong Un's aunt Kim Kyong Hui, a key Workers' Party official, and Jang Song Thae, a vice chairman of the powerful National Defense Commission, will play larger roles supporting the heir, according to a lawmaker who spoke to the AP.

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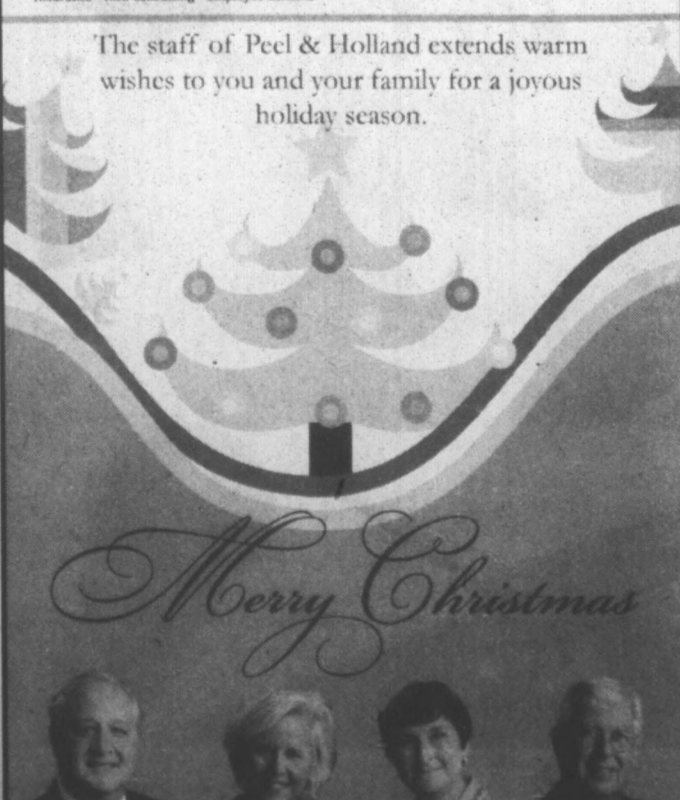
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1	5	9			3			
			4					
		2	1			5		
	8	1			5	4		
			6					
9	2		7	6				
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	8			5	4			9

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/2/4

Answer to previous puzzle

7	8	1	3	6	4	2	9	5
6	4	9	2	1	5	7	8	3
2	5	3	8	7	9	6	1	4
5	7	4	9	8	1	3	2	6
1	3	8	6	5	2	9	4	7
9	6	2	4	3	7	1	5	8
8	2	6	1	4	3	5	7	9
4	1	5	7	9	6	8	3	2
3	9	7	5	2	8	4	6	1

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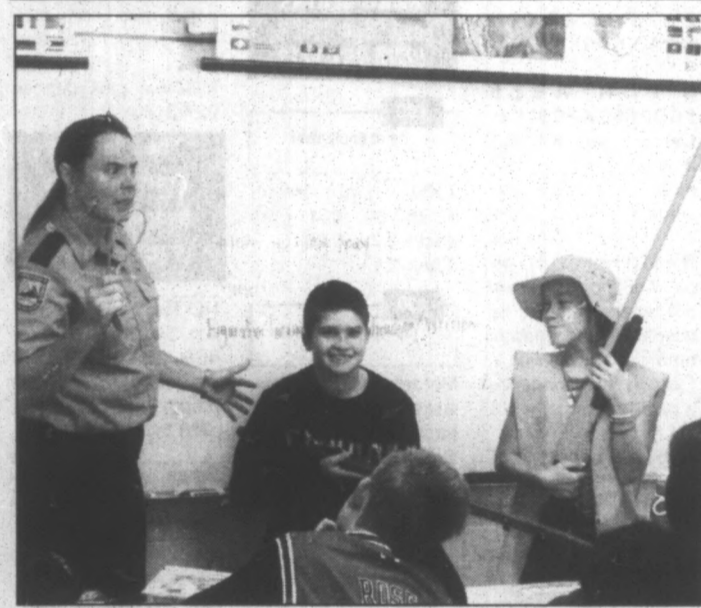
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GUN SAFETY: Nancy Kierman of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife visits all fourth and fifth grade students at Murray Middle School each month to teach them about being safe while participating in outdoor sports. Recently she visited the fifth grade students and talked to them about gun safety. Kierman makes learning fun for the students by role playing with them and reminding them to stay safe while enjoying the outdoors. Pictured is Kierman role playing with Beau Osborne, center, and Madison Schoppe.

Welles' Oscar for 'Citizen Kane' sells for \$861K

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Academy Award statuette that Orson Welles won for the original screenplay of "Citizen Kane" was auctioned for more than \$861,000 Tuesday in Los Angeles.

Nate D. Sanders Auctions spokesman Sam Heller said bidders from around the world, including David Copperfield, vied for the Oscar.

The 1942 Oscar was thought to be lost for decades. It surfaced in 1994 when cinematographer Gary Graver tried to sell it. The sale was stopped by Beatrice Welles, Orson's youngest daughter and sole heir.

Copperfield, who was outbid in the auction, said he admires Welles not only for his cinematic successes, but because he, too, was a magician. Welles hosted Copperfield's first television special.

The auction house declined to release the highest bidder's name. It said only a handful of Academy Awards have sold for nearly a million dollars.

Michael Jackson paid \$1.54 million in 1999 for the best picture Oscar awarded to David O. Selznick for "Gone With The Wind."

Murray State University art professor Camille Serre is Art Educator of the Year

Special to the Ledger

Dr. Camille Serre, professor in the department of art and design at Murray State University, has been named the 2011 Art Educator of the Year for the state of Kentucky. This distinguished award recognizes her excellence and dedication in promoting quality art education at all levels.

Head of the department's art education program, Serre came to the university in 1985 after receiving her Ph.D. from Purdue University. In addition to teach-

ing at MSU for 27 years, she taught at the University School for the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, for the Dearborn Public Schools in Michigan, and at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.

Her international professional experience includes teaching in London, England, at King's College at the University of London, as well as teaching in Paris and Autun, France, for the Kentucky Institute for International Studies. She has

been teaching art for almost 45 years.

Previous awards and accolades include the G. Theodore Mitau Award for Innovation and Change in Higher Education, the MSU Board of Regents Award for Teaching Excellence, and the Kentucky Art Education Association Higher Education Art Educator of the Year award in 1993, 1996 and 2007.

Serre's professional activities over the years include more than 80 presentations at regional,

state, national and international conferences, numerous exhibitions of her artwork and a significant list of publications.

This most recent honor was bestowed on her at the Kentucky Art Education Association Conference held at Morehead State University. "I am thrilled to have received this award from my colleagues," Serre said.

She will now be nominated for the National Art Education Association Southeast Region Award.

Horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2011:

This year you tend to be slightly more bohemian and intuitive about certain decisions. You easily could make an investment that to others might look fraught with risks. Truth be told, you have done your homework. Your mind always seems to be thinking, rethinking and analyzing. Consider a yoga class or some other relaxing pastime. If you are single, your antenna is up. Trust your intuition. You will learn much more about a person in the first few encounters than you think. If you are attached, share some of your inner chatter with your sweetie. Perhaps he or she knows how to distract you!

AQUARIUS pushes the envelope.

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) ★★ Gossip and information swirl around you. Knowing what to believe and what to discard will take more than talent. Recognize the importance of getting feedback from associates. You want and need to know what is fact and what is gossip. Tonight: Where your friends are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ You want to stay on top of your game. How you deal with another person and what occurs at this time could make a big difference. Your sense of humor emerges when having an important conversation. Get all the necessary facts from an associate. Tonight: Know that you will make the right choice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Bridge a problem by detaching and understanding what set it in motion. You might feel that someone doesn't care. Be direct when dealing with others, but do whatever you need to do in order not to get into a convoluted situation. Tonight: Let your imagination wander.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Deal directly with a partner who can be cantankerous. You'll finally have a conversation that helps clarify what is happening. Open up a conversation involving a work-related matter. Many different ideas come up. Tonight: Continue a talk over dinner.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ You find others to be unusually responsive and touchy. Use the moment to have an important meeting. Allow an associate to have equal say. This person's feedback triggers ideas. If you are single, an encounter might be light yet worthwhile. Tonight: Say "yes."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You have so much

ground to cover, you could be startled by feedback from someone close. Your mind is everywhere but on your domestic life. You are right to complete one project before moving on to another. Still, make room for a pending personal talk. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise and center yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Keep asking questions, making calls and reaching out for someone you care about. You could discover that a child or loved one wants to share more of his or her feelings. You hold up your hand, trying to slow down this person's pace. Verbalize and set a better time in the next 24 hours. Tonight: Opt for fun.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Listen to forthcoming news. You might feel a little odd, as you don't have the control you desire. Involvement in a personal or domestic issue circles around finances. Focusing on other matters could be close to impossible. Tonight: Your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ You will communicate what you think to an audience - just be sure it is the right audience. You have kept so much pent up that now you are the opposite - an ongoing verbal waterfall. You'll gain balance by tapping into your excellent listening skills. Tonight: Meet

friends at a favorite haunt.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★ Use care when dealing with your finances. Any pressure you might feel could be self-inflicted through a judgment you are making. Test out some of your judgments to see if they are grounded. Your instincts guide you with a risk. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Apply yourself to the issue at hand, and you'll come out ahead. Your focus and ability to handle feedback mark your success. A group gets together to celebrate recent events, a long-wished-for success and the impending advent of 2012. Tonight: Any excuse to be with your friends seems to work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★ Kick back as soon as you can. A conversation with someone in charge could be important. You cannot get around the issues involved. You might choose to listen more than talk. Others follow your thinking more than you realize. Tonight: Take a much-needed timeout.

United Way

Please support the United Way of Murray-Calloway County

Murray Ledger & Times

Looking

Ten year... Caldwell... Play Th... o'Lakes... Fla. as p... Ram Sho... Pictured... FFA Chap... son, advi... Ryan, I... Stephanie... pated in t... Contest h... Winners... & Times c... Riley R... Cochran... Cochran... Dr. Ken... archeolog... Murray S... ogy Progr... on Carst... the depart... both pres... Valley H... Western... Bowling... Twenty... The Ho... held a reu... the A... Puryear... A spec... Otie Trev... Christmas... bration o... Thursd... million e... Calloway... state Com... nomics C... pital to d... outpatient... Murray... serve Mu... ty as a... for Purch... owns an... WCBL A... 102.3... Roger's... 1409 Ma... business... Kim Hi... ter of Re... Today... By... Today... the 358th... seven da... is Christ... Today... On D... 1812 off... ed States... Treaty o... On th... In 18... frontiers... Carson w... ty, Ky... In 18... BA... HI. MOM... YES, IT... ARRIVED... A LITTLE... WHILE AG... BL... WEE... MERRY... THEY NE... CASHIER... JEWELRY... ON CHR... KELY... PAPER... GA... PE... ©2011 Murray Ledger & Times, Inc. 12-24

Looking Back

Ten years ago
The Calloway County Lakers beat Caldwell County 64-50. They will play Thursday against Land O'Lakes High School from Tampa, Fla. as part of the Ridgewood Ram Shootout in Port Richey, Fla.

Picture are Calloway County FFA Chapter members Bill Sampson, advisor, Gregory Wilson, Greg Ryan, Landon Barrow and Stephanie Spann as they participated in the FFA Agriculture Sales Contest held at MSU.

Winners from the Murray Ledger & Times coloring contest are Haley Riley, Rachel Morgan, Hunter Cochran, Lauren Wilson, Hannah Cochran and Landon Russell.

Dr. Ken Carstons, professor of archeology and director of the Murray State University Anthropology Program, and his wife, Nancy on Carstons, M.A. candidate in the department of history at MSU, both presented papers to the Ohio Valley History held recently at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green.

Twenty years ago
The Holley and Poyner families held a reunion Saturday, Nov. 30, at the Community Center at Puryear, Tenn.

A special celebration for Mrs. Otie Trevathan will take place on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, in celebration of her 100th birthday.

Thursday's approval of a \$4.8 million expansion of the Murray-Calloway County Hospital by the state Commission for Health Economics Control will allow the hospital to double the capacity of its outpatient surgery center.

Murray native Jamie Futrell will serve Murray and Calloway County as a marketing representative for Purchase Broadcasting, which owns and operates radio stations WCBL AM 1290 and WCBL FM 102.3.

Roger's Donut Shop, located at 1409 Main, recently opened for business.

Kim Higgins, 21-year-old daughter of Ronnie Higgins, of Benton and Irene Higgins, of Murray, won

top honors at the National University Southern Charm Pageant in Nashville, Tenn.

Thirty years ago
The Dec. 24, 1981 edition of the Murray Ledger & Times is a combined Weekend Holiday edition, through Dec. 26, 1981.

Picture is Terry Smith, of Murray, a junior at Murray State University, reviewing his trip to Russia during an international educational exchange program with Dr. Howard Keller, professor of foreign languages.

Calloway County Middle School fifth grade students conducted a party for residents of Fern Terrace Lodge as part of a class project, according to their teacher, Patricia Lassiter.

Picture is L.J. Hortin receiving the Outstanding Citizen award by Jamie Washer during Murray Lodges of Woodmen of the World's family night Tuesday, Dec. 8.

Forty years ago
Murray City Council had approved a budget for 1972 amounting to \$722,700.

Alan Weatherly and Pat Ryan were to give meditations at Sunday services at First United Methodist Church.

Fifty years ago
Fifty-one Farm Bureau members from 14 counties in First Congressional district had met Dec. 18 at Kentucky Dam Village State Park to discuss legislation with Cong. Frank Albert Stubblefield.

Army second Lieutenant William Haden, son of Mary Haden, had completed eight weeks' officer orientation course at Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga.

Sixty years ago
Mrs. Gene Rogers, Mrs. Luck Burt and Mrs. Walter Cox had directed a program presented at a meeting of Lynn Grove High School Parent Teacher Association in the school auditorium.

Showing Christmas day at Varsity Theatre was "Here Comes The Groom" starring Bing Crosby, Jane Wyman, Alexis Smith, Franchot Tone and James Barton.

Wife demurs advances made by men reconnecting online



Dear Abby
By Abigail Van Buren

I'm happy to catch up online, but out of respect for my husband and my marriage I won't call. Most of them then drop further attempts at communication.

My problem is it continues to happen. I suspended my account several times, but reactivated it because I miss the connection with extended family and friends.

I'm getting turned off to responding to any "friend" requests anymore because it seems that most men just want to recapture some youthful fantasy. How do I handle this? -- BLAST FROM THE PAST

DEAR BLAST: You are handling it very well just the way you are.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Ian," and I are in our 30s. Although we have been together for seven months, his family is not yet over his ex-wife. They invite her for dinner, share weekend visitation with Ian's daughter with her, and remind him constantly that they are disappointed with his decision.

Ian has moved on. He would like to cut all ties with his ex,

but his family won't allow it. He's afraid if he puts his foot down it will destroy the already strained relationship he has with them.

My family accepts Ian, but his refuses to admit I exist. How do we deal with this? It's Ian's life, and he has the right to choose who he spends it with. -- INVISIBLE WOMAN IN PHILLY

DEAR INVISIBLE WOMAN: Toughen up, grit your teeth and continue the relationship. Remember, because a child is involved, Ian cannot completely move on. As for his parents, accept that their grandchild's mother will always be a part of their lives so get used to it.

DEAR ABBY: My friend "Cailin" is very sensitive and not very accepting. She's also unforgiving and tends to get into stupid arguments about nothing. Since the sixth grade it has gotten even worse.

There is a new girl in school who seems to be a really nice, friendly person. Cailin was the first one to meet her and she wouldn't let anyone else sit with them.

I told my mom about it and she said to just sit down with them both. Today I did what my mom said to do. When Cailin saw us together, she was steaming. She ignored me for the rest of the day.

I don't want to keep the new girl, just share her. Why can't Cailin and I both be friends with her? Is there any way I could talk to her? I'm considering talking to the dean of students. Would this be OK? -- SHARING FRIENDS IN COLORADO

DEAR SHARING FRIENDS: Cailin is immature, insecure and possessive. She's afraid that if the new girl talks to other people, the girl will no longer like and depend on her. That's why she was angry when you sat down with them.

By all means discuss this with the dean of students. The dean may have a solution.

Simple exercises help prevent deep vein thrombosis

Q: My 61-year-old mother plans to take a 12-hour plane trip in the near future. Her legs usually get swollen when she flies a long distance. So far, this swelling has been harmless, but I'm worried that on such a long flight, she might get a blood clot in her leg. Is there anything special she can do to prevent this from happening?



Dr. Komaroff
By Dr. Anthony Komaroff

A: Many people develop mild swelling in their feet, ankles and lower legs during long-haul flights. Sitting still is the culprit; without the pumping action of contracting leg muscles, blood and fluid accumulate in the lower extremities.

The swelling itself is benign, though it can be plenty annoying, especially when you try to put your shoes back on at the end of the flight. But swelling can signal complications, especially when it's more prominent in one leg than the other.

The big worry on a long-haul flight is the development of a blood clot, also known as deep-vein thrombosis (DVT). These clots can cause long-lasting problems in the affected leg. And if the clot breaks away and travels in the bloodstream to an artery in the lungs (this is called pulmonary embolism), it can cause chest pain and breathing problems. A large embolism can even cause sudden death.

Our veins are thin-walled blood vessels that depend on the skeletal muscles around them to regulate blood flow. Veins are less complicated than arteries, but they have an elegant design of their own. In fact, this anatomy is particularly important for the leg veins.

These veins have the challenge of carrying blood back up to your heart, whether you are reclining in bed or standing upright. Veins have a series of one-way valves that allow blood to flow toward the heart while preventing backflow. The leg veins rely on contractions of the leg muscles to counter the force of gravity and propel blood to the heart.

Leg veins are by far the most vulnerable to DVTs and other venous disorders. There are three types of leg veins. The superficial veins lie close to the skin; the deep veins are located deep in the muscles; and the perforator veins connect the other two systems, with blood normally flowing from the superficial to the deep veins, which carry more than 80 percent of the blood that flows from the legs to the heart.

Although venous clots can sometimes form without an obvious cause, the majority of DVTs are triggered by one of three conditions: slowed flow of blood, a boost in the activity of the blood's clotting system, or an injury to the vein wall.

Why does travel increase the risk of DVTs? Any form of prolonged sitting can trigger DVTs, but air travel compounds the problem because of its cramped quarters and dry air, which makes the blood "thicker" and "stickier."

Wearing below-the-knee vascular compression stockings that exert a small amount of pressure can prevent or diminish the swelling. Look for a pair that applies pressure of 20 to 30 millimeters of mercury (mm Hg). They are available at hospitals and large drugstores. Passengers who have significant problems with arteries or nerves in their legs should check with their doctors first.

Keeping mobile is also very important. If possible, have your mother sit in an exit row, bulkhead or aisle seat to give her more legroom.

Today In History

By The Associated Press
Today is Saturday, Dec. 24, the 358th day of 2011. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 24, 1814, the War of 1812 officially ended as the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent.

On this date: In 1809, legendary American frontiersman Christopher "Kit" Carson was born in Madison County, Ky.

Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000 volumes.

In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Tenn., called the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe as part of Operation Overlord.

In 1961, the Houston Oilers won the second American Football League Championship Game, defeating the San Diego Chargers, 10-3.

In 1980, Americans remembered the U.S. hostages in Iran by burning candles or shinning lights for 417 seconds — one second for each day of captivity.

Ten years ago: A West Virginia woman kidnapped 16-month-old Jasmine Anderson from a Chicago bus station in order to pass the child off as her own; Sheila Matthews and Jasmine were found by FBI agents three days later in West Virginia. (Matthews was later sentenced to more than 12 years in prison.)

BABY BLUES



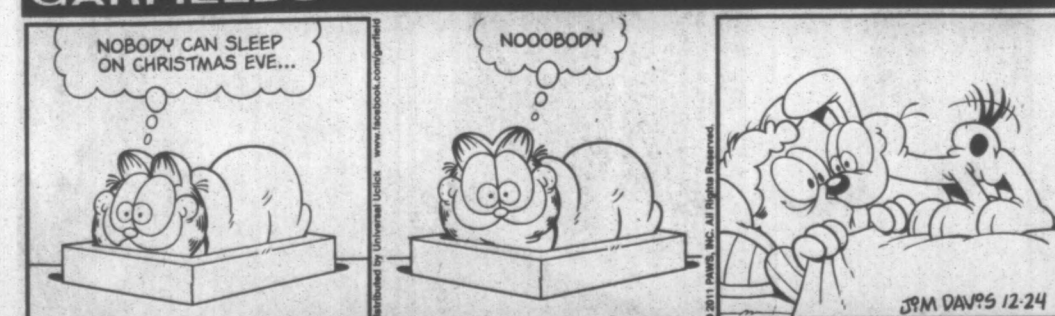
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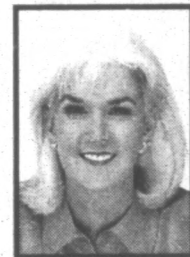
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GARFIELD



PEANUTS



by Heloise

Hints From Heloise

MAKING VANILLA EXTRACT
Dear Heloise: Can you please provide the home recipe for making VANILLA EXTRACT? - Cindy, via email

Yes, I can, and it's a fun project to do, too! This is fairly easy to make. Start with a 1-liter bottle of either vodka or white rum and two vanilla beans, which you can find in most stores. The vanilla flavor comes from the seed, not the bean!

To expose the seeds, carefully cut open each vanilla bean lengthwise. If they are hard to cut, soak them in the vodka or rum until they become soft.

Next, put them in the rum or vodka, seal the bottle and let the mixture cure for at least 30 days. Then taste to see if it is strong enough. If not, let it sit for a few more days until you are satisfied with the flavor.

As you use the extract, you can replace the liquid by adding more vodka or rum. Once the flavor is not as strong, use what is left and make a new batch. Enjoy this added flavor in your baked goods or morning coffee. -- Heloise

DEAR HELoise: I have read your column in various newspapers in the cities we've lived in and have very much enjoyed your pet hints. They were very interesting and informative. I learned a lot about animals. Because I am a dog lover, the dog hints were especially useful.

I am very disappointed that you have discontinued this column. Please start featuring these hints again for all of us pet lovers. -- Barbara Fearn, Baraboo, Wis.

Barbara, thanks for the feedback. I didn't really discontinue the column; the pet hints are now sprinkled throughout the weekly column. The Saturday column still has Pet Pals (see below), so please continue to read my column! -- Heloise

DEAR READERS: Paul in Hammond, Ind., sent a photo of a cute and funny white bulldog with its tongue hanging out in the shape of a "W." Paul just happened to spot him and took the photo opportunity! To see the bulldog, visit my website at www.Heloise.com to check out the Pet of the Week. -- Heloise

COLORFUL PILLOWCASE

Dear Heloise: I like to sleep on my own pillow when we travel, but my white pillowcase tends to blend in with the hotel's linens, and I have left it behind on occasion. Now I use an old, brightly colored or patterned pillowcase that is difficult to overlook when we are packing up. -- Bill and Anita, via email

My similar travel hint: I pack two "faux satin" black pillowcases to use - can't miss them! -- Heloise

LIST INGREDIENTS ON BAKED GOODS
Dear Heloise: When I bake and share, a list of ingredients always accompanies the baked goods in order to be on the safe side due to allergies, etc. -- Margaret M., Temple, Texas

Send a money-saving or time-saving hint to Heloise, P.O. Box 795000, San Antonio, TX 78279-5000, or you can fax it to 1-210-HELOISE or email it to Heloise(at)Heloise.com. I can't answer your letter personally but will use the best hints received in my column.

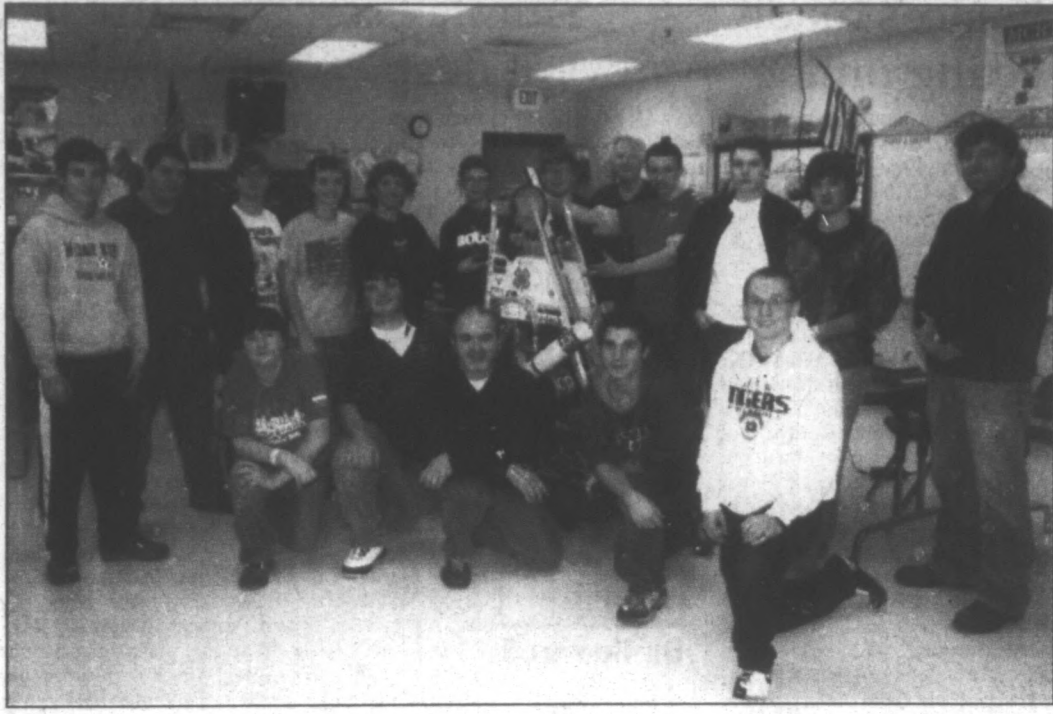
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Crosswords

- ACROSS
1 Sachet scent
6 Wrong
11 Tennyson's "— Arden"
12 African tongue
13 Birch's kin
14 Toy builders
15 Prepares for a long fight
17 Santa — winds
18 Low digit
19 Congressional period
22 Homer's neighbor
23 Mark and Shania
24 Compass
25 Hold
27 Farm female
30 Concert recording, e.g.
31 Chess pieces
32 Holiday lead-in
33 Be short with
35 Jeans material
38 "Looks good to me"
39 Boxer's dream
40 Kitchen gadget
41 Beginning
42 Walls

- DOWN
1 Entice
2 Skate type
3 Stuck
4 Great serves
5 Present day?
6 Tad's dad
7 — de mer
8 Futilely
9 Dictation takers
10 Writer Sontag
16 Greenhorns
20 Annual visitor
21 Canine command
24 Put away
25 Enter completely
26 Calendar items
27 Kingdom
28 Undermine
29 Comes onstage
30 Brought about

Crossword grid with clues and answers. Includes words like PASTY, WASPS, OMARA, EMAIL, SINAW, BANTU, TANG, STAR, LEAD, ELSA, ARC, FLEECED, MIAMI, ADAGE, ANTEDUP, TON, ADOS, VAST, HOLD, AJAR, EXILE, ALIAS, RENEE, GENRE, SNARL, STAKE.



ROBOTICS TEAM: 4-H Murray Calloway Robotics Team members and volunteers surround their robot and Head Coach Jeff Slaton, Engineering and Technology teacher at Calloway County High School. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, Dec. 27, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Area Technology Center (beside Murray High School on Sycamore Street.) For information, visit www.team3843.com.

Turkey-France ties fray over Armenia genocide bill

By **ELAINE GANLEY** and **SUZAN FRASER**
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Ties between France and Turkey, strategic allies and trading partners, abruptly unraveled Thursday after French legislators passed a bill making it a crime to deny that the mass killings of Armenians by Ottoman Turks nearly a century ago constitute genocide.

The bill strikes at the heart of national honor in Turkey, which denies the genocide label and insists the 1915 massacres occurred during civil unrest as the Ottoman Empire collapsed, with losses on both sides. But it's seen as a matter of principle for some French politicians, and a matter of long-overdue justice for the half a million people in France of Armenian descent, many of whom had relatives among the 1.5 million Armenians killed.

The French bill still needs Senate approval, but after it

passed the lower house, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan halted bilateral political and economic contacts, suspended military cooperation and ordered his country's ambassador home for consultations. Turkey argues France is trampling freedom of expression and that French President Nicolas Sarkozy is on a vote-getting mission before April presidential elections.

France formally recognized the 1915 killings as genocide in 2001, but provided no penalty for anyone refuting that. The bill passed Thursday sets a punishment of up to one year in prison and a fine of (euro) 45,000 (\$59,000) for those who deny or "outrageously minimize" the killings, putting such action on par with denial of the Holocaust.

The diplomatic riposte by Turkey over the vote by lawmakers in France's lower house, the National Assembly, may get even tougher. It hurts ties as

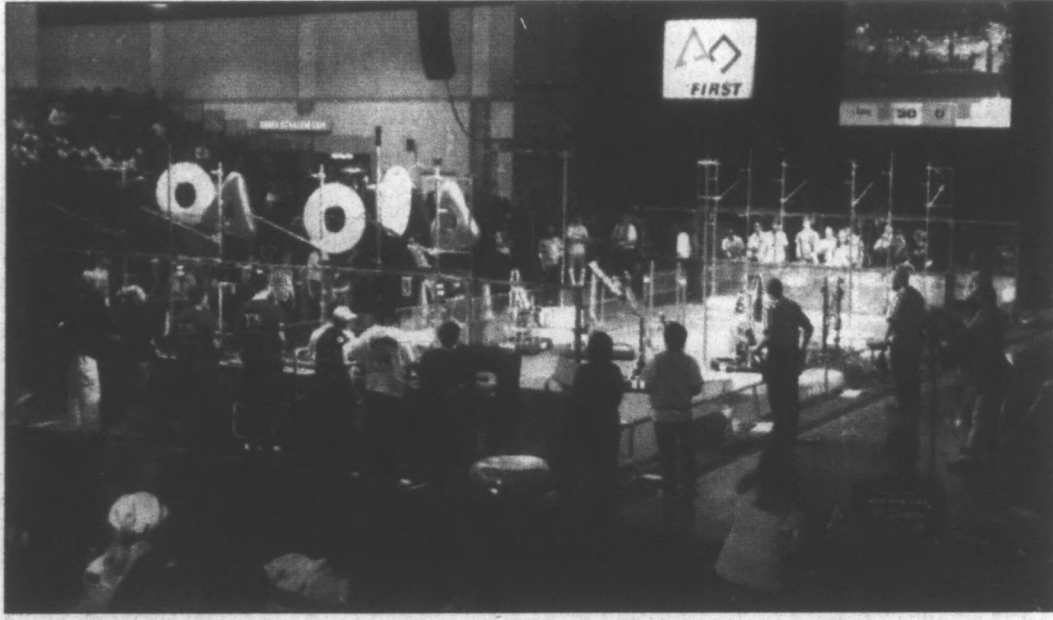
both NATO members are involved in international efforts for peace from Syria to Afghanistan.

"Our measures and precautions will come to life stage-by-stage according to France's position," Erdogan told reporters in Ankara.

France expressed regret over Turkey's response.

"It is important, in the current context, that we keep the paths of dialogue and cooperation open," Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said in a statement.

Strains have plagued the relationship between Paris and Ankara in recent years, in large part because Sarkozy opposes mostly-Muslim Turkey's bid to join the European Union. The bill reached the French parliament after Sarkozy visited Armenia in October and urged Turkey, "a great country" to "honor itself by revisiting its history like other countries in the world have done."



Mindy McCready's mom wants grandson back in Fla.

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — The mother of country singer Mindy McCready wants her grandson back.

Gayle Inge and her husband, Michael Inge, said Thursday in a news release that their 5-year-old grandson Zander should be returned to them in Florida.

Under Florida law, Inge is

Zander's legal guardian. In November, McCready took the boy out of Florida without the permission of Florida's courts. The singer and her son were found in Arkansas. McCready told The Associated Press that she took the boy because she feared he was being abused at her mother's home; Gayle Inge has denied

the allegations.

Zander is currently in the custody of Arkansas child welfare authorities. The Inges say Arkansas shouldn't have jurisdiction over the case and that being away from his Florida family isn't in the boy's best interest.

Egypt's premier calls for dialogue to end crisis

By **SARAH EL DEEB**
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's military-appointed prime minister on Thursday called for national dialogue to resolve the country's political crisis and pleaded for a two-month calm to restore security after weeks of protests and bloodshed.

Kamal el-Ganzouri also told a news conference that the ruling military, which took over from longtime leader Hosni Mubarak 10 months ago, was eager to relinquish power and deliver the country to civilian rule, as demanded by some activists and those still staging protesters in the streets around Cairo's Tahrir Square.

"They want to leave today, not tomorrow," he said without elaborating.

Few, if any, of the activists demanding an immediate end to military rule are likely to take up the offer of dialogue. Instead, they are focused on finding ways to persuade and pressure the generals to quickly step aside, such as offering them immunity from prosecution over the deaths of protesters killed in recent clashes with soldiers and police or calling for presidential elections by next month.

At least 100 people have been killed in such confrontations and in sectarian violence since the military took power in February.

The deaths, coupled with the brutality shown by army troops against protesters, including women, have prompted some

activists to consider suing the generals in local courts or try to have them put on trial before the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands.

The death toll from the past week's violence near Tahrir Square reached 17 on Thursday, after two wounded protesters died of their injuries, according to the Health Ministry.

About 3,000 students from Ain Shams University in Cairo marched Thursday after a prayer service for an engineering student killed in the recent clashes. He died Wednesday from a bullet wound sustained earlier. Students carried a symbolic coffin, Egyptian flags and a large picture of Mubarak in a noose.

Merry Christmas from...

The Murray Bank

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