

1-13-2016

## The Murray Ledger and Times, January 13, 2016

The Murray Ledger an Times

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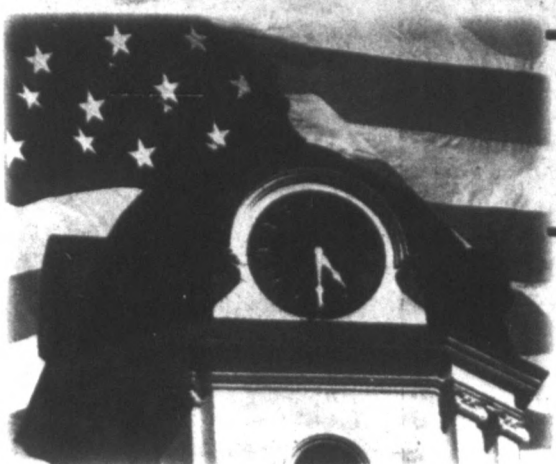
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**INSIDE**  
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Stars forever chance  
Society  
Saturday Pg. 6A  
Murray girls outlast  
Owensboro Catholic Pg. 8A

Vol. 137, No. 10 www.murrayledger.com

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Murray, KY 42071 \$1

## Vasseur, Elkins, Rose speak for Business @ Breakfast



Vasseur



Elkins



Rose

By JOHN WRIGHT  
Staff Writer

The Murray-Calloway County community's top elected officers took center stage Tuesday at the January installment of Business @ Breakfast.

City of Hazel Mayor Kerry Vasseur, Calloway County Judge-Executive Larry Elkins and City of Murray Mayor Jack Rose all took their turns at the microphone in front of a large crowd that gathered for their annual addresses covering the state of their respective jurisdictions.

Vasseur started the morning's festivities by discussing how the small town of 500 on the Kentucky/Tennessee state line has managed to create noise

► See BREAKFAST Page 7A

### Verse of the Day

But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Romans 8:25

**Good Morning**  
to Ledger & Times subscriber:  
**Judy Ingersoll**

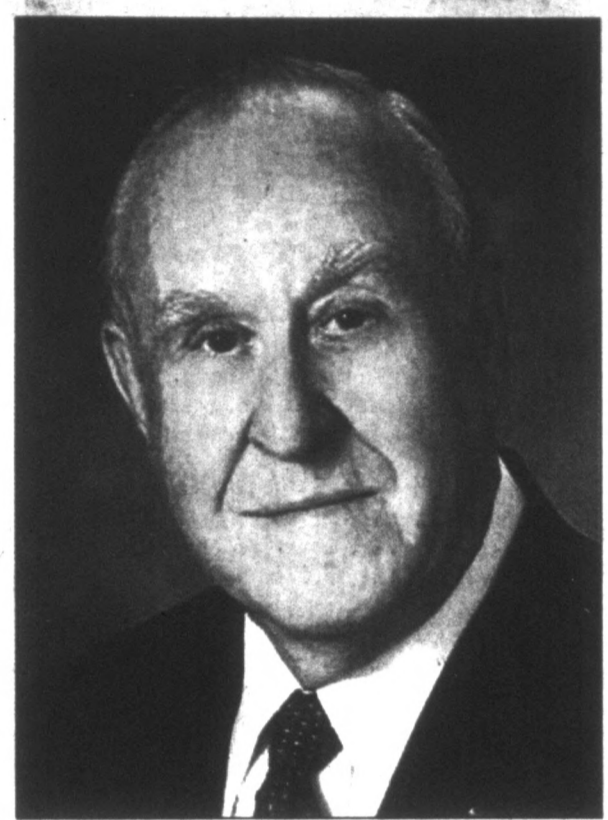
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Rotary International photo  
Rotary International President-Elect John Germ of Chattanooga, Tennessee is now scheduled to make a visit to Murray in May.

## Rotarians start preparations for president-elect visit in May

By JOHN WRIGHT  
Staff Writer

The Rotary Club of Murray asked for it, and now it is going to happen.

Murray club President Keith Travis confirmed Monday that the club is going to be given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in May, when it welcomes the top leader of the organization, 2016-17 Rotary International President John Germ.

Details of the visit are in the early planning stages but Travis said Monday that discussions are already underway within the club. He said this marks the first time in the 90-year history of Murray club that it will host the top official of the organization that numbers more than 1 million members worldwide and includes 34,000 different clubs.

"It's a rare opportunity to be sure. We're excited," Travis said, noting that the fact that Germ hails from nearby Chattanooga, Tennessee was a contributing advantage to the Murray club finding a spot on his

schedule. "Here lately, most presidents or presidents-elect have come from other countries. In fact, the last three in a row have been from Taiwan, South Korea and New Zealand, so it has been a very rare opportunity for any club in a town of our size here in America to host someone of this stature."

"Each year, Rotary International has what is called the President Elect Training Seminar and (in February of 2015), they had it in Nashville, Tennessee and I was attending that in order to get ready for when I became president in July. Well, he was there, and I found out that he happened to be from Chattanooga and started thinking about asking him to come to Murray."

"Well, it turned out that, during the weekend, I actually was in a breakout session with him and that gave me the chance to ask. His response was, 'Get a date and I'll be there.'"

One thing that Travis said will not happen is that

► See ROTARIANS Page 2A

## SPARC group blends robotics, homeschooling into state berth

By MORGAN WILLIAMS  
Staff Writer

One probably does not think too often of homeschooling and robotics in the same sentence. But a local team of home school students are making waves when it comes to First Lego League competitions.

SPARC Robotics, a team of 9-14 year-old homeschool students, recently won first place in two categories at the First Lego League Regional Tournament on Dec. 12 in Paducah.

Winning first place at this tournament means that SPARC Robotics will be attending the state competition at Northern Kentucky University on Feb. 9.

But the students that make up SPARC Robotics are not unaccustomed to the state spotlight. Of the three years that they have been competing, this is their second trip to the state competition.

"We've gained a few kids and lost a

► See SPARC Page 8A



MORGAN WILLIAMS/ Ledger & Times  
Noah Holcomb, Asher Cunningham, Jaden Holcomb and Tommy Schultz work together to put the finishing touches on their Lego robot for the state First Lego League competition. The team of nine homeschooled students have designed and built the robots, in addition to programming the robot's actions for completing tasks.

JOHN WRIGHT/  
Ledger & Times

**NEW TO THE FLEET:** The new Tanker 111 unit of Calloway County Fire-Rescue is shown last week after responding to a field fire near Dexter. The truck arrived about two weeks ago and will be stationed at CCFR's Murray station.



## MISD handles housekeeping items, board members receive accolades

By MORGAN WILLIAMS  
Staff Writer

The Murray Independent School District Board of Education took action on several housekeeping measures during its meeting Tuesday night.

January is Kentucky School Board Recognition month and Superintendent Bob Rogers recognized the board members and presented them with certificates and cards from students for each board member.

"We thank you for all that you do and I appreciate the Board we



► See MISD Page 7A

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**WEATHER**

	
<b>TODAY</b>	<b>TOMORROW</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>34</b>	<b>43</b>

**Daily Forecast**

The National Weather Service

**Today:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 40. Light and variable wind becoming south southwest 5 to 9 mph in the morning.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 34. South southwest wind 7 to 9 mph.

**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 54. South southwest wind around 9 mph.

**Thursday Night:** A 50 percent chance of showers after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43. South wind 8 to 11 mph.

**Friday:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Cloudy, with a high near 50. South wind 11 to 13 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is

70%.

**Friday Night:** A slight chance of rain showers before midnight, then a slight chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33. West northwest wind 10 to 13 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

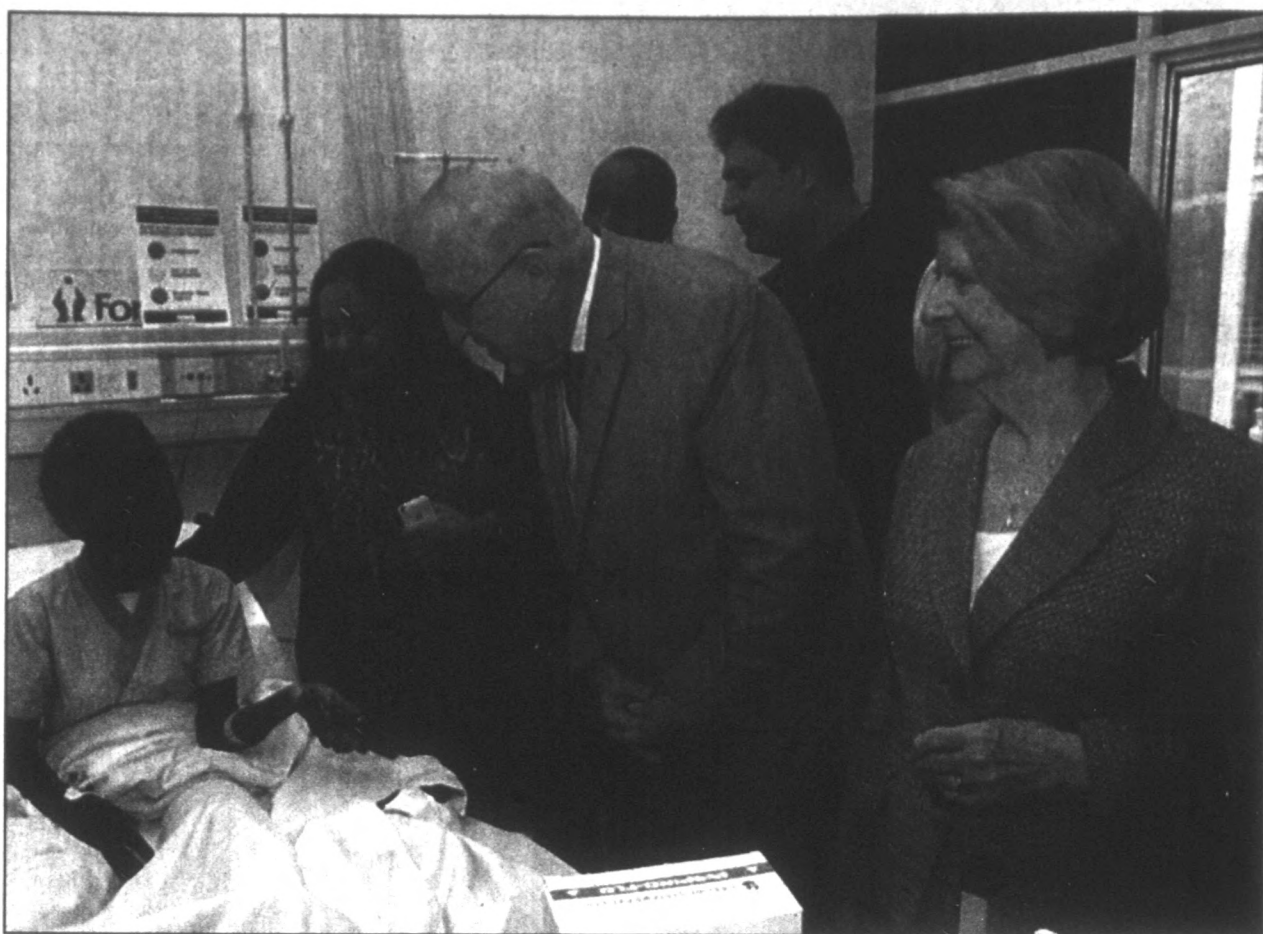
**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 39. Northwest wind 7 to 10 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25. Northwest wind around 7 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 34. Northwest wind 7 to 9 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20. North wind around 7 mph.

**M.L.King Day:** A slight chance of snow. Partly sunny, with a high near 32. North wind around 8 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.



eflash-Rotary photo  
Rotary International President-Elect John Germ, middle, is shown with his wife, Judy, far right, as they visited children from Rwanda who were receiving treatment last February at Fortis Hospital Mohali in India.

**■ ROTARIANS start preparations...**

**From Front**

Germ's visit will have to be in a different venue from usual Murray Rotary meetings as the Murray Banquet Center has already been deemed to small to handle what is expected to be a large crowd. Travis said he has begun talks with Murray State University President Dr. Bob Davies about finding a location on that campus that would be large enough for such an event.

"We are not just wanting this to be for the Murray club. We feel this can be a very exciting thing for clubs throughout our district and beyond, and we're really hoping to have a lot of people coming in to Murray for this," said Travis, whose club will be hosting the second high-profile Rotary event within a year in the Purchase Area. In fact, it will have been nearly a year to the day that the Paducah Rotary Club hosted the District 6710 Conference that came as the Paducah club celebrated its 100th anniversary.

There was also a strong Murray presence involved as Murray Rotarian Jayne Crisp was entering the final days of her year-long stint as district governor.

"Jayne is going to be quite valuable in helping us prepare for this," Travis said. "She made a lot of connections during her time as district governor and that also gave us some inroads as far as being able to make this happen."

Hopes are also for Germ to arrive in Murray in time to see the final result of an ongoing Murray Rotary project. Monday, the Murray-Calloway County Park Board approved the design for a large shell to cover the stage at the Rotary Club of Murray Amphitheater at Central Park. The target date for the completion of that project was listed as May 19, the day Germ will visit.

Germ joined Rotary in 1976 and has served Rotary as vice president, director, Foundation trustee and vice chair, aide to the Foundation trustee chair, chair of

Rotary's U.S. \$200 Million Challenge, Rotary International Board Executive Committee member, Rotary International president's aide, Council on Legislation representative and chair, membership zone coordinator, chair of numerous committees, area coordinator, Rotary International training leader, and district governor.

Germ has received Rotary International's Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award. He and his wife, Judy, are Benefactors and members of the Arch Klumph Society of The Rotary Foundation.

"John is a dynamic person and he's very passionate about whatever cause he is part of," Travis said, emphasizing that Germ is on the front line of Rotary's pursuit to eradicate the disease polio from the world.

Germ is currently president-elect for 2015-16, but will assume the presidency on July 1. ■


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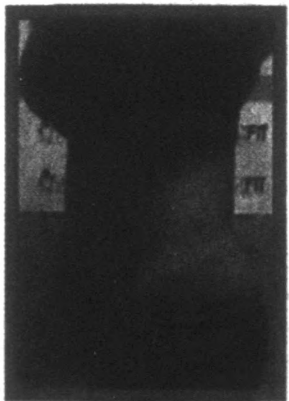
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**Prichard group issues early childhood report**

**Special to The Ledger**

Ensuring all Kentucky children are well prepared for success in kindergarten and beyond is the focus of a new report from the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence that recommends priorities for policy and program developments related to early childhood education.

Progress and Next Steps for Early Childhood in Kentucky: Birth Through Third Grade is the work of the committee's Early Childhood Education Study Group.

The report emphasizes the need for

the alignment, from birth through third grade, of programs designed to prepare children for each new step in their education. It also points out the need for collaboration among public and private programs at the community level as a way to ensure the most effective use of limited resources.

"Kentucky has built a strong foundation for early childhood since 2000 and we've had the support of each one of Kentucky's governors along the way. Today there is much greater awareness of the importance of early brain development on later

learning and workforce participation," said Brigitte Blom Ramsey, executive director.

Several noteworthy areas of progress were reflected in the report, which builds on a 2007 Prichard Committee report, Strong Start Kentucky: Investing in Quality Early Care & Education to Ensure Future Success, including a new call to action for Kentucky to focus on early education.

Since the publication of the earlier report, preschool funding has been increased and the state has received federal funding to support infrastructure development; provider enrollment in the STARS child care quality rating system has grown; the state has adopted a common definition of kindergarten readiness and implemented a universal screener; and state agencies are linking data systems.

"But there is far more to do," the report continued.

The report's recommendations address five areas and include both policy initiatives and ways communities can support early childhood efforts.

The full report is available at: [prichardcommittee.org](http://prichardcommittee.org) or <http://bit.ly/1W0oQf1> (direct link).

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# DAVE SAYS

By Dave Ramsey

## Thankfulness and bound

Dear Dave,

My fiancé and I are getting married in May. He's a youth pastor, and I'm in grad school. His mom and dad found a home they think we'll like, and they want to gift us money for a down payment. I'm not sure how I feel about this under our present circumstances. Do you think we should go ahead and accept when I'll still be in school and we'll still have debt to pay off?

Emily  
Dear Emily,

You need to get to know each other before you buy a house together. I always recommend that young couples rent for a year and concentrate on each other, the new marriage, cleaning up any debts you have, and establishing an emergency fund. Then, after another year or so when you've had time to take control of your finances, the idea of looking for a home becomes much smarter.

It sounds like your future in-laws are really generous people. They're trying to do something nice for you two, but they kind of got out ahead of things with this idea. And in the process, they violated some boundaries in your relationship with your fiancé.

My advice is to have a conversation with your fiancé about all this and get on the same page about what is the smart thing to do. Then the two of you need to have a loving discussion with his parents. Let him do most of the talking, and say thank you a lot, but let them know you both feel it would be best to start out by renting something for a year or so. Then after a little time has passed, tell them if they still want to help with a down payment you'd both very grateful.

I think this approach would be good for the boundary issues and for your finances!  
—Dave (aries)

## Welcome to life

Dear Dave,

Our son just turned 8 years old. Is it time to start giving him an allowance?

Dan

Dear Dan,

There's never a time for an allowance, no matter the child's age. In my mind, that kind

of thinking is the best way to plant the seeds of entitlement. You want your son growing up with the idea that he's owed money simply because he's alive.

Instead, work out a plan to pay him commissions. Assign him weekly chores that are age-appropriate. Then, when the work gets done, he gets paid. And guess what? If the work doesn't get done, he doesn't get paid! Not only do we want to teach a healthy work ethic, but we also want him to learn that work creates money.

Of course, there are some things a child should be expected to do without financial reward. Everyone needs to pitch in and do certain things to help out when they're part of a family. But once you've taught him about work, make sure to also teach him about the three uses for money—saving, spending, and giving.

Lessons on the basic handling of money are some of the best teachable moments you can have with your child. Not only does it make them more knowledgeable about finances, it helps them learn about life!

—Dave

*\* Dave Ramsey is America's trusted voice on money and business as well as the CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored five New York Times best-selling books. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 11 million listeners each week on more than 550 radio stations and digital outlets. Dave's latest project, EveryDollar, provides a free online budget tool. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.*

## Create Your Community Legacy: Foundation offers chance to give to cause forever

### Special to the Ledger

Do you want to remember someone forever? Would you like to contribute to a favorite cause or organization forever? Join the Murray-Calloway County Community Foundation efforts now and give the gift that gives forever.

With that thought in mind, we add a new dimension to the concept of giving. Instead of just one annual gift to a favorite non-profit, you can turn a major gift into a perpetual investment into its future financial security by endowing your funds. The funds are invested and never spent. Instead, the annual earnings are available to spend for the needs or wants of the organization.

When you contribute to the Murray-Calloway County Community Foundation you have the option of contributing to an established endowed fund or creating your own named endowment.

Why establish a named endowment? There are many



Article 53

possible and excellent reasons. Other endowments have been established for charitable giving in the memory of a brother, memory of a classmate, a group making the choice to make long lasting contributions to a worthy cause, in answer to a challenge from others to give, in support of academia, in support of long term research, in support of community health initiatives and many other truly positive reasons. Creating a named endowment can make opportunities to contribute in lasting positive ways to causes that have meaning to the creator. Additionally, there is a tremendous satisfaction in starting and growing an endowment that can be joined by others with similar beliefs that giving for a cause is a worthwhile endeavor. It is a way to leave something that will grow and give FOREVER.

Establishing your own named endowment provides the flexibility to combine all giving through one source. The timing and amount of giving can vary. You may wish to accumulate earnings to give all to one organization or choose to extend the accumulation of earnings over a two- to three-year period to accommodate a major need. The flexibility of timing and giving is a major benefit to the creation of a named endowment. There are also many other established endowments to meet the desires of anyone interested in giving the gift that gives FOREVER.

For additional information or to discuss giving further contact:  
Harold Hurt, President MCCCCF, 270-761-6880, hhurt@hurtryanlaw.com; Linda Avery, 270-753-0060, lindaavery@kycourts.net; Gary Brockway, 270-753-0503, gary.brockway@murraystate.edu; Matt Hale, 270-753-5411, mhale@tccpas.com; Sarah Jones, 270-227-8010, sarah@vintagerose.com; Brian Overbey, 270-767-2000, brian.overbey@bankwithheritage.com; Dick Weaver, 270-753-2899; Zach Dunlap, 270-816-3880, zach.dunlap@usbank.com. ■

## Lottery players go to great lengths for Powerball tickets

By SCOTT McFETRIDGE and KEN RITTER  
Associated Press

NIPTON, Calif. (AP) — Lottery ticket buyers have to suspend their belief in math to drop \$2 on an infinitesimal chance to win the Powerball jackpot, but in Nevada, they also have to drive across the desert and wait in lines that can stretch for hours.

In Hawaii and Alaska, they need to cross an ocean or mountains to reach a lottery kiosk. As if the 1 in 292.2 million odds of winning weren't inconvenient enough, people who live in the six states that don't participate in Powerball must put in considerable extra effort to get a ticket.

With the giant jackpot on his mind, retiree William Burke drove 45 minutes Monday from his home in Henderson, Nevada, to buy tickets in Nipton, California. Then he waited three hours to spend \$20 on 10 tickets at a store that is among the nation's busiest lottery retailers.

"I thought maybe I'd be part of history," said Burke, a Vietnam veteran who joined hundreds of people bundled in coats and scarfs before the doors opened at the Primm Valley Lotto Store off Interstate 15.

None of the six states has a lottery of any kind. Religious beliefs have posed a barrier in Alabama, Mississippi and Utah. Alaska has been more concerned

that a lottery wouldn't pay off in such a sparsely populated state. In Hawaii, lawmakers have proposed lottery measures, but the idea always fails. And in Nevada, the lottery snub is largely a nod to the state's casinos, which have no interest in the competition.

The Multi-State Lottery Association, which runs Powerball, reports that some of the biggest ticket sales come from border cities. That means residents of one state are driving to another to play Powerball, then probably spending a bit more on gas, soda or doughnuts.

"What that means for policymakers, that's their business," said Gary Grief, executive director of the Texas Lottery. "I'm sure they're watching those dollars flow out of their state."

In Alabama, people have been talking about instituting a lottery for years, in part because of sales in border states. Faced with tight state budgets and demands from voters, Republicans and Democrats on Tuesday introduced rival lottery bills for the legislative session that begins in February.

Mississippi state Rep. Alyce Clarke, a Democrat from Jackson, has repeatedly sponsored a lottery bill, but she said religious opposition always kills the idea. That could change this year because of Powerball, she explained, enabling the state to raise money to subsidize colleges or fix roads and bridges. ■

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# FORUM

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## IN OTHER WORDS



**Legislative Update**  
By Sen. Stan Humphries  
R-Cadiz

I hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful Christmas season and a happy New Year. A new year also means a new legislative session of the Kentucky General Assembly. Tuesday, January 5, marked the beginning of a 60-day session that will run through mid-April. In this session we hope to address the numerous important issues facing our state, keeping the common theme of creating Kentucky jobs, and strengthening Kentucky families.

One of the most important bills we are working on in 2016 will be passing a comprehensive budget bill and road plan which will be implemented from July 2016 to June 2018. Although we have seen some slight increases in general fund returns, new costs related to public employee pensions and state-implemented Medicaid will place a greater burden on our budget than in

years past.

Senate Leadership rolled out 13 bills, identified as priority legislation, on Wednesday and one of the most critical was Senate Bill 2. This measure would make our state employee pension systems (KRS, KTRS, and JFRS) more transparent in their transactions, more accountable in how they contract with third parties for services, and ensure that the board of trustees of KRS and KTRS have the investment experience necessary to professionally guide these organizations.

We also will be focusing once again on the rights of the unborn. If you have followed the investigation of Planned Parenthood in 2015, you know that there is a major concern about that organization. We would like to ensure that no more state funding goes to Planned Parenthood in the 2016 Legislative Session. Likewise, we will bring an additional bill forward to better promote informed consent for women who may be considering an abortion. We value life, no matter how long it has been in a mother's womb, which is why we believe those considering abortion should be required to have a face-to-face meeting with a physician, rather than simply listening to a pre-recorded message.

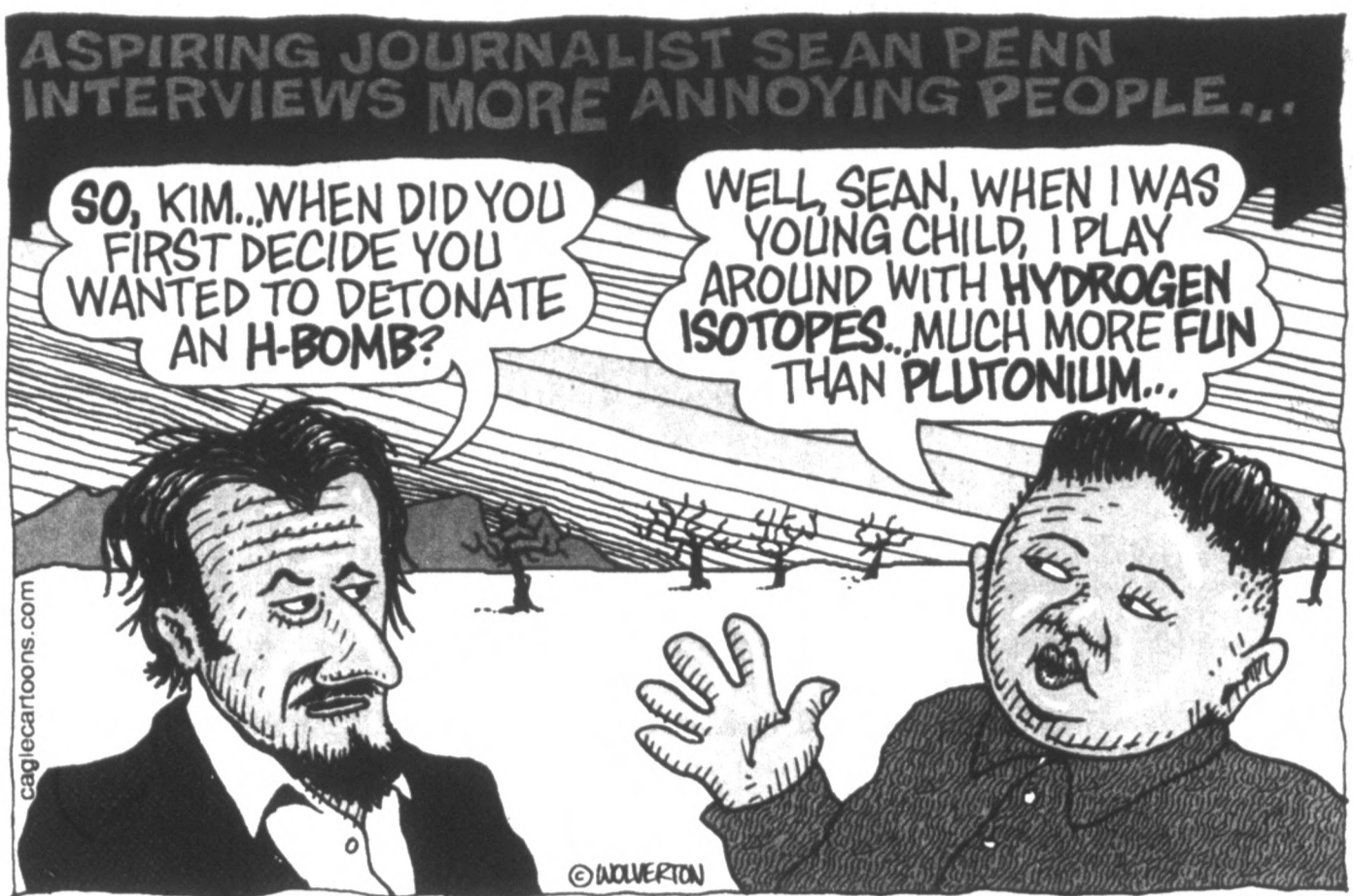
In the health-care realm, which is one of Kentucky's biggest economic drivers, we will be focusing on legislation working to prevent frivolous malpractice lawsuits which drive health provider jobs away from our state. Creating an appeals process for Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) will also be a priority for health-care accountability. This legislation would allow health-care providers to appeal to the Department of Medicaid Service for service cost determinations instead of the current law which only allows providers to appeal directly to the MCO.

Redistricting of the judicial branch has also come to the forefront of the Senate's conversation. While the legislative branch is required to redistrict every 10 years in order to balance the ever-changing constituent landscape, judicial districts have not been updated for several decades. Judicial redistricting on the same legislative schedule would balance population and caseloads throughout the state and make Kentuckians equally represented in the court system.

Research shows that over a million Kentuckians show up to vote in a federal election year, but only hundreds of thousands show up to vote for their future governor in odd-numbered years. A new bill proposed in the Senate would move gubernatorial elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, offering Kentuckians a much better chance of selecting their new state leader. This measure would not extend the term of the current governor and would save an estimated \$20 million over each election cycle.

We have heard the voice of Kentuckians from across the state and crafted this legislation by listening to your concerns and ideas. Thank you for your support, and please do not hesitate to contact me at my Frankfort office at any time. I look forward to what this new year and new Senate session will bring to Kentucky.

If you have any questions or comments about the issues or any other public policy issue, please call me toll-free at 1-800-372-7181. You can also review the Legislature's work online at [www.lrc.ky.gov](http://www.lrc.ky.gov).



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## Last week we lost a few good men

Best estimates conclude that approximately 6,775 Americans die each day, succumbing to illness, accident, and a range of self-inflicted injuries. Numbers, however, cannot capture the emotional impact of these losses on families, friends, and colleagues. Words fall short when it comes to expressing the grief bereavement evokes, but stories fill the breach. Today, I am offering three short ones in honor of three really good men western Kentucky lost last week.

The oldest, Sid Easley, was known throughout the state for his tireless service and leadership as an attorney, a Murray State University alumni, and a proud native of the region. In the middle, Paducah artist Warren Farr, distinguished himself with extraordinary talent and an artistic vision that created a universe of subterranean landscapes that pose ambiguous and sometimes whimsical alternative realities. Youngest of the three, Dr. Kit Wesler was a dedicated archeologist, researcher and writer. His meticulous professional standards ensured the responsible preservation of our region's Wickliffe Mounds, first occupied by the Mississippian Native Americans from A.D. 1100 to 1350.

To start with Sid Easley, I have to go back almost twenty-five years, when Murray's Playhouse in the Park celebrated the theatre's renovation with a production of "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller. To me, the play

seemed a good choice because it was written by the greatest American playwright of the twentieth century, and it was a classic with a large cast, calling for actors of all ages. On opening night, the performance was stunning and memorable.

A few days later, I ran into Sid and asked how he had enjoyed the premiere. Before answering, he paused and gave a thoughtful nod. And while I can't claim to quote his exact words, he confessed that he'd expected that a musical or at least a comedy would have been chosen, instead of a serious drama about the witch trials in colonial Salem, Massachusetts.

Pausing again, he admitted, with a self-deprecating smile, that in spite of himself he kept thinking about the themes of "The Crucible" again and again, days after the performance. "Now I see what a good choice it was," he confessed.

That comment that has stayed with me all these years because it demonstrates a rare trait: Sid Easley, a powerful man of strong beliefs and solid opinions, was willing to listen. He was open to change.

Warren Farr, on the other hand, never changed, at least in his devotion to art. He examined many issues associated with the modern world and used an enormous range of starkly surreal images in his paintings and drawings. With photographic clarity, he created scenes that do not exist anywhere on this planet, using dark

images to answer questions like this: What if Hieronymus Bosch had been born in the twentieth century and had a fear of flying? In his painting, E-Z Home kit, Warren suggests a simple plan for creating a home, including a dog house, a toolbox and a tombstone boldly inscribed: MY TOOLBOX, REST IN PEACE.

When Murray State University archeology professor Kit Wesler took over management of Wickliffe Mounds in the early 1980's, he was one of the first in his field to feel that it was inappropriate to feature a display of Native American graves at the site. He saw the burial sites as family graves, not merely artifacts, and he worked tirelessly to strike a balance between archeological research and respect for the dead. It took years, but he was committed to ensuring the reburial of remains at Wickliffe Mounds and launched a painstaking process to restore the dignity of those buried there.

"What the Native Americans had been telling me was - if you want to

go study the history of white people or black people or Asian people in North America, you go to a history museum," he said. "But if you want to study the past of Native Americans, you go to a natural history museum, where they're displayed right next to stuffed animals and dinosaur bones. And there's a fundamental double standard there."

On the day of the re-dedication of the burial site, a Native American presiding at the observance remarked, "Those were the spirits of our people. So this is a very important thing that happened here today."

Last week was a sad one as our region acknowledged the loss of these three men. Although very different in their professional choices, they generously shared their insight, vision and spirit with the rest of us.

May they rest in peace. For more information, about Sid Easley's book, "A Courthouse Tragedy: Politics, Murder and Redemption in a Small Kentucky Town," log on to <http://www.butler-books.com/>.

The art and blog of Warren Farr is available at: <http://warrenfarr.com/>.

Log on to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for information about "Excavations at Wickliffe Mounds," by Dr. Kit Wesler, co-authored with Victoria G. Fortner.

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



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

## A Meditation on the Death of a Great Man

"When he talked with you, it seemed as if you were the most important individual in the world." "He loved the Racers." "He was a man without guile." "When I asked him, what was his most important accomplishment, without a moment's hesitation, he said, 'Teaching my Sunday School class at the First United Methodist Church for over forty years.'"

These were some of the eloquent tributes from Eric and Don Easley, the sons of Robert S. "Sid" Easley, and Dr. Rick Dye, his pastor, at Murray's First United Methodist Church this past Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p. m., January 16, 2016. Pallbearers included Harold Doran, Bob Jackson, Scott Turner, Marty Futrell, Chad Bazzell, and Vernon Moore. In the audience were local and state luminaries, including Senator Jerry Rhoads and Dr. Judy Rhoads from Madisonville, Bennie Purcell, Pete and Joy Waldrop, and Dr. Robert Davies from Murray. Former Murray State University president, Dr. Kern Alexander, now coordinator of the Leary Endowment and editor of the "Journal of Education Finance" at the University of Illinois, also came to the service.

Just like the memorial services of the great southern writers, Robert Penn Warren and Cleanth Brooks—who was born in Murray and whose father once preached from the pulpit of Murray's First United Methodist Church—we too sang the great old hymn "Abide With Me." And Dr. Dye focused on the second stanza as a testament to Judge Easley's great faith:

"Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away; Change and decay in all around I see;

O thou who changest not, abide with me!"

The congregational singing of "Abide With Me," and "Faith of Our Fathers," along with Dr. Randall Black's solo, "The Lord's Prayer," as only Dr. Black can sing it, and Mrs. Joan Bowker's organ selections made for a moving music service. Sid Easley chose the Scripture readings from Philippians 4, Romans 8: 28-30, and John 14—his favorites—himself.

Dr. Dye did not picture Judge Easley as a perfect human being, for nobody is perfect. Yet, in his humanity, the good pastor said, even if one disagreed with him, the judge had no problem with that. After all, everyone has the right to be wrong. Indeed, some might have thought of Sid Easley as a liberal Democrat. And that is because he was a liberal Democrat. But his politics came from his care for all people, regardless of their background or race or economic status. His politics did not form his beliefs. His beliefs formed his politics.

Eric and Don joined their father and mother, Melissa, Sid's beautiful and elegant wife of 51 years; Dan Easley, Sid's steady and dignified brother; grandchildren, and other family members for a last glorious Christmas together. They remembered and laughed and cried together.

Perhaps they remembered a visit to Baton Rouge several years ago when Judge Easley, Eric, and Don attended an LSU Tigers football game, courtesy of Chancellor F. King Alexander, Murray State's former president. Sid and Don stood along the sidelines with Dr. Alexander during the first half, the same sidelines that Huey Long used to roam. Huey built Tiger Stadium against the Louisiana legislature's wishes. The legislature wanted to build dormitories for the students and appropriated money to do so. As governor, the boss went ahead and built the stadium, but cleverly placed dormitory rooms underneath the bowl of the stadium seats. He knew how to get things done.

During the second half, the Easleys and the chancellor retired to the chancellor's box, where Judge Easley found two Louisiana pols deep in conversation at one end. Governor Bobby Jindal—yes, that Bobby Jindal—and James Carville—yes, that James Carville—one famous Republican and one famous Democrat, amiably discussed politics, sports, a whole range of topics, and Judge Easley joined

right in. He found Governor Jindal to be very impressed with Chancellor Alexander, the head of the whole Louisiana university system. Sid Easley enjoyed talking with Governor Jindal as much as he did Mr. Carville.



**Home and Away**  
By James Duane Bolin  
Ledger & Times Columnist

Such was the individual that we will miss so much. In the old days, I would have called him a man of many parts—an attorney, a judge, a university regent, a Murray State Racers ambassador, a community servant, a Kentucky Bluegrass lover, a world traveler, a teacher, a reader, a writer, a family man extraordinary, an individual of profound faith.

And so, as Don Easley read from the William Cullen Bryant poem, "Thanatopsis": "So live, that when thy summons comes to join The innumerable caravan, which moves To that mysterious realm, where each shall take His chamber in the silent halls of death, Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night, Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave, Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

Duane Bolin teaches in the Department of History at Murray State University. Contact Duane at [jbolin@murraystate.edu](mailto:jbolin@murraystate.edu)

## LETTERS POLICY

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- ✓ No letters will be printed anonymously.
- ✓ Letters should not exceed 300 words and must be typed or legible.
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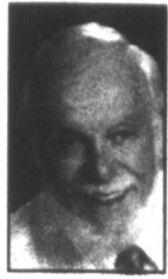
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OBITUARIES

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Dr. Lowell David Latto



Latto

Dr. Lowell David Latto, 80, passed away at his home Friday, Jan. 8, 2016 in Murray, Kentucky. He was born in New Philadelphia, Ohio, to John B. and Doris C. Latto.

After serving three years in the Navy, Lowell attended Ohio State University, where he received undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother Jackie.

Dr. Latto is survived by his wife, Shirley Tutor Latto; sons David Latto and wife Kellye of Nashville, Tennessee; Greg Latto and wife Nada of Brentwood, Tennessee; Joel Latto of Louisville; Todd Cothran and wife Tammy of Murray and Eric Cothran and wife April of Prospect and nine grandchildren, Daniel, Alex, Lindsay, Savannah, Josie, Lilyan, Luke, Abigayle and Karolyne.

Dr. Latto will be remembered by family and friends for living life to the fullest and for his gentle, loving nature. A celebration of his life will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016 at First Presbyterian Church, 1601 Main St.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made either to hospice through Murray Calloway Endowment for Healthcare/Residential Hospice House or Murray's soup kitchen, Soup for the Soul.

Online condolences may be left at www.imesfh.com. Imes Funeral Home & Crematory, downtown Murray, is in charge of arrangements.

Eve Marie Austin

Eve Marie Austin, 86, of Murray, Kentucky, died at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016 at her residence. Arrangements are incomplete at Blalock-Coleman & York Funeral Home.

Bill to allow some distilleries to serve cocktails advances

By BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Bourbon tourists taking in the sights and smells of Kentucky distilleries could start sipping cocktails as part of the experience if a bill that cleared a legislative panel on Tuesday becomes state law.

The measure would allow distilleries in wet territories to offer by-the-drink sales to visitors. It also would let the distilleries sell more of their whiskey and offer slightly larger amounts of free samples.

The bill — which also would allow expanded production for small farm wineries and micro-breweries — was advanced by the Senate Licensing, Occupations and Administrative Regulations Committee.

The measure could be put on a fast track in the Senate.

Senate Majority Leader Damon Thayer, a key co-sponsor, said it could be voted on in coming days. If the Senate passes it, the bill would go to the House, where similar legislation died last year.

Supporters said the changes would make Kentucky's distilleries even more appealing.

"They want to have an experience they can savor and relax and enjoy," said Eric Gregory, president of the Kentucky Distillers' Association. "We can't realize our full potential until we have some of these reforms in place to offer things like by-the-drink cocktails and expanded bottle sales."

Bourbon tourism has matured into a huge business. The number of visits to Kentucky's distilleries, both large and small, has doubled in the past five years and is closing in on 1 million per year, he said.

The bill would let adult visitors purchase up to 9 liters of liquor at distillery gift shops in wet territories, up from the current 3-liter limit.

It also would expand sample sizes. Currently, adult visitors can get up to 1 ounce of samples at each distillery in wet territories. The bill would increase the amount to 1.75 ounces per stop. That compares to sample-size limits of 6 ounces at wineries and 16 ounces at breweries, the bill's supporters said.

Those proposals stirred criticism from some in the liquor business.

Jason Underwood, a lobbyist representing liquor producer Sazerac, whose many brands

include Buffalo Trace, said increasing bottle sales at distilleries would cause a hardship for some liquor stores.

"It won't put us out of business, but it will hurt us," said Bardstown liquor store owner Guthrie McKay.

McKay, whose store is in the heart of Kentucky bourbon country, said retailers already are having trouble stocking some specialty brands being sold at distilleries.

Kevin Smith, an executive for Beam Suntory Inc., whose brands include Jim Beam and Maker's Mark, said distilleries aren't in business to compete with liquor stores. Distillery gift shops largely cater to out-of-state visitors, who are unlikely to stop at local liquor stores, he said.

Thayer predicted that no retailer would be put out of business if the bill becomes law.

But he said bourbon tourists "want to be able to buy the products that they're sampling" at distilleries.

Underwood also raised concerns about increasing sample amounts for adults taking distillery tours.

He said: "1.75 ounces of spirits, if you're going to multiple distilleries, can be significant. If you're driving yourself, we're concerned about those issues on the roads."

The bill also would allow local-option precincts elections for voters to decide whether to allow liquor sales in an area that includes a distillery.

The state's bourbon sector is in the midst of a \$1.3 billion investment boom that could grow as demand increases, Gregory has said. The expansion includes new and expanded distilleries, warehouses, bottling operations and tourism centers.

Town Crier

The Murray City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the City Council chambers of the Murray City Hall, 104 N. Fifth St. Agenda items will include: Mayor's Report (West Kentucky Caucus meeting, request from Commonwealth Attorney's office, donation to Residential Hospice House); public comment (this must have prior arrangement through the mayor's office); Personnel and Finance Committee report from Chair Danny Hudspeth; Ordinance No. 2015-1686 (second reading), an ordinance amending the City of Murray Code of Ordinances to create uniformity in the hours for sale among establishments permitted to sell alcoholic beverages; Ordinance No. 2016-1687 (first reading), an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2015-1669, an ordinance which adopted the 2015-2016 City of Murray, Kentucky annual budget by restating certain revenues and expenditures for the City of Murray operations budget for a Procurement Specialist position; recommendation from the Planning Commission to amend the text in the City of Murray Zoning Ordinance, Section IV, Article 2 entitled Administration, Enforcement and Violations, to clarify and improve the enforcement process; recommendation to cancel Council meeting scheduled for Feb. 11 and hold a special called Council meeting on Feb. 9 to allow some Council members to attend KLC activities (on Feb. 10 and West Kentucky Thank You night in Frankfort on Feb. 11).

Prior to the full Council meeting, the Personnel and Finance Committee will meet at 5:30. Agenda items will include: Budget amendment—Procurement Specialist position; zoning ordinance fines; licensing penalties; tax moratoriums for the Historic Overlay District; business license application, tax penalty.

To report a Town Crier item, call 270-753-1916.

GOP leader wants to freeze university tuition in Kentucky

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — The chairman of the Kentucky Senate Republican Caucus wants to freeze tuition and fees at state universities for the next four years.

Sen. Dan Seum of Louisville says it "borders on criminal" how much universities have increased tuition in the past eight years. His bill would not allow universities to increase tuition or fees for the next four years. After that, the state legislature would have to approve any increase.

State lawmakers have cut the higher education budget by 15 percent since 2008, or \$165 million. Seum says Kentucky universities have increased tuition 55 percent during that same time period, citing figures from the Legislative Research Commission.

The Council on Postsecondary Education reviews all tuition increases, Spokeswoman Sue Patrick said she could not comment until she has read Seum's bill.

Nashville highway sign climber given 20-day sentence

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A man who climbed atop a road sign along a major Nashville highway and stayed there for two hours, bringing traffic to a halt as he dangled his feet, has been sentenced to 20 days in jail.

Local news outlets report that 44-year-old William P. Walters was sentenced after pleading guilty Monday to a charge of obstructing a passageway. According to court records, a charge of disorderly conduct was dismissed.

Metro Nashville Police closed part of Interstate 65 on the afternoon of Jan. 5.

Police said in a statement that negotiator Cedric Connolly eventually persuaded Walters to come down from the sign.

The road closure, which lasted through much of rush hour, caused major traffic delays in the downtown area.

Bill would exempt school projects from prevailing wage

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — State officials would not decide how much to pay construction workers on public school projects under a bill approved by a Senate committee.

The bill, sponsored by Republican Wil Schroder of Wilder, would exempt school construction projects from Kentucky's prevailing wage law. The law sets construction wages for publicly funded projects based on local surveys. But a 2014 study from the Legislative Research Commission found the law increased workers' pay by about \$8 per hour more than they would have been paid in the private sector.

Democrats dispute that study, noting it only looked at wages and not the total cost of construction projects. Democratic Sen. Morgan McGarvey of Louisville voted against the bill.

It is the first bill to make it to the Senate floor this year.

Police: Boy agreed to be set aflame while friend filmed it

HOLLIDAYSBURG, Pa. (AP) — Police say two 13-year-old boys in Pennsylvania are facing disorderly conduct charges after one agreed to be set on fire so the other could film it and post it online.

Pennlive.com reports the stunt took place on New Year's Day in Frankstown Township.

State police say one of the boys put lighter fluid on his clothes and the other used a blowtorch to ignite the clothing while he recorded it.

Police say the boy who was on fire had a difficult time extinguishing the flames but eventually managed to put them out, avoiding injury.

In a news release, state police say the public should know "such incidents, regardless of their intentions and the end result," can result in charges.

The stunt was never posted online.

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## Jackson Purchase Historical Society to meet

### Special to the Ledger

Historian and journalist Shannon McFarlin will speak to members and guests of the Jackson Purchase Historical Society. Her topic is the subject of her book, "As If They Were Ours: The Story of Camp Tyson, America's Only Barrage Balloon Training Facility."

The quarterly meeting of the Jackson Purchase Historical Society begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 16 at the Paris - Henry County Heritage Center, 614 North Poplar Street, Paris, Tennessee. The meeting is open to the public and free of charge but seating is limited.

"The U.S. Army base at Camp Tyson, in the Routon community near Paris, was where the

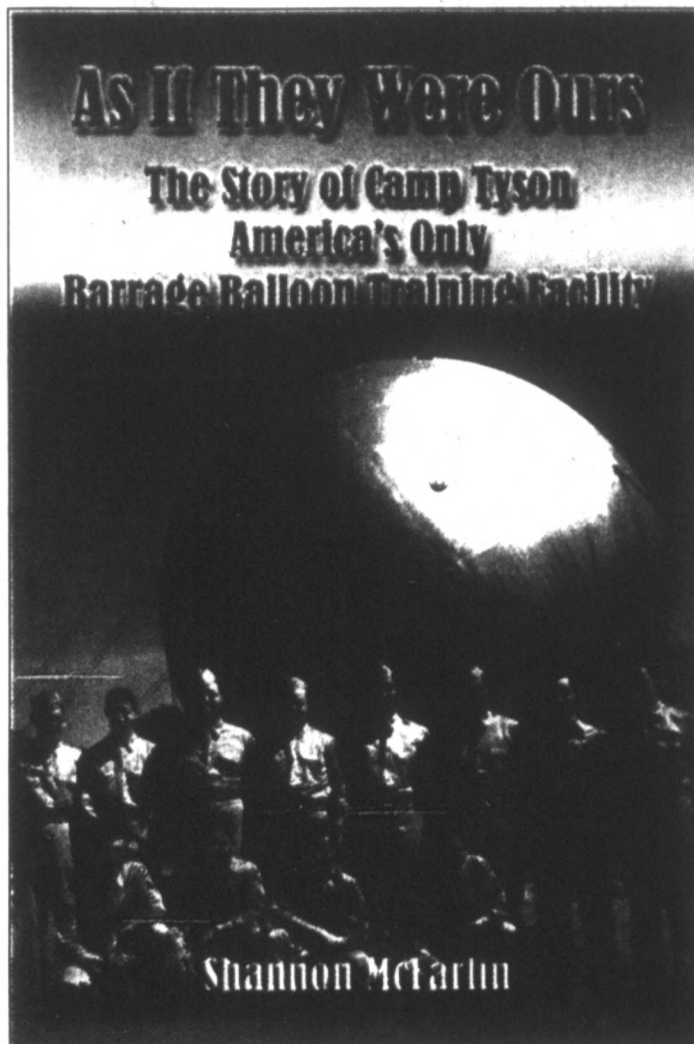
320th Barrage Balloon Battalion trained during World War II," McFarlin said. "This was the only African American unit to participate in the D-Day invasion. Their accomplishments were largely unheralded."

Many soldiers lived with families in Paris and Henry County and the public investment in Camp Tyson is credited with bringing many modern improvements to the area. Camp Tyson also housed German and Italian prisoners of war.

Shannon McFarlin is a professional journalist, news director for WENK/WRPR radio in Paris and Union City, Tennessee, and a writer for "Paris! Magazine." She was recognized for her investigative journalism by the Ohio Associated Press and nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1991. In 2000, she won the Hellman-Hammett Award from Human Rights Watch. McFarlin has a bachelor's and master's degrees in history from Murray State University and was an intern at the Paris - Henry County Heritage Center.

"As If They Were Ours: The Story of Camp Tyson, America's Only Barrage Balloon Training Facility" was published by Merriam Publishing late last year. Signed copies of the book will be available for purchase at the meeting.

The Jackson Purchase Historical Society was founded in 1958 to promote interest,



study and preserve the regional history of the territory encompassed in the Chickasaw Purchase of 1818. It publishes the award-winning Jackson Purchase Historical Society Journal annually. The Society is especially interested in the his-

tory of all Kentucky counties west of the Tennessee River as well as Lake, Obion, Weakley, and Henry counties in Tennessee. Meetings are held four times per year at locations throughout the region. Membership is open to the public.

Information about the Society, future events, and membership is available at the meetings, online at [www.jacksonpurchase-history.org](http://www.jacksonpurchase-history.org) or on Facebook at Jackson Purchase Historical Society. ■

## Need Line lists updated items needed

### Special to the Ledger

Need Line has issued an updated request for items needed. They include peanut butter, tuna, salmon, chili, instant milk, canned pasta, fruit, Jiffy Corn Meal Mix, hot or cold cereal, pancake mix and syrup, eggs, milk, bread/buns, hot dogs, chicken, pork and beef and lunch meat.

Personal hygiene items are extremely low and needed are men and women's deodorant, bar soap, disposable razors, toilet tissue, laundry detergent, dish liquid, shampoo, diapers in sizes 4, 3-4T and 4-5T, Ziplock plastic storage bags (one and two gallon sizes) and hotel/travel size, shampoo, lotions, soap. Large brown bags and packing tape are also requested.

Need Line had 1,555 applicants for the month of December. The number of children receiving food weekly from the Back-Pack program was 305. Families who received Christmas baskets this year totaled 510.

Senior pick up food day is Thursday, Jan. 21 from 10:30 a.m. until noon.

The Need Line Board meeting will be Monday, Jan. 18 at 12:30 p.m. at the Need Line office.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is designed to provide nutritional information and supplement the nutritional needs of persons 60 or older. Some of the food items received would consist of meat, juice, milk, vegetables, fruit, peanut butter or dry beans, rice, potatoes or pasta, cereal and cheese. To be eligible for this program, you must be a resident in the county you apply, meet income guidelines and complete all paper work required. Apply at the Murray-Calloway County Need Line.

Need Line is located at 509 North Eighth Street and is open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Need Line is a United Way agency. For more information, call 270-753-6333. ■

## DATEBOOK



**Datebook**  
Martha  
Finney Andrus,  
Community  
editor

### Community dance planned

A community dance will be held Saturday, Jan. 16 from 6-9 p.m. (weather permitting) at the Murray Calloway County Senior Citizen's Center inside the Weaks Community Building, 607 Poplar. Live dance music will be performed by "Johnny B" including country line dancing, 50s-70s rock and pop. Tickets are \$3 per person at the door and refreshments will be available. All age adults are invited. Proceeds will benefit the Senior Citizen's Center. For more information, call 270-753-0929.

### Burns Supper scheduled

The West Kentucky Highland Society is having its annual Robert Burns Supper at the Murray Woman's Clubhouse at 704 Vine on Saturday, Jan. 23. The doors open at 6 p.m. and dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. For more information and to reserve seats through Paypal, visit [www.murraykyhighlandgames.com/robert-burns-dinner.html](http://www.murraykyhighlandgames.com/robert-burns-dinner.html). Cost per person is \$30 for the general public and \$25 for WKHS members who have attended two or more meetings this year. It is \$35 to join WKHS and attend the dinner.

### Eye surgeon to present seminar

Dr. Ming Wang, Nashville eye surgeon, will present a seminar on vision care at the Murray-Calloway County Senior Citizens Center on Thursday, Jan. 14 at 2 p.m. The community is invited to attend.

### Student federal aid workshop to be held

Calloway County High School will host a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) workshop for students, parents and the public to receive information regarding student financial aid. The workshop will be Thursday, Jan. 14 from 3:30-6:30 p.m. in the CCHS library. Representatives from Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), Kentucky Career Coaches, Gear Up and other will be available to provide information and assistance pertaining to completion of the FAFSA.

### Volunteer training offered for CC schools

Calloway County schools will have a volunteer training for parents or family members who would like to volunteer for the remainder of the school year. The first training will be Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 9 a.m. at the Calloway County Board of Education. The second training will be Thursday, Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. at the Calloway County Preschool Center. For additional information, contact Kym Hopkins at 270-762-7410.

### Open House at MWC scheduled

The Murray Woman's Club will host an Open House for prospective members on Sunday, Jan. 17 at 3 p.m. at the clubhouse. Women who are interested in joining the club are invited to attend and hear about projects and activities of the 10 departments of the club. An opportunity to join in January and pay half dues for the remainder of the club year is also available. For more information, contact Bobbi Weatherly at 270-759-4578.

### Authors' Group will meet Saturday

The Murray Authors' Support Group will meet Saturday, Jan. 16 at 1:30 p.m. at Brookdale of Murray. There will be a round table discussion. For more information, contact Bill Koenecke at [note-cardrings@gmail.com](mailto:note-cardrings@gmail.com).

### CCPL offers free computer classes

The Calloway County Public Library will offer free computer classes on Tuesday, Jan. 19 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Introduction to Microsoft PowerPoint and Thursday, Jan. 21 from 10-11 a.m. on 1-on-1 Technology Help. To register, call the library at 270-753-2288.

### VFW Post 6291 to meet Thursday

VFW Post 6291 will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. at the National Guard Armory. For more information, call Flenoy Barrow at 270-978-1052.

### March to be held Sunday

A pro-life and religious freedom march will take place on Sunday, Jan. 17, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and St. Leo Catholic Church. The march will begin at 12:30 p.m. from St. Leo's parking lot to Sycamore Street and return. If you do not wish to march, you may join in praying. After the march, soup and chili will be served in the Parish Center.

### Ladies Auxiliary VFW to meet

Ladies VFW Post 6291 will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. at the National Guard Armory. An informal meeting with the VFW Post 6291 will be at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Loretta Barrow at 270-489-2436.

### KY Lake Flotilla meeting planned

The U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's Kentucky Lake Flotilla will meet Thursday, Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m., at the Caring and Sharing Building behind and to the left of Glendale Road Church of Christ. Meetings are open to the public and interested boaters are invited to attend. Prior to the meeting, those interested are invited to eat at Sirloin Stockade at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call Bill Husfield, Flotilla Commander, 270-354-9966, or Beale Canon, 270-753-4934.

### Warming Center open

The Murray-Calloway County Warming Center is open through Feb. 28. Individuals and families are welcome but no pets. For information regarding overnight needs, call 270-753-6908 Monday - Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For those needing overnight shelter, please arrive at the St. John Episcopal facility before 9 p.m. unless prior arrangements have been made. For emergency assistance after 9 p.m., contact the local police department. For those needing a warm place to stay during the day between the hours of 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., contact Murray Family Church at 270-759-0800.

### Knit-wits will meet

The Knit-wits will meet Friday, Jan. 15 at 1 p.m. in the library of the Murray-Calloway County Senior Citizens Center. (Note change of location). Knitters and crocheters of all levels are welcome. For more information, call Dot at 270-293-5588.

### Cemetery seeking donations

Donations for the maintenance of North Pleasant Grove Cemetery may be sent to Julia Cain, 2200 Erwin Road, Murray, KY 42071.

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by D.K. Kelley

## Winter Clearance SALE

Congratulations to Kay Bell who won this week's \$50 giveaway.

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# Babies of 2015

- Actual Size -

Please fill out this form and mail it to:  
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or drop it off at the office located at  
1001 Whitnell Ave. in Murray.

Boy  Girl

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE: JAN. 22, 2016 AT 5 PM**  
Contact Nichi at 270-753-1916  
for more information!

**ONE SPACE: \$12**

**TWO SPACES: \$18**

**Sam Smith**  
September 8, 2015  
7 lbs • 12 oz • 21"  
Joe & Judy Smith

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## MISD handles housekeeping...

### From Front

have here," Rogers said.  
The Board heard from April Adams, the district's director of Food Services, who presented the Nutrition and Physical Activity Report Card for 2015. Adams reported that Food Services was able to serve 10,000 more lunches, 5,000 more breakfasts and 700 more snacks than the year before. Food Services received an increase of \$31,000 in federal reimbursement.  
Adams also reported that Food Services has introduced a Chinese option at Murray Middle School, as well as Murray High School. Food Services also changed the brand of pizza served based on a taste test with students.

Board members also elected officers and opted to re-elect the current officers in their positions. Richard Crouch remains chairman, Stuart Alexander will stay as vice chair, while Rogers as secretary position and Sarah Kaegi remains Treasurer.

Rogers proposed the draft budget for the 2016-17 school year which projected the same amount of funding as the previous year.

"The draft budget is just what it says, it's a draft. We don't have any idea what the legislators will do with setting the SEEK base (Support Education Excellence in Kentucky) for the next two years,"

Rogers said.

SEEK is the foundation program for legislative funding of public education. The General Assembly establishes a per-pupil amount of funding for each budget cycle, according to the Kentucky Department of Education.

"It's very difficult to make a budget without the number that determines about 70 percent of that budget. So we basically rolled over the budget from last year with the same base SEEK and basically, it's another \$16 million budget with 10 percent of that being contingency."

Rogers went on to say that more information would be available in March, when the tentative budget will be made.

The Board also approved the proposed 2016-2017 school calendar, with some contingency regarding the first day of school.

"There is at least one bill before the legislature that could impact the starting day. Senate Bill 50 would prevent schools from starting classes earlier than the Monday closest to Aug. 26," Rogers said. "This is a tourism bill so that students and families will have more time to take vacations."

"Historically, it's been presented and historically, it's been declined, so it's a possibility we will keep in mind but won't count on."

The Board also approved the non-resident contracts for the 2016-2017 school year. ■



Photo provided  
The Murray Independent School District Board of Education consists of, from left, Dr. Richard Crouch, chair, Stuart Alexander, Mark Vinson, Donnie Winchester and Laura Pitman. Board members were recognized Tuesday night during the January monthly meeting that also came during Kentucky's School Board Recognition Month.

## BREAKFAST...

### From Front

despite its small stature. This included being named one of the top 10 towns in America in 2015 by Fodor's Travel for shopping for antique, having just opened a new store in the past two months. Sassy Girl's Antiques.

"We have 13 retail stores and they're all having to do with antiques," Vasseur told the audience gathered inside the Murray Room of the CFSB Center on the Murray State University campus.

"The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce has its Four Pillars of Prosperity that it promotes (healthy, skilled workforce, sustainable state government, 21st century infrastructure and aggressive job creation) and we try to follow that, but we are restricted in what we can do."

"We do have just a \$70,000 budget, yet we did cut taxes by 6 percent just a short time ago. I was trying to get (President Barack) Obama to follow my lead on that last one, but it hasn't happened yet."

Still, Hazel has had some economic windfalls. Vasseur mentioned that Stateline Western Wear invested \$100,000 in a rodeo arena, while an entrepreneur named Jim Cunningham came from Florida more than a year ago and invested \$250,000 in developing a seemingly unusable building into the Hazel Antique Mall and Memory Lane shop.

"That turned out to really be good for the city," Vasseur said, also noting the arrival of The Murray Bank in 2013 after the town had lost its only bank branch. "A lot of cities, when that happens, just kind of dry up, they kind of collapse. Well, Hazel held on and (Murray Bank CEO Bob Hargrove) and his people have done very good job."

Other aspects Elkins covered Tuesday included a desire to see county government have more of a say in an effort to revitalize downtown Murray with the suggestions that the city quit delegating duties and responsibilities to non-elected boards and commissions, repealing the historic district ordinance and allowing property and business owners to remodel or build buildings that meet their needs.

He listed other priorities for this year being repairs to the county road system and increasing efforts on property maintenance.

Rose lauded the efforts of Mayor's Committee to Enhance Business Process & Planning that was formed in May.

"This is something I was talking about when I was campaigning for mayor because I felt this was something that really needed to be looked at. I think everyone did an outstanding job and have gained a clear direction for

importance of this project. They're not foolish about this and they recognize the benefit this will be to the whole area."

Elkins said he has had two meetings with Henry County's mayor (which is Tennessee's equivalent office to judge/executive in Kentucky) and we're going to have another, I guess you could call it a summit or something like that, with their people soon to talk about this some more."

Elkins said he has also been promised by Calloway County's two state legislators - 5th District state Rep. Kenny Imes (R-Murray) and 1st District state Sen. Stan Humphries (R-Cadiz) - that they will do what they can in this session to secure the funding needed to get the project back on the books.

He said there was major planning for the project by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet from 2000-02 and, from 2002-14 funding was in the six-year plan of state road projects, but in 2014, he said meaningful funding was removed from that plan.

Since then, several organizations have supported the 641 South project with such measures as resolutions and rankings, including the project's four-laning to Hazel and establishing a bridge over the Clarks River aspects being ranked No. 5 and No. 6 in the state last year.

"As I've seen, though, resolutions and rankings and such don't get the job done," he said.

Rose also mentioned that a special appropriation of \$500,000 was used for 5.2 miles of paving since July, which matched the total of 2013, 2014 and the first part of 2015 combined. ■

us," Rose said.

Several recommendations have come from those meetings that surrounded five primary themes - improving City Hall experience for customers, an examination of the sign ordinance in the city, improving consistency to answers City Hall gave regarding process and next steps for businesses, online payments and looking at ordinances closer.

Rose also said the city has saved more than \$250,000 from organizational restructuring and gained another \$250,000-plus through stricter enforcement of the city sticker program.

Rose also forcefully discussed two other issues.  
"The tax rate of 42.6 cents per \$100 assessment is the highest in the state for a city of our size. That will not go up as long as I'm mayor," he said, adding that 1.65 cents of that 42.6 cents is dedicated to a police and fire pension fund. "We're not going to raid that fund."

"I'll also put this on the table today. I'm opposed to Sunday (alcohol) sales."

Rose also repeated, also with force, a previous statement in regards to the issue of hours in the city for alcohol sales. Thursday night, the City Council will vote on second reading on a proposed motion to have restaurants and taverns in the city both close at 1 a.m.

"Once this is voted on, that's it. It's not coming up again as long as I'm mayor," he said.

Rose also praised MFD and MPD who combined to obtain a total of \$360,000 in grant funds the past year.

Rose also mentioned that a special appropriation of \$500,000 was used for 5.2 miles of paving since July, which matched the total of 2013, 2014 and the first part of 2015 combined. ■

# PEPPERS

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MORGAN WILLIAMS / Ledger & Times  
Tommy Schultz, 13, works on the robot that the team will take to the state competition on Feb. 9. The robot on the left was renamed "El Robotic" after some of the students started learning Spanish.

## ■ SPARC group blends...

### From Front

few, but most of the kids are returning to compete at state again this year," said Stephanie Holcomb, coach and parent. "Last year, we won the Grand Championship at the Regional level and we went on to state to learn a lot up there."

Holcomb said that the competition is a worldwide Science-Technology-Engineering-Math (STEM) event for students ages 9-14 years, which encourages them to begin thinking like innovators within a framework of core values like teamwork, cooperation and professionalism.

"The challenges are more difficult at state, the judges are a lot harder on the kids," Holcomb said. "The kids are judged on their robots' design as well as a project that they have to present in five minutes. This year, it's a skit in the form of a game show."

"With the project, they have to solve a real-world problem and come up with an original idea and present a lot of information very quickly."

The competitions have different themes each year, including Nature's Fury, Food Factor and World Class: Learning Unleashed.

"This year, the theme of the competition was Trash Trek, which required the students to follow a trash stream and find a way to change or improve the way it is currently handled," Holcomb said.

She added that their project had to do with how to handle waste and they did research on plastic recycling in Calloway County, and they found that there is no real market for the plastic recycling and the program is not permanent due to its lack of financial sustainability.

"They found that you can take plastic and melt it, turning it into a reusable fuel source, equivalent to diesel," Holcomb said. "We actually ran into one of the judges at regionals whose research was focused on this kind of fuel and the students were able to go and see the reactors after the regional tournament."

"The students also designed and programmed a robot using

Lego Mindstorms technology to complete missions on a themed playing surface," Holcomb said. "They competed with other teams for points in the robot matches."

"The competition is important but First Lego League really emphasizes the teamwork within your team and with other teams," Holcomb said. "At state, our light sensor wasn't working and another team let us borrow theirs for our competition."

Upon asking some of the students about their favorite part about Lego League, each had their own reason they were excited to be learning and working together.

"My favorite part is the skit because everybody works in it and my main part is to be on the phone and it's really funny," said Caroline Mattingly, 9.

"When you have eight Lego bricks, you can put them together in endless possibilities and so there's almost nothing that you can't create with Legos," said Asher Cunningham, 12. "Plus, when you do robotics you can make them move and do stuff.

It's really fun to see them do things that you've been trying to make them do for a few months."

"My favorite thing about the Legos is the programming because you can get your robot to do what you want it to do," said Tommy Schultz, 13.

Each of the students agreed that they were excited, but also little nervous whether it was their first year on the team or not.

The SPARC Robotics team has a nine-year old member and a 14-year old member, and seven other members that span the range of ages in between.

"All of our kids are home-schooled and they're all friends," Holcomb laughed. "Cooperation and teamwork are traits emphasized by the activity itself and although it becomes harder to relate to one another as the kids' age differs, they all get along great." ■

## Pentagon: 2 US Navy boats held by Iran, will be returned

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**  
and **MATTHEW LEE**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran was holding 10 U.S. Navy sailors and their two small boats that drifted into Iranian waters after experiencing mechanical problems. Iran accused the sailors of trespassing but American officials said Tehran has assured them that the crew and vessels will be returned safely and promptly.

The sailors, nine men and one woman, were being held overnight at an Iranian base on Farsi Island in the Persian Gulf, and were expected to be transferred to a U.S. ship in the region on Wednesday morning local time. Officials said they believe the U.S. had spoken to one of the crew, and all 10 were fine and uninjured.

Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook told The Associated Press that the Riverine boats were moving between Kuwait and Bahrain when the U.S. lost contact with them.

U.S. officials said that the incident happened near Farsi Island in the middle of the Gulf. They said some type of mechanical trouble with one of the boats caused them to drift into Iranian territorial waters near the island, and they were picked up by Iran.

The semi-official Iranian news agency, FARS, said the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's navy has detained 10 foreign forces, believed to be Americans, and said the sailors were trespassing in Iranian waters.

"We have been in contact with Iran and have received assurances that the crew and the vessels will be returned promptly," Cook said.

The incident came amid heightened tensions with Iran, and only hours before President Barack Obama was set to deliver his final State of the Union address to Congress and the public. It set off a dramatic series of calls and meetings as U.S. officials tried to determine the exact status of the crew and reach out to Iranian leaders.

Secretary of State John Kerry, who forged a personal relationship with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif through three years of nuclear negotiations, called Zarif immediately on learning of the incident, according to a senior U.S. official. Kerry "personally engaged with Zarif on this issue to try to get to this outcome," the official said.

Kerry learned of the incident around 12:30 p.m. EST as he and Defense Secretary Ash Carter were meeting their Filipino counterparts at the State Department, the official said.

Officials said the sailors were part of Riverine Squadron 1 based in San Diego and were deployed to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet in Bahrain. When the U.S. lost contact with the boats, ships attached to the USS Harry S. Truman aircraft carrier strike group began searching the area, along with aircraft flying off the Truman.

Officials said a radio signal from one of the boats showed that they were on Farsi Island, setting off efforts to contact the Iranians. The Riverine boats were not part of the carrier strike group, and were on a training mission as they traveled between Kuwait and Bahrain, officials said.

The Riverine boats are not considered high-tech and don't contain any sensitive equipment, so there were no concerns about the Iranians gaining access to the crafts.

The officials were not authorized to discuss the sensitive incident publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity.

Republican lawmakers seized on the incident as further evidence that Iran is not to be trusted. The House was scheduled to vote Wednesday on GOP-backed legislation that would give Congress greater oversight of the landmark Iran nuclear agreement, which Republicans have derided as a victory for Tehran.

Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., said it was "unthinkable that the administration would lift sanctions and permit Iran to receive billions of dollars in sanctions relief under the nuclear agreement, even as the regime brazenly violates its international obligations and rushes to develop the ballistic missile capability to deliver a potential nuclear weapon to the United States."

The incident came on the heels of an incident in late December when Iran launched a rocket test near U.S. warships and boats passing through the Strait of Hormuz.

Meanwhile, Iran was expected to satisfy the terms of last summer's nuclear deal in just days. Once the U.N. nuclear agency confirms Iran's actions to roll back its program, the United States and other Western powers are obliged to suspend wide-ranging oil, trade and financial sanctions on Tehran. Kerry recently said the deal's implementation was "days away." ■

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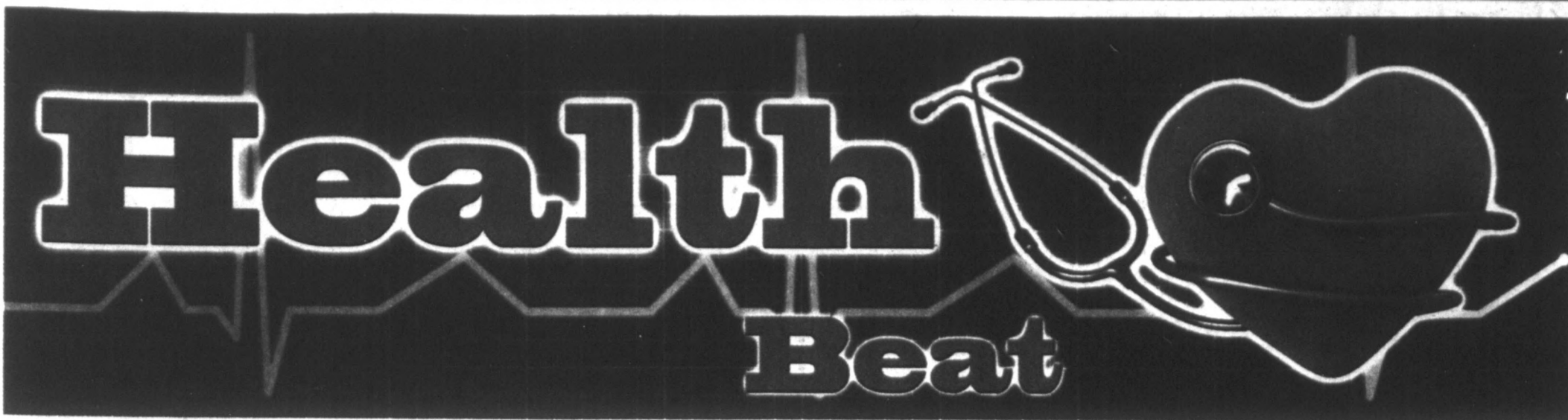
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# Title, Gold, Presenting sponsors for 2016 Murray Half unveiled

**Special to The Ledger**  
**Pinnacle, Inc.**, a general contracting firm that provides complete construction services for commercial, industrial and institutional projects, has continued their support of the Murray Half Marathon as the Title Sponsor of the 2016 race.

Located in Benton, Ky., Pinnacle was incorporated in 1995 and serves all of western Kentucky and northwest Tennessee. They have completed a wide variety of projects for several different owners, both public and private. Several of these projects include facilities for Murray-Calloway County Hospital. Projects include the central energy plant, acute rehabilitation unit and portions of the new south tower, including the hybrid operating room. Pinnacle is a member of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), AGC of Western KY, Contractors Health and Safety Excellence partnership with KY-OSH (CHASE), American Institute of Constructors (AIC) and International Polished Concrete Institute (IPCI). Pinnacle also has several employees that hold the certification of Certified Healthcare Contractors as acknowledged by the Kentucky Society of Healthcare Engineers.

"We are very excited and honored to have the opportunity to be the Title Sponsor of this year's Murray Half Marathon," said Craig Schwettman, vice president, Pinnacle, Inc. "Most people do not fully recognize the direct impact this event has on the community of Murray. Projects, such as the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House, are made possible partly due to the proceeds from the Murray Half Marathon. To see a major project of this magnitude be 100% funded by donations speaks volumes of this community. It is truly an honor to be a

part of projects and events, such as these, that promote growth of this community."

"Pinnacle has been a long-time supporter of the Endowment, the hospital and the Murray Half Marathon and I think it's wonderful they are continuing their sponsorship to take on the role of Title Sponsor," said Keith Travis, Vice President of Development for MCCH.

Revenue Recovery Corporation, a Knoxville-based collections and receivables management company, has signed on as the Gold Sponsor of the 2015 Murray Half Marathon.

Revenue Recovery began in 1933 and in 2000 adopted its current name. The staff offer third-party collection, outsourcing and information technology services, as well as legal, insurance and skiptracing services.

"RRC and our employees are honored to sponsor the 2016 Murray Half Marathon," said Gregg Swersky, president. "Having experienced the wonderful care from a local Hospice unit during my fathers' passing, I am happy to support this wonderful organization!"

McConnell Insurance Agency, a life and health insurance provider, has kept their support of the Murray Half Marathon as the Presenting Sponsor of the 2016 race.

With offices in Murray and Paducah, McConnell Insurance Agency was founded in 1965 by Jerry McConnell with the goal of providing prompt, quality service. The agency serves Kentucky and Tennessee with agents throughout the state and a knowledgeable support staff to assist clients by providing guidance and practical solutions.

"McConnell Insurance is proud to be a supporter of the Murray Half Marathon. Year after year it reaches more and more people who see our com-

munity and the great work MCCH does," said John McConnell, president.

"Our mission and values of health and wellness are aligned with McConnell Insurance and we are pleased to see them increase their level of support," Travis said.

This year marks the sixth annual Murray Half Marathon, which is organized by the Murray Calloway Endowment for Healthcare at Murray-Calloway County Hospital, and raises funds to support the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House. The facility will offer end-of-life care in a home-like setting to area residents in partnership with MCCH's existing Hospice unit.

The 2016 Murray Half Marathon is scheduled for April 16, 2016 and will begin in front of the hospital on Poplar Street. This year the new course will include running past the Anna Mae Owen Hospice House. In addition to the 13.1 mile course, a 5K and Half Marathon Relay are also available. At the 2015 event, \$50,000 was raised from sponsors and the 750 runners who participated. The event also brings in countless support from local volunteers.

For more information on McConnell Insurance, visit [www.McConnellInsurance.com](http://www.McConnellInsurance.com). For more information on the Murray Half Marathon and how to become a sponsor, visit [www.MurrayHalfMarathon.org](http://www.MurrayHalfMarathon.org). For more information on the Murray Calloway Endowment for Healthcare, visit [www.MCCHendowment.org](http://www.MCCHendowment.org).



Ledger & Times file photos

ABOVE: The start of the 2015 Murray Half Marathon.



LEFT: Murray-Calloway County Hospital CEO Jerry Penner, far left, is shown with 2015 Murray Half Marathon female winner Marion Kande, overall winner Daniel Kirwa and John McConnell of race sponsor McConnell Insurance.

## MCCH Wellness Center host Open House Jan. 23

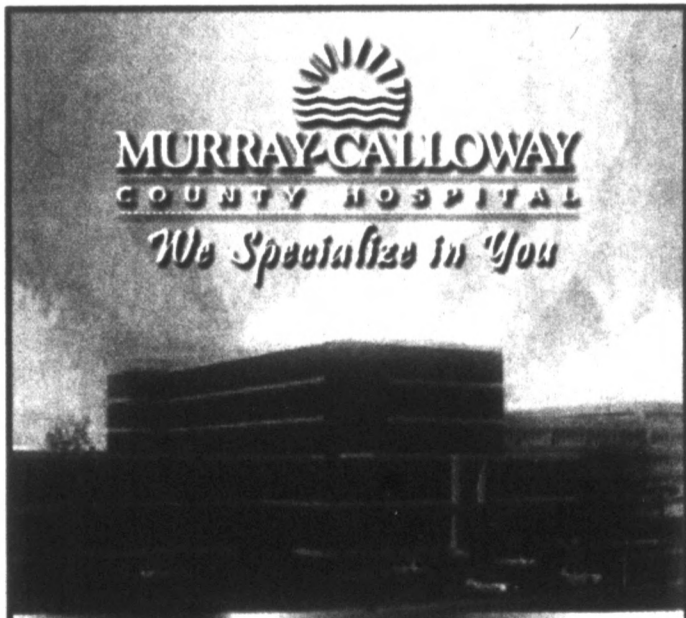
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The public is invited to learn about good wellness habits and receive free health screenings during a New Year Open House at the Center for Health and Wellness on Saturday, Jan. 23 from 8 - 10 a.m.

The Wellness Center is kicking off the first community campaign of the Calloway County Wellness Consortium, Rethink Your Drink, with free giveaways, a free 10-minute chair massage and free health screenings: body mass index, waist circumference and hemoglobin A1C blood draw (3 month average blood sugar, no fasting required). The Calloway County Wellness Consortium's Obesity Workgroup has a 5 year strategic plan titled "Lighten Up Calloway". The Rethink Your Drink campaign challenges individuals to decrease liquid sugar consumption over a three week period.

Guided tours of the facility will include the fitness floor (includes treadmills, elliptical cross-trainers, stationary bikes, strength equipment and free weights), gymnasium, five-lane swimming pool and locker rooms. In addition, guests may work out free of charge this day and the regular joining fee for the Center will be waived with a 6-month contract.

For more information, call (270) 762-1348.



**Murray-Calloway County Hospital is seeking qualified individuals to become a member of the MCCH Board of Trustees.**

Interested applicants can send their resume to Judge Executive Larry Elkins, Mayor Jack Rose, or submit their resume to Hazel Morton, Executive Assistant, at [hmorton@murrayhospital.org](mailto:hmorton@murrayhospital.org).

For more information call 270.762.1102.

All resumes will be reviewed by the Board Member Nominating Committee.

Deadline for receipt of resumes is January 22, 2016.

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## HEARING TECHNOLOGY EVENT

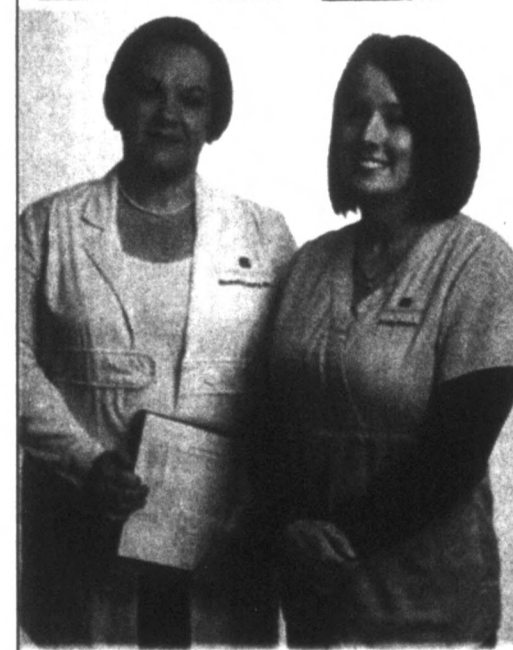
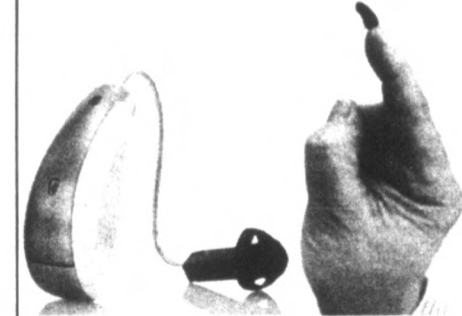
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