



Partly Sunny, high 77

### BUDDY WALK

Down Syndrome awareness event draws more than 1,000 people/1B



### CARDINALS ADVANCE

St. Louis finishes off Padres, will face New York in NLCS/1C



NFL: Undefeated Colts rally in fourth quarter, turn back winless Titans/1C

# MESSENGER-INQUIRER

## North Korea: Nuke test a success

### South raises military's alert level; U.N. expected to discuss issue today



**By Burt Herman**  
Associated Press  
SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said today it had performed its first-ever nuclear weapons test, setting off an underground blast in defiance of international warnings and intense diplomatic activity aimed at heading off such a move. The North Korean statement said there was no radioactive leakage from the test site.

An official at South Korea's seismic monitoring center confirmed a magnitude-3.6 tremor felt at the time North Korea said it conducted the test was not a natural occurrence. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition his name not be used, because he was not authorized to talk about the sensitive information in the media. Australia also said there was seismic confirmation that North Korea

conducted a nuclear test. However, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that information still needs to be collected and analyzed to determine whether North Korea truly conducted its first nuclear test. Japan's top government spokesman said if confirmed, the North Korean test would pose a serious threat to the stability in the region and a provocation.

China, the closest ally of the North and its leader Kim Jong Il, said Beijing "resolutely opposes" the North Korean nuclear test and hopes Pyongyang will return to disarmament talks. U.S. and South Korean officials could not immediately confirm the report. South Korea's Defense Ministry said the alert level of the military had been raised in response to the

claimed nuclear test. The U.N. Security Council is expected to discuss the reported North Korean test today, and the United States and Japan are likely to press for a resolution imposing additional sanctions on Pyongyang. A resolution adopted in July after a series of North Korean missile launches imposed limited sanctions on North Korea and demanded that the reclusive communist nation suspend its ballistic missile program — a demand the North immediately rejected. **See Nuke/Page 2A**

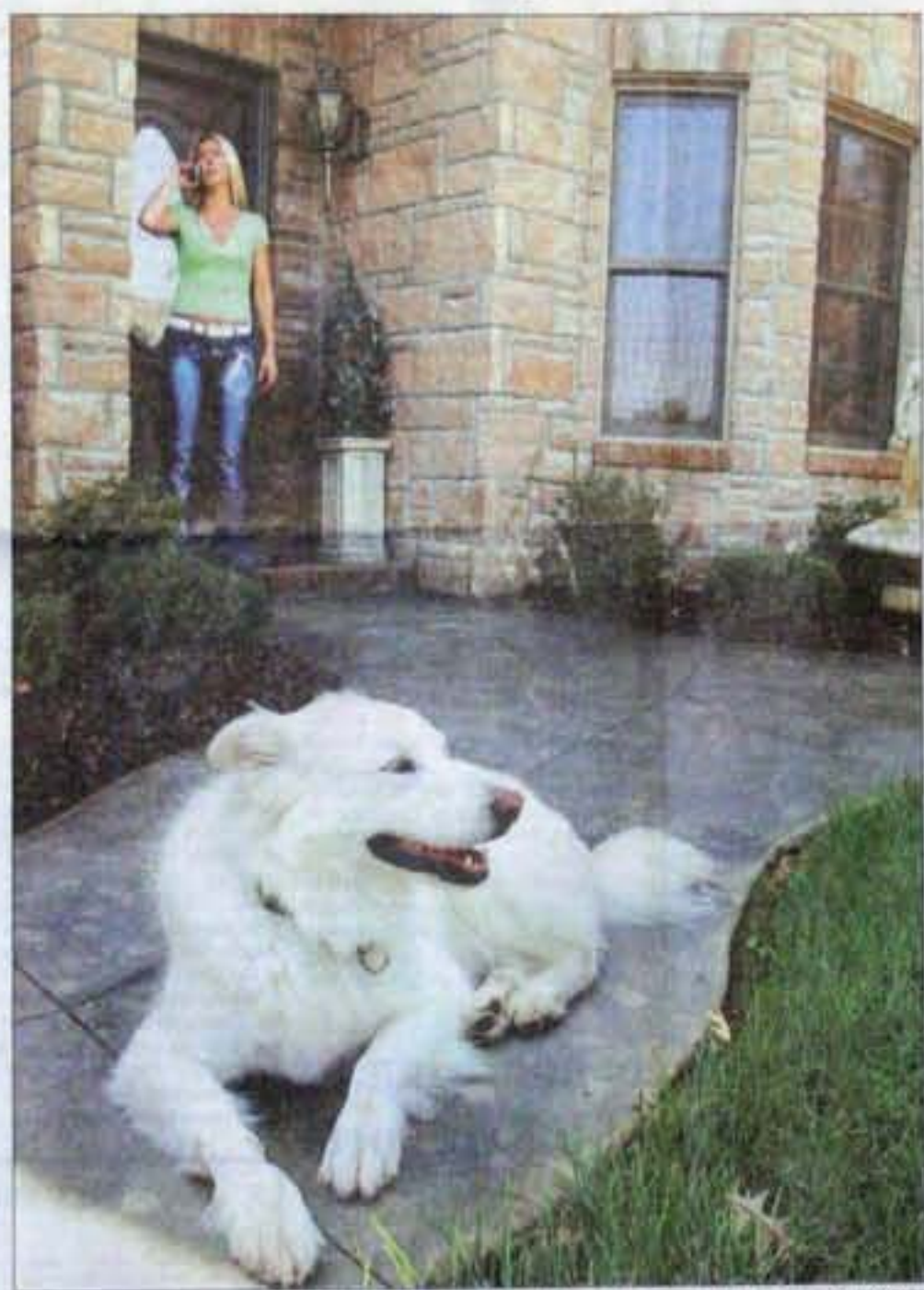
## Survey: Young workers lack key skills

**By Joy Campbell**  
Messenger-Inquirer  
Business leaders are concerned that new employees are lacking important skills such as teamwork, critical thinking and communication. Those concerns are fleshed out in a national survey released this month and are mirrored in a local survey and face-to-face conversations with local business leaders, officials said. "It is clear from the (national) report that greater communication and collaboration between the business sector and educators is critical to ensure that young people are prepared to enter the workplace of the 21st century," said Richard Cavanagh, president and CEO of The Conference Board, one of the organizations in the consortium that conducted the national survey.

The good news is the Owensboro region is ahead of the curve in addressing employers' concerns, local officials said. "These findings aren't a surprise," said Helen Mountjoy, executive vice president of the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corp. "We are already poised to take care of that and already have that communication and collaboration through The Greater Owensboro Education Alliance p-16 Council, the Higher Education Advocacy group, the work of the Citizens Committee (on Education) and The Learning Community." The workplace findings are similar but not as detailed in the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Policy and Local Issues Survey. "That lack of soft skills is very much mirrored in what we're hearing from local employers," chamber president Jody Wassner said.

**See Skills/Page 2A**

### Where's Waldo? Showing houses, of course



Paula Hedden talks to a co-worker as Waldo waits Tuesday on the sidewalk of the model home in the Tanglewood Park subdivision where Hedden and Benny Clark are currently living.

## SUPER SELLER

**By Joanie Baker**  
Messenger-Inquirer  
After his initial warm greeting, he never says a word to prospective buyers as he gives them tours of the model homes in the developing Tanglewood Park neighborhood off Kentucky 54. And he doesn't have to. Because in the past year, assistant sales and marketing manager Waldo has earned close to \$500,000 in commission sales working at Homes by Benny Clark. Not to mention several thousands in belly

rubs and a few hundred in pizza slices. For the past year, the 70-pound white mutt has been showing the homes that he has been inspecting every morning since construction began. Waldo's co-worker, sales manager Jeff Anderson, said Waldo is gifted at breaking the tension many people feel when shopping for a house. More important, Anderson said, Waldo makes them feel as though they're walking into a home instead of just a model house. Paula Hedden, interior decorator and

**See Super/Page 2A**



Waldo follows local builder Benny Clark around the Tanglewood Park subdivision Tuesday, demonstrating how the animal likes to ride and/or follow the golf cart while showing houses.

## ELECTION 2006: DAVIESS COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE Haire making bid for re-election against Moreland

**By James Mayse**  
Messenger-Inquirer

Daviess County Judge-Executive Reid Haire says the county has taken bold steps forward in the past four years. While challenges remain, Haire said Fiscal Court members can be proud of their work. Steve Moreland, however, has a very different view of the county's — and Haire's — performance. Moreland, a Republican who is challenging Haire for the judge-executive's position, says both Owensboro and Daviess County governments are immoral. During an interview in late September, Moreland lashed out again and again at what he perceives to be the city and county's efforts to bring casino gambling to Owensboro. "The government directly and indirectly ... have been promoting economic growth by promoting casino-style gambling," Moreland, 51, said. "The Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce has been misleading businesses in this community ... to believe gambling is a good economic tool. There's a government/gambling alliance that is going to be broken up if Moreland is elected," Moreland said. "We need to start some healthy businesses. To begin with we need to get some leaders with morals and decency." Haire, 58, first took office in 1999. The salary for county judge-executives is set by state statute and is based on county population. In 2006, Haire's salary was \$94,000. Haire, a Democrat, said Fiscal Court in recent years built a fire station in eastern Daviess County, built the new county operations center and began work on Horse Fork Creek park. The passage

**Reid Haire**  
Address: 1742 Mallard Place  
Age: 58  
Political party: Democrat  
Occupation: Daviess County judge-executive  
Education: Bachelor of arts in political science, Bellarmine College, 1970.  
Elected offices held: Daviess County judge-executive since 1999.  
Family: Daughters Christy Gross, Shannon Janquart and Lori Haire.



**Steve Moreland**  
Address: 1700 W. Fourth St.  
Age: 51  
Political party: Republican  
Occupation: Moreland Services, a lawn care service.  
Education: Owensboro High School, Trinity Baptist College  
Elected offices held: None.  
Family: Mother, Rebecca Hawes Moreland.



**About This Series**  
Throughout October, the Messenger-Inquirer will bring you daily articles on the candidates running for office in the Nov. 7 elections in Daviess, Hancock, McLean, Muhlenberg and Ohio counties, as well as state and federal races. Today we profile the candidates for Daviess County judge-executive and Hancock County clerk. Tuesday's articles will look at the race for Daviess Fiscal Court, eastern district and provide a roundup of races in Hancock County.

## More competition may drive up voter turnout

**By Owen Covington**  
Messenger-Inquirer  
During the 1999 spring primary elections, only about one in 20 registered Kentucky voters cast a ballot. The general election that November, with an incumbent governor and five candidates for statewide offices running unopposed, did little more to generate interest on Election Day, as only 20 percent of those registered showed up to vote. With few competitive state races and an off-year election with no federal contests, Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson said he's not sure that he even voted that year. "Turnout was terrible that year," Grayson said last week. "A

**See Turnout/Page 3A**

**INDEX**

Astrology/4B    Dear Abby/3B  
Classified/    Kids Scoop/4B  
1-4D            Movies/1D  
Comics/5C      Opinions/5A  
Computing/6A    Records/2B  
Crossword/3D    Television/1D

'The Departed' gets weekend's top spot at box office/1D

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