

NEWS/OBITUARIES

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Poll: Congress approval still low

By JIM KUHNHENN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Three months after a power shifting election, a majority of Americans still disapproves of Congress, a sign of public impatience with the new Democratic majority even among party loyalists.

Still, an Associated Press-Ipsos poll conducted this week shows that Congress' public image has improved slowly but steadily since the November elections when Iraq, corruption and partisan fighting drove congressional approval ratings below those of President Bush.

According to the poll, 65 percent of those surveyed disapprove of the way the president is handling his job, slightly up from his disapproval ratings last month. As for Congress, 58 percent disapproved of the work of lawmakers, a slight decrease from last month and a 14 percentage-point decrease from congressional disapproval last October.

Democrats ran on a message of changing the country's direction on the war and domestic policies, but Congress is still trying to find its voice on Iraq and legislation at the top of the Democratic agenda has yet to make its way through the Capitol and to the president's desk.

Even a majority of Democrats — 52 percent — disapprove of the work of Congress, indicating a desire for quicker action from the new Democratic management. Just 39 percent of Democrats approved of Congress, though that rating is a significant improvement from the 9 percent who approved in October.

The poll of 1,000 adults was conducted Feb. 5-7.

It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

AP-IPSOS POLL

Bush's approval rating

The majority of people polled disapprove of President Bush's handling of his job and domestic policy issues.

Approve Disapprove

... handling his job

32% 65%

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

34% 58%

NOTE: Poll of 1,000 adults taken February 5-7, 2007; margin of error ± 3.1 percent for all adults; "mixed feelings" and "not sure" were omitted.

GREENWOOD N. Franklin Burnett

N. Franklin Burnett, 74, died Feb. 2, 2007. He was a longtime resident of Greenwood.

Survivors include his wife, Pauline (Von Axelson) Burnett; a son, Gregory Randall (Renee) Burnett Sr. of Inverness, Ill., and Greenwood; two daughters, Sandra Lee (Bob) Shirley of Greenwood and Janet Lynn (Dave) Shipley of Huntingburg; and six grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse Patrick and Ruth (Griffith) Burnett.

A memorial service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Feb. 17 at All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56th St. in Indianapolis. Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service and Crematory, Greenwood Chapel, is handling arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division, 6030 W. 62nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46278.

Information: www.wilsonstpierre.com

FRANKLIN Virginia (Fisher) Coleman

Virginia (Fisher) Coleman, 78, died Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2007, at Johnson Memorial Hospital in Franklin. She was a resident of Franklin and a former resident of Madison.

Mrs. Coleman entered this life March 26, 1928, in Long Island City, N.Y., the daughter of Charles Benjamin and Alice (Azerski) Fisher, both of whom preceded her in death. She was raised in Newtonville, Mass., and graduated from school there.

She was united in marriage June 22, 1952, in Newtonville to Perry L. Coleman. Two daughters arrived to bless this union. She moved to Madison in 1952 and resided there until she and her husband moved to Franklin in 2005.

Mrs. Coleman, with her husband, Perry, established Coleman Printing Co. in downtown Madison in 1957. They later relocated the business to the hilltop in Madison and continued operations until retiring in 1998.

She enjoyed traveling and collecting antiques. She helped found the Madison Ohio Valley Arts Council. She was active in the Madison Area Chamber of Commerce. She helped found Save The Valley, a group organized to fight power plants. She was a charter member of Psi Iota Xi sorority in Madison and was a longtime active member and reader in the Christian Science Church.

She is survived by a daughter, Nancy Helton, and her husband, Jeffrey, of Greenwood; a son-in-

Edinburgh
James A. Farr, 78
Franklin
Virginia Coleman, 78
Greenwood
N. Franklin Burnett, 74
Trafalgar
Floyd R. Richardson, 85
Indianapolis
Alma L. Showecker, 68
Elsewhere
James L. Pickett Sr., 65

law, Curtis A. Tucker of Sulfur; and two grandsons, Todd Coleman Tucker and Hank Anthony Tucker.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Perry L. Coleman, on April 10, 2005; and her daughter, Karen Tucker, on Nov. 24, 1997.

Kathy Millican will conduct a service at 2 p.m. Sunday at Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison. Friends may call from 1 p.m. until service time Sunday at the funeral center. Burial will be at Springdale Cemetery in Madison.

The family requests memorials in memory of Virginia to the American Heart Association. Contribution cards are available through the funeral home.

Online condolences may be sent to the family via the funeral home's Web site at www.morgan-nay.com.

EDINBURGH James A. Farr

James A. Farr, 78, died Thursday, Feb. 8, 2007, at Hospice of South Central Indiana inpatient facility in Columbus. He was a resident of Edinburgh in Shelby County.

He was born Dec. 31, 1928, in Edinburgh to Roy and Margaret (Sweeney) Farr. They preceded him in death.

He married Alberta Teeters on May 17, 1952. She survives. Other survivors include two sons, Bob Farr of Warrensburg, Ill., and Joe Farr of Sunman; a daughter, Roberta Johnson of Union, Ky.; a brother, Roy Farr of Edinburgh; nine grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by a sister.

He graduated from Edinburgh High School.

He was a member of Edinburgh First Christian Church for more than 50 years.

He was a salesman for Gordon Foods for 30 years and then worked in maintenance for the city of Franklin, retiring in 1994.

He was an avid fisherman.

The Rev. Phillip Farnsley will conduct a service at 11 a.m. Monday at Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home, 302 E. Main Cross St. in Edinburgh. Friends may call from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Rest Haven Cemetery in Edinburgh.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice of South Central Indiana, 2626 E. 17th St., Columbus, IN 47201.

TERRE HAUTE James L. Pickett Sr.

James L. Pickett Sr., 65, died Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007. He was a resident of Terre Haute and a former resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include his former wife, Charlotte Pickett; three children, Shonda, Mark and James L. Pickett Jr.; two grandchildren; a sister, Joann Harman; a brother, Danny Pickett; and three stepsisters, Jackie Sumner, Janice Tunis and Juanita Owens.

A funeral service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Monday at Flanner & Buchanan Washington Park East Funeral Center, 10722 E. Washington St., Indianapolis. Friends may call from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral center. Burial will be at Washington Park East Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Information: www.flannerbuchanan.com

TRAFALGAR Floyd Raymond Richardson

Floyd Raymond Richardson, 85, of Trafalgar, passed away Thursday, Feb. 8, 2007.

Born Jan. 11, 1922, in Peoga, he was the son of Ernest O. and Minnie (Cochran) Richardson, who preceded him in death.

Mr. Richardson was retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 30 years and also retired from being a farmer after 30 years.

He was a World War II Army Air Forces veteran and a member of Mount Olive United Church of Peoga and the American Legion.

Survivors include his wife, Rosemary (McMurray) Richardson, whom he married Aug. 17, 1946, in Indianapolis; two daughters, Marilyn (Paul) Janzaruk and Debbie (Phil) Harvey; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday in G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home, 1605 S. State Road 135, Greenwood, with entombment at Washington Park East Cemetery in Indianapolis. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may

take the form of donations to the Mark Fuchs Scholarship Fund, c/o Garfield Park United Church of Christ, 743 E. Pleasant Run Parkway South Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46203.

INDIANAPOLIS Alma L. Showecker

Alma L. Showecker, 68, died Friday, Feb. 9, 2007. She was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include three daughters, Peggy (Dan) Johnson of Beech Grove, Ramona (Joe) Smallman of Indianapolis and Grace (Randy) Hall of Princeton; two sons, Robert (Linda) and Ramon (Teresa) Showecker II, both of Indianapolis; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; a companion, Jim Coffman of Indianapolis; and sisters, Norma Jean Lovelace of Beech Grove and Delores Helen Showecker of Indianapolis.

She was preceded in death by her husband, G. Ramon Showecker; a daughter, Mary Showecker; and her parents, Harold W. and Grace L. (Masters) Pease.

A service will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Singleton Community Mortuary and Memorial Center, 7602 Madison Ave. in Indianapolis.

Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday at the mortuary. Burial will be at New Crown Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 6030 W. 62nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46278.

Information: www.singletonmortuary.com

Obituary policy

The Daily Journal will publish free death notices for Johnson County area residents, former residents and close relatives of area residents.

A free death notice contains basic information, including details about visitation and services, memorial contributions and some survivors.

Families who want to include more information or include a photograph can purchase a custom obituary. Additional information may include memberships, employment, education and additional survivors.

The custom obituaries on this page have been paid for.

The Daily Journal takes obituary information from funeral homes. All obituaries must be verified with funeral homes before publication.

The deadline for submitting obituaries to the Daily Journal is 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Sundays, the deadline is 1 p.m.

Officials investigate death of celebrity

Medicine found in Smith's Florida hotel room

By CURT ANDERSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DANIA BEACH, Fla.

Prescription drugs were found in Anna Nicole Smith's hotel room, but there were no pills in her stomach, and investigators said Friday they are awaiting tests that would tell whether the former centerfold died of an overdose, as some close to her suspect.



SMITH

Dr. Joshua Perper, the Broward County medical examiner, said no illegal drugs were found in her room at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, Fla. He would not identify the prescription drugs.

But CNN quoted an unidentified law enforcement source as saying investigators found a large amount of prescription medicine, including Valium and antibiotics, and over-the-counter cold and flu medication.

Perper said there were no pills in Smith's stomach and no other immediate indication of an overdose, but officials "do not exclude any kind of contribution of medication to the death."

Describing signs of inflamma-

tion in Smith's heart, Perper said he saw "something which looks a little bit unusual," but added, "It may be nothing."

He said it would take three to five weeks to conclude the investigation.

Seminole Police Chief Charlie Tiger said there was no indication Smith was the victim of a crime, and Perper said the autopsy was able to exclude any types of physical injury such as blows to the body or asphyxiation.

"There are a number of possibilities" as to the cause of death, Perper said, including natural causes, a drug reaction or some combination.

Smith apparently had been sick for several days with some kind of stomach virus, Perper said.

Authorities planned to interview nurses and examine medical records before settling on a cause of death, Perper said.

On Thursday, a private nurse found Smith unconscious in her room and called 911. Smith was declared dead at a hospital. She was 39.

Thousands of accidents linked to cell phones

The Associated Press

HAMMOND

A ringing cell phone caused an accident that killed a 17-year-old Chalmers girl, and the cell phone wasn't in her car.

Police say Jessica Oliver was killed two years ago near Remington when the 59-year-old driver of another car looked down at her ringing cell phone. The driver lost control of her car; crossed the median on Interstate 65 and struck Oliver's car.

It is one of 2,054 traffic accidents in Indiana over the past four years, including at least two fatal crashes, in which cell phones were listed as the primary cause, Indiana State Police say.

While that number represents only a fraction of 1 percent of the total Indiana crashes since 2003, the fact cell phone use is now listed on the state crash form is an indication it is a recognizable factor, state police Sgt. Brian Olehy said.

"Police say drivers should never converse on the phone while driving.

"When it comes to telephones, I think you will find that even with a handsfree device like a speaker phone, a Bluetooth or On-Star, drivers are still not devoting their full attention to the road," Olehy said.

Distracted driving is becoming such a big problem that state legislatures around the country are looking at the issue.

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Travis Matthew Findley
1997 - 2007

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FOREST LAWN
Memory Gardens & Funeral Home

Johnson Heating and Cooling Announces Emergency Response Team To Help Elderly and Homebound during Extreme Weather

It has been brought to our attention, in several instances, that the elderly and disabled need assistance. We have come up with a strategy aimed at protecting these Johnson county residences from extreme weather. Johnson Heating & Cooling has formed a technical Emergency Response Team to respond to heating and cooling emergencies at the homes of the elderly, ill, or disabled.

Johnson Heating & Cooling's team will respond within one hour to heating emergencies in the homes of people who have registered by calling the company. Registration is free, and if emergency repairs are necessary, Johnson Heating & Cooling offers a discount of 30 percent off of diagnostic fee and special financing to registered persons.

Ron Griesemer, Owner of Johnson Heating & Cooling said, "We're normally in the comfort business, but we want our neighbors to know that during emergencies, their safety is our top priority. This Emergency Response Team, approach helps us assure them that they'll get prompt attention when they call and that they needn't worry about getting a bill they can't handle."

Even during times of peak demand, Johnson Heating & Cooling's team can respond to an emergency at a registered customer's home within one hour. Ron said, Johnson Heating & Cooling can respond even to a non-registered customer's call within 24 hours. "There's no need today for residents of our area to endure extreme or unsafe conditions in their homes, ever during our worst weather," he said.

Ron added, "We offer a free inspection of a resident's heating system at the time of registration so that we can arrive in an emergency with the right parts on our truck. These inspections also can help prevent carbon-monoxide tragedies caused by malfunctioning systems. And in many cases, major emergency repairs can be avoided through inexpensive routine maintenance."

Johnson Heating & Cooling, founded in 1968 employs 5 expert technicians specially trained in customer service. Johnson Heating & Cooling's managers and employees receive regular training and updates from the industry's top experts in business and technical leadership.

To register, or to get more information about the program, call Johnson Heating & Cooling at 881-7738.