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Tristate A.M. Report

Compiled from staff and wire reports

The Cincinnati Enquirer/GLENN HARTONG

Robbery nothing new for this bank

A Cincinnati Police motorcycle officer is reflected in the door of the Foundation Savings Bank on Garfield Place downtown as a Criminal Investigation Section criminalist photographs the door from inside the building. Two men robbed the bank of an undisclosed amount of money Monday. The bank was robbed twice in three weeks last fall. **See story below.**

Downtown bank robbed again

A downtown bank, which was robbed twice last fall, was held up again Monday by two men, Cincinnati Police said.

The Foundation Savings Bank, 25 Garfield Place, was robbed at 1:54 p.m. by one of the men, who handed a teller a note demanding money.

The men fled on foot east on Garfield Place with an undisclosed amount of money, said police.

The bank was robbed last October and November in similar fashion.

Anyone with information about this robbery should contact the Cincinnati Police Homicide Unit (513) 352-3542 or Crime Stoppers at (513) 352-3040. Callers my remain anonymous and may be compensated.

Driver of custom car sought in shooting

Cincinnati Police are looking for a man who fought with and then fatally shot a 21-year-old man in the Short Vine Street business district of Corryville late Sunday.

Police said Jonathan Johnson, 21, of Cincinnati, whose address was unavailable, was shot to death about 10 p.m.

Mr. Johnson was found by officers at the corner of East Corry and Vine streets and was taken to University Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Police asked for help in identifying the gunman, described as black, in his 20s, who was operating a "very distinctive vehicle" – a canary yellow, early to mid-1970s Oldsmobile Cutlass with a convertible top.

The vehicle is in good condition and has a "Talking M&M candy logo" on the rear quarter panels of the car.

The car may also have chrome spoke wheels and Ohio Historical Vehicle license plates.

The suspect was last seen driving south on Vine Street toward Corry Street.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Cincinnati Homicide Unit at 352-3542 or Crime Stoppers at 352-3040.

Hamilton woman's death suspicious

HAMILTON – Police on Monday were investigating the death of a woman whose body was found on South G Street.

Officers said the discovery was made around 11 a.m., and the woman's death was "suspicious," but they wouldn't say why.

Authorities withheld the woman's name, pending notification of family, but said she was believed to be in her 40s.

Investigators also wouldn't describe the circumstances under which she was found, or about how long she may have been dead.

The Butler County Coroner's Office also declined to discuss the case.

Cops: Driver intended to hit pedestrian

SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP – A man is facing an attempted murder charge after police say he deliberately hit a pedestrian with his car early Saturday.

Police originally thought Ray V. Enfinger, 18, of Sycamore Township accidentally hit Timothy J. Mills, 38, of Hamilton with the car, but now say it was intentional.

Mr. Mills remained in critical condition Monday at University Hospital.

Police say Mr. Mills was walking along First Avenue in Sycamore Township just after 5 a.m. Saturday when he was hit by a Chevrolet Camaro.

The two men met Saturday at a party in Ross, and had left together but began fighting, Hamilton County sheriff's spokesman Steve Barnett said. After the fight, Mr. Enfinger hit the older man with the car, police said.

12th District court to move across street

MIDDLETOWN – The 12th District Court of Appeals will move into a new $4 million building at Tytus Avenue and Reinartz Boulevard in about two years.

The appeals court is now housed in the Middletown Municipal Building, across the street from its future location.

Under a written agreement, Middletown will lease the new building to the court for 20 years.

At that point, ownership of the building would transfer to Butler County, which would serve as trustee for the other seven counties included in the court's district.

Besides Butler, the court's district includes Warren, Clermont, Brown, Preble, Clinton, Fayette and Madison counties.

Construction of the 20,000-square-foot court building would begin in March 2002 and be completed a year later.

The court now has 8,000 square feet of office space.

10 Commandments appeal planned

LONDON, Ky. – A legal defense organization plans to appeal a ruling that requires the Ten Commandments to be removed from public buildings in Harlan, McCreary and Pulaski counties.

Mathew Staver, an attorney for the Liberty Counsel in Orlando, Fla., said he will take the case to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled in March that Ohio's motto, "With God All Things Are Possible," is constitutional.

In that ruling, the justices noted a difference between the establishment of religion and the public acknowledgement of religion.

U.S. District Judge Jennifer Coffman ruled Friday that displays in the courthouses in McCreary and Pulaski counties and in schools in Harlan County are unconstitutional.

In the displays, the Ten Commandments are posted along with several historical documents, including the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.

Mr. Staver contends that the displays are merely acknowledgements of religion and the impact it had in the nation's history.

Lottery roundup

Ohio (Drawings: June 25, 2001)
Pick 3 (early): 0 4 8 Pick 4 (early): 8 8 8 6 Pick 3 (late): 6 9 9 Pick 4 (late): 9 1 1 4
Buckeye 5: 2 7 13 20 22
Wednesday's Super Lotto Plus jackpot will be $24 million. Information: (800) 589-6446.

Kentucky (Drawings: June 25, 2001)
Pick 3 (early): 7 5 1 Pick 4 (early): 6 1 5 4
Pick 3 (late): 5 7 7 Pick 4 (late): 5 4 7 5
Wednesday's Lotto jackpot: $2.1 million. Info: (502) 583-2000, a toll call.

Indiana (Drawings: June 25, 2001)
Daily 3: 9 9 5 Daily 4: 5 3 9 4 Lucky 5: 9 22 26 28 34
Wednesday's Lotto jackpot: $1.5 million. Info: (800) 420-2274. Call is 50 cents a minute.

Powerball
Wednesday's jackpot will be an estimated $14 million. Info: (502) 583-2000, a toll call.

Enquirer picks up 26 awards

Journalism excellence recognized

By Stephenie Steitzer
Enquirer Contributor

Staff members of *The Cincinnati Enquirer* took home 26 Ohio Excellence in Journalism awards over the weekend in Cleveland. The Press Club of Cleveland presented the newspaper with 15 first- and second-place awards and 11 honorable mentions. Seven of the awards were in the Best in Ohio category.

Among the Best in Ohio winners: Jim Borgman, first in cartooning; Randy Mazzola, first in information graphics; Margaret A. McGurk, first in review/criticism; and the newspaper's copy desk, first in headline writing.

Other first-place winners were:

■ Tom O'Neill: Ted Berry obituary, "A Civic Giant Passes."

■ Mr. Borgman: single cartoon.

■ John Byczkowski, Randy Tucker and Cliff Peale: business reporting for coverage of Durk Jager's ouster as Procter & Gamble's chief executive.

■ *Enquirer* staff: Best local news section.

■ Glenn Hartong: spot news photography.

■ Michael Keating: general news photography.

■ Staff: Breaking news, single-day package on the deaths of Cincinnati Police Officer Kevin Crayon and suspect Courtney Mathis.

Second-place winners:

■ Tim Bonfield: medical/health writing.

■ Dan Horn: breaking news, continuing coverage of problems in Hamilton County's probation department.

■ Mr. Mazzola: information graphics related to Paul Brown Stadium.

■ John Erardi: feature on boxer Ricardo Williams.

The Cincinnati Enquirer/CRAIG RUTTLE

Last of the chain

Carl Weinrich, owner of the Fort Thomas IGA, helps customer Katie Morford of Fort Thomas at the meat cooler. Monday, Covington-based Remke Markets took over the Service Plus IGA on Carothers Road in Newport, leaving the Fort Thomas store as the only IGA in Northern Kentucky. A decade ago there were 17 Northern Kentucky IGA grocery stores.

Ex-Ky. man charged in wife's 1980 murder

By Ray Schaefer
Enquirer Contributor

A former Boone County man was arrested Monday in Massachusetts and charged with killing his wife, who disappeared from Verona in 1980.

William Major, 57, of Fairhaven, Mass., and formerly of Verona, was picked up without incident at his home and charged in connection with the disappearance of Helen Marleen Major, who was 25 at the time of her disappearance from the couple's home.

The case is one of the longest open murder investigations in Boone County.

Boone County Commonwealth Attorney Linda Tally Smith said Mr. Major is charged with one count of murder, one count of tampering with evidence and one count of physical abuse of a corpse.

Two Boone County sheriff's deputies traveled to New England to bring Mr. Major to Boone County.

He is being held without bail in the Bristol County Jail in Dartmouth, Mass. His next appearance is Friday before Bristol County District Judge David Turcotte, where he must decide whether he will fight extradition to Kentucky.

Lt. Jack Banks of the Boone County Criminal Investigations Unit said it was no problem finding Mr. Major.

"We've known where he's been for a long time," Lt. Banks said Monday. "It's still a case we're continuing to investigate."

It's perhaps one of the most mysterious and grisly cases in Northern Kentucky history.

Mrs. Major was last seen the night of Oct. 11, 1980, at her trailer home on Warehouse Road in Verona near the intersection of Ky. 16 and Ky. 14. She lived with Mr. Major and their two children.

Hunters found a skull near the couple's house in Verona in 1981. Officials are DNA testing the skull to see whether it is Mrs. Major's. Results should be back by the end of the week.

John Daugherty of the New Bedford *(Mass.)* Standard-Times *contributed to this article.*

Mayor: Democrat has huge head start

From Page B1

much to me," Mr. Luken said. "I don't presume that the Republicans don't have a strong candidate. I don't know where they are day to day. It's really something I can't worry about."

Mr. Luken said he will run on a platform of improving economic development, housing and relations between the police and community.

"This campaign is going to be about growth," Mr. Luken said. "We have to grow our tax base, grow the number of residents in the city and grow an understanding of one another."

Voters: Luken is vulnerable

A few days ago at Price Hill Chili on Glenway Avenue, where slats of goetta sizzled on the grill and country music hummed from the radio, Republicans were perplexed that Mr. Luken could run without GOP competition.

"I'm disappointed and surprised that the Republicans haven't put a candidate in the race," said Jeff Hillgrove, 31, of Saylor Park, who operates a cleaning service.

"Without a doubt Luken could be beaten," Mr. Hillgrove said after finishing his breakfast. "Look at the riots, look at downtown, look at the lack of leadership in the city. Luken has probably never been more beatable than right now."

Glenn Fisher just shook his head when asked about the mayor's race, or what he called "the lack of one."

"It just amazes me," said Mr. Fisher, 67, a retired truck driver from Price Hill. "Luken has done a terrible job, but I have to say I'm not happy that the Republicans don't have a candidate."

Duncan Cordrey, 44, of Covedale and his nephew, Darryl Cordrey, 22, of Covedale – both in home sales for Huff Realty – agreed with Mr. Fisher between bites of their eggs, hash browns, goetta, biscuits and gravy.

"It's time for the Republicans to think a little different," Duncan Cordrey said. "Get somebody new to run, like (Cincinnati FOP President Keith) Fangman, somebody who will be tough on crime and for law and order."

"There are problems in the city but not even the Republicans seem to have all the answers," Darryl Cordrey said. "Maybe that's why they don't have anybody running yet."

Luken's solid reputation

Hamilton County Democratic Party Chairman Tim Burke has a simple answer when asked why the Republicans still don't have a candidate, just days before the November electionfiling deadline.

"Because they can't beat him," Mr. Burke said.

"Charlie Luken is very strong," he continued. "He has a solid reputation for doing a very good job. He has a tremendous reputation for being a helluva campaigner. He's is a tremendous speaker. And he's already done a very good job starting to raise funds for this campaign."

So far, only one independent candidate – Roselawn business owner Bill Brodberger – has qualified for the Sept. 11 primary ballot. If no other candidate files by Thursday, there will be no primary. That means the fall contest will be between Mr. Luken and Mr. Brodberger, a political newcomer.

Political watchers and leaders in the Republican and Democratic parties cite a number of factors contributing to Mr. Luken's strength, including:

■ **Name recognition.** Mr. Luken is a former mayor and councilman who also served in Congress and spent seven years as a news anchorman at WLWT (Channel 5). He is also a member of a well-known political family, as his father, Tom, and uncle, Jim, were mayors before him.

"The Luken name is formidable in this town," said Chris Finney, an Anderson Township lawyer active in the GOP and with the tax watchdog group known as COAST, Citizens Opposed to Additional Spending and Taxes. "It's a known quantity."

In the 1999 election, Mr. Luken finished as the top vote-getter.

■ **The city's composition.** While Hamilton County is recognized as solid Republican, the city remains a Democratic stronghold.

Though he lost Hamilton County to Republican George W. Bush in last year's presidential election, Democrat Al Gore easily carried the city, 75,555 votes to 43,796.

And according to the 2000 U.S. Census figures, Cincinnati's white population dropped by nearly 45,000 during the 1990s, a large contributor to the city's 9.1 percent population decline. At the same time, African-Americans – typically Democratic supporters – grew from 38 percent of the population in 1990 to 43 percent in 2000.

"It's disappointing we don't have a candidate," said Republican Councilman Pat DeWine, who turned down overtures from party leaders to run against Mr. Luken.

"But it's reflective of the demographics of the city," he said. "This is a very Democratic city."

■ **GOP failings.** Republicans Mr. Finney and state Rep. Tom Brinkman of Mount Lookout – who consider themselves party activists, but outsiders when it comes to the Hamilton County GOP's organization – put the blame squarely on the party's leaders for not having a candidate at this stage of the campaign.

"The Republican Party has over time done a poor job in recruiting and bringing along candidates, particularly in the city," Mr. Brinkman said. "You have to have a recruitment treadmill, but that just hasn't happened in Hamilton County."

Mr. Finney contends the Hamilton County Republican Party has not articulated a clear vision in the city. GOP leaders, he said, have supported issues not typically backed by Republicans, including tax increases for sports stadiums and the Cincinnati schools and expansion of the city's convention center. The latter specifically irritates Mr. Finney, who calls an enlarged Albert B. Sabin Cincinnati Convention Center "a big, expensive pork barrel project that is going to increase taxes and spending."

"Every time you pick up the paper and the party speaks out on an issue they are on the wrong side of it," Mr. Finney said.

Politics of a riot

Mr. Brinkman said Mr. Luken has "a record that can be exploited" on economic development and his admission that he waited too long to react and show leadership during the April riots.

"Charlie Luken was mayor in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and what he sowed in the terms of economic development, home ownership, racial situations, we're now reaping," Mr. Brinkman said.

Mr. Barrett, Hamilton County's GOP chairman, admitted that initially a lot of potential candidates backed away from the race because of Mr. Luken's political and media background.

"Then we had the riots," Mr. Barrett said. "The spotlight was turned on and people saw that Charlie Luken is the master of the sound bite.

"He talked about minorities being murdered by the police, which upset a large contingent of the town," he said. "And then he started talking tough, and that upset another contingent."

Mr. Barrett said the party did not talk about the race sooner because Republicans wanted to avoid "piling on" too soon after the riots.

"We've only recently begun to analyze the political fallout of his indecisiveness and his double-speak," he said, adding he expects to have a candidate by Thursday.

But Mr. Luken also enjoys financial and other support from Cincinnati's business community, traditionally a backer of GOP candidates.

At a campaign kickoff breakfast in February Mr. Luken received more than $200,000 in contributions, including $25,000 from Cincinnati's best-known businessman, Carl Lindner.

The Rev. Damon Lynch Jr. – former president of the Baptist Ministers Conference and father of Damon Lynch III, head of the civil-rights group Black United Front – said one topic will dominate the mayor's race: leadership.

"Managerial ability is helpful, but leadership – real, strong leadership – that's what will make somebody mayor, whether it is Charlie or somebody else," the Rev. Mr. Lynch said.

Cincinnatians – black and white – will follow a strong leader who is willing to take bold action, the Rev. Mr. Lynch said.

"We need someone who is not afraid of what has happened in this community," he said.

Party endorsed strong-mayor concept

The local Republican Party pushed for Cincinnati's direct mayoral election. Voters approved the ballot issue in May 1999.

Under the new system, the mayor is not a member of council, but is, in effect, the chief executive officer of the city. The mayor will have veto power over council legislation and the ability to choose the city manager, with the consent of council.

GOP leaders have wooed a host of well-known political and civic leaders – including Ohio Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell, Councilman Phil Heimlich, former Councilman Charles Winburn, Dr. O'dell Owens, a prominent African-American physician – without getting a commitment or a candidate.

– *Patrick Crowley*

Darryl Cordrey Damon Lynch Jr.

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