

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 26, 2009

C

REGION



Coming Friday in Venue: Jonas Brothers fans get to see them in 3D concert film

Briefs

From staff and wire reports

News Tip Line 691-7205

Call the Messenger-Inquirer News Tip Line if you know of something that needs newspaper coverage.

Legislative breakfast set for Saturday

The Green River Area Development District will host a legislative breakfast at 9 a.m. Saturday at the GRADD office, 3860 U.S. 60 West.

Local legislators will be on hand to talk about the current General Assembly session and to answer questions. Free breakfast will be served at 9 a.m., and the legislators will speak at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, call 926-4433.

Officials estimate at least \$185 million in storm damages

FRANKFORT — State and federal officials say damage estimates from the January ice storm will likely top \$185 million.

Kentucky's Emergency Management director, Brig. Gen. John W. Heltzel, says the damages were primarily related to the state's electric utilities. A statement from the joint field office, which includes FEMA officials, says the final figure will be higher.

Teams of recovery specialists have been calculating the damage estimates since a Feb. 5 federal disaster declaration by President Barack Obama for 93 Kentucky counties. The order allows local governments and nonprofit organizations to be reimbursed for disaster-related expenses.

Academic team's coach suspended

RUSSELL — An eastern Kentucky high school academic coach has been suspended pending an investigation into why a regional competition was delayed.

Russell School Superintendent Susan Compton told The Independent of Ashland on Tuesday night that Matt Knupp has been temporarily relieved of his coaching duties at Russell High School, though he is still teaching.

Seven schools complained after Knupp informed contest officials Saturday that buses from Russell were being delayed for the regional match due to weather concerns.

Paul G. Blazer High School Academic Coach Dan Boyer says he thinks Knupp manipulated a rule to delay the contest because one of Russell's students was out of town on a college visit.

Reporting An Error

To report an error: Contact Executive Editor Matt Francis at 691-7292 or news@messenger-inquirer.com.

Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's lottery numbers:

Kentucky
Midday Pick 3: 5-6-0
Midday Pick 4: 2-3-5-5
Evening Pick 3: 5-6-3
Evening Pick 4: 1-7-5-5
Cash Ball: 7-11-22-29;
The Cash Ball was 17
The Kicker was 9-6-8-8-4
Win For Life: 6-8-11-21-25-41;
Free Ball 28

Indiana
Midday Daily 3: 8-6-6
Midday Daily 4: 1-5-0-1
Mid. Lucky 5: 1-6-15-18-22
Evening Daily 3: 4-2-5
Evening Daily 4: 3-0-4-6
Eve. Lucky 5: 2-6-13-22-33
Lotto: 6-13-27-42-44-46
Estimated jackpot: \$10.5 million

Powerball: 17-32-42-49-56;
The Powerball was 11
The Power Play was 4
Estimated jackpot: \$150.2 million

DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN

Reeves: Plan was well-devised

By James Mayse
Messenger-Inquirer

The Owensboro-Daviess County Industrial Authority created the position of downtown developer in early 2008. Shortly after that, the Gateway Planning Group was hired to come to the community and begin crafting a plan to revitalize downtown Owensboro.

After holding public meetings and conferring with officials over a period of several months, Gateway unveiled the downtown master plan in the fall. Since then, numerous articles have been written about the plan.

Fred Reeves, Owensboro's

downtown development director, said Wednesday the downtown plan — which city and county officials are on the verge of implementing — should not have come as a surprise to anyone.

"Everyone who says they haven't heard about the downtown plan, I don't know where they've been," Reeves told the Owensboro Rotary Club at the group's noon meeting at the Owensboro Country Club. Reeves said the origins of



Fred Reeves
Downtown development director

the master plan go back to previous downtown proposals that were created and shelved, and to the "We The People" town meeting that drew 700 participants in November 2007.

"We've talked to hundreds, probably thousands of people, about what needs to be done downtown," Reeves said.

The downtown plan calls for \$79.4 million in public investment, including the construction of a 60,000-square-foot

indoor event and convention center, an arts academy, a community plaza that could host outdoor events and farmers markets, upgrades to Smothers Park and changes to Veterans Boulevard and Second Street to make them friendlier to pedestrians.

The plan calls for a private developer to build a 250-room downtown hotel near the events center. Private development would also create downtown housing and retail businesses.

"I'm looking forward to a time when downtown is what it has been in the past and what it will be in the future," Reeves said. The downtown plan was created

in a "very unique, very professional and very well thought-out process," he said.

"It is market-driven," Reeves said. "We engaged an economist to help us, so we weren't just guessing on the numbers."

The plan draws on the community's natural strengths, such as the river, Reeves said.

"We want to make sure we leverage those assets," Reeves said. "You can't buy a river."

The goal of downtown revitalization is to create an area that will be attractive to people who want to live downtown, Reeves

See **Plan/Page C3**

Personal trainers help people reach fitness goals



Photos by Gary Emord-Netzley, Messenger-Inquirer/gemord-netzley@messenger-inquirer.com, 691-7318

Tom Buford, a brick mason who needed physical therapy after he broke his foot four years ago, lifts weights Wednesday under the supervision of Shawn Scott, a personal trainer at the Owensboro Medical Health System HealthPark. Buford hadn't

done any exercise outside of work since he attended Auburn University in 1973. Buford said the therapy grew into regular workouts with his personal trainer and has given him more energy.

Making Gains

By Rich Suwanski
Messenger-Inquirer

Tom Buford used to walk with a limp from an injury suffered on the job in 1993, and now the limp is almost gone.

Judy Watkins wanted to get stronger and feel better, and one year later, it's Mission: Accomplished.

Buford and Watkins have reached their goals with the help of personal trainers at the Owensboro Medical Health System HealthPark.

Used to be, personal trainers were fashion accessories for athletes and celebrities trying to get in shape, or subjects of TV reality shows. These days,

regular people employ personal trainers for a variety of reasons.

Buford, 57, suffered an 8-foot fall while working as a bricklayer. He broke his heel and was off work for three months to heal and for rehabilitation.

Buford used an anti-inflammatory drug for a while, but now has regained range of motion in his ankle and "doesn't even take aspirin for it," he said. He credits good rehab after the injury and

ongoing personal training with Shawn Scott, an exercise physiologist, for the last four years.

His ankle will, however, forecast the weather. "If my ankle hurts, it's going to rain in two or three days," Buford said.

Buford's training lasts 50 minutes a day, three days a week, and isn't geared just for his ankle; it's a full-body workout. Mondays are

devoted to his legs and shoulders, Wednesdays are for his back and chest, and Fridays are for arms and abdominal muscles. He uses free weights in about 75 percent of his exercises, with 25 percent on exercise machines, Scott said.

"One of my favorite exercises is for my lower back," Buford said. "I've almost maxed-out on that machine."

"(Scott) oversees what I'm doing and tells you how to do the exercise. You've got to push yourself if you're going to do your best. If I'm by myself, I'd quit because I think I'd be overdoing it."

Scott encourages and

See **Fitness/Page C3**



Personal trainer Shawn Scott stretches Tom Buford's leg muscles to help increase his flexibility Wednesday at the Owensboro Medical Health System HealthPark.

Nursing home death ruled a homicide

By Dariush Shafa
Messenger-Inquirer

The death of an elderly Owensboro man has been ruled a homicide by state and local officials, the result of an assault by a fellow resident at an Owensboro nursing home.

Leslie Tyler Mulligan, 78, died Dec. 8 at Owensboro Medical Health System. Daviess County Coroner Bob Howe listed the primary cause of death as acute bronchopneumonia, where the lungs fill with fluid and the victim drowns, caused by his injuries.

"He died from complications of the beating," Howe said.

Christopher Lee Jackson, 22, was charged with first-degree assault by the Owensboro Police Department after the assault, which left Mulligan with a broken elbow, a fractured skull and bleeding into the brain.

According to OPD officers at the scene after the assault, which took place Oct. 17 in the Rosedale Rest Home at 415 Sutton Lane, Jackson repeatedly punched Mulligan and stomped on his head.

Howe said his ruling sends this to the next step.

See **Homicide/Page C3**

Big E deserves one more chance

Nearly 32 years later, the memories of that day are still strong.

The day in 1977 when they opened the doors to the brand-new Executive Inn Rivermont and let us wander inside.

That seven-story atrium with the skylights in the ceiling was something we had never seen in Owensboro.

We stared in awe as we walked around, craning our necks, trying to take it all in.

There were several shops, an indoor pool, an outdoor pool and a Las Vegas-style Showroom Lounge.

The elevator on the back of the hotel had a glass wall that



Keith Lawrence
Messenger-Inquirer

See **Big E/Page C3**

Pretrial hearings start in 1987 Mullenberg murder

Springer charged in Mullen's slaying

By **Dariush Shafa**
Messenger-Inquirer

Pretrial hearings will begin today in Hopkinsville in the murder case of Corinna Lynn Mullen, whose body was found in 1987 in the trunk of her car at the Central City Street Department garage.

Jimmie Royce Springer, a former boyfriend of Mullen's, was charged in the killing but was acquitted following a two-day trial in 1988.

In 2006, however, new indictments were brought against Springer and four others, including a former Central City police

officer and Mullen's former roommate, after an informant told police that he or she (the informant's name and gender are unknown) witnessed Mullen's murder.

Springer was indicted on counts of perjury and complicity to first-degree rape and first-degree sodomy. Former Central City police officer Billy F. Fields and Jeffrey Lee Boyd were both charged with murder, kidnapping, first-degree rape, first-degree perjury, first-degree sodomy and felony tampering with physical evidence. Jimmie Dale Cramer was charged with mur-

der, first-degree rape, first-degree sodomy and kidnapping. Angela Smith, Mullen's former roommate, was charged with first-degree perjury and multiple complicity charges in connection with the murder, rape, sodomy and kidnapping of Mullen.

At a 2006 hearing following the indictments, a Kentucky State Police investigator related the story an informant told him. According to that informant, Boyd, Cramer and Fields raped Mullen, while Smith watched, and then beat her and put her into the trunk of her car.

Mullen's body was found Oct. 2, 1987, and a medical examination found her cause of death was asphyxiation. She was badly

beaten, according to the examination, and her body was mutilated with a knife.

Today's hearings are the first step in the new trial. Mullen's sister, Heather Mullen, said she and her family hope this is the end of this chapter in their lives and that her sister can get justice.

"At this point, we're just glad to get this done," Mullen said. "My dad really wants to see this happen. I'm excited to see this get over with so my dad can see it for himself."

Mullen said her father is in ill health and that her mother died in 2006 without being able to get any closure.

"There's no words to explain

the emotional damage it has caused my family, not only emotionally," Mullen said. "My mom waited her whole life for this to happen, and she passed away before it could. ... (My father) is ready to get it over with. He's tired. He's tired of fighting, I think. I think having to revisit this over and over again over the years, I think it's one of the biggest hurts for my dad."

It's also been hard on Corinna Lynn Mullen's daughter, who was just an infant at the time of the murder. Now she is a grown woman with a daughter of her own.

"It's bad enough to grow up without knowing your parents, but to get to know your parents

in this way. It distorts the person she knows that her mom was," Mullen said. "Watching her daughter grow up and having to hear all these things about her mother, that was one of the worst things."

Mullen said her sister should always be remembered as she truly was.

"The biggest thing I remember was that she had the brightest personality of any person we'll ever meet. She had a lot of energy," Mullen said. "She loved to laugh, and she loved to be around her family. It was the best thing about her."

Dariush Shafa, 691-7302, dshafa@messenger-inquirer.com

CAMP BRECKINRIDGE

Court rules against former landowners

Government doesn't have to pay compensation for not selling land back after World War II

By **Brett Barrouquere**
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE — Former western Kentucky landowners and their families are not entitled to compensation for their property the U.S. government used to build a military camp at the start of World War II, a federal court said in 2-1 ruling Wednesday, ending a 15-year legal battle in the case.

Landowners and their families claim the government promised to sell back farmland used to build Camp Breckinridge near Henderson after the war in the 1940s. Instead, the government sold it and the mineral rights without paying them. The federal government asked the court to deny the claim, saying the time to seek compensation had long passed.

The federal government paid about \$3.1 million for more than 35,000 acres of farmland in three western Kentucky counties to build the camp between 1942 and 1944. It housed soldiers, including future baseball Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson and future U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, and German prisoners of war.

The U.S. Court of Federal

Claims said more than 1,000 landowners and their families cannot make a legal case that they deserve to be paid back for thousands of acres the Army used.

With the legal options all but shut off, attorneys say next may come an appeal to Congress, which sent the landowners' claims to the court in 1994 to determine if any compensation was due.

"We believe the intent of Congress was to address the claims on their merits," said attorney Steve Pitt. "We certainly will be bringing this before our congressional delegation."

Wednesday's ruling dismisses a recommendation by another judge on the court that the former landowners receive at least \$32 million.

"I think it's a low-down decision," said 84-year-old William Griggs of Morganfield, who had just graduated from high school in May 1942, when his grandfather was forced off the land.

Mildred Watson of Dixon, whose parents and grandparents lost 200 acres of farmland to the camp, called the decision disappointing because "we know we've been done wrong."

"From the word go, we just lost all the way around," said Watson, who has been pursuing compensation for more than three decades. "I don't know what we'll do yet. We'll have to see what avenues are still open."

Judges Lawrence S. Margolis and Loren A. Smith wrote a 20-page decision that "any award to the Claimants would constitute a gratuity" and recommended Congress be advised that they should receive nothing.

"Hundreds of tracts of land were purchased by the Government, and only a handful of landowners testified that they were personally promised the right to repurchase their land after World War II ended," the judges wrote. "Furthermore, none of the alleged repurchase promises were in writing."

Judge Charles Lettow dissented in a 41-page opinion, saying he would recommend at least a \$22 million award to any landowner or heir who did not pur-

sue a legal claim at the time the property was taken.

"The former landowners assiduously pursued their claims through petitions to executive departmental officials, litigation and petitions to Congress," Lettow wrote.

Attorney Nancie Marzulla of Washington, D.C., said the majority's opinion doesn't consider how unfairly the landowners and their families were treated by the government. "We got this cold-blooded strict legal analysis that absolutely ignores the plight of these people," Marzulla told The Associated Press. "Just because time has passed doesn't mean it's too late to do the right thing."

Justice Department spokesman Andrew Ames said the agency is pleased the court agreed with its arguments.

U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-Ky., whose district covers much of the old military post, said the court's opinion is only advisory.

"In the months to come, I look forward to working with impacted Kentuckians to explore ways forward to address this issue," Whitfield said in a statement.

The federal government declared Camp Breckinridge land surplus in 1962 and sold off the mineral rights and surface land, over the objections of the former landowners.

"I think it's a low-down decision."

— William Griggs, 84, of Morganfield, whose grandfather was forced off land in 1942

Fitness: Workout with trainer has boosted energy level

From **Page C1**

praises during workouts. He isn't in Buford's face. "I do three reps (repetitions) of 12 for every exercise," Buford said. "It's not torture. If he sees it's getting easy, he increases the weight."

Scott, who has seven clients, said Buford is willing to do more while some clients he's had over his seven years in the business will stick with the routine and not want to vary it.

"I can tell a difference,"

Buford said of his physical condition.

"After a day's work, I was always tired, exhausted, but now my energy level has increased.

"I feel better than I did 20 years ago. I can't say it turns back the clock, but it slows down the aging process."

Newcomers will first be tested for flexibility, strength, range of motion, cardiovascular fitness and balance, among other things, then placed with a personal trainer by Natalie

Henning, the HealthPark's manager of health and fitness. They discuss a client's goals and plan workouts to meet those goals.

Scott said clients who get a personal trainer may want to lose weight, but enjoy the workouts, socializing and results so much, they sign on for longer. Buford said he pays \$45 per session.

"It's not cheap, but you can't put a price on good health," he said.

Watkins, 59, works part time at OMHS as a medical technologist.

She has 25-minute sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays

with her personal trainer, Nick Jones.

"I couldn't stand on one leg and balance, and now I can," Watkins said. "Maybe that doesn't seem like a lot, but I feel stronger."

Watkins said Jones pushes her to her limits, but it's "fun" and beneficial.

"I can't say I have a perfect body, but I feel better about myself," she said. "I was (on a) rowing (machine), and I looked in the mirror and saw how my biceps bulged and thought, 'Hey, those are my arms.'"

Rich Suwanski, 691-7315, rsuwanski@messenger-inquirer.com

Plan: Work will take time

From **Page C1**

said. An events center, arts academy and other amenities will also make the city enticing to young professionals, who can often choose where they want to live, Reeves said.

"You're attracting entrepreneurs, you're attracting talent," Reeves said. The project will put Owensboro ahead of other cities that are vying for the same workers, he said.

"Other communities will be following us," Reeves said. "We need them to be chasing us."

"What's in it for me is I have a daughter that lives in Nashville and a daughter that lives in Louisville," Reeves said. "Why do they do that? Because there's

nothing (for them) to do here."

Work upgrading Smothers Park is beginning "immediately," Reeves said, but said it will likely be three years before major downtown construction starts.

"There's a lot of engineering work to be done," Reeves said. "We have to do a major traffic study. That's a six- to 12-month process. Probably the easiest thing to do is the community plaza."

James Mayse, 691-7303, jmayse@messenger-inquirer.com

Referendum set on lamb program

Messenger-Inquirer

The Farm Service Agency will conduct a referendum for lamb producers interested in the Lamb Promotion Research and Information Order.

The program collects 0.5 cents per pound for every lamb sold. The vote will determine whether the U.S. Department of Agriculture will continue the promotion program.

To be eligible to vote, farmers must provide documentation showing they worked in lamb production, feeding or slaughter in 2008.

Eligibility forms are available at county Farm Service Agency offices. The deadline to fill out a form is at the close of business Friday.

For more information, call the Daviess County Farm Service Agency office at 684-9286.

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