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David Osburg gets the 'big catch of the day.' This 6-foot shark was caught while on the Osburg family vacation in St. Pete Beach, Fla. Submitted to NKY.com by Tammy Atkins of Bellevue. Share your own news and photographs on your community's page at NKY.com using **GetPublished!** as Tammy did. Check out all the photos on your community page at **NKY.com**.

NKY KEEP IT BRIEF

FLORENCE

Spontaneous combustion cited in laundry fire

Officials say a preliminary investigation into a Thursday night fire at an industrial laundry points to spontaneous combustion.

Firefighters say something like soiled rags probably caught fire and caused the small blaze at AmeriPride Linen and Apparel. The fire alarm went off at the facility, 7360 Industrial Road, just after 10 p.m.

Sprinklers extinguished the blaze with minimal damage, firefighters said. The fire broke out in an area where dirty laundry is dropped off in large bags, officials said. The company cleans uniforms, rags and rugs for businesses.

Sports of all Sorts basketball league forming

Sports of all Sorts is taking applications for teams for its Sunday night men's basketball league. Cost is \$300 per team, plus referee fees. The season will be played at the Cavalier Boulevard location next to Boone County High. Information: 859-371-5511, ext. 2.

NEWPORT

Four police officers cleared of excessive force

Four Newport police officers have been cleared of allegations they used excessive force while arresting a man outside of Newport on The Levee.

A federal jury ruled Wednesday in favor of Officer Herschel Day and sergeants Jim Snider and Floyd Combs.

A judge dismissed the case against the fourth police officer, Daron Michael Arnberg.

In a suit filed in U.S. District Court in Covington, Dustin Shroyer claimed the officers beat him with batons for no reason. Shroyer alleged he was assaulted after urinating outside the entertainment complex at 2:30 a.m. in October 2004. He claimed he was forced to "use a nearby bush" because of the lack of unoccupied restrooms. Shroyer was arrested and pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct.

RIVER DOWNS

Benefit for injured jockey to be Sunday

The annual Gary Birzer Benefit will take place Sunday at River Downs, highlighted by a silent auction in the paddock area. A former leading apprentice jockey at the racetrack, Birzer developed into one of the top riders at Mountaineer Park before his career was ended in a tragic spill there in 2004. He was partially paralyzed.

While he is down, he's not out. He continues to work with his physical therapists on a regular basis in the Cincinnati area.

Equine artists Julie Andrews, Ron Lightner and Jerry Saylor have donated items to the auction in addition to framed photography by Patrick Lang and Longshot photos. There will be signed racing memorabilia and some rare bobbleheads such as Seabiscuit and Perry Ouzts up for bidding.

Birzer and his family will be on hand for a meet-and-greet and a group photo with jockeys. The auction takes place from 1 p.m. until the bell rings for the 11th race.

ALEXANDRIA

Party marks first home varsity football game

Bishop Brossart High School will hold a tailgate party 3- to 6 p.m. Sept. 15 to celebrate the first home varsity football game in the school's history.

The Mustangs play Beechwood High School at 7 p.m. at Newport High School, 900 E. Sixth St.

The tailgate party will feature 50-cent hot dogs and drinks, team introductions, and a caravan to Newport from the school, Jefferson and Grove streets, Alexandria.

For information, call 859-635-2108.

EDUCATION

More Ky. students taking AP exams

The Associated Press

Test success may earn college credit

Kentucky students excelled in Advance Placement programs this year, with a record number taking the exams — and scoring higher than ever.

The number of test-takers this spring — 15,408 students — was 13 percent more than last year, according to the College Board.

More than half of the exams taken earned a 3, 4 or 5, with 5 being the highest score.

Nearly 13 percent of the students attended private school or were home-schooled.

The public school results have generated excitement, said state Education Department spokeswoman Lisa Gross.

"Kentucky's public schools have

worked hard over the past few years to open up access to AP courses for all students and made great efforts to improve the quality and rigor of those courses," Gross said. She added that the test scores show students "are getting the content they need to do well on the tests."

AP courses expose students to a challenging curriculum, and they can take an AP exam in hopes of earning college credit. How much credit they earn depends on the score and which university they attend.

While the news of record-breaking achievements is encouraging for many districts, the figures indicate disparities in the public schools.

Jefferson County students, for example, fared well on AP exams, but 78 percent of the tests taken in the county came from schools with more AP course offerings.

Shae Montgomery, a Valley High senior who is enrolled in AP U.S. history this year, said she wanted to take AP calculus, too. But because of low interest among her classmates, the course isn't offered there.

"I wish there were more AP classes to choose from," she said. "A lot of the classes that I took or am taking in order to graduate are not that challenging to me."

Instead, Shae has, like a growing number of students, found a different way to achieve her goals.

"I am working with my teacher; he gives me assignments and worksheets, so it's kind of like an independent study course," she said. "At the end of the year, I will take the (AP) exam."

Valley principal Gary Hurt said he'd like to have more college-prep courses, but the challenge is to get students to sign up for the classes.

"My budget is based on 31 kids in each class and for each teacher to have five classes," he said. "... I can't justify creating an AP class with only 10 to 15 students in it."

Help may be on the way. On Friday, Gov. Ernie Fletcher announced a \$13.2 million grant from the National Math and Science Initiative to fund teacher training and incentives for AP and pre-AP courses in Kentucky high schools.

Florence | 'She's still doing pretty good'



The Enquirer/Patrick Reddy

Mary Beckman blows out a representative candle on her cake to mark her 103rd birthday. With her are twin granddaughters Sueanne (left) and Suzanne, and their father, Paul Beckman. Mary Beckman lives at Florence Park Care Center.

BINGO PLAYER TURNS 103

Mary Beckman celebrated her 103rd birthday Friday with one of her favorite activities: playing bingo.

She was joined by her son Paul and some of her grandchildren at a gathering at Florence Park Care Center.

"For her age she's still doing pretty good," said Paul.

He said his mother was in her late 20s when she came to the United States from Germany. The

family lived in several places throughout Northern Kentucky, usually buying a house, fixing it up and selling it, he said.

"We had many houses," Paul said. "There's too many that I can't even remember. I think we had some 40 houses."

His mom still enjoys bingo and sitting outside.

"Just as long as the weather is good outside, she wants to go," Paul said.

— Brenna R. Kelly

UNION

Girls' running program boosts fitness, esteem

Shirley Mann latest school to get on right track

By Deborah Kennedy

Enquirer contributor

Kelly Malatesta, a mother of three, took up running about a year ago. While participating in Cincinnati's Thanksgiving Day Race, she saw several young girls carrying a banner emblazoned with the words "Girls on the Run."

"I decided I had to find out what that program was all about," she said.

Malatesta quickly discovered that Girls on the Run, a national program aimed at raising the self-esteem of girls from third to eighth grades through nutrition education and physical activity, was something she wanted to be a part of.

"Middle-school years in particular can be so tough on girls, as they're figuring out how to take care of themselves and comparing themselves with other girls," Malatesta said. "I knew that even as an adult, running has given me a lot of confidence, and I want to help pass that along to girls."

To achieve that goal, Malatesta will be coaching Shirley Mann Elementary's first Girls on the Run group when it starts the week of Sept. 10. Mann Elementary joins five other school-based sites in Northern Kentucky that host a GOTR program.

"I'm so excited to get started. I think the girls are going to really benefit from this," Malatesta said.

Coaches such as Malatesta and those at Northern Kentucky's other schools — Burlington Elementary, Southgate Elementary, Two Rivers Middle School, Goodridge Elementary and Glenn O. Swing Elementary — will lead groups of 12 to 15 girls through the program's established 12-week curriculum.

Learn more

To learn more about Girls on the Run or to volunteer to be a coach or start a new site in the spring, visit www.girlsontherun.org or e-mail the Cincinnati chapter at gotrcincinnati@fuse.net.

They will focus on lessons that address everything from leadership to proper diet, peer pressure and community involvement. The lessons are artfully interwoven with exercise, and the culminating event of the program is a 5K race at which every girl receives a medal.

"Race day is my favorite day," said Georgia Harris, health center director for Southgate Independent Schools. She is a GOTR coach at Southgate Elementary along with Sharyl Iden.

"It's always really emotional, seeing girls of all different levels — we have walkers, we have walk-runners, and we have runners — finish their first 5K," Harris said. "It's really a tremendous accomplishment."

Once kids do the program, they want it to start right up again, said Erin Hamilton, executive director of Girls on the Run Cincinnati, who oversees the program on both sides of the river. "They stop us in the hallway and say, 'Please, can we do it again?'"

Hamilton said the girls who participate learn the importance not only of good physical fitness but also of teamwork and service. Plus they get fitted for a free pair of New Balance running shoes at the start of the program.

"And what girl doesn't love a new pair of shoes?"

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS

NKU offers dispute settling

Mediators are faculty members

By Howard McEwen

Enquirer contributor

Northern Kentucky University is looking to help resolve conflicts — whether between union and management or neighbors.

Mike Carrell, dean emeritus of NKU's College of Business, has formed the Alternative Dispute Resolution Center with faculty who are experienced and trained as mediators from business, law and communication.

The idea for the center came from Rick Thiemann, president and CEO of Hunkar Technologies in Anderson Township and a member of NKU's College of Business Advisory Board. Thiemann suggested the idea to Carrell after he resolved a dispute using mediation. He liked the process and wanted to see a center established at NKU.

"My perspective is pretty simple," Thiemann said. "With the cost of litigation climbing, it's best to resolve disputes — when possible — outside the courts. Mediation and arbitration are emerging as excellent dispute-resolution tools for business. It offers a faster resolution at a lower cost."

The center already has clients.

"Thus far we have signed contracts with the state of Indiana to mediate school system disputes and with metro Louisville to provide labor negotiation, mediation and arbitration, and are discussing contracts with other parties. Individual cases have included divorce, small claims and employment issues," Carrell said.

Mediation and arbitration differ. Mediators try to bring the parties to an agreement. If the parties cannot agree, they can abandon the process. In arbitration, the decision of the arbiter — by prior agreement — is binding on both parties.

Thiemann came to appreciate the process when his firm would acquire companies.

"There weren't disputes between us and the sellers, but between the sellers," he said.

Thiemann said these are often family businesses whose members can't decide on terms or how sale proceeds should be split between them.

Quarrelling parties come to the process in a number of ways.

"Sometimes it's written into an agreement they already have such as a labor agreement," said Karen Zerhusen Krueer, executive director of the NKU Foundation. "Sometimes it's court-ordered — the court will order the parties to go to mediation. You can't order them to settle but you can make people go and at least try. The third way is people coming voluntarily."

Krueer spent much of the '90s working in Kentucky as a mediator. She's offered to help the center when it doesn't conflict with her foundation duties. "The benefit of mediation rather than a court is that if people come to it themselves then they're more likely to follow through with the terms," said Krueer.

The center charges two ways: either a \$50 processing fee plus an arbitrator fee or through an agreement determined in advance.

The NKU Alternative Dispute Resolution Center can be contacted at adr@nku.edu.

Trinity Episcopal serves up music in a noontime refuge

COVINGTON — Twenty seven years ago, Trinity Episcopal Church sought to create a virtual green space — a place of beauty — in downtown Covington.

It did so with a lush garden of music in the church sanctuary, inviting the community to enjoy church and secular music.

"Back then, there really wasn't much development and we wanted to create something for people," Music Director John Deaver said. "We've never charged or taken an offering."

The commitment continues this year with the church's Midday Musical Menu luncheon series this month and Evensong evening concerts starting in November. Purchasing a prepared lunch costs \$6, but there is no admission and guests are welcome to bring lunch.

"The first program is an opportunity to hear the music of a prime mover in church



Karen Vance Faith Matters

p.m. Sept. 19 at the church, 326 Madison Ave., Covington.

The luncheon series continues:

■ Oct. 17, Miriam Albee, mezzo-soprano.

■ Nov. 21, Elizabeth Steva on violin and Frederic Gahr on piano.

■ Dec. 19, Christmas Carol Sing.

music of the 20th century," Deaver said of the memorial concert honoring Alec Wyton. "Our paths crossed a number of times, and he was a great influence on me. He did a lot for church music."

Wyton, a president of the American Guild of Organists who spent 20 years as musical director at a cathedral in New York, died in March.

The program is at 12:15

■ Jan. 16, Michele Gingras on clarinet and Heather MacPhail on piano.

■ Feb. 20, Elise Hyder, mezzo-soprano, and Audrey Causilla, piano.

■ March 19, Passion Music by Wilmer Hayden Walsh, Deaver on organ.

■ April 16, Kim Heindel on organ.

■ May 21, Connexions, Donna Martin on piano, Marion Peraza de Webb on violin and Kevin Towner, saxophone.

The Evensong series begins at 7 p.m. Nov. 4 with Music for All Saints Sunday. Then, on March 2, a concert for Lenten music. And on April 29, the Music of Herbert Howells, an English composer.

For more information about Trinity's music programs, call the church 859-431-1786.

Church begins adult program

Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish in Er-

langer will begin its GIFT program for adult formation Tuesday. Guest speaker the Rev. Timothy Schehr, associate professor of biblical studies at the Athenaeum of Ohio, will talk about the role of Scripture.

Schehr, author of "The Bible Made Easy," will teach the "Role of Sacred Scripture in a Life of Faith and Conversion" from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the church, 1130 Donaldson Highway, Erlanger.

For more information, contact the church at 859-525-6909.

Jewish group offers holiday tickets

Access, an outreach program for Jewish young adults and their significant others, is offering tickets to Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah services.

The Jewish holy days — the Day of Atonement and the New Year — have large attendance at synagogues and typically ad-

mit members only. The Holy Days begin at sundown Sept. 12 and Sept. 21, respectively.

"At Access, we try to make it easier for these young adults to live their faith. Many of them aren't members of a congregation or are away from home or family for the holidays," said Lisa Hacker, Access program manager.

Access obtains tickets for young adults — 21 to 35 years old — to the service of their choice. Then on Sept. 13, a traditional Rosh Hashanah lunch will bring the adults together. And on Sept. 22, the group will gather for a fast-breaking meal at 7 p.m.

For more information or to participate in the Access programs, contact Hacker at 513-373-0300 or visit www.jewishaccess.org.

To submit religion news, e-mail kbvance@roadrunner.com or send a fax to 513-755-4150.